

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION
/Jon Winter and Dick Erickson

The drought was again blamed for a number of abnormal events. Reduced water in the Central Valley (below, C.V.) concentrated water birds along rivers in many areas and may have resulted in the exceptional number of geese found along the coast. Lack of suitable habitat restricted the number of American Bitterns at Los Banos where they were far below normal. Similarly a lack of fresh water around San Francisco Bay (below, S.F. Bay) apparently resulted in a local displacement of Long-billed Dowitchers to the bay shore at Alameda. Further evidence of salt water intrusion in upper San Francisco Bay comes from numerous reports of Marbled Godwits there and a Semipalmated Plover at Benicia December 9. At Calaveras State Park Mountain Quail were able to remain at higher elevations because of reduced snow cover.

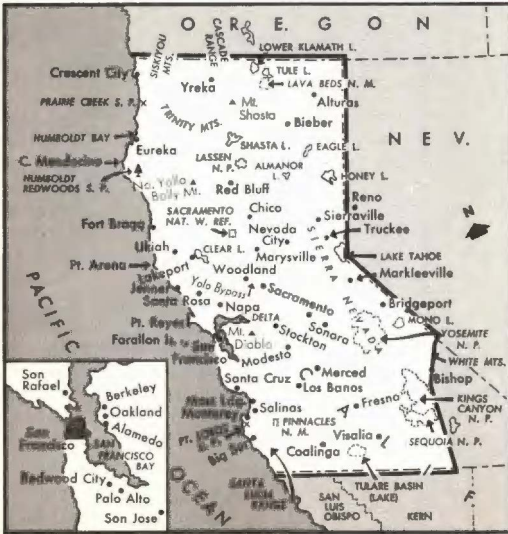
Mild conditions resulted in a number of late records, especially in areas normally subject to freezing (see Table 1). An especially impressive array of warblers was present. Many species began reproductive activity early and were well under way by the end of the period.

All records from the Farallon Islands (below, F.I.) should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory (below P.R.B.O.).

LOONS THROUGH IBISES—A Yellow-billed Loon at Grant L., Mono Co., Dec. 8–26 (DAG*,TH*) was photographed and well described for California's first inland record. One on the Nevada side of L. Tahoe is the only other inland U.S. record (*West. Birds* 6: 7–20). More expected was one at Princeton Harbor Feb. 19–Mar. 19 (M. Ozaki, J. Dunn, m.o.b.). About 2000 Arctic Loons counted flying N past Bolinas Jan. 6 (P.R.B.O.) was unusual. One was at June L., Mono Co., Nov. 21–Dec. 8 (DAG *et al.*), and a Red-throated Loon was also there on the former date (*vide* DAG). At least 30 oiled W. Grebes were found along Marin County beaches following an oil spill on S.F. Bay Feb. 10 (P.R.B.O.).

Black-footed Albatrosses were reported in normally low numbers but more birders saw the Laysan Albatross this winter than ever before. Singles were at the Cordelle Banks, (off Pt. Reyes) in February (*vide* CP) and on Monterey Bay Jan. 8 (F.A.S.), Jan. 9 (P.S.G.) and Feb. 13 (G.G.A.S.). Northern Fulmars were seen in moderate numbers to about mid-January with few seen thereafter.

The Sooty Shearwater is our only regular winter shearwater, yet this year six species were seen. Pink-footed Shearwaters were reported as follows: 1–2 at the Cordelle Banks Jan. 15 (C.F.O.), one at the F.I., Feb. 28 (BL), numerous sightings on Monterey Bay including 12 there Feb. 13, when they outnumbered all other species (G.G.A.S.). Exceptional were single Flesh-footed Shearwaters seen on Monterey Bay Jan. 8 (RH*, KH, F.A.S.) and Jan. 23 (JM, TC, G.G.A.S.). The only previous winter record is of one collected on Monterey Bay Feb. 27, 1907 by the legendary Rollo H. Beck. Another rarity, New Zealand Shearwater (unrecorded in winter prior to 1976), was on Monterey Bay Jan. 9 (JL, P.S.G.). Short-tailed Shearwaters were identified twice: 2–3 on Monterey Bay Jan. 9 (P.S.G.) and 1–3 at the Cordelle Banks



Jan. 15 (C.F.O.). As many as three Manx Shearwaters were seen off Monterey throughout the period, which is unusual. An Ashy Storm-Petrel on Bolinas Lagoon Feb. 21 (P.R.B.O., DS*) was certainly unexpected. Several more in heavy seas off Monterey Feb. 28 (G. Moffat) were the only other storm-petrels reported.

Table 1. Late Records from the Great Basin and Mountains

Species	Date	Number	Place	Observers
White Pelican	12-5	1	Fall River Mills	SAL
	12-8	1	Grant Res., Mono Co.	DAG
Double-crested Cormorant	12-5	3	Fall River Mills	SAL
	1-19	2	Iron Gate Res. Siskiyou Co.	<i>fide</i> MT
Gadwall	12-19	1	S. Lake Tahoe	WS
	12-28	198	L. Almanor	<i>fide</i> SAL
Cinnamon Teal	12-18	7	Shasta Valley	<i>fide</i> MT
Sandhill Crane	12-19	5	Gazelle	<i>fide</i> MT
Virginia Rail	12-19	1	S. Lake Tahoe	WS
Greater Yellowlegs	12-19	4	near Gazelle	<i>fide</i> MT
Common Snipe	12-19	1	S. Lake Tahoe	WS
Long-billed Dowitcher	12-19	2	near Grenada	<i>fide</i> MT
Western Sandpiper	12-18	2	L. Almanor	<i>fide</i> SAL
Dunlin	12-19	4	L. Shastina	<i>fide</i> MT
	12-28	6	L. Almanor	<i>fide</i> SAL

Brown Pelicans remained in numbers in our area later than usual evidenced in CBC data. They were seen as late as Jan. 2 at Humboldt Bay (DE), to the end of January at Bodega Bay and S.F. Bay (DS, SFB *et al.*) and throughout the period at Monterey (AE, SFB *et al.*). The inland appearance of two of our most strictly marine species were the biggest events of the season. An imm. **Brandt's Cormorant** (banded on the F.I.) was caught near Fowler, Fresno Co., Mar. 13 following two days of strong NW winds (*fide* RH*) and an ad. **Pelagic Cormorant** was photographed at Silver L., Mono Co., Dec. 8 (DAG*). The former bird, found more than 15 mi. from the nearest river, is not easily explained. It was healthy and released at Carmel Mar. 17. The latter bird, e. of the Sierra nearly 200 mi. from the ocean, is beyond all explanation.

Twenty-seven Green Herons reported from the coast was a very high count. Inland they are more common but 25 counted along a 4-mi. stretch of the American R., in Sacramento Jan. 5 (*fide* BK) was exceptional. Most notable among 100 Cattle Egrets reported was a flock of 25 near Delhi, Merced Co., Jan 1 (SS) and one feeding among sea lions at the Cliff House in San Francisco in late December (*fide* DRo). Least Bitterns were reported from both Gray Lodge and Sacramento N.W.R. (*fide* BED, MT). More than 60 White-faced Ibis were reported from the Los Banos area Feb. 12 (TC *et al.*).

WATERFOWL AND RAPTORS—Hundreds of Whistling Swans were found dead from avian malaria or fowl cholera

in the delta (especially on the Rindge Tract, San Joaquin Co.) in mid-February (Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game, HLC). The population of Aleutian Canada Geese (*B.C. leucopareia*) is apparently larger than previously known, since 1400 were reported at Los Banos Wildlife Area in February (*fide* RH), and others were found wintering in the Sacramento Valley (RS *et al.*). Inland Black Brant were found at Tule L., Dec. 3-12 (*fide* MT) and at Black Butte Res., Glenn-Tehama Co., Jan. 26 (SAL). A first record for the F.I. was the imm. Snow Goose there Dec. 1-Jan. 20. Out-of-range Ross' Geese included one at L. Almanor Dec. 28 (SAL), one found dead on s. Humboldt Bay Jan. 2 (*fide* DRu), one at Bodega Bay Jan. 29 (BDP *et al.*) and two at Clifton Court Forebay, Contra Costa Co., Feb. 4 (DE).

An apparent ♂ Gadwall x Pintail hybrid was seen at the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor Feb. 17 (RS, W. Russell). Individual Green-winged (Eur.) Teal were seen at Bolinas Lagoon Jan. 22-28 (J&RW *et al.*) and at Arcata in February (*fide* DRu). The Cinnamon Teal is one of our earliest spring migrants. Nonetheless, two at S. Lake Tahoe Feb. 17 (WS), one in Shasta Valley and six more at Tule L., Feb. 20 (*fide* MT) were all considered early for these areas. Only five out of 24 Eur. Wigeon reported were found inland. Hybrids with Am. Wigeon were again noted with single males in San Francisco Jan. 3 (RS), and at Gray Lodge Jan. 28 (BED). Another interesting hybrid was the ♂ Ring-necked Duck x scaup sp. at L. Merritt, Oakland Jan. 15 to the end of the period (H. Connon *et al.*). The bird reported as a Ring-necked x Tufted Duck in *Am. Birds* 31: 217 and in previous years was present on Rodeo Lagoon throughout the period (m.ob.). This bird has been the subject of controversy in the past and it now appears that Greater Scaup heritage may be involved as well. The pair of pure **Tufted Ducks** was on L. Merritt to Dec. 12 (m.ob.) and then vanished. The male reappeared Jan. 22 and remained into March. With the bird gone from L. Merritt, probably the same ♂ Tufted Duck was found nearby on Oakland's inner harbor Mar. 19 (*fide* JM) and may explain the earlier absence on L. Merritt. Yet another male was present on Richardson's Bay Dec. 20-Feb. 6 (T. Olsen, m.ob.). A ♀ Barrow's Goldeneye at the F.I., Jan. 1 represents the only island record. Up to seven Oldsquaws at Princeton Harbor throughout the period (PM, m.ob.) was a good concentration. The ♂ Harlequin Duck reported in *Am. Birds* 31: 217, on S.F. Bay at Belvedere was present throughout the period (m.ob.). Impressive concentrations of Com. Mergansers were 1034 at L. Almanor Dec. 28 (SAL *et al.*) and 1200 at Bravo L., Woodlake Dec. 29-Feb. 2 (RAB, JLi). Three pairs of Red-breasted Mergansers at Sacramento Feb. 24 (*fide* BK) were the only ones reported inland.

White-tailed Kites remained at Honey L. throughout the period with as many as five there Feb. 19 (SAL, SS). An ad. Goshawk at Gray Lodge Dec. 20 (BED) was out-of-range. A pair in coastal n. Mendocino County was calling and exhibiting territorial behavior throughout February (DAG). Single Red-shouldered Hawks near Grenada Feb. 3-6 (*fide* MT), at Honey L. to at least Feb. 19 (SAL *et al.*) and at S. Lake Tahoe Feb. 4-7 (WS) were all in areas reported in *Am. Birds* 31: 217-18. Another immature was in Round Valley, Inyo Co., Dec. 7 (DAG). An imm. Broad-winged Hawk was seen in Monterey Dec. 27-31 (*fide* DR.). Rough-legged Hawks were generally reported as scarce except in the Great Basin and on the n. coast where 46 were recorded on the Centerville Beach CBC Jan. 2. Ferruginous Hawks were present in fairly good numbers with one reported in *Am. Birds* 31: 218 still present at Cape Mendocino Feb. 3 (CH). The Klamath Basin has long been known as a winter stronghold of Bald Eagles. On Feb. 16 an estimated minimum population of 498 was obtained by a coordinated effort of federal agencies (*fide* MT). Ospreys were

found in good numbers, especially on the coast, with no less than eight found on the Pt. Reyes CBC.

GROUSE THROUGH JAEGER—The only Ruffed Grouse reported was at Denny, Trinity Co., Dec. 5 (*fide* Dru). A pair of California Quail at 6800 ft at Soda Springs, Nevada Co., Jan. 8 (JH) was unexpected. Six Virginia Rails and one Sora at Lewiston L., Trinity Co., Dec. 20 (SAL) were at an interesting locality. Black Rails were again reported from Kehoe Marsh, Marin Co., and Benicia with another seen at Tubbs I., Sonoma Co., Feb. 14 (*fide* CP). Christmas Bird Count data and further observations indicate a higher number of Snowy Plovers than usual wintered along the c. coast this year. As many as 11 out-of-place Mountain Plovers were near Alviso Dec. 27–Jan. 22 (m.ob.). Twelve Am. Golden Plovers from coastal Humboldt, Marin, San Mateo, and Monterey Cos., are less than we have grown accustomed to.

A Willet s. of Sacramento Feb. 19 (*fide* BK) provided one of very few recent winter records for the Sacramento Valley. An amazing 850 Red Knots at Alameda Jan. 20 (*fide* ER) appear to be the largest number ever recorded in the region! Rock Sandpipers were reported from Humboldt Bay, Bodega Head, Princeton Harbor, and near Bean Hollow State Beach. The Ruff at Pacific Grove remained there throughout the period and is now generally believed to be a female (m.ob.). A healthy N. Phalarope at Moss Landing Feb. 6 (PM) provided one of few regional winter records. Red Phalaropes were present in fair numbers to mid-December with 10–15 off Monterey Jan. 8 & 9 (F.A.S., P.S.G.), and one at the Cordelle Banks Jan. 15 (RS, C.F.O.) the last seen.

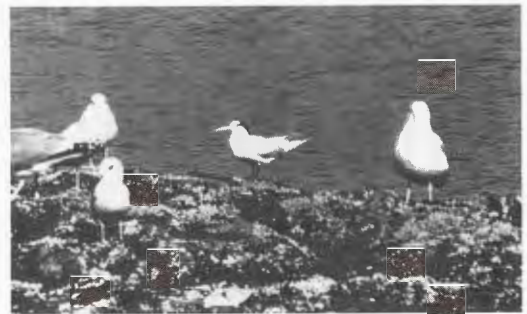
From Sonoma County south, Pomarine Jaegers were reported in excellent numbers this year. Twenty at the Cordelle Banks Jan. 15 (C.F.O.) and 30 off Monterey Feb. 13 (G.G.A.S.) were the highest counts. A single Parasitic Jaeger was on Monterey Bay Jan. 9 (P.S.G.).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS—Fifteen Glaucous Gulls were reported: nine from S.F. Bay, five from coastal Marin, San Mateo, and Monterey Cos., and one inland near Knightsen Feb. 27 (DE* SM). Most interesting finds were *two adults*: one on Tomales Bay Dec. 12 (RS* *et al.*), and the other near Milpitas at the Newby I. dump Mar. 8 (SM, DE*). There is one previously published record of an adult in California (*Am. Birds* 28:688, another corrected in *Calif. Birds* 2:14), but still none of a third-year bird. Observers were requested to report all birds believed to be Glaucous-winged x W. Gull intergrades this winter and as a result we received 21 reports of approximately 50 birds. A recurrent comment was that the plumage of many ad. intergrades rather resembles that of ad. Thayer's Gulls. Immatures are less readily identified.

What could possibly have been a single imm. Franklin's Gull on S.F. Bay generated reports from Pt. Richmond Jan. 9–19 (N. Boyajian *et al.*), the San Leandro dump Jan. 23 (SFB), and at Belvedere Feb. 9 (*fide* JM). Bonaparte's Gulls were found inland with an amazing 222 on the Clear Lake CBC Dec. 19, one at Sacramento N.W.R., Feb. 11 (*fide* BK) and 2–8 at Shadow Cliffs Park, Alameda Co., to Feb. 12 (AE). Heermann's Gulls at Monterey throughout the period are probably normal (m.ob.). An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake at the Martinez marina Feb. 27 (SM, DE) was far from the ocean. Offshore they were generally reported in good numbers with a maximum of 1000+ at the Cordelle Banks Jan. 15 (C.F.O.).

Two unidentified terns (probably Forster's) seen on the Clear Lake CBC Dec. 19 are significant. On the coast at the n. limit of their winter range, Forster's Terns were reported in greater-than-normal numbers in both Marin and Sonoma Cos. (DS, BDP *et al.*). An *Elegant Tern* at Princeton Harbor Dec. 17–Jan. 25 (PM* *et al.*) was unprecedented;

there are no previous January or February records for the U.S. (GMCC *pers. com.*). One at Bolinas Lagoon Dec. 12 (JW) nearly equals the region's previous latest date.



Elegant Tern, Princeton Harbor, Calif. Jan. 25, 1977. First January U.S. record. Photo/P. J. Meirapulos.

S.A.

A special effort was made to obtain all records of Herring and Thayer's Gulls in an attempt to clarify their status in the region. The distribution of the Thayer's Gull is still unclear and it appears that a substantial portion of the population winters here. Some idea of its status can be seen by totaling the individuals from all reports and dividing by the number of reports to obtain an average number per report as shown in Table 2. Despite the table, both species are considerably more common offshore than on the coast, since many observations of "zero" birds on the coast are not included in the averages. The numbers for S.F. Bay are especially high because of considerable observation at refuse sites. Figure 3 shows high counts at various points around S.F. Bay. It appears that these species are present in greatest numbers only in the absence of W. Gulls. The Humboldt Bay and Berkeley dumps both hold very small numbers of Herring and Thayer's Gulls, yet abound with W. Gulls. On the coast W. Gulls are abundant yet decline rather rapidly offshore where the other species begin to increase in number. One hundred Herring Gulls at Wilder Beach, Santa Cruz Co., in early January (TB), 90 at San Gregorio Beach, San Mateo Co., Feb. 16 (PM) and 373 on the Point Reyes CBC Dec. 18, 60 Thayer's Gulls at L. Merced, San Francisco Feb. 8 (PM) and 450 at Richardson's Bay Jan. 1 (SM) are exceptions. The latter concentration was possibly in response to a super-abundance of natural food there. Glaucous-winged Gulls appear not to restrict the Herring and Thayer's Gulls as all three species are common at the Martinez and San Leandro dumps.

It is interesting that all inland reports of Thayer's Gulls came from the area around S.F. Bay and the delta, as far away as Napa, Livermore, Sacramento, Folsom Dam, and finally L. Tahoe. Is it possible that all (or most) of these birds come down the coast and spread inland via S.F. Bay? Perhaps not surprisingly our inland records of Glaucous Gull show the same pattern. Herring Gulls were not reported in the Great Basin until Feb. 20 at Tule L., when an increase in California and Ring-billed Gulls was noted as well (*fide* MT). Herring Gulls are at best casual in the Basin in the winter and the Thayer's Gull is presently unrecorded there in winter.

Table 2. Herring and Thayer's Gulls/report (see text)

	<i>Herring</i>	<i>Thayer's</i>
Offshore	51	5
Outer Coast	45	6
S.F. Bay & Delta	181	122
Inland	53	5

Table 3. High Counts of Herring and Thayer's Gulls: S.F. Bay Area

	<i>Herring</i>	<i>Thayer's</i>
Holland Tract* Contra Costa Co.	900 2-27 (SM, DE)	600 2-27 (SM, DE)
Mallard Res.**	300 2-27 (SM, DE)	75 2-27 (SM, DE)
Martinez Dump	800 2-27 (SM, DE)	200 2-27 (SM, DE)
Novato Dump	?	50+ 2-24 (JW, DS)
Richardson's Bay	?	450 1-1 (SM)
Berkeley Dump	1 1-29 (SFB)	20 1-30 (SFB)
Alameda Dump	5 12-19 (JM)	10 12-19 (JM)
San Leandro Dump	800 1-15 (DE)	550 1-23 (SFB)
L. Chabot, Oakland**	300 12-14 (SM)	550 12-14 (SM)
Turk I. Dump Union City	650 11-20 (SM)	267 1-2 (SFB)
Newby I. Dump near Milpitas	800 3-8 (SM, DE)	150 3-8 (SM, DE)
Calaveras Res.**	550 12-9 (SM)	0 (SM, DE)

* Pig farm.

** Major roosting areas for the Martinez, San Leandro, and Newby I. dumps respectively.

A Thick-billed Murre at the mouth of the Eel R., Humboldt Co., Jan. 3 (S. Harris*) represents the first California record away from Monterey Bay. Very rare in winter, Xantus' Murrelets were found repeatedly in Monterey Bay with at least seven seen Feb. 20 (W.F.O.). Marbled and Ancient Murrelets and Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets were all reported in what seems to be normal numbers. A Horned Puffin was photographed at the F.I., Mar. 18 & 19 and a Tufted Puffin was seen off Bodega Bay Jan. 15 (TC, C.F.O.).

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—Great Horned and Pygmy Owls were reported in good numbers along the coast by several observers. Spotted Owls were reported in typical numbers mostly from areas near the coast. Blue-listed Burrowing Owls were noted as being "harder to find" this

winter in the C.V. (JH). This species appears to be declining over most of its range in the region.

S.A.

On Jan. 29 while driving e. over Donner Pass in the Sierras, Dan Guthrie picked up 18 dead Saw-whet and four dead Screech Owls along the highway on the w. slope at the 3500-6500 ft level. Judging by the condition of the specimens Guthrie stated that the birds might have been dead as long as two weeks. All the birds appeared to have been hit by cars. He further estimated that there may have been as many 30 dead owls along the highway when birds lying dead along the westbound lanes were tallied. This is indeed a remarkable observation. Saw-whets are rarely noted in the Sierras and numbers of this magnitude are rather startling. Some species of owls, i.e. Elf Owls, have been noted as migrating (or wintering) in flocks and since some Saw-whets from the north winter in California Guthrie's birds may have been part of such a flock. The reason for so many falling victim to cars remains a mystery.

Approximately 100-150 White-throated Swifts were found wintering in "breather holes" in a bridge near Sailor Bar, Sacramento Co., (*vide* BK). The Costa's x Anna's Hummingbird hybrid reported from Oakland in the fall issue remained at its feeder until Dec. 27 (JM). The temperate winter weather may have encouraged Rufous Hummingbirds to return early. At least two males were seen at Bodega Bay Dec. 22-late January (H. Corey *et al.*). Anna's Hummingbirds were noted as down in numbers in the Sutter Buttes area owing to lack of flowers resulting from drought conditions (BED).

Pileated Woodpeckers were reported in excellent numbers with a total of 11 birds submitted from both the coast and the Sierra foothills. Springville, Tulare Co., appears to be the Acorn Woodpecker capital of the world. On the Springville CBC at least 727 were reported which more than doubles last year's count, then the highest in the country (*vide* RAB). A Williamson's Sapsucker seen at Butte Meadows Jan. 18 was the first ever recorded in Butte County (SAL *et al.*). This species tends to be more common on the e. slope of the n. and c. Sierras. Nuttall's Woodpeckers staged a virtual invasion of Marin County this year. At least 13 were seen on the Pt. Reyes CBC Dec. 18 (*vide* DS, RS) while 14 more were seen in various parts of the county over the winter period. This species tends to be more common in the dryer interior oak-woodlands and seems to shun the wetter coastal oaks. The drought may have played a role in directing this invasion toward the coast.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PARIDS—Two Tropical Kingbirds wintered in San Francisco at L. Merced and Golden Gate Park (m.ob.). Both were still present at the end of the period. Quite rare in winter, a W. Kingbird was found on W. Butte Rd., near the Sutter Buttes Dec. 5 (JRI). A W. Flycatcher seen on the Chico CBC Dec. 19 registered only the fifth winter record for the region (AC). Tree, Violet-green and Barn Swallows appear to have returned to the region earlier than normal with a few probably overwintering. Two different Scrub Jays were seen gathering nesting material Feb. 17 at Dog I., Tehama Co., and at Concord (SAL, DE), at least a month early. Yellow-billed Magpie records for Siskiyou County continue to mount as another was photographed Feb. 5 just e. of Grenada (*vide* MT, MR). This species may be expanding its range N. Most interesting was the observation on the Pt. Reyes CBC of a Com. Raven catching and eating

a small shorebird at Limantour Spit Dec. 18 (JRe). The shorebird must have been asleep to have been caught by the slow-moving raven! Chestnut-backed Chickadees were found in two additional El Dorado County locations, at L. Walton and just below Georgetown (WS). Both observations consisted of 10± birds each. This species is continuing to expand its range S into the Sierra, but breeding has yet to be firmly established. Perhaps some enterprising observer will document the first breeding record for the Sierra and confirm what we have long suspected. For a more complete discussion of this problem see Crase (*Am. Birds* 30:673–675).

NUTHATCHES THROUGH WAXWINGS—Unseasonable weather allowed Winter Wrens to remain at high Sierra locations through much of the winter period. One was seen Jan. 4 near Little Norway, El Dorado Co., at an elevation of 6800 ft. (WS), and two more at 6400 ft. in Holey Meadow, Tulare Co., Dec. 22 (RAB). An unusually high count for Cañon Wrens was tallied on the Peace Valley CBC Dec. 23 when 50 were found (*fide* BED). The Bendire's Thrasher reported in the fall issue spent its second winter in Courtland and started singing in mid-February (m.ob.). Sage Thrashers returned to the Klamath L. Basin early, where 12+ were seen at Laird's Landing Feb. 17 (MT). Another was found at Lindsay, Tulare Co., Dec. 18 where there is only one other winter record (*fide* RAB). Several observers noted that Am. Robins were down in numbers all winter. Comparison of some CBC data from previous years indicated that the populations were down by as much as 80–90% in many parts of the region. Temperate weather in the Pacific Northwest might have encouraged robins to remain farther n. this winter.

As usual, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were reported wintering in small numbers. Two were found at the Carmel R. mouth, and single birds were seen s. of Livermore and at Clear L. Highlands (m.ob.). Following last winter's invasion, Bohemian Waxwings made a small reappearance this winter: 18 were seen on the Lake Almanor CBC Dec. 29 (P. Laymon), five were seen near Bray, Siskiyou Co., Feb. 20 (*fide* MT) and 15 appeared at S. Lake Tahoe Dec. 28 (*fide* WS). Cedar Waxwings, like robins, were noted as being very low in numbers throughout the period.

SHRIKES THROUGH WARBLERS—A total of 13 N. Shrikes was found at two coastal and nine inland locations. This is an above-average count. Most unusual was the presence of a singing Solitary Vireo Dec. 24 at the Calaveras Big Trees (4700 ft) (MK). Another was found on the Monterey CBC Dec. 28. Three Black-and-white Warblers were found wintering Dec. 14–Jan. 18 with single birds at the Carmel R. mouth, Inverness and Dog I., Tehama Co. (m.ob.). This species appears to winter in the region in small numbers nearly every year. Much rarer in winter were two Tennessee Warblers. Single birds were at Pt. Reyes Station Dec. 18–Feb. 26 (JL, SLu, m.ob.) and at the Carmel R. mouth Dec. 11 (RS, LCB, DE, BDP *et al.*). Several observers commented that Orange-crowned Warblers were heard singing actively in mid-February which is about a month ahead of their normal singing time. A total of four Nashville Warblers wintered at three coastal localities which is about normal. A single Yellow Warbler seen on the Peace Valley CBC Dec. 23 was the only one reported (RS). One of the Cape May Warblers that wintered at Santa Cruz last winter apparently returned and put in a brief appearance Jan. 15 but was never seen again after that date (W. Greene). A single Black-throated Gray Warbler on Inverness Ridge, Marin Co., Dec. 1 was the only one reported (DS). At least six Hermit Warblers, all on the coast from Marin County Dec. 3–Feb. 18, were reported (DS, BSo, RS). A Chestnut-sided Warbler at the Carmel R. mouth Jan. 3 was the region's first in winter (W. Palsso*). This bird may

have been the same individual seen here in late November (FN, FBe). Another found at Tilden Park, Contra Costa Co., in late November was last seen Dec. 4 (*fide* DRo). A very late Bay-breasted Warbler was seen at the Carmel R. mouth Dec. 12 (D. Dittmann, *fide* DRo).

The Prairie Warbler seen last fall at Sharp Park, San Mateo Co., was last seen Dec. 5 (JM) while another was found in late November at Arcata and was seen by several observers Dec. 4 (DRu). These are the first and second winter records for the region. Five Palm Warblers, all from the coast from Ferndale to Asilomar Dec. 1–Feb. 20, were reported (m.ob.). A N. Waterthrush at Redding Dec. 14 & 15 was the first ever found in Tehama Co. (PD*, SAL *et al.*). This species is rarely ever found inland, and is very rare in winter. A Wilson's Warbler found near Springville Dec. 12–31 is the first Tulare County record for winter (*fide* RAB). Two Am. Redstarts were reported: one at the Pajaro R., Santa Cruz Co., Jan. 1, (PM) and an ad. male that apparently returned for the second consecutive winter just n. of Sebastopol in mid-December and remained to at least Jan. 29 (BDP, m.ob.).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS—Three Brown-headed Cowbirds at Standish, Lassen Co., Dec. 30 were of interest as this species is rare in the Great Basin in winter (DE).

S.A.

A very odd assortment of migrants showed up at Younger's Lagoon, Santa Cruz Dec. 4–11. First to arrive was an Indigo Bunting Dec. 4–11, followed by a Dickcissel and a Tree Sparrow Dec. 7, and finally a Rusty Blackbird Dec. 11–17. The area was being very closely watched during this time so apparently the migrants all arrived shortly before they were discovered. The Indigo Bunting was only the third ever recorded in the region in winter; the Dickcissel was the second winter record for the region. The Rusty Blackbird is quite rare on the coast particularly in December. Tree Sparrows are casual on the coast in fall but are considerably rarer in winter. Since most coastal records for Tree Sparrows in winter are of birds that remained in the area of discovery for some time, the Younger Lagoon bird was probably a late fall migrant; it was not seen again after Dec. 7. Further, since the Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, and Rusty Blackbird can hardly be considered wintering birds in the region and the fact that the Tree Sparrow was probably a migrant would suggest that this flock was a very late "fall" wave of vagrants—most remarkable! Contributors: (TB*, DP*, RM, PM *et al.*)

Three wintering W. Tanagers were reported; two from the coast and one inland Jan. 8–Feb. 27. A single ♀ Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen in Pt. Reyes Station Dec. 18 (JL, SLu, m.ob.). Two ♀ Evening Grosbeaks at Inverness Dec. 18 and several in the East Bay area in February (*fide* DR.) were the only ones found near the coast this winter (RS *et al.*). A ♀ Pine Grosbeak seen at Lava Beds Nat'l Mon. Jan. 11 was quite interesting since there is only one other record for the Great Basin (PD*). A single Gray-crowned Rosy Finch seen on Summit Park Rd., Lassen N.P., Dec. 7 (SAL) was particularly interesting since the bird is rare in Shasta County and little is known of its status there (see Johnson, R. E. 1975 *Auk* 92:586–589). Red Crossbills were reported in four locations near the coast, the largest flock of which comprised 125 birds on Mt. Tamalpais Jan. 1 (NS). A flock of eight birds that included two in juvenile plumage was seen at L. Mary,

Mono Co., Dec. 7 (DAG). Two interesting Green-tailed Towhee records were submitted: one 5 mi. n. of Knight's Landing, Yolo Co., Jan. 16 appears to be the first winter record for the Sacramento Valley (G. Howe*), and another at June L., Mono Co., Dec. 8 was the first winter record from the Great Basin (DAG). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was seen, subsequently banded and photographed at Bolinas Lagoon Feb. 4-6 (JE, BSo*).

Vesper Sparrows were reported in fewer-than-normal numbers. The most interesting record was of a single bird at Redding Jan. 2; they are rare this far north in winter (SAL). A Sage Sparrow 5 mi. n. of Branscomb, Mendocino Co., Feb. 13 was in a location that should be watched for possible breeding; this species' status n. of Marin County on the coast needs clarification. Most unusual was the presence of a Black-throated Sparrow at Kaweah L., Tulare Co., Feb. 13-Mar. 12 (RAB*, m.ob.). This makes the second winter record for the region.

Rare along the Coast, a Gray-headed Junco was seen at Pt. Reyes Station Mar. 2 (JE*). In addition to the Tree Sparrow mentioned earlier, a single bird was seen on the Peace Valley CBC Dec. 23 (RS, BED *et al.*). A Clay-colored Sparrow in Pt. Reyes Station Dec. 18 represented only the third winter regional record (JL, SLu). Harris' Sparrows were seen in fewer-than-normal numbers. An imm. bird that wintered in Porterville Nov. 15-Feb. 28 was the first ever found in Tulare County (RAB, C. Gunderson*). A bird that appeared to be a melanistic Golden-crowned Sparrow was seen on Mines Rd., near Livermore Feb. 20 (AE). It was described as having very dark brown underparts with black wings and tail. White-throated Sparrows were reported in normal numbers regionally. A Fox Sparrow of one of the rusty e. races wintered at a feeder in Oakland Jan. 4-Feb. 18 (RS, JLu *et al.*). At least 14 Swamp Sparrows were reported Dec. 5-Feb. 5 with nearly all found on or near the coast; two were seen in the C.V. (m.ob.). Three Lapland Longspurs were found along the coast from Ferndale, Humboldt Co., to Halfmoon Bay Dec. 4-Jan. 5 (PM, TS, *vide* RS, DS).

CORRIGENDUM—The E. Kingbird reported in *Am. Bird* 30: 1000 was seen July 11, not July 1.

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