

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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Heavy rains in March brought much needed water to the Region, giving us a fantastic show of wildflowers in the desert throughout most of April and May and replacing water in reservoirs. In general, temperatures were cooler than normal, with strong winds prevailing over the deserts much of the time. Migrant landbirds were considered later than usual, and in much lower than normal numbers in desert portions of the Region. Along the coast, most observers felt that the procession of fronts that moved down the coast from Alaska during March delayed migrants; but this was followed by an impressive influx of birds in early April, with observers in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties considering the number of migrants in April the largest in memory.

Abbreviations: C.L.N.W.C. (*China Lake Naval Weapons Center, extreme n.e. Kern Co.*); E.A.F.B. (*Edwards Air Force Base, s.e. Kern Co.*); F.C.R. (*Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley, Inyo Co.*); H.D.L. (*Harper Dry Lake, n.w. of Barstow, San Bernardino Co.*); N.E.S.S. (*north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.*); S.B.C.M. (*San Bernardino County Museum*); S.E.S.S. (*south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.*). As virtually all rarities in s. California are seen by many observers, only the observer initially identifying the bird is included. Documentation is on file with the California Bird Records Committee (c/o Michael A. Patten, P.O. Box 8612, Riverside, CA 92515) for all rarities listed in this report. Records submitted without documentation are not published.

LOONS TO PELICANS

A Pacific Loon flying N over the Salton Sea at Salton City June 2 (REW) was inland, where rare. A Horned Grebe in Victorville, San Bernardino, Apr. 13-14



(CMcG) was away from any known wintering locality and was considered a migrant. A Red-necked Grebe seen in flight 8 mi off Ventura Mar. 9 (PP) was s. of the species' normal winter range.

Close to 40 Laysan Albatrosses were seen from 50 to 200 mi off the s. California coast during a scientific survey cruise conducted by the Scripps Institute of Oceanography between Feb. 28 and Mar. 8 (PP), including four extremely close to San Nicolas I. that appeared to be attracted to the island. This species has recently colonized islands off Baja California, so attempted nesting on San Nicolas I. should be looked for in the future. A Laysan Albatross that hit a power line at S.E.S.S. May 9 (WRR, *S.B.C.M.) was the 7th found inland in s.e. California and s.w. Arizona. These birds reach this area by way of the Gulf of California. Three Cook's Petrels about 150 nautical mi s.w. of San Nicolas I. Feb. 28 (PP) were over deep waters where this species occurs regularly.

An ad. Red-billed Tropicbird seen on the water 79 nautical mi s.w. of San Nicolas I. Mar. 3 (PP) is one of a very few found in California waters this time of year. Three Brown Pelicans at N.E.S.S. May 11 (REW) were the first reported on the Salton Sea this year.

HERONS TO FALCONS

A Least Bittern on Vandenberg A.F.B., Santa Barbara, was in an area where few are found. The two Tricolored Herons that spent the winter around the mouth of the Tijuana R. near Imperial Beach were last seen Apr. 18 (PG); the subadult present near the mouth of the San Diego R. was last seen Apr. 20 (BP). An ad. Reddish Egret, a rare visitor to s. California, was photographed on San Elijo Lagoon near Solana Beach, San Diego, May 19 (RP).

As usual, a number of Brant passed through the s.e. portion of the Region during April and May as the population wintering within the Gulf of California moved northward to the Pacific Coast on its way to breeding grounds in the Arctic. One seen walking down a highway during a snow storm in the San Jacinto Mts., Riverside, Mar. 16 (RMCK), eight near Temecula, Riverside, Mar. 24 (SM), and five on L. Perris, Riverside, Mar. 25 (CMcG) were the earliest; four on Soda L. in the Carrizo Plains Apr. 13 (JK), up to five at H.D.L. Mar. 28-Apr. 10 (EAC), 25 on E.A.F.B. May 11 (MTH), and five photographed on Klondike L. near Big Pine, Inyo, May 2 (EG) were all outside the area of expected occurrence.

A Eur. Wigeon at S.E.S.S.

Apr. 13-May 11 (REW) was exceptionally late. The two Harlequin Ducks found around Point Mugu, Ventura, in November and December were still present June 2 (FH) and can be expected to spend the summer locally. Single Oldsquaws along the coast on Vandenberg A.F.B. May 3 (MMcE) and at Point Mugu May 12 (DD) were late; one at S.E.S.S. Apr. 30 (WRR) was inland, where it is very rare. Two Black Scoters still present at Point Mugu June 2 (FH) are undoubtedly attempting to spend the summer locally. The only reports of Surf Scoters from the interior were from the Salton Sea, with one at Salton City Mar. 17 (MAP), two at N.E.S.S. Apr. 3 (RMCK), and another there May 18 (REW). A White-winged Scoter at F.C.R. Mar. 27 (SEF) was at a most unusual locality; two at N.E.S.S. Apr. 13 through the end of the period (RMCK) were the only others found inland. A ♀ Hooded Merganser at F.C.R. Mar. 27 through at least June 1 (PEL) appeared destined to spend the summer at this locality.

Single Black-shouldered Kites around S.E.S.S. Mar. 4 (WRR) and May 4 (GMcC) were in an area where considered rare. One near Cantil in the Fremont Valley of extreme e. Kern May 11 (MOC) was far out on the high desert, and one n. of

Blythe May 27 (AME) is among fewer than ten ever found along the Colorado R. A N. Goshawk in the Lockwood Valley of Ventura May 24 (RJM) was close to a known nest site. A subad. Broad-winged Hawk at F.C.R. May 23 (T & JH) was one of very few found in California in spring. Swainson's Hawks appeared more numerous and widespread than usual. More than 130 were reported throughout the Region, including at least six along the immediate coast. The earliest were four over Santa Paula Mar. 5 (KK) and one over Encino Mar. 6 (JLD); 75 (virtually all sub-adult birds) at Oasis, Mono, June 1 (GMCC) was by far the largest flock. A pair of Zone-tailed Hawks was again present at the known nest site on Hot Springs Mt. in e. San Diego May 5 (DA). A Golden Eagle near Niland May 22 (DRW) was one of very few ever found in the area of the S.E.S.S. A Peregrine Falcon near Bishop, Inyo, May 9 (T & JH) was in an area where very few have been reported.

CRANES TO PUFFINS

A Sandhill Crane at Tinnemaha Res. in the Owens Valley Apr. 14 (T & JH) was the latest ever found in s. California and one of a very few found in this area of the state. At least 10 Black-bellied Plovers were found during April in the n.e. portion of the Region, where rare, including one at F.C.R. Apr. 17 (T & JH). The only Lesser Golden-Plovers reported were a *fulva* near Santa Maria Apr. 14–May 5 (KH), an exceptionally late *fulva* at the nearby Santa Maria R. mouth June 1 (DF), and 12 wintering *fulva* still present in Seal Beach May 5 (SM). Most unusual was a Wilson's Plover at the mouth of the Tijuana R. near Imperial Beach Apr. 9 (DP-C), there being only four previously accepted records for California.

More than the expected number of Solitary Sandpipers were reported, with 13 in the e. portion of the Region and another nine along the coast. One in Torrance, Los Angeles, Apr. 4 (MB) was the earliest, and one near Independence, Inyo, May 10 (AK) was the latest. A Wandering Tattler, casual inland, was at Salton City May 11 (CMCG). Large numbers of

Whimbrel clearly move N from the Gulf of California to the Central Valley each spring, passing through the Salton Sea and n.e. Los Angeles, indicated by such counts as 1500+ at S.E.S.S. May 4 (GMCC), 1000+ near Lancaster May 5 (MTH), and 440 in Bakersfield Apr. 28 (MOC). However, they are very rare along the e. side of the Sierra Nevada; hence, the 14 near Big Pine May 9 (T & JH) were unexpected.

Ruddy Turnstones were found on the Salton Sea between Apr. 13 and May 19, with more than 200 found at various points around the Sea May 10–11 (REW, RMCK). Away from the Salton Sea, one was on E.A.F.B. May 4 (DVB), and five were near Lost Hills, Kern, May 10 (GMCC). A Black Turnstone, very rare to casual inland, was at N.E.S.S. June 2 (REW). A Surf-bird, also very rare to casual inland, was photographed at Salton City Apr. 20 (MAP). As usual, Red Knots passed through the Salton Sea in April, with at least 300 counted there Apr. 21 (GMCC); however, one near Lancaster Apr. 21 (KLG) was the only one reported inland away from the Salton Sea. Two Sanderlings were at H.D.L. May 9 (EAC); single birds were near Lancaster May 5 and 18 (MTH); at least 20 were present on E.A.F.B. May 9–11 (MTH), with one more there May 25 (MTH); three were together near Lost Hills May 12 (GMCC), and another was near Big Pine May 19 (T & JH), this being far more than usual to be found inland away from the Salton Sea. At least 10 Semipalmated Sandpipers were found on the Salton Sea between May 4 & 19 (MAP, GMCC), with a high count of five at S.E.S.S. May 11 (REW); single birds were on E.A.F.B. Apr. 27 (MTH) and at C.L.N.W.C. May 26 (MTH); and two more were on the coast in Goleta May 7–9 (PEL), this being slightly more than expected in spring.

A brightly colored Little Stint, photographed at S.E.S.S. May 18 (REW), was the 5th reported in California since the first was identified in 1983, and is the first for spring. A Baird's Sandpiper, rare in spring, was photographed near Big Pine Mar. 22 (T & JH), and another was at the Santa Ynez R. mouth

Mar. 31 (BHi). A flock of 450 Stilt Sandpipers at S.E.S.S. May 11 (REW) was the largest number found on the Salton Sea this spring; two near Lakeview, Riverside, May 4 (WM) were the only ones reported away from the Salton Sea. A ♀ Ruff at C.L.N.W.C. May 11 (MTH) is the first found inland in s. California in spring.

Two S. Polar Skuas were seen between San Nicolas I. and San Clemente I. May 28 (McCesney); small numbers regularly visit the waters off s. California this time of year. A Laughing Gull at S.E.S.S. Apr. 7 (BL) was early. Franklin's Gulls appeared more numerous and widespread than normal, with about 60 reported between Apr. 11 and June 8. Most were in the e. portion of the Region, as expected, including one photographed in Victorville Apr. 11–14 (NZ) and 12 together at N.E.S.S. June 2–8 (REW). Three in Santa Barbara May 23 (CB) were the only ones found on the coast. A somewhat late Glaucous Gull at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, Santa Barbara, Apr. 2–6 (BHi) was followed by an even later individual in Oceano May 22 (TME) and what may have been the same bird in San Simeon June 12 (TME). Remarkable was a flock of 24 Sabine's Gulls at N.E.S.S. May 18 (REW), this species being very rare inland and normally occurring singly.

A Gull-billed Tern on s. San Diego Bay Apr. 5 (EC) was the earliest found this spring at this recently established nesting site on the coast. A Sandwich Tern with a flock of Elegant Terns on Malibu Lagoon, Los Angeles, May 20 (BE) was only the 2nd found in California. Two Com. Terns in San Diego Mar. 21 (GMCC) were suspected early spring migrants since none were present during the winter and others have been found here this same time in previous years. One on E.A.F.B. May 18 (MTH) was one of very few found inland away from the Salton Sea in spring. A Least Tern at Dirty Sock Spring on Owens L. June 4 (T & JH) was far inland, where it is considered casual to accidental, but is the 6th found in Inyo. A Black Tern in San Diego Apr. 26–27 (JB) was along the coast, where rare in spring.

Of extreme interest were two

Parakeet Auklets at 32°01'N 120°45'W (95 nautical mi WSW of San Nicolas I.) Mar. 3 (PP) and another at 32°27'N 121°27'W (98 nautical mi W of San Nicolas I.) Mar. 6 (PP), these being the first healthy birds reported in s. California waters. Like the Horned Puffin, this species may prove a regular winter visitor to the deep waters far off the coast of California out to the Central Pacific (both species have reached the area of the n.w. Hawaiian Is.). A Tufted Puffin, very rare in s. California waters, was seen near the s. end of Santa Rosa I. May 22 (BB).

PIGEONS TO VIREOS

Single Band-tailed Pigeons at Panamint Springs, Inyo, May 5 (T & JH) & 27 (BED), and another at Galileo Hill, Kern, May 9 (MTH), were all far out on the desert, where most unusual. One on Pt. Loma in San Diego May 29 (REW) was on the s. coast, where it is rare. A Spotted Dove in Los Osos May 1 (BM) is the first of this introduced species to reach San Luis Obispo. Reports of White-winged Doves w. of the mountains included single birds on Pt. Loma in San Diego Mar. 17–21 (BFI), another there May 16 (REW), and one in Escondido, San Diego, May 29 (JMcN); one near Weldon, Kern, May 25 (SAL) was n.w. of this species' normal range. An Inca Dove 40 mi w. of Needles Apr. 6 (BL) was at an unusual locality. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Butterbreed Springs n.w. of Cantil May 26 (AC) was clearly a migrant and the only such bird reported this spring.

A Flammulated Owl on the tip of Pt. Loma in San Diego May 30–31 (REW) was the first found on the immediate coast of California in spring. Two Chimney Swifts over San Elijo Lagoon May 21 (REW) were the only ones reported this spring. Large numbers of Vaux's Swifts moved N along the coast, as indicated by 10,000 roosting on a building shaft in downtown Los Angeles Apr. 25 (KLG).

A ♂ Broad-billed Hummingbird, a very rare to casual straggler to California, was near Imperial Beach May 4 (BHa). A ♀ Anna's Hummingbird at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Nat. Mon. May 18 (MAP) is one

of very few ever found in this area of California. A number of observers felt migrant that Calliope Hummingbirds were more numerous than usual along the coast, this being supported by the more than 25 reported there between Mar. 18 and May 5. A ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird near Big Pine, *Inyo*, Apr. 22 (T & JH) was followed by eight in this general area during May, giving an indication as to when this species arrives on breeding grounds in this area of California. An Acorn Woodpecker in Sand Canyon near Inyokern, *Kern*, Apr. 20 (JCW) was a long way from any known area of regular occurrence. A Red-naped Sapsucker at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Nat. Mon. May 31 (T & JH) was most unusual considering the date.

The Greater Pewee spending its 3rd winter in San Diego was last seen Mar. 29 (PG). A W. Wood-Pewee near S.E.S.S. Apr. 7 (JLD) and another in Atascadero Apr. 8 (KZ) were unusually early. A Least Flycatcher, most unusual in spring, was at the end of the Saline Valley, *Inyo*, May 26 (DR). Since Dusky Flycatchers are rare along the immediate coast (Pacific-slope and Hammond's flycatchers are the two *Empidonax* commonly found along the coast in April and May), one on Pt. Loma in San Diego Apr. 28 (DP) and another in Huntington Beach May 5 (LRH) are of interest. More than the usual number of Vermilion Flycatchers were scattered throughout the n.e. portion of the Region, with single birds in Ridgecrest, *Kern*, Apr. 16–18 (TS), at Panamint Springs May 5 (T & JH), Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley Nat. Mon. May 27 (BED), Scotty's Castle May 31–June 1 (T & JH), and at Deep Springs, *Inyo*, June 1 (MAP). A Brown-crested Flycatcher on Pt. Loma in San Diego June 9 (REW) is only the 3rd ever reported along the coast and the first for *San Diego*. The only E. Kingbirds found were one in the e. portion of the Region at Galileo Hill in extreme e. *Kern* May 27–29 (MS) and another on the coast at Pt. Buchon, *San Luis Obispo*, June 10 (TT). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Upper Newport Bay, *Orange*, Mar. 17–Apr. 27

(BO'C) had probably spent the winter locally. One photographed at F.C.R. May 23 (BHe) and another on Pt. Bucon June 10 (TT) occurred at the time of the year that spring vagrants of this species are expected. A Purple Martin near Niland May 21 (DRW) was obviously a migrant, and in an area where few are found nowadays.

A Gray Catbird, a casual straggler to California, was near Butterbrecht Springs June 1 (DVB). Two Sage Thrashers at S.E.S.S. Mar. 1 (WRR), 22 near Lakeview Mar. 10 (VH), and another in Lompoc Mar. 8–9 (PR) were clearly migrants, this being the time of year this species passes through s. California. A Brown Thrasher, much rarer in spring than in fall, was photographed near Scotty's Castle May 25 (MAP). A territorial California Thrasher photographed in Sand Canyon at the s.e. corner of *Inyo* during April and May (T & JH) was at the w. extreme of this species' range. An Am. Pipit in Baker May 25 (MAP) was quite late. A Bell's Vireo at F.C.R. June 1 (MAP) is the first found in this area of California in nearly 15 years; another near Lompoc May 16–June 1 (PEL) was away from any known area of regular occurrence. A Red-eyed Vireo, a casual straggler, was at Deep Springs May 30 (PEL).

WOOD WARBLERS

A ♂ Golden-winged Warbler along Keys Creek in the interior of *San Diego* May 22 (EL) was at an unexpected locality for such a rare vagrant. Seventeen Tennessee Warblers between Apr. 20 and June 9 were fewer than expected. A Virginia's Warbler in Nipton, *San Bernardino*, May 5 (MAP), and five more at oases in *Inyo* during May (T & JH) were migrants away from known breeding localities. A Lucy's Warbler at C.L.N.W.C. May 18 (ST) is the first found in *Kern*. The only N. Parulas reported were single birds inland near Cantil May 16 (MTH) and near Weldon June 6 (MJF), and at Montana de Oro S.P. Apr. 30 (JSR), Vandenberg A.F.B. May 25–28 (KH), Goleta May 25 (MAH), Westminster June 1 (DRW), nearby Huntington Beach June 11–12 (SM), Pt. Loma Apr. 20 (REW)

and May 18 (JM) along the coast. A Chestnut-sided Warbler near Weldon June 1 (MTH) was the only one reported. Single Magnolia Warblers were found near Oasis May 30 (T & JH), at F.C.R. May 27 (GMCC), near Weldon June 1 (DS), at Butterbrecht Springs June 1 (JF) and June 8 (MTH) in the interior, and in Los Osos June 2 (JSR) on the coast. One in Cuymaca State Park in the mountains of e. *San Diego* June 8 (JW) was at an unexpected locality for a vagrant.

The Cape May Warbler wintering in Costa Mesa remained through Apr. 18 (RAH). A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler near Weldon June 9 (SAL) is one of very few ever found in California in spring. A Townsend's Warbler in the Piute Mts. of *Kern* June 8 (MOC) and another in Montana de Oro State Park June 9 (JSR) were both exceptionally late. A singing ♂ Blackburnian Warbler near Weldon May 31 (SAL) is only the 4th found in s. California in spring and is an addition to the *Kern* bird list. A Palm Warbler in Santa Barbara Apr. 24 (CL), one in Anaheim Mar. 5–7 (JPi), and another in San Diego Apr. 24 (DRW) may all have been wintering nearby, spring vagrants being exceptionally rare and not expected before late May. A ♂ Blackpoll Warbler, very rare in spring, was in Solana Beach, *San Diego*, May 18–21 (PG).

A Black-and-white Warbler on Pt. Loma Apr. 20 (REW) was a little early for a spring vagrant but was followed by only 11 more scattered throughout the Region between Apr. 28 and June 4. Only 12 Am. Redstarts were reported from the e. portion of the Region between May 9 and June 8, far fewer than expected. One in Carpinteria Apr. 13–May 3 (SM) may have wintered nearby, leaving three found along the coast between May 23 and June 12 as the only migrants there this year. Eight Ovenbirds in the n.e. portion of the Region between May 16 and June 2 were a little more than expected; three more were found along the coast between May 6 and June 2, where they are unusual in spring. A N. Waterthrush in Irvine Apr. 8–26 (RAE) had probably been present all winter. Six in the e. por-

tion of the Region between May 5 and 30 and two together in Huntington Beach May 5 (WG) were the only spring vagrants of this species found this year.

A ♂ Kentucky Warbler at Scotty's Castle May 31–June 1 (T & JH) was the 4th found in *Inyo*. A MacGillivray's Warbler in California City, *Kern*, Apr. 1 (JLD) was somewhat early, particularly so on the high desert. A somewhat early ♂ Hooded Warbler was photographed at Corn Springs near Desert Center, *Riverside*, Apr. 22 (HC), a female was at Agua Caliente in e. *San Diego* Apr. 30–May 1 (D & MH), and a male was in Mojave May 12–13 (MTH), this being an average number for this time of the year. A Painted Redstart photographed in Morongo Valley Apr. 7 (MAP) occurred at the time of year others have been found at similar desert oases in e. California.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A ♀ Hepatic Tanager in Santa Ana May 28–31 (DRW) is the first found along the coast in spring. Reports of Summer Tanagers away from known nesting localities included one inland at Agua Caliente in e. *San Diego* May 20 (DA), two more at Scotty's Castle May 23–June 1 (T & JH), and seven along the coast between May 11 and June 2. This is far fewer than expected; these birds invariably prove to be of the nominate race *ruber* when critically examined. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were much scarcer than normal, with only six reported between May 9 and June 11. Only five Indigo Buntings were reported, far fewer than in recent years. A ♂ Dickcissel photographed at F.C.R. May 25–26 (DH) is one of a very few found in spring.

A Clay-colored Sparrow, most unusual as a spring vagrant, was in Irvine May 5 (SM). A Swamp Sparrow in Mojave May 9–11 (MTH) was a late spring vagrant. White-throated Sparrows were scattered throughout the Region into April, with six in e. *Kern* between May 4 and 16 (MTH), one in *Riverside* May 18–19 (CMCG), and another near Oasis May 25 (DN) the latest. A Golden-crowned Sparrow in the San Gabriel Mts. May 21 (SJM) and another near Scotty's Castle May 25 (MAP) were

unusually late. Two Harris' Sparrows at F.C.R. Mar. 27 (SEF) and another near Orange Apr. 6 (BO'C) had probably been present all winter and were the only ones reported. A Dark-eyed Junco in Irvine May 26 (BED) was exceptionally late.

Five Bobolinks at various localities in *Inyo* between May 24 and June 1 were about normal, but a male in Irvine May 25 (SM) was along the coast, where it is most unusual in spring. A Rusty Blackbird, rarely found in spring, was at Little Lake, *Inyo*, Apr. 25 (RHN). A ♀ Orchard Oriole at Little Lake Apr. 27 (RHN) was the only one reported. A N. (Baltimore) Oriole was reported from along the coast in Los Osos Apr. 12 (P & SG), and single birds were seen inland at Butterbrecht Springs near Cantil May 19 (SAL) and in Ridgecrest May 21 (DM).

Red Crossbills were more numerous and widespread than usual in the mountains, as indicated by such reports as 30 on Mt. Pinos May 20–June 8 (RJM). Small numbers were present along the coast of *San Luis Obispo*, with ten wintering birds on Vandenberg A.F.B. through May 13 (KH) in n. *Santa Barbara*; a few in California City, *Kern*, during April and May (MOC), up to 11 in Ridgecrest May 1–8 (AW), three in Yucca Valley, *San Bernardino*, May 18 (GH), and another at nearby Morongo Valley May 29 (GH) were on the high desert. Single Lawrence's Goldfinches in Big Pine Apr. 21 (EG) and at nearby Tollhouse Spring May 30 (T & JH) were in an area where few have been found. Evening Grosbeaks were widely reported from desert locations in the n.e. portion of the Region through May; they were also present in numbers at some locations in mountains, as indicated by 50 on Mt. Pinos May 8 (CGE). Some were also along the coast, as indicated by one in Cambria Mar. 22 (BMA), three in Los Osos Apr. 3 (JP), 10 in Santa Ynez Mar. 15–May 1 (BFu), and another in Goleta Mar. 21 (KB).

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