

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/ Van Remsen and David A. Gaines

Mild, dry weather typified the summer season in the lowlands. In contrast to last year, water remained in many streams and ponds even on the floor of the Central Valley. In the foothills and mountains, a bumper crop of dry herbaceous vegetation, the product of a wet winter, fueled extensive brush and forest fires. Warm weather in June caused snowmelt to swell mountain streams to near flood levels. Thunderstorms were frequent at higher elevations, keeping mountain meadows lush into the summer. It was a successful nesting season for most species, and timing of nesting in the coastal district, Central Valley, and foothills was near normal. Snow and cold, however, delayed arrival of birds in the higher montane regions, but all expected species were present in usual numbers by July 4 (GMcC *et al.*).

The usual movement of birds up-mountain from their breeding areas was well underway by the end of July, for example: an immature Black-chinned Hummingbird at Crane Flat, Tuolumne Co., July 15 (RS, Peter Warshall) and another at 5175 ft. at Buck's L., Plumas Co., Aug. 10-15 (RS, GM); a ? Anna's Hummingbird at Buck's L. Aug. 9-13 (RS); *Selasphorus* hummingbirds very common at high elevations in the Sierras after early July (MM, DAG);



Four W. Flycatchers at 6500 ft. at Robinson Flat, Placer Co., July 28-29 (DDeS, JF); a fledged Bushtit at 9860 ft. in the c. High Sierra July 19 (Gary Colliver, *fide* DDeS); House Wrens at several Sierra localities up to 10,200 ft. in mid-July (MM; Gary Colliver, *fide* DDeS); Orange-crowned Warblers at 9500 ft. in mid-July and very common in early August (MM, DAG); a Yellow Warbler at Robinson Flat, July 28 (DDeS, JF); and an ad. Lesser Goldfinch at Buck's L., Aug. 12 (RS). Lazuli Buntings arrived at Crane Flat in early July and, in contrast to "up-mountain" Orange-crowned Warblers common in the same habitat, behaved as nesting birds, i.e., set up territories and were observed carrying nesting material and insects. Do the same birds nest twice, once at lower and later at higher elevations (MM)?

Migrant landbirds appeared in the Central Valley by July. Orange-crowned Warblers and Western Tanagers, for instance, became increasingly common after July 5 (DAG), and migrant landbirds had already reached the coast by late July. Last winter's severe weather may have had a profound effect on resident landbird densities. At Point Reyes, for example, resident densities were down on most breeding bird censuses (NS).

Gulf of California waterbirds arrived early and in good numbers and were accompanied by at least three very rare, warm water species (Red-billed Tropicbird, Magnificent Frigatebird, Xantus' Murrelet). This early influx plus low percentages of juvenile Brown Pelicans hinted at a large-scale nesting failure to the south. On the other hand, a large number of waterbirds breeding in the Arctic were recorded abnormally late into the summer, and among them also were several rarities (Yellow-billed Loon, Black Scoter, Glaucous Gull, Horned Puffin). Sight records for which we have thorough documentation on file (usually our standard description form) are indicated by an asterisk after initials of the observer who completed the form.

LOONS, GREBES—Seventeen Commons, 23 Arctics, and 12 Red-throated Loons were reported summering along the coast. A non-breeding plumaged imm. **Yellow-billed Loon** was discovered June 17 at Princeton Harbor, San Mateo Co. (LCB, VR*), and was subsequently seen until at least June 25 (SFB, BGE, DR, NS, WS, ST); this is the first summer record for the Region, the previous latest and earliest dates being Apr. 29 and Oct. 20. There are now 20 acceptable records for the Region, all since 1965; all but the three between Dec. 3 and Mar. 19. Breeding plumaged Arctic Loons were still migrating north at about 20 per hour on the San Mateo Co. coast June 16-17 (VR, J&SL, JM) and two probable migrants were flying north at Moss Beach, San Mateo Co., July 6 (VR, DE), an incredibly late date. A Red-throated Loon in breeding plumage was also seen moving north on the late date of June 17 at Moss Beach (VR, LCB). In no previous year has loon migration been recorded later than about June 9, but this may be owing to lack of observations from the coast at this time of year. A late Red-necked Grebe in full breeding plumage was at Trinidad, Humboldt Co., June 8 (DE, TS), and a Horned Grebe was at Moss Landing June 21 (AB). Nearly 500 summering W. Grebes were found from Santa Cruz to Pt. Reyes, including two inside San Francisco Bay (hereafter S.F. Bay).

SHEARWATERS, PETRELS—As usual, a couple of summering N. Fulmars were reported: one off Humboldt Co. June 20 (RLeV) and one inshore at Monterey June 27 (AB). Three New Zealand Shearwaters were seen from shore at Pigeon Pt., San Mateo Co., July 7 (BGE); not only is this extremely early, but this species is seldom seen from shore. Perhaps owing to a poor squid season, Sooty Shearwaters were much less common than usual in Monterey Bay (AB), but were in normal numbers, or better, farther north. Following stormy weather, 50 Fork-tailed Petrels were off Humboldt Co. and a few were inshore at Humboldt Bay July 14 (RLeV). Also off Humboldt Co. on July 14 were three Ashy Petrels, the fifth or sixth county record.

PELECANIFORMS—A **Red-billed Tropicbird**, at Pescadero, San Mateo Co., June 29 (MH*, ER) was the second record for the Region. White Pelicans were very scarce throughout the Region, but larger numbers of Brown Pelicans reached the Region earlier than normal, e.g. 368 at Moss Landing by June 17 (LRD), 110 Pebble Beach June 26 (AB), and 105 in San Mateo Co. where there were only 24 at the same roost at the same time in 1972 (BGE). Unfortunately, the proportion of juveniles was much lower this year (10-25%) than last (50-75%). The largest concentration was at Pajaro Dunes where there were 601 (20% first-year., 15% second-year., 65% adults) July 25 (J&RW). A possible Brown Booby, an adult, was described from Pt. Reyes South Beach July 14 (F&LN*); if accepted, this will be the first Regional record. Single **Magnificent Frigatebirds** appeared off Bodega Bay in early July (*fide* RS) and in Bodega Harbor July 21 (WMP).

HERONS—At the Bair I. heronry in San Mateo Co., peak pair densities were reported (RM) as follows: Great Blue Heron 34 pairs (approximately the same as 1968-70), Snowy Egret 362 pairs (100% increase over 1968-70), and Black-crowned Night Heron 609 pairs (50% increase over 1968-70); nesting success was about the same as in 1972 (BGE). The ad. Little Blue Heron found there last spring was seen again June 5 (BGE,DAZ). The preservation of this island, hopefully through the proposed South Bay N.W.R. is critical to S.F. Bay heron and egret populations. At another important heronry, W. Marin I. in San Rafael, the following peak counts of individuals were obtained (RSD): Great Egret 88 (June 3), Snowy Egret 294 (July 26), and Black-crowned Night Heron 47 (June 17). The ad. Yellow-crowned Night Heron which has been present for six summers was seen June 29 (BGE). A new Great Egret rookery with 100 birds was located near Sacramento west of Franklin Road, and northwest of Twin Cities Road. (T. Argante, *vide* BK).

GEESE, DABBLING DUCKS—As many as 75 Canada Geese were present at Bay Farm I. through the summer and some apparently nested; they were first reported nesting there in 1967 (*vide* ER). This may be the only nesting area on the Calif. coast; Grinnell and Miller (1944. *Distribution of the Birds of California, Pac. Coast Avifauna No. 27*: 66-68; hereafter G. & M.) list only one old nesting record for the coast; however, these birds may have originated from the semicaptive breeding birds at nearby L. Merritt (JM). As many as 30 Black Brant summered at Año Nuevo Pt. (BY *et al.*; another 29 birds were reported from four other coastal localities, and singles were found inside S.F. Bay at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza (hereafter B.B.T.P.) June 14 (DE) and at Alviso, Santa Clara Co., July 13 (BGE). The Ross' Goose that wintered at Livermore remained there until June 9 (AE), indicating that the bird was probably either unhealthy or an escape.

The only Fulvous Tree Ducks reported were 1-2 Woodland June 16 (D. Shuford, *vide* BK), two there July 1 (VR,J&SL), and two at Firebaugh, Fresno Co. (RH). A pair of Blue-winged Teal produced five young at Marina, Monterey Co., by June 14 (DB). Although Blue-winged Teal have been reported regularly in the summer, this is apparently the first nesting record for the coast of N. California; G. & M. list only one nesting record west of the Sierras in our Region. Other Blue-winged Teal were reported from Humboldt Bay, Sacramento, and Woodland, with as many as four at Woodland July 7 (JH). One Green-winged and five Cinnamon Teal nests were found at 6000 ft. at Kyburz Flat, Sierra Co., July 4 (GZ).

DIVING DUCKS—Three non-breeding summering Canvasbacks were reported: one male all summer at Woodland (m.ob.), one male at San Leandro Bay June 30 (BP), and one female at Belmont Slough (PM). A pair was also seen at Modoc N.W.R. June 17 (JM), indicating possible nesting. Two ♂♂ Greater Scaup were at Bolinas Lagoon July 14 (LCB, DE, JM, VR); no summer records are given for our Region by G. & M. or McCaskie & DeBenedictis

[1965. *Birds of Northern California* (Annotated Field List). Golden Gate Aud. Soc., Berkeley; hereafter M. & D.] and we have only two sight records since the latter's publication. Summering Lesser Scaup were reported from Humboldt, Bodega, Tomales, San Pablo, and S. F. Bays, and at Woodland; 150 on San Pablo Bay July 1 (FB) was an exceptional number. Summering Com. Goldeneyes were reported as follows: one at L. Hennessey, Napa Co., July 14 (WT), one female at Belmont Slough June 16 (PM), and one female at Hayward July 28 (J&SL). Two ?? Bufflehead were at Bodega Bay on the late date of June 9 (MLR). As usual, as many as four Harlequin Ducks (at least three males) summered at Año Nuevo Pt. (TC, BGE, B&CY *et al.*), and an imm. male was at Pacific Grove through the end of the period (AB). Twenty White-winged Scoters were found at six locations and 47 Surf Scoters at six coastal and two S.F. Bay locations. Only three summering Black Scoters have been reported since 1962, but this summer eight individuals were reported: one female (possibly late migrant) at Santa Cruz June 3 (BGE), one female at Pacifica June 17 (LCB, VR), one imm. male Moss Beach June 17 (LCB, VR) three females and one imm. male at Princeton Harbor - Half Moon Bay (DDeS, MLR *et al.*), and one female at Pescadero Beach July 6 (DE, JM, VR); some of these may have been the same individuals shifting locations, but the number is exceptional in any case. Adding to known breeding localities for Com. Mergansers, females with young were noted at Boca Dam, Nevada Co., July 14 (LCB, DE, JM, VR), Independence L., Nevada Co., July 7 (GZ), L. Pillsbury, Lake Co., July 21 (PM), and on the Sacramento R. in both Tehama and Glenn Cos. (DAG). G. & M. do not record this species as breeding below the Transition Zone, and so the Sacramento R. observations are of particular interest. Sixteen summering Red-breasted Mergansers (no breeding plumaged males) were found at five coastal localities.

RAPTORS—A California Condor was seen by a qualified observer familiar with condors and vultures July 22 at Eagle Rock Lookout, Santa Cruz Mts. (*vide* BGE), for one of the only Santa Cruz Co. records in recent times. Nine Goshawks were reported from the Sierras, an exceptional number. Sharp-shinned Hawks were much scarcer than usual at Duncan Peak, Placer Co. (JW). Despite an extensive search, no Cooper's Hawks were found in the Sacramento Valley riparian (DAG) where they presumably once nested. Nesting Swainson's Hawks were down in the Central Valley (hereafter C.V.) following last year's encouraging season. Singles were seen in the Sierras July 12 at Virginia Lakes, Toiyabe N.F. (MM) and July 17 Duncan Peak (JW). An encouraging 31 Golden Eagles were reported, and breeding populations in the Diablo Range remained stable (BGE); however, no Bald Eagles were reported for the second straight summer. Ospreys were considered holding their own in Sonoma and Mendocino Cos.

—S.A.—

A Prairie Falcon nest in Alameda Co. was again successfully defended from falconers by a round-the-clock vigilance organized by Bill Bland; Alan Pistorius

was actually engaged in a cliff-top confrontation with a determined falconer when the authorities arrived in the nick of time. The nest fledged two young. The insanity with which some falconers pursue their hobby is selecting against and possibly exterminating those few falcon genotypes successfully breeding despite pesticide contamination. Must we guard every nest 24 hours a day in order to maintain a breeding population in California or should the Dept. of Fish & Game not put a moratorium on falconry until populations of endangered or threatened species show other than unhealthy signs?

No other Prairies and only two Peregrines were reported. American Kestrels also continued to decline in several areas.

GROUSE, RAILS—The large numbers of Blue Grouse reported indicated that populations must be approaching a cyclic peak. A small population of escaped Asian Peafowl is breeding successfully at Loma Prieta, Santa Cruz Co. (BGE). A pair of Virginia Rails, a pair of Soras, and three pairs of Am. Coots nested at 6000 ft at Kyburz Flat (GZ) near the upper limit of their altitudinal breeding range. As many as three Com. Gallinules were at Pacific Grove June 2-10 (AB); they are uncommon along the coast, especially in summer.

SHOREBIRDS—Two Semipalmated Plovers were found at Alturas, Modoc Co., June 16 (JM*); this species is rare inland even in migration and this is the first report of this species summering inland. Six migrants were seen inland at Woodland July 28 (B&RL). The Semipalmated Plover is not listed as present by M. & D. from late May to late July; however, summering individuals were reported from Bodega Bay (MLR), Bolinas Lagoon (VR), BBTP (DE), and Alameda (ER). A few individuals probably summer every year. A pair of Snowy Plovers nested successfully on the busy beach at Alameda (ER) and numbers elsewhere appeared stable. The first returning Surf-bird was at Princeton July 13 (BJM). The Ruddy Turnstone is another species not considered to summer by M. & D., but individuals noted at Bodega Bay June 30 (MLR), Bolinas Lagoon July 14 (LCB, DE, JM, VR), and others reported before late July in previous years seems to indicate that it is present every summer. A very large number of Long-billed Curlews (2100) were found near Sacramento July 27 (*vide* BK). The Whimbrel is not recorded by M. & D. as present from early June to mid-July; however, one at Bodega Bay June 17 (FB), four at Alameda June 28 (ER), and June birds last year at Pacific Grove (AB) and Pajaro Dunes (J&RW) are probably normal for this time of year. Two early Wandering Tattlers were at Castro Pt., Richmond, July 2 (BP); this species is unusual inside S.F. Bay anytime. One thousand Willets had already returned to the Dumbarton Bridge by July 6 (DE, JM, BP, VR), and two thousand were at Palo Alto by July 15 (DDeS). This species apparently begins to return in late June; on June 13 ten were counted at Alameda but on June 28 the total soared to 687 (ER). Only three Lesser Yellowlegs were reported: Woodland July 7 (B&RL), Angwin, Napa Co., July 22

(WT), and Livermore July 29 (AE). The first Red Knots to return were five in breeding plumage at B.B.T.P. July 16 (DE). A Pectoral Sandpiper at Pt. Reyes July 26 (WMP) may be the earliest ever reported from the Region. Extremely early Baird's Sandpipers were singles at Alameda July 15 (ER *et al.*) and Pescadero July 22 (DDeS). Two Short-billed Dowitchers, rarely reported inland, were heard distinctly at Woodland July 8 (VR, DE, JM) and July 28 (B&RL). An Am. Avocet was on the Farallons July 28 for the second island record (BT). On July 7, 730 were censused at Woodland, more than twice the summer peak count in two previous years of censusing (B&RL). On July 4, two Wilson's Phalaropes were at Mono L. but they increased to 12-16,000 by July 14 (RS). On July 6 at least 10,000 were at the Dumbarton Bridge (DE, JM, BP, VR), and one on the Farallons July 28 was the first island record (BT). The N. Phalarope is not recorded by M. & D. as present between June 1 and about July 7. This year, however, 37 were recorded at four coastal localities June 9-30 and two were at Woodland June 2 (B&RL).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS—Single Pomarine Jaegers were seen flying south at Moss Beach June 17 (SFB) and Pt. Pinos July 11 (AB). A Skua June 11 off Santa Cruz (SFB*, BGE*, PM *et al.*) seems to be the first June record for the Region, although there are May and July records. A sub-ad. Glaucous Gull was at Pajaro Dunes July 15 (BGE*) for one of the very few summer records from the Region. No summering Mew Gulls were reported. Heermann's Gulls appeared in large numbers early; 100+ were already at Pacific Grove June 4 (AB), numbers at Santa Cruz were higher than in at least the past four years (BGE), and along the San Mateo Co. coast numbers increased from 22 on June 17 to 565 July 6 (VR). Summering Black-legged Kittiwakes were extremely scarce. Two or three breeding plumaged Sabine's Gulls were off Humboldt Co. June 20-21 (RL&V); M. & D. list no records May 25-Aug. 20, but we now have 12 records within that period, six of which are in June and July (none June 22-July 25).

TERNs—Three hundred pairs of Forster's Terns nested on Bair I. (RM), possibly the biggest nesting area in S.F. Bay. At Bay Farm I. July 31, 171 Least Terns were counted, about half of which were flying but still dependent young (BGE). This is the highest number reported in at least 12 years, very encouraging for this endangered bird, except that there are plans to develop Bay Farm I. Elegant Terns arrived early this year: 12 were at Pajaro Dunes by June 4 (J&RW) and 17 were at the B.B.T.P. by June 27 (JM). Numbers were just average, however, with 250 at Pajaro Dunes July 26 (J&RW) the largest number reported. Caspian Terns were reported in exceptional numbers from the San Mateo Co. coast (DDeS, VR) and from Pajaro Dunes, where 77 censused on July 22 exceeded any previous count by 20 birds (J&RW). Adding to the list of known nesting localities, Black Tern nests were found at Sierra Valley, Plumas Co. and at Kyburz Flat (GZ). Forty-three south of Los Banos June 16 (VR, PMy) were encouraging in light of decreases reported

in the San Joaquin Valley in recent years. Perhaps the more extensive planting of rice authorized by the government was responsible. Black Tern numbers were down at Elverta and Robbins, but hopefully this was owing to a spreading out of the population due to increased rice-planted acreage in the Sacramento Valley (B&RL).

ALCIDS—At least 3500 Com. Murres were found dead at Santa Cruz this summer, a high percentage of which showed evidence of drowning in fishing nets; eye-witness reports substantiated this (*fide* BGE). Pigeon Guillemots fledged young from nests under piers at Monterey (AB) and one nest with young was found in beams under a pier at Santa Cruz (RH), an encouraging adaptation to man's presence. The nest of the Marbled Murrelet remains undiscovered, although many were seen to alight in tops of redwoods at dusk in Portola S.P. (BGE). Does that not sufficiently tantalize some ambitious, arboreal nest-finder out there to undertake the discovery of the last unknown nest in North America? [And win the *American Birds* prize?—Ed.]. Where is Tarzan now that we need him? A Xantus' Murrelet July 17 on the Farallons (BT) is probably the earliest record for the Region. Four **Horned Puffins** were found this summer: one off the Farallons June 2 (BE*), one in flight six mi. west of the Golden Gate June 10 (GLB*), another in flight three mi. off Humboldt Bay July 14 (RLeV*), and one dead on the Farallons sometime this summer (*fide* BT). The only previous report of a healthy, flying bird was also during the summer: June 6, 1967. We also have about ten records of dead or dying birds from January to March, May, and August. A breeding-plumaged Tufted Puffin was seen from shore at Moss Beach June 17 (VR, LCB) and again July 6 (DE, JM, BP, VR).

PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS—A few Band-tailed Pigeons summered along the Sacramento R. in Tehama, Butte, and Glenn Cos. (DAG). At least 30 Yellow-billed Cuckoos were observed at 18 localities along the Sacramento R. between Colusa and Tehama Cos. in extensive, dense thickets of cottonwood-willow riparian (DAG, PB, BW *et al.*). In addition, one was below Indian Resort near Tracy June 24 (MM), one was at the s. end of Clear L., Lake Co., June 28 (BGE), and four were in the lower Butte Sink, Butte Co., July 5-6 (DAG *et al.*). A Barn Owl was on the Farallons July 13 for the first island record (BT). A Flammulated Owl at Alderpoint on the Eel R. June 3, the second for Humboldt Co., was at the unusually low elevation of 350 ft. (TS, RW). Three nests of the Great Gray Owl produced seven young in the Yosemite region (RS, B&CY, BDP *et al.*). The only Long-eared Owl reported was, strangely enough, on the Farallons July 17; the status of this species is the least well known of any owl in the Region. At least two young were fledged by Short-eared Owls on Bair I., confirming that this species yet breeds in the marshes of San Francisco Bay (BGE). A pair observed at Moss Landing June 21 may also have bred (AB). A Com. Night-hawk near Santa Rosa July 20 may be the first for

Sonoma Co. (GLB) despite the fact that the species breeds north in Humboldt Co. Four Lesser Night-hawks were at Los Banos June 9 (ROW) and two were south of Los Banos June 16 (VR, PMY); pairs were observed nesting on gravel bars at two localities along the Sacramento R., Glenn and Butte Cos. (DAG, PB).

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—A Black Swift at New Almaden, Santa Clara Co., June 2 was probably a migrant (LCB). Up to 11 were present at Ano Nuevo Pt., a known nesting locality, during June (m. ob.). Again this year a nest was found at Lighthouse Pt. near Santa Cruz (DB *et al.*). In the Sierras, Black Swifts were reported in good numbers from the Yosemite region (B&CY, BDP, PM, JF, DDeS). Vaux's Swifts were continually present during early July in Big Basin S.P., San Mateo Co., near the southern limit of their nesting range (BGE). Several summered on the floor of the Sacramento Valley in Chico (BW, JC, DAG). In the Sierras, Vaux's Swifts were sighted at Yuba Pass, Sierra Co., Crane Flat, Yosemite (MM), and Hazelwood Picnic Area, Sequoia N.P., (HB); they probably nest in these areas but no nests have been found. A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird and a probable imm. ♂ Costa's X Anna's hybrid appeared at a feeder in Paradise, Butte Co. The hybrid was mist-netted, and photographs, a few plucked feathers, and voice recordings sent to experts for confirmation (BW, JC). With reports from 12 localities between Sequoia N.P. and Yuba Pass, Pileated Woodpeckers may be increasing in the Sierras. Others were observed in the Santa Cruz Mts. (BGE), on Mt. Tamalpais, Marin Co. (WMP), and on Hull Mt., Mendocino and Lake Cos. (PM, PB). Common Flickers, Acorn Woodpeckers, and Lewis' Woodpeckers were ousted from nest sites by Starlings this season (PB, LF, AE); a pair of Acorn Woodpeckers in Lafayette then nested successfully in July after the Starlings had departed (LF). A Red-breasted Sapsucker at L. Pillsbury, Lake Co., July 1 was south of the species' known nesting range. A Nuttall's Woodpecker was at the incredible elevation of 8000 ft. at Bridalveil Campground, Yosemite, June 18 (BGE). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker nest was found near Yuba Summit, Sierra Co., June 17 (MLR, AP).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS—A **Tropical Kingbird**, well-described from Los Altos July 21 (B&CY), is the first summer and second non-coastal sighting in the Region. Cassin's Kingbirds reported in Alameda Co. from Del Puerto Canyon (AE) and Arroyo Mocho south of Livermore (VR) were the only ones reported. An extremely early Ash-throated Flycatcher was on the Farallons July 15-16 (BT). A Willow Flycatcher along Arroyo Mocho June 21 was the only one reported from the lowlands; 25 were present June 11-12 at Hodgden and Akerson Meadows, Stanislaus N.F., Tuolumne Co. (MM *et al.*), and at least two were at the record elevation of 9000 ft. near L. Ellery, east of Tioga Pass, Mono Co., June 18-20 (BGE, DAZ). In the Sacramento Valley, W. Wood Pewees have become common nesting birds in

cottonwood-willow riparian and are apparently increasing in the San Joaquin Valley as well: 13 were evenly spaced and calling at Caswell S.P. June 24 where none had been present in June in prior years (MM). At least 15 Bank Swallows south of Susanville, Lassen Co., June 3 (PB) and another near Alturas June 23 (JM) are our first reports from northeastern California. (not recorded there by G. & M.); they may breed there in small numbers. At least six pairs of Plain Titmice were along the Eel R. south of Alderpoint June 3, the largest concentration yet discovered in Humboldt Co. (TS, RW). Five Rock Wrens, including one feeding young, were in the same area on the same day (TS, RW). Wrentits, although common in the Sacramento Valley along the Feather and lower Sacramento Rivers, could not be found from Colusa Co. north where they were previously present (DAG), perhaps the result of the severity of last winter.

THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES—A Townsend's Solitaire on Hull Mt. July 1 was south of its known nesting range (PM). Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers along the Eel R. south of Alderpoint were only the second Humboldt Co. record (TS, RW). A Cedar Waxwing was observed feeding two young at Buck's L., Plumas Co., Aug. 11 (RS) for the first nesting record for the Region outside the n.w. coast belt. An extremely early Cedar Waxwing was on the Farallons July 15-16 (BT). Breeding Loggerhead Shrikes were uncommon in Marin Co. (MLR), but seemed to be holding their own in the C.V., where some pairs raised broods in June (DAG).

WARBLERS—Orange-crowned Warblers seemed to outnumber all other bird species combined at 5-7000 ft. in the Sierras this summer (DDeS, JF). In contrast to past years, Yellow Warblers could not be found at Caswell S.P., San Joaquin Co., June 24, despite an intensive search (MM); this species, like the Bell's Vireo and Com. Yellowthroat, has become nearly extinct in the C.V., probably due to cowbird parasitism. Three Yellow-rumped Warblers were on the Farallons July 15-16 (BT), an incredibly early date, and three early Hermit Warblers had arrived in Berkeley by July 27 (Jack Reinoehl). Hermit Warbler fledglings, often four young per brood, were thought to be unusually common in the Sierras, indicating good nesting success (MM). Single vagrant ♂ **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were recorded as follows: Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Co., June 2 (MLR*); near Clear Lake Highlands, Lake Co., June 28 (BGE*); and Arcata, Humboldt Co., July 2 (S.W. Harris, *vide* RLeV). A dull-plumaged **Prairie Warbler** was observed on Pt. Pinos on the unusual date of July 19 (RS). A singing ♂ Am. Redstart returned to the site near Arcata where a pair bred last year, but no female was seen as of June 8 (TS, DE). Unfortunately, Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory failed to report any of its crop of late spring vagrants.

ICTERIDS THROUGH SPARROWS—A pair of Bobolinks, a singing male with a female, were in a hayfield north of Ft. Dick, Del Norte Co., July 1 (JG); there are no records of coastal nesting, but two males (previously unreported) summered last year near

Eureka (S.H. Harris, *vide* JG). Another male was at Año Nuevo Pt. July 14 (ST). An imm. ♂ **Summer Tanager** was seen near Santa Rosa June 29 and a female-plumaged individual was collected there July 25 (GLB). A group of five Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, two males and three females or immature, appeared near Sebastopol, Sonoma Co., July 30-Aug. 1 (Lewis & Betty Land, *vide* BP). Another Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at a feeder in Pacific Grove July 6-7 (AB). At least two Evening Grosbeaks lingered in Berkeley until June 13; they were found in better than usual numbers in the n. Sierra, but were scarcer than usual in the Yosemite region (MLR, RS, MM, DDeS *et al.*). Six Red Crossbills flying over Santa Rosa July 15 (GLB) and a pair throughout June in San Francisco (MLR *et al.*) were the only ones reported from the coastal district. Pine Grosbeaks were present in expected areas and numbers. Cassin's Finch, Green-tailed Towhee, and Lincoln's Sparrow on Hull Mt. were all south of their known nesting ranges (PM). Small colonies of Grasshopper Sparrows were present in Contra Costa Co. in Wildcat Canyon (GZ *et al.*) and Las Trampas (JM) Reg. Parks, and south of Limantour on Pt. Reyes (AP), but none were present in Briones Reg. Park where they were present last year (NS). One was at San Gregorio, San Mateo Co., July 22 (DDeS, JF). A "good breeding population" of Rufous-crowned Sparrows at Aetna Springs, Napa Co., was near the northern limit of their nesting range (BDP). Both Dark-eyed Juncos and Chipping Sparrows were thought to have had tremendous nesting success in the Sierras (MM).

CORRIGENDA—In Table 2 of the winter report for our Region, *Am. Birds* 27:661, the % of Myrtle-type Warblers on the outer coast should read 42.0, not 4.2, and the number of Anna's Hummingbirds at the Berkeley feeder should read 300, not 30.

ADDENDA—A White Pelican at Eureka Mar. 3, 1973 was one of the few county records (DE). A ? Black-and-white Warbler was at the Carmel River mouth and a singing Tennessee Warbler was at Pacific Grove, both May 23, 1973 (RS). A singing ♂ Magnolia Warbler was at Pt. Pinos May 21-22, 1973 (RS, GM).

CONTRIBUTORS—David Anderson, Maurice Armour, Stephen F. Bailey, Alan Baldridge, Frank Beyer, Laurence C. Binford, George Bing (GB), David Bockman, Gordon L. Bolander (GLB), Ned R. Boyajian, Hank Brodtkin, Peter Brown, Ted Chandik, Bill Clow, Jeannie Conry, Rosamond S. Day, David DeSante, Lawrence R. DeWeese, Art Edwards, Bruce G. Elliott, Dick Erickson, Janet Farness, Lynn Farrar, Joe Greenberg, Keith Hansen, Robert Hansen, Margaret Hilton, Joel Hornstein, Ron Jurek, Margaret Keith, Betty Kimball, Oliver J. Kolkman, Ron LeValley, Bob & Ruth Loveless, John & Susanne Luther, Georgianne Manolis, Marie Mans, Richard Mattish, Brian J. McCaffery, Guy McCaskie, Peter Metropoulos (PM), Joseph Morlan, Peter Myers (PMY), Fran & LeRoy Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Alan Pistorius, Bill Principe, William M. Pursell, Don Roberson, Elsie Roemer, Mary Louise Rosegay, Tom Schulenberg, Doris M. Shanks, Rich Stallcup, Nick Story, Wally

Sumner, Otis D. Swisher, Scott Terrill, Lynn Thomas, Wayne Tillay, Bill Tweit, John & Ricky Warriner, Bruce Webb, Roger O. Wilbur, Roger Willmarth, Jon Winter, Bob & Carol Yutzy, Gary Zamzow, Dale A. Zimmerman. VAN REMSEN, Dept. of Zoology & Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Univ. of Calif., Berkeley, CA 94720 and DAVID A. GAINES, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Calif., Davis, CA 95616.