

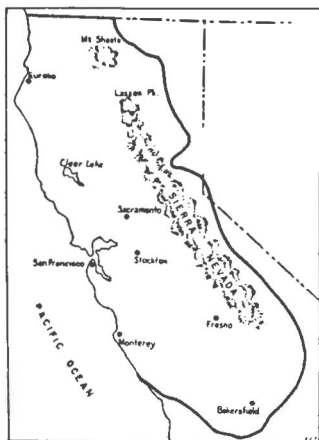
of spring during March, which was mild and relatively dry. With the new rains, the total precipitation stood at 25 per cent or more above normal on the coast north of San Francisco, and 43 to 70 per cent above normal in areas east of there and through the Central Valley. After May 12 the weather was fair except for the usual frequent coastal fog; but a hot spell on May 15-16, coupled with favorable E and SE winds on the nights of May 15-16 and 16-17, were probably responsible for the final influxes of late migrants which are all too sketchily indicated below. Few observers in this Region who note comparative numbers of birds visit the same or similar areas often enough to allow tracing of arrivals of birds throughout the Region—a task which is additionally complicated by prominent topographic and climatic gradients bringing about movements which are by no means orderly northward progressions. Several instances of apparent arrival of song birds after nights of northerly winds, which are supposedly unfavorable to spring movements, are itemized below; but it must be admitted that the lack of numerous, comparable data for the same dates throughout the Region makes any conclusion from them all but impossible.

Loons and Grebes.—Two Common Loons in breeding plumage were on Crystal Springs Reservoir, San Mateo Co., on April 15 (Alan Craig, Jean Terschuren) and one in winter plumage was at Saint Mary's College, Moraga, May 14 to 17 (collected, A. S. Campbell). Weekly observations from the Cliff House, San Francisco, showed the numbers of loons increasing through March to a peak about April 1 and a decided reduction by April 8 (R. H. Pray), while about 3 miles away in southwest San Francisco a peak of 30 in one hour was observed on April 7 (Betsey D. Cutler). A Red-necked Grebe was at Santa Cruz on April 2 (W. B. Minturn). A Horned Grebe was again noted in the Central Valley—on April 19 and 20 at Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, near Willows (E. Kridler). A few stayed at Bodega Bay into May, one to the 14th (J. Kirtledge). On April 19 at the Sacramento Refuge 2 Western Grebes were seen courting and a nest with 4 eggs was found (EK), while at Hartson Reservoir 4 nests held eggs on May 26 (Wm. Anderson).

Albatrosses, Shearwaters, Petrels.—Two Black-footed Albatrosses 7 miles east of SE Farallon Island on April 28 were baited close enough to a 50-foot boat so that one was caught, measured, photographed and released (E. Meadows, D. Bowers, H. L. Cogswell). On May 27 near the San Francisco Lightship a similar baiting was nearly as successful with a single bird there (HLC, Golden Gate Audubon Soc.). The bait used was a mixture of bacon grease and corn "Kix" cereal, which was spooned out rapidly when the albatrosses approached the boat with its hungry gulls already in attendance for suet. Two albatrosses were seen about midway between the Golden Gate and the Farallons on June 3, both on outbound and inbound routes (AC, GGAS). The main spring flight of Sooty Shearwaters was not encountered on any of these Farallon trips, although the dates encompass the period when massed concentrations of over 100,000 have been found in other

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION.—The weather during April and early May was moderately rainy, especially in central California; heavy snows

fell in the Yosemite Valley on April 10 to 12 and heavy rains on May 6 to 11, but migrants were mostly on time (W. J. Fitzpatrick). The cold rains of early May are thought to have discouraged or delayed nesting of some birds, e.g., the Western Bluebird and House Wren in Lake County (E. McClintock);



and full blooming of flowers and arrival of certain birds were correspondingly late despite an early start

years. No shearwaters at all were seen on May 27 (HLC, GGAS) and only one Pink-footed and 10 unidentified on June 3 (AC, GGAS). At least 5 Ashy Petrels were observed closely for most of a 20-minute period near the San Francisco Lightship on May 27 (HLC, GGAS).

Heron.—A Great Blue Heron and Am. Egret rookery west of Gridley which held 600 nests five years ago has been completely wiped out because of the trees being cut and blown down (John Cowan). However, 300 Am. Egrets were counted in the By-Pass area near Sacramento on March 16 (Alice Williams), and the colony in North San Francisco Bay which was raided by vandals last year seems to be still in operation. Twenty Snowy Egrets near San Rafael on May 30 (Grace Miller) is a large number for the coastal area at this date.

Waterfowl.—On an aerial survey of waterfowl between Butte City and Fresno (thus including the bulk of the Central Valley populations) on March 29 the tally included: Canada Goose (race *minima*), 41,600; White-fronted Goose, 24,000; Snow Goose, 5700; and near Turlock, a flock of about 7000 white geese, of which 10 to 15 per cent were Ross's (EK). Nearly all these geese left by early April, together with the bulk of the ducks. About 4 to 50 Canada Geese were on Tomales Bay on April 2 (GM), 1 at Moraga on April 19-20 (A. S. Campbell), and 2 (very late) at Oakland, by the Bay Bridge, on May 3 (Vee K. Curtis). In northeastern California, first broods of Canadas were noted at Tule Lake Refuge on April 22, the peak of their nesting came about May 1, and a late brood, then about 2 weeks old, was seen at Eagle Lake on June 3 (WA). A late flight of about 150 White-fronted Geese passed through Sutter Refuge between April 8 and 14 (EK). Six Fulvous Tree-ducks were seen at Mendota Refuge, April 24 (WBM). An estimated 80 per cent of the nearly 3000 Mallards at Sacramento Refuge in mid-May were males having come there to molt; other Sacramento Valley refuges held relatively very few ducks at this time (EK). On April 15 there were 12 Gadwalls at Crystal Springs Reservoir, San Mateo Co. (AC, JT). A female Pintail was flushed from a nest with 9 eggs at the mouth of Plummer Creek, near Newark, on May 6 (HLC), one of the few nesting records along San Francisco Bay. Single male Blue-winged Teal were seen at the mouth of the Pajaro River near Watsonville on April 5 (WBM, WJF) and at Sacramento Refuge on May 10 (EK). A male European Widgeon was seen at Sacramento Refuge on April 19, the second one there this spring (EK). An unusual flight of 260 Ring-necked Ducks passed through this Refuge on April 5 (EK), and 5 nests of this species and several of Lesser Scaups were observed (and 3 of the Ring-necks banded) at Mountain Meadows Reservoir, southwestern Lassen Co., by June 5 (WA). This is only the second record of nesting Ring-necks in the state known to the editor, and the scarp is entirely new here as a breeder, except for probable cripples.

Hawks.—The White-tailed Kites which began nesting in March at Sacramento Refuge were last seen on April 30, the nest being deserted (EK); no other

reports as to the success of the recently expanded population in northern Sacramento Valley were received. Ospreys were reported in unprecedented numbers this spring, migrants since those mentioned in the last issue being noted at San Francisco Beach on April 1 (BDC), two north of Fresno on April 15 (WBM), one (dead) at Bon Tempe Lake, Marin Co., on May 20 (Chas. Hines, Ed Hase), and one at Searsville Lake on May 21 (Emily D. Smith). Within the normal breeding range of Ospreys in the coastal area north of Marin County, they were found in late May and early June in at least 7 places in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties (EDS, Manette Wittgenstein, Wm. M. Pursell); and at Eagle Lake, Lassen Co., 6 adults and at least 2 active nests were found on June 3 (WA). Young Sparrow Hawks were in the nest at Sacramento Refuge on May 5, and Red-tailed Hawks on May 14 (EK).

Rails, Gallinule, and Am. Coot.—During the course of sign-posting operations on May 6 at the new San Francisco Bay Salt-marsh Sanctuary near Newark at least 6 Clapper Rails were flushed and 2 nests with eggs found without special search (GGAS). Two nests of Virginia Rail and one of Sora were found on May 31 and June 4, respectively, at Mountain Meadows, southwestern Lassen County (WA). A Florida Gallinule's nest at Sacramento Refuge held 4 eggs on May 8; the population of Am. Coots there dwindled to a few hundred in early April only to rise to over 1600 again in mid-April as they were herded by airplane from newly planted rice fields where they do considerable damage (EK).

Shorebirds, (breeding).—Nesting of Snowy Plovers on dikes among salt ponds near Alviso began by April 28 and at least 10 adults and 4 nests with eggs were found there on May 20 (Etta W. Smith). Two young Snowies were seen at Moss Landing, May 19 (Junea W. Kelly). At Mountain Meadows Reservoir, Lassen Co., 4 young hatched in a Wilson's Snipe nest on May 30, and a number of nests of Wilson's Phalarope were found all during May (WA). The latter species first appeared west of Fresno on April 30 (WBM) and at Sacramento Refuge on May 2 (EK). Am. Avocets at San Leandro Bay and vicinity, where hundreds winter, had dwindled to 5 by April 21 (HLC); but among the salt ponds near Alviso 12 adults scolded on April 28 but no nests were then seen. However, on May 20, at least 20 adults, 6 nests, and 23 small chicks were seen there, "more than for several years" (EWS). Avocets were present in like numbers at the salt-marsh-salt-pond border near Newark on May 6, three nests with eggs being found (GGAS); they were much above normal at Yolo By-Pass on April 14 (Ed R. Pickett). Black-necked Stilts were below normal at this last locality until mid-April (AW); and the first 15 at Sacramento Refuge were two weeks late in arriving, on April 16 (EK).

Shorebirds (other).—Six Red Knots were at Bay Farm Island on April 10 and 5 at Moss Landing, May 19 (JWK); but the peak of the migration seems to be indicated by a count of 54 at Bay Farm Island on April 21 and a flock of about 30 passing northward some 11 miles offshore in the Gulf of the

Farallons on April 28 (HLC). Two Black Turnstones also flew northward about 10 miles offshore on the latter date. Dowitchers dwindled from about 1000 at Bay Farm Island and San Leandro Bay on April 21 (HLC) to 200 there on May 10, and 50 on May 27 (JWK). Large numbers also occurred through April inland (ERP), where the Long-billed (*L. scolopaceus*) is the common species. They reached a peak of 500 at the sewer farm west of Fresno on April 30 (WBM). The larger species of shorebirds normally disappear from Bay Area tidal flats earlier than the small sandpipers, but about 300 Marbled Godwits were still at Bay Farm Island on May 10 and 75 at Moss Landing on May 19, with 25 Willets also at the latter place (JWK). The flight of Hudsonian Curlews was much less protracted, and the bulk of it probably missed at San Francisco Beach (29 maximum on April 19) where hundreds were seen in May last year (BDC). At Bay Farm Island 11 were present on May 4 (VKC) and 3 on May 21 (JWK). Greater Yellow-legs continued in good numbers inland in early April, 50 being counted in one field near Franklin on April 1 (ERP) and 41 in Yolo By-Pass on April 8 (AW). The last 10 noted at Sacramento Refuge were on April 30 (EK), but one was at Tomales Bay on May 16 (JK). The peak of the peep migration, insofar as detected by only occasional visits to suitable habitat, came normally in the third week of April, some 1100 Red-backed Sandpipers and 23,000 Westerns being carefully estimated on April 21 at Bay Farm Island and adjacent San Leandro Bay (HLC). In Sacramento Valley a peak of 815 Red-backs was tallied on April 5 and the last 45 at Sacramento Refuge on April 30 (EK), while large numbers were present all during April near Sacramento (E. A. Albertson, ERP, AW). The last of the migration is indicated by 6 Westerns on May 21 and 6 Red-backs on May 27 at Bay Farm Island (JWK). Sanderlings reached a peak of 1000 near Inverness on April 6 (GM). The flight of Northern Phalaropes was very poor; even with 3 offshore trips the maximum numbers were less than 30 at any one place or date (April 30 to May 19). Five in breeding plumage near Moss Landing on March 30 (Marjorie Van Scyoc, Florence Plymell) were decidedly early, but arrival in Sacramento Valley was not detected until early May. No Red Phalaropes were reported.

Jaegers, Gulls, Terns, Alcids.—No jaegers were found on the April 28 and May 27 trips to the Farallon Islands; but one Parasitic Jaeger was seen about 10 miles offshore on June 3 (AC). Short-billed Gulls, which had been exceptionally numerous the past winter, departed mostly on time, in March, with a last 7 on April 3 and 1 on April 7 at San Francisco Beach (BDC). About 10 Bonaparte's Gulls passed northward 6 miles east of SE Farallon Island on April 28 (HLC), and the last 2 at Jenner were noted on May 25 (JK). A single Black-legged Kittiwake, in first-year plumage, flew north just offshore at Santa Cruz on April 1 (WBM). Two Caspian Terns were at Sutter Refuge on April 16 (EK) and movement of this species was also indicated by 25 still at Bay Farm Island on May 10 (JWK); one

at Moraga on May 14 (ASC); and a last one at Bodega Bay on May 16 (JK). One Cassin's Auklet on May 27 was the only one found on the 3 trips to the SE Farallon Island; but the area west of the island where most are usually seen in spring could not be visited because of rough water on May 27 and June 3 (HLC). About 30 Tufted Puffins were seen in the circuit of the island on April 28 (HLC), and 15 near the eastern side alone on June 3 (AC).

Doves.—Band-tailed Pigeons continued in above-normal numbers, some in places where their occurrence is unusual, e.g., 10 present through the winter to April 14 at Kearney Park, 8 miles west of Fresno (WBM). Above-normal flock sizes and late dates were noted also in the normal wintering areas from Los Gatos and Soquel north to Lake County, where flocks of 40 to 50 were still present in oaks at 1200 feet elevation on May 29 (EM). In addition, 70 seen moving rapidly north along the Sacramento River near Princeton on April 17 (EK) were probably in actual transit. Laidlaw Williams states that there has been a very noticeable increase in numbers of Mourning Doves in the Monterey Peninsula area compared with past years; and many more were noted in the Montclair section of Oakland, but this was presumed to be due to the opening of a wooded area by adjacent freeway construction (Mrs. H. K. Trousdale). At Mills College, in another part of Oakland, the population was also up, with no such factor to explain it (HLC). In contrast, at Soquel, doves seemed to be down in numbers (R. J. Richardson).

Owls, Nighthawks.—Two young Horned Owls at Lodoga, Colusa Co., were still only partly grown on May 9 (EK). Three Spotted Owls were heard on May 20 on Mount Tamalpais, Marin Co. (CH, EH), an area where they have been long known but seldom reported in recent years. A Saw-whet Owl was heard by many listeners on a dawn expedition at Redwood Canyon, east of Oakland, on May 5 (HLC, *et al.*). Common Nighthawks were heard and seen 6 miles east of Chico and 3 miles north of Chico on May 29 and 30, respectively (VKC), and were first noted at Honey Lake on June 1 (WA). A Lesser Nighthawk was in a residential section of Sacramento on April 3 (Jim Wanzer); and a nighthawk of undetermined species seen on April 11 near Upper Lake is the first record for Lake County (EM) [and was, on this date, far more likely a Lesser, for which there is a prior April record even farther west, at Ukiah—Ed.].

Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers.—The Black-chinned Hummingbird was found at El Portal, 2000 ft., on April 16, the earliest date ever there (WJF), and one was at Lanes Bridge, north of Fresno, on April 25 and May 5 (WBM). A female Black-chin on a nest at Blue Lakes, 1350 ft., Lake Co., on May 30 (EM) is a new northwesternmost breeding record for the state. Hummingbirds in general, and especially Anna's, were noted as scarcer than usual by several observers. For Anna's at least, last winter's heavy rains may have been a factor *if* in some way they interfered with the availability of winter nectar and/or insect supplies. At Alameda, periods of 23 and 24

days elapsed from March 28 and 29, when eggs in an Anna's Hummingbird nest hatched, to April 20 and 22, when the young flew (JWK). Migrant male Calliope Hummingbirds were noted in Oakland about April 16 (Bro. Sylvester MacNutt) and in Berkeley, April 19 (Minnie Young). A Yellow-bellied (Red-breasted) Sapsucker was present through the winter to at least May 30 at Prairie Creek State Park, Humboldt Co. (Ken Legg). A nest of the race *nuchalis* was found on May 20 in the mountains west of Doyle, southeastern Lassen County (WA), an area at the margin of the breeding range of the very distinct race *daggetti* where interbreeding should be looked for as an extension to that already demonstrated in Modoc County and points farther north (see Howell, *Condor* 54:237-282, 1952).

Flycatchers.—The earliest Western Kingbirds were at Sacramento Refuge on April 5 (EK) and at Sebastopol on April 8 (G. L. Bolander), but their widespread arrivals thence to April 13 were from 1 to 2 weeks late. The increase by April 15 near Sacramento brought the population to above last year's high one, however (ERP). Many were still in migration on April 18 (F. G. Evenden), on which date the most were seen at Lanes Bridge, north of Fresno, also (WBM). A count along U. S. Route 99E north of Chico on May 6 totaled 24 Western Kingbirds in 25 miles (VKC). Since they are normally absent from the immediate vicinity of San Francisco Bay, one seen on May 30 near Orinda (A. L. Curl) is worthy of note. Despite some earlier pioneers (March 9, reported last time, and April 7 at Ben Lomond Mountain, Santa Cruz Co.—WBM), the bulk arrival of Ash-throated Flycatchers was obviously on April 18 to 27, as evidenced by numerous reports. One reached Prairie Creek State Park on May 16 (KL) after a night with favorable winds; and nests were found in late May near Moraga (ASC) and on May 30 near Orinda (ALC). Similarly, although the earliest Western Flycatchers arrived normally on March 18 near Salinas (Louise M. Hutton) to March 23 to 27 at Los Gatos, Oakland, and Forestville, the population reached normal size only after a wave of migrants appeared on April 2, as at Redwood Canyon, east of Oakland (JWK). The first were noted on April 5 at Santa Cruz (WBM) and Santa Rosa (GLB), and on April 9 at Prairie Creek (KL). Winds on the nights during this period were mostly unfavorable for migrants northbound into this Region, but easterly winds on the night of April 2-3 may have helped. A **Gray Flycatcher** was seen at Lanes Bridge, north of Fresno, on May 16 by Minturn who considers it a regular but sparse migrant there in early May. He also found an Olive-sided Flycatcher there on May 14 and 16, a rarity at that locality.

Swallows.—On April 16 there were 10 Tree Swallows perching and flying about over snow 3 to 4 feet deep at Soda Springs, 6767 ft., Nevada Co. (BDC), where they nest regularly. At the Fort Funston (San Francisco) colony of Bank Swallows, which is regularly disturbed by beach visitors, there were 12 adults present on April 19, at least 20 pairs building nests or excavating burrows on May 7, and 40 pairs on

May 29, nearly all feeding young (BDC). Two Bank Swallows were studied at close range on May 4 at Lanes Bridge, north of Fresno, by Minturn who has never before found them in San Joaquin Valley during many years of observation there. The Purple Martin colony in downtown Sacramento was larger in late April than last year (Don McLean, ERP).

Corvids through Wrens.—The winter's influx of Steller's Jays in the Sacramento Valley tapered off during April, with one on April 7 and May 19 at Chico (VKC), while in the San Joaquin Valley, north of Fresno, 2 to 4 were at Lanes Bridge until at least May 5 (WBM). In the Sierra foothill region, where they are normally only occasional in winter except close to the pine belt, some were at Columbia on April 8 (Mt. Diablo Audubon Society); more than usual were at Murphys from April 4 to 18, then 1 or 2 daily until April 30 (Mrs. J. C. Scoles); and at Mariposa 4 were present from April 18 to 25 (WJF). No Clark's Nutcrackers were found on April 16 on a visit to snow-covered Donner Pass and the Truckee-Sierra Valley area (BDC), this normal wintering area presumably being deserted by those involved in the farflung wanderings described in the last two reports. One nutcracker in Yosemite Valley on May 14 and 15 was late for that 4000 foot elevation (WJF). A Black-capped Chickadee was observed in willows at Klamath, Del Norte Co. on April 8 (KL), verifying the heretofore unrecorded occurrence of this species in that area, which was suspected on the basis of specimens taken farther to the south and east in adjacent counties. A Brown Creeper was building a nest in the trunk of a Eucalyptus tree near Sonoma on March 21 (JWK). An Am. Dipper nest on Lost Man Creek, Humboldt Co. held large young on May 28 (KL). Winter Wrens at Prairie Creek State Park were nest-building on April 16 and had eggs on April 30; and a Long-billed Marsh Wren nest at nearby Dry Lagoon with young on April 29 was early (KL).

Thrushes.—Ten Am. Robins and 2 Mountain Bluebirds spent much time flying over a snow-covered lake on April 16 at Soda Springs, for reasons that were not apparent, and they were common on that date in thawing areas throughout the section from Truckee to Sierra Valley (BDC). Departure of wintering Varied Thrushes was uniformly in mid-April throughout the Region, the latest ones being on the 16th at Fort Bragg (Mrs. R. Coy) and the 17th near Mt. St. Helena (JWK). Last records for wintering Hermit Thrushes were a little more variable, from April 4 at Moraga (ASC) to April 20 near Fresno (WBM). At Carmel Highlands the last wintering one was noted on April 11, after which no Hermit Thrushes were seen until April 30, when one in song marked the arrival of summer residents or transients near their breeding grounds (LW). A transient one was seen at Alameda on May 10, and one in song on Howell Mountain, Napa Co. on May 16 (JWK). The arrival of Olive-backed Thrushes was normal on April 22 to 26 at widespread locations, Fresno to Inverness, despite winds from the north every night during that period; but they were preceded by an early one singing at Los Gatos on April 18 (Gladys

E. Record). Townsend's Solitaire was seen at Columbia, Stanislaus Co. on April 8 (MDAS), and one at Klamath, Del Norte Co. the same day (KL).

Waxwings and Phainopeplas.—Cedar Waxwings were present throughout the period in unusual numbers at one place or another, but varying in dates. A flock of 50 appeared on April 6 at Murphys (where they have not been noted before in spring), some remaining until April 25 (JCS); and flocks of 11 to 63 were noted from March 14 to May 16 (most on the last day) along Great Highway in San Francisco, the first seen there in 6 years of residence (BDC). Last dates for them at most localities ranged from May 13 to 24, but a fruiting mulberry tree at Mills College, Oakland, held 20 on May 30, 15 on June 1, and a last 4 on June 3 (HLC). They were also still present in small flocks on May 31 in the Upper Lake area, where they appeared on May 7 (EM). Among 8 Phainopeplas at Lanes Bridge, north of Fresno, on March 3 one pair was nest-building (WBM); and in Arroyo Mocho, southeast of Livermore, one was nesting on May 12 (ASC). Along Butte Creek, 6 miles east of Chico, a female was seen on May 29 and a male the following day (VKC).

Vireos and Warblers.—A pair of Hutton's Vireos had 4 fledglings on May 13 at St. Albert's College, Oakland, and was incubating what was apparently a second clutch in the same territory on June 2 (Bro. Sylvester MacNutt, HLC). A Bell's Vireo was seen at Lanes Bridge, north of Fresno, on April 30 (WBM). A Solitary Vireo singing in Alum Rock Park, east of San Jose, on March 30 (CH) was early, as was the first noted at Los Gatos on April 3 where one was incubating on April 22 (GER). Also near Los Gatos another was nest-building on April 29 and incubating on May 6 (John Harville), while at Blue Lakes, 1350 ft., Lake Co. young were fledged from one nest on May 30 (EM). Although Orange-crowned Warblers and Warbling Vireos normally arrive about mid- and late March in central California, Orange-crowns were not found on the Humboldt-Del Norte County coast until April 8 and the vireos were first noted at Prairie Creek there on May 15, when 12 were counted (KL). In a wave of birds on this latter date, a hot day, Legg found in addition: 6 Yellow and 2 Black-throated Gray Warblers, a Yellow-breasted Chat, 8 Black-headed Grosbeaks, and 3 Red Crossbills—all in one small area of alders along a stream. Yet these migrants preceded the two nights (May 15-16 and 17-18) with the most favorable winds of all for northward flights during the whole period. Wind direction on the nights of May 12-13 and 13-14 are not available at this writing, but the editor suspects that the northward influx of such a wave took place on one or both of these nights, with subsequent gravitation to the streamside location with the high temperature of the 15th. Arrival of Macgillivray's Warblers at Moraga on April 7 (Ken Schulz) and of Yellow Warblers there on April 9 (ASC) and at Santa Cruz on April 7 and 8 (WBM) may well be correlated with south and southwest winds on preceding nights. So also might the first Black-throated Gray Warblers,

2 at Santa Cruz on April 3 (WBM), be explained by easterly winds the night before. A male Myrtle Warbler was in song at Klamath, Del Norte Co. on April 8 (KL). Hermit Warblers were noted only at Lanes Bridge, north of Fresno, on April 22 (WBM) and at 9 miles west of Santa Rosa on May 14 (GLB), just about their usual span of migration dates. A Northern Water-thrush was seen closely at Lake Merced on May 9 (CH, EH). Black-capped Warblers arrived in numbers in Calera Canyon, near Salinas, on March 18 (LMH) and one was seen at Santa Cruz on March 24 (WBM), but the arrival elsewhere was normal in early April, except in Humboldt County, where the first was seen on April 29 at Dry Lagoon (KL).

Blackbirds. Tanagers.—A colony of Tri-colored Blackbirds estimated at between 5000 and 10,000 birds was nesting on the newly created Mendota Refuge on April 14 (WBM), while at Sacramento Refuge a movement of thousands was evident the 3rd week of May (3000 on May 18) (EK). A compact flock of about 300 Yellow-headed Blackbirds, an unusual number in this Region, was present to at least April 15 on the west side of Yolo By-Pass (Sacramento Audubon Society); about 30 were nesting near Mendota on April 14 (WBM), and one nest was found on the Colusa Refuge, May 22 (EK). One of 6 Brewer's Blackbirds at Soda Springs, 6760 ft., carried nesting material to a Lodgepole Pine on April 16 when the snow was several feet deep there (BDC). A few years ago Brown-headed Cowbirds were unknown in the northwest coast area of California, but 8 males were seen at Klamath on April 8; and by May 30 the species was widespread in the northern Humboldt County area (KL), correlating with the steady spread of this species into conifer areas already documented for the Sierra Nevada and western Oregon and Washington. The arrival of Western Tanagers was particularly spotty, with a very early female on March 16 in eastern Sacramento (W. K. Kirsher), firsts in mid-April at Orinda (B. Gillis, *vide* GM) and Sebastopol (JK), but elsewhere at the end of April or even as late as May 6 to 21 (Los Gatos and Fresno, respectively). It is hardly unexpected then that exceptional numbers were reported during the last 10 days of May, when the bulk of the migration seems to have occurred.

Fringillids.—A Black-headed Grosbeak appeared 3 weeks early on March 21 at Sacramento City Plaza (DM), and they were first seen at Moraga (JWK) and in the Santa Cruz Mountains near Los Gatos (Angelina Snow) on April 3, also early: but they were first noted in numbers on April 7 near Salinas (LMH) after a night with inconsequential winds. Normal arrival on April 12 to 22 was then widespread. Lazuli Buntings were, in contrast, late in arriving in many areas, yet reached normal numbers or above in mid- and late May, as in interior Monterey County (HLC) and at Moraga (ASC). About 24 Evening Grosbeaks were seen at Lafayette, April 7, and a number there on April 10 (Harry Adamson); the last 2 at Sebastopol were seen on April 17 (JK) and 3 were at Lanes Bridge, north of Fresno, on May 16 (WBM). Six Grasshopper Sparrows, a species

that is highly localized and erratic in occurrence in this Region, were reported at St. Mary's College, Moraga, on May 3 (ASC). Two **Brewer's Sparrows** were banded on April 25 at Sacramento Refuge (EK). White-crowned Sparrows were absent from Prairie Creek and vicinity, north Humboldt County, from November until March 18, when 6 were seen; and greater numbers did not return until April 6 (KL). Departure of the large winter populations in central California usually occurs by April 20, but some (race *gambeli*) were still at El Portal on April 27 (WJF) and at Sacramento Refuge on May 1 (EK). On April 16 one was at Soda Springs, 6760 ft., and one 5 miles southeast of Sierraville (BDC), neither locality being a wintering area. These were most likely also of race *gambeli*, as May arrival dates are normal for the breeding form, *oriantha*, 3 of which were present on May 26 at Badger Pass, Yosemite (WBM). A sharp decrease in numbers of Golden-crowned Sparrows was noted at Inverness, Oakland, and elsewhere on April 7 to 9, when night winds were moderately favorable for northbound migrants. Other departures occurred normally about April 15 to 26, and last stragglers were noted on May 2 at Los Gatos (EDS), May 13 at El Portal, the latest ever seen there (WJF), and May 24 at Montclair, Oakland (HKT). Fox Sparrows also showed first reduction in winter numbers about April 7 in western California, the latest recorded being on April 29 at Inverness (GM). On April 16 one was singing frequently near Yuba Pass at 6000 ft., and one at Soda Springs, 6760 ft., both localities within the breeding range of the species but still with snow on this date (BDC).—HOWARD L. COGSWELL, *Dept. of Biological Sciences, Mills College, Oakland 13, Calif.*