

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/ Stephen A. Laymon and
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This summer was the coolest experienced in the inland portions of the Region in many years. June was very cool and it was mid-July before the temperatures reached 100°F. Several extraordinary nesting records were established.

On the landbird front, notable migrant/vagrant waves occurred along the coast May 30-June 2, June 18-20, and June 29-July 2. The waves came with high overcast/fog, as we have come to expect, and generally calmer winds, although this factor appears, at least for low altitude winds, to have much less predictive value for wave days than does the occurrence of high overcast. Although numbers of vagrants were generally high, numbers and varieties of birds at Southeast Farallon Island (hereafter, F.I.) outstripped the mainland more than one would expect. Clearly the grounding of migrants along the coast has much to do with very local weather phenomena. In the interior, much information was added and many questions posed as to the breeding status of species in less well-known areas.

This will be Dave Shuford's last report as Regional Editor. Jules Evens will be taking over as co-editor with the fall report. He will be handling Pigeons through Sparrows and reports can be sent to him at P.O. Box 59, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956.

All observations from Palomarin and F.I. should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory (hereafter, P.R.B.O.).

LOONS THROUGH STORM-PETRELS
—Many more Com. Loons were reported than are expected. The largest concentrations were 54 on July 16 at Limantour and 76 on July 28 at the same location (DS). It is not known whether this and many of the following seabird observations actually constitute unusual occurrences or if the birds have been overlooked owing to lack of observers on the outer coast during summer. Single inland summering Com. Loons were at L. Almanor, Plumas Co., June 3 (BD) and at Iron Gate Res., Siskiyou Co., July 17 (SL, KC). Arctic Loons were still migrating N past Pt. Reyes

with 60 on June 11 (DS). Fifty-nine were summering off Drake's Beach July 31 (DS), a higher-than-normal count.

Several Red-necked Grebes summered at Pt. Reyes (DS, JRi), but most unusual was one in breeding plumage at Mountain Meadows Res., Plumas Co., June 28-July 12 (Herman Gray, †DA). Nesting occurs just n. of the border in Oregon, but there are no suspected breeding records for California. A huge colony of 3000 pairs of Eared Grebes was nesting in an algae bed on Tule Lake N.W.R., July 13 (SL *et al*). They also nested at Tulare L. Basin, Kings Co., with 250 adults and 28 young in late June (JRi). Western Grebes also nested in Kings County with 100+ nests at Corcoran Irrigation District Res., July 12 (JRi). In the past it was believed that the only nesting locations in the Central Valley (hereafter, C.V.) were at Sacramento N.W.R., and Mendota W.A.

A Laysan Albatross was observed 25 mi s.w. of Pt. Pinos, Monterey Co., July 27 (GMC) for one of few summer records and apparently the first record for July. Four pairs of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were found nesting at Talowa Rock, Del Norte Co., June 19 (*vide* GS). Fifteen Leach's Storm-Petrels were 20 mi off Big Sur, Monterey Co., July 26 (PM, DRo). This species is rarely encountered on pelagic trips in this Region. Black Storm-Petrels are rarely found before August so two on Monterey Bay June 7 (TC) were quite a surprise.

TROPICBIRDS THROUGH HERONS—
A Red-billed Tropicbird 18 mi off Yankee Pt., Monterey Co., July 26 (†PM, †DRo) established the fourth regional record. Six pairs of Double-crested Cormorants nested at Corcoran Irrigation District ponds (JRi). This is the only known nest site in the C.V. A migrating flock of 12 was seen flying S over Juniper L., Lassen Co., June 29 (KC), pro-



viding an early fall migration date. Single Magnificent Frigatebirds were seen at F.I., July 16-17 (P.R.B.O.), Bodega Head June 21 (PD) and Santa Cruz June 29 (SG).

Little Blue Herons nested at the Alviso heronry. Two juvenals were seen along with one or more that may have been Little Blue Heron X Snowy Egret hybrids (SB). This represents the first confirmed, successful nesting for the Region. Quite unusual was a pair at Gray Lodge W. A., July 28-31 (†BD, JH). This represents the first inland sighting for the Region. Cattle Egrets nested at Mendota W.A., for the third year in a row (CP) and dozens of nests were at Corcoran Res., and S. Wilbur Flood Area (JRi). Breeding-plumaged birds were seen at Arcata July 11 (DE) and in the Elkhorn Slough area June 11-18 (PM) but breeding was not evident. Snowy Egret was reported to be an abundant breeder in Kings County (JRi). A breeding-plumaged Black-crowned Night Heron was found dead in the snow on the e. slope of McGee Pass, Mono Co., July 14 at the high elevation of 11,700 ft (HG). It was likely a cross-Sierran migrant that was caught in a spring snowstorm. A probable Least Bittern was observed at Tahoe Keys, El Dorado Co., July 5 (†JRi), an area where the species has formerly nested but has

not been observed for many years. Nesting of White-faced Ibis at Mendota W.A. was confirmed when an adult was seen feeding young June 4 (CP). This is the only known nesting in our Region in recent years. Nesting was also suspected at the S. Wilbur Flood Area, since at least seven birds summered there (JiR).

WATERFOWL—Two healthy-looking Whistling Swans were at Lower Klamath N.W.R., to June 14+ (m.ob.). A White-fronted Goose was at Lower Klamath N.W.R., June 13 (SL, KC) for the only summer sighting. At least two Snow Geese, apparently injured, summered at Lower Klamath N.W.R. (m.ob.).

Two Gadwall were at Muddy Hollow, Pt. Reyes National Seashore (hereafter, P.R.N.S.) June 25 (DS). They are casual on the outer coast in summer. Blue-winged Teal were reported in much higher than usual numbers from both coastal and inland locations throughout June. At Lower Klamath N.W.R., over 100 were seen June 14 and they were found to be more numerous than Cinnamon Teal that day (RE). Twenty-four were sighted in Marin County (DS), four in Sonoma County, two in Monterey County, 11 in the C. V., two pair at Manzanita L., Lassen Volcano N.P., June 16 (DM) and over 50 additional birds from the Great Basin (m.ob.). A ♀ Am. Wigeon "summered" at Abbott's Lagoon, P.R.N.S., providing one of our few summer records from the outer coast (DS). Wood Ducks were found at 2 Great Basin locations: White Horse Flat Res., Modoc Co., June 5 (BD) and a female with three young at Sierra Marsh, Sierra Co., June 14 (B&CY). There are few Great Basin nesting records. A female with six young at Pescadero Marsh, San Mateo Co., June 7 (PM) was also unusual.

Ring-necked Ducks were much more numerous than previously reported. Thirty-six pairs were found on the Calif. F. & G. Breeding Ground Survey from Sierra Valley to Surprise Valley, Modoc Co. (BD). At least seven pairs summered at the Lava Lakes Nature Center and 14 were at Barnum Flat Res., Siskiyou Co., June 15 (RE). Two females with broods were at Willow L., Plumas Co., July 9-27 (DA). Quite surprising was a pair at Capay Valley, Yolo Co. (TB), throughout the nesting season, three males at Auburn June 9 (BBa) and a female at Muddy Hollow July 16 (DS).

Over 30 pairs of Bufflehead were reported from mountain lakes in Siskiyou, Modoc and Lassen counties (m.ob.). This is a far greater number than normally reported but is probably a result of better coverage. At least nine individuals were seen along the coast (DS, DEI, DE),—more than usual. A flock of 84 Bufflehead at Tule Lake N.W.R., June 14 (RE) represented an amazing concentration for summer. A ♀ Oldsquaw at Tule Lake N.W.R., June 16-28 (SS) established our first inland summer record. A ♀ Ruddy Duck with seven young at Novato June 26 (DS) established the first nesting record for Marin County. A ♀ Red-breasted Merganser at Tule Lake N.W.R., June 8 (MR, RE) provided the fourth inland summer record.

RAPTORS—A flock of 28 White-tailed

Kites feeding on a local rodent outbreak w. of Clifton Court Forebay in the Delta Aug. 1 (DE) was of interest. Ten nesting pairs of Goshawks were reported from w. Siskiyou County to L. Tahoe (m.ob.) reflecting better coverage and reporting from mountain areas.

Two ad. Bald Eagles were at Portola Valley, San Mateo Co., June 10 (TC, *fide* WB). This sighting was very unusual as it occurred 90 mi from the nearest-known nesting site. The birds were either looking for a nest site or wandering from an unsuccessful nest. Marsh Hawks also responded to the rodent outbreak at Clifton Court Forebay with 20 there Aug. 1 (DE). An extensive survey of Osprey on L. Almanor revealed 25 active nests which produced 36-40 young (DA). This number was double the previous nesting pair estimate for the area.

Quite unusual were two **Merlin** sightings, one in w. Siskiyou County July 8 (Steve Hoddie) and one at Chester July 9 (Don Eastes, *fide* DA). Both were seen by observers familiar with the species and lead to speculation about nesting within the state. *Birds of Northern California* (McCaskie *et al.*, 1979) lists no records for July.

GROUSE THROUGH RAILS—Ruffed Grouse were reported to be more numerous than usual in the vicinity of Happy Camp, Siskiyou Co., with birds seen crossing roads frequently and feeding with poultry in yards even in the middle of town (Bob Seaman). An increase in California Quail numbers and an excellent breeding season were reported from several locations (MEM, LF, BD). Mountain Quail also had an excellent breeding season with dozens of broods reported from both the Sierras and Siskiyous (JW, TB, SL).

Sandhill Cranes nested at Grass L., Siskiyou Co., (B&CY) for the farthest w. location in the state. Soras were found throughout the period at a small freshwater marsh adjacent to Humboldt Bay (SJ). They are rarely reported from coastal marshes in summer. An amazing total of 44 territorial Black Rails was censused at Port Chicago Marsh, Contra Costa Co., July 8-16 (DEI), an area where they were not known to occur. In addition, at least four were heard at Olema Marsh July 30 (DS).

SHOREBIRDS—Five pairs of Black-necked Stilts were nesting at MacArthur Swamp, Shasta Co., June 8 (SL, KC), a county where they had not been recorded previously, even as migrants. Snowy Plover at Pajaro Dunes suffered a poor nesting season when only four young were fledged from 22 nests (J&RW). Most unusual was a summering Am. Golden Plover at Pescadero Marsh May 31-July 13 (AE, DRo), and another at Alameda S. Shore July 6 (*fide* SB). There were only two previous June records and none for July. Black-bellied Plovers were found at Lower Klamath N.W.R., throughout the period with seven June 8 & 14, and 13 on July 13 (SS, MR, RE). A Marbled Godwit at Lower Klamath N.W.R., June 8 (MR, RE) appears to represent our only inland record for the first 3 weeks in June. Three Lesser Yellowlegs at Alameda S. Shore June 11 (*fide* ER) and two at Lower Klamath N.W.R., June 13 (SS, SL, KC) represent two of very

few June records for the Region. A Willet at Creighton, Kings Co., June 20 (JiR) provided the second June record for the C.V.

A Wandering Tattler at Gualala R., Sonoma Co., June 7 (BP, DE) produced one of very few June records. Early fall arrivals were one at Bolinas July 12 (DS) and one at Eureka July 13 (SJ). More N. Phalaropes were reported than usual, with one at Pescadero Marsh June 7 (DM), three at Lower Klamath N.W.R., June 8 (SS), one at Sierra Marsh, Sierra Co., June 15 (B&CY) and one at Mono L., June 21 (P.R.B.O.). Red Phalaropes made an excellent showing with up to five at Pt. Reyes June 8-17 (DS), one at Pescadero Marsh June 7 (DM) and up to 1000 off Pt. Pinos July 26-27 (DRo, PM, GMCC). Territorial snipe were found at Whitmore, Shasta Co., Jelly's Ferry Rd., Tehama Co., and Brown's Valley, Yuba Co., in June during a Calif. F.&G. study of the breeding range of the species (*fide* BD).

The first regional interior records for Short-billed Dowitcher for June listed up to seven seen at Lower Klamath N.W.R., June 6-13 (SS *et al.*) and one at Honey Lake W.A., June 15 (SAL, KC). Twelve Sanderlings were at Mono L., July 7 (P.R.B.O.). The fourth regional inland record for Semipalmated Sandpiper was at Warm Springs, Mono Co., July 18 (P.R.B.O., CSW, GP, LS). One Baird's Sandpiper at Lower Klamath N.W.R. (KV) and two at Mono L. (P.R.B.O.) both July 8 were a week earlier than the normal early date. A few Dunlin normally summer along the coast, but one at the S. Wilbur Flood Area July 3 (JiR) established the first C.V. summer record. Most unusual was an ad. ♂ Ruff, still in breeding plumage, July 15-31 (Jeanne Spittler, Ken Irwin, *fide* RLeV), which provided our first record between March and September.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS—An ad. Parasitic Jaeger was at Mono L., June 13 (P.R.B.O., CSW) for our only inland summer record. A first-year W. Gull was at Rio Vista, Sacramento Co., Aug. 2 (DE) for one of very few records for the C.V. California Gulls are in trouble at Mono L., but new colonies were found with 2000 pairs at Lower Klamath N.W.R., (SL, KC) and 1000+ at Honey Lake W.A. (SL, DA). An ad. Franklin's Gull was at Pigeon Pt., San Mateo Co., June 3 (PM). After 2 summers with very few Bonaparte's Gulls, hundreds were seen at coastal, valley and basin locations (m.ob.). A most amazing record was produced by a pair of **Heermann's Gulls** nesting on Alcatraz I., June 17 (LCB). The attempt was unsuccessful. This represents the first nesting n. of Mexico. The only Black-legged Kittiwake was at Bodega Head July 19 (DEI). Sabine's Gulls, rarely reported in summer, were off Monterey July 26 & 27 with up to 11 seen (DRo, PM, GMCC).

An ad. Arctic Tern was found at the Stockton Sewage Ponds June 12 (TED) furnishing our second inland record. Large numbers of post-breeding Elegant Terns arrived 1-2 weeks earlier than normal, with 20 at Bay Bridge Toll Plaza July 5 (AE) and 400 at Pajaro Dunes July 15 (J&RW). Unusually high numbers of Black Terns were reported from Tule Lake N.W.R. with 700 on July 13 (SAL *et al.*) and 5500 July 26 (MR, RE).

Up to seven Xantus' Murrelets were seen

on pelagic trips 15-20 mi off Monterey Bay July 26 & 27 (DRo, PM, GMcC). Single Ancient Murrelets, rarely seen in summer, were reported from Año Nuevo, San Mateo Co., July 18 (Bob Spahn) and Fish Rock, Mendocino Co., July 13 (*fide* GS). At least three pairs of Tufted Puffins summered, and probably nested, at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse (JE, DS, JRi).

PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS—Hundreds of Band-tailed Pigeons were observed in Redding in June (PD, *fide* SAL). They are normally absent from the C.V. at that time. Ten Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported from 4 C.V. locations July 27-Aug. 13 (m.ob.), but more unusual was a coastal sighting at the Watsonville Sewage Plant, Santa Cruz Co., July 21 (SG). Two Road-runners June 27 at the S. Wilbur Flood Area, Kings Co., along with other recent sightings there and at the Hacienda Spillway (JRi) indicate that this species can still be found in isolated spots on the San Joaquin Valley floor. The presence in July of 14 Screech Owls at several sites in w. Siskiyou Co. (SL) suggests they had previously been overlooked in that area. Eleven Flamulated Owls were reported, all from the species' expected range (m.ob.). Seven Great Gray Owls were reported from the Yosemite area (m.ob.). Because of its small population and restricted range in the state, this species was officially placed on the *California Endangered Species List* as of June 27 (*fide* JW). Intensive searching produced 50+ sightings of Spotted Owl in the w. Klamath N.F., Siskiyou Co., and raised the total known territories to 107 in that area (SL). A Spotted Owl was at Soup Springs in the S. Warner Mtns., Modoc Co., June 29 & July 9 (Sharon Whisler, *fide* SL). This is well e. of the species' known range. Three Long-eared Owls caught in nets at Akerson Meadow, Tuolumne Co. (JW), and one at Willow L., Plumas Co., July 19 (DAA) were notable, as they are quite rare on the w. slope of the Sierra. One to two at F.I., July 20-31 were at a site where they are more often detected. More notable at F.I. were single Short-eared Owls June 4 & July 16-17. A single Short-eared was also seen June 29 at Palo Alto Baylands (DES) and 1-8 were near Byron, Contra Costa Co., July 31-Aug. 13 (JF, DE). Nesting season records of this species have been few in recent years. A juv. Saw-whet Owl found dead July 14 on Kelso Rd., Alameda Co. (JF), on the w. edge of the C.V., represents the first summer record for the valley floor. A Saw-whet, rare in the Sierra, was seen June 26 at Akerson Meadow, Tuolumne Co. (JW).

Twenty-six Poor-wills were found in 3 areas in w. Siskiyou Co., in June and July (SL, KC). They are thought to be locally common in clear cuts and burns (SL, KC) though they have been rarely reported from this area previously. An estimated 200+ in mid-June in Lundy Canyon, Mono Co., (MM) indicates just how common they are on the e. side of the Sierra. The status of Com. Nighthawks has apparently changed in the Yosemite Sierra in recent years, as they now occur in lower numbers on the e. side than they did in the '60s and though formerly rare w. of the crest prior to 1977, they are now regular in



Lesser Nighthawk, Drake's Beach, Pt. Reyes N.S., Calif., June 20, 1980. Found by Jules Evens, Dave Shuford. Photo/Dick Johnson.

small numbers (MM). A Lesser Nighthawk coursed over Drake's Beach, P.R.N.S., June 20 (JE, DS, SFB, †Dick Johnson, †Nancy Konzett) for one of few coastal records away from F.I. where they are a nearly annual "spring" visitant. This year was no exception, as two were there June 30 and another July 14.

SWIFTS THROUGH SWALLOWS—Two Black Swifts at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse July 2 (JP) were undoubtedly late migrants. Several Vaux's Swifts were seen June 4 near Johnstonville, Lassen Co. (BD) and two were near Day, Modoc Co., June 8 (SL, KC). This species is rare in n.e. California. An out-of-range Costa's Hummingbird returned to a feeder in Healdsburg, Sonoma Co., June 30 (*fide* DE1) after an absence of two-and-a-half months. A ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird frequented a feeder in Palo Alto July 13-Aug. 8 (†Ed Schaefer) for the second regional coastal record (see Addendum). A single Rufous Hummingbird June 28 at Lassen V.N.P. (KC) followed by 38 moving S the next day (SL, KC) marked the advent of fall migration in the interior mountains. Thirty-five *Selasphorus* hummingbirds July 4 at Somes Bar, Siskiyou Co., were thought to be largely Allen's (SL). Displaying males of that species were reported in that area e. to Forks of Salmon and n.e. to Horsecreek from Apr. to June (MR, *fide* SL). This area is e. of the species' known breeding range. An Anna's Hummingbird June 8 at Day, Modoc Co. (SL, KC) was e. of its normal range of occurrence, and one at Crystal Cliffs, Lassen V.N.P., Lassen Co., at 7500 ft (SL, KC) was surely an up-mountain drifter.

A pair of "Red-breasted" Sapsuckers nesting at Bear Valley, P.R.N.S. (DS, JE, Marisela De Santa Anna), indicated a notable breeding range extension s. along the coast, but unfortunately the young were killed by Acorn Woodpeckers June 22 (DS) shortly before fledging. A pair of Downy Woodpeckers was found bringing food to a nest hole June 17 at Manzanita L., Lassen V.N.P. at the high elevation of 5800 ft (DM, DA). A

Nuttall's Woodpecker at Bear Valley, P.R.N.S., July 18&30 (DS) seemed early at a locale on the immediate coast. Seventeen Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen within their normal range (m.ob.). An E. Kingbird June 22 at Edgewood, Siskiyou Co., (B&CY) and one nearby at L. Shastina July 8 (SL, KC) were in the vicinity in which a pair nested during the last 3 summers. At P.R.N.S. one was at Abandoned Ranch June 30 (DS) and perhaps the same individual was at Mendoza Ranch July 2 (JP). A W. Kingbird was at the lofty elevation of 8000 ft at Olmstead Pt., Yosemite N.P., July 26 (JRi). Single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, casual stragglers to the Region, were sighted at Bodega Head July 27 (†Gloria Markowitz, m.ob.) and at Patrick's Point S.P., Humboldt Co., July 19-24 (†GS, m.ob.). A singing Willow Flycatcher near Wildcat Camp, P.R.N.S., July 5 (DS, Irene Timossi) was a very late migrant. A W. Flycatcher was calling in Lee Vining Canyon, Mono Co., June 24-28 (MM); breeding status e. of the Sierra crest is still uncertain. A Bank Swallow occurred July 2 at DeChambeau Ponds, Mono Co. (CSw) for one of few Mono Basin records.

CORVIDS THROUGH WAXWINGS—Four-hundred-fifty Com. Ravens at a communal roost at Home Bay, P.R.N.S., June 24 (DS) was an unusual concentration. Adult Black-capped Chickadees were found feeding young June 20 at Espa Lagoon, in the extreme s.w. corner of Prairie Creek Redwoods S.P., Humboldt Co., (GS), representing the farthest s. immediate coastal breeding record for California. A Mountain Chickadee June 19-20 on outer Pt. Reyes (JM *et al.*) provided a rare coastal sighting. Chesnut-backed Chickadees seen in Sierra, Nevada, and Placer counties July 5-7 (DE) added to the growing list of recent Sierran sightings. Whether this species is truly increasing in numbers and expanding its range in this Region or whether observer coverage has been more thorough recently is unclear. Single Red-breasted Nuthatches June 18 in riparian habitat at Grand I., Sacramento

Co., (DE1) and on outer Pt. Reyes July 15 (DS) were unseasonable. One-to-two apparently territorial Winter Wrens July 9 (JL) & 26 (JRI) at Crane Flat, Yosemite N.P. at 6200 ft were above the known nesting elevation in that area. A Cañon Wren at 10,450 ft on Mt. Lassen July 11 (DA) was well above the species' usual haunts. A Varied Thrush June 1 at Nunes Ranch, P.R.N.S. (DMcC,SB) was a very late migrant. A singing male July 5 at Yellow Jacket Ridge n.e. of Forks of Salmon, Siskiyou Co. (SL) was notable, as nesting is suspected though not confirmed in this county. A ♂ Mountain Bluebird June 20 at the Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes (JE,DS *et al.*) was a rare and unseasonal coastal migrant. The first confirmed breeding of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher for the Mono Basin took place this summer near Lee Vining, Mono Co. (David Gaines, *vide* MM). An ad. ♀ **White Wagtail** observed July 20-31+ at the Watsonville Sewage Plant, Santa Cruz Co. (Carolyn Friedrichson, *vide* SB, m.ob.), is undoubtedly the same bird seen there this past year. The bird was still in breeding plumage and was identified racially as *M.a.lugens* (JM). Thus two of the five California records that have been identified racially have proved to be *lugens*; however two Mexican records have proved to be *M.a.ocularis* (*vide* JM). Displaying Water Pipits were found July 22-23 on both sides of Italy Pass, elev. 12,400 ft, Fresno/Inyo counties (HG). First recorded breeding in California in 1975 (AB 29:1028), the Water Pipit's breeding range still needs clarification. Two Cedar Waxwings were seen July 13 at Tule Lake N.W.R. (SL,KC); they are casual in the Region away from the n. coast in July.

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS—A **Bell's Vireo**, thought to be the e. subspecies *V.b.belli*, was seen June 1 at Hovie Pt. Oasis, Tule Lake N.W.R. (†SL,KC). Although formerly a common breeder in the C.V. (*V.b.pusillus*) this bird represents only the fifth regional record of any race in the last 20 years. This species, too, has now been placed on the *California Endangered Species List*. A Red-eyed Vireo was at F.I., June 29-30; spring records are somewhat more plentiful there than fall records. Coastally four Black-and-white Warblers were seen June 1-July 1 (m.ob.) and inland one was at Hovie Pt. Oasis June 1 (SL,KC). Coastally 11 (eight at F.I.) Tennessee Warblers were sighted June 1-July 16 (m.ob.) and inland in Mono County singles were seen June 3 at DeChambeau Creek (LS) and June 28-29 at Lee Vining Canyon (MM). Also at Lee Vining Canyon up to ten Orange-crowned Warblers were seen June 24-28, along with a singing ♂ Nashville Warbler June 26-27 (MM); the breeding status of both these species e. of the Sierran crest is still uncertain. Ten Magnolia Warblers were found along the coast June 1-July 1 (m.ob.); this is somewhat more than average for "spring." A Cape May Warbler was at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse June 1 (DMcC), two were at Nunes Ranch, Pt. Reyes June 14 (JM), and singles were at F.I., June 1 & 19. A "Myrtle" Warbler June 29 at F.I. presumably was a vagrant from a population not usually found in California. An

"Audubon's" Warbler July 13 at Tule Lake N.W.R. (SL) along with juvenile-plumaged birds July 22 in Golden Gate Park (LB) and Aug. 2 in Bolinas (GP) were undoubtedly post-breeding wanderers from nearby breeding populations. A Townsend's Warbler July 17 on the N. Fork of the American R. drainage (TB) was presumably a very early fall migrant and represents one of very few July regional records.

A ♀ Black-throated Green Warbler, a casual spring vagrant to the Region, was at F.I., June 18, but much more unusual was a singing ♂ **Black-throated Green Warbler** seen July 5 at Cape Mendocino, Humboldt Co. (RLeV, LD, Ken Irwin; and "earlier" and "later" Bill Clow). Though previously unreported, presumably the same individual summered at the same spot in 1979 and again this year (Bill Clow). This provided the first regional summering record. Six Chestnut-sided Warblers were sighted coastally June 9-July 2 (m.ob.) and singles were found inland in Mono Co., June 13 at DeChambeau Creek (GP,CSw) and June 17 at Lundy Canyon (MM). This was an above-average showing compared with recent years. Three ♀ Bay-breasted Warblers graced F.I., June 13-July 1 and single singing males were found June 20 at Drake's Beach, P.R.N.S. (SB *et al.*) and June 30-July 4 at Arcata (PS, RLeV). A Blackpoll Warbler, much rarer in spring than in fall, was at F.I., July 1. "The Island" also hosted five Palm Warblers June 18-July 3 (in addition to three May arrivals). The total of eight compares with one or two in recent "springs." This is not surprising in light of last fall's record flight, but is somewhat anomalous in that none was found on the mainland, despite good coverage. Two Ovenbirds June 3 & 18-20 joined the warbler throngs at F.I. A ♀ **Mourning Warbler** at F.I. (†P.R.B.O.), June 30 (banded)—July 1 provided the second regional spring record. A singing ♂ Com. Yellowthroat July 24 at 10,200 ft at Honeymoon L., Inyo Co., (HG) was at a lofty elevation. A ♀ Hooded Warbler at F.I., July 1-2 was followed by a male at Tilden Regional Park, Contra Costa Co., July 4-26 (Lou Cooper, *vide* SB, m.ob.) and a female at Golden Gate Park July 15-30 (LB, m.ob.). A Wilson's Warbler July 22 at Gray Lodge W.A. (BD) was an early fall migrant. Coastally seven Am. Redstarts were sighted June 11-July 10 (m.ob.). In addition an **Am. Redstart** pair was found at the Fairhaven Willows, Humboldt Co., June 31, a nest with four young was located July 29, and the adults were seen feeding 1-2 fledglings July 31-Aug. 9 (Ken Irwin, *vide* RLeV). This represents the second confirmed nesting attempt for California and the first successful one, as the first nest, also in Humboldt County, produced only one Brown-headed Cowbird youngster (see AB 26:898).

ICTERIDS THROUGH SPARROWS—A ♀ Bobolink was at F.I., June 20. Tricolored Blackbird, a rare breeder on the immediate coast in the Region, was found nesting at Drake's Beach, P.R.N.S., with the first appearance June 8 of the 100± birds comprising the colony (JM), and by July 31 adults were feeding numerous fledglings (DS). A colony of 1000 pairs of Tricoloreds June 8

near MacArthur Swamp and Big L., n.e. Shasta Co. (SL,KC), was notable, as the species is believed to be a sporadic breeder on the Modoc Plateau. A ♀ **Orchard Oriole** July 9 at F.I. furnished the third regional "spring" record (a July 12, 1969 record of a hatching year bird at Palomar was a "fall" dispersant/migrant). The **Great-tailed Grackle** pair in S.F. attempted breeding, as a nest was found at the foot of Van Ness Ave., June 20 (JM); however, the attempt failed. This marks the first regional nesting record.

Brown-headed Cowbirds continued to be noted throughout the L. Almanor area of the n. Sierra, with a high count of 125 at a feeder in Chester, Plumas Co., June 25 (DA). In contrast, in the Cascades of w. Siskiyou County cowbirds were virtually absent, presumably owing to the lack of meadows and cattle grazing in this area of steep terrain (SL). Male **Scarlet Tanagers** June 18-22 at F.I., and at Arcata June 29-30 (†PS) provided the sixth and seventh regional records. Coastally, five Rose-breasted Grosbeaks June 18-July 22 (m.ob.) were somewhat fewer than average for recent years. An active Black-headed Grosbeak nest June 24-28 in Lee Vining Canyon, Mono Co. (MM), though long suspected, provided the first confirmation of breeding on the e. slope of the Sierra. Coastally, seven Indigo Buntings were found June 1-July 29 (m.ob.). A ♂ Indigo X Lazuli Bunting was found mated to a ♀ Lazuli at Edgewood, Siskiyou Co., June 27 (†SL,KC). An Evening Grosbeak June 8 near the mouth of the Gualala R., Sonoma Co. (DE1), was late for the coastal lowlands s. of Humboldt County. Cassin's Finches were found to be common throughout the period and suspected of breeding at 4600 ft at Akerson Meadow (JW). Though this species breeds at lower elevations farther n. in the Cascades, there are no records of nesting below 7000 ft in the Yosemite area. Also at Akerson Meadow young Lawrence's Goldfinches were found June 24 along with 10-15 adults throughout the period (JW). This is a high elevation for breeding for this species in the c. Sierra. Red Crossbills were reported in above average numbers from the w. slope of the Sierra (m.ob.).

Green-tailed Towhees were singing regularly at 9500 ft above Warren Forks, Yosemite area June 14-15 (also June/July 1977-79) and probably breed at that elevation (MM). A ♂ Lark Bunting was near the Nunes Ranch, Pt. Reyes June 5-6 (DS *et al.*) and a female was near there June 15 (JH); there are only 3 previous records for the immediate coast in spring. A Vesper Sparrow July 21-23 at F.I. furnished only the third coastal July sighting. Single "Oregon" Juncos June 9 in Fresno (Mark Meyers) and throughout the period near Auburn (*vide* MA) were out of place seasonally, being far from breeding habitat. Two Clay-colored Sparrows were at F.I., June 1-3 where they continue to hold a monopoly on spring records. A "Gambell's" White-crowned Sparrow near Auburn June 5-17 (MA) was a very tardy straggler. A Golden-crowned Sparrow June 10 at the jct. of Highways 203 & 395, Mono Co. (Carol Annable), and one lingering until July 1 in Kensington, Contra Costa Co. (Nancy Conzett), were also unseasonal stragglers. Fox Sparrows June 14-15 (also June/July

1977-79) at 9500 ft above Warren Forks, Yosemite area were thought to be breeding at that elevation (MM). Lincoln Sparrows formerly bred as low as 4000 ft in Yosemite but in recent years have not bred below 6000 ft (D. Gaines, 1977, *Birds of the Yosemite Sierra*), so sightings of territorial birds this summer at 4 locales in Yosemite from 4-5000 ft (MM, WB) were encouraging.

ADDENDUM—An ad. ♂ **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** was seen in Santa Cruz June 27, 1979 (†Edna Vollmer) for the first regional coastal record. A **LeConte's Thrasher** was observed Apr. 29, 1980 near Avenal, Kings Co. (JiR), for the first regional sighting in 20+ years. Three active Mockingbird nests were found in the Crescent City

area in the summer of 1979 (GS) for a significant breeding range expansion n. along the coast.

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