

Middle Pacific Coast

It was a great spring for warblers, with 28 species recorded in the Region. This species richness was in part a result of another major incursion of "southeastern" vagrants into the Region (and California as a whole). As in the last major such incursion in 1992, this event involved White-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, Northern Parulas, and Yellow-throated, Hooded, and Kentucky Warblers, as well as other species. Much of the incursion spilled over into the summer season, and more discussion of the phenomenon will be forthcoming.

Many passerines in widely divergent locations and of many taxa nested on record-early dates this spring. These early nesters comprised both Neotropical migrants (e.g., Yellow Warbler and Grasshopper Sparrow) and local residents or short-distance migrants (e.g., Song Sparrow and Spotted Towhee). We lack an explanation for this, but theoretical predictions by global climate change models include the northward expansion of species' ranges and earlier nesting at temperate latitudes.

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); P.R.N.S. (Pt. Reyes National Seashore); S.F. (San Francisco); S.R.C.S.D. (Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District). Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are not published. Documentation for C.B.R.C. review species will be forwarded to Guy McCaskie, Secretary, P.O. Box 275, Imperial Beach, California 91933. Banded birds on FI. should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory (P.R.B.O.) and those banded at Big Sur R. mouth to the Big Sur Ornithology Lab (B.S.O.L.) of the Ventana Wilderness Society.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A Yellow-billed Loon was on Elkhorn Slough, Monterey 15 Apr–17 May (Shirley Murphy, ph. Greg Hofmann, ph. m.ob.). Rare inland, a Red-necked Grebe was at Kutrass L., Shasta 18 May (BED, B&CY). A Manx Shearwater reported 4 May just off Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz (†KAR) awaits C.B.R.C. review. Flesh-footed Shearwaters, typically scarce in spring, were well represented in Monterey, with 6 off Pt. Pinos 28 Apr–9 May (ShJ, MtB, DR et al.).

Single Least Bitterns were at Colusa N.W.R., Colusa 18 Apr (JSL), nw. of Davis, Yolo 23 May (Richard Hall, SCH), and at Hayward R.S., Alameda 3 May (first ever at



this location; RJR). New heronries continue to be established in surprisingly urban areas in Santa Clara. The number of Snowy Egret nests at the Palo Alto Baylands increased greatly from last year to 18+, with some fledging 3 or 4 nestlings (WGB). A similar number of Black-crowned Night-Heron nests was also found (WGB), and, for the first time, Great Egrets nested as well, with two nests noted 7 May (James Turley). Breeding was also detected for the first time at L. Cunningham in San Jose, where a small island held four Great Egret nests, one Snowy Egret nest, and 16 Black-crowned Night-Heron nests (Summer Brasuel et al.). Extensive breeding by these same species again took place at Almaden L. in San Jose (colony first established in 1997). Why these well-traveled urban locations are now being used for breeding is unclear, but perhaps birds displaced from the abandoned Alviso heronry, last active in 1999, are involved. A Snowy Egret at the Hayfork W.T.P. 14 Apr (JHG) was only the 3rd for Trinity and the first in spring; one at Indian Creek Res. 18 May (David Rice) was only the 2nd for Alpine. Cattle Egrets failed to return to their nesting location at the Hayward R.S., Alameda (RJR), but fledglings were seen again in Santa Rosa, Sonoma (Laurence Taylor). Otherwise, only five reports of up to 15 birds each were received, the latest being of 12 near Willows, Glenn 20 Apr (Bill Oliver). Small numbers of White-faced Ibis made

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This Yellow-billed Loon visited Elkhorn Slough, Monterey County, California between 15 (here 17) April and 17 May 2004. The bird frequented a narrow portion of the slough, offering unusually close views. Photograph by Stan Wulkowicz.

coastal appearances in six counties 1–31 May; singles at Watsonville Slough, *Santa Cruz* 20 Mar (Caroline Rodgers) and Zmudowski S.B., *Monterey* 20 Mar–17 Apr (MtB, DVP, RyT et al.) were unseasonal. Another at Kutras L., *Shasta* 19 Apr (Rob & Cathy Santry, m.ob.) was likewise unexpected.

Introduced Canada Geese continue to expand, with goslings reported in new breeding areas in *Santa Clara* and *Santa Cruz* 6–12 May. A Brant at Clear L. 18 May (†JRW) was the first documented occurrence for *Lake*. A high-elevation flock of 22 Tundra Swans at Kirkwood Meadows 20 Mar (JSL) was only the 3rd record for *Alpine* and the first for spring. The last Eurasian Wigeon lingered to 8 May at Humboldt Bay N.W.R., *Humboldt* (JTz et al.). Blue-winged Teal were widely reported, but most significant was a pair with 2 young in the Napa Flood Plain 29 May (†MBe), the first confirmed breeding for *Napa*. Three male Blue-winged Teal x Cinnamon Teal hybrids in *Marin* and *Alameda* 11 Mar–24 Apr (ph. RS et al.) were more than expected. A female Garganey 4–6 May at Humboldt N.W.R. was *Humboldt's* 2nd (†BS, †TMcK, RbF); a pair briefly described from Shollenberger Park 29 Apr would be *Sonoma's* first if accepted by the C.B.R.C. (†John Kehoe). We are awaiting details on a male **Baikal Teal** reported at Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou* 20 Mar. If accepted by the C.B.R.C., this would be the 4th for the Region and the 6th for the state (Jim Livaudais). At least 5 male Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal were found 4 Mar–17 Apr, and a female thought to be a Common at Humboldt Bay N.W.R. 5–8 May (SWH,

JTz, DFx, SMcA et al.) would extend the late date for *Humboldt* by two days if correctly identified.

Male Tufted Ducks were found 19–21 Mar at the Napa W.T.P., *Napa* (Jaye Cook, RLCL, MBe), 22 Mar–11 Apr at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* (RJR), and 8 May at Humboldt Bay N.W.R., *Humboldt* (JTz); single females, thought to be different birds, were at the Napa W.T.P., *Napa* through 21 Mar and on 3 Apr (both MBe). For the 3rd year in a row, a pair of Harlequin Ducks was found along the Merced R. below Yosemite Valley, *Mariposa* (3 Apr; Jeremy Bird). A Surf Scoter at the n. end of Crowley L. 12 Apr was the first spring record for *Mono* (TEW, Liga Auzins). Six Long-tailed Ducks were found 3 Mar–29 Apr; an imm. at Elkhorn Slough, *Monterey* 17 May (YG) may have been summering. A Hooded Merganser x goldeneye, a seldom-reported hybrid, was at L. Merritt, *Alameda* 15–16 Mar (Bob Battagin, Deborah Fitzpatrick, RS). Common Mergansers were found breeding in new areas in *Santa Cruz* 4–30 May (BMMo, DLSu) and in Yosemite Valley, *Mariposa* 30 Apr (DLSu). Unusual inland, a Red-breasted Merganser was at Kutras L., *Shasta* 19 Apr (B&CY, m.ob.).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

The first Bald Eagle nest found in *San Benito* held 2 nestlings 10 May (DLSu). A **Common Black-Hawk** eating fish at L. Lincoln in Stockton, *San Joaquin* 24 Feb–12 Mar (ph., †Vi Strain) affords the first record for the Region and only the 3rd for the state. Regrettably, the identification was not confirmed until photographs were examined—after the

bird had left. An imm. Red-shouldered Hawk 28–30 May at Modoc N.W.R. was the first spring record for *Modoc* (PJM, FrT). Swainson's Hawks were well reported this spring, with notable birds at Clear Lake S.P. 18 Apr (*Lake's* 5th and first in spring; JSL), Diamond Valley 2 May (*Alpine's* 3rd; Liz West, Jim Rowoth, Frances Oliver), and a late bird at Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* 24 May (RSTh). A remarkable 9 birds moving northward over *Santa Clara* 17 Apr–29 May made the highest spring count there since the 1920s. Coastal Rough-legged Hawks were reported near San Gregorio, *San Mateo* 6–21 Mar (RSTh, PJM) and w. of Valley Ford, *Sonoma* 13 Mar (LLu, CLu). A pair of Peregrine Falcons successfully hatched 2 chicks in downtown S.F., *San Francisco* in Apr (Chris Gould), apparently for the first time in at least 70 years. A Prairie Falcon nest with young w. of Winters 23–24 May constituted only the 2nd known *Solano* breeding record (RLCL, BiG, MBe et al.).

A Ruffed Grouse above French Gulch 9 Apr was only the 2nd or 3rd for *Shasta* (Rob & Cathy Santry). Wild Turkeys have been increasing rapidly in the Region in recent years and were reported from new areas in several counties, including from Oakland and Berkeley in urban *Alameda*! A Yellow Rail at the city of Mt. Shasta, *Siskiyou* 23 May (RE) marked the 3rd year that birds have returned to this location. A Sandhill Crane at San Felipe L. 6 Mar–12 Apr (Dan Cooper, R. J. Adams, MPx, m.ob.) was only the 2nd for *San Benito*; on 27 Mar it made a foray into nearby *Santa Clara* (JSL).

SHOREBIRDS

Black-bellied Plovers in odd places included 2 n. of Clear L. 12 Apr (first spring record for *Lake*; JLx) and 6 at Glenburn, *Shasta* 25 Apr (Red & Nancy Modeen). Ten Pacific Golden-Plovers 30 Mar–19 May included late migrants 19 May at Waddell Cr. Beach, *Santa Cruz* (DLSu) and Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* (RSTh). Twenty Lesser Yellowlegs 13 Mar–1 May included *Lake's* 2nd spring record at Clearlake W.T.P. 24 Apr (JRW, DvW). Nineteen Solitary Sandpipers 9 Apr–17 May included a notable 4+ at the Redding W.T.P., *Shasta* 19–29 Apr (Rob & Cathy Santry, B&CY, m.ob.). Unusual inland shorebirds at *Shasta's* Kutras L. 19 Apr included 43 Willets (record high count for *Shasta*), 2 Marbled Godwits, and the county's 2nd Red Knot (all Rob & Cathy Santry, B&CY, m.ob.); the same or another knot was found the next day at the Redding W.T.P. (BED, Rob Santry). A Willet at Clear Lake S.P. 19 Apr was *Lake's* first in spring (JRW). No Wandering Tattlers wintered in *Monterey* or *Santa Cruz*, and the few migrants reported from these counties were limited to the narrow window 19 Apr–15 May. Three Mar-

bled Godwits se. of Marysville 30 Apr constituted the 3rd record for *Yuba* (Clyde Morris). A high count of 134 Surfbirds along West Cliff Drive, *Santa Cruz* 10 Apr (KAr) contrasted with only one Ruddy Turnstone at the same location 18–29 Mar (RyT, MtB, DVP, SGe), the only report from *Santa Cruz* all season! An inland bird in *Kings* 1 May (RH, JSy, GjH, ph. LWC) and up to 3 in *Alviso*, *Santa Clara* 2–4 May (Linda Sullivan, WGB, m.ob.) were the only other Ruddy Turnstones reported. All 3 Semipalmated Sandpipers were inland: 16 Apr at the Sacramento River N.W.R. (4th *Butte* record and first in spring; †JHS), 22 Apr at the Redding W.T.P. (*Shasta's* 3rd; B&CY), and 1 May near Kettleman City, *Kings* (JSy, LWC, GjH, RH). The only Baird's Sandpiper was *Shasta's* 2nd or 3rd at the Redding W.T.P. 9–22 Apr (Bill Oliver, B&CY, m.ob.); a Pectoral Sandpiper at the same location 15 Apr (Brooke McDonald) was one of only 2 reported, the other being at the Humboldt Bay N.W.R., *Humboldt* 5 May (BS). *Santa Cruz's* wintering Rock Sandpiper continued until 18 Apr at West Cliff Drive, by which time it was in full alternate plumage (SGe, ph. ASp, m.ob.). Others were at Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* 4–7 Mar (GDg, JM), MacKerricher S.P., *Mendocino* 6 Mar (DT), and at Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 24 Apr (Scott Carey). All 5 Stilt Sandpipers were inland: up to 2 near Stratford, *Kings* 29 Apr–2 May (JSy, JLx, †GWPo, RHw, Jack Duffey) and 3 at the Fresno W.T.P., *Fresno* 8 May (†Penny Stewart). The 2 imm. male Ruffs continued at New Chicago Marsh in *Alviso*, *Santa Clara* through 4 Apr (ph. Peggy Don, Kris Olson, m.ob.); another male there 17 Apr may have been a different individual (Donna Heim). Other Ruffs were at the Eel R. delta, *Humboldt* 13 Mar (KGR, MWa) and near Stratford, *Kings* 1 May (ph. LWC, RH, JSy, GjH). A Short-billed Dowitcher at the Hollister W.T.P. 8 May (DVP, MtB) provided *San Benito's* first spring record.

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

Rare anywhere in California away from the Salton Sea, a Laughing Gull at Marina 30 Apr (ph. DR) was the 12th for *Monterey*. A total of 14 Franklin's Gulls 24 Apr–19 May was about average for recent years. A Black-headed Gull in *San Jose* 2 Apr (†RWR, FV, †MMR) was the 2nd in *Santa Clara* and the 15th for the Region. A Heermann's Gull at Crowley L. 4 May (KNN) was the 4th for *Mono*. This species is quite scarce away from the immediate coast, although inland records have been increasing in recent years. The nesting colony at Roberts L., *Monterey* hosted 24 ads. and at least nine nests in late May (DR). A briefly described Lesser Black-backed Gull was reported from the American R. Parkway, *Sacramento* 13–24 Mar



Santa Cruz County's fourth Rock Sandpiper spent 17 January–18 April 2004 along a nine-kilometer stretch of coastline near *Santa Cruz*, California. This photograph was taken 22 March, when the bird was beginning to acquire alternate plumage. Photograph by Anne Spence.

(Dave Johnson, BMo). Acceptance of this record awaits C.B.R.C. review. Lingered Glaucous Gulls were in *Humboldt* at Arcata 10 Mar (EE) and Centerville Beach 5 Apr (2; SMcA). Others were at the Salinas R. mouth, *Monterey* 4 Apr (RyT, MtB, ph. DVP) and Venice S.B., *San Mateo* 4–10 Apr (RSTh et al.). Only 9 Black-legged Kittiwakes were reported, with the latest 16 May. Record-early Elegant Terns were in S.F. Bay, with 2 at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* 15–26 Apr (RSTh) and 2–5 on the Berkeley Pier, *Alameda* 26–29 Apr (Eric Lichtwardt). Elsewhere, early single birds were at *Santa Cruz*, *Santa Cruz* 29 Apr (SGe) and the Pajaro R. mouth, *Monterey* 1 May (Caroline Rodgers et al.). This species occurs as a post-breeding visitor primarily in summer and fall.

Fifty-two Marbled Murrelets just off Moss Beach, *San Mateo* 3 Mar (RSTh) comprised a record count of this Endangered species for this location. These birds derive from the isolated, southernmost breeding population that currently numbers about 600 birds.

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

The long-awaited (but not necessarily eagerly anticipated) range expansion of Eurasian Collared-Doves throughout the Region may have begun this spring. After many seasons of localized reports from *Santa Cruz* and especially *Monterey*, reports of first county records were noted from such disparate locations as *San Mateo*, *Contra Costa*, *Humboldt*, and *Mono*. Single White-winged Doves reached the coast at Neary Lagoon, *Santa Cruz* 14 May (Stan Wulkowicz) and Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 28 May (ph. EWP, KKr). Un-

usual for suburban *Santa Cruz* was a calling Western Screech-Owl 5 Mar in *Santa Cruz* (SGe). A Common Poorwill at Wrights Valley 29 May was only the 2nd for lightly birded *Trinity* since 1996 (Clyde Morris, Joelle Buffa). A vagrant Chimney Swift at Wilder Ranch S.P. 24 May was just the 3rd ever found in *Santa Cruz* (†RgW). Last fall's Broad-billed Hummingbird returned to a Sonoma, *Sonoma* feeder 26 May+, furnishing the first May and Jun records for California (ph. Karen Palmer, RLeb, m.ob.). Another in a long line of stunning *Humboldt* rarities was a female Magnificent Hummingbird at a Eureka feeder 8 Apr–17 May (ph. Don Wattenbarger, Linda Carro, m.ob.). This remarkable find was the first for the Region and just the 2nd for California. A female Calliope Hummingbird near Loma Prieta, *Santa Clara* and *Santa Cruz* 23 Mar was notably early (†RyT, MtB).

A Williamson's Sapsucker nest 30 May at a burn area s. of Mono L., *Mono* may represent the first breeding confirmation for the Mono Basin (Dennis & Patricia Braddy). The lone Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, thought to be a migrant, was an imm. at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* 26 Mar (RSTh). A singing Eastern Wood-Pewee at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 25 May would furnish just the 7th record for the Region if accepted by the C.B.R.C. (RS, DDeS, Roger Harshaw et al.). Rarer still, particularly in recent years, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was on FI. 25 May (P.R.B.O.). If accepted by the C.B.R.C. it would be the 6th record for the Region, all from FI.! After breaking records in spring 2003, migrant Hammond's and Dusky Flycatchers were



These two male Ruffs wintered through 4 April 2004 (here 19 March) at New Chicago Marsh in Alviso, Santa Clara County, California. Observers were able to differentiate the individuals by tertial pattern—one barred, the other not. Photograph by Peggy Don.

noted in far smaller numbers than are now considered typical, especially in the Diablo Range, whence the bulk of our reports normally emanate. Seven reports of migrant Gray Flycatchers included one at Dorrington 28 May (first for *Calaveras*; Randy Little), 3 at Davis, *Yolo* 24 Apr–16 May (MP), and one near Plaskett Meadow 31 May (Glenn's 2nd; JLx); the latter record continued a recent pattern of very late spring records from high elevations of the n. Coast Range. Recording true first arrival dates is often difficult, but occasionally one gets lucky, as was the case with the arrival of Pacific-slope Flycatchers to *Santa Clara* this spring. They were first detected there on a Thursday, 18 Mar—by no fewer than five independent observers. An Ash-throated Flycatcher near Hopland 5 Mar and a Western Kingbird there 22 Mar each provided record-early dates for *Mendocino* (both CEV). Several slightly extralimital Cassin's Kingbirds were recorded in *Santa Cruz*, *Santa Clara*, and *San Mateo*. A well-described probable Cassin's Kingbird × Western Kingbird hybrid was near Tracy, *San Joaquin* 25–28 Mar (†WRH, Jennifer Rycenga).

SHRIKES THROUGH THRASHERS

Noteworthy shrike records included a rare Tahoe Basin record of a Loggerhead Shrike 1 May at North L. Tahoe, *Placer* (Martin Myers) and a late Northern near Ferndale, *Humboldt* 31 Mar (KGR, MWa, BS). A singing White-eyed Vireo near Dublin 20–23 May was *Alameda's* first (Steve Huckabone, m.ob.); despite a flurry of records in 2000 and 2001, this "southeastern" vireo remains

quite rare in the Region. Single Yellow-throated Vireos were detected at Big Sur R. mouth 20–24 May (banded; B.S.O.L., m.ob.) and Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 27 May (†KKr, EWP). Also a "southeastern" vireo, records of this species have likewise accumulated rapidly in recent years; seven of *Monterey's* eight records have come since 1999. A Red-eyed Vireo put in a brief appearance at Rodeo Lagoon, *Marin* 29 May (William Legge).

A Steller's Jay on the C.V. floor at Lodi, *San Joaquin* 21 May (Bonnie Meyer) was both out of place and quite late; most C.V. records have been in fall and winter. The full impact of the Region's recent Common Raven population explosion may not yet be fully realized, but the sight of one stealing eggs from Black-necked Stilt nests on eight occasions in a 20-minute span at the Palo Alto Baylands, *Santa Clara* 9 May must have been chilling (Karen DeMello, Jan Hintermeister). A Bank Swallow at Clear Lake S.P. 18 Apr was just the 2nd to be found in *Lake* (JSL). An estimated 1000 Cliff Swallows in a single flock at Mt. Diablo S.P., *Contra Costa* 26 Apr (RS) was an impressive tally. Out-of-place Rock Wrens included *Santa Cruz's* first-ever spring migrant near Aptos 11 May (DLSu) and another at Año Nuevo S.R., *San Mateo* 22 May, the first ever for that well-covered location (GJS).

A Gray Catbird was at P.R.N.S., *Marin* 18 May (RS, KH). Extralimital Sage Thrashers included *Mendocino's* first spring record, at MacKerricher S.P. 25 Apr (LLu, CLu); one at Arcata Bottoms, *Humboldt* 3–4 May (Melody Hamilton, m.ob.); and one at New Chicago Marsh, *Santa Clara* 10 May (Dave

Weber, ph. MMR, m.ob.). The Brown Thrasher wintering at Woodbridge R.P., *San Joaquin* was last seen 19 Apr (fide Andy Pfeffer); one at Little R. 26–29 May was the first documented in *Mendocino* (RLeV, ph. RJK, m.ob.).

WARBLERS

A remarkable 28 species of warblers were reported in the Region this season. Some of these were wintering oddities: a Black-throated Blue Warbler in *Martinez* first detected in Jan and then not seen again until 12–14 Mar was the first to winter in *Contra Costa* (Anne & Nikhi Kumaranayagam). A female Black-throated Green Warbler wintering at Laguna Grande, *Monterey* was last seen 12 Mar (Alex Cruz).

There was also a spate of outstanding spring vagrants. A Yellow-throated Warbler of the expected *albilora* subspecies was at Drakes Beach, P.R.N.S., *Marin* 22 May (†MWE, ASH, RS, †LLu). A *Grace's* Warbler at Chimney Peak Campground, *Tulare*, first discovered in early May but not confirmed until 30 May, lingered into Jun (Chuck Pappé, RAB, ph. TEa, vt. LTer, †LLu, †SBT). This is only the 4th record for the Region and the 2nd during the breeding season. The Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* played host to a variety of excellent finds: a female Kentucky Warbler 14–19 May (banded; B.S.O.L., ph. Sarah Stock, RbF); a well-described singing male *Cerulean* Warbler 24 May (†RbF); and a male Prothonotary Warbler banded 29 May (B.S.O.L., RbF).

Among more usual "vagrant" warblers were single Tennessee Warblers at FI. 25–26 May (P.R.B.O.) and a singing male 31 May at Natural Bridges S.B., *Santa Cruz's* first spring record (Jason Hoeksema, SGe). Fifteen Northern Parulas were along the coast 7–31 May, and one was at Oasis, *Mono* 29 May (SBT, m.ob.); more unexpected were singing males at C.R.P. 9 May (CCo) and at the S.R.C.S.D. Bufferlands, *Sacramento* 23–24 May (CCo, Kimya Lambert, Shawn Petrash). A singing Magnolia Warbler was at Capitola, *Santa Cruz* 26 May (DLSu). Migrant Black-throated Greens included a startling inland record at Oasis, *Mono* 24 May (†James Holmes, Jr., James Holmes, Sr.) and one at the more expected location of Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 27–28 May (KKr).

Four Ovenbirds were along the coast from *Santa Cruz* to *Marin* 13–28 May, and one was at Mill Cr., *Mono* 24 May (River Gates). Wintering Northern Waterthrushes at the Charleston Road marsh, *Santa Clara* and Rodeo Lagoon, *Marin* were last seen 10 Mar (WGB) and 17 Apr (William Legge), respectively. Migrant Northern Waterthrushes graced *Monterey* at the Carmel R. mouth 3–4 May (Mike Tyner) and the Big Sur R. mouth 13 May (banded; B.S.O.L.); a

3rd was at Fl. 26 May (P.R.B.O.). Hooded Warblers put on their strongest showing in years, with singing males 7 May at Neary Lagoon, *Santa Cruz* (SGe, RyT, MtB, DVP, SBT); 25 May at Lincoln Park, S.F. (HuC); 28 May at the Big Sur R. mouth (banded; B.S.O.L.); and 31 May at P.R.N.S., *Marin* (RS, Heather Cameron, Roger Harshaw, KKr, EWP). There were also 2 in *Mono*: singing males at Oasis 24 May (†James Holmes, Jr., James Holmes, Sr.) and Rush Cr. 25 May (Chris Tonra).

Breeding Yellow Warblers surveyed by P.R.B.O. in the Mono Basin, *Mono* completed clutches seven days earlier than recorded in the previous four years. A pair of Hermit Warblers building a nest at Robert Louis Stevenson S.P. 14 May constituted only the 2nd known *Napa* breeding (DEQ, Bob Lewis).

TANAGERS THROUGH SPARROWS

The only Summer Tanager reported was a first-spring female 21 Mar at Middle L., S.F. (RS). An American Tree Sparrow was at Fl. 25 May (P.R.B.O.). A Clay-colored Sparrow at Wilder Ranch S.P., *Santa Cruz* 25 Mar (SGe) was presumably wintering, whereas a singing bird 13 May at Mad R. Slough W.A., *Humboldt* (JTz) and one 25–28 May at Fl. (P.R.B.O.) were migrants. Brewer's Sparrows far from home included singles 24 Apr at American R. Parkway, *Sacramento* (Dave Johnson); 1 May near Stratford, *Kings* (JLx); 26–27 May at Fl. (P.R.B.O.); and 28 May at Mt. Davidson, S.F. (†PSar). The sole Lark Bunting was an alternate-plumaged male at P.R.N.S., *Marin* 24 May (ph. LaVerne Williams, William Zuk).

Grasshopper Sparrows were widespread, arriving and breeding quite early. The value of well-kept county records was demonstrated when subregional editors were able to report that one singing at Moore Cr. Preserve 3 Mar (SGe) was the record early arrival for *Santa Cruz* by 11 days (18 days ahead of the average first arrival, *fide* DLSu) and one near Hopland 24 Mar was the earliest arrival on record for *Mendocino* (CEV). P.R.B.O. surveys in Mono Basin, *Mono* found Song Sparrow clutch completion dates three weeks earlier than in the previous four years, as well as similar early nesting by Spotted Towhees. The Harris's Sparrow wintering in St. Helena, *Napa* was last seen 3 Apr (Bob Frescura), while a migrant was at Lamphere Dunes, *Humboldt* 1–5 May (PAH, RbF).

The season's only longspurs were both in *Santa Clara*: a male Lapland 17–23 Apr at the summit of Sierra Road e. of San Jose (MMR, m.ob.) and a male Chestnut-collared 22 Apr at Alviso (MMR, MJM); the latter bird may have wintered. The Snow Bunting wintering at the Clifton Court Forebay, *Con-*



This female Magnificent Hummingbird at Eureka, *Humboldt County* (here 12 April 2004) furnished the Middle Pacific Coast's first (and California's second) record—and was the tenth species of hummingbird to be found in this northern county. Photograph by Kerry Ross.

tra Costa was seen through 18 Mar (Robert P. Dunn, m.ob.).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks staged another impressive spring, with 16 reported along the coast, 14 of which were noted 22–30 May. One at Swall Meadows, *Mono* 24 May (Steve Peterson) was the only one inland. An ad. male Indigo Bunting 29 May on Lone Tree Road furnished only the 3rd record for *San Benito* (Lois & Wally Goldfrank).

Significant flocks of Tricolored Blackbirds were found widely this season from *Fresno* to *Shasta*, all with evidence of nesting, including "hundreds" at Soda L., *Santa Cruz* 6 May (David Johnston), a site first used for nesting in 2003. Trikes also established three new breeding colonies in Potter Valley, *Mendocino*, with a total of 350–450 pairs (GEC, Jim Armstrong, Kate Marienchild et al.). This is a significant development for this species of concern, as before this year, there was just one known nesting location in the county. Great-tailed Grackles were also reported in larger-than-usual numbers, in 16 counties from *Monterey* to *Siskiyou*. Significant records include the first nesting in *Solano* (at Vallejo 15 May; Jim Walsh, John Robinson, Jim Knight) and a 2nd record for *Sutter* (near Elverta 25 Apr; WPW).

San Francisco continued to be "Oriole Central," with the 3 Orchards wintering at Middle L. seen through 13 Apr (†BFI, †MWE, m.ob.), another Orchard in the

Western Addition 1 Apr (HuC), and a Baltimore at Glen Park Canyon 8 May (†MWE). A first-summer male Orchard was also at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* 27 May (RSTh). Four other Baltimores included a female wintering in Eureka, *Humboldt* through 2 Mar (BS); a singing male at Paradise, *Mono* 22 May (Debbie House); and 2 at the Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey*, an imm. male 23 May (ph. RbF) and an ad. male 31 May (BGE). Unusual was a male Lawrence's Goldfinch at Lee Vining, *Mono* 11–12 May, the first spring record for the Mono Basin (Linda Dore, River Gates).

Cited observers (county coordinators in boldface): Kumaran Arul, Robert A. Barnes, Big Sur Ornithology Lab, Murray Berner, William G. Bousman (*Santa Clara*), Matt Brady, Adam Brown, George E. Chanot, Luke W. Cole (*Kings*), Chris Conard (*Sacramento* and *Yolo*), Hugh Cotter, Gary Deghi, Dave DeSante, Bruce E. Deuel (n. C.V. counties), Mark W. Eaton (*San Francisco*), Ray Ekstrom (*Siskiyou*), Elias Elias, Bruce G. Elliot, Jules G. Evens, Brian Fitch, David Fix (*Humboldt*), Rob Fowler, James H. Gain (*Stanislaus*), Steve Gerow, Yohn Gideon, Steve A. Glover (*Contra Costa*), Bill Grummer, Steve C. Hampton, Keith Hansen, Rob Hansen, Stanley W. Harris, Gjon Hazard, Pablo A. Herrera, Rob Hewitt, Waldo R. Holt, Alan S. Hopkins, John E. Hunter (*Trinity*), Robert J. Keiffer (*Mendocino*), Kim Kreitinger, Rick Lebaudour, Robin L. C. Leong (*Napa* and *Solano*), Ron LeValley, Cindy Lieurance, Leslie Lieurance, Jim Lomax, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mamoser, Timothy D. Manolis, Sean McAllister, J. Mac McCormick (*Plumas* and *Sierra*), Tristan McKee, Peter J. Metropulos (*San Mateo*), Barbara Mohr, Joseph Morlan, Bryan M. Mori, Kristie N. Nelson (*Mono*), Ed Pandolfino (*Placer*), Mark Paxton (MPx), Michael Perrone (MP), Gary W. Potter, Jude C. Power (*Humboldt*), Eric W. Preston, Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, David E. Quady, Robert W. Reiling, Robert J. Richmond (*Alameda*), Don Roberson (*Monterey*), Michael M. Rogers, Kerry G. Ross, Ruth A. Rudesill (*Sonoma*), Paul Saraceni, Barry Sauppe, Jeff Seay, Debra L. Shearwater, Shearwater Journeys, Jim H. Snowden, Anne Spence, Rich Stallcup, Gary J. Strachan, John C. Sterling (*Modoc*, *Alpine*, and *Calaveras*), David L. Suddjian (*Santa Cruz*), Ryan Terrill, Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Francis Toldi, Frank Vanslager, Chuck E. Vaughn, Kent Van Vuren (*Merced* and *San Benito*), David Vander Pluym (*Mariposa*), Matt Wachs, Bruce Webb, Jerry R. White (*Lake*), William P. Widdowson, Roger Wolfe, Dave Woodward, Thomas E. Wurster, Bob & Carol Yutzky (*Shasta*). ☺