

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION / Dave DeSante and Van Remsen

The hot, exceptionally dry weather of the spring season continued through the summer along the Central and Southern Coast and throughout the interior of the Region. A record amount of irrigation water was



pumped in the Central Valley (C.V.), and most natural ponds and streams in the lowlands were dry. June and July temperatures in Sacramento were 3.4 and 3.1° F. above average (BK), and record-breaking heat waves in late June and mid-July sent the mercury skyrocketing to above 110°, not only in the C.V. but also locally in the Bay Area. The situation along the north coastal areas, however, was nearly the opposite: cool to average temperatures were the rule and exceptionally cloudy skies prevailed (MK).

LATE SPRING MIGRANTS AND VAGRANTS

— The late spring migration that normally extends into early June was practically non-existent this year. A nighthawk (sp.) June 12 in Golden Gate Park (LCB), a Traill's Flycatcher June 4 in Sacramento (BK), a very few W. Wood Pewees, a W. Tanager June 3 at Lafayette, Contra Costa Co., and a Golden-crowned Sparrow heard there June 5 (LF) made up the total. However, it was a good spring for vagrants, if not outstanding for quantity then certainly outstanding for quality. A **Chimney Swift** was present June 11 at Asilomar Beach, Monterey Co. (RS, GM). Although no specimen of this species exists for our Region, the excellent details submitted permit us to accept this as a first Regional record. *Four* E. Kingbirds were found as follows: June 4, 2 mi. s. of Aptos, Santa Cruz Co. (*vide* RS); June 7, one photographed at Gold Bluff Beach, Prairie Creek

Park, Humboldt Co. (*vide* MK); June 25, 3 mi. s. of McClure's Beach, Pt. Reyes (WBG); and July 1, e. of Soledad, Monterey Co. (*vide* VA). There are only 6 previous spring records w. of the Sierra in our Region. S. Farallon boasted the following "eastern" warblers: 2 Black-and-white Warblers June 4 and another June 8; a ♂ **Golden-winged Warbler** July 5, the second record for the Region; a ♂ **Cape May Warbler** June 8-9, the second spring record for the Region; 3 ♂♂ **Magnolia Warblers** June 8; a ♀ **Myrtle Warbler** June 8-9; a ♂ **Chestnut-sided Warbler** June 1-3, the eighth spring record for the Region; at least one **Ovenbird** in July; a ♂ **Kentucky Warbler** July 3, the second Regional record; and a ♀ **Am. Redstart** June 8 and another in July (P.R.B.O.). Several "eastern" warblers on the mainland deserve comment. A ♀ **Parula Warbler** at Timber Hill near Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co. July 4 and a ♂ at the same spot July 12 (GB) could have been very late migrants; however, a ♂ at Waddell Creek, Santa Cruz Co. July 25 could have been a summering bird, as it was in a dense riparian area heavily festooned with lichen (BE). That "eastern" warblers occasionally summer in California seems to be the only explanation for a breeding plumaged ♂ **Blackburnian Warbler** found 4 mi. s.w. of Buck's L., Plumas Co. Aug. 6 (RS). The bird was at an edge in a forest composed of 80 per cent red fir and was associating with a loose band of typical western montane warblers. Even when "eastern" warblers summer in the state, the probability of them finding a mate and successfully breeding is extremely low. However, it was not too low for the **Parula Warblers** at Pt. Lobos in 1953, nor was it too low for the pair of **American Redstarts** whose nest was discovered July 22 near Arcata, Humboldt Co. (LCB, RS), the first nesting record for California. Apparently the ♂ of this pair was present at this exact spot during June of 1969 and 1970 (spot not checked in 1971) and was first seen this year on June 1 (DE). Details will be published elsewhere. A ♀ **Orchard Oriole** was present in Tilden Park, Berkeley, June 19-25 (RS, GH *et al.*), although there are many winter records extending into spring, this may be the first spring vagrant for our Region. The first Regional spring records of the **Scarlet Tanager** were obtained this year: an after second-year ♂ in Palo Alto, Santa Clara Co. May 24 (TL) and a second-year ♂ on S. Farallon June 1 (P.R.B.O.). The first Regional record was last fall. A ♀ **Summer Tanager** was at Pacific Grove, Monterey Co. June 14 (RS), and a ♀ **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at Fairhaven, Humboldt Co. June 5 (DE, DA), the first county record since 1897. Finally, 3 **Indigo Buntings** were reported: one singing ♂ June 3-4 13 mi. n. of Clear L., Lake Co. (TM, BW), a ♂ on S. Farallon June 7-10 (P.R.B.O.), and a breeding-plumaged ♂ in Salmon Creek Canyon, Sonoma Co., Aug. 9 (LWG)—probably a summering bird.

INTERIOR BIRDS NEAR THE COAST — As previewed in the spring report, exceptional numbers of landbirds characteristic of the warm, dry interior of our Region nested successfully near the coast. Poor-wills were found on the San Francisco peninsula along both the e. (DDeS) and w. slopes (VA) of the Santa Cruz Mts., where they are quite uncommon. Black-chinned Hummingbirds were found to be rather common in the

upper Carmel Valley-Arroyo Seco area of Monterey Co., somewhat w. of their normal range (BE). A **Lewis' Woodpecker** July 23 near Cloverdale (BMcL) and a ♂ **Phainopepla** at Camp Meeker in early May (*vide* LWG), both Sonoma Co., were unusually close to the coast. Western Kingbirds were fairly common along the Sonoma Co. coast (BMcL), while the pair of Cassin's Kingbirds that nested near Palomarin Ranch, Bolinas, Marin Co., was seen in mid-June with one recently fledged young (P.R.B.O.), the first coastal nesting of this species in our Region. Black-throated Gray Warblers were found to be more numerous in Marin Co. this summer than in any year in at least the past 12: 20 singing ♂♂ were present at L. Lagunitas June 1 (WMP).

Lawrence's Goldfinches were common along the entire coast from at least Marin Co. southward, and were in exceptional numbers throughout the Bay Area and in Napa and Sonoma Cos. A nest was found near the Bear Valley Hq. Pt. Reyes Nat'l Seashore, the first documented Pt. Reyes breeding record (*vide* P.R.B.O.). Interestingly, a colony of Grasshopper Sparrows in the interior Santa Clara Valley disappeared by mid-June (BE) while the coastal Palomarin colony did not begin to sing until after June 1 (P.R.B.O.). Careful scrutiny of the newly established colony of Black-chinned Sparrows at Palomarin by P.R.B.O. produced 6 territorial ♂♂ and, on July 5, a nest with 4 2-day-old young. Another singing ♂ was found at the Laguna Ranch, Pt. Reyes, on June 4 (AP); these are the first Marin Co. nesting records. That such an amazing coastal invasion by interior birds should occur in one of the driest years in history in our Region is certainly no coincidence but simply testifies to the remarkable dispersal ability of our landbirds.

LANDBIRDS IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY — The most thorough coverage that the Sacramento Valley has ever received during a summer period has produced such a wealth of new knowledge about the bird-life there that a special paragraph is deserving.

—S.A.—

Despite the skepticism initially offered him, David A. Gaines undertook a Yellow-billed Cuckoo census of the C.V. and, with the help of Bruce Webb and Tim Manolis, discovered at least 25 individuals at 13 locations along the Sacramento R. between Red Bluff, Tehama Co., and Colusa, all between July 6 and Aug. 10. At least 5 other individuals were found at three additional locations near Chico, Butte Co. June 18-July 30 (BW, TM). All 30 of these birds were found in the immediate vicinity of water in dense mature riparian growth that extended at least 100 m. from the stream bank. The n. Sacramento Valley may be the only area in our Region where such extensive mature riparian growth still exists, and outside this area only 2 cuckoos were found: one near Nicolaus on the Feather R., Sutter Co. July 11 and one at the confluence of the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers July 16 (DAG).

Common Nighthawk was found to be the breeding nighthawk along the Sacramento R. between Red Bluff and Redding and along the Sacramento foothills and e.

edge of the valley s. at least to Oroville, Butte Co. (DAG, TM, BW). However a pair, and later a group of 10 Lesser Nighthawks were found on a gravel bar 1 mi. s. of the Ord Ferry Bridge, Butte Co. (DAG, BW). It was thought that this species may be restricted to the immediate vicinity of river gravel bars at this northern extremity of its range.

A pair of Hairy Woodpeckers was along the Sacramento R. at Red Bluff (DAG) and another pair was found along the river at Murphy's Slough, Butte Co. (DAG, BW). Western Wood Pewees were found to be common breeders in the dense riparian growth along the Sacramento R. from Colusa north (DAG, TM *et al.*) and along Putah Creek below Monticello Dam, Solano Co. (JT). Neither of these 2 species are mentioned in Grinnell and Miller, 1944, *The Distribution of the Birds of California* as breeding in the C.V.; both species, however, are known to breed in similar habitat near the coast such as Searsville L., Stanford (DDeS). In direct contrast, however, are Yellow Warblers and Yellowthroats, two species mentioned by G & M to be common breeders in the C.V. The Yellowthroat appears to be at best a very sparse and local breeder in the C.V.; individuals were found only near the Sacramento R. between Princeton, Colusa Co. (DDeS) and Chico (TM), along the Consummes R., Sacramento Co. and along Cache Creek, Yolo Co. (DAG). The Yellow Warbler has become even scarcer: 2 singing ♂♂ along the Sacramento R. at Ord Ferry Bridge (DDeS, TM) may be the first likely breeding individuals for the C.V. in at least 7 years. Perhaps the same factors that cause the extirpation of the Bell's Vireo from the C.V. are responsible for the decline of these species (cowbirds?).

Bank Swallows were found to be quite common along the northern Sacramento R. where at least 3 new colonies were discovered between the Ord Ferry Bridge and Butte City (DAG, DDeS). Common Ravens are apparently regular along the w. side of the Sacramento Valley, but absent from the e. side and Sierran foothills (TM). Apparently the more arid, less agricultural w. side is to their liking. Common Crows continue to increase in the Los Banos area of the San Joaquin Valley (ROW). They may find increased agricultural use of the C.V. suits them well. Wrentits were found to be strangely absent from the riparian thickets in the n. part of the Sacramento Valley but often found in the s. part and in the Delta (TM).

NESTING AND UP-MOUNTAIN DRIFT IN THE SIERRA — The extremely dry, warm, very early spring produced a summer advanced by 2-4 weeks (MM, SS). In the lowlands many annual plants did not even germinate (RLv) while in the high country wildflowers were present in reduced numbers and peaked as early as late June (DAG, DDeS). By late July, many montane meadows were brown and parched. The effect on the Sierran birdlife was a very early breeding season, with birds leaving their territories much earlier than usual (MM) and a general shift of breeding areas to higher elevations, especially among warblers (DDeS). Oregon Junco, a good indicator species, had young in several nests at Yuba Pass, Sierra Co. at 6700 ft., as early as June 17 (AP). The up-mountain drift of Orange-crowned and Nashville Warblers was in full swing in the Tahoe Nat'l

Forest as early as July 1 (DDeS). Many Upper Sonoran and Transition areas of Yosemite that abounded with birdlife in May were nearly deserted by mid-June (BE).

Even more outstanding than the early season, however, was the number of lowland species that held territories and even successfully bred at higher elevations than usual. In the Tahoe Nat'l Forest July 1, Downy Woodpeckers were found to be fairly common well into the Canadian zone at 5400 ft., Wrentits and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were found on territory in tracts of re-seeded pines and montane chaparral to 4300 ft., and Yellow Warbler was the commonest breeding warbler in all open and semi-open habitats up to 5500 ft. (DDeS, RS). Lazuli Buntings were present in the Sierra in unprecedented numbers. A singing ♂ was at Crane Flat, Yosemite, at 6200 ft., June 8 (LCB), and 8 were there, paired and singing July 18 (MM); while they were still present Aug. 19, there was no positive evidence of breeding (MM). Elsewhere, 5 were at Hennes Ridge July 30, a pair was at Badger Pass July 31, and one was at Peregory Meadows July 30 and Aug. 12—all Yosemite and all 5500-7200 ft. (TS, TC, DE *et al.*). Lesser Goldfinches were common in moist situations throughout the Sierra, and small groups were frequent between 7000-9000 ft. (MM, DE). Adults were feeding young at Hume L., Fresno Co. at 5500 ft., July 31-Aug. 5 (DE). At the same place, 2 ♂♂ and 1 ♀ Lawrence's Goldfinches were observed feeding young Aug. 1-4 (DE), perhaps the highest nesting record for the Sierra.

As would be expected in such a year, the quantity of the post-breeding up-mountain drift was greater than usual. Both Anna's and *Selasphorus* (sp.) hummingbirds arrived early and in exceptional numbers in the Sierra and peaked there in late July and early August, roughly the same time that they peaked in the n. Sacramento Valley (MM, TS, LT). An ad. ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird was at Hennes Ridge July 30 (TS, TC) and an imm. ♂ was at Buck's L. Aug. 6 (GH); there is only one previous montane record. A Pileated Woodpecker at 9500 ft. along Duzy Creek, Kings Canyon Nat'l Park June 21 (DAG) was 2000 feet above the previous altitude record. Orange-crowned Warblers and House Wrens were commoner than ever before and both were found to 10,000 ft. in Yosemite (MM). A W. Kingbird and a Black-headed Grosbeak at Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite, at 8500 ft. July 18 (MM), 15 Com. Bushtits at Hume L. July 31 (DE) and 28 more at 7100 ft. in Yosemite Aug. 21 (MM), a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Wright's L., 7000 ft., El Dorado Co., June 24 (B&RL), a W. Meadowlark at Peregory July 30 (TS, TC) and 10 House Finches at Hume L. Aug. 1-4 and another at Peregory Aug. 12 (DE) were all considered noteworthy. However 10 Brown Towhees at Hume L. Aug. 1-4 (DE) and 2 at 6200 ft. in El Dorado Nat'l Forest Aug. 6 (ST) were most interesting, since the Brown Towhee is considered to be one of the most sedentary of all our birds.

EARLY FALL MIGRATION — The fall migration of most of our nesting landbirds began earlier than usual following a very early breeding season. Adults of many species simply disappeared from their nesting grounds in the Bay Area after mid-June, while juvenile Orange-crowned Warblers had dispersed into non-breeding areas, such as Searsville L., as early as May 20 (DDeS).

Orioles moved through the Region earlier and in smaller numbers than last year, peaking in the Bay Area between mid- and late July (ABu, P.R.B.O., *et al.*). Noteworthy migrants near the coast included a W. Tanager July 7 at San Rafael (WMP), a Hermit Warbler near Bodega in July (BMCL), and W. Wood Pewees Aug. 2 and Townsend's Warbler Aug. 10 at Lafayette (LF). Some very early arrivals in the C.V. included an Orange-crowned Warbler June 25 & July 6 near Chico (RS, TM, DAG), a MacGillivray's Warbler July 8 at the Ord Ferry Bridge (DAG), a W. Flycatcher July 15 at Colusa (DDeS) and July 20 at Los Banos Refuge, Merced Co. (ROW), W. Tanagers July 16 (BRL, DAG) and Yellow Warblers July 18 (DAG) along the Sacramento R., Black-throated Gray Warbler July 18 at Sacramento (*vide* BK), and Nashville Warbler July 21 near Red Bluff (DAG). By Aug. 1 migration in the C.V. was in full swing, more than two weeks earlier than last year (TM, DAG, BK). In marked contrast to the last two years, we may be in for a major invasion of Red-breasted Nuthatches: several were present at East Lawn Cemetery, Sacramento, after July 10 (BK), and one was banded on S. Farallon July 30 (P.R.B.O.).

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — More than the usual number of summering loons were reported along the coast: 35 Commons, 14 Arctics, and 9 Red-throats. Thousands of loons, presumably Arctics, were observed flying north past Pt. Reyes June 3-4 (AP); this early June movement of Arctics has been noted in several previous years. An extremely late or summering breeding-plumaged Horned Grebe was in Bodega Bay June 5 (WMP). Only one large flock of summering W. Grebes was reported: 150 off the Russian R. mouth, Sonoma Co., July 13 (PAB). Normal numbers of Black-footed Albatrosses were reported from Monterey Bay: 9 on June 12 (BE), 13 on July 19 (AB), and from shore at Pt. Pinos, 14 on July 8 and 6 on July 9 (PAB). Exceptional numbers of Fulmars summered on Monterey Bay: 22 were seen on July 19 (AB) and 9 on July 30 (JRW). Normal numbers of both Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters were reported. Four New Zealand Shearwaters in Monterey Bay Aug. 13 were early (J & RW). A Fork-tailed Petrel was reported from San Francisco Bay Aug. 10 (ST); normally this species is found inside the bay only after major coastal storms, yet mild weather prevailed prior to this record. About 5 pairs of Ashy Petrels were discovered nesting on Bird Rock, Tomales Pt., Marin Co. (P.R.B.O.—details to be published elsewhere); this is apparently the farthest north and the only non-offshore island breeding record for California. Two Ashy Petrels were seen from shore in rough seas at Bodega Head, Sonoma Co., Aug. 1 (BMCL).

The large numbers of first-year Brown Pelicans reported from Monterey to Bodega Bay (AB, DDeS *et al.*) indicated a successful breeding season to the south. The largest concentration reported was 862 at the Pajaro R. mouth, Monterey Co. July 30, with 50 per cent ads., 11 per cent second year and 39 per cent first year birds (J & RW). Immatures outnumbered ads. by more than 2 to 1 at several other coastal locations (DDeS, GH, PM). However, the numbers of both ads. and imms. were much lower than normal at the Farallon Is. (P.R.B.O.). Unusually large feeding concentrations of

Brandt's Cormorants were observed in Monterey Bay, with as many as 1500 in one flock (AB), while offshore censuses in Santa Cruz and San Mateo Cos. yielded more than 3 times as many Brandt's Cormorants this year as in 1971 (BE); whether this represents a true population increase or just localized heavy concentrations is uncertain.

There were seven reports of probably 6 different **Magnificent Frigatebirds**: one at Moss Landing July 15 (*vide* AB); one at Alameda, S.F. Bay, Aug. 5 (Steve Whitney); one photographed while moving n. at about 15 mph from Davenport, Santa Cruz Co. to Pescadero, San Mateo Co. Aug. 6 (BE); one in Tomales Bay Aug. 9 (Jerry Brady); one along the Big Sur coast about Aug. 12 (*vide* TC); one photographed at Santa Cruz Aug. 12 (*vide* AB); and one at Sunset Beach St. Park, Santa Cruz Co., Aug. 13 (*vide* AB). All the birds were apparently imms., except the Tomales Bay bird — an ad. *There were only 5 records of this species in the Region prior to this summer.*

HERONS THROUGH DUCKS — Heron and egret populations were considered average or stable by most observers (C.F.G.—Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game, BE, *et al.*), although local severe dryness reduced egret numbers in the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor (DDeS). Perhaps the dryness was responsible for several egret sightings at unusual coastal localities: one Com. Egret on the Farallons in mid-July (P.R.B.O.), one at Pacific Grove July 26 (AB), 2 at the Pajaro R. mouth Aug. 14 (J & RW), and 12 Snowy Egrets at Pacific Grove July 26 (AB). A statewide heron rookery study by the C.F.G. recently made available to the editors shows a 25-40 per cent reduction in active nests of Great Blue Herons, Com. Egrets, Snowy Egrets, and Black-crowned Night Herons between 1969 and 1971 (1972 data not yet available); the cause of the decline is not understood, although wind damage to nests was the critical factor at the only closely studied rookery. A Yellow-crowned Night Heron, summering for the fifth consecutive year at San Rafael, remained until at least July 18 (ABu). Two Am. Bitterns were again reported during the summer at Pescadero (PM), the only known coastal site where breeding is likely.

An out-of-place, out-of-season Canada Goose was at the Pajaro R. mouth from July 14 through the end of the period (J & RW). Summering coastal Black Brant were reported in very small numbers from the Salinas R. mouth (*vide* AB), Moss Landing (AB), Ano Nuevo I. (AB, TC), and Bodega Bay (BMCL, LWG). One was also reported in Emeryville, S.F. Bay, July 23-Aug. 13 (AP, VH), a very unusual location. A Fulvous Tree Duck, very rare in the Sacramento Valley, was at the Woodland Sugar Ponds June 23 (GH) and July 8 (B & RL). Duck nesting at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin declined sharply this year, presumably due to dryness. The Gadwall, which utilizes drier nesting situations than other species, was the least affected: in 1971, 6 of 29 duck broods were Gadwalls, whereas in 1972, 4 of 5 broods were Gadwalls (DDeS). North-coastal breeding of the Shoveler was noted at Arcata where a ♀ with a brood was seen on July 23 (LCB). Five summering Canvasbacks were reported at Arcata July 17-22 (DE, LCB, BMCL), 2 flightless birds were at the Yolo

Bypass Aug. 11 (JT), and 2♂♂ and 2♀♀ summered at the Chico Sewage Ponds (TM). Ten to 50 summering Lesser Scaup were at Arcata July 17-22 (DE, LCB, BMcL), and a ♂ summered at Chico (TM). The only Com. Goldeneye reported was one on the American R. July 4 (*vide* BK). For the fourth consecutive summer, Harlequin Ducks were found at Ano Nuevo I.: 5 (at least 2♂♂) were seen in July (BE, AB *et al.*). A ♂ was also found at Coleman Beach, Sonoma Co. June 29 (WMP, VH). Late single Buffleheads were found at Pt. Reyes June 3 (AP) and Bodega Bay June 5 (WMP), a pair was at Arcata July 17 (DE), and an early ♀ was at Chico Aug. 13 (TM). Summering White-winged and Surf Scoters were reported from many locations along the coast in normal numbers. Five summering Red-breasted Mergansers were reported from 3 coastal locations.

HAWKS THROUGH RAILS — White-tailed Kites were in considerably lower numbers in the Merced Co. refuges than in 1971 (GS); perhaps dryness was responsible for this, as well as for the number of sightings at unusual coastal locations: one at Pt. Pinos Aug. 8-16 (AB), one at Tilden Park, Contra Costa Co., in June (BMcL), 7 along the coast in Sonoma and Mendocino Cos. July 28 (FB), and one in Arcata in late July (BMcL). Seven Goshawks were reported from 4 Sierran localities, including an ad. with 2 young near Viola, Shasta Co. July 29 (DAG). Five Sharp-shinned Hawks (2 Sierran, 2 coastal, 1 C.V.), 7 Cooper's Hawks (2 Sierra foothills, 4 coastal, 1 C.V.) and 10 Red-shouldered Hawks were normal for a summer. The only Swainson's Hawk nest (outcome unknown) reported was at San Luis N.W.R. (GS), but excellent numbers were found in the Sacramento Valley: at least 6 pairs were in the Woodland-Davis area, and 16 were counted in one field near Woodland July 22 (JT, TM). Eleven Golden Eagles, including at least 3 imms., were reported from 9 inland localities; this is more than normal for the summer, but probably reflects more thorough reporting of Blue List species. Not one Bald Eagle report was received — usually one or two are reported each summer from n. parts of the region, but coverage in this area is too spotty to make definite conclusions. Marsh Hawks were reported in normal numbers. Twenty-eight Ospreys were sighted, 21 from north-coastal areas; this is more than the normal number of reports, again reflecting more thorough reporting of Blue List birds. A nest (outcome unknown) was found at Bucks L., Plumas Co. Aug. 5 (RS, TM, GH). Two young with 2 ads. at Penny L., Russian R. July 30 (*vide* VH) was the only report of successful nesting. Only one Peregrine Falcon was reported: Alameda Co. in June (AP). Thanks only to the round-the-clock protection organized by Alan Pistorius, a Prairie Falcon nest in Alameda Co. fledged 5 young on June 6; several attempts were made to rob the nest for falconry. Only 2 other Prairie Falcons were reported.

Several Sandhill Cranes were near Alturas, Modoc Co., June 26 (WMP); this is the location of one of the few definite breeding records for Calif. as listed by G & M. A pair of Clapper Rails was found at the Salinas R. mouth July 5 for the first recent record for that locality (*vide* AB). Seven Virginia Rails (rarely reported from the Sierra) were at 8000 ft. in the El Dorado Nat'l Forest Aug. 7 (ST). Common Gallinules nested at Pt. Reyes, an unusual coastal breeding location (WBG).

SHOREBIRDS — No young Snowy Plovers were seen at the Salinas R. mouth this year, and the use of the area by "dune-buggies" was assumed responsible (AB). However, 5 times as many as in the previous 2 years were at the Pajaro R. mouth and, of 7 nests discovered, 5 fledged 14 young (J & RW). Successful nesting also occurred at the Dumbarton Bridge, S.F. Bay (BE). The first Am. Golden Plover of the fall was found at the Salinas R. mouth Aug. 14 (TC). Two Ruddy Turnstones were at Davis in the C.V. Aug. 15 the fifth fall record for the area (JT). Long-billed Curlews were at Kesterson N.W.R. throughout June; an amazing 300 on June 22 was the high count (GS). A flock of 125 in Napa Co. on June 25 was also noteworthy (WP). Early Whimbrels returned to Pacific Grove June 22 (AB), but the bulk of returning birds arrived July 15-26. A Solitary Sandpiper, a rare migrant in this Region, was at Chico Aug. 13 (TM). Over 2000 summering Willets were at Foster City, S.F. Bay, July 6 (PM). Uncommon in the C.V., this species was found at Sacramento N.W.R. (3) July 8 (TM, DAG, BW) and at Davis, one July 21-22 and Aug. 15 (JT). Numbers of both yellowlegs were down at the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor owing to excessive dryness (DDeS). Seven Lesser Yellowlegs were reported from three locations (2 coastal, 1 C.V.). The first returning Knots were 2 at Bodega Bay July 20 (BMcL) and 15 in breeding plumage at Arcata July 22 (LCB, RS). At least 28 Baird's Sandpipers were found at 7 coastal and C.V. locations, the first at Bodega Bay July 20-22 (BMcL *et al.*), and the remainder after Aug. 7; normally less than 10 individuals are reported by Aug. 15. A Dunlin, the only common wintering shorebird not normally present during the summer period, was in breeding plumage at Arcata July 22 (LCB, RS). A Stilt Sandpiper in full breeding plumage at Arcata July 17 (DE, ST) was perhaps only the second July record for the Region. A Sanderling at Woodland Aug. 11 was the fourth fall record for the Sacramento area (JT). Single Red Phalaropes at the Salinas R. mouth Aug. 14 (TC) and Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Co. Aug. 15 (RS, GH) were the first individuals to return. Wilson's Phalaropes were very scarce this summer in S.F. Bay, but there were 1-6 birds reported from 4 coastal localities, including 2 at Arcata July 22 (LCB, DDeS, BMcL).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Single Pomarine Jaegers were in Monterey Bay July 19 (AB) and July 26 (J & RW). An extremely early Skua was reported from Monterey Bay July 19 (AB). Summering Mew Gulls were at Albany (one almost flightless) in late July (RS, GH) and Arcata (6 imms.) July 22 (DDeS). Summering Bonaparte's Gulls were found at 4 coastal locations June 8-July 27. The most spectacular bird of the season was a second-year **Black-headed Gull** found and photographed July 16 (J. Dunn and R. Webster) at Arcata, and seen by many until at least July 23. It was apparently of the Siberian race *Larus ridibundus sibiricus* (GMcC, RS). Two Franklin's Gulls, apparently second-year birds, were also at Arcata July 20-23 (GMcC, LCB *et al.*); one was at the s. end of Humboldt Bay July 23 (RLeV), and another was in Seaside, Monterey Co. July 16-18 (AB *et al.*). Only 2 individuals had been reported during the summer period in at least the last eight years. No Black-legged Kittiwakes summered

in Monterey (AB). Extremely late single Sabine's Gulls were at Pt. Pinos June 13 (RS *et al.*) and S.F. June 14 (LCB).

None of the known nesting locations of Least Terns in S.F. Bay were used this year, but nesting must have occurred since 3 young with 15 ads. were seen near Mountain View on S.F. Bay Aug. 22 (BE). Ten individuals were found at 4 other S.F. Bay locations, and single ads. were seen at Ano Nuevo July 8 (AB, TC), Pajaro R. mouth Aug. 12 (J & RW), and Seaside July 16 (AB). The first Elegant Terns arrived at the Pajaro R. mouth and Bay Bridge toll plaza July 10 (J & RW, DE); the largest concentration reported was at the Bay Bridge where 800 were seen at the end of the period (ST). This is the largest number ever reported by Aug. 15 and indicates a continued increase in our Region. A Black Tern, rarely reported from the coast, was at Skagg L., Sonoma Co. Aug. 14 (WMP).

A major influx of Com. Murres was noted in Monterey Bay July 15-16 (J & RW, VA). The first fledged Pigeon Guillemot of the season was seen at Pacific Grove on July 14 (AB). Marbled Murrelets were reported from the coast at Samoa and Trinidad Head, Humboldt Co. (LCB, DDeS), Pigeon Pt. and Ano Nuevo (AB, TC, *et al.*), Santa Cruz (AB, VA), and Pt. Pinos (AB). They were first heard overhead at Prairie Creek June 6 and last heard Aug. 5 (MK). No nests were found. An early and extremely rare Craveri's Murrelet was well described at Moss Landing Aug. 14 (TC, B. Yutzy). Fifty-two Cassin's Auklets were in Monterey Bay by July 19 (AB). At least one probable Rhinoceros Auklet nest was discovered on S. Farallon. This would be the first nesting attempt since 1862 when the species was exterminated from the island as a breeding species, although behavior indicative of nesting had been observed the last two years.

PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS — Band-tailed Pigeons remained in lower numbers than last year throughout the summer in the Central Coast area of our Region (DDeS). An Aug. C.F.G. survey in the Santa Cruz Mts. found no great concentrations and overall lower numbers (BE). Barn Owls enjoyed a good nesting success in the Bay area and C.V. One observer (RS) considers it to be the most abundant bird of prey in the C.V. Flammulated Owls called less frequently after early June at Forest Ranch, Butte Co. and were last heard there July 17 (TM, BW *et al.*). Several were heard at Foresthill, Placer Co. June 27 (BE), and one was calling near Shasta L. June 28 (BW, TM). Screech Owls were also present at each of these locations, supplying further evidence that these 2 species are ecologically isolated by prey rather than by habitat or range. Burrowing Owls maintained their somewhat reduced numbers over most of their range, but were still thought to be declining in both the Los Banos (ROW) and Stockton (DMS) areas. Great Gray Owls nested successfully at both Peregrine Meadows and Crane Flat in Yosemite (AB, MM *et al.*). A Long-eared Owl was present at Beale Air Force Base, Yuba Co. June 24-30 (*vide* BK). Short-eared Owls were present at Honey L. June 24 (GH) and at both the Palo Alto Baylands (LCB, DDeS) and the Salinas R. mouth (AB, DAI) throughout the summer and may have nested

at each location. An ad. Saw-whet Owl was found roosting in a willow at Stowe Reservoir, Warner Mts. June 25 (RS, GH), our first report from Modoc Co.

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Twenty Black Swifts near Dillon Beach, Marin Co. in late May (WBG) and 2 near Sunol Park June 6 (AP) may have been migrants. Coastally, they bred at Ano Nuevo Pt. (3 pairs—AB *et al.*) and Lighthouse Pt. (1 pair—BE, VA), both Santa Cruz Co., and near Pt. Sur (10+ pairs—GH), and ranged from Pescadero, San Mateo Co. (PM) to China Camp, Monterey Co. (DDeS). In the Sierra, 2 were seen over Feather Falls, Butte Co., July 9 (BW, TM), and 9 were in Yosemite Valley June 17 (LCB). Twelve Vaux's Swifts over Walnut Creek, Contra Costa Co., June 12 and one at Alpine Dam, Marin Co., Aug. 7 (WMP) were probably late spring and early fall migrants respectively, but several throughout July and August at Crane Flat and Hodgson Meadow, Yosemite, (MM) may have nested locally. White-throated Swifts were slightly north of their usual range at Squaw Rock, Mendocino Co., June 16 (BMcl) and at Buck's L. Aug. 5 (RS, GH). Acorn Woodpeckers were found to be common throughout e. and much of s. Humboldt Co. as well as along parts of Rt. 101 s. through Mendocino Co. (DE). This probably represents a n.w. extension of their range. An imm. "Red-breasted" Sapsucker in c. Mendocino Co. July 23 (DDeS, TS) was at the s. limit of its range in the Coast Range, but one near Bodega Bay July 20 (BMcl) was most unusual. Both Williamson's Sapsuckers and Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were recorded with unusual frequency in Yosemite and elsewhere in the Sierra s. as far as Wilson Reservoir, Fresno Co. June 2 (WBG). A Williamson's Sapsucker nest was found at Stowe L., Warner Mts. June 25 (GH).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES — Probable breeding Traill's Flycatcher were found in the Arroyo Mocho s. of Livermore, Alameda Co. June 13 (DE, ST) and at the Laguna de Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co. July 20 (DAG); there are very few recent Bay Area breeding records. Tree Swallows may be on the decline in our Region: they were singled out as being noticeably reduced, both as breeders and migrants, in Prairie Creek Park (MK), Santa Cruz and parts of the Bay Area (BE, DDeS), and the Woodland-Davis area (JT). A colony of Bank Swallows near Greenfield, Monterey Co. (GH) represents a new breeding locality for this very local breeder. While Purple Martins were reported in fair numbers throughout the Region, one observer (WMP) has noticed a steady decline in nesting in Marin Co. in the last few years that seems to be directly correlated with a noticeable increase in woodland nesting Starlings. Two singing Canyon Wrens near Davis, Siskiyou Co. June 13 were in flat country with few rocks but were near residences (WMP). Several Rock Wrens in S. Humboldt Co. in early June (DE, DA, *et al.*) were most interesting; there may be only one prior record for the Northwest Coast.

While most observers found both W. and Mountain Bluebirds to be in normal numbers, no one mentioned significant increases but a few mentioned decreases for both species. Golden-crowned Kinglets were in exceptional numbers at Prairie Creek Park this summer

(MK); a ♀ at Searsville L. June 24 was most out of place (RS, DDeS). For the second consecutive summer, Water Pipits have been found in the Sierra. This year one was in upper Darwin Canyon June 17 and 3 were near Wanda L. June 19, both locations at 11,000 ft. in Kings Canyon Nat'l Park. Although the birds behaved as breeders, no nest could be found (DAG); there is no nesting record for the state. Cedar Waxwings were present on their breeding grounds in Humboldt and Del Norte Cos. in good numbers (LCB, DDeS, MK); a pair at Tilden Park, July 3 (TS) and 2 groups of 5-8 in Lafayette July 4 (*fide* LF) add to the very few Bay Area summer records. Loggerhead Shrikes seemed to have had better-than-average breeding success in the Palo Alto-Stanford area (DDeS) and were recorded as holding their own throughout the Bay Area and C.V. One was on S. Farallon Aug. 2-5 (P.R.B.O.).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES — A coordinated effort by the Region's birders to find nesting Yellowthroats indicated that the Bay Area population (*sinuosa*) is maintaining fair numbers but that other populations in our Region have become very sparse and local despite widespread suitable habitat: the only sightings beside the few in the C.V. were at Laguna de Santa Rosa July 20 and at Clear L. July 23 (DAG). Two imm. Hooded Orioles were present near Chico Aug. 2-8 (TM); they are rather rare this far north in the Sacramento Valley. The ♀ that arrived in Ferndale, Humboldt Co. Apr. 23 obtained a mate and raised 2 young, the first nesting record for Humboldt Co. They were still present as of Aug. 24 (D & SA). Most montane finches were widespread and in good numbers throughout the Sierra. Evening Grosbeaks were especially common in Plumas and Sierra Cos. (TS). Besides the usual Yosemite locations where they were very common, Pine Grosbeaks were reported as follows: a ♂ at Yuba Pass May 28 (TS); several 14 mi. e. of Wilson Res., Fresno Co., June 2 (WBG); 3 at the very low elevation of 6500 ft, Robinson Flat, Placer Co., July 1-4 (DAG, RS *et al.*); and several at Wright's L. July 22 (B & RL). On July 19, 25 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were observed feeding on the trunks and branches of lodgepole pines at 9500 ft. on the Mono Pass trail; a lack of snow in the high country was thought to be responsible for this unusual behavior (MM). Red Crossbills were found at 18 locations in the n. part of the Yosemite region, especially e. of the crest, after early July (MM). Most observers, however, found them to be scarce during June. Two at Pacific Grove July 15 (AB) were the only ones away from the Sierra. Lark, Rufous-crowned, and Sage Sparrows were considered to be more common than usual in the interior parts of the Region (BK, TM, NS *et al.*). A Rufous-crowned Sparrow July 13 near Nicolaus (DAG) and a Sage Sparrow July 16 at the Volta W.A., Merced Co. (ROW) were unusual valley sightings.

CONTRIBUTORS — David Ainley (DAi), Dave Anderson (DA), Susan Anderson, Viola Anderson, Maurine Armour, Alan Baldridge (AB), Frank Beyer, Laurence C. Binford, Gordon Bolander, P. A. Buckley, Aubrey Burns (ABu), Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game (C.F.G.), Ted Chandik, Bruce Elliott, Dick Erickson, Lynn Farrar, David A. Gaines, William B. Gladfelter, L. W. Gralapp, Vi Homen, Joel Hornstein, Gene Hunn,

Lee Jones, Margaret Keith, Betty Kimball, Ron LeValley (RLeV), Bob & Ruth Loveless, Roger Luckenbach (RLu), Tom Lund, Guy McCaskie, Baron McLean, Georgianne Manolis, Tim Manolis, Marie Mans, Peter Metropulos, Alan Pistorius, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, William Principe (WP), William M. Pursell (WMP), R. J. Richardson, Tom Schulenberg, Doris M. Shanks, Gene Sipe, Rich Stallcup, Nick Story, Shumway Suffel, Otis D. Swisher, Jerry Tangren, Scott Terrill, Lynn Thomas, John & Ricky Warriner, Bruce Webb, Roger O. Wilbur. — DAVE DeSANTE, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Stanford Univ., Stanford, Calif. 94305 and VAN REMSEN, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Calif., Berkeley, Calif. 94720.

ERRATUM — A line was omitted in the Winter Season report for the Region. AB 26:653 col. 2, lines 4 & 5 should read: The only wintering Wilson's Warbler was a ♀ in Golden Gate Park Jan. 25 (ABu). Townsend's Warblers were in average or slightly better numbers along the coast, but . . .