

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION.—As expected, the season was hot and very dry, more so than normal because it was preceded by a dry winter and spring. By July 12, 1500 fires had burned more than 20,000 acres, "more than double the average for the past five years" (*Palo Alto Times*). Temporary relief came in the form of brief showers from a storm that



ing on small crabs along the rocky shore; it remained throughout the period and was photographed and seen by many observers (WMP, et al.). This constitutes the first record for the Region. An adult Little Blue Heron was at the same place on July 6, although it was not identified until July 28; it was seen again on Aug. 25 but not on the intervening dates (TC, DDeS, JG & RG). This species has been observed in the same general area in previous years and is suspected of breeding. An Am. Flamingo was present at the Moss Landing salt works throughout the period (AB).

**Geese, Ducks**—The only summering Black Brant reported were 4 at Año Nuevo Point, San Mateo Co. on June 29 (AB) and 2 at the mouth of the Salinas River, Monterey Co. from July 5 onward (RM, AB). A *Fulvous Tree Duck* noted at the latter location on July 19 (AB, WR) constituted the first Monterey County record. Occurrence of this species away from the Central Valley is extremely rare. At least two broods of Gadwall were raised in the same locality (AB). A single Greater Scaup was at the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor, San Mateo Co., June 9–July 24 (DDeS). Summering Com. Goldeneye were recorded at the Farallon Islands, 1 on June 6 (P.R.B.O., HCR); at the mouth of the Salinas River, 3 on June 30 (AB); and at the mouth of the Carmel River, Monterey Co., 1 on Aug. 10 (AB). A ♂ Oldsquaw in summer plumage was noted on Bolinas Bay, Marin Co., June 3 (RS, CG). Six non-breeding White-winged Scoters were present at Half Moon Bay on June 29 (G.G.A.S., TC) and 10 were seen at Moss Landing on July 20 (AB, RM, LW). There were fewer Surf Scoters than usual at Half Moon Bay on June 29 (G.G.A.S., TC), although 100 were seen at Rio Del Mar Beach on July 20 (AB, RM, LW). A pair of Com. Mergansers bred at Grizzly Creek State Park, Humboldt Co. (LK & MK), and a single bird was noted at the mouth of the Salinas, Aug. 3 (AB). The only summering Red-breasted Mergansers noted were 3 present at Año Nuevo State Beach, San Mateo Co. on June 29 (AB).

**Kites, Hawks, Eagles**—Breeding White-tailed Kites were reported from the San Benito River Valley near Hollister, with 5 birds on June 1 (AB, WR); from Beale Air Force Base, with 3 pairs noted, of which at least 1 was successful (MP); and from Almaden and Silver Creek Valleys, Santa Clara Co., where 2 pairs were successful (DDMcL). The immatures were widely dispersed in August. At Foresthill Ranger Station, Placer Co., immature Cooper's Hawks moved to higher elevations during their post-breeding dispersal (JW). Red-shouldered Hawks bred successfully in the Carmel Valley, Monterey Co. with fledged young seen on June 30 (AB). Swainson's Hawks were exceptionally numerous for the nesting season, with 1-3 in the Los Banos Waterfowl Management Area—San Luis Islands Nat'l Wildlife Refuge area of Merced County, July 6–Aug. 9 (ROW); 1 seen at Foresthill Ranger Station on July 21 (JW); and an unprecedented milling flock of 350 over two fields 6 miles north of Davis, Yolo Co. on Aug. 14 (RS, BD). Golden Eagles were reported from six areas but only 1 nest was recorded: 2 young being reared by a pair

in Santa Clara County (DDMcL). No reports of Bald Eagles were received. Five reports of Ospreys in Marin County, all of single birds, were the only ones received. Observers should make a special attempt to determine the status of this declining species as well as other raptors.

**Quail**—Two broods of Mountain Quail were seen at China Camp, Los Padres Nat'l Forest, Monterey Co. on June 9 (DDeS, BD, RS), and there were young in abundance at Roger's Camp, Tulare Co., Aug. 1-15 (MEM).

**Shorebirds**—Breeding Black Oystercatchers were reported from Año Nuevo Is., San Mateo Co. where a clutch of 3 eggs—in the same "scrape" used in 1967—and a brood of 3 were seen on June 29 (AB). At Point Lobos Reserve, Monterey Co., 2 broods were observed this year (J. Vandevere, *vide* AB). Only two reports of Semipalmated Plovers were received, one of 25-30 birds at the mouth of the Carmel River, Aug. 5 (AB). Breeding Snowy Plovers were observed at the mouth of the Salinas River and at Año Nuevo State Beach (AB), but nesting success was unknown. The increasing use of the "dune buggy" could mean the elimination of this species as a breeding bird along the coast. Attempts should be made to determine its present status and distribution. Four Surfbirds were back at Seventeen Mile Drive by July 21 (AB). Only four reports of Ruddy Turnstones were received, all of single birds except for 2 at El Cerrito, Contra Costa Co., Aug. 10 (WMP, AB#). A Black Turnstone had returned to Pacific Grove, Monterey Co. by July 6, although the main influx of this species took place between July 18 and 20, when numbers rose from 4 to 30 (WR). Two southbound Long-billed Curlews were seen over Pacific Grove on June 21, and 400-500, a large number for the area, roosted in the Moss Landing salt works on July 28 (AB). A Solitary Sandpiper that remained at the mouth of the Carmel River, Aug. 3-10 (RLB, AB, WR, VLY) established the second Monterey County record. Wandering Tattlers summered on the Monterey Peninsula. On the Farallon Islands, the main influx took place after July 27 (P.R.B.O.). A single bird was at the very unusual South San Francisco Bay location of Dumbarton Bridge on Aug 15 (WA); the species is very rare away from the open coast, although it has been reported from this location previously. On the Farallon Islands, 1-2 Willets were present from July 18 onward (P.R.B.O., CJR). Lesser Yellowlegs were reported from five locations from July 24 onward, with up to 5 in the Palo Alto area (DDeS) the highest count. Knots were reported only from the area from Moss Landing to the mouth of the Salinas River, July 20–Aug. 3, with a maximum of 4 at Moss Landing on July 28 (AB). A Baird's Sandpiper at the Alviso salt ponds, Santa Clara Co. on June 28 (WA) constituted the first summer record of this species for the Region. Migration started early, with 2 seen near Vallejo, Solano Co. on July 13 (AB#, WMP); 1 at the mouth of the Salinas River on July 19 (AB, WR); up to 6 reported thereafter at four other locations. A *Semipalmated Sandpiper*, the first for the Region, was found on the Farallon Islands on Aug. 4, was banded, and remained until Aug. 9

(*P.R.B.O.*, *HCR*). The addition of this species to the avifauna of the Region has been long overdue. With substantiated records from Washington and Oregon and, more recently, from the Salton Sea, it has been apparent that the bird was passing through our area unobserved. A Single Marbled Godwit was observed at the San Luis Wasteway Waterfowl Management Area on July 16 (*ROW*). A flock of 250 Sanderlings at Pacific Grove on Aug. 9 (*AB*) was the first major influx. Wilson's Phalaropes peaked on the South San Francisco Bay salt ponds on July 22, when 8000 were seen (*RS*). Most of these left the bay by Aug. 1. Northern Phalaropes were first reported on Monterey Bay on July 9, when 4 were seen; by July 28 there were 400 at Moss Landing (*AB*). On the South San Francisco Bay salt ponds, numbers rose from 9500 on July 22 to a peak of 22,000 on Aug. 12 (*RS*).

**Jaegers, Gulls**—A single Pomarine Jaeger was seen on Monterey Bay on July 9 and 4 were observed there on July 25 (*AB*). A study of the gulls of South San Francisco Bay showed some 30,000 to be present at the end of the period, of which 95 percent were California Gulls (75 percent of them fully adult) and 5 percent divided about equally between Western Gulls, mostly around Hayward, and Ring-billed Gulls, mostly near Palo Alto; about 10 Glaucous-winged Gulls, all unhealthy, also were noted; Herring and Mew Gulls appeared to be totally absent (*RS*). Heermann's Gulls migrating steadily northward off Cypress Point on June 30 (*AB*) marked the first major influx of this species; concentrations later in the summer reached 700 at Rio Del Mar State Beach on July 20 and 1000 at Monterey Harbor on Aug. 9 (*AB*, *RM*, *LW*).

**Terns**—A colony of Forster's Terns consisting of 100 pairs, plus several smaller colonies, were found on a broken levee north of the Dumbarton Bridge (*WA*). Least Terns again bred in the East Bay, with 4 pairs observed and 3 nests found at Alameda (*RS*). The species appears to be a temporary beneficiary of current bay-filling operations. Two flocks of 20 each were seen in the Dumbarton bridge area on Aug. 15 (*WA*). In the spring migration account, Elegant Terns were reported at both Moss Landing and the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, Alameda Co. The species subsequently summered at Moss Landing, where up to 3 were seen (*AB*), and the same number was observed during the period around the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, where 1 also was seen to attempt copulation with a Forster's Tern (*RS*). Later in the summer, more birds appeared at Moss Landing in numbers up to 25, the maximum being recorded on Aug. 3 (*AB*). Two Caspian Tern colonies with 200 pairs each (*WA*) were reported on an area of South San Francisco Bay presently under consideration as an addition to the Nat'l Wildlife Refuge system. A migrant Black Tern, an immature, was seen over orchards near Sunol, Santa Clara Co., July 7 (*DDeS*).

**Alcids**—There were 700 Com. Murres on Monterey Bay on July 14, including 70 half-grown young (*WR*). Pigeon Guillemots appear to have declined at Lighthouse Point, Santa Cruz Co. where only 1 pair was found compared to 5 pairs in 1967. This species is now nesting under Stagnaro's Wharf at

Santa Cruz and Cannery Row in Monterey (*AB*, *RM*). The first young of the year on Monterey Bay were seen at Pacific Grove on Aug. 2 (*AB*). Two pairs of Marbled Murrelets were observed at the usual location of Pigeon Point, June 16 (*TC*). Seven Cassin's Auklets were seen off Santa Cruz on June 17 (*S.C.B.C.*, *AB*), and several flocks were seen from a boat off Point Lobos Reserve on July 4 (*RLB*). Summering Rhinoceros Auklets were present, with 4 birds seen off Santa Cruz on June 17 (*S.C.B.C.*, *AB*), 8 off Point Pinos on July 3 (*AB*), and single birds at the Farallon Islands on July 23 and Aug. 2 (*P.R.B.O.*, *HCR*, *SS*).

**Doves, Owls**—Large flocks numbering up to 300 Mourning Doves were considered unusual for the 1400-foot elevation of Springville, Tulare Co. (*MEM*). A pair of adult Flammulated Owls was seen in June at the same Sierran location at 4067 feet in elevation near Foresthill, Placer Co. where a fledgling was picked up last summer (*JW*, *DDeS* & *TC*). Although the nest was not found, at least 6 birds were seen calling at this location on July 6 (Marianne Shepard & *JW*). A Spotted Owl was also found near Foresthill at a higher elevation, 5912 feet, on June 22 (*JW*, *DDeS* & *TC*). Another was heard and seen at a more unusual location in the Santa Cruz Mountains of San Mateo County on June 21 (*DDeS*). A Long-eared Owl was found at the high elevation of 5000 feet near Foresthill on June 13 (*JW*), and 3 young were found in an olive grove on Beale Air Force Base (*MP*). The wide range of elevation and habitats of these two reports brings out the versatility of this species. Short-eared Owls may have bred in the Central Valley and along the coast this summer: as many as 5 were seen together on Beale Air Force Base in July (*MP*); 2 were seen at the mouth of the Salinas River on July 28 (*AB*); and 1 was found on South Farallon Is. on Aug. 12 (*P.R.B.O.*).

**Goatsuckers, Swifts, Hummingbirds**—An adult Lesser Nighthawk was banded on South Farallon Is. on July 6 (*P.R.B.O.*). This record is even more unusual when one considers that this species breeds in the interior of California and that it is the Com. Nighthawk that breeds along the coast. Black Swifts were seen using the same nests in Santa Cruz for the third successive year on July 11 (*AB*). A pair was seen at China Camp in the Santa Lucia Mountains, Monterey Co. on June 9 (*RS* & *DDeS*). Were these migrants, wide-ranging birds from the coast, or possibly breeding birds? The species is not known to breed in this section of the Coast Range. Likewise, were 2 Vaux's Swifts seen in Palo Alto's Foothills Park in the Santa Cruz Mountains on Aug. 9 (*TC*) breeding at the southern limit of their range or just early migrants? As many as 24 Black-chinned Hummingbirds, an unusually large number for this Region, were seen at Springville, Tulare Co. (*MEM*). From June 29 to the end of the period, 4-6 Anna's Hummingbirds of both sexes were present at the unusually high location of Foresthill, Placer Co. (*JW*). Two hybrids believed to be Black-chinned X Allen's Hummingbirds were collected at the home of Arvil and Ellen Parker in Courtland, Sacramento Co. in May (Peter Ames, *vide BK*). Another hybrid believed to

be a Black-chinned X Anna's Hummingbird was trapped and studied in Meadow Vista, Placer Co. (Mr. & Mrs. Tanner, *vide* BK).

**Woodpeckers, Flycatchers**—Two young Pileated Woodpeckers, which for some reason are rarely reported, were seen on July 5 at Grizzly Creek State Park, Humboldt Co. (MK). A total of 4 Eastern Kingbirds were reported: 2 on South Farallon Is., June 26-27 and Aug. 10 (P.R.B.O.); 1 carefully studied and described near Sacramento in Yolo County on Aug. 9 (T&AM & Bob and Ruth Loveless); and 1 at the eastern edge of the Region near Woodfords, Alpine Co. on July 29 (SS & Ron LeValley). Cassin's Kingbirds were again found breeding at the northern limit of their known California range near Livermore, Alameda Co. where a pair was seen feeding 3 grown young on June 26 (WA).

**Swallows, Nuthatches, Wrentit, Wrens, Thrushes**—A Bank Swallow, rarely observed in migration, was near San Francisco Bay in Palo Alto on Aug. 5 (DDeS). Purple Martins were reported to be more common than usual both along the coast and in the Central Valley. Two pairs of Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen on territories at China Camp on July 9 (DDeS & RS); this species is a very local breeder along the coast. A Wrentit was found in proper habitat but at the unusually high elevation of 8000 feet in Sequoia Nat'l Park on Aug. 13 (ST & Dick Erickson). Did it breed there or was it a late summer up-mountain wanderer? House Wrens on South Farallon Is. on June 24 and July 18 (P.R.B.O.) were unusual as the species is uncommon along the coast. Swainson's Thrushes were reported very much down in numbers along the coast this summer (P.R.B.O., VDaC).

**Gnatcatchers, Starling, Vireos**—More than 35 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were counted along the Sacramento River in Yolo County on Aug. 14 (RS & BD). Starlings were reported as "exploding" into the thousands in the Santa Clara Valley (DDMcL). Hutton's Vireos increased about 50 percent in numbers on Point Reyes over the past two years (P.R.B.O.) A ♂ Red-eyed Vireo in breeding condition was banded and photographed on Point Reyes on June 20 (P.R.B.O., CJR).

**Warblers**—The first summer of consistent observing and banding operations by Point Reyes Bird Observatory personnel on South Farallon Is. brought finds of two species of "eastern-type" warblers at the confusing time of late June-early July: a total of 6 Blackpoll Warblers banded between June 25 and July 3 and, even more interesting, 2 Ovenbirds, one banded on July 3 and the other killed on July 6. Were these late spring migrants, early fall migrants, or non-breeding wanderers? Only slightly earlier than the Farallon birds, two more vagrant warblers were banded and photographed at the south end of the Point Reyes Peninsula: an adult ♀ Parula Warbler with remnants of a brood patch on June 20 and an adult ♀ Chestnut-sided Warbler not in breeding condition on June 21 (P.R.B.O., CJR). Oddly enough, most of the Region's previous Parula records are in the "spring," but most of the Chestnut-sided records are in the fall. Forty MacGillivray's Warblers, an un-

usually high number, were apparently migrating along the Sacramento River near Elkhorn Ferry, Yolo Co. on Aug. 14 (RS & BD). This must be favored habitat and locality, as a similar concentration was found there on about the same date in 1963. A probably migrating flock of 20 Wilson's Warblers was counted in Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Co. on Aug. 10 (VDaC).

**Orioles, Tanager**—What may be the northernmost known breeding location for Hooded Orioles was discovered in the Sacramento Valley at Yuba City, Sutter Co. during July (MP). Only slightly farther south, in Sacramento, a pair fledged 1 clutch by June 22 (BK). A very out-of-place Summer Tanager was found on South Farallon Is. on June 24 (P.R.B.O.).

**Finches, Sparrows**—At least 4 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were banded by Point Reyes Bird Observatory personnel: 2 adults on South Farallon Is. between June 16 and 19 and 2 males (second and third-year birds) on Point Reyes on July 2 and 9. Even rarer was a young Indigo Bunting banded on South Farallon Is. on Aug. 2 (P.R.B.O.). Perhaps the westernmost breeding Lawrence's Goldfinches were a pair found at the tip of Point Lobos, Monterey Co. on June 8 (DDeS). Grasshopper Sparrows were found more commonly than usual, with a maximum of 18 counted in two "colonies" near Gilroy, Santa Clara Co. on May 26 (WA), increased numbers found on Point Reyes, and an adult banded on South Farallon Is. on July 2 (P.R.B.O.). An adult White-crowned Sparrow apparently of the mountain race, *Zonotrichia leucophrys oriantha*, was collected on South Farallon Is. on July 1 (P.R.B.O.).

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