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Scotty's Castle May 20 (MAP) and 150 Wilson's Warblers in California City May 13 (MAP).

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Guy McCaskie



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Clara River Estuary near Ventura, Ventura Co.; S.D.N.H.M. = San Diego Natural History Museum; S.E.S.S. = south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial County. Place names in *italics* are counties. 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 with the California Bird Records Committee (c/o Don Roberson, 282 Grove Acre, Pacific Grove, CA 93950) for all rarities listed in this report, and records submitted without documentation are not published.

LOONS TO STORKS—A winter-plumaged Red-throated Loon, exceptionally rare far inland, was at Desert Center, Riverside, May 20 (KR). A Pacific Loon on L. Isabella, Kern, Mar. 4 (MOC) had probably spent the winter on this large inland body of water, and was the only one reported inland. A Com. Loon inland at Desert Center May 20 (KR) and another near China Lake, Kern, May 28 (MTH) were late and at unusual localities. Six Horned Grebes at S.E.S.S. Apr. 23 (RMCK) were undoubtedly spring migrants moving northward from the Gulf of California, and another in breeding plumage on Diaz L., Inyo, Apr. 2 (JD) was also clearly on the move.

A Black-footed Albatross 14 mi s.w. of Newport Beach May 30 (JSL) was one of a very few ever sighted off Orange, and another 3 mi off San Diego May 20 (JO'B) was exceptionally close to shore. A Laysan Albatross at 33°10'N–121°10'W on Apr. 26 (BR) was the closest to shore of three encountered off s. California during a scientific survey between Apr. 16 & 30. A N. Fulmar about 90 mi s.w. of Pt. Conception, Santa Barbara, Apr. 27 (BR) was the only one encountered during 2 weeks at sea off s. California, clearly showing that virtually all present during the winter had departed by this time. A **Murphy's Petrel** was at 33°10'–121°30'W on Apr. 26 (BR) and another was at 34°00'N–123°10'W on Apr. 29 (BR), adding to the ever-increasing number of sightings of this species off California. A dark *Pterodroma* showing white shafts on the upper sides of the primaries at 32°10'N–123°30'W on Apr. 25 (BR) was felt to be a dark morph Kermadec Petrel (*Pterodroma neglecta*), indicating observers fortunate enough to spend time far off our coast should keep an open mind as to what may be occurring in these waters. Fourteen Cook's Petrels in the area of 32°00'N–123°00'W Apr. 24–25 (BR) were in an area where this species undoubtedly occurs regularly. A Sooty Shearwater flying across Interstate 10 near Indio, Riverside, Apr. 28 (PLN, DSS) must have been a startling sight; it was only the 3rd ever found inland in California, the other two having been on the nearby Salton Sea. A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, very rare in s. California waters, was at 32°15'N–121°50'W on Apr. 24 (BR).

Two Brown Pelicans at the N.E.S.S. Apr. 15 (MAP) and eight at various points around the Salton Sea Apr. 29 (MAP) had probably spent the winter on the Salton Sea. An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird over Upper Newport Bay, Orange, Apr. 20 (BeF), and what may well have been the same bird photographed off San Diego Apr. 23 (BAr), was most unusual considering the time of year. At least six Little Blue Herons were present around San Diego throughout the period (EC) but the species went unreported from elsewhere in the Region. A Tricolored Heron photographed at S.E.S.S. Apr. 17 (RSt) was one of a very few ever found in that area. The imm. Reddish Egret initially found at the mouth of the San Diego R. Nov. 20 was still present at the end of the period (BoF) and appeared to be attempting to summer. The ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron present in La Jolla and on nearby San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego, off and on since October of 1981 was present with nesting Black-crowned Night-Herons in La Jolla after Apr. 26 (GS). Two Wood Storks, very rare away from the S.E.S.S., near Escondido, San Diego, after May 31 (NC) appeared to be attempting to nest.

WATERFOWL TO RAILS—A flock of 25 Greater White-fronted Geese at Pt. Mugu, Ventura, Mar. 15 (RJM) was a large number for the coast, and single birds in San Luis

Obispo Apr. 14 (MH) and at N.E.S.S. Apr. 15 (MAP) were a little late. As usual a few Brant appeared on the Salton Sea in April, with 200 at N.E.S.S. Apr. 23 (MAP); four on L. Palmdale near Palmdale, Los Angeles, Mar. 25 (MTH) were the only ones found away from the Salton Sea. A ♂ Eurasian Green-winged Teal was present in Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, Mar. 31–Apr. 16 (BAI) and another was seen at S.E.S.S. Apr. 17 (RSt), this form being a very rare but regular straggler to California. The latest of the wintering Eur. Wigeon was one at the mouth of the San Diego R. Apr. 1 (MBS). An Oldsquaw in Santa Barbara Apr. 2 (SEF) was the latest reported this spring. Two Black Scoters off El Segundo, Los Angeles, Mar. 16 (JKA), one off Newport Beach Mar. 25 (CH), and another off Crystal Cove S.P., Orange, Apr. 16 (MTH) were the only ones found in the Region. Seventeen Surf Scoters were found at various points around the Salton Sea Apr. 15 (MAP) with at least 10 individuals still present at the end of the period, but one in Ridgecrest, Kern, Apr. 22 (DVB) and another in the Fremont Valley, Kern, May 19–24 (JWi) were the only two found inland away from the Salton Sea. A White-winged Scoter at N.E.S.S. Apr. 15 (MAP) was still present at the end of the period, and up to 9000 along the coast off Vandenberg A.F.B. in early March (KH) made an exceptional concentration for s. California. A Hooded Merganser in the Fremont Valley May 24 (MTH) was exceptionally late.

A first-summer Mississippi Kite in Huntington Beach June 5–11 (JP) was the first to be found in Orange, and one of a very few ever found along the coast of California. A N. Goshawk on Pine Mt., Ventura, Apr. 21 (RJM) was in an area where this species may eventually be found nesting. Swainson's Hawks may have been on the move earlier than usual as indicated by the presence of nine near El Centro, Imperial, Mar. 4 (GMCC) and two more near Escondido, San Diego, Mar. 5 (JSc), with small numbers found scattered throughout the Region during April, including six along the coast near San Diego Apr. 4 (GMCC) and a flock of 30 near Lost Hills, Kern, Apr. 9 (GMCC); an exceptionally late bird on the Carrizo Plain, San Luis Obispo, June 3 (GPS) may have been attempting to summer. A Ferruginous Hawk over the Carrizo Plain May 21 (GPS) was exceptionally late, and a Rough-legged Hawk at Oasis, Mono, Apr. 1 (GMCC) was the latest this year. Two Merlins in Ojai, Ventura, Apr. 14 (RJM) and a pale bird of the interior race *richardsonii* at N.E.S.S. Apr. 15 (MAP) were all quite late for s. California.

A bird flushed from *Salicornia* marsh in Upper Newport Bay Apr. 12 (HEC) was identified as a Yellow Rail but could never be refound despite much searching; this species has been found on only 5 or 6 occasions in s. California, although one of these was a bird collected at this locality on Dec. 12, 1896 (Condor 13:108, 1911). A Sora in California City, Kern, May 15 (MAP) and another at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley, Inyo, May 29 (MAP) were at unusual localities.

SHOREBIRDS—A flock of 120 Black-bellied Plovers near Lancaster, Los Angeles, Apr. 8 (MTH) was a large number for such an area. A Lesser Golden-Plover believed to be of the Pacific form *fulva* at S.E.S.S. Apr. 23 (NW) was inland, and a *fulva* at the Santa Maria R. mouth May 21 (BS) was the only migrant of that form reported from along the coast, although eight wintering *fulva* were still present in Seal Beach, Orange, May 2 (NBB). A Black Oystercatcher in Goleta, Santa Barbara, Apr. 10 (HK) was at an unusual locality. A stunning **Spotted Redshank** photographed near Oceanside May 19–23 (ED) was the 5th ever found in California. Since Solitary Sandpipers are quite rare in spring, four together at Desert Center Apr. 12 (PEL), one at Galileo Hills, Kern, Apr. 22 (RSa), and another on Nacimiento L., San Luis Obispo, Apr. 16–22 (TB) were of interest. A Wandering Tattler, very rare to casual inland, was at Salton City, Imperial, May 14 (KR), and another was at the same place May 28 (AME).

Ninety-eight Whimbrels near Chino, San Bernardino, Apr. 9 (MAP) and 1500 near Lancaster Apr. 27 (NBB) were large



Solitary Sandpiper at Galileo Hill, California, April 22, 1989. Photograph/Rick Saval.

concentrations for such areas. The only Ruddy Turnstones reported from inland were 11 found by 2 parties surveying shorebirds on the Salton Sea Apr. 23 (RMCK) and four more in Salton City May 14 (KR). Three Black Turnstones, much rarer inland than the previous species, were at N.E.S.S. Apr. 23 (MAP) along with one more at Salton City the same day (CMCG). Five Surfbirds, also exceptionally rare inland, were at N.E.S.S. Apr. 23 (MAP). Red Knots reached peak numbers on the Salton Sea on Apr. 23 when 582 were counted by 4 parties surveying shorebirds; one at N.E.S.S. May 27 (GMCC) was a little late.

Single Sanderlings on Edwards A.F.B. Apr. 22 (MTH) and near China Lake, Kern, May 7 (DVB), and two more near Lancaster May 11 (JKA), were the only ones found inland away from the Salton Sea. The only Semipalmated Sandpipers reported this spring were one in the Fremont Valley May 19 (MTH) and another near Lancaster May 7 (MAP). An exceptionally early Baird's Sandpiper, casual in spring, was near Lancaster Mar. 3 (KLG) and another was at S.C.R.E. Apr. 30 (JSR). Two Pectoral Sandpipers, equally rare in spring, were in Irvine Apr. 16 (BED), and additional birds were at Malibu Lagoon, Los Angeles, Mar. 7 (BE), the S.C.R.E. Apr. 7 (RJM), and at nearby Pt. Mugu Apr. 9 (REW). Concentrations of 3413 Short-billed Dowitchers on the Salton Sea and 90 at Harper Dry Lake, San Bernardino, on Apr. 23 (RMCK, EAC) were high numbers for inland localities, and indicated this to be the peak time for the spring movement through s. California.

SKUAS TO SKIMMER — A S. Polar Skua, regular in s. California waters in late May, was 23 mi west of Oceanside May 21 (JO'B). A Laughing Gull near Imperial Beach May 25 (NW) was along the coast where the species is only a casual straggler, and two at S.E.S.S. May 27 (GMCC) were early for this area. Up to 15 Franklin's Gulls near Lancaster Apr. 30–May 15 (RCR) represented an unusually large concentration for anywhere in California, but up to eight near China Lake between Apr. 13 & 30 (DVB), another there June 4 (MTH), two more at S.E.S.S. Apr. 29 (PLN), one at Bolsa Chica, Orange, May 14 (MW), and another photographed in Goleta May 10 (AB) were also reported during the period. Two ad. Heermann's Gulls, very rare to casual inland, were off Salton City May 28 (RMCK). A first-summer-plumaged Thayer's Gull at N.E.S.S. Apr. 15 (MAP) was the only one to be found inland. Three Sabine's Gulls, casual to accidental inland in spring, were near Lancaster Apr. 21 (BE).

Up to five Gull-billed Terns were present after Apr. 7 on s. San Diego Bay (EC), where the species has nested each of the past 2 summers. A Caspian Tern at F.C.R. May 28 (MAP) was at an unusual locality. An Elegant Tern, only the 4th ever to be found inland in s. California, was foraging with a mixed flock of gulls and terns off Salton City May 28 (RMCK). A Com.

Tern in San Diego Mar. 19 (GMCC) had probably wintered nearby, since the date is almost a month earlier than normal for the first of the spring migrants. An Arctic Tern, casual inland, was near China Lake June 3–4 (MTH) and two more were near Lancaster June 10 (RRV). A Least Tern near Lancaster May 20 (EK) was one of very few indeed to be found inland away from the Salton Sea. Two Black Skimmers on n. Vandenberg A.F.B. May 17 (KH) were the northernmost to be found this spring.

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS — A White-winged Dove, most unusual along the coast in spring, was at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego, May 19 (RP) and another was near Santa Barbara May 27 (SB); one in Ridgecrest May 8 (DM) was a little to the n.w. of the species' normal range. An Inca Dove that spent the winter at F.C.R. was last seen there Apr. 2 (GMCC). A migrant Yellow-billed Cuckoo was encountered in Yucca Valley, San Bernardino, June 3 (DRW) and one in the Prado Basin, Riverside, May 29 (LRH) was the first to arrive at this known nesting locality. A Flammulated Owl on Big Pine Mt. Apr. 21 (JSc) was the first to be found in Santa Barbara. The presence of a Short-eared Owl near Morro Bay May 23 (PMCK) suggested the bird might be nesting locally. Five Com. Nighthawks over Big Pine, Inyo, May 20 (GMCC) gave us the earliest date for spring arrival of this species in s. California.

A Black Swift near Imperial Beach May 14 (RT), six over Newbury Park, Ventura, May 13 (KLG), one over Santa Barbara May 13 (DPe), and another over Goleta May 14 (HPR) were the only spring migrants reported this year. A Chimney Swift was at F.C.R. May 24 (JD), and a recently-dead one was found at Deep Springs, Inyo, May 27 (SEF, *S.B.C.M.). A ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird near Santa Barbara Mar. 19 (JH) was unusually early for the coast. Calliope Hummingbirds were more numerous than usual along the coast, as indicated by the presence of 15 on Pt. Loma, San Diego, Apr. 30 (JO); single birds at F.C.R. May 14 (MAP) and at Harper Dry Lake May 24 (KB) were late and at unusual localities. The Red-headed Woodpecker found in Goleta Sept. 14 was last seen Apr. 23 (JEL). An Acorn Woodpecker in the Fremont Valley June 2–3 (JW) was far from its normal range.

FLYCATCHERS TO SHRIKES — A W. Wood-Pewee at Whale Rock Res., San Luis Obispo, Apr. 8 (GPS) was a little early, and the bulk of these birds passed through the Region in late May as indicated by counts such as 70+ at Harper Dry Lake May 24 (EAC) and 250 at Oasis June 3 (MAP). A Willow Flycatcher in the Prado Basin May 4 (DRW) was a bird returning to a known nesting locality; however, the bulk of this species appear much later, this being the commonly encountered Empidonax at desert oases in very late May and early June, with 42 still present in e. Kern June 10 (MTH). An E. Phoebe, most unusual in spring, was well described from Agua Caliente Springs in e. San Diego Apr. 18 (D & MH). A ♀ Vermilion Flycatcher in Puma Valley, San Diego, Apr. 14 (DR), a male at Holiday L. in the Antelope Valley, Los Angeles, Mar. 26–Apr. 2 (KLG), and another male at Harper Dry Lake May 24 (GH) were all at unusual localities. A Tropical Kingbird, casual in spring and accidental in the interior, was at F.C.R. May 28–29 (GT) for the first record for this well-worked oasis. As expected a few E. Kingbirds appeared along the e. border of the Region as indicated by single birds at F.C.R. May 29 (TEW) and June 3 (REW), another near China Lake June 3–4 (MTH), and a 4th near Niland, Imperial, June 3 (RMCK), and one was along the coast in Fountain Valley, Orange, June 12 (JP). A Purple Martin on Edwards A.F.B. Mar. 25 (MTH) was early, and single individuals at Harper Dry Lake May 24 (GH), Galileo Hills May 6 (MOC), over the Fremont Valley May 23 (MTH), and at F.C.R. June 3 (BED) were all at unusual localities. Fifty Bank Swallows near Lancaster Apr. 26 (KLG) represented an exceptionally large number for anywhere in s. California.

A Winter Wren in Nine Mile Canyon, Inyo, Mar. 17 (DVB)

was in an area where the species is considered rare. A Townsend's Solitaire in Placerita Canyon, Los Angeles, Apr. 19 (BE) was at an unusual locality. Swainson's Thrushes pushed through the Region in large numbers during the first half of May as indicated by such concentrations as 50 in Morongo Valley, San Bernardino, May 8 (EAC). A Wrentit, normally considered totally resident, was outside the species' known range in Morongo Valley Mar. 11 (CMcG). A Brown Thrasher, a casual straggler to California, was in Mojave, Kern, May 13-14 (MTH) and another was seen briefly in Morongo Valley May 7(KR). A Bendire's Thrasher found in the Chocolate Mts., Riverside, Feb. 14 (RMcK) was probably a spring migrant considering how early this species is known to move, and a territorial male in Joshua Tree N.M., Riverside, after Apr. 22 (LRH) was near the western edge of the species' known breeding range. An American Pipit on Edwards A.F.B. May 27 (DVB) was late. The N. Shrike present at China Lake since Dec. 9 was last seen Mar. 14 (RH).

WOOD WARBLERS — A Tennessee Warbler in Goleta Mar. 27 (TEW) had probably spent the winter locally, and 17 were encountered at various localities within the Region between May 26 and June 11 for a higher than normal number. A Lucy's Warbler, most unusual along the coast in spring, was in Goleta Mar. 11-17 (TEW), and another at about 4000 ft on the e. slope of the San Bernardino Mts. above Pioneer Town Apr. 22 (DRW) was at a most unusual location. Only four N. Parulas were reported with three around Santa Barbara in May and another on Pt. Loma June 1-4 (DPa). Three Chestnut-sided Warblers, rare but regular spring vagrants, were found with one at California City June 3 (RSa), another at Butterbrecht Springs, Kern, June 3-4 (MTH), and the 3rd at Oasis, Mono, June 4 (MAP). A ♀ Black-throated Blue Warbler, only the 3rd ever to be found in s. California in spring, was in Mojave, Kern, May 27 (BED), and a singing male was present in Irvine June 12 (RRV).

A Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler in Morongo Valley May 31 (EAC) was late, as were 19 Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warblers at Oasis June 3 (MAP). A singing ♂ Black-throated Green Warbler at Oasis June 4 (BED) was only the 9th to be found in spring in s. California. The ♂ Pine Warbler found in Yorba Linda, Orange, Jan. 14 was still present Apr. 2 (MTH). A Palm Warbler at Morro Bay Mar. 31 (TME), four more in Goleta during April (RPH, HPR, BM), another in Huntington Beach Mar. 26 (DRW), and three in the San Diego area during March (JWa, B & IM, DH) had all probably wintered locally, but one photographed at Corn Springs in e. Riverside Apr. 8 (HC) was undoubtedly a migrant. A Bay-breasted Warbler, a species becoming increasingly scarce as a straggler to California, was in the Fremont Valley June 10 (MTH). A ♂ Blackpoll Warbler, a casual spring straggler to California, was at F.C.R. May 27 (MAP).

Eighteen Black-and-white Warblers during May were close to the expected number, but 16 Am. Redstarts during the same period were certainly far fewer than normal. Eight Ovenbirds were found in the n.e. portion of the Region between May 15 and June 3, and one more was along the coast on Pt. Loma May 13 (DPa). The only N. Waterthrushes encountered this spring were single birds at Barker Dam in Joshua Tree N.M. May 6 (TEW) and near Helendale, San Bernardino, May 14 (MAP), and at F.C.R. May 24 (JD) in the interior, and in Huntington Beach May 3 (JP) and in nearby Anaheim Hills June 2 (DRW) along the coast. A ♂ Kentucky Warbler, a rare straggler to California, was at Butterbrecht Springs May 19-21 (JWi). Three ♂ Hooded Warblers were encountered this spring with one that came aboard a research vessel off San Diego Apr. 17 (BR), another at F.C.R. May 20 (BED), and the 3rd near Orange, Orange, June 12-18 (DRW).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — A ♀ Summer Tanager in Oceano, San Luis Obispo, Mar. 26-28 (JV) had probably wintered locally; a migrant female at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley May 20 (GMcC) was north of the species' normal range,

and a male near Imperial Beach June 1 (PJ), another male in Huntington Beach June 18 (BED), and a 3rd male at S.C.R.E. May 21 (RJM) were along the coast where considered vagrants. Sixteen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at various places within the Region between May 18 and June 4 were close to the expected number, as were the 23 Indigo Buntings between May 13 and June 3. Five Brewer's Sparrows in Orange between Apr. 6 & 19 (DRW, BED, JP) were unusual, since this species is exceptionally rare along the coast in spring. A Swamp Sparrow in California City May 19 (RSa) was a late vagrant. A White-throated Sparrow that spent the winter in Los Osos, San Luis Obispo, remained through the late date of May 10 (M & PC), and a late vagrant was in Jawbone Canyon, Kern, May 23 (BED). A Harris' Sparrow at Deep Springs Apr. 1 (GMcC) had probably wintered locally, and another in California City Apr. 30 (RSa) was considered a migrant. Four Chestnut-collared Longspurs present in the Fremont Valley Mar. 11 (MTH) were considered to be part of the flock found here in November.

The only Bobolinks found this spring were single females at Scotty's Castle and at F.C.R. on June 3 (MAP), and a male at China Lake the same day (MTH). A ♂ Tricolored Blackbird at F.C.R. May 25 (NBB) was one of a very few ever found in this area of California. Two Great-tailed Grackles at S.C.R.E. Apr. 2-16 (JSR), one in Goleta May 20 (MAH), and another in Oceano throughout the period (TME) were along the n. coast of the Region where still considered rare. Two Bronzed Cowbirds had returned by May 27 to Brawley, Imperial (GMcC), where the species now appears to be regular in very small numbers in summer. A ♂ Orchard Oriole visited a feeder in Puma Valley Apr. 30 (FSA) and a female was present in Huntington Beach May 27-30 (LRH), there being only a few records of spring vagrants in s. California. A single Red Crossbill in Yucca Valley Mar. 11 (CMcG) and two in California City May 26 (JWi) were the only ones reported away from the mountains. An Evening Grosbeak in California City Apr. 29 (AC) was the only one found in the Region.

ADDENDA — A report of a Leach's Storm-Petrel found inland in El Cajon, San Diego, Sept. 19, 1988 (*S.D.N.H.M.) has only just come to light.

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