

# Middle Pacific Coast



should also send their documentation to Guy McCaskie, Secretary, P.O. Box 275, San Diego CA 91933. Banded birds on FI. should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory, those banded at Big Sur R. mouth to Big Sur Ornithology, Lab of the Ventana Wilderness Society.

## LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS

A Yellow-billed Loon was 100 m off Westport, Mendocino 17 Aug (PP, †GMcC, †RJK, ph. DWN et al.). Of 70 prior California records, only two occurred between Jun and Aug. All seven prior pelagic records of Streaked Shearwater were from Monterey Bay (there is also an odd inland record), so 2 farther n. were a surprise: 9.6 km w. of Westport, Mendocino 17 Aug (JLD, †GMcC, †RJK, ph. DWN, ph. B. L. Sullivan), and at Cordell Bank, Marin 29 Sep (SNGH et al.). This was the first fall to have multiple records (3 additional birds occurred off s. California), but dates were generally consistent with previous occurrences (7 Sep–9 Oct). As mentioned in previous Regional reports, Manx Shearwaters are now considered annual in small numbers. This species occurs throughout the year, but the majority of records are from fall. One was near shore at Ft. Bragg, Mendocino 16 Aug (JLD, †GMcC, M. San Miguel), and several were reported from Monterey Bay (m. ob.), as is the norm. Storm-petrel numbers have been relatively low for the past several years, the large flocks that form in Monterey Bay and more recently off Cordell Bank being largely absent. However, a large group was encountered on a 2 Sep trip to Cordell Bank, Marin including 30 Wilson's, 300 Fork-tailed, 2 Leach's, 3000-4000 Ashy, 20 Black, and one Least (RS, SBT et al.). An unidentified frigatebird was seen flying off Eagle Pt., S.F. 20 Sep (JND, ASH).

## HERONS THROUGH DUCKS

Least Bitterns at the Cosumnes R.P., Sacramento 15 Aug (JTr) and at Clear Lake S.P., Lake 4 Sep (JRW) were the only ones reported this season. The only Little Blue Heron was an imm. at Rodman Slough 14 Sep (JRW), the 2nd for Lake. Only five Cattle Egret reports were received and four of them involved single birds. This is well below totals from recent falls. White-faced Ibis had their "best fall influx ever" to Santa Cruz, with up to 30 birds present at Harkins Slough 11 Aug–30 Sep. A similar total was reported from several locations in Monterey 10 Aug–19 Sep, likely involving some of the same birds. Surprisingly, other coastal reports were limited, with 2 birds in Mendocino 2–19 Aug (Cheryl Heinecken, GEC) and a single bird in Santa Clara 11-12 Oct (Jeff Wall, Penny Howell). A lingering ibis was near San Lucas, Monterey 4-30 Nov (J&HBa).

Greater White-fronted Geese reached the coast in record numbers. Humboldt had its "largest flight ever recorded" with at least 16 flocks of 30-300+ birds, mostly heading s. or se. 20-22 Sep (fide SWH). A count of 70 in neighboring Trinity 22 Oct was a record high

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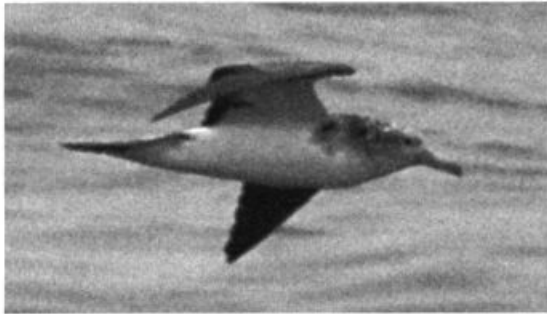
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Writing from the Farallones, Peter Pyle summarized the landbird migration as "a very poor year for eastern warblers but a typically good year for variety." He might have been speaking for the entire coastline. Generally clear and sunny weather early in the period may have encouraged many migrants to overfly the Region, but there were still lots of interesting birds around. No fewer than eight birds rated "boldfacing" this season, including multiple Streaked Shearwaters, the returning Common Greenshank, Alder Flycatcher, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and, best of all, the Region's first Little Bunting. We would like to thank Don Roberson for his six years of assembling the landbirds section of the report and turning all of our sections into a coherent product, a time-consuming task in such a heavily-birded region. His expertise will be missed. The second half of the landbirds will henceforth be in the capable hands of Luke Cole.

**Abbreviations:** C.B.R.C. (California Bird Records Committee); C.V. (Central Valley); C.P. (County Park); FI. (Southeast Farallon I., San Francisco), N.S. (National Seashore); R.P. (River Preserve); R.S. (Regional Shoreline); S.B. (State Beach); S.F. (San Francisco); S.R. (State Reserve); W.A. (Wildlife Area).

Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are normally not published. Observers wishing C.B.R.C. review

count (TWL). Flocks of 60+ in *Sonoma* 5 Oct (DN), 24 at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 28 Sep (RS), 60+ in *S.F.* 26 Nov (PSa), 39 at Fl. 11 Oct (*fide* PP), 80 in *San Mateo* 5 Oct (Merry Haveman), 27 in *Santa Cruz* (DVP, Matt Brady), 24 in *San Benito*



This Streaked Shearwater, one of two found in the Region this season, was photographed 10 km west of Westport, Mendocino County on 17 August 2002. Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.

12 Oct (MJM), and 45+ in *Monterey* 24 Sep (RF) were all examples of this widespread and sustained movement. A juv. Emperor Goose at Rodman Slough 29 Sep—7 Nov (†Darlene Hecomovich, Jeanette Knight, †JRW, ph., m. ob.) was the first for *Lake*. A carefully studied swan at Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou* 30 Nov (†RE), thought to be a hybrid Whooper x Tundra Swan, might have been from the hybrid family seen here two years earlier.

Eurasian Wigeon are rarely reported in *Mono*; an ad. male at Crowley L. 14 Sep was perhaps only the 2nd ever (JLD). Four Tufted Ducks were reported: one at the O'Neill Forebay, *Merced* 19 Oct (ADeM); an ad. male at L. Mendocino, *Mendocino* 1 Nov (GEC); a female at Redwood Shores, *San Mateo* 15 Nov+ (RSTh, m. ob.); and a male at Foster City, *San Mateo* 23 Nov+ (RSTh). A male Harlequin Duck at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* 6 Aug—10 Nov (RSTh, m. ob.) was unusual for *S.F.* Bay, especially as it may have summered locally. Surf Scoters were widely reported inland. Up to 3 male White-winged Scoters at Prosser Creek Res. 27 Oct—2 Nov (Rudy Darling, m. ob.) were the first for *Nevada*. Inland Long-tailed Ducks included one at the Shasta Valley W.A., *Siskiyou* 22—24 Oct (RE) and up to 2 in Mountain View, *Santa Clara* 15 Nov—3 Dec (Brooke Miller, Andy Gibb, Kris Olson, m. ob.); 7 others were coastal 13 Oct—2 Dec. The most notable Barrow's Goldeneye, apparently *Mariposa's* first, was an ad. male along the *Merced* R. 22—24 Nov (RHw, Gjh, JSL, JLx).

## HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Three Red-shouldered Hawk reports from *Alpine* 20 Aug—13 Oct (PKB, JSL, Bill Hart, SAG) were noteworthy, as there was only a single previous record from there. Seven coastal Broad-winged Hawks were reported away from the *Marin* Headlands 21 Sep—2 Oct, including 2 slightly inland in *Contra Costa* 25 Sep and 1 Oct (SAG). More unexpected was *Mono's* 2nd at *Mono Lake* C.P. 19 Sep (ADeM). Out-of-

place Swainson's Hawks included *Humboldt's* 4th at the Arcata Bottoms 21 Sep (†JTz, Anna Clark), juvs. over the *Marin* Headlands, *Marin* 19 Sep & 2 Oct (Tim Behr), in *San Carlos*, *San Mateo* 19 Oct (RSTh), and 2 birds in *Santa Cruz* at Soquel and Capitola 30 Aug and 4 Sep, respectively (both DLSu). An ad. Zone-tailed Hawk in the lower Carmel Valley 3 Nov—4 Dec (†Mike Tyner, †Cho, †DR et al.) was *Monterey's* 2nd and the Region's 3rd. *Santa Cruz* experienced "Merlin overload," with a record-breaking 77 reports beginning 17 Sep.

Coastal Sandhill Cranes included a flyby at Arcata, *Humboldt* 28 Nov (SWH, BCa), a long-staying "Greater" at the Garcia River Flats, *Mendocino* 15—30 Nov (RS, m. ob.), and a county-first "Lesser" at the same location 26 Nov (JLx). Other coastal cranes were *San Mateo* birds at Moss Beach 6 Sep (RSTh) and Año Nuevo S.R. 2 Oct (GJS), 4 at Soda L., *Santa Cruz* 2 Oct (CGE), and flocks of 13 and 8 birds in *Monterey* 2-3 Oct (Lois Goldfrank et al., Bryan Largay). Inland, 3 at Crowley L., *Mono* 29 Sep (PJM) constituted only the 2nd record since the 1950s for the *Mono* Basin.

Notable among Pacific Golden-Plover reports was an imm. wintering near the Stevens Cr. mouth 1-30 Nov+ (WGB, MMR, m. ob.), the first to winter in *Santa Clara* since 1970. A Semipalmated Plover at Salt Spring Valley Res. 17 Aug (JSL, JCS) was a first for *Calaveras*. Two Black-necked Stilts at Prosser Creek Res. 10 Sep (EP) provided the 2nd record for *Nevada*. An ad. Common Greenshank, likely last year's juv. bird returning, spent 18-25 Oct at Klopp L., Arcata, *Humboldt* (Paul Lohse, †DFx, m. ob.). Solitary Sandpipers were well reported, with 4 in *Humboldt* 20 Aug—13 Sep (JTz, Margaret Varga, SWH, DFX), 3 in *Placer* 11-20 Aug (CIH, TEa), 3 in *Alpine* 23-26 Aug (TEa, JSL,

SAG), and *Calaveras's* first at *Camanche Res.* 15 Sep (JCS et al., undocumented). A fall record of 6 in *Santa Cruz* 19 Aug—8 Oct (m. ob.) included the latest county record on the last date. Another was at 3180 m elevation at Rae Lakes, *Fresno* 14 Aug (CHW, Rosie Beach). A Wandering Tattler made it to *Mono* L., *Mono* 24 Aug (ph. Paul McFarland). An impressive total of 3 Upland Sandpipers was reported from Fl. 17-26 Aug (D. Gardner et al.). Marbled Godwits at Prosser Creek Res., *Nevada* 6 Sep (TEa) and *Camanche Res.*, *Calaveras* 15 Sep (JCS et al.) were apparently both county firsts but undocumented.

Inland Black Turnstones included one photographed near *Dayton*, *Butte* 15 Aug (ph. †Bob Flores, Mike Skram) and 4 at Clear Lake S.P. 5-6 Sep (DvW, Brian Woodward; *Lake's* 2nd record). Inland Sanderlings (all juvs.) included the 2nd and 3rd for *Placer* near Lincoln 17-18 Aug (EP) and at Lake Forest 9 Sep (WRI), respectively, and the first for *Amador* at *Camanche Res.* 23 Sep (TS). Semipalmated Sandpipers were well reported, with at least 43 birds in 15 inland and coastal counties 1 Aug—19 Sep. Over 160 Baird's Sandpipers were found in 19 counties 1 Aug—6 Oct, with a late bird at Shasta Valley W.A., *Siskiyou* 15 Nov (RE). *Sacramento's* first Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was at Cosumnes R.P. 12 Oct (JTr). The only others were in *Humboldt* at the Mad R. estuary 13 Sep (Peter Walsh) and at the Eel River W.A. 4 Oct (KI).

Nine Stilt Sandpipers included a likely returning wintering bird at the *Merced* N.W.R., *Merced* 22 Nov (ADeM, ph. JHG). Four Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found: lower Eel R., *Humboldt* 9 Sep (SMCa); Ft. Bragg, *Mendocino* 22-23 Aug (DT, GEC); Abbotts Lagoon, *Marin* 3-14 Sep (CCb, SNGH); and *Yolo's* first at Davis 2 Sep (JKn). A record number of Ruffs (up to 13) moved through *Humboldt* 4 Aug—13 Nov; 7 others included up to 2 inland at the *Yolo* Bypass W.A., *Yolo* 11-30 Nov (SaW et al.). A Short-billed Dowitcher at *Ione* 17 Aug (JCS)

**SA** A juv. Crested Caracara molting into basic plumage was found n. of *Marina*, *Monterey* 11-13 Aug (ph. RS, vt. tLU, CLu, m. ob.). This was followed by *Santa Cruz* Crested Caracara reports w. of *Santa Cruz* 16 Sep (Cliff Shackelford) and near *Davenport* 21-27 Sep (Madeleine Clyde, tm. ob.). This bird was clearly more adult-like than the *Monterey* bird, but

whether the differences could be explained by continued molt during the six-week gap in observations or not is a matter of debate. Several undocumented later reports of Crested Caracaras feeding on road kills farther n. in *San Mateo* included birds at *Pescadero* 28 Sep (*fide* Tim Sullivan) and s. of *Half Moon Bay* 21 Oct (*fide* DLSH) and 6 Nov (Jonathan Lundell). Thus far no reports of this species have been accepted as naturally occurring vagrants by the C.B.R.C., but the above sightings, combined with several recent occurrences in s. California, suggest that the possibility of natural occurrence should be reexamined.



Sparking controversy both with regard to questions of provenance and to the number of birds involved, Crested Caracara reports came from several locations in three coastal counties. This image, of the first bird reported, was captured north of *Marina*, *Monterey* County, on 11 August 2002. Photograph by Bill Hill.

was a first for *Amador*. Late Wilson's Phalaropes lingered at the Yolo Bypass W.A., Yolo 15-30 Nov+ (EP, WEH). Red Phalaropes at Tahoe Keys Marina, *El Dorado* 11-12 Oct (TEa, TS) and at the Chowchilla Sewage Ponds, *Madera* 12 Oct (†KVV) were both county firsts.

## LARIDS THROUGH ALCIDS

Eleven Parasitic Jaegers near Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* 2 Oct (RSTh) was a high number for inside S.F. Bay; another was far inland, where quite rare, at n. L. Tahoe, *Placer* 27-28 Nov (WRi). There were 3 inland Long-tailed Jaegers reported; this may be the most frequent jaeger inland. Heermann's Gulls are quite scarce away from the immediate coast, so one at Kelseyville 12 Oct (Jeannette Knight, †Darlene Hecmovich) and another bird there 25 Oct (†DvW, †JRW), representing the first 2 for *Lake*, were unusual. Inland Sabine's Gulls included a first for *Shasta* at the Redding W.T.P. 13 Sep (one juv.; TEa et al.) and another at the Davis Wetlands 15-16 Sep, the first for *Yolo* since fall 1998 (SCH, Frances Oliver, EP, JKn, WEG). Unusually high numbers of Elegant Terns were observed in the n. part of the Region, where over 600 were at Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 8 Sep (SWH, Mark Colwell). Likewise, 943 Elegant Terns at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* 20 Sep (RSTh) was a significant number for inside S.F. Bay. Common Terns are regular inland, but up to 35 at n. L. Tahoe, *Placer* 6-27 Sep (TEa, WRi, m. ob.) represented a robust number for any inland location.

Common Murre sightings from S.F. Bay, where unusual, included: 2 juvs. at the Palo Alto estuary, *Santa Clara* 29-30 Aug (Tom Moutoux, m. ob.); one near Newby I., *Santa Clara* 31 Aug (Sue Macias); and one at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* 9 Sep (RSTh). A count of 142 Marbled Murrelets at Año Nuevo S.R., *San Mateo* 10 Aug represented about half of the Santa Cruz Mountains breeding population (PJM).

## DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

Unusual C.V. columbids included a White-winged Dove at Fresno, *Fresno* 2 Oct (ph. Kris McNew) and a Band-tailed Pigeon at Davis, *Yolo* 11 Oct (MP). Seven other White-winged Doves included one at Martinez 3 Aug (*Contra Costa's* 2nd; JCR). Burrowing Owls in noteworthy locations included a rare *Mono* report from Paoha I., *Mono* L. 20 Oct (Chris McCreedy) and one inside the Embarcadero BART Station, S.F. 4 Nov (Libby Ingalls). A Long-eared Owl at Ft. Miley 14 Sep was S.F. city's first since 1983 (HuC, ASH et al.). Lone Chimney Swifts were at Moss Beach, *San Mateo* 27 Sep (RSTh) and EI. 9-10 Oct (P.R.B.O.).

The Region's first chaseable (and 4th overall) Ruby-throated Hummingbird was an imm.



California's fourth Ruby-throated Hummingbird was near Arcata, Humboldt County, 25 to 29 (here 28) September 2002. Photograph by Stanley W. Harris.

male at Lanphere Dunes 25-29 Sep (*Humboldt's* first; †JTz; †DFx, ph. SWH, m. ob.). An imm. male Broad-tailed Hummingbird 27-31 Aug at Davis, *Yolo* was the first ever confirmed in the C.V. (†SCH; †JKn, ph. Roger Adamson). Though Broad-tailed Hummingbirds are

reported annually away from typical Great Basin haunts, very few are ever documented. Three Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and 5 Red-naped Sapsuckers constituted a respectable showing but were overshadowed by a Red-breasted Sapsucker of the n. subspecies *S. r. ruber* at Golden Gate Park, S.F. 16 Nov+ (†JM; ph. Billie Severy, m. ob.). The status of *S. r. ruber* in the Region is poorly known. A male Williamson's Sapsucker at the Del Monte

Forest, Pebble Beach 27 Oct+ was *Monterey's* 6th (R.J. Adams, m. ob.). A vagrant Nuttall's Woodpecker at the Nuñez Ranch 14 Sep was apparently the first ever recorded on outer Pt. Reyes, *Marin* (Jim Holmes). A Pileated Woodpecker perched on driftwood at the mouth of the Mad R., *Humboldt* 29 Nov (KGR) must have been a strange sight!

An imm. Alder Flycatcher banded and photographed at EI. 25 Oct—2 Nov was the 2nd record for the island and the Region (Scot Anderson, ph. Adam Brown, †PP). Other unusual *Empidonax* included 7 coastal Least 31 Aug—16 Oct, a Dusky at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* 13 Sep (RSTh), and single Grays, both 26 Sep, at Coyote Pt. (RSTh) and Mountain View, *Santa Clara* (EYM). Another Gray at Sequoia L., *Fresno* 8 Aug was the first seen there by the observer in over 37 years (GWPo). Significant Black Phoebe reports included one at the lofty altitude of 3300 m at Kearsarge Lakes, *Fresno* 13 Aug (CHw, Rosie Beach) and fledglings on the late date of 27 Nov at San Jose, *Santa Clara* (Eric & Noreen Feuss). Single Eastern Phoebes were at Año Nuevo S.R., *San Mateo* 7 Sep (GJS), Natural Bridges S.B., *Santa Cruz* 2 Oct (SGe, Alexander Gaguine), and Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 2-3 Nov (David Vander Pluym, Matt Brady, RbF et al.). Vagrant kingbirds, all coastal or near-coastal as is typical, included 24 Tropicals after 19 Sep and 3 Easterns 11 Aug—14 Sep. More exciting was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 1 Nov at Pajaro Dunes (*Santa Cruz's* 4th; †Jim & Natalie White).

One Blue-headed and 3 Plumbeous Vireos were reported, though the only one documented was a Plumbeous at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse, *Marin* 8 Oct (ph. RS, m. ob.). A single-observer report of a Yellow-throated

Vireo at the U.C.-Hopland Research Center, *Mendocino* 23 Aug would be only the 4th ever found in the interior of the Region (†CEV). The other reports have come from the *Mono* portion of the Great Basin. Hutton's Vireos are scarcely mentioned here but singles near Wendell 2 Sep (likely a *Lassen* first; †BMS) and Lake Forest, *Placer* 20 Sep (WRi) were e. of the Sierra crest, where they are extremely rare. At least 20 Red-eyed Vireos were far more than normal. Amongst them was an apparently summering bird in heavy molt near the confluence of the Eel and Van Duzen Rivers 4 Aug (JTz) and one at 2100 m near Big Meadow 20 Aug (a first for *Calaveras*; †Rich Kuehn, Pat Pauch). The lone Yellow-green Vireo was at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 29 Sep (†DR, †RF).

A Steller's Jay at Lanphere Dunes, *Humboldt* 6 Oct was the first ever recorded at that long-term banding station (JTz). A Purple Martin at *Mono* L. 3 Aug (Justin Hite) was one of few ever found in *Mono*. Remaining reports, all coastal, ranged from 2 Aug through 26 Sep. Out-of-place White-breasted Nuthatches included 3 at Suto Heights, S.F. 7 Oct (Myra Ulvang, Siobhan Ruck) and singles at Moss Beach 21 Aug (AME) and 13 Oct (RSTh), probably the first records for the outer coast of *San Mateo*. An Eastern Winter Wren at EI. 22 Oct may have been the first such bird ever documented in the Region (ph. KNN, audiotape Ryan DiGaudio). Ruby-crowned Kinglets in *Santa Cruz* at Big Basin Redwoods S.P. 22 Aug and Soquel Cr. 28 Aug were unexpectedly early (DLSu). Western Bluebird reports included 5 over Mt. Davidson, S.F. 27 Oct (PSa) and 7-8 at *Mono* Lake C.P. 31 Oct (not recorded in *Mono*

"in years"; Chris McCreedy). Eight Townsend's Solitaires reached the coast 28 Sep—22 Nov. Single Gray-checked Thrushes were reported at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse, *Marin* 20 Sep (RS, m. ob.) and 5 Oct (†RAR). An estimated 150 Varied Thrushes at Cosumnes R.P., *Sacramento* 15 Nov was an impressive tally for the C.V. (JTr).

## WARBLERS

It was a very poor autumn for vagrant warblers. Although we have incomplete returns

(i.e., no reporting from *Del Norte*, no county compiler for *Marin*), we tallied only 364 vagrant warblers of 24 species. These figures are quite similar to autumn 2000, when overall numbers were down 41% from a six-year (1994-1999) average. Compared against that same average, vagrants warblers in fall 2002 were down 36%, and the trend was felt "across the board," with eastern-origin species down 35%, southeastern origin warblers down 16%, and southwestern warblers down 53%. Palm and Blackpoll Warblers and American Redstart,



This Alder Flycatcher on Southeast Farallon Island 25 October to 2 November 2002 was the island's second and second for the Region. Photograph by Adam Brown.

usually our three most common vagrants, were off 36% to 45%; indeed, the 89 Palms reported is the lowest figure in the last 10 years. Lower-than-expected numbers for other species included: Tennessee (26 birds, -13%), Chestnut-sided (31, -28%), Magnolia (18, -20%), Black-throated Blue (6, -62%), Black-throated Green (2, -14%), Prairie (12, -19%), Black-and-white (19, -48%), Ovenbird (4, -45%), and Northern Waterthrush (12, -55%). Bucking these trends were Northern Parula (8, +26%), Blackburnian (15, +45%), and (unexpectedly) Canada Warbler (9, +135%). Blackburnian and Canada have broadly similar breeding ranges and these numbers might suggest high productivity. Three Canada Warblers were very early: 28 Aug at Palomar, *Marin* (banded P.R.B.O.), 30 Aug at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* (RS, m. ob.), and 31 Aug on Mt. Davidson, S.F. (†David Armstrong). The overall "poor" showing may be related to sunny Sep weather that encouraged many warblers to simply overfly our Region. In fall 2001, we opined that much coastal overcast contributed to a "strong" warbler showing.

Perhaps the most appreciated warbler was a glowing male Golden-winged at Pt. Reyes 27-29 Sep (Mike Bumgardner, Dennis Braddy, †DWN, m. ob.). Among rarer vagrants were 4 Virginia's, 2 Lucy's, and 3 Prothonotary. The Farallones hosted the only Cape May (27 Sep) and Mourning Warblers (2 birds, 31 Aug—26 Sep; KNN, Adam Brown); and the only Hooded was at Bodega Bay, *Sonoma* 14—16 Sep (LLU, CLU, DN). A remarkable 3 Connecticut Warblers were documented in a down year: 10 Sep on Mt. Davidson, S.F. (†PSa); 14 Sep at Muir Beach, *Marin* (banded, *vide* RS); and 2 Oct on FI. (R. Digaudio et al.).

A totally unexpected Kentucky Warbler visited a backyard in Granite Bay, *Placer* 15-16 Nov (Virginia VanDermeer, ph. WEG et al.). Other interesting warblers inland included Chestnut-sideds in Tilden Park, *Contra Costa* 18 Sep (†ES) and at Davis 15 Sep (2nd *Yolo* record; Laura Davis), and 3 Prairies: 8 Sep at Grass L., *Plumas* (first county record, †Colin Dillingham), 17-19 Sep in Yosemite Valley, *Mariposa* (†DLSu), and 13 Nov at Mill Cr., *Mono* (River Gates).

## TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

The same downward trends that affected warblers were apparent in tanagers, grosbeaks, and icterids. Only 5 Summer Tanagers were located, but one was inland along the *Calaveras R.* near Jenny Lind 22-24 Nov (†GjH, m. ob.), a first for *Calaveras*. At that same spot on 15 Sep was *Calaveras*'s first Baltimore Oriole (Dan Cooper, JCS), the only one all fall. Numbers of vagrant Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (11, including two summering in early Aug), Indigo Buntings (5), and Bobolinks (7) were well below expected averages.

Sparrows, however, were nicely represented. A wintering Green-tailed Towhee arrived in Pacific Grove, *Monterey* 21 Oct (ph. RC, DR),

**SA** By far the best landbird was a **Little Bunting** on FI. 27-28 Sep (ph. †KNN, †PP et al.). Just the 2nd for California (the first was at Pt. Loma, *San Diego* 21-24 Oct 1991; *Western Birds* 24: 95-97), this Asian bunting was particularly surprising because the season did not feature other Siberian landbird strays, though Gambell, St. Lawrence I., AK also had 2 Little Buntings this season, one on 30 Sep.

This was the 403rd species to be recorded on the tiny rocky islet, located just 43 km w. of S.F., with its two planted trees and adjacent banding traps. By our count, this brings our Regional total to 574 birds. Little Bunting must surely rank among the best of them, competing with some Asian waders (Greater Sandplover, Little Curlew, Terek Sandpiper), a couple of seabirds (Light-mantled Albatross, Swallow-tailed Gull), and three other Farallon-only landbirds (Lanceolated Warbler, Red-flanked Bluetail, and Golden-cheeked Warbler) as the picks of the litter.

and vagrants appeared at Big Basin Redwoods S.P., *Santa Cruz* 13 Sep (DLSu) and Babel Slough, *Yolo* 28-29 Sep (JKn). A California Towhee at Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite N.P., *Tuolumne* 18 Sep (DLSu) was very high (2580 m elev.). Reaching the coast were 55 Clay-colored, 8 Brewer's, 4 American Tree, and 5 Vesper Sparrows; unexpected inland Vespers were at Chester, *Plumas* 22 Aug (HG) and High Valley, *Lake* 4-25 Oct (DvW, JRW). Four Black-throated Sparrows were coastal (3 on FI., one in *Mendocino* 14 Sep; †JRW), and one banded at Devils Postpile N.M. 13 Aug (Yen Luc, Noah Hamm) was a first for *Madera*. Two coastal Lark Buntings were complemented by a probable winterer on the C.V. floor in *Madera* 26 Nov+ (†Edmond Case et al.) and an exceptionally high-elevation bird (3210 m elev.) in Patriarch Grove, White Mts., *Mono* 12-13 Aug (Gary Bloomfield). Among a few Lapland Longspurs reaching the coast was S.F. city's first at Candlestick Pt. 4 Nov (†ADeM); another was at n. L. Tahoe, *Placer* 29 Sep (EP, WRi). Eight coastal Chestnut-collared Longspurs after 12 Oct was a fair showing, and 9 at Crowley L. 19 Oct was a good number for *Mono* (Chris Howard, JLD). What appeared to be the same imm. Snow Bunting was both at Pt. Cabrillo 10 Nov (ph. John Klein) and Laguna Pt. 11-16 Nov (Fei Tom, Richard Gage, ph. MAM, ph. RJK, m. ob.), just the 2nd for *Mendocino*. Another was at Mad R. Slough W.A., *Humboldt* 30 Oct—21 Nov (JTz, †DFx, JCP, EE), and a very unexpected 3rd was in Tilden Park 28 Nov (†Barbara Kelly), a first for *Contra Costa*.

As noted above, it was a poor fall for grosbeaks and relatives. Four coastal Blue Grosbeaks were scattered from *Humboldt* to *Santa Cruz*, and an imm. Painted Bunting was in Lincoln Park, S.F. 31 Aug (†Nate Dias). A Rusty Blackbird was behind the Bear Valley visitor center, *Marin* 9-25 Nov (†GWPo, ph. RS). The only orioles of note were 7 coastal Orchards and the inland Baltimore. Finches were notably absent. A female-plumaged Cassin's Finch was described among a flight of Purples on Mt. Davidson, S.F. 21 Oct (†PSa). An unexpectedly low-elevation Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch was in a Jeffrey Pine forest s. of Mono Lake, *Mono* 15 Sep (JLD).

## CORRIGENDA

DLSu forwards these corrections to our spring

2002 report: the Harris's Sparrow at Watsonville, *Santa Cruz* actually stayed through 7 May, and a 17 May breeding record of Great-tailed Grackle from Hollister was actually the 2nd *San Benito* nesting (not the first, see *Field Notes* 52: 501).

Cited observers (county coordinators bold-faced): Jim & Helen Banks, William G. Bousman (*Santa Clara*), Penelope K. Bowen (*Alpine & Calaveras*), Byron Cariss, Rita Carratello, George E. Chaniot, Luke Cole (*Kings*), Chris Conard (*Sacramento & Yolo*), Chris Corben, Hugh Cotter, Jeff N. Davis, Al DeMartini, Bruce E. Deuel (n. C.V. counties), Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, Mark W. Eaton (*S.F. city*), Alan M. Eisner, Ray Ekstrom (*Siskiyou*), Elias Elias, Chris G. Emmons, David Fix (*Humboldt*), Rick Fournier (RF), Rob Fowler, James H. Gain (*Stanislaus*), Steve Gerow, Steven A. Glover (*Contra Costa*), Helen Green, William E. Grenfell Jr., Steve C. Hampton, W. Edward Harper, Stanley W. Harris, Cliff Hawley, Gjon Hazard, Rob Hewitt, Craig Hohenberger, Alan S. Hopkins, Chris Howard, Steven N. G. Howell, John E. Hunter (*Trinity*), Ken Irwin, Robert J. Keifer (*Mendocino*), Jon King, Robin L.C. Leong (*Napa & Solano*), Tom W. Leskiw, Cindy Lieurance, Les Lieurance, Jim Lomax, John S. Luther, Eugene Y. Makishima, Michael J. Mamoser, Matthew A. Matthiessen, Sean McAllister, Guy McCaskie, Mac McCormick (*Sierra & Plumas*), Peter J. Metropulos (*San Mateo*), Joseph Morlan, Dan Nelson (DN), David W. Nelson (DWN), Kristie N. Nelson (*Mono*), Ed Pandolfino (*Placer*), Michael Perrone, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Gary W. Potter, Jude C. Power (*Humboldt*), Peter Pyle (FI.), Will Richardson, Robert J. Richmond (*Alameda*), Michael M. Rogers, Don Roberson (*Monterey*), John C. Robinson, Kerry G. Ross, Ruth A. Rudesill (*Sonoma*), Paul Saraceni, Debra L. Shearwater, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling, Tim Steurer (*El Dorado*), Bradley M. Stovall, Gary J. Strachan, Emilie Strauss, David L. Sudjian (DLSu; *Santa Cruz*), Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, John Trochet, Kent Van Vuren (*Merced & San Benito*), David Vander Pluym, Chuck E. Vaughn, Sally Walters, Jerry R. White (*Lake*), Brian D. Williams (*Nevada*), Dave Woodward, Bob & Carol Yutzky (*Shasta*). Many more observers were not specifically cited; all are appreciated. ☺