

/Guy McCaskie

ABBREVIATIONS — N.E.S.S. = north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.; S.D.N.H.M. = San Diego Natural History Museum; S.E.S. = south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial County. As virtually all rarities found in s. 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.

Northern Fulmars remained in s. California waters throughout the period as indicated by 20 off Santa Barbara Mar. 1 (LB). Three Short-tailed Shearwaters, rare late fall and winter visitors to s. California waters, were 5 mi off Goleta Jan. 3 (LB) and another was 8 mi off Santa Barbara Mar. 1 (LB). Black-vented Shearwaters were present throughout the period as indicated by 275 off Goleta Jan. 3 (LB), 120 off San Diego Feb. 16 (CGE), 50 off Newport Bay Feb. 17 (SG), and five off Santa Barbara Mar. 1 (LB). Most unusual was an imm. Magnificent Frigatebird at Bolsa Chica Jan. 19 (GTO), only the 2nd ever to have been found in s. California during January.



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WATERFOWL — A Tundra Swan near Brawley Feb. 23 (RMcK) was only the 2nd to have been found in Imperial County in the past 10 years. A flock of 40 Greater White-fronted Geese in flight over downtown Los Angeles Feb. 8 (KLG) was an unexpected sight, but this is the time of year that numbers are moving N from wintering grounds in Mexico. A flock of 100 Wood Ducks on L. Cachuma Feb. 2 (TW) was an exceptional number for anywhere in s. California. A ♂ Eur. Green-winged Teal in Goleta Nov. 3-Mar. 1 (CDB) was evidently the same bird known to have spent the past 3 winters at this location. At least 16 Eur. Wigeon at 10 different locations was about average. A ♂ Eur. Wigeon x Am. Wigeon was well seen near Lakeview Dec. 16 (GMcC) and another was on L. Henshaw Feb. 24 (GMcC); this hybrid may not be as unusual as it is currently thought to be, and observers are encouraged to report all sightings.

Up to two Tufted Ducks at Saticoy Feb. 16-Mar. 17 (PEL) were the only ones reported this winter. Two Harlequin Ducks near San Simeon, San Luis Obispo Co., Dec. 8-Jan. 24 (CM) were in an area where one or two probably occur each year, but an imm. male in Long Beach Dec. 17-Jan. 13 (CTC) and another at Bolsa Chica Dec. 28-Mar. 6 (SJR) were both very far south. Ten Oldsquaws along the coast were more than expected, and one on Apollo L. near Lancaster Nov. 22 (A & JC) was inland. Two Surf Scoters at Santa Maria Dec. 14 (PEL) and three on L. Castaic, Los Angeles Co., Feb. 18-23 (KLG) were inland, as were two White-winged Scoters on L. Cachuma Jan. 2-Feb. 19 (RAH) and another near Orange Nov. 20-Mar. 12 (DRW), and the latter species was noticeably more numerous along the coast than in recent years. A Barrow's Goldeneye, decidedly rare throughout most of s. California, was near Irvine Dec. 8-Feb. 17 (GTo) and another was at S.E.S.S., Jan. 26 (REW).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Black-shouldered Kites continued to be found outside their normal range with two along the Colorado R. near Bard Feb. 21 (BED), four at widely separated localities in the Imperial Valley s. of the Salton Sea between Dec. 1 and Jan. 26 (JLD, REW), and one on San Miguel I., Jan. 15-31 (GMF) being the farthest out of range. A Red-shouldered Hawk, casual in s.e. California, was in Brawley Dec. 20-Feb. 2 (DRW). A Swainson's Hawk near Mettler, Kern Co., Dec. 6 (PHB) was exceptionally late for a fall migrant. The ad. Zone-tailed Hawk present near Vista since Oct. 19 was present through at least Jan. 1 (AE). A Ferruginous Hawk in Carpinteria Dec. 21 (TW), up to three in Santa Barbara Dec. 29-Mar. 9 (LB), and another at nearby El Capitan State Beach Jan. 3 (TW) were all in an area where considered rare. Rough-legged Hawks were more numerous and widespread than in recent years with some being found along the immediate coast such as one at San Simeon Nov. 24-Dec. 8 (RSto), one at Bolsa Chica Dec. 23-Jan. 11 (SG), and another in Del Mar Dec. 12 (LS). A Peregrine Falcon at S.E.S.S., Dec. 30 (CGE) was the only one found inland.

Up to 18 Lesser Golden-Plovers near Santa Maria throughout the winter (LB) and three at Seal Beach during the same period (SG) were all believed to be of the Asiatic race *fulva*, the only race documented to occur in California in winter. A Snowy Plover on L. Isabella, Kern Co., Jan. 25 (MH) was at an unusual location for that time of year. A Mountain Plover on the beach in Goleta Dec. 8-9 (MH) was certainly unexpected. A Ruddy Turnstone at Salton City Feb. 22-Mar. 10 (KRu) was only the 2nd ever found inland in the Region in winter. About 15 Sanderlings spent the winter inland on the Salton Sea at Salton City. Up to 15 Stilt Sandpipers at S.E.S.S., Jan. 26-Feb. 16 (REW) and up to 65 near Brawley Feb. 16-Mar. 2 (BED) undoubtedly wintered locally. The ♂ Ruff found on s. San Diego Bay July 15 was present through Mar. 17 (GMcC) and was unquestionably the same bird known to have spent the past 2 winters here. Two Wilson's Phalaropes, casual in winter, on s. San Diego Bay Feb. 14-23 (GMcC) and one near Brawley Feb. 16-Mar. 2 (BED) had undoubtedly spent the entire season in the Region. Three Red-necked Phalaropes on s. San Diego Bay Feb. 14+ (GMcC) had undoubtedly wintered locally, but a breeding-plumaged bird in Santa Barbara Jan. 27 (JLD) defied categorizing.

GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMER — A Franklin's Gull in Lake Forrest, Orange Co., Nov. 24-Dec. 16 (DRW) is best considered to have been a late fall migrant. A first-winter Little Gull at Salton City Jan. 17-31 (REM) was the 4th to have been found on the Salton Sea, and was

associating with up to 200 Bonaparte's Gulls, an exceptionally large number for this locality at this time of year. An ad. Mew Gull on L. Perris, Riverside Co., Jan. 13 (BWK), a 2nd-winter bird at Salton City Jan. 26-Feb. 3 (REW), and two to three at S.E.S.S., Dec. 18-Jan. 26 (PEL, JLD) were all well inland. Up to 75 Thayer's Gulls around Lompoc, Santa Barbara Co., Jan. 26-Feb. 8 (JLD) was a large concentration for s. California. An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull at S.E.S.S., Dec. 18-Jan. 5 (JLD) was the 2nd ever to have been found in California, the first having been in Monterey Jan. 14, 1978 (*W. Birds* 9:141-150). Up to five Glaucous Gulls at Lompoc Jan. 26-Mar. 3 (PEL) was an exceptional number for one location; elsewhere, single first-winter birds were in Santa Maria Jan. 3 (KZ), at Salton City Jan. 26-Mar. 2 (GMcC), and at S.E.S.S., Dec. 18-20 (GMcC). Black-legged Kittiwakes were very scarce with only seven reported, all during February.

Up to seven Elegant Terns on Morro Bay Dec. 9-15 (LD) were exceptionally late stragglers; most are normally gone from California by early November. Black Skimmers were more numerous and widespread along the coast than in previous winters with up to 42 at Bolsa Chica throughout the period (FGB), one at Malibu Feb. 23 (GH), and six at Pt. Mugu all winter (PEL) all being n. of San Diego County; one at S.E.S.S., Dec. 19 (BED) was inland.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Eight White-winged Doves at Palm Spring, e. San Diego Co., Feb. 10 (GEW) and another in nearby Tarote Canyon Feb. 11 (GEW) were in an area where small numbers appear to winter each year; however, one at Morro Bay Jan. 12 (JM), another in nearby Los Osos Jan. 17 (MW), and up to five in Goleta Oct. 13-Mar. 30 (GTi, KB) were along the coast where very rare in winter. Common Ground-Doves still appear to be pushing N up the coast as indicated by the presence of one to three near L. Casitas all winter (DS) and up to four in Carpinteria Nov. 30-Jan. 9 (TW). The presence during February of at least nine calling N. Saw-whet Owls between 5500' and 7000' in the San Gabriel Mts. (KLG), where one previous occurrence is known, probably reflects increased observer efforts. A Lesser Nighthawk near Calexico Feb. 8 (JC) was in an area where small numbers may prove to winter regularly; however, one in Irvine Nov. 9-Feb. 24 (DRW) and another near Imperial Beach Dec. 15-Jan. 1 (GMcC) were along the coast where considered casual in winter. Again Vaux's Swifts were found wintering along the coast with up to 40 at Malibu Dec. 2-Jan. 1 (KLG), up to 25 in Whittier, Los Angeles Co., Dec. 8-Jan. 7 (BWK), three on the Palos Verdes Pen., Dec. 24 (CTC), up to 40 over downtown Los Angeles Dec. 30-Jan. 3 (BVM), three in Fullerton Jan. 13 (SG), and 30-40 around Oceanside all winter (MJ). A ♀ Black-chinned Hummingbird, casual to accidental in California in winter, was in Long Beach Jan. 8-25 (BED).

Lewis' Woodpeckers remained more widely distributed than normal through the winter, with more than usual in coastal lowlands. With the possible "splitting" of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker into 2 species (Johnson and Zink, 1983, *Auk* 100:871-884; and 1985, *Auk* 102:1-15), observers are clearly paying more attention to the identification of these birds, hence an increase in the numbers of the e. birds *varius* being reported; this winter an immature was in Bakersfield Dec. 16-31 (MOC), a female was in Santa Ana Mar. 13-17 (LRH), a male was in Fallbrook, San Diego Co., Dec. 1-Feb. 17 (RH), and another male was at Finney L. near S.E.S.S., Feb. 8 (GEW). Single Yellow-bellied (Red-naped) Sapsuckers on the Carrizo Plain Feb. 17 (RSto), in Goleta Oct. 27-Jan. 1 (TW), in Santa Barbara Dec. 22-23 (RAH), and in Fillmore Dec. 30 (JLD) were all noteworthy. Single Williamson's Sapsuckers on Mt. Palomar Feb. 17 (REW) and Mt. Laguna Jan. 5 (DK) were a little s. of the species' normal winter range, one at Valyermo, Los Angeles Co., Dec. 1 (BS) was at a rather low elevation, and another in Fullerton Dec. 23-Mar. 14 (DRW) was in the coastal lowlands. A Nuttall's Woodpecker on San Miguel I., Jan. 15-31 (GMF) was apparently the first ever found on any of the Channel Islands.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — An Olive-sided Flycatcher in Santa Barbara Feb. 9-19 (LB) was one of fewer than one-half dozen ever found in California in winter. The Greater Pewee found in Santa Barbara Nov. 10 was still present Mar. 10 (JLD) and the other found in San Diego Nov. 10 was still present at the end of the period (REW). A Hammond's Flycatcher at L. Ming near Bakersfield Jan. 14 (MH) was one of very few ever reported in winter. Four Gray Flycatchers were

found along the s. coast along with three more on the s.e. desert, indicating small numbers continue to winter in the Region. Eight W. Flycatchers along the coast would appear about normal. A ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher in Los Osos Dec. 1-Feb. 19 (TME) was apparently the same bird first found here during the winter of 1981-1982, and considered exceptionally far north. A Dusky-capped Flycatcher in La Jolla Mar. 8 (LB) was the first to be found in San Diego County. Three Ash-throated Flycatchers were found along the coast, with one in Huntington Beach Dec. 2-Mar. 9 (SG), another in nearby Corona del Mar Feb. 14 (LRH), and the 3rd near Imperial Beach Jan. 19 (EC), and at least eight were seen between Dec. 29 and Feb. 23 (PU, REM, GEW) in the s.e. portion of the Region where small numbers evidently winter each year. The Thick-billed Kingbird found near Tustin Nov. 8 was still present at the end of the period (DRW) and the other in Claremont Nov. 3 was still present Mar. 17 (MB). One or two N. Rough-winged Swallows in Irvine Nov. 22-Dec. 30 (DRW) were most unusual since few indeed have been found along the coast at this time of year. A Cliff Swallow in Oceanside Dec. 23 (GMcC) was one of fewer than one-half dozen to have been found in s. California at this time of year. Two Barn Swallows in Irvine Dec. 25-Jan. 5 (DRW) were clearly wintering locally.

CORVIDS THROUGH VIREOS — A Clark's Nutcracker near Julian Jan. 21 (RH) was one of only a few ever to reach San Diego County. A flock of 200 Am. Crows near Palo Verde Feb. 20 (BED) was along the Colorado R. where similar-sized flocks occur every winter. Six Bushtits along the Colorado R. near Vidal Feb. 20 (BED) were at an unusual locality. Up to 10 Red-breasted Nuthatches in Brawley throughout the period appear to have been the first ever known to winter in this area. A Winter Wren in Irvine Dec. 25-Feb. 10 (DRW) was one of a very few to have been found in Orange County. Mountain Bluebirds were more numerous and widespread than usual throughout the interior of the Region with many occurring along the coast, where normally absent, as indicated by such reports as 20 near San Luis Obispo Dec. 12-Feb. 10 (GPS), 10 near Lompoc Dec. 15 (KS), up to 50 in Goleta Nov. 16-Mar. 5 (PEL), 30 around L. Casitas during December and January (BD), one at Playa del Rey Feb. 4 (WC), 110 near Corona del Mar Jan. 6 (SJR), and 40 near Penasquitos Lagoon Dec. 2 (D & MH); they also reached the Channel Is., as indicated by 40 on Santa Rosa I., Feb. 4 (KRi). A Townsend's Solitaire in Ventura Jan. 24 (JLD) was along the coast where rare, and single birds in Brawley Dec. 1 (GMcC) and Feb. 2 (REW) were at an unusual locality. A Sage Thrasher in Ventura Jan. 17-18 (PEL) was outside the species' normal range. The only Brown Thrasher reported was the one in Hart P. in Bakersfield Nov. 17-Jan. 26 (MH). A Bendire's Thrasher, a casual winter visitor to the coast of s. California, was in Goleta Dec. 21-Jan. 23 (RAH), another was in Coronado Jan. 28-Mar. 3 (JC) and a 3rd was on nearby Otay Mesa Feb. 16-Mar. 16 (MO), a 4th was inland at L. Perris Dec. 9-Jan. 26 (AMC), and another was near Lakeview Jan. 26-Mar. 22 (AMC). A **Sprague's Pipit** near Lakeview Mar. 2-17 (DMM) undoubtedly wintered locally and was one of a very few ever to have been found in California.

A Bell's Vireo, exceptionally rare in winter, was in Coronado Jan. 19-Mar. 3 (DRW). Ten Solitary Vireos were found along the coast along with three more inland, and the fact that all but three of the coastal birds were of the gray interior form *plumbeus* is significant considering how rare this form was considered to be in California as recently as 10 years ago. A Hutton's Vireo near Victorville Feb. 18 (DRW) was outside the species' normal range. A Warbling Vireo, casual in winter, was in Santa Barbara Feb. 2-9 (PEL) and another was in San Diego Feb. 11 (REW).

WOOD WARBLERS THROUGH LONGSPURS — Tennessee Warblers were scarcer than in recent winters with only eight reported from along the coast, but one in Niland Dec. 18-21 (JLD) was the first ever to have been found in the true interior at this time of year. Seven Nashville Warblers along the coast appeared about normal. A Virginia's Warbler in Santa Barbara Dec. 29-Feb. 13 (KLG) was probably the same bird present at this location during the winter of 1982-1983. A Lucy's Warbler, most unusual in winter, was at Dana Point, Orange Co., Dec. 15 (W & VG). Twenty Yellow Warblers along the coast were more than expected. A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler in San Luis Obispo Dec. 1-15 (CM) was apparently a late fall migrant. Twenty Black-throated Gray Warblers were found along the coast and two more

were inland in Brawley throughout the period. The only Hermit Warblers reported were one in Oceano Dec. 14-Feb. 3 (PEL) and two more in Santa Barbara all winter. A ♂ Grace's Warbler returned to Santa Barbara for its 6th winter, being present Oct. 7-Mar. 23 (TW), and was joined by a 2nd Dec. 21-Feb. 25 (PEL), with a 3rd in Ventura Dec. 30-Mar. 3 (JG). A ♀ Pine Warbler in Coronado Dec. 15-Mar. 3 (EC) was the 5th to have been found in California in winter. Only five Palm Warblers were reported from along the coast. Eight Black-and-white Warblers along the coast appeared about normal, but 10 Am. Redstarts in the same area was a little above average. A Worm-eating Warbler at Nojoqui Falls P. near Santa Barbara Dec. 1 (OC) was undoubtedly a late fall migrant. Two N. Waterthrushes spent the winter in the Oceano/Pismo Beach area and four more were found wintering in the San Diego area. A MacGillivray's Warbler in San Diego Dec. 1-23 (DP) was evidently attempting to winter locally. Ten wintering Wilson's Warblers were fewer than expected.

A ♂ Hepatic Tanager in Santa Barbara Feb. 27 (PWC) was evidently the same bird known to have spent the past 2 winters at this location, a female in Irvine Dec. 17-Jan. 15 (DRW) was the first to be found in Orange County, and a male on Pt. Loma in San Diego Mar. 24+ (MO) was undoubtedly the same bird seen Oct. 29, 1984, having spent its 2nd winter in this area. Five wintering Summer Tanagers were found along the coast and another was seen inland in Brawley Jan. 21 (JO). At least 100 wintering W. Tanagers were reported along the coast, indicating just how common this species is becoming at this time of year. Six Rose-breasted Grosbeaks along the coast were considered about average, as were four Black-headed Grosbeaks in the same area; however, a ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak at Hurkey Cr. Campground at 4500 ft. in the San Jacinto Mts., Jan. 31 (BED) was most unusual. A Blue Grosbeak at Morro Bay Dec. 12-Jan. 8 (GPS) was only the 6th ever found in s. California in winter.

A Green-tailed Towhee at Newport Bay Jan. 26-Feb. 15 (EM) was the only one found along the coast. Three Large-billed Savannah Sparrows (*A. s. rostratus*), now alarmingly scarce, were at S.E.S.S., Jan. 5 (PU). Only four Swamp Sparrows were found this winter, but one was inland at California City Jan. 12-21 (MH). A Harris' Sparrow in Ventura Dec. 25+ (J & PS) and another in Fallbrook Dec. 16+ (LB) were the only ones reported. Six McCown's Longspurs, rare in California, were near Lakeview Dec. 16-Jan. 27 (GMcC). The only Lapland Longspurs found were one along the coast in Goleta Dec. 22 (PEL), two at Buena Vista L., Kern Co., Dec. 21 (SAL), two near Lakeview Feb. 23-Mar. 2 (BWK) and one to two at S.E.S.S., Dec. 1-Jan. 31 (GMcC). One Chestnut-collared Longspur, normally the most numerous longspur in s. California, near Lakeview Jan. 31 (BED) was the only one found.

ORIOLES, FINCHES — Seven Orchard Orioles were found with up to four in Goleta Dec. 27-Mar. 31 (CDB), one in Carpinteria Dec. 2-Jan. 9 (LRB), an ad. male in Pacific Beach Jan. 6 (SZ), and a female in Coronado Dec. 15-Mar. 4 (LB). Six Hooded Orioles along the coast were more than usual, and single males in Brawley Feb. 16 (REW) and in Bard Feb. 21 (BED) were inland. An imm. ♂ **Streak-backed Oriole** at the home of Richard Eppley in La Jolla Dec. 10+ (REW) was the 7th to have been found in California. Nine N. (Baltimore) Orioles were among 75 ± N. Orioles wintering along the coast, and a N. (Bullock's) Oriole in Brawley Jan. 21-Feb. 16 (JO) was the only one inland. A Scott's Oriole near Claremont Dec. 11 (JB) was the only one found away from the w. edge of the s. desert where small numbers regularly winter.

Purple Finches appeared more numerous and widespread than normal, with numbers reaching the s.e. portion of the Region, as indicated by up to 80 in Brawley throughout the winter. As well as being more numerous than usual in the s. mountains, Cassin's Finches moved into the s.e. portions of the Region as indicated by such reports as 15 at L. Hughes, Los Angeles Co., Feb. 18 (KLG), six near Parker Dam Dec. 21 (KRi), two at N.E.S.S., Feb. 16 (TW), up to 25 in Brawley Jan. 26-Mar. 2 (REW), and one in Calexico Jan. 27 (CGE). Red Crossbills remained much more numerous and widespread than usual throughout the period, possibly increasing in numbers toward the end of the period; they were found in all of the coastal counties, with the largest numbers being 25 in Goleta Feb. 13 (PEL), seven in Ventura Jan. 20 (J & PS), 40-50 in Long Beach Jan. 18+ (BED), up to seven in Fullerton Dec. 23-Mar. 3 (JLD), and three in Del Mar Jan. 20 (EC); they were found

throughout all mountain areas, with 50 in the Garner Valley of the San Jacinto Mts., Jan. 31 (BED) being one of the largest concentrations, and were also scattered about the interior lowlands as indicated by 18 in Bakersfield Jan. 27-Feb. 16 (RSa) and three in Brawley Feb. 21 (BED). Pine Siskins were noticeably more numerous and widespread than usual with exceptional numbers along the coast. A few Evening Grosbeaks were evidently caught up in the finch influx as indicated by seven in California City Dec. 31 (MH), two in Ventura Dec. 27 (JG), 13 on Mt. Palomar Dec. 12-13 (RH), and two in San Diego Feb. 13 (REW).

ADDENDA — Two reports that should have been included in the fall migration report, but which were not received in time, were of a juv.

Ruff on San Nicholas I., Sept. 26 (RD), and a ♂ Hooded Warbler on the same island in late August (TM).

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