

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION.—

Climatic conditions in southern California during the nesting season were relatively mild insofar as



high temperatures were concerned. The usual lack of sufficient rainfall resulted in another season of extreme fire hazard, however, which was marked by several severe fires with damage to bird cover in certain areas. No appreciable

fluctuation was noted in the nesting activities of local birdlife other than a few instances reported by field observers.

Water birds.—Large numbers of black-footed albatrosses were noted off San Clemente Island on July 17 (Couffer). Two fulvous tree ducks were seen at Playa del Rey on June 2 and 5 (Mall) and again on June 30 (Small). Tree ducks increased to 5 at the same location on July 12 (Small). One mallard, 4 green-winged teal, 1 cinnamon teal and 15 pintail were at Playa Del Rey on Aug. 9 (Mall). Two female red-breasted mergansers were found at Playa del Rey on June 3, and 10 snowy egrets at the same place on Aug. 9 (Mall). An adult Sabine's gull was observed off Newport Beach on Aug. 4, and a crippled glaucous gull in second year plumage, coming into adult plumage at Playa del Rey on Aug. 7 (Small). A decided increase of south-bound shorebirds was noted at Playa del Rey, with numbers increasing three-fold within the week between July 5 and July 12 (Small). Included in this mass arrival were large numbers of willet (600), marbled godwit (280), black-bellied plover (75), Hudsonian curlew (44), lesser and greater yellow-legs, and Wilson's phalarope (Small). Small recorded 180+ Wilson's phalaropes and 130+

northern phalaropes at Playa del Rey on July 30 and Comby listed "hundreds" of northern phalaropes in winter plumage at Upper Newport Bay on Aug. 13. On the same day, Comby observed a knot in winter plumage at Alamitos Bay. Approximately 45 black-necked stilts were noted at Bolsa Chica; many of these were young birds indicating the species evidently bred there this season (Small). Six black terns, a ruddy turnstone and a surf-bird were seen at Playa del Rey on Aug. 9 (Small), and 7 black terns at Upper Newport Bay on Aug. 13 (Comby). A snowy plover with 3 eggs was found at Malibu on June 5 (Mall).

Hawks and owls.—Two white-tailed kites were noted at Playa del Rey on July 12 (Small). A pair of white-tailed kites was found carrying nesting material on Apr. 29 at the San Gabriel River Sanctuary; the nest was located on May 7 and 2 young out of nest were seen on July 30 (Stultz). Mall reported a red-shouldered hawk at Lake Wolford during June. A family of burrowing owls, with 5 young almost as large as parent birds, was found at Redondo Beach in July (Shuart). A spotted owl was discovered in an oak tree over the road at Valvermo on July 2 (Comby).

Cuckoos, doves.—The yellow-billed cuckoo nested at San Gabriel River Sanctuary in June; 2 young were out of nest the last of July (Stultz). Mourning doves and Chinese spotted doves nested successfully at the San Gabriel River Sanctuary this season (Stultz).

Passerine land birds.—A scissor-tailed flycatcher was observed flying near Playa del Rey on June 20 (Mall). A phainopepla with nest was found in a pepper tree in Topanga Canyon on June 25 (Greene). The purple martin was seen regularly at Irvine Lake, and a single female at Playa del Rey on Aug. 9 (Mall). In Griffith Park an unusually successful nesting season was reported for the purple finch, robin, black-headed grosbeak, western wood pewee, cowbird, russet-backed thrush, yellow and orange-crowned warblers, and chats; while all orioles, vireos, western and ash-throated flycatchers, black-chinned hummingbirds and phainopepla were below normal (Russell). A number of western tanagers were seen in Los Angeles on Aug. 10 (Mall). A hooded oriole was still feeding young in the nest on Aug. 14 in San Diego (Groner).—KENNETH E. STAGER, Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles 7, Calif.