

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Guy McCaskie

The season was relatively mild with below-average rainfall and no prolonged cold spell, enabling a variety of birds, not normally encountered in California at this time of the year, to winter locally as indicated by the presence of no fewer than twelve species of flycatchers and an unprecedented 26 species of wood warblers.

The mountain species found widely throughout the Region last fall were still relatively numerous in the coastal lowlands during the early part of the winter, declining in numbers as the season progressed. However, Golden-crowned Kinglets were still to be found well out of range at the end of winter (e.g., two in Brawley, Imperial County, March 6—JO) with small numbers still present in the mountains and along the coast.

The constant searching for rarities in California is not only producing records of many species formerly believed not to occur in winter, but is also showing that some of these "lost" vagrants are able to survive here through the winter and return in following years as indicated by the number of rarities reported wintering for their second and third years.

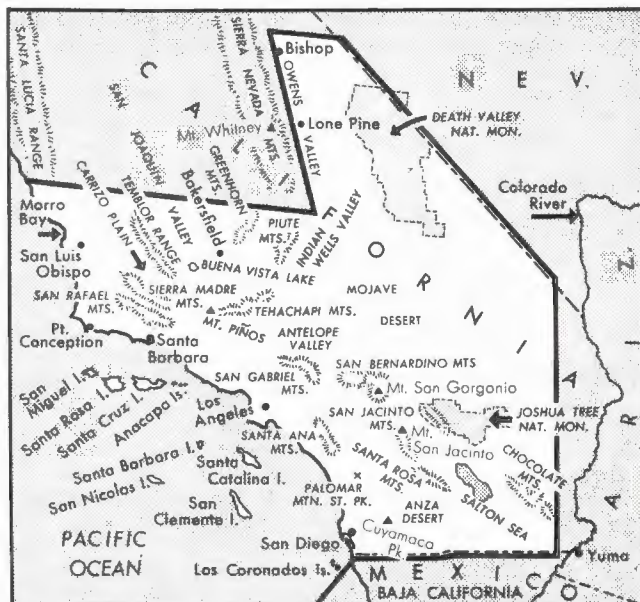
LOONS, GREBES — A **Yellow-billed Loon** in Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., Feb. 23+ (JLD, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) was only the third to be found in s. California; however, one has strayed as far s. as n. Baja California in Mexico (Jehl, *Condor* 72:376, 1970). A **Red-necked Grebe** at Montana de Oro S.P., San Luis Obispo Co., Feb. 14 (JSR) and another at Marina del Rey, Los Angeles Co., Jan. 10 (BD) were the only ones reported.



Yellow-billed Loon (see above). Photo/A. Lehman. Yellow-billed Loon (see above). Photo/P. Lehman.

FULMARS, SHEARWATERS — Northern Fulmars were relatively numerous offshore during the early part of the winter as indicated by 40 off Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo Co., Jan. 30 (JSR), 45 off Pt. Fermin, Los Angeles Co., Jan. 22 (BD), 20 around the pier in Newport Beach, Orange Co., Jan. 20 (SJR) and 50 off San Diego Jan. 9 (GMCC); however, it appeared all were gone by the end of February. Two **Pink-footed Shearwaters**, rare in California waters in winter, were found off Morro Bay Jan. 15 (JSR) and another was seen off San Pedro, Los Angeles Co., Jan. 22 (BD). A **Short-tailed Shearwater** found dead at Redondo Beach, Los Angeles Co., Jan. 31 (AH, *L.A.C.M.) and another seen off San Diego Jan. 26 (DPo) were the only ones reported. **Manx (Black-vented) Shearwaters** were relatively common all winter with 2000 as far n. as Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co., Jan. 6 (KLG). A **Mottled Petrel** seen from shore at Pt. Mugu Dec. 30 (REW) was only the third recorded in the Region and the first apparently healthy individual found in California.

PELICANS, HERONS — A **White Pelican** at Little L., Inyo Co., Jan. 11-16 (JRJ) was only the second found in the desert area of the Region in winter. An ad. **Little Blue Heron** on Mission Bay in San Diego all winter (DMacK) was the only one known to be in s. California. A **Reddish Egret**, rare in s. California, was on San Diego Bay Feb. 19 (CGE). Up to three **Louisiana Herons** were around San Diego throughout the period and the bird found at Bolsa Chica, Orange Co., Nov. 29 was still present Feb. 5 (LRH). The ad. **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** found at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co.,



Oct. 25 and last seen Jan. 3 (JO) was the first to occur in California during the winter period.

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — A flock of up to 20 **Whistling Swans** around Irvine, Orange Co., Feb. 14-27 (BSc) and 1-2 near Chino, San Bernardino and Riverside cos., Jan. 17-Feb. 2 (EAC) were at the s. limit of the species' winter range. A total of 32 **White-fronted Geese** was found at various localities in the coastal lowlands illustrating just how rare this species has become in this area; a flock of 1000 ± around Lakeview, Riverside Co., Jan. 23+ (RLMcK) was in the only area regularly supporting numbers of these birds. **Ross' Geese** are rare away from the Salton Sea; hence, six near Blythe, Riverside Co., Dec. 9 (REW), two near Chino Jan. 14-30 (HEC) and two more near Santa Maria, Santa Barbara Co., Dec. 29 (BD) were of interest. A ♂ **Eur. Green-winged Teal**, a rare straggler to s. California, was in Goleta Jan. 1-Mar. 20 (REW, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) and another was on L. Henshaw in the mountains of San Diego County Feb. 5-12 (RH). A group of five **Blue-winged Teals** near Cayucos, San Luis Obispo Co., Feb. 7 (TE), seven in Ventura Feb. 14 (LCB) and 20 ± around Bolsa Chica all winter (REW) illustrate the abundance of this species along the coast in winter. At least five **Eur. Wigeon** along the coast, along with two in the mountains on L. Henshaw Feb. 12-Mar. 27 (RH) and another at the s. end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, S.E.S.S.) Feb. 21-Mar. 6 (JO) were average numbers, but 15 ± among 5000 Am. **Wigeon** near San Jacinto, Riverside Co., Jan. 5-Feb. 1 (DMM) was an exceptional concentration for s. California. Eleven **Oldsquaw** along the coast was about normal, but 1-2 at S.E.S.S., Feb. 13 ± (LRH) were inland where considered casual. The ♂ **Harlequin Duck** found in Carlsbad during December 1977 was still present at the end of the period. A **White-winged Scoter**, rare inland at any time of year, was at S.E.S.S., Feb. 6 (RLMcK). A **Surf Scoter** at S.E.S.S., Mar. 6 (REW) was one of very few found inland in winter. As usual a few **Black Scoters** were present along the coast with 30 ± reported. Some 3500 **Com. Mergansers** on L. Elsinore, Riverside Co., Jan. 30 (JO) was an exceptional concentration for s. California.

HAWKS — A **Red-shouldered Hawk** at Furnace Cr. Ranch in Death Valley (hereafter, F.C.R.) Dec. 15-Feb. 13 (LLN) along with three in n. Inyo County in mid-January (BD) were in an area where now considered regular in small numbers; however, one in Brawley, Imperial Co., Feb. 7-21 (REW) was only the third to have been found in that area of California. An ad. **Zone-tailed Hawk** at the summit of Mt. Palomar, San Diego Co., Feb. 28+ (RH, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) was unexpected, the previous 6 winter occurrences having been in the coastal lowlands. **Rough-legged Hawks** were quite scarce but did reach the s. limit of the Region with one on Mt. Palomar Feb. 3-12 (RH) and another near S.E.S.S., Mar. 6 (EC); one flying S over F.C.R., Dec. 9 (J & ES) was at an unusual locality. A **Peregrine Falcon** at S.E.S.S., Feb. 21 (JO) was the only one found away from the coast.

SHOREBIRDS — A Black Oystercatcher in Ventura Feb. 11 (REW) and six together in Long Beach Dec. 4 (LRH) were away from areas of regular occurrence. A Snowy Plover near Lancaster, Los Angeles Co., throughout the period (KLG) and ten on L. Elsinore Jan. 30 (REW) were of interest since very few have ever been found wintering inland away from the Salton Sea. As usual small numbers of Am. Golden Plovers, all believed to be of Eurasian form *fulva*, wintered along the coast with 55 ± reported between Santa Barbara and the Mexican border including a group of 40 ± near Santa Maria (PEL); one at S.E.S.S., Jan. 12-Mar. 6 (PDV) was the second to have been found inland at this time of the year. A Ruddy Turnstone at S.E.S.S., Feb. 7 (REW) was the first to have been found inland in winter. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** at S.E.S.S., Feb. 20-Mar. 6 (EAC, GMcC) established the first true winter record for California and was evidently one of very few ever found in North America at this time of the year; one found near Lancaster Dec. 19 (Lancaster CBC) was the latest for a fall migrant in California. Two or three Stilt Sandpipers around S.E.S.S., throughout the period were in an area where small numbers regularly winter; however, one at Bolsa Chica Feb. 2-Mar. 1 (RZ) and another on San Elijo Lagoon Feb. 21-22 (TMe) are the 2nd and 3rd ever found on the coast in winter. A Ruff was present near Santa Maria Dec. 19-Jan. 10 (PEL); one or two are now found along the coast every winter. As usual a small number of N. Phalaropes wintered at the s. end of San Diego Bay with 15 present Jan. 17 (GMcC) and a Wilson's Phalarope, considerably rarer at this time of the year, was found there Jan. 11 (PDV).

GULLS, TERNS — A first-winter Glaucous Gull, rare in s. California, was near Oxnard, Ventura Co., Jan. 9 (BWK), two were at the Santa Clara R. mouth Feb. 19 (REW), one was at Huntington Beach, Orange Co., Dec. 25 (R & MW), another was at the upper end of Newport Bay, Orange Co., Dec. 27-Mar. 15 (DRW) and up to two were at Otay, San Diego Co., Jan. 24+ (GMcC). A first-winter Glaucous-winged Gull was at Salton City on the Salton Sea Feb. 7 (EC) and single birds were at S.E.S.S., Feb. 21 (JO) and Feb. 24 (RLMcK); this species is a very rare stray to the true interior but regularly wanders far into the coastal lowlands as indicated by 15 in Corona, Riverside Co., Jan. 30 (REW). A few W. (Yellow-footed) Gulls again wintered on the Salton Sea with a high count of eight at S.E.S.S., Jan. 12 (PDV). Two Thayer's Gulls, rare in the true interior, were at S.E.S.S., Dec. 10 (REW), another was there Feb. 7 (EC) and a fourth was at Salton City the same day (GMcC). A first-winter Mew Gull near Chino Jan. 30 (REW) and another on L. Elsinore the same day (JO) were in an area where the species is scarce. An ad. **Black-headed Gull** in Huntington Beach Dec. 13 (REW) was only the fourth to have been found in the Region. Up to five Laughing Gulls on Finney L., near S.E.S.S., Jan. 2+ (REW) were totally unexpected, there being only one previous winter record for the area of the Salton Sea. A first-winter Laughing Gull on Laguna L., in San Luis Obispo Dec. 6-10 (JSR, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) and another on Mission Bay in San Diego Feb. 3 (BC) were both along the coast where the species is considered casual. A Franklin's Gull in San Luis Obispo Nov. 29-Dec. 10 (JSR, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) was a late fall straggler but 2-3 on L. Elsinore Dec. 11-Jan. 30 (DRW) were evidently wintering. A Bonaparte's Gull near Lancaster Jan. 1 (JLD) was unexpected, as no winter records exist from inland localities away from the Salton Sea. Black-legged Kittiwakes were quite common offshore as indicated by 22 off Morro Bay Jan. 30 (JSR) and 30 off San Diego Jan. 9 (GMcC) with smaller numbers in harbors and about fishing piers along the entire coast. One or two Com. Terns in San Diego all winter (REW) were the only ones known to be present.

ALCIDS — Common Murres appeared to be more numerous than normal with 150 off Dana Pt., Orange Co., Feb. 13 (BSc) and 60 as far s. as San Diego Jan. 9 (GMcC). Up to nine Marbled Murrelets at Cayucos all winter (JSR) and two off Vandenberg A.F.B., Santa Barbara Co., were at the s. limit of the species' normal winter range but one at Pt. Mugu Feb. 27 (NSC) was appreciably s. of that range. Ancient Murrelets were found s. to Pt. Mugu (eight there Feb. 7—SR).

PIGEONS THROUGH NIGHTHAWKS — A White-winged Dove at Yaqui Wells, San Diego Co., Jan. 23 (BW) and 12 ± at nearby Agua Caliente Springs throughout the period (GMcC) were in the only area of California where this species regularly winters. Up to nine Com. Ground Doves near Camarillo all winter (VB) were in an

area where the species has been present for at least 2 years, this evidently being an isolated population well to the n. of species' known range in the coastal lowlands. A Screech Owl at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley Dec. 1 (LLN) was away from any area of normal occurrence. Two Pygmy Owls around Piru, Ventura Co., during December and January (RAH) and another near Switzer Camp in the San Gabriel Mts., Jan. 11 (BD) were in areas where the species is probably resident, but much is yet to be learned about the distribution of this bird in s. California. The Spotted Owl found in Santa Barbara Nov. 15 remained to at least Dec. 18 (CG). A Long-eared Owl found dead at F.C.R., Jan. 21 (LLN) and another in Goleta Jan. 10-Feb. 13 (DW) were both outside areas of regular occurrence. Two Saw-whet Owls in Cambria, San Luis Obispo Co., Jan. 23+ (JSR) were calling as if on territory; this area marks the s. limit of nesting along the coast. A Lesser Nighthawk near San Diego Jan. 8-Feb. 6 (GMcC) was one of very few ever found along the coast in winter.

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Vaux's Swift at Pt. Mugu Dec. 27 (LRB) was the only one reported. A Black-chinned Hummingbird was in Santa Barbara Jan. 2-Feb. 20 (KLG), another was in Long Beach Jan. 11-12 (BD), one returned to spend its third winter in San Diego (EC) and a fourth was on Pt. Loma Feb. 6+ (GMcC); until recently there was but one winter record for California. A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird near Shandon, San Luis Obispo Co., Dec. 21-29 (EMcM) was quite far n. for this time of the year. The ♂ Broad-billed Hummingbird found in Blythe Oct. 4 remained through Feb. 13 (IA). An imm. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*S. v. varius*), a rare straggler to California, was in Fillmore, Ventura Co., Dec. 28-30 (PEL), another was at Finney L., Feb. 7 (EC) and a male in Silverado Canyon, Orange Co., throughout the period (SJR) was undoubtedly the same bird present there last winter. A Yellow-bellied (Red-naped) Sapsucker near Ventura Feb. 14 (SR) was in an area where few have been found. A Williamson's Sapsucker, exceptionally rare in the coastal lowlands, was in West Los Angeles Feb. 21 (KLG). A Downy Woodpecker in San Pedro Jan. 28 (JLD) and another along the San Diego R., in San Diego Dec. 25-Feb. 6 (JO) were both outside areas of normal occurrence.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — A Tropical Kingbird, very rare in winter, was near Chino Jan. 9-Feb. 2 (HEC); this is one of very few ever found in the interior of California. A W. Kingbird in Mission Viejo, Orange Co., Feb. 10-15 (BSc) was only the second ever to have been found in winter. Small numbers of Cassin's Kingbirds were present along the coast, as usual, with two near Los Osos, San Luis Obispo Co., throughout the period (JSR) and eight in Shandon Feb. 12 (S & KB) being relatively far n. An Ash-throated Flycatcher, very rare in winter, was in Santa Barbara Dec. 4-Mar. 14 (PEL). An E. Phoebe in Ventura Dec. 19-Feb. 28 (VB), one in Huntington Beach Nov. 13-Feb. 7 (SJR), another at nearby Villa Park Dam Dec. 5-Feb. 3 (DRW) and a fourth in San Diego Dec. 14-Mar. 13 (DR) gave us a near average number for winter. A Least Flycatcher in Huntington Beach Nov. 13-Mar. 1 (SJR) was only the third known to have wintered in California. A **Hammond's Flycatcher** in Long Beach Mar. 15-18 (JAJ) was believed to have wintered locally; there is no previous documented record of this species in California at this time of the year. One at Pt. Mugu Dec. 30 (REW) could have been a very late fall migrant. Five Gray Flycatchers were found in the s.w. part of the Region where small numbers regularly winter. Single W. Flycatchers were in Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo Co., Feb. 20 (MB) and Los Osos Jan. 14 (DS), four were in the Santa Barbara area during January and February (PEL) and a seventh was in Escondido, San Diego Co., Dec. 24 (KW) for an above-average number for winter. A Coes' Flycatcher in Griffith P. of Los Angeles Jan. 13-Feb. 20 (KLG) was undoubtedly the same bird present here during the last 2 winters. A ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher near Los Osos Jan. 17+ (KH) was exceptionally far n., there being only 2 occurrences known from n. of San Luis Obispo County; a male in Ventura Dec. 1-Jan. 17 (VB) and another in Pasadena Dec. 28-Feb. 2 (CMu) were the only others found along the coast outside San Diego County. A Cliff Swallow at Harper Dry L., San Bernardino Co., Jan. 30 (EAC) is best considered a very early spring migrant.

CROWS THROUGH THRUSHES — A flock of 25 Com. Crows near Palo Verde, Imperial Co., Nov. 29-Dec. 10 (REW) probably wintered locally; numbers appear to be sporadic along the Colorado R. valley. A Verdin at Ming L., near Bakersfield Jan. 22 (MH) was

somewhat to the w. of the species' known range. A Winter Wren at the mouth of San Mateo Cr., San Diego Co., Feb. 15 (EC) and another in Palo Verde Dec. 10 (REW) were both relatively far s. Four Brown Thrashers were present with one near Morro Bay Dec. 9-Feb. 1 (RR), another in Arroyo Grande Dec. 12-19 (NM), one in Goleta Oct. 28-Mar. 8 (PEL) and the fourth in Santa Barbara Jan. 14 (TMA). Up to eight Sage Thrashers, rare in winter, were in the Antelope Valley e. of Lancaster Jan. 9-Feb. 6 (JLD). American Robins were commoner and more widespread than usual and small numbers of Varied Thrushes accompanied them along the coast s. to San Diego County. At least 12 Townsend's Solitaires, normally absent from the coast, were found in the coastal lowlands suggesting a movement of some sort.

PIPITS THROUGH VIREOS — The five Sprague's Pipits found near Lancaster Nov. 22 were still present Mar. 7 (JLD) to give us the first winter record for California. Four Bohemian Waxwings, rare and irregular strays to s. California, were at Hearst Castle, San Luis Obispo Co., Jan. 16 (GS). A Bell's Vireo in Goleta Oct. 16-Feb. 15 (KB) was the same bird present there last winter; one in Carlsbad Feb. 2 (EC) and another near Imperial Beach Jan. 27 (CGE) gave us an unusual three for the winter. A Solitary Vireo, rare in winter, at Warden L., near Morro Bay Jan. 7 (CMA), another in San Diego Jan. 17 (JO) and a third on Pt. Loma Dec. 28 (REW) were all of the expected *cassinii* race, but one present for its third winter in Ventura Dec. 8-Feb. 14 (OA) and another in San Diego Nov. 21-Mar. 1 (JO) were of the rare *plumbeus* race. A Warbling Vireo in Santa Barbara Dec. 4 (PEL) was most likely a late fall migrant; however, 1-2 in Santa Barbara Jan. 2-22 (LB), 1-2 in Arcadia, Los Angeles Co., throughout the period (GSS) and one in Irvine, Orange Co., Jan. 9-Mar. 1 (DRW) were all wintering. Prior to this year only two were known to have wintered in s. California.

WOOD WARBLERS — A total of ten Black-and-white Warblers was found along the coast for an above average number for this time of the year. The **Worm-eating Warbler** found in Long Beach Nov. 6 was still present Mar. 21 (KLG) and was only the second known to have wintered in California. Seventeen Tennessee Warblers present along the coast illustrate just how numerous this species is in winter. As usual, a few Nashville Warblers wintered along the coast with 18 reported during the season. A Virginia's Warbler in Newport Beach throughout the period (SJR) was believed to be the same bird present here during the past 2 winters. Yellow Warblers appear to be on the increase as a wintering bird along the coast with 25 reported this year. A Cape May Warbler in San Luis Obispo Dec. 10-Jan. 19 (CMA) was the fifth to be found wintering in s. California. A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler in Santa Barbara Jan. 15-Mar. 16 (IR) gave us our first undisputed winter record. Some 20 Black-throated Gray Warblers along the coast was about normal. A Hermit Warbler in Oceanside Jan. 29-31 (EC) was the only one found away from coastal San Luis Obispo/Santa Barbara cos., where small numbers regularly occur. A Grace's Warbler in Santa Barbara Oct. 10-Mar. 10 (PEL) and another in nearby Carpinteria Feb. 22-Mar. 21 (PEL) were the same two birds first found wintering here 2 years ago. A Chestnut-sided Warbler in Riverside Dec. 9-23 (V & CP) was evidently a very late fall straggler. A **Bay-breasted Warbler** in Long Beach Recreational P., Jan. 10+ (BD, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) was clearly wintering, establishing the first winter record for California and one of very few anywhere in North



Bay-breasted Warbler (see above). Photos/D. Willick.

America. One in Santa Barbara Dec. 4-12 (PEL) could have been an exceptionally late fall vagrant. A Prairie Warbler seen along the Colorado R., 7 mi below Parker Dam Dec. 25 (JuB) was believed to be wintering; there are only two previous records for the winter season, both being from along the coast. Eight Palm Warblers along the coast was fewer than expected, but one in Ventura Jan. 21 (JLD) was of the yellow race *hypochrysea*. A N. Waterthrush at Pt. Mugu Dec. 27-Jan. 17 (LRB) and 3-4 around San Diego all winter was about normal. Totally unexpected was a **Mourning Warbler** at Harbor L., in Long Beach Dec. 26-Jan. 28 (BD), this being the first to occur in California in winter, and possibly the first anywhere in North America at this time of the year. A ♂ MacGillivray's Warbler in Goleta Oct. 15-Mar. 4 (TWu) was the same bird found here last winter. Small numbers of Wilson's Warblers were found wintering along the coast, primarily in riparian habitat, with 35+ reported. An Am. Redstart in Goleta Dec. 13 (DB), one at Fillmore Dec. 28-30 (PEL), another in Huntington Beach Dec. 1-Jan. 30 (SJR) and a fourth in San Diego Jan. 17-24 (EC) were all along the coast where very rare at this time of the year; one along the Colorado R., near Earp Dec. 9 (REW) and another near S.E.S.S., Jan. 18 (HEC) were both in areas where small numbers regularly winter. A Painted Redstart, a very rare straggler to California, was in Claremont, Los Angeles Co., Dec. 12 (BG).

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS — A ♂ Orchard Oriole spending its third winter in Ventura was accompanied by a female Nov. 22-Feb. 14 (OA) and another male was seen in Malibu, Los Angeles Co., Feb. 1 (CB); one or two are found in the Region each winter. A Hooded Oriole, inexplicably rare in winter, was in Santa Barbara Dec. 12 (PEL), one was in Newport Beach Nov. 29-Feb. 7 (SJR), another was at Mission Viejo Jan. 25 (REW) and a fourth was on Pt. Loma Jan. 7 (REW). A Scott's Oriole, rare in winter, in Santa Barbara Jan. 2-18 (LCB), another there Jan. 2-Feb. 1 (PEL), 2-3 near Orange, Orange Co., Dec. 9-Feb. 24 (CCH), two in Trabuco Canyon, Orange Co., all winter (SJR) and one in National City Jan. 10 (JO) were all along the coast, with one in Redlands Jan. 7 (RLMcK) being inland, and another at Morongo Valley Feb. 14 (LRH) being the only one reported from the desert. Of the 100± N. Orioles reported eight were "Baltimores". A N. (Bullock's) Oriole at 4500 ft in the San Gabriel Mts., Jan. 16 (GSS) was most unusual as virtually all wintering birds in California are associated with flowering eucalyptus in the lowlands. A Rusty Blackbird, very rare in winter, was in Arcadia Jan. 31-Feb. 19 (B. Cohen, *vide* GSS). A ♂ Great-tailed Grackle at L. Norconian in extreme n.w. Riverside Co., Jan. 17 (EAC) and two more near there Jan. 30 (REW) were the first to be found in this area.

At least 60 W. Tanagers were found along the coast, primarily in flowering eucalyptus, indicating how numerous this species is at this time of year. A ♂ Hepatic Tanager in Oceanside Nov. 15+ (CGE) was the same bird known to be present here each of the past 4 winters. Three Summer Tanagers in the Santa Barbara area along with two in Orange County and six around San Diego was more than expected.

FINCHES, SPARROWS — A Cardinal along the Colorado R., near Earp Dec. 9 (REW) was being pushed from the last remaining habitat in that area by bulldozers clearing the land of all vegetation. Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in Santa Barbara Feb. 13 (WA) & Feb. 14-15 (PEL), another in Ventura Dec. 5-Jan. 10 (JO) and a fourth in Irvine Feb. 12+ (DRW) was about average for a winter season. A ♂ Indigo Bunting, one of a very few ever found wintering in California, was frequenting a feeder in Santa Barbara Jan. 28+ (PEL). Purple Finches were more numerous than usual in the lowlands, but not exceptionally so, and Pine Siskins were noticeably commoner along the coast with small numbers present in the desert regions. A flock of 20± Red Crossbills in Hart Memorial P. of Bakersfield Feb. 14 (JW), five in Goleta Dec. 16 (PEL), and eight plus seen sporadically around Santa Barbara Jan. 2-Feb. 20 (KLG) were outside areas of normal occurrence. A Brown Towhee, most likely *eremophilus*, at Little L., Jan. 11 (JRJ) was one of very few every found away from the limited breeding range in this part of California. A Grasshopper Sparrow near Imperial Beach Jan. 24-Feb. 5 (JO) was away from any area of normal occurrence. A Tree Sparrow at Mesquite Springs in Death Valley Dec. 6-7 (J & ES) and another at Oasis, Mono Co., Jan. 17 (BD) were both in the n.e. part of the Region where small numbers occur each fall. A Clay-colored Sparrow near Imperial Beach Dec. 19-24 (REW) was likely a late fall straggler. Harris' Sparrows were somewhat scarce with single birds at F.C.R., Dec. 8 (J & ES) and Jan. 17 (BD), one near Barstow Jan. 10 (EAC), another near Maricopa

Dec. 13 (NSC) and single individuals in Goleta Jan. 2-Mar. 8 (KB) & Feb. 13+ (LB) being the only ones found. Some $25 \pm$ White-throated Sparrows was about average. A Swamp Sparrow in Santa Barbara Dec. 6-Jan. 20 (RAH) and 1-3 on Vandenberg Air Force Base Dec. 5-Feb. 28 (PEL) was well below average. The two McCown's Longspurs found at Pt. Mugu Nov. 15 were still present Mar. 21 (PEL); this was only the second known occurrence of this species wintering along the coast of California. A flock of $40 \pm$ Chestnut-collared Longspurs near Blythe Dec. 10 (REW) and up to six present near Lancaster Nov. 22-Feb. 15 (LCB) were the only ones found this winter.

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