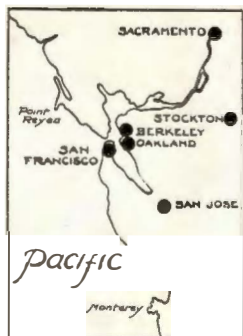


**SAN FRANCISCO REGION.**—At the beginning of April at a 2000-foot level in the South Coast Range, the live oaks and valley oaks were beginning to flower.



Madrone flowers were dropping, and sycamores were coming into leaf. Cream bush was in leaf and bracken was unfolding its fronds. Some elderberry bushes were in bud. In the preceding week there had been a conspicuous revival of growth in grasses and forbs. There were light rains and low temperatures with some frost. Birds were not at all conspicuous or

numerous even in good sites, where in other years, at this season, there had been great activity. As is usual for this time of year, there was a long period when each day the grass was thoroughly wet for nearly the whole morning and it was impossible to walk through grass without getting wet shoes. This would affect animals that live close to the ground and it may be a cause for late beginning of some seasonal activities. This condition may not apply generally at lower levels or at more interior localities.

For a week after April 10 the first warm days, with temperatures between 80° and 90°, were clear. These were the first days on which flying insects

were conspicuous. Crane flies were prominent over grassy areas and among trees. The crowned sparrows decreased appreciably and there was increasing evidence of bird nesting. Numerous moths were active on the night of April 12. By the end of the month the annual vegetation was drying rapidly and by mid-May the growth of most plants had stopped and the lower layer of plants nearly everywhere looked brown. Toward the end of May the leaves on buckeye and madrone trees turned brown, and over wide areas oak moths had defoliated the live oaks. There was another cool, cloudy period with some light rain, but this had no appreciable effect on the widespread drought. The early dryness and mild conditions made the beginning of the nesting season especially favorable, but by June 1 there were indications that the nesting would terminate quickly and many kinds of birds would wander off to find better conditions.

Last records given below for wintering species on the Hastings Reservation were considerably later than the departure of the main population of each species; this was apparently hastened by the warmth and drought: band-tailed pigeon, April 22; Lewis's woodpecker, April 20; robin, April 16; varied thrush, April 6; hermit thrush, April 21; ruby-crowned kinglet, April 21; cedar waxwing, April 24; myrtle warbler, April 18; Audubon's warbler, April 20; white-crowned sparrow, April 22; golden-crowned sparrow, May 1; white-throated sparrow, April 18 (only 1 seen this last winter); Lincoln's sparrow, April 24.

Time of arrival for several characteristic summer birds was indicated by the season's first record at one location, the Hastings Reservation. These birds were the last ones to arrive for the summer, and this year they tended to come a little earlier than usual: poor-will, April 1; black-chinned hummingbird, April 18; ash-throated flycatcher, April 12; wood pewee, April 18; olive-sided flycatcher, April 11; purple martin, April 7; solitary vireo, April 10; yellow warbler, April 18; black-throated gray warbler, April 13; Macgillivray's warbler, April 6; yellow-breasted chat, April 30; black-headed grosbeak, April 8 (female working on nest on April 15); lazuli bunting, April 18; chipping sparrow, April 12. An individual of a strictly transient species, the Nashville warbler, was seen on April 14.

Notes supplied by Milton L. Seibert are from the vicinity of Oakland. The pair of sparrow hawks nesting in his yard had 2 eggs on April 5 and 5 eggs on April 13. A western flycatcher nest being built on April 20 had 3 eggs on April 29. A nest of the chestnut-backed chickadee in the Redwood Regional Park had 5 eggs on April 29, at the same time another chickadee was seen excavating a nesting cavity. Male hermit thrushes were singing in the same park on April 20 and 29. A brown towhee nest had 2 eggs and 2 newly hatched young on April 13.

This year in our region many persons, both singly and in groups, made regular trips into the

field to watch birds. There are indications that maintenance of this interest will depend on adopting more specific objectives than the making of a list for each trip. Many topics invite special attention in the field over wide areas. Among the land birds in some localities this year there was a marked scarcity of hawks, hummingbirds, the violet-green swallow, and the lazuli bunting. At the same places the Bullock's oriole and the black-headed grosbeak were more numerous and more active than in previous years. It would be profitable to determine how widespread or how lasting are these changes. So too it would be a worthy undertaking in the region to study the nesting ranges of such sparse, irregular, or changing birds as Cassin's kingbird, olive-sided flycatcher, purple martin, mockingbird, robin, phainopepla, hooded oriole, cowbird, and grasshopper sparrow.—JEAN M. LINSDALE, *Hastings Reservation, Jamesburg Route, Monterey, Calif.*