## MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION /Jon Winter and Dick Erickson

During the past year northern California has experienced the worst drought in over 125 years. In many areas of the region the annual rainfall was as much as 75 per cent below normal. Water rationing was widespread



in late summer. A normal flow in the upper Sacramento River was maintained in order to provide sufficient water for irrigation and in an effort to keep salt water out of the delta. Increased salinity, however, and associated bait fish in Southampton Bay were apparently responsible for the presence of five Brown Pelicans and four Heermann's Gulls there July 31. This is the first record for the area and probably for Solano County as well (FKB). At Clear Lake a reduced water level left tules high and dry. preventing Western and Pied-billed Grebes and Great Blue and Green Herons from nesting (CP). Lake Tahoe's low water level resulted in a good showing of migrant shorebirds (WS) but left little shelter for other birds in the dry tules (JR). Higher concentrations of nesting birds (Pied-billed Grebe, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Ruddy Duck) were at available ponds in the Livermore Valley because many temporary ponds had dried up (AE). A similar situation was reported in the San Joaquin Valley, where Kern National Wildlife Refuge was allowed to dry up and no water birds were able to nest. Probably as a result Black-necked Stilts nested for the first time at nearby Lake Success, Tulare County, and 200-300 competed for nesting space at the Visalia sewer ponds (RAB. JLi). The drought had a strange reverse effect at the San Lorenzo and Pajaro River mouths where reduced flow prevented these rivers from breaking through to the ocean. As a result waters backed up, covering mud flats and destroying Snowy Plover (only one successful nest) and American Avocet (no successful nests) nests at Pajaro Dunes (J & RW, TB).

The effects of the drought on landbirds were hard to pinpoint, although observers noted some consistent trends. Several observers noted that more xeric-adapted species such as Grasshopper Sparrow, Lazuli Bunting and Lawrence's Goldfinch, normally more common in the interior, were found along the coast. Blackbirds seem to have suffered because of their breeding habitat drying up. Tricolored Blackbirds were noted in rather unusual numbers near the coast and Yellow-headed Blackbirds failed to breed in normal numbers at Clear Lake. In the greater San Francisco Bay (below S.F. Bay) area Cliff Swallows were noted as being down in numbers perhaps because of the lack of water to build their nests. Species dependent on seeds and insects such as flycatchers. bluebirds, orioles and some sparrows seemed to leave their breeding areas early. Hummingbirds seemed to be much more common around feeders all summer. Chaparral-loving species such as Black-chinned Sparrows, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Lazuli Buntings were noted by two observers as being way down in numbers on Mt. Diablo, where conditions were so dry in June that the park was closed to the public.

All Farallon Island (below, F.l.) records should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

LOONS THROUGH STORKS — A great number of loons summered along our coast this year with 145 Commons, 162 Arctics and 14 Red-throateds reported. The largest concentrations were 45 Commons in Crescent City harbor July 18 (TS) and 53 Arctics in Drake's Bay July 15 (WMP). The imm. Yellow-billed Loon that wintered at Berkeley was rediscovered at the Emeryville marina July 17 (Albert & Wilma Ghiorso) and remained to July 29 (m.ob.). This represents the second summer record for the Region. Inland, two Com. Loons were at Copco L., Siskiyou Co., June 6 (fide MT), a Com. or Arctic Loon was at L. Success June 14-25 (RAB) and a Red-throated Loon was on Mono L. June 11 (fide DW). All previous inland summer loon records have been Commons.

Single breeding-plumaged Horned Grebes at Emeryville June 3 (DE) and Eagle L., June 6 (SL) were possibly late migrants but three separate winter-plumaged birds on Mono L., June 24 - July 21 (RS, DW et al.) and one dull breeding-plumaged bird at Año Nuevo July 26-31 (PM, TB) were not. There are no previous inland summer records. Five Eared Grebes were reported from three coastal locations in June. They apparently experienced little nesting success this year in the Sacramento area where no young were reported (fide BK).

Three hundred Black-footed Albatrosses in Monterey Bay June 19 (TC, C.F.O.) are indicative of the large numbers present there this summer. Northern Fulmars were also present in large numbers following the winter invasion. At least 30 were still in Monterey Bay on July 25 (TC). Single Flesh-footed Shearwaters on Monterey Bay July 5 (M.R. Boatwright\*) and July 25 (TC) are our first July records. The only storm-petrels reported were two Fork-taileds on Monterey Bay June 6 (JL).

Low water at Pyramid L., Nev., was apparently responsible for White Pelicans breeding at Honey L. for the first time (fide H. Kingery et al.). From a population of nearly 2000 birds an estimated 950 young fledged (F.L. Knopf). Fewer Brown Pelicans reached our area this year with 456 at Pajaro Dunes July 22 the highest count (J & RW). Double-crested Cormorants were found nesting in sagebrush at Hartson Res., Lassen Co., with over 300 birds there June 5 (S & PL) and at least six nestlings seen

July 16 (RS et al.). An ad. ♀ Magnificent Frigatebird was well seen at Santa Cruz July 21 (Steve Getty). This species has now been recorded in five of the last six years.

Fourteen Cattle Egrets were found near Oxalis in w. Fresno Co., June 17 (fide RH) and a single bird was at Gray Lodge July 19 (BED). Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons failed to nest altogether at Gray Lodge despite normal water levels there (BED). An impressive 161 fledgling night herons were counted at Hartson Res., July 16 (RS et al.). Least Bitterns were again found in the Sacramento Valley at Gray Lodge and Sacramento N.W.R. (SL et al.). The first **Wood Storks** reported in the region since 1964 were single immatures s. of Big Sur July 18 (Paul Hettich, fide VLY) to the end of the period (m.ob.) and at Mendota Wildlife Area July 28 (BED et al.). The former bird frequented small farm ponds in the area and was seen to roost in redwood snags nearby.

WATERFOWL — The California Fish & Game Dept. annual censuses indicate the number of Canada Goose breeding pairs was down 26 per cent while the predicted fall flight of these breeders might be down 23 per cent. For ducks the figures are 30 and 27 per cent respectively (fide BED). Numerous reports were received of nonbreeding summering geese this year. A single Canada at the Chico oxidation ponds (SL et al.) and six more at Sacramento N.W.R. (SL, OK) were present throughout the period, while 16 Black Brant were reported from seven locations on the coast. More impressive were six White-fronted Geese at Sacramento N.W.R., June 12 (SL), an amazing 23 more flying south over Red bluff July 9 (PD), a single Snow Goose at Sacramento N.W.R. (SL, OK) and three more at the Chico oxidation ponds throughout the period (SL et al.). A Ross' Goose with an injured wing was also present at the Chico ponds from at least June 14 to the end of the period (SL et al.). The previous latest regional record of this species was June 9.

Single Pintail broods were seen at the Salinas R. mouth June 15 (DE, NK, DR, WS) and the Woodland Sugar Ponds July 5 (BK). Three Green-winged Teal were reported from the coast: Palo Alto June 15 (NK et al.), Zmudowski S.P., July 10 (TB, PM) and Arcata July 11 (TS). Sixteen Blue-winged Teal were reported from five locations on the coast with 21 more at six spots in the Central Valley (below, C.V.), with 26 found in the Great Basin. The largest concentrations were eight males at Arcata June 21 (TS), six males at Sacramento N.W.R., June 12 (SL) and 4-5 pairs at Tule L., June 19-21 (BED). Another Blue-winged X Cinnamon Teal hybrid was seen at the Visalia sewer ponds June 24 (JLi). A Q Am. Wigeon was at the Salinas R. mouth June 15 (DE et al.) and 21 more were reported from four C.V. and Great Basin locations. A N. Shoveler brood at the Arcata oxidation pond July 12 (TS) represents only the fourth Humboldt County breeding record. Single 9 Redheads were at Arcata June 12 (NK, DE, DRu) and Fish L., Humboldt Co., June 24 (DS et al.), the latter a most unusual location. Numbers were much reduced at Gray Lodge this year (BED). Ring-necked Ducks were reported from Arcata, where a female was present June 12 - July 15 (NK, TS et al.) and Chico, where four were seen June 14 (SL). At least three birds were present at Manzanita L., Lassen Volcanic N.P. but no young could be found (GZ, S & PL). Two separate 9 Canvasbacks were found on the coast in June

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and eight were reported from the C.V. At Hartson Res., 21 flightless young were seen in three broods July 16 (RS et al.). This is one of our rarest breeding ducks.

Only 19 Greater and seven Lesser Scaup were reported on the coast. A of Greater Scaup at Lower Klamath N.W.R., June 13 (fide MT) and a female at Mono L., July 2 (DW) are our first inland summer records. Inland Lessers were singles at L. Mendocino June 19 (OK) and Sacramento N.W.R., June 12 (SL) and five at the Chico ponds June 14 (SL). A pair of Com. Goldeneyes were at Red Bluff throughout the period (S&PL) and singles were at Eagle L., June 6 (SL), Alameda July 12 (DR), Crescent City July 18 (TS) and Pajaro Dunes throughout the period (J&RW, TB). Buffleheads were reported as follows: two females at Arcata June 12 with one remaining to the end of the period (DE, TS et al.), one female at Lower Klamath N.W.R., June 13 (fide MT) and one female at Red Bluff July 12-16 (PD). An Oldsquaw remained at Arcata to at least June 24 (TS, DE et al.) and another was seen at Bodega Bay in late July (fide DR). Apparently only two Harlequin Ducks summered at Año Nuevo this year (m.ob.). The only Black Scoters reported were eight at Drakes Bay in June (SFB et al.) with one bird still there Aug. 8 (VR). Although flightless young Com. Mergansers have been seen many times in the n. Sacramento Valley recently the first actual nest was not found until June 20 of this year. The nest was about 50 feet up in a Valley Oak (Quercus lobata) at Woodson Bridge State Recreation Area (J. Knott, fide SL). A Q Red-breasted Merganser at Mono L., June 11 (RS et al.) is our first inland summer record.

HAWKS THROUGH RAILS — At least two California Condors were seen from mid-June to the end of the period at the Blue Ridge Fire Lookout, Tulare Co. (RAB). Eight Goshawk reports included four nests, a very good showing. Bald Eagles nested in the n.e. part of the Region with at least five nests found (fide BED). An impressive six pairs of Ospreys were believed to be nesting in the Sacramento Valley north of Tehama (fide SL). Elsewhere nesting was normal, including 14 successful nests in the Klamath Nat'l. Forest, Siskiyou Co. (fide MT). Two successful Prairie Falcon nests were reported from the Northeast (SL, fide MT).

Numbers of Mountain Quail were far down from a few years ago at Calaveras S.P. (MK). On the Modoc Plateau Sandhill Cranes were found in all the usual places but more pairs were seen without young this year (fide BED). Single Black Rails were found at the Southampton Bay marsh, Solano Co., in June (FKB) and near Dutton's Landing, Napa Co., July 14 (fide BED). Four individual Com. Gallinules were seen along the c. coast but more unusual was one seen n. of Mono L. July 1 (fide DW).

SHOREBIRDS — Much remains to be learned of the exact status of our migrant shorebirds in summer. June is the only month when birds may be suspected of summering and even then many are undoubtedly late spring or early fall migrants. All but the commonest of summering shorebirds are detailed below. Twenty-three Semipalmated Plovers were reported from the coast in June. In addition to Pajaro Dunes, Snowy Plovers were found nesting at Wilder Beach, Santa Cruz Co. (TB), Belmont (PM) and Mono L., where at least 12 pairs raised young (DW). This species is very rare in the Great Basin. Nine

Ruddy Turnstones seen at four locations along the coast in June may have been summering. Inland, where they are always rare, one was seen at Mono L., July 30 (fide DW). The only possibly summering Black Turnstones seen were three at Arcata June 12 (DE, NK, DRu). Again this year Com. Snipe were found "winnowing and calling" at three sites in flooded fields n. of Red Bluff (S & PL). No nests or young could be found, however. A few Long-billed Curlews and Whimbrels were seen along the coast in June as is normal.

Unusual Spotted Sandpiper reports were a pair suspected of breeding in Fresno in June (RH) and a single winter-plumaged bird present in Livermore June 19 - July 31 (AE). A Solitary Sandpiper seen south of Big Sur July 24 (JM) was somewhat early as was a Wandering Tattler at Pescadero Beach July 4 (PM). Willets were found at Tahoe Keys with three on June 12, five on July 10 and 12 on July 26 (WS). The status of this, and other shorebirds, in the Sierra Nevada is still largely unknown. Single Lesser Yellowlegs at Honey L., June 5 (S& PL), Sacramento N.W.R., June 12 (SL) and Palo Alto June 15 (NK, DE, DR, WS) are the first June records for the Region. Two Red Knots on Indian I., Humboldt Bay June 24 (TS) were probably summering. The first Regional records in the Great Basin came from Mono L. this year, where one was first seen July 21 and a maximum of four were present by July 29 (fide DW). The earliest-ever Regional record of the Pectoral Sandpiper was one at Pescadero Marsh July 23 (PM). Three were there the following day (FIB, JR) and elsewhere singles at the Ferndale Bottoms (DE, DRu) and Chico ponds (E. Richmond, fide JR) both July 31 were also early. The only Baird's Sandpipers reported were three on Jelly's Ferry Rd., July 21, only the third Tehama County record (SL).

The smallest shorebirds are among the rarest in summer. This year no Least Sandpipers were seen in June, but an exceptional nine Dunlins were found on the coast in June and July. Five were at Arcata June 12-21 (DE. NK. DRu, TS), one was at the Salinas R. mouth June 15 (NK et al.), one was at Pajaro Dunes June 29 (J & RW) and two were at Zmudowski S.P., July 10-11 (TB, PM et al.). Fall migrants don't normally return until late September. From three coastal locations a total of 20 possibly summering W. Sandpipers were reported in June while the only Sanderlings were 40 at the Salinas R. mouth June 15 (NK et al.) and two at Abbott's Lagoon June 20 (AE). Adding to the number of Semipalmated Sandpipers reported in recent years was one seen and heard at Pescadero Marsh July 27 (BJM). A few Shortbilled Dowitchers were found along the coast in June as is probably normal but three Long-billeds at the Salinas R. mouth June 15 (DE et al.) apparently represent the first Regional June coastal record. Inland Short-billeds were one at Red Bluff July 17 (SL) and 3-13 at Mono L., July 21-23 (DW). A Marbled Godwit at L. Success July 15 was considered the first Tulare County record (RAB, JLi). Among the Am. Avocet reports, two at Tahoe Keys July 26 (WS) were probably the most significant. Apparently the first Lake County Black-necked Stilts were three at Clear Lake S.P., June 19 (CP). Following this spring's flight of Red Phalaropes, they were present to at least June 19 along the coast. The most seen were 125 at the Salinas R. mouth June 15 (DE et al.). One seen off Monterey July 25 (TC) and two at Belmont July 22 (PM) were probably early fall migrants. Returning Wilson's Phalaropes were already common along Monterey and S.F. Bays on June 15 when hundreds were seen (DR et al.). At Mono L. no nests or young were found although eight males were present on territory. A count of 15,586 on the entire lake July 8 had climbed to 93,000 on only the s.e. corner of the lake July 26 (DW). Northern Phalaropes were seen throughout June with two at Lower Klamath N.W.R., June 2 (S & PL), one in the Arcata Bottoms June 12-13 (DRu, DE), ten at the Salinas R. mouth June 15 (WS et al.) and one at Dumbarton Pt., on s. S.F. Bay June 15 - July 3 (AE).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — The only jaegers seen were an ad. Pomarine flying s. past Pigeon Pt., July 28 (PM), an ad. Parasitic at Pajaro Dunes June 2 (J & RW) and a Skua off Monterey July 25 (TC). An imm. Thayer's Gull at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza (below, B.B.T.P.) June 3 (DE) is only our third summer record of this newly recognized species. A study of the endangered California Gull colony on Mono L. by the Mono Basin Research Group revealed approximately 23,000 young raised on Negit I., and another 9000 on a number of smaller islands. By the end of July an estimated 82,000 birds were present there (DW et al.). The survival of this population depends on the maintenance of a sufficient water level in the lake, water that is much desired by Southern California interests. The only Franklin's Gull seen was an adult in breeding plumage at Abbott's Lagoon June 23 (P.R.B.O.). There are very few June records. As always a few Bonaparte's Gulls were present throughout the summer but 87 seen along the coast were more than usual. Less expected were single immatures at the Chico ponds July 4 (S&PL) and Sacramento N.W.R., July 19 (OK) and two immatures at Mono L., June 14 -July 5 (DW et al.). Following the incredible flight of Black-legged Kittiwakes in our area last winter, more reports than ever before were recorded of late or summering birds. No less than 300 were seen along the coast during the period.

Two Forster's Terns at Fresno July 27 were apparently the first recorded there in fall (RH). A "thriving colony" was found at Big Sage Res., Modoc Co. in June (BED). Although Com. Terns have been found almost regularly in June in Southern California, our first records came this year. At Pajaro Dunes 20 were present to June 5 (TB. RM) and two as late as July 1 (J & RW). At least 20 were present through May up to June 12 on n. Humboldt Bay (DRu, DE et al.). On S.F. Bay two at the B.B.T.P., June 17 (DE) and one at Alameda June 29 (JRe) were considered early returnees. Five Arctic Terns seen in Monterey Bay June 6 (JL et al.) also represented a first Regional June record. At least 35 Least Tern nests were found at three localities on S.F. Bay (DR et al.). Elegant Terns arrived early this year, with one at Pajaro Dunes June 2 (J & RW), one at the Salinas R. mouth June 15 (NK et al.), six at the B.B.T.P., June 17 (DE) and one at Monterey harbor June 19 (JRe). The most seen were 180 at the B.B.T.P., July 3 (AE, FIB) and 211 at Pajaro Dunes July 22 (J & RW). In the Sierra Nevada, where they are rarely reported, a Caspian Tern was at Tahoe Keys June 12 (WS) and four were at Buck's L., Plumas Co., July 13 (RS et al.). A Black Tern at Pajaro Dunes June 5 was a late migrant (TB, RM).

Interesting Marbled Murrelet reports were of 50 seen flying through the trees at Big Basin S.P., at dusk July 10

(TB, RM) and one inside S.F. Bay at Berkeley July 22 (JR). The only Xantus' Murrelet seen was one on Monterey Bay June 19 (JL) and the Region's second June record of the Ancient Murrelet was of one seen there June 6 (JL). An impressive number of Cassin's Auklets was 4000 estimated on Monterey Bay June 19 (JL). Following the trend of recent years, apparently seven Horned Puffins were seen from two boats off Monterey June 19 (TC\*, SLu, JL et al.). A pair of Tufted Puffins at Pedro Pt., San Mateo Co., July 22 was suspected of nesting on an offshore rock (PM).

PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS - Six Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported, five of which were singing and apparently breeding in the C.V.; the other was found out of range on Pt. Reyes June 19 (JH\*, KY). A single Screech Owl was seen on Canada Hill, Placer Co., July 29 at an elevation of 6761 ft., which is well above its normal vertical range in the Sierra (JW). Flammulated Owls were found in two new locations in the region although both were within the species expected range. Two were heard calling at Big Butte in s.e. Trinity Co., June 27 (PD) and three more were heard eight mi. w. of Mineral June 17 (SL et al.). The latter record is the first Tehama County occurrence for this species. Spotted Owls were reported from Alpine, Tehama and Trinity Cos. (JH, SL, PD) and a pair successfully fledged at least one young in Calaveras S.P., July 24 (MK). Burrowing Owls are in trouble in Tulare County. Currently they are known from 17 locations comprising at least 36 birds, however, at least nine of these areas are located in agriculturally desirable "hogwallows" which appear to be destined to grow something other than Burrowing Owls. An estimated 70 percent reduction of Burrowing Owl habitat has taken place there in the last ten years (RAB). Hopefully a frontal assault can be mounted to have some of these "hogwallows" for the owls, but the "bad guys" are already mounted and shooting so action must be taken soon. A pair of Long-eared Owls in a red fir forest at 5800 ft. on Blake Mt., Humboldt Co., July 31 were above their known altitudinal range (DE, DRu, TS). We have very few summer records of this species. Three fledgling Short-eared Owls were observed three miles n.e. of Davis June 3 (DAG). There are no recent nesting records for this species in the C.V. Poor-wills were found to be common eight mi. w. of Mineral where at least 19 were heard June 17 (SL). Lesser Nighthawks appear to be increasing their numbers in the n. part of the C.V. Eleven were seen eight mi. n. of Red Bluff July 3-17, seven of which were immatures (SL).

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Black Swift's nest found at Lighthouse Pt., Santa Cruz Co., contained one young bird on July 25 (PM, JM); eight more nests were found behind Mossbrae Falls on the Sacramento R. n. of Dunsmuir June 20 (MT). The latter location was not previously known. The Chimney Swifts reported from Ft. Bragg last year apparently returned again this summer (fide DR). This species is definitely undergoing a radical shift in range in the West. Observers should look more carefully at Chaetura swifts in the future. Problems in the field identification of this genus still need to be worked out. The nest found in Ft. Bragg last summer was the first ever reported in California.

An out-of-range of Costa's Hummingbird was banded at Palomarin June 3 (P.R.B.O.). A of Broad-tailed Hum-

mingbird was seen at Blue L., Mono Co., June 25 and was probably breeding (P.R.B.O., RS). This species appears to be expanding its range to include the Sierra.

Pileated Woodpeckers were reported in encouraging numbers in Marin and Sonoma Cos., where several active nests were found. Nests were also reported from two Sierra locations. Acorn Woodpeckers in Sycamore Grove Park, Livermore were found to be storing almonds and dried olives (AE)! Maybe it is going to be a hard winter. Several observers reported that Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were unusually common in Yosemite this summer.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS - Several E. Kingbirds were reported along the coast and in the interior. Single birds were seen at Año Nuevo July 1 (PM, TB), Palomarin June 24 (Meryl Stewart) and on the F.I., June 19. In the interior single birds were found at Honey L. N.W.R., June 5 (SL) and three mi. n. of Edgewood, Siskiyou Co., June 6 (MT et al.). A Black Phoebe was seen at the unusually high elevation of 8500 ft. at Crest L., Yosemite July 28 (CM). A single Bank Swallow was seen over the Merced R. in Yosemite June 4 and several old burrows were located just w. of Muir Tree Campground (DF). There are apparently no previous Yosemite records for this species. In addition, a single bird was seen at Tahoe Keys June 12 (WS), for the first summer record in the Tahoe region. Unusual was a concentration of 22 Purple Martins just s. of Big Sur July 25 (TS, DRu, DE),

CORVIDS THROUGH THRUSHES — A Yellowbilled Magpie was seen just n. of Yreka June 1 (DF). This appears to be the northernmost California record; the species may be expanding N. through the Shasta Valley. There are no Oregon records for this species but this observation is only about 20 mi. s. of the Oregon border . . . Oregon birders take heed! A single raven at Bay Farm I., June 29 was interesting, since they are rather rare in the East Bay (JRe). Two more birds seen at Sacramento N.W.R., June 12 may have been a nesting pair (SL). Ravens are scarce in the C.V. A single Clark's Nutcracker was seen near Litchfield, Lassen Co., July 7 peacefully lunching on crickets in a millet field (RS et al.)! A Black-capped Chickadee was seen along the Shasta R., Siskiyou Co., July 8 (MT). There are no recent records for this species in Siskiyou County and its status in the Cascades needs clarification. Red-breasted Nuthatches seem to have had a banner year in the n. Cascades where they were noted in "unbelievable concentrations" (SL, AC).

A single Wrentit found at Manzanita L., Lassen Volcanic N.P., July 25 is noteworthy as this species had apparently not been recorded in the park (SL et al.). A single House Wren experiencing a new high was recorded at 10,600 ft., atop Mono Pass July 28 (DAG). A Winter Wren sang continuously through June and July at Robinson Flat, Placer Co. (elev. 6767 ft.) but apparently did not attract a mate (JW). This is well above this species' normal vertical range in the Sierra.

Six California Thrashers were found near the confluence of Honcut Creek and the Feather R., near Yuba City July 1 (SL et al.). This is one of the few riparian areas in the C.V. where this species is known to nest. Most unusual was the presence of a Varied Thrush on the F.I., June 5.

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS — Cedar Waxwings remained well s. of their normal breeding range this summer. At least 92 were seen on Dog I., Tehama Co., June 4 (SL), however no nesting was reported s. of their normal range. In keeping with a known historical range expansion in California, a Q Phainopepla was seen at Montague, Siskiyou Co., June 4-5 (fide MT). This appears to be the northernmost California record. A Bell's Vireo of what appeared to be the eastern race (V.b. bellii) was seen on Pt. Reyes June 20 (SFB\* et al.). The grayer California race (V.b. pusillus), critically endangered in California, would be far less likely on Pt. Reyes in late spring. Single Red-eyed Vireos were found at Fairhaven June 9 (DRu), F.I., June 17 and on Pt. Reyes June 18-19 (JM, NK et al.).

WOOD WARBLERS — "Hunting" for vagrant warblers in spring is always more productive in the deserts of California than along the coast. Consequently in recent years most active observers in California spend their spring birding the deserts and have virtually ignored the coast. It has been known for years that a number of spring vagrants pass along the coastal regions of the state. One only has to examine the records from the Farallons to verify this fact. Until recently, however, there weren't enough observers in the Region with the desire to spend some of their spring birding time along the coast. This situation appears to be changing and as expected a number of impressive observations were received this spring.

With fairly good coverage of the coast in June (the most likely time for vagrants) two impressive waves were noted: the first June 6-9 and the second surprisingly late June 17-20. Three Black-and-white Warblers were seen along the coast May 27 - June 18 and a singing male was in Tilden Park from July 1 to the end of the period (KY et al.). Three Tennessee Warblers were found on the F.I., June 18 and a single bird found at Fairhaven June 7 was Humboldt County's second spring record (DRu). Two Virginia's Warblers, one seen carrying a fecal sac, were on the e. side of Monitor Pass, Mono Co., and undoubtedly constituted a mated pair (DAG). This is the first documented breeding record for this species in the Sierra. The editors have heard that this species bred in Lee Vining Canyon last spring but no firm documentation was submitted. Single N. Parulas were reported three mi. e. of Cape Mendocino June 9 (BC et al.), Pt. Reyes June 19 (JM, m.ob.), Chabot Regional Park, Alameda Co., July 6 (DE) and just s. of San Andreas Res., San Mateo Co., July 19 (PM). A single Magnolia Warbler was seen on Pt. Reyes June 6 (JM) and two were on the F.I., June 18.

Most of the spring records for Cape May Warblers are from the F.I., however, three were reported from the mainland: single birds were found June 6-8 at Drake's Beach (SFB et al.), Pt. Reyes June 17-18 (JM, JL et al.) and on Woodley I., Humboldt Bay June 14 (fide TS). The breeding status of "Audubon's" Warblers in the coast range of Santa Cruz, Santa Clara and Monterey Cos. has never been adequately clarified. The impression is that they are very local. On a 6¾ mi. transect along Castle Rock Ridge between Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Cos., 25 pairs of "Audubon's" Warblers were found June 2 - July 2 (EM). They may be much more common than is believed. A very early Townsend's Warbler was seen in Springville, Tulare Co., July 31 (Mabel Mires) and

appears to represent the earliest fall record for the Region. A Blackburnian Warbler was seen singing on Pt. Reyes June 12 (LCB et al.). There are few spring records for this species. Most unusual was a Chestnut-sided Warbler found at Convict L., Mono Co., June 25 (fide DW) and another singing male along Silver King Creek, Alpine Co., July 7 (Bill Greenfelt\* et al.). None were seen along the coast. It was a great spring for Bay-breasted Warblers: at least seven (two on the F.I.) were seen from Fairhaven to Drake's Beach June 6-20 (m.ob.). Much rarer in spring than fall, single Blackpoll Warblers were seen at Drake's Beach June 6-7 (JM et al.) and at Fairhaven June 10 (DRu). Ovenbirds made a good showing with four birds along the coast June 6 - July 16 (JM. SFB, P.R.B.O. et al.). Two were found inland, one on DeChambeau Creek near Mono Co. Park June 6 (DW. BEn) and another was found 11 mi. e. of Cedar Grove. Kings Canyon N.P., June 24 at an elev. of 8400 ft. (Don Schmoldt\*). Very rare in spring, a singing N. Waterthrush was seen on Pt. Reyes June 18 (JM et al.). A beautiful sight in the form of a Kentucky Warbler was found on the F.I., June 18. This is the sixth Regional record, of which all but one are for spring. The region's fifth spring Connecticut Warbler was banded and photographed on the F.I., June 19. Nine Am. Redstarts were seen this summer, all in the greater S.F. Bay area except for one found in Mono County. Dates of occurrence of the coastal birds were June 15 - July 21 (m.ob.). Most unusual were three reports of apparently summering birds in the East Bay: a singing imm. male in Chabot Park July 6-9 (DE, TS), a female in Tilden Park July 18 to the end of the period (KY et al.), and a male there July 21 to the end of the period (JM et al.).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS — Yellowheaded Blackbirds were found much reduced in breeding numbers at Clear L., all summer (CP). Most of their marshes were dried up because of drought conditions or had been burned. A single "Baltimore" Oriole remained on the F.I., June 18-20. Observers should continue to report both so called "races" of the Northern Oriole. It seems apparent on the basis of recent evidence that the lumping of these two forms was premature, and it is possible that they may be split again.

At least 13 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported; all but two reports were on the coast from Humboldt Bay to San Mateo County, June 8 - July 3 (m.ob.). This species may be breeding in California but no nests have yet been found. Blue Grosbeak habitat in Tulare County is disappearing rapidly; they were found in only three locations this summer (RAB). Two singing of Indigo Buntings were found in the Bay Area this summer. One found June 6 remained on territory until July 15 just s. of Olema Marsh, Marin Co. (KY, NS, m.ob.) and another was found in Tilden Park July 23-24 (fide DR). A single Dickeissel was seen on the F.I., June 11. This is only the third spring record for this species in the Region. Three Lawrence's Goldfinches seen at Ruth L., Trinity Co., July 16 are of interest because this species is quite rare here (TS). Red Crossbills appeared to be very common this summer in the n. Cascades, perhaps because of a good cone crop (SL, AC). At least 8-9 singing of Grasshopper Sparrows found at Korbell, Humboldt Co., June 12 were undoubtedly breeding and constituted the first record for the county (S. Harris et al.). Black-chinned Sparrows were also found n. of their normal range this summer. Two singing males were found at Big Butte, Trinity Co., June 27 (PD) and 5-8 birds were at Ant Pt., Trinity Co., July 9 (TS et al.). These records are the northernmost for California and, as for the Grasshopper Sparrows, were almost certainly a result of this year's drought.

CORRIGENDA — The Barn Swallows reported in A.B. 26:652 and the Gray Vireo in A.B. 27:117 should be deleted. The latter bird was almost certainly a Bell's Vireo but is best disregarded. In A.B. 28:101 the Laughing Gull at Arcata was a winter adult, not an immature. On page 103 in the same issue the sentence beginning "The eastern 'plumbeous' race of the Solitary Vireo . . " should be deleted. There was an error in the Addenda of A.B. 28:690. The Ground Dove at Pacific Grove was the first Regional record in many years.

ADDENDA — The following records should be added A.B. 28 (1): One - two Laysan Albatrosses were seen off Eureka Nov. 3 (TS, DE, RLeV et al.); A Hudsonian Godwit at Arcata Aug. 9-10 was photographed and represents the first record for California (R. Webster); Another Bobolink was one at Arcata Oct. 7 (fide DE, TS). The following records should be added to A.B. 28 (3): An Ash-throated Flycatcher was at Bayside, Humboldt Co., Dec. 18-28 (S. Harris, fide DE, TS); A ♀ Black-and-white Warbler was at Arcata Nov. 26 - late March (R. Behrstock, DE, TS et al.). The following record should be added to A.B. 28 (4): The first Del Norte Co. record of the Black-and-white Warbler was one seen at Requa Apr. 21 (G. Alton, GZ). The following records should be added to A.B. 28 (5): Two Cattle Egrets spent the entire summer in the Arcata Bottoms (fide DE, TS); Following the massive winter invasion, a Rough-legged Hawk was present June 1-17 in the Arcata Bottoms (TS, DE et al.) to establish the latest California record; an Am. Redstart apparently nested at Prairie Creek S.P.; a female there July 5 was carrying a worm and scolding the observer (G. Strachen).

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