

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION.—Although drought conditions were somewhat im-

proved in this region during the past winter, the subnormal rainfall resulted in a lag of vegetation growth. The departure of winter visitants and arrival of summer visitants and migrants appeared to be delayed this year.



Water birds.—Eared grebes in nuptial plumage were found numerous at Salton Sea on Apr. 19 (Comby); a black-footed albatross was noted inside the San Pedro Channel on Mar. 30 (Comby). With few exceptions, the most noteworthy reports on migratory waterfowl for this season came from the Salton Sea Refuge. O'Neill reported 80 Canada geese at the refuge during the first week of February, but by Feb. 19 only 30 were present. The number dropped to 12 on Mar. 5; white-fronted geese dwindled from 300 on Feb. 6 to 40 on Mar. 5; lesser snow geese numbered 7500 on Feb. 6 and then decreased to 1 bird on Mar. 19. On Apr. 15, 2 birds were present, and 5 a few days later; 10 mallards moved in on Mar. 8 and on Apr. 23, 4 birds were still present. Pintails, which numbered 7000 during the winter season, showed a marked decline in numbers; on Mar. 5 there were 2400; Mar. 13, 1200, and 600 on Mar. 26. According to O'Neill, it was apparent that the concentration had definitely passed its peak by Mar. 1. Green-winged teal remained stable through February, with 300 on Mar. 5, and 3100 on Mar. 26. By the last week of April the population had dwindled to 600. The winter population of cinnamon teal, which numbered 1000 birds, dwindled to 60 during the last week of April. Shovellers dropped to 2300 birds in early March and then remained rather steady. By the last day of March there were an estimated 3800 present. By Apr. 30 the number had dropped to 130. Redheads and canvasbacks disappeared completely by the end of April but lesser scaup remained in groups of 20 to 100 along the southwest portion of Salton Sea. Fifteen buffle-heads were observed on Apr. 15 (O'Neill). Two pairs of Am. golden-eyes were observed at Newport Bay on Mar. 4 and 3 more at Carlsbad on the same date (Comby). An adult Am. golden-eye was observed flying along the beach at Santa Barbara on Apr. 2 (Rhett).

Hawks, vultures and eagles.—Approximately 200 turkey vultures were moving in a westerly direction over San Gabriel on Mar. 3 (Comby); 6 to 8 were noted over Santa Barbara on Feb. 20 (Rhett). A solitary white-tailed kite was noted between Oxnard and Port Hueneme on Apr. 26 (Greene). Nine Swainson's hawks were observed over Griffith Park on Feb. 27 (Russell), 1 bald eagle at Santa Catalina Island on Mar. 20 and another at Anacapa Island on Apr. 20 (Comby). A bald eagle was recorded at Summerland on Feb. 13 (Rhett), and an osprey at Mission Canyon near Santa Barbara on Mar. 13 (Rhett).

Shore and marsh birds.—The greater sandhill crane which made its appearance at Playa del Rey during the winter was still present on Feb. 27 (Comby). Hudsonian curlew were reported fewer in number in the Redondo Beach area this year, due to plowing under of alfalfa fields which formerly attracted large numbers of this species (Shuart). Shuart also reported wandering tattlers bunching up into small flocks instead of being solitary. As many as 23 were noted in one flock on

Apr. 17 at Redondo. An Am. knot was seen at Alamitos Bay on Mar. 14 (Comby). At Salton Sea the white pelican population remained much the same as reported during the winter, until Mar. 26, when 1200 were there. The following week 2000 birds were recorded, after which the population dropped to about 450. Nesting started in April with more than 300 nests recorded (O'Neill).

Jaegers, gulls and terns.—At Salton Sea, ring-billed gulls, which were there since the winter season, continued to feed in agricultural fields of Imperial Valley, with an estimated 2000 birds present through Apr. 30 (O'Neill). Eight laughing gulls migrated to the Salton Sea about mid-April and have remained. A small population of gull-billed terns arrived about Apr. 7 and by the following week there were an estimated 500 individuals there. The first eggs were laid on the small sandy islands at this time. Caspian terns arrived about Apr. 18, but did not start nesting until the last of April (O'Neill). A parasitic jaeger flew near Anacapa Island on Apr. 30 (Comby); and an immature common kittiwake was seen in the San Pedro channel on Mar. 30 (Comby).

Non-passerine land birds.—A short-eared owl was noted at Playa del Rey on Feb. 27 (Comby). The first Allen's hummingbird was observed at Santa Barbara on Feb. 21 (Rhett), and at Griffith Park on Feb. 27 (Russell). A male rufous hummingbird was recorded at Griffith Park on Apr. 24 (Russell). The concentration of Lewis's woodpeckers which remained in the Banning area throughout the winter was last seen on May 16 (Wilson).

Passerine land birds.—A pair of vermilion flycatchers was observed at China Lake, Kern Co., on May 14 (W. R. Fish). Russell noted a varied thrush as still present at Griffith Park on Apr. 3, and another was observed at Dalton Canyon on Mar. 7 (Comby). A Townsend's solitaire was noted at Santa Barbara on Feb. 16 (Rhett). A Tennessee warbler was observed closely at Anaheim on Apr. 3 (Comby). Shuart reported a wave of warblers, with hermits predominating, through the Palos Verdes Hills on Apr. 29 and 30. The first hooded oriole was recorded at Santa Barbara on Mar. 16 (Rhett). Russell reported the hooded oriole as much less common this season at Griffith Park, where it was far outnumbered by Bullock's orioles. Cardinals were recorded at the San Gabriel Sanctuary on Feb. 6 and Apr. 10 (Rusterholz). Blue grosbeaks were fairly common in Orange Co. during April, with 6 birds seen on Apr. 26 (Whiting). The lazuli bunting was reported from Griffith Park on Apr. 24 (Russell) and from Santa Barbara on Apr. 27 (Rhett). Large flocks of Lawrence's goldfinches were feeding and singing in the walnut groves of Hemet on Feb. 11 (Friesen). There was a rufous-crowned sparrow at Sunland on Mar. 28 (Kent), and a Lincoln's sparrow was still present at Griffith Park on Apr. 3 (Russell). A white-throated sparrow remained at Santa Barbara until Apr. 15 (Rhett).—KENNETH E. STAGER, Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles 7, Calif.