

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION. — The weather this fall was extremely warm and dry. Only two major storms brought rain to the coastal areas and snow to



the Sierra Nevada, one during the middle of October and the other during the first week of November.

As usual, migration in the Region was, for the most part, long and slow with birds just trickling through. However, Dr. L. C. Binford reported a major flight of both water and landbirds in the Bodega Bay—Point

Reyes area on Oct. 11, and some 1227 landbirds of 44 species were found on South Farallon Is. on the same day (*DDeS*).

Highlights of the season included a great abundance and variety of storm petrels in Monterey Bay, large flights of Fulmars, Red Phalaropes and Elegant Terns at Monterey Bay and other coastal locations, and an invasion of coastal areas by a number of high mountain and northern species, including Clark's Nutcracker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Northern Shrike, Evening Grosbeak and Red Crossbill. Quite a number of rare migrants and vagrants appeared on the coastal promontories of Point Reyes and the Monterey Peninsula and on South Farallon Is. Among these were two species new to the Region: Cassin's Sparrow and Baird's Sparrow.

Loons, Grebes — The peak of the southbound loon migration at Point Pinos, Monterey Co. occurred on Nov. 13 (*AB*). At Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co. on Oct. 17 and at Half Moon Bay, San Mateo Co. on Oct. 19, the Com. Loon was "the only loon in any numbers" (*DDeS*). This presumable reflects the fact that the Arctic Loon migration peaks later in the season. Summering Arctic Loons included 1 seen at Ocean Beach, San Francisco on Aug. 17 (*GH*) and a flock of 10 noted on Carmel Bay, Monterey Co. on Aug. 24 (*AB*). Red-necked Grebes appeared to be more numerous, with reports from seven localities and maxima of 3 in Carmel Bay on Nov. 8 (*DDeS*), "several" near the mouth of the Little Sur River, Monterey Co. on Nov. 8 (*GH*, *DDeS*, *RS*), and 3 at Bodega Bay on Nov. 14 (*GH*). Two Horned Grebes seen inland at Merced Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Merced Co. on Nov. 21 (*GAS*) were considered unusual.

Albatrosses, Shearwaters, Storm Petrels — Black-footed Albatrosses were reported only from the Farallon Islands area off San Francisco, where 2 were seen on Oct. 19 (*BMcL*) and 1 on Oct. 30 (*ST*). Nine Fulmars were seen in Monterey Bay on Aug. 29 (*AB*). Beginning in late October a major flight of this species developed along the coast, with 11 seen from the Point Reyes Coast Guard Station on Oct. 25 (*LCB*), 75 visible from Hopkins Marine Station at Pacific Grove on Oct. 29 (*AB*), and 150 noted along the Monterey-Pacific Grove shoreline on Nov. 22, of which 15 percent were light-phase birds, with a few perfect intermediates also found (*LCB*). The proportion of light-phase birds was much lower in the earlier part of the influx (*AB*). The species also was considered "very common" at Bodega Bay, with "hundreds" noted on Nov. 22 (*BDP*). Pink-footed Shearwaters were fewer in Monterey Bay, numbers rising from 28 on Aug. 29 to a maximum of 36 on Sept. 6 (*G.G.A.S.*, *AB*); 15 were present off Bodega Bay on Oct. 11 but none were found on Nov. 2 (*BDP*). New Zealand Shearwaters were notably scarce in the Monterey area, with only 4 reported, Aug. 29–Oct. 4. Sooty Shearwaters departed Monterey Bay and the waters off the Golden Gate much earlier than usual (*AB*, *VDaC*). No Manx Shearwaters were reported. If shearwaters were scarce in Monterey Bay this fall, this lack was made up by the occurrence of storm petrels, no less than six species being reported. Fork-tailed Petrels, after being reported in the two previous

periods, were seen as follows: 1 on Sept. 6 (*G.G.A.S.*, *et al.*), 3-4 on Oct. 4 (*G.G.A.S.*, *et al.*), 1 on Oct. 12 (*AB*, *LCB*). Numbers of Ashy Petrels rose from 2000 on Sept. 10 (*AB*) to 5100 on Oct. 12 (*AB*, *LCB*). This concentration was located, as usual, some 6-8 miles off Moss Landing, over the Monterey Submarine Canyon; 300 were still there on Nov. 10 (*RLB*, *VLY*). Single birds also were noted off the Sonoma County coast on Oct. 11 and Nov. 2 (*BDP*). On the Farallon Islands breeding grounds, the species was last heard calling on Sept. 22, and a recently fledged young was banded there on Oct. 20 (*HR*, *BS*). Black Petrels were unusually abundant in Monterey Bay, mixing with the huge Ashy Petrel flocks, and reached a maximum of 350 on Oct. 12 (*AB*, *LCB*). Single Leach's Petrels were seen in Monterey Bay, where the species is unusual, on Oct. 12 (*WR*) and Nov. 8 (*AB*), and 2 recently fledged young were banded on the Farallon Islands on Sept. 9 (*FS*). A *Wilson's Petrel* was seen on Monterey Bay on Oct. 12 (*AB*, *LCB*) for the third successive year. Finally, following reports of unusual numbers of *Least Petrels* off southern California in the early fall, single birds were seen in Monterey Bay on Sept. 6 and Oct. 4 (*G.G.A.S.*, *GMCC*, *et al.*). These are the first recorded in the Region.

Pelicans, Cormorants — South San Francisco Bay remains the major wintering area for the White Pelican in this Region, with 1000+ present, Aug. 23–Nov. 21 (*WA*, *HLC*). Elsewhere, 200 were noted at Los Banos Waterfowl Management Area on Sept. 3 (*ROW*), 30 at Bodega Bay on Oct. 23 (*TC*), 500 at San Luis Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Merced Co. on Oct. 8 (*GAS*), 27 at Limantour Estero, Marin Co. on Nov. 6 and 90 at San Pablo Bay, Solano Co. on Nov. 11 (*EAP*). Brown Pelican peaks at the Moss Landing roost were down this fall with a maximum of 570 on Sept. 15. The proportion of immatures to adults in the Monterey area ranged from 9 to 25 percent (*AB*). A marked decline noted over the last four or five years at Limantour, Marin Co. was very apparent again this fall (*P.R.B.O.*, *JS*), but up to 350 were found roosting on the Farallon Islands (*DDeS*). On the north coast, the highest number reported was 50 in the Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park area, Humboldt Co. (*MK*). Some 18,000 Brandt's Cormorants and 1000 Pelagic Cormorants were estimated on the Farallon Islands on Sept. 16 (*P.R.B.O.*, *FS*).

Hérons, Ibis, Flamingos Fifty Great Blue Herons were counted on San Luis Refuge on Nov. 30 (*GAS*). Five Green Herons were seen on Olema Marsh, Marin Co. on Aug. 30 (*GH*), with 1 other bird reported, at Lafayette Reservoir, Contra Costa Co. on Sept. 21 (*TS*). A Com. Egret seen on South Farallon on Sept. 21 (*HR*) constitutes the first modern record for the islands. Black-crowned Night Herons peaked at 150 on Merced Refuge and 200 on San Luis Refuge during November (*GAS*). The near-adult *Yellow-crowned Night Heron* reported from San Rafael, Marin Co. during the preceding period was last seen on Sept. 3 (*RS*), and the adult *Little Blue Heron* seen in the same area remained until Sept. 15 (*ABU*, *WMP*). No fewer than 75 Am. Bitterns were seen at Merced Refuge on Nov. 30 (*GAS*). A flock of 15 White-faced Ibis seen flying south along the coast at Carmel Point on Aug.

20 (*WR*, J. A. Tucker) were the first noted in Monterey County in many years; 1 found on Eight Mile Road in the Empire Tract, San Joaquin Co., Sept. 25-30 (*DMS*) also was unusual. Farther south in the species' major wintering area in Merced County, 14 were noted at Gustine on Oct. 4 (*WA*) and 200 at Los Banos W.M.A. on Nov. 30 (*ROW*). A flamingo sp. reappeared in salt ponds near Coyote Hills, Alameda Co. on Nov. 21 (*WA*), and an undoubted Am. Flamingo was seen at the Moss Landing salt ponds on Aug. 25 (*AB*).

Swans, Geese, Ducks — The Pacific Flyway Waterfowl Population Survey figures for the census held on Oct. 20 showed 721,850 geese and 3,569,065 ducks in California. These data indicate increases of 25 percent for geese and 73 percent for ducks compared with the survey held last year. The census area includes the Klamath Basin refuges, which are located outside of this Region, the Central Valley, and the Sacramento—San Joaquin Delta. Two early Whistling Swans reached Kesterson Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Merced Co. on Oct. 31 (*GAS*). The peak southward movement of Black Brant at Point Pinos occurred on Nov. 16 when 550 were observed (*AB*). Numbers of Ross' Geese at Merced Refuge rose from 50 on Nov. 9 to 5000 on Dec. 3 (*GAS*). A *Black-bellied Tree Duck* very well seen in the Thermolita Afterbay near Oroville, Butte Co. on Sept. 27 (*EAP*) constituted the first record for the Region and the third state record. A male Blue-winged Teal was shot at San Luis Wasteway W.M.A. on Oct. 18 (*ROW*), and 3-4 male European Widgeon were located at Sacramento Refuge, Colusa Co. on Nov. 30 (*LCB*). On Nov. 19, 500 Redheads and 1500 Canvasbacks were counted on San Luis Refuge (*GAS*). Forty Ring-necked Ducks were found at Limantour Estero, Marin Co. on Nov. 16 (*JW*, *RS*). Two Greater Scaup were shot on Oct. 22 and Nov. 8 at San Luis Wasteway W.M.A. where the species is uncommon (*ROW*). Over 200 Com. Goldeneye, an unusually large number, were present on salt ponds north of the Dumbarton Bridge, Alameda Co. on Nov. 21 (*WA*). Seven Barrow's Goldeneyes, including 6 males, were present on Lake Merritt, Oakland by Nov. 20 (*WMP*, *et al.*). Over 1000 Buffleheads were found on the salt ponds near the Dumbarton Bridge on Nov. 21 (*WA*). Two Harlequin Ducks were seen near Crescent City, Del Norte Co. on Oct. 20 (*JJH*), and flocks of 5 and 11, totaling 12 males and 4 females, were noted at the Sea Ranch, Sonoma Co. on Nov. 15 (*RRZ*). Common Scoters were reported from four locations, with maxima of 14 at the Point Reyes Coast Guard Station on Oct. 25 (*LCB*) and 17 at Duncan's Landing, Sonoma Co. on Nov. 14 (*BDP*).

Hawks, Eagles — White-tailed Kites were reported from ten localities, with 1 seen on the Farallon Islands on Oct. 19 (*BS*) providing the first modern record there. Maximum numbers were 20 at Coyote Hills Regional Park on Sept. 1 (*WA*) and 14 on Eight Mile Road, San Joaquin Co. on Oct. 5 (*DMS*). Adult Goshawks were seen twice in the Sierra Nevada in August, and a Red-shouldered Hawk was observed far beyond the species' normal range near Crescent City on Aug. 15 (*JJH*). Single late Swainson's Hawks were seen at San Luis Wasteway W.M.A. on Oct. 8 (*ROW*)

and at Rutherford, Napa Co. on Nov. 8 (*WA*). A very early Rough-legged Hawk was seen at Marshall, Tomales Bay on Aug. 30 (*ABU*, *WMP*, *BA*), and there were three later reports of single birds. There were six reports of Ferruginous Hawks all from three areas in Marin County, including 2 immatures seen at Point Reyes on Oct. 25 (*LCB*). Two adult Bald Eagles seen at Bucks Lake, Plumas Co. on Nov. 29 (*T&AM*, *JT*) were the only report. Outside of their normal haunts in Marin and Sonoma Counties, Ospreys were reported from Lake Wyandotte, Butte Co. on Sept. 29 (*EAP*), Lake Oroville on Oct. 4 (*WW*, *fide EAP*), Gray Lodge Waterfowl Management Area, Butte Co. on Nov. 22 (*LDF*), and salt ponds near Hayward on Nov. 22 (*ELS*, *fide HLC*). There were four reports of Prairie Falcons, which is about normal, but no less than *nine* reports of Peregrine Falcons (four coastal, five inland, including two from the Sierras). Seven Pigeon Hawks were reported, including 1 on South Farallon Is. on Oct. 6 (*DDeS*).

Cranes, Rails — On Oct. 1, 100 Sandhill Cranes crossed the Sierra Nevada from the east at 9000 feet elevation in Placer County (*JW*). Peaks of 5943 at Merced Refuge on Oct. 24, 801 at Kesterson Refuge on Oct. 31, and 2955 at San Luis Refuge on Nov. 19 probably all referred to one rather mobile population (*GAS*). Clapper Rails were reported from three areas in South San Francisco Bay, with a maximum of 10+ in Newark Slough, Alameda Co. seen from a boat at high tide on Oct. 26 (*HLC*, *BR*); 1 at Corte Madera, Marin Co. on Nov. 23 (*GH*) was the only report from the North Bay. No Black Rails could be found on South San Francisco Bay in spite of much searching; the *Salicornia* is almost gone, having been replaced by *Spartina*, and this may be the reason for their absence (*HLC*, *BR*). An Am. Coot was seen ten miles west of Point Pinos on Oct. 4 (*G.G.A.S.*, *AB*); flocks were noted on the sea, inshore at Pacific Grove, Oct. 25-26 (*AB*); over 1000 were noted in October at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Co. where the species was judged "more abundant than ever before" (*VDaC*).

Shorebirds — Large numbers of Black Oystercatchers included 35 on the Farallon Islands on Oct. 2 (*HR*) and a flock of 13 at Bodega Bay on Oct. 15 (*RS*, *GH*, *et al.*). Twenty Snowy Plovers at Crescent City on Sept. 20 (*JJH*) were a good number for that northerly locality. There were reports of 1-3 Am. Golden Plovers from six localities, including 1 at South Farallon, Sept. 9-16 (*FS*), 3 at Thermolita Afterbay on Sept. 12 (*EAP*) that constituted the first Central Valley record since 1964, and 2 in the Crescent City area on Sept. 20 and Oct. 20 (*JJH*, *OS*). The larger concentrations of Black-bellied Plovers were reported from Woodbridge Road, San Joaquin Co., 150 in wet pasture on Oct. 5 (*DMS*), Bodega Bay, 200 on Oct. 19 (*VR*); and Hayward, 250 on Nov. 8 (*HLC*) found in the same area where 600-700 had roosted during 1964-67. Ruddy Turnstones were reported from ten localities, with maxima of 11 at Santa Cruz on Oct. 9 (*RRZ*) and 15 at Stone Lagoon near Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park on Oct. 19 (*MK*). High counts of Black Turnstones, both made on Oct. 19, were 200 at Bodega Bay (*RRZ*) and 64 at South Farallon (*HR*).

Good Central Valley concentrations of Long-billed Curlews were reported from Los Banos, W.M.A., 500 on Sept. 25 (*ROW*), Kesterson Refuge, 250 on Oct. 26 (*GAS*), and Mariposa Road, San Joaquin Co., 200 on Oct. 24 (*DMS*). A Spotted Sandpiper observed at San Luis Wasteway W.M.A. on Oct. 7 and 12 (*ROW*) constituted only the second fall record for that area. On Oct. 10, 7000 Willets were counted at the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor, Santa Clara Co. (*VR*); on the same day, 50 Greater Yellowlegs, the largest number reported this fall, were noted at Merced Refuge (*GAS*). Lesser Yellowlegs were reported from six localities. Knots were seen at five locations, with 14 found at Bodega Bay on Aug. 23 (*GLB, JRA*) and 12 still there on Nov. 14 (*BDP*), 17 noted at Crescent City on Sept. 20 (*JJH, OS*), and 34 found south of the Dumbarton Bridge on Oct. 2 (*WA*). Pectoral Sandpipers were reported from 14 localities this fall, with a maximum of 9 at Olema Marsh on Sept. 25 (*DDeS, RS*) and a late individual still there on Nov. 16 (*JW, RS, LC*). *Sharp-tailed Sandpipers* were reported in unprecedented numbers from *three* localities. At Bodega Bay, the first was seen on Oct. 13 (*LCB, C. T. Clark*); birds were seen subsequently by many observers, with at least 5 present on Nov. 4 (*RS*), 1 was caught, banded and photographed on Nov. 3 (*JW, Marianne Sheppard*). At Arcata Bottoms, at least 4 were seen on Oct. 17-18 and Oct. 25 and 1 was collected (S. W. Harris, R. H. Gerstenberg, *fide TE*). At Olema Marsh, 2 were seen on Nov. 4 (*RS*). Baird's Sandpipers were widely reported from ten places, with maxima of 6 at Limantour on Aug. 28 (*P.R.B.O., JS*), 3 at Hayward on Sept. 13 (*ST, DE*), and 3 at Crescent City on Sept. 20 (*JJH, OS*). There were 10,000+ Dunlin at Bodega Bay on Nov. 9 and 11,000 Western Sandpipers at Palo Alto Yacht Harbor on Oct. 10 (*VR, MP*). High counts of Marbled Godwits were 600 at Palo Alto Yacht Harbor on Oct. 10 and 750 at Bodega Bay on Oct. 25 (*VR*). Inland in the Central Valley, 25 were seen at San Luis Wasteway W.M.A. on Aug. 23 (*ROW*) and 6 on Eight Mile Road, San Joaquin Co. on Sept. 30 (*DMS*). A Black-necked Stilt at Bolinas Lagoon, Marin Co. on Nov. 20 (*ST*) was unusual for the coast. A major flight of Red Phalaropes developed along the whole coast this fall. The first were 35 noted in Monterey Bay on Sept. 6 (*G.G.A.S., AB*), 10,000 were found along 17 Mile Drive, Pebble Beach, Monterey Co. on Oct. 22 (*WR*), 1000 were noted at the mouth of the Smith River, Del Norte Co. on Nov. 9 (*JJH*); 600+ were seen at Bodega Head on Nov. 16, with birds seen flying 10-15 miles inland in the same area on the same day (*RS, JW*); 300+ were observed at the east end of Dumbarton Bridge on Nov. 23-24 (*DDeS, et al.*). Dying birds were picked up after Nov. 9, with 25 found in one spot on Carmel Beach (*fide AB*). Inland, 3 were noted on a small pond five miles southwest of Tracy, San Joaquin Co. on Nov. 14 (*RS*).

Jaegers, Gulls, Terns — Pomarine Jaegers were reported only from the Monterey area, with 12 seen offshore on Aug. 29 (*AB*) and 8 on Oct. 4 (*G.G.A.S., AB*). Parasitic Jaegers were unusually numerous inshore in that area, doubtless attracted by the large number of Elegant Terns; 26 flew south in a half hour

at Point Pinos on Sept. 8 (*AB*) and 12 were seen offshore on Oct. 4 (*G.G.A.S., AB*); "many" were found in the Humboldt Bay area in September and October (*TE*); and a late individual was found at Dumbarton Bridge on Nov. 22 (*GH*). A Skua was seen off Pacific Grove on Sept. 1 (*WR*). Gull investigations in the San Francisco Bay area revealed second-year Glaucous Gulls at David Street Dump, San Leandro, Nov. 24 (*BR, fide HLC*) and Winston Avenue Dump, Hayward, Nov. 29 (*HLC*). At the Farallon Islands, Western Gulls declined in number from 8000 on Aug. 16 to only 175 on Oct. 26 (*FS*). Up to 20 Black-legged Kittiwakes remained in Monterey Harbor throughout the period (*AB, et al.*); 2-3 of these exhibited *pink* legs and feet (*WA, WH, et al.*). On Sept. 9, 12 were noted at Stinson Beach, Marin Co. (*ST, DE*). Sabine's Gull was scarcer than usual in Monterey Bay, with 45 on Sept. 6 the maximum count (*G.G.A.S., AB*), elsewhere, single birds were seen twice at Rodeo Lagoon and a freshly dead bird found at Bodega Bay on Nov. 4 (*GH*) was the last reported. Up to 2 Com. Terns were reported from four coastal localities. Arctic Terns were abundant in Monterey Bay on Sept. 6 when 750 were seen in big flocks beyond 12 miles offshore (*G.G.A.S., AB*). Elsewhere, 6 were noted on Aug. 31 at Limantour where the species is rare (*GH*), and 1 was found at Moss Landing on Oct. 12 (*TC, JG & RG*). Least Terns, the California subspecies of which is considered an "Endangered Species" by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, were present in the Dumbarton Bridge area, Aug. 23–Sept. 23, with a maximum of 55 on Sept. 16 (*WA*). The largest and most extensive northward dispersal of Elegant Terns in many years took place this fall. As usual the largest concentration was in Monterey Bay, with maxima of 350 at Moss Landing on Aug. 25 (*AB*), 450 resting on kelp at Pacific Grove on Sept. 8, and 400 at the mouth of the Salinas River on Sept. 21 (*WR*). Prior to this year, the most northerly record for the state was from Bodega Bay. This fall birds reached Humboldt where there were "many" in September and October (*TE*); 2 even reached as far north as Crescent City on Sept. 18 (*HLJ*). Elsewhere, maxima were 36 at Bodega Bay on Sept. 26-27 (*WMP*), 37 at Rodeo Lagoon (*WMP*), and 100 near Dumbarton Bridge, Sept. 5–Oct. 1 (*WA*). Individuals with *yellow* legs and feet were reported from Rodeo Lagoon and Bodega Bay (*VDaC, WMP*).

Alcids — Large numbers of Com. Murres moved into Monterey and Carmel Bays at the beginning of the period, with 2500 (15% of them young) in Monterey Bay on Aug. 20 (*WR*) and 5000 in Carmel Bay on Aug. 24 (*AB, WR*). Six Xantus' Murrelets were seen ten miles off Point Pinos on Sept. 6 (*G.G.A.S., AB*), and 3 Ancient Murrelets were seen there on Oct. 4 (*G.G.A.S., GMCC*). Cassin's Auklets peaked at 65 in Monterey Bay on Sept. 6 (*G.G.A.S., AB*) and were reported to be "fairly common" off the Sonoma County coast on Nov. 2 (*BDP*). At the Farallon Islands, "tens of thousands" were still visiting their breeding grounds nightly on Oct. 30 (*HR*). Very few Rhinoceros Auklets had reached Monterey Bay by the end of the period, with a maximum of only 6 on Nov. 10 (*AB*). A long dead immature *Horned Puffin* was

found at Pacific Grove on Aug. 18 and deposited in the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History (AB). The only Tufted Puffin reported was seen offshore in Monterey Bay on Sept. 6 (G.G.A.S., GMcC).

Doves, Owls, Goatsuckers — A White-winged Dove was seen for the first time on South Farallon on Oct. 12, although its occurrence corresponds to the handful of previous records for the Region in being fall and coastal (DDeS). Two species of owls were observed flying over the ocean this fall: a Burrowing Owl heading west off Bodega Head on Nov. 15 (JW & RS) and a Short-eared Owl in Monterey Bay about seven miles offshore on Oct. 4 (G.G.A.S.). At least 11 other Short-eared Owls were reported from four different locations, indicating that this may be a larger flight year than last. One of the most noteworthy reports was of 2 birds on the early date of Sept. 6 at the unusual location of Duncan Peak near Foresthill, Placer Co. (JW). As many as 8 Saw-whet Owls were banded on Point Reyes, Sept. 17–Nov. 1; it is always surprising to learn how much more common this small owl may be than records indicate. Six Poor-wills were found on Point Reyes this fall; 4 were banded and 2 were hit by cars. This seems to be a large number for one location.

Swifts, Hummingbird, Woodpeckers — A late migrating flock of 60 Vaux's Swifts at Springville, Tulare Co. on Oct. 16 also contained some Black Swifts (MEM). Several White-throated Swifts seen at Lake Berryessa, Napa Co. on the late date of Nov. 29 (GLB & BDP) may winter. A Black-chinned Hummingbird was banded on Point Reyes on Aug. 31. Although the species breeds inland, it is considered vagrant along the coast. "Pure" Yellow-shafted Flickers were found again on South Farallon: 3 on Oct. 12 (DDeS), and on Point Reyes, 1 on Oct. 11 and 2 on Oct. 18 (LCB). Sixteen Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were banded on Point Reyes, Sept. 22–Nov. 2. A Nuttall's Woodpecker seen for about a week from late October to early November on Jasper Ridge, Stanford University (MP) was out of its normal inner coastal range habitat.

Flycatchers — At least 3 vagrant Eastern Kingbirds were seen on South Farallon, 2 on Sept. 5 and 1 on Sept. 13 and 16. Only 4 Tropical Kingbirds were reported this fall: 2 at Pacific Grove, Oct. 5-18 (VLY, E. B. Hurlbert, *vide* AB); 1 at Bodega Bay, Oct. 17-19 (BDP, MP, VR & TC); 1 at Point Reyes, Oct. 12-13 (JG, RG & LCB). An Eastern Phoebe was found near

the Two Rock Ranch Military Reservation, Sonoma Co. on Nov. 10 (Vi Home, WMP, *et al.*). The following *Empidonax* flycatchers were banded at Point Reyes Bird Observatory this fall; Traill's, 7 between Aug. 20 and Sept. 15; Hammond's, 2 between Oct. 9 and 12; Dusky, 1 on Oct. 26; and Western, 297. It might be noted that the peak of the Western Flycatcher migration occurred Aug. 21–Sept. 5 and that although the number is a large one, it actually represents a drop from the past two years when figured on the basis of banding hours. Two records of *Least Flycatcher* were obtained this fall when one bird was caught, measured (wing length of 58 mm.), and banded on South Farallon on Aug. 30 (P.R.B.O.) and another was collected on Point Reyes on Sept. 9 (DDeS; specimen to California Academy of Sciences).

Corvids — Gray Jays were reported from Humboldt County where the species is normal but uncommon, with 5 noted at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park on Sept. 5 (MK) and 2 at Trinidad on Oct. 25 (CE). A Com. Raven was seen at the Sacramento Valley location of Orland, Glenn Co. on Nov. 30 (LCB); this species is rather rare in the Central Valley. A single Piñon Jay was found on the west slope of the Sierras at Duncan Peak near Foresthill on Oct. 1 (JW); this species is rare anywhere outside of the Great Basin but has been known to wander as far as the coast. Clark's Nutcrackers reached the coast in small numbers this fall, with single birds noted on Bolinas Ridge, Marin Co. on Sept. 8 (M. Mayer, S. Mayer & E. Terwilliger), on Point Reyes on Sept. 30 (Richard Bamback), at S. P. Taylor State Park, Marin Co. on Nov. 5 (*vide* Jim Ellis), and at Pacific Grove on Oct. 2 (LJ).

Nuthatches, Thrashers, Thrushes — A White-breasted Nuthatch was seen on South Farallon for the first time on Oct. 10 and 11 (DDeS). Outstanding this fall was the coastal invasion of Red-breasted Nuthatches. Reports indicate that the influx, of a magnitude not seen in this Region since the fall of 1963, began about the last week of August (WMP), peaked during the third week of September (RS), and dwindled by November (RRZ). The most impressive figures came from the banding stations, with 285 banded at Point Reyes Bird Observatory during September and October and 303 banded during the fall on South Farallon compared to none last year (P.R.B.O.). Vagrant Sage

TABLE 1
Extent and Timing of the Movements of the Six Common Coastal Warbler Migrants

| Species | South Farallon Records | | Point Reyes Records | |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--|
| Orange-crowned Warbler | 3, | Sept. 4-29 | 23, | scattered through fall |
| Yellow Warbler | 42, | Aug. 17 – Sept. 28 | 45, | peak: Aug. 26 – Sept. 10 |
| Myrtle Warbler | 5, | Sept. 28 – Oct. 16 | 16, | Oct. 19 – Nov. 1 |
| Audubon's Warbler | 13, | Sept. 17 – Oct. 16 | 3, | Oct. 12-19 (very low numbers) |
| Townsend's Warbler | 14, | Sept. 2-16 | 56, | peaks: Sept. 1-5, Sept. 21-25, and Oct. 11-15 |
| Wilson's Warbler | 20, | Aug. 17 – Sept. 16 | 59, | peak: Sept. 6-10 |

Thrashers were found on South Farallon for the third consecutive fall, 1 seen on Oct. 13 and 1 banded on Oct. 20. Varied Thrushes were uncommon and Hermit Thrushes were found to be 50 percent down in numbers from last fall on Point Reyes. A Townsend's Solitaire was found near the coast at Alameda on Oct. 29 (RP).

Phainopepla, Shrikes, Starling — Phainopeplas were observed still feeding young on the late date of Aug. 26 at Oroville, Butte Co. (EAP), and as many as 6 were found as late as Nov. 2 in the northern location of Livermore, Alameda Co. where they frequently winter (RP, DE & ST). At least 8 Northern Shrikes were reported this fall: 4-5 (2 collected) in coastal Humboldt County, Oct. 16-23 (TE & CE, Tim Burton & Nevin Hornberg); 1 adult on Point Reyes on Oct. 12 (BR) and 1 immature there on Nov. 3 (BF); 1 immature near the Dumbarton Bridge on Oct. 27 (BF); and 1 immature banded at Merced Refuge on Nov. 26 (Carroll Littlefield, *fide* GAS). This is an unprecedented number during one period for this Region. An impressive indication of the increase of Starlings in California came from Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co. where a flight on Nov. 11 was estimated to contain 1,500,000+ birds heading south (GLB).

Warblers — As in previous years, the fall migration of warblers through the Region proceeded uniformly with few outstanding peaks or waves. It appears that most of our breeding warblers leave the state by way of the interior and the Sierra Nevada, thus roughly retracing their spring migration, but because of the abundance of food, extending higher into the mountains. Unfortunately, few observers are afield in the interior during August and early September, the time when the majority of our breeding warblers pass through the state. The only waves recorded from the interior this fall were as follows: Aug. 31–Sept. 1, good numbers of Nashville, MacGillivray's and Wilson's Warblers moving in the Duncan Creek area west of Lake Tahoe at 6000-7000 feet elevation (DDeS, RS, JW); Sept. 3-4, a movement comprising 50 percent Black-throated Gray Warblers but with good numbers of Orange-crowned, Nashville, Townsend's, MacGillivray's and Wilson's Warblers in the Yosemite area, also at 6000-7000 feet elevation (EAP); Oct. 17, an invasion of Black-throated Gray Warblers in the Springville area (MEM).

The warbler migration along the coast differs from that in the interior in *timing*, generally occurring somewhat later; in *age ratio*, with a very high percentage of birds of the year; and in *species composition*, with a relatively high incidence of eastern or "vagrant" species coupled with relatively low numbers of several of the characteristic Sierran breeding species. Table 1 presents banding data supplied by Point Reyes Bird Observatory to illustrate the extent and timing of the fall migration of the six common coastal migrants. The following records of Audubon's Warblers were noteworthy: an early migrant noted at Point Reyes on Sept. 6 (JG & RG), 40 observed flying NE over South Farallon toward the mainland on Oct. 4, and an additional 35 doing the same on Oct. 12 (DDeS). Apparently these birds were blown out over the ocean by NE winds and were returning to the mainland. As in previous years, this species was found to be less common than the Myrtle Warbler in the Santa Cruz Mountains but more common than the latter in the lowland suburban areas of Palo Alto and Stanford (MP).

The remaining six species of our regular breeding warblers must be considered less common or even rare migrants along the coast. Like those of most of our vagrant species, nearly all of the records are on the immediate coast. Table 2 will serve to summarize the occurrences of these species this fall.

In contrast to the fairly uninteresting migration of western warblers, the coastal occurrences of the rarer, eastern species continued to cause great excitement. No fewer than 17 of these species were found in the Region this fall, one less than last fall's record total of 18 species. At least 109 individuals in this category were reported, 56 of them on South Farallon. This compares well with 121 individuals in the fall of 1968, 78 of them on South Farallon. The decrease on South Farallon does not necessarily indicate that fewer birds were present in the Region since their occurrence on the island is also related to the extent and timing of favorable local weather conditions: easterly or southerly winds and overcast skies.

Several attempts have been made in past issues of this journal to group these birds into classes that may provide insight into the nature of their occurrence. The most numerous and regular have most recently been called rare migrants. Their fall occurrences over the last three years in this Region are summarized in

TABLE 2
Records of Six Breeding Warblers Less Common as Migrants along the Coast

| Species | South Farallon | | Point Reyes | | Other Coastal Locations | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Nashville Warbler | 3, | Sept. 7 – October | | | 3, | Sept. 22 – Nov. 8 |
| Black-throated Gray Warbler | 9, | Aug. 18 – Oct. 4 | 7, | Sept. 8 – Oct. 13 | 10, | Aug. 13 – Oct. 25 |
| Hermit Warbler | 4, | Aug. 18 – Sept. 13 | 6, | Aug. 20 – Nov. 6 | 7, | Aug. 23 – Oct. 14 |
| MacGillivray's Warbler | 10, | Aug. 10 – Oct. 12 | 6, | Aug. 21 – Sept. 16 | 5, | Aug. 19 – Sept. 9 |
| Yellowthroat | 8, | July 31 – Oct. 12 | | | | |
| Yellow-breasted Chat | | | 1, | Aug. 27 | | |

Table 3. It is immediately apparent that the fall of 1969 was a flight year for Blackpoll Warblers but not for Palm Warblers. The other four species seem to occur in relatively constant numbers from year to year. A summary of this fall's records for these six species is as follows: Black-and-white Warbler: 1 at San Francisco, Aug. 31 (VH); 1 banded on South Farallon, Sept. 5-6; 1 at Pacific Grove, Sept. 11-12 (WR); 1 at Moss Beach, San Mateo Co., Oct. 14 (WMP, et al.), and 1 at Bolinas, Nov. 6 (JS). Tennessee Warbler: 4 banded on South Farallon, Sept. 11-Nov. 15 and 1 seen there, Oct. 12 (DDeS); 1 at Rodeo Lagoon, Sept. 21 (ST, DE); 1 at Carmel, Sept. 22 (RS, LJ, WR, RLB), 1 at Point Pinos, Sept. 22 (RLB); and 1 at Pacific Grove, Nov. 22-24 (VLY). Blackpoll Warbler: the adult female banded on South Farallon on Aug. 1 remained until Aug. 16, with at least 23 additional Blackpolls (18 banded) found there, Sept. 11-Oct. 23; 6 more were banded on Point Reyes, Sept. 9-30; 3 were found at Point Reyes on Sept. 14 (RS) and 1 on Sept. 26-27 (DDeS RS, LCB). Individual Blackpolls also were found at Point Pinos on Sept. 17 (WR), Sept. 21 (JG & RG), Sept. 24 (WR), Sept. 28 (LCB), Oct. 7 (WR) and Oct. 16 (WR); at Carmel on Sept. 21-22 (LCB, JG & RG, WR) and Oct. 4 (JG & RG); at Olema Marsh on Sept. 27 (LCB); and at Moss Beach on Oct. 5 (VH). Palm Warbler: 6 were banded on South Farallon, Sept. 15-Oct. 22 and 1 was banded on Point Reyes, Oct. 3; at least 3 were present at Point Pinos, Oct. 22-23 (WR, RLB) and 1 at Carmel, Oct. 23 (RLB). Northern Waterthrush: 1 was found at Pacific Grove, Sept. 4 (Nelson, *fide* VLY), 1 was banded on South Farallon, Sept. 10; and 1 was seen at Carmel, Oct. 3-5 (LJ, LCB, JG & RG) and 1 at Inverness, Nov. 24 (WMP). American Redstart: 1 in Mill Valley on Sept. 2; at least 9 (5 banded) on South Farallon, Sept. 4-Oct. 24; 1 banded on Point Reyes, Sept. 10 (P.R.B.O.). This species also was found elsewhere on Point Reyes: 1 female, Sept. 6 (JG & RG), 1 female and 1 immature male, Sept. 14 (RS), and 1 female, Sept. 27 (LCB). Finally 1 was seen at Point Pinos on Sept. 14 (VLY) and 1 (an adult male) at Carmel on Oct. 4 (JG & RG).

The remaining species of warblers occurring in the Region have been referred to as "vagrants" or, in those cases where they occur annually, as "regular vagrants."

TABLE 3

Summary of Rare Fall Warbler Migrants, 1967-1969

| Species | Fall 1967* | Fall 1968 | Fall 1969 |
|-------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Black-and-white Warbler | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Tennessee Warbler | 6 | 10 | 9 |
| Blackpoll Warbler | 36 | 18 | 44 |
| Palm Warbler | 6 | 34 | 11 |
| Northern Waterthrush | 4 | 6 | 4 |
| American Redstart | 17 | 19 | 17 |

*Numbers are probably low because coverage on South Farallon was not complete.

In order to understand the significance of these occurrences it is necessary to know the location from where they originate, the direction of their migration, both as individuals and as species, and their ultimate fate. Such a study is presently being conducted by Dave DeSante of the Population Biology Section of Stanford University, using nocturnal orientation cages. Until such time when more data are available, we will continue to refer to these species as "vagrants". A summary of their occurrences this fall is as follows: *Prothonotary Warbler*: 1 at San Francisco, Aug. 30 (VDAc) constituted only the second record for the Region (both in the fall). *Worm-eating Warbler*: 1 in the yard of Bill Reese in Pacific Grove, Oct. 25 (WR, ER, AB, VLY), this is only the second fall record of this species, the first also being in the Monterey area. *Parula Warbler*: a male was observed in the top of a small tree at Rodeo Lagoon, Nov. 13 (BF, AF); although this is only the fifth fall record for the Region, the species has been observed for the last four consecutive falls. *Magnolia Warbler*: 1 well described from McKinley Park, Sacramento on Sept. 13 (TM, RL) constituted only the second fall record away from the coast; 1 was banded on South Farallon, Sept. 15-21 and 1 was seen there on Oct. 5 (DDeS); 1 was seen at Point Pinos, Oct. 1 (WR); 1 was present on Point Reyes, Oct. 12 (RS). Although this species occurs regularly in the Region each fall, the total of five records is unprecedented. *Cape May Warbler*: 1 was banded on South Farallon on Sept. 15. Although this constitutes only the fifth record for the Region, 4 birds have been found in the last two years. *Black-throated Blue Warbler*: a male beautifully described, was seen in Yuba City on Oct. 9 (PH). This species occurs regularly in the Region each fall, although the record is the first for the Central Valley. *Blackburnian Warbler*: 2 on South Farallon (1 banded) on Sept. 5 brings to 6 the total for our Region in the fall. *Yellow-throated Warbler*: an individual of this species with white lores was found near the Carmel Sewage Plant, Sept. 21 (LCB, JG & RG) and was seen again by the same observers on Sept. 28. This constitutes the first fall record for California, although another bird was banded later in the fall in San Diego. Amazingly enough, the first record for the state was obtained July 8, 1969 on South Farallon. Chestnut-sided Warbler: 2 were banded on South Farallon, Sept. 15; this species has now been recorded in the Region for eight consecutive falls. *Prairie Warbler*: 1 seen on South Farallon, Oct. 12 (DDeS) constituted the eighth record for the Region (all in the fall). *Ovenbird*: single birds were banded on South Farallon, Sept. 10 and Sept. 15; 1 was seen at Point Reyes, Oct. 12 (JG & RG). There are now at least ten records of this species in the Region during the fall. *Blackbirds, Orioles, Tanager* - Although very rare, Bobolinks were found for the fifth consecutive fall, 1 on South Farallon on Oct. 5, 1 at Pacific Grove on Oct. 5-6 (LCB, JG & RG), and 1 on Point Reyes on Oct. 14 (RS). The only coastal report of a Yellow-headed Blackbird was of a female at Palo Alto on Sept. 1 (TC & ZC); as many as 50 were counted on Nov. 29 at Gray Lodge W.M.A. where they are known to winter (BMCL). A report was received of a

Tricolored Blackbird banding project in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys during the past nesting season and is included here in summary because of its great interest. A total of 13,000 nestlings were banded from 25 colonies located in eight counties. The size of the colonies ranged from a few hundred birds to 50,000 each (*RWD&H* & *PPW*). Orchard Orioles were found for the third consecutive fall: 1 was banded on South Farallon on Sept. 27 and 1 was seen on Point Reyes on Oct. 16 (*RS*). An adult female Baltimore Oriole, at least as rare as the Orchard Oriole in this Region, was studied at the Monterey Peninsula Country Club, Oct. 26-29 (*Ella Culin* & *VLY*). A very late immature male Bullock's Oriole seen at Pacific Grove, Nov. 11-24 (*VLY*) may winter. The second substantiated record of a *Rusty Blackbird* in this Region was established when one was carefully studied and photographed at Pacific Grove on Nov. 3; it remained until at least Nov. 18 (*RS*, *AB*, *WR* and many others). A migrating flock of 20 Western Tanagers was noted near Lafayette, Contra Costa Co. on Sept. 13 (*TS*). A female Summer Tanager, rare in the Region, was found at the mouth of the Carmel River on Sept. 22.

Finches — Two more Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were added to the list of ten previous reports of this rare species this year: a second-year male banded and photographed on Point Reyes on Aug. 16 and an immature male seen on South Farallon on Oct. 21. A *Dickcissel* found on Point Reyes on Sept. 20 (*JG* & *RG*) constituted only the sixth known record for the Region. Evening Grosbeaks reached the coast in fair numbers this fall, with reports of at least 3 in Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co., Oct. 5–Nov. 16 (*GLB*); small flocks of 12-35 on the Monterey Peninsula from Oct. 14 to the end of the period (*VLY*, *WR*, *et al.*); and a flock of 40 on Inverness Ridge, Marin Co. on Nov. 9 (*MP* & *VR*). Pine Siskins were observed in numerous flocks of over 100 each in coastal Humboldt County during the fall (*TE* & *CE*), and 3 were seen on Nov. 30 at Gray Lodge W.M.A. in the Sacramento Valley, where they are uncommon (*LCB*). An unusually large total of 200-250 Lawrence's Goldfinches was estimated in the Sierran foothill area of Springville, on Sept. 17 (*MEM*), and 7 were seen near Livermore, on the late date, for that far north, of Nov. 2 (*ST*, *RP* & *DE*). Red Crossbills moved down to coastal areas this fall in large numbers: flocks of 25-50 were seen on the Monterey Peninsula from Oct. 14 to the end of the period (*VLY*, *RS*); numbers built up in the Inverness Ridge–Point Reyes area from Sept. 30 to Nov. 16 when 650 were estimated (*RS*, *VDaC*, *WMP*, *et al.*); and 600 were estimated at Redwood Regional Park, Oakland on Nov. 20 (*RS*).

Sparrows, Snow Bunting — A *Baird's Sparrow* was collected (specimen to California Academy of Sciences) on South Farallon on Sept. 28 for the first known record for the Region (*P.R.B.O.*), and what was probably another bird of this species was carefully studied and well described from Point Reyes on Oct. 13 (*VDaC*). Vesper Sparrows were found in coastal areas where they are uncommon: 1 at San Rafael on Sept. 28 (*WMP*) and 3 on South Farallon, 1 on Oct. 3 and 2 on Oct. 11; 3 seen near Williams, Colusa Co. in the Sacramento Valley on Nov. 30 (*GH*) may winter.

A large flock of 250 Lark Sparrows was found near Livermore on Nov. 2 (*ST*, *RP* & *DE*). The first known substantiated record of *Cassin's Sparrow* for California was established when 1 was collected (specimen to California Academy of Sciences) on South Farallon on Sept. 23; however, an individual of this species was reported to have been banded and photographed, without details being submitted, last July on South Farallon by Malcolm Coulter (*P.R.B.O.*). Two Tree Sparrows, rare in the Region, were reported near the coast: 1 at Trinidad, Humboldt Co. on Oct. 25-26 (*TE* & *CE*) and 1 near Two Rock Ranch Military Reservation, Marin Co. on Nov. 9 (*B. Augustine*, *WMP* & *ABu*). Five Clay-colored Sparrows were banded on South Farallon, the source of all but one of the Region's records, between Sept. 13 and 28. A Brewer's Sparrow, rare west of the Sierras, was banded on South Farallon on Sept. 26. Two Harris' Sparrows were found this fall: 1 on Point Reyes on Oct. 25 (*JG*, *RG* & *LCB*) and 1 at Gray Lodge W.M.A. on Nov. 30 (*LCB*). At least 17 White-throated Sparrows were reported this fall, which is more than usual. A Song Sparrow of the Yakutat race (*Melospiza melodia caurina*) from Alaska was banded and photographed on Point Reyes on Oct. 25. The following large numbers of sparrows were estimated during the migration wave of Oct. 11 on South Farallon: Golden-crowned Sparrow, 400; White-crowned Sparrow, 300; Fox Sparrow, 75; and Oregon Junco, 60 (*DDeS*). Very few Savannah Sparrows were found on South Farallon compared to last year when they were the most abundant species during the largest fall migration wave (*DDeS*). Two Snow Buntings were well described from near Bodega Bay on Nov. 9 (Alice Ackley, *fide BMCL*); there are only two previous records for this Region.

Contributors (All records for South Farallon Is. and Point Reyes should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory unless otherwise indicated) — William Anderson, J. R. Augustine, Laurie C. Binford, Gordon L. Bolander, Evelyn Bowen, Ronald L. Branson, Aubrey Burns, Livvy Cantor, Zoe Chandik, Howard L. Cogswell, Valeria Da Costa, Richard W. De Haven, Tom Eley, Caryn Ely, Dick Erickson, Lynn D. Farrar, Ann Follis, Bud Frey, Golden Gate Audubon Society, Joe Greenberg, Russell Greenberg, W. Hetrick, J. J. Hicks, Vi Homem, Gene Hunn, Phoebe Hunter, Lee Jones, Margaret Keith, Betty Kimball, Ruth Loveless, Guy McCaskie, Barron McLean, Ralph G. Mancke, Tim Manolis, Ann Manolis, Mabel E. Mires, Benjamin D. Parmenter, Roger Pasquier, Mike Perrone Jr., Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Eleanor A. Pugh, William M. Pursell, William Reese, Van Remsen, Robert J. Richardson, Henry Robert for South Farallon, Bob Rodrigues, Edward L. Schreiber, Tom Schulenberg, Doris M. Shanks, Fred Sibley, Gene A. Sipe, Richard Stallcup, Bob Steward for P.R.B.O., Otis Swisher, Jerry Tangren, Scott Terrill, Paul P. Woronecki, Waldemar Wiederhoeft, Roger O. Wilbur, Jon Winter, Vernal L. Yadon, R. R. Zappala. — *ALAN BALDRIDGE*, 1132 Sea View Ave., Pacific Grove, Calif. 93950 (for water birds); *THEODORE CHANDIK*, 4238 Ruthelma Ave., Palo Alto, Calif. 94306 (for landbirds); and *DAVID DeSANTÉ*, 1955 Menalto, Menlo Park, Calif. 94025 (for warblers).