

Northern California



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What seemed to many to be an average fall migrant season was occasionally punctuated by outstanding rarities that included two potential North American firsts amongst the seabirds, as well as a Stejneger's Petrel, three "bold-faced" raptors, Arctic Warbler, Wood Thrush, Red-faced Warbler, and Field Sparrow. An unusual year for vagrant eastern warblers, it was the first fall in memory in which neither Palm nor Blackpoll Warblers were most common, their supremacy being usurped by Chestnut-sided Warbler.

Abbreviations: B.S.O.L. (Big Sur Ornithology Lab); C.B.R.C. (California B.R.C.); C.V. (Central Valley); C.R.P. (Cosumnes R. Preserve, Sacramento); C.C.F.S. (Coyote Cr. Field Station, Santa Clara); E.I. (Southeast Farallon I., San Francisco); G.G.R.O. (Golden Gate Raptor Observatory); P.R.B.O. (Pt. Reyes B.O.); S.F. (San Francisco, not State Forest); S.F.B.O. (San Francisco Bay B.O.); U.C. (University of California). Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are not published. Documentation of C.B.R.C. review species will be forwarded to Guy McCaskie, Secretary, P.O. Box 275, Imperial Beach, California 91933. Birds banded on FI. should be credited to Pt. Reyes B.O. and those banded at Big Sur R. mouth to the Big Sur Ornithology Lab of the Ventana Wilderness Society.

GEESE THROUGH QUAIL

Two Emperor Geese were reported in late Sep without documentation. Coastal blue-morph Snow Geese included a bird in Petaluma, Sonoma 25 Sep–2 Oct (Sara Blauman, KW) and 2 juvs. in a mixed white goose flock over Baldwin Cr. Beach, Santa Cruz 17 Nov (ph.

KAr). Brant in unexpected locations included Napa's 3rd, a juv. at Kennedy Park 25 Nov+ (LKe, †MBe, m.ob.), and a bird inland at the Modesto S.T.P., Stanislaus 12 Oct (JSL). A calling Trumpeter Swan among a flock of 10 Tundra Swans flew over downtown Sacramento, Sacramento 13 Nov (Jim Holmes).

Single Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal were reported from Arcata Marsh, Humboldt 24–26 Nov (SWH) and Redwood Shores, San Mateo 24 Nov (RSTh). Both locations also hosted Common Teal × Green-winged Teal intergrades, one 24–26 Nov at Arcata Marsh (SWH) and 2 at Redwood Shores 18 Nov (RSTh). Only one Tufted Duck was reported, a female at Redwood Shores, San Mateo 24 Nov+ (RSTh). Harlequin Ducks continue to crop up in unexpected locations, most notably San Joaquin's 2nd, a young male at the Stockton S.T.P. 20 Nov+ (BWb, ph. m.ob.). Reports from around S.F. Bay included a remarkable 4 birds off Coyote Pt., San Mateo 30 Sep that did not include the resident pair (RSTh). A Surf Scoter at Indian Creek Res., Alpine 24 Oct (JSL) and a female Black Scoter at Bridgeport Res., Mono 26 Nov (RS, LLu, CLu) both represented 2nd county records. A surprising inland Long-tailed Duck, a young male, was at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Siskiyou 17 Nov (ph. Steele Roberts-Ross); the summering male at Candlestick S.P., S.F. was last noted 13 Aug (KMCK). A male Barrow's Goldeneye below L. McSwain 19 Nov+ was Mariposa's 3rd report (DR), but all 3 may pertain to the same returning individual. A pair of California Quail with small young at Natural Bridges S.B., Santa Cruz 13 Sep (SGe) provided a very late breeding confirmation.

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS

A Pacific Loon at Indian Creek Res. 17 Nov (EP) was the 2nd for Alpine. Generally scarce inland, Red-necked Grebe now appears to be annual in Shasta, where up to 2 were present at Fall River L. 16 Sep–27 Oct (B&CY, Ken Able et al.); one was at Lake Forest, Placer 29 Sep (WRi). "Al," the famous Laysan Albatross, returned to Pt. Arena Cove, Mendocino for the 12th consecutive winter (fide RJK); as usual, small numbers of this species were also present offshore throughout the period. A juv. Short-tailed Albatross photographed off Pt. Pinos, Monterey 12 Aug (ph. Don Doolittle, ShJ) was determined to be the same bird reported in Jul near Middle Farallon I. and later found dead s. of the Region in Aug (PP, pers. comm.). A probable Solander's Petrel was 313 km off Cape Mendocino, Mendocino 8 Aug (ph. PP). If accepted by the appropriate review committees, this would represent the

first documented record for North America. Murphy's Petrels are known to be regular migrants in Apr–Jun, but this species was found in small numbers during research cruises off California and Oregon this summer and fall as well, including 3 some 313 km w. of Cape Mendocino, Mendocino 8–9 Aug (PP), and one 355 km off Pt. Sur, Monterey 21 Nov (Thomas Staudt). Galapagos/Hawaiian Petrels, now annual May–Sep, were near Cordell Bank, Marin 9 Aug (ph. SNGH) and 21 Aug (†SBT, †RyT, RS et al.); 2 were 313 km w. of Cape Mendocino, Mendocino 8–9 Aug (PP); and one was 16.5 km w. of Pt. Pinos, Monterey 17 Sep (TEa, †DR et al.). Cook's Petrels are now known to be regular in deep water from spring through fall, and research cruises found them in good numbers this fall far offshore (PP); however, one just 37 km w. of Bodega Bay, Sonoma 16 Sep (ShJ; ph. Don Doolittle) was very close to shore. A Stejneger's Petrel 167.5 km off Ft. Bragg 18 Oct (ph. PP) was recorded in both Mendocino and Humboldt and represents only the 5th for the state and the 3rd for the Region. An extremely well-documented Parkinson's Petrel 32.4 km nw. of Pt. Reyes, Marin 1 Oct (ph. RS, ph. EWP, vt. LLu. et al.) would represent a first North American record if accepted by the appropriate review committees. A Streaked Shearwater 11 Sep 22 km wsw. of Año Nuevo Pt. (†SBT, †DVP, †RyT et al.) was a first for San Mateo. Manx Shearwaters were in Monterey Bay, Monterey 14 Aug (TEa, ph. DR, ph. DSg, ph. BMth et al.) and 23 Sep (SNGH, ph. TMcG et al.) and off Santa Cruz 9 Oct (ShJ, †MtB et al.).

Wilson's Storm-Petrels were relatively scarce this season, with one or 2 in the storm-petrel flocks in Monterey Bay, Santa Cruz 12–24 Sep (ShJ) being the only ones reported. As is usual in recent years, Least Storm-Petrels were present in Monterey Bay in small numbers in Sep (ShJ, DR, m.ob.). Several Red-tailed Tropicbirds were recorded from 184–460 km off the coast during research cruises, indicating that this species is likely regular in deep water in the Region (PP). Quite rare in the C.V., a Brown Pelican was at L. Success, Tulare Sep 4–25 (Justin Ward, ph. SDS).

HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

Least Bitterns were reported from Clear L., Lake 7–17 Aug (2 ads.; Greg Giusti, RJK, BJMcI), at the junction of Powerline and Riego Roads, Sutter 17 Aug (MJW), and at C.R.P. 18 Sep+ (up to 2; JTr, CCo, EP, m.ob.). Great Egret nesting continued late into the fall at a recently discovered urban heronry in Mountain View, Santa Clara, with begging

young still in one nest 14 Oct (MMR). We received reports of Cattle Egrets from seven counties, the highest count being of 380 birds at Merced N.W.R. 3 Oct (PJM). More surprising were up to 3 at Crissy Field in S.F. 21–25 Oct (m.ob.). Green Herons along the Carson R. in Diamond Valley furnished the first two records for *Alpine*: an imm. 9 Sep (TEa) and an ad. 7 Oct (JSL, JLx, FrO, SAG). A subad. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** enjoyed by many at Inverness 11 Oct+ (RS, ph. AWgh, m.ob.) was the 2nd for *Marin* and the 4th for the Region, as last season's *Santa Cruz* report was not accepted by the C.B.R.C. Over 1200 White-faced Ibis near McArthur 25 Aug, with 1000+ still present 5 Sep, was the highest count ever for *Shasta* (B&CY). Other notable counts included 3000+ at Merced N.W.R., *Merced* 2 Oct (PJM) and 1500 at the Sacramento N.W.R., *Glenn* 25 Nov (MJM). A juv. at L. Merced 24 Sep (JM, Robbie Fischer, AdW) was one of few S.F. records.

Coastal migrating Northern Goshawks included one passing into S.F. from the Marin Headlands, *Marin* 27 Oct (G.G.R.O.), an ad. preying on pigeons at Salinas, *Monterey* 31 Oct–1 Nov (JSo et al.), and an imm. at Rancho Del Oso, *Santa Cruz* 10 Nov (DLSu). The *Sonoma Common Black-Hawk* was last noted at Laguna de Santa Rosa 14 Oct (Stan Moore). A late Swainson's Hawk at Moro Cojo 20 Nov (RF, ph. JSo, ph. DR) was only the 2nd Nov record for *Monterey*. An ad. **Zone-tailed Hawk** over a Prunedale yard 18 Nov was only the Region's 5th (†KVV). Early Rough-legged Hawks near McArthur, *Shasta* 16 Sep (B&CY) and Bear R. Ridge, *Humboldt* 28 Sep (SMcA) did not foreshadow a big year for the species. A **Crested Caracara** found 3 km s. of Stinson Beach, *Marin* 2 Aug was presumably the same ad. found the next day at Rodeo Lagoon (G.G.R.O.) and perhaps also the same ad. located along Swanton Road, *Santa Cruz* 14 Aug (Rob Moeller, ph. m.ob.). The *Santa Cruz* bird remained through the period, ranging over 17 km of coastal area and may be the same one that spent 16–27 Sep 2002 in the same area. An imm. Merlin at Bear R. Ridge, *Humboldt* 9 Aug (SMcA) was only three days later than last year's record early arrival; another at Manresa S.B. 27 Aug was the 2nd earliest ever in *Santa Cruz* (Michael Pollack).

SHOREBIRDS

American Golden-Plovers were at Carmel River S.B., *Monterey* 10–12 Sep (juv.; RJA, ph. BHL, ph. DR), 25 km s. of Corcoran, *Kings* 5 Oct (juv.; ph. MSanM), at Cock Robin I.,

Humboldt 15–16 Oct (SMcA, ph. RbF, ScC), and at the Eel R. mouth, *Humboldt* 2 Nov (SMcA). Seventeen Solitary Sandpipers were reported from nine counties 6 Aug–21 Sep, including one of few records for *Sutter*, at Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary 20 Aug (Clyde Morris, Joelle Buffa), and up to 5 at the June Lake S.T.P., *Mono* 13–28 Aug (ES, Bob Battagin, RS). Inland Marbled Godwit reports included *Madera's* first at the Chowchilla S.T.P. 26 Aug (GaW). Also a county first was a Black Turnstone at the Modesto S.T.P., *Stanislaus* 15 Sep (ph. JHG, JCS). Two juv. Red Knots at Lake Forest 19–23 Sep (ph. WRi et al.) constituted only the 2nd record for *Placer*. Four Semipalmated Sandpipers at L. Almanor 17 Aug (CPD) marked apparently only the 2nd *Plumas* record. Two juv. Baird's Sandpipers 8 km w. of Loma Rica 18 Aug (FrO, JRow) were thought to be the first for *Yuba*, whereas a juv. at the Chowchilla S.T.P. 24 Aug (JND) was *Madera's* 3rd. One at Point St. George, *Del Norte* 1 Nov (KMS, *vide* DFX) was record late for nw. California by two days. High inland



This Yellow Wagtail—of undetermined species but probably Eastern Yellow Wagtail—visited Virgin Creek Beach, MacKerricher State Park, California 16–17 (here 17) September 2005. Photograph by Ron LeValley.

Baird's counts included 10 at L. Almanor, *Plumas* 17 Aug (CPD) and 36 near Kettleman City 18 Aug, the latter more than double the previous single-day high count for *Kings* (JSy). Pectoral Sandpipers were noted as scarce from *Humboldt* to *Monterey*, but 7 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers 1 Oct–12 Nov was an above-average total. Sharp-taileds included a juv. at King Salmon, *Humboldt* 1 Oct (ph. SMcA), up to 2 juvs. 19 km s. of Corcoran, *Kings* 9–10 Oct (first county record; JLx, JSL, †SDS, LyH, BBr), up to 2 juvs. at the Yolo W.A., *Yolo* 31 Oct–12 Nov (DCo, Dan Kopp, TEa, ph. m.ob.), a juv. at the Salinas W.T.P., *Monterey* 3–6 Nov (ph. RyT, ph. BMth, ph. DR, m.ob.), and a bird at Arcata Bottoms,

Humboldt in mid-Nov (BS). *Santa Cruz's* Rock Sandpiper returned for a 3rd consecutive winter, ranging along 9 km of *Santa Cruz* coastline 25 Oct+ (David Weber, m.ob.). Early Dunlins included a basic ad. at the Woodland W.T.P., *Yolo* 3 Aug (Richard Hall, JMHu) and one reported as a juv. at Watsonville Slough, *Santa Cruz* 10 Aug (JPO); even more unusual was an ad. in alternate plumage on the late date of 12 Nov at Redwood Shores, *San Mateo* (Craig Cummings, ph. Bill Maney). At least 14 Stilt Sandpipers from eight counties included *Mendocino's* 2nd at MacKerricher S.P. 19–21 Aug (DT, RLeV, CEV, GEC) and one n of Alpaugh 7 Sep in under-birded *Tulare* (KKr). Four Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported: a juv. on the s. spit of Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 25 Aug (Stephanie Morrisette, ph. KGR), one at Arcata Bottoms, *Humboldt* 2–3 Sep (KI, RbF, ScC), a juv. in Alviso, *Santa Clara* 5–8 Sep (MMR, ph. TGr, m.ob.), and one at FI. 9–11 Sep (P.R.B.O.). Eleven Ruffs in eight counties included *Sutter's* 3rd at *Sutter* N.W.R. 15 Aug (SAG) and *Placer's* 2nd w. of Lincoln 29 Oct (TEa et al.).

SKUA THROUGH ALCIDS

South Polar Skuas were relatively common, with a maximum of 21 off *Monterey* (*Monterey*, *Santa Cruz*, *San Mateo*) 11 Sep (ShJ). Scarce inland, a Parasitic Jaeger was at Lake Forest, *Placer* Sep 4–6 (WRi et al.). The Laughing Gull first found at Elkhorn Slough, *Monterey* in Apr was still present 8 Oct (m.ob.). A very early Mew Gull was off Noyo Harbor, *Mendocino* 26 Aug (ShJ). The only Franklin's Gull reported was a juv. at Sunnyvale, *Santa Clara* 19 Aug–2 Sep (ph. MMR, m.ob.) Although scarce inland, Thayer's Gulls appear to be becoming annual in *Mono*, where one was present at Crowley L. 23 Nov (DHo). Another inland Thayer's Gull was reported from *Kings* 21 Oct (MSanM). Notable inland Western Gulls included an ad. at San Luis Res., *Merced* 2–3 Oct (PJM, MMR, MJM, RGJ, FrT); one (possibly returning) at Dieselhorst Bridge, *Shasta* 15 Nov (BED); an ad. at Corcoran Res., *Kings* 10–13 Sep (Kim Kuska, LyH); and 2 imms. at Clearlake, *Lake* 25 Nov (Floyd Hayes). A Glaucous-winged Gull at Crowley L. 20–22 Oct (JLD, DHo) was only the 2nd for *Mono*. The only Glaucous Gull reported was a juv. in Arcata, *Humboldt* 9 Nov (SWH). Inland Sabine's Gulls included one at Lake Forest *Placer* 11 Sep (WRi); 2 at the Hanford W.T.P., *Kings* 24 Sep (Mark Stacey, ph. Gary Lindquist, Kim Kuska); one at the Kent Avenue ponds, *Kings* 26 Sep (JSy); 2 at the Stoil ponds, *Tulare* 21 Sep (ph. SDS); 4 at San Luis

Res and O'Neill Forebay, *Merced* 2–3 Oct (PJM); and one at the Modesto S.T.P., *Stanislaus* 11 Oct (JHG). As is typical, the vast majority were juvs.

Rare in the San Joaquin Valley, Common Terns were in *Kings* at the Hanford W.T.P. 24 Sep (Mark Stacey, Kim Kuska, ph. Gary Lindquist) and Corcoran Res. 25–28 Sep (JLx, FrO, SDS, JSL). A Least Tern was at the Hanford W.T.P., *Kings* 27 Aug (Kim Kuska, ph. Gary Lindquist). A Long-billed Murrelet was reported with minimal details off *Humboldt* 26 Aug by observers very familiar with Marbled Murrelets (*vide* DFx). Most of the Region's records occur in late summer and early fall.

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

Numerous reports of Eurasian Collared-Doves included three county firsts: one 11 Sep in n. Davis, *Yolo* (SCH); 3 on 28 Oct at the Madera Country Club, *Madera* (LyH, BBr, JND); and 6 on 12 Nov at Woodward Res., *Stanislaus* (JHG). Seven White-winged Doves, all coastal, were detected 25 Aug–27 Nov. A cooperative Yellow-billed Cuckoo near Owl Canyon at Bodega Bay 17–18 Sep furnished just the 3rd modern record for *Sonoma* (CLu, LLu, DN, ph. AWgh, m.ob.). *Alpine's* first Short-eared Owl, a calling bird near Markleeville on 23 Oct, was followed closely by another e. of Woodfords 24 Oct (both TEa). A whopping 27 Short-eareds at the Bull Pt Trail, Pt. Reyes N.S. 9 Nov was the largest number in *Marin* in 30 years (*vide* RS). The season's only Chimney Swift was detected 27 Oct over the San Jose–Santa Clara W.T.P., providing *Santa Clara's* 4th record (SCR). A female Ruby-throated Hummingbird 3–5 Sep on FI. (P.R.B.O.) was the 5th for the island and just the 7th for the Region.

Lowland Williamson's Sapsuckers were at Jacks Peak, *Monterey* 22 Sep (Earl Horn) and Oakland, *Alameda* 26–27 Oct (Sylvia Sykora, m.ob.). Five coastal or near-coastal Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were noted 6 Oct–21 Nov. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at FI. 27–28 Sep (b, P.R.B.O.) was the 8th for the island, which continued its near-monopoly on Regional records of the species. A typical smattering of coastal Least Flycatchers was detected, with 4 from 29 Aug–10 Sep. An additional 8 birds, an impressive tally, were recorded at FI. 27 Aug–29 Sep (P.R.B.O.). Eastern Phoebes included a first for *Alpine* in Diamond Valley 7 Oct (SAG, JSL, JLx, FrO), one at U.C. Davis, *Yolo* 7 Oct (Betty Berteaux), and one at the Los Gatos Cr. percolation ponds, *Santa Clara* 18 Nov (†Peggy Don, JPa). Two male Vermilion Flycatchers, now ads., returned to Moon-glow Dairy, *Monterey* 4 & 8 Oct+ (Alex Darocy, RF, TAm, ph. DR, m.ob.). *Humboldt's*

3rd Dusky-capped Flycatcher was present 23 Nov+ at Arcata (KMS, ph. KGR, m.ob.). A lackluster showing for Tropical Kingbirds totaled just 22 individuals, all coastal, 18 Sep–27 Nov. Migrant Cassin's Kingbirds, both in *San Mateo*, were at Año Nuevo Pt. 6 Aug (RWR) and Redwood Shores 20 Sep (RSTh). A tardy Western Kingbird was w. of Snelling, *Merced* 4 Nov (†JTz, Rebecca Green). Single Eastern Kingbirds were observed at Golden Gate Park, *S.F.* 27 Aug (ASH) and the Orick landfill, *Humboldt* 30 Aug (BS).

VIREOS THROUGH PIPITS

A Bell's Vireo in Golden Gate Park, *S.F.* 30 Oct–28 Nov thrilled many and provided one of the few coastal records for the Region (ES, ASH, EWP, HuC, vt. LLu, m.ob.). This bird was thought to be of the nominate subspecies, accidental in the Region; another Bell's was at L. Success, *Tulare* 15 Sep (SDS). Plumbeous Vireos reached the coast 5 Oct–4 Nov at C.C.F.S. (SBT, ph. WGB, m.ob.) and 12 Nov at Arcata, *Humboldt* (Jherime Kellerman, Amy Sercho, ph. RbF). Single Blue-headed Vireos were on FI. 20–21 Sep and 22 Nov, the latter providing the latest record for the island (P.R.B.O.). Another vireo photographed at Capetown, *Humboldt* 10 Sep was likely a Blue-headed (ph. SMcA). Four additional reports lacked details. A well-photographed Philadelphia Vireo along Stevens Cr. 24 Sep constituted a first for *Santa Clara* (ph. TGr). Four other coastal reports 29 Aug–22 Sep were undocumented. Eight Red-eyed Vireos were reported 25 Aug–19 Oct, the most noteworthy being one inland at C.R.P. 25 Aug (JTr). Seven Western Scrub-Jays near Echo L., *El Dorado* 29 Sep provided a rare record for the L. Tahoe region (Bill Hart). A Mountain Chickadee at Davis 23 Nov+ was a nice find for the C.V. and just the 2nd for *Yolo* (MP, m.ob.). An Arctic Warbler 27 Sep on FI. was an island first and just the 3rd for the Region (b.; ph. P.R.B.O.). Remarkably, this is the 3rd species of "Old World" warbler recorded on that ocean outpost. Townsend's Solitaires reached the coast 13 Sep (Kathy Robertson) and 1 Oct (PSar, ASH) at the Presidio, *S.F.*, and 21 Sep at Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* (ADEM). A Swainson's Thrush banded at C.C.F.S. 9 Nov was notably late (Rita Colwell). The Region's 6th Wood Thrush and first since 1996 graced the *S.F.* Presidio 20 Sep (Michelle Brodie, vt. LLu, m.ob.).

Gray Catbirds included singles 21 Aug at Blue Lake, *Humboldt* (ScC, KGR, RbF); 5 Oct at Pacific Grove, *Monterey* (†DR); and 26 Oct at C.C.F.S., *Santa Clara's* 3rd (b.; S.F.B.O.). A Sage Thrasher at South Lake Tahoe Keys 15 Aug (EP, FrO) was *El Dorado's* first. Brown

Thrashers were at Scotts Valley, *Santa Cruz* 23 Oct (Allan McLean) and Carmel Highlands, *Monterey* 26 Oct–1 Nov (ph. CHz, ph. DR, ph BHL, m.ob.). A Yellow Wagtail (species undetermined) graced Virgin Cr. Beach, MacKericher S.P. 16–17 Sep (DT, †CEV, ph. RLeV, †RJK, vt. LLu, †CLu, ph. MMtt); hatch-year birds such as this one cannot currently be identified to species, but we assume this bird to have been the newly split Eastern Yellow Wagtail. If accepted by the C.B.R.C. this will be *Mendocino's* 400th species. This is the last coastal county in California to reach the 400-species milestone. The only Red-throated Pipit reported was at FI. 15 Oct (P.R.B.O.) American Pipits reached the coast on the very early dates of 6 Sep in *Monterey* and *Humboldt* and 7 Sep in *Marin*.

WARBLERS

Eastern warblers showed up in average numbers and diversity—425 individuals of 24 species—but that summation misses the major story of the fall, namely the notable increases of some species and decreases of others. Surprisingly, our most common e. warbler was Chestnut-sided Warbler, with the 80 reported being almost 75% above our 10-year average of 46 (although still well shy of our 1999 record of 103). Thirty-four Tennessees was a third more than normal. The 25 Blackburnian Warblers were more than double the norm; the only one inland was at C.R.P. 25 Sep (CCo). Two of our other common e. species were more than 25% above average: 34 Black-and-white Warblers were along the coast, and 2 were in *Sacramento*: 11 Sep at Elk Grove (Cathy Corcoran) and 9 Nov at American R Parkway (DJo). Fifty American Redstarts included just 3 away from the immediate coast 24 Sep at Mountain View, *Santa Clara* (DLSu), 2 Oct at Tilden Park, *Contra Costa* (Bob Brandriff), and 8 Oct at Kings Row, *Kings* (JRow). This is the first time in more than a decade that the most numerous e. warbler was neither Palm nor Blackpoll. Only 42 Palms were reported, less than 40% of our 10-year average. Normally this species is our most common e. warbler, with as many as 883 reported in the fall of 1993. Blackpoll numbers were down about 30%, with just 50 reported. Whether these low numbers were caused by conditions on the breeding grounds or weather is unknown; perhaps trends from other areas will be instructive.

Four Virginia's Warblers included one inland at C.R.P. 14 Aug (AEn). Seven Northern Parulas included 2 in the C.V.: 25 Aug at C.R.P. (JTr) and 18–22 Sep at Babel Slough Road, *Yolo* (Marianne Kirkland, AEn). One along the Guadalupe R. n. of Almaden L. 7

Oct was just the 5th for *Santa Clara* (AV). *Shasta's* 2nd *Magnolia Warbler* was at Summit L. 16 Aug (†GSL); 13 others were along the coast. The sole *Cape May Warbler* reported was at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 22 Sep (RS). Five *Black-throated Blue Warblers* included 2 at FI., 26 Sep and 28 Oct–2 Nov (P.R.B.O.), and singles 12 Oct at Moonglow Dairy, *Monterey* (ph. Brewster Young), 27 Oct at Sunnyvale Baylands Park (*Santa Clara's* 4th; PKe, RKe, ph. WGB, m.ob.), and 19–20 Nov at Pescadero, *San Mateo* (RSTh, SBT). An imm. *Black-throated Green Warbler* was banded 24 Sep at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* (B.S.O.L.). Three *Hooded*, 8 *Lucy's*, and 15 *Prairie Warblers* were along the coast. A *Bay-breasted* was at FI. 20–21 Sep (P.R.B.O.); 2 were in *Humboldt*, at the Orick landfill 21 Sep (KI) and Arcata Bottoms 28 Sep (Jared Wolfe).

Prothonotary Warblers were at C.R.P. 4–5 Aug (significantly early; JTr, Julian Wood, m.ob.), *Pacific Grove, Monterey* 15–16 Sep (†BMth, tAm), and *Bear Valley, Marin* 9–10 Oct (ph. RS). Six *Ovenbirds* were along the coast; one inland at Babel Slough Road 22 Sep (AEn) provided a first for *Yolo*; one 5 Nov+ along *Putah Cr., Yolo* and *Solano* was the 2nd (Jim Dunn). Twenty *Northern Waterthrushes* were along the coast, with 3 more in *Santa Clara*, and one at Twin Lakes, *Mono* 22 Aug (Larry Schmah). As usual, FI. was the center of *Oporornis* activity, with 3 *Connecticut* and 4 *Mourning Warblers* (all b.; P.R.B.O.). Other *Connecticuts* were at *Pine Gulch Cr., Marin* 7 Sep (b.; P.R.B.O.) and *Stow L., S.F.* 9 Oct (†ASH, DvA, PSar, †AdW). Four *Canadas* included singles 4 Sep at Golden Gate Park, *S.F.* (ASH, m.ob.), 24 Sep at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* (P.R.B.O.), 1–9 Oct at Carmel R. mouth, *Monterey* (David MacIntyre, tAm, m.ob.), and *Santa Clara's* first, along *Coyote Cr.* 6–7 Oct (SCR, †MMR, SBT, JCS, m.ob.). *Nashvilles* had an off year, with the 2 in *Santa Cruz* being the poorest fall showing there since the mid-1970s (fide DLSu). *Townsend's Warblers* returned to coastal counties early, 10 Aug in *Santa Cruz* and *Monterey* and 12 Aug in *Santa Clara*. A *Red-faced Warbler* 11 Sep at Del Valle R.P., *Alameda* (†Steve Huckabone) furnished a 2nd *Regional* record.

TANAGERS THROUGH LONGSPURS

Summer *Tanagers* were at Orick, *Humboldt* 29 Aug and 17 Sep (KI), *Trout Gulch Road, Santa Cruz* 30 Aug (RyT), and in *Yosemite Valley* 12–13 Sep (DLSu), *Mariposa's* first. *Wandering Green-tailed Towhees* in the C.V. were at *Grasslands R.P., Yolo* 21–23 Sep (SCH, Richard Hall, m.ob.), near *Stratford* 8–10 Oct (*Kings's* first; JRow, JLx), and at *Putah Creek S.W.A., Solano* 9 Nov (Brent Campos). A *Ru-*

fous-crowned Sparrow was in *Cole Valley, S.F.* 16 Oct (†PSar). Two *American Tree Sparrows* graced the Bay Area: 9 Oct at *Coyote Pt., San Mateo* (RSTh) and 17 Oct at FI. (P.R.B.O.). Among the 73 *Clay-colored Sparrows* reported was one at *Yosemite N.P., Mariposa* 14 Sep (DLSu). Ten *Brewer's* were along the coast; 2 in the C.V. included one at *Michigan Bar Bridge, Sacramento* 18 Sep (DCo, CCo, ClH, EP) and one near *Stratford, Kings* 11 Oct (JSy).

A *Field Sparrow* 14 Nov in a Berkeley backyard (†HG) would be *Alameda's* first and the *Region's* 3rd if accepted by the C.B.R.C. *Black-throated Sparrows* were at C.R.P. 4 Aug (Julian Wood, JTr) and FI. 15–17 Aug and 31 Aug–10 Sep (P.R.B.O.). *Lark Buntings* were at *South Lake Tahoe Keys, El Dorado* 20 Aug (ph. CCo, Jeff Robinson, m.ob.) and C.R.P. 13 Sep (JTr); 5 more were along the coast. *Thorn's* persistence in scouting bayside marshes paid off with *San Mateo's* 5th record of *Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow* 30 Nov at *San Mateo*. Twenty-eight *Swamp Sparrows* included *Yosemite N.P.'s* first, 1 Nov at *Sentinel Meadow, Mariposa* (JTz). The first of 83 *White-throated Sparrows* reported arrived at FI. 27 Sep (P.R.B.O.). *Harris's Sparrows* were at *Brisbane, San Mateo* 22 Oct (RSTh), FI. 11–17 Nov (P.R.B.O.), *Arcata, Humboldt* 17 Nov (JTz), and at *Royal Oaks, Monterey* 17 Nov (Laura Rodriguez).

A *McCown's Longspur* in *Hammil Valley* 17 Oct (JLD, Andy Zdon) was *Mono's* 2nd, after a record in 1983. Flocks of *Laplands* were in *Humboldt*, and singles were at *MacKericher S.P., Mendocino* 16 Oct (CEV, JRW, MMtt, DWN et al.), *Shasta Valley, Siskiyou* 8 Nov (RE), and *Chico State College Farm, Butte* 13 Nov (JHS). A *Chestnut-collared Longspur* 11–15 Oct near *Nice* was *Lake's* first (DvW, †JRW, m.ob.). One was at *Chimney Rock, Marin* 30 Oct (BFi, Karen Apana); in *Humboldt*, one was with the *Lapland* flock at *Cannibal I. Road* 1–4 Nov (MWa; KMS), and 5 were along *Bear R. Ridge* 12 Nov (SMcA).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES

Thirty-six *Rose-breasted Grosbeaks* included *Yolo's* 3rd and 4th, 11 Sep at *Babel Slough Road* (LJE, CCo, ASE, m.ob.) and 12 Sep in n. *Davis* (Marcel Holyoak), and *Madera's* first, at *Oakhurst* 23–27 Oct (Helen Button). Half of the 12 *Blue Grosbeaks* reported were in *Santa Cruz*, far more than any other fall season there. A *Painted Bunting* was at the *Carmel R. mouth, Monterey* 24 Sep (BBr). A spate of *Dickcissels* was noted in *S.F.*: 12 Sep at *Lincoln Park* (HuC, BFi), 14–23 Sep in the *Presidio* (AdW, ph. EWP, m.ob.), and 16 Sep at FI. (P.R.B.O.). *Santa Clara's* 3rd was along

Stevens Cr. n. of Hwy 101 14 Oct (†MMR). *Bobolinks* were scattered along the coast from *Monterey* to *Humboldt*; one 23 Aug at *Terrace Pt. (SGe)* was the earliest ever for *Santa Cruz* by two days, and just the 2nd Aug record for the county (fide DLSu). A *Rusty Blackbird* was at *Menlo Park, San Mateo* 24 Nov+ (Rich Ferrick, m.ob.). Five *Orchard* and 5 *Baltimore Orioles* were along the coast, including 3 of each in *oriole hotspot S.F.* *Evening Grosbeaks* were widely reported: in *Humboldt*, one was in *Eureka* 25 Sep (DFx, JCP), 5 were in *McKinleyville* 30 Sep (KGR, Mark Morrisette), and 4 were in *Arcata* 4 Oct (KMS); 2 were also on the C.V. floor, 11 Oct at *Slide Hill Park, Yolo* (MP) and 22 Oct at C.R.P. (JTr).

Corrigenda: The *Bohemian Waxwing* reported at *Susanville, Lassen* 26 Dec 2004 was in fact seen 26 Nov 2004 (DVP). The *Townsend's Solitaires* reported in the spring issue as breeding in near-coastal *Humboldt County* should have been characterized as suspected breeders (fide JEH, DFx).

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Michael Perrone, Jeff Poklen, **Jude C. Power** (*Humboldt*), Eric W. Preston (EWP), Peter Pyle, Harold M. Reeve, Robert W. Reiling, Will Richardson, Robert J. Richmond (*Alameda*), **Don Roberson** (*Monterey*), Michael M. Rogers, Kerry G. Ross, Stephen C. Rottenborn, James Rowth, **Ruth A. Rudesill** (*Sonoma*), Mike San Miguel, Paul Saraceni, Barry Sauppe, Jeff Seay, Shearwater Journeys, Daniel Singer, Keith M. Slauson, Jim H. Snowden, John Sorensen, Rich Stallcup, **John C. Sterling** (*Modoc, Alpine, and Calaveras*), Tim

Steurer (*Amador and El Dorado*), Emilie Strauss, **David L. Suddjian** (*Santa Cruz*), Steven D. Summers (*Tulare*), Ryan Terrill, Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Francis Toldi, John Trochet, **Steve Umland** (*Tuolumne*), Chuck E. Vaughn, **Kent Van Vuren** (*Merced and San Benito*), **David Vander Pluym** (*Mariposa*), Ann Verdi, Matt Wachs, Bruce Webb, **Jerry R. White** (*Lake*), Margaret J. Widdowson, Alan Wight, Ken Wilson, Adam Winer, Gary Woods, Dave Woodward, **Bob & Carol Yutzky** (*Shasta*).

Many more observers are not specifically cited; all are appreciated. ☺

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Southern California



Guy McCaskie • Kimball L. Garrett

The fall was highlighted by records of Mississippi Kite, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, and Wood Thrush. Among seabirds, recoveries on the coast of a dead Short-tailed Albatross and a moribund Red-tailed Tropicbird were of note. Most observers felt that both the magnitude of migration of western species and the presence of vagrants were quite reduced on the northern deserts compared to most recent falls, but the coastal areas were quite productive. There was little evidence of movement by irruptive montane and northern species. By the end of the period, a "La Niña" condition was developing in the eastern Pacific Ocean, portending winter storm tracks well north of the Region and a dry winter.

Abbreviations: B.S. (Butterbredt Spring at the s end of the Sierra Nevada above Cantil, e. Kern); C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. Kern); E.A.F.B. (Edwards A.F.B., se. Kern); F.C.R. (Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley N.P., Inyo); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park in extreme e. Kern); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, Riverside);

P.P. (Piute Ponds on Edwards Air Force Base, ne. Los Angeles); S.C.R.E. (Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, Ventura); S.E.S.S. (s. end of the Salton Sea, Imperial); S.F.K.R.P. (South Fork Kern River Preserve, near Weldon, Kern); V.A.F.B. (Vandenberg A.F.B., nw. Santa Barbara); V.C.G.P. (Ventura County Game Preserve, near Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station, Ventura). Museum collections abbreviated in the text are: LACM (Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County) and SDNHM (San Diego Natural History Museum). 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 (C.B.R.C.) review list is forwarded to the Secretary and archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

WATERFOWL THROUGH STORK

The Tundra Swan present at California City, Kern was still present at the end of the period (K&BK); one at C.L. 15 Nov (SS) was the only migrant/winter visitor reported. A male Harlequin Duck near Cayucos, San Luis Obispo 12 Nov (MLS) was the only one reported. A Surf Scoter at F.C.R. 19–20 Nov (V & GW) was inland, where considered rare. Numbers of White-winged Scoters reaching s. California remain very low, with 2 in San Luis Obispo and one in Los Angeles after 23 Oct being the only ones reported. Up to 2 Black Scoters at Dockweiler Beach, Los Angeles 21 Nov+ (RB) and a Long-tailed Duck at the same location 25–28 Nov (RB) were the only ones reported.

A Pacific Loon at S.E.S.S. 23 Oct (GMcC) was inland, where rare. A dead Short-tailed Albatross was recovered at Morro Bay 24 Aug

(THE; *LACM). A Mottled Petrel 243 km sw. of San Miguel I. 1 Dec (TS) was one of 11 seen far off California during a CSCAPE marine mammal, seabird, and oceanographic study 5 Nov–1 Dec. A Cook's Petrel 32 km sw. of San Miguel I. 7 Sep (TMcG), 5 + on the s. side of the San Juan Seamount 7–8 Sep (WW), one at the Cortez Bank 166 km w. of San Diego 10 Sep (TMcG), and another 48 km wsw. of San Miguel I. 12 Nov (SBT) were closer to shore than expected. Single Flesh-footed Shearwaters, scarce off s. California, were seen off Santa Barbara 24 Sep (TMcG) and 16 Oct (JF). Least Storm-Petrels were virtually nonexistent in s. California waters this season.

A Red-billed Tropicbird was seen from San



This Cook's Petrel at the Cortez Bank 144 km west of San Diego was closer to shore than expected on 10 September 2005. Photograph by David W. Nelson.

Clemente I. 6 Aug (JMCM), 5+ were at the San Juan Seamount 7 Sep (WW), 3 were ca. 48 km w. of San Diego the same day (DPo), and 5 more were around San Nicolas I. 10 Sep (TMcG); this species is probably regular in these areas at this time of the year, but records