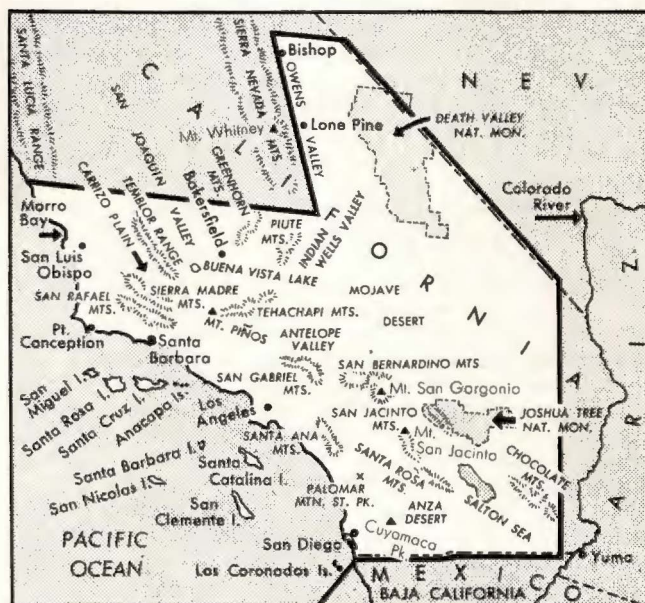


Guy McCaskie

Two N. Fulmars off Morro Bay Feb. 23 (GPS) were the only ones found in s. California waters this winter. Five Pink-footed Shearwaters, rare in mid-winter, were off Morro Bay Jan. 26 (GPS). A Short-tailed Shearwater off Morro Bay Jan. 28 (JMcD)



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off Montana de Oro S.P., Jan. 12 (TME) was felt to be a 2nd individual, but was only 5 mi from Morro Bay. The ♂ Harlequin Duck at Bolsa Chica was still present at the end of the period (LRH); Harlequin Ducks occurring in coastal s. California frequently stay for extended periods of time, with one at Playa del Rey Mar. 3, 1977 to Mar. 31, 1982 setting the record. Ten Oldsquaws between Morro Bay and San Diego Bay during the period was above average. Black Scoters were virtually nonexistent along the coast, but one on Whale Rock Res., San Luis Obispo Co., Dec. 4 (KZ) was one-half mi inland. A ♀ White-winged Scoter, casual inland, was on Quail L., Los Angeles Co., Feb. 9 (RMCK). A ♀ Barrow's Goldeneye, one of very few ever found along the coast of s. California, was near San Simeon Jan. 5-7 (TME).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — A Black-shouldered Kite near Brawley Feb. 1-19 (EAC) was outside the species' normal range. An imm. Bald Eagle at Pt. Mugu Jan. 25 (JLD) was on the coast where now very rare. A Red-shouldered Hawk near Niland, Imperial Co., Feb. 3-9 (D & MH) was in an area where very few indeed have been found. An imm. Broad-winged Hawk at Dana Pt. Dec. 11 (JLD) was undoubtedly a late fall vagrant. Three ad. Zone-tailed Hawks, casual stragglers to California, were found with one on the Plano Trabuco, Orange Co., Dec. 22-Jan. 17 (DRW), another near Fallbrook, San Diego Co., Jan. 18 (KW), and the 3rd over Vista Feb. 21-24 (CW). A "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk on the Plano Trabuco Dec. 29 (ML) was only the 2nd ever to be found along the coast of s. California. Rough-legged Hawks were slightly more numerous and widespread than normal with eight in San Luis Obispo County during the period and another at Pt. Mugu Jan. 25 (JLD) being right on the coast where considered very rare.

As usual a few Lesser Golden-Plovers wintered along the coast with up to 15 near Santa Maria during the period (PEL), one at Pt. Mugu Jan. 25 (JLD), and five at Seal Beach all winter (LRH), all believed to be of the Asiatic race *fulva*. One or two Black Oystercatchers in La Jolla Jan. 20 (BM) were away from areas of regular occurrence. A Ruddy Turnstone at S.E.S.S., Dec. 18 (REW) and another at Salton City Mar. 9 (GMCC) were both believed to be wintering locally; there were only 3 previous winter records from inland, but all were also on the Salton Sea. Two Red Knots at Salton City Feb. 1 (GMCC) were undoubtedly wintering locally; Salton City is the only locality away from the coast where this species has been found wintering, but one or two are found here each winter. Six Sanderlings at Salton City Feb. 1 (GMCC) were also believed to be wintering locally. The Rock Sandpiper found at Avila Beach, San Luis Obispo Co., Nov. 18 remained through Feb. 17 (CM). Stilt Sandpipers were more numerous than usual around

S.E.S.S. with up to 40 along the s. shore of the Salton Sea throughout the period and up to 100 near Brawley during February (GMCC). Two Ruffs were found at Goose L., Kern Co., Jan. 26 (MOC), with the male remaining to Jan. 28 and the female still present at the end of the period, and the male on s. San Diego Bay remained through Mar. 20 (D & MH). Wilson's Phalaropes are normally virtually nonexistent in s. California during the winter, but this winter four were at Goose L., Jan. 27+ (MOC), two were at Salton City throughout the period (GMCC), one was at S.E.S.S., Dec. 18 (REW), and another was near Brawley Feb. 1-16 (GMCC). A group of 750 Red Phalaropes off Morro Bay Jan. 28 (TME) was the only concentration reported.

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS — A Laughing Gull 2 mi off Santa Barbara Dec. 10 (LBe, *U.C.S.B.) was only the 2nd ever to be found in Santa Barbara County. An ad. Mew Gull at Salt Creek on the e. shore of the Salton Sea Feb. 1 (GH) and a first-winter bird at S.E.S.S., Feb. 1 (GMCC) were the only ones found well inland, and nine together on L. Cachuma Feb. 25 (PEL) made an unexpected concentration for such a locality.



First-winter Iceland Gull in San Diego Co., Cal., Jan. 20, 1986. Perhaps the first uncontested California record, if such an event were possible. Photo/Arnold Small.



Adult Zone-tailed Hawk over the Plano Trabuco, Cal., Dec. 22, 1985. Photo/Douglas R. Willick.

S.A.

A pale first-winter gull in the s. San Diego Bay/Otay area Jan. 17-26 (DD, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) was compared directly with a Glaucous Gull and Thayer's Gulls, along with other w. coast gulls, and was identified as an unquestionable **Iceland Gull**. The Iceland and Thayer's gulls nest together on Baffin Island (Neal G. Smith, 1966. *Evolution of some Arctic gulls. Ornithological Monographs* no. 4); hence, it is not too surprising that an occasional Iceland Gull would move across the continent to the w. coast with migrating Thayer's Gulls, rather than S to Newfoundland and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Indeed, Iceland Gulls have been found on the coast of British Columbia, Washington, and central California during recent winters (AB 39:202 & 206, 1985), and some "very pale Thayer's Gulls", such as one at Salton City Feb. 2-3, 1985, may also in reality be Iceland Gulls. It is clear Iceland and Thayer's gulls are very closely related, and studies may well show them to be races of a single species, thus putting an end to the debates as to the correct identity of these birds.

A W. Gull at Castaic Dam, Los Angeles Co., Feb. 16 (KLG) was 35 mi inland. Eight Glaucous Gulls were found along the coast with one at Morro Bay Jan. 10–19 (JSc), one at the Santa Maria R. mouth Dec. 27 (BS), up to two near Santa Maria Jan. 30–Feb. 8 (JLD), one near Ventura Feb. 18 (DSH), another at Malibu Dec. 22–Feb. 15 (AS), one at Playa del Rey, Los Angeles Feb. 4–23 (JKA), and the 8th around s. San Diego Bay Jan. 17–Feb. 21 (DD), and a 9th was 35 mi inland at Castaic Dam Feb. 16 (KLG). Black-legged Kittiwakes were virtually nonexistent with the only four reported being off Morro Bay.

Unexpected was a Gull-billed Tern near Brawley Feb. 1 (GMCC), providing only the 2nd mid-winter record for California. A Xantus' Murrelet was found off Morro Bay Jan. 26 (GPS) and another was found dead along the outer beach of Morro Bay Feb. 20 (MHa); few are found during the winter. The only Ancient Murrelets reported were two off Santa Barbara Dec. 10 (LBe). A dying Horned Puffin, a casual straggler to s. California, was captured along the outer shore of Morro Bay Jan. 2 (MW).

DOVES THROUGH SWALLOWS — Two White-winged Doves in Goleta Nov. 6–Mar. 23 (PEL) and one in Ventura during December and January (JL) were along the coast where casual in winter. A W. Screech-Owl in the residential area of Mt. Washington near downtown Los Angeles during late February (LBe) and another on the Palos Verdes Peninsula Feb. 7 (LF) were both away from areas of expected occurrence. A N. Saw-whet Owl at Cottonwood Springs in Joshua Tree N.M., Nov. 25–Dec. 3 (WT) was at a most unusual locality. The only Vaux's Swifts reported this winter were up to 70 around Whittier, Los Angeles Co., Dec. 12–30 (PSa) and 11 over Redlands Jan. 13 (RMCK). One or two Broad-billed Hummingbirds are now found in s. California each winter, and this winter was no exception with an ad. male in San Diego Dec. 1–Jan. 5 (EC) believed to be the same bird first found here during the winter of 1979–1980, an imm. male in nearby Coronado Jan. 11+ (REW), and another imm. male in Goleta Jan. 27–Feb. 22 (BHa). An imm. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a rare straggler to California, was in Santa Barbara Dec. 8–Jan. 4 (KLG) and a female was at Morongo Valley Jan. 11 (SM). Single Red-naped Sapsuckers in Santa Barbara Dec. 28–Jan. 17 (KB) and near Ventura Dec. 28 (KK) were a little to the n.w. of the species' normal range. One or two Williamson's Sapsuckers in the Cuyamaca Mts. of San Diego County Jan. 19–25 (JZ) were at the s. extreme of their range in California. A Hairy Woodpecker near Lemon Heights, Orange Co., Dec. 16–Jan. 16 (DRW) was away from the mountains.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher in Santa Barbara Sept. 30–Mar. 11 (LBe) was evidently the same bird present here last winter. A Greater Pewee in Santa Barbara Dec. 28 (JEL) was in the same area where one spent all of last winter, but one in San Diego Dec. 21–Jan. 26 (REW) was at a different location than last year's bird. A Hammond's Flycatcher, most unusual in winter, was in Newport Beach Jan. 5–Mar. 11 (DRW). Only four Gray Flycatchers were found in coastal s. California this winter. A W. Flycatcher in Arcadia Dec. 30–Jan. 1 (BCo) and another in San Diego Dec. 27 (REW) were the only ones reported. An E. Phoebe, a rare but regular straggler to California, was in Twenty-nine Palms Jan. 4–19 (EAC). A Vermilion Flycatcher in Goleta Nov. 5–Mar. 9 (CDB) and two in Ventura Oct. 29–Feb. 8 (RJ) were the only ones found along the coast. A Dusky-capped Flycatcher in Goleta Dec. 1 (HR) was the 8th to be found in s. California, all occurring during late fall and winter. An Ash-throated Flycatcher in El Centro Dec. 18 (REW) and another at Yaqui Wells Feb. 8 (WDW) were both in the s.e. portion of the Region where small numbers may prove to be regular in winter, but one in Goleta Dec. 8–Jan. 4 (PEL) and another in Santa Barbara Feb. 3 (JSt) were along the coast where decidedly rare. A Tropical Kingbird, casual in winter, was in Santa Barbara Dec. 27–Mar. 17 (PEL) and another remained at Cabrillo Beach Dec. 7+ (MK). The Thick-billed Kingbird found in Peter's Canyon near Tustin Oct. 26 was still present Mar. 9



Eastern Phoebe in Twenty-nine Palms, Cal., Jan. 5, 1986. Photo/Brian G. Prescott.

(DRW), having spent its 4th winter at this location.

A N. Rough-winged Swallow, most unusual along the coast in December, was in Irvine Dec. 27 (DRW), and a Barn Swallow at the same location Dec. 27 (DRW) along with another near Santa Ysabel, San Diego Co., Jan. 9 (JLD) were assumed to be wintering locally.

WRENS THROUGH WOOD WARBLERS — Three Winter Wrens in coastal Orange County during the period and another in San Diego Dec. 21–27 (REW) were far south. Two Am. Dippers remained in Whitewater Canyon through Feb. 14 (DCH). A Bendire's Thrasher, rare to casual along the coast in winter, was on the Palos Verdes Peninsula Jan. 14–Feb. 14 (BL). An imm. N. Shrike at L. Isabella, Kern Co., Jan. 4–5 (RS) was a little w. of the areas of regular occurrence.

A Bell's Vireo found in Huntington Beach Sept. 7 (BED) was still present in March. Of 12 Solitary Vireos found this winter, six were of the gray form plumbeus. Six Warbling Vireos were more than normal, but one in Santa Barbara Dec. 27–Jan. 17 (JLD) and another in Arcadia Jan. 10 (HB) were the only two remaining past December.

Tennessee Warblers were more scarce than normal with one inland near Bakersfield Dec. 7 (MHe), and single birds along the coast in Oceano Dec. 20–Jan. 18 (PEL), Carpinteria Dec. 13 (DSi), and Ventura Feb. 2 (JSt). Seven wintering Nashville Warblers along the coast were fewer than expected. A Virginia's Warbler in Santa Barbara Nov. 30–Jan. 4 (PEL) was spending its 4th winter at this location. A Lucy's Warbler, exceptionally rare in winter, was in San Diego Jan. 7+ (REW). Twenty Yellow Warblers wintering along the coast was about normal. A Chestnut-sided Warbler found in Arcadia Dec. 4 was still present Mar. 19 (BCo) and another in Brawley Feb. 22–Mar. 30 (JO) was undoubtedly wintering locally. At least 30 Black-throated Gray Warblers were found during the period, as is about normal. Six Hermit Warblers, all n. of Orange County, made about an average number for the winter period. A Grace's Warbler in Santa Barbara Oct. 29–Feb. 21 (PEL) was spending its 7th winter at this location, and a 2nd only 3 blocks away Nov. 10–Feb. 21 (CM) and another 30 mi to the s. in Ventura Oct. 23–Feb. 1 (JSR) were both spending their 2nd winters at these locations. A ♂ Pine Warbler in Long Beach Jan. 1–Mar. 8 (JB) was the 6th known to have wintered in California. The only Palm Warblers found this winter were one at Dana Pt., Dec. 1+ (CD) and another in Santa Ana Jan. 21–Feb. 11 (DRW). Ten Black-and-white Warblers were found during the period including one inland at Brawley Feb. 1–22 (JO'B). An Am. Redstart in Huntington Beach Dec. 7+ (JO) and three around San Diego were fewer than expected for along the coast. A N. Waterthrush at Pismo Beach Sept.–Jan. 14 (JMcD) and one near Imperial Beach throughout the period were all that were found. A MacGillivray's Warbler, exceptionally rare in winter, was in Huntington Beach Sept. 28+ (DRW). Twenty Wilson's Warblers along the coast was about

average. A Painted Redstart, very rare in California, was in San Clemente Nov. 25+ (PSy).

TANAGERS THROUGH ORIOLES—The ♂ Hepatic Tanager spending its 4th winter in Santa Barbara remained through Feb. 17 (JEL), a female in Irvine Dec. 1–Mar. 19 (DRW) was apparently the same bird present here last winter, and the male on Pt. Loma was still present Mar. 2 (JO'B), after successfully spending its 3rd winter in this area. Summer Tanagers were slightly more numerous and widespread than usual with a female in Oceano Jan. 8–25 (CM), another in Santa Barbara Dec. 17–Feb. 17 (BS), a 3rd in Huntington Beach Nov. 16–Jan. 18 (BED), and six more around San Diego during the period. At least 65 W. Tanagers were known to have been present along the coast during the period, and considering the amount of exotic plantings, especially flowering eucalyptus, the actual number must be much higher. A pair of N. Cardinals on the California side of the Colorado R. at the San Bernardino/Riverside County line Feb. 28+ (EG) may have been the only two now left in California. The only Rose-breasted Grosbeaks found this winter were a female in Oceano Jan. 12 (K & JH) and another in Coronado Dec. 17–Jan. 18 (AB). Rarer in winter was a ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak near San Luis Obispo Dec. 18–22 (TME). A Green-tailed Towhee in Santa Ana Feb. 11+ (DRW) and another in Santa Barbara Dec. 10–Mar. 27 (CL) were the only ones found along the coast n. of San Diego. A Black-throated Sparrow, most unusual on the coast in winter, was in Santa Ana Jan. 21–Feb. 11 (DRW), and another was in nearby Anaheim Jan. 17 (DRW). It is becoming clear that Grasshopper Sparrows are not as rare in winter as formerly believed as indicated by up to 22 near Figueroa Mt. during December (SS), nine near Sunnymead Jan. 9 (RMCK), and two to three on the Plano Trabuco Dec. 29 (REW), along with sightings of single individuals elsewhere along the coast during the period. The only Swamp Sparrow of the season was one near Lakeview, Riverside Co., Feb. 2–23 (BCa). Seven White-throated Sparrows were low, but six Harris' Sparrows, including two in Ojai Dec. 14+ (JG), two at Linda Mia ranch e. of Lancaster all winter (FH), one in Santa Ana Jan. 21+ (DRW), and the 6th in San Clemente Dec. 14–Jan. 11 (BED), were about average. Up to 15 McCown's Longspurs were near Lakeview during December (GMCC). A Lapland Longspur remained on the Plano Trabuco to Jan. 12 (BED), up to six were near Lakeview during December (GMCC), and up to five were around S.E.S.S., Dec. 19–Feb. 1 (GMCC). Only two Chestnut-collared Longspurs were found with one on the Plano Trabuco Dec. 8 (LRH) and the other near Lakeview Dec. 8 (GMCC).

A ♂ Great-tailed Grackle in Hawthorn Feb. 26 (AS) and two females in Imperial Beach Jan. 17–25 (JC) were along the coast. Two Orchard Orioles in Goleta Nov. 23–Mar. 30 (HR) were evidently the same two first found here during the winter of 1983–1984, one at Dana Pt., Dec. 7–14 (GMCC) was one of very few ever found in Orange County, and one in Coronado Jan. 12–26 (GMCC) was apparently the same bird present here last winter. A Hooded Oriole, remarkably rare in winter, was in Goleta Feb. 20 (TW), another was in Arcadia Dec. 28–30 (BCo), and a 3rd was inland in Brawley Feb. 1–22 (GMCC). At least 65 N. Orioles were found at various locations along the coast with a male in Arcadia Jan. 20 (BCo), a female in Coronado all winter (EC), and a male in National City Dec. 1–30 (JO'B) being Baltimore Orioles. A Scott's Oriole in Santa Barbara Dec. 28 (KB) and another near San Marcos Pass above Santa Barbara during January (SB) were along the coast where very rare, but one at Whitewater Dec. 23–Jan. 5 (DCH) was along the w. edge of the Colorado Desert where small numbers appear to winter regularly.

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