
MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Kurt F. Campbell and Ron LeValley

Dry and warmer-than-average conditions continued from spring through the summer period. Inland freshwater habitat was in shorter supply than in the last two rather wet years, and wetland species generally nested in lower numbers and at fewer localities. Sea surface temperatures remained cooler than the 20-year average as the normal upwelling occurred but followed the expected seasonal warming trend. June ocean temperatures were 12-13°C while July temperatures were 13-14°. A large fallout of vagrants and late migrants occurred June 12-15 (with most of the very rare landbirds throughout the Region occurring in or near this period); lesser fallouts were July 6 and 16-20. Many birds this season seemed to linger in migration and/or start early; note the temporally unprecedented appearances of a number of species on Southeast Farallon Island (Hermit Thrush, House Wren, Hutton's Vireo etc.), although for many landbird species this is also a normal time for seasonal movement (see Western Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Western Tanager etc.).

All sightings from Palomarin and Southeast Farallon Island should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory. Reports from these locations were provided by Geoff Geupel (Palomarin) and Jay Penniman (F.I.). A dagger (†) indicates that documentation is on file with the Regional Editors or with the California Bird Records Committee.



ABBREVIATIONS — C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.V. = Central Valley; F.I. = S.E. Farallon Island; P.R.B.O. = Point Reyes Bird Observatory; S.F. = San Francisco; Gray Lodge = Gray Lodge State Wildlife Area, Butte Co.; ph. = photo on file. References to the *Gull* refer to Golden Gate Audubon Society's publication, whose observations column is written by S.F. Bailey. *Italicized* names refer to counties.

LOONS THROUGH STORM-PETRELS — As usual a few loons of all 3 species lingered into summer coastally. Of special interest was an Arctic Loon at Irongate Res., *Siskiyou* June 26-July 11 (†RE) as there are few summer inland records. Five Com. Loons at Grant L., *Mono* June 12 (DS) and a single at L. Almanor, *Plumas* June 10-18 (DAA) were considered late inland migrants as they were not seen after these dates. An ad. Pied-billed Grebe with three juveniles at June L., *Mono* July 21 (DS, P.R.B.O.) established the first breeding record for the Mono Basin. A Red-necked Grebe at Pt. Reyes June 13 (LCB) & June 14 (KFC), and two there June 18 (KH) were lingering late. A light-phase W. Grebe was among the summering dark birds at Brooks I., *Contra Costa* July 3 (RAE). This form apparently tends to avoid the immediate coastal areas of our Region.

A Flesh-footed Shearwater and two Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were the highlights of a June 23 pelagic trip out of Humboldt Bay (JS, KVR).

BOOBIES THROUGH IBISES — A **Brown Booby** at F.I., July 1 (†KFC, JP, †HG) established only the 2nd Regional record, the first having been at the same location last fall. These were the northernmost occurrences of this species along our coast; there are only 3 additional records for s. California. American White Pelicans arrived in the S.F. Bay area somewhat early with one near Burlingame, *San Mateo* July 1 (KH), 55 at Hayward July 4 (CSw), and 150 at the Vallejo marshes, *Solano* July 15 (WT). Brown Pelicans arrived n. of Monterey in early June as usual; 401 provided a notable concentration at Alameda Naval Air Station June 20-22 (SFB) and a July peak of 200 was higher than the usual July numbers on F.I. Double-crested Cormorants were discovered nesting at 2 locations on e. S.F. Bay. Although breeding had been rumored under the e. end of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge for about 15 years, 5+ nests found there July 3 confirmed the first *Contra Costa* nesting record (PK, SFB, RAE). Similarly, 102 nests under the e. end of the S.F. Bay Bridge July 15 (SFB) established the first *Alameda* nesting record.

Two Am. Bitterns calling from a marsh at Dry Lagoon, *Humboldt* May 28 raised hopes for local breeding but later investigation found the marsh dry (KVR). Up to 10 Least Bitterns summered in the S. Wilbur

Flood Area, *Kings*, and a juvenile seen Aug. 1 confirmed breeding there (GGe). The first Gray Lodge breeding record for Great Egret was established this summer when 15 nests were found with young (BED). This was further indication of this species' continued increase in the C.V. Nine at Bodega Bay, *Sonoma* June 4 (NTC) were considered post-breeding dispersers as there are no nearby rookeries. A Snowy Egret at Lava Lakes Nature Center July 19 (RE, MR) was the first w. of the Cascades in *Siskiyou*. White-faced Ibises are scarce visitors to the Mono Basin so one at the n.w. shore of Mono L., May 10 (DS, P.R.B.O.) was of interest. All Mono Basin records have been in spring.

WATERFOWL — A large Greater White-fronted Goose at L. Almanor, *Plumas* June 8-July 8 (†DAA, †HG) was identified as of the "Tule" subspecies. Few records of this rare form are on file and field identification techniques are still being developed so observers are encouraged to try distinguishing them. For some information on this poorly known form, see AB 32:164 [and see comments in "The Changing Seasons" — K.K.].

Many species of our wintering ducks regularly breed in small numbers and this summer was no exception. Some of the more interesting examples included: N. Pintail—one brood at Sulphur Ponds, *Mono* L., July 23 (DS, P.R.B.O.); Gadwall—one female with 20(!) ducklings at *Mono* L., July 25 (DS, P.R.B.O.); Canvasback—broods at N. Tile Evaporation Ponds, *Kings* June 20 (GGe), female with seven young at Madeline Plains, *Lassen* July 19 (BED), and one brood of three young at Stockton sewage ponds (DY); and Com. Merganser—adult with 11 young at Kent L., *Marin* June 25 (JE). More surprising were a ♀ Redhead with five young June 14-23 at L. Earl, *Del Norte* (RAE, DSc) that established the first coastal nesting record n. of S.F., and a ♀ Ring-necked Duck with three young July 19 and 2 broods Aug. 3 near L. Earl (DSc, RAE) that established the first Pacific Coast breeding records for this species. Elsewhere a ♀ Redhead with nine young was at the Woodland Sugar Ponds, *Yolo* June 20 (BED) and 10 broods were in the S. Wilbur and N. Tile Evaporation Pond areas, *Kings* during the summer (GGe). Ring-necked Ducks were found nesting at Willow L., near Chester, *Plumas* where 32 young were seen July 13 (DAA).

A ♀ **King Eider** near Brooks I., June 29-July 15 (PK, †RAE, SFB, †DR) was the first to be found in *Contra Costa*. Even though most records for this species are from winter there are a surprising number of summer records, often of wintering individuals remaining into summer. An Oldsquaw at Richmond Harbor July 5 (JR) was one of two near Brooks I., June 29-July 3 (PK, RAE, SFB). Another was on Humboldt Bay June 22 and July 29 (RLv).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — An ad. **California Condor** over Olancha Pass in Sequoia N.F., *Tulare* July 22 (†MG) was notable, as few Regional reports are received from the Sierra Nevada. Osprey news continued to be good with 17 active nests at Kent L., *Marin* (JE) and 32 occupied nests at L. Almanor, *Plumas* (DAA) being the most notable concentrations. The Almanor birds raised 1.81 young/occupied nest, the highest success rate recorded since surveys began 13 years ago (DAA). The only Bald Eagle report was of an adult and an immature at Irongate Res., *Siskiyou* July 11 (RE). Only 2 Peregrine Falcon reports reached the editors this summer, one at Sacramento N.W.R., July 19 (MRH) and another in the Loleta Bottoms July 25 (*fide* WT). Neither of these locations is near a known nest site; observers are encouraged to continue reporting Peregrine sightings at all seasons.

A Chukar flushed from a nest with one egg on Negit I., *Mono* L., was extending its limited distribution in the Mono Basin to an interesting location (*fide* DS, P.R.B.O.). Sage Grouse apparently experienced low nesting success in the Region this summer and as a result no hunting season was recommended this year (BED). A Sandhill Crane found dead near Ft. Dick June 10 (*fide* RAE, *to Humboldt State Univ.) had been present for at least 4 days and was only the 2nd ever for *Del Norte*. Elsewhere they were found breeding near Fall R., *Shasta* this summer in an area where breeding had not been previously reported (BY).

SHOREBIRDS — Approximately 270 ad. Snowy Plovers were found this summer in s. S.F. Bay, about 80% of the 1978 P.R.B.O. estimate (CSw). Small numbers of Semipalmated Plovers were present throughout the summer in the Crescent City area (RAE) and in s. S.F. Bay (CSw), while at the Arcata Marsh the last spring bird was seen May 28 and the first fall arrivals were June 26 (KVR). After numerous

sightings of Black Oystercatchers in S.F. Bay during recent years, a pair nested at Brooks I., *Contra Costa* June 29-July 3 (PK, RAE, SFB). This constituted the first confirmed nesting inside S.F. Bay, although the same birds may have nested there last year. Black-necked Stilts were doing distraction displays and exhibiting broody behavior at the s.e. shore of Mono L., July 16 (MG) and Aug. 4 (DS, P.R.B.O.) for the first known Mono Basin breeding attempts.

A Long-billed Curlew near Crescent City June 3-4 was extremely late for *Del Norte* (RAE) but a calling bird flying past the Mendocino Headlands, *Mendocino* June 18 (WT) was less expected. Probably the best of the season's shorebirds was a ♀ **Bar-tailed Godwit** at Pebble Beach near Crescent City June 3-5 (†RAE, ph. KVR, JS *et al.*) which provided the 6th record for California, and first for spring. Two Marbled Godwit migrants were found July 6 at L. Almanor, *Plumas* (HG) while a single was at Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou* July 8 (KVR, JS) and two were at Honey Lake W.A., July 18 (BED). This species is scarce at any season in the mountain and Great Basin districts of the Region. The last Ruddy Turnstone of the spring at Arcata was seen May 28 (KVR) while another lingering bird was at the Hayward Regional Shoreline June 8-9 (CSW). A flock of 17 including two in breeding plumage at Bodega Harbor, *Sonoma* June 14 (NTC) did not fit neatly into spring or fall migration, so probably consisted of non-breeding birds. The first fall migrant was at Arcata June 29 (KVR) while one at Lower Klamath N.W.R., July 19 furnished the earliest fall record ever for *Siskiyou* (RE). A single Black Turnstone had returned to F.I., July 15 and three were at Duncan's Landing, *Marin* July 17 (DE) for early arrival dates. Sixteen Surf-birds were also at Duncan's Landing July 17 (DE), at a time when the first arrivals are to be expected.

The last four spring Red Knots at Arcata May 28 were followed by 13 first fall migrants July 25 (KVR). Elsewhere the first arrivals were four at Bodega Harbor, *Sonoma* July 21 (KFC). Inland Sanderlings were reported from Mono L., July 23 when two adults were sighted (DS, P.R.B.O.) and at the Stockton sewage ponds July 26 when one or two adults were present (DY, RAE). An ad. Semipalmated Sandpiper was at Bodega Harbor, *Sonoma* July 15 (†LCB) and another adult was photographed in Eureka, *Humboldt* July 20 (KVR, JS). Despite this species' rarity in the Region, its occurrence follows the pattern set by so many shorebirds: the first fall migrants occur in July and are adult birds while most juvenile records are from August and later. An ad. **Rufous-necked Stint** in Eureka July 22-22 (ph. KVR, JS, ph. RLeV *et al.*) was only the 3rd to be recorded in our Region. The other two were also adults in breeding plumage, a spring migrant May 5, 1969, on Humboldt Bay, and a presumed fall migrant at Crescent City June 18, 1974.

An early Baird's Sandpiper, presumably adult, was at Lower Klamath N.W.R., July 8 (KVR, JS). The first juveniles were three at Mono L., July 23 (DS, P.R.B.O.) and one at Mad R. estuary, *Humboldt* July 29 (KVR, RLeV). An extremely early Pectoral Sandpiper was at Charleston Slough, *Santa Clara* July 8 (DSt). A Dunlin at Eureka July 22 (KVR) was likely a non-breeding bird rather than a post-breeding fall migrant, as this species does not normally arrive in numbers until late September. Two Com. Snipe at Sacramento N.W.R., *Glenn* June 28 (MRH) were well away from known breeding localities. Wilson's Phalaropes are scarce in coastal counties n. of *Sonoma*. An ad. male (?) at the Ukiah sewage ponds July 14 (RAE) may have been *Mendocino*'s first, and an adult July 28 and an adult and juvenile July 30 in Eureka (KVR, RAE) were of interest.

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS — The only Franklin's Gull reported was an adult at Gold Bluff's Beach, *Humboldt* June 24 (GS). This species occurs in small numbers throughout the year but is slightly more likely during migration periods. Western Gulls were found nesting inside S.F. Bay in surprising numbers at at least 6 locations in *Contra Costa*, *Alameda*, and *San Francisco*; the largest colonies were at Alameda Naval Air Station where over 200 fledglings were produced (SFB)! A Sabine's Gull was at Bodega Harbor, *Sonoma* June 14-15 (†NTC) and two others were 8 mi off Gold Bluff's Beach, *Humboldt* June 15 (RAE). An ad. Com. Tern in breeding plumage at Negit I., Mono L., May 27 (†DS, P.R.B.O.) and two adults at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Aug. 6 (†RO) were surprising for their inland localities. The Mono L. bird may well have represented our first spring record e. of the mountain district. An Arctic Tern well-described near F.I., June 24 (†KFC) was perplexing, as this record fell between the spring and fall

migration periods for this species. Most likely this individual was a summering, non-breeding bird.

Least Terns had a disastrous nesting season in the S.F. Bay region as the only successful traditional colonies were those at Alameda Naval Air Station and the Oakland Airport. These colonies had only about 40 active pairs compared to 70 in most recent years and many of the young were lost to avian and mammalian predators (SFB). Other bay area colonies were inactive this summer except for 6 nests at a newly discovered site at the Pittsburg, *Contra Costa* P. G. and E. power plant that represented the farthest inland nesting for California (RAE, SFB). Away from the breeding colonies, an adult at the Stockton sewage ponds June 23 (†DY) provided the first C.V. record and only the 2nd inland record for the Region. A Black Tern at L. Earl June 18-21 (GS, RAE) was only the 4th to be recorded in *Del Norte*. Two ad. Tufted Puffins off Bodega Head, *Sonoma* July 15 (LCB), one 3 mi off Albion, *Mendocino* July 16 (WT) and one off Bodega Head July 26 (WT) were from areas where nesting numbers are very low.

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Com. Barn-Owl was noted one mi n. of Mono L., June 13 (DS); though apparently very rare in the Mono Basin they are fairly common both to the n. (*Lassen*) and s. (Owens Valley, just outside the Region). Much stranger was one heard July 13 at Glacier Pt. (elevation 7000 ± ft), Yosemite N.P. (DY), as there are but a handful of records from above 4000 ft. An imm. N. Saw-whet Owl was at the previously unreported locale of Loma Mar, *San Mateo* July 29 (CSW). Six of 10 Black Swift reports were from within 30 mi of Año Nuevo, *San Mateo*; 2 were from Burney Falls S.P., *Shasta* (including 20+ pairs June 28—JE), and one was of three entering cliffs at Big Sur July 12 (AB *et al.*). The last was of two low over Fairfield, *Solano* June 2 (BDP), well away from known breeding areas. An observation of eight calling Vaux's Swifts near Chester, *Plumas* July 5 (HG) was suggestive of breeding far from confirmed nestings.

In contrast to the spring, only one extralimital Costa's Hummingbird was reported: an ad. male at Greenhorn P., *Siskiyou* June 22 (RE) was felt to be a different individual than was present in April. A juv. Costa's in Bixby Canyon, *Monterey* July 29 (DR) indicated coastal nesting. *Humboldt* still lacks a breeding record for Calliope Hummingbird, but a female in the Lassic Mts., June 8 (†JS, KVR) was a good lead. The fall migration of Belted Kingfishers begins very early in the Region (as early as late June at F.I.), but is not easily separated from post-breeding dispersal; birds appeared away from the vicinity of nesting areas July 5 & 16 at Polomarin and July 21 at Bodega Harbor, *Sonoma* (KFC); more summer data will help to clarify this. Single Red-breasted Sapsucker males were at L. Britton and Dead Horse Summit, both *Shasta* June 29 & 30 respectively (JE); their status here is unclear. In a well-established pattern, post-breeding Nuttall's Woodpeckers appeared coastally in *Marin* and *Sonoma* June 27-July 23 (JE, DT, NTC); limited data indicate all age/sex classes are involved.

FLYCATCHERS — An Olive-sided Flycatcher on outer Pt. Reyes June 14 (KFC) tied the Region's records (F.I., 2 years) for latest spring migrants, while P.R.B.O. recorded Palomarin's first W. Wood-Pewee of the spring June 7! Spring migration for Willow Flycatchers continued to be light, the total reaching only 12-18; no indications of nesting were reported. **Least Flycatchers** on the other hand were confirmed nesting for the first time in California, when observation of a singing bird was followed by the discovery of a female on a nest July 5 at Thoms Creek and Hwy 299, *Modoc* (ph., †SC, DD, DDe); a 3rd individual was heard singing nearby. Breeding confirmation had been anticipated by some; full details of this record are to be published elsewhere. Single W. Flycatchers June 5 at Corral Hollow, *San Joaquin* (DY) and June 6 at Reichmuth P., *Sacramento* (TM) were passing through; the protracted spring migration of W. Flycatchers can extend considerably later still (see *Bird-Banding* 44:205-220). Ash-throated Flycatchers are considered quite rare in the Mono Basin, with no nesting, so individuals June 13 near the n. shore of Mono L. and June 18 near Lee Vining (both DS) were probably best assumed migrants; one at F.I., June 15 was not far past the spring peak of records there.

A Cassin's Kingbird just n. of Santa Nella, *Merced* July 9 (JR) was exceptional on the C.V. floor, having most likely wandered down from the inner edge of the Coast Ranges, whence most recent records come. Eight sightings of W. Kingbirds near Mono L., June 7-July 28 (DS *et*

al.) were many for there, while one on F.I., July 18 fell midway between latest spring and first fall records there. An E. Kingbird on outer Pt. Reyes June 13-14 (LCB, JM) fit established patterns, as did sightings of four, June 27 to at least July 12 at the traditional locality of Parks Cr., near Gazelle, *Siskiyou* (RE, JS); a nest was also located there (RE). Less expected was a first *Siskiyou* record of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: an adult, probably female, at Butte Valley W.A., June 15-16 (ph. †B. Woodbridge, *fide* MR).

SWALLOWS THROUGH WRENS — Purple Martins seemed to be doing well in *Marin*, with 20 near Kent L., July 25 (JE) the largest number reported for that locale, and 9 sightings June 12-July 3 at Palomarin, which constituted "exceptionally good numbers and regularity." Tree Swallows are not known to breed s. of s. *Merced* (and *Madera*?) on the C.V. floor; 15 at Wilbur, *Kings* July 9 (GGe) were evidently dispersants or migrants. The Smith R. estuary's Bank Swallow colony (*Del Norte*) was doing well, with about 50 pairs in this, its 2nd known year (RAE). Also encouraging were record reports of 100+ at Año Nuevo July 7 (DT) and 300+ total July 18-19 at Honey Lake W.A. and near Termo, *Lassen* (BED). Three Pinyon Jays e. of Chico, *Butte* July 2 (HG) were where considered "accidental;" the few Regional records w. of the Sierran crest are not strongly seasonal in pattern.

Mountain Chickadees continued to be recorded at sites having produced extralimital records this spring, with singles at Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt* June 2 (JS, KVR) and outer Pt. Reyes to at least June 23 (RS); two were singing on Pt. Reyes June 7 (HG). One at Pt. St. George, *Del Norte* June 3 (RAE) was also out of place. "About 25" Chestnut-backed Chickadees at Big Trees S.P., *Calaveras* June 16 (DY) was apparently the largest number on record from the Sierras. A fancy record for Plain Titmouse was of one on Trinidad Head, *Humboldt* June 10 (K. Irwin, *fide* RAE); they are regular on the immediate coast no farther n. than Tomales Bay, *Marin*. Three Bushit nests and at least 18 adults were noted in the Mono L. area June 5-13 (DS *et al.*); this was the first nesting evidence in an area where the species has been considered very rare outside October-March. A total of 16 Pygmy Nuthatches on the Palo Alto Breeding Bird Count June 9 (*fide* CB) was encouraging; the species seems to be coming on strong there. A group of three just-fledged Bewick's Wrens was found June 16 on Negit I., Mono L., for apparently the first breeding confirmation for the Mono Basin (DS). What a House Wren was doing on F.I., July 6 is at this point probably impossible to say. The abundance of Marsh Wrens in the remaining marshes of the San Joaquin Valley was only hinted at by an estimate of 2000 ± nesting in the vicinity of Wilbur, *Kings* this season (GGe).

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS — A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers building a nest in oaks on the coastal drainage site of Langley Hill Rd., *San Mateo* June 9 (WB) fits well with other recent sightings for summer in the *San Mateo*/w. *Santa Clara* area. Late spring records of migrant Hermit Thrushes continued into June this year at coastal "vagrant traps." Singles were at outer Pt. Reyes June 13 (LCB), Palomarin June 19, and F.I., June 3, 12 & 15. The latter records were the first ever for that month for F.I.; hopefully the birds were measured and described, in light of last season's discovery of one or more eastern-type birds. A singing **Wood Thrush** June 15 at Sunnybrae, *Humboldt* was reported virtually without details (JS, RAE *et al.*); it was said to have been tape-recorded; presumably documentation is forthcoming. This would establish a 3rd Regional record. Varied Thrushes lingered late, with one on outer Pt. Reyes to June 5 (*fide* Gull) and one at F.I., June 13.

A description from a skilled observer was of a thrasher on Sentinel Dome, Yosemite N.P., July 21. Submitted as a Bendire's, it could as easily have been of a Sage Thrasher; observers are reminded and cautioned that by mid-summer *all* thrashers can be very worn, with "field marks" lost or obscured; several vagrant Sage Thrashers in the Region were first called Bendire's. A Hutton's Vireo on F.I., July 18 had no precedents between mid-May and Aug. 4. Five sightings at Reichmuth and Ancil Hoffman parks July 4-26 (TM *et al.*) were assumed to be of post-breeding wanderers. Warbling Vireos are no longer known to breed anywhere in the C.V., but birds of passage were present in the Sacramento area as late as June 14 (one, Reichmuth P.) and as early again as July 21 (one, Ancil Hoffman P.—TM). A singing Red-eyed Vireo in

Pacifica, *San Mateo* July 17-29 (*fide* Gull; ALE *et al.*) was probably territorial.

WARBLERS — A briefly but well-described singing ♂ **Blue-winged Warbler** at Bridgeport L., *Mono* June 18 (†RS *et al.*), subject to acceptance by the C.B.R.C., furnished the first or 2nd Regional record. The only other widely accepted record (Sept. 13, 1963, S.F.) has not been reviewed by the C.B.R.C. and no documentation is known to this editor. Amazing was the discovery July 3 of a freshly dead ♂ **Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler** at the Wetwood Sewage Ponds, *Lassen* (†HG; ph., JM; *Mus. Vert. Zool., Berkeley). The inland occurrence, date, and the fact that this bird was of the less likely, genetically recessive "Lawrence's type" were all the more surprising. A "Brewster's type" hybrid discovered Oct. 1, 1973, near Fairhaven, *Humboldt* (see *West. Birds* 5:58) and reviewed by the C.B.R.C. is apparently still the only other such hybrid recorded w. of Texas. In light of the current records, it is clear hybrids must be soberly considered in all suspected observations of either parent species in the West. The Region's 3rd nesting of N. Parulas took place this summer near Inverness P., *Marin* only 7 mi n. of where two young fledged in 1977. A singing male and a female fed one fledgling June 9-July 29 (†M. Gross, †JE, m.ob.; *fide* Gull). An additional individual was at F.I., July 6. A singing ♂ Chestnut-sided Warbler was along Gazos Creek Rd., *San Mateo* June 16 (*fide* Gull). Magnolia Warblers were one at Patrick's Pt., *Humboldt* June 18 (R. & M. Chandler, *fide* JS) and a singing male on outer Pt. Reyes June 13-14 (LCB *et al.*).

Single ad. ♀ "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warblers on outer Pt. Reyes June 14 (JM) & 23 (RS) may have been one bird. A count of 12 Black-throated Gray Warblers on the Palo Alto Breeding Bird Count June 9 (*fide* CB) probably implied breeding in that area. Straggling Townsend's Warblers were noted (one each) June 1 at F.I., June 2 at outer Pt. Reyes (WB), and June 13, 3-4 mi s.w. of Lee Vining, *Mono* (DS). The 1974-1983 average for June records is just over one/year. A June 13 Palm Warbler on outer Pt. Reyes was apparently gone the next day, undetained by lack of a tail (LCB). The spring's only Bay-breasted Warbler was a singing male June 15-16 on outer Pt. Reyes (LCB, KH). Six reports representing four to five Black-and-white Warblers spanned June 8-July 6; all were males. The first of eight to nine Am. Redstarts was a presumably territorial, singing first-year male near Inverness P., May 27-June 11 (thus modifying the comment last season on their March to May absence), and the last were a pair considered "probable breeders" July 15 on the n.w. shore of L. Earl, *Del Norte* (B. & M. McIntosh, *fide* RAE). Ovenbird records were of two on F.I., June 14-15 and one singing in Lee Vining June 31 (MG). Single, one-day-only Com. Yellowthroats occurred on F.I., June 13, 15, 16 & 25, and July 6; precedents there weakly indicate these as "spring" occurrences. Two singing in disturbed coastal scrub June 23-July 24 furnished an "unprecedented occurrence" at Palomarin. A ♂ Hooded Warbler sang by Jewel L., Tilden P., June 9-17 (*fide* Gull; JM). Early fall migrant Wilson's Warblers were singles July 17-26 at Reichmuth P., Sacramento (TM) and July 29 at F.I., and two July 30 at Durham Ferry P., *San Joaquin* (DY). A Yellow-breasted Chat at Pt. Pinole, *Contra Costa* July 4 (*fide* Gull) was not near breeding areas.

TANAGERS THROUGH BUNTINGS — Western Tanagers are regularly noted as migrants into June; most of the 14 reported from the S.F. Bay area (where they seem to be rare breeders) June 7-13 (none later) were probably passing through. Nine Rose-breasted Grosbeaks for the period June 6-30 was near the previous 10-year average for June of about 12. Of this year's, seven were in *Marin* and two near Mono L. (males, June 13-19—DS, HG *et al.*). A ♂ Lazuli x Indigo Bunting was at the w. shore of Mono L., June 17-19 (†DS); there are few records of these hybrids for our Region, although they are rather regularly noted in adjacent *Inyo*, s. California. Only seven Indigo Buntings were reported for the period: a F.I. female June 13 and six mainland males, with one of the latter near Manton, July 11 (PD) apparently providing a first *Shasta* record.

SPARROWS THROUGH LONGSPURS — A well-described **Cassin's Sparrow** was at S. Tufa, Mono L., June 17 to at least June 20 (†HG, †MG, †JM, †KH, ph. MW *et al.*). A 2nd bird was suspected present by at least one observer (RS). This 8th Regional record fell less

than 3 weeks after the 7th (and first non- F.I.) record. Two Rufous-crowned Sparrows singing along Old La Honda Rd., *San Mateo* June 9 (WB) were where an individual had been found in winter: the species has been considered "accidental" in *San Mateo*. A Clay-colored Sparrow reported without details from F.I., June 22 would, if acceptable, furnish the latest spring record for the Farallones (and the Region!) by 6 days. Black-chinned Sparrows continued to make news, with several reports of birds at new sites or "still present" at unusual locales noted this spring. Most significant were confirmation of breeding along Fairfax-Bolinas Rd., *Marin* with a fledgling begging food from a female July 23 (DT also the latest report), and two birds singing June 13 on the n. side of Lundy L., *Mono* (MG) for only a 2nd Mono Basin record. No reports were received of Vesper Sparrows: presumably they were not noted again at potential breeding sites mentioned this spring. A singing Black-throated Sparrow on Negit I., *Mono* L., was present June 5-20, with a 2nd bird there June 16, and a pair was copulating e. of Black Pt., *Mono* L., June 9 (both DS). According to DS, "this species apparently irregularly shows up in the Mono Basin." Sage Sparrows are known to engage in upslope post-breeding dispersal, so six on top of Olancha Peak, *Tulare* (elevation 12,123 ft) July 22 were not too surprising: they were said to be very common at lower elevations (MG). Three Grasshopper Sparrows singing near Goodrich Cr. and McKenzie Meadow, *Lassen* July 5 (†HG) were in the interior: our understanding of their status away from the coast is incomplete.

A singing Song Sparrow at 7000 ft in Perego Meadow, Yosemite N.P., June 14 (RS) was probably not a wanderer to that unusual elevation, as territorial birds have been noted at this locale in recent years. Two Lincoln's Sparrows at El Capitan Crossover, Yosemite Valley, July 4 (JL) added to recent records indicating breeding in the valley after many years' absence. One on F.I., June 15 was by 10 days the latest Regional record well away from breeding areas (except one reported apparently without details June 19, 1983 in *Sonoma*) and could well have been an e. bird, by such timing. Single White-throated Sparrows June 2 on outer Pt. Reyes (*fide Gull*) and June 13 on F.I. had very few precedents for that month, as was true of an "adult-plumaged" Golden-crowned Sparrow found on the tip of the Alameda Naval Air Station's breakwater June 16 (SFB, CSw), which appeared to establish the 2nd latest of 7 June 1-July 1 Regional records. At F.I., a June 18 "Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco's closest precedent was a June 1-3 bird in 1975. A first-alternate plumaged ♂ Chestnut-collared Longspur on F.I., July 16 (†JP) apparently furnished only our 3rd record between Apr. 30 and Sept. 19 (the others May 18, 1980 and June 26-27, 1975, both also F.I.).

ICTERIDS — Tricolored Blackbirds continued to be seen at Davison Dairy near Orick, *Humboldt* to June 20, when two males were present (JS, RAE *et al.*). Observers are urged to continue reporting records of this potentially vulnerable species. Research is underway to clarify its current status. A carefully observed Com. Grackle at outer Pt. Reyes June 13-16 (†LCB, †JM, †KFC, †MLR *et al.*) should provide the 3rd Regional record, as 2 earlier records have been accepted by the C.B.R.C. (including one Nov. 7, 1980 at Crescent City, *Del Norte*, not previously published here); reports from the C.B.R.C. are published periodically in *Western Birds*. A "Bullock's" N. Oriole at F.I., June 14 had few precedents.

CROSSBILLS THROUGH GROSBEAKS — This was clearly a "Red Crossbill year," as good numbers were reported for a 2nd season, this time the length of the coast (except *Del Norte*) and to a lesser degree at Sierran locales. As SFB noted for the S.F. Bay area, "the irruption of Red Crossbills was detected most strongly in *Marin*, but wherever they were found they were harvesting a good crop of Douglas-fir cones." No indications of breeding were reported. The largest report was of 200 at Mt. Tamalpais, *Marin* July 21-Aug. 4, with numbers increasing thereafter (*fide Gull*). Lawrence's Goldfinches in contrast seemed to wane through the period, returning toward more normal numbers after late May's peak. A total of 50 ± birds was reported, only about three in July. Two at Davison Dairy June 3 provided a 4th *Humboldt* record (KVR, JS), while nesting was documented for a pair at Petrolia, *Humboldt* July 1 (JS, KVR). Breeding was also confirmed for the Sutter Buttes (WA) and strongly suggested in *San Joaquin* (DY). Fascinating was an ad. Eur. Goldfinch which appeared and disappeared with vagrants on outer Pt. Reyes, seen June 13 only (LCB); it can only be assumed an escapee.

Evening Grosbeaks were reported in modest numbers for a 2nd summer, with 4 reports totaling eight birds in usual areas.

CONTRIBUTORS (area compilers in boldface) — D.A. Airola, W. Anderson, S.F. Bailey, A. Baldrige, B. Barnes, L.C. Binford, C. Blake, **W. Bousman** (S.F. Peninsula), K.F. Campbell, S. Cardiff, N.T. Conzett, D. Delaney (DDe), P. Detrich, **B.E. Deuel** (N. Central Valley), D. Dittman (DD), A.L. Edwards, R. Ekstrom (RE), D. Ellis, **R.A. Erickson** (RAE) (Del Norte Co.), J. Evens, L. Farrar, G. Gerstenberg (GGe), R. Gerstenberg, G. Geupel (GG), H. Green, M. Green, K. Hainebach, M.R. Hills, S. Johnston, P. Kelly, B. & H. Kimball, R. LeValley, J. Lovio, **T. Manolis** (Sacramento area), J. Morlan, R. Odear, B.D. Parmeter, J. Penniman, J. Richmond, **M. Robbins** (Siskiyou Co.), D. Roberson (Monterey Co.), C. Roberts, M.L. Rosegay, K.V. Rosenberg, D. Schmoldt (DSch), D. Scott (DSc), D. Severson (DSe), C. Sexton (CSe), D. Shuford (DS), R. Stallcup, D. Starks (DSt), **J. Sterling** (Humboldt Co.), G. Strachan, P. Super, C. Swarth (CSw), W. Tillay, D. Tobkin, M. Wihler, **D. Yee** (San Joaquin Co.), B. & C. Yutzy.—**KURT F. CAMPBELL** (pigeons through finches), **P.O. Box 268, Cotati, CA 94928**, and **RON LeVALLEY** (loons through alcids), **1876 Ocean Dr., McKinleyville, CA 95521**.