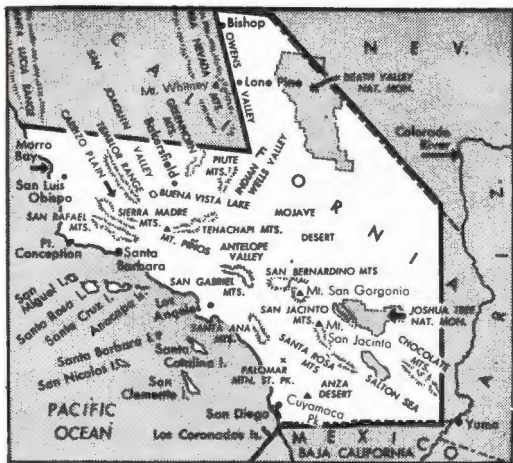


SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / Guy McCaskie

The winter was exceptionally dry, but this did not appear to have any obvious effects on bird numbers present in the Region. Lewis' Woodpeckers were the only birds staging a flight into the Region. Robins and



Cedar Waxwings were scarcer than usual, but numbers of these two species regularly fluctuate from winter to winter. A (questioned) Piping Plover near Santa Barbara was a species new to California.

In this report I have only indicated observers for those species considered casual or accidental in California; full details, including complete descriptions, are on file for all these records and can be obtained through the Rareties Committee of the California Field Ornithologists.

GREBES — A Red-necked Grebe, always a rare find in S. California, was at Marina del Rey, Los Angeles Co. Feb. 25-28. Horned Grebes are unusual away from coast, but one was at Salton City on the Salton Sea Dec. 31 and 2 were on L. Mathews, Riverside Co. Jan. 1.

FULMAR—Fulmars remained numerous off the coast after the November influx, being reported on all offshore boat trips, and also being visible from most vantage points along the coast; most had departed by the end of February.

BOOBY, FRIGATEBIRD — A lone Blue-footed Booby seen flying over the ocean at a point half way between Ventura and Anacapa I. Jan. 8 (RB) was undoubtedly a late straggler from last fall's influx. An ad. **Magnificent Frigatebird** studied at the n. end of the Salton Sea Feb. 20 (Edward Chalf *et al.*) was most unusual, since the species only rarely straggles inland, and most reaching California are immatures in the late summer period.

HERONS — An imm. **Little Blue Heron**, a casual straggler to California, was well studied at Upper Newport Bay Dec. 5 (HB & EC). Cattle Egrets continue to increase in numbers in the Imperial Valley at the s. end of the Salton Sea (S.S.S.E.), but were quite scarce along the coast, with one around Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. from December through January, another near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co. during December, and 10 in Carlsbad, San Diego Co. Mar. 11. An average number of Louisiana Herons was present on the coast, with 1-2 around Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co. during January and February, 1-2 at Bolsa Chica, Orange Co. from December through mid-February, one in Oceanside, San Diego Co. Mar. 18, one around Torrey Pines, San Diego Co. during January and February, and one around Imperial Beach during December and January.

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — Whistling Swans are only rarely found in S. California. Along the coast a dead individual was found at Pt. Mugu Jan. 23, one was seen at Seal Beach Feb. 12, 4 more were on Newport Bay the same day, and one was on San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co. during December. A flock of 52 in the Antelope Valley, the north of Los Angeles, Dec. 11 was a large group, and 6 on the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge Dec. 8 were far south. Each year a few "Blue Geese" appear with the Snow Geese around the S.S.S.E., this winter up to 4 individuals were seen there together. Single Ross' Geese, a rare straggler away from the Salton Sea, were present at Zuma Beach, Los Angeles Co. Dec. 20, Marina del Rey Jan. 31-Feb. 15, and in Carlsbad during January and February. Fulvous Tree Ducks normally withdraw from California in the winter; 15 at S.S.S.E. Jan. 29 were a surprise; 4 seen

there Mar. 4 could have been early spring arrivals. A few Blue-winged Teal always accompany the Cinnamon Teal in this Region; ♀ are not safely identifiable in the field, but a minimum of 18 ad. ♀ were reported from along the coast, in Death Valley, and around the Salton Sea. The only Eur. Wigeon reported was a ♂ in Goleta Jan. 15-22. A few Oldsquaws were present along the coast, as usual, including one at Goleta during December, 2 in Ventura Dec. 5, one along the Palos Verdes Peninsula Mar. 4, 2 off Huntington Beach Feb. 15, 2 around Newport during January and February, and one in San Diego Bay Jan. 31. An Oldsquaw inland on L. Castaic, Los Angeles Co. February 12-13 was most unusual. A ♀ Harlequin Duck at Malibu Dec. 12-14, and a ♂ at Marina del Rey Mar. 3 were unexpected, since there are only a handful of records s. of Santa Barbara. Scoters are rare away from the coast in this Region but 9-10 were around Salton City in late December and early January, one was there Mar. 18-19, and single birds were seen at S.S.S.E. Dec. 9 & Mar. 21. Com. Scoters were exceptionally scarce this winter; one at Malibu during February was the only one reported. There were 7 reports of Hooded Mergansers from the area w. of the Coast Range of mountains involving 12 individuals, which is a little above average.

HAWKS — A White-tailed Kite near Bishop Dec. 18 was outside of its normal range, but the species is increasing and expanding its range. Rough-legged Hawks were present around the n. portions of the Region in small numbers during December and January. Ferruginous Hawks were reported throughout the Region, and were clearly more numerous than usual, with such counts as 12 on the Carrizo Plains in San Luis Obispo Co. Jan. 15-16; most had departed by early March. A few Bald Eagles could be found on the larger inland bodies of water such as L. Cachuma, Big Bear L., Baldwin L., L. Mathews and L. Henshaw throughout the winter, as usual; 2 on the Carrizo Plains Feb. 26, and one in the Tehachapi Mts. Mar. 14 were more unusual. As usual, a few Ospreys were present along the coast during the period.

CRANES, RAILS — Five thousand Sandhill Cranes on the Carrizo Plains in mid-January and 12 near Brawley in the Imperial Valley during January were the only ones reported. Clapper Rails were found at Morro Bay, Pt. Mugu, and at S.S.S.E., as well as in the coastal marshes of Orange and San Diego Cos. where they are still quite common.

SHOREBIRDS — A **Piping Plover** discovered in Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. Dec. 16 was still present at the end of the period (RW *et al.*). What was almost certainly this same individual was present at that locality Apr. 14-18, 1971, but at that time its true identity was questionable, so the record was not published. The species was previously unrecorded in California. [See *AB* 26: 525] As usual, a few Am. Golden Plovers were found along the coast, with 1 in Santa Barbara Dec. 13-Jan. 3 and another there Dec. 18-Jan. 16, 2-3 at Marina del Rey all winter, 1 on the Palos Verdes Pen. Mar. 22, 6 around upper Newport Bay during January and February, and 1-2 in San Diego during December and January. The two in Santa Barbara were thought to be of the nominate form, the Mar. 22 bird was not de-

signed as to race, but the rest were clearly of the form *P.d. fulva*. Eight Stilt Sandpipers at S.S.S.E. Dec. 4, and 12 there Mar. 18 were the only ones reported; a few normally winter in this area, but these reports could well have been of late fall and early spring migrants. A Wilson's Phalarope at Imperial Beach Feb. 18, and another in Oceanside Mar. 3 were probably wintering in the area; this species is very rare in California during the winter. A flock of 75 N. Phalaropes in Imperial Beach Feb. 13 illustrates how common the species can be there during the winter.

JAEGER, GULLS, TERNS — Again Pomarine Jaegers were found to be the predominant species of jaeger off the coast in winter; only 5 Parasitic Jaegers were reported and they were all seen from shore. The Glaucous-winged Gull is rare away from the coast, but 2 were seen at Hansen Dam in the San Fernando Valley Dec. 10, and single individuals were found at S.S.S.E. Dec. 4 and Feb. 26. A few Mew Gulls apparently wander inland to the lowlands w. of the Coast Range as indicated by as many as 10 on Hansen Dam in December and 1 in San Bernardino Jan. 9 & 16. A Franklin's Gull along the Palos Verdes Pen. Dec. 29 was probably a very late fall migrant rather than a wintering bird. Black-legged Kittiwakes were abundant off the coast during January and February with a number occurring right along the shoreline. The **Gull-billed Tern** arrives at the Salton Sea in late March and remains until early September with stragglers occurring into October; one shot there by a "hunter" Dec. 31 (LJ&JD) was completely unexpected, and establishes the first winter record for California (specimen in the Dickey Collection, U.C.L.A.). A total of 4 Com. Terns were reported along the California coast during the period, indicating how rare the species really is in winter.

ALCIDS — Rhinoceros Auklets were probably more numerous than usual off the coast this winter, with counts such as 350 + off San Diego Jan. 22 and 250-300 between San Pedro and Santa Barbara I. Feb. 26.

DOVE — Each year a few White-winged Doves are to be found along the coast; 4 remained around Goleta all winter, 3 were seen at Pt. Mugu Feb. 5 & 17, and 2-3 were present on the Palos Verdes Pen. from early December to mid-February.

GOATSUCKERS — Most unexpected was a **Whippoorwill** regularly roosting in the shrubbery of a residential yard s. Coronado, San Diego Co. from at least late December to Mar. 25 (GMcC *et al.*). This species was only recently added to the state list, and is unknown for the winter period. A few Poor-wills were regularly heard and seen around the Palos Verdes Pen. and Duarte throughout the winter.

HUMMINGBIRDS — Aside from the Anna's Hummingbird, the Costa's is the commonest hummer during the winter in California; a few are always present on the southern deserts, and this winter individuals were evidently present in small numbers along the coast from Santa Barbara south. A Rufous Hummingbird, identified in hand, was present in San Pedro from November onward; there are few verified records of this species for November and December. The Allen's Hummingbird is now a permanent resident around Santa Barbara,

where up to 20 can be found in a day during December, and around the Palos Verdes Pen., where nesting is in progress during December; one was identified in Glendale, Los Angeles Co. Dec. 31.

WOODPECKERS — The only "Yellow-shafted" Flicker reported this winter was one around Goleta Dec. 19-Jan. 15, but observers are becoming more aware of the variations possible among flickers due to hybridization and are refraining from reporting all yellow-winged individuals as "pure" birds from the East. After last fall's influx, Lewis' Woodpeckers remained common and widespread throughout the Region, reaching as far s. as San Diego County (Mesa Grande, Ramona, and Valley Center, and Oceanside) and Imperial County (Westmorland, Calipatria, Brawley and Brock Experimental Ranch); it has been more than 20 years since Lewis' Woodpeckers were last found in the Imperial Valley (E. A. Cardiff, *Condor*, 58:447, 1956).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — A Tropical Kingbird was around Goleta Dec. 1-19, another was there Feb. 8-Apr. 3, and a third was in Santa Barbara Dec. 1-Apr. 1; it is most unusual for this species to remain in California through the winter, but more than normal numbers pushed n. into coastal California last fall. Cassin's Kingbirds were found wintering north to Goleta; formerly they occurred north to Santa Cruz Co. A Dusky Flycatcher in San Diego Dec. 5 was most likely a late fall migrant since it could not be relocated on later visits. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** present near Monrovia, Los Angeles Co. Dec. 29-30 (MSanM, GSS) is extremely late for a fall migrant, but only one winter record is known for California. Each year a few of the "summer" swallows appear to spend the winter in s. California along with the common Tree Swallow. It is normal for a few Violet-green Swallows to remain through the winter, especially along the coast north of Los Angeles. This winter 1-2 Bank Swallows were around the s. end of the Salton Sea during December and January. Because Rough-winged Swallows remain into November and are back to southern California by mid-January "winter reports" frequently pertain to spring migrants or fall stragglers; December records are very rare. This winter single Barn Swallows were seen at Pt. Mugu (Jan. 23) and at S.S.S.E. (Dec. 31 & Jan. 29). A Cliff Swallow at the same location Dec. 4 may have been wintering, but 6 there Jan. 29 were undoubtedly early spring arrivals.

JAYS, CROWS, NUTHATCHES — Steller's Jays continued to draw attention by their presence in lowlands below their normal altitudinal ranges; they were found in small numbers throughout the San Bernardino-Riverside area all winter, one was on the Palos Verdes Pen. during March, one was in Morongo Valley throughout the winter, and small numbers were seen in the foothills (Puma Valley, Ramona, Valley Center, Fallbrook) of San Diego Co. during the period. Four Com. Crows at the s. end of the Salton Sea Dec. 18 were in an area where few records exist. A "few" Red-breasted Nuthatches around Santa Barbara were the only ones away from known breeding areas this winter.

WREN, THRASHER, THRUSHES — A Winter Wren at Mesquite Springs in Death Valley Mar. 30

supplies us with another record from the eastern desert regions. A Brown Thrasher, a straggler from eastward, was continually present at Heise Springs near Westmorland, Imperial Co. Jan. 15 - Mar. 18 (MSanM *et mult. al.*), and another was in San Diego February 3-13 (Art Morley *et al.*). A few Varied Thrushes were found south to Los Angeles Co. on the west side of the mountains, but not south of there. As usual a few Townsend's Solitaires were present in the coastal lowlands, being reported from such localities as Sespe Canyon, Newhall, Claremont and San Pedro.

KINGLET, WAXWING, SHRIKE — The only Golden-crowned Kinglets reported away from the mountains were up to 10 in Santa Barbara all winter and one on the U.C.L.A. campus Nov. 18; it may prove to be regular around Santa Barbara. Cedar Waxwings were exceptionally scarce throughout the Region all winter. An imm. **Northern Shrike** seen near Elizabeth L. in the Antelope Valley Feb. 11 (JD) was unusually far south.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A Solitary Vireo at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co. Dec. 5, and another near Westmorland Dec. 31 were probably late fall stragglers, but an individual of the *plumbeus* form near Westmorland during February and March was clearly wintering; one or two birds of this species are found each winter in S. California but most are of the *cassinii* form. A Warbling Vireo in San Diego Dec. 5 could not be found on later dates and is consequently regarded as a late fall migrant; one at S.S.S.E. Feb. 26 was either an exceptionally early spring migrant or a wintering individual. A Black-and-white Warbler, a regular vagrant to California, was found in Boneta, San Diego Co. Jan. 23. A Tennessee Warbler in Goleta Dec. 5-19 was very late for a fall migrant, but there are other December records for California. The only Nashville Warbler reported was one in Goleta Dec. 9-19, and it was most likely a late fall straggler. A Yellow Warbler was seen in Huntington Beach, Orange Co. Jan. 2, and up to 4 were regularly found around S.S.S.E. throughout the winter; this species is proving to be regular in very small numbers around the Salton Sea each winter. A few Black-throated Gray Warblers remained into December as usual, but one at the Brock Experimental Ranch, Imperial Co. Jan. 21 was probably wintering. A Palm Warbler in Goleta Nov. 30 - Dec. 19 and another in Santa Barbara Dec. 1 - 19 were probably late fall stragglers since they could not be found on later dates in the winter; an occasional individual of this species winters in California. A Yellow-breasted Chat reported in Pasadena February 22 must have been wintering in the area, for the species remains no later than October in fall, and the first spring migrants do not arrive in California until mid-April. Two Wilson's Warblers around Santa Barbara during December and another at San Elijo Lagoon Dec. 11 were undoubtedly late fall migrants since the species regularly remains into December each year. Up to 5 Am. Redstarts were regularly seen around the s. end of the Salton Sea throughout the winter; this area is undoubtedly within the species' normal winter range, being the northwestern point of regular occurrence. A ♂ Am. Redstart at Dos Pueblos Ranch north of Santa Barbara during December was

unusual, and outside any normal winter range, although there are a few winter records for the coastal regions of California.

ORIOLES, BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS — An Orchard Oriole found on the U.C.L.A. campus Nov. 17 was still present Jan. 29 (KG, LJ), and another was seen on the Palos Verdes Pen. Dec. 5 & Jan. 22 (DB, RB); the careful checking of orioles, especially during the fall and winter, in recent years is showing us that this species regularly reaches California in small numbers. The only Hooded Orioles reported were 5 around Santa Barbara and another in Los Angeles during December; I am sure that a careful census of all flowering eucalyptus trees and hummingbird feeders, especially along the coast, would reveal many more, but these occurrences are not brought to the attention of birders. A ♂ Scott's Oriole, a very scarce bird during the winter, was found in Morongo Valley Feb. 21. A Baltimore Oriole was present in Goleta throughout the winter, one was in Santa Barbara during December and January, another was there from Dec. 24 to the end of the period, and one was in San Diego during December and January; each winter a few Baltimore Orioles are found in California and are expected by the active bird watcher. Reports of Bullock's Orioles are normal in winter and this year was no exception, with as many as 20 around Santa Barbara; others were found at Morro Bay (1), Gaviota (1), around the Los Angeles Basin (7), San Diego (2) and in the Imperial Valley (1). A **Rusty Blackbird** at Hansen Dam in the San Fernando Valley December 10 (JD) was near normal as far as date was concerned, but represents one of the very few records from west of the Coastal Range. As usual a few W. Tanagers were found, including 5 around Santa Barbara and 2 in San Diego all winter, 1 in Riverside Jan. 2, and 1 in Pasadena Mar. 2-3; spring migrants do not arrive in California until the latter half of April, so March reports are best treated as winter records. A ♀ Summer Tanager on the Palos Verdes Pen. Dec. 28 was the only one reported.

FINCHES, SPARROWS — A ♂ *Pyrrhuloxia* present at Heise Springs near Westmorland Dec. 31 - Mar. 27 (LJ, JD, GMcC *et al.*), was undoubtedly the same individual present there last winter (McCaskie, *California Birds*, 99-100, 1971). A Lark Bunting, a very rare bird in California, was present in Pasadena Jan. 1 to the end of March, one was on the Palos Verdes Pen. Feb. 16 to the end of the period and another was seen in Maricopa, Kern Co. Mar. 4. Three Black-throated Sparrows on La Cumbre Peak near Santa Barbara Dec. 5 were outside their range; they are normally confined to the s.e. deserts and the areas east of the Sierra Nevada Mts. Slate-colored Juncos are regularly reported among the abundant Oregon Juncos, but a careful check of these reports reveals a variety of plumages spanning all

combinations from pure *Junco hyemalis hyemalis* to odd-looking Oregon Juncos. There were five reports of Gray-headed Juncos, 2 from along the coast and the rest from the s.e. desert region. A single Tree Sparrow was seen at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley Jan. 22; an area where recent concentrated birding has shown the species to be rare but regular. A Black-chinned Sparrow found at Keller Cliff in the San Bernardino Mts. Dec. 19 was either an exceptionally late fall straggler or a wintering bird. A Harris' Sparrow banded on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co. Apr. 7 and another seen around Finney L. in the Imperial Valley Feb. 5-24 were unusual, but 3 at Furnace Creek Ranch January 22 were more expected. Five White-throated Sparrows were reported, which is about average for this Region. A Swamp Sparrow at Malibu Lagoon Dec. 3 was undoubtedly the same bird reported there Nov. 28; we normally have one or two around during the winter, and it has been a while since none were found.

LONGSPURS — Again McCown's Longspurs were found in the Imperial Valley with 1-3 seen around Calipatria Jan. 8 - Feb. 20 (BB, OLC, RW *et al.*); this species is now considered regular in this area of California. A Lapland Longspur was seen on the Carrizo Plains January 16, single individuals were found in the Antelope Valley Dec. 11 and Jan. 30, and up to 10 were present in the Imperial Valley during January and February; this is the commonest and most widespread species of longspur in California. A Chestnut-collared Longspur in the Antelope Valley Dec. 11 (JD), and 4 near Westmorland in the Imperial Valley Dec. 4 (GMcC, ST) appear to have been stragglers from the October influx and were not wintering.

CONTRIBUTORS — Cameron Aanerud, Kevin Aanerud (KAa), Waldo Abbott, Ernest R. Ables, David Anderson, Keith Axelson (KAx), Louis Bevier, Lawrence C. Binford, David Bradley, Richard Bradley, Bruce Broadbooks, Eugene A. Cardiff, Steven Cardiff, Barbara A. Carlson, Edna Chamness, Olga A. Clark, Leslie Cook, David DeSante, Jon Dunn, Jim Fairchild, John M. Kinkbeiner, Stanley G. Ford, Kim Garrett, Daniel A. Guthrie, Tom Heindel, Joel H. Hornstein, Ginger Johnson, Desmond Jones, Lee Jones, Jewell Kriger, Ron LeValley, John Luther, Ian MacGregor, Nelson Metcalf, Maggie Miller, Edward Navajosky, Joy Parkinson, Virginia Puddicombe, Van Remsen, Mike SanMiquel, Rusty Scalf (RSc), Brad Schram, Jay Sheppard, Richard Stallcup (RSt), G. Shumway Sufell, Steve Summers, Fern R. Tainter, Jerry Tangren (JTan), Jan Tarbel (JTar), Scott Terrill, Don V. Tiller, Richard Webster, Shirley Wells (SWe), Sandy Wilbur (SWi), Rodger Willmarth, Ruth C. Yoder, Hank Brodtkin—**GUY McCASKIE, San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California.**