

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Ron LeValley and Jules Evens

The much talked about "El Niño" conditions began to weaken during the summer with ocean water temperatures continuing their seasonal warming but at a slower-than-normal rate. Water temperatures off the San Francisco Bay area even approached the 20-year mean, marking the first time since last October that any of the coastal waters have been less than 1°C above normal. The coastal summer fogs were less common while the interior portions of the Region experienced fairly normal summer weather. The weakening "El Niño" continued to dominate the waterbird picture as seabird nesting success was at lowest levels ever while freshwater ducks and grebes had quite successful nesting seasons. All sightings from Palomarin and S.E. Farallon Islands (hereafter, F.I.) should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (hereafter, P.R.B.O.). Reports from these locations were provided by Dave DeSante (Palomarin) and Bob Boekelheide (F.I.). A dagger (†) indicates that documentation is on file with the regional editors or with the California Rarities Committee.

GREBES THROUGH TUBENOSES — A Red-necked Grebe at Pt. Reyes June 18-July 9 (HG, SFB) and another in Bodega Harbor June 20 (KFC) were unusual for summer. One of the positive effects of the wet winter was the extensive breeding habitat created for species that prefer shallow freshwater habitats. Prime among the birds able to take advantage of this situation were Eared Grebes. Successful nesting was reported from L. Pleasanton, Alameda Co. (AE, HLC) and Moffett Field, Santa Clara Co. (WB, AR, LT, KW) for the first S.F. Bay area nesting records, and from Hacienda Wastewater Area, Kings Co.; S. Wilbur Flood Area, Kings Co. (RH, KH, GG); Merced N.W.R. (RJB) and the Stockton sewage ponds (DY), areas where nesting is sporadic.

A Black-footed Albatross near F.I., June 11 (JR) and 90 near the

Cordelle Banks June 22 (BL) were the only ones reported. A few of last spring's late N. Fulmars lingered through the summer with one near the Cordelle Banks June 22 (BL) and 3-4 in Monterey Bay July 17 (AB). Three well-described Flesh-footed Shearwaters feeding behind a fishing boat near Double Pt., Marin Co., July 31 (†CC) were surprising as this



species is very rare during the summer. The normal large flocks of Sooty Shearwaters failed to appear in Monterey Bay (AB) and near San Francisco, presumably due to lack of suitable food in the warm El Niño waters.

PELICANS THROUGH IBISES — At least 59 White Pelicans summered in the S. Wilbur Flood Area (RH, GG) probably because of the abundant water present. This species nested in suitable habitat throughout California, including the s. San Joaquin Valley, in the early part of the century but no nesting was found this year. Brown Pelicans continued to be found in larger-than-normal numbers due to El Niño; 700 on Año Nuevo July 4 (PJM) was a notable concentration. One of the most obvious results of the El Niño was the almost complete lack of breeding in coastal nesting seabirds. Brandt's Cormorants failed to raise any young at most of their traditional sites; consider that only 10 chicks were fledged from the entire F.I.; in a usual year 7500-10,000 are produced. Pelagic Cormorants did even worse, as there was no evidence of breeding at any colony in the Region and no eggs were laid on F.I. Surprisingly, only one Magnificent Frigatebird report was received, that of an immature at Palomarin, Marin Co., July 31 (P.R.B.O., P. Super). With the El Niño conditions we expected more records of such warm water species.

American Bittern again nested in the Smith R. Bottoms, Del Norte Co., where a $\frac{3}{4}$ grown young was flushed from a hay field July 29 (*fide* RAE). This was the only known nesting locality along the n. coast. Least Bitterns were well reported with two at Lava Lakes Nature Center, Siskiyou Co., July 2 (RE, MR, RAE, JS); a juvenile seen at Gray Lodge W.A. (BED); and up to five seen at the S. Wilbur Flood Area (GG, RH). In less usual localities were single birds at Santa Rosa July 23 (*fide* JE) for a first Sonoma County record and at the Creighton Ranch Preserve, Tulare Co., July 23 (RH). An ad. Little Blue Heron was mated with a Snowy Egret at the S. Wilbur Flood Area, Kings Co., July 1 (RH), providing the first confirmed nesting for the Region. An adult in Charleston Slough, Santa Clara Co., July 18 (EB) was likely one of the three seen in the spring in the Alviso heronry where nesting has almost certainly occurred but is still unconfirmed. Two breeding-plumaged adults and one juv. Cattle Egret near Nicolaus, Sutter Co., July 25 (BED) suggested local breeding. Other Sacramento Valley reports were of three near Red Bluff, Tehama Co., July 16 (T&AM) and seven near Galt, Sacramento Co., July 26 (*fide* TM). In addition to the reports from spring, 40 White-faced Ibises with 5 nests were found in the S. Wilbur Flood Area during July (RH, MC).

WATERFOWL — The last Snow and Ross' geese at Gray Lodge W. A. were two cripples of each species seen June 24 (BED). A Snow Goose at the Pajaro R. Mouth, Monterey Co., July 9 (J&RW) was out of season and out of place. Many species of waterfowl, especially dabblers, stayed to nest in unprecedented numbers this season, undoubtedly due to the presence of abundant water. The following is a synopsis of notable duck breeding localities for this year, birds italicized are of special interest for their local significance: Gray Lodge W.A., Pintail; Stockton sewage ponds/Manteca, Mallard, *Canvasback* (DY); Merced N.W.R., Mallard, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, N. Shoveler, Gadwall; s. Kings County, Mallard, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, N. Shoveler, *imm.* *Wigeon*, found on botulism surveys July 26 (GG), *Canvasback* (RH, KH, MC), *Redhead* (GG); Cader Lane/Petaluma sewage ponds, N. Shoveler, female with four immatures July 6 (KFC), Gadwall; Jepson Prairie Preserve, Solano Co., *Pintail*, N. Shoveler; Moffett Field/Palo Alto Baylands, *Green-winged Teal*, female with six juveniles, July 8-15 (WB), N. Shoveler, Gadwall; Coyote Hills Reg. P., *Pintail*, two females with broods July 21 (HLC); Salinas R. Mouth/Elkhorn Slough, Cinnamon Teal, Gadwall. Other noteworthy duck sightings included a hybrid Cinnamon Teal x N. Shoveler at the Arcata Marsh June 22 (RAE, JS); a late Oldsquaw at Elkhorn Slough, Monterey Co., last seen June 16 (J&RW); a ♀ Bufflehead with two juveniles at Childs Meadow Stock Pond July 20 (DAA) that may have provided Tehama County's first breeding record; and a ♀ Red-breasted Merganser at Cader Lane Ponds, Petaluma July 9-14 (KFC).

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS — Although Turkey Vultures are common summer visitors throughout the Region, actual nesting reports are scarce, therefore a juvenile at a cave entrance in s. Alameda County

July 16 (AE) is noteworthy. Ospreys continued their population recovery with good reports from the coastal areas and the n. Sierras. More unusual were records from Corcoran, Kings Co., in late July and at the Creighton Ranch, Tulare Co., June 24-July 7 (†RH). White-tailed Kites were again poorly reported from Marin County and the Central Valley; the only positive reports were from the Livermore Valley where eight of several nesting pairs were seen July 30 (AE). Since this species populations can fluctuate greatly for natural reasons, it is difficult to detect long-term declines. Nonetheless, many have been expressing concern for populations in our Region, so observers are encouraged to keep close tabs on White-tailed Kite sightings. The Region's fourth **Mississippi Kite** record was of a well-described adult at the Creighton Ranch June 10 (†RH). The only evidence of nesting Sharp-shinned Hawks was an adult carrying food to an apparent nest on Pt. Lobos, Monterey Co., May 27 (JE); one + territorial birds at Sonoma Mt., Sonoma Co., June 26 + (KFC); and a nest with four young near Ammon Cr., Humboldt Co., July 20 (RAE). As usual, Cooper's Hawks were slightly more common than Sharp-shinned as nesters with 9 possible nesting areas reported, all but one, an adult with two nestlings at the Kaweah Gravel Ponds, Tulare Co., June 15 (†RH), from the coastal mountains. A Peregrine Falcon at Sacramento N.W.R., July 17 (T&AM) furnished the first summer sighting in the Central Valley in many years. Although we still maintain a policy of not publishing the localities of Peregrine nesting sites, observers are encouraged to report all summer sightings.

Two Blue Grouse at Emerson L., in the Warner Mts., Modoc Co., June 4 (PU) were in an area where they are known to be resident but from which there are few reports. A Mountain Quail report near Austin Cr. Rd., Sonoma Co., June 3 (DB, PC) was from near the s. limit of their n. coastal range. Virginia Rails were widely reported, most notable was one e. of Eagleville June 8 (PU) for one of the few Modoc County records. A Com. Gallinule at Lower Stoney Res., Hunter Liggett, Monterey Co., June 20 (DR) was in an area where nesting is not known. Two juveniles at the Bolinas sewage ponds July 12 (JE) were the result of a rare breeding effort at that locality. A late Sandhill Crane was at Gray Lodge W.A., June 3 (*fide* BED). In the Surprise Valley, Modoc Co., nesting pairs were found along the w. fringes of the Alkali Lakes (PU) where they were in "probably as high density as possible" (SJ).

SHOREBIRDS — An Am. Golden Plover at Lower Klamath N.W.R., June 5 (RE, MR) established one of the few inland spring records. Nesting Snowy Plovers were reported as follows: three pairs at L. Talawa, Del Norte Co., June 23 (PS); 3 nests on the S. Spit Humboldt Bay Apr. 23 (PS); four adults and one immature at the Eel R. Mouth, Humboldt Co., July 5 (JS); two pairs near Belmont, San Mateo Co., June 15 (PJM); a pair at Año Nuevo Pt., July 4 (PJM); 10-15 pairs at the Salinas R. mouth June 2 (PJM); and 14 at Middle Alkali L., Modoc Co., July 13 (SJ). Other significant sightings included a bird seen June 14 at Hacienda Wastewater Area wearing a band that it received in Morro Bay (†RH) and an adult-sized hatching year bird in the same place July 22 (RH, GG). Unlike most other birds depending on the sea for their existence, Black Oystercatchers had apparently normal nesting success at Pt. Lobos (HLC) and at Año Nuevo (KW), but at F.I., less than one-half of the sites were occupied. Both Black-necked Stilts and Am. Avocets had excellent breeding success this summer. Among the many reports of these species were the observations of DY who reported that both species had finished their nesting activities and mostly left the Stockton sewage ponds by July 8 yet newly hatched young were still at the Lodi sewage ponds July 31! These 2 localities are only about 13 mi apart.

A Solitary Sandpiper was at a pond near Manteca, San Joaquin Co., July 23 (DY). This species is much more often reported from the coast than from inland areas. Long-billed Curlew numbers had built to 1000 ± at the Creighton Ranch by July 10 (RH). At least 10 Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported, the first being a worn adult at Bodega Harbor July 4 (KFC). The first juvenile was at the same place July 18 (†KFC, NC). Reports away from the coast included a juvenile at the Lodi sewage ponds July 22-30 (†DY, †KHb) and another at Middle Alkali L., Modoc Co., July 21 (†SJ). A late spring migrant Baird's Sandpiper was at the Salinas R. Mouth June 2 (PJM). First fall arrivals included single birds at Cader Lane Ponds, Sonoma Co., July 9 (KFC) and Hayward Regional Shoreline, Alameda Co., July 10 (CS). Early arriving Pectoral Sandpipers were three, including two adults, at the Bolinas

sewage ponds July 19 (JE) and two at the Arcata Marsh on the same day (JS).

A Dunlin in basic plumage at the Arcata Marsh July 16 (JS) was probably a summering individual rather than a fall migrant. A Stilt Sandpiper at the Arcata Marsh (*vide* LD) and another at Vigo St. Marsh, Eureka (JS) were both discovered July 16. A Ruff was picked up dead on botulism surveys in s. Kings County July 20 (GG) and another possibly of this species was found badly decomposed in the same area July 28. These represent only the third July record for the Region, both others being ad. males from the coast. Two Short-billed Dowitchers at the Hacienda Wastewater Area July 22 (†RH) probably provided the first Kings County record. A ♂ Wilson's Phalarope attending two flightless young at Merced N.W.R., June 13 (RJB) probably had taken advantage of the abundant water and suitable habitat to provide us with one of the few recent nesting records for the Central Valley (hereafter, C.V.). Early migrant Red Phalaropes were three near the Ascension Canyon, offshore Santa Cruz Co., July 30 (AB, DLS).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger seen from shore at Pt. Pinos, Monterey Co., July 29 (AB) was remarkably early. Franklin's Gulls made a good showing this summer with single adults at the Pajaro R. Mouth, Monterey Co., June 11 (J&RW); in Bodega Harbor June 20 (†KFC); Smith R. Estuary, Del Norte Co., July 4 (RAE); Pescadero Marsh, San Mateo Co., June 18 (AE) and July 15 (*vide* PJM) with two present there July 1 (*vide* PJM). Six Heermann's Gulls arrived June 23 in Bodega Harbor within a day of last year's return date (NC). By July 26 > 100 were present (KFC). This species was present in good numbers this summer, probably due to El Niño warm waters. Juvenile Ring-billed Gulls arrived in the Region as follows: one at L. Earl, Del Norte Co., July 16 (RAE); one in Bodega Harbor July 18 (KFC); and one at the Stockton sewage ponds July 25 (DY). Comparably, juv. California Gull arrivals away from their breeding localities were: Coastal Del Norte County July 23 (RAE); one at Cader Lane Ponds, Sonoma Co., July 20 (KFC); two at Pt. Pinos, Monterey Co., July 27 (DR); and one at Bodega Harbor July 30 (KFC). The California Gull colony at the Knapp Property Salt Ponds, Santa Clara Co., continues to grow as 700 nests were estimated there yielding 964 color-banded chicks (RWL). A second San Francisco Bay colony was established on Leslie Salt Property near Newark, Alameda Co., when 9 nests were found June 21 (RWL) and at least some young fledged. Western Gulls had relatively good nesting success compared to other seabirds but still fledged less than 0.5 chicks/nest on F.I., illustrating a situation typical throughout the Region. An ad. Sabine's Gull off Pt. Reyes June 21 and eight near the Cordelle Banks June 22 (BL) were likely non-breeding birds, but an immature near the Ascension Canyon, offshore Santa Cruz Co., July 30 (AB, DLS) was probably an early migrant.

A Caspian Tern at L. Annie, Surprise Valley, Modoc Co., June 9 (PU) was in an area from which we have few records. Fewer-than-normal numbers of Caspian Terns nested in known colonies in S. San Francisco Bay (RWL) and in the Tulare L. Basin (RH). Fifty of them at the Salinas R. Mouth June 2 were in a newly established colony whose success was considered doubtful (PJM). Elegant Terns arrived early and in large numbers, the first arrivals were at the Pajaro Dunes, Monterey Co., May 24 (J&RW). By July 17, 500+ were noted in a substantial N movement at Bolinas Lagoon (*vide* JE) and 1000 were counted at Elkhorn Slough, Monterey Co., in late July (DR). In the n. part of the Region, 30 were at the Elk R. Mouth, Humboldt Co., July 31 (JS) and four had reached Crescent City Harbor by July 30 (*vide* RAE). A Black Skimmer was at the Pajaro R. Mouth July 16 (J&RW).

Of all the seabirds affected by El Niño, the alcids paint the picture most vividly. On F.I., Com. Murres laid eggs at less than 50% of last year's nest sites and only 50% of those incubated until hatching, resulting in less than 0.1 chick/nest (P.R.B.O.). No wonder AB found *no* murre chicks at sea in a 60 mi transect offshore from Santa Cruz County July 30. Pigeon Guillemots never occupied more than 10% of their normal nest sites on F.I., and *no* eggs were laid (P.R.B.O.). They also had no nesting activity on Año Nuevo I. (KW). Farther n. in Trinidad Harbor, Humboldt Co., their numbers were greatly reduced, but chicks were being fed as late as Aug. 22, indicating some success (RLV). Cassin's Auklets on F.I., occupied less than 50% of last year's nest sites with only 50% of those hatching eggs for nesting success of 0.1 chick/nest (P.R.B.O.). For the second year Rhinoceros Auklets frequented the

waters around Año Nuevo throughout the summer, suggesting local breeding (KW). A Xantus' Murrelet came aboard a research vessel 2 mi off Cypress Pt., Monterey Co., June 11 (BL) for one of the very few regional June records.

PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS — Band-tailed Pigeons were found at lower elevations than usual in the s. Sierra foothills in June and on the floor of the San Joaquin Valley all summer (RH *et al.*). A White-winged Dove reported from Pt. Reyes June 5 (*vide* SFB) was unseasonal and would provide an unprecedented spring/summer record if substantiated by a description. Barn Owls continue to nest in high numbers at Lawrence Livermore Lab. (AE, KHB) and suffer the usual high highway mortality in the Gray Lodge area (BED). If observers reported numbers of dead Barn Owls they would certainly surpass live reports. A Flammulated Owl at Chowchilla Mt., Mariposa Co., July 31 (RG) was within the species known Sierran range, but provided a new site. The distribution of Pygmy Owl on the c. coast is very localized; breeding has yet to be confirmed in Marin County so one calling territorially on Inverness Ridge June 18 (JE *et al.*) was of interest. A pair of Barred Owls heard at Orleans, Humboldt Co., June 13-25 (D. Solis, *vide* KVR) provided the Region's fourth location since the first record in March 1982 (AB 36:890). Two reports of single Long-eared Owls were from areas of prior occurrence: Kilgore Hills near Yreka July 6 (RE) and Akerson Meadow, Tuolumne Co., July 18 (JW). The report of tent nests of Short-eared Owls in alfalfa fields near Wasco, Kings Co. (*vide* RH) was encouraging; the ability to adapt peripherally to agricultural practices in the s. San Joaquin may be the saving grace of Short-eared and Burrowing owls in the Region, provided levels of toxic chemicals are held at bay.

Records of *Chordeiles* nighthawks beyond the limits of published geographical and temporal ranges (see Grinnell and Miller, 1944) must be accompanied by solid details to qualify for publication.

SWIFTS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Two Black Swifts flying high along the coast at Palomar June 2 were away from areas of known breeding; this species is accidental in spring and previously unrecorded in summer in Marin County. Black-chinned Hummingbird was more widespread and common than usual in Siskiyou County (RE, MR) and around Stockton (DY). A displaying male in San Jose for the third year (V. Stives-Young, *vide* WB) was at the n. edge of the near coastal breeding distribution. One at Bridgeville, Humboldt Co., July 8 (†RAE, BED, JS) was extralimital. A ♂ Rufous Hummingbird at Austin Cr., Sonoma Co., June 8-10 (DB, PC) must have been a late N-bound or very early S-bound transient. The post-breeding exodus of Allen's Hummingbird was noted June 20-22 in the Willow Cr. area (KVR, RAE) and after July 18 farther s. at Palomar. A hatching-year ♂ Costa's Hummingbird on Glacier Point Rd., Yosemite June 16 (†RS) furnished the only record for the Yosemite and one of few for the montane district. One ad. male at a Yreka feeder June 7-26 (†RE, MR) was extralimital. A pair of Calliope Hummingbirds in courtship and copulation one mile n. of Hyampom, Trinity Co., June 16 (RAE) was at the exceptionally low breeding altitude (for this latitude) of 2000 ft. Calliopes were considered much more common than usual in the Sierra at Ackerson Meadow this season (JW).

WOODPECKERS — A Com. "Yellow-shafted" Flicker at the confluence of the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers July 24 (DY) was unprecedented in summer; the purity of such individuals should be assessed (see *Continental Birdlife* 1:4-15). An Acorn Woodpecker at El Rico Ranch, Kings Co., June 25 was 10+ mi from the nearest oak woodland (KH, D. Taylor). The only Lewis' Woodpecker report received was of 2-3 in San Antonio Valley, Santa Clara Co., through the period (AE). Single "Red-naped" Sapsuckers (*S.V. nuchalis*) were in the Warner Mts., near Emerson L. (†PU) and at Fredricksburg, Alpine Co., July 31 (RAE). An apparent backcross between F. hybrid *nuchalis* and *ruher* was 3 mi n. of Lee Vining June 6 (HLC). An influx of juv. Hairy Woodpeckers was noticed at Palomar during mid-late July; such information concerning the movement of our commonest species is woefully lacking. A Nuttall's Woodpecker at Pt. Reyes Station June 30 (JE) was an early coastward post-breeding dispersant.

FLYCATCHERS — Eastern Kingbird reports from outer Pt. Reyes June 14, 16 & 18 (JR, NC, *vide* SFB) may have involved one individual

or as many as three. One wandered to Camp Comptche, Mendocino Co., July 7 (*vide* SFB). Two pairs of E. Kingbirds were 2 mi s. of Gazelle, Siskiyou Co., June 15 until at least July 4 (D. Guthrie, RE, MR); this species has nested in Lassen and Siskiyou Cos. in the past (see *West. Birds* 4:33-44 and AB 31:1186). Cassin's Kingbird was reported at 3 locations within its normal breeding range. Unfortunately we know little or nothing about the nesting success or size of the breeding population of this species within the Region; from all indications very few individuals are involved. Single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers (both short-tailed individuals) were at Moss Beach May 28 (B. Sauppe, *vide* PJM) and Woodside June 7 (J.&F. Allen, *vide* PJM), both San Mateo Co. A **Least Flycatcher** was well-documented (tapes & ph.) as it sang persistently on territory near the Little Shasta Cemetery, Shasta Valley June 12-July 9 (†RE, †MR *et al.*); this exciting development follows last summer's incursion into e. Oregon (AB 36:999) and may mirror a larger pattern. Single vagrants reached F.I., May 29-June 1 & 5.

Extensive field work in the greater Willow Cr. area of Humboldt and adjacent counties provided quite specific information on the preferred habitats of Dusky and Hammond's flycatchers. Hammond's was described as "locally, fairly common breeder on ridges with mature Douglas Fir forest . . . prefers north-facing or wetter sites with at least a few very large firs" while Dusky was "a common breeder in clearcuts throughout Douglas Fir forest zone . . . logging practices have undoubtedly increased the total population of [Dusky] tremendously in n.w. California while greatly reducing that of Hammond's" (KVR *et al.*). Two reports of Gray Flycatchers June 18 came from areas at the w. edge of its Great Basin breeding range: one mi n. of Hobart Mills, Nevada Co. (two, *vide* DAA) and Kennedy P., s.e. Tulare Co. (one—RH). One W. Flycatcher at Carmichael June 7 may have nested locally (TM), although migrants do linger into June; C.V. nesting records are few.

SWALLOWS — Fall movement of Tree Swallows was well underway by July 22 with 700 concentrated at S. Wilbur Flood Area, Kings Co. (RH). At Palomar, a pair still nesting at the end of July was very late. The discovery of a colony of Bank Swallows at the Smith R. estuary June 6 (four—KVR) had increased to an estimated 15+ pairs by July 4 (RAE) and provided one of very few nesting records for n.w. California; previous records are of solitary pairs, none involves a colony (*Condor* 49:38). A concentration of 55 Rough-winged Swallows at the Petaluma sewage ponds July 6 (KFC) was an unusually high number.

CHICKADEES THROUGH WAXWINGS — A Mountain Chickadee at Salyer, Trinity Co., July 29 was at a very low elevation (RAE). The spotty non-coastal breeding distribution of Chestnut-backed Chickadee was further elucidated with nesting evidence at Mill Cr., near Mineral, Tehama Co. (DAA) and Ackerson Meadow, Tuolumne Co. (JW). The exceptional Sierran snowpack caused creeks to crest up to 6 weeks later than usual this spring; HG asks the pertinent question "how did Dippers fare this year?" Whether Winter Wren is expanding its range in the Sierra-Cascade or whether observer coverage is more thorough is moot; regardless, summer records of interest included: Warner Mts., near Emerson L., Modoc Co. (one male in breeding condition—*PU); Gurnsey Cr., Tehama Co., 4500 ft (one adult, three juveniles—DAA); Middle Fork of Antelope Cr., s.s.w. Mineral, Tehama Co., 5900 ft (two juveniles—DAA). Canyon Wrens were out of habitat in Trinity County Douglas Fir forests on Waterman Ridge July 25 and Hennessy Ridge July 28 (*vide* KVR) indicating post-breeding dispersal.

A Mockingbird in Little Shasta Valley June 12 (RE) was out of place; this species does seem to move in June, at least coastally. A singing ♂ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was in Lee Vining June 7; the first and only nesting record in the Mono Basin was in 1980 (AB 34:928). Small numbers of Cedar Waxwings were present in the Willow Cr. area all summer (KVR) and a pair was in Tomales Bay S.P., July 7 (KH); breeding status at each location is unknown.

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — Five "Plumbeous" Solitary Vireos at Chimney Cr., s.e. Tulare Co., June 18 were considered "regular" there (RH, RJB). One Red-eyed Vireo was at F.I. June 8.

S.A.

The discovery of a singing ♂ **Bell's Vireo** in the Salinas Valley June 18-19 (C. Tenney, DR *ph.*) inspired a survey of 6 mi of riparian habitat near Bradley, s. Monterey Co., June 25. Three singing males were found, one of which was joined by a female in nest building. This pair was still present July 10, however no eggs or young were seen (DR, C. Tenney *et al.*). Although this site is within the species' historic range (Grinnell & Miller 1944, *Pacific Coast Avifauna* 27), breeding activity has not been witnessed within the Region for well over 25 years and any summer records are extremely rare (see McCaskie *et al.* 1979, "Birds of Northern California" and AB 36:891). Also found along this route were 11 Yellow Warblers and eight Yellow-breasted Chats (DR *et al.*). All 3 species are victims of riparian degradation within the Region; these populations indicate a relatively healthy community, although only a shadow of former abundance. Six Brown-headed Cowbirds (recognized by Grinnell & Miller as early as 1944 as the culprit responsible for the vireo's decline) were also present, while Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Blue Grosbeak were absent (DR).

A Tennessee Warbler singing at Ackerson Meadow, Tuolumne Co., July 3-5 (D. Harper, †JW) furnished an interior rarity. Singing N. Parulas in the vicinity of Bear Valley, P.R.N.S., June 15-19 (CC, BDP, *vide* SFB) and July 9 (JE) may well have represented the same individual. Another was near Five Brooks, P.R.N.S., late May-June 2 (*vide* SFB). Of four + Magnolia Warblers June 4-11, three were at F.I., June 8, one at Pt. Reyes June 4 (KHb). A singing "Audubon's" Warbler on the coast at Gazos Cr., San Mateo Co., July 15 probably wandered down from the nearby breeding population in the Santa Cruz Mts. (PJM). A ♂ Yellow-throated Warbler in Lincoln P., S.F., June 6 (*vide* SFB, JR) was of sufficient rarity to warrant documentation. An Ovenbird at Pt. Reyes June 5 (DDeS) and a N. Waterthrush at Tilden P., Berkeley June 19 (*vide* SFB) were final spring migrants. Common Yellowthroat did not nest at Espa Lagoon, Humboldt Co., as it has in the past (GJS) nor was it found in extensive marsh searches in Sonoma County (KFC). A singing yellowthroat near Tioga Pass July 6-25 was above 10,000 ft and was thought not to be of any of the California breeding races (DDeS). Yellow-breasted Chat was relatively well reported from breeding locations, as follows: six + Shasta County (TM), 10 + Monterey County (DR), 12 + Sonoma County (DB), three at Gray Lodge (BED), three in Tulare and two in Fresno County (RH *et al.*). Single wanderers were near Auburn in early June (MA) and Lee Vining June 5 (HLC, CS). Four Hooded Warblers were on the immediate coast: Inverness P., June 1-6 (RS *et al.*), Pacific Grove June 3 (DR), F.I., June 8, Pt. Reyes June 14 (JS). One Canada Warbler was at F.I., June 9 and a singing male at Pt. Saint George June 10 (JR) provided a second Del Norte County record (*vide* RAE). The latter was an exceptional summer rarity for the Region away from F.I. Single Am. Redstarts at Pt. Reyes June 4 (KHb) and F.I., June 8 were expected. Interior records were: near Lee Vining June 5-11 (CS, HG), El Rico Ranch, Kings Co., June 14 (RH *et al.*), Eagleville, Modoc Co., June 27 (†SJ).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH TANAGERS — Up to three Bobolinks (two males, one female) were observed singing, displaying and copulating (*vide* JM) near the R.C.A. facility on Pt. Reyes June 5-19 (M. Miller, †HG, JR, m.ob.). The field being frequented was subsequently mowed and the birds apparently abandoned any nesting attempt. Up to seven Bobolinks were found (with males in flight display) on 3 visits to Eagleville June 16-July 22 (†SJ). The only Regional breeding records are from near Eagleville in the early part of the century. Tricolored Blackbirds were found nesting only in s. Kings County (RG) and possibly near Manteca (DY). The Great-tailed Grackles in S.F., continued nesting attempts unsuccessfully; this year 2 nests produced no eggs (HP). Western Tanagers were thought to have bred at L. Anya, Berkeley; there are few breeding records for Alameda County (CS). In the C.V., early fall migrants included a single male in Sacramento in "early July" (*vide* TM) and three males at Creighton Ranch July 21 (RH). A Summer Tanager was in S.F., June 11 (*vide* SFB).

FRINGILLIDS — On the coast were 13 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks June 5-19 (*vide* SFB); inland was a male at L. Almanor June 2-6 (DAA).

A ♀ Indigo Bunting was at F.I., June 8-9 and single males were at Bolinas June 20 (DDeS) and Rio Dell July 3 (PS). Pine Grosbeak was more common than ever in Ackerson Meadow (JW); adults were feeding young at White Wolf Campground July 11 (JW), however a nest has yet to be observed in the Yosemite. Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were along Tioga Rd. (9300-9700 ft) July 7-8 (E&AM) and one was apparently on a nest near Ellery L., Tioga Pass July 9-10 (JR). A ♂ Lawrence's Goldfinch at Big Meadow, Yosemite June 18 (JW) was rare there. Elsewhere were two at Sonoma Mt., July 27, "small numbers" near the San Antonio Jct., Santa Clara Co., July 30-31 (AE) and Stanislaus County (*fide* DY). Red Crossbill was unusually common at Ackerson Meadow (JW). A Grasshopper Sparrow near Springville, Tulare Co., June 16 provided a valley floor rarity (RH, RJB *et al.*). Vesper Sparrows at Troy Meadows June 18 (one pair—RH) and Big Whitney Meadow July 20 (one—HG), both Tulare Co., were at probable breeding locations at the edge of the species' breeding distribution.

CORRIGENDA — In *AB* 36:1012 the juv. California Gull at Crescent City was July 20 not July 2. In *AB* 37:219 the amazingly early Barrow's Goldeneyes were seen at Foster City Sept. 26. In *AB* 37:333 the White-faced Ibis flock in W. Pittsburgh was seen Dec. 25. In *AB* 37:333 the 3500 Aleutian Canada Geese was a combined figure from

near Crescent City, Colusa and Modesto in late November, not from Gray Lodge W.A.

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