

(D&SS, BT) and Fox Sparrows (JD). Snow Buntings were infrequent in e. Washington, except for the flock of 2500 near Davenport, *Lincoln* Dec. 19 (JA). Six Tricolored Blackbirds were at Prineville, *Crook* Jan. 2 (TC); they have become almost regular there in winter. Rusty Blackbirds were found at Lynnwood, *King*, WA Jan. 1–Feb. 9 (J. Flavin) and at Sauvie Dec. 31–Jan. 7 (†JG); they are rare but regular most winters. Up to three imm. ♂ Hooded Orioles were at Hunter Ck., *Curry* to at least Feb. 25 (D. Sevey, m.ob.); this is the only Oregon location where their occurrence is routine.

Virtually all of the “winter” finches breed in our region, so the name is a misnomer. All except White-winged Crossbill and Com. Redpoll are common residents and taken for granted by observers. However, Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks disappeared from most of the region this winter. Purple Finches were sparse (TM, BT). Pine Siskins were common in n.e. Washington (AS), but scarce in all other regions (BT, SM, JD) until late February, when they became more conspicuous (HN, S. Pinnock). Evening Grosbeaks were almost absent everywhere (KK, BT, G&WH, JD, TW), except n.e. Washington (KK). Red Crossbills of several types were found in moderate numbers in some areas. Types 1, 2, 3, and 4 were found in mixed flocks on Whidbey I., WA Jan. 9 (DJ, T. Hahn). Small numbers of White-winged Crossbills on Mt. Spokane, *Spokane* WA in January (JA) were the only ones found. Common Redpolls were scarce in e. Washington (AS) and e. Oregon (TC). A count of 17 Lesser Goldfinch at Lyle, *Klickitat* Jan. 8 (MD) is about average for Washington’s only population.

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Middle Pacific Coast Region

STEPHEN F. BAILEY

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 (†SCR) 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



and 3rd-basic W. Gulls at Clear L. (JRW) doubled the number of *Lake* records. Every coastal county contributed to the large total of >30–38 imm. Glaucous Gulls reported, but there were only two inland. An imm. **Black-legged Kittiwake** at L. Shastina Dec. 17–18 (†RE) was the second for *Siskiyou* and the Great Basin district.

A rare Thick-billed Murre was off Monterey Jan. 21–22 (ph. RLB).

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Southern Pacific Coast Region

GUY MCCASKIE

It was a below-average winter for berry-eating species such as American Robins and Cedar Waxwings, and there was an almost complete absence of the standard boreal and montane irruptive species (e.g. Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin) away from areas of normal occurrence. However, Mountain Bluebirds were far more numerous than normal, with large flocks along the coast and in the interior valleys. A nice selection of rarities included at least one Crested Caracara around the Salton Sea, a remarkably late Buff-breasted Sandpiper near San Diego, California's first winter Brown Crested Flycatcher, and the Region's third Field Sparrow in Orange County.

Abbreviations: F.C.R. (*Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Monument, Inyo*); H.D.L. (*Harper Dry Lake, n.w. of Barstow,*

San Bernardino Co.); L.A.C.N.H.M. (*Los Angeles County Natural History Museum*); N.E.S.S. (*north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.*); S.C.R.E. (*Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, Ventura Co.*); S.E.S.S. (*south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.*). As virtually all rarities in s. California are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are included. Documentation is on file with the California Bird Records Committee (c/o Michael A. Patten, P.O. Box 51959, Riverside, CA 92517) for all rarities listed in this report. Reports submitted without documentation are not published.

Loons to Pelicans

A Pacific Loon at Castaic Dam, *Los Angeles* Feb. 16 (KLG) and four on L. Perris, *Riverside* Jan. 19 (CMcG) were inland where considered rare. A Com. Loon at S.E.S.S., Dec. 19 (TC) was in an area where few have been found in winter. A Horned Grebe at S.E.S.S., Dec. 16–Jan. 1 (REW) is one of only a few to be found on the Salton Sea in winter, but 50 on L. Perris and 15 more on nearby L. Skinner throughout the period (CMcG) were on large deep water lakes where numbers regularly winter.

Three Laysan Albatrosses seen over deep water 75 nautical mi off Pt. Conception, *Santa Barbara* during an Los Angeles Audubon Society pelagic trip Feb. 5 (MH) were in an area where this species is undoubtedly regular. Two Murphy's Petrels 286 nautical mi WSW of San Nicolas I., Jan.

