

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION / Dave DeSante and Ron Le Valley

The cool, windy weather that characterized the Spring season continued through June along the central coast and throughout the summer along the north coast. The effects of these winds were



even felt in the Central Valley where June temperatures averaged 4°F below normal. The winds, however, gradually diminished in July and August and the Central Valley warmed up, producing 11 days of 100°F+ temperatures (BK). A late spring snowfall in the Sierra and a cool June allowed 4-6 ft. snow drifts to remain at 7000 ft. elevations until the exceptionally late date of July 12 (JW).

LATE SPRING MIGRANTS AND VAGRANTS — During early June, especially in years characterized by a "late" spring, certain species of our regular western passerines may still be passing through our Region in small numbers. W. Wood Pewees and W.

Tanagers are most characteristic of this group. For example, W. Wood Pewees were seen along the Sacramento R., where they only doubtfully nest, as late as June 11 near Colusa (TM, et al.) and June 18 at Chico, Butte Co. (TM, JT). No fewer than seven reports of W. Tanagers were received from non-breeding stations in the Bay Area and Central Valley during the period June 1-13. A W. Kingbird at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin June 3 (VR), a Traill's Flycatcher, carefully identified at Colusa N.W.R., June 8 (TM, M. LeClerc) and a Fox Sparrow at Alton, Humboldt Co. June 6 (R. Willmorth, fide DA) were probably late transients. This late spring migration is most noticeable on S. Farallon I., as orientation data show that many of these late individuals are oriented west (DDeS). The strong NW winds mentioned above, however, allowed only a relatively small number of such birds to reach the island this June (P.R.B.O.).

It is at this same time and for this same reason that "eastern" vagrants show up in the late spring along our coast. The strong winds were again responsible for the extreme paucity of records for these birds this year as compared to other recent years. The following were on S. Farallon during the period: **2 Least Flycatchers**—1 banded June 2 and present the following day and another seen daily June 3-7, for the 2nd and 3rd spring records for the Region; **2 Tennessee Warblers** June 3; a ♀ **Cape May Warbler** June 30–July 2 for the first spring record for the State; an **Ovenbird** June 11; a second year ♂ **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** June 3; a ♀ **Dickcissel** June 3 for the 2nd spring record for the Region; and **2 Clay-colored Sparrows**, one June 4 the other June 8-10 for the fourth and fifth spring records for the Region (P.R.B.O.). In addition, a large, very dark *Chaetura* sp. swift, observed flying around the lighthouse on S. Farallon June 3 was most probably a Chimney Swift (P.R.B.O.). A substantiated record of this species for our Region, however, is lacking. The following "eastern" species were found in other regions: a Black-and-white Warbler on Mt. Diablo May 13 (V&BDaC); a singing ♂ **Magnolia Warbler** at the RCA Station, Pt. Reyes, June 6 (JW, RLeV, et al.); a breeding-plumaged ♂ **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at Rodeo Lagoon, July 1 (A. Mericourt, VH, ABu, WMP); a **Palm Warbler** on Pt. Reyes June 19 (ABu, M. San Miguel, S. Suffel & B. Broadbrooks); and a second year ♂ **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** captured at Palomarin Ranch, Bolinas July 21 (P.R.B.O.). This last date is very late for a spring vagrant in our Region but a heavy accumulation of fat indicated it was not a summering bird.

NESTING AND UP-MOUNTAIN DRIFT IN THE SIERRA — The late spring in the Sierra caused montane species to nest later and at lower elevations than last year. Hermit and Nashville Warblers, for example, were very scarce at 6500-7000 ft. in the Duncan Peak/Robinson Flat area of Placer Co., where they were exceptionally common last year (DDeS). Oregon Juncos were observed building

nests as late as June 28 at Robinson Flat this year while young were fledged on June 24 last year (JW). The up-mountain drift of Orange-crowned and Nashville Warblers there, quite evident on July 10 of last year, did not begin until July 16 this year and was still meager by Aug. 1 (DDeS). First brood juvenile Audubon's Warblers were fledging there July 15–Aug. 1 this year while first brood Audubon's had completed their prebasic molt by Aug. 1, and presumably second brood birds were fledging at this date last year (DDeS).

The up-mountain movement of hummingbirds was well documented. The first Anna's appeared at Duncan Peak at 7182 ft. June 20. This bird, an ad. ♂, apparently had been there previously as it knew the location of the feeders before they were put up (JW). Numbers of Anna's were present at Perego Meadows at 7200 ft., Yosemite Nat'l Park, July 25 (TS), at Hume L. at 5500 ft., Fresno Co. Aug. 2–6 (DE, LS) and reached maximum numbers at Duncan Peak during the first two weeks of August (JW). The first ad. ♂ Rufous Hummingbird appeared at Duncan Peak June 30 and *Selasphorus* sp. hummers peaked there in mid-August (JW). Most observers in the Sierra this summer thought ♂ Rufous Hummers to be down in numbers, a fact that correlates with last Spring's scarcity. A ♀ or imm. Black-chinned Hummingbird was carefully identified by voice and plumage at Duncan Peak July 22 and represents the first Sierran record above the foothill belt (JW). Other examples of up-mountain drift in the Sierra include a Say's Phoebe at Duncan Peak July 10 (RS, fide JW) and a W. Flycatcher at nearby Robinson Flat Aug. 15 (JW)—both species were found at the exact same places last year indicating a certain predictability of this movement; a Cañon Wren at Duncan Peak July 12, and a Rufous-sided Towhee there Aug. 15 (JW); numbers of Lesser Goldfinches at Hume L. Aug. 2–6 (DE, LS) and 2 at Perego Meadows July 25 (TS); and a ♀ Bullock's Oriole and a ♂ Lazuli Bunting at Perego July 25 (TS).

EARLY FALL PASSERINE MIGRATION—Swallows were well under way in fall passage during the last half of July and individual Cliff and Barn Swallows reached S. Farallon July 31–Aug. 15 (P.R.B.O.). Orioles, both Hooded and Bullock's, were everywhere in Palo Alto the last week of July and the first week of August (DDeS) and reports from the Sacramento Valley for both of these species included, "Orioles and orioles. Chicken-sized drinking bottles for syrup needed." (fide BK). The late nesting season for more montane species was responsible for the virtual absence of these species as migrants in the Central Valley and on the coast. The only early fall W. Tanager reports were all ♂♂: 1 in San Rafael July 19 (WMP), 2 along the river in Sacramento July 26 (TM) and 1 in Chico Aug. 5 (LT). The first Wilson's and Yellow Warblers and W. Flycatchers did not appear in Chico until Aug. 10–12 (LT). In the mountains, apparent migratory movements coupled

with heavy up-mountain drift were noticeable Aug. 6 at Hume L. (DE, LS), Aug. 9 at Robinson Flat (JW) and Aug. 9–13 at Buck's L., Plumas Co. (RS, TM). In spite of the lateness of the Sierran birds, the first Townsend's Warblers were reported from Robinson Flat Aug. 9 (JW) and from above Buck's L., Plumas Co. Aug. 12 (RS). These are the earliest known fall records for the state.

LOONS, GREBES—Small numbers of all three Loons were reported throughout the summer with numbers beginning to increase in early Aug. as is normal. A Red-necked Grebe in breeding plumage at Bodega Bay, Aug. 10, was a month earlier than any past record (ABU, WMP). Eared Grebes were reported with up to 14 young in the Woodland Sugar Ponds, Yolo Co. throughout July (B&RL, BK, TM, RLeV). W. Grebes were reported summing from scattered locations with a maximum of 25 in Monterey Bay (AB). Fifty at the mouth of the Pajaro R., Monterey Co. Aug. 12 (J&RW) and 200 just s. of Crescent City Aug. 5 (RLeV) were the first fall migrants reported.

ALBATROSSES, SHEARWATERS, PETRELS—Black-footed Albatross were reported in good numbers all summer with a maximum of 130! around a fishing boat s. of Carmel July 25 (AB). Concentrations like this are normally only reported from the n. part of the Region. Two reports of Fulmars, rare but reported every summer, were 4 in Monterey Bay July 23 (AB) and 1 off Crescent City Aug. 10 (RLeV). Large numbers of Sooty Shearwaters, as expected, were present off the Central California coast all summer. Pink-footed Shearwaters were reported in small numbers along with the Sooties, which is also normal. Single Fork-tailed Petrels were reported off Pacific Grove July 18 (DE, ST) and July 24 (AB) and off Crescent City Aug. 10 (RLeV). A Leach's Petrel found dead on the beach in s. Del Norte Co. Aug. 2 (TS) was probably from one of the many breeding colonies from the offshore rocks of that region. Three Ashy and 1 early Black Petrels were seen off Point Pinos July 18 (DE, ST) and another Ashy was in Monterey Bay July 23 (AB).

PELICANS, CORMORANTS—Most encouraging were the many reports of Brown Pelicans that emphasized large numbers of imm. birds (most estimates running up to 50 per cent) along the entire coast of our Region. At least 2 young Double-crested Cormorants were seen Aug. 14 in the Yolo By-pass in the Central Valley, where they are uncommon as breeding birds (B&RL) and five imm. were reported from Ano Nuevo Pt. in San Mateo Co. July 31 (TC). Pelagic Cormorants were seen carrying nesting material to an unused cannery along Monterey's Cannery Row June 29 (AB). It would be unusual for seabirds to nest on the mainland.

HERONS, EGRETS, IBIS—All heron and egret species in the Region were reported to have had a very successful season in most heronries. The largest heronry in Humboldt Co., with 46 Great Blue Heron nests, 155 Com. Egret nests and 50

Black-crowned Night Heron nests averaged close to 2 birds fledged per nest for all three species (fide RLeV). At a low tide 800 egrets were counted near the large heronry on West Marin I., of which at least two-thirds were thought to be Snowy Egrets, the largest number the observer has ever seen (ABu). The same observer reports that Black-crowned Night Herons as well as the egrets may be increasing. Great Blue Herons (49 pairs), Black-crowned Night Herons (563 pairs) and Snowy Egrets (240 pairs) "brought off exceptionally good broods on the South Bay Bair I. colony this year" (BGE). The same observer reports the number of night herons to be up over one-third from last summer. Green Herons were reported as more common along the American R. than in previous years (BK). They were also found in many localities near the coast in Del Norte and Humboldt Cos. The Yellow-crowned Night Heron, reported to have returned to San Rafael during the last period, was again seen throughout its fourth summer (ABu, HP). The **White Ibis**, discovered during the spring at Bolinas Lagoon, was found to be roosting on West Marin I. June 27 (HP) and was occasionally seen in some nearby ponds near San Rafael until at least Aug. 10 (ABu, WMP, DE).

GEESE, DUCKS—Black Brant were again reported this summer, with 3 at Ano Nuevo Pt. June 26 (MZ), 2 there July 4 (RLB, fide AB), 3 heading s. July 18 off the Pajaro R. mouth, and 10 more following them on Aug. 16 in the same locality (J&RW). A flock of 50 White-fronted Geese flying over Livermore towards San Francisco Bay Aug. 7 (BGE) and a single bird June 2 at San Luis N.W.R. (GS) were unusual dates for this species.

Mallards and Gadwalls were both reported as nesting successfully in the Bay Area with Mallard production in the South Bay Marshes up 25 per cent over last year (BGE). Pintails were seen returning on time July 27 and building up to 3000 by Aug. 10 at Volta State Wildlife Area (ROW). The only Blue-winged Teal reported was one ♂ at Volta W. A. June 6 (ROW). A Bufflehead at Coyote Hills Regional Park June 22 (ABu, WMP) was very much out of season. Harlequin Ducks again summered at Ano Nuevo Pt. (TC, MZ, et al.). A pair of Com. Scoters just s. of Crescent City Aug. 10 were early (RLeV). Eleven ♀-plumaged Com. Mergansers at Calaveras Reservoir July 13 (DE, ST) were probably young, since they apparently nested there this year (DDeS). Red-breasted Mergansers were reported in June and July from Ano Nuevo Pt. (TC, MZ).

RAPTORS, GROUSE, RAILS—White-tailed Kites continue to increase in numbers, especially in the n. Sacramento Valley; one observer reported kites utilizing all suitable habitat in the Oroville area with 40 adults and 21 young in the Oroville Christmas Bird Count Area (RW). Two Goshawks were reported in late July, both from the c. Sierra Nevada (JW, TC). The only other Accipiter report

was of 2 separate Cooper's Hawks, in the lower elevations of the Sierra Nevada (DE). Swainson's Hawks continue to be reported from the Central Valley where one observer reported them to be as likely to be seen as Red-tailed Hawks, in mid-summer both n. or s. of Sacramento (TM). Four Golden Eagle reports were scattered throughout the Region. The only Bald Eagle reported was at McArthur-Burney Falls State Park, Shasta Co. June 3, where they were reported nesting last summer (TM). Ospreys seem to be holding their own n. of San Francisco where they are still to be found regularly at the larger bays and rivers. Only two reports of Prairie Falcons were received, a single bird from the Cascades (TS) and two successful nests from the Coast Range (fide RLB). Two Peregrine Falcon sightings, one from Santa Cruz Co. Aug. 8 (fide BE) and one from Humboldt Co. in early June (fide DA) were the only ones reported.

Blue Grouse were reported from two different Sierran locations, a courting pair at Glacier Point, Yosemite, June 26 (RAR), and ♀ with young near Echo Summit, El Dorado Co. July 25 (WMP). Clapper Rail populations were intensively surveyed in the South Bay Area with a resulting average density of 1 bird per 1.17 acres over 154 acres (BGE). This is very encouraging considering the reduction in habitat to which these birds are subjected.

SHOREBIRDS—Snowy Plovers were reported nesting successfully where dune buggy traffic is not heavy, such as at the Salt Works at Moss Landing (AB) and near the Dumbarton Bridge (DDeS). Two Surfbirds that returned to Pacific Grove by July 19 were the only ones reported (AB). One or two Ruddy Turnstones were reported from scattered locations throughout the summer as is usual (TC, J&RW, P.R.B.O., WMP). Seventy-five Black Turnstones at Ano Nuevo Pt. July 31 (TC) were probably composed of both early migrants and summering birds. The first ones to return to Pacific Grove were 2 adults July 13 (AB). The first Long-billed Curlews in the Central Valley were seen June 10 at San Luis N.W.R.; by July 14 their numbers had reached 400 (GS). On the coast the first to return were 7 at Bolinas Lagoon July 15 (ABu, WMP). Whimbrels were present throughout the period at the Pajaro R. mouth, with the maximum of 38 July 9 (J&RW). After Spotted Sandpipers were found breeding in Monterey Co. last year (Burleigh, Calif. Birds, Vol. 1, No. 3), they were reported breeding from another locality in Monterey Co. (fide AB), at the n. end of San Francisco Bay (ABu, WMP) and at East Bay reservoirs (BGE). Wandering Tattlers returned to Pacific Grove by July 10 (AB) and to S. Farallon by July 25 (P.R.B.O.). Willets were reported from the Central Valley, where they are uncommon, with 12 July 7 at Los Banos W.A. (ROW) and 2 at the Davis Sewage Ponds, Yolo Co. Aug. 14 (B&RL). No Lesser Yellowlegs were seen at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin where they have

been regular in summer (DDeS) but one at Centerville Beach Aug. 14, (DA) was probably an early migrant. Two Knots, well described from the Davis Sewage Ponds Aug. 8 (B&RL), represent one of the few inland fall records. Along the coast they followed normal patterns: one or two summering birds with increasing numbers beginning in early August. An early Pectoral Sandpiper was at Bolinas Lagoon Aug. 13 (P.R.B.O.). Three Baird's Sandpipers at Bodega Bay Aug. 10 were early migrants (WMP). A Dunlin in breeding plumage at the n. end of Humboldt Bay Aug. 14 was very early, but the species probably regularly occurs early in small numbers (RLeV). Stilt Sandpipers were reported from three localities, 1 at Bolinas Lagoon July 7-July 13 (P.R.B.O.), 2 at Volta Pond near Volta State W.A. Aug. 1 (JG), and 1 at the mouth of the Carmel R. in early August (AW). These are early reports of a seldom-reported species for the Region. A Marbled Godwit on S. Farallon July 25 (P.R.B.O.) and 2 Sanderlings there July 28 are uncommon on the island (P.R.B.O.). Am. Avocets were reported from the regular places with 600+ June 27 at Los Banos W.A. (ROW) being the largest concentration.

Phalaropes continued to make news this summer. A Red Phalarope in breeding plumage was well described from the Yolo By-pass July 31-Aug. 3 (B&RL, TM, RS). Except for flight years this is an extremely rare bird inland. Early reports of fall migrants were 4 or 5 July 18 off Pt. Reyes (ST, DE); **100,000 Red Phalaropes** off Pt. St. George Aug. 10 Del Norte Co. were probably regular migrants (RLeV). Phalarope numbers at the Dumbarton Bridge were considered down a bit although a few thousand of both Wilson's and Northern were present in the latter part of the period (DDeS).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMER — Pomarine Jaegers were recorded, with 1 July 11 at the Pajaro R. mouth (J&RW), 1 off Crescent City Aug. 10 (RLeV) and 3 off Pacific Grove Aug. 12 (AB). Two Parasitic Jaegers were seen July 23 at the Pajaro R. mouth (J&RW) and 3 were seen off Pacific Grove July 24 (AB). W. Gulls again showed the ingenuity of the species by the successful fledging of at least 1 bird from three nests on boats in Monterey harbor (AB). A few Bonaparte's Gulls summered in the Region, as is normal. The first big influx of Heermann's Gulls was of 46 June 10 at Pacific Grove (AB); they then increased to common status along the entire coast of the Region. Very few Black-legged Kittiwakes summered in the Monterey area (AB) but at least 50 were in the harbor at Crescent City by Aug. 15 (RLeV). Two Sabine's Gulls off Crescent City Aug. 10 were the first migrants (RLeV). All of the terns followed normal patterns in the Region except for the Least Tern which was only reported by one observer (ABu) and a **Royal Tern**, the first in this region in many years, which was seen near San Gregorio Beach, San Mateo Co., July 22 (RS). An adult **Black Skimmer** at Bodega

Bay July 24, which was occasionally seen to skim, constitutes the first record for the Region (MR, et al.).

ALCIDS — Pigeon Guillemots were reported to have done well at coastal breeding localities as well as on S. Farallon (AB, DDeS, P.R.B.O.). Marbled Murrelets were very common off the n. coast of the Region (RLeV). One observer (MK) reported that they were so numerous at Prairie Creek Park, where they were heard every evening between June 24 and July 30, that their cries would almost stop the campfire programs! One imm. was caught by hand by a Ranger at Portola State Park (San Mateo Co.) June 27, held overnight and released the next morning when it was able to fly (fide VA). The only Xantus' Murrelet was 1 seen on the early date of July 18, 3 miles off Pt. Pinos (ST, DE). An Ancient Murrelet, always rare in summer, was seen off Pt. Pinos July 23 (AB). Early reports show no visible signs of successful nesting of the Tufted Puffins on S. Farallon this year (P.R.B.O.) although further n. at Castle Rock, Del Norte Co., at least 25 were seen near burrows with good numbers seen carrying fish Aug. 15 (RLeV).

PIGEONS, CUCKOOS, OWLS — Band-tailed Pigeons, mentioned as increasing in the Bay Area in the Spring Report, continued to increase. A flock of 500+ in Foothills Park, Palo Alto, Aug. 11 seemed large (DDeS), but was completely dwarfed by a flock of **20,000+** in the San Lorenzo R. valley, Santa Cruz Co. during late July and early Aug. (BGE). This huge concentration began to disperse into several smaller groups in mid-August. Calif. State Fish and Game representatives assure us that this is the largest concentration of "wild" pigeons in this area in well over a decade. Vagrants of this species continue to reach S. Farallon as evidenced by individuals on June 3, 12 & 20 and Aug. 6 (P.R.B.O.). Easily the most joyous news of the season is that the "California Cuckoo" is alive and well in the Central Valley! **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were reported from two localities: the first repeatedly heard, seen and photographed along the Sacramento R. near Chico June 16-Aug. 8 (T&AM, JT, LT, T. Rodgers) and the second well-described from near the San Joaquin R. in Hatfield Park, Merced Co. Aug. 8 (NS). These represent the first reports of this vanishing species from the Central Valley in seven years.

The number of Flammulated Owls at Big Oak Flat near Foresthill, Placer Co., continues to increase—at least 10 were heard and seen June 30 (JW). Four reports of the secretive Spotted Owl were received: the pair present during the Spring near Eastwood Campground, Muir Woods, Marin Co., was said to enter a nesting hole during the last week of May (MR); a pair bred successfully in the Placer Co. Big Trees Grove near Foresthill for the second year in a row—2 downy young were found there July 14 (K. Nilsson, fide JW) and 1 was seen July 19 (TS, RAR); 1 was heard

July 17 at China Camp, Monterey Co. (DE, ST); and 1 was seen near Camp Meeker n. of Sebastopol, Sonoma Co. Aug. 21 (RLeV). These last two are new localities for the species. In addition to the usual Yosemite birds at Perego Meadows and Crane Flat (TC, JG), a Great Gray Owl was seen at a meadow at Yuba Pass, Sierra Co. June 11 (VDAc), a new location for this local species in the Sierra. No reports of the Short-eared Owl were received this summer from either the Central Valley or the coastal marshes—perhaps a very bad omen.

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS — Vaux's Swifts were present in very good numbers in the n. coast region, particularly around Prairie Creek Park (MK). In the more marginal parts of the species' range, 2 were found near Ft. Crook, Shasta Co. June 2 (TM), 1 was seen in Yosemite, June 13 (TC), 2 were present at Alpine Dam, Marin Co. June 22 (ABu, WMP) and six or more were continually present at Buck's L. Aug. 9-13 (TM, RS). The Black Swift that nested at Light-house Pt., Santa Cruz, was seen feeding a young bird July 13 & Aug. 6 (W&VA, WMP, et al.). The young was gone a few days later. In previous years at this location, the egg would not hatch until early August and the young would not fledge until mid-September. Another nest with an egg was found at Ano Nuevo Pt. July 4-5 (RLB, V. Yaden). This species is also relatively common along the Big Sur coast, but the numbers seen during any day depend on the fog condition, since the birds usually feed above the fog (AB). This probably accounts for records of this bird in the Los Padres Nat'l Forest, where 1 was seen June 6 at China Camp (TC). Sierran observation of this species included 2 over Duncan Peak July 18 (JW), a very long distance from any known nesting location.

Black-chinned Hummingbirds are certainly more common in the Central Valley than many suspect. Sizeable breeding populations were present in the valley and lower foothills near Chico (LT), in Courtland and near Sacramento (fide BK). A pair was observed at Los Banos, Merced Co. throughout the summer, only the second record there (ROW). Four ♂♂ and several ♀♀ Costa's Hummingbirds were observed at the e. end of Del Puerto Canyon, Stanislaus Co. June 20, a large number for our Region (RAR, BR, J&S Luther). Anna's Hummingbirds continue to increase in the north coast area, apparently a rather recent range extension (RLeV, MK).

Besides the usual Sierran localities, Pileated Woodpeckers were found at the new localities of Cleary Reserve, Sonoma Co. in late May (RAR, BR) and along the e. edge of Prairie Creek Park June 17 (MK). Although Williamson's Sapsuckers are supposedly fairly common local residents throughout the n. and c. Sierra, they continue to be reported only from favored localities in Yosemite (TS, TC). In addition to the usual Perego Meadows nesting site (TS, TC), Black-

backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were found at two new locations: a ♂ at Echo Summit July 23 (S.S. Whitehead, WMP) and 1 above Wright's L. Aug. 1 (B&RL), both El Dorado Co.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was found near the RCA Station, Pt. Reyes July 20 and remained for several days (L. Goldstein, fide P.R.B.O.). Although this is only the seventh record for the Region, an individual was seen at the same location in the late summer of 1967. Post-breeding dispersal apparently carried an Ash-throated Flycatcher to Prairie Creek Park July 27 (MK) for the first record for the park. This species is notably absent from the humid n. coast. A Black Phoebe was found along the Fall R., Shasta Co. June 2, a location somewhat e. of its normal range (TM, LT). Dusky Flycatchers were found along Hull Mt. Rd., Lake Co. June 8, probably at the s. limit of their range in the n. coastal mts. (E. Pugh, B. McLean). However, at least 1 was still present at Chew's Ridge, Monterey Co. June 7 (TC). This high point of the Santa Lucia Mts., Los Padres Nat'l Forest, should be added to their normal range, since they have been found there for 3 consecutive summers. Since Spotted Owl, Flammulated Owl, Dusky Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch and possibly Cassin's Finch have all been found there during summer, it is likely that this region was ornithologically overlooked in the past rather than being an area of recent range extension. Further work is needed in these mountains. Tree Swallows showed a definite decline as a nesting species this year at Los Banos W.A., apparently as a result of Starlings usurping their nesting holes (ROW). Encouraging reports of the Purple Martin came from many diverse locations.

CORVIDS THROUGH MIMIDS — Gray Jays continue to be well reported from the n. coast area: a pair building a nest at Russ Park, Ferndale, Humboldt Co. in late May and early June (DA); about 10, including adults feeding young, were found along Caspar Creek near Ft. Bragg, Mendocino Co. in late June and early July (R. Willmuth, fide DA); and an ad. with 2 fledglings was observed in Russian Gulch Park, Mendocino Co. Aug. 15 (RAR, BR). Three Ravens were seen at Duncan Peak July 22 (JW). They are unexplainably rare in the n. Sierra. Five Clark's Nutcrackers were found about 30 miles n.n.e. of Weaverville in the Salmon-Trinity Alps Primitive Area, Trinity Co. Aug. 5-7 (DA). They are very rarely reported from this part of their breeding range. A ♂ Chestnut-backed Chickadee was found singing July 5 at the Placer Co. Big Trees (JW). This adds another location to the very spotty Sierran range of this bird. A family of House Wrens was found in a willow thicket in Los Banos W.A. June 22 (ROW), the first known nesting for that area. After two years of absence, a pair of Rock Wrens nested successfully on S. Farallon and produced three broods (P.R.B.O.). Mockingbirds

continue to disperse n.w. even in the summer. One was seen at Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, Mendocino Co. July 22 (DG) and at least 5 reached S. Farallon during June & July (P.R.B.O.).

THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS—Among the many exciting records to emanate from the Farallon Is. in recent years, probably the most spectacular is that of a second year ♂ **Wheatear** in breeding plumage collected on S. Farallon June 11 (P.R.B.O.). Although racial identification has not yet been made, it is suspected of being a representative of the Siberian-Alaskan race. Speculations on what this bird is doing in Calif. vary from a delayed migrant that wintered in S. America to a migrant that wintered in Africa and overshot e. Siberia or Alaska on a great-circle route. It is, of course, the first record for the state. Although Swainson's Thrushes were present in exceptional numbers along the coast from Stanford n. to Prairie Creek Park (DDeS, DA, MK), it is feared that the indiscriminate use by the Army of a chemical defoliant at Rodeo Lagoon caused zero nesting success of this species there (VDAc). A Mountain Bluebird at N. Trinity Mt., Humboldt Co. July 3 and 2 Townsend's Solitaires in the Salmon-Trinity Alps Primitive Area Aug. 6-7 were in rarely reported parts of their ranges (DA). A pair of Water Pipits was seen above 11,000 ft. at Saddlebag L. Aug. 11 in habitat acceptable to the species for breeding (R&DG). While there are two old summer records for the species, one each at Mt. Shasta and Mt. Lassen, there is still no evidence of breeding in the state. A report of a Cedar Waxwing feeding a young cowbird in Berkeley July 18 was most interesting (RS).

A singing ♂ Red-eyed Vireo was present in a small willow grove near the Calif. Agricultural Inspect. Station on Interstate 5, Siskiyou Co. July 31 (VH). Although no nest was found, this report ties in very well with a s. extension of its breeding range in Oregon this year (Nehls, Harry B., "Audubon Warbler," Portland Audubon Society, Aug. 1971). At least 11 pairs of Yellow Warblers were found on territory in a reseeded tract of 6 ft. young pines with no willows in sight at 5000 ft. in Placer Co. July 5—a most unusual breeding location (DDeS, DG). Two interesting reports of the Audubon's Warbler were received: a ♂ was photographed feeding a baby Robin in the nest while the parent Robins were absent June 20 (4 times) and June 29 (3 times) near Clarke's Fork of the Stanislaus R., Calaveras Co. (W. Larson, fide VH); an ad. and 3 or 4 juv. were present in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, July 28 (ABu). Although there are nesting records for the Santa Cruz Mts., this is the first breeding record for San Francisco. A warbler, having all the marks of a ♂ Mourning Warbler, was singing at Donner State Park, Nevada Co. June 11 (VDAc). Since it is possible that such characteristics could occur in MacGillivray's Warbler, it is

advisable to forego positive identification of this species unless an individual can be examined in the hand.

FINCHES—The Blue Grosbeak continues to be a common and widespread breeding species in the Central Valley in proper habitat. Manolis states that "the habitat it prefers—brushy second-growth riparian—is not endangered as has been suggested, but has rather increased in past years with the destruction of old-growth riparian." At least 10 breeding locations were itemized in the Sacramento Valley (TM, BK) and 15-20 more were found along the San Joaquin R. near Vernalis, San Joaquin Co. (RAR, BR). Evening Grosbeaks were considered more common in the n. Sierra this summer than in most past years (DDeS, JW, BK). Continuing the trend begun last fall, Purple Finches were very numerous in the Bay Area and apparently had good nesting success (VDAc). They were also very common at the Placer Co. Big Trees Grove at 5000 ft. (JW) and one was present at Robinson Flat at 6700 ft. July 17-18 (DDeS). Besides the usual Yosemite location for Pine Grosbeaks, 1 was seen June 20 at Goose L., 5 were present throughout the summer at Wright's L., El Dorado Co., and a ♂ was seen on Donner Grade, Nevada Co. in late July (BK, RS). This species is very local in the n. Sierra. In contrast to the grosbeaks, Red Crossbills were very scarce this year in the n. Sierra, the only ones reported being 2 at Duncan Peak July 29 (JW). However, Baldridge reports that they remained on the Monterey Peninsula during the summer and may have bred, although evidence is lacking. Three Red Crossbills in a Knobcone Pine forest at U.C. Santa Cruz July 20 included a juv. and indicates that they may indeed have bred at this coastal location (RG). Two singing ♂ Grasshopper Sparrows in grasslands at the e. end of Del Puerto Canyon, Stanislaus Co. June 19 represent a possible new breeding location for this local species (J&S Luther, RAR, BR).

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