

**SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION.** The spring season was ushered in by wind- and rain-storms which had a marked effect upon the north-bound and mountain-bound migrants. Many species which normally arrive by the first part of May were discouraged from moving out of Mexico until the storms were over. Western Wood Pewees,

Olive-sided Flycatchers, and many of the warblers were very late in arriving. An attempt at a Big List was thwarted on May 1 by blustery winds and snow drifts in the mountains. A list of only 155 was gained as compared with an expected 175 birds at this date.

The moderate Sierra Nevada snowpack was quickly melted by early mountain thaws and many mountain meadows came into bloom fully a month in

advance of normal. Southern California mountains, however, retained snowdrifts down to the 6000-foot

level until mid-May. Temperatures for Southern California were below normal during April and early May, and rose to slightly above normal for the rest of the spring season. *Loons, Grebes, and*

*Shearwaters*.—The northward flight of loons was widespread through April and May with the heaviest flights coming in late May. Four hundred Pacific Loons passed Anacapa Island in a few hours on May 23 and the flight was over by the end of May. Western Grebes lingered in Southern California waters until the end of April. About 1000 birds were still present on the ocean off Santa Monica on April 15. Eared

Grebes were generally scarce. Sooty Shear-

waters were abundant offshore through May and June. Three thousand birds were observed from shore at Lake McGrath, May 22 (Mimi and A. Small, Robert Smart), and 3500 were present in the Anacapa Island Channel, May 23, together with 40 Pink-footed Shearwaters.

*Waterfowl*.—No Whistling Swans were reported. Most of the geese in the Imperial Valley had departed by the end of March. A few geese lingered in the Valley into May. Two Snow Geese were last seen in Imperial Valley, April 11 (J. H. Comby). Two White-fronted Geese remained at China Lake until mid-May (D. W. Moore). Small flocks of Black Brant were seen along the coast during April and May. No tree-ducks were reported. Most of the non-resident dabbling ducks had departed by mid-April. A single Blue-winged Teal was at China Lake, May 30 (DWM). Some hundreds of Surf Scoters were still present on the ocean in late May. A single Wood Duck (the only one reported) was at Westlake Park during April and early May (Herbert Clarke).

*Birds of Prey*.—The main flight of Swainson's Hawks was not observed but reports of scattered birds indicate that the flight must have come early in April. Pigeon Hawks were scarce. The main bulk of the migrating Turkey Vultures passed through our Region during March 19, 20, and 21. In those three days, more than 2000 birds were observed over Palm Springs alone (RS).

*Quail through Pigeons*.—California, Gambel's, and Mountain Quail were reported as abundant. A single Gambel's Quail reached the Santa Ana wash near Redlands, May 1. Rock Partridges were numerous in the drier areas. Band-tailed Pigeons were nowhere reported in large flocks but were widely scattered in smaller groups.

*Rails, Cranes, and Shorebirds*.—Virginia Rails and Sora continue to be more difficult to find as their habitat is fast disappearing in Southern California. There are now but a few choice localities where one may be reasonably sure of seeing these species. The spring migration of shorebirds was good and all species were well represented. Long-billed Curlew seemed down and Hudsonian Curlew were somewhat low. Most of the migrating shorebirds as well as the residents from the winter season had departed for the north by mid-May. The heaviest flights of migrant shorebirds took place in the latter part of April. On May 1, 12 Wilson's Phalaropes in breeding plumage were feeding at Upper Newport Bay. Two Wandering Tattlers, the only ones reported this spring, were at Corona del Mar the same date.

*Jaegers, Gulls, Terns, and Alcids*.—Jaegers have been very scarce this spring. Bonaparte's Gulls migrated through in small numbers during the latter part of April and early May after the main wintering group had departed late in March. Most of the Glaucous-winged Gulls had departed by mid-March. A single second-year Glaucous Gull was at Malibu, April 15 (Ed.) and another was at Lake McGrath, May 22 (RS, Ed.). A Laughing Gull reached China Lake on June 10 (DWM). The least maritime of all the gulls, the Franklin's, was seen some 25 miles offshore near Anacapa Island, May 23 (Ed., et al.); no

explanation is offered. Some interesting observations of alcids are as follows: an immature Common Murre near Anacapa Island, May 23 (Ed., et al.); a single Cassin's Auklet and 6 Xantus's Murrelets near Anacapa on the same day (Ed., et al.); and 15 Pigeon Guillemots feeding near the rock cliffs of Santa Cruz Island while carrying food into caves in the cliff gave good indication that these birds have returned to a former nesting ground which they have not used for a number of years. Black Terns arrived at the settling ponds at China Lake in early May and were numerous by June (DWM).

*Goatsuckers through Kingfishers*.—Lesser Night-hawks were numerous over desert regions in early April but the Common Nighthawk was scarce. Vaux's Swifts were late as most of them passed through during the second week in May. No Black Swifts were seen. Black-chinned Hummingbirds arrived during the latter part of March. Allen's Hummingbirds were first recorded in migration, Jan. 2, from Tucker Bird Sanctuary (Josephine O. Bull) and most of them had passed through by the end of March. Rufous Hummingbirds migrated through from mid-March to mid-May. Calliope Hummingbirds were numerous in some foothill localities until mid-May. The Belted Kingfisher is becoming increasingly difficult to find in Southern California.

*Flycatchers through Jays*.—Western Kingbirds were extremely numerous in early April and had tapered off by the end of the month. Cassin's Kingbirds were scarce. Ash-throated Flycatchers were a little late but most had arrived by the end of April. Olive-sided Flycatchers and Western Wood Pewees were very late in arriving at their breeding grounds. A Stellar's Jay, the first record for Orange County, came to the feeding tray at the Tucker Bird Sanctuary, April 25 (JOB).

*Wrens, Thrushes, Waxwings*.—Winter Wrens were extremely rare. Am. Robins departed from the lowlands by mid-April although many birds have taken residence in foothill areas. There has been an increasing trend for robins to remain in urban areas of Southern California to breed. Hermit Thrushes departed early but Olive-backed Thrushes did not arrive until the second week of May. Cedar Waxwings had departed by the end of March.

*Warblers*.—The warbler migration was generally late due no doubt to the northwest winds which blew steadily during late April and early May. These winds and low temperatures had a damming effect on the birds and they arrived with wave-like proportions during the middle of May. A single Myrtle Warbler was at Tucker Bird Sanctuary from March 23 until April 3 (JOB). The Painted Redstart remained near San Bernardino until the end of March.

*Tanagers through Finches*.—Western Tanagers came through in large flocks but were reported as unobserved in many areas until the middle of May. Black-headed Grosbeaks were about normal and Blue Grosbeaks were plentiful and seemed to have increased their range as they were widely reported. Two birds were seen not 100 yards from the ocean near Paradise Cove on May 30 (Ed.).—ARNOLD SMALL, Audubon Camp of California, Norden, Calif.