

# Middle Pacific Coast Region

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*Field Notes did not receive a complete report of the winter season by our deadline.*

## Loons to Storm-Petrels

Three Pacific Loons in Clifton Court Forebay, *Contra Costa* Dec. 5 (RJR) was a high count in the San Joaquin Delta. The only well-documented Yellow-billed Loon was off Pacific Grove, *Monterey* Dec. 7–28 (RT, †SFB, DLSh). Inland lakes attracted three Red-necked Grebes: Clifton Court Forebay Dec. 5 (returning for the 5th year? RJR), San Andreas L., *San Mateo* Dec. 18 (FrT), and Loch Lomon, *Santa Cruz* Dec. 18 (G. Meyer, RRa, BRa).

A Laysan Albatross that took an ill-advised inland tour in a winter storm was first seen circling S of Sonoma, *Sonoma* Feb. 19 (†H. Karr). The next day it was seen at the Napa R., *Napa* and *Solano* (†M.J. Berner); it later hit a power line at Martinez, *Contra Costa*,

and was rescued for rehab (*vide* M. Brezner). Four Laysans were seen offshore the Region.

A high winter count of 28 Pink-footed Shearwaters was seen off Monterey Jan. 22 (DLSh). Flesh-footed Shearwaters there Jan. 15, 18, & 22 (DSg, DLSh) may have been the same bird. A dark-morph Wedge-tailed Shearwater 2 mi s.w. of Table Rock, *Santa Cruz* Dec. 18 (†DLSh, †SA) provided the fifth record for California. A very late Buller's Shearwater was 2 mi w. of Pt. Joe, *Monterey* Jan. 25 (RT). Many Black-vented Shearwaters lingered in Monterey Bay, such as the 283 off Santa Cruz Dec. 18 (DLSh, SA) and 100 off Monterey Jan 22 (DLSh), but few stayed through February.

At H.R.S., *Alameda* a Leach's Storm-Petrel and an Ashy Storm-Petrel were seen Jan 9, with the latter present the next day (RJR), and two probably Ashies reported Feb. 5 (Cin-Ty Lee). Very rare in S.F. Bay even in the fall, these storm-petrels were unprecedented there in winter.

## Raptors

The Black Vulture remained at Arcata, *Humboldt* though Feb. 9 (†DFx). An ad. Broad-winged Hawk n. of Santa Cruz Dec. 20–22 (BSch, †DLSu) was the only one this season. A communal roost of Ferruginous Hawks s.e. of King City, *Monterey* Dec. 23+ built to an astounding count of 86 birds Feb. 5 (DLSh, JMD) A roost of this scale is unprecedented for this species.

With the continuing recovery of the Peregrine Falcon, the first modern record for *San Benito* was overdue. It was an adult at Panoche Valley Jan. 3 (DLSu, ELb). The imm. Gyrfalcon near Midway, *Alameda* apparently stayed to Dec. 14 (R. Lindeman, †GFi). Another Gyrfalcon resided near Ft. Dick, *Del Norte* Oct. 31–Feb. 20 (†RAE, †SEF, m.ob.).

## Larids

A jaeger off Palo Alto Jan 23 (†FSCR) was unseasonal inside S.F. Bay whatever the species. An ad. Common Black-headed Gull at Sunnyvale, *Santa Clara* Jan. 23–Feb. 9 (JMa, †JM, SCR) was believed to be the same bird that was at Alviso Nov. 15 (SCR). Adult



