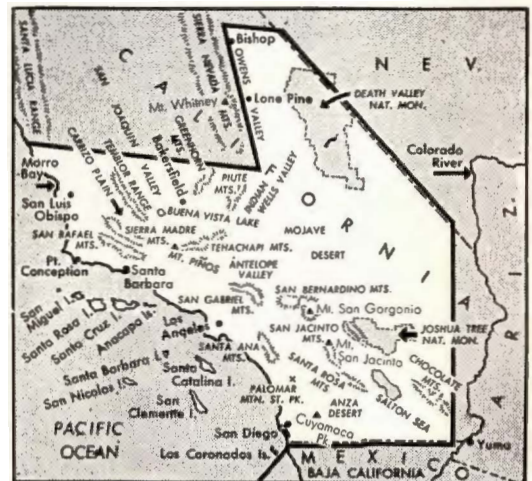


SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION.—In the earlier part of the summer, June, we have the usual summering waterbirds along the coast and on



the Salton Sea and other inland waters. Landbirds are busy with nesting activities and the only unusual birds to be found are those individuals that appear to be hopelessly lost. As summer progresses, species begin to wander from their breeding localities. Some species move northward after breeding, and we are now

accustomed to seeing numbers of Elegant Terns and Heermann's Gulls moving north along the coast in July and August. This year appears to be an exceptionally good year for species to wander north into the Salton Sea area where boobies and other breeders of the Gulf of California were found. By early August some of the fall migrants are seen as a few warblers and flycatchers trickle south.

Escaped Birds—In this Region, especially in and around the heavily populated areas, it is not uncommon to find exotic species of birds flying free. The climatic condition within this Region, and the fact that many exotic trees and shrubs are planted, help to enable these escaped birds to survive for long periods. It is quite likely that some live a full life in the wild, even breeding and producing young. When a strange species of bird is first found, we should always consider the possibility of an escapee. In the past three years this editor has either seen or heard of the following species flying free in the Region. Flamingos have been present for long periods at Sandyland, Santa Barbara Co., Bolsa Chica, Los Angeles Co., and San Diego; in San Diego alone there has been an Am. Flamingo present for four years and three Chilean Flamingos present for two years as well as two other individuals that were present only for a short period. With the interest in falconry growing, and the demand for exotic "pets," many hawks have been imported to this Region; in Los Angeles 3 Step Eagles are known to have escaped from the Los Angeles Airport, and it is not too unusual to see either North American or foreign hawks, wearing leather jesses on their legs, flying free. Game birds such as Bobwhite, Red-legged Partridge and different species of pheasants, are planted in many areas for hunting, and are often reported to this editor by surprised observers who happen across them; the peacock is actually breeding in a semiwild condition in Orange County. Parrots, Lories, Parakeets and Budgerigars are seen flying free on numerous occasions; two species are breeding in the Los Angeles Basin where they are apparently on the increase. A Woodnymph, a resident hummingbird of Brazil, was caught in a mist-net in San Diego. The commonly kept cagebirds are the small exotic landbirds most often reported, however; such strange species as Magpie Jay, Green Jay and a Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler (*Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*) have been seen.

Loons, Grebes, Shearwaters and Petrels—A few summering loons were present along the coast as is normal; most birds identified during the summer months are Arctic Loons. As usual, small flocks and stray individual Western Grebes were present at locations where the species winters in large flocks. About 30 Pink-footed Shearwaters were seen off San Diego on July 30 (GMcC, CL, LT, A & JC). A "good flight" of Sooty Shearwaters was developing off Pismo Beach, San Luis Obispo Co. in August (EAP); about 100 were seen off San Diego on July 30. Almost unbelievable was a *New Zealand Shearwater* captured alive on Aug. 6 at the north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co. (GMcC & JC); it is rarely reported off the coast of this Region (this editor is aware of only one record), and is certainly not to be

expected inland. A few Leach's Petrels were noted off San Diego on July 30 where the Black Petrel appeared to be the commonest species with over 500 being noted (400 in a single raft).

Tropicbirds, Pelicans, Boobies, Frigatebirds—A Red-billed Tropicbird came aboard a fishing boat near San Clemente Island on Aug. 10 and was saved as a specimen (*ide GSS*); this species is known to most of the people regularly on boats off southern California, and is undoubtedly regular in these waters in late summer. Brown Pelicans appear to stay close to their nesting colonies until late June; then they disperse along the entire coast. The Brown Pelican again appeared at the Salton Sea, where between 3 and 10 (1 collected) were seen at the north end of the sea, Riverside County, between July 28 (GSS) and Aug. 13 (GMcC, CL, AC, EC); it is now apparent that a few individuals, all immatures, wander north from the Gulf of California each year in the late summer. This is certainly one of the best years we know of for boobies straying north from the Gulf of California. Two Blue-footed Boobies (imm. and 1 ad.) were at the north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co. on Aug. 4 (GSS), and were clearly photographed on Aug. 6 (GMcC & JC); on Aug. 13, 3 immatures (1 collected) were present (GMcC, CL, AC, EC), and on Aug. 20, 3 immatures were present at the same spot (GMcC); this meant a minimum of 5 individuals visited this one location—there are now about 20 occurrences of this species in California. An immature *Brown Bobby* discovered at the north end of the Salton Sea on July 28 (GSS) was continually present until Aug. 13 when it was collected (GMcC, CL, AC, EC)—the 4th record for California. Magnificent Frigatebirds were reported by fishermen as follows: 2 off La Jolla, San Diego Co. on July 16, and one there on July 23, and one near the Los Coronados Islands on July 31; this is more than the normal number of reports for the coast where they are casual. An immature *Magnificent Frigatebird* was well seen at the north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co., on Aug. 13 (GMcC, CL, AC, EC)—this appears to be the third inland occurrence of this species in California.

Hérons and Ibises—Snowy Egrets successfully nested in the Sandyland Slough, Santa Barbara Co. for the first time in many years (NM); judging by the number of immatures present at the north end of the Salton Sea this species had a successful nesting season there. Only about 100 Wood Ibis were present at the Salton Sea in July and August. White-faced Ibis were present at the south end of the Salton Sea, but no evidence of nesting was obtained.

Geese & Ducks—As normal, a few Black Brant were present along the coast throughout the summer; these are probably individuals that were wounded during the hunting season. Fulvous Tree Ducks nested at the Salton Sea as normal. Pintails nested at Sandyland, Santa Barbara Co., (LC); south of normal breeding range, but cripples often breed outside their normal ranges. Two Wood Ducks were at Santa Barbara on July 30 (RW); this is a scarce species in this Region. A few Redheads nested along the coast. A Surf Scoter was seen at the south end of the Salton

Sea, Imperial Co., ~~on~~ July 3 (EAA); this species is casual inland in California and has not previously been found inland during the summer months.

Hawks—California Condors were seen in good numbers (up to 22 in a day) in the area around Mt. Pinos, Ventura Co. in late July and August; it appears as though most of the population is in this area at this time of the year each year. An Osprey was seen at the north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co. on June 24 (GSS).

Shorebirds—An extremely early Am. Golden Plover was at the south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co. on July 16 (GMcC, CL, ET). About 50 Ruddy Turnstones and 2 Black Turnstones were seen in San Diego during June. Along the West Coast spring migrant shorebirds are present until the end of May, and returning fall migrants are present in early July; the only shorebirds that can be considered summering individuals are those known to be present throughout the month of June. A few of the larger species, (e.g., Willets and Marbled Godwits) regularly summer as far south as San Diego. Fifty Knots summered on San Diego Bay. Six Knots were seen inland on the Salton Sea, Imperial Co. on July 16 (GMcC, CL, LT), and another was seen there on Aug. 13 (GMcC, CL).

Gulls and Terns—A few of our "wintering" species of gulls were present along the coast throughout the summer—mostly immatures. A Western Gull (yellow-legged) was seen on June 5 at the Salton Sea, Imperial Co., where it is casual (GMcC, CL). A few Laughing Gulls and Gull-billed Terns were seen at the Salton Sea, Imperial Co. in late July and August; immatures and adults of both species were present; none were seen earlier in the year and it is possible that they wandered up there from the Gulf of California after breeding. An adult Sabine's Gull was at the north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co. on June 24 (GSS, DG), the first inland record for this Region. Common Terns were seen on the Salton Sea as early as June 18 when 3 were present (GMcC); they normally are not noted until late

July and August. Elegant Terns had a successful breeding season in San Diego.

Alcids, Doves—Pigeon Guillemots nested a little north of San Simeon, San Luis Obispo Co. (EAP). While on a boat off San Diego on July 30, 10 Xantus' Murrelets, 10 Cassin's Auklets and 3 Rhinoceros Auklets were seen (GMcC, et al.); the latter species is somewhat south for this time of the year. A White-winged Dove was seen on the coast near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., on June 6 (GMcC).

Flycatchers, Thrashers—Most species of landbirds were believed to have had an average successful breeding season. A late Gray Flycatcher was collected near Wrightwood, San Bernardino Co. on June 10 (GSS). Bendire's Thrashers were reasonably common near Cima, San Bernardino Co., June 26 (GSS).

Vireos, Warblers, Orioles—A pair of the plumbeous race of the Solitary Vireo bred in the San Bernardino Mountains (EC), the first substantiated breeding record of this race in California. An adult female Blackpoll Warbler was banded and photographed on Point Loma, San Diego Co. on June 21 (A & JC), the first 'spring' record for the Region. A male Orchard Oriole was seen in Montecito, Santa Barbara Co. on June 7 (JF).

Tanagers, Finches—Summer Tanagers bred at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co. again this year; a vagrant was banded on the coast at Point Loma, San Diego Co. on June 12 (A & JC). A Varied Bunting was seen in Arcadia, Los Angeles Co. on Aug. 7 (BM); from the accompanying description there is no doubt that the bird was an adult male—the third report for California. A Pine Siskin, south of its breeding range, was seen on Mt. Palomar, San Diego Co. on July 19 (AM).

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