

**MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGIO** .—Lack of rain was a prominent feature of weather in California in April. This was the second driest April on record. Grasslands dried out early and the plants there grew less than usual. Trees and some shrubs were less affected by this turn of weather, and they produced good growth because of the earlier rains. Many kinds of land birds continued to be scarce and the individuals seen on migration were even less than usual. Hummingbirds remained scarce; such insect-eating birds as woodpeckers, flycatchers, swallows, bush-tits,

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thrushes, vireos, warblers were much fewer than in moist years and most were fewer than last year. Partly this resulted from the severe conditions of last winter and partly from the continued small number of insects produced in the successive dry spring seasons.



#### Water birds.—

Western grebe, Oakland end of Bay Bridge, last on Apr. 22 (Pray), Año Nuevo Point, 40 to May 21 (Cogswell); black-footed albatross, off Monterey shore, 15 on May 29 (Andersons); sooty shearwater, off Monterey shore, about 100,000 on May 29 (A.); double-crested cormorant, Brooks Islands power line, about 900 on May 28 where there were 5000 last fall (C.); black brant, Humboldt Bay, about 15,000 on Apr. 5 (Evenden); blue-winged teal, Carmel River slough, pair on May 15 and 16 (Mann); green-winged teal, Gray Lodge Refuge, 7 on Apr. 23 (E.); pintail, Gray Lodge Refuge, 2 on May 5, last seen (E.); gadwall, Gray Lodge Refuge, last seen, 3 pairs on Apr. 23 (E.); Am. golden-eye, Humboldt Bay, Apr. 5 (E.); red-breasted merganser, Bay Farm Island, about 25 in pairs on Apr. 23 (C.).

**Hawks.**—Swainson's hawk, between Chowchilla and Raymond, in foothills of Madera County, 2 pairs on May 8 (Cogswell); osprey, San Andreas Lake, San Mateo Co., May 21 (C.); sparrow hawk, Oakland, young began to leave nest box on June 3 (Seibert).

**Shorebirds.**—Golden plover, Bay Farm Island, May 6 (R. W. Storer) and 8 (Seibert); semipalmated plover, Bay Farm Island, about 400 on Apr. 23 (Cogswell); marbled godwit, Bay Farm Island, about 200 on Apr. 23 (C.); wandering tattler, mouth of Malpaiso Creek, Apr. 1 (Williams), Point Bonita, Marin Co., Apr. 27 (Pray and Nelson); ruddy turnstone, Bay Farm Island, about 50 on May 6 (Storer); black turnstone, Bay Farm Island, flock of 7 on Apr. 23 (C.); long-billed dowitcher, Bay Farm Island, peak of migration, thousands, on Apr. 3 (Kelly); knot, Bay Farm Island, highest number, 75, on May 5 (K.); western sandpiper, Bay Farm Island, 100,000 on Apr. 23 (C.); 25,000 on Apr. 24 (K.); avocet, Bay Farm Island, 300 on Apr. 23 (C.); red phalarope, Pt. Pinos Lighthouse, flying in scattered masses and in ribbonlike formations, sometimes 1000 or more in sight at once, on May 16, present until May 21 (Paca), Moss Landing, 8 on May 29 (Andersons).

**Terns.**—Caspian tern, Moss Landing, first on Apr.

10 (Andersons), Bay Farm Island, 30 on Apr. 23 (Cogswell), Courtland, Sacramento Co., 1 on Apr. 24 (Evenden); Forster's tern, Berkeley Aquatic Park, about 70 on May 14 (C.).

**Non-passerine land birds.**—Band-tailed pigeon, Carmel, nestling found on ground hand reared after Apr. 26, free flying after June 10 (Williams); pigmy owl, Bass Lake, Madera Co., May 8 (Cogswell); burrowing owl, flat valley east of Dublin, Alameda Co., 1 on Apr. 24 (C.).

**Passerine birds.**—Western flycatcher, Carmel Highlands, at least 2 fledglings left nest on May 31 (Williams); western wood pewee, Corral de Tierra, Monterey Co., Apr. 23 (Andersons), Alamo, Contra Costa Co., Apr. 24 (Cogswell); bank swallow, Moss Landing, colony distinctly larger than last year (A.); cliff swallow, Salinas Air Base, 12 appeared at old barracks on May 31, 3 pairs began to build, increased each day until June 10 when there were 75 birds and 20 nests (A.); Steller's jay, Carmel Highlands, last fledgling left a nest on May 30 (W.); varied thrush, Jawbone Ridge, Sonoma Co., 1 on Apr. 10 (C.); hermit thrush, Berkeley, last wintering bird, Apr. 23 (Pray), Redwood Park, Oakland, adults feeding young, May 29 (Seibert); russet-backed thrush, Berkeley, Apr. 21 (P.); Gray Lodge Refuge, Apr. 23 (Evenden); cedar waxwing, Sacramento, last week of March to second week of May (E.); phainopepla, near Oroville, 2 on May 6 (E.), near O'Neals, Madera Co., May 7 (C.); chat, Carmel Highlands, May 6 (W.); hooded oriole, Oakland, common in some places (S.); cowbird, Bass Lake, male and female, May 8 (C.); lazuli bunting, Albany, male singing, obviously migrant, Apr. 24, San Mateo and Santa Cruz Cos., abundant in small canyons and valleys back of ocean terrace, May 21 (C.); evening grosbeak, Marysville, Apr. 23, Sacramento, through mid-May (E.); Harris's sparrow, Berkeley, wintering bird last seen on Apr. 19 (P.); golden-crowned sparrow, between Salinas and Monterey, last on May 1 (A.); white-throated sparrow, Oakland, last seen Apr. 15 (S.), Berkeley, Apr. 21 (P.).—JEAN M. LINSDALE, *Hastings Reservation, Jamesburg Route, Monterey, Calif.*