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Seabird breeding success on Southeast Farallon Island and most other coastal areas, such as Humboldt and Del Norte counties, was excellent to good for nearly all species reported. This was despite locally warm water around the Farallons during the primary hatching period; apparently strong upwellings nearby provided excellent foraging for most species. Suddjian continued his systematic surveys of the Santa Cruz County coast, including counts covering its entire length July 10–13. Selected results are noted below. Results of exploratory work, and baseline information (nest data, elevational records, timing of dispersal etc.) constitute some of the most important data we receive. Shuford, Gross, Suddjian, and many others were especially helpful in this regard this season. Although most such data are not published, they remain in our files (now beginning to be computerized), becoming more valuable with time.

There was considerable anecdotal evidence of the impact of last winter's dryness on the birds, but almost no specific comment from contributors.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.V. = Central Valley; Cyn. = Canyon; O.S.P. = Open Space Preserve; S.F. = San Francisco; ph. = photo on file with the Regional Editors. *Italicized* place names refer to counties. Use of "Period" and "Region" (capitalized) refers to these terms as defined for *American Birds*. All records from Palomarin, Marin, and S.E. Farallon I. (hereafter "F.I."), S.F., should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (P.R.B.O.). References to the *GULL* are to Golden Gate Audubon Society's publication, whose observation column is written by Helen Green. Most such records were originally reported to Joseph Morlan for the N. California Rare Bird Alert.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — A 2-hour sea-watch at El Jarro Pt., Santa Cruz, June 8 found one Common, 11 Red-throated, and 290 Pacific loons still migrating N (DLSu). Surprisingly, recent summer sightings of Pacific Loon have outnumbered those for Com. Loon in Siskiyou. One of each in basic plumage was found on L. Siskiyou June 25, with the Common remaining though July (MFRb). The Com. Loon on 6400 ft Loon L., El Dorado, June 6 (WEH, SMS) probably was a late migrant, as this site is well s. of former breeding lakes. However, hope remains that this loon might still or again breed in California. The July 10–13 survey the length of the Santa Cruz coast tallied only one Red-throated and two Pacific loons compared with 20 Commons (DLSu).

Tremendous numbers of Western and Clark's grebes summered near shore in n.e. Monterey Bay, Santa Cruz (DLSu). After early June, high counts for both species in Soquel Cove were July 2: 919 Westerns and 526 Clark's. By July 10, most had moved S to Manresa and Sunset State Beaches, where the July 20 counts were of 1009 Westerns and 656 Clark's. Elsewhere in Santa Cruz, 82 Westerns and 27 Clark's were noted at Davenport Pier June 15 (DLSu), and at nearby Ano Nuevo Pt., San Mateo, there were 50 Westerns with six Clark's July 5 (PJM).

Throughout the Period foraging flocks of 50,000–400,000 Sooty Shearwaters continued to gather inshore along n.e. Monterey Bay, Santa Cruz, from 2 p.m. to sunset (DLSu, DLSH).

The usual wide scattering of migrating Am. White Pelicans brought four over Brisbane, San Mateo, June 4 (JS) and five over Wilder Ranch S.P., Santa Cruz, July 26 (DLSu), both areas where this bird is rare. Brown Pelicans remained abundant in Santa Cruz, with a high of 2263 (87% imm.) counted along the n.e. shore of Monterey Bay July 27 (DLSu). One imm. Brown Pelican was 7 mi inland over Salinas sewage ponds July 14



(DEG). The Double-crested Cormorant colony discovered on the Bay Bridge, Alameda, in 1984 was surveyed by scope from the Port of Oakland July 4 (SFB). The totals of 400+ cormorants and 190+ nests represent minima, as many sites were screened by the heavy steel beams. Five sightings of imm. Magnificent Frigatebird from Monterey to Ano Nuevo Pt. over a 2-week span could have represented one or more individuals. Chronologically they were: Salinas R. mouth, Monterey, June 30 (GWP), Ano Nuevo Pt., July 4 (M. Putman, *fide* GJS), Pacific Grove July 11 (AB), Monterey July 11 (*fide* DLSH), and Davenport, Santa Cruz, July 13 (*fide* DLSu).

HERONS AND WATERFOWL — American Bittern sightings at Zmudowski State Beach June 24 and July 31 (DEG) were in Monterey, where the species has not been known to nest since 1961 (*fide* DR). In Santa Clara, a calico Little Blue Heron at Charleston Slough July 6 (SEF) was followed by a white immature at Mt. View Forebay July 10 (PLN). An ad. Little Blue Heron flying S past Rio Del Mar State Beach July 10 furnished the 2nd record ever for Santa Cruz (*fide* DLSu). Only seven Cattle Egrets were reported from the C.V., where the species has begun nesting in recent years. Eight were at Santa Cruz July 26 (DLSu).

In the Stockton/Lodi area, Green-backed Herons have begun to use residential areas near water for nesting (*fide* DGY). One at F.I. June 14 was only the island's 8th (*fide* HG). A pair of Black-crowned Night-Herons fledged two young at Scott's Valley in July (A. Myren *et al.*). Nesting occurred there in 1985, but otherwise the species had not been known to nest in Santa Cruz for nearly 40 years (*fide* DLSu). At Lower Klamath N.W.R., 100+ White-faced Ibis nested in tules this year (RE, MFRo). Elsewhere in the Great Basin, an adult was at Mono L., July 28 (PJM), and 15 in Sierra Valley Marsh, Plumas, June 17 showed no sign of nesting, but were in an area where they had been present since late May (DSH). In the C.V., "almost 400" ibis were present at Colusa N.W.R. during the Period (GMe), seven were at Gilsizer Slough Marsh, Sutter, June 20 (BED), 50–60 were in the Yolo Bypass, Yolo, July 26+ (GEW), and three were at the Modesto sewage ponds July 29 (ERC). Species such as the ibis and Cattle Egret, which are undergoing significant range expansions, should be receiving considerable

attention in future reports, so observers are encouraged to submit their observations accordingly.

The Ross' Goose lingering to June 16 at Pajaro Dunes, Santa Cruz, was healthy and capable of flight (DLSu *et al.*). Another remained at L. Solano County Park, Solano, to June 6 (MBG *et al.*). No Greater White-fronted or Snow geese were reported during the Period.

Single ♂ Wood Ducks at Sierra Valley Marsh May 24 (DSh) and Benton Hot Springs, Mono, June 3 (PJM) were e. of the Sierra/Cascade crest where rare. Four or five Green-winged Teal in Santa Clara June 6–July 19 (WGB, PEL, DLSu) were the only ones reported away from the Great Basin. Following the species' strong showing there in spring, a pair of Blue-winged Teal seen copulating at Arcata Marsh June 2 (FJB) was not surprising. Another ♂ Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal was found, this one at the Westwood sewage ponds, Lassen, June 18 (HG). A ♀ Gadwall with five young near the mouth of Baldwin Cr., w. of Santa Cruz, July 12 (DLSu) was away from traditional nesting sites on S.F. and Monterey Bays. At Crittenden Marsh, Santa Clara, 595 Gadwalls were counted June 6 (DLSu). Single summering Am. Wigeons were at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin June 6–18 (DLSu, PEL), the Tulare L. basin, Kings, June 24 (RAE, JCS), and the Modesto sewage ponds July 1–10 (HMR).

Ten Canvasbacks were reported from the C.V. but only four from the coast, all on south S.F. Bay. The three non-mountain Ring-necked Ducks found this summer were a female at Pescadero Marsh June 14 (PJM, SEF), a male at Modesto sewage ponds June 24–July 10 (HMR, ERC *et al.*), and a male at the Tulare L. basin June 24 (JCS, RAE). Black L., Mono, is well s. of the Lesser Scaup's known breeding range in n.e. California, but a pair of scaup there June 3 were considered to be potential breeders (PJM). A ♂ Harlequin Duck at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin, was last seen June 10 (CLF). A male at Lover's Pt., Pacific Grove, June 16+ (*vide* DR) and a female at Pt. Saint George July 25 (GSL) were the only others reported.

It was apparently a poor year for oversummering scoters (PEL, DLSu), although many observers do not report on regular species such as these. Two Black Scoters at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, Alameda, July 23 (GC) and three single White-winged Scoters furnished the only reports of those species. In contrast, 375 Surf Scoters were at Pt. Reyes June 14 (C. Buechert) and 275 were found on the survey of the entire Santa Cruz coastline July 10–13 (DLSu). Summering Com. Goldeneyes were found at Alameda July 4 (4 ♂♂—SFB) and Chico June 13 (imm. ♂—BED). On the coast, single ♂ Buffleheads were at Redwood City all Period (RSTh, SEF), Crittenden Marsh, Santa Clara, June 6 (DLSu), and the Carmel R. mouth June 12 (DEG). Four Com. Mergansers on the San Lorenzo R. north of Santa Cruz June 16 (BMMo) preceded the sighting of a female with six one-week-old chicks there June 30 (DLSu). The species had not even been recorded during the breeding season in Santa Cruz previously (*vide* DLSu).

RAPTORS — A successful nesting by N. Harrier near Wilder Cr. provided the first confirmed breeding for Santa Cruz since 1931 (DLSu, DEG, CKf). A pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks with a fledgling in upper Scott Cr. Canyon June 30 constituted the first Santa Cruz breeding record (DLSu) and the first confirmed for the Santa Cruz Mts. since the egg collections of George Brem near Gilroy, Santa Clara, in 1944 (*vide* WGB). Adult male and ♀ Sharp-shinned Hawks at Wilder Ranch July 9, with the female seen carrying prey to the west, were enigmatic because "this site is almost 16 mi s.e. of the Scott Cr. Canyon site and does not have good nesting habitat" (DLSu). An ad. ♂ Sharp-shinned Hawk on Loma Prieta, Santa Clara, June 22 (DLSu, BMMo) suggested another Santa Cruz Mts. breeding. A pair of immature-plumaged Cooper's Hawks nested on the Stanford University campus for the first Santa Clara Valley floor breeding, but the eggs were believed infertile (H. Wilkins). Other Cooper's Hawks in the nearby wooded suburbs of San Mateo included one in Menlo Park June 6 (DLSu) and a pair suspected

of breeding in Atherton June 22 (PJM). An imm. Red-shouldered Hawk at Bridgeport, Mono, July 29 was a trans-Sierran stray (PJM). Swainson's Hawks were reported much more easily seen than in recent summers in Stanislaus, with 10 at one field near the San Joaquin R. at Jennings Rd., July 29 (ERC). Similarly, 11 were in a flooded alfalfa field s. of Woodland Sugar Ponds, Yolo, July 3 (B. Davis). The explanation for July concentrations remains unclear.

TURKEY THROUGH RAILS — Introduced Wild Turkeys seem to be flourishing in several areas, although birders can give only a partial picture of their true status. East of Sacramento, birds were reported this spring and summer from the Folsom L. area, El Dorado, Goethe Park, Sacramento, and Michigan Bar on the Consumes R., Sacramento, where 29 poults accompanied four adults July 2 (GEW). Additional sightings in spring and summer came from the Sierra foothills e. of Camanche Res., Calaveras, 4 sites in Santa Clara where the species is generally considered rare (*vide* WGB), Mines Road, Alameda (including an unsuccessful nest with 14 eggs Apr. 25–26—ALE *et al.*), and Vicente Flat, Monterey, where a female with nine or more young was seen June 27 (F. Toldi).

An estimated 13+ pairs of nesting Virginia Rails were found during a survey of 16+ sites in Santa Cruz this year (DLSu *et al.*). The species is currently unknown to nest in adjacent Monterey (Roberson 1985, Monterey Birds. Monterey Peninsula Aud. Soc.). No Soras were found on the Santa Cruz survey. The Com. Moorhen at Arcata Marsh was last seen June 1 (GSL).

SHOREBIRDS — Most June sightings of the Region's non-breeding shorebirds continue to be of interest and many are summarized below. Our ongoing efforts to understand how many of these birds are actually oversummering and how many are stretching the normal limits of "spring" and "fall" migration, or possibly wandering, depend on these data. Especially useful is information gathered at specific sites over a period of time so that "residency" vs. movement can be determined. To date we have very little proof of oversummering in most species, as individuals involved in single-day sightings can usually be assigned potential northbound or southbound movement. It is likely that genuine northbound birds occasionally overlap southbound birds of the same species. In our Region and in most species, it seems that most individuals seen in the first 20 days or so of June are probable tardy "spring migrants" while those in the last week of June are the vanguard of "fall" migration. The period June 20–23 is more difficult to speculate on. The obvious exceptions to this timetable are those species breeding closest to or within California (Willet, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Wilson's Phalarope) which begin to appear back in cismontane California by the 3rd, or even 2nd, week of June. It is assumed that most or all of these June individuals, at least of the Arctic-nesting species, fail to reproduce, often owing to immaturity.

Single ad. Lesser Golden-Plovers were at McKerrick State Beach, Mendocino, July 23 (DT), Sunset State Beach July 27 (DLSu), and Ano Nuevo Pt., July 28+ (GJS). Downy young Black Oystercatchers near Pelican Rock July 7–13 and at Table Rock July 12 provided overdue confirmation of nesting in Santa Cruz (DLSu). An ad. Am. Avocet at Pajaro Dunes July 27 (RAM) was the only one seen in Santa Cruz all Period (*vide* DLSu), yet only a few miles south, 100+ young not yet fledged were at the Salinas R. estuary June 5 (DEG).

Yellowlegs sightings at the Salinas sewage ponds (DEG) included a Lesser June 9 and Greater June 5 (three), 9 (one), & 24 (one). Additional June Greater Yellowlegs were 12 at the Salinas R. mouth June 24 (DEG), one in the Tulare L. basin, Kings, June 24 (RAE, JCS), and one at Mt. View forebay June 29 (PLN). Single Solitary Sandpipers were at Wilder Cr. Beach, Santa Cruz, July 19 (DLSu) and Mono L., July 28 (PJM).

In the Palo Alto area, 65–75% of 300+ Willets studied June 17–18 were in alternate plumage, as were 80% of 375 at Foster City June 20 (PEL, SEF). Two Ruddy Turnstones at Ano Nuevo Pt., June 13 (GJS) were the only ones reported in June. Inland,

one was at Tule Lake N.W.R., July 26 (RE), three were at the Davis sewage ponds July 26 (†GEW), and one was at the Modesto sewage ponds July 29+ (ERC).

Three basic-plumaged Red Knots were at Moss Landing July 7 along with one alternate-plumaged bird (DEG). The guess of the local recorder (DR) was that the former three had summered there. Two Sanderlings were at the Modesto sewage ponds July 29 with one remaining to July 31 (ERC). Have just two individuals generated all the reports there over the past 2 years?

An ad. Semipalmated Sandpiper was at the Woodland Sugar Ponds July 26 (†GEW). Five juveniles were found along the coast July 25+ and three were in the C.V., July 27+. As in recent years, Semipalmateds outnumbered W. Sandpipers in the first wave of juvenile peeps to reach the Region (e.g., three juv. Semipalmateds vs. one juv. Western at Moss Landing July 25—SFB). Regular coverage of the Lodi sewage ponds established that one W. Sandpiper spent the entire month of June there, before returning migrants blurred the issue in early July (DGY). This may be the first conclusive evidence of oversummering of this species in our Region (especially inland), although it has been assumed on several occasions. Another W. Sandpiper at the Lodi ponds June 15 (DGY) and one at Laguna Cr. Marsh, Santa Cruz, June 14 (DEG) were not long-staying. The first "obvious" southbound migrants were four Westerns at the Salinas R. mouth June 24 (DEG) and a Least at Scott Cr. Marsh, Santa Cruz, June 25 (RAM).

A Baird's Sandpiper at Laguna Cr. Marsh June 9–14 (BSch, †DEG, DLSu) furnished one of very few Regional June records. An ad. Baird's at San Joaquin City July 16 (DGY) was the first of the southbound birds. Nine juvenile or unaged birds followed July 25+. Alternate-plumaged Dunlins were at the Tulare L. basin June 24 (JCS, RAE) and the Davis sewage ponds July 30 (GEW), and a basic-plumaged bird was at Lower Klamath N.W.R., July 26 (RE). The first bird was assumed to be summering but was at a location not regularly birded. The 2nd was at a regularly birded location and is assumed to have been migrating (south). The 3rd was assumed to be a southbound migrant also but the degree of prior checking at this location is unknown. Dunlins normally migrate S so much later than most other shorebirds that the generalizations discussed above do not apply. An alternate-plumaged **Curlew Sandpiper** at the Salinas sewage ponds July 10 (†DEG) was the Region's 8th, all in fall. An ad. Stilt Sandpiper at the Woodland Sugar Ponds July 29+ (†GEW) followed closely after an ad. ♀ Ruff there July 25 (EDG).

In the Palo Alto/Charleston Slough area, a "worn" Short-billed Dowitcher seen June 6 (DLSu) was suspected of summering, but seven (flocks of three in basic plumage and four in alternate/partial alternate plumage) seen June 17–18 (PEL, SEF) may have included the season's first southbound migrants. Birds believed to be southbound have been recorded from about June 19 on in previous years, but also note that 101 Short-billed Dowitchers were in this general area June 7, 1986 (Palo Alto Breeding Bird Census, *vide* WGB), many in alternate plumage and many remaining through the summer (DLSu). Elsewhere on the coast this species was recorded June 25+, and eight-plus in the interior were found June 24+. Thirty-plus Long-billed Dowitchers in the Tulare L. basin June 24 made a high count so early; many were in alternate plumage (RAE, JCS).

Scattered nesting records of Com. Snipe continue to accumulate in the C.V. This year San Joaquin acquired its first nesting evidence when a pair was observed in courtship flight over a flooded field in the Sierra foothills June 12 (S. Walter, *vide* DGY). A snipe at the Salinas sewage ponds July 31 (DEG, PEL) was early for this normally-late migrant. Ten Wilson's Phalaropes at Eureka June 20–21 (FJB) was a high number for that n. coastal location; 1000 were already at the Hacienda Unit June 24 (RAE, JCS). Two Red Phalaropes were at the Salinas R. mouth June 24 (DEG) and one was there June 28 (PJM); both (all?) were in alternate/partial alternate plumage.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Three Pomarines around the shore of Monterey Bay (PJM, DLSu) were the only jaegers reported before the mid-July return of migrants. The year's first S. Polar Skua was seen on a F.I. pelagic trip June 21 (P. J. Watkins, PtW). A Bonaparte's Gull at the Los Banos sewage ponds June 24 (ERC) was a rare summer bird for Merced. The full-length survey of the Santa Cruz coast July 10–13 produced the following gull totals (DLSu): 25 Bonaparte's, 4659 Heermann's, one Mew, 19 Ring-billeds, 712 Californians, 4822 Westerns, and 12 Glaucous-wingeds (with three others discovered later). The first five species in this list all concentrated around Monterey Bay, whereas the two larger species were more widely distributed, with W. Gulls most numerous n.w. of Monterey Bay (64% n.w. of Younger Lagoon). The Mew Gull was a worn first-summer bird at Manresa State Beach July 10–20. By July 27, DLSu's survey along n.e. Monterey Bay tallied 7442 Heermann's Gulls. As the counts rose the proportion of immatures fell to 4.8%. Western Gulls again nested in Solano, with 3 pairs at Benicia and one at Mare I. (RbL *et al.*). The season's only Black-legged Kittiwake was a yearling at Crescent City Harbor July 25 (GSL). Three Sabine's Gulls s.w. of F.I., June 28 included one in full breeding colors (DLSh).

S.A.

Birders (DLSu, RAM, BSch) have organized their observations begun years ago (RAM) of Caspian Terns commuting N–S across the Santa Cruz Mts. Evidence suggests that small numbers regularly, perhaps daily, fly from their south S.F. Bay colonies S through passes to forage Santa Cruz waters, returning N later in the day. This would be a one-way commute of 34 mi from the s.w. Alameda nesting colonies. Between Apr. 26 and Aug. 3, 64 individuals were seen apparently involved in such a crossing. A few Caspian Terns also appear to commute SE along Coyote Cr., Santa Clara, at least as far as Coyote (WGB). Observations also suggest that some Caspians use the trans-Santa Cruz Mts. route for their spring and fall migrations into and out of S.F. Bay (RAM *et al.*). Circumstantial and negative evidence has suggested that the small S.F. Bay population of Least Terns may use this trans-mountain migration route almost exclusively (SFB, LDC). No Least Tern has yet been detected making this crossing, but the chances of doing so for such a rare and tiny bird would be very remote without great effort or luck. Despite years of seawatching along the coast n. of Santa Cruz, this inshore-flying tern has very seldom been seen, and never in numbers. The breeders arrive in S.F. Bay unheralded. After breeding, adults take their fledglings S from the Alameda area colonies to stage at the Baumberg Tract in Hayward, Alameda, and at the Charleston Slough/Moffett Field area, Santa Clara, before disappearing without a trace (LDC, m.ob.). Nor have they been found moving toward the Golden Gate, but small numbers are seen along the shore of Monterey Bay during the migration periods. Perhaps the most likely way to confirm this hypothesis would be to systematically watch pass-commuting Caspian Terns during May and August to see if they are sometimes accompanied by Least Terns (!).

Numbers of Elegant Terns along n.e. Monterey Bay, Santa Cruz, swelled to 1924 by July 27 (DLSu). One Elegant Tern at Mountain View Forebay July 18 (R. Jeffers, M. Mammoser) was only the 5th for Santa Clara, and the earliest by 24 days. Twenty Forster's Tern nests at White Slough, Vallejo, may have established the first successful Solano breeding (RbL, MBG *et al.*). The principal Least Tern colony, on Alameda Naval Air Station, had very good reproductive success: 57–59 pairs (61

nesting attempts) produced 77–88+ fledglings (LDC). “Encouraging” numbers of the declining Black Tern appeared in Yolo, with July counts of up to 53 and 42 at 2 sites near Woodland (all GEW). A Black Tern at Palo Alto and Mountain View June 17–July 18 (PEL *et al.*) was the 9th for Santa Clara, and the earliest by 35 days.

Crescent City firemen intentionally destroyed the B St. Dock by fire July 7, thus burning 10–20 active Pigeon Guillemot nests (GSL). At least 5 different kinds of human disturbance seem to be causing a decrease in nesting Pigeon Guillemots along W. Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz (DLSu). Nevertheless, the July 10–13 survey tallied 1542 guillemots along the Santa Cruz coast, 94% n.w. of the problem area (DLSu). The comparable Marbled Murrelet count was of 271, 90% n.w. of Yellowbank Cr. and none s.e. of Soquel Pt. (DLSu). At adjacent Ano Nuevo Pt., San Mateo, 110 Marbleds were counted July 5 (PJM). Xantus’ Murrelets were offshore Monterey June 20 (one—DLSh) and July 12 (five—DLSh), offshore Humboldt Bay July 24 (three—SWH, GSL), and offshore Crescent City July 26 (two—GSL). An Ancient Murrelet off Point St. George July 25 was in breeding plumage (GSL). The more southerly mainland Santa Cruz nesting site of Rhinoceros Auklet mentioned last season had an estimated 2–4 pairs of adults feeding chicks over a period of at least 45 days, which is close to the published nestling period (DLSu *et al.*). No further activity was noted at the more northerly site (DLSu).

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS —

S.A.

California’s troubled Yellow-billed Cuckoo population is receiving continuing study from SAL and others, on contract with California Fish & Game. Along the Sacramento R. from Red Bluff to Colusa, only 18 pairs (plus an equal number of unmated, territorial males) were censused. A few were along the Feather R. as well, but a 65% decline is indicated for the Region since 1977. Somewhat more pairs are in s. California (along the Kern and Colorado river valleys), but numbers are declining even faster there. Overall, the state’s population is believed to have declined by a dismal 73% in just 10 years. Ultimate causes clearly include massive loss of riparian gallery forest, but proximal causes are more mysterious. Why are half of all territorial males unmated? A 20% thinning of eggshells might indicate the involvement of pesticides picked up in tropical winter diets. Consider that the United States is still the world’s largest producer of DDT, virtually all of it exported.

Reports of Yellow-billed Cuckoos by other contributors tallied five individuals, including single vagrants at Mono L., June 4 (PJM; see AB 40:1251) and Stinson Beach S.P., Marin, July 3 (*fide* GULL). A Com. Barn-Owl at Mono L., July 28 (PJM) had little precedent (see AB 38:1058). An impressive morning feeding concentration of 225 Com. Nighthawks was carefully counted near Bodie, Mono, July 4 (PEL, SEF). Although well-birded coastally, Humboldt holds many secrets from birders in its interior. Two or three Com. Poorwills were noted on Whitey’s Peak June 3 (GSL, LPL), with one still there 6–7 days later (GSL, RAE); they have been considered ‘casual’ in the county, but were also noted at this locale in 1983. The species was also noted, apparently for the first time, in Del Puerto Cyn., Stanislaus, July 14 & 18 (JG, HMR). In a 3-day census of the entire Santa Cruz coastline, DLSu found Black Swifts at 6 sites and estimated a total breeding population for the county of 11–20 pairs. A Chimney Swift at El Granada June 25 (BS) was “well described” and furnished a first definite record for San Mateo (*fide* PJM). Three individuals were also noted at F.I., June 3–4. Although not currently reviewed by the C.B.R.C.,

this species requires great care in identification and should generally be documented for acceptance.

Single Black-chinned Hummingbirds were noted east (two) or west (one) of the species’ expected range: Lundy Cyn., Mono, June 6 (†HG), Red Rock Rd. e. of Hwy 395, Lassen, June 12 & 15 (DS), and Los Altos, Santa Clara, July 26 (LBI). Similarly, a Costa’s Hummingbird wandering W to s. San Jose was studied June 26–31 (†K. Ferguson). Three Allen’s Hummingbirds were identified away from the coastal district. All were ad. males: Pocket Rd., Sacramento, June 9 (GEW), Lodi L., June 24 (DGY), and Del Puerto Cyn., July 14 (JG). Identification to species of Rufous/Allen’s hummingbirds other than well-seen ad. males should be considered normally beyond the ken of field identification (nesting females in the Region can be assumed Allen’s). Only with this caution, and banding studies, will we unravel their comparative status. Nuttall’s Woodpecker breeding was confirmed for Santa Cruz on Webb Rd., June 15 (DLSu). Pileated Woodpecker was also confirmed to breed in Santa Cruz: Big Basin Redwoods S.P., June 30 (DLSu). The latter species has long been presumed to breed there.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS — June 28 seems a very odd date for a Gray Flycatcher at Kennedy Meadow, Tulare (6000 ft elevation; RAB). A Black Phoebe at Mono L., July 28 (PJM) was nearly unprecedented, the few extant records for the Mono Basin being March to May and one July 4, 1985. Three Say’s Phoebes modestly w. of their usual seasonal range may have been responding to dry conditions: one in Jameson Cyn., Napa, June 5 (MFRi), and two in Pine Cyn., Mt. Diablo S.P., June 15 (KGH). Two Ash-throated Flycatchers in Fairhaven June 5 (GSL) were late migrants on the n. coast. Four W. Kingbirds on the immediate coast May 30–June 10 were also migrants, but July birds there are harder to explain: singles in “potentially good habitat” were at Wilder Cr. Marsh July 9 and Sturte Slough July 14 (both Santa Cruz and DLSu). Two E. Kingbirds appeared away from known nest sites: Marin Headlands June 13–14 (B. Cunningham, KFC *et al.*) and July 5 (†CoB). A Purple Martin nest was observed on China Grade n. of Big Basin Redwoods S.P., June 20 (RAM, S. & S. Singer) where, DLSu says, “they have nested for years.” This corrects my erroneous statement in AB 38:955. A concentration of 2250+ Violet-green Swallows along Mt. Bache Rd. and the Loma Prieta/Summit Ridge area (most birds in Santa Cruz) July 9 (DLSu) was early. Reports from Bank Swallow colonies were generally of good numbers, and adult and imm. birds for most of this period at Lodi sewage ponds clearly indicated local breeding, a first for San Joaquin (DGY). First dispersants/migrants were at Moss Landing July 25 (one; SFB) and Modesto sewage ponds July 29 (two; ERC). Seventy-five Pinyon Jays at Kennedy Meadow, Sequoia N.F., June 28 (RAB) apparently were extraordinary for the s. portion of the Sierran w. slope. Similarly out-of-pattern was a Clark’s Nutcracker on Mt. Tamalpais, Marin, July 15 (ScC). Two begging Am. Crow fledglings near College L., June 15 gave Santa Cruz its first breeding confirmation since 1940 (DLSu); 2 more records proved breeding there in Capitola as well this season (also DLSu). A Black-capped Chickadee in the Killgore Hills near Yreka July 7 was “well out of habitat” (MFRb). A Chestnut-backed Chickadee nest in Livermore June 5 (ALE) was far east for the central Coast Ranges—this despite the relatively dry season.

A Pygmy Nuthatch on the Sequoia L. turnoff from Hwy 180 June 24 (5400 ft elev.; KH, DS) provided a rare sighting for Fresno. Two House Wrens bringing food to an active nest at Soda L., June 19 were “first breeding confirmation for Santa Cruz” (DLSu), while two at Sunset State Beach marsh July 27 (RAM) were considered “earliest ever” migrants. A Swainson’s Thrush on F.I., July 12 was small and had a “very olive back,” indicating it was from one of the races breeding n. or e. of the Cascade/Sierran crest. A June 26 record of this species at Hodgdon Meadow, Yosemite N.P. (DLSu), was one of few reports for the w. slope of the Sierras in recent years. Their dis-

appearance from the w. slope in the last 50 years remains mysterious (see Gaines, 1977: *Birds of the Yosemite Sierra*). Five-plus singing Hermit Thrushes along Rock Cr. Road w. of Hwy 395, near Tom's Place June 22 (DS) were "very gray and may be *H. g. polionata*, the White Mts. race."

A Brown Thrasher rested at F.I., June 10–13, and another record (same bird?) was of one on outer Pt. Reyes June 15 (fide GULL). Was the latter bird checked carefully for a band—as all vagrants should be? A California Thrasher at Bobelaine Sanctuary, Sutter, June 4 (GEW) was noteworthy in the C.V., where rare and local. As noted by TDM, the species "occurred at this site in the late 1960s–early 1970s, but [was] unrecorded in recent years." Cedar Waxwings often linger into early June away from their regular breeding range, but four truly late records this year implied widely scattered wandering or over-summering there. Two adults were feeding a begging young along Old Stagecoach Rd. east of Salinas June 11 (JB, RD), considered Monterey's first breeding record (DR). One was noted along Gazos Cr. Road, San Mateo, June 21 (AME). Individuals lingered in the town of Fall River, Shasta, with two to at least July 19 (SB). Finally, one was noted in Capitola July 21 (DLSu). Twenty-five Phainopeplas at Paicines, San Benito, July 28 (KVV) probably established a Regional high count for a single small area. Postbreeding/nonbreeding dispersal probably explains two Solitary Vireo records in the C.V.: Caswell S.P., June 25 (DGY, SAL) and Bobelaine Sanctuary July 4–12 (DJo et al.). Three of four Red-eyed Vireos (June 4–14) were on F.I., the other at Fairhaven, Humboldt, June 8 (GSL, JCS).

WARBLERS — Single Tennessee Warblers were on F.I., June 3–5 and in Fairhaven June 8 (JCS). A Nashville Warbler wandered up to 9360 ft in Tioga Pass, Mono, on the early date of June 27 (DLSu). Northern Parulas showed strongly through the Region, with six coastally June 6–25 (all one-day records); another there July 12, a singing male at Pt. Reyes Nat'l Seashore Headquarters (DGY), was where the species has bred. More newsworthy were apparent 5th-ever records for both the C.V. and our portion of the Great Basin: a singing male at Bobelaine Sanctuary, Sutter, June 20 (tBED, MJL, JH) and another at Mono L. County Park June 24 (tDLSu). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was at F.I., June 2. Four Magnolia Warblers were there June 7–15, another was on outer Pt. Reyes June 2 (DDeS) and, finally, another was at Palomarin June 26–27—a very good showing for the season. A "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler at F.I., June 29 was far out of season. Hermit Warblers appeared in the C.V. very early, with two at Lodi L., July 27 (DGY) and another two on the American R. Parkway, Sacramento, July 29 (B. Mohr). Blackpoll Warblers are much more rare in spring than in fall in California, thus a 2nd F.I. record for this "spring," a male June 13, was of note. A Palm Warbler on F.I., June 13 furnished our only record. Reports on Black-and-white Warblers represented five individuals, all coastally in the first one-half of June. American Redstarts showed well, with 11 coastally June 1–28.

A Worm-eating Warbler banded on F.I., June 13 (tPP, tSFB—P.R.B.O.) furnished about our 4th "spring" record; observers should be aware that this is a C.B.R.C.-reviewed species and requires documentation. An impressive five Ovenbirds consisted of four on F.I., June 2–30 and another singing at Castle Rock S.P., June 16 (tDLSu) for Santa Cruz's 3rd record. A singing N. Waterthrush near Silver L., Mono, June 25–30 (BHG, SG) was apparently only the 3rd-ever for our portion of the Great Basin, the two previous being from Modoc N.W.R. Another was more expected at F.I., June 9. A Kentucky Warbler on F.I., July 14–18 was determined to be a first-year female (tPP—P.R.B.O.). Mourning Warblers were also banded there, with males June 7 (tSFB, tPP—P.R.B.O.) and June 15 (tPP—P.R.B.O.). A Com. Yellowthroat was singing along Adobe Cr., Mono, June 3 (PJM), in a narrow riparian corridor; the species is not known to nest in the Mono Basin. On the opposite slope of the Sierra an individual was spotted in Hodgdon Meadow, singing at 4725 ft elevation June 25–26 (DLSu, BLA, PLN et al.). This was one

of few records for Yosemite N.P. Canada Warblers were on outer Pt. Reyes June 2 (fide GULL) and F.I., June 8–9, bringing our Regional total to nine for "spring." A Yellow-breasted Chat in Pescadero June 7 (PJM) was out of place at the immediate coast.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — Summer Tanagers were conspicuous by their absence from this season's list of vagrants. A singing ♂ **Scarlet Tanager** at Fairhaven June 7 (tGSL, tLPL, JCS et al.) was a special treat—about our 11th for the Region, and the first in 5 years. Eleven reports totalling 19+ W. Tanagers July 2–31, all away from breeding areas, were all referable to a strong but not unusually-timed push of post-/nonbreeding wandering. Only in the last one-half of June is this species unexpected well away from breeding areas. Eleven Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (June 1–July 11) made a fair showing, after a dismal spring. Most interesting were a male along Gazos Cr. Road, San Mateo, June 13–July 11 (SEF, RF, AME, MLR, m.ob.), which sang and chased a ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak, and one well inland at Burris P., Kings, July 3 (JCS). The latter site has provided several records of vagrants. Several optimistic reports on Blue Grosbeaks were received, including a first confirmed nesting for San Benito July 28 on Union Rd. near Hollister (KVV, BHG). Five coastal district vagrants in the Period, through July 3, made an excellent total. To correct the statement in last summer's report, Crane Flat in Yosemite N.P. is a regular location for Lazuli Buntings in recent years; one was singing there again this June 26 (DLSu, BH). Ward Cyn., Placer, at the high elevation of 7500 ft, proved dependable for Lazulis this summer, with one to 10 on each of several visits June 28–Aug. 1 (MBG). An immature was present on the last date, but upslope drift still cannot be ruled out. Three Indigo Buntings (June 5–22) represented a weak showing; one was inland at Bobelaine Sanctuary June 6 (tBHB, MDH, CLZ et al.).

A singing Rufous-crowned Sparrow in Woodside July 8 (BS) furnished one of few records for San Mateo. An Am. Tree Sparrow on F.I., June 1 contributed another record to an anomalous pattern: it was the 14th May–July record for the island. There are only 3 other records for the state between late March and early October, and the species is exceptional anywhere s. of the Canadian border after early April. Black-chinned Sparrows were only lightly reported (14 individuals), considering the dry year (compare with spring and summer 1984). Six Sage Sparrows at Castle Rock S.P., June 16 included one carrying food for young, giving the first formal proof of breeding for Santa Cruz (DLSu). We continue to find Grasshopper Sparrows to be more common in many areas than realized a few years ago (e.g., AB 36:1014). Impressive counts in Santa Cruz included 121 at H-H Ranch, n. of Scott Cr., June 15, and 64 n.e. of Soda L., June 19 (both DLSu). Breeding was said to have been confirmed for Solano along Cantelow Rd. in June (JCL, fide RbL), and out-of-place individuals were at Fairhaven June 10 (GSL, RAE, JCS) and F.I., June 13.

Three Bobolinks were uncovered: Palomarin June 1, along Old Samoa Rd., Humboldt, June 7 (GSL), and Harkin's Slough June 15 (DLSu), the latter furnishing a 2nd spring record for Santa Cruz. A few more Tricolored Blackbird colonies were uncovered this Period, adding to last Period's "new" sites. Again, however, most had few birds—the exception being a 10,000-strong colony at Gilsizer Slough Marsh, Sutter (BED). Site fidelity is not strong in this species, and observers are encouraged to keep an eye on "established" colony sites. There are only 5 Yellow-headed Blackbird records in the AB files for the coastal district in this Period, and they are all for June. Thus three records for the coast this July were precedent-setting: two near the Watsonville airport July 19 (DLSu), and another at the Salinas sewage ponds July 21–24 (tDEG, CKf, KVV, BHG). Intriguing were 2 Purple Finch reports: four-plus in the vicinity of Peter Lassen's Grave, near Johnstonville, Lassen, May 26–June 12, and a male one to 2 mi w. of Frenchman L., Plumas, June 17 (both tDS). Although breeding was apparently not proven, DS was probably correct in stating that this "con-

firms suspicions in Grinnell and Miller [1944, *The Distribution of the Birds of California*] that Purples occur on the e. side of the Sierra/Cascade axis." A persistently singing male at West-fall Meadow, Yosemite N.P., June 28 (BH, PLN, DLSu) was at the high elevation of 7120 ft. The 3 reports of Red Crossbills (unusually few, and all Sierran) were of small numbers in locales where not usually seen. Lawrence's Goldfinches were well-reported for the first summer since 1984. The most noteworthy records were of fledged young being fed along Summit Ridge July 4 (DLSu—"Not sure which county they nested in [Santa Cruz or Santa Clara]."), and four rare wanderers to the immediate coast: single males at Santa Cruz June 20 (CKf) and Fairhaven July 4 (GSL), and a male and female at Capitola, Santa Cruz, July 30 (DLSu). Evening Grosbeaks went nearly unreported, although two fledglings being fed at the mouth of Blackwood Creek, Placer, July 27 (MBG) were significant for breeding in that area.

CORRIGENDA—The observer for the Phainopepla at Foothills P., Palo Alto, June 9–11, 1982 (AB 36:1013) was J. Steck, not "Stech." Elegant Terns at Pajaro Dunes May 24, 1983 (AB 37:1024) were cited for Monterey; the locale is actually Santa Cruz.

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