

## MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Ron LeValley and Jules Evens

This summer would probably be characterized as "normal" by most observers. A small front passed through the Region in mid-June, dropping a small amount of rain, but the interior became clear and hot shortly after that. With the hot interior, fog formed regularly along the coast and with the rising hot air over the land, onshore breezes were brisk throughout most of the period. These onshore breezes promoted intense upwelling in ocean waters and sea surface temperatures dropped to 11-13°C, about 1°C lower than the 20-year average.

The stiff breezes along shore prevented migrants from reaching the coast, with the result that the typical early June vagrant waves were mostly nonexistent. The most exciting waterbird news was of the discovery of yet another *Pterodroma* petrel in our offshore waters and of a Least Auklet found weak and dying on a San Mateo County beach, for the first record of this species southeast of Kodiak Island, Alaska.

In the high Sierra, at Hall Natural Area near Tioga Pass, nesting success of montane species was high early in the season. As the summer progressed, record high temperatures and no precipitation depressed breeding activity. Many species failed to raise a second brood with total productivity falling short of last year's (DDeS). Perhaps the warm weather accounted for the inordinate number of altitudinal records (see text below).

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

**LOONSTHROUGH HERONS** — All 3 of our normally occurring loon species were found summering in small numbers along the coast n. of San Francisco (hereafter, S.F.) with 5-50 being reported from commonly birded localities (m.ob.). Interestingly, summer numbers of Arctic Loons along the coast exceed numbers of non-migrants at any other time of year. Inland the only loon reported was a late migrating Common at L. Almanor, Plumas Co., June 14 (DAA). One or two Red-necked Grebes summered near Drakes Beach, Marin Co. (DS, TB, TL), another was at Crescent City June 29+ (RAE) and a single was at the Smith R. mouth, Del Norte Co., July 23 (*vide* RAE). These numbers are probably normal for this season despite the scarcity of past reports. Eared Grebe numbers at Mono L., jumped from 1000 to 3000+ June 15 (LS, GP, CSw). If these were fall migrants, were they non-breeders or . . . ? Western Grebes apparently fledged no young at L. Almanor this summer where last year many young were seen (DAA).

Over 350 Black-footed Albatrosses were accompanying a fleet of Russian and American fishing vessels off Crescent City June 6 (RLeV, RAE *et al.*). Concentrations comparable to this are of regular occurrence, illustrating the probable importance of offal from commercial fishing boats in the diet of some seabirds. Approximately 200 Pink-footed Shearwaters were off Crescent City June 6 (RLeV, RAE *et al.*) and seven were reported near F.I., July 7 (P.R.B.O.). A single Flesh-footed Shearwater off Crescent City June 6 (RLeV, RAE *et al.*) established one of the few summer records for this species, despite the fact that this would be a logical season to find them away from their southern hemisphere breeding grounds. A concentration of 10,000+ Sooty Shearwaters offshore San Francisco July 3 (DM) was indicative of normal summer concentrations of this species in our Region.

S.A.

Pitman has now reported another gadfly petrel (genus *Pterodroma*) from the offshore waters of California. On a marine mammal research cruise 20 Solander's Petrels (*P. solandri*) were reported from within 60 mi from shore between Cape Mendocino and Pt. Reyes May 21. Solander's Petrel nests during the austral winter on Lord Howe Island between Australia and New Zealand, crossing the equator to at least 40° N in the North Pacific. Apparently some non-breeding birds remain n. of the equator during the breeding season. Pitman was also responsible for discovering Cook's Petrels in California during October 1979 (AB 34: 200). These and possibly other trans-equatorial seabirds probably occur with some regularity far offshore but little is known about the avifauna of that oceanic region, and even less about the annual variation in migration patterns that these birds display. This is of course the first sighting of this species from North America. Details have been submitted, along with a photograph, to the California Rarities Committee and will be published elsewhere. These sightings indicate that even in California, where pelagic bird-watching trips take place almost every weekend, there are exciting discoveries to be made.

A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel was in Monterey Bay Aug. 23 (TC), but more surprising was another on L. Talawa, Del Norte Co., July 16 (RAE).

A few White Pelicans apparently summered in S.F. bay (m.ob.) and fall migrants arrived rather early, 1000+ were at Alviso, Santa Clara Co., July 8 (*vide* RWL). Accompanying these were 200+ Brown Pelicans (*vide* RWL). Both species, along with a con-



centration of herons and egrets, were apparently feeding on bait fish that had been planted in the salt ponds at Alviso. Approximately 1100 Brandt's Cormorants were counted from shore at the nesting colony at Pt. Lobos, Monterey Co., June 18 (HLC). This number is substantially lower than similar counts made in the early 1960s but consistent with counts from the 1970s. In contrast no Pelagic Cormorant nests were visible in areas where they had nested in the 1960s and early 1970s (HLC). Two ad. Little Blue Herons were again at the Alviso, Santa Clara Co., heronry July 11, indicating a possible repeat of last year's nesting effort (RWL). American Bitterns are rare nesters along the coast so three pairs summering in the Smith R. bottoms, Del Norte Co. (*vide* RAE) and two juveniles at Abbot's Lagoon, Marin Co., June 16 (DS) were of interest.

**WATERFOWL** — Breeding waterfowl in the South S.F. Bay N.W.R., included Gadwall, Mallard, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, N. Shoveler and Ruddy Duck. Of these Mallard and Gadwall were the most abundant (RWL). Elsewhere a high number of 400 Gadwall fledglings were found at the Salinas R. mouth, Monterey Co., (BE, RWL) while a female with eight young at Drakes Beach, Pt. Reyes N.S., established the first Marin County breeding record (DS). Blue-winged Teal apparently nested in the Smith R. bottoms, Del Norte Co.; one brood was reported where three pairs summered (RAE, GL). Wood Ducks were present throughout the summer at the Auburn Stabilization Ponds, Placer Co., with a peak of 20 on July 31 (BB).

A ♀ Lesser Scaup with one young at Adobe Cr., Santa Clara Co., July 17 (TC) apparently indicated the second year of nesting at this locality. This is the first Regional nesting w. of the Sierra-Cascade ranges. A Com. Goldeneye at Palo Alto Aug. 8 (HLC) provided one of our few August records coastally. As is true of many non-breeding summering waterfowl, it exhibited badly worn feathers and was probably unable to fly. A July survey of 35+ small lakes in and around the Caribou Wilderness area, Lassen Co., found six Bufflehead broods totalling 30

juveniles and seven additional lone adults (DAA). This is probably an accurate representation of their normal nesting status in the California Cascades. One Oldsquaw lingered at Moss Landing until at least July 6 (m.ob.) while another was reported near the mouth of Tomales Bay, Marin Co., June 28 (DS). Summer records of Oldsquaws are few. A single ♂ Harlequin Duck in the Merced R., Yosemite N.P., May 2 (SF *et al.*) was one of our few recent records from the Sierra Nevada. This species formerly nested rarely but widely in the Sierras but there have been no nesting reports since 1976. A brood of Hooded Mergansers was found at Sand Pond below Sardine L., Sierra Co., June

21 (JH) and another possibly of this species was reported from Butt Cr., Plumas Co., in early June (*vide* DAA). This species is extremely rare as a nester in the Region. Common Mergansers nested at Kent L., Marin Co. (*vide* DS); a female with seven young were found June 27. This may be the southernmost breeding locality along the coast ranges for this species.

**RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS** — A Goshawk near Cold Springs Sta., in the Yolla Bolly Wilderness Area June 26 (CB) was at the s. limit of their range in the coastal mountains where they are rarely encountered. Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported nesting near Ammon Prairie, Humboldt Co., and Swede Cr., Trinity Co., in June (RLeV, JB). This species is now an extremely rare breeder in California. In contrast, reports of nesting Cooper's Hawks were received as follows: Mill Cr. Campground, Del Norte Co., July 13 (*vide* RAE); Oak Knob, Humboldt Co., July 11 (RLeV, JB); Audubon Canyon Ranch, Marin Co., June 2 (DS *et al.*); Tilden P., Alameda Co., June 10 (SFB) and along the Sacramento R. in the N. Sacramento Valley in June and July (SAL). Other reports of single birds were received from throughout the Region all summer (m.ob.). The nesting status of all 3 Accipiters needs further study. Swainson's Hawks continue to nest in small numbers in the Central Valley (hereafter, C.V.) (m.ob.).

A banner year was documented for Ospreys. In the L. Almanor, area, 21 of 25 occupied nests successfully raised 41 young (DAA). This was the most successful breeding season in 8 years at that locality. In Marin County a total of 15 active nests was reported, 11 of these at Kent L. (DS, JE *et al.*).

Mountain Quail were reported as having "a great year" in Humboldt and Trinity Cos. (RLeV, JB), the Yolla Bolly Wilderness Area, Mendocino Co. (CB) and along the n. fork of the American R., in the Sierra Nevada (TB). Elsewhere broods were seen along Willow Cr. Road, Sonoma Co., July 4 (JM) and at Bricebury, Monterey Co., June 25 (DR). Both localities are in areas where this species is considered uncommon and local. A Sora visited F.I., June 30.

**SHOREBIRDS** — An Am. Avocet summered at the Arcata Marsh, Humboldt Co. (RLeV, LD, RAE) for the first time, while a new nesting locality was established by four adults with four downy young along the Petaluma R., Sonoma Co., May 31-July 1 (DE, J. Parmeter). These observations indicate that this species is still increasing its breeding range N along the coast.

One of the amazing phenomena of summertime birdwatching is the return of n. nesting shorebirds. It is sometimes difficult to imagine fall migration beginning at the first of July, but consider these arrival dates of some common shorebirds—all in breeding plumage or first numbers at regularly birded localities: Semipalmated Plover—July 18 (RE, MR); Am. Golden Plover—June 30 (GSL, RAE); Black-bellied Plover—July 9 (HLC, RAE); Marbled Godwit—July 1 (LD, RLeV); Whimbrel—June 21 (DR); Long-billed Curlew—June 27 (DR); Greater Yellowlegs—June 27 (DR) and June 29 (RLeV, LD); Lesser Yellowlegs—June 27 (DS) and June 28 (RLeV); Willet—June 16 (GSL); Wandering Tattler—June 27 (DR); Ruddy Turnstone—July 16 (PM, RAE); Black Turnstone—June 30 (GSL); Wilson's Phalarope—June 14 (LS, GP, CSw); N. Phalarope—June 27 (DR); Red Phalarope—July 18 (DR); Com. Snipe—July 25 (GSL); Short-billed Dowitcher—June 27 (DR) and July 3 (JE, RS); Long-billed Dowitcher—July 5 (RLeV); Surf-bird—June 30 (GSL); Sanderling—July 16 (RAE); W. Sandpiper—June 23 (LS, CSw, GP) and June 25 (LD); Least Sandpiper—July 1 (GSL); Baird's Sandpiper—June 30 (CSw, GP, LS) and July 5; Pectoral Sandpiper—July 21 (RAE). Almost all of these birds were adults and generally one sex predominated. These observations correspond to aspects of the breeding biology of many of these shorebirds in which one sex departs the breeding grounds much earlier than the other, leaving the other sex to perform many of the duties involved in the raising of young. Observers who are going to the effort of aging these birds are contributing much to our knowledge of their annual distributional patterns.

A Solitary Sandpiper was in the Smith R. bottoms July 25 (GSL) and another was near Elk Grove, Sacramento Co., July 29 (†T&AM). Five Sanderlings at Mono L., June 1 and three there June 3 (GP) were in an area from which there are few records. A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was well-described from Warm Springs, on the e. side of Mono L., June 6 (†GP, CSw, LS) for the third documented Regional record, all of which have been in early June. A Dunlin lingered at L. Talawa June 6-19 (RLeV, GSL).

Also establishing the third Regional record was an ad. **Curlew Sandpiper** molting out of breeding plumage at Ano Nuevo S.P., Aug. 1 (†DSc). The Region's second ad. Ruff was a male at Ano Nuevo July 25 (†MW, †ER). Most other Ruff records are of juveniles which arrive in September and October but the other adult record was of a bird arriving in July (see AB 34: 926).

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — Two Pomarine Jaegers were found off Crescent City June 6 (RAE, RLeV *et al.*) and one was inside S.F. Bay at the Alameda Naval Air

Sta., July 13 (SFB). A Parasitic Jaeger was at the Smith R. mouth, Del Norte Co., July 21 (RAE).

Rather surprising was a very late first-year Glaucous Gull well seen in the Crescent City harbor June 4 (RAE, GSL). A W. Gull at L. Talawa July 16-21 was thought to be of the race "*wymani*" from S. California (RAE). The status of that race n. of Monterey is unclear.

#### S.A.

The continuing story of Mono Lake's California Gull colony becomes sadder as the years wear on. D. Winkler reported that 95-97% of the chicks from this year's nesting effort starved because the brine shrimp population was less than 10% of normal numbers. As the summer progressed, the later hatches of brine shrimp brought their numbers closer to normal so that for now, the millions of fall migrant grebes and phalaropes appear to be safe. But what of the future? To the brine shrimp, to the California Gulls and to the grebes and phalaropes, Mono Lake's water has become more valuable than OPEC oil is to us. Can we allow the wasteful use of commodities so important?

Single Mew Gulls summered at the Arcata Marsh (RLeV, DS) and Moss Landing (DR). The first juv. Bonaparte's Gulls were reported July 17 from Crescent City harbor (RAE). Eighty-three+ Sabine's Gulls were found off Crescent City June 6 (RAE, RLeV *et al.*). Migrational peaks of Sabine's Gulls offshore in our Region appear to be in late May or early June, much later than other gull species. Elsewhere, an adult at Manzanita L., Lassen Volcano N.P., June 9 (GPS) was notable since this appears to be the first spring record for the interior.

Least Terns appear to have been very successful as breeders at the Alameda N.A.S. where 100+ fledged this year compared to nine last year (SFB). Elegant Terns moved N in large numbers this summer, 440 at the Pajaro R. mouth July 8 (J&RW) was the highest number reported, while one was in Crescent City harbor July 3 (RAE), as far n. as the species has been recorded. Black Skimmers staged a mini-invasion. One to two were present at the Pajaro R. mouth and Elkhorn Slough, Monterey Co., throughout the period (J&RW, DR *et al.*) while one was seen at Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co., July 3 (RS, JE). This represents only the third year that Black Skimmers have reached N. California and it seems that a minimum of four birds were involved this year.

California's first **Least Auklet** was a male in breeding plumage that came ashore at Thornton State Beach, San Mateo Co., June 15. It was picked up weak and very thin and taken to the Peninsula Humane Society where it died. Details of this record will be published elsewhere (*vide* SFB). Although not quite as far out of range, a Tufted Puffin in breeding plumage impressed the observer inside S.F. Bay at Crab Cove, Alameda Co., July 9 (IB).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS** — A Yellow-billed Cuckoo near Drake's Beach, P.R.N.S., July 20 (DS) re-

mained at least until July 28 (T. Castro, *vide Gull*). Of 20 coastal records since 1958, most have been in July or September; oddly, there are none for August. Only two cuckoos (both unmated males) were found on 4 canoe trips down the Sacramento R., from Red Bluff to Chico June 20-July 22 (SAL), an area that supports the last of the Region's population of breeding birds. Observers are urged to monitor any stretch of the Sacramento R., next summer in an attempt to determine the extent of decline that this species has suffered. The extirpation of cuckoos from the Region may not be a foregone conclusion, but, no other reports were received this season. A handful of July sightings of Roadrunners in the foothills around the Salinas Valley indicates that they are doing well where sufficient habitat still exists (DR, RB). One 10 mi e. of Covelo, Mendocino Co., July 8 (CB) was near the w. edge of the species' range in an area where, based on the number of records, they must be quite rare.

Barn Owls were "common" in the upper Carmel Valley and the foothills of s. Monterey County (DR), but one at Crane Flat Meadow, Yosemite N.P., June 21 (AE, GB) was accidental, providing only the third record for the Yosemite Sierra and, at 6200 ft, undoubtedly at an altitudinal record. Barn Owls were also found at Akerson Meadow, Tuolumne Co., at 4000 ft, and had been present since April (JW). Screech Owls were found at China Camp, Monterey Co., in an area that supported Spotted Owls prior to fire several years ago (DR). Also at China Camp, Flammulated Owls were thought to be breeding (DR). One calling 4 mi e. of Leech Lake Mt., Mendocino Co., June 17 (CB) was at a previously unreported location; however, this area receives sparse coverage and the species is known to breed in nearby Trinity County (W. *Birds* 11:141-149). Two juv. Pygmy Owls in the Santa Cruz Mts., July 25 (WB) were "giving a trill that sounded like a Chipping Sparrow . . . a begging call?". Spotted Owl was thought to be having a good reproductive year in w. Siskiyou County where 200+ territories have now been located (SAL). In the Almanor District of Lassen Volcano N.P., 17 previously unknown territories were discovered, bringing the total there to 19 (DAA). Of 7 Burrowing Owl nests reported, 5 were near Byron, Contra Costa Co. (DSc). The only Long-eared Owl reports were of individuals calling from 2 canyons along the Big Sur coast near Salmon Cr. where a nest was found in 1972 (RB, DR, VY), and at least one pair breeding at Akerson Meadow in the Sierra (JW). Short-eared Owl was not well reported; only one was found at Honey L., June 29 (DAA) and three at Grizzly I., Solano Co., June 27 were thought to be a family group (SFB).

A Com. Nighthawk heard calling in Codornices Canyon, Berkeley July 17 (B. Underhill and A. Cambell, *vide Gull*) was most unusual; a flock of 150+ at Honey L., June 13 was unusual but not unprecedented. A vagrant Lesser Nighthawk flew by Palomar June 29. Other reports come from breeding locations: a pair at Corral Hollow, Stanislaus Co., June 13 (AE), a probable family group in Chalome Valley, Monterey Co., July 13 (DR) and an average of five per trip along the Sacramento R., between Red Bluff and Chico (SAL).

**SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Black Swifts were reported from traditional breeding locations, but several pairs at Anderson Canyon, 10 mi s. of Big Sur, through the period indicate a nesting there (DR); singles were at Hiouchi on Smith R., June 13 (J. Maugins, *vide* RAE) and near the Klamath R. mouth June 26 (GJS). Vaux's Swift was suspected of breeding along Skyline Blvd., San Mateo Co. (D. Houle, *vide* WB) and Kent L., Marin Co. (DS). Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were encountered almost daily in Lundy Canyon on the e. slope of the Sierra June 18-July 1 with a male displaying in an area where a suspected female had been observed (MM, D. Gaines). Although breeding has yet to be confirmed, this species has been regular here since 1976 (MM). The discovery of a Costa's Hummingbird nest in Bixby Canyon, 10 mi n. of Big Sur "with a lovely view of the coast" (DR) was surprising since this is one of the most xerophilous of our hummers. The nest was closely watched and successfully fledged two young by mid-July (DR). Costa's nests on the coast in s. California where fog is not the salient feature, but this represented the first coastal record for the n. coast. Three ♂ Costa's were displaying near Jackhammer Springs, above Arroyo Seco, Monterey Co., June 6 (DR) in an area where Anna's Hummingbird breeds. Hybridization is known to occur between these two species, so coastal vagrants as well as local birds in areas of sympatry should be closely scrutinized. A ♂ Costa's frequented a Redwood City feeder from early June-July 31 + (†W. Rockman, PM). A ♂ Costa's x Anna's was described from Klamath Glen, Del Norte Co., June 21-23 (GSL, †RAE). In Glen Cove, s. of Vallejo, the nest of an Anna's Hummingbird was found to be made of the thalli of an intertidal algae (JL)!

Large numbers of Pileated Woodpeckers were found along the N. Fork of the American R., (TB) and in Marin County (DS). A single Lewis' Woodpecker at the n. end of Mines Rd., Alameda Co., June 20 (SFB) was the only one reported. Is this species really suffering competitive exclusion by Starlings or is this a normal population shift for this "nomadic" species? A pair of ad. "Red-breasted" Sapsuckers with young at Gualala R., Sonoma Co., June 13 (DE, BDP, JP) was at the s. extreme of the species' range along the coast. Last year's attempt farther s. proved unsuccessful owing to depredation by resident Acorn Woodpeckers (see AB 34:927). Although Williamson's Sapsuckers were "more difficult to find than in past years" at Lassen Volcano N.P. (DM), they were "quite common" near Porcupine Flat in the Yosemite Sierra (MM). Downy Woodpeckers nested for the second consecutive year at Manzanita L., Lassen Volcano N.P., at 5800 ft (DAA). Nuttall's Woodpecker is known to "drift" upslope on the w. side of the Sierra as did one immature at Mineral King Pack Sta. (7800 ft), Fresno, Co., July 19 (GPo, F.A.S.). Records e. of the crest are extremely scarce; one male at Golden Trout Camp, s. of Mt. Whitney, Inyo Co., July 30 was at the extraordinary altitude of 11,500 ft (RMck)! Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were reported from 10 locations within their normal range; nests were found



at Summit L., Lassen Volcano N.P. (DM), Sugar Pine S.P., L. Tahoe (*vide* BK) and near Yuba Pass, Sierra Co. (JH, JR, M.D.A.S.).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — Six E. Kingbirds were discovered; four in n. counties near areas of known breeding (m.ob.), one near Orick, Humboldt Co., July 27 (GJS, GSL) and one at Olema Slough, Marin Co., July 10 (WB). No nests were reported. Cassin's Kingbird was found nesting at Stonewall Canyon near Pinnacles N.M., Monterey Co. (DR) and a group of 3-4 at Mines Rd., July 19-20 may have been a family group (†AE, GB, P. Willmann). Two pairs of Say's Phoebes were found nesting at Los Vasqueros Res. site, s.e. Contra Costa Co. (DSc) and they apparently bred locally along the e. edge of the Salinas Valley (DR). Five singing Willow Flycatchers in June in coastal Del Norte County (GSL, RAE) and one migrant at Honey L., June 13 (DAA, SAL) were the only ones reported. Hammond's Flycatcher has been found, evidently nesting, in a rather uncharacteristic open forest situation at Akerson Meadows, Tuolumne Co., at the low elevation of 4000 ft (JW, MM). Dusky Flycatchers were present at China Camp during late June (DR, TBr), but nesting has not yet been documented there. Dusky Flycatchers and W. Wood Pewees were "dramatically absent" at Tuolumne Meadows in July where the lodgepole pine was heavily infested with needle-miners; "the silent mornings were rather startling" (MM).

The Bank Swallow colony at Fall River Mills, Shasta Co., was very active (DM), but numbers continue to dwindle at the Pajaro R. colony (BE). A colony of 30-40 at Glenn, Glenn Co. (JP, *vide* Gull) was apparently new. Purple Martins were well-reported (relative to other years) with nesting confirmed at Willow Cr. Valley, Lassen Co. (BS), Torres Canyon, 5 mi s. of Big Sur (DR), Sequoia L., Fresno Co. (GPO), Alpine L., Marin Co. (I. Timossi, *vide* DS) and Kent L., Marin Co. (G. McCurdy, *vide* DS). Although there were more martins than usual in Cobb Valley, Lake Co. (JMa), in coastal Monterey numbers were thought to be dwindling, or shifting to the Ventana Wilderness Area where the 1976 fire provided nesting sites (BE).

**CORVIDS THROUGH THRUSHES** — One ad. and two juv. Clark's Nutcrackers in Yosemite Valley July 2 (WB) were at a low elevation. Plain Titmouse became unusually common on the coast at Palomarin after June 17 when the first juvenile was caught in the nets. Several coastal Red-breasted Nuthatches portend another irruption year in keeping with the apparent biennial nature of this phenomenon. After unusually low numbers of Brown Creepers at Palomarin this spring, they increased in mid-June and became regular through July; interestingly, all mist-netted individuals proved to be birds of the year. Dippers were unusually common along the Middle Fork of the Eel R. (CB); one was singing along the Big Sur R., July 18 where they have been known to nest (DR) and one on the Russian R., at Guerneville, Sonoma Co., June 13 was far downstream for summer (PH).



Albino Cliff Swallow, TCES/Tiburón, Marin Co., Calif., June 13, 1981. Photo/L.J.V. Campagno.

A House Wren at Olema Marsh, P.R.N.S., June 28 was out of habitat, "perhaps an early dispersant" (DS). A Bewick's Wren at De-Chambeau Cr., near Lee Vining June 23-29 (CSw, LS, GP) was rare for the Mono Basin. A singing Cañon Wren near the Klamath R. mouth June 21-July 1 (G. Werschkull *et al.*) was presumably the same bird discovered there in May (*vide* RAE). Several along the Middle Fork of the Eel R., Mendocino Co., were the only ones found in that area all summer (CB).

Brown Thrasher records tend toward late fall and winter, the few spring records are in late May and June. One record for early July on F.I., was the only precedent for a bird photographed at Gold Bluff Beach, Humboldt Co., July 1-2 (GJS, *vide* RAE) and another heavily worn adult near the Carmel R. mouth July 24-31+ (E. Mitchell, DR). American Robins were numerous in the Yolla Bolly W.A. (CB) and "scads" appeared in Guerneville during the last half of June (PH). Elsewhere, they were unreported. Hermit Thrush "apparently nests locally along the Big Sur coast, but was not as widespread as [is stated] in Grinnell and Miller" (DR). Censuses e. and w. of the Sierran crest produced low numbers of Swainson's Thrush in areas where it is usually common (MM). Townsend's Solitaire seemed in higher-than-usual numbers in the Lassen area (DM).

**KINGLETS THROUGH WOOD WARBLERS** — A Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Bodega Bay July 5 (BDP *et al.*) was unseasonable on the coast. Because the breeding locations of Water Pipit are not well known, the following records are of interest: one bird in flight display July 30-31 S. Folk and High L., John Muir Wilderness, Inyo Co. (RMCK), one along the Warren Fork of Lee Vining Canyon, Mono Co., July 28 (CSw, LS, GP) and three atop Dana Plateau Aug. 1 (CSw, LS, GP).

Three Black-and-white Warblers were found; two males singing in Lundy Canyon on the e. slope of the Sierra June 18 & 20 were not found again (MM) and one imm. male was at Patrick's Point S.P. Humboldt Co., July 17 (GJS, *vide* RAE). A Worm-eating Warbler on F.I., May 28 provided the fourth island record and 13th for the Region; most are in the fall. Three Tennessee Warblers

were reported: Pt. St. George, Del Norte Co., June 2 (RAE), Humboldt St. Univ., Arcata June 3 (JS) and F.I., July 3-5. July records for this species are most unusual with only two previously, both from F.I. Nashville and Virginia's warblers, considered conspecific by some, may be sympatric in the vicinity of Tioga Pass or just e. of the Sierran divide. This year Virginia's were again encountered in the Hall Natural Area where they were first confirmed breeding in 1976 (DDeS). In Lake Canyon, at 9000 ft and just e. of the crest, several Nashvilles were singing June 18-29, however no nesting activity was confirmed (MM). Elsewhere, Nashvilles were thought to have a "good nesting year" along the N. Fork of the American R. (TB). A vagrant was at Pt. St. George June 25 (RAE); coastal summer records are scarce. The only N. Parula was a single male at F.I., June 1. Three Magnolia Warblers were found along the immediate coast with singles at Pt. Reyes June 2-4 (KC, JE, JR), Fairhaven June 6 (JS) and F.I., June 30-July 1.

Two singing male Cape May Warblers at Pt. St. George June 2 (RAE) were the only ones reported; there are "normally" more summer sightings. A ♀ "Audubon's" Warbler feeding a juvenile July 10 on Mt. Tamalpais, Marin Co. (DS) and females carrying nesting material on Mt. Hamilton, Santa Clara Co., June 7 (AE) confirmed breeding at those localities. The breeding distribution of "Audubon's" and Hermit warblers is sporadic and poorly documented along the coast s. of Sonoma County. A juv. "Audubon's" in the nets at Palomarin July 30 probably bred locally on nearby Inverness Ridge. A singing ♂ Black-throated Gray Warbler at Bodie Hills in the Mono Basin June 28 (GP, CSw) was away from known breeding localities. On Mt. Tamalpais one was feeding a Brown-headed Cowbird fledgling July 7 (DS). An ad. ♀ Hermit Warbler feeding two fledglings on Mt. Tamalpais July 7 was the first evidence of breeding for Marin County (DS). Two Chestnut-sided Warblers were found coastally; one at Manila June 9 (JS) and one at F.I., June 25. Although almost common some falls, Palm Warblers are quite rare in "spring": one at F.I. June 1-16 may have been the same as the one at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse June 17 (JE, DS). A single Ovenbird was in downtown Monterey June 19 (DR); none were on F.I., which is atypical.

Despite the use of tape recordings, Yellow-breasted Chat could not be found along the Carmel R., or at any other Monterey County localities where it was formerly common (DR), a situation that is all too familiar along our once diverse riparian corridors (see Yellow-billed Cuckoo above). The report of a "large colony" along the Eel R., 15 mi e. of Covelo, Mendocino Co., June 18 (CB) was encouraging. A vagrant reached F.I., June 15-17 (JM, P.R.B.O.): because there are few June records away from breeding habitat, it would be interesting to know the racial identity of these birds. A ♂ Hooded Warbler at F.I., June 1 has annual precedents since 1978. Another male at Tilden P., Berkeley June 15 (GH) was near where a male sang last summer. At the Klamath R. mouth an Am. Redstart colony was formed, but no nesting evidence was discovered. The first bird was found on June 9 and activity peaked June 21

with nine singing males and one female. By July 5 the number of males had decreased to four and the number of females had increased to five. No birds could be found July 31 (GSL,RAE *et al.*). There are only 2 previous nesting attempts in California (AB 26:898, 34:928).

#### ICTERIDS THROUGH SPARROWS —

A pair of House Sparrows was seen entering dense foliage with nesting material near the Visitor's Center in Yosemite Valley May 27 (T. Frillman). Although very rare at this elevation on the w. slope, this is perhaps the beginning of an unfortunate inevitability. A Yellow-headed Blackbird at Sea Ranch, Sonoma Co., June 14 (JP,BDP) was unseasonal; most coastal records are during the fall. A pair of Hooded Orioles were attempted to breed for the second time in Humboldt County, in Arcata, but the nest was apparently abandoned (RLeV,LD,RAE). The Great-tailed Grackles were again found nesting in Aquatic Park, S.F., July 2 (S. Glazer, G. Luckham, *fide* Gull). At Palomar, the closely scrutinized nests of Nuttall's White-crowned Sparrow were found to be hosting Brown-headed Cowbird eggs for the first time. A Summer Tanager was seen in Sacramento July 31 (AM, *fide* †TM); we have records for this rather rare species for every month of the year. When racial identification is indicated, the records pertain to the e. subspecies *P.r.rubra*; whether or not *cooperi* is prone to wandering into the Region is still an open question.

Only two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported; one male near Mono L., June 3-4 (E. Burch, *fide* CSw) and another s. of Patrick's Pt., Humboldt Co., for several days prior to July 19 (*fide* GJS). A ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak at 7000 ft in Yosemite July 2 (WB) was slightly above its altitudinal range on the Sierran w. slope. Five Indigo Buntings were along the coast June 14-July 25 (m.ob.), four males and one female; a male at Hiouchi, Del Norte Co., June 25 (S. Scholl, GSL *et al.*) was unprecedented there. The only interior record was of a singing male just s. of Los Molinos on the Sacramento R., Tehama Co., July 4 (SAL, D. Watson). Numbers of Purple

Finches between 4000-6000 ft on the w. slope of the Sierra were considered "phenomenal" with numbers four times normal in the Yosemite (MM). At least three pairs of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were thought to have bred on Mt. Lassen this summer where adults of both forms (*littoralis* and *dawsoni*) were identified July 26 (DAA) [see AB 35:224].

Lesser Goldfinch is occasionally encountered at high elevations, however one male near Golden Trout Camp, Inyo Co., at 11,500 ft July 27 and one ♂ at 12,000 ft July 29 (RMCK) seemed exceptional. An apparent "black-backed" individual was near Sequoia N.P., July 17 (GPO). Lawrence's Goldfinch was "widespread and common" in Monterey County (DR) through the period, but along Skyline Blvd., San Mateo Co., the large numbers noted in May could not be found in June (WB). Small numbers were reported at several locations along the dry inner-coast ranges and one male was singing and attached to territory near Whitehorse Res., Modoc Co., June 27 (RE,MR) where the species is quite rare. Single vagrants reached the coast at Sea Ranch June 14 (JP,BDP) and Pt. Pinos June 15 (DR). After this spring's explosion of Red Crossbills, particularly at low elevations in the Sierra, numbers returned to normal this summer (m.ob.). Green-tailed Towhee was found breeding at Salmon Saddle, Humboldt Co. (RLeV), where it is rare. Brown Towhees, observed copulating and feeding juveniles in G.G.P., provide the first breeding record for S.F. (DM). A ♂ Lark Bunting in coastal Humboldt County July 5-6 (B. Brock *et al.*) provided the first mid-summer record for the Region; most records are from September to April.

Approximately 50 Grasshopper Sparrows were reported, all coastal, with the bulk between Pt. Reyes and Big Sur (m.ob.). Although some individuals arrive in early April, a major influx was noted in the Pt. Reyes area during mid-June (DS,JE). Records from the n. coast have been scarce, so one at Eureka June 1 (†SJ,SH) and six at Bear Ridge, Humboldt Co., June 26 (LD, B. Brock) were of interest. A Vesper Sparrow at Gold Bluff Beach, Humboldt Co., June 9 was late (GJS

*fide* RAE) and small numbers summered at L. Talawa but no evidence of breeding was found (RAE). Fox Sparrows (paired) and a Song Sparrow (carrying nesting material) were at Blue Lake, Mono Co., at 9500 ft June 20 (MM): the elevation is high for Fox Sparrow and exceptional for Song Sparrow. A Swamp Sparrow at F. I., June 24-27 (†JK) provided the second summer record at that location. A Song Sparrow at F.I., June 26 was equally unusual.

CONTRIBUTORS — Dan A. Airola, Stephen F. Bailey, Bernice Barnes, Ted Beedy George Bing, Clark Blake, Ira Bletz, William Bousman, John Brack, Ron Branson, Tony Briggs (TBr), Phyllis Browning, Betty Burrige, Kurt Campbell, Ted Chan-dik, Howard L. Cogswell, Mark Daly, Dave De Sante, Linda Doerflinger, Art Edwards, Ray Ekstrom, Bruce Elliott, Doug Ellis, Richard A. Erickson, Jules Evens, Scott Frazer, Fresno Audubon Soc., Geoff Geupel, Golden Gate Audubon Soc., Stan Harris, Phil Henderson, Joe Hornstein, George Hugenberg, Sandy Jacobson, Dick Johnson, Robert Johnson, John Kelly, Harold and Betty Kimball, Debra Kimbrell, Barb Klasson (BKl), Stephen A. Laymon, Bill Lenarz, Gary S. Lester, Ron Le Valley, Tom Love, John Lovio, Roy W. Lowe, Hal & Barbara Lucas, Tim & Annette Manolis, Marie Mans, Jim Matzinger (JMa), Robert McKernan, Peter Metropulos, Joseph Mor-lan, Mt. Diablo Audubon Soc., Dan Murphy, Gary Page, John Parmeter, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Robert Pitman, Gary Potter (GPO), William M. Pursell, Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, Elsie Richey, Jean Richmond, Mike Robbins, Don Roberson, Don Schmoltdt (DSc), Dave Shuford, Gregory P. Smith, Sue Smith, Paul Springer, Rich Stall-cup, Lynne Stenzel, John Sterling, Brad Stovall, Gary J. Strachan, Chris Stromness, Craig Strong (CSt), Chris Swarth (CSw), John & Ricky Warriner, Mike Wihler, Dave Winkler, Jon Winter, Vern Yadon, Bob Yutzy, Gary Zahm, Richard ZainEldeen. — RON LeVALLEY (Loons through Alcids) 1876 Ocean Dr., McKinleyville, Ca. 95521 and JULES EVENS (Pigeons through Spar-rows) Box 839 Pt. Reyes Station, Ca. 94956