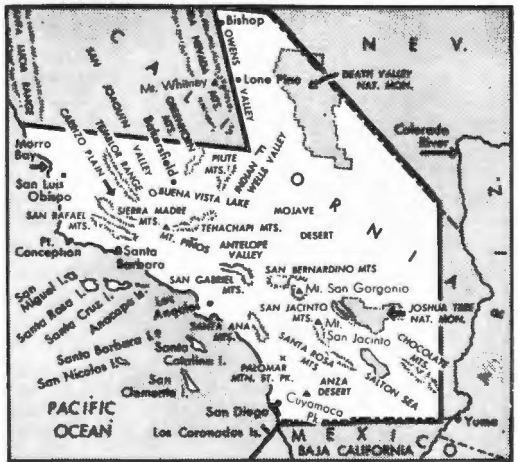


SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION
/Guy McCaskie

An interesting spring with an influx of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels and a recurrence of Horned Puffins offshore, and an exciting variety of vagrant landbird species found onshore. The weather was relatively stable, with only one or two storms moving south along the coast into the Region, and no massive pile-ups of our normal West Coast migrants reported. The most outstanding occurrence was a Laysan Albatross over the open desert.

The early arrival dates for some of our key migrants were: Wilson's Phalarope, Apr. 24, Salton Sea; Gull-billed Tern, Apr. 3, Salton Sea; Common Tern, Apr. 25, San Diego; Least Tern, Apr. 11, San Diego; Elegant Tern, Mar. 19, San Diego; Black Tern, Apr. 24, Salton Sea; White-winged Dove, Mar. 22, Salton Sea; Com. Nighthawk, May 26, Deep Springs; Lesser Nighthawk, Apr. 24, Salton Sea; Vaux's Swift, Apr. 11, San Diego; Black-chinned Hummingbird, Mar. 17, San Diego; W. Kingbird, Mar. 9, San Diego; Ash-throated Flycatcher, Mar. 27, Colorado R. Valley; Willow Flycatcher, May 20, Desert Center; Hammond's Flycatcher, Apr. 10, San Diego; W. Flycatcher, Mar. 20, San Diego; W. Wood Pewee, Apr. 24, San Diego; Olive-sided Flycatcher, Apr.

9, Santa Barbara; Swainson's Thrush, May 1, San Diego; Bell's Vireo, Mar. 14, e. San Diego Co.; Solitary Vireo, Mar. 26, Palos Verdes Pen.; Warbling Vireo, Mar. 13, San Diego; Nashville Warbler, Mar. 26, San Diego; Yellow Warbler, Mar. 26, San Diego; Black-throated Gray Warbler, Mar. 11, Salton Sea (early) and Mar. 20,

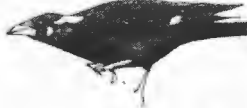




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San Diego; Hermit Warbler, Apr. 24, Orange Co.; MacGillivray's Warbler, Apr. 3, Santa Barbara; Yellow-breasted Chat, Apr. 24, San Diego; Wilson's Warbler, Mar. 18, Oceanside; Hooded Oriole, Mar. 20, San Diego; Scott's Oriole, Apr. 3, Cima; N. Oriole, Mar. 19, Salton Sea; W. Tanager, Apr. 7, Orange Co. (early) and Apr. 18, San Diego; Black-headed Grosbeak, Mar. 26, San Diego; Blue Grosbeak, Apr. 11, Dana Pt.; Lazuli Bunting, Apr. 3, San Diego; Black-chinned Sparrow, Apr. 7, San Diego.

LOONS — Paul Lehman spent 83 hours (most in two hour periods during afternoons) surveying seabirds flying past Goleta Pt. Santa Barbara Co. between early March and early June. During that time he recorded 1800 Com. Loons, 30,000 Arctic Loons and 3200 Red-throated Loons; these numbers well indicate the relative abundance of the three species in s. California waters. A winter-plumaged Yellow-billed Loon was at Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co. May 5-9 (AK, JMi *et al.*); this is the first to be reported in s. California, but a specimen was taken to the south in northern Baja California (*Western Birds* 6: 7-20, 1975).

ALBATROSSES, SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS — A few Black-footed Albatrosses were off s. California as evidenced by reports of 14 individuals seen in the Santa Barbara Channel and around San Clemente I. during May. Astounding was a Laysan Albatross seen flying westward across barren desert, into strong winds, near Desert Hot Springs, Riverside Co., May 5 (JD, PU);

in all probability the bird became "trapped" in the Gulf of California when moving northward in the e. Pacific, and the urge to continue northward overruled any fear of overland flight when it reached the head of the Gulf, taking it over the Salton Sea and through the San Geronio Pass.

A freshly dead Scaled Petrel was found on the beach at Cayucos, San Luis Obispo Co., Feb. 28 (EJ *S.D.N.H.M.) and another decomposed bird was picked up at nearby Cambria Mar. 31 (FRT *P.R.B.O.); this species was unrecorded in California prior to this year, but records exist for Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and Alaska, so was to be expected. N. Fulmars were still relatively common offshore at the end of May with 35 seen in the Santa Barbara Channel June 3 (JD). A Flesh-footed Shearwater, rare anywhere off California, was well seen eight mi. w. of Santa Barbara I. May 24 (RLP). A few Manx Shearwaters remained in extreme s. California waters through April with five seen off La Jolla, San Diego Co., Apr. 25 (JD) and one more off San Diego May 8 (VR).

Unexpected was a rash of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel sightings during May. One was found off San Diego May 8 (GMcC, VR), at least 28 were seen in the Santa Barbara Channel May 17-30 (RLP, KG, JA) including 18 on May 24 (SC), one was seen from Goleta Pt., May 20 (PL) and another was found at Morro Bay May 10 (*vide* FRT); recent records of this species in s. California waters are few and far between. The only Leach's Storm-Petrel reported was one near Santa Barbara I. May 25 (RLP).

ALASKA, CHURCHILL, BRITAIN, CANADIAN ISLANDS, MONHEGAN

WITH DAVIS FINCH AND WILL RUSSELL

Preview of 1977 Trips

ALASKA (17 days, June 1-17): from Seattle; Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Nome, Pribilofs, Mt. McKinley, Homer-Kodiak-Seward Ferry.

CHURCHILL, Manitoba (7 days, July 6-12).

BRITAIN (12 days, August 29-September 9).

CANADIAN ISLANDS (11 days, September 12-22): from Bangor; Deer Island, Grand Manan Archipelago, Machias Seal Island, Brier Island, "Bluenose" ferry.

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Seal Harbor, Maine 04675 Telephone: (207) 276-3963

Ashy Storm-Petrels were the commonest storm-petrel in the Santa Barbara Channel in May with up to 50 a day noted (SC, KG, JA) and three were found off San Diego May 8 (VR); little is known about the status and distribution of this species in s. California waters.

FRIGATEBIRDS An ad ♀ Magnificent Frigatebird at San Miguel I. Apr. 6 (RLP) was unexpected since only two other records exist for the period between November 1 and June 13, and only one other record exists for the offshore islands (*Calif. Birds* 1: 117-142, 1970).

HERONS, STORKS, SPOONBILLS An ad. Little Blue Heron was on Morro Bay May 23 (FRT) and another adult was at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley (hereafter F.C.R.) May 8 (M & NP); there are only a handful of records for coastal s. California and two or three sightings from the Salton Sea. A few Cattle Egrets were found along the coast with one at Goleta May 2-9 (PL), another near Newport Apr. 30 (MP), eight near Laguna Beach May 5 (MP) and eight more near Imperial Beach May 3 (RS); this species is known to nest at the Salton Sea and nesting activities should be watched for in other areas. A Louisiana Heron at Seal Beach, Orange Co., May 2 (RS) was probably one of the birds that wintered there, and had lingered later than usual. A Least Bittern at F.C.R. May 27 (CH *et al.*) and another at Kelso, San Bernardino Co., May 29 (EAC) were both at oasis in an area of extensive desert and were clearly migrants passing through the area. Eleven Wood Storks at the south end of the Salton Sea (hereafter S.E.S.S.) May 15 (DVT) were very early; these post breeding visitors do not normally appear until late June or early July. Most unusual was an imm. Roseate Spoonbill at the north end of the Salton Sea (hereafter N.E.S.S.) May 5 (RS); this rare straggler normally appears later in the summer with the previous early record being May 22 (*Condor* 29: 253, 1927).

GEESE, DUCKS As expected a few Black Brant were noted on the Salton Sea with a high count of 21 at N.E.S.S. Mar. 28 (VR, JD) and a few stragglers still present at the end of the period; this is the only inland locality where this sea goose occurs regularly. The Black Brant on Tinnemaha Res., Inyo Co., remained until May 8 (TH). Along the coast Black Brant were seen moving north from late March to mid-May with 20,000 seen from Goleta Pt. during the period (11,000 in four hours on Apr. 11). Blue-winged Teal were reported throughout the Region in small numbers and it is now evident that this species will occur anywhere migrant Cinnamon Teal appear. A late Oldsquaw was found at Del Mar, San Diego Co., Apr. 19 (G. Hightower, *vide* PU); this species is a rare winter visitor to s. California normally departing in March. A pair of Harlequin Ducks in Cuyler Harbor, San Miguel I., Apr. 6 (RLP) was a real surprise since the species is most unusual south of San Luis Obispo Co. and previously unrecorded around the offshore islands. The only scoters found inland were one or two Surf Scoters at Salton City on the Salton Sea after May 4 (RS, JD). Only 31 White-winged Scoters and two Black Scoters (Apr. 17) were seen among the 16,500 Surf Scoters seen moving N past Goleta Pt. this spring, indicating the ratio of the three species in s. California last winter. A number of Red-breasted Mergansers were found inland with small numbers on the Salton Sea throughout the period, one at Tecopa, Inyo Co., May 26 (JT) and one or two seen regularly at F.C.R. from Apr. 23 to the end of the period (JA, WS, DE); early literature indicated this species was scarce away from the coast.

KITES, HAWKS An ad. Mississippi Kite at F.C.R. May 25-26 (DR *et al.*, p. S.D.N.H.M.) represents the sixth record for California but was also the third spring record for this locality. An ad. Broad-winged Hawk at F.C.R. May 25-26 (WS *et al.*) was one of the very few to be seen on spring migration in California although fall migrants and wintering individuals are now of annual occurrence. A flock of 25 Swainson's Hawks at Borrego

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Mississippi Kite, Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley, May 26, 1976. Photo/Van Remsen.

Springs in e. San Diego Co., Apr. 10 (CGE) was the largest concentration noted this spring though one or two were reported from five localities east of the coastal mountains Mar. 27-Apr. 24 (PL, EAC, DE, KG); a late individual was at Desert Center May 30 (KG) and one was along the coast in Oceanside Mar. 29 (GSS). A sub-adult **Zone-tailed Hawk** was well seen at Ft. Piute in e. San Bernardino Co., May 22 (S & KB); this species rarely reaches California and the majority of the few records are for the fall migration period. The only Peregrine Falcons reported were one on San Miguel I. May 22 (PU) and another at S.E.S.S. May 2 (GMCC).

OYSTERCATCHERS, PLOVERS, SANDPIPERS

— Two Am. Oystercatchers were seen at Frazier Pt. on Santa Cruz I., May 23 (SC); one or two of these birds appear to be resident on Santa Cruz I. along with the one on Anacapa I. Ten Semipalmated Plovers on Baldwin L. in the San Bernardino Mts. May 8 (MP) were of interest since the locality is high in the mountains. Two Semipalmated Plovers in the Saline Valley Apr. 24 (TH), one at Tecopa Apr. 30 (JT), and another at F.C.R. May 15 (JL) supply three additional records for the n.e. portion of the Region where few are recorded. A few Snowy Plovers were found in the n.e. section of the Region as is now expected with a high count of nine in Tecopa Apr. 29 (JT). The only Am. Golden Plovers reported this spring were one on San Nicholas I. May 19 (LJ) and single individuals at Goleta Apr. 5 (PL) and Apr. 18-May 1 (PL).

An **Upland Sandpiper** was at F.C.R. May 15 (RS, JL); there are four other records for the Region, two in May and the other two in September. Four Solitary Sandpipers, always scarce in spring, were reported, with one at Yucca Valley Apr. 24 (H & PB), one at Tecopa Apr. 29 (JT), one at F.C.R. May 6-9 (RS, WS) and another there May 29 (TH). Ten Ruddy Turnstones were at N.E.S.S. May 3 (KG) with five still present May 5 (RS); this species occurs regularly in small numbers on the Salton Sea but is exceptionally rare elsewhere in California away from the coast. Red Phalaropes were numerous along the coast this spring being blown to the shore during the mid-April

storm; 30,500 were seen from Goleta Pt., in April and May including 6500 on Apr. 17 and 10,000 on May 18 (PL). Some 39,500 N. Phalaropes passed Goleta Pt. in April and May with a high count of 25,000 on May 10 (PL). As usual Red Knots passed through the Salton Sea during early May with a high count of 85 at Salton City May 8 (JD); elsewhere in inland California the species is exceptionally rare. The only Sanderlings found away from the coast were on the Salton Sea where small numbers were seen including 25 at Salton City on May 20 (JD *et al.*). Three Semipalmated Sandpipers were found at S.E.S.S. with one on May 16 (RS), another on May 20 (JD, PU) and a rather late one on June 6 (VR); this species is recorded on the Salton Sea every May. Time and patience on the part of an observer sorting through the many breeding plumaged W. Sandpipers at the Salton Sea in May will eventually result in the finding of a Semipalmated Sandpiper, and I do not consider the identification of this species any real challenge in spring plumage. As usual Stilt Sandpipers were present at S.E. S.S. with a high count of 40 made on May 2 (GMCC).

SKUAS, GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS — Five sightings of South Polar Skuas were made in the waters between Ventura and Santa Barbara I. on four dates between May 23 and June 3 (R.L.P., JD); this may prove to be one of the better times of the year to see this species in s. California waters. A very late Glaucous Gull was seen on Newport Bay Apr. 8 (GSS) and May 9 (SC). An imm. yellow-legged W. Gull at S.E.S.S. May 9 (VR) was unexpected since this distinct looking race (species?) is normally absent from the Salton Sea between early September and late June. A late Mew Gull was still present in San Diego Apr. 25 (PL); this species normally leaves s. California in mid-March. An ad. Laughing Gull was seen at N.E.S.S. May 16 (RS, JL); post-breeding birds are not normally present until June, but the species formerly nested on the Salton Sea and may occasionally attempt nesting today. As usual a few Franklin's Gulls were reported with four seen at the Salton Sea May 1-9 (EAC, KG, VR), one in Big Pine May 6-7 (TH), one to three in Santa Barbara May 15-24 (GH, PL), one at Pt. Mugu May 27 (GSG), one near San Miguel I., May 21 (R.L.P.), one on Santa Barbara I., May 21 (R.L.P.) and two

more near there June 3 (JD, KG); the island sightings were of special interest since few off shore records exist. A Bonaparte's Gull in Bishop May 29 (PU) and another at Deep Springs May 30 (DE) were of interest since few records are known for this area of California. A few Sabine's Gulls were off the coast in May with a high count of 35 made off San Diego May 8 (VR) and 14 seen from Goleta Pt. May 18 (PL).

ALCIDS — The only Com. Murres reported were 13 seen flying past Goleta Pt. Apr. 1-May 27 (PL), two off Ventura May 16 (DE) and eight off Newport May 25 (R.L.P.). Somewhat startling was an Ancient Murrelet off Ventura June 3 (KG); this is south of the species' normal winter range and far from where it should have been in June. A few Horned Puffins were evidently off our coast in late May, for 24 individuals were seen around San Miguel, Santa Cruz and Santa Barbara Is. May 21 & 22 (R.L.P.), and a dead individual was found on the beach a little north of San Diego May 12 (p. S. D. N. H. M.); it is conceivable that this species winters south to these latitudes, but remains far out in the Pacific and wanders eastward to the continental shelf when moving northward to its breeding grounds in Alaska. A lone Tufted Puffin 5 mi. s. of San Miguel I. Apr. 6 (R.L.P.) was the only one reported.

DOVES, CUCKOOS, OWLS, GOATSUCKERS — A Band-tailed Pigeon on Pt. Loma in San Diego May 17 (JD) was away from normal habitat as were single individuals on San Nicholas I. (hereafter S.N.I.) May 4 and June 13 (LJ). Seventeen White-winged Doves were reported from e. San Bernardino County in May, one was at F.C.R. May 23 (PL, IM), and another was at Oasis May 31 (HK); these are all north of the species' normal breeding range. A White-winged Dove in Ventura Apr. 9 (PL), another near Newhall May 8 (*vide* GSS) and single individuals on S.N.I. Apr. 22 & 29 (LJ) were all west of the species' normal range. Interesting were single Yellow-billed Cuckoos at F.C.R. on May 29 (TH) and June 13 (VR); this species is on the decline in California and records of migrants away from known nesting localities are few indeed. A Barn Owl at Oasis May 29 (JD) and another at F.C.R. May 26 (VR) were of interest because

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few have been found in the n.e. portion of the Region. A Flammulated Owl was calling on Clark Mt. in e. San Bernardino County May 15 (DR); whether this was a migrant passing through or a nesting bird could not be determined. A pair of Elf Owls was feeding large young in a nest hole near Needles on the Colorado R. on the early date of Apr. 10 (VR); a single bird at Corn Springs Apr. 23 (MD) and 25 (WS) was the only other individual reported. Whip-poor-wills were on Clark Mt. May 8 and probably nested.

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS — Six Black Swifts passing over Mt. Pinos May 29 (KG) and four over Encino June 9 (JD, PU) were the only ones reported. Two Chimney Swifts were over Encino June 9-10 (JD, GSS) and four were seen descending chimneys in Ventura June 13 (JBo); this species is now recorded annually in California, primarily along the coast in late spring, and it would appear the species is expanding its range into the Southwest. A ♂ Calliope Hummingbird in San Diego Mar. 5 (JD) was exceptionally early and another male at F.C.R. May 7 (RS) was at an interesting locality. An Acorn Woodpecker on the Palos Verdes Pen., May 6-14 (J & DM) was outside its normal range. Most unusual was a ♂ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*S. v. varius*) on S.N.I. June 13 (LJ); this race (species?) is a casual straggler to California and mid-June is hardly the time to be looking for one.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — An E. Kingbird was at F.C.R. May 26 (DR, VR) and another was on S.N.I. June 15 (LJ); one or two are found every spring. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Ventura Apr. 4-8 (DS) was exceptionally early for a vagrant. The first Wied's Crested Flycatcher was noted at Morongo Valley, where the species nests every year, on Apr. 30 (SC). A **Least Flycatcher**, the second to found in s. California during spring, was carefully identified at Oasis, Mono Co., May 28 (JM *et al.*). A ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher at Deep Springs May 24-25 (PL, JD) was farther north than previously recorded in e. California. Six Purple Martins in the e. part of the Region during May were unexpected; one was at Desert Center May 30 (KG), one was at Kelso May 6 (RS), two were at F.C.R. May 29-30 (DE) and single birds were at Oasis May 24 (PL) and 31 (JD).

JAYS, THRASHERS, VIREOS — A Scrub Jay in Tecopa May 1-27 (JT) was outside its normal range. A Brown Thrasher, a rare wanderer to California, was at F.C.R. May 8 (M & NP). A Bendire's Thrasher at Granite Mt. in e. San Bernardino Co., Mar 24 (VR) was believed to be a spring migrant returning to this area, where the species regularly nests. Sage Thrashers were moving through e. San Bernardino County Mar. 3-25 with 24 seen Mar. 3 alone (VR). A singing ♂ Bell's Vireo at 6200 ft. in the New York Mts., May 18 (VR) was certainly out of normal habitat; one in Kelso Apr. 24 (EAC), another at F.C.R. during much of early May (WS *et al.*) and a third near Big Pine May 24 (TH) were all significant since few have been found in this area of California in recent years. Unexpected was a ♂ **Yellow-throated Vireo** at Morongo Valley May 5-9 (H & PB *et al.*) and another male at Deep Springs May 23-26 (FB, HK *et al.*); there are only four previous records for the Region. A Solitary Vireo of the nominate form (*V.s. solitarius*) was carefully studied near Westmorland May 20 (JD, PU); this race is a rare straggler to California not previously recorded in spring. Single individuals of the gray "Plumbeous" Vireo (*V.s. plumbeus*) were on S.N.I., May 26 (LJ) and June 3 (LJ); this race is very rare west to the coast. A Red-eyed Vireo, a rare wanderer to s. California, was at Scotty's Castle May 30 (*vide* DR), another was at nearby Shoshone May 27 (D & BH) and a third was at Desert Center May 30 (KG). Unprecedented were three **Philadelphia Vireos**, with one at Oasis May 24-25 (JD, VR), another at at Scotty's Castle May 26-27 (DR) and the third at F.C.R. May 27-30 (D & BH); there is only one previous spring record for California.

WOOD WARBLERS — Thirteen Black-and-white Warblers were found in the e. part of the Region May 4-29, and an additional eight were seen along the coast and on the offshore islands May 2 - June 2; an average number for this time of the year. A **Worm-eating Warbler** on S.N.I. May 16 (LJ) represents s. California's first spring record. Tennessee Warblers were relatively numerous, with thirteen seen in the e. part of the Region May 9 - 28, and six more on the offshore islands May 20 - June 14. Nine N. Parulas were reported with a male in Westwood May 12 (JT), seven individuals found at Oasis/Deep Springs/Scotty's Castle May 14 - 29 (JL, CH, DR *et al.*) and a male on S.N.I. May 22-25 (LJ); this is more than normally found at this time of the year. Three *Magnolia*

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Warblers were reported with a male at Oasis May 24-25 (PL, VR), another male at Deep Springs May 29 (DR) and the third on S.N.I. May 26 (LJ). A ♂ Cape May Warbler, extremely rare in spring, was on Santa Barbara I., May 16 (DE, HK), and a female was on S.N.I. June 15-16 (LJ). California's first believable spring **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was a singing male on S.N.I. June 15-17 (LJ). An exceptionally late "Myrtle" Warbler was on S.N.I. June 15-17 (LJ). A ♀ Black-throated Green Warbler, only the second to be found in s. California during the spring, was at Oasis May 22 (PL, JD). Unexpected were three Blackburnian Warblers with a female at Oasis May 26 (IM), another male at Deep Springs May 31 (HK), and a beautiful male on S.N.I. June 17 (LJ); the first spring record for s. California was obtained last year. Three Chestnut-sided Warblers were found in the n.e. part of the Region with a male at Kelso May 21 (VR), another male at Oasis May 26 (CH, D & BH) and a female at Deep Springs May 30 (DR); this may be slightly less than normal. A ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler was at Tollhouse Springs in the White Mts., May 30-31 (VR) and a female was on S.N.I. May 26 (LJ); one or two of these birds are now being reported every spring. A Blackpoll Warbler, still a rare find in California during spring migration, was at Oasis May 28 (CH, JM.), a male was at Scotty's Castle May 30 (DR), and another male was at Kelso May 20 (VR). Most unusual was a ♀ **Prairie Warbler** at F.C.R. May 29 (H & PB); this is not only California's first spring record, but is also the first to be seen away from the coast and offshore islands. Only four Ovenbirds were reported, with one at Ft. Piute May 19 (VR), a singing male at Oasis May 26-30 (JM, PL), and single individuals on S.N.I. May 26-27 (LJ) and June 13 (LJ). An early N. Waterthrush was near San Diego Apr. 17 (JD) and twelve were found in the n.e. portion of the Region May 9 - 31. A singing ♂ **Mourning Warbler** at F.C.R. May 29 (H & PB *et al.*) was only the third to be found in s. California. A ♀ Hooded Warbler, rare at any time of the year in California, was in Kelso June 8 (RS). Thirty Am. Redstarts were reported May 6 - June 10 with most being found in the n.e. portion of the Region. A Painted Redstart was in Kelso Apr. 24-25 (EAC, SC) and another was on Clark Mt., May 8-15 (VR *et al.*); this species now occurs annually in California.

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS — A ♂ Bobolink was at Deep Springs May 29 (VR), thirteen individuals were found at F.C.R. between May 15 and 30 (RS, DR), a female was in Kelso May 29 (EAC) and a male was at Morongo Valley May 23 (EAC); this species appears to move through e. California in small numbers every spring. A ♂ Scott's Oriole at Mesquite Springs in Death Valley May 30 (DE) was at an interesting locality. Four different "Baltimore" Orioles were seen in n. Inyo Co. May 22-June 6 (DR, RS). A ♀ Rusty Blackbird in Kelso Apr. 27-28 (VR, AS, p. S.D.N.H.M.) is by far the latest ever seen in California. A **Com. Grackle** was found in Morongo Valley Apr. 30 (RD, p. S.D.N.H.M.); this is the fourth to be recorded in California, a specimen (mis-labeled as Brewer's Blackbird) that had been collected in El Cajon, San Diego Co., Nov. 20, 1969, was recently found at San Diego State University (PU) and now constitutes the first record for the state. A ♂ Bronzed Cowbird at Jacumba, San Diego Co., May 3 (RS) and

another at Brock Ranch, Imperial Co., May 10 (HK) were both away from areas of regular occurrence.

A ♂ Hepatic Tanager at F.C.R. May 15 (JL, RS) was most interesting since very few are found away from the restricted breeding areas of Clark Mt., and a small area in the San Bernardino Mts. Summer Tanagers were back at Morongo Valley, where they regularly nest, May 1 (EAC, SC) and single males at nearby Yucca Valley May 15 (EAC, SC), and near Palmdale May 18 (JT) may have been looking for suitable nest sites. However, eight Summer Tanagers in the n.e. portion of the Region May 7-June 10, one at Desert Center May 20 (JD), a male at Butterbread Springs in Kern Co., May 9 (KAA), a female at McGrath S.P. in Ventura Co. May 31 (GSS) and a male on S.N.I. May 28 (LJ) were all probably vagrants from eastward.

Interesting were three Grasshopper Sparrows on the offshore islands with one on Santa Barbara I., May 9 (LJ), one on Anacapa I., May 17 (KG) and the other on S.N.I. May 19 (LJ). Totally unexpected was a **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** at Oasis May 26 (CH, JD) and another at F.C.R. May 27-29 (D & BH); the only other inland record for the entire Southwest was one seen along the lower Colorado R. in 1975 (*Am. Birds* 29:744). A singing ♂ **Cassin's Sparrow** was near El Cajon May 8-11 (MO, SO); the previous four published records for California are all from the Farallon Is., however, the Oberbauers tape-recorded a singing bird at the very same locality near El Cajon May 15-30, 1970 (taped song verified—JD). A Clay-colored Sparrow, rare in spring, was on S.N.I., May 25 (LJ). A wintering Harris' Sparrow remained in Goleta to Apr. 28 (PL), another was near San Diego to May 10 (JD) and two were still in Big Pine May 5 (TH); one on S.N.I., Apr. 28 (LJ) was a migrant. A wintering White-throated Sparrow lingered in Big Pine to May 15 (TH) and a migrant was seen near Santa Barbara Apr. 21 (GH). A Swamp Sparrow was seen on Santa Cruz I., Mar 29 (JA) and a late straggler was at Stove Pipe Wells in Death Valley May 16 (WS).



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FINCHES, SPARROWS

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were more numerous than usual with 26 in the e. part of the Region and 11 more along the coast and on the offshore islands May 15 - June 17. Indigo Buntings were also quite numerous with 20 seen in thee. part of the Region and five more along the coast and on the offshore islands May 9-June 11. A ♀ Dickcissel, quite rare in spring, was on Santa Barbara I., May 9 (DG, LJ). The only Red Crossbills reported were 24 in Santa Barbara Apr. 12 (*fide* GH) and one at Cuyamaca S. P., San Diego Co., Apr. 28 (DS).

CONTRIBUTORS

Jon Atwood, Keith A. Axelson, Fred Baker, Stephen & Karen Bailey (S & KB), Hank & Priscilla Brodtkin (H & PB), John Borneman (JBo), Stephen M. Brown, John Buttler (JBU), Eugene A. Cardiff, Steven Cardiff, Chris Carpenter, Ted Cordery, Richard Dean, Mark Dimmitt, Jon Dunn, Claud G

Edwards Jr., Dick Erickson, Kimball Garrett, Gilbert S. Grant, Daniel Guthrie, Tom Heindel, Don & Bonny Hoechlin (D&BH), Craig Hohenberger, Gerrie Human, Erick Johnson, Lee Jones, Abigail King, Harry Krueger, Bob Kubik, Paul Lehman, John Luther, Bob & Ruth Loveless (B & RL), Ian MacGregor, Paul Mack, Joan Mills (JMi), Joe Morlan (JMo), Jess & Donna Morton (J&DM), Mike Oberbauer, Steve Oberbauer, Michael Perrone, Robert L. Pitman, Mike & Nancy Prather (M & NP), Van Remsen, L.V. Ritter, Don Roberson, Andy Sanders, Richard Stallcup, Don Sterba, Nick Story, G. Shumway Suffel, Wally Sumner, Fern R. Tainter, Jan Tarble, Don V. Tiller, Philip Unitt, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (P.R.B.O.), San Diego Natural History Museum (S. D. N.H.M.) — *specimen—p. photograph on file— GUY MCCASKIE, San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California.