

Southern Pacific Coast Region

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The wet weather of the winter continued on through the spring, with a series of fronts from the north passing southward through the Region, bringing with them cold and windy weather as well as above-average rainfall for each of the three months of this season. The abundance of water and lush annual growth throughout the Region enabled migrants to find water and food virtually anywhere, so oases and well-watered canyons lost their concentrating effects, giving the false impression that numbers of migrants were lower than normal. In fact, typical western migrants (Hammond's Flycatchers, Nashville Warblers, Lazuli Buntings, etc.) were abundant in the normally dry chaparral habitats.

Some of the species normally reaching California in March and early April arrived

earlier than usual along the coast, but migrants continued to pass through the Region well into the latter half of May, when in normal years they would be gone, resulting in some unusually late dates of occurrences being reported.

Noteworthy early spring arrivals include: Wilson's Phalarope (eight south end of the Salton Sea, Mar. 18, GMcC), Gull-billed Tern (one San Diego Bay Mar. 10, GMcC), Least Tern (two San Diego Bay Apr. 4, BF), Calliope Hummingbird (one San Diego Mar. 30, REW), Hammond's Flycatcher (one Costa Mesa Mar. 28, RAE; one San Diego Mar. 31, REW), Western Kingbird (one Borrego Springs Mar. 11, PAG), Swainson's Thrush (one Santa Ynez R. mouth Apr. 1, BrH), Nashville Warbler (two Carpinteria Mar. 25, LRB), Yellow-breasted Chat (one near Corona Mar. 29, JEP; San Diego Apr. 2, REW), Blue Grosbeak (one Vandenberg A.F.B., Apr. 8, CP) and Black-chinned Sparrow (one-two near L. Forest Mar. 7, DRW).

Noteworthy late spring stragglers include: Calliope Hummingbird (one Butterbreed Springs May 27, MTH), Hammond's Flycatcher (one San Diego June 1, REW), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (two Huntington Beach May 21, BED, and one near Santa Maria May 21, JMC), Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler (one near Corona June 8, JEP; one San Diego June 9, REW), Black-throated Gray Warbler (one Mission Viejo June 1, RAH), Hermit Warbler (one Scotty's Castle in Death Valley National Monument May 27, MAP; one Huntington Beach June

3, JEP; and one San Diego June 5, REW).

Abbreviations: C.L. (*China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme n.e. Kern Co.*); E.A.F.B. (*Edwards Air Force Base, s.e. Kern Co.*); F.C.R. (*Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley N.M., Inyo.*); N.E.S.S. (*north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.*); S.C.R.E. (*Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, Ventura Co.*); S.D.N.H.M. (*San Diego Natural History Museum*); S.E.S.S. (*south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.*). As virtually all rarities in s. California are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are included. Reports submitted without documentation are not published.

Loons to Wood Stork

A Red-throated Loon near Imperial Apr. 29 (GMcC) appears to be only the third to be reported in *Imperial*.

A grounded Laysan Albatross in Gardena, Los Angeles, Mar. 16 (MHe) was taken to a wildlife rehabilitator; this record is not unique, but from where these albatrosses come remains a mystery. Unprecedented numbers of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were forced close to shore by a storm in late April, as evident by one seen flying past Pt. Piedras Blancas, San Luis Obispo, Apr. 20 (RR), another found impaled on a fence in Los Osos, San Luis Obispo, Apr. 24 (MHa), one flying past Pt. Mugu, Ventura, Apr. 22 (DDJ), eight seen from the pier in Newport Beach, Orange, Apr. 21 (BED, JEP), two-three seen from shore in Laguna Beach, Orange, Apr. 21 (RAE) and seven seen from shore in La Jolla, San Diego, between Apr. 19-23 (SW); smaller numbers were still present when another storm hit the coast in early May, as evident by single birds seen flying by Pt. Mugu May 5 (DDJ) and May 7 (DDJ), two-three seen from the pier in Newport Beach May 5 (JEP, DRW), and another there May 6 (DRW); in addition three were found near Santa Cruz I., May 13 (PK). Black and Ashy storm-petrels were also seen with the Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels off Orange and San Diego, and three exceptionally early Least Storm-Petrels were seen from La Jolla Apr. 19 (SW) and another was seen from the pier in Newport Beach Apr. 21 (BED).

An imm. Brown Booby was well seen flying northward past Pt. Mugu Apr. 22 (DDJ) and another on Santa Catalina I., May 6 (MSM) was undoubtedly the same individual reported there Dec. 18. Five Brown Pelicans on the Salton Sea, Riverside/Imperial, Apr. 29 (GMcC) were the first to push N out of the Gulf of Mexico this year.

An ad Little Blue Heron at N.E.S.S., May 14 (DM) was the only one reported away from coastal s. San Diego, where now resi-



dent. A Tricolored Heron at S.E.S.S., May 13 (GMCC) was close to Ramer L., where a pair successfully fledged young last summer. The imm. Reddish Egret that spent the winter around the mouth of the San Diego R. was still present Apr. 14 (GMCC), another immature was frequenting s. San Diego Bay May 9+ (CH), and an adult was in Seal Beach, *Orange*, May 21 (JFi). An ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in Playa del Rey, *Los Angeles*, Apr. 15 (SN) is one of a very few reported outside *San Diego*. An exceptionally early Wood Stork was flying over Ramer L. near S.E.S.S., Apr. 29 (GMCC).

Ducks to Raptors

A ♂ Eur. Wigeon at C.L., Apr. 29–30 (MTH) was not only in the e. portion of the Region, where rare, but unusually late for a migrant anywhere in California. The ♂ Tufted Duck present on Oso Flaco L. during the winter remained through May 5 (DWQ). A ♀ Harlequin Duck, rare in S. California, flew N past Pt. Piedras Blancas, *San Luis Obispo*, May 21 (RR). A ♀ Oldsquaw at S.E.S.S., May 20 (GMCC) was inland, where rare. As usual, Surf Scoters migrated overland from the Gulf of California to the coast, as indicated by two near Hemet, *Riverside*, Mar. 5 (DM), 60 "grounded" by inclement weather on L. Henshaw in the mountains of *San Diego* May 12 (GMCC), one more on a highway near Julian, *San Diego*, Mar. 19 (AME), and ≥ten found around the Salton Sea after Mar. 12 (GMCC). A White-winged Scoter, a species becoming increasingly rare in S. California, was at N.E.S.S., May 6+ (GMCC). A Hooded Merganser at the mouth of Salt Cr. along the e. shore of the Salton Sea May 6 (CMCG) was remarkably late for anywhere in S. California.

An exceptionally late migrant Sharp-shinned Hawk was at F.C.R., May 27 (DR, RC). A N. Goshawk on Figueroa Mt., May 19 (JM) was the 7th to be found in *Santa Barbara*; although breeding has been confirmed from only 2 localities in S. California, this species may be found to be a very rare resident in the mountains s. of the Sierra Nevada. A Harris' Hawk near Borrego Springs, *San Diego*, May 10 (CH) was the last reported of those present last fall and winter. Fifty Swainson's Hawks near Cantil, *Kern*, Apr. 22 (MTH), 17 near S.E.S.S., Mar. 10 (RHi) and ≤11 in the San Jacinto Valley, *Riverside*, Apr. 11–12 (DM) were the largest numbers reported this spring, though individuals were found scattered throughout the Region between Mar. 10–May 1, including three–four close to the coast. A Zone-tailed Hawk around Escondido, *San Diego*, Mar. 8–27 (SA) was the latest of those found in the coastal lowlands this winter.

Plovers to Phalaropes

Wintering Pacific Golden-Plovers remained through March, as indicated by the continued presence of 11 at Seal Beach Mar. 25 (SJG) and ≤three near Port Hueneme, *Ventura*, through Apr. 1 (DDJ). An Am. Golden-Plover in Long Beach, *Los Angeles*, Apr. 12 (KL) was the only one found this spring. An early Solitary Sandpiper in Sylmar, *Los Angeles*, Mar. 20 (DA) was followed by at least 20 more in April, with most of these in the e. portion of the Region, as expected. A Wandering Tattler, a rare spring straggler inland to the Salton Sea, was at N.E.S.S., May 13–14 (DM, EAC). A Ruddy Turnstone at E.A.F.B., Apr. 30 (MTH) was the only one found inland away from the Salton Sea. A Black Turnstone, casual inland, was at S.E.S.S., May 6 (PAG). A Surfbird, also casual inland, was at Salton City on the w. shore of the Salton Sea Mar. 18 (AH) and two more were at N.E.S.S., Mar. 12–13 (EAC, DM). A Red Knot near Lancaster, *Los Angeles*, Apr. 30 (NBB, KLG) was the only one found inland away from the Salton Sea, where as many as 300 were seen May 6 (GMCC). Small numbers of Sanderlings passed through the e. portion of the Region in late April and early May, as indicated by 75 on the Salton Sea Apr. 29 (GMCC), 16 being reported from near Lancaster and E.A.F.B. between Apr. 23–May 21 (KLG, MTH), including 11 at E.A.F.B., May 6–7 (MTH).

Five Semipalmated Sandpipers were found, with single birds at the Salton Sea Apr. 29 (GMCC), May 13 (DM), and June 1 (DN); another in Baker, *San Bernardino*, May 25 (REW), and a late individual photographed at S.C.R.E., June 11 (DDJ). A Baird's Sandpiper, very rare in spring, was near Santa Maria, *Santa Barbara*, Apr. 14 (JMC) and another was near Tecopa, *Inyo*, May 28 (MAP). Single Pectoral Sandpipers, also very rare in spring, were near Bishop, *Inyo*, Apr. 4 (T&JH) and near Lancaster May 13 (KLG). A Stilt Sandpiper near Lakeview, *Riverside*, Apr. 23–25 (DM) was the only one found away from S.E.S.S. An unexplainably early influx of Red-necked Phalaropes occurred in the latter half of March, as indicated by the presence of four at S.E.S.S., Mar. 18 (GMCC), another at Bolsa Chica, *Orange*, the same day (CB), six in Goleta, *Santa Barbara*, Mar. 22 (JEL), one near Morro Bay, *San Luis Obispo*, Mar. 23 (JSR), and three more at the Santa Ynez R. mouth Mar. 24 (MAH); the first spring migrants are not normally encountered before mid-April. Larger than normal numbers of Red Phalaropes were also present along the coast in the latter half of March, as indi-

cated by ≤six in Bolsa Chica Mar. 16–25 (RAH), 44 counted on s. San Diego Bay Mar. 24 (JD), and 12 at the Santa Ynez R. mouth Mar. 24–25 (MAH); single birds were far inland near Bishop Mar. 4 (EG) and on the Salton Sea Mar. 26 (TC).

Gulls to Alcids

An ad. Laughing Gull at S.E.S.S., Mar. 18 (GMCC) was unexpected, the first of the post-breeding visitors from the Gulf of California not normally appearing here before mid-June. After the appearance of an early Franklin's Gull flying N past Pt. Piedras Blancas Mar. 27 (RR), at least 15 more were found scattered throughout the Region between Apr. 23–May 29 to give us an average number for this time of the year.

Three Little Gulls, a species now found annually in very small numbers, were reported, with a first-year bird in Anaheim, *Orange*, Mar. 25 (BED, JSB), an adult at S.E.S.S., May 7 (RN, J. Cox) and another adult at N.E.S.S., May 19 (PGR). Two ad. Heermann's Gulls at the mouth of Salt Creek on the e. shore of the Salton Sea May 12 (EAC) and another adult at S.E.S.S., June 1 (DN) were in an area where small numbers probably occur annually; an adult photographed at Twentynine Palms, *San Bernardino*, Apr. 7 (EAC) was, however, at a most unusual location. Since Herring Gulls are rare in the e. portion of this Region away from the Salton Sea, the presence of single birds at E.A.F.B., May 20 (MTH), C.L., May 23 (DVB), and near Big Pine May 27 (T&JH) are noteworthy. A late first-year Glaucous Gull was near San Simeon, *San Luis Obispo*, May 10 (MHa). An ad. Sabine's Gull photographed on Owens L., *Inyo*, May 3 (T&JH) was inland, where considered casual in spring.

A Com. Tern, rare inland in spring, was at C.L., Apr. 29–30 (DVB). An Arctic Tern at C.L., June 11 (DVB) appeared at the time of the year other Arctic Terns have been found in the e. part of this Region. A Least Tern at N.E.S.S., May 20 (JFa) was the only one reported from the true interior, but small numbers were found over fresh water up to ten mi inland in late May (DM, RAE), possibly indicating a shortage of food along the coast. An ad. Sooty Tern well seen at S.C.R.E., May 28 (WW) provided us with the 5th report of this species in California.

A Pigeon Guillemot remaining along the cliffs in La Jolla Apr. 7–May 16 (SW) was at the s. extreme of this species' range. An Ancient Murrelet near Anacapa I., Mar. 25 (RL) was farther south than normal.

Pigeons to Hummingbirds

A Band-tailed Pigeon in the New York Mts. of e. *San Bernardino* May 25 (REW) was far

from its normal range. Single White-winged Doves in Mojave, *Kern*, and E.C.R., May 27 (JCW, MAP) were n. of this species' normal range, and single birds in Ventura May 27 (DDJ) and near Pt. Mugu June 11 (DDJ) were on the coast well to the w. of this species' normal range. Two Inca Doves, a species clearly expanding its range northward in California, were at Desert Center, *Riverside*, May 13–29 (MAP). At least one Com. Ground-Dove was still present in Nipomo, *San Luis Obispo*, June 1 (PAW), this being the n.w. extreme of this species' expanding range.

A Lesser Nighthawk on n. Vandenberg A.F.B., *Santa Barbara*, May 17 (CF) was unusually close to the coast this far north. At least four Chimney Swifts were with >2000 Vaux's Swifts over downtown Los Angeles May 23 (KLG), with their numbers building up to at least 14 by mid-June (KLG). Unprecedented numbers of Anna's Hummingbirds in *Inyo* this spring suggested a major movement of these birds to the east of their normal range in California.

Flycatchers to Vireos

What appears to have been a Greater Pewee was well seen at S.E.S.S., May 29 (AME); if endorsed by the C.B.R.C., this will provide the first record for a spring vagrant anywhere in California. Unprecedented numbers of Dusky Flycatchers were noted in coastal *Orange* between Apr. 24–May 11, and far more than expected numbers of Gray Flycatchers were found in coastal *San Diego*, *Orange*, and *Los Angeles* during April, suggesting these birds were following a more westerly route than normal. Single Vermilion Flycatchers at Gallileo Hill Park in extreme e. *Kern* Apr. 27 (RS) & 29 (VH) and another at nearby Butterbrecht Springs May 20 (VH) were n.w. of this species' normal range. Likewise, a Brown-crested Flycatcher at Deep Springs, *Inyo*, May 20 (T&JH) was also n. of this species' normal range. The Tropical Kingbird that spent its 3rd winter in Goleta remained through Apr. 10 (KLW). A Cassin's Kingbird at Gallileo Hill Park May 6 (MTH) was only the 2nd to be found in e. *Kern* in spring, illustrating just how rare this species is in most of the e. part of the Region. A Thick-billed Kingbird reported in Whittier, *Los Angeles*, Apr. 22 (LJS) could well have been wintering locally, since known wintering birds have remained in California to as late as May 10. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on Pt. Loma, *San Diego*, May 27–31 (JW) was the only one reported. A Cave Swallow was well seen near Imperial May 6 (GMcC, PAG, TC) and another was well seen nearby at S.E.S.S., May 21 (MAP, BDS); one photographed at S.E.S.S., Aug. 8, 1987 (*W. Birds* 25:1–34, 1994) is the only



Male Black-throated Green Warbler near Casmalia, Santa Barbara County, California, May 25, 1995. Photograph/Jim Greaves.

previously recorded occurrence of this species in California.

An Am. Dipper in Palm Springs, *Riverside*, May 25 (MAP) was certainly at an unexpected locality. A Gray Catbird in Ocotillo June 13–17 (SV) was a very late spring vagrant, and the first ever to be found in *Imperial*. A Brown Thrasher, casual to accidental in spring, was at Oasis, *Mono*, May 27 (GAT, MAP). A Bendire's Thrasher near Cantil May 7 (MTH) was away from any known nesting locality, so considered a late spring straggler. An Am. Pipit at E.A.F.B., June 3 (MTH) was exceptionally late for a spring migrant.

Two Yellow-throated Vireos, a casual straggler to California, were found, with one in the Laguna Hills, *Orange*, May 27 (JEP, BED), and the other photographed near the Santa Ynez R. mouth June 9 (JA, BrH). Five Red-eyed Vireos was more than reported in recent springs, with single birds along the coast on Pt. Loma May 28 (REW), in downtown Los Angeles May 31 (KLG), in Goleta June 11 (BiH), and additional individuals inland at Baker May 21 (MSM, TEW) and near Big Pine, *Inyo*, June 7–11 (T&JH).

Warblers

Ten Tennessee Warblers scattered throughout the Region between May 12–June 2 was an average number for this time of the year. A Virginia's Warbler at Butterbrecht Spring Apr. 27 (RS) was the only one found away from known breeding localities. As expected, small numbers of N. Parula appeared in May, with 14 reported from vari-

ous localities throughout the Region between Apr. 30–June 1. Single Chestnut-sided Warblers inland at Butterbrecht Springs May 9 (GH), and along the coast in San Pedro, *Los Angeles*, June 6 (BB, KL) and in downtown Los Angeles June 7 (KLG) was less than normal. The only Magnolia Warbler found was one at Butterbrecht Springs May 20–21 (VH). Four Black-throated Green Warblers were found, with single individuals along the coast on Vandenberg A.F.B. near Casmalia May 25 (PU, MAH), at S.C.R.E., May 30 (BS), and inland at Butterbrecht Springs May 26 (JCW) and Lone Pine, *Inyo*, June 8 (T&JH); an unexpected number for a species not found every spring. A Blackburnian Warbler, another species most unusual in spring, was near Bishop June 3 (T&JH).

A wintering Palm Warbler in Goleta remained through Apr. 26 (KLW); single Palm Warblers along the coast in Huntington Beach, *Orange*, Apr. 5–6 (DF) and La Jolla Apr. 30 (EA), and another inland near Chino, *San Bernardino*, Apr. 28 (JEP) had all probably wintered nearby; however, one near Santa Ynez, *Santa Barbara*, May 19 (CP) would appear too late for a bird wintering locally, so may best be considered a spring vagrant. Sixteen Black-and-white Warblers scattered throughout the Region between Apr. 15–June 1 was slightly less than normal, but ten Am. Redstarts during

the same period was far below average. A Prothonotary Warbler, a casual straggler to California, was on Pt. Loma in San Diego May 27 (JW). Only four Ovenbirds were reported, with one at Iron Mt. Pumping Plant in s.e. *San Bernardino*, May 13 (MAP), single individuals at Gallileo Hill Park May 27 (DMcD) & 31 (RHa), and the 4th along the coast on Pt. Loma in San Diego June 10 (REW), this being far less than in recent years. A N. Waterthrush at S.C.R.E., Apr. 22 (BL) had probably wintered in that area. Six N. Waterthrushes at desert oases in *Kern* and *Riverside* between May 11–June 3 were also far less than expected. A Louisiana Waterthrush in Yucca Valley, *San Bernardino*, June 7–10 (EAC, MAP) was the 7th to be found in California. A Kentucky Warbler, a rarity in California at any time of the year, was on Pt. Loma in San Diego May 28 (GLR). Five Hooded Warblers, with single birds inland at Twentynine Palms May 14 (EAC), Gallileo Hill Park the same day (RS), at Fort Piute in extreme e. *San Bernardino* May 28 (MSM), and along the coast in Solana Beach, *San Diego*, May 20 (PAG) and near the Santa Ynez R. mouth June 2 (BrH), furnished an average number for this time of the year. A Canada Warbler, exceptional in spring, was at Iron Mt. Pumping Plant June 4 (MAP). A Painted Redstart at Morongo Valley, *San Bernardino*, Apr. 18–19 (AB) was at a location where previously recorded in spring, but one in Encinitas, *San Diego*, May 24 (DWA) was along the coast where virtually unknown at this time of the year.

Tanagers to Finches

A wintering Hepatic Tanager in Sylmar, *Los Angeles*, was still present Mar. 8 (CB). Only two Summer Tanagers were reported away from areas of normal occurrence, this being far fewer than normal. Ten Rose-breasted Grosbeaks scattered throughout the Region between May 15–June 10 was close to the average number for this time of the year, but 15 Indigo Buntings during the same period was less than expected. Two Dickcissels were found, with a male inland at F.C.R., May 27 (MAP, BDS) and another male along the coast in Montana de Oro S.P., *San Luis Obispo*, June 4–5 (DB).

A Black-throated Sparrow in Torrey Pines S.P., *San Diego*, Mar. 26 (SS) was on the immediate coast, where unexpected. A Swamp Sparrow in San Simeon, *San Luis Obispo*, Apr. 16 (RR) was the latest of the wintering birds. A Chestnut-collared Longspur on the Los Alamitos A.F.R.C., *Orange*, Mar. 14 (BED) was unusual considering the time of the year.

Only two Bobolinks were reported, with a female at the Santa Ynez R. mouth May 21

(BrH) and a male there June 4 (BrH), this being far less than expected. A ♂ Bronzed Cowbird near Tecopa, *Inyo*, May 27 (DR) was the northernmost reported this spring. A N. (Baltimore) Oriole in Orange Mar. 7 (JEP) was undoubtedly wintering locally, but single males near Westmorland, *Imperial*, May 20 (RHi), on Pt. Loma in San Diego May 22–25 (DWA), near Tecopa May 27 (DR), and at Los Osos, *San Luis Obispo*, May 30 (SH) were spring vagrants.

The Black Rosy-Finch found in Aspen-dell, *Inyo*, Feb. 11 was still present Apr. 1 (NF).

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