

Middle Pacific Coast



Michael M. Rogers
(Herons to Shorebirds)
499 Novato Avenue
Sunnyvale, California 94086
(m.m.rogers@att.net)

Steven A. Glover
(Doves to Wrentit)
6256 Conestoga Lane
Dublin, California 94568
(Sgloverccc@aol.com)

Luke W. Cole
(Thrashers to Finches)
561 Hill Street
San Francisco, California 94114
(luke@igc.org)

Scott B. Terrill
(Loons to Frigatebirds, Larids to Alcids)
H.T. Harvey & Associates
3150 Almaden Expressway, Suite 145
San Jose, California 95118
(sterrill@harveyecology.com)

A warm, dry fall that lingered a bit later than usual was not broken by significant rainfall until late October. Until then, skies were unusually clear, conditions which are generally poor for grounding migrant passerines. Most coastal counties reported fewer migrants and vagrants than normal, with Humboldt County being the lone exception. Despite low numbers of migrants, this fall was more than redeemed by several remarkable discoveries. The seabirds were particularly well represented, with extraordinary first state records of Cory's and Little Shearwaters. Other luminaries included the Region's first Streak-backed Oriole, California's third Black Vulture, and its fourth Baird's Sparrow. The apparent collapse of much of the Region's acorn crop was likely the primary factor behind a significant invasion of the Region's lowlands by Lewis's Woodpeckers, as well as smaller incursions by Band-tailed Pigeons, Acorn Woodpeckers, and Western Scrub-Jays. This fall will also be remembered for an invasion of Pinyon Jays to the southern portion of the Coast Ranges, the first such event in nearly a century. We wish to thank Penelope K. Bowen for her years of service as Subregional Editor for Alpine and Calaveras Counties. John C. Sterling, the Subregional for Modoc County, has kindly agreed to add both counties to his duties.

Abbreviations: B.S.O.L. (Big Sur Ornithology Lab); C.B.R.C. (California Bird Records Committee); C.R.P. (Cosumnes River Preserve, Sacramento); C.C.F.S. (Coyote Creek Field Station); C.V. (Central Valley); FI. (Southeast Farallon I., San Francisco); P.R.B.O. (Point Reyes Bird Observatory); R.S. (Regional Shoreline); S.F. (San Francisco); S.B. (State Beach); S.R. (State Reserve); W.A. (Wildlife Area). Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are normally not published. The Regional Editors will forward documentation for C.B.R.C. review species to Guy McCaskie, Secretary, P.O. Box 275, Imperial Beach, CA 91933. Birds banded on FI. should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory (P.R.B.O.) and those banded at Big Sur R. mouth to the Big Sur Ornithology Lab (B.S.O.L.) of the Ventana Wilderness Society.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS

A Pacific Loon was at Crowley L., *Mono* 16 Oct (JLD), and 2 were there 28 Oct (DS). Formerly considered quite rare e. of the Sierra, this species is now nearly annual at Crowley Lake. Rare inland, 2 Red-necked Grebes were in *Napa* 20 Nov (HEMc), and singles were at Briones Res., *Contra Costa* 19 Oct (RSa), Ruth L., *Trinity* 10 Nov (GEC), and Crowley L., *Mono* 15 Nov (JLD). The last 2 represented 2nd county records. Downy young Eared Grebes were at Bridgeport Res., *Mono* on the late date of 3 Oct (ES). Northern Fulmars staged a major incursion into the Region, with large numbers along the entire coast, including hundreds of dead birds. Nevins and Harvey (Moss Landing Marine Lab) dissected 166 of these birds (*vide* DR) and found that they had starved and lacked any overt signs of pathogens. There were

SA Vagrant shearwaters put on quite a show in fall 2003. A **Cory's Shearwater** at Cordell Bank, *Marin* 9 Aug (ph. †DLSh, vt. LLu, TMck, SNGH, DDO et al.) and another (or the same bird?) off Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 22–23 Aug (RT, Nancy Black, †RgW, †SFB) provided the first records in the Pacific. The 23 Aug sighting was followed by a **Streaked Shearwater** (†SFB, RgW) minutes later! This is surely the only occasion when these two *Calonectris* from opposite oceans have been seen at the same time and place. Likewise remarkable was a **Little Shearwater**, the first for w. North America, well documented 5 km off Pt. Joe, *Monterey* 29 Oct (†PP, ph. †DLSh et al.).

equal numbers of both sexes, 96% were imm. birds, and the ratio of 92% dark morph to 8% light morph indicated the birds were from the Gulf of Alaska. A likely Greater Shearwater was reported 5 & 12 Oct off *Monterey*, but the only details submitted were for the latter date, when the bird was briefly and not fully seen. Wilson's Storm-Petrels are annual from Jul through Oct off *Monterey* and *Marin*. This season's high count was 25+ off *Marin* 21 Sep (RS, SBT et al.). Quite rare inside S.F. Bay, Ashy Storm-Petrels were near Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* 28 Sep (Paul Jones), 29 Sep (RSTh), and 28 Oct (RSTh). A flock of

400 Least Storm-Petrels on *Monterey Bay*, *Monterey* and *Santa Cruz* 15 Sep (ShJ) was a very high number, especially outside a major El Niño event.

A Red-tailed Tropicbird over FI. 29 Sep (ph. KNN) was the 7th in the Region and at the same location as the first state record in 1979. A Brown Booby off *Mendocino* 21 Sep (MtB, †RyT, ph. †DLSh, †JRW, †CEV et al.) was a first for that county and the farthest n. in the Region. Brown Pelicans are very scarce away from the coast; a juv. in the interior at Clear Lake S.P. 19 Oct–6 Nov (JRW, DvW) was a first for *Lake*.

HERONS THROUGH RAILS

Least Bitterns were found at the Bear Creek Unit of San Luis N.W.R., *Merced* 6 Aug (JHG) and n. of Davis, *Yolo* 11 Aug (fide SCH). Reports of Cattle Egrets continue to be limited. The only significant number noted was 102 from s. of Dixon, *Solano* 30 Aug (CLu, LLu). Among a few wandering Aug birds was *Placer's* 2nd w. of Lincoln 21 Aug (TEa). White-faced Ibis were widely reported and lingered later than usual. Seventy birds at Bridgeport Res. 25 Aug (PJM) and the same number at Crowley L. 31 Aug (JLD) constituted new high counts for *Mono*; 2 at the former location 3 Oct (ES, Mike McClaskey) established a new *Mono* late date. Ibis lingered late at Crespi Pond,



This Little Shearwater, a first for California and the West Coast, was photographed just five kilometers off Point Joe, Monterey County 29 October 2003. Photograph by Debra L. Shearwater.

Monterey 2 Nov (Bruce Belknap), the C.C.E.S. Waterbird Pond, *Santa Clara* 4 Nov (RWR, FV), and Harkins Slough, *Santa Cruz* 22 Nov (fide DLSu). A single Black Vulture seen flying to roost with a Turkey Vulture at Arcata, *Humboldt* 8 Oct (DFx) was found nearby the next morning (ph. RbF, ph. GAB, m. ob.). This is only the 3rd record for the Region and the state.

sonal. An apparent family group of 8 Ruddy Ducks at over 2800 m elevation on the Upper Chain L. in Yosemite N.P., *Madera* (Kevin & Chris Enns-Rempel) likely established a new altitude record for this species in the park.

Coastal Northern Goshawks included juvs. over Hawk Hill, *Marin* 3 Oct (Ken Wilson, Becky Olsen), at Gray Whale Ranch, *Santa Cruz* 11 Oct (†SGe), and in w. Sonoma, *Sonoma* 4 Nov (RAR). Broad-winged Hawks in less-expected locations included birds e. of Casa de Fruta, *Santa Clara* 12 Sep (Paul Fox), at the Hayward R.S., *Alameda* 8 Oct (RJR), and over *Santa Cruz*, *Santa Cruz* 13 Oct (DLSu). Swainson's Hawks made a strong coastal showing, with 8 seen over *Marin*, *Contra Costa*, S.F., *San Mateo*, and *Santa Cruz* 24 Aug–10 Oct. *Humboldt's* first Gyrfalcon (and the Region and state's 10th) was seen near the Eel River W.A. 16–23 Oct (KI, †DFx, Dominic Bachman, Eric Nelson); it was also seen crossing the water between the *Humboldt* jetties 27 Oct (fide DFx) and in the Arcata Bottoms 3 Nov (†KGR). Typically seen with flocks of Aleutian Canada Geese, the falcon was seen diving on



This leucistic Buller's Shearwater was in the same small flock of shearwaters in Monterey Bay as a melanistic Pink-footed Shearwater 4 October 2003. Photograph by Debra L. Shearwater.

Remarkably, the 2nd record was of a bird that wintered in the same area 19 Sep 1993–9 Feb 1994.

A Black Brant near Colusa, *Colusa* 27

them on the latter date. A Yellow Rail was flushed along Cordelia Slough, *Solano* 12 Sep (Conrad Jones) during levee grass cutting, and another was found dead at

Harkins Slough 25 Oct (ph. Bev Brock, Lynn Hemink), the first for *Santa Cruz* since 1905.

SHOREBIRDS

Twelve reports of American Golden-Plovers were submitted, none of them with documentation. Among these was a remarkably late juv. seen at the Merced N.W.R. 20 Nov (*Merced's* 2nd; PJM, ADeM). Despite their being frequently reported, separating this species from the similar Pacific Golden-Plover is far more difficult than generally believed, and the true status, especially of adult birds, is unclear. Because of this, the C.B.R.C. recently voted to add this species to the state Review List. Consequently, records submitted without convincing documentation will no longer be published. A coastal Mountain Plover roosting with Snowy Plovers at Pajaro Dunes 13 Oct (Jane C. Warriner) was only the 3rd for *Santa Cruz*. Solitary Sandpipers made a strong showing, with at least 21 reported from 10 counties 3 Aug–1 Oct, 12 of these between 22 Aug and 2 Sep. A surprise inland Wandering Tattler was at Los Gatos, *Santa Clara* 22 Oct (Robert Power). A Hudsonian Godwit found 27 Aug in

SA This fall brought an impressive invasion by Lewis's Woodpeckers to the lowlands of the Region, as well as a smaller movement of Acorn Woodpeckers. The influx of Lewis's was first noted at several locations in late Aug and had generally played itself out by the end of Oct. Among the dozens of reports were numerous sightings from the coast, S.F. Bay, and the C.V., all areas where they are quite rare. A total of 61 noted flying over *Contra Costa* ridgetops 19 Sep–11 Oct (SAG, JSL) hints that this fall's movement was truly massive. The probable cause of this invasion was the apparent collapse of the acorn crop throughout much of the Region. Indeed, by the end of Nov, it had become clear that the Sierra foothill and Coast Range wintering strongholds were completely devoid of Lewis's Woodpeckers.

2nd and 3rd (both JLx). A faded alternate-plumaged Marbled Godwit at Elkhorn Slough, *Monterey* 26 Oct–14 Nov+ (ph. m. ob.) was thought to be a Bar-tailed Godwit for much of its stay, until correctly identified on 10 Nov (DSg).

Good concentrations of Red Knots included 500 at San Leandro 25 Aug and 550 at Hayward 19 Sep (both Gerry McChesney, both *Alameda*). At least 28 Semipalmated Sandpipers, nearly all juvs., were reported 1 Aug–23 Sep, including *Shasta's* 2nd at the Redding W.T.P. 1–3 Sep (†TEa, †BED, m. ob.). Most notable of many Baird's Sandpiper reports was that of 84 at Clam Beach 3 Sep (KGR), a record count for *Humboldt* and 2nd in the Region only to the 100 birds at Crowley L., *Mono* 6 Sep 1987. Three Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were found, including an early juv. at Abbott's

Mono L., *Mono* included about 90,000 Wilson's 31 Jul and 60,000 to 66,000 Red-neckeds in early to mid-Sep (both Joe Jehl). Elsewhere, 7200 Red-neckeds on the Alviso Salt Ponds 31 Aug (MMR, MJM) nearly doubled the previous high count for *Santa Clara*. Good numbers of Red Phalaropes were blown inland into s. S.F. Bay (primarily *Santa Clara*) and to coastal *Santa Cruz* and *Monterey* 30 Oct–4 Nov. A single juv. was well inland with 150 Red-necked Phalaropes at West Valley Res., *Modoc* 12 Sep (LLu, RS et al.).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS

South Polar Skuas are regularly encountered offshore in small numbers, but 29 in *Monterey Bay*, *Monterey* and *Santa Cruz* 4 Oct (ShJ) was a high number. Very rare inland in the Region, a Long-tailed Jaeger was at *Shasta* L., *Shasta* 30 Aug–6 Sep (TS, †BED, BY et al.). A Laughing Gull, rare and irregular along the Region's coastline, was at Wilder Ranch S.P., *Santa Cruz* 2 Nov (†SGe). Exceptional numbers of Franklin's Gulls were present in the Klamath Basin in spring and summer, and this carried over into the fall, with a high of 128 at Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou* 14 Aug (DS). This number likely represents a high fall count for the state. A Franklin's Gull at Salt Springs Res. 27 Sep (†JCS) was a first for *Calaveras*, and one at Clear Lake S.P. 2 Sep (DvW) was the 2nd for *Lake*. Two imm. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found, one at Crowley L., *Mono* 22–23 Oct (†JLD, ph. CHw, Rosie Beach) and another at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery, *Sacramento* 25 Nov (ph. SNGH, JLD, †WEH, m. ob.). The latter was seen later that day at nearby Folsom L., *Placer* (BWb, TEa). Arctic Terns are quite scarce away from the outer coast, so 3 juvs. at L. Tahoe, *Placer* 15 Sep (DS) were noteworthy. A Least Tern at MacKerricher S.P. 25–26 Aug (†DT et al.) was well n. in the Region and only the 2nd for *Mendocino*. Craveri's Murrelets are annual offshore, but 6 in *Monterey Bay*, *Monterey* and *Santa Cruz* 2 Aug (ShJ) was a decent showing.



There were two Thick-billed Murres in the Middle Pacific Coast region this fall; this individual was photographed off *Santa Cruz* 4 October 2003. Photograph by Scott B. Terrill.

Alviso, *Santa Clara* (Dean Manley) was enjoyed by many 29 Aug–1 Sep. Remarkably, this bird was joined by another individual 30 Aug–1 Sep (JSL, ph. †m. ob.). Although missed for the next four days, both birds were seen one last time 6 Sep (ph. Jean Myers). Marbled Godwits at Trinity L. 16 Aug & 7 Sep were *Trinity's*

Lagoon, *Marin* 4–5 Sep (Jim White, ph. RS, SNGH, CCb); the others were at Eel River W.A., *Humboldt* 22 Sep (SMcA, KI, KGR, RbF) and the Palo Alto Baylands, *Santa Clara* 5 Oct (†Daniel Bump). A dozen Ruffs were found in seven counties, including an ad. male s. of Willows, *Glenn* 6 Sep (†JSL). Peak phalarope counts at

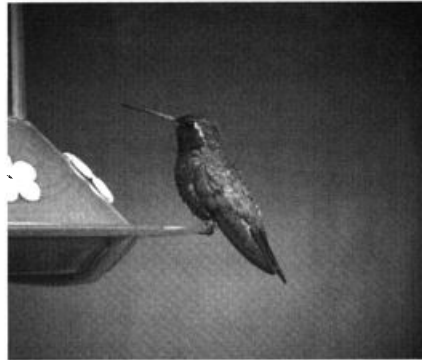
There were 2 Thick-billed Murres documented: off *Mendocino* 21 Sep (vt. LTer, ph. †SBT, †DLSh et al.) and off *Santa Cruz* 4 Oct (David Ward, †DLSh, ph., †SBT, ph. RyT et al.). Annual in late summer and fall in recent years, Long-billed Murrelets were at Waddell Bluffs, *Santa Cruz* 19 Aug (†DLSu), MacKerricher S.P., *Mendocino* 20–24 Oct (†DT, †GEC, †JRW, †CEV), and off s. *Trinidad*, *Humboldt* 30 Aug–2 Sep (PAH, m. ob.). All pelagic California records of this Asian species are from quite close to shore.

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

Six vagrant White-winged Doves were found coastally; the lone inland record was *Lake's* first at Kelseyville 30 Oct (†JRW). Single Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 11 Aug (found dead; *fide* RS) and Pacific Grove, *Monterey* 13 Aug (found injured; *fide* DR) continued a weak trend of post-breeding wanderers found dead or injured. A Lesser Nighthawk 17 Aug was the first for Hayward R.S., *Alameda* and a rarity for S.F. Bay (RJR). A hatchling Black Swift on the nest at Año Nuevo S.R., *San Mateo* 17 Aug represented the first breeding in two years at this once traditional site (RSTh). A White-throated Swift near Hopland 12 Nov was the first ever found in *Mendocino* in fall (CEV). A male Broad-billed Hummingbird at a Sonoma feeder 13–27 Nov (Karen Palmer, RLe, BDP, vt. LLu, CLu, m. ob.) was the 2nd for *Sonoma* and just the 7th for the Region. Black-chinned Hummingbirds have long been considered very rare coastal visitors, though in recent years, records have begun to accumulate more rapidly. Even so, a minimum of 18 individuals (including at least 15 from *Santa Cruz* alone) 26 Aug–27 Sep was a startling total. Belted Kingfishers rarely rate mention here, but one that snared an American Goldfinch off a feeder in a yard at Redding, *Shasta* 17 Nov was certainly noteworthy (Randy VanOrden). Six juv. Lewis's Woodpeckers near Dinosaur Pt. 7 Aug were suggestive of local breeding in w. *Merced*, an area where breeding has never been documented (KVV).

Five Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers included the first for Hayward R.S., *Alameda* 8 Oct (RJR). Six Eastern Phoebes, all coastal,

were detected beginning 25 Oct. Tropical Kingbirds made a strong showing, with at least 34 found 18 Sep–30 Nov; all were coastal except for one at San Felipe L. 23–25 Oct, a first for *San Benito* (Mark Paxton, KVV, †R.J. Adams). A healthy concentration of 49 Western Kingbirds was found in just one-half km of the tour loop at Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou* 14 Aug (DS). Three Eastern Kingbirds reached the coast: 25 Aug near Eureka, *Humboldt* (MWa, KGR); 6 Sep at MacKerricher S.P., *Mendocino* (DT); and 25–29 Sep at Moss Beach, *San Mateo* (RSTh, m. ob.). One



This striking male Broad-billed Hummingbird visited a feeder at Sonoma, Sonoma County, California. Present 13–27 November (here 16 November) 2003, it was only the seventh to be documented in the Middle Pacific Coast Region. Photograph by Kathy Robertson.

inland at Ahjumawi S.P. 28 Jul–2 Aug (Francies McRae, Dennis Holmes, Randy Van Orden) was surprisingly just the 2nd for *Shasta*.

VIROES THROUGH THRUSHES

A Bell's Vireo, now among the Region's rarest vagrant passerines, was banded at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 9 Sep (B.S.O.L.). A dismal fall for vagrant vireos yielded just 2 Blue-headed (both undocumented), 3 coastal Red-eyes 3–16 Sep, and no Yellow-throateds or Yellow-greens. It seems bizarre that more Philadelphias were detected than Red-eyes, but 4 turned up this fall: at Fl. 2–4 Sep (ph. P.R.B.O.); at Carmel R. mouth, *Monterey* 13–26 Sep (RC, RF, †DR, m. ob.); at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 25 Sep (ES, ph. WEH); and at Pine Gulch Cr., *Marin* 2–5 Oct (RS, CLu, LLu).

Forty-seven Yellow-billed Magpies at

Tar Canyon, *Kings* 25 Oct was a very large flock for an area where they have rarely been found (JLx). As many as 3 Chestnut-backed Chickadees put in a rare C.V. appearance at Davis, *Yolo* 30 Sep–30 Nov (SCH, m. ob.). A "Plain" Titmouse at South Lake Tahoe, *El Dorado* 14 Oct–26 Nov was at a location where neither species is expected (DS). A Rock Wren at Sequoia L., *Fresno* 25 Aug was just the 2nd seen by the observer at this location in 39 years (GWPo). Single Townsend's Solitaires at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* 16 Nov (RJR) and Howard Ranch, *Sacramento* 29 Nov (JTr) were each at unusual locations.

THRASHERS THROUGH PIPITS

A Gray Catbird on Bayview Hill, S.F. 20–22 Sep was the first documented city record (Pat McCullough, ASH, †MWE, m. ob.). A spotted juv. Northern Mockingbird near Garberville 9 Aug provided the first evidence of breeding in *Humboldt* since the mid-1990s (Robert Sutherland). Wandering Sage Thrashers were in *Stanislaus* at Modesto W.T.P. 21 Sep (JHG, JLx, Harold Reeve) and Willms Road 25–29 Oct (Jean Hackmack, m. ob.). One was at Año Nuevo State Reserve, *San Mateo* 18–24 Oct (RSTh), while 6 at Fl. constituted a high annual count (P.R.B.O.). A Brown Thrasher was at Fl. 25–28 Oct (P.R.B.O.).

A Siberian invasion gave n. California its best pipit year since 1991. At least 32 Red-throated Pipits were recorded across eight counties 23 Sep–2 Nov, with 2 in *Humboldt*, 3 in *Mendocino*, 2 in *Sonoma*, 8 in *Marin*, 5 on Fl., one in *San Mateo*, and 5 in *Monterey*. More unusual was one inland 16 Oct at Ukiah W.T.P., *Mendocino* (ADeM). There is but a single prior record of Red-throated Pipit for *Santa Cruz*, where 5 were found 27 Sep–21 Oct (SGE, DLSu). Perhaps part of the same phenomenon, American Pipits of the *japonicus* race were well described from Manchester, *Mendocino* 15 Oct (ADeM, †JRW), n. of Moss Landing, *Monterey* 13–16 (†RyT, Olivier Barden, †MtB, †DVP) & 18 Oct (different bird; †DR), and Zmudowski S.B., *Monterey* 26 Oct (DR, RC, RF).

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS

A Tennessee Warbler at Grasslands Park, *Yolo* 3–9 Oct (SCH, JKn, JCS) was a treat inland; 20+ were along the coast, including 8–9 in *Humboldt*, well above the recent county average of 2.7 per year (*fide* DFx, JCP). A Virginia's Warbler was at Fl. 31 Aug–4 Sep (P.R.B.O.); another was at Mt. Davidson, S.F. 12 Sep (Brian Fitch). Others were at MacKerricher S.P., *Mendocino* 15–16 Sep (†DT, †Dave Jensen), Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt* 27 Oct (RbF), and Nat-

SA This season's strange Pinyon Jay invasion, the Region's first since 1914, brought first records to several counties but involved only a handful of individuals. Just 19 birds were found in eight counties 30 Sep–25 Oct, none of them n. of *Contra Costa*. This year's incursion is in contrast to historical records: a flock over Berkeley 5 Oct 1911 contained 75 birds! Among this fall's sightings were 2 at Chews Ridge 28 Sep (*Monterey's* first since 1895; †MtB, †RyT, †DVP), 3 at Tar Canyon 30 Sep (*King's* first; †JLx), one at Chalk Mt. 5 Oct (*Santa Cruz's* first; †DLSu), one at Sibley R.P. 8 Oct (*Contra Costa's* first and *Alameda's* first since 1911; JSL), one in San Antonio Valley 10 Oct (*Santa Clara's* first; †Matthew O'Brien), and one at San Benito Mt. 18–25 Oct (*San Benito's* first; DLSh, Don Doolittle, vt. LLu, CLu).



With fewer than 20 prior records for the state, any Hudsonian Godwit in California is a welcome surprise. Two together, however, were unprecedented. Up to 2 juvenile Hudsonians pleased throngs of birders at New Chicago Marsh in Alviso, Santa Clara County 27 August through 1 September (here, after a brief absence, 6 September). Photograph by Jean Myers.

ural Bridges S.B., Santa Cruz 15 Nov (SGe). A Lucy's Warbler was at Big Sur R. mouth, Monterey 10 Oct (Roger Wolfe). Ten Magnolia Warblers were along the coast, and one was at C.R.P. 30 Sep (JTr). Single Cape Mays were at FI. 26 Sep (P.R.B.O.) and Pt. Reyes, Marin 27 Sep–2 Oct (RS, m. ob.). Five Black-throated Blues included Mendocino's first documented record, at Pt. Arena 13 Oct (†JRW). The only Black-throated Green Warbler reported was a female returning to Laguna Grande Park, Monterey 11 Oct+ for a 2nd winter (TAm, RF). Two coastal Blackburnians were more expected than the one along the American R. Parkway, Sacramento 7 Sep (Dave Johnson, Barbara Mohr).

Reports of our more common migrant warblers included 21 Chestnut-sideds, 7 Prairies, 116 Palms, 30 Black-and-whites, 39 American Redstarts, and 19 Northern Waterthrushes. Three Bay-breasteds included one 29 Sep–1 Oct at C.R.P. (JTr). Among the 55 Blackpoll reports were firsts for Merced at O'Neill Forebay 28 Sep (KVV) and for Madera at Moen Ranch 7 Oct (†GWPo, Frank Gibson, Kay Barnes). Two Ovenbirds were at Pt. Reyes, Marin 15–16 Sep (Ken Wilson, Becky Olsen, Ian Morrison, EDG), and a 3rd was at FI. 29 Sep (P.R.B.O.). Single Kentucky and Connecticut Warblers were at FI. 26 & 27 Sep, respectively (P.R.B.O.). A Hooded Warbler was along Gazos Cr., San Mateo 8 Sep (Kurt Gentalen), and another was at Harkins Slough, Santa Cruz 21 Oct (RgW). An imm. Scarlet Tanager at Big Sur R. mouth 28 Oct–6 Nov set a late date for Monterey (†MtB, m. ob.); another was at FI. 2 Nov (P.R.B.O.).

SPARROWS THROUGH BUNTINGS

Green-tailed Towhees out of range included only the 2nd coastal sighting ever for Humboldt, one at Arcata Marsh 30 Aug (Brian Acord); migrants included singles at Pt. Reyes, Marin 25 Sep–1 Oct (ES, ph. MWE) and 4 Oct (LLu, CLu); 2–3 in Yolo 6–11 & 28 Sep (CCo, Kimya Lambert, m. ob.); and a visitor to Pescadero, San Mateo 12–26 Nov (Merry Haveman, GrH). American Tree Sparrows turned up near Orleans, Humboldt 30 Oct (EE), at FI. 23 Nov (P.R.B.O.), and at DeChambeau Ponds, Mono 29 Nov (†DS). Among the 35 Clay-colored Sparrows were 18 at FI. (P.R.B.O.) and a first for Stanislaus 13–15 Oct at Del Puerto Canyon (†MMR, JSL). A Black-throated Sparrow at FI. 20 Sep–4 Oct (P.R.B.O.) was upstaged by the sparrow of the season, a Baird's Sparrow there 28 Sep (P.R.B.O., ph. KNN), only the 4th state record and the 3rd for the Region (the two previous records are also from FI.).

A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was at the Carmel R. mouth, Monterey 17–18 Oct (JsSc, SRv, JCS). One in saltmarshes at South San Francisco, San Mateo 23 Nov may be the same one that wintered there last year (Kris Olson). Thirty-three Swamp Sparrows and 64 White-throated Sparrows were widely distributed. The only Harris's Sparrow reported was at St. Helena, Napa 23 Nov+ (Robert Frescura). The only McCown's Longspur was w. of Lincoln, Placer 13 Nov (TEa). Laplands were broadly reported, including Mendocino's first interior record, one at the Ukiah S.T.P. 4–5 Oct (CEV, RJK). Nine Chestnut-collared Longspurs were widely distributed 19 Oct–16 Nov. A Snow Bunting was

at FI. 29 Oct (†Adam Brown, P.R.B.O.), and another was at Sea Ranch, Sonoma 16 Nov (*vide* LLu).

Thirteen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was below average; a Blue Grosbeak 2 Sep at Mt. Davidson, S.F. was unexpected (PSar). At least 4 Painted Buntings were found: 2 first-year birds at Big Sur R. mouth, Monterey 31 Aug–1 Sep (†Cho) may have lingered until 16 Sep (B.S.O.L., Jessica Griffiths, †MtB), although the 2 there on the latter date may have been different birds. Another was at FI. 15–22 Sep (P.R.B.O., ph. KNN), and Santa Cruz's 4th was a female-type at San Lorenzo R. 1–4 Sep (SGe, DLSu). Six Dickcissels were along the coast from Humboldt to San Mateo 7 Sep–25 Oct.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES

A dozen Bobolinks in Humboldt 22 Sep–16 Oct and 7 on FI. were well above average. Single wandering Yellow-headed Blackbirds graced a variety of coastal locations, including Fort Miley, S.F. 13 Sep (HuC), while 13 in San Carlos 9 Sep comprised the largest flock ever recorded in San Mateo (RSTh). Two Rusty Blackbirds were reported, one from FI. 25–28 Oct (†Adam Brown, P.R.B.O.) and one from Yolo 16 Nov (†Gary Fregien). A Common Grackle at the Arcata Bottoms 28–30 Nov was Humboldt's 2nd (CLu, †RS, vt. LLu).

Four Orchard Orioles were coastal migrants, but an ad. male in Cole Valley, S.F. 9 Sep+ appeared to be wintering (PSar). Hooded Orioles continue to be widely reported, including a prolific pair in Ukiah, Mendocino that managed three broods by 1 Aug (Paul Hawks). The icterid of the season was our Region's first Streak-backed Oriole, a male at the Big Sur R. mouth, Monterey 24 Nov (†JTz, Rebecca Green, †DR). A single Baltimore Oriole was at FI. 25 Oct (P.R.B.O.). A single Cassin's Finch was at Hayward R.S., Alameda 9 Nov (RJR). There was no major influx of crossbills, and no influx at all of siskins, this fall. Unusually, no Evening Grosbeaks were reported in the Region.

Exotics: A Pink-backed Pelican was at Harkins Slough, Santa Cruz 24 Oct–24 Nov (PEG et al.). The origin of this bird is uncertain, but it may be the same bird reported at FI. (Oct 2000 and Nov 2002) and in Marin Oct 2001, as the timing of the occurrences is quite similar.

Contributors (county coordinators in bold-face): Tim Amaral, Stephen F. Bailey, Gary A. Bloomfield, William G. Bousman (Santa Clara), Penelope K. Bowen (Alpine and Calaveras), Matt Brady, Scott Carey, Rita Carretello, George E. Chaniot, Luke W. Cole (Kings), Chris Conard (Sacramento

and Yolo), Chris Corben, Hugh Cotter, Al DeMartini, **Bruce E. Deuel** (n. C.V. counties), Don Doolittle, Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, **Mark W. Eaton** (*San Francisco*), Alan M. Eisner, **Ray Ekstrom** (*Siskiyou*), Elias Elias, **David Fix** (*Humboldt*), Rick Fournier, Rob Fowler, **James H. Gain** (*Stanislaus*), Steve Gerow, **Steven A. Glover** (*Contra Costa*), Phillip E. Gordon, Edward D. Greaves, Steve C. Hampton, W. Edward Harper, Garth Harwood, Pablo A. Herrera, Craig Hohenberger, Alan S. Hopkins, Steven N. G. Howell, **John E. Hunter** (*Trinity*), Ken Irwin, **Robert J. Keiffer** (*Mendocino*), Jon King, Rick Lebadour, **Robin L.C.**

Leong (*Solano*), Cindy Lieurance, Leslie Lieurance, Jim Lomax, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, Matthew A. Matthiessen, Sean McAllister, **Mac McCormick** (*Plumas and Sierra*), Herb E. McGraw, Tristan McKee, **Peter J. Metropoulos** (*San Mateo*), **Kristie N. Nelson** (*Mono*), Benjamin D. Parmeter, Gary W. Potter, **Jude Claire Power** (*Humboldt*), **Peter Pyle** (*FI.*), Robert W. Reiling, **Robert J. Richmond** (*Alameda*), **Don Roberson** (*Monterey*), Michael M. Rogers, Kerry G. Ross, Steve Rovell, **Ruth A. Rudesill** (*Sonoma*), Paul Saraceni, Rusty Scalf, Jason Scott, Debra L. Shearwater, Shearwater Journeys (ShJ),

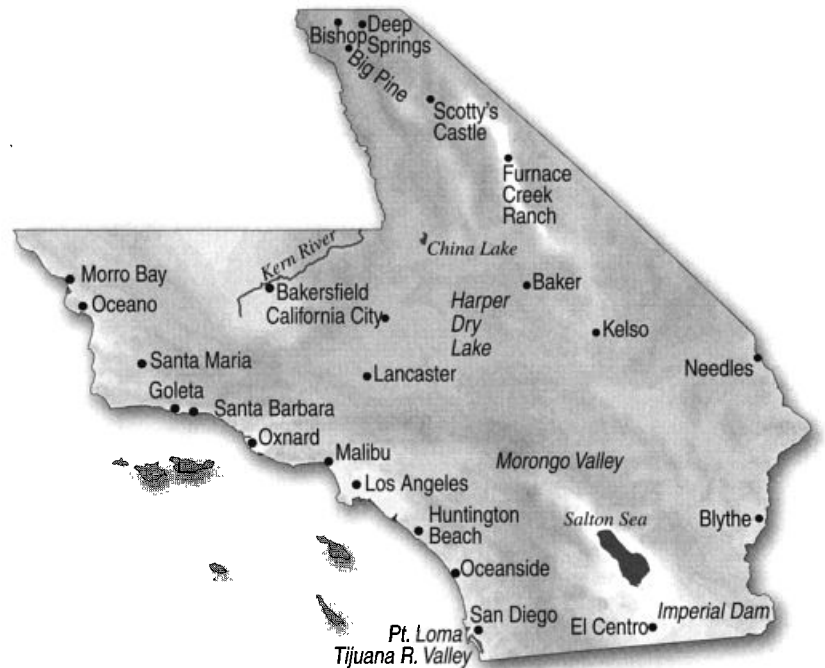
David Shuford, Daniel Singer, Rich Stallcup, **John C. Sterling** (*Modoc*), **Tim Steurer** (*Amador and El Dorado*), Emilie Strauss, **David L. Suddjian** (*Santa Cruz*), Richard Ternullo, Linda Terrill, Ryan Terrill, Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, John Trochet, David Vander Pluym, Frank Vanslager, **Kent Van Vuren** (*Merced and San Benito*), Chuck E. Vaughn, Matt Wachs, Bruce Webb, **Jerry R. White** (*Lake*), **Brian D. Williams** (*Nevada*), Roger Wolfe, Dave Woodward, **Bob & Carol Yutzy** (*Shasta*). Many more observers are not specifically cited; all are very much appreciated. ☺

Southern Pacific Coast

The magnitude of migration of "normal" western migrants was considered poor by most observers, and there was virtually no movement of irruptive species such as Red-breasted Nuthatches, Golden-crowned Kinglets, crossbills, or siskins. Highlights included a major movement of Red-throated Pipits, along with four individuals of the *japonicus* form of the American Pipit. Rarities included a Bulwer's Petrel and California's first Magnificent Hummingbird. Daily coverage of San Clemente Island yielded a host of rarities, including the southernmost Snow Bunting to be recorded along the West coast.

Only time and long-term study will reveal the impacts of late October's fires that burned an unprecedented amount of acreage of chaparral and forest; the montane areas of *San Diego* were especially hard hit. Although most scrub and woodland habitats in the Region are fire-adapted, the impacts of such abnormally intense conflagrations that follow decades of fire-suppression are likely to be severe and long-lasting. Happily, San Diego County had just completed a six-year breeding and winter bird atlas, underscoring the value of such endeavors as baseline information with which to compare changes over time; see <<http://www.sdnhm.org/research/birdatlas/>>.

Abbreviations: C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. *Kern*); E.A.F.B. (Edwards Air Force Base, se. *Kern*); F.C.R. (Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Park, *Inyo*); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park in extreme e. *Kern*); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, *Riverside*); S.C.R.E. (Santa Clara R. Estuary near Ventura, *Ventura*);



Guy McCaskie

954 Grove Avenue
Imperial Beach, California 91932
(guymcc@pacbell.net)

Kimball L. Garrett

Natural History Museum
of Los Angeles County
900 Exposition Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90007
(kgarrett@nhm.org)