

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

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



The season's highlights came from offshore waters. The following pelagic accounts may be the tip of an iceberg in the Region's newest frontier. Late winter rains helped the state's drought condition, but waterfowl nesting in some areas still suffered owing to low water levels. Shorebird censuses throughout the state continued to educate us on the status and distribution of many species. Migration began early for many landbird species, and a surprising number of record early arrival dates were established. The vagrant season got off to a very slow start in May.

We are grateful to Kurt F. Campbell for compiling the landbird reports for Erickson's analysis.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.A.S. = California Academy of Sciences; C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.C.R.S. = Coyote Creek Riparian banding Station, Santa Clara; C.V. = Central Valley; Cyn. = Canyon; F.I. = Southeast Farallon Island; S.F. = San Francisco; ph. = photo on file with Regional Editors. All records from F.I. should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory (P.R.B.O.). Place names in *italics* are counties.

GREBES TO PELICANS — A Red-necked Grebe at Rancho Murieta L., Sacramento, Apr. 29–30 (JCP, DJo) and a Clark's Grebe at F.I. Mar. 28 were considered local rarities. A Laysan Albatross picked up in a back yard in Santa Clara Mar. 29 was released at Santa Cruz (fide N. Yatsko). Although

the likelihood of ship passage into S.F. Bay is always suspect, there are now enough records far inland southeast of our Region to suggest that this albatross can arrive anywhere on its own. In more usual habitats were Laysan Albatrosses 28 mi w. of Año Nuevo Pt., San Mateo, Apr. 2 (RSTh), at Cordell Bank, Marin, Apr. 21 (J. McClung), and 85 and 75 mi w.s.w. of Pt. Reyes Apr. 29 (SFB et al.).

An imm. Brown Pelican at Chesbro Res., Santa Clara May 27–June 1 (E. Curtis) was inland almost without seasonal precedent in our Region.



Cook's Petrel 85 miles southwest of Point Reyes, California, April 29, 1989. Photograph/Stephen F. Bailey.

Thanks to the most generous sponsorship and participation of Richard D. Spight of Point Reyes Bird Observatory, a 2-day research cruise over deep ocean waters up to 90 mi offshore from Pt. Reyes, Marin, to Pt. Arena, Mendocino, Apr. 29–30 clarified several mys-



Murphy's Petrel 85 miles southwest of Point Reyes, California, April 29, 1989. Photograph/Stephen F. Bailey.

teries of the N. Pacific Gyre's little-known avifauna. This expedition documented *Pterodroma* petrels in large numbers and eliminated doubt about the identity and abundance of two species. One of the 98 **Murphy's Petrels** became California's first specimen (*C.A.S.), and many others were identifiably photographed (tph. PP, tph. SFB, +DGY). (For discussion see the related feature article in this issue.) The 113 **Cook's Petrels** were apparently all true Cook's, with both Masatierra and Pyrcroft's petrels clearly eliminated by close looks and photographs of many birds, and all the more distant birds appearing identical to the closer ones in flight, shape, color, and molt (tph. PP, tph. SFB, +DGY). Prior to this expedition the only definite Cook's for California was the specimen from Santa Cruz Nov. 17, 1983. The closest Murphy's Petrel was 32 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes (the same area as the closest Horned Puffin, see below), but the Cook's Petrels dropped out at 52 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes. Unexpectedly, three **Murphy's Petrels** and seven more birds that were almost certainly Murphy's were found only 16 mi n.w. of Fort Bragg, Mendocino May 6 (KFC et al.). On Apr. 29–30 the daytime offshore ranges of two storm-petrels were illuminating. All 90 Leach's were over the deep ocean floor beyond the continental slope at least 65 mi offshore, but the 43 Ashy Storm-Petrels were sparser over these waters and denser over the lower slope to 40 mi offshore (SFB et al.).

EGRETS TO WATERFOWL — Santa Clara's Little Blue Heron saga continued: the Snowy Egret x Little Blue Heron at Charleston Slough remained until Mar. 24 (WGB, A. Walther) while an ad. Little Blue at the Alviso heronry Apr. 23 (PLN) preceded another adult and a calico bird there May 16 (MJM). An adult at Charleston Slough May 28–June 3 (J. Hintermeister) was probably one of the Alviso birds. These all appeared to be birds cited from last summer/fall. Additionally, Siskiyou's 3rd was an adult at Lower Klamath N.W.R. Apr. 23 (+RE, MFRo).

We have only a handful of Cattle Egret records from our Great Basin regions, so one at Crowley L., Mono, Apr. 23 (M. Prather), five at Mono L. Apr. 22–23 (fide ES), and another at Mono L. May 23 (PJM) constituted quite a passage. The Mono

Basin's 2nd nesting of Black-crowned Night-Herons was observed at Mono L. May 21 (ES). For the 3rd consecutive spring White-faced Ibis made a strong showing, although pale in comparison to last year's invasion. Notables included one at Mono L. Apr. 23 (M. Prather), 21 flying N past Año Nuevo Pt., San Mateo, May 8 (GJS), up to 50 in the south S.F. Bay area May 4–16 (SAL, PJM, MJM et al.), and 50+ in the Arcata area of Humboldt May 7–13 (R. Wilson, FJB).

Two Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Mendota W.M.A., Fresno, May 18 (BED) provided only our 2nd sighting in 4 years. Ross' Goose put in its customary showing along the coast with three "white" migrants observed Mar. 11–Apr. 30. But it is those gorgeous "blues" that really excite white-geese watchers. Single blue morph Ross' Geese were observed at Ash Cr. Wildlife Area, Lassen, Mar. 19 (tph. D. Klein, WDS, A. Dorfman) and Tule Lake N.W.R., Siskiyou, Mar. 29 (RE). Inland Brant were at Mono L. Apr. 29 (J. Jehl) and May 9–10 (ES, m.ob.).

The healthy rains of March/April helped the state to endure its 3rd straight drought year. These rains were able to raise the water level in many areas of the state to the point where overall breeding pairs of waterfowl were up 54% over last year (fide BED). However, some areas continued to suffer, notably in Monterey (DR) and at Modoc N.W.R. (ECKB). At the latter locale, waterfowl pair counts were at an all-time low, especially among Mallards and N. Pintails.

In sorting out the Eurasians from the Americans there were the following: two coastal Eur. Green-winged Teal during April; an apparent Am. x Eur. Green-winged Teal at s. Humboldt Bay Apr. 23 (RLeV); 15 Eur. Wigeon, including a male at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Siskiyou, on the very late date of May 14 (RE). Again, apparent Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal hybrids were observed: at Modesto's sewage ponds, Stanislaus, Mar. 5–21 (ERC, +HMR) and Stockton's sewage ponds Mar. 3–17 (+DGY). Ten thousand N. Shovelers in Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, Apr. 1 (PJM) made an impressive concentration.

The pair of wintering Tufted Ducks at S.F.'s old Sutro Baths remained until Mar. 27 (+SFB, m.ob.). An imm. King Eider was the prince of Pomponio State Beach, San Mateo, Apr. 29–May 7 (+MLR, tm.ob.). Two Buffleheads at Mono L. May 24 provided only the 2nd May record for Mono (PJM). There were 4 records of inland Red-breasted Mergansers Apr. 28–May 19.

RAPTORS — The imm. Broad-winged Hawk at the S.F. Presidio was last reported Mar. 7 (J. Clark). The well-known pair of Swainson's Hawks at Oak Grove Regional Park, San Joaquin, finally abandoned their traditional nest site owing to unrestrained human pressures, but a pair of Red-tailed Hawks raised a trio of nestlings atop Candlestick Park's stadium lights; "people, bright lights, and the hum of megavolts obviously didn't bother this pair of [S.F.] Giants fans" (both DGY). Another or the same Crested Caracara appeared, this time following a tractor near Fort Dick, Del Norte, Apr. 28–30 (RSTr, ADB, +LPL, +GSL et al.). As expected, this bird generated the usual discussions regarding escape from a falconer versus weather patterns that looked "like a perfect vehicle to deliver our Caracara from Siskiyou." The latter bird in Shasta Valley was last reported Mar. 26 (RE, MFRb), so this may have been the same bird.

PHEASANT TO SHOREBIRDS — A pair of Ring-necked Pheasants on the highly urbanized S.F. peninsula near Belmont, San Mateo, during April was felt to be the last wild pair left in the county (PJM, RSTh). Three Black Rails were again found on Bacon I., San Joaquin, Apr. 20–22 (DGY). A pair of Clapper Rails at Steinberger Slough, San Mateo, Apr. 15 "may be [the] last in this area" (PJM). Virginia Rail was finally confirmed breeding in Monterey when an adult with up to three chicks was observed at the Carmel R. mouth May 27–31 (H. Osborn, DR). A Com. Moorhen at F.I. May 13–18 provided a 2nd island record, while a Sandhill Crane at Bolinas Lagoon, Marin, May 12 (KH) was a coastal rarity in addition to being late.

Known wintering Lesser Golden-Plovers totalling about 30 birds of the race *fulva* were last seen Mar. 30–May 13. Two hundred eighty-six Semipalmated Plovers at Mono L. Apr. 22–23 (fide ES) gave an indication how strong their movement is through the Great Basin. The attempt of Black-necked Stilt to colonize the Humboldt Bay area has for some unknown reason come to a sudden halt, as the only sighting was of two at s. Humboldt Bay Apr. 22 (E. Nelson). A concentration of 250–300 Am. Avocets along a stretch of the Sacramento R., Shasta, Mar. 28 (fide BY) was noteworthy, as they are considered rare there.

An almost unbelievable 1564 Greater Yellowlegs were tallied during Mono Lake's spring shorebird count Apr. 22–23 (fide ES). This was far and away the highest concentration ever recorded in the Region, and came from an area where the former peak count was 23! The departure date for Stanislaus' wintering Ruddy Turnstone and Sanderling was Mar. 22 (ERC). An additional inland Ruddy Turnstone was at the Stockton sewage ponds Apr. 5 (DGY). Reports of seven Baird's Sandpipers from 5 locales were received, spanning Mar. 29–May 6. They are always very rare in spring. Rarer still in spring, single Pectoral Sandpipers were seen at Moss Landing, Monterey (county's first for spring), May 13 (†RAR, †RoM et al.) and Lower Klamath N.W.R., Siskiyou, May 19 (†RE).

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS—The Apr. 29–30 offshore expedition counted 85 Pomarine Jaegers, all over the deep ocean floor (SFB et al.), reflecting their more strictly offshore migration in spring versus the fall passage which often brings many birds within range of ordinary pelagic trips. A S. Polar Skua over Soquel Canyon, Monterey Bay, Mar. 19 (RT) made one of very few March records.

Both imm. Franklin's Gulls were at the Stockton sewage ponds: the wintering first-year bird through Mar. 20 (DGY, EDG) and a very worn 2-year bird Apr. 18–May 4 (DGY). Four ad. Franklin's appeared: one at L. Talawa, Del Norte, Apr. 22 (ADB) and three at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Siskiyou, May 14 (RE). The ad. Little Gull remained at the Stockton sewage ponds to Apr. 2 (m.ob., Ed Hall). A breeding plumaged **Heermann's Gull** at Mono L. May 24–25 (PJM, ph. ES) represented a first record for California's Great Basin district. Had it joined California Gulls migrating from the Gulf of California? An ad. Glaucous-winged Gull at the Yreka dump Mar. 17–18 (MFRb) was a Siskiyou rarity. Reports of nine to 11 Glaucous Gulls included both known and suspected holdovers from winter as well as new birds. Hundreds of Black-legged Kittiwakes were offshore San Mateo Feb. 2–Apr. 2 (BS, PJM, RSTh), but only modest numbers appeared elsewhere. A 2nd-summer Sabine's Gull at Lower Klamath N.W.R. May 14 (†RE) was Siskiyou's first for spring and 3rd overall.

Two juv. Caspian Terns begging from adults at Pescadero Beach, San Mateo, Apr. 9 (RSTh) prompted the apt question "When and where did these birds breed?" A few Elegant Terns again returned in April, with the first being three passing Pt. Lobos, Monterey, Apr. 9 (DR). Three Black Terns were found coastally May 4–30.

S.A.

The Apr. 29–30 expedition to the offshore waters of the N. Pacific Gyre recorded 136 Horned Puffins (PP, SFB et al.). All of these plus the four imm. Tufted Puffins were on deep ocean water, farther offshore than any of the Common Murres, nearly all of the Cassin's Auklets, and most of the Rhinoceros Auklets. The last three species occurred over the continental slope and increased upwards toward the edge of the continental shelf (SFB, DGY et al.). Nevertheless, one Horned Puffin was found only 16 mi n.w. of Fort Bragg, Mendocino, May 6 (KFC et al.).

OWLS TO FLYCATCHERS—A Spotted Owl on the American R. in Fair Oaks Apr. 19–May 26 (M. & J. Pierce, ph. WEH et al.) was apparently first seen in mid-February (G. MacWilliams). There are two previous C.V. records from Chico and one from Merced N.W.R., but none for Sacramento. The Howland Hill (Del Norte) Barred Owl was heard Feb. 22–Apr. 8 (ADB, JAR) for the 8th consecutive year there. An out-of-place Lesser Nighthawk found near Petaluma, Sonoma, in late April later died in a bird rescue center (fide DN).

A swift at F.I. May 15 was reported as "probably a Chimney" and one at Pt. Reyes May 30 was reported as definitely that species (RS). Lassen's 3rd recorded Black-chinned Hummingbird was a male at Susanville May 20–21 (TDM). A ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Tom's Place, Mono, Apr. 9 (†CDH) was record early for the Region; last year's San Jose bird was captured Apr. 15, not Mar. 15 as published. The capture of 98 Rufous Hummingbirds Mar. 26–June 5 at C.C.R.S., with 18 banded Apr. 5 alone, gives an indication of how common this species can be as a migrant through our area. One at Tom's Place Apr. 28 (†CDH) was unusual in Mono in spring. Nineteen Allen's Hummingbirds banded at C.C.R.S. Apr. 26–June 5 were judged to be dispersing birds because of an 18-day gap in records prior to that (fide WGB).

Red-naped Sapsuckers were found at Ed Levin County Park, Santa Clara, Apr. 2–9 (JMS et al.) and Tom's Place Apr. 15 (†CDH); the species is noteworthy anywhere in the Region away from the extreme northwest. A ♂ Williamson's Sapsucker near Summit Valley (ca. 5000') Apr. 16 (JAR, J. Salyer) provided Del Norte's 2nd record. Although the habitat seems suitable for nesting, this and all previous records from northwesternmost California may only pertain to migrants and wintering birds. Pileated Woodpeckers were found again outside their expected range with one at Table Mt., Santa Clara, Mar. 31 (P. Gongdon) and one at Mt. Diablo, Contra Costa, May 7 (RJR).

An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Ft. Cronkhite, Marin, Mar. 31 (MLR) was the Region's earliest ever, although there are a number of records for the first week of April. Another reported 3 weeks earlier is disregarded lacking full documentation, as are 2 April Willow Flycatcher reports. A massive wave of migrant flycatchers grounded at Mono L. by high winds May 23–25 included: 11 Olive-sideds, 70+ W. Wood-Pewees, 37 Willows, nine Hammond's, five Dusksies, 10 Grays, and three Westerns (PJM). The high number of Willows compared to the other *Empidonax* is indicative of their very late migration. For the 3rd consecutive year, Stanislaus's Del Puerto Canyon hosted the season's first Hammond's Flycatcher, but this year's was record early on Mar. 25 (†HMR). Two or three Hammond's in Green Valley Apr. 8 (†JCL, †MBG) and one in Cold Canyon Apr. 15 (DoM) were thought to provide the first records for Solano; at Modesto on Apr. 30, a Gray Flycatcher was an overdue first for Stanislaus (†HMR). Cassin's Kingbirds maintained their marginal presence in our Region. Three w. of Shittail Canyon, Pinnacles N.M., Monterey, Mar. 17 (J. Shipley) had been present since late February, and one at Hospital Canyon Apr. 22 was the first in San Joaquin in 5 years (DGY). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher added substantially to the Pt. Reyes landscape May 28 (†L. Silver, M. Hersh).

MAGPIES TO WARBLERS—Two Black-billed Magpies near Coyote, Santa Clara, Mar. 21 (†J. Glass) were problematic. Birds as far south as Contra Costa have been considered part of a pattern of genuine vagrants, in n.w. California primarily and in fall/winter almost exclusively. The species is common in captivity, however, and numerous other records throughout the state have been dismissed as escapees. Two birds this far south, out of season, and so close to a major urban area are best added to the latter group.

A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Fairhaven, Humboldt, May 22 (GSL) was late for a coastal vagrant. Three previous spring records from F.I. span Apr. 17–May 3 and one this year was

seen Apr. 14–17. A Townsend's Solitaire on Pt. Reyes May 31 (RS) was even farther out of synchrony, and represented our latest coastal record ever. A N. Mockingbird singing at Hoopa, Humboldt, May 15–18 (RAE, GSL) was in an area where nesting might be expected. Except for a small population at Crescent City, however, mockers are primarily scarce winter visitors/migrants in n.w. California with few summer records. A Sage Thrasher at Hospital Canyon Apr. 1 was, surprisingly, only San Joaquin's second (DGY). One on Scott Road, Sacramento, Mar. 4 (DJo) and one at Hayward Regional Shoreline May 14 (RJR) were also local rarities. The wintering Brown Thrasher at F.I. was last seen May 4.

A Tennessee Warbler in S.F. Mar. 4–Apr. 19 (ASH et al.) was our latest ever for a wintering bird. A migrant at Mono L. County Park May 13–14 (ABtt) was the only other report.

While hiking in Henry W. Coe S.P. and adjacent San Felipe Ranch, Santa Clara, on May 7, JY and AL estimated they encountered 15 warbler flocks of approximately 100 birds each. Orange-crowned and Wilson's Warblers were present but Townsend's and Hermits were most noticeable. They estimated 500–1000 Townsend's and 75–150 Hermits were present. Never before in many years there had they seen such numbers. Indeed, large April/May flocks of warblers have been noted previously in the Coast Ranges, primarily on Mt. Diablo, but these estimates exceed all other reports known to us. Whereas other concentrations have been in oak woodland/savannah, these birds were in chaparral as well as oaks.

A singing ♂ Prairie Warbler in urban S.F. Mar. 12 (ph. J. McCormick, ASH) furnished a most unusual record. Presumably the bird had wintered somewhere nearby. Wintering Palm Warblers were last reported Mar. 12 at F.I., Mar. 24 at the Carmel R. mouth, Monterey (J. Hughes), and Mar. 31 in Eureka (BED). An alternate-plumaged bird at L. Merced, S.F., Apr. 25 (A. Gaguine) was late enough to be considered a spring migrant. The last of the known wintering Black-and-white Warblers Apr. 17 in S.F. (MLR) was only one day prior to the first of the spring migrants: Apr. 18–20 at F.I.; Apr. 23 at Palomar; May 20 on the w. shore of Mono L. (fide ES). Wintering Am. Redstarts were last seen Mar. 18 in Pescadero, San Mateo (D. Keller), and Apr. 25 in S.F. (S. Cox). A singing N. Waterthrush at Honey Lake W.A. May 28 (†TDM) provided a "long overdue" first county record and no doubt brought special satisfaction to this veteran Lassen birder. An estimated 130 Wilson's Warblers accompanied the grounded flycatchers at Mono L. May 23–25 (PJM).

TANAGERS TO SPARROWS—An ad. ♂ W. Tanager singing near Truckee in Placer Mar. 22 (KVV, KaVV) is hard to classify. At nearly 6000' the location seems unlikely for overwintering, but the date is weeks early for a spring arrival. The degree to which extralimital wintering birds, or even common wintering birds, begin to wander late in the season is poorly known. The imm. ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Berkeley was last seen Mar. 14 (fide HG, JM). Additional males were at Lafayette, Contra Costa, Apr. 30 (M. Grissette) and Pt. Reyes May 19 (RS). A singing Black-headed Grosbeak near Mustang Peak, Stanislaus/Santa Clara, Mar. 20 (HMR) furnished one of our earliest records ever. Blue Grosbeaks are always unusual on our coast; a male was at El Granada, San Mateo, Apr. 27 (BS) and a female at Pt. Reyes May 19 (RS). Record-early for the Region was a Lazuli Bunting on Arroyo Mocho, s.e. of Livermore, Apr. 4 (LJP, HG, DSi). Another was at El Granada by Apr. 7 (BS). Indigo Buntings were s. of Milford May 4 (Lassen's 2nd—D. Fuller), at C.C.R.S. May 23–26, and at Mono L. County Park May 29 (MFRb).

Single Green-tailed Towhees on Mt. Diablo, Contra Costa, May 4 (J. Edgar) and C.C.R.S. May 24 were noteworthy as the species is rarely seen in migration anywhere in the Region. Another wandering Brown Towhee was at McKinleyville, Humboldt, Apr. 23 (P. Stebbins). Two Clay-colored Sparrows were found on the mainland, where almost unknown in spring: Apr. 23 at San Jose (S. Perry) and Apr. 30 at Arcata

Bottoms (JCS et al.). One at F.I. May 15–17 was more expected. A singing Brewer's Sparrow at Moss Beach, San Mateo, May 31 (BS) was late and provided the only coastal report this season. Apparently Stanislaus' first Black-chinned Sparrow was singing along the Santa Clara boundary near Mississippi L. May 28 (HMR). As has become expected, two or three Lark Buntings were at the Sutter Buttes, Sutter, Apr. 2–16 (BED, PBS, WA). "Pairs" of Savannah Sparrows in Cholame Valley, s.e. Monterey, in April and birds present throughout the period were believed to indicate local nesting (DR). This area is almost equidistant between the ranges of the coast-hugging race *alaudinus* (= *bryanti*) and the high desert race *nevadensis*, however, so much more conclusive evidence is needed to verify such an extraordinary range extension.

S.A.

Grasshopper Sparrows again inspired much discussion. One at Gazelle Flats Mar. 10 (†RE) "defies ready explanation," as other spring Siskiyou records are from May (MFRb). The bird almost certainly did not winter at this cold site. A singing male found at Pt. Saint George May 18 was where two to three apparently had been early in the month and remained into summer (C.J. Ralph, JCS, †GSL et al.). It was considered overdue as a first record for Del Norte. Up to four "probably nesting" at Brown's Valley Apr. 13–June 15 were apparently the first ever for Yuba as well (PBS), and a singing bird near Nice Apr. 28 was said to be the first record for Lake in over 20 years (JRW, JPM). Just as Marin did earlier in the decade, Santa Clara is now experiencing a surge in reports of Grasshopper Sparrows as a result of its breeding bird atlas project. Of 126 birds found (also 5 nests), 71 were in the vicinity of Sargent alone Apr. 15 and 35 were near Coyote Apr. 25–28 (both DLSu). And in Monterey, significant differences exist between the timing of nesting on the coast and inland (DR et al.). At least six singing males in Cholame Valley Mar. 28–Apr. 16 were absent by May 25 when the vegetation had become desiccated. Yet "dozens" were singing on the s. Big Sur coast in early June. Last year sparrows did not arrive at some well-worked sites in n.w. Monterey until June, and similarly late arrivals have been noted in Marin and elsewhere previously. Is it possible that this and some of the other more irregular sparrows could nest early in drier areas and move on to nest a 2nd time in the same season at more mesic sites, as has been suggested for *Phainopepla*?

Wintering Harris' Sparrows were last seen in S.F. Mar. 20 (fide HG, JM) and Lee Vining, Mono, Apr. 12 (ES), and a singing male was found in the Arcata Bottoms Apr. 25 (GSL). A "Slate-colored" Junco at Pt. Reyes May 20 (DSg) fit the pattern set by eastern vagrants. The wintering "Gray-headed" Junco in McKinleyville was last seen Mar. 28 (RLeV). The only Lapland Longspur reported was one near Ft. Dick Mar. 26, where up to 60 had been seen in winter (ADB).

BLACKBIRDS TO FRINGILLIDS—Tricolored Blackbirds are currently receiving considerable attention, and rightly so. At least 11 colonies were noted in thorough reports from Sacramento, Santa Clara, and Monterey (TDM, WGB, DR). Among other concerns is this species' occasionally fickle nesting behavior. A colony of 600 at Calero Dam, Santa Clara, Apr. 21 was reduced to a few birds Apr. 28 and all were gone by Apr. 30 (DLSu). San Francisco's pair of Great-tailed Grackles was seen at least Mar. 10–Apr. 17 (fide HG, JM). A grackle at Mono L. County Park May 10–14 was identified as both a Great-tailed and a Common (fide ES, HG, JM). The latter is a C.B.R.C. review species so the committee will ultimately pass judgment on the record.

The ♂ Orchard Oriole wintering in Pacific Grove began singing just prior to its departure Apr. 4 (BJW). California wintering birds like this are thought to be the source of early spring records such as the ♀ Orchard Oriole in Crescent City Mar. 31 (ADB) and the imm. male in Westhaven, Humboldt, Apr. 7 (GSL, LPL). The earliest reported western orioles were both in Santa Clara: a Hooded in Los Altos Mar. 10 (PLN) and a Northern "Bullock's" in Los Gatos Mar. 16 (MFe).

Purple Finches were very scarce in San Joaquin through the winter but up to 18 were at Lodi L. Mar. 22-29 with one still present Apr. 19 (DGY). This species was "unusually abundant" in w. Marin this spring with nesting even evident at isolated "vagrant traps" on outer Pt. Reyes (RS). A nest in Green Valley May 24 (T. Jenkins, †MBG, MFRi) was thought to furnish the first confirmed breeding in Solano, though not unexpected. Adult Red Crossbills feeding young at Lincoln Park, S.F., in late May (ASH) were in an area where nesting has taken place for several years. Lawrence's Goldfinches were especially numerous in the Coast Ranges s. of S.F. Bay this spring (m.ob.). In s. Monterey they were "very common" with "lots of confirmed nesting evidence" (DR) and in San Antonio Valley, Santa Clara, about 10 times as many were present as last year (WGB et al.).

EXOTIC SPECIES — A flock of Red-crowned Parrots (now up to 11 birds) present in Pacific Grove since 1983 "again broke up, presumably to nest, during the spring" (DR). Reports of exotics such as this are actively sought by us, as well as the Introduced Bird Subcommittee of the C.B.R.C.

CORRIGENDUM — The comments concerning W. Kingbirds at F.I. in last spring's report (AB 42:479) should be disregarded; this species has been recorded there many times in spring and is routine in fall.

CITED CONTRIBUTORS (subregional editors in bold-face) — Walt Anderson, Stephen F. Bailey, Alan D. Barron, Anthony Battiste, E. Clark Bloom (EckB), William G. Bousman, Fred J. Broerman, Susan Brown, Eric R. Caine, California Academy of Sciences, Kurt F. Campbell, Josiah Clark, Emelie Curtis, Bruce E. Deuel, Ann Dorfman, Ray Ekstrom, Richard A. Erickson, Mark Fenner, Ron H. Gerstenberg, Edward D. Greaves, Helen Green, Marguerite B. Gross, Ed Hall, Keith Hansen, Charlotte D. Harbeson, W. Edward Harper, Jan Hintermeister, Alan S. Hopkins, Joseph Jehl, David Johnson (DJo), Debbie Klein, Amy Lauterbach, Stephen A. Laymon, Nick Lemon, Robin Leong (RbL), Gary S. Lester, Lauren P. Lester, Ronald LeValley (RLeV), John C. Lovio, Michael J. Mammoser, Timothy D. Manolis, Roger Marlow (RoM), James P. Matzinger, John McClung, Peter J. Metropulos, Joseph Morlan, Don Munson (DoM), Dan Nelson, Eric Nelson, Paul L. Noble, Hadley Osborn, Benjamin D. Parmeter, June C. Persson, Lina Jane Prairie, Mike Prather, Peter Pyle, Harold M. Reeve, Jean M. Richmond, Robert J. Richmond, Michael F. Rippey (MFRi), Michael F. Robbins (MFRb), Don Roberson, James A. Rooney, Mary Louise Rosegay, Ruth A. Rudesill, Peter B. Sands, Barry Sauppe, Dianne Sierra (DSi), Daniel Singer (DSg), W. David Shuford, Jean-Marie Spoelman, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling, Gary J. Strachan, Emilie Strauss, David L. Suddjian (DLSu), Richard Ternullo, Ronald S. Thorn (RSTh), Richard S. Tryon (RSTr), Karen Van Vuren (KaVV), Kent Van Vuren, Alan Walther, Brian J. Weed, Jerry R. White, R. Wilson, Nick Yatsko, David G. Yee, James Yurchenko, Bob Yutzy. Many more contributors were not specifically cited; all are appreciated. — **STEPHEN F. BAILEY** (grebes through pelicans, raptors, jaegers through alcids), Dept. of Ornithology & Mammalogy, Calif. Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118; **DAVID G. YEE** (egrets through waterfowl, pheasant through shorebirds), 2930 Driftwood Pl. #39, Stockton, CA 95207; **RICHARD A. ERICKSON** (owls through fringillids), Box 523, Bayside, CA 95524.