

Middle Pacific Coast Region

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Our more common seabirds were scarce this season, but some rarer species, such as South Polar Skua, were often found in numbers. Starting in October, wintering waterfowl numbers in the Region were the highest in a decade, due to the breaking of the drought, great productivity on the breeding grounds, and better management. Amazing was the discovery of a breeding population of Black Rails in the Sierran foothills of the Sacramento Valley. Even in our heavily birded Region, there is still so much to be learned.

Thrushes invaded the Region, and it also appeared to be a good fall/winter flight year for owls, Cedar Waxwing, and Pine Siskin. It was a modest season for true rarities among passerines, but many of our more regular occurring vagrants continued to be found in high, often record-breaking, numbers.

Abbreviations: C.C.R.S. (*Coyote Cr. Riparian banding Station, Santa Clara*); C.V. (*Central Valley*); Cyn. (*canyon*); F.I. (*South-east Farallon Island, S.F.*); G.G.R.O. (*Golden Gate Raptor Observatory*); H.S. (*Hayward Shoreline, Alameda*); S.F. (*San Francisco*). All records from F.I. and Palomarin should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory.

Loons to Pelicans

An ad. Yellow-billed Loon off Pacific Grove, Monterey, was still in *full alternate plumage* Nov. 7 (†SFB). Very few have shown alternate plumage in California, but one did at the same location Oct. 10, 1987 (*Western Birds* 23:100).

Pink-footed, Buller's, and Sooty shearwaters were often scarce. Flesh-footed Shearwaters showed in good numbers, with eight-ten at Cordell Bank, Marin, Oct. 8 (RS, DLSh) and one-five on 12 other trips (DLSh, m.ob.). Monterey's and the N. Pacific's 2nd Greater Shearwater off Pt. Pinos Oct. 1-2 (DLSh, ph. JMD, †m.ob.) was most obliging on the 2nd day. However, strong winds then scattered the shearwater rafts, frustrating Oct. 3rd's amazing boatload of California's birding elite. A dark shearwater, apparently a Sooty, over S.F. Bay Sept. 7 (†SCR) flew from *San Mateo* into *Santa Clara*. This was the first shearwater for the Bay in either county. The 300 Short-tailed Shearwaters on Monterey Bay Nov. 27 (DLSh) was our highest count since December 1986.



Two views of a Greater Shearwater off Pt. Pinos, California. Second record for Monterey County and the North Pacific Ocean. Photograph/J. Michael Danzenbaker.





Two years ago it would have seemed absurd to suggest that 1994's *Manx Shearwaters* would be too numerous to list. However, 11 Monterey Bay boat trips Aug. 15–Oct. 5 found *Manx*, and most boats Sept. 25–Oct. 2 recorded multiples (DLSh, †m.ob.)! The peak was at least *three* different birds Oct. 1 (†DR, DLSh). *Santa Cruz* had its first records Aug. 29 (†SFB) and Sept. 21 (†JLD). One was even seen from shore in Pacific Grove and Monterey Oct. 4–5 (REM, †A. Buchheim). The debate whether *all* of these birds are *Manx* is not over, but the great increase in documented records is helping to clarify some of the mysteries of this difficult group. The first Black-vented Shearwater passed Pescadero, *San Mateo*, Aug. 21 (RSTh). Few concentrations of Black-vented were noted, and the peak was 250 in Monterey Bay Nov. 7 (SFB).

Twelve Wilson's and 24 Fork-tailed storm-petrels at Cordell Bank Aug. 27 (KB) were the high counts for both species. Ashy Storm-Petrels again visited H.S., *Alameda*, Sept. 5–6 and Oct. 8 & 18 (all RJR). Richmond suggested that his storm-petrels at H.S. may have been stopped there by the long, low San Mateo Bridge. However, a Black Storm-Petrel found exhausted after a storm at Big Stump, Kings Canyon N.P., *Tulare*, Oct. 5 (ph. J. Warner) was released at S.F. Bay N.W.R., Oct. 6 and subsequently may have been seen from H.S. Least Storm-Petrels in Monterey Bay Aug. 7–Sept. 25 peaked at 24 birds on the last date (DLSh).

An ad. Red-billed Tropicbird was only 10 mi w. of Moss Landing, *Monterey*, Aug. 14 (BBrr, RER). Also unusually close to shore and only the 4th Regional record was the Red-tailed Tropicbird 22 mi s.w. of Año Nuevo Pt., *San Mateo*, Sept. 24 (DLSh, ph. JMD). An ad. yellow-billed Masked Booby, the Region's 3rd Masked, flew past F.I., Aug. 9 (†PP, †D. Holmes) 1.5 hours after the island's 3rd *Brown Booby* arrived! The imm. *Brown* stayed Aug. 9–Sept. 4 (†D. Holmes, †PP, †JM). An imm. *Brown Pelican* at Clifton Court Forebay Sept. 28–Oct. 12 (SAG) provided the 2nd inland *Contra Costa* record.

Bitterns to Ibises

A Least Bittern at Zmudowski S.B., Sept. 22 (†JLD *et al.*) furnished the

3rd *Monterey* record and the 2nd in 2 years. Five ad. Little Blue Herons at Alviso, *Santa Clara*, Aug. 24 (PJM) and two juveniles there Sept. 16 (†SCR) provided an all-time Regional high. Forty-eight White-faced Ibises at 3 *Mono* sites Aug. 6–12 provided good numbers e. of the Sierra (DS, D. Herbst, D. Dulen). One at Watsonville Slough Aug. 22 (DEG) and two at Harkins Slough Sept. 30 (DLSu) were rare in *Santa Cruz*.

Waterfowl to Cranes

At least one "Tule Goose" was distinguished among Greater White-fronted Geese at H.S., Oct. 17 (RJR). Tule Geese are rarely reported away from their localized wintering sites in the Central Valley. An ad. Brant with

"Cackling" Canada Geese at Tule Lake N.W.R., Oct. 25–29 (RE) was the only inland report.

Only 35 Blue-winged Teal made a lower Regional total than the highest one-site count in Fall 1993! Autumn assemblages, typically very modest, fluctuate yearly. Apparent Eur. X Am. wigeon were detected Oct. 24 at Merk Pond, *Santa Cruz* (†DLSu) and at Alviso Nov. 21 (†SCR).

Tufted Ducks made news in south S.F. Bay. Six were seen at Alviso and Sunnyvale Nov. 24 (†SCR, †MJM). Bringing the Regional fall total to eight were singles at Golden Gate Park, S.F., Nov. 20+ (MHe, DSg *et al.*) and at L. Merritt, *Alameda*, Nov. 22 (JMR *et al.*).

Fourteen Oldsquaws included *Sacramento's* first record, along the American R. at Sailor Bar Nov. 22+ (J. Mangum, †TDM *et al.*). Of 90 Barrow's Goldeneyes reported, two at Berkeley Aquatic Park Sept. 9 (JMR, RuD, J. Dang) were the only ones noted before their widespread arrival at traditional wintering sites in November. Two Barrow's on a pond 20 mi s. of S.F. Bay at Morgan Hill Nov. 19 furnished a rare inland record for *Santa Clara* (SCR, m.ob.).

SA Truly mind-bending was the discovery of an apparent breeding population of Black Rails at 3 sites on and west of the University of California Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center, near Browns Valley, *Yuba*, in summer 1994 (P. Aigner, J. Tecklin, C. Koehler, *fide* TDM). On Sept. 13, five–six Black Rails were seen and another six–seven heard at one of the sites (TDM, AMC, BWb). The birds were in tenuous foothill/swale wetlands, a habitat wholly dissimilar from that which defines coastal and S.F. Bay sites. Details will appear in *Western Birds*.



Black Storm-Petrel found exhausted in Kings Canyon National Park, Tulare Co., California, Oct. 5, 1994. Photograph/Jim Warner

Two Com. Moorhens near Grenada, *Siskiyou*, Nov. 5–14 (RE) were late dispersants so far north. Eighteen Sandhill Cranes flying E over Alviso Oct. 16 (PJM) made *Santa Clara's* largest flock ever.

Raptors

Among 22,459 raptor sightings by the G.G.R.O. were 6 season records: 74 White-tailed Kites, 2575 Cooper's Hawks, 8201 Red-tailed Hawks, 719 Am. Kestrels, 187 Merlins, and 91 Peregrine Falcons. Sharp-shinned Hawks (3501) were down. Golden Gate also banded an imm. N. Goshawk Nov. 14 and counted 134 Broad-winged Hawks (3rd highest) Sept. 15–Oct. 9 (CLF). Nine other coastal Broad-wingeds spanned *Marin*, *San Mateo*, *Santa Cruz*, and *Monterey* Sept. 9–Oct. 7.

Plovers to Sandpipers

About 12 coastal and six inland Am. Golden-Plovers were trumped by ca. 71 coastal and seven inland Pacific Golden-Plovers. The only Mt. Plovers detected were 17–25 in Panoche Valley Nov. 19–21 (M. Smith, GFi, MPI). A Snowy Plover at the Hollister s.p., Sept. 5 was *San Benito's* first (KW, RMrr). A Semipalmated Plover in the Killgore Hills Nov. 5 (RE) and one at Copco L. Nov. 19 (RE, both *Siskiyou*) were late for the Region's interior.

SA A Little Curlew at the Carmel R. mouth lagoon and nearby beach Sept. 6–28 entertained hundreds of observers during its 3-week stay. Found independently by Bill Hill and Dave Haupt, it provided the first N. California record. There are 3 previous state records, all at the Santa Maria R. valley, Santa Barbara, in the autumns of 1984 (a juvenal-plumaged bird), 1988 (age unclear), and 1993 (an adult). As the Carmel bird had two generations of feathers in its upperwing coverts, it was aged as an adult. It could be the same individual present at the Santa Maria R. mouth beach from Aug. 4–20, 1993 (AB 48:152, although date given there is incorrect). Some have suggested that a single bird accounts for all 4 sightings s. of Alaska (where there is one additional N. American record). If so, this bird is now 10 years old and must winter somewhere in South America. According to *Terres' Encyclopedia*, a Eur. Curlew was shot when 31 years old. Hope springs eternal that this obliging Little Curlew will return again to add further clues to this mystery.

—Don Roberson

Details were submitted for 2 of 4 reports of Bar-tailed Godwit. A juv. Bar-tailed spent Sept. 5–8 at Moonglow Dairy and adjacent Elkhorn Slough, *Monterey* (ph. †DR, †RC, †BJW, m.ob.) and was followed by a juvenile at Palo Alto Baylands Sept. 9–24 (M. Rauzon, †JM, ph. MMR, JMD, m.ob.). The Region's 4th Little Stint was a juvenile at Bolinas, *Marin*, Sept. 22–Oct. 10 (ph. TEa). A Baird's Sandpiper Nov. 10 at Harkins Slough, *Santa Cruz*, was very late (†DLSu). For the first time in many years, no Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported. Six Ruffs Aug. 25–Sept. 30 was far fewer than the 19 recorded during Fall 1993.

Larids to Alcids

A dark ad. Pomarine Jaeger flying over S.F. Bay from *Santa Clara* into *San Mateo* Sept. 7 (†SCR) made the 2nd record for the former county. Farther inland was an imm. Long-tailed Jaeger at L. Shastina, *Siskiyou*, Aug. 20 (†RE, MFRo). South Polar Skuas were numerous. Ten were up to 52 mi off *San Mateo* Sept. 11 (DLSh) and 25–30 were at Cordell Bank Oct. 8 (RS, DLSh). During strong NW winds Oct. 12–14, seven skuas were seen struggling W past Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* (REM *et al.*). Shortly after, another swam on nearby Salinas R. lagoon Oct. 16 (ph. G. Meyer). Not storm-related was a skua only 0.2 mi off *Humboldt* Aug. 29–30 (J. Jacobsen, C. Strong).

The only inland Sabine's Gull was an immature at Mono L., Oct. 15 (HG, ph. PDG). An "anchovy frenzy" at Bolinas Lagoon, *Marin*, Aug. 11 attracted a Regional record >3000 Elegant Terns (KH). Four Com. Terns at L. Mendocino Oct. 7 were rare inland in *Mendocino* (†RJK). Also notable inland was a Least Tern at Clifton Court Forebay, *Contra Costa*, Aug. 26 (RJR). The 2 Black Skimmer pairs, each with one fledgling, were last seen at H.S., Aug. 11 (RJR) and at Sunnyvale Aug. 17 (PJM). One skimmer visited Rodeo Lagoon, *Marin*, Aug. 14 (CLF). Four sightings of single skimmers at Elkhorn Slough and Salinas R., *Monterey*, Aug. 1–25 were well spaced and may have been four different migrants from S.F. Bay.

A Thick-billed Murre was off Pt. Pinos, *Monterey*, Oct. 5 (†ph. JLD) and another flew past F.I., Nov. 1 (†PP). Alcids rare inside S.F. Bay as far as *Contra Costa* were a Pigeon Guillemot at Pt. Molate Aug. 11 and a Marbled Murrelet near Brooks I., Aug. 21 (both SAG). Only one pair of *hypoleucus* Xantus' Murrelets was found, well offshore Pt. Sur Sept. 20 (DLSh). Nine Ancient Murrelets close off *Mendocino*, *Humboldt*, and *Del Norte* late July–Aug. 20 (J. Jacobsen, C. Strong, †DFx *et al.*) plus one inland at Clifton Court Forebay Aug. 24 (SAG, KGH, J. Lomax) brought our July–August total to eleven. Both *Contra Costa* records have been



Little Curlew at Carmel State Beach, California, Sept. 10, 1994. This individual, a first for northern California, remained for more than 3 weeks and was admired by hundreds of observers. Photograph/Mike Danzenbaker.

from fresh water. Another wandered in to H.S., Oct. 18 (RJR). An oiled, freshly-dead Parakeet Auklet was on N. Point Reyes Beach, *Marin*, Nov. 26 (*vide* KH). A Rhinoceros Auklet visited H.S., Sept. 11 (RJR).

Doves to Woodpeckers

Six coastal White-winged Doves between *Marin* and *Monterey* Sept. 1–Oct. 16 were expected numbers and locales. A Greater Roadrunner was at Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento*, Oct. 27 (JTr); they are now very rare on the C.V. floor, especially in the Delta Region. The C.V.'s 5th Flammulated Owl, found in residential N. Highlands, *Sacramento*, in mid-October (M. Goddier, TDM, BWb), need rehab and was slated for release in spring. The four other records come from nearby *Yolo*, all also during the month of October. Schulz gives an account of these records in *Western Birds* 22:35–36, 1991. Continuing to expand their range in California, two calling Barred Owls were in Pine Cr. Basin of the Warner Mts., Oct. 23 (†JTr), *Modoc's* first.

Single Com. Nighthawks over *Sacramento* Sept. 11 (JML) and Bobelaine Sanc-



Juvenile Bar-tailed Godwit at the Palo Alto Baylands, California, Sept. 19, 1994. The barring on the underwing indicates the (expected) race *baueri*, breeding in Asia and Alaska. Photograph/Michael M. Rogers.

tuary, *Sutter*, Sept. 29 (JRa) were very rare in the C.V., but continued a trend of recent sighting from the greater Sacramento area. A Chimney Swift was at F.I., Sept. 28–29 (PP); there are less than 10 acceptable fall records for the Region. The imm. ♂ Ruby-throated Hummingbird at F.I., Sept. 7 (†SNGH) established only the State's (and Region's) 3rd record.

Five Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found in the greater S.F. Bay area Oct. 20–Nov. 30. An impressive eight cismontaine Red-naped Sapsuckers were observed. Most were in the Monterey and S.F. bay areas and included F.I.'s 4th on the early date of Sept. 13. The Hairy Woodpecker along the Mokelumne R. near Thornton, *San Joaquin*, Oct. 27 (JTr) was a rarity on the C.V. floor. Since long distance wanderings in the species are very rare, the individual at the Carmel R. mouth, *Monterey*, Nov. 8 (†SFB) showing characteristics of the more easterly race *monticola/orius* was most notable.

Flycatchers to Wrens

Willow Flycatchers were well reported this Fall, as demonstrated by the 57 banded at C.C.R.S., Aug. 17–Sept. 26 (31 is the norm), and 22 at Piper Slough, *Contra Costa*, Aug. 29 (SAG). An above-average ten Least Flycatchers were detected along the c. coast Aug. 26–Oct. 31. Four Hammond's Flycatchers in coastal *Monterey/ Santa Cruz* Sept. 11–Oct. 17 was notable, considering that prior to 1988 there were no fall records of Hammond's for either county. One at Lee Vining Oct. 14 (HG) was late for the Mono Basin. Of seven coastal Dusky Flycatchers reported, one at Pescadero, *San Mateo*, Aug. 7–10 (RSTh) was very early, and one at Natural Bridge S.B., Nov. 19+ (†DLSu, P. Radcliff *et al.*) may have been attempting to winter.

The E. Phoebe at F.I., Oct. 21 was expected, but singles in Napa Sept. 9 (J. Boyd) and Briones Res., *Contra Costa*, Oct. 16 (RSa) were slightly inland. Two Dusky-capped Flycatchers were in *Monterey* at the Carmel R. mouth Nov. 11 (†DH, BH) and Pt. Lobos Nov. 30 (†BJW); the Region has been averaging one–two a fall recently. A very tardy Ash-throated Flycatcher was at Año Nuevo State Reserve Nov. 13–17 (DP *et al.*). Twenty-eight coastal Tropical Kingbirds Sept. 11–Nov. 28 met the recent average. Rarely reported during the fall, two Cassin's Kingbirds were at the Big Sur R. mouth Aug. 4 (JDv *et al.*) and another was in Alviso, *Santa Clara/Alameda*, Sept. 14 (†SCR). Seven E. Kingbirds along the c. coast Aug. 29–Sept. 26 were vagrants, but a pair with young near Greda, *Siskiyou*, Aug. 6–20 (RE) were from an area where they breed in very small numbers within the state.

A Horned Lark showing characteristics of

the *articola* race was described near the Purissima Cr. mouth, *San Mateo*, Oct. 9 (†RS-Th). This form normally winters south only to Oregon; California records are scant. Thirty-one Com. Ravens circling over Bethel I., *Contra Costa*, Sept. 14 (SAG) was a rare sight for the San Joaquin Delta. Chestnut-backed Chickadees strayed to the C.V. floor where very rare: two–three were in Davis, *Yolo*, Oct. 23–Nov. 24 (JM-Hu, m.ob.) and *Sacramento's* first was in Rancho Cordova Nov. 30 (JTr). The state's 5th Sedge Wren was at H.S., Oct. 16–17 (†RJR, R. Lindeman).

Kinglets to Vireos

It was a strong season for Golden-crowned Kinglet as witnessed by the 86 on F.I. and a record 17 at C.C.R.S. Thrushes came in force this fall. In addition to eight Townsend's Solitaires in the greater S.F. area Oct. 2–Nov. 12, ten were in the greater Sacramento area Sept. 25–Oct. 30, and 10 were on Mt. Saint Helena, *Sonoma*, Nov. 23 (DH0, BDP, ANW). Gray-cheeked Thrush, one of California's rarest occurring thrushes, showed off with singles at F.I., Sept. 20 (†PP) & 21 (†PP, †SNGH), and Pt. Reyes (†RS). A sampling of the huge Am. Robin influx was 60,000 in Redding, *Shasta*, Nov. 18 (BED). Varied Thrush, likewise, invaded the Region with all districts mentioning the heavy flight; 3000 on Black Lassic, s.e. *Humboldt*, Oct. 26 (JEHu, GSc) was an impressive count.

The magic of F.I. was at work again as it captured all 3 records of Gray Catbird: Sept. 25, Sept. 28–Oct. 10, and Oct. 2 (all †PP). An above-average ten coastal Sage Thrashers Sept. 21+ was away from traditional sites in the I.C.R. Our lone Brown Thrasher was along Wilson Cr., *Mono*, Aug. 12 (B. McIntosh). A controversial (as is often the case) Black-backed/White Wagtail was at the Eel R. Bottoms, *Humboldt*, Sept. 1–3 (SmcA, †DFx, †DSa, m.ob.). A more classic Black-backed Wagtail at Crescent City, *Del Norte*, Sept. 6–7 (KKw, †Dfx) was only the Region's 4th. An above-average eight Red-throated Pipits was found. Seven were on the coast, including *Santa Cruz's* first at Table Rock Oct. 23 (†DLSu). One at L. Mendocino Sept. 26–29 (†D. Ebert, †RJK, *et al.*) was not only *Mendocino's* first, but the first from an interior locale.

Rare Solitary Vireos included four coastal "Blue-headed" Sept. 24–Oct. 24 and one "Plumbeous" at Bodega Bay, Sept. 7 (DAsh). Up to eight Hutton's Vireos in the greater Sacramento area Sept. 8–Oct. 29 (TDM, DGY, m.ob.) was a strong showing; their detection on the C.V. floor has been minimal in recent years. Of four coastal Philadelphia Vireo reports Sept. 17–Oct. 5, only one at the Carmel R. mouth Oct. 2 (†WLR) was documented. Red-eyed Vireo continued its

strong presence of recent falls with eight coastally Aug. 7–Sept. 27. The Yellow-green Vireo at the Consumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento*, Oct. 5 (†GML, †JML, JTr) provided the Region's first record for the interior. Another was in F.I., Oct. 17 (†PP).

Warblers

It was a very good fall warbler season, though perhaps not comparable to the recent banner years of 1991 and 1993. Thirty-six species were reported, many in high numbers. *Monterey* had one of its best seasons ever, including new highs for several species (DR). Despite high numbers of many regular occurring vagrants, exceptional rarities were few and far between. As expected, most vagrants were coastal, except where noted.

Warblers in above-average numbers included: six Virginia's; five N. Parulas; 40 Chestnut-sideds; 18 Black-throated Blues; 227 Palms (an impressive tally which only pales in comparison to last year's remarkable 882); 45 Black-and-whites, including two inland at Consumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento* Sept. 12–14 (JVa) where rare; 81 Am. Redstarts; 10 Ovenbirds; and 21 N. Waterthrushes. Those with average totals included: 43 Tennessees; 20 Magnolias, including *Lake's* first at Rodman Slough Sept. 1 (JRW); and seven Prairies. The only regular vagrants in lower-than-average numbers included nine Blackburnians, 69 Blackpolls and four Hoodeds. Canada Warbler was conspicuous by its absence.

Single Cape May Warblers were at Princeton, *San Mateo*, Sept. 23 (BS) and Muir Beach, *Marin*, Sept. 27 (RS). Two Black-throated Greens was a good showing and included *Santa Clara's* first in Los Gatos Oct. 20–30 (J. Dubois, †SCR, m.ob.) and one in Pacific Grove, *Monterey*, Oct. 2 (DR, RCa). The only Yellow-throated Warbler, in Pescadero, *San Mateo*, Sept. 29–Oct. 5 (†BMck, m.ob.), was the expected white-colored race, *albiflora*. Bay-breasted Warblers at Pt. Reyes, *Marin*, Sept. 25 (DSH) and F.I., Oct. 25 (PP) met the recent average of less than three per fall. Three Prothonotary Warblers in Big Sur, *Monterey*, Sept. 10 (DRd, HWL), Santa Rosa, *Sonoma*, Sept. 17 (DSH), and Princeton, *San Mateo*, Oct. 4–8 (RSTh, m.ob.) were slightly more than expected. As is often the case, F.I. had a monopoly on most of the Region's scarcer vagrants, such as Worm-eating Warbler Sept. 21–24 (†PP), two Connecticut Warblers Sept. 18–20 (†PP, †SNGH), and three Mourning Warblers Aug. 29 (†PP), Sept. 13 (†SNGH) & 25 (†PP, †SNGH). A Hooded Warbler in Capitola, *Santa Cruz*, Nov. 15–Dec. 17 (†DLSu) was very late. The warbler highlight of the fall was a stunning Painted Redstart at Año Nuevo State Reserve, *San Mateo*, Nov.

12–14 (GJS, †RSTh *et al.*) providing only the 3rd Regional record. This species last occurred in our Region at Pt. Reyes, in September 1984. The Region's first record was a singing male in *Tulare* in July 1969.

Tanagers to Finches

Seven coastal Summer Tanagers Aug. 26–Oct. 18, and 17 coastal Rose-breasted Grosbeaks Aug. 1–Oct. 15 were consistent with high totals of recent falls. An apparent Rose-breasted x Black-headed grosbeak was noted at F.I., Oct. 1. Eleven coastal Blue Grosbeaks Aug. 25–Oct. 5 (five on F.I.) was a fall record. A near fall record 10 Indigo Buntings was also found coastally Aug. 28–Oct. 20. An apparent "pure" pair of Indigo Buntings feeding young near Pescadero, *San Mateo*, Aug. 14–21 (†BMcK, †RSTh) may have constituted the species first nesting in the Region, though the purity of such individuals may be questionable, as mentioned by Shuford in *The Marin County Breeding Bird Atlas* (1993).

Very rare Dickcissels were at Pt. Reyes Sept. 13 (RS), Pt. Pinos, *Monterey*, Oct. 6 (*, *fide* SFB), and Eureka Oct. 20–21 (V. Jacoby, †DFx *et al.*). Our token coastal Am. Tree Sparrows were two each at Pt. Reyes and F.I., Oct. 4–26. It was a bull marker for Clay-colored Sparrow as our fall total topped the century mark for the first time: 105 coastal birds Aug. 24–Nov. 27, with 31 on F.I. alone! Continuing the *Spizella* onslaught, 18 coastal Brewer's Sparrows Aug. 13–Oct. 22 was also a record total. One at Folsom L. State Park, *Placer*, Sept. 4 (†BM) was very rare in fall for the C.V. foothills. A Black-chinned Sparrow at Horse Meadows Aug. 15 (C. Corben, ES, L. Hug) appeared to be a first in the fall for the Mono Basin; their status e. of the Sierran crest is still very uncertain.

Six coastal Black-throated Sparrows Aug. 23–Oct. 16 was reflective of their invasion into the West this past year. A modest eight Lark Buntings were found coastally Aug. 23–Oct. 8. *Monterey's* 3rd Sharp-tailed Sparrow was at the Carmel R. mouth Nov. 6–14 (RFT, †DR, m.ob.). Our only Harris' Sparrow was at F.I., Oct. 20. The McCown's Longspur at Pt. Reyes Oct. 23–26 (MiF, m.ob.) was the Region's first in fall since 1987. Chestnut-collared Longspurs away from traditional sites—F.I. and Pt. Reyes (eight birds)—included singles at Redwood Shores, *San Mateo*, Nov. 1 (PJM), e. of San Jose Nov. 1 (†SCR), and *Monterey's* 2nd e. of Gonzales Nov. 22–28 (†SFB, DR).

An above-average 27 Bobolinks graced the coast Aug. 21–Nov. 25. In addition to three coastal Rusty Blackbirds Oct. 1–24 was *Modoc's* first found in the S. Warner Wilderness Oct. 23 (JTr). *Mendocino's* first Orchard Oriole was at Ft. Bragg Sept.

17–18 (†JRW, †DT *et al.*), while another was at the Waddell Cr. mouth, *Santa Cruz*, Sept. 26 (JCS).

Sixty Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches in the S. Warner Wilderness Oct. 23 (JTr) were apparently of the Hepburns race. While Red Crossbill and Evening Grosbeak went relatively undetected, it was a great fall for goldfinches, characterized by the 62 Pine Siskins and 107 Lesser Goldfinches on F.I. during the period.

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