

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Guy McCaskie

This winter was wet and mild, with extensive flooding along the coast. The heavy rains appeared to have had no adverse effects on birdlife, and certainly had a beneficial effect on some species; with reservoirs filling and wetlands flourishing, waterfowl and other such species had no shortage of habitat. Warm weather throughout the period made it possible for many species not normally expected to winter in the United States, to survive through the period. This is well-illustrated by the presence of 14 species of flycatchers and 24 species of wood warblers (a record number for both families), along with large numbers of orioles and tanagers. Avian visitors from northward were scarce, and few montane species moved down to the coastal lowlands. A movement of Marbled and Ancient murrelets down the coast in December highlighted the non-passerine birding, and the presence of such rarities to California as the Olivaceous Flycatcher and Grace's Warbler added spice to an already exciting array of landbirds.

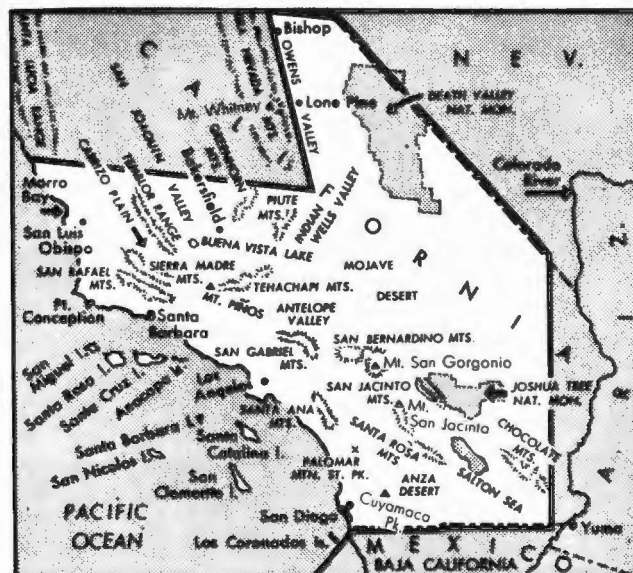
GREBES — A Red-necked Grebe, rare in s. California, was in Ventura Jan. 20 - Mar. 6 (REW), another was at Santa Monica Dec. 21-23 (AHo) and a third was in Redondo Beach Jan. 1-4 (H&NS).

SHEARWATERS — A few N. Fulmars were present offshore as indicated by 20 off Morro Bay Jan. 6 (BB), two around Ventura Dec. 17 - Jan. 6 (REW), one at Huntington Beach Dec. 5 (R&MW) and up to nine a day off La Jolla during December (DPo). Two Short-tailed Shearwaters off Morro Bay Jan. 26 (H&NS), one at Pt. Mugu Jan. 5 (REW) and another captured at Pt. Loma Feb. 26 (SD,*S.D.N.H.M.) were the only ones reported this winter. Manx Shearwaters were

common off the s. portion of the Region during December and January, with 7000 off Laguna Beach, Orange Co., Dec. 23-25 (JAJ) and 1500 off Pt. Mugu Jan. 5 (REW) being the largest concentrations, and 200 off Morro Bay Jan. 6 (BB) being relatively far n.

PELICANS, FRIGATEBIRDS — A Brown Pelican near Lakeview, Riverside Co., Dec. 27 (DMM) was inland, and had probably arrived in that area during the fall. A ♀ Magnificent Frigatebird at Redondo Beach Jan. 4 (H&NS, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) was unexpected, there being fewer than six winter records of this species in California.

HERONS, STORKS — An imm. Little Blue Heron, a rare visitor to California, was



in Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., Feb. 8 (EG), another was at McGrath State Beach, Ventura Co., Jan. 1-29 (JM) and a third was near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., Dec. 14 (EC). Cattle Egrets continue to increase, with small flocks present along the entire coast



Easy and hard flight. An ad. ♀ Magnificent Frigatebird soaring over King Harbour, Redondo Beach, Jan. 4, 1980. Photo/ Hal Spear.



An ad. ♀ Magnificent Frigatebird perched atop a sailboat mast, King Harbour, Redondo Beach, Jan. 4, 1980. Photo/Hal Spear.

throughout much of the winter. A Great Egret near Lancaster, Los Angeles Co., Nov. 24 - Mar. 2 (FH) may be the first to have wintered on the high Mojave Desert. Up to five Louisiana Herons were present in the San Diego area during the period, but were unrecorded elsewhere in the Region. A Least Bittern in Goleta Jan. 30 (LE) and another in San Diego Dec. 28 (JO) were of interest since few are reported on the coast in winter nowadays. The Wood Stork present in Whittier during November was still present Jan. 19 (JA).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — A Whistling Swan in Escondido, San Diego Co., Dec. 29 (KW) was quite far s. Two Cackling Geese (*Branta canadensis minima*), rare visitors to the coast of s. California, were in Encino Dec. 12 (JDu) and another was near Oceanside Dec. 9-22 (DPa). More than 100 White-fronted Geese were around San Luis Obispo in February (FRT), but the fact that only 48 individuals were reported from elsewhere (primarily along the coast) within the Region shows how scarce this species has become as a wintering bird in s. California. A Ross' Goose, a rare straggler to the coast, was in Goleta Feb. 8-18 (PL), up to three were at Pt. Mugu Jan. 13 - Feb. 16 (REW), and single individuals were seen near Oceanside Dec. 9 (DPa) and Feb. 26 (EC). A ♂ Com. Teal (*Anas c. crecca*) was at Pt. Mugu Dec. 22 (REW), another was in Long Beach Dec. 4-Feb. 29+ (BD) and a third was on L. Cuyamaca in the mountains of San Diego County Mar. 16 (DPa); one or two of these birds are found in this Region each winter. At least 40 Blue-winged Teal were found wintering along the coast, indicating its relative abundance at this season. A minimum of 11 Eur. Wigeon was reported, including five males together at San Jacinto, Riverside Co., Dec. 24 (DMM) and one high in the San Bernardino Mts., on Big Bear L., Dec. 4-12 (KG). The ♂ Tufted Duck present on Quail L., near Gorman, Los Angeles Co., during November was still present Dec. 8 (BB), and what was probably the same bird was seen in nearby Cuddy Valley Jan. 15 (REW). A ♀ Barrow's Goldeneye was at Salt Cr., on the Salton Sea Dec. 1 (EAC) and another was at Bolsa Chica, Orange Co., Dec. 12-Jan. 24 (SLW); this species is exceptionally rare anywhere in s. California away from the Colorado R. Valley. Thirteen Oldsquaws along the coast were about normal. The ♂ Harlequin Duck first found in Carlsbad in 1977 was still present Feb. 29 (EC). Large concentrations of Com. Mergansers gather on some of the inland bodies of water as indicated by 700 on Buena Vista L., Kern Co., Jan. 15 (KVV), 250 on Big Bear L., all winter (KG), 1500 on L. Elsinore, Riverside Co., Jan. 27 (EC) and 150 on L. Henshaw, San Diego Co., Jan. 4 (RH).

HAWKS, FALCONS — An ad. Red-shouldered Hawk at Baldwin L. (6700 ft) Dec. 12 - Jan. 20 (KG) and an immature at adjacent Big Bear L., Feb. 20 (KG) were both exceptionally high in the mountains. Four Broad-winged Hawks were reported with an adult in the Rosemead district of Los Angeles Nov. 20 - Feb. 29+ (KG), an immature in Beverly Hills Dec. 23-28 (KG), another immature near Malibu Jan. 5 - Feb. 14 (DLD), and an adult along the Santa Ana R., near

Riverside Dec. 29 - Jan. 9 (MAP); one or two of these birds are found in s. California every winter. A Swainson's Hawk near Santa Maria, Santa Barbara Co., Dec. 2 (JDu) was believed to be an exceptionally late fall migrant as it was never relocated later. An ad. Zone-tailed Hawk was seen on three occasions near Vista, San Diego Co., Feb. 1-29 (F&SH); it is interesting to note that an adult has been seen in this general area during the past two winters. Rough-legged Hawks were scarce, although single birds were found as far s. as Mesa Grande, San Diego Co., Jan. 28 (RH) and near Calipatria all winter (RM). Fewer than ten Peregrine Falcons were reported, all being along the coast. About 30 Merlins were reported including a very dark individual believed to be of the race *suckleyi* at Big Bear L., Jan. 4 (KG).

CRANES, RAILS — Some 3000 Sandhill Cranes on the Carrizo Plain, San Luis Obispo Co., and 105 near Brawley all winter (EMcM, GMcC) were at known wintering localities, but one near Santa Maria Dec. 8 - Jan. 24 (JDu) was certainly out of place. A Clapper Rail at Pt. Mugu Jan. 12 (REW) was the first seen in Ventura County since 1972, and raises hopes that this species can recolonize this fine marshland.

SHOREBIRDS — Two Black Oystercatchers at Port Hueneme, Ventura Co., all winter (REW), three at Cabrillo Beach Dec. 28 (BD), three more at Pt. Fermin Feb. 10 (RIW) and two on Pt. Loma Jan. 17 (DPa) were all away from areas of normal occurrence. Up to 37 Mountain Plovers near Santa Maria during December and January (PL), 28 near Pt. Mugu in December (REW) and about 100 near Imperial Beach to early January (EC) were the only flocks suspected of wintering along the coast; this species formerly occurred in much larger numbers as a wintering bird of the coastal lowlands. A flock of 25± Am. Golden Plovers spent the entire winter near Santa Maria (LB), up to five were at Pt. Mugu throughout the period (REW) and one was at Playa del Rey all winter (BB); all were believed to be of the Asiatic race *fulva*. A group of 23 Lesser Yellowlegs at Pt. Mugu Jan. 20 (REW) was an unusual concentration for winter. Totally unexpected was a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Pt. Mugu Jan. 19-Mar. 2 (REW) establishing the first winter record for North America. A flock of 25± Stilt Sandpipers at the s. end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, S.E.S.S.) Jan. 28 - Feb. 9 (EC) were at a known wintering locality, but the one at Pt. Mugu Nov. 18 - Mar. 2 (REW) gives us the first winter record for a coastal locality in California. Three Ruffs were in the vicinity of Pt. Mugu with a male present Jan. 19 - Feb. 29+ (REW), a female there Jan. 21 - Feb. 29+ (DLD) and another male Jan. 27 - Feb. 29+ (REW). Red Phalaropes were quite common offshore into early January, as indicated by 1000± off Morro Bay Jan. 6 (BB), with small numbers occurring on the coast through January, and one at Pt. Mugu Feb. 16 (REW) being the latest. Six Wilson's Phalaropes spent the entire winter near Imperial Beach (GMcC); one or two are found in this area nearly every winter. As usual a flock of N. Phalaropes wintered near Imperial Beach, but ten was the largest number counted.

LARIDS — As usual a few Pomarine Jaegers spent the winter offshore as indicated by one off Morro Bay Jan. 26 (H&NS) and three off La Jolla Jan. 21 (DPo), but single birds on the coast at Pt. Mugu Jan. 5 & 12 (REW) were more interesting since the Parasitic Jaeger is the expected bird close to shore. The only Glaucous Gull found this winter was one at Redondo Beach Dec. 5-9 (H&NS, ph. S.D.N.H.M.). An imm. Glaucous-winged Gull at S.E.S.S., Dec. 1 - Feb. 17 (EAC) and another at Salton City Feb. 9 (DPa) were the only two found far inland. Interesting were two W. Gulls (Yellow-footed) at S.E.S.S., all winter (EC) and another at Salton City Feb. 9 (DPa) since the species is rare here in winter. A Mew Gull at S.E.S.S., Jan. 7 (EC) was far inland, although small numbers regularly move inland to such localities as Ojai and Sweetwater Res., in the coastal lowlands. There was an evident influx of Laughing Gulls along the coast with one at Malibu Feb. 3 (TC), one at Newport Dec. 30



A first-winter Laughing Gull, that remained in Carlsbad, Oceanside, CA, Jan. 23 - Feb. 4, 1980. Photo/ Paul Lehman.

(GLT, ph. S.D.N.H.M.), another at Carlsbad Jan. 23 - Feb. 4 (MT, ph. S.D.N.H.M.), single birds in San Diego Feb. 1 (ME) and Feb. 1-6 (ME), and a seventh near Imperial Beach Feb. 12 - Mar. 1 (TM); this nearly doubles the number of birds recorded along the coast of s. California. A Franklin's Gull in San Luis Obispo Dec. 1 (FRT), another at Malibu Dec. 5 (TC) and a third in Redondo Beach Dec. 2 (H&NS) were all late fall migrants, but one on L. Hodges near Escondido Nov. 10 - Jan. 5 (CGE) and another in Carlsbad Jan. 1-23 (MK) appeared to be wintering locally. Very much out of place was an ad. Heermann's Gull far inland on L. Henshaw Jan. 18 (RH). Black-legged Kittiwakes were exceptionally scarce with only a handful of individuals reported.

A Gull-billed Tern at the n. end of the Salton Sea Dec. 1 (EAC) was somewhat late. An imm. Com. Tern off La Jolla Feb. 25 (DPo) was the only one reported this winter. An Elegant Tern at Port Hueneme Dec. 17 (REW) was the last of the fall birds to be reported. A Black Tern at S.E.S.S., Dec. 1 (EAC) was a late fall migrant. Some 40± Black Skimmers on San Diego Bay all winter now appears normal.

ALCIDS — Common Murres pushed S to the Mexican border with 23 found off La Jolla Feb. 25 (DPo).

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Marbled Murrelets moved much farther S than previously recorded, with two off the Santa Maria River mouth Jan. 24 (PL), one at Goleta Dec. 18 (REW), one in Santa Barbara Dec. 17 (REW) and two more there Dec. 29 (BS), single birds at Port Hueneme Dec. 17 (REW) and Jan. 6 (PL), three at Malibu Dec. 16 (JDu) with additional individuals there Dec. 20 (KG) and Jan. 1 (SS), one in San Pedro Dec. 11 (GSS), single birds in San Diego Nov. 29 (SD, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) and Dec. 3 (TM), and two at Imperial Beach Dec. 15-16 (GMCC, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) along with large numbers around Morro Bay (see CBC). Specimens from around Santa Barbara in 1886 and 1910, along with sight records from Los Angeles County in 1958, established the previous southernmost records, so the Imperial Beach birds extend the s. limit for winter movements by about 150 mi.



Two Marbled Murrelets at Imperial Beach, Dec. 16, 1979, established the southernmost record for the species. Photo/ Tim Arnöbom.

A Xantus' Murrelet off Morro Bay Jan. 26 (H&NS) gave us another winter sighting. Ancient Murrelets staged a major invasion in s. California waters, with large numbers along the San Luis Obispo and n. Santa Barbara county coastlines (e.g. 40± off Morro Bay Jan. 6 (BB) and 17 at the Santa Maria R. mouth Dec. 1-2 (PL)), ten in Goleta/Santa Barbara area during December and early January (PL), three found in Ventura County (REW), 15± in Los Angeles County (KG), one off Newport, Orange Co., Jan. 4 (JAJ), at least six in San Diego Dec. 10-12 (DPo), up to five at Imperial Beach Dec. 15-23 (EC) and five near the Los Coronados Is., off n. Mexico Feb. 24 (WA); virtually all were seen during December with one at Pt. Mugu Feb. 23 (REW) and the Los Coronados Is., birds being the only ones reported after the first week of January. A Tufted Puffin off Morro Bay Jan. 6 (BB) was one of very few ever reported in s. California waters in winter.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A White-winged Dove in Goleta Dec. 1

(KB) was a late fall straggler; one in Serra Mesa, San Diego Co., Feb. 3 (DPo) was the only wintering bird found away from e. San Diego County. A Screech Owl in Brawley Dec. 17 (JDu) was one of very few seen in the Imperial Valley in recent years. A roost of 40± Long-eared Owls at Harper Dry L., San Bernardino Co., during February (PR) was a good concentration. It is hard to say whether a Vaux's Swift at Malibu Dec. 5 (TC) and another near there Dec. 9 (KG) were late fall migrants or attempting to winter, but one over Goleta Feb. 11 (EG), up to 150 around Oceanside throughout the entire winter (CGE), one near Escondido Jan. 22 (JO) and five near San Diego Jan. 15 (JZ) were all clearly wintering locally. A ♀ Black-chinned Hummingbird in San Diego Dec. 15 - Feb. 2 (LB) was only the second ever to occur in California in winter. Costa's Hummingbirds regularly winter along the coast s. of Los Angeles; four found in coastal Ventura County during the period (REW) along with one in Goleta Feb. 7-26 (PL) suggest wintering birds may occur regularly at least as far n. as the Santa Barbara area. The ♀ Broad-billed Hummingbird at Gaviota remained to Feb. 3 (LRB), a male was in Ventura Dec. 21 - Feb. 17 (REW) and the male in San Diego was still present Feb. 29 (CGE). Six Com. (Yellow-shafted) Flickers were reported from along the coast with one at S.E.S.S., Dec. 29 (EC) to give us an average number for a winter. An imm. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker near L. Cachuma, Santa Barbara Co., Dec. 5 - Feb. 10 (JDu) and a male in Garden Grove, Orange Co., Jan. 5 (GLT) were both of the nominate form *varius*. A ♂ Williamson's Sapsucker on Cuyamaca Mt., San Diego Co., Dec. 5-31 (RF) was at the s. extreme of the species winter range in California. A Hairy Woodpecker near San Diego Feb. 26 (CGE) and another near Imperial Beach Dec. 15 - Jan. 26 (EC) were both close to the coast and away from areas of normal occurrence.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — A Tropical Kingbird at Pt. Mugu Jan. 12 - Feb. 29+ (REW) was wintering locally. Cassin's Kingbirds were found wintering in small numbers along the entire coast with two in San Luis Obispo Dec. 16+ (FRT) and two more at nearby Pismo Beach throughout the period (EVJ) being the northernmost. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Corona, Riverside Co., Jan. 6 - Feb. 3 (MAP, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) was one of fewer than a half-dozen ever found in California in winter. Ash-throated Flycatchers are rarely found along the coast



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher present near Corona Jan. 6 - Feb. 2, 1980. Photo/ Paul Lehman.

in winter; hence, one in National City, San Diego Co., Dec. 15 - Feb. 3 (JO), another near Imperial Beach Jan. 31 - Feb. 2 (DPA) and a third on San Clemente I., Jan. 3 (PJ) were unexpected. California's fifth **Olivaceous Flycatcher** was in Irvine Dec. 30 - Feb. 10



Olivaceous Flycatcher found wintering in Irvine. Photo/ Paul Lehman.

(CC, ph. S.D.N.H.M.). We had more E. Phoebe than expected with one at Morro Bay Dec. 1 - Feb. 29+ (FRT), one near Santa Maria Dec. 11-23 (LB), another at Pt. Mugu Feb. 2-23 (LRB), one near Corona Feb. 4-29+ (MAP), one near Oceanside Dec. 22 - Mar. 1 (EC), one in San Diego Dec. 15 (MP), another at nearby Sweetwater Res., Jan. 19 (CGE) and an eighth near Imperial Beach Nov. 24 - Feb. 2 (DPA). The **Willow Flycatcher** found in Arcadia Nov. 2 was still present into March (BCoh) and would appear to be the first ever to winter in the United States. A Gray Flycatcher near Santa Maria Dec. 23 - Jan. 1 (JDe), two in Arcadia all winter (BCoh) and four around San Diego during the period (EC) were more than reported in recent winters. A W. Flycatcher in Carpinteria near Santa Barbara Nov. 24 - Feb. 29 (PL), one in Lompoc, Santa Barbara Co., Feb. 23 (TS), another in Arcadia Nov. 4 - Feb. 23 (BCoh), one near Escondido Dec. 28 - Mar. 3 (CGE) and another in Coronado, San Diego Co., Dec. 12 - Jan. 9 (EC) gave us five during the winter. The Coues' Flycatcher found in Los Angeles Nov. 7 was still present at the end of the period (KG) and another was at Leo Carillo State Beach, Los Angeles Co., Jan. 16 - Feb. 11 (TC); most records for California involve wintering birds. An Olive-sided Flycatcher, only the third found in California in winter, was in Los Angeles Nov. 28 - Feb. 29+ (RL). Only six Vermilion Flycatchers were reported in the coastal lowlands with one in Fillmore, Ventura Co., Nov. 5 - Jan. 15 (REW) being the northernmost. A Bank Swallow at Pt. Mugu Jan. 5 (REW) was one of a very few ever seen along the coast in winter. Six Rough-winged Swallows at Valley Center, San Diego Co., Jan. 2 (AF) were unexpected, winter records coming primarily from the vicinity of the Salton Sea and Colorado R. Valley.

NUTHATCHES, WRENS, THRASHERS, THRUSHES — Red-breasted Nuthatches were relatively scarce after the moderate influx of the fall. Three Pygmy Nuthatches remained in Santa Barbara, away from any area of regular occurrence, through the winter (PL). A Winter Wren in National City Dec. 12 (CGE) was far s., and somewhat unexpected considering the paucity of the these birds in s. California this winter. A Brown Thrasher, a rare straggler to California, was

at a feeder in Goleta Dec. 8 - Feb. 29+ (PL). A Bendire's Thrasher in San Pedro Dec. 24-27 (HF) gave us another coastal record of this species. A Curve-billed Thrasher, a casual straggler to s.e. California, was at S.E.S.S., Dec. 20 - Feb. 4 (GMCC). A Sage Thrasher in San Luis Obispo Feb. 14 (FRT), one in Santa Barbara Feb. 17 (DE) and a third in Arcadia Jan. 27 (CH) were all in the coastal lowlands where now considered quite rare. Only three Varied Thrushes were reported, indicating that very few reached s. California this winter. A Swainson's Thrush in Coronado Dec. 15-16 (GMCC) was the latest ever recorded in California, but it was missing one foot and had a damaged wing indicating that it may not have been capable of long-distance flight.

KINGLETS, WAXWINGS, VIREOS — Ten Golden-crowned Kinglets on Mt. Palomar all winter (RH) and five on Cuyamaca Mt., Dec. 31 (CGE) were quite far s. considering how scarce the species was along the coast. A Bohemian Waxwing in Long Beach Jan. 14 (JA) had wandered s. More than the average number of Solitary Vireos was found this winter with one in Goleta Jan. 24 - Feb. 14 (REW), a gray bird of the *plumbeus* race in Ventura Jan. 25 (REW), another of the same race near Encino Feb. 28 (KC), one in Riverside Dec. 20 (DW), another in Vista Dec. 19 (MT), a gray bird near Escondido Dec. 29 - Jan. 5 (KW), single birds at widely separated localities in San Diego Jan. 17 (DPa) and Feb. 24-26 (CGE) and a ninth in National City Dec. 16 - Feb. 3 (EC) along with about ten reported on CBCs. A Warbling Vireo in San Diego Nov. 28 - Dec. 14 (PU) and two in San Luis Obispo Jan. 5-6 (FRT) could all have been very late fall migrants since they could not be relocated later in the winter.

WOOD WARBLERS — A Black-and-white Warbler in Santa Barbara Dec. 25 - Jan. 12 (REW) and another in Carpinteria Jan. 20 - Feb. 29+ (PL) were the only ones found this winter. As now appears normal, a few Tennessee Warblers remained to winter along the coast with one in Goleta Feb. 14 (PL), another in Carpinteria Feb. 17 - Feb. 29+ (KVV), one in Ventura Jan. 19 - Mar. 4 (JM) with additional birds present there Jan. 23 (REW) and Feb. 1 (REW). Some 25 Nashville Warblers scattered along the coast were more than expected. Most unusual was a Virginia's Warbler in San Luis Obispo Jan. 5-6 (FRT), another in Fillmore Jan. 15 - Feb. 6 (REW) and a third near Imperial Beach Feb. 17 (JO) since very few have ever been found in California during the winter months. Remarkable were four Lucy's Warblers with one in Ventura Dec. 22 - Jan. 22 (LB), another in San Pedro throughout the period (MH), one in Coronado Dec. 15-20 (REW) and the fourth near Imperial Beach Dec. 15-25 (GMCC) since winter records are virtually nonexistent. A N. Parula in Niland near S.E.S.S., Dec. 20 - Jan. 16 (DLD) gave us another winter record for this vagrant to California.

At least 23 Yellow Warblers were found along the coast with one near Santa Maria Jan. 5 (PL) being the farthest n. Unexpected was a Cape May Warbler in Goleta Dec. 29

-Feb. 29+ (MP) and another on Pt. Loma Nov. 10 - Jan. 6 (JO), there being only one previous winter record for the Region. Black-throated Gray Warblers were more numerous than usual with 30± reported during the season. A ♀ Black-throated Green Warbler near Imperial Beach Jan. 26 (DPa) is believed to be the same individual present here a year ago (AB 33:316,1979). The only Hermit Warblers reported were three around Santa Barbara all winter (PL) and one near Ventura Feb. 21 (REW). Remarkable was a **Grace's Warbler** in Santa Barbara Jan. 6 - Feb. 29+ (LB,ph. S.D.N.H.M.) and another in nearby Carpinteria Feb. 24 - 29+ (PL) for there are only 4 previous records for the coast of California (all fall), and there may be no documented winter record for anywhere n. of Mexico. A Chestnut-sided Warbler at S.E.S.S., Dec. 20 - Feb. 28 (KG) was the first to have remained through the winter in California, although there are four late December sightings. A Prairie Warbler, a rare fall vagrant to California, was near L. Cachuma Dec. 2-5 (PH) and another was in Coronado Dec. 15 - Jan. 6 (REW,*S.D.N.H.M.). About 20 Palm Warblers were reported from along the coast, but most were during December and early January, with one in Carpinteria Feb. 24 (PL), one in Oxnard Jan. 21 - Feb. 2 (DLD), two at Pt. Mugu Jan. 26 - Feb. 1 (REW), one in Oceanside Feb. 10 (JD) and two near Imperial Beach through March (PU) being the only ones found later. A warbler at McGrath State Beach Jan. 5 (KC) and another near Imperial Beach Jan. 6 (EC) were both brightly-colored **Yellow Palm Warblers** (*Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*), an accidental straggler to California.

A N. Waterthrush near Imperial Beach Jan. 26 - Feb. 29+ (DPa) and another nearby through March (DPa) were the only two found wintering. A ♂ MacGillivray's Warbler, very rare in winter, was in Goleta Dec. 28 - Feb. 29+ (REW). As usual a few Wilson's Warblers remained to winter along the coast with 30± reported. Three or four Am. Redstarts around S.E.S.S., all winter (GMCC) along with one near Vidal on the Colorado R., Jan. 12 (DPa) were in areas of normal occurrence in winter, but one in Goleta Jan. 23 (PL) was on the coast where rare at this time of the year. A Painted Redstart, an exciting bird to find in California, was in San Diego Dec. 2-16 (GMCC).

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS — A ♂ Tricolored Blackbird near Calexico Mar. 3 (EC) was only the second to be found in the Imperial Valley. A ♀ Orchard Oriole was in Santa Barbara Jan. 27 (BS), a male was in Carpinteria Jan. 20 - Feb. 27 (PL), another male was in Ventura Jan. 21 (REW), one more male was at a feeder in Santa Monica Jan. 23-25 (JD) giving us four during the winter period. Hooded Orioles are scarce in winter, one in Santa Barbara Feb. 27 (PL) and two more in Carpinteria Feb. 11 - Feb. 29+ (NC) being the only true wintering birds reported, four found in December being considered late fall stragglers. Four Scott's Orioles seen around San Diego in early December were of interest, being along the coast, but were probably late fall stragglers rather than wintering individuals. Nine N. (Baltimore) Orioles were found along the

coast along with 100± N. (Bullock's) Orioles; introduced flowering eucalyptus support small flocks of these birds every winter. A Rusty Blackbird was in Goleta Jan. 4 (EG), another was in Carpinteria Jan. 13 - Feb. 17 (PL), a third was at Pt. Mugu Jan. 29 - Feb. 15 (LB) with another there Feb. 17 (REW); this species was formerly regarded as a casual fall straggler to the coast of s. California, but is now being found here each winter.

Western Tanagers were more numerous than usual with 35± reported along the coast; like N. Orioles, these birds frequent flowering eucalyptus at this time of the year. A ♂ Hepatic Tanager in Oceanside Feb. 9-24 (EC) was undoubtedly the same bird present here last winter. A Summer Tanager was in Santa Barbara Jan. 6 (LRB), one was near Oceanside Jan. 23 (MT), another remained in San Diego Dec. 7 - Feb. 21 (CGE), one was on Pt. Loma Feb. 8-11 (CGE) and one more was seen in Coronado Dec. 20 (EC) giving us five for the season.

FINCHES, SPARROWS, LONGSPURS — Five Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported with one at a feeder in Los Osos, San Luis Obispo Co., all winter (FRT), one in Del Mar Feb. 8-21 was joined by a second on Feb. 14 (BCM), another was in San Diego Dec. 2 (PU) and an ad. male was in National City Nov. 24 - Dec. 21 (EC). Black-headed Grosbeaks are normally scarcer than Rose-breasteds at this time of the year, hence three in Santa Barbara Jan. 7 - Feb. 29+ (NC) and one in San Diego Jan. 1 (DPa) are of interest. A Blue Grosbeak in National City Dec. 12 (CGE) was certainly out of season, only three having been recorded in this Region during the winter period. An Indigo Bunting in Long Beach Jan. 2 - Feb. 29+ (BD) would appear to be only the fourth recorded in this Region in winter. The only Evening Grosbeaks to be reported were four in Santa Barbara Dec. 5-25 (PL) with additional individuals there on Jan. 27 (LB) and Feb. 24 (PL), five at Baldwin L., Jan. 18 (KG) and one on Mt. Palomar Jan. 15 (RH). Eight Red Crossbills on Mt. Pinos Jan. 15 (REW) and 25 around Big Bear L., during December and January (KG) indicates a few were in the higher mountains of s. California; one in Santa Barbara Jan. 7 (PL) was on the coast.

As usual a few Green-tailed Towhees wintered in the s.e. corner of the Region and along the coast s. of Los Angeles, with one at Valermo, Los Angeles Co., Feb. 23 (KG) and another in Ventura Dec. 26 - Feb. 17 (REW) being at the n. limit of the winter range. Twelve Gray-headed Juncos were reported, all being in the s. portion of the Region as expected. A Pink-sided Junco near Burbank Feb. 21 (JDu) was of interest, since few are recorded along the coast. An unprecedented number of Clay-colored Sparrows was found wintering, with one at Pt. Mugu Nov. 22 - Dec. 30 (REW), one in Arcadia Nov. 23 - Mar. 1 (BCoh), another in Long Beach Nov. 25 - Feb. 29+ (DPa). Harris' Sparrows were exceptionally scarce with two at Furnace Cr. Ranch in Death Valley Dec. 9 (LLN), one in Goleta all winter (PL) and another in Santa Barbara Jan. 19 - Feb. 29± (LB) being the only four reported. The number of White-throated Sparrows (10 reported) appeared low. Swamp Sparrows were rela-

tively numerous with 25 ± found during the period. The McCown's Longspur found near Santa Maria Nov. 30 remained through Feb. 18 (PL) to give us the first winter record for coastal California. A Lapland Longspur was found on the Carrizo Plain Feb. 10 (EMcM), one was near Santa Maria Dec. 2-8 (LB), and single birds were at Pt. Mugu Dec. 22 - Jan. 27 (REW) and Jan. 12 - Feb. 10 (REW); this species is much rarer in s. California in winter than in fall. Six Chestnut-collared Longspurs at Baldwin L., Dec. 1 - Jan. 20 (KG) appeared to be wintering locally until the area was covered by heavy snow.

CORRIGENDUM — To avoid unnecessary duplication, all birds seen and reported only on Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) have been omitted. This should not detract from the validity of those records, but is meant to conserve space for records other than those on CBCs.

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