

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Guy McCaskie

The winter season was appreciably wetter than normal, with all areas receiving rainfall totals of more than 150% of normal for this time of the year, and some areas receiving closer to twice the normal rainfall. The rains were accompanied by high winds resulting in much damage; however, temperatures remained mild with no prolonged cold spells.

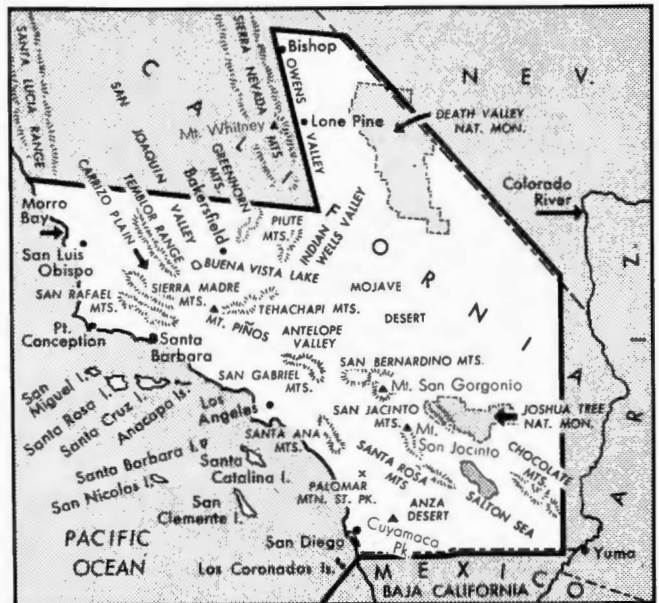
The mild temperatures enabled a number of unexpected birds successfully to winter including some species confined primarily to Mexico: Thick-billed Kingbird (1), Rufous-backed Robin (2), Painted Redstart (3) and Hepatic Tanager (1). How does one correlate the presence of these subtropical birds with the occurrence of four King Eiders in the same general area? Berry-eaters (American Robins and Cedar Waxwings) were almost totally absent, the only American Robins in the southern portion of the Region are believed to be the few birds now resident in some of the cities (e.g., resident populations now established in Presidio and Balboa Parks in San Diego); Cedar Waxwings were unrecorded from many areas. Pine Siskins were exceptionally scarce throughout the lowlands (this species nests south to Monterey County on the coast, and south to Riverside County in the mountains, and is normally relatively common throughout much of southern California in winter), being totally absent from the lowlands of the southern half of the Region. Purple Finches were also not to be found in the coastal lowlands south of Los Angeles.

With the increased interest in searching for rarities we are learning that many of these "lost vagrants" are at least living full lives, returning year after year to winter in the same localities (e.g., two Grace's Warblers around Santa Barbara have now spent four winters in their chosen wintering localities). With such birds as these returning for four and five years (normal life expectancy for small land birds) we can be assured they are also successfully summering at other localities, but we are a long way from knowing where those localities may be, and whether they are within the species' normal breeding range.

ABBREVIATIONS — 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.C.R.M. — Santa Clara River mouth, Ventura Co.; S.D.N.H.M. — San Diego Natural History Museum; S.E.S.S. — south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co. *Birds of Southern California* by Kimball Garrett and Jon Dunn (1981) is the standard reference for the status and distribution of the birds in this Region. Since virtually all rarities found in southern California are seen by numerous observers, only the observer initially identifying the bird is included. Documentation is on file for all rarities listed in the report.

LOONS, GREBES, PELICANS — Some 15 Com. Loons were found wintering on deep water lakes away from the coast and the Colorado R. valley, including one at S.E.S.S., where virtually unknown in winter Dec. 4 (GMCC). Forty Horned Grebes on L. Perris, Riverside Co., during January and February (GMCC) was a large number for an inland locality. An imm. Brown Pelican at S.E.S.S., Jan. 17 (DS) was best considered an exceptionally late straggler from the late summer influx, but was only the second to have been seen here during January.

HERONS — A Least Bittern, rare along the coast in winter, was in Santa Barbara Jan. 2-12 (HM) and two more were at Santee Lakes near San Diego Dec. 15 (REW). Two ad. Little Blue Herons, a species now regular in limited numbers in s. California, remained on San Diego Bay throughout the period (EC). Up to three Louisiana Herons were present around Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., through the winter (PJ), but the



species went unreported elsewhere. An ad. Reddish Egret, a casual visitor to the coast of s. California, was on San Diego Bay Dec. 18 + (M & DH). An ad. Yellow-crowned Night Heron on San Elijo Lagoon near San Diego Feb. 20 + (TM) may have been the bird first seen here during the fall and early winter of 1981, and again during the summer of 1982, having never left the area. A flock of 450 White-faced Ibis near Seeley, Imperial Co., Jan. 14 (JLD) was a large concentration.

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — Nine Whistling Swans at Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co., in mid-January (RD) were the southernmost of 16 found along the coast. A flock of 53 White-fronted Geese over Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., Jan. 27 (JLD) was exceptional; this species is now very rare along the coast with only eight other individuals found there during the period. More than the normal one or two Ross' Geese were found along the coast with seven in San Luis Obispo County, four in Santa Barbara County, two in Ventura County, one in Orange County, and 14 in San Diego County. A Canada Goose at the Santa Maria R. mouth Nov. 26 (LaS) was of the endangered subspecies *leucopareia*, the first to be found in Santa Barbara County. A Green winged Teal of the Eurasian form *crecca* in Goleta Nov. 3-Feb. 24 (PEL) was the same bird present here last winter. A ♂ Blue-winged Teal at S.E.S.S., Jan. 19 (JLD) was one of very few ever found in this area during winter; this is surprising as the species is regular in small numbers along the coast in winter. Eurasian Wigeon were present in expected numbers with at least 12 along the coast, along with up to three on L. Henshaw in the mountains of San Diego County and 2-3 around S.E.S.S., throughout the winter. A hybrid Eurasian x American Wigeon was shot at S.E.S.S., Jan. 23 (T. Clotfelter, *fide* GMCC, *S.D.N.H.M.), and up to three similar hybrids were found among a large concentration of Am. Wigeon near San Jacinto, Riverside Co., during January (EC); this concentration also included a minimum of six Eur. Wigeon, and I am confident that these hybrids are the result of individual Eur. Wigeon remaining to breed with Am. Wigeon in North America, and not from captive birds as once suggested as one of several possibilities, including my conclusion, by Arbib (*Am. Birds* 35:799, 1981).

Two ♂ Tufted Ducks on L. Perris Jan. 22-Feb. 21 (AMC) were the first to be found in Riverside County; however, two or three are now found along the coast of California each winter, and with increased



Adult ♂ King Eider, Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., Jan. 8, 1983. Photo/J. Oldenettel.

observer activity we can expect even more. A Greater Scaup at Furnace Cr. Ranch in Death Valley Feb. 12 (LLN) was at an unusual location, and flocks of six on L. Cuchuma Jan. 29 (JLD), up to 15 on L. Perris Jan. 22-Feb. 12 (REW) and 100+ at S.E.S.S., Jan. 19 (JLD) were significant concentrations from inland localities. The presence of an ad. ♂ **King Eider** at Imperial Beach/ Coronado, San Diego Co., Dec. 3-Jan. 25 (MBS, ph. S.D.N.H.M.), a female at the entrance to Newport Bay, Orange Co., Dec. 26-Jan. 16 (H & OC), another at Huntington Beach, Orange Co., Dec. 18-Jan. 31 (R & MW, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) and a fourth in San Pedro, Los Angeles Co., Jan. 29-early February (Arthur Howe, *vide* GSS) were unexpected, there being only one previous record of this species in s. California, and no previous record of an ad. male s. of Alaska. The ♂ Harlequin Duck originally found in Carlsbad, San Diego Co., in December 1977 was still present Feb. 28+ (JO). Three Oldsquaws, rare along the coast of s. California, were near San Simeon, San Luis Obispo Co., Nov. 13-Feb. 13 (GPS) and another was at Imperial Beach Nov. 29-Jan. 19 (JO). Fourteen Black Scoters, another rarity along the coast of s. California, were found between San Simeon and San Diego Bay for an average winter number. Two Surf Scoters on L. Henshaw Dec. 3 (RH) were inland. A White-winged Scoter at S.E.S.S., Jan. 30 (GMCC) was one of a very few found inland in winter. A ♀ Barrow's Goldeneye near San Simeon Dec. 3-Feb. 5 (PEL, ph. S.D.N.H.M.), and another in San Luis Obispo Dec. 31 (TE), were along the coast where only 5 previous occurrences were known. A ♀ Hooded Merganser at S.E.S.S., Dec. 4 (GMCC) was in an area where few indeed have been recorded.

HAWKS — A Goshawk that hit a window in the San Marcos Pass area near Santa Barbara Dec. 31 (G & JH, *S.B.M.N.H.) was one of very few to be found along the coast of s. California. The Red-shouldered Hawk found near Brawley, Imperial Co., Oct. 24 remained Jan. 20+ (JLD) and another adult was in Brawley Jan. 22 (EAC) for the fourth ever in this area of California. At least four Broad-winged Hawks were found with an immature near San Luis Obispo Dec. 6 (TE), another near Los Alamos, Santa Barbara Co., Dec. 25-Mar. 6 (JR), a third in Carpinteria, Santa Barbara Co., Nov. 29-Dec. 12 (TW, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) and another in w. Los Angeles Dec. 30 (JLD); this species is now found wintering along the coast of California each year and is no longer considered casual. Zone-tailed Hawks were found again in San Diego County with at least two adults seen in the Fallbrook/Vista area Dec. 7-Feb. 27 (TS) and another adult on Mt. Palomar Feb. 26-Mar. 7 (RH). A **Red-tailed (Harlan's) Hawk**, a race recorded in s. California only once prior to this winter, was well studied near Needles, San Bernardino Co., Dec. 5 (EAC) and a second was near Lancaster, Los Angeles Co., Dec. 18+ (JLD); another bird fitting field guide descriptions of a light-phase Harlan's Hawk was at Thermal, Riverside Co., Dec. 7-14 (GH). A pale Merlin in Carpinteria Feb. 28 (TW) was definitely *richardsonii*, the first to be found in Santa Barbara County and one of a very few on the coast; four dark Merlins in coastal Santa Barbara County during December and January were of the rare black form *suckleyi* from coastal British Columbia.

RAILS, CRANES — A Black Rail was seen at Upper Newport Bay, Orange Co., Dec. 18 (ASm) and another was flushed from underfoot at San Elijo Lagoon Feb. 21 (LuS); reports of this species from along the coast away from Morro Bay are few indeed. Two Clapper Rails at the New Lakes in Whittier Narrows near El Monte Jan. 6 (DB) were in freshwater habitat 20+ mi inland, and the first seen in Los Angeles County in about 20 years. Sandhill Cranes regularly winter in only 3 areas of s. California (Carrizo Plain, Colorado R. valley around Blythe and near Brawley s. of the Salton Sea) so 200 at Harper Dry L., San Bernardino Co., Feb. 12 (EAC) was a surprise.

SHOREBIRDS — At least 30 Am. Golden Plovers of the Asiatic race *fulva* found wintering at 4 different localities on the coast were expected, but one at S.E.S.S., Jan. 30 (GMCC) was likely the same bird seen here last winter, and was one of only two or three ever found inland in winter. A Black Turnstone at S.E.S.S., Feb. 26-27 (H & OC) was unexpected; 7 occurrences on the Salton Sea along with one from the Colorado R. valley (all in spring), were the only previous occurrences from inland localities in s. California. One or two Red Knots at Salton City on the Salton Sea through the period established the second winter occurrence of this species at an inland locality. The Rock Sandpiper found near San Simeon Nov. 22 was still present Feb. 28 (EAC). Up to 35 Stilt Sandpipers were present around S.E.S.S., throughout the period (GMCC); small numbers of these birds are found here each winter suggesting that the Salton Sea is the n. limit of this species' normal winter range. One of the Ruffs present in Chino last November remained through at least Feb. 4 (MDB) to give us our second winter record from an inland location. Red Phalarope numbers dropped significantly during December after November's impressive influx, with virtually all gone by Jan. 1.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — An imm. Parasitic Jaeger at S.E.S.S., Dec. 4 (JO) was best treated as an exceptionally late fall migrant, being one week later than the previous late date for this inland locality. For the second successive year Laughing Gulls wintered at Finney L., near S.E.S.S., with up to six adults present throughout the period; the species was formerly considered casual/accidental here at this time of year. A first-winter Franklin's Gull was present in Goleta Dec. 2—Jan. 5 (TW); one or two are found along the coast most winters although California is clearly far n. of the species' known winter range. At least 15 Thayer's Gulls were present at various points around the Salton Sea during the winter, accompanying the thousands of gulls attracted to massive fish die-offs, this being an exceptional number for this inland location. Up to 20 W. (Yellow-footed) Gulls/day were to be seen on the Salton Sea throughout the period, which was many more than we have been accustomed to in previous winters. A third-winter W. Gull, believed to be of the n. race *occidentalis*, at S.E.S.S., Feb. 27 (GMCC), and a first-winter bird at Salton City Mar. 5-19 (REW), were only the fifth and sixth to be found in the true interior of California. Glaucous-winged Gulls were also more numerous than usual on the Salton Sea with a minimum of ten found during the period. A Glaucous Gull, very rare along the coast of s. California at S.C.R.M., Jan. 23-25 (AB) was remarkable in that it was an adult, only the second ever found in this Region; a first-winter bird at S.E.S.S., Dec. 31 (GMCC) and another at N.E.S.S., Jan. 22 (SS) were inland, where casual. Two Royal Terns near San Simeon Dec. 28 (JLD) were quite far n., this species being virtually unrecorded in c. and n. California in recent years. One or two Com. Terns on San Diego Bay all winter (REW) and two at Bolsa Chica, Orange Co., Jan. 6 (LRH) were birds showing dark lesser wing-coverts, the plumage worn by all of the very few Com. Terns found wintering in California. A Black Tern at S.E.S.S., Nov. 28-Dec. 21 (MH) was either an exceptionally late fall migrant or, more likely, attempting to winter locally.

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A White-winged Dove in Santa Barbara Jan. 1 (EB) and another in Oxnard, Ventura Co., early December-mid-February (A & MN) were both along the coast where very rare in winter; up to a half dozen in the area of Yaqui Wells/Agua Caliente Springs in e. San Diego County throughout the period (BW) were in the only area of California regularly supporting a small winter population. The presence of three Gourd Doves in Santa Paula Feb. 23 (SR) gave us another location in Ventura County where

this species occurs. A Lesser Nighthawk near Imperial Beach Jan. 23 (MO) was one of very few ever found along the coast in winter. A ♂ Broad-billed Hummingbird, a species now found annually in s. California, was in Santa Barbara Jan. 10-Feb. 15 (HW), another was in Rancho Santa Fe, San Diego Co., Dec. 18-Jan. 15 (LuS) and a third, a bird returning for its fourth winter, was in San Diego Dec. 18-Jan. 5 (PEL). A ♀ Black-chinned Hummingbird in San Diego Nov. 20+ (JO) was the individual that has spent the past 3 winters here. Nine Costa's Hummingbirds in the Santa Barbara/Goleta area during the winter was an unusually high number for this far n. in winter. Allen's Hummingbirds have recently established themselves as permanent residents in the Malibu area with up to 15/day reported this winter (KLG) suggesting that the birds are of the resident form *sedentarius* rather than migratory birds of the form *sasin*.

Single Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers of the e. form *varius*, a rare-to-casual straggler to California, were in Carpinteria Dec. 20 (TW), Goleta Nov. 11-Jan. 2 (PEL) and W. Los Angeles Feb. 20+ (JT, ph. S.D.N.H.M.); a male in Silverado Canyon, Orange Co., Dec. 3+ (DRW) was the same bird present here during the past 2 winters. A Yellow-bellied (Red-breasted) Sapsucker near Tustin, Orange Co., Jan. 8-15 (JW) possessed all the characters of the n.w. race *ruber*, a form recorded fewer than 6 times in s. California. A ♀ Williamson's Sapsucker in Malibu Dec. 16 (J & LM) was one of very few ever found in the coastal lowlands. A White-headed Woodpecker in Altadena, Los Angeles Co., Dec. 3 (L. Fulmar, *fide* GSS) was well below the normal montane habitat of this species.

FLYCATCHERS — Totally unexpected were an Olive-sided Flycatcher in Peters Canyon near Tustin Dec. 20+ (DRW) and another in Vista, San Diego Co., Jan. 8 (REW) as there are only 2 previous winter records for California. A Coues' Flycatcher in Griffith P., Los Angeles Oct. 31-Feb. 16 (KLG) was the bird known to have spent the past 3 winters at this location. A Least Flycatcher, a species known to have wintered in California on 3 previous occasions, was in Goleta Oct. 29-Mar. 15 (TW) while another was in nearby Carpinteria Nov. 23-Jan. 15 (TW). A Hammond's Flycatcher, probably casual in winter, was in Tapia P., near Malibu Dec. 19-25 (KLG). Only four Gray Flycatchers were reported this winter; this used to be by far the commonest *Empidonax* found wintering in s. California, but has declined drastically in recent years. Seven W. Flycatchers found wintering along the coast between Goleta and San Diego were slightly more than expected. Three E. Phoebe's, a rare but regular stray to California, were along the coast with one in Villa Park, Orange Co., Feb. 16 (AFP), another in Mission Viejo, Orange Co., Dec. 12+ (DRW) and a third near Imperial Beach Dec. 10-25 (REW); a fourth was inland at S.E.S.S., Dec. 21-Jan. 6 (REW). A Vermilion Flycatcher in Los Osos, San Luis Obispo Co., Nov. 15-Feb. 7 (GPS) was the same bird present here last winter, and was exceptionally far n. An Ash-throated Flycatcher, casual along the coast in winter, was in Goleta Dec. 15-Jan. 10 (TW), another was near Upper Newport Bay Dec. 26-29 (SJR) and a third was in San Diego Jan. 28-Feb. 5 (TS). A Tropical Kingbird in Los Osos Nov. 15-Jan. 15 (GPS), another in Goleta Nov. 24+ (PEL) and a third in Santa Barbara Jan. 2-Feb. 9 (KA) were all wintering birds along the coast. A **Thick-billed Kingbird** in Peters Canyon near Tustin Dec. 18+ (DRW, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) was only the sixth to have been found in California.



Thick-billed Kingbird, Peters Canyon near Tustin, Orange Co., all winter. Photo/J. Oldenettel.

SWALLOWS THROUGH WAGTAILS — Small numbers of Violet-green Swallows were present inland around Bakersfield all winter (MOC), and two (possibly spring migrants) were at S.E.S.S., Jan. 22 (EAC). A Rough-winged Swallow, most unusual along the coast in winter, was over O'Neill L., near Oceanside Dec. 28 (BED). A Bank Swallow, exceptionally rare anywhere in California in winter, was at S.E.S.S., Jan. 22 (EAC). A Verdin near Mojave, Kern Co., Dec. 26 (JH) was somewhat n.w. of the species' known range. A single Winter Wren in San Diego Dec. 29 (REW) was quite far s. and along the coast. A **Rufous-backed Robin** found in Newport Beach Jan. 1 (MCM) was joined by a second by Feb. 1 (SJR) with both still present Feb. 28; there were only 2 previous records of this species for California, and it is at best considered a casual straggler anywhere in the United States. The only Brown Thrasher found this winter was one in Kelso, San Bernardino Co., Dec. 19 (EAC). The White/Black-backed Wagtail found along the Los Angeles R., in Long Beach Nov. 4 was present through Jan. 18 (B. Van Meter, *fide* GSS, ph. S.D.N.H.M.).



Rufous-backed Robin, Newport Beach, Orange Co., Feb. 11, 1983. Photo/J. Gallagher.

VIREOS, WOOD WARBLERS — Ten Solitary Vireos were found this winter with six reported as the gray *plumbeus* form from the Great Basin area; this is more than expected in an average winter. A Warbling Vireo, exceedingly rare in winter, was in Goleta Dec. 31 (KB), two remained in Arcadia to at least Jan. 12 (GSS) and a fourth was seen in San Diego Jan. 5 (JML). A Philadelphia Vireo found in Huntington Beach Nov. 26 remained through Jan. 1 (DRW), being only the second ever present in California during winter.

Black-and white Warblers along the coast were about normal, but one in Brawley Jan. 20 (JLD) was inland where few winter records exist. A Worm-eating Warbler in Long Beach Nov. 5-Mar. 7 (BED) was within 3 mi of the location harboring one last winter, but was not believed to be that bird. Sixteen Tennessee Warblers were found along the coast between San Luis Obispo and San Diego; despite statements to the contrary (*i.e.*, Monson and Phillips, *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Arizona*, 1981), small numbers regularly winter along the coast of California. Twenty Nashville Warblers were found during the period to give us an average number for winter. A Virginia's Warbler in Newport Beach throughout the period (SJR) was the same bird present here during the past 3 winters, and another was in Santa Barbara Jan. 2-4 (KLG). A Yellow Warbler near Bakersfield all winter (MOC) was away from the coast and S.E.S.S., where small numbers regularly winter. More than 40 Black-throated Gray Warblers was an unexpected number, and included one at 3000 ft on Santiago Peak, Orange Co., Jan. 21 (DRW) and another on Mt. Palomar (5500 ft) all winter (RH). A Townsend's Warbler in Brawley, Imperial Co., Jan. 30 (JO) was in an area where virtually unrecorded in winter. Two Black-throated Green Warblers were found, with one in Goleta Feb. 11+ (TW) and the other in Huntington Beach Nov. 12-Feb. 4 (SJR), these being only the third and fourth ever known to winter in California. Ten Hermit Warblers along the coast were about normal. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** found freshly dead in Santa Monica, Los Angeles Co., Jan. 7 (C. Bush, *fide* KLG, *L.A.C.M.) was the first for California in winter, increasing the list of wood warblers found in California at this time of year to 35!

The two Grace's Warblers that have spent the past 3 winters in the Santa Barbara area returned for a fourth winter, the Santa Barbara bird

present Oct. 11+ (LRB) and the Carpinteria bird present Oct. 24+ (LRB), the latter joined by a third bird Jan. 11 (LRB). A Chestnut-sided Warbler in Santa Barbara Feb. 26+ (AW) was the first to be found along the coast in winter, and only the second anywhere in California at this time of the year. Palm Warblers may have been scarcer than normal with only five reported. The only N. Waterthrush reported was one present near Imperial Beach all winter (EC). A MacGillivray's Warbler in San Diego Dec. 29 (REW) was probably wintering locally, but could have been a late migrant. Only 15 Wilson's Warblers were reported, all in riparian habitat along the coast. An Am. Redstart in Los Osos Jan. 15-29 (DS), an ad. male in Goleta Oct. 12-Jan. 31 (PEL), an imm. male in Santa Barbara Jan. 2+ (KA), single females at 2 different locations in Huntington Beach Nov. 10-Jan. 29 (DRW) and Nov. 26-Feb. 24 (DRW), and an ad. male near Oceanside Dec. 17-Feb. 5 (REW) were all along the coast where considered casual in winter. Three Painted Redstarts came as a surprise with one in Santa Barbara Nov. 11+ (LRB, ph. S.D.N.H.M.), another in Oxnard early November-Feb. 20 (A & MN, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) and the third in Malibu Dec. 15-21 (JLD).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS — Four Tricolored Blackbirds near Cantil in the Fremont Valley, Kern Co., Feb. 12 (MOC) were e. of the species' normal range. A Great-tailed Grackle in Santa Barbara Oct. 14-Jan. 14 (AB), one near San Diego Nov. 15+ (JZ) and another near Imperial Beach Feb. 13 (M & DH) were all on the coast, indicating that this species is continuing its push W. Five Orchard Orioles were found this winter with one in Carpinteria Nov. 4-Jan. 15 (TW), an ad. male in Oxnard mid-November-mid-January (A & MN, ph. S.D.N.H.M.), two (a male returning for its fourth winter and a female for its second winter) in Ventura Nov. 24-Jan. 30 (PEL) and a female in Coronado, San Diego Co., Dec. 10 (REW). A Hooded Oriole, inexplicably rare in winter, was in Santa Barbara Dec. 29-Feb. 1 (TW) and another was seen near Dana Pt., Orange Co., Dec. 21 (W & VG). As usual, small numbers of N. Orioles remained through the winter, most associated with flowering eucalyptus, with 75 ± reported, 13 of these being of the e. race *galbula*; one in Brawley Jan. 30-Feb. 27 (JO) was the only one truly inland. Five Scott's Orioles in the Santa Barbara area during much of the winter (PEL), three near Trabuco Canyon, Orange Co., Dec. 3+ (DRW) and up to three in Vista Jan. 14-21 (JG) were all w. of the coastal mountains, while an ad. male in Whitewater Canyon, Riverside Co., Feb. 23 (DH) was along the w. edge of the desert where small numbers may prove to winter regularly. A ♂ Hepatic Tanager, exceedingly rare in winter, was in Santa Barbara Nov. 11+ (LRB, ph. S.D.N.H.M.). Summer Tanagers appeared to be more numerous than usual with six in Santa Barbara County, two in Los Angeles County, two in Orange County, and ten in San Diego County during the period. As usual small numbers of W. Tanagers wintered along the coast with 70 ± reported; one in Bakersfield all winter (JyW), and two in Brawley Jan. 20 (JLD) were the only ones found inland.

GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, SPARROWS — Three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks around Santa Barbara and five more in the San Diego area was a good total for the winter. A Black-headed Grosbeak, decidedly rarer than the previous species in winter, was in Los Alamos Jan. 20 (MB) and another was in Santa Barbara Jan. 23-Mar. 1 (CL). An Evening Grosbeak on Mt. Palomar Dec. 1 (RH) was quite far s., and the only one reported this winter. An Indigo Bunting in Goleta Dec. 26-27 (KB) was best considered a very late fall migrant, and a male at a feeder in Santa Barbara Nov. 9-Feb. 24 was the same bird present here last winter; there are fewer than 6 documented winter records of this species in s. California. Six Lark Buntings in the Palo Verde Valley, Riverside Co., Dec. 4 (RMCK), three in the Lanfair Valley Dec. 12 (EAC), one in Lakeview, Riverside Co., Jan. 26-Feb. 21 (ASa) and another near nearby San Jacinto Feb. 4 (BW) were the only ones found this winter.

A **Field Sparrow** in the Lanfair Valley of e. San Bernardino Co., Dec. 11 (EAC) was compared directly with accompanying Brewer's Sparrows, and found to be much brighter, with buff on the breast and much chestnut on the upperparts; one present on the Farallon Is., June 17-July 9, 1969 represents the only documented record for California. The only Harris' Sparrows reported were one in Bakersfield Feb. 27 (MOC), another near Lancaster Dec. 18-Mar. 12 (JLD), one in Sun-

land, Riverside Co., Dec. 27-30 (JS) and a fourth in Niland near S.E.S.S., Dec. 21-Jan. 20 (JLD). Swamp Sparrows were exceedingly scarce with one in Santa Barbara Nov. 7-Jan 25 (PEL), another near Oceanside Dec. 26-Feb. 8 (REW) and a third at San Elijo Lagoon Jan.9-Mar. 6 (DKi) being the only ones reported. Four McCown's Longspurs were found near Blythe Dec. 23 (KVR) and up to 12 were near Lakeview Jan. 8-25 (AMC, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) suggesting that we still have much to learn about the winter occurrence of this species. Two Lapland Longspurs on the Plano Trabuco, Orange Co., Dec. 3 (SG) were probably fall migrants, but 1-2 in the Fremont Valley near Randsburgh, Kern Co., Feb. 12-19 (MOC) were clearly wintering. A concentration of up to 50 Chestnut-collared Longspurs was found near Lakeview Dec. 27-Feb. 21 (AMC); similar concentrations have twice before been found in this general area in winter, and the species may eventually prove to winter regularly in the open grasslands of this area.

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