

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

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Offshore waters were rather warm during early spring, as the annual upwelling of cold, nutrient-rich water began late. Therefore, the Farallon Islands seabirds laid their eggs late.

The season's unremarkable weather allowed an evenly paced, moderately early and rather unremarkable landbird migration, although for a number of species a few individuals were exceptionally early (especially in Monterey County). First arrival records still form the vast bulk of comment received on migration. The vagrant landbird season was at least average in quantity, overall, but marked by a lack of extreme rarities. Only two C.B.R.C.-reviewed landbirds were discovered this season (Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Worm-eating Warbler).

ABBREVIATIONS — C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.V. = Central Valley; O.S.P. = Open Space Preserve; S.F. = San Francisco; W.M.A. = Wildlife Management Area; ph. = photo on file with the Regional Editors. *Italicized names refer to counties.*

All of the many records from Palomarin, Marin, 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 Green.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — At least 14 Red-throated Loons appeared inland Mar. 5–25, distributed as follows: five in San Joaquin, one in Yolo, three in Contra Costa, one in Alameda, two in Santa Clara, and two in Marin. At Pigeon Pt., San Mateo, the peak loon migration day reported was Apr. 18, when 75 minutes of seawatching recorded 620 Red-throateds, 2700 Pacifics, and 825 Commons (all DSu). A Yellow-billed Loon at Eureka, Humboldt, Apr. 25–May 18 (CR, †RAE, ph.SS, †TCh, m.ob.) was very cooperative, but another at Waddell Cr. mouth, Santa Cruz, May 7 was seen only once (†DSu). Late grebes included single Horneds at Crescent City May 26 (RAE) and Pt. Reyes (JM), and two Red-neckeds to May 26 at Crescent City (RAE) and one at Bodega Harbor to June 13 (KFC, m.ob.). After very low winter numbers of Eared Grebes at F.I., the spring peak there was of only 60 Apr. 16. At Moss Landing, 55 Clark's Grebes represented 35% of Aechmophorus present Mar. 1 (DSu).

Another Laysan Albatross rode a freighter into Port of Oak-



land, Alameda, Mar. 13. It rested at the Rotary Natural Science Center in Oakland until it disappeared mysteriously Mar. 15 (DK, *fide* Gull). Four Laysan Albatrosses were reported offshore Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Mateo Mar. 1–Apr. 25 (DLS & *fide* DLS), and one was offshore Humboldt Apr. 20 (GSL). Startling was the sighting of an unidentified albatross (silhouette only) flying over the trees of Atherton, San Mateo, May 1, 4 mi from S.F. Bay and 15 mi from the ocean (PJM). As the observer suggested, a ship-assisted Laysan was most likely. Northern Fulmars remained through the period, with up to 50 off Monterey and Marin in April, and 200 off Humboldt Apr. 20 (SWH).

Researchers cruising offshore reported 4 species of gadfly petrels (*Pterodroma*), but we have seen no details. Indirect reports indicate the following sightings (all *fide* Gull, *fide* REW): One Mottled Petrel and one Murphy's Petrel 40 mi s.w. of Trinidad Head, Humboldt, Apr. 10 (TWa, LS), three Murphy's Petrels and 20 Solander's Petrels 15–20 mi s.w. of Cordell

Bank, Marin, Apr. 21 (DGA), and two Cook's Petrels plus two "Cookilaria" petrels 32 mi w. of Cape Mendocino, Humboldt, Apr. 10 (TWa, LS). These are the first reports of Murphy's Petrels for California, and no records are yet accepted for Solander's Petrel.

The Flesh-footed Shearwater following a boat for 2 hours Apr. 13 in Santa Cruz (and Monterey?) was believed to provide the first April record for Monterey Bay (DLS, MJL). Boat counts of Sooty Shearwaters fell far short of shore counts, the highest of which was of 75,000 at Santa Cruz May 20 (DSu). Fifteen Black-vented Shearwaters were found off Monterey Mar. 24 (DLS), but one Apr. 4 and two Apr. 11 flying N past Pigeon Pt., San Mateo (DSu), were the only others reported. A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel offshore Monterey May 11 (DLS) was the lone storm-petrel away from its breeding range.

The return of Brown Pelicans was unprecedentedly early and produced unseasonal maxima from Monterey Bay to S.F. Bay: 30+ offshore Monterey Mar. 24 and 80 there Apr. 13 (both DLS), four at Trinidad, Humboldt, May 2 (FJB), 200 on Alameda Naval Air Station, Alameda, May 18 (SFB), 550+ at Santa Cruz May 20 (DSu), 900+ at Moss Landing May 30 (DGe), and 18 at Alviso, Santa Clara, May 31 (PN). Flocks totalling 1000 Double-crested Cormorants were migrating up the San Andreas Fault-line and Tomales Bay, Marin, Apr. 8-9 (RS). An ad. Pelagic Cormorant May 3 at San Mateo Bridge was late for so far down S.F. Bay (PN, JMS, MDa).

During the warm water period in early March, multiple sightings of a **Magnificent Frigatebird** provoked assumptions of two or three birds, including at least one ad. female. Reexamining the descriptions and circumstances of the sightings leaves no evidence of more than one bird, an imm. female. The reports formed a linear sequence of locations consistent with one bird's movements: in s. S.F. Bay Mar. 6 (*fide* JMS), Alameda South Shore, Alameda, Mar. 7 (DBC), Pigeon Pt., San Mateo (EI), Ano Nuevo Reserve, San Mateo (CD, *fide* DLS), and Santa Cruz Wharf (WB), the latter 3 sightings 2-3 hours apart on Mar. 8, and again at Santa Cruz Wharf Mar. 9, when the frigatebird became tangled in fishing line and drowned (BLaB, RM, *Calif. Academy of Sciences).

EGRETS THROUGH HAWKS — Little Blue Heron reports, all of single adults, included birds at Los Banos W.M.A., Merced, May 23 (BaB) and at S.F. Bay N.W.R. near the Alviso heronry May 8 (LL, SF, KE, *fide* Gull) to establish a record of 7 of the last 9 springs for Santa Clara. A Green-backed Heron near Mammoth Lakes, Mono, May 26 (TCh) was noteworthy as this bird is listed as very rare at the Mono Basin. White-faced Ibis numbers were reported lower than last year's good showing with only three at Tule Lake N.W.R., May 7 (RE), and one at Arcata Bottoms, Humboldt May 25 (CJR) the only n. coast report.

The four ad. Trumpeter Swans wintering near Ft. Dick, Del Norte, were last seen Mar. 14 (RAE, ADB). A ♂ Eur. Green-winged Teal at L. Earl Apr. 28-29 (ADB, RAE) provided Del Norte's 2nd record. A ♂ Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal was near Palo Alto Mar. 30 (DSu). A ♀ Tufted Duck at Metson L., San Francisco, Mar. 1-4 (JM, †SFB, m.ob.) was thought identical to a Jan. 25 S.F. Zoo bird. Other Tufteds were a male at Arcata Marsh Apr. 13-May 3 (MH, FBr, †ADB, †RAE, m.ob.) and a male near Grenada, Siskiyou, Mar. 11-Apr. 12 (†RE, MR, †ADB, m.ob.) that frequented the same ponds as last year. A ♂ Tufted Duck x scaup sp. at Stockton sewage ponds Mar. 21 (†DGY) looked identical to one at Clements 40 mi away on Jan. 16-28, 1984 (AB 38:353), as DGY saw both birds. An imm. ♂ King Eider was at the Salinas R. mouth Apr. 27 through the end of the period (RFT, CT, TC, DR, m.ob.), and a female was at Pt. St. George Mar. 29-31 (DeR, †ADB, †SHe) for a first Del Norte record. Twenty-two Harlequin Ducks and 100+ Black Scoters were also at Pt. St. George Mar. 3 (ADB, JK).

Two N. Goshawks reported from coastal counties, where they are very rare, were one at El Toyonal Stables area, Contra Costa, Mar. 18 (†HG), and a report from Soledad Apr. 3 (DML)

which might furnish the first Monterey record (Roberson 1985, *Monterey Birds*). A Red-shouldered Hawk nest observed May 9 into June fledged three young in Castro Valley (AW, RAE) for a first Alameda nesting.

TURKEY THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Five eggs in a Wild Turkey nest observed Apr. 19 into May (ALE) near Mines Rd., Alameda failed but constituted the first breeding evidence for the county.

A Yellow Rail description from Pescadero Marsh, San Mateo, Apr. 14 was, like many of this rare bird, all too brief. This secretive bird always needs very careful and fully-detailed documentation. A new location for Clapper Rail was near Hwys. 80 and 36, Solano, Apr. 26-May 24 (RL, DK, BMa), while a bird at McInnis County P., Marin, Mar. 29 (DE, JBs) was at a little-known locale. A pair of Virginia Rails with five downy young was at Bodega Harbor Apr. 9 (DyH, m.ob.), confirming breeding on the immediate coast. A Sandhill Crane at Arcata Marsh Apr. 19 (JA) furnished a rare n. coast sighting.

Also rare on the n. coast, two Black-necked Stilts appeared at Arcata Marsh Apr. 23-24 (JA, GSL) and one there May 24 (MH). A stilt returned to the Vigo Street Marsh, Eureka, May 23-28 (GSL, RAE), a nesting site last year, and two were at the Crescent City Harbor May 18 (JK, RAE, ADB, SS), for a 3rd consecutive spring county occurrence. A flock of 20 peeps yielded a Semipalmated Sandpiper at the Stockton sewage ponds May 17 & 22 (†DGY) which was eclipsed by a **White-rumped Sandpiper** there May 17 (†DGY, SW, KH, KHo) for a 5th Regional and first C.V. record. A Rock Sandpiper flying N at Pigeon Pt., May 4 (PJM) beat the previous late county date by a day. Two identical, mostly-albino dowitchers (sp.?) were at Charleston Slough May 22-26 (JY, AL, LyT, PN, PMB) and probably were from the same nest. Two young Com. Snipes were found at Turlock Apr. 10 (HMR) for a first known Stanislaus nesting.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Eleven Parasitic Jaegers were reported Apr. 4-May 15 along shore from S.F. to Santa Cruz (DSu), a large number for spring. An ad. Franklin's Gull at the Arcata oxidation ponds, Humboldt, Apr. 16-19 (ADB, GSL et al.) may have been the same as the one flying N past Mad R. Estuary, Humboldt, Apr. 19 (RLeV). At Stockton sewage ponds, San Joaquin, one ad. Franklin's Gull was found May 1 and two were there May 16 (all †DGY). An ad. Little Gull foraged a flooded field e. of Lodi, San Joaquin, Mar. 13. This may have been the 3rd ad. Little Gull found Mar. 18 with the two that wintered at Stockton sewage ponds. On Apr. 14-16, four ad. Little Gulls were seen simultaneously there. Two remaining Apr. 28 were gone by May 1 (all Little Gulls †DGY). Major flights of Bonaparte's Gulls were 6000 passing Pigeon Pt. in 100 minutes Apr. 4 (DSu) and 180/hour passing F.I. all day Apr. 30. Over 250 tarried at Salinas R. mouth, Monterey, May 30 (DSu). Eight Heermann's Gulls on a Cordell Bank trip, Marin & Sonoma, Apr. 19 (KFC) and 20 on Ano Nuevo I., San Mateo (PJM), were high spring numbers, and the big return was slightly early, with 156 between Santa Cruz and Capitola May 30 (DSu). These trends paralleled those for Brown Pelican but were less dramatic. Late gulls included an ad. Herring at Pt. Reyes May 16 (DAH, DDK) and a worn first-year Thayer's at Salinas R. mouth May 10 (DR). Up to 13 Glaucous Gulls were reported, only one later than Apr. 24. Up to five on the n. coast included one or two 2nd-year birds. Five on the central coast included one May 21 at Bolinas, Marin (†DDeS, PP et al.). Singles visited F.I., Adobe Cr., Santa Clara (PMB), and Davis sewage ponds (KS). Only six Black-legged Kittiwakes were reported, Mar. 2-Apr. 25 in Monterey and San Mateo. An unprecedented major migration of Sabine's Gulls a month early was witnessed at Pigeon Pt., as 350+ passed April 4 (†DSu). Singles offshore Humboldt Apr. 20 (GSL) and at Crescent City Apr. 23 (RAE, ADB, JK) were also early.

The **Royal Tern** at Salinas R. mouth May 9 (†DSu) may have been the same one seen just offshore Santa Cruz May 11 (†PJM, DLS et al.). Small numbers of Elegant Terns returned early to

Monterey Bay and vicinity, with the first being three at Pescadero Cr. mouth, San Mateo, May 3 (PJM). Six Least Terns at Alameda Naval Air Station, Alameda, Apr. 30 were the first arrivals (LDC). Adults at Crescent City May 13 (ADB, JK) and Stockton sewage ponds May 29 (†DGY) established the 2nd and 3rd consecutive years, respectively, for sighting of single adults at those locations. Peak numbers of Black Terns were 77 at Modesto sewage ponds, Stanislaus, May 8 (HMR) and 85 at Stockton sewage ponds May 9 (DGY). Three visited coastal Monterey May 9–10.

An albino Com. Murre off Monterey Mar. 2 was startling (DLS). A breeding-plumaged Marbled Murrelet flying SW past Pt. Pinos Mar. 23 (DAH, DDK) was leaving its species' normal range. A pair of Xantus' Murrelets 9 mi off Pt. Pinos Mar. 29 (SFB, DLS, PJM) was seasonally rare. One wonders whether the pair of ad. Rhinoceros Auklets at Pt. Reyes Headland May 16 (DAH, DDK) was prospecting nest sites. A Tufted Puffin flying past Bodega Head, Sonoma, May 31 (DAH et al.) was the only one reported away from known or suspected nesting grounds.

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Small, definitely breeding populations of Spotted Doves have been present in Bakersfield (just outside the Region) and Fresno for some years, and at Dinuba, Tulare since at least 1980 (RHG). One was discovered in Porterville, Tulare this Apr. 5 (JR; two to three there Apr. 6, RAB). It seems quite likely the population is expanding its range. A Greater Roadrunner on Morgan Territory Rd., May 22 (BR) furnished the "first (Contra Costa) record in many years." The expansion of the Barred Owl range into California (or our awareness of it) seems to have stalled a little. Although at least five were noted on the n. coast from March 1982 (when discovered) to June 1983, only one "new" individual has been noted in the subsequent 3 years; and this spring period the only one found, despite efforts elsewhere, was calling at the first-discovered spot (Howland Hill, Del Norte, Mar. 19–Apr. 19, ADB, JK). Only eight Short-eared Owls were reported in the period (most were migrants). Observers are strongly encouraged to make regular efforts to census our owl populations, as many appear to be in serious trouble (Burrowing, Spotted, Great Gray, Short-eared and ??) and all are very poorly known.

Four Lesser Nighthawks wandered coastwardly: Bay Farm I., Alameda, Apr. 14 (†RDH), Half Moon Bay Airport Apr. 24 (PJM, BS, fide HG), Gilroy Hot Springs Rd., Santa Clara, Apr. 26 (J. Cole fide DSu), and F.I., May 19. Two were called "probable" Lessers—a commendable but probably unnecessary conservatism, as Com. Nighthawks do not normally arrive until June (earliest record for the state: May 22, in s. California). Coastward Lesser Nighthawk records peak in June, with about 75% from F.I. A Com. Poorwill active along Corral Hollow Rd., San Joaquin, Mar. 5 (DGY) perhaps wintered in the area. A Black Swift over Las Trampas Peak, Contra Costa, Apr. 26 (BR) was exceptionally early, while 50+ at Burney Falls P., Shasta, May 8 (BVdM, BY) were exceptionally many.

Six Costa's Hummingbirds were discovered away from the expected range, Mar. 12–May 31. Four were coastward, Santa Cruz to Del Norte, while two were northward in the interior: Yreka May 9–31 (RE, MR) and Capay Valley May 19 (JMHu). Calliope Hummingbirds were very well reported. Most notably, the Corral Hollow area of w. San Joaquin is proving to be a dependable concentration point in spring migration; passage was noted there Mar. 22+, peaking at 20–25 on Apr. 28 and May 4 (DGY). A male n. of Crescent City May 11 (ADB et al.) was Del Norte's 2nd, with other singles well out-of-place in Pacific Grove Apr. 28 (RFT), on outer Pt. Reyes May 9 (RS), and inland on the C.V. floor at Lodi L., May 2 (DGY). A ♀ Allen's Hummingbird at Benicia State Recreation Area, Solano, May 3 (†MBG, RL) saved energy by using the same nest an Anna's Hummingbird had used earlier in the season. Hal Harrison (Field Guide to W. Birds' Nests, 1979) states, "Nest of Allen's resembles nest of Anna's more than that of Rufous."

WOODPECKERS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — Lewis' Woodpeckers were reported in the usual tiny numbers, but 3 locales were unusual: four at Antelope Fire Station, San Benito, Mar. 17 (BLaB, DSr, fide HG), one near Mt. Bullion, Mariposa, Apr. 20 (BED), and another on outer Pt. Reyes May 8–9 (W. Patterson, fide HG; RS). The **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** noted this winter near Nicasio (see last report) stayed to Mar. 15 (DAH, DDK), while a Red-naped Sapsucker that wintered in Golden Gate P., S.F., remained to at least Mar. 16 (DWi, ASH, fide HG). The only other records of the latter species were of singles Mar. 9–13 on Mines Rd., Alameda (ALE, BR, JR), and Mar. 22 in Henry Coe S.P. (†JY, AL). Olive-sided Flycatcher migration spanned Apr. 9 (very early; lower Gazos Cr. Road, San Mateo, DSu) through May 23. The first W. Wood-Pewee was also very early, Apr. 12 at Henry Coe S.P. (JY, AL). A mere eight Willow Flycatchers were reported this period (May 23 & 25). Observers are urged to report each and all Willow Flycatcher sightings in the Region. They may soon be vagrants only. The earliest-ever Hammond's Flycatcher for n. California was on F.I., Mar. 30 ("banded; I.D. unquestionable"—PP), but our knowledge of the timing and geography of all our Empidonax populations is still rather meager. Ten years ago few were identified in migration. Among Dusky Flycatchers (Apr. 20–May 3 in lowlands) the big news was of four "singing and apparently on territory" on Mt. Saint Helena, Sonoma (BDP). Gray Flycatchers had another great spring (Apr. 10–May 22), with 23 reported w. of the Sierran crest (they are common eastward). Amazingly, this species appears now to be the 2nd-most common Empidonax in the lowlands, in spring migration (after W. Flycatcher). Will this continue? Monterey received its first-ever Gray Flycatcher Apr. 19 (Old Stage Rd., e. of Salinas, KVV, BHG, ph.†DR), then their 2nd & 3rd May 9 (Pacific Grove, †DSu) and 4th May 15 (Big Sur R. mouth, †DGe)!

Except for a very early (or wintering) W. Flycatcher in Carmel Valley Mar. 2 (CHo), that species apparently had an unremarkable migration in the Region (Mar. 21+, after above record). Noteworthy, however, was a W. Flycatcher thought to be of the race *E.d. hellmayri* heard and seen at Ft. Dick, Del Norte May 3 (ADB). Rumors are strong that the A.O.U. Checklist Committee has already made an unofficial decision to split this Great Basin form from nominate Westerns. No rest for the "Empid"-weary! A Black Phoebe at Fall River Mills Apr. 5 (SB) was thought a "first ever" at that Great Basin locale. An E. Phoebe along the San Joaquin R. in Fresno Mar. 1 (†JLo, ZL) was notable inland, but most of the 8+ interior records are from the San Joaquin Valley area. A Say's Phoebe near Ft. Dick May 3 (ADB) was very late for the coastal district. Reports of six to nine Cassin's Kingbirds were impressive (Mar. 1–Apr. 22); all were in inner Coast Range foothills, Stanislaus to Monterey. Western Kingbirds also had a very strong migration (Mar. 16+), especially coastally, with 60± in coastal Del Norte the "best passage on record" (RAE, m.ob.). The two E. Kingbirds were at traditional locales: F.I., May 30, and outer Pt. Reyes May 31 (JM). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Smith River May 5–6 (†RAE et al.) furnished a 2nd Del Norte record.

SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS — Purple Martins were well reported coastwardly. The first, at Big Sur R. mouth Mar. 24 (JB, RFT et al.), was very early for the coast. Bank Swallows were late and poorly reported (only 9 reports, Apr. 10+). Two Gray Jays at Domingo Springs, Plumas, May 17 (JTr) were in "an area I've visited frequently in the past 15 years . . . (these are) the first I've seen here." A wily and/or hungry Steller's Jay on the campus of the Univ. of Calif. at Berkeley May 2 (DAH) was "watched hovering in front of a Cliff Swallow nest . . . at least three times. . . (It) could not hover long enough to effectively rob anything." A Black-capped Chickadee along the Salt R. at Ferndale Mar. 2 (LPL, GSL, fide RLeV) was "at the s. limit of their known distribution." Pygmy Nuthatches have been reported sparsely and very locally in the Berkeley Hills, Alameda and Contra Costa, since about 1900, with recent speculation that a small population breeds in the introduced

Monterey Pines. This Apr. 17–26, HG discovered a pair excavating and using a nest hole just inside Contra Costa. Coincidentally, six were noted during this same period on top of Mt. Hamilton, Santa Clara (Apr. 23, CB, BRb), a new locale. A Winter Wren at Lodi L., San Joaquin, May 2 (DGY) was exceptionally late. An Am. Dipper at Knight's Ferry, Stanislaus, was last seen Mar. 1 (R. Suggett, *fide* HMR); departure dates for wintering dippers are almost completely undocumented in our files.

After last spring's unprecedented irruption of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, this year's total number of reports (9, Mar. 11+), the fewest in 6 years, seemed all the more surprising. If gnatcatchers are increasing in the Region (and/or to our north) it seems an uneven climb. Single Mountain Bluebirds were identified coastally at Coyote Hills, Alameda, Mar. 9 (SLG, CSw, *fide* HG) and Bald Hills Rd., Humboldt, also Mar. 9 (JCS). Only one lowland Townsend's Solitaire was discovered: Tomales Bay S.P., Mar. 15 (RS). Swainson's Thrush migration seemed to typify the season: moderately early, with the earliest setting a new record for Monterey (Apr. 17, Salinas R. at Salinas, BHG) and strength of passage average-to-good.

Three Sage Thrashers were found away from the Great Basin: Yolo Bypass levee, Yolo, Apr. 17 (JMHu); Carson Ridge, Marin, Apr. 18 (†DAH, DDK), and Crescent City Harbor May 18–19 (ADB, SS, RAE, JKi), the latter furnishing a 3rd record for Del Norte. Water Pipits are rarely noted as migrants at middle Sierran elevations, and one at 3900-ft Big Meadow, Yosemite N.P., Mar. 29 (JLo) was early even for the small existing pattern. A pair of Phainopeplas with a nest in Hospital Canyon, San Joaquin, Apr. 19 labored, and brought forth that county's first nesting record for the species (with the assistance of DGY as observer). After a 2nd good N. Shrike winter we had a 2nd modest spring, with only one or two: the New Idria Rd. immature (San Benito's first record; see last season) remained through Mar. 17 (BLaB, JMD, DSr, *fide* HG), with another (?), also identified as an immature, on nearby Panoche Valley Rd., Mar. 15 (JCS). A singing Solitary Vireo at Lodi L., Mar. 5 was certainly early; on May 7 a pair was foraging together there. By May 20 the pair was attending two juveniles, establishing apparently the first-ever C.V. breeding record (all DGY). A pair of Hutton's Vireos was feeding two fledglings at Caswell S.P., May 10 (DGY), at a traditional nest area for this rare breeder in the C.V. The first Warbling Vireos appeared very early, with four in the first one-half of March: Mar. 8 in Upper Robinson Canyon, Monterey (DR), Mar. 9 at Monte Bello O.S.P., Santa Clara (PN), Mar. 13 in Robinson Canyon (CHo), and Mar. 14 at Corral de Tierra, Monterey (BHG). A Red-eyed Vireo rested at F.I., May 28–30.

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS — A Tennessee Warbler at Kennedy Grove Regional P., Contra Costa, Mar. 1 (JCS) surely had wintered in the area. More expected were singles at Lincoln P., S.F., May 4 (SFB) and F.I., May 28–June 1; two were noted on outer Pt. Reyes May 31 (JM). Wintering Nashville Warblers were last seen Mar. 4 in Golden Gate P. (one, DPM) and Mar. 9 in Smith River (two, ADB, JKi), and an unexpected one was 10–11 mi out over Monterey Bay Mar. 29 (PJM, SFB); coastward passage was otherwise on time (Apr. 10–May 5) but rather light (about seven individuals). The much stronger inland Nashville migration was apparently typical (Mar. 26–May 23; no comment on numbers). Northern Parulas were noted on outer Pt. Reyes May 9 (one, RS) and F.I., May 28–29 (one). A wintering Yellow Warbler at Mape's Ranch, Stanislaus, was last noted Mar. 6 (ECa), the passage otherwise unremarkable (Apr. 9+). All three Magnolia Warblers were found May 31; F.I. birds stayed (one each) to June 2 & 3, while the individual at outer Pt. Reyes (JM) was found one day only. An "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler at Mape's Ranch May 25 (ECa, HMR) was rather late for the C.V. floor. Three Black-throated Gray Warblers at Americus R. Parkway, Sacramento, on the early date of Mar. 13 (DoM) were impressive, and the species' migration was otherwise quite protracted in the Region (Mar. 26–May 21) as well. A Hermit Warbler near

Las Trampas P., Contra Costa, Mar. 11 (KGH) surely wintered there or nearby; the species was otherwise very lightly reported. A single Black-throated Green Warbler (F.I., May 30) gave us our quota, based on the average for the last 10 years, May–June.

A Blackburnian Warbler on F.I., May 31–June 4, was only the Region's 11th for spring, but four of these have been in the last 5 years. The Prairie Warbler that wintered at Neary's Lagoon (see winter report) remained to Apr. 5 (DGe). Eight coastal Palm Warblers, S.F. to Humboldt (last date?), were decidedly more than average. Only two Black-and-white Warblers made the lowest March to May total since 1975: a male at Lodi L., Apr. 10 and May 26 (DGY), and another male on outer Pt. Reyes May 30 (BiL). An Am. Redstart at Golden Gate P., Mar. 8–Apr. 6 (JM; ASH, *fide* HG) was extending a winter visit, while the two on outer Pt. Reyes May 31 (JM) had typical spring vagrant timing. A Worm-eating Warbler was on F.I., May 30–June 1 (†PP—P.R.B.O.). This was our first record in over 4 years, and the 19th Regional record. Three Ovenbirds toured F.I., one staying May 28–June 1, the others May 31 only. No N. Waterthrushes were recorded. Three Wilson's Warblers were noted markedly early: Sweetwater Creek, El Dorado, Mar. 8 (DoM), Robinson Canyon Mar. 11 (CHo), and Monterey, also Mar. 11 (DR). The latter 2 records were the earliest-ever spring arrivals for Monterey. A "bright red ♂" Summer Tanager was enjoyed in Carmel Valley May 8 (CHo).

EMBERIZINES — Five Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, all coastal May 22–June 2, were more than average. Blue Grosbeaks away from their interior range were noteworthy at Elkhorn Slough Estuary Sanctuary May 10 (male, K. Laslo, L. Jensen) and Jameson Cyn., Napa May 28 (imm. male, MFR). A Lazuli Bunting at Corral de Tierra, Monterey, Apr. 9 (BHG) was that county's earliest-ever, and nearly so for the Region. Another was in Garin Regional P., Alameda, Apr. 10 (BR). The imm. ♂ Indigo Bunting in Inverness this December (see last report) was noted again Mar. 17–Apr. 15 (RS). Five others were noted coastally May 8–31—a good showing. A Dickcissel was at F.I., May 31–June 2. A Green-tailed Towhee in Thousand Oaks P., Modesto, May 3 (†HMR) was said to provide a first Stanislaus record, while two on Loma Prieta Peak, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz, May 10 (KVV) were exceptional as spring coastal district vagrants.

A Rufous-crowned Sparrow e. of Covelo, Mendocino, May 10 (MR) extended their known range 30± mi west on its n.w. corner. Perhaps s. Trinity holds a few as well? The first reported coastward Chipping Sparrows (Apr. 9, 3 locales) were notably late. Brewer's Sparrows appeared on F.I. (three, Apr. 21–May 23), and one at Crescent City Harbor May 20 (ADB) provided Del Norte's 3rd record. After the Black-chinned Sparrow irruption in 1984, the number of reports has dropped each spring; most this year were at usual locales. "Several" on West Pinnacles Rd., Monterey, Apr. 13 (RFT, CT et al.) were not present later, and presumably furnished one of few migration records; it was thus less surprising that this appears to be the Region's earliest record. Two Vesper Sparrows at Big Meadow, Yosemite N.P., Mar. 29 (L. Haness, B. Brock, GSL, LPL) provided one of few park records. A persistently singing Vesper Sparrow at Lanphere Dunes, Humboldt, Apr. 29 and May 7 was joined by a 2nd singer May 14, but no sign of nesting or females was had (K. Purcell, *fide* RLeV). They presumably breed no closer than L. Talawa, Del Norte. A singing Black-throated Sparrow on Canyon Rd., Apr. 25–27 (†DSu, PN) furnished a 3rd record for San Mateo. No others were reported in the Region.

I stated recently (AB 38:956) that there were no acceptable Grasshopper Sparrow records for the Region in March (and only 2 records for Jan.–Feb.). This March, Grasshopper Sparrows were noted in 3 areas. One was on San Juan Grade, Monterey, Mar. 17 (RFT, CT; three there Mar. 22, BHG), three were in Garin/Dry Cr. Pioneer Regional P., Alameda, Mar. 19–20 (BR; JSL, *fide* HG), and two more were seen well at Bishop Ranch Regional Open Space, Contra Costa, Mar. 21+ (†KGH); birds may have wintered at the latter locale as well. In addition,

a sight record for Mar. 22, 1948, e. of Milpitas has been noted (Sibley 1952. *Birds of the South S.F. Bay Region*. Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society) and is here accepted. In light of these records I find the Mar. 27, 1984 sighting, by careful observers, also acceptable (see above AB citation). The opinion has been circulated that Grasshopper Sparrows may turn out to regularly winter in numbers (see Morlan's 1985–1986 C.B.C. summary in this year's Christmas Bird Count issue for a conservative version of this), but I am deeply skeptical. Observers should continue utmost caution in any Grasshopper Sparrow or other records outside established patterns.

Fox Sparrows departed the S.F. Bay area quite early (reported last dates: Mar. 28, Apr. 1, and Apr. 15, the latter at Palomar). The last of five Swamp Sparrows this spring (the most ever reported at this season) was on F.I., May 2–3, for the island's 6th spring record. Records of 18 White-throated Sparrows (indicating an average spring) included one straggling to May 23 at Sunnybrae, Humboldt (SWH, *fide* FJB). No Harris' Sparrows were reported—for the first spring since 1974! Only two "Slate-colored" Juncoes reported indicates a loss of information due to lack of observer interest, most likely. Lapland Longspur departure was well-documented, with last winterers and migrants as follows: one at Crescent City Harbor Mar. 21 (JKi), four at Bay Front P., San Mateo, Mar. 22 (DSu), and two at Hayward Shoreline Apr. 30 (BR et al.). Four Chestnut-collared Longspurs at Honey L., Mar. 29 (SFi, PhR) were exceptionally late—as far as we now know.

ICTERINES THROUGH FINCHES — A ♂ Bobolink along Pierce Point Rd., Pt. Reyes, was enjoyed May 27 (KW). Surprisingly, a small colony of Tricolored Blackbirds near Durham Ferry provided the first substantiated breeding for San Joaquin (DGY). Twenty-one Yellow-headed Blackbirds made the best coastal springs showing ever. One was in Pacific Grove Mar. 20 (THr) and the rest, Monterey to Del Norte, were Apr. 19–May 20. Amazingly, the pair of Great-tailed Grackles continued to be seen at Aquatic P. in S.F. (last mentioned in winter 1984–1985), through at least Apr. 26 (DPM, ASH). The female was found 6½ years earlier, the male nearly 8. Hooded Oriole records were received from an impressive 11 counties, Mar. 20+. The first "Bullock's" N. Orioles arrived on time as well, Mar. 20+. A Cassin's Finch sang on the San Joaquin Experimental Range, Madera, Mar. 25 (JLo) at 1200 ft, far below usual haunts. Red Crossbills were in usual numbers and locales, with 4 coastal reports totalling 13 birds; they were also "present" coastally around Yurok Experimental Forest, Del Norte, (RAE), and "fairly common" inland at Eagle L., Mar. 23 (BDP). Lawrence's Goldfinches were well-reported, with the only concentration being of 100 in Panoche Valley, San Benito, Mar. 1 (JMD, *fide* HG) and Mar. 9 (DWi, *fide* HG). No nesting was reported. A usual few Evening Grosbeaks were on the n. coast, the only other report being of a flock of 200± in Janesville Mar. 22 (BDP).

ADDENDUM — A significant late report is of a Pine Grosbeak nest discovered at Hart Lakes, Yosemite N.P., at 8640 ft, May 29, 1979 (C.W. Benkman). This is one of few discovered Sierran nests.

CORRIGENDUM — The Swamp Sparrow reported from Lava Lakes Nature Center last spring (AB 39:348) was studied Apr. 26–27, not May 26–27; this is still quite late, but less amazing.

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