

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

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Dryness continued, with mildly drought-like conditions beginning to show, especially in the interior. Sierra snowpack was very light. A widespread migration 'push' was noted May 4–7. Reports in sum hinted that while migration timing was average to late, breeding in landbirds was early. There was little comment on total numbers of migrants, except for warblers, said to be scarce. The vagrant season was one of the poorest in 14 years. It seems that the combination of late migration and few vagrants leads to fewer reports than otherwise, rather than negative reports or comments; observers mistakenly assume they are simply missing "goodies" others are finding.

After providing us with the excellent Monterey Birds, Don Roberson is trying hard to make it out-of-date; with R.E. Roberson, he intensively surveyed the Carmel River Valley this May, producing a thick report and much valuable data (a few highlights are included here).

Seawatches were conducted on 38 mornings February 26 to May 31 at El Jarro Point, 1.5 miles northwest of Davenport, Santa Cruz County. A total of 72 species of waterbirds was recorded in 71.8 hours (DLSu).

ABBREVIATIONS — C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.V. = Central Valley; O.S.P. = Open Space Preserve; S.F. = San Francisco; S.W.M.A. = State Wildlife Management Area; ph. = photo on file with the Regional Editors. *Italicized names* refer to counties. All records from Palomarin, Marin, and S.E. Farallon I. (hereafter F.I.), S.F., should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory (P.R.B.O.). References to the Gull refer 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 — Loons passing El Jarro Pt., Santa Cruz, included 2713 Red-throats (7% of identified loons), 34,059 Pacifics (88%), 2014 Commons (5%), and 1540 unidentified loons (DLSu). The peak period was Apr. 19 to May 21. Yellow-billed Loons were seen at Eureka Mar. 10–11 (FJB, †GSL, †LPL) and 2–3 mi off Monterey Mar. 28 (†DEQ, DLSu). Red-necked Grebes continued to be scarce, with only 17 reported, including seven at Sea Ranch, Sonoma, Mar. 29 (JML). Eared Grebes were, unexpectedly, virtually absent throughout Tulare and e. Fresno (RHG). Soquel Cove, Santa



Cruz, was a major staging area for *Aechmophorus* grebes Apr. 21–May 30 (DLSu). The W. Grebe count there peaked at over 8100 Apr. 30, and over 2050 were still there May 30. Clark's Grebes peaked at about 540 May 20, when they represented 30% of those identified, and 258 remained May 30.

Continuing the return of *Short-tailed Albatross* to our waters, a first-year bird was seen 20 mi w. of Cypress Pt., Monterey, Apr. 18 (†DGA). At El Jarro Pt., counts totalled 43 Black-footed Albatrosses Mar. 14 to May 31 and one Laysan Albatross Mar. 24 (†DLSu). Three Laysans were reported offshore Princeton Harbor, San Mateo, Mar. 14 (ToJ), and another was offshore Monterey Apr. 5 (D. & N. Lemon, *fide* DLSu). A white-bodied albatross that sailed over Crescent City Mar. 6 (JAR) was probably the same one scoped from nearby Pt. Saint George later the same day (†ADB).

Northern Fulmars remained scarce except for 100 at and beyond Cordell Bank, Marin, Mar. 29 (SFB, KFC). About 100 *Pterodroma* petrels, all believed to be *Solander's Petrels*, seen

Apr. 10–21 more than 20–50 mi offshore, from Cordell Bank to w. of Cypress Pt., mostly were speeding N and NW (†DGA). If these were correctly identified, then Solander's Petrel must be the most abundant North American bird that remains to be added to the official continent list. In any case, there certainly are many "large dark *Pterodromas*" migrating out there. Extremely few Pink-footed Shearwaters were seen, mostly May 17+. A concentration of 50,000 Sooty Shearwaters offshore Monterey May 17 (DLSu, PJM) was earlier than in most years, but numbers on this order have arrived even in April. Up to an estimated 700,000 Sooty Shearwaters nearshore from Capitola to Pajaro Dunes, Santa Cruz, May 28–30 were probably feeding on anchovies (DLSu). A Black-vented Shearwater was seen from Pt. Pinos Mar. 23 (DR), and at El Jarro Pt., one was seen Mar. 24 and two Apr. 3 (DLSu). Two Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were flying inshore at Soquel Cove Mar. 4 following 40+ mph SW winds (DLSu).

Brown Pelicans returned in numbers unprecedentedly early. One at Santa Cruz Mar. 2 (DLSu) was first, followed by 14 at Moss Landing, Monterey, Mar. 3 (DEG) and 13 at Pigeon Pt., San Mateo, Mar. 9 (PJM). Other first county arrivals (all singles) were: Crescent City, Del Norte, Apr. 2 (ADB); Trinidad, Humboldt, Apr. 13 (GSL, LPL); Palo Alto, Santa Clara, May 9 (PMB, BGr). At Santa Cruz there were 55 by Mar. 30 and 640 by May 16 (DLSu). Details received late of a frigatebird at Pigeon Pt., Feb. 5 (†J.R. Blair et al.) were not sufficient to identify the species.

HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — An Am. Bittern at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Mar. 7 (WEH, SMS) was significant as either a very early migrant or an overwintering bird e. of the Sierra/Cascade crest. The record single-site high count of Great Egrets in Santa Cruz was established by 45 at drying College L. near Watsonville May 12 (DLSu). The only Cattle Egrets reported on the coast after March were one to two at Arcata May 2–9 (KFC et al.). Two Green-backed Herons at Fall River Mills, Shasta, May 2–17 (SB) were in an area where the species has been rarely reported.

Nesting colonies of White-faced Ibises at Colusa N.W.R. and Mendota W.M.A. were reported as stable at 100 and 50 pairs respectively (fide BED). An unknown number of ibises in the Sutter Bypass at Hwy 113 in May (date?) provided one of very few Sutter records (fide BED). On the n. coast, White-faced Ibis made its strongest showing ever with up to 15+ in the Arcata/Eureka area of Humboldt May 3–13 (GSL, JCS et al.).

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck at San Luis N.W.R., Mar. 24 (D. Severson, fide HMR) was the first seen in the Region since July 1985. Within our Region, the species has not been recorded outside the San Joaquin Valley for over 10 years.

The imm. blue morph Snow Goose wintering at Santa Cruz was last seen May 6, when body molt was still incomplete (ph. DLSu et al.). Two blue morph Snow Geese were on Empire Tract, San Joaquin, Mar. 6 along with a blue morph Ross' Goose and a blue morph Snow/Ross' intermediate (all †DGY). Another blue morph Ross' Goose was at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Apr. 18 (RE). Linger white Ross' Geese were on the coast to May 20 in the Arcata Bottoms (JCS) and June 12 at Pajaro Dunes (DLSu). At El Jarro Pt., 5345 Brant were counted migrating north. Nearly 90% were tallied in the period Apr. 10–25 with 2842 seen in 130 minutes Apr. 10 alone (DLSu). Inland Brant were at Merced N.W.R., Mar. 4 (J. Silveira, fide HMR) and Tule Lake N.W.R., Mar. 7 (since February—RE).

Two pairs of large Canada Geese (race *moffitti*), one followed by three young, on the Trinity R. just downstream from Willow Creek, Humboldt, May 27 (PPa) followed the sighting of two at nearby Tish Tang campground May 4 (KFC). These sightings may have been the result of local introductions, but more likely represent an extension from their normal breeding range in w. Siskiyou (Grenfell & Laudenslayer, eds., 1983. *The distribution of California Birds*. Cal. Dept. Fish & Game/U.S. Forest Service). A pair of Canada Geese with young at San Ramon, Contra Costa, Apr. 19 (W. Sweet, fide HG) represented either further expansion of the introduced east S.F. Bay population

or another local introduction. An "Aleutian" Canada Goose (race *leucopareia*) at Lodi L., May 12 provided San Joaquin's latest record of this form (DGY).

A ♂ Eur. Green-winged Teal at Hayward Mar. 4–16 (RJR et al.) was the 7th in the Region since the first of the year. Fourteen Blue-winged Teal (11 males) at Arcata Marsh May 26 (JCS) was a record high count for the n. coast. Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal hybrids were again noted, with males e. of Merced N.W.R., Mar. 1 (DLE, †DLSu et al.), at San Luis N.W.R., Mar. 14 (†PJM, RSTh), at the Lodi sewage ponds Mar. 12 (†DGY), and at Santa Clara Apr. 23–May 27 (BB). A Eur. Wigeon at Limantour Estero, Marin, Apr. 30 (fide HG) was the only one reported after March.

A ♂ Ring-necked Duck x scaup hybrid in Oakland Mar. 14 was believed to be the same bird seen there in February 1985 (JM). Tufted Ducks continued to make news, with a male inland near Grenada remaining to Apr. 13 (ph. RE) and new finds at L. Merritt, Oakland, Mar. 19–Apr. 5 (male—S. Morris, †SEF et al.), Elkhorn Slough Mar. 25–27 (female—†BMMo, †DLSu), and Belmont Slough, San Mateo, Apr. 19 (male—†SEF, PJM). These brought the total for the 1986–1987 season to at least 12.

At El Jarro Pt., 12,354 Surf Scoters were noted passing Mar. 6–May 31, representing over 96% of all scoters seen there. April 3–25 yielded 76% of the total, with 4908 seen in 130 minutes Apr. 10 alone (all DLSu). An ad. ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye at Irongate Res., Siskiyou, May 14 was considered likely a very late migrant, as the nearest known current nesting area is in the Cascade Mts. of Douglas, Ore. (MFRb). Nevertheless, the optimistic cannot help but hope this species might once again nest in California as was the case 50+ years ago. Common Mergansers were found nesting on the Carmel R., Monterey, for the first time, with 4 pairs documented nesting from San Clemente Res. downstream in May (DR, RER).

RAPTORS — A major northward migration of 375 Turkey Vultures passed Kings River College, Fresno, Mar. 9–10 (RHG). Among the piscivores feeding at Goat Rock Beach, Sonoma, Apr. 12 were 20–25 Ospreys, an unusual aggregation (†RAR). This season added San Mateo and Santa Clara to the counties reporting a large increase in breeding Red-shouldered Hawks, and both counties had Golden Eagles at new locations. A light morph ad. Swainson's Hawk near San Ardo Apr. 8 (†PEL) provided "only the 2nd spring Monterey record in 15 years" (fide DR). Late Merlins were at Los Altos, Santa Clara, Apr. 23 (PLN), Santa Cruz Apr. 30 (DLSu), Stockton May 6 (GSL), and most remarkably late on May 21 at Manresa State Beach, Santa Cruz (BSh).

QUAIL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — "Good numbers" of native Mountain Quail at San Clemente Res. (600–650' el.) in May were said to be the first recorded below 1000' in Monterey (DR, RER). Farther n., a pair at Castle Rock S.P., Santa Cruz, May 7 (DLSu) and one nearby in Steven's Cr. Canyon, Santa Clara, May 10 (PLN) were in an area where there have been no official releases for over 20 years, so private releases are suspected (fide WGB).

The planned and manipulated freshwater marshes developing at Arcata Marsh continue to produce significant records of species dependent upon that habitat. A Com. Moorhen there May 17–26 (J. Brack et al.) was only the 5th to be found in Humboldt. A major exodus of Sandhill Cranes was noted over Sacramento Mar. 12–21 (TDM, WEH et al.).

A Black-bellied Plover at Gray Lodge W.A., Apr. 17 was surprisingly one of very few ever recorded in Butte (JHS). Wintering Lesser Golden-Plovers were last reported on the coast at Pt. Reyes (SFB) and Half Moon Bay (PJM) Apr. 12, Dillon Beach Apr. 29 (fide HG), and inland at the Modesto sewage ponds Apr. 19 (HMR). Additional sightings were of one at Albany, Alameda, Mar. 13–24 (fide HG), one at the Salinas sewage ponds Apr. 9–21 with another one there May 5 (both DEG), and two of the race *fulva* at the Modesto sewage ponds May 3 (ERC). Semipalmated Plovers apparently passed through the

C.V. in far smaller numbers than normal as none was seen in San Joaquin (DGY), and only one each was reported from the greater Sacramento area (*fide* TDM) and Tulare (RHG).

Twelve Black-necked Stilts were at L. Earl, Del Norte, Apr. 26 (JAR), and one at the Ukiah sewage ponds May 12 (LPL, GSL) may have furnished the first Mendocino record. At Arcata Marsh, up to five stilts were present after Apr. 10, with 2 nests present by the period's end (JMH *et al.*). Two copulations were observed among eight Am. Avocets at the Las Gallinas sewage ponds near San Rafael Apr. 29, although the species is still unknown as a nesting bird in Marin (DAH).

Eleven Wandering Tattlers at El Jarro Pt., May 8 was a high number, the most ever in Santa Cruz (DLSu). Also establishing record high counts in Santa Cruz were 226 Whimbrels passing El Jarro Pt., May 8 and 225 at College L., May 12 (both DLSu). A Whimbrel with Long-billed Curlews at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Apr. 18 (RE) was a rarity away from the coast or C.V. Rare Santa Clara sightings at the mouth of San Francisquito Cr. included two to seven Ruddy Turnstones Apr. 25–May 13 (WGB *et al.*) and a Red Knot May 13 (PMB, BGr). Two Sand-erlings at the Modesto sewage ponds Mar. 15 (HMR) were presumably the same two seen in January (and a year before) but they could not be found in the interim.

This season's only Semipalmated Sandpiper was at the Lodi sewage ponds May 2–3 (†DGY). Drying College L. near Watsonville hosted a record 525+ W. Sandpipers for Santa Cruz, where good habitat is generally lacking (DLSu). College L. also held a Baird's Sandpiper May 12, amazingly said to be one of only 2 or 3 Santa Cruz records at any season (†DLSu). Another Baird's was at the Salinas sewage ponds Apr. 9 (†DEG). Pectoral Sandpiper was also well represented with up to two at the Salinas sewage ponds Apr. 21–28 and a 3rd there May 28 (all †DEG) and one in the Arcata Bottoms May 20 (JCS). Baird's and Pectoral sandpipers have each been recorded in all but 2 of the last 15 springs.

Although Wilson's Phalarope has wintered at Moss Landing before, two there Apr. 3 were considered record-early for the Region; a 3rd was there by Apr. 10 (†DEG). Unexpectedly, a ♀ Red-necked Phalarope on Elverta Rd., May 2 (GEw) was said to provide one of very few Sacramento records (*fide* TDM). A major movement of this species was noted from Humboldt to Monterey May 17–21.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — The El Jarro Pt. seawatch tallied 87 Pomarine Jaegers Feb. 26 to May 31, six Parasitic Jaegers Mar. 6 to Apr. 25, and five unidentified jaegers (DLSu). An ad. Laughing Gull flying N past El Jarro Pt., May 23 furnished the 5th Santa Cruz record, all from spring (†DLSu). Three ad. Franklin's Gulls visited: Stockton sewage ponds Apr. 13 (ALE, GFB, PAW), Moss Landing May 10 (†DLSu *et al.*), and Lower Klamath N.W.R., May 23 (RE, MFRb). By Apr. 1–13 there were three ad. Little Gulls at Stockton sewage ponds (DGY, ALE *et al.*). Two of these remained to Apr. 22, but they departed the next day as did all of the Bonaparte's Gulls, the earliest exodus on record (DGY). The El Jarro Pt. seawatch totalled 11,639 Bonaparte's Gulls, with the peak passage of 6030 in 130 minutes Apr. 10 (DLSu). Other large concentrations were 5000 eating krill over Monterey Canyon, Monterey and Santa Cruz, Apr. 17 (DLSh), 2650 (96% adults) at Santa Cruz Apr. 25 (DLSu), and 2000 (mostly immatures) at Pajaro R. mouth May 17 (PJM). Only small numbers of Heermann's Gulls returned early, Apr. 25+ (DLSu *et al.*). After maxima of 200 Black-legged Kittiwakes off Pt. Saint George Mar. 5 (ADB, GMCC) and 144 passing El Jarro Pt., Mar. 6 (DLSu), numbers decreased rapidly to the last individuals Apr. 25 (DLSu *et al.*).

Elegant Terns returned much earlier than ever before. It seems likely that the Feb. 15 bird mentioned last season provided our earliest, not latest, record. Another was at Moss Landing Mar. 3–18 (†DEG) and four foraged at Sunset State Beach, Santa Cruz, Apr. 5 (†DLSu). On Apr. 10, 29 Elegants flew N past El Jarro Pt. (DLSu) while 21 others were at Pajaro Dunes (J. & R. Warriner). Later the same day, 26 were at Moss

Landing (†DEG), so at least 55 and possibly 76 individuals had arrived! An Arctic Tern at Mountain View Forebay Apr. 26 (†DLSu, †PLN) furnished the 2nd Santa Clara record. Five Least Terns returned to Alameda Apr. 25 (HG *et al.*). This species is seldom seen migrating along our coast, so a "pair" flying N past El Jarro Pt., May 31 (DLSu) was noteworthy. Reports of Black Terns from the C.V. almost universally stressed this species' rarity this spring. Only 8 reports of up to five birds were received. Such low numbers warrant close attention.

Of 61 Pigeon Guillemots seen in Monterey waters Apr. 17, 20 were atypically 4–18 mi offshore (DLSh). Two Xantus' Murrelets were 18–20 mi offshore Monterey May 17 (PJM, RSTh). After the usual March sightings, two Ancient Murrelets at El Jarro Pt., May 21 (DLSu) were very late. By May 30, at least 20 Rhinoceros Auklet burrows were active on Ano Nuevo I., with half of the new artificial burrows occupied (GJS). This species continued to expand its breeding range S, with nesting attempted on 2 mainland cliffs in Santa Cruz (DLSu, RAM). One site had 2 pairs copulating, with one carrying fish by May 29, plus 3 other probable nesting pairs. Four mi to the n., 2 pairs were displaying and landing on the cliff. This expansion is especially welcome in light of the recent oil spill mortality. A Tufted Puffin passed El Jarro Pt., Apr. 6 (DLSu), and three were reported from Pigeon Pt., May 15 (BS). Two were offshore Monterey Mar. 22 (RS) and one was there Apr. 17 (DLSh).

PIGEONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Band-tailed Pigeons suddenly increased in Santa Cruz about Mar. 7, after few present in winter there, with 550+ noted that day (DLSu). A coastal influx or migration in spring is usual, but details remain unclear for this erratic species. A White-winged Dove at Palo Alto Flood Control Basin May 25 (TAC *et al.*) was apparently our 3rd for the Region in the spring period. Seven Greater Roadrunners in foothills near Chico Mar. 22–Apr. 2 (JHS) was an impressive count. According to BED, a "waterfowl research crew had banded over 100 (Short-eared Owl) nestlings by the end of the period" at Grizzly Island S.W.M.A., Solano—an impressive figure for so decimated a species. Lesser Nighthawks at Meiss and Ione Rds., Sacramento, May 2–26 (EKS, CNS, m.ob.) were found nesting May 19 (GEw), the first such for that county. Four "Nighthawk sp." were reported (Santa Cruz to Humboldt), Apr. 26–May 13; all were almost certainly Lesser Nighthawks, by date. A Com. Nighthawk at River Springs L., Mono, May 22 (PJM) tied the earliest record for the entire state; it cannot be overstated that observers should be cautious in reporting this species before the last few days in May; it is the latest-arriving of all our breeding landbirds. Another late migrant is Black Swift; records earlier than May cannot be accepted without full documentation. Observers need only check the bar graphs in *Birds of Northern California* (McCaskie *et al.*) for baseline information about migration timing. A count of 438 Vaux's Swifts passing over Summit Meadows, Santa Cruz, May 7 in 2 hours (DLSu) was impressive but not unprecedented for spring.

Of note were four Black-chinned Hummingbirds in upper Carmel Valley, Monterey, Apr. 26, with two to May 9 (CT); DR states: "same area as one male last summer; apparently has extended breeding range up from Arroyo Seco on other side of pass." At least six Costa's Hummingbirds were seen n. and/or w. of their limited Regional range, Mar. 1+. Additionally, the status of this species in Shasta and Siskiyou needs clarification; it has been seen annually in recent years at Redding and Copco L. (BY & MFRb respectively), and was seen in 3 other locales in those counties this season as well. Calliope Hummingbirds made news in the s.w. quarter of our Region: singles at Coyote Cr. Riparian Station, Santa Clara, Apr. 15 (*fide* PLN & M. Rigney) and El Granada Apr. 27 (BS), the latter only the 3rd for San Mateo (*fide* PJM), and 15+ at China Camp, Monterey, Apr. 26 (CT, JB, BJW).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — A modest coastal irruption of Lewis' Woodpeckers this winter continued into spring, with last reports May 7 at Summit

Meadows, Santa Cruz, and May 9 at Chews Ridge, Monterey (both DLSu). The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Nicasio remained from the winter through Mar. 9 (*fide* Gull); a 'new' individual was discovered at Sycamore Grove, just n. of Santa Cruz, Mar. 23–29 (BMMo, †DLSu, m.ob.). Single Hairy Woodpeckers were out of range at Folsom Peninsula May 2 (JML, MJL; very rare at low elevations in the C.V.) and in Lincoln P., S.F., May 9 (ASH—"second record for county?"). A Pileated Woodpecker described from Henry Coe S.P., Mar. 13 (†B. Breckling) gave Santa Clara its 2nd record.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher on upper Trout Gulch Rd., Santa Cruz, Apr. 5 (DLSu) was quite early. Questions about wood-pewee voice-identification continue. A frequently calling "mystery" wood-pewee was studied in Pacific Grove Apr. 28–May 11 (†DR, RER *et al.*), and tapes were sent to Calif. Academy of Sciences for sonograms. To summarize, while the bird was most similar to W. Wood-Pewee in appearance, calls more closely fit those now expected from E. Wood-Pewee. DR writes: "I have compared those calls to the [tape] I have of the Dec. 14 Carmel bird [tentatively identified as Eastern—see last season's article] . . . our April bird has a sweeter (less plaintive), more two-part [call]. However, even noting those differences, the calls are very alike. The Dec. Carmel bird gave its calls over a four-day period without ever giving any other note; this April bird likewise gave only these upslurred calls (perhaps 100/hr.) without any other note interspersed." Sadly, Willow Flycatcher is becoming a real rarity as a migrant before June, anywhere w. of the Sierran crest. A total of 3 records was all we managed this season: May 3 in w. San Jose (JAC), and two May 24 in Reichmuth P., Sacramento (TDM, AM). A small irruption of 12 Hammond's Flycatchers on the coast and C.V., Apr. 11–May 9 included six on F.I. Five Dusky Flycatchers were noted as coast region migrants Apr. 23–May 5, and seven Gray Flycatchers were identified w. of the Sierran crest Apr. 16–May 8—both totals are above the average. A Say's Phoebe on Glen Canyon Road, Santa Cruz, Mar. 31 (BSh) was a late coastal lingerer, but even more exceptional in this was one n. of Orick Apr. 1–9 (GSL). The Tropical Kingbird at Monterey Bay Academy, Santa Cruz (see last season's report) was last noted Mar. 6 (DLSu). As expected, the first W. Kingbird in the C.V. was much earlier than the first for the coast district: Mar. 15 at Gun Club Rd., Merced (T. Poole), versus Apr. 4 at Gilroy Hot Springs, Santa Clara (PLN).

SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS — Bank Swallows were well-reported, and very good news was the estimate by GJS of about 400 active nest holes at Año Nuevo State Reserve: "I believe this is quite an increase from last year, by about twice." Is the whole coastal population growing? A coastal Clark's Nutcracker lingered at the n. end of Swanton Rd., Santa Cruz, Apr. 6–25 (DLSu). Five Black-capped Chickadees were noted in lowlands of the Humboldt Bay area Mar. 20–May 21; only scattered records exist there, although the species has bred. Not too far away, a Mountain Chickadee on Trinidad Head Mar. 22 (KI) was noteworthy on the coast. Red-breasted Nuthatches showed well in the C.V., with one as late as May 10 in Modesto (HMR). A Marsh Wren on F.I., Apr. 1 was said to be the first ever noted there in spring, apart from one June record (P.R.B.O.). An Am. Dipper at Año Nuevo State Reserve Apr. 2 (GJS) was the first recorded there, and remarkable on the immediate coast away from Monterey. In the latter county, a pair fledged young at San Clemente Dam this May (DR, RER), apparently the first record of any sort for the species on the Carmel R.! A ♀ Mountain Bluebird on Año Nuevo Pt., Mar. 5 (GJS, M. Knudson) provided San Mateo's 3rd record for that species. A Swainson's Thrush report for Apr. 5 without details could not be accepted; the species has been found to be exceptional throughout the Region before the 3rd week of April. One at Reichmuth P., May 24 (TDM) was on the C.V. floor, where rare.

Of two N. Mockingbirds at Lava Beds N.M., May 17 (CSt), MFRb writes: "casual e. of the Cascades. This is the second record of this species for the Lava Beds." Single Sage Thrashers

were coastward in Santa Cruz Apr. 27–30 (RTb, †DLSu *et al.*—3rd for Santa Cruz), Arcata Marsh May 5–6 (FJB, GSL, LPL) and along Arthur Cr., Santa Clara, May 11 (DLSu). Brown Thrashers appeared in Lincoln P., S.F., Mar. 1 (G. Leo, E. Lance) and on F.I., May 24–25. An impressive passage of 724 Cedar Waxwings in 2 hours May 7 was reported from Summit Meadows, Santa Cruz; numbers through the county were documented as conspicuously higher Apr. 22–May 15 than before or after, indicating a spring movement (both DLSu). The **Brown Shrike** first noted Nov. 28 (see last season's report) stayed with us near Olema Marsh, Marin, through Apr. 26 (m.ob.; *fide* Gull). A N. Shrike noted at Merced N.W.R., Mar. 3 (*fide* Gull) gave us our third-most southerly record away from the Great Basin (there are also a few coastward records for s. California). A Loggerhead Shrike in the Arcata Bottoms May 2–3 (KFC, JCS) was rare and late on the n. coast. Problematical was a Solitary Vireo on the U. of Calif. Santa Cruz campus Mar. 16 (DLSu). It seems likely that "extremely early" birds such as this have simply wintered in the Region—but timing and habits in the transition from overwintering to migration are still a "black hole" for us for many species.

WOOD WARBLERS — Both Tennessee Warblers for the Region were on outer Pt. Reyes: May 17 (*fide* Gull) and May 23 (AME). Single wintering Nashville Warblers were last seen in Santa Cruz Mar. 3 (DLSu) and Pacific Grove Mar. 22 (DR); the species was widely considered late and in low numbers (no numerical comparisons given). A N. Parula was on outer Pt. Reyes May 22–24 (*fide* Gull; AME). Perhaps of greater significance were three records for N. Parula earlier than the expected timing for vagrants: May 4–24 at Pt. Reyes Nat'l Seashore Headquarters (a territorial male—*fide* Gull; JM, AME), May 5 near Half Moon Bay (†JMS), and May 9 in Golden Gate P., S.F. (ASH). With timing equal to eastern birds of this species at this latitude, these may hint that recent breeding attempts in Marin (see previous reports) will indeed lead to a viable population. A Magnolia Warbler visited outer Pt. Reyes May 23 (AME; *fide* Gull). The Region's 2nd record of **Black-throated Blue Warbler** for spring/summer was furnished by a first-year male on outer Pt. Reyes May 30 (JM). An intergrade "Myrtle x Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler was well-described from the "Western Ag. Dairy" in Del Norte Apr. 3 (†ADB). All suspected intergrades, just as hybrids, need thorough study and documentation to be considered more than 'possibles.' Known-wintering Black-throated Gray Warblers departed Azevedo P., Sacramento, Mar. 25 (DLO) and Capitola, Santa Cruz, Mar. 27 (DLSu). The latter bird was believed present for 186 days! Pacific Grove's Blackburnian Warbler (see last season) was found through Mar. 22 (DR). Nine Palm Warblers, all in coastal lowlands, were exceptionally many for March to May. Also impressive for the Period was a Blackpoll Warbler on F.I., May 19–27. A Black-and-white Warbler noted there May 21 was our only one this season. An Ovenbird was on outer Pt. Reyes May 22 (*fide* Gull). Two N. Waterthrushes were notable for earliness and locations away from the immediate coast: Alum Rock P., May 1 (*fide* Gull) and Coyote Cr. Riparian Station May 7 (*fide* PLN & M. Rigney), both Santa Clara. Less surprising was one in Santa Cruz May 29 (†DLSu). A ♀ Kentucky Warbler on F.I., May 9 (†PP—P.R.B.O.) furnished the "tenth and earliest Island record, all of which have occurred in spring/early summer." An ad. ♂ Hooded Warbler at Palomarin, Marin, May 7 was early, and a first for there; another male was singing in S.F., May 17 (D. Edwards). Yellow-breasted Chats were heavily reported (although first arrivals were notably late). The species was noted along the Carmel R. in May, with nesting confirmed (DR, RER); it had not been reported there in 15+ years. The first real surprise of Santa Clara's new Breeding Bird Atlas project was the discovery of 4+ pairs of nesting chats along Uvas Cr. near Watsonville Rd., May 13–31 (DLSu, WGB). Is this species increasing in the Region?

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — The Summer Tanager at Watsonville (see last report) stayed to Mar. 7 (SEF, PEL,

DLSu). A W. Tanager in Sacramento Mar. 26 (BM) gave us one of few March Regional records (see Solitary Vireo comments above), but arrival otherwise appeared to be on time. The only Rose-breasted Grosbeak reported was on F.I., May 31. A ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak on upper Empire Grade Rd., Santa Cruz, Mar. 1 (†BSh) was our only wintering individual, none being reported last season. At least three Blue Grosbeaks were present along Patterson Pass Rd., e. Alameda, May 15–23 (R. Samino, RJR, ALE, JSL, RAE). Commented RAE: “Possibly nesting as several (both sexes) noted here over a period of time . . . probably fewer than 5 previous county records.” A female settled in on F.I., May 21–June 9. Lazuli Bunting arrival was unreported for most areas (late?). Three Indigo Buntings made nearly our seasonal average: F.I., May 9 & 18, and outer Pt. Reyes May 23 (*fide* Gull). Dickcissels were represented by singles on F.I., May 22 & 28–30.

A Brown Towhee wandered N to Trinidad Head May 13–26 (KI, GSL, LPL), where there is but one previous record according to JCS. A Rufous-crowned Sparrow singing at Stewart’s Point, Sonoma, Apr. 13 (DR, RER) was a little n. of the known range on the immediate coast. Only five Chipping Sparrows were reported from the C.V., Mar. 22–Apr. 19 (DoM, TDM, HMR)—a very poor showing. The species arrived on time coastally, Apr. 7+, based on the few reports. Four Clay-colored Sparrows visited the Region, all on F.I. as is usual for spring, May 6–22. Brewer’s Sparrows also gave preferential treatment to P.R.B.O. with one at F.I., May 30–June 1, and Palomarin banding station’s 2nd-ever May 31. Ten separate reports of Black-chinned Sparrow, from 5 widely-scattered counties Apr. 26+, indicated a somewhat above-average year for this very erratic species (presumably in response to dry conditions). A Vesper Sparrow in Davenport, Santa Cruz, May 18 (GJS) was quite exceptional—there are fewer than one-half dozen records for the coast district in the period from late April through August (apart from F.I. and n. coast records). Lark Sparrows appeared to be unusually widespread this season judging from the scattered reports, several involving probable breeding in unexpected locales. Sage Sparrows too were fairly well-reported, but with probable breeding indications only. A singing Grasshopper Sparrow at Garin Regional P., Mar. 30 (RJR) was the first of many reported this spring. The last report of Fox Sparrows departing winter grounds was of one on Gazos Cr. Road Apr. 26 (DLSu, PLN)—a bit early. Similarly, the last such Lincoln’s Sparrow was early (this by 2? weeks): one at Asilomar, Monterey, Apr. 19 (JML). The latter was the latest county record, underscoring our lack of reporting on departure timing for many species. Three wintering coastal Swamp Sparrows were last noted Mar. 3–27 (DLSu, FJB; *fide* Gull). Fascinating was the Region’s 2nd record of Swamp Sparrow for May: an adult banded and measured at Modoc N.W.R., May 9 (†ECB). (Note: see the corrigendum in the spring 1986 report, of an erroneous date in spring 1985. The other May record, and all 3 for June, are from F.I.) Eighteen White-throated Sparrows reported, to May 1 (a bit early), were average. Oddly, all were coastal. Four Harris’ Sparrows included one at El Rico Ranch headquarters, Kings, on the late date of May 4 (RAE). Six “Slate-colored” Dark-eyed Juncos (obviously a small fraction of known birds) were reported to Apr. 4, and two more fit spring vagrant patterns: May 23 & 30 on outer Pt. Reyes (*fide* Gull and †JM, respectively). A ♀ Bobolink along Dyson Lane in Sierra Valley, Plumas, May 29 (JSL) furnished only about the 6th interior record in the last 15 years. Encouraging were reports of Tricolored Blackbird colonies nesting (or appearing to) at 10+ sites previously undocumented with us, although the largest was estimated at only 1500—is the species nesting in even smaller colonies than historically, in adapting to current conditions? One male at the Arcata Marsh Project May 9 (CO, J. Brack, TM) was a vagrant to the n. coast. A good total of 15+ Yellow-headed Blackbirds was noted coastally, Apr. 24–May 18, and the species was also well-reported inland (confirmed breeding and new locales were not clarified). Lingering through Mar. 21 (†SEF, PhR; *fide* Gull), the Rusty Blackbird at Pescadero (see

last season) provided our 3rd record later than mid-February. A “Bullock’s” N. Oriole at Watsonville Mar. 7 “probably wintered locally” (SEF); the species otherwise appeared to arrive on schedule, Mar. 21+.

A Rosy Finch was feeding nestlings in Mono, below Tioga Pass, on the early date of May 26 (EDG, GKN). Oddly, this fascinating species is poorly reported to us, with only 6 reports in 3 years. Purple Finches were in “modest invasion” numbers in the central C.V. through Apr. 16 (TDM, WEH, MP, m.ob.). One Cassin’s Finch made landfall on F.I., Apr. 21, giving the island its 2nd spring and 5th-ever record. The apparently xanthochroistic Pine Siskin(s) wintering in Arcata (see last report) lingered to at least Mar. 5 (GMCC et al.). Pine Siskin departure dates in lowlands spanned Apr. 6–May 11 in various sub-regions. Lawrence’s Goldfinches were again conspicuous through the Region in this Period (29 records reported, Apr. 11+). Nesting was documented: in May at Carmel R. mouth (DR) and May 31 at L. Hennessey, Napa (MMI, DTK, *fide* RL). A female at Willow Cr. Golf Course May 9 (J. Brack, *fide* JCS) was the first inland for Humboldt and one of few for the county. No reports of more than 25–50 were received. The **Oriental Greenfinch** reported last season from Arcata Marsh remained to Apr. 3 (GSL, C. Fahl). Continuing from last winter, Evening Grosbeaks were in good numbers, especially in Santa Clara and Santa Cruz. They also lingered late, with 7 reports into May. Noteworthy were a female at Elkhorn Slough, Yolo, May 15 (JML) and four at U. of Calif. Santa Cruz May 26 (DLSu—“latest county record by about 10 days”).

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