

**MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION.**—The summer was generally warm and dry, especially in the Sierra, and observers generally reported nesting peaks



at least two weeks earlier than usual; the fall migration, at least of early migrants, bids fair to be even earlier. Practically all comments on nesting production indicated a good year, with many birds of a number of species being on their third brood at the end of the period (DDMcL).

This is perhaps a good time to comment on "sub-urban birds," species—either native or introduced—which have had particular success in adapting to the ecological niches of the newly human-created environment of garden-filled and tree-bedecked suburbs, often attaining much higher population densities there than in their wild habitat; the Robin and Anna's Hummingbird are good examples. Despite the unusual opportunity offered by a newly created habitat, introduced birds have not succeeded in crowding native species out of it; two of our best-known introduced species, the Rock Dove and House Sparrow, are urban rather than suburban, and the Starling is (unfortunately) more than merely suburban. In the perennially flowering garden areas of southern California and Florida other species, notably the Chinese Spotted Dove, have gained a foothold, and at least two species—Ringed Turtle Dove and

**African Firefinch**—may be beginning the process in this Region. At the same time the suburbs offer a refuge for a few threatened species—notably the White-tailed Kite, now apparently on the increase, which seems able to adapt to proximity to man if not directly molested, and it is probably less shot at in suburban areas than on farms and ranches. Waterbirds, on the other hand, virtually always suffer from the encroachment of the suburbs; the present tragic filling of the Bay Farm Island flats in Alameda, once the finest shorebird habitat in the Region, is a case in point.

**Loons, Grebes**—Non-breeding stragglers of all three species of loons (Common, Arctic, and Red-throated) were again observed along the coast throughout the summer. It is interesting that most of them reported were in winter plumage or only partial breeding plumage. The few summering Horned and Eared Grebes, however, were reported to be in breeding plumage.

**Albatrosses, Shearwaters and Petrels**—Between 7 and 10 Black-footed Albatrosses were seen in Monterey Bay on three occasions through the summer (AB). More unusual during the summer, however, were single Fulmars in Monterey Bay on July 21 and Aug. 4 (AB). An estimated 250,000 Sooty Shearwaters flocked close to shore in Monterey Bay on Aug. 3 (AB). Elsewhere along the coast shearwaters were observed only in very small numbers or not at all. Of 8 petrels seen in Monterey Bay on Aug. 8, 2 were identified as Blacks (AB).

**Pelicans, Cormorants**—Only 10 White Pelicans appeared at the Sacramento Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in late July this year, compared to 225 last year (SRW). The small Brown Pelican colony at Point Lobos, the farthest north along this coast, was seen to have only 3+ nests on May 29, and these disappeared by June 15. However, there were  $400 \pm$  birds present there at the time, which built up to  $600 \pm$  by July 27 (HLC). At Moss Landing the Brown Pelican population was estimated at 2500 by Aug. 6 (AB). The nesting colony of Brandt's Cormorants on Point Lobos continues to increase with a maximum of 1800 nests estimated on June 16 and a maximum of 4000 birds estimated on May 29 (HLC). However, the Pelagic Cormorant colony at this location appears to be smaller than last year, as only 22 nests and  $35 \pm$  birds were counted on June 15 (HLC).

**Geese, Ducks**—The only summering Black Brant reported was a single bird off Point Bonita, Marin Co. on July 30 (VDAc). The four National Wildlife Refuges in the Sacramento Valley (Sacramento, Delevan, Colusa and Sutter) supported about 3000 ducks (mostly Mallards) through June. Mallards, therefore, accounted for most of an estimated 800 ducklings. During July more Mallards arrived to molt, bringing the population to about 6000 by Aug. 1. The first migrant Pintails arrived about Aug. 5 to bring the total duck population to approximately 20,000 by Aug. 8 (SRW). Mallards also nested in fair numbers in the salt marshes along San Francisco Bay (HLC). Of some  $30 \pm$  Gadwalls seen on Tubbs Island, Sonoma Co. on July 27 a few were only partially grown, suggesting local breeding (BDP).

Wood Ducks nested again at the southern location of Hunter-Liggett Military Reservation, Monterey Co. as a female and 3 young were seen on Aug. 7 (AB). Summer stragglers included: a pair of Blue-winged Teal at Merced Nat'l Wildlife Refuge on June 19 (AB); the immature male Oldsquaw, first reported last spring, was seen again at Moss Landing on June 18 (AB); fewer than usual White-winged and Surf Scoters at Moss Landing (HLC); at least 3 Common Scoters—2 at Moss Landing on July 24 (AB & WR) and 1 female or immature at Pacific Grove, Monterey Co. on July 31 (HLC); a female Hooded Merganser at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Co. on June 25 and Aug. 2 (VDAc); and 2 Red-breasted Mergansers at Moss Landing on June 16 (HLC).

**Vultures, Hawks**—Between 1 and 8 California Condors were seen almost daily from the Blue Ridge Lookout near Springville, Tulare Co. from July 16 to Aug. 8. The maximum seen at one time was 5, including 1 "very" juvenile bird (Clyde Osborn, *vide MEM*). Up to 15 White-tailed Kites were counted in one salt marsh area of San Francisco Bay, Mountain View, Santa Clara Co. on July 23 (T & ZCk). D. D. McLean reports knowledge of 9 pairs between Gilroy and Alviso, Santa Clara Co. during the summer. Six others were reported in widely separated areas (AB). Individual adult Goshawks were seen in Placer County on June 19 (HLC) and Tehama County on July 24 (EH). Only 2 Swainson's Hawks were reported from the Sacramento Valley (Hamilton City, Glenn Co. [JG & JA]) and none from the San Joaquin Valley despite numerous trips by Marie Mans to localities where they were regular in past years. Two Golden Eagles were noteworthy in their coastal location of Moss Landing on Aug. 6 where they caused a large Brown Pelican assembly to take wing (AB).

**Shorebirds**—Black Oystercatchers nested on Point Lobos; 2 nests were seen on May 29 and a third was found on June 15 (HLC). Only  $10 \pm$  adult Snowy Plovers were found at Moss Landing on June 16; a search for nests or young was unsuccessful, since the area is highly disturbed by humans (HLC). Long-billed Curlews and Marbled Godwits summered in unusually good numbers in the Moss Landing area (HLC). A single Lesser Yellowlegs, always rare in this Region, was found at the mouth of the Carmel River, Monterey Co. on Aug. 2 (HLC, JB, *et al.*). The uncommon Baird's Sandpiper was reported from 2 localities: 2 at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Co. on July 30 and 2 at Bodega Bay on Aug. 6 (both VDAc) the largest number of migrating phalaropes reported to date are  $2000 \pm$  Wilson's near the Dumbarton Bridge, San Mateo Co. on July 23 (T & ZCk) and  $2500 \pm$  Northern's at Moss Landing on Aug. 6 (AB).

**Gulls, Terns, Alcids**—A first-year plumaged Glaucous Gull was seen at Salmon Creek, Sonoma Co. on the unusual summer date of June 29 (BDP & GLB). This sighting may be indicative of the greater than usual number of gulls summering along the coast, reported by several observers. Single immature Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen at Point Lobos on July 9 and Moss Landing on July 10 (AB & WR). Although no nests were found, 60 adult and 15 im-

mature Least Terns were counted at Alameda, Alameda Co., July 29 (AW, RS & MS). It is suspected that this species has been breeding somewhere on the east side of San Francisco Bay for several years, but no nests have been found north of Santa Cruz County since 1952! The first north-moving Elegant Terns reported were 2 at Moss Landing on the early date of July 7 (MM). A large concentration of 30± Black Terns were sighted at the Woodland Sugar Ponds, Yolo Co. on Aug. 4 (H & BK & S & WA). Marbled Murrelets were found in groups of three in 3 localities along the coast. Two Ancient Murrelets were seen off the Marin County coast on Aug. 6 (AW & JW). Rhinoceros Auklets were seen twice in Monterey Bay: 1 on June 13 and 4 on July 21 (AB). A Tufted Puffin was observed from shore flying out of Goat Rock off the northern Marin County coast, July 31, suggesting breeding there (J & RG).

**Doves, Owls**—A pair of Ringed Turtle Doves "took up residence in our area" (DDMcL) in South San Jose; though the nest was not located, this suggests that the "colony" reported in this area in 1964 (AFN 19:73) persists. In the same area the Mourning Dove "nesting population is once again up over last year, as it has been for the past five or six years" (DDMcL). The occurrence of Flammulated Owls in Monterey County (see Spring Season report) was extended by the observation and recording of a male and collection of a female at Junipero Serra Peak (about 15 miles from the previous locality in the Santa Lucia Mountains), July 20 (RLB, WR & VLY); details will be published elsewhere. Reports of successful nesting of Burrowing Owls at Los Banos Waterfowl Management Area, at Fort Ord (Monterey Co.) (AB), at Woodland (BK), and at Oakland Airport (ER), and of 16 in view at once in a two-acre field at Williams, Colusa, Co., June 16 (JG & JA) are encouraging. The first-known San Mateo County record of the *Spotted Owl* was a bird seen nightly on an outer branch of a redwood tree beside a field, Old La Honda Road, Aug. 2-5 (JRDG, T & ZCK). A young Great Gray Owl, and its nest, were observed at Crane Flats, Yosemite Nat'l Park, July 23, as well as 2 adults at the traditional locality of Perego Meadows (J & RG, & Russ Griswold). A pair of Short-eared Owls has nested for the last three years in the Palo Alto Baylands (JRDG); the species is now rare as a nester west of the Sierra.

**Swifts, Hummingbirds**—A Black Swift was photographed on its nest at Santa Cruz, July 28–Aug. 7 (RLB); late nesting? a second brood? or merely roosting? Vaux's Swifts continue to be seen in summer in the northern Sierra (Sagehen Creek, Nevada Co., 4 on July 19 [HLC]) but the species still has not definitely been found nesting in the area. A pair of Black-chinned Hummingbirds nested successfully at South San Jose (see Spring Migration), slightly beyond the normal westward limits (DDMcL). Anna's Hummingbirds had an "excellent reproduction" year in the same area, some pairs producing three broods (DDMcL). An immature male of the species on territory at Olympic Village (Squaw Valley), Placer Co., June 10-14 (HLC) is unusual east of the Sierra this early, though there are records from

the July–August up-mountain movement. The first fall migrant Rufous Hummingbird was recorded at Beale AFB, Yuba Co., June 30 (MP, Jr.) and in Yosemite Nat'l Park, July 9-10 (T & ZCK); consequently the "increased numbers" at Lassen Volcanic Nat'l Park, June 26-30 (EH) seem likely also to have been migrants in this early season; the species was "fully a month early" at Springville, Tulare Co., July 23-30 (MEM).

**Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Larks**—Two Pileated Woodpeckers, rare in Marin County, were in live oak and madrone (conifers within ¼ mile) on the north side of Mt. Tamalpais, July 29 (LS). Cassin's Kingbird was about one-third as common as the Western Kingbird south of King City, Monterey Co., July 16 (RLB & WR) and two broods of young were seen in that area, Aug. 7 (AB). A Western Flycatcher at St. Mary's College, Contra Costa Co. on July 1 was building a nest abnormally far off the ground, 14 feet up in a willow crotch (HLC). Dr. Cogswell comments: "I suspect that any genes which yielded this 'above ground' nest-building will be of advantage where man is around!" The species was reported at May Lake, Tuolumne Co., July 22, at the exceptionally high elevation of 10,000 feet (JRDG)—up-mountain movement? A pair and one bob-tailed young Horned Lark at Emigrant Pass, Placer Co., 8300 ft., were higher than the recorded range of breeding (to 7000 ft.) of this subspecies (*O. a. sierrae*) (HLC).

**Corvids, Chickadees, Nuthatches**—The occurrence of Gray Jays in the Mendocino area was confirmed by an immature on June 18 and an adult on June 19 at Russian Gulch State Park (BDP). A new Sacramento drainage locality for the Black-billed Magpie was Quincy, where one was seen on July 11 (JM). The species has been seen in recent years just to the north at Lake Almanor, but is still separated by the inhospitable canyons of the Feather River from the valley range of the Yellow-billed Magpie. Few Clark's Nutcrackers were seen along the Sierran crest west of Squaw Valley, July 13-20 (but 10 at 8930 ft. on the Mt. Rose road, Washoe Co., Nev., July 20); the cone crop is poor and a down-mountain invasion may already be in progress (HLC). Chestnut-backed Chickadees were regarded as greatly increased along MacDonald Trail, Oakland, Alameda Co. this year (ER) and are still present at Potato Patch Camp, Deer Creek Canyon, Tehama Co., east of the Sacramento Valley (EH). Red-breasted Nuthatches, not previously recorded as breeding in Monterey County, were recorded regularly at high elevations in the Santa Lucia Mountains this summer (Cone Peak, Lucia Peak, Chews Ridge) (RLB, VLY, WR). Other notable reports were one 8 miles west of Santa Rosa, June 12 (GLB) and a concentration of 24 at Old Station, Shasta Co., July 29 (EH) where they were regarded as having bred earlier than usual. Two Pygmy Nuthatches at East Lawn Cemetery, Sacramento, Aug. 14 (BK) were also wanderers.

**Wrens, Thrushes, Waxwing**—A Winter Wren, apparently on territory, 1 mile south of Hat Lake, Lassen Volcanic Nat'l Park, July 2 (EH) is north of the range of the scarce Sierran population. Another,



8 miles west of Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co., July 10, was probably a post-nesting wanderer (*GLB*). Robins had their best nesting since 1962 at South San Jose (*DDMcL*); Hermit Thrushes (*MEM*) and Western Bluebirds (*BK*) were also considered to have been notably successful. A Cedar Waxwing in Yosemite Valley, July 7 (*JRDG*) is unusual for summer (normally only in the extreme northwest of this Region).

**Starlings, Vireos**—Starlings continue to invade the remaining unfested corners of the state: a first nesting record at Benicia, Solano Co. (*ES*) and a summer record at Squaw Valley, Placer Co., July 12-14 (*HLC*). Warbling Vireos were rare to absent as breeders in the Sequel-Santa Cruz area, but appeared in numbers, July 9-27 (*FH, RJR*); the only pair which attempted to breed at South San Jose gave up and left after the trees were sprayed (*DDMcL*).

**Warblers**—The bird taken with a Parula Warbler 10 miles southwest of Bodega Head, May 23 (see Spring Migration report), and identified as an Orange-crowned Warbler, has been reidentified by J. Dan Webster of the California Academy of Sciences as a *Tennessee Warbler*, apparently the first spring migration record for the Region. The Yellowthroat taken at the same time is probably *G. t. campicola*, the northern Rocky Mountain-Great Plains race. A male Parula Warbler was singing at Russian Gulch State Park, Mendocino Co. on June 18 (*BDP*). A Townsend's Warbler on Mt. Tamalpais, July 29 (*LS*) was probably an early fall migrant; the Black-throated Gray Warbler migration began 8 miles west of Santa Rosa on July 14 (*GLB*). Another out-of-range summer Hermit Warbler (see Spring Migration report) was at Montebello Road, Santa Clara Co., July 3 (*RG & RG*).

**Ploceids, Cowbirds, Tanagers**—House Sparrows have declined in the South San Jose area in the last two years (*DDMcL*). The African Firefinches at Pacific Grove (see *AFN* 20:90) raised another successful brood of 4 (Mrs. B. Gordon Nelson, *vide VLY & WR*). A young Brown-headed Cowbird was observed being fed at Summit Lake, Lassen Volcanic Nat'l Park, 6700 ft. (*EH*); the observer considers the species to have increased ten-fold in the area since 1959, and finds it not listed at all in Stebbins' *Birds of Lassen*, 1953. A male Western Tanager at the entrance to the MacDonald Trail, Alameda Co., July 13 [*EH*] is unusual, although possibly a very early fall migrant; the species bred (not unprecedented) at Cone Peak, Santa Lucia Mts., Monterey Co. (*VLY*). An adult male *Summer Tanager* at the Hatton Ranch, Calera Canyon, south of Salinas, Monterey Co., July 28-31 (Louise Hatton, *HLC, et al.*) is apparently the first summer record for the Region, although now of annual occurrence in winter.

**Buntings, Finches, Sparrows**—A male Indigo Bunting was seen and photographed in the Carmel Valley, Monterey Co., July 1-6 (*RLB, WR*). Still more unusual was a female *Painted Bunting* collected 8 miles west of Santa Rosa, June 24 (*GLB*; #1025 in Sonoma State College Collection [*JA*]; identification confirmed by J. Dan Webster of the California Academy of Sciences, who comments that the bird is

"*not* very overly worn for the date, which does not suggest an escaped bird"). This is the first record for the Region (there are two specimens from San Diego [McCaskie]). House Finches were present, probably breeding in the same area as Cassin's Finches, on lower Sagehen Creek (5920 ft.), Sierra Co., June 18 (*HLC*). Lawrence's Goldfinches were recorded at several localities unusually close to the coast: July 3, 1 at San Gregorio, San Mateo Co. (*RG & RG*); July 29, Aug. 5, 2 at Foothills Park, Palo Alto (*TCK*), Aug. 8, 1 female at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Co. (*LS*). Grasshopper Sparrows, local breeders in the Region, were found at 3 localities along the Monterey County coast (*RLB*), at San Gregorio, San Mateo Co., where they seemed more numerous than last year (*TCK, VDaC, et al.*) and 1 mile southwest of Tomales, Marin Co., July 18 (*LS*).

**Observers**—John Arnold, San and Willie Argante, Alan Baldrige, Gordon L. Bolander, John Boles, Ronald L. Branson, Zoe Chandik, Howard L. Cogswell, Valeria DaCosta, Joseph, Russell and Douglas Greenberg, Russell Griswold, Jack Guggolz, Florence Haas, Emilie Hodnette, Harold and Betty Kimball, Jack Mann, Marie Mans, Donald D. McLean, Mabel E. Mires, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Michael Perrone, Jr., William Reese, Robert J. Richardson, Elsie Roemer, Marianne Shepard, Lynn Stafford, Rich Stallcup, Emerson Stoner, Arthur Wang, Jack Whetstone, Sanford R. Wilbur, Vernal L. Yadon.—THEODORE CHASE, JR., 1618 Milvia St., Apt. 2, Berkeley, Calif. 94709, and THEODORE CHANDIK, 124 Alta Mesa Rd., Woodside, Calif. 94062.