

numbers among the Passerines. Daytime temperatures during July were about normal and precipitation was as usual almost zero in the lowlands. Daytime temperatures in August were higher than normal, and late in the month thunderstorms scattered much moisture in the high San Gabriels, San Bernardinos, and southern Tehachapis. Early September saw a continuation of the summer dry climate and high temperatures in the lowlands. Temperatures during September were, if anything, slightly below normal with no such severe heat-waves in the coastal areas as were experienced this time last year. As a result, the fire-danger index, although high, was not so critical as last year. No major fires raged in the extreme southern part of the Region and a large fire in the San Gabriels near Santa Anita Canyon during early September was successfully contained before excessive damage was done. A fire near tinder-dry Sespe Canyon, home of the California Condors, blazed briefly on Aug. 23, 24, and 25.

Grebes. Pelagic Birds.—Two early Western Grebes were at the Salton Sea, Sept. 14 (Pat Gould, *et al.*). Some of the best observations of the summer months were made during late August and early September just south and east of San Clemente Island. This island, not often reached by birders because of time and distance, was visited on at least three different occasions and the resulting observations, while most rewarding, also filled a long-existent gap in our knowledge of pelagic species in southern California waters. From the standpoint of the sport- and commercial fishermen this has been a banner year for certain species of fish in coastal waters. Barracuda, White Sea Bass, Yellowtail, Bonita, Dolphin, Pompano, and Mackerel swarmed in the waters after the great schools of anchovies. It was opined that the abnormally warm waters (av. 77° F.) brought in these fish from tropical waters to the south. If this indeed was the case, it might help to explain the appearance of such tropical-water species as Red-billed Tropic-birds and Skuas. Certainly the Albatrosses stayed well away from coastal waters because of high temperatures. Ben King, Jr., and John Bishop were afforded an excellent chance for observations in the waters south and east of San Clemente Island on Aug. 28, 29, and 30. During this time the following pelagic species were recorded: Black-footed Albatross, 19 (9 in view at once); Pink-footed Shearwater, 1200 (est.); Sooty Shearwater, 1300 (est.); Black-vented Shearwater, 7; Leach's (Beal's) Petrel, 20; Ashy Petrel, 2; Black Petrel, 75; Red-billed Tropic-bird, 1; jaegers (sp.), 5; Skua (John Bishop), 1; Sabine's Gull, 1; and Xantus's Murrelet, 20. Their trip on a destroyer followed a one-day trip by your editor to the southeastern end of San Clemente Island on Aug. 13. The observations for that day were as follows: Black-footed Albatross, 2; Sooty Shearwater, 300; Pink-footed Shearwater, 40; Black Petrel, 35; Elegant Tern, 75 (30 miles at sea); Sabine's Gull, 2; jaegers (sp.), 7; Parasitic Jaeger, 2; Skua, 1. On Sept. 9, Ben King, Jr., John Truamontano, and Richard Holmes boarded a boat for this area and made the following observations at the south end of San Clemente Island and to a distance of 25 miles to the south of this island. Their ob-

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION—Mid-summer is by general consensus the dulllest time of the year for the bird-watcher. But even in this time

of general lethargy much valuable information can be gained from careful and well-planned observations. The nesting season was generally good in southern California with many contributors reporting good family



servations are as startling as the previous and included the following birds: Black-footed Albatross, 10; Black-vented Shearwater, 2; Black Petrel, 2; Ashy Petrel, 1; Parasitic Jaeger, 5; Elegant Tern, 75; Arctic Tern, 3; Common Tern, 4; Red-billed Tropicbird, 4 and possibly a fifth (all birds were sitting on the water); and Xantus's Murrelet, 2. The Los Angeles Audubon Society pelagic trip to Anacapa Island and Santa Cruz Island on Sept. 22 had comparable good luck. This trip yielded a wonderful display of jaegers (40 Parasitic [est.] and 10 Pomarine); Skua, 1; Arctic Tern, 1; and Elegant Tern, 200. On Aug. 3, some 15,000 Sooty Shearwaters were counted as they flew past Point Sal, Santa Barbara County (Ed.) and on Aug. 25 some 4000 Sooty Shearwaters were estimated to be feeding within a few hundred yards of the surf at Point Dume (Ed., Peter Lodge). I can not be sure of stating with certainty whether these observations reflect a flight of tropical marine species during the late summer or rather are the results of more intensive observing in an area hitherto not reached very often at any time of the year. Certainly the numbers of Black-footed Albatrosses are away out of line with observations made on many prior pelagic trips at all times of the year. In 10 years of pelagic observations, I find only one previous record of the Black-footed Albatross so close to the mainland (there are numerous records at more distant points). These findings will pave the way for more intensive work in the San Clemente Island area in the future.

Cormorants. Pelicans. Herons. Waterfowl.—Reports of nesting waterbirds at the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge by Ed. J. O'Neill were as follows: Double-crested Cormorants, Common and Snowy Egrets, Great Blue Herons, and Black-crowned Night Herons nested successfully although in "greatly reduced numbers." Boating activity, which has increased on the Salton Sea, might have had an effect. About 80 White Pelicans were present on the nesting islands but laid only small numbers of eggs. Incubation never took place and no young were raised—a complete failure for these birds. Broods of Ruddy Ducks, Am. Coots, Cinnamon Teal, and Fulvous Tree-ducks were observed during June and July. Wood Ibis made a very poor showing in southern California this late summer. Only about 15 birds were at the Salton Sea, Sept. 15 (Pat Gould, *et al.*). Only 7 Wood Ibis appeared at the Lt. Maxton Brown Sanctuary in mid-July. These remained about 4 weeks and departed.

Rails. Shorebirds. Gulls and Terns.—Soras could be seen commonly at the Lt. Maxton Brown Sanctuary during the summer (Russell and Marion Wilson, *et al.*). One Solitary Sandpiper was at Malibu Lagoon, Aug. 15 (R. Dudley Ross). Lesser Yellow-legs (4) were reported from Doheny State Park, Sept. 8-13 (RW, MW), while 2 were near Santa Barbara, Aug. 15 (E. Z. Rett, *vide* Waldo G. Abbott). A single Pectoral Sandpiper was at Doheny State Park beach, Sept. 8-13 (RW, MW). Phalaropes (Northern and Wilson's) were abundant at Lt. Maxton Brown Sanctuary during August (Betty Meyerfield). Phalaropes (especially Northern) became more nu-

merous at Upper Newport Bay and Malibu during mid-August. From 20 to 25 Wilson's Phalaropes were at Malibu, Aug. 15 (RDR). Black-necked Stilts nested successfully at Salton Sea in June and July. Black-necked Stilts and Am. Avocets were reported as very numerous near Oceanside and Upper Newport Bay. As many as 350 Am. Avocets and 50 Black-necked Stilts were at the Lt. Maxton Brown Sanctuary, Aug. 31 (RDR). About 260 Am. Avocets together with about 50 Black-necked Stilts were at Upper Newport Bay, Sept. 4 (Francis Raymond). From 8 to 10 Black Terns with 12 Caspian Terns were at Lt. Maxton Brown Sanctuary, Aug. 31 (RDR). A single Black Tern was at Bolsa Chica, Aug. 29. (FR) Elegant Terns had a moderately good flight with a number of observations made well out to sea (see above). There were not, however, the attendant numbers of jaegers pursuing these terns along the coast as were witnessed in prior years. The flight reached a peak in late August after a slow start. Some 40 to 50 Elegant Terns were at Malibu, Aug. 15 (RDR). Peak numbers reached were 450 birds at Bolsa Chica, Aug. 29 (FR), 200 birds at Lt. Maxton Brown Sanctuary, Aug. 31 (RDR) and about 1000 birds between Hyperion and Venice, Sept. 2 (BK, Jr.). About 180 were at Malibu, Aug. 25 (Ed., Robert Arbib). The flight began to taper off by the second week in September, at which time many of the terns had left. Gull-billed Terns (150 adults) and Caspian Terns (40 adults) nested at Salton Sea in June. These terns almost completely destroyed each other's nests. The Caspian Terns raised 12 young and the Gull-billed Terns re-nested in mid-June with about 20 young hatching and surviving. Laughing Gulls (4 adults) raised three young from a single Salton Sea nest in late June.

Birds of Prey.—On the day of the Sespe Canyon fire (Aug. 24) some 25 to 30 California Condors were counted from near the summit of Mt. Pinos by R. Dudley Ross, Peter Lodge, and your Editor. As many as 17 condors were seen at one view. Although it was difficult to establish more exact numbers, it was estimated that there could not have been less than 25 and quite possibly as many as 30. During that day clouds of black smoke could be seen billowing from the vicinity of Sespe Canyon (nesting site of the California Condors) and this may have contributed to the fact of the concentration of these birds. The fire itself was not near the nesting cliff-sites. White-tailed Kites nested successfully at numerous points in the Region. Twenty-two White-tailed Kites gathered to forage near the Ventura County Gun Club, July 21 (RDR, Vivian Ross). A single Osprey was near Laguna Beach, Aug. 3 (FR) and a migrating flock of 15 flew over Morro Bay, Sept. 17 (JT).

Upland Game Birds.—Two White-winged Doves, far removed westward from their normal range, appeared in Santa Barbara, Aug. 28 (EZR, *vide* WGA). California, Mountain, and Gambel's Quail were reported as having a successful nesting. Rock Partridges at the Palm Canyon in Borrego Desert were reduced to but a single bird by late summer.

Land Birds.—Generally speaking, most species of land birds had a successful nesting season, and if anything, were more successful than last year. On Aug. 29 a pair of Olive-sided Flycatchers was feeding 3 young in Santa Barbara. The Audubon Center of Southern California, which suffered from a disastrous fire a few years ago, has recovered very well and species such as the Cassin's Kingbird, Olive-backed Thrush, Hooded Oriole, Bullock's Oriole, Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak, Black-headed Grosbeak,

Am. Goldfinch and others nested successfully this year. The total number of nesting species there was 40 by mid-August. More than 100 Piñon Jays were in the vicinity of Big Bear City, Aug. 17 (FR). Barn Swallows still had young in the nest on Aug. 28. Most observers commented on the favorable numbers of small land birds during August and the large percentage of young birds with them. Red Crossbills nested on Mt. Pinos.—ARNOLD SMALL, 3028 Cavenish Drive, Los Angeles 64, Calif.