

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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The summer was uneventful with stable weather conditions and average temperatures for this time of the year. A scattering of rarities kept birders looking, but no significant movements or trends could be detected.

ABBREVIATIONS — N.E.S.S. = north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.; S.E.S.S. = south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.; S.K.R.P. = South Kern River Preserve. As virtually all rarities found in s. California are seen by numerous observers, only the observer initially identifying the bird is included. Documentation is on file for all rarities listed in the report.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — A Com. Loon flying N over N.E.S.S., June 15 (GMcC) was obviously a very late spring migrant. A Horned Grebe at Bolsa Chica to at least July 10 (BED) was clearly attempting to summer locally; summer records of this species are few indeed. About 1000 Eared Grebes nesting on Baldwin L. in the San Bernardino Mts. in June (RMcK) was a large number for a species considered to be a local and irregular breeder in s. California.

Brown Pelicans moved N out of the Gulf of California into the Salton Sea in force in early July with more than 100 present by



the end of the period (GMcC); one on L. Henshaw in the mountains of San Diego County June 1-5 (RH) and another on the Colorado R. n. of Blythe June 22 (SC) were both at unusual localities. An ad. **Olivaceous Cormorant** at N.E.S.S., July 27 + (DRW) was at the same place a similar bird was seen at this time of year in 1982 and 1983, and it is quite possible all sightings pertain to the same bird returning to this locality year after year. An early imm. Magnificent Frigatebird along the coast in Santa Barbara June 11 (JB) was followed by 7 sightings of single birds July 6-14 between San Diego and Santa Barbara, including one over Santa Catalina I., July 11 (JH); at the Salton Sea two were over Bombay Beach June 18 (RMCK) and four were at N.E.S.S., July 13 (GMcC), and elsewhere inland one was seen over Castaic Res., Los Angeles Co., July 18 (MCL).

Three pairs of Great Egrets successfully nested among breeding Great Blue Herons at Morro Bay this summer (TME); this is the only location on the coast of s. California where this species has been found nesting, and nesting there was unknown prior to 1982 (AB 36:1015). The presence of small numbers of Great Egrets in coastal Orange and San Diego counties for the 2nd summer (DRW, EC) indicated a change in this species' habit of evacuating this area during the breeding season, and observers are urged to watch for nesting in future years. Little Blue Herons again nested near Imperial Beach, with five adults and one active nest seen June 16 (EC); an immature at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co., July 26 (DK) was probably one of the offspring from the Imperial Beach birds; the adult found in Carpinteria May 22 was present through Aug. 4 (JLD) and another adult was at S.E.S.S., June 26 (GEM). A Tricolored Heron at Bolsa Chica July 4 (LRH) was among a very few ever found on the coast in summer. Two White-faced Ibises near Cayucos June 25 (TME) were at an unusual locality.

DUCKS, RAPTORS—Two **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** at S.E.S.S., May 28-June 22 (BH) established the 6th record for this species in s. California. Since documented occurrences of nesting Wood Ducks in s. California are few, the presence of 15 pairs with 8 broods at S.K.R.P. during June and July (SAL), and a female accompanying a juvenile at the Prado Basin, Riverside Co., July 2 (RAE), were of interest; two at Twitchell Res., Santa Barbara Co., July 17 (LB) and two more at Tapia Park in the Santa Monica Mts., June 27 (KLG) were noteworthy. One or two Canvasbacks, rare in s. California in summer, were on Baldwin L. in the San Bernardino Mts. during June and July (REW, BED), and a female on Goose L., Kern Co., June 26 was accompanied by three young (GG). A flock of 250 Redheads on Baldwin L., June 29 (REW), 225 at N.E.S.S., June 29-30 (REW), and 125 at S.E.S.S., June 30 (REW) were unusually large concentrations. Four Ring-necked Ducks, rare in summer, were on Baldwin L., June 29 (REW), one was on L. Hodges, San Diego Co., through the period (KW), and another was on Otay L. near San Diego June 30 (KAH). A ♀ Greater Scaup at N.E.S.S., June 15 (GMcC) was among a very few ever found in summer. An Oldsquaw was present on Morro Bay all summer (GPS), one was at Marina del Rey June 4 (H & PB), another was near Oceanside June 2 (LRH), and a 4th was on San Diego Bay throughout June and July (RR). A ♀ Black Scoter, most unusual in summer, was on s. San Diego Bay during June and July (GMcC).

Attempts by 2 pairs of Ospreys to nest on L. Isabella, Kern Co., failed due to disturbances by boaters (RS). A Black-shouldered Kite at N.E.S.S., June 1 (CMcG) was at an unusual locality. A subad. Mississippi Kite at Blythe July 24 (TM) was the first to have been found in Riverside County. An ad. N. Goshawk near Twitchell Res., July 17 (LB) was at an unexpected lowland locality some distance from the nearest known nesting area. An ad. Red-shouldered Hawk near Blythe June 3 (SC) was far outside the species' normal range. A Peregrine Falcon at N.E.S.S., July 15-21 (JO) and another at S.E.S.S., July 15 + (GMcC) were probably wanderers from the breeding population in the Gulf of California.

PLOVERS THROUGH ALCIDS—The presence of 75 adult and young Snowy Plovers around Tulare L., Kern Co., July 20 (MOC) indicated this species nested successfully there this summer. Two or three Black Oystercatchers on the breakwater at Marina del Rey during June and July (H & PB) were possibly nesting. A Willet at Klondike L. in the Owens Valley May 28 (SAL) acted as if it were defending a nest. A Surfbird on San Diego Bay June 12 (REW) was one of a very few ever found summering along the coast; two at N.E.S.S., June 8-15 (EAC) were inland where considered casual. Single ad. Red Knots at N.E.S.S., June 29 (REW) and July 16 (PEL) were early fall migrants. Two Baird's Sandpipers near Santa Maria July 20-29 (PEL) and another on L. Isabella July 29 (SAL) were the first of the fall migrants. An ad. Pectoral Sandpiper near Santa Maria July 20 was early. A Stilt Sandpiper at Tulare L., July 24 (GG) was the first to have been found in Kern County. A ♂ Ruff near Imperial Beach July 28 + (BMcN) was evidently the same bird present on s. San Diego Bay during the past 2 winters. Ten pairs of Com. Snipe at S.K.R.P. during June and July (SAL) were at the s. limit of this species' breeding range. Twenty to thirty thousand Wilson's Phalaropes around Tulare L., July 13-20 (MH) was a significant concentration.

One to two Parasitic Jaegers at N.E.S.S., July 13-20 (JML, GMcC) may well have been present most of the summer, having arrived in spring from the Gulf of California. Two ad. Franklin's Gulls at N.E.S.S., June 2-15 (JML) and a first-summer bird there June 29-July 27 (REW) were the only ones found. An ad. Heermann's Gull, casual inland, was at N.E.S.S., June 20 (CMcG) and up to two were on L. Henshaw July 5-7 (RH). A first-summer Mew Gull at N.E.S.S., June 29 (REW) and a 2nd-summer bird at the same location July 16 (PEL) both probably summered locally. Two Herring Gulls, remarkably rare in summer, were present at N.E.S.S. throughout most of the period.

An ad. Gull-billed Tern over s. San Diego Bay July 15 (EC) was the first to have been found along the coast of California, although the species breeds on the Salton Sea. A pair of Royal Terns was accompanying a large chick among nesting Elegant Terns on s. San Diego Bay June 12-15 (REW) to give one more of a very few positive nesting records in California. An ad. **Sandwich Tern** on s. San Diego Bay June 12-14 (REW) was believed to be the same bird present here in 1980 and 1982. Two Least Terns on Morro Bay July 20 (JMcD) were only the 2nd and 3rd to have been seen here in recent years. At least 150 pairs of Black Skimmers nested on s. San Diego Bay this summer (EC), and 10 pairs were on nests at Bolsa Chica at the end of the period (LRH) for the first occurrence of breeding n. of San Diego; Black Skimmers were few indeed on the Salton Sea through much of the summer, but a major influx in late July brought at least 400 to the area, with 350 attending nests at S.E.S.S., Aug. 14 (JML).

A Marbled Murrelet in Santa Barbara July 29 (BB) was s. of the species' normal range.

DOVES THROUGH SWALLOWS—Two Com. Ground-Doves near Carpinteria June 26 (TW) were at the extreme n.w. corner of the species' expanding range. Eighteen pairs of Yellow-billed Cuckoos at S.K.R.P. throughout the period (SAL) was a good number, but this is the only stronghold remaining in California; one in California City June 5 (MH) and another in Goleta June 18-25 (GT) were spring migrants/vagrants. Calling Flammulated Owls were heard at Tiger Flat, Greenhorn Mts., during June (MOC), an active nest was found at Buckhorn Campground, San Gabriel Mts., in June (KLG), one or two were heard at San Geronio Campground, San Bernardino Mts., in June (RMCK), and a pair was seen on Hot Springs Mt., San Diego Co., June 8 (PU); we still have much to learn about the status and distribution of this small secretive bird. Four to six Elf Owls nesting in an isolated mesquite thicket along the Colorado R. n. of Needles this summer (JML) were apparently the total population now left in California. The presence of three juv. N. Saw-whet Owls at Buckhorn Campground in the San Gabriel

Mts. clearly documented successful nesting at that location.

Calling Whip-poor-wills at the Arch Picnic Area in the San Gabriel Mts. in June (KLG), at Angeles Oaks in the San Bernardino Mts. all summer (REW), and at L. Fulmar in the San Jacinto Mts. in May and June (EAC) were believed to be breeding, but no nests or young have yet been found in California. Two Chimney Swifts in courtship flight over Deep Springs June 15-17 (PJM) may have nested locally, and up to 16 over downtown Los Angeles May 6+ (KLG) were in an area where small numbers are found each summer. Most unusual was a calling Vaux's Swift carefully identified over downtown Los Angeles June 26-28 (KLG); there are only 2 previous acceptable summer records for s. California, and these were from mountain localities.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher in Carpinteria June 20 (JEL) was in an area where breeding is unrecorded but should be looked for. A singing Dusky Flycatcher on Hot Springs Mt., June 8 (PU) was at the s. extreme of the species' breeding range. A Vermilion Flycatcher in Whitewater Canyon June 9-13 (DH) was away from any known nesting locality. A pair of Cassin's Kingbirds again nested along the Colorado R., n. of Blythe, fledging three young in June (SC). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a casual straggler to California, was in Goleta June 30 (RAH) and another was at Big Pine July 31 (MCS). Most interesting were 3-4 pairs of Purple Martins nesting in a "bird house" placed on top of a large dead tree on Mt. Palomar in June (JR) as I know of no other instance of this species nesting in "bird houses" in California.

JAYS THROUGH WARBLERS — A Steller's Jay in Norwalk June 4 (JS) was in the lowlands where unexpected. A Red-breasted Nuthatch on Hot Springs Mt., June 8 (PU) was away from any known breeding locality but in suitable nesting habitat. A juv. House Wren near Seeley, Imperial Co., Aug. 4 (PU) had undoubtedly hatched locally; there were no previous nesting records for this area of California. An Am. Dipper in Whitewater Canyon July 24-26 (DH) was at an unusually low elevation. A juv. Am. Robin in Whitewater Canyon July 13 (DH) was believed to have been hatched locally; this species is establishing itself as a nesting species in many areas outside its "old" range, apparently encouraged by the presence of well-irrigated lawns, etc. A Bendire's Thrasher in Irvine July 21 (DRW) was the first to have been found in Orange County; this species departs early from its desert nesting range with small numbers straying to the coast each year. An ad. Water Pipit seen feeding young at San Geronio Peak June 18-19 (AK) was at the same place where s. California's only 2 nesting records occurred.

A pair of Bell's Vireos at Satitoc, Los Angeles Co., Apr. 14+ (SR) was in an area where previously unrecorded. Three to 4 pairs of Gray Vireos around Bob's Gap near Valyermo from April into June (KLG, BWK) were the first to have been found in Los Angeles County in many years. Five singing Solitary Vireos of the w. race *cassinii* w. of L. Hughes, Los Angeles Co., in June (KLG) were in ideal breeding habitat; an encouraging number for an apparently declining population. A Red-eyed Vireo at L. Fulmar in the San Jacinto Mts., June 16 (BMcl) was a late spring vagrant.

A Tennessee Warbler on Pt. Loma June 10 (REW) was a late spring vagrant. A Nashville Warbler at Green Valley Campground in the San Bernardino Mts., July 11 (BED) was in an area where breeding has long been suspected, but is yet to be proven. A ♂ N. Parula in Valyermo June 15 (JKA) was probably a late spring vagrant, but a pair at S.K.R.P., July 6 (SAL) may well have been summering. A Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler at California City July 3 (SAL) was most unusual considering the time of the year. A ♂ Black-and-white Warbler in Charmlee P., Santa Monica Mts., June 23 (KLG) was a summer straggler. An Am. Redstart that came aboard a boat off Cambria June 12 (JMcD) was clearly a late spring vagrant, as was a N. Waterthrush at Oasis June 16 (PJM). Up to six territorial MacGillivray's Warblers around Lopez L., San Luis Obispo Co., during May and June (CM) were at the species' s. limit of the breeding range along the coast; a pair in the Tehachapi Mts., July 15-16

(AK) were the first to have been found in this area in summer, and a juvenile at Humber P. in the San Jacinto Mts., July 20 (AK) indicated nesting at that locality. Up to three ad. Wilson's Warblers along with at least three juveniles near Carpinteria during June and July (LRB) suggested renewed breeding in an area where considered extirpated as a nester. A Painted Redstart at 6500 ft along Wildhorse Cr. in the San Bernardino Mts., June 23 (H & PB) added one more record to the ever-increasing number of sightings from s. California mountains in summer.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — A pair of Hepatic Tanagers again successfully nested along the upper portion of Arastre Cr. in the San Bernardino Mts. (EAC), and a female at Lower Shake Campground w. of L. Hughes June 8 (KLG) was in suitable nesting habitat, but was never refound on later dates. Thirty-five singing ♂ Summer Tanagers at S.K.R.P. (SAL), three at Valyermo (H & PB), a pair at Castaic Junction (KS), a pair at Yucca Valley (RMCK), 4 pairs at Morongo Valley (RMCK), 3 pairs in Whitewater Canyon (DH), and 5 pairs in the area of San Geronio Pass (RMCK) marked the w. limit of this species' breeding range in s. California; a male in Santa Barbara July 15-Aug. 4 (CB), a female in the Santa Monica Mts., July 12 (KLG), and a male and female on Pt. Loma June 15-16 (BLaB) were summer wanderers, probably of the e. race *rubra*. Two pairs of N. Cardinals along the Colorado R. at the San Bernardino/Riverside Co. line between April and July (JML, RAE) were believed to be the only ones now in California. Seven ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks found in various areas of s. California in June and July were more than usual for this time of year. Thirteen singing Indigo Buntings were located on the S.K.R.P. in June and July (SAL), indicating a healthy breeding population exists in this area; a singing male in the Prado Basin, Riverside Co., July 2 (RAE) was the only other one reported.

Two singing Rufous-crowned Sparrows in the Coxcomb Mts. of Joshua Tree N.M. in May (RMCK) were in an area where previously unrecorded, and were thought to be of the race *scottii*. A pair of Lincoln's Sparrows in the San Jacinto Mts., July 20 (AK) indicated this species continues to breed this far south. Great-tailed Grackles continued to spread W with a male at Whittier Narrows, Los Angeles Co., June 30 (MCL). A ♀ Bronzed Cowbird in Niland June 1-2 (BED), a male at Brock Ranch June 15 (JO), and a male in Brawley July 1 (RAE) were all in Imperial County w. of the Colorado R. valley. Up to two Red Crossbills, stragglers from last winter, remained in Long Beach through June and July (BED). A Pine Siskin at Los Osos June 9 (GPS) was in an area where breeding has long been suspected but has yet to be proven. Two Evening Grosbeaks at S.K.R.P., June 26 (SAL) came as a surprise considering the time of year.

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