



Stephen C. Rottenborn
Michael M. Rogers
Jeff N. Davis
Ed Pandolfino

Conditions continued drier than normal in the southern and eastern parts of the Region, with low snowpack and warm temperatures in the mountains. The northwest, however, experienced above-average precipitation in March and April. Persistent northwesterly winds were likely to blame for the paucity of eastern vagrants along the coast. Highlights included the first Northern Gannet for the Pacific Ocean south of the Bering Sea, the state's first spring Smith's Longspur, and reports of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck and Gray Hawk.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (California B.R.C.); C.V. (Central Valley); C.R.P. (Cosumnes River Preserve, Sacramento); 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 THROUGH CRANES

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck w. of Tipton, Tulare 15-27 May (ph. Robert Doster, m.ob.) was unbanded, wary, and capable of strong flight, but may well be deemed of questionable natural occurrence, as has been the case for the Region's previous records of this species. An ad. Snow Goose at Bridgeport Res. 30 May (PJM) was apparently the latest ever for Mono. A Brant was inside S.F. Bay in Benicia, Solano 24 Apr (RMu). Canada Geese again nested at FI., but all three nests failed to produce young (PRBO).

A Dusky Canada Goose (subspecies *occidentalis*) continued through 28 May in Morgan Hill, Santa Clara (SCR). A Trumpeter Swan was at Graeagle, Plumas 20-22 Mar (ph. Sharon Adams, ph. CPD, ADE, SED); the 2 at Mono L., Mono last season remained through 20 Mar (KNN).

A male Eurasian Wigeon at the Lone W.T.P., Amador 19 Mar (FrT) presumably remained from last season. All but one of the 6 Eurasian Teal were in Humboldt 1 Mar-19 Apr. Five Tufted Ducks included the continuing male at L. Merritt, Alameda through 1 Apr (m.ob.), a male at Hornbrook, Siskiyou 23 Feb-4 Mar (JLx, FrO et al., ph. B&CY), a male (DN) and a female (Pam Davisson) at Shollenberger Park, Sonoma 1 Apr, and a male at L. Earl, Del Norte 8-21 Apr (ADB et al.). The ad. male White-winged Scoter at O'Neill Forebay, Merced continued from last season through 4 Mar (KVV, PJM), being joined by an ad. male Surf Scoter on this last date (PJM). Following last season's White-winged Scoter at Clifton Court Forebay, Contra Costa, 2 ad. males were there 17 Mar (JLx). Shasta's first Black Scoter, which spent a year at Kutras L., was last reported 28 Mar, at which point it had nearly completed its molt into ad. male plumage (Frank & Darliss Sanderson); another was found slightly inland inside S.F. Bay at the San Leandro Marina, Alameda 8 Mar (RJR). Twenty Long-tailed Ducks in seven counties included an inland male at O'Neill Forebay, Merced 19-21 Mar (Marie Stewart). Hooded Mergansers bred for the first time in Napa, where 5 young accompanied a female at L. Camille 9 May (LFI), and for the 2nd time in Sacramento, where a female was incubating eggs in a Wood Duck box at C.R.P. 22 Apr-17 May (Jim Dunn, Nancy Sage). A smattering of inland Red-breasted Mergansers in Merced, Yolo, Sacramento, Kings, and Mono included a late bird at Crowley L., Mono 12 May (KNN); a coastal bird along West Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz 28 May (SGe) and 2 at Navarro Beach S.P., Mendocino 31 May (REH) were likewise late.

A total of 5 Red-necked Grebes away from tidal water was higher than average. A juv. Short-tailed Albatross that had been banded in the Hatsunezaki colony on Torishima was 8 km

sw. of Ft. Bragg 20 May (TEa; ph., †RJK, m.ob.), marking the 2nd consecutive May in which the species has been recorded off Mendocino. The Pt. Arena Cove, Mendocino Laysan Albatross concluded its 19th winter at that location and was last reported 30 Mar (Beth Petit, m.ob.). A NOAA Fisheries Research Cruise recorded a Galapagos/Hawaiian Petrel 176 km sw. of Pt. Sur, Monterey 28 Apr (†G. Scott Mills); 7 Murphy's and 258 Cook's Petrels were also seen on that trip during the period 27-29 Apr, 55-288 km offshore, from Monterey n. to S.E. waters (G. Scott Mills). Repositioning cruises aboard commercial cruise ships also provided productive platforms for pelagic birding this season. On 9 May, 2 Galapagos/Hawaiian Petrels, one identified as a Hawaiian Petrel over Cabrillo Canyon in Monterey Bay, Santa Cruz and the other unidentifiable to species 48 km sw. of FI. (†PEL et al.), were seen from a cruise ship. Off Humboldt, such cruises produced 3 Murphy's Petrels and a remarkable tally of 2200+ Leach's Storm-Petrels 17 Apr (PEL et al.), a Cook's Petrel 10 May (PEL et al.), and one Cook's and 3 Murphy's Petrels 16 May (Todd Hass et al.). The first Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel for Yolo and the C.V. was at the Yolo County Landfill 28 Apr (Marcel Holyoak, ph. m.ob.). Año Nuevo I., Santa Cruz hosted the Region's 13th Red-tailed Tropicbird 30 Apr (Jessie Beck, ph. Jonathan Felis). A dead Brown Booby at Ocean Beach, S.F. 6 Apr (ph. RS) continued our run of reports of this species, which has become regular over the past decade or so.

The only Least Bittern reported was near Alpaugh, Tulare 17-22 May (JLt, Dane Fagundes), at the same location where 2 were found Jun 2011. Cattle Egrets were found nesting in Fresno, Fresno, at Oso de Oro L. Park 14 Apr (several; Bruce Williford) and at Roeding Park 6 May (about 100 nests; JND); a pair nesting at L. Elizabeth, Fremont 10 May+ (Victoria Robinson, Stephanie Floyd, ph. Phoo Chan et al.) was the first to nest in Alameda since 2003. Coastal migrant Cattle Egrets were found in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and Santa Clara 25 Apr-8 May. White-faced Ibis were widely reported from 13 counties, including Trinity's 2nd record at Hay-

SAFI. has produced a number of first state records over the years, but **Northern Gannet** was not on anyone's list of anticipated state firsts. So imagine the surprise of seabird biologist Pete Warzybok when he spotted an ad. flying around the island 25 Apr! Even more amazing, the bird remained in the vicinity through the period, clearing a space within a Common Murre colony, collecting some nesting material, and actively displaying as though advertising for a mate (the nearest potential mate likely being thousands of miles away). In addition to being seen by other biologists on FI., a few fortunate birders on pelagic trips to the islands saw it as well. This occurrence follows a report of a Northern Gannet in the ne. Chukchi Sea near Barrow, Alaska 16-17 Aug 2010 (*North American Birds* 65: 141). It is speculated that increasing open water within the diminishing Arctic Ocean ice pack has encouraged a few gannets (or maybe just this one?) to wander westward from the Atlantic.

fork W.T.P. 8 May (3 birds; DEQ) and 3 in *Mariposa* along Mariposa Cr. below Mariposa Res. 2 May (†DLSu).

A pair of Ospreys nesting atop a crane at Pier 80 n. of Hunters Pt. 28 Mar+ (Noreen Weeden, Michael Perlmutter) provided S.F.'s 2nd confirmed breeding record. Nesting by Bald Eagles continues to occur more frequently in the Region, with the first confirmed breeding attempt ever for *Santa Cruz*, at Pinto L. through late Apr (m.ob.), and the first nesting attempt in *San Mateo* since 1915, at Lower Crystal Springs Res. 10 Mar–18 Apr (GCh, m.ob.). Four active nests were reported from *Santa Clara*. *Sonoma's* **Common Black-Hawk** was seen again at Laguna de Santa Rosa 11 Mar (ESH) and 9 May (ph. Stan Moore). An ad. Broad-winged Hawk was seen at Kirby Cove, *Marin* 7 May (Tim Baer, Herb Brandt). A juv. hawk identified as a **Gray Hawk** was seen at the same location 10 May (p.a.; †Tim Baer, Herb Brandt, Jim Hallisey). Coastal migrant Swainson's Hawks moved through in unprecedented numbers, with 14 or so reported throughout the period from S.F. alone and others found in *Sonoma*, *Marin*, *San Mateo*, *Santa Cruz*, and *Santa Clara* 10 Apr–7 May. A late Harlan's Hawk was reported from *Humboldt* along Titlow Hill Rd. 22 Apr (imm.; †KGR, Rachel Smith, Jamie Ross). In addition to the continuing *Del Norte* bird (ADB et al.), Crested Caracaras were reported from Pt. Sur, *Monterey* 30 Mar (ad.; ph. Stewart Janes) and se. of Davis 16–17 Apr (a C.V. first, in both *Yolo* and *Solano*; Mary Schiedt, ph., vt. m.ob.). Careful analysis of photographs suggests that these two reports refer to the same individual, a bird that was also recorded last season in *Los Angeles*, *Ventura*, and *San Luis Obispo*. A very tardy Merlin was seen at Watsonville, *Santa Cruz* 23 May (SGe et al.). An imm. Gyrfalcon hunting Cackling Geese at Fay Slough W.A., *Humboldt* 19 Mar (TKz) may have been the same bird reported in that vicinity last fall.

Yellow Rails were reported this season from near Eagle L., *Lassen* 19 May (LOR) and Willow L., *Plumas* 12 May (3 birds; SEd, ADE). A Black Rail at H.R.S. 4 Mar (RJR) was the only one reported away from known breeding areas. A Sandhill Crane returned to Bridgeport Res., *Mono* 21 May (KNN), and a pair was present 30 May (PJM). Other May reports from unexpected locations included pairs flying over *Humboldt* at Arcata 1 May (Annie Meyer, Jared Hughey) and Whitlow 28 May (John Gaffin), and a single bird along Beckwith Rd., *Stanislaus* 20 May (Ralph Baker et al.).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

The wintering Pacific Golden-Plover at Foster City, *San Mateo* was last seen 3 Apr (Stephen Long); others of note included one inland at Kettleman City, *Kings* 1 May (Brian Daniels)

and late migrants at Alviso, *Santa Clara* 19–21 May (MJM, ph. WGB et al.) and H.R.S. 29 May (Vicki Robinson). A Black Oystercatcher at Benicia 25 Apr–15 May (JCS, Roy Carlson, J.Lx, RMu) provided the 2nd record for *Solano*, following 2 birds at the same location last year 23 May–5 Jun. Shorebird migration in the Region was apparently protracted this season. *Mono* got an early start, with record-early arrivals of Whimbrel (28 Mar at Crowley L.; Steve Brad), Black-necked Stilt and Wilson's Phalarope (both 30 Mar at Mono L.; Forrest English), and Long-billed Curlew (31 Mar at Crowley L.; Susan Steele). On the other hand, movement through s. S.F. Bay trickled on through the end of May, with notable late records including 4 Red Knots, 44 Western Sandpipers, 6 Dunlin, and 3 Short-billed Dowitchers at Alviso, *Santa Clara* 26 May (MMR, MJM, RGJ) and remarkable numbers of lingering dowitchers in Redwood Shores, *San Mateo* 29 May, with 40 Short-billed and 100+ Long-billed tallied (RSTh).

Twenty-five Solitary Sandpipers in 14 counties 9 Apr–9 May included singles 20 km se. of Pittville, *Lassen* 9 Apr (KAb) and at Bagby, *Mariposa* 3 May (†DLSu), both counties claiming few previous records. A Lesser Yellowlegs at Watsonville Slough, *Santa Cruz* 20 May (John Garrett) was notably late. Inland Whimbrels included *Mariposa's* first, a flock of 7 along White Rock Rd., observed flying in from *Merced* 18 Apr (†DLSu). Also notable were 65 at Ukiah W.T.P. 3 May (DAB), *Mendocino's* 3rd inland record following single birds at the same location 30 Apr (CEV) and 9 May 1998 (CEV, RJK). A single Long-billed Curlew at the same location 24 Mar (CEV, CWH, m.ob.) provided the first inland record for the county. Inland Ruddy Turnstones were at Corcoran, *Kings* 5 May (JLt) and near Alpaugh, *Tulare* 7 May (2 birds; Dane Fagundes). A Black Turnstone at Alviso 10 May (ph. Pete Dunten) provided only the 2nd spring record for *Santa Clara*. A Red Knot wandered far inland to Fresno W.T.P., *Fresno* 11 May (DS). Three Western Sandpipers along White Rock Rd. 18 Apr, with one still present 20 Apr (†DLSu), provided the 3rd record for *Mariposa* and the first in spring. Spring Baird's Sandpipers were found near Alpaugh, *Tulare* 15 May (Dane Fagundes) and at Humboldt Bay N.W.R., *Humboldt* 18 May (TKz, DCo); spring Pectoral Sandpipers were at Fresno W.T.P., *Fresno* 11 May (DS) and at Humboldt Bay N.W.R., *Humboldt* 18 May (TKz, DCo). Four Dunlin along White Rock Rd. 4 May (†DLSu) were the first for *Mariposa*. The Hudeman Slough, *Sonoma* Ruff continued through 22 Mar (ph. m.ob.); others were reported from C.R.P. 14–22 Apr (JTr, JRow, m.ob.), Bodega Bay, *Sonoma* 21 Apr–1 May (Kathy Moore, ph. Dan Brown, RAR, DFr, ph. ScC), *San Luis N.W.R.*, *Merced* 23 Apr (ph. Justin Bosler), and *Yolo*

Bypass W.A., *Yolo* 23 Apr (ph. SCH et al.). Two Short-billed Dowitchers with 7 Long-billeds at Bear Creek Pond 18–24 Apr (†DLSu, FrO, J.Lx) were the first Short-billeds for *Mariposa*; other notable inland records were from *Sierra Valley*, *Sierra* 23 Apr (2 birds; FrO) and 1 May (EP, Ted Beedy, Bill Yeates), and near Glenburn, *Shasta* 2 May (2 birds; KPa).

A count of 12,000 Black-legged Kittiwakes during a four-hour seawatch at Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* 2 Mar (RSTh) was impressive. Sabine's Gulls are much rarer inland in spring than fall, so one at Kettleman City, *Kings* 22 Apr (JSy) was very unusual. The Laughing Gull at *San Rafael, Marin* continued through the period. Spring migrant Franklin's Gulls are more numerous inland in some years and in coastal areas in others. This season, 15 were reported from nine counties, with 6 in coastal areas and 9 inland. An Iceland Gull at the Davis W.T.P., *Yolo* 9–16 Mar (ph. TEa, ph. SCH et al.) provided only the 2nd state record of an ad. with completely white primary tips (and thus apparently nominate *glaucoides*). Mar reports of 3–4 imm. Iceland Gulls from *Yolo* and *San Joaquin* await C.B.R.C. review. A first-cycle Thayer's Gull at Fall River Mills 29 Mar (KAb, DEQ, JLD) was rare for e. *Shasta*. Single ad. Slaty-backed Gulls were at the Russian R. mouth, *Sonoma* 4 Mar (ph. TEa, JCS) and the *Yolo* County Landfill, *Yolo* 9 Mar (ph. TEa). Lesser Black-backed Gulls included an ad. at Folsom L., *Placer* 28 Mar–3 Apr (BWB, ph. GEw) and a first-cycle bird at the Davis W.T.P., *Yolo* 30 Mar (ph. TEa). At the inland Western Gull hotspot along the Delta Mendota Canal n. of Gaffery Rd., 100+ Westerns were present 24 Mar, with 10 still present 20 May providing the latest spring records for *San Joaquin* (both DGY). A Long-billed Murrelet off s. *Humboldt* Bay, *Humboldt* 22 Apr (ph. Jeff Jacobsen) was in an area where the species has been seen several times in recent years. Of 4 Scripps's/Guadalupe Murrelets off Noyo Harbor, *Mendocino* 20 May (TEa, m.ob.), 2 were positively identified as Scripps's. Except perhaps in very warm-water years, this species is more abundant in the Region than Guadalupe Murrelet. A repositioning cruise over deep water 64+ km off *Humboldt* and *Del Norte* 17 Apr revealed Parakeet Auklets in unprecedented numbers, with estimates of up to 200 individuals (†PEL, ph. B. J. Stacey, ph. Ryan Merrill et al.); a Horned Puffin was recorded that day as well. Two Parakeet Auklets were documented 64 km w. of Big Lagoon, *Humboldt* during a repositioning cruise 10 May (†PEL et al.).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

A dawn flight of 2465 Band-tailed Pigeons at New Brighton S.B. 21 Mar (DLSu) represented what may be the highest count ever for *Santa Cruz*. Two White-winged Doves flanked the

Region, with one at H.R.S. 5 Apr (RJR) and the other at Oasis Ranch, *Mono* 26 May (ADeM). Records of Common Ground-Dove continue to build in *Tulare*, with a bird 6 km sw. of the Porterville Municipal Airport 1 May (SDS). This species may be more widespread in that county than currently known but occurs in agricultural habitats, especially the interface between orchards and vineyards, which birders rarely visit. Burrowing Owls continue to exert predation pressure on the Ashy Storm-Petrel population at FI., with 52 dead Ashies attributed to as many as 5 owls 1 Mar–7 Apr (PRBO). A Barred Owl calling 5.5 km sw. of Fish Camp 23 May and another calling 7 km se. of Buck Meadows 24 May supplied the first records for *Mariposa* (v.r., †DLSu). The only other report was from Butterfly Valley, *Plumas* 29 Mar (CPD, JLD, DEQ), part of the Region where the species is known to be established. There are few credible records of Short-eared Owl for the w. slope of the Sierra Nevada, so one near Chicago Stump in Sequoia N.E., *Tulare* 21 May (†Elizabeth Aimes) was noteworthy. A Northern Saw-whet Owl atop Mt. Hamilton, *Santa Clara* 29 Apr (Keith Baker) added to a small number of records of such late migrants for the Diablo Range. Supplying an overdue first record for *El Dorado*, a Lesser Nighthawk flew along S. Shingle Rd. in Latrobe 10 May (TEA, FS).

The discovery of a pair of Vaux's Swifts nesting in a chimney at Ocean Meadows, *Mendocino* 6 May (KHv, JHv) led the observers to question the soundness of the 1975 and 1976 records of nesting Chimney Swifts from that area. A White-throated Swift on a nest in the Hwy. 101 bridge over the S. Fork Eel R., *Mendocino* 23 May (ph. Jim McIntosh) garnered some attention—not because it was nesting in a bridge structure, which is a relatively widespread phenomenon in the Region, but because it was photographed. Nests of this species are typically situated deep in rock crevices (or sometime highway bridges and overpasses), so they rarely provide opportunities for photography. The 2 Rufous Hummingbirds that wintered at the U.C. Santa Cruz Arboretum, *Santa Cruz* apparently lingered there until 12 Apr (John Garrett). Also lingering from winter were 2 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers: one at Glen Oaks Motel in Big Sur, *Monterey* through 4 Mar (BTM) and another at Rose Memorial Park, Fort Bragg, *Mendocino* through 14 Mar (REH). The only out-of-range Red-naped Sapsucker was at Pt. Reyes N.S. 10 Mar (RSa).

A Least Flycatcher sang along Stampfli Lane in Indian Valley, *Plumas* 28 May+ (William Rockey), providing our only record this season. A Hammond's Flycatcher at Dechambeau Cr., *Mono* 11 Apr (KNN) appeared about five weeks ahead of the typical arrival date for this species in the Mono Basin. A peak count of 15 Gray

Flycatchers detected during surveys at the San Joaquin Experimental Range, *Madera* 24 Apr (fide JTz) was about average. Two Eastern Phoebe included a winter holdover along Stage Rd. in Pascadero, *San Mateo* through 3 Mar (GCh) and another at Tolay Lake R.P., *Sonoma* 19 Mar (ALaC). The male Vermilion Flycatcher reported last season from Gun Club Rd., *Merced* continued there through 3 Mar (KVV). *Sonoma's* 2nd Cassin's Kingbird was at Jenner Headlands 26 Apr (ph. PBC). One at Moore Creek Preserve 13 May (ph. John Garrett) was the first to be photographed in *Santa Cruz*. An Eastern Kingbird was at U.C. Santa Cruz, *Santa Cruz* 26 May (TN et al.). Another in the se. corner of *Santa Cruz* 30 May (DLSu) wandered northward across the Pajaro R. to furnish the first spring record for *Santa Clara* (fide WGB).

On 13 Apr, 2 Bell's Vireos sang at Merced N.W.R., *Merced*, about 20 km se. of where the species nested in 2011 (Elizabeth Aimes, Jay Wright). Almost expected given the relatively large number of records there, a Yellow-throated Vireo sang at the Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 26–27 May (ph. AMR, John Garrett, Larry & Carole Rose). Plumbeous Vireos included singles along Coyote Cr. in Milpitas 29–31 Mar (*Santa Clara's* first for spring; ph. WGB, DvWb) and along the Tuolumne R. in La Grange, *Stanislaus* 6 Apr (†SSa). The Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* produced our only Red-eyed Vireo 9 May (ph. RF). Last season's Blue Jay reportedly remained at Chico, *Butte* until 8 May (Tyler Fowler). Common Ravens apparently did not attempt to nest on FI. this year; a pair was present through early Mar, but both birds were gone by 2 May (PRBO). A raven pair putting the finishing touches on a nest in an electric transmission tower just s. of Hwy. 132 at the San Joaquin River N.W.R. 8 Mar (JND) represented the first breeding record for the valley floor in *Stanislaus*. A Bank Swallow at Lake McSwain R.A. 25 May (DLSu) provided one of few records of the species for *Mariposa*.

A gray-sided Chestnut-backed Chickadee at American Canyon 9 Mar (MBe) established the 2nd record for *Napa* of an apparent *Santa Cruz* Chestnut-backed Chickadee (*P. r. barlowi*), a subspecies that normally ranges n. only to S.F. Western Bluebirds reclaimed historic breeding areas near Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 14 Apr+ (DR, RC), where the species hadn't bred in 96 years; at Bison Paddock in Golden Gate Park, S.F. 5 May (Kimberly Jannarone), where the species hadn't nested "in ages"; and at Loma Prieta, *Santa Cruz* 26 May+ (PDB et al.), where the species hadn't bred in "several years." Out-of-range Townsend's Solitaires included singles along King Ridge Rd., *Sonoma* 11 Mar (Jeff Miller, LHg, BDP), on Wild Horse Ridge, *Napa* 20 Apr (MBe), and at Pt. Reyes N.S., *Marin* 31 May (Hugh Harvey, David Hutton).

THRASHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Oasis Ranch, *Mono* hosted our only Gray Catbird 26 May (ADeM), while out-of-range Sage Thrashers were widespread, with 14 birds in six counties from *Humboldt* to *Tulare*. A Brown Thrasher was in Eureka, *Humboldt* 25 Apr–7 May (Kathleen & David Julian, m.ob.). A Phainopepla near Hopland 21 Apr (George Gibbs, m.ob.) provided *Mendocino* its first spring and 2nd overall record for the species. *Mendocino* was treated to a male Lapland Longspur in dapper alternate plumage at MacKerricher S.P. 6 May (DT), but the longspur news of the season was *Humboldt's* first and the Region's 5th Smith's Longspur (also an alternate-plumaged male) at Bear River Ridge 19–20 Apr (RHw, ph. KGR, ph. Alex Simon, ph. Jared Hughey, m.ob.). Our lone Ovenbird was on FI. 13 May (Pete Warzybok). The perennial Northern Waterthrush at Charleston Rd. marsh, *Santa Clara* persisted until 1 Apr (WGB et al.), and others were at Arcata, *Humboldt* 1–27 Apr (George Zyminsky et al.), at Watsonville Slough, *Santa Cruz* 2 May (SGe et al.), and near Oasis, *Mono* 27 May (PJM, ADeM). A singing male Blue-winged Warbler was a great find near Oasis, *Mono* 27 May (ph. PJM, ADeM; p.a.). Black-and-white Warblers included a winter holdover in Capitola, *Santa Cruz* through 15 Mar (DLSu), another in American Valley, *Plumas* 10 May (SEd, ADE), 2 along Alamitos Cr. Trail, *Santa Clara* 12 May (JPa, Diane & Bill Frinke et al.), and one on the n. spit of Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 14–15 May (TKz, m.ob.). A Tennessee Warbler was near Oasis, *Mono* 27 May (PJM, ADeM), and a singing Kentucky Warbler was at Muir Beach, *Marin* 12 May (†Diana Humple). A singing male Hooded Warbler was near Sebastopol, *Marin* 13 May (LHg). Four American Redstarts were all late May finds, with one n. of McKinleyville, *Humboldt* 22 May (KI), 2 in *Mono* (Oasis Ranch 26 May and along Cottonwood Cr. near Oasis 27 May; both PJM, ADeM), and another along Soquel Cr., *Santa Cruz* 28 May (DLSu). A Cape May Warbler, a spring first for *Santa Cruz*, was enjoyed by many at Neary Lagoon 12–15 Apr (SGe, ph. m.ob.). Eleven Northern Parulas was well over our average of 8 and included *Alpine's* first in Markleeville 30 May (ph. TEA). A male Magnolia Warbler was singing along Stage Rd., *San Mateo* 27 May (LBt, RSTh). Nine Palm Warblers were all in coastal counties. The Yellow-throated Warbler that wintered at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* continued through 11 Mar (RSTh). A singing Canada Warbler in Lundy Canyon, *Mono* 24 May (KNN) was a great find, as nearly all of the Region's Canadas are found in fall.

Monterey's wintering Green-tailed Towhee in Pacific Grove continued until 8 Mar (BGE), and C.V. notables were at Upper Bidwell Park, *Butte* 16 Apr (Justin Bosler) and in Porterville, *Tulare* 28 Apr (ph. Priscilla Summers). Two Clay-col-

ored Sparrows were at different locations near Arcata, *Humboldt* this spring, one 19 Mar–10 Apr (RbF, m.ob.) and another 22 May (ph. TKz). A Brewer's Sparrow along Juan Cr. provided *Mendocino's* first documented record 22–23 Apr (†KHv, JHv, DT, CEV, GEC). This spring's invasion of Black-chinned and Black-throated Sparrows exceeded even 2007 in terms of numbers and geographic span. We received reports of 18 Black-chinneds and 24 Black-throateds from 11 and 9 counties, respectively. Nearly all these birds were first noted in late Apr or early May. These incursions into the Region seem to be correlated with winter/spring drought conditions in the desert breeding habitats normally used by these sparrows. Reports of Lark Bunting included a winter bird near Arcata, *Humboldt* remaining through 24 Mar (Annie Meyer et al.), 2 females along Davis Rd., *Stanislaus* 17 Mar (Ralph Baker), and an ad. male on Michigan Bar Rd., *Sacramento* 13 May (GEW). Among the 82 White-throated Sparrows recorded, one bird remained until 28 May in Eureka, *Humboldt* (COg). Other late-departing *Zonotrichia* included a White-crowned Sparrow at H.R.S. 22 May (RJR) and 2 Golden-crowned Sparrows 21 May at Trinidad, *Humboldt* (Jane Thatchell, Peter Headland). Wintering Harris's Sparrows continued through 3 Mar at C.R.P. (Maryann Steurer, JTr, m.ob.), 17 Mar at Cascade Ranch, *San Mateo* (JMD), 14 Apr at Davis, *Yolo* (Chris Dunford), and 22 Apr at Campbell, *Santa Clara* (Lisa Myers). Another Harris's Sparrow was present at Redding, *Shasta* 13–16 Apr (Brooke McDonald).

A Summer Tanager first found in Jan continued at Roeding Park, *Fresno* until 23 Mar (GWPo). Summer Tanagers were also at H.R.S. 8 May (RJR) and Mammoth Lakes, *Mono* 23

May (ph. Steve Brad). Twenty Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and 15 Indigo Buntings were both numbers well above our average, with both species apparently becoming increasingly regular visitors. Bobolinks were at Crissy Field, S.F. 22 May (Steve Phillips, ph. Allen Hirsch, ph. m.ob.) and Oasis Ranch, *Mono* 26 May (PJM). A Common Grackle was photographed at Bob's Creek Ranch, *Lassen* 4–14 May (ph. KAb). Both our notable orioles were birds lingering from winter: an Orchard Oriole at Fort Mason, S.F. to 28 Mar (David Assman) and *Mendocino's* first Baltimore Oriole at Fort Bragg through 1 Apr (DT, REH).

Cited observers (county sub-regional editors in boldface): Many more observers are not specifically cited; all are appreciated. **Ken Able** (*Lassen*), Alan D. Barron, Leonie Batkin, Dave A. Bengston, **Murray Berner** (*Napa*), **William G. Bousman** (*Santa Clara*), **Matthew Brady** (*Stanislaus*), Phil D. Brown, Scott Carey, Rita Carratello, George E. Chaniot, George Chrisman, Peter B. Colasanti, Daryl Coldren, **Chris Conard** (*Sacramento*), J. Michael Danzenbaker, **Rudy C. Darling** (*Nevada*), **Jeff N. Davis** (*Madera*), Al DeMartini, **Bruce E. Deuel** (n. C.V. counties), **Colin P. Dillingham** (*Plumas* and *Sierra*), Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, **Mark W. Eaton** (*San Francisco*), Amber D. Edwards, Scott Edwards, Bruce G. Elliott, Gil C. Ewing, Leslie Flint, Rick Fournier, **Rob Fowler** (*Humboldt*), Dea Freid, James H. Gain, **Steve Gerow** (*Santa Cruz*), **Steve A. Glover** (*Contra Costa*), Steve C. Hampton, Jim Havlena, Karen Havlena, Rob Hewitt, Richard E. Hubacek, Lisa Hug, Eugene S. Hunn, **John E. Hunter** (*Trinity*), Ken Irwin, Richard G. Jeffers, **Robert J. Keiffer** (*Mendocino*), Tony Kurz, Andy LaCasse, Paul E. Lehman, **Robin L.**

C. Leong (*Solano*), John Lockhart, Jim Lomax, Michael J. Mammoser, Blake T. Matheson, **Peter J. Metropulos** (*San Mateo*), Roger Muskat, Dan Nelson, **Kristie N. Nelson** (*Mono*), Todd Newberry, Chet Ogan, **Frances Oliver** (*San Joaquin*), Lew Oring, **Ed Pandolfino** (*Placer*), **Kathy Parker**, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Janna Pauser, **Gary W. Potter** (*Fresno*), David E. Quady, Harold M. Reeve, **Robert J. Richmond** (*Alameda*), Alex M. Rinkert, **Don Roberson** (*Monterey*), Michael M. Rogers, Kerry G. Ross, Stephen C. Rottenborn, James Rowth, **Ruth A. Rudesill** (*Sonoma*), Rusty Scalf, Salvatore Salerno, **Adam Searcy** (*Marin*), **Jeff Seay** (*Kings*), David Shuford (DS), Rich Stallcup, **John C. Sterling** (*Modoc*, *Alpine*, *Calaveras*, and *Yolo*), Fritz Steurer, **Tim Steurer** (*El Dorado* and *Amador*), **David L. Suddjian** (*Santa Cruz* and *Mariposa*), **Steven D. Summers** (*Tulare*), Ronald S. Thorn, **Jim Tietz** (EL), Dorothy Tobkin, Francis Toldi, John Trochet, **Steve Umland** (*Tuolumne*), Chuck E. Vaughn, **Kent Van Vuren** (*Merced*), Cheryl Watson-Heinecken, Bruce Webb, Dave Weber, **Jerry R. White** (*Lake*), David G. Yee, **Bob & Carol Yutzy** (*Shasta*). ☉

Stephen C. Rottenborn, 983 University Avenue, Building D, Los Gatos, California 95032, (srottenborn@harveyecology.com)

- *Loons to Frigatebirds, Larids to Alcids*

Michael M. Rogers, 499 Novato Avenue, Sunnyvale, California 94086, (m.m.rogers@comcast.net)

- *Waterfowl to Quail, Herons to Shorebirds*

Jeff N. Davis, 11238 N. Via Trevisio Way, Fresno, California 93730, (jdavis@colibri-ecology.com)

- *Doves to Thrushes*

Ed Pandolfino, 1328 49th Street, Sacramento, California 95819, (erpfromca@aol.com)

- *Thrashers to Finches*

Southern California



Guy McCaskie
Kimball L. Garrett

The spring capped a drier-than-average winter rain season, although the month of April saw more rainfall than expected over much of the Region. Temperatures were at or above normal over most of the spring.

A somewhat lackluster migration of expected western migrants was punctuated by a handful of mega-rarities, including a Gyrfalcon in Inyo County in March that was probably the same individual seen earlier in the winter in Riverside County, the Region's second Common Redpoll (after this past winter's first), a Cory's Shearwater seen from shore in Orange County, and a Common Black-Hawk along the lower Colorado River. A southeastern influence was felt in an above-average showing of White-eyed Vireos and Northern Parulas.

Pinning down arrival dates of spring migrants and interpreting these dates in the context of shifting phenologies associated with accelerating climate change is fraught with difficulties in our Region (where few constant-effort site-based surveys are undertaken and where almost any long-distance migrant species can, and often will, overwinter). We haven't been providing spring arrival data for most species in our reports in recent years, but do so here for what most observers agreed was a rather "normal" year; the following arrival dates were forwarded by our county subregional editors: Olive-sided Flycatcher 10 Apr (Mission Trails, *San Diego*); Western Wood-Pewee 6 Apr (Cachuma Campground, *Santa Barbara*); Willow Flycatcher 5 May (El Centro, *Imperial*); Dusky