



unusual number for this early in the spring, as in this Region vagrants tend to appear very late in the spring, in late May and early June. Throughout the rest of the report period, weather conditions were stable and migrants were not exceptionally noticeable, being well scattered and passing through the Region without lingering very long.

The earliest arrival dates for some of our key migrants were: Vaux's Swift, April 6 at Santa Barbara, which is early; Western Kingbird, March 22 at Santa Barbara and March 23 at San Diego; Ash-throated Flycatcher, March 30 near Glamis, Imperial Co. and April 7 at Duarte, Los Angeles Co.; Western Flycatcher, March 22 at San Pedro, Los Angeles Co.; Western Wood Pewee, April 4 at San Diego and April 5 at Duarte and Santa Barbara, which are very early dates; Olive-sided Flycatcher, April 11 at Santa Barbara and April 12 at San Diego; Swainson's Thrush, April 11 at San Diego, which is early; Bell's Vireo, April 9 near Borrego Springs, San Diego Co.; Solitary Vireo, April 5 at San Diego; Warbling Vireo, March 23 at San Diego and March 27 at Duarte; Nashville Warbler, March 31 at San Diego; Yellow Warbler, April 4 at San Diego and April 6 at Duarte; Black-throated Gray Warbler, April 4 at San Diego and April 5 at Duarte; Hermit Warbler, April 13 at San Diego; MacGillivray's Warbler, April 1 at Santa Barbara; Yellow-breasted Chat, April 12 at Duarte; Wilson's Warbler, March 26 at San Diego; Hooded Oriole, March 20 at Duarte; Bullock's Oriole, March 27 at San Diego; Western Tanager, April 11 at San Diego; Black-headed Grosbeak, March 24 at San Pedro; Blue Grosbeak, May 3 at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co., which is very late; Lazuli Bunting, April 7 at Duarte.

Albatrosses, Shearwaters, Petrels — A Black-footed Albatross was seen off Santa Barbara on May 18 (*TNM*), and 15 were observed off San Diego on May 10 (*GMCC, et al.*). Shearwaters were somewhat scarce off the coast, but both Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters were seen off Santa Barbara on May 18 and off San Diego on May 10; in both cases the Sooty Shearwater was the more numerous species. A large concentration of seabirds seen feeding off Point

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION. — A major storm produced rain along the coast and in the mountains and strong winds on the deserts during the weekend of May 4-5. This storm appeared to ground large numbers of migrants in the deserts and along the coast north of Los Angeles; south of Los Angeles, however, very few migrants were evident. An interesting assortment of rare migrants and vagrants from eastward appeared during this storm, including 1 Black-and-white Warbler, 2 Tennessee Warblers, 1 Parula Warbler, 2 Northern Waterthrushes, 2 Am. Redstarts and 1 Harris' Sparrow. This is a most

Fermin, Los Angeles Co. between May 3 and 10 contained many Pink-footed Shearwaters and Sooty Shearwaters as well as some petrels sp. (RB); the majority of the 35,000 seabirds attracted to the area were phalaropes. It is not clear what was attracting these birds, but similar phenomena have been noted other years. About 125 Black Petrels were seen off San Diego on May 10 (GMcC, et al.). Ashy Petrels outnumbered Black Petrels by 6 to 1 off Santa Barbara on May 18 (TNM); normally the Black Petrel is found to be the most numerous petrel close to shore off Southern California during the greater portion of the year.

Tropicbird, Pelicans, Cormorants — A Red-billed Tropicbird was seen about 10 miles west of Imperial Beach, San Diego Co. on May 10 (GMcC & EAC); this is very early. White Pelicans passed through the Region during April, with some large flocks noted at the Salton Sea at that time; none were reported remaining in the Region to nest. Brown Pelicans are in serious trouble: a check of all breeding colonies along the coast, well south into Baja California, indicates that no young will be raised this year; the adult birds are laying thin-shelled eggs which break when sat upon, and no unbroken eggs were to be found (JJ). The accumulation of DDT and other chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides in the birds' tissues has been shown to cause egg-shell thinning similar to that found here. Cormorants nesting along the coast also are exhibiting the same symptoms of thin-shelled eggs in the breeding colonies.

Herons — The only Cattle Egrets reported were 26 near the south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co. on April 2 (EAC & SC); it appears that this species withdraws to the south to nest even though there are seemingly suitable nesting sites (breeding colonies of Snowy Egrets) around the Salton Sea.

Swan, Geese, Ducks — A Whistling Swan, rare in Southern California, was seen at Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. on March 23 (TNM). Black Brant again appeared at inland localities on their northward flight: 20 were seen at the north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co. on April 19 (GMcC & GC), and single birds were regularly noted there until the end of the period; 1 was seen at the south end of the Salton Sea on May 11 (GMcC & DDeS) and May 17 (EAC); 1 was seen near Borrego Springs, San Diego Co. on March 30 (TSH); 1 was seen on Lake Henshaw, San Diego Co. on March 31 (EB). All these birds undoubtedly had wandered into the Gulf of California during the winter. Fulvous Tree Ducks began to appear in small numbers at the Salton Sea during the last week of March. A few Blue-winged Teal were noted throughout the Region during the period, as is normal. A Wood Duck seen at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley Nat'l Monument on May 30 (MP) was very late and in an unusual locality. A freshly dead adult male Surf Scoter was found inland at the north end of the Salton Sea on May 3 (GMcC & GC). Several Corm. Mergansers were present on Lake Cachuma, Santa Barbara Co. on April 2 (RW) and 3 were seen on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Los Angeles Co. on May 3 (RB); this species is somewhat scarce and local in the Region. Red-breasted Mergansers were regularly found on the Salton Sea

throughout the period: 2 were seen at an unusual locality, Saratoga Springs, Death Valley Nat'l Monument on June 1 (GMcC, GSS, et al.).

Condor, Hawks — An adult California Condor was seen over Santa Barbara on May 17 (TNM); the species is scarce this far west. An adult *Broad-winged Hawk* seen near Mount Palomar, San Diego Co. on April 2 (LJ) was most likely an individual that had wintered nearby. Two Swainson's Hawks observed near Lakeview, Riverside Co. on April 2 (EAC & SC) were undoubtedly migrants; 1 seen near Baker, San Bernardino Co. on May 18 (RM), 1 near Cima, San Bernardino Co., also on May 18 (RM), and a pair at Oasis, Mono Co. on May 31 (GMcC) were all probably breeding birds on territory. This species is continuing to decrease in numbers in the Region. One or two Ospreys were present on Lake Cachuma through April; 1 was seen at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co. on April 16; and 1 was noted at the north end of the Salton Sea on April 26 and 27. This is another raptor that is becoming increasingly scarcer.

Shorebirds — An Am. Golden Plover observed at the south end of the Salton Sea on May 17 (EAC & SC) was the only one reported this spring. Surfbirds were most numerous along the coast during early May. Seven Ruddy Turnstones were seen at the north end of the Salton Sea on May 3 (GMcC & GC) and 1 was seen there on May 26 (GSS); this species has been considered casual inland in California, but continued observations at the Salton Sea are showing that this and other species hitherto considered strictly coastal migrants are regular in limited numbers at this inland locality during periods of migration. A *Black Turnstone* was seen at the north end of the Salton Sea on April 26 (GMcC & PD); this is the third record for the locality. Many thousands of Whimbrels passed through the Imperial Valley, Imperial Co. during the last half of April, as is normal. The Solitary Sandpiper is a rare species in California during the spring migration period; however, 2 were found in West Los Angeles on April 15 (Abigail King, *vide* GSS) and 1 was found at Barker Dam in Joshua Tree Nat'l Monument, Riverside Co. on April 26 (GSS & JA). A *Wandering Tattler* found at the north end of the Salton Sea on May 11 (JAJ & LS) represents the second inland record for California as well as the second record for the Salton Sea. Most of our migrant Wandering Tattlers pass north along the coast during late April and throughout May. Along the coast Knots were found to be common only in the San Diego area, as appears to be normal. Inland, 20 Knots were present at the north end of the Salton Sea on April 26, 175 were seen there on May 3, and 3 were seen there on May 25; at the south end of the Salton Sea, 3 were seen on May 4 and 1 on May 24 (GMcC, GC, et al.). This species is now being found regularly inland on the Salton Sea; the flock of 175 noted there on May 3 is the largest number reported so far from an inland locality in California. A *White-rumped Sandpiper* was collected (specimen to S.D.N.H.M.) at the north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co. on June 6 (GMcC & CL); this constitutes the first record for California. A *Semipalmated Sandpiper* found at the north end of the Salton Sea on May 25 (GMcC & GC) remained

until at least May 30 (*GSS, LS, et al.*). This is the fifth record of the species for the Region; interestingly, the previous four were also May records from the Salton Sea. A few Sanderlings were noted inland at the Salton Sea from mid-April to mid-May, as appears to be normal. Red Phalaropes appeared to be scarce along the shore and offshore this spring; a few were noted off San Diego on May 10 and 2 were found at Goleta on May 3.

Jaegers, Gulls, Terns — Both Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were present in the large concentration of birds feeding off Point Fermin, Los Angeles Co. on May 3 (*RB*). About 25 Pomarine Jaegers were seen during a boat trip off San Diego on May 10, and a single Parasitic Jaeger was seen off Santa Barbara on May 18. An immature Glaucous Gull noted at the south end of the Salton Sea on April 2 (*EAC & SC*) was undoubtedly the same individual that was found there in late March. Up to 4 immature Glaucous-winged Gulls were present at the north end of the Salton Sea throughout May (*GMcC, GC, RM & GSS*), and 1 was seen at the south end on May 11 (*GMcC & DDeS*); this species is very rare away from the immediate vicinity of the coast. An immature *Mew Gull* that was collected (specimen to S.D.N.H.M.) at the south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co., on April 9 (*GMcC & GC*) constitutes the first verified record for the Salton Sea and the first inland record for the Region. An adult Franklin's Gull at the south end of the Salton Sea on May 4 (*GMcC & GC*) was the only one reported; the species is rare but regular. An adult Heermann's Gull was seen at the north end of the Salton Sea on May 3 (*GMcC, GC & RM*) and another at the south end on May 17 (*EAC & SC*) and May 24 (*GMcC & GC*); this gull is casual inland. Five immature *Black-legged Kittiwakes* were seen at the north end of the Salton Sea on May 11 (*GMcC & DDeS*); there are only three previous inland records for the Region, all from the Salton Sea. Along the coast a few immature *Black-legged Kittiwakes* still remained at the end of the period after the past winter's heavy influx. Two Sabine's Gulls were seen off Santa Barbara on May 18 and about 25 off San Diego on May 10; this species normally moves north off this coast during the first half of May. The presence of Gull-billed Terns on the Salton Sea after mid-April indicated that they may be nesting there this year. Common Terns were most numerous along the coast during the first half of May, as is normal. Two terns thought possibly to be Arctic Terns were seen between Oxnard and Santa Barbara Is. on May 18 (*LJ*); a check of all the literature and records shows that there are no verifiable spring records of the Arctic Tern off California (the supposed May 1, 1915, specimen from Laguna Beach, Orange Co. cannot be traced and checked), even though most of the books state that this species is a regular spring migrant offshore.

Alcids — A Common Murre was seen at Jalama Beach Park, Santa Barbara Co. on April 8 (*JA*). A Pigeon Guillemot was observed at Jalama Beach on April 8 (*JA*); 10 found on May 18 around Santa Barbara Is. (*LJ*) were at the southern limit of the

species' normal range; 1 seen at the Los Coronados Islands off northern Baja California on June 6 (*JJ*) constitutes the southernmost record ever. Five Xantus' Murrelets were found in the vicinity of Santa Barbara Is. on May 18 (*LJ*).

Doves, Owls, Swifts, Hummingbirds — One or two Band-tailed Pigeons were noted along the coast in the San Diego area during the period; 1 seen at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley Nat'l Monument on June 1 (*GMcC, GSS, et al.*) was outside of the species' normal range. White-winged Doves appeared in late April in the southeastern portion of the Region where they nest; 1 seen near Barstow, San Bernardino Co. on May 31 (*MP*) and 1 present at Furnace Creek Ranch, May 30-June 1 (*MP, GSS, JA, et al.*) were both a little north of the normal range. In the Santa Barbara area, several Pygmy Owls were located and 1 nest was found. It appears as if this small owl is moving into Santa Barbara where man's plantings are creating suitable habitat for it. An Elf Owl was found at Cottonwood Springs, Riverside Co. on April 13 (*RM*); this has long been known as a nesting locality for the species, but the cottonwoods in which the owls nested were felled a couple of years ago. A Black Swift was seen in Santa Barbara on April 26 (*RW*); 1 was observed on May 4 at Encino Reservoir, Los Angeles Co. and 30 were seen there on May 5 (John Dunn, *fide GSS*); 1 was seen on Point Loma, San Diego Co. on May 22 (*GMcC*); and 1 was seen at Finney Lake, Imperial Co. on May 4 (*GMcC & GC*). This species is rarely noted while on migration, and the Finney Lake sighting represents the first record for southeastern California. Black-chinned Hummingbirds appeared during early April, as is usual; this is always a late-arriving species. An adult male Anna's Hummingbird seen at Deep Springs, Inyo Co. on May 23 (*DDeS*) was somewhat east of its normal range.

Woodpeckers — A "Yellow-shafted" Flicker was seen near Niland, Imperial Co. on March 30 (*LJ*); this form is scarce but regular. A "Gilded" Flicker was seen near Cima, San Bernardino Co. on May 17 and 18 (*GMcC & GC*); apparently this is a rare resident in the area. A Lewis' Woodpecker was still present in Santa Barbara on April 13 (*KA*); a few had spent the winter there.

Flycatchers, Swallows — Three Eastern Kingbirds were noted at Furnace Creek Ranch on May 30 (*MP*) and 1 was still present on the following day (*GMcC, GSS, et al.*); this flycatcher is scarce but regular along the eastern border of the state. Cassin's Kingbirds were found at Oasis, Mono Co., at Deep Springs, Inyo Co. and at Furnace Creek Ranch in late May; these localities are all north of the species' supposed breeding range in the eastern portion of California, but the birds were all defending territories and appeared paired. Wied's Crested Flycatchers were first noted at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co. on May 10, and 3 pairs were present there a week later; this is the northwesternmost point in the species' regular nesting range. A Gray Flycatcher banded on Point Loma on April 17 (*AMC*) was the only coastal record for the report period. Bank Swallows were more numerous than usual around the south end of the Salton Sea during April.

Jays, Nuthatches, Thrashers, Solitaires, Waxwings — A Steller's Jay seen in Pasadena, Los Angeles Co. on May 13 (GSS) was at a very low altitude. A pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches remained on Point Loma throughout the period. The Brown Thrasher reported from the Santa Barbara area in January and February was found again in April and was still present there at the end of the period (TNM); another individual was seen in another part of Santa Barbara on April 25 (RW); and a third bird was present in Morongo Valley, April 27-May 25 (TS, GMcC, GSS, et al.). The species is a somewhat regular vagrant in this Region. Bendire's Thrashers were found to be very common around Cima, San Bernardino Co. and 1 was seen carrying food near Victorville, San Bernardino Co. on May 22 (GSS). A pair of Sage Thrashers with young in the nest were found near Cima on May 18 (RM); this is the southern limit of the species' breeding range. Along the coast, a Townsend's Solitaire was seen near Point Mugu, Ventura Co. on March 22 (BB); at Santa Barbara, one was seen on April 12 (RW) and another between April 16 and 22 (WA). After the impressive Bohemian Waxwing invasion of last winter, a few lingered into the spring period: single birds were noted in Santa Barbara on April 3, April 23, May 21 and May 23 (RW), in Antelope Valley, San Bernardino Co. on April 13 (Don Woodey, *vide* GSS), and on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Los Angeles Co. on April 22 (SW).

Vireos, Warblers — A migrant Gray Vireo was seen at Cottonwood Springs, Riverside Co. on April 13 (RM) and 2 were seen at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co. on May 11 (JAJ & LS); breeding birds were found in the New York Mountains and in the San Bernardino Mountains, both in San Bernardino County. Single Black-and-white Warblers were observed at Morongo Valley on May 31 (ES) and in Whitewater Canyon, Riverside Co. on May 4 (JAJ, LS & BB); on Point Loma, San Diego Co., 1 was banded on April 20-21 (AMC & JC), 1 was banded on May 13 (GC), 1 was found dead (specimen to S.D.N.H.M.) on May 18 (JJ), and 1 was banded on May 19 (GC). This species is scarce but regular in the Region. A Tennessee Warbler seen at Newberry Springs, San Bernardino Co. on May 4 (EAC & SC) and another seen at Finney Lake, Imperial Co. on the same day (GMcC) were most unusual at this time of the year. A Virginia's Warbler was seen at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley Nat'l Monument on May 30 (MP) and another was banded in San Pedro, Los Angeles Co. on May 12 (SW); this species is very rare during the spring period. A migrant Lucy's Warbler was seen at Finney Lake on May 17 (RLA). This species appears to be spreading westward, as about 6 pairs, some with young out of the nest, were observed at Furnace Creek Ranch in late May (MP, LJ, et al.); 2 pairs were seen near Barstow, San Bernardino Co. on May 31 (MP); and 3 pairs were present in Morongo Valley after May 3 (GMcC, RM, et al.). A singing male Parula Warbler was noted in Placerita Canyon Park, Los Angeles Co. on May 4 (JWH & J. Hooper); another male was seen near Baker, San Bernardino Co. on May 18 (RM); 2 males were seen at Deep Springs, Inyo Co. on May 30 (GMcC, LJ & GC); and a female was seen at Oasis, Mono Co., also on May 30 (GMcC, LJ, MP & GC).

Although the species is regular during the spring, this is a large number to be reported for one spring migration period. An adult male Magnolia Warbler was seen at Furnace Creek Ranch on May 31 (RLA); this warbler is casual during the spring period. An Ovenbird, which is a casual vagrant in the Region, was seen at Saratoga Springs, San Bernardino Co. on June 1 (GMcC, GSS, LJ, JA & GC). Single Northern Waterthrushes were seen in Whitewater Canyon, Riverside Co. on May 3 (RM), in Morongo Valley on May 3 and 4 (MSanM), and near Baker on May 17 and 18 (GSS & RM); 3 were present at Deep Springs, May 20-23 (DDeS). Apparently this warbler is a regular migrant in limited numbers. A sighting of a female Canada Warbler at Deep Springs on May 21 (DDeS) constitutes the second spring record for the Region. A female Am. Redstart seen at the south end of the Salton Sea on April 19 (GMcC & GC) may well have been a bird that had wintered at that location; a male was present at Morongo Valley on May 3 and 4 (GMcC, GC, RM & GSS) and was joined by a female on May 4 (GSS); 1 was noted at Deep Springs, May 20-23 (DDeS); 1 was seen at Glacier Lodge near Big Pine, Inyo Co. on May 23 (LJ); 1 was banded on Point Loma on May 27 (AMC); and 1 was observed at Furnace Creek Ranch on June 1 (GMcC, GSS, JA, et al.). This species is regular during the spring but tends to appear after the regular West Coast migrants have passed through. A Painted Redstart, always an unusual find, was observed in Tuna Canyon, Los Angeles Co. on May 22 and 23 (GSS, AS & LS).

Blackbirds, Orioles, Tanagers — A female Bobolink was present at Furnace Creek Ranch on May 30 (MP) and June 1 (GMcC, GSS, et al.); this species is proving to be regular in limited numbers in this area at this time of the year. An adult male Tricolored Blackbird seen at Panamint Springs, Inyo Co. on May 31 (GMcC, LJ & GC) was well outside of the species' normal range. A male Baltimore Oriole was seen at Deep Springs on May 21 (DDeS); a male was present in Santa Barbara, April 6-10 (JH); the male that spent the winter in Montecito, Santa Barbara Co. was last seen on April 16 (JK); a male and a female were seen in Laguna Beach, Orange Co. on June 1 (JAJ); a male was seen on Point Loma on April 3 (AMC); and a male was present in San Diego between March 31 and April 2 (TT & GMcC). This oriole appears to be noted in increasing numbers in recent years. A pair of Boat-tailed Grackles was present at Rammer Lake, Imperial Co. on May 17 (EAC & SC); this is only the second record for the Imperial Valley. The species is now breeding in small numbers along the Colorado River a little to the east of the Imperial Valley, however, and it is expected to continue its westward push. Breeding pairs of Summer Tanagers arrived in the Region around May 1 and were more numerous and widespread than usual: 6 pairs were noted at Morongo Valley, 2 pairs in Palm Canyon, Riverside Co., Imperial Co., and 1 pair near Mecca, Riverside Co. Single migrant Summer Tanagers (all judged to be the eastern race on the basis of their measurements) were banded at Point Loma on May 17, May 27, May 29 and June 1 (AMC & JC); they are unusual along the coast.

Finches, Sparrows A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen in Santa Barbara on April 15 (*RW*); another male was seen on the open desert 17 miles south of Kelso, San Bernardino Co. on May 11 (*LJ*); and a female was seen in Glendale, Los Angeles Co. on May 25 (*AS*). This is a scarce but regular vagrant. The only Indigo Bunting reported was a male at Deep Springs on May 22 (*DDeS*). A Cassin's Finch present in Arcadia, Los Angeles Co. on May 1 (*RM*) was a little out of its normal range. On May 3, 2-3 Red Crossbills, which are sporadic in their occurrences in this area, were found on the Palos Verdes Peninsula (*SW*). A Slate-colored Junco was seen in San Diego on April 2 (*TT*); the species is scarce but regular. The Harris' Sparrow that wintered in Arcadia was last seen on the late date of April 25 (*JA*); another very late individual was seen in San Clemente, Orange Co. on May 4 (*AF*). A wintering White-throated Sparrow remained in Arcadia until the late date of April 25 (*JA*).

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