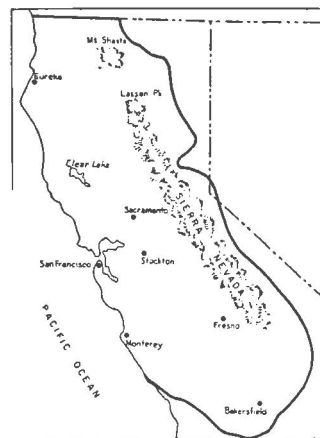


MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION—The summer pattern of fog or low clouds along the coast, extending inland to coastal valleys and hills in the



mornings, was a little more persistent than normally, with maximum temperatures until July 11 from 1° to 13° below normal on 30 out of 35 days (at Oakland). This extended the period of plant growth and may have enabled longer periods of nesting activity, several

late records being itemized below. Temperatures were high over the whole central coastal region only from June 3 to 6, on a few days in mid-July, and for the only definite hot period, August 1 to 6. In the Central Valley, where high summer temperatures are normal, it was also relatively moderate from June 10 to July 10, but hot thereafter, with many days above 90° and 12 over 100° up to August 15 (at Fresno). Lowland California weather during the summer, which is essentially rainless, rarely has significance for birdlife, except for such long periods of high temperatures that may have severe effects if adequate surface water is unavailable. Weather records do not provide information on this most critical factor—and observers in urban areas rarely are able to discern how it affects bird distribution or breeding success (but see below under Purple Martin). In the higher Sierra Nevada a widespread late snowstorm on May 31 probably had severe effects on early nesting populations; but no contributing observers were in the area during the subsequent several weeks!

End of Spring Migration.—A late movement of Hudsonian Curlews brought 60 to San Francisco's ocean beach on May 23 and 16 on May 30, but only 5 were there on June 2. Fifty or more Sanderlings at this locality on May 30 were the last noted until July (Betsy D. Cutler). At the south end of Lake Tahoe, whence very few observations are ever submitted prior to June, Fred G. Evenden carefully tallied the occurrence, departure, or arrival of a number of species at this 6230 foot altitude: Eared Grebe, 75 to 80 on May 16, down to 40 on May 20; Lesser Scaup, Buffle-head, and Old-squaw, one each on May 16; Northern Phalarope, 250 to 300 on May 16, none on May 20; Forster's Tern, 50 to 60 on May 16, only 18 on May 20; Black Tern, 25 to 30 on May 16, gone by May 20 (both terns nested here, at least formerly—Ed.); Rough-winged Swallow, 15 on May 16, none on May 20; Western Tanager, first (1) on May 18, several the next day, and many on May 20; Chipping Sparrow, first 4 on May 17, 8 to 10 the next day, and 20 or more on May 19 and 20. At Whitehall, 3500 ft., 22 miles WSW of this Tahoe location, Ed R. Pickett first saw Western Tanagers (3 males) on May 14 and Chipping Sparrows (6) on May 7, these arrivals being 3 and 6 weeks later, respectively, than in lowland central California. On a sandspit at Pope Beach, Lake Tahoe, on May 29, Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Kirsher, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Argante, and Muriel Kaminsky observed, for some time, a Brewer's Sparrow (typical sage-brush habitat a few miles away) and a **Black-throated Sparrow**. Although the northernmost nesting areas of the latter species are in NE California and Nevada, it rarely strays west of their low altitude sage-brush-salt-bush vegetation and this seems to be a first record in a mostly conifer-forest region, the first at any comparable altitude and the first in spring in our Region. East and southeast winds across the Great Basin on the 28th may have been a factor in displacing these birds westward.

Nesting Water Birds.—Three miles W of Gilroy on July 8, at a reservoir built only a year ago, Emil

D. Smith saw a Pied-billed Grebe with 5 or 6 small young, and a Cinnamon Teal with 6 and a Wood Duck with 3 young nearly grown. If the latter were raised nearby, it is the first recent nesting recorded in the Santa Clara Valley. At least 2 female Gadwalls were on Tembladero Slough, S of Moss Landing, Monterey Co., on August 10 (H. L. Cogswell), showing continued presence of the species in an area where it was first found breeding in 1950 (Charles and Viola Anderson). At Point Lobos Reserve State Park, Superintendent James Whitehead reported (in "The Sanderling" for Sept.) that Brown Pelicans again attempted nesting on the bird islands, the first time in several years. The first 2 nests were seen on April 23 and by June 23 there were 15; but by July 24 all nests had "dissipated" with no trace left visible (from adjacent mainland), and no young were observed at any time. There were still over 100 of the species present in the area, August 10 (HLC). On SE Farallon Island on June 21 Paul Covel found Brandt's Cormorants with eggs in most nests and young in a few, and Western Gulls with many small young. At Point Lobos, Monterey Co., speckled downy young Western Gulls were numerous, June 18 (Monterey Peninsula Audubon Soc.).

At least 10 nests of the Snowy Plover on salt pond dikes in southern San Francisco Bay were found to be successful this season by Etta Smith. No nesting record from the more typical sandy beach habitat was submitted, but the species was reported from June 12 on, with maxima of 40 on July 18 at the mouth of Pajaro River (W. B. Minturn) and 24 on August 10 at San Francisco (BDC). On July 10 at Twin Lakes, adjacent to Santa Cruz, there was an adult Spotted Sandpiper with 3 small young (WBM), a first breeding record for the area and the southernmost one at low altitude in recent years. Am. Avocets nested at the sugar factory ponds near Woodland, 8 nests being found on July 2 (Rod Reynolds) and large and very small young on July 9 (E. A. Albertson). Many adults and one large young, unable to fly, were at Moss Landing, August 3 (CA, VA).

Along the east approach to Dumbarton Bridge over South San Francisco Bay there were a number of Forster's Terns nesting on July 10, at least some with young (L. R. Mewaldt), at a colony first reported in 1952. On the same day at the nearby Caspian Tern colony a group of Western Bird-Banding Association members found about 250 adults and a few flying juvenals, 150 to 160 non-flying young (40 banded) of various ages, and at least 40 active nests with eggs (30 with 2, 10 with 1). Elsewhere Caspian Terns were widely noted at coastal localities, to which adults and juvenals seem to move as soon as nesting is over. Maxima were 88 at Pajaro Rivermouth on August 9 (WBM) and hundreds at Moss Landing on August 18 (CA, VA). Fewer Least Terns nested at Moss Landing this year because weeds grew on the area where they nested in 1953 and 1954 (CA, VA). There were 530 Common Murres on the Hurricane Rock colony, near the mouth of Bixby Creek, Monterey Co., on June 12 (Laidlaw Williams).

Summer Water Bird Stragglers.—Every year there are a few individuals of many water-bird species that

summer along the coast where they are not known to breed; but this year a number of such observations involve either (1) an unusual number of individuals or (2) species rarely recorded in this status. In the first category are: Western Grebe, 77, June 1 (Joseph Kittredge) and 19, July 18 (WBM); Black Brant, 23 on June 1 and 9 on June 16 (JK); White-winged and Surf Scoters, numerous reports, White-wing, maximum of 13 on July 11 (JK); Surf, maximum of 76 on May 26 and 9 on June 28 (JK), 3 on July 22 (WBM); Marbled Godwit, 58, June 1 and 16 (JK). In the second category are: Common Loon, Bodega Bay, June 12 (Gordon Bolander), and 1 at Santa Cruz, July 29 (WBM); Arctic Loon, 1 at Bodega Bay, June 1 and July 11 (JK); Horned Grebe, 2 at Bodega Bay, June 16 and July 25 (JK); Herring Gull, 2 at San Francisco, August 2 and 3 (BDC).

Hawks, Quail.—Two young White-tailed Kites flew on May 12 from a nest near Los Gatos that was being built on March 9 and 16, and an adult was seen on the same nest, June 27 and July 8 (EDS). A Ferruginous Hawk flew low over observers in Hope Valley, Alpine Co., on August 12 (Barbara and Bobby O'Neill), an unusual summer occurrence in a mountain valley, but not far from possible nesting areas in western Nevada. An adult Bald Eagle was seen in flight over Sacramento on August 16 by Ed R. Pickett, who also reported that Evenden has found the species in recent years at Clear Lake and at Marysville Buttes. After some delays, as reported in the last issue, California Quail apparently had a very successful nesting about San Francisco Bay. A nest on Silver Creek, SE of San Jose, held 9 eggs on July 19 (Milton Seibert). At least 12 broods of young were noted between May 24 and August 19 within about 30 acres of the Mills College campus in Oakland (HLC), and others in the Montclair district of Oakland on June 26 and July 2 (Mrs. H. K. Trousdale). Two broods were seen in Hall's Valley, near Mt. Hamilton, on August 7 and a very late one of chicks only one-third grown on August 27 in Strawberry Canyon, Berkeley (HLC). At Los Gatos a banded female (and unbanded male) had a brood of 11 downy young on June 8 and the same female was seen on July 30 with 13 young of two sizes, strongly indicating that she raised two broods successfully (EDS).

Shearwaters, Herons.—Spectacular flights of shearwaters, most or all Sooty Shearwaters, occurred at points unusually close to the San Francisco shore, the earliest noted (1000) being on July 7 at Ocean Beach, where the same observer (BDC) saw them on 15 days to August 12, with a maximum estimate of 50,000 on July 30. At the Cliff House, an even better vantage point, thousands flew southward from the direction of the Golden Gate in a flock one-half mile wide for a half-hour on July 12 and 15; and on July 22 and 23 they were reckoned there in tens of thousands, on the water and in flight, the total number believed to have approached 1,000,000 per day (Herman Volz). On July 28 at the same locality R. H. Pray estimated the number passing to be 50 per second for 40 minutes (4:00 to 4:40 P.S.T.),

or a total of 120,000. The flight on that day was much narrower than on the others mentioned (HV). On August 9 a similar concentration, estimated to total 500,000 or more, was on the water a 1 flying northward along the coast near W onville (HLC). On the same day "probably the birds" passed Pacific Grove, and similar numbers were off Moss Landing on August 18 (CA, VA). Great Blue Herons showed a big decrease in the Sacramento area (Don McLean, *vide* ERP) for reasons unknown; but 12 were at San Leandro Creekmouth on July 10, a good number for the location (HLC). At Santa Cruz "swamp" an Am. Bittern was seen on July 8 and 2 on July 18, as well as a single Least Bittern on July 19 (WBM).

Shorebirds (Fall Migration).—At the most visited shorebird habitat, Bay Farm Island and adjacent Alameda and San Leandro Bay, large-scale dredging and filling operations were begun in new sections, perhaps accounting for further reduction in numbers and shifts in feeding spots due to the effects of shifting currents upon food organisms. Already there is scarcely any place for these birds to "sit out" the high tide periods when they cannot feed, and within a few years this major block of habitat for migrant and wintering shorebirds is destined to be all but obliterated by these "developments" for home and industry construction on what is now tide flat. About 100 Black-bellied Plovers, all in "winter" plumage, were in this area on July 3 (HLC), an early date for so many, while on August 6 there were a number showing various amounts of breeding plumage (Junea W. Kelly). The number here on August 5 and 15 was carefully estimated to be about 400 to 450 (HLC) which compares very unfavorably with the 1000 in the same area, August 8, 1950 (JWK). There was an early return flight of Hudsonian Curlews as evidenced by 28 on San Francisco Beach on July 27 and from 1 to 25 there on 11 days in early August (BDC), and by 50 near Santa Cruz on July 18 and almost as many in August (WBM). Willets, apparently able to adjust to changed feeding situations better than some species, arrived in normal numbers in early July, about 700 being around San Leandro Bay on July 3 and 120 near Dumbarton Bridge on July 10 (HLC), while 197 were at Bodega Bay, July 11 (JK). About 150 dowitchers at Bay Farm Island and San Leandro Bay on July 3 (HLC) had increased to 1000 by July 17 (JWK) and were present in nearly that number to the end of the period. Western Sandpipers are usually the most abundant species at Bay Farm Island; but on July 3 only a small vanguard of about 300 were present (JWK, HLC), while on July 17 there were about 2000 (JWK). Only the September peak of their migration will disclose how serious the effects of changed habitat there may be. Marbled Godwits had increased from summer straggler levels to 90 at Bodega Bay on July 11 (JK) and 600 at Bay Farm Island on July 17 (JWK), by which time they were widespread. Five were seen on August 6 at Pope Beach, Lake Tahoe (FGE), a new altitude record (6225 ft.) for the species in California. Both Red and Northern Phalaropes seemed to be late, 6 Reds on August 14 at Rodeo

Lagoon, Marin Co. (A. J. Bennett and Golden Gate Audubon Soc.), being the first reported. There were about 300 Northern's at Alviso, July 27 (Etta Smith), the first reported above straggler levels. By August 10 there were at many localities, but only in "hundreds" rather than the thousands present in some year by this date. Over 200 Wilson's Phalaropes were at Moss Landing the first week of August (CA, VA), an unusual number for the coast.

Reports of the following uncommon species are worthy of record in their entirety: Solitary Sandpiper, 1 on August 12 at Big Basin State Park reservoir (Ken Legg); Lesser Yellow-legs, 1 on August 16 near Alviso (EDS) and 3 on August 19 at Moss Landing (CA, VA); Pectoral Sandpiper, 2 at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Co., on August 14 (AJB, Chas. Hines) and 10 with Western Sandpipers on San Francisco Beach, August 16 (CH), these dates being close to the earliest (August 12) for the Region; Baird's Sandpiper, 3 on July 21 W of Santa Cruz (WBM) and 1 on August 20 at Rodeo Lagoon (AJB).

Gulls and Terns.—A few Bonaparte's Gulls arrived about a month early, 15 at the mouth of Pajaro River on July 22 increasing to 30 by August 1 (WBM).

Single Sabine's Gulls were seen on the beach at 3 locations within a few days: San Francisco, August 12 (BDC); Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Co., August 14 (AJB, CH), these 2 being in nuptial plumage; and an oiled bird at Twin Lakes Beach, Santa Cruz, August 16 (WBM). Early by 10 to 20 days were 18 to 20 Common Terns at Pajaro Rivermouth on July 18 and August 1, and 6 at Santa Cruz, July 22 (WBM). On August 22 W. B. Minturn also studied 2 Arctic Terns at close range at Twin Lakes, Santa Cruz, these being the first reported in the Region since his record of August 11, 1946, at Pajaro Rivermouth. A Black Tern was seen at Moss Landing, where they are rare, on August 5 and again on August 17 (CA, VA).

Owls.—A Spotted Owl sat on an oak branch 10 feet from the observer near Clough Cave camp ground in the southern part of Sequoia National Park, May 25 (Dick Holmes), this being a 24-mile southward extension of the known range along the Sierra Nevada for this secretive species. One was also seen in Yosemite Valley, August 1, the first sight record there for a long time (W. J. Fitzpatrick). A Long-eared Owl was heard at Soquel on August 12, the first since spring (R. J. Richardson). At Carmel Highlands a pair of Saw-whet Owls was discovered entering a hole in a dead pine on May 15, and was watched for short intervals nightly until June 2. On June 8 or 9 the nest cavity was found partly destroyed and the nest apparently deserted (LW).

Swifts, Hummingbirds, Kingfisher.—This year was a banner one for observations of Black Swifts. At Yosemite, where they are most regular, "large numbers" were seen at Crane Flat, 6500 ft., on June 18 and at Peregrine Meadow, 7100 ft., on June 19 (WJF). On the Santa Cruz County coast, the area where the nest of the species was first discovered at the turn of the century, 2 were over Natural Bridges Beach State Park on May 29 and 3 on June 12 (KL). Elsewhere along this same coast a nest was found on

July 14, the adult flushing from the one egg on that date (KL) but sitting tight despite a number of observers near it on July 24 (KL, EDS, GGAS); there was a naked, blind, sprawling young on August 4 (KL) which was down-covered on August 18 (EDS). The species was also noted on July 21 over Sacramento (DM, *fide* ERP), one of the few records for the Central Valley and the first for that city. Two Vaux's Swifts were seen at Santa Cruz, July 17 (WBM), where they nested in former years; and 2 were near Wrights Lake, 7000 ft., Eldorado Co., on the same date (A. L. Curl), adding one more record of summer occurrence in the Sierra Nevada (but still no nest found there). Four White-throated Swifts were chasing and calling high over downtown Oakland, June 17, and on July 1 at least 8 flew repeatedly about an abandoned quarry by upper Leona Canyon, East Oakland, some of them entering and leaving crevices as though carrying food to young (HLC). Near Alum Rock Park, east of San Jose, 2 pairs fed young in a cliff on July 28 (MS). Two young Anna's Hummingbirds left a late nest in Alameda on June 23 and 24; the same female (apparently) began building in another nearby tree on June 27, and on July 4 this nest held 2 eggs which the female was still incubating on August 12 (JWK) after 39 days of unmatched persistence on sterile eggs. An estimated 50 female and young Allen's and/or Rufous Hummingbirds were in a limited area on Panoramic Way, Berkeley, July 30 (JWK), and a like number at the Botanic Garden in Strawberry Canyon, August 27 (GGAS), where they fed chiefly at the blossoms of several types of tobacco plants. A Belted Kingfisher was far from nesting locations at El Cerrito on July 31 and August 1 (ALC).

Flycatchers, Horned Larks.—Ash-throated Flycatchers were nest-building on June 4, 5 miles S of Los Gatos, near the main ridge of the Santa Cruz Mountains (Mary Ellen Shore), and young left a nesting box at Mt. Hermon on June 26 (Adist Boylan). Two appeared on May 26 at Westport, on the Mendocino County coast (Mrs. R. Coy), somewhat NW of their known breeding area; and single birds were noted at Santa Cruz to at least August 19 (WBM). A pair of Horned Larks in nesting habitat on Skyline Blvd., E Oakland, carried food on May 24 (HLC).

Swallows.—Several fledgling Violet-green Swallows begged from adults in Calaveras Creek Canyon, Alameda Co., on July 10 (I. R. Barnes, Enid K. Austin, HLC); the last young left a nest box at Mt. Hermon on July 14 (AB); and there were many apparently independent immatures at Wrights Lake, 7000 ft., Eldorado Co., on July 16 (GGAS). Hundreds of this species were gathered on wires at Alviso, August 16 (EDS). At Westport on August 14 young Violet-green, Tree, and Cliff Swallows, and some Barn Swallows, were apparently independent; but other Barn Swallows were still feeding fledglings on that date. One brood of Barn Swallows left a nest there on July 11 (RC). At Monterey on August 10 about 100 Cliff Swallows were still going to and from nests on a church (which held many more than 50 nests), while at Berkeley only one was seen forag-

ing in mid-day on August 22 near the Life Sciences Building colony where several still had nestlings on August 3 (HLC). A pair of Rough-winged Swallows was feeding young near Santa Cruz on July 21 (WBM). Purple Martins had young in nests in downtown Sacramento on July 20, but all had disappeared by July 27, although they were present last year until August 11 (ERP). It is suggested that the disappearance may be due to elimination of nearby watering stations (DM), perhaps coupled with excessive heat. Near the coast, nestling Purple Martins were found at Bonny Doon on July 16 (EDS), and fledglings at Westport on July 15 (RC) and near Santa Cruz, July 24 (EDS, GGAS).

Maggies, Chickadees, Bushtits, Nuthatches, Wrens.—A Yellow-billed Magpie was found dead on June 18 at Natural Bridges Beach State Park, just west of Santa Cruz (KL), at the extreme border of the known range along the coast, where the species is rare at any time. Five Mountain Chickadee nests, all with young, were found at Wrights Lake, 7000 ft., Eldorado Co., on July 16, on which date only a few were heard in song (GGAS). A "flock" of Chestnut-backed Chickadees was found on July 21 by Alfreda Meuser in a new location in the Sierra Nevada—about 1 mile E of Pollock Pines, 4000 ft., Eldorado Co., which is about 15 miles W of the Whitehall locality of previous reports. Mr. Ed R. Pickett says that, in many years of residence, he has never found Mountain Chickadees at the latter locality, which is in a narrow canyon, an observation that might bear on the success of the invading Chestnut-backs there. Two exceptionally late nests of the Common Bushtit were reported in Oakland: one with large nestlings on June 5 at Mills College (HLC) and one from which the young flew on June 17 in Montclair (HKT). Several pairs of Red-breasted Nuthatches remained all summer on the Mills College campus and apparently nested, 2 adults accompanied by 2 juvenals being seen there, July 2 (HLC). One was at a bird bath and feeder near Los Gatos, July 27 and August 5 and 8, first summer record in the Santa Clara Valley, although a few nest a few miles away in the Santa Cruz Mountains (EDS). A pair of Cañon Wrens, uncommon in this area, fed young in a nest at Alum Rock Park, E of San Jose, on July 12 (MS).

Thrashers, Thrushes, Gnatcatchers.—The Mockingbird continues to increase its numbers and localities of occurrence in the central coast area. At Santa Cruz they were noted through July and on August 1, with a maximum of 4, July 18 (WBM). One was at Watsonville, August 9 (HLC). A pair near Mills College, Oakland, raised 2 young which were fledged by July 14 (Gail Richardson), a first nesting record this far north near San Francisco Bay. In San Jose an adult carried food to a nest on August 23 (Fanny Zwaal). At some locations the first noted (since spring) were assumed to have moved since breeding elsewhere, such as one at El Cerrito, July 31 (ALC), and one near Los Gatos, July 20, and a second one on July 28 (EDS). At this latter locality Emily D. Smith made an especially valuable record of the breeding activities of a pair of color-banded California

Thrashers (female blind in one eye, male with one stump leg) in their 4th-known nesting season together. These birds fledged one brood on April 12, were last seen feeding these young on May 9 (27 days fledgling care), then brought forth second brood about June 1 and fed them until at least June 25, the female parent beginning to molt by July 13. Another pair nearby that lost its first brood raised two subsequent ones successfully, building for the last one on June 14 and feeding young in the nest on July 9 (EDS). Along San Francisco's west shore, where the species is scarce (due to lack of trees?), an Am. Robin fed a fledgling on June 2 (BDC). The earliest fledglings reported east of San Francisco Bay were on May 31 at Montclair, Oakland (HKT); and at Mills College and nearby parts of Oakland many new broods were seen from June 8 to July 31 (HLC). At Soquel a fledgling Am. Robin still begged food on August 15, having left the nest a few days earlier (RJR). A completely out-of-season Varied Thrush was seen at San Bruno on August 21 (AJB). Hermit Thrushes still sang persistently on July 16 on Ben Lomond Mountain and at Big Basin, Santa Cruz County (EDS). A nest of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher which was under construction on June 19 in the Santa Cruz Mountains near Los Gatos held young on July 17 (Frances Dieterich, EDS).

Vireos, Warblers.—A Solitary Vireo was incubating on June 4, 5 miles S of Los Gatos (MES), and another began nest-building near Boulder Creek, June 17 (KL). Fledgling Warbling Vireos were noted on July 4 in Montclair, Oakland (HKT); July 12 at Mills College, Oakland (HLC); and August 13 at Redwood Regional Park, E of Oakland (HLC, Darl Bowers). A Nashville Warbler was flushed from a nest with 5 eggs under a Corn Lily near the south end of Lake Tahoe, June 25 (Rod Reynolds). A pair of Audubon's Warblers nested for the third year 5 miles S of Los Gatos, near the main ridge of the Santa Cruz Mountains, and fed young in the nest, June 4 (MES); a female was seen feeding a fledgling on Castle Rock Ridge, a few miles to the north, June 20 (EDS). At Wrights Lake, 7000 ft., Eldorado Co., there were many independent juvenals on July 16, and at least one young still being fed by an adult male (GGAS). Also at this locality, which is above their normal nesting altitudes, an estimated 30 female and young Hermit Warblers were seen in about 7 hours of slow foot travel (GGAS). In the Santa Cruz Mountains 3 male Hermit Warblers sang on June 20 along Castle Rock Ridge, the area where the species was found nesting last year (EDS), and there were 4 male Macgillivray's Warblers singing in 2 to 3 miles there the same date. Black-capped Warblers fed young in a nest in Eureka Canyon, SE Santa Cruz Co., on July 25 (MPAS), and the species was still present in the Capitola area on August 19 (WBM).

Icterids, Tanagers.—Two vagrant Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen: 1 near San Jose, July 14 (MS) and a female near Watsonville, August 9 (HLC). Post-breeding dispersal of Tri-colored Blackbirds is apparently indicated by 50 with Brewer's Blackbirds near Salinas, July 16, and 35 and "hundreds" near

Moss Landing on August 4 and 10, respectively (CA, VA). The number of reports of Hooded Orioles in this Region continues to increase, those for this period involving at least 15 adults, all or most in residential areas from Salinas and Monterey to Santa Cruz and Albany. The population is apparently increasing yearly in this area, which the species first invaded 25 years ago. Most of those settled for breeding have been located near palm trees, usually those with palmate leaves (but a pair at Monterey on May 19 was near the same "date palms" that held a pair on the same date in 1952—LW). A pair was seen with 2 young in Albany, June 26, and on the next day a female with 2 young in North Berkeley where a female remained until at least August 16 (C. G. Thompson). At Natural Bridges Beach State Park, Santa Cruz, Bullock's Orioles had young in the nest on June 9 and fledglings on June 17 (KL); and a female with 1 young was seen at Soquel, August 2 (RJR). Young Brown-headed Cowbirds (all fed by Song Sparrows) were noted on June 5 at Montclair, Oakland (HKT); June 16 at Alameda (JWK); July 10 at Soquel (RJR); and July 23 in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco (RHP). A pair of Western Tanagers fed young in a nest 5 miles S of Los Gatos on June 4 (MES); the food-call of a fledgling was heard near Los Gatos, July 13 to 18, and an adult seen feeding it, July 15 (EDS).

Grosbeaks.—Black-headed Grosbeaks had nestlings about a week old in one nest at Soquel, June 4 (KL), while on the same date at 5 miles S of Los Gatos one pair was incubating and another female fed a fledgling (MES). Several appeared, with fledglings, in an area where none nested at Mills College, Oakland, on June 24, and one immature still begged food from adults at Redwood Regional Park, E of Oakland, on August 13 (HLC). The greatest rarity of the period, a male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, was closely observed by Charles Hines and Kenneth Drybread on August 25 at Lake Merced, San Francisco, and described in detail to HLC. It is apparently the seventh recorded occurrence in California. Evening Grosbeaks became suddenly numerous in Yosemite Valley on August 1 and remained so until at least August 22 (WJF); but none was found at Wrights Lake, 7000 ft., Eldorado Co., on July 16 in seemingly suitable breeding habitat. Single female and male Pine Grosbeaks were located there, however (GGAS).

Finches, Towhees.—At Westport, on the Mendocino Co. coast, where the species is not common, a House Finch completed a set of 5 eggs sometime after June 14 and 4 young left the nest on July 11 (RC). Cora Baker found a pair of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches on Freel Peak, near the SE end of Lake Tahoe, on July 4, the second record for that marginal area at the extreme north end of the breeding range in the Sierra (pair on nearby Job's Sister, July 23, 1950—HLC). Three young Red Crossbills were in a Mt. Hermon dooryard on April 27 (AB) and a female and apparent juvenal came to a bird bath there on June 19 (Lelah Miller). The species has been present there in small numbers since the summer of 1954. There were also 9 near Sebastopol, July 11 and 18 (JK). More of Emily Smith's complete records of

color-banded birds nesting near Los Gatos showed that a pair of Spotted Towhees that was building a nest on June 8 and 9 had young which left it on July 7; the adults were last seen to feed one of these young on July 30 (23 days fledgling care), and began to molt (male) by August 13. Similarly a pair of Brown Towhees fledged one brood about May 10, and a second one on July 6; both adults were last seen feeding young of this brood on July 21 (15 days fledgling care), and began to show molt (female) by August 1. Another female Spotted Towhee at Los Gatos fed 3 fledglings of a very late brood on August 17 to 20 (Gladys Record).—HOWARD L. COGSWELL, *Dept. of Biological Sciences, Mills College, Oakland 13, Calif.*; and RUSSELL H. PRAY, 662 Santa Rosa Ave., Berkeley 7, Calif.