



than usual. Perhaps the late spring Sierra snowfall prevented birds from moving up-mountain to nesting areas.

The work by the Point Reyes Bird Observatory (P.R.B.O.) on South Farallon I. and at Palomarin Ranch, the nocturnal orientation data from Stanford (DDS) and the careful notes supplied by many conscientious observers both on the coast and in the interior are slowly unraveling the causes of spring migration waves in the Region. The coastal areas seem to be buffeted by fairly strong NW winds throughout the spring. Only individuals breeding along the coast seem to fight these headwinds, and the first arrivals of migrant species along the coast are invariably of territorial individuals. When the high pressure area normally present off our coast is replaced by a low pressure system, the NW winds abate or are replaced by light winds from the S or SE. It is only at these times that numbers of transients are present along the coast and waves of migrants hit South Farallon. This year was typical except that the winds were even stronger than normal: gusts up to 100 mph were recorded at the Point Reyes Lighthouse on May 21. Three waves were recorded on S. Farallon this spring. The first, a rather prolonged wave, occurred between Apr. 26 and May 4 with a peak on Apr. 30-May 1. The second and third waves, both with very sharp peaks, occurred May 9-11 and May 27-29 respectively (P.R.B.O.). The composition of each of these peaks is presented in Table I. Such data compiled over a series of years are invaluable in determining peak movements of various migrants through coastal areas of this Region.

The pattern of migration through the Central Valley, although basically very different, is influenced by the same weather patterns. Typically a steady passage of migrants occurs well dispersed throughout the valley and foothills. Only

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The cold, wet, windy weather that began in March continued, nearly unabated, throughout the spring. Most observers mentioned that the earlier migrants, characteristically arriving in late March or early April, were delayed, even by as much as two weeks, according to some Central Valley observers (BK, et al.). Later migrants, while arriving more nearly on time, seemed to linger in lowland and foothill river valleys longer

when a cold front passes through the Region do considerable numbers of migrants become locally grounded to form waves. It also appears that the passage of a cold front in the interior and the subsiding of NW winds on the coast are part of the same weather cycle. Thus we might expect interior and coastal peaks, although caused by different mechanisms, to occur at roughly the same time. The most pronounced interior peaks this spring occurred in Sacramento May 1-2 and May 8-9, both during periods of unsettled and rainy weather (TM), at Woodland May 9 (E & M Warner, fide BK) and at Los Banos Wildlife Refuge May 1 (Eds, RS et al); these dates compare favorably with the first two waves on S. Farallon.

P.R.B.O. has now completed a fairly thorough analysis of last January's oil spill in San Francisco Bay. Out of an estimated 7000 dead birds, 4500 were censused by P.R.B.O. personnel; 55.7 per cent were W. Grebes, 22.5 per cent were scoters, 9.8 per cent were Com. Murres; loons, other grebes, ducks, gulls and cormorants made up the rest (P.R.B.O. Newsletter #18, June 1971, John Smail).

LOONS, GREBES—Heavy loon migration was noted between Apr. 6 and May 24 in Monterey Bay (AB). Hundreds of loons, mostly Arctic, were seen off Pt. Reyes Apr. 24 (RLeV, RS). A single Com. Loon at L. Berryessa on June 1 (DE) and an Arctic Loon on Searsville L. Apr. 27 (VR) were the only inland reports. Nineteen Red-throated Loons May 19 flying north at Monterey Bay may indicate a later migration for this species (AB). An inland Red-necked Grebe was well described from the Woodland Sugar Ponds between Apr. 24 and May 1 by Clarence and Rosie Crisp (fide BK). Inland records of this species are very scarce.

ALBATROSS, FULMAR, STORM PETRELS—Black-footed Albatrosses were reported from Monterey Bay starting with 3 Apr. 6 and building to 13 May 13 (AB). Seventeen were seen beyond the Farallon Is. May 9 (VDaC). These are normal numbers for the spring. Single Fulmars were seen on Monterey Bay May 4 & 13 (AB). A single Ashy Petrel was reported on Monterey Bay Apr. 18 (VR) and 2 were there on May 19 (AB). Petrels are rare in spring in Monterey Bay.

PELICANS, CORMORANTS—Brown Pelicans began to show in the Region May 15 with 25 at Big Sur (AB). The U.S.F. & W. Service is color marking Brown Pelican colonies in the Gulf of California. Observations of color-marked birds should be reported to U.S.F. & W., P.O. Box C, Davis, CA 95616. This year's young of Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants from S. Farallon have been color banded (left leg—yellow). All reports of sightings of such birds should be sent to P.R.B.O., Mesa Rd., Bolinas, CA 94924.

HERONS, IBISES—Great Blue Heron heronries seem to be holding their own in the Region while

Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons are increasing in the e. San Francisco Bay area (BGE). A confrontation between two Great Horned Owls and a small Great Blue Heron colony at Hogan Dam in Calaveras Co. resulted in 2 dead owls, 2 dead herons and 5 abandoned heron nests (DMS). Nobody ever wins a war. An adult Little Blue Heron was found at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin on Apr. 30 and remained until May 19. (Eds., TC, JG, et al.). This individual may be one of those present near San Rafael over the last few summers. The only report of a Cattle Egret was 1 in a field near Novato, Sonoma Co., May 9 (DE). The Yellow-crowned Night Heron has returned for the fourth summer near San Rafael, Marin Co. (Mr. & Mrs. Jos. Chirello, fide ABu). One of the most exciting finds of the season was a **White Ibis** found at Bolinas Lagoon by personnel of P.R.B.O. on May 14 (GP) and was subsequently seen by many observers through May 19. This is the first record for the Region and the third for the state. The bird was in perfect plumage and behaved as a wild bird would be expected to behave. White-faced Ibis were present until the ponds dried up at San Luis Wildlife Refuge (ROW). Is this the reason they no longer nest in the Central Valley?

WATERFOWL—A White-fronted Goose on S. Farallon between Apr. 3 and Apr. 5 was in an unusual locality (P.R.B.O.). Two Fulvous Tree Ducks found May 22 and present through June 1 constituted the first Sacramento Regional record. These birds are very scarce north of the San Joaquin Valley (SS, TM). Blue-winged Teal were more common than usual with many reports from both inland and coastal localities. Departure dates from the Palo Alto Bayland for some ducks were: Blue-winged Teal: Apr. 23, Green-winged Teal: May 12, Am. Widgeon: Apr. 25 (JJ). Two reports of Oldsquaws were a ♀ Apr. 6 on Monterey Bay (AB) and another ♀ at the mouth of the Salinas R. May 1, a very late record (Eds.). Two ♂♂ Harlequin Ducks were seen at Año Nuevo Apr. 4 (VR). A single ♀ Com. Scoter on Apr. 10 at the mouth of the Pajaro R., Monterey Co. (J & RW) and 2 ♂♂ in Monterey Bay (RLeV) were the only ones reported. "Outdoor California," the California Fish and Game Department's publication, has reported a 32 per cent increase in wintering ducks over the numbers of a year ago and the highest duck population in two decades. Reasons for this were thought to be a combination of lower hunter success and more severe weather in other Pacific states.

HAWKS, EAGLES—Many observers reported a scarcity of Accipiters this spring; this was supported by only one observer reporting Sharp-shinned Hawks and two observers reporting Cooper's Hawks. Does this mean that the Accipiters are feeling the pesticide pinch? A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks were seen near Fort Dick, Del Norte Co. in early April, a northern

locality for this species (JH). A very late Ferruginous Hawk was one near Dixon, Solano Co., Apr. 29 (LF). The only Bald Eagles reported were 2 from Oroville L. throughout the period (fide MLC). Golden Eagles seem to be holding their own with 45 reported including 20 pairs in the Region. A total of seven Ospreys was reported, all from Marin and Sonoma Cos. One Peregrine Falcon remained on S. Farallon until May 7 (P.R.B.O.). Only four reports of Prairie Falcons were received this period.

SHOREBIRDS—Two inland reports of Snowy Plovers, 1 from the Davis Sewage Pond, May 5-7 (LP) and 1 from the Chico Sewage Pond, May 3 (TM), are probably regular occurrences. An Am. Golden Plover, always rare in spring, was reported from Bolinas Lagoon May 4 (GP, P.R.B.O.). A migrating flock of 30 Surf-birds was in an unusual location at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, Apr. 9-13 (ST, DE). A high count of 40 Ruddy Turnstones was obtained at the unusual location of Bolinas Lagoon on May 4, while 270 Black Turnstone were there Apr. 25 (RLeV, GP, P.R.B.O.). A total of 5 Lesser Yellowlegs is more than the usual number of spring reports. Knots were reported from all regular locations in far greater than usual numbers including 300 at the east end of the Dumbarton Bridge, May 5 (DDS). Most unusual were one photographed at the Woodland Sugar Ponds May 9 (LP) and 22 found there on May 15 (T & AM). Three Sanderlings at the Davis Sewage Pond on May 2 are probably of regular occurrence in the spring (TM). A massive flight of Red Phalaropes in the Monterey Bay area was doubtless occasioned by weather conditions removed from the immediate vicinity. There were 2 birds Apr. 21, building to a peak of 3-4000 off Point Pinos May 3, with the last seen May 29. These are the first spring records for the Monterey area since 1965 (AB). Red Phalaropes peaked with 1000's near the Farallons May 7-11 and again May 23, leaving after May 28 (P.R.B.O.). N. Phalaropes followed normal patterns, being first seen on Apr. 12 and lingering through the end of the period.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS—Three Pomarine and 2 Parasitic Jaegers were reported from the Monterey region. Parasitics are much less common in spring than in fall. Three Glaucous Gulls were reported with 1 lingering in Bolinas Lagoon until the very late date of May 18 (J & RG). Over 2000 W. Gull chicks were color-banded (left leg—yellow) during June on S. Farallon. Anyone sighting such birds should report them to P.R.B.O., Mesa Rd., Bolinas, CA. 94924. The last Black-legged Kittiwakes in Monterey were 50 on Apr. 6 (AB). One was seen at Carmel on May 1 (Eds., RS, et al.) and another was seen near the Farallons May 9 (VDaC). Forster's and Com. Terns were more numerous this spring than usual with a concentration of over 1000 at Moss Landing May 6 (AB). Most exciting was

that this flock contained at least 3 **Arctic Terns** May 1 (RS, Eds., D & RG, et al.). Another Arctic Tern was identified May 13 in Monterey Bay (AB). Although there are a very few sight records for this species at this time of year, no spring specimen exists for the state. Least Terns seem to be maintaining their slim existence in our Region. Black Terns followed their normal pattern with migrant concentrations of 60 at the Woodland Sugar Ponds May 2 and 100 at the Chico Sewage Ponds May 10 (TM).

ALCIDS—Marbled Murrelets were reported from Pigeon Point throughout the period; they were in breeding plumage and were often engaged in courtship flights (RLeV, VDaC, VR). A Xantus' Murrelet was found dead on S. Farallon May 19. The bird had probably been dead for months. This is the first record for the island (P.R.B.O.). Rhinoceros Auklets were regularly seen throughout the period near the Farallon Is. and courtship behavior was often noted, raising the question of whether these birds are nesting there (P.R.B.O.).

PIGEONS, OWLS, GOATSUCKERS—Band-tailed Pigeons, notably erratic wanderers, seem to be increasing in the Bay Area. Flocks of these birds are often seen along the immediate coast and beaches (DDS) and population pressures may account for their regular occurrence on S. Farallon (individuals May 3, 7 and 14 (P.R.B.O.) and the sighting of 1 at Los Banos Wildlife Refuge May 5 (ROW). Calif. State Fish and Game censuses report an exceptional year for Mourning Doves, especially in the East Bay hills (BGE). One was present during the last week of May in Prairie Creek Redwoods Park where they are rare (MK). Flammulated Owls had returned to China Camp, Los Padres Nat'l Forest by Apr. 28 (V. Yadon, fide AB) and at least two were calling there May 1 (RLeV, RS, et al.). A very late Burrowing Owl was present on S. Farallon May 4-7 (P.R.B.O.). A pair of Spotted Owls was heard regularly above Palomarin Ranch (RLeV) and another pair was seen and heard throughout April and May in Muir Woods, both Marin Co. (VH, RLeV, J & RG). Good numbers of Poorwills were found during May in several locations in interior Sonoma Co. (G. Bolander, L. Stafford, fide BML). The first Lesser Nighthawks were recorded slightly later than usual at San Luis Wasteway Apr. 1 (GS).

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS—The usual small numbers of Vaux's Swifts were found migrating through the Bay Area during late April and early May with a peak of 30 at Coyote Hills Park May 11 (DDS). Black Swifts arrived very early at Lighthouse Point, Santa Cruz, and one was found incubating there May 27 (W. Anderson, fide VA). A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird, very rare on the coast, was found dead in Carmel Highlands Apr. 27 (V. Yadon, fide AB). Most observers felt that Rufous Hummingbirds were

very scarce this spring. Two migrants were seen at the unusual location of S. Farallon Apr. 25–May 11 (P.R.B.O.). Migrant Calliope Hummingbirds were found in the Central Valley and on the coast from Apr. 24 through early May, as is normal; a ♂ reached S. Farallon May 8–9 (P.R.B.O.). Pileated Woodpeckers, apparently nesting, were seen at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park and in the Franz Valley, Sonoma Co., and at L. Pillsbury, Lake Co., (BML), as well as at the usual Sierra locations. It is felt that the increased cutting of forests in our Region may adversely affect this species and all locations where it breeds should be carefully watched. White-headed Woodpeckers were found at the 5000 ft. elevation on Hull Mt. Rd., Lake Co., during May and early June (BML, E. A. Pugh, TM). This represents the southernmost extent of their range along the Inner Coast Range.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—Although W. Kingbirds arrived in the southern San Joaquin Valley in late March, they did not arrive in the northern San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys and the surrounding foothills until early April (BK, GS, BML). Local observers considered these dates to be about two weeks late. Two reports were received from the coast where W. Kingbirds are very scarce: Apr. 27, Prairie Creek Redwoods Park (MK) and May 9, S. Farallon (P.R.B.O.). Ash-throated Flycatchers were also considered late in the Central Valley, not arriving until Apr. 13 (BK). Two late Say's Phoebes were found on S. Farallon, one May 1, another May 12 (P.R.B.O.). Gray Flycatchers have been found to be regular on S. Farallon during the spring. This year was no exception: 4 were banded there between Apr. 28 and May 9 (P.R.B.O.). More surprising, however, was the fact that Gray Flycatchers were banded in the spring of 1970 at four Operation Transect stations west of the Sierra. This pattern was continued this year as 5 were well described from Sacramento area between May 1 and 19 (T & AM, JT, Loveless, fide BK). Another individual of this species was banded at Coyote Hills Park May 11 (DDS). These records are most interesting since the species breeds only east of the Sierra. The breakdown of the remaining Empidonax flycatchers banded on S. Farallon this spring was 13 Hammond's 10 Western and two Traill's (P.R.B.O.). Traill's Flycatchers are becoming increasingly rare west of the Sierra in our Region; only four individuals were reported from the mainland: Apr. 24, Tilden Park, Berkeley (R & DG); Apr. 27, Sacramento (BK); May 15, Spring Lake near Santa Rosa (BML) and May 28, near Chico (TM). Habitat destruction is probably responsible for this decrease. Again this year, Dusky Flycatchers were found calling, apparently on territory, at Chew's Ridge, Los Padres Nat'l Forest: 5 on May 15 and 3 on May 29 (VR).

Late migrant Tree Swallows were seen on S. Farallon Apr. 30 and May 9–11 (P.R.B.O.) while

a brown-backed individual (this year's young?) was seen at Searsville L., Stanford, May 8 (DDS). Five Bank Swallows were found investigating nesting holes in a sandy bluff at Año Nuevo Point Apr. 4 (VR, PJ) and were still present in June (J & RG). This nesting location was recorded in 1907 and apparently has been overlooked in recent years. Nesting Purple Martins were recorded from four locations in Marin, Sonoma and Lake Cos. (BML, WMP) as well as under a freeway in Sacramento (BK). However, they were notably absent from several locations where they have regularly nested in the past.

CORVIDS THROUGH MIMIDS—Steller's Jays are apparently adapting well to the inroads of development and are pushing further into the foothills each year. This year they are resident in a breeding bird census area at Searsville L., Stanford, composed entirely of willow and Box Elder (DDS). At Foothills Park, Palo Alto, an adult was observed feeding young in a nest in an introduced Flowering Plum Tree (TC). Mountain Chickadees were observed, May 22, along Hull Mt. Rd., Lake Co., at elevations above 4000 ft. (BML). This probably represents the southernmost limit of their range in the Coast Range. The only migrant Red-breasted Nuthatches reported from the coast were single individuals on S. Farallon May 10 & 23 (P.R.B.O.). At least one was present, however, throughout the entire spring near Redwood Regional Park, Oakland, and may have been nesting (DG). Dippers still seem to be increasing in the Santa Cruz Mts., as a pair nested under a bridge over Big Creek on Swanton Rd. near Davenport, Santa Cruz Co. (A. McCrary, fide VA). At least one Winter Wren was present on S. Farallon between the late dates of Apr. 26 and May 1 (P.R.B.O.). Mockingbirds continue to push northwestward even in the spring. They seem to be more common in Sonoma, Napa and Lake Cos. (BML), 1 was present in Prairie Creek Redwoods Park May 13 (MK) and at least 4 were found on S. Farallon during May (P.R.B.O.).

THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS—Most wintering Robins had left the Region by early March but 1 was on S. Farallon Apr. 29–May 2 and another was there May 9 (P.R.B.O.). This corresponds to the small peak captured on last spring's Operation Transect and also with several seen at Coyote Hills Park May 5 & 11 (DDS). Many of these birds have white on the corner of the tail tips and possibly represent a far-northern population of the Northwestern Robin. A Gray-cheeked Thrush was banded on S. Farallon May 28 and was recaptured by hand on June 8 at which time it was photographed (P.R.B.O.). This represented the first spring record for California. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers seem to be increasing in coastal areas of the Region; 3 pairs nested on Jasper Ridge, Stanford, this year as compared to 1 pair in previous years (VR); they were found at several locations in

Sonoma and Lake Cos. (L. Grallupp, L. Stafford, fide BML); and one was banded on S. Farallon between Apr. 30 and May 3 for the first spring record for the island (P.R.B.O.). Wintering Ruby-crowned Kinglets had mostly left the lowlands by the last of March, but surprising numbers were present on S. Farallon during May (see Table I). Loggerhead Shrikes seem to be decreasing as breeding birds in the Bay Area as very few were reported. A Loggerhead Shrike was banded on S. Farallon between May 24 and 26 for the first record there in this century (P.R.B.O.). A Hutton's Vireo was seen on S. Farallon Apr. 30 (P.R.B.O.). Three were captured there last fall supplying additional evidence that the species is partially migratory in our Region. A Solitary Vireo nest was found May 23 in a planted Incense Cedar in Foothills Park, Palo Alto. The nest was made entirely of strips of colored paper picked up from the nearby picnic area (TC)—a successful adaptation to increasing environmental disturbance and litter? A Red-eyed Vireo was found on S. Farallon May 23-24 for one of the few spring records for the Region (P.R.B.O.).

WOOD WARBLERS—The most beautiful documentation of the late arrival of breeding warblers was supplied by Bob Stewart (P.R.B.O.) and is presented in Table II. It can be seen that all arrival dates are four or five days later this spring

than last. These data are of multiple arrivals of known, individually banded birds and are completely accurate. Interestingly enough, the first Wilson's Warbler to arrive at Palomarin this year was the same individual that arrival first last year and is now six years old—a good indication of the role of experience and learning in bird navigation! Other indications of the tardiness of our early arriving, coastal-nesting warblers are: Orange-crowned Warbler, Jasper Ridge, Stanford, Mar. 13, at least 5 days late (DDS); Wilson's Warbler, Lafayette Apr. 16, late (LF), Jasper Ridge Apr. 17, very late (DDS), W. Sonoma Co. Apr. 18, late (BML) and Prairie Creek Apr. 21, a little late (MK). It appears that along our coast the first warblers to arrive in an area are the breeding individuals and that migrants headed further north arrive late, in time for their breeding niche to open up. Most likely this generalization can be extended to other migrant passerines in all parts of the country. Orange-crowned Warblers present an example of this phenomenon: although all breeding individuals arrived at Palomarin Ranch by Mar. 19, migrants were recorded between Mar. 26 and Apr. 15 (P.R.B.O.); similarly at Jasper Ridge breeding individuals had mostly arrived by Mar. 21 but migrants passed through between Mar. 28 and Apr. 22 (VR). Later arriving warblers seemed to arrive roughly on time: at least 20

TABLE 1

**Maximum Numbers of Selected Migrants on S. Farallon I.
During the Three Spring Waves of 1971¹**

	<u>Apr. 26-May 4</u>	<u>May 9-11</u>	<u>May 27-29</u>
Empidonax Flycatcher	8	16	7
Western Wood Pewee	1	12	15
Hermit Thrush	12	20	5
Swainson's Thrush	0	3	30
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	40	20	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	150	40	3
Nashville Warbler	2	0	0
Yellow Warbler	5	1	30
Myrtle Warbler	40	2	0
Audubon's Warbler	200	4	0
Black-throated Gray Warbler	2	4	0
Townsend's Warbler	10	10	30
Hermit Warbler	1	1	1
MacGillivray's Warbler	3	4	6
Yellowthroat	3	0	0
Wilson's Warbler	20	300	100
Western Tanager	0	2	10
Chipping Sparrow	60	4	2
White-crowned Sparrow	200	10	0
Golden-crowned Sparrow	60	15	0

¹ Data supplied by P.R.B.O.

pairs of Yellow Warblers, for example, were on territory at Searsville L., Stanford, by Apr. 22 (DDS).

The migration of Myrtle and Audubon's Warblers is hard to document in our Region owing to the presence of large numbers of wintering individuals. Influxes of apparent migrant Myrtle Warblers occurred on Jasper Ridge beginning Mar. 6; they peaked at 80 on Apr. 13 and the last was seen Apr. 27 (VR). Similarly, influxes of Audubon's Warblers began Mar. 21, peaked at 60 on Apr. 21 and were last seen May 11 (VR). In the Central Valley, Townsend's and Hermit Warbler were reported to be more common than usual: good numbers of Townsend's were seen May 1-26 with at least 8 Hermits May 2-17 (TM).

they were not present 25 years ago. They are now very common in Prairie Creek Redwoods Park, arriving this year on Apr. 19 (MK). It was a good spring for W. Tanagers. They first arrived Apr. 20 in Lafayette (LF), peaked in late May, and were still present in lowland locations at the end of the period. The "♀-plumaged" Summer Tanager that wintered in Pacific Grove was determined to be an imm. ♂. It was last seen Apr. 18 (Nelson, fide AB).

FINCHES—Blue Grosbeaks arrived on time in the expected places in the Central Valley (BK, SS). A ♂ present at Schawn L., Santa Cruz Co., on May 1 is one of the very few spring coastal records for the Region (W. Green, fide VA). Most observers commented on the exceptionally

TABLE II

Arrival Dates of Warblers at Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory¹

	1970	1971
Orange-crowned at Palomarin Ranch	Mar 11	Mar 16
Wilson's at Abalone Flat	Mar 16	Mar 20
Wilson's at Palomarin Ranch	Mar 26	Apr 1

¹ Data supplied by P.R.B.O.

In addition to the Farallon records, occurrences of the less common western warblers on the coast included only 5 Nashvilles between Apr. 30 and May 5, 1 Black-throated Gray May 5, 6 Hermits between Apr. 24 and May 14, 4 MacGillivray's May 20 and 2 Yellow-breasted Chats May 4-9. These dates roughly correspond to the timing of these migrants on S. Farallon. It is felt that the strong prevailing NW winds prevented large numbers of these species from reaching the coast. Similarly these winds allowed very few "eastern" species to reach the coast where they can be more easily detected than elsewhere. A Black-and-white Warbler was banded on S. Farallon May 11 (P.R.B.O.). A Tennessee Warbler was seen at Rodeo Lagoon May 20 (VDaC) and another was present in an aphid infested apple orchard in Bennett Valley near Santa Rosa from May 31 to at least June 4 (L. Grallupp, BML). A report of a ♂ **Black-throated Blue Warbler** on Stage Rd., near Pescadero, San Mateo Co., May 22 was received without details (VDaC). If correctly identified, this represents the first spring record for the Region and perhaps for the state.

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS—A group of at least 25 Yellow-headed Blackbirds were present through the spring in San Joaquin Co. (DMS). Local observers claim they have not nested in that country for the last ten years. The only coastal report of this species was of 2 on S. Farallon May 4-6 (P.R.B.O.). Brown-headed Cowbirds continue to expand in the NW coast belt of the state where

good numbers of Lazuli Buntings, especially in coastal areas. They were recorded nesting for the first time at Palomarin Ranch with 10-12 pairs present (P.R.B.O.). A migratory group of at least 500 Am. Goldfinches was present at Searsville L., Stanford, at the end of April and early May (DDS). Lawrence's Goldfinches were found in good numbers throughout the Inner Coast Ranges and a pair at Los Baños Wildlife Refuge, Apr. 25 were in an unusual valley location (VR). The only report of Red Crossbills was of 2 flying over Jasper Ridge, Stanford, Apr. 29 (VR). A Green-tailed Towhee was seen in riparian growth along the Sacramento R. near Chico May 14 (TM). It is rare in the Central Valley. Breeding Green-tailed Towhees were found on Hull Mt. Rd., Lake Co., May 22 (BML, L. Stafford). This represents the southernmost nesting record for the Coast Range. Nesting Sage Sparrows were found slightly lower on the same road also on May 22 (BML). More than the usual numbers of Rufous-crowned Sparrows were reported from the Inner Coast Range and Sierran foothills. A very late Slate-colored Junco was present on S. Farallon May 27-29 and 4 equally late Oregon Juncos were there May 23 (P.R.B.O.). Two **Tree Sparrows** were banded on S. Farallon: one May 4-7 and another May 23-26—amazingly late dates for this very rare bird in our Region (P.R.B.O.). Brewer's Sparrow, another species breeding only east of the Sierra, shows a pattern of occurrence similar to that of the Gray Flycatcher. One was seen in Chico Apr. 29 (TM), 1 was seen at Moss

Landing May 1 (RS, DDS et al), 1 was banded at Coyote Hills Park May 5 (DDS), 1 was seen at Hoffman Park, Sacramento, May 8 (TM, JT) and 1 was banded on S. Farallon May 9 (P.R.B.O.). Large numbers of Golden-crowned Sparrows were seen in the Inner Coast Range and Central Valley Apr. 23-25 (DDS, JG). None could be found in the same location May 1 (Eds, RS et al.). A very late individual was present on S. Farallon May 31-June 2 (P.R.B.O.). The good winter flight of White-throated Sparrows continued into the spring with 3 present on Mines Rd. near Livermore Apr. 13 (ST, DE) and 1 on Jasper Ridge, Stanford Apr. 23 (VR). The wintering bird in San Francisco was last seen Apr. 25 (A. Follis, fide VH) and the 1 in Santa Cruz stayed until May 6 (W. Greene, fide VA). Breeding Fox Sparrows, at the southern limit of their range in the Coast Mts., were seen at 6000 ft. on Hull Mt. Rd., Lake Co., May 22 (BML). An individual of one of the large, rusty, northern migratory races of Song Sparrow was present on S. Farallon Apr. 29 (P.R.B.O.).

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