

& 22 Jul (R. Maertz). Numbers of Evening Grosbeaks in the W.V. and in Oregon's Coast Range were far above the norm throughout the season (m.ob.).

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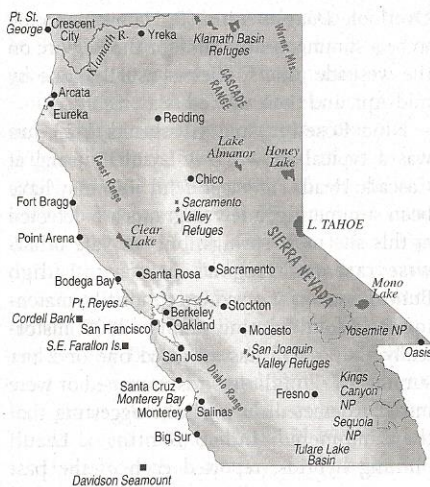
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## Northern California



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In late May, coastal weather patterns changed from strong northwesterly winds to calm and warm conditions that persisted for several weeks. As a result, upwelling subsided, and the sea surface temperature increased to 14.8° C. The resulting effect on productivity and fish populations caused food shortages that contributed to very low reproductive success for many seabirds. While these El Niño conditions adversely affected some of our local breeders, they provided an unprecedented opportunity for birders to see large numbers of Cook's Petrels in the Region. A single Stejneger's Petrel was reported among one of the flocks of Cook's Petrels. Onshore weather drew little comment, generally being described as cool and mild. The

only other boldfaced species found this season were an Arctic Loon and the long-staying Common Black-Hawk.

**Abbreviations:** C.B.R.C. (California B.R.C.); C.R.P. (Cosumnes River Preserve, Sacramento); C.V. (Central Valley); FI. (Southeast Farallon I., San Francisco); H.R.S. (Hayward R.S., Alameda); PRBO (PRBO Conservation Science); S.F. (San Francisco, not State Forest). Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are not published. Documentation of C.B.R.C. review species will be forwarded to Guy McCaskie, Secretary, P. O. Box 275, Imperial Beach, California 91933. Birds banded on FI. should be credited to PRBO Conservation Science and those banded at Big Sur R. mouth to the Ventana Wildlife Society.

### WATERFOWL THROUGH CORMORANTS

A tally of 85 Brant at the s. spit of Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 1 Jul (KBu) was high for summer; up to 5 at H.R.S. 23 Jun–8 Jul (RJR et al.) were unexpected so far inside S.F. Bay. Twelve ad. Redheads near Mendota 8 Jun (ph. GaW) included a female with 4 ducklings, a rare breeding confirmation for *Fresno*. A pair of Ring-necked Ducks at Searsville L. 25 Jul+ (RSTh, Leonie Batkin) provided the 3rd summer record for *San Mateo*. Lesser Scaup bred again at H.R.S., with two broods detected 11–23 Jul (RJR). Summering Harlequin Ducks included males on Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 27 Jun (MWa), at Fort Bragg, *Mendocino* 16 Jun–13 Jul (B. Bernard, ph. PP), and the Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* bird 1 Jun+ (RSTh, George Chrisman, Leonie Batkin), finishing its 7th year there. Only a single Long-tailed Duck was

noted past 4 Jun, one at King Salmon, *Humboldt* through 29 Jul (MWa). A male Black Scoter was also present there 24 Jun–29 Jul (MWa). A vocal ad. female Bufflehead at a pond s. of Tenaya L. in Yosemite N.P., *Mariposa* 16 Jun (KER) was suggestive of breeding. Two Common Goldeneyes at the Stanly Ranch wetlands s. of Napa, *Napa* 12–31 Jul (MBe) were very unseasonable but appeared healthy. Hooded Mergansers summered again at Steamboat L., *Siskiyou* (2 birds; RE), which suggests the possibility of local breeding. Common Mergansers at L. Solano were confirmed using next boxes in *Solano* 9 Jun (MFRi).

In *Sonoma*, an Arctic Loon at the Sea Ranch 14 Jun (ph. †Tea) would provide the 6th Regional record (p.a.), and a Yellow-billed Loon at Bodega Harbor 26 Jun–3 Aug (ph. Ruth Tonascia, RoM, m.ob.) was the Region's 6th in summer. Providing a first summer record away from the ocean for *San Mateo*, a Pacific Loon was at Coyote Pt. 29 Jul–5 Aug (RSTh, Leonie Batkin). The lone Red-necked Grebe report was of an alternate-plumaged bird in Bodega Harbor, *Sonoma* 27 Jul (RS, m.ob.). Western and Clark's Grebes summered in unusually high numbers along the *Santa Cruz* coastline, with a high count of 11,125 (803 Western, 137 Clark's, the rest unidentified) 29 Jul (DLSu); for the 2nd consecutive year, none nested at Clear L., *Lake* (JRW). A banded imm. Short-tailed Albatross on Monterey Bay 30 Jul (ph. Lisa Etherington) provided *Santa Cruz*'s first record. Warm water accompanying El Niño conditions brought unprecedented numbers of Cook's Petrels to nearshore *Monterey* waters in late Jul. A single individual just 9 km w. of Ragged Pt. 30 Jul (MFO) was unusually close to shore. The next day, Force's seabird survey recorded 179,

mostly 46-65 km sw. of Cypress Pt. over water deeper than 1100 fathoms, and a pelagic trip recorded 138 on Monterey Bay (ShJ). A Stejneger's Petrel reported within a flock of Cook's sw. of Cypress Pt. 31 Jul (MFO) would provide only the 4th Regional record (p.a.).

A juv. Brown Pelican n. of Elk Grove 6 Jul (KMz) was unusually far inland and provided Sacramento's 3rd record. Numbers on FI. peaked at 2739 on 6 Jun before dwindling to fewer than 100 in late Jun and Jul (Pete Warzybok, Russ Bradley). Two American White Pelicans were in Humboldt, where rare, at Humboldt Bay N.W.R. 1-14 Jun (JCP, DFX, m.ob.). After widespread breeding failures in spring, Brandt's Cormorants re-nested successfully at several coastal locations, albeit in lower numbers than usual; 3000 along the Santa Cruz shoreline 29 Jul consisted mostly of loafing (rather than re-nesting) birds (DLSu). In contrast, re-nesting attempts were unsuccessful at FI., where the species suffered complete reproductive failure (Pete Warzybok, Russ Bradley). The spring "invasion" of Brandt's Cormorants into Santa Clara tapered off, with singles lingering at Shoreline L. through 16 Jun (MDO, m.ob.) and at Lexington Res. through 17 Jun (SCR); in Alameda, singles were at H.R.S. 23 & 30 Jun (RJR). The new Double-crested Cormorant colony at Moonglow Dairy, Monterey was successful, with 60 young counted among 27 nests 1 Aug (RF, DR, RC, m.ob.).

## HERONS THROUGH CRANES

An American Bittern in flight over an Alviso salt pond 28 Jul (JAC, ph. Charlie Moores) made the first Jul record for Santa Clara and was away from known breeding locations, all of which are inland, far from S.F. Bay. A Least Bittern n. of Lincoln 13 Jun (†PPro) was Placer's 3rd. Up to 4 ads. at Rodman Slough, Lake 17 Jun-13 Jul (GEC, JRW et al.) were in the same locations as last fall's breeding birds. Two ad. Little Blue Herons were found: one, perhaps returning from last year, along Alameda Cr. in Fremont, Alameda 11 Jul-9 Aug (ph. David Leahy, m.ob.) and San Mateo's 6th at the Gazos Cr. mouth 19 Jul (RSTh, Leonie Batkin, ph. GJS). A few Cattle Egrets lingered coastally, including one at Redwood Shores, San Mateo 1 Jun (RSTh); one through 6 Jun at Palo Alto Baylands, Santa Clara (Lois Goldfrank et al., ph. MMR); 2 at Salinas River S.B., Monterey 27 Jun (RJA) and another at Moonglow Dairy, Monterey the same day (D. & J. Styer, L. & C. Rose); and Santa Cruz's 3rd summer record at Watsonville Slough 9 Jul (JHW). A Green Heron at Manzanita L. 10 Jul (BiO, Larry Jordan, Don Marsh et al.) was apparently only the 3rd for Lassen Volcanic N.P., Shasta.

Coastal White-faced Ibis included singles at Ukiah S.T.P., Mendocino 11-12 Jun (CEV, JSL) and 1 Jul (Steve Stump); up to 10 near Watsonville 29 Jun-9 Jul (new Santa Cruz record summer count of 10 on 1 Jul; CKF, AMR et al.); and birds in Mountain View, Santa Clara 23 Jun (4 birds; Sidd Ramachandramurthi) and 5-8 Jul (one bird; Jean Palmeter, Nancy Kenyon et al.).

A young Osprey in a nest below L. Kaweah Dam 9 Jul (JLt) may constitute only the 2nd nesting record for Tulare. Bald Eagles fledged at least one young from the same site at Kent L., Marin used in 2008 (JGE). Successful breeding was also confirmed again in Napa and Santa Clara. Sonoma's Common Black-Hawk was seen again in the Laguna de Santa Rosa area 25 Jul (Stan Moore). Two pairs of Swainson's Hawks apparently nested in se. Napa, with young birds detected at two locations 8 Jul (Eric Lichtwardt); 2 were found farther w. in Sonoma in the Napa Sonoma Marsh 14 Jul (MBe). An ad. Ferruginous Hawk e. of Ft. Bidwell, Modoc 7 Jun (SCR) followed on the heels of last season's May report from the same area. Del Norte's Crested Caracara continued near Ft. Dick 1 Jun+ (Paul O'Connor, ADB, JEH, GJH). Nesting Peregrine Falcons included the first to breed on FI. since 1933 (PRBO).

A Yellow Rail was detected 13 Jul (DEQ) at the location near the city of Mt. Shasta, Shasta where the species was reported 2002-2005. Two Black Rails in the Napa R. floodplain, Napa 4 Jul (MBe) indicate colonization of this site, which was converted from pastureland 10 years ago. Santa Clara's 2nd Virginia Rail breeding confirmation came in the form of a downy chick accompanied by a vocal ad. in wetlands near Carnadero Cr. and the Pajaro R. 27 Jun (SCR). The pair of Common Moorhens found last season in Ukiah was seen with 2 young 1-19 Jun (GEC, KHv), providing Mendocino's first breeding record. On the heels of a report last May, San Joaquin's first Jun Sandhill Crane record came in the form of 7 birds near Lodi 6 Jun (Donald Gill).

## SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

Returning ad. Pacific Golden-Plovers at H.R.S. 21 Jul (RJR) and Coyote Pt., San Mateo 30 Jul (RSTh) were fall migrants at an expected time of year; an unidentified golden-plover at Arcata Marsh, Humboldt 5 Jun (DFX) was much less expected. Single Black Oystercatchers 18



This Hudsonian Godwit (the right bird) south of Corcoran 10 June 2009 provided the first record for Kings County, California and only the second June record for the state. Photograph by Jeff Seay.

& 30 Jun provided the first Jun reports for H.R.S.; 2 were there 30 Jul (all RJR). Two Black-necked Stilts nw. of Nice 16 Jun (DvW) provided only the 2nd summer record for Lake. A Solitary Sandpiper at the Madera S.T.P. 1 Jun (†KPa) was the first summer record for Madera and one of few Jun records for the Region; the only other report this season was from the Napa S.T.P. on the more expected date of 31 Jul (MBe, BDP). Inland Willets away from traditional breeding sites included one on territory in the Carson R. Valley 5 Jun (one of few ever found in Alpine; TEa, JCS, FO), one at the Upper Truckee Marsh, El Dorado 4 Jul (CCo, KLL), and an early migrant at the Madera S.T.P., Madera 19 Jul (PFa). Early fall migrant Lesser Yellowlegs were seen at the Madera S.T.P., Madera 19 Jun (JSy, GaW) and in Alviso, Santa Clara 23 Jun (RWR, FV). King's first Hudsonian Godwit was s. of Corcoran 10-18 Jun (ph., †JSy; RH, SDS, John Silvas), providing the 2nd record for the C.V., the first Jun record for the Region, and only the 2nd Jun record for California. A Bar-tailed Godwit was at Humboldt Bay, Humboldt on the early date of 1 Jul (p.a.; †Leslie Tucci). Inland Ruddy Turnstones were found in Kings 3 km n. of Stratford 23 Jul (JSy) and w. of Corcoran 25-26 Jul (Mark Stacey).

A molting ad. Sanderling at Clear Lake S.P. 27-31 Jul (DvW, JRW) marked the first Jul record for Lake. Thirteen Semipalmated Sandpipers in nine counties 3 Jul+ included 3 early ads. at Goose L., Modoc 3 Jul (SCR) and an early juv. on Humboldt Bay, Humboldt 13 Jul (Leslie Tucci, Stephanie Schneider). A Western Sandpiper in Alviso, Santa Clara 1 Jun (MJM) was thought to be summering, whereas 2 in Eureka, Humboldt 18 Jun (TWL) were the first fall migrants. Five Baird's Sandpipers in three counties 12-18 Jul included an early juv. at the Salinas W.T.P., Monterey 17-18 Jul (TAm et al.). Three of the 4 Pectoral Sandpipers reported were at the Marysville W.T.P.,



Making the first breeding record for Fresno County, California, these Forster's Terns were among a small colony at a groundwater recharge facility in central Fresno 16 July 2009. Photograph by Gary Woods.

Yuba (JLa). Up to 3 Dunlins summered at H.R.S. (RJR). The only Stilt Sandpiper reported was 3 km n. of Stratford, Kings 23-26 Jul (JSy); the only Ruff was in Alviso, Santa Clara 26 Jul (DvWb). Unseasonable Wilson's Snipe were at C.R.P. 21 Jun (CCo, KLL, John Schick) and 11 Jul (JTr et al.); one at Arcata Marsh, Humboldt 30 Jul (ScC) was an early returning bird. A pair of Wilson's Phalaropes with 2 young at the Jepson Prairie Preserve, Solano 12 Jun (RLCL, Lillian Fujii, Steve Hayashi) marked the 2nd breeding occurrence there in five years.

A first-cycle Little Gull at the S. Truckee R. mouth in S. Lake Tahoe 5 Jun (†JCS, TEa) would be *El Dorado's* first and only the 4th summer record for the Region (p.a.). Franklin's Gull counts at Goose L., Modoc included 22 on 8 Jun and 32 on 19 Jul (SCR); elsewhere, 5 s. of Corcoran, Kings 3 Jun dwindled to one on 18 Jun (JSy); 7 were at Shasta Valley W.A., Siskiyou 2 Jun (RE); and one was at the Davis W.T.P., Yolo 29-31 Jul (TEa, ph. CCo). Summering Mew Gulls are extremely rare anywhere in the Region, so a second-cycle bird at Goose L., Modoc 19 Jul (ph. SCR), almost certainly the same bird seen there in May, was unexpected. California Gulls, predominantly subads., were in unusually high numbers in Santa Cruz throughout the period, with a high count of 2200 seen flying northward at Seaciff S.B. 5 Jul (DLSu). Perhaps associated with this phenomenon, an ad. on a nest within a Western Gull colony in Capitola 9 Jun (PCp, LHe, JND) provided the first nesting record for Santa Cruz. The California Gull population at Mono L., Mono numbered 23,766 nests, an increase of 29% over 2008 numbers and the highest since

2004 (KNN). Nesting was again attempted at the EI. colony established last year, with high counts of 718 individuals and 95 nests (including some with eggs and chicks) on 10 Jun, but the number of active nests dwindled to three by 8 Jul, and apparently none were successful (Pete Warzybok, Russ Bradley). Similarly, Western Gulls on EI. experienced their lowest productivity in 40+ years of monitoring, due in large part to a high rate of chick predation by ad. conspecifics (Pete Warzybok, Russ Bradley).

After last year's failed attempt, the pair of Least Terns at the Sacramento Regional W.T.P. in Sacramento nested successfully (CCo, m.ob.). They were first seen 29 May and had 3 chicks 25 Jun, 2 of which fledged 13 Jul. The family group was last seen 7 Aug, foraging on ponds surrounding the W.T.P. At the traditional nesting area e. of Kettleman City, Kings, a pair present 3 Jun-16 Jul fledged one young (JSy). A Least Tern at the Madera S.T.P. 6 Jun (ph. GaW, PFa, LyH), which provided a 3rd Madera record, was thought to be different from the May bird at that location. Rare in the S.F. Bay area in summer, Black Terns in former salt ponds in Santa Clara included a basic-plumaged bird 6 Jun (WGB) and one or more alternate-plumaged birds 8 Jun-15 Jul (GrH, m.ob.). Ad. Forster's Terns seen carrying fish in early Jul led to speculation that nesting was occurring at a groundwater recharge complex at Leaky Acres in cen. Fresno (JND, JSy); a visit on 16 Jul found 52 ads. and 30 juvs. (ph. GaW), confirming the first Fresno breeding record. Three Common Terns at Goose L. 8 Jun (SCR) provided the first Jun record for Modoc. Even more unusual inland was an Arctic Tern at the S. Truckee R. mouth in S. Lake Tahoe, *El Dorado* 5 Jun (ph. JCS, TEa). Elegant Tern numbers in Santa Cruz were the lowest in decades (DLSu); one at H.R.S. 23 Jun (RJR) was only the 2nd Jun record for that location. Black Skimmers nested in San Mateo at Menlo Park and Redwood Shores and in Santa Clara at Alviso and Mountain View.

The first South Polar Skuas of the fall and 115 Long-tailed Jaegers were on Monterey Bay, Monterey 31 Jul (ShJ). A subad. Long-tailed chased a fisherman's fly on L. Almanor

28 Jul (Dick Fording), providing a rare Plumas record. A Thick-billed Murre at the Sea Ranch 14 Jun (ph. †TEa) was an overdue first for Sonoma. Common Murre productivity at EI. and other cen. California locations was very low, owing both to low anchovy populations and to high Western Gull predation (Pete Warzybok, Russ Bradley). Single Common Murres were at four locations inside S. S.F. Bay, where unusual, in San Mateo, Alameda, and Santa Clara 6-9 Jun. An alternate-plumaged Long-billed Murrelet 1 km w. of the Eel R. mouth 31 Jul (EE, Brian O'Donnell, MMo) continued Humboldt's recent string of records. Suddjian's surveys of long-term monitoring stations in Big Basin Redwoods S.P., Santa Cruz revealed all-time low activity of Marbled Murrelets, and the species was generally scarce along the Santa Cruz coastline as well. In San Mateo, murrelet activity was again noted in the Upper Pilarcitos Cr. watershed, with a high of 18 detections 22 Jul (Seth Bunnell), and 53 were at Año Nuevo S.R. 31 Jul (GJS). Marbled Murrelets were reported to be in low numbers on Humboldt Bay (MWa). In contrast to most seabirds, Cassin's Auklets experienced high reproductive success on EI. (Pete Warzybok, Russ Bradley). Santa Cruz's 2nd Parakeet Auklet was found dead at Manresa S.B. 2 May (Judy Garrison, ph. Hannah Nevins). Single Horned Puffins were at Waddell Bluffs, in both Santa Cruz and San Mateo waters, 9 Jun (DLSu) and at the Sea Ranch, Sonoma 14 Jun (ph. TEa).

## DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

A White-winged Dove n. of Lincoln 4-5 Jul (ph. PPro, BWb) was the first for Placer. Yellow-billed Cuckoos included Santa Cruz's first since 1996 at Santa Cruz 14-23 Jun (Melani Clark, Rob Moeller) and one of few for Mono at Lower Mill Cr. 9 Jul (SaH); a bird that hit a window and was taken to a rehabilitation center in Shingle Springs 28 Jun (Bill Wade, ph. SAbb) was the 2nd for *El Dorado*. As many as 10 Burrowing Owls w. of Corning 6-9 Jul (FrO, JRow, Liz West, JLx, KPa) was an impressive showing for Tehama, where the species had gone undetected for the past three years. A Long-eared Owl sw. of Lakeport 12 Jun (CEV) provided the first summer record for Lake. Northern Saw-whet Owls are not known to breed in or near Moss Landing, Monterey, so one in a residential yard 3 Jul (Rebecca Dmytryk) was especially surprising. A Common Nighthawk at Lakeport 15 Jul (DvW) rendered the 3rd record for Lake. The Whip-poor-will at Willow Creek, Humboldt remained at least until 21 Jun (EE, MMo, Lucy Rowe).

Supplying Santa Cruz's 4th record for spring migration, a Chimney Swift sailed with

swallows (OsJ, Ada). Hummingbirds the mountain South Na was at an incidentally, same local pair of Le 20-22 Jun that burn also hosted including Jul (KNN). Woodpecker S.P., Santa the large Cr. water

An Olive fledglings ing record wise, fled Forest 18 record for tionally Western Ranch, M Flycatcher least 4 Ju catcher s Redwood through Bleam). one of 2 (JTr); this lar nesting A pair of 1 Jun+ (K for Lasse 2008. Ad Eastern S ed a rare ging juv. Modoc N nesting nest at B nesting catchers through Mountai rado's fir Harrima A well at outer LTer, DE vey, m.o on EI. 4 the Ariz Vireo at tinued u Three P

swallows over Rancho Del Oso S.P. 8 Jun (OsJ, Adam Searcy, Amy Patten). Calliope Hummingbirds generally migrate s. through the mountains, so one that hit a window in South Natomas, *Sacramento* 31 Jul (DaW) was at an unexpected lowland locality. Coincidentally, 3 Calliopes were found dead at the same location in spring. A probable breeding pair of Lewis's Woodpeckers at June L., *Mono* 20-22 Jun (KNN, m.ob.) was in a woodland that burned two years ago. This burned area also hosted 5+ Black-backed Woodpeckers, including at least one nesting pair 20 Jun-late Jul (KNN, m.ob.). Approximately 40 Pileated Woodpeckers detected at Big Basin Redwoods S.P., *Santa Cruz* 14-18 Jun (DLSu) illustrate the large number present in the E. Waddell Cr. watershed.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher pair feeding 2 fledglings 24 Jul (DR) provided the first nesting record for Pacific Grove, *Monterey*. Likewise, fledglings photographed at Del Monte Forest 18 Jul (BLS) furnished the first nesting record for Pebble Beach, *Monterey*. An exceptionally large fallout of approximately 200 Western Wood-Pewees descended on Oasis Ranch, *Mono* 6 Jun (KNN). *Alpine's* first Least Flycatcher continued at Carson R. through at least 4 Jul (TEa, JCS, CCo). A Dusky Flycatcher spent its 4th summer at Big Basin Redwoods S.P., *Santa Cruz*, remaining at least through 15 Jul (DLSu, Brent Thordarson, Jeff Bleam). An ad. Pacific-slope Flycatcher fed one of 2 attendant fledglings at C.R.P. 15 Jul (JTr); this site continues to be the only regular nesting locality for this species in the C.V. A pair of Black Phoebe at Bob's Creek Ranch 1 Jun+ (KAb) supplied the 2nd nesting record for *Lassen*; the first was from the same site in 2008. Ad. Say's Phoebe feeding 4 nestlings at Eastern Swett Ranch 18 Jun (MBe) represented a rare breeding record for *Solano*. A begging juv. following an ad. Eastern Kingbird at Modoc N.W.R. 18 Jul (SCR) supplied the first nesting record for *Modoc*; a bird sitting on a nest at Blue L. 28 Jun (DSg) furnished the 2nd nesting record for *Lassen*. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers included a spring holdover on FI. through 6 Jun (PRBO), *Santa Clara's* 2nd at Mountain View 6 Jun (ph. WGB), and *El Dorado's* first at S. Lake Tahoe 30 Jun (ph. Don Harriman, *fide* WRi).

A well-documented White-eyed Vireo was at outer Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 6 Jun (vt.,  $\pm$ SBT; ph. LTer, DDeS, RS, vt. CLu & LLu, Hugh B. Harvey, m.ob.). A brightly plumaged Bell's Vireo on FI. 4 Jun (ph. PRBO) was believed to be of the Arizona subspecies. The Yellow-throated Vireo at the Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* continued until at least 18 Jun (MiT, Mike Stake). Three Plumbeous Vireos detected on a B.B.S.

route from Antelope L. to Squaw L. 2 Jun (CPD) were thought to represent the first records for *Plumas*. Warbling Vireos breeding in the Mono Basin, *Mono* generally are restricted to higher elevation aspen groves. Yet this year, many pairs nested in lower elevation cottonwoods (CMc, KNN). Six Red-eyed Vireos included *Modoc's* 2nd at New Pine Cr. 19 Jul (SCR) and *Yolo's* 2nd in Davis 18 Jul+ (Chris Dunford, TEa, SHa, JCS, m.ob.).

Five American Crows at Big Basin Redwoods S.P., *Santa Cruz* over four separate days (DLSu) were the first summer records for this heavily forested park in the Santa Cruz Mts. Large gatherings of Common Ravens, thought to consist mainly of non-breeding imms., have been reported with increasing frequency in the Region. Gangs of 162 s. of Corcoran, *Kings* 24 Jun (JND) and 127 at Swanton, *Santa Cruz* 4 Jul (DLSu) are emblematic. Purple Martins entered cavities in snags near Loma Prieta, *Santa Clara* 6 Jun-29 Jul (RWR, FV, MMR, JM, DvWb, WGB, DLSu, m.ob.), suggesting probable breeding in an area where the species has not been observed in more than five years. A Red-breasted Nuthatch at C.R.P. 12 Jul (JTr) provided a rare summer record for the C.V. A juv. and ad. Townsend's Solitaire at Estel Ridge 11-12 Jul (GEC, CEV, m.ob.) yielded the first breeding evidence for *Mendocino*. Two Swainson's Thrushes counter-singing at lower Rush Cr., *Mono* 17 Jun-4 Jul (CMc) sustained hope for future breeding at this restored riparian site.

## THRASHERS THROUGH ORIOLES

A Brown Thrasher near Bayside, *Humboldt* 23 Jul+ (Brian Hahns) might have been the same bird that spent much of the winter and spring in Arcata. Three American Pipits at Cascade L., *Mono* 10 Jul (PJM, FrT), plus 2 ads. with a fledgling in the Desolation Wilderness Area, *El Dorado* 22 Jul (Malcolm Sproul), are notable, as there are relatively few breeding records for the Region. Our only Tennessee Warbler was at Mono Lake C.P. 20-24 Jun (PJM, m.ob.), just one of the birds that produced an outstanding vagrant season for *Mono*. Seventeen Northern Parulas included 3 in *Mono*, *Solano's* 2nd in Vacaville 17 Jun (David Bell), and *Yolo's* 5th in Davis 29 Jul+ (SHa, TEa, JCS+). Three of the Region's 7 Chestnut-sided Warblers were in *Mono*, *Nevada's* first was near Sagehen Cr. 15 Jun (ph.



This Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Mountain View, California 6 June 2009 established the second record for Santa Clara County. Photograph by William G. Bousman.

Scott Crosbie), and *Sutter's* 2nd was at the Sutter Bypass 25 Jun ( $\pm$ RDIG). A Magnolia Warbler was on the n. spit of Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 1 Jun (KBu). A Magnolia on FI. 1-4 Jun (PRBO) was a holdover from spring. Our only Blackburnian Warbler was a singing male along Rush Cr., *Mono* 1 Jul (CMc). Single Blackpoll Warblers were on FI. 8 Jun (PRBO) and in Eureka, *Humboldt* 18 Jun (TWT). *Mono* recorded 4 of our 6 Black-and-white Warblers (at three locations; 21 Jun-29 Jul). A singing Black-and-white along Jess Valley Rd. 2 Jun (SAbb, BWb) was *Modoc's* 2nd. Among 15 American Redstarts were a singing male and ad. female at the Ft. Bragg Botanical Gardens, *Mendocino* 17 Jul (CEV, BD, CWH, GeH) and *Madera's* 2nd near Borden 9 Jun (ph. GaW, JND). A singing Ovenbird in Sacramento 1-8 Jun (Jim Weigand, JLx, JSL, vt. CCo, m.ob.) was *Sacramento's* 3rd. Ovenbirds were also on FI. 1-7 Jun (PRBO), in Butano S.P., *San Mateo* 9-12 Jun (DLSu), and along Lee Vining Cr., *Mono* 22 Jun (CMc, Lenny Warren). A Northern Waterthrush was singing at Dry Lagoon, *Humboldt* 21 Jun (KI). To top off *Mono's* remarkable warbler summer, a Kentucky Warbler was singing along Rush Cr. 21-22 Jun (ph. CMc, Lenny Warren, RS, JuH, KNN). Eight Hooded Warblers were reported and, yes, one was in *Mono* at Wildrose Canyon, 11 Jul+ (PJM, FrT, m.ob.).

Eight Summer Tanagers included *Tulare's* first in Sequoia N.P. 7 Jun (SDS, Priscilla Summers). A Sooty Fox Sparrow was in Portola Valley, *San Mateo* 26 Jul ( $\pm$ G. Chrisman, H. Higley), and a Golden-crowned Sparrow was on Mt. Davidson, S.F. 11 Jul+ (DMo); these taxa are rarely observed in summer in our Region. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were again well represented (39 individuals from 12 counties). A total of 22 Indigo Buntings was more than twice our summer average and included *Tuolumne's* first along Cherry Hill Rd. 18 Jun-3 Jul (Bob Brandriff, m.ob.). A

Bobolink was at the Eel R. Delta, *Humboldt* 8 Jul (KMS), and up to 5 were near Eagleville, *Modoc* 7-26 Jun (SCR, m.ob.). Great-tailed Grackle breeding was confirmed in two more counties: in Quincy, *Plumas* 14 May–22 Jun (Scott & Amber Edwards, CPD, m.ob.) and at the s. end of L. Tahoe, *El Dorado* 4-24 Jul (CCo, KLL, WRI). Male Orchard Orioles were at the Big Sur R. mouth 1-7 Jun (OsJ, RF) and near Gazos Cr., *San Mateo* 30 Jun (DLSu).

**Cited observers** (county coordinators in bold-face): Steve Abbott, **Ken Able** (*Lassen*), R. J. Adams, Tim Amaral, Alan D. Barron, Murray Berner (*Napa*), William G. Bousman (*Santa Clara*), Ken Burton, Phil Capitolo, Scott Carey, Rita Carratello, George E. Chaniot, John A. Cole, Chris Conard (*Sacramento*), Rudy Darling (*Nevada*), Jeff N. Davis (*Madera*), David DeSante, Bruce E. Deuel (n. C.V. counties), Ryan DiGaudio, Colin P. Dillingham, Matthew Dodder, Barbara Dolan, Todd Easterla, Mark W. Eaton (*San Francisco*), Elias Elias, Ray Ekstrom (*Siskiyou*), Kevin Enns-Rempel, Jules G. Evens, Peter Fahey, David Fix, Michael Force, Rick Fournier (RF), Rob Fowler (RbF; *Humboldt*), Steve Gerow (*Santa Cruz*), Steve A. Glover (*Contra Costa*), Steve Hampton, Ron Hansen, Syd Harrison, Garth Harwood,

Karen A. Havlena, Gjon Hazard, Sacha Heath, Geoff Heinecken, Lynn Hemink, Laird Henkel, Justin Hite, **John E. Hunter** (*Trinity*), Ken Irwin, Oscar Johnson, Shearwater Journeys, Robert J. Keiffer (*Mendocino*), Clay Kempf, Kimya L. Lambert, Jim Laughlin, Robin L. C. Leong (*Solano*), Tom W. Leskiw, Cindy Lieurance, Leslie Lieurance, John Lockhart, Jim Lomax, John S. Luther, J. Mac McCormick (*Plumas* and *Sierra*), Michael J. Mammoser, Roger Marlowe, Chris McCreedy, Peter J. Metropulos (*San Mateo*), Kurt Mize, Joseph Morlan, Mark Morrisette, Dominik Mosur, Kristie N. Nelson (*Mono*), Bill Oliver, Frances Oliver (*San Joaquin*), Ed Pandolfino (*Placer*), Kathy Parker, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Gary W. Potter (*Fresno*), Jude C. Power, Peter Pyle, David E. Quady, Robert W. Reiling, Will Richardson, Robert J. Richmond (*Alameda*), Alex M. Rinkert, Michael F. Rippey, Don Roberson (*Monterey*), Phil Robertson, Michael M. Rogers, Stephen C. Rottenborn, James Rowoth, Ruth A. Rudesill (*Sonoma*), Jeff Seay (*Kings*), Daniel Singer, Keith M. Slauson, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling (*Modoc*, *Yolo*, *Alpine*, and *Calaveras*), Gary J. Strachan, David L. Suddjian (*Santa Cruz*), Brian L. Sullivan, Steven D. Summers (*Tulare*), Linda Terrill, Ryan Terrill (*Marin*), Scott B. Ter-

rill, Ronald S. Thorn, **Jim Tietz** (FI.), Francis Toldi, John Trochet, Mike Tyner, Steve Umland (*Tuolumne*), Frank Vanslager, Kent Van Vuren (*Merced* and *San Benito*), David Vander Pluym (*Mariposa*), Frank Vanslager, Chuck E. Vaughn, Matt Wachs, Jeff H. Wall, Cheryl Watson-Heinecken, Bruce Webb, Dave Weber, Jerry R. White (*Lake*), Dan Williams, Gary Woods, Dave Woodward, Bob & Carol Yutzy (*Shasta*). Many more observers are not specifically cited; all are appreciated. ☺

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## Southern California



Guy McCaskie  
Kimball L. Garrett

**H**ighlights during the typically dry and climatically uneventful summer period included an unprecedented movement of Cook's Petrels into waters closer than normal to the coast, two pairs of nesting Northern Goshawks in the mountains of Santa Barbara County and Kern County, and a singing Yellow-green Vireo, the first to summer in the Region, in coastal San Diego.

**Abbreviations:** C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. Kern); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park in extreme e. Kern); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, *Riverside*); P.M.N.A.S. (Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station, *Ventura*); P.P. (Piute Ponds on Edwards A.F.B., ne. *Los Angeles*); S.E.S.S. (s. end of the Salton Sea, *Imperial*); S.E.K.R.P. (South Fork Kern River Preserve near Weldon, *Kern*); S.J.W.A. (San Joaquin Wildlife Area near Lakeview, *Riverside*). Because most rarities in s. California are seen by multiple observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and/or identifying the bird are included. Documentation for species on the California B.R.C. review list (see <www.californiabirds.org>) is forwarded to the C.B.R.C. and archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

### WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

Two exotic Mandarin Ducks at S.E.S.S. 16 Jul (DRW) were the first to be seen in that part of the Region. Two male Harlequin Ducks summered in *San Luis Obispo*, with one at Estero Bluffs S.P. 7 Jun–31 Jul (RA) and the other at

Morro Bay Harbor 17 Jun–31 Jul (MLS). A Surf Scoter remained at N.E.S.S. through 9 Jun (CMcG), and another at S.E.S.S. 24 Jul (GMcC) had probably been present undetected since May. A Long-tailed Duck at P.M.N.A.S. 14 Jun (DaP) was evidently attempting to summer locally. A late migrant Pacific Loon was at N.E.S.S. 7 Jun (HBK), and another remained on L. Havasu, *San Bernardino* through the summer (PEL). Six Common Loons on Big Bear L. 28 Jun (HBK), up to 3 at N.E.S.S. 5-18 Jul (CMcG) and 3 at S.E.S.S. 3-24 Jul (GMcC) were attempting to summer locally.

A Black-footed Albatross at La Jolla 14 Jun (PEL) and another at Dana Pt., *Orange* 21 Jun (RMcN) were two of very few ever reported seen from shore in s. California. The highlight of a 25 Jul pelagic trip out of Santa Barbara was a count of 136 Cook's Petrels along the Patton Escarpment s. to a point about 129 km w.-sw. of San Nicolas I., with the closest to shore being 33 km sw. of San Miguel I. and 83 km w. of San Nicolas I. (TMCg). A raft of 2000 Black Storm-Petrels at the Nine Mile Bank off San Diego 12 Jun (DWP) made an