

**MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST AREA.** — The rainy period that started several months late continued through April with some precipitation in late May.

This brought a heavy growth, in some areas, of grasses and low plants and permitted the trees and bushes to produce leaves and flowers. This growth was at least a month later than normal, and it, along with low temperatures produced a peculiar spring for birds. The dry season was modified enough to

affect all the groups of birds discussed in this report. Even if the supply of insects and plant food was not brought up to normal, it was greatly increased. Observers found much to report. Hummingbirds, swifts, swallows, and flycatchers were present in reduced numbers, no doubt because of the strange weather.

*Water birds.* — Water bird conditions at Moss Landing were poor this year. Ducks left early, the mud flats were very dry, and the usual nesting birds were generally absent. Selected reports were: white pelican, Moss Landing, Apr. 11 last date for birds that arrived about Aug. 1 (Andersons), Dumbarton Bridge, 108 on May 22 (Rigby); pelagic cormorant, Pedro Point, 20 on May 15, no nesting where the species nested last year, but birds in breeding plumage (R.); least bittern, Moss Landing, 1 on Apr. 24 (A.); shoveller, Dumbarton Bridge, 300 on May 1, approximate date of departure (R.); buffle-head, San Andreas Lake, 2 females on May 15 (R.); old-squaw, Dumbarton Bridge, female on May 22 (R.); red-breasted merganser, mouth of Carmel River, 6 on Apr. 30 and May 6 (Morrow).

*Hawks.* — Scarcity of most of these species justifies special attention to them. White-tailed kite, Silverado Trail, near Napa, 3 on May 2, 2 on May 26 (Kelly), Carmel River bridge, May 31 (Morrow); red-shouldered hawk, Silverado Trail, near Napa, 2 on May 2, near Glen Ellen, 1 on June 2 (K.); osprey, Carmel River, 1 mile from ocean, 1 flying



north on Apr. 19 (Williams); sparrow hawk, East Oakland, nesting pair had 5 eggs on Apr. 7, young started to leave on May 26 (Seibert).

*Shorebirds.*—Members of this group were present in large numbers and late in departing. Special examples were: black-bellied plover, Moss Landing, 700 on Apr. 10 (Andersons), Bay Farm Island, about 25 on May 31 (Kelly); semipalmated plover, mouth of Carmel River, 6 on May 5 (Morrow), Bay Farm Island, 8 on May 31 (K.); Hudsonian curlew, mouth of Carmel River, 8 on May 25 (M.), Bay Farm Island, few on May 31 (K.); long-billed curlew, Dumbarton Bridge, 6 on May 22 (Rigby); marbled godwit, Bay Farm Island, about 600 on May 31, greater numbers than in any other year at this date (K.); spotted sandpiper, Half-moon Bay, 2 on May 15 (R.); willet, over Carmel Highlands, 1 mile east of shore, large flock constantly calling and flying north in fog at 1:30 a.m. on May 4 (Williams), Bay Farm Island, few on May 31 (K.); sanderling, Carmel Beach, Apr. 30 (M.); black-necked stilt, Moss Landing, first on Apr. 24 (A.); avocet, Moss Landing, 15 on Apr. 24 (A.), Dumbarton Bridge, 40 on May 22 (R.), near Oakland Airport, about 35 on May 23 (Seibert).

*Gulls and terns.*—Each species listed here deserves record for its numbers, season, location, or stage in nesting. Heermann's gull, Carmel, 1 on May 28 (Morrow); Bonaparte's gull, Moss Landing, 2 on May 22 (Andersons), Berkeley, 2 on May 23 (Childs), 2 on June 2 (Kelly); Caspian tern, Dumbarton Bridge, 8 on May 1, colony of at least 50 pairs, but no young, on May 22 (Rigby), Moss Landing, first on May 15, 8 or 9 on May 16, fewer than last year (A.), Alameda, 10 on May 31 (K.); Forster's tern, Elkhorn Slough, first on Apr. 1, 67 on Apr. 27, hundreds on May 22, an adult feeding another (A.), near east approach to San Mateo Bridge, at least 110 nests with 1 to 4 eggs on May 23 (Seibert); least tern, Moss Landing, first on May 22 (A.); murre, Pedro Point, 200 on May 15 (R.); pigeon guillemot, Pedro Point, 12 on May 15 (R.).

*Land birds.*—These species do not occur regularly through the region. Each record helps to define the status of the species. Western kingbird, east side Santa Clara Valley, 6 on May 1 (Rigby), near Lake Chabot golf course, 1 on May 15 (Seibert); raven, Montara, 1 on May 15 (R.); tricolored blackbird, mouth of Carmel River, 50 on May 14 (Williams); red crossbill, City College of San Francisco, flocks of about 15 on Apr. 7 and about 25 on Apr. 14 (S.), near Lake Chabot golf course, 3 on May 15 and 16 (S.), Carmel, heard flying over, May 21, where continuously present since Nov. (W.), 6 or 8 flew over on May 31 (Morrow), Pacific Grove, small group of 6 or 7 seen at one site on May 27, 28, and 29 (Pitelka). Persistence of crossbills in this area of coniferous forests may mean that some of the birds remained to nest. On May 1, 2 grasshopper sparrows were seen in Los Buellis Hills on east side of Santa Clara Valley (R.).

*Nesting.*—This activity started late and was being prolonged beyond the usual season. Ash-throated flycatcher, Mt. Hermon, nest building on May 26 (E. Smith); purple martin, Mt. Hermon, nesting on May 26 (E. S.); California jay, Los Gatos, eggs hatched on Apr. 4 (E. S.), North Berkeley, young out of nest on May 22 (Childs); chestnut-backed chickadee, Carmel Highlands, incubation of 7 eggs started Mar. 27, young fledged May 2 (Williams), Mills College, pair building in cavity in eucalyptus on Apr. 11 (Seibert); pigmy nuthatch, Howell Mountain, building nest on May 26 (Kelly); dipper, Alum Rock Park, nest building on Apr. 4 (E. S.); robin, near Greenfield, nest on May 29, first in the vicinity (Livingston); hooded oriole, Lombardis, Napa Co., May 2 (K.), Green Valley, Solano Co., May 19 (K.), Alameda, May 16, seems to be more numerous each year in Bay counties (K.), San Jose, nest nearly finished on May 4 and dead male picked up several blocks from the site (E. S.); Oregon junco, Carmel Highlands, first young out of nest on Apr. 3 (W.); song sparrow, Mills College, young out of nest, Apr. 11 (S.).

*Departures.*—Departures of wintering species were exceptionally late. Say's phoebe, near Salinas, was last seen on Apr. 10 (Andersons); golden-crowned kinglet, Butano Canyon, near Pescadero, 3 or 4 singing in redwoods on May 16 (E. Smith); cedar waxwing, lower Salinas River, flock on Apr. 25 (A.); myrtle warbler, Chiles Valley, Napa Co., 2 on May 26 (Kelly); Audubon's warbler, Corral de Tierra, Apr. 25 (A.), Los Gatos, Apr. 27 (E. S.), Jack London Ranch, near Glen Ellen, June 2 (K.); white-crowned sparrow, Hastings Reservation, May 9 (Linsdale), San Felipe Valley, 15 miles southeast of San Jose, May 9 (E. S.); golden-crowned sparrow, Hastings Reservation, May 11 (Tomich); fox sparrow, Mt. Hermon, Apr. 19 (E. S.).

*Migration.*—Migration of early species was late to start but it was prolonged and several species were present in great numbers toward the end of the season. The flight was clearly more concentrated than in other years, both as to time and numbers. Nashville warbler, Hastings Reservation, Apr. 14 to 30 and May 19 (Tomich); Townsend's warbler, Alum Rock Park, Apr. 1 (E. Smith), Hastings Reservation, Apr. 9 to May 13 (Tomich) and May 31 (Linsdale); hermit warbler, Hastings Reservation, 9 records between Apr. 17 and May 21, San Jose, about May 1 (Vessel), Adobe Creek, west side Santa Clara Valley, May 8 (Rigby).

*Arrivals.*—Arrival of every summer species was late: wood pewee, Mt. Hermon, Apr. 19 (E. Smith), Hastings Reservation, Apr. 24 (Tomich); olive-sided flycatcher, Mt. Hermon, Apr. 19 (E. S.), Carmel Highlands, Apr. 22 (Williams); russet-backed thrush, Berkeley, Apr. 26 (Kelly), Los Gatos, Apr. 29 (E. S.); solitary vireo, Hastings Reservation, Apr. 14 (Tomich), Palo Alto, Apr. 18 (Rigby), near Mt. Hermon, Apr. 19 (E. S.); warbling vireo,

Hastings Reservation, Apr. 1 (Linsdale), Alum Rock Park, Apr. 1 (E. S.); yellow warbler, Palo Alto, Apr. 15 (R.), San Jose, Apr. 15 (E. S.); Bullock's oriole, Hastings Reservation, Apr. 4; western tanager, Hastings Reservation, Apr. 20 (Tomich), 2 singing persistently where a pair nested last year (E. S.), reported as unusually common in migration elsewhere, Los Gatos; black-headed grosbeak, Apr. 12 (T.), Los Gatos, Apr. 16 (E. S.); lazuli bunting, Hastings Reservation, Apr. 20 (Wiederhoeft).—JEAN M. LINDALE, *Hastings Reservation, Jamesburg Route, Monterey, Calif.*