

**MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION.**—The fall migration was well under way by the beginning of the period, and by the beginning of September ap-



peared to be on in full force. A prolonged hot, dry summer season made its effects known by the middle of September, however, and at several coastal localities migrants became much less conspicuous. At this time they concentrated around the remaining bodies of water.

Few correlations could be made between migration and weather, for variety in weather also was lacking. From the beginning of August to the middle of October the only break in clear, calm weather was during the passage of a cold front, Aug. 29-30, a

period marked by an almost complete absence of migrants on the ground. The general outline of migration also appeared to lack correlation with the weather; species appeared, gradually increased to a peak, and disappeared as if they could and did move at their own leisure.

On at least one occasion a fairly well-marked correlation with the weather was observed in one locality. During the period, Sept. 25-28, southerly winds were prevalent along the coast. At this time migrants were piled up on the Point Reyes Peninsula; on Sept. 27 nearly 100 warblers, representing most of the western species, were present, and along with them 5 "eastern vagrants." With the resumption of the normal northwesterly winds all these birds disappeared. However, the same period was marked by a general absence of migrants at other coastal localities.

**Early Migration.**—According to present records the landbird migration does not begin until mid-August. Recent field work indicates that numbers, perhaps considerable numbers, of migrants are regularly to be seen by the beginning of that month. Information comes from two regions, which may be considered separately:

Migration on the coast of California normally involves relatively small numbers of birds, as observed on the ground. None the less, early migrants are regularly to be seen from the beginning of August on. The species most certainly involved are Hermit and Black-throated Gray Warblers and Western Tanagers, which appear from their breeding ranges. However, daily observation will reveal sudden changes in population levels of such species as the Western Flycatcher, MacGillivray's and Wilson's Warblers and Lazuli Buntings, much beyond that easily accountable by the simple addition of juvenile birds. This fall, for example, a Hermit Warbler was seen in Tilden Park, Aug. 3, the species peaking there at the end of the month; at the same time Lazuli Buntings were appearing in numbers in a non-breeding area, and Western Flycatchers increased from an occasional single bird to small numbers present continually to the end of September.

In the Central Valley of California, the picture is even clearer, for many of these species do not breed within a hundred miles of the favored birding localities. Yet, in the last four years, Western Flycatchers, Orange-crowned, MacGillivray's, Nashville and Wilson's Warblers and Western Tanagers have been found there in the period, Aug. 4-9, without fail. Although normally only 20 to 30 birds are seen, the presence of large numbers seems to be indicated by the observations of Aug. 6, 1961; on this date high temperatures were accompanied by a light rain; 173 migrants of 7 species (including 75 *Empidonax* flycatchers and 50± Nashville Warblers) were seen in about ¼ mile of riverside vegetation (MM). By the middle of August, numbers equivalent to this may be seen regardless of weather, and in September large numbers of migrants, including several species (as Yellow Warbler) not present in August, are readily found.

**Eastern Birds West.**—Again this fall numerous "eastern" species were detected in our Region. As

most of the birds seen were wood warblers, discussion of these species is deferred to that section.

**Shearwaters, Petrels, Pelicans**—This is not a Fulmar flight year comparable to the last two, none having yet been seen inside Monterey Harbor, but numbers of 10-30 were reported, even from shore, at Patrick's Point State Park, Humboldt Co., during a storm, Nov. 26 (FZ). A Pale-footed Shearwater was well observed in Monterey Bay on Oct. 31 (WH). Very few New Zealand Shearwaters were reported, only 6 being seen off Monterey on Oct. 3 (EDS., AW, et al.) as compared with hundreds of 1960-2. Slender-billed Shearwaters, rarely seen in this Region and difficult to identify, were reported on three occasions: Aug. 27, 4 miles off Monterey, 2+ (CJR); Nov. 14, Point Pinos, 2-4 (JK); Dec. 5, off Monterey, 1-5 (EDS., GMcC, HLC, ROP, et al.); attempts to collect one on the last occasion failed. Ashy Petrels were unusually common, 80 being seen off Monterey, Aug. 30 (EDS., AW, G.G.A.S.). A Leach's Petrel, normally highly pelagic and rarely seen by day even within a day's journey from shore, was seen feeding at the east end of the San Mateo Bridge, San Francisco Bay, Nov. 28 (JK). White Pelicans can still be seen in San Francisco Bay in good numbers, 900 being reported from west of Alvarado, Alameda Co., on Sept. 17 (including one green-dyed bird from Anaho I., Pyramid Lake, Nev.), and again 900 on Oct. 1 (including one dyed bird each from Lower Klamath Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Clear Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, and Pyramid Lake—HLC).

**Hérons, Ibises**—A Least Bittern was observed at Spreckels Sugar ponds, Woodland, Yolo Co., on Aug. 20 (RS). American Bitterns were unusually common at Sacramento Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Oct. 15-25, when "it was quite common . . . to scare up 5-10 of these birds along any quarter mile stretch of marsh on the refuges" (SRW). The first *Wood Ibises* seen in northern California in over 30 years were 3 at Woodland on Aug. 20 (RS).

**Ducks, Geese, Swans**—The sequential nature of waterfowl migration in California and its relation to weather were well illustrated this fall. The first big increase in ducks at Sacramento Refuge came in the last week of August and first week of September (20,000 to 120,000), then a slight decline was followed by the arrival of the first White-fronted Geese on Sept. 21 and another push of ducks, to 210,000 ducks on Sacramento Refuge by Oct. 1; ducks then remained constant and geese slowly increased till Nov. 1, when the first bad weather of the season brought another movement. This was followed around Nov. 15 by heavy winds, rain and a cold snap, which brought the birds out of Tule Lake and other northern areas to a total of 600,000 geese and 1,500,000 ducks on the Sacramento Valley refuges. The Federal-State cooperative census on Nov. 23 showed 2,500,000 ducks, 755,000 geese and 1000 swans in the Sacramento Valley, of which almost 1 million ducks and 350,000 geese were on Sacramento Refuge (SRW).

At Merced Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, 170 miles southward, little increase was noted until the last week in October, when ducks spilled over from the north

and increased the number present from 15,500 to 156,000 (KW). Similarly, in coastal Humboldt County little waterfowl migration was noted until the storm of Nov. 8-13 (FZ). Movements were in general later than last year, birds being held north by good weather.

Some 75 Whistling Swans flew over Alameda, Nov. 28 (ER), a large number for the coast. A Blue Goose was shot at Sutter Refuge some time during the fall (*vide* SRW). Records from Humboldt Bay, Patrick's Point (FZ) and west of Alvarado (HLC) suggest a coastward spread of White-fronted Geese this year. A late and northern Fulvous Tree Duck was shot at Los Banos Waterfowl Management Area, Nov. 1 (Guy D. Wright, *vide* ROW). Pintail seemed less common than in the last two years, but almost twice as many Green-winged Teal were at Merced Refuge, Nov. 5-21, as in the last two Novembers. Six Blue-winged Teal were reported during the season: from Carmel, Palo Alto, and Gray Lodge Waterfowl Management Area (CJR, MVB, EH). A European Widgeon was reported from Humboldt Bay, Oct. 24 (FZ), besides the usual reports from Sacramento Refuge. A male Oldsquaw, still in nearly full summer plumage but without the long tail feathers, was at the mouth of Bodega Bay harbor, Nov. 28 (TCs, ROP, GP & ENA).

**Vultures, Kites, Hawks**—In the wake of the recent report to the National Audubon Society on the California Condor, Mrs. Mabel E. Mires writes: "Am inclined to be a little reserved in my opinion as to the vulture-type bird being destroyed by rodent poisoning. Have never seen a dead one of any kind and have watched them eat many squirrels—true it may kill an occasional bird but it is believed they have their own particular resistance to poisonous substances. Note our increased Turkey Vulture population—they are prone to eat poisoned rodents." [Mrs. Mires reports 30 to 200 daily migrating over Springville, Tulare Co., Aug. 28 to Sept. 28.] "The greatest harmful effect of poisoning rodents is the small mammal kill, skunks, wild cats, coyotes, fox, ringed-tailed cats and so on. I have personally seen the effect right here in the Springville area. *No dead vultures*, and an annual roost nearby." It may be pointed out, however, that the mode of action of 1080 (sodium fluoracetate) is quite different from that of strychnine and other older poisons, and it much less likely to be vomited up. Further comment must await a comprehensive study of the effect of these compounds on vultures and, by extension, condors.

This fall White-tailed Kites were not only reported in large numbers from many localities (mouth of Alameda Creek, 27 on Nov. 16 [ROP]; on Fahey Rd. west of San Luis Wasteway Waterfowl Management Area, 29 on Sept. 27 [Barney Bryant, *vide* ROW]; roost in a walnut grove near Cotati, Sonoma Co., 156 on Oct. 25 [JA & Gordon L. Bolander], but also from many localities where they had been seen rarely or not at all in recent years. When not directly molested, they seem able to adapt to living in vacant lots in close proximity to man; one was seen on a main street of Berkeley, Dec. 5 (Marja Anderson, *vide* ENA)! It seems dif-

ficult to believe that these reports are due solely to more observation rather than at least some genuine increase. Local concentrations of field mice, such as reported by Dorothy B. Hunt from near Watsonville, Santa Cruz Co., frequently are responsible for large concentrations of these and other hawks.

Fragmentary reports suggest that this is likely to be a good but not outstanding year for Rough-legged Hawks, Ferruginous Hawks, Pigeon Hawks and possibly also Bald Eagles. A notably early Ferruginous Hawk was at Sunset Beach, near Watsonville, on Aug. 31 (Dwight Smith, *vide* DBH). A Prairie Falcon with jesses on its legs was seen 1½ miles west of Alvarado, Alameda Co. (a large duck and shorebird concentration area) on Oct. 1 and 18 (HLC), adding to the suspicion that falconers may be contributing to the rarity of this bird on coastal California.

Cranes, Rails—Thirteen Sandhill Cranes flying over Point Reyes Nat'l Seashore headquarters, Nov. 16 (CJR) provided the second record for the peninsula. The flight in the Central Valley seemed normal. At the pond at Drakes Beach Estates (Estero de Limantour), western Marin County, where one Common Gallinule summered, 6 or 7 were present by Oct. 7, suggesting that more may winter along the coast than previously suspected (GM & KS). Am. Coot were reported low in numbers for fall at Merced Refuge (KW).

Shorebirds—An Am. Golden Plover was at Davis sewage plant on Oct. 8 (RS) and 3 were at Woodland on the following day (KS), for the fourth and fifth Central Valley records in recent years, and on the former day two very late (and rare) Solitary Sandpipers were at the Spreckels Sugar ponds at Woodland (RS). Two Wandering Tattlers, normally found only on the rocky outer coast, were seen south of the east end of the San Mateo Bridge, southern San Francisco Bay, on Sept. 10 (HLC). A census of the southwest San Leandro to southwest Hayward area, of the east side of San Francisco Bay, Oct. 15 and 18, totaled 3700 Willets—a good number even for this Region (HLC). At least 7 Lesser Yellowlegs were reported, including 3 from Lake Almanor, Aug. 29 (EH). The Rock Sandpipers (5) arrived at Humboldt Bay north jetty on Nov. 20 (FZ). The Pectoral Sandpiper flight was about normal, with 27 reported, 17 at Woodlands on Oct. 8 (RS). Baird's Sandpipers were also normal with 24 reported. The census of Willets mentioned above also showed 1700 Marbled Godwits and 2750 Am. Avocets. There were no onshore reports of Red Phalaropes this fall, presumably because of good weather offshore.

Jaegers, Gulls—Numbers of Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers seen on the fall sea trips off Monterey were normal; at least one Long-tailed Jaeger was seen on Aug. 30 (EDs., AW, GMcC, G.G.A.S.). and at least 8 Skuas were reported (SRW, MHE, VDaC) including 5 on Oct. 3 off Monterey (EDs., AW, ROP, GMcC, & G.G.A.S.), with the latest report being at Point Bonita on Nov. 7 (VDaC). A *Franklin's Gull* was at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Co., from Aug. 19 to Sept. 12 (KS, RS, VDaC, *et al.*: photographs

GM), for probably the third record from our Region. Some 2500 Heermann's Gulls were off the Golden Gate on Sept. 24 (MHE), perhaps representing a sizable southward movement; the last seen on the northwest coast was at Patricks Point on Nov. 15 (FZ).

Terns—Arctic Terns, little known in our Region, were migrating off Monterey on Aug. 30, at least 8 being seen (EDs., GMcC, AW & G.G.A.S.). Two Least Terns were south of the east end of the San Mateo Bridge on Sept. 17 (HLC). The Elegant Tern flight was fair but not to be compared with last year, with a maximum of 86 at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza as against 500 last year (PDeB). A Black Tern at Mendoza Ranch, Point Reyes, on Sept. 7 is the first recorded for Marin County (CJR).

Alcids—On Aug. 27 a *Thick-billed Murre* was brought alive but starved to the Monterey Peninsula Museum in Pacific Grove, Nov. 12; it showed no signs of previous captivity and is now being retained by its captor, Mr. W. R. Holman (*vide* VLY); details are to be published in the *Condor*. Reports of Marbled Murrelets included 3 seen during the last week of July at Inverness, immatures with at least one appearing recently fledged (GM). A Xantus' Murrelet was seen off Monterey, Oct. 24 (MHE), increasing the evidence for late fall dispersal of this southern species quite far north. Desiccated remains of a *Horned Puffin*, probably dating from last winter, were picked up on McClures Beach, Point Reyes Peninsula, in early August (A. Gardarsson).

Doves, Owls, Poor-will—A *White-winged Dove* was trapped in Pacific Grove, Nov. 12; it showed no signs of previous captivity and is now being retained by its captor, Mr. W. R. Holman (*vide* VLY); this is the first record in our Region since 1960. *Ringed Turtle Doves* are occasionally found in the wild in our Region, but most of these records are believed to represent escaped cage birds. In 1962 1 or 2 birds were reported cooing on the Mills College campus, Oakland (HLC), but the fate of these birds could not be determined. A belated report of a pair successfully raising two young in San Jose this May (LRM) indicates that the species is capable of reproduction in our Region; further, Dr. Mewaldt trapped and banded all four birds and stated that none showed signs of previous captivity. The success of this "colony" remains to be determined. *Spotted Owls* were believed to occur along the coast of California only from Marin County northward and Santa Barbara County southward; the hiatus in central California was not due to lack of suitable habitat and not surprisingly was considerably reduced by two reports from the Santa Lucia Mountains of Monterey County: one seen in Loeffer Canyon 7 miles south of Big Sur, Nov. 21 (Dr. Bruce Meyer, *vide* RLB), and one photographed on the south fork of Big Creek, 2800 ft., 20 miles south of Big Sur, Oct. 10 (RLB, also seen by Dr. Meyer and 6 others). A Short-eared Owl at Bay Farm Island, Alameda, on Sept. 20 (PDeB, MS) was apparently a somewhat early winter arrival. Three late fall records of Poor-wills were received: fresh road kills on the Monterey Peninsula, Oct. 22 and Nov. 5 (RLB); several heard near Berkeley in late October (*vide* AW); and



one accidentally shot by a quail hunter on Fickle Hill Road, about 10 miles east of Arcata, Humboldt Co., on Nov. 2 (*file FZ*); the latter is also the second report of the species from the humid northwest coast of California.

**Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers**—A late Rufous Hummingbird was seen near Chico, Oct. 21 (*EH*); the latest Allen's Hummingbird reported was at Arcata, Oct. 10 (*FZ*). A hummingbird (species ?) was seen from a boat well out in Monterey Bay on Dec. 5. Three Pileated Woodpeckers were seen near Occidental, Sonoma Co., on Sept. 6 (*BDP*), somewhat south of the regions from which it is usually reported. A stray Lewis' Woodpecker was at Big Sur, Nov. 4 (*RLB*), but there were no indications of a flight to coastal regions. Two reports of vagrant Nuttall's Woodpeckers were received: one at Manzanita Lake, 5850 ft., Lassen Volcanic National Park, on Aug. 22 (*EH*) was considerably above the upper limits of its breeding range (although it has strayed to higher elevations elsewhere in California); another at Soquel, Santa Cruz Co., from Aug. 10 to Sept. 27 represents a bird straying into the humid coastal regions of California, usually avoided by this species. However, one reported on the Tomales Bay Christmas Count evoked the report that it was regularly present in summer in an alder forest along a stream on Point Reyes Peninsula (*CJR*).

**Flycatchers, Swallows**—An Eastern Kingbird was seen near Redding, Shasta Co., from Sept. 19 to Oct. 5 (*RCI*, also seen by 12 others), one of the few reports of this species from the Central Valley; in addition to flycatching, it was seen eating Virginia Creeper berries. Six observations of single Tropical Kingbirds were more than usually are received; the earliest on Oct. 4 (near Half Moon Bay, *T & ZCk*), the latest on Oct. 30 (Rodeo Lagoon, *KS*); all reports were along the coast from Pacific Grove (Oct. 27, *VLY*) to Bolinas (Oct. 16, *RS*). A very late (presumed) Ash-throated Flycatcher was at Beale AFB, near Marysville, on Nov. 27 (*MP*); whether this represents a late fall northward movement similar to that of the preceding species, and whether it could include the extremely similar Nutting's Flycatcher, is still to be settled. Adult Barn Swallows were reported feeding young on Aug. 20 at Fort Bragg (*RC*), but a more detailed report of a late nesting was received from Mrs. Emilie Hodnette, who found two adults adding mud to a nest on a bridge at Deer Creek Meadows, 600 ft., Tehama Co., on Aug. 1. On Aug. 15 a bird was sitting on the nest; on Aug. 22 4 birds, including 2 immatures, were feeding young (see Van Tyne and Berger, *Fundamentals of Ornithology*, p. 307); on Sept. 12, two young were in the nest and on Sept. 20 two young sitting on the railing of the bridge were being fed by the two adults only. The species is always one of the last swallows to leave the Region, as may be seen in the two last reports for this fall: Oct. 17, Humboldt Bay (*FZ*), Oct. 31, Point Reyes (*PDeB*).

**Corvids, Wrens, Thrashers, Thrushes**—Black-billed Magpies were noted on several occasions near Yreka (*MSC*); the species has been noted here in the fall and winter in previous years but is not known

to breed locally. A Common Crow at Wright Lake, 7000 ft., El Dorado Co., Aug. 25-26 (*LF*) exceeds the previous California altitude record by about 1000 feet. Brown Creepers seldom reported from the Central Valley were found at Caswell State Park, San Joaquin Co., Nov. 8 (*PDeB, MM*) and at Beale AFB, Nov. 21 (*MP*). Winter Wrens appeared to be present in central California in larger numbers than usual this fall; in Tilden Park the first one appeared, Aug. 22, and the species was seen regularly to the end of the period (maximum 11 [Sept. 28] average  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per visit from Sept. 10 to Nov. 20 compared to 3 per trip in the same period 1962 and 1963 in about 22 acres of riparian habitat); 2 seen in Caswell State Park, Sept. 20 (*MM, PDeB*) are the first reported to us from the Central Valley since 1956. A vagrant Cañon Wren was found at about 6500 ft. on the northeast slope of Mt. Lassen, Sept. 4 (*PDeB, & MM*). Last fall a Sage Thrasher at Point Reyes was our fourth coastal record; this fall five sightings (possibly of but one bird) were made there between Aug. 20 and Sept. 30 (*RS, ROP, PDeB*), representing the fourth record for the Point! All of the berry-eating species (Mockingbird, Robin, Varied Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing) were reported in good but not exceptional numbers this season. In Santa Cruz County the numbers of Varied Thrushes were believed to be related to a good acorn crop, upon which the birds feed (*DBH*). Distribution of Hermit Thrushes as erratic, some observers finding excellent numbers, others only a scarcity continuing that of the last two winters; clearly, more data are needed to assess fully the status of this species. Mountain Bluebirds were noted at two points on the Point Reyes Peninsula in late October (*GM, AW*); the species does not usually appear at such coastal localities.

**Kinglets, Gnatcatchers, Vireo**—Golden-crowned Kinglets were present in good numbers, but no concentrations were reported; in the Central Valley, where this species is rare, it was at Caswell State Park, Nov. 8 (*PDeB & MM*), Beale AFB, Nov. 21 (about 15 [*MP*]), and Sacramento, Nov. 29 (5 [*BK*]); in Tilden Park an isolated individual was seen on Sept. 14, about two weeks earlier than any previous fall arrival date, and the species was noted continuously from Oct. 2 to the middle of November (average 3 per trip, compared to less than 1 per trip in 1962 and 4 per trip in 1963); both kinglets were noted in fair numbers in the isolated cypress trees on Point Reyes in October. However, though the numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets were not impressive, two reports of birds out of habitat were: a male was seen foraging in a patch of tall dead weeds along the shore of San Francisco Bay at Hayward,  $2\frac{2}{3}$  miles from the nearest tree, on Oct. 3 (*HLG*); 6-8 (with an Orange-crowned, and Audubon's and a Hermit Warbler) were seen feeding with Rock Wrens on the cliffs at Point Reyes, Oct. 24 (*Eds., ROP, AW*). Numbers of Ruby-crowned Kinglets seemed a bit low, but it is not certain whether this may actually be indicative of a more widely dispersed migrant and wintering population

than usual. Two reports of single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers from the coast were on rather late dates for the species: Point Reyes, Oct. 1 (RS) and Rodeo Lagoon, Oct. 14 (KS). A Phainopepla at Redding, Sept. 19 (RCI) was near the northern limit of its range in California. A very late Warbling Vireo was in Tilden Park, Nov. 14 (PDeB).

Warblers—Once again observers had great success in locating "eastern" warblers in California this fall; in fact, success was so great that they virtually neglected to report any of the "western" species. However, it must be admitted even by this writer (PDeB) that the fall's migration was not spectacular, either in terms of numbers of birds or in correlations with the weather (see Introduction). The Point Reyes Peninsula produced most of the records but birding was not as exciting this year as last. Richard Stallcup was joined by C. John Ralph, Art Wang, Robert O. Paxton and the editors, whose combined coverage was nearly as complete as last fall. The total of individual warblers found this fall was about the same as last, but only because an additional and very productive locality was discovered this fall. Observers on the Monterey Peninsula found fewer individuals of these vagrants than last fall, but as in Marin County a good variety was obtained. Further remarks, however, require a listing of the records.

Black-and-white Warbler, 4 (Point Reyes, Sept. 10 [RS] and Oct. 16 [KS]; Pacific Grove, Sept. 29 to Oct. 22 [three widely spaced sightings at a feeder counted as one bird, RLB]; Yosemite Valley, Aug. 18 [FH]). Tennessee Warbler, 10 (9 at Point Reyes, Sept. 10 to Oct. 7 [RS, CJR, GM, et al.] including 3 on Sept. 10 and 2 on Sept. 27; 1 in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, Oct. 5 [KS]). Parula Warbler, 1 (Stinson Beach, Oct. 16 [RS], first fall record for this Region). Magnolia Warbler, 1 (immature male, Point Bonita, Oct. 6 [RS]). Black-throated Green Warbler, 1 (Pigeon Point, Oct. 4 [RS], first fall record for Region). Chestnut-sided Warbler, 2 (Point Reyes, Aug. 27 [RS] and Oct. 6 [CJR]). Bay-breasted Warbler, 1 (immature female, Point Reyes, Sept. 27 [ROP, AW & PDeB], first record for mainland of California). Blackpoll Warbler, 6 (4, Point Reyes, Sept. 19 to Oct. 1 [RS, ROP]; Stanford Univ. campus, Palo Alto, Nov. 3 [TCk]). Palm Warbler, 11 (5, Point Reyes, Sept. 27 to Oct. 25 [RS, PDeB, AW]; 1, Bodega Bay, Oct. 5 [fide MS]; 1, Dillons Beach [Marin Co.], Nov. 22 et seq. [fide W. S. Picher]; 1, Inverness, Nov. 28 [GP, ROP, TCs, ENA]; 2, Point Bonita, Oct. 17 [PDeB]). Connecticut Warbler, 1 (Pebble Beach, Monterey Co., Sept. 27 [VLY & RLB], second record for this Region). Am. Redstart, 16; 11 at Point Reyes, Aug. 24 to Sept. 26 (RS, CJR, GM); 1, Point Bonita, Oct. 6 (RS); 3, Monterey Penin., Sept. 26 (VLY) and Oct. 3 (Eds., GMcC, ROP); 1, Elkhorn Ferry, Yolo Co., Sept. 2 (RS), the latter one of the very few records from the Central Valley. Total, about 50 individual vagrant warblers reported this fall; specimens of Magnolia, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll and Palm Warblers were obtained.

Much in contrast to last fall, the Palm Warbler

was not the predominant species (11, vs. 33 last fall), the honors being fairly evenly divided between Am. Redstart, Palm and Tennessee Warblers. While most of the records came from the period when the "western" warblers peaked, there seemed to be little correlation between the two; for example, on two days when five vagrants were found, once (Sept. 10) only about 25 "western" warblers were present, while the other time (Sept. 27) nearly 100 "westerners" were on Point Reyes. In October Audubon's and Myrtle Warblers were clearly the predominant species; the change from last year being primarily the relative decrease in Palm Warblers.

As in past years almost all the reports came from the immediate vicinity of the coast. This season two records came from inland stations (see also Eastern Kingbird; if Palo Alto is considered inland, then also Blackpoll), but these are the only inland reports in the last three years, when intensive work has been conducted on the coast. The preceding paragraph indicates the relatively large proportion of these vagrants to "western" species along the coast, but this proportion will not hold even ten miles inland; and in the Sacramento Valley, where concentrations of 200-300 warblers are regularly found, the single Am. Redstart reported this fall is the only vagrant reported in the last three years. The west to east distribution of these vagrants is so marked that one finds oneself hard pressed to consider several of the species—Black-and-white, Tennessee, Chestnut-sided, Blackpoll and Palm Warblers and Am. Redstart, for which multiple reports have been received in the past few years as truly vagrants; very rare migrants might be more accurate along the coast.

The age class of vagrants deserves comment. Of the 12 specimens taken in Marin County in the last two years, only one has been an adult; similarly almost all of McCaskie's birds have been immatures. Additionally, some Am. Redstarts (adult males) may be separated by age class, and do occur in small proportions (2 of 16 this fall); possibly Palm Warblers may be similarly separated, immatures lacking the clearly yellow breast and rufous cap of the adults (if so, then less than 6 of the 75 or so fall records for California have been of adults). Clearly immature birds are much in the majority (this proportion applying to other vagrant landbirds as well), but the exact proportion, and how different the proportion is compared to "western" migrants at these same locations, remains to be determined (not considering the possibility of different migration routes used by different age classes). Until such time as an intensive, carefully managed banding program is established in California, only continued collecting can begin to provide answers to these questions.

Fringillids—Two first-year male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks visited Dr. R. L. Branson's feeder in Pebble Beach (Monterey Co.) from Sept. 25 to Oct. 1; both birds had pink under wing coverts and were photographed. A Blue Grosbeak at Drakes Beach, Marin Co., Aug. 30 (RS), is the northernmost record of the species on the coast of California. Pine Siskins were much less in evidence in most lowland

localities than last year, perhaps even less than in most years. Red Crossbills were present in numbers on the Inverness Ridge, Marin Co., throughout the summer (CJR), but showed no indication of invading other lowland areas this winter. Single Green-tailed Towhees, very rarely recorded in the Sacramento Valley, were seen at Elk Ferry, Yolo Co., Sept. 6 (MM & PDeB) and at Courtland, Sacramento Co., Sept. 19 (Mrs. Ellen Parker, *vide* BK). A fall or immature male plumaged *Lark Bunting* was at Point Reyes, Sept. 13 (RS, MM, PDeB), at the same spot where the northwesternmost specimen for California was taken last fall on Sept. 28. A Grasshopper Sparrow at the Hastings Reservation, Monterey Co., on Nov. 21 (AHM) is one of the very few fall records available to us; the species has been taken in mid-winter in the Region, however. Chipping Sparrows peaked in the Point Reyes area on Aug. 24, when more than 300 were in about 20 acres of riparian habitat near Drakes Beach (RS, CJR). The wintering *Zonotrichia* and Fox Sparrows appeared to be present in normal numbers by the end of the season. Longspurs were located in the same field on the Point Reyes Peninsula where they were found last fall: two Laplands and one Chestnut-collared were present, Oct. 16 (RS); 9 Lapland and 5 Chestnut-collared on Oct. 24 (Eds., ROP, AW); 4 Laplands on Oct. 31 (PDeB), and 3 Laplands on Nov. 3 (KS). As last year, the birds were with Horned Larks.

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