

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION.—The summer was relatively warm and clear. During July and early August there were thundershowers in the mountains as usual. Two tropical storms to the south of the Region brought some rain to the area: one on July 6 when over an inch of rain fell in the Imperial Valley and the other on July 28 when about half an inch of rain fell in the Imperial Valley. Both storms were accompanied by high winds in the southeastern portion of the Region.

The Salton Sea area drew the most attention during the season and was checked almost weekly. The Salton



Sea is ideally situated to attract any waterbird moving northward from the Gulf of California. During the winter some of the coastal species of geese, ducks, shorebirds and gulls get far enough south to enter the Gulf of California. On their northward flight in the spring they find themselves "trapped" in the Gulf, and some proceed on to the Salton Sea. It appears that some of these birds, perhaps bewildered by their strange surroundings, are unwilling to leave the water and cross the desert to the north and, therefore, remain to spend the summer on the Salton Sea. Others remain for short periods of time and either die or move onward. This summer the area produced a number of records of species that we normally consider either winter visitors to the coast or coastal migrants.

There is also a tendency for some of the species that breed in the Gulf of California to move northward in the late summer. Some of these, such as the Heermann's Gull and the Elegant Tern, regularly move far to the north of their breeding colonies each fall. It amazes this editor how few individuals of these two species have been found inland—there is still no inland record of the Elegant Tern—and it would be most interesting to learn how these two species get out of the Gulf to the Pacific Coast. Other late summer wanderers, such as the Brown Pelican and the Laughing Gull, regularly find their way onto the Salton Sea. Still others, such as the Blue-footed Booby, appear on the Salton Sea irregularly and are not found every year. This summer the Salton Sea produced records of Blue-footed Boobies, Magnificent Frigatebirds and Heermann's Gulls as well as the regular post-breeding visitors.

Loons, Grebes—It is normal for a few non-breeding loons to remain through the summer in the Region. In this category were 2 Com. Loons seen on Lake Cachuma, Santa Barbara Co. on July 3 (NM) and 1 seen near Malibu, Los Angeles Co. on Aug. 23 (GSS), as well as an Arctic Loon that was observed at Laguna Beach, Orange Co. during July (JAJ). An Arctic Loon in full breeding plumage was seen at the north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co. on July 4 (EAC, BB & LSA). The species is

casual away from the coast, and this individual had very likely found itself "trapped" in the Gulf of California. One or two pairs of Eared Grebes that bred at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co. (GMC & PD) established the southernmost coastal breeding record for the Region. About 40 pairs of Western Grebes bred on Sweetwater Reservoir, San Diego Co., and groups of up to 50 non-breeding birds remained along the coast throughout the summer, as is usual.

Albatrosses, Shearwaters and Petrels—About 15 Black-footed Albatrosses were seen on July 27 during a boat trip from San Diego to the Cortez Bank (GMC, PD, JJ, et al.). On the same boat trip 200 Pink-footed Shearwaters, 1 Pale-footed Shearwater, 25 Sooty Shearwaters, 200 Leach's Petrels, 50 Black Petrels and 5 Least Petrels also were seen. The Pale-footed Shearwater seen on July 27 was at the south end of San Clemente Is.; another was seen 12 miles off Imperial Beach, San Diego Co. on July 15 (RSt). This is a very scarce species off this coast. Sooty Shearwaters were seen along the coast throughout the summer. The 5 Least Petrels seen on the July 27 boat trip were found together in a scattered flock of Black Petrels about 40 miles west of San Diego; this species is a scarce and irregular post-breeding wanderer to these waters.

Tropicbirds, Pelicans, Boobies, Frigatebirds—On the July 27 boat trip off San Diego, 9 Red-billed Tropicbirds were seen at the south end of San Clemente Is. (GMC, PD, et al.) and an adult male was collected (JJ, specimen to S.D.N.H.M.). This concentration was quite unexpected, but very little work has been done in this area during the summer, and the possibility of their nesting on the island is well worth investigating; hitherto the species has been considered a rare but regular post-breeding wanderer to the waters off San Diego. A few White Pelicans spent the summer on the Salton Sea but there was no indication of nesting; the species is no longer known to nest anywhere in the Region. Brown Pelicans again found their way to the Salton Sea: 3 immatures were first noted at the north end of the Salton Sea on July 3 (GSS) and a high count of 10 was made there on Aug. 10 (GMC & CL). The species is proving to be a regular post-breeding wanderer to this inland location. An immature Blue-footed Booby was found freshly dead beside the highway in Ocotillo, Imperial Co., Aug. 4 (TT, specimen to S.D.N.H.M.), and another immature was seen at the north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co., Aug. 10 (GMC & CL); this is a casual post-breeding wanderer into the area. An adult Brown Booby was seen on Prince Islet near San Miguel Is. on June 5 and July 20 (RDeL). It appears that this individual has been present, at least during the summers, since at least 1961 for it has been reported by the few observers that have ventured to this island since that time (see *Audubon Field Notes*, 15:492; 19:577). There is no indication that there is more than one bird present, and it appears to come to roost on the island. There is only one other record of the species for the coast and only six other records for south-eastern California. An immature Magnificent Frigate-

bird was captured off La Jolla, San Diego Co. on July 24 and was given to Sea World in San Diego where it died (Dr. D. Kenney); 1 was seen near San Pedro, Los Angeles Co. on June 20 (*RSc*); and 1 was seen near Carpinteria, Santa Barbara Co. on Aug. 5 (Wolf Lauter, *vide NM*). The species is a casual wanderer along the coast. At the Salton Sea, an immature Magnificent Frigatebird was seen near Red Hill, Imperial Co. on July 20 (*GMcC*) and July 29 (*LJ*); 2 were seen there together on Aug. 10 (*GMcC* & *CL*); and an immature was seen at Salton City, Imperial Co. on Aug. 3 (*GMcC*, *BB*, *GSS*, *RM* & *AC*). Continued regular observations at the Salton Sea during the late summer may show this species is more regular than the one previous record would indicate.

Hérons, Ibises—Great Blue Herons continued to nest in close proximity to heavily populated areas, indicating they will be able to adjust to human population growth in the Region. A single Cattle Egret was seen at the south end of the Salton Sea on July 14 (*GMcC* & *MB*); the species is still not known to breed in California. Many young Snowy Egrets present during the late summer at the north end of the Salton Sea indicated that the species had had a successful nesting season there. Black-crowned Night Herons are apparently deserting nesting colonies in the Morro Bay area (*EAP*) but continue to nest in trees along busy streets in the San Diego area. Least Bitterns were seen at the Salton Sea on a number of occasions during the summer. Wood Ibis, first noted at the Salton Sea on July 7, built up to a maximum of only 75 during August, which is less than normal. White-faced Ibis were scarcer than normal at the Salton Sea during the nesting season and may not have nested there.

Geese and Ducks—Every year a few of our more common wintering geese and ducks stay through the summer, mostly cripples from the hunting season. Up to 7 Black Brant were present at the north end of the Salton Sea during June and July, and 1 was seen at the south end of the Salton Sea on July 20 and 21; these were most likely stragglers from the spring that were reluctant to leave the water and cross the desert. Along the coast there were many reports of Black Brant ranging from single birds to groups of up to 5 birds; this species regularly summers along the coast, and not all of the summering birds appear to be cripples. Fulvous Tree Ducks bred at the south end of the Salton Sea, as is usual. Two pairs of Blue-winged Teal were seen at Oasis, Mono Co. on June 6 (*GSS*); a male was seen at the Salton Sea, Riverside Co. on July 5 (*RM*); a male was seen at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co. on June 29 (*GSS*); and 2 males were seen there on June 30 (*GMcC* & *MB*). This species is scarce but regular. Redheads were found breeding in the coastal lagoons at Oceanside and Solana Beach, San Diego Co. Three Surf Scoters were seen at the north end of the Salton Sea on June 15 (*GMcC*, *GC* & *MB*), and 1 was seen there on Aug. 3 (*GMcC*, *AC*, *BB* & *GSS*) and Aug. 10 (*GMcC* & *CL*); this species is casual inland. Along the coast there were the usual summering Surf Scoters, non-breeding birds that do not migrate north in the spring. At least 1 White-

winged Scoter summered on San Diego Bay (*GMcC*) and another summered at Venice, Los Angeles Co. (*JAJ*). A Com. Scoter, normally quite rare during the season, summered at Ventura, Ventura Co. where it was seen by numerous people and was photographed (*JA*, slides to S.D.N.H.M.). A Com. Merganser was seen on Aug. 3 at the south end of the Salton Sea (*GSS*, *et al.*), where the species is scarce at any time of the year.

Hawks—White-tailed Kites were beginning to use their wintering roosts by the end of the period. An adult Goshawk was seen on July 13 in the Greenhorn Mountains, Kern Co. (*RM*), which is the species' southernmost outpost in the Sierra Nevada. Sharp-shinned Hawks were found to be nesting near Cambria, San Luis Obispo Co. (*EAP*), thus establishing the southernmost breeding record for the coast. An Osprey, a species that is becoming scarcer each year, was seen at Sandyland, Santa Barbara Co., July 28-30 (*NM*), and 2 were seen in Laguna Beach, Orange Co., July 14 and 15 (*JAJ*). A pair of Peregrine Falcons successfully raised three young at Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo Co. under the watchful eyes of a constant guard that alerted authorities at any disturbance (*EAP*), and an immature was seen on July 4 at the north end of the Salton Sea (*LSa*, *EAC* & *BB*), an unusual locality for the time of the year.

Shorebirds—As usual, there were a number of shorebirds present throughout the month of June, the only individuals that can safely be called summering birds. The species found during June included Semipalmated Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Long-billed Curlew, Wandering Tattler, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Knot, Dunlin (1 at the north end of the Salton Sea), Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Wilson's Phalarope and Northern Phalarope. Snowy Plovers nested at the Salton Sea and along the coast. Fall migrants were first noted during the weekend of June 29 and 30 when such species as Black Turnstone, Long-billed Curlew, Greater Yellowlegs, Knot, Least Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope and Northern Phalarope were found; all were in breeding plumage, which is characteristic of our early arrivals as opposed to the non-breeding plumage worn by our summering birds. Some of the more interesting sightings were 12 Knots at the Salton Sea on July 14 and another there on Aug. 3 (*GMcC*); a Baird's Sandpiper at Goleta Slough, Santa Barbara Co. on July 28 (*NM*) and 2 at Capistrano Beach, Orange Co. on Aug. 10 (*JAJ*); and a Stilt Sandpiper at the Salton Sea on Aug. 3 (*GMcC*, *et al.*).

Jaeger, Gulls, Terns—A single jaeger (sp.) in immature plumage seen off San Diego on July 27 was possibly a summering bird. A few individuals of our common wintering species of gulls (Glaucous-winged, Herring and Bonaparte's Gulls) were present along the coast throughout the summer, as is usual; all were immatures. An immature Glaucous-winged Gull was seen at the north end of the Salton Sea on June 15 (*GMcC*, *EAC*, *GC* & *MB*); the species is very rare here during the winter and was previously unreported during the summer. Two Western Gulls (yellow-legged) were seen at Salton City, Imperial Co. on

July 14 (GMcC & MB); 1 (yellow-legged) was noted at the north end of the Salton Sea on July 4 (LSa, EAC & BB) and another (pink-legged) was seen there on July 20 (GMcC); 1 (yellow-legged) was at Niland Landing on the Salton Sea on Aug. 10 (GMcC & CL); 3 (yellow-legged) were at the south end of the Salton Sea on July 21 (GMcC) and Aug. 3 (GMcC, GSS, BB & AC). The yellow-legged birds are now regular late summer strays from the Gulf of California; pink-legged birds are much scarcer wanderers from the coast. The first Laughing Gull on the Salton Sea was noted on July 20 (GMcC), and by Aug. 3 as many as 30 were seen there together; this is a regular post-breeding wanderer to the Salton Sea. A Franklin's Gull in second summer plumage seen at the south end of the Salton Sea on Aug. 3 (GMcC, GSS, AC, RM & BB) and again on Aug. 10 (GMcC & CL) was possibly a summering bird. An immature Heermann's Gull was seen at the north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co. on July 13 (EAC) and July 14 (GMcC & MB), and 2 immatures were found at the same place on July 20 and 21 (GMcC); 5 adults and 1 immature were observed on a small pool in Plaster City, Imperial Co. on July 14 (GMcC & MB); an adult was seen flying over the open desert at Coyote Wells, Imperial Co. on July 14 (GMcC & MB); and an adult was seen on the small pool in Jacumba, San Diego Co. on July 14 (GMcC & MB). There is only one previous inland record of this species for California, and it would appear as though a flock had strayed into the desert area of southeastern California during the middle of July. Two Black-legged Kittiwakes, a very rare species in this Region during the summer, were seen along the coast at the mouth of the Santa Clara River on June 15 (NM, et al.). An immature Black-legged Kittiwake, first noted at the north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co. on June 15 (GMcC, EAC, GC & MB), was seen by numerous people until Aug. 3. This was only the third inland record for the Region, the two previous records being on June 22, 1967, and Nov. 24, 1967, and it is noteworthy that all three records came from the Salton Sea. An adult Sabine's Gull seen at the south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co. on June 23 (GMcC, GC & MB) constituted the second record for the Salton Sea. Gull-billed Terns were present at the south end of the Salton Sea after June 23, with a high count of 20 on Aug. 3; 1 was seen at the north end of the Salton Sea, where they are much scarcer, on July 13. It is questionable whether this species still breeds at the Salton Sea. Common Terns were found summering in the Region, with about 100 in the San Diego area and 25-30 at the north end of the Salton Sea; the majority of these birds were in second summer plumage. Seven Arctic Terns were seen off San Diego on July 27 and 1 was collected (JJ, specimen to S.D.N.H.M.); all were non-breeding birds in second summer plumage. There appeared to be more than the normal number of Royal Terns in the San Diego area during the period, with as many as 50 seen together in August. Elegant Terns again nested at the south end of San Diego Bay; the post-breeding northward flight was very light with only about 200 found in the San Diego area, 25 at New-

port Bay, Orange Co., and none elsewhere. On July 3 a group of 5 adult Black Skimmers was found at the north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co. (GSS); 1 was collected (GMcC, specimen to L.A.C.M.) and the other 4 remained until July 5 to be seen by numerous people. This was the species' second occurrence in California and the first to be substantiated.

Alcids, Doves, Owls—Pigeon Guillemots bred on Morro Rock and at Shell Beach, San Luis Obispo Co. (JS), which are the southernmost breeding stations along the coast. Twelve Xantus' Murrelets were seen off San Diego on July 27, including one family group of 2 adults and 2 downy young close to San Clemente Is., where this species has not been reported as breeding. Two Band-tailed Pigeons seen in La Jolla, San Diego Co. on Aug. 20 (CLH) were outside of their normal habitat. White-winged Doves were fairly numerous around the Salton Sea during the period. A Flammulated Owl was heard calling at Hanna Flats in the San Bernardino Mountains on June 15 (RM); this species is not often recorded but possibly is fairly common. Spotted Owls were easily found in the San Jacinto Mountains and in the mountains of San Diego County; apparently this is a common owl in these areas.

Whip-poor-will, Swifts, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers—The 2 calling Whip-poor-wills in the San Jacinto Mountains, Riverside Co., became less vocal as the summer progressed and were last heard on July 21 (LSa & RM). At least 4 Black Swifts were present in Santa Anita Canyon in the San Gabriel Mountains, Los Angeles Co. during June and July (Kim Garrett); this species has long been suspected to breed in the neighboring San Bernardino Mountains and San Jacinto Mountains, but so far no nest has been found in Southern California. Two Chimney Swifts were present in La Jolla, San Diego Co., June 22-27 (PD, GMcC, AC, et al.), and a minimum of 6 individuals were seen at Cardiff, San Diego Co., June 29-Aug. 22 (GSS, RM, JJ, et al.), 1 of which was collected on July 12 (GMcC, specimen to S.D. N.H.M.). No small dark swifts are to be expected in the Region during the summer months, and earlier sightings of "Vaux's Swifts" reported during the summer should best be treated as unidentified *Chaetura* (sp.). There is but one previous report of the Chimney Swift for California. An unidentified *Chaetura* (sp.) was seen in Santa Barbara on July 29 (Waldo Abbott, *vide* NM). By the first of July southbound Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds were appearing in the Region, and they became numerous by early August. An adult Lewis' Woodpecker was seen feeding a young bird in the San Bernardino Mountains on July 27 (*vide* GSS). There are no previous records of breeding in this area.

Flycatchers—An E. Kingbird was seen near Sun City, Riverside Co., June 30 (LJ), an unusual location and time of the year for this stray. Gray Flycatchers were found east of Baldwin Lake in the San Bernardino Mountains throughout the period; there is every indication they are breeding in this area though no actual nest was found and the species was not previously known to nest in this area. Vermilion Flycatchers were found nesting at Morongo Valley,

San Bernardino Co. and in the San Diego area this summer.

Chickadee, Creeper, Dipper, Thrashers, Thrushes—A Mountain Chickadee was found in the lowlands at Pasadena, Los Angeles Co. on Aug. 11 (GSS). A Brown Creeper was seen away from the mountains in Santa Barbara on Aug. 14 (Leslie Cook, *vide NM*). Dippers are still to be found in the Region where permanent, swift-flowing streams remain; the trouble is finding the permanent streams. Bendire's Thrashers were reported only from eastern San Bernardino County where they are common. Le Conte's Thrashers were found to be common in the Victorville, San Bernardino Co. area: 38 were seen on June 9 (GSS & RM). Robins continue to increase as breeding birds in the Region; this increase reflects the continuing expansion of suitable habitat created by man in residential areas of such cities as Santa Barbara, Los Angeles and San Diego. A *Wood Thrush*, only the second record for California, appeared in a yard near Glendale, Los Angeles Co. on Aug. 1 and was killed by a cat 10 days later (GSS, specimen to L.A.C.M.).

Vireos and Warblers—Two Bell's Vireos were found near Twitchell Reservoir, Santa Barbara Co., July 14 (JS). This species continues to decrease in numbers within the Region, and there appears to be a direct relationship between its decrease and the Brown-headed Cowbird's increase in numbers. At least 4 pairs of Gray Vireos were found near Round Valley in the San Bernardino Mountains, the only locality from which this species was reported. Three Solitary Vireos were found near Baldwin Lake in the San Bernardino Mountains on Aug. 10; 1 of them was collected (EAC, specimen to S.B.C.M.) and proved to be *V. s. plumbeous*. This race has only recently been found to occur in California, and this is the second year it has been found in this area. An *Ovenbird* was found dead in Montecito, Santa Barbara Co. on May 24 and another was found dead in Santa Barbara on May 28 (NM, both specimens to S.B.M.N.H.); this is the normal time of the year to

find spring vagrants in California. A *Northern Waterthrush* was seen at the east end of Big Bear Lake, San Bernardino Co. on June 30 (Ellen Stephanson, *vide GSS*), an unusual date for this rare migrant.

Oriole, Cowbird, Tanagers—The Baltimore Oriole found in Brush Canyon, Los Angeles Co. in the late spring remained through the month of June (Kim Garrett, *vide GSS*). A ♀ Bronzed Cowbird was seen near Mecca, Riverside Co. on July 13 (EAC); this species occurs regularly in limited numbers along the Colorado River, but this is one of the very few records for the area west of the Colorado River Valley. Summer Tanagers were found on breeding territories in three locations in the Region: 2 pairs about 20 miles east of Holtville, Imperial Co.; 3 pairs in Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co.; and 2 pairs in Whitewater Canyon, Riverside Co.

Finches, Sparrows—A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak seen in Santa Barbara on Aug. 1 and 2 (Waldo Abbott & Richard Webster, *vide NM*) was early for a fall stray and may have been a lost summer bird. A ♂ Indigo Bunting was seen in San Luis Obispo on July 20 (Aryan Roest, *vide EAP*), and another was present near Big Pine, Inyo Co., July 3-21 (TH & EAC). One or two are found almost every summer now, usually in the eastern portion of the Region. Grasshopper Sparrows were again found on territory near San Diego during the summer.

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