

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION.—The spring was generally characterized as early and dry, with temperatures generally above normal and pre-



cipitation below; destructive fires were already occurring in June. Migration dates, however, were in general normal, except for accelerated departure of a few wintering species. Even less than usual in the

way of 'waves' of migration was noted in this Region perhaps because of decreased food supply due to the advanced season or because of lack of bad weather to ground night migrants. One 'wave' of warbler migration, including one "eastern" warbler, occurred at Beale Air Force Base, Yuba Co., April 16, and was correlated by the observer (MP, Jr.) with rain at that location; the same observer correlated departure of sparrows on April 30 and a late shorebird movement on May 11 with hot weather, *i.e.* a movement of warm air from the south such as typically initiates East Coast spring migration. Probably also so correlated were abundances of Western Kingbirds and Bullock's Orioles in eastern Monterey County, April 3 (TC, Jr. & Peter Post), and of Bullock's Orioles, Western Tanagers and Black-headed Grosbeaks at Arroyo Mocho, Alameda Co., May 1 (JG). Migrant density at Mt. Diablo was much less this year than last, but the increased number of migrants at higher altitudes was again noted in the Santa Lucia Mountains, Monterey Co., during May (RLB) and at 5000' in Fresno County west of Kings Canyon Nat'l Park, May 3 (MM), where there were about 100 migrants per acre present. Further correlations with migration in different areas are lacking, since observers seem, for various reasons, to have been less active this season than in previous years.

Albatrosses, Shearwaters, Pelicans, Herons—At least 8 Black-footed Albatrosses were seen near the Farallon Islands on April 23 (HLC & G.G.A.S.) and 1 was seen from Point Pinos, Monterey Co. on May 13 (AB). Shearwaters apparently moved northward far from shore during most of the spring. On the April 23 boat trip to the Farallons, Sooty Shearwaters (300±) were not sighted until about 25 miles out from the Golden Gate. Only 2 Pink-footed were found among them. At Pacific Grove, Alan Baldridge reported Sooty Shearwaters abundant off Point Pinos on only a very few days before the end of May, usually during strong southerly winds. On May 31 he found 20 Pink-footed with the Sooties. The 10 White Pelicans at Los Banos, May 8, were probably late migrants (AB). Brown Pelicans gradually increased to 50 in the Point Pinos area by May 25 and to 70 in the Moss Landing area by May 28 (AB). Reports of at least 8 Green Herons in widely separated areas seem to indicate that this species is holding its own in this Region, where suitable habitat is sparse.

Geese, Ducks—About 200 Black Brant were at Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co. on the late date of April 23 (JG, JA & GLB). On March 15 the 4 Sacramento Valley Nat'l Wildlife Refuges (Sacramento, Delavan, Colusa and Sutter) still had 50,000 ducks and a few White-fronted Geese, but numbers dropped steadily until only about 2000 ducks (mostly Mallards) were present in early May (SRW). The first brood of Mallards on the Sacramento Valley refuges appeared on May 7. About 300 pairs of ducks (mostly Mallards and Cinnamon Teal) were estimated nesting on the 4 refuges. Hopefully, therefore, production will be up considerably over last year, perhaps due to very good "summer water" this

year (= early run-off and a dry summer at high altitudes) (SRW). Pairs of Blue-winged Teal were noted in May at the Sacramento Valley Refuges and at the Los Banos Waterfowl Management Area (ROW). More unusual, however, was a pair reported at the coastal location of Moss Landing on April 14 and 16 (RLB & AB). About 30 Wood Ducks were seen near Chico on the late date (for that large a number) of April 22 (EH); the species was reported at 3 different locations in Monterey County in late April and May, the most noteworthy of these being a female with a brood in Robinson Canyon (off the Carmel Valley) on May 28 (AB). A male Oldsquaw in changing plumage (from winter to summer) was found at Moss Landing on May 12 (RLB) and last reported on May 29 (HLC). The bird was reported to be slightly oiled, which may account for its presence so late.

Kites, Hawks, Eagles—Five or 6 active White-tailed Kite nests were reported for the Sacramento Valley Refuges this season, where normally only 1 or 2 are found (SRW). H. L. Cogswell observed 4 kites in 4 different locations in the San Joaquin Valley in May; 3 in San Benito County on May 29; and 2 (1 juvenile) near Moss Landing on May 29. Only 3 Bald Eagles were reported; 2 along the Sacramento River in Tehama County in early spring (A.A.S.) and 1 on Humboldt Bay on April 13 (DAG). Six Ospreys were reported from 4 different locations along the coast this spring (GLB, JG, JA, AB, L & MK). A Peregrine Falcon was observed repeatedly through May near San Jose (DDMcL).

Shorebirds—The large number of 70 Whimbrels was seen at Moss Landing on April 16 (AB). Lesser Yellowlegs (3), never common anywhere in the Region, were at Moss Landing on May 1 (AB). Knots were found in good numbers along San Francisco Bay; 100± near Hayward, Alameda Co., April 14 (HLC) and 200 at Coyote Hills, Santa Clara Co., May 6 (WA). Two Knots were among other late migrating shorebirds at Moss Landing on May 29 (HLC, J. Whetstone, *et al.*). An estimated 12,000 Dunlins and Western Sandpipers were in view over about 700 acres of intertidal mud flat area at Hayward Landing, Alameda Co. on April 26 (HLC). On April 14 4000 dowitchers, of both species (probably mostly Short-billed) were carefully estimated at Hayward (HLC). Of interest was a flock of about 20 Short-billed Dowitchers flying north over the ocean about 10 miles west of the Golden Gate on April 23 (HLC & G.G.A.S.). Reports indicate that phalaropes may have migrated far offshore this spring, as did the shearwaters. The largest numbers reported were 300 Northern and 50 Wilson's at Moss Landing on May 1 (AB). Compare these numbers with an estimated 350,000 Northern along the coast on May 8 last year!

Gulls, Terns, Alcids—A second-year plumaged Glaucous Gull was found at the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor on San Francisco Bay on the late date of May 13 (T & ZCk, JRDG, Dave DeSante). The bird appeared to have a broken wing, but was observed flying well the following day. The first known authentic record of *Laughing Gulls* for this Region

was established when 2 adult breeding plumaged birds were found at Point Pinos, Pacific Grove, Monterey Co. on May 20 (WR). These gulls were observed and photographed the following day by a number of local birders, but have not been seen since (AB, RLB, VLY, George Lamont, Laidlaw Williams). Three adult, breeding plumaged Franklin's Gulls were found at 2 different locations in the San Joaquin Valley on May 8; 2 at Los Banos (AB) and 1 south of Dos Palos, Merced Co., only 1½ miles south of the location where 1 was observed last May (TCK, Dave DeSante, Rich Stallcup, et al.). Northward migrating flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls totaling 100± were seen between the San Francisco Lightship and the Farallon Islands on April 23 (HLC & G.G.A.S.). Two adult Black-legged Kittiwakes were found moving with them. Two immature Kittiwakes were also seen at Moss Landing on the late date of May 28 (AB). Nesting colonies of Forster's Terns (150 pairs) and Caspian Terns (200 pairs) were noted near the Dumbarton Bridge on San Francisco Bay, Alameda Co. throughout May (WA, et al.). Black Terns were found at 2 coastal salt water areas; 3 at Moss Landing on May 1 (AB) and 1 at Alameda Creek Outlet, Alameda Co., on May 12 (WA). After observing thousands of Com. Murres on Southeast Farallon Island on April 23; H. L. Cogswell commented that the numbers of this species at the island seems to have increased over 10 years ago. Three Marbled Murrelets, in changing plumage (from winter to summer), were noted off Pigeon Point, San Mateo Co. on April 16 (TCK & Dave DeSante). A Tufted Puffin seen off Point Pinos, Pacific Grove on May 13 is noteworthy, as this species is seldom seen close to shore (AB).

Pigeons, Owls—An outstanding concentration of over 1000 Band-tailed Pigeons were feeding in waste field corn 5 miles east of Morgan Hill, Santa Clara Co., March 30 (WA & John Carlton). The species remained later than usual at lowland locations; 24 at Beale AFB, Yuba Co. on May 18 (MP, Jr.) and 125 at the feeder of Harry C. Adamson, Lafayette, Contra Costa Co. to May 25 (fide LF). A notable range extension was the discovery of *Flammulated Owls* at China Camp, Los Padres Nat'l Forest, Monterey Co. on April 30 (RLB & WR). Two or 3 were heard on that date and 3 or 4 were seen and carefully identified on May 12 (RLB, WR, VLY, AB, Laidlaw Williams, John Davis); they were heard on later occasions through the spring season (to at least June 2) and presumably breed there. There is only one other record west of the Central Valley between Lake and Ventura Counties (see AFN 16[5]: 524 [1962]).

Swifts, Hummingbirds—Three coastal records of Black Swifts; March 30, Bonita Pt., Marin Co., 1 (R & VDAC); April 14, South San Jose, 9 (DDMcL); April 16, Angel I., Martin Co., 1 (WA) are earlier than the appearance (early May) of this species on its inland California breeding grounds, and suggest an earlier coastal migration route of more northerly populations.

Mrs. Margaret S. Chandless's feeders 14 miles north of Yreka were, by mid-May, attended by some 20 hummers, including 2 male Black-chinned, 2-3

male Anna's, 3-4 male Rufous and 1 male Calliope. A pair of Black-chinned Hummingbirds at South San Jose, April 12, et seq., with the female seen gathering nesting material on April 20, were slightly beyond the recorded northwestern breeding limits along the coast (DDMcL). Besides the above noted birds at Yreka, a Rufous Hummingbird was seen well after the normal migration period (Feb.-March) at Fort Bragg, Mendocino Co. on May 25 (RC). At least 3 Calliope Hummingbirds were recorded, April 23-27, on the Monterey Peninsula, where they are regarded as accidental (RLB, VLY, et al.) and migration in Contra Costa County was regarded as "more extended than usual" (March 31-May 10 [LF]).

Flycatchers, Swallows—An early Ash-throated Flycatcher was at Eureka, March 20 (DAG); the species was "late in arriving and not nearly so abundant as normal" at Los Banos W.M.A. (ROW) and was not seen at all at South San Jose (DDMcL). A Say's Phoebe nest at Arroyo Seco, Monterey Co. in May was closer to the coast than previously recorded (RLB). The paucity (only 1 observation) of Western Wood Pewees and the extension of Traill's and Ash-throated Flycatchers at South San Jose was suggested by McLean to be due to spraying of trees with hydrocarbon insecticides. Some 2000 swallows, Trees and Violet-greens predominating, massed over a marshy area 8 miles west of Santa Rosa on April 7 (GLB).

Chickadees, Wrens, Thrushes, Vireos—Chestnut-backed Chickadees appear to be continuing their range extension in Contra Costa (LF) and Alameda Counties (May 1, 2 at Arroyo Mocho, east of Livermore [JG]; April 28, 3 at Sunol, June 4, 4 at Sunol Regional Park, showing territoriality [HLC]), but were not found at Potato Patch Camp, Deer Creek Canyon, Tehama Co., where they have been the last two years (EH; cf. AFN 19:575 [1965]), and 1 at Tannery Gulch Campground, Trinity Co. in the heart of the traditional range, was the first seen by the observers in more than a year in Trinity County (Mr. & Mrs. DEK); the Black-capped is now more frequently recorded there. Bewick's Wrens are replacing House Wrens as a nesting bird in the Lafayette area (LF). The last report of the winter's invasion of Varied Thrushes was one at Pacific Grove, April 29 (Margo Nelson, fide VLY). A carefully described Red-eyed Vireo at Piedmont, Alameda Co., April 6 (ST) is the earliest recorded for this Region; the 6 or 8 previous records range from June through September.

Warblers—Four "eastern" warblers were found, in addition to a wintering Palm Warbler which remained at Pacific Grove at least to April 10 (JRDG); a ~~Black-and-white Warbler~~ was seen at Beale AFB, Yuba Co. in a 'wave' on April 16 (MP, Jr.); a Parula Warbler came on board the fishing boat *Fin-back*, along with an Orange-crowned Warbler and a Yellowthroat, 10 miles southwest of Bodega Head, Sonoma Co. in thick fog on May 23 (George Sumner, fide NM; specimen now in Sonoma State College collection [JA]); a Northern Waterthrush was by the Carmel River near Robinson Canyon, Monterey Co., May 8 (WR); and a first year male Am.

Redstart at Hayward, Alameda Co., June 8 (HLC). The Parula is a "spring" warbler in that all of the 7 or 8 records from the Region are from May or June, but this is only the second spring record of the Black-and-white Warbler and third of the Northern Waterthrush. Most of the records of the much more abundant Am. Redstart are from the fall, though there are previous June records. The Parula is also the only one of these not to breed close to the Pacific coast north of California, suggesting that it alone may have gone astray in *spring* migration, the others representing fall mis-migrants returning northward (Am. Redstart and Black-and-white Warbler were recorded in the Region last winter).

More general aspects of warbler migration are largely covered in the introductory paragraph. Mist-netting at Sacramento Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, March 11-April 19, yielded 74 Audubon's and 10 Myrtle Warblers, an unexpectedly high proportion of the latter (SRW); Myrtles outnumbered Audubon's at King City, Monterey Co., and near Three Rock, on Highway 33 in southwest Fresno County, April 3 (TC, Jr. & Peter Post). A singing male Hermit Warbler 8 miles west of Santa Rosa, June 5, was unusually late (GLB).

Blackbirds, Orioles—Flocks of male blackbirds, largely Tricolored, were noted in non-breeding areas north of Coalinga, April 3 (TC, Jr. & Peter Post) and at El Cerrito, Contra Costa Co., April 18 (ALC); a breeding colony of some 4000 was located in the Irvington district of Fremont, Alameda Co., May 9-10 (HLC). The adult male Orchard Oriole at Carmel, noted in the Winter Season report, was still present at the end of the spring season (VLY), and a female was seen on March 19 at another nearby location (JRDG), where the Scott's Oriole remained at least to March 27 (TCK); thus a total of four Orchard Orioles was recorded for Monterey County over the span November-March. Brown-headed Cowbirds were considered unusually scarce at Hayward (HLC) and Soquel, Santa Cruz Co. (PH) this spring.

Grosbeak, Sparrows—A Blue Grosbeak at Bethel, Island, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, May 21 (TCK) is a species now rarely reported from its former breeding range in the Central Valley, due to destruction of habitat. Unusual among migrants at 5000' in Fresno County west of Kings Canyon Nat'l Park, May 3, was a Desert Sparrow; the only breeding area west of the Sierra is more than 80 miles southward, though the species extends far northward east of the Sierra in the Great Basin. Lincoln's Sparrows out of habitat, in coastal scrub, at the mouth of Malpaso Creek, Monterey Co., March 26, and at the mouth of the Little Sur River, same county, April 10 (WR) were considered by the observer to suggest a coast-hugging migration route.

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