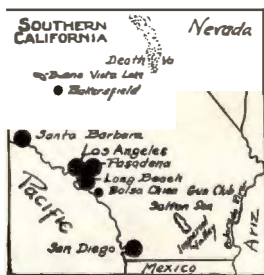


SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION. — The weather since January was marked by an absence of heavy rainfall, although it was sufficient in most places to permit green



grasses to reach an early maturity in April, but too little to replenish underground water supplies. Little immediate effect on bird life was evident, but no doubt the nesting of water and marsh birds will be influenced.

An offshore trip southward from Newport Bay

into Santa Catalina Gulf on April 19 produced 22 pink-footed shearwaters, 2 sooty shearwaters (also 3 at La Jolla, March 15—Crouch), 3 fulmars, 1 parasitic and 3 pomarine jaegers, and migrating loons (common and/or Arctic) in flocks of 15-25 (Comby, et al.). One common loon visited Havasu Lake on the Colorado River, April 12 (Gale Monson).

White pelican.—There was a good flight: at Havasu Lake, 135 on March 25, and a maximum of 362 on April 25 (G.M.); flocks of 250 (est.) on April 3 (Daugherty), 500 on the 20th (D.), and 1000 on the 27th (J. T. Parker).

Geese.—W. D. Quattlebaum of Pasadena reported fewer geese in the late January flight along the base of the San Gabriel Mts., with 40 on the 27th, and 25 on the 28th; there was also a flock over Upland on the 28th (Friesen). The last snow goose in the Havasu area was seen on March 6 at Topock, and 1 Canada goose was there on April 11 (G.M.).

Ducks.—Little definite migratory movement was reported. An influx of cinnamon teal was evident from February 22 to March 8, with a maximum in early April—24 at Little Lake, Inyo Co., on the 9th (F.), and 150 at Carlsbad on the 12th (H. L. Cogswell). Pintails, as usual, were much below autumn

numbers, the largest flock (161) at Havasu Lake on March 5 (G.M.), and the latest migrants along the coast, 20 over San Pedro breakwater on April 19 (R. Mall). A huge migration of scoters, mostly surf, was encountered by A. D. Brattland on May 18 some 25-30 miles south of Point Sur, when his ship plowed through a resting flock composed of "millions" for over 3 hours. Although not an ornithologist, he described the birds so well that there was no question of the identity of most of the flock. As such numbers are unknown in southern California, it is problematical whence they might have congregated for this northward flight. A few of the rarer ducks were reported as follows: blue-winged teal, 1 at Dominguez Lagoon on March 7 (D.), 2 there on April 20 (deLaubenfels), and apparently regular on the Colorado River where the last 4 were seen on April 23 (G.M.); (American) black scoters, male and 2 females, at Ballona Creek mouth, April 9 (deL.); female hooded merganser at Havasu Lake, March 19 (G.M.). On May 3, Mr. Comby saw a red-breasted merganser flying westward against a strong wind through San Geronio Pass (between our 2 highest mountain ranges) and coming down in the desert, apparently exhausted.

Turkey vulture.—After the first transients (5) over the San Gabriel River Sanctuary on February 14, there were almost daily flights from March 2 to 21, but no very large numbers. Maximums of 75 came on the 13th and 21st, and there was a late flight of 75 on April 29 at Arcadia (Quattlebaum).

Swainson's hawk.—All recorded flights were late and small—2 at Laguna Dam on April 2, to 20 near Fairmont, Los Angeles Co., on April 26-27, and the last 2 over upper Arroyo Seco, San Gabriel Mts., May 4 (H.L.C.). As thus pictured, the peak was just 4 weeks later than last year.

Other hawks.—There was 1 osprey at Laguna Dam on April 2 (H.L.C.), and 2 at Irvine Lake on April 24 (Wilson). A pigeon hawk was noted at Palos Verdes on March 8 (Shuart), and at Griffith Park, L.A., on April 6 (Russell). Other species are rarely recorded moving from one place to another; but suspiciously soaring (and northwestwardly traveling) sharp-shinned, Cooper's, and red-tailed hawks are frequently seen between the south face of the San Gabriel Mts. near Pasadena and the Tehachapi foothills. Thorough search in March and April along this flight line (used by many other birds) might reveal a number of local "Hawk Mountains."

Rails.—A count of 1 clapper rail to every 100 feet of suitable habitat at Newport Bay was obtained by M. W. deLaubenfels and several of his students when they dragged the shoreline during an extremely high tide on April 20 (in an unsuccessful search for black rails).

Shorebirds.—Apparently there was a very poor flight, although coastal coverage was skimpy during the peak period of late April and early May. At S.G.R.S., Hudsonian curlews fed in the fields and flew downstream nightly in flocks numbering from

3 on April 13 to a varying maximum of 100-200 on April 25-29, and a last 60 on May 5 (H.L.C.); smaller flocks in Baldwin Hills, L.A., reached a peak of 18 on April 30, some staying to May 15 (R.M.). In the Imperial valley and Colorado River sections, the following species were recorded in the maximum flocks indicated: snowy plover, 15; black-bellied plover, 5; Wilson's snipe, 33; long-billed curlew, 5; least sandpiper, 400; western sandpiper, 100; dowitcher, 120; marbled godwit, 60. Along the Palos Verdes coast, the wandering tattler flight began on May 10 with 2 and reached a peak of 7 on May 12, which was both poor and late; the birds appeared to be mated and less quarrelsome than in other years (Shuart). A lesser yellow-legs was regular at Dominguez Lagoon (S.), and 1 appeared at S.G.R.S. on April 6 (H.L.C.); a solitary sandpiper was seen at S.G.R.S. on April 20 (H.L.C., R.M.) and 27 (K. Rusterholz)—both are rare spring migrants.

Phalaropes.—There was a very early flight of Wilson's phalaropes through Imperial valley—24 on March 13 (Comby) and 1 on April 2 (H.L.C.), all in breeding plumage. These were far in advance of previous records (April 9), but 30 at Quail Lake, Los Angeles Co., on April 27 were normal. One very early northern phalarope, dead about 5 days, was found on the coast north of San Diego, March 30 (Crouch). At least 1000 red and northern phalaropes were seen, while enroute from San Francisco to Los Angeles by steamer on April 4 (Kent).

Gulls.—A loose flock of several hundred ring-billed (California?) gulls passed along the base of the San Gabriel Mts. at La Cañada, March 14 (H.L.C.), and 194 ring-bills in 5 flocks went north over Topock on the 15th (G.M.). Breeding-plumaged Bonaparte's were present as inland transients on April 4-7-12 at Cuyamaca Lake (Crouch), and 4 at Montebello (H.L.C.).

Terns.—There was little coastwise coverage during the May flight period, but a few common terns were found: 3 at Sunset Beach on May 8 (Comby), and 2 at Venice on June 1 (R. T. Peterson, H.L.C.). The first 2 Caspian terns in the Havasu Lake area were seen at Topock on April 16 (G.M.); several were migrating north along the coast at Pacific Palisades on May 30 (H.L.C.).

Swifts.—After the first Vaux's swifts appeared at La Jolla on April 12, they were numerous on dull, cloudy days from April 24 to May 17 throughout the San Gabriel valley, with 2 very late birds near Hemet on June 5 (Wilson). Mrs. Alma Mason, of the Highland Park section of L.A., reported 50 black swifts on May 14—a species all too often missed in their brief passage.

Swallows.—No large flight of violet-greens was reported, but small flocks were frequent from March 14 to April 12, when there were also large numbers of cliff swallows passing north along the coast at La Jolla and fighting a stiff onshore breeze. Local colonies of cliff swallows arrived much earlier—March 12-15 on the coastal lowlands, and along the Colorado River on March 29 (G.M.), on which date

200-300 were seen migrating with a like number of tree swallows at Camp Pendleton (Crouch). Tree swallows arrived at their S.G.R.S. nesting area by February 14; but wintering numbers (1600+) still at Topock on March 26 diminished to 130 by April 25 (G.M.), and migrants estimated at 1500 were over Laguna Dam, the All American Canal, and in Imperial valley on April 2, comparing poorly with the many thousands seen in the same locality on April 6 last year (H.L.C.).

Vireos.—The first (Cassin's) solitary vireo was seen on March 14 (early), and the first warbling vireo on the 16th at Pasadena (Q); a maximum of 6 solitary vireos were at S.G.R.S. on April 29 (D.), and warbling vireos present as transients as late as May 11-17, although breeding birds had arrived in local canyons before April 5.

Warblers.—Although some observers reported a general scarcity, a small boat 9 miles off San Clemente (town) on April 19 was visited by 1 Nashville, 1 Audubon's, 2 Tolmie's, 2 pileolated, and 2 black-throated gray warblers, the last being captured and taken to C. V. Duff of Hollywood, who banded and released them (Comby, *et al.*). These, plus a male Townsend's and a male pileolated on the rocks of San Pedro breakwater on the same date (R.M.) indicated quite a movement up the coast. On April 21, Mr. Kent listed 6 Nashville, 24 black-throated gray, 1 Townsend's, and 1 hermit warbler in Santa Anita Canyon. The biggest wave came on April 29-30, when all observers reported 1-20 pileolateds, plus varying assemblages of other species. At S.G.R.S. on the 29th, Mrs. Daugherty tallied 3 orange-crowned, 30 Nashville, 6 black-throated gray, and 1 hermit warbler, while at San Diego on the same date Ken Stott, Jr., and L. M. Huey reported large numbers of all these, plus yellows, Townsend's, and 1 Tolmie's. A smaller wave was evident on May 4 at Palos Verdes, when Mr. Shuart listed maximum numbers of chats, as well as all the others except Tolmie's, black-throated gray, and Nashville. One Townsend's warbler was noted at Mesquite Springs, Death Valley, April 7 (C.F.).

Miscellaneous.—Hummingbirds (sp.?) were seen migrating over open ocean 9 miles off San Clemente on April 19 (Comby). An olive-sided flycatcher appeared on April 29 at Arcadia (Q.), and on May 17 at S.G.R.S. (H.L.C.). Five crows on February 11 and 10 on March 16 were flying northwest high over Altadena, 1 bird in each flock calling (Q.). A phainopepla on February 20 was very early at Banning (Wilson); its general arrival on the Pacific slope was April 27-30; and a midmorning flight of 10 males and 1 female passed along the foothills above Arcadia on May 18 (H.L.C., R.M.). A few early western tanagers in late March were followed by the arrival of 23 at Banning on April 18 (W.) and a widespread wave on April 28-30; the last 2 were seen at S.G.R.S. on May 23, 10 days earlier than last year's latest (H.L.C.). There were 3 vesper sparrow records between March 8 and April 14, all from desert or near-desert localities. The

white-crowned sparrow (*Z. l. oriantha*) arrived at S.G.R.S. on April 27 (K.R.), and at Topock (3) on April 30 (G.M.), a week after the departure of wintering *gambelii*.

Rarities.—Least bittern, Newport Bay, April 24 (C. Friesen); yellow-shafted flicker at Mesquite Springs, Death Valley, April 7 (C.F.); scissor-tailed flycatcher at Anaheim sometime in April (Mrs. C. P. Beardsley *fide* J. H. Comby); eastern phoebe at San Jose Creek, May 14 (Comby); Bendire's thrasher at Banning, March 3 (Wilson); evening grosbeak, pair (male singing), at Chilao, San Gabriel Mts., May 29 (Mrs. H. E. Litten); Harris's sparrow, 1 with other *Zonotrichia* at Los Angeles, April 13 (Mason).—HOWARD L. COGSWELL, *San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary, 2610 S. Durfee Ave., El Monte, Calif.*