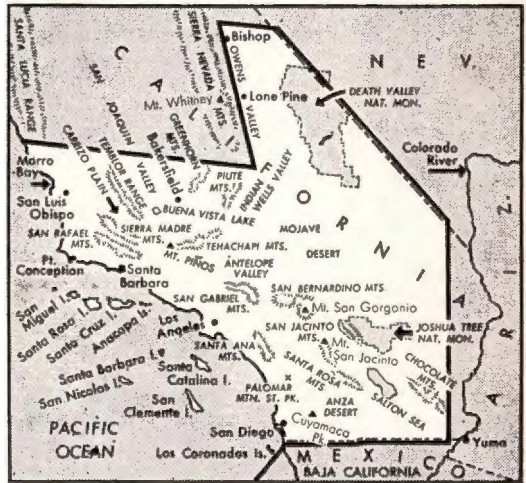


SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION.—The weather pattern this spring was similar to that of last spring. A series of storms pushed south along the



coast from mid-April into early May. This condition appears to be adverse to migrants moving up the West Coast. It appears as though migrants simply stop moving during the stormy periods, and then continue their flight when the storm is over. As far as we can see there are no large concentrations of migrants found when such cold fronts push south.

A surprising variety of waterbirds were seen on the Salton Sea during the spring. Species normally confined to the coast, such as the Black Brant, Ruddy Turnstone, Knot and Sanderling, probably get "trapped" in the Gulf of California on their northward flight, and are forced to move through the Salton Sea (see species accounts).

A surprising variety of "eastern" species was found in late May and early June. "Eastern" species are most often encountered during the fall in this Region. However, on the Farallon Islands to the north of this Region, ornithologists have occasionally found surprising concentrations of "eastern" landbirds during late May and early June (Dawson in 1911, Bowman in 1958 and Medina in 1963). This spring 8 species, normally considered "eastern," were

found in early June together with a late movement of "western" flycatchers (see species account for Catbird, warblers, Indigo Bunting and Dickcissel).

Migration of Landbirds—Most of our regular western migrants arrived on time, but these early birds were present in very small numbers. The onset of the colder weather appeared to have a "damming" effect on the main migrant hordes, for there was consistent agreement that the main flight of the regular migrants was about one week later than normal. Once the storms ceased, the flow of birds was on, and migrants were present in good numbers along the entire coastline of the Region. The flight on the desert this spring was not as spectacular as that along the coast.

The most noticeable migrants were Vaux's Swifts, Swainson's Thrushes and Western Tanagers. Vaux's Swifts moved through the Region during a period of cold weather, and were flying low, possibly to catch the insects that were attracted to the warm air close to the ground; many of these birds were killed by cars, and many others were trapped in chimneys where they had taken refuge. Swainson's Thrushes, usually a fairly secretive migrant, during their period of heavy movement in early May were noted by most observers in more than normal numbers; numbers were low in the desert. Western Tanagers attracted attention from birders and non-birders alike; these colorful birds literally swarmed north along the coast, and were present in every bit of available cover during early May.

The first Solitary and Warbling Vireos arrived in late March along with Western Flycatchers, Wilson's Warblers, orioles and Black-headed Grosbeaks; these were followed a week later by the first Nashville, Yellow and Black-throated Gray Warblers, and Lazuli Buntings; then came the first of the Western Wood Pewees, Townsend's and Hermit Warblers. The main flight of all these species did not begin until the end of April, and was in full swing only during the early part of May. At this time most contributors commented on the visible migration, which gave the impression of an excellent flight along the coast. At the time of heavy movement along the coast, migrant warblers were somewhat scarce on the desert. However, some species such as the Black-headed and Blue Grosbeaks and Lazuli Bunting were present in larger numbers on the desert than along the coast, indicating that different species may follow different routes into California.

Loons through Petrels—By the end of the period there were the usual straggling loons and grebes along the coast from San Diego northward. "Several hundred" Arctic Loons were seen flying north in the Catalina Island Channel on May 16 (WH & JL) and 27 Red-throated Loons were seen off Santa Barbara on May 24 (S.B.A.S.). A few Fulmars lingered late in southern California waters as a count of 75 was made on the L.A.A.S. boat trip from San Pedro to Catalina Island on May 3; and 3 were seen off Newport, Orange Co., on May 16 (WH & JL). There was a good flight of shearwaters during May; "many thousands" were seen between Santa Barbara and Anacapa Island on May 24; the ratio was reported as 50 Sooty Shearwaters to each Pink-

footed Shearwater (S.B.A.S.); "tens of thousands" of Sooty Shearwaters were seen on the L.A.A.S. boat trip of May 3 (AS). The only Manx Shearwater reported was one off Santa Barbara on May 24 (S.B.A.S.). Ten Leach's Petrels were seen on the L.A.A.S. boat trip of May 3 (AS). Two Ashy Petrels were found off Newport on May 16 (WH & JL). Thirty Black Petrels were seen on the L.A.A.S. boat trip (AS), and 5 were seen off Newport on May 16 (WH & JL).

Pelicans, Herons and Ibis—White Pelicans began to arrive at the Salton Sea on April 1, building up to a flock of 1000 by April 16; all departed soon after this date (JN). The *Cattle Egret* reported in the winter season report was last seen at Imperial Beach, San Diego Co. in late April (GMcC & DC). Louisiana Herons remained at Solana Beach, San Diego Co., until April 11, when 2 were present (GMcC & AS). An early Wood Ibis was seen at Rammer Lake, Imperial Co. on May 24 (JL).

Hawks—The main flight of Swainson's Hawks slipped through the Region unnoticed during late March or early April, for only a few individuals were noted after this. A very late Ferruginous Hawk was seen at Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. on May 6 (NM). One or two Ospreys were noted during the season as normally.

Waterfowl—A Whistling Swan, rated as an uncommon migrant in Death Valley, was seen there on the very late date of April 24 (BBP). By the middle of April there were 12,000 ducks and geese on the Salton Sea Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Imperial Co. and by the end of the period this number had dropped to 5000 (4500 of these were Ruddy Ducks). Along the coast there were the normal numbers of summer stragglers (all the regular wintering species) present at the end of the period. The 3 (*Am.*) Brant, reported in the winter season, remained on San Diego Bay until the middle of April (GMcC & DC), departing with the main flight of Black Brant. Again Black Brant appeared in large numbers on the Salton Sea, supporting the theory that these birds enter the Gulf of California during the winter, and are forced through the Imperial Valley when they move north in the spring. About 225 Black Brant were at the south end of the Salton Sea on April 16, and 30 remained until May 1 (JN); 80 were at the north end of the Sea on April 18 (R & MW); 30 were present here between April 25 and May 24 (GMcC, WH & JL). A few Blue-winged Teal were noted along the coast, in the Imperial Valley, and in Death Valley which is normal.

Shorebirds—The main movement of these birds was noted along the coast during April and early May, and the flight was termed "fair." The Salton Sea had one of the best flights on record, with most of the birds occurring during early May (JN). On May 24 an *Am. Oystercatcher* was seen by 30 people on Anacapa Island (S.B.A.S.); this is the first reliable report of the species in California since 1910. Two Snowy Plovers in Death Valley on May 9 were the first seen in that area (BBP). Three *Am. Golden Plover* were seen at San Diego Bay on April 11 (GMcC & AS), another near Westmoreland, Imperial Co., on April 26 (GMcC); the species is scarce

during the spring. Better than 200 Surfbirds, feeding on grunion eggs, congregated at Doheny State Beach, Orange Co. on April 1; numbers gradually decreased until only 4 were present on April 28 (EAP). On April 11, 34 Surfbirds were counted at Goleta (JF & JH), indicating that the main movement of these birds takes place during early April. Twenty-five Ruddy Turnstones were counted at the north end of the Salton Sea on May 2, and 3 were found near Niland, Imperial Co. on May 9 (GMcC); this species is normally confined to the coast. Two Black Turnstones were with the Ruddy Turnstones at the north end of the Salton Sea on May 2 (GMcC); this is the third inland record for the Southwestern United States. The Solitary Sandpiper is rarely reported in the spring; however, 1 was present at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co. between April 18 (DG) and April 25 (GMcC). Eighty Knots were present at the north end of the Salton Sea on May 2, and 1 was still there on May 9 (GMcC), indicating that the bird may be a regular migrant in this area as well as along the coast. A Pectoral Sandpiper most unusual in spring, was seen at Malibu Lagoon, Los Angeles Co., on May 17 (DG). A very late Dunlin was seen at the Salton Sea on May 14 (JGO). A flock of 25 Stilt Sandpipers, mostly in summer plumage, were present on the Salton Sea Refuge between April 26 and May 3 (GMcC); this is the only location in this Region where the species is regular. The Sanderling is appearing more regularly on the Salton Sea now; this spring 27 were located between April 25 and May 24 (GMcC, L.A.A.S., WH & JL); this included a flock of 17 birds near Niland on May 9. The flight of phalaropes along the coastline was poor, and numbers were low in the Imperial Valley.

Jaegers, Gulls and Terns—The flight of jaegers was meager this spring. Most of the wintering gulls had departed by early May, and by the end of the period there were only the summer stragglers present along the coast. A Glaucous-winged Gull at the north end of the Salton Sea on May 2 was late and unusual with regard to its inland location (GMcC). Three Laughing Gulls, in breeding plumage, at the south end of the Salton Sea on May 24 (WH & JL) give hope that they may attempt to breed there again this year. The only Franklin's Gulls reported were 1 at the south end of the Salton Sea, and 2 at the north end of the Salton Sea on May 24 (WH & JL); the species is undoubtedly regular in very small numbers throughout this area. A migrating flock of some 200 Bonaparte's Gulls—a large number for a mountain location—were seen on Cuyamaca Lake, San Diego Co. on April 17 (Mans & PDeB). Black-legged Kittiwakes continued to be present along the coast; 100 were at Malibu, on April 12 (DG); a few were still present on June 1 (AS). The only Sabine's Gulls reported were seen far off shore: 8 on May 3 (L.A.A.S.), and 5 on May 24 (S.B.A.S.). The main flight of Common Terns passed north along the coast during the first two weeks of May. Elegant Terns returned to San Diego on schedule in mid-March, and by early April were sitting on eggs.

Doves, Swifts, Hummingbirds and Woodpeckers—Ground Doves still appear to be spreading, and

were noted at all the usual locations; a pair at Morongo Valley throughout the spring established a new location north of known breeding locations. White-winged Doves arrived in the southeastern desert areas of the Region in late May; 1 was at Twenty-nine Palms, San Bernardino Co. on April 28, and 5 were there by the end of the period (JWV). Single White-winged Doves were noted in Death Valley on May 17 and 29 (BBP); this is north of the species' normal range, but they occur here occasionally. The flight of Vaux's Swifts along the coast was commented upon by all reporters; the birds were seen in large numbers during the last week of April and the first week of May, a period of unseasonably cold weather. During this period many birds took refuge in chimneys, sometimes with disastrous results; "thousands" descended chimneys of disused homes in Carlsbad, San Diego Co. at the end of April and died (*San Diego Union*); 2000 died behind a single fire screen in Santa Barbara on May 6. Birds were noted entering chimneys in that area from April 28 to May 6 (NM); birds were also reported using chimneys in Riverside during the same period (NHM). The only Black Swifts noted were one or two with the Vaux's Swifts at Doheny State Beach on May 3 and 7 (EAP). A male Calliope Hummingbird was collected in Death Valley on May 7, the first record for that area (BBP). A late Lewis' Woodpecker was still present near Santa Ynez, Santa Barbara Co. on May 10 (CHR).

Flycatchers and Corvids—A Cassin's Kingbird noted at an elevation of 3000 ft. in Death Valley on March 22 was in an unusual location (BBP). The earliest reported Ash-throated Flycatcher was one seen in Pasadena on March 25 (GSS). An Eastern Phoebe was seen in Los Padres Nat'l Forest, Ventura Co. on April 3 (JGG), and another was present in Live Oak Canyon, Claremont, between May 14 and 16 (EWK); this species is noted annually in limited numbers. The species composition of the *Empidonax* flycatcher flights is poorly known; a Traill's Flycatcher was banded in Death Valley on May 31, a Dusky Flycatcher was collected there on May 27, and 2 Western Flycatchers were banded on the valley floor on May 25 (BBP). A male Vermilion Flycatcher was located at the surprisingly high elevation of 5000 ft. in the San Jacinto Mts. on May 24 (Siptrons); another was seen as far north as Death Valley on May 7 (BBP). The Blue Jay that spent the winter in Mill Creek Canyon, San Bernardino Co. was last seen on April 20 (JGG). A Black-billed Magpie was seen on March 15 at Newport (FCK), far from the bird's normal range.

Nuthatches, Mimids—Red-breasted Nuthatches continued to be reported throughout the Region, and birds were present as far south as San Diego in early June. Two Catbirds were found on June 10, along with other "eastern" migrants, in the northeastern corner of the Region; one bird was at Deep Springs, Inyo Co. and the other was at nearby Oases, Mono Co. (GMcC & PDeB); this is the first record for the Region, and there is but one other record (fall) for California. A Bendire's Thrasher, always an uncommon bird in this Region, was seen feeding 3 young in Joshua Tree Nat'l Mon. on April 25 (JGG).

Thrushes, Waxwings—A Hermit Thrush was seen in Santa Barbara on May 5, the latest date there for 10 years (CHR). One or two were present on Point Loma, San Diego Co., until the second week of May (GC). The flight of Swainson's Thrushes passed through the Region during the first two weeks of May; this species was noted in more than normal numbers along the coast. A Townsend's Solitaire was seen at the desert location of Morongo Valley on May 9 (GMcC). Cedar Waxwings remained in the Region until the end of the period.

Vireos and Warblers—As indicated in the section on migration, fair numbers of all the "western" species occurred along the coast during early May; the flight on the desert was less interesting. The only migrant Gray Vireo reported was one in Whitewater Canyon, Riverside Co. on May 2 (GMcC). On May 2 a Black-and-white Warbler was seen at Morongo Valley and 2 more were seen in Whitewater Canyon (GMcC); a singing male was seen at Deep Springs, Inyo Co., on June 11 (GMcC & PDeB); the species is scarce but regular. Two *Tennessee Warblers* (1 collected) were at Imperial Beach on May 31 and June 1 (GMcC); this is only the second time that the species has been collected in spring in California. A *Virginian Warbler*, only the second-known spring migrant for the Region, was caught at Palm Desert, Riverside Co., on May 16 (L.A.S.). A female *Magnolia Warbler*, the 7th Regional record, was seen at Deep Springs on June 10 (GMcC & PDeB). A few Myrtle Warblers were noted during the period, including 2 in Death Valley, where they are rare, on May 1 (BBP). An *Ovenbird* was feeding in the *Salicornia* at the edge of San Diego Bay on May 31 (GMcC); the 10th record for the Region. An *Am. Redstart* was seen at Imperial Beach on April 24 (GMcC), another at Deep Springs on June 10, and another at Oases, on the same day (GMcC & PDeB); this is the most regular of the "eastern" warblers.

Orioles and Tanagers—A Hooded Oriole was seen in Death Valley on April 18 (BBP); this is farther north than it normally occurs in the eastern section of the Region. The *Orchard Oriole* that spent the winter in Santa Barbara was last seen on April 5 (S.B.A.S.), and the Baltimore Oriole that also wintered there was last seen on April 14 (Kriger). A male *Bronzed Cowbird* returned to the feeder in Whittier where one was last spring; this spring the bird arrived on April 9 and was still present at the end of the period (EBM). The flight of Western Tanagers was most spectacular along the coast, but few were seen on the desert flyway; the largest flocks reported were 1000 at Boneta, San Diego Co., on May 1 (GMcC), and 500 at Corona, Riverside Co., between May 1 and 20 (NHM). Two migrant Summer Tanagers were seen at 1000 Palms Oases, Riverside Co. on April 18 (DG), and 1 was seen in Whitewater Canyon on April 24 (RN); the species arrived late at Morongo Valley, where it has bred during the past five years, for the only one noted there during the period was seen on May 1 (IW). A male *Hepatic Tanager*, the fourth record for California, was seen in Live Oak Canyon, between March 21 and 27 (EWK).

Grosbeaks through Sparrows—An early Blue Grosbeak was seen at Twenty-nine Palms, San Bernardino Co. on April 5 (JWV); the main influx of these birds occurred during late April and early May. A dead adult male Indigo Bunting was found at Deep Springs on June 5 (Strong), and a singing male was seen there on June 11 (GMcC & PDeB); a pair of Indigo Buntings was seen at Oases, Mono Co., on June 10 and 11 (GMcC & PDeB); the species is being noted more regularly now than formerly, and may prove to be regular in small numbers. The heaviest movement of Lazuli Buntings was noted through the Imperial Valley in early May. A female *Dickcissel* was at Deep Springs on June 10 (GMcC & PDeB)—the first spring record for California. Two Evening Grosbeaks at the desert location of Yaqui Wells, San Diego Co.—certainly a most unusual location for this time of the year—on May 16 (LS, DC & GMcC) were probably stragglers from the winter flight. Pine Siskins were noted in small and large flocks along the coast, on the Mojave Desert and in Death Valley throughout the period—remnants from the excellent winter flight. The same story seems to hold true for Red Crossbills, which seem reluctant to leave; between one and four were seen in Santa Ana, Orange Co. up until May 16 (ROS); 2 were seen in Santa Barbara on May 10 (JK); 4 were seen in the Laguna Mts., San Diego Co., on May 16 (LS, DC & GMcC), and one was seen on Mt. Pinos, Ventura Co. on May 22 (R & MW). A White-crowned Sparrow at Costa Mesa, Orange Co., on May 22 (Siptroths), and a Golden-crowned Sparrow on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co., on May 23 (GMcC) were the latest dates for these two species. White-throated Sparrows remained later than usual after the good winter flight; 2 were in Santa Barbara on April 27 (JH), and a third remained in another location of the city until May 3 (CHR); one was seen at Imperial Beach as late as May 1 (GMcC). The last Swamp Sparrow seen in the San Diego area was one near San Ysidro on April 4, and another at Boneta on the same date (GMcC & DC); one seen at the north end of the Salton Sea on May 9 is the latest recorded for California (GMcC).

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