

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION.—Following the fifth wettest winter on record, spring weather was normal. The growing period in general



commenced earlier, was retarded during a cold wet March, but was prolonged into the dry weeks of May and June. Herbaceous plants can be described as lush even through June, and record mountain snow packs at this date insure ample mois-

ture through the summer. This season has been outstanding for blooming wild flowers in the deserts and foothills, and this was reflected in the vast numbers of insects present everywhere. The spring migration was normal, but the great abundance of insects should insure a very successful nesting.

Grebes, Pelicans, Geese.—Western Grebes departed from coastal waters in April and many hundreds settled at the newly-filled Buena Vista Lake in Kern County. At this date, many of them have begun nesting activities. The bulk of the northward flight of White Pelicans passed over during March, with a flock of 700 recorded by Howard Cogswell over the San Gabriel Mountains, March 30, being the largest recorded. Smaller flocks (100-200) were variously recorded in early April. Two Snow Geese were at Hansen Dam, March 30 (Caroline Daugherty).

Shorebirds and Gulls.—Am. Avocets and Black-necked Stilts were present in good numbers in the settling ponds and flooded fields near Buena Vista Lake through the spring, and nested in May and early June. A Solitary Sandpiper was seen on San Dimas Reservoir, Los Angeles Co., March 30 (Robert L. Taylor, Arnold Small). A freshly-dead Northern Phalarope was found in the snow at 8000 feet near the summit of Greenhorn Mountain, Kern Co., May 4, and a flock of 51, of what were probably the same birds, passed overhead (AS).

Laughing Gulls are considered to be accidental west of the Salton Sea, where a handful have been nesting regularly in recent years. A flock of 44 was seen and heard flying northeast over Beverly Hills on April 12 (Mimi Levy, AS). Gale Monson reported 5 Black Terns near Mojave, San Bernardino Co., May 8.

Birds of Prey.—Turkey Vultures moved northward throughout March, but flocks appeared to be smaller, more numerous, and more widely dispersed than last year. A Forest Service ranger reported a flight of 41 California Condors passing southward over Camp Condor, on Mt. Abel, Kern Co., in mid-March. These may well have constituted the majority of remaining Condors. Cogswell reports small numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks still present in chaparral areas of the San Gabriel Mountains at the end of March, and also reports that Cooper's Hawks were more numerous this season. The only large flight of Swainson's Hawks occurred over the west slopes of the Tehachapis on April 3, when more than 700 birds were counted (AS). An Osprey was clearly seen feeding on the carcass of a California Quail while perched on a telephone pole in Griffith Park, Los Angeles, April 10 (AS).

Gallinaceous Birds, Swifts, Woodpeckers.—A pair of Gambel's Quail was observed in the dry brush bordering Buena Vista Lake at the south end of the San Joaquin Valley in late April. These birds have been recorded previously as native to the desert areas south and east of the bordering mountains, but not in the Valley itself. The possibility of artificial introduction exists. Chukar Partridges, introduced into this region during the last twenty years, may still be seen in small flocks at the western side of the San Joaquin Valley near the more isolated quail guzzlers. A pair of Black Swifts was seen north of Ojai, Ventura Co., on May 25 (AS). In a season of few wintering Lewis's Woodpeckers, an interesting occurrence is that of an individual seen on April 5 south of Warner Hot Springs, San Diego Co., in a dry, rocky habitat (Editors).

Perching Birds (general).—The spring migration, which commences in late January and continues through May, is not here noted for "waves" of migrants. Rather, the birds move through in small widely-scattered flocks which are not concentrated into "waves" by weather phenomena. The bulk of the summer residents arrived by the last week in April, and most of the migrating warblers had passed through the region by mid-May.

Flycatchers, Swallows, Gnatcatchers.—A singing Gray Flycatcher was carefully observed in the California Juniper-Joshua Tree foothills on the north slopes of the San Gabriel Mountains on April 19 (Eds.). A pair of Black-tailed (Plumbeous) Gnatcatchers was noted at the same place and date. A small colony of 4 pairs of Purple Martins frequented a dead conifer standing alone along Angeles Crest Highway, San Gabriel Mountains, May 11; and several pairs had taken residence by the end of May near the entrance to Frazier Mountain Park in Los Padres National Forest.

Thrushes, Blackbirds.—The large flocks of winter-

ing Am. Robins had left by the end of March except for scattered pairs which remained even in the Los Angeles City area, probably to nest. The last remnants of a good winter flight of Townsend's Solitaires to the lowlands had departed by March 25; however, 3 stragglers were seen on the rocky slopes of Palm Canyon in the Borrego Desert, San Diego Co., April 6 (Eds.). A flock of about 70 Tri-colored Blackbirds was reported by Cogswell, March 28, in the north end of Prado Basin, Riverside Co., a formerly good nesting area. Thousands have settled

around the borders of Buena Vista Lake.

Tanagers, Goldfinches.—The third occurrence since January of a Summer Tanager in this region was recorded at a feeding tray in Los Angeles, April 7 and 12 (Myfannwy Lewis). Lawrence's Goldfinches were reported sporadically from many localities, including at least 25 pairs which had commenced nesting activities in Kern County Park, near Bakersfield. —ARNOLD SMALL, *Dept. of Life Science, Taft Junior College, Taft, Calif.*, and ROBERT L. PYLE, 1143-21st St., Santa Monica, Calif.
