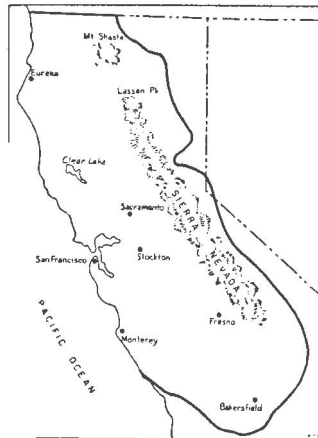


MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION.—During this period the weather in this Region, being nearly 100 per cent storm free, is rarely of obvious significance for bird distribution and those of its aspects which affect success in breeding are too remote in time from their consequences, except for excessively hot spells, to be detected by most observers. Temperatures this summer have been normal or somewhat below with no really hot periods, as yet, so birds generally had good success in breeding, except where populations were depleted by the severe weather and floods, or failure of food supply, of last winter. In the Willow Creek area of Humboldt County, where the Trinity River runs through a deep, narrow valley, all the spring and summer warblers, the House Finch and the Am. and Lesser Goldfinches were low to very low in numbers, perhaps due in part to the sweeping away of riparian growth by last winter's



can-
ce for bird
distribution
and those of
its aspects
which affect
success in
breeding are
too remote
in time from
their conse-
quences, except
for excessively
hot spells, to
be detected
by most ob-
servers. Tem-
peratures this
summer have
been normal
or somewhat
below with
no really hot
periods, as
yet, so birds

generally had good success in breeding, except where populations were depleted by the severe weather and floods, or failure of food supply, of last winter. In the Willow Creek area of Humboldt County, where the Trinity River runs through a deep, narrow valley, all the spring and summer warblers, the House Finch and the Am. and Lesser Goldfinches were low to very low in numbers, perhaps due in part to the sweeping away of riparian growth by last winter's

floods (Robert Talmadge). In the area about Sunol, Alameda County, water conditions were much more favorable for nesting success than last year, a number of small streams and springs still flowing on Aug. 20 (Milton Seibert).

In the high Sierra Nevada areas breeding-bird populations seemed very scarce—at least this was true at Tuolumne Meadows, 8500 ft., Yosemite National Park, June 30 to July 3 (W. M. Pursell). Last year's cone crop failure in the subalpine areas, coupled with severe weather and snow conditions, may account for low populations in the normally resident species, of course (but see below, under Corvids, for comment on those species which invaded the lowlands last winter). However, the current crop of cones on the Whitebark Pine, W. White Pine, and firs in the Tahoe area promises to be excellent, as is that on the piñons in the Virginia Range of western Nevada (Arnold Small), so no shortage of these staple foods should be evident in the coming winter.

Loons and Grebes.—An Arctic Loon at SE Farallon Island and one between there and San Francisco on June 3 (Alan Craig) could be classed as late migrants; but a Red-throated Loon at Moss Landing, July 13 and Aug. 12, and single Common Loons there on July 13 (R. D. Ross), at Santa Cruz on July 15 and at Pajaro Rivermouth, near Watsonville, on Aug. 5 (W. B. Minturn) can be considered only as non-breeding vagrants. Western Grebes arrived in numbers on the coast early, 33 being at Jenner on July 18 (Joseph Kittredge). Nesting of several pairs on the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge was noted until July 3, but no young were seen there. Pied-billed Grebes, however, produced young very successfully there, with a peak of nesting in late June and early July (Eugene Kridler).

Albatrosses, Shearwaters, Petrels.—Fully 26 Black-footed Albatrosses were behind a boat about 6 miles off Santa Cruz on June 19, and an estimated total of 30 was seen on the trip (Charles Wurster, Doris Wurster)—a really record number so close to shore in our Region. Three were dead on the beach near Watsonville on Aug. 5 (WBM) and 3 or 4 were seen on Aug. 7 between the San Francisco Lightship and SE Farallon Island (H. L. Cogswell). Offshore observations in northern California have been almost completely lacking. Hence the presence of 2 immature Black-footed Albatrosses on July 16 and one on July 30, Aug. 2 and Aug. 9 at more than 3 miles off Trinidad (D. Bruce Swinehart) is of interest, although not unexpected. The great close-to-shore flights of Sooty Shearwaters in July or early August are one of the amazing events of the year in central California. The peak this year was apparently early, a sudden maximum of 150,000 being seen off San Francisco's Ocean Beach on July 2, and about 40,000 on July 17 and thousands (in fog) on July 28 (Betsy D. Cutler). On Aug. 5 only 1000 were estimated near shore in northern Monterey Bay (WBM), and on Aug. 7 between the Golden Gate and SE Farallon Island only 47 Sooty, 1 Pink-footed, and 12 unidentified shearwaters were seen (HLC). An Ashy Petrel was found dead on the beach south-

east of Santa Cruz on July 5 (WBM). On the SE Farallon on Aug. 7 a 40-minute search for nests of this species was unsuccessful (HLC), despite its exceeding abundance there in former years.

*Heron*s.—Adults from over 400 active nests of Great Blue Herons and Am. Egrets in a rookery south of Princeton, Colusa Co. foraged only close to the colony in June, but began to move into the Sacramento Refuge in numbers, along with Black-crowned Night Herons, July 1, about 160 of the egrets being there on July 15 (EK). A small heronry near Bolinas, Marin Co. which has existed for at least 6 years according to nearby residents, held a few large young Great Blues and Am. Egrets on July 22 (HLC, Grace Miller), 7 of the latter remaining on or near nests on Aug. 13 (GM). On the former date 12 Great Blues and 93 Am. Egrets were counted at nearby Bolinas Lagoon; and on the same date the colony on Little Marin Island in North San Francisco Bay held about 150 white birds, including some Snowy Egrets (possibly nesting there?). On Aug. 5 about 35 Am. and 75 Snowy Egrets were on a tide flat a few miles from this colony (HLC). Small numbers of Am. and Least Bitterns were present on the federal refuges in upper Sacramento Valley all summer (EK), and a migrant Am. Bittern "froze" in a shallow, concrete-bottomed pool on the Mills College campus, Oakland, on July 22 (HLC).

Waterfowl.—A flock of 25 Black Brant at Bolinas Lagoon, July 22 (HLC, GM), was an unusual number for the out-of-season date. Nesting ducks (chiefly Mallards) on the upper Sacramento Valley refuges are not considered to be very successful, the reason cited being predation by large numbers of feral cats, skunks, raccoons, and Norway rats. On the Sacramento Refuge numbers of Mallards rose from a low of 600 to 1800 in early June, as many moved in to molt; and another influx took place in late July as many nearby waters dried up. The first migrant Pintails arrived on this refuge on Aug. 1, their numbers increasing to a normal 5000 by Aug. 15 and to 28,000 by Aug. 20, when over 200,000 were in the Tule Lake-Klamath Basin (EK). There were some earlier flights noted near the coast: 30 on July 16 and July 27, and 50 on July 29, over Sebastopol (JK). Fall movement of Cinnamon Teal brought 2 on Aug. 4 to a Santa Cruz pond where they did not nest, but where 2 female Ruddy Ducks with broods of 8 and 7 small young were seen in early August (WBM). On June 11 several pairs of Canvas-backs were on Grass Lake, 16 miles north of Mt. Shasta, where several were also seen on June 17, 1952 (HLC). They are not known to nest there, although the sparse marsh habitat seems suitable.

Hawks.—Two pairs of White-tailed Kites raised young successfully near Glenn (T. E. Balch), and 7 or more were foraging over dry rice stubble east of Woodland on July 21 (E. A. Albertson). Goshawks were seen only 7 times in 9 weeks at the Audubon Camp near Donner Pass, less regularly than during the past few years (AS, Charles Hines). The only brood of Red-tailed Hawks raised on the Sacramento Refuge left there in mid-July (EK). Golden Eagles showed increases in at least 2 regions: 1)

Trinity River and nearby ridges, where juveniles attest some reproductive success (RT); and 2) Donner Pass area in the Sierra Nevada, where they were recorded 20 times during 9 weeks from June 24 to Aug. 24 (AS, CH), Talmadge also reports that a pair of Bald Eagles nested along the coast of Mendocino County at least until 1940, and may very well still do so since the area is remote and difficult of access. An adult Osprey was foraging over Lagunitas Creek near Point Reyes Station on Aug. 5 (HLC). A Prairie Falcon was seen in lower Arroyo Mocho, near Livermore, on July 22 (Lee Stallcup). At the Audubon Camp near Norden, 7000 ft., one caught a Belding's Ground Squirrel on July 8 and one was seen on July 13 over the same meadow and ski slope; and there was one over the summit of Squaw Peak, 8900 ft., on Aug. 26 (AS, CH).

Quail, Rails.—Reports on breeding success of California Quail were variable, although most observers judged that numbers were up and young numerous. Such seemed to be true west of Santa Rosa (G. L. Bolander), at Mills College, Oakland (HLC), and near Sunol (MS) despite the fact that many pairs at the first two localities were seen all through the spring and summer with no young in attendance. Nestings were late near Willow Creek, where 3 broods were seen in August (RT), and quail were reported as scarce at Murphys (2200 ft.) Calaveras Co., with young seen only in early August (Mrs. J. C. Scoles). Three adult Mountain Quail, each with a brood of about 7 young, were seen within ¼ mile near Packer Lake, 6500 ft., Sierra Co. during the week of July 29 to Aug. 5 (Junea W. Kelly), indicating a good year there for this species also. A pair of Clapper Rails accompanied by at least 3 downy young were seen on July 22 near Pt. Isabel, S. E. Richmond (A. L. Curl). Florida Gallinules began nesting on Sacramento Valley refuges in early May and young were frequently seen there beginning in June (EK). An immature visited a small marshy pond north of Sebastopol on Aug. 18 (GLB), the third record in 2 years near the coast north of the Golden Gate, where they were formerly unknown.

Shorebirds.—Several of the larger species of shorebirds were noted in unusual numbers as early fall migrants: Black-bellied Plover, 100 on July 6 and 200 on July 21 at Bay Farm Island (JWK); Long-billed Curlew, 30 to 40 (this sp.) near San Quentin on July 2 (GM), 2 near San Francisco Airport on July 7 and 25 there on the quite normal date of July 21 (A. J. Bennett); Hudsonian Curlew, 1 on July 5 and 43 on July 23 at Bodega Bay (JK); and dowitcher, about 50 at Bay Farm Island on July 6 (JWK) and at least 200 on July 8 east of nearby San Leandro Bay (HLC). Quite otherwise was the poor flight of Marbled Godwits, in other years recorded in hundreds before July 10 and in thousands by July 31, the maximum numbers at one locality this year being about 100. Willets appeared to be about normal, even at Bay Farm Island where drastic changes in habitat still continue. On July 6 there were about 300 already present (JWK). Western Sandpipers, the most abundant species here, numbered about 230 on July 8 (HLC) and reached 4000 by

July 19 (JWK)—but this is only about half the number estimated here at the same season 7 years ago by the same observer. There were relatively few records of the less common shorebirds: Lesser Yellow-legs, July 26, one at Pajaro River-mouth and 4 (with 6 Greater) at Twin Lakes, Santa Cruz (WBM); Red Knot, 1 in breeding plumage at Bay Farm Island, July 8 (HLC), and about 50 on salt ponds near Newark, Aug. 19 (CW, DW, *et al.*); Pectoral Sandpiper, 1 on Aug. 3 west of Santa Cruz, and Baird's Sandpiper, 1 near Santa Cruz on July 26 (WBM).

The phenology of shorebirds in the Central Valley of California is poorly known, and is apparently changing rapidly with extension of areas of "managed" water there. Two Spotted Sandpipers on June 2 and 3 at Deer Creek, near Vina, Tehama Co. (Vee K. Curtis), possibly indicate that this species may breed in this low altitude area. At Sacramento Refuge, Am. Avocets had finished nesting by June 1, but many remained into August, when they foraged on the newly flooded alkali flats of nearby gun clubs. After nesting in May and June, the numbers of Black-necked Stilts on the valley refuges climbed slowly, a total of about 400 being found on the 3 federal refuges from July to Aug. 15 (EK). Long-billed Curlews also lingered into the summer at the Sacramento Refuge, although none are known to nest there: 53 on June 23, 40 on July 3, the numbers then dropping to a last 3 on July 8 (EK). Greater Yellow-legs were rare at this refuge in June and July, but jumped to 60 on Aug. 12, while dowitchers were completely absent through most of June, then rose erratically to 200 by the end of July and to about 800 on Aug. 20 (EK). Wilson's Phalaropes, not known to nest in the Sacramento Valley, were not found on Sacramento Refuge during June, but 3 pairs and a lone male were there on July 7 and they reached a brief peak of 180 on July 22, after which only 20-25 were present (EK). In close correspondence with these dates, 6 Wilson's were on the sugar refinery ponds east of Woodland on July 4, and 47 on July 21, but were replaced by 3 Northern on July 29 (EAA). An exceptionally large flock of about 1200 Wilson's Phalaropes fed on one salt pond south of Newark on Aug. 19 (Golden Gate Audubon Society), far outnumbering the Northern that were more scattered through the area.

Gulls and Terns.—A very early (or late?) vagrant Glaucous-winged Gull was seen at Bodega Bay on Aug. 1 and 6 (JK). In the colony of Western Gulls at the SE Farallon Island most young were just arriving at flying stage on Aug. 7, but a few were still partly in down and at least 17 young of the year were seen 3 or more miles offshore between the island and the mainland (HLC). In their usual haunts along the outer coast, Heermann's Gulls were below normal numbers (BDC, HLC); but near the San Rafael-Richmond Ferry run they were unusually numerous, 1 among 7 there on July 7 (WMP) and among 30 on Aug. 5 (HLC) showing the prominent white primary coverts known as an uncommon aberration in this species for over 100 years. Juvenal Forster's Terns able to fly were still being fed at Bay Farm Island on July 6 and 19 (JWK). Two

Common Terns were seen at Pajaro River-mouth on July 5 and 31 (WBM). Caspian Terns were occasional all summer in the Sacramento Valley and 10 were on Colusa Refuge there on Aug. 17 (EK). Post-breeding movement of Black Terns at Sacramento Refuge was evidenced by a decrease from 25 or 30 to 10 by early August (EK). One was seen at Boca Reservoir, 5500 ft., Nevada Co., on July 10 (AS, CH).

Alcids.—On July 31 and Aug. 5 Minturn saw 6 Marbled Murrelets at Santa Cruz, where they are rarely seen in summer. Two Cassin's Auklets were seen from a boat 5 to 6 miles off Santa Cruz on June 19 (CW, DW); and 1 and 2 were found dead on the beach SE of there on July 5 and Aug. 5, respectively (WBM). On SE Farallon Island on Aug. 7 a 40-minute search among burrows and crevices revealed 5 containing one young Cassin's Auklet each, the 3 well-feathered ones being banded (HLC). A Tufted Puffin was seen more than 3 miles off Trinidad on July 23 (DBS). The greatest rarity of the season was a *Horned Puffin*, probably immature, dead on San Francisco Beach on Aug. 3 (BDC)—the 10th and earliest record, seasonally, for the state fall being of dead or dying birds.

Pigeons through Swifts.—Mr. Wallace MacGregor, state game biologist working on pigeons and doves, reports (*vide* E. R. Pickett) that the statewide population of Band-tailed Pigeons is very large and that Mourning Doves are more than holding their own. A total of 502 doves were counted flying past one point south of Stanford University on the evening of July 21 (Masson, in *The Aroctet* 3:26). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo, rarely noted in recent years in this Region, was seen in Yolo By-Pass on July but none was located there on two later visits (EAA). A Road-runner seen on Aug. 15 at the headquarters of the Sacramento Refuge, near Willows (Dan Willey and Wm. Newton, *vide* EK), was even more unusual at this valley floor locale. A Spotted Owl perched 20 feet from a house in Inverness for most of the day on July 26, and was scolded throughout by a female House Finch (GM). A Common Nighthawk, a rare transient in the Bay area, was seen and heard over El Cerrito on June 25 (ALC). The Vaux's Swift was found again (as in 1955) at Wright's Lake, 7000 ft., Eldorado Co. on July 14 (ALC, GGAS). Black Swifts were reported from 4 areas of the Sierra Nevada: 35 to 40 over Yosemite Valley on June 9, and 4 in Kings Canyon on June 14 (RDR); 1 over Lake Van Norden, 6800 ft., near Donner Pass, on June 27 (AS); 2 at the nearby Audubon Camp on Aug. 17 (CH, Billy Lewis); and a flock of about 50 over the American River Canyon along U. S. Route 50 on July 14 (Richard Stallcup). Six were seen on Aug. 3 near the sea cave in which a nest was observed last year, near Santa Cruz (WBM).

Hummingbirds.—Nests of Allen's Hummingbirds with large young were found to late June at Inverness (GM) and to July 8 at Prairie Creek State Park (Ken Legg). Reduction in numbers of this species at Willow Creek was attributed to the fact that the riparian vegetation, to which they are re-

stricted there, was washed away last winter (RT); but the population in the Bay Area also seemed low (JWK, HLC), with no such explanation applicable. At least one adult male Rufous Hummingbird was seen closely in southeast Berkeley, Aug. 3 to 5 (A. S. Campbell). Only 6 Anna's and no Rufous Hummingbirds were seen at Murphys, 2200 ft., where 14 of each were present at feeders in July, 1955 (JCS).

Woodpeckers.—Pileated Woodpeckers were noted in the Sierra Nevada at new locations, including one on July 27 and 28 in lodgepole pine-red fir forest at the Audubon Camp near Donner Pass, 7000 ft. (AS, CH, *et al.*). Lewis's Woodpeckers were found at several points near the town of Mt. Shasta, June 17 to 19 (VKC); two were near Dos Palos on June 15 (RDR), and the exceptionally high number of 17 was counted in the lower Arroyo Mocho, near Livermore, on July 22 (LS). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were feeding nestlings at an altitude of 8100 feet in deeply snow-floored forest along the Glacier Point Road in Yosemite on June 23 (WBM, W. J. Fitzpatrick), and 2 fledglings were seen as late as July 15 at Prairie Creek State Park (KL), where winters are usually snow-free. Two Arctic Woodpeckers were seen on the old Bridalveil Campground road in Yosemite, June 9 (RDR); but at the Audubon Camp, 7000 ft., near Donner Pass, none was found until mid-July, after which 4 were seen on July 16 and 25, 3 on July 17 and 19, and 1 on each of 8 other dates to Aug. 18, all foraging only on dead red fir trees (AS, CH).

Flycatchers.—On June 24 a *Scissor-tailed Flycatcher* flew over El Cerrito at less than 100 feet from observer A. L. Curl and continued on south-westward toward the bay—the second-known vagrant occurrence of this species in this Region, and only 7 months after the first (see *Audubon Field Notes* 10:52). A Black Phoebe was seen on July 9 at Orick, Humboldt Co., 13 miles north of the prior northernmost record (KL); and on June 26 one was at the unusual altitude of 6800 ft. at Lake Van Norden (James Crouch, *et al.*). A pair of Western Flycatchers at Sunol began building a nest on June 5 from which 3 young were fledged on July 15 (MS), while at Inverness one pair had an apparently second brood of 4 young on July 14 in a nest in which the number had dwindled to 3 on July 19 and to 2 thereafter, these 2 flying on July 26 (GM). Two young Westerns were still being fed at Soquel on Aug. 7 (R. J. Richardson). A male Olive-sided Flycatcher was present through June, and possibly nested, at Sunol (MS), a new marginal summer occurrence inland from the Bay Area. At Mills College in East Oakland, Olive-sideds were last heard in song on Aug. 5 (HLC), while in northeast Oakland some were still present on Aug. 19, though not calling much (Mrs. H. K. Trousdale).

Swallows.—Fledgling Tree Swallows were seen at Prairie Creek Park on July 14 (KL) and on June 9 at Fall River Mills, northeast Shasta Co., where a young one repeatedly interfered with new nest building operations of adults by entering holes first (VKC). Occasional Tree Swallows were seen on Sacramento Valley refuges through the summer, but a post-breed-

ing concentration of more than 5000 was foraging over 2 ponds on the Sacramento Refuge on Aug. 18 (EK). A small colony of Bank Swallows was discovered along Deer Creek near Vina, Tehama Co. about 5 pairs going in and out of burrows there on June 2 and 3 (VKC). At Prairie Creek Leggett a special study of Barn Swallow nests and recorded 5 pairs with successful first-brood nests (of which 4 had second broods by Aug. 15), 2 pairs with first-brood nests destroyed (one of which re-nested successfully), and 2 other nests of young found on Aug. 11 (probably second broods). Percentage of success would therefore seem to be high in this species here. Some late Barn Swallow nests in the Sacramento Valley contained young only half-grown on Aug. 16 (EK). Several pairs of Cliff Swallows nested in May and June in the unusual location of deep crevices in a road cut being widened by explosives on U. S. Route 299 at New River Bluffs along the Trinity River (RT). Purple Martins were feeding fledglings at Fort Bragg on July 10 (Mrs. R. Coy) and in the mountains near Los Gatos on July 21 (F. Dieterich). At the colony in downtown Sacramento some remained on Aug. 16, considerably later than usual, perhaps due to the mild temperatures (ERP).

Corvids. Three young Gray Jays were being fed by an adult at Prairie Creek Park on July 22 (KL). The request by the regional editor for observers' opinions on the summer numbers of Steller's Jays and Clark's Nutcrackers in their normal montane habitats, as a follow-up of last winter's great invasion of the lowlands, brought few responses. In Yosemite Valley the jays seemed in normal numbers (WJF), but this is an area of high concentration anyway, because of the many campgrounds and available food. Fewer nutcrackers were observed in the Donner Pass area than in the preceding two summers, but up to 3 were regular attendants at a suet feeder at Soda Springs there; and the maximum number seen in the area was 4 on Aug. 23 at the Sugar Bowl (AS, CH). No nutcrackers were seen on three visits (WMP, WJF) to the higher altitudes of Yosemite (Tuolumne Meadows and vicinity), but Fitzpatrick attributed their absence on his two visits to high winds.

Chickadees through Thrashers.—The Chestnut-backed Chickadee continues to expand its breeding range east of San Francisco Bay, this year being noted carrying food on June 4 in a new area in southeast Berkeley; flocks of 3 to 15 were regular there in July (ASC). A White-breasted Nuthatch was seen flying steadily southeastward along the top of treeless sea cliffs south of Stinson Beach on July 22, miles from any normal habitat (HLC). An Am. Dipper's nest on Duncan Creek, 5000 ft., Eldorado County, held young on June 2 to 5 (RC). A Winter Wren, rare or local in the northern Sierra Nevada, was seen at Sugar Bowl, south of Donner Pass, on July 18 (CH). A pair of Bewick's Wrens with 4 fledglings were seen at Soquel on June 10 (RJR). California Thrashers nested successfully 8 miles west of Santa Rosa, far from any chaparral but where there was a supply of fallen apples, on which

they fed for a time (GLB).

Thrushes, Phainopeplas.—A Hermit Thrush nest near Willow Creek, Humboldt Co. held 4 eggs ready to hatch on July 1 (RT), and adults were feeding fledglings at Fort Bragg on July 20 (RC). At least 3 singing males were present on July 4 in Redwood Regional Park, east of Oakland (ALC), a marginal "island" of their breeding range. The last one heard in song near Donner Pass was on July 31 (AS, CH); but one was seen on Aug. 20 over 11,000 feet in altitude near Rock Creek Lake, Inyo Co. (RDR). On the treeless summit of Squaw Peak, 8900 ft., northwest of Lake Tahoe, a female Mountain Bluebird carried food to young in a nest in a rock crevice on July 1 (JC, CH, *et al.*). A belated Townsend's Solitaire was seen a few miles below nesting habitat near Mt. Shasta town on June 17 (VKC). Three juvenile Phainopeplas were found at the mouth of Arroyo Mocho Canyon, southeast of Livermore, on July 22 (LS).

Vireos, Warblers.—From July 29 to Aug. 5 at Packer Lake, 6500 ft., Sierra Co., Mrs. Kelly found the usual high altitude late summer concentration of vireos and warblers, consisting mostly of females and immatures and including Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow, Audubon's, Townsend's, Hermit, Macgillivray's, and Black-capped Warblers, with some Warbling Vireos. Orange-crowns were common to above 11,000 feet near Mono Pass, northwest Inyo Co. on Aug. 20 (RDR), while near the coast they were detected as migrants in Berkeley on Aug. 13 (ASC) and were still in breeding areas 8 miles west of Santa Rosa on Aug. 17 (GLB). In this latter low altitude locality several Audubon's Warblers, including immatures, appeared July 30 to Aug. 1, a Black-throated Gray on Aug. 8, and a Hermit on Aug. 6 (GLB). A singing male Macgillivray's Warbler was seen on June 10, northwest of Sunol (MS), considerably farther inland than known breeding areas in west-central California.

Icterids.—A Western Meadowlark was seen on July 23 at the unusual altitude of 8500 feet at Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite (WMP). Hooded Orioles continue to increase and spread as a breeding species, and were seen feeding young on June 9 in Santa Cruz (WBM) and on July 6 at a new location in Burlingame (Frances Wesenberg). An active nest was also found at a new location two miles east of downtown Oakland, the male being seen there until Aug. 1 (HLC). At Murphys, 2200 ft., Calaveras Co. 3 pairs of Bullock's Orioles which came to hummingbird feeders all summer, and brought from 4 to 6 young also, had all departed by Aug. 2 (JCS). Fitzpatrick reports that Brewer's Blackbirds have increased to an amazing extent in the high altitude areas of Yosemite National Park. Brown-headed Cowbirds are also increasing in the conifer forest regions, being seen on June 23 at Badger Pass, 7500 ft., Yosemite (WBM, WJF), 4 on June 8 at Clipper Mills, 33 miles east of Oroville, and 6 on June 19 4 miles north of Dunsmuir (VKC). Several contributors reported increased numbers of adult and young cowbirds in the Bay Area, west to Great Highway in San Francisco (BDC).

Finches and Sparrows.—Black-headed Grosbeaks seemed to be up in numbers and had good nesting success at Soquel (RJR) and in the Oakland area (HLC); they were feeding young out of the nest in N. E. Oakland on June 28 and July 4 (HKT) and 13 miles southeast of Oroville on June 8 (VKC). One Evening Grosbeak was seen at La Porte, 5000 ft., SW Plumas Co. on June 8 (VKC), 3 to 4 on June 8 to 11 at French Meadows, 5300 ft., Eldorado Co. (RC), and 5 near Wright's Lake, 7000 ft., Eldorado Co., on July 14 (ALC). Two Pine Grosbeaks were also found at the last locality (ALC), and a nest of this species near Norden contained 2 young on Aug. 18 (RDR). On Squaw Peak, 8900 ft., northwest of Lake Tahoe, a male Gray-crowned Rosy Finch was seen on July 1 (JC, CH, *et al.*) and a pair there on July 15 and 29 (CH, *et al.*). On the 15th they entered and left a probable nesting site in an inaccessible crevice, this locality being some 12 miles north of Pyramid Peak, the previous northernmost known nesting area in the Sierra. Six were seen on this same peak on Aug. 18 (RDR), and about 30 were foraging on snow fields at 10,300 feet, south of Sonora Pass, on Aug. 10 (LS). Pine Siskins persisted all summer for the first time along Great Highway in San Francisco (BDC) and at one southeast Berkeley residential area, where they averaged 9 per day (ASC). Two young Lesser Goldfinches still begged food from adults at Los Gatos on Aug. 20 (Emily D. Smith). A Lawrence's Goldfinch was at an unusual altitude at Wawona, 4100 ft. in Yosemite National Park on June 23 (WBM), while a Red Crossbill in Yosemite Valley, 4000 ft. on July 24 was the first ever seen at so low an altitude in many years of experience in the area (WJF). The female of a pair in Martis Valley, southeast of Truckee, on Aug. 10 was gathering bark for nest material (AS, CH, *et al.*). Unlike the various warblers and finches at Willow Creek, Oregon Juncos were normally plentiful there, a late nest with eggs being found on July 5 (RT). At Mills College, in eastern Oakland, young of apparently second broods were out of nests, July 17 to 26 (HLC). White-crowned Sparrows at Prairie Creek Park had young in a nest on June 25, in another on July 8, and were still carrying food, Aug. 11 to 18 (KL); a nest with 3 eggs was found on July 23 at Tuolumne Meadows, 8500 ft., Yosemite (MS).—HOWARD L. COGSWELL, *Dept. of Biological Sciences, Mills College, Oakland 13, Calif.*