

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION. — Nesting of birds in the lowlands of central California was delayed by the cold spring, and thus it was not



seriously hindered by the April and May rains. These brought an abundant plant growth, especially of annuals and grasses. Many kinds of shrubs and trees had abundant flowers and good prospects for heavy crops of fruit. These favorable conditions continued

after the middle of June when clear, warm weather came. For a month there was no serious hindrance to nesting, and a high proportion of the nestings were completed successfully. This contrasted with the many failures earlier in the season. High temperatures in mid-July reduced the insects and water. This terminated the nesting abruptly and it was followed by wholesale departures of birds.

An area not previously represented in these reports is that of the Audubon Nature Camp at Norden, Calif., in the Sierra Nevada. Conditions and birds there contrast greatly with those at the more familiar lower levels. The full report of observations for the season assembled by Howard Cogswell provides a basis for evaluation of records from there in subsequent years. All localities mentioned are in California unless otherwise indicated.

Water birds. — The following include time and place of nesting as well as record of occurrence for species of uncertain status: sooty shearwater, Devil's Slide, many offshore on July 3 (Rigby); white pelican, mouth of Pajaro River, 6 on July 18 (Andersons); Brandt's cormorant, Devil's Slide, 12 nesting on June 27 (R.); American egret, 3 miles S. Alviso, young in nests in eucalyptus grove (E. Smith); gadwall, lower Pajaro River, 50 on July 11 (A.); oldsquaw, Asilomar, 1 on rock near shore on June 19, possibly an injured bird, allowed approach within 20 feet (Pursell); white-winged scoter, Moss Landing, 3 females on July 17 (A.); ruddy duck, El Estero, Monterey, female with brood

of half-grown young on June 23 (Williams); red-breasted merganser, Moss Landing, 2 females on July 17 (A.).

Hawks. — There are indications of a perceptible, general reduction of hawks in this region in the last ten years. These birds deserve closer attention than they generally receive. Locations or stage of nesting are shown by the following records: osprey, Huntington Lake, 1 on July 25 (Rigby); prairie falcon, Mt. Rose, at 10,700 feet, Washoe Co., Nev., 1 took flight from near top on July 11 (Cogswell); duck hawk, Devil's Slide, 3 on June 27 and July 3 (R.); sparrow hawk, Pacific Grove, adult feeding 2 young out of nest on June 21 (Williams).

Quail. — The valley quail had a better year for nesting in northern Monterey County than for a decade. There was high survival of broods despite the general drought, but the scarcity of water through the summer caused concentrations about favorable sites. These examples show progress of nesting: mountain quail, vicinity of Donner Pass, nest with 11 eggs on July 3 hatched 23 days later (Cogswell), Huntington Lake, 2 families of 8 to 10 birds, July 28 (Rigby); valley quail, San Antonio Valley, Santa Clara Co., female with young on June 20; Joaquin Miller Park, Oakland Hills, female with young on June 25 (Seibert).

Shorebirds, gulls, and terns. — Mrs. Kelly found shorebirds abundant in the vicinity of Alameda, but there were no rarities and no early records. The Andersons report that the great concentration of shorebirds at Moss Landing last year was not found this year. Notable records: black-bellied plover, Moss Landing, 60 on July 25 (Andersons); semipalmated plover, Berkeley Yacht Harbor, 1 on July 11 (Pursell), salt marsh near Alviso, about 100 on July 26 (E. Smith); snowy plover, Moss Landing, 4 young able to fly on July 18 (A.); Hudsonian curlew, near Alviso, 23 on July 26 (E. S.); long-billed curlew, Moss Landing, 1 on July 17 (A.); spotted sandpiper, Lake Van Norden, young one-third grown on July 12, Donner Lake, small young on July 13 (Cogswell); willet, near Palo Alto, 200 to 300 on July 17 (Dietz); black-necked stilt, Moss Landing, few on July 25 (A.), near Alviso, 14 on July 26, at least 6 young and 2 parents (E. S.); avocet, near Alviso, about 50, more than half in juvenile plumage, on July 26 (E. S.); Bonaparte's gull, KRE pool, Berkeley, 2 on June 2 (Kelly); Caspian tern, Dumbarton Bridge, young about a week old on June 6 (Rigby), Moss Landing, 38 on July 17, but no young (A.).

Non-passerine land birds. — The abundance of flowers in early summer made it possible for hummingbirds to live in some areas where for several years they had been scarce. Among the species mentioned here swifts were reported prominently: mourning dove, Corral de Tierra, several gathering nesting material on July 11 (Andersons), Los Gatos, 1 flushed from nest with eggs on July 31 (E.

Sm. th); nighthawk, Carmel Highlands, 1 on June 14, not previously seen in this area (Williams); Huntington Lake, adult and 2 young 1 or 2 weeks old on July 25 (Rigby); black swift, Anderson Creek, Monterey Co., about 10 at bridge on June 13 and 20 (A.); Vaux's swift, Los Gatos, 6 on July 9, at least 12 entered a chimney on July 29 and nests thought to be located there (E. S.); Mt. Hermon, 1 near on July 15 (Nielsen); white-throated swift, Alum Rock Park, young being fed and adults entered cracks in cliff on July 17 (Hill); pileated woodpecker, Howell Mountain, at least 2 large young being fed in a nest on June 16 (Kelly).

Passerine birds.—The following records generally reflect the favorable conditions described previously: black phoebe, Los Gatos, nest with fresh lining and male singing on July 31 (E. Smith); olive-sided flycatcher, S. of Alma, 3 fledglings being fed on July 31 (Nielsen); bank swallow, between Moss Landing and Watsonville, large colony on June 27, about 200 holes in sand cut and young being fed in them, holes near top of bank used first, 12 birds in the air on July 25, but eggs and dead young at the base of the cut (Andersons); purple martin, Soquel, 2 on June 7 (Ferguson), S. of Alma, 1 on July 18 (N.); Steller's jay, Carmel Highlands, young being fed on July 14 still in nest on Aug. 1 (Williams); yellow-billed magpie, New Monterey, 6 in flock, all birds of the year, on July 17

(Pitelka); chestnut-backed chickadee, Joaquin Miller Park, young being fed out of nest on June 30 (Seibert); brown creeper, Joaquin Miller Park, young out of nest fed by parents on June 30 (S.); near Donner Summit, adult feeding young on July 5 (Cogswell); Townsend's solitaire, Galena Creek Camp, Washoe Co., Nev., nest with 4 large young on July 9 (C.); Huntington Lake, 2 feeding young on July 25 (Rigby); hooded oriole, Pacific Grove, first year male on July 8 (P.), Oakland, several near a palm on Seminary Avenue on July 30 (S.); Bullock's oriole, Sequel, group of adults and young out of nest on June 19 (Richardson); western tanager, near Soquel, June 4 (Ferguson), Los Gatos, 2 pairs in vicinity after early June, male fed young not long out of nest on July 31 (E. S.); Dimond Park, Oakland, parent feeding young out of nest, July 6 (S.); evening grosbeak, 3 mi. S. Soda Springs, male fed female in tall Jeffrey pine on July 1; after similar feeding on July 7, female went to nest 50 or 60 feet up in a tuft of needles at end of long branch of the pine (C.); red crossbill, Carmel, 21 in flock on June 11, last for season (Williams); rufous-crowned sparrow, in hills E. Milpitas, 1 feeding young out of nest on July 18 (Wool); Bell's sparrow, S. Alma, many in chaparral at 3000 feet on July 18 (N.). — JEAN M. LINSDALE, *Hastings Reservation, Jamesburg Route, Monterey, Calif.*

CHANGES IN SEASON REPORTING

Our readers will note a number of changes in the organization of reports for "The Changing Seasons" in the last two issues. The old Missouri, Middle Western, and Ohio Regions have been consolidated and expanded to make the new Midwestern Prairie Region, edited by Harold Mayfield. We wish to express our thanks to both James W. Cunningham and Emmet R. Blake, who have been acting as season editors of consolidated portions of this new region, for the fine work that they have done and which it was necessary for them to discontinue because of press of other duties.

Other changes which may be noted in this and the last issue are the expansion of the old Boston Region to become the Northeastern-Maritime Region, and the old New York City Region to the Hudson-St. Lawrence Region, both retaining the same veteran season editors, Messrs. Griscom and Nichols respectively; also the expansion of the old Philadelphia Region to become Middle Atlantic Coast Region with the addition of Dr. J. J. Murray as Season Editor to work with Julian K. Potter.

The addition of the entirely new Southwest Region with Gale Monson as Season Editor is very welcome because it is characterized by the very interesting desert-scrub community of the Southwestern United States and northern Mexico.

We regret that it was not possible to include a report for the Southern Pacific Coast Region in this issue because Howard Cogswell has found it necessary to discontinue his service as Season Editor to attend the University of California at Berkeley. Fortunately, however, the reports on this important region will be continued in future issues with Kenneth E. Stager of the Los Angeles Museum as Season Editor.

We are also glad to inform you that we will soon be able to read reports from the old Utah Region, which will be expanded to become the Great Basin-Central Rocky Mountain Region under the editorship of John B. Van den Akker of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Brigham, Utah. Several reports of additional new regions will appear in future issues. — *Editor.*