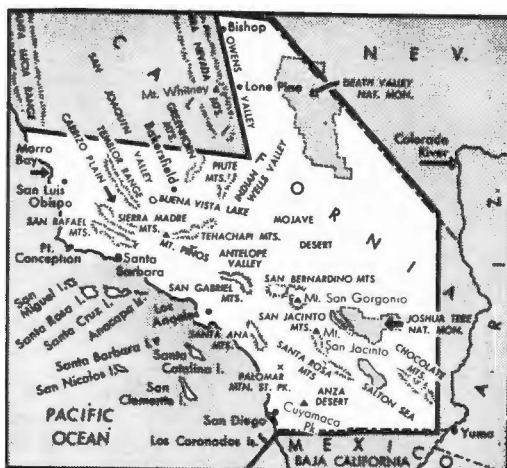


SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / Guy McCaskie

This has to be the most exciting fall season on record for variety and sheer numbers of rare birds present in the Region. Over 430 species were recorded in the Region during the four month period, as many species as recorded in the whole of California when Grinnell and Miller published their complete analysis in "The Distribution of the Birds of California" in 1944.



West Coast migrants appeared in normal numbers with shorebirds peaking in August and September, most small landbirds passing through in September, wintering sparrows arriving in late September, and the wintering waterfowl being here by late October. No influx of northern landbirds was evident, and the season would have been quite dull had it not been for the appearance of so many vagrants.

We had California's first Groove-billed Ani, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Veery and Sprague's Pipit, along with the Region's first Rufous-necked Sandpiper and Le Conte's Sparrows, as well as unprecedented numbers of some of the eastern species of landbirds. It was unusual to go into the field without seeing at least one unusual bird; the very rare becoming normal and expected by the end of October.

Why so many rare birds this fall? Weather factors over a large area may have some bearing (local weather certainly has little or no effect on the vagrants), but what weather factor or factors could bring Tropical Kingbird, Red-throated Pipit, Sprague's Pipit and Black-throated Blue Warbler all to one spot on the same day? Admittedly we have many more active birders afield today than formerly, but not appreciably more than last fall, and it is the old well-worked spots that produced most of the vagrants, not newly discovered areas.

Since most vagrants reaching California are young of the year it is conceivable the number of vagrants reaching California from fall to fall will vary in direct relationship with breeding successes in the preceding summers. If this is true wood warblers must have had a banner nesting season in the northern woods last summer.

LOONS, GREBES — A Com. Loon found dead at the south end of the Salton Sea (hereafter S.E.S.S.) Nov. 2 (DVT) was the only one reported from inland. A Red-necked Grebe in San Diego Oct. 27 (GSG) was far south of its normal range. Five Horned Grebes were found far inland with one at Deep Springs, Inyo Co. Oct. 20 (TH), one at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley (hereafter F.C.R.) Sept. 22 (DRo, JM), two there Oct. 26-Nov. 3 (RS *et al.*), and one near Tecopa, Inyo Co. Nov. 19 (SWE).

FULMARS, SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS — A N. Fulmar seen between Oxnard and Santa Barbara I. Oct. 11 and two near San Clemente I. Nov. 27 were the only ones reported. A Flesh-footed Shearwater, rare anywhere along the California coast, was well seen between Oxnard and Santa Barbara I. Sept. 20 (GMcC *et al.*). A New Zealand Shearwater seen near Santa Cruz I. Sept. 8 (RW, S.B.A.S.) and another off Oxnard Sept. 20 (LJ *et al.*) were both unusual sightings for s. California waters. Many Shearwaters began to appear along the coast in late October with 200-300 present at Shell Beach, San Luis Obispo Co., Nov. 6-14, and a peak of 3000 off La Jolla, San Diego Co. Nov. 4 (JB).

The only Leach's Storm-Petrels reported were five far off San Diego Aug. 28 and six in that same area Sept. 14. Least Storm-Petrels were reasonably common and widespread off s. California with six seen between Oxnard and Santa Barbara I. Sept. 20, two more there on Oct. 11, fifteen off San Diego Aug. 28 and at least ten there on Sept. 14. It is possible birds identified as Ashy Storm-Petrels in August and September by some birding parties off the coast were in reality Least Storm-Petrels, for no birding party reported both species, and I believe the Ashy Storm-Petrel to be rare in s. California waters before mid-October.

TROPICBIRDS, PELICANS, BOOBIES, FRIGATEBIRDS — Eight Red-billed Tropicbirds were well seen around the s.w. tip of Santa Cruz I. Sept. 8 (RW, S.B.A.S.); quite far north for this warm-water associated species. An imm. Blue-footed Booby was found grounded in a San Gabriel, Los Angeles Co. yard Oct. 15 (D. Foster, *fide* GSS) and has been a captive ever since. An ad. Brown Booby was present at the north end of the Salton Sea (hereafter N.E.S.S.) Aug. 24-Sept. 2 (IMacG, S & SL *et al.*); much rarer than the preceding species here in California. Brown Pelicans continued to be seen on the Salton Sea from the summer season with a peak of 17 on Aug. 28, and four on Oct. 19 being the last noted; this species now regularly wanders inland to the Salton Sea after the breeding season. An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird was at Sealcliff, Ventura Co. Aug. 27-31 (RW) and another was hanging over La Jolla Aug. 14 (JB); one was seen inland at N.E.S.S. Aug. 11 (EAC, SC) and another was at nearby Salton City Sept. 2 (JD *et al.*); always an exciting bird to see in California.

HERONS, STORKS — An ad. Little Blue Heron was present in Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., Aug. 28-Sept. 1 (S.B.A.S.) and another was at Bolsa Chica,

Orange Co., Nov. 17 to the end of the period (BB *et al.*); one or two are now found in this Region every year, and it is likely that the one at Bolsa Chica is the same individual that spent last winter there. As usual a few Cattle Egrets appeared along the coast in October and November with a high count of 25 near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co. Nov. 9-10; two at F.C.R. Oct. 28-31 (RS *et al.*) were at an interesting locality. Wood Storks remained in the vicinity of S.E.S.S. until the end of September, reaching a peak of 368 on Aug. 28 (DVT); one at N.E.S.S. from the summer period to Sept. 19 (DE) was the only one found elsewhere.

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — Whistling Swans were found in the Owens Valley during November as usual, but nowhere else in the Region. An ad. and two imm. swans, believed to be Trumpeter Swans, were well seen and heard at the Santa Clara River mouth, Ventura Co. Nov. 17 (KA); there is one other recent record of this species in s. California (see *Western Birds*, 4:111, 1973).

Up to three summering Black Brant were noted off and on at N.E.S.S. to Sept. 2. Four "Blue Geese" were with the 8000 Snow Geese at S.E.S.S. during November; disconcerting was the fact that only 1% of the birds were immatures, suggesting a disastrous breeding season.

As usual a few Blue-winged Teal were found in the coastal lagoons once the drakes came out of eclipse plumage in November. An interesting hybrid was a ♂ Green-winged Teal X Am. Wigeon near L. Arrowhead in the San Bernardino Mts. Nov. 10-30 (KG). Three ♂ ♂ Eur. Wigeon had been found by the end of the period with one on Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo Co. Oct. 17 (FRT), one at McGrath S.P., Ventura Co. Nov. 27-30 (SF) and the other near Glendora, Los Angeles Co. Nov. 17-30 (GSS *et al.*). A Greater Scaup, scarce away from the coast, was well studied at F.C.R. Nov. 3 (DDeS *et al.*). A ♂ Tufted Duck on L. Sherwood, Ventura Co. after Oct. 30 (GSS *et al.*) is undoubtedly the same individual that spent part of the past two winters on this same lake. A ♂ Harlequin Duck was at San Simeon, San Luis Obispo Co. Nov. 29 (EAC, SC) and the male that appeared at Playa del Rey, Los Angeles Co. in March of 1972 was still present at the end of the period (BB). A summering Black Scoter on Morro Bay Aug. 15-19 (FRT) was the only one reported. Three Surf Scoters at Deep Springs, Inyo Co. Oct. 20 (TH), one near Big Pine in the Owens Valley Nov. 3 (TH) and another on Little L., Inyo Co., Nov. 24 (R. Newman, *fide* GSS) were interesting since the species is rare away from the coast. Three Hooded Mergansers on a small pond near Glendora after Nov. 1 (GSS) were the only ones reported.

KITES, HAWKS, OSPREY, FALCONS — Two White-tailed Kites at Brawley Nov. 28-30 (JK) were east of their normal range, and the first recorded in Imperial County; one on Santa Cruz I. Oct. 2 (LJ) was the second to reach the Channel Is. Three Goshawks were seen in Inyo Co. with one at Deep Springs Sept. 12

(J & SL), another in Big Pine Nov. 16 (TH) and the third near Tecopa Nov. 20-21 (SWE); they are probably regular in this area of the Region in fall and winter. A Red-shouldered Hawk at Big Pine Nov. 21 (TH), one at F.C.R. Oct. 28 (RS *et al.*), another there on Nov. 2 (JD) and two near N.E.S.S. Oct. 12 (KG) were all east of their normal range in California, but the species may be expanding its range here in the West. An imm. Broad-winged Hawk at F.C.R. Oct. 27 (JD, GMcC, RS) was the only one found in s. California this fall. Only ten Swainson's Hawks were reported, and eight of those were in the Owens Valley, where nesting birds still persist. Unexpected was an imm. **Zone-tailed Hawk** on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co. Sept. 13-20 (TW, JB); one was in the same place last fall (AB, 28:107, 1974). A few Rough-legged Hawks appeared in November with some reaching as far south as San Diego (two near Ramona Nov. 18 and three near L. Henshaw Nov. 27) and Imperial Cos. (one S.E.S.S. Nov. 28-29), and one straying west to Santa Cruz I. (Nov. 9). Over 30 Ferruginous Hawks were reported, an increase from recent years. Interesting was the appearance of an ad. **Harris' Hawk** near Imperial Beach Sept. 21 (JD *et al.*); there are three old records from San Diego Co. and it formerly was resident along the Colorado R., but is now believed extirpated in California. An ad. Bald Eagle at Taylor L. on the Colorado R. Nov. 13 (JHS) and an imm. at S.E.S.S. Nov. 20 (DVT) were the only two reported. A few Ospreys were seen along the coast from Morro Bay to San Diego, as well as on the Salton Sea and along the Colorado R. as would be expected; however, one at F.C.R. Sept. 18 (DE) was at an interesting locality.

As usual a few Prairie Falcons appeared along the coast from September onward. The only Peregrine Falcons reported were one at F.C.R. Nov. 15 (MA, BH), one on Pt. Fermin, Los Angeles Co. Sept. 22 (*vide* GSS), an ad. on Santa Barbara I. Oct. 11 (GSS) and another on Santa Cruz I. Nov. 9 (LJ). Merlin numbers continue to decline with but eight reported in October and November.

CRANES, RAILS — Up to 82 Sandhill Cranes were present near Brawley in the Imperial Valley after Oct. 3 (DVT) and two were seen near Big Pine in the Owens Valley Nov. 24 (*vide* GSS); this species occurs only locally in s. California. Six Black Rails were found around Niland, Imperial Co. Oct. 18-25 (JHS) where they probably nest; however, one on Newport Bay, Orange Co. Nov. 30 (BB) was on winter territory.

SHOREBIRDS — An Am. Oystercatcher that has been present on Anacapa I. since 1964 was still there Sept. 8 (RW, S.B.A.S.) and two were found on Santa Cruz I. Nov. 4 (K. Stager, *vide* SWE). Three Black Oystercatchers at Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co. Sept. 23 (GSS) were at the s. extreme of their normal range of the coast of California; one on San Nicholas I. Aug. 31 (LJ, KG) was the first recorded there.

A **Piping Plover** at Malibu, Los Angeles Co. Oct. 12 (*vide* GSS) was probably the same individual that spent all of last winter there; however, it did not remain this winter. Snowy Plovers were found inland in Inyo Co. on L. Elsinor in Riverside Co. and on the Salton Sea; it is undoubtedly more common away from the coast than formerly believed. An Am. Golden Plover in Goleta

Aug. 24 (RW), one near Imperial Beach Oct. 2-6 (JD, PU), one on San Nicholas I. Sept. 28 (LJ) and 13 there on Oct. 19 (LJ) appear to be the only migrants reported; three present at Playa del Rey since Sept. 4 (JAJ) and one on Newport Bay Nov. 18 (GSS) are probably wintering locally.

At least 15 Solitary Sandpipers were found in the e. portion of the Region Aug. 11-Sept. 22, and an additional ten were seen along the coast in the same period. The only Red Knots found away from the coast were two on the Salton Sea Aug. 17 (JD). Nine Pectoral Sandpipers were reported from the n.e. portion of the Region where they are normally quite scarce; however, only 43 were found along the coast and on the Channel Is. Some 95 Baird's Sandpipers were reported from throughout the Region in August and September which appears normal. A **Rufous-necked Sandpiper** found at S.E.S.S. Aug. 17 (GMcC *et al.** to S.D.N.H.M.) is the second for California, but only the third in North America outside Alaska. A Dunlin at S.E.S.S. Aug. 17 (JD) was exceptionally early, the species not normally arriving in California until the latter half of September. Stilt Sandpipers were found at S.E.S.S. as usual, with a high count of 23 on Aug. 11 (EAC, SC); elsewhere, single birds were seen at N.E.S.S. Aug. 17 (JB) and Sept. 2 (JD), in Santa Maria Oct. 4 (JAJ), two at Pt. Mugu Sept. 19 (GSS), one in Carlsbad Sept. 21-28 (DE, BB) and another on Otay L., San Diego Co. Aug. 22 (RP). As many as 15 Sanderlings were to be found on the Salton Sea in August and September, but they were unrecorded elsewhere except on the coast. A Red Phalarope at F.C.R. Oct. 26-28 (RS *et al.*) was most unusual, and is the only one found away from the open ocean this fall.



Rufous-necked Sandpiper (Eroila ruficollis), Salton Sea, Calif., Aug. 17, 1974. Photo / John Butler.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS — Pomarine Jaegers were exceptionally numerous offshore with a high count of some 500 between Oxnard and Santa Barbara I. Oct. 11 (GMcC *et al.*). Parasitic Jaegers were present along the entire coastline, but only in small numbers, with six near the mouth of the Santa Clara R. Sept. 13 being the most noted in one day. An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger was the highlight of the boat trip off San Diego Sept. 14 (GMcC *et al.*). A South Polar Skua was well seen off Oxnard Sept. 21 (H & PB); this is the only form of skua known to occur off California, but is rare in s. California waters.

Western Gulls (yellow-legged birds from the Gulf of California) were present on the Salton Sea well into September with over 100 noted on Sept. 5 (LJ). Laugh-

ing Gulls reached a peak of 170 at the Salton Sea Aug. 28 (DVT) with one still present Nov. 28 (GMcC); one at Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. Aug. 20 (BS) was unusual. Franklin's Gulls were scarcer than expected with single birds at the San Ynez River mouth Aug. 4 (BS), in Malibu Nov. 10 (GSS), at Playa del Rey Aug. 9 (JAJ) and Oct. 31 (GSS), and in San Diego Nov. 20 (JD) being the only ones reported. Heermann's Gulls are most unusual away from the coast but single birds were found at S.E.S.S. Aug. 17 (GMcC), Aug. 28 (DVT) and Nov. 2 (DVT). An imm. Sabine's Gull, casual inland, was well seen at N.E.S.S. Sept. 19 (DE, JM).

Gull-billed Terns reached a peak of 50 at the Salton Sea on Aug. 24 with two still present Sept. 12. Unusual was a Least Tern at N.E.S.S. Aug. 17 (JD *et al.*), for the species is a casual straggler to the interior of California. Black Skimmers remained around the Salton Sea longer than in previous years with two still there Nov. 17 (DVT) after reaching a maximum of 21 on Aug. 24 (GMcC).

MURRES, MURRELETS, PUFFINS — Ten Com. Murres were seen off Oxnard Oct. 10 (GMcC *et al.*) and six were found off San Diego Nov. 25 (JB) indicating a minor influx to s. California waters. A Craver's Murrelet off San Diego Aug. 28 (GMcC) and another off Santa Barbara Sept. 8 (RW, S.B.A.S.), were the only two reported; this is a regular post-breeding wanderer to California waters. A recently dead Ancient Murrelet picked up near Imperial Beach Oct. 29 (RP* S.D.N.H.M.) was quite far south. A long dead **Horned Puffin** was found on the beach near La Jolla, San Diego Co. Aug. 28 (JRJ* S.D.N.H.M.), and represents one of the very few records for the Region. [Water-borne from elsewhere? —Ed.].

PIGEONS THROUGH SWIFTS — A Band-tailed Pigeon at S.E.S.S. Aug. 12-13 (DVT) is but the third found in the Imperial Valley, and another on San Nicholas I. Aug. 31 (LJ) had strayed far to the west. As usual a few White-winged Doves straggled west to the coast, with eleven noted between Santa Barbara and San Diego, and six more on the Channel Is. A Ground Dove at Big Pine, Inyo Co. Oct. 9 (TH), another at F.C.R. Nov. 10 (B & CY) and a third at the Santa Clara River mouth, Ventura Co. Sept. 13 (RW) were all far north of their normal range. Four Inca Doves in Blythe, Riverside Co., Nov. 17 (JHS) were new for that locality, but one near Tecopa, Inyo Co. in late September (J. Tarbel, *vide* GSS) was far to the north of its range, and another near Imperial Beach from Sept. 9 to the end of the period (JD *et al.*) was the first ever found on the coast.

Burris Price discovered a **Groove-billed Ani** near Lakeview, Riverside Co. Nov. 4 and numerous observers were able to see it before its disappearance Nov. 16, the first to be recorded in California (photo to S.D.N.H.M.). A few Long-eared Owls were reported in Inyo Co. where they appear to be regular; however, one on Santa Barbara I. Oct. 11 (LJ) was at an interesting locality. A Poor-will near Calipatria, Imperial Co. Nov. 3 (DVT) is the first reported in that area in many years. A Black Swift over F.C.R. Nov. 2 (JD *et al.*) was at an unusual locality, and appears to be the latest ever recorded in California.

WOODPECKERS — Very few "Yellow-shafted Flickers" were reported, possibly owing to its demotion to subspecific rating. Lewis' Woodpeckers were exceptionally scarce with but twelve individuals being found in the Region. A Williamson's Sapsucker at Westguard Pass in the White Mts. Nov. 3 (TH) was in an area where few sightings have been made, and another at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co. Sept. 15 (EAC, SC) was in the lowlands. A Ladder-backed Woodpecker was carefully identified near Imperial Beach Oct. 9 (JD, PU), and is the first to be found on the coast of California.

FLYCATCHERS — An E. Kingbird in Santa Barbara Aug. 29-Sept. 12 (RW, BS) and another at F.C.R. Sept. 12 (J & SL) were the only two reported. Tropical Kingbirds were scarcer than usual with one on Pt. Fermin, Los Angeles Co. Sept. 18 (JA), one on San Nicholas I. Oct. 20 (LJ *et al.*), and single birds near Imperial Beach Sept. 20 (JB), Oct. 24-27 (GSS *et al.*) and Nov. 9 (GMcC). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, always an exciting bird to find in California, was near Imperial Beach Oct. 17 (JD) and another was at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co. Nov. 8-10 (ABA *et al.*). On Sept. 22 the Broadkins discovered California's first **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** in Big Sycamore Canyon of Pt. Mugu S.P. in extreme s. Ventura Co.; it remained until Oct. 5, being viewed by numerous observers, but avoiding all those with cameras. A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was present in Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., Sept. 27 (BS, S.B.A.S.), and another was seen on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co. Oct. 20 (AS *et al.*); there is but one previous record for s. California and the species is ultra rare anywhere in the State. The only E. Phoebe, a somewhat regular straggler to California, was at F.C.R. Oct. 31 (RS). A **Least Flycatcher** was well studied at F.C.R. Oct. 28 (GMcC, RS, JD), and another was at nearby Emigrant Ranger Station Oct. 28-Nov. 24 (JD, DDeS, GSS *et al.*); although there are only two previous records for the Region the species is probably regular in small numbers, but overlooked among other similar-looking *Empidonax* flycatchers. A Coues' Flycatcher at the Pacific Palisades, Los Angeles Co. Nov. 15 to the end of the period (LJ, KG) is only the eighth to be found in California. As usual a few Vermilion Flycatchers wandered to the coast of s. California in September and October; one on San Nicholas I. Sept. 29 (LJ *et al.*) is the first recorded on the Channel Is. and one at F.C.R. on Oct. 31 (RS) was at the northern limit of the species normal range.

JAYS, CREEPERS, WRENS, THRASHERS — A Steller's Jay in Monrovia, Los Angeles Co. Sept. 18 (BD) was the only one reported from the lowlands. A few Brown Creepers were found along the coast in September, and one was far out on the desert at Kelso, San Bernardino Co. Oct. 31 (RS). A scattering of Winter Wrens included five reported from the e. part of the Region and two more on Santa Cruz I. (Nov. 9).

A **Gray Catbird** was a Scotty's Castle, Inyo Co. Oct. 26-Nov. 2 (RS, JD *et al.*) and another was on San Nicholas I. Nov. 2-3 (LJ); remarkable considering only one previous fall record exists for the Region. A Brown Thrasher, a regular straggler to California, was at Stove Pipe Wells in Death Valley Oct. 26 (JD *et al.*), another

was in nearby Titus Canyon Nov. 13 (MA, BH) and a third was in Pt. Mugu S.P. Nov. 28-29 (H & PB, BB). The only Bendire's Thrasher on the coast was one in San Diego Nov. 27 (SWi). A **Curve-billed Thrasher** in Brawley Nov. 28 (JK) was only the second to be found in the Imperial Valley. A few Sage Thrashers reached the coast as usual and at least ten were seen on the Channel Is. Sept. 12-Nov. 3.

THRUSHES, KINGLETS, PIPITS — A **Rufous-backed Robin** at Saratoga Springs in the s. extreme of Death Valley Nov. 19 (MA, BH) was well described and constitutes the second record for California. Virtually no Varied Thrushes appeared in the Region. A **Veery** in Pt. Mugu S.P., Ventura Co. Oct. 12-16 (H & PB) was seen and photographed by many, and constitutes the first documented record for California (photo to S.D.N.H.M.).

Golden-crowned Kinglets staged a minor invasion with many along the coast south to San Diego, and reaching the Channel Is. for the first time (14 Santa Cruz I. Nov. 9-10); two at Scotty's Castle Nov. 12, and single birds at Kelso Oct. 13 and in Morongo Valley Nov. 16, were the only ones found in the e. portion of the Region.

Up to six **Red-throated Pipits** were present near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co. Oct. 19-27 (RS, GMcC, JD), two were on San Nicholas I. Oct. 20-21 (LJ, KG, GSS) and another was found on Santa Cruz I. Nov. 10 (LJ, JA); these are the first found in California since 1968. Two or three **Sprague's Pipits** remained near Imperial Beach Oct. 19-27 (GMcC *et al.* * S.D.N.H.M.); this constitutes the first acceptable record for California, although it was long overdue in the State.

VIREOS, WOOD WARBLERS — A Bell's Vireo at Scotty's Castle, Inyo Co. Sept. 12 (RS, J & SL) was in an area where few have been recorded. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** on Santa Catalina I. Oct. 27 (LJ) appears to be only the fourth recorded in the Region. A straggler from far to the south was a **Yellow-green Vireo** near Imperial Beach Sept. 19-20 (GMcC *et al.*), the sixth to be recorded in California. Red-eyed Vireos are rarely reported in s. California, but in recent years one or two have been found in the n.e. portion of the Region during September, suggesting it may be regular there at that time of the year; this year five were found in Mono and Inyo Cos. Sept. 8-18 (TH, DE, RS, DDeS) supporting this theory; in addition one at Scotty's Castle Nov. 2 (GMcC *et al.*) and another on the coast near Imperial Beach Nov. 3 (JD *et al.*) were exceptionally late. A **Philadelphia Vireo** near Imperial Beach Oct. 17-20 (JD *et al.*) is only the eighth ever found in California.

Black-and-white Warblers have long been regarded as rare migrants in California; this fall five were found in the e. portion of the Region, six were found along the coast and four more found on the Channel Is. Sept. 12-Nov. 28. A **Worm-eating Warbler**, an accidental stray to California, was near Imperial Beach Sept. 10 (JD *et al.*). Totally unexpected were two **Golden-winged Warblers**, one at Deep Springs, Inyo Co. Sept. 29 (TH) and the other in Big Tujunga Canyon, Los Angeles Co. Nov. 30 (CV), for it is one of the rarest of the wood warblers to reach California. Tennessee Warblers were much more numerous than usual with eight found in

Mono and Inyo Cos. an unprecedented 28 on the coast and an additional 21 on the Channel Is. At least 50 Virginia's Warblers were found along the coast and on the Channel Is. along with six seen in the e. part of the Region; virtually all occurred in September as expected. A Lucy's Warbler at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co. Sept. 19 (DE) may have lingered late after nesting locally; however, one at S.E.S. Sept. 28 (EAC, SC), another in San Pedro, Los Angeles Co. Oct. 2 (SWe) and a third near Imperial Beach Aug. 23-25 (JD *et al.*) were all at unusual localities. Northern Parulas are normally exceptionally rare in fall; however, six were found this fall with a male at Oasis Sept. 2 (TH) followed by a female there Sept. 23 (DRo *et al.*), a male at F.C.R. Oct. 29 (RS), a male on Pt. Fermin Oct. 6-14 (JA *et al.*), a female in San Diego's Mission Gorge Sept. 26 (DRa) and a male in nearby Imperial Beach Sept. 10-11 (JD *et al.*). Two Magnolia Warblers were found at F.C.R. (Sept. 18-22 and Oct. 29) and another in Kelso (Oct. 13) in the e. portion of the Region, and an unheard-of ten were noted on the coast between Pt. Mugu and Imperial Beach, with one more on Santa Barbara I. Sept. 19-Nov. 3. Nine Cape May Warblers were found with five occurring in Inyo Co. Oct. 28 to Nov. 10 (GSS, RS, B & CY *et al.*), one on Pt. Conception Sept. 13 (RW), one in Pt. Mugu S.P. Oct. 5 (MSanM), one near San Diego Oct. 20 (JD *et al.*) and the ninth on Santa Rosa I. Oct. 1-4 (LJ).

We have become accustomed to a few Black-throated Blue Warblers appearing in California each fall, but 30 in this region is unprecedented; 13 were found in the interior, 13 more were noted on the coast and an additional 4 were seen on the Channel Is. Seven Black-throated Green Warblers were reported along the coast with two in Santa Barbara Co. (Sept. 29 & Oct. 4), one in Los Angeles Co. (Oct. 26-27) and four in San Diego Co. (Sept. 7, Oct. 20-21, Oct. 25-27 and Nov. 17). At least ten Blackburnian Warblers were seen along the coast of Santa Barbara, Los Angeles and San Diego Cos. between Sept. 5 and Oct. 28. Four Chestnut-sided Warblers were found in the e. portion of the Region Sept. 10-Nov. 15, and an unheard-of 14 were noted along the coast and on the Channel Is. Sept. 9-Nov. 25. We normally consider one Bay-breasted Warbler very good, but this fall seven were reported with one at Deep Springs Oct. 20 (TH), one in Long Beach Oct. 24 (JA), four around San Diego Sept. 19-Oct. 23 (JD *et al.*) and one on San Nicholas I. Sept. 29 (LJ *et al.*). Blackpoll Warblers are now regular in small numbers along the coast, but have been very rare in the interior; however, 54 on the coast and Channel Is. Sept. 13-Oct. 19 was many more than we have become used to, and 15 in the interior between Sept. 8 and 23 is exceptional. A Prairie Warbler, a casual straggler to California, was at Playa Del Rey Sept. 17-18 (H & PB), one was near Imperial Beach Sept. 8-11 (JD *et al.*), another was there Sept. 21-28 (ABA *et al.*) and a different bird was there Oct. 1 (JRJ). Palm Warblers, were more numerous than usual with 35 found along the coast and on the Channel Is. between Sept. 22 and Nov. 10; two at F.C.R. Nov. 2-3 (JD *et al.*) and another near Lakeview Nov. 16 (RS *et al.*) were interesting since few records exist for the interior of the Region.

An Ovenbird at F.C.R. Oct. 28 (RS) was the only one found in the interior, but seven were reported from the

coast with one at Pt. Mugu S.P. Sept. 22-25 (H & PB), one in Long Beach Sept. 30 (JAJ), three around San Diego Sept. 26-Oct. 16 (JRJ, PU *et al.*), one on Santa Barbara I. Sept. 20 (LJ *et al.*), and another on San Nicholas I. Sept. 28-29 (LJ *et al.*). As usual a few N. Waterthrushes passed south along the e. portion of the Region with nine seen Aug. 18-Sept. 22; in addition 11 were found along the coast and on the Channel Is. Aug. 25-Oct. 26. Amazing was the occurrence of three **Connecticut Warblers** with one at Stove Pipe Wells in Death Valley Sept. 22 (DRo, JM), one near Imperial Beach Sept. 19 (GMcC) and another on San Nicholas I. Sept. 29-30 (LJ *et al.*); there are only three previous records for the Region. A **Red-faced Warbler** studied by two observers in Mission Gorge near San Diego Aug. 26 (BWS) is only the third found in California and the first for the fall period. A ♂ Hooded Warbler, a very rare straggler to California, was at F.C.R. Oct. 30-Nov. 1 (RS). Three Canada Warblers, also very rare in California, were reported with a male in Montana de Oro S.P., San Luis Obispo Co. Oct. 6 (JAJ), a male near Imperial Beach Oct. 24-26 (RS, JD *et al.*) and a female there Oct. 27 (JM *et al.*). About 75 Am. Redstarts were reported, with nearly 30 of them being seen along the e. border of the Region where they are undoubtedly regular migrants. A Painted Redstart on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co. Sept. 2 (PU) was the only one found.

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS — Five Bobolinks noted at F.C.R. Sept. 22-Nov. 3 were the only ones seen in the e. portion of the Region; 20 along the coast between Sept. 21 and Oct. 28 and 17 more on the Channel Is. Sept. 12-Nov. 3 appear to be less than normal. A Tricolored Blackbird on Santa Catalina I. Oct. 26 (LJ) appears to be the first recorded on the Channel Is. An Orchard Oriole seen on Pt. Conception Sept. 11 (RW), one in Goleta Sept. 7-10 (S.B.A.S.), a male near Lakeview Nov. 16 (J & SL *et al.*), and three around San Diego Sept. 17-Oct. 2 (JD, ABA *et al.*) was probably an average number. Two or three Scott's Orioles were seen along the coast, where they are scarce, and two reached San Nicholas I. Aug. 30-Sept. 2 (KG, LJ). Nine "Baltimore" Orioles around San Diego Sept. 17-Oct. 21 (JD, JRJ *et al.*) and four more on San Nicholas I. Sept. 27-Oct. 21 (LJ, KG) is more than we are accustomed to. As usual a few Rusty Blackbirds appeared in the Death Valley area with four at F.C.R. Oct. 27-Nov. 17 (RS, JAJ, B & CY); one on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co. Nov. 9-10 (GMcC), another on Santa Cruz I. Nov. 8-9 (JA, LJ) and a third on San Nicholas I. Nov. 3 (LJ) were unexpected since the species is very rare on the coast of California. Two or three Great-tailed Grackles around S.E.S.S. during the period are probably normal.

A ♂ Scarlet Tanager on San Nicholas I. Nov. 1-3 (LJ) was the only one reported. Six Summer Tanagers were found in the e. portion of the Region Aug. 15-Oct. 27, including two as far north as Oasis, Mono Co. (JD, DE), and an additional nine were found along the coast and on the Channel Is. Aug. 4-Nov. 3; these are probably all stragglers from the e. population *rubra*.

GROSBEAKS, BUNTINGS, FINCHES — Four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen in Inyo and San Bernardino Cos. Oct. 5-Nov. 21 (JD, SWe, H & PB),

one was at Pt. Mugu S.P. Oct. 14 (KG), three were around San Diego Sept. 16-Oct. 1 (JD *et al.*) and seven were found on San Nicholas I. Sept. 27-Nov. 1 (LJ *et al.*); a few more than normal. Only three Indigo Buntings were reported with one at F.C.R. Oct. 27 (RS *et al.*), one in Goleta Nov. 8 (PL) and the other in Pt. Mugu S.P. Sept. 27 (JD *et al.*). A **Painted Bunting** remained near Imperial Beach Sept. 21-24 (JD, GMcC *et al.*) and what may well have been a second individual was seen there Oct. 12 (RP); this is a very rare straggler to California. The only Dickcissels reported were on San Nicholas I. with single birds seen there Sept. 30 (JD), Oct. 19-20 (LJ, GSS) and Nov. 2 (LJ). Up to 400 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were around Westguard Pass, Inyo Co. during November (TH); they appear to be somewhat regular here in winter.

SPARROWS — Lark Buntings were slightly more numerous and widespread than normal with three found in Mono and Inyo Cos. Sept. 14-Oct. 6, five on the coast in Ventura, Los Angeles and San Diego Cos. Sept. 21-Oct. 25, and ten on the Channel Is. Sept. 28-Oct. 27. Four or five Grasshopper Sparrows at F.C.R. in September and October, and one on San Nicholas I. Oct. 19 were at interesting localities. A **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** found on Newport Bay Nov. 29 (GSS) was still present at the end of the period; very rare in the coastal marshes of California. Remarkable was a **Le Conte's Sparrow** at F.C.R. Oct. 27-Nov. 1 with two there Oct. 28 (RS, GMcC *et al.*); there was only one record for California prior to this fall. Out of range Black-throated Sparrows included one in Pt. Mugu S.P. Nov. 2 (SF), one near Imperial Beach Sept. 29 (EAC, SC) and another on Anacapa I. Oct. 12 (LJ). Few "Slate-colored Juncos" were reported, but interest in this form has diminished since it was reduced to subspecific standing. Single Gray-headed Juncos were on Pt. Loma Oct. 6-13 (JD) and Nov. 10 (ABA), and seven were seen on the Channel Is. Sept. 29-Nov. 4 (LJ); a rare but regular wanderer to the coast. At least ten Tree Sparrows were seen during November in Death Valley, an area where they are regular in limited numbers; however, one in San Pedro Nov. 6-8 (J & DM) and another on Santa Cruz I. Nov. 8-9 (JA, LJ) were unexpected. A Clay-colored Sparrow was present at F.C.R. Oct. 27-Nov. 1 (RS *et al.*), one was at Goleta Sept. 21-26 (JA, PL), another at Pacific Palisades Oct. 20-27 (LK), at least 11 were seen around San Diego Sept. 21-Nov. 15 (JD, SWe, JM) and another seven were seen on the Channel Is. Sept. 12-Oct. 19 (LJ *et al.*); an exceptional number for this rare straggler. Single Black-chinned Sparrows at S.E.S.S. Aug. 13 (HK) and at nearby Brock Experimental Ranch Aug. 24 (S & SL) were most interesting since very few records exist for Imperial County. Harris' Sparrows were quite scarce with only six or so being recorded, all in Inyo County during November. A Golden-crowned Sparrow in San Diego Aug. 14 (DRa) was exceptionally early. White-throated Sparrows may have been more common than usual with about 15 seen in n.e. portion of the Region, seven along the coast, and three more on the Channel Is. during October and November. Eleven Swamp Sparrows in Inyo Co. Oct. 26-Nov. 10 were exceptional, but four on the coast in Santa Barbara, Los Angeles and San Diego Cos. between Nov. 7 and 20 appear normal.

LONGSPURS — A ♂ McCowan's Longspur, the rarest longspur occurring in California, was well studied near Panamint Springs, Inyo Co. Oct. 28 (JD *et al.*). Only ten Lapland Longspurs were found in the e. portion of the Region, all in November, but two were on San Nicholas I. Oct. 19-20 (KG, LJ) and six were there Nov. 2-4 (LJ). Far more than the average number of Chestnut-collared Longspurs reached California this fall with individuals noted throughout the Region, and flocks such as 60 near Lancaster, Los Angeles Co. Nov. 17 (KG), 45 at Baldwin L. in the San Bernardino Mts. Nov. 10 (KG), and 40 on San Nicholas I. Oct. 18-21 (GSS, LJ) bringing the total number reported to nearly 200; one at F.C.R. Sept. 12 (J & SL) appears to be the earliest ever recorded in California.

CONTRIBUTORS — Ernest R. Abeles, Allen B. Altman, Keith Axelson, Merle Archie, Jon Atwood, Steve Baily, Larry & Karen Ballard (L & KB), Hal Baxter, Bruce Broadbooks, Hank and Priscilla Brodtkin (H & PB), John Butler, Eugene A. Cardiff, Steven Cardiff, Herbert Clark, Dave DeSante, Bess Dickinson, Jon Dunn, Claud G. Edwards, Dick Erickson, Jim

Fairchild, Steve Forsell, Alice Fries, Kimball Garrett, Gilbert S. Grant, Andrew Hazi, Tom Heindel, Bob Hudson, Joseph R. Jehl, Jerry A. Johnson, Lee Jones, Jim Kenek, Lloyd Kiff, Harry Krueger, Paul Lehman, Steven & Susan Liston (S & SL), John & Susanne Luther (J & SL), Ian MacGregor, Bev McIntosh, Mike SanMiguel, Joe Morlan, Jess & Donna Morton (J & DM), Ed Navojosky, Robert Pitman, Mike & Nancy Prather (M & NP), Brian Prescott, Don Ramsey (DRa), Don Robertson (DRo), Arnold Small, Brad Schram, J.H. Snowden, Richard Stallcup, Brian W. Sturges, G. Shumway Suffer, Wally Summer, Fern R. Tainter, Don V. Tiller, Larry L. Tuttle, Phil Unitt, Carol Vleck, Terry R. Wahl, Karl H. Weber, Richard Webster, Shirley Wells (SWe), Jeff Williams (JeW), James Wilson (JaW), Ted Winfield, Susan Wise (SWi), Sandy Wohlgemuth (SWo), Bob & Carol Yutzy (B & CY), Garry Human for Santa Barbara Audubon Society (S.B.A.S.). San Diego Natural History Museum (S.D.N.H.M.). * — specimen. — **GUY McCASKIE, San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California.**