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## MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

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**T**he Region generally experienced a balmy, if arid, spring. Ocean conditions were clearly post-El Niño, while on land the reports on breeding success were nearly all encouraging; see especially Cattle Egret, White-faced Ibis, California Gull, Tricolored Blackbird, and Hooded Oriole. Migrants seemed mostly early, with an average vagrant season (except in Del Norte County, where it was superb), the many irrupting species enjoyed over the past year waning to near-normal numbers.

Documentation of vagrants was generally very good, and observers are also showing more interest in breeding records (reflected in this report). Still, little contribution is

being made toward quantification of migrant passage (spans, peaks, volume, etc.—something which can only be done by keeping a journal). Statements made here about migration must therefore be taken with a grain of salt, as mostly-valid inferences and impressions only.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.V. = Central Valley; F.I. = Southeast Farallon Island; O.S.P. = Open Space Preserve; P.R.B.O. = Point Reyes Bird Observatory; S.F. = San Francisco; W.A. = Wildlife Area; ph. = photo *on file* with the Regional Editors. All sightings from Palomarin and Southeast Farallon Island should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory. References to the *Gull* refer to Golden Gate Audubon Society's publication, whose observations column is currently written by SFB. Italicized names refer to counties.



**LOONS THROUGH PELICANS** — An Arctic Loon was inland on Solano L., *Solano & Yolo*, May 10-11 (SAL *et al.*). A Red-necked Grebe lingered late at Fish Docks, *Marin*, May 25-29 (HG *et al.*). The albino Eared Grebe at Salinas sewage ponds May 18 (DR) was a real surprise because the date showed prolonged survival.

At Monterey and offshore, there were still 90 N. Fulmars Mar. 9 (SFB, DLS), but only 14 by Apr. 6 (AB, DLS), the last report. Pink-footed Shearwaters were scarce, with only four the highest count all spring. The last Black-vented Shearwaters of the season were 20 off Monterey Mar. 9 (AB, SFB, DLS). Early March brought an unprecedented wreck of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels to Monterey. The harbor had 100 Mar. 2, but 1000 were there and along the shore to Pt. Joe Mar. 3 (S & JH). A survey of one mi of Monterey Beach Mar. 7 found 129 dead (RLB). All 57 collected for California Academy of Sciences were emaciated (SFB). Off Monterey only one was seen Mar. 9 (SFB *et al.*) and four Apr. 26 (DLS). "Judging from the known mortality it is likely that most of the birds died" (AB). This event was not limited to Monterey. Five Fork-tailed were inside Bodega Harbor Mar. 8 (JW). In Crescent City Harbor, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were seen Mar. 7-28 and Apr. 28, with a peak of 20 + Mar. 12 (RAE, ADB *et al.*). Six Leach's Storm-Petrels were found dead under wires, etc., at Crescent City during May (ADB, RAE).

Most Am. White Pelicans depart S.F. Bay for the C.V. and beyond by mid-winter; 140 over Palo Alto Mar. 7 seemed late (WGB). However, flocks such as the 40 at Alviso, *Santa Clara*, May 12 were considered the normal return of non-breeding birds (RWL). Only one Brown Pelican was reported (immature on F.I.) before the return of large numbers in early May, with a very high proportion of juveniles (AB *et al.*).

**EGRETS THROUGH HAWKS** — A Snowy Egret on the Smith R. estuary May 18 was joined by another the next day, giving us first May records for *Del Norte* (RAE *et al.*). Cattle Egrets are obviously still increasing through the Region, with first nestings at the Alviso heronry, *Santa Clara*, May 22 (10 nests—RWL), and the Woodland sugar ponds, *Yolo*, May 30 (3 + nest building—SAL, TB). Breeding was reported 2nd-hand for the Oroville W.A., and a report of 100-150 at Hwy 162 and the Tehama-Colusa Canal, *Glenn*, through April and May (ASE) was interesting, although they may not have bred. Many other reports brought comments, such as the three Apr. 25 at Smith R. ("latest records ever"—RAE). White-faced Ibises have also been clearly increasing through the Region for the last several years (see *Condor* 86:492-493, 1984), with this perhaps the most dramatic season yet. At least 239 were reported for May (vs. 15-16 for spring 1983) with breeding at Colusa N.W.R. (60 ± nestling—G. Menzik, *fide* MRH) and Mendota W.A. (67 + nestling, May 17—BED), and probable nesting at the Woodland sugar ponds (4 +, May 30—SAL, TB). A flock of 22 flying S May 16 over Smith R. estuary (RAE) and Crescent City (GSL) was seasonally unprecedented there. There has been speculation that the increase may reflect displacement from outside the Region, but the evidence contradicts this strongly (*e.g.*, AB 38:1045) and I suspect a genuine widespread increase.

Three Eurasian-type Green-winged Teal were noted: Sacramento N.W.R., Mar. 24 (*fide* Gull), Hunter-Liggett Military Reservation, *Monterey*, Mar. 24-30 (†AB), and near Ft. Dick Mar. 25 (an "overdue first for *Del Norte*"—RAE). A ♂ *Garganey* was intermittently cooperative Apr. 10-28 at Modoc N.W.R. (†BED, †JML, KLH, BY *et al.*); if accepted, it would be California's 4th. Blue-winged Teal continued to give an impression of increase in the Region (we hope observers are keeping long-term records on this, and looking for nesting). Another sign of this was the observation of two to three ♂ Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal: Fresno sewage ponds Mar. 13 (KH *et al.*), near Ft. Dick Mar. 25 (D. Scott *et al.*, *fide* RAE), and L. Earl, Apr. 12-May 14 (RAE *et al.*).

A single ♂ Greater Scaup was well seen on Indian Creek Res., *Alpine*, May 18 (JL); the species is much scarcer in spring than



#### S.A.

A record certain to add fuel to a continent-wide controversy (see *Birding* 16:146-154, 1984, and subsequent letters to the editor) was this winter's Barnacle Goose (not mentioned here previously). First found in "early November" at Tulelake N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, by refuge personnel (seen Nov. 18—RE, ph. MR), it moved to near Colusa Dec. 7-10, and then to the Modesto area, *Stanislaus*, Dec. 12-21. It was seen again by RE and MR Apr. 5-15, this time back n. at Lower Klamath N.W.R. The bird was last seen Apr. 15-17 "in nearby Oregon." It associated with "Cackling" Canada Geese and Greater White-fronted Geese. Although no written documentation has been received, the poor photo allows blue-morph Ross' Goose to be ruled out; hybridization with Canada Goose also seems to be ruled out. We are clearly in need of a major, thoroughly-researched article reviewing temporal and geographic patterns (as well as I.D.) of all North American records. Lacking such erudition, I consider the record very possibly valid, but not beyond reasonable doubt (and so, hypothetical). Godspeed to the C.B.R.C.

fall, inland, but more startling was the high mountain location. A ♂ Tufted Duck was seen Apr. 7 near the Shasta R. and Grenada (RE), then refound May 2-11 at Lava Lakes Nature Center, 4 ± mi away (RE, †MR, †SFB *et al.*). This was apparently the latest of 19 + California records by nearly a month. One Red-breasted Merganser Mar. 3 and five Mar. 16 at Tulelake N.W.R. were called typical for migrants there (MR). An ad. male at Mono L., Apr. 27 (BED) was reportedly the Mono Basin's 3rd; one near the same spot May 27 (JLo) was reported as female/immature, but was most likely the same bird, as eclipse plumage in males of this species is attained exceptionally early. After an irruption winter it was perhaps not surprising that Rough-legged Hawks lingered in good numbers; 17 were reported Apr. 7-May 12 (only three aged/sexed).

**QUAIL THROUGH PHALAROPES** — At the same locale as *Santa Clara*'s first record 10 years ago, two ♂ Mountain Quail in Stevens Creek Canyon Apr. 20 (DSt) provided only the 2nd record. A male on Coal Mine Ridge May 22 (WGB), however,



was *San Mateo's* first. Sandhill Cranes again bred at McArthur/Glenburn, *Shasta*, with a fledgling noted May 8 (BY, BV). An impressive concentration of Black-bellied Plovers was 1200+ at the Lodi Sewage ponds Apr. 14 (DY); all were gone by Apr. 16. A Lesser Golden-Plover May 3 at Lower Klamath N.W.R. (RE *et al.*) provided a first *Siskiyou* record for the race *fulva*. A Black Oystercatcher visited Alameda Naval Air Station May 10 (*fide Gull*) for the southernmost record yet in S.F. Bay. Moderately extralimital Black-necked Stilts were noted at a number of locales, and appeared on the immediate coast in 4 of 5 counties n. of the Golden Gate, but *no one* reported on breeding in the Region. An Am. Avocet Apr. 28 at L. Earl, *Del Norte* (PFS), had only one spring precedent for the county.

The Region's first (California's 2nd) **Spotted Redshank** appeared in full breeding dress May 14 at the Crescent City harbor (†RAE) and was refound the next day at L. Earl (†ADB, †GSL *et al.*). It could easily have been the same individual as the Salton Sea bird (AB 37:912), but cannot be assumed so. Twelve of the Region's 15± Solitary Sandpipers, Apr. 10-May 6, were on the n. coast, the others in interior hill country; a good showing in the expected pattern. Moderate-sized flocks of Whimbrels are regular in the C.V. in spring (*e.g.*, this year's high: 45 s. of Colusa N.W.R., May 5—SAL), but we are still short on detailed, cautious data on the exact timing and size of migrations through the interior. A Sanderling on Stockton's sewage ponds May 13 (DY) was in basic plumage but one in Lower Klamath N.W.R., May 3 (RE *et al.*) was undescribed; they are quite rare away from the coast. Single Semipalmated Sandpipers were at Lodi's sewage ponds May 2-3 (†DY) and Vigo St. Marsh, *Humboldt*, May 15-18 (†JSt); they are likely a little more numerous in spring in the interior than the preceding species. Four Pectoral Sandpipers May 16 (two through May 17) near Ft. Dick (GSL *et al.*) were twice the Regional average for the period. At Merced N.W.R., the ♀ Ruff stayed to Mar. 25, while the male was not seen after Mar. 4 (*not* to Mar. 9 as stated in winter's report) (both RJB; †BLaB). A molting male Apr. 13-16 at Lower Klamath N.W.R. (RE, †MR, BED) furnished a 3rd *Siskiyou* record. Of 20± Wilson's Phalaropes on the n. coast May 14-21, ¾ were in *Del Norte* ("only 3 previous county records"—RAE) and copulation was observed at L. Earl May 15-16 (GSL *et al.*).

**GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS** — At Stockton sewage ponds, the single wintering Franklin's, Little, and Com. Black-headed gulls were last seen Mar. 4, Apr. 24, and Apr. 12, respectively (all DY). Unlike the past 3 springs, no additional Little Gulls were found there. Clearly a new visitor to this gull Mecca was the *first-year* Com. Black-headed Gull seen Mar. 24 (†BDP, JP) and Apr. 12-13 (†DY). Two Franklin's Gulls were over Mad R. mouth May 25 (SH). A very worn imm. Mew Gull was very late at Stockton sewage ponds May 17-19 (DY). The 3 California Gull colonies around South S.F. Bay continued to expand. Their nest totals on May 17-18 (and 1984's numbers) were: Knapp Unit 1100 (900), Pond A-9 near Alviso 200 (39), Leslie Salt Newark Plant 270 (18)—(RWL). A Glaucous Gull Mar. 4 on F.I. was the last in central California, but both individuals at Freshwater Lagoon, *Humboldt*, and two of three at Crescent City occurred in mid-May (RAE *et al.*). An adult at Freshwater Lagoon Mar. 4-May 19 was considered the same as last year's but its primaries appeared longer this year (†RAE *et al.*), adding to the controversy over identification of last winter's probable Iceland Gull. In Monterey Bay, 2000 Black-legged Kittiwakes attended an anchovy feast with other gulls Mar. 9 (AB, SFB, DLS), but only two were there Apr. 6 (AB, DLS); a first-year bird was at Drakes Beach, *Marin*, May 25-29 (JM *et al.*).

A new Caspian Tern colony at Alameda Naval Air Station had over 92 nests by May 29 (LDC). Five very early Elegant Terns were well-described from Elkhorn Slough, *Monterey*, Apr. 14 (†DGe). Least Terns were again late in nesting, but somewhat more numerous than in last year's disaster (LDC).

Common Murres were holding at about 1% of their pre-1980 numbers in *Monterey* waters (m.ob.—see winter report). Eighty Marbled Murrelets off Crescent City Apr. 30 (GSL) was a large

concentration for this species. Nine Ancient Murrelets in Monterey Bay Apr. 6 were the only ones reported since Feb. 3 (AB, DLS). Auklets remained extremely scarce except for 1000 Rhinoceros Auklets off Monterey Mar. 9 (SFB, AB, DLS). Two Tufted Puffins in Monterey Bay May 31 were surprising, but the **Horned Puffin** 6 mi w.n.w. of Pt. Pinos the same day eclipsed them (DLS, ph. RLB). These and most other puffins are generally reported as "adults," but given the very long and gradual acquisition of mature plumage and bill sheath in puffins I wonder if our spring/summer stray puffins are really subadults; pre-breeders can look virtually adult.

**DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — A White-winged Dove near Rodeo Lagoon, *Marin*, May 14 (†MP) provided the Region's first spring record. A pair of Mourning Doves at Chester, *Plumas*, Mar. 7 (DAA) was the first to arrive at that breeding area. Although most populations of Mourning Doves in the Region clearly undergo complex seasonal movements, they are given scant attention by many observers, and so our understanding remains perfunctory. Two calling Flammulated Owls 7 mi w. of Paskenta at 4240 ft elevation May 16-18 (CB *et al.*) were in the general area of 2 of the 3 previous *Tehama* records. Their status on the w. edge of the Sacramento Valley needs study. The Spotted Owl at Merced N.W.R. remained to Apr. 10 (RJB); reports conflicted as to its age, while RS commented that it "seemed really pallid compared to *S.o. caurina* of the coast. I believe it was of nominate race and slid down the Sierra."

#### S.A.

Previously-discovered Barred Owls were singles at Howland Hill, *Del Norte*, through May 12 (RAE, JML, SFB; no details—how quickly we become jaded!) and one 3 mi n. of Willow Cr. Golf Course, *Humboldt*, all period (JSt; no details). Our 6th for the Region was a newly-found bird May 6-25 on Walker Rd., Jedediah Smith Redwoods S.P., *Del Norte* (GGo, †RAE *et al.*). There has been a tentative assumption by some that since Spotted Owls require old-growth (uncut) forest and Barred Owls do not, little competition was likely. The new bird, however, was apparently territorial in an old-growth forest where Spotted Owls had previously been found, and it is clear that there is yet room for concern. There is much evidence already of a population collapse in Spotted Owls due to timber management practices.

*Tuolumne* hosted the first nesting of Great Gray Owls in a man-made nest structure for California, with 2 eggs Apr. 18, while another pair nested in Yosemite N.P. (both JW)—this species "may average nesting only (once) every 3-4 years." Three Short-eared Owl nests were found on Grizzley I., *Solano*, Apr. 18-22 (BED). A report of 78 Black Swifts over Fairhaven, *Humboldt*, in one hour May 29 (JSt; no details) was quite unprecedented in size for spring in the Region. An ad. ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird at a feeder in Yreka for its 2nd year, Mar. 31+ (RE *et al.*) was both early and a little northerly. Two other males out of place were at Monte Bello O.S.P., *Santa Clara*, May 14 (DSu) and Lafayette Apr. 24+ (LF). Eight extralimital Costa's Hummingbirds Mar. 31-May 28 was a very strong showing compared to any but last year's irruption spring. The most far-flung was *Del Norte's* 2nd, in Gasquet May 15 (MR *et al.*), but none was noted to try breeding outside the usual range. Migrant Calliope Hummingbirds were also well-reported Apr. 3-May 10 (⅓ last year's numbers), with one near Summit Valley May 5 (T. McKay, *fide* RAE) called an "overdue first record" for *Del Norte*. Numbers of both Rufous and Allen's hummingbirds were called average or low in contrast to last year.

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — A Lewis' Woodpecker was noted carrying food to a tree cavity in Blue



Oak woodland in Bear Valley, w. Colusa, May 3 (SAL *et al.*)—don't tell the starlings! Coastally-wintering Nuttall's Woodpeckers remained at Olema Marsh to May 11+ (DS, JE) instead of departing in early April, with strong indications of nesting. The previous *Marin* breeding bird atlas work establishes this to be a new pattern. An Olive-sided Flycatcher on Mt. Tamalpais, *Marin*, Apr. 3 (RS) tied the Region's earliest acceptable record. Eight Willow Flycatchers May 11-29 was an expected timing and strength of passage. The Region's earliest-ever Least Flycatcher was banded on F.I., May 17 (†JPe—P.R.B.O.). This year's first Hammond's Flycatcher was exceptionally early (Apr. 6, F.I.), and the last lowland migrant was exceptionally late (May 29, Reichmuth P., Sacramento—TM); nevertheless, the five migrants made the lowest total in 6+ years. In contrast, Gray Flycatchers were again reported in good numbers, with the species found "commonplace" in *Madera's* foothills Apr. 24-May 1 (JLo *et al.*). The n. coast showing this year was "poor" (*fide* RAE).

The timing of first arrivals is probably only loosely correlated with the timing of the bulk of migrants in most species. An array of first arrival records is better, however, as shown by this season's well-documented Ash-throated Flycatcher movement. Six birds were found on or before the Region's average first arrival date for the species (Apr. 9), and there were many subjective comments that overall Ash-throateds were early and numerous. (This is of course no substitute for the thorough census data which some observers are keeping locally.) Cassin's Kingbirds went unreported. Western Kingbirds showed well on the immediate coast, with 22, Apr. 9-May 23; the interior's first was early even for there: Mar. 14 at Los Banos Detention Res. (LJB). For the first spring in 6, we had E. Kingbirds, and three at that: Fairhaven, *Humboldt*, May 16 (J. Gast, *fide* JSt), Palomarin May 31, and Pt. St. George, also May 31 (GSL). Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported. One was in the Carmel Valley May 3-5 (†A. Yost, *fide* DR), the other on outer Pt. Reyes May 29-June 8 (†DAH, †PeG, †LCB, and *fide* Gull); details of both will be reviewed by the C.B.R.C.

Tree Swallows were reported breeding along the Kings R., with eight w. of Dinuba, *Tulare*, May 6, and four by Reedley, *Fresno*, May 8 (both RHG). These were the first such nests ever reported to *Am. Birds* for the San Joaquin Valley floor s. of *Merced*, and corrected last summer's statement (AB 38:1059). We hope their exact status there will be uncovered more fully soon. An amazing concentration for spring was 5500 ± Violet-green Swallows over Stafford L., *Marin*, Mar. 24 (RS). Bank Swallows were widely and well-reported Mar. 25+. Especially encouraging were 100 ± pairs at the new Smith R. estuary colony May 15 (ADB *et al.*), twice last year's number.

**JAYS THROUGH SHRIKES**—A group of six Scrub Jays flew E across Sierra Valley, *Sierra*, 3 mi n.e. of Sattley May 27 (SAL *et al.*)—what is their status here? Either Great Basin or cismontane populations can account for high elevation records, and the 2 forms can be distinguished afield, with a little experience. Clark's Nutcrackers continued their local invasion of the Chester area, with 100+ through the period (DAA). The only other report was coastward, of 20+ (!) near Loch Lomand, *Lake*, Apr. 26-28 (JiM). A Yellow-billed Magpie in S.F., Mar. 1 (*fide* Gull) probably furnished a valid record despite the locale, as a clear pattern of winter coastward vagrancy is evident. Observers are encouraged to report *all* extralimital magpies. A Pygmy Nuthatch on outer Pt. Reyes May 25 (HG) was wandering at an unexpected time of year. An unusual concentration was of seven Winter Wrens Mar. 28 at Lodi L., *San Joaquin* (DY), probably migrants.

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were more heavily reported than in any previous spring, especially from the east S.F. Bay area; JM stated that "this species has exploded in dry 'hard chaparral' in the interior of the East Bay over the last 5 years. Formerly rare throughout this area, it is now locally common. A similar expansion occurred in the Great Basin region in the mid-1970s." Of 10 lowland Townsend's Solitaires reported this spring (a little above average), the latest was also Palomarin's 2nd-ever,

Apr. 28. A singing Varied Thrush at Inverness May 11 (RS) was by 2 weeks the latest winterer/migrant reported this period. A Gray Catbird May 29 gave F.I. its 3rd (first spring) record, and the Region about its 8th. A Sage Thrasher was at the Little R. mouth, *Humboldt*, May 13 (GSL *et al.*). The Region's first Black-backed Wagtail in nearly 5 years was a fancy yard-bird at the Mad R. estuary May 13 (†RLeV).

It is perhaps the rule rather than the exception in spring's migrant passerines that first-year birds move N a little later on average than adults (as well as wandering more). This may in part explain the late and straggling quality to the pattern of spring records for many species on F.I. An example is Water Pipit: the average date of the island's 10 March-May records is May 1, while the average *last* date for the entire Region's lowlands is a close May 10. This year's last was May 12, on F.I. A ♀ Phainopepla appeared far n. and w. near the mouth of Smith R., May 18-19 (†ADB, †GSL), and was a first for *Del Norte*. The winter's large crop of N. Shrikes disappeared early, with the latest of spring's 7 reports Mar. 17 (n. of L. Talawa—JAR), the same date as last year.

**VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS**—The Region's 5th White-eyed Vireo was found singing on a brushy hillside in Frank's Valley, *Marin*, May 26 (†DAH, †JM, †HG, †KFC *et al.*) where it remained, vociferous and aggressive, to June 15 (*fide* Gull); it was California's 2nd clearly territorial White-eyed Vireo. A *plumbeus* Solitary Vireo was noted at Pacific Grove Apr. 7 (RS *et al.*), for only our 2nd Regional spring record away from the Great Basin. A Hutton's Vireo at the mouth of Tenaya Canyon, Yosemite N.P., Mar. 9 (JLo) was surely one of last winter's many wanderers. A Red-eyed Vireo in Tomales Bay S.P., May 27 (*fide* Gull) did not linger.

Five Tennessee Warblers (May 5-28) was an average coastal movement. Fledged Orange-crowned Warblers were noted in Lafayette on the early (?) date of Apr. 25 (LF). Nest, egg, and fledging dates and locales are rarely reported to us for *any* species, to the detriment of both birders and conservation. We do want all such information, whether it sees publication or not. The C.V. movement of Nashville Warblers, Mar. 28-May 6, was early and strong, while birds on the central coast Apr. 20-May 19 were late and in usual small numbers (12 ± reported). Three N. Parulas were coastal May 22-28, with a 4th at Mono L. County P., May 24 (JWh) being the 4th ever for Mono Basin. At Palomarin, Yellow Warblers were proclaimed in "excellent spring numbers—highest in recent years," while F.I. folks joined in with a report of 51 May 17. Do reports of ♂ Chestnut-sided Warblers May 26 on F.I. and May 27 on outer Pt. Reyes (HG, m.ob.) add up to two birds or one (the mainland bird was unbanded)? A ♂ Magnolia Warbler on outer Pt. Reyes (JM, m.ob.) was more helpful, remaining May 26-28 while another male was at Bodega Harbor May 28 (LCB). A Cape May Warbler stopped in at outer Pt. Reyes May 28-29 (JR, m.ob.).

In a pattern similar to that of last spring, the penultimate Myrtle Warbler was at Oak Grove P., *San Joaquin*, May 3 (DY), the last on F.I., May 27. There are still too few such late records on hand to identify any definite pattern, however, making last spring's claim of vagrant e. Myrtles premature. A singing ♂ Audubon's Warbler on outer Pt. Reyes May 26-27 (JM, m.ob.) had still less precedent. Black-throated Gray Warbler movement was notably early, Mar. 28-Apr. 28. Five C.V. Hermit Warblers May 2-11 were usual; a break in coastal sightings, Mar. 23-Apr. 26, separated winter and migrant birds. A ♀ Black-throated Green Warbler was examined on outer Pt. Reyes May 26-29 (JM, †HG, †KFC, m.ob.). An *albilora* Yellow-throated Warbler was singing May 25 by the Samoa airstrip, *Humboldt* (†GSL, †BRo); we have had one each spring for 4 years now. Reports of two others of this C.B.R.C.-reviewed species lacked documentation. Four Black-and-white Warblers May 26-30 (coastal, S.F. to *Del Norte*) was ¾ the average show. An Ovenbird on F.I. (one of three coastal birds) May 16 established the earliest Regional record by 4 days, surprisingly. Two N. Waterthrushes May 17 near Ft. Dick (GSL *et al.*) provided 3rd and 4th *Del Norte* records.



A singing **Kentucky Warbler** was enjoyed May 19-20 at the Yurok Experimental Forest, *Del Norte* (†RAE, †GSL). Ten of our 11 reports have been in spring (only one or two have been reviewed by the C.B.R.C.). A MacGillivray's Warbler in the Sutter Buttes Apr. 10 (WA) provided the earliest-ever Sacramento Valley record, based on the data at hand. Similarly, an Apr. 6 MacGillivray's on F.I. was one of the earliest for the coast, but there were no comments on the overall timing of migration for the species. Five Com. Yellowthroats singing in a small marsh just n.w. of Sacramento Metro Airport May 23 (SAL) were encouraging; just where this species does and does not breed in the C.V. still needs much checking. Four Hooded Warblers was a good spring crop. A singing male was at San Pedro Valley P., *San Mateo*, May 20 and another was on outer Pt. Reyes May 27 (both *fide Gull*). A female was on F.I., May 21, and another female on Pt. St. George May 30 (†ADB *et al.*) was a first for *Del Norte*. Two Wilson's Warblers were very early for the interior Mar. 28 at Ancil Hoffman P., Sacramento (DSH), while nine coastally Mar. 22-29 were nearly as good for that district.

**TANAGERS THROUGH LONGSPURS** — Summer Tanagers were an imm. male well-described at Bodega Harbor May 28 (†LCB), and a male at Coyote Hills Regional P., *Alameda*, May 21-22 (*fide Gull*). Our first W. Tanager, Apr. 9 in the n. Sacramento Valley (NRG, PBS), was about a week early for such. The seven Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were just twice the period's average. All were coastal, May 26-29, with four reported as females indicating good scrutiny (and reporting). Reports of Blue Grosbeaks in the interior, 1970-1985, indicate average first arrival is the last week of April (*contra Birds of Northern California*, McCaskie *et al.*, 1979); one at Hollister, *San Benito*, Apr. 22 (DY) thus seemed a little early. A Lazuli Bunting on F.I., Apr. 6 was, if acceptable, the earliest record for the Region by 6 days (sex?—no details). Half of our six Indigo Buntings were on F.I., while one May 17-18 near Ft. Dick (RST *et al.*) was only the 2nd for *Del Norte*.

Four Clay-colored Sparrows on F.I., May 13-28, were more than the average there, but as usual none was noted on the mainland. At Round Mt. in the Mountain Meadows area of *Lassen* a disjunct population of Brewer's Sparrows apparently exists; four were noted May 17 (HG) and again May 27 (DAA); we await breeding confirmation. A Brewer's Sparrow near Ft. Dick May 17 (GSL *et al.*) furnished a 2nd county record there. Black-chinned Sparrows were again conspicuous, with "as many as eight males" May 4-25 on Carson Ridge and Pine Mt., both *Marin* (DAH), and about eight Apr. 28 on the Folsom Pen., *El Dorado* (TM *et al.*), both areas of occurrence last year. At 4 sites in *Glenn*, 20 ± singing males (ASE) were again n. of known regular occurrence. Two singing on Pine Mt., Apr. 18 (*fide Gull*) were decidedly early. A Vesper Sparrow nest May 27 confirmed breeding at Round Mt., *Lassen* (DAA). Two Black-throated Sparrows at the Mad R. estuary (one to two seen Apr. 30-May 16, RLeV) were *Humboldt's* 3rd and 4th; the species was again noted on Folsom Pen., May 5 + (G. Ewing, m.ob., *fide TM*). Two Sage Sparrows Mar. 17 were in the Rancho San Antonio O.S.P. area of *Santa Clara* (JY *et al.*); they are said to be "very rare in the Santa Cruz Mts." (WGB). Breeding was confirmed for the species in *Sonoma*, with a nest and 3 eggs May 19 on Ida Clayton Rd. (LCB, BDP).

A ♂ Lark Bunting was noted Apr. 6-12 at the s.e. edge of the Sutter Buttes (WA, TB *et al.*), the same site as last year's pair. A Grasshopper Sparrow Apr. 1 at Garin P., *Alameda* (BR) provided the early report by 9 days, and tied the Region's earliest-ever record. Thirty-plus singing Fox Sparrows on Goat Mt., *Colusa*, May 4 (SAL) were 20 mi s. of their known coastal mountains breeding range; singles on F.I., May 21 & 26 were exceptionally late (no comments on racial group). A Lincoln's Sparrow near Ft. Dick May 17 (GSL *et al.*) was, unsurprisingly, *Del Norte's* latest ever. A badly underappreciated field-problem in the Region is confusion between juv. Song Sparrows and Lin-

coln's Sparrows; there are many casually-made reports on file for Lincoln's Sparrows on the coast, mid-May through summer; without documentation, this pattern cannot be evaluated critically. Well outside expected patterns of occurrence was a breeding-plumaged ad. Swamp Sparrow at Lava Lakes Nature Center, *Siskiyou*, May 26-27 (†RE, †MR), said to be the county's first ever. Six White-throated Sparrows were reported Mar. 1-Apr. 26. Palomarin had an all-time low of breeding White-crowned Sparrows (*Z. l. nuttalli*) for a 2nd year. An ad. Harris' Sparrow was in Greenbrae, *Marin*, Mar. 31-Apr. 27 (*fide Gull*; JWh *et al.*). A ♀ (or imm. ♂?) Lapland Longspur on outer Pt. Reyes May 13 (JE—details said to be forthcoming) was in *basic* plumage, and tied the late date for the Region.

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH GROSBEEKS** — Tricolored Blackbirds continued to be well-reported from most but not all areas; large colonies were 10,000 ± in *Butte* s. of Chico May 25 (T & AM) and 73,000 nests ("more than last year") at Sacramento N.W.R., May 30 (MRH). Outside the C.V., colonies are never so large. A report of 520 nests in one loose colony in Fremont was good news; RWL stated, "Nest success appears excellent (in thistles on upland areas!). As far as I know this is the first significant breeding by this species in this area in 12 years." Extremely unseasonal was a ♂ Rusty Blackbird Apr. 15 on F.I. (†SJ—P.R.B.O.); the only later report on file for the Region was also of a male on F.I. (Apr. 22, 1973—not previously published here). Hot on the heels (or hallucines?) of last season's records was the Region's 8th Great-tailed Grackle, a male Apr. 27 and June 10 at the Nature Conservancy's Creighton Ranch Preserve, *Tulare* (RH, †KH). Hooded Orioles made news, with several impressions voiced of continued increase in the C.V., "topped" by 24 discovered in a search of the Anderson/Redding area of *Shasta* May 26-31 (BY, BV *et al.*). Also of interest were the 2nd Mono Basin record (imm. male, Apr. 1 at Lee Vining—DS *et al.*) and what was felt to be the "1st ever (Regionally?) on the coast n. of the Humboldt Bay area:" a female at Westhaven, *Del Norte*, Apr. 30 (RAE). Our first Bullock's N. Orioles (Mar. 24; Menlo Park—WGB, and Fairfax—DAH) were the latest such in 7 years. A ♂ Baltimore Oriole at Manila, *Humboldt*, May 18-19 (P. Patton, *fide JSt*) was seen well; we average nearly one per spring migration.

Purple Finches departed most lowland areas by late April, an exception being Palomarin, where the excellent thistle crop brought them out into open scrub areas in high numbers through the period. Cassin's Finches continued their unprecedented invasion of lowland cismontane areas in small numbers, with two remaining to Mar. 15 at Louis P., Stockton (DY), two at the low and coastward Lord Ellis Summit, *Humboldt*, Apr. 3 (JSt), and one in Oakland May 23 (†JL). A consensus was apparent that the Red Crossbill irruption declined through the spring, at least in lowlands, although the reports themselves did not reflect this (more reports, and more birds reported, for May than for March and April). Evidence of breeding was noted Mar. 2-May 17 in *Plumas* (DAA), *Monterey* (AB), and S.F. (JM). Pine Siskins continued in excellent numbers, e.g., birds remaining at several locales in the San Joaquin Valley well into May (KH, RJB, DY), but no breeding was reported in the Region. Lawrence's Goldfinches were back down to near normal numbers, with 15 ± reported away from areas of regular occurrence. Scattered, small flocks of Evening Grosbeaks continued to be found through the Region all spring; the largest concentrations reported were of 50+ in Sacramento Mar. 24 (B. Heacox, *fide TM*), and 300 along U.S. 395 in *Mono* Apr. 27 (BED).

**ADDENDUM** — A ♀ Blackpoll Warbler was observed May 18, 1984 at Grass L. (20 mi n. of Weed on Hwy 97), *Siskiyou* (†PFS, SH); this was the 2nd interior spring record for the Region.



**CORRIGENDA** — AB 36(5):892, the Am. Redstart at Antelope L., *Plumas* May 27 should be credited to BED. AB 38(5):953, delete the Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Los Banos W.A., Apr. 2 (should be Merced N.W.R., as other sightings). AB 38(5):956, the sentence on Indigo Buntings *should* read, "... the 1979-'83 Regional average for March-May is 3-4."

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