

Middle Pacific Coast Region

DAVID G. YEE, STEPHEN F. BAILEY,
AND DANIEL S. SINGER

The cool and wet weather of Spring continued into June. David L. Suddjian recorded 12 species of waterbirds beginning northward flights on the trans-Santa Cruz Mountains flight line at Capitola, *Santa Cruz*, April 1–June 10. Most were gulls (thousands of California Gulls), terns, and curlews. Terns using this corridor have been noted several times in our seasonal reports. The birds using this corridor typically fly quite high and can be overlooked.

Breeding bird atlasing continued to reveal new nesting areas for many species, especially among passerines. The landbird vagrant season was lackluster, but there were several standout individuals.

Abbreviations: C.V. (*Central Valley*); Cyn. (*Canyon*); F.I. (*Southeast Farallon Island*);

H.S. (*Hayward Shoreline, Alameda*); S.F. (*San Francisco*). All records from F.I. and Palomarin should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

Loons to Petrels

Bodega Harbor's Arctic Loon was last seen June 18 (m.ob.). An alternate-plumaged Pacific Loon joining six Com. Loons on Bridgeport Res., August 1 (PJM) made the first summer record for *Mono*. A concentration of 74 Com. Loons at Waddell Cr. Beach, *Santa Cruz*, July 1 was remarkable for that coast in summer (DLSu).

Three summering alternate-plumaged Horned Grebes included a schizochroistic bird at Mountain View, *Santa Clara*, July 22 (†SCR, MJM). Four coastal Red-necked Grebes were above average for summer. The pair courting at Bodega Bay June 24 (SCR, HLR) again demonstrated that grebe courtship can occur very far from nesting habitat.

Three Laysan Albatrosses offshore *Monterey* June 4 (RT) was a high count for summer. A Black-vented Shearwater in *Monterey Bay* July 30 (DLSH) was early but typical of the past few years. The year's first Wilson's Storm-Petrel was at Cordell Bank, *Marin*, July 23 (SBT).

Hérons to Waterfowl

An Am. Bittern calling in Adobe Valley, *Mono*, June 9 was the first summer record there in almost 20 years (ES). One or more at Zmudowski S.B., *Monterey*, June 17–July 4 were suspected of nesting in an area where confirmation remains elusive (SFB, DR). A small colony of Great Blue Herons consisting of 5 nests and at least one young at Long Valley, *Mono*, June 7, was thought to provide the first confirmed county nesting (PJM). Up to 19 Snowy Egrets at Little Hot Cr., June 7 (PJM) was a near-record count in summer for *Mono*. The only report of Little Blue Heron was an adult in Alviso, *Santa Clara*, July 3–4 (PJM, MFi). A Green Heron at Modoc N.W.R., *Modoc*, July 22 (RLR) furnished only the 2nd sighting there since 1989. Four White-faced Ibises in Martinez, *Contra Costa*, June 23 (DBO) were rare in summer for the greater S.F. Bay Area. The Region's first summering Trumpeter Swans were

at Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, May 29–July 18 (FGB, MCM). Not surprisingly, both individuals were from the Summer L. transplant program in Oregon. Observers should expect more "unseasonal" reports in years to come if these transplants continue to take hold. A Greater White-fronted Goose at Shoreline L., June 3 provided a first summer record for *Santa Clara* (MMR). Its absence before and after this date suggest it was a very late migrant. An ad. Ross' Goose present at Pinto L., *Santa Cruz* since at least last fall remained through the period (DLSu, RMrr). At least 15 Brant were detected summering coastally (m.ob.); much rarer were three in Adobe Valley, *Mono*, June 9 (PJM).

Two broods of Green-winged Teal during the period at Martis Creek L. evidently provided *Placer's* first nesting records (BW). Blue-winged Teal were more numerous than usual, with nine in *Santa Clara* June 5–29 (m.ob.), three at H.S., *Alameda*, June 1–July 30 (RJR), and two in *San Mateo*, June 20 and July 25 (ADeM). Northern Shoveler and Gadwall provided *Contra Costa* with overdue first nesting records June 30 (SGL). Oldsquaws were noted summering from several locations with ≤three at Princeton, *San Mateo*, June 18–July 30 (m.ob.), and singles (both Ju) in *Humboldt*, June 11 and July 1 (the latter since Spring) and in *Mendocino* June 7 (DT). Three reports of Black Scoter was a good showing and included females from H.S., June 23 (RJR) and Brooks I., *Contra Costa*, June 13 (JMR), and an imm. male in *Santa Cruz* July 1–18 (SGr). A Barrow's Goldeneye at Bolinas Lagoon, *Marin*, July 7–Aug. 1 (CCo, JMR) represented one of very few summer records since breeding ceased in the state during the 1930s. The continuing increase in nesting records of Com. Merganser in c. California was punctuated by a female and her brood in urban San Jose along Coyote Cr., June 22 (SCR). Always rare inland and especially during summer, Red-breasted Mergansers were at Cache Cr., *Yolo*, June 6–8 (StH, DaS) and at Lundy L., *Mono*, June 10 (RSF) and July 31 (PJM).

Raptors

Wandering Ospreys made appearances in *Santa Clara* June 3 & 11 (WGB, KHT), *Monterey* July 5 & 7 (JM, DR, VLY), and *San Mateo* July 16 (RJe, PLAT), where they are rare in summer. Four families of Sharp-shinned Hawks with fledglings were found in the Santa Cruz Mts., *Santa Cruz* and *San Mateo* (DLSu et al.), and another family was at sea level at Montara, *San Mateo* (PJM). These records may reflect this species' increase as a breeder in the greater S.F. Bay area and our greater attention to breeding birds.





Pair of Black Skimmers at nest with eggs at Mountain View, Santa Clara, California, July 13, 1995. Photograph/Michael M. Rogers.

Quail to Shorebirds

Two California Quail near Crowley L., June 7–8 (ES) could have been pioneers from populations in the Owens Valley or Mono L. region. The latter population is thought to have been introduced. An ad. Com. Moorhen at Mono L., July 27 (PJM) provided only the 6th summer occurrence there. The Sandhill Crane at Bodega Bay since spring remained until July 8 (m.ob.).

An impressive 274 Semipalmated Plovers tallied on the Palo Alto Summer Bird Count at Ravenswood, *San Mateo*, June 3 (SCR, *et al.*) eclipsed the previous high of 109 and was a large and late movement of northbound birds.

Our lone Solitary Sandpiper report was from Martis Creek L., Placer, July 26 (BW). An ad. Sanderling at Mono L., July 28 (PJM) was a scarce migrant e. of the Sierran crest. Four reports of Semipalmated Sandpiper were less than usual and included three adults July 22–30 and one juvenile July 28. One adult was inland at Woodland, *Yolo*, July 30 (StH). Rare June records of 14 Western and one Least sandpipers were reported on the Palo Alto Summer Bird Count June 3 (SCR, MMR, *et al.*). The former provided only the 3rd count record in 15 years, while the latter was a first. The first southbound Baird's Sandpipers were juveniles July 28 at Pescadero, *San Mateo* (RSTh) and July 29 at the Salinas R. mouth, *Monterey* (DR, RCa).

Larids to Alcids

A flock of seven ad. Franklin's Gulls cruised

SW over Modoc N.W.R., *Modoc*, June 1 (RLR) and >12 were on Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, July 3 (RAR). Just as last year, both Heermann's Gull chicks on Ano Nuevo I., *San Mateo*, were predated by W. Gulls (GJS). Summering gulls included a Mew at Sunnyvale, *Santa Clara*, July 3 (PJM) and a Thayer's at Alviso, *Santa Clara*, June 29–July 11 (SCR). Four Herring Gulls in the S.F. Bay area (RSTh *et al.*) were about average. An ad. Western-type gull at Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, July 3 was not seen closely enough to eliminate Slaty-backed (ANW, †RAR).

An estimated 3500 Caspian Terns on Brooks I., *Contra Costa*, July 11 made a large concentration (SAG).

SA What appeared to be the Region's first Sandwich Tern at Pajaro R. mouth, *Monterey*, July 4–11 (†SFB, †JM, m.ob.) now is thought to have been a 2-year-old hybrid Sandwich x Elegant tern (*vide* Claudia Wilds). It seemed to be a normal basic-plumaged Sandwich Tern except for a red-orange stripe along the bill tomlia. This anomaly, plus a slightly-curved bill, suggest hybrid origin, although this opinion is not unanimous. Southern California Elegant Tern colonies have had single Sandwich Terns attempting to breed during at least 5 of the past 15 years, and one did produce hybrid chicks this year (Charles T. Collins). Perhaps our bird was fledged from the same hybrid mating in 1993.

An ad. Arctic Tern at H.S. through July (RJR, GFi) prompted speculation that it was the same bird that summered there last year. Coastal straggling Black Terns were at H.S., June 3 (RJR) and Sonoma Cr., *Solano*, July 6 (ES). Of the 2 pairs of Black Skimmers at H.S., one hatched four chicks and fledged two by Aug. 9 (RJR, m.ob.), but the other pair departed and probably was the pair that settled at Charleston Slough, *Santa Clara*, June 11 (H. Gerson, m.ob.). After another failed attempt there, they moved to nearby Mountain View July 11 (PJM, m.ob.), where their eggs hatched in August. Hopefully successful breeding by this striking species will accelerate its colonization of our Region. Single skimmers visited Pacifica, *San Mateo*, June 24 (M. Dunlap) and Menlo Park, *San Mateo*, July 15 (PJM).

Scarce summer Ancient Murrelets were at Bear Harbor, Sinkyone Wilderness, *Mendocino*, flying N June 3 (CEV, DAE) and at Bodega Head June 25 (GMCC, JM, SFB). Two Cassin's Auklet chicks on Ano Nuevo I., *San Mateo* (GJS) provided the first confirmed breeding between F.I. and s. California's Channel Islands. California's 2nd Crested Auklet close off Bodega Head, *Sonoma*, June 24 (LLu, SBT, DLSh, CCo, BDP) dumbfounded the observers returning from a rough pelagic trip. As expected of our vagrant "Alaskan" alcids, it was an alternate-plumaged bird in summer.

Roadrunner to Flycatchers

The stray Greater Roadrunner in San Jose during the Spring was again seen June 18 (C. Nelson). Three Short-eared Owls were on Inner Bair I., *San Mateo*, July 5 (ADeM), where nesting occurred last year. Nesting birds in the S.F. Bay area are few. Up to nine Lesser Nighthawks at Clifton Cour Forebay July 7–10 (SAG, m.ob.) was one of few record for *Contra Costa*. Though breeding was not confirmed, they breed just 15 mi to the south in *San Joaquin*. At least 15 Vaux's Swifts were seen using a redwood snag as a roost along the N. Fork Butano Cr., *San Mateo*, about 5 mi n.e. of Davenport July 14–17 (DLSu). There was at least one probably nesting pair among them; such behavior has rarely been noted, especially in the Santa Cruz Mts. (DLSu). *Marin's* first nesting pair was noted utilizing a chimney in Bonas July 30 (KH).

Regular censuses of *Santa Clara* urban riparian corridors along Coyote Cr., Guadalupe R., and Los Gatos Cr. by SCR during the period again revealed the abundance of Black-chinned Hummingbirds: 82 males, 73 females, and 26 nests. a ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird just e. of Crowley Rs., *Mono*, June 8 (ES, MMCC) was rare e. of the Sierra Nevada, and an-



ALLA SCHMITZ

KENYA CAMPING SAFARI

Deluxe, comfortable camping—Finest bird and big game watching in untouristed Africa

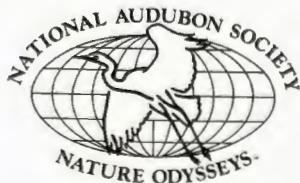
JULY 28—AUGUST 11, 1996

A herd of golden impalas illuminated by an African dawn...a shadow in the grass suddenly erupting into the form of a charging lioness...star-studded skies at night, gourmet meals around a cozy campfire, the sounds of the African wilderness lulling you to sleep. You can enjoy all this and more on this superb all-camping safari! We'll immerse you in a total African experience: in addition to superlative wildlife viewing in



Aberdare, Samburu, and Masai Mara parks, you'll get a taste of wild Africa with easy foot safaris in the Shaba Reserve in Kenya's northern desert country and at Lake Elmenteita, an undiscovered private reserve in the Great Rift Valley. The birding will be outstanding! We may see overwhelming flocks of pinkish lesser flamingos, jewel-like malachite kingfishers, and the massive marabou stork and crowned cranes on the open grasslands.

LAND COST—\$3490 + \$450 Kenya park fees AIRFARE—\$1880 (approximately) based on British Airways from New York
Leading this program will be National Audubon's Christmas Bird Count Editor, Geoff Le Baron.



Call Beth Ryan to reserve your spot!
212.979.3066

other male at Bevin's flat, n. *Lake*, July 15 (BMcl, JW) was even rarer this high in the Coast Ranges. As during the summer of 1992, Costa's Hummingbirds were found in Owens R. Gorge, *Mono*, July 66; six birds plus a courting pair. They are perhaps more regular there than the few records indicate. Another was at Crowley Res., June 6 (both PJM).

An Acorn Woodpecker near Quincy, *Plumas*, June 22 (TDM) was very rare this high in the Sierra Nevada. The nesting Red-breasted Sapsuckers at Butano Cr., *San Mateo*, were last observed June 11 (DMcK). The Nuttall's Woodpecker at Baum L., *Shasta*, July 5 (BW) was out of place e. of the Cascade divide. Two families of Hairy Woodpeckers along Coyote Cr., July 26–July 11 (SCR) were the first nesters in *Santa Clara's urban creeks*.

A singing Least Flycatcher at Mono L., June 11 (PJM) was *Mono's* first in spring. The Black Phoebe near Doyle, *Lassen*, June 3 (TDM, AM) was from an area where there are few records. Wayward Cassin's Kingbirds are rarely noted, thus singles at Pelican Rock, *Santa Cruz*, July 11 (DLSu) and Pt. Reyes June 17 (KKw) were very noteworthy. Vagrant E. Kingbirds were at Pt. Reyes June 109 (RS) and the Las Gallinas sewage ponds June 22 (KWe). *Mendocino* was seeing double as a ♂ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Ft. Bragg June 26 (S. Cardwell) was joined by a female June 298 (J&M King).

Swallows to Vireos

Two pairs of nesting purple Martins along Limantou Rd., June 12 (JDi) was at a new site for well worked *Marin*. Twenty Bank Swallows were frequenting the colony site at Bridgeport Valley, *Mono*, June 11 (ES, MMcC). However, 97 potential nest holes were available. The 20 pairs at Topaz L., *Mono*, June 13 (PJM) was apparently a newly discovered colony. A Bank Swallow at Martis Cr. Lake July 31 (BW) was only *Placer's* 2nd and attested to their absence in our mountain districts.

One of the Gray Jays at Gualala R. Regional Park, *Sonoma*, was last observed June 25 (SAG). Their presence was extended even farther south as one was along Anapolis Rd., June 23 (DSH). Four Rock Wrens along coastal cliffs s. of Devil Slide during mid-June (BS) were considered *San Mateo's* only nesting birds (PJM). The Santa Cruz Mts. and most of our coastal cliff areas do not provide adequate nesting habitat for this species. The Region's 4th **Wood Thrush** was a surprise capture at the Sagehen Field Banding Station just n. of Truckee, *Nevada*, June 19 (†J. Kranz).

Varied Thrush again nested in the S.

Fork Butano Cr. watershed, *San Mateo*. New breeding sites were discovered on the N. Fork Butano Cr., *San Mateo*, July 15–Aug. 1, and San Vincente Cr., *Santa Cruz*, June 28 (all DLSu).

The Gray Catbird at Mono L., June 5 (†PJM, ADeM, DLSH) was the Region's 5th in spring. Seven Cedar Waxwings in Pacific Grove, *Monterey*, July 2 (SFB) were unseasonal, though nesting has occurred along the c. coast in recent years. A Loggerhead Shrike at McLaughlin Springs, *Mono* July 30 (PJM) was a very rare upslope (8900 ft) post-breeding dispersant. Red-eyed Vireos along Pilarcitos Cr., *San Mateo*, June 8–9 (BS, RSTh) and Centerville Beach, *Humboldt*, July 4 (TWL, JEH) were expected, but a Red-eyed Vireo in Sacramento June 30 (†JML, LL *et al.*) was a first for the C.V. and one of few for the Region's interior.

Wood Warblers

Our lone Tennessee Warbler of the spring was in El Granda, *San Mateo*, June 2–4 (BS, RSTh). After a slow spring start, N. Parulas showed well this summer with six coastal birds June 17–July 8 that included a nesting pair at Five Brooks Pond, *Marin*, June 17–27 (KKw *et al.*). Nesting Yellow Warblers at Camp Ohlone June 22 and along Mines Rd., July 13 in the I.C.R. were the only ones found during this year's breeding bird adassing project in *Alameda* (RJR). Three Chestnut-sided Warbler were in *Humboldt* June 17–July 11 (JEH, TWL, DFX, J. Tietz). A Bay-breasted Warbler at Pt. Reyes June 109 (SBT), Upper Crystal Springs Res., *San Mateo*, June 17 (BS), and Pescadero (Spring report) met recent spring averages.

Black-and-white Warbler showed very poorly with singles along Piper Sough, *Contra Costa*, June 9 (SAG) and Fairhaven June 29 (*fide* SRo). Conversely, Am. Redstarts put on a show. In addition to seven single birds coastally June 1–July 30, interior birds were at Wendel, *Lassen*, June 3 (TDM) Owens R. Gorge, *Mono*, June 6 (PJM), and Stone Lakes N.W.R., *Sacramento*, June 13 (AEn). More impressively, *Humboldt* held nesting birds at Mad R. County Park June 17–July 3 and Elk Head June 26–July 3, with a pair in suitable nesting habitat at Centerville Beach July 4 (all JEH). They have nested in *Humboldt* in past years, but not recently. The Region's 3rd spring **Prothonotary Warbler** was along Cascade Cr., *San Mateo*, June 18 (†RSTh). Almost a rare in spring, a Worm-eating Warbler was in Fairhaven June 29 (†SRo, m.ob.). Single Ovenbirds at C.C.R.S., June 25 and ASA Bean Flat, *Mendocin*, July 14 (JEH), and no N. Waterthrushes were dismal showings for this pair. The singing Kentucky Warbler 5 mi

inland along San Vincente Cr. (†DLSu) was *Santa Cruz's* first. Two Com. Yellowthroats were at Mono L. County Park June 10 (ADeM, DLSH); when will *Mono* confirm its first nesting pair? A Hooded Warbler in Pescadero June 21 (RSTh) helped meet the recent spring average.

Tanagers to Finches

Male Summer Tanagers along Mines Rd., *Alameda*, June 15 (JM, J. Matkin) and Coyote Cr., San Jose, June 17 (SCR) were especially notable because of their interior haunts. Fifteen coastal Rose-breasted Grosbeaks June 2–July 13 and one in lower Lundy Cyn., *Mono*, June 10 (RSa), along with the three spring birds were slightly above the recent average. Unexpectedly, a pair of nesting Blue Grosbeaks with young were found at Sears Pt., *Sonoma*, July 24–29 (DE, DN, RAR *et al.*). This constituted the first breeding record of this species in the S.F. Bay area. A vagrant was in El Granda, *San Mateo*, July 14 (BS).

Like N. Parula, Indigo Bunting appears to be attempting to establish itself as a breeder in the c. portion of the state. A male paired to a ♀ Lazuli Bunting successfully fledged young at Goat Rock, e. *Alameda*, June 22–July 3 (RJR). Another male also seemed to be paired to a ♀ Lazuli Bunting at Mission Peak Regional Park, *Alameda*, July 27 (RJR). Finally a ♂ Indigo Bunting x Lazuli Bunting was well studied along Coyote Cr., *Santa Clara*, July 4–26 (†SCR, ph. MMR). The Region has witnessed other similar crossed pairs, but to date there has been no evidence of a pure mated pair. Additionally, there were five coastal birds June 4–July 27, and an impressive four more from the interior: three at the Redding sewage ponds, *Shasta*, July 12–13 (BYO and one at Monument Park, *Alameda*, July 27 (RJR).

A pair of Lincoln's Sparrows established a first Mono Basin nesting record in Warren Cyn., June 10 (ES). They are rare nesters anywhere e. of the Sierran crest. An ad. White-crowned Sparrow along the Guadalupe R. in San Jose July 6 (SCR) was only *Santa Clara's* 2nd or 3rd summer record. Two ♂ and five ♀ Bobolinks near Eagleville, *Modoc*, June 25–July 14 (RLR) was the best recent evidence of breeding in the state. Ten–fifteen nesting Yellow-headed Blackbirds w. of Sheridan June 29 (BW) established the first nesting records in w. *Placer*. The Great-tailed Grackle colong at Benton Hot Springs, *Mono*, continued to expand as 16 birds were observed June 16 (PJM).

No sooner than rosy-finch was split to three than a ♀ **Black Rosy-Finch** was found: at Ellery L., *Mono*, July 4–23 (B. Gross, DN, RJR, JSL, BBrr). Unfortunately, no documentation was received.

The three accepted state records and five unsubmitted records have all been during November–March. A Purple Finch at Constantia, *Lassen*, June 22 (TDM) was very rare in our Great Basin district, and was observed flying into a portion of Nevada where it is considered only hypothetical.

Corrigendum

The S. Polar Skuas published among the Procellariiformes (48:984) should have been printed on page 985 with the other larids.

Cited contributors (sub-regional editors in boldface): Stephen F. Bailey, Bruce Barrett, Florence G. Bennett, William G. Bousman, Rita Carratello, Chris Corben, Al DeMartini, Bruce E. Deuel, Jack Dinesen, Mary Dunlap, Demian A. Ebert, Doug Ellis, Andrew Engilis, Mike Feighner, George Finger (GF), Steve Gerow (SGe), Harriet Gerson, Steve A. Glover, Helen Green, Steve Hampton (StH), Keith Hansen, Jim Holmes, John E. Hunter, Richard Jeffers, Robert J. Keiffer, Keith Kwan, Laura Langham, Jeri M. Langham, Peter LaTourrett, Robin L.C. **Leong**, Tom W. Leskiw, Leslie Lieurance (LLu), Ron S. Lindeman, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, Timothy D. Manolis, Guy McCaskie, Mike McClaskie, Brian McIntosh, Bert McKee (BMCK), Robert V. Merrill (RMrr), Peter J. Metropulos, Mark C. Miller, Joseph Morlan, Dan Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, David Powell (DPo), Bob Reiling, Dana Rice, Jean M. Richmond, Robert J. Richmond, Michael M. Rogers, Don Roberson, Heather L. Rottenborn, Steven C. Rottenborn, Steve Rovell (SRo), Ruth A. Rudesill, Ronnie L. Ryno, Barry Sauppe, Rusty Scalf, Doug Shaw (DSH), Debra L. Shearwater (DLSh), Rich Stallcup, Dan Stoebel, Gary J. Strachan, Bradley M. Stovall, Emilie Strauss, David L. Suddjian (DLSu), Richard Terno, Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn (RSTh), Dorothy Tobkin, Chuck E. Vaughn, Kent Van Vuren, Kaynor Weishaupt, Jerry R. White, Alan N. Wight, Vernal Yadon, David G. Yee, Bob Yutzy. Many more contributors were not specifically cited; all are appreciated.

—Stephen F. Bailey (loons to petrels, raptors, larids and alcids), *Museum of Nat. History*, 165 Forest Ave. Pacific Grove, CA 93950; Daniel S. Singer (herons to waterfowl, quails to shorebirds), 830 Reina Del Mar Ave, Pacifica, CA 94044; David G. Yee (roadrunner to finches), 2930 Driftwood Pl. #39, Stockton, CA 95219.