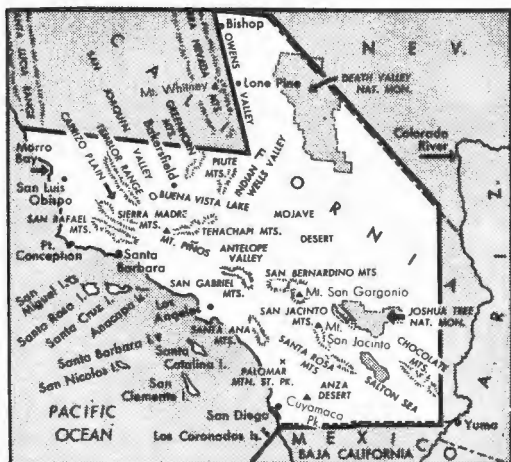


SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION /Guy McCaskie

April was slightly cooler than normal with a number of storms pushing south along the coast. May saw much overcast along the coast, but clear skies in the interior. The waters of the Salton Sea were higher than in many years, and much of the mudflats were inundated, leaving little suitable habitat for shorebirds.



Migrant landbirds appeared somewhat later than normal this spring and no large concentrations were encountered at desert oases or elsewhere east of the Coastal Range. However, the coastal region was flooded with migrant flycatchers, vireos, warblers and finches during the first two weeks of May, and virtually all reports from that area included comments on the abundance of such species as Hermit Warblers and Western Tanagers. There is no doubt early May of this year was an excellent time to observe our regular West Coast migrants moving through the coastal regions of Southern California.

As usual the real excitement began after the flood of normal migrants had passed through the Region, for it is then, in late May and early June, that active birders go afield in search of out-of-range stragglers in isolated desert oases or on small offshore islands. Again those active birders were rewarded, and the fact that 32 species of warblers alone were reported would attest to this.

The most exciting finds were California's first Common Grackle and its second Hudsonian Godwit, and the most startling event was an "invasion" of Horned Puffins.

The early arrival dates for some of our key migrants were: Wilson's Phalarope, Mar. 29, Salton Sea; Common Tern, Apr. 16, San Diego; Least Tern, Apr. 16, San Diego; Elegant Tern, Mar. 8, San Diego; Black Tern, Apr. 22, Salton Sea; White-winged Dove, Mar. 30, Colorado R. Valley; Lesser Nighthawk, Mar. 29, Colorado R. Valley; Vaux's Swift, Apr. 11, San Diego; Black-chinned Hummingbird, Apr. 11, San Diego; W. Kingbird, Mar. 15, Oceanside; Ash-throated

Flycatcher, Mar. 26, Colorado R. Valley; Willow Flycatcher, May 24, Inyo Co.; Hammond's Flycatcher, Mar. 24, Colorado R. Valley; W. Flycatcher, Mar. 14 San Diego; Swainson's Thrush, Apr. 26, Salton Sea; Bell's Vireo, Mar. 25, Morongo Valley; Solitary Vireo, Apr. 10, San Diego; Warbling Vireo, Mar. 6, Morongo Valley; Nashville Warbler, Mar. 26, San Diego; Yellow Warbler, Apr. 2, San Diego; Black-throated Gray Warbler, Mar. 26, Colorado R. Valley; Hermit Warbler, Apr. 24, San Diego; MacGillivray's Warbler, Apr. 9, San Diego; Yellow-breasted Chat, Apr. 4, San Diego; Wilson's Warbler, Mar. 16, San Diego; Hooded Oriole, Mar. 2, Encino; Scott's Oriole, Mar. 4, Morongo Valley; N. Oriole, Mar. 16, San Diego; W. Tanager, Apr. 16, San Diego; Black-headed Grosbeak, Mar. 28, San Diego; Blue Grosbeak, Apr. 16, Escondido; Lazuli Bunting, Apr. 5, San Diego; Black-chinned Sparrow, Apr. 5, San Diego.

LOONS, GREBES — Loons were seen flying north past Goleta Pt., Santa Barbara Co., in large numbers from early April to mid-May, with 5000 Com. Loons, 18,000 Arctic Loons and 4500 Red-throated Loons counted during regular two hour surveys in the period (PL). At least 12 Com. Loons were found on and around the Salton Sea Apr. 6 - May 11, and 19 were counted on Tinnemaha L. in the Owens Valley Apr. 10 (TH) indicating a regular movement through the e. part of the Region at this time of the year. A breeding plumaged Horned Grebe at the north end of the Salton Sea (hereafter N.E.S.S.) Apr. 13 (JD) was the only one reported away from the coast.

ALBATROSSES, SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS — During a scientific research cruise, covering the offshore waters (40 - 200 miles from the coast) from Pt. Sur in Monterey Co. south to Pta. Banda in n. Baja California, May 7 - 24, at least 94 Black-footed Albatrosses were counted (JB); in addition four were seen off Morro Bay May 6 (FRT) and three more were encountered off San Diego May 10 (GMCC *et al.*). Most interesting was a Laysan Albatross about 80 mi. west of Pt. Arguello, Santa Barbara Co., May 12 - 13 (JB) for few have been reported off s. California, but few observers venture into far offshore waters for extended periods of time.

As expected Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters were the only shearwaters seen offshore, and a group of 20,000 Sooty Shearwaters off the Palos Verdes Pen., Los Angeles Co., May 20 (JB) was the largest number reported. A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel about 90 mi. off Pt. Arguello May 12 (JB) was near the southern limit of its range. A Leach's Storm-Petrel seen between Oxnard and Anacapa I. May 11 (JD *et al.*) was the only one reported. Some 250 Ashy Storm-Petrels were also seen on May 11 (JD *et al.*) and were also the only ones reported.

HERONS — A Cattle Egret at Playa del Rey, Los Angeles Co., May 14 (FH) and 6 - 10 at Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., May 2 - 30 (PL, BM) were the only ones found away from the Salton Sea. A Louisiana Heron seen near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., Apr. 30 (ABA) had probably wintered nearby; one at N.E.S.S.

Apr. 26 (DRo, J & SL) was unexpected; very few have been recorded away from the coast of s. California.

GEESE, DUCKS — At least 3500 Black Brant were seen flying north past Goleta Pt. during April and May (PL). A single Black Brant at N.E.S.S. Mar. 26 (BDP), one at the south end of the Salton Sea (hereafter S.E.S.S.) Apr. 13 (JD), four more there May 6 (DVT), and one more in Arcadia, Los Angeles Co. June 5 (DWF) were the only individuals found inland this spring. At least 30 different ♂ Blue-winged Teal were reported during April and May, and it appears that the species is on the increase in California. A pair of Wood Ducks near Bishop, Inyo Co., throughout May (TH), and two pairs near L. Cachuma, Santa Barbara Co. Apr. 28 (PL) were the only ones reported, and it is possible both sightings involved breeding birds. A late ♀ Oldsquaw was at Playa del Rey May 1 (GSS) and the ♂ Harlequin Duck that has been present since 1972 was still there June 1 (BB). Surf was the common scoter seen flying north past Goleta Pt. with some 6000 counted during April and May compared to only 100 White-winged Scoters during the same period (PL). Five Black Scoters at Goleta Pt. Apr. 15 (PL) were the only ones seen. A White-Winged Scoter at S.E.S.S. May 11 (EAC, SC) was the only scoter found in the desert areas of e. California, indicating a regular movement through that region; this year one was at Desert Center, Riverside Co. Apr. 13 (JD), at least five were seen at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley (hereafter F.C.R.) May 17 - 31 (PU) and another was at nearby Stove Pipe Wells May 18 (J & SL).

HAWKS, OSPREY, FALCONS — Two Broad-winged Hawks were well observed together at Kelso, San Bernardino Co. May 1 (GA, JM); I suspect continued checking of desert oases will produce additional records indicating that the species is a regular spring migrant in limited numbers. Most encouraging was an increase in the number of Swainson's Hawks; one was over the Brock Ranch near Holtville, Imperial Co., Apr. 16 (BB, GSS), another was near Desert Center Apr. 26 (J & SL), one flew over Sunnymead, Riverside Co. Apr. 20 (Anderson, *fide* GSS), one was seen over the Antelope Valley, Los Angeles Co., May 9 (SFB) and at least 17 were noted around Big Pipe in the Owens Valley Apr. 10 - May 31 (TH). At Borrego Springs in e. San Diego Co., a single Swainson's Hawk was seen Mar. 16 (GMcC), then ten on Mar. 30 (PU), 15 on Apr. 8, and an amazing 120 on Apr. 10 (DDeS); these birds appeared to be attracted by an abundance of large catpillars feeding on the desert flowers, for most were on the ground among the flowers. The normal number of Ospreys were reported from along the Colorado R., around the Salton Sea, and along the coast. The only Peregrine Falcon reported was one on Santa Barbara I. May 26 (LJ).

GALLINULES, PLOVERS, SANDPIPERS — A Com. Gallinule near Bishop April 20 (TH) and another there May 9 - 26 (TH) appear to be the first reported in the Owens Valley. A Semipalmated Plover was at Desert Center Apr. 26 (JD), another was near Daggett, San Bernardino Co., May 9 (GS) and four were noted

around Big Pine, Inyo Co. Apr. 13 & May 6 (TH, LSM); inland records of this species away from the Salton Sea appear to be scarce. A Snowy Plover was at Desert Center Apr. 13 (JD), one was at Owens L., Inyo Co. May 30 (LSM) and 25 were noted around Big Pine Apr. 13 May 3 (TH); the status of this species away from the coast is still unclear. A Black-bellied Plover was seen at Desert Center Apr. 13 (JD), one was at F.C.R. Apr. 6 (FH), and another was there May 30 - 31 (GMcC); few records of this species have been published from the desert regions of California.



Hudsonian Godwit Photo/Guy Sawyer

A ♂ **Hudsonian Godwit** in stunning breeding plumage photographed at some evaporation basins near Daggett, San Bernardino Co., May 9 (GS) represents the second record for California; the first was photographed in flight (dark under wing coverts clearly evident on photo along with other diagnostic markings) at the north end of Humboldt Bay by Richard Webster Aug. 9-10, 1973. A Whimbrel at F.C.R. Apr. 6 (FH) was at an interesting locality. An **Upland Sandpiper** on Santa Barbara I. May 23 (LJ) is only the fourth recorded in the Region, and the seventh for California. A Lesser Yellowlegs at Big Pine Mar. 30 (TH) was early for that area. A Solitary Sandpiper was at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co., Apr. 12 (ABA), another was near Big Pine Apr. 27 (TH) and a third was at Oasis, Mono Co. May 24 (DRo *et al.*); this species is always scarce in spring. Four Ruddy Turnstones at N.E.S.S. Apr. 26 (J & SL) were the only ones reported away from the coast. Red Phalaropes were exceptionally scarce close to shore, for John Butler saw only 20 individuals during the May 7 - 24 cruise; however, a flock of 20 flew past Goleta Pt. May 8 (PL). Six Red Knots on the Salton Sea May 3 (JD) were the only ones reported away from the coast. Fewer than the normal number of Sanderlings was found inland on the Salton Sea with but six individuals reported Apr. 13 - May 4 (PL, HK *et al.*). Again Semipalmated Sandpipers were found on the Salton Sea in May with one at S.E.S.S. May 4 (HK) and another there May 12 (GA, JM); all but one of the 13 spring records for California are for the Salton Sea, and there are but four additional fall records for the State. A Pectoral Sandpiper, most unusual in spring, was well seen at Goleta May 2 (PL). As usual Silt Sandpipers were present around S.E.S.S. in April and early May with a high count of 25 on Apr. 13 (JD *et al.*).

SKUAS, GULLS, TERNS — An all dark skua was seen near San Clemente I. May 21 (JB); the South Polar Skua is the only species so far collected off the West Coast, but some of the southern races of the Great Skua could well occur.

An imm. Thayer's Gull was at N.E.S.S. Apr. 13 - 26 (JD); it appears to be scarce on the Salton Sea and is unrecorded elsewhere in s.e. California. A Mew Gull at Goleta May 27 (PL) was exceptionally late; however, an occasional individual of all the northern species of gulls lingers late into the spring, and even on through the summer. Four sightings of single ad. Franklin's Gulls were made at N.E.S.S. between Apr. 26 and May 31 (DRo, EAC, SC, HB); this species is regular in small numbers in both spring and fall at the Salton Sea. A Franklin's Gull at F.C.R. May 31 (PL *et al.*) was most unusual. A few Black-legged Kittiwakes lingered along the coast until late April; a regular occurrence following a heavy winter influx. An early Sabine's Gull was seen between Santa Barbara and Santa Rosa Is. Apr. 19 (LJ), and about 60 were reported seen off the coast during May (LJ, JB, JD, PU).

The first Gull-billed Tern had returned to the Salton Sea by Mar. 21 (DVT). Several ad. Com. Terns were at N.E.S.S. May 31 (EAC, SC); few inland spring occurrences have been recorded.

MURRES, AUKLETS, PUFFINS — Two Com. Murres between Oxnard and Anacapa I. May 11 (JD) were rather late, and one more between Oxnard and Santa Barbara I. May 29 (GMcC *et al.*) was exceptionally so. Rhinoceros Auklets appeared to be scarcer than usual in s. California waters this spring, with only three individuals reported during the period. **Horned Puffins** appeared offshore in unprecedented numbers during May, with 160 between Pt. Sur, Monterey Co. and Pta. Banda, Baja California, May 7-24 (JB), seven off San Diego May 10 (GMcC *et al.*), five near San Miguel I. May 13 (LJ), 19 between San Miguel I. and Santa Rosa I. May 14 (LJ), one near Santa Cruz I. May 15 (LJ), one between Oxnard and Anacapa I. May 18 (AS *et al.*), eleven between Santa Barbara I. and Santa Rosa I. May 27 (LJ), 25 between Oxnard and Santa Barbara I. May 29 (GMcC *et al.*), and one more near Santa Barbara I. June 8 (LJ). All the birds appeared healthy and many were seen flying. Prior to this year only 33 Horned Puffins had been found in California, and only 10 of these were live birds, the rest being found dead along beaches. Of the 33 puffins found in California only 10 were from s. California, and it is previously unrecorded in Mexican waters. It is little wonder we are baffled by reports involving 230 individuals in a 30-day period, and can only guess at how many thousands were really present on the vast area of uncovered waters off our coast. John Butler encountered 47 Tufted Puffins between Pt. Sur and San Nicholas I. but none farther south, one was near San Miguel I. May 13 (LJ), two were seen between Oxnard and Santa Barbara I. May 29 (GMcC *et al.*); this species is rare in s. California waters.

DOVES, CUCKOOS, OWLS — A Band-tailed Pigeon at Deep Springs, Inyo Co. May 31 (PU *et al.*) was east of its normal range, and another on Santa

Barbara I. May 22 (LJ) was west of its normal range. A White-winged Dove in Claremont, Los Angeles Co., May 16 (LAS) and another in Manhattan Beach, Orange Co., May 28 (*vide* GSS) were both west of the coastal mountains and away from their normal range. Two Ground Doves were seen in Garden Grove, Orange Co., Apr. 21 (DH); this species has been expanding its range in the coastal lowlands of s. California in recent years. A migrant Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at Scotty's Castle, Inyo Co. May 30 (JD); this species is rarely seen away from the lower Colorado R. valley in s. California.

A Flammulated Owl was actively calling on Clark Mt., San Bernardino Co., May 17 (J & SL *et al.*); this species is suspected of returning to California around mid-April after spending the winter in Central America. An Elf Owl had returned to Corn Springs near Desert Center, Apr. 25 (JD *et al.*); this species is being pushed out of California by land clearing operations along the Colorado R. and may soon be restricted to one or two desert oases in e. California. A Long-eared Owl on Santa Barbara I. May 20 - 26 (LJ) was unexpected.

GOATSUCKERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Com. Nighthawk was found at F.C.R. May 30 - 31 (PL, AS *et al.*); this species arrives in California during late May, but records of migrants away from known breeding localities are few indeed. Six Black Swifts flying over Flintridge, Los Angeles Co., May 19 (IM) were the only ones reported. An unusual number of Chimney Swifts were reported with 1 - 6 at Goleta June 3 - 5 (PL), another there June 10 (PL), 1 - 3 over Santa Barbara I. May 25 - 27 (LJ), another there June 7 (LJ) and two over Encino Res. Los Angeles Co., June 8 (JK); Chimney Swift has been found almost annually along the coast of s. California since 1968, and it is now looked for by the active observers in the Region. A migrant Broad-tailed Hummingbird was seen at Earp, San Bernardino Co. Apr. 12 (GMcC *et al.*); one at Scotty's Castle May 24 (DDeS) and another in Kelso May 26 (EAC, SC) were both very close to known nesting areas in the mountains of e. Inyo and San Bernardino counties. A number of Calliope Hummingbirds were noted in the lowlands including the Colorado R. Valley; one male at F.C.R. May 3 (KH) and two more on Santa Barbara I. May 9 (LJ) are of special interest.

An Acorn Woodpecker at Yucca Valley, San Bernardino Co. May 25 (IM) was outside its normal range and habitat. A Lewis' Woodpecker at F.C.R. May 24 - 31 (GMcC *et al.*) was unexpected, since so few were found in the Region last winter.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — An E. Kingbird was at F.C.R. May 24 - 28 (PL, BS *et al.*) and another was at Morongo Valley June 11 (R & MW); this species is rare but regular in limited numbers in e. California at this time of the year. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, always an exciting find in California, was at F.C.R. May 18 - June 1 (J & SL, GA *et al.*) and another was on Santa Barbara I. May 23 (LJ). A Wied's Crested Flycatcher had returned to Morongo Valley by May 3 (BB) but it appears that only one pair was present; Morongo Valley marks the northwestern extreme of this

species' normal range. A **Least Flycatcher** was carefully identified on Santa Barbara I. May 24 (LJ) this is the second recorded in spring for s. California, and only the fifth for the Region. A Vermilion Flycatcher near Baker, San Bernardino Co. Apr. 20 (EAC, SC) and another at F.C.R. June 7 (GA, JM) were both near the northern limit of the species normal range.

Migrant Purple Martins were noted at various places within the Region including one at Earp on the Colorado R. Apr. 12 (GMC C), one at S.E.S.S. May 3 (GMC) another at N.E.S.S. Apr. 13 (JD), one on Pt. Loma in San Diego June 5 (JD), five in Pasadena May 15 (*fide* GSS), four at Nojoqui Falls Park near Santa Barbara Mar. 11 (GH), and another over Santa Barbara Apr. 18 (GH); this species has become alarmingly scarce in s. California in recent years and the remaining population should be monitored with care.

THRASHER, KINGLETS — A Gray Catbird at Oasis, Mono Co. May 30 - June 1 (DRO *et al.*) appears to be the fifth recorded in this area of California in late May and early June. A Brown Thrasher was at a feeder on the Palos Verdes Pen., Los Angeles Co., Apr. 16 - May 6 (*fide* GSS), and another was on San Nicholas I. Apr. 20 (LJ); this species is a somewhat regular straggler to California. Singing ♂ Bendire's Thrashers were on territory around Cima in e. San Bernardino Co. by Mar. 27 (TS, DE); this species is believed to leave California in the winter but little is known about its migration habits. Two Golden-crowned Kinglets were in the lowlands of the Owens Valley at Big Pine Apr. 6 (TH), and another was on Santa Barbara I. Apr. 21 (LJ).

VIROES, WOOD WARBLERS — A migrant Bell's Vireo was found at F.C.R. May 25 (PL *et al.*); this species is declining in numbers and is rarely seen away from known nesting localities. A few Solitary Vireos (*V. s. plumbeus*) were seen in s. Mono and e. Inyo Cos. during May, but are to be expected there since this form nests in the nearby White Mts. However, a "Plumbeous Vireo" on Santa Barbara I. May 9 (LJ) was unexpected. A Red-eyed Vireo was well studied at F.C.R. May 28 (BS) and another was on Santa Barbara I. May 29 (KG *et al.*); less than half a dozen spring records exist for the Region.

At least 20 Black-and-white Warblers were reported with 14 of these occurring at desert oases in Mono, Inyo and San Bernardino Cos., May 16 - June 1; the earliest were one in Los Angeles Apr. 17 (JR), one at Finney L. Imperial Co., May 2 (P & SK) and another in Whittier, Los Angeles Co., May 4 (RGW); additional records included one on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co. June 5 (JD) and two on Santa Barbara I. May 25 0 29 (LJ, KG). Most interesting was a singing ♂ **Blue-winged Warbler** at Deep Springs May 27 (EN); the only other spring record for California was one taken in nearby Wyman Creek Canyon in the White Mts., June 16, 1954 (*Condor* 58:75, 1956). A somewhat early Tennessee Warbler was at Morongo Valley May 3 (BB), then at least seven were seen in Inyo Co., May 18 - June 1, and an additional seven were noted on Santa Barbara I. May 22 - June 7; this species is noted in increasing numbers each spring. A wintering Virginia's Warbler remained in Riverside until Apr. 11 (EAC, SC); the only migrant

reported was one in Santa Barbara I. May 9 (LJ). Lucy's Warblers were singing on territory along the Colorado R. by Mar. 26 (DE, TS); this species always returns early in the spring and is frequently back by mid-March. Northern Parulas appear in California with amazing regularity each spring and this spring was no exception with a male at Deep Springs May 23 (DDeS), a female at Scotty's Castle May 30 - 31 (PL), another female at F.C.R. May 31 (AS), two males in Pt. Mugu S.P. June (*fide* GSS) and another male on San Miguel I. May 30 (LJ). Three Magnolia Warblers were found with a male at Oasis May 24 (J & SL), another at F.C.R. May 27 (HK), and a third on Santa Barbara I. May 29 (KG); this appears to be an average number for this Region. A brightly colored ♂ Cape May Warbler at Deep Springs May 30 (WS) appears to be only the fourth found in the Region during the spring. An interesting hybrid was a ♂ Black-throated Gray X Townsend's Warbler studied near Imperial Beach May 4 (EAC, SC).

A ♂ **Black-throated Green Warbler** on Santa Barbara I. May 26 (LJ) is the first found during the spring in s. California. Unexpected was a ♀ **Blackburnian Warbler** on Santa Barbara I. May 26 - 27 (LJ) and another there May 29 (KG), for it is previously unknown in spring from s. California. A ♀ Yellow-throated Warbler near Deep Springs May 24 (DD), another at Deep Springs May 26 (FH *et al.*) and a male at nearby Oasis May 31 (TH, GA) were all three *albiflora*; there are now 13 records for this species for California. Six ♂ Chestnut-sided Warblers were reported with one at Oasis May 26 (JD), one in Wyman Creek Canyon May 26 (DD), one at Deep Springs May 25 (HK), one at F.C.R. May 25 (JM) and another there May 28 (BS), and the other over the open ocean between Oxnard and Santa Barbara I. May 29 (J & SL). A ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler was well seen at F.C.R. May 25 (PL) and another was at nearby Mesquite Springs May 31 (GA); this species is decidedly rare in spring. Totally unexpected were eight ♂ Blackpoll Warblers, with one at Deep Springs May 26 (JD), one at F.C.R. May 28 (BS), five seen on Santa Barbara I. May 21 - June 8 (LJ, SFB), and another at sea 7 mi. off Huntington Beach May 19 (JB), for very few spring records exist for s. California.

Palm Warblers are normally unreported in spring but this year one was in Big Pine Apr. 30 - May 1 (TH), another was at Oasis May 18 (DRO) and a third was at Deep Springs May 24 (DRO). Seven Ovenbirds were reported with one at Finney L. in the Imperial Valley May 3 (GA, EH), one at Deep Springs May 27 (EN), one found dead on the Palos Verdes Pen. May 13 (GSS), and four seen on Santa Barbara I. May 23 - June 8 (LJ, KG). A very early N. Waterthrush was at F.C.R. Apr. 19 (JD), then 11 more were found along the e. border of the Region May 18 - June 1; this species is regular in small numbers in the desert regions of s. California. A singing ♂ **Red-Faced Warbler** on Clark Mt. May 17 (JD, J & SL) was the fourth found in California. A ♂ Hooded Warbler, always rare in California, was at F.C.R. May 25 (DRO, JM). Two Am. Redstarts at Finney L. Apr. 13 (JD) were undoubtedly birds that had wintered locally; 40 in the e. part of the Region May 13 - June 7 were normal migrants, but

one on Santa Barbara I. June 7 (LJ) was a vagrant. Most exciting were five Painted Redstarts with one at the Brock Experimental Ranch near Holtville Apr. 16 - 19 (BB, PL), one at Morongo Valley Apr. 19 (R & MW), another at the base of the San Gabriel Mts. Apr. 22 (AS), a fourth at Cottonwood Springs May 7 (R & MW) and the other way up at Panamint Springs Apr. 27 (GA); these sightings may well be the result of the species expanding its range westward and additional nestings in our mountains should be looked for.

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES — At least 20 Bobolinks were found at F.C.R. May 18 - 31 but a male at Deep Springs May 23 (JM) was the only one found away from there; it is now evident that small numbers of Bobolinks pass through e. California every spring. A Tricolored Blackbird at F.C.R. June 7 (GA, JM) and another on Santa Barbara I. Apr. 5 (LJ) were both outside their normal range. Three ♂ Orchard Orioles, a somewhat rare wanderer to California, were reported, with one in Los Angeles Apr. 24 (JR), another at F.C.R. May 28 (BS) and the third at Desert Center May 31 (JB). A ♀ Hooded Oriole in Big Pine Apr. 30 (TH) and a ♂ there May 6 - 11 (TH) were at the n. limit of their range in the e. part of the State. A ♂ Scott's Oriole in Big Pine Apr. 16 (TH) was at the n. limit of its range and single birds near Pasadena Apr. 24 (GSS) and in Manhattan Beach May 17 (GSS) were west of their normal range. Single "Baltimore" Orioles were seen at Oasis May 25 (SFB), Morongo Valley May 3 - 4 (HK, FB), on San Nicholas I. June 1 (LJ), and on Santa Barbara I. May 26 (LJ) and June 8 (LJ); this form of the N. Oriole regularly wanders west to California. One or two Great-tailed Grackles were seen around S.E.S.S. in April and May (DVT, FH), and five pair were on nesting territory at nearby Finney L. May 11

(EAC, SC). A **Com. Grackle** present at F.C.R. May 21-26 (M & NP, DE, TS) was seen and photographed by dozens of observers and represents the first valid record for California; it is interesting to note that the only documented record for Nevada is that of one collected in the nearby Pahrnatag Valley in May of 1932 (*Condor* 53:243-244, 1951). Three Bronzed Cowbirds at Earp on the Colorado R. Apr. 12 (JD) appear to be the earliest so far recorded in California.

TANAGERS, FINCHES — A singing ♂ Hepatic Tanager was defending territory on Clark Mt. May 17 (GMCC), a locality where the species undoubtedly nests, and a straggler was at F.C.R. June 7 (GA, JM). Territorial ♂ Summer Tanagers had returned to Morongo Valley and the Brock Experimental Ranch by May 12 (GSS, JM); at least seven vagrants were seen in e. Inyo and San Bernardino Cos. between May 18 & 31, and three more were found on Santa Barbara I. May 26 - 29 (LJ, KG). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were more numerous than usual with a least 11 seen in e. Mono, Inyo and San Bernardino counties May 17 - June 1, five more along the coast in Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties May 10 - June 9 and eight on Santa Barbara I. May 19 - June 8. As usual Indigo Bunting appeared in the e. part of the Region with eight reported there between May 18 and 31; in addition one was near San Diego May 13 (AF), another was on the Palos Verdes Pen. May 14 (AF), a female was found on San Miguel I. June 1 (LJ) and at least 12 were on Santa Barbara I. May 20 - June 8 (LJ, KG). Five Lawrence's Goldfinches near Parker Dam on the Colorado R. Apr. 12 (JD) were in an area from which few records have been made.



Common Grackle, 1st California record. Photo/Alan B. Meyerfeld

SPARROWS — A Grasshopper Sparrow at F.C.R. May 11 - 23 (GA, PL) appears to be the first found at this time of the year in e. California. A Black-throated Sparrow on Santa Barbara I. May 23 - 29 (LJ) was far from its normal desert habitat. A "Slate-colored" Junco on Santa Barbara I. May 26 (LJ) was very late. Two Clay-colored Sparrows were seen together at Deep Springs May 24 (JD *et al.*) and give us one of the few spring records for the Region. The only Harris' Sparrow reported was one in Los Angeles Apr. 20 (JR). A White-crowned Sparrow in San Diego June 2 - 7 (PU) was exceptionally late; the bird had the characters of *oriantha*, but *leucophrys* from the East should be considered when one is dealing with birds at this time of the year. A Golden-crowned Sparrow at Deep Springs May 26 (DRo) was not only at an interesting locality, but was very late. Wintering White-throated Sparrows remained late with one in San Luis Obispo still present on May 2 (FRT), and another in San Diego there until May 1 (JD); a migrant was seen at F.C.R. May 3 (KFH) and a very late bird was singing at Oasis May 26 (PU). Unexpected was a Swamp Sparrow at Playa del Rey May 20 (*vide* GSS) and another at Oasis May 24 (PL *et al.*); these occurrences establish the latest dates for this species in California.

CONTRIBUTORS — Waldo Abbott, Ernest R. Abeles, Allen B. Altman, Garth Alton, Stephen F. Bailey, Fred Baker, Bruce A. Bartring, Bruce Broadbooks, Hank & Priscilla Brodtkin (H & PB), John Butler, Eugene A. Cardiff, Steven Cardiff, Dick Dean, Dave DeSante(DDeS), Jon Dunn, Claud Edwards, Dick Erickson, David W. Foster, Alice Fries, Kimball Garrett, Keith F. Hansen, Ed Harper, Andrew Hazi, Fred Heath, Tom Heindel, Don Hoechlin, Lee Jones, Steve & Pem Kahler (S & PK), Larry Kirkendall, Harry Krueger, Paul Lehman, Bob & Roth Loveless (B & RL), John & Susanne Luther (J & SL), Ian MacGregor, Betty Malloy (BMA), Larry S. Mangan, Bill Manolis (BMo), Joe Morlan, Ed Navojosky, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Mike & Nancy Prather (M & NP), Don Ramsey (DRa), Don Roberson (DRo), Justin Russlee, Barry Sauppe, Guy Sawyer, Tom Schulenberg, L.A. Shelton, Arnold Small, G. Shumway Suffell, Wally Sumner, Fern R. Tainter, Don V. Tiller, Philip Unitt, Robert G. Wilson, Russ & Marion Wilson (R & MW), Sandy Wohlgemuth. — **GUY McCASKIE, San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California.**