

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION.—The fall migration season was the usual long gradual process in this Region where wintering species probably



outnumber passage migrants—all the more so this season because there were no large generalized storm systems in the Region before early November. As usual, there was migration clearly under way in the Central Valley in early August (see warblers), while late flycatchers were reported right to the end of October.

Visible Diurnal Migration.—Several reporters described interesting cases of passerine migration behavior. As a sequel to the remarkable Varied Thrush morning flight reported last year (*APN* 20: 87), Reese found large flocks of Robins following the same route westward along the Monterey Peninsula on the mornings of Nov. 24 and 25, already apparent at first light and continuing in diminishing numbers until mid-morning. He speculated that these flights were correlated to first snows in the Sierra. At Point Pinos, on the same Monterey Peninsula, Yadon found a concentration of warblers, flycatchers, and other migrants in the few trees at the Point on Sept. 21, together with a constant passage of small groups of passerine migrants overhead. "This phenomenon was preceded by an early storm and stormy winds the previous day." Clearly these diurnal migration patterns need to be watched more closely in the future in this Region.

Loons, Shearwaters, Petrels, Pelicans.—The fall migration of loons moving south along the coast became evident on Oct. 12 off Point Pinos, Pacific Grove, Monterey Co. The migration peak was reached

on Nov. 17 when Alan Baldridge counted 1081 birds flying by the Point in 45 minutes. This very heavy flight was still in progress the following day with smaller numbers continuing on to the end of the period. At least 75 percent of the birds in these flights appeared to be Arctic Loons (*AB*). Between 35 and 40 Fulmars were counted in 45 minutes off Pacific Grove on Oct. 12 (*AB*), picking up to 95+ birds on Nov. 29 (*WR*). Exceptionally good flights of shearwaters appeared close to shore this fall during October gales. This was particularly true of the less common white-bellied species, which apparently move south later in the fall than the Sooties. Owing to the regularity of field work and patience of counting by Alan Baldridge of Pacific Grove, we have some interesting data on the movements and numbers of these little-known birds. For example, on Oct. 5 during a gale he counted 100 Pink-footed Shearwaters flying by Point Pinos in 45 minutes. Then on Oct. 12 during another gale he counted a phenomenal concentration of 1350 in 45 minutes. The rare, but regular, Pale-footed Shearwater was sighted on 4 separate occasions this fall off Monterey: 1 on Oct. 1 about 10 miles west of Point Pinos (*G.G.A.S.*, *AB*, *DDeS*, & *TCh*); 1 on Oct. 12 during a gale off Pacific Grove (*AB* & *RLB*); 1 on Oct. 23 in Monterey Bay (*AB*); and 1 on Nov. 10 in Monterey Bay (*GMCC*, *DDeS*, et al.). The New Zealand Shearwater was observed in larger concentrations than usual from the shore of Pacific Grove twice during October gales: 100 in 45 minutes on Oct. 5 and 225 in 45 minutes on Oct. 12 (*AB*). Interestingly enough, 200 of these shearwaters were estimated by B. D. Parmeter on Oct. 8 off the coast of Sonoma County about 125 miles north of Pacific Grove. Sooty Shearwaters were reduced in numbers from the last period with maxima of 19,200 est. off the south end of Point Reyes, Marin Co. on Aug. 21 (*HLC*); 4000 in Monterey Bay on Sept. 9 (*AB*); and 10,000 off Point Bonita, Marin Co. on Sept. 10 (*T* & *ZCh*). The Manx Shearwater which, unlike the Sooty, moves up from the south, was unusually numerous in Monterey Bay this fall with the maximum of 500+ est. in about 30 minutes during the gale of Oct. 12 (*WR*). The only Fork-tailed Petrels reported were 3 seen from shore at Pacific Grove on Oct. 30 (*WR*). Individual Leach's Petrels were seen in Monterey Bay on Oct. 6 and 23 (*AB*). An extremely large concentration of petrels was found in Monterey Bay off Moss Landing on Aug. 17 in which 1200 Ashy and 300 Black were estimated (*AB*). About 800 White Pelicans were found near the Dumbarton Bridge in San Francisco Bay on Oct. 18 (*WA*) and another 350 were seen flying east over Marin County on Nov. 16 (*PRL*). The large numbers of Brown Pelicans continued to roost in the Monterey Bay Salt Works at Moss Landing with 1000 counted there on Oct. 22 (*AB*).

Hérons, Ibises, Spoonbill.—A very large roost of over 150 Black-crowned Night Herons was found at the Gray Lodge Waterfowl Management Area, Butte Co. on Nov. 26 (*EH*). A Least Bittern was seen on Sept. 12 on the Los Banos Waterfowl Man-

agement Area, Merced Co., where it is probably more common than is reported (ROW). White-faced Ibises were reported to be more common than usual in the Los Banos Area this fall with a maximum of 30 seen near the Gustine Gun Club on Sept. 28 (WA, ROW). An immature *Roseate Spoonbill* was photographed at the Mendota Waterfowl Management Area, Fresno Co. on Sept. 24 (AB & WR). According to McCaskie and De Benedictis' "Annotated Field List of the Birds of Northern California" (1966) there have not been any records of spoonbills in this Region since 1850. Although attempts to find this bird the following day by other birders were unsuccessful, we have an unverified report of a spoonbill being seen in October at a refuge in Kern County south of Mendota in the San Joaquin Valley.

Swans, Geese, Ducks—Again this year, as last, much of the waterfowl migration was late in the Central Valley because of mild weather (referred to as "bluebird" weather by hunters) in the North (ROW). This was particularly true of swans and geese. However, by Nov. 13 some 300 Whistling Swans were reported to be on flooded land in Butte Sink, Sutter Co. (AB). On an aerial census conducted by the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife on Oct. 12 the combined count of geese on the Sacramento, Delevan, Colusa, and Sutter Nat'l Wildlife Refuge was a token 5040, well under comparable 1965 counts (Walt Radke, *San Francisco Sunday Examiner and Chronicle*, Oct. 16). Canada and Snow Geese were reported along the coast where they are unusual. Maximum counts were: 300 Canada Geese on Nov. 26 at Crescent City, Del Norte Co. (JDRG) and 80 Snow Geese on Nov. 1 at Point Reyes, Marin Co. (PRL). The rare, but probably regular, Blue Goose was again reported from the Sacramento Refuge: 2 adults on Nov. 11 (GMcC) and 1 immature on Nov. 13 (AB). The main coastal migration of Black Brant appeared to take place during the first week of November with maximum counts of 455 in 1 hour on Nov. 5 off Point Pinos (AB) and 500 est. on Nov. 6 off Pigeon Point, San Mateo Co. (Jim & Pat Ellis, JG, & TCk). The Oct. 12 aerial census on the four Sacramento Refuges showed a total of 455,000 ducks in residence. A similar survey taken last year showed only 298,000 birds using the same ponds (Walt Radke). Weekly aerial counts by the California Department of Fish and Game in the Los Banos area showed similar increases with similar numbers (417,000 this year compared to 206,000 last year), although these large numbers did not arrive until about a month later (Nov. 9). It is interesting to note that on the pre-hunting season count only 8 percent of the ducks in the grasslands were found on the Los Banos Wildlife Management Area, but after the season started over 90 percent of the population was seeking refuge there (ROW). A flock of 12 Fulvous Tree Ducks was found at the Mendota Wildlife Management Area on Sept. 24 (WR & AB) and 1 was taken by a hunter at the Los Banos Area on Oct. 22 (G. Wright, *fide* ROW); these areas are the north-

ern limits of its breeding range. A single European Widgeon, rare but regular in small numbers, was seen at the Sacramento Refuge on Nov. 11 (GMcC). As many as 50 Wood Ducks were at Little Lake, Mendocino Co. between Nov. 15 and 20 (RG). A female Oldsquaw was found at Point Reyes on Nov. 22 (PRL & D. Rorick). The Surf Scoter migration along the coast apparently reached its peak on (or around) Nov. 27 when 1000 per hour were counted from Point Lobos (AB). Only 2 Hooded Mergansers were reported: 1 immature male at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Co. on Sept. 25 (Pat Ellis, T & ZCk) and 1 at the Sacramento Refuge on Nov. 13 (AB).

Condors, Kites, Hawks, Eagles—The northernmost report of California Condors in many years was submitted by Donald D. McLean of South San Jose, Santa Clara Co. who saw 3 birds (2 adults and 1 presumably 2-year-old immature) on Oct. 26 circling about 300 feet over his house for about 10 minutes and then heading southeast. There were few reports of White-tailed Kites; however, a concentration of 18 was counted in the San Francisco Bay marshes of Palo Alto, Santa Clara Co. on Sept. 24 (D & RG). A large migrating flock (53 counted in one field) of Swainson's Hawks was found north of Firebaugh, Fresno Co. on Sept. 25 (JDRG, DDeS, & TCk) and 3 were seen flying over the unusual coastal locality of Stanford University, Santa Clara Co. on Sept. 27 (DDeS). Two of the 3 adult Bald Eagle reports were from Del Norte County, where they were reported to constitute the third and fourth sightings in 10 years (PBR). The uncommon Prairie Falcon was found in two Central Valley localities: 1 at Knight's Landing, Yolo Co. on Nov. 11 (GMcC) and 1 at the San Luis Wasteway Waterfowl Management Area, Merced Co. on Nov. 19 (ROW). Reports of 8 individual Peregrine Falcons were encouraging; although most of these were along the coast, 1 was in San Joaquin Valley at Los Banos Wildlife Management Area in October (HG) and another was in the mountains of Shasta County on Oct. 1 (MW). The only Pigeon Hawk reported was near Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co. on Sept. 22 (GLB).

Grouse, Rails, Coots—The resident, but seldom reported, Ruffed Grouse was found on Nov. 26 in the exact same location of Prairie Creek State Park, Del Norte Co. as last year (JDRG). Sage Grouse were seen twice on westerly drainage near Tioga Pass in Parker Pass Canyon, Toulumne Co.: 6 on Aug. 28 and 4 on Sept. 5 (P. Shea, R. Bruegenann, & R. Reser all of the California Department of Fish and Game). As many as 11 Virginia Rails were counted along an irrigation ditch near Cotati, Sonoma Co. on Oct. 24 (BDP). The Black Rail again appeared behind the motel of Gerard Brady at Inverness on Tomales Bay, Marin Co.: a possible young bird was seen on Sept. 18 (DDeS & GB) and Brady (*fide* DDeS) claims to have seen 3 chicks with adults during the summer. Am. Coots were seen twice in Monterey Bay far offshore: 1 about 20 miles out on Oct. 1 (G.G.A.S. & AB) and 1 about 15 miles off Moss Landing on Oct. 23 (AB).

Shorebirds—Two broods of large downy young Snowy Plovers were found at the Salinas River mouth on Sept. 14 (AB & WR). All reports of 21 Am. Golden Plovers were along the coast and mostly in Marin County, making it another good year for this normally uncommon bird. A large concentration of over 2000 Long-billed Curlews was found near the Gustine Gun Club, Merced Co. on Sept. 28 (WA). A Solitary Sandpiper was banded at Abbotts Lagoon on Point Reyes on Aug. 21 (PRL, C. Ralph, and M. Sheppard). An individual or two of this species is normally reported each fall from the Central Valley, but rarely from along the coast. The large number of 16 Lesser Yellowlegs was reported, mostly from Sonoma and Marin Counties. An early and southern Rock Sandpiper was reported from Abalone Point on the Point Reyes Peninsula on Oct. 25 (PRL). Most records are from the Humboldt Bay area in the winter. Good descriptions of 2 *Sharp-tailed Sandpipers* were submitted for the third and fourth reports for this Region: 1 on Oct. 12 at Limantour Estero, Point Reyes (PRL), seen the following day by John Ralph (who has seen the species in the Pribilofs), James Lynch and AW; and another presumably different bird because it was in slightly duller plumage on Nov. 22 at Abbotts Lagoon on Point Reyes (PRL and David Rorich). Pectoral Sandpipers were reported in fair numbers with a maximum of 20 at Abbotts Lagoon on Sept. 29 (PRL). Baird's Sandpipers also appeared fairly numerous this fall with as many as 15 at the Carmel River mouth, Monterey Co. on Aug. 27 (GMcC, MM, JDRG, TCK, et al.). Am. Avocets were greatly reduced in number on Bay Farm Island, Alameda Co. owing to their former feeding grounds being "reclaimed" (filled) (EBR). Perhaps this has some bearing on their being found north of San Francisco Bay in Schooner Bay on Point Reyes, where they are rarely reported—95 on Oct. 4 (AW). An extremely large migration of several thousand Red Phalaropes was seen close to shore at Pacific Grove during the first week in October (WR).

Jaegers, Gulls—Nearly 100 jaegers were counted in Monterey Bay on the G.G.A.S. boat trip of Oct. 1 (AB). Approximately 75 percent of this large number appeared to be Pomarine. As is about normal, 2 Skuas also were found on that trip; however, another was found off the coast of Sonoma County on Oct. 8 (BDP). There were three reports of the uncommon Franklin's Gull: 1 at Abbotts Lagoon, Point Reyes on Aug. 25 (VDAc, AW, et al. a week earlier); 1 adult near Stockton, San Joaquin Co. on Sept. 14 (MM); and 1 at the Dumbarton Bridge, Alameda Co. on Oct. 18 and 20 (WA & Alice Steele). An unusually large migration of 1000 Sabine's Gulls was estimated in Monterey Bay on the Oct. 1 boat trip (AB & G.G.A.S.).

Terns—Some 300 Common and Arctic Terns also were seen on that trip. Although most of the birds were immature, at least 80 percent were thought to be Arctic (3 or 4 adults definitely identified) (AB & G.G.A.S.). An immature Least Tern was seen on Sept. 3 at Robert's Lake in Monterey, where

it is very uncommon (WR, AB, & RLB). There was a good northward movement of Elegant Terns this fall with as many as 500 seen fishing off the shoreline of Pacific Grove on Sept. 12 (WR). They moved as far north as Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co., 2 on Sept. 15 (ROP) and stayed until late in November at Pacific Grove, 2 on Nov. 26 (WR). A Black Tern, rarely reported along the coast, was found between 10 and 15 miles offshore in Monterey Bay on Oct. 1 (G.G.A.S., AB, DDeS, & TCK).

Alcids—A *Thick-billed Murre* in breeding plumage was found in Monterey Harbor on Sept. 30 by Ellen Stephenson of Pasadena. It was photographed by Arnold Small and RLB and seen at close range during the next three days by many observers (WR, AB, VY, VDAc, et al.). This is the third record for California, but the first that was not found in a dead or dying condition. Uncommon this far north, 4 Xantus' Murrelets were seen in Monterey Bay on Oct. 1 (AB, DDeS, TCK, & G.G.A.S.). The large number of 145 Cassin's Auklets were counted in Monterey Bay on the Oct. 1 trip (AB, & G.G.A.S.).

Pigeons—Reports of a single White-winged Dove from two Marin County locations (Bollinas, Oct. 6, AW; Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Nov. 27 to Dec. 3, PRL, CJR) were perhaps the same bird. If this bird was not an escape, it fits the pattern made by previous records since 1939 in occurring along the coast and in late fall.

Owls—The Flammulated Owls at Chews Ridge, Monterey Co., where this species' occurrence in coastal mountains far from its previously known Sierra range was recently confirmed with specimens, answered to recorded calls through Sept. 15 but not on Oct. 24 (RLB, WR). Two or 3 of these small owls were calling on Henness Ridge in Yosemite Park, however, on Oct. 30 (DDeS), an unusually late report for this rather poorly known species which is assumed to be migratory. Fall reports seem to suggest that a good year for Short-eared Owls along the coast is in the making.

Flycatchers, Jays—Tropical Kingbirds once more wandered northward in good numbers from their range in Mexico or southeastern Arizona. One bird on Bodega Head, Sonoma Co. on Oct. 18 (AW) was the only one reported outside the Monterey Peninsula, where perhaps as many as 6 or 7 birds were found between Sept. 21 and late October. Notable was a group of 4 together at Pacific Grove on Oct. 5 (RLB) which raises interesting questions about vagrants going astray singly or in groups.

A Gray Jay just east of Mendocino City on Nov. 25 (JG) falls just at this species' known southward limit along the coast, but it is seldom reported in this Region.

Chickadees—The small outpost population of Chestnut-backed Chickadees apparently establishing itself on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada is being closely watched by Emilie Hodnette, who reported a group of 2 adults and 4 immatures on Sept. 11, at Potato Patch Camp, Tehama Co., a locality where this species has been observed during the summer since 1964 without clear evidence of breeding. Posi-

tive evidence of breeding may perhaps be expected soon. Farther south in another area, where this species has been found in recent years, JG observed at least 3 and perhaps as many as 15 Chestnut-backed Chickadees on Nov. 4 about a mile above Mirror Lake in Yosemite Valley. We have no recent reports on the other area of this interesting species' recent expansion in Contra Costa County.

Nuthatches, Thrushes, Gnatcatchers and Kinglets—Curiously enough, a pronounced movement toward the coast and lowlands of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Golden-crowned Kinglets coincided again this fall as in 1963, although the movement nowhere approached the "crash" proportions of that year. At least one observer (MM) reported Golden-crowned Kinglets out of habitat in chaparral. Most observers along the coast agreed that Robins moved down earlier and more abundantly than usual, but that Varied Thrushes were notably scarce after last year's peak wintering populations. Reports from the Central Valley, however, did not show the same large Robin movement developing in the interior.

An interesting example of the fall up-mountain movement commented on occasionally in this space was the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher which had moved up into the pines at 6000 ft. near Pinecrest in the Sierra foothills on Aug. 25 (LDF).

Vireos, Warblers—Perhaps the best way to approach this group of birds which has so excited Middle Pacific Coast observers with rarities is to mention the species found with some regularity in recent years which were *not* observed this year, since that list is small: Ovenbird and Magnolia Warbler. On the other hand, one species of vireo (Red-eyed, Point Pinos, Monterey Co., VLY, AB) and ten species of warblers considered "vagrant" here until recently were found in the Region this fall. The same general patterns of observation prevailed, with virtually all observations along a few well-searched coastal promontories except for 2 Black-and-white Warblers (Springville, Tulare Co., Oct. 3, MEM; Sacramento, Oct. 1, Eleanor Brusner) and one Am. Redstart (Caswell State Park, San Joaquin Co., Aug. 28, MM) in the interior. MM further observed that this was the only "eastern" warbler observed in 10 week-end censuses at Caswell State Park, out of some 800-1000 transients counted during that time. By contrast, those who studied the now-famous cypress groves on coastal promontories sometimes found more Tennessee or Palm Warblers than such California breeders as Hermits, Black-throated Grays, Nashvilles, or MacGillivrays which are not coastal migrants in very large numbers. In addition, the most numerous "vagrant" species were the now-familiar Black-and-whites (4 records), Tennessees (8, including 1 specimen), Blackpolls (4), Palms (9), Northern Waterthrushes (3, including 1 banded at Point Reyes Bird Observatory on Sept. 9 and recaptured the following day), and Am. Redstarts (3). The order of abundance was not quite like other recent years, however, since Blackpolls and Am. Redstarts, which are now considered regular migrants in small numbers, were less frequently reported than usual.

Notable among the "vagrants" were: a Parula Warbler on Aug. 21 at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Co. (VDA, C. Sather) the first fall record in this Region for this species which has heretofore been recorded a number of times in spring and early summer; 2 Black-throated Blue Warblers (Pacific Grove, Monterey Co., Sept. 21, WR; and Point Reyes, Marin Co., Oct. 4, specimen, ROP); a Blackburnian Warbler at Point Pinos, Monterey Co. on Oct. 1-2 (ROP, TCh, MM, AB, DDeS, VDA, G.G.A.S.), which appears to be the fourth record for the Region; a Prairie Warbler at Pacific Grove, Monterey Co. on Sept. 8 (RLB, VLY, WR), the third record for the Middle Pacific Coast Region; and an immature Chestnut-sided Warbler, perhaps the tenth for the Region, was banded and photographed at Point Reyes Bird Observatory on Oct. 3 (PRL).

Warbler migration generally reflected the long, slow passage that has been accepted as normal here. As usual, there was probably a larger number of migrants in the Central Valley and foothills than on the immediate coast. MacGillivray's Warblers, for example, which occurred singly at intervals along the coast, were found in groups as large as 25 at Manzanita Lake, Lassen Volcanic National Park, on Aug. 21 (EH). That last record also served to illustrate again the importance of the August migration inland. MM, who conducted a beautifully documented 10-week-end migration census at Caswell State Park, San Joaquin Co., found an important passage of Orange-crowned, Nashville, and Wilson's Warblers through August; indeed there were more Nashville Warblers then than in September. Here figures also tended to support observations along the coast that, among the commonest migrant warblers, those three species tend to pass somewhat earlier than Yellows, Townsends, and Black-throated Grays. Both interior and coastal observers, however, had their largest days at about the same time: Sept. 10 and 18 for MM at Caswell State Park, and Sept. 21 for VLY at Pacific Grove. If migration peaks come earlier in the interior than along the coast, it is not by many days.

Icteridae, Fringillidae—The Bobolink observation that is now expected somewhere along the coast each fall occurred this year in Monterey County, with a total of 4 birds between Oct. 1 and Nov. 5. This species is doubly interesting, since the Modoc County breeding population has not been found there in recent years, but the species has been found as a regular winterer in small numbers in the Galapagos Islands (Condor 68: 93). Its passage through coastal California is a suggestive connection between interior populations and Pacific South America.

Evidence of seasonal movement in Western Meadowlarks was the bird which came aboard a boat 49 miles west of Point Pinos, Monterey Co. on Oct. 22 (Dr. W. G. Evans, *vide* AB).

By far the most interesting fringillid of the season was a Dickcissel collected in August at the eastern edge of this Region, on the eastern slope of the Sierras near Hobart Mills, Nevada Co., where a number of birds were seen from late July until the end of September (Carl Bock). This record,

to be linked to recent reports from southern California, suggests that the bird may be looked for in fall on the eastern slope of the Sierra. Heretofore, there have been only a few individual records along the coast.

Three reports of White-throated Sparrows and 4 Slate-colored Juncos were about par, although one of the juncos was recorded inland at Yosemite on Oct. 16 (AB).

Lapland Longspurs were found for the fifth consecutive year in October in the same field on Point Reyes (ROP, TC, VDaC). In addition, 2 at the Salinas River mouth on Oct. 18 through 15 were the first for Monterey County (AB, RLB, WR).

Observers—William Anderson, John R. Arnold, Cora Baker, Alan Baldridge, Ronald L. Branson, Zoe Chandik, Howard L. Cogswell, Rachel Coy, H. Cribbs, Val Da Costa, David DeSante, Lynn D. Farrar, Golden Gate Audubon Society, Joseph, Doug, and Russ Greenberg, Russ Griswold, Jack Guggolz, Florence Haas, Emilie Hodnette, Mr. & Mrs. Lyle B. Keith, Philip R. Lenna, Marie L. Mans, R. Guy McCaskie, Donald D. McLean, Grace L. Miller, Mabel E. Mires, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Paul B. Rail, William Reese, R. J. Richardson, Elsie B. Roemer, Donald Schmoldt, Roger O. Wilbur, Alice Williams, Marvin Whitney, Vernal L. Yadon.

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