## MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

## David G. Yee, Richard A. Erickson. and Stephen F. Bailey

lmost every species of Farallon Islands seabird started laying eggs seven to 10 days earlier than previously recorded in 17 years of monitoring. This and high ocean productivity predicted an extremely productive breeding season. On the whole, landbirds were well reported with no exceptional trends noted, except for Red Crossbills, Vagrants were meager. Despite this being our third straight drought year, little was mentioned of its effects on our bird populations.

We are grateful to Kurt F. Campbell for compiling the

land bird reports for Yee's analysis.

ABBREVIATIONS - C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.V. = Central Valley; F.I. = S.E. Farallon I.; I.C.R. = Inner Coast Range; S.F. = San Francisco; ph. = photo on file with the Regional Editors. All records from Palomarin and S.E. Farallon I. should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (P.R.B.O.).

LOONS TO PELICANS - Always rare, a Yellow-billed Loon was at Eureka Apr. 16 and May 1 (ph. SDF). A late Horned Grebe at Pt. Reyes Fish Docks May 29 was suspected of being the same bird seen there in late spring in recent years (JM). Both Horned and Eared grebes remained scarce in the C.V. Grebe numbers in Soquel Cove, Santa Cruz, peaked May 17-18 at 4720 Westerns and 722 Clark's (330-670 unidentified). confirming this area's importance for spring staging (DLSu).

Three Laysan Albatrosses were about average for the spring season: at Cordell Bank, Marin, Mar. 15 (GMF); F.I. Mar. 21; and 9 mi off Humboldt Bay Apr. 10 (GSL, SWH, FJB). Very few N. Fulmers were offshore, but one was dying on a pond at Pajaro Dunes, Santa Cruz, Apr. 16 (DLSu). An unidentified light-bodied Pterodroma passed F.I. May 20 (†PP). Sightings of Flesh-footed Shearwater off Santa Cruz Mar. 22 (JMa, DLSh) and off San Mateo Mar. 27 and Apr. 7 (ToJ) could have represented the same bird; this species is rare in spring. American White Pelicans were unusually widespread and numerous through spring in the C.V. and around the greater S.F. Bay.

HERONS TO WATERFOWL — Up to two Least Bitterns were seen in Pacific Grove May 4-18 (TCr, †DR et al.). The species is exceptional on the coast and had been unrecorded in Monterey since 1948. Great Blue Herons nested at Elkhorn Slough Esturine Sanctuary for the 3rd consecutive year following decades of absence. Twenty to 25 nests were found in May, but more exciting were 2 nests of Great Egrets among them, Monterey's first (fide AB, DR).

A Snowy Egret x Little Blue Heron at Alviso, Santa Clara, Apr. 16 was described as a different individual than the one at Charleston Slough the previous fall (†WGB, AGR et al.). Black-crowned Night-Herons wreaked havoc on nesting waterfowl at the Redwood Shores sewage facility, San Mateo, where these "'night ravens' gobbled up over 90% of Mallard,

Gadwall, and N. Pintail chicks" (PJM).

White-faced Ibis continued to increase in the Region with this their best season on record. Reports appeared to be incomplete from the C.V., where the species may have wintered only in the San Joaquin Valley this year. Stanislaus was apparently the major staging area, with numbers beginning to build by early April. The Modesto sewage ponds and vicinity were the focal point, with 650 present by Apr. 23 and a Regional record of 1400 on May 14; 1100 were still present May 22. These concentrations were due in part to low water levels at the more traditional Merced sites, coupled with extensive flooding because of partial draining of the sewage ponds for maintenance (HMR et al.). Reports of up to 35 birds came from



Alameda and all the delta counties except Contra Costa

Ibises were reported from all the immediate coastal counties in May except poorly covered Mendocino and tiny San Francisco. High counts included 57 in Del Norte, 40 in Humboldt, 50 in Sonoma, and 37 in Santa Cruz. One flying N at Trinidad, Humboldt, June 6 (Bob Sizoo) was the last seen. The species was unrecorded anywhere on the coast in spring prior to 1985. At Lower Klamath N.W.R., the first two were seen Apr. 30 and 500+ were present by the end of May (RE, MFRb). Elsewhere in n.e. California in May nearly 200 were seen in Modoc and 47 in Lassen; 100+ at Big L. May 21 were said to be the first for Shasta (BVdM et al.).

A Tundra Swan in Sierra Valley, Plumas, May 14 (JSL) was late, and a Trumpeter Swan was reported at the same place Mar. 18-Apr. 2 (†L.G. Jensen, fide DR). Single migrant Ross' Geese were on the coast at Pebble Beach, Monterey, Mar. 31-Apr. 1 (E. Ing, RFT) and with migrating "Aleutian" Canada Geese at L. Earl, Del Norte, Mar. 12-Apr. 15 (PFS, ADB et al.). A wintering bird in the Arcata Bottoms was last seen May 26 (GSL, LPL), and the Emperor Goose at Alameda was last seen

Apr. 17 (WG).

Three & Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal hybrids were reported this season from Glenn, Marin, and Santa Clara. A & Eur. Wigeon remained at Redwood City to May 15 (RSTh) to establish a record late date for the Region.

One Ring-necked Duck with migrant scaup at the Modesto sewage ponds May 22 (HMR), four at Crowley L., Mono, May 25 (PJM), and a pair at Arcata June 5 (RAE) were all considered very late migrants. A migrant 9 Tufted Duck was also at Arcata

Apr. 16-17 (SWH, ph. SDF, †GSL et al.).

Oldsquaws remained late with four reported in May. Eight thousand Surf Scoters passed Pigeon Pt. in 4 hours Mar. 24 (BS), and 1200 passed El Jarro Pt., Santa Cruz, in 110 minutes the same day (DLSu, CKf). Two were 6 mi inland at College L., Santa Cruz, Mar. 23 (DLSu). A & Bufflehead on the Pajaro R. estuary May 28-31 (CKf et al.) was very late, and lingering birds remained in Arcata to May 27 and Eureka to June 1 (RAE et al.). One at F.I. Apr. 2 provided the 2nd island record. Hooded Mergansers also remained late with 12 at 3 sites Apr. 15-17

and one on the Hunter-Liggett Reserve, Monterey, May 30 (RLR). Nine inland Red-breasted Mergansers were all seen in a 3-day period (Apr. 21–23) in Siskiyou, Monterey, and Tulare.

RAPTORS — Six ad. and 12 imm. Bald Eagles at Modesto Res., Stanislaus, Mar. 5 (JHG) formed a rather large concentration for so far south in the foothills. A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks courting at Happy Camp, Siskiyou, Mar. 6 (RE, MFRb) provided further evidence of this species' expansion. A "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk was reported in Sutter Mar. 6 (MJL). A Merlin flying N past Seacliff State Beach, Santa Cruz, May 4 (DLSu) was late.

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS — Up to three or four Black Rails were found on Bacon I. from late April through May 11 for the first San Joaquin records in 5 years (S. Meyers, DGY et al.). Single Com. Moorhens again reached the n. coast: at Arcata Marsh Apr. 18–25 (fide GSL) and near Ft. Bragg May 18–28 (DT). A Sandhill Crane over Oakland Apr. 3 (JSL) was unexpected; there are few Alameda records.

- S.A. -

In the first comprehensive census of tidal and nontidal wetlands of San Francisco and San Pablo bays, 183 observers (212 observer days) counted over 838,000 shorebirds of 28 species Apr. 16–18. Nine species constituted 99% of the individuals: (numbers in thousands) W. Sandpiper (555), Dunlin (140), dowitchers (mostly Shortbilled, 62), Marbled Godwit (32), Least Sandpiper (17), Black-bellied Plover (11), Am. Avocet (6), and Willet (5). Also counted were 2541 Black-necked Stilts, 1639 Red Knots, 985 Red-necked Phalaropes, 874 Sanderlings, 695 Semipalmated Plovers, 600 Greater Yellowlegs, 293 Long-billed Curlews, 281 Killdeer, 213 Wilson's Phalaropes, 212 Black Turnstones, 135 Whimbrels, 129 Ruddy Turnstones, 105 Lesser Yellowlegs, 103 Snowy Plovers, 26 Spotted Sandpipers, five Com. Snipe, two Wandering Tattlers, two Baird's Sandpipers, and one Lesser Golden-Plover. This census was the first of several annual spring and fall shorebird counts along the Pacific Flyway; future censuses will include other sites. Contact Point Reyes Bird Observatory if you would like to participate, either at S.F. Bay or other West Coast wetlands.

-Lynne E. Stenzel and Gary W. Page

Three thousand Black-bellied Plovers at the Modesto sewage ponds Apr. 18–22 constituted a record high count for Stanislaus. The last alternate-plumaged birds were seen there May 22, indicating migration to at least that date (HMR). Lesser Golden-Plovers were last seen at wintering sites in Mendocino, San Mateo, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus Apr. 16–23. At Lawson's Landing, Marin, 11 were still present May 6 (R. Hayden), but the only obvious migrants were one at Hayward Regional Shoreline Apr. 17 (RJR) and one at the Lodi sewage ponds Apr. 23 (DGY). None were reported as dominica.

Six Black-necked Stilts were at Arcata Marsh Mar. 18 and two were at the Mad R. estuary Apr. 27, but local birders were saddened by the lack of other sightings in the Humboldt Bay area, where colonists had nested the previous 3 years

(fide GSL).

A Solitary Sandpiper Apr. 9 in San Antonio Valley, Santa Clara (DSg), was our earliest ever; four to seven others were seen in Humboldt/Del Norte Apr. 11–May 10. Three Whimbrels at San Felipe L. Apr. 23 (DSg) furnished San Benito's first record. A Ruddy Turnstone at the Stockton sewage ponds May 12 (DGY) was the only one reported inland.

Eight+ Sanderlings were found inland Mar. 20-May 30. Baird's Sandpipers were found this spring at Redwood Shores sewage facility, San Mateo, Mar. 27 (†RSTh); Las Galinas sewage ponds, Marin, Apr. 16 (†DAH); St. Helena sewage ponds, Napa, Apr. 16 (JCS); and Hayward Apr. 17 (LJP). The only Pectoral Sandpiper was in the Arcata Bottoms May 10-13 (FJB). Santa

Cruz's overdue first Rock Sandpiper was with 68 migrating Surfbirds north of Waddell Creek Beach Mar. 28 (†DLSu).

Ruffs have been found in the San Joaquin Valley every winter since 1980; this year's bird was at Merced N.W.R. Mar. 17 (T. Poole). An apparent migrant was near the mouth of Alameda Cr., Alameda, Apr. 6 (N. Warnock). Two Com. Snipe were winnowing e. of Clay, Sacramento, Apr. 24, indicating the species may breed there (TDM, AM).

GULLS TO ALCIDS - Franklin's Gull was added to the Modoc N.W.R. list in a grand way May 24: the group of 32 (ECkB) was by far the most ever seen in California. The new colony at Malheur N.W.R., OR (see AB 40:1231), is not far away, however, so we may expect an increase in migrants. Three Franklin's Gulls stopped at Pajaro R. mouth, Santa Cruz/Monterey, Apr. 8 (†DLSu) and May 14 & 15 (PJM). For the 2nd spring since 1982 only the wintering ad. Little Gull was seen at Stockton sewage ponds, through Apr. 18 (DGY, JMa). The 22,000 Bonaparte's Gulls passing Pigeon Pt., San Mateo, in 4 hours Mar. 31 were termed an "unprecedented, enormous, early movement" (BS). About 4200 Bonaparte's were ashore at Pajaro R. mouth, and 3650+ passed by in 80 minutes Apr. 8 (DLSu). Burning fields at Tule L. seemed to have attracted the 18,000-20,000 Ring-billed Gulls Mar. 11 (M. Denny). Stanislaus' first ad. Thayer's Gull Mar. 22-23 (HMR, ERC) joined the last of three first-year Thayer's that wintered at Modesto sewage ponds (HMR). First-year Glaucous Gulls were at Modesto sewage ponds Mar. 6-23 (first for Stanislaus, ph. ERC); at Charleston Slough, Santa Clara, Apr. 23 (WGB, CB); and at 3 sites along the c. coast to Apr. 24. More unusual was the adult Glaucous Gull at Modesto sewage ponds Mar. 13 (ERC, †HMR).

Elegant Terns again returned early. Two or three were in Santa Cruz Apr. 6 (BSch, DLSu), 10 visited Pacifica Apr. 19 (S. Smithson), and 81 gathered at Pajaro R. mouth May 11 (DLSu). On the latter occasion DLSu watched courtship and a copulation attempt, leading him to suggest that these spring migrants are prospecting n. California tern colonies and are not postbreeding dispersants. Xantus' Murrelets were reported 4 times Mar. 17-May 15, from F.I. to Monterey (ToJ, DLSh), with a maximum of four off Monterey May 8 (DLSh). Two Horned Puffins appeared right on schedule, though this rarity is always exciting at these latitudes. One was off the continental shelf west of Half Moon Bay, San Mateo, May 26 (DGA, R. Moore), and the other was 9 mi southwest of Pt. Reyes, Marin, May 28

(L. Standley, fide GLF).

PIGEONS TO HUMMINGBIRDS — One hundred twenty Band-tailed Pigeons in Del Puerto Canyon Mar. 30 (JHG, HMR) with 30 still there May 14 (HMR, SLR) represented large numbers for the I.C.R. and the first for Stanislaus in over 6 years (HMR). An injured Greater Roadrunner in downtown Monterey Apr. 29 (fide M. Williams) was miles out of range. A nesting pair of Com. Barn-Owls with young at Modoc N.W.R. May 25 (ECkB) was of interest as they are rare in the Great Basin with no Modoc records in our files. Two Spotted Owls calling near Cone Peak in the Santa Lucia Mts., Monterey, were from sites not previously known (DR, RER). A Short-eared Owl on F.I. Apr. 16 provided the island's first pre-June spring record. Three Lesser Nighthawks were coastward, where rare: at Summit Ridge east of Lomita, Santa Cruz/Santa Clara, Apr. 26 (DLSu); Pacific Grove May 8 (C. Gottlund); and F.I. May 22. Singles near Camanche Res., San Joaquin, May 14 (DGY) and over downtown Sacramento May 17 (DoM) were also locally rare. A Com. Nighthawk along Vasco Rd., Contra Costa, May 28 (RJR) was in an area where considered casual. However, the date is consistent with first spring arrivals in our Region.

Black Swift's average arrival dates in our Region are in mid-May, so 4 reports of single birds zipping along the coast Apr. 22–May 6 suggested they were early this year. A well-studied Chimney Swift at Pt. Reyes May 22 (†JM, RS, DDeS, m.ob.) was only the Region's 2nd for May, though there are 7 June records. For the 5th consecutive year a good number (seven) of Costa's Hummingbirds were found north and east of their "expected" range. This strongly indicated these birds are more than just "extralimital" but rather are pioneers of a range expansion. A Property Broad-tailed Hummingbird found injured in San Jose Mar. 15 (TAC, P. Gonzales) was only the Region's 3rd west of the Sierras. At the time of this writing the bird was still in captivity. A Allen's Hummingbird was checking out the beauty of the Sutter Buttes Apr. 2 for a first Sutter record (†WA).

WOODPECKERS TO FLYCATCHERS - Three pairs of Lewis' Woodpeckers examining nest holes in extreme s.e. San Joaquin Apr. 2 provided the first evidence of breeding in the county (DGY). Monterey's 4th Williamson's Sapsucker was along Chews Ridge Mar. 3-12 (†S. Hossler, †DR), for that county's first-ever "stakeout." Perhaps even more exciting was Alameda's first Pileated Woodpecker in Redwood Regional Park Apr. 3 (†JHH, L. Palermo). An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Lodi L., San Joaquin, June 3 was quite late on the C.V. floor (DGY). Unprecedented was the report of hundreds of W. Wood-Pewees at Modoc N.W.R. May 29 (ECkB). Only one Dusky Flycatcher made it to the immediate coast, at outer Pt. Reyes May 20 (RS). Four singing and apparently territorial Dusky Flycatchers along with a courting pair of Gray Flycatchers were at San Benito Mt., San Benito, May 28 (DSg), where both species were suspected of breeding in 1983-1984 (Johnson and Cicero, 1985, W. Birds 16:5-6). Lake Merced's wintering Tropical Kingbird lingered to Apr. 12 (R. Fox), only the 2nd time a known wintering individual has stayed to April. Outstanding was F.I.'s first spring W. Kingbird Apr. 1, for only their 2nd ever. Spring vagrant E. Kingbirds are quite rare before June, so one on F.I. May 22 and two at outer Pt. Reyes May 28 (RS, B. Hogan) were of interest. Birds returning to traditional breeding sites were noted in Shasta Valley, Siskiyou, May 30 (RE). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was observed 10 mi north of Gasquet, Del Norte, May 27 (†BMu).

SWALLOWS TO VIREOS - A count of 2400 Tree Swallows over College L., Santa Cruz, Mar. 11 (DLSu, RAM) was the highest spring total along the coast in our files. One thousand Violet-green Swallows migrating over Redding, Shasta, Mar. 28 (BVdM) matched the highest total ever reported inland during spring. Two pairs nesting in extreme s.e. San Joaquin Apr. 2 provided a first for that county (DGY). The only notable concentrations of Bank Swallows reported were of 100+ at the Ano Nuevo State Reserve colony May 3 (GJS) and 300+ at the colony near Crowley L., Mono, May 25 (PJM). Cliff Swallows have been on the decline at Palomarin since 1980, when 50 were still present. This year only one pair was noted all period! Where other declines have occurred it would be important to note if they coincide with the occasional destruction of all or parts of their colonies by the human hand. Often their mud sculptures are hosed down for reasons of sanitation and aesthetics, but more frequently they are subject to target practice by heartless rock throwers (at least in this writer's experience). Modesto's wintering Steller's Jay vacationed there until Mar. 12 (HMR, SLR). An amazing 40 Pinyon Jays were discovered in Del Puerto Canyon, Mar. 31 (HMR), Stanislaus's first, with 22 still there Apr. 1 (†ERC, JHG). These birds were undoubtedly part of the Corvid mini-invasion the entire state received during the past fall/winter. However, most extralimital records in our Region have been of single birds, so a flock was exciting. A pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches setting up housekeeping near Cone Peak Apr. 3 (DR, RER) provided the first documented breeding record for Monterey, and an impressive 15 new breeding sites were discovered in the Santa Cruz Mts. (DLSu, m.ob.).

An excited & Ruby-crowned Kinglet chasing another individual just below the San Benito Mt. summit May 28 (DSg) was most intriguing as this species is known to nest locally only in the Sierra Nevada/Cascade Mts. and the Coast Ranges of the n. coast. A wayward W. Bluebird was at F.I. Apr. 1, the

island's 2nd ever. Eight Townsend's Solitaires were likely related to the winter's strong showing. One at McKinleyville, Humboldt, May 5 (RLeV) was considered a coastal vagrant. Nine reports of Swainson's Thrush came from the C.V. floor, where contrary to past statements they can be fairly common during mid-May. The winter invasion of Varied Thrush continued well into April in the lowlands. A singing male in Stockton May 13 (DGY) was one of the latest ever on the C.V. floor. There are very few records of Wrentit for S.F., so one at the Presidio Apr. 1 (DPM) was noteworthy. The Bohemian Waxwing invasion fizzled as the only report was of 50 at the base of Mt. Shasta, Siskiyou, Mar. 6 (BAP). Nesting Cedar Waxwings in the Region are normally restricted to coastal Humboldt/Del Norte, but birds carrying nesting material near Salinas, Monterey, May 15 (JB, m.ob.) and in Watsonville, Santa Cruz, May 28 (CKf) showed they are content to raise babies "south of the tracks" as has occurred in the past. Monterey had its first Bell's Vireo in 3 years (bred in 1983), along the Nacimiento R. May 14 (†RLR). Not found subsequently, it was considered a migrant. The status of "Plumbeous" Solitary Vireo away from the Great Basin during nonwinter months remained vague. One from Reichmuth Park, Sacramento, Apr. 13 (†TDM, MP) and one at Fairhaven, Humboldt, May 26 (FJB, †GSL, LPL, JCS) doubled our acceptable extralimital spring reports.

WOOD WARBLERS — Only two Tennessee Warblers were found this season, both on F.I., May 8 & 16. A singing & N. Parula was at Sycamore Grove, Santa Cruz, May 31–June 20 (BMMo, m.ob.). As mentioned in past reports, we should be looking for nesting attempts by this species, especially along our c. coast. Livermore's wintering Chestnut-sided Warbler was last observed Mar. 9 (KGH), when it was beginning to molt. Among Myrtle Warblers, a bird in Stockton May 8 (DGY) may have been the last of our western migrants, and three birds at outer Pt. Reyes May 24–27 (RS, B. Gillis) may have been eastern vagrants. For the 2nd spring in a row a very well described intergrade "Myrtle x Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler was reported. It was at Muddy Hollow, Pt. Reyes, Mar. 1 (DDK, †DAH).

A nesting pair of Black-throated Gray Warblers with young in Henry Coe S.P., Santa Clara, May 29 provided further evidence of this species' nesting in the Diablo Range of the I.C.R. The movement of Townsend's Warblers spanned Apr. 7-May 28. Several observers commented on their large numbers and tardiness through the Santa Cruz Mts., C.V., and Great Basin (DLSu, GEw, TDM, DGY, PJM). An unusual-looking bird at Mt. Diablo May 8 (†JM) was thought to be a Townsend's x Hermit hybrid, possibly a Hermit backcross. A Prairie Warbler at Mono Lake County Park May 28 (†CGR) furnished our Region with its first documented spring record. Of 12 Palm Warblers reported, seven in March were considered wintering birds but five in April–May were probably migrants. All were along the coast. All seven of our Black-and-white Warblers were also coastal, with a wintering bird along Corralitos Cr., Santa Cruz, staying until Apr. 22 (BMMo). A Worm-eating Warbler bathed regularly in a Pacific Grove birdbath Mar. 21-Apr. 12 (ph. K. Shepard, fide DR). It was a typical season for Ovenbirds, with one at Palomarin May 17 and another on F.I. May 21.

GROSBEAKS TO LONGSPURS — A well-publicized N. Cardinal at Friant Dam, Fresno, Apr. 15-May 31 (RHG) was considered a probable escapee. Four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks graced our Region May 21-28. Of six Indigo Buntings reported, the one wintering in Trinidad, Humboldt, Mar. 12-Apr. 24 (GLF) was most likely the bird seen in Westhaven during December. An Am. Tree Sparrow was on F.I. May 11, where all previous spring birds have occurred. Our only coastal Brewer's Sparrow also visited F.I. Apr. 24-26. Single Black-chinned Sparrows on Mt. Konocti near Kelseyville, Lake, May 16-21 (†B. McIntosh) and on San Benito Mt. May 28 (DSg) were from counties where they are rarely observed. San Jose's wintering Black-throated Sparrow departed Mar. 5 (F. & D. O'Sullivan).

For the 3rd time in 5 springs a Lark Bunting was along Mallott Rd. just north of Sutter Apr. 14–30 (BED). Grasshopper Sparrow reports in the C.V. away from its w. edge are few, so two singing males in Porterville, Tulare, Mar. 29 (RJR) were of interest. Twenty-seven White-throated Sparrows made our strongest spring showing ever. A singing male in Mill Valley May 31 (DAH) was very late. An impressive five individual Harris' Sparrows were reported Mar. 1–Apr. 27. Eight Lapland Longspurs on outer Pt. Reyes Apr. 5 (PhR, AG, EDG) were our last. The wintering Chestnut-collared Longspurs on Bear River Ridge, Humboldt, and at Ave. 276 and Rd. 176, Tulare, were last observed Mar. 26 (M. Morris) and Apr. 1 (RH), respectively. The latter birds peaked at an impressive 18–20 (RH).

BOBOLINK TO FINCHES — Most Bobolink sightings are coastal, but our only one this season was at Mono L. May 28 (GWP). Very few people have hinted at how the continuing drought has affected their local bird populations. So it was interesting (and disheartening) to read RLR's account of 2000 Tricolored Blackbirds colonizing a pond on the Ft. Hunter Liggett Military Reservation, Monterey, in March only to abandon nests and the entire area by May as the pond dried up. "Up to 45" coastal Yellow-headed Blackbirds in the Hanson Slough area, Santa Cruz, May 11-20 (DLSu et al.) was unprecedented. One member of the famous Great-tailed Grackle pair at S.F.'s Aquatic Park was still present through May 23 (DPM), but there was no mention of the sex. A Common Grackle entertained a handful of people at Mendoza Ranch, Pt. Reyes, May 21-22 (†RS, †JM et al.). Pending acceptance by the C.B.R.C., this provided our Region with only its 5th record. A "Baltimore" N. Oriole was at outer Pt. Reyes May 24 (RS). Spring records are few.

The Red Crossbill invasion continued throughout the spring. Reports remained concentrated in the c. coast area with local breeding confirmed in Monterey (DR) and Santa Cruz (DLSu). In the lowlands away from the coast six birds were in Stockton Apr. 7 (DGY), and one bird was in Livermore Apr. 29 (KGH). Last year's Oriental Greenfinch was seen again at the Arcata oxidation ponds Apr. 17 (†FJB), the site of its discovery. Considering how these ponds are monitored on a regular basis, one wonders where the bird was spending the winter. Perhaps, as one of the locals mused, it never left.

ADDENDUM — Careful documentation is being forwarded to the C.B.R.C. for a & Common Grackle, seen Apr. 12, 1987, at McGee Cr., Mono (7000 ft elevation; Diane Payne, †DAG).

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