

Middle Pacific Coast



LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

Quite rare inland, a Red-throated Loon at Kutrass L., Redding 18 Dec—6 Jan (BY, CY, BED, Ray Bruun) represented a 2nd for *Shasta*. Up to 10 Pacific Loons were deflected inland into *Santa Clara* by strong Pacific storms in Dec (m. ob.). Eight Common Loons on Clear L., *Lake* 21 Dec (JRW, m. ob.) represented an unusually large concentration for an inland location in winter. "Al," the infamous Laysan Albatross, returned to the Pt. Arena Cove, *Mendocino* for the 9th consecutive winter (RJK, DT, m. ob.). The only other Laysan reported was offshore of *Monterey* in late Jan (RT). A Mottled Petrel crash-landed 3 Feb on the s. spit of Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* (*Humboldt State University). Although sporadic in small numbers far offshore, this species is quite rare close to land. Two late Buller's Shearwaters were off Laguna Pt., *MacKerricher S.P.*, *Mendocino* 5 Jan (GEC, CEV, MMt, DT). A subad. *Brown Booby* at the Pillar Pt. Harbor 2 Jan—15 Mar (†RSTh, vt. LLu, ph. JM, ph. LWC, m. ob.) was a first for *San Mateo* and the first to winter in the Region. The vast majority of records occur in the summer and fall.

Cattle Egret reports continue to dwindle. Four reports of up to 5 birds were received for Dec; the only Jan report was one in Arcata, *Humboldt* 21-26 Jan (Paul Lohse, KGR). This species has now gone unrecorded for a full two years in *Santa Cruz*. Perhaps the first winter record for *Modoc*, a Turkey Vulture was at Likely 8 Feb 2003 (PJM, DS, FrT). A "nearly white" leucistic Turkey Vulture, affectionately dubbed "Moby" by locals, was seen throughout the period in *s. Marin*; it was first noted during the fall on 5 Sep (Mark Fenn).

An Emperor Goose was shot by a hunter on South Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* in Nov or Dec (*fide* SPA). Another frequenting Moonglow Dairy, *Monterey* 29 Dec—7 Jan (YG, ph. BHL, m. ob.) was thought to have suffered the same fate on the last date. Goose flocks flying s. over Lewiston contained 53 Snow and 44 Ross's Geese 28 Dec (SAG, BAP), the 5th and 3rd *Trinity* records, respectively, for these species. Up to 10 Ross's Geese at the Arcata Bottoms 2-22 Feb (RbF, DFx, RLeV, JCP) made for a record high count for *Humboldt*; in contrast, the species was absent from *Santa Cruz* for the first winter since 1983 (*fide* DLSu). Two ad. Trumpeter Swans were at Tule Lake N.W.R., *Siskiyou* 26-27 Dec (†Kevin Spencer). Three more ads. were at Modoc N.W.R., *Modoc* 8 Feb (PJM, DS, †FrT), with one remaining through 20 Feb (Marcel Holyoak, ADeM). A Bewick's Swan was reported from White L. at Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou* 4-28 Feb (RE).

Over 120 Eurasian Wigeons were reported, with high counts of 59 at Gray Lodge Waterfowl Management Area, *Butte* 26 Dec (BED) and 10 at Bolinas Lagoon, *Marin* in early Jan (RS). Eight Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal included *Mendocino's* first, a male

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Perhaps the most noteworthy event of the season was the list of exceptional rarities that occurred in the Region during the winter. These species included Brown Booby, Nutting's Flycatcher (if confirmed), Philadelphia Vireo, Sedge Wren, and Canada Warbler. All of these birds represented first winter records for the Region, and all but the Sedge Wren are extremely rare anywhere in North America in winter. Tom Ryan's tenure as a regional editor has been much appreciated—thanks for all the hard work over the past two years, Tom!

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (California Bird Records Committee); C.P. (County Park); C.V. (Central Valley); F.C.B. (Flood Control Basin), FI. (Southeast Farallon I., *San Francisco*); G.G.P. (Golden Gate Park); R.P. (Regional Park); R.S. (Regional Shoreline); S.B. (State Beach); S.F. (San Francisco); S.R. (State Reserve); S.R.A. (State Recreation Area); W.A. (Wildlife Area); W.T.P. (Wastewater Treatment Plant). Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are not published. Documentation for C.B.R.C. review species will be forwarded 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.

at L. Mendocino 3 Dec (GEC). Observers tallied 11 Tufted Ducks and 2 apparent Tufted Duck hybrids from coastal and S.F. bayside locations this season. The Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* Harlequin Duck flew in from the north 7 Feb (RSTh) after a lengthy absence but was not noted after that. A female at Capitola Beach 12-14 Dec (DLSu) was rare for *Santa Cruz*, and 5 males and a female around Monterey Harbor by the end of the period doubled the previous single-season high count for *Monterey* (m. ob., ph. BHL, ph. DR). Up to 23 Long-tailed Ducks were reported, including one shot by a hunter in *Shasta* 14 Dec (*vide* BED), *Trinity's* 5th at *Trinity L.* 24 Feb (JLx), one at *Crowley L.*, *Mono* 13 Dec (JLD), and one nw. of *Corcoran*, *Kings* 7 Dec—25 Jan (Kimberly Kreitingner, RH, ADeM). Wayward Barrow's Goldeneyes included a male at *Dorris Res.*, *Modoc* 8 Feb (PJM, DS, FrT) and *Sutter's* 2nd record (2 birds) at the *Sutter Bypass* 29 Jan—20 Feb (TDM, BWb, JLx). An ad. male at *College L.* 9 Jan (CGE) was the first in *Santa Cruz* in nine years. Two hybrid goldeneyes were reported from *Candlestick Pt.*, *S.F.* 26 Dec (Brian Fitch), and a male was at *Shoreline L.*, *Santa Clara* though 24 Jan (m. ob.).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Bald Eagles were numerous near *Humboldt Bay*, *Humboldt*, with 14 being a new high count for the *Willow Creek C.B.C.* 21 Dec (*vide* DFX). An imm. Northern Goshawk was carefully studied near *Corralitos*, *Santa Cruz* 1 Jan (†DLSu, CGE). Unusual in winter, especially inland, an imm. Broad-winged Hawk at *San Luis N.W.R.* and nearby *Sante Fe Grade*, *Merced* 5 Jan—2 Feb (Larry Parmeter, ph. LCh, m. ob.) delighted C.V. visitors. An ad. was in the mountains of *Santa Cruz* 15-27 Jan (Vladimir Dinets, DLSu). The ad. male *Zone-tailed Hawk* found in Nov wintered in the lower *Carmel Valley*, *Monterey* 17 Dec—28 Feb+ (m. ob., ph. DR). Single Yellow Rails were again reported from *Grizzly I.*, *Solano* 11 & 17 Dec (Chad Fien, ADeM). A Black Rail at the *Turlock L. inlet* 11 Jan (DGY) was the first for *Stanislaus*. Last season's Greater Sandhill Crane continued at the *Garcia R. Flats*, *Mendocino* through the period (m. ob.).

Single Pacific Golden-Plovers graced four coastal counties in Dec and Jan; a 5th bird slightly inland in *Santa Clara* remained until 14 Feb (MMR). Heavy rains forced large numbers of Snowy Plovers to the Ravenswood salt ponds at the w. end of the *Dumbarton Bridge*, with 264 found there 11 Jan (J. Krauel, Kris Olson), a record-high count for *San Mateo*. A Wandering Tattler at *Hayward R.S.*, *Alameda* 19 Jan (RJR) was unexpected; also surprising, the species went unrecorded in *Santa Cruz* for the 2nd winter in a row (*vide* DLSu). A Sanderling near the *City of Davis Wetlands* 1 Jan was the first to be found in *Yolo* in winter, while 2 Whimbrels there 22 Dec were also unseasonal

(both JKn). *Yolo* Ruffs graced the *City of Davis Wetlands* 28 Dec (JKn) and continued at the *Yolo Bypass W.A.* 1 Dec & 9 Feb—1 Mar (m. ob.). *Sutter's* 2nd was a first-winter male e. of *Rio Oso* 10 Jan (ph. TEa, BWb). Another C.V. Ruff was at the *Merced N.W.R.*, *Merced* 26 Feb



As many as six Harlequin Ducks graced the *Monterey Harbor* and nearby *Cannery Row*, in *Monterey County, California* this season. These birds were photographed 19 January 2003 inside *Monterey Harbor*. Photographs by Bill Hill.

(Bev Brock). Sightings of male Ruffs around *Humboldt Bay*, *Humboldt* 14 Dec—28 Feb+ (KGR, DFX, MWa) were thought to pertain to a single wintering individual. A female in *Alviso*, *Santa Clara* 1-20 Feb (AME, m. ob.) was likely a returning bird. A Wilson's Phalarope lingered at the *Yolo Bypass W.A.*, *Yolo* through 9 Dec (AEn); another at the *Kent Ave. Ponds*, *Kings* 26 Feb (LWC) was likely wintering. Storms in Dec forced Red Phalaropes onshore. Over 200 in *Montara*, *San Mateo* 16 Dec (AJ) was the high count noted. Dozens turned up the same day in *S.F.* and on *S.F. Bay*, and a few graced bay area lakes, reservoirs, and salt ponds 16-29 Dec (m. ob.). The last birds noted away from the coast were up to 18 on the *Alviso* salt ponds, *Santa Clara* 27 Dec—8 Jan (Roland Kenner, Pat Kenny, m. ob.).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

Two Laughing Gulls were found in the *Region* this winter: *MacKerricher S.P.*, *Mendocino* 1 Feb—16 Mar (ACup, JCup, m. ob.) and *Redding*, *Shasta* 14-20 Feb (ph. BY, CY, m. ob.). Both birds represented 2nd county records. A Franklin's Gull at *Folsom L.* 8 Dec was a 3rd for *Placer*. Scarce far inland, especially e. of the *Sierran crest*, a Thayer's Gull was at *Benton Crossing*, *Mono* 13 Dec (JLD). Several juv. Iceland (*kumlieni*) Gulls were reported without

details from *Yolo*. The identification and taxonomy of the *thayeri-kumlieni* complex is problematic and very detailed documentation (preferably photographs or specimens) is necessary to substantiate extralimital records. An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull at *Elkhorn Slough* 11 Jan (†TEa, †SRv) would represent a 2nd for *Monterey* if accepted by the C.B.R.C. Ten Western Gulls reported from C.V. locations is about typical for recent years. This species was formerly considered very rare far inland, but inland records have steadily increased over the past few decades. Approximately 15 Glaucous Gulls were reported in the *Region*. Mew Gulls, while common on the coast, are normally scarce well inland, where 19 were reported, including a first for *Calaveras* at *Comanche L.* 16 Feb (TS). Although not quite as far inland, an impressive 214 Mew Gulls were on *Conn L.*, *Napa* 25 Jan (RS, LLu, CLu). A rare straggler from offshore waters, a Black-legged Kittiwake in a C.V. irrigation canal near *Santa Nella* 30 Dec—12 Jan (ph. MMR, vt. LLu, CLu, m. ob.) was a first for *Merced*. Late Elegant Terns were in *Santa Cruz*, *Capitola Beach* 3 Dec (DLSu) and *New Brighton S.B.* 4 Jan (DLSu, Chris G. Emmons) and in *Monterey* at *Moss Landing* 1 Jan (GWP, ADeM, RN). The wintering Black Skimmers at *Charleston Slough*, *Santa Clara* ranged from 14 to 21 birds during the period (m. ob.).

Marbled and Ancient Murrelets were quite close to shore in *Monterey Bay* in Dec and Jan, offering stunning views, but single scrippsi Xantus's Murrelets off *Del Monte Beach* 12 Dec (Chuck Hunter, Peggy Gallagher) and off the *Coast Guard pier*, *Monterey* 13 Jan (†DR) were exceptional, both for location and season. This species typically occurs well offshore during warm water periods in summer and fall and is quite rare in inshore waters.

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

A Band-tailed Pigeon near *Hacienda Spillway*, *Kings* 5 Jan was a superb find for the C.V. floor (RH). A White-winged Dove at *Half Moon Bay*, *San Mateo* 11 Jan was a nice winter sighting (TAC). Rare in winter, Common Poorwills were at *Potter Valley*, *Mendocino* 8 Jan (GEC) and *Año Nuevo S.R.*, *San Mateo* 10-17 Jan (Julie Thayer). Unusual hummingbirds included a Costa's at *Trinidad* to at least 6 Jan (rare in *Humboldt*; †Larry Karsteadt) and *Mono's* first winter record at *Paradise* 22 Dec (Debbie House). The obliging male Williamson's Sapsucker was present near *Pebble Beach*, *Monterey* through at least 28 Feb (m. ob.). Five Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers made a typical winter showing.

A Least Flycatcher wintered near *Natural*

SA On 1 Jan, a *Myiarchus* flycatcher was found in a yard in Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz. Gerow was asked to view the bird on 2 Jan, and he felt that the bird showed many characteristics of a **Nutting's Flycatcher**, a bird never before seen in the Region and only seen once previously in California (in Orange County 11 Nov 2000—26 Mar 2001). On 3 Jan, several skilled and cautious observers viewed the bird and concurred with that identification. The bird remained until at least 3 Feb and was seen by hundreds of observers (Michelle Scott, †SGe, †DLSu, †JM, †DR, †Curtis Marantz, vt. LLu). It was aged as a first-winter bird by the presence of retained juv. secondaries.

Although the bird was thoroughly documented with excellent photographs and written descriptions, plumage differences separating the Nutting's Flycatcher from the very similar Ash-throated Flycatcher are subtle and derived mainly from summer specimens taken on the breeding grounds. The extent to which these features are diagnostic is uncertain, particularly for first-winter birds. The two characteristics widely considered most reliable for separating these two species are the color of the bill lining and calls. The Nutting's orange bill lining is regarded as diagnostic. Many observers believed the bill lining of the Santa Cruz bird to be orange (and most thought it to be at least bright), while others thought it pink. The only photograph showing the bill lining is not definitive but does not suggest that the color was bright orange. On the other hand, Suddjian and Gerow, who spent the most time with the bird, felt strongly that the lining was indeed orange. The Nutting's call, often described as "wheet," is said to be diagnostic and was given often by the Orange County bird. A few observers reported hearing this call from the Santa Cruz bird, but it was never recorded. Typically, observers reported hearing other call notes that may not be diagnostic for either species. Many observers commented that these calls matched nothing they had ever heard from an Ash-throated, but few had any experience with either species on the wintering grounds. Without recordings of the diagnostic call note, it may not be possible to identify this bird with confidence until the key field marks are better understood.

Bridges S.B., Santa Cruz 12 Dec—1 Mar (†SGe, m. ob.). The only other *Empidonax* reported were a lingering Hammond's at Cosumnes R.P., Sacramento 8 Dec (JTr), a Pacific-slope at Soquel Cr., Santa Cruz 14-30 Dec (DLSu), and a "Western" near Pescadero, San Mateo 4-5 Jan (ADeM). Three Eastern Phoebes were found: 14 Dec—10 Jan near Olema Marsh, Marin (RS), 30 Dec at Bolinas, Marin (Tom Gardali), and 13-16 Jan near Baldwin Cr., Santa Cruz (DLSu, CGE). Male Vermillion Flycatchers brightened up the C.V. at Los Banos W.A., Merced 18 Feb—3 Mar (Sam & Bob Power, m. ob.) and, for the 3rd consecutive winter, at Lemoore Gun Club, Kings 2-6 Dec (Mark Stacy, Jeff Seay).

An unidentified *Myiarchus* flycatcher at Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz 5 Jan was thought to be an Ash-throated (SGe); another at Half Moon Bay, San Mateo 26 Jan may have been a Dusky-capped (RSTh). Single Tropical Kingbirds were at Live Oak, Santa Cruz through 16 Dec (Gene Gerlach, DLSu), Pt. Pinos, Monterey 30 Dec—19 Jan (RbF, m. ob.), and Colma, San Mateo 27 Dec—13 Mar (Russell Bright, Arlene Gemmill, Jim Weigant). A Plumbeous Vireo near Lincoln 27 Dec was an overdue first for Placer and the only "Solitary" Vireo reported in the Region (†SAG). A Philadelphia Vireo at Wilder Ranch S.P., Santa Cruz 7-21 Feb was the first ever found in the Region in winter (†DLSu). Cliff Swallows are extremely rare in the Region in winter, so 3 in the Presidio, San Francisco 27 Dec (fide DPM) and another at McNabney Marsh near Martinez, Contra Costa 20 Jan (Dennis & Patricia Braddy) were more than noteworthy.

A secretive Sedge Wren at Half Moon Bay S.B. 7 Dec—5 Mar+ was an astonishing find, as it was not only the first for San Mateo and 4th for the Region but possibly the first known to have overwintered in w. North America (†PJM, ph. HCo, m. ob.). Noteworthy Mountain Bluebird sightings included a male at the

Moss Landing Cemetery, Monterey 18 Dec—5 Feb (RF, Rob Burton, m. ob.), 4 at L. Berryessa 23 Feb (rare in Napa; Murray Berner), and 8 at Potter Valley 24-28 Feb (rare in Mendocino; GEC). A high count of 220 Varied Thrushes at Cosumnes R.P., Sacramento 8 Dec was an extraordinary number (JTr).

MIMIDS THROUGH TANAGERS

Gray Catbirds at Moss Beach, San Mateo 12 Dec—29 Jan (Barbara Cosse, PJM, RSTh, m. ob.) and Lodi L., San Joaquin 15 Jan+ (Kurt Mize, LLu, CLu) were a treat. A Sage Thrasher at the U.C. Davis Raptor Center, Solano 15 Feb+ was unusual on the C.V. floor (Ron Melzer, m. ob.). Two Bohemian Waxwings were along Hwy 295, Modoc 15 Feb (Marcel Holyoak).

Expected wintering warblers, all coastal unless otherwise noted, included 2 Tennessee, 18 Nashville, 4 Yellow (one 1 Feb at Merced N.W.R., Merced, Dave Froba), 15 Black-throated Gray (7 in Sacramento), 15 Palm, 8 Wilson's, 14 Hermit (including a first-fall female 11 Jan at Turlock L., Stanislaus, †Jim Gain), and an American Redstart. A male Black-throated Blue Warbler returned for a 2nd winter to a Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz back-

yard, seen throughout the period (Kumaran Arul, Madeline Spencer, m. ob.). A cooperative female Black-throated Green Warbler at Laguna Grande Park 30 Dec—1 Mar was a first wintering record for Monterey (SRv, †JSL, ph. BHL, ph. DR, m. ob.). Three Black-and-white Warblers were along the coast, and one was at the American R. Parkway, Sacramento 7 Dec (Kerry Lewis). There were fewer s. and e. warblers this winter than usual.

The biggest parulid news was an imm. female Canada Warbler discovered on the San Francisco C.B.C. at the S.F. Zoo 27 Dec and seen through 10 Feb (Dan Murphy, †MWE, ph. JM, m. ob.). This bird apparently represents not only the first documented wintering record for North America but the first winter record anywhere n. of Costa Rica (1998. American Ornithologists' Union, *Check-list of North American Birds*); indeed, we opined in these pages (EN. 52: 254) that Canadas—along with Blackpoll, Cerulean, and Connecticut Warblers—were unlikely ever to winter in the state because "they are the only North American parulids to winter exclusively in the Amazon Basin of South America or the adjacent Andean foothills."

Three Summer Tanagers included 2 in Santa Cruz, a female returning for a 2nd winter to Soquel Cr. 30 Nov—16 Feb (DLSu, CGE) and another female at Lighthouse Field S.B. 5 Dec—7 Jan (SGe, Ryan DiGaudio, DLSu). A male was at Laguna Grande Park, Monterey 29 Dec—2 Feb (ph. David Moen, SRv, m. ob.). Three Western Tanagers in Shasta were unprecedented: Battle Creek W.A. 10 Dec (Ray Bruun), Redding 3 Jan—22 Feb, and Anderson 2 Feb (BAP).

SPARROWS

A Green-tailed Towhee 26 Jan at Hayward R.S., Alameda was the first record for that location (RJR). One wintering in a backyard in Pacific Grove, Monterey (21 Oct+) was singing by early Feb (ph. RC, ph. DR, m. ob.). A Rufous-crowned Sparrow near Norton, Yolo 9-24 Feb was unusual on the C.V. floor (JKn, Peter Armstrong). American Tree Sparrows included one 8 Dec—15 Jan at Arcata Marsh, Humboldt

SA Barn Swallows staged an impressive invasion for the second consecutive year. Though this season's total of over 149 birds was slightly less than last year's 200, it was still far more than have ever been recorded prior to that in the 49-year history of our notebooks. Once again, this phenomenon was almost completely coastal or near-coastal, with just three C.V. reports: one on 15 Dec at the Winters W.T.P., Yolo (fide Chris Conard); one at the Modesto W.T.P., Stanislaus 29 Dec (JHG, M. Cummins); and one at Kutras L., Shasta 22 Jan (BED). A single bird at Mono City, Mono 29 Jan was the only one reported from the Great Basin and was over a month early (KNN, Chris McCreedy). Of nine reports 10-27 Dec, all were of one to 3 birds. The first "flock," 10 birds at Antonelli Pond, Santa Cruz was noted 28 Dec (DLSu). The largest flock was a northbound group of 18 birds at Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz 14 Jan (WGB, Ryan Bakelaar). Small numbers were present along the coast until 9 Feb. Very few if any of the birds involved appeared to linger more than a day or two. That at least the bulk of the birds involved were very early northbound migrants seems to be almost beyond doubt. The earliest reports (10 Dec) were from Monterey and Santa Clara, both in the s. portion of the Region. The earliest n. coast report was of 4 at MacKerricher S.B., Mendocino 13 Jan (DT). At least 43 of the birds were specifically noted as moving northward along the coast. And, once again, regions to the n. of this one experienced a significant invasion, with very small numbers present in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia in December, followed by large incursions in mid-January (S. Mlodinow, D. Cecile, pers. comm.).

(COg, STu, JWo) and 3 at the Dechambeau ponds, *Mono* 8 Dec (Chris McCreedy). Three of the 4 Clay-colored Sparrows were coastal, including a probable late migrant 1 Dec at Arcata, *Humboldt* (JTz), and 2 imm. in *Santa Cruz*: one 15-26 Dec at Watsonville (DLSu, Jeff Smallwood) and one overwintering 6 Jan—26 Feb at Lombardi Cr. (DLSu). The other, 1-4 Dec at U.C. Davis Community Gardens, was apparently only the 2nd *Yolo* record (Steve Hampton). The only Lark Bunting was a female near the Sutter Buttes, *Sutter* 26 Dec (Richard Redmond).

A systematic survey of grasslands at Wilder Ranch S.P., *Santa Cruz* 14 Jan turned up 7 Grasshopper Sparrows (DLSu, CGE). Reports of 4 came from *Santa Clara*, and one n. of Novato provided only the 2nd winter record for *Marin* (RS). Thirty-nine Swamp Sparrows were all coastal (with 18 in *Santa Cruz*) except for singles at Mono L. C.P., *Mono* Nov—12 Dec (Chris McCreedy) and the City of Davis Wetlands, *Yolo* 25 Dec (JKn). Reports of 92 White-throated Sparrows from throughout the Region demonstrate how widespread this "rarity" is; impressive were *Santa Cruz*'s 41 records. Five Harris's Sparrows included 2 in *Santa Cruz* (Kathy Wells, DLSu, Wayne & Sylvia Macon) and one in *Plumas* (Martin Meyers). An imm. at Lema Ranch 18 Jan—27 Feb (Jim Hutton, m. ob.) was the first C.V. winter record in *Shasta*. An ad. on Dowd Rd. w. of Lincoln was only the 2nd record for *Placer* (TEa, JCS, m. ob.).

LONGSPURS THROUGH FINCHES

Extensive searching, particularly by Easterla, has revealed that three species of longspur are apparently rare but regular winter visitors to the C.V.; each winter brings discoveries of the birds in new counties, and this year was no exception. The only McCown's Longspur was one w. of Lincoln, *Placer* 28 Dec (TEa). Notable on 3 Jan were *Stanislaus*'s first Lapland (TEa) and Chestnut-collared Longspurs (TEa, Harold Reeve, Eric Caine). Chestnut-collared Longspur reports included 4 along Riley Rd., *Sacramento* 7 Dec (Andrew Engilis), 2 at the Herbert Preserve, *Tulare* 1 Dec (RH, KEK), and one w. of Lincoln, *Placer* 27 Dec (TEa, JCS). There were 10 Lapland Longspur reports from *Santa Cruz* to *Siskiyou*. The Region's only Snow Bunting continued at Mad R. Slough W.A., *Humboldt* through 4 Dec (JTz).

Five coastal Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were below average; no Black-headed Grosbeaks were reported. An extremely late imm. male Blue Grosbeak in Trinidad 21 Dec (Gail Kenny,

Matt Wachs) provided *Humboldt* with its 3rd record for 2002. An imm. male Indigo Bunting visited a Montara, *San Mateo* feeder 28-29 Dec (AJ), while a female at Branciforte Dip 15-24 Feb (†SGe, DLSu) and a male at Lafayette 28 Feb+ (Maury Stern) provided first winter



This skulking Sedge Wren, present at Half Moon Bay, San Mateo County, California from 7 December 2002 (here 10 December) to at least 15 March 2003 may have been the first to overwinter in western North America. Photograph by Hugh Cotter.

records for *Santa Cruz* and *Contra Costa*, respectively. A female Rusty Blackbird that spent 12 Jan—8 Mar in a *Santa Clara* mall parking lot was a first for *Santa Clara* (ph. Chris & Cyn-die Illes, ph. m. ob.). A Common Grackle visiting a feeder in Tule L. 30 Jan+ was only the 2nd documented in *Siskiyou* (ph. †Kevin

Spencer, David Haupt, Ray Eckstrom). Great-tailed Grackles were reported from five counties, with a female 25-26 Jan at Lema Ranch being the only winter record for *Shasta* (Larry Siemens, BAP). An imm. male Baltimore Oriole was at El Estero Cemetery, *Monterey* 30 Dec—12 Jan (BJW, m. ob.), while 4 Hoodeds and 4 Bullock's were below average.

A House Finch at Bridgeport 3 Jan was *Mono*'s first winter record (RS). Lesser Goldfinches appear to be increasing in *Mono*, with flocks at Mono City 9-11 Dec (River Gates, Chris McCreedy) and Lee Vining 4 Jan (RS, Heather Cameron). The only Evening Grosbeak reports were of singles at Pacific Grove, *Monterey* 30 Dec (CT, BMth) and Saratoga, *Santa Clara* in mid-Feb (Jane Hodge, *fide* MJM).

Corrigenda: In Volume 56, No. 4, we incorrectly stated that an Anna's Hummingbird nest provided the first breeding record for *Mono*. In fact, we published the true first record in Volume 52, No. 4. We thank PJM for bringing this to our attention. The sentence in N.A.B. 56: 484,

should read: "Five reports of Virginia's Warbler from *Mono* 20-29 Jun.... last year's breeding was the first detected in *Mono Basin* since 1975." The species nests each year in small numbers in the Glass Mt. Range and Benton Hills in se. *Mono* (PJM).

Cited observers (county coordinators in boldface): Edward C. Beedy, William G. Bousman (*Santa Clara*), Penelope K. Bowen (*Alpine & Calaveras*), Rita Carratello, Theodore A. Chandik, George E. Chaniot, Les Chibana, Luke W. Cole (*Kings*), Hugh Cotter, Art Cupples, Janet Cupples, Al DeMartini, Bruce E. Deuel (n. C.V. counties), Mark W. Eaton (S.F. City), Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, Alan M. Eisner, Ray Ekstrom (*Siskiyou*), Elias Elias, Chris G. Emmons, Andrew Engilis, Jr., David Fix (*Humboldt*), Rick Fournier, Rob Fowler (RbF), James H. Gain, Steve Gerow, Yohn Gideon, Steven A. Glover (*Contra Costa*), Rob Hansen, Bill Hill, John E. Hunter (*Trinity*), Alvaro Jaramillo, Robert J. Keiffer (*Mendocino*), Jon King, Kimberly E. Kreitinger, Robin L.C. Leong (*Napa & Solano*), Gary S. Lester, Ron LeValley, Cindy Lieurance, Leslie Lieurance, Jim Lomax, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, Timothy D. Manolis, Blake Matheson (BMth), Matthew A. Matthiessen, Peter J.

Metropulos (*San Mateo*), Mac McCormick (*Sierra & Plumas*), Joe Morlan, Dan P. Murphy, Kristie N. Nelson (*Mono*), Rod Norden, Chet Ogan (COg), Gary W. Page, Steve Pagliughi, Ed Pandolfino (*Placer*), Barbara A. Peck, Jude C. Power (*Humboldt*), Peter Pyle (FI.), Robert J. Richmond (*Alameda*), Don Roberson (*Monterey*), Michael M. Rogers, Kerry G. Ross, Steve Rovell, Ruth A. Rudesill (*Sonoma*), David Shuford, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling (*Modoc*), Tim Steurer, David L. Suddjian (DLSu; *Santa Cruz*), Richard Ternullo, Ronald S. Thorn, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Francis Toldi, John Trochet, Steve Tucker, Kent Van Vuren (*Merced & San Benito*), Chuck E. Vaughn, Matt Wachs, Bruce Webb, Brian J. Weed (BJW),



Completely unexpected in the Central Valley in winter, this Broad-winged Hawk apparently overwintered in and around the San Luis N.W.R., Merced County, California. This digiscoped image of the bird was captured along the Sante Fe Grade 12 January 2003. Photograph by Les Chibana.

Jerry R. White (*Lake*), Brian D. Williams (*Nevada*), Jared Wolf (JWo), David G. Yee, Bob & Carol Yutzy (*Shasta*). Many more observers were not specifically cited; all are appreciated. ☺