

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION
/ John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

The spring of 1971 was both colder and wetter than average. An extensive snow pack in the Cascades thus was subject to a gradual melt without creating flood conditions. Plenty of snow remained at the end of the report period. Unusual records for the Region were the four species of shearwaters recorded off the s.w. Washington coast in early May, a Ross' Goose at Leadbetter Point, Wash. May 8, the Spotted Redshank seen again at Reifel Refuge, B.C., a Black-necked Stilt at Sea. I. near Vancouver, and the Allen's Hummingbird which appeared at Victoria.



LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS, HERONS—A late and heavy migration of Com. Loons passed Ocean Shores, Wash. May 28 (GH). A few Arctic Loons were seen moving north of Newport, Oreg. the same day (HN & MS). A Red-throated Loon was at Pitt L. and 2 more were in the Pitt R. east of Vancouver, B.C. Apr. 12 (WW). Three Red-necked Grebes were still on Yaquina Bay at Newport Apr. 16 (MS & CFZ). Two Black-footed Albatrosses were seen out of Westport, Wash. May 9 (HN et al.). Four Fulmars were seen on a boat trip from there a week earlier (TW). Five Pink-footed Shearwaters were seen May 2, and up to 20 May 9 from Westport (TW; MPe, HN et al.). A Pale-footed Shearwater in company with Pink-footeds was seen close aboard, 38 miles at sea May 9 (RF, HN et al.). Many more Sooty Shearwaters were seen on the May 9 trip than had been found on the preceding week. Up to a dozen Slender-billed Shearwaters in company with Soot-

ies were attracted to the boat by chumming 42 miles out of Westport May 9 (HN, MW et al.). Six Fork-tailed Petrels were seen off Westport May 2 (TW). A Green Heron was noted at Victoria, where the species rarely occurs, May 29 (ARD). A Com. Egret was found on a coastal island near Bandon, Oreg. May 23 (CFZ). Single Am. Bitterns were found at Vancouver Apr. 18 (WW) and at Leadbetter Pt. Wash. May 8 (RF, GK & HN).

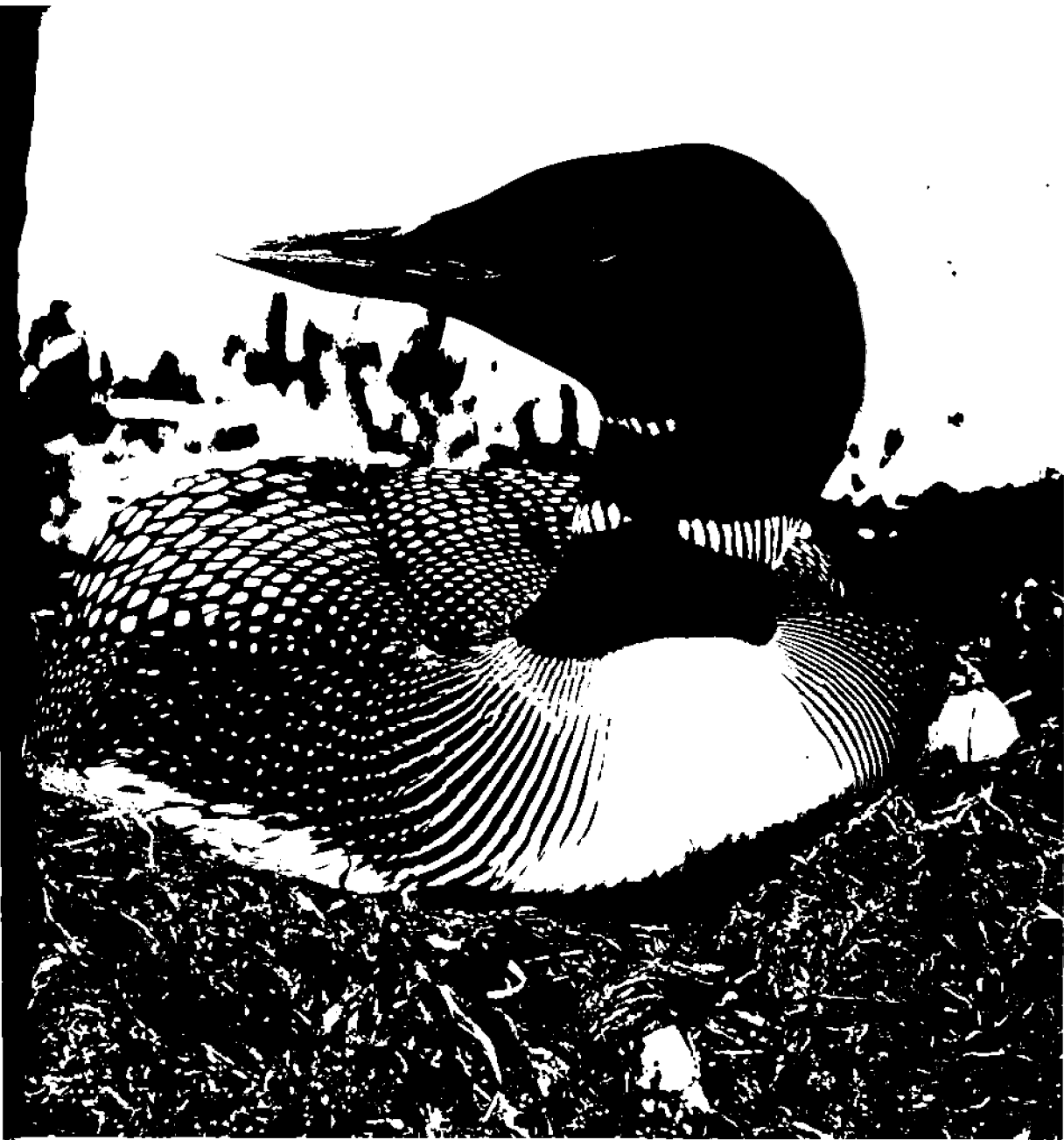
WATERFOWL—A Whistling Swan at Basket Slough N.W.R. near Salem, Oreg. May 1, 6 others at Wm. L. Finley N.W.R. near Corvallis May 18, and 3 at the Nooksack R. delta, Wash. May 31 (CFZ; TW) all were late records. Canada Geese and Black Brant migrated through the Region in good numbers this spring; 90 of the latter were still at Newport, Oreg. May 29 (HN, MS). 36 White-fronted Geese were late at Finley N.W.R. May 10 (CFZ), while a single bird and the 2 Snow Geese found at Newport May 29 (HN) were very late. A Ross' Goose was carefully identified at Leadbetter Pt. on the surprisingly late date of May 8, in company with birds of the Cackling race of Canada Goose (RF, GK & HN); this record seems to be a first for this Region, although evidently Malheur N.W.R. in s.e. Oregon is a regular stop-over on the spring migration route of this species. Single Com. Teals were noted at Tsawassen, B.C. Apr. 11 (WC, fide MSc) and at Victoria Apr. 18 (ARD). A pair of Cinnamon Teals was at Victoria May 15 (ARD) and 1 was at Kent, Wash. May 16 (VC & DJ). A Eur. Widgeon was seen at Victoria Apr. 25 (ARD). Two Redheads were found at Ocean Shores May 28 (GH). A lone ♂ Canvasback at L. Sammamish, King Co., Wash. May 7 (DP & MP) was late. Seventeen Bufflehead at Duncan, B.C. May 24 (JC) are of interest. Two Oldsquaw were still at Hoquiam, Wash. on the late date of May 28 (GH). Eight Com. Scoters at Cape Flattery, Wash. May 23 (DP) and 2 at Newport, Oreg. May 29 (HN et al.) were late; the 30 or more birds at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. Apr. 18 (HN) was an unusual concentration. The 8 Ruddy Ducks at Duncan, B.C. May 31 (JC) also are of interest.

HAWKS, EAGLES—A Goshawk was recorded near Aberdeen, Wash. May 1 (DPe & PM). A Swainson's Hawk was carefully observed at White City near Medford, Oreg. May 12 (MM, fide JH). A Golden Eagle was noted at Victoria Apr. 19 (ARD). Bald Eagles were seen at Vancouver Apr. 17 & 18 (WW); a subadult was at Fern Ridge Reservoir w. of Eugene, Oreg. May 23 (fide LM). Osprey was more reported this spring than in at least ten years, records coming from n. Washington and s. Vancouver I. south through the Willamette Valley; it remains an uncommon bird in this Region. Peregrine Falcons were noted at Reifel Refuge near Vancouver Apr. 18 (WW), at Destruction I., Wash. May 7 (PM), and at Mukkaw Bay, Wash. May 23 (DP). Single Pigeon



JOSEPH VAN WORMER proves that fine nature photographers are scattered far and wide across the continent. Joe Van Wormer's home is Salem, Oregon, and his work keeps him behind the viewfinder in the Pacific Northwest and other western states east to Missouri. A photographer of birds since the age of 25, he has been a professional for the last 23 years. His specialty is mammals, but he has captured more than 100 species of birds on film. Six books of his have been published, entitled, in series, "The World of the Bobcat," . . . "of the Coyote," . . . "of the Canada Goose," . . . "of the Black Bear," . . . "of the American Elk," and . . . "of the Pronghorn." Joe's arsenal includes a Nikon F with motor drive, blinds occasionally, and gunstock frequently, with lenses from wide angle to 640 mm. The 300 mm is "most used." Joe uses Kodachrome for color, Tri-X and Panatomic-X for black and white, and processes the latter only.

The California Quail was photographed near Bend, Ore., with Nikon F, 640 mm Novoflex, at 1/1000 second at f:16. The camera was on a tripod, remote controlled from a blind.



LEONARD LEE RUE, III is truly a professional in the realm of nature photography. He specializes in mammals, but birds and "anything outdoors" is of interest to him. In the past 20 years he has written and illustrated 12 books such as "The World of the White-tailed Deer," . . . "of the Beaver" . . . "of the Raccoon," and "A Pictorial Guide to the Birds of North America." He has traveled all over the world, photographing, lecturing, and writing about wildlife, and has seen his photographs in thousands of magazines in 18 countries. He has taken over 110,000 photographs. Rue uses Alpa, Hasselblad and Rollei cameras, with lenses from 24 mm to 600 mm. His equipment includes strobes and tripods of various sizes, motor drive, radio control, and blinds. He uses Extachrome X, Plus-X, and Tri-X Pro film. He processes his black-and-white film in Accufine.

The "Loon on Nest" was taken at Wonder Lake, McKinley Park, Alaska, in 1966, with a Hasselblad camera. Exposure was 1/250 second at f: 16, in available light. A 250 mm lens was used.



THOMAS W. MARTIN enjoys a growing reputation in the Northeast as a nature photographer, but it is time his fine work were more widely recognised. Although a diemaker by trade, and "not really a professional" his photographs have appeared in numerous textbooks, and he is a popular lecturer on natural history. As for equipment "I have used them all, from glass plates and view cameras to the 35 mms. of today." His favorites now are Nikon and Leicas, with Nikon and Kilfitt lenses. A good surveyor's tripod and a sizable mirror to open up shadows are essential. Tommy uses his diemaker's skills to create his own special equipment, micro-focusing beds, gun stocks, lens mounts, mounting cradles, vibration dampers, and such. He often sits covered with a piece of army surplus parachute cloth for a blind.

The Harris' Sparrow was shot at Monhegan I., Me., using the Nikon with 400 mm Kilfitt lens. Exposure 1/250 second at f:11 on high speed Ektachrome. Tip: "I work from 5:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. when the sun is at a low angle. Then again from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. if sunlight permits."

Hawks were seen at Seattle Apr. 9 (DP & MP) and at Leadbetter Pt. May 1 (DPe & PM).

QUAIL, CRANES, RAILS—A California Quail was at Pt. Roberts, Wash. Apr. 12 (WW). A flock of 70 Sandhill Cranes at Ankeny N.W.R. near Salem, Oreg. May 3 was late (fide CFZ). A Sora was found at Victoria May 2 (fide ARD); another was at Ft. Stevens State Park w. of Astoria, Oreg. May 22 (HN).

SHOREBIRDS—The 80 Semipalmated Plovers at Leadbetter Pt. May 8 (RF, GK & HN) comprised a good count and seem also to have coincided with the migration peak for this species. Eight Snowy Plover were at the same location May 1 (TW). A single Am. Golden Plover was found at Boundary Bay, B.C. Apr. 24 (WC, fide MSc). A concentration of 55 Ruddy Turnstones at Oyster-ville, Wash. with 20 more at Leadbetter Pt. May 8 (RF, GK & HN) was an unprecedentedly high count. A Long-billed Curlew was found Apr. 25 at Sea I., near Vancouver (fide MSc); another bird of this species was seen Apr. 28 at Samish I., Wash. (fide TW). Whimbrel were seen in flocks up to 60 along the coast and on s. Vancouver I. and in n. Washington from the last week of April until the end of the period, making for a notable migration. Two Solitary Sandpipers were observed at the Finley N.W.R. Apr. 18 & 29, where a single bird was also present Apr. 30 (CFZ). Wandering Tattlers were recorded at favored localities on the coast and on the Straits of Juan de Fuca in numbers up to 10 throughout May. A Willet was at Yaquina Bay near Newport, Oreg. May 29 (HN). There was only one report of a Lesser Yellowlegs, that being of a single bird at Toke Pt., Willapa Bay, May 8 (RF, GK & HN). The Spotted Redshank found and seen by many last fall at Reifel Refuge seems to have returned there for the first week of May in company with dowitchers; it was seen by a number of observers (fide MS). Knot seem to have concentrated in unusual numbers at the n. shore of Willapa Bay and at Gray's Harbor the last of April and the first week in May when several hundred birds were counted on three occasions by different observers. Three Rock Sandpipers were still at the Tillamook Bay, Oreg. jetty Apr. 24 (RF & HN); 5 were at Ocean Shores May 1 (GH), and 2 were at the Westport, Wash. jetty May 9 (HN, MW et al.). A Pectoral Sandpiper at Sea I., B.C. Apr. 27 (MSh, fide MSc) constitutes a rare spring record for the Region. Dunlin still at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. totaled 300 on May 22 (HN) and 2 birds at Baskett Slough w. of Salem May 31 (CFZ) were late. Three Marbled Godwits were discovered at Toke Pt. May 8 (RF, GK & HN); another was found at Newport May 29 (HN). A Black-necked Stilt was found and photographed at Sea I., B.C. May 13 (WC et al., fide MSc). Up to 4 Red Phalaropes were seen on the ocean off Westport May 2 & 9 with several thousand N. Phalaropes; 2 Red Phalaropes were seen at Destruction I.,

Wash. May 8 (PM) where an estimated 3000 N. Phalaropes were also present. The flight of N. Phalaropes along the Oregon and Washington coasts in late April and through May was very heavy with thousands of individuals streaming northward at Barview, Tillamook Co., Oreg. Apr. 24, and at the Columbia R. mouth and Westport May 8 & 9. Four Wilson's Phalaropes were at the Finley N.W.R. May 27 (CFZ).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS—Up to 4 Pomarine and 4 Parasitic Jaegers were seen out of Westport on the May 2 and May 9 boat trips. Two Parasitics were in Bellingham Bay May 19 (TW). A Glaucous Gull was found at Yaquina Bay, Oreg. Apr. 16 (CFZ & MS; DPe); another was seen at Ocean Shores, Wash. May 1, where 2 birds also were discovered on the late date of May 28 (GH). As many as 600 subadult California Gulls were at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. May 22; up to 200 were also noted in the Newport area a week later, suggesting that the non-breeding population drifts northward along the coast in spring while adults make their way to the inland breeding sites. Bonaparte's Gulls were present by the thousands in the waters of n. Washington and around s. Vancouver I. in early May. Several hundred in a day were seen on numerous occasions during May along the n. Oregon and s.w. Washington coasts, the 400 at Yaquina Bay May 29 (HN & MS) and the 800 or more at Hoquiam, Wash. May 28 (GH) being particularly noteworthy. Migrant Black-legged Kittiwakes also were well reported from the same areas during the season, with particular concentrations being at the n. jetty of the Columbia R. May 8 where up to 500 birds were counted (RF, GK & HN) and at Ocean Shores May 28 where 100+ birds were noted (GH). Six Sabine's Gulls were seen out of Westport May 2 (TW), with 1 seen on the boat trip from there the following week (MPE); 1 was seen at Victoria May 26 (Rfr, fide ARD) and another was found at Blaine, Wash. May 31 (AB, fide TW). Com. Terns were regularly seen off the s.w. Washington coast in numbers up to 100 in a day during the first three weeks in May; 40 were at Iona I., B.C. near Vancouver May 1 (AP, fide MSc). Eight Caspian Terns were at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. Apr. 18 (HN); a single bird was on the Willamette R. near Corvallis Apr. 23 (fide CFZ). Two Black Terns were at Baskett Slough w. of Salem May 27 (fide CFZ); another was at Hoquiam May 28 ((GH). An estimated 150 Tufted Puffins were present at Destruction I., Wash. May 7-9 (PM).

OWLS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS—A Snowy Owl was still at Iona I. Apr. 10 (WA & RB, fide MSc). A Spotted Owl was flushed from high up in a stand of dense lowland Douglas fir at a spot 7 miles n.e. of Roy, Pierce Co., Wash. Apr. 10 (DP). Eight Black Swifts appeared at Victoria May 15, where 1 was seen also May 23 (ARD);

12 were at N. Vancouver May 25 (AP, fide MSc), and 2 were at Fern Ridge Reservoir w. of Eugene May 30 (LM). Eight Vaux's Swifts at Corvallis Apr. 15 (RK) were very early, while the 4 at Deception Pass, Wash. Apr. 24 (MPe) also were early; 20 were seen migrating over the dunes at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. May 22 (HN). For the fourth consecutive year a pair of Black-chinned Hummingbirds were at Shady Cove, Oreg. on the Rogue R., arriving this year Apr. 30 (MM, fide JH). An Anna's Hummingbird is said to have come to a Eugene feeder Mar. 15-Apr. 22 (LM); another bird was seen at Medford Apr. 27 and May 1 (OS). Calliope Hummingbirds repeatedly visited the McGraw feeders in Shady Cove during May (JH); a single bird showed up near Lebanon, Oreg. during the first week in May (WT). Broad-tailed Hummingbirds also showed up at the McGraw feeders for the fourth year in a row, appearing Apr. 26 (MM, fide JH). A ♂ Allen's Hummingbird was color photographed at a feeder in Victoria from May 22 to the end of the period (JBT & KT, fide ARD).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, WRENS—A single Lewis' Woodpecker was seen at L. Sammamish May 6 (MP). W. Kingbirds were seen at Victoria May 1-17, at Finley N.W.R. May 1, 2, 18 & 21 (CFZ), at Sauvie I. near Portland May 9 (JO et al.), at Cape Blanco, near Port Orford, Oreg. May 23 (CFZ) and repeatedly in the Eugene area after May 15 (LM); in aggregate these sightings constitute an unprecedented series of occurrences in this Region. Black Phoebes again nested at Applegate on the Rogue R. this May (OS). The identification of a Least Flycatcher at White Rock, B.C. June 1 was verified by taping the bird's call and comparing it with the Peterson recording (MSc); this record is the only one for the species from this Region known to us. A Bank Swallow was recorded at Victoria May 9 (KT, fide ARD). A Rough-winged Swallow there Apr. 3 and a Barn Swallow Apr. 12 (KT, fide ARD) were both early arrivals. A flock of Cliff Swallows at Fern Ridge Reservoir Mar. 20 (LM) was unusually early. Purple Martins were noted at Seattle, Lincoln City, Oreg. at Victoria, and at Fern Ridge Reservoir this spring. A Dipper was seen in Victoria May 8, where a House Wren was recorded Apr. 18 (KT, fide ARD); House Wrens were also found at Ft. Lewis, Wash. May 9 (VC & DJ), at Finley N.W.R. Apr. 19 (CFZ), and at Medford, May 1 (OS). Over 100 nests of the Long-billed Marsh Wren were estimated in the Duncan, B.C., area this spring (JC).

THRUSHES, GNATCATCHERS, WAXWINGS, SHRIKES—A light movement of Hermit Thrushes through the central part of the Region evidently occurred in the last few days of April and the first two weeks in May. A pair of W. Bluebirds was nesting at Victoria by Apr. 17 (KT, fide ARD); the only other records of this species were 1 at Darrington, Wash., Apr. 11 (fide DP), and 1 at Snoqualmie

Pass summit May 21 (VC & DJ). Four Mountain Bluebirds were seen at Pitt Meadows e. of Vancouver Apr. 3 (MSh, fide MSc); 1 was at Victoria Apr. 10 (JBT fide ARD), and 3 were found together in the Oxbow Burn area s.w. of Eugene May 31 (DG, fide LM). Single Townsend's Solitaires appeared at N. Vancouver Apr. 21-22 (RW & WW), at Darrington, Wash. Apr. 11 and at North Bend, Wash. Apr. 12 (GO, fide DP); 2 solitaires were near Eugene on the surprisingly late date of May 23 (LM). The first Blue-gray Gnatcatchers returned to Medford Apr. 3; at least 7 pairs were later ascertained to be breeding (OS). Sixty Water Pipits were found at Sea I. near Vancouver Apr. 18 (WW); 30 were at Iona I. nearby on May 1 (AP, fide MSc). Cedar Waxwings were considerably less abundant than usual this spring. A N. Shrike was noted at Ankeny N.W.R. Apr. 7 (fide CFZ). A Loggerhead Shrike was banded at Eugene, Apr. 15 (fide LM).

VIREOS, WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS—Hutton's Vireos were recorded at Vancouver and at Finley N.W.R. after mid-April, and at several localities in Victoria this spring. Solitary Vireos, which also occur only very locally in this Region, were much better reported than usual, records coming from Vancouver, Victoria, Seattle, Portland, Salem, Corvallis, and Eugene from April 12 to the end of the period. An early Red-eyed Vireo was at Victoria Apr. 25 (ARD). A ♀ Black-and-white Warbler was found at the Columbia N.W.R., Wash., May 29 (DPe, fide ES); a ♂ was discovered June 1 at Clearview, Snohomish Co., Wash. (ES). Orange-crowned Warblers appeared through most of the Region the first week in April. Nashville Warblers were observed at Eugene Apr. 18 (LM), and at Salem Apr. 23 (fide GK). Single Black-throated Gray Warblers at Finley N.W.R. Apr. 4 (DG, fide CFZ), at Salem Apr. 5 (TM), and at Eugene Apr. 15 (LM) all were early arrivals. Hermit Warblers at Salem (fide GK) and at Finley N.W.R. both Apr. 22, and a Yellowthroat at Seattle Apr. 3 (VC & DJ) were also early, as was the Wilson's Warbler at Vancouver, Apr. 21 (MSh, fide MSc). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were recorded a few times at Victoria, and in the vicinities of Vancouver and Bellingham after mid-April. Bullock's Orioles are very local in the Region, and were repeatedly noted this spring only from Medford. Brown-headed Cowbirds have become common from Eugene n. to Vancouver.

FINCHES, SPARROWS—A ♂ Lazuli Bunting at Victoria May 22 was only the third record there in the last 12 years (ARD). Pine Siskins were virtually unremarked this spring in surprising contrast to their abundance in other years. Red Crossbills were present in small numbers at Victoria throughout the report period; elsewhere they were unobserved except for 4 birds at a Eugene bird bath May 21 (fide LM). Vesper Sparrows appeared at Eugene and at Finley N.W.R. Apr. 3;

they were abundant in the latter place by the end of the month (CFZ). A Vesper Sparrow was also found at Ft. Lewis Apr. 9 (VC & DJ); numbers were singing at McChord A.F.B. nearby Apr. 17-18 (MPE). A Lark Sparrow was collected at Lebanon, Oreg. Apr. 16 (WT), while another was seen n. of Medford on Apr. 26 (JH). A late Slate-colored Junco was carefully watched near Eugene May 23 (DG, fide LM); another was at Bellingham Apr. 12 (TW). A Tree Sparrow was found with a mixed flock of White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows at Cape Lookout State Park, s.w. of Tillamook, Apr. 24 (RF & HN). Chipping Sparrows had reached Victoria by Apr. 3 (ARD) and N. Vancouver by Apr. 12 (WW); 1 was seen in Medford, Apr. 1 (OS). A Black-chinned Sparrow was again seen at Medford, this one appearing May 15 (OS et al.). A Harris' Sparrow was at a feeder in Medford May 1 (fide OS); a singing ♂ was found at L. Sammamish, near Seattle, June 7 (D & MP; MPE). A hybrid White-crowned X Golden-crowned Sparrow was collected near Lebanon Apr. 29 (WT). Large numbers of Golden-crowned Sparrows were migrating on the Long Beach, Wash. peninsula May 1 (TW). Single White-throated Sparrows were recorded at Eugene (LM) and at Victoria (ARD), both on Apr. 23. Lapland Longspurs turned up at Iona I. May 1 (AP, fide MSc), at Victoria May 21 (ARD), at Westport (MP) and at Mukkaw Bay (DP & MPE) both on May 22.

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MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION / David DeSante and Ron LeValley

The cold, wet, windy weather that began in March continued, nearly unabated, throughout the spring. Most observers mentioned that the earlier migrants, characteristically arriving in late March or early April, were delayed, even by as much as two weeks, according to some Central Valley observers (BK, et al.). Later migrants, while arriving more nearly on time, seemed to linger in lowland and foothill river valleys longer



than usual. Perhaps the late spring Sierra snowfall prevented birds from moving up-mountain to nesting areas.

The work by the Point Reyes Bird Observatory (P.R.B.O.) on South Farallon I. and at Palomarin Ranch, the nocturnal orientation data from Stanford (DDS) and the careful notes supplied by many conscientious observers both on the coast and in the interior are slowly unraveling the causes of spring migration waves in the Region. The coastal areas seem to be buffeted by fairly strong NW winds throughout the spring. Only individuals breeding along the coast seem to fight these headwinds, and the first arrivals of migrant species along the coast are invariably of territorial individuals. When the high pressure area normally present off our coast is replaced by a low pressure system, the NW winds abate or are replaced by light winds from the S or SE. It is only at these times that numbers of transients are present along the coast and waves of migrants hit South Farallon. This year was typical except that the winds were even stronger than normal: gusts up to 100 mph were recorded at the Point Reyes Lighthouse on May 21. Three waves were recorded on S. Farallon this spring. The first, a rather prolonged wave, occurred between Apr. 26 and May 4 with a peak on Apr. 30-May 1. The second and third waves, both with very sharp peaks, occurred May 9-11 and May 27-29 respectively (P.R.B.O.). The composition of each of these peaks is presented in Table I. Such data compiled over a series of years are invaluable in determining peak movements of various migrants through coastal areas of this Region.

The pattern of migration through the Central Valley, although basically very different, is influenced by the same weather patterns. Typically a steady passage of migrants occurs well dispersed throughout the valley and foothills. Only