

Northern California



Michael M. Rogers
(Waterfowl to Quail, Herons to Shorebirds)
Steven A. Glover
(Doves to Wrentit)
Ed Pandolfino
(Thrashers to Finches)
Scott B. Terrill
(Loons to Frigatebirds, Larids to Alcids)

Reports of eastern vagrants from coastal areas were limited, with observers in Marin County and Humboldt County commenting on the unproductive conditions. A Common Black-Hawk once again spent the summer in our Region, apparently surviving on crayfish. Reports of coastal Crested Caracaras continued, although the actual number of birds involved is a matter of speculation. A Little Stint provided further evidence that July is a good time of year to look for vagrant adult stints, and an Eastern Wood-Pewee continued a string of inland reports of that species.

Abbreviations: B.S.O.L. (Big Sur Ornithology Lab); C.B.R.C. (California B.R.C.); C.R.P. (Cosumnes River Preserve, Sacramento); C.V. (Central Valley); FI. (Southeast Farallon I., San Francisco); P.R.B.O. (Pt. Reyes B.O.); S.F. (San Francisco, not State Forest). 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. Birds banded on FI. should be credited to Point Reyes B.O. (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.

SWANS THROUGH STORM-PETRELS

An ad. Trumpeter Swan with neck band 8Y7

was present at Alkali L. in Long Valley, *Mono* at least 17 Jun–19 Jul (ph., †Jerry Zatorski, m.ob.). Presumably this bird is from a translocated population. Pairs of Blue-winged Teal were found in *Humboldt* and *Santa Clara*, but no breeding was confirmed in the Region. Following last season's report of breeding Northern Shovelers at the Gilroy W.T.P., *Santa Clara*, 2 more broods were found there 9 Jun (SCR); two broods were also found in the Napa R. floodplain, *Napa* 18 Jun (MBe). A female Green-winged Teal with 7 ducklings at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* 17 Jul (RJR) was the first breeding occurrence at this location in eight years and one of few for S.F. Bay and the Region. Redheads enjoyed good breeding success this season, with five broods at Mare I. 16 Jun (RLCL, WNe) being the first ever confirmed in *Solano*; the heavy spring rains may have been responsible, because this pond normally dries up before Jun. Two broods at Hayward R.S. 9 & 16 Jul (RJR, Peter Dramer, Sheila Junge) were the 2nd and 3rd breeding records for *Alameda* since 1916. At least two pairs summered in *Santa Clara* 3 Jun–2 Jul (MMR, MJM, FV), but no breeding was confirmed. Up to 2 males at Watsonville Slough and the Pajaro R. mouth 3–10 Jun constituted the first Jun records for *Santa Cruz* (RgW, LGo, MSc). Lesser Scaup broods were reported from Hayward R.S., *Alameda* 4 Jul (three broods; RJR) and Palo Alto, *Santa Clara* 29 Jul (two broods; SCR). A male Harlequin Duck spent its 4th summer at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* (RSTh). A raft of 800 White-winged Scoters off the Klamath R. mouth, *Del Norte* 19 Jul, with 300 Surf and 2 Black Scoters among them (KGR, Adam Brown), was a surprisingly large summer concentration of this declining species. The male Long-tailed Duck off the Ten Mile R. mouth, *Mendocino* spent the period there, molting from "winter" to "spring" plumage in mid-Jul (KHv, JHv, DT, m.ob.). Four ad. Buffleheads at the Napa W.T.P., *Napa* 14 Jul were accompanied by a fledgling, indicating nearby breeding, although no obvious nest sites were located (MBe). A female Common Goldeneye at the Ukiah S.T.P. 8 Jun–7 Jul was the first summer record for *Mendocino* (CEV). For the 3rd summer in a row, a male Hooded Merganser was found in Foster City, *San Mateo* (2 Jun; RSTh). Common Mergansers experienced "easily the poorest nesting season for this species in *Santa Cruz* in over 10 years," with the first broods not appearing until five to seven weeks later than normal and in smaller numbers (*vide* DLSu). A flock of 60 at the confluence of the Van Duzen R. and Eel R., *Humboldt* on the early date of 13 Jun may also have been related to delayed or failed early nesting

(DFx). Apparently, the heavy spring rains did not help this species. A female Ruddy Duck with 2 young at the Ukiah S.T.P. 30 Jun was only the 3rd successful nesting attempt in *Mendocino* (CEV).

An alternate-plumaged Red-throated Loon at Grant L., *Mono* 16–17 Jun (JM, m.ob.) furnished a rare inland Jun record. Scarce in summer, a Red-necked Grebe at MacKerricher S.P., *Mendocino* 6 Jun (DT) was the only one reported. A Laysan Albatross was seen from FI. 3 Jun (P.R.B.O.). An Ashy Storm-Petrel mist-netted on Año Nuevo I., *San Mateo* 24 Jul (Julie Thayer) had a brood patch. Nesting has been suspected here in previous breeding seasons but not confirmed.

HERONS THROUGH CRANES

Little Blue Herons turned up in good numbers around south S.F. Bay, with 3 ads. found over a two-day period in *Santa Clara*: in Alviso 9–11 Jun (WGB, MDo, Kelly Dodder, DvWb), at Almaden L. 9–17 Jun (MJM, RWR, m.ob.), and at Coyote Ranch marsh 10 Jun (MJM). These birds, or additional individuals, were later found farther n. at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* 18 Jun (RJR), in Menlo Park 24 Jun



Crested Caracara reports were received from the length of the northern California coast this season. This bird at outer Point Reyes, Marin County 17 (here) through 20 June 2006 was thought to be the same as one present at the same location 3–6 May 2005, but tracking individual caracaras as they move up and down the coast is turning out to involve more speculation than logic. Photograph by Joe Devine.

(4th *San Mateo* record; RSTh), and in *San Mateo* (5th *San Mateo* record; ADeM). Additionally, a "calico" (transitional) individual was seen at C.R.P. 2 Jul (JTr). Coastal Cattle Egrets included alternate-plumaged ads. at the Almaden L. heronry, *Santa Clara* 8–15 Jun (Gordon & Jeannie Barrett, †Kirsten Holmquist et al.) and one at Moore Creek Preserve, *Santa Cruz* 23 Jun (*vide* KAr). Rare in *Modoc*, a Green Heron was at Tule L. 2 Jul (Mary Beth Stowe). Black-crowned Night-Herons had perhaps their "best year for nesting" at Hay-

ward R.S., *Alameda* (RJR); likewise, the colony at the Palo Alto Baylands, *Santa Clara* continued to expand, with 47+ active nests 1 Jul (WGB). Four wandering White-faced Ibis were at Paicines Res., *San Benito* 23 Jul (LLu, CLu).

Ospreys continue to expand their breeding range, with a nest with 3 young atop a redwood snag along the North Fork of Butano Cr. through at least 1 Aug providing the first confirmed nesting in *San Mateo* (John Bulger, *vide* DLSu). A nest at a new location in *Santa Cruz*, at the n. end of Loch Lomond, successfully fledged young in Aug (Judie Cole, *vide* Chris Berry). Bald Eagles continue to be found breeding in new locations. A nest at San Pablo Res. 6-22 Jun produced 2 chicks for the first nesting confirmation in *Contra Costa* (Wade Chambers, Roger Hartwell et al.). The first nesting confirmation for *Santa Clara* came with the discovery of a nest with 2 dead nestlings at Calaveras Res. 20 Jul (Hans J. Peters). Based on the nest construction and another nest 20 m away, this pair may have been nesting here undetected for three to five years. Five eaglets fledged from three nests at Ft. Hunter Liggett and L. San Antonio (both *Monterey*) this season (*vide* DR). The *Sonoma Common Black-Hawk* at Laguna de Santa Rosa continued through at least 9 Jul (ph. Stan Moore). The rash of *Crested Caracara* reports continued, with an ad. moving around *Monterey* in the vicinity of the Carmel R. mouth through the period (m.ob.), a bird at outer Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 17-20 Jun (ph. Joe Devine et al.), and one at *Humboldt Bay, Humboldt* 13-14 Jul (Bryan Atkinson, ph. SMcA, PAH, Justin Ward). Incredibly, four Merlin reports came from the vicinity of Arcata, *Humboldt* 19-25 Jul (KBu, Lisa LeVelle, Alexandra Lamb, Tim McKay, GSL). Our notebooks include a few previous Jul records from the n. parts of the Region, but all such records are poorly documented. However, increasing May and Aug reports suggest that perhaps some Merlins are summering in or close to our Region. *Peregrine Falcons* were well reported from locations where previously unknown in summer, including new nesting areas. No reports of *Yellow Rails* were received for the first summer in five years. An ad. *Sandhill Crane* with a chick at Battle Cr. Meadow 3 Jul (CLu, LLu) was the first nesting record for *Tehama*.

SHOREBIRDS

Breeding bird atlas field work led to the discovery of *Solano's* first nesting *Snowy Plovers*, e. of Montezuma Slough, with families found 9-30 Jul (EPI). *Black Oystercatchers* bred again on *San Mateo's* bayside, with a pair nest-

ing at the Oyster Pt. Marina 2 Jul (RSTh). Solitary Sandpipers included an early fall bird 8 Jul at Martis L., *Placer* (CCo); others were at C.R.P. 26 Jul (JTr) and at Gilroy W.T.P., *Santa Clara* 28 Jul (RWR, FV). Wandering Tattlers were reported from *Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz* 28 May-7 Jun (SGe) and Shelter Cove, *Humboldt* 15 Jun (RBS). Five Red Knots at Bayfront Park, *San Mateo* 25 Jun were unseasonable (LLu, CLu). Nine Semipalmated Sandpipers were found in *Monterey, Santa Clara, and Alameda*, with the first ad. reported 7 Jul and the first juv. 29 Jul (m.ob.). An ad. *Little Stint* frequented New Chicago Marsh in Alviso 16-20 Jul (†MtB, ph. †OsJ, †MJM et al., †AV, †SCR). This constitutes the 8th record for



Not a rare species, but certainly a bird in a rare plumage, this albino Cliff Swallow was photographed 25 June 2006 along Marble Hot Springs Road in Sierra Valley, Plumas County, California. Photograph by Tom Grey.

California, 4th for the Region, and the first for *Santa Clara* (an additional record of a juv. in *Del Norte* 27 Sep 2005 is also currently under review). The only Baird's Sandpipers reported were 2 at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* 23-30 Jul (RJR). The only Pectoral Sandpiper was an early bird in South S.E., *San Mateo* 18 Jul (Donald Pendelton). An early Stilt Sandpiper was found at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* 17 Jul (RJR). A female Ruff was at the Pajaro R. mouth, *Monterey & Santa Cruz* 1 Jul (RgW). Three Red Phalaropes at Crowley L., *Mono* 17 Jun were unprecedented in Jun (†Jerry Zatorski).

SKUAS THROUGH ALCIDS

A South Polar Skua off Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 28 Jul (RgW, RT) was the first of the fall. Rarely seen from shore, 4 Long-tailed Jaegers were heading southward off Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 31 Jul (BLS). A Sabine's Gull at Rush Cr. delta, *Mono* 19 Jun (JM) was noteworthy, as this species is rare inland, especially outside fall. More typical fall arrivals included 6 off *Monterey* 28 Jul (ShJ). Inland spring/summer Common Terns are noteworthy: one was at Rush Cr. delta, *Mono* 19 Jun (JM). The only known inland location regularly used for

nesting by (California) Least Terns, near Kettlemen City, Kings, hosted two pairs (JSy). In *Solano*, a major new breeding location was discovered at Montezuma Wetlands, a project restoring farmland to tidal wetlands in Suisun Bay, where over 110 Least Terns were present 9 Jul (EPI). The colony successfully produced young. The only other major colony in the Region has been in S.F. Bay, in *Alameda*. Elsewhere, noteworthy Least Tern observations included singles in S.F. at India Basin 10-18 Jun (PSar, HuC, EWP) and L. Merced 18 Jun (DPM); in *Monterey* at Zmudowski S.B. 27 Jun (2 birds; Jeff Wall), the Salinas R. mouth 30 Jun (2 birds; BJW), and Moss Landing 16 Jul (2 birds; Tam); and in *Napa* at Huichica Creek W.A. 30 Jul (2 birds; MBe). Black Skimmer numbers and locations continue to increase in coastal areas of the Region. A Black Skimmer flying from *Contra Costa* into *Alameda* at Albany Crescent 11 Jul (BFi) furnished a rare record for *Contra Costa*.

Alcids are rare well inside S.F. Bay. Thus, noteworthy was a Pigeon Guillemot at the San Mateo Bridge, *San Mateo* 29 Jun (RSTh). Fifty Pigeon Guillemots off Bodega Head, *Sonoma* 25 Jun was a large number for a single location (CLu, LLu). Scarce in summer, Ancient Murrelets were off Trinidad, *Humboldt* 12 Jun (Michael Morris) and Moss Landing S.B., *Monterey* 1 Jul (BLS); another continued from the previous season through 28 Jul at Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* (RT, RgW, RJA et al.). Continuing the influx from the first half of the year, Horned Puffins were at *Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz* 16-18 Jun (Jeff Wall, vt. Cindy Cummings, Rick Herder); Moss Beach, *San Mateo* 17 Jun (found dead; Steve Durkin); MacKericher S.P., *Mendocino* 2-3 Jul (DAJ, MMtt, GEC, SAbb); and *Mendocino Headlands S.P., Mendocino* 7 Jul (MtB, OsJ).

DOVES THROUGH SOLITAIRES

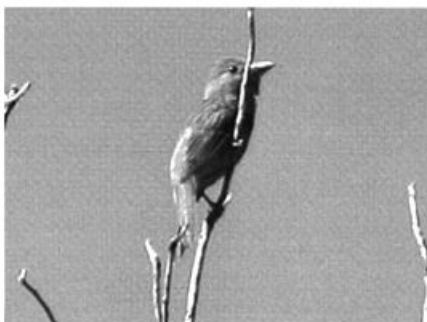
Notable Eurasian Collared-Dove sightings included a first for *Sutter* 27 Jun at Yuba City (Ray Hasey) and first breeding records for *Mono* at Lee Vining (KNN) and *Sonoma* at Petaluma (RS). The colonization of nw. California has been particularly abrupt, including the presence of up to 6 birds at Smith River, *Del Norte* 29 May-29 Jun (ADB, Eileen Cooper, Joe Gartland) and reports from 17 sites in *Humboldt*, including a first breeding record near Ferndale 5 Jun (COg). For the 5th time in seven years, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was detected at Cock Robin I., *Humboldt* 2-4 Jun (Joe Ceriani, Laurie Lawrence et al.). Likely the same bird was refound 10 Jul, when it was said to be counter-singing with a 2nd bird on adjacent Roper I. (EE et al.). An unidentified cuckoo, presumably a Yellow-billed, 4 Jul at

Monterey, *Monterey* was a mid-summer surprise (Louis R. Bevier). Unidentified nighthawks reached the coast at Arana Gulch, *Santa Cruz* 7 Jun (RDIG) and Hwy. 280, n. *San Mateo* 14 Jun (2; Jack Cole). An ad. Black Swift on a nest 2 Jul and two active nests at Año Nuevo S.R., *San Mateo* 5 Jul confirmed breeding at this once reliable location (GJS). *Santa Cruz*'s 5th and 6th Chimney Swifts were at Big Basin Redwoods S.P. 2 Jun (2 birds; DLSu) and Rancho Del Oso 31 Jul (DLSu); as many as 4, including an apparent pair, were at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 27 Jul–9 Aug (ph. OsJ, †MtB). Single Pileated Woodpeckers in *Modoc*, where thought to be rare, were near Soup Springs 2 Jul (Mary Beth Stowe) and Day 8 Jul (Tristan Howard), the former representing just the 2nd record for the Warner Mts.

An Eastern Wood-Pewee 4 Jun at Putah Cr., *Solano* would represent just the 7th for the Region if accepted by the C.B.R.C. (RMu, †JCS, ph. TEa). A singing Least Flycatcher 8–12 Jul near Davis L., *Plumas* (†BDW, Dawn Garcia) may have been prospecting for a suitable nest-site; Least has been confirmed breeding on a handful of occasions in ne. California. Late lowland *Empidonax* included Hammond's Flycatchers s. of Windsor, *Sonoma* 5–7 Jun (Daniel Edelstein) and near the confluence of the Van Duzen R. and Eel R., *Humboldt* 11 Jun (RbF), a late Dusky at Big Basin Redwoods S.P., *Santa Cruz* 4 Jun (KAr), and a Gray at FI. 13 Jun (P.R.B.O.). Say's Phoebe 13–14 Jun at Hopland (first *Mendocino* summer record; CEV) and on the Valensin Ranch, C.R.P. 25 Jun (JTr) were well away from known breeding locations. Ash-throated Flycatchers are not known to breed in coastal *Humboldt*, so no fewer than six sightings 2 Jun–5 Jul (m.ob.) are difficult to categorize. A vagrant Eastern Kingbird 8 Jun was noted high atop the 2500-m Conway Summit, *Mono* (SaH). Loggerhead Shrikes on unexpected dates included a first summer record for *Humboldt* at Eel River W.A. 13 Jul (RbF, Bryan Charles) and a juv. at Santa Cruz, *Santa Cruz* 17 Jul (SGe). No shrikes were found this summer in *San Mateo*, where they are feared extirpated.

A singing Bell's Vireo 20 Jun along Coyote Cr. was just the 3rd found in *Santa Clara* (†MJM). Of 7 Red-eyed Vireos 2–24 Jun, 3 were inland: 11 Jun at Simis Ranch, *Mono* (KNN), 23 Jun at C.R.P. (JTr), and 24 Jun near the Kaweah R. Dam (first for *Tulare*; †RH). A Horned Lark at Coyote Pt. 18 Jun (RSTh) was either a very late migrant or a wanderer, as they do not breed at that site and may be extirpated from *San Mateo*, the last breeding record being in 1997. A Purple Martin near the Fremont Weir 19 Jun (OsJ, MtB) was the

first found in *Sutter* since 1975. Bank Swallows well away from known breeding stations were at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 9–10 Jun (MtB, RyT, OsJ, DR et al.), Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* 15 Jun (AJ), and Alviso, *Santa Clara* 16 Jun (MJM, MtB, OsJ). *Tulare*'s nesting pair at Yokohl Valley was noted again 5–16 Jun (KiK, Tony Kurz). A Black-capped Chickadee 20 Jun at Lowden Ranch was a long-awaited first for *Trinity* (EE); at least one Black-capped near the confluence of the Van Duzen R. and Eel R., *Humboldt* 28 Jun–28 Jul was at the current s. extent of the species known range (DFx). A Red-breasted Nuthatch 31 Jul at Modesto, *Stanislaus* was a rare Jul find for the C.V. floor (HMR). An unseasonable Winter Wren was on FI. 24 Jul (P.R.B.O.). Very late



This Summer Tanager singing on territory in pine-oak forest from early May through 16 (here 1) July 2006 in the Sierra Nevada furnished the second documented record for Placer County as well as the second record of the eastern subspecies for the Sierra Nevada. Photograph by John Sterling.

lowland Townsend's Solitaires were at outer Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 13 Jun (RS) and Monte Bello Open Space Preserve and nearby *San Mateo* 19 Jun (GrH).

THRASHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

A Gray Catbird in Susanville 1–17 Jul (Mark Miller, m.ob.) was *Lassen*'s first. Gray Catbirds were also reported at Rush Cr., *Mono* 23 Jun–4 Jul (CMc) and at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 13 Jun (RS, KH). A Sage Thrasher on Monte Bello Ridge, *Santa Clara* 3 Jun (SCR) was the first summer record for that county. An ad. Cedar Waxwing carrying food and feeding young at Pt. Reyes provided *Marin*'s first breeding record 3–15 Jun (RS).

A Tennessee Warbler 9 Jul near Rio Dell along the Eel R. (KGR) was the first *Humboldt* record between 19 Jun and 27 Aug (*vide* DFX). Northern Parulas were found in coastal counties from *Monterey* (5) to *Humboldt* (2), with one in Santa Rosa, *Sonoma* 4–18 Jun (Rhio Reigh, RAR, Anthony Cermack, ph. WGB, ph. AWgh, m.ob.). Single Northern Parulas were found in *Butte* 20–23 Jun (DR, RC, JHS) and *Mono* 6 Jul (CMc). *Madera*'s first Northern Parula record was an ad. male at San Joaquin

Experimental Range 14 Jun (Doug Drynan, Kathryn Purcell, ph. JND, m.ob.), and *Placer*'s first was a female found dead at Tahoe City 9 Jun (*John Moore, *vide* WRI). Unusual breeding locations for Yellow Warblers included an unsuccessful nest at C.R.P. 20–25 Jun (JTr), four pairs in the foothills of *Madera* 7 Jul (JND, Brian Gibson), and a female carrying food 8 Jul in Pescadero, *San Mateo* (RSTh). Chestnut-sided Warblers were at Rush Cr., *Mono* 6 Jun (Queresh Latif) and Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 20 Jun (b.; B.S.O.L.). Magnolia Warblers included a singing male at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 10 Jun (ClH, DCo, ph. OsJ) and a bird banded on FI. 12 Jun (P.R.B.O.). The season's only Black-throated Blue Warbler was on FI. 30 Jun (P.R.B.O.). Numerous Yellow-rumped Warblers singing and carrying food at Corona Mine Forest in *Napa* 20–27 Jun (MBe) confirmed a new breeding location for that county.

There were 2 Black-and-white Warblers in *Humboldt* 9 & 14 Jun (KI, KBU) and one in *Contra Costa* 11 Jun (ES). Besides the 3 American Redstarts in *Monterey* 13 Jun–2 Jul (b.; B.S.O.L., RyT, OsJ et al.) were singles in El Dorado 29 Jun (Kevin Spencer), *Marin* 23 Jun (RS), *Mono* 21 Jun–11 Jul (CMc), *Sonoma* 5 Jul (DgSh), and FI. 10–12 Jun (P.R.B.O.). The season's only Prothonotary Warbler was a singing male in San Gregorio, *San Mateo* 17 Jun (RSTh). An Ovenbird was at the Pt. Reyes lighthouse, *Marin* 13 Jun (RS), and a singing male was along Skyline Blvd. in both *Santa Clara* and *Santa Cruz* 5 Jun (DLSu). Of the 6 Hooded Warblers reported, 2 were inland: singing males at C.R.P. 15 Jul (JTr, m.ob.) and in Santa Rosa, *Sonoma* 4 Jun+ (DgSh, ph. Len Blumin, m.ob.). Others were in *San Mateo* along Gazos Creek Rd. 8 Jun (singing male; RSTh), at Butano S.P. (female; DLSu), and in *Monterey* at the Big Sur R. mouth 3 Jun (female, b.; B.S.O.L.) and the Carmel R. mouth 13 Jul (male; MtB, Bret Tryon). A Yellow-breasted Chat at Finegold Cr. ne. of O'Neals 7 Jul was the first breeding season record for *Madera* (JND, Brian Gibson).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A singing male Summer Tanager in Colfax early May–16 Jul furnished a first *Placer* record (Larry & Pam Risser, m.ob., ph. JCS, vt. ClH). This bird was apparently of the nominate subspecies. Summer Tanagers were also found at Rush Cr., *Mono* 5 & 24 Jul (CMc). A Black-chinned Sparrow was on Pine Flat Rd., *Sonoma* 20 Jun (FrO, Jlx). At least 2 singing Black-throated Sparrows on Airport Rd. above Diamond Valley, *Alpine* 15 Jun–28 Jul (ES, CLu, LLu, m.ob.) and another e. of Foresthill, *Placer* 9 Jul (FrO, Liz West) represent scarce

breeding-season records for both counties. Another unusual sparrow for the Airport Rd. area of *Alpine* was a male Sage Sparrow 1-28 Jul (John Lewis, Mike Skram, m.ob.). The only prior *Alpine* records for this species were near Monitor Pass on the e. edge of the county. A singing ad. Grasshopper Sparrow and a fresh juv. near Mendota provided the 2nd county occurrence and the first evidence of breeding for *Madera* 18 Jul (ph. GaW). A Grasshopper Sparrow was singing s. of Dixon in *Solano* mid-May–18 Jun (EP, CH, RMu). Several sparrows were notable for their presence on wintering grounds into summer. These included a Lincoln's Sparrow at Big Sur R., *Monterey* 7-9 Jun (B.S.O.L., RyT, OsJ); *Butte*'s first Jun record for White-crowned Sparrow 27 Jun (JHS); *Santa Cruz*'s first Fox Sparrow for the month of Jun (*unalaschcensis* or *schistacea* subspecies) 8 Jun (Scott Smithson); 2 Golden-crowned Sparrows in *Monterey* 2 Jun and mid-Jul (RF, Laura Rodriguez); and another Golden-crowned Sparrow in Palo Alto, *Santa Clara* 9 Jul (Joe Greenberg, TAC).

Of the 23 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks reported, all but one were in coastal or bayside counties, with 9 in *Santa Cruz*, 4 in *Humboldt*, 3 in *Monterey*, 2 in *San Mateo*, 2 in S.F. (one at FI. and one in the city), and one each in *Contra Costa* and *Marin*. The lone inland county record was an ad. male at C.R.P. 21 Jun (JTr). An apparent Rose-breasted Grosbeak × Black-headed Grosbeak hybrid was in McKinleyville, *Humboldt* 11 Jul (GSL, LPL). Blue Grosbeaks in the Red Hills area of *Tuolumne* 6-14 Jul represent the 2nd occurrence in that county (JCS, Roy Carlson). A pair of Indigo Buntings was at Fremont Weir 9-20 Jun and was seen in both *Sutter* and *Yolo* (MP, m.ob.). Indigo Buntings were also reported from *Mono*, S.F., and *Sacramento*. A Common Grackle at outer Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 19 Jun (RS), if accepted by the C.B.R.C., would be the 3rd Pt. Reyes record. Great-tailed Grackles continued to consolidate their occupation of n. California, with *Humboldt* and *Modoc* each reporting their 6th records and *Tehama* its 5th. A Great-tailed Grackle at Indian Creek Res. 3 Jun was *Alpine*'s first (JSL, JLx). A singing second-year male Baltimore Oriole near Junction City 19-29 Jun (EE, PAH) was the first record for *Trinity*. Lawrence's Goldfinches at the Presidio 21-30 Jul (MWE, m.ob.) were a rare treat for S.F.

Cited observers (county coordinators in boldface): Steve Abbott, R. J. Adams, Tim Amaral, Kumaran Arul, Alan D. Barron (*Del Norte*), Murray Berner (*Napa*), Matthew Brady, William G. Bousman (*Santa Clara*), Adam Brown (FI.), Ken Burton, Rita Caratello, Theodore A. Chandik, George E.

Chaniot, Daryl Coldren, Luke W. Cole (*Kings*), Chris Conard (*Sacramento & Yolo*), Hugh Cotter, Jeff N. Davis (*Madera*), Al DeMartini, Bruce E. Deuel (n. C.V. counties), Ryan DiGuadio, Matthew Dodder, Mark W. Eaton (*San Francisco*), Ray Ekstrom (*Siskiyou*), Elias Elias, Brian Fitch, David Fix (*Humboldt*), Rick Fournier, Rob Fowler (RbF), James H. Gain (*Stanislaus*), Steve Gerow, Steve A. Glover (*Contra Costa*), Lois Goldfrank, Keith Hansen, Rob Hansen, Garth Harwood, Jim Havlena, Karen Havlena, Cliff Hawley, Sacha Heath, Pablo A. Herrera, John E. Hunter (*Trinity*), Ken Irwin, Alvaro Jaramillo, David A. Jensen, Oscar Johnson, Robert J. Keiffer (*Mendocino*), Kim Kuska, Robin L. C. Leong (*Solano*), Gary S. Lester, Lauren P. Lester, Cindy Lieurance, Leslie Lieurance, Jim Lomax, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, J. Mac McCormick (*Plumas & Sierra*), Matthew A. Matthiessen, Sean McAllister, Chris McCreedy, Peter J. Metropulos (*San Mateo*), Joseph Morlan, Dan P. Murphy, Roger Muskat, Kristie N. Nelson (*Mono*), Wally NeVille, Chet Ogan, Francis Oliver, Ed Pandolfino (*Placer*), Michael Perrone, Eric Pilote (EPi), Jude C. Power (*Humboldt*), Eric W. Preston, Harold M. Reeve, Robert W. Reiling, Will Richardson, Robert J. Richmond (*Alameda*), Don Roberson (*Mon-*

terey), Michael M. Rogers, Kerry G. Ross, Stephen C. Rottenborn, Ruth A. Rudesill (*Sonoma*), Paul Saraceni, Michelle Scott, Jeff Seay, Doug Shaw, Shearwater Journeys, Jim H. Snowden, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling (*Modoc, Alpine, & Calaveras*), Tim Steurer (*Amador & El Dorado*), Gary J. Strachan, Emilie Strauss, David L. Suddjian (*Santa Cruz*), Brian L. Sullivan, Steven D. Summers (*Tulare*), Robert B. Sutherland, Richard Ternullo, Ryan Terrill (RyT), Ronald S. Thorn, Dorothy Tobkin, John Trochet, Steve Umland (*Tuolumne*), Chuck E. Vaughn, Kent Van Vuren (*Merced & San Benito*), David Vander Pluym (*Mariposa*), Frank Vanslager, Ann Verdi, Dave Weber, Brian J. Weed, Jerry R. White (*Lake*), Alan Wight, Brian D. C. Williams, Roger Wolfe, Gary Woods, Bob & Carol Yutzy (*Shasta*). Many more observers are not specifically cited; all are appreciated. ☺


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

Steven A. Glover, 6526 Conestoga Lane, Dublin, California 94568, (countylines@sbcglobal.net);


Ed Pandolfino, 5530 Delrose Court, Carmichael, California 95608, (erpfromca@aol.com);

Scott B. Terrill, H.T. Harvey & Associates, 3150 Almaden Expressway, Suite 145, San Jose, California 95118, (sterrill@harveyecology.com)

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**A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**



All serious North American birders eventually end up in Southern California. The vast, varied topography that is Southern California has recorded over 555 naturally occurring bird species, many of which are near endemics to its geography. Each of Southern California's many habitats offers its own specialties, and this guide will help you to find them all. New to this edition are chapters covering Kern River Valley, the rugged Clark Mountain wilderness, southeastern California's Blythe region, Sespe Condor Sanctuary, coastal Ventura County, and birding hot spots in suburban San Fernando Valley. The maps, bar-graphs, and Specialties section all have been up-dated to ensure that the reader has effective tools at hand for contemporary birding.

by Brad Schram
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