
MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

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Farallon Islands seabirds had mixed reproductive success. Western Gulls and Common Murres did rather well, while Brandt's Cormorants and Cassin's Auklets had a fair season. Pelagic Cormorants and Pigeon Guillemots, the inshore feeders most sensitive to the warm water/reduced upwelling syndrome (e.g., El Niño), suffered a bad season. Conversely, the latter two species reproduced well in Monterey County (AB). A levee break at Big Lake, Shasta County, flooded many acres and attracted county record numbers of seven species of waterbirds July 13 (BY, BVdM). At Pt. Reyes the spring vagrant season was generally unimpressive, but coverage may have been down. In contrast, Humboldt County experienced its best June on record.

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

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS — Northbound loons were noted as late as June 13 (four Red-throats and 23 Pacifics at Pigeon Pt., San Mateo) and June 18 (seven Pacifics at Santa Cruz—all DLSu). Horned Grebes lingered at outer Pt. Reyes to June 2 (JM, DAH) and Bodega Bay to July 19 (DAH, KFC), and Red-necked Grebes lingered with them to June 5 (two—RS) and June 15 (SFB) at Pt. Reyes, and to June 16 at Bodega

Harbor (RAE, KFC, NTC). Over 300 W. Grebes nested very successfully at L. San Antonio, Monterey (DR, RLR). From one to 5 pairs of Clark's Grebes were known or suspected breeding at each of 5 localities in Plumas, Mono, Stanislaus, and Monterey, all sympatric with W. Grebes. Seven Clark's Grebes were reported summering on the coast from Marin to Monterey.

Black-footed Albatross was well-reported, with 20–200 on 9 boat trips from Marin to Monterey. Two Laysan Albatrosses were offshore Monterey June 7 (JSL, TAC). Northern Fulmars remained numerous throughout the period, with up to 30 per trip around Cordell Bank, Marin, and up to eight offshore Monterey. A major and unseasonal influx concentrated 150 at Cordell Bank July 13 (SFB et al.).

Following this spring's sightings of *Pterodroma* petrels 15–20 mi s.w. of Cordell Bank, Marin, birding boat trips repeated these findings in the same area. Due to identification difficulties often including poor viewing conditions, many individuals could only be called "large dark *Pterodroma*, probably Solander's or Murphy's". However, three of seven birds on June 1 were well photographed (two at close range on the water!) and described (ph. JMD; †RAE, †ADB, †MJL, m.ob.). We still have much to learn about these species, and the C.B.R.C. has yet to vote, but apparently one of these three was **Murphy's Petrel** and the other two (plus perhaps another—DGY) were **Solander's Petrels**. Of the eight seen June 7, two were identified as Murphy's and two as Solander's (†JM, †MJL, RS et al.). All five on June 13 and both birds on July 4 were too distant to identify to species (KFC, JM, m.ob.). On June 7 one petrel was light-bellied, probably of the "Cookilaria" group (†JM, DLS).



Apparent Murphy's Petrel (*Pterodroma ultima*) beyond Cordell Bank, Cal., June 1, 1986. Note whitish throat and relatively small bill in comparison to Solander's Petrel. Photo/J. Michael Danzenbaker.

Shearwaters were very scarce (KFC, DLS, DLSu). No Pink-footed Shearwater totals exceeded 10. No large flocks of Sooty Shearwaters appeared, and most boats found fewer than 1000. At least one Buller's Shearwater was exceptionally early in the Cordell Bank area, Marin, as single sightings occurred June 13 (KFC), July 4 (JM), and July 13 (SFB, JM). Cordell Bank also attracted storm-petrels, highlighted by a remarkable concentration rafted on plankton-rich waters July 13. It included a very unseasonal **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** (†JM, †SFB, RS) and up to 20 Fork-taileds, 20 Leach's, and 1200 Ashy Storm-Petrels (SFB, JM). JM suggests that the regular summer occurrence of Fork-taileds at Cordell Bank may indicate undetected breeding on F.I. or some small coastal island in central California. The southernmost known colonies of this species are near Trinidad, Humboldt.

Brown Pelicans vacated Santa Clara in June but returned in record numbers in July, with up to 300+ at Palo Alto July 17 (JY, AL).



Apparent Solander's Petrel (*Pterodroma solandri*) beyond Cordell Bank, Cal., June 1, 1986. Note paleness encircling base of bill, and relatively large bill in comparison to Murphy's Petrel. Photo/J. Michael Danzenbaker.



Flight view of same apparent Solander's Petrel beyond Cordell Bank. Note the relatively bold whitish patch on the underside of the primaries, and the narrow bar formed by dark tips to the pale greater underprimary-coverts. Photo/J. Michael Danzenbaker.

HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — A ♂ Least Bittern at Arcata Marsh July 7–17 (Jack Mays, †GSL, †LPL et al.) was a first for *Humboldt* as well as providing the first coastal record n. of Marin. An imm. Little Blue Heron was at Las Gallinas sewage ponds, Marin, July 18–24 (JM et al.). Single ad. Little Blues were near Richvale, Butte, July 10–11 (J. Hainline), at Charleston Slough, Santa Clara, June 14 (T. Simons), and Sonoma Dunes Campground, Sonoma, June 1 (S.L. Yee, †DGY et al.). Forty-three Cattle Egrets near Richvale July 2 (J. Hainline) was considered a “Butte high count”, and one at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin, July 30 was unseasonal (CLF). White-faced Ibises were widely reported in good numbers. Eighty pairs nested at Colusa N.W.R., with 132 birds there in late June (GM). Twenty-one ibises at Lower Klamath N.W.R., July 31 (RE) included juveniles, which suggests breeding on the refuge for the 2nd year in a row following a 25-year absence. Fifteen in Surprise Valley, Modoc, June 16 (BED) were away from areas of recent concentrations.

Two Tundra Swans at L. Almanor, Plumas, June 5 (BED) and one there June 24 (DAA) might have been cripples. All goose species except Ross’ were well reported as summering in small numbers and all appeared healthy. July Butte Mallard populations were thought to be about one-third of 1985’s high numbers while Cinnamon Teal numbers there were at a 12-year high (JHS). Last year’s first Marin N. Shoveler nesting was repeated at Las Gallinas sewage ponds, as five young were found July 4 (DAH). Gadwalls did very well at Palo Alto Flood Control Basin, Santa Clara, where 410 birds July 10 were estimated to be 70–80% immatures (DLSu). Several coastal summering Canvasbacks were usual, as was the fact that the high count reported of nine at the Modesto sewage ponds, Stanislaus, June 1–July 31 (HMR) was inland. A survey of Ring-necked Ducks at 35 lakes in e. Tehama, w. Lassen, and n. Plumas in June by Beth Waterbury revealed about 65 birds including juveniles. This is a real increase over 1982–1984 surveys by DAA. For the 3rd consecutive year, Ring-neckeds were found nesting near L. Earl, Del Norte (PFS). A ♂ Ring-necked at Pescadero Marsh June 24 through July (PJM et al.) provided a first San Mateo summer record. Two ♂ Lesser Scaups at the Chester sewage ponds, Plumas, June 24 (DAA) were within a possible breeding area as they have bred in adjacent Lassen. Extralimital nesting was confirmed again in Santa Clara (at least the 4th time in recent years) when a female and ducklings were seen July 20 (PMB). Last season’s King Eider at the Salinas R. mouth, Monterey, was last seen June 15 (DR). Oldsquaw was reported in the Region for the 7th consecutive summer, with one at Tomales Bay, Marin, June 21–July 8 (JM et al.). A ♀ Com. Goldeneye was at Bay Farm I., Alameda, July 16 (DAH, DDK) and one was at the Salinas R. mouth June 28–July 8 for one of the few summer Monterey records (PJM, DR, DLSu). The above-mentioned Ring-necked Duck survey also counted Buffleheads in the same area and found the population to be stable compared to 1981–1984 surveys. A Red-breasted Merganser was at Mono L., July 6 (SFB et al.). A melanistic ♂ Ruddy Duck at Charleston Slough June 19–27 (DLSu) was a very interesting find and rarely recorded for this species.

HAWKS THROUGH RAILS — Ospreys did well at L. Almanor, as last year, with 77% of 30 nests being successful (DAA). The tufa-nesting Ospreys at Mono L. were back this year June 8 (PDG et al.). A Bald Eagle nest that produced young at Union Valley Res., El Dorado, was well s. of recent Sierran sites (DAA). A pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks possibly nested at Stockton in June (fide DGY), the female having been released recently from a local rehabilitation center. This would be a very rare C.V. floor record. An ad. Red-shouldered Hawk was near Grenada, Siskiyou, July 22 (RE), but this species is still not known to breed in the county after repeated sightings. Twenty-seven pairs of Swainson’s Hawks were located in Butte Valley, Siskiyou, with good reproductive success noted (fide DAA). An ad. Peregrine Falcon near Richvale July 17 (JHS) provided a first Butte summer record.

SHOREBIRDS — Shorebird observers are encouraged to report age/sex/plumage data as an essential part of understanding the migration, timing, and nesting success, as well as vagrancy patterns, of these birds. For this purpose shorebirders should utilize the recently-published *Shorebirds, an Identification Guide* by Hayman, Marchant, and Prater, with its many excellent color plates.

An army of 200 Black-bellied Plovers at the Modesto sewage ponds July 27 (HMR) certainly symbolized fall migration in action. As *dominica* Lesser Golden-Plovers sometimes reach Argentina by late August and start nesting slightly earlier and closer to California than the mostly coastal migrant *fulva*, we might find our July and early August records to be of *dominica*. Note however that *fulva* has been known to show up on its w. Pacific migration routes, and even in Hawaii, by the end of July. As with all shorebirds, the actual direction of movement can be confusing at times, and random wandering is also a factor. This season’s only birds were identified as “probably” *fulva*: one in partial-alternate plumage at Abbott’s Lagoon, Marin, July 31 (†DAH), and one in alternate plumage at the Salinas R. mouth July 8–12 (†DLSu, DEG et al.). A downy young Snowy Plover at the Modesto sewage ponds June 3–5 (HMR, ECa) established the first Stanislaus nesting record.

Black Oystercatcher colonization of e. San Francisco Bay continued as evidenced by several reports (SFB, RAE, JM et al.). A pair of Black-necked Stilts nested again at Humboldt Bay, fledging two young at Arcata Marsh in July (GSL, RLeV et al.). American Avocets did well at Charleston Slough, Santa Clara, where 545 including young were seen June 15 (DLSu). A group of 16 Greater Yellowlegs at Fremont June 20 (RAE) was thought to be a record summer concentration. The first juveniles reported were at Petaluma, Sonoma, July 21, with the first juv. Lesser at Pt. Reyes July 31 (both DAH). The only Solitary Sandpiper reported was at Woodland Sugar Ponds, Yolo, July 27 (KS). An excellent summer gathering of 150+ Willets was at the Moss Landing salt ponds June 16 (DEG). The first juv. Willet reported away from nesting areas was at Moss Landing July 13 (SNGH). A June high count of Whimbrels was of 44 at the Moss Landing salt ponds June 16 (DEG), while one at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin June 20–July 4 (PMB) provided the first Santa Clara summer record. Were 300+ Marbled Godwits at the Moss Landing salt ponds June 16 (DEG) summering, or just arrived from the north? Note the number of Willets, Whimbrels, and Ruddy Turnstones also at this date and location. A late northbound Marbled Godwit was on F.I., May 31–June 2, unusual dates. Twenty-eight Ruddy Turnstones were at the Moss Landing salt ponds June 16 (DEG). Eight Surfbirds at Ano Nuevo Pt., June 24 (PJM) beat the previous San Mateo early date (July 9) by 15 days, while a Red Knot there the same day (PJM) provided a first June county record.

It was the best July on record for Semipalmated Sandpipers, with a minimum of 23 found. Adults were at L. Earl, Del Norte, July 14 (ADB), Eureka July 25 (RAE, ADB), and the Modesto sewage ponds (Stanislaus’ first) July 27 (†ECa, †HMR). Two juveniles were at Eureka July 30–31 (ADB, RAE), one was at Arcata, *Humboldt*, July 31 (SDF), two were at the Ukiah sewage ponds (Mendocino’s 2nd record) July 31 (RAE), and one was at Abbott’s Lagoon, Marin, July 31 (†DAH). Coastal Del Norte was checked daily in late July by ADB who found juveniles July 22–29, with a peak of 14 on July 28. Juvenile W. Sandpipers were not noted until July 26 and only six were found by July 28 (less than half the number of juv. Semipalmateds; all Del Norte—ADB et al.). This would seem to confirm the suggestion made in AB 36:213 that the migration of juv. Semipalmateds is earlier than that of Westerns in California.

A Least Sandpiper at Abbott’s Lagoon, Marin, July 27 (SNGH) was the first juvenile of this species reported. Single ad. Baird’s Sandpipers were reported at Pt. Reyes July 20 (RS) and Abbott’s Lagoon July 21 (†SNGH, SWW), while two were at the Smith R. estuary, Del Norte, July 24 (JKi, ADB, RAE). Another at Salinas sewage ponds July 21 (CT) was unaged but by date probably

also was an adult. Juveniles were first reported July 28 at Del Norte (ADB). A Pectoral Sandpiper at Arcata Marsh, Humboldt, June 1-3 (FJB et al.) furnished the latest spring record for the state. Interestingly, the first fall Pectorals were all noted July 20 as follows: six at L. Talawa, Del Norte (ADB), one at Pt. Reyes (RS), one at Modesto sewage ponds, Stanislaus (ECa), and one at Moss Landing (†DAH, †DDK). The early date indicates that all were adults, but only the latter was reported as such. An alternate-plumaged Dunlin was at Arcata June 5-July 31 (RAE et al.). A Stilt Sandpiper was at Arcata Marsh July 6-7 (FJB et al.), where the species is surprisingly regular. Last season's two partial-albino dowitchers at Charleston Slough were seen again, with one remaining to July 10 (DLSu et al.). Of the several other June dowitchers reported, all were Short-billeds and most were coastal as expected. The first juv. Short-billed reported was at Abbott's Lagoon July 31 (DAH). Wilson's Phalaropes were suspected of nesting, away from their stronghold in the Great Basin and mountains, w. of Nelson, Butte (four juveniles July 9—JHS) and at Petaluma (broody male present July 13—BDP). Twenty-five ad. Red Phalaropes on a "beyond the Cordell Bank" trip Sonoma/Marin July 13 (RS, SFB, DLS) helped to fill the late-June-through-July gap in records.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Probably the seven Pomarine and two Parasitic jaegers reported June 1-7 were spring migrants, and the three Pominas and five Parasitics July 14-22 were fall migrants, but the subad. Pomarine at Santa Cruz June 26 (DLSu) likely summered in California waters. Before this year there were very few far-offshore birding trips during spring and fewer spring records of Long-tailed Jaeger in California. Four beyond Cordell Bank, Marin, June 7 included at least two adults (RS, m.ob.). A single imm. Long-tailed Jaeger was there July 13 (JM), as was the year's first S. Polar Skua on July 4 (DLS). Three S. Polar Skuas were offshore Monterey July 20 (PJM, AB).

An ad. **Laughing Gull** flying across Stockton sewage ponds July 2 (†DGY) provided the first C.V. record. Three ad. Franklin's Gulls were about average. They were at Mad R. Estuary, Humboldt, June 1 (FJB), Pt. Saint George, Del Norte, June 9 (ADB), and Honey Lake W.M.A., June 13 (ph. †TDM, AM). Summering Bonaparte's Gulls were widely reported along the coast, with high counts of 49 at the Salinas R. mouth June 29 (DR) and 66 at the Salinas sewage ponds July 19 (DLSu). The C.V. had up to five at the Modesto sewage ponds (HMR, ERC). A Mew Gull at New Brighton State Beach, Santa Cruz, June 26 carried very worn first-year plumage (DLSu). At Lower Klamath N.W.R., the large sump containing many nesting islands was drained in April, forcing the thousands of ad. California Gulls to abandon this site by June 1 (RE, MR). There was only scattered nesting elsewhere in the Klamath Basin this year. Western Gulls continue to pioneer new nesting sites inside the S.F. Bay system; a nest was found June 7 as far inland as the Benicia Marina, Solano (†RL et al.). Migrating ad. Sabine's Gulls beyond Cordell Bank included 15 June 1 and three June 7 (KFC et al.). Three first-summer Sabine's Gulls near F.I., June 2 were also flying N (SFB).

About 260 Caspian Tern nests at Alameda Naval Air Station, Alameda, produced well over 220 chicks and fledglings by July 28 (LDC). An Elegant Tern at Martinez, Contra Costa, July 3 (RJR) furnished the most inland record for the Region. Boat trips beyond Cordell Bank, Marin, regularly detected Arctic Terns: two June 1, seven June 7, five June 13, and one July 4 (KFC, RAE, DLS, JM). Least Terns produced the most fledglings since 1981 (all LDC). At Alameda Naval Air Station, 37-47 pairs (55 nesting attempts) fledged 68-83 young. Oakland International Airport hosted 29-34 pairs (35 nests) and yielded 10-11 fledglings. The only other pair known in the Region fledged two at W. Pittsburg, Contra Costa. Startling news was of a pair of **Black Skimmers** nesting in a Caspian Tern colony at Tulare L. Drainage District ponds, Kings (MOC et al.). Found July 19, the pair had three chicks by July 27, but only the

adults were seen Aug. 9. Not only was this the northernmost nesting for w. North America, but it represented the first interior sighting for the Region.

Single Pigeon Guillemots near Cordell Bank June 7 (KFC) and July 13 (SFB) were unusual that far offshore. A pair of Xantus' Murrelets was near F.I., June 2 (SFB), and this species was recorded on all 5 trips to beyond Cordell Bank June 1 to July 13, with a high of nine on June 13 (KFC, JM et al.). Do a few Xantus' Murrelets nest on F.I. or elsewhere in our Region? A small portion of Cordell Bank had 2000 Cassin's Auklets gorging in the plankton-rich waters July 13 (SFB et al.). The total number present must have been a substantial part of the enormous F.I. breeding population. An anomaly was the Cassin's Auklet on L. Talawa, Del Norte, July 22; it could fly well, and the weather was clear and windless (ADB, JKi). About 23 active Rhinoceros Auklet burrows were discovered on Ano Nuevo I., San Mateo (GJS), for the southernmost confirmed nesting in North America. Up to 11 Rhinoceros Auklets at outer Pt. Reyes were suspected of nesting on the mainland (DAH, DDK, RS). The 2 pairs of Tufted Puffins carrying food to the tip of Pt. Reyes in late June (RS) provided even more convincing evidence. Single **Horned Puffins** were seen 4 times: s.w. of Cordell Bank June 1 (ph. JMD, †MJL et al.), offshore Monterey June 22 & 23 (fide DLS), and offshore Santa Cruz June 28 (fide DLS).

S.A.

The Point Reyes Bird Observatory has maintained a long-term avian biomonitoring program at its Palomarin Field Station in coastal Marin County since 1966. The local avian production in coastal scrub and mixed evergreen forest at Palomarin has been estimated from 11 years of standardized mist-netting data. These data supply evidence that a major reproductive failure of landbirds occurred in 1986. The total number of young birds banded per 100 net hours between May 10 and July 28 of 1986 was only 36.8% of the average for the previous 10 years, and the 1986 ratio of young to adults was only 41.8% of the previous 10-year mean. These reductions represent statistically significant deviations from the previous years' patterns. Moreover, this high level of reproductive failure occurred in virtually all of the 48 locally breeding species and was independent of foraging guild, habitat preference, and nest location. Of special interest is the fact that no significant reductions in the number of young birds or in the young/adult ratio occurred during the first three 10-day sampling periods of 1986, indicating that the onset of reproductive failures began after the nesting season was well under way and after early nesters successfully fledged young. The data point to an onset of reproductive failure around the first week of May. Such a large-scale reproductive failure of an entire landbird community has not been previously reported anywhere and no obvious weather factors appear to explain the phenomenon. Preliminary investigation, however, indicates that severely reduced productivity in 1986 may have characterized many avian species throughout much of c. and n. California w. of the Sierra. Furthermore, the early and drastic curtailment of breeding may well have led to the early initiation of fall migration that was detected by P.R.B.O. researchers both on the Farallon Is. and in the high country of the Sierra. Situations such as this in 1986 serve to illustrate the immense importance of long-term landbird biomonitoring projects.—Dave DeSante

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Mono L. County Park June 21 (†DLSu) was a significant migrant (2nd for the Mono Basin), as there are less than a handful of Regional records e. of the Cascade/Sierra crest.

A few comments on California's incipient **Barred Owl** population are in order, especially in light of what appeared in the spring report. The following known males are all still accounted for: Howland Hill, Del Norte (June 19 and July 16—ADB *et al.*); Salyer, Trinity (this season, no date); Willow Creek, Humboldt (May); near Orleans, Humboldt (rediscovered in mid-July; pair present in June 1983). The latter three birds were all reported by Spotted Owl biologist John Brack (*fide* GSL) along with the fact that the Orleans bird was seen to drive off the male of a pair of Spotted Owls while under observation. This negative aspect of the Barred Owl's expansion in the Pacific Northwest has caused considerable concern among those involved in Spotted Owl management. Consequently, the discovery of Siskiyou's first Barred Owl, another vocal male, on upper Somes Cr., near Somes Bar, in May (TH, *fide* J. Brack, GSL; details not yet seen) is not necessarily good news.

At Yosemite's McGurk Meadow, two Great Gray Owls were fledged from only the 7th known natural nest in California (JW). A single bird was fledged at Crane Flat (JW *et al.*). There is currently considerable interest in the status of Short-eared Owls in California; nevertheless we received no reports of any kind.

A Com. Nighthawk over Livermore June 11 (PAW, *fide* ALE) was at least Alameda's 4th record, surprising since this species is almost unknown in California as a migrant. Another Alameda record from Berkeley Apr. 20, 1924 (Grinnell & Miller, 1944. Distribution of the birds of California. Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 27.) should be disregarded, as the species has not been reliably recorded in the state earlier than late May. An impressive addition to the Pt. Reyes list was the **Whip-poor-will** seen June 6 (†GH, †RS). The only previous Regional record was of a calling bird in Tulare in June 1983 (AB 38:243), possibly extending the fringes of the limited s. California range.

A pair of White-throated Swifts returned to nest at Tule Lake N.W.R., June 17–July 19, with three juveniles seen on the latter date (RE, BED, MR). After successfully raising two broods for each of the last 2 years, a ♀ Black-chinned Hummingbird in Stockton outdid herself this year. Just before fledging the 2nd brood of the year, she began incubating her 3rd clutch of eggs in the 3rd of 3 separate nests (CS, *fide* DGY). A ♂ Calliope Hummingbird on the Hoopa Indian Reservation July 2 (GSL) was slightly w. of the known breeding range, and provided only the 2nd Humboldt record outside of spring migration. Broad-tailed Hummingbird was added to the Region's list of confirmed nesting species when two females were found on nests in Lundy Canyon, Mono, June 7–8 (†HAG *et al.*). The species was first recorded in 1972 and nesting has been sus-

pected for at least 10 years, primarily in this immediate vicinity. A ♂ Broad-tailed was at June L., Mono, June 24–27 (BHG, *fide* DR) and a female above Eagleville July 5 (†KLH) was a first for Modoc; a male was also said to be present by locals. One a few miles to the south in Lassen July 9, 1975 was the only previous record for the n.e. corner of the state. Six southbound Rufous Hummingbirds (five ad. males, one female/immature) had already gathered at Kennedy Meadows, Tuolumne, June 20 (KVV), and one or two ad. ♂ Allen's Hummingbirds at Shasta June 14–26 (BY, CY) were far e. of their breeding range.

The season's most heartbreaking rarity (owing to its brief visit) was the stunning **Red-headed Woodpecker** at Pt. Saint George, Del Norte, June 9 (ph. JKI, †ADB, †GSL, †LPL, †WER). California's only previous acceptable record was at the Salton Sea in July/August 1971.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS—The dismal spring for Willow Flycatchers along the coast continued with only three birds reported (Marin and Monterey June 2–6). Inland reports are less easily evaluated. A singing Least Flycatcher near Crescent City (Del Norte's first) June 3–8 (ADB, †LPL *et al.*) surprisingly did not remain to summer. Did any of California's previous spring migrants sing?

Two Say's Phoebes in San Carlos, San Mateo, June 14 (DLSu) hinted at possible local nesting, but unfortunately there was no follow-up. This species is not known to breed anywhere closer than the dry foothills of the Coast Ranges to the east and south. Unseasonal coastal W. Kingbirds were at Pt. Reyes June 15 (DAH), near Ft. Dick, Del Norte, June 21 (ADB), and at Russian Ridge O.S.P., San Mateo, June 29 (PLN). The latter bird was said to be in good habitat where nesting is a possibility. Vagrant E. Kingbirds were one to two at Pt. Reyes June 11–15 (RS, SFB, DAH *et al.*), one at Muir Beach, Marin, July 22 (D. Williams, *fide* HAG) and, more impressively, one at Sacramento June 23 (DoM, *fide* TDM). A pair was present at their traditional site (since at least 1976) near Edgewood, Siskiyou, at least early June to July 12 (RE, MR *et al.*).

An apparent family group of five or more Pygmy Nuthatches in Redwood Regional Park, Contra Costa, June 27 (RAE) suggested the nesting pair found there in April was successful. Contrary to the spring report, this species was strictly a casual visitor in the East Bay Area until very recently, and nesting has been suspected for only about the last 5 years as records have accumulated in this immediate vicinity. Three Winter Wrens in the Pine Cr. drainage, Modoc, July 12–13 (JTr) were in the Warner Mts. where this species is not known to breed. The landbird of the season for most observers (since so many saw it) was California's 2nd **Sedge Wren**, a persistently singing male, at Little Shasta, Siskiyou, June 8–July 4 (ph. †RE, m.ob.). The previous record was from Marin Nov. 4–8, 1980.



Red-headed Woodpecker at Point St. George, Cal., June 9, 1986. Second acceptable California record. Photo/Jeff Kingery.



Male Sedge Wren at Little Shasta, Cal., June 23, 1986. Second state record. Photo/Ray Ekstrom.



Male Sedge Wren at Little Shasta, Cal. Photo/Ray Ekstrom.

Single singing Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at McGurk Meadow, Mariposa, June 16 and Kennedy Meadows, Tuolumne, June 20 (both KVV) were above their usual haunts, at 7200 and 6900 feet above sea level respectively. Varied Thrushes made an impressive showing s. of their breeding range with single males at Pt. Reyes May 20–June 6 (HG et al.), Old La Honda Rd., San Mateo, June 7+ (JGr), Kenwood, Sonoma, June 19 (LSt, fide KFC) and La Honda, San Mateo, June 27 (fCB). Water Pipits were found near Swanton Peak July 21 (including fledglings) and near Burro Pass July 24 (both Tuolumne—fHAG), but more surprising were three at low-elevation Big L., Shasta, July 18 (BY, BVdM).

Two singing ♂ plumbeous Solitary Vireos were w. of Mono Craters, Mono, July 4 (SFB et al.). We still know little of the status of this local breeder in the Region. Red-eyed Vireos were found at Pt. Reyes June 1 (DAH, JM et al.), Inverness June 4 (RS), and Fairhaven, Humboldt, June 11–12 (GSL et al.).

WOOD WARBLERS — In addition to those in the spring report, four Tennessee Warblers were found, at F.I., Humboldt, and Marin, June 1–13. Five N. Parulas were seen along the coast from Mendocino to San Mateo June 1–28, with one inland at Mono L., June 6 (PJM).

Five Chestnut-sided Warblers were found along the coast from Humboldt to San Mateo June 1–14, along with two inland: Shasta's first at Summit City June 7 (BVdM, BY, CY) and one near Bridgeport, Mono, June 19 (fKVV). Nine Magnolia Warblers were all coastal (Humboldt to F.I./San Francisco June 1–12), as was the single Cape May Warbler at F.I., June 11. A juv. "Audubon's Warbler" on outer Pt. Reyes June 14 (fJM) wandered from home early, as the species is not known to breed within miles of there. A curious partial-albino ♀ Black-throated Gray Warbler returned for its 2nd season to Trinidad, Humboldt, where it was described July 5 (fGSL). Late migrant Townsend's Warblers were a female in Menlo Park June 7 (DLSu) and a male at Mono L., June 8 (PJM). The F.I. hosted the season's only Palm Warbler (a western bird) June 11, and

the only Bay-breasted Warbler (a male) June 3. Singing ♂ Blackpoll Warblers were at Fairhaven, Humboldt, June 11–12 (RLeV, GSL, JCS et al.) and Pt. Reyes June 14–15 (DAH, JM, SFB et al.).

Eight Black-and-white Warblers were found along the coast from Humboldt to F.I./San Francisco June 1–25, but all seven coastal Am. Redstarts were at Pt. Reyes or F.I., June 1–15. Three additional redstarts were found inland: Seiad Valley, Siskiyou, June 17–18 (AS, MR), Bridgeport, Mono, June 19 (fKVV), and June L. loop, Mono, June 20 (DLSu). Two more Ovenbirds visited F.I., June 2–3 (three in spring report), one was at sea 12 mi w.s.w. of Bodega Head in June (GF, fide RLeV), but more impressive were singing males inland at Seiad Valley June 17–21 (AS, fMR, fRE) and the Hoopa Indian Reservation June 26 (fGSL). In contrast, N. Waterthrush went unrecorded this spring for the 6th time in the last 10 years.

Male Kentucky Warblers were well described from F.I., June 10 (fPP) and Fairhaven June 11 (fGSL); this species has been recorded in 10 of the last 15 springs, primarily at F.I. Hooded Warbler was recorded for the 9th consecutive spring: a singing male at Gazos Cr., San Mateo, June 1 (PJM) and a female at New Brighton State Beach June 17 (fDLSu). A ♀ Canada Warbler at Mammoth Scenic Loop, Mono, June 21 (fDLSu) furnished only the 7th Regional spring record.

GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES — Twelve Rose-breasted Grosbeaks along the entire coast (inland as far as Alameda/Contra Costa and Salinas, Monterey) June 1–23 was about average for June. Another was at F.I., July 25, and San Joaquin's first was at Lodi L., July 14–17 (fDGY). Blue Grosbeaks made a strong showing on the coast with a female at Pt. Reyes June 26 (BDP), a male near Ft. Dick, Del Norte, June 18 (JKi, ADB), and a female near there July 20 (ADB). The latter bird represented the first coastal July record. Another Blue Grosbeak at Jameson Canyon, Napa, June 1 (MFR) was also w. of normal haunts. Two singing Lazuli Buntings at Crane Flat, Tuolumne, June 20 (DLSu) were at a high elevation. An ad. ♂ Lazuli × Indigo Bunting was found e. of San Gregorio Beach, San Mateo, June 28, paired with a Lazuli Bunting (fSFB). Thirteen seemingly-pure Indigo Buntings were seen along the coast from Del Norte to Santa Cruz, June 1–July 18.

Two Dickcissels were found: Arcata June 1 (JBo, fide GSL) and F.I., June 14. The only extralimital Brewer's Sparrow was at Pt. Reyes June 2 (MLR, fide HAG). Vesper Sparrows were again proven breeding in Del Norte when an adult was seen feeding a young bird at L. Talawa July 20 (ADB). A ♀ Lark Bunting at Pt. Reyes June 6 (GH, fide HAG) was one of the rarer birds found there this spring. Noteworthy Grasshopper Sparrow sightings included one to three at Little Shasta June 8–July 7 (only 4 previous Siskiyou records—RE, fKLH, MR et al.) and one at F.I., June 9. A Swamp Sparrow was unseasonal at F.I., June 1, as was a Golden-crowned Sparrow near Yreka July 3 (RE). A nuttalli White-crowned Sparrow in Walnut Creek, Contra Costa, at least Apr. 23–Aug. 15 (RAH) was slightly e. of normal, but this race is not so sedentary as one might think (see recent comments in Roberson, 1985, Monterey Birds, Monterey Audubon Society).

A Bobolink near Bolinas June 9 (DDeS) was the only one seen. One report of San Francisco's resident pair of Great-tailed Grackles was received: Ft. Mason July 2 (fide HAG).

Lesser Goldfinches were said by seasoned mountain-man JW to have had a great breeding year in the central Sierra,

Table 1. Early fall migrant/post-breeding landbirds in the Central Valley

| | | | | |
|------------------------|---------|----------------------|-------------|-----|
| Western Flycatcher | July 14 | Lodi Lake | San Joaquin | DGY |
| Solitary Vireo | July 26 | Bobelaine Sanctuary | Sutter | DJo |
| Warbling Vireo | July 23 | Turlock Lake | Stanislaus | HMR |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | June 4 | Reichmuth Park | Sacramento | TDM |
| Yellow Warbler | July 29 | Tuolumne R. Reg. Pk. | Stanislaus | HMR |
| Wilson's Warbler | July 26 | Bobelaine Sanctuary | Sutter | DJo |
| Western Tanager | July 1 | Lodi Lake | San Joaquin | DGY |

with hundreds present, especially at Ackerson Meadow, Tuolumne. Siskiyou's 3rd Lawrence's Goldfinch record (of a male and two females on the Klamath R. near the Oak Knoll Ranger Station June 18—†MR) was the most significant of several reports. The species is still unrecorded in adjacent Oregon. Two Evening Grosbeaks in Fortuna June 2 (C. Monet, *vide* RLeV), two at Crescent City June 23 (ADB), and one at Westhaven, Humboldt, July 4 (RAE, GSL, LPL) were the only lowland reports.

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