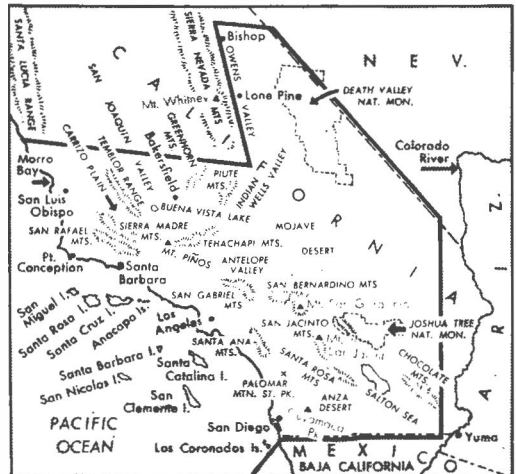


SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION. — This summer was warmer and more humid than normal, with numerous heavy thundershowers occurring in the



mountains and in the deserts to the east of them. There appeared to be less than the usual number of really unusual species of birds discovered in the Region even though such productive areas as the Salton Sea were regularly checked by active observers.

Loons -- Records of Com. Loons included 1 at Santa Barbara on Aug. 1 (*NM*), 1 on Lake Henshaw, San Diego Co. on July 25 (*PD*), 2 at the north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co. on June 13 (*GMCC*), and 1 on Mission Bay in San Diego on Aug. 16 (*PD*); 1 or 2 are reported during the summer period every year.

Shearwaters — About 10,000 Sooty Shearwaters were seen feeding off Point Loma, San Diego Co. on June 22 (*AMC*), and "thousands" were seen off Ventura, Ventura Co. on Aug. 5 (*GSS*); this is by far the most abundant species of shearwater found off California.

Pelicans, Frigatebirds — Brown Pelicans again failed as a nesting species in this Region, and some reporters are indicating that they notice a definite decrease in the numbers of this species seen along the

coast. A single immature Brown Pelican seen at Ramer Lake, Imperial Co. on Aug. 8 (*GMcC*, *BB* & *GSS*) was the only report from the area of the Salton Sea, where they have been occurring regularly in small numbers in the late summer. There were four reports of immature Magnificent Frigatebirds, possibly all pertaining to the same individual, in the San Diego area: 1 at Imperial Beach, San Diego Co. on July 30 (*AGS*) and Aug 25 (David Lewis, *fide PD*), and 1 at La Jolla, San Diego Co. Aug. 2 (Monte Kirven, *fide JJ*) and Aug. 13 (*fide JJ*); 1 or 2 are reported from along the coast almost every summer, and August appears to be the time most occur.

Hérons, Ibises — A heronry situated near the mouth of the New River at the south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co. was checked on May 17 and found to contain about 200 active nests, 120 belonging to *Cattle Egrets* and the rest to *Snowy Egrets* (*GMcC*, *EAC* & *SC*); on this date the nesting cycle was well advanced with most nests containing young, and many of the young appeared to be near flying stage; this constitutes the first *Cattle Egret* nesting record for California. Two non-breeding *Cattle Egrets* spent the summer at Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. (*NM*), and 2 more spent the summer in Santa Barbara (*NM*). This species can be expected to continue its increase and spread in California. An immature *Reddish Egret* was found at the south end of San Diego Bay on July 26 (*AMC*) and was still present at the end of the period; another immature was seen at Newport Bay, Orange Co. on July 31 (Gerald Tolman, *fide GSS*). This is a very rare stray from the south. *Black-crowned Night Herons* continue to nest successfully in the residential areas of San Diego where they utilize *Eucalyptus* trees and *Monterey Cypress*. One or two *Least Bitterns* were reported at the Salton Sea as is normal. A flock of 17 *Wood Ibis* reported at the south end of the Salton Sea on July 2 (*DT*) were the first arrivals; numbers built up to a maximum of about 350 on July 18 (*GMcC*) and a few were still present at the end of the period. None were reported away from the area of the Salton Sea, and the species appears to have abandoned the use of the coastal marshes of southern California. One or two *White-faced Ibis* were present at the south end of the Salton Sea, but there was no indication of nesting; 4 seen at Point Mugu, Ventura Co. on Aug. 5 (*GSS*) were probably fall migrants.

Geese, Ducks — A flock of about 30 *Black Brant* spent the summer at the north end of the Salton Sea after having arrived there during the spring migration period (*GMcC*, *et al.*). An adult *Black-bellied Tree Duck* found in the freshwater marshes at the head of Newport Bay on July 28 (*JAJ*) remained until Aug. 1 (*GSS*, *et al.*). There are three previous reports of the species in California; however, the likelihood that all are escapes is probably much greater than their being genuine strays from northwestern Mexico. *Fulvous Tree Ducks* appeared to be less numerous at the south end of the Salton Sea this summer than last summer, but they still nested successfully (*DT*). An adult male *Blue-winged Teal* was seen in company with an unidentified female teal on Big Bear Lake, San Bernardino Cl. on June 6 (*EAC* & *SC*); this species is

very rare during the summer period in southern California. A few *Redheads* nested successfully in the coastal marshes of San Diego County as usual. Two *White-winged Scoters* seen at the north end of the Salton Sea on June 13 (*GMcC*) were undoubtedly two of those reported at the same locality in May; this scoter is a casual stray away from the coast. Both *White-winged* and *Surf Scoters* were reported summering along the coast at such localities as Santa Barbara, Ventura, Playa del Rey and Imperial Beach. A few scoters regularly spend the summer in this Region; however, the numbers of *White-winged Scoters* reported this summer were higher than normal.

Hawks — It appears that there were two successful nests of the *California Condor* in Sespe Canyon, Ventura Co. (*SWi*). After being scattered far and wide all summer, *California Condors* began to congregate in the Mount Pinos and Glennville areas of Kern County in August as usual. *White-tailed Kites* are apparently still on the increase; however, they always appear to be scarce during the nesting season when they become very secretive. An *Osprey* was seen at Newport, Orange Co. on July 25 (*GSS*); 1 was found at Laguna Beach, Orange Co. on July 18 (*GSS*); 1 was present at the south end of the Salton Sea on July 15 (*GSS*) and July 18 (*GMcC*). This is a scarce species during the summer.

Shorebirds — As usual a number of summering shorebirds were present during June in the larger coastal bays and in the vicinity of the Salton Sea. The first of the fall migrants were present by early July when such species as *Semipalmated Plover*, *Whimbrel*, *Willet*, *Knot*, *Short-billed Dowitcher*, *Western Sandpiper* and *Marbled Godwit* were seen in fair numbers. An *Am. Golden Plover* seen at the north end of the Salton Sea on June 13 (*GMcC*) was probably a summering individual; 1 observed at the south end of the Salton Sea on July 11 (*GMcC*) was probably an exceptionally early fall migrant. Three *Wandering Tattlers* were found in Laguna Beach on July 5 (*JAJ*), but there were fewer than normal there in August. At the south end of the Salton Sea, 3 *Knots* were found on July 18 (*GMcC*); this is a rare but regular migrant there in fall. An early record for the *Pectoral Sandpiper* was that of 3 found at Malibu Lagoon, Los Angeles Co. on Aug. 13 (*ERA*). On June 13 a flock of 20 *Wilson's Phalaropes* and a single *Northern Phalarope* were seen at the south end of the Salton Sea (*GMcC*); all appeared to be adult females in high plumage, and I can only suspect that they were individuals that had already laid eggs and were on their way south.

Gulls, Terns — Juvenile *Western Gulls* began to appear along the coast in early August after dispersing from the nesting colonies on the offshore islands (*PD*). At the Salton Sea, *Western Gulls*, all of the yellow-legged race, were first noted on June 21 when 3 were present at Salton City, Imperial Co. (*GMcC*) and as many as 50 were found in a day by early August. It would appear that this species has just recently started to use the Salton Sea when dispersing from the nesting

colonies in the Gulf of California. No Laughing Gulls were reported at the Salton Sea before July 5, when 1 was seen at the south end of the sea (*HC & OC*); numbers soon built up to at least 50 on July 18 (*GMcC*), and they were still very numerous at the end of the period. This gull is a regular post-breeding wanderer to the Salton Sea from the Gulf of California. A single second-year Franklin's Gull at the north end of the Salton Sea on June 13 (*GMcC*) was the only one reported this summer. Heermann's Gulls began to appear along the coast in numbers during mid-July after having nested to the south of this Region; this species is relatively rare in California in June and early July. A number of Black-legged Kittiwakes evidently spent the summer along the coast again this year; up to 40 were present around Santa Barbara all summer (*NM*), 8 were seen at Malibu Lagoon on June 10 (*ERA*), 1 or 2 were present at Playa del Rey throughout the season (*HB*), and 3 were found in Los Angeles Harbor on July 5 (*SWe*). Gull-billed Terns definitely nested at the south end of the Salton Sea this summer; however, high winds in early June caused flooding at one site that destroyed all three nests there. In early August adults were seen feeding flying young that may well have been fledged in the area. Two nests of Forster's Terns were found at the mouth of the New River at the south end of the Salton Sea on May 17 (*EAC, SC & GMcC*); this is the first nesting record for the Salton Sea. Common Terns were present at the north end of the Salton Sea after June 13, and a few were present along the coast throughout June as is normal; by mid-August there were at least 1000 in San Diego Bay and another 1500 on nearby Mission Bay (*PD*). The Least Tern has attracted much attention in the last two years due to the fact that it has been placed on the endangered list; this year 75 juveniles were banded at the colonies around Seal Beach, Orange Co. (Barbara Massey, *vide SWe*), 15 pairs nested at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co. (*GMcC*), over 100 pairs nested successfully around Mission Bay (*AMC & PD*), and 2 pairs nested at the south end of San Diego Bay (*AMC*). The number of juveniles seen in August was most encouraging and indicates that this species is able to adapt to the very close proximity of man to its nesting colonies. As usual there were about 50 pairs of Elegant Terns nesting at the south end of San Diego Bay among the numerous Caspian Terns also nesting there; the post-breeding dispersal flight of this species appeared quite heavy, with over 1000 present in Ventura and over 2000 present in the San Diego area by early August.

Doves, Cuckoos, Owls, Whip-poor-will, Swifts —

One or two Band-tailed Pigeons were present on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Los Angeles Co. in late June (*SWe*), and 5 were seen on Catalina Island on July 3-5 (*SWe*); both localities are outside the species' normal summer range. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo killed itself against a window in Rialto, San Bernardino Co. on July 5 (*EAC*; specimen to San Bernardino County Museum); this species is very rarely reported in this Region nowadays, although it used to be fairly common in some areas 20 years ago. A pair of Spotted Owls was located in the San Jacinto Mountains near

Idyllwild, Riverside Co. on June 9 (*BB*), and 3 individuals were seen in Santa Anita Canyon on the San Gabriel Mountains, Los Angeles Co. on June 30 (*GSS*). A pair of Saw-whet Owls, a rather scarce species in this Region, was found near Idyllwild on June 9 (*BB, et al.*). A calling *Whip-poor-will* was heard, and well seen, in the San Jacinto Mountains on June 9 (*BB, AMC, GMcC & GSS*); this is the exact location where the species was discovered in 1968, and there was every indication the bird was defending a nesting territory. At least 2 Black Swifts were seen in Santa Anita Canyon on June 30 (*GSS & JAJ*); it is very likely that this species nests near the waterfalls in this canyon, but it has not been proven to do so as yet. A *Chimney Swift* was caught and photographed (copies deposited in Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History) in Santa Barbara in "early June" after it descended a chimney; there are but three previous records for the Region, but the records involve small flocks and all have been in the summer in recent years. The species may well prove to be regular in very limited numbers at this time of the year along the coast of southern California.

Hummingbirds — In this Region the Anna's Hummingbird is an abundant resident, nesting as early as November and December and continuing on through the spring into May. The Black-chinned Hummingbird is a summer resident, arriving in late March and early April. The Costa's Hummingbird is primarily a summer visitor, but a few remain throughout the year; spring migrants arrive in January and nesting is under way by February. The Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds are common migrants, arriving in January and February; the Allen's Hummingbird is known to nest along the coast to as far south as Santa Barbara County and the resident race of the Channel Islands has recently been found on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. The Calliope Hummingbird is a migrant throughout most of the Region, appearing in March and April; it nests in the higher portions of the mountains south to the San Jacinto Mountains. The Broad-tailed Hummingbird is restricted to the mountains along the extreme eastern portion of the Region, where it is a summer visitor between April and September. On the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Shirley Wells found three nests of the Black-chinned Hummingbird (one with young and two with eggs) on July 21 and reported that male Costa's Hummingbirds were still displaying on that date. She believes that Rufous Hummingbirds were present on the Palos Verdes Peninsula since February; if this is true, the birds involved have remained far south of their normal breeding range. On Point Loma Jean Craig captured the first fall migrant Rufous Hummingbird on June 22, and the species became increasingly common through July and August. Allen's Hummingbirds still had eggs in their nests on the Palos Verdes Peninsula on June 26 (*SWe*); 2 were captured on Point Loma on June 4; the species was most numerous there during the last week of July and the first week of August; and the last migrant was captured there on Sept. 1 (*JC*). All of the captured hummingbirds were identified on the basis of tail feather shapes.

Woodpeckers — At least 3 pairs of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (*S. v. ruber*) were found nesting on Mount Palomar, San Diego Co. (AM); this is the southern extreme of the known range and represents a southward extension from that indicated by Grinnell and Miller (*The Distribution of the Birds of California*, 1944).

Flycatchers — An Eastern Kingbird found at the Brock Ranch, 20 miles east of Holtville, Imperial Co. on June 20 (GSS) was the only report this year. Two pairs of Wied's Crested Flycatchers nested at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co. (GMcC); this is the westernmost outpost of regular occurrence. Three Vermilion Flycatchers were present in the area just to the east of Castaic Junction, Los Angeles Co. all summer (SK); the species has not been reported previously from this locality.

Nuthatches, Creeper, Dipper, Thrasher — A pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches nested in Palomar State Park, San Diego Co. (AM); this is south of the species' known range in the mountains. Red-breasted Nuthatches again nested on Point Loma, with 3 young just out of the nest banded there, June 23-27, and another banded there on July 19 (AMC & JC); it appears as if this species is establishing itself as a permanent resident at this locality. A Brown Creeper on Point Loma on Aug. 13 (JC) was exceptionally early for a coastal locality this far south. A pair of Dippers was nesting at Fallsville, San Bernardino Co. in May (HC & OC); they are resident along the permanent stream there. A Sage Thrasher found at Caliente Springs County Park, San Diego Co. on June 4 (AF) was exceptionally late for the locality.

Vireos, Warblers — Gray Vireos were present in the eastern portions of the San Bernardino Mountains, an encouraging report of 4 singing males heard at different points there on June 4 (SWe); the species has

become alarmingly scarce in recent years. One or two Lucy's Warblers were present at Morongo Valley through June (GSS & GMcC); no nest has actually been found, but there appears to be little doubt that the birds are nesting there. This is the westernmost outpost for the species. Three singing male MacGillivray's Warblers discovered around Fawnskin in the San Bernardino Mountains on July 9 (SWe) would appear to strongly suggest nesting in that area; the species has not been proven to nest south of the Sierra Nevada but has been reported in the San Bernardino Mountains on other occasions during the summer months. Reports of eastern vagrants during the period included 2 Tennessee Warblers netted on Point Loma on July 2 (AMC & JC) and an Ovenbird seen near Rancho Santa Fe, San Diego Co. on June 10 (AF).

Blackbirds, Tanagers — A single Boat-tailed Grackle seen at Finney Lake, Imperial Co. on June 13 (GMcC) was the only one reported in the vicinity of the Salton Sea; it is felt that this species will soon colonize the area. Young Brown-headed Cowbirds were reported being raised by Hooded Orioles (HC & OC) and by Brown Towhees (SWe, HC & OC); both are somewhat unusual hosts for the species. Summer Tanagers were reported breeding only at Morongo Valley and at the Brock Ranch east of Holtville, both localities of regular occurrence for the species.

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