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Northern California



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The long drought continued throughout the Region, and this spring was exceptionally dry. Landbird migration was slow in many areas, in part due to the lack of storms and resulting fallouts. Southeast Farallon Island experienced good numbers of western migrants but below-average abundance of eastern vagrants. Because of light winds, upwelling around Southeast Farallon Island was delayed, but krill were still abundant enough to allow the seabird breeding season to get off to a good start. Highlights included California's second (and the Region's first) Marsh Sandpiper, the continuing Northern Gannet and breeding Common Black-Hawk, a Royal Tern far north in Humboldt County, and the Region's second Gull-billed Tern and fifth Black Vulture. Paul Lehman again led a number of pelagic birding trips aboard repositioning cruises, contributing

further to our knowledge of offshore avifauna in spring and confirming the regular occurrence of several gadfly petrels off the north coast.

Abbreviations: A.R.P. (American River Parkway, *Sacramento*); C.B.R.C. (California B.R.C.); C.R.P. (Cosumnes River Preserve, *Sacramento*); C.V. (Central Valley); F.I. (Southeast Farallon Island, *San Francisco*); H.R.S. (Hayward R.S., *Alameda*); Point Blue (Point Blue 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 Brant far inland in Long Valley, *Mono* 17-30 Apr (KWe, KMr, m.ob.) was unexpected. Two pairs of Canada Geese nested on F.I., but only one pair hatched goslings (Point Blue). A Dusky Canada Goose wintering at Blue Lake, *Humboldt* was last noted 6 Apr (TKz, Casey Ryan, Anji Trujillo). Eurasian Wigeon in the Sierra foothills, where rare, included single males at Lake-of-the-Pines W.T.P., *Nevada* 1 Mar (ph. RCD) and Phoenix Lake Reservoir, *Tuolumne* 2 Apr (DRs, SRs). Single Eurasian Green-winged Teal lingered to 30 Mar in Mountain View, *Santa Clara* (Juliana Manoliu) and 4 Apr at the Ukiah W.T.P., *Mendocino* (SJS, m.ob.); another was found at Loleta Pond, *Humboldt* 18 Apr (Matthew Forster, Catherine Yasuda, m.ob.). A male Tufted Duck at Lake Hennessey, *Napa* 2 Apr (MBe) was thought to be different from one reported there last season; the male at Lake Merritt, *Alameda* continued through 15 Apr (ph. m.ob.). The White-winged Scoter found last season in Alviso, *Santa Clara* was seen again 26 May (MMR, MJM) and remained into summer. *Fresno*'s third at Hume Lake remained

through 17 Apr (ph., m.ob.). The Black Scoter at Richmond, *Contra Costa* was last seen 15 Mar (LLk). Five Long-tailed Ducks reported in four coastal counties 3 Mar-1 May represented a modest showing. Hooded Mergansers successfully hatched young at Oroville, *Butte* 12 May (Dawn Garcia, Carolyn Short) and at two locations along the A.R.P., *Sacramento* 15 & 18 May (JML, DKO, CCo). Red-breasted Mergansers well inland included one at Boca Reservoir, *Nevada* 30 Apr (ph. RCD, Dale Rubach), one at the A.R.P., *Sacramento* 22 Feb-6 Apr (JML, CHH, m.ob.), and 2 at Crowley Lake, *Mono* 25 May (DMo, PJM).

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS

The only inland Pacific Loon, at Millerton Lake, *Madera* 9 Apr (EE), may have been one of the individuals found there in Dec 2013. A Common Loon at Lake Hennessey 15 May (MBe, Wendy Schackwitz) provided *Napa*'s first May record. The second *Contra Costa* and C.V. record of Yellow-billed Loon was at Clifton Court Forebay 23 May (ph. Albert Linkowski). Inland Red-necked Grebes were at Crystal Springs Reservoir, *San Mateo* 18 Mar (AME) and Lake Hennessey, *Napa* 15 May (MBe). Six Laysan Albatrosses were seen offshore 30 Apr-24 May.

Wintering Black-vented Shearwaters normally depart by late Mar/early Apr, while post-breeding visitors do not typically arrive until late Jul; one at Pigeon Point, *San Mateo* 30 May (RSTh) is thus not easily categorized. Red-billed Tropicbirds are not annual in the Region, so two ads. in *Monterey*, one 13 km w. of Point Lobos 5 May (ph. CHz) and the other 64 km sw. of Point Sur 7 May (†PEL et al.), were noteworthy. The increasing regularity of Brown Booby occurrence was exemplified by an ad. female at Ocean Beach, S.F. and Thornton S.B., *San Mateo* 19 and 23 Apr (DMo) and a lingering individual at F.I. seen on and off throughout the period (Point Blue). The Region had only three spring records prior to 2007, but 11 since then. The **Northern Gannet** present since Apr 2012 continued to be seen regularly at F.I. through Apr and sporadically during May (Point Blue); surprisingly, it was detected inside S.F. Bay at Alcatraz Island, S.F. 13 Apr (Bill Shermedine) and on a number of occasions through the period (m.ob.), indicating that it moved back and forth between these two islands. An American White Pelican, scarce on the n. coast, continued near Crescent City, *Del Norte* to 20 Apr (m.ob.). A concentration of 2500 Brown Pelicans attending a sardine run at Bolinas Lagoon, *Marin* 20 Apr (BBg) was an exceptionally high count for spring.

BITTERNS THROUGH CRANES

Up to 2 Least Bitterns were found at the Dow Wetlands Preserve, *Contra Costa* 20 Mar+, in-

SA Good pelagic coverage, particularly from repositioning cruises in late Apr and May, confirmed the regularity in spring of Murphy's Petrel from central California to s. British Columbia and Hawaiian Petrel from central California to s. Oregon (PEL, Owen Schmidt et al.). At least 85 Murphy's were reported from repositioning cruises on six dates, with a high of 47 between *Monterey* and S.F. 29 Apr (PEL et al.). These cruises produced 20 Hawaiian Petrels, more than the entire state had amassed before 2006, with a high of 8 off *Humboldt* 22 May (PEL et al.). Given that Galapagos Petrel has not been recorded in North American waters and Hawaiian Petrel has proven to be a regular offshore visitor, records of birds in this species complex off our coast are assumed to pertain to Hawaiian unless evidence of a Galapagos is obtained. A traditional pelagic birding trip recorded 2 Murphy's and a Hawaiian near Viscaïno Knoll, *Mendocino* 18 May (TEa, RbF, RLeV, RJK et al.). Even more noteworthy was the first Hawaiian Petrel seen from shore in the Region, a bird at Point Pinos, *Monterey* 11 May (†BTM) during strong nw. winds. Recent cruises have also confirmed that Cook's Petrel is an irregular spring and summer visitor (less so in fall), with numbers fluctuating widely among years (PEL). This spring, a total of 285 Cook's were recorded on repositioning cruises on six dates, with a high of 252 from *Monterey* to *San Mateo* 7 May (PEL et al.).

cluding one carrying nest material 1 May (ph. Albert Linkowski, Noah Arthur). Yolo's third Little Blue Heron, an ad., was found at Conaway Ranch 30 May (Bruce Lyon, Tez Stair, Cara Thow). We received very few reports of coastal Cattle Egrets and most of those we did get were of single birds present for only a day. In contrast, large numbers of White-faced Ibis were reported along the entire coast, including one far n. at the Smith River Bottoms, *Del Norte* 1-7 May (LuB, TKz, Casey Ryan). A group of 51 at College Lake 23 Apr (GKt, BMMo) provided a new high count for *Santa Cruz*. *Sonoma's* first and the Region's fifth **Black Vulture** was seen at Tolay Creek Preserve 21 Mar (Steve Phillips, JsC); presumably the same bird was seen near Bodega 13-14 Apr (Bruce Mast, LHg, DMO, JSL) and near Forestville 16 Apr (Gordon Beebe). A California Condor at Tassajara, *Alameda* 14 Apr (Kathryn Dienst) had wandered farther north than usual. A Bald Eagle nest with one eaglet at Gallighan Slough 21 Mar+ was only the second nest for *Santa Cruz*, and the first to produce young. The resident *Sonoma* **Common Black-Hawk** near Laguna de Santa Rosa paired with a Red-shouldered Hawk again this year (Stan Moore); the nest was located 30 Mar (LHg, Don Kirker), and a single youngster was confirmed present by 15 May (ph. Stan Moore). Spring Broad-winged Hawks included one over Corona Heights, *S.F.* 24 Apr (DMO) and one at Oasis, *Mono* 22-23 May (PJM, ph. DMO, ADeM). Swainson's Hawks were widely reported coastally from *Marin* to *Santa Clara* 14 Mar+. The pair that bred in *Santa Clara* in 2013 refurbished last year's nest 6 Apr+ (RPh) and was seen incubating into summer. The only Harlan's Hawks reported were 2 continuing birds in *Humboldt*, one at Bayside Cutoff through 8 Mar (AxL) and the other at *Humboldt Bay* N.W.R. 2 Mar (Rachel Perpignani).

A Yellow Rail heard in Arcata 23-29 Mar was about the sixth for *Humboldt* (†CJR, †Carol Ralph). Black Rails continued in Alviso, *Santa Clara* 4-25 May (PDu, Gena Zolotar, MJM, Brooke Miller), suggesting continued breeding; another e. of Lincoln 22 Mar (RPz) was in a new location for *Placer*. Four reports involving a total of 5 Sandhill Cranes flying over *Humboldt* 13 Apr–10 May (m.ob.) were unexpected in the nw. corner of the Region, as were 2 cranes heading north from the Ten Mile River mouth, *Mendocino* on the late date of 9 May (†KHv, JHv). In addition to the pair of Sandhill Cranes returning to Bridgeport 4 Apr+ (R&NO, m.ob.), *Mono* hosted a second pair near Topaz 17 Mar–29 May (CPD).

SHOREBIRDS

Black Oystercatchers now appear to be regular in *Solano*, with one found in Vallejo 14 Apr

(RMu) and 2 in Benicia 21 May (EPI, RMu). A Snowy Plover at the Llano Seco Unit of the North Central Valley W.M.A. 5 Apr (†MRg, ph. Matt Forster et al.) was one of few ever found in *Butte*; likewise, one at Beale A.F.B. 1 Apr (JLa) was unexpected in *Yuba*. Twenty-six Solitary Sandpipers in 11 counties 14 Apr–10 May were about as expected; more surprising were early birds 25 Mar at both the Yolo Basin W.A., *Yolo* (†DAA) and the Bufferlands, *Sacramento* (†CCo). Despite being seen 17 km and a few hours apart, it seems likely, given the scarcity of Mar records in the Region, that this was one individual moving north. The undoubted highlight of the season was California's second (and the Region's first) **Marsh Sandpiper**, a bird that delighted hundreds of birders along Liberty Island Road, *Solano* & *Yolo* 9-12 Apr (RMu, ph. m.ob.). Seven Marbled Godwits at the Llano Seco Unit of the North Central Valley W.M.A. 25 Apr (ph. MRg) provided a rare *Butte* record; one was present there 27 Apr (Ken Sobon).

Two Ruddy Turnstones at American Canyon Wetlands 4 May and 2 different birds there 10 May (all MBe) provided the first spring records for *Napa* since 1987. Two Red Knots at the same location 2 Mar (DMO) provided the first "winter" record for *Napa*; the previous three spring records have all pertained to May migrants. Notable inland, 2 knots were also found near Corcoran, *Kings* 6 May (SuS). Exceedingly rare inland, a Surfbird at the Ukiah W.T.P. 27 Apr was the first found inland in *Mendocino* (it was with *Mendocino's* third inland spring Black-bellied Plover; both CEV) and only the second inland record for the Region. The first involved 3 birds n. of Firebaugh, *Fresno* 28 Apr 1962. Four Stilt Sandpipers were near Corcoran, *Kings* 18 Apr; 3 were there 3 May (both MSy). The only other one reported was also inland, at C.R.P. 27 Apr (JTr). Inland Sanderlings included one along the Nice-Lucerne Cutoff Road 21-22 Apr (first spring record for *Lake*; JRW, DvW), one at Modesto W.T.P., *Stanislaus* 27 Apr (HMR, SSa), and 2 near Corcoran, *Kings* 6 May (SuS). Baird's Sandpipers, rare in spring, were at MacKericher S.P., *Mendocino* 2 Apr (DT), Pigeon Point 6 May (fourth *San Mateo* spring record; RSTh), and Woodland W.T.P., *Yolo* (†Noah Reid). Likewise rare in spring, Pectoral Sandpipers were at Ravenswood N.W.R., *San Mateo* 21 Apr (2 birds; RSTh), Harkins Slough, *Santa Cruz* 4 May (NLv, AMR, JGa), Bolinas W.T.P., *Marin* 6 May (Renee Cormier, Tom Gardali), and inland at Ceres W.T.P. 14-16 May (2 birds, second spring record for *Stanislaus*; ph. JHG, m.ob.). Semipalmated Sandpipers were along the Nice-Lucerne Cutoff



The Northern California region's first Marsh Sandpiper spent time in both Yolo County and Solano County 9-12 (here 11) April. Photograph by Joseph Morlan.

Road 20-21 Apr (second spring record for *Lake*; JRW, DvW, SJS) and at the Salinas W.T.P., *Monterey* 15 May (ph. KVV). Two Wilson's Snipe at the Carmel River mouth, *Monterey* 18 May (ph. CRo, LRo) and another at Harkins Slough, *Santa Cruz* 22 May (AMR, CSz) were inexplicably late. The last few migrating and wintering snipe normally depart coastal areas by the first few days of May.

SKUA THROUGH SKIMMER

Eight South Polar Skuas off *Mendocino* and *Humboldt* and 12 Long-tailed Jaegers from *Monterey* n. were recorded on repositioning cruises, and another Long-tailed Jaeger was near Viscaïno Knoll, *Mendocino* 18 May (TEa, RbF, RLeV, RJK et al.); both species are relatively scarce in spring. Because most Common Murres straying into estuaries occur in late summer and fall (primarily juvs.), one in Richmond, *Contra Costa* 15 Mar (ph. LLk) was unseasonal. In *Humboldt* waters on 24 May, 2 Scripps's Murrelets 60 km w. of Cape Mendocino were unusually far n. for such an early date (they usually move n. from breeding areas in summer), while an Ancient Murrelet 50 km wsw. of Punta Gorda was unusually far s. for such a late date (both PEL et al.). Two Parakeet Auklets off *Humboldt* 30 Apr (PEL et al.) were the only ones reported.

Sabine's Gulls are much rarer inland in spring than in fall, so singles at Corcoran, *Kings* 1 May (MSy) and Goose Lake, *Modoc* 4 May (ph. SCR) were unusual. A first-spring Little Gull s. of Corcoran 2-5 May (ph. SuS et al.) provided a first record for *Kings*. Laughing Gulls were present in good numbers. Adults were at Bodega Bay, *Sonoma* 3 May (RLeb, AWgh, RAR, LHg); Crescent City Harbor 8 May (fourth *Del Norte* record; ph. LuB); Moss Landing, *Monterey* 8-10 May (YG, ph. BTM, ph. DR), with presumably the same bird moving to West Struve Slough, *Santa Cruz* 12 May (Gary Martindale); and Richmond, *Contra Costa* 14 May (ph. Albert Linkowski). A second-cycle bird around Hum-



This Williamson's Sapsucker, a male photographed 7 April 2014, was the second ever to reach the Farallon Islands, 33 km from the mainland, in San Francisco County, California. Photograph by Anna Stunkel.

boldt Bay 12-25 Apr (Jared Hughey, Brendan Higgins, Jillian Soller, ph. RbF et al.) provided *Humboldt's* sixth record. Nine inland and four coastal Franklin's Gulls represented an average showing for recent years. The "summer" influx of Heermann's Gulls began earlier than normal, with post-breeding dispersants beginning to appear off the Big Sur, *Monterey* coast the first week of May and higher-than-average numbers elsewhere in coastal *Monterey* and *Santa Cruz* by the end of May (DR, Randy Wardle). A Mew Gull at Folsom Lake, *Placer* 24 Mar (RPz), multiple Westerns at the Gaffery Road composting facility, *Stanislaus* (as well as nearby Delta Mendota Canal, *San Joaquin*) through the period, and a Glaucous-winged at O'Neill Forebay, *Merced* 2 May (MMR, FrT, RGJ) were unusually late for such inland locations. The first three records of Glaucous-winged x Western Gull hybrids for *Madera* were at the Fairmead Landfill 20 Feb and 1 & 8 Mar (ph. GaW). Lesser Black-backed Gulls included continuing birds at the Vacaville, *Solano* landfill to 2 Mar (RMu, ph. TEa et al.) and Yolo County Landfill, *Yolo* to 4 Mar (TMcK) and new birds at the Ostrom Road Landfill 4-6 Mar (*Yuba's* first; ph. JLa, JSL) and the Yolo County Landfill 5 Apr (ph. Cory Gregory). A Slaty-backed Gull was at Upper Crystal Springs Reservoir, *San Mateo* 4 Mar (†RSTh). Seventeen Glaucous Gulls, with the latest on 9 May, represented an average showing for recent years.

A Gull-billed Tern s. of *Corcoran* 2-16 May (ph. SuS et al.) provided a first record for *Kings* and only the second for the Region. *Humboldt's* first modern record of Royal Tern was observed at several locations between the s. jetty of *Humboldt Bay* and the Mad River mouth 17 Apr-2 May (ph. David La Puma, m.ob.). As was the

case with Heermann's Gull, Elegant Terns appeared unusually early, with the first birds arriving from *Monterey* to *S.F.* in mid-Apr; 15 in the Golden Gate Channel 1 May (JsC) providing one of the highest spring counts for *S.F.*; and 3 at the s. jetty of *Humboldt Bay* 1 May (ph. Brad Elvert) furnishing one of few May records for *Humboldt*. More typical arrival is in late Jun. Black Skimmers away from s. *S.F.* Bay breeding areas included singles at Moss Landing, *Monterey* 3 & 26 May (RF et al., RJA), Capitola Beach, *Santa Cruz* 4 May (Sergey Pavlov), and Shollenberger Park, *Sonoma* 7 May (Jason Thompson).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

A new high count of 13 Eurasian Collared-Doves was established on *FI.* this spring (Point Blue). *FI.*, like many places in the Region, now hosts this species as a regular member of its avifauna. On the island, though, the birds appear to arrive in small groups, which are slowly whittled down by Peregrine Falcon predation, only to be replenished by new arrivals. The only Common Ground-Dove reported was at the Big Sur River mouth, *Monterey* 29 May (ph. KVV). As with all *Monterey* records, now eight, this bird was a one-day-wonder. Three White-winged Doves were reported. They included one along the coast at Moss Landing, *Monterey*, continuing from winter through 27 Mar (DSy, m.ob.), and 2 inland: *Tulare's* first in *Tulare* 9 Apr-19 May (ph. DaF) and another at *Oasis, Mono* 23 May (PJM, DMO, ADeM).

A Chimney Swift with other swifts and swallows over Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve in Portola Valley 18 May (LBt, RSTh) was *San Mateo's* second for spring. Vaux's Swift is rarely detected in the Region before late Mar at the earliest, so five independent reports of the species in *Santa Clara* 1-2 Mar (m.ob.), one involving 2 birds, and another in *Humboldt* 7 Mar (Mark Colwell et al.) were remarkable. A flock of 600 Vaux's Swifts circling high above Lewiston Fish Hatchery 19 May (Casey Ryan) established a new high count for *Trinity*.

What was almost certainly *Humboldt's* fourth Black-chinned Hummingbird, a female at Orleans 10 May (†TWL, Gene Lodes, Cindy Moyer, m.ob.), could not be distinguished with certainty from a female of the far less likely Ruby-throated Hummingbird. A total of up to 6 Costa's Hummingbirds along Indians Road near Memorial Park, *Monterey* 20 Apr (BLS, CSs) represented one of the highest counts ever reported from a single location anywhere in the Region. Our two other highest counts, one of 8 birds in

Bixby Canyon 12 May 1984 and another of 6 birds at Garrapata S.P. 31 May 1999, also came from *Monterey*. The only Broad-tailed Hummingbird reported was at *Oasis, Mono* 30 May (CMc). Calliope Hummingbirds were found in good numbers, with 15 at Mount Diablo S.P., *Contra Costa* 26 Apr (Derek Heins) representing the highest single count of the season.

On the heels of last fall's Williamson's Sapsucker at *FI.*, another male made landfall there 7 Apr (Point Blue), establishing the island's second record. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers included 3 winter holdovers, one each in *Santa Clara, Santa Cruz*, and *Monterey*, and one newly discovered this season in Palo Alto, *Santa Clara* 7-21 Mar (Juliana Manoliu, m.ob.). Similarly, Red-naped Sapsuckers included 4 continuing from winter (one in *Mendocino* and 3 in *Santa Clara*) and 2 fresh finds, both in *Santa Cruz*. A local farm worker in Pescadero, *San Mateo* used a flip-phone to photograph a Crested Caracara that landed in a field he was plowing 13 Mar (ph., fide MKU).

For the fourth consecutive year, a pair of Western Wood-Pewees nested on Mount Davidson (20 May; DMO), providing the only nesting records for *S.F.* in decades. Meanwhile, a fallout during a rain event brought an astounding 50+ to the shores of *Mono Lake, Mono* on the same day (KNN). At least 38 Gray Flycatchers detected on point count surveys at the San Joaquin Experimental Range, *Madera* 24 Apr (JTz) represented a good showing for this passage migrant. Large migratory pulses like these through the Sierra foothills are probably an annual occurrence but rarely coincide with intensive coverage by birders or researchers. Three Gray Flycatchers atop the same tree on Wild Horse Ridge 13 May (EPi, MBe) established *Napa's* fourth record of the species. One on San Bruno Mountain the same day (RSTh) furnished the third spring record for *San Mateo*. Coinciding with another rain event, what must have been "hundreds" of Dusky Flycatchers were grounded in the *Mono Basin*, including about 35 alone at *Mono Lake C.P., Mono* 6 May (KNN). A total of 12 Tropical Kingbirds included *Santa Cruz's* first for May at Neary Lagoon 9 May (ph. CSz, Bruce LaBar).

Our only Bell's Vireo was at the Tule River inflow at Lake Success, *Tulare*, where a singing male was found 6 May (SDS, JCS, SuS, RAB) and 20 May (v.r. SDS). The only Yellow-throated Vireo reported was at *Oasis, Mono* 23-25 May (PJM, DMO, v.r. CMc). Three Plumbeous Vireos included one in *Sacramento* at A.R.P. 12-14 May (JML, Jim Pompy) and 2 in *Sierra*, one at Cold Creek Campground 21 May (BJ & Micheleen Stacey) and another along Lemon Canyon Road 27 May (RDB). A Juniper Titmouse along Dog Valley Road 14 May (Alan Wallace) represented

only about the third record for *Sierra*. Reports of Townsend's Solitaires away from areas of residency include 9 birds from seven coastal and Bay Area counties.

THRASHERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Northern Mockingbird at Tionesta, *Modoc* 4 May (KSp) provided one of few records for that county. Four out-of-range Sage Thrashers were all found in Mar with singles along Davis Road and at Turlock Lake (both *Stanislaus*) 2 Mar (JHG) and 8 Mar (SSa), respectively, one at Contra Loma R.P., *Contra Costa* 12 Mar (Paul Schorr, ph. Beth Branthaver), and another at Abbotts Lagoon, *Marin* 22 Mar (DS). The only Brown Thrasher was a holdover from winter in Pacific Grove, *Monterey* (Dick and Linda Beidleman) that stayed to 1 May. *Mono* hosted a remarkable total of 17 Phainopeplas, including the county's first confirmed nesting record in Cottonwood Canyon 22 May+ (PJM, DMO, m.ob.). While we rarely see many longspurs in spring, a complete lack of longspur reports was unusual. Ovenbirds were in Oasis, *Mono* 23 May (PJM, DMO, ADeM) and Buena Vista Park, *S.F.* 24 May (Kimberly Jannarone, m.ob.). Northern Waterthrushes included 2 lingering from winter, one at Lake Merced, *S.F.* to 13 Apr (m.ob.), and the other at Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt* to 21 Apr (KBu, et al.). Our only "new" Northern Waterthrush was a bird likely returning for its second consecutive year at Lake Almanor, *Plumas* 30 May (RDB). Among 5 Black-and-white Warblers, only a female in Stockton, *San Joaquin* 12 May (DGY) was in an inland county. A Prothonotary Warbler at the Big Sur River mouth, *Monterey* 26 May (SRv, TAm) was notable as this species is less than annual in the Region in spring. Our only Tennessee Warblers were banded on FI. 30 Apr and 23-24 May (both Point Blue). Hooded Warblers were at Carnegie State Vehicular R.A., *Alameda* 9 May (CrS) and in Cottonwood Canyon, *Mono* 22 May (DMO). Our warbler highlight was a well-described male Cape May Warbler at Colusa NWR, *Colusa* 21 Apr (†Dana Howard). *Humboldt* hosted single singing male Northern Parulas 21 May at Blue Lake (KMS, KI, Kurt Ongman) and 25 May in Orick (GSL); other males were in upper Paloma Valley, *Monterey* 5 May (ph. Bruce Finocchio) and along Pine Flat Road, *Sonoma* 21-28 May (Rich Cimino, Danny Spicegood). A Blackpoll Warbler was banded on FI. 31 May (Point Blue). Six of 12 Palm Warblers were in *Santa Cruz* 27 Mar–2 May.

Clay-colored Sparrows in Eureka, *Humboldt* 2 Mar (Elizabeth Feucht) and 17 Mar in Alemany Farm, *S.F.* (DMO) were both holdovers from winter. Other Clay-colored were in Fort Bragg, *Mendocino* 23-24 Apr (Steve Sanberg, KHv) and Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* 14 May

(third spring record for *San Mateo*; MDeF, C. Hayward). Black-chinned Sparrows, a species whose abundance and range varies significantly from year to year in the Region, often favor post-fire chaparral. This year there were 3 birds on Summit Ridge, *Santa Cruz* 3 May+ (AMR, m.ob.), 3 along Salt Springs Road, *Amador* 14 May+ (Richard Aracil, m.ob.), and an impressive total of 16 singing males in Henry Coe S.P., *Santa Clara* 18 May (MMR). A Black-throated Sparrow at Ridge Cut Slough 5-28 Mar (Sami LaRocca, ph. JCS, m.ob.) provided *Yolo*'s third record. A Lark Bunting e. of Milpitas, *Santa Clara* 20 Mar–3 Apr (RFu, ph. Caroline Lambert, m.ob.) gave the county its sixth record and its first for spring. Notable Grasshopper Sparrow observations included one on Bernal Hill 7 April (RFu), providing a first *S.F.* spring record, and along Rosemary Lane, *Nevada* 29 May (ph. Eric Ongman), giving *Nevada* its second record. Three of 4 Harris's Sparrows were winter holdovers, with a bird in Topaz, *Mono* 15 Mar (CPD) probably also a previously undetected lingerer from winter. A "Gray-headed" Dark-eyed Junco was well-documented at North Lake Tahoe, *Placer* 26 Mar–2 Apr (ph. ScD). Summer Tanagers in Pacific Grove, *Monterey* and Arcata, *Humboldt* remained from winter to 24 Apr and 9 Apr, respectively. Summer Tanagers were also at Crowley Lake, *Mono* 21 May (ph. KNN) and in Lafayette Park, *S.F.* 26 May (Richard Bradus). A total of 8 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was well below our average of more than 13, but 5 Indigo Buntings represented a typical total. The Rusty Blackbird first found at Harkins Slough, *Santa Cruz* 28 Feb continued to 20 Mar (m.ob.). An additional Rusty Blackbird on FI. 12-18 Mar marked the first time we have had two spring records of this declining species in the Region in at least the past 20 years. One Orchard Oriole was in Oasis, *Mono* 22 May (PJM, DMO, ADeM) and *S.F.* hosted 3, including a winter holdover on Potrero Hill to 5 Apr and 2 spring visitors at Fort Mason 2-10 Apr. Five Baltimore Orioles, while a very good total, was well down from last spring's total of 8. They included a returning bird in the vicinity of Vasona C.P., *Santa Clara* 18 Mar–29 May (Karen Burnson, JPa), one in Ferndale Bottoms, *Humboldt* 18-19 May (ph. Owen Head), one in Pacific Grove, *Monterey* 17 May (ph. DR), and a pair at the Big Sur River mouth, *Monterey* 26 May+ (SRv, TAm, CSc, m.ob.).

Cited observers (county subregional editors in boldface): Many more observers are not specifically cited; all are appreciated. **Ken Able** (*Lassen*), R. J. Adams, Dan A. Airola, Tim Amaral, Robert A. Barnes, Leonie Batkin, Bob Battagin, **Murray Berner** (*Napa*), **William G. Bousman** (*Santa Clara*), Ryan D. Burnett, Ken Bur-

ton, Lucas Brug, Josiah Clark, **Daryl Coldren** (*Humboldt* and *Del Norte*); **Chris Conard** (*Sacramento*), **Rudy C. Darling** (*Nevada*), **Jeff N. Davis** (*Madera*), Malia DeFelice, Al DeMartini, **Bruce E. Deuel** (*n. C.V. counties*), Scott Dietrich, **Colin P. Dillingham** (*Plumas* and *Sierra*), Pete Dunten, Todd Easterla, Alan M. Eisner, Elias Elias, Dane Fagundes, Rick Fournier, **Rob Fowler** (RbF; *Humboldt* and *Del Norte*), Rob Furrow, James H. Gain, John Garrett, **Steve Gerow** (*Santa Cruz*), Yohn Gideon, **Steve Glover** (*Contra Costa*), **John Harris** (*Stanislaus*), Chris Hartzell, Jim Havlena, Karen Havlena, Cliff Hawley, Lisa Hug, **John E. Hunter** (*Trinity*), Ken Irwin, Richard G. Jeffers, **Robert J. Keiffer** (*Mendocino*), Gary Kittleson, Dan Kopp, Mark Kudrav, Tony Kurz, Alexandra Lamb, Jeri M. Langham, Jim Laughlin, Rick Lebaudour, Paul E. Lehman, **Robin L. C. Leong** (*Solano*), Tom W. Leskiw, Ron LeValley, Nick Levendosky, Laura Look (LLk), John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, Blake T. Matheson, **Dan J. Maxwell** (*Marin*), Tristan McKee, Chris McCreedy, **Peter J. Metropulos** (*San Mateo*), Bryan M. Mori, **Dominik Mosur** (*San Francisco*), Karen Murphy-Schlaepfer, Roger Muskat, **Kristie N. Nelson** (*Mono*), **Frances Oliver** (*San Joaquin*), Ron & Nancy Overholtz, **Ed Pandolfino** (*Placer*), Janna Pauser, Ryan Phillips, Eric Pilotte, **Gary W. Potter** (*Fresno*), Ron Pozzi, C. John Ralph, Harold M. Reeve, **Robert J. Richmond** (*Alameda*), Alex M. Rinkert, **Don Roberson** (*Monterey*), Michael M. Rogers, Michael Rogner (MRg), Carole Rose, Diane Rose, Larry Rose, Steve Rose, Stephen C. Rottenborn, Steve Rovell, **Ruth A. Rudesill** (*Sonoma*), Christian Schwarz, Cooper Scollan, **Jeff Seay** (*Kings*), David Shuford, Keith M. Slauson, Salvatore Salerno, Kevin Spencer, Mark Stacy, Susan Steele (SuS), **John C. Sterling** (*Modoc*, *Alpine*, *Calaveras*, and *Yolo*), **Tim Steurer** (*El Dorado* and *Amador*), Steve J. Stump, David Styer, **David L. Suddjian** (*Santa Cruz*), Brian L. Sullivan, **Steven D. Summers** (*Tulare*), Craig Swolgaard, Ronald S. Thorn, **Jim Tietz** (FI.), Dorothy Tobkin, John Trochet, **Steve Umland** (*Tuolumne*), Chuck E. Vaughn, **Kent Van Vuren** (*Merced*), Ken Wells, **Jerry R. White** (*Lake*), Alan Wight, Gary Woods, Dave Woodward, David G. Yee, **Bob & Carol Yutzky** (*Shasta*). ☺

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