

numerous in the n. Bering Sea during the last few days of the reporting period (GEH). No observer was present earlier in the winter. There were a few records of Herring Gulls in s.w. Alaska, where the species is scarce: an immature was observed occasionally at Adak in December, an adult was seen there on Feb. 15, and an adult and an immature were noted on Mar. 28 (GVB & DLJ). Five Mew Gulls overwintered at Adak; about 25 were present in March (GVB & DLJ). Ivory Gulls were common in the n. Bering Sea during the last few days of the period (GEH). Thick-billed Murres outnumbered Com. Murres 20:1 this winter at Adak (GVB & DLJ). Five Parakeet Auklets observed just offshore at Adak, Jan. 31 (GVB & DLJ), were the only winter report. Johnson commented from Adak that Crested Auklets have been common for a period of almost two months each of the past two winters. Last winter the period was Dec. 20–Feb. 14; this winter it was Jan. 16–Mar. 7. It is unusual to see Least Auklets from land during the winter: 2 were seen along the shore at Adak on Mar. 11, and 1 was seen in Clam Lagoon on Mar. 22 (GVB & DLJ).

**OWLS**—A Snowy Owl that overwintered in the Fairbanks area was apparently feeding entirely on snowshoe hares (NC & GEH, et al.). Hawk Owls remained exceedingly scarce in the interior during the winter (Am. Birds 25: 93); there were only three or four sightings during the period (IA & MA, et al.). The species was not scarce in s.-central Alaska, however: 1 was seen near Kasilof on Nov. 23 (MAM), 1 was observed in Homer on Dec. 26 (MAM), and another was seen in the Anchorage area on Dec. 27 (CH, et al.); 4 to 6 were seen regularly along the Copper River Highway during the winter (PI). Pygmy Owls are not often reported, so 1 at Gustavus on Dec. 26 (BBP) and 1 at Juneau on Jan. 2 (RJG, et al.) were of interest. A Short-eared Owl observed foraging over the Gustavus flats on Dec. 11 (BBP) was a late record locally.

**JAYS**—Steller's Jays remained the winter at the fringes of their range (AB 25: 94). One was seen in Anchorage on Dec. 27 (CH, et al.), and one that wintered at a Kasilof feeder that was joined by a second individual on Feb. 8 (HK, fide MAM) provided the first wintering report for that area.

**FRINGILLIDS**—These species were not numerous in the Region during this past winter. They were seen at irregular intervals and in generally small numbers in most areas. Pine Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, and White-winged Crossbills were nowhere common. The 320 redpolls at Fairbanks on Dec. 27 (despite the fact that almost all of those identified to species were Hoary) was not high, and even that number would have been difficult to duplicate later in the winter. Anchorage found 321 Common Redpolls on the same date (CH, et al.), and that was certainly not a large number for that area. For the second winter in a row **McKay's Buntings** overwintered on the beach at

Nome. Four were seen there on Dec. 28 (WLF), and they had been present for some time.

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## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

The winter of 1970-71 in the Northern Pacific Coast Region was both colder and wetter, with more precipitation in the form of snow, than normal. Mid-January brought severe cold and considerable snow; 39 inches of snow fell in five



days at Vancouver, B. C., where the previously recorded heaviest fall for the entire month of January had been 37 inches. Subsequent rains melted the snow by the end of January, but brought the month's total precipitation well above normal. Temperatures and rainfall were about normal until the last days of February, when more cold and snow carried over into the first week of March. Signs of spring thus were few and late in the Region by the end of the report period.

**LOONS, GREBES, ALBATROSSES, SHEARWATERS, STORM PETRELS**—A Yellow-billed Loon was seen from Dec. 31 to Feb. 22 at Bellingham (JD, ES, TW et al.); another at Westport, Wash., Jan. 17 was compared at close range with a Com. Loon (G & WH), a third bird of this species appeared at Ediz Hook, Clallam Co., Wash., Mar. 26 (M&DP;

MPe). A concentration of up to 1000 Arctic Loons was at Active Pass in the San Juan Is., Mar. 20-22 (MS; WW); 2500 were recorded on the Bellingham Christmas Bird Count (infra "C B C"). Eared Grebes were found repeatedly on the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca and on Puget Sound this winter; one was at Tillamook, Oreg., for the C B C. A **Laysan Albatross** was seen and photographed on Feb. 23 approximately 175 miles w. of the Olympic Peninsula; either the same or another bird was seen the next day at a point approximately 100 miles to the n. and just 25 miles off Estevan Point, midway up Vancouver I.



*Laysan Albatross, off the n.w. coast of Washington at 48° 00' N, 127° 01' W, Feb. 23, 1971. Photo/ R. Wayne Campbell*

(WC); copies of two photographs have been supplied for the National Photoduplicate File. A total of 4 Black-footed Albatrosses was seen in the three day period Feb. 22-24 in the same area of the Pacific Ocean; 54 Fulmars were also recorded on the same days there and in Queen Charlotte Sound (WC). A **Scaled Petrel**, apparently constituting the first record for this Region, found Feb. 23, 175 miles w. of the Olympic Peninsula was seen as close as 30 feet; the next day one was captured aboard ship approximately 30 miles s.w. of Estevan Point, with several photographs taken to record the singular event (WC); a photograph has been furnished for the National Photoduplicate File. Three Fork-tailed Petrels were seen in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and in the ocean to the w., Feb. 22-23; a Leach's Petrel was noted 175 miles w. of the Olympic Peninsula on Feb. 23 (WC).



*Scaled Petrel. Held by crewman of C.N.A.V. "Endeavor" at 49° 14' N, 127° 01' W, s.w. of Estevan Pt., Vancouver I. Feb. 24, 1971. Photo/ R. Wayne Campbell*

PELICANS, CORMORANTS, HERONS, SWANS, GEESE —A **White Pelican** was seen flying over the Skagit Flats, Wash., Dec. 9 (AB fide TW), and 1 was recorded on the Eugene C B C. 55 Brandt's Cormorants were seen in Nootka Sound, Feb. 24, while 365 more were on Discovery Passage n. of Campbell R., B.C., Feb. 26 (WC); up to several thousand birds of this species were noted at Active Pass in the San Juans, Feb. 18, Mar. 22 & Mar. 25 (MS; DS). A few Green Herons were seen through January in s. British Columbia and at Olympia, Wash.; one was near Medford, Oreg., Feb. 12 (fide OS). Com. Egrets were widely reported from w. Oregon through mid-January; one is belatedly reported to have been seen last winter 8 miles n. of Vancouver, Wash., Jan. 5, 1970

(DPe fide PM). Three Black-crowned Night Herons were found at Agate L. near Medford on Feb. 6 (OS); a single bird was recorded on the Gold Beach, Oreg., CBC. A **Cattle Egret** was carefully observed and photographed 10 miles n. of Coos Bay, Oreg., Dec. 12 where it had been seen on each of the two preceding days (RM); a photograph has been made available to the National Photoduplicate File. Am. Bitterns were found on the Tillamook, Vancouver (infra B.C. unless noted), and Ladner, B.C., CBCs, with five individuals noted at the latter place; most of these individuals evidently spent the entire winter there (WW); single birds of this species showed up at Fern Ridge Reservoir w. of Eugene on Jan. 30 (GK & HN), at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. mouth on Mar. 13 (HN), and near Nehalem, Oreg., Mar. 20 (JBC). Whistling Swans wintered as usual in the Willamette Valley, along the lower Columbia R., and on the Puget Sound flats between Everett and Bellingham; there were scattered records from other localities. The wintering of a few Trumpeter Swans in company with Whistling Swans on the traditional wintering grounds of the latter is increasingly suspected by observers, but conclusive proof is lacking. A few Trumpeters do winter regularly in Skagit County, Wash., north at least to Duncan, B.C. A **Brant** was recorded near Anacortes, Wash., Mar. 6 (MS fide WW). Black Brant were passing through the Region in good numbers in March. An Emperor Goose appeared for the fourth consecutive year at White Rock, B.C. on Dec. 26 and was last seen on Feb. 5 (MS, WC et al.). A few White-fronted Geese were seen on the Seattle, Sauvie I., and Corvallis, Oreg., CBCs; 1 or 2 birds were seen at various times during the winter at Duncan, B.C., Reifel Refuge and Burnaby L. near Vancouver, and at Victoria. Some 27,000 Snow Geese spent most of the winter on the Skagit Flats, with scattered groups and individuals seen from western Oregon north to Vancouver.

**DUCKS**—The flock of Fulvous Tree Ducks seen near Coos Bay, Oreg., in February, 1970 and reported in the last winter season report are now thought probably to have been escapees from the Portland Zoo, 200 miles to the north. Four Com. Teal were reported this winter—1 at Iona I. most of the season, 1 at Lummi Flats, Whatcom Co., Wash., in March, 1 at Victoria in February and March, and 1 at Duncan on Mar. 19 (fide WW); an apparent hybrid Common x Green-winged "possessing both a white stripe on the scapulars and a white vertical bar on the sides" was seen Mar. 30 at Iona I. (WA & BM fide WW). Seven Blue-winged Teal were found for the Ladner CBC. Eur. Widgeon were regularly found by most observers who took the trouble to inspect large flocks of wintering Am. Widgeon through the s. half of the Region. The Vancouver CBC recorded a surprising total of 76 Wood Ducks; a ♂ was on the Harrison R., 70 miles e. of Vancouver on Feb. 6 (WW). A dozen Redheads

were at Coos Bay Dec. 31 (HR) where 4 were found also on Mar. 8 (JO); 12 of these birds were at Bellingham and 4 were at Seattle for the CBCs. Single Tufted Ducks were noted from Victoria through February and March (ARD), Vancouver's Stanley Park on Dec. 31 (EM & BR fide WC), Iona I. on Feb. 8 (BM & EM fide WC), Seattle on CBC day, and Harrison Lake, B.C. on Mar. 21 (WC fide WW). A concentration of 600 Com. Goldeneyes at Point Roberts, Jan. 2 (MS & WW) was unusual. The Vancouver CBC recorded 3388 Barrow's Goldeneyes! An estimated 2200 Oldsquaw, a remarkable number for anywhere in this Region, flew by Point Roberts in the course of an hour on Mar. 14 (RD fide WC).

**VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES**—A very few Turkey Vultures evidently wintered in the Willamette Valley, with individuals noted at Lebanon through December (WT), at Salem, Dec. 28 (JL fide GK), at Eugene, Jan. 19, and at Fern Ridge Reservoir, Feb. 24 (DG fide AL); individuals had reached s. Vancouver I. early in March (JC; ARD). There were 9 Goshawks sightings from the Vancouver-Bellingham area this winter by numerous observers; birds were also seen at Duncan, B.C., Feb. 10 (JC) and at Troutdale, Oreg., Mar. 16 (JG). Cooper's Hawks were unusually prevalent at Medford throughout the winter (JH, OS). Red-tailed Hawks were well recorded on the Willamette Valley CBCs with 109 at Eugene, and 82 at Sauvie I. the maxima. Again, a bird thought by its observers to be a black Harlan's Hawk has been seen in the Region; this bird was found at Pitt Meadows, near Vancouver, on Feb. 13, 17 and 19 (JB, ND & RJ fide WW); one of the observers submitted a detailed and convincing statement, but verification of the occurrence of this species in the Region apparently still awaits a specimen. Rough-legged Hawks were seen from Duncan s. to Medford throughout the winter with the largest number apparently centered on Vancouver. Golden Eagles were unusually well reported, with single birds seen at Finley NWR s. of Corvallis, Oreg., Dec. 10 & 22 (CFZ) and near Victoria on Jan. 3 (VG), and with up to 7 birds being seen repeatedly in the Vancouver-Bellingham area through the winter. The prevalence of Bald Eagles increases markedly the further n. one goes in this Region; a few were seen in Oregon this winter, including one carrying nesting material near Ashland, Mar. 26 (OS); more were noted in Washington, but not until one gets to British Columbia are numbers like the 38 on the Harrison R. Feb. 6 (WW), 44 at Duncan, Jan. 20 to Feb. 15 (JC), and 26 opposite Comox, Feb. 26 (WC fide WW) encountered. Marsh Hawks were considered by many observers to have been more abundant than usual, particularly in s. British Columbia, n. Washington, and in Oregon's Willamette Valley. An Osprey at Tillamook for the CBC was extraordinary, as was the bird at Pitt Meadows

near Vancouver on Feb. 21 (GA fide WW); early arrivals of this species were noted at Duncan, Mar. 5 (JC) and at Medford, Mar. 25 (JH). Gyrfalcons were reported singly from Sauvie I. on the CBC, from the vicinity of Vancouver on Dec. 13 (JB & CT fide WC), and on Feb. 13 (MS et al. fide WW), and from Lummi Flats, Whatcom Co., Wash., from Feb. 21 (when 2 birds were seen) until Mar. 13 (R&EP, D&MP, TW et al.). A Prairie Falcon wintered on the upper Rogue R. at least until early February (MM fide OS). Peregrines in number up to six at any one location were reported from twelve different areas, giving a total unmatched in at least six years. Pigeon Hawks were well reported only from the vicinity of Vancouver, Bellingham and Seattle. Sparrow Hawk numbers on CBCs conducted in the Willamette Valley were impressive.

**GAMEBIRDS, RAILS, SHOREBIRDS**—A group of 24 Ruffed Grouse at Eugene which flew from a field into shrubbery at dusk on Dec. 12 (DG & LD) was unusual. Nine Gray Partridge were counted at the Victoria airport on Feb. 6 (ARD). Five Bobwhite on the Sauvie I. CBC were the first indication that a remnant of the introduced population of this species in n.w. Oregon survived the severe winter of two years ago. A few California Quail continue to be seen as far n. as Vancouver. A total of 210 migrating Sandhill Cranes passed over Ankeny N W R w. of Salem, Oreg., Mar. 18 (fide CFZ). The Ladner and Vancouver CBCs turned up Virginia Rails; 1 was still at the latter place Feb. 7 (fide WW); another was at Duncan, Dec. 27 (JC). The Medford CBC listed 22 Virginia Rails and 1 Sora.

**SHOREBIRDS**—Lone Semipalmated Plovers were seen on the Tillamook CBC and at the south jetty of the Columbia R. on Jan. 18 (HN). Killdeer were abundantly recorded on the s. Willamette Valley CBCs; an early nest for this species was again reported from the Finley Refuge on Mar. 20 (fide CFZ). A Ruddy Turnstone was at N. Vancouver, B.C., Dec. 5 (IR & WW fide WC) and Mar. 6 (WW); another was seen at Victoria on Feb. 18 (ARD). A total of 218 Com. Snipe was recorded on the Corvallis CBC. A Whimbrel was at Ediz Hook, Clallam Co., Wash., Mar. 26 (D&MP, MPe). Up to 25 Greater Yellowlegs at Westport on Jan. 17 (G&WH) constituted an unusual winter-time concentration. A Lesser Yellowlegs was seen at Iona I., near Vancouver, Dec. 5 (MS, WA fide WC). Rock Sandpipers at Victoria on Mar. 20 (MS & WW) numbered 35. Long-billed Dowitchers were surprisingly widespread at CBC time, being recorded at many places; numbers and frequency evidently decreased drastically after mid-January. W. Sandpipers showed up only on the Bellingham, Seattle, Sauvie I., and Gold Beach, Oreg., CBCs, the 15 birds at the latter place being the high count. Several observers thought from CBC data that Sanderlings were down from their

usual numbers. A single N. Phalarope was at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. on Mar. 27 (RF, RK & HN).

**GULLS, ALCIDS**—It would serve no purpose to list all reports of Glaucous Gull sightings which were more numerous than ever before; suffice it to say that none of the records were from s. of the Columbia R. and that they covered the whole winter report period. Glaucous-winged Gulls followed the "Endeavour" on its oceanographic cruise in late February up to 200 miles offshore; Western and Herring Gulls did likewise (WC fide WW). A Franklin's Gull was again seen in the Region this winter, one turning up at Duncan Dec. 16-27 (JC). A few Bonaparte's Gulls wintered in the protected waters of Washington and s. British Columbia. An imm. Heermann's Gull at Sandy Point near Bellingham on Mar. 4 (AB fide TW) was most unusual. Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen in numbers offshore in the Pacific and in Queen Charlotte Sound Feb. 24 & 25 (WC fide WW); a few were seen at Oregon and Washington coastal points on five different dates in December, February, and March. Twenty Ancient Murrelets were seen at Victoria, Jan. 9 (VG). Apparently the first records of the **Parakeet Auklet** for British Columbia are the two individuals seen from "Endeavour" Feb. 24, 20 miles off Estevan Point, Vancouver I. The first bird was on deck but was not captured, while the second bird was closely studied from as little as 35 feet away (WC fide WW); attempts at photographs failed.

**PIGEONS, OWLS, HUMMINGBIRDS**—Up to 100 Band-tailed Pigeons wintered at Victoria (ARD). Mourning Doves were seen repeatedly through the winter in the Vancouver and Bellingham areas, which is unusually far north. Snowy Owls appeared in good numbers in the Bellingham-Vancouver vicinity in time for the CBCs, and were still being seen in late March; one somehow fell into a chimney at McMinnville, Oreg., from whence it was rescued, cleaned, and later released, according to a story in the local newspaper (fide GK). Two Snowy Owls were found in the dunes on the Oregon side of the Columbia R. mouth, Jan. 18 (HN). A Burrowing Owl was at Agate L. near Medford from Jan. 2 until mid-February (OS et al.); another was carefully studied at the Finley Refuge, Mar. 19 (fide CFZ). A Spotted Owl was heard Feb. 19 in the Skagit Valley (KS fide WW). Five Long-eared Owls are reported to have spent the winter at Westham I. near Vancouver (BD fide WC); 1 was on the Lummi Flats, Dec. 30, flying over the fields in company with Short-eared Owls (TW); still another was reported to have been found at Victoria on Mar. 19, the first there in decades; it subsequently died and is now in the Provincial Museum (DS). A Long-eared Owl was found dead on a road near Medford in mid-March (OS). Short-eared Owls were well reported this winter, particularly from Bellingham and Vancouver where 87 on the CBC

at the latter place topped last year's remarkable total of 70. **Anna's Hummingbirds** were seen repeatedly at Vancouver, B. C., all winter; from 1 to 3 were also seen at Seattle in February and early March, at Olympia in December, at Eugene on Jan. 30, and on the Portland, Gold Beach and Medford C B Cs, 5 being noted at the latter place. Single Rufous Hummingbirds turned up for the Portland and Gold Beach C B Cs, which is very extraordinary.

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, JAYS—Single Yellow-shafted Flickers were recorded on the Vancouver and Bellingham C B Cs, and at N. Vancouver on Dec. 30 and Jan. 31 (fide WW); 1 was collected at Medford, Feb. 23 (fide OS). Lewis' Woodpeckers were inexplicably rare again this winter, with only 35 at Medford for the C B C; single birds were recorded on the Sauvie I., Salem, and Corvallis C B Cs while 1 was observed at Bellingham on Jan. 14 & 15 (fide TW). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker of the *nuchalis* race is said to have been photographed near Lake Ozette on the Olympic Peninsula, Mar. 25 (fide TW). A White-headed Woodpecker was found at Medford for the C B C, an unusual record for this Region. A Black Phoebe turned up on the same count, while another was recorded on the Gold Beach count. A Say's Phoebe was at Lummi Flats on Jan. 2 (JD fide TW), another was at McMinnville, Feb. 10 (JG), and still another was at the Finley Refuge on Feb. 13 (CFZ); 5 were counted in the Medford area the last few days of February (OS) where one had also been present for the C B C. An *Empidonax* flycatcher, thought to be a Western by the extensive yellow coloration on the underparts, was also found on the Medford count. A Tree Swallow was found at Vancouver for the C B C there! A Rough-winged Swallow appeared at Finley Refuge on Mar. 28 (CFZ). A Barn Swallow was seen at Boundary Bay on the early date of Mar. 30 (BH fide WC); another was seen at Finley Refuge the next day (CFZ). An early Cliff Swallow was at Reifel Refuge, Mar. 22 (BM & MS fide WW). A **Blue Jay** came to a Seattle feeder daily during January and February (RA fide DP).

CHICKADEES, WRENS, MIMIDS, THRUSHES, KINGLETS—Mountain Chickadees appeared on the Willamette Valley and Tillamook C B Cs in unprecedented numbers, but were also found regularly at higher elevations during the winter. Com. Bushtits were more than usually common this winter in the Fraser R. delta (WW). Brown Creepers seemed to be more abundantly reported on C B Cs than usual. Winter Wrens, too, were well recorded after being remarked last winter as being drastically down in numbers following the severe weather of 1968-69. A Rock Wren was found for the Medford C B C. A Mockingbird appeared regularly at a feeder in Brookings, Oreg., from Feb. 20 to the end of the period (RG); 2 Mockingbirds were at Gold Beach for the C B C. A **Swainson's Thrush** observed repeatedly and

very close at hand in N. Vancouver Dec. 18-23, alleviates the usual skepticism accorded winter records of this species (WW, RW & IR). Another credible record for this species seems to have been made at Medford for the C B C. W. Bluebirds were well reported only on the Medford count with 346, although the 22 at Gold Beach is a good total for that location; 4 at Nehalem, Oreg., Mar. 13 (HN & WT) are of interest, too. A Mountain Bluebird was at Bellingham on Jan. 4 (WW); another was seen at Laidlaw, B.C. on Mar. 13 (AP fide WW). Townsend's Solitaires turned up singly at Victoria on Jan. 1 and Feb. 3 (ARD), at Vancouver on Jan. 7 (IR) and Feb. 29 (WA), at L. Oswego, Oreg., Jan. 3 (JBC), and at Medford, Jan. 26 (JH); 1 or 2 were also seen on the Vancouver and Bellingham C B Cs with a few subsequently seen at Bellingham the rest of the winter (TW). Golden-crowned Kinglets seemed to be up in numbers on C B Cs. Water Pipits were recorded on only four C B Cs in the Region, with a few at Finley Refuge in early December and again on Jan. 13 (CFZ).

WAXWINGS, SHRIKES, VIREOS, WARBLERS—Bohemian Waxwings were reported sparsely only from Vancouver and from Bellingham with no reports of sightings after Feb. 3. It was another good year for N. Shrikes as a perusal of the C B C reports will bear out; numbers seemed reduced after mid-January in some places, with an increase noted again in March. Single birds were observed at Victoria on Dec. 5, Jan. 10 and Jan. 31, and at Duncan on Jan. 2 (VG). Two Loggerhead Shrikes were seen on the Dallas, Oreg., C B C, one in direct comparison with a Northern; a Loggerhead was also observed on the Portland C B C. Hutton's Vireos were recorded on many of the Region's C B Cs; additionally, they were seen a number of times between Point Roberts and Point Gray, B.C. during the winter (WW) and at Victoria, Jan. 24 (MS & WW) and Mar. 14 (ARD); individuals also were seen at Elk Lake, B.C., Feb. 19 and Mar. 21 (MS). Orange-crowned Warblers appeared only on the Sauvie I. and Medford C B Cs; first spring migrants were at Medford by Mar. 21 (OS). Myrtle and Audubon's Warblers were comparatively little reported this winter; the usual March influx was hardly noticeable. Townsend's Warblers, too, were little noted, showing up on only a few of the C B Cs in the s. portion of the Region.

BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES, SPARROWS—W. Meadowlarks are still very scarce on Vancouver I., less so on mainland s. British Columbia and n. Washington. Of interest are 400 Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Agate L., near Medford, Mar. 28 (OS). A **Rusty Blackbird** was at Lulu I. for the Vancouver C B C (JP fide WW), while 2 other ♂♂ were seen in the Vancouver area at Pitt Meadows on Jan. 23 (ND fide WC). Brown-headed Cowbirds were well recorded in the vicinity of Van-

couver and Bellingham until early February; they were scarce or absent in the rest of the Region. Evening Grosbeaks were sporadically recorded in the Puget Sound-Willamette Valley trough particularly early in the winter and then again in late March. Eight Pine Grosbeaks were at Sooke, Vancouver I., Dec. 27 (ARD); 1 was found on the Bellingham CBC (ZS et al.); a few were found in the Skagit Valley during the winter (KS fide WW). There was virtual unanimity among active field observers concerning the extreme scarcity of Pine Siskins this winter except at Terrace (FF) and in the Skagit Valley; CBC numbers were invariably described as low. Am. Goldfinches, on the other hand, were present in some numbers all winter at Vancouver and on s. Vancouver I. Red Crossbills were also scarce except at Duncan where they were said to be plentiful (JC). Savannah Sparrows were recorded in numbers on CBCs in the Willamette Valley and at Gold Beach; 2 were also found on the Bellingham count; early migrants were observed Mar. 27 at LaPush (DP), Mar. 31 at Anacortes, Wash. (WW), and at Sea I., near Vancouver Mar. 28 (MS) where 1 had also been seen Dec. 5 (MS). Slate-colored Juncos were seen at Vancouver, Ladner, Bellingham, and Salem on the CBCs at Olympia on Feb. 18 (GH), and repeatedly in number up to 3 at the Finley Refuge through the winter (CFZ). From 1 to 3 Tree Sparrows were seen in various locales in and around Vancouver through the winter; 1 was seen at Victoria on Jan. 1 and 3 (VG et al.) and another was at Duncan from November until Feb. 21 (JC et al.); a Tree Sparrow was seen several times at Fern Ridge Reservoir w. of Eugene in late December and at the end of January (LM; GK & HN); a Tree Sparrow was also recorded on the Bellingham CBC. A number of Harris' Sparrows evidently spent the winter in the vicinity of Sauvie I. and Portland; 2 were found for the Vancouver CBC. Golden-crowned Sparrows seemed to winter in fewer than normal numbers. White-throated Sparrows were observed on the Seattle, Eugene, Tillamook and Gold Beach CBCs; additional single birds were seen at Samish I., Wash., Jan. 13 (fide TW) and in Vancouver's Stanley Park, Dec. 30 (BH & MS fide WC). Lincoln's Sparrows were recorded in numbers up to 8 on the Bellingham, Sauvie I., Salem, Tillamook, Eugene, and Medford CBCs; other sightings were 5 at Victoria, Jan. 23 (ARD) and 4 there Jan. 24 (VG); one at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. on Feb. 13 (HN) and 1 at the Finley Refuge Jan. 13, Feb. 6, March 6 and 31 (CFZ). Fifty Lapland Longspurs on Lummi Flats near Bellingham in early December had decreased to 8 early in January (TW); 3 were at Victoria on Jan. 10 (ARD) and 6 were at Westport, Wash., Mar. 20 (JG). Forty-five Snow Buntings were at Sandy Point, near Bellingham, Jan. 26 (DPe fide TW); 2 were at Victoria, Jan. 23 (VG) and 1 was there Feb. 1

(ARD), 1 was at Tsawwassen, B.C. Mar. 13 (WW), and 3 were at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. Mar. 27 (RK, HN et al.); additionally, 19 Snow Buntings were recorded on the Bellingham CBC, 1 was noted for the Vancouver count, and one was seen visiting a feeder by a competent observer Jan. 26 at Salem, Oreg.

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## MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION / David DeSante, Arthur Wang

The weather for this season was somewhat of an enigma. A very cold, exceptionally wet December was followed by an exceptionally dry January and February, with rainfall increasing somewhat in March. Yet the total effect was of a nearly average rainfall for the season. The most tragic news of the period was the massive oil spill in San Francisco Bay on Jan. 16, caused by the collision of two tankers nearly underneath the Golden Gate Bridge. A Calif. State Dept. of Fish and Game news release of Feb. 15 said that more than 6000 waterfowl were killed by the oil, of 116,000 found to be present in the bay on a Jan. 11-12 census. Thousands of volunteers devoted tens of thousands of man-hours to the grim task of cleaning these birds but, sadly, to little avail. Apparently Com. Murre, W. Grebes, and scoters were the hardest hit. The Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory is presently conducting a detailed study of this disaster. To quote from Alan Baldrige, "While we may bemoan these figures, Californians have yet to experience the chronic and constant oil spills which are a feature of the West European coasts and the Baltic and which have drastically reduced popu-