



May 24-25, Dave DeSante found a hard, 3-8 foot snowpack as low as 7000 feet in elevation. He found its effect on bird life to be quite noticeable. There were very few ground-nesting birds and those few were entirely confined to the willows along open streams. Warblers and vireos were equally as scarce, although they were quite abundant down around the 5500-foot level. Finches, however, were quite common above snowline.

The only migration "waves" were reported from South Farallon Is. by the diligent workers of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory. A total of five "waves" were experienced by the observers: the first on March 25-26, which was largely Audubon's Warblers; the second on April 8; the third on April 22; the fourth on May 7-8, when about 1000 landbirds of 34 species were recorded; and the fifth on May 22-23, with about 300 birds noted. All of these waves were associated with a change in wind conditions from the usual northerly and northwesterly winds to southerly winds.

Toward the end of the previous report period a considerable die-off of several species of seabirds, especially Western Grebes and Brandt's Cormorants, was noted at Monterey. From the behavior of the dying birds pesticide poisoning was suspected, although no analyses were available at the time. Since then the Hopkins Marine Station of Stanford University has carried out analyses on several species. The results appear in Table 1, which gives the amounts of DDE (a DDT metabolite) found in the specimens, expressed in parts per million, wet weight. In all cases the tissue analyzed was liver (Paul R. Mascovich, personal communication).

Unless the "persistent" chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides such as DDT, Dieldrin, Aldrin and others are completely banned, the long-term outlook for many of our seabirds can only be considered uncertain. While those species which spend some of the year in fresh water or in Arctic regions may be able to survive longer, the future is grim for those which spend all of the year along our coasts such as the cormorants and

**MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION.** — Rain and snow continued to fall throughout much of the Region until the end of April. In the Sierra Nevada, the snowpack became the deepest ever recorded. Writing from Springville, Tulare Co., Mrs. Mabel E. Mires explained the effect on bird life in the Sierran foothills of this winter-type weather: "There has been considerable overlapping of the winter, migration and nesting seasons these two months. While our winter birds were still with us, probably because of heavy snow at low elevations, the residents were nesting and the migrants were passing through or stopping to begin nest activities. Overall there seems to be more birds of all species this season and a much greater nesting activity. [Because of the] good water supply throughout, with streams running, ponds full and generally better conditions throughout, we received many migrant water birds mostly by pairs." In Yosemite Nat'l Park on the late spring weekend of

TABLE 1

Pesticide Analyses of Birds Found Dead  
in the Monterey area, April 11-May 8, 1969

Species	Number of Specimens Analyzed	DDE (in parts per million wet weight)
Brandt's Cormorant	3	102-155 ppm
Western Grebe	2	192-292 ppm
Fork-tailed Petrel	1	373 ppm
Ashy Petrel	1	412 ppm
Western Gull	1	792-818 ppm
Ring-billed Gull	1	41.5 ppm

Brown Pelican. Even if DDT and other harmful compounds were banned now, the vast quantities already used will continue to leech from the soil and contaminate the aquatic environment, both fresh water and marine. Observers in the future should pay particular attention to the *age composition* of pelican flocks of both species and should record the percentage of immature birds. With regard to all three species of cormorants, nesting success should be ascertained by following nesting colonies from egg laying through the fledging period.

**Loons, Grebes** — The northward migration of loons was in evidence at Point Reyes, Marin Co. from April 20, although it dropped off markedly after May 11; the peak occurred on April 21, with a maximum of 227 in a half hour (*P.R.B.O.*). Most were probably Arctic Loons, which was "the most common loon moving north" at Trinidad, Humboldt Co. on May 3 (*EH*). Single Red-necked Grebes were reported from three locations, the last a very late bird seen at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Co. on May 21 (*WMP*).

**Albatrosses, Storm Petrels** — A Black-footed Albatross was seen from the shore at Cypress Point, Monterey Co. on April 4 (*AB*), and 3 were noted near the Farallon Islands on April 27 (*G.G.A.S.*). Strong northwesterly winds brought 12 Fork-tailed Petrels to the vicinity of Monterey Harbor on May 4 (*VL*, *Y*, *WR*); 1 remained until the following day (Brad Hall, *fide WR*). Three Fork-tailed Petrels and 90 Leach's Petrels were banded at an offshore rock near Trinidad, May 3 (*EH*, S. W. Harris). The pesticide residues in a Fork-tailed Petrel found dead near Monterey on May 3 and an Ashy Petrel found dead there on May 4 are given in Table 1.

**Pelicans** — White Pelicans were reported from two areas only, with 120 noted at Santa Fe Grade, seven miles north of Los Banos, Merced Co. on April 12 (*ROW*) and about 50 at Oroville Dam, Butte Co. in early May (Marion Hanshaw, Waldemar Wiederhoeft, *fide EAP*). As was mentioned in the last report, the position of the Brown Pelican gives cause for acute concern. The complete lack of breeding success at the only remaining colony in the state, Anacapa Is. off Santa Barbara, complete failure of a remnant population at Los Coronados Islands just across the border in Baja California (a decline from some 10,000

breeding pairs in 1950 to about 300 unsuccessful pairs this year), and increasing levels of the chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticide residues in the Gulf of California breeding populations all lead one to be pessimistic about the future of this species on the West Coast. At the end of the period birds were returning to Monterey Bay from the south (*AB*), but none could be found north of San Francisco during the period (*EH*).

**Hérons, Ibis** — Great Blue Heron colonies were reported as follows: at Humboldt Redwoods State Park, Humboldt Co., two "small colonies" (Ray Westberg, *fide EAP*); at Audubon Canyon Ranch, Marin Co., where there were 50 pairs in 1957, a 10 percent increase (*P.R.B.O.*, *JS*); at Bair Is., San Mateo Co., 30 pairs (*WA*); at Old La Honda Road, Woodside, San Mateo Co., 11 pairs (*MP*). Green Herons were reported from six areas, including a "loose colony" along the Feather River, Butte Co. (Waldemar Wiederhoeft, *fide EAP*). Three Cattle Egrets were found at the Arcata Bottoms, Humboldt Co. on April 28 and were photographed by several observers (S.W. Harris, C.F. Yokum, *TE*, *et al.*); this is the fourth record for the Region, the first being in 1966. Common Egrets showed a 10 percent increase at Audubon Canyon Ranch, where there were 70 pairs in 1967 (*P.R.B.O.*, *JS*), and at least 30 nests were visible on West Marin Is., Marin Co. (*ABu*). Nesting Snowy Egrets were reported as follows: at Bair Is., 150 pairs (*WA*); at West Marin Is., 125-130 pairs (*ABu*); at Audubon Canyon Ranch, a single pair, with the first nest recorded there (Helen Pratt in *Gull* 51:50). Some 400 pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons nested with "satisfactory production" on Bair Is. (*WA*), and 150 pairs were noted at West Marin Is. (*ABu*). An adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron was seen at Loch Lomond Yacht Harbor, San Rafael, Marin Co. on May 3 (*ABu*). This is the area where a bird of this species was seen from July to September, 1968. Wintering White-faced Ibis were last seen at Los Banos Waterfowl Management Area, Merced Co. on April 13 when 3 were present (*ROW*).

**Waterfowl** — The heavy winter precipitation with consequent massive Sierra snowpack should mean good waterfowl nesting success this spring. The migration of Black Brant was "three or four times as high as normal" at Limantour, Marin Co. where 690 were seen on May 1 (*P.R.B.O.*, *JS*); the sea-watch peak at Point Reyes was 300 in a half hour on April 20 (*P.R.B.O.*); 500 were seen at Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co. on April 19 (*EH*). A pair of Blue-winged Teal was reported from Olema Marsh, Marin Co. on April 12 (*EH*), and a male was found dead at Palo Alto Yacht Harbor, Santa Clara Co. on May 9 (*MP*). Nesting Wood Ducks were reported from the Oroville area (*EAP*, Waldemar Wiederhoeft), and 3 birds were found in suitable breeding habitat east of Gilroy, Santa Clara Co. on April 6 (*MP*). A Greater Scaup was seen on May 4 at Palo Alto Yacht Harbor where 1 summered last year (*TC*). Two late Com. Goldeneyes were seen at Bolinas Lagoon, Marin Co. on May 28 (*EH*). The last wintering Oldsquaw was seen at Limantour on April 13 (*P.R.B.O.*, *JS*). Scoter migration at Point Reyes tended to be light throughout the period, but there was a peak of 1530 in a half hour on April 21



(*P.R.B.O.*). Common Scoters were reported from only four locations, including 6 birds noted at Monterey Harbor on May 2 (*WR*); this is a large number for that area.

**Kites, Hawks, Eagles** — Four White-tailed Kite nests were found in the Sunnyside area of Santa Clara County on April 13 (*WA*); on nearby Bair Is. a nest containing 3 fledglings was found only five feet above the ground in a coyote bush on May 5 (*WA*); probable nesting was reported for a pair present near Chico, Butte Co. (*EAP*) and at Success Valley near Porterville, Tulare Co. (*MEM*). There was one Goshawk report. Red-shouldered Hawks were reported from three areas near Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co. (*BMcL*); 4 birds in the Yokol Valley, Tulare Co. were probably nesting (*MEM*). A migrant Swainson's Hawk was observed flying north over Lafayette, Contra Costa Co. on April 12 (*LF*); and a nesting pair was reported from Merced County (*ROW, MP*). The species must now be considered a rare breeder in the Central Valley. There were 10 reports of Golden Eagles, but only 1 nest was recorded. An adult Bald Eagle below the spillway at Oroville Dam on April 2 (Waldemar Wiederhoeft, *fide EAP*) was the sole report of this species. Ospreys were reported from 10 locations ranging from San Rafael north to the Klamath River, Siskiyou Co. A nest was reported from Sonoma County (*EH*), and 5 of 9 known nests were occupied in Humboldt Redwoods State Park (Ray Westberg, *fide EAP*). The only Osprey reported away from this area was a presumed migrant seen at Success Lake, Tulare Co. on April 22 (*MEM*). It is vital to get information on nesting success of this species in our Region in view of the DDT-caused declines elsewhere in the nation. There were four reports of Peregrine Falcons, all coastal. As of the time of writing, no successful nesting of this species is known to have taken place in the state this year. A decline of something like 80 percent in the number of breeding pairs in the state has occurred in the last decade, leaving a current population estimate of 20 pairs or less (Dr. R.W. Risebrough, *fide AB*).

**Grouse, Rails** — A Blue Grouse was seen in a pine-cedar association at 5000 feet elevation near Callahan, Siskiyou Co. on May 23 (*MP*). A "drumming" male Ruffed Grouse was noted 20 miles east of Arcata near Boise Creek on May 25 (*MP*). It is hoped that Clapper Rail habitat can be perpetuated in the proposed South San Francisco Bay Nat'l Wildlife Refuge. At Bair Is. and Greco Is., both in San Mateo County, there were 9 and 10 observations, including 3 nests at the latter site, on May 5 and 7, respectively (*WA, et al.*). Virginia Rails were reported by Baron McLean from four areas, two inland and two coastal, including a report of nesting at Inverness, Marin Co. on April 7. A brood of Soras at San Luis Wasteway Waterfowl Management Area, Merced Co. on April 23 was "my first evidence of nesting in the area" (*ROW*).

**Shorebirds** — The only Semipalmated Plovers reported were 9 at Bodega Bay on May 29 (*BMcL*). Three downy Snowy Plovers at the Dumbarton Bridge, Alameda Co. on May 23 (*WA*) constituted the only evidence of successful breeding in the Region. An Am. Golden Plover that wintered at Limantour was last

seen on April 13 (*P.R.B.O., JS, GMcC*). A flock of 49 Surfbirds and a count of 20 more in the area, at Natural Bridges, Santa Cruz, April 18 (*RRZ*) were unusually large numbers for the species. A total of 10 Ruddy Turnstones at the same locality (*RRZ*) was the highest number of the three reports received. Whimbrel migration was much in evidence inland at Los Banos Waterfowl Management Area where 2-8 birds were present, April 13-15 (*ROW*); on the coast, several small flocks were seen moving north at Trinidad on May 3 (*EH*). An Upland Plover was closely observed throughout the day of May 23 on South Farallon Is. where it frequented a grassy area (*P.R.B.O., HR, CJR, DM*); this is only the third state record of this species. A single Lesser Yellowlegs was seen at Santa Rosa on April 20 (*BMcL, BDP*). Five Knots in the red plumage were noted at Moss Landing, Monterey Co. on April 30 (*RRZ*) and 20 were seen north of Dumbarton Bridge on May 23 (*WA*). A very late Rock Sandpiper at Mussel Point, Bodega Bay on April 19 (*BDP, et al.*) was in breeding plumage. The observation of a *Baird's Sandpiper* on South Farallon Is. on May 11 (*P.R.B.O., HR, DM*) constituted the Region's first spring record of this species since 1962. Sanderling migration at Limantour was "lower than usual" (*P.R.B.O., JS*). A considerable Northern Phalarope migration developed on the coast, with 100 seen on Monterey Bay on April 10 (*AB*) and "several thousands" noted during strong northwesterly winds off Del Monte Beach, Monterey, May 1-2 (*WR*). At Point Reyes the regular sea watch showed phalarope sp. moving north between April 27 and May 11, with a peak of 1476 in a half hour on May 4 (*P.R.B.O.*).

**Gulls, Terns** — Migrating Bonaparte's Gulls were much in evidence, although perhaps less so than during last spring's exceptional flight. There was "heavy northerly migration" off Bodega Head and Trinidad on April 19 and May 3, respectively (*EH, TE*); 300 were seen at Natural Bridges, Santa Cruz on April 18 (*RRZ*); and over 300 were noted on the Farall Islands boat trip of April 27 (*G.G.A.S., TC*). After a very heavy winter visitation of Black-legged Kittiwakes, there was both a well-marked northerly migration and an unusually large number of birds remaining until the end of the period. "From late April through May up to 200 per day were going north at Arcata" (*TE, EH*). Around the Monterey Peninsula good numbers were present throughout the period (*WR, et al.*). A colony of about 100 pairs of Forster's Terns, plus several smaller colonies, were noted on South San Francisco Bay just north of the Dumbarton Bridge (*WA*). A single Com. Tern at Moss Landing on May 11 (*LCB*) was the only one reported. Two Least Terns were seen at the same place on the same day (*LCB, TC, et al.*). Although there was no evidence of breeding, 10 Least Terns were seen on San Francisco Bay at Bay Farm Is., Alameda Co., May 20 (*WA*). Caspian Tern colonies on South San Francisco Bay, in Alameda County near the San Mateo Bridge, included one of about 100 pairs, which was made up of birds that had moved away from an eroding site, leaving some 25 pairs behind in the old colony; a third colony near the Drawbridge and Mowry Slough, Alameda Co. contained 100+ pairs



(WA). These tern colonies on the Bay are the only ones known on our coast and are in themselves very important reasons for the establishment of a national wildlife refuge. A single late Black Tern in the San Joaquin Valley on June 1 (MP) was the only report of the species.

**Alcids** — Common Murre migration at Point Reyes was "normal" (P.R.B.O.). A total of 50+ Pigeon Guillemots off Del Monte Beach, Monterey on May 2 (WR) seemed many more than could be accounted for by the local breeding population. Off Little River Rock, Trinidad, 2 pairs of calling adult Marbled Murrelets were noted on May 3 (EH), once more raising the question, as yet unresolved, of whether this species breeds in the Region. Six Ancient Murrelets were seen off Bodega Head on the late date of April 11 (BMcL). Eight Tufted Puffins were noted at South Farallon Is. on April 27 (G.G.A.S.).

**Pigeons, Doves, Roadrunner, Owls** — Despite fall hunting, Band-tailed Pigeons and Mourning Doves appear to be increasing in numbers. On the San Francisco Peninsula, 200-300 Band-tailed Pigeons were estimated on the Stanford University campus and 750 Mourning Doves were counted at the Palo Alto sewage plant (DDeS). A Roadrunner seen in Sonoma Valley, Sonoma Co. on April 28 and May 16 (BMcL) was suspected of nesting at this northern location, as it once attempted to feed a lizard to its reflection in a window. A nesting pair of Pygmy Owls was found in a blue oak south of Livermore, Alameda Co. (DDeS); copulation was observed on April 13, incubation was in progress by April 26, and young were hatched by May 8 (MP). The uncommon Spotted Owl was found in three locations: 1 at China Camp, in the Santa Lucia Mountains, Monterey Co. on May 10 (J&PE, LCB, RAR, MP, TC & ZC); 1 at Yosemite Nat'l Park on May 24 (DDeS); and 2 at Muir Woods Nat'l Monument, Marin Co. on May 29 (LCB). A Long-eared Owl was found at the unusual location of South Farallon Is. on May 21-22 (P.R.B.O., HR). A very territorial Saw-whet Owl was called in at China Camp on May 10 (LCB, J&PE, RAR, MP, TC & ZC). While its call was being imitated the bird flew down from the trees and twice hit one of the flashlights! The distribution of this species in California is still not clearly understood.

**Goatsuckers, Swifts, Hummingbirds** — Four Poor-wills, rarely observed in the Region, were seen near Point Reyes Bird Observatory on April 8 (P.R.B.O., BS) and 1 was heard at Lafayette, Contra Costa Co. on May 22 (LF). The only report of the Lesser Nighthawk was of 1 at Merced Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Merced Co. on April 6 (DDeS). Black Swifts appeared to be more common than usual in Yosemite Nat'l Park on May 24, when 30 were seen in one location and 10 in another (DDeS). Four were observed flying northward at San Jose, where the species does not breed, on the early date of April 26 (DDMcL). Small numbers of Vaux's Swifts were reported from six widely separated locations, the most noteworthy being a pair at Crane Flat, Yosemite Nat'l Park on May 25 (DDeS). This is the same Sierran location where this species was suspected of nesting in May 1968. Six Black-chinned Hummingbirds were

reported, mostly from Central Valley locations. The most interesting of these reports were a male near the coast in San Jose on the early date of March 26 (DDMcL) and a pair courting and presumed nesting in Oroville on April 20 (EAP). Rufous Hummingbirds were reported in greater than usual numbers this spring in the Palo Alto-Stanford area (DDeS & MP), and 1 was found in the Central Valley location of Sacramento on the late dates of May 21-23 (MK). Male Calliope Hummingbirds were seen in three coastal locations, the most unusual being South Farallon Is. on May 8 (P.R.B.O., HR). An adult male Broad-billed Hummingbird was carefully studied in a Pacific Grove, Monterey Co. garden on April 21 (VLY); this is the first known report of the species for our Region, although it has been observed in two Southern California counties.

**Woodpeckers, Flycatchers** — The uncommon Pileated Woodpecker was seen in three locations: Mount St. Helena, Sonoma Co., May 6 (BMcL); Roger's Camp, Tulare Co. on May 9, "in spite of heavy logging and recreational activities" (MEM); and on Henness Ridge, Yosemite Nat'l Park, May 24 (EH). Acorn Woodpeckers were reported to be decreasing greatly in the Sacramento area, apparently due to Starlings taking over their nesting cavities (MK). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found in Trinidad, Humboldt Co. in late May (S.W. Harris, *vide TE*) and what was possibly the same bird was seen about 20 miles south at Eureka on June 6 (T&CE & RG). This is only the fifth record of the species for the Region and the locality is much farther north than most of the others, except for that of a specimen taken about 15 miles south of Eureka in 1957. The occurrence of *Empidonax* flycatchers on South Farallon seems almost inexplicable. Of some 52 individuals of this genus seen on the island on May 9, only 2 were the Western Flycatcher, the seemingly most common and widespread species in California. Banded on the island mostly during May were: 1 Traill's, 16 Hammond's, 12 Dusky, 6 Gray and only 3 Western Flycatchers (P.R.B.O., HR).

**Swallows, Thrushes, Gnatcatchers, Kinglets, Waxwings** — A migrating Bank Swallow seen at Los Banos, Merced Co. on March 29 (ROW) constituted a first record for that area. Small numbers of Purple Martins were reported from six widely scattered locations throughout May. Two late Townsend's Solitaires were seen out of their mountain breeding range, on Point Reyes on April 1 (P.R.B.O., R. Mewaldt) and in Mal Paso Canyon, Monterey Co. on April 17 (VLY). Three pairs of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Searsville Lake, San Mateo Co. on April 3 (MP) were a large number for a locality that close to the coast. A large influx of at least 100 Ruby-crowned Kinglets occurred on South Farallon Is., May 8-9 (P.R.B.O., HR). The winter invasion of Bohemian Waxwings extended through the spring season, with most staying until at least mid-April, 10 seen in Sacramento as late as May 26 (SS & MAS), and some lingering in Eureka until May 28 (TE).

**Wood Warblers** — The migration of warblers this spring was generally described as sparse along the coast, good in the interior coast ranges and Central

Valley, and slightly down along the Sierras. It has become more and more apparent that in the spring the coast is generally shunned by migrating warblers, possibly because the predominant coastal fog makes nocturnal orientation difficult. The species that are found along the coast in good numbers during the spring are only those that breed there: Wilson's, Yellow and Orange-crowned Warblers. As the spring progressed, the common wintering species (Audubon's, Myrtle and Townsend's Warblers) gradually decreased in numbers, with no influx of individuals that had wintered farther south. At Point Reyes Bird Observatory, it was noted that Orange-crowned Warblers were slightly down for the third straight year. Although the first individuals of each species arrived on time, most observers felt that warblers were late. This was most noticeable in the Sierras where the heaviest snowpack ever recorded was very likely the main contributing factor. Audubon's Warblers had still not moved above 1000 feet in elevation by the late date of April 6 (DDeS&JW). Wilson's Warblers were first noted in San Francisco (LCB) and Santa Cruz (VW) in late March, at Stanford on April 2 (DDeS), at Pacific Grove on April 4 (WR), and in the San Joaquin Valley on April 6 (MP) but were not found in the foothills of the Sierras until April 21 (EAP). Point Reyes Bird Observatory also reported a noticeable lack of Wilson's Warblers between April 1 and 15. Almost all observers felt that Yellow Warblers were very late; although the first individual was heard in San Jose on April 6 (DDMcL), they were not found in either Chico or Oroville until the exceptionally late date of May 5 (EAP). Detailed daily observations on the Farallon Islands showed four main peaks of warbler migration, each associated with a change to southerly winds from the normal northerly or northwesterly winds (P.R.B.O.). The first of these waves occurred on April 8 under clear to partly cloudy skies and consisted of 50 Audubon's, 15 Orange-crowned, 3 Yellowthroats and 2 Wilson's Warblers. No similar wave was noted on the mainland at this time. However, April 10 saw the first Nashville, Black-throated Gray and Orange-crowned Warbler migrants at Oroville (EAP). The peak of migration in the interior occurred during the period of April 18 to 23. At Coyote Hills Park at the east end of the Dumbarton Bridge in Alameda County, 10 species of warblers were present on April 18, only Myrtle Warbler and Yellowthroat being absent (RS). Larger numbers of eight species were found at the same place on April 21 (DDeS, RS & TC). Between April 21 and 23 a noticeable peak occurred at Oroville, culminating on April 23 when "dozens of Nashvilles, half-dozens of Black-throated Grays and Orange-crowns along with several Hermits, Townsends and Wilson's" were noted (EAP). April 22 was the date of the second wave on the Farallons, with 7 Audubon's, 5 Orange-crowned and 1 Wilson's Warbler noted, along with 1 Nashville Warbler and 1 Yellow-breasted Chat (P.R.B.O.). A third wave occurred on the Farallons, May 7-9 under fog or overcast. Represented at this time were 500 Wilson's, 150 Orange-crowned, 75 Townsends, 10 Audubon's, 10 MacGillivray's, 3 Hermit, 3 Myrtle and 1 Yellow Warbler and 1 Yellowthroat (P.R.B.O.). At this time

large numbers of warblers apparently were present on the coast or were moving off the coast along the entire length of California. Point Reyes Bird Observatory reported its peak of Wilson's Warblers at Palomar Ranch, Marin Co. on May 9, while the peak of Wilson's Warbler movement at Pacific Grove occurred between May 7 and 11 (WR). Also noted at Pacific Grove at this time were 4 Townsends, 1 Hermit, 1 Black-throated Gray and 1 MacGillivray's (WR, VLY).

A similar coastal flight was found at San Diego on the same dates (see report for Southern Pacific Coast Region). The May 7-9 coastal flight is extremely interesting in view of the fact that a similar flight occurred last year on the very same dates (see *Audubon Field Notes* 22:571). The fourth wave on the Farallons, May 22-23, also occurred under fog or overcast conditions and produced 200 Wilson's, 12 Yellow, 12 Townsend's and 1 Hermit Warbler. Also of interest was a Yellow-breasted Chat found on the Farallons on May 13 and banded on May 14 (P.R.B.O.) and another found singing at San Gregorio, San Mateo Co. on May 29 (MP). This species also was reported as doing well around Oroville (EAP).

"Vagrant" Warblers on the Farallons — No "vagrant" species of warblers were reported from the mainland during the spring, probably because of the lack of observation at coastal points. However, the Farallons more than made up for this deficit. While most vagrant individuals were associated with the combination of southerly winds and fog or overcast, only half were associated with the waves mentioned above. A listing of these occurrences of vagrants on the Farallons (all records by P.R.B.O. staff) is the only analysis that can be made at this time. A Black-and-white Warbler was seen on May 9 and a different individual was banded on May 17. A male Parula Warbler was banded and photographed, May 14-15. These two species are of rare but regular occurrence in the Region in spring. A male Magnolia Warbler was seen on May 23; there are now about a dozen "spring" records of this rare bird for the Region. A male Blackpoll Warbler present on May 22-24 was banded and photographed for the ninth "spring" record for the Region. This species is much more common in the fall. Two Palm Warblers were banded, one on May 15-17 and the other on May 24-25 for the sixth and seventh spring records (not counting wintering birds) for the Region. It is interesting to note that all of these Palm Warbler spring records have been on the Farallons. A Northern Waterthrush banded and photographed on May 20 constituted only the sixth spring record for the Region; this species is much more common in Southern California and east of the Sierras in spring. Finally, a male Hooded Warbler was banded and photographed in May 22-23 for the fourth record for the Region (and the third in spring). In the past most "vagrant" occurrences have been in very late May and June.

Orioles, Tanagers, Finches — Hooded Orioles apparently are continuing to increase in abundance in the northern parts of their range. Reports came from at least eight localities, with as many as 3 pairs noted

on the Stanford University campus on April 21 (*MP*). A female Summer Tanager was banded on South Farallon Is. on May 25 (*P.R.B.O., HR*). The small measurements indicated the eastern race *Piranga rubra rubra* rather than *P. r. cooperi* which breeds in Southern California. Two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were banded and photographed on South Farallon: a male in second-year plumage on May 13 and a female on May 25 (*P.R.B.O., HR*); this species is now found every year somewhere along the coast. A female Blue Grosbeak was present on South Farallon, May 9-14 (*P.R.B.O., HR*); this inland species is considered vagrant along the coast. A female *Indigo Bunting* was banded at Point Reyes Bird Observatory on May 30 (*P.R.B.O., BS*) for the Region's eight record. A male *Dickcissel* banded and photographed on South Farallon on May 13 (*P.R.B.O., HR*) constituted only the fifth record for the Region. Throughout the spring 1-36 Lawrence's Goldfinches were seen daily at Springville where they far outnumbered Lesser Goldfinches (*MEM*).

**Sparrows** — Rufous-crowned Sparrows were seen this spring around the new Oroville Dam in Butte County, a locality slightly north of the species' known Sierran foothill range (*EAP*). Two races of the Sage Sparrow were observed in the same location near Livermore, Alameda Co. during May: 3-4 of the dark coastal race *Amphispiza belli belli* and 1 of the light interior race *A. b. canescens* (*LF*). A late Slate-colored Junco was seen on South Farallon on May 9 (*P.R.B.O., HR*), and an adult Harris' Sparrow in breeding plumage was banded and photographed there on the late date of May 16 (*P.R.B.O., HR*).

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