

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION / Dave DeSante and Ron LeValley

The warm, dry weather that characterized most of the Region during February and March continued, somewhat interruptedly, throughout the remainder of the spring. Early April was warm, after the late March frost, but mid-April experienced two sharp cold waves



Apr. 10-13 and 18-20. Late April and most of May were hot (the eighth warmest May on record in Sacramento—BK), with relatively stable weather, storm systems being both few and weak. Total rainfall at the end of May was barely 50 per cent of the normal for most of the Region, only the n.w. coast having nearly average rainfall and temperatures. The NW winds, so characteristic of our Region during the spring, were considerably re-

duced, but extended periods of dense fog on S. Farallon greatly reduced the number of landbirds that could find the island (P.R.B.O.).

The landbird migration was characterized by exceptional numbers of very early arrivals during March and early April, relatively little migration during mid-April and low to average numbers of "on-time" migrants during the remainder of the season. Table I summarizes the first arrival dates and the timing of the first major influx of our characteristic summer residents. These data indicate that the first arrival dates on our Region averaged nearly a week earlier than the first arrivals for the same species in the *Southern Pacific Coast Region* last year (compare Table I with the list in AB:25:799). Further evidence of the early migration are arrival dates of color-banded individuals at Palomarin Ranch, Bolinas: Mar. 4 for Orange-crowned Warblers and Mar. 17 for Wilson's Warblers (P.R.B.O.). (Compare these dates to 1970 and 1971 arrivals in AB:25:798, Table II).

It is important to note that nearly all of these early arrival dates are for breeding individuals arriving on territory in our Region. The migration of transients bound for the high mountains and the far north passed through our Region on time and in normal or slightly reduced numbers. The lack of pronounced storm systems in late April and early May made the migration in the Central Valley (CV) more uniform and less noticeable than last year (TM). The nearly continuous hot weather there may have accounted for the fact that the bulk of the transients occurred along the foothill areas west of the CV rather than on the valley floor (JT). Three small transient waves occurred this spring. The first, May 4-8, was most pronounced in the CV (JT, DAG, ROW) but very small numbers of transients also reached S. Farallon (P.R.B.O.). Townsend's Warblers made up the bulk of this movement both in the CV and on the island. The second wave, May 19-22, occurred uniformly from the CV (JT) to S. Farallon (P.R.B.O.) but was most pronounced on the immediate coast, May 21-22 being the only time good numbers of transient were present on the nearly continuously watched outer Monterey Peninsula (RS, RLeV). The third wave, May 26-29, was mostly confined to S. Farallon and was primarily composed of 100 Wilson's Warblers along with a scattering of other typical late transients (P.R.B.O.). A good number of characteristic Great Basin species showed up during this wave along with a very few "eastern" vagrants (P.R.B.O.).

One of the outstanding events of the spring was the attempted coastal breeding of several species typical of the warm interior of our Region (e.g. Cassin's Kingbird, Lawrence's Goldfinch and Black-chinned Sparrow). Bone-dry conditions in these areas may have forced some of the birds to continue n.w. toward the more humid coast where drier-than-normal conditions may have been to their liking.

—S.A.—

An expanded interest in pelagic birds has led to an increased amount of data from our Region and some patterns are beginning to emerge. Three major areas are worked rather regularly: the Monterey Bay Area, the San Francisco Bay-Farallon Islands area and, more recently, the area off Eureka, Humboldt Co. Monterey

Bay is uniquely favorable for migrant pelagics because the continental shelf approaches within 8 mi. of Moss Landing and many deep-water associated organisms occur close to shore. This area also marks the limits of the northern cold water and southern warm water regions of the North Pacific. These characteristics, combined with many years of competent observations, have produced many records of our rarer pelagic species, such as Wilson's Petrel and Thick-billed Murre. Monterey Bay is essentially the northern limit for such southern species as Manx Shearwater, Black Petrel and Xantus' Murrelet, and the southern limit in our Region for such species as New Zealand Shearwater, Ancient Murrelet and Tufted Puffin. The San Francisco Bay area is characterized by fairly shallow water extending beyond the Farallon Islands 30 mi. offshore. This shallow water has an apparent lack of large numbers of pelagic migrants, but is an important feeding area for such species as Sooty Shearwater in the summer and the breeding and wintering Alcid populations of our Region. Pelagic migrants in this area are more often found just beyond the Farallons where the water is deeper. The area off Eureka, in far N. California, is the farthest west area in our Region, Cape Mendocino, just south of Humboldt Bay, being the farthest point west in the contiguous U.S. This area is about 90 mi. west of the San Francisco area and 130 mi. west of the Monterey area, being about the same latitude as Westport, Wash. Not enough is known about the offshore areas of Eureka to draw any real conclusions but it seems apparent that this Region is ornithologically similar to the Westport area and may be the source of records of species characteristic of more northern waters, such as Laysan Albatross, Pale-footed and Slender-billed Shearwaters, Long-tailed Jaeger and Skua. Increased pelagic observation in this area will shed further light on this supposition.

LOONS, GREBES — A breeding plumaged Com. Loon, a rare but regular inland migrant, was at the Chico Sewage Ponds, Butte Co. May 12 (TM). Arctic Loon migration peaked in late April with literally thousands noted flying north. By the middle of May only a few remained in the Region. Red-throated Loons were very scarce this spring, the only reports being single birds near the Farallon Is. Apr. 10 (BMcL) and Apr. 23 (RLeV) and a few off Eureka May 7 (R.R.A.S). The Yellow-billed Loon reported at the close of the winter season in Monterey Bay was last seen May 4 (RS). The fact that this individual remained in winter plumage until such a late date may indicate that it was an imm. bird. The last Red-necked Grebe reports were of one at the Pajaro River Mouth, Monterey Co. Apr. 1 (J&RW) and two in breeding plumage at Bodega Head, Sonoma Co. Apr. 6 (WMP). A Horned Grebe coming into breeding plumage at the Chico Sewage Ponds Apr. 20-22 was at the usual time migrants of this species are to be expected in the interior (TM, RS). At least 5 Eared Grebes in breeding plumage were at the Woodland Sugar Ponds, Yolo Co. during May, a locality where they nested last year (B&RL, JT, DAG). Western Grebes were observed in courtship activity at L. Berryessa, Napa Co. during the end of May (FB), a probable new nesting locality.

TUBENOSES, PELICANS, CORMORANTS —

Black-footed Albatrosses were reported in normal numbers; maximums were about 200 off Eureka May 7 (R.R.A.S.), 50+ off Bodega Bay, also May 7 (JH), 5 just beyond the Farallons Apr. 30 (G.G.A.S.), and 10 off Pt. Sur, Monterey Co. May 3 (AB). Fifteen Fulmars were seen off Humboldt Bay May 7 (R.R.A.S.); elsewhere the only reports were of 2 off Pt. Sur May 13 (AB) and 2 just beyond the Farallon Is. May 14 (OAS). Our summer population of Pink-footed Shearwaters arrived after the first of May; after that date 15-30 were seen on each of the pelagic trips. The first spring records for **Pale-footed Shearwaters** in many years were 3 seen well off Eureka May 7 (R.R.A.S.) and 1 just beyond the Farallons May 14 (GH). Sooty Shearwaters were abundant throughout the period with the customary feeding flocks in Monterey Bay and just outside San Francisco Bay. Up to 30,000 were feeding on squid in the s. part of Monterey Bay between Apr. 21 & May 30, the longest stay in one area that this observer (AB) has seen. An Ashy Petrel, rare in spring, was seen off Pacific Grove, Monterey Co. May 18 during a n.w. gale (AB).

The dry spring was probably responsible for the White Pelican's early passage through our Region; the bulk of the Pelican sightings at San Luis N.W.R., Merced Co. were in March (GS). Brown Pelicans arrived very early this year. The first reports were on Apr. 24 when 2 ad. and 1 imm. were off Pacific Grove (RLeV, RS, AB) and 1 ad. was at Moss Landing (VA). After the first week of May small numbers were reported from all along the coast of our Region north to Bodega Bay. Although three Double-crested Cormorants were seen flying over the Chico Sewage Ponds May 14 (TM) no verified nesting reports were received from the interior.

HERONS, EGRETS, IBISES —

Most observers reported numbers of herons and egrets (at the known rookeries) to be about the same as last year, but a thorough evaluation is not usually possible until the summer season reports have come in. A definite movement of Green Herons was detected along the Pacific Grove coastline during the last of April and the first of May (RS). Other migrants were single birds at Los Banos W.A. Apr. 20 (ROW) and at the Pajaro R. mouth May 5 (J&RW). One observer in the CV (TM) felt that Green Herons were scarcer than normal due to the lack of water at many of the usual locations, but others reported them as breeding in apparently higher numbers where there was water such as along Putah Creek, Yolo Co. (JT, DAG). Other breeding areas include the Smith R. in the coastal Del Norte Co. (ODS), Jacoby Creek in Humboldt Co. (RLeV), along the American R., Sacramento Co. (BK), Pescadero Marsh, San Mateo Co. (PM) and Searsville L., Stanford (DDeS). For the fifth consecutive year a Yellow-crowned Night Heron has appeared near San Rafael, Marin Co. (ABu). This year's first sighting was May 28, one day earlier than in 1971. The latest White-faced Ibis record at Los Banos W.A. was Apr. 8 (ROW, AB), a date almost two weeks earlier than last year, a possible reflection of the lack of water in the CV. Two of this species at Sierra Valley, Sierra Co. May 26 (JH) were probably late migrants in an unusual mountain location.

WATERFOWL — The extremely dry weather has affected the nesting waterfowl in CV. In Merced Co. most waterfowl nesting activity was finished by the end of May and few broods were seen (ROW). Elsewhere, nesting reports averaged 2 to 3 weeks earlier than normal, but numbers were nearly average. The peak of the Black Brant migration at Limantour Estero, Marin Co. was Apr. 5 when over 1200 were seen in a 6 hour period (DM). Peak numbers last year were 5000 in 6 hours, 4 times as many! Two Fulvous Tree Ducks were at the Woodland Sugar Ponds May 19 (JT) and a single bird remained through the end of the period (DAG). This is the same locality where the first Sacramento area record was obtained last year. Blue-winged Teal were reported in smaller but more normal numbers than last year. Most wintering birds departed about the third week of April, migrants were reported during the first week of May, and one pair was still present May 27 along the Smith R. near Crescent City (ODS). The latest regional record ever of a Com. Teal was a ♂ at Jacoby Creek, Humboldt Bay, May 6 (GH, J&SL, RLeV). Nesting reports of Wood Ducks were scarce, destruction of riparian habitat in this Region having restricted this species to rather local breeding areas. Redheads again nested at the Woodland Sugar Ponds where young were seen on May 26 (DAG). This species nests locally in small numbers throughout the interior part of the Region. On Apr. 17-18 three Greater Scaup, rare inland, were well described from the Woodland Sugar Ponds (DGr). The Oldsquaw that wintered at the Berkeley Pier was last seen Apr. 8 (LWG). Another individual of this species was near Pt. Reyes until May 20 (WMP, GH), a late record although other individuals have remained into June. Harlequin Ducks were reported from the usual coastal locations of Pt. St. George (DE) and Crescent City, Del Norte Co. (ODS, TM), and Ano Nuevo Pt., San Mateo Co. (VA, VR). There are records of this species from every month of the year at these localities but there are no recent breeding records from the montane areas of our Region. Most wintering Com. Scoters had departed from the Region by May 10 (DM). One off Mendocino Co. May 27 was very late (BMCL). A pair of ad. Hooded Mergansers frequented a salt water feeding area near San Rafael for 4 weeks until Apr. 4 (ABu). This species is rarely found away from fresh water.

RAPTORS — Turkey Vultures were again reported in good numbers from all areas of the Region. The first satisfactory record of a **Black Vulture** for our Region was of one, beautifully described, at the Chico Sewage Ponds Apr. 13 (TM). The bird was moving n.w. with a loosely associated wave of Turkey Vultures, Swainson's Hawks and an Osprey. The only Goshawk was an ad. from the north coast Apr. 27 (DE). A total of 21 Sharp-shinned and 17 Cooper's Hawks were reported from the Region. Raptor counts in the e. San Francisco Bay Region are reporting an increase of 50-70 per cent in the spring Red-tailed Hawk populations (BE). Red-shouldered and Swainson's Hawks were reported nesting in small numbers in favorable habitat in the Region. An ad. Red-shouldered Hawk at the n.w. corner of Mono L. May 24 was the first Regional record e. of the Sierra (DDeS, JF). Four migrant Swainson's Hawks in Pacific

Grove Apr. 29 were unusual along the coast (VLY). Rough-legged Hawks lingered into the first week of May: 2 were at the Woodland Sugar Ponds May 2 (B&RL), 1 was near Winters, Yolo Co. May 7 (TM) and 1 was near the Yolo Bypass, Yolo Co. May 9 (B&RL). Many Golden Eagle reports were received and most known eyries in our Region were occupied. Three Bald Eagles from the northern borders of the Region, 2 imm. and 1 ad., were somewhat less than usual. No nesting was reported during this period. Ospreys were considered common in the northern coastal area. Six Prairie and 4 Peregrine Falcons were reported from the Region; the localities of all of these are, unfortunately, better left unrevealed.

GROUSE, RAILS — At least 10 drumming ♂ Blue Grouse were found on Horse Mountain in e. Humboldt Co. May 6 (DE, RS, RLeV *et al.*). Ruffed Grouse were reported from the usual location in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, Humboldt Co. during May (MK). In addition Dorothy L. Parker (*vide* DA) reports this species from an area around the s.w. corner of Shasta Co. and nearby Trinity Co. This represents a considerable extension of their California range and deserves further investigation. The Clapper Rail population in S. San Francisco Bay seems to be maintaining its numbers (BE, PM). This is another species which can remain successful if its salt marsh habitat can be preserved. A Virginia Rail flushed from Hodgdon Meadow, Yosemite, May 27 (JL) was near the altitudinal limit of its breeding range in California.

SHOREBIRDS — The shorebird migration in our Region apparently was normal. There was some indication of birds leaving the dry Central Valley a little early, but along the coast most migrant species departed on time. The smaller shorebirds, such as Least and W. Sandpipers and Dunlin were essentially gone by the end of the period, while some of the larger species such as Willet, Marbled Godwit and Black-bellied Plover remained throughout the summer in non-breeding plumage, as is normal. It may be that these larger species take more than one year to reach breeding age. Single Snowy Plovers, rare away from the coast, were at the Woodland Sugar Ponds Apr. 4 (DAG) and Apr. 21-22 (DGr, B&RL). Four Am. Golden Plovers on the spit of Humboldt Bay Apr. 3 were the only reports of this rare spring migrant (DA). Larger-than-normal numbers of Whimbrels passed through the Region this spring: concentrations of 200 near Davis, Apr. 6 (JT, DAG) and 185 at Limantour Estero, Apr. 16 (DM) were among the highest numbers reported. The only Lesser Yellowlegs reported this season was one on Putah Creek Apr. 14 (JT). A Rock Sandpiper at Bodega Head, Apr. 2 (GH) was probably as late as this species normally stays. A breeding-plumaged ♀ Red Phalarope near Davenport, Santa Cruz Co. Apr. 26 was the only report of the season (RS, RG). Wilson's Phalaropes were considered abnormally scarce around Woodland this spring (JT, DAG).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — The Pomarine Jaeger, recorded singly from Pacific Grove Apr. 17 (AB) and off San Francisco Apr. 23 (RLeV) is the only

jaeger normally reported in spring. On the May 7 pelagic trip out of Eureka a single Skua was well seen for the third spring Regional record (RS, RLeV, GH *et al.*). Two Glaucous Gulls were seen this spring season: one migrant at Pt. Pinos, Monterey Co. Apr. 20 (RS) and the other, a lingering bird, in Arcata, Humboldt Co. May 6 (GH). This spring many observers reported California Gulls with an intensified coloring of the soft parts of the body. Although most of these super-colored birds were adults with the entire bill colored the bright red that is normally restricted to a spot on the lower mandible and with bright orange legs, there were some second and third winter plumaged birds also with a highly intensified coloring to the bill. As many as 19 of these birds were at El Estero, Monterey Co. in a flock of 200 California Gulls (RS) and they were reported from literally everywhere along the immediate coast of the Region. A satisfactory explanation for this phenomenon is lacking. An imm. Mew Gull at Arcata May 31 was very late for this species (DE). Adult Bonaparte's Gulls migrated steadily through the Region during April and the first 2 weeks of May after which time essentially all of the Bonaparte's Gulls were imm. plumaged birds. There were no huge concentrations of this species as there have been in recent years. The scarcity of Black-legged Kittiwakes this winter continued through the spring. Most of the pelagic trips reported only 1-3 individuals. The only Sabine's Gulls reported were 1 off Eureka May 7 (RLeV, RS), 12 off Pt. Sur, May 13 (AB) and 1 at Pt. Pinos May 15 (RLeV). Least Tern numbers remained approximately the same as the last few years, although the habitat at one nesting site on Bay Farm I., Alameda Co. has been rendered inappropriate for their nesting by the planting of grass on the sand as erosion control (BE).

ALCIDS — All of the breeding Alcids in our Region were reported from their breeding colonies in at least normal numbers. Approximately 30 Marbled Murrelets were counted along the Humboldt Co. shoreline just south of Eureka about 1 mi. from shore May 7 (RLeV, RS, GH *et al.*). All of these were in breeding plumage and most were paired and calling. A *Xantus' Murrelet*, the first spring record for the Region, was well seen near the Farallon Is. Apr. 30 (RG). Rhinoceros Auklets were again reported around the Farallons, where they are suspected of nesting (RLeV).

PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS — Band-tailed Pigeon numbers were noticeably lower this winter and spring along the c. Coast (DDeS) but considerably increased in the interior foothills and even in the CV itself where numbers remained through April, a few even to mid-May (JT, BK, DAG). Mourning Dove surveys in the s. San Francisco Bay area indicate that the exceptionally high population of last year has been sustained this year (BE). This species was also reported in higher-than-usual numbers in Humboldt Co. (MK, RLeV). A Flammulated Owl was seen and heard at China Camp, Monterey Co. Apr. 19 (RS), apparently the earliest record for our Region. At least 14 were found at the 2500 ft. level near Forest Ranch, Butte Co. May 22-31 (TM, BW), a new locality for this species. Six Saw-whet Owls, 4 Screech Owls and a Pygmy Owl

were found in the same area at the same time, indicating the high population density these small owls can attain. The ever-increasing number of Spotted Owl locations in the coast range s. of the Golden Gate is augmented by the recording of a pair near Soquel, Santa Cruz Co. during the spring (BE). One was heard near Crane Flat, Yosemite, May 12 (SB), another new locality for the species. A Long-eared Owl was discovered on a nest near Salmon Creek, 4 mi. from the coast in S. Monterey Co. Apr. 2 (VLY, RLB). This may now be the least understood owl in our Region. A Short-eared Owl, Apr. 20, at Volta W.A., Merced Co. (ROW) and 3 or 4 May 7 at Beale Air Force Base, Sutter Co. (*vide* BK) were the only ones of the spring. A dead Poor-will was picked up along Putah Creek, May 18 — it is very rare on the floor of the CV (JT). A Com. Nighthawk, May 28, below Davis Lake, Plumas Co., was the only one reported (JH).

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — It was an excellent spring for swifts. A Black Swift was in Cold Canyon near Monticello Dam, Solano Co. May 5 (JT) — it is very rare in the CV. However, the outstanding sighting of the season was of 110+ flying n. over Arcata on the afternoon of May 22, and 30+ more the next morning (DE). Three were at Chew's Ridge near China Camp May 25 (*vide* VA). 2 were at Rodeo Lagoon Marin Co. May 27 (*vide* VH) and 1 was over S. Farallon the same day (P.R.B.O.). The best flight of Vaux's Swifts in many years occurred throughout central California from Marin Co. across the CV to the foothills of the Sierra, Apr. 23-May 5. Many hundreds were present around Folsom and Bass Lakes, El Dorado Co. Apr. 29 (Eds. *et al.*). A ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird at Pinnacles Nat. Monument, San Benito Co. May 5 (WMP *et al.*) and 3 ♂♂ at Jenny Creek, N. Siskiyou Co. May 13 (ODS), were at seldom reported localities. A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird at a feeder near Folsom L. Apr. 29 (*vide* BK) and another ♂ on S. Farallon during the spring (P.R.B.O.) were north of their normal range in our Region. Good numbers of Rufous Hummingbirds passed through the CV during April and early May (BK), a time when numbers were decreasing along the coast (DDeS); they may represent individuals bound for the far north. At least 12 ♂♂ Calliope Hummingbirds were found from the central coast to the CV between Apr. 5 and May 17. These birds have the interesting habit of defending temporary territories for anywhere from a few days to 2 weeks while on migration in the lowlands of our Region. A ♂ **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** was at the n.w. corner of Mono L., at the e. edge of our Region, May 24 (DDeS, JF), a location 50 mi. n.w. of their breeding range in the White Mts.

The recent increase in Pileated Woodpeckers at the s. limit of their range in the Coast Mts. appears to be a fact: a pair was present in Big Basin SP, Santa Cruz Co., Apr. 9 (*vide* VA), the first Coast Range record s. of the Golden Gate. They were well reported from the n. Coast Range and in the Sierra. The minor invasion of Lewis' Woodpeckers into the Monterey area last winter carried over into the spring as 6 were found, apparently breeding in new locations in interior San Benito and Monterey

Cos. (AB). A ♂ Williamson's Sapsucker at China Camp, Apr. 20, was the third Monterey Co. record and one of the very few near the coast (RS, GM). A Nuttall's Woodpecker in Lafayette, Contra Costa Co. now joins the ever increasing list of birds whose nesting holes have been usurped by the exploding Starling population of our Region (LF). White-headed Woodpeckers were found breeding commonly within 20 mi. of the coast in Humboldt Co. during April and May (DE, RS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — A **Tropical Kingbird**, carefully described from Sacramento, May 28 (BK), is the first spring vagrant of this species from our Region and the first record at any time away from the immediate coast. Up to 3 Cassin's Kingbirds in the Arroyo Mocho, Alameda Co. during the spring (DE, WMP *et al.*) and at least 10 more e. of Panoche Pass, San Benito Co. Apr. 1 (J&PE) were more than usually reported for the Region. However a pair building a nest in a Monterey Cypress ½ mi. from the coast near Palomarin Ranch, May 20-27, was unprecedented (P.R.B.O.). Records of transient *Empidonax* flycatchers, including Westerns, were noticeably scarce this spring: only 7 Traill's, 1 each of Hammond's, Dusky and Gray and 6 *Empidonax sp.* were found away from breeding area. Both Hammond's and Dusky, however, were recorded as common breeders within 20 mi. of the coast in Humboldt Co. during May (DE). An old nesting colony along the American R., Sacramento Co. had 50-100 Bank Swallows Apr. 8 (RLeV) while 30 arrived at a newly discovered colony at the Pajaro River Mouth, Apr. 13 (J&RW). Purple Martins were first seen Mar. 14 in Sacramento (*vide* BK) and were present in the usual localities in normal numbers.

CORVIDS THROUGH DIPPER — Seven Black-billed Magpies at Iron Gate Dam, Siskiyou Co. Apr. 22 were slightly west of their normal range (ODS). Common Ravens were found near Corning, Tehama Co., and Near Orland and Black Butte Res., Glenn Co. Apr. 15 (TM, BW *et al.*); they now appear to be locally regular in the Sacramento Valley. Chestnut-backed Chickadees were found to outnumber Mountain Chickadees 10:1 between 4140 ft. and 6570 ft. elevations s. of Trinity Mt. on the Humboldt-Trinity Co. line (DA). This species seems to be undergoing a definite range expansion in many areas of our Region. Red-breasted Nuthatches appear to be well established as breeding birds in several areas around San Francisco Bay (GH, DG, VR, DDeS *et al.*), at China Camp (TC) and in the n. coastal fog belt at Russ Park, Ferndale, Humboldt Co. (DA). Brown Creepers were recorded as successfully nesting in a mature willow woodland at Searsville L., Stanford, (DDeS) and in a eucalyptus grove near Soquel (*vide* VA) — rather unusual tree associations for this species. A Dipper was feeding young at Richardson's Spring, Butte Co. elevation 450 ft., Apr. 22 (RS, TM *et al.*). While it is known to breed at sea level in the Coast Range, this seems to be a very low elevation for the Sierra.

MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS — Mockingbirds may well become a breeding species in suburban habitat around Humboldt Bay; several were found at a number

Table I
Spring Migration of Characteristic Landbirds — 1972

<u>Species</u>		<u>Date of First Arrival</u>	<u>Timing of First Major Influx</u>
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	Feb. 26 Berkeley (DG)	Mar. 4-11 1 week early
*Western Kingbird	1	Mar. 2 New Hogan Res., Calaveras Co. (<i>fide</i> BK)	Mar. 22-29 >1 week early
*Cassin's Kingbird	1	Mar. 8 Panoche Pass, San Benito Co. (PE)	Mar. 23-Apr. <1 week early
Black-chinned Hummingbird	2	Mar. 11 Sacramento (<i>fide</i> BK)	Not Reported
*Western Flycatcher	1	Mar. 12 Fairfield Park, Sonoma Co. (<i>fide</i> M.A.S.)	Mar. 16-18 1 week early
Bullock's Oriole	1	Mar. 12 Arroyo Mocho, Alameda Co. (VR)	Mar. 17-24 >1 week early
Warbling Vireo	1	Mar. 13 Carmel River Mouth (RS)	Mar. 24-25 1 week early
Wilson's Warbler	sev.	Mar. 17 Marin Co. (P.R.B.O.), Stanford (DDES)	Mar. 17-24 1 week early
Hooded Oriole	1	Mar. 18 Sacramento (<i>fide</i> BK)	Mar. 25-28 1 week early
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2	Mar. 20 Jasper Ridge, Stanford (DDes)	Not Recorded
Chipping Sparrow	1	Mar. 20 Sacramento (<i>fide</i> BK)	Mar. 30-Apr. 3 >1 week early
*Yellow Warbler	1	Mar. 21 San Mateo Co. (PM)	Apr. 3-10 >1 week early
*Swainson's Thrush	1	Mar. 24 Lafayette, Contra Costa Co. (LF)	Apr. 25-29 <1 week early
Black-headed Grosbeak	1	Mar. 28 Sacramento area (<i>fide</i> BK)	Mar. 30-Apr. 2 >1 week early
Solitary Vireo	1	Mar. 30 Rd. to China Camp, Monterey Co. (VR)	Apr. 2-5 1 week early
Black-thr. Gray Warbler	8	Mar. 30 Rd. to China Camp, Monterey Co. (VR)	Mar. 30-Apr. 5 >1 week early
House Wren	sev.	Apr. 1 Sacramento area (<i>fide</i> BK)	Apr. 1-5 <1 week early
Ash-throated Flycatcher	1	Apr. 2 Pine Flat Res., Sonoma Co. (<i>fide</i> M.A.S.)	Not Recorded
Calliope Hummingbird	1	Apr. 5 Pt. Pinos, Monterey Co. (RLeV)	Apr. 14-16 <1 week early
Nashville Warbler	2	Apr. 7 Sacramento (JT)	Apr. 18-21 On time
Vaux's Swift	sev.	Apr. 8 Mt. Diablo, Contra Costa Co. (LWG)	Apr. 23-25 On time
MacGillivray's Warbler	1	Apr. 8 Alum Rock Park, San Jose (TC)	Apr. 14-19 On time
Lesser Nighthawk	2	Apr. 9 San Luis NWR, Merced Co. (GS)	Not Recorded
*Western Wood Pewee	1	Apr. 9 Sonoma Co. (<i>fide</i> M.A.S.)	Apr. 28-May 1 On time
Western Tanager	1	Apr. 10 Sacramento (<i>fide</i> BK)	Apr. 24-29 <1 week early
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	Apr. 14 Tilden Park, Berkeley (DG)	Apr. 22-23 On time
Hermit Warbler	1	Apr. 16 Lafayette (LF)	Apr. 16-24 <1 week early
Lazuli Bunting	sev.	Apr. 22 Sacramento area (BK)	Apr. 22-28 On time

*Earliest Regional Record

of locations in that area during the spring (DE, DA). The only Sage Thrasher found away from the Great Basin was one on S. Farallon May 28-29 (P.R.B.O.). A ♂ Mountain Bluebird near Sonoma Mt., Sonoma Co. Apr. 20 (LWG) and a ♀ on S. Farallon May 28 (P.R.B.O.) were very late for coastal locations. Townsend's Solitaires were found to be very common throughout the mountainous areas of Humboldt Co. throughout the spring (DE, RS *et al.*). A few Cedar Waxwings remained scattered throughout the Region until the very end of the season as is normal. Single Hutton's Vireos were present at the usual CV location of Los Banos W.A. Apr. 5 and May 5 (ROW) — further evidence of the partially migratory nature of this species. A **Bell's Vireo** was seen and heard repeatedly at Pinnacles Nat'l Monument May 6-7 (WMP *et al.*). While there have only been 6 or 7 records of this species from our Region in the last 18 years, it was last satisfactorily recorded at this exact location some 7 years ago (RS).

WOOD WARBLERS — As expected after their extremely poor winter, Audubon's Warblers were very scarce as migrants in the Region (VR, DDeS *et al.*). The major movement through Stanford this spring was a small peak in late March and early April associated with equal numbers of Myrtle Warblers (DDeS). Most Myrtles had left the Region by mid-April but one near Davis

Apr. 29 (RLeV) and 5 at Searsville L. May 6 (DDeS) were late. Most observers found coastal nesting Orange-crowned Warblers to be in normal numbers, but Wilson's Warblers and especially Yellow Warblers to be somewhat scarce. It is interesting to note that the latter 2 species were more dependent on riparian areas, areas especially affected by the very dry spring. Most of the montane nesting warblers occurred in better numbers as transients in the Coast Range this year than last, probably as a result of the reduced n.w. winds. Nashville Warblers were especially well represented with at least 10 in the Bay Area Apr. 18-May 6, while one in Pacific Grove Apr. 26 (VLY) and 4 on S. Farallon May 4-27 (P.R.B.O.) provide records on the immediate coast.

MacGillivray's Warblers also made a good showing in the Bay Area and appeared to be breeding in several areas near Berkeley (VR) and at Palomarin Ranch (*fide* DDeS). A Hermit Warbler at Audubon Canyon Ranch, Bolinas, Mar. 27 (AP) and a ♂ with a flock of Townsend's Warblers on Mt. Wittenberg, Pt. Reyes, Apr. 4 (WMP *et al.*) were probably wintering birds. A coordinated effort was made by the observers in our Region to collect data on the occurrences of Yellowthroats. Breeding densities of 35 pr./100 acres in coastal San Mateo and Santa Cruz Co. marshes, both fresh and salt (BE), may be typical of our central coast. Numbers

in salt marshes appear to be higher in winter than in summer, while the reverse seems to be true in fresh marshes (DDeS). While small numbers of apparent migrants passed through the Inner Coast Range and CV Apr. 9-May 20 (mostly April), no positive nesting record was obtained for the CV.

As is usual, small numbers of "eastern" vagrants were recorded in our Region, mostly toward the very end of the period. A Black-and-white Warbler was at the Yolo Bypass Apr. 22 (B&RL) and another was at the n.w. corner of Mono L. May 24 (DDeS, JF). A Tennessee Warbler was on S. Farallon May 4, one was banded there May 20, another banded there May 21 (P.R.B.O.) and a singing ♂ was at Mono L. May 30 (DDeS, JF). A ♂ **Bay-breasted Warbler**, the fifth spring record for the Region, was on S. Farallon May 28 and a ♂ Am. Redstart was there May 29-31 (P.R.B.O.).

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS — A minor invasion of Yellow-headed Blackbirds reached the coast in mid-May: 29 were at Pt. Pinos May 11 (RS, RLeV), a ♀ was 3 mi. s. of Cape Mendocino May 14 (DA *et al.*) and 4 ♀♀ were at Coyote Hills Park, Alameda Co. May 15 (BE). A ♀ Hooded Oriole was present in Ferndale Apr. 23-25 (DA, DE), the first Humboldt Co. record. A ♀ Baltimore Oriole was in Arcata Apr. 16 (DE *et al.*); it was probably a wintering bird since Baltimore Orioles were recorded from the Humboldt Bay area last fall and winter. A ♀ Bullock's Oriole, also probably wintering, was at Arcata Mar. 2 (SS). Three Bullock's were at Prairie Creek Redwoods SP Apr. 21-June (MK) and a pair was at Orleans Apr. 30 (SS — all in all, a good showing for Humboldt Co. The wintering Summer Tanager remained in Pacific Grove until Apr. 13 (*fide* AB) while an adult ♂ was on S. Farallon May 27-28 (P.R.B.O.).

FINCHES — Many finches, perhaps negatively responding to the dry conditions throughout most of the Region, showed up in exceptional numbers in Prairie Creek; most noticeable were Black-headed Grosbeaks, Lazuli Buntings, Purple Finches and both American and Lesser Goldfinches (MK). The same explanation may account for the virtual invasion of Lawrence's Goldfinches into the c. coast of the Region. They were nesting everywhere in the East Bay (VR, GH, J&SL *et al.*), at most of the outer windbreaks on Pt. Reyes (Eds.), at the Pajaro River Mouth (J&RW) and they were one of the commonest nesting landbirds along the coast of Monterey Co. (RS, RLeV). Three Pine Grosbeaks at 7500 ft., 10 mi. s. of Wilson Res., Fresno Co. May 26 (WBG) were at the southern limit of their range in California. A ♀ Red Crossbill near China Camp May 19 (*fide* VA) was the only report away from the Sierra.

Grasshopper Sparrows were present at their usual locations and at 3 new locations in the Inner Coast Range during May. Good numbers of interior breeding sparrows were found on the coast this spring. A Green-tailed Towhee and a Brewer's Sparrow were on S. Farallon on May 27 and a Lark Sparrow was there May 26-27 (P.R.B.O.). A Vesper Sparrow was at Arcata Apr. 20 (SS), but most remarkable was a **Black-throated Sparrow** photographed at Humboldt Bay near Arcata May 12 (DA *et al.*). Both are first county records and are the

first spring records on the coast of our Region. Black-chinned Sparrows, like Lawrence's Goldfinches, invaded the central part of the Region. They were found near Paradise, Butte Co. Mar. 16-22 (AA) and near Folsom L. Apr. 29 (DDeS *et al.*), both north of their previously known range in the Sierra. They were found in 4 new Contra Costa and Alameda Co. locations, including Tilden Park, Berkeley (*fide* VH). Most remarkable of all, however, was the finding of 5 singing ♂♂ an ocean-facing coastal scrub at Palomarin Ranch from mid-May until the end of the period (P.R.B.O.). In view of last winter's invasion, 5 transient White-throated Sparrows Apr. 3-29 were not surprising (RS, VR, JH *et al.*); 4 overwintering birds were known to have departed between Apr. 27 and May 5. Similarly an overwintering Harris' Sparrow left Mill Valley, Marin Co. Apr. 29 (*fide* VH). These dates exactly coincide with the last major departure of *Zonotrichia* from our Region. Late individual Golden-crowned Sparrows, however, were recorded from May 7-24 at 4 locations.

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