

the warmer, lower parts of the Region.

Summer weather was not unusual, but the effects of the heavy April rains (and snow in the mountains) and of some unusually rainy weather at the beginning of June were felt on the bird population, probably in two ways. There was probably some delay in the onset of nesting at high elevations (as inferred from the fact that conditions would have been unfavorable for nesting until later this year). By late summer, however, bird populations seemed to be about the same as last year (especially in terms of young birds seen) even high in the mountains. This suggests that birds may have made up for lost time by accelerating some of the preliminaries of nesting, such as pair formation and nest building, in order to get the young off before conditions again become unfavorable in the higher parts of the Region, and in time for the fall migration.

Also very noticeable in the late summer were the flowers of the high mountain meadows and the greenery at moderate elevations—much in contrast to the usual scarcity of flowers and general dryness and golden color so typical of California in the late summer. Even at very low elevations the prolonged vernal season was apparent, but not nearly so striking as in the mountains. The effects of this may not, however, be expressed so much in nesting populations as in the distribution of migrating birds (see below).

Migration—A number of spring migrants were reported into the middle of June, mostly "late" species, especially Western Tanager and Western Wood Pewees. To the south of this Region a number of "early" species (*e.g.* Western Flycatcher) also were found even as late as June 10. The fall migration began in late June and early July with the return of many shorebird species, and, in the mountains, of Rufous Hummingbirds (see below). In other areas the shifting of breeding populations (birds moving into and out of areas earlier occupied) also was indicative of fall unrest; see Allen's and Anna's Hummingbirds for a good example. By the end of July southbound landbirds were detected at several points in the Region; discussion of the fall landbird migration has, however, except for hummingbirds, been postponed until the fall report.

A poorly understood phenomenon that seems to be correlated with migration is that termed the "up-mountain movement" by those observers who have studied it locally. It is now best known in the Lake Tahoe area, where Guy McCaskie has gathered records of the birds involved for the last six years. All the species involved are migratory and nest at lower elevations. McCaskie includes in this movement those species that he has recorded only in the late summer. He reports the following species as being regularly present (with periods of abundance and maximum numbers):

Great Blue Heron (single birds, late July and August, occasionally to January)

Anna's Hummingbird (as many as two at once, July 30 to Aug. 21)

Solitary Vireo (as many as 8 in a day, July 30 to Aug. 21)

MIDDLE PACIFIC REGION.—The nesting season was, as usual, on the one hand prolonged and on the other difficult to summarize because of a lack of quan-



tative data on nesting populations. It began probably in February and certainly in March (and in the case of a few really early species by last December), and extended at least to the end of the period, even in

Black-throated Gray Warbler (as many as 6 in a day, Aug. 10 to Sept. 29)

Bullock's Oriole (as many as 6 in a day, Aug. to Sept. 5)

Lazuli Bunting (as many as 5 in a day, July 16 to Sept. 22)

Lesser Goldfinch (as many as 50 in a flock, July 2 to Nov. 9)

American Goldfinch (as many as 4 in a day, Aug. 10 to Dec. 1)

House Finch (no details supplied)

and the following species as irregular (not present every year):

Snowy Egret (once), Ash-throated Flycatcher (twice), Black Phoebe (twice), Purple Martin (twice), Mockingbird (once), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (once), Purple Finch (twice, may be commoner).

It has been widely suggested that these are birds that move from lower to higher elevations in order to migrate. This would have some value in that low areas are at their driest in the early fall, while the mountains offer more favorable conditions at this time. This would seem to be somewhat supported by the fact that the "up-mountain birds" were few and far between so far (mid-August) this year (except Solitary Vireo), while conditions at lower elevations were more favorable than usual, perhaps reducing the need to move to higher elevations. In the spring the favorability of conditions at low and high elevations would be reversed, explaining the absence of these species at high elevations then.

Pelicans, Cormorants—About 50 White Pelicans were reported from Lake Almanor, June 7 (I'KC), probably a non-breeding group. The Brown Pelican colony at Point Lobos, the farthest north along this coast and a very marginal one, contained 3 nests on May 5; by June 28, 2 of the nests had disappeared, but there was one bird on the remaining nest. Some 350 of the species were about (HLC). The Brandt's Cormorant colony at Point Lobos included over 2000 birds, with 800 to 1000 nests, on June 28 (HLC); it is the observer's recollection that the colony used to be much larger. Excavation for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's proposed atomic power plant on Bodega Head has had the expected undesirable effect on the Pelagic Cormorant colony there; only two nests could be found on Aug. 11, as against 63 on July 22, 1962 (TC; see AFN 16(5):503, Oct. 1962).

Waterfowl—Although Merced Nat'l Wildlife Refuge is primarily for migrating and wintering waterfowl, a few ducks breed there; this year, "the best production year on record for this refuge," 24 broods were observed (14 Mallard, 5 Cinnamon Teal, 2 Shoveler, 2 Pintail, 1 Am. Widgeon). The Am. Widgeon brood is the first recorded in the twelve-year history of the refuge and probably the first recorded for this Region, though it has bred in extreme northeastern California. "Unusually late spring rains contributed to the above-average surface water present in the area this year" (DNW).

Besides the common summer stragglers along the coast (flocks of more than 10 regularly seen: Western Grebe, Surf and White-winged Scoters) and the regular stragglers (1-10 regularly seen: all three

loons, Black Brant, Lesser Scaup, Common Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser) there were 5 Pintails at Moss Landing, June 22 (HLC), a female Common Goldeneye at Dumbarton Straits, July 3 (RS), and a ♀ Harlequin Duck at the mouth of the Big Sur River, July 2 (RLB). Although there were records of summer stragglers at the turn of the century, when this duck still bred in California in some numbers, the wintering population is now so small (see AFN 17(3):354, June 1963) that it is remarkable that one should be found in summer, even if the same proportion straggles as in the case of the scoters.

Vultures, Hawks, Quail—The new fill at Oakland International Airport is acquiring a population of rabbits and ground squirrels, which in turn is supporting an increased population of Turkey Vultures (ER). Continuing reports of California Condors from Tulare County include a newspaper article (*Porterville Farm-Tribune*, June 27), with recognizable photographs, concerning a flock of 8 southeast of Ducor (*vide MEM*). Mr. and Mrs. Mires saw 2 condors at an elevation of 6400 feet near Springville, as well as at the 1300-foot elevation of their home there. Two Red-shouldered Hawks fledged, June 1, Moss Landing, June 22 (HLC), a female Common Goldeneye at Dumbarton Straits, July 3 (RS), and from a nest near Glen Ellen, Sonoma Co., 6 days earlier than from the same nest in 1961 and 1962 (MS; see AFN 16(5):503, Oct. 1962). A Bald Eagle nest two miles south of Eagle Lake, Lassen Co., was reported to have one young bird in it on July 2 (*vide TR*). California Quail at Mills College, Oakland, had young one-quarter grown on May 30, a bit early (HLC). Mountain Quail with small young were seen at Yreka, July 9 (MC) and on Louse Spring Road (near Drakesbad), Plumas Co., July 27 (I'KC).

Shorebirds—Two Black Oystercatcher nests were pointed out at Point Lobos State Park by the park naturalist, Mr. van der Vere, June 28 (HLC); 2 adults were feeding 2 young on Bodega Head, July 20 (BDP). About 20 Snowy Plovers, including only one downy young, were found at the mouth of Elkhorn Slough, Moss Landing, in a former good nesting area. However, breeding may be on the increase with the enlargement of habitat at Oakland Airport (ER), and a pair with flightless young was seen at the Davis ponds, Yolo Co., July 28 (GMcC), apparently the first breeding record for the Sacramento Valley (though the species breeds to the south at Los Banos and to the north at Tule Lake).

Summer stragglers were normal: first arrivals of fall migrants along the coast were on the early edge of normal, with a few records reported as first arrivals more than two weeks early: Western Sandpiper, 4 at mouth of Salinas River, June 19 (RLB); Sanderling, 9 at Moss Landing, June 27 (RLB; a month early); Northern Phalarope, 30 at mouth of Salinas River, June 19 (RLB). High numbers of many shorebirds also were early (2000 Western Sandpipers at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, Oakland, July 11 (MM); usually only about 100 at this time).

Terns—There probably is still a small nesting colony of Forster's Terns at Elkhorn Slough, Moss

Landing, where about 10 were seen on June 22 and 29, but other colonies in the area have been abandoned since 1949 (*HLC*). Single Common Terns were reported (with Forster's) at Lake Almanor, July 5 (*MM*), and at the south end of Lake Tahoe, Aug. 1 and 10 (*GMcC*). Only one Least Tern was observed, June 29, at Moss Landing, formerly the site of a nesting colony (*HLC*), but 10-15 were seen July 28 at Oakland Airport (*ER*), leading to hopes that they may breed there. Sixty-one Elegant Terns were at Moss Landing, July 18 (*RLB*), a bit earlier and in better numbers than last year. The Caspian Tern colony at Dumbarton Bridge, estimated at 160+ adults (*HLC*), was 20 pairs larger than last year, 35 pairs larger than in 1961 (*RS*).

Alcids—An Ancient Murrelet was observed at Bodega Head, July 20 (*BDP*), and reports of Marbled Murrelets (1 in winter plumage, Bodega Head, July 10 [*BDP*]; 6—4 in breeding plumage, one in molt, one in winter plumage—from Santa Cruz to Pigeon Point, July 27 [*AW*, *PDeB*, *GMcC*]; 3 in winter plumage at Bodega Head, July 28 [*MM*]) suggest that July and August are the best months for seeing this species.

Doves, Owls, Swifts—Mourning Doves were reported as much increased in numbers in the Aptos (Santa Cruz Co.) and San Jose (best year since 1955) areas (*DBH*, *DDMcL*). A single Flammulated Owl heard at the foot of Solo Peak (6300 ft.), Tulare Co., July 9, provides another locality record for this little-known species (*MEM*). At Merced Refuge a surge in the population of Burrowing Owls was noted in late June, when over 50 were found in a 400-acre area of grassland (*DNW*). Two Vaux's Swifts were noted on Mt. Ball, near Dorris, Siskiyou Co., a little-known area where this species should occur in the nesting season (*PDeB*, *GMcC*); two were seen June 15 at Elan Camp, Tehama Co. (*EH*) and three at Chico Meadows (3700 ft.), Tehama Co., July 13 (*TR*). Both these last localities are near the Lake Almanor localities where the species was observed last summer:—the species has been noted in this area for the last 60 years at least, but, as in all other locations in the Sierra, no nest is known.

Hummingbirds—At least 24 Black-chinned Hummingbirds were found near Georgetown, Eldorado Co. (2700 ft.), July 19 (*EH*)—an unusually large number for this species in northern California. A Rufous Hummingbird first appeared near Yreka on June 6, but was not joined by others until June 17; the species seemed to reach maximum numbers in late June, this level continuing on through July; the first bird to appear was a male, but females soon predominated, and no males were noted after July 21. Male aerial display was noted until July 3. Although the species is known to nest in the nearby Trinity Alps, it probably does not nest at this location (*MC*). Twenty-five birds, one-third males, on Mt. Ball, July 6 (*PDeB*) were early migrants. Farther south, Rufous Hummingbirds were first present in numbers at Lake Tahoe after July 9 (*GMcC*; no adult males seen from July 20 on), and about 20 were seen near Springville, Tulare Co., also on July 9 (*MEM*).

A green-backed male *Selasphorus* hummingbird

with considerable red on the throat, seen near Echo Lake at the crest of the Sierra on July 20 by Marianne Shepard (who wisely refrained from any further identification), suggests that fall, and possibly some spring, records of Allen's Hummingbird out of its known range should be reconsidered until the moult of the Rufous Hummingbird is more fully understood; it is possible that young males may acquire the gorget before the rufous back (which may occasionally have a greenish tint), thus appearing much like an Allen's.

Allen's Hummingbirds were present, still in the low numbers of last year, near Mills College, Oakland (*HLC*); Strawberry Canyon, Berkeley, and at Jewel Lake, Tilden Park (near Berkeley, *PDeB*). At Jewel Lake only a single male Allen's Hummingbird was present on July 1, in an area where 6 or 7 breeding males were present during spring, and no males were noted after July 1. At about the same time Anna's Hummingbirds, which were virtually absent during the spring, began to appear here in numbers, immature males being the most conspicuous. The latter species is a common winter resident here and appears to move out of the relatively moist canyon bottoms into the drier chaparral on the canyon sides for breeding, a seasonal movement which probably reduces competition with Allen's Hummingbird, the primary nesting species of the canyon bottoms.

Woodpeckers—A nest of the Pileated Woodpecker was located at the Jack London Ranch, Glen Ellen, Sonoma Co., on June 2, and fledged one young male, June 11 (*MS*, photographed *GM*). Although the species has been observed here for several years, this is the first nest actually seen—the southernmost known in coastal California; however, nests should be looked for to the southward, in Marin County, where the species has been reported several times in recent years. "Red-breasted" Sapsuckers were found in greater numbers on Mt. Ball (near Dorris, Siskiyou Co.) (July 6; *GMcC*, *PDeB*, *AW*) than these observers had ever seen in the Sierra; density was estimated at about 1 pair per 3 acres; half a dozen nests were located without any effort, and 25-30 adult birds were seen. Only 6 White-headed Woodpeckers, the next commonest woodpecker, were seen in the area. Also found here was a nest, with squealing young, of the Black-backed (Arctic) Three-toed Woodpecker, of interest because it provides one of our few records away from the Sierra, and because of its construction: all other nests seen by these observers have been in live trees, but this nest was located about five feet from the ground in the trunk of a dead aspen, and the bark was not chipped away surrounding the entrance. Another pair of this species excavated a nest hole at Perego Meadows, Yosemite Nat'l Park, between May 25 and June 10 (*PDeB*).

Swallows, Tits, Wrentits—A pair of Rough-winged Swallows nested at Tahoe City (6200 ft.) for the first time since at least 1958 (*GMcC*); this is an unusually high altitude for nesting of this species, although it may occur higher during migration. At the Jack London Ranch, Glen Ellen, Sonoma Co., Marianne Shepard reports that in 1961 and 1962

normal numbers (40-60 pairs) returned and attempted to nest, and each year almost all of the nests were destroyed; this year only three pairs returned, and, judging from the number of pipped eggs found, only a few young fledged. Following his report of a single Chestnut-backed Chickadee near Wilseyville, Calaveras Co., on July 14 Bob Miller found at least 8 birds of this species, including at least two family groups and an adult feeding young, at the same place. Six Bushtits, also found there, represent a less well understood and undoubtedly different sort of "up-mountain movement"; the species is non-migratory. A Wrentit at Mountaineer (6400 ft.), Tulare Co. (MEM), July 28, and 2 at Deep Hole Spring, Mt. Lassen Nat'l Park (5500 ft.), July 28, 1962 (PDeB, TC) represent a movement similar to that of the above-mentioned Bushtits.

Robins, Starlings—Robin production was, if anything, slightly better than normal, despite the poor winter population. The Starling can breed no farther west in California; for the first year it nested in numbers on the coast. A dozen pairs were found nesting in the eucalyptus trees on Bay Farm Island, Alameda, during April (EW); at least three pairs at Stanford University, also in April (M/R); five pairs at the US Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey during June (GPL) and one pair in Pacific Grove (I'LY). In the San Jose area, where the species has been present for some time, the breeding population has increased several thousandfold since 1959 (DDMcL). Further expansion of the breeding range should now involve extension into the northwest coast region and further increase in the breeding population.

Vireos—On May 4 a nest of the Solitary Vireo (which raises but a single brood) with 5 two-thirds grown young was found near Glen Ellen, Sonoma Co. (AW); on July 27 a nest with 2 large young was found at Deer Creek, Tehama Co. (VKC). Hence the nesting season of this species extended over at least a three and one-half month period, indicating again the great climatic diversity of California.

Blackbirds and Orioles—About 300 Tricolored Blackbirds were found nesting near Moss Landing on June 22 (HLC); this species is not often reported nesting on the coast, although Cogswell has found it in this area once before. A pair of Bullock's Orioles built their nest in a fir tree at Mountaineer, Tulare Co. (6400 ft.) (MEM); although high for the species, it is known to nest higher east of the Sierra. Near Yreka more of this species were present than ever before; no adult males were observed after July

12, and most of the nesting population had departed by July 17 (MC).

Finches and Towhees—House Finches were reported down in numbers at Aptos, Santa Cruz Co. (DBH); Glen Ellen, Sonoma Co. (MS); Mills College, Oakland (HLC); and San Jose (DDMcL); only at the last location was an explanation provided (houses had been built on the finches' favorite feeding grounds). Three mountain finches: Evening Grosbeak, Pine Grosbeak, and Red Crossbill, were present in better numbers than last year, although this year's numbers seem more in accord with what is usually seen (GMcC). Lawrence's Goldfinches, ever unpredictable, were present this year in small numbers in most of the areas where they are usually seen, in contrast to last year's absence. Three long-lived Brown Towhees were reported from Oakland, two at least 7 years old and one at least 8 by March 24 (HLC).

Rarities—A Red-eyed Vireo (the same bird?) was noted three times between May 11 and July 4 (when it was collected) on the Mills College campus, Oakland (HLC; details to be published elsewhere). A female Black-and-white Warbler was collected in a group of cypress on the Point Reyes Peninsula, May 28 (RS). An adult male Baltimore Oriole was seen in the same group of cypress on June 16 (RS & JK) but flew off before it could be secured. Finally, a male Indigo Bunting was collected at Elkhorn Ferry, Yolo Co., July 28 (RS & JK). The bird was singing when found, and had testes enlarged.

Corrigenda—In AFN 17 (3): 355, col. 1, read "Western Bluebird (present only in winter at Lake Tahoe)" for "Mountain Bluebird (present only in summer at Lake Tahoe)"; p. 355, col. 2, following the mention of Ruby-crowned Kinglet, the following sentence should be inserted: "Although there were no indications of a Northern Shrike invasion, two were found at the south end of Lake Tahoe (GMcC), where the species appears to be regular in winter. A notable isolated record . . ."

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