

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION /Guy McCaskie

A tropical storm dumped heavy rains over most of the Region in mid-August, but unlike last year, this storm had no winds associated with it and the only storm-related vagrants were a Blue-footed Booby and a Long-tailed Jaeger grounded in the mountains of San Diego County. The remainder of the fall had extremely stable weather with no additional rainstorms or Santa Ana conditions.



For birders the season proved most interesting. Vagrants from eastward, along with post-breeding wanderers from the south, and one or two stragglers from northeastern Siberia, started appearing in mid-August, and by the end of the period some 415 species were known to have occurred within the Region. Vagrants were less numerous than in 1974, a phenomenal year, but the variety of species occurring certainly equalled, if not exceeded, that found in 1974. Some of the more exciting species were a Black Vulture and an Olivaceous Flycatcher on the Colorado River, a Scarlet-headed Oriole and a Varied Bunting in the desert, and two Red-throated Pipits and two Grace's Warblers on the coast.

A Short-tailed Albatross off San Diego was by far the most interesting pelagic bird, although an influx of boobies from the south brought some 15 individuals to southern California. Three American Oystercatchers on the Salton Sea and four Sharp-tailed Sandpipers along the coast attracted the most attention among the shorebirds.

LOONS, GREBES — As usual a few Com. Loons were found inland during October and November. An Arctic Loon at the n. end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, N.E.S.S.) Aug. 25 (CGE) had probably summered locally whereas another at Salton City, Imperial Co., Nov. 27 (DM) was a fall migrant; this species is rare inland. Totally unexpected was a Red-necked Grebe at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley Nov. 6 (BB,GSS); for the first interior record for the Region. Two Horned Grebes at N.E.S.S., Oct. 25 (PS) and four on L.

Perris, Riverside Co., Nov. 20 (JD,SC) were the only ones reported away from the coast.

ALBATROSSES, SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS — What could only be an imm. **Short-tailed Albatross** was seen with a **Black-footed Albatross** c. 90 mi w. of San Diego Aug. 28 (KCR); the bird was appreciably larger than the Black-footed Albatross and had a heavy-looking bill. A few **N. Fulmars** were present off the coast during November with one or two as far s. as Imperial Beach (EC,DP). As usual a few **Least Storm-Petrels** were present off San Diego with 30± seen Sept. 10-11 (GMCc).

TROPICBIRDS, PELICANS, BOOBIES, FRIGATEBIRDS — **Red-billed Tropicbirds** were found off San Diego Sept. 10-18 with a high count of six Sept. 10 (GMCc). Brown Pelicans remained around the Salton Sea to late October with 17 counted at the s. end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, S.E.S.S.) Oct. 4 (DVT) and one still there Oct. 28 (BED). A few Blue-footed Boobies moved N from the Gulf of California into s. California during late August and early September with one near L. Henshaw, San Diego Co., Aug. 18 (MK, ph. S.D.N.H.M.), one off Pt. Loma Aug. 26 (LeH), another off Manhattan Beach Aug. 30 (LeH) and up to 11 on the Salton Sea Aug. 24-Oct. 9 (BDP,FH,SFB). An imm. Brown Booby, a rare straggler to s. California, was near Salton City Aug. 23 (GSS). Magnificent Frigatebirds remained around the Salton Sea through Sept. 8 (LCB) with three seen together at Salton City Aug. 23-24 (GSS,DVT); along the coast single immatures were seen from Santa Barbara s. through August and early September with one near Imperial Beach Oct. 1 (RC) and another at Avalon on Catalina I., Oct. 9 (RSc) being somewhat late.

HERONS, STORKS, SPOONBILLS — An ad. **Little Blue Heron** was near Seeley, Imperial Co., Aug. 13 (PL) and an immature was near Imperial Beach Nov. 9 to the end of the period (hereafter, Nov. 30+) (RCS,ES); this species is rare anywhere in California. Up to four imm. Reddish Egrets, casual stragglers to s. California, were around San Diego Oct. 9-Nov. 30+ (DDe,WTE,PU). A Louisiana Heron was at S.E.S.S., Aug. 14 (SC,EAC), another was near Imperial Beach Sept. 9-11 (LCB,RSt) then 1-2 were around San Diego Oct. 31-Nov. 30+ (JK,PU). Wood Storks remained around S.E.S.S. later than usual with 25 seen Oct. 12 (DVT) and one still present Oct. 19 (PS). Up to 17 **Roseate Spoonbills** remained around S.E.S.S. through September, with 14 still present Oct. 19 (DVT,PS); another was at N.E.S.S., Aug. 25-Sept. 23 (EC,SC,WTE) and one was along the Colorado R. near Needles Sept. 7 (CL). On the coast two of the three birds at Irvine were still present Oct. 4 (RLP) but not seen thereafter; what may well have been one of these three remained in Goleta Sept. 12-Oct. 5 (PL,LBe,RW), then appeared at Pt. Mugu Oct. 17 (LBa), and in Malibu Dec. 4 (*vide* GSS).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — A few **Whistling Swans** moved S into the Region during November with

one in San Diego Nov. 12 (MT) being exceptionally far s. A Ross' Goose in Goleta Nov. 30–Dec. 1 (PL,LBe) was on the coast where few are recorded. Unexpected were five **Fulvous Whistling Ducks** at the El Dorado Nature Center in Long Beach Nov. 19 (BD); the possibility of their being escapees from one of the nearby waterfowl aviaries must be considered. The only Eur. Wigeons reported were single males near L. Arrowhead in the San Bernardino Mts., Nov. 24–25 (KG,JD), in Long Beach Nov. 19–20 (BD,FH) and on Upper Newport Bay, Nov. 12 (BB). Interesting was a flock of 26 Greater Scaup at S.E.S.S., Oct. 24–25 (BED) and another at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley (hereafter, F.C.R.) Nov. 25–26 (JD,LCB), since the species is rare inland. A ♀ Barrow's Goldeneye, extremely rare in s. California, was at F.C.R., Nov. 21–26 (GSS,VR,LCB). As usual 1–3 Harlequin Ducks were present along the coast near Cambria Oct. 24–Nov. 30+ (RSm,FRT). An Oldsquaw on Morro Bay Nov. 25 (FRT) and another in Goleta Nov. 29–Dec. 4 (PL,LBe) were the only two reported. Reports of Surf Scoters from inland localities included one near Big Pine Nov. 8–9 (TH), three at Daggett, San Bernardino Co., Oct. 29 (SC,EAC), one at Salton City Nov. 27 (DM) and single individuals around S.E.S.S., Oct. 19 (PS) & 21 (BED). Black Scoters persisted at N.E.S.S. well into September, with one found dead Sept. 3 (GSG, * U.C.L.A.) and the last noted Sept. 19 (RFR). A few Hooded Mergansers were found along the coast and in the n.e. portion of the Region during the last half of November, as expected.

RAPTORS — A **Black Vulture** well seen on the California side of the Colorado R., 2 mi below Parker Dam Sept. 5 (LC,DC) represented the first believable record for s. California. Two White-tailed Kites near Lancaster, Los Angeles Co., Sept. 25 (EAC) were somewhat e. of their normal range in California as were 2–3 around N.E.S.S., Aug. 13 (FH,SC,DM). An imm. Goshawk at Oasis, Mono Co., Sept. 24 (JD) was the only one reported. At least ten Red-shouldered Hawks were found at eight localities e. of their normal range from Oasis s. to Finney L., the most significant being the one at Finney L., Imperial Co., Sept. 24 (H&PB). At least 12 Broad-winged Hawks were seen, with one at Oasis Oct. 30 (CH,RW,JD), one over Mesquite Springs in Death Valley Nov. 19 (KG), one at Heart Bar S.P. in the San Bernardino Mts., Sept. 18 (EAC), single individuals in the Santa Barbara area Sept. 28 (RW) & Oct. 6 (PL), and at least seven around San Diego Sept. 27–Oct. 16 (JK,DDe,EC,RC). Only a few Swainson's Hawks are reported these days so a flock of 21 on Camp Pendleton near Oceanside Oct. 22 (PB) was of extreme interest. An imm. **Zone-tailed Hawk**, a casual wanderer to s. California, was near Imperial Beach Sept. 11 (AS) and another immature was over Paso Picacho in the Cuyamaca Mts., Oct. 10 (JK). Rough-legged Hawks were more numerous than usual in November, being found along the entire coast s. to Imperial Beach, where one remained Nov. 3–9 (RCS), and throughout much of the interior; one near Big Bear in the San Bernardino Mts., Sept. 11 (EAC) was exceptionally early. The only Bald Eagles reported were around the Salton Sea with an exceptionally

early one near Seeley Aug. 13 – Oct. 29 (PL,BED), one at S.E.S.S., Oct. 11–12 (DVT) and another at N.E.S.S., Nov. 27 (DM). Reports of nine different Peregrine Falcons in the s. half of the Region were encouraging. Merlins appeared more numerous than usual with 30± individuals reported Oct. 8–Nov. 30+.

CRANES, GALLINULES — Five Sandhill Cranes seen flying near N.E.S.S., Oct. 25 (PS) were probably heading for the area around Brawley where some 90 regularly winter. Seven at Cuyamaca L., Sept. 24–30 (HC) represented only the second record for San Diego County. A Com. Gallinule in Baker Sept. 24 (SC) was unexpected.

SHOREBIRDS — Three **American Oystercatchers**, initially at Salton City Aug. 14–19 (FH,JD), then along the n.e. shore of the Salton Sea Aug. 20–30 (FH,EAC,SC), were the first to be found inland in California. The resident bird on Anacapa I. was seen Aug. 25 (TH) and 1–2 were at Frazier Pt., Santa Cruz



Am. Oystercatchers, Salton Sea, Aug. 24, 1977. Photo/J. M. Langam.

I., Aug. 14 (JA). Four Black Oystercatchers at Pt. Mugu Sept. 21 – Oct. 5 (RLP,LBa) and two more on Pt. Fermin Sept. 14 (LiH) were away from areas of normal occurrence. Some Mountain Plovers were seen in the e. part of the Region, where few have been recorded, with an exceptionally early individual at F.C.R., Sept. 3 (SC,DM) and as many as eight in the Lanfair Valley of e. San Bernardino Co., Oct. 23 (VR,SC). A single Am. Golden Plover was found inland near Blythe Oct. 12 (AEH,MLL); along the coast three were seen around Goleta Aug. 26 – Nov. 30+, with the one there Oct. 25–Nov. 3 being of the Asiatic race *fulva*, another *fulva* was at Playa del Rey Oct. 23 (FH) and three *dominica* were found around San Diego Oct. 16–Dec. 2 (DDe,RC). Solitary Sandpipers appeared exceptionally numerous, with 75± individuals reported from throughout the Region Aug. 10–Oct. 22. Exceptional were two Wandering Tattlers found inland with one at S.E.S.S., Aug. 22 (BDP) and the other on the Kern N.W.R., Kern Co., Sept. 14 (RFR). A Ruddy Turnstone was at Salton City Aug. 5 (SC,DM), another was there Aug. 30 (EAC), two were

there Sept. 5 (JD.KG) and one more was at Daggett Sept. 17 (SC.DM); this species is scarce away from the coast. Up to eight Red Knots, also rare away from the coast, were at Salton City Aug. 11 – Sept. 12 (DR.RSt). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** provided the first Regional record for the fall period in Goleta Aug. 10-11 (PL.LBe). Baird's Sandpipers moved through the Region Aug. 9 – Sept. 19 with significant concentrations such as 200+ at Tinnemaha Res., Inyo Co., Aug. 20 (TH) and 45 on Baldwin L., in the San Bernardino Mts., Aug. 13 (KG) reported. Pectoral Sandpipers were decidedly scarce, with less than 40 reported Aug. 20 – Nov. 2. Totally unexpected was the appearance of four **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers**, with one in Goleta Oct. 5 (PL.LBe), another three Oct. 24-30 (PL.RW), one at McGrath S.P., Ventura Co., Nov. 9 (RW) and the fourth near Imperial Beach Oct. 27 – Nov. 2 (EC), for there are only four previous records for the Region. As usual Stilt Sandpipers were at S.E.S.S., with up to ten seen together Aug. 5 – Sept. 8 (GMCc); two in Goleta Aug. 27 (PL) were unexpected as were also two on L. Elsinore, Riverside Co., Sept. 18 (SC.DM) and another near Imperial Beach Oct. 1-5 (JK.PU) since the species is rarely reported away from the Salton Sea. A Ruff, a casual wanderer to California, was well studied in Goleta Sept. 20 (RDH). A Red Phalarope at S.E.S.S., Oct. 18-20 (PS.BED) was the only one found away from the coast.

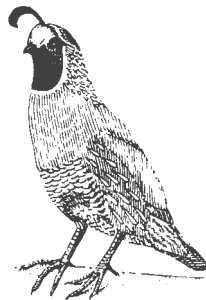
JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS — For the first time Pomarine Jaegers were found inland with an immature at N.E.S.S., Sept. 8-12 (LCB.RSt) an adult there Sept. 11 (FS) and another immature there Sept. 24 (H&PB). As appears to be normal, small numbers of Parasitic Jaegers passed through the Salton Sea, with six individuals reported from N.E.S.S., Sept. 4 – Nov. 27 (SFB.RFR.PU.DM). Two or three Long-tailed Jaegers were seen off San Diego Sept. 10-18 (JD.GMcC) as expected, but an exhausted adult found near Pala, San Diego Co., Aug. 18 (RT, * S.D.N.H.M.) was only the second found inland within this Region.

A Thayer's Gull in Riverside Nov. 19 (SC.EAC) was the only one reported away from the coast. Yellow-legged W. Gulls remained on the Salton Sea later than usual, with ten at Salton City Oct. 9 (PU.JD) and two still there Nov. 27 (DM). An imm. Mew Gull in Riverside Nov. 20 (JD.SC) was at an inland locality. Laughing Gulls remained around the Salton Sea well into October with 40 seen Oct. 9 (JD) and one still at S.E.S.S., Oct. 27 (BED). About ten different Franklin's Gulls were reported from various points around the Salton Sea Aug. 13 – Nov. 1, and two more near Irvine Nov. 20 (GSS); small numbers move through s. California every fall. Sabine's Gulls were quite scarce off the coast with one off Goleta Aug. 28 (PL), another off Pt. Fermin Oct. 6 (JA) and ten off San Diego Sept. 10-11 (JD) being the only ones reported. However, an immature was inland at N.E.S.S., Sept. 12-15 (RSt.LiH) and another was found there Sept. 23 (WTE). A Gull-billed Tern at N.E.S.S., Nov. 27 (DM) was exceptionally late. A Com. Tern on Tinnemaha Res., Sept. 11 (TH) and three on L. Elsinore Aug. 27 (DM) were the only ones found inland away from the Salton Sea. Arctic Terns were quite numerous offshore with 40± off Goleta Aug. 28 (PL) and 250+ off San Diego Sept. 10-18 (JD). A flock of 25 Least Terns at Del Mar Sept. 5 (PU) and six near Imperial Beach Sept. 9 (LCB) were the last seen this year; this species is normally gone from California by early September. Two Black Skimmers at McGrath S.P., Aug. 22-23 (PL.LBa) were the only ones seen away from the Salton Sea and the San Diego area.

ALCIDS — Again Craveri's Murrelets were the only murrelets identified off s. California in August and September with five off Ventura Aug. 25 (GSS.TH) and 30+ off San Diego Sept. 10-18 (JD).

PIGEONS, CUCKOOS, OWLS, SWIFTS — A Band-tailed Pigeon in Long Beach Sept. 24 (JM) and another near Imperial Beach Nov. 3 (EC), both on the coast, were overshadowed by 40 on Santa Cruz I., Nov. 12 (BD). As usual a few White-winged Doves moved W to the coast with one in Lompoc Sept. 27 (JA), five in Goleta Sept. 14 – Nov. 2 (PL.BS.GH) and seven more around San Diego Aug. 13 – Oct. 1 (PU.EC); in addition one in Kelso Sept. 3 (SC) and another in nearby Cadiz Oct. 24 (VR) were somewhat n. of their normal range. A Ground Dove in Goleta Oct. 2 (DDi) and another in Kelso Oct. 23-24 (VR) were both somewhat outside the species' normal

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range. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo near Tecopa Sept. 1-3 (JT) may well have been on breeding territory but one at F.C.R., Sept. 24 (SC,DM) was clearly a migrant. A Screech Owl at S.E.S.S., Sept. 6 (DVT) had to be a migrant since the species does not nest in that area. Most interesting was the discovery of a Flammulated Owl near Westmorland Oct. 4 (DDe), since records of migrants are few indeed. Four migrant Long-eared Owls were seen along the coast with one in San Luis Obispo Nov. 24 (FRT), another in Goleta Oct. 27 (PL), and single birds near Imperial Beach on Sept. 29 (PU) & Nov. 2 (EC). A flock of 14 Black Swifts over Gilbert Pass near Deep Springs Aug. 18 (TH) was of interest; four over Long Beach Sept. 13 (BD) and two over Goleta Sept. 15 (PL) were the only ones reported from along the coast. A ♂ **Broad-billed Hummingbird**, a casual straggler to California, was near Imperial Beach Sept. 20-23 (DP,PU).

WOODPECKERS — Some ten "Yellow-shafted" Flickers were reported from various localities within the Region Oct. 9 – Nov. 30+. An Acorn Woodpecker near Westmorland Oct. 4 (DBe) and another at Clark Mt., in e. San Bernardino Co., Oct. 16 (SC,EAC) were both appreciably e. of their normal range in California. An imm. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, believed to be of the nominate form *varius*, was well studied at F.C.R., Oct. 30 (JD,DR). A Williamson's Sapsucker at Tollhouse Springs in the White Mts., Oct. 16 (TH) was outside areas of normal occurrence. A Nuttall's Woodpecker near Barstow Sept. 17 (SC) and a Ladder-backed Woodpecker at Deep Springs Aug. 12–Sept. 3 (TH,KG) were both at the fringes of their normal ranges.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — The only E. Kingbirds reported were one at Malibu Aug. 31 (GSS) and another on Pt. Loma Sept. 11 (BS). As usual a few Tropical Kingbirds appeared along the coast with up to two in Goleta Oct. 7-10 (PL,LBe), one in Santa Barbara Oct. 11 (LBa), another at Malibu Sept. 22 (FH) and four different individuals around Imperial Beach Sept. 20–Oct. 26 (DP,EC). The only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher reported was one in Palo Verde, Oct. 3-8 (MLL,LC). An **Olivaceous Flycatcher**, the fourth to be well documented from California, was near

Walter's Camp on the Colorado R., Riverside Co., Nov. 9-14 (BE,AEH, * B.L.M.). An E. Phoebe, a rare straggler to California, was at Oasis Oct. 29-30 (PU,JD) and another was seen in McGrath S.P., Nov. 13 (LS). A Least Flycatcher, suspected of being a regular vagrant to California, was well studied in Santa Barbara Sept. 18 (JD,PL,LBe) and another seen on Pt. Loma Sept. 15 (JK). A Cliff Swallow at F.C.R., Nov. 23 (VR) was exceptionally late. Two Purple Martins at F.C.R., Sept. 3 (LBe) were in an area from which few records exist.

JAYS THROUGH THRUSHES — A Piñon Jay near Pt. Mugu Sept. 30 (LJ) was far out of range. A Verdin near Edwards Air Force Base in n.e. Los Angeles Co., Oct. 15 (FH) was at the extreme n.w. point of the species range. Up to six Pygmy Nuthatches in Topanga Canyon Aug. 27 – Oct. 5 (LJ) and 1-2 at Yucca Valley Sept. 2-5 (SC) were in lowland localities away from the species' normal range. Two Dippers seen along adjacent creeks flowing down the e. side of the mountains of n.e. San Diego County Nov. 27 (AM) had to be migrants since these creeks are dry much of the year. Winter Wrens were found at a number of desert localities in Inyo and San Bernardino counties during October and November, and pushed far S along the coast with 2-3 found near Imperial Beach after Oct. 10 (JD,EC). A Cactus Wren at Mesquite Springs Nov. 21 (GSS) was n. of the species normal range. A Brown Thrasher, a regular vagrant to California, was in Kelso Oct. 22-23 (JD,VR,SC) and another was at Mesquite Springs Oct. 29-30 (H&PB,PL). Varied Thrushes were more numerous than usual, being found throughout the desert oases of Inyo and San Bernardino counties, and along the coast s. to San Diego from late October through November.

KINGLETS, PIPITS, SHRIKES, VIREOS — Once more Golden-crowned Kinglets moved into s. California, with about ten around San Diego Oct. 16 – Nov. 30+ (PH) and one near Westmorland Oct. 22 (DDe) being the southernmost reported. A **Red-throated Pipit**, a casual straggler from e. Siberia, was in Carson Oct. 20-21 (JAJ,KG) and another was near Imperial Beach Oct. 13-15 (EC,PU). A **Sprague's Pipit**, an



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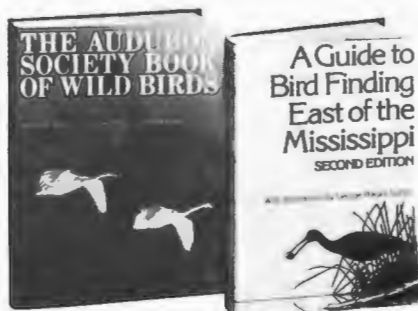
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extremely rare vagrant to California, was seen near Imperial Beach Nov. 22 (EC,GMCC). A flight of N. Shrikes brought some well into s. California with 3-4



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individuals in the n.e. corner of the Region Oct. 29 - Nov. 30+ (DDi,LCB,TH), one at F.C.R., Oct. 30 (EC,PL), one in the Cuyama Valley of e. San Luis Obispo Co., Nov. 11 (KVanV) and another in the Lucerne Valley of San Bernardino Co., Nov. 27 (PVanE).

A Bell's Vireo in Morongo Valley Oct. 19 (SC,DM) was quite late. A **Yellow-green Vireo**, a vagrant from the south, was on Pt. Loma Oct. 15-19 (DDe,JA). Four Red-eyed Vireos were found in the e. part of the Region during early September with one at Oasis Sept. 4 (PL,DDi), one in Death Valley Sept. 4 (JD,KG), another at F.C.R., Sept. 2 (DR,PL) and the fourth in Blythe Sept. 7-10 (IA). A Philadelphia Vireo, very rare in California, was near Imperial Beach Oct. 15 (SC,DM) and another was in Kelso Oct. 23 (JD,VR).

WARBLERS — A total of 26 Black-and-white Warblers was reported with most occurring Sept. 10 - Oct. 28. **Unexpected was the appearance of three Prothonotary Warblers**, with one at Oasis Aug. 17-18 (TH), another at Stovepipe Wells Oct. 29 - Nov. 5 (JD,CH,GSS) and the third near Malibu Oct. 12 (KG). A **Worm-eating Warbler**, also exceedingly rare in California, was in Santa Barbara Sept. 30 - Oct. 3 (RW,LBe) and another was on Pt. Loma Oct. 15-26 (JRJ,PU). **Tennessee Warblers** were about as numerous as usual, with some 30 reported Sept. 4 - Nov. 19, and all but six being from along the coast. Eighteen Virginia's Warblers were found along the coast Sept. 10-28. Lucy's Warblers are extremely rare stragglers to the coast, so one on Santa Cruz I., Nov. 14 (JA,BD), another in Goleta Sept. 7 (BS) and a third near Imperial Beach Oct. 7 (JK) were of interest. **Northern Parulas** are very rare in fall, so six was more than expected with one at Panamint Springs Oct. 11 (LBa), one near Needles Sept. 7 (CL), one in Goleta Sept. 22 (PL,BS) and three around San Diego Sept. 26 - Oct. 15 (WTE,CGE). Seven **Magnolia Warblers** were found with three in the n.e. portion of the Region Sept. 24 - Oct. 23 (JD,TH), one at Morro Bay Nov. 12 (EAC), another on Pt. Fermin Oct. 22 (JM) and single individuals near Imperial Beach Sept. 11 (RSt) & Oct. 14-17 (EC). A Cape May Warbler was at Oasis Sept. 4 (LBe), another at Mesquite Springs Nov. 19 (JD), a third at F.C.R., Oct. 29-30 (RW) and two more on Pt. Loma Oct. 23 (PU,EC); this species appears to be more common in California today than 10 years ago.

As usual a few Black-throated Blue Warblers were seen during October and November, with single birds in Kelso Oct. 23 (JD) & Nov. 6-7 (DM,EC), one in Redlands Oct. 24-26 (BGP), another at Morro Bay Nov. 1 (FRT) and three individuals around San Diego Oct. 2 - Nov. 6 (JB,SC,PU). Seven Black-throated Green Warblers, a regular vagrant to California, were found Oct. 15 - Nov. 8 with four in the n.e. corner of the Region and the other three along the coast. Six Blackburnian Warblers were reported, with one at Oasis Oct. 15-30 (TH), another in Sunnymead Oct. 27 (DM), one at Agua Caliente Hot Springs Oct. 10 (JK), one on Santa Cruz I., Nov. 11 (JA,BD) and three around San Diego Sept. 11-27 (RSt,VR,JK). Totally unexpected was a **Grace's Warbler** near Imperial Beach Sept. 20-22 (RCS,PU) and another there Sept.



Black-throated Blue Warbler, Redlands, Calif., Oct. 29, 1977. Photo/ Brian G. Prescott.

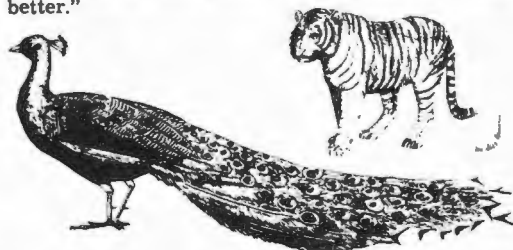
24-25 (BB,EC); there are only two previous records for the coast. Eleven Chestnut-sided Warblers Sept. 9 - Oct. 30 was about average. Five Bay-breasted Warblers were found, with one at Stovepipe Wells Oct. 29-30 (JD), one in Goleta Oct. 21-27 (PL,LBe), one in Long Beach Sept. 22 (BD) and single individuals on Pt. Loma Oct. 23 (PU) & Nov. 16 (CGE). About 40 Blackpoll Warblers were seen Sept. 3 - Oct. 19 with all but two at Oasis Sept. 24-25 (JD,TH), one at F.C.R., Sept. 3 (SC) and another at Agua Caliente Hot Springs Oct. 4 (RC) being along the coast. A **Prairie Warblers** was at Oasis Oct. 15-16 (TH) another was near S.E.S.S., Oct. 24 - Nov. 2 (BED) and a third was near Imperial Beach Aug. 16-17 (EC); records from inland localities are few indeed. A total of 36 Palm Warblers was found along the coast Sept. 6 - Nov. 30+. Eight Ovenbirds were reported, with three in the n.e. corner of the Region Oct. 23-30 (GSS,EC,DDi), one near Pt. Mugu Sept. 30 (LJ), two at Agua Caliente Hot Springs Oct. 4 (RC) and single individuals near Imperial Beach Sept. 18-23 (EC) and Oct. 9-10 (EC). Only seven **N. Waterthrushes** were reported. A **Hooded Warbler**, rare in California, was near Imperial Beach Sept. 24-26 (JB,EC) and another was near Ft. Pite Oct. 22 (SC,JD). The only **Canada Warblers** found were two near Imperial Beach Sept. 11-13 (RSt,EC) and a third there Sept. 21 (EC). More than 60 Am. Redstarts were reported Sept. 3 - Nov. 30+. Two Painted Redstarts were found along the coast with one near Pt. Mugu Oct. 13 (GSS) and the other on Pt. Loma Sept. 11 (BS).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS — Bobolinks were scarcer than normal with only three in Goleta Sept. 15-22 (PL), one at Malibu Sept. 8 (GSS) and ten around San Diego Sept. 11 - Oct. 8 (PU); however, one near N.E.S.S., Oct. 28 (PS) was at an unusual locality. Only three Orchard Orioles were reported, with one at Oasis Sept. 4 (DR), another at F.C.R., Oct. 30 (EC) and the third in Goleta Sept. 12 (BS). As usual a few **"Baltimore"** Orioles appeared, with one in Barstow Sept. 17 (SC,DM), three in Goleta Aug. 22 - Nov. 13 (PL,LBe) and four around San Diego Sept. 25 - Oct. 15 (JD,EC,JK). An imm. ♂ **Scarlet-headed Oriole**, a rare straggler from n.w. Mexico, was at F.C.R., Nov. 6 - Nov. 30+ (JD,LCB). As usual a few Rusty Black-

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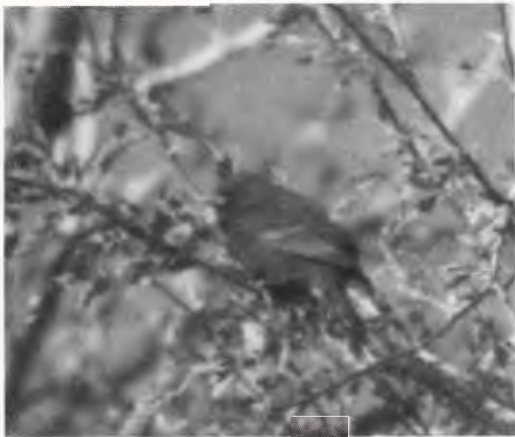
birds were found with six at F.C.R., Oct. 29 – Nov. 19 (PU,KG,JD), one in Baker Nov. 7 (LBe), one in Long Beach Nov. 9-11 (JM) and two on Santa Cruz I., Nov. 14 (JA,BD). A ♂ Great-tailed Grackle at F.C.R., Sept. 3 – Nov. 6 (EC) and a female in Baker Sept. 1 (SC) were both far n.

Three **Scarlet Tanagers**, casual stragglers to California, were found, with one in Goleta Sept. 14-19 (PL,LBe), another near Malibu Nov. 20 (KG) and the third on Pt. Loma Oct. 17-19 (EC,JA). A ♂ Hepatic Tanager in Morongo Valley Oct. 1 (GSS) was a vagrant away from any known breeding locality. Three Summer Tanagers were seen in the n.e. portion of the Region Sept. 3 – Oct. 30 (JD), one was at Frazer Park, Kern Co., Oct. 24 (JAJ) and nearly 20 were found along the coast Aug. 22 – Nov. 30+.

FINCHES, SPARROWS — **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were relatively numerous with 23 individuals reported. A Blue Grosbeak on Santa Barbara I., Oct. 22 (KG) was late. Only nine **Indigo Buntings** were reported, with three in the n.e. corner of the Region, five around Goleta and one near San Diego. A ♂ **Varied Bunting** at Mesquite Springs Nov. 18-21 (DDi,DR,GSS, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) represented the second documented record for California. A ♂ **Painted Bunting**, very rare in California, was at

Vallecitos in e. San Diego Co., Oct. 4 (RC). The only **Dickcissels** found were one in Goleta Sept. 15-17 (LBe,PL), one near Imperial Beach Oct. 12 (DP) and a third on Pt. Loma Oct. 28-29 (CGE). A minor influx of Evening Grosbeaks brought small numbers into s. California with one at Rancho Santa Fe Nov. 4-18 (PU) being the southernmost. Single Lawrence's Goldfinches at F.C.R., Oct. 21 (EC) & 24 (JD), one in Kelso Oct. 24 (VR,LiH) and another in Daggett Oct. 29 (SC) were all in an area from which few of these birds have been recorded. A Lark Bunting in Joshua Tree Nat'l Mon., Sept. 5 (SC,DM) and another at Deep Springs Nov. 25-26 (LCB,PL) were the only two reported. A **Large-billed Sparrow** (*L.s.rostratus*) near Imperial Beach Nov. 11 (JD) was the first to be reported on the Pacific coast in many years, although it does occur regularly at S.E.S.S. A Black-throated Sparrow, scarce on the coast, was near Imperial Beach Oct. 8 (GMcC). Five Gray-headed Juncos were found Oct. 20 – Nov. 30+. Five different **Tree Sparrows** were seen at F.C.R., Oct. 30-Nov. 26 (GMcC,DDi,LCB); this species is regular in this area of California at this time of the year. Eight Clay-colored Sparrows were found along the coast Sept. 10-Nov. 30+ (CGE,EC,PL,KG,AC) and another was at F.C.R., Oct. 9 (TH). A Black-chinned Sparrow in La Jolla Canyon of the Santa Monica Mts., Nov. 20 (KG) was exceptionally late and may be wintering. About ten Harris' Sparrows were found in the Death Valley area Oct. 29 – Nov. 26. A bird well-studied at F.C.R., Nov. 5-6 (JD,AS, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) appeared to be a Harris' Sparrow x White-crowned Sparrow. White-throated Sparrows were relatively scarce with only eight individuals reported Oct. 28 – Nov. 30+. Six **Swamp Sparrows** were seen at F.C.R., Oct. 21-Dec. 6 (EC,DR,LJ), one was in Riverside Nov. 19-20 (EAC,SC), another was in Goleta Oct. 27-28 (PL) and one more was near Imperial Beach Nov. 26 (VR).

Two McCown's Longspurs were in the Lanfair Valley of e. San Bernardino Co., Oct. 22-23 (JD,VR,SC), one was near Lakeview Nov. 15-20 (DM,JD), another was in Carson Oct. 21 (KG) and single individuals were seen near Imperial Beach Nov. 12 (GMcC) & 14 (EC). Inland a **Lapland Longspur** was found at F.C.R., Nov. 27 (ID,PL), 1-4 were seen around Lakeview Nov. 15-25 (DM,SC) and another was at L. Henshaw Nov. 30 (DP); along the coast single birds were seen in Goleta Nov. 10 (PL) & 14-15



Varied Bunting, Mesquite Springs, Death Valley, Calif. Nov. 19, 1977. Photo/ Arnold Small.

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White-crowned x Harris' Sparrow. Death Valley, Calif., Nov. 12, 1977. Photo/ Arnold Small.

(LBe), one was at Pt. Mugu Nov. 13 (LBa), another was in Carson Oct. 15-17 (JAJ) and 3-4 were around Imperial Beach Nov. 10-17 (GMCC,EC). As usual Chestnut-collared was the most numerous longspur with individuals scattered throughout the Region along with small flocks such as 15 in the Antelope Valley Oct. 28 (JD), 20 at Daggett Nov. 27 (SC), 35 near Baldwin L., Nov. 25 (KG) and 20 at L. Henshaw Nov. 13 (PU).

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