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After a fairly normal December, January was dry with a cold snap mid-month that set new records over much of the Region. February was also dry but warmer than normal. The season's highlight was California's third Smew, enjoyed by birders from all over the state and beyond. County birders were thrilled to have six Eurasian Wigeons in four Sierra foothill counties (Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, and Mariposa), where even "common" ducks can be hard to find. Gull enthusiasts continue to produce multiple Slaty-backed Gulls in the Region, a remarkable phenomenon, considering this species was only added to the state list two years ago. Additionally, an apparent Great Black-backed Gull would represent an overdue first state record if accepted by the state records committee. Varied Thrushes stage occasional winter invasions into parts of the state where they are normally rare, and this season saw one of the biggest, rivaling or exceeding the banner winter of 1994-1995 in many areas.

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 Creek Field Station, Santa Clara); FI. (Southeast Farallon I., San Francisco); H.R.S. (Hayward Regional Shoreline, Alameda); P.R.B.O. (Pt. Reyes B. O.); S.F. (San Francisco, not State Forest); 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.

WATERFOWL

The Fulvous Whistling-Ducks found in fall at the "Dead Pig Ponds" n. of Angiola, *Tulare* continued through 16 Jan (4 birds; Tony Kurz et al.). A Greater White-fronted Goose w. of Cathey's Valley 21 Feb-11 Mar (JLx, m.ob.) was only the 2nd for *Mariposa*, at the same pond where the first was found 16 Feb-8 Mar 2005. It was accompanied by up to 2 Snow Geese 21-28 Feb (JLx, JSL, DEQ, m.ob.), also rare in *Mariposa*. Three ad. Emperor Geese were among a swirling flock of 4000 geese of five species above C.R.P. 15 Feb (JTr). Coastal Blue Geese included one along the Petaluma R., *Sonoma* 13 Jan (Bob Dyer) and up to 2 at H.R.S. 5-20 Dec (2 on last date; RJR). A neck-collared Ross's Goose near Richvale, *Butte* 3 Feb (JHS) had been banded sixteen and a half year earlier as an adult. The Palo Alto Brant first reported last season was seen through 9 Jan (ph., m.ob.); remarkably, a 2nd *Santa Clara* Brant was found along the Guadalupe R. in San Jose 14-22 Feb (ph. Peggy Don, m.ob.). Cackling Goose reports involving *leucopareia* and *minima* were widespread, with large flocks reaching the central coast, including 70 over San Jose, *Santa Clara* 1 Jan (MDo), 70 to 85 at H.R.S. 9 Jan-16 Feb (RJR), and 60 n. of Petaluma, *Sonoma* 10 Feb (KW); the only report of another subspecies was of a *taverneri* at Kutras L. in Redding, *Shasta* 5 Feb (BED et al.). The Dusky Canada Goose (*occidentalis*) at Venice S.B., *San Mateo* continued through 22 Jan (RSTh). Trumpeter Swan reports included an undocumented report of 3 birds at Steamboat L., *Shasta Valley W.A.*, *Siskiyou* 22 Dec (Bob Smith) and one of an imm. ne. of Willows, *Glenn* 6 Feb (†JHS). A Bewick's Swan was seen ne. of Marysville, *Yuba* 1 Dec (ph. Mike Schwitters); one was seen with an ad. Whistling Swan and 3 yearlings 13 Jan in the same area (JHS). Two ad. Bewick's with a yearling were ne. of Willows, *Glenn* 6 Feb (JHS).

Good numbers of Eurasian Wigeon were reported from 21 counties, including the first 3 ever for *Mariposa*: a male along White Rock Rd. 18 Feb-11 Mar (JRow, Liz West, m.ob.), joined by a 2nd male there 23 Feb (DEQ), and another male along Merced Falls Rd. 24 Feb (EP). Other male Eurasian Wigeons in unusual locations included the continuing 2nd *Calaveras* record along Paloma Rd. 16 Jan (Stephen Long), one 5 km w. of Sutter Creek, *Amador* 27 Jan-16 Feb (Don Marsh), and one along Rock River Rd., *Tuolumne* 3 Feb+ (SUm, JSL). A male

American Black Duck shot n. of Delevan N.W.R., *Colusa* 21 Dec (Yancey Forest-Knowles) will become a live mount at U.C. Davis; difficulties eliminating Mallard intergrades and questions of natural occurrence have resulted in only a single first-winter female, shot 1 Feb 1911 near Willows, *Glenn*, being accepted by the C.B.R.C. An impressive 18 Eurasian Teal reported from 12 counties included a first for *Napa*, at American Canyon wetlands 2-28 Feb (†MBe, m.ob.). Twelve Tufted Ducks in 11 counties included up to 3 ad. males among record-large scaup flocks at Borax L., *Lake* 16 Dec-20 Feb (ph. FHA, JRW). White-winged Scoter reports continue to dwindle, with one slightly inland on Grizzly Bay 2 Jan (RyT, MtB, Osj) being unusual for *Solano*. Over 30 Long-tailed Ducks from nine counties included only one report well inland, a continuing bird at Mono L., *Mono*, present through 3 Dec (ph. Susan Steele). Among numerous Barrow's Goldeneye reports was *Mendocino's* 2nd, a female at Westport S.T.P. 1-6 Feb (RLeV, ph. MMTt et al.). Undoubtedly the highlight of the season, an ad. male Smew spent 20-29 Jan consorting with Hooded Mergansers in the small Sierra foothill town of Soulsbyville, *Tuolumne* (SUm, ph. m.ob.). This classy bird, which drew birders from far and wide, constitutes only the 3rd California record, following a male that spent three winters in Foster City, *San Mateo* 19 Dec 1981-22 Jan 1984 and a male near Tracy, *San Joaquin* 20 Jan-29 Feb 2000.



A striking duck, this apparent Bufflehead x Hooded Merganser hybrid was found at the Berkeley Marina, Alameda County, California 8 December 2006 but not reported thereafter. Photograph by Bob Battaglin.

LOONS THROUGH RAILS

Of the three commonly occurring loons in the Region, Red-throated Loon is the scarcest inland. Inland occurrences included one at Stampede Res. 13 Dec (BDW), a first for *Sierra*; one at Fall River L. 11 Dec. (Ken Able), a 3rd for *Shasta*; and one at Crowley L., *Mono* 3 Dec (DHo, JLD, JuH). As is typical, several inland Pacific Loons were reported: Thermalito Afterbay, *Butte* 25 Feb (Jay Bogiatto); 2 re-

SA In addition to the more expected duck hybrids, such as "Brewer's Ducks" (Gadwall × Mallard hybrids; 2 reported), Eurasian Wigeon × American Wigeon (7), Blue-winged Teal × Cinnamon Teal (one), Tufted Duck × Greater Scaup (one), Eurasian Teal × Green-winged Teal (5), and Barrow's Goldeneye × Common Goldeneye (3), several less-expected hybrid combinations were reported this season. A male *Aythya* at L. Hennessey, *Napa* 17 Dec was identified as a Greater Scaup × Ring-necked Duck (†MBE). An imm. male hybrid in San Mateo, *San Mateo* 28-31 Jan was identified as a Bufflehead × Common Goldeneye (†RSTh). A male Bufflehead × Hooded Merganser was another unexpected combination, found at the Berkeley marina, *Alameda* 8 Dec (ph. †Bob Battagin). And finally, the Barrow's Goldeneye × Hooded Merganser returned to L. Merritt, *Alameda* 14 Dec-13 Feb (Len Blumin et al.) for its 4th winter at this location. The last three combinations are nearly unprecedented, with perhaps just two previous documented instances of the first two (*Birds of North America* No. 98; *American Birds* 35: 340) and the third thought to be the first such hybrid (*Western Birds* 36:279).

mainly until 16 Dec at L. Shastina, *Siskiyou* (RE); and 2 at Crowley L., *Mono* 5 Dec (KNN). Scarce inland, especially in winter, a Red-necked Grebe was near Glenhaven, *Lake* 17 Feb (FrO, JRow). Counts of 6576 Eared Grebes and 6643 Clark's Grebes on Clear L. 16 Dec represented record highs for *Lake* (fide JRW). After several winters of sparse Blackvented Shearwaters, this species was again present in robust numbers, with a peak count of 1255+ in three hours off Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 18 Dec (BLS). Brown Boobies continue to invade the Region. In *Humboldt*, the imm. and ad. female continued from the previous period at Trinidad through 9 Dec (m.ob.). One to 3 continued (?) on Fl. 2 Dec+ (Derek Lee, JTz, Pete Warzybok). Singles were in Monterey Harbor, *Monterey* 28 Dec-21 Jan (Dave Weber, ph. m.ob.), as well as at Jug Handle State Reserve 13 Jan (Teresa Faxon) and Noyo Harbor 23 Feb (LHg, CCb) in *Mendocino*. A testament to the success of the Federal Endangered Species Act, Brown Pelican numbers continue to increase, as indicated by 6000 counted heading n. off Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* 14 Jan (RSTh).

The *Del Norte* Little Blue Heron continued at the Alexandre Dairy near Ft. Dick through the period (ph. ADB et al.). Wandering White-faced Ibis included one at Moss Landing W.A., *Monterey* 7 Feb (TAm) and another surprisingly far n. for winter at Tule Lake N.W.R., *Siskiyou* 22 Jan (Charlotte Ann Kisling). An ad. White-tailed Kite at Sierraville 26 Jan (Deren Ross) was the 3rd for *Sierra*. Northern Goshawks seen just s. of Cape Mendocino, *Humboldt* 2 Dec (imm.; KGR, DCo) and flying northward at Colma 23 Feb (4th *San Mateo* record; ADeM) were in unusual lowland locations. Swainson's Hawks well away from wintering areas included one at Pt. Joe, *Monterey* 29 Dec (TEa, JCS, AB) and an early migrant over the Presidio, S. F. 17 Feb (HuC). In addition to the Harlan's Hawks reported last season, another returned to Valley Ford, *Sonoma* for its 3rd winter 18 Dec-7 Jan (RS, KW, m.ob.). Other Harlan's included one in Willow Cr. Valley, *Lassen* 14 Dec (EP, JRa), one at the Sacra-

mento River N.W.R., *Butte* 1 Jan (JHS), and light-morph birds n. of Bodega Bay, *Sonoma* 4 Dec (Roger Marlowe) and at Manchester, *Mendocino* 1 Jan (†RSTh, KrO). Several coastal Rough-legged Hawks were reported, most just passing through in mid-Dec, but one at the Las Gallinas S.T.P., *Marin* stayed 10 Jan-14 Feb (Nick Whelan, m.ob.). At least 3 different Crested Caracaras were found this winter. One spent the season at the Ferndale Bottoms, *Humboldt* 8 Dec+ (ph. Merritt Perry, Bruce Slocum, fide GSL, ph. DCo); the ad. in coastal n. *Monterey* continued through the season (m.ob., ph. DR), being joined by a first-winter bird at Pt. Joe 25 Feb (JSo, Mark Sorensen, ph. DR, RC). Black Rails were reported on two *Nevada* C.B.C.s 16 & 30 Dec (ECB et al.).

SHOREBIRDS

A Pacific Golden-Plover sw. of Madera 21-26 Dec (ph. GaW) provided one of very few records for *Madera*; one n. of Binghamton, *Solano* 15 Dec (Charlie Walker) was likewise well away from the usual wintering locations for this species. Coastal Mountain Plovers included *Humboldt's* 10th at the Mad R. estuary 14-17 Jan (ph. RbF, MtB, KBU, DCo, COG, KGR) and one or 2 birds sw. of Sonoma, *Sonoma* 11 Jan (DgSh). Three found at Crowley L. 2 Dec included one that lingered through 6 Jan (JLD, ph. Mike McWilliams, m.ob.), furnishing the latest record for *Mono* (and longest stay of any recorded there). Good numbers of Mountain Plovers were reported again this season from s. of Al lensworth, *Tulare*, with a peak count of 426 on 26 Feb (PJM). A Solitary Sandpiper along Coyote Cr. s. of Coyote, *Santa Clara* 30 Dec-1 Jan (MJM, ph. SCR, ph. MMR, ph. WGB, ph. Peggy Don, m.ob.) was only the 4th winter record for n. California. A Pectoral Sandpiper at H.R.S. 27 Feb (†Peter Dramer) was likewise unseasonal; its presence on this date may have been related to its injured leg. Southerly Rock

Sandpipers included one at Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* 9 Dec-6 Feb (GDg, RSTh, AME) and a bird returning to Santa Cruz, *Santa Cruz* for a 3rd winter 11 Dec+ (RyT, m.ob.). Wintering Ruffs included a continuing male in Alviso, *Santa Clara* 9 Dec-4 Feb (Jim Thomas, m.ob.), an ad. at Sherman I., *Sacramento* 20 Dec-2 Jan (Bob Power, EP, MtB, Osj, m.ob.), one at Conaway Ranch, *Yolo* on the Sacramento C.B.C. 30 Dec (WEH), and 2 in *Merced*, one e. of Los Banos 28-31 Dec (ADeM, John Fulton, CLu, LLu, GGf), the other se. of Merced N.W.R. 9 Feb (male; ADeM).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

A late Franklin's Gull was at L. Shastina, *Siskiyou* 30 Nov-21 Dec (RE). Though regular on the w. side of the Sacramento Valley, a Bonaparte's Gull at the Marysville S.T.P., *Yuba* 21 Dec (†TDM, JTr, JLx) may be a first for the e. side of the Valley. Very few inland Mew Gulls were reported, with singles at Ellis L., Marysville, *Yuba* 5 Jan-12 Feb (HG, DCR, FrO), Kutas L., *Shasta* 15 Jan-3 Feb (BED), and one near Mendota, *Fresno* 10 Jan (Pete Fahey, LyH, ph. GaW). Several potential Vega Herring Gulls were reported. As we gain an understanding of variation in the Herring Gull complex, it will be interesting to deter-



Crested Caracaras wintered in California's coastal Humboldt and Monterey Counties. This adult was seen throughout the season in northern Monterey County, often frequenting the golf course near Point Joe, where this photograph was taken 28 December 2006. On 25 February 2007, it was joined by a first-winter bird at the same location. Photograph by Don Roberson.

mine the status of this taxon in the Region. Noteworthy inland Thayer's Gulls were at the Milburn Unit, *Fresno* 17 Dec (JND, Larry Parmeter et al.), the Fresno W.T.P., *Fresno* 24 Feb (Kevin Enns-Rempel et al.), L. Almanor, *Plumas* 15 Dec (Martin Meyers, JTr) and Goose L., *Modoc* 23 Feb (SCR). Once again, Iceland Gulls were reported (this species is reported annually in recent years). More of these birds are now being accepted by the C.B.R.C. as more is learned about variation

within groupings in the Thayer's/Iceland complex. Part of the difficulty in analyzing some of these records is created by the apparent morphological continuum from Thayer's Gull to Iceland Gull and determining where to draw the somewhat arbitrary line between the groups. Other problem identifications are associated with hybrids and aberrant individuals of other species. Iceland Gulls were reported from Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 1 Jan (ph. †TEa, ph. Tanner Easterla, †JEH, †RbF, †JTz et al.) and Redwood Cr., *Humboldt* 5 Jan (ph. Laurie Lawrence, Linda Doerflinger, JCe). These reports await C.B.R.C. review. Three others were reported without details from Yolo 30 Dec. A Lesser Black-backed Gull at L. Kaweah and Bravo L. 3 & 24 Feb, respectively (ph. John Lockhart, KiK), would represent a first for *Tulare* if accepted by the C.B.R.C. After the documentation of multiple Slaty-backed Gulls at Venice S.B., *San Mateo* established the first state records just two winters ago, multiple birds continued to occur at this location for the 3rd winter, with an ad. present 5 Jan–21 Feb (ph. AJ, †RSTh et al.) and a second-cycle present 13–30 Jan (ph. AJ, †RSTh et al.). As might be expected as awareness of this species in the Region increases, individuals are being reported at a variety of new locations (all of these records are pending C.B.R.C. review). These reports include: a second-cycle bird at Pt. Pinos 2 Feb (ph. BLS), which would represent a first for *Monterey*, and another from *Monterey* at the Salinas R. mouth 13 Feb (ph., †DVP); 3 at San Quentin 19 Feb (ph. TEa, Tanner Easterla), which would represent a first for *Marin*; and finally a third-cycle bird at Humboldt Bay 31 Dec (†TEa, Tanner Easterla, †JEH) and an ad. at Redwood Cr. mouth 2 Jan (ph. †TEa, †Tanner Easterla, †JEH), which would represent potential firsts for *Humboldt*. Glaucous Gulls invaded the Region, with an amazing 39+ reported. Virtually all of these birds were coastal, with the exception of 3 ads. 27 Jan (JKn) and one imm. 16 Feb (JCS) at the Yolo County Landfill, *Yolo*. A possible Great Black-backed Gull photographed at Redwood Cr. mouth, *Humboldt* 30 Dec (ph., †Jeff Allen) was never relocated. If accepted by the C.B.R.C., this would represent a first state record. Black-legged Kittiwakes were generally present in small numbers until a sudden influx to the ocean waters off *Monterey* in mid-Feb, when 20,000 were estimated to have passed Pt. Pinos 18 Feb (BLS, DR, RC) and the same number was estimated during an offshore aerial survey from the Monterey Pen. s. to the Big Sur Coast 1 Mar (JND, LHe, TMH). This species is generally quite rare inland, and one at Mono L. 2–3 Dec was a first for *Mono*

(JLD, JuH). Two tardy Elegant Terns were reported: one at Moss Beach, *San Mateo* 16 Dec (RSTh) and one at Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 28 Dec (TEa, Tanner Easterla). A Thick-billed Murre flew by Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 11 Dec (†BLS). Ancient Murrelets were reported in better-than-average numbers. High counts included good numbers in *Monterey*, with 169 estimated during an offshore aerial survey from Pt. Pinos to Garrapata (JND et al.) and 116 around the Monterey Pen. 28 Dec (*vide* DR). Elsewhere, 150 at Ft. Ross, *Sonoma* 3 Jan (KrO, RSTh), 41 at Venice S.B., *San Mateo* 7 Dec (RSTh), and 48 at Moss Beach, *San Mateo* 7 Dec (RSTh) represented robust numbers for those counties. Rhinoceros Auklets staged major flights past Pt. Pinos, *Monterey*, with 1250 on 2 Jan (BLS), 7785 in three hours 4 Jan (BLS), and 8000+ 10 Jan (BLS, RyT et al.). Horned Puffins were off Pacific Grove, *Monterey* 23 Dec (Liga Auzins, Tom Wurster), 4 Jan (ph. BLS), and 11 Feb (RyT, ph. S. N. G. Howell, ShJ). It is unknown if these observations involve the same or different birds, but an influx of this species into the Region became apparent just after the end of the period, indicating that these reports likely involved multiple birds.

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

A White-winged Dove was near the Carmel R. mouth, *Monterey* 1 Dec (MtB, RyT). A Barn Owl along the n. shore of Mono L., *Mono* 12 Dec was a rare find for the Mono Basin (KNN, JuH). For a 2nd consecutive winter, a Snowy Owl graced *Solano*, this after a nearly 30-year absence from California. First found by fishermen 30 Dec and confirmed on 1 Jan (JCS), many were able to enjoy the bird via organized "pelagic" trips conducted by Dan Thiemann through 22 Feb (Charles & Dave Strickland, m.ob.). A Spotted Owl at Boggs L., *Lake* 16–19 Dec was a first for the Clear Lake C.B.C. (DvW). Six Long-eared Owls sw. of Madera 22 Jan–28 Feb provided a rare *Madera* record (GaW). Thirty-three Short-eared Owls at Grizzly I., *Solano* 18 Dec provided a new high count for the Benicia C.B.C. and an impressive tally for this declining species (TFi). Among numerous Short-eareds at unusual locations was one at the Presidio 2 Dec, one of few ever found in S.F. (ASH, HuC). Very rare on the C.V. floor, though probably overlooked, Northern Saw-whet Owls were at Orangevale Park, *Sacramento* 31 Dec (Mark Martucci et al.), Fair Oaks, *Sacramento* 24 Feb+ (DJo), and



Solitary Sandpipers are rare anywhere in California in winter, so this bird found in a drying pond along Coyote Creek during the Calero–Morgan Hill Christmas Bird Count 30 December 2006 was remarkable, providing only the fourth winter record for northern California. It remained until 1 January 2007 (here), at which point its favored pond had nearly dried up. Photograph by William G. Bousman.

Ryer I., *Solano* 16 Feb+ (2 birds by 28 Feb; ph. RLCL, Raye Hanson, m.ob.). A Costa's Hummingbird attempted to winter at a feeder at Hammil Valley, *Mono* 1 Dec–13 Jan (Andy Zdon) but apparently succumbed during the extreme cold of mid-Jan. Other Costa's included 2 at Redding, *Shasta* through at least 28 Feb (Mike Damoth) and a male at Rancho Cordova, *Sacramento* 17 Feb–9 Mar (Paul Buchanan, m.ob.). An Anna's Hummingbird at Hammil Valley 17 Dec was the latest ever found in *Mono* (Andy Zdon).

Lake's 2nd Williamson's Sapsucker, an imm. male, was near Boggs Mt. 7 Dec (BJMcI). Seven Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers included one near Marysville, *Yuba* 21 Dec (†Jimm Edgar, Kent Fickett) and L. Tulloch, *Calaveras* 28 Jan (Penny & David Kiehl); each was thought to be a county first. Nine Red-naped Sapsuckers were at widely spaced locations throughout the period. A Pileated Woodpecker 28 Dec at Henry Coe S.P., *Santa Clara* was one of few ever found in the Diablo Range (JY, AL). A Hammond's Flycatcher along Adobe Rd., *Sonoma* 23 Nov (RS) may have been a lingering migrant, but another at Pacifica 24–28 Dec provided just the 2nd winter record for *San Mateo* (ph. JM). Most remarkable was the discovery of a Dusky Flycatcher 4 Feb at U.C. Davis, *Yolo*, possibly providing the first winter record for the Region (ph. JCS, TEa). Five Eastern Phoebes were reported, including no fewer than 3 in *Monterey* 17 Dec–24 Feb, one near Winters, *Yolo* 17 Dec–3 Jan (Brent Campos), and another sw. of Madera, *Madera* 15–20 Jan (ph. GaW, m.ob.). Say's Phoebes are essentially absent in winter from far n. California, so the presence of 25+ around Fall River Mills, *Shasta* 20 Feb is a superb demonstration of just how early this species migrates (B&CY). An Ash-throated Flycatcher banded at C.C.F.S., *Santa Clara* 21 Feb must have wintered somewhere nearby (Roy Churchwell).

SHRIKES THROUGH THRASHERS

Just 2 Northern Shrikes were noted away from typical n. coast and Great Basin haunts: one ne. of Fairfield, *Solano* 30 Nov–26 Feb (Brent Campos, m.ob.) and another at Willow Hill Res. near Folsom, *Sacramento* 31 Dec (†Craig Swolgaard, Ginny Huss). A Plumbeous Vireo along the Guadalupe R. 7 Dec provided *Santa Clara's* 5th record and continues a pattern of late-fall occurrences in the Region (†JPa). Five Cassin's Vireos were all coastal except for one near Winters, *Yolo* 17 Dec (DES, Roger Willmouth). A Yellow-billed Magpie described from Potter Valley 12 Feb was just the 2nd ever found in *Mendocino* (fide Jim Armstrong, GEC). Four Northern Rough-winged Swallows at the San Jose–Santa Clara W.T.P., *Santa Clara* 17 Dec may have been late migrants, but until recent years even a Dec record was virtually unheard of (WGB, Jim Thomas). At least 66 Barn Swallows were tallied in Dec–Jan, fewer than in recent years but far more than would have been dreamt of a decade ago.

A Black-capped Chickadee 17 Feb at the Mattole R. mouth, *Humboldt* provided the southernmost documented record of this species for California (ph. †JTz). A Chestnut-backed Chickadee at Carmichael, *Sacramento* 2–3 Feb furnished just the 3rd county record (EP, CCo, KLL). Though a modest irruption of Golden-crowned Kinglets was noted in *Santa Clara*, we received no reports of unusual numbers anywhere else in the Region. Out-of-place Mountain Bluebirds included a male at upper Elkhorn Slough, *Monterey* 2–4 Dec (RF et al.), one at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* 6 Dec (Dean Manley), and 2 males at Las Gallinas W.T.P., *Marin* 7–10 Jan (Jim White, Nick Whelan). Varied Thrushes were oft mentioned this winter. At least 10 different C.B.C.s from all over the Region reported record-high numbers for this species. The Region's 6 Sage Thrashers included 2 near Merced Falls in *Mariposa* 28 Feb (ADeM) and singles at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 17 Dec (SRv), Deer Cr. near Stoil Ponds, *Tulare* 5 Jan (SDS), Payen Rd. in e. *Sacramento* 12–13 Feb (Frank Gray, Stefan Schlick), and Flood Rd. in e. *San Joaquin* 10 Feb (ph. Bob Stahmer). Our only Brown Thrasher was a heard-only bird singing at C.R.P., *Sacramento* 2–5 Jan (AEn, Irene Englis, †JTr).

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS

It was a good season for warbler diversity (20 species). Numbers were also generally high, with 5 Tennessees, 27 Nashvilles, 13 Yellows, 11 Hermits (10 in *San Mateo*), a whopping 41

Palms, 11 Black-and-whites, 3 American Redstarts, and 6 Wilson's. All these were coastal or S.F. Bay birds except one Wilson's Warbler at C.R.P., *Sacramento* 4 Feb (JTr). A Black-throated Gray Warbler at the very n. edge of the Central Valley was the first ever recorded on the Redding C.B.C., *Shasta* 30 Dec (BY, BED). The *Blue-winged Warbler* first found in Oct at the Carmel R. mouth, *Monterey* (MtB) stayed well into winter and was banded 21 Dec (B.S.O.L.), subsequently photographed showing off its new jewelry (ph. RyT), and last seen 9 Jan (CHz). A male Black-throated Blue Warbler was seen in a yard in Moss Beach, *San Mateo* 10 Dec (J. R. Blair).

A *Worm-eating Warbler* was seen on the Big Sur coast, *Monterey* 18 Dec (†Jessica Griffiths). This record, if accepted by the C.B.R.C., would be our Region's 8th winter record. An Ovenbird apparently returned for the 2nd winter to a site along Putah Cr. on the



This second-cycle Slaty-backed Gull at Point Pinos, Monterey County, California 5 February 2007 was a first for the county. Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.

Solano/Yolo border 8 Jan–26 Feb (TJe, FSc, m.ob.). At least 2, and possibly 3, Northern Waterthrushes spent the winter (18 Dec–16 Feb) in nearly adjacent locations in the Charleston Rd./Stevens Creek area of Mountain View, *Santa Clara* (MMR, m.ob.). One Northern Waterthrush was at Arcata Marsh in *Humboldt* 16 Dec–14 Jan (JTz, EE, Jay Seegar, Jherime Kellerman, MtB), and another was in G.G.P., S.F. 25 Dec–28 Jan (BFi, JsC, m.ob.). The only *Oporonis* this winter was an unidentified bird seen in Bodega Bay, *Sonoma* 18 Dec (RS). A Hooded Warbler was at Cascade Ranch (*San Mateo's* 2nd winter record) from 30 Dec until it was found dead 21 Jan following a record cold period (FrT, ph. Kirk Swenson, m.ob.).

Both of this season's Summer Tanagers were found in urban locations, one in Eureka, *Humboldt* 27 Dec–2 Jan (Kay Rocco, fide RHw, GSL) and one in S.F. 21 Jan (Cullen Hanks). Western Tanagers were found in unusually high numbers (at least 33). *Santa Clara* led all

counties with a remarkable total of at least 8, possibly 11 individuals. Two Western Tanagers found on the Peace Valley C.B.C. 19 Dec in *Sutter* were the first for that count (AEn, ADeM, fide BED).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

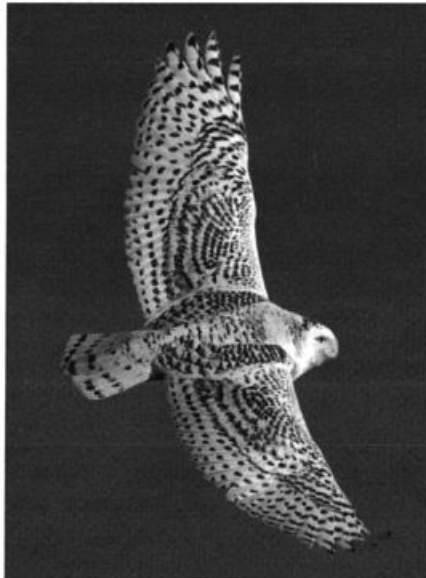
American Tree Sparrows found last fall continued at Fall R./McArthur, *Shasta* 2–11 Jan (Ken Able, Randy van Orden, BY, BED) and Yolo Bypass W.A., *Yolo* 30 Dec–21 Jan (TCO, Roger Adamson); singles were also found at Arcata Bottoms, *Humboldt* 13 Dec+ (KI, m.ob.) and Tomales Bay, *Marin* 3 Dec (ph. CCo, DWN, Bob Battagin). *Shasta* had its first winter record for Chipping Sparrow at Fall R./McArthur 2 Jan (Ken Able). A Clay-colored Sparrow first found in Nov in Eureka, *Humboldt* continued through 18 Dec (TWL, PAH, Lew & Judy Norton), and another *Humboldt* Clay-colored was found 31 Dec at Port Kenyon (Rebecca Green). *Tulare* hosted its 2nd or 3rd Clay-colored Sparrow 11–13 Feb at Bartlett C.P. (KiK, SDS, ph. Tony Kurz). A Clay-colored, the 2nd for *Stanislaus*, was at the w. end of Beckwith Rd. 13 Jan+ (ERC, m.ob.), and another was at Año Nuevo S.R., *San Mateo* 23–30 Dec (RSTh).

Coastal Vesper Sparrows included 2 at Año Nuevo State Reserve, *San Mateo* 30 Dec–6 Jan (RSTh, GrH) and another at Arcata Bottoms, *Humboldt* 2 Dec (RbF). A female Lark Bunting at Byron Hot Springs 11–26 Feb provided *Contra Costa* with its 2nd record (Mark Miller, m.ob.). As is frequently the case, the Sierra foothills hosted wintering Lark

Buntings: one on Crabtree Rd. in e. *Stanislaus* from 22–29 Jan (DVP, MtB, m.ob.) and another on White Rock Rd. in e. *Merced* 24 Feb (ph. SAG). Four Grasshopper Sparrows—a species probably regular in our Region in winter, but rarely detected—were found on Coyote Ridge, *Santa Clara* 30 Dec (ph. SCR). Our only Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow report was from Elkhorn Slough, *Monterey* 1 Jan (KiK). All but 2 of our 24 Swamp Sparrows were on the coast or S.F. Bay. The two inland records included *Nevada's* first at Spenceville W.A. 4–12 Feb (BDW, m.ob.) and a bird found during the Lost L./Fresno C.B.C., *Fresno* 27–29 Dec (JSy, Bruce Williford, m.ob.). Eighty White-throated Sparrows were reported from 16 different counties. *San Mateo* had 2 Harris's Sparrows, one continuing from late Nov at Coyote Pt. 2 Dec (CLO), and another at the Gazos Cr. mouth 10 Dec (G. J. Strachan). Harris's Sparrows visited two backyards in *Humboldt*–*McKinleyville* 1 Dec (KGR, Mark Morrisette, Ed DeBellevue) and Arcata 19 Jan–25 Feb

(ScC, KBu)—plus another backyard in Dixon, *Solano* 17 Dec–20 Jan (Gordon Murphy). Both McCown's (3-5) and Lapland Longspurs were found on County Line Rd., *Yolo* 7 Jan–4 Feb (TEa, SCH, MP). Laplands were also at V Street Loop, *Humboldt* 1-24 Dec (Adam Brown), Mono L., *Mono* 12-30 Dec (KNN, JuH), Rat Farm Rd., *Shasta* 1 Feb (Ken Able), Goose L., *Modoc* 23 Feb (SCR), and Rds. 16 and 90B, *Yolo* 1 Jan (JCS). Both Chestnut-collared and Lapland Longspurs were together in two locations in *Humboldt*: Eel R. mouth 3 Dec (KMS, Karly Moore) and Bear R. Ridge 2 Feb (EE). Only the Eel R. flock was sizable, containing 80+ Laplands. A single Chestnut-collared was at Goose L., *Modoc* 24 Feb (SCR). Two Snow Buntings were at the n. jetty in Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 3 Dec (Ben Zyla, ScC, ph. DCo), and another *Humboldt* Snow Bunting was present 15-21 Jan at Mad River C.P. (Jherime Kellermann, ScC, ph. DCo, †RbF, IvS, †JTz).

The only Rose-breasted Grosbeak reported this winter was visiting a feeder in Moss Beach, *San Mateo* from 21-24 Feb (Mart Devine). Over the past 10 years we have averaged about six reports each winter with never fewer than three. Usually, Rose-breasted outnumber Black-headed Grosbeaks in winter, but not this year. Black-headed were at H.R.S., *Alameda* 16 Feb (RJR) and Coyote Valley, *Santa Clara* 30 Dec (Bonnie Bedford-White et al.). A Blue Grosbeak photographed during the Rio Cosumnes C.B.C. at Merritt I., *Yolo* 2 Jan (SCH, ph. Roger Adamson) marked a rare winter appearance for this species. *Sacramento*'s first Common Grackle was near Galt 16-18 Jan (Sue Yee, ph. DGY, ph. †EP, JSL). Interestingly, another *Sacramento* Common Grackle was reported on Sherman I. 11 Feb (†Bob Power), a mere 43 km (as the grackle flies) e. of the original find. An Orchard Oriole was at Ft. Mason Community Garden, S.F. 25 Dec–17 Jan (D. Armstrong, CLo), and another visited feeders for a 2nd winter in Manteca, *San Joaquin* 10 Jan–19 Feb (ph. Tiny Gehrke). A Hooded Oriole was present 1-3 Dec in Oroville, *Butte* (Jay Bogiatto, *vide* Shelly Kim, BED, m.ob.). Another Hooded Oriole visited a feeder in Menlo Park, *San Mateo* 3 Jan (PKB). Bullock's Orioles were at C.R.P., *Sacramento* 2-4 Jan (AEn, Irene Engilis, WEH, JTr), Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* 14-21 Jan (AJ), and McKinleyville, *Humboldt* 22 Jan (John Zirpoli). The closest we came to a Baltimore Oriole was an apparent Baltimore Oriole × Bullock's Oriole hybrid in Eureka, *Humboldt* 25 Jan–2 Feb (Heather Brown, SMcA). An ad. male Scott's Oriole in Golden Gate Park, S.F. 13-19 Jan was an excellent find (ASH, CLo, PJM, ph. m.ob.).



This Snowy Owl at Grizzly Bay 29 December 2006 through at least 22 February 2007 (here 22 January) was the second to be found in California in the past two years. Though each was found in Solano County, they were apparently different individuals. Photograph by Larry Sansone.

Lawrence's Goldfinches put in a good showing, with flocks noted in Clearlake, *Lake* 20 Feb (JRW), n. of Molera S.P. 21 Dec (SRv), and e. of Gonzales 1 Jan (TAM) in *Monterey*, and at three different locations in *Santa Clara*: Isabel Valley 2 Jan (MMR, MJM), San Antonio Valley 2 Jan (WGB), and Monte Bello Open Space Preserve 2 Jan+ (GrH). Evening Grosbeaks were present in numbers exceeding 100 near Oakdale, *Madera* 7 Feb (GaW). Our only other Evening Grosbeak report was of a heard-only bird at the Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 17 Dec (SRv, RyT).

Cited observers (county coordinators in boldface): Tim Amaral, Alan Baldrige (AB), Alan D. Barron (ADB) (*Del Norte*), Edward C. Beedy, Murray Berner (*Napa*), William G. Bousman (*Santa Clara*), Penelope K. Bowen, Matthew Brady, Ken Burton, Eric R. Caine, Scott Carey, Rita Carratello, Joe Ceriani, George E. Chaniot, Josiah Clark, Terry Colborn, Daryl Coldren, Luke W. Cole (*Kings*), Chris Conard (CCo) (*Sacramento* and *Yolo*), Chris Corben, (CCb) Hugh Cotter, Jeff N. Davis (*Madera*), Gary Deghi, Al DeMartini, Bruce E. Deuel (n. C.V. counties), Matthew Dodder, Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, Mark W. Eaton (*San Francisco*), Alan M. Eisner, Ray Ekstrom (*Siskiyou*), Elias Elias, Andrew Engilis, Brian Fitch, Tim Fitzer, Rick Fournier (RF), Rob Fowler (RbF), James H. Gain (*Stanislaus*), Steve A. Glover (*Contra Costa*), Helen Green, George Griffeth, Tanya M. Haff,

Steve C. Hampton, W. Edward Harper, Chris Hartzell, Garth Harwood, Floyd Hayes, Lynn Hemink (LyH), Laird Henkel (LHe), Pablo A. Herrera, Rob Hewitt, Justin Hite, Alan S. Hopkins, Debbie House, Lisa Hug, John E. Hunter (*Trinity*), Ken Irwin, Alvaro Jaramillo, Tim Jenkins, David Johnson, Oscar Johnson, Shearwater Journeys, Robert J. Keiffer (*Mendocino*), Jon King, Kim Kuska, Kimya Lambert, Amy Lauterbach, Robin L. C. Leong (*Solano*), Tom W. Leskiw, Gary S. Lester, Ron LeValley, Cindy Lieurance (CLu), Leslie Lieurance, Jim Lomax, Calvin Lou (CLO), John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, Timothy D. Manolis, Matthew A. Matthiessen, Sean McAllister, J. Mac McCormick (*Plumas* and *Sierra*), Bryan J. McIntosh, Peter J. Metropulos (*San Mateo*), Joe Morlan, David W. Nelson, Kristie N. Nelson (*Mono*), Chet Ogan, Frances Oliver, Kris Olson, Ed Pandolfino (*Placer*), Janna Pauser, Michael Perrone, Jude C. Power (*Humboldt*), David E. Quady, John Ranlett, David C. Rice, Robert J. Richmond (*Alameda*), Don Roberson (*Monterey*), Michael M. Rogers, Kerry G. Ross, Stephen C. Rottenborn, Steve Rovell, James Rowth, Ruth A. Rudesill (*Sonoma*), Ivan Samuels, Fran Scarlett, Donald E. Schmoldt, Jeff Seay, Doug Shaw, Keith M. Slauson, Jim H. Snowden, John Sorensen, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling (*Modoc*, *Alpine*, and *Calaveras*), Tim Steurer (*Amador* and *El Dorado*), David L. Suddjian (*Santa Cruz*), Brian L. Sullivan, Steven D. Summers (*Tulare*), Ryan Terrill (*Marin*), Ronald S. Thorn, James Tietz (*Humboldt* and *El.*), Francis Toldi, John Trochet, Steve Umland (*Tuolumne*), Kent Van Vuren (*Merced* and *San Benito*), David Vander Pluym (*Mariposa*), Jerry R. White (*Lake*), Brian D. C. Williams (*Nevada*), Ken Wilson, Gary Woods, Dave Woodward, David G. Yee, James Yurchenko, Bob & Carol Yutzy (*Shasta*). Many more observers are not specifically cited; all are appreciated. 🌐

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