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A lingering Oldsquaw at Salton City, Cal., Apr. 26, 1987. Photo/Robert McKernan.

ber 1985 was still present Apr. 11 (LRH). A ♀ Oldsquaw, casual inland, was on the Salton Sea at Salton City Apr. 26–May 17 (RMck). The only Surf Scoters found inland were 40 together on L. Henshaw in the mountains of San Diego County Apr. 4 (GMck). A ♀ Hooded Merganser at F.C.R., Mar. 28–29 (DRW) was late and at an unusual locality.

HAWKS, GROUSE — A Black-shouldered Kite near Ramer L. in the Imperial Valley s. of the Salton Sea May 23 (HK) was exceptional for this date. A N. Goshawk near Schulman Grove in the White Mts., Inyo Co., Mar. 25 (DAH) is assumed to have been a wanderer, since nesting is unreported from this mountain range. A Red-shouldered Hawk in California City May 21–25 (PEL) was at an unusual locality. A Broad-winged Hawk, exceptionally rare in spring, was in Corona, Riverside Co., Apr. 21 (RMck). Far more than the average (in recent years) number of migrant Swainson's Hawks were reported this spring with about 60 seen at numerous localities throughout the Region between Mar. 20 and May 27, including 12 over Mid Hills in e. San Bernardino County Apr. 11 (RMck), eight over Kelso, San Bernardino Co., Apr. 12 (RMck), eight near San Bernardino Apr. 29 (CMcG), and seven near Borrego Springs Apr. 4 (DMck), along with single birds along the immediate coast over Irvine Apr. 6, 8, & 10 (RRV), near Anaheim Apr. 11 (DRW), near Santa Maria, Santa Barbara Co., Mar. 22–29 (AA), and over Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo Co., May 26 (BS). A Ferruginous Hawk at Deep Springs May 16 (GMck) was exceptionally late, and a Merlin in San Luis Obispo Apr. 20 (KH) was one of the latest ever seen in s. California.

Very few Sage Grouse have been reported in this Region, s. California being too far south; hence two to three near Sierra View in the White Mts., Inyo Co., Mar. 25 (DAH) were of interest, and probably indicate the s. extreme of the species' present-day range.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS — Single Solitary Sandpipers, normally rare in spring, were in Anaheim Apr. 23 (DRW), at Finney L. near S.E.S.S., May 9 (EAC), near Riverside Apr. 11 (EAC), in Victorville Apr. 12–25 (SJM), at F.C.R., Apr. 14 (BED), and on the Kern N.W.R., Apr. 18 (RS). A Wandering Tattler, casual inland, was at Salton City May 9–17 (SEF). Concentrations of 225 Whimbrels at Lancaster Apr. 5 (KLG) and 500 there Apr. 16 (NBB) indicated the peak migration period for this species passing through s. California, and one at F.C.R., Apr. 15 (BED) was at an unusual locality. Four Ruddy Turnstones at Salton City Apr. 25 (GMck) made the largest number found on the Salton Sea this spring, and 60 Red Knots at the same location on the same day were fewer than expected. The only Semipalmated Sandpipers found this spring were two at N.E.S.S., May 2 (RMck), another there May 9 (JO'B), and a 4th at S.E.S.S., May 17 (JML). A Baird's Sandpiper, very rare in spring, was at F.C.R., Mar. 29 (DRW) and two more were on

the Tulare L. Drainage District Evaporation Ponds, Kern Co., Apr. 5 (JCW). Stilt Sandpipers were continuously present at S.E.S.S. through May 14 with an amazing 400+ there May 9 (EAC).

With only one spring record of a Long-tailed Jaeger for s. California it is significant to learn of one off San Clemente I., May 1 (RRV) and four more off Pt. Conception May 11 (RRV); however, these were eclipsed by the full-tailed adult at N.E.S.S., May 23 (RMck) seen to fly N up the Coachella Valley. A S. Polar Skua at the Tanner Bank off San Clemente I., May 5 (RRV) and another off Morro Bay May 13 (RRV) were the only ones reported. A Franklin's Gull at F.C.R., Apr. 14 (BED) and another on San Diego Bay May 7 (EC) were the only ones found. An imm. Little Gull at N.E.S.S., Apr. 18–May 9 (GMck) was the 13th to be found in s. California. An ad. Mew Gull at N.E.S.S., May 24 (HK) was unusually late, and inland. One of the two ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** that wintered at S.E.S.S. was still present Mar. 1 (REW), and a 2nd-year bird was seen there May 9 (GH). A Glaucous-winged Gull at S.E.S.S., May 2 (RMck) was inland. An imm. Glaucous Gull at the mouth of the Santa Ynez R., May 18 (AA) was exceptionally late, and another at N.E.S.S., Apr. 14–May 24 (CMcG) was also inland. The only Sabine's Gulls reported were single birds off San Clemente I., May 1 (RRV) and off Morro Bay May 13 (RRV).

Up to five Gull-billed Terns were present on s. San Diego Bay Apr. 6+ (MO), and it would appear that it will not be long before this species starts nesting in this area. The first Elegant Terns of this spring were back in San Diego Mar. 7 (REW), with some progressing N along the coast earlier than normal, as indicated by 18 at Pt. Dume Apr. 12 (KLG) and two in Goleta Apr. 11 (TEW). An ad. **Sandwich Tern**, undoubtedly the same bird seen off and on in spring since 1980, and the only one ever to be seen on the w. coast of North America n. of Mexico, was in the San Diego area Apr. 18–May 16 (BF). Four Arctic Terns off San Clemente I., May 1 (RRV) were early, 10 off Morro Bay May 12 (RRV) made a large concentration for spring, and one at N.E.S.S., June 3 (GMck) was inland. A Least Tern seen between Santa Barbara I. and Santa Catalina I., May 10 (BED) was of interest because this species is unrecorded on the Channel Is.; two at Tecopa, Inyo Co., May 31 (JT) were far inland, but one to two were at this very location exactly one year earlier. Two Black Skimmers flying N along the coast at Cayucos May 31 (TME) were unusually far north. An Ancient Murrelet at N.E.S.S., May 23 (RMck) was only the 3rd ever to be found inland in s. California, but the 2nd at this location.

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A White-winged Dove on Pt. Loma in San Diego May 16 (CGE) was the only one found along the coast this spring. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo in the Prado Basin, Riverside Co., June 3 (RZ) was the earliest this spring, illustrating just how late in spring this species reaches California. Migrant Black Swifts, normally rarely seen, were reported from throughout the Region between May 17 & 30. As expected, most were found along the coast, being seen in all coastal counties, with up to 200 over Pt. Loma May 27–28 (MR, REW) and 20 over Oceano S.P., May 30 (TME) being the largest concentrations. Farther inland, 20 were near Saugus, Los Angeles Co., May 29 (MAP) and four were over the Prado Basin May 20 (LRH); in the e. part of the Region, where very few indeed have ever been reported, single birds were seen at N.E.S.S., May 25 (HK), at California City May 27 (JCW), over F.C.R., May 22 (JLD), and near Lone Pine May 21 (REW). Up to four Chimney Swifts returned to downtown Los Angeles, where small numbers have been present each of the past 3 summers, earlier than before, with the first seen and heard Apr. 30 (KLG). It appears this species may be establishing itself as a breeding bird in the Owens Valley e. of the Sierra Nevada, with two over Bishop May 25 (DR), up to five in Big Pine May 16+ (BED), and as many as seven over Independence May 25–26 (DR). Vagrant Chimney Swifts away from possible breeding localities included one in Goleta May 26 (CDB), two near Santa Maria May 24 (BS), another at Oso Flaco L., San

Luis Obispo Co., May 28 (PEL), and one inland at F.C.R., May 26 (DR). Two Vaux's Swifts over Goleta May 26 (PEL) were unusually late. A **Violet-crowned Hummingbird** in the lower portions of Bouquet Canyon near Saugus, Los Angeles Co., May 25-29 (LLV) was the 2nd ever to be found in California. An Acorn Woodpecker on Pt. Loma Apr. 25-30 (REW) was away from its normal range and habitat, and a Gila Woodpecker near Mecca at N.E.S.S., May 24 (HG) was only the 2nd ever to be found in the Coachella Valley. A Downy Woodpecker near Imperial Beach May 2 (HLJ) was s. of the known s. limit of the species' breeding range.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS—The Greater Pewee that spent the winter in San Diego was last seen Mar. 28 (B & IM). A territorial Willow Flycatcher in the Prado Basin Apr. 29 (LRH) was the first noted this spring. The only E. Kingbirds found were one at Oasis May 18 (BED) and another at Mesquite Springs at the n. end of Death Valley the same day (BED). A Purple Martin at California City May 25 (CM) and two at Mojave June 3 (MOC) were in an area where considered rare. A Brown Creeper in Mojave May 15-17 (NBB) was exceptionally late for such a locality. A Winter Wren in Kelso Apr. 12 (RMCK) was unexpected at this late date, as was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Butterbrecht Springs, located in the dry foothills of the s. Sierra Nevada n. of California City May 24-25 (JLD). A Townsend's Solitaire in Laguna Beach May 31 (HLJ) was the latest ever for the coast of s. California. A pale Hermit Thrush of the *sequoiensis/auduboni* complex near Bombay Beach, Imperial Co., May 22 (HK) and another at Butterbrecht Springs May 24 (JLD) were both unusually late migrants. A Gray Catbird, considered casual to accidental in California, was at Oasis May 24 (PJM), another was at the same location May 30 (CM), and a 3rd was photographed in Mojave June 5 (RS). A Brown Thrasher, a very rare to casual straggler to California, was at Deep Springs May 22 (REW) and another was at Panamint Springs, Inyo Co., May 23 (JLD). What was probably a Curve-billed Thrasher was seen at Ft. Piute in extreme e. San Bernardino Co., May 16 (BB); this species is known to breed less than 100 mi e. of Ft. Piute, and stragglers have previously made it to the Colorado R. valley, although mostly in fall and winter. However, the similar Bendire's Thrasher breeds in the immediate vicinity of Ft. Piute and is therefore more likely to occur at that location.

A **White-eyed Vireo** at Deep Springs May 21 (CDB) was only the 7th ever to be found in s. California, the previous six all having appeared in spring. Two Bell's Vireos at Butterbrecht Springs May 8-9 (JCW) and another in nearby Jawbone Canyon May 10 (PEL) were far from areas of known occurrence. A Solitary Vireo of the gray plumbeus race in Goleta Apr. 16-21 (PEL) was only the 2nd to be found in Santa Barbara County during spring migration, but this form is expanding its breeding range W into California, as well as occurring as a very rare winter visitor in extreme s. California; hence, it can be expected to occur with increasing frequency throughout s. California during periods of migration. A Yellow-throated Vireo, a casual straggler to California, was in Goleta Apr. 30 (CDB). A Hutton's Vireo at Butterbrecht Springs May 8 (JCW) was well away from its normal range.

WOOD WARBLERS—This was an exciting spring for those many California birders who invest much time each year searching for vagrant warblers at desert oases and at chosen localities along the coast. All 11 of the expected w. species were encountered in better than expected numbers both along the coast and inland, and an additional 26 species considered local breeders, rare migrants, or stragglers were reported, for a total of 37 species in all, leaving only nine species on the California State List unreported!

A **Blue-winged Warbler** at Butterbrecht Springs May 9 (MOC) was followed by a female there May 29-30 (JLD) bringing the total number now found in s. California to 10. A **Golden-winged Warbler**, about the 25th to be found in s. California, was at Oasis May 23 (PJM) and another was accom-



Golden-winged Warbler at Butterbrecht Springs, Cal., May 30, 1987. This male Golden-winged was associating with the female Blue-winged present on the same date. Photo/Larry Sansone.

panying the Blue-winged Warbler at Butterbrecht Springs May 29-30 (JCW), stimulating talk of possible "Brewster's Warblers." Seven Tennessee Warblers were fewer than expected, but included an exceptionally early male in breeding plumage at Morongo Valley Apr. 2 (MAP) and another earlier than expected individual in Santa Barbara Apr. 14 (PEL), both of which may have wintered along the w. coast. A **Lucy's Warbler** at Oasis was a little n. of the species' normal range. Northern Parulas were more numerous than usual with 17 reported between Apr. 20 and June 13, most of which were inland. The only Chestnut-sided Warblers found were a female at Oasis May 25 (REW) and a male in California City May 30 (JML). Four Magnolia Warblers were seen with single males in Mojave May 10 (SEF), at Butterbrecht Springs May 11 (SE), at Oasis May 25 (REW), and in the Saline Valley May 25 (LS). A **Cape May Warbler**, a casual spring vagrant, was on Pt. Loma May 30-31 (BF). A **Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler** at F.C.R., May 27 (BED) was late. A **Black-throated Green Warbler** photographed near San Diego June 7 (LW) was only the 9th to be found in s. California in spring. A **Yellow-throated Warbler**, another casual spring vagrant, was in California City May 14 (NBB). A **Grace's Warbler** in Ventura Mar. 14-Apr. 4 (RJM) had undoubtedly wintered locally, but was a different bird from that known to have spent the past 3 winters there, being more than a mile from where that bird winters.



Yellow-throated Warbler at California City, Cal., May 14, 1987. Photo/Larry Sansone.

A ♂ Pine Warbler in Torrey Pines S.P. near San Diego June 5–6 (JO'B) was only the 3rd ever found in California in spring. Two wintering Palm Warblers remained in Orange County through Mar. 7 (DRW) and another remained at Morro Bay through Apr. 19 (GPS); five together at Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co., Mar. 23 (RJM) and another near Imperial Beach Apr. 19 (RM) had most likely wintered locally, but one on Pt. Loma Apr. 26 (PEL) was with a group of w. migrants. The only Bay-breasted Warbler found was a male at Thousand Palms Oasis May 23 (RMCK). Nineteen Black-and-white Warblers and 21 Am. Redstarts were about average numbers. Three Prothonotary Warblers were found, with a male at Butterbrecht Springs May 10 (PEL), a female in nearby California City May 28 (AS), and the 3rd on the coast in Oceano May 28 (VP), and two Worm-eating Warblers were found with one in Morongo Valley Apr. 30 (NBB) and the other at Butterbrecht Springs May 10 (PEL). Ten Ovenbirds between May 9 and June 3 were more than normal, but six N. Waterthrushes between Apr. 30 and May 22 were fewer than expected. Totally unprecedented was the occurrence of 11 Kentucky Warblers with single males in Morongo Valley May 17 (DRW) & 24 (DG), a male at Galileo Hills near California City May 15 (JCW), a male in Mojave May 10 (SEF), a male at Butterbrecht Springs May 27–29 (JSR), a male near Weldon May 16 (WCH), a male at F.C.R., May 30 (MAP), a male at Deep Springs May 25–27 (MJL), a female at Oasis May 25 (BLaB) followed by a male there May 27 (JML), and a male along the coast on Pt. Loma May 5–7 (REW), this doubling the number of spring occurrences in s. California. A ♂ Mourning Warbler at F.C.R., May 25 (GT) was the 7th to be found in s. California in spring. Six Hooded Warblers were reported, with single females in California City May 16 (JML) & 26 (BED) and at F.C.R., May 25 (GT), and males in Goleta May 16 (PEL), Lompoc May 30 (DF), and Cambria June 7 (PEL). A ♀ Canada Warbler in Morongo Valley May 24 (MMT) was only the 7th to be found in s. California in spring. Single Painted Redstarts, casual spring stragglers to California, were in Morongo Valley Apr. 30 (NBB) and May 9 (BAC) and at Ft. Piute May 23 (LS).



Evening Grosbeak at Montana de Oro S.P., Cal., May 9, 1987. Photo/Karen A. Havlena.

TANAGERS THROUGH SPARROWS—The ♀ Hepatic Tanager that wintered in Irvine remained through Apr. 13 (DRW). Seven Summer Tanagers along the coast between Apr. 27 and June 7 along with nine more at desert oases between May 14 & 31 were about average, all of these birds suspected to be of the race *rubra* straggling from the East rather than birds of the w. race *cooperi*. A ♀ Scarlet Tanager in Coronado, San Diego Co., May 7 (EC) was one of a very few to be found in California in spring. A pair of N. Cardinals along the Colorado R. near Vidal Apr. 15 (BED) was in the very limited area within California still supporting this species. Eight Rose-breasted Grosbeaks during May were far fewer than normal, but 35± Indigo Buntings during the same period were above average with an early male seen at Vallecito, e. San Diego Co., Apr. 15 (BA). A ♂ Painted Bunting at Scotty's Castle May 22 (PEL) was only the 2nd to be found in s. California in spring. A Dickcissel

at Oasis May 25 (PJM) and another in Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo Co., June 8 (MCB) were the only ones found this spring. A Clay-colored Sparrow, most unusual in spring, was at Ramer L. near S.E.S.S., May 9 (EAC) and another was photographed in California City May 10 (JCW). A Black-chinned Sparrow in Bow Willow Canyon, e. San Diego Co., Mar. 15 (SM) was exceptionally early if it had not wintered locally. A Black-throated Sparrow in Crystal Cove S.P., Apr. 7 (NK) was on the coast where considered casual. A Grasshopper Sparrow in Goleta Apr. 29 (JLD) was clearly a migrant. A Swamp Sparrow at Butterbrecht Springs May 14–18 (AS) and another at Mesquite Springs at the n. end of Death Valley May 18 (BED) were both late vagrants. A Golden-crowned Sparrow at Butterbrecht Springs May 28 (JLD) and a White-crowned Sparrow in Mojave June 5 were both exceptionally late. A Harris' Sparrow, rare in spring, was on Pt. Loma Apr. 14–26 (B & IM) and another was at Oasis May 23 (PJM). A Lapland Longspur in San Diego Mar. 21 (JW), another near Oxnard Mar. 22 (JSR), and up to five near Lakeview Apr. 25–28 (AMC) were all unusually late for s. California.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES—The only Bobolink reported was a male at F.C.R., May 23–24 (JML). Great-tailed Grackles continue to be found along the coast with one near Imperial Beach Apr. 17–May 10 (GD), one at the upper end of Newport Bay Jan. 4–Apr. 25 (HLJ), and two more in nearby Balboa Mar. 20–Apr. 9 (JE). Two Com. Grackles, casual stragglers to California, were at Oasis May 24 (CDB). The ♂ Bronzed Cowbird found wintering near Oceanside remained through at least Apr. 21 (JR). Two of the three Orchard Orioles that spent the winter in the Newport-Irvine area remained through Mar. 23 (RRV), but none was found during the late May-early June period. The only N. (Baltimore) Oriole reported was a male in Oceano May 7 (CM). A ♂ Scott's Oriole in the Bitterwater Valley of e. San Luis Obispo County in May (JLD) was somewhat n.w. of the species' normal range, and another in San Diego May 11 (REW) was on the coast where rare. Three Purple Finches in California City Apr. 17 (RS) were at an unusual locality. Up to 15 Red Crossbills on Mt. Pinos in March (JCW, NBB) were the only ones reported. Small numbers of Evening Grosbeaks moved through the desert areas of the n.e. portion of the Region during May as indicated by two in California City May 9 (NBB) along with single birds in Palmdale May 16 (KLG), F.C.R., May 16 (BED), Deep Springs May 22–23 (PJM), and Oasis May 24 (PJM), and one was photographed on the coast in Montana de Oro S.P., May 9 (EVJ).

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