



of migration in the Region, and went undetected. Another is that they went through on weekdays, when most observers are not in the field.

The second possibility was substantiated somewhat by the regular observations and banding by the Point Reyes Bird Observatory personnel on the Palomarin Ranch and on South Farallon Is., which showed two major (April 28-29 and May 8-9) and one minor (May 3-4) migration "waves" occurring simultaneously at both locations. The "waves" on South Farallon Is. were the more spectacular, as they were diluted by only a few resident passerines and included a number of very rare or "vagrant" species. The two major "waves" were correlated with southerly winds and fog or overcast in the vicinity of the Farallons. The minor "wave" was also accompanied by fog and overcast, but the winds were easterly or northwesterly. The second major "wave" of May 8-9 included most of the very rare species discussed under the appropriate groupings.

**Grebes**—A single Red-necked grebe was observed at South Farallon Is., April 8-12 (P.R.B.O., HCR). On Monterey Bay, 2 were seen on April 20 (MP, DDeS) and the last bird on May 9 (AB). Eared Grebes were numerous at South Farallon Is., with a maximum of 163 on April 10 (P.R.B.O., HCR).

**Albatrosses, Shearwaters, Petrel** A single Black-footed Albatross was seen just west of the Farallons on April 28 (G.G.A.S., AB), and 10-14 were observed west of Point Pinos, Monterey Co. on May 7 (AB). Small numbers of Black-footed Shearwaters were present in Monterey Bay, with a maximum of 15 on May 22 (AB). Beginning in the first week of May, Sooty Shearwaters were attracted close inshore near Monterey harbor by spawning squid; a maximum of 60,000 was noted on May 19 with smaller numbers still present at the end of the period (AB). Two Fork-tailed and 19 Ashy Petrels were banded on South Farallon Is. during the period (P.R.B.O.).

**MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION.**—As was predicted last season, this was a very dry spring throughout the Region. Even on the normally wet north coast rainfall was 16 inches below average

(MK). There was some widespread rain at the beginning of April, but thereafter it was restricted to the north coast and the high mountains.

Most observers felt that the spring migration was on time, but numbers of passerine birds were definitely lacking. It was suggested by one observer (DDeS) that the dry conditions caused birds to migrate along the high mountain slopes where few regular observations are made (see flycatchers and warblers, below). There are a number of other possible explanations. One is that they drifted through in very small numbers, as is characteristic

**Pelicans**—Five White Pelicans at the Palo Alto Yacht Club, Santa Clara Co. on April 17 (DDeS) were the only ones reported. Brown Pelicans started returning to the Monterey area in early May. Almost all were adults, with a few immatures observed in the last days of May (AB).

**Geese, Ducks**—No northward migration of Black Brant was visible in Monterey Bay during the period, and at Limantour Estero, Marin Co., numbers were 20 percent below those of last year (AB, P.R.B.O.). Single ♂ Blue-winged Teal were seen at Point Pinos on April 8 and at the Palo Alto Yacht Club on April 21 (DDeS, RS). Numbers of Cinnamon Teal observed at Limantour during April were 50 percent greater than those of the last two seasons (P.R.B.O.). An overwintering ♂ European Widgeon was last seen at Arcata, Humboldt Co. on April 12 (DDeS). Wood Ducks again nested on the Hunter Liggett Military Reservation, Monterey Co. where a ♀ with young was seen on May 30 (WR). Some 500+ Canvasbacks were still present at the Palo Alto Yacht Club on April 17 (DDeS). A highlight of the period was a ♂ Tufted Duck found at Arcata about April 9 by Dr. S. W. Harris and seen intermittently until at least May 11 (DDeS, J&RG, TC). The bird frequented a sewage pond in company with scaup. This constitutes the second state record, the first a bird shot near Livermore, Alameda Co. between Dec. 23, 1948 and Jan. 8, 1949. At Limantour, Surf Scoter migration was twice as heavy as that of May 1967 (P.R.B.O.) and Com. Scoters were more numerous, with a maximum of 13 during May. Common Mergansers again bred in Arroyo Seca, Monterey Co. where a ♀ and young were seen in May (RLB, VLY). A few miles to the south on the San Antonio River, 5 were seen on May 11 and 2 on May 30, perhaps prospecting a new breeding area (AB, WR). Two Red-breasted Mergansers were at South Farallon Is. on April 4 (P.R.B.O., HCR).

**Hawks**—Few reports of birds of prey were received. The overwintering Broad-winged Hawk at Santa Cruz last seen on April 8 (DDeS). A Swainson's Hawk at Aden's Resort, Stanislaus Co. (DDeS, MP) was the sole report. An Osprey at Grizzly Cr., Humboldt Co. on May 16 appeared to represent a decline from the normal 2-3 birds expected there (MK & LK).

**Rail, Gallinule**—A Sora at Springville, Tulare Co. on May 27 was considered out of place (MEM). A Com. Gallinule at Point Pinos on April 20 was very late for a coastal location (MP, DDeS).

**Shorebirds**—Some 50,000 shorebirds were observed in the north arm of Humboldt Bay on April 12 (DDeS). The same observer noted heavy migration in progress at the Palo Alto Yacht Club on April 17. At Limantour migration was considered normal for the period (P.R.B.O.). A Semipalmated Plover was at Los Banos Waterfowl Management Area, Merced Co. on April 23 (ROW). On South Farallon Is., a Killdeer was seen on five days between April 30 and May 12, a Black-bellied Plover was observed, May 1-6, and Com. Snipe were twice reported during May (P.R.B.O., HCR). Fewer

Whimbrels than usual were observed in the San Joaquin Valley at Los Banos, April 30-May 20 (ROW). A migrating flock of 50 flying north off the Monterey Peninsula was noted on May 12 (AB). A Greater Yellowlegs was seen at South Farallon Is. on April 28 (P.R.B.O., HCR). The only Knots reported consisted of a flock of 30 at the mouth of Salmon Creek, Sonoma Co. on April 21 (J. and D. Harper, JH, LH). A Pectoral Sandpiper, rare in spring, was seen on South Farallon Is. on May 4 (P.R.B.O., HCR). Northern Phalaropes appeared in Monterey Bay on April 17; 8000-10,000 were present on April 30, feeding in the company of Basking Sharks on a "bloom" of copepods; 4000 were still present on May 9 but disappeared almost immediately afterward (AB). No Red Phalaropes were reported.

**Jaegers, Gulls**—Three Pomarine Jaegers were seen in Monterey Bay on April 8 and a late bird on May 22 (AB). A Skua observed in Monterey Bay on May 22 appeared to be only the second spring record for the Region, although the species has been noted more frequently off the Southern California coast at this season (AB). An immature Glaucous Gull was still present on April 12 at Arcata in the area where birds were reported during the previous period (DDeS). One of the most spectacular movements of the period involved Bonaparte's Gulls, which were seen in greater numbers than for many years. Thousands were driven into Monterey Bay by northwest gales beginning on April 15; 95 percent of these were adult. The last stragglers, all immature, were still present on May 17 (AB). Huge numbers also were present in San Francisco Bay on April 17 and at Arcata on May 11 (DDeS), and the species was unusually numerous at Limantour and in the Farallons (P.R.B.O.). From 80 to 100 Black-legged Kittiwakes were at Humboldt Bay on May 11 (DDeS, J&RG, TC); this is unusual for so late a date. Two adult Sabine's Gulls were seen flying north over Monterey Bay on May 22 (AB).

**Terns**—The first Forster's Tern of the spring was seen on the Sacramento River at Freeport, Sacramento Co. on April 20 (BK & HK). On May 11, Com. Terns were observed at Humboldt Bay, where few are normally reported in the spring (DDeS, J&RG, TC). Two Elegant Terns at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, Alameda Co., April 25-May 31 (RS) constituted the first spring record for the Region; 4 were seen at Moss Landing, Monterey Co. on May 25 (J&RG, TC). Early July is normal for the first arrivals on Monterey Bay. Caspian Terns first appeared at the Yolo Bypass, Yolo Co. on April 7 (R&RL), and 3 were present at Bodega Bay, Marin Co. on April 9 (BK & HK). The only Black Terns reported were 5 at Oroville Dam, Butte Co., May 18 (Sacramento Audubon Society, BK & HK).

**Alcids**—On May 22, 343 Com. Murres were noted on Monterey Bay (AB). A Thick-billed Murre in breeding plumage was seen on Monterey Bay, 4 miles north of Point Pinos, on April 8. Five boatloads of observers approached to within 40 feet of the bird. This is the fourth report from this locality

as well as the fourth state record (VLY, RLB, et al.). Three pairs of Marbled Murrelets were present off Pigeon Point, San Mateo Co. on May 15 (DDeS). No less than 1100 Cassin's Auklets were banded on South Farallon Is. during the period (P.R.B.O.). Twelve Rhinoceros Auklets were noted off Point Pinos on May 7 (AB). At least 9 Tufted Puffins were seen on and around South Farallon Is. on April 28 (G.G.A.S., AB).

**Owls, Goatsuckers**—Either 2 or 3 Flammulated Owls were found at Cone Peak, Monterey Co. on May 18 (RLB & VLY). This new location in the Santa Lucia Mountains is about 18 airline miles south of China Camp, where the species was originally discovered in 1966. Interestingly enough, Flammulated Owls were not heard at China Camp until May 3 in spite of a couple of attempts made for them in late April (WR). Several Poor-wills were seen along a road on Point Reyes during a mild spell on March 7 and 16, and 1 was banded on March 28 (P.R.B.O.). Three Lesser Nighthawks were noted on May 15 east of Arbuckle, Colusa Co., near the northern limit of their range in the Sacramento Valley (JH).

**Swifts, Hummingbirds**—A pair of Vaux's Swifts was observed entering a hole in a dead Red Fir at Crane Flat, Yosemite Nat'l Park on May 19 (DDeS) and again on May 25 (GMcC). The second observation was made in the middle of a warm, windless morning, but the birds did not come out again. There are no published records of this species nesting in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, although they have been seen throughout the summer in a number of Sierran localities. As many as 10 Black-chinned Hummingbirds were reported from the Sacramento area (BK), and a ♂ was again found near the coast in South San Jose (DDMcL). Male Costa's Hummingbirds were found north of their known range in the Central Valley: 1 on Sutter Is., Sacramento Co., April 28 (Chas. & Pearl Wiedmann, *vide* BK) and 1 along Putah Creek, Yolo Co. on May 19 (R&RL, *vide* BK). Calliope Hummingbirds were reported from four different locations along the coast where this mountain species is not often seen.

**Woodpeckers**—Another "pure" ♂ Yellow-shafted Flicker was found in South San Jose on March 6 (DDMcL). The great wanderer, Lewis' Woodpecker, was found for the first time on South Farallon Is.: 2 birds on April 29 and 30 and 1 between May 2 and 4 (P.R.B.O.). A ♀ Williamson's Sapsucker, also known to wander, was found out of its Sierran range on Cone Peak, Monterey Co., May 18 (RLB & VLY, *vide* AB). This location, however, is at the elevation of 5155 feet in the Santa Lucia Mountains, where there may be suitable habitat.

**Flycatchers**—Migrant flycatchers were reported to be scarce in the Santa Cruz Mountains south of San Francisco (DDeS) but numerous in the southern Sierras at Springville, Tulare Co. (MEM). Did they migrate north by way of the high mountains due to the dry conditions elsewhere? However, several species that are considered rare migrants or vagrants were found along the coast. On South Farallon Is. an E. Phoebe was banded and photographed, May

18, 6 Hammond's Flycatchers were banded between April 27 and May 10, 8 Dusky Flycatchers were banded between April 14 and May 11, and 5 Gray Flycatchers were banded between April 23 and May 15 (P.R.B.O.). A Gray Flycatcher was also banded on Point Reyes, May 6 (P.R.B.O.).

**Thrashers, Thrushes**—A Brown Thrasher banded and photographed on South Farallon Is. on May 23 (P.R.B.O.) constituted only the sixth known record of this species in the Region. Interestingly, several were seen in Southern California this spring. A Sage Thrasher, considered vagrant along the coast, was banded on South Farallon Is. on May 16 (P.R.B.O.). Hermit Thrushes were reported up approximately 75 percent, but Swainson's Thrushes were reported down about 50 percent at Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

**Vireos, Warblers**—Warbling Vireos arrived very early on Point Reyes on March 4 but later were found to be down in numbers about 50 percent from the level of the past two years (P.R.B.O.). Although Dave DeSante lamented the virtual lack of migrant warblers this spring throughout most of the Region, even of such normally common species as Yellow, Wilson's and Orange-crowned, on May 19 he and Mike Perrone found a warbler "wave" on Henness Ridge, Yosemite Nat'l Park which included numbers of Nashville, Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, Hermit, MacGillivray's and Wilson's Warblers. This caused him to suggest that most of the warbler migration may have taken place on the high mountain slopes, rather than through the Central Valley as in past years. As in the case of the flycatchers, however, a number of very rare but perhaps regular warblers were found along the coast and on South Farallon Is. (thanks to P.R.B.O.): *Black-and-white Warbler*, 2 males banded and photographed on South Farallon Is. on May 3; *Tennessee Warbler*, 1 male seen on South Farallon Is. on April 30; *Parula Warbler*, 2 seen on South Farallon Is. on April 29 and a singing male noted at Pacific Grove, Monterey Co. April 21 (DeS, MP, VLY, RLB); *Black-throated Green Warbler*, 1 male on South Farallon Is. on May 9 and on Point Reyes on May 29 (RS); *Blackpoll Warbler*, 2 males seen on Point Reyes on May 1 (S); *Palm Warbler*, 1 with all bright yellow derparts indicating the eastern race, *D. p. hypochrysea*, banded on South Farallon Is. between April 14 and 19; and *Ovenbird*, 1 found dead in Carmel, Monterey Co. on May 21 and now a specimen in the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History (VLY, *vide* AB).

**Blackbirds, Orioles, Tanagers**—A ♀ Yellow-headed Blackbird seen in company with Brown-headed Cowbirds on South Farallon Is., April 27 and 29 (P.R.B.O.) constituted the first record for the island; this Central Valley species is rare and irregular along the coast. Hooded Orioles continue to increase in the northern parts of their range, particularly in residential areas with palm trees; individuals were found as far north as San Anselmo, Marin Co. on April 3 (JW) and Sacramento on March 30 (Michael Ord and S&WA). A ♂ Scott's Oriole reported from Folsom Lake State Park, El Dorado

Co. on April 12 (Harriet Larsen, *vide BK*) is the northernmost known record outside of the species' normal desert range.

**Finches, Sparrows**—The *Dickcissel* that wintered in Pacific Grove remained until at least April 9 (Elgin G. Hurlbert, *vide AB*). A Green-tailed Towhee was banded and photographed on South Farallon Is., May 3 (*P.B.O.*). This is an unusual location for this mountain species, although it apparently migrates along the coast irregularly or in very small numbers. One of the outstanding events of the season was the occurrence for the first time in the Region of *Lark Buntings* in flocks. On April 23 at Rob Roy Junction near Fremont Peak State Park, San Benito Co., Dr. Glenn Bradt found flocks of 25 and 75. There were two other records of Lark Buntings: on April 22 at Aptos, Santa Cruz Co., John Wood captured 1 in a live mammal trap and released it (*vide DBH & AB*), and on May 15 an adult ♂ was found on Pigeon Point, San Mateo Co. (*DDeS, MP, J&RG*). Prior to this spring there were records of only 6 individuals reaching the Region. A number of uncommon sparrows were banded and photographed on South Farallon Is. by Point Reyes Bird Observatory personnel: Tree Sparrow on May 16, a late date for its south even in the species' normal range; *Clay-colored Sparrow* on May 9, only the third known for the Region; Brewer's Sparrow, which is rare along the coast, on May 9; and Swamp Sparrow, on April 28 and 29, considered rare although quite a few were found along the coast last winter. Grasshopper Sparrows were also found on South Farallon Is., 1 on April 28 and 1 on May 8 but they would not enter any of the banding lists. Even though this species nests along the coast and elsewhere, little is known of its movements. It is therefore interesting to note that its occurrence both times coincided with the two major "waves" of migrants. A possible northward range extension of Black-chinned Sparrows was recorded near Kellogg, Sonoma Co. on April 25 (*GB*); at least 4 singing males were noted by many observers well into May.

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**SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION.**—We did not experience the series of storms that usually push south along the coast during April. The weather was clear and warm, and summer appeared to arrive early. Summer visitors seemed to arrive a little earlier