

## MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/ Van Remsen and David A. Gaines

Exceptionally warm, dry springtime weather followed one of the coldest, wettest winters on record. High temperatures in the s. Sacramento Valley were 4° F. above normal in April and 7° above normal in May. Rainfall was five per cent of average. Seed production of grasses and forbs in the lowlands and foothills was roughly one-half again as much as last year (Dean Taylor, U.C. Davis Botany Dept.). Seasonal streams flowed late into the spring. Early melting of the heavy Sierra snowpack swelled creeks and rivers in the mountains.



The large amounts of standing water produced by last winter's exceptional rains induced many waterfowl to stay later than normal. Almost all pelagic species were scarce; the weekly boat trips all spring reported below-average numbers of just about everything. An unusual number of Mississippi Flyway shorebirds were reported this spring, including a probable Semipalmated Sandpiper April 26 at Woodland, Yolo. Co. (DAG).

Overall the landbird migration was uneventful as to numbers of passing birds. Plentiful food and water in coast range and foothill areas may have permitted transients to pass through on a broad front. In addition, the paucity of storm fronts may have contributed to the infrequency of well-defined waves. Waves were reported April 22-24 in the Sacramento area (Western Wood Pewee, and Nashville, Yellow, Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, Hermit, MacGillivray's, and Wilson's Warblers—*fide* BK) and May 31 on the Samoa Peninsula, Humboldt Co. (Western Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Yellowthroat, Am. Redstart, and Dark-eyed "Slate-colored" Junco—TS, RW). In contrast to 1972, migrants appeared on time or slightly late (Table 1). This correlates with the striking extremes in weather of the last two winters: dry and warm in 1971-72 and cold and wet in 1972-73.

A heavy snowpack in the Sierra delayed arrival of several nesting species (Table 2). Sixteen Nashville Warblers at two stops in chamise chaparral at 1500 ft. in the western foothills of the Sierra, a non-breeding area, April 27, correlated with their absence from higher regions at that time. By May 17, Hodgdon Meadows (4000 ft.) and Crane Flat (6000 ft.), both in Yosemite, appeared to have normal breeding populations, excepting Western Tanagers and flycatchers, which seemed scarcer than last year (MM).

Observers in areas that were drought-stricken last year reported return of birds to normal breeding localities. North of Yosemite, for instance, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Lazuli Buntings returned to chamise chaparral; last year they apparently nested in brushy forest (MM). Lazuli Buntings were more common this spring than last at Mt. Diablo (J&SL, VR), and were numerous in Carmel Valley where "absent last spring due to extensive drought" (AB). Lawrence's Goldfinches remained along the Santa Cruz Co. coast until April 3, but, apparently due to mesic conditions, did not remain to nest (BGE).

**LOONS & GREBES**—Single Com. Loons were found inland at Boca Dam, Nevada Co., Apr. 28 (RS, LCB, VR, GB) and Monticello Dam, Napa Co., through the end of the period (D. Shuford, *fide* DAG). As usual, Arctic Loons were conspicuous in their northward coastal migration throughout the period; individuals could be seen moving north from nearly any coastal point at any time of day on any day at a rate of 10 to 150 per hour. This species vastly outnumbered both Common and Red-throated Loons in migration. A breeding plumage Red-necked Grebe at Bitterwater Valley, Monterey Co., Apr. 28-May 6 (KH) was an inland rarity. The latest Red-necked Grebe was reported from Monterey May 10 (AB). Horned Grebes, rare inland, were at Chico Apr. 14 (TM), Boca Dam Apr. 28 (RS, LCB, VR, GB), and Eagle Lake, Lassen Co., May 19 (TM). A W. Grebe was at Nicasio Reservoir, Marin Co., May 26 (MLR), an unusual locality for this species so late in spring.

**TUBENOSES**—Two Laysan Albatrosses were 87 mi. off Eureka Apr. 15 (RLeV) and another was only three mi. off Eureka Apr. 17 (*fide* DE). Northern Fulmars remained very scarce, with two off Eureka Apr. 14-15 (RLeV) and two there May 6 (DE *et. al.*) the only ones reported. Pink-footed Shearwaters were less common than usual, most boat trips recording less than ten birds. Sooty Shearwaters were also somewhat below normal, at least until mid-May. Two Short-tailed Shearwaters were well-described from about 100 mi. off Eureka Apr. 15 (RLeV, S.H. Harris) for the Region's first spring record. The only Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were three 40-80 mi. off Eureka Apr. 14-15 (RLeV). Leach's Storm-Petrels were found to be common (100+) beyond 40 mi. off Eureka Apr. 14-15 (RLeV). The prize for the most bizarre sighting this season goes to Dick Erickson and Tom Schulenberg who, on May 9 in Humboldt Co., were at the Mad River about four river-miles inland when a Leach's Storm-Petrel floated by them and then took off downstream. There was no foul weather preceding this

observation, and a logical explanation has not yet been found; perhaps the river is just very well named. This species is very rare within 25 miles of the coast, much less a few miles inland.

**PELICANS THROUGH HERONS**—Brown Pelicans arrived early and many young-of-the-year were present. The first juveniles were noted at Santa Cruz May 7 (BGE) and the first real influx occurred May 11-15, with small flocks noted from Moss Landing to Eureka. At the Pajaro Rivermouth, 100+ were counted May 19; the first 100+ census there in 1972 was much later—July 13 (J&RW). The Klamath Basin refuges recorded a spectacular 1782 Double-crested Cormorants Apr. 30 (EJO). Heron and egret populations in the S.F. Bay area showed no significant changes from 1972 (D.F.G., BGE). A Snowy Egret nest with eggs was found May 27 on Indian I., Humboldt Bay; last year three pairs fledged six young here for the first Humboldt Co. nesting record (JH). An ad. Little Blue Heron was defending a nest site from Snowy Egrets in the egret colony on Bair I., San Mateo Co., Apr. 28-29; the bird was not present. May 2 and no further evidence of mating or nesting was observed (RGI, BGE). Perhaps the probable Little Blue Heron X Snowy Egret hybrid found last winter at Palo Alto had been produced in this colony in a previous year. On Apr. 8, an ad. Yellow-crowned Night Heron returned to San Rafael for the sixth consecutive year (ABu, WMP). Two White-faced Ibis at the Klamath Basin refuges Apr. 30 were the first noted there in several years (EJO).

**WATERFOWL**—An extremely late and not visibly unhealthy Whistling Swan was at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza May 22 (ST), and five were still at the Klamath refuges Apr. 30 (EJO). Pairs of apparently summering Canada Geese were noted on S.F. Bay at Emeryville Apr. 28 (JH) and W. Marin I. through the end of the period (RSD). A Black Brant, rare inside S.F. Bay, was at Foster City Apr. 20 (PM). Five "Blue" Snow Geese were migrating north over Auburn, Placer Co., Apr. 5 (MA); not only is this a little late, but this form is seldom seen away from the company of white Snow Geese in our Region. The Klamath Basin refuges recorded 620 Ross' Geese as late as Apr. 30 (EJO). A Fulvous Tree Duck was at Woodland Apr. 19 (RS) and two were there May 20 (JH). A pair of very late or summering Pintails was at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza May 27 (MLR). The last "Common" Green-winged Teal and European Wigeon, both single ♂♂, were at Arcata May 5 (RS, BW). Probable nesting Wood Ducks were found at three localities along Arroyo Mocho and Arroyo Del Valle s. of Livermore (AE, DDeS). Four Canvasback ducklings at Kesterson N.W.R. May 22 (CJM) represent one of our few Central Valley (below, C.V.) breeding records. A ♀ Com. Goldeneye was at Belmont Slough, San Mateo Co., until the end of the period (PM) and a late ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye was at Bodega Bay Apr. 21 (JH). A ♀ Oldsquaw was at the Pajaro Rivermouth Apr. 5-13 (J&RW) and a probably injured imm. ♂ was at the Dumbarton Bridge Apr. 19 (JL). Nine very late or summering Black Scoters were at Pt. Reyes May

26 (MLR) and a ♂ remained at the Pajaro Rivermouth until May 11 (J&RW). A ♀ Hooded Merganser near Arcata May 20 was extremely late (DE, TS), as was a ♂ Com. Merganser moving northwest along the coast at Ft. Cronkite, Marin Co., May 26 (MLR).

**RAPTORS**—Sixteen hours of hawk-watching at Pt. Diablo, Marin Co. (see last fall's report), Mar. 2-Apr. 8 yielded 475 raptors: 183 Red-tailed Hawks, 114 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 79 Turkey Vultures, 67 Cooper's Hawks, 15 *Accipiter* (sp.), 12 Am. Kestrels, three Ospreys, one Golden Eagle, and one Marsh Hawk (LCB). The best day was Apr. 4 when 207 birds of seven species were passing at a rate of one bird every 64 secs., which is comparable to peak rates last fall. Apparently breeding Goshawks were noted at two n. coastal localities (RLeV, TS). Red-tailed Hawks are being displaced from nesting sites at Los Banos refuge by Great Horned Owls; four sites used by the hawks last year fledged owls this year (ROW). A Red-shouldered Hawk at Ship-a-shore, Del Norte Co., May 28 (DDS) was as far north as it could get in California. An ad. Broad-winged Hawk at Arroyo Mocho, Alameda Co., Apr. 22 (MLR) may be the Region's first spring migrant record. A Swainson's Hawk, rare away from the C.V., was at Arroyo Mocho April 28 (ST). A report of 35 Swainson's Hawks May 13 near Davis (B&CY) was very encouraging. The latest Rough-legged Hawk was reported from Topaz L., Sierra Co., Apr. 17 (RS, GM). Golden Eagles were reported from 20 locations in the Region, most of which were potential nesting localities. Two Bald Eagle nests with young were located in the Sierra foothills (*fide* DAG, TM, GN) and another was found in Trinity Co. (WKe). An Osprey May 28 in San Benito Co. (BGE) was too late for a migrant but we have no recent nesting records from that far south. Only one Peregrine Falcon was reported. A late Merlin was at Arcata May 17. Am. Kestrels are becoming less common every year in the Los Banos area (ROW).

**TURKEYS THROUGH QUAIL**—Three areas in the Sacramento foothills reported Turkeys (*fide* BK), and Santa Clara Co. populations were unchanged from 1972 (D.F.G., BGE). Blue Grouse were exceptionally common in Humboldt Co. (GE, TS *et. al.*), and a ♂ booming five mi. northwest of Hopland, Mendocino Co., Mar. 29 was at the southern limit of its coastal range (OK). Two Mountain Quail were at Mix Canyon, Solano Co., Apr. 15 (E. & C. Harper, *fide* BK) at the southeastern extremity of their range north of S.F. Bay.

**SHOREBIRDS**—Inland Semipalmated Plover were reported as follows: one Woodland Apr. 4 (B&RL), as many as nine at Woodland Apr. 26-29 (B&RL, DAG) and one Dinuba, Tulare Co., Apr. 29 (RGe). Of six Snowy Plover nests at the Pajaro Rivermouth, five produced 13 young (J&RW), about the same as last year. The only Am. Golden Plover sighted were two in breeding plumage at Arcata May 4-5 (DE, TS, RW *et. al.*). Migrant Surfbirds were again found in April at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza inside S.F. Bay (DE, ST). An unusually large concentration

(75) of migrant Ruddy Turnstones was located in agricultural fields at Arcata May 4; they were mostly gone the next day (DE, TS). Large numbers of migrant Whimbrels were seen throughout the Region Apr. 16-May 10, with the highest coastal count 350-400 Arcata May 4-5 (DE, TS) and highest inland count 150+ at Los Banos refuge May 7-8 (ROW). No fewer than four Solitary Sandpipers were found this spring: north of Glenn, Glenn Co., Apr. 24 (GAG), Arcata Apr. 26 (DE, TS, RW), Eureka Apr. 30-May 3 (DE, TS), and Dinuba May 3 (RGe). Interestingly, these dates correspond closely with peak spring migration dates for this species at Great Plains localities, such as e. Colorado. The Arcata and Eureka birds were the third and fourth Humboldt Co. records (DE). A flock of yellowlegs near Benicia, Solano Co., Apr. 10, comprised 71 Greaters and 45 Lessers (RS), exceptional numbers for both species. Many more than the normal number of spring Lesser Yellowlegs were reported: one Pescadero, San Mateo Co., Apr. 18 (DDeS), one Bolinas Lagoon, Marin Co., Apr. 23 (LCB), one to three at Fairhaven, Humboldt Co., Apr. 25-May 5 (DE, RLeV, TS *et. al.*), one Dinuba Apr. 29 (RGe), one Chico May 1 (BW), and one late bird at Palo Alto May 13 (TC). Over 200 Knots were counted in a field at Arcata May 4-5 (DE, TS *et. al.*). The last Rock Sandpipers reported were seven at Humboldt Bay Apr. 3 (M. Bramwell, *fide* DE). A Pectoral Sandpiper was at Bolinas Lagoon Apr. 23 (LCB) and remained until at least Apr. 28 (GB, BGE, VR, RS, DAZ) for the third spring record for the Region. A Baird's Sandpiper, also very scarce in spring, was well-described from Fairhaven Apr. 27-29 (RLeV, BB, DE, TS). The latest Dunlin was a single at Woodland May 6 (BK); a mass exodus from the Region had occurred in the previous week. Five Long-billed Dowitchers at Woodland May 19 (B&RL) were the latest ones reported. Two Marbled Godwits were also at Woodland May 19 (B&RL); this species is uncommon in the C.V., particularly so late in spring. Two Sanderlings, also rare inland, were reported from Fresno May 7 (RGe). The only Red Phalaropes reported were 40 off San Francisco May 5 (ST). Northern Phalaropes arrived on Monterey Bay Apr. 17, peaked at 20,000 on Carmel Bay May 1, and the last were seen on May 20 (AB).

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS**—Only a few Pomarine Jaegers were seen, with five off San Francisco Apr. 22 the maximum (VR *et. al.*), and, as is normal in spring, no Parasitics were reported; both these species are much more common in fall than spring. A first-year Glaucous Gull remained at Arcata until Apr. 29 (DE, RLeV, TS). Herring Gull was found to be the most common gull beyond 40 mi. offshore from Humboldt Co. Apr. 14-15, where it is rather rare coastally (RLeV). A considerable northward migration of ad. Herring Gulls was noted along the Humboldt coast Apr. 29 (DE). The imm. Franklin's Gull which wintered at Arcata remained until at least Apr. 18 (BB, DE). The usual late-April - early-May Bonaparte's Gull migration was fair but not spectacular this spring, with the highest count 1150 at the Pajaro Rivermouth May 5 (J&RW). Black-legged Kittiwakes continued to be scarce this spring with only a few scattered

individuals reported. Not one Sabine's Gull was reported despite boat trips on nearly every weekend all spring.

Migrant Forster's Terns peaked at the Pajaro Rivermouth May 4 with 600 counted, over twice as many as had been tallied in several years of censusing (J&RW). California's first spring and inland specimen for Arctic Tern was picked up dead at Bridgeport, Mono Co., May 22 (Eleanor Beemer, *fide* GMcC); this specimen is now in the San Diego Nat. Hist. Museum. Although this species is at times abundant offshore in the fall, only a few sight records existed for the spring. The earliest Least Tern was one at Moss Landing Apr. 27 (JH), and the first arrivals in S.F. Bay were recorded at several locations May 12-14 (BGE, JHol, ST). Black Terns, rare but regular coastal migrants, were at Coyote Hills, Alameda Co., Apr. 24 (Roberta Long) and the Pajaro Rivermouth May 5 (J&RW).

A Com. Murre was inside S.F. Bay at Berkeley May 21 (JL). A pair of Marbled Murrelets was at Grizzly Creek S.P. 20 mi. from the coast, Humboldt Co., Apr. 27-28 (DE, RLeV, TS), adding to the list of possible breeding locations. The only Ancient Murrelets reported were two five mi. off Eureka Apr. 14 (RLeV), which is about the latest this species is ever reported from our Region.

#### PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS

—Flocks of 50-80 Band-tailed Pigeons, remnants of the winter "invasion", lingered in the C.V. until mid-May, and a few remained through the end of the period (TM, DAG, ROW). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo remained along the Sacramento R. north of Glenn, Glenn Co., from May 16 to the end of the period (Louis Henrich, DAG). Roadrunners were observed at two localities in the interior coast ranges: Anderson Dam, Santa Clara Co., Mar. 12 (*fide The Avocet*) and seven mi. north of King City, Monterey Co., May 4 (D&JR); their present status is conjectural.

A Flammulated Owl heard May 10 near Forest Ranch, Butte Co., was the first in the area this season (BW); others were reported from Yosemite Valley (Phil Schaeffer, *fide* DAG). Chew's Ridge, Monterey Co., (MeA), and Salmon Mtn., Humboldt Co., for the first county record (TS, RW). A Spotted Owl near Forest Ranch May 10 was the first reported in Butte Co. and only the third from the n. Sierra foothills - over 75 nighttime hrs. have been spent in this area by one of our most active owlers (BW). Other Spotted Owls were heard in the coastal mtns. at China Camp, Monterey Co. (MeA), at the usual locations in Marin Co., and at Grizzly Creek S.P. (DE, TS, *et. al.*). Great Gray Owls were present at the usual locations in Yosemite. Another was below the species' known breeding range at 4300 ft. at Mather Camp, Tuolumne Co., Apr. 29; as the upper meadows were still snow-covered, this may have been a wintering bird (MM). A Short-eared Owl at Belmont Slough Apr. 11 (PM) was the only one reported.

Lesser Nighthawks were observed near Sacramento Apr. 17 (*fide* BK) and near Dinuba May 3 (RGe); they appeared along the Sacramento R. in Glenn and

Butte Cos. Apr. 30 (DAG). Two Com. Nighthawks were seen near Felton, Santa Cruz Co., Apr. 24 (BGE); they are extremely rare in the coastal district.

**SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS**—Only eight migrant flocks of Vaux's Swifts were reported with 35 at Pacific Grove, Monterey Co., Apr. 30, the only group of more than ten (AB); two at Crane Flat, Yosemite, May 29 were interesting (VR, J&SL) - although this species has been reported regularly at potential breeding sites in the Sierras, no official nesting record has yet been obtained. Two groups of four and seven Black Swifts were moving north along the Big Sur Coast May 22 (BGE), one was in Oakland May 18 (ST), and another was on the floor of the C.V. n. of Glenn, Glenn Co., May 28 (DAG). A Black-chinned Hummingbird at the Hastings Reservation, Monterey Co., was somewhat further west than usual (AB). Costa's Hummingbirds were observed at two localities in the southern interior coast ranges where they probably nest in small numbers: Pinnacles Nat. Mon. May 5 (MLR) and lower Del Puerto Canyon, Stanislaus Co., May 6 (VR, WK, BP). A male in Weaverville, Trinity Co., Apr. 5 (SB) was hundreds of miles north of any previous sighting. A displaying ♂ Anna's Hummingbird in chaparral at 6400 ft. on Hull Mtn., Mendocino and Lake Cos., was well above known breeding locations (OK); conversion of logged forest to brushland may allow altitudinal range extensions in this species. Beginning Apr. 5, Rufous Hummingbirds inundated an Oakland feeding station and by Apr. 13, more than 200 birds (100+ ♂♂) swarmed "like flies around the feeders"; most were gone the next day (VR). The enormous numbers which migrate along the outer coast were well documented at Pt. Diablo where on five days between Apr. 3 and 18 a total of 315 hummingbirds, probably all Rufous, passed at a rate of one per 73 secs (LCB)! A Calliope Hummingbird on Berry Summit in e. Humboldt Co. Apr. 29 was the county's first interior record - they may nest in the area (DE, TS, RW).

**WOODPECKERS & FLYCATCHERS**—Pileated Woodpeckers continue to appear at localities in the Santa Cruz Mtns.: Portola, Big Basin, and Castle Rock State Parks and Waddell Creek (BGE). A pair of Lewis' Woodpeckers was ousted by Starlings from two successive nest sites along Arroyo Mocho (AE). Hairy Woodpeckers were sighted at three locations in riparian vegetation on the floor of the C.V. in Glenn and Butte Cos., where they are not known to nest (Joe Cornell, DAG, TM). Seven Western Kingbirds at Pt. Diablo May 4, one on May 7, and two on May 8 (LCB) and two in San Francisco May 8 (JM) suggest the species is a regular spring transient along the outer coast. Only three Willow Flycatchers were reported: Livermore May 8 (AE) and the Sacramento R. near Chico May 12 and 24 (TM). Gray Flycatchers were observed near Davis Apr. 21 (PB), College Cove (RLeV) and McKinleyville, Humboldt Co., May 5 (first county records), and at Coyote Hills May 14 (ST). Two small groups of transient flycatchers were observed in scattered parts of the Region towards the end of May: five W. Wood Pewees and an Olive-sided Flycatcher

on the Samoa Pen., Humboldt Co., May 20 (DE, TS) and eight Olive-sideds at Babel Slough, Yolo Co., May 24 (*vide* BK).

**LARKS THROUGH THRUSHES**—Twenty Horned Larks on the Bear R. Ridge, Humboldt Co., May 26, may constitute a resident population; they are not known to nest in Humboldt or Del Norte Cos. (DA). Bank Swallow colonies at the Pajaro Rivermouth (BGE) and along the Sacramento R. in Glenn and Butte Cos. (DAG, TM) were flourishing by the beginning of May. Groups of three and four migrant Purple Martins passed Pt. Diablo Apr. 3 & 7 (LCB). Nesting martins were reported from seven localities in coastal areas and five in the C.V. Steller's Jays lingered at elevations below 1000 ft. east of Sacramento until mid-April (B&RL). Groups of five and 11 migrant Com. Ravens were observed at Pt. Diablo Mar. 3 & Apr. 8. Red-breasted Nuthatches were last seen in mid-April in coastal and C.V. localities. Varied Thrushes remained as late as Apr. 15 in Marin Co. (LCB) and even into May at Whitmore, Shasta Co. (BKI). Arrival dates for Swainson's Thrushes showed no discrepancy between outer coastal and inland areas this spring. A pair of Mountain Bluebirds, possibly breeding, were at the summit of Salmon Mt., Humboldt Co., May 26-27 (TS, RW).

**GNATCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS**—Transient Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were observed as follows on Pt. Diablo: six Apr. 4, four Apr. 7, and two Apr. 8 (LCB). Nineteen Phainopeplas were tallied from lower Mines Rd. through Del Puerto Canyon May 6 where five to nine are usual (VR, WK, BP). Starlings were reported increasing at Whitmore, Shasta Co. (BKI), Santa Cruz (DB), and in portions of interior Mendocino Co. where they were hitherto absent. A Red-eyed Vireo, well-described, was at Coyote Hills Reg. Park May 24 (ST), the seventh spring record for the Region.

—————S.A.—————

Despite intensive searching by foot and canoe, Bell's Vireos were not detected in seemingly ideal willow riparian in Tehama, Butte and Glenn Counties where they were formerly common (TM, DAG). A pair of Hutton's Vireos nesting in willow riparian near Chico (a niche vacated by the Bell's Vireo?) were feeding a voracious Brown-headed Cowbird June 3 (TM)! Has the phenomenal increase of cowbirds, which began in the 1920s, doomed the Bell's Vireo in our region?

**WARBLERS**—Four ♂♂ Yellow Warblers established territories on a Sacramento R. census plot near Chico where only one was present last year (TM); their breeding status on the floor of the C.V. is uncertain. Reports suggested that the bulk of "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warblers departed from coastal districts by the first week of April, one to two weeks before "Audubon's". A "huge diurnal movement" on Jasper Ridge, San Mateo Co., Apr. 7 consisted of 60 per cent "Myrtles" (DDeS); both types were present in equal numbers at Pinnacles Nat. Mon. Apr. 6-8



Species	Date of First Arrival		Timing of First Major Influx	
	1972	1973	1972	1973
Lesser Nighthawk	Ap 9	Ap 19, Sacramento	Not Recorded	Late
Vaux's Swift	Ap 8	Ap 19, Livermore	On Time	On Time
Black-chinned Hummingbird	Mar 11	Mar 29, Courtland	Not Recorded	On Time
Calliope Hummingbird	Ap 5	Ap 8, Berkeley	Early	On Time
Western Kingbird	Mar 2	Mar 31, Sacramento	Very Early	Late
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Ap 2	Ap 15, Auburn	Not Recorded	Late
Western Flycatcher	Mar 12	Ap 4, Berkeley	Early	Very Late
Western Wood Peewee	Ap 9	Ap 21, Livermore	On Time	On Time
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Ap 14	Ap 22, Palo Alto	On Time	On Time
Swainson's Thrush	Mar 24	Ap 18, Berkeley	Early	Late
Solitary Vireo	Mar 30	Ap 7, Pinnacles	Early	Late
Warbling Vireo	Mar 13	Mar 31, Santa Cruz	Early	Late
Orange-crowned Warbler	Feb 26	Mar 1, Lafayette	Early	On Time
Nashville Warbler	Ap 7	Ap 19, Oroville	On Time	On Time
Yellow Warbler	Mar 21	Ap 17, Searsville Lake	Very Early	On Time
Black-throated Gray Warb	Mar 30	Ap 14, Livermore	Very Early	On Time
Hermitt Warbler	Ap 16	Ap 14, San Francisco	On Time	On Time
MacGillivray's Warbler	Ap 8	Ap 14, Berkeley	On Time	On Time
Wilson's Warbler	Mar 17	Mar 18, Bennett Valley	Early	On Time
Hooded Oriole	Mar 18	Mar 30, Yuba City	Early	On Time
Northern Oriole	Mar 12	Mar 19, Coyote Hills	Very Early	On Time
Western Tanager	Ap 10	Ap 22, Calistoga	Early	On Time
Black-headed Grosbeak	Mar 28	Mar 30, Belmont	Early	On Time
Lazuli Bunting	Ap 22	Ap 20, Dinuba	On Time	On Time
Chipping Sparrow	Mar 20	Ap 5, Sacramento	Very Early	On Time

(JHol). In San Francisco Apr. 14, the Yellow-rumped were all "Audubon's" (AM) and similarly, there was only one "Myrtle" among numerous "Audubon's" on Jasper Ridge Apr. 24 (DDeS). A ♀ Townsend's Warbler on Chew's Ridge May 28 (PM) was somewhat late. At least five ♂♂ MacGillivray's Warblers were on territory in the Berkeley hills Apr. 14 (AP, VR). Yellowthroats were considered common in appropriate habitat in Marin and Santa Cruz Cos. and at Coyote Hills, yet remained inexplicably scarce in C. V. marshes. Although the Yellow-breasted Chat was "Probably the most common breeding warbler in the Chico area" (TM), none were to be found in the Sacramento and Davis areas (BK, DAG).

An ad. ♂ Black-and-white Warbler was s. of Olema, Marin Co., Apr. 15 (LCB). Three spring reports of Palm Warblers were exceptional: Mill Valley, Marin Co., Apr. 4 (VRL), Jasper Ridge Apr. 24 (DDeS), and Trinidad, Humboldt Co., May 12 (RW). A ♂ Magnolia Warbler at Pt. Pinos May 22-23 (RS, GM), a ♀ Black-and-white Warbler at the Carmel Rivermouth May 23 (RS), and a ♂ Tennessee Warbler in Pacific Grove the same day (RS) reflected the late spring occurrence pattern of Eastern vagrants. A ♂ Am. Redstart returned to the site where a pair bred last year near Arcata (DE, TS); one which was probably an imm. ♂ was singing near Fairhaven May 31-June 1 (DE, TS, RW).

ICTERIDS AND TANAGERS—A ♂ Boblink at the Presidio, San Francisco, May 16 (MLR) and another singing ♂ in McDaniel Slough near Arcata May

30-31 (DE, TS) were the third and fourth spring records for the N. California coast. A ♀ Yellow-headed Blackbird was in the Arcata Bottoms May 17 & 22 (DE, TS) and another was at Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite, May 25 (J&SL); both were outside the species' normal range. Hooded Orioles continued to increase in numbers in towns throughout the Region, from Ferndale (Humboldt Co.) and Chico south. Northern Orioles were considered "not rare" along the Humboldt Co. coast (TS); they were formerly unknown north of Sonoma Co. A singing ♂ "Baltimore" Northern Oriole molted into adult plumage in the Arcata Cemetery Apr. 25-30 (S.H. Harris, RLeV, TS *et. al.*). A ♂ Summer Tanager in the same cemetery Apr. 25-28 (DE, TS) was the northernmost record for California; both oriole and tanager may have been wintering birds.

FINCHES—Single singing ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were in Sacramento May 28 (BK, TM *et. al.*) and on Pt. Bonita, Marin Co., May 22 (MLR), the third and fourth spring mainland records for the Region. A ♂ Blue Grosbeak was at Coyote Hills May 8 (ST) for one of the few S.F. Bay area records. Two Indigo Buntings were found in Humboldt Co.: a ♂ in Westhaven May 10 (RLeV) and the head and wings of a ♂ recently eaten by a cat near Arcata May 15 (R. Hill, *vide* DE). Remnants of last fall and winter's extraordinary lowland and coastal flight of Evening Grosbeaks lingered into May: eight were at Babel Slough May 28 (TM) and three were in Oakland May 30 (VH). Flocks of up to 35 Red Crossbills remained on the Monterey

Table 2  
Comparison of "Early" and "Late" Years in the Sierra Nevada (Data: MM)

Species	Early: Ap 27-29, 1968 & 72		Late: Ap 28-29, 1973	
	4000 ft.*	6000 ft.*	4000 ft.*	6000 ft.*
Western Wood Pewee	2	0	2	0
Olive-sided Flycatcher	7	Present	0	0
Nashville Warbler	6	2	0	0
Hermit Warbler	9	5	3	0
Western Tanager	0	0	0	0
Fox S. arrow	~*	10		7
*4000 ft. — around Hodgdon Meadow, osemite. 6000 ft. — vicinity of Crane Flat, osemite. — no suitable breeding habitat checked.				

Pen. through most of May (AB), and small groups at the Presidio and Lincoln Park in San Francisco were suspected of breeding (MLR, LCB). A Green-tailed Towhee was observed at Arroyo Mocho Apr. 29 (DDeS). Grasshopper Sparrows were absent from several traditional localities and considerably scarcer in others, e.g. two pairs in Wildcat Reg. Park where six pairs nested last year (JM, GZ, *et. al.*). A "Slate-colored" Dark-eyed Junco was at Samoa on the very late date of May 31 (TS). At least six ♂♂ Black-chinned Sparrows were in Tilden Park, Berkeley, May 14 (JM), and a ♂ returned briefly to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory where they nested last year (BS). Most *Zonotrichia* left by the end of April, but a Golden-crowned Sparrow lingered in Auburn through the end of the period (MA). A ♂ Harris' Sparrow at a feeder in Weaverville since Dec. 6 molted rapidly into ad. plumage and departed April 26 (SB) and another feeder bird in Monterey was present until at least Apr. 7 (SFB). White-throated Sparrows were last seen in the S.F. Bay area Apr. 15 and Humboldt Co. Apr. 22.

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