

middle pacific coast region



Bulwer's Petrel in Monterey Bay, Monterey County, California on July 26, 1998. The first photographic documentation for North America and the first for the Middle Pacific Coast region. This silhouette clearly shows the long, slender, evenly graduated tail as well as the bird's small bill and head. The wings are held in the typical bow as the bird skims low over the ocean. Photograph/Bert McKee

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Everyone blamed everything that happened this summer on El Niño. Why should we be any different? Both local-breeding seabirds and species dispersing from the south evidenced the massive breeding failure related to the strong El Niño. The spring season report documented the former. As further examples, Brandt's Cormorant colonies in northern Humboldt showed no reproduction and a 40-mile ocean survey near the large Trinidad colonies found only one Common Murre chick (DFx, JCP, JEH). Many counts (by BMcK) of our three species from the Sea of Cortez, Mexico, showed fewer than one percent juvenal-plumaged birds among Brown Pelicans, no juvenile Heermann's Gulls, and only one juvenile Elegant Tern.

Conversely, flooded fields in the Central Valley stimulated large numbers of many waterbird species to nest there. White-faced Ibis were particularly abundant in the southern San Joaquin Valley (DS) and in Sierra Valley, Placer (DS, JMcC). Breeding waterfowl, especially Mallard, Gadwall, and Cinnamon Teal, were thought to number in the tens of thousands in the Tulare Basin,

where breeding occurs only during the wettest of years. "This was a phenomenon few people in California knowledgeable about birds have had the opportunity to observe and one which gave a small hint of what conditions used to be like in the glory days of the Central Valley" (DS).

For landbirds, wet weather in spring meant that the breeding season began late. Some early nesters, such as Great Horned Owl, were still feeding fledglings in June east of the Sierra. Once underway, however, many birds tried to make up for the late start by bringing off multiple broods; numerous species were still feeding young into September. June also brought a spectacular fall-out of "eastern" vagrants along the coast. The season abounded with interesting finds, along with new explorations in rarely-visited remote mountains and new range information from breeding bird atlas efforts.

After 14 years as a regional editor, Steve Bailey is stepping down following this report, the 55th he has co-authored. This is the longest tenure ever in our Region. Steve's stability and his acknowledged expertise with seabirds has been invaluable to his co-authors and to our readers. Steve has recruited another experienced seabirder, Scott B. Terrill, to fill his consider-



able shoes. Details for reporting seabird records (Loons to Frigatebirds, Jaegers to Alcids) will be sent to regional observers and posted on the Internet.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (*California Bird Records Committee*); C.V. (*Central Valley*); F.I. (*Southeast Farallon Island, S.F.*); S.F. (*San Francisco*); S.B. (*State Beach*); W.A. (*Wildlife Area*). Banded birds from Big Sur R. mouth, Monterey, and F.I. should be credited to Big Sur Ornithology Lab and Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, respectively. Reports of exceptional vagrants (including most first county claims) are generally not published without written details or other documentation.

LOONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS

A Pacific Loon on Paicines Res. June 17–18, believed to be the 3rd for *San Benito* (DLSh), was rare inland in summer. Single basic-plumaged Com. Loons n.e. of Helm, Fresno, July 2 and on O'Neill Forebay, Merced, July 12 (both DS) were rare on the floor of the C.V. in summer. Straggling Horned Grebes included spring's partial albino on Shoreline L. to June 26 (m.ob., WGB); another at Crittenden Marsh, Santa Clara, June 6 (W. Cabot); and a partial alternate at S. Wilbur Floor Area, Kings, June 18 (DS). The alternate-plumaged Red-

necked Grebe at Shasta Valley W.A., *Siskiyou*, Apr. 3–June 11 “might have nested if it had only found a mate” (RE). Another at King Salmon, Humboldt Bay, July 25 (STck, DFk) was perhaps an early returnee from the breeding marshes.

“Bird of the Season” honors went to the **Bulwer’s Petrel** (*Bulweria bulwerii*) that was tracked for 4 mi in Monterey Bay, *Monterey*, July 26 (†JiD, ph. †BMcK, †DLSh, † et al.). Not only was it the first Regional record for this tropical procellariid, but it was the first photographically documented record for N. American waters. Its curiosity toward the boat was typical of this species’ behavior in the n. equatorial central Pacific Ocean, where it is the most characteristic pelagic seabird (SFB pers. obs.). A Buller’s Shearwater seen briefly pursuing the Bulwer’s Petrel was early (DLSh).

An ad. **Red-billed Tropicbird** about 5 m/s of F.I. July 10 (†DGA) added to the list of tropical seabirds during this period. Seen by many more observers was the near-ad. **Masked Booby** that roosted on Año Nuevo I., *San Mateo*, June 19–Aug. 6 (P. Morris, J. Thayer, †MiF, †SCR, †HG, †MMR, m.ob.). Videotape proved that this was a Masked, not a Nazca Booby. Ten active ground nests of Double-crested Cormorants at Alviso, *Santa Clara*, July 3 (SCR) were a surprise, but the surrounding colony of California Gulls, plus Red Fox control there, may have been factors in emboldening the cormorants (SCR, WGB). Eight coastal sightings of Magnificent Frigatebirds may have represented as few as two individuals, the maximum number seen together, though three or four birds were likely. One at Tomales Bay, *Marin*, July 3 (SA, *fide* RS) preceded one at Sea Ranch, *Sonoma*, July 4 (*fide* AB). After a lull, two flew up the *Santa Cruz* coast and roosted July 20–21 (D. Cameron, KVV, BMcK) followed by singles at Cliff House, S.E., July 21 (H. Cotter), and Angel I., *Marin*, July 22 (Oceanic Society) and Bolinas, *Marin*, 4 hours later (KH). The latter may have been an ad. female; all others were immature or not specified. One at Salinas R., *Monterey*, July 24 (G. Page, K. Neuman, L. Hinkle) and one flying N past Moss Beach, *San Mateo*, July 29 (BS) rounded out their coastal wanderings. A frigatebird at Mono L., *Mono* (T. Wilson, R. Kaufman) was reported without date.

HERONS TO WATERFOWL

Two Am. Bitterns near McArthur, *Shasta*, July 13 (DR, RC, GSK) were scarce summer residents. Least Bitterns at Olema Marsh, *Marin*, July 25 (CLu, RS, m ob) were pre-

sent into August and included at least 2 adults and one–two fledglings. Up to six birds may have been present. “They doubtless nested somewhere in Olema Marsh, the first there since the late 1970s, and, perhaps, a happy thought for wetland protection along coastal California” (RS). A Least Bittern at Bridgeport June 23 (ES) was thought to be *Mono*’s 4th. An ad. Little Blue Heron was at Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, June 12 (MFRo).

Sick or injured waterfowl routinely summer, but a flock of 13 Greater White-fronted Geese at MacKerricher S.B., *Mendocino*, July 18 (DT) was something else entirely. The first southbound birds don’t normally arrive at interior staging areas in the Klamath Basin before mid- to late August. These birds were presumably failed or non-breeders, but whether they were “Tule Geese” or from the Bristol Bay breeding area remains a mystery, as does their appearance on the coast at such a date.

Conditions were ripe everywhere for nesting, lingering, and over-summering ducks. In addition to the multitudes nesting in the C.V., many uncommon breeding and summering species were widely reported. Notably, Blue-winged Teal were present in impressive numbers throughout the Region, with a minimum of 45 individuals tallied, though nesting was not observed. Much higher than usual numbers were noted in the Tulare Basin (JfS, *fide* DS) and in *Humboldt*. In *Santa Clara* 5 Lesser Scaup broods were observed during July (SCR, MJM), where most aren’t typically encountered until August. A female Hooded Merganser with seven precocial young near MacArthur July 13 (DR, RC, GSK) was a first breeding record for *Shasta*. This species is a very scarce breeder in the Region. An imm. male Red-breasted Merganser near Helm, *Fresno*, July 2 (DS) was very rare in the C.V. in summer.

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

A Black Rail calling at Anderson Marsh S.P. June 6–8 (†BJMcI, JRW) was a first for *Lake* and raises the question of whether it was an overshoot, a prospector, or a local breeder? Common Moorhens were suspected of nesting at Shasta Valley W.A., where two full-grown fledglings were at Bass L. Aug. 6 (RE). Sixty-one Am. Avocets at the Hollister wastewater ponds July 15 (DLSh) was more than double the previous high for *San Benito*. Two–three territorial pairs of Long-billed Curlews were in Topaz Valley, *Mono*, June 17 (PJM), though breeding was

unconfirmed. A single bird at Rodman L. June 21 (†JRW, D. Woodward) was a first for *Lake*. Of 12 Semipalmated Sandpipers detected, five were adults, including one at Alpaugh July 13 (†KVV, RH), which may have represented a first for *Tulare*. An ad Dunlin at S. Wilbur Flood Area, *Kings*, July 13 (KVV, RH) and a Long-billed Dowitcher in alternate plumage at Millville, *Shasta*, July 11–13 (BY, CY, DR, RC) were early.

LARIDS TO ALCIDS

A South Polar Skua in Monterey Bay June 19 (RT) was one of few June birds. Adult Laughing Gulls at Pescadero Cr. mouth, *San Mateo*, June 5–7 (ph. †BMcK, et al.) and Palo Alto, *Santa Clara*, June 22 (D. Stovel) made 2nd and 3rd county records, respectively. June brought at least 27 Franklin’s Gulls to 5 counties: *Monterey* (one), *Mono* (two), *Santa Clara* (11), *Humboldt* (five), and *Siskiyou* (eight). The latter were at Lower Klamath N.W.R., the only known breeding site in California, June 16 (RE). A mixed-age flock near Alviso, *Santa Clara*, peaked June 11 at two adults, two 2nd-summerers, and six first-summer birds (SCR, m.ob.). A first-summer Little Gull at Lower Klamath N.W.R. June 14–16 (†ADB, †RE, et al.) was the first for *Siskiyou* and the Region’s first in June. A molting year-old Mew Gull at Arcata, *Humboldt*, July 25–28 (STck, DFk, DFx) was rare in summer. An ad. Herring Gull at Crowley Res., *Mono*, July 23 (PP) was also unseasonal. An ad. Sabine’s Gull inside S.F. Bay at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo*, late June–July 13 (RSTh et al.) may have continued the pattern noted last season. A count of 290 Sabine’s Gulls in Monterey Bay July 26 (DLSh) was high for so early.

Two ad. Com. Terns at Forest L., Lake Tahoe, *Placer*, June 13 (†KVV, TEa) were stragglers at that high elevation lake. An ad Arctic Tern returned for its 5th consecutive summer at Hayward June 5–July 25 (RJR, m.ob.). Two first-summer Arctics stopped at Salinas R. mouth, *Monterey*, July 5 (SBT, †SCR). An ad. Least Tern strayed N to Shasta Valley W.A. June 11, a first for *Siskiyou* (†RE, MFRo, B. Treman). Closer to normal haunts were Least at San Felipe L., *San Benito*, May 29 (DLSh, ADeM, KVV) and Bolinas Lagoon, *Marin*, July 27 (KH). A pair of Least Terns hatched two–three chicks among agricultural ponds in s.w. *Kings* in mid-July (JfS, LkC) for the first nesting in our San Joaquin Valley. Black Terns bred widely in flooded fields in both Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys and recolonized Sierra Valley, *Plumas* (DS et al.). A stray Black Tern visited Hayward July

10 (RJR). Of 2 Black Skimmer pairs at Hayward, *Alameda*, in June, one nested unsuccessfully in July (RJR). Skimmer sightings at Mountain View, *Santa Clara*, dwindled (AV et al.) before a pair tended a chick near Menlo Park, *San Mateo*, July 19–August (PJM). Elsewhere, two visited Elkhorn Slough, *Monterey*, June 3 (YG) and one flew over El Granada, *San Mateo*, July 17, inland toward S.F. Bay, over the Santa Cruz Mts., with Caspian Terns (BS).

Flat seas in Monterey Bay July 26 allowed high summer counts of 40 Xantus's Murrelets, two Craveris' Murrelets, 17 Xantus's/Craveris' murrelets, and 1920 Cassin's Auklets (DLSh). An Ancient Murrelet at Humboldt Bay's entrance July 18–22 (DFIk, STck, DFX) was about normal. Two ad. Tufted Puffins landing and disappearing among rocks on Año Nuevo I., *San Mateo*, July 30 (H. Dingle, *fide* SCH) suggested a nesting attempt.

CUCKOOS TO SWIFTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoos found dead in Mono City, *Mono*, July 1 (C. Yancey) and Richmond, *Contra Costa*, July 18 (*fide* SAG) were unexpected, as was one calling at Potter Valley, *Mendocino*, July 5 (†GEC). Up to four Lesser Nighthawks soaring and roosting with Commons at Fish Slough June 15 (DP, ES, PJM) were remarkable. The two species are rarely seen together, and these were the first in *Mono* away from the summer residents at Oasis in the extreme s.e. corner of the county.

Following the smattering of coastal Chimney Swifts in spring, one attached itself to a pair of Vaux's, even visiting their nest, in the town of Smith River, *Del Norte*, July 4–17 (†ADB). Meanwhile, Vaux's Swifts fledged young in a Los Altos Hills chimney July 23 (*fide* G. Harwood), not far from the prior *Santa Clara* nesting locale in 1976; a pair occupied a hollow snag in the Happy Camp Mts., *Modoc*, June 7 (BDW); and one was at Carman Valley, *Sierra*, June 9. These latter records expand the breeding range detailed recently by Sterling & Paton (*W. Birds* 27: 30–40, 1996). Another fine surprise of *Humboldt's* Breeding Bird Atlas project was the discovery of 5 pairs of White-throated Swifts nesting under Highway 101 bridges near Benbow June 19 (DFx, JCP) and in nearby n. *Mendocino* June 20–23 (JEH, TWL et al.).

HUMMINGBIRDS TO WOODPECKERS

Anna's Hummingbird continues its upslope range expansion in the Sierra and points

east: a nest at Hodgdon Meadows, *Tuolumne*, June 2 (D. Stoebel, DDeS) was a first for Yosemite N.P., and a female feeding young at Paradise (5000') June 16 (PJM) was the first breeding evidence for *Mono*. Costa's Hummingbirds were scattered around 4 *Mono* locales in June, suggesting breeding is more widespread than known, while a male at Papoose Cr. June 5 (G. Bloomfield) was only the 2nd for *Trinity*. A male Calliope Hummingbird along Big Hill Rd., *Humboldt*, June 2 (K. Slauson) was in an area where nesting is unproven.

Red-breasted Sapsuckers were confirmed nesting at 2 San Mateo sites in June (BMcK, AME); this range expansion seems both real and recent (but see Shuford, *W. Birds* 17: 97–105, 1986, who suggested some "range expansions" are artifacts of better coverage). The first known nest of Pileated Woodpecker in *Santa Clara* was successful when three young fledged on Table Mt. June 8–14 (D. Weber, ph. A. Walther, ph. MMR, m.ob.). Another Pileated at Pacific Ridge, *Colusa*, July 25 (BDW) was probably in the southernmost breeding territory on the e. slope of the n. coast ranges.

FLYCATCHERS

Willow Flycatcher was confirmed nesting in *Humboldt* when a dependent fledgling was with adults along upper Bear Cr. July 26

(†DFx, JCP), the first direct evidence of local breeding since 1931. Vagrant Least Flycatchers were at Pt. Reyes June 6 (D. Froehlich) and Mono L. County Park June 12 (†PJM). Although it was known that both Gray and Dusky flycatchers breed on San Benito Mt., *San Benito* (Johnson & Cicero, *W. Birds* 16: 1–23, 1985), actual nests were discovered there for only the first and second times, respectively, June 18–24 (DLSh, ADeM). Three widely-scattered coastal E. Kingbirds in June were vagrants, but three together in Shasta Valley, *Siskiyou*, June 3–9 (RE) suggested nesting nearby. Always a rarity, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were 25 mi n. of Bishop, *Mono*, June 5 (†DP, J. Finkbeiner); near Scott Cr., *Santa Cruz*, June 16 (DLSu); and at MacKerricher S.B., *Mendocino*, July 11 (†T. Argante).

VIREOS

A singing **White-eyed Vireo** at Point St. George, *Del Norte*, June 27 (†ADB et al.) represented a first for all of n.w. California, but a singing Plumbeous Vireo at nearby Crescent City June 4–9 (ADB et al.) was almost as rare. A singing Cassin's Vireo in Lundy Canyon June 17–23 (ES) was late. A lost Yellow-throated Vireo was a treat at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse June 13 (RS, †AME et al.). Equally delightful was a singing Philadelphia Vireo taped and pho-

SA Three flycatcher stories deserve emphasis. First was the appearance of unprecedented southern vagrants in June: a **Greater Pewee** was photographed on F.I. June 1 (†C. Morris) and a **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** was well-documented from Gazos Cr., *San Mateo*, June 14 (†AME, ph. †BMcK, †RSTh). All of the state's 30 prior records of the pewee, and the dozen of previous Sulphur-bellieds, have been in fall and winter. Three each had previously appeared in n. California, but we never expected that spring birds would first appear in our Region. Can we attribute this to El Niño?

The second anomaly was the presence of three singing **Eastern Wood-Pewees**: Bodega Bay, *Sonoma*, June 3 (AWi, †JM, BDP et al.); Pt. Reyes Lighthouse, *Marin*, June 22 (†JM, m.ob.); and Mono L. County Park, *Mono*, July 4–12 (†S. Hein, †RS; tape ME, ph. DR et al.). Each was a first county record. There were only 3 C.B.R.C.-accepted records for the state, although a couple very late fall birds were almost surely this species. But how do we blame these singing summer pewees on El Niño?

Third, Cordilleran Flycatchers at Gray Cr. Canyon, *Nevada*, July 10 (typical position call; BDW) and Mono L. County Park July 12 (atypical position note; †DR), each likely on territory, help fill in gaps in this species' range e. of the Sierra. N. K. Johnson ("Character Variation & Evolution of Sibling Species in the *Empidonax difficilis-flavescens* Complex," *Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool.* 112, 1980) outlined the breeding range in n.e. California to Cottonwood Cr., *Sierra*, and the Carson Range in Nevada state. The new Nevada site is also in the Carson Range, but sporadic summer birds occur e. of the Sierra s. to the Mono Basin (D. Gaines, "Birds of Yosemite", 1988, July birds there were suspected Cordillerans). An interesting point, overlooked by almost all birders, is that Johnson showed that some male Cordilleran Flycatchers (e.g., in *Sierra* and in Montana and s.e. Arizona) give single sinusoidal position notes similar to those of Pacific-slope Flycatcher (as did this summer's bird in *Mono*). Other characters (e.g., size, brightness of color), combined with date and locale, may give better clues to identification than single-minded emphasis on call-notes.

topographed at Parker Cr. Diversion Dam, *Mono*, June 21 (†ES et al.). What's the story with Red-eyed Vireos? Fourteen were along the coast (including four on F.I.) from *Del Norte* to *Monterey*, many of them singing, June 3–July 21, while another was inland at *Martinez, Contra Costa*, June 21 (D. Wight).

SWALLOWS

TO SILKY-FLYCATCHER

Extensive atlassing found more Purple Martins than expected in *Humboldt* (DFx, JCP, TWL et al.), and ten n. of Wolf Mt., *Nevada*, June 27 (BDW) strongly suggested nesting in an area that was thought to be a major gap in their distribution. Two Chestnut-backed Chickadees in *Del Puerto Canyon* May 30 (†KVV) were a first for *Stanislaus*, but were expected as they have occurred just a half-mile away in *Santa Clara*. Another inexplicable Mt. Bluebird was reported from *Pierce Pt., Marin*, June 24 (RS, *fide* KH), and a male apparent Western × Mountain Bluebird hybrid was described from *Boca Res., Nevada*, June 22 (†BDW). Odd Varied Thrushes were singles at *Pt. Reyes* June 9 (RS) and on lower *Mill Cr., Mono*, July 1 (†M. Gregory).

A pair of N. Mockingbirds carrying food near *Arcata* June 12 (JEH) furnished the first direct nesting evidence in *Humboldt*, and a family group (two adults, two juveniles) at *Fish Slough, Mono*, June 15 suggested breeding there (PJM, DP, ES). However, other summer records for c. and n. *Mono* may only represent upslope post-breeding dispersal from lower elevations to the east and south, and not "range expansion" (per DS). A Gray Catbird was banded at *Carmel R. mouth, Monterey*, June 20 (†K. Nelson), and a Brown Thrasher was on F.I. June 2–3 (C. Morris). A male Phainopepla wandered to *Gasquet* June 25 (M. Morgan, *fide* ADB) where it provided a 2nd *Del Norte* record.

WARBLERS

There was an exceptional fallout of eastern warblers along the coast (including F.I.) during the first 3 weeks of June. We only have room for some statistics: ten Tennessees, five N. Parulas, six Chestnut-sideds, four Magnolias, five Blackpolls, five Black-and-whites, nine Am. Redstarts, at least 12 Ovenbirds [including one singing on *Table Mt., Santa Clara*, June 7 (†SRv, †KVV)], and four Hoodeds. Another male Hooded Warbler summered at *McKinleyville, Humboldt*, throughout July (GSL). Rarer warblers were a female *Cape May* at *Pt. Reyes* June 22–23 (L Hug, m ob); a singing Black-

throated Green at *Belmont, San Mateo*, June 21 (RSTh); a *Prairie* at *Fairhaven, Humboldt*, June 21 (KI); a singing *Palm* at *Shoreline Park, Santa Clara*, June 6–7 (BMcK et al.); a singing *Prothonotary* at *Westhaven, Humboldt*, June 4 (KI), and single *Canada Warblers* banded at F.I. June 12 and *Palomarin, Marin*, June 26 (*fide* KH). Two *Mourning Warblers* (on F.I. and in *Santa Cruz*) were reported without details. Among the eastern species were a half-dozen late *Townsend's Warblers* *Marin* to *Monterey*, and a female *Townsend's* near *Red Mt., Trinity*, July 27 (JCS, JSL, TWL, JEH) provided an intriguing summer record.

Not every eastern vagrant was coastal. Two *Chestnut-sided Warblers* were in *Mono* during June (J. Ellis, DP, †ES, PJM), and a *Magnolia Warbler* was banded in *Sierra Valley, Plumas*, June 4 (J. Steele, JMcC). A pair of N. Parulas at *Big Sur R. mouth* nested, and both stayed into September. The male was discovered May 21 and the female was found June 13 (when copulation was observed). She was mist-netted several times, and had an egg in her oviduct July 6 and a vascularized brood patch in late July, but no fledgling was found (JBo). Apparently the nesting attempt was unsuccessful, much as the attempt at *Pt. Lobos, Monterey*, in 1952 (fledglings survived only a week; Williams et al. 1958, *Condor* 60: 345–354). Another unusual nesting, this one successful, was a pair of *Yellow-rumped* ("Audubon's") Warblers in an isolated cypress grove at the tip of n. spit, *Humboldt Bay, Humboldt* (DFx). There was one previous nest on the coast in 1995.

TANAGERS TO SPARROWS

Any fallout of eastern warblers will include other nine-primaried passerines. This included five coastal *Summer Tanagers* (plus another in *Mono*; †S. Heath) and a female *Scarlet Tanager* on *Pt. Reyes* June 1 (†RS, †GG). Perhaps the most impressive was *Rose-breasted Grosbeak*. A minimum of 33 birds appeared, including seven in *Santa Cruz* and nine on *Pt. Reyes, Marin*. A singing male in *Fairfield* May 31–June 3 (C. Adkins, ph. K. Gish) was apparently a first in *Solano*. Good numbers of *Blue Grosbeak* were reported from new or recently discovered areas of s. *Monterey* (J&HBa), lowland *San Benito* (DLSh, ADeM), and *Mono* (J. Fatooh, ES), plus individuals appeared in s. *Santa Clara* (RWR), s. *Contra Costa* (SAG), and *Chimney Rock, Marin*, June 6–8 (LLu). *Indigo Bunting* was conspicuously absent among coastal vagrants, but singing males set up territories in numerous sites. Of par-

ticular note were males at *Piper Slough, Contra Costa*, all summer (may have bred with *Lazuli*; SAG); *Burriss Park* July 14–22 (first *Kings* record; †KVV, LkC); and *Anderson Marsh S.P.* July 30 (first well-documented for *Lake*; †JRW).

The *Pt. Reyes Lighthouse* hosted a vagrant *Dickcissel* June 12–13 (†JM), a *Green-tailed Towhee* June 13 (RS), and a very late *White-throated Sparrow* June 7–21 (JM, CLu, m.ob.). Three *Clay-colored Sparrows* reached F.I. or *Pt. Reyes* May 31–June 9. *Del Norte* surprises included a singing *Brewer's Sparrow* at *Crescent City* June 2 and a *Lark Bunting* at *Point St George* June 1 (both ADB, E. Cooper). A "Bell's" *Sage Sparrow* in *Belmont* frequented the last extensive patch of chaparral in *San Mateo* (RSTh). Inexplicable coastal *Fox Sparrows* were individuals banded at *Pillar Pt., San Mateo*, June 4–16 (R. Caldwell) and seen at *Pt. Reyes* June 13 (of a "gray-headed" montane race; †AME). *Singing Fox Sparrows* at 3500' at *L. Prairie, Humboldt*, July 2 (DFx) were at the lowest plausible elevation for nesting in our Region, while four *Lincoln's Sparrows* in the *Snow Mt Wilderness, Colusa*, July 26 (BDW) were at the very s. tip of suitable nesting habitat in the inner coast range. There are now a handful of summer *Golden-crowned Sparrow* records throughout n. California. This season's examples were one singing at *Clear Lake S.P., Lake*, June 1 (BJMcI), and e of *Garberville* June 23 (SRv) and at *Samoa* July 16 (GSL), both *Humboldt*.

ICTERIDS TO FINCHES

A wayward *Bobolink* was on *Pt. Reyes* June 22 (RS). A male *Yellow-headed Blackbird* on *Trinity L. shoreline* June 13 (JEH, K Hunter) was a first for *Trinity*. The *Great-tailed Grackle* explosion continued with too many to mention, but highlights were first confirmed nesting in *San Benito* (three fledglings from a *San Felipe L. nest*; SCR, DLSh); a male at *Hayward Shoreline, Alameda*, June 5 (RJR); and the first *Solano* record at *Grizzly I.* June 1–2 (C. Jones, †D Feliz). Three vagrant *Orchard Orioles* reached the coast.

A pair of *Pine Grosbeaks* was found on *Martis Peak, Placer*, in summer surveys of this little-known region (BDW). Nesting evidence was obtained for *Cassin's Finches* in the *Snow Mt. Wilderness* of both *Lake* and *Colusa* (BDW), another poorly known locale. The *Contra Costa* breeding bird atlas effort confirmed *Pine Siskin* at *San Pablo Res.* (B&B Brandriff); previously nesting in e S F Bay region has been confined to

Alameda. Several dozen Evening Grosbeaks were inexplicably scattered around coastal *Humboldt* throughout the summer (GSL et al.).

ADDENDA

Received too late for the spring report were details of a male Purple Martin at Los Banos, *Merced*, May 16 (†KVV), and a "Bell's" Sage Sparrow on Mt. Davidson April 27 (†DWN, †ME), apparently a first for *San Francisco*.

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southern pacific coast region



GUY MCCASKIE

It was a relatively warm and dry summer throughout the Region, with most of the rain coming as heavy thunder showers in the mountains and eastern parts of the Region, as expected. Breeding Bird Atlas work continues to produce discoveries of local interest. An influx of Magnificent Frigatebirds occurred in late June–early July, and an unusual number of late/lost migrants were found outside their expected breeding areas.

Abbreviations: E.A.F.B. (*Edwards Air Force Base, s.e. Kern Co.*); F.C.R. (*Furnace Cr. Ranch, Death Valley N.M., Inyo Co.*); N.E.S.S. (*north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.*); S.C.R.E. (*Santa Clara R. Estuary near Ventura, Ventura Co.*); S.E.S.S. (*south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.*); S.F.K.R.P. (*South Fork Kern R. Preserve near Weldon, Kern Co.*). Since virtually all rarities in s. California are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are included. Documentation for species on the California Bird Records Committee (C.B.R.C.) review list is forwarded to the C.B.R.C. Secretary (Michael M. Rogers, P.O. Box 340, Moffett Field, CA 94035-0340) and archived at the Western Foundation for Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS

A basic-plumage Com. Loon on L. Isabella, *Kern*, July 8 (MTH); two on L. Cuyamaca, *San Diego*, during the entire season (A&TK); and four on nearby L. Henshaw

July 17 (CGE) were obviously summering locally; one or two are found on the larger lakes in this Region every summer. A N. Fulmar off the Newport Beach pier, *Orange*, June 30 (JEP) and another about 60 mi s.w. of Pt. Loma, *San Diego*, July 19 (BM) had probably been present in S. California waters since the incursion of these birds in the spring; small numbers are normally found off S. California this time of the year following winters with numbers of N. Fulmars this far south.

An ad. Brown Booby was on Morro Rock at the entrance to Morro Bay, *San Luis Obispo*, July 5 (MG). The ad. Neotropic Cormorant found at S.E.S.S. Apr. 28 was present through July 12 (MMR), and another adult was at N.E.S.S. June 14–July 16 (MAP); there are still less than a dozen records of this species in California.

There was a major influx of imm. Magnificent Frigatebirds from the Gulf of California into the s.e. portion of the Region in late June/early July. The earliest were one along the Colorado R. over Picacho State Recreation Area, *Imperial*, June 23 (SG) and three together at S.E.S.S. June 25 (GMcC). Numbers rapidly built to a maximum of six at S.E.S.S. June 27 (GMcC) and 16 at N.E.S.S. July 6 (WJM), with multiple birds present through mid-July; the latest were one at S.E.S.S. July 19 (GMcC) and another remaining at N.E.S.S. through Aug. 8 (GMcC). One near Lakeview, *Riverside*, July 5 (RH) and another over the Prado Basin near Chino, *San Bernardino*, July 20 (JEP) had probably moved through the Salton Sea, and the same could be said for one in the Owens Valley over Tinnemaha Res., *Inyo*, July 6 (MTH) and another (same?) photographed about 40 mi s. at Diaz L. the same day (MTH). Along the coast, single immatures in Santa Barbara June 28 (JEL) and at Bolsa Chica, *Orange*, June 29 (BS) were the first to be seen, and were followed by up to two together at half-a-dozen locations along the coast from *San Diego* to *San Luis Obispo* (one near Pt. Piedras Blancos July 4; A&HY) during the next week. Reports (16 from 12 locations between *San Diego* and *San Luis Obispo*) continued through the end of the period, with three