

**SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION.**—After a mild and comparatively dry winter which saw many odd extremes of weather, the spring migration

was, if anything, unspectacular and generally late. The rainfall of February and March (which normally makes up the bulk of our precipitation) was about 5 inches below normal. Late rains in April and early May helped to



bring the season total up but by the end of the rainy season (normally the latter part of April) the total figure for the season was still about 5 inches below normal and about 7 inches below last year's figures. An abnormal snowfall in the lowlands in late February accompanied by freezing weather exacted a heavy toll from the early migrant hummingbirds (Rufous and Allen's) as well as the species which normally are summer residents and/or transients but over-wintered because of the mildness of the weather. The fire danger in the chaparral was critical by mid-May and indeed many small brush fires were reported from the southern California foothill and grassland areas. Numerous migrants were delayed in reaching southern California by an extended cold front which lay along the California coast during the last week of April and the first week of May. Squalls were prevalent along the coast and the wind for almost 10 days during this period was from the north or northwest. This resulted in a damming of the migrants in Mexico as well as in the southern deserts of the state. The main flights of Vaux's Swifts were well observed during the last week of April. Low overcast weather contributed to this. Flights of Black-headed Grosbeaks and

Western Tanagers built up numbers in the Palm Springs area during the first week of May and their normal numbers did not reach the foothills and lowlands until about May 10. This situation was also found to be the case for many migrant warblers, swallows, and thrushes. These birds reached the southern limits of the state in time to be halted by the advancing front of late April. Those fortunate enough to be afield during the week of May 7-14 were treated to some unusual California birding as flocks and flocks of Western Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, thrushes, and other migrants were encountered. Temperatures for this period were about normal.

*Loons through Waterfowl.*—A Common Loon was at San Clemente State Park beach, May 4 (Mr. and Mrs. Russell Wilson) and one each of Common, Arctic, and Red-throated was reported on the San Diego County Census of May 4th and 5th in the San Diego area (San Diego Audubon Society). Grebes remained numerous in the Mission Bay and San Diego Bay area until well into May. Twenty-six Horned Grebes, 96 Eared Grebes, and 104 Western Grebes were counted there May 4 and 5 (S.D.A.S.). A single Horned Grebe was on San Diego Bay as late as May 25 and as many as 30 Eared Grebes were there until the end of May (Arthur Morley). About 1500 White Pelicans were at the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, March 4 (Ed. J. O'Neill). A group of more than 300 White Pelicans was seen migrating over Highway U. S. 99 near Lebec, March 30 (E. A. Albertson), and a late flight of about 50 birds passed over China Lake, June 1 (D. W. Moore). Black Brant lingered well into spring at San Diego Bay, Malibu, and Point Mugu. Fifty-seven Black Brant were on San Diego Bay, May 5 (S.D.A.S.); 6 were at Malibu Lagoon, June 15 (Ed.), and from 800 to 1000 were at Point Mugu, May 24 (R. Dudley Ross). The waterfowl migration at the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge was as follows: Feb. 1—Canada Geese (large race) 930, White-fronted Geese 150, Snow Geese 6000, Ross's Geese 4, ducks 29,850, Am. Coots 2000; March 8—Canada Geese 15, Snow Geese 400, ducks 16,750, Am. Coots 5000; March 21—Canada Geese 5, White-fronted Goose 1, Snow Geese 300; April 1—Snow Geese 5, Canada Geese 2 (EJO'N). Most interesting was the report of a single drake European Widgeon at Imperial State Waterfowl Management Area by William Anderson, Feb. 9 (*vide* EJO'N). Blue-winged Teal were reported from various parts of the Region during the spring. They were reported from China Lake (4—June 8, DWM); Ventura County Gun Club (2—March 20, Ed.); Fisherman's Retreat (1—April 1, Mrs. Ethel West), and near San Diego (2—May 4, S.D.A.S.); Legg Lake (2—Feb. 13, Alma Stultz).

*Birds of Prey.*—It is with great satisfaction your editor reports a group of 30 California Condors seen to be feeding on the carcass of a calf on the Olcese Ranch at Rancheria near the foot of Rattlesnake Grade, May 21, by John Roper (*vide* Mrs. Will Williams). Two condors were also reported from Santa Ynez Valley, Santa Barbara County, March

21, and 3 flew over the grounds of the Santa Barbara Museum, May 6. A single condor was seen at Quaking Aspen Camp at 7000 feet in Sequoia National Forest, June 8 (Waldo G. Abbott). Condors have been reported from the vicinity of Big Pines and unsubstantiated reports of their nesting have been received. A Bald Eagle flew over Santa Barbara, March 19 (WGA). The Swainson's Hawk migration occurred during the last week of March with a few birds still coming through by the second week of April. A single Osprey was at SSNWR, March 5 (EJO'N) and another was present for several in Mission Valley, San Diego Co., May 30 to June 7 (Maureen J. Heraty). As many as 4 Saw-whet Owls were heard calling on Palomar Mountain, May 5 (S.D.A.S.) and a single bird was calling in Mill Creek Canyon of the San Bernardino, April 2 (John D. Goodman).

*Shorebirds, Gulls, and Terns.*—Five Sandhill Cranes were at SSNWR, March 1 (EJO'N). Most of our wintering shorebirds had departed by the first week of May. The flight of Wandering Tattlers was good at suitable coastal areas. A small phalarope migration materialized during the second week of May. On Feb. 6 200 Mountain Plover were at SSNWR (EJO'N). Five Stilt Sandpipers were first seen at SSNWR, March 13, and 4 were still there, April 23 (EJO'N). A single female Red Phalarope was at San Diego Bay, May 25, in company with 4 Northern (James D. Crouch, AM). Am. Avocets and Black-necked Stilts arrived in good numbers during the spring. Short-billed Gulls had departed for the north by the end of March and a few Glaucous-winged Gulls remained until the early part of May, but none was reported thereafter. Caspian and Least Terns appeared at their breeding colonies by mid-May and Black Terns were rare everywhere but in the Imperial Valley. A single Black Tern was at Bolsa Chica, May 21 (Ed.), and 200 were counted at SSNWR, April 22 (EJO'N).

*Upland Game Birds.*—Three individuals of the Mt. Pinos race of the Sooty Grouse were seen by Abbott on Mt. Abel, Kern Co., March 3. A single Ground Dove was found south of San Diego, May 5 (S.D.A.S.); 5 different individuals were near Corona from April 4 to May 31 (Norman H. Mellor); another pair of Ground Doves was at Yorba Linda, June 30 (J. H. Comby). Four White-winged Doves were seen, May 4, in Snow Creek Canyon (JDG, *et al.*) which is some 20 miles west of their normal westerly range to Palm Springs.

*Non-passerine Land Birds.*—Poor-wills had arrived in force by the first week of March. Vaux's Swifts staged an unpredictable migration, appearing in areas where they were not seen last year and absent from those areas where they were most common a year ago. The migration of Black Swifts was phenomenal! The highlights were more than 10 over Santa Barbara, May 3 (Ed.) and more than 100 until April 18 at the Audubon Center of Southern California (AS). Numerous reports of smaller numbers were received from elsewhere. The Allen's Hummingbird migration was about normal with most birds passing through between Feb.

10 and March 15. Rufous Hummingbirds migrated through over a more extended period from Feb. 8 to May 5. Blackchinned Hummingbirds had arrived by March 16 and Costa's at about the same time. Calliope Hummingbirds were easily overlooked in chaparral areas.

*Passerine Land Birds*.—The general comment made by many observers was of the scarcity of birds of all this group during the best days of the spring migration. Actually, the birds were concentrated in the southern part of the state until well into the second week of May and after that date moved quickly to their breeding grounds. The migration, then, was generally late and in some places spectacular while others dull. It all depended when and where you were afield during this period of changeable weather. It is not felt that any of the species were down in numbers although the observer in the field might have gotten the impression one place and quite the opposite another. A nice migration of more than 200 Western Kingbirds was seen by Maureen Heraty at Vallecito, April 21. Vermilion Flycatchers were reported at Mecca (1 male—April

17 only, Cecelia Foulkes) and 3 near San Diego, May 4 to 5 (S.D.A.S.). Robins were most common in the Imperial Valley with as many as 1500 at Brawley, Feb. 20 (EJO'N). Interesting was the report of 4 Crissal Thrashers (2 adult and 2 flying young) at Corona, May 30 (NHM). This is well west of their normal range. A large flight of Russet-backed (Olive-backed) Thrushes took place on the night of May 1 (John Tramontano). Two Common Starlings were observed by Merritt S. Dunlap at Chevy Chase Golf Club, April 1 (*vide* Alma Stultz) and as many as 6 were counted at the Ventura County Gun Club, March 21 (Ed.) A male Scott's Oriole was seen in Golden Hill Park, San Diego, April 22 (Dean Fisher, AM). Two Red Crossbills were on Mount Abel, March 3 (WGA), and another pair was at a nest on Mt. Pinos, May 25 (RW, MW). Four Harris's Sparrows were at Rolling Hills from Feb. 11 to April 20 (D. M. Falconer). Most of the White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows had departed by the first week of May.—ARNOLD SMALL, 3028 Carendish Drive, Los Angeles 64, Calif.