Geese through Bitterns
Greater White-fronted Geese were found at many sites near the bay, with a few at outlying locations. High counts were 24 on 17 Dec at the entrance to Don Edwards NWR (BrB et al.) and 34 at Don Edwards on 13 Jan (JVs). Other notable counts were twelve at Byxbee Park on 23 Jan (PL) and nine at Independence HS in San Jose on 17 Dec (AVe, RPa). High tallies of Cackling Geese were 67 flying over the entrance to Don Edwards NWR on 6 Jan (GL et al.), eleven along Bailey Ave in Coyote Valley on 12 Jan (DN), eleven at Shoreline Lake on 14 Jan (ErS), and ten at the Shoreline Park kite-flying area on 30 Jan (SPv, AS). One to two Snow Geese were found at several locations, with high counts of two along Laguna Ave in Coyote Valley on the morning of 13 Jan (DDi et al.), and two at Calero Reservoir in the afternoon of that date (BH, PL, SPz). The longest staying geese were a single at Los Capitancillos Ponds from 27 Dec to 7 Jan (m. ob.) and the geese in Coyote Valley between 30 Dec and 13 Jan. A single Ross’s Goose was found in Coyote Valley near Laguna Ave on 13 Dec (STu). It remained in the area of Laguna and Bailey Ave through 26 Jan (m. ob.). Eurasian Green-winged Teal were found at four locations. One was at San Tomas Aquino Creek on 6 Dec (JK), one continued at Charleston Slough through the period (m. ob.), one was on the North VTA Mitigation Pond on 3 Jan (RJ), and one was at the Palo Alto Baylands Duck Pond on 28 Jan (GL et al.). Astonishing numbers of Redhead have been in the ponds along the edge of the South Bay this winter. Thorough counts exceeded 1000 Redhead in December and January, with a high count of 3288 on 12 Jan (AR, VH). A male Barrow’s Goldeneye joined the Common Goldeneyes on Shoreline Lake beginning on 22 Dec (FV). It was seen through 21 Jan (m. ob.). A single female was on Alviso Salt Pond A16 on 10 Jan (AR). A young Common Loon frequented the Los Capitancillos Ponds between 25 Dec and 6 Jan (m. ob.). Careful scrutiny of the cormorants on Alviso Salt Pond A14 revealed a Pelagic Cormorant along with the usual Double-crested Cormorants (MMR, RJ). It was found again on 29 Jan on the A14/A11 Levee (FV). Single American Bittern were spotted at Alviso Slough on 14 Dec (WGB) and at the end of Terminal Way on 15 Dec (DZ). The Bittern at the latter location remained through 28 Jan (m. ob.).
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Field Notes  cont’d

ers wintering at Santa Teresa CP stayed through the period (JRy, m. ob.). On 17 Dec, the date of the San Jose CBC, two gnatcatchers were along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 (WGB) and two were at Calaveras Reservoir (ARy, JiM, PDu). Another was found the next day on the Palo Alto CBC along Matadero Creek (RJ). Single gnatcatchers were found in Mountain View on 27 Dec (MSh) and at J Grant CP on 1 Jan (EF). One to two were found wintering at Calero Reservoir on dates between 28 Dec and 1 Jan (DN, BM, SBy). The Phainopepla at Guadalupe Oak Grove Park stayed through the period (m. ob.), and another wintering bird was at the entrance to Almaden Quicksilver CP, first noted on 29 Dec (JPa).

Warblers through Evening Grosbeak

One of the hardier warblers is the Yellow Warbler. During this period five were detected, one in an Alviso neighborhood on 17 Dec (MMR, SCR), one on 18 Dec at the Palo Alto WPCP (MMR), one on 5 Jan at Los Capitancillos Ponds (STu), one on 11 Jan along Coyote Creek near Silver Creek Valley Rd (JPa), and one at Coast Casey Forebay on 28 Jan (RC). One of the two Palm Warblers present in New Chicago Marsh since late October was resighted on 6 and 7 Dec (GL, WP). On 17 Dec one was nearby in Alviso Slough adjacent to the Yacht Club (MJM, DMc). Black-throated Gray Warblers and Wilson’s Warblers also occasionally stay for the winter. There were two sightings of Black-throated Grays in the well-covered Almaden Valley, one continuing along the Alamitos Creek Trail near Graystone Lane on 1 Dec and one along the Guadalupe Creek Trail above Camden on 4 Jan (both JPa). A third was along Stevens Creek below La Avenida on 18 Dec (MMR, StR), Single Wilson’s Warblers were at the Almaden Lake on 8 Dec (JTa), Lake Cunningham on 17 Dec (PL, KON), and Guadalupe Creek near Los Capitancillos Ponds on 4 Jan (BM). The number of Chipping Sparrows at TJ Martin Park increased to seven by 7 Dec (DZ), and ten by 5 Jan (SPy). Two were found at nearby Guadalupe Oak Grove Park on 7 and 13 Dec (BrB, SPz). Another two were found at William St. Park in San Jose on 17 Dec (RJ). Grasshopper Sparrows have been found on nine out of the last twelve Calero-Morgan Hill CBCs, and this year one was tallied on Coyote Ridge on count day, 30 Dec (RH). A Slate-colored Fox Sparrow on 12 Jan along the Santa Teresa Canal Trail was a nice find (JPa). A wintering Song Sparrow that appeared to be from one of the Pacific Northwest groups was seen along the Guadalupe River Trail near Tasman on 17 Dec (NoA) and another was found at the Sunnyvale WPCP on 12 Jan (WGB). Swamp Sparrows turned up at three locations in December, with one at the San Jose/Santa Clara WPCP on 4 Dec (PDu), one at Stevens Creek below Crittenden on 18 Dec (MMR, StR), and one at Palo Alto Baylands on 18 Dec (MMR, NM). The Baylands sparrow remained through the period (m. ob.). Two Slate-colored Juncos graced the Moffett Golf Course on 18 Dec (MMR), and one was in New Almaden on 18 and 30 Dec (JPa). For the second winter in a row, a Summer Tanager visited Stanford campus (PtM). About a third of our records for Summer Tanager are wintering birds. Western Tanagers were reported from five locations, all single birds (m. ob.). A Bull- ock’s Oriole was a nice surprise on 13 Jan, along Adobe Creek near Shoreline Park (JVs). Winter finches have been represented by widespread Pine Siskins and one to two Evening Grosbeaks in downtown Los Altos. A single Grosbeak was first found on 17 Dec (JL), and the latest report was from 5 Jan (MJM).

Observers: Noah Arthur (NoA), Bruce Barrett (BrB), Bill Bousman (WGB), Andrew Bradshaw (AbBr), Sean Byrnes (SBy), Reef Comer (RfC), David Diller (DDi), Pete Dunten (PDu), Al Eisner (AME), Erin Fisher (EF), Janet Hanson (JHa), Rick Herder (RH), Victoria Heyse (VH), Bob Hirt (BH), Richard Jeffers (RJ), John Karp (JK), Garrett Lau (GL), Amy Lauterbach (AL), Stephen Lester (SL), Jasen Liu (JL), Patricia Lynch (PL), Nateri Madavan (NM), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Hugh McDevitt (HM), David McIntyre (DMc), Eve Meier (EvM), Jim Meikrantz (JiM), Peter Metropolous (PtM), Brooke Miller (BM), David Nickerson (DN), Tom Olson (TO), Kitty O’Neil (KON), Rich Page (RPa), Janna Pauser (JPa), Sergey Pavlov (SPv), William Pelletier (WP), Sergio Perez (SPz), Ryan Phillips (RPh), Alex Rinkert (AR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Steven Rogers (StR), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Allen Royer (ARy), Jennifer Ryckenga (JrY), Mike Shafto (MSh), Eric Storms (ErS), Aaron Sun (AS), Jenny Ta (JTa), David Tattoni (DT), Steve Tucker (STu), Frank Vanslager (FV), Jason Vassallo (JVs), Ann Verdi (AvE), Pingang Wang (PW), Dan Wenny (DWN), James Yurchenco (JY), David Zittin (DZ)

Please send notice of rarities to Pete Dunten via email at pdunten@gmail.com

Evening Grosbeak by Dave Zittin