

## MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Jules Evens and Ron LeValley

This winter's rainy trend continued unabated into March and April. Observers from throughout the Region termed those months "wetter and colder" than normal. Another violent storm passed through March 30-April 2, dumping up to four feet of snow at some mountainous locations and disrupting the efforts of such early nesters as Bald Eagles and Canada Geese. Some parts of the Sierra Nevadas had more than twice the normal snowpack, insuring good water supplies for wildlife and people alike this summer. May reversed the trend dramatically, bringing near record heat to most of the Region.

Passerines remained generally late in the lowlands. Migratory timing in the mountains is a mystery, owing to the paucity of observer coverage, however, it is probably safe to assume that most species arrived late because of inclement weather.

Ocean temperatures followed near normal patterns with a stable March, a slight warming trend in April, then a distinct cooling along the coast in May associated with intensive upwellings. April sea surface temperatures were 11.5°C near Cape Mendocino and 12.5°C near San Francisco with both areas being a half degree cooler in March and one degree cooler in May. The May cooling dropped temperatures to slightly below the 20-year average.

All observations from the Farallon Islands (hereafter, F.I.) and Palomarin should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory (hereafter, P.R.B.O.). A dagger (†) means that documentation is on file with the editors.

**LOONS THROUGH STORM-PETRELS** — A few migrant Com. Loons were reported from inland localities as usual but the only other inland loons were a probable Red-throated on Millerton L., Madera Co., Apr. 19 (*fide* KH) and an unidentified loon racing a rainstorm over Fresno Mar. 29 (KH). A late Yellow-billed Loon was at Moss Landing Apr. 10 (*fide* DRo).

The first influx of Sooty Shearwaters was in early April; by May 7 there were 1-2000 in Monterey Bay coincident with the opening of the commercial squid season (AB). Large numbers were around the F.I., May 28 when salmon fishermen were reporting euphausiids in salmon stomachs (P.R.B.O.). A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel was off Pacific Grove, Monterey Co., May 10 during strong NW winds, typical conditions for spring sightings (AB). For the second consecutive year, Leach's Storm-Petrels were heard calling from Pt. St. George, Del Norte Co., with a peak of 5+ birds May 14 (GL, RAE).

**PELICANS THROUGH HERONS** — Seven White Pelicans on L. Earl, Del Norte Co., May 5-6 (RAE+) were unusual as they are rare along the coast n. of Sonoma County. A few Brown Pelicans lingered around Monterey through the spring (AB) and then returned to the n. coast a bit early with small numbers in Humboldt and Del Norte cos., in late April. Double-crested Cormorants were well-reported inland with peaks of 110 May 15 at Colusa (WA) and 94 at the Stockton Sewage Ponds Mar. 11 (DY). There were also two Apr. 16 at the Creighton Ranch Preserve, Tulare Co., in the San Joaquin Valley where they continue to be seen in small numbers (RH).

Single Green Herons May 1 and 14 in Willow Creek Valley, Lassen Co. (BS†) were in an area from which there are few records. The Little Blue Heron that wintered at L. Earl was last seen Mar. 30 (BED). An ad. Little Blue Heron at Tulelake N.W.R., May 13 was photographed (*fide* SS). Only a Washington State record is from a more northerly locality. Great Egrets had mostly departed the lowlands n. of Crescent City by May 7 (RAE). Undoubtedly these birds moved S for breeding as there are no known nesting concentrations in Oregon. Least Bitterns were first noted at breeding areas of Lava Lakes Nature Center, Siskiyou Co., May 11 (RE, MR) and Gray Lodge W.A., May 14 (BED). One at Merced N.W.R., May 10 (RJB) was thought to be a migrant.

Two Flamingoes surprised a boatload of birdwatchers 5 mi offshore in Monterey Bay Apr. 5 (SFB+). The source of these birds is unknown but it is of note that one or more Flamingoes have been resident at the Moss Landing Salt Works, Monterey Co., since at least 1968!

**WATERFOWL** — The Mar. 30-Apr. 2 storm appeared to have greatly reduced production of young Canada Geese at L. Almanor, Plumas Co.; the first brood was not detected until May 6 compared to



Apr. 21 last year (DAA). Three "blue" Snow Geese were w. of Tulelake in Modoc County Mar. 10 (CSt) but even more unusual was a "mostly blue" Snow Goose with Aleutian Canada Geese at L. Talawa, Del Norte Co., Mar. 24-27 that established only the second n. coast record (*fide* RAE).

Two Fulvous Whistling Ducks were in Fresno Slough, Kings Co., May 1 (HM, *fide* RH, KH). There are no recent breeding records of this species in our Region. Mallards seem to be benefiting from the abundance of water in the Central Valley (hereafter, C.V.): 18 broods at Gray Lodge W.A. by May 10 (BED) and 20-25 broods at the Stockton Sewage Ponds during the period (DY) were considered high numbers. Two ♂ Eur. Green-winged Teals were detected, one at Sacramento N.W.R., Mar. 28 (RS) and one near Arcata, Humboldt Co., Apr. 15 (RAE). Sacramento N.W.R. also hosted a notable 1500 Green-winged Teal Mar. 28 (RS). On Apr. 29 a group of birders from Lane Community College in Oregon discovered a ♂ Garganey at Lower Klamath N.W.R. (*fide* SS). It was involved in courtship displays with Cinnamon Teal and was also seen and identified by assistant refuge manager Jeff Fleischer†. This establishes the first Regional record and the third for California and fits into the spring migration pattern of other Garganey occurrences s. of Alaska. Wood Ducks were more common than usual e. of the Sierra Nevadas including a pair at Honey Lake W.A., May 21-30 (RAE, GL, BS†), two males at Mt. Meadows Res., Lassen Co. (DAA) and three near Westwood, Lassen Co., May 29 (DAA).

Up to four Lesser Scaup remained at the Creighton Ranch Preserve, Tulare Co., through May 31+ (RH). Two pairs of Barrow's Goldeneye at Eagle L., Plumas Co., and another pair in Willow Creek Valley, Lassen Co., Apr. 18 (BS†) are about as late as this species has been found in our Region recently. It has been many years since they have nested in California. Two Oldsquaws were still present at the end of the period, one at Pt. Reyes (JE, DSc) and one in Bodega Bay (NTC). These and three from Del Norte County this spring combined to exceed this winter's reports. A large N migration of Surf and White-winged scoters was noted from the F.I. (P.R.B.O.) and Sea Ranch, Mendocino Co. (AB) during the third week of April.

**HAWKS THROUGH RAILS** — Two Goshawks seen near Bodega, Sonoma Co., Mar. 27 (KVV, KC) provided only the second record for the county. A Red-tailed Hawk at the F.I., Apr. 15 (P.R.B.O.) was only the second recent spring sighting. One Bald Eagle nest at L. Almanor was abandoned after being covered with a foot of snow Mar. 30-Apr. 2 while another nest remained active through May 17 (DAA). A ♀ Marsh Hawk on the F.I., Apr. 6 established the first spring record for that locality since 1886 (P.R.B.O.). Most of our Peregrine Falcon reports are from the coast and this spring was no exception. Two adults and one immature on

the F.I., Mar. 1-Apr. 21 were the largest numbers reported (P.R.B.O.).

Ruffed Grouse were again detected in Del Norte County at Dry L., Mar. 27 (*fide* RAE) and Howland Hill Apr. 18-May 11 (BRI, RAE, GL). Although this species is widely distributed throughout n.w. California, nowhere is it common enough to provide a "stakeout" location for birders. Introduced White-tailed Ptarmigan continue to be seen in the Hall Natural Area, Mono Co., at the crest of the Sierra Nevada; six + were present Apr. 25 (*fide* DDeS). The Sage Grouse lek near Mt. Schaeffer comprised ten males and two females Mar. 20-21 (BSt, DAA), essentially stable numbers for the last three years. Common Gallinules are rare e. of the Sierran crest so two at Little Alkali L., Mono Co., Apr. 17 (RH, CP) and one at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Siskiyou Co., May 26 (CSt) were notable.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Shorebird migration in the San Joaquin Valley was closely monitored this season thanks to the efforts of David Yee at the Stockton Sewage Ponds, Robby Bacon at Merced N.W.R., and Rob Hansen at the Creighton Ranch Preserve, Tulare Co. Lack of space prevents us from reporting much of those data, but much useful information on more common species is now in the Regional notebooks.

An Am. Avocet at Shields Marsh, Tomales Bay May 22 was very late and in an unusual location (JE). The last migrant Am. Golden Plovers included one along Fresno Slough, Kings Co., May 4 (HM, *fide* RH, KH), one near Davis, Yolo Co., May 10 (TB), and three at Pt. St. George, Del Norte Co., May 13 (GL). For the second consecutive year Solitary Sandpipers made an impressive showing, especially in Del Norte and Humboldt cos., where at least 36 and as many as 50 individuals moved through Apr. 17-May 7 (RAE, GL *et al.*). Single Ruddy Turnstones appeared at Hatfield State Rec. Area, Merced Co., May 10 (KFC) and the Stockton Sewage Ponds Apr. 27 (DY) but nine at the Merced N.W.R., May 10 (RJB) were surprising as they are quite rare inland. Single Red Knots were observed at Merced N.W.R., May 9 (KFC) and at the Stockton Sewage Ponds May 14-17 (DY). There are very few records from the San Joaquin Valley. Baird's Sandpipers, extremely rare in the spring, were detected as follows: four at Pinnacles N.M., San Benitos Co., Apr. 18 (Pat Jacobsen†); six at Abbott's Lagoon, Pt. Reyes Apr. 21 (DS); two at Capay, Glenn Co., Apr. 24 (SAL, IT); and two at the Stockton Sewage Ponds Apr. 27 (DY). The spring status of this species is clouded by the fact that most observers are unfamiliar with the ad. spring plumage which is substantially different from the juv. fall plumage and many records lack sufficient details. Single Pectoral Sandpipers, also very rare in spring, were discovered at L. Talawa, Del Norte Co., Apr. 8 (BED) and at the Bodega Bay Sewage Plant May 21-22 (NTC). The Region's first spring Ruffs were found at Moss Landing, Monterey Co., Apr. 21 (DRo) and at Merced N.W.R., May 6 (RJB). This Eurasian shorebird seems to be increasing along the West Coast. [There are now breeding records for Alaska.—Ed.].

**LARIDS THROUGH ALCIDS** — Seven Glaucous Gulls lingered along the coast with the last one recorded Apr. 30-May 2 in Monterey (DRo). An ad. Mew Gull at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Mar. 21 (RE, MR) was notable. The Stockton Sewage Pond's Black-headed Gull was last seen Apr. 8 (DY). Single Franklin's Gulls were at Moss Landing Apr. 23 (DSc) and May 2 (*fide* DRo) and another was at Hartson Res., Lassen Co., May 30 (RAE, GL). The Little Gull saga continues. After this winter's Monterey County sighting, thought to be the same individual as the one at the Stockton Sewage Ponds previously, an adult occurred in Monterey Apr. 3-12 (†AB *et al.*) then the Stockton Sewage Pond bird returned Apr. 28 (DY) and even more astonishingly was joined by a second adult Apr. 30-May 9 (DY)! Elsewhere an immature was in Crescent City Harbor May 19 (†RAE, †GL). A Black-legged Kittiwake photographed at Tulelake N.W.R., Apr. 29 (Sara Brown, *fide* SS) established the first Siskiyou County record. A concentration of 150+ ad. Sabine's Gulls in Crescent City Harbor on a windy May 25 was notable both for its size and for its onshore locality (RAE, GL). An Arctic Tern 7 mi s.w. of the F.I., May 15 was unusual, since they are rather scarce in the spring (JLu). Two Black Skimmers at Alameda South Shore Apr. 24-27 were apparently banded (*fide* The Gull)! Someone should be able to tell us where these birds came from! Two were also roosting with Caspian Terns at Moss Landing May 1 (DSc).

A Xantus' Murrelet was offshore in Monterey Bay Apr. 5 (SFB, CSt).

**LANDBIRD ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DATES** *Arrival dates* (exceptionally early dates in italics): Lesser Nighthawk Apr. 11 Tulare Co. (*fide* RH), Vaux's Swift Mar. 22 Alamo (JRI), Black-chinned Hummingbird Apr. 16 Auburn (BBa), W. Kingbird Mar. 22 s.e. Monterey Co. (RR), Ash-throated Flycatcher Apr. 2 Auburn (MA) and Apr. 5 Monterey (*fide* SFB), Willow Flycatcher May 10 Siskiyou Co. (RE), Hammond's Flycatcher Apr. 17 Siskiyou Co. (RE), Dusky Flycatcher Apr. 11 Siskiyou Co. (MR), W. Flycatcher Apr. 4 (late) Lafayette (LF), W. Wood Pewee Apr. 20 F.I., Olive-sided Flycatcher Apr. 6 Sonoma Co. (DB, PC), Bank Swallow Apr. 3 S.F. (DM), Rough-winged Swallow Mar. 2 Bolinas (DS), Barn Swallow Feb. 28 Bolinas (*fide* JE), Swainson's Thrush Apr. 24 Marin & Humboldt cos. (P.R.B.O., SJ), Solitary Vireo Mar. 24 F.I. and Contra Costa Co. (DSc), Warbling Vireo Mar. 21 Marin Co. (DS, SC), Yellow Warbler Apr. 12 Marin Co. (DS), Black-throated Gray Warbler Apr. 9 F.I., Yellow-breasted Chat Apr. 21 Palomarin, Wilson's Warbler Mar. 22 Marin Co. (DS), N. Oriole Mar. 3 Petaluma (KVV), W. Tanager Apr. 20 Lafayette (LF), Black-headed Grosbeak Apr. 4 Lafayette (LF), Blue Grosbeak Apr. 29 Tulare Co. (RH), Lazuli Bunting Apr. 21 F.I., Grasshopper Sparrow Apr. 13 Marin Co. (JE), Chipping Sparrow Mar. 24 s.e. Monterey Co. (RR).

*Departure dates* (from non-breeding grounds): Brown Creeper Apr. 14 Colusa (WA), Varied Thrush May 6 Marin Co. (DS), Ruby-crowned Kinglet May 5 Sutter Buttes (WA), Water Pipit May 9 Merced Co. (RJB), "Myrtle" Warbler May 28 F.I., "Audubon's" Warbler May 16 F.I., Townsend's Warbler June 1 San Joaquin Co. (DY), Savannah Sparrow May 9 Merced Co. (KFC) and Sutter Buttes (WA), Fox Sparrow Apr. 30 Pt. Saint George (RAE), Lincoln's Sparrow May 10 Merced Co. (RJB).

**PIGEONS THROUGH NIGHTHAWKS** — Band-tailed Pigeons arrived Mar. 2-6 along the n. coast (JS, GL). High numbers were in the Chico area and along the Colusa-Lake co. line in early March (BED), in the Shasta area throughout the period (BED, CSt), and at Palomarin and S.F. from early April-May 31+ (P.R.B.O., DM). A flock of 100+ over the ocean off Pacific Grove in late March may have been avoiding storms in the coast range (AB).

Judging from the dearth of reports and the general impressions of several observers (DDeS, JE, P.R.B.O.), microtine-dependent owls were very scarce this spring. The high rainfall this winter and spring and the subsequent high productivity of grasses and forbs would seemingly promote a rodent bloom, however the evidence suggests that the opposite occurred. Could the potential parent population have suffered severe mortality this winter/spring and failed to exploit an abundant resource? Exceptions to the dearth of reports follow. Barn Owls "nested in good numbers" at Livermore (AE). Ten ± Flammulated Owls were e. of Lassics Peak, Trinity Co., May 29 (RLv, LD). A Pygmy Owl in Fresno May 12 (KH) furnished one of few San Joaquin Valley floor records. Eight-ten were on the s.w. slope of Mt. Saint Helena, Napa Co., Apr. 27 (JE). A Barred Owl in Redwood N.P., near Crescent City Mar. 12-May 31+ (†RAE, m.ob.) provided the first California record of a species that has extended its range impressively in recent years. The Long-eared Owl at Coyote Hills, Alameda Co., was last reported Apr. 4 (JM) and the roost near Colusa remained until Apr. 8 (WA). Nesting was confirmed in Tehama County (IT, PE, SAL).

A Poorwill calling at Black Lassics Peak May 29 (RLv, LD) was probably within breeding range, however the status in the n.w. counties is poorly defined. Occurrence at Palomarin coincided interestingly with a large passerine wave Apr. 20-22. A vagrant Lesser Nighthawk reached the F.I., May 26-27.

**SWIFTS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — The only Black Swift reported was a single migrant over Kentfield, Marin Co., May 14 (SC). Interesting in light of the recent article AB 36:139-141 (and intrinsically!) was the discovery of a **White-collared Swift** May 21 foraging with swallows over the grassy headlands of Pt. St. George, Del Norte Co. (†RAE, †GL, GS, RT, LB). Viewed for up to 40 minutes under ideal conditions, the description indicates that the bird was *Streptoprocne zonaris* "probably an immature and probably *S.z. mexicana*" (*fide* J.V. Remsen.). Exhaustive details will be published elsewhere (*fide* RAE). Despite one early record (see arrival date above), Vaux's Swift arrived on schedule Apr. 11-17 (m.ob.). Rufous Hummingbird migration spanned Mar. 25-Apr. 24 at F.I. One male at Palomarin Mar. 25 was quite late for a migrant. Though long suspected, Anna's Hummingbird was confirmed as a breeder in Del

Norte Co., at Klamath Glen Apr. 16 (RAE). A vagrant ♂ Costa's Hummingbird reached F.I., Apr. 27 and a ♀ Calliope there May 6 fell within the expected span of coastal vagrant records.

**WOODPECKERS** — Concern continues to be expressed about the scarcity of Lewis' Woodpeckers along Mines Rd., Alameda Co. (m.ob.); although several can still be found in San Antonio Valley, Santa Clara Co. (JRI, AE) there are also fewer there (WB). A coastal vagrant was near the Big Sur R. mouth Apr. 23 (DRo). A "Red-breasted" Sapsucker (*S.v. daggetti*) near Inverness May 9 (DS) and another in Pt. Reyes Sta., May 23 (*vide* JE) were late unless breeding locally. An ad. ♂ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*S.v. varius*) in Ferndale, Humboldt Co., Mar. 19 (ph. REW *et al.*) was present at least until Mar. 29 (B & CY), as late as this race has been recorded in California (excepting a single June vagrant). A Williamson's Sapsucker at Sunol Reg. Park, May 6 (*vide* SFB) was exceptionally late for a lowland sighting. Single ♂ Hairy Woodpeckers near Thomas Creek Mar. 8 & 31 and William's Butte Apr. 4 (IT, PE) were at locations in Tehama County where the species is quite rare. A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker at Antelope Mt., e. of Susanville Mar. 14 was near the e. limit of the range there (DAA). One White-headed Woodpecker at Gasquet, Del Norte Co., May 3 was unusually low in elevation (GL).

**FLYCATCHERS** — Western Kingbird was particularly abundant around Stockton this spring (DY). At Merced N.W.R., a migration that began Mar. 26 peaked May 17 when 30 birds were present (RJB). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on the coast at Ft. Dick bottoms May 1 (R. Tedsen, *vide* RAE, GL) was as early as the species occurs. Late spring records are few, so two E. Phoebes were remarkable; May 24 at Samoa, Humboldt Co. (JS, +RAE, +RLv, GL) and F.I., May 26-27. Say's Phoebe staged an impressive showing on the n. coast where considered rare; six + were on the immediate coast between Crescent City and the Smith R., Mar. 6-Apr. 15 (m.ob.). A pair of Say's Phoebes was suspected of breeding in s. Tehama County (PE, IT) far n. of the closest known breeding. Gray Flycatcher migration was slightly early; notable dates and/or locations included Trinidad, Humboldt Co., Apr. 21+ (SJ, JS), Bear Harbor, Mendocino Co., Apr. 24 (+DEL), Mt. Loma Prieta, Santa Cruz Co., May 1 (+TC) and Pt. Reyes Lighthouse May 27 (DDeS). Unlike the other flycatchers, Westerns arrived slightly late and in low numbers (P.R.B.O., MR). The pitfalls of comparing local records is illustrated by the fact that Palomarin's first W. Flycatcher Apr. 8 was the latest ever while the first at F.I., Apr. 20 just 20 mi away, was the earliest island record! Western Wood Pewee movement spanned Apr. 20-June 3 (normal) but peaked differentially; Sutter Buttes May 2-16 (WA), F.I., May 25-31. Like W. Flycatcher, W. Wood Pewee was generally late and in low numbers (P.R.B.O.). The arrival at Palomarin May 4 was the latest ever; the arrival at F.I., Apr. 20 was the earliest ever.

**LARKS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — Horned Larks (five +) were displaying on the Sierran crest above Tioga Pass at 11,500 ft Apr. 24-25 (B. Engstrom, *vide* DDeS).

After a very cold period in early April, large numbers of swallows died in the C.V. At Gray Lodge, of over 500 dead swallows, 90% were Cliffs, the remainder Violet-green, Tree and Barn (BED). A Cliff Swallow at Bolinas Mar. 2 (DS) was exceptionally early on the immediate coast. Purple Martins were reported nesting at Chew's Ridge, Monterey Co. (DRo), San Antonio Valley, Santa Clara Co. (TG, JRI) and Bartlett Springs, Lake Co. (JE) as well as the usual locations.

**CORVIDS THROUGH MIMIDS** — Spring movement of Scrub Jays outside of breeding areas was again documented at L. Almanor and around Indian Valley, Plumas Co., Apr. 30-May 3 (DAA, G. Rotta), normal dates. A Com. Raven was observed catching and eating a White-throated Swift at Pine Flat Dam on King's R. (where the swifts were roosting) Apr. 6, the ultimate "fast food" (*vide* KH). Clark's Nutcracker remained down to 4500 ft around Chester, Plumas Co., through the period, "presumably the result of heavy snows and a good yellow pine cone crop" (DAA). Low numbers of Mountain Chickadees along the n. fork of the American R., Placer Co. (TB) and of Chestnut-backed Chickadees on the coast at Palomarin were probably attributable to winter storm mortality. The presence of fledgling Chestnut-backed Chickadees at Yosemite Valley May 27+ (KH) confirmed breeding there. Spring records of transient White-

breasted Nuthatch are few; one was at Creighton Ranch Preserve, Tulare Co., Mar. 25 (T. Griggs, *vide* RH) on the valley floor. The population of Pygmy Nuthatch near Palomarin was "decimated" by winter/spring storms and none was recorded there. A pair nesting at Jasper Ridge, Santa Clara Co., May 21 (TC) was at a new location in an interrupted and scattered distribution pattern. House Wrens are rare in the n.w. coast belt; one was at Crescent City May 1 (RAE, GS). Single wandering Rock Wrens were at Creighton Ranch Preserve Apr. 21 (RH) and Gold Bluffs Beach, Humboldt Co., May 24 (GS). Migrant Mockingbirds were noted along the coast Apr. 9-May 26 (m.ob.). The only Sage Thrasher reported was at Pt. St. George May 13, providing a Del Norte County record. Coastal vagrants occur every spring.

**THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS** — After a large winter influx, Am. Robin was very common, at least on the coast and inner coast ranges (DDeS, AB). Swainson's Thrush numbers were high at Palomarin; post-drought banding totals there (with equivalent net hours) compare as follows: 1979 (14), 1980 (19), 1981 (24), 1982 (36) suggesting recovery (P.R.B.O., DDeS). A Mountain Bluebird at Mines Rd., Apr. 28 (RSc, *vide* WB) was late in the lowlands. After this winter's impressive showing of Townsend's Solitaire in the lowlands, spring records abounded. Twenty-six individuals from 20 lowland locations were reported, fairly evenly distributed between the coast and interior Mar. 1-Apr. 22. The last coastal sighting was at Tomales Pt., Marin Co., Apr. 20 (DS) and the last interior one at Thomas Cr. Gorge, Tehama Co., Apr. 22 (PE, IT). Two waves of Ruby-crowned Kinglets at F.I., occurred Mar. 24-26 (peak of 150 on 24th) and Apr. 20-27 (peak of 40 on 20th). Five + Water Pipits were displaying at 11,500 ft on the Sierran crest above Tioga Pass Apr. 24-25 (B. Engstrom, *vide* DDeS). The only Bohemian Waxwing was at Susanville Mar. 13 (DAA). Cedar Waxwings were present in the lowlands through the period with exceptional numbers in the C.V. (DY) and good numbers on the coast (DDeS, DM). A Phainopepla that arrived in Colusa (rare on the valley floor) Feb. 16 remained until Mar. 16 (WA). A Phainopepla at Yosemite Valley May 30 (KH) represented the first spring occurrence; there are only two other records there, both in fall. Of eight N. Shrikes, six were on the n. coast (GL, LB, GS +), two at Honey L. One at Pt. St. George Apr. 15 (GL) marked the Region's latest record. A singing Bell's Vireo at Pinnacles N.M., May 21-23 (D.S. Starks) was only the fourth occurrence within its former breeding range in over 20 years. No evidence of nesting could be found. Two Hutton's Vireos were in the Sutter Buttes May 9 (WA) where the species is rarely encountered. On the coast, numbers of Hutton's Vireo seemed much reduced (DDeS, JE, RS), another victim of weather-related mortality. Solitary Vireo arrived early and in good numbers; nesting was confirmed at Briones Reg. Park (JM) and on Morgan Territory Rd. (AE), both in Contra Costa County. A Warbling Vireo at Oak Grove P., San Joaquin Co., June 1 (DY) was a late migrant for the valley floor.

**WARBLERS** — Nine Black-and-white Warblers on the coast from S.F. to Pt. St. George May 5 + was average. Of 12+ Tennessee Warblers May 5-May 31, ten were on F.I., May 26 and two were at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse May 27 (*vide* DDeS). Orange-crowned Warbler migration peaked at F.I., Apr. 21; data elsewhere is unavailable. Nashville migration spanned Apr. 16-May 6 in the interior lowlands, Apr. 20-May 9 on the coast. One ♀ N. Parula at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse May 27-29 (DDeS *et al.*) was the only one reported. Yellow Warbler movement peaked May 13-16 in the interior, May 24-26 coastally. A ♂ Magnolia Warbler at Caswell S.P., San Joaquin Co., May 26 (DY) provided the Region's first interior spring record; a female was at F.I. May 30-31 where over 75% of spring records have originated. Yellow-rumped Warbler movement peaked at F.I., Apr. 21, but spanned the period. Two Black-throated Grays in the C.V. in March apparently wintered (DY, KH); movement spanned Apr. 9-30. A singing ♂ Black-throated Green Warbler at Lincoln P., S.F., May 22 (+PU, +KHb) was one of few spring mainland occurrences. Hermit Warbler migration spanned Apr. 18-May 15. A singing ♂ Yellow-throated Warbler at Samoa, Humboldt Co., May 24 (+RAE) could not be assigned to race; the only other mainland spring record was of a *D.d. albilora*, but the yellow-lore form has occurred at F.I. in spring as well as fall (see *Western Birds* 3:17-18).

Two Bay-breasted Warblers were at Pt. Reyes: a male May 26-27 (KFC, DDeS), a female May 29 (JM). Two Blackpolls, May 6 & 16, were at F.I. Six Palm Warblers were on the n. coast: three in March



probably wintered; migrants were at Crescent City Apr. 24-25 (RAE, GL, SS *et al.*) and Orick May 25 (GS). Single Ovenbirds were at outer Pt. Reyes May 29 (RS, JE *et al.*) and F.I., May 30. One N. Waterthrush at Bolinas Lagoon Mar. 10-16 (R. DeCarlo, BY) conceivably wintered. A Com. Yellowthroat at F.I., Mar. 24 was the island's earliest and migrants arrived at Tulare Valley Mar. 25 (RH) and Orick Mar. 26 (RAE). One at Mono L., Apr. 17 was early there (RH) and one of few spring records for the Mono Basin. Seven Yellow-breasted Chats were at unusual coastal locations Apr. 21-May 24 (four in Marin, two in Humboldt and one in San Mateo). A ♂ Hooded Warbler at Lincoln P., S.F., May 18 (A. Hopkins, *vide* SFB) was within the cluster of spring dates. Wilson's Warbler migration peaked at F.I., May 5 and in the C.V., May 13-17 (RJB, RH, DY). A distinctively marked individual at Pt. Reyes May 29 was probably the eastern race (*W.p.pusilla*), a form recorded in other w. states but not properly documented in California (RS, JM, JE). An Am. Redstart that wintered was last seen at Santa Cruz Apr. 4 (BLaB). Potential breeders returned to Klamath May 23 (GL) and single migrants were at S.F., May 23 (D. Dittman) and Antelope L., Plumas Co., May 27; spring interior records are most unusual.

**ICTERIDS THROUGH TANAGERS** — One ♂ Bobolink at Bolinas May 24 (B. Heneman, *ph.* BY) was about the average spring quota. Return dates to breeding locales for Yellow-headed Blackbirds were Mar. 28 in the Tulare Valley (RH) and Apr. 17 (or earlier) in the Mono Basin (RH); vagrants reached the coast with three males at Zmudowski S.P., Monterey Co., Apr. 21 (DRo), one female at F.I., May 5-6, one male and 13 females in Del Norte County, May 5-7 and one female in Humboldt County May 25-June 6 (GS, RAE). Tricolored Blackbird was not well-reported, however a male at Terwer Valley May 13 was only the second Del Norte County occurrence (RAE); after one returned to Creighton Ranch Preserve Mar. 28, the number reached 100+ by Apr. 7 (RH). An Orchard Oriole that apparently wintered in Arcata (?) was "still present" Mar. 10 (*vide* R.R.A.S.). Hooded Orioles returned to breeding sites from the Bay Area south Mar. 9-27, and to the n. coast at Arcata Apr. 29 (*vide* R.R.A.S.). Extraordinary was a singing ♂ Scott's Oriole at Drake's Beach, P.R.N.S., May 28 (†RS) providing the seventh Regional record, at least four of which were also spring males (see *Western Birds* 8:157-158 for a discussion of extralimital records). A ♂ "Baltimore" Oriole was at F.I., May 26. A ♀ Rusty Blackbird at F.I., Apr. 22 (†P.R.B.O.) was extratemporal providing only the second Regional record between April and September (see *Western Birds* 2:55-68). Movement of W. Tanager was concentrated Apr. 20-May 16. A second-year, ♂ Summer Tanager was at F.I., May 26.

**FRINGILLIDS** — Five (four male, one female) Rose-breasted Grosbeaks Mar. 9-Apr. 10 were coastal and unusually early or previously undetected winterers. Single ♂ Blue Grosbeaks wandered to the coast at S.F., May 12 (A. Hopkins, *vide* SFB) and Arcata May 13 (J. Bland, RAE, JS); the latter provided a first spring (second overall) record for the n. coast. Of five Indigo Buntings May 7-26, four were at F.I., one was near Lake Mt., Trinity Co., May 15 (K. Irwin, *vide* R.R.A.S.). Lazuli Bunting arrived in high numbers (RJB, JE, DY) providing earliest arrival dates at F.I., Apr. 21 and Siskiyou County Apr. 23 (MR). A ♂ Dickcissel at F.I., May 26-27 was the only one reported of this very rare spring vagrant. Predictably, due to the inclement mountain weather. Evening Grosbeaks were abundant into May at lower elevations in Shasta County (BKI, CSt) and sightings in the C.V. continued through late April into early May (WA, DY). Six Cassin's Finches were at Mt. Lassics May 30 where its status is sporadic (RLeV, LD). A ♂ Pine Grosbeak at Whitmore, Shasta Co.,

Apr. 22 (BKI) was at the exceptionally low elevation of 2800 ft. Lawrence's Goldfinch was "exceptionally numerous" along Mines Rd. in May (DDeS) and found in "unprecedented numbers" around Fresno (KH). Up to eight remained in the Sutter Buttes through the period (WA) and the farthest n. sighting in the inner coast range was at Mt. Saint Helena, Napa Co., Apr. 27 (JE). A Green-tailed Towhee at Sanger Peak, Del Norte Co., on territory May 7 (RAE) was n. of the documented breeding distribution in the n. coast ranges. A singing ♂ Lark Bunting at L. Millerton, Madera Co., Apr. 20 (KH) and 2-3 males across the lake in Fresno County May 6 (*vide* KH) complement several other spring records in the C.V. and invite speculation about the possibility of breeding.

Vesper Sparrows were well reported. One at Killgore Hills near Yreka Mar. 23 was about two weeks early there (RE) and one at Creighton Ranch Preserve May 15 was late on the valley floor (RH *et al.*). Rufous-crowned Sparrow was found at three new locations: one 4 mi s.w. of Paskenta, Tehama Co. (IT, SAL), a pair carrying food at Salt Cr., n. Glenn Co., May 13 (PE) and two pairs 5 mi s. of Jenner, coastal Sonoma Co., May 27 (DEI). Sage Sparrows were present on breeding grounds in the Santa Cruz Mts. in May (WB, TC); three vagrants reached F.I., Mar. 24, Apr. 5-7 & 22 and 1-2 were at Palomarin Apr. 20-21. A Clay-colored Sparrow at Gold Bluffs Beach, Humboldt Co., May 2 & 4 (GS) established the first mainland spring record; one was at F.I., May 26-28 where the species occurs annually. The only Brewer's Sparrow report, of a single at Klamath, Del Norte Co., June 5-6 (RAE, GS *et al.*), was a county record. Single Harris' Sparrows were at Ferndale Mar. 7 (K. Rosenberg *et al.*) and Salmon Creek, Sonoma Co., May 23 (NTC). Wintering birds have remained through April, however May records are very scarce; the few we do have are from the immediate coast. Regarding White-crowned Sparrow at Palomarin: seven *gambelii* (rare in spring) were recorded Apr. 21-22; the small number of wintering *pugetensis* remained until Apr. 14 with one staying until Apr. 21; the resident population (*nuttalli*), depleted by winter mortality, began breeding late. Twenty-five ± White-throated Sparrows were at 11 locations through May 20. Single Swamp Sparrows at Moffett Field, Santa Clara Co., Apr. 9 (WB) and Stone Lagoon, Humboldt Co., Apr. 22 (RAE) were the only ones reported.

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