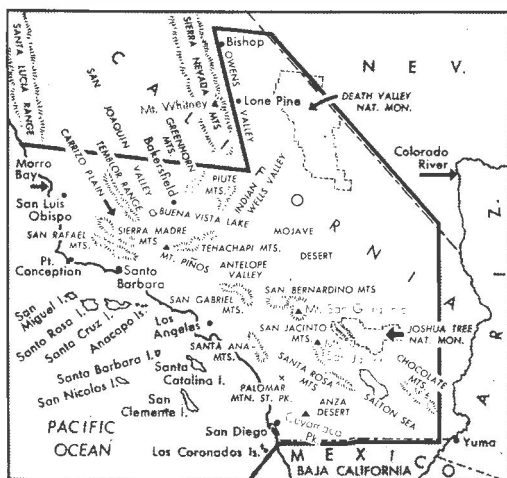


SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION. — As usual the bulk of the west coast migrants passed through the Region in late April and early May. Again it is hard to



find any relationship between local weather conditions and migration movements. Russ and Marian Wilson, who spent the entire spring at Morongo Valley, reported three cold spells during April when temperatures fell below freezing; the first on April 17 had the effect of reducing migrant numbers by 30%, but the other two, on April 21-22 and April 28-29, produced the best days for total numbers of migrants. This year the Western Bird Banding Association coordinated a project, Operation Transect, designed to study migration throughout California. Banding stations were maintained continuously at a number of localities throughout the state during the first ten days of May, and it is hoped the results will shed some light on the migration mystery. Five Operation Transect Stations were maintained in this Region. One at Brock Ranch, about 23 miles east of Holtville, Imperial Co. and another at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co., were situated on the desert; one near Duarte, Los Angeles Co. was situated in the coastal foothills; one on Point Loma, San Diego Co. and another in San Pedro, Los Angeles Co. were along the coast. Alan Craig caught his largest numbers of migrants at Brock Ranch on May 5 and 6 (346, with Wilson's Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler and Orange-crowned Warbler constituting 60% of the catch) while Mike San Miguel, at the more northern locality of Morongo Valley, had his best days on May 4-5 (496, with Wilson's Warbler,

Yellow Warbler, Swainson's Thrush and Warbling Vireo constituting 80% of the catch). Jon Atwood encountered a peak near Duarte on May 6 and another on May 10 (68 and 72, respectively, with Am. Goldfinch and W. Wood Pewee constituting 50% of the catch each time). On the coast Jean Craig caught large numbers on Point Loma on May 2 (128, with Wilson's Warbler, Nashville Warbler and Orange-crowned Warbler constituting 60% of the catch); however, this was a poor day for Shirley Wells in San Pedro a little to the north who had her largest catch on May 8-9 (78, with Wilson's Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler and Warbling Vireo constituting 90%). An interesting point is the fact that May 6-7 were poor days for numbers of migrants along the coast, while these were generally good days on the desert and along the foothills, and that May 2 was an excellent day in San Diego but a poor day for the other stations. Visual observations indicated Townsend's Warblers and Hermit Warblers were quite numerous migrating northward over the ocean off San Diego on May 2 (PD), a day on which very few of either species were caught at adjacent Point Loma. The results of Operation Transect appear to indicate that there is great variation in the numbers, variety of species and dates of peak movements of migrants within the Region and also that there is a good possibility that visual observations will give different results from those obtained in netting operations.

The early arrival dates for some of our key migrants were: Lesser Nighthawk, March 14 at Hansen Dam, Los Angeles Co.; Vaux's Swift, April 18 at Santa Barbara and San Diego; Western Kingbird, March 7 at Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., which is quite early, and March 19 at Valley Center, San Diego Co.; Ash-throated Flycatcher, April 4 at Imperial Beach, San Diego Co.; Traill's Flycatcher, May 8 at Duarte and May 12 at Point Loma; Hammond's Flycatcher, April 3 at Point Loma; Western Flycatcher, March 22 at Pasadena, Los Angeles Co.; Western Wood Pewee, April 12 at Santa Barbara; Olive-sided Flycatcher, April 17 at Santa Barbara; Swainson's Thrush, April 26 at San Diego; Bell's Vireo, April 11 at Duarte and San Diego; Solitary Vireo, March 14 at Point Loma, which is quite early, and March 28 at Imperial Beach; Warbling Vireo, March 8 at Duarte and Point Loma, which is quite early, and March 13 at Point Loma; Nashville Warbler, March 21 at Valley Center, which is a little on the early side, and April 4 at Imperial Beach; Yellow Warbler, April 4 at San Diego; Black-throated Gray Warbler, March 22 at Santa Barbara and March 25 at San Diego; Hermit Warbler, April 18 at San Diego; MacGillivray's Warbler, April 6 at Cottonwood Springs, Riverside Co. and April 11 at Hollywood, Los Angeles Co.; Yellow-breasted Chat, April 14 at Santa Barbara; Wilson's Warbler, March 8 at Duarte, which is a little early, and March 14 at Hollywood; Hooded Oriole, March 15 at Hollywood and Glendale, Los Angeles Co. and March 18 at Valley Center; Bullock's Oriole, March 15 at Glendale and March 18 at Carlsbad, San Diego Co.; Western Tanager, April 17 at Imperial Beach and April 18 at Hollywood; Black-headed Grosbeak, March 28 at

Imperial Beach and April 4 at Hollywood; Blue Grosbeak, April 25 at San Diego; Lazuli Bunting, April 12 at Hollywood; Black-chinned Sparrow, April 11 at Imperial Beach.

Albatrosses, Shearwaters, Petrels — The only Black-footed Albatrosses sighted were 8 off Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo Co. on May 31 (EAC & SC). A late Fulmar was seen off San Diego on April 26 (PD), and 2 were seen there on May 2 (PD). Ten Pink-footed Shearwaters were present off Morro Bay on May 31 (EAC & SC), 40 off Santa Barbara on May 16-17 (RWe), 20 off San Diego on April 26 (PD) and 30 there on May 2 (PD). Sooty Shearwater was the most numerous shearwater as usual, with 1000 off Morro Bay on May 31 (EAC & SC), 20,000 off Santa Barbara on May 16-17 (RWe), 100,000 seen from shore at Port Hueneme, Ventura Co. on May 20 (GSS), 200 off San Diego on April 26 (PD) and 100 there on May 2 (PD). Single Manx Shearwaters were seen off Santa Barbara on May 16 (RWe), off San Pedro on May 6 (OC), and off San Diego on April 26 and May 2 (PD). A dead Ashy Petrel was found on the beach at the mouth of the San Diego River on April 28 (PD). Black Petrels were found only off San Diego, with 10 there on April 26 and 40 there on May 2 (PD).

Tropicbirds, Pelicans, Boobies — A lone *Red-billed Tropicbird* was seen about three miles off Santa Barbara on May 16 (RWe); this constitutes a very early record for a point at the northern extreme of the species' late summer range. Some large migrant flocks of White Pelicans were noted in the vicinity of the Salton Sea during April, as is normal; smaller flocks were reported from other localities within the Region during the same period. An adult *Brown Booby* seen at the north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co. on April 25 (EAC & SC) probably had been present on the sea since the influx of last fall.

Herons — Along the coast 2 Cattle Egrets were present at Goleta throughout the period (RWe), 1 was seen in Santa Barbara, May 21-24 (KA); 7 were noted near Point Mugu, Ventura Co. on April 11 (BB & GSS); and 1 was present in Long Beach, Los Angeles Co.; Jaan, 10—March 21 (BWM & VE). At the south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co., where the species is now known to nest, flocks of over 100 Cattle Egrets were noted throughout the period (GMCC & EAC). A rather late Louisiana Heron was present at Seal Beach, Orange Co. on April 22 (GSS). A Least Bittern found at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley Nat'l Monument, Inyo Co. on May 23 (GMCC & CSL) was at a rather unusual location.

Geese, Ducks — The *Brant* reported from Goleta in the winter season was last seen on April 4 (RWe). Large numbers of Black Brant were reported migrating northward along the coast in April, as is normal. Inland at the north end of the Salton Sea, Black Brant were continually present between April 18 and the end of the period, with a high count of 125 on April 19 (GMCC & EAC); these are apparently individuals that reach the Gulf of California during the winter and move northward up the Gulf in the spring. A flock of 9 Fulvous Tree Ducks was found near California City, San Luis Obispo Co., slightly outside of the species' normal range, on May 24 (Jay Sheppard, *vide* GSS).

The breeding population of Fulvous Tree Ducks arrived at the south end of the Salton Sea in April. Up to 10 male Blue-winged Teal were noted around Goleta in April (*RWe*), and single males were found at Oasis, Mono Co. on May 23 (*GMcC*), Furnace Creek Ranch on May 23 (*GMcC*) and May 29 (*RL*), near Calipatria, Imperial Co. on April 3 (*JA*), and at San Diego on April 8 (*TT*). This species is regular in limited numbers throughout the Region. The *Euro-pean Widgeon* present at Goleta during the winter season was last seen on April 19 (*RWe*); a male was seen in Long Beach on March 16 (*BWM*); and a male was found near Lakeview, Riverside Co. on April 11 (*EAC* & *SC*). Three White-winged Scoters, casual anywhere away from the coast in this Region, were found at the north end of the Salton Sea on May 27 (*GSS*) and were still present on May 30 (*GMcC*). A late Com. Scoter was seen at Ventura on April 11 (*GSS* & *BB*). Red-breasted Mergansers are found regularly on the Salton Sea, but are rarely reported from other inland locations in this Region; on June 7, 1 was seen at Furnace Creek Ranch and 3 more were found at Saratoga Springs, San Bernardino Co. (*GMcC*).

Hawks — A *Mississippi Kite* seen in Santa Barbara on June 3 (*RWe*) represents the third record for California; it is interesting to note that the previous two are for the same general time of the year (June 18, 1933 and June 2-5, 1968). A Swainson's Hawk observed near Westmoreland, Imperial Co. on April 19 (*GMcC* & *EAC*) and another seen near Duarte on May 3 (*JA*) were the only migrants of this species reported. An adult *Zone-tailed Hawk*, an extremely rare stray to California these days, was observed at Morongo Valley on May 9 (*KG, et al.*). Two Prairie Falcons observed hunting shorebirds at the north end of the Salton Sea on May 17 (*GMcC* & *EAC*) were in an area where they are rarely seen today. The only Peregrine Falcon reported was an adult near Niland, Imperial Co. on April 19 (*GMcC* & *EAC*). An Osprey was seen at the south end of the Salton Sea on April 12 (*GMcC*), and 2 were present on Lake Cachuma, Santa Barbara Co. throughout the period (*NM*). This raptor continues to decrease in numbers along with the other members of the *Falconiformes*.

Grouse, Gallinules — A Blue Grouse in female plumage was present at Toll House Springs below treeline on the west slope of the White Mountains, Inyo Co. on May 24 (*GMcC*) and May 29 (*RL*). The species was only recently discovered in this mountain range, and previous records are all for the heavily wooded canyons at much higher elevations. Two Com. Gallinules were noted at Furnace Creek Ranch on May 23 (*GMcC*), and single birds were found there on May 29 (*RL* & *LCB*) and June 7 (*GMcC*). This is a rather unusual locality for this species.

Shorebirds — Two Black Oystercatchers were seen at the southern locality of the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Los Angeles Co. on April 12 (*RS*). The only Am. Golden Plover found this spring was an individual at the north end of the Salton Sea on April 19 (*GMcC* & *EAC*). The largest numbers of Surf-birds were present along the coast during April and early May, as is normal. A lone Ruddy Turnstone was seen at the

north end of the Salton Sea on May 11 (*AMC*); it is normal for one or two to appear here each spring. A flock of about 10,000 Whimbrels seen feeding in alfalfa fields near Westmoreland on April 19 and 25 (*GMcC* & *EAC*) gives us some indication as to the numbers of these birds passing through the Imperial Valley each spring. Again Knots were found inland on the Salton Sea, with 2 seen at the south end of the sea on April 12 (*GMcC*), a flock of 125 seen at the north end of the sea on April 19 (*GMcC* & *EAC*), and 12 seen there on May 17 (*GMcC* & *EAC*). A Semipalmated Sandpiper found near Lakeview on April 11 (*EAC* & *SC*) represents the earliest spring record and the first found away from the Salton Sea; 1 collected (specimen to S.B.C.M.) at the north end of the Salton Sea on May 17 (*EAC* & *SC*) constitutes the sixth record for that area. Western Sandpipers reached a peak of 10,000 at the south end of San Diego Bay on April 11 (*AMC*). A few migrant Sanderlings were found around the Salton Sea between April 5 and the end of May, as appears to be normal. Red Phalaropes were extremely scarce off the coast this spring, with 12 found off Santa Barbara on May 17 (*NM*) being the only ones reported. A single Red Phalarope in non-breeding plumage found inland at the north end of the Salton Sea on May 30 (*GMcC* & *PD*) represents the second spring record for the sea.

Jaegers, Gulls, Terns, Skimmers — Ten Pomarine Jaegers, the most numerous jaeger off our coast, were seen off San Diego on April 26 and May 2 (*PD*). A single Parasitic Jaeger was sighted off Santa Barbara on May 17 (*RWe*), and another was seen investigating a dead ground squirrel on a dirt road along the south shore of San Diego Bay on April 21 (*AMC*). Single immature Glaucous-winged Gulls, rare inland, were seen at the north end of the Salton Sea on April 18-19 (*GMcC*) and May 30 (*GMcC* & *PD*). A Franklin's Gull was seen at Ramer Lake, Imperial Co. on April 12 (*GMcC*), 1 was seen at the south end of the Salton Sea on April 4 (*EAC* & *SC*), 1 was with a large flock of gulls at the north end of the Salton Sea on April 19 (*GMcC* & *EAC*), a group of 4 was there on May 17 (*GMcC* & *EAC*), and a lone bird was still there on May 30 (*GMcC* & *PD*); this species is regular in limited numbers in the vicinity of the Salton Sea. An adult Franklin's Gull followed a boat off Point Loma on April 26 (*PD*), and another was observed at the mouth of the San Diego River on May 16 (*PD*). This gull is exceedingly rare along the coast during spring. Black-legged Kittiwakes continued their stay along our coast throughout the period, with such numbers as 100 off San Diego on April 26 (*PD*) and 45 off Santa Barbara on May 16-17 (*RWe*). Three Sabine's Gulls were seen off San Diego on April 26 (*PD*), 1 was seen from Point Fermin, Los Angeles Co. on April 8 (*GSS*), 1 was seen off Santa Barbara on May 16 (*RWe*), and 11 were seen there on May 17 (*NM*). This species is much more numerous during the fall migration period. Gull-billed Terns were first noted at the south end of the Salton Sea on April 4-5 (*EAC*, *SC* & *GMcC*), and at least 30 were found there on April 12 (*GMcC*). Common Terns were present along the coast during May, as is normal, with the first migrants noted during the last week of

April. Least Terns were first noted in San Diego on April 11 (GMcC & PD), with their numbers building up quite rapidly after that date. Elegant Terns returned to San Diego during the third week of March, which is a little on the late side. An adult *Black Skimmer* collected (specimen to S.B.C.M.) at the north end of the Salton Sea on May 17 (EAC & SC) constitutes the earliest of the three California records to date.

Alcids — Common Murres remained late after the influx of last winter: 2 were seen off San Diego on April 26 (PD) and 3 were seen there on May 2 (PD), a dead individual was found on the beach at Ocean Beach, San Diego Co. on April 28 (PD), and 3 were seen off Santa Barbara on May 16 (RWe). Ten Xantus' Murrelets were sighted off San Diego on April 26 (PD) and 20 were seen there on May 2 (PD); 13 were counted off Santa Barbara on May 16 (RWe). Two Cassin's Auklets were seen off San Diego on April 26 (PD), 7 were found off Santa Barbara on May 16 (RWe), and 50 were seen off Morro Bay on May 31 (EAC & SC). Two Rhinoceros Auklets observed off San Diego on April 26 (PD) and a dead individual found at Ocean Beach on June 4 (PD) were the only ones reported.

Doves, Cuckoos, Owls, Swifts, Hummingbirds — A Band-tailed Pigeon found at Twenty-nine Palms, San Bernardino Co. on April 19 (GSS) was outside the species' normal range and habitat. White-winged Doves had returned to the southeastern deserts by the first week of May, the first to reach Morongo Valley was noted there on May 11 (RWi & MWi), and 1 was seen at the extreme northern limit of its range at Furnace Creek Ranch on May 23 (GMcC). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo, an extremely rare species in this Region today, was reported from Sespe Canyon, Ventura Co. on May 24 (RWe). Two pairs of Elf Owls had returned to Cottonwood Springs, the westernmost outpost in the species' range, by April 7 (JA). Spotted Owls were located in the mountains of Santa Barbara, Riverside and San Diego Counties where they are resident. A Black Swift noted at Goleta on May 2 (RWe) was undoubtedly a migrant, but 1 observed at Dark Canyon in the San Jacinto Mountains on May 16 (DS) and a few seen near San Simeon, San Luis Obispo Co. in late May (KG) could well have been near nesting sites. A number of Calliope Hummingbirds were found along the coast during late April and early May; a group of about 15 noted at Goleta on April 26 (RWe) was, however, an unusually large concentration.

Flycatchers — Two Eastern Kingbirds, rare but regular along the eastern border of California, were present at Deep Springs, Inyo Co. on May 29 (JA, GSS & BB). Cassin's Kingbirds were seen at Oasis, Deep Springs, Furnace Creek Ranch and Saratoga Springs in late May and early June, giving support to the idea that this species is regular along the eastern border of California north to Mono County. A lone *Scissor-tailed Flycatcher*, a casual stray in spring, was found at Furnace Creek Ranch on May 23 (GMcC & CSL). The first Wied's Crested Flycatcher was noted at Morongo Valley on May 7 (RWi & MWi), and 2 pairs were present there soon afterward; this is the only locality

within the Region where this species occurs. Two Gray Flycatchers, scarce migrants along the coast, were trapped on Point Loma on May 3 (AMC). Recent observations and netting operations indicate that the Traill's Flycatcher is a late spring migrant on the west coast, with the main mass of the population passing through in May and many still present in early June. In the San Diego area the Hammond's Flycatcher is proving to be second only to the Western Flycatcher as the most numerous *Empidonax* in spring.

Crows, Nuthatches, Thrashers, Solitaires — A Com. Crow was observed at the unusual locality of Scotty's Castle, Death Valley Nat'l Monument on May 23 (GMcC) and May 29 (LCB). Red-breasted Nuthatches remained in coastal localities well into May; 6 were banded on Point Loma between April 3 and May 8 (AMC). A Brown Thrasher, always a rare bird in California, was found at Deep Springs on May 30 (RL & TM), and another was noted at Morongo Valley, April 25-29 (DS, GSS, RWi & MWi). A Bendire's Thrasher seen near Imperial Beach on April 4 (GMcC) may have wintered in the vicinity; 1 discovered at Oasis on May 23 (GMcC) represents the northernmost record for California. Three Townsend's Solitaires seen in Santa Barbara on April 12 (RWe) were quite late for a coastal locality.

Vireos, Warblers — A migrant Gray Vireo was noted at Morongo Valley on April 22 (RWi & MWi), and breeding birds were found in the New York Mountains of San Bernardino County (TT) and near Big Bear in the San Bernardino Mountains (LCB). A Red-eyed Vireo, a surprisingly scarce stray to California, was observed at Toll House Springs on May 29 (LCB), and single individuals were found on the Palos Verdes Peninsula on May 27 and June 10 (SWe). A Black-and-white Warbler, was collected (specimen to S.B.C.M.) at Fort Piute, San Bernardino Co. on May 10 (EAC & SC); 1 was seen at Morongo Valley on May 6 (RWi & MWi) and another was found there on May 31 (Joe Greenberg, *vide* LCB); 1 was seen near Holtville on May 3 (AMC); 1 was observed on the Palos Verdes Peninsula on May 7 (Isabel Ludlum, *vide* SWe) and another was noted there on June 9 (SWe); 1 was photographed at Carlsbad on May 1 (CSL). This is a rare but regular stray in both spring and fall. A single Tennessee Warbler at Morongo Valley on April 13 (RWi & MWi) was the only one reported. A Virginia's Warbler, very rare along the coast in spring, was observed in Hollywood on May 20 (KG). Lucy's Warblers continue to appear northward and westward of their former range, with single birds noted at Furnace Creek Ranch on May 29-30 (LCB), at Shoshone, Inyo Co. on May 30 (LCB), and at Twenty-nine Palms on April 12 (OC), and two pairs present at Morongo Valley after April 24 (RWi & MWi). A Parula Warbler, a species that seems to be more common in spring than in fall, was watched at Scotty's Castle on May 23 (GMcC); another was seen at Morongo Valley on May 28 (RWi & MWi); and a singing male was found at Carlsbad on May 16 (TT & PD). A male Magnolia Warbler was observed at Malibu, Los Angeles Co. on June 7 (GSS) and another male was netted on Point Loma on June 18 (AMC); this

species occurs as often in spring as in fall. The only Northern Waterthrushes reported were a single bird seen at Yucca Valley, San Bernardino Co. on May 9 (KG) and another noted at Morongo Valley on the same day (KG). A very worn and faded Red-faced Warbler, the first for California, was collected (specimen to S.D.N.H.M.) at the Brock Ranch on May 30 (GMcC & PD). A report, consisting of an excellent description and sketch, of a female Hooded Warbler at Goleta on May 29 (RWe) represents the second spring record for the Region. An Am. Redstart was observed at Oasis on May 29 (LCB); 1 was seen at Deep Springs on May 23 (BR), 3 on May 29 (GSS & BB), and 1 on the following day (RL); 1 was noted at Toll House Springs on May 24 (GMcC); 2 were seen at Scotty's Castle on May 23 (GMcC) and 1 on May 29 (LCB); 2 were found at Afton, San Bernardino Co. on May 24 (DS); and single birds were seen at Morongo Valley on May 8 (RWi & MWi), near Holtville on May 30 (GMcC & PD), in Pasadena on June 10 (Richard Neumann, *vide* GSS), and on the Palos Verdes Peninsula on May 5 (RS). This is an average number of reports, and, as usual, the majority are for late May.

Blackbirds, Orioles, Tanagers — Bobolinks were again found in the Death Valley area, with 2 males noted at Furnace Creek Ranch on May 29 (RL & LCB), 1 on May 30 (JA), and 3 on June 7 (GMcC). A female was seen at Saratoga Springs on the same day (GMcC). A pair of Hooded Orioles at Scotty's Castle on May 23 (GMcC) and May 29 (JA) were quite far north for eastern California. A Boat-tailed Grackle in female plumage was observed at Furnace Creek Ranch on June 6-7 (GMcC); this establishes the northernmost record for California to date. The passage of Western Tanagers was less spectacular than usual, with no large concentrations noted. A female Scarlet Tanager found at Scotty's Castle on May 23 (GMcC) was still present six days later (RL, JA, GSS, BB & LCB) and represents the second spring record for California. Two breeding pairs of Summer Tanagers were present at Morongo Valley after April 24 (RWi & MWi), and at least two pairs were at the Brock Ranch after May 1 (AMC). Migrant Summer Tanagers included a male seen at Oasis on May 29 (JA & GSS), a male at Deep Springs on May 23-24 (GMcC) and a female there on May 29 (JA & GSS), and a male at Santa Barbara on May 21 (RWe).

Finches, Sparrows — More than the usual number of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported, with a female at Toll House Springs on May 29-30 (JA, GSS, BB & RL), a female at Deep Springs on May 23 (BR) and a male there on May 24 (GMcC), a female at Scotty's Castle on May 29 (JA, GSS & BB), a male at Morongo Valley on May 8 (RWi & MWi), and a male at the south end of the Salton Sea on May 25 (WCW). A male Indigo Bunting was observed at Toll House Springs on May 29 (LCB), 2 males and a female were found in Wyman Creek Canyon in the White Mountains, Inyo Co. on May 23 (BR), a female was seen at Furnace Creek Ranch on May 23 (GMcC) and at least 2 males were there on June 7 (GMcC), and another male was noted at Saratoga Springs on the same day (GMcC). This species is found somewhat regularly along the eastern border of California at this time of the year. Pine Siskins were present at numerous localities throughout the Region well into May, after the influx of last fall and winter. Red Crossbills were quite numerous in the White Mountains at the end of May. Grasshopper Sparrows were reported only from near Dana Point, Orange Co. where as many as 6 were seen on May 9 (DS & GSS). A Gray-headed Junco, very scarce along the coast, was netted in San Pedro on April 24 (SWe). A Clay-colored Sparrow found near Imperial Beach on April 8 (GMcC) was either an individual that had wintered in the area or represents the first spring record for the Region. The Harris' Sparrow that wintered in Arcadia, Los Angeles Co. was last seen on April 6 (DS & JA). A late White-throated Sparrow was captured on Point Loma on May 8 (AMC).

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