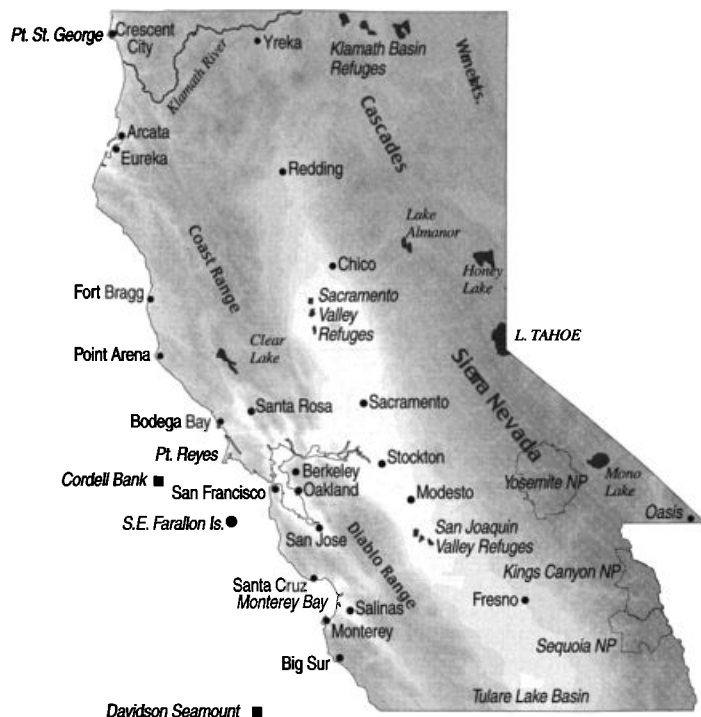


# Middle Pacific Coast



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**W**eather drew little comment this season, but the descriptions we did receive were generally along the lines of “hot” and “dry.” Drought conditions can have a major impact on reproductive success and may result in large-scale movements during the breeding period. Major early movements of record numbers of species such as Blue-winged Teal and Wilson’s Phalarope were likely drought-related, following on the probable drought-related incursions reported in the spring column. The variety and number of vagrants at coastal migrant traps were generally lackluster, as weather and winds favorable for fall-outs failed to materialize.

**Abbreviations:** C.B.R.C. (California Bird Records Committee); C.P. (County Park), C.C.F.S. (Coyote Creek Field Station), C.V. (Central Valley); F.C.B. (Flood Control Basin); F.I. (Southeast Farallon I., *San Francisco*); N.P. (National Park); P.R.B.O. (Point Reyes Bird Observatory); R.S. (Regional Shoreline); S.F. (San Francisco); S.R. (State Reserve); W.A. (Wildlife Area).

Luke W. Cole has stepped in to cover Thrashers to Finches for Don Roberson this season and has done such an admirable job that we may see more of him in the future. Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are normally not published. Observers wishing C.B.R.C. review should also send their documentation to Guy McCaskie, Secretary, P.O. Box 275, San Diego, CA 91933. Banded birds on F.I. should also be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory, those banded at Big Sur R. mouth to Big Sur Ornithology Lab of the Ventana Wilderness Society.

## LOONS THROUGH PELICANS

Rare inland, especially in mid-summer, a Pacific Loon was on Lundy I., *Mono* 16 Jun—7 Jul (Leslie Flint, m. ob.). Sixty-two and 30 Buller’s Shearwaters seen from two shore locations along the *San Mateo* coast 27 Jul (RSTh, PJM) were high numbers for this early in the season and from shore. A very well-documented Manx Shearwater 2 Jun 08 km w. of Ft. Bragg was a first for *Mendocino* (†PP, †TMcK, †RJK, †DT, m. ob.); most California records are from Monterey Bay. Inshore cold water persisted through the period, and only 2 Black-vented Shearwaters were reported, both from coastal *San Mateo* (RSTh). Two Brown Pelicans at Mono L., an imm. 3 Jun and an ad. 29 Jun, represented about the 5th and 6th records for *Mono* (JuH, m. ob.). This species is scarce inland in the Region, especially e. of the Sierra divide.

## BITTERNS THROUGH DUCKS

An ad. Least Bittern at Olema Marsh, *Marin* 4 Jun (ES) was the first reported at this location since they bred there in 1998. No Little Blue Herons were reported from anywhere in the Region this summer. None has been detected near the Alviso heronry in *Santa Clara* since 4 Jul 2001, and the fate of our Region’s few breeding pairs may be in doubt. Cattle Egrets were likewise not noted in the Alviso heronry this year, although they did breed for the 2nd year in a row at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* (RJR). Black-crowned Night-Herons nested again at Pt. Lobos, *Monterey*, with 3 nests found (BJW). A single bird seen 14 Jul at L. Alpine, *Alpine* was a county first (Phil & Ann-Sofie Dean). A remarkable find was the Region’s 3rd **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, discovered 23 Jul at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* (†RSTh, ph. AdW) and remaining to be enjoyed by many through the next day. The previous two records were of a bird that returned to San Rafael, *Marin* for six sum-

mers 1968-1973 and one that spent 12 Sep—17 Oct 1981 at Año Nuevo S. R., *San Mateo*. White-faced Ibis did well at the Sutter N. W. R., *Sutter*, with an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 birds forming 5000 breeding pairs and producing 8000 young (Mike Peters, Mike Wolder). The only coastal reports were of a single bird at Moonglow Dairy, *Monterey* 1 Jun (BHG, RF) and 3 in Petaluma, *Sonoma* 18 Jul (RAR).

Blue-winged Teal were widely reported, but no evidence of breeding was obtained. Unseasonal Redheads were reported in several locations this summer. A male at Ukiah 16 Jun (CEV) was only the 2nd summer record for *Mendocino*; more surprising were 12 there 23 Jun (CEV), the largest flock ever found in the county! Even larger numbers were inland at the Davis Wetlands, *Yolo*, with up to 118 present 10-18 Jul (JKn). Small numbers graced south S.F. Bay, with a male at Hayward R. S., *Alameda* 1 Jul (RJR), a pair at the Sunnyvale W.P.C.P., *Santa Clara* 19 Jul (WGB), and 8 at the Palo Alto F.C.B., *Santa Clara* 27 Jul (MJM). Lesser Scaup bred successfully again in both *Alameda* (RJR) and *Santa Clara* (WGB). Up to 12 oversummering Harlequin Ducks at Virgin Cr. Beach, *Mendocino* 1 Jun—31 Jul (DT, BDP) more than doubled the peak numbers from the past several summers. Two unseasonal males were in Monterey Harbor, *Monterey* throughout the period (AB, Jerry Loomis, m. ob.). More spectacular was successful breeding by **Harlequin Ducks** along the Merced R. in Yosemite N. P., *Mariposa*, with a female seen 1 Jun (Sue & Jerry James) and 4 young observed with her 6 Jul—10 Aug (*fide* PKB). This is the first confirmed breeding in the park since the 1920s and the first in the state since the 1970s. Breeding Buffleheads were well documented this year, with 2 broods discovered in *Alpine* 23 Jun (LWC, JSL, JWG) and 2 more found in *Plumas* 26 Jun and 2 Aug (Colin Dillingham, Nancy Richard, Bob Schwartz, Chris Conard). Out-of-place nonbreeders were on Salt Pond A1 in Mountain View, *Santa Clara* 2 Jun (MMR) and at the Yolo W. A., *Yolo* 16 Jun (SCH). A rare summer Common Goldeneye was at Clifton Court Forebay, *Contra Costa* 7 Jul (DSW, Dorothy Furseth).

## HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Several reports of nesting Ospreys were received, including some from new areas. Six active nests were located in *Merced* and *Stanislaus* (JHG), 2 were at the s. end of Mare I., *Solano* 15 Jun (Wally NeVille, RLCL), and a begging juv. was seen 19 Jul

close to the San Vicente Cr., *Santa Cruz* nest site used in past years (Jim Williams). Bald Eagles bred again at L. Sonoma, *Sonoma* (BBu, Randy Gibbons), as well as at a new site in *Napa* in Pope Valley (John O'Connell, Bill Grummer). Imm. Swainson's Hawks wandered to Clear Lake S.P. 20 Jul (*Lake's* 3rd; DCR, HG) and Alviso, *Santa Clara* 27 Jul (JiD). Wild Turkeys continue to do well. Several reported at Markleeville 23 Jun (JSL) were a first for *Alpine*. Calling Yellow Rails were detected near Ft. Bidwell, *Modoc* (Geoff Keller, MSanM, JLD) through at least 24 Jun and near Mt. Shasta, *Siskiyou* 15-25 Jul (Len Lindstrand, Julian Colescott). Such observations give hope that this species may still breed at remote locations in the state. Black Rail censuses in *Napa* were exceptionally productive, with 30 birds detected 6 Jun (Wally NeVille, Jamie Fenneman).

Unusual for outer Pt. Reyes, *Marin*, a pair of ad. Black-necked Stilts was seen at the Mendoza Ranch 5 Jun (RS). Snowy Plovers on the move included one at the Davis Wetlands, *Yolo* 30 Jul (JKn) and one at Tahoe Keys Marina, *El Dorado* 31 Jul (JSL). A faded basic-plumaged Lesser Yellowlegs at the Mountain View Forebay, *Santa Clara* 18 Jun was likely oversummering in the area (WGB). Seven Jul Solitary Sandpipers were more than expected, with birds at the Davis Wetlands, *Yolo* 9 & 24 Jul (JKn); Modesto, *Stanislaus* 23 Jul (ph. JHG); Mono L., *Mono* 23 & 26 Jul (Debbie House, JuH, Vireo Gaines); Redwood Shores, *San Mateo* 28 Jul (RSTh); and *El Dorado's* 2nd at Tahoe Keys Marina 31 Jul (JSL). Spotted Sandpipers were found breeding at two new locations in *Santa Clara* (MMR). Following this spring's bird, 3 Ruddy Turnstones were seen at Mono L., *Mono* 26 Jul (JuH, Vireo Gaines). Ad. Sanderlings were found inland at the Davis Wetlands, *Yolo* 22-25 Jul (JKn) and at Lodi, *San Joaquin* 31 Jul (DGY). Sightings of Semipalmated Sandpipers conservatively included at least 6 ads. (1-30 Jul) and 11 juvs. (27-31 Jul) in eight counties. A juv. at Trinity Center 31 Jul (BED) was *Trinity's* 3rd. Early returning Baird's Sandpipers were found at Crissy Field, S.F. 28 Jul (Dan Cooper) and at Salinas, *Monterey* the same day (RF). A Stilt Sandpiper at C.C.F.S. 10-12 Jun (RWR, FV, m. ob.) was the first summer record for *Santa Clara* and apparently also the first Jun record for the Region. Its unseasonal occurrence may have resulted from a leg injury. A female Ruff also at C.C.F.S. 30 Jul (Pat Kenny, Roland Kenner, m. ob.) was presumably the same bird that wintered in

Alviso last year and perhaps also in prior years. Record-high numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes staged at Mono L., *Mono*, with 100,000-130,000 estimated 31 Jul (Joe Jehl)

## GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

Rare in the Region, especially in the interior, a Laughing Gull at Mono L. 4-26 Jul was a first for *Mono* (EP, JuH). After several seasons of successful nesting, Heermann's Gulls at Roberts L., *Monterey* were unsuccessful for the 2nd year in a row (DR). A gull thought to be a juv. **Band-tailed (Belcher's) Gull** was at Natural Bridges S.P., *Santa Cruz* 6 Jul (†SGe) If accepted by the C.B.R.C., this would represent the first for the Region; there is only one previous accepted record in w. North America (San Diego; Aug 97—Jan 98). A Mew Gull at Mono L. 16 Jul was rare inland, especially in summer (*Mono's* 2nd; JuH, EP).

Caspian Terns returned to nest at Sand I., Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* for a 2nd year, this colony had not been active since the 1970s (MWa, DFX). A midsummer Arctic Tern at Crowley L., *Mono* 7-14 Jul (ph. JCS, m. ob.) was quite remarkable for an inland location, most Jul records are coastal, with the few inland records coming from fall. Quite rare n. of S F Bay, the first Least Tern (an ad.) in *Humboldt* in 24 years was at the Elk R. mouth, Eureka 22 Jul (MWa, SWH, †DFX, JCP). Unusually high numbers of post-breeding Least Terns were reported in *San Mateo* this year, with 96 at Ravenswood N.W.R. 21 Jul (RSTh) and 53 at Coyote Pt. 23 Jul (AME) being the high counts reported. A Black Skimmer at the Martinez R.S., *Contra Costa* 12 Jul—17 Aug (Rob Thomas et al.) had been banded 7 Aug 1998 at Bolsa Chica in s. California. This species continues to nest successfully in S.F. Bay in *Alameda* (RJR), *San Mateo* (PJM), and *Santa Clara* (WGB, MJM et al.).

An endangered species, Marbled Murrelets were reported from several new locations in the Santa Cruz Mts., *Santa Cruz*, including Empire Grade (2) 9 Jun, Whitehouse Cr (2-3) 16 Jul, and Majors Cr. (2) 27 Jul (DLSu) A juv. was found 30 Aug in Purisima Cr Redwoods Preserve, *San Mateo* (*fide* Cindy Roessler). Annual in recent years, an alternate-plumaged Long-billed Murrelet was reported without details off *Humboldt* 10 Jul (EE, *fide* DFX). The majority of Regional records are from late summer and early fall A Craveri's Murrelet offshore of Albion 25 Jul was a first for *Mendocino* (†EE, Jason Coburn, Brit O'Brien). This species is scarce n. of *Marin*. Single Horned Puffins were observed off *Mendocino* 11 Jun (EE) and near Cordell Bank, *Marin* 21 Jul (ph RS,

†RAR, SBT, m. ob.). Most Regional records occur during summer months.

### CUCKOOS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

A mountaineering Yellow-billed Cuckoo, accidental in the Region away from C.V. breeding haunts, was at Fallen Leaf L. 11 Jun (*El Dorado's* first; ph. Will Richardson). Cuckoos were also found along the lower Eel R., *Humboldt* for the 3rd consecutive summer: one and possibly 2 were at Singley Bar 5 Jul (SMcA), and another was near Cock Robin I. 23 Jul (Gary Falxa). A Greater Roadrunner at Redding, *Shasta* 24 Jul was the first found in that area in 20 years (Ruth Jessen). Three Long-eared Owl fledglings along Pinehurst Rd. near Moraga 8 Jul were the first nesting confirmation for *Contra Costa* (RJR). Coastal Lesser Nighthawks were at the Big Sur R. mouth 2 Jun (DR, RC, RF) and 15 Jun (Andrew Rush); another Lesser at the surprisingly lofty altitude of 1470 m at Boardman Ridge 21 Jun was a first for *Lake* (†MMtt). An unidentified nighthawk 27 Jun was a rarity for *Santa Cruz* (SGe). The demise of nesting Black Swifts in *Santa Cruz* was confirmed this summer with the help of organized surveys of each of *Santa Cruz's* historic breeding sites. Though there were 10 sightings, nine were well within typical dates for spring migrants, and the site of the 10th record was checked repeatedly on subsequent dates, to no avail (DLSu, m. ob.). A single Chimney Swift at the Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 11 Jun was the only one reported (†RbF). An Anna's Hummingbird nest near June L. 20 Jun provided *Mono's* first breeding record (ph. KNN).

A tantalizing sighting of a Lewis's Woodpecker at Los Vaqueros Res. 7 Jun unfortunately pertained to a late migrant rather than a nester; there are no breeding records for *Contra Costa* (SAG). A pair of Western Wood-Pewees with a fledgling at Mt. Davidson 4-9 Jul strongly suggests that breeding occurred, but this has yet to be proven in S.F. (PSa). As is typical, a smattering of Willow Flycatchers was detected along the coast during the first two weeks of Jun, but surprising were single unseasonal birds at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* 25 Jul (RSTh) and C.C.F.S., *Santa Clara* 28 Jul (*vide* MMR). Encouraging news for this beleaguered species included a female with an egg in its oviduct at the Van Duzen R. mouth as well as at least 4 territorial males throughout the period along the lower Van Duzen, Eel, and Mad Rivers (all *Humboldt*; RHw, LBJ Enterprises). Other unusual *Empidonax* included a vagrant Least Flycatcher at



This cooperative Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, only the third for the Region, was enjoyed by many at Coyote Point, San Mateo County 23-24 July (here 23 July) 2002. Photograph by Adam Winer.

*Shasta Valley W.A.*, *Siskiyou* 14-15 Jun (†RE, Neal Clark) and lightly-birded *Amador's* first Gray Flycatcher at Kirkwood Meadows 20 Jul (TS, Fritz Steurer). An Eastern Phoebe near Crissy Field 15 Jun was a nice find for S.F. (†HuC). Vagrant Eastern Kingbirds reached *Humboldt* at Freshwater Lagoon 6 Jun (KI) and near Cape Ranch 22 Jun (GSL); singles near Ft. Bidwell, *Modoc* 24 Jun (Mike San Miguel, JLD) and at *Shasta Valley W.A.*, *Siskiyou* 9 Jun—6 Jul (RE) were in areas where breeding has been suspected. A well-watched Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Año Nuevo S.R. 12-27 Jul added spice to *San Mateo's* summer (Arch Mott; †PJM, m. ob.).

### VIREOS THROUGH SILKY-FLYCATCHERS

A Yellow-throated Vireo 8 Jun was at the Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey*, a site that in recent years has hosted several individuals of this normally accidental species (†CHo, Robert Horn). Bank Swallows at Martis L., *Placer/Nevada* 1 Jun (Cliff Hawley), Fernbridge, *Humboldt* 14 Jun (TMcK), and Silver L., *Amador* 20 Jul (2; TS, Fritz Steurer) were well away from known breeding sites. Unseasonal nuthatches included a Red-breasted 17 Jun in Pacific Grove, *Monterey* (BJW) and a White-breasted at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 16 Jul (Jason Scott). A territorial Winter Wren 23 Jun—9 Jul at Kirkwood, *Alpine* was at the unusually high altitude of 2400 m (JSL). Extremely late was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet on F.I. 13 Jun (P.R.B.O.). An ad. male Mountain Bluebird at Mendocino Pass, *Mendocino* 18 Jun was in an

area where breeding has been suspected in the past (Linda Angerer).

**SA** Many species known to breed in the Coast Ranges and Sierran foothills are unknown as breeders on the C.V. floor, making this summer's happenings at the Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento* extremely intriguing. A female non-Black-chinned Hummingbird was found building a nest 1 May (Julian Wood, P.R.B.O.) and reidentified as a *Selasphorus* when feeding young in late May (Jill Coumoutso, P.R.B.O.). It was identified as an Allen's on 2 Jun (JTr; details to appear elsewhere; not seen by us). There were no previous nest records for the C.V. A male Cassin's Vireo present throughout the summer wasn't thought to be breeding until it was found feeding a fledgling 6 Aug (JTr). This was apparently another C.V. first. A singing Swainson's Thrush as well as up to 3 calling birds were present into Aug, but what would be yet another C.V. breeding first could not be confirmed (JTr et al.). Dark-eyed Juncos, not known to breed anywhere else in the C.V., bred for the 3rd consecutive year.

A summer rash of Mimidae in *Mono* included 2 Gray Catbirds, one singing male at Lundy L. 22 Jun—3 Jul (Dan Cooper) and a female near *Mono L.* 20 Jun (ph. NH), a Northern Mockingbird at Wilson Cr. 2 Jul (KNN), a Brown Thrasher at *Mono Lake C.P.* 14 Jun (MT), and a LeConte's Thrasher at Fish Slough 6 Jun (DP). A Brown Thrasher

was at Five Brooks Pond, *Marin* 10-11 Jun (RS, vt. KH). Ad. Cedar Waxwings feeding 2 fledglings in Palo Alto 16 Jun provided *Santa Clara's* first breeding record (DLSu); *Contra Costa's* first was an ad. feeding a fledgling in Concord 4 Jun (SAG). Five Phainopeplas w. of their normal range in *Santa Clara* suggest a minor invasion, while single birds at Frazier Canyon, *Mono* 20 Jun (PJM) and Arcata, *Humboldt* (PPS) were unexpected.

## WARBLERS

Five reports of Virginia's Warbler from *Mono* 20-29 Jun (PJM, ES, Sally Miller, NH), including breeding at Frazier Canyon, are a hopeful sign that the bird may be on the rebound there; last year's breeding was the first detected in *Mono* since 1975. Thirteen Northern Parula reports were strewn along the coast; among *Santa Cruz's* 4 were a female at a nest with 2 young at Scott Cr. 8-12 Jul, the first county breeding confirmation (CGE, DLSu). Four others were at various *Mono* locales (KNN, ES, PMC). A pair of Yellow Warblers with a fledgling at San Joaquin N.W.R. 19-20 Jun provided *Stanislaus's* first confirmed breeding record (KM).

Regular spring vagrant warblers along the coast and at F.I. in Jun included Tennessee (one), Chestnut-sided (6), Black-and-white (5), and American Redstart (11). More unusual on F.I. were 2 Magnolia Warblers, a Blackpoll 26-27 Jun, and a lingering Ovenbird 25 Jun—9 Jul (PP). East of the Sierran crest, mid-Jun migrants included a Chestnut-sided Warbler, a Black-and-white Warbler, and 2 American Redstarts in *Mono*. A male Black-and-white Warbler 19 Jun along the Klamath R. (Mike Robbins) was *Siskiyou's* 3rd record. A male Audubon's Warbler feeding a young cowbird with the female nearby at the East Wash was only the 2nd nesting record for *S.F.* (ES, Mike McClaskey); the first was last year at the same location. Interesting in *Lassen* was a male Bay-breasted Warbler 4 Jun at Secret Cr. (RS). A female Prothonotary Warbler was at San Gregorio, *San Mateo* 6 Jun (JM).

*Humboldt* had 3 Ovenbirds, while another was singing in a montane forest at Waterman Gap, *Santa Cruz* 5 Jun (DLSu). A Northern Waterthrush was at Arroyo Leon, *San Mateo* 2 Jun (RSTh); another was singing at Fernbridge, *Humboldt* 14 Jun (TMcK). A singing male Common Yellowthroat 23 Jun at Malakoff Diggins S.P. (David Lukas) was intriguing, as there are no breeding records for *Nevada*. The only Hooded Warbler was a singing male 30 Jun—4 Jul at Julia Pfeiffer Burns S.P., *Monterey* (Larry & Matthew

Schmall, Rob Caldwell). It was a good season for Yellow-breasted Chat, with multiple reports of migrants and breeders. Three singing males at Año Nuevo S.R., *San Mateo* 1 Jun (PJM) dwindled to a single bird seen throughout the period (DSg, m. ob.), while singing males at Llagas Cr. 16 Jun and Coyote Res. 16-25 Jun were likely breeders in *Santa Clara* (MMR, MJM, RWR, FV).

## TANAGERS THROUGH SPARROWS

A female Summer Tanager was at San Gregorio, *San Mateo* 23 Jun (RSTh), and a singing male was at Big Basin Redwoods S.P., *Santa Cruz* 17 Jun (DLSu). A displaying Cassin's Sparrow 1 Jun near Crowley L. (†Bruce Barrett) would be only the 2nd record for *Mono* and the interior of our Region if accepted by the C.B.R.C.; the Region's 13 other records are from the coast, 12 from F.I. An ad. Clay-colored Sparrow 10 Jun at Younger Lagoon (†SGe) is the first summer record for *Santa Cruz*.

It was a strong summer for Black-chinned Sparrows and Grasshopper Sparrows, with four times as many Black-chinned reports as in recent years. Five different Grasshopper reports from *Humboldt* was high (DFx), while one 18 Jun along Maxwell Rd. in *Amador* (TS) may be an expansion of a nearby breeding population in *Sacramento*. It was a good year for Black-throated Sparrows, presumably as a result of drought conditions elsewhere. A male mist-netted 21 Jun near Calpine was *Sierra's* 2nd record (MMC, Debbie Hansen, Jim Steele, Liz Phegan), while singing males were at Diamond Valley Road, *Alpine* (elev. 1650 m) 9 & 23 Jun (5 birds; JSL, LWC, JWtg). Others were at scattered locations in *Mono* (KNN) and also at Folsom L., *El Dorado* 17 Jun, where they had been absent for some years (TS). One at Pescadero, *San Mateo* 14 Jun was unexpected (RSTh). Normally an uncommon winter visitor, a Swamp Sparrow was at Arroyo Leon, *San Mateo* 4 Jun (RSTh).

## GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES

A mere 25 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was down from last year's record of 30; away from the coast, single males were coming to feeders in Lafayette, *Contra Costa* 27 Jun—1 Jul (Maury Stern) and Glenshire, *Nevada* 4 Jun (Martin Meyers; 4th county record). Blue Grosbeaks were widespread, with twice as many reports as in recent years. A singing male along Jackson Cr. 27 Jun was unexpected in *Amador* (TS). Nine Indigo Buntings seemed average: all were in coastal or Bay Area counties except a male at Cosumnes R.

Preserve, *Sacramento* (JTr) and one 21 Jun at Dechambeau Cr., *Mono* (GB). The lone Bobolink reported was at El Granada, *San Mateo* 16 Jun (RSTh).

A female Tricolored Blackbird 21 Jul in the Sierra Valley was only the 3rd record for *Plumas* (Colin Dillingham, Angela Dillingham). Great-tailed Grackles continued their siege of the state, with this summer bringing nesting records for Hayward Shoreline, *Alameda* 1 Jul (RJR; 2nd county nest record), McNabney Marsh, *Contra Costa* (Hugh & Rosita Harvey, Roger Muscat), Parkway Lakes, *Santa Clara* (MJM, MMR, m. ob.), and at the Bridgeport Sewage Ponds and Mono Lake C.P., *Mono* (PJM, m. ob.) Elsewhere, Great-taileds were in *Placer* (>6, Paul Beach, BDW, EP), *Colusa* (BED), *Solano* (Susan Johnson), *San Joaquin*, *Monterey*, and *Santa Cruz*. Hooded Orioles were less often reported than in recent summers, but 2 at Ione, *Amador* 22 Jun (JSL, TS, LWC) and one at Mono Lake C.P., *Mono* 4 Jul (MMA) may be evidence of further range expansion. Three Baltimore Orioles were more than expected 3 Jun in Calistoga, *Napa* (Wayne Tillay, Bob Watts, Ralph Sherman), 29 Jun at Pescadero, *San Mateo* (RSTh), and 5 Jul at Mono Lake C.P., *Mono* (MT).

Red Crossbills were widely scattered along the coast: 75 at Butano S.P., *San Mateo* 29 Jun (DLSu) were impressive, as were five different reports from the Santa Cruz Mts., *Santa Cruz* (DLSu), and one over Alum Rock Park, *Santa Clara* 9 Jun (EFe). Up to 10 were seen through the period at Ft. Bragg, *Mendocino* (DT). The spring invasion of Lawrence's Goldfinches continued into the summer, when they were found widely and in numbers from *Mendocino* (up to 17 birds in Hopland, CEV, RJK) to *Monterey*, many in unexpected places. A male and female near Antelope L., *Plumas* 22 Jun may be a first for that under-birded county (†Colin Dillingham, Angela Dillingham, DFX, JCP). A family group of Evening Grosbeaks in Alta Sierra 20 Jul marked the lowest known breeding in *Nevada* (660 m; Joan Armer).

**Cited observers** (county coordinators in boldface): Alan Baldridge, Grant Ballard, **William G. Bousman** (*Santa Clara*), **Penelope K. Bowen** (*Alpine & Calaveras*), Betty Burrige, Rita Carratello, Dennis Cavallo, **Luke W. Cole** (*Kings*), Hugh Cotter, Jim Danzenbaker, **Bruce E. Deuel** (*n C V counties*), Jon L. Dunn, Alan M. Eisner, **Ray Ekstrom** (*Siskiyou*), Elias Elias, Chris G. Emmons, Eric Feuss, **David Fix** (*Humboldt*), Rick Fournier (RF), Rob Fowler (RbF), **James**

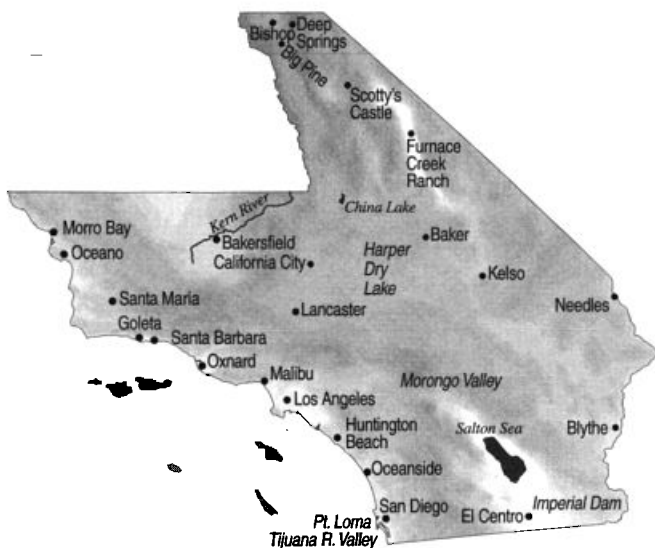
**H Gain** (*Stanislaus*), Bruce H. Gerow, Steve Gerow, **Steven A. Glover** (*Contra Costa*), Helen Green, Noah Hamm, Steve C. Hampton, Keith Hansen, Stanley W. Harris, Rob Hewitt, Justin Hite, Craig Hohenberger, Ken Irwin, **Robert J. Keiffer** (*Mendocino*), Jon King, **Robin L. C. Leong** (*Napa & Solano*), Gary S. Lester, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, Matthew A. Matthiessen, Kim Maute, Mike Mayer, Sean McAllister, J. "Mac" **McCormack** (MMC; *Plumas & Sierra*), Paul

McFarland, Tristan McKee, **Peter J. Metropulos** (*San Mateo*), Joe Morlan, **Kristie N. Nelson** (*Mono*), **Ed Pandolfino** (*Placer*), Debbie Parker, Benjamin D. Parmeter, **Jude C. Power** (*Humboldt*), **Peter Pyle** (*F.I.*), Robert W. Reiling, David C. Rice, **Robert J. Richmond** (*Alameda*), **Don Roberson** (*Monterey*), Michael M. Rogers, **Ruth A. Rudesill** (*Sonoma*), Mike San Miguel, Paul Saraceni, Dan Singer, Paul F. Springer, Rich Stallcup, **John C. Sterling** (*Modoc*), Tim

**Steurer** (*El Dorado*), Emilie Strauss, **David L. Suddjian** (*Santa Cruz*), Moss Templeton, Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn, Dorothy Tobkin, John Trochet, Frank Vanslager, Chuck E. Vaughn, Matt Wachs, Brian J. Weed, Denise S. Wight, **Brian D. Williams** (*Nevada*), Adam Winer, Jay Withgott, **David G. Yee** (*San Joaquin*). Many more observers were not specifically cited; all are much appreciated.



# Southern Pacific Coast



mented in 2001 versus only nine in 2002) Records of many migrant passerines in the coastal and desert lowlands throughout late June and early July were difficult to classify as late spring birds, early fall birds, or simply wanderers, but these were also likely reflective of poor breeding success. Most nesting larvae did poorly at the Salton Sea, with all attempts by California Gulls and nearly all those by Black Skimmers failing, and Gull-billed Terns fledging fewer young than in recent years (KCM).

**Abbreviations:** C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. *Kern*); E.A.F.B. (Edwards Air Force Base, se. *Kern*); F.C.R. (Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Monument, *Inyo*); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park in extreme e. *Kern*); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, *Riverside*); S.C.R.E. (Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, *Ventura*); S.E.S.S. (s. end of the Salton Sea, *Imperial*); S.F.K.R.P. (South Fork Kern River Preserve near Weldon, *Kern*); V.A.F.B. (Vandenberg Air Force Base in nw. *Santa Barbara*); V.C.G.P. (Ventura County Game Preserve near Pt Mugu Naval Air Station, *Ventura*). Because virtually all rarities in s. California are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are included. Documentation for species on the California Bird Records Committee (C.B.R.C.) review list is forwarded to the C.B.R.C. Secretary and archived at the Western Foundation for Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

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**F**ollowing a record dry winter, there was virtually no precipitation during the two months of summer, resulting in dangerously dry conditions throughout the foothills and mountains and a series of extensive high-intensity fires. Breeding passerines appeared to have fared poorly in the Region. Results of a multi-year study conducted by Doug Bolger and Michael A. Patten of Dartmouth College documented a nearly complete reproductive collapse of nesting Wrentits, Spotted Towhees, California Towhees, and Rufous-crowned Sparrows (258 nest attempts docu-