

Leque I., *Snohomish*, WA, Dec. 14 (DD) and 225 near Goldendale, *Klickitat*, WA, Jan. 2 (SJ). Six Bullock's Orioles represented an amazing total for this less than annual winterer: one at Yakima R. delta, *Benton*, WA, Dec. 1 (NL); one at Cape Meares, *Tillamook*, OR, to Dec. 20 (MT); one near Brookings, *Curry*, OR, Dec. 22 (DM); one near Gold Beach, *Curry*, OR, Dec. 24 (CD); and two along Smith R., *Curry*, OR, Dec. 27 (CD). A **Brambling** at Portland Dec. 13–Jan. 10 (EM, DBu, m.ob.) and another at Sweet Home, *Linn*, Dec. 26–27 (N. Bock) provided the 5th and 6th Oregon records. There are now 19 Regional records. Thirty-one Pine Grosbeaks at Trout L., *Klickitat*, WA, Dec. 22 (SJ) furnished a superb count for the Region while two at Lummi Flats, *Whatcom*, WA, Feb. 20 (J. Duemmel) were w. of the Cascades, where rare.

There were 2 reports of the erratic White-winged Crossbill this winter. Four at Glenwood, *Klickitat*, WA, Dec. 19 (SJ) were in the Cascades where most records come from. Twenty at Bay Center, *Pacific*, WA, Dec. 19 (H. Gilmore) were on the outer coast, where casual. A count of 50 Lesser Goldfinch at Maryhill, *Klickitat*, Jan. 8 (SJ) shows that this species' small population in Washington is doing well.

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# middle pacific coast region



This immature Short-tailed Albatross off Monterey, December 21, 1998, provided the third Regional record in just four months, pointing to the recent strong rebound of the breeding population. Photograph/Ronald L. Branson

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After a decade that began in drought and then was drenched in El Niño rains, this season was about as "normal" as any in a long time. Perhaps the only noteworthy feature was higher-than-average temperatures that permitted numerous insectivores (especially swallows) to remain farther north than usual.

A boundary change takes effect this season. Henceforth, ALL of Mono County will be within this Region, including the southeastern sliver around Oasis that has been covered by the Southern Pacific Coast Region since 1971. Boundaries now correspond to most observers' ideas about "northern" and "southern" California. Our Region includes the northern 47 counties; the Southern Pacific Coast Region has the southern ten counties plus Inyo County.

Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are normally not published. This includes all C.B.R.C. review species and claims of first county records.



**Abbreviations:** C.B.R.C. (*California Bird Records Committee*); C.V. (*Central Valley*); F.I. (*Southeast Farallon I.*); S.F. (*San Francisco*); S.B. (*State Beach*); S.R. (*State Reserve*); W.A. (*Wildlife Area*).

## LOONS THROUGH PELICANS

A Yellow-billed Loon returned Nov. 24–Feb. 17 just offshore Pacific Grove, *Monterey*, for its 6th winter (RT; †DR, JBo). Pacific Loons



**This juvenile Masked/Nazca Booby on Monterey Bay, February 13, 1999, showed a cervical collar, although several features suggest the possibility that it is a Nazca Booby, not yet conclusively identified in California. Photograph/John Sorensen**

are fairly rare at most inland locations, especially in winter. Two at San Luis Res., *Merced*, Feb. 15 (KVV) had few county precedents although this species is somewhat more regular on L. Shastina, *Siskiyou*, where five were present Dec. 5–19 (RE). Also rare inland in winter, a Red-necked Grebe was at Folsom L., *El Dorado*, Dec. 12 (TEa). A Regional high count of 50,000+ *Aechmophorus* grebes, approximately 2:1 Western:Clark's, were feeding on a Thread-fin Shad die-off at Clear L., *Lake*, in February (JRW, DR, RC).

An imm. **Short-tailed Albatross** 3 mi WNW of Pt. Pinos, *Monterey*, Dec. 21 (†SNGH, †ADeM, †DLSh, †SFB, ph. RT, ph. RLB) represented the 3rd Regional record in 4 months. Prior to 1998, there were only 4 accepted records this century. The Laysan Albatross returned to Pt. Arena cove, *Mendocino*, for its 6th winter Dec. 7 (G. Steuer) and remained through the period. This species is regular offshore, but this bird, which spends nights near the pier, was easily seen from shore.

February seabird densities w. of F.I. were significantly higher than in any winter since 1992, likely owing to cold sea surface temperatures (and rich food supplies) related to La Niña (L. Spear). Good numbers (up to 300/day) of Short-tailed Shearwaters recorded offshore were likely related to the same phenomenon. However, there were no reported Flesh-footed Shearwaters. Two

Buller's Shearwaters seen from Patricks Pt., *Humboldt*, Dec. 3 & 6 (DFx) were both late and near shore. Single Manx Shearwaters were off *Monterey* Jan. 18 (†BMcK, †ADeM, †DLSh, G. Nunn) and *Santa Cruz* Feb. 13 (†DLSh, RyC, RT). This species has been reported 4 of 6 winters since it was first accepted on the California list in 1993 although most records are from fall.

An imm. **Masked/Nazca Booby** on *Monterey Bay* Feb. 13 (ph. JSo, †ADeM, RyC, †DLSh, †AME) was a first for *Santa Cruz* and the 5th for the Region. Although it had a well-defined cervical collar (shown by most Masked but few Nazca boobies), an analysis of other characters by Roberson (available on-line at [www.montereybay.com/creagrus/MTY\\_booby.html](http://www.montereybay.com/creagrus/MTY_booby.html)) suggested that the bird might be a Nazca Booby, not yet confirmed in California (see *FN* 52:276–287). A Brown Pelican present throughout the period at the S. Wilbur Flood Control Area, *Kings* (RH, LkC), was unusual both for its far inland location and its extended stay.

#### HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

A Great Egret near Chalfant Jan. 16 was *Mono's* 2nd in winter (E. Gann, J. Finkbeiner). *Nevada's* 2nd and 3rd Snowy Egrets were at Lake of the Pines Dec. 19 (JML) and along McCourtney Rd. Jan. 30 (SAG). Reports of Cattle Egrets were sparse coastally with up to six in *Humboldt*, one in

**SA** Six reports of Trumpeter Swans spanning Nov. 16–Jan. 22 and comprising up to 12 individuals were received. It has long been suspected that more Trumpeters winter in the state than are normally reported, but to date the C.B.R.C. has accepted only 21 of 58 reports because of identification difficulties. Of this season's reports, a female in *Placer* Dec. 22 (†BWB) was wearing a green collar and, hence, readily identifiable. A family group of five at *Trinity L.* Dec. 29 (†MiF) was our only other documented sighting and would be a first for *Trinity*, pending C.B.R.C. acceptance. Other reports included birds seen or heard from *Sacramento*, *San Joaquin*, *Sutter*, and *Yolo*.

*Monterey*, one in *Santa Clara*, and up to two in *Santa Cruz* Dec. 4–Feb. 24. The only concentrations were in e. *Contra Costa* with 17 at Bethel I. Dec. 10 and 13 at Byron Feb. 3 (both SAG). Two White-faced Ibis at Wilder Cr., *Santa Cruz*, Dec. 19 (†BJW) were the only ones to reach the coast.

Large numbers of Ross's Geese were noted in *Monterey*, *San Benito*, *Santa Clara*, and *Santa Cruz* counties. Dense fog in the C.V. likely contributed to the incursion which peaked during the 2nd week of January (DR). A Cinnamon Teal at Benton Hot Springs Jan. 16 (E. Gann, J. Finkbeiner) was *Mono's* first mid-winter record. A Canvasback and a Redhead at Greagle, *Plumas*, Feb. 27 were very unusual on a mountain lake (ECB). Most Tufted Duck reports this season were documented. Rare inland records included a female at Shasta Valley Wildlife Area, *Shasta*, Jan. 27 (†RE, B. Smith); and a male at Borax L., *Lake*, Feb. 11–Mar. 5 (D. Woodward, JRW) and two males and a female there Feb. 27 (†DR, RC). Closer to the coast, a pair was at the Sunnyvale Water Pollution ponds, *Santa Clara*, Dec. 12–Jan. 30 (†SCR, m.ob.), and a male was in Martinez, *Contra Costa*, Feb. 7–8 (DSW).

A first-year male Harlequin Duck at Lost L. Park, *Fresno*, Jan. 16–Feb. 27 (JSL, m.ob.) was just the 6th for the C.V. and the first since 1989. Hope springs eternal that the species may still or will once again nest in the Sierra. Oldsquaws were noted in exceptional numbers in *Monterey* where at least seven wintered. Inland were two at Indian Valley Res., *Lake*, Jan. 2–24 (S. Beach) and one in Redding, *Shasta*, Feb. 3 (G. Stuart Keith, R. Modéen). A male Barrow's Goldeneye at the Ione sewage ponds through

December may have been *Amador's* 2nd (†DR, RC) while *Stanislaus's* 2nd and 3rd records were provided by a male in Turlock Jan. 13 (JHG, m.ob.) and two females along David Rd. Feb. 15 (†KVV). Hooded Mergansers e. of the Sierra escarpment, where rare, included a male at Indian Valley Res., *Alpine*, Dec. 19 (DR, RC), and a female Jan. 16 and a pair Feb. 21–22 at the Dechambeau Ponds (L. Ford, B. Miller), 2nd and 3rd winter records for *Mono*.

A Turkey Vulture near Honey L. Dec. 30 (TDM) was not only *Lassen's* first in winter but evidently the first such record from the Modoc Plateau and Great Basin areas. An imm. Broad-winged Hawk in Capitola Jan. 7–14 (DLSu) was the first winterer in *Santa Cruz* since 1992. The light-morph imm. Swainson's Hawk in Half Moon Bay, first reported last season, stayed until Mar. 1 (PJM, †RSTh, BS), providing the first wintering record along our coast. Remarkably, a dark-morph adult was at Harkins Slough, *Santa Cruz*, Jan. 21–Feb. 1 (L. Elrod, J. Adams, †DLSu, CKF). Whether this individual wandered from the C.V. or was a very early spring migrant is unknown. Rough-legged Hawks were once again very scarce throughout the Region.

#### RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

The Benicia CBC tallied a record-high 25 Black Rails, mostly from Suisun Marsh, *Solano*. One was calling in e. *San Joaquin* Jan 2 (WRH). Two Sandhill Cranes in w. *Sonoma* Feb. 25 (RLe) were the only ones away from the Central Valley. A Snowy Plover at Folsom L. Feb. 17 (PDe) was one of very few for *Placer* and n. of its normal wintering range in the San Joaquin Valley.

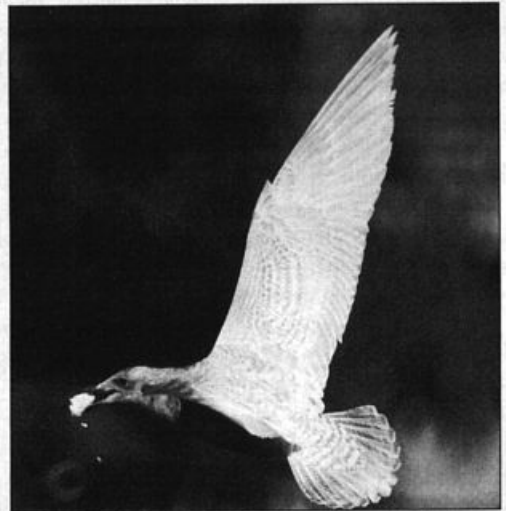
Reports of Mt. Plovers continued to decline: 28 from various locations between *Sacramento* and *San Joaquin*, and 17 in *Panoche Valley*, *San Benito*. Increasing numbers of Black-necked Stilts are wintering in the Sacramento Valley. Eighty-nine were tallied at Gray Lodge N.W.R., *Butte*, Dec. 22 (*fide* BED). Twenty along Brewer Rd. Jan. 18 provided a rare mid-winter record for *Placer* (C. Hawley). Two Ruffs, about average in recent winters, were reported: singles at the s. end of *Humboldt* Bay, *Humboldt*, Dec. 3 (T. Danufsky) and at Yolo Bypass, *Yolo*, Dec. 26 (†DStb, JMHu). Both may have been late migrants.

#### GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

Single Franklin's Gulls at Martinez Regional Shoreline, *Contra Costa/Solano*, Feb. 14 (SAG, KVV) and in Alviso, *Santa Clara*, Feb. 23 (NL) represented an average winter

**SA** Increased scrutiny of gulls in n. *Santa Clara* over the past 2 winters has revealed numbers of very pale Thayer's-type gulls, primarily first-winter individuals, in January and February. Although fading may have been responsible for the appearance of some, there was an influx of first-winter birds at this time that included individuals that were extremely pale, aside from fading. After two first-winter birds showing plumage features of Kumlien's Iceland Gulls were in Alviso in January 1998, at least three first-winter birds and a 2nd-winter individual showing characters of *kumlieni* were present in Alviso Feb. 12–Mar. 12 (†SCR, AJ, ph. †MMR, †MJM, ph. †SBT, MTH, m.ob.), with more pale individuals showing at least some characters of *kumlieni*. Regardless of the taxonomic status of birds in the Thayer's/Iceland gull complex, the origin of these extremely pale birds is of interest to

birders and biogeographers. The small percentage of *kumlieni*-type birds, with slightly more "intergrade"-like individuals showing some *kumlieni* characters, is what might be expected if a few e. Canadian birds (*kumlieni*) and intergrades with *thayeri* actually do winter in California.



Birds showing the features of Iceland Gulls have been recorded in California on several occasions, but the California Bird Records Committee is still reviewing all such claims. This first-winter bird, photographed February 19, 1999, in Milpitas, was one of at least four Iceland-type gulls in the northern San Jose area this winter. Photograph/Michael M. Rogers

showing. An ad. Little Gull in Alviso Dec. 31 (†SBT) was the only one reported. An ad. gull spending its 3rd winter in Palo Alto, *Santa Clara*, Dec. 8 into March (†AJ, ph. SCR) was possibly a Mew × Ring-billed Gull, a hybrid combination not previously described. Attesting to the rarity of Ring-billed Gulls on the outer coast away from larger estuaries, an adult at Patricks Point S.P., Dec. 6 (DFx, JCP) was the first seen by these active observers on *Humboldt's* rocky headlands. The ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull in Alviso for its 4th consecutive winter was last seen Dec. 8 (†SCR); it was also in nearby Fremont, *Alameda*, Dec. 4 (RJR). Last year's immature at L. Cunningham in San Jose, *Santa Clara*, returned in 3rd-winter plumage Dec. 22–Mar. 14 (†SCR, ph. MMR).

A Regional high count of 24,000 Herring Gulls was recorded at the Newby I. landfill, *Santa Clara*, Dec. 22 (MMR, NL). A first-winter Thayer's Gull at Indian Creek Res. Dec. 19 (†DR) provided a first *Alpine* record. Also unusual inland, a W. Gull at Kutras L., *Redding*, Dec. 30–Feb. 2 (†BY, BED) was *Shasta's* first while three were at O'Neill Forebay, *Merced*, Dec. 13–Feb. 19 (DR, SAG). The 35 reported Glaucous

Gulls, including three adults, exceeded most winter totals.

An Elegant Tern at Seacliff S.B., *Santa Cruz*, Jan. 21 (†DLSu) was rare in winter. Black Skimmer reports included three around Moss Landing, *Monterey*, Dec. 11–Jan. 1 (YG, ELb); at least two (and possibly up to six) in *Santa Cruz* Dec. 19–Feb. 14; and up to 12 at Charleston Slough, Mountain View, *Santa Clara*, throughout the period (m.ob.). One at L. Cunningham, San Jose, Dec. 31 (K. Kwan) was unusual at this inland location. Single **Parakeet Ankllets** 23 and 34 mi s.w. of F.I. Feb. 20 & 23 (†SCR, †I. Gaffney, †G. Redpath) were near where one was seen in September 1997. Although there are few recent records off c. California, this species may be regular in the rarely birded waters w. of the Farallones.

#### OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A vocalizing Spotted Owl at Wilder Ranch S.P. Dec. 19 (†JND) provided one of few *Santa Cruz* reports in recent decades. A N. Saw-whet Owl calling along Mines Rd., *Santa Clara*, Nov. 29–Jan. 16 (RJR, SAG) was one of few records in the Diablo Range.

Four male Costa's Hummingbirds at feeders from *Sacramento* to *Contra Costa*

likely wintered, but one displaying near San Luis Res., *Merced*, Feb. 15–20 (KVV, RC) was an early arrival. Arrival dates for Allen's Hummingbird were discussed a year ago. Details of a male Allen's at College L., *Santa Cruz*, Jan. 1, 1998 (†DLSu) have since been filed, pushing the earliest date back to New Year's Day. This year's earliest Allen's was Jan. 9 in Aptos (DLSu), and the earliest migrant Rufous was Jan. 12 at Moss Landing, *Monterey* (RbF). But what to make of an unidentified *Selasphorus* at Sunnybrae, *Humboldt*, Dec. 19 (SWH)? No others reached the northwest until early February (LPL, GSL).

Sapsuckers received increasing scrutiny, and more Regional claims of wintering "Red-naped" involved bird with Red-breasted genes. Four of 13 Red-naped-types this winter showed introgression; most others lacked details. While vagrant Red-naped are rare but regular in fall, wintering claims should be treated with some caution. Two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported: an immature in Golden Gate Park Dec. 26 (J. Romeu, LkC) and an ad. male at L. Mendocino, *Mendocino*, Dec. 7–Mar. 1 (GEC, m.ob.).

#### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

An E. Phoebe wintered in Shady Oaks Park, San Jose, for its 6th winter (to at least Feb. 10; MJM et al.). A bright male Vermilion Flycatcher at San Luis N.W.R. December 10 (†P. Eastman) was a first for *Merced*; the few Regional records are split between late fall and spring. *Sonoma's* first Dusky-capped Flycatcher was at Bodega Bay Dec. 22–27 (†BDP, †JP, m.ob.), followed by a 2nd at nearby Bodega Dunes Dec. 23–Jan. 16 (DN, †JP, RAR). A returning Dusky-capped reappeared at Neary Lagoon, *Santa Cruz*, Dec. 19 (†SGer, BHG), and a 4th was near Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo*, Feb. 14 (†RSTh). Kingbirds made news. A Tropical wintered in Hidden Lakes Park, Martinez, Dec. 2–Feb. 1 (E. Dickey, †SAG, m.ob.; first documented for *Contra Costa*). Cassin's apparently overwintered in s.e. *Santa Clara* (near its nesting locale; SCR, WGB) and near Hollister, *San Benito* (DLSh); another was near San Lucas, *Monterey*, Dec. 5 (J&HBa). Best of all was a wintering **Thick-billed Kingbird** in coastal *San Mateo* (a county first and Regional 2nd record). Found on a CBC at Half Moon Bay Dec. 19 (G. Deghi, A. Kratter), it remained until at least Mar. 7 (†CLu, ph. DWN, m.ob.).

More N. Shrikes were w. of the Sierra than usual with a half-dozen reported from

the C.V. and others reaching coastal valleys from Ukiah, *Mendocino*, Dec. 19–Jan. 18 (DAE et al.) to Las Gallinas ponds, *Marin*, Feb. 24 (†S. Shunk). Three Cassin's Vireos provided a typical winter complement: South Sacramento Dec. 26 (DGY); near Parkfield, *Monterey*, Dec. 28 (†DLSh); and Half Moon Bay Feb. 27–Mar. 5 (†AME). The first documented winter Blue-headed Vireo was along Pescadero Cr., *San Mateo*, Jan. 2 (†RSTh), but we still lack evidence of an actual over-wintering individual. Three Steller's Jays at Pt. Richmond, *Contra Costa*, Jan. 24 (B. Lewis) and singles in n. Stockton Dec. 20–23 (J. Kane) and Lodi Lakes, both *San Joaquin*, Feb. 11 (B. Mulrooney), may have been leftovers from the fall invasion. Totally unexpected was a Pinyon Jay in Woodside, *San Mateo*, Jan. 16 (RSTh).

Many swallows remained farther north than we have come to expect. Tree Swallow numbers in Pajaro Valley, *Santa Cruz*, were estimated at up to 120 birds between Dec. 10–Jan. 1 with northbound migrants noted there by Jan. 16; 550 at the Davis wetlands, *Yolo*, Dec. 26 represented a high C.V. count for winter (DStb). Four N. Rough-winged Swallows at Ukiah, *Mendocino*, Jan. 18 (GEC, CEV) were quite unusual as were two at San Joaquin Fish Hatchery, *Fresno*, Dec. 29 (†DStb). But perhaps most unexpected were a dozen Barn Swallows in late December through early February from Arcata, *Humboldt* (B. Cariss et al.), to Ft. Ord, *Monterey* (†DR), and inland to Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento* (JTt), all present long before the first migrants in late February.

#### WRENS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Numerous House Wrens wintered farther north than usual, including two at Hopland Dec. 9–Feb. 19 (RJK, CEV), only the 2nd & 3rd winterers in *Mendocino*. Following a fall invasion, Golden-crowned Kinglets were widespread along the coast and in the lowlands, and Varied Thrush were in fair-to-good numbers. A road-killed Gray Catbird was picked up on Hwy. 1 near Ano Nuevo S.R., *San Mateo*, Dec. 30 (ph. †BMcK). More N. Mockingbirds continue to appear in the northwest, the most inland at Lewiston, *Trinity*, Jan. 2–8 (KMS, JEH, GjH, RHw) and Grenada, *Siskiyou*, all winter (RE).

Wintering Brown Thrashers, always rarities, were at feeders in Petaluma, *Sonoma*, Feb. 7–11 (J&P Temko) and n.e. of Fresno, *Fresno*, from mid-December through March (C. Creager, m.ob.). Sage Thrashers are expected in winter on the southern C.V. floor but are scarcer to the west. Up to five

wintered near San Lucas, *Monterey*, Nov 25–Feb. 21 (RFT, JSO); five or more were in the Panoche Valley area, *Fresno/San Benito* (AdeM, GFi); and singles were at *Santa Cruz* Jan. 16–Mar. 13 (DLSu et al.) and *Stanislaus* Feb. 20 (JHG, M. Cummins). A few Bohemian Waxwings, always unpredictable, were scattered in the northeast, and a flock of 17 was as far south as Indian Creek Res Dec 16 (†JLx), an *Alpine* first.

#### WARBLERS

Lucy's Warblers were in Pacific Grove, *Monterey*, Dec. 5 (JBo et al.); Half Moon Bay Dec. 27 (RSTh); and L. Merced, S F, Dec 13–23 (HCt; same bird for 3 consecutive years?). Also expected were 25 Nashville and 23 Palm warblers and a couple N Waterthrushes along the coast from *Humboldt* to *Monterey*; four Yellow Warblers in the S F Bay area; 15 coastal Black-and-white Warblers; an Am. Redstart in *San Mateo*, a MacGillivray's Warbler in *Santa Cruz*; and three coastal Wilson's Warblers. Less expected were two Black-and-white Warblers at Cosumnes R. Preserve Dec. 12–Jan 22 (J Schick, JTr) and one at Watertown pond Dec. 4, a first for *Calaveras* (†TEa), a N Waterthrush at Rodman Slough Dec 13–Jan 13 (a first for *Lake*; †JRW et al.); and inland Wilson's Warblers at Putah Cr., *Yolo*, Dec 20 (†DStb) and Modesto, *Stanislaus*, Jan 3 (HRv, JHG).

"Eastern" warblers present this winter included a tailless Magnolia on Alamitos Cr., *Santa Clara*, Jan. 8–16 (†JMa et al.), a bright male Cape May in Pacific Grove Dec 25–27 (†SFB, BHG, SGer; same bottlebrush as a September male but likely a different bird); a male Black-throated Blue in a Saratoga yard, *Santa Clara*, Jan. 4–Feb. 22 (ph T Burney, †v.o.); an imm. Prairie in Bodega Bay Dec. 23–Feb. 2 (†JP, BDP et al), and a bright Prothonotary at Cosumnes R Preserve Dec. 1–14 (R. Peterson, JTr), a first for *Sacramento*. The best parulid of the season was a **Grace's Warbler** that wintered on Jacks Peak Dec. 12–Feb. 14 (†RFT, †DHpt, †CHO, †DR, m.ob.), a first for *Monterey* It was an elusive bird, taking observers hours to locate in a huge wintering flock of Townsend's and a half-dozen Hermit warblers in Monterey Pine forest. This is only the 2nd Regional record (first was 26 June 1991 on Glass Mt., *Mono*, e. of the Sierran divide), but Grace's have wintered as near as Santa Barbara in s. California.

#### TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

The only Summer Tanager was near Natural Bridges S.B., *Santa Cruz*, Dec. 17–19 (A

Kapitov, m.ob.). A Green-tailed Towhee overwintered at Watsonville, *Santa Cruz*, Nov. 1–Mar. 20 (M. Stevenson). More Chipping Sparrows were around than normal, including at least 13 near Parkfield, *Monterey*, Dec. 28 (SFB), but the *Spizella* making headlines was Clay-colored. Eight were widely scattered: two in Arcata Dec. 1–Feb 28 and one at Willow Cr., *Humboldt*, Dec. 26 (†JCP, DFX); Pt. Reyes Dec. 5 (†AME); San Bruno, *San Mateo*, Dec. 6–Mar. 28 (RSTh, AWn); a first for *Mari-posa* at L. McSwain Jan. 11 (†JSL); and one at Toro Park, *Monterey*, Feb. 20 (†RbF).

Pale *canescens* Sage Sparrows, known to disperse W from C.V. breeding areas in winter, appeared in Panoche Valley Jan. 23 (ADeM) and Feb. 6 (†R. Scaf). Lark Buntings are a rare but regular winterer on interior grasslands: three on Davis Rd., *Stanislaus*, until Jan. 28 (TEa, JHG); four in Panoche Valley Jan. 23 (ADeM); and singles in *Monterey* on Gloria-Camphora Rd. Jan 2 (†DLSH) and Cholame Valley Dec. 28 (SFB). Up to three Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows wintered in south S.F. Bay marshlands, as usual (C.J. Coston et al.). Swamp Sparrows are widespread in low numbers throughout our Region in winter but are just now being reported from the less-birded counties. First records came from *Calaveras* (Mar. 10 at Jenny Lind; †JSL) and *Madera* (Feb. 15 in center of Chowchilla R. on the *Madera/Merced* border; †KVV).

Longspurs are scarce in *Santa Clara*, but a Lapland and a Chestnut-collared were near San Jose Feb. 2–27 (†SCR, SBT, MMR). Six Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were present, including three at feeders in *Santa Cruz* (DLSu) and one in *Nevada* (*fide* BDW); this contrasts with just three Black-headed Grosbeaks. A very late Indigo Bunting was in *Santa Cruz* Dec. 19–20 (B. McLaughlin, †DLSu).

Wintering coastal orioles included three Orchards (one n. to Bodega Bay Dec. 23–Feb. 1; DN, †JP et al.), five Hoodeds, and at least 20 Bullock's. Two male Baltimore Orioles wintered: Golden Gate Park, S.F., Dec. 23–Jan. 4 (†SAG, LkC, ph. DWN, m.ob.) and Carmel, *Monterey*, Dec. 17–Feb. 1 (REM, m.ob.). No significant movements of any finches were noted.

**Cited observers (county coordinators bold-faced):** Stephen F. Bailey, Jim & Helen Banks, **William G. Bausman**, Edward C. Beedy, Jim Booker, **Penelope K. Bowen**, Ronald L. Branson, Beverly Brock, Rita Carratello, George E. Chanot, Ryan Chornock, **Luke Cole**, Hugh Cotter, Al

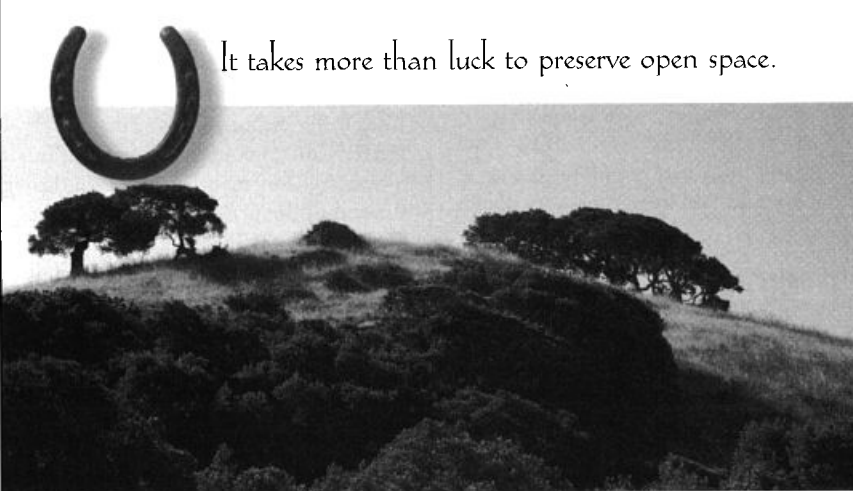
DeMartini, **Bruce E. Deuel**, Jeff N. Davis, Pierre Delastre, Todd Easterla, Demian A. Ebert, Alan M. Eisner, **Ray Ekstrom**, Mike Feighner, George Finger, **David Fix**, Rob Fowler, **James H. Gain**, Bruce H. Gerow, Steve Gerow, Yohn Gideon, **Steve A. Glover**, George Griffiths, Steve C. Hampton, Rob Hansen, Stan W. Harris, Dave Haupt, Gjon Hazard, Rob Hansen, Matt T. Heindel, Rob Hewitt, Craig Hohenberger, Waldo R. Holt, Steven N.G. Howell, Joan M. Humphrey, **John E. Hunter**, Al Jaramillo, **Robert J. Keiffer**, Clay Kempf, Jeri M. Langham, Rick Lebadour, Earl Lebow, **Robin L.C. Leong**, Lauren P. Lester, Gary S. Lester, Nick Lethaby, Cindy Lieurance (CLu), Leslie Lieurance (LLu), Jim Lomax, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, **Timothy D. Manolis**, Robert E. Maurer, Bert McKee, **Peter J. Metropulos**, Dan Nelson, David W. Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, **Jude Claire Power**, Harold Reeve, Robert J. Richmond, **Don Roberson**, Michael M. Rogers, Stephen C. Rottenborn, **Ruth A. Rudesill**, Debra L. Shearwater, Keith M. Slauson, John Sorensen, Daniel Stoebel, **Emilie Strauss**, **David L. Suddjian**, Richard Ternullo, Scott B. Terrill, Robert F. Tintle, Ronald S. Thorn, John Trochet, Chuck E.

Vaughn, Kent Van Vuren, Bruce Webb, Brian J. Weed, **Jerry R. White**, Denise S. Wight, **Brian D. Williams**, Adam Winer, Bob & Carol Yutzy, m.ob.= many observers. Many more observers were not specifically cited, but all are appreciated.

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Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *North American Birds* are keyed on page 138.



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