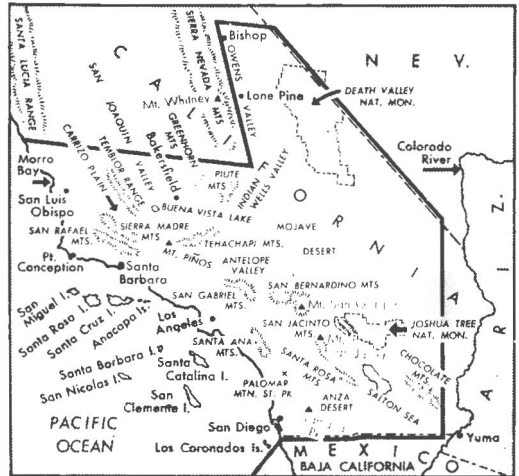


SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/ Guy McCaskie

The fall season was exceptionally dry, and there was no appreciable precipitation anywhere in the Region until Thanksgiving. The largest and most devastating fires in the history of California occurred in late September, when hundreds of thousands of acres of chaparral in the coastal ranges were destroyed. The types of birds utilizing the destroyed habitat are primarily resident species, and it is quite likely that many perished in the fast-moving flames. There was no obvious influx of these chaparral loving species seeking refuge in the areas surrounding the burned-over ground.



The now-expected strays from eastward seemed to be less numerous than last fall, and the variety and number of eastern warblers was noticeably less than in recent years. Today there are at least three times as many observers looking for vagrants than there were six years ago, yet the number reported this fall was below that of six years ago.

The continued interest in pelagic boat trips gives us the opportunity to amass more information on a little-understood group of birds. A fine variety of wading birds was reported in the Region this fall; however, no mass movements could be detected among the non-passerine birds this year, as were noted last year.

There was an influx of some mountain species into the lowlands this fall, but the movement could have been of a very local nature since the species involved all occur in the mountains of S. California. The Purple Finch was the most conspicuous species involved but Mountain Chickadees and White-breasted Nuthatches were also quite evident, and there were scattered reports of Brown Creepers, Winter Wrens, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Evening Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills.

Wintering sparrows were up in numbers from last year. White-crowned Sparrows were noticeably abundant. Fox Sparrows were commoner than usual, and were reported from localities on the desert where they are normally quite rare. Tree Sparrows also reached this Region in small numbers this fall.

LOONS, GREBES — A Com. Loon was found inland at Deep Springs, Inyo Co. on Nov. 26 (MH, RW & JA), and another was at the south end of the Salton Sea on Oct. 22 (DVT). A Red-necked Grebe, a rare bird in this Region, was at Harbor Park, Los Angeles Co. on Oct. 2 (RS).

ALBATROSSES, SHEARWATERS, PETRELS — There were 4 organized pelagic trips off S. California this fall; 3 off San Diego, and 1 off Ventura County. Two boats participated in a trip going 60 miles w. of San Diego on Sept. 12; one boat went about 30 miles w. of San Diego on Sept. 17; one went to the Los Coronados Is., and another to a point 60 miles s.w. of San Diego on Nov. 21; a boat from Point Hueneme visited Anacapa and Santa Cruz Island on Oct. 24. No tube-nosed birds were encountered on Oct. 24 (GSS)! A single Black-footed Albatross was seen off San Diego on Sept. 12 (C.F.O.). Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters were seen on all trips out of San Diego (C.F.O.). A lone New Zealand Shearwater was seen 15 miles west of Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo Co. on Sept. 6 (EAC & SC); this species is probably regular in this area at that time of the year. Five Manx Shearwaters were seen on both the Sept. 12 and 24 trips, and 12 were seen on the Nov. 21 trip (C.F.O.); this species normally appears close to the coast in the late fall and early winter, and in late November over 1000 could be seen from shore near La Jolla, San Diego Co. (CL). Over 100 Leach's Petrels were encountered on Sept. 12 (C.F.O.), and virtually all were 50 miles or more off the coast, as is usual; 1 was seen on the Sept. 17 boat trip (C.F.O.). More than 1200 Black Petrels were seen on Sept. 12 (C.F.O.), and about 2000 were counted on Sept. 17 (C.F.O.). *Least Petrels* appeared off the coast in large numbers this fall, with over 600 encountered on Sept. 12 (C.F.O. & GMcC), and an estimated 3000 on Sept. 17 (C.F.O. & PD); on both occasions the birds were found "rafting" on the water with Black Petrels. These are the largest numbers of *Least Petrels* ever recorded off California.

TROPICBIRDS, PELICANS, BOOBIES — Four Red-billed Tropicbirds were seen off San Diego on Sept. 12 (C.F.O., PD & GMcC), and 2 were seen near Santa Catalina Island on Sept. 21 (RH); this species occurs in limited numbers off S. California, with most appearing during "warm water years" such as this year. An imm. Brown Pelican was present on Ramer Lake, Imperial Co. Aug. 8–Sept. 26 (GMcC, BB & GSS), and 3 or 4 imm. were nested at various

points around the Salton Sea Aug. 15–Sept. 26 (GMcC, JA, RW, EAC, BB, GSS & DVT); this species is proving to be regular at this inland locality. A Blue-footed Booby was seen at the north end of the Salton Sea on Aug. 15 (EAC & SC); a rare straggler to the Southwest. An imm. Brown Booby was present at the s. end of the Salton Sea Aug. 15–22 (EAC, SC & GMcC); a casual visitor to this area.

HERONS — An imm. Little Blue Heron was at Oceanside, San Diego Co. Sept. 9–13 (GSS, JAJ, GMcC *et al.*), and another was seen at Seal Beach, Orange Co. on Nov. 21 (HB & ERA); a casual wanderer to California. Cattle Egrets were continually present in the Imperial Valley with over 1000 there in November (EAC, GMcC *et al.*); along the coast 2 were present at Santa Barbara from the summer period until Oct. 9 (JA & RW); one was seen near Oxnard, Ventura Co. on Nov. 29 (HB); and up to 10 frequented the area around Imperial Beach, San Diego Co. during November (GMcC). A Cattle Egret at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley Nov. 28–Dec. 12 (JA, RW, CHB & GMcC) was at an interesting locality. The Reddish Egret reported at the s. end of San Diego Bay in the summer season was last seen on Aug. 29 (GMcC & AC). There were a few sightings of the secretive Least Bittern reported at the Salton Sea (ERA, DVT *et al.*), and one was spotted at Oceanside on Sept. 13 (RLeV). Wood Ibis remained at the south end of the Salton Sea much later than usual, with 13 present on Oct. 1 (DVT), and 1 still there on the very late date of Oct. 18 (KG & JD). Small numbers of White-faced Ibis were reported from the coastal marshes in Ventura and San Diego Counties as is normal at this time of the year. Two imm. *Roseate Spoonbills* were found at the south end of the Salton Sea on Aug. 30 (Warren Blazer *vide* GSS) and remained until Sept. 19 when they were photographed (ERA, DVT, JA *et al.*); this species is a very rare straggler to California.

WATERFOWL — A flock of 30 Black Brant that summered at the north end of the Salton Sea were still present at the end of August (GMcC), but only 1 could be found there on Sept. 19 (JA). Four or five Blue Geese were with the Snow Geese on the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge in November (GMcC, KG, JD *et al.*); a larger-than-normal number. Two somewhat late Fulvous Tree Ducks were at the south end of the Salton Sea on Oct. 28 (DVT). At the Salton Sea Nat'l Wildlife Refuge the duck population rose from about 7000 birds in early September to around 25,000 birds at the end of the period (DVT), a low number for this time of the year. A male Blue-winged Teal was at Carpinteria, Santa Barbara Co. on Oct. 15 (LC), 2 were at Bolsa Chica, Orange Co. on Nov. 4 (GSS), and 1 was on Upper Newport Bay, Orange Co. where it is regular in limited numbers, on Oct. 10 (AS). The only Eur. Widgeon reported was a male in

Santa Barbara Oct. 18–Nov. 6 (KA *et al.*). A flock of 22 Wood Ducks at Lake Cachuma, Santa Barbara Co. on Nov. 22 (RW) is a large number for anywhere in this Region; 2 were at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley on Oct. 17 (MSanM), and 1 was as far south as Otay, San Diego Co. Oct. 17–25 (KG, JD & GMcC). A White-winged Scoter was seen inland on the Salton Sea on Oct. 22 (DVT). Four Com. Scoters, scarce this far south, were at Santa Monica, Los Angeles Co. on Nov. 28 (BB). A Hooded Merganser, always a rare bird in this Region, was seen at Furnace Creek Ranch on Oct. 17 (GMcC & MSanM), and another found in Hollywood, Los Angeles Co. on Nov. 1 (GK) was still present on Nov. 7 (GSS).

HAWKS, EAGLES — An imm. Broad-winged Hawk was seen on Point Loma, San Diego Co. on Oct. 11 (GMcC & MSanM); this species is now being recorded annually in the fall and winter. Swainson's Hawk was unrecorded away from the Owens Valley, where it continues to nest. There was an encouraging number of reports of Ferruginous Hawks with 2 at Oasis, Mono Co. on Oct. 17 (GMcC & MSanM); 3 on the Carrizo Plains, San Luis Obispo Co. on Nov. 22 (AB); 1 at Point Mugu, Ventura Co. Sept. 24 (GSS & JA), and another there on Nov. 18 (GSS); 1 near Newport, Orange Co. on Oct. 10 (AS); 1 near Perris, Riverside Co. on Nov. 10 (RLeV & DDeS); and 1 at the south end of the Salton Sea on Oct. 21–24 (DVT), and Nov. 26 (KG & JD). An imm. Bald Eagle present around Upper Newport Bay after Oct. 10 (AS *et al.*) was the only one reported. A good number of Ospreys were reported with 1 at Lake Cachuma, Santa Barbara Co. Sept. 20 (RW & BB); 1 at Big Bear Lake, San Bernardino Co. Oct. 10 (EAC & SC); 1–3 around Newport Bay Sept. 27–Nov. 21 (AS, GSS, BB *et al.*); 1 at Laguna Beach, Orange Co. Sept. 13 (JAJ), and another there on Sept. 26 (JAJ); 1 at Lake Hodges, San Diego Co. Sept. 2 (AF); 1–2 around Imperial Beach Aug. 24–Oct. 18 (GMcC); and 1 at the s. end of the Salton Sea Aug. 22 and Sept. 26 (GMcC & AC). Prairie Falcons were seen along the coast on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Los Angeles Co. in late November (SW), and around Imperial Beach throughout most of October (GMcC). The only report of a Peregrine Falcon was that of 1 at Goleta Sept. 4–5 (RW). A Pigeon Hawk was seen at Goleta on Sept. 20 (BB), and 2 were seen there on Oct. 16 (RW); 1 was found at Big Bear Lake on Oct. 10 (EAC & SC); 1 was seen at Upper Newport Bay on Nov. 21 (AS); 1 was near Imperial Beach on Oct. 12 (GMcC); and 1 was located near Westmorland, Imperial Co. on Oct. 31 (EAC & SC); this species is becoming increasingly scarce in this Region.

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS — Between 2 and 6 Sandhill Cranes were at Deep Springs, Inyo Co.

Oct. 9–17 (MH, EAC, GMcC *et al.*); a species not often reported in this area. An Am. Oystercatcher was seen on Anacapa Island Oct. 24 (GSS, CL *et al.*), and another was seen on the Los Coronados Is. Nov. 21 (GMcC, PD *et al.*); this species is extremely rare this far north on the Pacific Coast. Mountain Plovers were present at such localities as the Carrizo Plains, Antelope Valley, nr. Imperial Beach, and in the Imperial Valley by October, as is normal; 3 were at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley on Oct. 17 (GMcC, MSanM & GSS); a locality from which few have been reported. Am. Golden Plovers were scarcer than normal this fall, but 1 was present at Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. between Sept. 26 and Oct. 22 (RW & JA); 1 was seen at Bolsa Chica, Orange Co. on Aug. 30 (GSS); 1–5 were noted at Upper Newport Bay between Oct. 4 and Nov. 25 (AS, GSS *et al.*); and 1 was continually present in San Diego after Sept. 10 (PD & GMcC). A Solitary Sandpiper was found at Point Mugu, Ventura Co. Sept. 24 (JA & GSS); 1 was seen at Encino, Los Angeles Co. Aug. 20 (JD); 1 was on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Sept. 28 (SW & GSS); 1–2 were present near Otay, San Diego Co. Aug. 18–Sept. 3 (GMcC); and 1 was seen near Imperial Beach Sept. 30 (GSS); the species is always a scarce migrant in this Region. Three Knots at the north end of the Salton Sea on Sept. 7 (BB) were the only ones found away from the coast. Pectoral Sandpipers appeared to be less numerous than usual, but 2–3 were at Goleta Sept. 6–Oct. 9 (JA & RW); 4 were seen at Point Mugu Sept. 24 (JA & GSS); 3 arrived at Malibu Lagoon, Los Angeles Co. on Aug. 13 (ERA), and remained through September (*vide* GSS); single individuals were at Upper Newport Bay on Oct. 10 and 31 (AS); 1 was at Oceanside Sept. 13 (JA); 1–3 were around Imperial Beach Aug. 16–Sept. 13 (GMcC), and 2 more were there on Oct. 6–7 (GMcC). Along the coast 2 Baird's Sandpipers were present at Goleta Sept. 4–20 (RW), and another was there on Oct. 8 (JA); 1 was found at the mouth of the Santa Ynez River, Santa Barbara Co. on Oct. 3 (JA & RW); 1 was reported from Encino on Sept. 7 (JD); 1 was seen in Oceanside on Sept. 7 (GSS & JAJ); 2 were present at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co. on Aug. 23 (GMcC), and 2 were seen in San Diego on Sept. 3 (PD). In the e. portion of the Region, where the Baird's Sandpiper is probably more common, 8 were seen near Bishop, Inyo Co. on Sept. 3 (JA & GSS); 1 was found near Big Pine, Inyo Co. on Sept. 3 (JA & GSS); 1 was found near Lone Pine, Inyo Co. on Sept. 3 (JA & GSS); 10–15 were present at Deep Springs, Inyo Co. on Sept. 4 (JA & GSS); 1 was found at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley on Sept. 6 (GMcC & CL); and single birds were seen at the n. end of the Salton Sea on Aug. 30 (JD & KG) and Sept. 19 (JA). Stilt Sandpipers were found at the s. end of the Salton Sea with 1 on

Aug. 22 (GMcC), 15 on Aug. 30 (GMcC), 4 on Sept. 26 (GMcC, AC & BB), and 3 on Nov. 26 (KG & JD); this species is regular at this locality. Along the coast, where the Stilt Sandpiper is exceedingly rare, one was seen at Newport Bay on Oct. 17 (AS), and another was present near Imperial Beach Aug. 25–31 (GMcC). A Ruff was well described from Oceanside on Sept. 13 (CT); this species is recorded almost every year in this Region. Red Phalaropes were noticeably scarce this fall with very few being reported from along the coast or at sea.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — About 60 Pomarine Jaegers were seen off San Diego on Sept. 12 (C.F.O.), one was seen there on Sept. 17 (PD), and 40 were found there on Nov. 21 (C.F.O.); this is the common jaeger off-shore. Parasitic Jaegers were reported along the coast at Goleta on Sept. 20 (RW), Santa Barbara on Nov. 29 (NM), at the Santa Clara River mouth on Sept. 8 (LC & NM), and around San Diego in September and October (PD & GMcC) as is normal. A Parasitic Jaeger was seen inland at the Salton Sea on Sept. 14 (JOE). An imm. Long-tailed Jaeger was collected (specimen to S.D.N.H.M.) off San Diego on Sept. 12 (JJ). W. Gulls (yellow-legged birds from the Gulf of California) were present on the Salton Sea through August, with the last one noted on Sept. 19 (JA); this species has very recently started to utilize this area in the late summer. Numbers of Laughing Gulls built up to over 200 at the south end of the Salton Sea on Aug. 30 (GMcC), but by Sept. 26 only 1 could be found (GMcC & AC); this species is a regular post breeding wanderer to the Salton Sea, but 200 is an exceptional number. There was the usual number of reports of Franklin's Gulls with 1 at Malibu Lagoon Oct. 26 (*vide* GSS), and another there Nov. 4 (GSS); 1 at Playa del Rey, Los Angeles Co. Nov. 28–29 (HB); 1 at Newport Bay Nov. 7 (AS), and 2 there Nov. 11 (AS); 2 near Otay, Oct. 10 (GMcC); 3 at the north end of the Salton Sea Aug. 15 (EAC & SC); and 1 near Calipatria, Imperial Co. Aug. 22 (GMcC). About 45 Sabine's Gulls were seen off San Diego on Sept. 12 (C.F.O.). Three Gull-billed Terns at the south end of the Salton Sea on Aug. 22 (GMcC) were the last reported this summer. Three Com. Terns were found near Big Pine, Inyo Co. on Sept. 3 (GSS & JA); there are very few inland records away from the Salton Sea in this Region, but I suspect this tern is regular in e. California during the fall. Arctic Terns were found far offshore as usual, with about 75 seen off San Diego on Sept. 12 (C.F.O.), and 10 seen there on Sept. 17 (PD).

ALCIDS — A Com. Murre seen off San Diego on Nov. 21 (C.F.O.) was quite far south. Two Xantus' Murrelets were seen off San Diego on Sept. 21 (C.F.O.), and 6 were found there on Nov. 21 (C.F.O.). Two Craveri's Murrelets were noted off San Diego on Sept. 12 (C.F.O.); this species may prove to be regular in these waters

each fall. 250 Cassin's Auklets were encountered off San Diego on Nov. 21 (C.F.O.).

DOVES, OWLS, GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS — A Band-tailed Pigeon nest containing young in the San Bernardino Mountains on Oct. 10 (EAC & SC) was exceptionally late. Two White-winged Doves were seen in Encino Sept. 7 (JD); 1 was found on the Palos Verdes Peninsula Sept. 18 (DB); 1 was seen on Point Loma Oct. 27 (GMcC); and one was near Imperial Beach Sept. 23 (GMcC & JJ); this species is rare but regular along the coast each fall. A Ground Dove at Shoshone, Inyo Co. on Oct. 17 (GSS) was north of its normal range. Three Pygmy Owls were found in Santa Barbara Nov. 11 (LC & NM). A Spotted Owl was located near Ojai, Santa Barbara Co. Nov. 11 (*vide* NM). A Long-eared Owl was seen near Hansen Dam, Los Angeles Co. Oct. 31 (HB). A *Whip-poor-will* was trapped, banded, and photographed on Point Loma Nov. 14 (JC); the bird was of the nominate race, and represents the first record of this form in California. Three Black Swifts seen over Santa Barbara on Sept. 18 (MM) were the only migrants of this species reported. An Anna's Hummingbird at Kelso in e. San Bernardino Co. on Oct. 4 (EAC & SC) was a little outside the normal range.

WOODPECKERS — Flickers showing the characters of the eastern form were found at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley on Oct. 17 (MSanM & GSS), Nov. 11 (RLeV & DDeS), and Nov. 22 (BB); one was collected (specimen to S.B.C.M.) in the New York Mountains, San Bernardino Co. Oct. 3 (EAC & SC); one trapped and photographed was at Goleta, Sept. 30–Oct. 4 (JA & RW); and another was present in Santa Barbara after Nov. 11 (RW). There was an apparent influx of Lewis' Woodpeckers into the Region this fall with 15 seen near La Panza, San Luis Obispo Co. on Nov. 22 (AB), and 10–15 at Furnace Creek Ranch in October and November (GSS, JA *et al.*). A White-headed Woodpecker present in Hollywood after Oct. 24 (KG & JD) was away from its normal mountain habitat.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — An E. Kingbird in Santa Barbara on Sept. 11 (KA), and another in San Pedro on Sept. 26 (GSS & SW) were the only two reported this fall. Tropical Kingbirds were exceptionally scarce with one at Goleta on Nov. 14 (RW), and another at the mouth of the Santa Clara River, Ventura Co. on Oct. 3 (HB), being the only two reported. A *Great Crested Flycatcher* present on Point Fermin, Los Angeles Co. Sept. 26 (SW, GSS *et al.*) is the first recorded for the Region, and the second for California. An E. Phoebe was seen at Goleta Sept. 19 (RW); one was present at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co. Nov. 27–30 (KG, JD & GSS); one was collected (specimen to S.B.C.M.) near Westmorland Oct. 31 (EAC, SC & JF); and another was seen near Ramer Lake, Imperial Co.

Nov. 26 (KG & JD); this species is an irregular stray to this Region, and four records in one season is unprecedented. Reports of Hammond's Flycatchers on the coast include 1 in San Pedro on Oct. 1 (SW), 1 on Point Loma on Sept. 29 (JC), and another there on Oct. 24 (JC); all three were identified in the hand. Single Vermilion Flycatchers were found at Furnace Creek Ranch, and at El Monte, Los Angeles Co. and a few were found in the San Diego area as usual. An exceptionally late Purple Martin was seen at Newport, Orange Co. on Nov. 28 (WH).

CROWS, JAYS, CHICKADEES, NUTHATCH, DIPPER — Four Com. Crows at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley on Sept. 5 (GMcC & CL) were somewhat outside their normal range. Two Piñon Jays seen flying over Riverside on Nov. 2 (JF) were west of their normal range. Mountain Chickadees moved into the coastal lowlands this fall; they were reported to be much commoner than usual in Hollywood (KG), Claremont, Arcadia, and Altadena (GSS); one was banded on Point Loma on Sept. 14 (JC), and 2-3 were present in San Diego at the end of November (GMcC). A small flock of Chestnut-backed Chickadees near Guadalupe, Santa Barbara Co. on Aug. 27 (JAJ) were at the extreme southern limit of their expanding range. A Plain Titmouse at Yaqui Wells, San Diego Co. on Nov. 27 (KG & JD) was away from its normal habitat. White-breasted Nuthatches were more numerous than usual along the coast, and one seen near Westmorland on Nov. 7 (GMcC & RLeV) is the first record for the Imperial Valley. Ten Pygmy Nuthatches seen in Encino, Los Angeles Co. on Nov. 5 (JD), and 2 present on Point Loma, San Diego Co. on Aug. 30 (JC) were west of their normal range, and away from their preferred mountain habitat. Brown Creepers were found in small numbers away from their normal mountain habitat; one was at Goleta Oct. 24 (JA & RW); 1 was in Santa Barbara Nov. 13 (KA); 2 were found in Altadena Nov. 10 (GSS), and Nov. 27 (GSS); 1 was seen in Riverside Nov. 28 (KG & JD); 1 was located near Newport Dec. 5 (AS); 1 was banded on Point Loma Aug. 13 (JC); 1 was present there between Sept. 30 and Oct. 2 (PD & TT), and another was there Oct. 25 (GMcC). A Dipper found near Carpinteria on Oct. 13 (NM) was in an area where none have been reported in recent years.

WRENS, THRASHERS, THRUSHES — A Winter Wren was in Santa Barbara Sept. 19-Oct. 5 (BS), and another was there on Dec. 6 (LC); 1 was near Carpinteria, Santa Barbara Co. after Oct. 15 (LC); 1 was seen at Shoshone, Inyo Co. on Oct. 17 (GSS); 1 was banded on Point Loma, San Diego Co. on Oct. 20 (JC), and another was seen there on Oct. 21 (TT); this is a large number of reports of this species in this Region. A Brown Thrasher, a rare straggler to California, was present at Deep Springs, Inyo Co. between Sept. 28 and Oct. 6 (MH), and another was

found at Scotty's Castle on Nov. 11 (RLeV & DDeS). A Bendire's Thrasher was found on the coast, where it is casual, at Imperial Beach Oct. 4 (GMcC). A Varied Thrush was at Deep Springs Oct. 17 (MSanM), two were at Scotty's Castle Nov. 11 (RLeV & DDeS), and one was at Furnace Creek Ranch Oct. 17 (GMcC); this species is scarce in e. California. Along the coast the only reports of Varied Thrushes were single birds seen near San Pedro on Nov. 8 and 11 (SW). Single Townsend's Solitaires were seen on Point Loma Oct. 20 (TT), Oct. 27 (DDeS), and Nov. 9 (TT); one was found near Westmorland Oct. 31 (EAC, SC & JF); and 1 was seen near Holtville, Imperial Co. Nov. 7 (RLeV & GMcC); this species is regular in limited numbers in the lowlands at this time of the year.

KINGLETS, WAXWINGS, SHRIKES — Golden-crowned Kinglets were more numerous than usual in the lowlands this fall with one reaching the Salton Sea for the first time; one was at Scotty's Castle Nov. 11 (RLeV & DDeS); one was seen in Encino Nov. 1 (JD); one was found in Morongo Valley Nov. 7 (JF, EAC & SC); one was banded on Point Loma Nov. 5 (JC); and one was seen at the south end of the Salton Sea Nov. 7 (GMcC & RLeV). Cedar Waxwings were numerous throughout most of the Region by October after having been virtually non-existent in the area last winter. An unprecedented number of imm. *Northern Shrikes* were found in the n.e. portion of the Region with 1 at Oasis, Mono Co. Dec. 12 (GMcC); 1 near Big Pine Nov. 26 (GWK); 1 near Scotty's Castle Nov. 26-28 (MSanM *et al.*); 1 at Panamint Springs Inyo Co. Nov. 11 (DDeS & RLeV); and 1 at Furnace Creek Ranch the same day (DDeS & RLeV); there are but two previous records for the Region.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — The passage of the normal West Coast migrants appeared a little early this fall, with many vireos and warblers noted at concentration points along the coast in late August. Very few vireos and warblers were to be found in October. A Red-eyed Vireo, an irregular straggler in S. California, was found in Santa Barbara Sept. 29 (RW); one was present near Imperial Beach Sept. 9-10 (GMcC & GSS), and another was present near Otay Sept. 30-Oct. 4 (GSS & GMcC). A *Philadelphia Vireo* was found at Kelso, San Bernardino Co. on Oct. 3 (EAC & SC), and another was near Imperial Beach Oct. 4-10 (GMcC *et al.*); there are only two previous records of this species in S. California. A Black-and-white Warbler was seen in Santa Barbara Sept. 16 (LC), one was found at Kelso on Oct. 3 (EAC & SC), one was discovered on Point Loma Nov. 1 (WC & DDeS), and one was present near Otay Sept. 8-10 (GMcC); this is a rare but regular straggler to California at this time of the year. An imm. ♂ *Prothonotary Warbler* was discovered at Deep Springs, Inyo Co. on Sept. 5 (MSanM, KG & JD), and was found dead two

days later (specimen to S.D.N.H.M.); this represents the seventh record for the Region. At least 7 Tennessee Warblers were found at Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. between Oct. 1 and 20 (JA & RW); 1 was seen in Encino, Los Angeles Co. Sept. 7 (JD); 1 was banded in San Pedro Nov. 5 (SW); 1-2 were near Otay Sept. 2-8 (GMcC), 2 were there Oct. 4 (GMcC), and another was there Oct. 11 (GMcC); and single birds were banded on Point Loma Oct. 21, Nov. 22 and Nov. 27 (JC); the species is a rare but regular fall vagrant along the coast. A Virginia's Warbler was at Encino Sept. 7-9 (JD), 1 was banded at Duarte, Los Angeles Co. Oct. 13 (MSanM); about 10 were reported from the Palos Verdes Peninsula Sept. 10-28 (SW, GSS & RB); 1 was in Los Angeles after Nov. 15 (GWK); and single individuals were seen near Otay Sept. 13 (GMcC, GSS & BB), Sept. 27-30 (GMcC), and Oct. 4 (GMcC); this species is regular in limited numbers in S. California. Three Lucy's Warblers were found along the coast this fall with 1 on the Palos Verdes Peninsula Sept. 12-13 (RB & SW), 1 in Tapia Park in the Malibu Mountains Oct. 21 (GWK), and one on Point Loma Oct. 1 (JJ). A Parula Warbler, a very rare straggler in the fall, was found in Morongo Valley Oct. 18 (KG & JD). A Magnolia Warbler was seen on the Palos Verdes Peninsula Oct. 16 (RS); 1 was near Imperial Beach Oct. 2-6 (GMcC *et al.*), and another was there Oct. 9-10 (GMcC *et al.*); this species is a somewhat regular vagrant to California. A *Cape May Warbler* was near Imperial Beach Sept. 22-23 (GMcC & JJ), and another was banded on Point Loma Sept. 29 (JC); these represent the first well documented records for this Region. As usual we had a few reports of Black-throated Blue Warblers with 1 seen at Goleta Oct. 11 (RW), 1 banded in San Pedro Nov. 3 (SW), 1 seen on Point Loma Oct. 1-2 (JJ, GMcC & PD), one banded there Oct. 27 (JC), 1 near Imperial Beach Oct. 16-18 (GMcC *et al.*), and 1 near Westmorland at the south end of the Salton Sea Nov. 7 (GMcC & RLeV). A Blackburnian Warbler was at Goleta Oct. 20-22 (RW & JA), one was found in Morongo Valley Nov. 7 (JF, EAC & SC), one was present in San Pedro Sept. 24-26 (SW), and another was seen near Otay Sept. 26 (KG & JD); this species is now being found each fall in limited numbers. Blackpoll Warblers were found along the coast as usual with at least 7 around Goleta Oct. 4-25 (JA & RW); 1 near Point Mugu Sept. 24 (JA & GSS); 1 in San Pedro Sept. 23 (GSS & SW); 1 on Point Fermin, Los Angeles Co. Oct. 1 (RS); 1 in Encino Sept. 9 (JD); 1 in Carlsbad, San Diego Co. Sept. 19 (TT); single individuals on Point Loma Oct. 4 (TT) and Oct. 27 (JC); single birds near Otay Sept. 30 (GMcC & GSS) and Oct. 10 (GMcC & BB); and lone birds near Imperial Beach Sept. 11 (GMcC & RLeV), Sept. 23-24 (GMcC & PD), and Oct. 3-4 (JAJ & GMcC). A Prairie Warbler near Otay Aug. 20-29

was joined by a second individual Aug. 21-23 (GMcC); this species is a very rare straggler to California. Palm Warblers were scarcer than usual with single birds at Goleta Oct. 12-14 (JA) and Oct. 25 (RW); one at 29 Palms, San Bernardino Co. Nov. 7 (EAC, SC & JF); one near Newport Oct. 24 (AS); and single individuals near Imperial Beach on Oct. 18 (GMcC) and Oct. 31 (GMcC, GSS & BB). An Ovenbird was found dead in Santa Barbara in October (NM, specimen to S.B.M.N.H.); one was seen in West Los Angeles Oct. 1 (Marge Tatum *file* GSS); one was banded on Point Loma Nov. 17 (JC); and one was found in Boneta, San Diego Co. Nov. 8 (GMcC & RLeV); this species is a scarce but regular wanderer to California. Two or three N. Waterthrushes were at Deep Springs Sept. 4-7 (GSS, MSanM & MH); one was at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley Sept. 5 (GMcC & CL); one was seen in San Pedro Oct. 2 (RS); one was found in Carlsbad Sept. 19 (TT); and one was near Imperial Beach Sept. 11 (RLeV); this species may be a regular migrant in eastern California in limited numbers with some straying to the coast. As usual there were a number of Am. Redstarts reported from the interior of this Region with at least 11 in Inyo County Sept. 4-6 (GSS, JA, MSanM, GMcC & CL); 1 at Furnace Creek Ranch Oct. 17 (GMcC & MSanM); 1 at Saratoga Springs Nov. 28 (JA & RW); 1 in Kelso Oct. 3-4 (EAC & SC); 1 in Mill Creek, San Bernardino Co. Oct. 10 (EAC & SC); 3 at Morongo Valley Sept. 6 (BAC); 1 in Arcadia Sept. 4 (Beulah Mills *file* GSS); 1 in Duarte Sept. 18-19 (MSanM); 1 in Valley Center, San Diego Co. Sept. 6 (BAC); and 4 at the s. end of the Salton Sea Oct. 31 (EAC, SC & JF). Along the coast 1 was at Goleta Sept. 9 (NM); 2 were on Point Fermin Sept. 27-29 (JA, BB & JAJ); 1 was in La Jolla Sept. 6-7 (PC); and about 6 were near Imperial Beach between Sept. 9 and Oct. 31 (GMcC, KG, JD, EAC *et al.*).

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS — A Bobolink was seen at Furnace Creek Ranch Sept. 6 (GMcC & CL); up to 11 were present near Goleta Oct. 3-11 (JA & RW); 2 were found in Encino Oct. 2-4 (HB & JD); and up to 17 were around Imperial Beach Sept. 11-Oct. 24 (GMcC *et al.*); this species is regular during the fall in limited numbers. A single Baltimore Oriole on Point Loma Oct. 11 (GMcC & MSanM) was the only one found this fall. Single Boat-tailed Grackles were seen at the s. end of the Salton Sea on Sept. 12 (ERA) and Oct. 31 (EAC, SC & JF); this species is spreading westward from Arizona into California. A Scarlet Tanager was discovered at Emigrant Ranger Station in Death Valley on Nov. 11 (RLeV & DDeS); this species is a very rare straggler to California. An adult ♂ Hepatic Tanager, always an unusual find in California, was banded on Point Loma Oct. 24 (JC). The only Summer Tanager reported this fall was one collected (specimen to S.B.C.M.) near West-

morland Oct. 31 (EAC, SC & JF); 1 seen on Point Loma Sept. 27 (GMcC); and 1 found near Imperial Beach Nov. 1 (GMcC).

FINCHES—Two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen in Riverside Nov. 23–24 (EAC & SC), and 1 was found near Newport Oct. 24 (HT); this species straggles to California on a somewhat regular basis. An Indigo Bunting, a species that appears to be increasing in California, was at Deep Springs Lake Sept. 4 (JA & GSS); 1 was seen at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley Oct. 17 (GMcC, MSanM & GSS); one was found in Kelso Oct. 3 (EAC & SC); 2 were in Goleta Sept. 19 (RW); 1 was in San Pedro Sept. 28 (GSS); single birds were found in Encino Aug. 12, Sept. 6, and Sept. 14 (JD); and 1 was seen on Point Loma Oct. 18 (GMcC). A Dickcissel at Deep Springs on Sept. 4 (GSS & JA) was the only one reported this fall. A few Evening Grosbeaks reached the Region this fall with 6 seen on Mount Pinos Nov. 14 (HB & ERA) and 75 there Nov. 20 (WMP), and 3 present on the Palos Verdes Peninsula in mid-November (RS). A heavy flight of Purple Finches occurred in the latter part of the fall making this species quite common along the entire coast in November; many were also found on the deserts with 5 at Furnace Creek Ranch Nov. 10–15 (RLeV, DDeS & GMcC), 15 near Niland Nov. 28 (GMcC), and 5 near Holtville Nov. 7 (GMcC & RLeV). Records of Cassin's Finches away from the mountains included one near Scotty's Castle Oct. 17 (RLeV & DDeS), and single birds banded on Point Loma Nov. 9 and 17 (JC). Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were found in Westguard Pass of the White Mountains, Inyo Co. in late November with 60 there on Nov. 26 (JA & RW); this species is rarely reported in this Region, but is probably regular in that area. Eight Red Crossbills were seen on Mount Pinos Nov. 14 (HB & ERA) and over 25 were there Nov. 20 (WMP), and 3 were seen in San Pedro Nov. 5 (SW); an indication of a possible influx.

SPARROWS—A Lark Bunting, a rare bird in California, was found at Oasis, Mono Co. Sept. 5 (GMcC & CL), and another was present at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley Nov. 14–15 (GMcC). A Grasshopper Sparrow seen near Niland on Nov. 11 (GMcC) was only the third found in the Imperial Valley. A *Sharp-tailed Sparrow* was found at Morro Bay on Nov. 12 (RLeV & DDeS), and another was seen at Newport Bay on Oct. 17 (GWK); there are only three previous records of this species for the Region. A few Slate-colored Juncos were found among the Oregon Juncos as usual. Reports of Gray-headed Juncos, scarce in this Region, included 1 at Yucca Valley, San Bernardino Co. Nov. 7 (EAC, SC & JF); single birds on Point Loma Oct. 26 (TT) and Oct. 31 (GSS); 1 near Imperial Beach Oct. 19 (GMcC), and another there through November (DDeS & GMcC); 1 at the south end of the Salton Sea Sept. 26 (GMcC

& BB); and 3 near Holtville Nov. 30 (EAC & SC). Reports agreed that Tree Sparrows were more numerous and widespread than usual, with one establishing the southernmost record for California; one was near Scotty's Castle Nov. 18 (WMP); 3 were at Furnace Creek Ranch Oct. 17 (GMcC, MSanM & GSS) and 3 more were there Nov. 14 (GMcC); 1 was near Baker, San Bernardino Co. Nov. 10 (RLeV & DDeS); 1 was in Hollywood Nov. 21–22 (KG); and 1 was on Point Loma Oct. 11–12 (TT, GMcC, PD *et al.*). A Black-chinned Sparrow on the Palos Verdes Peninsula Sept. 12 (RB), and 1 on Point Loma Aug. 23 (GC) were on the coast where they are rare, and 1 at Duarte on Oct. 24 (MSanM) was quite late. Up to four Harris' Sparrows were found at Furnace Creek Ranch, where they appear to be regular, between Oct. 17 and Nov. 17 (GMcC, GSS, WMP *et al.*), and 1 was near Imperial Beach Nov. 22 (GMcC). There were five reports of the rare but regular White-throated Sparrow. Fox Sparrows were more numerous than usual, and reached such localities as Death Valley and the Imperial Valley. A Swamp Sparrow near Imperial Beach on Nov. 22 (GMcC) was the only one seen this fall.

LONGSPURS, SNOW BUNTING—A Lapland Longspur was found at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley Oct. 17 (GMcC, GSS & MSanM), and another was there Nov. 11–14 (RLeV, DDeS & GMcC); this is a rare but regular visitor in this region. A flock of 12 Chestnut-collared Longspurs were found at Deep Springs on Oct. 17 (EAC & SC); 2 were seen at Furnace Creek Ranch on Oct. 17 (GMcC, GSS & MSanM); and 1 was near Imperial Beach on the same day (KG & JD); this species is now being found each fall in this Region. A *Snow Bunting* seen at Scotty's Castle on Nov. 14 (GMcC) represents the first record for this Region and one of the very few records for California.

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