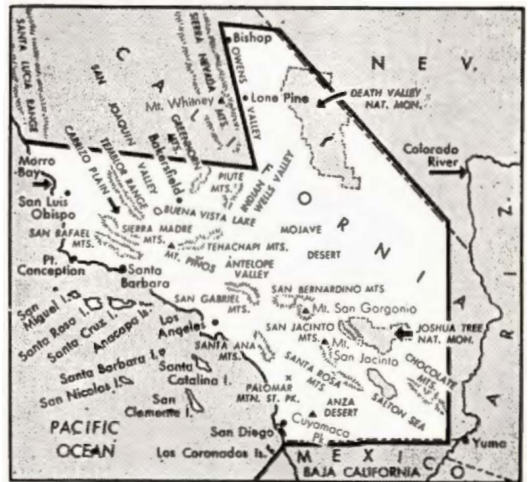


SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION—Temperatures were in general a little higher than normal throughout the period. The lush growth of vegeta-



tion encouraged by the spring rains was quickly dried by the sun, leaving the area extremely vulnerable to brush and grass fires. Needless to say, in a region with a high population density and its accompanying careless persons, we have had more

than our share of fires. In the eastern and mountainous areas of the Region we also had more than normal rainfall and numerous electrical storms.

Loons, Grebes—A few nonbreeding loons were found summering along the coast as is normal. One or two Horned Grebes in full breeding plumage were present in the San Diego area throughout the summer. A few Eared Grebes, including at least 3 albinos, spent the summer near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co. A small number (30) of Western Grebes nested successfully on Sweetwater Reservoir, San Diego Co.; although the species rarely nests in the Region, this year there was plenty of water in the reservoir as well as suitable reedbeds for nesting.

Pelicans, Herons, Wood Ibis—Only a few White Pelicans were present on the Salton Sea during the summer; though it formerly nested on the Salton Sea, this species no longer nests within the Region. Brown Pelicans dispersed along the coast from their breeding colonies in late June. A single immature Brown Pelican was present at the north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co. after July 29; this is a regular post-breeding wanderer from the Gulf of California to this location. One or two Cattle Egrets persisted in the Region until early June; a search for nesting birds at the Salton Sea revealed none and it is almost certain all left the area without nesting. Three Cattle Egrets at the south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co. on Aug. 13 apparently were new arrivals into the area. Post-breeding Wood Ibis arrived at the south end of the Salton Sea in mid-June and built up to about 150 birds by late July; 2 present along the coast at Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo Co. between Aug. 5 and 17 (*EAP*) constitute one of the northernmost coastal records for California. Wood Ibis formerly were regular post-breeding wanderers to the coast of San Diego County.

Waterfowl—A few nonbreeding Black Brant summered in coastal marshes; possibly these were birds carrying shot from the hunting season. More interesting were 6 Black Brant that spent the summer at the north end of the Salton Sea and 8 seen at the south end of the Salton Sea on July 23 (*EAC*); these were probably birds that had become confused by their inland surroundings after arriving there during the spring and had chosen to stay where there was water rather than to move northward across the desert. Cinnamon Teal were found nesting in fair numbers in suitable coastal marshes and inland swamps. Redheads nested in fair numbers in some of the coastal marshes of San Diego County. A variety of our more northern ducks was found summering in the Region as is normal; some of the more interesting of these were a Com. Goldeneye on the Salton Sea and another on San Diego Bay; an Oldsquaw at the south end of the Salton Sea on July 9 (*GSS*); and 2 or 3 Red-breasted Mergansers present on the Salton Sea throughout the season.

Shorebirds—It is surprising how little time these birds apparently spend on their tundra breeding grounds. In this Region large numbers spend the winter with us and even larger numbers pass through during the spring and fall. Spring migrants are

evident in the Region until the end of May, and by the first week of July we have the first of the fall migrants. The majority of the northern shorebirds present during June are apparently nonbreeding individuals that choose to summer far south of their breeding grounds; most of these birds are in nonbreeding plumage. An interesting fact that has become evident by checking these summering shorebirds is that the small "peeps" (Least and Western Sandpipers) are extremely scarce during June, although these two species are the most numerous throughout the rest of the year. The summering shorebirds prefer to stay in flocks and can be found in the larger coastal bays such as San Diego Bay and at the Salton Sea. On San Diego Bay there were about 10 Black-bellied Plovers, 10 Ruddy Turnstones, 150 Willets, 50 Knots, 300 Marbled Godwits, 10 Sanderlings, and 1 or 2 Black Turnstones, Long-billed Curlews, Greater Yellowlegs, dowitchers, Wilson's Phalaropes and Northern Phalaropes present throughout June and considered summering individuals. A mass of shorebirds present at the south end of the Salton Sea on June 17 contained 20 Black-bellied Plovers, 40 Long-billed Curlews, 50 Whimbrels, 40 Willets, 1 Greater Yellowlegs, 2 Western Sandpipers, and 300 Marbled Godwits; all appeared to be in nonbreeding plumage and undoubtedly were summering individuals. A Wandering Tattler at Morro Bay on June 10 (*FH*) may well have been a summering individual. By early July the first of the fall migrants had arrived in the Region; these were in full summer plumage as is normal for the earlier arrivals. The most conspicuous of these, probably because we see so few during June, were the Least Sandpipers, dowitchers, Western Sandpipers, Wilson's Phalaropes and Northern Phalaropes. Noteworthy records of fall migrants were a very early Mountain Plover collected at the south end of the Salton Sea on Aug. 5 (*JJ*, *GMcC*); an early Am. Golden Plover present at the south end of the Salton Sea for at least 3 weeks after July 22 (*GMcC*, *JJ*, *AC*, *CL*); 2 Ruddy Turnstones seen inland at the south end of the Salton Sea on Aug. 5 (*GMcC*, *JJ*) and 2 more there on Aug. 13 (*GMcC*, *CL*); and 3 Knots seen inland at the south end of the Salton Sea on July 29 (*BB*). A few Baird's Sandpipers were noted on the Salton Sea and along the coast in early August.

Gulls and Terns—A few of the wintering gulls (Glaucous-winged, Herring and Bonaparte's Gulls) could be found summering along the coast as is normal; a few Bonaparte's Gulls also were present at the Salton Sea throughout the summer. A Western Gull (yellow-legged race) was photographed at the south end of the Salton Sea on July 22 (*GMcC*, *LT*); 1 was seen in the same area on July 29 (*BB*); and 6 (all yellow-legged birds) were seen together there on Aug. 13 (*GMcC*, *CL*). These are individuals that have wandered north from the Gulf of California; the species is very scarce at the Salton Sea and has been found nowhere else inland in the Region. About a dozen Laughing Gulls, including adults and immatures, were seen on the Salton Sea on Aug. 13; this was the first time that this species

had been detected there this year, indicating that they were post-breeding wanderers northward rather than birds that had bred in the area. Two late Franklin's Gulls were at the north end of the Salton Sea on June 12 (RS, DDeS) and an early bird was at the south end of the Salton Sea on Aug. 13 (GMcC, CL); this species is regular in limited numbers. Two adult *Heermann's Gulls* collected at the north end of the Salton Sea on July 3 (EAC) constitute the first substantiated inland record for California; this is the time of the year when large numbers of these gulls move northward along the coast from their Mexican breeding colonies. A second-year *Black-legged Kittiwake* was collected at the north end of the Salton Sea on July 22 (GMcC, CL, AC, LT). The bird had most likely reached this area by flying north up the Gulf of California during the spring; however, the species has not been recorded as far south as the tip of Baja California which it would have to reach during the winter to become "trapped" in the Gulf of California. About 100 pairs of Forster's Terns nested at the south end of San Diego Bay; this is a relatively new nester in the Region. Common Terns were noted at the north end of the Salton Sea until early June, and fall migrants were present there by late July. Along the coast 150 Com. Terns were counted on San Diego Bay on June 23. Whether these were summering individuals or early fall migrants was not determined, but this species has not been recorded nesting in California. Least Terns are still able to raise a few young on our crowded beaches, but it is doubtful whether more than 10 percent of the eggs laid ever hatch since there is much disturbance within the nesting colonies by bathers. A few Royal Terns, all in nonbreeding plumage, were present in the San Diego area throughout the summer; there is only one nesting record for California and it is probable that they nest only very sporadically within the state. About 50 pairs of Elegant Terns nested successfully among the Caspian Terns at the south end of San Diego Bay; this species is now a regular breeder at this location. The post-breeding flight of Elegant Terns northward along the coast seemed very meager.

Pigeons, Doves, Owls, Hummingbirds—A Band-tailed Pigeon at Panamint Springs, Inyo Co. on June 10 (GMcC, AC) was outside of the species' known range in California and far from any suitable habitat. Spotted Doves have now spread northward along the coast to Cambria, San Luis Obispo Co., where they apparently bred this summer (EAP). Elf Owls are still to be found at Cottonwood Springs, Riverside Co. even though the cottonwoods have been removed; this is the only locality within California where this small owl has been found regularly during the summer. Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were found to be fairly common in the White Mts. and the Panamint Mts. of the northeastern portion of the Region.

Flycatchers, Swallows—At least one pair of Wied's Crested Flycatchers nested at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co., which is the western limit of this species' range. A *Coues' Flycatcher* was reported

seen at Thousand Palms Oasis, Riverside Co. on June 13 (RS, DDeS); there are only two previous records for California and both of these are specimen-supported records for early October. Vermilion Flycatchers nested successfully at Morongo Valley, which is possibly the best location in California for this species; a stray was seen in San Diego on June 8. Purple Martins appeared to be more numerous and widespread than usual in the mountainous areas of the Region.

Nutcrackers, Nuthatches, Wrens, Thrashers, Waxwings—A Clark's Nutcracker seen on Mt. Palomar, San Diego Co. on June 24 (A & JM) was south of its breeding range in this Region. Red-breasted Nuthatches were noted off and on along the coast throughout the period, but there was no proof of nesting. At least 3 pairs of Winter Wrens nested at Cambria, San Luis Obispo Co. (EAP); this represents a southward extension of the species' breeding range. Bendire's Thrashers persisted as common breeding birds in the vicinity of Cima, San Bernardino Co. Some Cedar Waxwings were still noted in the Region during early June; they commonly remain very late this far south after a heavy winter flight.

Warblers—The normal breeding species for this Region were present in their respective ranges and habitats in about average numbers. Two or three Virginia's Warblers were found in the lower portion of Wyman Canyon in the White Mts., Inyo Co., where this species reaches the western limit of its breeding range. A singing N. Waterthrush found in Wyman Canyon on June 10 (DDeS, GMcC, RS, AC) was most likely a delayed spring migrant. MacGillivray's Warblers seen in the San Bernardino Mts. in July may have bred there (GSS); this is south of the species' known breeding range. An *Am. Redstart* was at Deep Springs, Inyo Co. on June 10 (DDeS, RS, GMcC, AC) and an immature ♂ of this species was banded on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co. on July 9 (AC); this is a regular stray during early summer but quite unusual in July.

Tanagers, Finches, Sparrows—Summer Tanagers bred successfully at Morongo Valley, where there were at least 2 pairs; 2 singing males were located on the Brocks Ranch Experimental Farm between Winterhaven and Holtville, Imperial Co., where they may prove to nest since the habitat is suitable. A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak was collected in the San Bernardino Mts. near Lucerne Valley on June 13 (RS, DDeS); the species is a somewhat regular wanderer to this Region. A ♂ Indigo Bunting was seen in Wyman Canyon on June 29 (BB) and a ♀ was seen near Wrightwood, San Bernardino Co. on June 24 (GSS); this is a regular stray. Red Crossbills departed from the coast by early June but were noted throughout the summer in the San Bernardino Mts.

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