

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION.—The nest-ing season was dry, but sufficiently humid so that there was little fire danger in the mountains until



the usual mid-August period. Several observers near water reported larger numbers of birds this year, presumably concentrated by the dry conditions. No comprehensive data were available on nesting production, though the general impression was good or slightly above average.

Heron, Ibises, Geese—Snowy Egrets nested at Gray Lodge Waterfowl Management Area, Butte Co. for the first time; 30-40 nests, with Black-crowned Night Herons, hatched only 20-25 young (Refuge Manager John Cowan, *vide* EH). A White-faced Ibis was observed at the same place, June 7 (EH)—one of very few records from north of Sacramento, especially in summer. Summering Black Brant were perhaps commoner than usual, with one at Pigeon Point, San Mateo Co., July 4 (T + ZC, Horace H. Jeter, *et al.*), 35 at Bodega Bay (PDeB), 12 at the mouth of the Salinas River and 60 at the mouth of the Big Sur River, Monterey Co. (RLB). A Snow Goose was at Lake Almanor with Canada Geese, July 19 (GP + ROP).

Vultures, Hawks—On June 19, near Springville, Tulare Co. Mrs. Mabel E. Mires observed 6 California Condors (5 adults, 1 immature) eating dead Ground Squirrels which had been poisoned with

1080. The effect is not known, but after this date she saw only 1 immature (3 occasions). The same observer reported a Goshawk nest at altitude 6400 ft. in Tulare County. The two young were in the air by July 25. Widespread reports of White-tailed Kites included one at Lakeport, Lake Co., July 21 (JH), and 17 roosting in two trees 3 miles north of Newark, Alameda Co., July 30 (HLC). A Prairie Falcon near San Felipe Lake, Santa Clara Co., June 19 (T + ZC) is the closest to the coast reported in years, especially in summer.

Rails, Shorebirds, Gulls, Terns—An immature Common Gallinule summering at a pond near Drake's Bay (GM) is the first summer record for Marin County, though there are eight previous records for September through April. The first young Am. Coots reported this year were seen at Bay Farm Island, Alameda, April 26 (ER), the latest near Drake's Bay, Aug. 5 (GM). Two Solitary Sandpipers, always uncommon in our Region, were seen at Lake Alamanor on July 18 (GP). The Wilson's Phalarope fall migration had begun by June 25, when 70 were at Moss Landing (RLB); only a single Northern Phalarope was present, and it seems definite that their migration peak comes later. Black-legged Kittiwakes summered at Point Lobos for the first time since 1945, a minimum estimate of the number present being 36, including at least several adults (HLC); another was at Half Moon Bay, July 29 (PAB). The first Elegant Terns were reported from the Salinas River mouth, July 28 (RLB), later than in three of the last four years, but still portending at least a moderate flight.

Cuckoos, Nighthawks, Swifts—A total of 5 Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported from three Central Valley locations in July and early August (PDeB, RS, G.G.A.S.). Two Common Nighthawks first seen in Arcata, Humboldt Co., May 25 (FZ), furnished one of the few arrival dates on record for the species. Vaux's Swifts continue to be widely reported in the Sierra, including one chasing another for some ten minutes near a tall dead conifer in Tehama County, June 21 (EH); but no nests were located. White-throated Swifts formerly nested on the old University of California Extension building in Berkeley, under rounded Spanish tiles used as trim along the edge of the roof; last spring the building was demolished, but the birds remained in the area and this summer at least one pair nested in a similar situation on the building housing the National Audubon Society's Conservation Resource Center, just across the street.

Hummingbirds—Hummingbirds were found in better numbers than last year in two San Francisco Bay area localities, but in both it is believed that the stream-side habitat examined was being favored because of the aridity of the surrounding area (PDeB, AW). An immature male or female Costa's Hummingbird with two purple gorget feathers was seen near Berkeley, July 9-14 (PDeB), one of very few records for the immediate coastal region. Rufous Hummingbirds were reported late in arriving on fall migration in Tulare County (MEM), but were on time at Mt. Lassen (MM). The Black-chinned Hum-

mingbird reported previously near Yreka remained to the end of the season (MSC); the species was found commoner than usual near Springville (MEM), and was seen more often than usual in the San Francisco Bay area.

Woodpeckers—A pair of Nuttall's Woodpeckers remained in Tilden Park (just east of Berkeley) until at least early June, and their activities suggested nesting, although no direct evidence was obtained. The species is common only two or three miles farther east, but the park is at the eastern edge of the coastal fog belt which elsewhere marks the western limit of the range of this species (PDeB, G.G.A.S.). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker nests were located in three parts of Yosemite National Park, but the fate of only one is known—abandoned between May 22 and June 11 (PDeB, T + ZC).

Flycatchers, Chickadees—A very much out of place Eastern Kingbird was seen at Point Reyes, Marin Co., July 5 (T + ZC, Horace H. Jeter, *et al.*), the day after a single bird was seen at Honey Lake, Lassen Co. (just out of this Region), where breeding birds might be hoped for (PDeB, MM). Chestnut-backed Chickadees were reported again from Potato Patch Camp in Tehama County (EH), but no evidence of nesting was obtained. At least seven were seen at the 30-mile stone on U. S. 50 above Placerville, El Dorado Co. on Aug. 11 (Mrs. FFK), just a few miles from where the species has been previously reported by Edwin Pickett.

Blackbirds, Orioles—A colony of 200+ Tricolored Blackbirds nesting in thistles at Grey Lodge Refuge (EH) is unusual in that the species usually nests only in dense tules; Mrs. Hodnette remarks that this is the usual nesting site at this location. Bullock's Orioles were common throughout the summer in Tilden Park, and two nests were located; the birds were almost completely restricted to introduced eucalyptus trees in this area. Nesting birds have apparently appeared in this area within the last five years, this now being one of the very few areas in the coastal fog belt of California where the species nests (PDeB).

Grosbeaks, Bunting, Sparrows—Evening Grosbeaks were very scarce in the Yosemite area this season, although they had been widespread in winter at low elevations. Art Wang remarks that this is the opposite of last year, but like the preceding year; it will be interesting to see if this inverse relationship between lowland appearance and numbers in the Sierra holds in future years. A Pine Grosbeak nest was found near Echo Summit on U. S. 50 on July 25 (GM); the female was feeding three young in the nest, a fourth young bird was hopping around after its parent. Nests of this species are seldom found in the state. A Lazuli Bunting nest at Yreka was followed: two eggs on June 16, 3 on June 17, 4 on June 18, adult(s) feeding young June 28; unfortunately it was not reported whether all the eggs had hatched by this date; the nest failed in early July (MSC). The species is known to leave its nesting areas almost as soon as the young fledged, accounting for the numbers appearing along

the creek at Jewel Lake, Tilden Park, following July 22 (maximum 18 on 25 acres, July 31 [PDeB]). Two or three Black-throated Sparrows were seen along State Highway 120 about 10 miles east of Groveland, July 7 (RS), the second locality in the foothills around the Central Valley from which the species has been reported; there is, however, no evidence of nesting at either place. At least 6 Black-chinned Sparrows were located in Malpaso Canyon, about 5 miles south of Carmel, and a bird was seen feeding young on Aug. 2 (VLY, RLB); this is about 25 miles from the nearest known breeding locality, and the closest to the coast that the species has been recorded in this Region.

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