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Varekamp, Terry Wahl, Glenn Walthall, Clarice Watson, Robin Weber (RWe), Wayne Weber, Ralph Widrig (RWi), Ray Williams (RWI), John & Marilyn Wingfield, E. Wisti, Vince Zauskey, (†) written description on file; S.J.C.R.-South jetty of the Columbia R., Oreg.; V.I.-Vancouver I.—EUGENE S. HUNN, 1816 N. 57th St., Seattle, Wash. 98103, and PHILIP W. MATTOCKS, JR., Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Washington, Seattle, Wash. 98195.

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Jules Evens and Ron LeValley

The warm, mild winter weather continued into the spring season, but except for comments about the slightly less than normal rainfall, most observers from the interior seemed not to have noticed the weather. Along the coast, ocean waters began the period 1-2°C above average but due to the onset of northwest winds and the associated upwelling, ocean waters cooled rapidly until late April and May found them 1-2°C below average. These northwest winds occur annually along our coastline, generating the very important mixing of ocean waters that brings nutrients to the surface. This year these winds appeared a month earlier than normal. As a result of this influx of nutrients, prey availability around Southeast Farallon Island (hereafter, F.I.) increased in mid-May and the breeding seabirds responded with heavy egg-laying in mid-May (CSt).

The northwest winds and associated clear skies were blamed for the lack of landbird migrants along the central coast and on F.I., where "it may have been the slowest May yet experienced by Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (hereafter, P.R.B.O.) personnel" (BBo). The only waves at F.I., were Apr. 14-19 (mostly

Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, Lincoln Sparrow) and May 28-29 (mostly Western Wood Pewee). On the north coast, a "massive fallout" of western migrants (Western Flycatcher, Orange-crowned and Wilson's Warblers) descended on Crescent City May 8 (RAE, GSL, GS). Spring migration is most apparent amidst the moist oak canyons of the inner-coast range where transients can depend on cyclical insect emergence. Large concentrations of migrants were encountered in such habitat at Mix Canyon, Solano County, May 3 (TBe), Mt. Burdell, Marin County, May 9 (IT) and Harbin Springs, Lake County, May 12 (CB). Somewhat earlier were large numbers of Nashville, Hermit, Townsend's and Black-throated Gray warblers in a narrow yellow pine belt on the east side of Mt. Hamilton April 24 (CB, DH). Arrival and departure dates were closely monitored on the coast, in the Central Valley (hereafter, C.V.), the Sutter Buttes (WA) and at a few select locations in the Sierra (DAA). For comments on the effects of such close scrutiny see the introductory remarks in last spring's report (AB 34:810).

Early arrival dates of selected key species:

Common Nighthawk May 25, Lake Almanor (DAA); Vaux's Swift March 31, Del Norte County (BED); Western Kingbird March 28, Tulare County (RHG); Ash-throated Flycatcher March 23, Marin County (DS); Western Wood Pewee April 9, Marin County (DS); Olive-sided Flycatcher April 14, Siskiyou County (RLeV); Bank Swallow March 17, San Francisco (JRI); Swainson's Thrush April 17, Pt. Reyes (RS); Solitary Vireo April 2, Marin County (IT); Warbling Vireo March 20, Colusa (WA); Yellow Warbler April 5, Marin County (DS); Black-throated Gray Warbler April 1, Marin County (DS, IT); Hermit Warbler April 13, Siskiyou County (RLeV); MacGillivray's Warbler April 13, Madera County (DBr); Yellow-breasted Chat April 21, Trinity County (RLeV); Wilson's Warbler March 20, Pt. Reyes (DS); Hooded Oriole March 21,

Alamo (JRI); Northern Oriole March 20, Sonoma County (DEI); Western Tanager April 3, Santa Clara County (DH); Black-headed Grosbeak April 8, Marin County (IT); Lazuli Bunting April 17, Monterey County (DRo); Grasshopper Sparrow April 1, Pt. Reyes (JE); Chipping Sparrow March 28, Sonoma County (DEI). Extremely early dates are in *italics*.

All observations from F.I. and Palomarin should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory. A dagger (†) means documentation is on file with the editors.

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS—A concentration of 40 Com. Loons on L. Almanor, Plumas Co., Apr. 12 (DAA) was at the normal peak of spring migration for an inland locality. Common Loons formerly bred in the n.w. corner of the Region, but their status presently is unclear. Seventy-two Red-necked Grebes Mar. 11 were concentrated in the same Marin County coastal area where large numbers were detected during fall migration (JE). A Red-necked Grebe at Eagle Lake, Lassen Co., Mar. 15 (DE) was unusual, but most of our inland records have come during migration. The relative distribution of the light and dark phases of W. Grebes in our Region are being elucidated; observers are encouraged to continue reporting sightings and ratios of these two forms.

A Laysan Albatross at the Cordelle Banks Mar. 23 (BDP) and one off of Humboldt Bay May 30 (J. Sterling, S.W. Harris) were at localities where they occur with some predictability. Flesh-footed Shearwaters are rarer in spring than in fall, therefore one at Cordelle Banks Mar. 23 (BDP) and one seen from Pt. Pinos Mar. 27 (DRo) were of special interest. A Manx Shearwater flying N past Pigeon Pt., Apr. 30 (PJM) was the only report this spring. A tantalizing report of Solander's Petrels (*Pterodroma solanderi*) was received from an oceanographic vessel offshore from our Region (R.L. Pitman). We are awaiting further details of these sightings after the return of the ship to land. A Leach's Storm-Petrel was heard in the early morning of May 2 at Pt. St. George by an observer very familiar with its calls (GSL). This species is extremely unusual within 15 mi of shore during the daylight hours despite its presence at nesting sites on islands as close as 100 yds from shore during the night!

White Pelicans lingered around San Francisco (hereafter, S.F.) Bay later than usual; late May records include 38 in South S.F. Bay May 28 (RWL), 50 at the Vallejo Salt Ponds



on the same day (B&HK), and 70 at Coyote Hills Regional P., May 29 (CSW). Brown Pelicans arrived during May in average numbers but one imm. at Hunter Rock, Crescent City, Del Norte Co., Mar. 21 (GSL, RAE *et al.*) was very early for such a northern locality.

HERONS—Green Herons seem to be increasing in the Mendota W.M.A., Fresno Co., as a result of the planting of willow and cottonwood trees by the Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game (RH), but the increase on the refuge and in suburban areas around Fresno may also have been owing to lack of water in many of this species' normal haunts. The only concentration of Cattle Egrets reported was of 11 in the Arcata Bottoms May 2 (RAE, RLeV). Elsewhere, a single individual in Novato, Marin Co., May 8 (*fide* DS) provided a late spring record and another at Lower Klamath N.W.R., May 9 (KVV, RE, MRo) was in an area from which there are very few records. Great Egrets still seem to be increasing in the n. Sacramento Valley (SAL, BED). A high count of 64 at L. Talawa, Del Norte Co., Mar. 30 (BED) was notable and parallels the presence of early spring concentrations n. of our Region in coastal Oregon. A Snowy Egret at L. Almanor, Plumas Co., Apr. 24 was possibly a trans-Sierran migrant (DAA). This species again failed to nest at Gray Lodge W.M.A., Butte Co. (BED); the last year of successful nesting there was 1975. The same story is true of Black-crowned Night Herons at Gray Lodge W.M.A. (BED). Least Bitterns returned to breeding sites at Lava Lakes Nature Center, Siskiyou Co., by Apr. 17 (RE, MRo). A Mar. 7 sighting at L. Merced, Golden Gate P., was the first S.F. record since 1925 (DM). Twenty-four White-faced Ibis at Mendota W.M.A., Fresno Co., through the period raised hopes for possible breeding there (RH, JB).

WATERFOWL—Swans and geese apparently departed their wintering areas earlier than usual; all wintering geese were gone from Gray Lodge by Mar. 17 (BED). The endangered Aleutian race of the Canada Goose seems to be growing in numbers. A high count of 1932 at L. Talawa, Del Norte Co. (SU) was encouraging. The peak number of Brant at Drake's Estero this spring was 2272 Apr. 17 (JE). A sub-adult Emperor Goose at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Mar. 15 (N. Clark, RE, MRo) produced our first spring record since 1978. Although this species is slightly more common inland than on the coast, most interior records are from October-November. A report of 12 "Blue" Geese with 100,000 Snow and Ross' geese at Twelake N.W.R., Siskiyou Co., Mar. 7 was intriguing (RE, MRo). These birds are studied closely and identified by plumage and bill characteristics as eight "Snow", three "hybrids" and one Ross'. A Ross' Goose at L. Talawa Apr. 24-29 (RAE) established one of the few Del Norte County records. The same bird was apparently in the Smith R. bottoms May 2 (TM).

This spring brought the first Regional records since 1978 of Fulvous Whistling Duck. A pair was at the Orange Cove Sewage Pond, Fresno Co., Apr. 24 (RGH) and a single bird was at Mendota W.M.A., Apr. 28 (CP). Mallards were reported enjoying their most successful breeding season in 6 years at the Au-

burn Stabilization Ponds (BBa) with 4 clutches totaling 37 chicks. The first Sonoma County breeding record of Pintail was a hen with five young May 16 at the Lakeville Hwy. Sewage Ponds near Petaluma (DE). Blue-winged Teal were well reported with 55+ individuals found in nearly every county in the Region. Two very late Eur. Wigeon were at Lower Klamath N.W.R., May 9 (KVV, RE, MRo). Two different Blue-winged X Cinnamon Teal hybrids were well described, one from Merced N.W.R., Mar. 9 (RB) and one from the Arcata Marsh, Humboldt Co., Apr. 9 (RLeV, LD *et al.*).

Redheads continue to nest at the Woodland Sugar Ponds, Yolo Co., despite massive habitat destruction in the surrounding wetlands; five pairs were there May 26 (TBe). Large numbers of Scaup gathered at Doolittle Pond, Alameda Co., prior to migration; 1315 Greater Scaup were there Apr. 5 and 4000 scaup sp. were there Apr. 20 (ER). This is a favored roosting locality during windy weather. A Barrow's Goldeneye at Deer Cr. Meadows, Tehama Co., May 2 was "quite unusual" (SAL). Many of last winter's Oldsquaws were found this spring, the largest concentration was of four at Tiburon, Marin Co., Mar. 5-10 (BL). Two-three Oldsquaws at Moss Landing were seen by m.ob.; there were last recorded on the late date of May 9 (DRo). A migrant gathering of 350 Black Scoters near Fort Funston, San Francisco Co., May 23 (DM) was an impressive number for our Region. Red-breasted Mergansers appeared inland slightly more than usual, two were at Eagle L., Lassen Co., Mar. 15-22 (DE, OKH), seven were at Copco L., Siskiyou Co., Mar. 11 (RE, MRo), and two were at Lost Lake P., Fresno Co., Mar. 7 (KH, BW).

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS—Turkey Vultures, absent from most of the n. part of the Region in winter, returned to Somes Bar, Siskiyou Co., Mar. 5 (RLeV) and L. Almanor Mar. 22 (DAA). The Region's third **Mississippi Kite** record was of an immature photographed May 31 at Mono Lake County P. (MM). This was possibly the same individual seen in Death Valley just prior to this sighting (see Southern Pacific Coast Region). Determining the migration periods of the two smaller accipiters is difficult owing to the fact that a few remain in the Region as nesters. The last Sharp-shinned Hawks reported from coastal Marin County were in Olema Valley Apr. 22 (JE) and at Palomarin Ranch Apr. 26 (P.R.B.O.), but sightings in Novato in interior Marin County s. of known nesting areas continued until May 9 (SC). Cooper's Hawks departed Palomarin by May 13 except for an immature present the last 2 weeks of May (P.R.B.O.). Swainson's Hawks were reported in normal numbers from most of the traditional interior sites, but observers in Butte Valley, Siskiyou Co., suggest that they may be increasing there (RE, MRo). Both Golden and Bald eagles were reported in average numbers at normal localities, which is another way of saying that no discernible trends are evident from the *American Birds* reports in our Region. Adult ♀ Marsh Hawks returned to coastal Marin County by Mar. 10 (JE). It seems that much could be learned if observers recorded the age and sex of all Marsh Hawks throughout the year. The Osprey populations in the Region continue in

their healthy condition, nearly all observers report good news for this species. Prairie Falcons are not normally considered migratory, yet fall and winter reports outnumber spring and summer reports by a ratio of about 4:1 in our Region, more than would be accounted for by simple dispersal of juv. birds. Peregrine Falcons were well reported from coastal Marin County but one observer (JE) still does not think that they are nesting there. Elsewhere, an immature was in South S.F. Bay May 28 (*fide* RWL), a rather late sighting for that locality. Most of our Regional Merlins had left the area by early to mid-April but one near the mouth of the Smith R., Del Norte Co., May 18 (MMo) was very late.

Blue Grouse were reported from 10 different localities in our Region, more than ever before. Particularly interesting were 3 localities in Sonoma County near the s. limit of this species' coastal range; six along Rockpile Rd., Apr. 4 (BDP, JP, LCB), three along Thompson Ridge w. of Cloverdale Apr. 4 (BDP, JP, LCB) and one near Cazadero Apr. 26 (DE). Ruffed Grouse were found n. of Somes Bar, Siskiyou Co., Apr. 7 & 13 (RLeV), near Dry L., Del Norte Co., Apr. 17 (TBr, D. McClung), and near Ironsides Mt., Trinity Co., Apr. 21 (RLeV). The Sage Grouse lek at Schaeffer Mt., Lassen Co., had 12 grouse at it Mar. 14 (BED) & 29 (JML). These are the same numbers reported last year but many fewer than the numbers during the early 1970s when 40-50 were present.

Sandhill Cranes had mostly departed wintering areas in the C.V., by mid-March so a "Lesser" Sandhill at Kesterson N.W.R., Merced Co., May 28 (LR) was unexpected. A "Greater" Sandhill Crane was on a nest in Hager Basin, Modoc Co., May 13 (BED) where such activity is to be expected. In last year's spring report the question was asked if Black Rails were not really more common than their "rare" status indicates. Apparently DE answered the question by finding at least 65 calling territorial Black Rails at the Port Chicago Marsh, Contra Costa Co., this spring, and estimating a population of 150+ at that locality! Elsewhere, two were at Benicia S.P., Solano Co., Mar. 17, two were in Hudeman Slough, Sonoma Co., Apr. 26 and one was near the Petaluma R. mouth, Sonoma Co., May 16 (all DE). An Am. Coot found its way to F.I., May 12; there are few spring records.

SHOREBIRDS—Spring arrival of Black-necked Stilts to breeding grounds were Mar. 14, Creighton Ranch Preserve, Tulare Co. (KL), Mar. 19 Gnos Field, Marin Co. (DS, SCA), and Apr. 5 Honey L., Lassen Co. (DAA). Humboldt County was treated to its 3rd record for Black-necked Stilt by an individual present around Arcata Mar.-17-mid April (J. Sterling, RAE, LD, RLeV). Arrival dates of Am. Avocets on breeding grounds were the same as the Black-necked Stilts in Tulare and Marin cos., but they didn't arrive until Apr. 21 at Honey L. (DAA). Snowy Plovers were reported nesting at L. Talawa, Del Norte Co., May 27 (GSL, RAE), Año Nuevo, San Mateo Co., May 27 (PJM), Coyote Hills, Alameda Co., in May (PJM), Hayward Regional Shoreline, Alameda Co., Apr. 27, and Kesterson N.W.R., Merced Co., June 4 (LR). At least eight Am. Golden Plovers remained on Pt. Reyes until May 3

(*fide* DS). Elsewhere, four were at Dillon Beach, Marin Co., Mar. 27 (DS) and one was n. of L. Talawa, Del Norte Co., Apr. 29 (RAE).

A major migratory movement of thousands of Marbled Godwits flying N along the coast took place Apr. 16-19 at the Mad R. mouth, Humboldt Co. (LD, RLeV). Fifteen Long-billed Curlews at L. Almanor, Plumas Co., Mar. 20 established one of the few records from that area (DAA). Lesser Yellowlegs were well reported along the coast with 26+ individuals being detected (m.ob.), but the big shorebird news was this spring's invasion of Solitary Sandpipers. Over 24 were reported from the following locations: Smith R. bottoms, Del Norte Co., 13-15 individuals Apr. 16-May 2 (BED, RAE, GSL *et al.*); Terwer Valley, Del Norte Co., one Apr. 28 (RAE); Klamath R. estuary one Apr. 28-29 (GSL); Arcata Bottoms, Humboldt Co., two May 2 (RAE, RLeV); Happy Camp, Siskiyou Co., one Apr. 18 (SAL, MRO, RE); Lava Lakes Nature Center, Siskiyou Co., one Apr. 17 (RE, MRO); Yreka, Siskiyou Co., one Apr. 24 (RE, MRO); Mines Rd., Alameda Co., one Apr. 24-25 (JRI, BL); BelMarin Keys, Marin Co., one May 4 (JE); Los Vaqueros Reservoir Site, Contra Costa Co., one Apr. 7 (DSch, B. Richmond); Mendota W.M.A., Fresno Co., one Apr. 21 (JB). Solitary Sandpipers averaged 4 records per spring in recent years. A Wandering Tattler on levee rip-rap near the e. end of the Dumbarton Bridge, Alameda Co., Apr. 29 (PJM) was unusual so far inside S.F. Bay. Ruddy Turnstones may prove to be regular in spring at Lower Klamath N.W.R., one was there May 16 (BED, MRO, RE). More unusual was an individual at the n.e. shore of Mono L., May 21 (CSw). A Wilson's Phalarope, considered casual along the coast in spring, was at Abbott's Lagoon, Marin Co., May 22 (DS). Red Phalaropes went unreported this spring.

A Sanderling at Lower Klamath N.W.R., May 12 and three others there May 16 (SS, BED, MRO, RE) provided the only inland reports. Two well described Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported, one from the n.e. shore of Mono L., May 21 (†CSw) and one from the Emeryville Crescent, Alameda Co., May 24 (†SFB). This species is very rare in the spring. Baird's Sandpipers were again detected at Lower Klamath N.W.R., this spring with four present Mar. 15 (S. Summers) and an unprecedented 14 present Mar. 29 (RE, MRO). The only other report of this rare spring migrant was one at Bolinas Lagoon, Marin Co., Apr. 8 (*fide* DS). A Pectoral Sandpiper, also quite rare in spring, was in the Smith R. bottoms, Del Norte Co., May 4-6 (RAE).

GULLS, TERNS—Western Gulls have become regular visitors at the Martinez Yacht Harbor, Contra Costa Co., in the last few years; 12 were present May 20 (LF). This species is rarely reported this far into S.F. Bay.

A Ring-billed Gull was on F.I., Mar. 3; this species is extremely rare seaward of the immediate coast. The Little Gull at the Stockton Sewage Ponds was apparently present through May 31 (*fide* SFB). Heermann's Gulls were apparently visiting last year's nest site on Alcatraz I., in early May (*fide* CSw).

Forster's Terns are rare in spring n. of So-

S.A.

With the California Gull colony's uncertain future at Mono L., it is particularly exciting to report the establishment of a breeding colony with 42 active nests May 31 in s. S.F. Bay (M. Rigney, *fide* RWL). This is the first evidence of nesting of this species west of the Sierra Nevada Mts., except for some eggs collected in 1910 in the "Sutter Basin" (Dawson 1927, *Birds of Calif.*). This colony was apparently present in the summer of 1980 but was not investigated until this spring. Also of interest was a pair engaged in bill-tossing display at Pope Beach, S. Lake Tahoe, May 11 (HLC) as there are no known nesting areas near that locality.

sonoma County so the following Crescent City, Del Norte Co., records are noteworthy: one Apr. 17 (BED), three Apr. 24 (RAE) and one May 19 (GSL). In contrast, 50 Com. Terns in Crescent City May 17 was probably normal (RAE). A Least Tern was well described from Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co., Apr. 23 (†JH). They are rare n. of s. S.F. Bay. Elegant Terns moved into the Region somewhat early with three at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, Alameda Co., May 25 (KFC) and seven at the Pajaro R. mouth May 28 (PJM, J&RW). Caspian Terns continued their early arrival at Regional localities; most observers reported them up to 2 weeks earlier than normal. By May 31 the Caspian Tern colony in the S.F. Bay N.W.R., San Mateo Co., had 1000± breeding pairs (M. Rigney, *fide* RWL). Black Terns were reported in lower than normal numbers in the Woodland (TBe) and Yuba City (JH) breeding areas. Two **Black Skimmers** were reported at Elkhorn Slough, Monterey Co., May 17 (*fide* WB). More details will be included in next season's report.

PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS

—Band-tailed Pigeons first returned to the n. coast Mar. 20 (RAE) and were "fairly common" at Crescent City by Apr. 1 (BED). In e. Humboldt/w. Trinity cos., they were relatively scarce where they had been thought to be a common breeder (RLeV), and in the foothills near Auburn, none was noted until early May, which is unusual (BBa). Numbers increased at Pt. Reyes in mid-May, apparently in response to the *Sambucus* (elderberry) crop (JE). Along lower Mines Rd., Alameda Co., Roadrunners are "still present despite people playing tapes in the breeding area" (AE).

Barn Owls were found breeding in "good numbers" in e. Alameda County (AE), but on Pt. Reyes 2 nests successfully fledged only two young between them (JE). In Lafayette, Contra Costa Co., the species is "faltering" (LF).

Of 14 Pygmy Owl reports, eight were from the inner-coast ranges, 5 were in the low foothills along the e. rim of the C.V., and one was the aforementioned bird in w. Siskiyou County. Although considered fairly common on the w. slope of the Sierra, no reports from that locale were received. Five previously unknown pairs of Spotted Owls in the Almanor District of Lassen N.F., brought the period total there to 7 pairs (DAA). Burrowing Owl numbers were disturbingly low with only 5

S.A.

Western Siskiyou County includes within its boundaries the extensive woodlands of the Klamath and Salmon Mts., characterized by a mosaic of coniferous montane forest types and, at lower elevations, mixed evergreen and broadleaved forests. While studying the distribution of Spotted Owls in the area, S. Laymon encountered the following densities of some of the more nocturnal Strigiformes: Flammulated Owl, 23 locations, with the first May 3; Spotted Owl, 50+ new territories bringing the total to 180+; the final total may exceed 260 pairs in w. Siskiyou County alone; Saw-whet Owl, 43 locations, in all habitats. In the same area, during the same time afield, only three Screech Owls, three Great Horned Owls and one Pygmy Owl were heard.

sightings; this species is clearly in trouble as a breeding species within the Region. The only Long-eared Owl report was of a successful breeding attempt on the San Joaquin Experimental Range (hereafter, S.J.E.R.), Madera Co., where six young were discovered May 15 (DBr *et al.*). Short-eared Owls were also sparse with only seven reported. Single Sawwhets were found in the Diablo Range at Hall's Valley, Santa Clara Co., Apr. 26 (DH *et al.*), at Cazadero, Sonoma Co., Apr. 26 (DE) and along upper Mill Cr., Tehama Co., Apr. 17 (DAA); other reports were from areas of known occurrence.

Poor-wills, reported in substantial numbers, "arrived" early at Oroville, Butte Co., Mar. 14 (SAL), N. Butte, Sutter Co., Apr. 6 (WA) and near Happy Camp, Siskiyou Co., Apr. 18 (RE, MRO). Early and extremely rare on the coast were two Lesser Nighthawks at Bolinas Apr. 19 (Barbara Deuhl, Patsy Cristaeuh) with one seen there again Apr. 21 (CSw, DDeS, EG). Most coastal records are from F.I., between mid-May and early July with a peak in early June.

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

—Migrating Black Swifts were encountered May 5-31 (m.ob.) which is normal. Vaux's Swift made an early passage with three at High Prairie Cr., Del Norte Co., Mar. 31 (BED) and 40 at Mokelumne R., Lodi Apr. 4 (BK); four at Millerton L., Fresno Co., Apr. 15 (KH) eclipsed the previous s. C.V. arrival date by 2 weeks (RH). Peak movement was noted at Arcata and the Mad R., May 18 (RLeV). A vagrant Costa's Hummingbird visited San Rafael, Marin Co., Apr. 12-14 (I. Tait, K. Whiteside) coinciding with the arrival of two males at Mines Rd. (KFC). At Montebello Ridge, Santa Clara Co., *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were counted at the rate of 50-100/hr, Apr. 4; only two could be identified to species, and they proved to be Rufous (DH). At P.R.B.O.'s research station at Palomarin, the first juv. Allen's Hummingbird was caught in the nets Apr. 30, nearly 2 months later than in 1980; numbers were low with a total of 21 juvenals netted as compared to 82 in 1980. Although known to wander upslope after breeding, 4700 ft near Chester, Plumas Co., was a high elevation for a singing Anna's Hummingbird Apr. 11 (DAA). A Calliope Hummingbird visited Drake's Beach P.R.N.S., May 21 (RS);

coastal records are rare in the Region, clustered toward late April-early May.

Acorn Woodpecker numbers were considered "bare bones" around Lafayette (LF); because this species avoids the humid coast n. of S.F., one in the Terwer Valley, Del Norte Co., May 27 was out of place (GSL, RAE, LB). Lewis' Woodpecker is no longer found regularly at lower Mines Rd., where Starlings have usurped nest holes (AE, HLC), but are still present in San Antonio Valley, Santa Clara Co. (AE). A "Red-naped" Sapsucker (*S.v. nuchalis*) 10 mi w. of Happy Camp, Siskiyou Co., Apr. 14 (SAL, NC, RE, MRo) was most unusual w. of the Cascades. A "Red-breasted" Sapsucker (*S.v. ruber* or *daggetti*) found F.I., Apr. 19 for one of very few spring island records. Numbers of Downy Woodpeckers seemed strong coastally (JE, DM), but at Gray Lodge in the C.V., "there has been a marked decline in the last 8 years, although riparian habitat has increased" (BED). Apparent migrant Downies were noted in Fresno: one was flying over with Violet-green Swallows Apr. 1 (KH) and one was "downtown" Apr. 23 (RH). Nuttall's Woodpecker seems to be expanding its range (coincident with a decline in Downies?): a pioneer male was excavating in Menlo P., Apr. 5 for the first spring record there (WB) and a female at Olema Mar. 27 was slightly w. of the normal range (JE). The only White-headed Woodpecker report was of a heard bird at Horse Mt., Humboldt Co., May 2 where it is rare (RAE *et al.*).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS—Western Kingbird is unusual along the c. coast in spring, becoming more common farther n. Of 32 coastal sightings Apr. 11-June 4 (m.ob.), 22 were in Del Norte County with a high of seven at Klamath Apr. 27 (RAE). Curiously, peak movement along the c. coast was later, May 3-May 10. Two montane records are noteworthy, both at 4500 ft; one at L. Almanor May 6 (DAA), one along Hwy. 32, Tehama Co., May 23 (KVV). Cassin's Kingbird returned to Shirttail Canyon, Monterey Co., Mar. 22 (DRo); this is the only report received of this rare breeder. A single **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** at Lafayette May 3 (LF) was early, the majority of records being in July. The E. Phoebe, present in Monterey since Dec. 29, was last seen Mar. 28 (AM, EM); although commonly thought to be a "fall bird", this species has been detected with increasing frequency late February-early April in recent years. Black Phoebes are very local in the mountains; one along the N. Fork of the Feather R. at 4500 ft in Chester May 23 was unusual for the Almanor area (DAA). Only four migrant Willow Flycatchers were reported May 21-22: one at Gray Lodge N.W.R. (BED), two just n. of Klamath (GSL, RAE), one at S.J.E.R., Madera Co. (RH). The only report from a breeding location was of one bird at Hodgdon Meadow, Yosemite May 29-30 (SFB). Dusky Flycatcher was found to be a more common than expected transient through the oak woodland foothills of S.J.E.R. (1000 ft elev.) in May with birds recorded on 5 of 10 days afield (RH). The earliest Dusky was one at China Camp, Monterey Co., Apr. 14 (DRo) with all others from the n.w. counties May 7-20 (RAE, RLeV, GSL, GS). Migrant Gray Flycatchers were at Smith R. bottoms,

Del Norte Co., Apr. 24 (RAE), Crescent City May 9 (RAE, GSL) and Fresno Apr. 30 (KH, JS). The 35 W. Flycatchers at Crescent City May 8 (RAE, GSL, GS) accompanied a massive fall-out of other w. migrants (see Orange-crowned Warbler below). Early W. Wood Pewees at Burdell Mt., Marin Co., Apr. 9 & 14 (DS) were the earliest dates recorded in the regional files, but may prove close to average for moist oak woodlands (DS). An average arrival date for the c. coast is more like Apr. 19-20. An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Bean's Ridge, Siskiyou Co., Apr. 14 (RLeV) was about 2 weeks early for the n. counties; elsewhere, arrival dates were fairly typical. The Region's sixth **Vermilion Flycatcher** was at Clovis, Fresno Co., Apr. 16-17 (EL, *fide* KH); this is the same location from which there is an old undated specimen (McCaskie *et al.*, 1979, *Birds of Northern California*).

Swallow arrival corresponded to the expected pattern. Bank Swallow colonies were active at Año Nuevo (RS), Fort Funston, S.F. (JRi), Fall R. Mills, Shasta Co. (BED) and in reduced numbers at Pajaro R., Monterey Co. (BE); previously unreported colonies were found near King City, Monterey Co., Apr. 16 (DRo) and 5 mi n. of Alturas, Modoc Co., May 12 (BED). At Palomar Cliff Swallows were nesting later and in reduced numbers compared to last year (P.R.B.O.). Purple Martins were found nesting near Five Brooks, P.R.N.S. (GH *et al.*), At Cobb Mt., Lake Co. (JPM) and in reduced numbers at two traditional coastal locations s. of S.F. (BE). Sightings in Sacramento (BK, HK) along Skyline Dr., San Mateo Co., (DH) suggested nesting at those locations as well.

CORVIDS THROUGH NUTHATCHES—Scrub Jay flocks are occasionally noted in autumn and assumed to be normal downslope movements or a response to concentrated acorn crops. Spring flocks are most unusual, so the following localized movements were of interest: 60 at Paynes Cr., Tehama Co., Apr. 28 (KVV, KC), 80 at Horseback Ridge, 8.5 mi s. of Paynes Cr. Apr. 29 (DAA), 47 moving NW along the w. shore of L. Almanor Apr. 30 (DAA). Thereafter, there were only two sightings of individuals in the L. Almanor area (DAA). A "migrant" Scrub Jay was at Gold Bluff Beach, Humboldt Co., May 18 (GS). Most vagrant Yellow-billed Magpie records are in winter, but one at Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co., May 31 was w. of its normal range eating a dead skunk (SC). In Carmichael, 79 was a high concentration (JML). The only Piñon Jay report was of 25 s. of Honey L. (JML). Red-breasted Nuthatches continue to be conspicuously absent; of two reported, one was at Palomar in May 26 and one was along Skyline Rd., San Mateo Co., May 30-31 (DH *et al.*).

DIPPER THROUGH WAXWINGS—Ten + Dippers were along the N. Fork of the American R., Apr. 24 (TBe). Canon Wren Wren avoids the n. humid coast belt, so singles in the vicinity of the Klamath R. Mouth Apr. 5 (JGH), May 7-9 (GSL, LB, RAE) and May 17-21 (GSL, RAE) were odd; another at Bluff Cr. s.e. Del Norte Co., Apr. 4 (BBB, JGH) was unusual. A Sage Thrasher, present in Salinas since late November, lingered until Mar. 22 (DRo); winter records

from the coast are rare. The first report from the n. Great Basin was of seven at Honey L., Mar. 29 (JML). One was netted at Palomar in May 8 (BY, P.R.B.O.).

Late lingering Varied Thrushes were found at Plaskell Meadow, Glenn Co., May 2 (KVV, KC) and Mt. Burdell, Marin Co., May 9 (SC). A **Veery** was seen at F.I., May 27 (†BBo, P.R.B.O.). This species is extremely rare in California, with three other records (one for the Region) Oct. 12-Nov. 5. If accepted by the California Records Committee, this will constitute the first spring occurrence. Single coastal Mountain Bluebirds were at Montebello Open Space Reserve, San Mateo Co., Apr. 8 (DH) and L. Earl, Del Norte Co., Apr. 4 (DG). One e. of Hwy. 99, Madera Co., Mar. 28 (JS) was late on the San Joaquin Valley floor (RH). Five migrant Townsend's Solitaires were found along the n. coast Apr. 2-20 (BED, D. Scott *et al.*). A wave of 65 Ruby-crowned Kinglets descended on F.I., Apr. 15; the last migrants were on the coast at Pt. Reyes Apr. 30 (DS), in the C.V., at Gray Lodge May 8 (BED) and one very late individual at Lafayette May 15 (LF).

PIPITS THROUGH SHRIKES—Water Pipits leave their wintering grounds by early May, so one near Palo Alto May 31 (MRi) was very late. Cedar Waxwings were found in strong numbers during April and May at areas of common occurrence, but ten at Crane Flat Lookout May 16 (TBr) was unusual for the Yosemite Sierra. Of five N. Shrikes, during March, two were in coastal Del Norte (RAE *et al.*), one was near Orleans, Humboldt Co. (RLeV), one was in Sierraville, Sierra Co., and the last was at Honey L., Mar. 21 (DAA). A Loggerhead Shrike was at the Klamath R. mouth Mar. 30 (BED *et al.*), but more unusual was a very late one May 5 at Pt. Saint George (Jim Rooney).

WARBLERS—Six Black-and-white Warblers were reported from Mar. 28-May 30, five from the coast, one e. of the Sierran divide at Lundy Canyon near Mono L. (MM). Of seven Tennessee Warblers, five were migrants along the c. coast Apr. 30-May 17; one at Golden Gate P., S.F., Apr. 3 (NB) may have wintered and one was at Crescent City May 8 with 350 Orange-crowned Warblers (RAE, GSL, GS). Although there were several earlier reports (most of lingering winterers), Nashville Warblers arrived in synchrony Apr. 14 at a wide range of locations (m.ob.). The Lucy's Warbler, present in Pacific Grove since Dec. 30, was last seen Mar. 23 (DRo). Of four N. Parulas May 9-June 1, two were at F.I., May 29-June 1, one was at Lincoln P., S.F., May 17 (JM *et al.*), one was at Anadel S.P., Sonoma Co., May 9 (R. Aijala, *fide* Gull). Quite early single Yellow Warblers were at Olema Cr., Marin Co., Apr. 5 (DS) and farther n. at Happy Camp, Siskiyou Co., Apr. 17 (SAL). Encouraging numbers were reported from Yosemite (SFB) and the n. Sierras (JH). A ♂ Cape May Warbler was missing most of its tail-feathers at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse May 20 (DS) and another male was seen there May 25 (MG *et al.*).

Townsend's Warbler migrants were reported in strong numbers, especially through oak woodlands of the inner coast ranges (TBe, CB, DH, WB). At Gray Lodge

N.W.R., six May 7-8 was "many more than usual"; (BED) and in the Sutter Buttes the migratory peak May 5 was consistent with previous years (WA). Townsend's wintered in w. Siskiyou County (RLEv, SAL); one at Lost L. Park near Friant, Fresno Co., May 20 was late on the valley floor (KH) and the Region's last report. Hermit Warbler migration (mid-April to mid-May) corresponded closely to Townsend's migration; a single bird in Terwer Valley, Del Norte Co., Mar. 27 wintered (RAE) and a female at Lost L. Park May 20 was late on the valley floor (KH). Hermit Warbler migration (mid-April - mid-May) corresponded closely to Townsend's migration; a single bird in Terwer Valley Mar. 27 wintered (RAE) and a female at Lost Lake P., May 20 was late on the valley floor (KH). A ♂ Chestnut-sided Warbler was at Pt. Saint George May 28-29 (GSL, RAE, *et al.*), and a male was singing at S.J.E.R., May 31 (†DBr). The last wintering Palm Warbler was on the n. coast Apr. 25 (RAE, GSL, PR). The unprecedented number of inland records this winter was complemented by a single Palm in e. Vallejo May 12 (G. Sears, *fide Gull*). Four Ovenbirds were along the c. coast with two at F.O., May 28, one at Mendoza Ranch, P.R.N.S., May 25 (MG *et al.*) and one at Lincoln P., S.F., May 31 (NB). Also during the last week of May there was an Ovenbird in Reedley, Fresno Co., found dead June 1 (RHG). Interior spring records of Ovenbird and N. Waterthrush are more common than coastal records in s. California, however, to the n., coastal sightings predominate. One N. Waterthrush was singing in Inverness, Pt. Reyes May 25 (RS). A singing **Kentucky Warbler** in Lincoln P., S.F., May 16 (AH, m.ob.) provided the Region with its eighth record (15th for California) six of which have been on F.I., May 11-July 3 with another in Eureka Nov. 21-23, 1972. Numbers of MacGillivray's Warblers were considered generally low (compared to last year) at Pt. Reyes (JE) and along the American R. (TBe), however five along Langley Hill Rd., San Mateo Co., May 30-31 (DH) were considered good numbers there. Common Yellowthroats returned to the n. coast (from which it retreats in winter) by Mar. 29 (GSL, RAE, BED). A ♂ Hooded Warbler at Western Mountain gas station in Lee Vining was fueling-up on insects at a recently uncovered woodpile May 20-28 (C. Schwarz, †KH *et al.*). As with Ovenbird and N. Waterthrush most spring records from n. California are coastal, but s. records predominate from the interior. Wilson's Warbler migration peaked in early May with 25 at Mix Canyon, Solano Co., May 3 (TBe) and 45 at Crescent City May 8 (GSL, RAE, GS). Two Am. Redstarts were reported, both imm. males: Drake's Beach, P.R.N.S., May 31 (JM *et al.*) and F.I., June 1.

ICTERIDS AND TANAGERS—Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found coastally with singles at Bolinas Apr. 3 (CSw, EG), Arcata bottoms Apr. 28 (JHG) and Smith R. bottoms May 8 (RAE, GS, GSL). An imm. ♂ N. (Bullock's) Oriole at Santa Cruz Mar. 8 (JLu) probably wintered; otherwise arrival dates were about average. The S.F. pair of Great-tailed Grackles was again sighted Apr. 5 (K. Hainebach) and the male was seen May 9+ (*fide Gull*). Extensive field

work along the n. fork of the American R., Yosemite and Sagehen Cr., w. of Truckee revealed "high numbers" of Brown-headed Cowbirds at those locations (TBe). A ♀ W. Tanager at Santa Cruz Mar. 8 (JLu) wintered; one at Steven's Cr. County Park, Santa Clara Co., Apr. 3 (DH) was about 2 weeks early if it did not winter. Migration of W. Tanager through the Sutter Buttes Apr. 18-May 24 (WA) mirrors the pattern throughout the Region. An adult ♂ Summer Tanager at Hastings Natural History Reservation, upper Carmel Valley, Monterey Co., May 2+ (D. Good, B. Hastings *et al.*) was apparently of the e. race, *rubra* (*fide Gull*).

FRINGILLIDS—A ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak at Los Altos Mar. 17 through the end of March (J&SL) was early coastally and may have wintered locally. Two ♂ Indigo Buntings were reported: one w. of Cazadero, Sonoma Co., May 25 (DB, PC) and one at F.I., May 26 (P.R.B.O.). Evening Grosbeaks were generally conspicuous and at lower than usual elevations (m.ob.) with 350 Paynes Cr., Tehama Co., Apr. 28 (KVV, KC) the high count. An influx into e. Humboldt/w. Trinity County Apr. 23-May 31+ (RLEv) was well documented. A ♂ Purple Finch at Camp Richardson in the Tahoe Basin May 11 was "unusual in being e. of the Sierran crest in spring; vagrants into this Region, where *cassinii* breed, are usually found from mid-summer-fall" (HLC, G. Hall). Pine Siskin, usually rare in the Sutter Buttes, was encountered there regularly in April with a high of 40 Apr. 4 (WB); three at S.J.E.R., May 22 were low (1000 ft) for that date (RH). Lawrence's Goldfinch was well reported, especially in the inner coast ranges from Monterey up through the Diablo Range (m.ob.) and in the southern C.V., where "the number was greater than normal with most records in the foothills, some as high as 6000 ft at Dinkey Cr." (RH, KH). On the immediate coast, small numbers were clustered in late May with sightings at Pt. Pinos and the Carmel R. mouth May 29 (DRo) and two at Pt. Reyes May 30 (MG).

"Healthy numbers" of Red Crossbills continue to be found in the mountains from Yosemite to Lassen (m.ob.), extending down into Ponderosa Pine forests (TBe, SGr). The only coastal reports were of six plus s. of Eureka Apr. 28 (JGH), four at Pt. Reyes Apr. 16 (JE), two at Arcata Bottoms May 19 (JGH) and seven at MacKerricher S.P., Mendocino Co., May 31 (JH). No Green-tailed Towhees were found around Fallen Leaf L., and the S. Tahoe area where the species was formerly common (HLC). One at Chawana-kee Flats (3000 ft) on the w. slope of the Sierra Apr. 23 was low (SG), however small numbers migrate through atypical habitat in spring (Gaines D., 1977, *Birds of the Yosemite Sierra*). One at Mt. Diablo May 6-10 was unusual (M.A.D.S.). Quite rare in spring, a ♂ Lark Bunting was near the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse Apr. 30 (†DS, Laura Graffineus). A Grasshopper Sparrow at Pt. Reyes Apr. 1 (JE) was the Region's earliest ever, but further field work may prove this close to the normal arrival date along the coast if locations of known occurrence are checked regularly. Vesper Sparrows were last seen at the Sutter Buttes Apr. 5 (WA), the same day one arrived on the n. coast at L. Earl (RAE,

BED), where four remained through the period (RAE).

Two Black-throated Sparrows 4 mi n. of Shaver L., e. of the San Joaquin R., Apr. 23 (SG) were unusual there on the w. slope of the Sierra. One was at Kilgore Hills near Yreka (where they have nested irregularly) May 24 (RAE) and a vagrant was at Gold Bluff Beach, Humboldt Co., May 18 (JGH, GS *et al.*). A slightly early Clay-colored Sparrow at F.I., Apr. 29 was at the same location as every other spring-summer record. Brewer's Sparrow, a rare migrant w. of the Sierran divide, was found coastally with singles at Drake's Beach, P.R.N.S., May 10 (DTo) and F.I., May 27-30 (P.R.B.O.), and in the s. C.V. foothills at Lost L., Fresno Co., Apr. 24 (RH, F.A.S.) and S.J.E.R., Apr. 24 (DBr), May 5 (RH), and May 19 (DBr). More than a single Black-chinned Sparrow was at Foresta, Yosemite N.P., May 14 (KH, RH). This was one of very few records within park boundaries, although known to breed nearby. A single Black-chinned at Lava Beds, N.M., May 16 (JS, LD, SH *et al.*) was rare there. Of three Harris' Sparrow reports, singles at Honey L., Mar. 22 (JLu) and Kerman, Fresno Co., Apr. 16 (H&M Roup, *fide RH*) were lingering winterers; one at Arcata Apr. 28 & May 7 (JGH) was a coastal vagrant. Hybrid White-crowned X Golden-crowned Sparrows are rarely encountered, so two reports this period were most unusual: one at Lafayette Apr. 23-27 (†LF) and one at Crescent City May 8 (RAE, GSL, GS). Most Golden-crowned Sparrows departed during late April (normal) with the last report of three on Mt. Diablo May 15 (DS). Three White-throated Sparrows were reported Apr. 23-30 from various locations, and another was singing at Bear Valley, P.R.N.S., May 9 (R. Sinchak & K. Hinsu, *fide Gull*). Most Fox Sparrows leave the coast in late April; singles at Arcata May 8 (GSL, RAE) and Pt. Reyes Lighthouse May 17 (JE) were stragglers. Coastal passage of Lincoln's Sparrow peaked Apr. 14 with 20 at F.I.; late individuals were at the fish docks, P.R.N.S., May 28 (†KFC) and near Palo Alto May 31 (MRi, TRi). Of the Swamp Sparrows that winter in Olema Marsh near Pt. Reyes, one remained until Apr. 27 (DS), as late a date as has been reported for the Region; further field study may prove this to be the normal date of departure.

CORRIGENDA—AB 35 (March 1981) lists some observer errors: the cuckoo at Pt. Reyes Sept. 8-14 (pg. 222) was sighted by JLu, MW *et al.*; the observer who reported large numbers of Com. Flickers in the Fresno area was FRG (not RFG); the Bay-breasted Warbler at Mendoza Ranch, P.R.N.S., was well described by BrB (not BB); Ron LeValley was the waterbird editor and Jules Evens the landbird editor, not the opposite. The "Oregon" Junco mentioned in the summer 1980 report (AB 34:928) should be deleted. Subsequent information revealed that the Roeding Park Zoo released a captive. Brewer's Sparrow was *not* confirmed breeding at L.V.R.S., Contra Costa Co., as stated in AB 35:224. The sentence should read: "A ♀ Black-chinned Sparrow feeding a juvenile at L.V.R.S., Aug. 5 confirmed breeding there (RAE)". The Le Conte's Thrasher listed (AB 34:929) in the addenda need not have been

boldfaced. Subsequent information indicates that this species maintains a small population in the Kettleman Hills extending n. to Panoche Canyon, about 40 mi n. of Coalinga (Jay Sheppard).

ADDENDUM—A Red Crossbill was found dead beneath a tree in Davis, Yolo Co., in the fall of 1980; the exact date is not available (*vide* TBe).

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