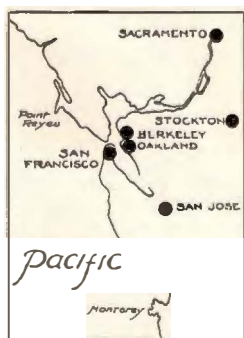


SAN FRANCISCO REGION.—In this area the summer stay of most birds is even more transitory than it is at other places near the same latitude.



The year to year contrasts are especially great and in some years the stay of summer birds is remarkably short. There is no time when a population is present that is characteristic of the area for the whole year or even for the nesting season. An adequate description of a unit of population involves the element of time, and this requires a separate description for each species.

The length of stay is as important as the number of individuals. There are daily changes in each species, but they are not all of the same kind.

The continued summer drought had an increasing effect on the birds as the season progressed. It resulted in greatly reduced food supplies, since plants produced few seeds and fruits, and species

and individuals of insects were remarkably few. Those insects that were present tended to remain dormant and inaccessible. Land birds had difficulty in finding enough food even for early broods, and there was no second nesting. Flycatchers were forced to search for insects on the ground, and many birds crowded about houses to eat the cultivated fruits.

Water birds.—More observations have been received concerning water birds than for several years. These pertain to early migration as well as to the status of some kinds that nest in the region: eared grebe, Dumbarton Bridge, 7 on July 2 (Kelly); sooty shearwater, Stinson Beach, large raft on July 14 (K.); white pelican, Dumbarton Bridge, about 50 on June 15 (E. Smith), and about 150 on July 2 (K.), Tomales Bay, 1 on July 13 (Rigby); brown pelican, Moss Landing, 93 on July 2 (Andersons); green heron, Santa Cruz, 3 young left the nest about July 2 (Richardson); American egret, between San Jose and Alviso, young in nests that were occupied on April 27 were being fed on July 20 (E.S.); red-breasted merganser, Moss Landing, 7 females on June 14 (A.); black-bellied plover, Moss Landing, one on July 12, 14 on July 20 (A.); semipalmated plover, Moss Landing, 3 on July 12 (A.); snowy plover, Dumbarton Bridge, 6 on June 15 (E.S.); Hudsonian curlew, Alameda, July 17 (K.); long-billed curlew, Dumbarton Bridge, July 15 (K.), Alviso Marshes, 12 on July 19 (R.); marbled godwit, Alviso Marshes, 15 on July 19 (R.); willet, Moss Landing, 700 on July 6 (A.), Dumbarton Bridge, about 40 on July 15 (E.S.); dowitcher, Dumbarton Bridge, about 20 on July 15 (E.S.), Moss Landing, small flock on July 20 (A.); knot, Moss Landing, 15 on July 20 (A.); western sandpiper, Dumbarton Bridge, hundreds on July 2 (K.); red-backed sandpiper, Alviso Marshes, 6 on July 19 (R.); black-necked stilt, Moss Landing, young on July 6 (A.), Dumbarton Bridge, at least 8 on July 15, yelping and staggering (E.S.); avocet, Dumbarton Bridge, one swimming and guiding a young chick on June 15 (E.S.), downy to grown young on July 2 (K.), Moss Landing, young on July 6 where nest was seen on April 13 (A.); Wilson's phalarope, Dumbarton Bridge, about 100 on July 15 (K.); Heermann's gull, Moss Landing, 34 on July 12 (A.); black tern, Dumbarton Bridge, July 2 (K.) and July 15 (E.S.); Caspian tern, Dumbarton Bridge, colony larger than 2 years ago, most of the nests with eggs and recently hatched young on June 15 (E.S.), Moss Landing, adult feeding young in flight on July 12 (A.).

Land birds.—The following species were considered by the observer to be notable for the locality: road-runner, Stephens Creek Reservoir, Santa Cruz Mountains, 1 on July 26 (Rigby); pigmy owl, Stephens Creek, 1 bathing on June 14 (R.); white-throated swift, Devil's Slide, Pedro Point, 4 on July 5 (R.); purple martin, near Cupertino, 4 on July 20 (E. Smith); white-breasted nuthatch, Diamond Canyon, 2 at different times on July 18 (Seibert); blue-gray gnatcatcher, Felt Lake, Santa

Clara County, one on June 21 (R.); cowbird, Dimond Park, young one on June 18 and July 1, near Brookdale Park, Oakland, one on July 17 (S.).

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson report that on July 20 they saw a black and white warbler along the Corral de Tierra Road in Monterey County. They recognized the species by its behavior as well as its pattern of color. Mr. Kelly saw an indigo bunting singing on a lupine stalk on June 23 at Calaveras Big Trees. This is the second time she has seen this bird in California, but so far no specimen from the state has been preserved.

Hawk nests.—Nesting status of several kinds of hawks has been reported, as follows: white-tailed kite, between Alviso and San Jose, incubation just begun on July 6 at nest in top of tall eucalyptus (E. Smith); goshawk, Calaveras Big Trees, adult shading 3 young from sun in nest in top of broken fir tree (Kelly); golden eagle, Stanford University, adult and young on June 7; duck hawk, Devil's Slide, Pedro Point, adult and 2 grown young on July 5 (Rigby); sparrow hawk, East Oakland, where there had been 2 eggs on April 5, first young left nest box on June 2, followed by the rest within a week (Seibert).

Other nests.—The following nesting records show the progress of several species at some place in the area: ash-throated flycatcher, near Cupertino, young out of nest being fed on July 20 (E. Smith); western flycatcher, Dimond Canyon, young just hatched on July 2, nest with 3 eggs on July 8 (Seibert); wood pewee, near Cupertino, young out of nest being fed on July 20 (E.S.); olive-sided flycatcher, near Cupertino, 2 nests with well-developed young and a pair feeding young out of the nest on July 20 (E.S.); chestnut-backed chickadee, Dimond Canyon, several, apparently young out of a nest, on July 8 (S.); robin, Dimond Canyon; young left nest on July 4 (S.); hooded oriole, Alameda, adult brought young to garden on July 11 (Kelly); Bullock's oriole, Oakland near San Leandro limit, pair nesting in birch tree on school yard on June 14 (S.).—JEAN M. LINDSALE, *Hastings Reservation, Jamesburg Route, Monterey, Calif.*

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION. — The weather feature most significant for nesting birds was the rainfall during the past winter—far sub-

normal in quantity (except November) but well

