

SOUTH PACIFIC COAST REGION.—The past winter brought a total precipitation of only about 60% of normal, distributed chiefly in 2 heavy



rains (early December and late March). A great variance from normal was expected in the vegetation and the migration. One immediate result seemed to be the generally late (1-2 weeks) arrival of migrants from

the south, which can be correlated with the even later (3-6 weeks) blooming periods of herbs and foothill shrubs. Stragglers of some land birds arrived on normal dates, but mass arrivals were late and irregular in different localities. Even resident species were late in taking up breeding and nesting, as witness the red-shouldered (red-bellied) hawks near the Santa Barbara Museum; usually several pairs have eggs by Mar. 8, while this year there was only 1 nest by Apr. 6 (Rett). Species such as the wren-tit, Bewick's wren and California thrasher in a breeding-bird census area near Arcadia were also 2 weeks to a month late in singing and nesting. The March rains were sufficient to bring a good herb cover, but it dried up quickly and many nestlings must certainly have been brought off when insect populations were differently disposed than in normal years. Climatic cycles thus must influence birds in indirect ways of which we have little knowledge.

Departure of winter visitors.—A few robins were still at Santa Barbara on Apr. 6, and 8 were seen near Whitewater, Riverside Co., on Apr. 17; but they now nest in so many foothill cities (where wide lawns and nesting mud are available) that the last wintering birds are hard to segregate in the records. Four hermit thrushes at Griffith Park on Apr. 11 (Russell) is a normal last date for this

species, but 1 near Arcadia on May 1 (Cogswell) is very late. Ruby-crowned kinglets and white-crowned (Gambel's) sparrows left most localities early (by Mar. 31 and Apr. 18 respectively), but 1 kinglet was seen on the Borego Desert on Apr. 18 (Mall). A flock of 500 pipits at San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary (—S.G.R.W.S. hereafter) on Apr. 1 was an unusually large spring influx—perhaps concentrated in irrigated alfalfa fields by dryness elsewhere. Contrarily, Savannah sparrows disappeared without the usual spring influx of large flocks, the last at S.G.R.W.S. being 1 on Apr. 16. At Big Bear Lake on May 16 there were 2 pipits, equalling the latest California date, and 2 Savannah sparrows—the latter both singing as though on a nesting territory, but no nest has yet been found (Cogswell).

White pelican.—The only migrating flocks reported were 250 over Charlton Flats, San Gabriel Mts., on Mar. 27 (M.), 200+ over Sawmill Mt., western L.A. Co., on Mar. 28 (M.), and 200 over Sand Canyon, about half way between these two points, on Mar. 29 (Kent). On Apr. 17, Ralph Mall estimated the white pelican population to be 200 at Lake Elsinore and 400 at Lake Henshaw, and he saw a flock of about 200 flying near the SW end of Salton Sea on Apr. 18. These lakes are about the only possible breeding sites within our territory (Buena Vista was dry this year), but disturbance by man prevents it except at Salton Sea.

Geese.—The early northward (or westward) flight near Los Angeles started a little early with 30 Canadas over Beverly Hills on Jan. 19 (M.). Fifty Canadas passed over Altadena at 8:45 a.m. on Jan. 24, 75 more at 10:30 a.m., and 75 over Arcadia on Feb. 2 (Quattlebaum). The latest flock was of 21 (subsp.) going WNW over the southwest part of L.A. on Feb. 15 (M.). The white-fronted goose flight was either non-existent or missed.

Ducks.—Reports are too few to give any summary of the flight. Small flocks of pintails were passing northward along the coast of Playa del Rey on Feb. 22, on which date also 250 green-winged teal were estimated at the nearby Recreation Gun Club (C.). Mr. Hastings found 191 green-wings still there on Mar. 15—good spring numbers for this species. The shoveller, always our commonest spring duck, was recorded in smaller flocks than usual: 170 on Mar. 24 at Riverside (Wilson) and 200 there on Apr. 4 (Julian), 350 on Mar. 28 at Elizabeth Lake (M.), and an estimated 30 (in pairs) on May 3 at Upper Bay, Orange Co., where it seems logical that they might nest (C.). Over 300 canvas-backs were seen at Elizabeth Lake on Mar. 28 (M.) and 35 were on the east end of Big Bear Lake on May 16 (C.). Miss Belle Wilson reported a blue-winged teal at Fairmount Park, Riverside, on Feb. 20.

Hawks.—Migrating flocks of turkey vultures were small and scattered, with the peak about Feb. 15-25. No large flocks of Swainson's hawks were

reported (nor any last year), the only records being: 6 over Griffith Park, L.A., and 3 at the base of the Santa Ana Mts. on Mar. 21 (R.); 8 over Beverly Hills on Mar. 22 (M.); 1 over Arcadia on Mar. 26 (Q.); and 5 foraging east of Upper Bay, Orange Co., on May 3 (Buchheister, Stultz, Cogswell). Three migrating marsh hawks were noted at S.G.R.W.S. (Feb. 7, Mar. 11, 13,) and 1 in the Linda Vista district of Pasadena on Mar. 13 (Q.). An osprey was seen at Elizabeth Lake on Mar. 28 (M.), and one was perched on an open meadow near the shore of Big Bear Lake on May 16 (Taylor, Cogswell). An immature bald eagle was seen perched on the old pier or being harassed by gulls at Palos Verdes, Apr. 25, May 1-2 (Shuart).

Shorebirds.—The common wintering species showed no perceptible spring increase at Redondo, but just disappeared toward the end of the season (Shuart). Reports from other sections are too scanty for comparison. On inland fields the first flock of 12 Hudsonian curlews was found in the Baldwin Hills on Apr. 11 (M.), the maximum was a flock of 300 on Apr. 28 at "Curlew" in Imperial Valley (Comby), and the last few recorded were at S.G.R.W.S.—2 on May 9 and 3 on May 13 (Cogswell). Wandering tattlers were seen by Mr. Shuart at Palos Verdes from Apr. 20 to May 22, with the maximum on May 15 of 8 birds in a compact flock. A solitary sandpiper appeared at S.G.R.W.S. on Apr. 18, earlier than last year (Cogswell).

Gulls.—An unusual concentration of herring gulls—75 on the beach at Huntington Beach on Mar. 3—made this species the commonest gull there (Comby). Ring-billed (and California?) gulls migrated in flocks of 100-200 over S.G.R.W.S. and thence northward on Feb. 4, 7, and 8, and a flock of 50 passed over on Mar. 14. At Big Bear Lake on May 16 there were 50 ring-bills—adults, 2 yr. olds, and a few 1 yr. old birds mixed (Cogswell).

Terns.—There were no reports on the May flight, usually quite noteworthy. Over 100 Forster's terns were at Newport harbor on Apr. 10 (C.). Two black terns foraged over small ponds near S.G.R.W.S. on Apr. 22 (C.).

Swifts.—Vaux's were seen at S.G.R.W.S. intermittently from Apr. 21 to May 9 with several flocks of 15-30 each on Apr. 30. About 30 were seen over San Dimas Foothill Park on May 2. Near Whittier at dusk on May 9 a flock of about 40 Vaux's swifts flew in close formation low over the tree tops as though about to roost, but the flock scattered out again and moved (C.). A real migration of some 300 black swifts was observed by the Combys at Carlsbad on May 29.

Hummingbirds.—Allen's arrived on Feb. 5 at Burbank (Daugherty) and on Feb 22 at Santa Barbara, where it was nesting by Mar. 20 (Rett). The peak of its migration came on Feb. 29, with 30 to 50 estimated at Brookside Park, Pasadena (Q.); the last definitely identified as Allen's south of breeding range were 4 at Bel Air on Mar. 22 (M.). At

this time the rufous hummingbird, which had first become common on Feb. 26, was at its maximum. Single male calliope hummingbirds were seen in the foothills near Arcadia on Apr. 4 (C.) and near San Dimas Foothill Park on May 2 (A. Berry, C. J. Parker, R. L. Taylor, et al.).

Swallows.—First to arrive were the local breeding tree swallows at S.G.R.W.S. on Feb. 8, but the species passed in numbers from Mar. 15 through Apr. 30 (C.). Next were rough-wings seen between Banning and Riverside on Feb. 19-20 (Wilson); several hundred were found along the L. A. River at Griffith Park by the 26th (D.). Migrating violet-greens were common in Santa Barbara on Feb. 22 (R.) and reached their peak about Mar. 20-24, when an estimated 1000 were seen at Fairmount Park in Riverside (W.). The last observed at altitudes below their nesting range were 20+ at S.G.R.W.S. on Apr. 22 (C.). One cliff swallow was seen at S.G.R.W.S. on Feb. 19, over a month earlier than their general arrival, and barn swallows were noted there somewhat early on Mar. 9 and 14 (C.).

Warblers.—Although the dusky orange-crowned warbler (*V. c. sordida*) winters commonly and *V. c. celata* and *V. c. orestora* more rarely, the first bright yellow-breasted orange-crowns (*V. c. lutescens*) singing repeatedly on territory mark the beginning of the spring warbler migration. Lutescents were seen on Mar. 11 at Santa Anita Canyon (C.) and on Mar. 15 at Sunland (K.). Orange-crowns of one or another race were common as migrants from Apr. 4-27, with some other than the resident dusky still at Palos Verdes on May 8 and 15 (Shuart).

Nashville Calaveras warblers were seen in exceptional numbers from Apr. 10 to May 16, with a peak of 23 at Griffith Park on Apr. 25 (R.). The black-throated gray and the yellow were relatively scarce. Townsend's and hermit warblers were reported from many localities, but only the hermit in any numbers and that in the mountains—Mt. Laguna on Apr. 17 (T. O. Clark) to a last 2 singing at Buckhorn Flat, San Gabriel Mts., on May 23 (Cogswell). After an early male Macgillivray's warbler at Arcadia on Apr. 4 (M., C.) there were a few scattered records between Apr. 17 and May 8 in the valley and foothills near L. A. with a last one (male) at Buckhorn Flat on May 23 (A. Berry, R. Mall). Unusually high numbers of chats in transit were recorded by Justin Russell in Griffith Park, L. A., on May 2 (30 est.) and 17 (17 counted). Black-capped (pileolated) warblers were normal as to dates of migration (Apr. 11-May 17) no big waves were noted, the maximum reported in one day being 15.

Other perching birds.—Four olive-sided flycatchers were seen at elevations below their nesting areas from Apr. 24 to May 9. One on Apr. 25 at Santa Anita Canyon caught and ate a huge sphinx moth despite rapid fluttering of the moth's wing (M., C.). After a supposed end of the red-breasted nuthatch invasion of last winter, 9 were

again found in Griffith Park on Apr. 4 and 1 on the 25th (R.). These were in sycamore and alder trees rather than strictly in conifers as before. One was observed with 8X binoculars at 30 feet in a cottonwood tree at S.G.R.W.S. on May 22, a surprisingly late date for the low altitude of 215 ft. (Cogswell, Thos. Parker). Many russet-backed thrushes were heard overhead in the pre-dawn hours of May 1 near Arcadia and May 13 at Whittier (C.). There was a good western tanager migration with up to 30 recorded in an hour at San Dimas Canyon on May 2, but the last in the valleys were seen somewhat earlier than usual — May 22 at S.G.R.W.S. (Stultz). Blue grosbeaks and grasshopper sparrows arrived Apr. 21 and May 6 respectively at S.G.R.W.S. and became common again on nearby farm fields — the grosbeaks in brushy or weedy field borders and the sparrows in old alfalfa or oat fields. Costa's hummingbirds arrived on the coast slope some 2 weeks late; males were seen near Beaumont, Apr. 17; near Arcadia, Apr. 25 (C.); and at Tapia Park, Apr. 26 (Kent). The first western kingbirds were seen normally on Mar. 22, but the maximum migration with 30 recorded in a few hours at Baldwin Hills (M.) and 8 in one field at S.G.R.W.S. on

Apr. 11 (A.B.), was over a week late. Some unknown explanation must account for the widely differing arrival dates of the purple martin — Mar. 24 at Playa del Rey (Comby) and about the same time at Pasadena (Parker) and Santa Barbara (Rett), while at Whittier a colony of a few pairs nesting in a theater building returned this year (as last year) on May 10 (Cogswell).

New locality records and rarities. — Long-eared owl: flushed from daytime roost in golden-cup oak clump in Hemet Valley, San Jacinto Mts., on Apr. 17 (C.). Hairy woodpecker: 1 in cottonwoods along Mojave River on flat desert 5 miles south of Victorville on May 16 (Taylor, Cogswell). White-headed woodpecker: Mt. Laguna, San Diego Co., on Apr. 17 (T. O. Clark) — a new southernmost record. Bendire's thrasher: pair (male singing) in Yucca Valley, NW of Joshua Tree National Monument, on May 31 (Taylor, Mall). Scott's oriole: first year male singing at Santa Ana on Apr. 10 (Harding). Red crossbill: flock of 6 observed closely at feeding station in Mt. Washington district, Los Angeles, about Apr. 1 (McCune). — HOWARD L. COGSWELL, *San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary, 2610 S. Durfee Ave., El Monte, Calif.*