

/ Ron LeValley and Jules Evens

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

Eighty Black-footed Albatrosses off Crescent City June 6 (RLeV, RAE) were actually fewer than expected. A few N. Fulmars from last winter's incursion lingered through the summer with 30 off Crescent City June 6 (RAE, RLeV) being the maximum. Sooty Shearwaters were considered less common than normal in Monterey Bay this



spring, possibly related to the low numbers of market squid present (AB). Good concentrations were found farther n. off Crescent City June 6 with 5000+ present (RAE, RLeV). A Leach's Storm-Petrel spotted off Crescent City June 6 (*vide* RLeV) was close to shore for the daytime but petrels were still being heard on dark nights at Pt. St. George until mid-July (GL).

PELICANS THROUGH HERONS — White Pelicans arrived in numbers during July with the first notable concentration being 500 along Sears Point Rd., Solano Co., July 19 (KVV). Poor nesting success was reported for both Brandt's and Pelagic cormorants at Pt. Lobos, Monterey Co. (AB) and on F.I. (P.R.B.O.). In both cases the reason was thought to be low food supplies near the breeding islands.

Green Herons continue their apparent increase with ten along the Gualala R., Sonoma Co., June 5 the largest number there in recent years (BDP). A pair of Little Blue Herons frequented S. San Francisco Bay locations including the large heronry at Alviso, Santa Clara Co., but breeding was not confirmed. Cattle Egrets again nested at Corcoran Irrigation District Res. with 14+ nests active June 3 (KFC). Elsewhere the only report was from Alameda County where 13 were found July 7 (RL). Great Egrets, rare local breeders inland, were reported from the following localities: near Galt, Sacramento Co., 35 nests (HLC); at San Luis (2 nests) and Kesterton (5 nests) N.W.R., Merced Co.; and 4 nests at Corcoran Irrigation District Res., Kings Co. (KFC). A concentration of 530 Snowy Egrets along Sears Point Rd., July 19, Solano Co., was the largest reported in recent years (KVV). Elsewhere there was an adult and four immatures near Hwy 99 and Arno Rd., Sacramento Co., July 18 (H & BK), an area where there has been no nesting activity since 1910. The first Wood Stork record for the Region in 6 years was of a single near the Weed Airport, Siskiyou Co., July 1-6 (MR). Up to nine White-faced Ibis were found in the Honey L. Valley, Lassen Co., June 27-July 3 (SAL, DAA) in an area where breeding has not been confirmed in recent years.

WATERFOWL — A few Brant summered along the coast as usual with 42 at Drakes Bay, Marin Co., June 11 (SFB) being the largest concentration. A bit less usual were seven White-fronted Geese at Sacramento N.W.R., through the period (MH) and another in the Sacramento R., s. of Red Bluff, Tehama Co., June 25-July 3 (SAL).

Nesting waterfowl had a relatively successful season owing to the water left in our Region by last winter's storms. Last year's 400 Gadwall chicks at the mouth of the Salinas R., was considered the largest nesting in the Region but 618 ducklings at the Moffet Field Marsh, Santa Clara Co., June 11 (WB) take the honors this spring. Small numbers of Greater Scaup were reported from many coastal localities throughout the summer as is normal. Lesser Scaup repeated their successful nesting at Adobe Cr., Santa Clara Co.; two young were found July 30 (TC). An extensive Bufflehead survey in n.e. California found 15+ broods with 100+ young and 25+ single adults in the mountain lakes of that area (DAA). A female with seven young at Lower Summit L., 5 mi w. of L. Davis, Plumas Co., extends their breeding range another 20 mi s. (*vide* DAA). No goldeneyes or Harlequin Ducks were reported from any interior localities this season. As before, White-winged Scoters outnumbered Surf Scoters at Moss Landing (DR) and Humboldt Bay localities (RLeV) this summer.

RAPTORS THROUGH QUAILS — Low occupancy rates for Goshawk nests were reported from Lassen (DAA) and Klamath (SJ) Nat'l Forests, probably related to heavy snow conditions in the nesting areas this spring. On the other hand, Cooper's Hawk nests were well reported with at least five found in Marin County during intensive surveys (DS), an unprecedented number. Swainson's Hawks nests were reported from scattered Central Valley (hereafter, C.V.) locations (m.ob.) but no nests were found in Lassen County (BS). An imm. Bald Eagle near the mouth of the S. Fork of the Trinity R., Humboldt Co., Aug. 17 (JB) was evidence of local nesting. The nesting success of Ospreys at L. Almanor dropped slightly from last year's totals but were still well above levels from the 1970s (DAA). In Marin County there were 16 active nests found, maintaining that healthy population (DS). A Prairie Falcon at Estero Americano, Marin Co., July 1 was an unusual summer sighting along the coast (DS).

California Quail had lowered reproduction than last year in Lafayette, Contra Costa Co., because of predation from cats, snakes, raccoons and even from a Brown Towhee (LF)!

SHOREBIRDS — A Black Oystercatcher at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, Alameda Co., June 26 was remarkably far from its normal haunts along the outer coast (AE, SFB). At least eight Am. Avocets summered at the Arcata Marsh (RLeV, RAE). Nesting at this locality should be watched for. An Am. Golden Plover along the Estero Trail, Pt. Reyes July 11 (*vide* SFB) was probably a very early fall migrant.

As is often the case, a few flocks of Long-billed Curlews were detected in the C.V., including 135 at Delevan N.W.R., Colusa Co., June 3-11, and 50-70 at Sacramento N.W.R., Glenn Co., June 11-21 with smaller numbers at both locations through July (MH). One hundred were also found s. of Orland, Glenn Co., June 13 (SAL). The first Solitary Sandpiper of the fall was at Bliss Ranch, Del Norte Co., July 29 (RAE, GL). The first large flocks of Wilson's Phalaropes arrived in S. San Francisco Bay on time when 5000+ were present June 21 (RL). A Com. Snipe at L. Earl, Del Norte Co., July 18 was extremely early (GL). The only Semipalmated Sandpiper reported was an adult at the Bliss Ranch, Del Norte Co., July 29 (RAE, GL). Adult Baird's Sandpipers are very rare in our Region so one at Abbot's Lagoon July 28 was noteworthy (DS). A very early juvenile was near the mouth of the Mad R., Humboldt Co., July 18-19 (RLeV).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS — The newly established California Gull colony at Alviso, Alameda Co., had 80+ active nests May 12 (HLC). Elsewhere the first juvenals were reported from Crescent City July 2 (RAE) and Stockton Sewage Ponds July 13 (DY). The first juv. Ring-billed Gulls were at Crescent City July 21 (RAE) and at Stockton Sewage Ponds Aug. 3 (DY). An ad. Laughing Gull was reported at L. Merritt, Alameda Co. (*vide* SFB). Nearly all of our Regional records are from the summer. Single Black-legged Kittiwakes, always rare in the summer, were reported from Marina State Beach, Monterey Co., June 4 (AB) and the Mad R. Mouth July 18-31 with two present at the latter locality July 27 (RLeV, LD). A single Sabine's Gull off Crescent City June 6 (RLeV) was far fewer than expected. The Least Tern colony at the Alameda Naval Air Station failed due to predation from cats and kestrels (SFB) but many of these birds seemed to have renested at the Bair I., San Mateo Co. colony where 48 pairs were present in July (*vide* RL). An Elegant Tern June 9 near Pt. Pinos, Monterey Co., was quite early (TG). A Black Skimmer continued roosting with Caspian Terns at the Leslie Salt Ponds, Alameda Co., with sightings June 28 and July 1 (*vide* RL).

A notable concentration of Marbled Murrelets was around Año Nuevo I., June 22 when 70+ were present (KW). Single Ancient Murrelets were at Crescent City June 22 (RAE) and Pt. Reyes June 28 (KVV, KC). Rhinoceros Auklets were seen carrying fish near Año Nuevo I., during June and July indicating possible nesting there (KW). Six Tufted Puffins at Fish Rock, Mendocino Co., June 5 (DE, BDP) were from a little-known area.

CUCKOOS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS — The only Yellow-billed Cuckoo reports from the C.V. were of five at Blackberry I., Tehama Co. (SAL) and one at Caswell S.P., on the Stanislaus R., July 25 (DY). Observers are urged to report the *absence* as well as the presence of this species from areas of former occurrence; a list of known breeding localities is available from JE (address below) upon request. Vagrants were on the coast at Pt. Reyes June 20 (JM *et al.*) and F.I., June 21.

Barn Owl numbers seem stable around Stockton (DY) and 11 active nests were found at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, Alameda Co. (KHa, AE). Toward the coast the species proved scarce; despite intensive searching in Marin County only 4 active nests were located (DS *et al.*). Because the distribution of Flammulated Owl in California is incompletely known (see *West. Birds* 5:25-44 and 11:141-149) the following locations for single observations are of interest: 3 mi e. of Old Station, Shasta Co., 5 mi s.e. of Old Station, Shasta Co., 2 mi n.w. of Lake Britton, Shasta Co., 5 mi s. of Westwood, Lassen Co. (all L. Benjamin & G. Carpenter, *vide* DAA) and Gasquet, Del Norte Co. (GL). The only Pygmy Owl reports were from 3 locations in Santa Clara County (WB, TG). Although this species is "routine" in certain areas, distribution is spotty near the c. coast with some movement during the non-breeding season. New Spotted Owl territories continue to be found in Plumas, Tehama and Shasta cos., but five in Lassen County were unprecedented and significantly extend the known range to the NE in the Sierra/Cascade (*vide* DA). The **Barred Owl** near Crescent City was last heard June 6 (GL, SS, DY). Burrowing Owls were found in fair numbers on the valley floor (MH, KFC, DY), but a pair "clinging to the last remaining dirt in the middle of

Stockton's new Hilton Complex" (DY) illustrates the sad fate and bold tenacity of the species. A single Long-eared Owl at Sacramento N.W.R., June 11 (MH) was the only report received. Only two Short-eared Owls were reported, both in the C.V.: San Luis N.W.R., Merced Co., June 5 (KFC) and Sacramento N.W.R., July 20 & 29 (MH). Saw-whets were calling in July in the Sierra/Cascade at Chester, Plumas Co., and near Old Station, Shasta Co. (L. Benjamin & G. Carpenter, *vide* DAA); four in Annapolis, Sonoma Co., June 4 (DE) were in a seldom owl area. Lesser Nighthawks were confirmed breeding in Merced County (KFC) and in aerial display along the Sacramento R., in Tehama Co. (SAL). Five+ vagrants reached the coast May 26-June 30 with three at F.I., and two at Pt. Reyes (KC, KVV, +BY, S. Wilson *et al.*).

SWIFTS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Single Black Swifts at Orleans Humboldt Co., June 7 (KR), s. coastal Del Norte County June 18 (GS) and Berkeley June 23 (KVV, KC) were probably migrants; other reports were from known breeding areas. A pair of White-throated Swifts at Castle Rock, Corral Hollow Rd., San Joaquin Co., July 10 (DY) and five at Williams Butte, Tehama Co., July 10 were in counties where nesting has yet to be documented.

A ♀ Anna's Hummingbird gathering nesting material at Susan R. Canyon June 1 (BS) indicated breeding in Lassen Co. Two juvenals at Gasquet July 27 (RAE, GL, MM) lend credence to the first evidence of breeding (obtained this spring) in Del Norte County. The species is reported to be declining in the Stockton area of the C.V. (DY) in response to the question posed in AB 36:327.

WOODPECKERS — A Red-naped x Red-breasted Sapsucker pair with young was discovered in Susan R. Canyon (BS). A sapsucker at Bolinas June 5 (+MLR, +PA) may have been either *nuchalis* or *varius*, the former being more likely. Downy Woodpecker numbers may be recovering in the C.V. (BED, DY). The concerns voiced in these pages in the past (see AB 35:333) may have mirrored only a natural cyclical decline rather than any long-term trend. Only careful observation by resident birders will help clarify this situation.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Eight E. Kingbirds occurred on the coast June 15-24 with four at F.I., one at Patrick's Pt., Humboldt Co. (+SJ, RLeV, RAE), two in Del Norte County (RAE, J. Rooney *et al.*) and one at Pt. Reyes (KVV, KC). One at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse July 19 (BY) provided the only coastal July record this season. Inland records come from e. of Salyer, Trinity Co., June 24 & 30 (KR *et al.*) and just n. of the state line on Hwy. 395, July 22 (DAN). Migration of W. Kingbirds lasted later than usual (at least on the c. coast) with records at F.I., June 9-23 and at Palo Alto June 6 (*vide* CB). Cassin's Kingbird was at usual haunts in Monterey County (DR), and along Corral Hollow Rd. (DY). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Hall Ranch, Pt. Reyes June 1+ (JRi *et al.*) may have been the same individual reported from Tomales Bay S.P., Marin Co., June 6 (*vide* SFB, BY). A pair of Say's Phoebe seen entering a cliff face crevice at William's Butte, Tehama Co., June 3 & 6 (PNE, IT) adds evidence to breeding there (see Spring report), a significant N extension of range in the C.V. Seven Willow Flycatchers were singing at 3 locations in the Yosemite Sierra (HLC, BDP). One at Manzanita L., Lassen Volcano N.P. (hereafter, L.V.N.P.), June 27 and July 16 was unusual (DM); another at Hat L. (also L.V.N.P.) July 17 was in more appropriate habitat (DM). The only coastal reports were from Gold Bluffs Beach May 31 (GS) and Eel R. Bottoms July 5 (JH), both Humboldt Co. Eight Dusky Flycatchers at Hull Mt., Lake Co., were near the edge of the species' range (PU, D. Dittman). A W. Flycatcher at Galt, San Joaquin Co., July 17 (DY) was unseasonal in the C.V.

The estimated 500 pairs of Bank Swallows at the Fall R. Mills colony in Shasta Co., remains strong, however doom seems sadly inevitable since it is flanked by a real estate office and a bulldozer (DM). In the C.V., the erosion from the heavy winter rains has created much favorable nesting habitat for Bank Swallows, however this too is threatened by the upcoming Sacramento River bank stabilization project (SAL). A small colony at Thomes Cr., near Richfield, Tehama Co. (PNE, IT) is apparently new. A Barn Swallow at Manzanita L., L.V.N.P., July 16 was considered rare there (DM). The Cliff Swallow population in the San Joaquin Valley in Merced Co., had excellent reproductive success and multiple breeding was obvious (KFC). The high water level this summer must be in some way responsible, but the water level can also be detrimental to

breeding success (see AB 29:1028). Conversely, the colony at Lawrence Livermore Lab was considered down by 50% (KHa). Purple Martins were reported in about average numbers at many of the usual locations. The most notable concentration was of 45 birds (mostly female) at Dry Lagoon, Humboldt Co., June 6 (JS). Post-breeding dispersal began in mid-July in Marin (DS) and late July brought a minor influx along the n. coast (RAE).

CORVIDS THROUGH WAXWINGS — Continued observations of small numbers of Black-capped Chickadees along the Shasta R., near Grenada, Siskiyou Co., indicates that this is another locality where the species is a rare but regular resident (RE). Chestnut-backed Chickadee was considered "very common" at 3000-5000 ft in the c. Sierra in Placer and El Dorado cos., this summer (SAL) as the increase in the Sierran population continues (see AB 30:673-675 and for cautionary notes AB 34:927). In contrast to last summer, Plain Titmouse was "conspicuously absent" at Palomarin. Red-breasted Nuthatch was confirmed nesting at Annadel S.P., June 19 (DE) providing (surprisingly) a first breeding record for Sonoma County. The high water level from spring runoff may have benefited some species (see Bank and Cliff swallows above) but Dippers may have been adversely affected. Old nesting sites along the s. fork of the American R., and the s. fork of the Merced R., were found submerged in both water and flood debris (HLC). A House Wren breeding at Skyline Open Space Preserve was considered rare for the Santa Cruz Mts. (*vide* WB) and one at Palomarin July 15-22 must have been a post-breeding dispersant. Cañon Wren distribution is discontinuous and ill-defined; 2 records are from areas where the species must be quite rare: Bark Shanty Cr., Siskiyou Co., June 16 (KR) and along the n. fork of Smith R., above Stony Cr., Del Norte Co., July 17 (GL). Rock Wren was confirmed breeding on the Del Norte County coast s. of Crescent City June 21 (GL, LB).

MIMIDS THROUGH THRUSHES — The Region's ninth Gray Catbird at Pt. Reyes July 3 (H. & P. Green, *vide* SFB) was extraterritorial as well as extralimital; the few precedents fall between Sept. 19-Feb. 20. Coastal migrant Mockingbirds were at Pt. Reyes June 12, 24 and July 6 (P.R.B.O., KVV, KC) and at Pt. Saint George June 14-15 (RAE, GL). One at Lava Beds N.M., July 18 (RE, MR) was at a most unusual location. A Varied Thrush at Bolinas June 5 (+MLR, PA) was a very late lingerer. Hermit Thrush was confirmed breeding in Marin County (DS, SC) and found to be a "fairly common to locally common breeder in the coniferous forests" there (DS). A Veery at Pt. Reyes June 20-24 (JML, +JM *et al.*) provided the Region's third record and only the fifth for California. An absence of records is always more difficult to interpret than a presence; judging from the few reports of nesting W. Bluebirds in the C.V., that species has suffered a drastic decline there during the last 10+ years. Encouraging was the report of successful breeding at Hatfield S.R.A., and of a pair at San Luis N.W.R., both Merced Co. (KFC). Other C.V. observers are encouraged to determine the extent of extirpation of this species. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found to be a fairly common breeder along the n. ridge of Lucas Valley, Marin Co. (BL). Cedar Waxwings departed the lowlands in synchrony June 5 (BBa, KFC, DS).

SILKY FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS — A Phainopepla at Foothills P., Palo Alto June 9-11 (J. Stech, CB, WB) was beyond the w. limit of the species distribution, the Diablo Range. Hutton's Vireo continued to be scarce on the coast (P.R.B.O., JE). Unusual was a breeder at Lafayette (LF) and one bird at Woodson Bridge, Tehama Co., July 11 (SAL). A Red-eyed Vireo singing in Terwer Valley, Del Norte Co., June 24 (RAE, GL, LB) was the only one reported and a first county record. A singing Warbling Vireo near Richfield, Tehama Co., June 10 (IT, PNE) may have been a late migrant.

WARBLERS — Eight Black-and-white Warblers were clustered on the c. coast June 12-21 (m.ob.) with five at Pt. Reyes and three at F.I. A singing male at Napa July 22-Aug. 1 (KVV, KC, BDP) was one of few county records. The May influx of Tennessee Warblers at F.I., continued into June with a total of 15 there June 1-24 (normal timing, high number); the only other reports were from Pt. Reyes with 2-3 there June 21-22 (BB, SFB, RAE, BDP). The possibility that these were from F.I., is high since the dates correspond with the exodus from F.I. Eight Orange-crowned Warblers were in the C.V., June 2-25 (KFC, DMa, DY); whether these are post-breeding dispersants

(see AB 33:895), late spring or even early fall migrants is a moot point. A Nashville Warbler at L. Lagunitas, Marin Co., June 6 (D. Beall, *vide* DS) was out of place. A N. Parula visited F.I., June 30-July 1 and another "summered" at Salinas July 18-28+ (B. Gerow, *vide* DR). Two Yellow Warblers (one singing male) were at L. Merced, S.F., July 12 & 19 (PU); whether these were breeders or early migrants is an open question. Continuing the pattern of other vagrants, Magnolia Warblers were reported from F.I. (9) and Pt. Reyes (3-4) June 10-25 (m.ob.). The only other sighting was a singing male at Cape Mendocino, Humboldt Co., June 20 (B. Clow, JE). Three Cape May Warblers were found: one at Pt. Reyes June 18-19 (KVV, KC, KFC, JM, BY) and two at F.I., June 20-22. Unprecedented as a spring migrant in the Region was a Black-throated Blue Warbler (female) at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse June 21-22 (SFB, BB, BDP, JM).

A "Myrtle" Warbler at Crescent City June 15 (GL) was several weeks late. Evidence of nesting of "Audubon's" Warbler in coastal Del Norte County just n. of Crescent City and at Mt. Hamilton, Santa Clara Co. (AE) adds information to the species distribution in discontinuous areas of its range. Remarkable were *three* reports of Black-throated Green Warbler (in addition to the May 22 bird in S.F.), a truly rare bird in spring. One female at F.I., June 15-16 was where most other spring records originate. A singing male at Elkhorn Slough, Yolo Co., June 18 (A. Englis, JML *et al.*) provided the Region's second interior record. A male reported at Hobo Camp above Susanville, Lassen Co., June 24 (†R.N. Johnson) was accompanied by inconclusive details and suggests the possibility of a hybrid, however the white underparts apparently exclude a Hermit x Townsend's hybrid (*pers. comm.* M. Morrison, JM) at least in the F₁ generation. The problem of identification of the Hermit-Townsend's-Black-throated Green complex (see AB 35:223-224) is complicated by a heretofore unconsidered (?) hybrid cross implicated by the following observation. At Cape Mendocino, Humboldt Co., a Black-throated Green was singing on territory in June in 1979. 1980 and apparently in 1982 (B. Clow, *vide* JE). Hermit Warbler is a common breeder on the Douglas Fir hilltops of the area and the phenotypic possibility of this hybrid type is intriguing, if remote.

Amazing was the discovery of two Yellow-throated Warblers (*albiflora*) at Eureka June 12-July 1+ (M. Meyer, †RAE, Kr. ph., *et al.*). Although the original rumor was that they were two males, later scrutiny indicated that they were a pair (*vide* RAE) and attempted to nest! Another Yellow-throated Warbler at Hawkins Bar, Trinity Co., June 14 (M. Rafael, *vide* RLeV, KR) was tape-recorded singing and provided our second interior record. Two-four Chestnut-sided Warblers were at Pt. Reyes June 18-22 (KVV, KC, JM, BY *et al.*). Four Bay-breasted Warblers were found June 16-23: three at F.I., one at Pt. Reyes June 16 (*vide* SFB). Two ♂ Blackpoll Warblers were at Pt. Reyes: one June 19-20 (JM) and one June 24 (KVV, KC). A Blackpoll at F.I., June 20 was routine, but *three* were there in July (1-4; 22-23; 24-25) was unprecedented timing for the Region (and California). Spring Palm Warblers are scarce; one was at Pt. Reyes June 18-19 (KC, KVV, JM, BY) and F.I., June 23-25. Eight Ovenbirds occurred June 9-23 with six at F.I., one at Pt. Reyes June 18 (KVV, KC) and one at Lincoln P., S.F., June 22 (N. Blank, *vide* SFB). The only N. Waterthrush was at F.I., June 15-16. A Kentucky Warbler at F.I., June 23 constitutes the Region's ninth record, seven of which were at F.I., May 16-July 3. A Mourning Warbler at Pt. Reyes June 20-22 (†JM, JML *et al.*) was a rarity; of about 14 Regional records (most in the last 3 years) this provides the first mainland spring record. Yellow-breasted Chats remained in 2 areas of Marin County for several weeks which offer potential breeding habitat (DS), but no evidence was obtained. A single Canada Warbler, exceedingly rare in spring, was at F.I., June 15. Migrant Am. Redstarts were encountered on the coast June 14-22 from Pt. Saint George to Pt. Reyes; males were singing in breeding habitat at the mouth of the Klamath R., June 7-July 16 (GL, JR, RAE, LB, DY) however no females were reported. Intriguing were two July records of redstarts in Marin County: a hatching year male was banded at Palomar in July 6 (†R.J. Ryder, P.R.B.O.) and a individual was seen in Pt. Reyes Sta. July 15 (JE). The possibility of a local breeding population in the Pt. Reyes area seems a logical explanation.

ICTERIDS — Two singing ♂ Bobolinks frequented a field near Klamath June 5-19 (RAE, JR, m.ob.) and a male was at F.I., June 19-20. The only nesting colony of Tri-colored Blackbirds consisted of 200-300 birds near Sacramento (H & BK); a colony near Lawson's Landing, Marin Co. (50-100 birds) was active in late April, but not by June 3 (DS). Two males at Pt. Pinos June 6 (DR) were vagrants there.

Hooded Orioles could not be found in nesting in previous sites in n.e. Hayward and s. Castro Valley this spring (HLC) but were confirmed nesting in almost all residential areas of e. Marin County (BL). The only "Baltimore" Oriole report was of a single male at Muir Woods, Marin Co., June 6 (†B & CY). San Francisco's Great-tailed Grackle may have again attempted to nest, but the only reports were of a single male (TC, KHa, PU). Although numbers of Brown-headed Cowbirds were considered high at Palomar in this summer, no instances of parasitism were recorded in over 200 nests investigated! A ♂ **Scarlet Tanager** at Pt. Reyes June 20 (†JM *et al.*) was only the tenth for the Region with records evenly split between spring and fall.

FRINGILLIDS — Of approximately 17 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks June 1-28, eight were at Pt. Reyes (m.ob.), five at F.I., two at S.F. (*vide* SFB) and one at McKinleyville, Humboldt Co. (RLeV). In addition, a male was at Tomales Bay S.P., July 16 (BD, ML). It was considered a "good year" for Blue Grosbeaks at Gray Lodge W.A. (BED), but only five birds were reported from 4 other C.V. locations. Vagrants reached the coast at Pt. Reyes June 1 (JRi) and Gold Bluffs Beach, Humboldt Co., June 27 (GS). An impressive 19 Indigo Buntings (10 at F.I.) occurred, 16 in June at scattered locations (most coastal) and three in July. Of most interest are the following: one female Los Banos, Merced Co., June 6 (KFC), one ad. male Sacramento June 13 (EKL), one ad. male Jameson Canyon, s. Napa Co., July 21 (MFR). Lazuli Bunting received mixed reviews as to abundance: unusually scarce in the C.V. (DY), typical numbers in San Mateo County (WB), numbers slightly up at Palomar (P.R.B.O.) and unusually abundant in s. Napa County (MFR). Of special interest was news May 22-23 at Sky Park Campground, Eldorado Co., three male and one female Cassin's Finches were banded in breeding condition "despite the low altitude and habitat typical of Purple Finch in the Sierra" (HLC). The only report of Lawrence's Goldfinch was of 40+ at Frank-Raines P., Stanislaus Co., July 11 (DY). During June and July Red Crossbill was "quite conspicuous" along the n. coast (RAE) and numbers moved into old growth forests in Trinity County after being nearly absent in winter and spring (KR). A Green-tailed Towhee at Mt. Loma Prieta Santa Cruz Co., June 12 (SG) was unusual in the n. coast ranges.

S.A.

Seven Grasshopper Sparrows were at Kesterton N.W.R., Merced Co., June 6 (KFC); the species' status and abundance is poorly known in the C.V. How little we know about this species is illustrated by the statements of DS who spent over 500 hrs afield this breeding season trying to "fill in the gaps" for the Marin County Breeding Bird Atlas: "Contrary to what the literature says this (Grasshopper Sparrow) is not a rare breeding bird, at least in the grasslands of n.-c. California. I saw/heard a minimum of 150 (in Marin County) and consider this a characteristic and fairly common breeder in moderately grazed, healthy coastal grasslands. Although this may have been a banner year for this species, I think the above statement holds, even though the species is supposed to fluctuate in numbers from year to year. In my experience, this species can be found in all the traditional spots in Marin every year."

A singing Vesper Sparrow was in an agricultural field near the town of Smith River, Del Norte Co., June 10 (RAE, GL). Migrants reached F.I., June 8 and July 29-31; the later date is an extra-temporal vagrant, but not unprecedented. Coastal Rufous-crowned Sparrows were two pair s. of Ft. Ross, Sonoma Co., June 4 (DE), hatching year birds at Palomar in June 29-July 1 (first possible nesting in several years there) and two at Big Cr. Reserve, Big Sur June 19 (AB). An ad. Cassin's Sparrow at F.I., June 17-July 6 (†CS, P.R.B.O.) was well-described; all 5 of the other Regional records emanate from the same location and the date fits well with post-breeding dispersal in the s.w. which may involve a rain-related SE to NW migration (see Auk 61:409-412 and AB 31:93). The status of Sage Sparrow (*A.b. canescens*) is poorly defined in the San Joaquin Valley. KFC found one adult at Volta W.M.A., June 2 & 13 (including at least three juveniles) 9 mi s.e. of Los Banos July 6. All were associated with *Atriplex spinifera*, an endangered habitat in the San Joaquin Valley, and preliminary field work indicates that the distribution of this species of saltbush may determine the distribution of the Sage Sparrow (KFC). A singing Slate-colored Junco at Pt. Reyes June 19 (JM, KFC) furnished the latest record away from F.I. One-two late migrant Chipping Sparrows

were at Pt. St. George June 1 (RAE). A ♂ Golden-crowned Sparrow summered at Five Brooks, Marin Co., frequenting a poultry feeder (JE, BY). A single singing White-throated Sparrow was at Pt. St. George June 17-18 (RAE, GL). After high winter mortality, Song Sparrows produced the highest number of young birds ever at Palomarin with numbers in July more than twice 1981 totals.

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