

WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' TRIP TO NORTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA

24 JUNE – 1 JULY 2013

WITH KEN ABLE, JON DUNN, LENA HAYASHI, AND DAVID QUADY AS LEADERS.

TOUR SUMMARY

Our trip began in the early afternoon after lunch with a quick meeting at the La Quinta near the airport, followed by a group departure west and then north towards the Sierra Valley. We stopped first at the Wheeler Sheep Camp where Dave Quady had found a nesting pair of Williamson's Sapsuckers and we had good views of them as well as some other more numerous mountain species like Cassin's Vireo and Finch and both Mountain and Western Bluebirds. Continuing on to Sierraville we noted a single Vaux's Swift just south of town. We continued north in the Sierra Valley to Marble Hot Springs Road and the marsh there where we noted an American Bittern. A few American White Pelicans were present. Later at the southwest end of the Sierra Valley we enjoyed two Barn Owls whose location Dave Quady had learned about. The pair of Lewis's Woodpeckers was still attending a nest at Smithneck Creek County Park.

We awoke the next morning to clouds, rain and cool temperatures, and not just a shower. In fact it rained for much of the day and it was windy at Yuba Pass and in the Sierra Valley and vicinity. This unusual late cold front (for late June) certainly hampered birding, particularly for owling in the evening at Yuba Pass. By the end of our trip those cool temperatures would be a distant memory when temperatures exceeded 100 degrees! Still, we found a number of interesting birds. At Bassett's we carefully reviewed the hummingbirds present while standing in horizontal rain and 20 mph winds – Anna's, Calliope and some early arriving fall migrant Rufous. Not surprisingly the earlier reported Black-chinned and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were not seen by us. Four Evening Grosbeaks were seen near here. In the Southern Sierra Valley a somewhat unusual (especially for early summer) Red-shouldered Hawk (adult) was well seen. Other birds of note included a Northern Rough-winged Swallow in the Carman Valley just west of the Sierra Valley. Here we watched a Hairy Woodpecker attend a nest in a fence post. Later, farther west at Portola we had nice views of a White-headed Woodpecker and Pine Siskins and carefully studied a singing adult male Purple Finch, a location where Dunn had seen one the year before. The habitat here seemed a bit arid for this species. Later back in the Sierra Valley we found few birds, but a Rubber Boa in the road was studied with great interest. Some of the group headed back to Sierra City early, but some of us stayed on in the inclement weather and listened to a Mountain Quail give its territorial "quark" call. It very briefly showed itself, but only one of us saw it. No owls or Common Poorwills were heard.

Morning brought improved weather. We watched Black-headed Grosbeaks about our motel, and a Pileated Woodpecker sounded off. Bassett's revealed the same assortment of hummingbirds. Band-tailed Pigeons were numerous. Later up at Yuba Pass we had nice views of Evening Grosbeaks and of Hermit Thrushes. Other species of note included a pair of Hermit Warblers (our only ones of the tour),

Wilson's Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow, Cassin's Finches, Evening Grosbeaks and Fox Sparrows of the *megarhyncha* subspecies within the "Thick-billed" group. An adult White-crowned Sparrow of the black-lored, pink billed, *orianta* subspecies was carefully studied. This subspecies, the type breeding in the Sierra, as well as elsewhere in the montane West, winters almost exclusively in northern Mexico. A brief stop in the northern Sierra Valley again produced an American Bittern, one of the best remaining locations left in California to see this species, particularly during the breeding season, and Bank Swallows, including a fledged juvenile. Later at lunch in Red Rock Canyon to the east we studied Gray Flycatchers, and had a pair of *plumbeus* "Lead-colored" Bushtits. A family group of American Crows there was of interest. Continuing on to Susanville, we took a brief break, then headed up to Gallatin Marina for a picnic dinner, topped off with a birthday cake for Dunn. Then at sunset we headed to nearby Papoose Meadow for an evening walk out on the meadow. Our goal was to hear Yellow Rail, several of which were discovered here in 2010, and Ken had heard two birds a bit earlier in June on a scouting trip. As darkness settled in we heard seemingly dozens of Wilson's Snipes winnowing overhead, as Common Poorwills sang on the distant hills above. Some heard a distant Great Horned Owl hooting to the north. Farther out where the meadow became more moist we were able to first hear the distinctive tapping notes of a Yellow Rail, and eventually get quite close to one bird. We heard at least two birds. Then in the darkness we headed back to our vehicles for our drive back to Susanville.

We started the next morning with a drive to Janesville. In the black oaks we found a variety of species including Downy and Acorn Woodpeckers, the latter species being quite local on the east side of the Sierra crest, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Pygmy and White-breasted Nuthatches. All of the White-breasted Nuthatches here and nearby were of the "Interior West" (*lagunae*) group from the Great Basin, Rockies, mainland Mexico and the Laguna Mountains of the Cape District of Baja California Sur. This was determined by their vocalizations, some of which were recorded. They are distinctly different from the *aculeata* group well to the west of the Sierra crest. The subspecies represented in eastern California is *tenuissima*. A pair of Vaux's Swifts were noted over "downtown" Janesville. Two Snowy Egrets were noted in the area. Two Buffleheads were seen at Leavitt Lake. After lunch at a roadside table above Susanville where Ken recorded *tenuissima* White-breasted Nuthatches, we carried on to Alturas, our base of operations for the next three full days.

The next morning we birded the southern Warner Mountains. Just south of Alturas we noted two Prairie Falcons. Our first stop in the Warner Mountains was at the trailhead in the Pine Creek Basin. Sometimes Gray Jays are seen here, but we did not see them. We did have multiple Golden-crowned Kinglets and two Cordilleran Flycatchers (we think!). Of more interest were two singing Pacific Wrens which were well seen and photographed. On our way back to Jess Valley we encountered a pair of Williamson's Sapsuckers briefly, and shortly afterwards a pair of Black-backed Woodpeckers remained long enough for good studies. Over a marsh in the Jess Valley we found a number of Black and Forster's Terns. The Black Terns, in particular, with their full alternate plumage were striking and somewhat unexpected. Nearing Blue Lake we crossed back into Lassen County. Our walk around the south end of Blue Lake produced a pair of Eastern Kingbirds and a nest, perhaps the only regular (for the last decade) nesting location for this species in the state. Other species noted included a pair of Vaux's Swifts, Green-tailed Towhees, Fox Sparrows (of the *fulva* subspecies within the "Thick-billed" group), and two

MacGillivray's Warblers. A few in the group saw a single White-throated Swift, our only one of the trip. A female Common Merganser had a duckling with it and an Osprey was present. Two nearly full grown Bald eaglets were in a nest and were closely studied with scopes. The adults were nearby. After lunch we continued east stopping at various places. Some of the highlights included Red-breasted Sapsucker, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo and Lazuli Bunting. After dropping out of the Warner Mountains on the eastern slope, we noted a pair of Lark Sparrows and near the Lassen County line in the Surprise Valley, had decent studies of a Yellow-breasted Chat.

The next morning we headed north from Alturas to New Pine Creek and the Oregon border. At New Pine Creek we studied a male Black-chinned Hummingbird on a telephone line. We had another one later at Fort Bidwell on the east side of the Warner Mountains. Here and at Ft. Bidwell we also had a pair of Vaux's Swifts. Also of note at both locations were territorial American Goldfinches, the males in full alternate plumage and in full song. These were almost certainly of the northern Great Basin *pallida* subspecies. Surely they are nesting at these locations, but the subspecies was not even listed as confirmed for California by Grinnell and Miller (1944). A singing Cassin's Vireo in New Pine Creek was a surprise for this valley location. Later in the morning we headed up over the Warner Mountains and stopped for lunch at Fandango Pass. Here we found a variety of species including a flock of Bushtits that looked somewhat intermediate between *californicus* and the more easterly *plumbeus*. Imitating a Northern Pygmy-Owl we brought in the Bushtits for close studies and photos. Also in the flock was an *orestra* (Rocky Mountain/Great Basin subspecies) Orange-crowned Warbler. And then answering close-by was a real Northern Pygmy-Owl. It came right in and provided us with excellent and prolonged views. It was our only sighting (or audible) of the trip. Late in the afternoon we headed to the east side of the Surprise Valley and found both Black-throated and Sagebrush Sparrows. We never did locate a Bobolink, a species that can sometimes be found in the Surprise Valley, the only breeding location in the state. Perhaps their absence can be explained by the drought. That evening at Stough Reservoir Campground near Cedar Pass we heard three Flammulated Owls.

The next morning we returned to Stough Reservoir Campground and saw and recorded Cordilleran Flycatcher. A female Bufflehead was on the small pond. An Osprey was also present. Later in the day some of us ventured back to the southern Warner Mountains and found a White-headed Woodpecker. Late in the day we all birded Modoc National Wildlife Refuge.

On our final morning we headed west to Canby and then Adin, stopping along the river there to view an adult Black Phoebe carrying food to nestlings under the bridge. This represents the first confirmation of breeding by this species in Modoc County. While there, a bright female Chestnut-sided Warbler was discovered and photographed. Unfortunately, only a few saw it before it flew up the river and was never seen again. Continuing west we headed up Day Road, dropping off Ken Able along the way. The Day area, in extreme southwest Modoc County, with abundant oaks, is very different from the Great Basin just over the adjacent mountains to the east. Here Acorn Woodpeckers, Ash-throated Flycatchers and Oak Titmice were numerous as were Purple Finches. All of the White-breasted Nuthatches were clearly *aculeata* on call. Surprising was an adult male Purple Martin that soared overhead, but Don Marsh (a birder and local part-time resident) says that a pair or two breed here. Just to the east we

found multiple Nashville Warblers. After a final gourmet picnic lunch, all courtesy of Lena, we headed south for Reno where we had a final group dinner and bid our good-byes.

* * * * *

We thank the participants for making this a most enjoyable trip to lead. Their enthusiasm, curiosity, high spirits, good cheer, and helpfulness made for a delightful time together in the field. We also thank Colin Dillingham, Frank Hall, Kurt Leuschner, Stephen Long, Tim Manolis, Lisa Myers, Ed Pandolfino, Bob Power, Steve Rottenborn, Ken Schneider, and Dave Shuford for advice and suggestions that helped us plan the trip, and Bob Lewis for the Sagebrush Sparrow photograph that graced our brochure.

Ken, Jon, Lena, and Dave

WFO FIELD TRIP TO NORTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA

24 June –1 July 2013

With Ken Able, Jon Dunn, Lena Hayashi and David Quady as leaders

First Column = Number of days recorded

Second Column = Maximum number recorded on any one day

H = Heard only

N = Nest

Y = Dependent young

Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis moffitti</i>	8	550	
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	1	1	
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	6	250	
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	2	2	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	7	30	Y
Cinnamon Teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>	5	5	Y
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	3	3	
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	2	5	

Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca carolinensis</i>	1	1	
Redhead	<i>Aythya americana</i>	3	120	
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	2	8	
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	3	150	
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	3	3	
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser americanus</i>	3	2	Y
Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	2	20	
Mountain Quail	<i>Oreortyx pictus pictus</i>	1	1	
California Quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>	7	10	Y
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	4	2	
Eared Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis californicus</i>	4	30	
Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	2	150	
Clark's Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>	3	2	
American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	7	34	
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	4	10	
American Bittern	<i>Butorides lentiginosus</i>	2	1	
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea Herodias</i>	4	2	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba egretta</i>	6	8	
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	1	2	
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	2	2	
White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	7	60	
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	8	35	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus carolinensis</i>	4	1	
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	5	7	Y
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus hudsonicus</i>	8	2	

Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	4	2		
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus elegans</i>	1	1		
Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	7	10		
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis calurus</i>	8	15		
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos canadensis</i>	4	3		
Yellow Rail	<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>	1	2	H	
Virginia Rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>	1	1	H	
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>		7	70	Y
Sandhill Crane ("Greater")	<i>Grus canadensis tabida</i>		7	13	
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferous</i>		8	10	
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>		2	3	
American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>		4	15	
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>		4	5	
Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata inornata</i>		4	3	
Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>		1	3	
Wilson's Snipe	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>		7	20	
Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>		4	3	
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>		5	1000	N Y
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>		5	300	
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		1	15	N
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger surinamensis</i>		1	12	
Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>		5	4	
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>		7	8	
Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>		4	30	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		8	20	

Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	8	11	
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	1	2	
Flammulated Owl	<i>Psiloscopus flammeolus</i>	1	3	H
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	1	1	H
Northern Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium gnoma californicum</i>	1	1	
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor hesperis</i>	8	20	
Common Poorwill	<i>Phalaenoptilus nuttallii</i>	1	2	H
Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi vauxi</i>	5	4	
White-throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxitalis</i>	1	1	
Black-chinned Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>	1	2	
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	3	10	
Calliope Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus calliope</i>	3	15	
Rufous Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	2	2	
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	3	1	
Lewis's Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	2	2	N
Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	2	7	
Williamson's Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i>	2	2	N
Red-breasted Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus ruber daggetti</i>	6	8	N
Nuttall's Woodpecker	<i>Picoides nuttalli</i>	1	2	
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	3	2	
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	4	4	N
White-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides albolaravatus</i>	2	1	
Black-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides arcticus</i>	1	2	
Northern Flicker ("Red-shafted")	<i>Colaptes auratus collaris</i>	8	11	
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	1	1	H

American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	8	6	
Prairie Falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	2	2	
Western Wood Pewee	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	8	18	
Gray Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax wrightii</i>	1	2	
Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>	3	4	
Cordilleran Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax occidentalis</i>	2	5	
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	4	7	Y
Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	1	6	
Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	8	25	
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	1	2	N
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus gambeli</i>	1	1	
Cassin's Vireo	<i>Vireo cassinii</i>	5	2	
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus swainsoni</i>	5	5	
Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	8	11	
Western Scrub-Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica superciliosa</i>	4	5	
Clark's Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>	1	1	H
Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica hudsonia</i>	7	25	
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	3	8	
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	10	20	N
Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	7	15	
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis arboricola</i>	1	1	
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	8	30	
Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	4	2	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	2	2	N
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	3	15	

Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	8	300	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica erythrogaster</i>	8	20	
Mountain Chickadee	<i>Poecile gambeli abbreviatus</i>	8	8	N
Bushtit (“Lead-colored”)	<i>Psaltriparus minimus plumbeus</i>	1	2	
Bushtit (“Coastal”)	<i>Psaltriparus minimus californicus</i>	1	20	
Bushtit (Ssp?)	<i>Psaltriparus minimus californicus/plumbeus</i>	1	12	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	5	4	
White-breasted Nuthatch (“Interior”)	<i>Sitta carolinensis tenuissima</i>	2	5	
White-breasted Nuthatch (“Coastal”)	<i>Sitta carolinensis aculeata</i>	1	13	
Pygmy Nuthatch	<i>Sitta pygmaea melanotis</i>	4	8	
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana zelotes</i>	5	2	
Rock Wren	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>	2	2	
Bewick’s Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii atrestus</i>	2	2	
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon parkmanii</i>	7	9	N Y
Pacific Wren	<i>Troglodytes pacificus pacificus</i>	1	2	
Marsh Wren (“Western”)	<i>Cistothorus palustris plesius</i>	4	8	
American Dipper	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>	1	2	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa olivaceus</i>	4	8	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (“Western”)	<i>Polioptila caerulea amoenissima</i>	2	1	
Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana occidentalis</i>	4	5	
Mountain Bluebird	<i>Sialia currucoides</i>	6	7	
Townsend’s Solitaire	<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>	3	3	
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus sequoiensis</i>	1	3	
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius propinquus</i>	8	30	
Sage Thrasher	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	4	8	

European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	8	20	
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedorum</i>	1	6	
Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis celata orestra</i>	1	1	
Nashville Warbler (“Calaveras”)	<i>Oreothlypis ruficapilla ridgwayi</i>	1	4	
MacGillivray’s Warbler	<i>Geothlypis tolmiei</i>	2	2	
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	1	1	H
Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechial morcomi</i>	8	6	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Setophaga pensylvanica</i>	1	1	
Yellow-rumped Warbler (“Audubon’s”)	<i>Setophaga coronata auduboni</i>	8	12	
Hermit Warbler	<i>Setophaga occidentalis</i>	1	2	
Wilson’s Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla chryseola</i>	1	3	
Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens auricollis</i>	2	1	
Green-tailed Towhee	<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>	4	2	
Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus curtatus</i>	5	6	
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina arizonae</i>	8	11	
Brewer’s Sparrow	<i>Spizella breweri breweri</i>	5	8	
Vesper Sparrow	<i>Pooecetes gramineus confinis</i>	2	3	
Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	1	2	
Black-throated Sparrow	<i>Amphispiza bilineata deserticola</i>	1	2	
Sagebrush Sparrow	<i>Artemisiospiza nevadensis</i>	1	2	
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis nevadensis</i>	6	15	
Fox Sparrow (“Thick-billed”)	<i>Passerella iliaca megarhyncha</i>	1	3	
Fox Sparrow (“Thick-billed”)	<i>Passerella iliaca fulva</i>	1	8	
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia fisherella</i>	5	7	
Lincoln’s Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolni alticola</i>	1	2	

White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys oriantha</i>	2	1
Dark-eyed Junco ("Oregon")	<i>Junco hyemalis thurberi</i>	8	20
Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	8	11
Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus maculatus</i>	8	6
Lazuli Bunting	<i>Passerina amoena</i>	5	4
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus nevadensis</i>	8	60
Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta neglecta</i>	8	16
Yellow-headed Blackbird	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	7	50
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	8	80
Brown-headed Blackbird	<i>Molothrus ater artemisiae</i>	7	12
Bullock's Oriole	<i>Icterus bullocki</i>	7	7
Purple Finch	<i>Haemorhous purpureus californius</i>	2	7
Cassin's Finch	<i>Haemorhous cassinii</i>	7	21
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	6	8
Pine Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	4	4
Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria hesperophila</i>	7	10
American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis pallida</i>	1	6
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus brooksi</i>	2	10
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	8	30

MAMMALS

Belding's Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus beldingi</i>	3	20
Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus lateralis</i>	1	2
Douglas's Squirrel (Chickaree)	<i>Tamiasciurus douglasii</i>	2	2
Mountain Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus nuttallii</i>	1	1

Black-tailed Jackrabbit	<i>Lepus californicus</i>	2	2
Mule Deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	3	5
Pronghorn	<i>Antilocapra americana</i>	3	20
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	2	3
Common Gray Fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	1	1
Striped Skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	1	1

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Rubber Boa	<i>Charina bottae</i>	1	1
Gopher Snake	<i>Pituophis catenifer</i>	1	1
Western Terrestrial Snake (“Mountain Garter Snake”)	<i>Thamnophis elegans elegans</i>	1	2

BRIEF DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

June 24 – Arrivals at the La Quinta in Reno and departure for points north. Birding stops at Wheeler Sheep Camp, Sierraville and Smithneck Creek County Park, all in Sierra County. Elsewhere in the Sierra Valley in Plumas County stops along Marble Hot Springs Road and Dyson Lane.

June 25 – Wild Plum Creek, Bassett’s Station, Carman Valley, vicinity of Yuba Pass, Cal Pine Road, and West Side Road – all in Sierra County. Stops in Plumas County in Beckworth along Rocky Point Road and in and near Portola.

June 26 – Sierra City, Bassett’s, and Yuba Pass, Sierra County. In Plumas County stops in the northern Sierra Valley, including along Marble Hot Springs Road, and Dyson Lane, and along state route 49. In Lassen County stops along Red Rock Road, and then north on US 395 to Shugru Reservoir and to Susanville. Early evening to south end of Eagle Lake and picnic dinner at Gallatin Marina and evening birding at Papoose Meadow.

June 27 – Wingfield Road from Susanville to Janesville (Main Street), Shugru Reservoir and Leavitt Lake and roadside table on state route 139 between Susanville and Willow Creek Valley for lunch – all Lassen County. US route 395 to Alturas, Modoc County.

June 28 – Alturas to Warner Mountains with stops along Jess Valley Road, Pine Creek Basin, trailhead to Jess Valley, Patterson Campground, and Surprise Valley from five miles north of Lassen County line to Cedarville- Modoc County. Stops in the Warner Mountains in Lassen County at Blue Lake and along Mahogany Ridge.

June 29 – Alturas to New Pine Creek, Davis Creek and the causeway, and over the Warner Mountains at Fandango Pass, and to Fort Bidwell; evening birding along county road 38 to east of Eagleville and Hays Canyon Road. Later owling at Stough Reservoir Campground in the Warner Mountains. All in Modoc County.

June 30 – Alturas to Warner Mountains at Cedar Pass and Stough Reservoir Campground and Cedar Creek and to Jess Valley and north back to Alturas. Late afternoon birding to Modoc National Wildlife Refuge – all in Modoc County.

1 July – Alturas to Pit River crossing, southwest of Canby, then to Adin and to Day Road to Day to a Little Hot Springs road pond north of Day and county road 94 (Widow Valley Road) east of Day – all in Modoc County, except for the more southerly section of the Day Road which was in Shasta County. Later drive back south with a brief stop in Susanville and on to Reno with a final group dinner.

WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' TRIP TO NORTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA (24 JUNE – 1 JULY 2013)

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS AND SIGNIFICANT SIGHTINGS

Because this trip was designed to visit some areas of California where bird distribution and abundance are less well known, we were interested in trying to add some useful information to the ornithological record. A trip of this sort spends only a short time in any one locality, so it is unreasonable to expect that definitive answers will be obtained. Nonetheless, we posed some questions about a number of species in the hope that we might learn some new things during the trip. What follows are observations relevant to those specific questions and also other sightings of less common species and some perhaps notable 'misses'.

QUESTIONS

1. Red-shouldered and Ferruginous Hawks. A single adult Red-shouldered Hawk in the southwestern part of the Sierra Valley, Sierra County on 25 June was our only sighting of either species. An adult Ferruginous Hawk reported by Steve and Diane Rose in the Surprise Valley east of Cedarville during our trip was near where Quady and Able photographed an adult in July 2012.
2. Nocturnal owls. The distribution of owls in the Warner Mountains is relatively poorly known. On the night of 29 June we heard three Flammulated Owls at one spot along the entrance road to Stough Reservoir Campground, east of Cedar Pass, where Steve and Diane Rose had heard multiple birds a few nights earlier. This was our only night of owling. We tried to owl at the Sierra Valley Vista Point along state route 49 on the evening of the 25 June, but it was windy with rain showers and we heard no owls or nightjars. Our only Great Horned Owl was a distantly calling bird at Papoose Meadow near Eagle Lake on the evening of 26 June.

3. Diurnal owls (or diurnally visible owls). We saw two Barn Owls in a barn on Lemon Canyon Road, in the southwest part of Sierra Valley. While tooting to draw in passerines, Quady called in a Northern Pygmy-Owl at Fandango Pass on 29 June, and it remained long enough to be well seen by all and photographed. On 26 June we searched unsuccessfully for Burrowing Owls on state route 49 where Quady had seen one a few days earlier. Of course it was nicely sitting up on a fence post when Dunn and Quady returned on 2 July. We suspect the strong winds may have inhibited birds from cooperating during our trip.
4. Vaux's Swift. The distribution and breeding status of Vaux's Swift is not well known in northeastern California, especially in Modoc County. We saw a single Vaux's Swift in inclement weather on state route 89 just south of Sierraville (Sierra County) on the afternoon of 24 June. More expected were three at Bassetts Station east of Sierra City on state route 49 on the morning of 26 June. Perhaps surprising were two in Janesville, Lassen County, on 26 June. In the Warner Mountains we only found two birds at Blue Lake in the southern Warners (Lassen County) on 28 June. As on 3 June, when Able saw four birds there, individuals were observed briefly entering a chimney on the outhouse at the Blue Lake boat launch. We saw two at New Pine Creek on the Oregon border in Modoc County and two more at Fort Bidwell east of the Warners (all on 29 June). These birds and the two at Janesville were in small towns and were likely nesting in chimneys. Rottenborn has seen Vaux's swifts carrying nesting material into chimneys in Fort Bidwell.
5. Hummingbirds in Modoc County. We only saw two individuals, both adult male Black-chinned Hummingbirds, one in New Pine Creek and the other at Fort Bidwell, on 29 June. At Bassetts Station (Sierra County) on 25-26 June, we saw numerous Calliope and Anna's Hummingbirds along with a few *Selasphorus* (the few adult males were Rufous and the females were Rufous or Allen's). We saw neither Black-chinned nor Broad-tailed Hummingbirds here, despite recent reports of both species. Dunn believes that Broad-tailed Hummingbird is one of the most frequently misidentified species in California and that valid records away from the dry mountains east of the Sierra are few indeed.
6. Sapsuckers in the Warner Mountains. Despite Grinnell and Miller (1944) including the Warner Mountains in their range map for Red-naped Sapsucker, we found only Red-breasted Sapsuckers there, and all of them appeared to be pure. Able observed an obvious intergrade at Blue Lake (Lassen County) on 2 June, 2013, while scouting for this trip. Clearly the occasional Red-naped Sapsucker nests in the Warners. Rottenborn saw a female carrying food in Fort Bidwell in June, 2013, (mate not seen) and reports that a pure pair nested on the west side of the Warners near New Pine Creek in 2012, but if the information in Grinnell and Miller (1944) was correct, the status of the two species has changed. Our observations of Red-breasted Sapsuckers in the Warner Mountains included a fledged juvenile and an active nest at Patterson Campground on 28 June.
7. Nuttall's Woodpeckers. We found only two birds, both of which were near or in Day (Modoc County) on 1 July, an area where they are expected.

8. Gray Flycatcher. We found only two birds, both along Red Rock Road (Lassen County) on 26 June.
9. "Western Flycatchers" in the Warner Mountains. We tallied some nine individuals at multiple locations in both Lassen and Modoc counties, several of which we recorded. To our ears they sounded closer to Cordilleran Flycatcher, but a fuller analysis will have to await a study of the spectrograms. It is believed that these birds are Cordilleran (Ned Johnson) or represent an intermediate population (Arch McCallum).
10. Western Scrub-Jay in eastern Modoc County. We saw only one bird just northeast of Alturas and it looked like a coastal type, as expected. Based on a much larger sample, Rottenborn has seen nothing but coastal Scrub-Jays on both sides of the Warner Mountains.
11. Titmice. We looked for Juniper Titmouse on Red Rock Road in southern Lassen County but saw none (several were found by others the previous week). We drove through what appeared to be good Juniper Titmouse habitat (junipers) in the foothills of the Warner Mountains as well as at various locations in northern Lassen County, but given the high temperatures did not spend time searching for them. We missed Oak Titmouse at and near Day in southwestern Modoc County, where a few are often found.
12. Bushtits. We saw two birds at Red Rock Road in southern Lassen County on 26 June that clearly appeared to be of the interior Great Basin subspecies group, *plumbeus*, with pure gray crowns, pinkish cheeks, and grayish color overall. A flock of twelve on 29 June at Fandango Pass in the Warner Mountains appeared to be intermediate in appearance between the *plumbeus* group and the coastal *minimus* group (represented in the interior valleys and foothills by *californicus*). These birds were extensively photographed. A flock of twelve near Day on 1 July appeared typical of coastal birds, as expected. Grinnell and Miller (1944) map coastal birds east to include nearly all of northeastern California, except for the Warner Mountains and ranges just south of there.
13. White-breasted Nuthatch (distribution of *aculeata* and *tenuissima*). We encountered White-breasted Nuthatches on several days. Our first birds were two on 27 June at Janesville, just to the south of Susanville. This area has extensive mixed oak- pine forest (Acorn Woodpeckers are resident here). By call these two were clearly *tenuissima*. Later that day at a roadside picnic table on state route 139 not far north of Susanville we had a *tenuissima* family group, calling frequently and recorded by Able. On our first day in the southern Warner Mountains we found a nest northeast of Blue Lake (Modoc County) at about 7000'. They were *tenuissima* on call as was a bird seen earlier at Blue Lake (Lassen County). On our final day in the vicinity of Day (Lassen and Modoc counties) we found a number of White-breasted Nuthatches, all clearly of the more coastal subspecies, *aculeata*. Apart from the longer bill of *tenuissima*, the two appear to be nearly identical in plumage, but their vocalizations differ markedly, and there are strong genetic differences. With the addition of the eastern *carolinensis* group, it seems likely that there are three cryptic species involved. We are filling in the gaps of our knowledge of the

ranges of *tenuissima* and *aculeata*, but some areas in the Sierra and the Cascades need further research as well as documenting recordings. Quady and Dunn saw and heard *tenuissima* north of the Sierra Valley in the vicinity of Frenchman Lake on 2 July. While scouting for this trip, Able saw and heard individuals of *tenuissima* on Rte. 64, 3.3 miles beyond the Blue Lake turn-off (Lassen County) (3 June 2013) and at the Lassen Creek Campground near Davis Creek (Modoc County) (4 June 2013). Along Day Rd. (Modoc County) and at Bob's Creek Ranch (Lassen County), he obtained a number of recordings of *aculeata*.

14. Pacific Wren. We found two singing and strongly territorial males along the first quarter mile of the Pine Creek Basin Trail on the west side of the Warner Mountains on 28 June. One of the birds was called in and was well seen (with mediocre photos taken).
15. Swainson's Thrush. We saw and heard none. Grinnell and Miller (1944) map much of eastern California from the Oregon line south to about the Inyo County line as part of the range of the eastern *swainsoni* group of subspecies. They list specimens taken from eastern Modoc County and sightings south to about June Lake. Clearly something has happened since then, as Steve Rottenborn has not found any in the Warners during the breeding season either. Beedy and Pandolfino (2013) indicate that the species is a rare and irregular breeder in riparian habitats near Johnsville (Plumas County), in the western Tahoe Basin (Placer and El Dorado counties) and possibly in the Mono Basin, a Swainson's Thrush was singing along Rush Creek in mid-June about five years ago. Beedy and Pandolfino (2013) detail dramatic declines of *ustulatus* on the west side of the Sierra since Grinnell and Miller (1944). Recent work done in eastern Oregon strongly suggests that the two subspecies groups (*swainsoni* and more coastal "Russet-backed" *ustulatus*) represent two cryptic species, a conclusion strongly advocated by Alan Phillips (1991). Apart from differing vocalizations (especially call notes), their migration routes (*swainsoni* is a trans-Gulf of Mexico migrant) and winter grounds differ (*ustulatus* winters from western Mexico to northwestern Costa Rica; *swainsoni* winters in South America). In terms of other *Catharus* thrushes, we did see and hear Hermit Thrushes (*sequoiensis*) at Yuba Pass, but otherwise did not encounter any, including during our days in the Warner Mountains, where Grinnell and Miller (1944) indicated that the species bred.
16. Black-throated Gray Warbler. No certain birds were encountered. The species is known as a breeder from the Day region (Modoc County) and two of the participants felt that they saw this species along Widow Valley Road, just to the east of Day, on 1 July.
17. Purple Finch. We encountered at least seven individuals in the Day region of southeastern Shasta and southwestern Modoc Counties on 1 July, where we have found it to be numerous previously. Some were singing and many were seen well. More surprising was a singing adult male in dry yellow pines just south of Portola (Plumas County) on 25 June. We had good scope studies and its short and rich song was utterly typical of *californicus* Purple Finch and unlike the longer and more meandering song of the Cassin's Finch. Dunn had Purple Finch in the same locality last summer.

Notable sightings (and misses)

1. Green-winged Teal. One female was seen from Marble Hot Springs Road in the northern Sierra Valley on 24 June. It was our only sighting.
2. Ring-necked Duck. Our only sightings were eight on the small pond north of the causeway road west of Davis Creek, Modoc County, on 29 June and two north of state route 299 west of Alturas on 1 July.
3. Bufflehead. Two, including a male, were seen at Leavitt Lake, Lassen County, on 27 June. Three, including at least one male, were at the pond north of the causeway road west of Davis Creek, Modoc County. A female on a small wooded lake near Cedar Pass (Warner Mountains) at Stough Reservoir Campground, could have potentially been breeding.
4. Mountain Quail. Our only bird was one calling (and briefly seen by Dunn) at the Sierra Valley Vista Point east of Yuba Pass, Sierra County, at dusk on 25 June.
5. American White Pelican. This species was seen nearly daily. Many of our sightings were clearly birds moving from one location to some other distant location. These sightings included four in the southern Sierra Valley on 24 June, six over Yuba Pass (heading west) on the morning of 26 June, fourteen over US 395 just north of Red Rock Road on 26 June, and seven over Fandango Pass, Warner Mountains on 29 June.
6. American Bittern. Single birds at Marble Hot Springs Road, Sierra Valley, Plumas County, on 24 and 26 June were our only sightings.
7. Snowy Egret. The only two seen were singles at Shugru Reservoir, and another at a small pond along US 395 in the vicinity of Johnstonville on 27 June (both Lassen County).
8. Black-crowned Night-Heron. A single adult was seen flying north into Oregon along the east edge of Goose Lake, New Pine Creek, Modoc County. Two adults were seen at Modoc National Wildlife Refuge on 30 June.
9. Osprey. Singles were seen at the south end of Eagle Lake, Lassen County, on 26 June; at Blue Lake, south Warner Mountains, Lassen County; at Stough Reservoir Campground, near Cedar Pass, Warner Mountains, Modoc County, on 30 June, and along the Pit River southwest of Canby, Modoc County, on 1 July.
10. Bald Eagle. Somewhat more numerous than expected, it was recorded on most days with a maximum of seven on one day (included two young in a nest at Blue Lake, south Warner Mountains, Lassen County).

11. Yellow Rail. Two were heard at dusk at Papoose Meadow near the south end of Eagle Lake, Lassen County, on 26 June. The species has been recorded here in summer since 2010, when a small number of birds was discovered in the meadow by USFS personnel.
12. Virginia Rail. One heard at a marshy pond on Little Hot Springs Road just northwest of Day, Modoc County, on 1 July, was our only bird.
13. Willet. One was seen in the Sierra Valley west of Sierraville, Sierra County, on 25 June. Three, including a less than fully grown juvenile, were at Leavitt Lake, Lassen County, on 27 June. Single birds were seen along Hays Canyon Road in Modoc County on 28 June and around the pond north of the causeway road west of Davis Creek, on 29 June.
14. Long-billed Curlew. Three flying west over US 395 south of Davis Creek, Modoc County, was our only sighting.
15. Caspian Tern. A small nesting colony of some fifteen birds was located on an island on Dorris Reservoir, Modoc National Wildlife Refuge, Modoc County. This same island also had some 1000 nesting Ring-billed Gulls.
16. Black Tern. Twelve full alternate plumaged birds were seen over a marshy area along the north side of Jess Valley Road, Modoc County, on 28 June. This looked like appropriate nesting habitat and the species is seen here regularly in summer (S. Rottenborn). Also present here were three Forster's Terns.
17. Forster's Tern. Alternate plumaged adults were seen as follows: One at the south end of Eagle Lake on 26 June; one on a small pond north of US 395, near Johnstonville, Lassen County; three with Black Terns along Jess Valley Road, Warner Mountains, 28 June; one at Blue Lake, south Warner Mountains, on 28 June; one at the small pond north of the causeway road west of Davis Creek, Modoc County, on 29 June; and four on 30 June at Modoc National Wildlife Refuge.
18. Eurasian Collared-Dove. As expected, this rapidly expanding species was widely recorded in towns. More alarming perhaps was the one seen in coniferous forest at Stough Reservoir campground, near Cedar Pass, Warner Mountains, Modoc County, on 30 June.
19. Band-tailed Pigeon. Thirty and twenty respectively were seen west of Yuba Pass in the vicinity of Sierra City, Sierra County, on 25 and 26 June, an area where the species is numerous. Two were heard at Stough Reservoir Campground, Warner Mountains, Modoc County, on 30 June; one was seen at Adin and two more were seen at Day, Modoc County, on 1 July.
20. Anna's Hummingbird. Five were seen along Day Road on 1 July (two in Shasta County, three in Modoc County).

21. Lewis's Woodpecker. A pair feeding young in a cavity in a telephone pole was at Smithneck Creek County Park, Sierra County. Quady had found this pair earlier. The only other bird seen was in Janesville, Lassen County; it appeared to be attending a nest. Able had found a nest at Day, Modoc County, on 17 June 2013, but it appears that the young had fledged and we saw no birds there.
22. Williamson's Sapsucker. We had excellent views of a pair feeding young in a low cavity on a conifer at Wheeler Sheep Camp south of Sierraville on 24 June. A male and female were seen by a few of the group in the Warner Mountains (a few miles west of the Pine Creek Basin trailhead), Modoc County, on 28 June.
23. Downy Woodpecker. A territorial male was seen in oaks along Wingfield Road just north of Janesville, Lassen County, on 27 June; one was seen in New Pine Creek, Modoc County, on 29 June; a territorial pair in pure coniferous forest in the Warner Mountains, Modoc County, several miles west of the Pine Creek Basin trailhead) on 30 June was a surprise.
24. White-headed Woodpecker. A male was seen in Portola, Plumas County, on 25 June. Another male was noted in the Warner Mountains several miles west of the Pine Creek Basin trailhead, Modoc County, on 30 June.
25. Black-backed Woodpecker. A pair was called in at a small partial burn in coniferous forest in the Warner Mountains (several miles west of the Pine Creek Basin trailhead), Modoc County, on 28 June.
26. Pileated Woodpecker. One heard at Sierra City, Sierra County, on the morning of 26 June, was our only record.
27. Olive-sided Flycatcher. Surprisingly none of this declining species was recorded during the trip. On 2 July, Dunn and Quady heard one singing to the west of Frenchman Lake north of Sierra Valley.
28. Black Phoebe. An adult actively feeding nestlings under a bridge on state route 299 in Adin, Modoc County represents the first breeding record for that county.
29. Eastern Kingbird. A pair (with one on a nest) recorded on the northwest side of Blue Lake, Warner Mountains, Lassen County, on 28 June, was from a location where this species has been present for a number of years and has nested.
30. Cassin's Vireo. Seven were recorded from expected locations. None was recorded from the Warner Mountains, but one territorial bird was heard singing and subsequently seen just west of New Pine Creek, Modoc County. The habitat looked inappropriate for breeding.
31. Gray Jay. None was recorded from the Warner Mountains.

32. Clark's Nutcracker. One heard at Stough Reservoir Campground, Warner Mountains, Modoc County, on 30 June, was our only record of this species.
33. American Crow. Four in the dry juniper habitat of Red Rock Road, Lassen County, appeared to be a family group well away from appropriate nesting habitat. However, others have also recorded American Crow here in recent years.
34. Purple Martin. An adult male seen south of Day, Modoc County, on 1 July, was certainly a surprise, but apparently a pair or two are known to nest here, according to a local resident.
35. Northern Rough-winged Swallow. A single bird over a pond in the Carman Valley, Sierra County, on 25 June seemed out of place. A pair was at a nesting burrow in a bank along the Pit River southwest of Canby, Modoc County, on 1 July.
36. Bank Swallow. Three, including a juvenile, along Marble Hot Springs road, Sierra Valley, Plumas County, on 26 June, were likely fall migrants. Fifteen were seen at Leavitt Reservoir near Johnstonville, Lassen County, on 27 June. A single bird was seen on the causeway road west of Davis Creek, Modoc County, on 29 June.
37. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. One was seen in oaks north of Janesville, Lassen County, on 27 June; another was seen in oaks just east of Day, Modoc County, on 1 July.
38. Cedar Waxwing. We recorded six birds on 29 June from New Pine Creek and Fort Bidwell, both in Modoc County.
39. Orange-crowned Warbler. The only one recorded was seen at Fandango Pass, Warner Mountains, Modoc County, on 29 June. This individual (which came in to Quady's Northern Pygmy-Owl tooting) looked somewhat dull with blurry streaks across the chest, characters of *orestera* of the Great Basin, as opposed to the more westerly, brighter and less streaked *lutescens*. Grinnell and Miller (1944) indicate that *orestera* is the breeding subspecies of the Warner Mountains.
40. Nashville Warbler. We found none in the Warner Mountains. Four were recorded around Day, Modoc County, on 1 July.
41. MacGillivray's Warbler. We found fewer than expected. Two singing males (singing from high perches) were noted at Blue Lake, south Warner Mountains, Lassen County, on 28 June. Another male was briefly seen at Stough Reservoir Campground, near Cedar Pass, Warner Mountains, Modoc County, on 30 June.
42. Chestnut-sided Warbler. An apparent SY female in alternate plumage was found and well photographed by Bacchetti, but unfortunately was seen by only a few others. This sighting was totally unexpected. John Sterling informed us later that this is Modoc County's first mid-summer record, and only the second or third bird reported from the county.

43. Hermit Warbler. A pair at Yuba Pass, Sierra County, on 26 July was our only record.
44. Wilson's Warbler. Three at Yuba Pass, Sierra County, on 26 June were the only ones recorded.
45. Yellow-breasted Chat. One was seen on CR 1 just north of the Lassen County line in Modoc County on 28 June. Another was heard just south of Stateline Road west of New Pine Creek, Modoc County, on 29 June.
46. Brewer's Sparrow. We found this species at rather high elevations in the Warner Mountains on 28 June (two in Modoc, one in Lassen County) and 30 June (one in Stough Reservoir Campground, Modoc County).
47. Lark Sparrow. Two birds, likely a pair, just above the Surprise Valley on Patterson Mill Road, Modoc County, on 28 June, were the only ones noted.
48. Black-throated Sparrow. Two on 29 June on the eastern side of the Surprise Valley east of Eagleville on Hays Canyon Road were the only ones recorded.
49. Sagebrush Sparrow. Two were recorded just east of where we had the Black-throated Sparrows on Hays Canyon Road, on 29 June. The new English name reflects a split from the Bell's Sparrow (Bell's includes the *canescens* subspecies), made official with publication of the 54th Supplement to the AOU Check-list in the July 2013 issue of *The Auk*.
50. Lincoln's Sparrow. A pair at the meadow edge (short willows) at Yuba Pass, Sierra County, on 26 June, was the only one recorded.
51. White-crowned Sparrow. An adult *oriantha* was seen at Yuba Pass on 26 June. Another was heard at Blue Lake, Warner Mountains, Lassen County, on 28 June.
52. Bobolink. None was seen east of Eagleville in the Surprise Valley, Modoc County. This is where small numbers (including a photographed fledgling) had been seen by Quady and Able in July 2012, and where Able had seen one male on 3 June 2013. Steve Rottenborn found none on 8 June and none later in mid-July. Although this is a drought year, the meadows were moist and seemed to be in about the same condition as in 2012, so their absence is a bit of mystery. Perhaps they have always been somewhat irregular here at the extreme southwest edge of their breeding range.
53. Bullock's Oriole. A very orange female seen at the Yellow-breasted Chat spot in the southern Surprise Valley, Modoc County, looked quite like an SY female Baltimore Oriole. Likely this same individual was seen and photographed a bit north of here by Steve Rottenborn a few weeks earlier and it is apparently an aberrantly colored Bullock's.
54. Red Crossbill. No certain birds were recorded, perhaps not surprising given the always irregular presence of this species.

55. American Goldfinch. Six seen at New Pine Creek and at Fort Bidwell in northern Modoc County seemed likely to be breeding (full alternate plumage and males singing and in display flight). Grinnell and Miller (1944) concluded that the species doesn't breed east of about Yreka and that those birds that breed west and especially south of there are the more coastal *salicamans*. The information on size and plumage is gleaned from Pyle (1997) but *salicamans* is a small race, and males in alternate plumage tend to be dull, sometimes mixed with brown. From southwestern British Columbia to southwestern Oregon, another small race is found (*jewetti*) but males in alternate plumage are bright yellow. Birds east of the Cascades in Oregon have been assigned to a larger and paler subspecies, *pallidus*, which breeds over much of eastern Oregon (Marshall et al. 2003). Adult males in alternate plumage are pale yellow (alternate males of the eastern subspecies *tristis* are bright yellow) Based on the distribution (especially), it would seem likely that these birds are referable to *pallidus*. On plumage the males also don't appear to match *salicamans*. Rottenborn has found the species nesting near New Pine Creek and it occurs widely during the breeding season in Modoc County.
56. Evening Grosbeak. Four and ten were seen on 25 and 26 June, respectively, at Yuba Pass and up to a few miles west of there (all in Sierra County). Those were the only ones recorded.

We thank Steve Rottenborn for comments on this report.

Jon Dunn, Ken Able and Dave Quady

Literature Cited

- Beedy, E.C., and E. R. Pandolfino. 2013. Birds of the Sierra Nevada. University of California Press.
- Grinnell, J., and A. H. Miller. 1944. The Distribution of the Birds of California. Pacific Coast Avifauna, No. 27. Cooper Ornithological Club.
- Marshall, D. B., M. G. Hunter and A. L. Contreras, Eds. 2003. Birds of Oregon: A General Reference. Oregon State University Press.
- Phillips, A. R. The Known Birds of North and Middle America, Part II. Published by the author.
- Pyle, P. 1997. Identification Guide to North American Birds. Slate Creek Press.