southern Pacific coast Region.—A series of late storms in April and early May brought the season rainfall to about two-thirds of normal, but had little real effect on drought conditions in this area. Water tables are so low that these late rains did not prolong the growing sea-son noticeably. Lake Elsinore, formerly one of the largest lakes in southern California, joined the growing list of totally dry lakes.

two thirdwide space atch soft rain to Loap rilge Rs, a holought six to twelve inches of snow to the higher San Bernardino Mountains. The accompanying strong winds on the Mojave Desert forced many migrating birds to seek shelter under small bushes and shrubs. Large numbers of normally treetop



species such as Empidonax flycatchers, Audubon's and Hermit Warblers. and Mountain Chickadees stayed on or nearthe ground, seeking the lee side of bushes, even in the mountains. The unseasonably heavy snow in the moun-

tains at this date undoubtedly took a considerable toll of insectivorous land birds.

The largest list compiled in one day, by a single party this spring was only 170 species. This compares with the record 187 species listed by Howard Cogswell, Ralph Mall, and Arnold Small on April 27, 1950.

Looms, Pelicans, Herons.—An Arctic Loon in full nuptial plumage at Corona del Mar on April 28 was probably the last remnant of the northward flight. The largest northward-moving flocks of White Pelicans this year occurred in the latter part of March and early April. Cogswell reported having counted 450+ birds flying northwest over San Dimas Canyon, Los Angeles Co., on March 24. He also counted another flock equally as large on March 29 in Bell Canyon in the San Gabriel Mountains; and a smaller flock of about 250 birds followed the same route on April 11. A few straggling migrants were seen as late as the middle of May. Suitable habitat for the Least Bittern is becoming scarcer due to the dry conditions; however, Belle Wilson found one at Fisherman's Retreat, Riverside Co., on May 4. William Anderson reported that the Wood Ibis arrived unusually early in the Imperial Valley this year. This bird does not ordinarily appear in Southern California until after the nesting season far below the Mexican border. A flock of 11 was seen at Imperial Refuge on May 26.

Waterfowl.—A single Brant was at Playa del Rey on May 13 (Arthur Bennett). An estimated 10,000 ducks and coots on Big Bear Lake, April 8, constitutes the largest number of waterfowl there this spring. A small number of diving ducks remained on the lake through late April (35 Redheads, 65 Ring-necked Ducks and 10 Canvas-backs on April 28). A male Blue-winged Teal spent the second week in May at the Imperial Refuge (Anderson). At least 6 Wood Ducks were still at Fairmont Park, Riverside, on May 28, and some are probably breeding there as they did last year.

Vultures and Hawks.—The bulk of the migrating Turkey Vultures passed through the region by the end of March, although a few scattered flocks were still moving northward in mid-April. Sharpshinned Hawks generally depart for northern breeding areas in April, and Cogswell's record for

this species on April 26 is the latest for the San Gabriel Monntains. However, Belle Wilson saw a very late Sharp-shin at Banning on May 13.

The main flights of Swainson's Hawks occurred this year in early April; Cogswell counted 520 birds over the southeastern San Gabriel Mountains on April 3, followed by 470 the next day. The flight tapered-off during the following week with 51 again reported by Cogswell on April 7 over the same area. Two very late flights of 15 birds each passed over the Imperial Valley on April 27 and May 2 (Anderson). Several lone migrating Ospreys flew over San Dimas Canyon in early April (Cogswell).

Rails and Shorebirds.—A Clapper Rail appeared in a fresh-water marsh near Imperial Refuge on May 5 (fide Anderson). The known range of this bird in southeastern California is very restricted and its status is not well understood. Previous occurrences have been in May and June.

The spring flight of shorebirds has not materialized. Scattered reports indicate a generally below-average migration with many of the choice localities being almost devoid of birds. Wandering Tattlers, however, were seen in good numbers all along the coast. R. N. Shuart reported a flock of 12 at Palos Verdes on April 27 (a week late), and 3 were seen at Laguna Beach the following day (George Treichel, Robert L. Pyle). A group of 4 at Ballona Creek breakwater near Venice, on May 6 (Cogswell) was still present on May 13 (Bennett). Five Tattlers at Palos Verdes on May 19 are the last to be reported from this area (Shuart). A flight of Hudsonian Curlews through the Palos Verdes area on May 7 consisted of only 30 birds, a much lower figure than in previous years (Shuart). The only report of the Solitary Sandpiper was one bird at Fisherman's Retreat, April 28 (Wilson). A single Pectoral Sandpiper was at Lower Newport Bay on the same day (Herbert Clarke, Arnold Small). Close to 1000 Western Sandpipers, including one flock of 600 were reported from Playa del Rey, April 22 (Pyle, Henry Isham).

Eight Stilt Sandpipers in breeding plumage, in company with Dowitchers, were found in a shallow pond on the Imperial Refuge in late April (Anderson). This species has been recorded previously from California only once or twice, and these occurrences were along the Pacific coast. The observer is quite familiar with this species. Northern Phalaropes, 100+, were on Westlake Park Lake in the center of metropolitan Los Angeles, May 4 (Helen Pratt).

Jaegers, Gulls and Terns.—A Pomerine Jaeger, seen flying north over the ocean at Venice, Los Angeles Co., April 15 (Small) seems to be unusual for this time of year. A large flight of migrating gulls (California and/or Ring-bills) was seen almost daily during April flying north over Mecca, Riverside Co. (Cecelia Foulkes). A single Short-billed Gull was at Zuma Beach on March 16 (Cogswell), and the first Laughing Gull was seen on the breeding grounds at the southwest corner

of the Salton Sea, April 27. A good flight of Black Terns occurred this spring and many were noted from inland points, including a bird at Devil's Gate Dam near Pasadena, May 19 (W. Dan Quattlebaum), and 3 foraging at La Mirada, April 22 (J. H. Comby). The Gull-billed Terns arrived in the Imperial Valley on April 8 (Anderson).

Doves, Owls, Swifts.—The first White-winged Doves were seen in the Coachella Valley, Riverside Co., April 15 (Foulkes), and in the Imperial Valley on April 26 (O'Neill). A Short-eared Owl was flushed by Shuart on April 5 at Palos Verdes. The main flight of Vaux's Swifts passed northward during late April and many flocks were seen from Santa Barbara (Ralph M. Colcord) to Riverside (Wilson) and south to Carlsbad (Comby). Three hundred Vaux's Swifts were foraging over Lake Norconian, April 28, and constituted the largest group (Editors). Five Black Swifts were seen at Tapia Park area (Wyatt A. Kent) on March 26, and 6 flew over Mount Pinos, May 6 (Ken Burden).

Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers.—The first Allen's Hummingbird was reported by Colcord from Santa Barbara on Feb. 23; and a few late birds from Palos Verdes on April 2 is the last record (Shuart). Rufous Hummingbirds, at their peak during early April, were last reported in early May. A very good migration of Calliope Hummingbirds through the southland was encountered this spring. Cogswell reported a heavy flight through San Antonio Canyon, Los Angeles Co., April 6, when more than 20 males were seen within a small area. Bennett found them exceptionally numerous in the foothills near the San Fernando Veterans Hospital on April 29.

Normally, the Gila Woodpecker is found only in the dry Imperial and Colorado River Valleys, but a straggler appeared near Ontario, extreme southwestern San Bernardino County on May 20 (Small).

Swallows through Vireos.—Many thousands of migrating swallows were flying over ponds and marshes at the south end of the Salton Sea, March 11 (Editors). Two Bank Swallows were at Lake Norconian on April 28 together with hundreds of other swallows. Burden noted four Purple Martins on May 12 at San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary. El Monte. The Scrub Javs which wintered on the Imperial Refuge were last seen there on April 12 (Anderson). Olive-backed Thrushes reached their peak during the first week in May, but numbers were below normal as no marked flight occurred. A single Townsend's Solitaire was at Prado Basin on April 28 (Cogswell), far removed from its usual montane nesting area. The first migrating Gray Vireo was seen by Burden on April 7 in Whitewater Canyon, northwest Riverside County, and most of these birds had arrived on their breeding grounds by the middle of May.

Warblers.—The migration of warblers was rather late and sporadic this season except in the Palos Verdes area where Shuart, during the second week of May, encountered the largest wave of warblers in his experience. The migration of Nashville Warblers was generally poor although widely reported. An extremely late bird was seen singing at Big Pines in extreme eastern Los Angeles Co... June 10 (Editors). The bird sang continuously from a small area but is nearly a month later than the latest previous date for Southern California, and is well south of its normal breeding range. The uncommon Tennessee Warbler was at the San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary on March 25, and a pair of Virginia's Warblers was found at Banning, May 4 (Wilson). The latter species is a rare migrant west of the Colorado River Vallev. Black-throated Grav. Macgillivrav's, and Townsend's Warblers came through in normal numbers but Hermit Warblers were somewhat less numerous than usual except near Santa Barbara. A very early Yellow-breasted Chat appeared near Loma Linda, March 15 (Mrs. Charles West). which is nearly two weeks earlier than the praviously recorded date of arrival. The rare Am. Redstart was seen at Imperial Refuge Headquarters on May 27 and 28 in almost continuous song (Anderson).

Blackbirds, Orioles and Tanagers.—A flock of 70 Tricolored Blackbirds was feeding far from any marsh area in Cayuma Valley, April 22, and must have been migrants (Cogswell). Bullock's Orioles arrived about a week earlier than usual and "flocks" of 17 and 27 birds were seen on April 20 at Banning by Wilson. There was a good migration of Western Tanagers in late April and early May; and this bird in many cases was the dominant migrating bird, as generally reported by most observers.

Finches and Sparrows.—Blue Grosbeaks were more numerous than usual at the San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary this spring, and one even appeared at the Los Angeles County and State Arboretum, Arcadia, June 11 (Quattlebaum). Three Vesper Sparrows seen by Cogswell near Prado Dam on April 6 constituted the only report of this migrating species. A Grasshopper Sparrow was reported from Pauma Valley, northern San Diego County, on May 11 by Eleanor Beemer. One of the last Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows to be seen this spring was on May 5 in Pauma Valley (Beemer) and an extremely late bird (by at least a week) was reported from Nuevo, Riverside Co., by Doris K. Bullion.—ARNOLD SMALL, 1829 N. Western Ave., Hollywood 27, Calif., and ROBERT L. PYLE, 851 Malcolm Ave., Los Angeles 24, Calif.