

## MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Jules G. Evens, Richard A. Erickson, Kenneth V. Rosenberg

"El Niño" dominated the marine environment and was perhaps the underlying cause of the continuing excessive precipitation on land. The warm ocean temperatures of winter continued through the period with surface readings of 2°C or more above normal. Despite some NW winds late in the season, nearshore waters never cooled significantly. As a result, most food items (squid, rock fish larvae, anchovy, etc.) were in short supply and the effect on locally breeding seabirds was disastrous (AB, BBo, P.R.B.O.). This ongoing phenomenon will be covered in depth in the forthcoming nesting season report.

Gillnetting may exact an additional toll, as Alan Baldridge points out: "the closure of Monterey Bay inside the 60 foot contour had the effect of driving the refugee fishermen elsewhere in central and northern California. News of heavy murre kills (in the hundreds) in the Half Moon Bay area came towards the end of the period. Gillnetters are now setting their nets in the immediate vicinity of the Farallon Islands group, where bird kills can be expected. Who is to monitor them so far offshore? Setting nets in deep water will still trap deep-diving alacids."

Precipitation on the mainland was more than twice the norm at many locations from the coast to the Sierran/Cascade divide. The subsequent high water levels benefited nesting waterfowl in Plumas/Lassen area (DAA), the Sacramento Valley (numbers double last year—BED) and Suisun Marsh (unprecedented numbers—BED) but also flooded shorebirds out of some traditional sites while creating others.

All sightings from Palomarin and s.e. Farallon Is. (hereafter, F.I.) should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (hereafter, P.R.B.O.). Reports from these locations were thoroughly provided by Dave DeSante (Palomarin), Bob Bokelheide (F.I.) and Phil Henderson (F.I.). Records from "Creighton Ranch" refer to Creighton Ranch Preserve (Nature Conservancy) near Corcoran in Tulare County and from "Gray Lodge" to Gray Lodge Wildlife Management Area, at the junction of Colusa, Butte and Sutter Counties. In the following text, place names in *italics* are counties.

The following are arrival and departure dates of species away from areas of breeding; exceptional dates are indicated with *italics*.

**DEPARTURES:** Horned Grebe May 25 Arcata (RAE), Eared Grebe May 27 Pt. Lobos (JE), Manx Shearwater Mar. 5 Monterey Bay (AB), Whistling Swan Apr. 20 Tomales Bay (*fide* JE), Oldsquaw Mar. 31 Patrick's Point S.P. (*fide* LD), Com. Goldeneye Apr. 30 Moss Landing



(LCB, DR), Hooded Merganser Apr. 30 near Arcata (KVR *et al.*), Canvasback May 6 L. Earl (JAR), Bald Eagle Apr. 4 *Humboldt* (GJS), Sharp-shinned Hawk May 3 Gray Lodge (BED), Cooper's Hawk May 6 Palomarin (DDeS), Swainson's Hawk Mar. 18 Merced (FB), Ferruginous Hawk Apr. 30 Altamont Pass, *Alameda* (TG), Rough-legged Hawk Mar. 28 Merced N.W.R. (RJB), Merlin Apr. 18 Ft. Dick (RAE), Peregrine Falcon May 25 Arcata (RAE, KVR) Am. Avocet May 20 Arcata (JS), Lesser Yellowlegs May 22 *Marin* (*fide* KFC), Willet May 16 Merced N.W.R. (RJB), Wandering Tattler May 29 Pt. Montara (JE), Ruddy Turnstone June 8 Arcata (RAE), Red Knot June 8 Arcata (RAE), Black Turnstone May 14 F.I., Sanderling May 28 Moss Landing (PU, KHb), Dunlin June 8 Arcata (RAE), Short-billed Dowitcher June 8 Arcata, Long-billed Dowitcher May 22 L. Talawa (JAR), Com. Snipe May 17 Arcata Bottoms (JS), N. Phalarope June 11 Eureka (RAE), Varied Thrush May 22 F.I., "Audubon's" Warbler May 13 Gray Lodge (BED), Townsend's Warbler May 22 Lafayette (LF), Savannah Sparrow May 3 *Humboldt* (RAE), Lark Sparrow May 7 F.I., Dark-eyed Junco Apr. 13 Merced (RJB), White-crowned Sparrow May 6 Gray Lodge (BED), Golden-crowned Sparrow June 5+ Livermore (AE), White-throated Sparrow May 13 Alviso (*fide* TG), Fox Sparrow May 18 *Santa Clara* (WB).

**ARRIVALS:** Brown Pelican Mar. 17 F.I., Osprey Mar. 4 *Humboldt* Bay (*fide* LD), Black-bellied Plover Mar. 13 Lower Klamath N.W.R. (MR, RE), Whimbrel Mar. 5 Merced N.W.R. (RJB), Red Knot Mar. 26 Arcata Bottoms (JS), Short-billed Dowitcher Apr. 5 Crescent City (RAE), Com. Tern Apr. 9 Tomales Bay (JE), Com. Nighthawk May 29 L. Almanor (HG), Black Swift May 12 Dunsuir (CSt) Vaux's Swift Mar. 28 *Marin* (KFC), Black-chinned Hummingbird Mar. 20 *San Joaquin* (*fide* DY), Rufous Hummingbird Mar. 11 Palomarin (P.R.B.O.) and King City (RLR), Allen's Hummingbird Jan. 11 Santa Cruz, Costa's Hummingbird Mar. 6-18 (N.Kerr, DY), Calliope Hummingbird Apr. 5, F.I., W. Kingbird Mar. 24 Fremont (TG), Ash-throated Flycatcher Apr. 9 Merced (RJB, TG), Hammond's Flycatcher Apr. 15 F.I., Dusky Flycatcher Apr. 18 Merced (RJB), Gray Flycatcher Apr. 15 Merced (†RJB), W. Flycatcher Mar. 28 Palomarin, W. Wood Pewee Apr. 16 Sutter Buttes (WA) and Berkeley (SFB), Olive-sided Flycatcher Apr. 9 Sonoma (DB, PC), Bank Swallow Apr. 15 S.F. (PU), Barn Swallow Mar. 4 Stockton (DY), Cliff Swallow Feb. 13 Stockton (DY), Purple Martin Mar. 26 Sacramento (B & HK), Swainson's Thrush Apr. 28 Palomarin, Solitary Vireo Apr. 9 (late) Menlo Park (WB) and Lafayette (LF), Warbling Vireo Mar. 25 Olema Marsh (JE, DS), Orange-crowned Warbler Mar. 8 Pt. Reyes (*fide* DS), Yellow Warbler Apr. 1 S.F. Zoo (WB), Black-throated Gray Warbler Apr. 2 Carmichael (TM), Hermit Warbler Apr. 15 Creighton Ranch, *Tulare* (KH, RH), MacGillivray's Warbler Apr. 9 Trinity (JWB), Wilson's Warbler Mar. 19 Sonoma (LCB), Hooded Oriole Mar. 23 Stockton (DY), N. Oriole Mar. 13 S.F. (HP), W. Tanager Apr. 14 Lafayette (LF), Black-headed Grosbeak Apr. 8 Inverness (RS), Blue Grosbeak Apr. 20 *San Joaquin* (DY), Grasshopper Sparrow Apr. 18 *Stanislaus* (AE).

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — Lake Almanor has produced impressive spring concentrations of Com. Loons in the past but 60 there Apr. 20 (DAA) was our greatest inland count ever. A late imm. Yellow-billed Loon was at Pt. Reyes Apr. 13 (†CH).

The only Laysan Albatross reported was off Trinidad May 30 (G. Friedrichsen). Small numbers of N. Fulmars were reported with five still at the Cordelle Banks, *Marin*, May 21 (AB, BB) and one sick bird at F.I., May 22. Pink-footed and Sooty shearwaters were reported in lower-than-normal numbers (m.ob.), probably related to warm waters, and Flesh-footed Shearwater was unreported. One Short-tailed Shearwater was on Monterey Bay Mar. 5 and another there May 14 established the Region's latest record (both AB). A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel on Bodega Harbor May 21 (AB) was a rare sight close to shore. Ashy Storm-Petrels were found at sea on Monterey Bay (one May 14) and at the Cordelle Banks: five May 2 (both AB, DE).

Two hundred White Pelicans were late n.w. of Los Banos May 20 (BED). Brown Pelicans apparently responded to "El Niño" with several reports n. to the Oregon border by mid-April, 87 at F.I., by May 7, and 700 at Moss Landing in late May (*fide* AB).

Palo Alto's wintering Least Bittern was last seen Mar. 4 (*fide* SFB).

Out of place were Snowy Egrets at the Smith R. estuary Mar. 12 (SS) and at L. Almanor May 25-28 (HG). Three ad. Little Blue Herons (two suspected of nesting) at the Alviso heronry on S.F. Bay N.W.R., May 13 (RWL) was more than ever previously reported together in the Region. One at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Apr. 23-25 (RE, MR, SS) followed closely last spring's unprecedented record at nearby Tule Lake N.W.R.

Contrary to an earlier statement (AB 37:219), this species is not resident anywhere in this Region; occurrence outside the period April-October is considered casual. Cattle Egret nesting on s. San Francisco Bay seems inevitable; several reports from the area include at least seven high-plumaged birds in Fremont throughout April and May (TG, JM *et al.*) and one leaving the Alviso heronry May 13 (RWL). The high count from the San Joaquin Valley was 250 s. of Stevenson Mar. 7 (*fide* SFB). White-faced Ibises were noted as follows: ten nesting in a heronry at Mendota Wildlife Area Apr. 7 (RHG); one at Delevan N.W.R., Apr. 26 (MR-H); one at the Yolo Bypass May 12—the first Sacramento area record in over 9 years (B & HK); two at Merced N.W.R., May 21 (RJB); one at Sacramento N.W.R., May 22 and another near there at Gray Hills Hunting Club May 26 (both MR-H).

**WATERFOWL** — Three Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Mendota Pool, Fresno, May 7 (KH) were the only ones seen. Single Ross' Geese out of their usual flyway were at Stafford L., Marin, mid March—May 11 (*fide* SFB), L. Earl, Del Norte, Apr. 8-21 (FB, RAE, JAR), and L. Almanor Apr. 11-12 (DAA). Thirty Snow Geese in the Arcata Bottoms Mar. 7 (*fide* LD) were the only ones reported from the coast. Canada Geese used a rain pond in Pleasanton for nesting; two pairs with five goslings were there May 1 (AE). It is unknown whether these birds were related to the established East Bay population (see Lidicker and McCollum, 1979. *West Birds* 10: 159-162) or were truly wild birds, perhaps crippled. Two birds at Delevan N.W.R., May 19 (MR-H) were late.

A Eur. Green-winged Teal in the Loleta Bottoms Apr. 12 (*fide* LD) was the only one reported. A brood of N. Shovelers s. of Petaluma May 22 (*fide* KFC) was the first known from Sonoma. Single wintering Tufted Ducks were last seen at Mill Valley Mar. 13 (*fide* SFB) and Foster City Mar. 21 (PJM); a female at Arcata Apr. 29-May 4 (JS, RAE, KVR *et al.*) was a spring migrant. O'Neill Forebay, Merced hosted 38 Greater Scaup Apr. 9 (TG), a high inland count. Both of the winter's most cooperative eiders stayed very late: the ♀ **King Eider** at Emeryville to May 7 (AE) and the ♀ **Steller's Eider** at Crescent City to May 30 (RAE). Very rare inside S.F. Bay were single ♂ Harlequin Ducks at Pt. San Pablo Feb. 26 (BR) and at Fort Pt., San Francisco ca. Mar. 16-23 (*fide* SFB). An imm. Oldsquaw at Moss Landing to the end of May (*fide* AB) was unusual, especially following the past winter's poor showing. A large concentration of 54 Barrow's Goldeneyes at Castro Pt., Richmond Mar. 24 may have been staging to migrate as none were found at the same locations 2 days later (*fide* SFB).

**RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES** — An Osprey at Creighton Ranch Apr. 13-May 22 (KH) was unexpected on the San Joaquin Valley floor. In contrast to the past winter's mixed reports, White-tailed Kites were unanimously considered to be in lower than normal numbers: coastal Del Norte County (FB, RAE); Sacramento Valley refuges (BED, MR-H); San Francisco and Monterey Bay areas (AB, HLC, DDeS). Unusual low elevation Goshawks were found at Carmichael Apr. 2 (TM) and near Yreka May 4 (RE, MR). At the e. limit of their range along the n.w. California coast, Red-shouldered Hawks are resident along the Trinity R., at Hoopa, Willow Cr., Salyer and possibly Hawkins Bar, and up the Klamath R., possibly to Somes Bar (KVR, JKWB, RAE). After their impressive showing last season, wintering Broad-winged Hawks were last seen at Inverness Mar. 19 (LCB), Belmont Mar. 25 (PJM), n. of Año Nuevo St. Reserve Mar. 30 (RAE), and s. of Half Moon Bay Apr. 12 (TG). The only previous April regional record was of an obvious spring migrant. A "Harlan's" Hawk was near Susanville Mar. 12 (HLC). An imm. Golden Eagle at Palomarin Mar. 11 and a sub-adult there Mar. 25 furnished the first spring records for this long daily-monitored site. In Monterey, s.e. of King City, Prairie Falcons were virtually absent where one or two pairs formerly resided, apparently the result of an effective ground squirrel poisoning campaign last year (RLR).

Ruffed Grouse were reported from 2 sites each in Del Norte, Hum-

boldt, and Trinity, where expected (m.ob.). Drumming birds were cooperative on French Hill Rd., and Howland Hill in Del Norte and Swede Creek in Trinity.

Apparent migrant Sandhill Cranes were noted over Sacramento Feb. 17-Mar. 8 (900+—B & HK), Serene Lakes, Placer, Mar. 6 (40+—*fide* TB), and Auburn Mar. 8 (six—MA), but 8000 were still at Merced N.W.R., Mar. 14 (RJB).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Wintering Am. Golden Plovers (*P.d. fulva*) were last seen at Lawson's Landing, Marin, Apr. 9 (five—JE) and Pt. Reyes Apr. 16 (seven—*fide* DDeS) and May 10 (two—RS). Two birds at the Lodi sewage ponds Mar. 3-Apr. 8 (DY) also apparently wintered. One was in the Arcata Bottoms Apr. 30 (*fide* LD) and rare on S.F. Bay were singles at Hayward Mar. 26 and Alameda Apr. 24 (both *fide* SFB). Two Snowy Plovers at Pt. Pinole Reg. P., Contra Costa, Mar. 28 (RAE), one in the Sutter portion of Gray Lodge Apr. 23 and another in the Butte portion Apr. 25-27 (both BED) were in areas with very few previous records. A high count of 72 Mountain Plovers was made on the late dates of Mar. 26-27 near Davis (*fide* SFB).

Two Black Oystercatchers were at Richmond Feb. 24-Mar. 28 (BR, RAE *et al.*). There were only 2 previous e. S.F. Bay area records, both within the last year. There are very few records of Black-necked Stilt from the coast n. of S.F. Bay; two were at the Bolinas sewage ponds May 21 (*fide* DDeS).

In contrast to the last 2 springs, only five Solitary Sandpipers were found along the n. coast Apr. 17-May 1 (JS, RAE, GSL, GJS *et al.*). Inland, two were at Gray Lodge Apr. 26-27 (BED) and one was at Yreka May 17 (MR). The shorebird of the season was a ♂ **Hudsonian Godwit** at Arcata May 17-20 (RLeV, LD, †RAE, ph. KVR *et al.*). The only



Hudsonian Godwit, Arcata, CA, May 18, 1983. Photos/K. Rosenberg.

unquestionable previous Regional sighting was at the same location almost a decade ago (see AB 29:908 and 32:252). A Red Knot at the Yolo Bypass May 7 (†*fide* B & HK) was a rare inland migrant. A Sanderling apparently wintering at the Hollister sewage ponds Feb. 23-May 1 (KVV, KC) was also unusual inland. The Region's first inland winter record was reported in the previous seasonal report.

Semipalmated Sandpipers continue to be detected in increasing numbers. This spring five were found: very early in the Arcata Bottoms Apr. 19 (†JS), Oakland Int'l Airport May 12 (SFB), Hayward Reg. Shoreline May 21-22 (BR), and Corcoran sewage ponds May 30 (†KH). Similarly, Baird's Sandpipers were well reported: up to six in the Arcata Bottoms Apr. 15-18 (GSL, JS *et al.*), two at the Smith R. estuary Apr. 17 (JS, RAE), another there Apr. 30 (GSL), one at the Lodi sewage ponds Apr. 20 (DY), and two at Hayward Reg. Shoreline May 4 (BR). Single Pectoral Sandpipers were at the Arcata Bottoms Apr. 17-21 (JS, RAE *et al.*), L. Earl, Del Norte, May 14 (GSL, JAR), and Hayward Reg. Shoreline May 15-22 (BR). Since spring records of these 3 species were almost unheard of only 10 years ago, we urge that observers in this Region continue to properly document all such reports.

A Ruff at Merced N.W.R., Apr. 25 (†RJB) may well have wintered locally but a striking alternate-plumaged male at Pt. Reyes May 18 (*fide* SFB) was clearly a spring migrant, only the second such Regional record. Short-billed Dowitchers were noted inland at the Lodi sewage ponds Apr. 8 (four—DY), Creighton Ranch Apr. 14 (two) and Apr. 23 (one—RH), and s. of Dinuba Apr. 23 (one—RHG). Red and N. phalar-

opes made a very poor showing with no reports received of Reds on land or of Northern's for the entire month of April (m.ob.).

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — Parasitic Jaegers were seen from shore at Pigeon Pt., May 4 (PJM) and Pt. Lobos St. Reserve May 27 (JE). As expected, Pomarines far outnumbered Parasitics offshore with only a single Parasitic reported: Monterey Bay May 14 (AB, DE). There were no reports of Long-tailed Jaeger or S. Polar Skua.

An ad. **Laughing Gull** at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Apr. 24 (ph. SS) was perhaps the season's most unexpected find; all previous Regional records are coastal. Three ad. Franklin's Gulls was a typical showing: Mad R. estuary Apr. 23 (fide LD); Pajaro Dunes, *Santa Cruz*, May 24 (J & RW); Pinos, *Monterey*, May 26 (†JE). The Stockton sewage ponds continue to attract attention as a haven for small dark-headed gulls. The ad. Black-headed Gull was last seen there Apr. 10 (fide SFB). As last spring, the wintering ad. Little Gull was joined by a second adult Apr. 22-May 4; however, three Little Gulls there Apr. 26-30, established a Regional and probably w. North American record count. The last single bird was seen May 9 (all DY *et al.*).

A Glaucous-winged Gull was inland at the Stockton sewage ponds Mar. 9 (DY) and single Glaucous Gulls at Princeton harbor Mar. 1 (fide PJM) and Bodega Bay Apr. 14 (CH) were the only ones seen. An injured Black-legged Kittiwake at Five Brooks pond, *Marin*, Mar. 7 (fide JE) and another injured bird at Palo Alto Baylands Apr. 3 (fide WB) were unusual slightly inland. Sabine's Gulls were reported in normal numbers offshore May 14-June 4 (m.ob.) and 30 were noted passing *Santa Cruz* May 15 (BLaB).

It is unclear whether the low number of Com. Tern reports truly represents a poor migration. Arctic Terns were seen offshore on Monterey Bay May 14 (18—AB, DE), near F.I., May 21 (3—RWL), and at Cordelle Banks May 21 (3—AB). From shore, ten passed *Santa Cruz* May 15 (BLaB). Several Least Terns on S.F. Bay at W. Pittsburgh in early May were suspected of nesting nearby (fide SFB); there is no confirmed nesting n. of the Alameda area. Two Black Terns at Hayward May 17 (BR) provided the only coastal report.

A pair of Black Skimmers frequented the Alameda area May 2-18 (SFB, AE, JM *et al.*), at least the male of which was banded. A pair of banded skimmers was here last year and we predict skimmers may soon breed in suitable habitat on s. S.F. Bay. Also in an area of suitable breeding habitat was a skimmer at Moss Landing May 13-14 (KVV, KC, ph. PHo), where sightings are increasing.

The warm waters of "El Niño" were undoubtedly responsible for the frequent sightings of Xantus' Murrelets with one on Monterey Bay May 14 (AB), four at the Cordelle Banks May 21 (AB, DE), one near F.I., May 21 (JW) and two there May 29 (AB). Near shore one was at Bodega Harbor May 21 (AB, DE) and two were at Pt. Lobos, *Monterey*, May 27 (†JE).

**PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS** — Band-tailed Pigeons were generally scarce except at Palomar where "excellent numbers" were present after mid-April. In Carmichael, *Sacramento*, small flocks were seen overhead through May 22 (TM). At least 7 active Barn Owl nests at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory (KHb, AE) indicated a continuing strong population in the Livermore Valley (see AB 36:1012), however none was reported elsewhere. Despite much field work by observers (RAE *et al.*) in the n.w. counties in May, only one Flammulated Owl was found near Salyer (M.R. Stoll). A Pygmy Owl at Cedar Pass, Warner Mts., Mar. 20 (KHb, PU) and a Spotted Owl at Arroyo Seco, *Monterey*, Apr. 9 (JW) were at previously unpublished locations. There are now at least 3 separate sites where at least three **Barred Owls** have been found: Redwood N.P., *Del Norte*, Mar. 3-Apr. 20 (†RAE *et al.*); Salyer, *Trinity*, March-May + (KVR, JWB, †RAE *et al.*); Willow Cr., *Humboldt*, Apr. 30-May 2 (RLeV, †RAE, KVR). The Willow Cr. bird was discovered for the first time this season. Long-eared Owl was found breeding in early May at Shasta Valley, *Siskiyou* (RE, MR) and Estero Trail, P.R.N. S. (C. Cutler, fide JE). Only five Short-eared Owls were reported: three at Lower Klamath N.W.R. (CSt); one at Grizzly Is., *Solano* (BED), one at Creighton Ranch (RH). This species seems to be in serious trouble within the Region. A Saw-whet Owl was heard in Coulter Pine at 3000 ft elevation on Fremont Peak, *San Benito*, May 1 (KVV, KC), apparently a new location for this "vagarious" species. A Poor-will at Creighton Ranch May 12 (RH) was a rarity on the s. San

Joaquin Valley floor from where there are only 4 previous records (fide KH, RH). A *Chordeiles sp.* near Ash Mt., *Sequoia N.P.*, Apr. 19 (GSM) must have been a vagrant Lesser Nighthawk; the earliest record of a Common in the Region is May 23. Other vagrant Lessers were on the coast at Pt. Reyes May 3 (fide SFB) and at F.I., May 24.

**SWIFTS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — Ten Vaux's Swift at Stone Lagoon, *Humboldt*, Mar. 12 apparently wintered (GJS). Passage of Vaux's Swift spanned Apr. 16-May 8 with a peak of 1000+ moving N over Willow Cr., May 8 (KVR). An early one at Novato Mar. 28 (KFC) and three at F.I., May 21 were the only reports outside the above dates away from breeding areas. Migratory flocks of Vaux's Swifts took refuge from inclement weather in chimneys in coastal *Santa Mateo* (PJM). Four + ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbirds near Greenhorn P., *Yreka* May 11+ was an unusual number there (RE, MR). Rufous Hummingbird migration was strong at Corral Hollow, *San Joaquin* (DY) and coastally with 24 at Palomar Mar. 11-Apr. 25 and nine at F.I., Apr. 17 a "remarkable high". Four + ♂ Anna's and one + ♂ Allen's hummingbirds displaying at 5200 ft on Ironside Mt., *Trinity*, June 2 (RAE) was at high elevation. One Anna's singing in Susan R. Canyon, *Lassen*, May 15 was beyond the boundaries of its "Pacific drainage" distribution and is further evidence of breeding there (see AB 36:1013). Six coastal Costa's Hummingbirds Apr. 17-May 23 was a remarkable showing: three females at F.I., one male at Palomar Apr. 29, one female or imm. male at Bodega Harbor May 8 (KFC, JG) and an imm. male at McKinleyville May 7-8 (LD, RLeV *et al.*). Calliope Hummingbird migration spanned Apr. 8-May 10 in the interior with a peak of 20 at Corral Hollow, *San Joaquin*, May 1 (DY). Five unusual locations (4 coastal) for Calliopes (all males) included singles at F.I., Apr. 5; Berkeley Apr. 17 (KHb); one found dead in Sebastopol, *Sonoma*, Apr. 26 (CH, \*Bodega Marine Lab); Bodega Bay Apr. 27 & May 6 (PH, NTC, L. Rodgers); Ammon Cr., s. of Salyer *Humboldt*, Apr. 29 (KVR).

**WOODPECKERS** — Up to 15 Lewis' Woodpeckers in San Antonio Valley, *Santa Clara*, through mid-May (AE, GB, WB *et al.*) was the highest number reported. Three "Red-naped" Sapsuckers were found, all in the n.w. counties: Forks of Salmon Apr. 3 (MR) and Weed Apr. 29 (MR), both *Siskiyou*, and a male at Ironside Mt. (elev. 3900 ft) *Trinity*, May 26 (R.J. Reynolds, KVR). The latter record was intriguing as it involved an apparently territorial bird, however it could not be relocated after this initial sighting. Nuttall's Woodpecker was found coastward of breeding areas as late as Apr. 3 near Olema, *Marin* (DS).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — An E. Kingbird at Klamath May 30 (RAE) was the first and only report; most records are in summer. Movement of W. Kingbirds was impressive at both interior and coastal locations: peak numbers and dates include 15+ near Coulterville, *Mariposa*, Apr. 10 (HLC), ten at Alcatraz Is., S.F. Bay Apr. 15 (HP, I. Timossi), and ten at Klamath Apr. 26 (RAE). Cassin's Kingbird was again found nesting in Corral Hollow May 20 (DY, AE) and one migrating N overhead at L. Merced, S.F., Apr. 15 (PU) was most unusual. Spring sightings of E. Phoebe have been increasing in recent years; one was at Salmon Cr., in Bodega, *Sonoma*, May 8-31 (†NTC, †KFC, JG *et al.*). A Say's Phoebe in Corral Hollow May 24 suggested nesting there (DY); there are no breeding records for *San Joaquin*. Say's Phoebe is a rare migrant in the n.w. counties; six were reported Mar. 14-late April with three in coastal *Del Norte*, and one each in *Humboldt*, *Trinity* and *Siskiyou* (m.ob.). *Empidonax* "seemed somewhat scarce" during migration in the *Sacramento Valley* (TM), however coastal passage was exceptional (P.R.B.O., DDeS) as characterized by 6 species May 19 on outer Pt. Reyes (DDeS). Reports of Willow Flycatchers earlier than May are highly suspect; in the future extratemporal reports should be accompanied by supporting details. The migratory passage of Willows was concentrated in the last 2 weeks of May, as usual. Arrival at Ackerson Meadows, *Tuolumne*, was pinpointed to May 16 (none present May 14) with two individuals responding to tapes (NN). A Least Flycatcher at Pt. Reyes May 19-20 (†DDeS, †JE) was one of few mainland spring records. Hammond's Flycatcher migration spanned Apr. 18-May 20 in the lowlands. Seemingly territorial Hammond's at Lost Claim Campground, Stanislaus N.F., *Tuolumne* (elev. 3000 ft) in May and early June suggested breeding at that low elevation (MM). Dusky Flycatcher lowland migrants were found Apr. 18-May 12 in the

C.V. (RJB, TM, DY), Apr. 20-May 12 in the n.w. counties (KVR, RAE, RLeV) and May 3-28 on the coast of F.I. and Pt. Reyes (DDeS, JE, RS). One singing at Chew's Ridge, *Monterey*, May 28 (PU, KHB, \*San Diego Mus. Nat. Hist.) was a location where breeding has been suspected for years but has yet to be confirmed. "Unprecedented" numbers of Gray Flycatchers were recorded at lowland locations Apr. 15-May 21 with ten at F.I., 16+ in the n.w. counties (13+ in Humboldt—RAE, KVR, JS, CAT), four in the C.V. (RJB, BED, TM, DY) and five on the c. coast (m.ob.). First county records were apparently provided in *Trinity* Apr. 28-May 5 (JWB *et al.*), *San Joaquin* Apr. 23 (DY, R. Acker) and *Merced* Apr. 15 (†RJB). Passage of W. Flycatcher was unimpressive, although reporting was light. An unprecedented wave of W. Wood Pewees littered F.I., May 22-29 with a peak of 80 present May 28, of which 59 were banded.

At Palomar, higher numbers of Violet-green Swallows than any other year corresponded with a marked scarcity of Tree Swallows. A Barn Swallow at Ackerson Meadows in Yosemite Mar. 31 (JW) was slightly earlier than the previous early date for the Sierra.

**CORVIDS THROUGH THRASHERS** — A Scrub Jay at L. Almanor May 12 (DAA) was within the time period of spring wandering from breeding areas. Piñon Jay was confirmed breeding at Markleville, *Alpine*, May 27 (LCB). Twenty + Clark's Nutcrackers at L. Almanor Apr. 20 provided the only spring records from that area (DAA). A Black-capped Chickadee at Salyer Apr. 16 (JWB) furnished one of few *Trinity* records. Chestnut-backed Chickadees nesting at Ackerson Meadow May 30 (JW) furnished the second confirmed breeding record for Yosemite N.P. (first 1982; *AB* 36:891). Perhaps the harsh weather has affected Bushtits. At Palomar, good recovery was evident in March and April, however there were no successful nests and the species was scarce by the end of the period; in *Placer* it was rare all season (MA). Winter Wren was found both above and below its known altitudinal range in the Yosemite Sierra (MM). Single Bewick's Wrens n.e. of Litchfield, *Lassen*, Mar. 12 and n. of Honey L., Mar. 13 (HLC) provided early "arrival" dates for the Great Basin district of the Region, however, because this population is in part resident, in part migratory, influx is difficult to assess. A Brown Thrasher at Ranch del Oso Mar. 25 (†GJS, R. Sermon) provided the second *Santa Cruz* record of a species that seems capable of appearing anywhere at anytime, although rarely.

**THRUSHES THROUGH STARLINGS** — With the exception of ten in Willow Cr. Canyon, *Sonoma*, Mar. 19 (LCB), Varied Thrush was rare away from breeding areas. One ♀ Mountain Bluebird at Bodega Head Apr. 13 (CH) and one near Orick, *Humboldt*, Apr. 26 (GJS) fell within the phenology of spring coastal vagrant records. Departure dates for wintering Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were well recorded: Half Moon Bay Mar. 17 (PJM), and three that wintered at Palomar were last seen Mar. 31, Apr. 14, and May 3, respectively. One at Killgore Hills near Yreka Apr. 12 (RE) was early for the n.w. counties and one at Smith R., Apr. 30 (GSL) was a n. coast rarity (3rd *Del Norte* record). Ruby-crowned Kinglets were found very late in the lowlands. Last dates from representative locations include: one at Carmichael May 22 (TM), two on outer Pt. Reyes May 28 (JM), two on Mt. Tamalpais, *Marin*, June 4 (DSI). On F.I., 3 migrant pulses were noted: Apr. 6 (15), Apr. 16 (225), May 3 (25). Cedar Waxwings lingered through spring in the C.V. (DY, RJB, TM) and in the Willow Cr. area (KVR); at Bolinas, after an earlier absence, there was a strong surge of waxwings in late May (DDeS). Single Loggerhead Shrikes at Klamath Mar. 17 (RAE) and F.I., Apr. 19 were extremely rare at each location. Even more unusual at F.I., the substantial Starling population had vacated the island by Apr. 30!

**VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS** — A **White-eyed Vireo** at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse May 19 (†DHE, JH, †DDeS) was a true rarity providing the Region with the fourth record, all in spring. Hutton's Vireo, unknown to the Sutter Buttes 5 years ago, continue to be found there rarely with three singing Apr. 16-17 (WA, BED). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** at Elk Head, n. of Trinidad, *Humboldt*, Apr. 28 (GSL, GJS *et al.*) furnished the fifth Regional record and a first for the n.w. counties. Solitary Vireo migration spanned Apr. 9-May 21. A single Red-eyed Vireo was at F.I., May 22. Passage of Warbling Vireo through the C.V. was unusually heavy (BED) and spanned Apr. 16-May 18 (WA, RJB, BED, DY) with peaks Apr. 25 in *Merced* and May 11 at Gray Lodge. One singing at Oak Grove P., *San Joaquin*, June 3 was quite late (DY).

Wintering Black-and-white Warblers were last seen near Ft. Dick Mar. 6 (JAR) and at Half Moon Bay Mar. 17 (PJM); one at Golden Gate P., Mar. 12 (PU, KHB) may have wintered locally. Five coastal migrants were found Apr. 19-May 23. Three Tennessee Warblers at F.I., Apr. 22 were very early; ten at F.I., May 23-29 and one at Dillon Beach, *Marin*, May 22 (JE) were more typical. Of two Tennessees at Half Moon Bay Mar. 17, at least one wintered (PJM). Orange-crowned Warbler migration pulsed Apr. 17, May 4 & 13 at F.I. Six Nashville Warblers at Half Moon Bay Mar. 10 was an exceptional winter concentration (PJM); numbers were fairly high everywhere in the lowlands with 30 at Willow Cr., Apr. 25 (KVR) the highest number reported. Interestingly, only one Nashville was at F.I., and that at the late date of May 23. Three N. Parulas were reported on the coast: S.F., May 3 (*fide* SFB); Five Brooks, *Marin*, May 25 (*fide* SFB); F.I., May 28. Five Magnolia Warblers on the immediate coast May 23-30 included a *Del Norte* first at Pt. Saint George May 30 (RAE). The only Cape May Warbler was a male at F.I., May 26. "Last" and late dates for "Myrtle" Warblers include one female at Mines Rd., *Alameda*, May 10 (DDeS), one female at Klamath May 15 (RAE), and one male at Pt. Reyes June 2 (JE). At Hennessy Peak, *Trinity*, the first "Audubon's" Warbler singing on territory was Apr. 14 (KVR). Little is known about arrival dates of montane species to breeding grounds but information is slowly accruing. One Black-throated Gray Warbler near W. Sacramento, *Yolo*, Mar. 26 probably wintered locally (TM); primary movement through the C.V. occurred Apr. 9-May 8 (WA, RJB, BED). Black-throated Grays were first singing on territory in *Trinity*, Apr. 7 (KVR), at Ackerson Meadow, Yosemite Apr. 10 (JW) Sequoia N.P., Apr. 10 (GSM), and *Santa Clara* Apr. 12 (WB). Townsend's Warbler moved through the C.V., Apr. 17-May 17. Four coastal Black-throated Green Warblers was a high spring count: three were at F.I., May 22-24 and a male was at Pt. Reyes May 28-29 (JM, AE, GB, m.ob.). Extremely rare in spring, especially on the mainland, was a Blackburnian Warbler at Santa Cruz May 21 (B. Palfalvy, *fide* SFB). A singing Yellow-throated Warbler (*D.d. albilora*) was at Pacific Grove May 27 (W. Russell, DR); there have been 6 mainland spring records since the first in 1979. Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted and Blackpoll warblers were absent. Single Palm Warblers were at Crescent City Apr. 21 (a winterer—RAE) and F.I., May 26. Single Ovenbirds were at Pt. Reyes May 20 (JE) and Lanphere Dunes, *Humboldt*, May 25-27 (RAE); five were at F.I., May 23-28. A **Kentucky Warbler** was at F.I., May 23, where most records originate. Six Yellow-breasted Chats were singing at Gray Lodge after arriving Apr. 25 with three remaining through the period; this species was not known to breed there prior to 1982 (BED). Coastal migrant chats were at Bodega Bay Apr. 27 (PH, NTC) and Santa Cruz May 2 (BLaB). A ♀ Hooded Warbler was at F.I., May 23. A first-year ♂ Canada Warbler at Pt. Reyes May 28 (JM) furnished apparently the first mainland spring record; the other five spring records are from F.I. Four coastal Am. Redstarts were found May 21-27.

**ICTERIDS THROUGH TANAGERS** — One Bobolink visited F.I., May 24. Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Moss Landing Apr. 30 (15—LCB) and Ft. Dick May 3 (one male—JAR) were rare coastal vagrants. Two-four Tricolored Blackbirds nesting at the n. end of Honey L., May 28 (TM) apparently established a new breeding station. Five W. Tanagers in March must have wintered locally.

**FRINGILLIDS** — Eight Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were concentrated near the c. coast May 16-28. Blue Grosbeaks at unusual locations include an imm. male at Bucks Meadow (elev. 2900 ft), *Toulumne*, May 15 (MM *et al.*) and a male at F.I., May 19 Six Indigo Buntings (including three at F.I.) were on the c. coast Apr. 23-May 28. Five ♂ Lazuli Buntings had returned to Sequoia N.P., by Apr. 26 (GSM); coastal migrant peaks included eight at Neary's Lagoon, *Santa Cruz*, May 1-2 (BLaB *et al.*) and eight at Klamath May 8 (RAE). A ♂ Dickcissel at Trinidad May 17 (GJS, GSL, JS, RAE *et al.*) provided the third n. coast record (all *Humboldt*), first for spring. The only Pine Grosbeaks were 16 at the Cedars, *Placer* (6000 ft elev.) Apr. 16 (TB *et al.*). The dearth of Pine Siskins continues (LF, P.R.B.O.). An Am. Goldfinch in Sequoia N.P., at 4000 ft, Mar. 9 (GSM) provided apparently a first record for Sequoia/Kings Canyon N.P. (*fide* GSM). Three Green-tailed Towhees in the San Joaquin Valley was unusual; Creighton Ranch May 3 (KH), RuAnn Dairy May 3 (*fide* KH), both *Tulare*, and Fresno May 6-10 (*fide* KH). Less unusual was one near Auburn May 6-10 (MA). Six singing



Grasshopper Sparrows near Tres Piños, *San Benito*. May 28 (KVV, KC) were at a new location. Migrant Vesper Sparrows were noted on the n. coast Apr. 7-23 (FB, GJS, *et al.*). Rufous-crowned Sparrow was found breeding at Palomarin for the first time since 1979. Several pairs of Rufous-crowned and Sage sparrows at Corral Hollow (DY) were previously unknown as breeding species in *San Joaquin* County (*fide* DY). A singing Clay-colored Sparrow at Pt. Reyes May 10 & 12 (RS) provided the second mainland spring record (first 1982) for the Region. Brewer's Sparrows were in the C.V. at Creighton Ranch Apr. 26 & 28 (RH) and three at L. Yosemite May 12 (†RJB). One at Trinidad, *Humboldt*, May 17 (JS, GSL *et al.*) was a n. coast rarity. After a strong showing this winter, Harris' Sparrow were found in good numbers with three in the C.V. (BED, AE, DY) and three in the n.w. counties (RAE, GSL *et al.*); the last date in both areas was May 2. White-crowned Sparrow migration spanned Apr. 6-May 16 at F.I., with pulses Apr. 18 (43) and May 3 (15). The winter's dearth of Fox Sparrows continued through spring (m.ob.). Lincoln's Sparrow was recorded at low breeding (?) elevations in the Sierra: Ackerson Meadow, May 15 (JW) and Yosemite Valley May 29 (VJ). The last (and only) Swamp Sparrow report was from Palo Alto Baylands Mar. 17 (F. Damminger, *fide* WB). Two Lapland Longspurs that wintered in *San Mateo*, at Redwood Shores were last seen Mar. 2 (PJM). Fifteen Laplands at L. Talawa Apr. 2 (KHb, PU) and one near Orick May 7 (GJS) were the last ones reported.

**CORRIGENDA** — In *AB* 36:327, the sentence on Barn Swallow should read “. . . and seven were inland at Los Banos Dec. 29 (*fide* KFC).” Also in that report “one Lapland Longspur was near Davis, Yolo Co. (not Solano Co.) Jan 23 (RAE). In *AB* 37:221 the Black-and-

white Warbler at San Jose should be credited to Peter LaTourette, not WBa.

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