

gon has 12 prior records from widely scattered dates.

A wintering flock of 50 Tricolored Blackbirds remained at Othello through about 10 Apr (DS), and breeding colonies in *Whitman* and *Grant* were active 15 Apr+; this species first appeared in s.-cen. Washington in 2003. Two newly discovered colonies nw. of Prineville, *Crook* both contained about 150 Tricoloreds 1 May (CG), while the historic colony at nearby O'Neil was down to about 20 ads. this season (CG). The Region's largest colony, at Malin, *Klamath*, held about 350 individuals 16 Apr (D. Stein). Both of the season's Common Grackles were in *Harney*: one at Malheur 26 May (AC), the other was near Borax L., n. of Fields 30 May (TR). All but 2 of the 13 Great-tailed Grackles were in Oregon, where this species is increasingly expected May-Jul; these included a maximum of 3 in Burns 23 May+ (RHo, m.ob.). In e. Washington, a seven-year returnee was back at Liberty L., *Spokane* 7 Apr (TO), while another Great-tailed at Sprague L., *Lincoln* 17 May was just 7th of this species to reach Washington (ph. O. Oliver, G. Oliver). A regionally rare *Bullock's Oriole* × *Baltimore Oriole* hybrid brightened Lyon Ferry Park, *Franklin* 24 May (†SM, RM, CW, TB).

Two Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches on Sadle Mt., *Clatsop* 17 May (A&CH) and one on Marys Peak 31 May (J. Fairchild) were in the Coast Range, where they do not breed. A few Pine Grosbeaks from last winter's irruption lingered in the westside lowlands, including 3 at Wedekind, *Grays Harbor* 1 Mar (BT) and 3 at Nisqually 11 Mar (BS). On the eastside,

they continued at several non-traditional sites into Apr. High numbers persisted at upslope locales throughout the period, with flocks of 20-50 reported from several areas. Two Cassin's Finches strayed to w. Oregon, where they are rare but annual; singles inhabited Detroit, *Marion* 20 Mar (P. Sullivan) and Portland 20 Apr (SF). White-winged Crossbills appeared at multiple sites in the lowlands of w. Washington; a maximum of 5 was counted near Olympia 14 Mar (R. Sullivan), and 2 reached the outer coast at Ocean City, *Grays Harbor* 2 Apr (R. Hill). Scattered White-winged Crossbills remained at lowland sites in e. Washington through the period. One at Joseph, *Wallowa* 12 May was the only bird found in ne. Oregon during late spring. A pair of Pine Siskins building a nest at Washtucna, *Adams* 24 May (SM, DS) was entirely unexpected; this small town is surrounded on all sides by miles of treeless wheat fields. Expanding Lesser Goldfinches continued to move in a northeasterly direction; singles explored Yakima 21 Mar (DG) and Bridgeport, *Douglas* 4 May (MS). Five Lesser Goldfinches in *Clark* suggests that they are recolonizing that county after disappearing in 1991. Additional evidence of Lessers expanding northward was highlighted by one near Olympia 16-18 Apr (D. Catterson, ph. KB), a female at P.N.P. 7 May (VN) and a male there on 17 May (VN), and one near Snoqualmie, *King* 25 May (E. Hunn).

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Jim Alt, Knute Andersson, Tom Aversa (Washington), David Bailey, Gary

Bletsch, Justin Bosler, Keith Brady, Joel Brady-Power, Marv Breece, Tayler Brooks, Kathy Castelein, Alan Contreras, **Craig Corder** (*Spokane*), Bob Derting, Steve Dowlan, Scott Downes, Daniel Farrar, Shawneen Finnegan, Andy Frank, Bob Flores, **Chuck Gates** (*Crook*), Joel Geier, Jeff Gilligan, **Greg Gillson** (*Washington*, The Bird Guide Pelagics), **Denny Grandstrand** (*Yakima*), Jim Hein, Hendrik Herlyn, Randy Hill, Adrian & Christopher Hinkle, Michael Hobbs, Wayne Hoffman, Rich Hoyer, Tim Janzen, **Stuart Johnston** (*Hood River*, *Klickitat*), Ken Knittle, **Bill & Nancy LaFramboise** (Lower Columbia Basin), Dave Lauten, Terry Little, Peter Low, Maitreya, Larry McQueen, Ryan Merrill, **Craig & Marilyn Miller** (*Deschutes*, *Jefferson*), Steve Mlodinow, Russ Namitz, Harry Nehls (Oregon), Steve Nord, Tim O'Brien, **Mike Patterson** (*Clatsop*), Dennis Paulson, Diane Pettey, Roger Robb, **W. Douglas Robinson** (*Benton*, *Polk*), **Tim Rodenkirk** (*Coos*, *Curry*), Em Scattaregia, Owen Schmidt, Bill Shelmerdine, Tim Shelmerdine, David Smith, **Kevin Spencer** (*Klamath*), Meredith Spencer, Andy Stepniewski, Ellen Stepniewski, Noah Strycker, Julie Van Moorhem, Terry J. Wahl, Jay Withgott, Michael Woodruff, Charlie Wright. ☼

David Irons, 2125 Hayes Street

Eugene, Oregon 97045 (lidsirons@msn.com)

Douglas Schonewald, 1535 South Skyline Drive

Moses Lake, Washington 98837 (dschone8@donobi.net)

Brad Waggoner, 7865 Fletcher Bay Road N.E.

Bainbridge Island, Washington 98110

(wagtail@sounddsl.com)

Northern California

Stephen C. Rottenborn

Michael M. Rogers

Jeff N. Davis

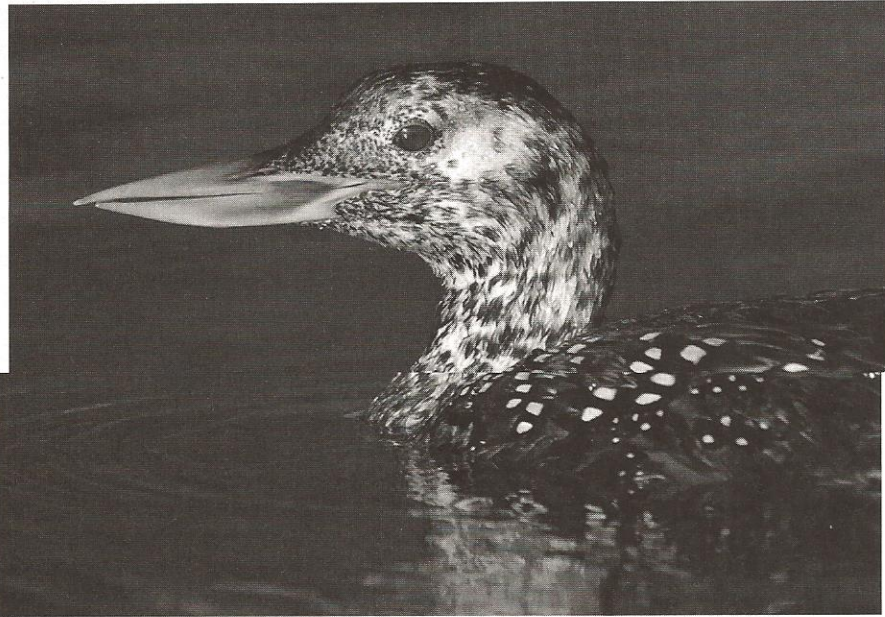
Ed Pandolfino

Along the coast, conditions were cool and dry from March into May. Strong winds generated considerable upwelling and cold sea surface temperatures, conditions accompanied by high marine productivity and krill abundance. However, some seabirds suffered from a severe food shortage, highlighted by high mortality and breeding failure of Brandt's Cormorants. Coastal winds died down in mid-May, and the second half of May was calm and hot, resulting in unproductive ocean conditions that

affected the breeding success of gulls and Common Murres. Conditions were unusually hot inland, with early "summer" thunderstorms east of the Sierra Nevada in late May. Significant finds this season included three species of *Pterodroma*, a Zone-tailed Hawk, the Region's first confirmed Gull-billed Tern, the first Magnificent Hummingbird × Anna's Hummingbird hybrid reported anywhere, and a very late Snow Bunting.

With very heavy hearts, we report the recent death of Luke Cole, killed in an automobile accident in Uganda on 6 June 2009 at just 46 years of age. Luke was a Regional Editor for 15 seasons and a subregional editor for Kings County for over a decade. Luke achieved a great deal in the field of environ-





Yellow-billed Loons have become regular winter visitors to Northern California, but few have been as closely photographed as this bird, which lingered on Tomales Bay in Marin County until 18 May 2009 (here). Photograph by Galen Leeds.

mental justice in his short life, but it will be his wit, compassion, and giant smile that we remember most. Also, after 38 seasons serving as a Regional Editor, Steve Glover will be stepping down. California's loss will be Texas's gain, as Steve leaves for the Lone Star state. We will miss not only Steve's contributions to this report but more broadly his contributions to California ornithology as a whole, as Steve has been one of the more wide-ranging birders in the state in recent years. As we wish Steve the best, we welcome the experience of Jeff Davis, who will now be summarizing records for Doves through Wrentit.

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.

WATERFOWL

A notable 6 blue-morph Ross's Geese, the only ones reported this season, were found at Merced N.W.R., Merced 14 Mar (PJM). Inland Brant included one at Shasta Valley W.A., Siskiyou 17 Mar (Bob Smith, Mike McVey) and two records inside S.F. Bay: one

at H.R.S. 29 Apr (RJR) and 15 in South S.F., San Mateo 9-11 May (DMO). A Canada Goose with goslings at Pillar Pt. marsh 10 May (RSTh) represented the first confirmed breeding for coastal San Mateo. A Trumpeter Swan at Auburn R.P., Placer 6-9 Apr (ph. Roger Perkins, EP, ph. Ron Pozzi, ph. Steve Rose) was relatively tame, raising concerns about its provenance. A Bewick's Swan was at L. Almanor, Plumas 21 Mar (RAR, Peter Colasanti). Notable Eurasian Wigeon reports included one in Indian Valley, Plumas 11 Mar (BBg) and San Mateo's 2nd May record at Redwood Shores 1 May (RSTh). Thirty-one Blue-winged Teal in a single pond along Gun Club Rd. near Gustine, Merced 20 Mar was a high count for anywhere in the Region (PJM). Northern Shoveler hybrids continued, with San Mateo's Northern Shoveler × Gadwall hybrid at Belmont Slough through 28 Mar (Al Duerson, *vide* RSTh) and apparently different Northern Shoveler × Blue-winged Teal hybrids at Palo Alto, Santa Clara 22 Mar (ph. Steve Zamek) and 18-22 Apr (MMR, ph. Sonny Mencher et al.), perhaps involving the same bird seen here 11-27 Jan. Five Eurasian Teal from four counties included inland birds at Shasta Valley W.A., Siskiyou 5 Apr (RE) and at the Llano Seco Unit of the Sacramento N.W.R., Butte 23 Mar-4 Apr (JHS). Inland Long-tailed Ducks included one at Shasta Valley W.A., Siskiyou 4 Apr (RE) and the continuing female at Beale A.E.B., Yuba through 8 Apr (JLa); 4 lingered inside S.F. Bay as late as 19 Apr. Common Goldeneyes lingered late in Santa Clara

(4 May; MJM), Mendocino (7 Mar; CBR) and Santa Cruz (29 May; DLSu et al.). Common Merganser family at the Napa River Ecological Reserve 14 May (C. Harris) provided the first breeding record for the Napa R. and only about the 3rd for Napa. Red-breasted Merganser at Crowley L., Napa 19 Mar (KNN) was notably far inland.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS

Both of Marin's wintering Yellow-billed Loons lingered on Tomales Bay n. of Marshall through 15 Apr, with one present until 18 May (DDG, S. A. D. M., J. M. P., B. S. B. B., ph. Galen Leeds). Another was at the Elk R. mouth, Humboldt 17-28 Apr (RbF, Russ Namitz, ScC). A Red-necked Grebe at Dorris Res. 14 Apr (SCR) provided an overdue first record for Modoc. Others away from tidal water included singles at Crystal Springs Res., San Mateo 17 Mar (V. Marshall, E. Koster) and Shasta Valley W.A., Siskiyou 29 Apr (RE). With the exception of the Pt. Arena Cove, Mendocino bird, last reported 25 Mar (Jeanne Jackson, Tom Reid, GS), Laysan Albatrosses are rarely seen from shore, so one seen from Pt. Pinos, Monterey 22 Mar (BLS) was significant. Among 4 Laysans on Monterey Bay, Monterey/Santa Cruz 23 May (RgW, ph. JPo, TAm) was one from the Guadalupe I. colony with a radio transmitter; this ad. had a chick in the colony at the time, so its visit to Monterey Bay was a foraging trip for provisioning of its young (*vide* RgW, JPo). Murphy's Petrels were recorded in good numbers and unusually close to shore. During a NOAA research cruise, one or 2 were recorded daily during the period 20-25 May, with individuals 11-56 km offshore in Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, San Francisco, and Marin waters (MFO). One of these birds, 11 km sw. of Punta Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz 20 May, provided the first record inside well-birded Monterey Bay but was quickly followed by 2 near the middle of Monterey Bay, one each in Monterey and Santa Cruz, 23 May (RgW, ph. JPo, TAm, RT). The NOAA cruise produced single Hawaiian Petrels 30 km s. of FI. 24 May and 45 km and 109 km wnw. of Bodega Head, Sonoma 26 May (MFO). Rounding out the *Pterodroma* reports, 2 Mottled Petrels were 56 km off n. Del Norte 8 May (†Steve Mlodinow, Ryan Shaw). A Flesh-footed Shearwater off Santa Cruz 20 May and 2 Short-tailed Shearwaters off Marin 25 May were the only ones reported (both MFO). Single Manx Shearwaters were off Pt. Pinos, Monterey 15 Mar (†Jon Feenstra, TMcG) and 23 May (†TAM, RgW), and one was seen from Pigeon Pt., San Mateo 4 Apr (RSTh, †DSg, MWE, Ed DeBellevue). A new Double-crested Cormorant colony was estab-

lished in a eucalyptus grove at Moonglow Dairy, Monterey, with up to 34 nests in late May (RF).

HERONS THROUGH FALCONS

Snowy Egrets e. of Truckee 20 Apr (2 birds; ph. ECB, Barney Kroeger) and 3 May (ph. MMy) were apparently the first for the e. slope of Nevada. A pair of Snowy Egrets and three pairs of Black-crowned Night-Herons nesting at Grizzly I., Solano 20 May (John Kelly, Emiko Condenso, Bob Baez, RLCL) constituted the first nesting records of both species for Suisun Marsh. Both species nested in very low numbers or not at all at the heronries at H.R.S. and Palo Alto Baylands, Santa Clara. Inland Cattle Egrets of note included Modoc's 3rd at Modoc N.W.R. 13-18 Apr (SCR, JIx, JSL, JCS) and 3 at Long Valley, Mono 13 May (KNN). Coastal reports included 6 at Pier 5, S.F. 14 Apr (PSar) and singles at Redwood Shores, San Mateo 14 Apr+ (Tom Goodier, PJM, m.ob.), Moonglow Dairy, Monterey 22 Apr (DR), and Palo Alto Baylands, Santa Clara 22 May+ (MDo, m.ob.). High numbers of White-faced Ibis were reported from nine coastal counties throughout the period, with up to 56 at Arcata Marsh, Humboldt 16 May (Pat Bitton, RbF, ScC) and 71 at the Salinas W.T.P., Monterey 19 May (ph. DR, RC).

Breeding bird atlas field work continues to document an increasing number of nesting Ospreys in sw. Solano (fide RLCL). A pair nesting near Hwy. 41 along the San Joaquin R. 19 Mar+ (JND) was the first nesting record on the C.V. floor in Madera, but the nest had apparently been used previously. Reports of Bald Eagles, including both nesting ads. and wandering imms., continue to increase from across the Region. The only Broad-winged Hawk reported was one over Battery Godfrey, S.F. 16 May (HuC). Swainson's Hawks were well reported away from known breeding areas throughout the period, with birds along the immediate coast at Harkins Slough, Santa Cruz 18 Apr (MST, WSS et al.), Mt. Davidson, S.F. 20 Apr (BFi), Pt. Reyes, Marin 21 Apr (RS, DWm), and Pescadero, San Mateo 12 May (DLSu). A pair nesting se. of Hensley L., Madera 24 May (JND) represented a rare foothill breeding record. The detection of many nesting pairs in Solano is completely redefining the species' status in that county (fide RLCL). An ad. Zone-tailed Hawk over Cole Valley 17 May (†PSar) was the first for S.F. and the 9th for the Region (the 4th in spring, with records now spanning 11 Apr-17 May). A Ferruginous Hawk near Ft. Bidwell, Modoc 17 May (SCR) was unseasonable, although breeding has been previously suspect-

ed in Modoc and has been documented in neighboring Lassen and Siskiyou. The Del Norte Crested Caracara continued through the season in the Smith R. bottoms (Cannin Cowles, Nick Methany).

Two Yellow Rails were captured during Black Rail banding efforts s. of Fairfield, Solano 30 Mar (ph. Kyle Spragens, Matt Ferner, Brian Spirou); these were the first found in Suisun Marsh since 2005, but the species was reported annually there for four consecutive winters up to that point. A pair of Common Moorhens remained in Ukiah through the period (GEC, m.ob.), arousing suspicions that Mendocino's first breeding record was underway. Surprising May Sandhill Cranes included 6 over Novato, Marin 6 May (Lang Stevenson) and the first May record for San Joaquin, at Terminus 31 May (DaW); a pair returned to Bridgeport, Mono for a 3rd consecutive summer 1 May+ (Barbara Kelly, m.ob.).

SHOREBIRDS

Up to 14 Black-bellied Plovers at McArthur 18-29 Apr (B&CY, KAb, Don Marsh) provided only the 6th Shasta record. A mostly alternate-plumaged Pacific Golden-Plover on an Alviso salt pond 25 Apr (MMR, ph. MJM) was only the 2nd Apr golden-plover for Santa Clara and the first identified to species. The only Mountain Plovers reported this season were up to 24 w. of Madera, Madera 9-12 Mar (GaW). Two Black Oystercatchers at H.R.S. 21 Apr and 26 May were the first there since 28 Nov 2004 and included the latest spring record for that location (RJR). A high count of 9 American Avocets at Shasta Valley W.A., Siskiyou 10-20 May included a pair on a nest 19-20 May that was found destroyed and abandoned 25 May (RE); this is the first known nesting attempt in the Shasta Valley. An "Avostilt," or American Avocet × Black-necked Stilt hybrid, was found se. of Mendota, Fresno 4 May (JND); previous instances of this very rare hybrid combination are detailed in *Western Birds* 35: 57-59 (2004).

Twenty-one Solitary Sandpipers in 11 counties 19 Apr-14 May included Trinity's 3rd at the Hayfork W.T.P. 3 May (JEH, Lowell Young). Migrant Willets inland included 14 in Placer 18 Apr (12 at Northstar and 2 at Tahoe Vista; BWb), Sutter's 2nd s. of Tudor 4 May (BED, JCS, JIx), and up to 2 at Madera W.T.P., Madera 16-25 May (GaW). Eight Lesser Yellowlegs on a single Alviso, Santa Clara salt pond 25 Apr (MMR, MJM) was a large number for spring. Up to 46 Whimbrels at



Northern California had two previous reports of Gull-billed Tern from the 1960s but no photographically documented records until spring 2009. This bird, initially found in Palo Alto, Santa Clara County on 3 May, reappeared in Redwood City, San Mateo County, where this photograph was taken on the second day of its 17-19 May stay. Photograph by Joseph Morlan.

McArthur 17-27 Apr (KAb, B&CY, Don Marsh) provided the 4th record for Shasta; up to 57 Long-billed Curlews there 8-21 Apr (KAb) tripled the previous Shasta high count for this species. A Marbled Godwit with the curlews 18 Apr (B&CY) was Shasta's 4th record, all in spring. Sixty-three Marbled Godwits at Merced N.W.R., Merced 20 Apr (PJM) provided a high inland count, and one s. of East Nicolaus 2 May provided one of few Sutter records (JLa, Dan Skalos). Migrating Ruddy Turnstones were noted through 10 May, with 90 in three adjacent salt ponds at the e. end of Dumbarton Bridge, Alameda 8 May being the highest count in our notebooks since May 1991 (MJM). One at Vic Fazio W.A. 14-16 Apr (WEH, ph. JCS) provided the first Yolo record in several years.

Inland Red Knots included 3 at Goose L. 16 Apr (high count for Modoc; SCR), at least 11 in Kings 3-20 May (SDS, JSy, Mark Stacy, RH), and 5 at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Siskiyou 6 May (C. Kisting). Santa Cruz saw its 5th and 6th spring records 5 Apr (3 birds; SGe) and 9 May (Eric Miller), the latter consisting of a "wreck" of 7 disheveled and injured birds found alive in residential yards two blocks apart in Santa Cruz, 2 km from the coast; all eventually died. High Sanderling counts inside S.F. Bay included 83 at the e. end of the Dumbarton Bridge, Alameda 21 Apr (MJM) and 70 at H.R.S. 17 May (nearly five times the previous May high count for this location; RJR). The only truly inland report was of a continuing bird at Lemoore, Kings 18 Apr (Mark Stacy). Most Semipalmated Sandpipers were inland, with one at Goose L., Modoc 16 Apr (SCR) and 2-3 in Kings 28 Apr-8 May (SBT, SDS, JSy); the others were at Alexandre Dairy, Del Norte 21-22 May (ph. LuB) and H.R.S. 28 May (RJR). Incredibly large flocks of small shorebirds, mostly Western Sand-

pipers with smaller numbers of Dunlin, were tallied in Alviso, *Santa Clara* and adjacent South S.E. Bay 25 Apr (250,000 birds; MMR, MJM) and on n. Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 27 Apr (225,000 birds; DFX), suggesting a very concentrated northward migration this season. A White-rumped Sandpiper 3 km n. of Stratford, *Kings* 15 May (†DCR, †HG) awaits C.B.R.C. review. Six Baird's Sandpipers in four counties 28 Apr–31 May were preceded by 2 early birds 10 km se. of Kettleman City, *Kings* 13 Mar (ph. JSy). A high count of 22 Pectoral Sandpipers was reported from Alexandre Dairy, *Del Norte* 21 May (LuB); the only other report was of a single bird at the Salinas W.T.P., *Monterey* 4 Apr (DR, ph. BLS). *Santa Cruz's* Rock Sandpiper was last seen 6 Apr (PDB). Single Stilt Sandpipers were found 3 km n. of Stratford, *Kings* 25 Apr and 4–8 May (both Mark Stacy), at Vic Fazio W.A., *Yolo* 13–14 Apr (WEH, ph. JCS), and in Alviso, *Santa Clara* 30 May (ph. MMR, MJM, RGJ).

Up to 3 Ruffs were in *Merced*: one at *Merced* N.W.R. 20 Mar (wintering?; PJM), one at *San Luis* N.W.R. 20 Apr (PJM), and a female along Henry Miller Rd. 26 Apr (KVV); others included an ad. male in Alviso, *Santa Clara* 25 Apr (MMR, ph. MJM) and *Madera's* 2nd at the *Madera* W.T.P. 16–23 May (ph. GaW, KER). A Wilson's Snipe winnowing nw. of Sebastopol, *Sonoma* 15–16 May (Gay Bishop) suggests possible nesting well away from known breeding areas. Up to 11 Red-necked Phalaropes at the Hayfork W.T.P. 3–5 May (JEH, B&CY et al.) and 25 at Ruth L. 6 May (SAG) provided the 3rd and 4th spring records for *Trinity*; 23 at Wilson L., *Tehama* 2 May (SAG) were at an unusual mountain location at 1610 m elevation. Reports of Red Phalaropes were virtually non-existent; only single birds off *Mendocino* 17 May (RLeV, KGR et al.) and on *Monterey* Bay, *Santa Cruz* 23 May (RgW et al.) were reported.

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDIS

High counts of Black-legged Kittiwakes included 7500 during a three-hour seawatch from Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 22 Mar (BLS, DR) and 2133 at Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* 27 Mar (RSTh). A Laughing Gull was at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 12–13 May (JuH, RS). Away from *Modoc*, where regular, Franklin's Gulls included 17 coastal birds in five counties and 19 in *Mono*, where the high count was of 12 at Big Alkali Pond 18 Apr (Bob Hogan). Rare inland Mew Gulls included ads. at the Gustine S.T.P., *Merced* 20 Mar (PJM) and in Redding, *Shasta* 24 Mar (BED) and *Modoc's* 3rd, a very late first-cycle bird, at Goose L. 16 May (ph. SCR). The Ostrom Road Landfill, *Yuba* hosted 2 Thayer's and 2 Glaucous-winged Gulls 5 Mar

(JSL); both species are rare in the county. Another Glaucous-winged far inland was at Fresno Slough, *Fresno* 11 Mar (Frank Gibson et al.). Rare wintering gulls at the Davis W.T.P., *Yolo* lingered into spring, with the ad. Slaty-backed Gull present to 10 Mar; ad. and second-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gulls through 5 & 23 Mar, respectively; and the potential nominate Iceland Gull through 23 Mar (TEa, ph. JCS, m.ob.). A first-cycle gull at Moss Landing, *Monterey* 1–7 Mar (ph. BLS, DR, ph. DSg, RF, RC) showed all the desired characters of a Slaty-backed, but definitive identification is confounded by the various gull hybrids that occur regularly in the Region; this record awaits C.B.R.C. review. After a record winter, a total of 50 Glaucous Gulls smashed the previous spring record of 34 in 1999; the latest was at the s. spit of *Humboldt* Bay, *Humboldt* 22 May (KGR).

The season's waterbird highlight was the Region's first confirmed Gull-billed Tern. The bird was seen briefly at the Palo Alto Baylands, *Santa Clara* 3 May (ph. JMD, Lee Hung) before disappearing, only to be rediscovered at the Radio Road ponds in Redwood Shores, *San Mateo* 17–19 May (LHg, ph. JMo, ph. KrO, ph. Michael Scott, m.ob.). Previous multiple-observer reports are from the Woodland Sugar Ponds, *Yolo* 2 Oct 1960 and American River Parkway South, *Sacramento* 17 May 1964, but neither was photographed. A Least Tern at the *Madera* S.T.P. 25 May (ph. GaW) provided *Madera's* 2nd record. Among the few migrant Black Terns reported, one at the Red Bluff R.A. 2 May (BED et al.) provided a rare *Tehama* record. A Forster's Tern at *Trinity* L. 4 May (SAG) was only the 3rd for *Trinity* and the first in spring. Elegant Terns appeared early, the first being 6 at the Salinas R. mouth, *Monterey* 21 Apr (RF). A Black Skimmer at Ocean Beach 16 May (HuC, PSar) was only the 2nd for S.E. About 20 others were in *Alameda*, *Monterey*, *San Mateo* (both bayside and coastal), *Santa Cruz*, and *Santa Clara*, the latter county providing the high count of 10 in Mountain View 10 Apr (RCP). The lone South Polar Skua was off Bodega Head, *Sonoma* 26 May (MFO). Long-tailed Jaegers are much less frequently observed in spring than fall. Four were observed off *Mendocino*, *Sonoma*, and *Marin* during a NOAA research cruise 18–26 May (MFO), and one on *Monterey* Bay 31 May (ph. DSg, ph. JPo, DR et al.) provided the first spring record for *Monterey*.

A count of 189 Pigeon Guillemots at Light-house Pt. 8 Apr (OsJ) was high for *Santa Cruz*. Xantus's Murrelets, all *scrippsi*, included 2 off *Monterey* 21 May (MFO), one in *Santa Cruz* waters of *Monterey* Bay 22 May (MFO), and 2 there 31 May (ph. DR, ph. JPo, ph. DSg,

RgW). The lone Horned Puffins reported were singles sw. of FI. 24 May and w. of the Russian R., *Sonoma* 24 May (both MFO).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

Single out-of-place Band-tailed Pigeons were in *Sacramento* at Rancho Cordova 1 Mar (Paul Buchanan) and near California State University *Sacramento* 1 May (DES). No place in the Region is immune to the incredible expansion of range and increase in numbers of Eurasian Collared-Dove. The species is being reported from high-elevation mts., including a bird in *Truckee* 31 Mar (MMY) thought to be the first for *Nevada*, to the open ocean, including 2 birds 55 km nw. of Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 21 May (MFO). It was said to be "plentiful" at Paskenta, *Tehama* 3 May (SAG) and "everywhere" at Ferndale Bottoms, *Humboldt* 11 May (RbF, MWa), with 60+ birds estimated at the latter site. White-winged Doves are exceptional anywhere in the Region away from the coast; one at Orland 23 Mar (KPa) was a first not only for *Glenn* but for the *Sacramento* Valley. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at FI. 31 May (PRBO) was likely a vagrant from the e. population rather than a wayward w. migrant, given how few breed in the Region at or n. of the latitude of FI. A Barred Owl on Goat Mt. 25 Apr (Gerry Mugele) was the first for *Colusa* and the southernmost for the interior coast range. A Burrowing Owl at Swanton, *Santa Cruz* 10 Mar (JHW, JLL, m.ob.) was a good find. Two owls at the same burrow 14–22 Mar spawned speculation of possible breeding, which has not occurred in *Santa Cruz* in more than 20 years. Alas, no courtship activity was observed, and the birds were not found after 22 Mar (DLSu, JLL, m.ob.). A weakened Northern Saw-whet Owl picked up near Byron, *Contra Costa* 1 Apr provided a rare C.V. record; it died the next day (*fide* Sherrill Cook). The Whip-poor-will at Willow Creek, *Humboldt* returned for its 3rd summer 25 Apr (Russ Namitz et al.). A male Magnificent Hummingbird × Anna's Hummingbird hybrid, sporting a lemon gorget, visited a feeder near Eureka, *Humboldt* 2–5 Apr (ph. Jerry Mahlberg, ph. Kathryn Krupnick, SWH, DFX, RbF, m.ob.). This bird presumably is the offspring of the female Magnificent Hummingbird that visited feeders in the same area in spring and summer 2004 and represents the first record anywhere of this hybrid combination. A typical smattering of Calliope Hummingbirds was noted beginning in mid-Apr, including a first for *Sutter* near Live Oak 2–6 May (male; JLa, JCS, BED, JLa, KPa). Observations from surveys conducted 17–21 May at Big Basin Redwoods S.P., *Santa Cruz* (DLSu) illustrate the distinct separation of breeding

habitats used by male and female Allen's Hummingbirds, with females confined largely to forested sites (23 females; 0 males) and males restricted to chaparral and other open areas (58 males; 2 females; 3 sex unknown).

Our only Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was an ad. male at Woodside, *San Mateo* 17-19 Mar (ADeM et al.). A Red-naped Sapsucker along Lime Kiln Rd. 25 Mar (KPa) was one of few ever reported for *Tuolumne*. A Pileated Woodpecker at Lafayette Park 6 Apr (Richard Bradus) provided the 3rd record for S.F., whereas another in the Warner Mts., *Modoc* 24 May (DVP) was the 2nd for the California portion of this range. An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Pacific Grove, *Monterey* sang vigorously just outside the species' normal breeding range 25 Apr+ (DR, RC). A Least Flycatcher singing at Carson R. 24 May+ (TEa, m.ob.) provided a first record for *Alpine*. A good number of Hammond's Flycatchers away from breeding sites included a very early migrant at San Joaquin Experimental Range, *Madera* 30 Mar (JTz). A Dusky Flycatcher returned to Big Basin S.P., *Santa Cruz* 6 May+ for its 4th summer (DLSu). Say's Phoebe's are not known to breed on the C.V. floor, so a singing bird in *Fresno*, *Fresno* 25-27 May (JND) was unexpected. The apparent Black Phoebe \times Say's Phoebe hybrid discovered last season at Ferndale Bottoms, *Humboldt* was captured 10 Mar; feathers and blood were collected for genetic analysis to confirm parentage (fide RbF). A Cassin's Kingbird at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 2 May (RS) was notably far north. Eastern Kingbirds included a very early bird, the earliest in the Region by six days, at Big Lagoon, *Humboldt* 18 Apr (†Marna Powell), another at Venice S.B., *San Mateo* 16 May (DaW), and 2 near *Grenada*, *Siskiyou* 22 May (RE). Single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were on FI. 2-13 & 30-31 May (PRBO).

A Loggerhead Shrike near *Truckee* 8 May (MMY) was thought to be the first ever found on the e. slope of *Nevada*. Northern Shrikes included one lingering at *Huichica Creek* W.A., *Napa* and *Sonoma* until 4 Mar (MBe) and another at *Humboldt Bay* N.W.R., *Humboldt* 1-16 Mar (Leslie Tucci, TKz, Justin Schneider). A Least Bell's Vireo was well studied at O'Neill Forebay W.A., *Merced* 21 May (PJM). A Yellow-throated Vireo at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 31 May+ (†MiT, Bill Adams) was at a locality where this species has previously summered. Single Red-eyed Vireos were at *Pescadero*, *San Mateo* 17 May (GrH) and Big Basin Redwoods S.P., *Santa Cruz* 19 May (DLSu). Common Ravens continue to push into new territory. Two birds were attending an active nest on the C.V. floor near C.R.P. 3 Mar (JTr), and 2 were at FI. 15 Apr+ (PRBO),

where they have been observed excavating Cassin's Auklet burrows (fide Russ Bradley). A colony of 17-20 pairs of Bank Swallows at a gravel and sand mine e. of Lodi, *San Joaquin* near the Mokelumne R. 18 Apr (JRow) represents the southernmost breeding locality in the C.V. A Varied Thrush at C.R.P. 16 May (JTr) was very late.

THRASHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Three Brown Thrashers included continuing birds in *Arcata*, *Humboldt* through 5 May (SWH) and at Coyote Hills R.P., *Alameda* though 15 Mar (Eric Goodill, MDo, MiF), plus a new find in Bodega Bay, *Sonoma* 17 Apr (NTC, Steve Huckabone). Our only Tennessee Warbler was at Año Nuevo S.R., *San Mateo* 24 May (L. Graham, V. Marshall). Fourteen Northern Parulas was a good total for the Region. Chestnut-sided Warblers were in *Redding*, *Shasta* 11 Apr (ph. Hugh Harvey) and at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 31 May (RAR, Bob Speckels). A Magnolia Warbler was along Tunitas Cr., *San Mateo* 3-5 May (ph. George Chrisman et al.), and another visited Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 30 May (OsJ, LLu, CLu). A Cape May Warbler at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 30-31 May (Ed DeBellevue, OsJ, RAR, LLu, CLu) was an excellent find. A Yellow-throated Warbler was at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 17 May (DMo, AKL, ph. †MWE). Our only Prairie Warbler was banded at Palomarin Field Station, *Marin* 31 May (PRBO). Eleven Palm Warblers were all coastal, as were all but one of our 11 Black-and-white Warblers, the exception being one in Modesto, *Stanislaus* 25 May (Eric Caine, HMR). American Redstarts were at Crowley L., *Mono* 22 May (Bonnie Fanti), along Tunitas Cr., *San Mateo* 25 May (KrO), at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 29 May (RS), and at *Humboldt Bay*, *Humboldt* 30 May (Chris Murray). The Ferry Park, S.F. Worm-eating Warbler continued through 14 Mar (m.ob.). The only Ovenbird report came from Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 30-31 May (OsJ, LLu, CLu, RAR, Bob Speckels). Northern Waterthrushes were at *Arcata Marsh*, *Humboldt* 9-18 Apr (RbF, m.ob.) and *Monterey Dunes*, *Monterey* 16 May (Kriss Neuman). Both our Hooded Warblers were found 28 May, one in Pacific Grove, *Monterey* (RC, ph. DR) and the other at Portola S.P., *San Mateo* (DLSu).

Summer Tanagers included a male returning for a 4th year e. of Colfax, *Placer* 21 May+ (Pam & Larry Risser), a singing male at Elk Head, *Humboldt* 25-27 May (KI), a singing second-year male in Davis, *Yolo* 17 May (SCH, ph. JCS), a female in Modesto, *Stanislaus* 31 May (2nd county record; ERC, HMR), and singles at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 29 May (ASH), on FI. 30-31 May (PRBO), and at Mono Lake C.P., *Mono* 31 May (JuH, CMc). Most interesting was a pair of Summer Tanagers (female

with a singing male) at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 31 May-1 Jun (SBT, OsJ, m.ob.). Continuing the tanager pair theme, a male and female Scarlet Tanager were on FI. 18 May (PRBO). A wintering Clay-colored Sparrow in San Jose, *Santa Clara* continued until 17 Mar (JPa). A Brewer's Sparrow n. of Stratford 4 May (Mark Stacy) was a good find for Kings. Notable Black-throated Sparrows were on Fairmont Ridge, *Alameda* 1 May (Gerry McChesney), at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 17 May (MWE, ASH), on FI. 21 May (PRBO), along Cherry Lake Rd., *Tuolumne* 27 May+ (3 birds; JTz, m.ob.), and near Auburn, *Placer* 30 May-6 Jun (ph. Ron Pozzi, ph. DeR). A Swamp Sparrow was at Redwood Shores, *San Mateo* 12 Mar (RSTh). Sixty-two White-throated Sparrows was a robust total for spring. Wintering Harris's Sparrows continued in Livermore, *Alameda* through 21 Apr (Dennis Rashe) and at Fay Slough W.A., *Humboldt* through 8 May (RbF, ScC, JCP). *Shasta's* 4th spring record of Harris's Sparrow was in *Redding* 24-30 Apr (fide BY).

Monterey's 3rd Snow Bunting was at Pt. Pinos 23-26 May (Dan Gilman, ph. DR, m.ob.). This is the latest spring date for this species in California. Previously, the latest California Snow Bunting was a Cape Mendocino, *Humboldt* bird 11 May 1978. That was the state's only May record prior to the bird that visited San Diego, *San Diego* this spring (30 Apr-7 May). Photographs of the *San Diego* and *Monterey* buntings confirmed that they were different individuals (fide DR). The Rose-breasted Grosbeak total of 26 was the highest in at least the past 18 years and more than double our spring average. A wintering Black-headed Grosbeak in Ukiah, *Mendocino* was present until 8 Mar (BD), and an apparent Black-headed Grosbeak \times Rose-breasted Grosbeak was on Gazos Creek Rd., *San Mateo* 8 May-1 Jun (AME, Mark Kudrav, ph. KrO, Leonie Batkin, m.ob.). Blue Grosbeaks rarely breed in the Sierra foothills, so five pairs se. of Hensley L., *Madera* 24 May (JND) was an unexpected tally. Six of our 9 Indigo Buntings were in *Marin*, and singles were in *Mono*, *Santa Clara*, and *Santa Cruz*. A male Tricolored Blackbird near Ft. Bidwell, *Modoc* 19 Apr (JCS) might be a first for the Surprise Valley. Great-tailed Grackles are now appearing at high-elevation Sierra locations such as Mammoth Lakes, *Mono* (elevation 2500 m), where 2 birds were present 10 & 19 May (Bob Hogan), near *Truckee*, *Nevada* (at 1800 m) 14 May (ECB, Rudy Darling, Brian O'Connor, Barney Kroeger), and near Quincy Junction, *Plumas* (1100 m) 14-15 May (Scott & Amber Edwards et al.). An Orchard Oriole was in S.F. 1 Mar (Roberta Guise). A Common Redpoll

in Fresno, *Fresno* 12 Mar (ph. Sue Thorson) provided the southernmost record for the state. This bird was 120 km s. of last spring's FI. redpoll, which was 200 km s. of the previous southernmost record.

Cited observers (county coordinators in boldface): Ken Able, Tim Amaral, Bob Battagin, Edward C. Beedy, **Murray Berner** (*Napa*), **William G. Bousman** (*Santa Clara*), Phil D. Brown, Lucas Brug, Betty Burridge, Eric R. Caine, Scott Carey, Rita Carratello, George E. Chaniot, **Chris Conard** (*Sacramento*), Nancy T. Conzett, Hugh Cotter, J. Michael Danzenbaker, **Rudy Darling** (*Nevada*), **Jeff N. Davis** (*Madera*), Al DeMartini, David DeSante, **Bruce E. Deuel** (*n. C.V. counties*), Barbara Dolan, Matthew Dodder, Todd Easterla, **Mark W. Eaton** (*San Francisco*), Alan M. Eisner, **Ray Ekstrom** (*Siskiyou*), Kevin Enns-Rempel, Mike Feighner, Brian Fitch, David Fix, Michael Force, Rick Fournier (RF), **Rob Fowler** (RbF; *Humboldt*), **Steve Gerow** (*Santa Cruz*), **Steve A. Glover** (*Contra Costa*), Helen Green, Steve C. Hampton, Rob Hansen, W. Edward Harper, Stanley W. Harris, Garth Harwood, Laird Henkel, Justin Hite, Alan S. Hopkins, Lisa Hug, **John E. Hunter** (*Trinity*), Ken

Irwin, Richard G. Jeffers, Oscar Johnson, Robert J. Keiffer (*Mendocino*), Andy Kleinhesselink, Tony Kurz, Laura Langham, Jim Laughlin, Robin L. C. Leong (*Solano*), Ron LeValley, Cindy Lieurance, Leslie Lieurance, Janet L. Linthicum, Jim Lomax, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, J. Mac McCormick (*Plumas and Sierra*), Chris McCree, Todd McGrath, Peter J. Metropulos (*San Mateo*), Martin Meyers, Dominik Mosur, Kristie N. Nelson (*Mono*), Frances Oliver (*San Joaquin*), Kris Olson, Ed Pandolfino (*Placer*), Kathy Parker, Janna Pauser, Jeff Poklen, Gary W. Potter (*Fresno*), Jude C. Power, Robert C. Power, Harold M. Reeve (*Stanislaus*), David C. Rice, Jean M. Richmond, Robert J. Richmond (*Alameda*), Don Roberson (*Monterey*), Michael M. Rogers, Deren Ross, Kerry G. Ross, Stephen C. Rottenborn, James Rowoth, Ruth A. Rudesill (*Sonoma*), Paul Saraceni, Donald E. Schmoldt, Jeff Seay (*Kings*), Daniel Singer, W. Scott Smithson, Jim H. Snowden, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling (*Modoc, Alpine, and Calaveras*), Grace Steurer, Matthew Strusis-Timmer, David L. Suddjian (*Santa Cruz*), Brian L. Sullivan, Steven D. Summers (*Tulare*), Richard Ternullo, Ryan Terrill (*Marin*), Scott

B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn, **Jim Tietz** (Fl.), John Trochet, Mike Tyner, **Steve Umland** (*Tuolumne*), **Kent Van Vuren** (*Merced* and *San Benito*), David Vander Pluym, Chuck E. Vaughn, Matt Wachs, Jeff H. Wall, Bruce Webb, **Jerry R. White** (*Lake*), Dan Williams, David Wimpfheimer, Roger Wolfe, Gary Woods, **Bob & Carol Yutzy** (*Shasta*). Many more observers are not specifically cited; all are appreciated. 🐾

Stephen C. Rottenborn

(Loons to Frigatebirds, Larids to Alcids)

983 University Avenue, Building D

Los Gatos, California 95032

(srottenborn@harveyecology.com)

Michael M. Rogers

(Waterfowl to Quail, Herons to Shorebirds)

499 Novato Avenue, Sunnyvale, California 94086

(m.m.rogers@comcast.net)

Jeff N. Davis

(Doves to Wrentit)

7815 North Palm Avenue, Suite 310

Fresno, California 93711, (jdavis@harveyecology.com)

Ed Pandolfino

(Thrashers to Finches)

5530 Delrose Court, Carmichael, California 95608

(erpfromca@aol.com)

Southern California



Guy McCaskie
Kimball L. Garrett

The season was highlighted by California's first spring Great Crested Flycatcher and a late Snow Bunting exceptionally far south in San Diego County. There was an impressive number and variety of vagrant passerines from the east in eastern Kern County and elsewhere; these included a greater-than-average showing of "southeastern" warblers and vireos, in a minor echo of

the phenomenon noted in the Region in 1992 (see Patten and Marantz, *Auk* 113: 911-923, 1996). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks also appeared in exceptional numbers.

We long ago ceased presenting "arrival dates" for spring migrants because of the Region's geographical complexity and the difficulty of teasing apart truly early spring arrivals from birds that wintered locally but went undetected during the winter. A Pacific-slope Flycatcher at Lake Perris, Riverside County 1 Mar (HBK) was felt to be a spring arrival, though at least 10 birds of this species wintered on the coastal slope. But were adult male Black-headed Grosbeaks near San Diego 11 Mar (ChH) and near San Luis Obispo 19 Mar (SB) record-early spring arrivals for their counties or birds that wintered locally? A very early 4 April Swainson's Thrush near El Centro, Imperial County (KZK) can more confidently be called a spring arrival, as the species has never wintered in California. But what about the many April Plumbeous Vireos; were they true migrants or previously undetected lingering winterers? Was a 16 April Tennessee Warbler at a well-covered site in *Los Angeles* a

very early migrant (though not normally expected until May)? Did it perhaps winter nearby, or at least somewhere well to the northwest of its “expected” winter range? Such issues are hard to resolve. Another recurring problem with our spring report is a clerical issue regarding late spring vagrants; this year, as is typically the case, there was a continuous trickle of vagrants from mid- and late May through early June and onward (even into July!). We don’t always receive reports after the 31 May cut-off date, so a true picture of the numbers of “spring” vagrants cannot be complete until additional records mentioned in the summer season report are taken into account.

Abbreviations: B.S. (Butterbredt Spring at the s. end of the Sierra Nevada above Cantil, e. *Kern*); C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. *Kern*); F.C.R. (Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley N.P., *Inyo*); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park, extreme e. *Kern*); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, *Riverside*); P.P. (Piute Ponds on Edwards A.F.B., ne. *Los Angeles*); S.E.S.S. (s. end of the Salton Sea, *Imperial*).