

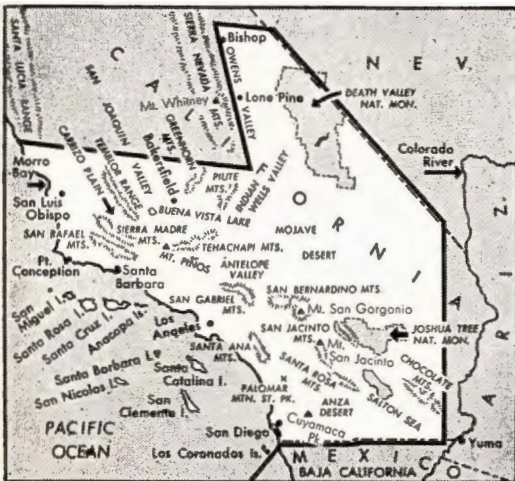
earlier than normal, arriving before the series of storms; the late arriving species appeared to be delayed; and the bulk of the migrants arrived a little later than normal. The earliest arrival dates for our key migrants were: Vaux's Swift, April 11; W. Kingbird, March 4; Ash-throated Flycatcher, March 18; *Empidonax* sp., March 5; W. Wood Pewee, April 20; Swainson's Thrush, April 15; Solitary Vireo, April 3; Warbling Vireo, March 4 (very early); Nashville Warbler, March 30; Yellow Warbler, April 15; Black-throated Gray Warbler, April 2; Hermit Warbler, April 22; Yellow-breasted Chat, April 10; Wilson's Warbler, March 19; Hooded Oriole, March 14; Bullock's Oriole, March 14; W. Tanager, April 17; Black-headed Grosbeak, March 24; Blue Grosbeak, April 24; Lazuli Bunting, April 5.

Many people appear to be under the impression that we do not have concentrations of migrants along the west coast. It is true that we do not have the variety of warblers that are encountered in the eastern part of the United States, but concentrations of warblers and other migrants are to be found. These concentrations, however, usually contain few more than a dozen species and are easily passed off as being unspectacular. On April 22, a day with strong winds in the desert, a concentration of migrants was found along the eastern base of the mountains in San Diego County (GMC, CL). In about half an hour we saw about 3000 Orange-crowned Warblers, 1000 Nashville Warblers, 500 Black-headed Grosbeaks, 50 Brewer's Sparrows, 50 Black-chinned Sparrows and a scattering of at least 10 other migrant species. The birds were all on the ground or in the lower portions of the small widely scattered trees and bushes and flew up at our feet as we walked through the area. In periods of stormy weather it is not too uncommon to encounter similar concentrations elsewhere along the eastern base of the coastal mountains and at desert oases, and this concentration was not the only one of this magnitude encountered this spring.

Along the coast the Craigs band very impressive numbers of migrants in their yard on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co. In a 20 by 40 ft. area they caught more than 2000 migrants between March 23 and June 3, with a peak of 197 on May 7. However, over 75 percent of this total was comprised of only 7 species: 513 Wilson's Warblers, 259 W. Tanagers, 226 Nashville Warblers, 217 Orange-crowned Warblers, 141 W. Flycatchers, 108 Townsend's Warblers and 74 Swainson's Thrushes. The Nashville Warbler provides a good illustration of the delaying effect of the April storms. In 1966 the migration of this species at Pt. Loma was virtually completed by the end of April; this spring over half of the Nashville Warblers banded were caught between the 1st and 14th of May, with a peak of 29 on May 7.

It has become evident in recent years that many birds believed to migrate only along the coast pass through the Salton Sea area each spring. All are species that are known to winter to the south and that pass through the Region each spring on their way to northern breeding grounds. Evidently some of

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION.—This season saw a series of storms pushing south along the coast in quick succession. April was at least 5°



colder than normal, with about four times the average rainfall. In the mountains snow remained at lower elevations well into May, and occasional snow storms actually occurred in May. This resulted in an abundance of plant growth along the coast, and many usually dry streams, rivers and lakes had water in them.

In general, the early arriving species were a little

these birds become "trapped" in the Gulf of California on their way north and find that they have to make an overland crossing. When there are strong winds blowing in the Coachella Valley, north of the Salton Sea, it is possible to find an interesting array of waterbirds along the north shore of the sea. Almost all of our migrant coastal waterbirds have by now been found on this inland body of water, and some of these are being found in fair-sized flocks (see Black Brant and Knot). It would be interesting to know if they continue north over the Mojave Desert or veer westward through the low point between the San Jacinto and San Bernardino Mountains to reach the coast again in Los Angeles County.

Loons, Grebes, Pelagic birds—Arctic Loons were still present offshore in fair numbers well into May with many seen migrating north in late May; between 400 and 500 were found along the coast near San Simeon, San Luis Obispo Co., on May 25 (EAP). A Horned Grebe was found inland on Ramer Lake, Imperial Co. on April 30 (GMcC, PD); this is a species that probably becomes "trapped" in the Gulf of California. A single Black-footed Albatross was seen about 40 miles south of San Clemente Island on April 30 (JS). Sooty Shearwaters were found in fair numbers off the coast during late April and May, and about 1200 per hour were seen passing north along the coast near San Simeon on May 25. A few Pink-footed Shearwaters were to be found with the Sooty Shearwaters off San Diego and Los Angeles, but farther north they appeared to be absent. Black Petrels, the only species of petrel reported, were found only in the waters off San Diego.

Hérons—Great Blue Herons and Black-crowned Night Herons appear to be able to adapt to man's proximity and nest successfully in residential areas where eucalyptus trees are present; the other heron species that occur in this Region appear to be on the decline as nesting birds. At the south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co., Cattle Egrets were present throughout the period, with a maximum of 75 counted on April 11 (JLR); in late April many of these birds were in full breeding condition with bright orange-yellow legs and bills and pink lores (GMcC, PD). Along the coast, 2 remained near Santa Barbara until April 21 (S.B.A.S.); 5 were still present at Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co., on April 8 (GSS); 10 were still present near Garden Grove, Orange Co., on May 5 (JL); and 1 remained near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., until May 24. The Louisiana Heron present on Upper Newport Bay, Orange Co., in late March was seen until at least May 15 (GSS, TS); one remained at Imperial Beach until at least April 23 (GMcC); and one seen at the south end of the Salton Sea on May 21 (GMcC, PD) is the first recorded for this area.

Waterfowl—By the end of the period we were left with the usual nonbreeding individuals that will summer with us along with a few species that normally nest in the Region. Again found inland in late April and early May, Black Brant were continually present at the north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co. between April 16 and May 13, with a high

count of 60 on April 29; 1 was near Westmorland, Imperial Co. on April 16 and 30; 1 was at Jacumba, San Diego Co. on April 16; and 38 were on Lake Cuyamaca, San Diego Co. on April 22. The last two localities are in the coastal mountains. A few Fulvous Tree Ducks appear to be breeding in the vicinity of the Salton Sea as is normal. As usual, a few Blue-winged Teal were found with migrant Cinnamon Teal. Three hundred Ring-necked Ducks were seen on Lake Cuyamaca, April 22, a good-sized concentration for the Region. An Oldsquaw seen on San Diego Bay on May 6 (GMcC, AC, CL, PD) was most likely a summering individual. Two Surf Scoters on Lake Cuyamaca on April 16 and 22 (GMcC) and 1 at the north end of the Salton Sea on May 13 (GMcC, GSS, SW, BB) constitute inland records of birds probably "trapped" in the Gulf of California. A few Red-breasted Mergansers were found inland on the Salton Sea as appears to be normal.

Hawks—Eleven Swainson's Hawks seen together near Desert Hot Springs, Riverside Co. on April 14 (GSS) were the only birds reported this spring. An immature Bald Eagle was seen in Round Valley, Inyo Co. on May 28 (CPG); this species is not known to breed anywhere near this location. Two Ospreys remained on Lake Cachuma, Santa Barbara Co., until at least April 16 (NM). Peregrine Falcons were still able to produce young from undisturbed aeries; the location of these aeries is, however, best kept out of print. A late Pigeon Hawk was seen near San Ynez, Santa Barbara Co. on April 16 (NM).

Shorebirds—There was a belated report of an Am. Oystercatcher seen on Santa Cruz Island on Nov. 11, 1966 (H. F. Recher); in recent years 1 or 2 have been seen there and on the nearby mainland. Two Am. Golden Plovers that wintered in San Diego were last seen on April 1 (GMcC) and 4 were seen at Newport, Orange Co. on April 22 (JJ, BB); this is a scarce but regular spring migrant in the Region. Five Surf-birds were seen at the north end of the Salton Sea on April 25 (JL), and 2 (1 collected) were found there on April 29 (GMcC, PD). These are the first inland records of this species in the Region; it has been recorded in the Gulf of California, however, and these individuals undoubtedly came from there. A Ruddy Turnstone was seen at the north end of the Salton Sea on May 13 (GMcC, GSS, SW, BB); this species is fairly common along the coast but is very scarce inland. A Solitary Sandpiper, always scarce during the spring, was at Rialto, San Bernardino Co. on April 22 (EAC). Wandering Tattlers appeared to reach the peak of their spring migration along the coast during May. Knots were found inland at the north end of the Salton Sea between April 29 and May 13, with a peak of 100 on May 7 (EAC). Only a few years ago this species was considered accidental inland in the Region. The only Stilt Sandpiper found this spring was one at the south end of the Salton Sea on May 21 (GMcC, PD). A *Semipalmated Sandpiper* was collected at the north end of the Salton Sea on May 7 (EAC), and another was carefully observed at the south end of the Salton Sea on

May 21 (*GMcC, PD*); both birds were in breeding plumage. There is only one previous record of this species for California (a bird collected on the Salton Sea, May 7, 1960). Small numbers of Sanderlings were found inland on the Salton Sea in late April and May as is now apparently normal. Very few Red Phalaropes were noted, an indication they stayed far offshore.

Jaegers, Gulls and Terns—Pomarine Jaegers were found to be the most common jaeger offshore in May. A few Glaucous-winged, Herring and Bonaparte's Gulls, species that winter in the Region, were still present at the end of the period, probably individuals that will summer here. A W. Gull (yellow-legged) was at the north end of the Salton Sea on April 29 (*GMcC, PD*); this is very scarce inland. An adult Franklin's Gull was at the north end of the Salton Sea on April 29 (*GMcC, PD*); 2 were there on May 13 (*GMcC, GSS, SW, BB*), and 1 was at the south end of the Salton Sea on May 21 (*GMcC, PD*); the species is now found each spring in this area. A Franklin's Gull seen off Imperial Beach on May 21 (J. Jehl) was at a rather unusual location. A Black-legged Kittiwake near San Pedro, Los Angeles Co., April 14, was quite late for the Region. Sabine's Gulls were scarce close to shore this spring. A Gull-billed Tern was seen at the south end of the Salton Sea on March 19 (*GMcC, AC, CL*), which appears to be the earliest spring arrival date recorded in California. First noted in San Diego on April 26, Com. Terns moved north along the coast in early May and up to 50 were found inland on the Salton Sea during the same period. Two Elegant Terns seen at Bolsa Chica, Orange Co. on May 24 (*GSS*) were early for a location away from San Diego. A Black Tern in San Diego on April 8 was early.

Alcids—Pigeon Guillemots nested on Morro Rock, San Luis Obispo Co. (*EAP*), the southern limit of this species' breeding range along the west coast. Ten Xantus' Murrelets near Santa Cruz Island on May 21 (*S.B.A.S., AB*) were a little far north for this early in the year. A Tufted Puffin was seen 50 miles southwest of San Clemente Island on April 27 (*JS*), quite far south.

Swifts, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers—Five Black Swifts, a scarce species on migration, were seen at Santa Barbara on April 30 (*WGA*). In late April, Vaux's Swifts were very numerous throughout the Region, and many flocks numbering in the thousands were seen. Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were found to be fairly common in the White Mountains, where they breed. Calliope Hummingbirds were noted quite regularly in the San Diego area between March 25 and early May, and a few were seen on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Los Angeles Co., in early May. At least 5 Gilded Flickers were seen near Cima, San Bernardino Co., May 29–30 (*GMcC, CL*). Although this species probably breeds in the area, this would be a range extension to the northwest. A Lewis' Woodpecker at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co., April 29–May 7 (*GMcC, JJ*), was the only one noted in the Region.

Flycatchers—A pair of Wied's Crested Flycatchers

was seen at Morongo Valley on May 27 (*TC*); they now appear to be regular at this location. Vermilion Flycatchers were again present at Morongo Valley, and one was in Whitewater Canyon, Riverside Co. on May 3 (*JJ*).

Jay, Chickadees, Nuthatches—A Steller's Jay was seen on the Palos Verdes Peninsula on May 28 (*SW*), a very late date for this location. Mountain Chickadees noted on the Palos Verdes Peninsula and Pt. Loma in late May were possibly birds that had wintered along the coast. Red-breasted Nuthatches remained at coastal localities well into May.

Wren, Thrashers—A late Winter Wren was seen in Whitewater Canyon on April 24 (*DAG, SW*). Bendire's Thrashers were found to be common in the area around Cima. The presence of Crissal Thrashers around Cima represents a slight westward range extension, since they appeared to be breeding in the area.

Solitaire, Kinglet, Waxwings—A Townsend's Solitaire was seen at Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino Co., a desert location, on the late date of May 27 (*TC*). A late Golden-crowned Kinglet was near Santa Barbara on April 9 (*NM*). Cedar Waxwings were exceedingly common along the coast during April and May.

Vireos, Warblers—Gray Vireos, which are becoming scarce in the Region, were found near Big Bear and Cima, both in San Bernardino Co.; in each case the birds were in areas of piñon and juniper growth. Single Black-and-white Warblers were at Capistrano Beach, Orange Co., May 5 (*AF*), and Deep Springs, Inyo Co., May 27 (*GMcC*); this species is rare but regular. A Prothonotary Warbler seen from a boat off San Diego on May 21 (J. Jehl) constitutes the fourth record for the Region. A Tennessee Warbler was banded and photographed on Pt. Loma on May 27 (*AC*), a normal date for a spring occurrence. A Tennessee Warbler was seen at Capistrano Beach on May 5 (*AF*) and another at Manhattan Beach, Los Angeles Co. on May 6 (*CA*). It is most unusual for such vagrants to occur in early May, and it is unfortunate that both birds were seen only by single observers. A Virginia's Warbler was at Thousand Palms Oasis, Riverside Co. on May 13 (*GMcC, DAG, SW, BB*); there are very few records of spring migrants away from their very limited breeding range in California. Two Lucy's Warblers at Twentynine Palms on April 30 (*AS*) were somewhat northwest of their normal range. A ♂ Magnolia Warbler was at Deep Springs, May 27 (*GMcC, GSS, DAG, CL, LS*); the species has become almost regular at this time of year. A ♀ Black-throated arbler seen on the Los Coronados sands on May 2 (J. Jehl) is possibly the first spring record of this species on the west coast. A rather late Myrtle Warbler was found near Calipatria, Imperial Co., on May 6 (*EAC*), and a very late one was banded on Pt. Loma on May 23 (*AC*). An Ovenbird came aboard a boat off Santa Barbara on May 21 (*S.B.A.S., AB*), and another was photographed at Paradise Camp, Inyo Co. on May 28 (*CPG*); this species occurs just about as often in the spring as in the fall. An Am. Redstart was in

Whitewater Canyon on April 24 (*DAG, SW*); 1 was at Morongo Valley on May 7 (*GMcC, BB*); 4 were at Deep Springs, May 27-29 (*GMcC, DAG, CL, GSS, LS, BB*); and 1 was at Paradise Camp on May 28 (*CPG*). The species is regular in limited numbers in the Region. A Painted Redstart, a rather scarce species in California, was in Whitewater Canyon from April 16 to 24.

Bobolinks, Orioles, Tanagers—An adult ♂ Bobolink seen at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley Nat'l Monument, May 29 (*GMcC, CL*), was the third spring record for the Region. A Scott's Oriole near Deep Springs on May 28 was at the northern limit of its range; 2 were seen along the coast near San Diego during April. The Baltimore Oriole that wintered in Montecito, Santa Barbara Co. was last seen on April 2 (*JK*); the one that wintered on Pt. Loma was last seen on April 14 (*GMcC, AC*); and a spring vagrant was banded and photographed on Pt. Loma on May 27 (*AC*). There are very few records of this species for this time of year. A ♂ *Hepatic Tanager* seen in Round Valley, San Bernardino Mountains, May 21 (*LS*), is the first spring record for California. A wintering Summer Tanager was last noted on Pt. Loma on April 8 (*GMcC, AC*); 2 pairs arrived at Morongo Valley in early May as usual; and a ♂ at Oasis, Mono Co., May 27-28 (*GMcC, CL, BB, GSS, LS, DAG*), was well north of its normal known range.

Fringillids—A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak (photographed) was at Cima on May 29-30 (Greenbergs, *GMcC, CL*); this is a scarce but regular spring vagrant. A ♂ Indigo Bunting was at Morongo Valley from April 29 to May 7 (*LS, GMcC*), and another

was in Wyman Creek Canyon in the White Mountains, Inyo Co., on May 28-29 (Greenbergs, *GSS, DAG, LS, BB*). The species is noted most years during the spring and early summer. A few Pine Siskins were noted along the coast and at Morongo Valley during the period. Red Crossbills persisted in the Region after last fall's influx: 10 were still present near Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo Co., May 7 (*ME*); 12 were still present on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, May 21 (*SW*); 1 was at Costa Mesa, Orange Co., May 18-19 (*TS*); and about a dozen were still present on Pt. Loma at the end of the period (*AC, GMcC*). Inland, Red Crossbills were noted in the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains, and 1 was seen near Cima on May 13 (*EAC*). Grasshopper Sparrows were found on breeding territories near San Diego and near Capistrano, Orange Co. Black-chinned Sparrows, first noted on March 25, appear to be more numerous than usual this year. A late White-throated Sparrow was in Santa Barbara on May 1 (*W & JG*).

Contributors—Waldo G. Abbott, Caroline Adams, Alan Baldridge, Bruce Broadbooks, Eugene A. Cardiff, Theodore Chandik, Leslie Cook, Alan & Jean Craig, Pier Devillers, Mary Erickson, Alice Fries, David A. Gaines, William & June Gardner, Joe Greenberg, C. P. Greening, June Hopkins, Joe Jehl, Jerry Johnson, Jewell Kriger, Jim Lane, Cliff Lyons, Nelson Metcalf, Richmond Miller, Eleanor A. Pugh, Charles & Alice Richardson, Jack L. Richardson, Larry Sansone, Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Brad Schram, Jay Shepard, Trudy Siptroth, Arnold Small, G. S. Suffel, Tom Taylor, Shirley Wells.—GUY MCCASKIE, 1640 Guy Street, Apt. 9, San Diego, Calif.