

NOTES

A WARBLING VIREO WINTERING IN CALIFORNIA

On the morning of 13 December 1969 I observed a Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) in the back yard of my home on Canon Drive in Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County, California. The bird was observed regularly between this date and 12 March 1970, and was photographed (fig. 1). The bird was frequenting the magnolia and oak trees as well as several elderberry bushes situated in my yard, which is located near a creek edged with many oak trees and a few sycamore trees together with much cultivated shrubbery.

The Warbling Vireo breeds through most of the contiguous 48 states and well north into western Canada. It migrates south, wintering from southern Sonora and Veracruz to Guatemala and El Salvador (A.O.U., 1957). There does not appear to be any previous documented record of a Warbling Vireo successfully wintering in California, or for that matter, in the United States. Most have left California by the end of October; however, there are a few scattered reports for November. Norris reported one present in Berkeley, Alameda County, from 12 to 19 December 1951 (Condor, 54:116, 1952), and Atwood, Mancke and Suffel reported one present in Arcadia, Los Angeles County, from 22 to 28 December 1968 (Audubon Field Notes, 23:522, 1969). Miller reported hearing one singing at Inverness, Marin County, on 19 February 1959 (A.F.N. 13:319, 1959). The



FIGURE 1. Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus* photographed in Santa Barbara during the winter of 1969-70.

Photo by Richard Webster.

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earliest arrival dates for spring migrants in California are one reported by Dunlap at Carmel, Monterey County, on 1 March 1953 (A.F.N. 7:233, 1953), one reported by Lyons in Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, on 4 March 1966 (A.F.N. 20:460, 1966), and one reported by McCaskie at Yaqui Wells, San Diego County, on 4 March 1967 (pers. comm.). A few are normally present by the last week of March, with many passing through the state in April.

Elsewhere in the United States records of Warbling Vireos during the winter period include one reported by Sprunt in Royal Palm Park, Florida, on 7 January 1917 (Florida Bird Life, 1954), and single birds reported by Phillips, Marshall and Monson in the Baboquivari Mountains, Arizona, on 23 February 1945, and near Phoenix, Arizona, on 17 February (year ?) (The Birds of Arizona, 1964). All three are on the basis of sight records unchecked by this author. It is interesting to note that only four individuals have appeared on Christmas Counts (a somewhat dubious source for records of unusual nature) in the last 15 years: two from Texas in December 1964 (A.F.N. 19:286 & 293, 1965), one from Santa Barbara, California, in December 1966 (A.F.N. 21:379, 1967), and one from San Diego, California, in December 1968 (A.F.N. 23:424, 1969). *Richard Webster, 179 Canon Drive, Santa Barbara, California 93105.*

A BREEDING RECORD FOR SPOTTED SANDPIPER IN MONTEREY COUNTY

On 8 June 1970, while following the partially dry bed of the Salinas River, approximately four miles west of the town of Salinas, a Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) flew from a stretch of short open grass ahead of me and fluttered off, feigning a broken wing. A careful search of this area resulted in my finding one downy young; there were probably others, so well concealed that I failed to find them. Later in the morning two other Spotted Sandpipers were seen farther down the river, so it would appear that at least two pairs of these sandpipers were nesting here.

According to Guy McCaskie (personal correspondence) nothing has been published on the breeding of Spotted Sandpipers in California since the publication of *The Distribution of the Birds of California* by Grinnell and Miller in 1944. Grinnell and Miller indicate the Spotted Sandpiper breeds south to Sonoma County on the coast, but also cite Santa Paula, Ventura County, as one of the southern nesting localities. The basis of the Santa Paula nesting records is a set of three eggs taken by B. Ruggles near Santa Paula, Ventura County, in May, 1892, and another set of three taken by M. Richardson in the same locality in May, 1900 (Willet, *Pac. Coast Avif.* no. 21:61, 1933). It would appear from this that the Spotted Sandpiper might be expected to nest anywhere along the coast where suitable habitat exists; however, specific records to back this up are lacking. *Thomas D. Burleigh, 1242 Sylvan Road, Monterey, California.*