

22 visited a feeder in College Place, Walla Walla throughout early May (M&MD). Just south in Oregon, a new colony of 250 ads. was discovered near Umapine, Umatilla 20 May (MD). A Rusty Blackbird near Othello 28 Mar furnished the Region's first spring record since 2004 (AS); most Rusties are found mid-Oct–late Jan. Washington's 14th **Common Grackle**, and first since Jan 2003, was near Sequim, Clallam 22-30 Apr (ph. SM, vt. BSW); most of Washington's records have been Mar–Jul, and this was only w. Washington's 4th. Now annual during spring in Oregon, single Common Grackles inhabited Malheur 12 May and Fields 16 May (S. Dowlan). Washington's 4th **Great-tailed Grackle** returned for its 5th consecutive year to Liberty L., Spokane 13-30 Apr (R. Dexter). Great-tailed Grackles arrived in Oregon during the 1980s, occurring almost entirely in the se. portion of the state. Times are a-changing, and 6 of this spring's 9 Oregon Great-taileds were on the westside, almost all during May. Washington's 8th **Hooded Oriole** returned to Seattle 12 Apr–23 May (C. Conolly). A Baltimore Oriole, now a nearly annual northbound migrant in Oregon, inhabited Malheur 25 May+ (D. Herr). Astoria's wintering Bullock's Oriole lasted until 9 Mar (MP). Exceptionally early were Bullock's at Longview, Cowlitz 27 Mar (M. Green) and near Moxee, Yakima 7 Apr (*fide* DG); the first usually arrive late Apr/early May. Additionally, Bullock's

Orioles seem to be increasing throughout w. Washington, highlighted by a w. Washington record 31 at Ridgefield/Shillapoo Bottoms, Clark 26 May (SM, BF, JW). Washington's 2nd Scott's Oriole was near Selah, Yakima 12-17 Apr (†S. Hall); the first was in sw. Washington, Feb–Apr 1980!

Five wintering Pine Grosbeaks lingered in the Oregon Cascades at Todd L., Deschutes through 17 Mar (S. Dougill), and one remained in Portland until 15 Mar (W. Gross); amazingly, Oregon Pine Grosbeak breeding records are very few, and are all from the Willowa and Blue Mts. A Pine Grosbeak in Edmonds, Snohomish 30 Apr was a goodly month late for the westside lowlands (DD). Red Crossbills, following the pattern of recent years, burst across the Region in late May/early Jun, with a high count of 600 at Cascade Head, Lincoln 28 May (PP); additionally, singles appeared in the Columbia Basin, where-rare, at Vantage 1 Jun (SM) and Washtucna, Adams 3 Jun (G. Sheridan). Lesser Goldfinches again flung themselves across Washington, a sign of continuing range expansion, with singles at Battle Ground, Clark 7 Apr (J. Danzenbaker), P.N.P. 9 May (VN, BSW), and Walla Walla 19 May (G. & R. Shoemake); indeed, Lessers have probably re-established themselves in Clark, where extirpated in 1991, and the Walla Walla bird was that county's 4th, all in the past three years.

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Cindy Ashy, **Tom Aversa** (Washington), David Bailey, **Range Bayer** (Lincoln), Gary Bletsch, Marv Breece, Wilson Cady, Kathy Castelein, Alan Contreras, **Craig Corder** (Spokane), Cameron Cox, Mike & MerryLynn Denny (M&MD), Dennis Duffy, **Joe Engler** (Clark), Bob Flores, **Chuck Gates** (Crook), **Roy Gerig** (Polk, Marion), Jeff Gilligan, **Denny Granstrand** (Yakima), Troy Guy, Randy Hill, Rich Hoyer (RH), **Stuart Johnston** (Klickitat), **Bill LaFramboise** (lower Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise, David Lauten, Terry Little, Ryan Merrill, **Tom Mickel** (Lane), **Craig & Marilyn Miller** (Deschutes, Jefferson), Scott Mills (SMi), Harry Nehls (OR), Vic Nelson, **Bob Norton** (Olympic Pen.), **Clarence and Marilyn O'Leary** (Grant), **Michael Patterson** (Clatsop), **W. Doug Robinson** (Benton, Linn, Marion), **Tim Rodenkirk** (Coos, Curry), Owen Schmidt, Doug Schonewald, **Kevin Spencer** (Klamath), Andy Stepniewski, Patrick & Ruth Sullivan (P&RS), **Dennis Vroman** (Josephine), Brad Waggoner (BSW), Terry J. Wahl, Jay Withgott, Charlie Wright. ☉

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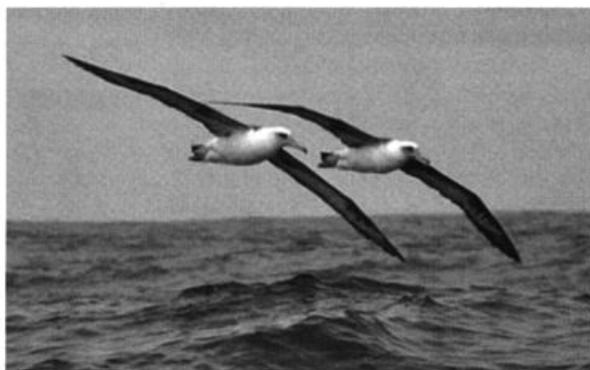


Scott B. Terrill
(Loons to Frigatebirds, Larids to Alcids)
Michael M. Rogers
(Waterfowl to Quail, Herons to Shorebirds)
Steven A. Glover
(Doves to Wrentit)
Ed Pandolfino
(Thrashers to Finches)

This spring offered an interesting mix of unusual birds. There was a nearly unprecedented influx of nearshore Horned Puffins in the Region. This species occurs far offshore in winter, but it is unclear why so many individuals wandered into inshore waters this year. Most dead birds examined were emaciated, indicating a lack of food. The only other period with similar numbers of Horned Puffins was May–June 1975, when over 200 were recorded in the state. There were also late Ancient Murrelets

and, just after the end of the season in June, there were very unusual reports of Thick-billed Murres and Parakeet Auklets. It is tempting to speculate that the incursions of these four alcids, all Alaskan breeders, in spring and early summer were related.

Unusual numbers of desert and Great Basin breeding sparrows (Brewer's and Black-throated) were noted north and west of their normal range. In addition, Black-chinned Sparrows showed up north and west of more typical breeding locations. Much of the desert southwest and the high desert of the Great Basin experienced a severe drought this winter and spring. Much of these areas supported virtually no primary productivity, and breeding birds were essentially absent. During such years, it is likely that migrant species such as the sparrows continue to move in an effort to locate more favorable breeding conditions. Noteworthy vagrants included the rare-in-spring



Three Laysan Albatrosses were seen together 16 kilometers west of the Eel River mouth in Humboldt County, California on 6 April 2007. Laysan are rare in the county, and most records are of single birds. Only 23% of Humboldt County observations have come from the spring and summer seasons, and there are only six reports of multiple (2-4) birds together. Photograph by Kerry Ross.

Red-throated Pipits and our most southerly record for Common Redpoll.

Abbreviations: B.S.O.L. (Big Sur Ornithology Lab); C.B.R.C. (California B.R.C.); C.C.F.S. (Coyote Creek Field Station, *Santa Clara*); C.R.P. (Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento*); C.V. (Central Valley); FI. (Southeast Farallon I., *San Francisco*); H.R.S. (Hayward Regional Shoreline, *Alameda*); O.S.P. (Open Space Preserve), P.R.B.O. (Pt. Reyes B.O.); S.F. (San Francisco, not State Forest); U.C. (University of California). 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. Birds banded on FI. should be credited to Pt. Reyes B.O. and those banded at Big Sur R. mouth to the Big Sur Ornithology Lab of the Ventana Wilderness Society.

WATERFOWL

An ad. Fulvous Whistling-Duck was seen again at the "Dead Pig Ponds" n. of Angiola, *Tulare* 2 Apr (SDS). An ad. Emperor Goose was found at the n. jetty of Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 2 Mar (†Steve Gellman). A count of 8 blue-morph Ross's Geese tallied at the Merced N.W.R., *Merced* 21 Mar (PJM) doubled the previous high count in our notebooks. Brant were well reported this spring; birds slightly inland included one at Huichica Creek W.A., *Napa* 7 Apr (MBe), one at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* through 23 May (RSTh et al.), and at least one continuing in *Santa Clara* at Sunnyvale, Mountain View, and Palo Alto through 6 May (m.ob.). More surprising was a Brant far inland at Merced N.W.R., *Merced* 27 Apr (Bob Chase). Aleutian Cackling Geese lingered at Shoreline Park in Mountain View, *Santa Clara* through 4 May (MMR) and at El

Estero, Monterey, *Monterey* through 3 Jun (AB, BTM, m.ob.). Two male Eurasian Wigeons at the mouth of Jacoby Cr., *Humboldt* 12 May (JTz) were likewise late. Fourteen Blue-winged Teal at Redwood Shores, *San Mateo* 4 Mar (RSTh) were the most ever for that location. Seven Eurasian Teal from four counties included a rather late bird in Novato, *Marin* 21 Apr (Harrison Karr). Late Ring-necked Ducks included a pair at Monte Bello O.S.P., *Santa Clara* through 19 May (GrH) and a male in Walnut Creek, *Contra Costa* 25 May (Hugh Harvey). Male Tufted Ducks were in Benicia, *Solano* 28 Mar (EPi) and at L. Merritt, *Alameda* through 2 Apr (Marilyn Trabert, Debbie Viess). Besides the usual lingering birds in *Mendocino* and *Monterey*, May Harlequin Ducks included a male near Chimney Rock, outer Pt. Reyes N.S., *Marin* 1 May (Bob Power) and a female at Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* 18 May (RSTh). A male Surf Scoter far inland at Bridgeport, *Mono* 15 Apr (FrO) was particularly unexpected in spring. Five Long-tailed Ducks were reported through 1 Apr (m.ob.), and a lingering male was seen at Bodega Harbor, *Sonoma* 18 May (ph. Shannon Lyday, *fide* RS). On the heels of last season's bird, another Bufflehead × goldeneye hybrid was at the Shasta Valley W.A., *Siskiyou* 7-9 Apr (†RE, ph. Mike McVay). A female Hooded Merganser brooding eggs in a Wood Duck box 18 km w. of Gridley, *Butte* 18 Mar (Bill Wade)

was from a location where breeding has occurred since 1996. Common Mergansers away from inland breeding areas included 2 at H.R.S. 4 Mar (RJR), one at Golden Gate Park, S.F. 22 Mar–20 Apr (Martha Wessitsh, m.ob.), and a female with 9 small young at the Carmel R. mouth, *Monterey* 27 May+ (BHL, ph. BTM). Inland Red-breasted Mergansers included a continuing female at Kutrás L., *Redding, Shasta* through 12 Mar (RBR, B&CY)

and the 5th spring record for Lake at Clear L. 11 Mar (FHa).

LOONS THROUGH BOOBIES

The only inland Pacific Loon reported was at L. Berryessa, *Napa* 1 Mar (EP, FRo). "Al," the infamous Laysan Albatross that has spent the past 14 winters at Pt. Arena Cove, *Mendocino*, was last noted 16 Mar (GS, Jeanne Jackson, m.ob.). Offshore Laysans were off *Humboldt* 6 Apr (3 birds; KGR) and off *Monterey* 9 (Brent Williamson, *fide* RgW) & 24 Apr (Greg Frankfurter). An imm. Short-tailed Albatross was 15 km w. of Cypress Pt., *Monterey* 22 Apr (Matt Sadowski, ph. DR, ph. m.ob.). Over a century ago, this species was fairly common in coastal inshore waters of the Region, but it nearly went extinct during the last century. Due to intensive conservation efforts, it has been making a comeback and has been reported nearly annually in the Region since the late 1990s. Relatively scarce in spring, a



This long-staying Brown Booby was enjoyed by many birders at the Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf, Santa Cruz, California, photographed here on 27 March 2007. Photograph by Jeff Poklen.

Flesh-footed Shearwater was on Monterey Bay, *Monterey* 13 Apr (RgW, RT). The latest Short-tailed Shearwater reported was on Monterey Bay, *Monterey* 17 Mar (RgW, RT). A nearshore Manx Shearwater was seen from Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 15 Apr (BLS). Single Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels reported from Monterey Bay, *Monterey* 15, 18, 20, & 23 May (RT, ShJ) were the only ones reported. Brown Boobies continue to invade the Region, with one to 2



Crested Caracaras continue to appear in California. This individual was photographed near Ferndale, at the Eel River Bottoms, on 26 March 2007. Photograph by Kerry Ross.

at Ft. 3 Mar–9 Apr (P.R.B.O., *fide* Russ Bradley) and one to 3 in Monterey Bay in Monterey and Santa Cruz Mar–Apr (m.ob.).

HERONS THROUGH CRANES

An American Bittern at L. Merced, first found 29 Jan (BFi), remained through 11 Mar (Dorothy Reinhardt) for one of few S.F. records. Least Bitterns were reported from Sutter N.W.R., Sutter 4 May (SAG, LWC) and Alpaugh, Tulare 25 May (SDS). Little Blue Herons were at Antioch 26 Apr (4th *Contra Costa* record; Greg Scyphers) and Yolo Bypass W.A., Yolo 1 May (imm.; FS). Small numbers of Cattle Egrets were found in coastal areas through the period (m.ob.). Many pairs near Dixon 10 Apr (GoM) provided Solano's first nesting record, and 4 at Mono L. 29 May (GWP) provided a record count for Mono. Coastal White-faced Ibis 26 Mar–29 May included flocks of up to 60 birds in s. S.F. Bay 6–9 May (m.ob.).

Two pairs of California Condors in the Ventana Wilderness, Monterey hatched single chicks in late Apr–early May (*fide* DR). Ospreys 3 km e. of Dillard provided the first nest record for Sacramento (Dan Kopp, CCo). Nesting Bald Eagles were reported near Van Arsdale Dam, Potter Valley 6 May (*Mendocino's* first confirmed nesting; *fide* CEV), at Laguna de Santa Rosa, Sonoma (*fide* Stan Moore), at Davis Creek Res., Yolo 9 May (JMHu), at Calaveras Res. 17 Mar+ (*Santa Clara's* 2nd confirmed nesting; Linda Kincaid, m.ob.), and at three locations in Monterey (*fide* Sal Lucido). A Northern Goshawk over Rayhouse Rd., Yolo 26 Apr (JMHu) was late

for a migrant. The Laguna de Santa Rosa, Sonoma Common Black-Hawk was seen again 20 Mar+ (Stan Moore), although the local landowner claimed it never left this winter. The only Broad-winged Hawk reported was one over the Marin Headlands, Marin 6 May (Tim Behr). Swainson's Hawks near the coast included one at Tres Pinos, San Benito 23 Mar (CKF), 4 at Ed Levin C.P., Santa Clara 23 Mar–26 Apr (MMR et al.), 2 in Monterey, near Castroville 16 Apr (†BMMo, Gary Kittleson) and at Salinas 28 Apr (†TAM), near Eureka 30 Apr (8th *Humboldt* record; †lvS), and at Coyote Pt., San Mateo 24 May (RSTh). All 3 Crested Caracaras continued from winter. The Ferndale, *Humboldt* bird was last seen 28 Mar (m.ob.), the ad. bird in coastal n. Monterey was seen through 23 May (m.ob.), and the first-winter Monterey bird was apparently re-found at Moss Landing S.B. 1 Mar (†Jean de Marignac, Robert Lea). Late Merlins included 2 in coastal *Humboldt* 13 May (RbF, JTz, DCo, KGR) and one in Half Moon Bay, San Mateo 15 May (AJ). Peregrine Falcons continue to expand in the Region; a nest with 3 young along the upper North Fork of the American R. 14 Apr+ (DeR) marked the first confirmed breeding record for Placer, whereas a nest in Vallejo 20 Mar+ (JGE, RLCL, Ken Dexter) was Solano's 3rd. In Santa Clara, a pair successfully fledged 2 young from last year's salt pond nest, while a 2nd pair fledged 3 young from a tower only 1500 m away (MMR, FV, MJM, RGJ)! Another pair fledged 3 young from a ledge on the 19th floor of San Jose's City Hall (*fide* MMR), marking the first urban breeding for Santa Clara. A Virginia Rail at Wawona Meadows, Mariposa 10 Mar (EPi) was unseasonal. One of a pair of dancing Sandhill Cranes at Bridgeport 9 Apr, apparently the first Mono spring migrants since the 1950s, remained through the season (JSL, KNN).

SHOREBIRDS

Two Black-bellied Plovers at the Loyalton S.T.P. 16 Apr (JSL) were the first ever for Sierra. Twelve Pacific Golden-Plovers reported from six counties included 5 from Shollenberger Park, Sonoma 12 Mar–13 Apr (RS, AWgh), 3 wintering birds in Fresno and Kings 5 Mar–3 Apr (GaW, David Gaylor, JSy), the 2nd spring record for H.R.S. 8 Apr (RJR), and lingering migrants at Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 5 May (DCo, KGR et al.) and near Collinsville, Solano 10 May (Phil Gulley, RLCL). The

Madera W.T.P. hosted up to 2 Snowy Plovers 27–29 Mar (ph. GaW) and another 7–13 May (GaW) for just the 3rd and 4th records for Madera. Four American Avocets at the Shasta Valley W.A., Siskiyou (RE) were unexpected. Eighteen northbound Solitary Sandpipers in 12 counties were all one-day wonders within the narrow window 15–30 Apr (m.ob.). A Wandering Tattler at the outer edge of a Mountain View salt pond 7–14 May (ph. Kathleen Henderson) was only the 2nd spring record for Santa Clara, although apparently 2 were there the same time last year as well. A Willet near Williams 7 May (RbF) was perhaps only the 3rd for Colusa. Late Lesser Yellowlegs included the 2nd May record for the n. C.V. near Sutter Buttes, Sutter (SAG, LWC), the 3rd May record for H.R.S. 9 May (RJR), and 3 near Loleta, *Humboldt* 17 May (BS). A count of 4000 Whimbrels near Alpaugh, Tulare 31 Mar (SAL) doubled the maximum in our notebooks; notably the previous high of 2000 s. of Dinuba 27 Apr 1983 (RHG) was also in Tulare. A Siberian Whimbrel (subspecies *variegatus*) flying northward past Pigeon Pt., San Mateo 16 Apr (RSTh) was one of only about a half dozen ever recorded in the Region. Eleven Ruddy Turnstones at San Pablo Bay R.S. 5 May (Laura Look) was the largest group ever for *Contra Costa*. Surveys of the n. shore of Mono L. 29 May turned up 11 Sanderlings (GWP), a high count for Mono, especially in spring. A *Humboldt* Big Day produced the only Semipalmated and Pectoral



Spring 2007 followed an above-average winter for Horned Puffins in Monterey Bay and preceded one of the largest summer invasions of Horned Puffins ever recorded in California. Early signs of the invasion came on 19 May, when four were found in and around Monterey Bay on a pelagic trip, including this bird off Hopkins Marine Station. Photograph by Don Roberson.

Sandpipers reported this season, at Humboldt Bay N.W.R. 30 Apr (TMcK, BS). An ad. Red-necked or Little Stint found nearby the same day (TMcK, BS), too distant to identify to species, was seen again briefly the next day (KGR). The Rock Sandpiper along West Cliff

Dr. in Santa Cruz, *Santa Cruz* remained through 12 Apr (ph. SGe, Jean Harrison). A Stilt Sandpiper at the Merced N.W.R., *Merced* 22 Mar (PJM) likely wintered and was possibly the same individual found at this location 6 Mar 2006 (PJM, ADeM) and 6-14 Feb 2005 (LCh et al.). Continuing Ruffs lingered through 5 Mar at Sherman I., *Sacramento* (ad.; m.ob.) and through 2 Mar in Alviso, *Santa Clara* (FV). A big northward push of Red Phalaropes was noted nearshore, with about 10,000 seen from Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 12 May (MtB, RyT), 8700+ from Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* 13 May (RSTh), and 15,600 at Drake's Bay, *Marin* 23 May (RS); the only reports slightly inland were 2 to 4 at Hayward R.S. 27-31 May (RJR) and one in Richmond, *Contra Costa* 28 May-5 Jun (Cathy Bleier et al.).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDIS

Jaegers were quite scarce, with only 3 reported: Pomarines were on *Monterey Bay*, *Monterey* 31 Mar (RgW, RT) and off *Humboldt* 6 Apr (KGR), and a Parasitic was at the n. jetty of *Humboldt Bay*, *Humboldt* 11 Mar (ScC). Rare in the Region, Laughing Gulls were at Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt* 8-10 Mar (Alexander Lamb, SWH, ph. RbF, ScC, GAB) and at the Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 22 May (†Greg Frankfurter). It was a banner year for Franklin's Gulls, with 99 reported in the Region. The species was well represented throughout the Region, with the largest numbers, as expected, in the northeast. A Mew Gull at Trinity L. 10-17 Mar (JSL, JLx, FrO) was only the 2nd for *Trinity*. A probable Vega Gull was well photographed at Lucchesi Park, *Sonoma* 10 Mar (ph. BLS, ph. EWP, RS, m.ob.). Reports of Vega-type gulls are increasing, and it will be interesting to track the status of this taxon in North America s. of Alaska. Twenty-two Glaucous Gulls were reported, with several reported up to the end of May in *Humboldt*, *Santa Cruz*, and *Monterey*, which is quite late for the Region. The colony of Caspian Terns at the Salinas R. mouth, *Monterey* is now estimated to contain 500 birds (fide RF). An early Elegant Tern was at Zmudowski S.B., *Monterey* 28 Apr (TAM et al.). A Regional record high count of 50+ Black Skimmers was at a Mountain View salt pond in *Santa Clara* 4 Apr (Larry Parmeter). On the late side, an Ancient Murrelet was off *Monterey*, *Monterey* 19 May (TAM, DR), and 2 were off Ft. Bragg, *Mendocino* 20 May (RLeV, m.ob.). Horned Puffins made the news in the Region. Over 50 were reported to us, with

many not reported, as a number of birds were found dead on shore. Efforts are being made to compile a total for the Region, but that total will span the summer season as well.

DOVES THROUGH SOLITAIRE

A Band-tailed Pigeon 6 Mar at Davis, *Yolo* was an unusual find for the C.V. floor (JCS). First county records of Eurasian Collared-Doves were tallied 6 Apr at Nice, *Lake* (JRW) and 12 May at Corning, *Tehama* (nesting pair; fide M. Rogner). Observers in numerous counties with previous records noted range expansions and an obvious increase in total numbers. A vagrant White-winged Dove was along the Pajaro R. near Pajaro, *Monterey* 1 May (DLSu). A Snowy Owl at the s. spit of *Humboldt Bay*, *Humboldt* 26 Mar-1 Apr provided the first county record since 1978 (Carol Wilson, ph. m.ob.). The species has been recorded in *Humboldt* on over 80 occasions, accounting for about two-thirds of all California records (fide JTz). Great Gray Owls in *Fresno* near the s. edge of the breeding range were at



Following a good winter for Snowy Owls in California, this bird was on the South Spit of *Humboldt Bay* on 26 March 2007. Photograph by Kerry Ross.

of 68 individuals 4 Mar may represent the largest congregation ever reported in California (BLS). An out-of-place Short-eared Owl at Twin Peaks 17 Apr provided a rare record for mainland S.F. (JsC, HuC, ASH, PSar). Rare C.V. Northern Saw-whet Owls continued through 28 Mar at both Fair Oaks, *Sacramento* (DJo, m.ob.) and Ryer I., *Solano* (4; Raye Hansen). Black Swifts are rarely found in the C.V., so 2 on 4 May at Redding, *Shasta* (JCS, BY, JSL, SAG) and 4 on 14 May at the Fremont Weir, *Yolo* (AEn)

were noteworthy. Four Black Swifts flying northward over Wild Horse Ridge 17 May provided the first *Napa* record since 1959 (†MBe). Three White-throated Swifts 31 May at Trinidad, *Humboldt* were well n. of any known breeding stations (Melody Hamilton). Calliope Hummingbirds were reported widely and in higher numbers than is typical in the Region's lowlands, 30 Mar-17 May.

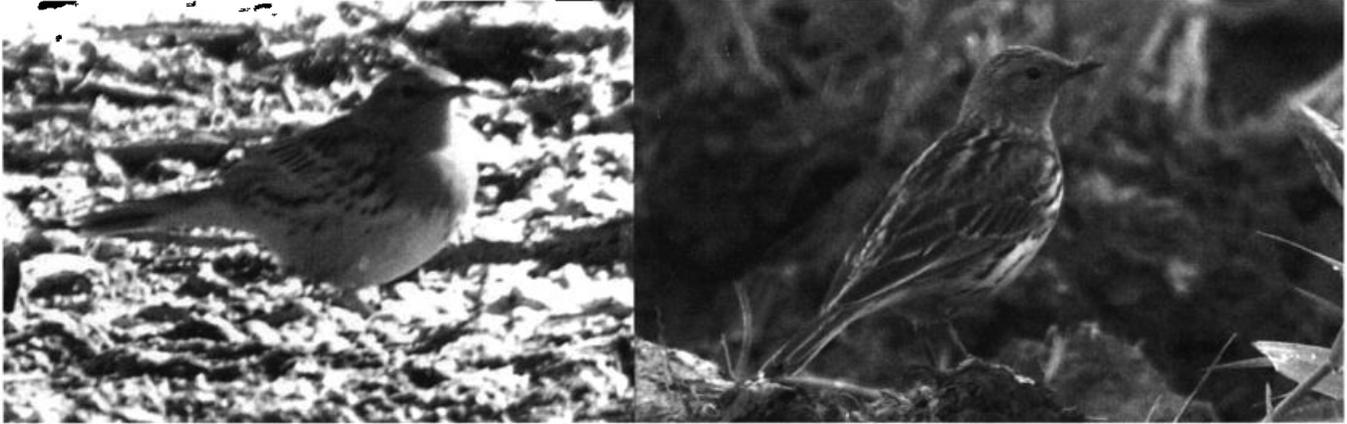
Not a single Lewis's Woodpecker was detected in *Madera*, this following a record-setting spring in 2006 in which thousands of birds were present (fide JND). A male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Millerton L. 11 Mar provided an overdue first county record for *Madera* (ph. Leonard Williams). Other Yellow-bellieds were at the Presidio, S.F. 3 Mar (JsC) and at Ed Levin C.P., *Santa Clara* through 30 Mar (DvWb, m.ob.) Out-of-place Pileated Woodpeckers, a phenomenon almost unknown

just a few years ago, were once again detected this season. A single bird at Pedro Pt. near Pacifica 22 Apr (W. Poinot), the 2nd ever found along the outer coast of *San Mateo*, was outdone by 2 at Coyote Pt. 8 May (RSTh, AME), the first ever found in *San Mateo* near the shore of S.F. Bay. An additional bird in the



This Bell's Vireo at Hot Creek, Mono County, California on 28 May 2007 showed characters of the nominate subspecies, such as a greenish back and yellowish underparts. Photograph by John Sterling.

Musick Meadow 19 Apr and Swanson Meadow 3-24 May (Rodney Olson et al.). The Great Gray which has apparently wintered near Camp-tonville, *Yuba* each of the past three winters was present 28 Mar-13 Apr (Jan Evers, m.cb.). Mercy Hot Springs, *Fresno* has been a traditional site for wintering Long-eared Owls, but a count



This May produced the second and third spring records of Red-throated Pipit for California. The bird on the left was photographed at Crowley Lake, Mono County 4 May 2007 and is the first of this species found inland in the state in spring. The other was near Fort Dick, Del Norte County 8-12 (here 12) May and was one of two at this location. Photographs by Debbie House and Ron LeValley, respectively.

Presidio 10 May (B. Corff) provided just the 2nd record for mainland S.F. A Least Flycatcher made a rare spring appearance 8 May at outer Pt. Reyes (RS). A fine year for migrant Gray Flycatchers produced records of at least 15 individuals from the Region's lowlands, including a very early record 6-7 Apr at Vallejo, *Solano* (JCS, JSL). An Eastern Kingbird at Alturas 26 May (SCR) was one of few ever found in summer in *Modoc*, though the species is annual in adjacent *Siskiyou*; another individual was at outer Pt. Reyes 31 May-3 Jun (RS). Northern Shrikes included one at Hayfork, *Trinity* 10-13 Mar (FrO, JSL, JLx) and one in Potter Valley, *Mendocino* 18-25 Mar (ADeM, GEC, Kelly Austin, Phil Austin).

A Bell's Vireo at Long Valley 29 May was the 3rd ever found in *Mono* (JCS). All 3 have been identified as nominate *bellii*. An American Crow at Simis Ranch 18 Apr was a spring rarity for *Mono* (KNN). A Common Raven nest at Upper Bidwell Park, Chico 19 May provided a first nest record for *Butte* (JHS). A pair of nesting Purple Martins near Rocklin 23 May- (Dan Kopp, m.ob.) furnished the first breeding record for *Placer* since 1909 (*vide* EP)! Fifteen nesting pairs of martins were tallied at Jones Valley, Shasta L., *Shasta* 25 May (Len Lindstrand), a significant tally for a species that is quite local in the Region. A male Mountain Bluebird made a rare coastal appearance at Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* 6 Mar (P. Couch). Similarly rare Townsend's Solitaires were recorded at Mt. Davidson, S.F. 26 Apr (BFi) and El. 16 May (P.R.B.O., *vide* Russ Bradley).

THRASHERS THROUGH TANAGERS

The only Gray Catbird report came from Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 30 May (Nick Whelan). Out-of-range Sage Thrashers included *Mendocino's* 4th record in Ft. Bragg 2 May (DAJ); singles were in *Yolo* along Sand Creek Rd. 27 Apr (Sami

LaRocca, Karen Hochgraf), along White Rock Rd. in w. *Mariposa* 4 Mar (JCS, EP), and s. of Elk Grove, *Sacramento* 25 Apr (CCo). A highlight for the Region was a Red-throated Pipit near Crowley L., *Mono* 4 May. (†KNN, JLD, ph., †DHo). Two more were near Ft. Dick, *Del Norte* 8-12 May (Lucas Brugge, ADB et al.).

An otherwise ho-hum warbler season was brightened by a singing male Golden-winged Warbler in Pacific Grove 22 Apr (†Bill & Emmy Reese). If accepted by the C.B.R.C., this will be the first record for *Monterey*. We received only two reports of Tennessee Warblers: one from Vista Grande Canal, S.F. 26 Apr (BFi) and one from Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 31 May (RS). A Lucy's Warbler at Coyote Pt. 29 Apr (†RSTh) provided a rare spring record for *San Mateo*. Five of our 7 Northern Parulas (3 in *San Mateo* and one each in *Alameda*, *Humboldt*, *Marin*, and El.) were reported as singing males, and all were found after 12 May. Among the rarer warblers were Magnolias in Lee Vining Canyon, *Mono* 22 May (M. Lester) and Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 31 May-2 Jun (David Lewis); a Chestnut-sided at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 28 May (RS); a male Prairie near Campbell Cove, *Sonoma* 21 May (LLu); and a Hooded at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 22-23 May (Mark Butler, m.ob.). Of the dozen Palm Warblers, all but 2 were probably lingering from winter. The 2 likely migrants were at Pt. Joe, *Monterey* 27 Apr (Osj, MtB) and at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* 7 May (RSTh). At least 3 Black-and-white Warblers stayed over from winter, including 2 S.F. birds found in Ferry Park and the Presidio, which were present until 13 (DSW) & 15 Apr (HuC), respectively. Another Black-and-white at Laguna Grande Park, *Monterey* 19 Mar (Judy West) was likely the same bird first found there 13 Jan. Black-and-white Warblers were also at Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt* 16 Apr (KGR) and Gazos Cr., *San Mateo* 28 May

(GrH). The American Redstart that wintered in Alice Street Community Garden, S.F. remained at least until 14 Mar (KAR, m.ob.). The only other American Redstart was a singing male along Pescadero Cr., *San Mateo* 28 May (RSTh). An Ovenbird was at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 30 May (Nick Whelan). A singing Northern Waterthrush along Stevens Cr., *Santa Clara* 1 May (MMR) was in the same area where at least 2 wintered. A Summer Tanager apparently returned 14 May to the same area near Colfax, *Placer* (Larry Risser, m.ob.), where it spent last summer. The bird was present and singing through the end of the period. A Summer Tanager in El Dorado Hills 12-14 Mar (ph. Karla Meadows) was *El Dorado's* first. Summer Tanagers were also at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 13 May (Bob Speckels) and near Oasis Ranch, *Mono* 26 May (DVP, DCo et al.).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

An American Tree Sparrow in Arcata, *Humboldt* 3-5 Mar (Russ Namitz, RbF) was apparently a holdover from winter (*vide* JTz). A Clay-colored Sparrow 8 May at Coyote Pt. (RSTh) marked the first spring record for *San Mateo*. The Clay-colored that wintered at Bartlett C.P., *Tulare* was last seen 26 Mar (Tony Kurz). Clay-colored Sparrows were also at Mad River C.P., *Humboldt* 22-24 Mar (Jherime Kellermann, KGR, DCo) and Corona Heights, S.F. 20 Apr (Lew Ellingham, BFi, m.ob.). Brewer's Sparrows, normally a rather rare spring transient in the C.V., made quite a showing late Apr-early May. Local observers reported unusually high numbers in *Madera*, *Tulare*, *Sacramento*, and *Merced*, with *Madera* reporting an unprecedented 20+ (*vide* JND). *Sacramento*, where even one is unusual, reported 6. *Solano's* first spring record was s. of Dixon 7 May (EP). Another was near Loma Rica, *Yuba* 6 May (BDW), and also notable, though outside the

C.V., were 2 in Panoche Valley, *San Benito* 29 Apr (MtB, OsJ, RyT). Two Black-chinned Sparrows singing in potential breeding habitat on Blue Ridge 12-19 May (UzW, ph. CLo, m.ob.) constituted *Solano's* 3rd record. Many unsuccessful attempts to re-find the birds suggest that they were migrants. The Santa Cruz Mts. of *Santa Clara* and *San Mateo* held at least 9 Black-chinned Sparrows at four different locations 17 May+. Black-throated Sparrows were widely reported, with a pair visiting a suburban feeder in Lincoln, *Placer* 12 May (†Pat Boudreaux) and singles at two locations in *Yuba*: Beale A.F.B. 20 Apr (Mike Bumgartner) and Spenceville W.A. 28 Apr (Scott Hoppe). Black-throateds were also in Quincy, *Plumas* 25 May (BBg), Fl. 10-20 May (P.R.B.O., *vide* Russ Bradley), and se. of Clio 29 Apr (*Sierra's* 3rd record; Chris Collins). The Lark Bunting at Byron Hot Springs, *Contra Costa* 9 Mar (Dick Norton) was a winter holdover, but the male 23 May at Herbert Wetlands Prairie Preserve, *Tulare* (RH, ph. Gary Lindquist, JLt, SDS) was likely a rare C.V. late spring migrant. All 5 Swamp Sparrows (3 in *Humboldt*, one each in *Marin* and *Monterey*) appeared to be lingering from winter. Among the 35 or so White-throated Sparrows that extended their visits into spring, the tardiest was found 12 May in Reichmuth Park, *Sacramento* (KKw). Three Golden-crowned Sparrows were present well into May: 21 May along Stevens Cr., *Santa Clara* (MMR), 23 May at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* (b. B.S.O.L.), and 23 May s. of Elk Grove, *Sacramento* (CCo). A wintering Harris's Sparrow was seen last 28 Mar in Arcata, *Humboldt* (ScC).

Of the 15 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks reported, all were coastal except for singles at Grasslands Park, *Yolo* 18 May (TEa), Chalfant Valley, *Mono* 15 May (A. Zdon), and McGee Canyon, *Mono* 18 May (C. Wooley). Notable Blue Grosbeak reports included *Lassen's* 2nd at Eagle L. 18 Apr (Lew Oring) and the first record for Panoche Valley, *San Benito* 29 Apr (MtB, *vide* KVV). An Indigo Bunting seen briefly on Pleasants Valley Rd. 17 Apr (AEn) was a 2nd for *Solano*. Our other 4 Indigos were all coastal (one each from *Marin*, Fl., *San Mateo*, and *Monterey*). A singing male Bobolink at Monte Bello O.S.P. 29 May (GrH) furnished a first spring record for *Santa Clara*. Incremental range expansions were noted for Great-tailed Grackles in *Calaveras* (Angels Camp), *Modoc* (Tulelake), and *Plumas* (Marble Hot Springs Rd.). *Humboldt* reported our only vagrant orioles: an Orchard Oriole present 10 Mar–16 Apr at Arcata Marsh

(RbF ph. KGR, TMcK, m.ob.) and an ad. male Baltimore Oriole in Eureka 14 Mar (BS). A Common Redpoll in Ft. Bragg 5-10 Mar (Maria Wetzel, ph. MMtt, †GEC, ph. †RJK, †CEV, m.ob.) was a first for *Mendocino* and only the 7th occurrence of the species in the state. Out of respect for the wishes of the landowner, the presence of this bird was not widely communicated. Lawrence's Goldfinches enjoyed a remarkable season throughout the Region. Reports from local observers noted unusually high numbers and/or birds in



Backyard feeders in Fort Bragg, Mendocino County, California held this Common Redpoll's attention from 5 (here) through 10 March 2007, marking the farthest south this species has ventured into California. Photograph by Matthew Matthiessen.

new locations from *Trinity*, *Tehama*, *Glenn*, *Butte*, *Yuba*, *Sacramento*, *Contra Costa*, *Alameda*, *Santa Clara*, and *Madera*. Some suggested that unusually wet springs in 2005 and 2006 may have produced an abundance of fiddle-neck (*Amsinckia* spp.), a major food source for Lawrence's Goldfinches.

Cited observers (county coordinators in bold-face): Roger Adamson (*Yolo*), Tim Amaral, Kumaran Arul, Alan Baldrige (AB), Alan D. Barron (ADB) (*Del Norte*), Bob Battigan, Murray Berner (*Napa*), Gary Bloomfield, William G. Bousman (*Santa Clara*), Matthew Brady, Ray Bruun, Scott Carey, George E. Chaniot, Les Chibana, Josiah Clark, Daryl Coldren, Luke W. Cole (*Kings*), Chris Conard (CCo) (*Sacramento* and *Yolo*), Hugh Cotter, Jeff N.

Davis (*Madera*), Al DeMartini, Bruce E. Deuel (n. C.V. counties), Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, Mark W. Eaton (*San Francisco*), Alan M. Eisner, Ray Ekstrom (*Siskiyou*), Andrew Engilis Jules G. Evens, Brian Fitch, Rick Fournier (RF), Rob Fowler (RbF), James H. Gain (*Stanislaus*), Ron H. Gerstenberg, Steve A. Glover (*Contra Costa*), Rob Hansen, Stanley W. Harris, Garth Harwood, Floyd Hayes, Bill Hill, Alan S. Hopkins, Debbie House, Joan M. Humphrey, John E. Hunter (*Trinity*), Alvaro Jaramillo, Richard G. Jeffers, David Jensen,

David Johnson, Oscar Johnson, Shearwater Journeys, Robert J. Keiffer (*Mendocino*), Clay Kempf, Keith Kwan, Stephen A. Layman, Robin L. C. Leong (*Solano*) Ron LeValley, Leslie Lieurance, John Lockhart, Jim Lomax, Calvin Lou (CLo), John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, Blake Matheson, Matthew A. Matthiessen, J. Mac McCormick (*Plumas* and *Sierra*), Bryan J. McIntosh, Tristan McKee, Peter J. Metropulos (*San Mateo*), Brian Mori, Gordon Murphy, Kristie N. Nelson (*Mono*), Frances Oliver, Gary W. Page (GWP) Ed Pandolfino (*Placer*), Eric Pilote, Gary W. Potter (*Fresno*), Jude C. Power (*Humboldt*), Eric Preston (EWP), Robert J. Richmond (*Alameda*), Don Roberson (*Monterey*), Michael M. Rogers Kerry G. Ross, Stephen C. Rottenborn, Ruth A. Rudesill (*Sonoma*), Ivan Samuels, Paul Saraceni, Barry Sauppe, Jeff Seay, Jim H. Snowden, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling (*Modoc*, *Alpine*, and *Calaveras*), Fritz Steurer, Grace Steurer, Tim Steurer (*Amador* and *El Dorado*), Brad Stovall (*Lassen*), David L. Suddjian (*Santa Cruz*), Brian L. Sullivan, Steven D. Summers (*Tulare*), Richard Ternullo, Ryan Terrill (*Marin*), Ronald S. Thorn, James R. Tietz (*Humboldt* and Fl.), Steve Umland (*Tuolumne*), Frank Vanslager,

Chuck E. Vaughn, Kent Van Vuren (*Merced* and *San Benito*), David Vander Pluym (*Mariposa*), Dave Weber, Jerry R. White (*Lake*), Alan Wight, Denise S. Wight, Brian D. C. Williams (*Nevada*), Uzelle Williams, Roger Wolf, Gary Woods, Bob & Carol Yutzky (*Shasta*). Many more observers are not specifically cited; all are appreciated. ☺

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