

southern pacific coast



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Abnormally dry weather prevailed through January, with rain pushing south from Alaska into Southern California in February, giving us some much needed moisture, but not enough to bring expected rainfall up to average. Mountain landbirds were scarce to in the coastal lowlands and non-existent in the low deserts. Berry-eating birds such as American Robins and Cedar Waxwings were also present in well-below-normal numbers, and virtually absent in much of the southeastern portion of the Region.

Abbreviations: F.C.R. (*Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Monument, Inyo*); G.H.P. (*Galileo Hill Park in extreme e. Kern*); N.E.S.S. (*north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside*); SDNHM (*San Diego Natural History Museum*); S.E.S.S. (*south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial*). Because virtually all rarities in s. California are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are included. Documentation for species on the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC) review list is forwarded to the CBRC Secretary and archived at the Western Foundation for Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

GREBES THROUGH HERONS

Red-necked Grebe, rare s. of *Monterey* and exceptionally so s. of Pt. Conception, were on Morro Bay, *San Luis Obispo*, 10–16 Dec (GPS) and in El Segundo, *Los Angeles*, 14–21 Jan (NBB). A Laysan Albatross photographed at the Santa Lucia Bank ± 26 nmi wsw. of Pt. Buchon, *San Luis Obispo*, 15 Jan (DRo) was the only live bird reported, but a badly decomposed individual on a beach in

La Jolla 8 Mar (CHE, *SDNHM) was only the second to be found in *San Diego*. An imm. **Short-tailed Albatross** photographed at the Santa Lucia Bank 15 Jan (DRo) adds another sighting to the increasing number reported off California, no doubt reflecting the increase in the world population. A Flesh-footed Shearwater, rare in s. California waters, was near Santa Lucia Bank 15 Jan (TME).

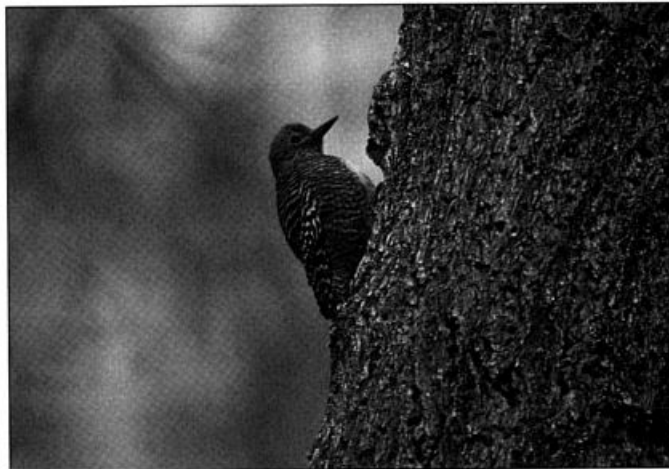
An ad. Brown Booby seen from the pier in Newport Beach, *Orange*, 11 Jan (BH), and another at Marina del Rey, *Los Angeles*, 25 Jan (CO) add to the ever-increasing number found along the coast. An imm. Little Blue Heron at Playa del Rey, *Los Angeles*, 16–17 Jan (BSh) was the only one found away from coastal *San Diego*. An ad. Tricolored Heron at N.E.S.S. 30 Dec–9 Jan (MAP) was believed to be the same individual at this location during the past two winters; the imm. at the San Diego River mouth since 6 Nov was last seen 9 Dec (JRS), and the adult present near Imperial Beach, *San Diego*, since 23 Oct was still there 27 Feb (YI). The Reddish Egret spending its 18th winter at the Tijuana River mouth/s. San Diego Bay since 19 Aug was last seen 9 Feb (SK), and the imm. in Del Mar since 25 Sep was still present 26 Dec (RTP). The Wood Stork near Escondido, *San Diego*, since at least 1986 was still there 19 Feb (MH).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

A blue-morph Ross's Goose was at S.E.S.S. 9 Jan (GMcC). Two Tundra Swans in Seal Beach, *Orange*, 23 Dec (JFi) were unusually far south and particularly noteworthy in a winter when few reached this Region. A Wood Duck, rare in extreme se. California, was at S.E.S.S. 26 Feb (MSanM). The only

Tufted Duck was a female at Saticoy, *Ventura*, 5–7 Dec (ST). The male Harlequin Duck found in Imperial Beach 7 Nov was still present 5 Mar (CMcG) and a female near Pt. Piedras Blancas, *San Luis Obispo*, 14 Feb (GPS) was believed to be the same bird present there in Oct 1999. Only six Long-tailed Ducks were reported along the coast, but one was a short distance inland on L. Cachuma, *Santa Barbara*, 31 Jan–4 Mar (JA). A Hooded Merganser at S.E.S.S. 21 Dec–9 Jan (MAP) was one of only a few found in that area.

One or two Harris's Hawks in Borrego Springs, *San Diego*, through the end of the period (PJ) were believed to be birds that arrived in this area in 1994. An imm. Broad-winged Hawk in San Diego 5–22 Jan (JRJ) is one of a few to be found wintering in s. California in recent years. A Swainson's Hawk near Arvin, *Kern*, 18 Dec (MTH) could have been an exceptionally late fall migrant; 1–2 in the n. Antelope Valley, *Kern*, 31 Dec–29 Jan (TEW) were clearly wintering locally; three near Mt. Signal, *Imperial*, 14 Feb (BMi) and another near Brawley 16 Feb (GMcC) were early spring migrants. The Zone-tailed Hawk spending its 7th winter in Goleta since 14 Oct was still present 29 Feb (JEL); one in Moorpark, *Ventura*, 10 Mar (HLJ) was probably the same individual near Ventura 9 Oct–8 Dec (SH). An imm. was in Aliso Viejo, *Orange*, 10–20 Dec (GS), and an ad. near Escondido since 20 Oct was still present 19 Feb (MH). A winter roost of 12–13 Ferruginous Hawks in Simi Valley, *Ventura*, during Jan–Feb (TH) was of note, because little has been published on this behavior. The only Rough-legged Hawks s. of the Owens Valley were up to three in the



This female Williamson's Sapsucker at Carrizo Plain, San Luis Obispo, 2–6 Jan 2000 had wandered into the lowlands away from areas of normal occurrence. Photograph by Mike San Miguel.

Antelope Valley, Kern/Los Angeles, 18 Dec–14 Feb (KLG, MSanM).

Dark Merlins showing characteristics of *suckleyi* were near Imperial Beach 13 Dec (GMcC) and Niland, Imperial, 31 Dec (GMcC), and a pale individual identified as *richardsoni* was at Castaic L., Los Angeles, 11 Dec (KLG). Two more were in the Antelope Valley 18 Dec–30 Jan (TEW) and another was near Brawley, Imperial, 5 Mar (PAG). A Sandhill Crane near Bonsal 28 Feb (PAG) follows closely behind one on s. San Diego Bay 4 Dec, San Diego's first in modern times.

PLOVERS THROUGH MURRELETS

Wintering Pacific Golden-Plovers included up to four at Seal Beach through the period (DRW), one at Imperial Beach 18 Dec–6 Mar (JSp, RTP), and one inland near Brawley 16 Feb (GMcC). Up to 25 Mt. Plovers at Seal Beach through the winter (JoB) were the only ones along the coast.

A Solitary Sandpiper near Ontario, San Bernardino, 30 Dec–18 Jan (RC) is one of a few found in California in winter. A Wandering Tattler at S.E.S.S. 5 Mar+ (GMcC) was believed to have wintered locally and is the first to be found inland at this season. Up to six Ruddy Turnstones inland at S.E.S.S. to 31 Dec (GMcC) were evidently attempting to winter locally. Most unusual was the presence of ≤5 Stilt Sandpipers on the coast at Ormond Beach near Oxnard, Ventura, all winter (DD); another moved between Huntington Beach and Bolsa Chica, Orange, 3 Oct–19 Mar (LRH, DB). The only Ruffs were singles in Los Osos, San Luis Obispo, 9 Oct–13 Jan (MAH, TME) and near Brawley 5–20 Feb (GMcC). Eight Wilson's Phalaropes at S.E.S.S. in early Dec dwindled to one by the end of the period (GMcC), and up to two Red-necked Phalaropes accompanied them 1 Dec–5 Feb (GMcC); both species are rare to casual in this area in winter.

An ad. Laughing Gull found in Santa Monica, Los Angeles, 3 Nov was still present 27 Feb (RAH), and is one of only a few found on the coast of California. Two Mew Gulls inland in Bakersfield 18–19 Dec (MTH), and 1–3 around the Salton Sea in Jan–Feb (GMcC, BMi, JEP) were in areas away from the coast, where this species is proving to be regular in small numbers at this time of the year. A Lesser Black-backed Gull at N.E.S.S. 25 Jan–17 Mar (PJ, DSP) was believed to be the same bird here during the winter of 1997–1998. The only Glaucous Gulls reported were single imm. along the coast at Pismo Beach, San Luis Obispo, 2 Dec (TME), Santa Maria, Santa

Barbara, 6 Jan (BSi), the Santa Ynez R. mouth 27 Jan (JA), and Imperial Beach 4 Mar (TRC), and inland at N.E.S.S. 2 Jan (P&PG). Black-legged Kittiwakes were rare in s. California waters this winter, with 3–4 off Morro Bay 15 Jan (TME) and two off San Diego 30 Dec (BMu) being the only ones reported. A Black Skimmer at S.E.S.S. 12 Feb (KZK) is one of a few found at this inland location in winter. A Marbled Murrelet at Playa del Rey 17–18 Dec (KL) was unusually far south.

DOVES THROUGH TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

A White-winged Dove at the San Juan Ranger St., Orange, 9 Jan (TC) was the only one reported from the coastal slope, though numbers wintering at oases along the w. edge of the desert in San Diego continue to increase. An Inca Dove at Butterfield Ranch in Anza-Borrego S.P. 18–29 Feb (BMu) was only the 3rd to be found in San Diego. A W. Screech-Owl photographed at G.H.P. 28 Jan (JFu) is the first to be found in the well worked desert oases of e. Kern. Two Lesser Nighthawks remained at Finney L. near S.E.S.S. throughout the winter (GMcC). Higher-than-expected numbers of Com. Poorwills were reported in December, possibly due to unseasonably warm weather, with individuals near Morro Bay 17 Dec (GPS), at San Simeon, San Luis Obispo, 23 Dec (RO), near Lompoc, Santa Barbara, 5–19 Dec (BKH), near Santa Barbara 2 Jan (GT), and in Casper's Wilderness Park, Orange, 18 Dec (CW). Wintering Vaux's Swifts included 12 over Los Osos 30 Jan (MDS) and 150+ near downtown Los Angeles 12 Feb (KLG). A male Broad-billed Hummingbird photographed at Otay L., San Diego, 12 Dec (DG) was still present 10 Mar (DWA). A female Calliope Hummingbird that hit a window in San Diego 18 Feb (LvanE, *SDNHM) establishes the earliest date for a spring migrant in California; the previous early date was 2 Mar 1976. A male Allen's Hummingbird photographed near El Centro 22–24 Feb (KZK) was only the 3rd found in Imperial.

An Acorn Woodpecker in Calipatria 21 Dec–5 Feb (A&VH) was only the 5th to be found in the vicinity of the Salton Sea. At least 12 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found this winter, with most along the coast. A female Williamson's Sapsucker at the Painted Rock Visitor's Center in the Carrizo Plain 2–6 Jan (GB) was the first to be found in San Luis Obispo and another near Mission Viejo 28 Feb–20 Mar (VL) was only the 6th in Orange.



Although Eastern Phoebes are regular late fall and winter vagrants to California, few are documented as beautifully as this bird near Brawley, Imperial, 15 Jan–6 Mar 2000. Photograph by Kenneth Z. Kurland.

A Greater Pewee, a rare straggler to California, was in Agoura, Los Angeles, 19 Dec–19 Jan (RBe). The Least Flycatcher found near Imperial Beach 17 Nov was still present 4 Feb (GMcC). A Hammond's Flycatcher at Laguna Niguel 23 Nov–16 Mar (JEP) was believed to be the same bird at this location last winter. Gray Flycatchers were evidently more numerous than usual, with 30 reported, including 20 along the coast, seven in the San Bernardino/Riverside area, one as far n. as F.C.R. 22 Nov–20 Feb (GMcC, HK), and two around S.E.S.S. A Dusky Flycatcher in Costa Mesa, Orange, 2 Jan–17 Feb (JEP) was the same bird present the past three winters, and another was in Santee 17 Dec–20 Jan (BMu). "Western" Flycatchers were also more common than expected, with 10 reported along the coast, one in Bakersfield, Kern, 19 Dec (SF), and single birds around S.E.S.S. 11–20 Dec (BMu) and 14 Dec–1 Mar (BMu); three were identified by call as Pacific-slope Flycatchers. More than the expected number of E. Phoebes were present, with single birds at N. Vandenberg Air Force Base, Santa Barbara, 26 Dec (BKH), Costa Mesa 5 Dec–12 Feb (JEP), at another location in Costa Mesa 2 Jan–19 Mar (BML), Fountain Valley, Orange, 11 Jan–16 Mar (KSG), Chino, San Bernardino, 5 Feb (JEP), near Lakeview, Riverside, 14 Nov–12 Mar (AEM), at S.E.S.S. 11–20 Dec (BMi), and near Brawley 15 Jan–6 Mar (BMi). Dusky-capped Flycatchers, a species found in s. California every winter, were in Glendora, Los Angeles, 22 Dec–7 Jan (JeB) and Fountain Valley 10 Jan–26 Feb+ (LDT); one

near Brawley 23 Mar (GMcC) was believed to have wintered locally. Wintering Ash-throated Flycatchers along the coast, where rare, included single birds in Irwindale, *Los Angeles*, 22–24 Dec (JLF), near Encino, *Los Angeles*, 3 Jan (RBa), and near Imperial Beach 7 Jan–13 Feb (GH). The only Tropical Kingbirds present this winter were one in Goleta, *Santa Barbara*, 21 Dec–29 Mar (DC), one at another location in Goleta 3–30 Jan (RAH), and a third at Point Mugu N.A.W.S., *Ventura*, all winter (WW), all believed to be birds present at these locations last winter. The Thick-billed Kingbird that returned to Pomona 2 Nov was still present 2 Mar (SJM), having spent its 8th winter at this location; another near Santa Paula, *Ventura*, 9 Feb–10 Mar (SH) was believed to be the same bird present here last winter. A W. Kingbird, virtually unknown in California in winter, was photographed in Long Beach, *Los Angeles*, 26 Jan (KSG).

SHRIKES THROUGH WOOD-WARBLEDERS

An imm. N. Shrike near L. Isabella, *Kern*, 16 Jan–11 Feb (JSc) was somewhat s. of the species' normal winter range.

SA Knowing that wintering Gray Vireos in Sonora, Mexico, are closely associated with Elephant Trees (J. M. Bates 1992, *Southwestern Naturalist* 37:232–258), and knowing the largest stand of Elephant Trees in California is in a remote area of Anza-Borrego S.P. in e. *San Diego*, Phillip Unitt led a small group into that area and found five-plus **Gray Vireos** 4–5 Dec. These birds established the first winter record for California and extend the winter range northwestward into the United States.

Fifteen Plumbeous Vireos at as many locations scattered throughout the s. half of this region, compared to only four Cassin's Vireos along the immediate coast, well-illustrates the status and distribution of these two species in s. California in winter. Single N. Rough-winged Swallows in Long Beach 12 Dec (TEW) and 3 Jan (KSG) were along the coast, where unexpected in winter. A Bank Swallow in Irvine 3 Jan (LDT) was only the second to be found in *Orange* in winter, and a Cliff Swallow at that same location 31 Dec–3 Jan (BED) was only the 3rd found in *Orange* in winter. Small numbers of Barn Swallows are now present every winter, with 10 reported along the coast between

12 Dec and 6 Feb, one at L. Isabella, *Kern*, 16 Jan (JSc), and at least 12 reported around the Salton Sea 10 Jan–5 Feb this winter.

A Chestnut-backed Chickadee in Goleta 26 Dec–2 Jan (DC) was s. of its normal range, although this species has been expanding its range southward in recent years. A flock of 12 Bushits near Death Valley Junction, *Inyo*, 5 Feb (TEW) was far from any known location of normal occurrence. A Winter Wren in Newport Beach, *Orange*, 30 Dec–12 Feb (JEP) was believed to be one of the eastern races on the basis of call. An elusive Gray Catbird originally found on Pt. Loma in San Diego 31 Oct was still present 21 Jan (BMu). An ad. Blue Mockingbird of unknown origin, discovered in Long Beach 5 Dec (KSG, RAH), was still present 12 Mar, having been photographed in-hand and seen by hundreds of interested birders.

Along with the commonly occurring wintering wood-warblers (Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped, Townsend's, and Com. Yellowthroat), an average number of Nashville (15), Yellow (20), Black-and-white (10) and Wilson's (35) Warblers, as well as Am. Redstarts (nine) and N. Waterthrushes (four), along with higher than usual numbers of Black-throated Gray (50+) and Hermit (16) Warblers, were reported from along the coast. In addition, at least six Yellow Warblers were at Prado Regional Park, San Bernardino, 5 Feb (JEP), along with the typical 2–3 around the Salton Sea throughout the winter; a Black-and-white Warbler was in Upland, *San Bernardino*, 29 Jan–28 Feb (NM), and an Am. Redstart was in Riverside 2–9 Jan (NH) along with the expected 3–4 around S.E.S.S. all winter.

A Tennessee Warbler in Santa Barbara 26–28 Dec (KLW) and another in Laguna Hills, *Orange*, 19 Dec (LRH) were probably extremely late fall migrants. Three Lucy's Warblers were present: in Los Osos 11–30 Dec (JSR), near the Santa Ynez River mouth, *Santa Barbara*, 6 Nov–17 Feb (BKH), and in Carpinteria, *Santa Barbara*, 28 Jan (GBW). A female N. Parula was near E. Highlands, *San Bernardino*, 24 Jan (DRW) and a male was in Irvine 12 Dec–14 Mar (BED). Four Chestnut-sided Warblers were along the coast, in Los Angeles 5–9 Jan (KLG), Long Beach 26 Dec–27 Feb (KSG), Irvine 20 Nov–15 Mar (JEP), and in nearby Lake Forest 27 Nov–11 Mar (DRW). A Magnolia Warbler found on Pt. Loma in San Diego in Nov was still present 7 Jan (REW); another was

in Oceano, *San Luis Obispo*, 8 Dec–8 Mar (DRY). A female Black-throated Blue Warbler in Santa Ana, *Orange*, 1 Mar (DRW) undoubtedly spent the winter. Three Black-throated Green Warblers were present in *San Diego*, with one near Oceanside 25 Nov–6 Feb (PAG) and another in National City throughout the period (DWA), both spending their 4th winters at these locations, and a third near Otay 18 Dec (PU). A Yellow-throated Warbler found in Huntington Beach 6 Nov was still present 17 Mar (BED). Pine Warblers were found in Long Beach 25 Nov–27 Feb (KSG) and Goleta 29 Dec–21 Jan (KB). Palm Warblers appeared to be less numerous than expected, with only eight reported along the coast. Two Worm-eating Warblers were in Huntington Beach, one 18 Oct–22 Feb (DRW) and the other 2 Jan–16 Mar (SGM). The Painted Redstart found in El Centro 30 October was still present 18 Mar (DM).

TANAGERS THROUGH ORIOLES

A male Hepatic Tanager was in San Dimas, *Los Angeles*, 16–26 Jan (JeB) and a male and female were together 6–27 Feb (BZ). Twelve Summer Tanagers, along with at least three times that number of W. Tanagers, wintering along the coast was about average, but a Summer Tanager inland at S.E.S.S. 20 Dec (GMcC) was one of few recorded in this area at this season.

A Green-tailed Towhee in the La Panza Mts., *San Luis Obispo*, 27–29 Dec (GPS) was unusually far n. for a wintering bird. The only Clay-colored Sparrow reported was one in Santa Maria, *Santa Barbara*, 25 Jan–29 Feb (JMC). A Black-throated Sparrow near Mentone, *San Bernardino*, 17 Feb (DRW) was outside its normal range. A Lark Bunting near Lancaster, *Los Angeles*, 12 Feb (M&NF) was the only one found this winter. A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow forced into view the during the high tides of 21–22 Jan at Morro Bay (TC), along with five at Seal Beach (JF) and two more in Imperial Beach (DA), all undoubtedly wintered in these salt-water marshes. Fifteen Swamp Sparrows at various localities throughout the Region was fewer than expected, but close to 40 White-throated Sparrows in the same area was about average. At least 16 McCown's Longspurs were in the Antelope Valley, with at least 13 near Lancaster 16 Jan–13 Feb (TEW, KLG), and up to three in Palmdale 27 Nov–27 Dec (TEW, KLG). Up to five Lapland Longspurs in Palmdale Nov–27 Dec (TEW) and one near Lakeview 24 Dec–9 Jan (HK) were the only ones reported. The only Chestnut-col-

lared Longspur was one near Lakeview 21 Dec (CMcG).

The male N. Cardinal near Tecopa, *Inyo*, since last summer was still present 12 Feb (MCM). Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were in Santa Maria 27 Dec–10 Mar (JEL), Goleta 10 Nov–2 Jan (JEL), Santa Barbara 8 Dec–12 Mar (JEL) and Carpinteria 27 Dec–10 Feb (RWH), and single Black-headed Grosbeaks were in downtown Los Angeles 19 Jan (RBA) and San Marino, *Los Angeles*, 20 Dec (KSG). A Blue Grosbeak photographed near Santa Ynez, *Santa Barbara*, 29 Dec–9 Jan (CP) is one of a few found in California in winter. A Painted Bunting in Long Beach 13 Feb–12 Mar (KSG) and two near Imperial Beach 30 Dec–8 Jan (DWA, GMcC) were most likely escapees.

Two Rusty Blackbirds were reported: one on Santa Cruz I. 22 Jan (DC) and the other in Goleta 31 Jan–13 Mar (GBW). Unprecedented were ≤5 Com. Grackles in Long Beach 3–13 Jan (TEW, KSG); however, this species is spreading westward and more can be expected. The only Orchard Orioles this winter were two together in Santa Barbara 20 Jan–3 Mar (G&JH), one in Mission Viejo, *Orange*, 19 Dec (JEP), and another in Costa Mesa, *Orange*, 31 Jan–18 Mar (BAA). Five Hooded Orioles in Santa Barbara during Jan–Feb (JEL) was a high number for winter, with one in Costa Mesa 13–31 Jan (JEP) being the only other one reported. Six Baltimore Orioles along the coast were about average, most associated with wintering Bullock's Orioles attracted to flowering eucalyptus. Small numbers of Scott's Orioles regularly winter at selected "oases" along the w. edge of the desert in San Diego but are unusual elsewhere at this time of the year; as such, single birds near Santa Barbara 6 Oct–22 Mar (JEL), in Ventura 30 Dec–2 Jan (JT), Pomona 4–5 Dec (LS), Morongo Valley 24 Feb (RAH), and Calipatria 21 Dec–9 Jan (A&VH) were more than expected, as were at least 12 at scattered locations in the mountains and on the coastal slope of San Diego in Jan–Feb (PU).

Cited observers (county coordinators in boldface): Don Adams, Douglas W. Aguillard, Bruce A. Aird, John Ayres, Richard Barth (RBA), Ron Beck (RBe), David Bradley, John Bradley (JoB), Jean Brant (JeB), Karen Bridgers, N. Bruce Broadbooks, George Butterworth, **Eugene A. Cardiff** (*San Bernardino*), Jamie M. Chavez, Therese R. Clawson, Richard Clements, David Compton, **Elizabeth Copper** (*San Diego*), Tom Croom, Brian E. Daniels, Don Desjardin, **Tom M. Edell** (*San Luis Obispo*), Richard A. Erickson, John Fitch (JFi), Jon L. Fisher, Sam Fitton, Mary and Nick Freeman (M & NF), Joe Furhman (JFu),

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west indies



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This report is dedicated to Dr. Bill Robertson, who passed away on 28 January. His research and influence in the West Indies is largely responsible for the existence of the West Indies Regional Report, initiated in 1979. Dr. Bill's "Observations on the birds of St. John, Virgin Islands" (*Auk* 79:44–76, 1962) was the "agar" for this report, antecedent Christmas Birds Counts, and myriad related works.

Reports this season arrived from the Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Haiti, Martinique, and Puerto Rico. There appears to have been an unprecedented invasion of large four-year gulls in the southern Caribbean that precipitated some international discussion from three corners: Barbados, Canada, and Finland. At issue were four purported immature (of course) Yellow-legged and Herring Gulls (see Table 1).

Photos shuttled across the length and breadth of the Atlantic via the Internet, greatly facilitating a limited discussion. No consensus is advanced on positive identification, but Martin Frost proffers that they belong to the Azores race *Larus cachinnans atlantis*. This wave of larids is somewhat mirrored by the remarkable invasion of far northern finches and a Northern Shrike. Another e-image elicited a request for the original, and I think you'll agree that the Woody Bracey photo of a Kirtland's Warbler is as much art as it is documentation. This may seem strongly phrased, but any photo of this species peering back on the wintering grounds is worth more than a thousand words.

Abbreviations: Ba (*Bahamas*); Bd (*Barbados*); Be (*Bermuda*); Ma (*Martinique*).

PETRELS THROUGH TERNS

A leap-year Black-capped Petrel presented itself to WB while he was deep-sea fishing on 29 Feb, perhaps 10 miles into the Atlantic from Abaco, Ba; the location may not seem strange, but the date gives one pause. White (1998) reported a pair of petrels off Crossing Rock, Abaco, 29 Apr 1989 (DS), and RLN noted one off Great Inagua 16 Apr 1985. Hatchlings arrive in late Feb–early Mar and after a day or two may be left alone for days while parents forage afar. This bird is likely from Sierra Maestra, e. Cuba, wandering a bit along the 100-fathom line. The only known Audubon's Shearwater colony at Bd was censused 8 Jan, with 114 birds (A,J&MG, MF, E&HM, DP). A Red-billed Tropicbird was exploring seaside cliffs at Culebrita Is, PR, 24