

Northern California



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Cool, moist conditions persisted throughout the period. At higher elevations, late snows and cold temperatures delayed the arrival of breeding passerines by up to two weeks, and breeding in some areas was delayed even longer. For many observers, this was one of the most lackluster spring seasons for eastern vagrants in memory. Fortunately, the Region's first Common Crane and American Oystercatcher, as well as a lingering Brown Shrike, livened things up. California birders mourned the passing of Ted Chandik, who served as our *Audubon Field Notes* Regional Editor from 1966 to 1971 and had been contributing records ever since.

Abbreviations: A.R.P. (American River Parkway, *Sacramento*); C.B.R.C. (California B.R.C.); C.V. (Central Valley); F.I. (Southeast Farallon I., *San Francisco*); H.R.S. (Hayward Regional Shoreline, *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

Among 30,000 Ross's Geese at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Siskiyou 10 Apr were 3 dark morphs (RE, Steve Nelson). Following last year's inaugural attempt, Canada Geese nested again on F.I., this time successfully hatching 2 goslings (PRBO). Five Eurasian Teal in five counties included late birds at the Llano

Seco Unit of the Sacramento River N.W.R., Butte 1 May (*vide* BED) and at San Rafael, Marin 19 May (Dave Herma). Five Tufted Ducks included continuing birds at Shollenberger Park, Sonoma through 1 May (female; FrO et al.), at Novato, Marin through 8 Apr (male; Paul & Rita Rosso), and at L. Merritt in Oakland, Alameda through 9 Apr (male; Glen Tepke, Martijn Verdoes). Males were also noted at W. Sacramento 11-13 Mar (5th Yolo record; Jim Holmes) and near Inverness, Marin 1 May (JsC). Inland Greater Scaup in unexpected locations included a male at the Ione W.T.P., Amador (DMr), a female at the Red Bluff R.A., Tehama 2 Apr (BED), and 7 males along the Goose L. causeway, Modoc 26 Apr (SCR). Harlequin Ducks inside S.F. Bay included males at Pt. Richmond, Contra Costa through 27 Mar (Sheila Dickie, Tony Brake), at San Rafael, Marin 21-22 Mar (Joy Mander, Len Blumin), and through the season at Heron's Head Park, S.F. (m.ob.) and Coyote Pt., San Mateo (AME, RSTh). A Surf Scoter at Davis Creek 24 Apr (SCR) was one of few records for Modoc. A Black Scoter found at Kutras L. 14 Apr (ph. DMr, ph. B&CY) was the first for Shasta and, remarkably, remained through the season. A male was inside S.F. Bay at the Richmond Marina, Contra Costa 17-18 Apr (DSW et al.). Sixteen Long-tailed Ducks

the Region. Hooded Mergansers were found nesting in a Wood Duck box at Taylorsville, Plumas 28 Apr-16 May (ph. David Lind), a practice that accounts for most of the Region's nesting records. Late females lingered through 19 May at College L., Santa Cruz (DLSu) and through 1 Jun at the Bufferlands, Sacramento (CCo, DKO). Inland Red-breasted Mergansers included 4 at Kutras L., Shasta 3 Apr (DMr, B&CY) and 2 at Crowley L., Mono 20 Apr (Steve Brad).

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS

Spring migrant Pacific and Red-throated Loons are rare inland, so single Pacifics at L. Almanor, Plumas 2 May (RDB) and n. L. Tahoe, Placer 18 May (KMS) and a Red-throated at Clifton Court Forebay, Contra Costa 2-3 Apr (ph. Akira So) were noteworthy. A Yellow-billed Loon was reported from Table Bluff, Humboldt 3 May (†BS). All 3 inland Red-necked Grebes occurred within a five-day period, with singles at the A.R.P. 5-6 May (only the 2nd for Sacramento in the past 15 years; Daniel Welsh, vt. CCo, m.ob.), Chico W.T.P., Butte 6-9 May (Nancy Nelson, ph. Stephen King, m.ob.), and Quincy W.T.P., Plumas 8 May (SED, ADE). A pair of Clark's Grebes nested on a small island in a former salt pond at Mountain View 21 Apr+ (FV, ph.



Both the substrate (a dry island) and location (a former salt pond) provided atypical nesting environs for a pair of Clark's Grebes at Mountain View, Santa Clara County, California, furnishing the county's first bayside breeding record. This incubating bird was photographed 11 May 2010. Photograph by Michael J. Mammoser.

in 10 counties included singles inside S.F. Bay at Richmond, Contra Costa 19 Mar (Jeff Hoppes), at Alviso, Santa Clara 27 Mar (MMR, RGJ), and at the Alameda Naval Air Station, S.F. 22 Apr (JSL, LRF). A female Barrow's Goldeneye at Shoreline L. 11 Apr (PLD) was the latest ever for Santa Clara; very few wintering birds linger into Apr anywhere in

m.ob.), providing a first bayside breeding record for Santa Clara and in highly atypical habitat (e.g., Black Skimmers have also nested on this island). Young were seen on 20 Apr 22 May, but they apparently did not survive at fledging age. Aside from the Pt. Arena Cove, Mendocino Laysan Albatross, which lingered through 28 Mar (m.ob.), 3 singles were

SA Brandt's Cormorants invaded *Santa Clara*, with approximately 80 individuals (nearly all ads.) recorded in 10 locations 21 May+ (*fide* WGB); the high count was of 69 at Lexington Res. 24 May (RWR). As in 2009, during the only comparable inland incursion, the invasion was limited to *Santa Clara*, many birds appeared lethargic (and a number died) as though starving, and individuals were seen in such unusual locations as highways, lawns, and even a forest trail in the Santa Cruz Mts. (though most were at inland reservoirs). However, the 2009 event occurred during a period of widespread starvation and breeding failure in coastal areas, particularly in *Santa Cruz*, the closest potential source of *Santa Clara* invaders. This season, Brandt's Cormorant nesting was robust and on schedule in *Santa Cruz* (DLSu). A mass abandonment of nesting colonies at F.I. occurred 17-22 May, before nesting began again around 26 May (Pete Warzybok, Russ Bradley). Although the timing of the F.I. colony abandonment suggests a source for the *Santa Clara* birds, the complete lack of inland reports from counties closer to F.I. does not support this explanation.

recorded offshore 22 Mar–14 May. A concentration of 200+ Black-footed Albatrosses following a fishing boat off Glass Beach, *Mendocino* 18 May (DT) represented one of the highest Regional counts from shore. A second-year Short-tailed Albatross thrilled a boatload of birders 10 km sw. of Ft. Bragg, *Mendocino* 15 May (JRW, ph. m.ob.). Seven Murphy's Petrels were reported, all from repositioning cruises. On 12 May, one was off *Santa Cruz* (providing a 3rd county record), 3 were off *Mendocino*, and 2 were off *Humboldt* (Michael Woodruff, †Todd Hass et al.); another was off *Humboldt* 15 May (†Bill Shelmerdine). *Monterey* hosted 2 other gadfly petrels: the county's 3rd Mottled Petrel, found dead and salvaged at Zmudowski S.B. 4 Apr (ph. Deasy Lontoh), and 3 Cook's Petrels offshore 21 Apr (Ryan Merrill). Single Manx Shearwaters were seen from Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* 4 Mar and 19 May (both RSTh), and *Mendocino*'s 3rd was 15 km off the Albion R. mouth 15 May (†RBF, ph. RJK et al.).

Observation of Double-crested Cormorants gathering lichens from trees along the Big R. 5 May (M. Coleman, D. Buston, REH) led to the discovery of five or six nests 12 May (REH), providing the first documented breeding for *Mendocino*. An American White Pelican flying past Seaciff S.B. 18 May (CKf) made only the 7th *Santa Cruz* occurrence away from the Pajaro River Valley in the past 20 years (*fide* DLSu). Even more unusual were *Mendocino*'s first substantiated spring records. At Pt. Cabrillo, 2 were heading northward 8 Apr, and 3 were heading southward 14 Apr (both Sarah Grimes); in addition, one was at Little River 20 Apr (RLeV, REH), and 2 were at *Mendocino* 24 May (Jeanne Jackson). A Brown Pelican flying over Sacramento 28 May (DKo) provided *Sacramento*'s 5th record.

BITTERNS THROUGH CRANES

Up to 2 Least Bitterns were at Mather L., *Sacramento* 12-13 May (WEH, v.r. CCo, DKo, MkM). The only coastal Cattle Egrets were 3 birds continuing from winter in *Humboldt* and *San Mateo*, the last noted 21 Apr. In contrast,

45 White-faced Ibis graced nine coastal counties 10 Mar–28 May, including one at L. Merced, *San Francisco* 1 May (Ginny Marshall, DMo, ph. Jeffrey Anderson) and one near Ft. Dick, *Del Norte* 28 May (ADB).

Sonoma's Common Black-Hawk continued at Laguna de Santa Rosa, being reported again 5 May (Stan Moore). A northbound ad. Broad-winged Hawk was found in the Marin Headlands, *Marin* 9 Apr (Tim Behr). Coastal migrant Swainson's Hawks were well reported, with singles in *Monterey* 13 Mar (KVV), *Santa Cruz* 16 Mar (DLSu), and *Marin* 30 Mar (Nick Whelan), 4 in *Santa Clara* 2 Apr–1 May (DLSu, JTh), 5 in *Sonoma* 3-17 Apr (MBe, PBC, RAR, Tom Rusert), 5 in *Napa* 5-17 Apr (MBe), and one in S.E. 30 Apr (†HuC). Reports of Harlan's Hawk included a light-morph ad. n. of Orick, *Humboldt* 13 Mar (ph. KGR) and an ad. at H.R.S. 17 Mar (RJR). An ad. Ferruginous Hawk in San Antonio Valley 14 Apr (WGB) was the latest ever for *Santa Clara*; even more unexpected were birds along Alderpoint Rd., *Humboldt* 1 May (Ralph & Jill Bucher) and at San Juan Bautista, *San Benito* 16 May (ad.; KVV). An imm. Rough-legged Hawk over Hawk Hill, *Marin* 4 Apr

(Tim Behr) provided only the 2nd spring record from this well-birded location; it later flew to S.E., where it was seen over the Presidio (DMo, Steve Bauer). The Crested Caracara continued near Ft. Dick, *Del Norte* through the season (ADB, ph. m.ob.). Late Merlins included one at Los Gatos, *Santa Clara* 19 May (SCR) and *San Mateo*'s latest ever, at Half Moon Bay 27 May (AJ). The Clapper Rail at Heron's Head Park, S.F. continued through the season (m.ob.). A Sora pair with 4+ precocial young at Laguna de Santa Rosa 14-15 May (LHg, Linda Hammer, ph. Colin Talcroft) provided *Sonoma*'s first breeding record. California's first Common Crane spent 5-8 May near the se. edge of L. Earl, *Del Norte*, enthralling birders from all over the state (p.a.; ADB, ph. m.ob.).

SHOREBIRDS

An American Oystercatcher photographed at the Cliff House, S.F. 27 Apr (ph., †DMo) provided the first acceptable record for the Region. A flock of 12 Black-bellied Plovers over La Paloma Rd. near Hornitos 2 Apr (†DLSu) provided the first record of this species for *Mariposa*. An American Golden-Plover at Seaciff S.B. 1 May (full alternate plumage; †DLSu) was the 4th for *Santa Cruz* and the first for spring. Inland Pacific Golden-Plovers included singles at the Sacramento Regional W.T.P., *Sacramento* 8 & 22 Mar (ph. CCo), at Merced N.W.R., *Merced* 9 Apr (ph. Steven Johnston), and at the Lodi W.T.P., *San Joaquin* 12 Apr (JRow); a notable 6 birds were at the Trestle Ponds e. of Woodland, *Yolo* 18 Apr (SCH). Migrants inside S.F. Bay included one at H.R.S. 12 Apr (RJR) and a very tardy bird at Alviso, *Santa Clara* 28 May (MMR, ph. MJM);



Records of Lesser Black-backed Gulls in northern California continue to increase. This first-cycle bird at the Davis Wastewater Treatment Plant in Yolo County 14 March was one of seven, all inland, noted in the Northern California region in spring 2011. Photograph by Todd Easterla.

an unidentified golden-plover was also at H.R.S. 25 Apr (RJR). A Snowy Plover nest with two eggs near Alpaugh 29 Apr (RH) provided the first nesting record for *Tulare*; only one egg remained 10 May, and the nest was abandoned a few days later. Up to 13 Snowy Plovers at Yolo Bypass W.A., Yolo 21-28 Apr were observed copulating, but no nesting evidence was reported (Mark Deamer, Dave Feliz, SCH, m.ob.).

A pair of American Avocets at Kelseyville 30 Apr+ (JRW) provided only the 2nd spring record for *Lake*. Also unexpected was a female along White Rock Rd., Mariposa 23 May (†DLSu). Impressive numbers of Solitary Sandpipers were widely reported, with at least 45 found in 17 counties, including *Santa Clara*'s wintering bird, which remained at L. Cunningham in San Jose until 18 Apr (Barry & Ginger Langdon-Lassagne). Migrants were reported 3 Apr-12 May and included unexpected concentrations of 4 birds at C.R.P. 30 Apr (JTr) and at Acampo 3 May (these, together with a single bird found there the day before, provided a first spring record for *San Joaquin*; DGY). Most surprising among a few inland Willet reports was one at Indian Creek Res., Alpine 22 May (ADeM). A Whimbrel along the Nice-Lucerne Cutoff 10 May (BJM, JRW) was only the 4th for *Lake* and the first in spring; another at Sierra Valley, Plumas 28 May (SED, CPD, ADE) was unexpected, particularly so late in the season. Inland Ruddy Turnstones were all from Kings, with 4 at Corcoran 30 Apr and one at Lemoore 29 May (all MSy).

Inland Red Knots were reported from the Yolo Bypass W.A., Yolo 26 Apr (ph. SCH, ClH) and Hanford, Kings 15 May (2 birds; MSy); also notable was one in S.E., where they are less than annual, at the Cliff House 30 Apr (PSar, HuC, MWE). Semipalmated Sandpipers were at Watsonville Slough 28 Apr (first spring record for *Santa Cruz*; †RgW), at Tracy W.T.P., *San Joaquin* 5 May (Terry Ronneberg), and at the San Jose-Santa Clara W.T.P. 7 May (5th spring record for *Santa Clara*; SCR). The shorebird spectacle on n. Humboldt Bay, Humboldt peaked 26-30 Apr, with an estimated 300,000+ birds, mostly Western Sandpipers (DFx, m.ob.). The lone Baird's Sandpiper re-



Providing the second record for Alameda County, California, this Flammulated Owl was taken into a Hayward rehabilitation center 11 May 2011. It was thought to have been released a few weeks later. Photograph by Rose Britton.

ported was at H.R.S. 25 Apr (RJR); the only Pectoral Sandpiper was at Watsonville Slough, Santa Cruz 1 May (RgW). *Santa Cruz*'s wintering Rock Sandpiper lingered until 8 Apr along West Cliff Dr. in Santa Cruz (Wendy Naruo, Jeff Bleam). The lone Stilt Sandpiper reported was at the edge of the San Joaquin R. adjacent to Merced N.W.R., Merced 2 May (basic plumage; PJM); the only Ruff was also in Merced, along Santa Fe Grade 16 Mar (ph. Kathleen Kent).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

Single ad. Sabine's Gulls at Trout L., Shasta Valley W.A. 11 Apr and at Steamboat L. 11-12 May (both RE, Joey Russell, Steve Nelson) provided Siskiyou with its 4th and 5th records. A Bonaparte's Gull at Mariposa Res. 1 Apr (†DLSu) may have been the first for Mariposa, whereas 32 near Township 4 May (JLa) made a high spring count for *Sutter*. The San Rafael, Marin Laughing Gull continued through 3 May (CLO, FHa, Doug Weidemann). Franklin's Gulls included singles at Napa 4 Apr (6th Napa record; ph. JCS) and L. Almanor, Plumas 14 May (RDB), 2 at Steamboat L., Siskiyou 17 May (RE), and 5 near Alturas, Modoc 24 Apr (SCR). An ad. Black-tailed Gull at the Delta Mendota Canal, *San Joaquin* 28 Mar (†JSL, Roy Carlson) was remarkable inland and represented only the 2nd Regional record (p.a.). A Mew Gull at Kutas L., Redding, Shasta 18 Apr (RBr) was

fairly late and unusually far inland. Unprecedented numbers of Western Gulls, mostly ads., were at the Delta Mendota Canal on the *San Joaquin/Stanislaus* border, primarily in the latter county, 11 Mar-22 Apr (Mike Bumgardner, m.ob.). The peak count was 112 on 28 Mar, whereas the previous high count for *San Joaquin* was only 3 (fide DGY). These gulls were apparently associated with a waste disposal facility nearby. Elsewhere inland, one at the American Avenue Landfill 3 Mar (ph. GaW, JSy, LyH, JND) provided the 3rd *Fresno* record, and in *Sacramento*, up to 2 ads. were at the A.R.P. 10-13 Mar (WEH) and an ad. was at Sherman I. 16 May (CCo). The gull concentration at the Delta Mendota Canal, *San Joaquin/Stanislaus* also attracted a staggering 1000 Thayer's Gulls 26 Mar (DGY), perhaps our highest inland count on record. At least 50 at the American Avenue Landfill 3 Mar (GaW, JSy, LyH, JND) provided a high count for *Fresno*. Documented reports of Iceland Gull, all apparently of the subspecies *kumlieni*, included a second-cycle bird at the Davis W.T.P., Yolo through 14 Mar (ph., †TEa), a second-cycle at Ogier Ponds, *Santa Clara* 5-9 Mar (ph., †SCR, ph. RWR, DvWb), and an ad. at Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* 14 Mar (ph., †PJM); 4 others were reported with little or no documentation.

A first-cycle gull resembling the *vegae* subspecies of Herring Gull was at Half Moon Bay 16 Mar (ph. AJ). Seven Lesser Black-backed Gulls, all inland, represented a remarkable showing. First-cycle birds were at the American Avenue Landfill 3 Mar (*Fresno*'s first; ph. GaW, JSy, LyH, JND), Davis W.T.P., Yolo 14 Mar (ph. TEa), and Folsom L., Placer 9 Mar (ph. BWb); the latter site also hosted a second-cycle bird the same day (ph. BWb, m.ob.). Ads. were at the A.R.P. 12 Mar (WEH), Clearlake, Lake 20 Mar (ph. FHa, Doug Weidemann, BJM), and Folsom L., Placer 8-14 Mar (ph. BWb, m.ob.). Continuing *Slaty-backed* Gulls included an ad. near the Potrero Hills Landfill, *Solano* through 8 Mar (Amber & Scott Harris, JSL) and a first- or second-cycle bird at the Davis W.T.P., Yolo through 21 Mar (ph. TEa). The other three reports were from *San Mateo*: a third- or fourth-cycle bird at Pomponio S.B. 4 Mar (ph. Osj); a second-cycle

cle bird at the Pilarcitos Cr. mouth 5 Mar (ph. DSg); and an ad. at the latter site 11 Mar (ph. AJ). Fifteen Glaucous-winged Gulls, and 25+ birds thought to be Glaucous-winged \times Herring Gull hybrids, provided good counts for Fresno at the American Avenue Landfill 3 Mar (GaW, JSy, LyH, JND). A Glaucous-winged at Red Bluff River Park 11 Mar (\dagger BED) may have been a first for *Tehama*. Forty-two Glaucous Gulls continued this species' recent trend of abundance in the Region; remarkably, 10 were well inland. Four coastal Black Terns included Mendocino's 3rd documented record, off Ft. Bragg 15 May (RbF ph. RJK, m.ob.). Migrant Black Skimmers included 2 over Capitola, Santa Cruz (in transit over the Santa Cruz Mts.) 23 Apr (DLSu) and 1-3 in the Moss Landing/Elkhorn Slough, Monterey area 21 Apr–12 May (BRa, RRa, LHe, ph. Nelson Samuels). The lone Horned Puffin was at Pigeon Pt., San Mateo 5 Mar (RSTh).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

Although resident in the outer Coast Range in the s. part of the Region, 2 Band-tailed Pigeons at Tar Canyon, Kings 21 May (RH, JSy, MSy) were in the inner Coast Range, where scarce. An unidentified cuckoo, probably a Yellow-billed, was at H.R.S. 31 May (RJR). Providing a first for Siskiyou, a Greater Roadrunner was spotted along the Tule R. 2.4 km w. of Tulelake 2 May (Bob Stewart, \dagger Rich Cimino) and again 3 Jun (*fide* Charlotte Ann Kisling); this location is about 125 km ne. of the n. extent of its known range in the state. Alameda's 2nd Flammulated Owl suffered an onrush of rowdy crows at Hayward 11 May (RJR, ph. Rose Britton), when it was taken into a rehabilitation center; it was doing well as of 2 Jun and was expected to recover sufficiently to be released (*fide* DEQ). Shedding further light on the status of Great Gray Owl in the n. Sierra Nevada were two reports of singles: one at Donovan Hill W.A., Yuba 4 Apr (Dan Skalos, Joe Chavez), the other e. of Swain Mt., Plumas 5 Apr (Mike McDonald, Scott Martin). At least 8 Burrowing Owls, 7 of which were banded, overwintered on EI., departing late Mar–8 May (PRBO). Sustained largely by a ready supply of introduced house mice, wintering owls supplement their diet with Ashy Storm-Petrels, resulting in significant mortality for this vulnerable species.

Notable Black Swift reports included those of single birds in areas with few previous records—the w. hills of Yolo 12 May (SBT) and over Monticello Dam, Yolo/Solano 15 May (SBT) and 17 May (JCS, JSL)—and an astonishing 657 over a residence in McKinleyville, Humboldt 31 May (KGR, Rachel Smith), the 2nd highest count ever recorded in the Re-

gion. A Vaux's Swift roost in Greenwood Heights, Humboldt, used 13 Apr–30 May, contained a high count of 1468 birds 13 May (Ralph Bucher). Rivaling longevity records for the species, an ad. male Anna's Hummingbird banded ne. of Scotts Valley, Santa Cruz in 2007 was recaptured there 8 Mar (Rita Colwell); it was at least six years old. Another male, banded in its 2nd calendar year at this location in 2005, was recaptured 16 May (Rita Colwell); it was seven years old. Hummer watchers at American Valley, Plumas were delighted to find an apparent Broad-tailed \times Black-chinned Hummingbird hybrid at their feeder 4 Apr (ph. SED, ADE). Unusually cold weather inland

and a heavy Sierra snowpack may explain the better-than-average push of migrant Calliope Hummingbirds through more temperate coastal and near-coastal counties, with 4 each in Monterey, Contra Costa, and Lake; 5 each in San Mateo and Santa Clara; and 10 in Solano. Likewise, high numbers of Rufous Hummingbirds were reported from some of the same areas, with peak single-locality counts of 9 in Pacific Grove, Monterey 4 Apr (DR, RC), as many as 12 at the U.C.S.C. Arboretum, Santa Cruz 5 Apr (*fide* DLSu, SGe), and 16 at Coyote Pt., San Mateo 23 Mar (RSTh). Three Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported, including singles at Ft. Bragg, Mendocino 20 Mar (DT) and San Anselmo, Marin 3 Mar (Allyn Bissell), plus a winter holdover at Pescadero, San Mateo through 17 Mar (GrH).

Migrant Hammond's and Gray Flycatchers made a strong showing coastally, especially in Humboldt, where 8 and 6 birds were reported, respectively (*fide* RbF). In contrast, only 3 each were detected on point count surveys inland at the San Joaquin Experimental Range, Madera (*fide* JTz), where these species have been found in double-digit numbers during previous years. Other notable Gray Flycatchers included Napa's 3rd at Wild Horse Ridge 4 May (MBE, RMu, RAR) and a singing male at Fremont Peak, Monterey 30 Apr (TAM, SRv). Along with similar reports in the past two springs, the latter raises suspicion that the species may be attempting to breed there. Eastern Phoebe included a winter leftover along the San Lorenzo R., Santa Cruz through 12 Mar (DLSu, SGe, CLo et al.) and a season closer at Pt. Reyes Station, Marin 31 May (RS). An unseasonable Say's Phoebe was at



Representing the first of its kind for the Northern California region, this apparent Broad-tailed Hummingbird \times Black-chinned Hummingbird hybrid visited a feeder in American Valley, Plumas County, California 4 April 2011. Photograph by Scott and Amber Edwards.

Moffett Field, Santa Clara 26 May (MMR). Two Tropical Kingbirds were reported, both in Santa Cruz: one wintered at Struve Slough, where it remained though 4 Mar (Margaret Leonard); the other was at Antonelli Pond 30 Apr (\dagger Leighton Reid, Julie Jedlicka). San Mateo's first "chaseable" Cassin's Kingbirds were 2 at Bedwell Bayfront Park 31 May; one lingered through at least 2 Jun (PJM).

Admired by hundreds if not thousands of birders, Humboldt's Brown Shrike was last seen at Vista Point Ponds in McKinleyville 18 May (BED, GSL, LPL), after a nearly six-month stay. Returning for a 2nd consecutive year were 2 singing male Least Bell's Vireos at Yolo Bypass W.A., Yolo 7 May+, with a 3rd there 29 May (Ed Whisler), and one singing male at the San Luis N.W.R., Merced 18 May (PJM). Surprisingly, the out-of-place Steller's Jay in Sacramento, Sacramento, initially detected 14 Nov 2010, persisted through the period (DPM, Dan Airola, ph. CCo, m.ob.). After a several-year absence, 2 Yellow-billed Magpies at Dalton Ranch, Madera 8 Apr (Irene Moon, Ed Moon) were taken as a sign that the species might be recovering in this area, where West Nile Virus is thought to have exacted a toll. Common Ravens were reported nesting again on the C.V. floor in Sacramento at C.R.P. 17 Apr (JTr) and along Orr Rd. 23 Apr (CCo) and on EI. through the period (PRBO). Away from oak woodlands and fronting the beach, a pair of Oak Titmice successfully fledged 3 young from a nest in an isolated cypress at Seacliff S.B. 9 May (DLSu), representing the first beach-level nesting for Santa Cruz. Also unusual, the Oak Titmouse at Crescent City, Del Norte was present

through at least 27 Apr (Sky Lloyd). Notable Townsend's Solitaires, being well away from areas of residency, included singles at Wild Horse Ridge, *Napa/Solano* 30 Mar (MBE) and at Pt. Reyes N.S., *Marin* 1 May (RS, BBG).

THRASHERS THROUGH FINCHES

A California Thrasher at H.R.S. 20-22 Mar (RPD, RJR) provided only the 2nd record for this bayside location. Warbler reports were as sparse as in any spring in recent memory. Two Northern Parulas, one at Olema, *Marin* 14-22 May (KH) and one at Pine L. Park, *S.F.* 23 May (DMo), represent our lowest spring total in many years and less than one third of our spring average for this species. Only Palm Warbler, with 15 reports, was reported in above-average numbers. A Black-and-white Warbler was at Blue Lake Cottonwoods, *Humboldt* 19 May (KI), and another continued from winter along the San Lorenzo R., *Santa Cruz* through 22 Mar (SGe et al.). We nearly always receive at least one report of American Redstart and Ovenbird, but we missed both this year. A single winter holdover Northern Waterthrush at Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt* until 22 Mar (RbF) was all that kept us from striking out with this species as well. We can practically count on at least one singing male Hooded Warbler each spring, but this year we had only a single female along Butano Cr., *San Mateo* 6 May (DLSu).

Green-tailed Towhees included a continuing winter bird n. of Boulder Creek, *Santa Cruz* through 23 Mar (Kent Johnson) and singles at Orleans, *Humboldt* 4 May (DCo, RHw, KBu, TKz), at A.R.P. 18 May (MkM), and along Clear Cr., *Shasta* 24 May (Matt Gould). A Black-chinned Sparrow along Stile Ranch Trail, *Santa Clara* 3 May (DvWb, Manny Vara) was a migrant, whereas another at Henry Coe S.P., *Santa Clara* 22 May (MMR) was in an area where the species has bred. *Santa Cruz's* first spring record of Black-throated Sparrow was of a single bird at Santa Cruz 5 May (SGe). As many as 4 were in the Orleans area of *Humboldt* 14-15 May (TWL, DCo, TKz, RHw et al.). Another Black-throated Sparrow was at Tomales Pt., *Marin* 19 May (Ken Archambault). A Swamp Sparrow continued from winter at the Ukiah S.T.P., *Mendocino* 1-14 Mar (CEV, GeH, CWH), and another was at Humboldt Bay N.W.R., *Humboldt* 13-17 Apr (TKz, KGR, m.ob.). Forty-four White-throated Sparrows included at least 8 winter holdovers. A Harris's Sparrow first reported 29 Apr at Pebble Beach, *Monterey* (*fide* RFT) may have wintered. *Madera's* 2nd was present at Oakhurst 26 Mar (ph. Vernon Johnson), and 2 were at Espinosa L., *Monterey* 29 Apr (TAm, SRv, ph. Marcos Rangel). Another at A.R.P. continued from

winter until 17 Apr (JML).

Two Summer Tanager continued from winter, one at Roeding Park, *Fresno* through 17 Mar (LyH, George Folsom) and one at Pacific Grove, *Monterey* through 29 Mar (WR, BJW). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak spent its 2nd winter at Carmel Valley, *Monterey* (Paul Watts) and continued into May. *Santa Cruz* hosted 3 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, one ne. of Scott's Valley 27-29 Apr (BRM), one at New Brighton S.B. 2 May (DLSu), and one at College L. 19 May (DLSu). Another was at Mono Lake C.P., *Mono* 22 May (ADeM). We normally receive over 14 spring reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeak. A wintering Indigo Bunting continued through 29 Mar at Saratoga, *Santa Clara* (ph. Gordon & Linda Barrett). Other Indigos were at Coyote Ranch, *Santa Clara* 21 Apr (RPh et al.), Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve, *Santa Clara* 11 May (JPa, AV et al.), Arcata, *Humboldt* 17-19 May (Carol Wilson m.ob.), O'Harrel Canyon, *Mono* 20 May (ADeM), and Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt* 28-30 May (George Zyminsky, m.ob.). The wintering Painted Bunting first found in Feb at Stockton, *San Joaquin* (a C.V. first) was last seen 18 Mar (Pat MacEwen).

Orchard Orioles lingered from winter at Eureka, *Humboldt* through 13 Mar (DCo, TKz, KBu, RbF et al.) and near L. Merced, *S.F.* through 2 Apr (m.ob.). A "new" Orchard Oriole was at Pine Lake Park, *S.F.* 17 Apr (AdW, m.ob.). An oriole first found in winter at Rose Memorial Cemetery in Ft. Bragg, *Mendocino* showed signs of being a Baltimore Oriole before leaving on 18 Mar (KHv), and an unmistakable Baltimore was at Pine Lake Park, *S.F.* 15-24 Apr (Karen Kahn, ph. MWE, m.ob.). The remarkable irruption of Evening Grosbeaks that began in fall and picked up steam in winter continued unabated into spring, with good numbers reported along the coast, throughout the C.V., and in the Sierra foothills. The birds were reported from nearly every county from *Humboldt* s. to *Santa Cruz*.

Cited observers (county coordinators in bold-face): Ken Able (*Lassen*), Tim Amaral, Alan D. Barron, Bob Battagin, Murray Berner (*Napa*), William G. Bousman (*Santa Clara*), Ray Brun, Ryan D. Burnett, Ken Burton, Rita Caratello, Josiah Clark, Peter B. Colasanti, Daryl Coldren, Chris Conard (*Sacramento*), Hugh Cotter, Rudy Darling (*Nevada*), Jeff N. Davis (*Madera*), Al DeMartini, Bruce E. Deuel (n. C.V. counties), Colin P. Dillingham (*Plumas* and *Sierra*), Peggy L. Don, Robert P. Dunn, Todd Easterla, Mark W. Eaton (*San Francisco*), Amber D. Edwards, Scott Edwards, Alan M. Eisner, Ray Ekstrom (*Siskiyou*), Leora Feeney, David Fix, Rob Fowler (*Humboldt*), Steve

Gerow (*Santa Cruz*), Steve A. Glover (*Contra Costa*), Steve C. Hampton, Keith Hansen, Rob Hansen, W. Edward Harper, Garth Harwood, Cliff Hawley, Floyd Hayes, Karen Havlena, Geoff Heinecken, Lynn Hemink, Laird Henkel, Rob Hewitt, Richard E. Hubacek, Lisa Hug, John E. Hunter (*Trinity*), Ken Irwin, Alvarez Jaramillo, Richard G. Jeffers, Oscar Johnson, Robert J. Keiffer (*Mendocino*), Clay Kempf, Dan Kopp, Tony Kurz, Jeri M. Langham, Jim Laughlin, Robin L. C. Leong (*Solano*), Tom W. Leskiw, Gary S. Lester, Lauren P. Lester, Ron LeValley, Calvin Lou, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, Don Marsh (DMr), Mark Martucci, Bryan J. McIntosh, Peter J. Metropulos (*San Mateo*), Barbara R. Monahan, Dominik Mosar (DMo), Dan P. Murphy, Roger Muskat, Kristie N. Nelson (*Mono*), Frances Oliver (*San Joaquin*), Ed Pandolfino (*Placer*), Janna Pausen, Ryan Phillips, Gary W. Potter (*Fresno*), David E. Quady, Bernadette Ramer, Robert Ramer, Robert W. Reiling, Robert J. Richmond (*Alameda*), William (Bill) Reese, Don Roberson (*Monterey*), Michael M. Rogers, Kerry G. Ross, Stephen C. Rottenborn, Steve Rovell, James Rowth, Ruth A. Rudesill (*Sonoma*), Paul Saraceni, Barry Sauppe, Adam Searcy (*Marin*), Jeff Seay (*Kings*), Daniel Singer, Keith M. Slau-son, Mark Stacy, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling (*Modoc*, *Alpine*, *Calaveras*, and *Yolo*), David L. Suddjian (*Santa Cruz*), Steven D. Summers (*Tulare*), Scott B. Terrill, Jim Thomas, Ronald S. Thorn, Jim Tietz (F.I.), Robert F. Tintle, Dorothy Tobkin, John Trochet, Steve Umland (*Tuolumne*), Kent Van Vuren (*Merced* and *San Benito*), David Vander Pluyim (*Mariposa*), Frank Vanslager, Chuck E. Vaughn, Ann Verdi, Cheryl Watson-Heinecken, Bruce Webb, Dave Weber, Brian J. Weed, Jerry R. White (*Lake*), Denise S. Wight, Adam Winer, Roger Wolfe, Gary Woods, David G. Yee, Bob & Carol Yutzy (*Shasta*). Many more observers are not specifically cited; all are appreciated. ☺

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