SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / Guy McCaskie

The mild weather of the winter continued on into the spring with only a few fronts from the north during March and April. Migrants appeared either on time or a little late and no large concentrations of migrant landbirds were encountered along the coast or at desert oases.

ABBREVIATIONS — F.C.R. = Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley National Monument: L.A.C.M. = Los Angeles County Museum; N.E.S.S. = north end of the Salton Sea. Riverside Co.; S.B.M.N.H. = Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History; S.D.N.H.M. = San Diego Natural History Museum; S.E.S.S. = south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial County. As virtually all rarities found in s. California are now seen by numerous observers only the observer initially identifying the bird is listed. Documentation is on file for all rarities listed in the report.

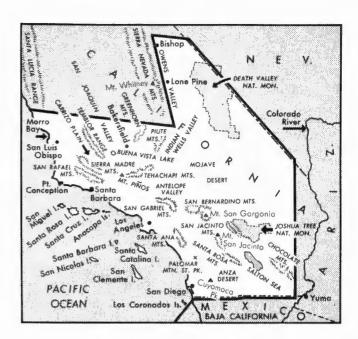
The early arrival dates for some of our key migrants were: Wilson's Phalarope Apr. 2, Salton Sea; N. Phalarope Apr. 19, Salton Sea; Com. Tern Apr. 14, San Diego; Least Tern Apr. 12, Los Angeles; Elegant Tern Mar. 3, San Diego; Black Tern Apr. 17, Salton Sea; Lesser Nighthawk Mar. 25, near Blythe; Vaux's Swift Apr. 6, near Palm Springs; Black-chinned Hummingbird Mar. 21, near Blythe; W. Kingbird Mar. 6, Anza Borrego Desert S.P.; Ash-throated Flycatcher Mar. 28, Salton Sea; Willow Flycatcher May 6, San Diego; Hammond's Flycatcher Apr. 1, Coachella Valley; W. Flycatcher Mar. 2, Topanga; W. Wood Pewee Apr. 10, Orange Co., Olive-sided Flycatcher Apr. 11, Santa Barbara; Swainson's Thrush Apr. 17. Morongo Valley; Bell's Vireo Mar. 21, Riverside; Solitary Vireo Mar. 17, Whitewater Canyon; Warbling Vireo Mar. 5, Santa Barbara; Nashville Warbler Mar. 31, Santa Barbara; Yellow Warbler Apr. 4, San Diego; Black-throated Gray Warbler Mar. 22, Orange Co.; Hermit Warbler Apr. 12, Orange Co.; MacGillivray's Warbler Mar. 23, Salton Sea; Yellow-breasted Chat Apr. 4, San Diego; Wilson's Warbler Mar. 5, Orange Co.; Hooded Oriole Mar. 3, near Blythe; N. (Bullock's) Oriole Mar. 5, near San Diego; W. Tanager Apr. 15, Orange Co.; Black-headed Grosbeak Mar. 23, Orange Co.; Blue Grosbeak Apr. 20, Orange Co.; Lazuli Bunting Apr. 1, Coachella Valley; Black-chinned Sparrow Mar. 24, Morongo Valley.

LOONS, GREBES — A few Com. Loons were found inland during April and May as expected but a flock of nine seen flying over the summit of Pine Mt. (elev. 7500 ft), Ventura Co., Apr. 15 (JMG) was at a most unusual locality. The Yellow-billed Loon found in Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., Feb. 23 remained to Apr. 12 when it was found dying on the beach (PEL, *S.B.M.N.H.). An Arctic Loon, a casual stray inland, was near Seeley, Imperial Co., May 15 (REW). A Rednecked Grebe at Bolsa Chica, Orange Co., Apr. 24 (DRW, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) was only the third ever found s. of Los Angeles County and was exceptionally late for anywhere in this Region.

ALBATROSSES, SHEARWATERS — A Laysan Albatross found dead (bird judged to have been dead 1-2 weeks) at the s. end of Blaire Valley in Anza Borrego Desert S.P., San Diego Co., May 28 (JE) was the third to have occurred in this general area in May (Dunn and Unitt, W. Birds 8:27-28, 1977 and Am. Birds 35:850, 1981); another Laysan Albatross found on a freeway in Long Beach Apr. 13 (Long Beach Press-Telegram, Apr. 16, ph., L.A.C.M.) was at an equally unlikely spot for such a bird. One hundred Manx (Blackvented) Shearwaters off Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co., Mar. 21 (PEL) and 60 off Pt. Dume, Los Angeles Co., Mar. 27 (KLG) were large numbers for this latitude at this time of the year.

PELICANS, HERONS, STORKS - Two Brown Pelicans at N.E.S.S., May 8 (REW) were exceptionally early for this inland location. The ad. Little Blue Heron that wintered on Mission Bay in San Diego was present through Apr. 20 (DMacK). A Cattle Egret near Lancaster May 20 (JLD) and another at F.C.R., May 28 (JML) were both at unusual localities for this time of the year. At least one of the Louisiana Herons present around San Diego throughout the winter was still present near Imperial Beach on the somewhat late date of May 26 (JO); one at Pt. Mugu Apr. 10 (LB) was one of very few ever found n. of Los Angeles. An ad. Yellow-crowned Night Heron at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co., May 30+ (TeM) may well have been the same bird present here last fall and early winter. A Least Bittern well out in the desert at Zzyzx, San Bernardino Co., May 23-24 (KLG) and two at F.C.R., May 23 (REW) are best treated as migrants, although nesting could occur at either location. Two Wood Storks at S.E.S.S. May 15 (REW) were earlier than expected.

GEESE, DUCKS — As usual, Brant were found inland during March and April, with 42 on L. Henshaw in the mountains of San Diego County Mar. 28 (RHi) and another near Lancaster, Los Angeles Co., the same day (GMcG) being the most interesting sightings; this is the time of year birds wintering in the Gulf of California evidently move N, crossing s. California to reach the coast. Two White-fronted Geese on San Jacinto L., near Lakeview, Riverside Co., Apr. 24 (EAC) were late. Two Fulvous Whistling Ducks were at Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo Co., May 26 (PS); this species formerly occurred as an accidental straggler to the coast of c. and n. California but with the numbers held in captivity today, most encountered along the coast are considered escapees. A & Eur. Green-winged Teal in Goleta Apr. 4 (LRB) was believed to be a different individual than the one present there through the winter. A



3 Eur. Wigeon on San Jacinto L., Apr. 25 (TMt) was exceptionally late. A flock of 50 ± Greater Scaup on L. Matthews, Riverside Co., Mar. 6 (EAC) was an exceptional concentration and, along with four on L. Cachuma, Santa Barbara Co., Apr. 8-11 (REW), were inland. The two Oldsquaws found inland at S.E.S.S., Feb. 13 remained through Apr. 17 with three present Apr. 3 (JO). A White-winged Scoter, casual inland, was on L. Henshaw Apr. 2 (RHi) and another was at N.E.S.S., May 8 (REW). Some 216 Surf Scoters on L. Henshaw Apr. 2 (RHi) was an exceptional concentration; one there Mar. 27 (REW) and another in Valley Center, San Diego Co., Mar. 1-24 (AF) were the only others found inland this spring. Two Hooded Mergansers in Goleta Mar. 13-Apr. 10 (JMG) were a little late. Five Red-breasted Mergansers on L. Henshaw Apr. 16 (RHi) were at an unusual locality.

HAWKS — A Mississippi Kite at F.C.R., May 28-29 (DHo, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) was the sixth to have been found at this location in late May and early June and another at Olancha, Inyo Co., May 30 (JW) was the first for the Owens Valley. A Sharp-shinned Hawk on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co., Apr. 28 (REW) was somewhat late for a coastal location. Three Broad-winged Hawks were encountered with one at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co., Apr. 24 (JW), another at Oasis, Mono Co., May 24 (GMcC) and the third at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley N.M., May 30 (EAC); very few are recorded in spring. As expected, very few Swainson's Hawks were reported, but one over Goleta May 23 (JLD) and another near Ventura Apr. 19 (JMG) were along the coast where unexpected and thirteen settling to roost in Reseda, Los Angeles Co., Mar. 18 (RB) was a large concentration



Mississippi Kite present at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley, May 28-29, 1982. Photo/ Don Hoechlin.

for today. The ad. Zone-tailed Hawk that appeared on Mt. Palomar, San Diego Co., Feb. 28 was seen sporadically through Mar. 25 (RHi) and another was at Corn Springs, Riverside Co., Apr. 23 (HC). A Rough-legged Hawk near L. Henshaw Mar. 27 (REW) and another near Delano, Kern Co., Apr. 25 (MOC) were both somewhat late for this far s. A Peregrine Falcon at N.E.S.S. Apr. 10-17 (GMcC) was the only one reported away from known nesting localities. A Merlin near Twenty-nine Palms, San Bernardino Co., Apr. 16 (CGE) was late.

SHOREBIRDS — A Black Oystercatcher at Imperial Beach May 1 (EAC) was far from any rocky coastline or man-made jetty, and in an area where few have been recorded. Wintering Am. Golden Plovers remained into April with two still present near Santa Maria, Santa Barbara Co., May 18 (JLD); one at N.E.S.S., Apr. 10 (GMcC), another there Apr. 24-May 1 (GMcC) and two more there May 15 (REW) were the only spring migrants found. A flock of 100 + Blackbellied Plovers near Lancaster Mar. 28 (HMcG) was an exceptional concentration for an inland location away from the Salton Sea and 30± in flight over Mt. Palomar Apr. 16 (RHi) were at an unusual locality. About 1000 Whimbrel near Lancaster Apr. 24-May 2 (JLD) indicate just how numerous this species can be in the Antelope Valley in spring; sixty-five in the Cuyama Valley, Ventura Co., Apr. 14 (JMG) were at an interesting locality. Seven Solitary Sandpipers found Apr. 6-May 1 were more than normally encountered in spring. Two Wandering Tattlers, casual stragglers to the interior, were at Salton City on the Salton Sea May 15 (REW); 50 + on the Long Beach breakwater May 2 (NBB) was an exceptional concentration. Ruddy Turnstones were found on the Salton Sea May 1-8 with an amazing 75 together at N.E.S.S., May 8 (REW). A Surfbird near Lancaster May 8 (REW) established the fourth occurrence of this species inland, and the first away from the Salton Sea. Red Knots were continuously present inland on the Salton Sea Apr. 3-May 15, with a peak of 90 Apr. 17 (GMcC). The only Sanderlings found inland away from the Salton Sea were seven seen around Lancaster May 8-28 (REW, DRW). As now expected, a few Semipalmated Sandpipers were found among the migrant W. Sandpipers with single birds at N.E.S.S., Apr. 24 (GMcC) & May 8 (REW), three there May 15 (REW) and another near Santa Maria May 9-10 (LB). A Baird's Sandpiper, rare in spring, was at Salton City May 8 (RHi). Totally unexpected was a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper near Lancaster May 5-9 (JLD), this being the first found anywhere along the West Coast s. of Alaska in spring. A Pectoral Sandpiper, exceedingly rare in spring, was near Santa Maria Apr. 24 (PEL). A Red Phalarope at Harper Dry L., San Bernardino Co., May 28 (ASE) was inland but occurred at the same time small numbers were being found along the coast. Nine hundred N. Phalaropes near Lancaster May 12 (JLD) was a large concentration for an inland location away from the Salton Sea.

SKUAS, GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMER - An early S. Polar Skua near Catalina I., May 5 (EAC) was the only one reported. Three different Glaucous-winged Gulls were found at various locations around the Salton Sea during April and a fourth was at N.E.S.S., May 1+ (GMcC); this species is rare inland. A first-winter Herring Gull near Lancaster Mar. 26 (JLD) was one of fewer than half a dozen found in the interior away from the Salton Sea and Colorado R. Valley. A first-winter Thayer's Gull was inland at N.E.S.S., Apr. 3 (REW). An ad. Laughing Gull at N.E.S.S., Apr. 17 (GMcC) was unexpected, this species being unrecorded on the Salton Sea in recent years before mid-May; two near Lancaster May 13 (NLS) established the second occurrence of this species inland away from the Salton Sea. Fifteen Franklin's Gulls were found during April and May including six at Weldon, Kern Co., Apr. 24-25 (MOC) and a group of five together near Lancaster Apr. 24 (JLD); this species continues to be a rare transient through California. A flock of 400 + Bonaparte's Gulls on L. Henshaw Apr. 2 (RHi) was a large concentration for an inland location away from the Salton Sea. An imm. Little Gull in Goleta May 10 (PEL) was the latest of nine recorded to date in s. California. A Sabine's Gull was found on shore near Pt. Mugu May 23 (LB). A Com. Tern on L. Palmdale in the Antelope Valley May 12 (JLD) was the first found inland away from the Salton Sea in spring. An elusive Sandwich Tern around San Diego May 15+ (FAH) was only the second found in California but could well be the same bird present two years ago (Am. Birds 34:816, 1980). A Black Skimmer in Goleta May 20 (TW) was exceptionally far n.

ALCIDS — Two breeding-plumaged Pigeon Guillemots at Pt.

Dume were s. of the species' normal range along the coast. A Marbled Murrelet at Pt. Mugu May 8 (LB) was well to the s. of the species' range. Two Ancient Murrelets at Pt. Mugu May 30 (LB) were unexpected, there being fewer than ten occurrences between Apr. 30 and Oct. 1 in s. California waters.

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Band-tailed Pigeons wandered widely as indicated by reports of nine individuals along the coast of Los Angeles and San Diego Cos., along with reports of four more individuals from the high desert area of e. California during May. A White-winged Dove at Deep Springs, Inyo Co., May 22-29 (GMcC) was n. of the species' normal range, and single birds at Piedras Blancas, San Luis Obispo Co., May 24 + (RJ), in Goleta May 16-17 (WA) and at Pt. Mugu May 23 (LB), along with four seen on Pt. Loma Apr. 30-May 24 (REW, DPa) were along the coast w. of the species' range. A Lesser Nighthawk in West Los Angeles Mar. 8 (JLD) had probably wintered locally, the date being some two weeks earlier than when the first migrants could be expected in s.e. California. A Black Swift near Cambria, San Luis Obispo Co., Apr. 30 (GPS) was quite early; six seen in the Mt. Palomar/L. Henshaw area May 3 (RHi), two over Snow Creek Village, Riverside Co., May 11 (TG) and one at Cajon Pass, San Bernardino Co., May 24 (DHo) were inland and away from known nesting localities. Calliope Hummingbirds appeared to be more numerous along the coast than normal during April and early May with 20 + found around San Diego alone; a male near Imperial Beach May 24 (TMx) was exceptionally late. A ♂ Broad-billed Hummingbird, a casual straggler to California, was at Agua Caliente Springs, San Diego Co., Mar. 15-21 (DD). An Acord Woodpecker at Whitewater, Riverside Co., Apr. 28 (DHa) and another at Barker Dam in Joshua Tree N.M., Apr. 23-27 (SFB) had strayed into the desert, and single birds on Pt. Loma May 4 (REW) & 21 (REW) were w. of the species' range. Five Lewis' Woodpeckers on Mt. Palomar May 3 (RH) were a little late for this far s. A wintering Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (S.v. varius) in Silverado Canyon, Orange Co., remained through Mar. 15 (DRW). A Yellow-bellied (Redbreasted) Sapsucker in Santa Barbara Apr. 15 (TW) and another on Pt. Loma May 5 (REW) were both late for along the coast.

FLYCATCHERS — An E. Kingbird at Oasis. Mono Co., May 25 (JML) was the only one found this spring. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a casual stray to California, was at Pt. Piedras Blancas May 3-10 (FRT) and what could have been the same bird was seen at nearby Hearst's Castle May 18 (GPS). A Wied's Crested Flycatcher at F.C.R., May 29-30 (JSR) and another at nearby Panamint Springs May 31 (HC) were n.w. of the species' range, being only the second and third ever found in Inyo County. A Least Flycatcher, a rare but regular vagrant to California, was at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley N.M., May 23 (GMcC) and another was along Cottonwood Creek, adjacent to Oasis, May 29 (JLD). Single Dusky Flycatchers, very rare along the coast in spring, were seen on Pt. Loma Apr. 22 (REW) & May 3 (REW). Seven Gray Flycatchers found along the coast between Apr. 18 and May 13 would appear about average for spring.

JAYS THROUGH SOLITAIRES — A Steller's Jay at Pt. Fermin. Los Angeles Co., May 27 (JAJ) and another in Hollywood May 30 (RL) were both in the coastal lowlands where rare at any time of the year. Two Com. Ravens in Goleta Mar. 30 (WA) and two more there May 18 (PEL) were in an area where only one has been recorded in recent years; the ranges of the Com. Raven and Com. Crow along the coast of California appear complex and deserve study, the one species replacing the other at various points with no apparent change in habitat. A Gray Catbird near Santa Maria Apr. 25 (JD) was appreciably earlier than any of the previous eight spring occurrences indicating it may have wintered locally; and was the first found along the coast at this season; one at Deep Springs May 14-15 (J. Mawby. fide DR) was in keeping with previous spring records. A Brown Thrasher in Santa Barbara Mar. 10 (JLe) had probably wintered locally but one at F.C.R., May 21 (JL) was one of very few ever found during the traditional period for eastern vagrants—late May to early June. A Bendire's Thrasher in San Luis Obispo May 1 (FRT) would appear to be the second ever found along the coast in spring. A Varied Thrush in Sierra Madre, Los Angeles Co., May 27 (B & EG) was exceptionally late. A Townsend's Solitaire on Pt. Loma Apr. 18 (REW) was unexpected, as very few are found along the immediate coast in spring.

VIREOS, WOOD WARBLERS — A White-eyed Vireo was in Goleta May 18 + (PEL) and another was on Pt. Loma Jun. 7 (REW) to establish the fourth and fifth records for the Region. A Yellow-throated Vireo, a casual straggler to California, was at Los Osos, San Luis Obispo Co., Apr. 22-24 (DS) and another was at Turtle Rock Nature Center near Irvine, Orange Co., May 19 (DRW). The only Red-eyed Vireos found this spring were one on Pt. Loma May 18 (EC) and another at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley N.M., May 24 (MD). Three Philadelphia Vireos were found, with one along the coast at Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo Co., May 22 (PS), another on Pt Loma May 29-31 (NBB) and the third inland at Oasis May 29-30 (JML); there are no previous spring records for the coast.



Adult & White-eyed Vireo, Goleta, Santa Barbara County, May 20, 1982. Photo/Jim Greaves.

All the normally occurring w. species of wood warblers, along with an average number of the regularly occurring vagrants-Black-andwhite Warbler (15), Tennessee Warbler (22), N. Waterthrush (8) and Am. Redstart (25)-were reported during April and May. A & Prothonotary Warbler, a casual straggler to California, was on Santa Barbara I., May 24-25 (CD) and another was in Goleta June. 2-3 (KB). A Worm-eating Warbler in Goleta May 29 (MD) was only the fifth ever found in spring. A ♀ Golden-winged Warbler at Oasis May 22-23 (JML) was the eighth found in this area of California during late May and early June. A Tennessee Warbler in Goleta Apr. 11 (TW) is presumed to have wintered locally, the date being too early for a spring vagrant. A & Lucy's Warbler on Pt. Loma June 2 (REW) was unexpected, there being no previous spring record for the coast. As usual a few N. Parulas appeared with 12 found Apr. 24-Jun. 4, seven of which were along the coast. Two Magnolia Warblers were found with one at Deep Springs May 28 (JSt) and the other at Mesquite Springs in Death Valley N.M., May 29-30 (JL); two or three are found in this area of California each spring. A of Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler at Oasis May 28 (BD) was late. A & Yellow-throated Warbler, a casual straggler to California, was in Morongo Valley Apr. 23-24 (R & MW, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) and another was in Upper Tujunga Canyon of the San Gabriel Mts., May 10 (H. Penfold, fide GSS). The only Chestnut-sided Warblers found this spring were a male at Oasis May 29 (BLaB) and another at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley N.M. the same day (JSt).

The Bay-breasted Warbler found wintering in Long Beach was still present Apr. 9 (JAJ); a female in Goleta Apr. 10 (EVG) was nearly six weeks earlier than the earliest spring vagrant previously recorded in California, suggesting it had wintered out of range along the Pacific Coast and was moving with the regularly occurring w. migrants. A male in San Pedro, Los Angeles Co., May 27 (JAJ), a female at Deep Springs May 29 (SA) and another male at S.E.S.S., June 11 (CGE) occurred during the late May-early June period in which all previous spring vagrants have been found. A Blackpoll Warbler, an exceptionally rare vagrant in spring, was on Pt. Loma May 13 (REW). A Palm Warbler in Huntington Beach, Orange Co., Apr. 14 (DRW) is believed to have wintered locally, but another on Pt. Loma May 7 (REW) was clearly a migrant. Nine Ovenbirds May 4-June 9 were more than normally encountered at this time of the year. A Kentucky Warbler at Deep Springs May 27 (JLD) was the tenth found in s. California. Four Hooded Warblers were found with one along the coast on Pt. Loma May 7 (REW), and single birds inland at F.C.R., May 21 (JL), Deep Springs May 27-31 (JLD) and at Oasis May 24 (JML); small numbers reach California each spring. A Canada Warbler at Oasis May 29 (DW) was only the fifth ever found in spring. A

Painted Redstart, an exceptionally rare straggler to California, was at Ft. Piute in e. San Bernardino Co., Apr. 7 (MKe) and another was nearby in Carathers' Canyon of the New York Mts., Apr. 12 (RR). A total of 32 species of wood warblers was recorded during the period.

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS — The only Bobolinks reported were two at F.C.R., May 21-22 (JL), three there May 25 (JML), one at Deep Springs May 22 (REW) and another at Oasis the same day (JO). An Orchard Oriole, a regular straggler to California, was in Goleta Apr. 18 (LB) and another was found in Morongo Valley Apr. 23 (R & MW). As expected, a few N. (Baltimore) Orioles strayed into the Region with one on Santa Barbara I., May 25 (CD), three found in the Goleta/Santa Barbara area bn May 1-22, one near Weldon May 22 (RHa) and four in the n.e. portion of the Region May 25-30. A small number of Great-tailed Grackles were widely scattered through the n.e. portion of the Region in late May with one at Oasis May 29 (JML) being the northernmost; one in Goleta Apr. 23 (RP) and another at Montana de Oro, San Luis Obispo Co., May 2 (BA, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) were both along the coast where the species is still considered casual. As usual, a few vagrant Summer Tanagers appeared at desert oases in late May (six found in Inyo/Mono Cos., May 22-June 8), but one in Goleta June 3 (LB) was the only one seen along the coast; these birds are believed to be of the e. form rubra rather than the form cooperi which breeds in s.e. California.

FINCHES, SPARROWS — A & Rose-breasted Grosbeak on Pt. Loma Apr. 11-21 (JO) was unusually early for a vagrant; virtually all spring birds are found during May. The & Indigo Bunting found wintering in Santa Barbara was last seen Apr. 4 (NC); five reported during May were fewer than usual. Five Evening Grosbeaks in Santa Fe Springs, Los Angeles Co., Mar. 8-11 (BW) were in the coastal lowlands where rare and two on Figueroa Mt., near Santa Barbara May 15-16 (PEL) and another on Mt. Palomar May 17 (RHi) were late for these areas. A singing Lark Bunting, rare anywhere in California in spring, was in Ballinger Canyon of extreme n.e. Santa Barbara Co., May 9 (TW). A Vesper Sparrow in Goleta May 25-26 (GF) was exceptionally late for along the coast. A Black-throated Sparrow in Arcadia, Los Angeles Co., Apr. 17 (B. Cohen, fide GSS) was w. of the desert. Wintering White-throated Sparrows lingered to early May, with one in Glendale, Los Angeles Co., Apr. 22-25 (HC) and another near Santa Barbara Mar. 23-May 2 (G & JH) being the latest; a migrant at Oasis May 22-24 (JO) was exceptionally late. A McCown's Longspur near Twenty-nine Palms Apr. 16 (CGE) was the first to have been found in California during April.

CORRIGENDUM — AB 36 (March 1982) erroneously credits Jerry Oldenettel for all three photographs accompanying the Southern Pacific Coast Region report; the Bar-tailed Godwit in flight was photographed by Don Hoechlin and the Baird's Sparrow was photographed by Joseph R. Jehl, Jr.

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