

Evening Grosbeaks were unusually numerous, evidenced by 154 at Battle Ground, *Clark* 22 Sep (JD) and 500 at Wickiup Res., *Deschutes* 9 Oct (S. Dougill).

Addenda: A Snowy Owl was at Penrose Pt., *Pierce* 9 Jul 2006, the Region's first summer record (†M. Cain). *Grant's* first Ruffed Grouse was at Northrup Canyon 20 Jun 2006 (MB).

Corrigenda: The Washington B.R.C. did not accept the Scarlet Tanager reported from Washtucna, *Adams* 2 Oct 2006 or the Baltimore Orioles from Vantage, *Kittitas* 28 May 2006 and Sequim, *Clallam* 24 May 2006. However, a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Monumental Dam, *Walla Walla* 1 Jan 2006 was accepted, bringing the Washington total to six records (†M&MD).

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Kathy Andrich (KAn), **Tom Aversa** (WA), Matt Bartels (MBA), Jessie Barry, Gary Bletsch, Keith Brady, Trent Bray (*Union*), Marv Breece, Wilson Cady, Bill Clemons, Alan Contreras, **Craig Corder** (*Spokane*), Cameron Cox (CCx), Jim Danzenbaker, Mike & Merry-Lynn Denny (M&MD), Dennis Duffy, Matt Dufort (MDu), **Joe Engler** (*Clark*), Dan Farrar, Bob Flores, Andy Frank, **Chuck Gates** (*Crook*), Joel Geier, **Roy Gerig** (*Marion, Polk*), Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson, Wink Gross, **Denny Granstrand** (*Yakima*), Randy Hill, Eugene Hunn, **Stuart Johnston** (*Klickitat*), Bruce LaBar (BLB), **Bill LaFramboise** (lower Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise, **Tom Mickel** (*Lane*), Craig & Marilyn Miller (C. & M. Miller; *Deschutes, Jefferson*), Lois Miller, Scott Mills (SMi), Russ Namitz, **Harry Nehls**

(Oregon), Vic Nelson, **Bob Norton** (Olympic Pen.), **Michael Patterson** (Clatsop), Diane Pettey, Phil Pickering, W. Douglas Robinson (*Benton, Linn*) Doug Robberson, Dennis Rockwell, **Tim Rodenkirk** (*Coos, Curry*), Owen Schimdt, Doug Schonewald (DSc), Ryan T. Shaw (RTS), Gina Sheridan, **Kevin Spencer** (*Klamath*), Patrick and Ruth Sullivan (P&RS), Khahn Tran, **Dennis Vroman** (*Josephine*), Brad Waggoner (BSW), Terry J. Wahl (TJW), Jay Withgott, Michael Woodruff, Charlie Wright. ☺

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Weather in the Region was typical for fall, cool and foggy along the coast and hot inland. Whatever the weather conditions, it was another outstanding fall in terms of both the variety and overall numbers of vagrant waterbirds and passerines. Highlights included Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Streaked and Greater Shearwaters, Zone-tailed Hawk, Red-necked and Long-toed Stints, Common Ground-Dove, Alder and Fork-tailed Flycatchers and, best of all, a first state record—Taiga Flycatcher. The va-

grant warbler season also drew raves, with numbers of both species and individuals hearkening back to the “glory days” of the 1970s and 1980s.

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 River Preserve, *Sacramento*); Fl. (Southeast Farallon I., *San Francisco*); P.R.B.O. (Pt. Reyes B.O.); S.F. (San Francisco, not State Forest); U.C.H.R.E.C. (University of California Hopland Research and Extension Center, *Mendocino*). 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 Fl. 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.

WATERFOWL THROUGH QUAIL

Up to 4 secretive Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at the “Dead Pig Pond” n. of Angiola, *Tulare* 9 Oct+ included 2 juvs. starting 11 Oct (Tony Kurz, GaW, JSy, m.ob.). It is tempting to hope these birds may have bred nearby; they are now rare anywhere in the state. A count of 4800 Greater White-fronted Geese at L. Earl, *Del Norte* 1 Oct (ADB, Onik T. Arian) is the highest number ever recorded in nw. California (*vide* ADB); the same day, 5000 were not-

ed w. of Red Bluff, *Tehama* (BED). Two ad. Emperor Geese at the Big R. mouth, *Mendocino* 24 Nov (†DT, †Richard Hubacek, †DAJ) were last seen flying northward; presumably the same 2 were involved in a report farther s. near the Pt. Arena lighthouse, *Mendocino* the next day (Pete Panchin). Another was at the Arcata Bottoms, *Humboldt* 27 Nov (Kyle Spragens, ph. KGR, m.ob.). Two Ross's Geese with 26 Snow Geese at Indian Springs Res. 3 Nov (TEa) were the first found in *Alpine*. Brant inside S.F. Bay included one at Pt. Isabel in Richmond, *Contra Costa* 17–20 Oct (Alan Kaplan), likely the same bird nearby at Albany, *Alameda/Contra Costa* 28 Oct (Jack Hayden) and one at Palo Alto, *Santa Clara* 12 Nov+ (vt Manny Vara, Virginia Marshall, mob.). A Cackling Goose at Carson Valley 26 Nov (TEa, JCS) was only the 2nd for *Alpine* and the first *leucopareia*. The only Cackling Goose not identified as either this subspecies or *minima* was a *taverneri* captured and measured 20 Oct–2 Nov at Fl. (P.R.B.O.). A Barnacle Goose × Cackling Goose hybrid was at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* 13 Aug, where one or 2 such birds have been reported sporadically for 17 years (RJR). A Dusky Canada Goose (*occidentalis*) at Venice S.B. 12 Nov+ (ph. Garrett Lau, RSTh, m.ob.) was the first found in *San Mateo*; our notebooks have no previous records away from *Del Norte* and *Humboldt*, where this subspecies is a rare winter visitor. The Long Valley, *Mono* Trumpeter Swan reported last season remained through 22 Oct



This cooperative immature Yellow-billed Loon was at Pescadero Creek, San Mateo County, California 18-27 (here 24) November 2006. Photograph by Ron Wolfe.

(m.ob.). Four Bewick's Swans were ne. of Marysville, Yuba 10 Nov (JHS). Five Tundra Swans at the Madera W.T.P. 29 Nov (Pete Fahy, Frank Gibson) furnished one of few records for *Madera*.

A Eurasian Wigeon at Pardee Pond 27 Nov (HG, DCR) was only the 2nd for *Calaveras*. A male American Wigeon × Mallard hybrid was reported from the Ukiah S.T.P., *Mendocino* 17 Nov (CEV). An imm. female Tufted Duck at Heenan Res. 19 Nov (†SAG) was a first for *Alpine*; other Tufted Ducks were at L. Merritt, *Alameda* 12 Nov (Bob Battagin) and L. Hennessey, *Napa* 15-30 Nov (MBe). A White-winged Scoter at O'Neill Forebay, *Merced* 18 Nov (KVV) was a surprising inland occurrence of this declining species. Eight Long-tailed Ducks were reported, including the 6th for *Shasta* at Fall River L. 18 Nov (Ken Able et al., ph. B&CY) and one at Mono L., *Mono* 28 Oct+ (K. Duvall, m.ob.); the summering male in *Mendocino* was last noted 28 Aug (†KHv). Six juv. Hooded Mergansers at the Little R. mouth, *Humboldt* 19 Aug (RbF, KGR) strongly suggest nearby breeding. California Quail bred late again in *Santa Cruz*, with 3 ten-day old young accompanied by an ad. male along Glen Canyon Rd. 27 Sep (BSch).

LOONS THROUGH BOOBIES

A Yellow-billed Loon was at Eureka, *Humboldt* 13 Aug–22 Sep (ph. RbF, †DFx, m.ob.), and possibly the same bird was reported from Shelter Cove, *Humboldt* 1 Nov (RBS). A well-photographed juv. Yellow-billed Loon was at Pescadero Cr. mouth, *San Mateo* 18-27 Nov (FrT, RSTh, ph. m.ob.). "Al" the Laysan Albatross returned to Pt. Arena Cove, *Mendocino* 24 Nov (Rosie Rhia) for its 14th consecutive winter. Another Laysan was seen off Ft. Bragg, *Mendocino* 13 Aug (ShJ). A distant Mottled Petrel was seen from FI. 26 Nov (†JTz). Now apparently annual in summer and early fall, a Galapagos/Hawaiian Petrel

was well documented off Ft. Bragg, *Mendocino* 13 Aug (LHg, ph. RyT, vt. LLu, ph. m.ob.). Two Streaked Shearwaters were on Monterey Bay: one 15 km w. of Cypress Pt., *Monterey* 30 Sep (SBT, ph. BLS, ph. LTer et al.) and a 2nd (determined to be a different bird by photographs) 15 Oct (DVP, ph. SNGH et al.) that was seen in both *Monterey* and *Santa Cruz*. Flesh-footed Shearwaters were present in good numbers, as exemplified by 31 on Monterey Bay, *Santa Cruz* and *Monterey* 22 Oct (ShJ). A well-documented

Greater Shearwater was on Monterey Bay in *Santa Cruz* and *Monterey* 15 Oct (ph. SNGH et al.), on the same trip with one of the Streaked Shearwaters! Buller's Shearwaters peaked at 1340 and 2750 on Monterey Bay, *Monterey* and *Santa Cruz*, 10 Sep and 7 Oct, respectively (ShJ), with single flocks estimat-



This Galapagos/Hawaiian Petrel put on a twenty-minute show as it circled the boat off Fort Bragg, Mendocino County, California 13 August 2006; the "Dark-rumped Petrel" (now considered two species) has been found increasingly frequently off California in recent years. Photograph by Don Doolittle.

ed to contain up to 1000 birds. These numbers represent substantial concentrations for the Region. After the first accepted record in California in 1993, Manx Shearwaters have proven to be annual, and reports have been increasing in recent years. This year, 22 to 25 were reported, with many documented. While some of these reports may involve the same birds, most do not. Records spanned the coast from *Humboldt* to *Monterey*, where most of the records occurred. After several years of absence or near absence in the Region, Black-vented Shearwaters returned to Monterey Bay with a maximum of 1000+ on 15 Oct (ShJ).

Nineteen Wilson's Storm-Petrels were re-

ported, with a maximum of 8 near Cordell Bank, *Marin* 7 Aug (RS et al.). Nine Ashy Storm-Petrels off *Del Norte* 22 Oct (PP) provided a long overdue county first. As is usual in recent years, a few Least Storm-Petrels were on Monterey Bay, *Santa Cruz* 9-30 Sep (ShJ et al.). Brown Boobies continued their push into the Region in unprecedented numbers. Singles were at Sinkyone Wilderness S.P., *Mendocino* 8-9 Aug (JRW, Nikki White), off *Santa Cruz* 15 Oct (subad. female; ph. SNGH, vt. LLu et al.), and at Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 29 Nov–5 Dec (†KMS, Karly Moore et al.). The latter was only the 2nd sulid reported in *Humboldt* and the first to be identified to species. Amazingly, a 2nd Brown Booby, an ad. female, was found at Humboldt Bay 3 Dec, and both birds were seen through 5 Dec. The ad. female was thought to be the same bird as an ad. female seen flying past Pt. St. George, *Del Norte* 1 Nov (ADB, Joe D. Gartland), a first for that county. Three females, 2 ads., and a subad. were on FI. (†MtB, ph. JTz, †RbF et al.). At least one ad. was present there 20 Aug–30 Nov, at least 2 were present 26 Sep–12 Nov, and at least 3 birds were present 20 Oct–1 Nov.

HERONS THROUGH CRANES

The only Least Bittern reported was *Lake's* 8th, at Clear L. 8 Aug (SCH). The *Del Norte* Little Blue Heron was found molting into ad. plumage 27 Aug–18 Oct at the Smith R. estuary (ph. Dick Cronberg, ph. ADB, m.ob.), and later back where first discovered in Feb at the Alexandre Dairy near Ft. Dick 20-21 Nov (ADB, Onik T. Arian, Joe D. Gartland). The only other Little Blue Heron reported was a juv. at the Yolo Bypass W.A., *Yolo* 8-9 Aug (TFi, CLZ, JSL). Cattle Egret reports included the first in *San Mateo* in several years at Redwood City 21-25 Aug (Rich Ferrick et al.), one at Burris Creek W.A. 2 Sep (4th for *Tehama*; BED), 2 at the Ukiah S.T.P. 15 Sep (very few recent *Mendocino* records; CEV, GEC), the first record for *Santa Cruz*, *Santa Cruz* in a number of years, along West Cliff Drive 25 Sep (SGe), and *Lake's* 2nd at Robinson L. 27 Oct (GEC). White-faced Ibis were reported from seven coastal counties 19 Aug–21 Nov; 177 at Navy Beach, *Mono* L. 15-16 Aug (BritM) was a high count for *Mono*.

Early juv. Northern Goshawks in surprising locations included one at Bear R. Ridge, *Humboldt* 22 Aug (†DFx) and another at the Madera W.T.P., *Madera* 5 Sep (JND). The *Sonoma* Common Black-Hawk was last seen at Laguna de Santa Rosa 7 Oct (Stan Moore); presumably the same bird was seen flying farther n. near the Sonoma County Airport 19 Sep (Elmer Dudik). Fifteen Broad-winged

Hawks were reported from five coastal counties 16 Sep–30 Oct. Late Swainson's Hawks included birds at Ed Levin C.P., *Santa Clara* 17 Oct (Randy Little), the Presidio, S.F. 10 Nov (JsC), and sw. of Madera, *Madera* 27 Nov (JND). A Zone-tailed Hawk seen 7 Nov along Summit Rd. se. of Hwy. 17 (†DLSu) was a first for both *Santa Clara* and *Santa Cruz*. Harlan's Hawks returned for an 8th winter near Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 4 Nov+ (ph. ScC et al.) and for a 4th winter along Barker Rd. e. of Hwy. 33, *Kings* 14 Nov (JSy). A Ferruginous Hawk at FI. 25 Oct (Andy Pfeffer, †JTz et al.) made only the 2nd island record. Rough-legged Hawks were reported from coastal counties in good numbers 27 Sep–26 Nov, including 3 at FI. 10 Nov (Andy Pfeffer et al.). An ad. Crested Caracara continued in coastal n. *Monterey* through the period (m.ob.); another briefly seen 8 km s. of Gilroy 8 Oct would be *Santa Clara's* first if accepted by the C.B.R.C. (†Mike & Jeanne Fritz). Early Merlins returned to *Del Norte* 11 Aug (ADB) and *Humboldt* 12 Aug (RBS). An overdue first for *Del Norte*, 2 imm. Common Moorhens were at L. Earl 26 Sep (SMcA). A single Sandhill Crane flying s. over Lewiston L. 7 Oct (Dale Kuhn) was one of very few found in *Trinity*.

SHOREBIRDS

It was a good fall for American Golden-Plovers, with 11 juvs. found 16 Sep–17 Nov, including 2 undocumented reports from *Marin*; remarkably, 6 of these birds were first found in Nov, which is late. Following the Sep *Marin* birds, one was at MacKerricher S.P., *Mendocino* 1-5 Oct (ph. †MMtt, DT, KHv), and up to 2 were at the Yolo Bypass W.A., *Yolo* 24-26 Oct (†Stefan Schlick, ph. Jon Katz, †Jennifer Rycenga et al.). Up to 4 birds were found at the Arcata Bottoms, *Humboldt* 1-8 Nov (ph. KGR, DCo, RbF, ph. ScC). One at the Sacramento Regional W.T.P. 6-15 Nov (ph. †CCo, JTr, EP, KLL, m.ob.) and at the nearby Stone Lakes N.W.R. 17 Nov (JSL, RHw et al.) was only the 2nd for *Sacramento*. The last was present in Milpitas, *Santa Clara* 6-12 Nov (†SCR, RGJ, ph. Peggy Don, ph. †MMR, m.ob.). A Snowy Plover n. of Pleasant Grove 15-16 Aug (FrO, SAG, JSL) was *Sutter's* 3rd. Seventeen Solitary Sandpipers in 11 counties 6 Aug–24 Sep was about average. The Madera W.T.P. attracted many notable shorebirds, including *Madera's* first record of Willet 20 Aug–3 Sep (GaW, Pete Fahey, JND, m.ob.), 2nd of Marbled Godwit 25 Aug (4 birds; JND), first of Ruddy



This Streaked Shearwater (center), with Pink-footed Shearwater and Pomarine Jaeger, spent nearly an hour with birders in Monterey Bay, California 30 September 2006. Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.

Turnstone 31 Aug–3 Sep (ad. and juv.; FrO, GaW, m.ob.), 3rd and 4th of Semipalmated Sandpiper 15 Aug and 7 Sep (juvs.; JND, JSy), and first of Ruff 1-8 Sep (juv. male; GaW, m.ob.). A Hudsonian Godwit at the Davis Wetlands 1 Sep (†JKn) would be the first for *Yolo* if accepted by the C.B.R.C. A beautifully photographed juv. Bar-tailed Godwit at MacKerricher S.P. 6-16 Aug (ph. †MMtt, †DT, †JRW, †GEC, vt. LLu, m.ob.) was *Mendocino's* 2nd; another flying n. past Año Nuevo Pt. 3 Sep (PJM) would be *San Mateo's* 4th.



One of several recorded in fall 2006 off California, this Streaked Shearwater was photographed in Monterey Bay on 15 October; the species has been detected annually in the Region in recent years. Photograph by Steven N. G. Howell.

About 42 Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported in 18 counties, with the last being at FI. 16 Sep (RbF). A worn ad. Red-necked Stint at L. Tolowa 11 Aug (vt. Lucas Brueg) is the 2nd for *Del Norte* and the 5th for the Re-

gion. A Long-toed Stint reported from the Caspar Cr. mouth 23 Aug (†JRW, †DT) would be *Mendocino's* first and California's 2nd if accepted by the C.B.R.C. Baird's Sandpipers were widely reported 3 Aug–29 Sep; one at Moonglow Dairy, *Monterey* 26 Nov (†RF, JSO) was one day shy of the latest for the Region. Modest numbers of Pectoral Sandpipers included 12 in Nov, including a late bird 24 Nov at Black Butte Forebay, *Tehama* (RoS). Five Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were reported: along 6th Avenue in se. *Kings* 17 Sep (3rd county record; JRow, FrO et al.); at FI. 6 Oct (juv.; ph. RbF); near Gustine, *Merced* 10 Oct (juv.; †PJM); at the Arcata S.T.P., *Humboldt* (juv.; KGR, DCo); and at Shollenberger Park *Sonoma* 7 Nov (juv.; ph. LHg). Only 5 Silt Sandpipers were reported, 3 from *Humboldt* 3 & 9 Sep (ScC, SMcA) and 2 late birds in Alviso, *Santa Clara* 3-11 Nov (MJM, SCR, ph. WGB, ph. MMR). Eight Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported from five coastal counties: at Asilomar S.B., *Monterey* 28-29 Aug (juv., BJW, ph. DR, ph. BHL, m.ob.); at Big Lagoon, *Humboldt* 30 Aug (Amber Transou et al.); at L. Tolowa, *Del Norte* 4-8 Sep (up to 2 juvs.; ADB Joe D. Gartland, Lucas Brueg); at the Pilarcitos Cr. mouth, *San Mateo* 6-14 Sep (juv.; AJ, ph. Alan Walther, ph. DWN); at Abbots Lagoon, *Marin* 19 Sep–2 Oct (2 on last date; Mark Butler, JsC, m.ob.); and near Ft Dick, *Del Norte* 25 Sep (juv.; Lucas Brueg). A



With over 20 Manx Shearwaters reported off Northern California in autumn 2006, one wonders whether the species increasing in the Region or just being more readily detected. This bird was smartly photographed in Monterey Bay on 22 October. Photograph by Clay Kempf.

whopping 32 Ruffs were reported from 17 counties, including at least 5 from *Santa Clara* and 4 each from *Humboldt* and *Monterey*. Notable were reports from Pleasant Grove, *Sutter* 18 Aug (2 birds; TEa), the former U.S. Naval Air Station at Alameda, *S.F./Alameda* 8 Sep (first S.F. record away from Fl., juv.; JSL, Leora Feeney), the American Canyon wetlands 1-22 Oct (*Napa's* 3rd, juv. male; LKe, MBe, JLx, JCS), n. of Alpaugh, *Tulare* 14-16 Oct (juv. female; KiK, †SDS), and the above-cited first *Madera* record. Up to 3 juv. Short-billed Dowitchers at the Mud Lake S.T.P. 23-28 Aug were the first for *Alpine* (JCS, JSL, SAG). Red Phalaropes were scarce everywhere, and completely absent on many pelagic trips, but a few were located slightly inland around S.F. Bay 27 Aug–18 Sep.

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

The first Glaucous Gull of the season was at Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* 27 Nov (Stefan Schlick). Elegant Terns are typically present in relatively small numbers in s. San Francisco Bay, so 1400 off Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* 2 Aug (RSTh) and 1040 off Hayward, *Alameda* 25 Aug (MJM) were unprecedented. Also unprecedented was a group of 23 Common Terns at the Kansas Ave. Ponds 2 Sep (John Lockhart, ph. SDS), a first for *Tulare*. Three Common Terns at East Park Res. 6 Sep (†JCS) were a *Colusa* first. Arctic Terns were quite scarce offshore, where they normally occur in numbers. Inland, where this species is always scarce, one was at Crowley L., *Mono* 23 Sep (JuH). Black Skimmer numbers continue to increase, as indicated by 31 at Redwood Shores, *San Mateo* 13 Sep

(RSTh). South Polar Skuas were present in approximately normal numbers, with a maximum of 26 on Monterey Bay, *Monterey* and *Santa Cruz* 30 Sep (Shj). On the other hand, Long-tailed Jaegers were quite scarce this year, with only one day of double-digit numbers: 32 off Ft. Bragg, *Mendocino* 14 Aug (Shj). In the interior, where this species is always quite rare, a juv. at Camp Far West Res. 27 Aug (GjH et al.) was a first for *Yuba* and probably for the C.V. portion of *Placer*. One can only speculate whether this species occurs much farther offshore some

years, or if significant annual fluctuations reflect real population differences between years. An ad. Thick-billed Murre was found dead at Asilomar S.B., *Monterey* 1 Aug (ph. BLS, MtB). Xantus's Murrelets were quite scarce in the Region, with the only reports being one near Cordell Bank, *Marin* 24 Sep (Shj) and 2 off Ft. Bragg, *Mendocino* 13 Aug



Yet another record of Greater Shearwater for California came from Monterey Bay 15 October 2006—the same day as birders documented a Streaked Shearwater nearby. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.

(Shj). There were no reports of Craveri's Murrelet. A Horned Puffin was off Mendocino Headlands S.P., *Mendocino* 3-9 Aug (SSa, Alan Whitehead, Osj et al.).

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

A banner season for White-winged Doves saw no fewer than 21 individuals reach coastal or near-coastal areas 1 Aug–3 Nov. One at Markeleville 3 Nov was a first for *Alpine* and

an exceptional find e. of the Sierra (TEa); singles at San Jose 14 Aug (BGE) and San Martin 19-20 Sep (SCR et al.) furnished the 4th and 5th records for *Santa Clara*. An Inca Dove at Muir Beach, *Marin* 1 Sep (Dave MacKenzie, m.ob.) was thought by most to be an escapee. A cooperative Common Ground-Dove at Terrace Pt., *Santa Cruz* 13-19 Oct was the first documented in the Region in at least a decade (†SGe, †LGo, Wally Goldfrank, ph. JCS, m.ob.). The presence of Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Cock Robin I. was noted through at least 31 Aug (Greg Gray); 3 birds there on 5 Aug provided a new single-site high count for *Humboldt* and further fueled hopes that breeding may be taking place (Cameron Rognan). A Greater Roadrunner w. of Winters, *Yolo* 25 Oct provided the first report from Putah Cr. Canyon in "many years" (JTr). A Long-eared Owl near McArthur 18 Nov provided just the 2nd record for *Shasta* (ph. B&CY, Ken Able et al.); another Long-eared 10 Nov provided a first for the heavily birded Carmel R. mouth, *Monterey* (ph. SDry). No fewer than 8 Long-eareds were tallied at Fl. 28 Sep–29 Oct, including a new single-day high count of 4 on 29 Sep (P.R.B.O.). A Short-eared Owl 7 Oct at the Presidio was an exceptional find for mainland S.F. (PSar). Fifteen Short-eareds were recorded on Fl. 28 Aug–8 Nov (P.R.B.O.). An unidentified nighthawk reached the coast at Wilder Ranch S.P., *Santa Cruz* 14 Oct (Barry McLaughlin). Chimney Swift sightings at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* continued through at least 20 Sep and included a high count of 8 on 16 Aug (ph. Osj, MtB, RyT, BLS).

Six Black-chinned Hummingbirds in coastal *Santa Cruz* 23 Aug–17 Sep and 3 more in S.F. 1-9 Oct continued a recent pattern; singles reached *Marin* at outer Pt. Reyes, where less expected, 13 Aug (RS) and 23 Sep (RyT, SBT, LTer, MtB, Osj). Three Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported: 3 Nov at Woodfords (first for *Alpine*; TEa), 12 Nov+ at Ed Levin C.P., *Santa Clara* (DvWb, m.ob.), and 19 Nov at L. Success, *Tulare* (SDS). A Pileated Woodpecker 11 Nov at Grover Hot Springs, *Alpine* provided a rare record for the e. slope of the Sierra (JCS, TEa). An unidentified woodpeewee 1 Nov at Neary Lagoon provided just the 2nd *Santa Cruz* record for Nov (Scott Smithson, Paul Miller). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher reported from Fl. 7 Oct (†Jared Wolfe) awaits approval from the C.B.R.C. A well-studied *Empidonax* on Fl. 8-11 Sep was strongly believed to be an Alder Flycatcher; if accepted by the C.B.R.C., it would represent just the 3rd

SA A Taiga Flycatcher along Putah Cr., w. of Winters, Solano/Yolo, was a remarkable find 25 Oct (ph. JCS, ph. SBT et al.). A lucky few were able to reach the site and see the bird that afternoon, but the eager throng that assembled the following morning left disappointed. This first state record provided the first North American record s. of Alaska (where there are approximately 15 records; *fide* Thede Tobish) and just the 2nd for fall. Auspiciously, the Taiga Flycatcher also represents the first new non-introduced bird family (Muscicapidae) to be recorded in California since 1939 (when an Anhinga was discovered at L. Merced, S.F.). Although several species of Asian passerines have been found along the California coast and on offshore islands, only singles of Northern Wheatear, Rustic Bunting, and Brambling have ever been recorded inland in the Region.

Regional record and the 5th for California (b.; †MtB, vt. JTz, ph. RbF, Jared Wolfe). Seven Least Flycatchers 29 Aug–8 Oct were on FI. or the immediate coast, the lone exception being one along Coyote Cr., *Santa Clara* 8 Oct (SCR). Vagrant Eastern Phoebes were at Davis, Yolo 16 Oct (MP) and Terrace Pt., *Santa Cruz* 20 Oct (†SGe). One of the Region's rarest vagrant passerines, single Great Crested Flycatchers were at outer Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 12 Oct (ph. Jukka Jantunen) and the Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 13 Oct (b.; B.S.O.L.). Twenty-eight Tropical Kingbirds were tallied 22 Sep–14 Nov, including rare sightings away from the immediate coast at South S.F., *San Mateo* 19 Oct (ASH), *San Jose–Santa Clara W.P.C.P.*, *Santa Clara* 6 Nov (SCR, RGJ, MJM, DMA), and Ben Lomond, *Santa Cruz* 8 Oct (ph. Adam Romswinkel-Guise). Six Eastern Kingbirds were tallied, the most noteworthy being one 5 Aug flying nw. over Neary Lagoon, *Santa Cruz* (SGe) and the lone inland report, one 8 Sep at the U.C.H.R.E.C. (RJK, GEC, Barbara Dolan, C. Watson, G. Heineken). Remarkable was a Fork-tailed Flycatcher 28 Sep n. of Yuba City, *Sutter* (ph. Kevin Putnam). Just the 2nd record for the Region and California, the presence and the true identity of the bird went unreported until a month after the sighting, when photographs were shown to a more experienced birder (PBS).

SHRIKES THROUGH PIPITS

Northern Shrikes are expected in winter along the Region's n. coast in *Humboldt* and *Del Norte* but are virtually accidental along the coast as far s. as the S.F. Bay Area, so an imm. at the Presidio, S.F. 20 Oct (†HuC) and an ad. at Bolinas Lagoon, *Marin* 6-7 Nov (KH) were stellar finds. A Bell's Vireo near Galt 11 Aug (DGY) provided a rare record for *Sacramento* and *San Joaquin* and continued the recent string of C.V. sightings. A Yellow-throated Vireo made a brief appearance on outer Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 1 Oct (†Thomas Wurster, Liga Auzins et al.). Four Blue-headed Vireos were reported 9 Sep–3 Oct, though the only one for which we received details was at Mad River C.P., *Humboldt* 9 Sep (†DCo, Adam Wachtel). This would tie the earliest fall record for California if accepted by the C.B.R.C. Six Philadel-

phia Vireos were reported 5 Sep–15 Oct, though one at L. Merced, S.F. 14 Oct (†BFI, LLu, CLu) was the only one for which any details were received. Fourteen Red-eyed Vireos 5 Sep–10 Oct, including at least 7 from *Hum-*



Eleven American Golden-Plovers, all juveniles, were reported in autumn 2006 in Northern California, including this bird present at Virgin Creek Beach in MacKerricher State Park, Mendocino County 1 (here) through 5 October 2006. Six of these birds were first detected in November, rather late. Photograph by Matthew A. Matthissen.

boldt, was higher than the recent fall average. A heavily watched Yellow-green Vireo graced outer Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 26 Sep–2 Oct (RS, ph. MWE, m.ob.). A Chestnut-backed Chickadee 13 Oct provided just the 2nd record for outer Pt. Reyes, *Marin* (RS). A single Pygmy Nuthatch 17 Sep was just the 2nd ever found on FI. and the first since 1969 (RyT, †JTz et al.). The expected nuthatch on FI., Red-breasted, was completely absent there this fall (*fide* JTz). Out-of-place Rock Wrens were at Stanford, *Santa Clara* 25 Sep (DSt), near the Cliff House, S.F. 29 Oct+ (ASH, m.ob.), and at San Mateo, *San Mateo* 11-24 Nov (ADeM et al.). A singing Canyon Wren 16 Aug at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* was a local rarity (ph. OsJ); Canyon Wrens are exceptional anywhere along Region's coast.

The season's six reports of Gray Catbird included an *Alameda* first at Hayward R.S. 5 Sep (RJR, m.ob.), and *Mono's* first fall record 24 Sep near Lee Vining (JuH, BrtM, m.ob.). Gray Catbirds were also in *Humboldt* at Mad River C.P. 16 Oct (†Ron Melin, ph. DCo, ph. SeC), in *Marin* at Pt. Reyes 30 Sep (†ES, Mike McClaskey), in S.F. 8-16 Sep (DvA, CLo, Kathy

Robertson), and in *Santa Cruz* at Rancho Del Oso 15-30 Oct (DLSu, CGE). The *Santa Cruz* catbird was that county's 3rd or 4th record and the first since 1991. A Northern Mockingbird present mid-Sep–mid-Nov near L. Earl, *Del Norte* (Onik Arian, m.ob.) was locally notable. Three reports of Brown Thrasher included one found dead near Patrick's Point S.P., *Humboldt* 17 Nov (Jeff Alan) and 2 banded on FI. 11-16 Oct (P.R.B.O.). *Del Norte's* 2nd Red-throated Pipit record was documented by a sound recording 27-29 Sep (RLeV) Red-throated Pipits were also at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 29 Sep (RS, Len Blumin), Carmel R. mouth, *Monterey* 1 Oct (DR), and at Light-house S.B., *Santa Cruz* 11 Nov (SGe).

WARBLERS

Observers all along the coast noted the exceptional variety and abundance of uncommon and vagrant warblers this season. The total number of individuals (587) was the highest for our Region since the banner year of 1991 and the species total (24) the highest since 2001. The only Blue-winged Warbler, found near the Carmel R. mouth, *Monterey* 27 Oct (MtB, RyT, ph. DR, ph. BHL, m.ob.), was present through Dec. An impressive total of 49 Tennessee Warblers included 13 in *Marin* and 12 in S.F., with 6 of

the latter on FI. The only C.V. report for this species was from Putah Cr., *Solano* 9 Sep (RMu). A Virginia's Warbler at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* 19 Sep was the first in 10 years at that location (RJR). Other Virginia's Warbler



This Buff-breasted Sandpipers was present at the Pilarcitos Creek mouth, San Mateo County, California 6-14 (here 10) September 2006. Photograph by David W. Nelson.



Reports of leucistic shorebirds are received occasionally, but seldom are they so nicely documented as this Western Sandpiper in Alviso, Santa Clara County, California 19 September 2006 (here); the bird remained here through 5 October. Photograph by Larry Semo.

reports included singles from Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 26 Aug (RS) and 24 Sep (Toby Romer) and one near L. Merced, S.F. 27 Sep–3 Oct (Bfi, DWN, MWE, m.ob.). Thirteen Northern Parulas were found in eight different counties, 3 in *Monterey*, 2 each in *Humboldt*, *Marin*, and S.F., and one each in *Mendocino*, *Mono*, *San Mateo*, and *Santa Clara*. The *Mono* parula, at Rush Cr. 2-12 Aug (CMc), was a juv., suggesting this species may have bred nearby. The Region's 58 Chestnut-sided Warblers were reported from every coastal county except *Del Norte*. Away from the coast, *Santa Clara* recorded its 6th and 7th Chestnut-sideds; single birds were in *Contra Costa*, *Mono*, and *Solano*. The *Solano* Chestnut-sided, found at the Benicia S.R.A. 10-16 Sep (Epi, m.ob.), is believed to be the 2nd county record. Magnolia Warblers were present in large numbers, with 39 the highest total since 1999. The Magnolia found at Anderson River Park 9 Sep (†RoS, Cathy Santry) provided the 3rd record for *Shasta*. We count ourselves lucky to find one or 2 Cape May Warblers each fall, so this season's total of 6 was astounding. The Region's nw. corner was particularly blessed, with *Del Norte* hosting 2 Cape Mays, one s. of Crescent City 18 Sep (Onik Arian) and one near L. Earl 27 Sep (RLeV, SMcA). *Humboldt* added another at Shelter Cove 27 Sep (†Adam Brown). Singles were on FI. 1-3 & 27-28 Sep (P.R.B.O.), and one was in Foster City, *San Mateo* 3 Oct (RSTh, ADem). Eight Black-throated Blues included *Mendocino's* 2nd record, 5 Oct (JHv, DT, KHv), and a very late bird banded on FI. 26 Nov (P.R.B.O.). A Black-throated Green Warbler at Rancho Del Oso 15 Oct (DSLu) was *Santa Cruz's* 5th record. S.F. had 2: one on FI. 30 Sep (P.R.B.O.) and one at the Presidio 7 Oct (PSar, †MWE). Another Black-throated Green was

at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 30 Sep (Ed DeBellevue, GDg, DWN). There were 22 reports of single Blackburnian Warblers, the bulk of those from *Marin* (11) and S.F. (6). *Mendocino* recorded its first Blackburnian, a hatch-year female at Sinkyone Wilderness S.P. 19 Sep (JRW). A Regional highlight was a Yellow-throated Warbler at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* that stayed 16-28 Sep (Scott Schneider, BDP, David Hofmann, ph. DWN, m.ob.). Of the 14 Prairie Warblers in the Region, one 21 Aug at Pt. Reyes (RS) was the earliest *Marin* record by 10 days, and another early bird provided *Mendocino's* 2nd record 24 Aug (†DT). The 125 Palm Warblers were all in coastal counties, although one 23 Oct near Garberville in *Humboldt* was well inland (RBS, Doug Wallace et al.). Two Bay-breasted Warblers were reported from *Humboldt*, but descriptions were sketchy or non-existent. Another Bay-breasted was at



This *Empidonax*, thought to be an Alder Flycatcher, was present on Southeast Farallon Island, California on 8 (here) through 11 September 2006. If accepted by the California Bird Records Committee, it will represent just the fifth record for the state. Photograph by Rob Fowler.

Pt. Reyes, *Marin* in Sep (*vide* RS), but the exact date is unknown. Our 84 Blackpoll Warblers included *San Benito's* first at Paicines Res. 27 Sep (DLSh). A *Sacramento* bird found on 1 Oct (JTr) could only be safely identified as a "Baypoll" (Blackpoll or Bay-breasted).

Black-and-white Warblers in Modesto 23 Sep (first for *Stanislaus*; ERC) and Gray Lodge W.A., *Butte* 26 Aug (JH) were the only two inland records among the 41 individuals reported this season. Among the 71 American Restarts was *Trinity's* first, a hatch-year bird banded at Hocker Flat 17 Oct (Dean Sedgwick), and *Solano's* first at Putah Cr. 25-27 Sep (MBe, RMu, JLx, RLCL). Other notable red-

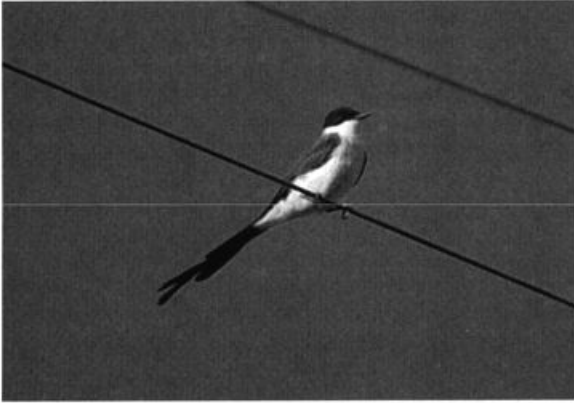
starts included singles in *Sacramento* 2 Sep (TEa, Tanner Easterla), *Fresno* 16 Sep (Pete Fahy), and *Mono* on the late date of 18 Nov (JuH). The season's one Prothonotary Warbler was in *San Mateo* at San Bruno Mountain State and County Park 4-5 Oct (Herb Brandt). Three Ovenbirds were on FI. (P.R.B.O.), 2 were in *Marin* (RS), and singles were in *Humboldt* 24 Oct (†COg, KMS, PAH, ph. KGR), *Sonoma* 5 Sep (DN, BDP), and at C.R.P. 1 Oct (first *Sacramento* record; JTr). Twenty Northern Waterthrushes included one returning for its 5th winter to Charleston Road marsh, *Santa Clara* (MDo, m.ob.). A Kentucky Warbler at Westport 22-23 Sep (CEV, GEC, JRW) was *Mendocino's* first. Seven Connecticut Warblers was a remarkable total for the Region. Five of those were on FI. between 3 Sep and 29 Oct (P.R.B.O.). Singles were in Arcata, *Humboldt* 15-16 Sep (ph. KGR, †DCo, ph. vt. SMcA) and Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 27-29 Aug (Mark Butler, Mary Ann Rotello, Heather Cameron, RS). Completing a fine season for *Oporornis* warblers was a Mourning Warbler on FI. 11-12 Sep (P.R.B.O.). A Hooded Warbler at Spring Lake Park, *Sonoma* spent the summer and was last seen 4 Sep. Another Hooded was in S.F. 5 Oct (DvA), and the season's 3rd was at Natural Bridges S.B., *Santa Cruz* 5-7 Sep (LGo, MSc, SGe, m.ob.). Seven Canada Warblers included *Santa Cruz's* 6th and 7th records, plus 2 in *Marin*, 2 in *San Mateo*, and one in *Monterey*.

TANAGERS THROUGH ORIOLES

Only 2 Summer Tanagers were reported this season, one banded on FI. and the other a rare *Contra Costa* find near Danville 14 Sep (PEG). The only Scarlet Tanager was on FI. 27 Oct (P.R.B.O.). Seven coastal Green-tailed Towhees were in S.F. (3), *Monterey* (2), and *Santa Clara* (2), 24 Sep–24 Oct. It was raining *Spizella* sparrows this fall. Eight American Tree Sparrows, 39 Brewer's, and 118



Great Crested Flycatcher, a rare transient to California, was found at Point Reyes National Seashore, Marin County 12 October 2006 (here). Photograph by Jukka Jantunen.



This Fork-tailed Flycatcher near Yuba City, Sutter County, California 28 September 2006 was just the second ever found in the state and the first since 1992. Photograph by Kevin Putnam.

Clay-colored birds are numbers that have not been seen in our Region for many years. Notable American Tree Sparrow reports include *Shasta's* 6th on 28-29 Nov (Ken Able, †BED, RoS) and 2 at Yolo Basin W.A., *Yolo* 20-26 Oct (Mary Schiedt, ph., m.ob.), with at least one remaining through the period. *Solano* recorded its 5th Clay-colored Sparrow on Putah Cr. 9 Sep (RMu), and a Clay-colored at Llano Seco Unit of Sacramento N.W.R. (Scott Huber, JHS, John Lewis, Mike Skram) was a good find for *Butte*. *San Benito* had its 4th and 5th Brewer's Sparrow records 3 Sep and 5 Oct (both DLSh). Seven Vesper Sparrows in *San Mateo* was the most ever for that county. A Black-throated Sparrow in Panoche Valley was *San Benito's* 3rd (DLSh), and a bird at C.R.P. 26-28 Oct (JTr, ph. CCo) was an excellent C.V. find. Four of the 7 Lark Buntings were in S.F. (3 on FI.), with singles in *Monterey*, *Marin*, and *Humboldt*. *Monterey* had 2 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows, one 27-28 Oct at the Carmel R. mouth (ph. MtB, ph. BHL et al.) and one at Moss Landing 5 Nov (John Thompson). *Alpine's* first Swamp Sparrow 28 Sep (TEa) was one of 56 reported this season, with *Humboldt* accounting for 23 of those. *Humboldt* also led the way with 3 of our 5 Harris's Sparrows.

The season's only Snow Bunting, found 19 Oct near the mouth of Redwood Cr. in *Humboldt*, would be the earliest ever for California if accepted by the C.B.R.C. (†KI). Five of our 33 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were inland, one in *Lassen*, one in *Yolo*, and a surprising 3 in *Sacramento*. Ten Indigo Buntings included one summer holdover in *Sacramento*. Dickc-

sels were in *Humboldt* 9 Oct (KI), on FI. 12-13 Oct (PRB.O.), and in *San Mateo* 1 Sep (AJ). A Bobolink at Herbert Wetland Prairie Preserve 6 Sep (†RH) was *Tulare's* first. A Rusty Blackbird was banded on FI. and hung around 31 Oct-4 Nov (ph. P.R.B.O.). Great-tailed Grackles continued to consolidate their place in the Region, with a male and female giving *Sierra* its 4th and 5th records, new highs for *Contra Costa*, *Santa Cruz*, and *Solano*, and the first fall record for *San Mateo*. All of our 9 Orchard Orioles were found

along the coast from *Marin* to *Santa Cruz* 31 Aug-9 Nov. A Baltimore Oriole was banded on FI. 29 Sep (P.R.B.O.), and an ad. male was in *Santa Cruz* 4 Sep (KAR, Emma Arul).

Cited observers (county coordinators in boldface): David Armstrong, Kumaran Arul, Alan D. Barron (*Del Norte*), Murray Berner (*Napa*), William G. Bousman (*Santa Clara*),



This Blue-winged Warbler, representing the Northern California Region's first fall record since 2001, was found near the Carmel River mouth in Monterey County 27 (here 28) October 2006. It remained through the period and over the winter. Photograph by Don Roberson.

Matthew Brady (MtB), Eric R. Caine, Scott Carey, George E. Chanot, Josiah Clark, Luke W. Cole (*Kings*), Daryl Coldren, Chris Conard (*Sacramento* & *Yolo*), Hugh Cotter, Jeff N. Davis (*Madera*), Gary Deghi, Al DeMartini, Bruce E. Deuel (n. C.V. counties), Matthew Dodder, Stan Dryden, Todd Easterla, Mark W. Eaton (*San Francisco*), Ray Ekstrom (*Siskiyou*), Bruce G. Elliot, Chris G. Emmons (CGE), Brian Fitch, Tim Fitzer, David Fix (*Humboldt*), Rick Fournier (RF), Rob Fowler (RbF), James H. Gain (*Stanislaus*), Steve Gerow, Steve A. Glover (*Contra Costa*), Lois Goldfrank, Philip E. Gordon, Helen Green, Steve C. Hampton, Keith Hansen, Rob Hansen, Jim T. Havlena, Karen A. Havlena,

Gjon Hazard, Pablo A. Herrera, Rob Hewitt (RHe), Bill Hill, Justin Hite, Alan S. Hopkins, Steve N. G. Howell, Lisa Hug, John E. Hunter (*Trinity*), Ken Irwin, Alvaro Jaramillo, Richard G. Jeffers, David A. Jensen, Oscar Johnson, Shearwater Journeys, Robert J. Keifer (*Mendocino*), Larry Kent, Jon King, Kim Kuska, Kimya L. Lambert, Cathie LaZier, Robin L. C. Leong (*Solano*), Ron LeValley, Cindy Lieurance, Leslie Lieurance, Jim Lomax, Calvin Lou, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, Dean Manley, Matthew A. Matthiessen, Sean McAllister, J. Mac McCormick (*Plumas* & *Sierra*), Chris McCreedy, Peter J. Metropulos (*San Mateo*), Bartshe Miller, Roger Muskat, Dan Nelson, David W. Nelson, Kristie N. Nelson (*Mono*), Chet Ogan, Frances Oliver, Ed Pandolfino (*Placer*), Benjamin D. Parmeter, Michael Perrone, Eric Pilotte, Jude C. Power (*Humboldt*), Peter Pyle, David C. Rice, Robert J. Richmond (*Alameda*), Don Roberson (*Monterey*), Michael M. Rogers, Kerry G. Ross, Stephen C. Rottenborn, James Rowth, Ruth A. Rudesill (*Sonoma*), Salvatore Salerno, Peter B. Sands, Rob Santry (RoS), Paul Saraceni, Barbara Scharfenstein, Michelle Scott, Jeff Seay, Debra L. Shearwater, Keith M. Slauson, Jim H. Snowden, John Sorenson, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling (*Modoc*, *Alpine*, & *Calaveras*), Tim Steurer (*Amador* & *El Dorado*), Emilie Strauss, Dick Stovel, David L. Suddjian (*Santa Cruz*), Brian L. Sullivan, Steven D. Summers (*Tulare*), Robert B. Sutherland, Linda Terrill, Ryan Terrill (*Marin*), Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn, Jim Tietz (FI.), Dorothy Tobkin, Francis Toldi, John Trochet, Steve Umland (*Tuolumne*), Chuck E. Vaughn, Kent Van Vuren (*Merced* & *San Benito*), David Vander Pluym (*Mariposa*), Dave Weber (DvWb), Brian J. Weed, Jerry R. White (*Lake*), Brian D. C. Williams (*Nevada*), Gary Woods, David G. Yee, Bob & Carol Yutzy (*Shasta*). Many more observers are not specifically cited; all are appreciated. ☺

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