

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

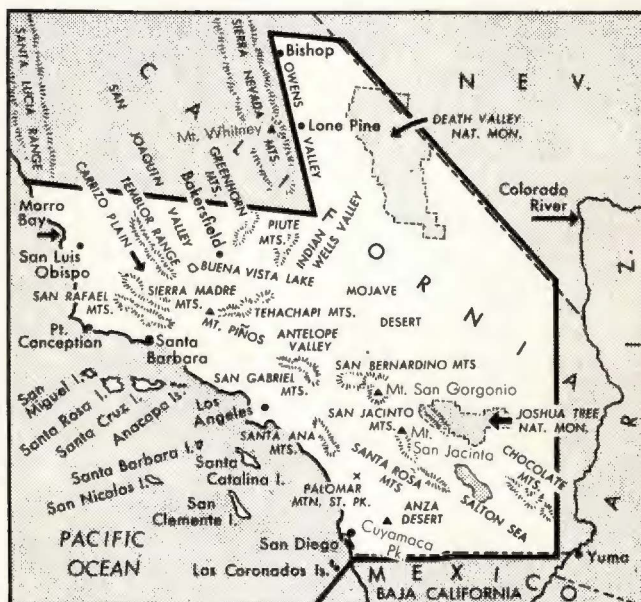
Guy McCaskie

This was the most exciting fall migration period in recent memory with 445 species reported. Members of the Corvidae were clearly on the move, along with chickadees and nuthatches, and a flight of finches produced some interesting reports. In addition, an exceptional number and variety of vagrants from the East made for some very exciting birding.

ABBREVIATIONS — F.C.R. = Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley; L.A.C.M. = Los Angeles County Museum in Los Angeles; L.S.U.M.Z. = Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology in Baton Rouge; N.E.S.S. = north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.; S.B.C.M. = San Bernardino County Museum; S.C.R.E. = Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura; S.E.S.S. = south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.; U.C.S.B. = University of California in Santa Barbara. 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 with the California Bird Records Committee (c/o Don Roberson, 282 Grove Acre, Pacific Grove, CA 93950) for all rarities listed in this report, and records submitted without documentation are not published.

LOONS THROUGH STORKS — Three Pacific Loons on L. Perris, Riverside Co., Nov. 20 (CMcG) were inland. A Red-necked Grebe, rare in s. California, in Cayucos, San Luis Obispo Co., Nov. 24 (TME) was the only one reported.

During a scientific survey of the oceanic waters off s. California and n. Baja California, Nov. 14–27, only 25 Black-footed Albatrosses were encountered, all being s. of Los Angeles Nov. 18–21 (RRV), but nine Laysan Albatrosses were seen, all n. of



Santa Barbara Nov. 24–27 (RRV), including one 10 mi off Goleta Nov. 24, five 75 mi w.s.w. of Pt. Conception Nov. 25, and one 30 mi off Oceano Nov. 27. A N. Fulmar off San Diego Sept. 5 (JLD) had undoubtedly summered locally, but 50 off Pt. Conception Nov. 25 (RRV) were winter arrivals. Ten Buller's Shearwaters off Morro Bay Sept. 26 (TME) were in an area where this species undoubtedly occurs regularly, but a Short-

tailed Shearwater 40 mi off Pt. Conception Nov. 25 (RRV) was the only one reported. One thousand Black-vented Shearwaters off Vandenberg Air Force Base, Santa Barbara Co., Nov. 1 (KH) and 2500 off Morro Bay Nov. 22–25 (TME) were the largest concentrations reported. Two Wilson's Storm-Petrels, a species now considered casual off California but proving to be annual in small numbers, were seen at a point about midway between Pt. Conception and San Miguel I., Sept. 18 (RRV). Five Ashy Storm-Petrels over the Lawson Seamount s. of Santa Catalina I., Sept. 27 (BED) were unexpected at this time of year. Least Storm-Petrels were present off s. California in small numbers during September with five midway between Pt. Conception and San Miguel I., Sept. 18 (RRV), being the northernmost; two over the Tanner Bank off San Clemente I., Sept. 26 (JKA) and another near Santa Barbara I., Nov. 15 (JLD) were in areas where few are found.

A Red-billed Tropicbird c. 150 mi off San Diego Sept. 9 (RRV) was the closest to shore of seven seen during a survey of the waters off s. California and n. Baja California in September. An ad. **Masked Booby** well seen in flight over San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co., Nov. 14 (LS) was only the 2nd ever to be reported in California, the first being an adult seen near San Clemente I., Jan. 10, 1977 (W. Birds 9:175–176, 1978). An imm. brown morph **Red-footed Booby** near Santa Barbara I., Oct. 11 (KLG) and another off the n. end of Santa Catalina I., Nov. 15 (JLD) were both photographed, and deemed to be different birds by those comparing the photographs. There is only one previous report of this species in s. California (AB 39:349, 1985); however, considering the number found along the California coast this year, it is clear that something, as yet unknown, stimulated a movement of these birds into the oceanic waters off California.

An ad. **Olivaceous Cormorant** at S.E.S.S., Aug. 15–29 (GMCc) could have been the bird frequenting the N.E.S.S. off and on since 1982, but was just as likely a new arrival. Two imm. Magnificent Frigatebirds at N.E.S.S., Aug. 15 (GMCc), another there Sept. 19 (REW), and three over Salton City Aug. 8 (RMCK) were the only ones reported.

The only Little Blue Herons found away from the San Diego area were an immature at the Santa Ynez R. mouth Aug. 22 (TEW) and another at S.E.S.S., Aug. 8 (REW). An ad. Reddish Egret on s. San Diego Bay Sept. 25+ (MS) was undoubtedly the same bird known to have spent the past 5 winters here. It is clear from the numbers of Cattle Egrets found away from areas of regular occurrence during late October, and throughout November, that this is the time these birds are migrating; six about 150 mi off Santa Barbara Nov. 23 (RRV) were clearly lost. A White-faced Ibis in Santa Barbara Sept. 7 (PEL) and another on Morro Bay Sept. 6 (BD) were both in an area where now considered rare. A Wood Stork near Oceanside Oct. 21 (SB) was the only one found away from the s. end of the Salton Sea.

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS — A flock of 24 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at S.E.S.S., Aug. 10 (JLD) was a large number, and one at McGrath L. near Ventura Aug. 5–7 (RJM) was along the coast. Three Tundra Swans in Goleta Nov. 20–21 (RPH), one in the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles Co., Nov. 10 (DA), and one near Lakeview, Riverside Co., Nov. 17+ (AMC) were the southernmost of the few reported. Thirty Greater White-fronted Geese over Santa Barbara Sept. 24 (TEW) were early, and 18 flying over the open ocean off Huntington Beach Nov. 26 (LRH) were at an unusual location. Two Ross' Geese at Harper Dry Lake, San Bernardino Co., Nov. 18 (CD) were in an area where considered very rare. A ♂ Eur. Wigeon on Morro Bay Oct. 24 (TME) was the earliest of six reported this fall. A ♂ Ring-necked Duck at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley Sept. 10 (JLD) was apparently a fall migrant, illustrating just how early some individuals are on the move. A ♂ Tufted Duck on Quail L., Los Angeles Co., Nov. 19+ (BED) was undoubtedly the same bird found here in other recent winters, and a male on L. Cachuma Nov. 30+ (PEL) was the first for Santa Barbara County. A Greater Scaup in Ventura Oct. 24 (JSR) was quite early and another at Death Valley Junction, Inyo Co., Nov. 14–

18 (REW) was at an unusual location. A ♂ Harlequin Duck at Bolsa Chica Nov. 14+ (LRH) was the same bird present here for the past 3 winters. Only four Oldsquaws had been found along the coast by the end of the period, but one was found inland on Klondike L., near Big Pine, Nov. 17 (JLD). A Black Scoter at Pt. Mugu Oct. 24 (JSR) was the earliest, and one to three at Huntington Beach Nov. 24+ (R & MW) were the southernmost, of the 15 reported. Two Surf Scoters on Diaz L., near Lone Pine, Nov. 9 (CMcG), another there Nov. 16–17 (JLD), and seven on L. Cachuma Nov. 20 (JLD) were inland.

An imm. Bald Eagle in Carpinteria Nov. 10 (PEL), another at Pt. Mugu Nov. 29+ (RJM), and a 3rd over Pt. Loma Nov. 16 (REW) were along the coast where now considered very rare. An imm. N. Goshawk at Oasis, Mono Co., Nov. 17+ (JLD) was in the n.e. portion of the Region where small numbers regularly occur at this time of year. Red-shouldered Hawks were widely scattered throughout the e. part of the Region e. of the species' breeding range, as indicated by reports of 15± from desert oases from Oasis south to N.E.S.S., Aug. 2+. Broad-winged Hawks were scarcer than expected with two over Pt. Loma Oct. 3 (REW), one near Malibu Nov. 7 (KLG), and a dark-phased individual in Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo Co., Nov. 14 (KJZ). An ad. Zone-tailed Hawk in Valley Center, San Diego Co., Sept. 24 (RMCK) was the only one reported. A "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk photographed near Ridgecrest, Kern Co., Nov. 21–22 (DB) was only the 7th to be found in s. California. A Rough-legged Hawk at Harper Dry Lake Oct. 21 (EAC) was early, and another at F.C.R., Oct. 31 (REW) was at an unusual location. A Merlin at Morro Bay Sept. 13 (JS) was the earliest this fall. Of the 20± Peregrine Falcons reported, an adult at Harper Dry Lake Oct. 9 (EAC), an immature at N.E.S.S., Aug. 15 (GMCc), and another at S.E.S.S., Aug. 4–10 (CM) were the only ones away from the coast where many are hacked.

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS — A Sandhill Crane in Saticoy, Ventura Co., Nov. 22+ (JSR) was along the coast where considered casual. Of 70± Lesser Golden-Plovers reported Aug. 15+, 11 were identified as the form *dominica* between Sept. 22 and Nov. 17, including one inland at Harper Dry Lake Oct. 14 (CMcG) and single birds at N.E.S.S., Oct. 3 (RMCK) & 16 (FEB), and 56 others were identified as *fulva*, including up to 35 around Santa Maria, Santa Barbara Co., Sept. 1–Nov. 11 (CDB). An **American Oystercatcher** photographed on Pt. Loma with a Black Oystercatcher Sept. 11 (TEC) was only the 5th ever to be found on the mainland coast of California. Solitary Sandpipers appeared to be slightly more numerous and widespread than expected with 85± reported Aug. 1–Oct. 21 including six together at Galileo Hill, Kern Co., Sept. 6 (JWi). Away from the Salton Sea, where small numbers of Ruddy Turnstones regularly occur each fall, one was inland at Harper Dry Lake Aug. 20 (EAC) and another was on L. Hodges, San Diego Co., Aug. 14 (GMCc). Two Sanderlings at Harper Dry Lake Sept. 18 (EAC) were the only ones found inland away from the Salton Sea. Thirty-six juv. Semipalmated Sandpipers were found Aug. 1–Sept. 11 including inland records of one on the Goose L. evaporation ponds near Wasco, Kern Co., Aug. 14 (MOC), five at Harper Dry Lake between Aug. 14 and Sept. 10 (EAC), one near Lancaster Aug. 8–10 (JLD), and two more there Aug. 17 (JAJ).

Approximately 250 Baird's Sandpipers found Aug. 1–Oct. 18 and 300± Pectoral Sandpipers Aug. 19–Oct. 26 were about average numbers, with two Pectoral Sandpipers at Harper Dry Lake Nov. 23 (EAC) being late. Three Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, casual fall stragglers to s. California, were reported with a juvenile near Santa Maria Sept. 24 (PEL), another there Oct. 7 (KJZ), and the 3rd at S.C.R.E., Oct. 4–7 (RJM). A Rock Sandpiper at Avila Beach, San Luis Obispo Co., Nov. 23+ (CM) was undoubtedly the bird that spent the last 2 winters in this area. Away from the Salton Sea, single Stilt Sandpipers on the Goose L. evaporation ponds Aug. 1 (MOC) and Oct. 13 (SS), three near Santa Maria Sept. 3–8 (PEL) and another there Oct. 7 (PEL), one in Port Hueneme Oct. 24 (JSR), and an 8th in Chula Vista Nov. 19–20 (CGE) were all in areas where the species is con-

sidered casual. The only Buff-breasted Sandpiper to be found this fall was one near Santa Maria Sept. 6 (A & JC). Six Ruffs were reported with one on Morro Bay Nov. 19+ (KJZ), a juvenile near Santa Maria Sept. 3-6 (PEL), another juvenile in Anaheim Sept. 15 (DRW), an adult on s. San Diego Bay Aug. 8+ (FEB), another adult near Imperial Beach Sept. 13+ (FEB), and the 6th inland on the Goose L. evaporation ponds Aug. 12-13 (MOC). Two Wilson's Phalaropes in El Centro Nov. 9 (GMcC) were late.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Up to six Parasitic Jaegers at N.E.S.S., Sept. 3-Oct. 13 (SWC, CMcG) and one on L. Palmdale in the Antelope Valley Sept. 6 (KLG) were inland. A juv. Long-tailed Jaeger, casual inland, was at N.E.S.S., Sept. 19 (REW), a bird thought to be a one-year-old individual was there Sept. 30-Oct. 3 (JLD, RMcK, *L.A.C.M.), and what was probably a juv. Long-tailed Jaeger was at Lancaster, Los Angeles Co., Sept. 5-6 (RPO). An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger in Bolsa Chica Sept. 30 (LRH) was on shore, and another near San Nicholas I., Nov. 20 (RRV) was very late.

Seven Franklin's Gulls along the coast between Aug. 24 and the end of the period were about average numbers. An imm. Little Gull photographed on Tulare L., Sept. 27 (CVP) was the first to be found in Kern County. Six Heermann's Gulls, casual away from the coast, were found inland with single birds in Brawley Sept. 3 (BED), at S.E.S.S., Aug. 4 (CM) and Sept. 5 (SWC, *L.S.U.M.Z.), at N.E.S.S., Aug. 9 (JLD) & 29 (GMcC), and the 6th on L. Perris, Riverside Co., Oct. 23 (CMcG). A juv. Mew Gull in San Luis Obispo Aug. 20-24 (GPS) was one of the earliest ever for s. California. A Ring-billed Gull at Santa Barbara I., Nov. 15 (JLD) was one of a very few ever to be seen around the Channel Is. or elsewhere offshore. Fourteen Herring Gulls on the Salton Sea Sept. 19 (REW) were the earliest this fall, and eight on Harper Dry Lake Nov. 6 (EAC) were at an unusual locality. An imm. Thayer's Gull at F.C.R., Oct. 25 (PEL) was not only early, but also at a most unusual locality. Two juv. W. Gulls at N.E.S.S., Sept. 3 (SWC, *L.S.U.M.Z.) and an adult at nearby Salton City Nov. 14 (CDB) were inland, as was a Glaucous-winged Gull at S.E.S.S., Oct. 13 (CMcG). Up to three juv. Sabine's Gulls at N.E.S.S., Oct. 3-16 (RMcK, FEB) were the only ones found inland this fall; two juveniles near Santa Barbara I., Nov. 15 (JLD) were late.

A Marbled Murrelet in Goleta Nov. 28 (RPH) was s. of its normal range. A Xantus' Murrelet off San Diego Sept. 5 (JLD) and another near Santa Barbara I., Oct. 11 (KLG) were both of the s. form *hypoleuca*, rarely encountered in California waters. Craveri's Murrelets were somewhat scarce with two off San Diego Sept. 5 (JLD) and five off Avila Beach Sept. 8 (RRV) being the only ones reported. An Ancient Murrelet off Santa Barbara Nov. 24 (RRV) was the only one reported. A Tufted Puffin off Morro Bay Sept. 26 (BSc) was in an area where few have been found.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — As is apparently normal, a few Band-tailed Pigeons moved out of the mountains into the lowlands, as indicated by such sightings as single birds on Pt. Loma Oct. 13-15 (D & MH) and in Huntington Beach Nov. 7-14 (BED) on the coast, and at Butterfield Ranch in the desert of e. San Diego County Nov. 14 (CDB). Eighteen White-winged Doves along the coast were as expected, with one in Oceano Oct. 9 (PEL) and another in San Simeon Oct. 1 (CM) being somewhat n. of where most are found, and one near Olancho, Inyo Co., Sept. 2 (HG) being well to the n. of its inland range. Two Inca Doves in Baker Nov. 18 (BED) were some distance to the n.w. of the species' range along the Colorado River. Common Ground-Doves continue to expand their range N along the coast, now being widespread in coastal Ventura County with up to 20 seen in a day around Oxnard during September (JSR), and reaching Santa Barbara County with one in Santa Barbara Oct. 13 (VP) and up to two in Goleta Sept. 29+ (JLD); one at Oasis Oct. 12 (JWi) was exceptionally far north. Two Ruddy Ground-Doves were found in the e. part

of the Region, with a female in Tecopa Sept. 15-20 (JT) and a male at F.C.R., Oct. 17+ (BED); with the revelation that a male was in Tecopa Sept. 20-30, 1984 (JT), there have now been six of these birds found in California in recent years.

More than the expected numbers of Short-eared Owls were reported, with one at Harper Dry Lake Sept. 2 (SWC) and another at Stovepipe Wells near F.C.R., Sept. 19 (JLD) being the earliest. A N. Saw-whet Owl that struck a window in Northridge, Los Angeles Co., Sept. 9 (DR, *L.A.C.M.) was exceptionally early for the lowlands, where very few have been found. Four Com. Nighthawks on Table Mt. in the San Gabriel Mts., Los Angeles Co., Aug. 9 (JLD) gave us only the 2nd record for this well-worked area, indicating they were not nesting locally. Ten migrant Black Swifts were over Pt. Loma Oct. 3 (REW), another was there Oct. 11 (GMcC), and single birds were seen over Port Hueneme Aug. 15 (JLD) and at N.E.S.S., Sept. 30 (JLD). A ♂ Broad-billed Hummingbird, very rare to casual in California, was in Ventura Nov. 22+ (VJK) and another was in Mission Viejo, Orange Co., Nov. 30+ (DRW).

Lewis' Woodpeckers were scattered throughout the Region in small numbers, even reaching the s. coast as indicated by one on Pt. Loma Oct. 1-14 (JO'B). Since Acorn Woodpeckers do not normally reach the s. coast, one on the Long Beach breakwater Oct. 17 (LRH) and five seen on Pt. Loma between Sept. 15 and Oct. 15 (REW), along with another out on the high desert at L. Palmdale Sept. 12 (KLG), indicated a movement of these birds. Four Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found in the n.e. part of the Region with a male in Big Pine Nov. 17-28 (JLD), a juvenile at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Nov. 27 (DRW), another juvenile at F.C.R., Oct. 6 (SS), and a male there Nov. 21 (MAP). A Red-naped Sapsucker in Morongo Valley Aug. 11 (JLD) was remarkably early for such a location. A ♀ Williamson's Sapsucker on Pt. Loma Oct. 11 (DMM), along with single males there Oct. 15-17 (FEB) & 20-22 (GJ), were along the coast where casual, and another in Yucca Valley, San Bernardino Co., Oct. 24 (CMcG) was on the high desert where rare.

A Ladder-backed Woodpecker at F.C.R., Sept. 20 (MAP) had wandered some distance from its normal range. Single Nuttall's Woodpeckers in California City Sept. 7 (RS) and Nov. 8 (MOC) were away from areas of normal occurrence. A Hairy Woodpecker in Long Beach Oct. 7 (BED) and another at the upper end of Newport Bay Nov. 17+ (LRH) were on the immediate coast, and single birds around California City Sept. 12-Oct. 3 (JLD) and Nov. 8 (MOC) were at desert locations. There was an obvious movement of White-headed Woodpeckers, normally sedentary, into the lowlands, with 10 found in the coastal lowlands between Vandenberg Air Force Base and Malibu after Aug. 24, one in the Santa Ana Mts. of Orange Co., Nov. 14+ (BED), up to two in the s. San Joaquin Valley near Bakersfield Oct. 10+ (MOC), and one on the high desert at California City Oct. 3 (JWi); without birds in hand to determine the racial identification, we are unable to tell where these individuals came from.

FLYCATCHERS — An *Empidonax* carefully studied and photographed in Carpinteria Oct. 16 (PEL) appeared visually perfect for a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, but unfortunately remained silent. A "Traill's Flycatcher" at Oasis Sept. 6 (REW) was giving calls generally regarded as typical of the **Alder Flycatcher** (Birding 18:153-159, 1986), but some observers question whether the differences in the calls between Alder and Willow flycatchers are diagnostic. Both Yellow-bellied and Alder flycatchers are previously unrecorded in s. California, and these sightings may not be accepted by the C.B.R.C., or stand the test of time. However, it is important that observers document such records, for it is from such efforts that our knowledge of these flycatchers is gained. Least Flycatchers, formerly considered accidental in California, but now known to occur regularly in small numbers, were scarcer than expected with one at F.C.R., Sept. 5 (BED), another at Oasis Sept. 6 (REW), a 3rd in Ventura Sept. 16 (RJM), and somewhat late individuals in Huntington Beach Nov. 11 (LRH) and in nearby



Great Crested Flycatcher at Oceano Campground, Cal., Oct. 7, 1987. Photo/Kevin J. Zimmer.

Mission Viejo Nov. 30+ (DRW) being the only ones reported. An E. Phoebe, a very rare to casual straggler to California, was in California City Oct. 23-24 (PEL), another was in Irvine Oct. 28-29 (DRW), and a 3rd was on Pt. Loma Nov. 4-6 (GMcC). A Vermilion Flycatcher in Goleta Nov. 11-20 (RPH) was the northernmost of five found along the coast. A Dusky-capped Flycatcher in Mission Viejo Nov. 21+ (MMcD) was only the 8th ever to be found in s. California. A Great Crested Flycatcher, casual to accidental in California, was on Pt. Loma Sept. 25 (GMcC) and another was photographed in Oceano Oct. 6-7 (BSc). Fifteen Tropical Kingbirds along the coast between Sept. 15 and Oct. 20 were more than normally expected. A **Thick-billed Kingbird** near Tustin Nov. 4+ (LRH) was undoubtedly the bird that has spent the last 5 winters at this location. Ten E. Kingbirds along the coast between Aug. 30 and Oct. 3 were more than usual, but one at F.C.R., Sept. 5 (KR) was the only one found inland. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a casual straggler to California, was at Ramer L. near S.E.S.S., Aug. 29 (AME) and another was at F.C.R., Oct. 24 (PEL).

JAYS THROUGH DIPPER — Most species of Corvidae occurring in California appeared to be on the move with Steller's Jays found in the lowlands of Inyo County, and Scrub Jays scattered throughout most of the e. portion of the Region. Flocks of Pinyon Jays were found out of range such as the 17 in Goleta Sept. 24 (PEL), 25 in Cuyamaca S.P. in the mountains of San Diego County Sept. 19 (SM), and the 75 in Quatal Canyon, n.e. Ventura Co., Oct. 11 (PU), as well as a scattering of individuals throughout the high desert. A Clark's Nutcracker at F.C.R., Sept. 19-20 (JLD), another at Barker Dam in Joshua Tree N.M., Aug. 30 (DMM), and 11 in Caruther's Canyon of the New York Mts., San Bernardino Co., Sept. 1-3 (RR) were all well out of range.

Starting in August there was a major movement of Mountain Chickadees into the coastal and desert lowlands and throughout the Region except for the extreme s.e. portion, with the largest numbers noted during September and October; noteworthy occurrences included three at F.C.R., Nov. 18 (BED), one at Harper Dry Lake Sept. 18 (CMcG), 25 at L. Palmdale Sept. 19 (KLG), one at Morro Bay S.P., Oct. 31 (CM), and six on Pt. Loma Sept. 7 (JLD). A Bushtit in Salton City Sept. 30 (JLD) was the first ever to be found in the lowlands of Imperial County.

Red-breasted Nuthatches, although scattered throughout the Region, were in lower than expected numbers in the lowlands,

indicating movements of this species are unrelated to movements of other Sittidae. White-breasted Nuthatches were widespread outside their normal breeding habitat after mid-August, being found throughout the high desert and along the entire coast; individuals at F.C.R., Sept. 11-19 and in nearby Shoshone Sept. 19 (JLD) were identified by call as being of the interior race *tenuissima*, while most of those along the coast were felt to be *aculeata*, indicating that birds from at least 2 distinct areas were probably involved in the flight. This fall marked one of the largest invasions into the lowlands by Pygmy Nuthatches on record, with many being found on the immediate coast after the first of August, such as the 16 on Pt. Loma Aug. 29 (REW), two in Long Beach Oct. 7 (BED), and up to 12 in Malibu during September (KLG); eight near Tustin Nov. 6-9 (BED) were the first ever to be found in Orange County. One in Inyokern, Kern Co., Sept. 2 (HG), one in Lancaster Nov. 27 (KLG), four to five in Palmdale Sept. 15-20 (JKA), and three to four in Yucca Valley Sept. 19-Oct. 24 (CMcG) were the only ones reported from the area e. of the mountains, indicating that few moved out into the deserts.

A scattering of Brown Creepers produced sightings from most well-worked sites on the high desert as well as from along the entire coast. As expected, small numbers of Winter Wrens were found throughout the high deserts, with one at F.C.R., Nov. 8-27 (KLG, JLD) felt possibly to be of the e. form *hiemalis* rather than the expected w. form *pacificus*; one near Anaheim Oct. 24 (DRW) and another on Pt. Loma Oct. 3-11 (REW) were unusually far south. An Am. Dipper in Santa Barbara Aug. 10 (BSm) was slightly out of range and early for such a locality.

KINGLETS THROUGH VIREOS — A Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Huntington Beach Sept. 5 (LRH) was notably early for the coast. A Townsend's Solitaire at Galileo Hill in e. Kern County Aug. 29 (JWi) was unusually early for such a location, and single birds in Irvine Nov. 4 (DRW) and on Pt. Loma Oct. 10-13 (GMcC) were along the coast, where considered rare. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** on Pt. Loma Oct. 2-10 (GMcC) was only the 2nd ever to be found in the Region, and the first ever to be seen by multiple observers, even though there now have been more than one dozen recorded in California. A light movement of Varied Thrushes scattered individuals throughout the high desert, with a somewhat early individual at Deep Springs Sept. 20 (AME), and along the coast to as far south as San Diego County with single birds seen on Pt. Loma Nov. 7-8 (REW) & 13 (REW).

Four Gray Catbirds were more than could be expected, with one at Scotty's Castle Oct. 16 (JLD) and another at nearby F.C.R., Nov. 7-8 (MT), a 3rd near Palm Springs Sept. 23 (TG), and the 4th along the coast on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Los Angeles Co., Oct. 16-18 (RH). A Sage Thrasher near Santa Maria Sept. 24 (JMcD) was the first to be found along Santa Barbara County's n. coast. A Brown Thrasher at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley Oct. 17 (NBB) and another in Los Angeles County's Eaton Canyon Oct. 18 (HP) were the only ones reported.

All three species of *Motacilla* so far recorded in California were found, with a **Yellow Wagtail** at the mouth of Malibu Creek in Malibu Sept. 6 (WC, KY) being the 2nd ever to be found in s. California. An ad. **White Wagtail** in Oxnard Nov. 22+ (JSR) was the 2nd to be found in California, the previous occurrence involving an adult in San Luis Obispo County Oct. 9, 1983 (AB 38:247) and what appeared to be the same bird at the same location Oct. 5-8, 1984 (AB 39:104). An ad. **Black-backed Wagtail** in Port Hueneme Aug. 2-Sept. 7 (RJM) was the first to be found in s. California, although four unidentified imm. White/Black-backed wagtails have previously been reported. Small numbers of Red-throated Pipits were present along the coast as indicated by one at Morro Bay Oct. 9-17 (CM), single birds in Goleta Oct. 6 (JLD) & 15 (HPR), another near Oxnard Oct. 11 (RJM), and one to two near Imperial Beach Oct. 7-10 (REW), and one was inland at F.C.R., Sept. 19-20 (JLD). A Sprague's Pipit, very rare in California, was in Goleta Oct. 5 (CDB) and another was near Lakeview Nov. 3+ (CMcG).

A flock of 17 Bohemian Waxwings at Oasis Nov. 15 (MAP),

with one to two present there through the end of the period, indicated a movement of these birds. Northern Shrikes reached the extreme n.e. corner of the Region as indicated by the presence of an adult at Oasis Nov. 9 (CMcG), an immature there Nov. 15 (MAP), and another immature at nearby Big Pine Nov. 17–28 (JLD).

A **White-eyed Vireo** in Carpinteria Oct. 21–30 (RPH) was the first ever to be found in California in fall. A Bell's Vireo in Carpinteria Aug. 24–Sept. 1 (GT) had been color-banded as a fledgling along the Santa Margarita R. in San Diego County during the summer. Four Solitary Vireos of the eastern "Blue-headed" form, casual to accidental in California, were found, with one at Pismo Beach Oct. 1 (KJZ), another in Arcadia, Los Angeles Co., Nov. 14 (MK), and single individuals on Pt. Loma Oct. 10 (DP) & 18 (JB). A Plumbeous Solitary Vireo (*V. s. plumbeus*) in Cambria Sept. 12 (K & JH) was unusually far north for being on the coast, and another in Hart Park near Bakersfield Oct. 10 (MOC) was in the San Joaquin Valley. A Yellow-throated Vireo, casual anywhere in California, was in Goleta Nov. 18–19 (KB). Two Philadelphia Vireos were found with one in Oceano Nov. 1 (TME) and the other near Imperial Beach Oct. 23–29 (EB). More than the expected number of Red-eyed Vireos were reported with one in Carpinteria Aug. 31–Sept. 13 (GHR), single birds on Pt. Loma Oct. 4 (JB) and Oct. 10–12 (MAP), one near Imperial Beach Oct. 18–20 (JO'B), a 5th inland at F.C.R., Sept. 20 (LK), another at Harper Dry Lake Oct. 17 (EAC), one more at L. Palmdale Sept. 6 (KLG), and an 8th near Palm Springs Oct. 2 (RMCK). A Yellow-green Vireo, a vagrant from the south, was at Big Sycamore Canyon S.P., Sept. 21–Oct. 4 (NM).

WOOD WARBLERS — An exceptional number and variety of wood warblers was found this fall, with 38 species reported. Of the regular vagrants, 28 Tennessee Warblers (all along the coast), 40 Black-and-white Warblers, 60 Am. Redstarts, and 33 N. Waterthrushes were reported. A Virginia's Warbler in Morro Bay S.P., Sept. 15 (TME) was the northernmost of the 18 found along the coast between Aug. 29 and Oct. 10, and one at S.E.S.S., Sept. 3 (CM) was at an unusual locality. Nine Lucy's Warblers along the coast between Aug. 30 and Nov. 19 were more than expected. Thirteen N. Parulas between Sept. 8 and Nov. 11 included one at Forrest Homes in the San Bernardino Mts., Nov. 11 (EAC). Twenty Chestnut-sided Warblers along the coast between Aug. 22 and Nov. 14, along with single birds inland at Harper Dry Lake Oct. 14 (EAC) and in Banning Nov. 17 (RMCK), made an unusually large number. Single Magnolia Warblers at Deep Springs Sept. 28 (PJM), at F.C.R., Sept. 20 (MAP), and on Mt. Pinos Oct. 11 (PU) were the only ones (of the 12 reported between Sept. 20 and Oct. 30) away from the immediate coast. A ♂ Cape May Warbler well photographed

at Galileo Hill Sept. 25–26 (JWi) was the only one found. A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler found near Weldon, Kern Co., Aug. 12 (LH) had probably summered locally, and 21 reported from scattered localities throughout the Region between Sept. 19 and Nov. 7 made an exceptional number, considering the species' normal range. A Townsend's Warbler in the San Bernardino Mts., Aug. 2 (BAC) and another in Irvine Aug. 10 (DRW) were both unusually early. Nine Black-throated Green Warblers between Oct. 2 and Nov. 14 were only slightly more than average, but 16 Blackburnian Warblers (all coastal) between Sept. 17 and Nov. 11 were more than double the expected.

A Yellow-throated Warbler, very rare at any time in California, was well seen near Murrieta, Riverside Co., Sept. 8 (IPL). Single Grace's Warblers were found on Pt. Loma Sept. 27 (REW) and Nov. 11 (REW), and returning wintering birds were back in Santa Barbara Oct. 4+ (JEL), Ventura Oct. 25+ (RJM), and Newport Beach Nov. 22+ (BED). Three Pine Warblers, casual stragglers to California, were reported, with a male inland in Riverside Oct. 1 (DG) and single females along the coast near Imperial Beach Nov. 1 (GMCC) and in Gaviota Nov. 5 (PEL). Single Prairie Warblers near Oxnard Oct. 14–16 (RJM), in Huntington Beach Oct. 8–10 (DRW), and near Imperial Beach Oct. 10 (GMCC) made an average number. Some 125 Palm Warblers were reported including an exceptionally early individual at Arroyo de la Cruz, San Luis Obispo Co., Sept. 12 (TME), and individuals inland in Bishop Sept. 26 (PJM), near Olancho Sept. 17 (JLD), at F.C.R., Sept. 20 (JML), Galileo Hill Oct. 17–24 (RS), and Harper Dry Lake Oct. 1 (EAC). Five Bay-breasted Warblers were found with one inland at Harper Dry Lake Oct. 1 (EAC), one in Huntington Beach Oct. 12–25 (DRW), and three in the San Diego area between Oct. 1 & 12 (DP, FEB, REW). The number of Blackpoll Warblers found was much higher than expected with 90± reported including four inland in e. Kern County between Sept. 12 and Oct. 8 (JLD, JW), one at Death Valley Junction Sept. 11 (JLD), and another at Harper Dry Lake Oct. 14 (CMcG); one near Imperial Beach Nov. 26 (EC) was exceptionally late.



Worm-eating Warbler at Huntington Beach Central Park, Cal., Oct. 23, 1987. Photo/James R. Gallagher.

Six Prothonotary Warblers were reported with single birds inland at F.C.R., Sept. 5–11 (KR), Galileo Hill Oct. 2–3 (JWi), Harper Dry Lake Oct. 9 (EAC), N.E.S.S., Sept. 3 (DLD), and S.E.S.S., Sept. 5 (MCM), and the 6th along the coast on Pt. Loma Oct. 25 (D & MH). A Worm-eating Warbler, another very rare straggler to California, was on Pt. Loma Oct. 17+ (JWo) and another was in Huntington Beach Oct. 21+ (BED), both apparently attempting to winter locally. Seven Ovenbirds between Sept. 6 and Oct. 10 made close to an average number. A Connecticut Warbler, a casual fall and spring straggler to California, was photographed in Big Sycamore Canyon S.P., Sept. 27 (PEL). Three Hooded Warblers were found with a male



Cape May Warbler at Galileo Hill, Kern Co., Cal., Sept. 25, 1987. Photo/John Wilson.

at Arroyo de la Cruz Nov. 14 (GPS), another male in Montaña de Oro S.P., Oct. 11 (JSR), and a female in Goleta Oct. 13 (PEL). Four Canada Warblers were close to average numbers with single birds in Carpinteria Aug. 30–Sept. 6 (A & JC) and Oct. 11 (CDB), one in Huntington Beach Sept. 13–15 (BED), and the 4th on Pt. Loma Oct. 9 (REW). A Painted Redstart, always an exciting find here in California, was in Morongo Valley Sept. 14 (TEC), and single birds were seen along the coast on Pt. Loma Nov. 8 (RF), in Santa Barbara Sept. 21 (BSm), and in Montaña de Oro S.P., Sept. 10 (GPS), with one in Coronado, San Diego Co., Nov. 25+ (EC) attempting to winter locally.

TANAGERS THROUGH LONGSPURS — A ♀ Hepatic Tanager in Irvine Oct. 22 (DRW) was believed to be the individual present here during the past 3 winters, but single birds on Pt. Loma Oct. 15 (REW) & 29 (REW) were migrating. About 30 Summer Tanagers were found along the coast, with five more inland; virtually all collected along the coast have proven to be of the nominate form *rubra* from the East, but the w. form *cooperi* nests in s.e. California, and tends to remain well into September before migrating; hence, it is unwise to speculate as to the racial identity of any given individual. A remarkable seven Scarlet Tanagers were found with single birds in Goleta Nov. 10–12 (CDB) and Nov. 12 (MH, *U.C.S.B.), one in Ventura Nov. 15 (JSR), another in Huntington Beach Nov. 8–15 (LRH), and single birds on Pt. Loma Sept. 29, Oct. 14–18, and Nov. 7 (all REW). Eighteen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were slightly fewer than might be expected, as were also the 20 Indigo Buntings reported. Four Painted Buntings, an extremely rare vagrant to California, were found with one near Santa Maria Sept. 8 (GHR), another in Goleta Nov. 21 (HPR), one on Pt. Loma Oct. 4 (REW), and a male near Imperial Beach Sept. 13 (TEC). The only Dickcissels to be found were single birds in Goleta Sept. 19 (PEL), Sept. 27 (HPR), and Oct. 6 (PEL).

An Am. Tree Sparrow at Oasis Nov. 28 (BED) and single birds at F.C.R., Nov. 18 (JLD) & 27 (BED) were in the n.e. portion of the Region where small numbers probably occur regularly. Never before have so many Clay-colored Sparrows been found during a single fall season, 35± having been reported from along the coast and an additional 15± inland, with up to four together at Arroyo de la Cruz Oct. 10 (BSc) and at F.C.R., Oct. 17 (GMCc). A Brewer's Sparrow at Arroyo de la Cruz Oct. 10 (BSc) was only the 2nd ever to be found along the San Luis Obispo County coast. Twelve juv. Black-throated Sparrows along the coast in September were more than usual, and one in Goleta Nov. 20+ (RPH) appeared to be wintering locally. Ten Lark Buntings were found at scattered locations throughout the high deserts in the e. portion of the Region but one in Goleta Sept. 27–28 (PEL) and another in Irvine Sept. 1–4 (BED) were the only ones along the coast.

A Large-billed Savannah Sparrow, *P. s. rostratus*, now virtually accidental along the coast of California, was on Morro Bay Sept. 18+ (JS) and another was at N.E.S.S., Sept. 3 (SWC). A Grasshopper Sparrow at F.C.R., Oct. 25 (PEL) and another in Goleta Oct. 6 (CM) were both at unusual localities. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow, very rare in California, was on Morro Bay Oct. 24 (TME), and another in San Diego Oct. 8+ (RPa) was back for its 2nd winter at this locality. Swamp Sparrows were more numerous than usual with 50± reported after Oct. 14, and the same could be said for White-throated Sparrows with 40± reported after Oct. 14; but Harris' Sparrows were decidedly scarce, with only 10± reported, all in the n.e. portion of the Region. A Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco in Goleta Nov. 22 (REW) was the northernmost of those found along the coast. Four McCown's Longspurs near Lakeview Nov. 14 (RMCK) were the only ones found. Chestnut-collared Longspurs were evidently well scattered throughout the Region with 90± reported from 10 localities after Oct. 6. Only three Lapland Longspurs were reported, with a remarkably early individual c. 135 mi w.s.w. of Santa Rosa I., Sept. 14 (RRV), one near Oxnard Oct. 11 (RJM), and another in Goleta Oct. 15–16 (PEL).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES — Single Bobolinks were found inland at Deep Springs Sept. 27 (PJM), F.C.R., Sept. 19–20 (CM), California City Sept. 12 (JLD), and Harper Dry Lake Sept. 24 (EAC), but only 40± could be found along the coast. A Rusty Blackbird photographed in California City Oct. 16 (JWi) was a little early, but one in Malibu Nov. 29+ (KLG) was the only other one to be found. Six Great-tailed Grackles were reported from along the coast, indicating a continued expansion of the species' range. A Com. Grackle, a casual straggler to California, was in Baker Nov. 14 (MAP). Among the 10 Orchard Orioles reported were a female at F.C.R., Sept. 5 and an ad. male in Santa Ysabel in the mountains of San Diego County Oct. 10 (BMcC). A ♂ N. (Baltimore) Oriole in Whitewater Canyon, Riverside Co., Aug. 31 (DCH) was unusually early.

Two Rosy Finches in Westgard Pass in the extreme n.e. corner of the Region Nov. 17 (JLD) were at a locality where large numbers are occasionally encountered at this time of year. A few Purple Finches were seen at scattered locations in the n.e. portion of the Region, including a female at F.C.R., Nov. 18–21 (JLD) that showed the characteristics of the nominate form *purpureus*, a race only once confirmed to occur in California (specimen collected on Santa Rosa I. in late May). Up to eight Cassin's Finches on Cuesta Ridge Oct. 25–Nov. 10 (BSc) were the first ever to be found in San Luis Obispo County, and three seen on Pt. Loma between Oct. 3 & 28 (JLD, BED, REW) were on the immediate coast. A good flight of Red Crossbills scattered birds throughout most of the Region southward to San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange counties in November, with four in Yucca Valley Nov. 22 (CMcG), 15 at L. Mathews Nov. 17 (AMC), and 23 in O'Neil Park Nov. 23 (DRW). Evening Grosbeaks were also on the move as indicated by 100+ on Pine Mt., Oct. 17–18 (KK), and small numbers on the immediate coast such as three around Oceano between Oct. 10 and 24 (JLD, JSR, BSc), one on Vandenberg Air Force Base Oct. 18 (KH), and 10 in San Diego between Oct. 14 & 19 (MC, REW, DH).

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