

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION.—There were rains in late June over all of the Region except the San Joaquin Valley, and there the run-off from



melting snow in the mountains and heavy rains earlier in the year left more water than there has been for 12 years. Temperatures were below normal everywhere in June and, except in the central valleys, have remained above normal into August. This combination of conditions has produced

an abundance of food through the summer and seems to have brought about a longer nesting season with more birds than usual at Westport (Mrs. R. Coy) and at Santa Cruz (R. J. Richardson) on the coast and later nesting at Whitehall, Eldorado Co. (Edwin R. Pickett).

Grebes, Shearwaters, Egrets.—Joel Hedgpeth saw an adult Pied-billed Grebe feeding 1 young in Golden Gate Park on June 21; still there, July 17. Hundreds of Sooty Shearwaters were seen on Monterey Bay, July 1 (Mr. & Mrs. C. A. Anderson). William N. Pursell reports that Snowy Egrets have been at San Quentin Point all summer with a maximum of 17 in July.

Geese and Ducks.—Canada Geese were found nesting at the south end of Lake Tahoe, May 30, by William K. Kirsher, *et al.*, and they raised broods; Verna R. Johnson saw about 24 feeding near Chester, July 29. A Waterfowl Breeding Ground Survey of the California Department of Fish and Game indicates a 30 per cent increase this year in nesting pairs of ducks in this Region, with water and weather conditions considered ideal. The post-nesting movement of Pintails began a month early with 60 at the Salinas River Mouth on June 25, and hundreds in flight and on Elkhorn Slough, Moss Landing, June 27 (CAA). L. A. Curl saw 8 Fulvous Tree-ducks between Dos Palos and Firebaugh, July 3.

Hawks.—On July 25, the Andersons saw 1 White-tailed Kite at the mouth of the Salinas River, and 1 at Elkhorn Slough, July 27; Donald Brock saw 2 near Gilroy on August 3. During May and June James D. Yokum and William Hines found 3 occupied Osprey nests in Humboldt County: 1 near Ryan Slough, 2 miles from Eureka; 1 near the mouth of Redwood Creek; and 1 near Janes Creek. They found another nest on the South Fork of the Trinity River with an adult Osprey in the area and saw another adult at Big Lagoon. A Prairie Falcon was seen at Pine Canyon near Mt. Diablo on June 8 (LAC). One Peregrine Falcon was seen, April 25, at Bayfarm Island (Mrs. G. Earl Kelly); a pair was seen in the Yosemite

Valley on June 1 (LAC); and there was a male at Point Lobos on July 10 and 17 (Ken Legg). Two pairs of Sparrow Hawks were feeding young in holes in a bluff beside Reservation Road near Salinas on June 12 (CAA).

Grouse through Coots.—On July 29, near Sulphur Works in Lassen Volcanic National Park, a Sooty Grouse and 2 young were feeding (apparently) on Red Fir needles (VRJ). There was a Mountain Quail and 1 young near Mineral on July 29 (VRJ). A further increase in the California Quail population is indicated for the coastal regions by reports of more young at Westport (RC), east of Milpitas (Albert J. Wool), and in the Los Gatos-Saratoga area where Miss Emily Smith found more chicks than last year and Charles Sibley reported many successful broods. On June 24, the Andersons found a pair of Florida Gallinules with 2 downy young at Temblader Slough, Moss Landing, where they had been watching the adult birds for over a year. The Waterfowl Breeding Ground Survey indicates that nesting pairs of Am. Coots increased approximately 75 per cent this year.

Shorebirds.—William M. Pursell reports seeing 2 Golden Plover at San Quentin Point on May 2. They were seen on the mud flats and in flight in the morning and again in the afternoon in association with Black-bellied Plovers. Black-bellied Plovers were seen at Point Isabel, Contra Costa Co., June 15 (1); June 29 (15) (LAC); at Dumbarton Bridge, 3 on July 13 (VRJ); at Bayfarm Island, 100 on August 2, with none there in July (GEK). On the beach at Moss Landing an adult Snowy Plover was incubating 2 eggs on June 29; on July 4, there were 2 adults and 2 young unable to fly (CAA). One Ringed Plover was seen at Bayfarm Island, July 22 (GEK); there were 30 on August 17 (R. H. Pray). There was 1 Hudsonian Curlew at Point Isabel, June 29 (LAC); and 2 at Bayfarm Island, July 22 (GEK). Long-billed Curlews were reported, 1 or 2 together, throughout the summer in the San Francisco Bay area. Marbled Godwits were seen at Point Isabel; 6 on June 16, and 1 on June 29 (LAC). Western Sandpipers at Bayfarm Island increased from 150 on July 5, to 1500 on July 22, and 4000 to 5000 on August 3 (GEK). The Andersons reported a Stilt Sandpiper with identifying markings clearly seen from Construction Road, Moss Landing, on July 8. A Black-necked Stilt was seen near a nest with 4 eggs at Alviso on May 8 (ES); 3 juveniles were feeding in the same area, July 8 (Sibley). Forty Am. Avocets were seen at Elkhorn Slough on May 7, 50 on June 1, and on June 17 there were 100 (some young) (CAA); at Dumbarton Bridge, July 13, there were at least 24, 2 of which were downy young with incomplete tails (VRJ). Wilson's Phalaropes were nesting at the south end of Lake Tahoe, May 30 (Celeste Johnson, *et al.*); and 2 were seen near Gustine on June 1 (LAC). Two Northern Phalaropes were seen in Golden Gate Park on July 18 (JH); 1 near Point Isabel, July 20 (LAC); and several hundred on the water and in flight off Point Lobos, July 30 (KL).

Gulls and Terns.—Young Western Gulls were swimming at Point Lobos by July 7 (KL). On May 20, there were 2 Franklin's Gulls at Moss Landing,

seen by the Andersons the same day they found an oil-soaked Sabine's Gull there. A Short-billed Gull was seen at Point Isabel on July 27 and 2 Bonaparte's Gulls were seen there on June 15 (LAC). The Caspian Tern colony at the Dumbarton Bridge had 188 occupied nests and 202 fledglings on June 21 (Carl Sather in *The Gull*); on July 8, Charles Sibley and Milton Seibert found 107 occupied nests with approximately 175 non-flying young out of the nests. A Common Tern was identified by sight at close range and by the call note at San Quentin Point on August 8 (WMP). On June 1, there were about 500 Forster's Terns with 50 flying young at Moss Landing (CAA). Two colonies of Forster's Terns were visited by Sibley and Seibert on July 8: one at Dumbarton Bridge had 14 nests with eggs, 45 eggs scattered out of nests, 3 downy young in nests, and 30 non-flying young; the other colony at San Mateo Bridge was partially surveyed and produced 26 occupied nests and 50 non-flying young. On the sand dunes north of Construction Road at Moss Landing, the nest of a Least Tern contained 2 eggs on July 4; 1 nestling and 1 egg, July 17; and was empty on July 21, with 1 young nearby (CAA). On August 16 there were about 30 Least Terns on the beach at Moss Landing and 2 non-flying downy young were caught and released after examination (CAA).

✓ *Goatsuckers through Woodpeckers.*—Curl saw a Texas Nighthawk at Los Banos, July 3. Legg saw a Poor-will feeding in a roadway at Point Lobos, August 17. Black Swifts were present in unusual numbers in the Yosemite Valley on May 30, 31 and June 1 (LAC), and there were 4 in Point Lobos Reserve on July 11 (KL). One Vaux's Swift was seen in Sequoia National Park, July 5 (LAC). Mrs. Marjory Vance saw Black-chinned Hummingbirds near Clovis: the first on July 15, 2 on August 1, and the last one, August 2. There were Costa's Hummingbirds near Clovis; first seen on April 20, and 2 on August 1 (MV). Rufous Hummingbirds, which usually come to feeders at Whitehall, Eldorado Co., in late July had not yet been seen, August 17 (Pickett). Hedgpeth and Barker found 9 Allen's Hummingbird nests on the island in Stow Lake, Golden Gate Park. There were 2 dead nestlings in one nest and 1 dead nestling in each of 2 other nests. The latest nest reported was vacated by fledglings, July 4, in Oakland (Mrs. H. K. Trousdale). In north Berkeley where Allen's Hummingbirds have consistently been present through August, none have been seen to August 30 (RHP). There were more Pileated Woodpeckers at Westport than ever before with 1 in June, 4 on July 8, and 1 on August 12 (RC); on May 30, they were nesting in the Yosemite Valley (LAC).

Flycatchers, Swallows.—There was a transient Traill's Flycatcher in San Jose, June 11 (Seibert); and 3 were singing in willows at Dersch Meadows, Lassen Volcanic National Park, July 27 (VRJ). There were about 75 Bank Swallows on Trafton Road and about 100 on the Old Toll Road, Monterey Co., gathering straw, April 30; most of them had finished nesting and gone by June 1 (CAA). More than 8000 Cliff Swallows were banded by Wilbur Mayhew, Wm.

Kirsher, Paul Steele, *et al.*, in the area surrounding Sacramento. They found most colonies were populated between March 25 and March 30, with the nesting peak about May 20, and most colonies deserted by July 9. However, one colony which was populated largely by birds previously banded at other colonies had occupied nests until at least July 26 (WK). Nestling Cliff Swallows were still being fed at Los Gatos, August 1, and at Alviso, August 20 (ES). Fledgling Barn Swallows were being fed near Felton, August 19 (Adist Boylan); and at Alviso, August 20 (ES).

Robins, Kinglets.—Am. Robins were still being fed in the nest, August 12, at Whitehall (Pickett); in the Los Gatos area the number of breeding pairs is increasing each year (ES). The song of a Golden-crowned Kinglet was heard at Castle Rock, Santa Cruz Mountains, June 12 (ES); and there were 2 singing in Portola State Park, June 22 (Nell Sleeper).

Warblers.—*Parula Warblers* nested at Point Lobos for the first time in California. Ken Legg first saw them on May 24. Two nests were built. Young were out of one nest, fed by the male only, on July 5; and young were out of the other nest, fed by the female only, on July 15 (KL). An Orange-crowned Warbler fed a fledgling at Eagle Rock in the Santa Cruz Mountains on June 8; and one was still singing near Saratoga, August 18 (ES). Yellow Warblers were feeding small nestlings at Los Gatos on June 13 (Grace Record); and were still present, August 15 (ES). Fledgling Audubon's Warblers were being fed, June 15, at Castle Rock; and on July 11, adults and juveniles were seen at four stops on Summit Road, Santa Cruz Mts. (ES); fledglings were being fed at Silver Lake, Amador Co., on August 25 (RHP). Black-throated Gray Warblers were well distributed in the San Francisco Bay area (GEK); there was a pair at Phoenix Lake, Ross, June 4; 4 at Pine Canyon near Mt. Diablo, June 8; many on Mt. Tamalpais, June 25 and July 2 (RHP). A singing male Hermit Warbler was seen at Mt. Herman, June 6; 1 at Castle Rock on 4 days between June 8 and 22, with 2 singing on 1 day (ES); on August 8 an immature was watched in Tilden Park near Berkeley (WMP). Reports of Macgillivray's Warblers were numerous; Curl found many more than usual. ✓

Cowbirds, Tanagers.—The cowbird population continues to increase in the San Francisco Bay area, being reported generally; often where never seen before. At one banding station in Piedmont, an area of detached homes and extensive gardens, 15 Brown-headed Cowbirds were banded; 1 male, 6 females and 8 immatures (Mrs. H. K. Henningsen). Legg saw a Western Flycatcher feeding a cowbird fledgling on July 15, at Point Lobos. Western Tanagers nested in Los Gatos with fledglings out of the nest, June 13 (GR); breeding birds were noted several places between Los Gatos and Saratoga and show an increase in the area; fledglings were being fed as late as August 10 (ES); migrants were seen near Clovis: 2 on August 7 and 1 on August 12 (MV).

Finches and Sparrows.—Black-headed Grosbeaks have been more conspicuous near Los Gatos this year with young first heard calling for food on June 1, and

still heard, August 23 (ES). Four Blue Grosbeaks were seen by the Sacramento Audubon Society at the Sacramento By-pass on May 4; and an adult male and 2 immatures were seen there on July 8 (Pray, *et al.*).

✓ Cassin's Finches were feeding fledglings west of Ebbits Pass, August 11 (RHP). A Pine Grosbeak was seen at Echo Summit, May 4 (LAC); and there were 6 at Silver Lake, Amador Co., August 25 (RHP). Nestling Lesser Goldfinches were being fed, June 13, on Summit Road (Sibley); and as late as August 19, fledglings were being fed near Saratoga (ES). Nesting of Oregon Juncos was noted in fringe areas in north Berkeley; a short-tailed, short-winged fledgling, unable to fly, was seen at Silver Lake, August 25 (RHP). There was a Fox Sparrow at Lake Merced in San Francisco, July 15 (JH).—RUSSELL H. PRAY, 662 Santa Rosa Ave., Berkeley 7, Calif.

ry