

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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Dry weather continued on through the winter, the rains in February giving little relief to the drought conditions. Most wintering species appeared to be present in average numbers, with above-average numbers noted for Hermit Thrushes, Varied Thrushes, and Purple Finches. An interesting variety of flycatchers was found, and the numbers of our rare but regular wintering species of wood warblers were about normal. A good number and variety of tanagers and orioles occurred along the coast, and some sparrows of interest were found. Highlights among the rarities were a cooperative Curve-billed Thrasher near the Salton Sea, and an equally cooperative Louisiana Waterthrush in San Diego.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.L.N.W.C. = China Lake Naval Weapons Center in extreme n.e. Kern Co.; F.C.R. = Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, Inyo Co.; 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.D.N.H.M. = San Diego Natural History Museum; S.E.S.S. = south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial County; U.C.S.B. = University of California in Santa Barbara. Place names in *italics* are counties. 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 such records submitted without documentation are not published.

GREBES TO PELICANS — Reports of Horned Grebes inland included 50–100 on L. Perris, *Riverside*, all winter (RMcK), this species being regular in such numbers on the large freshwater reservoirs; one at S.E.S.S. Dec. 21–Jan. 27 (GMcC) was in an area where this species is considered rare.

As may well be normal, small numbers of Short-tailed Shearwaters were present offshore including four off San

Diego Jan. 28 (JO'B) along with one or two somewhat regularly there through Mar. 5 (JO'B). Black-vented Shearwaters were relatively common offshore as indicated by counts of 100 off Morro Bay Dec. 10 (TME), 2500 off Pt. Mugu, *Ventura*, Dec. 3 (REW), up to 4000 off n. *Los Angeles* in December (KLG), and as many as 2000 off La Jolla Jan. 13 (GMcC). The strong westerly winds of mid-February pushed large numbers of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels close to shore as indicated by counts of 250 off Morro Bay Feb. 14–17 (JMcD). In addition, a number were found farther south than usual, including two off the Santa Maria R. mouth, *Santa Barbara*, Feb. 18 (BS), one off Pt. Arguello, *Santa Barbara*, Feb. 16 (AA), up to four in the harbor at Santa Barbara Feb. 14–16 (FS), three more off Santa Barbara Feb. 18 (AA), one found dying on the beach in La Jolla, *San Diego*, Feb. 14 (*fide* PU,* S.D.N.H.M.), and two more seen from shore there Feb. 19 (GMcC, REW).

American White Pelicans were more numerous and widespread than usual along the entire coast this winter as indicated by such reports as 90 on L. Piru, *Ventura*, Nov. 2–Mar. 11 (RJM), over 100 in Anaheim all winter (DRW), up to 65 in Carlsbad, *San Diego*, during February (JK), and up to 100 on nearby San Elijo Lagoon at the same time (LS); they were in greatly reduced numbers on the Salton Sea from those reported in recent years, suggesting a major change is taking place at the latter locality. A Brown Pelican at S.E.S.S. Dec. 6 (RMcK) was the only one found inland this winter.

HERONS TO RAPTORS — A Great Egret near Independence, *Inyo*, Feb. 1–26 (T & JH) was among very few to be found in this area of California in winter. An imm. Little Blue Heron on Upper Newport Bay, *Orange*, Jan. 28–Mar. 11 (AD) was the only one found away from San Diego. The ad. Reddish Egret that has spent the past 7 years on s. San Diego Bay remained through Jan. 23 (MBS). A White-faced Ibis near Los Osos, *San Luis Obispo*, Dec. 27 (EE) was a little farther north than usual for this time of year, and in an area where considered very



Immature Little Blue Heron at Upper Newport Bay, California, February 8, 1990. Photograph/James R. Gallagher.



Female Tufted Duck at Saticoy, California, winter 1989-1990. Photograph/Don Desjardin.

rare at any season.

Up to six Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at S.E.S.S. during December and January (GMcC) were most unusual, since this species is considered exceptionally rare as a wintering bird in California. A Tundra Swan at Saratoga Springs at the s. end of Death Valley Nat. Mon., *San Bernardino*, Dec. 27-28 (FT) and another at Galileo Hill Dec. 30 (MTH) were at unusual localities; two Tundra Swans near Brawley, *Imperial*, Jan. 16 (NH), another near Corona, *Riverside*, Jan. 23 (CMcG), and an immature swan believed to be of this species near Chino, *San Bernardino*, Feb. 10-12 (MAP) were unusually far south. An adult blue-morph Ross' Goose, a very rare color variant, at S.E.S.S. Feb. 24 (REW) was the first to be reported in s. California. A Cackling Canada Goose, quite rare in s. California, was in Encino, *Los Angeles*, Jan. 10 (JLD).

Twenty-five Eur. Wigeon were reported, including 10 males together in San Jacinto, *Riverside*, Jan. 7 (RMcK), giving us an average number for this time of year. A ♂ Eurasian Green-winged Teal was in San Luis Obispo Jan. 14 (GPS), one in Goleta, *Santa Barbara*, Dec. 16-Jan. 30 (AB) was evidently the same bird as present here during the past 8 winters, and a 3rd was in San Diego Feb. 17-19 (JO'B). Four Tufted Ducks were reported: a female in Saticoy, *Ventura*, Dec. 21-Mar. 10 (RJM), a male on Pyramid L., *Los Angeles*, Jan. 28 through February (JLD), a male on the Elderberry Forebay of Castaic Res., *Los Angeles*, Jan. 28 (JLD) for its 2nd winter, and another male on Puddingstone Res., *Los Angeles*, Jan. 14-27 (KR). Up to four Harlequin Ducks on n. Vandenberg Air Force Base, *Santa*

Barbara, Dec. 17-Jan. 1 (KH) were unexpected considering the scarcity of this species in s. California. An Oldsquaw at S.E.S.S. Feb. 11 (JO'B) with two there Feb. 17-24 (EAC) were inland, and 12 more were found along the coast with one or two in San Diego all winter being the southernmost.

Twenty Black Scoters remained along the coast of Vandenberg Air Force Base throughout the period after some 50 were found there in November (KH), but the species was virtually unrecorded elsewhere in the Region. Unexpected was the presence of up to eight Surf Scoters at S.E.S.S. throughout the period (GMcC) and another at Salton City, *Imperial*, Feb. 11 (HEC), this species being most unusual inland other than as a migrant. Two to four White-winged Scoters at N.E.S.S. Jan. 10-Feb. 28 (RMcK) were equally unexpected. An imm. ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye near Santa Maria Dec. 1-Jan. 6 (KJZ) was a long-awaited first for *Santa Barbara*. Interesting hybrids included single ♂ Eurasian X American Wigeon in Goleta Feb. 15-Mar. 29 (SEF), Pt. Mugu Dec. 3-Jan. 20 (RJM), Encino Jan. 22-Feb. 6 (JLD), and San Jacinto Jan. 7 (RMcK), and a Green-winged Teal X Am. Wigeon in San Jacinto Jan. 7 (RMcK).

An Osprey near Independence Jan. 1 (MTH) was at an unusual locality for this time of year. An imm. Bald Eagle at Silver L. near downtown Los Angeles Feb. 10-25 (KLG) was at a most unusual locality, one at Upper Newport Bay Feb. 3 (DRW) was a marked bird released on Catalina I., and another near Brawley Jan. 27-29 (MAP) was in an area where considered casual. An ad. Harris' Hawk at Finney L. near S.E.S.S. Jan. 2-Feb. 24 (DPa) was most likely an escapee, but could have wandered from the reintroduced population along the Lower Colorado R., or possibly strayed from the native populations in Arizona or Baja California; this species nested around S.E.S.S. until the early 1950s. A Red-shouldered Hawk in Bard Dec. 29 (JLD) was one of very few ever found along the Lower Colorado R. An ad. Zone-tailed Hawk on the Plano Trabuco near Mission Viejo, *Orange*, Dec. 12 (PDeS) was undoubtedly the same individual that had spent at least part of the 4 previous winters here. A Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk around Irvine Jan. 14-Mar. 3 (BED) was the 2nd to be found in *Orange*. Reports of Rough-legged Hawks were fewer than usual, but included an adult at S.E.S.S. during December and January (GMcC).

SHOREBIRDS TO ALCIDS — A Sandhill Crane at Upper Newport Bay Jan. 27–28 (AD) was only the 2nd to be found in *Orange* in 30 years. Reports of Lesser Golden-Plovers, all believed to be of the Asiatic form *fulva*, included up to five near Santa Maria throughout the period (BHi), up to seven on n. Vandenberg Air Force Base all winter (KH), one near Ventura Jan. 1–7 (CR), five near Pt. Mugu Dec. 16 (RJM), and up to 11 in Seal Beach through at least Mar. 17 (DRW), these mostly being at localities where this species is regularly found wintering. Two or three Mountain Plovers in Encino Dec. 31–Jan. 1 (IW) were on the s. coastal slope where now considered very rare. A Solitary Sandpiper in Temescal Canyon near Corona Jan. 23–26 (CMcG) and another in Santee, *San Diego*, Mar. 6 (CGE) were totally unexpected since there were only 6 previously accepted records of this species in s. California in winter. A Ruddy Turnstone, most unusual inland in winter, was at S.E.S.S. Dec. 18 (JML). Ten Sanderlings on the Salton Sea in Salton City Jan. 14 (GMcC) were undoubtedly wintering at this inland locality. A ♂ Ruff was inland in Bakersfield Dec. 31–Jan. 28 (RS), another spending its 8th winter on s. San Diego Bay remained through Mar. 18 (GMcC), and a female was in Imperial Beach, *San Diego*, Dec. 16–31 (JO). A Wilson's Phalarope at S.E.S.S. Dec. 18–Jan. 28 (JML) and another in Salton City Feb. 11 (HEC) were probably wintering locally. Over 1000 Red Phalaropes seen moving south off Vandenberg Air Force Base Jan. 15 (KH) made a noteworthy concentration.

A first-winter Franklin's Gull, most unusual in winter, was present in Chula Vista, *San Diego*, Jan. 16–Feb. 11 (EL). A first-winter **Common Black-headed Gull** seen with Bonaparte's Gulls off Point Loma Jan. 23 (JO'B) was the first to be found in *San Diego*. An ad. Little Gull photographed in Carpinteria, *Santa Barbara*, Jan. 8–9 (LRB) was apparently a different bird from that present at nearby S.C.R.E. in November. An ad. Mew Gull photographed at the Buena Vista Aquatic Recreation Area near Bakersfield Feb. 3–4 (MOC) was the first for *Kern*; two at N.E.S.S. Feb. 24 (CMcG) and another at S.E.S.S. Feb. 24 (MAP) were also far inland. A dark-mantled gull in Riverside Jan. 24

(CMcG, RMcK) was felt to be an ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull, but had an entirely white head. As appears to be normal, a few Glaucous-winged Gulls were present as far inland as the Salton Sea, where at least five individuals were found during the period. Three Glaucous Gulls were reported: a first-winter bird photographed on n. Vandenberg Air Force Base Feb. 5 (AA), another seen near Otay, *San Diego*, Jan. 25–Mar. 10 (DPa), and an adult inland at S.E.S.S. Dec. 21–24 (GMcC).

Four hundred Rhinoceros Auklets in the San Pedro Channel off *Los Angeles* Feb. 25 (KLG) made a large number for s. California waters.

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS — Band-tailed Pigeons were more numerous than usual in the coastal lowlands as indicated by such reports as "thousands" around Atascadero all winter (KJZ), a flock of 1000 near San Luis Obispo Feb. 17 (JF), numerous flocks of up to 100 birds in Malibu Canyon, *Los Angeles*, during December (KLG), flocks of up to 150 in Fullerton, *Orange*, throughout the period (DRW), and 170 near Del Mar, *San Diego*, Jan. 18 (BZ); however, they appeared to be absent from the mountains of *San Diego*. A Band-tailed Pigeon in Brawley Feb. 24 (GMcC) was only the 4th ever found in that area of California, and at a most unusual time of year for a vagrant. Single White-winged Doves were found along the coast near Santa Maria Dec. 17 (KP), in Goleta Dec. 30 (PEL), and in Ventura Oct. 23–Jan. 20 (JL); 50 scattered along the w. edge of the desert in e. *San Diego* throughout the period (D & LS) were in the only area where this species is regularly found in winter in California. The presence of up to seven Inca Doves in Brawley after Jan. 21 (PP) extended the range of this species in the Imperial Valley some 30 mi northward from Calexico. Two ♂ Ruddy Ground-Doves at F.C.R. Apr. 1 (MAP) had been present since the fall.

A Lesser Nighthawk in Anaheim Feb. 28 (DPu) was apparently too early for a spring migrant, hence best treated as a wintering bird. A Com. Poorwill near Santa Barbara Dec. 30 (GT) furnished an interesting record for winter. A Vaux's Swift at Pt. Mugu Dec. 22 (RJM) was unexpected, but a flock of 10–15 near Oceanside in



Adult Little Gull (front/center) at Carpinteria, California, January 8, 1990. Photograph/ Allyn Bissell.

December and February (GMCC) was undoubtedly wintering, this being the place where similar numbers are found every winter. A ♀ hummingbird identified as a Black-chinned in La Jolla Jan. 13 (JO'B) was undoubtedly wintering locally. A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird in Bakersfield Nov. 26–Feb. 18 (MOC) was a little farther north than usual for winter.

Lewis' Woodpeckers were widely scattered throughout the Region, including the s.e. portion, where up to six could be found in Brawley during January and February (PP). Three Acorn Woodpeckers at the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery near Independence Feb. 11 (T & JH) were outside the species' known range, but at a locality where others have been found in previous winters, and following a heavy flight in the fall. Reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers included an immature near Santa Maria Dec. 12 (M & MB), a male near Solvang, Santa Barbara, Jan. 7–26 (RPH), an immature in Goleta Dec. 3–26 (AB), a male in Desert Hot Springs, Riverside, Dec. 23–Jan. 7 (CMcG), and a female in La Jolla Nov. 22–Feb. 16 (JoM). A ♀ Williamson's Sapsucker in Piru, Ventura, Feb. 25 (KK), another in Anaheim Mar. 2–3 (DRW), and a male at La Jolla Dec. 22–Feb. 16 (JoM) were in the coastal lowlands, where most unusual. Northern Flickers were far more conspicuous than usual, indicating more than the usual numbers were present this winter.

FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS — An Olive-sided Flycatcher in Santa Barbara Oct. 20–Dec. 30 (LB) was evidently the same bird as present here during the past 5 winters. A Greater Pewee was present in Malibu Dec. 10–16 (KLG), and another in San Diego Dec. 16 through February (DHe) was apparently the same bird as present here during the past 2 winters. A Willow Flycatcher photographed at Point Mugu Jan. 13–Feb. 11 (RJM) was only the 3rd to be found in California in winter. A Least Flycatcher, a casual straggler to California, was present in Ventura Jan. 1–Mar. 11 (PEL). The only Hammond's Fly-

catcher reported this winter was one in Fullerton Jan. 23–Feb. 23 (DRW). A Dusky Flycatcher, exceptionally rare in winter, was at Puddingstone Res. Jan. 24–Feb. 11 (JSu, MAP), and another near Bakersfield Dec. 1–3 (JCW) was evidently an exceptionally late fall migrant. Five Gray Flycatchers were found, all in the southern portion of the Region as expected. Only four "W. Flycatchers," assumed to be Pacific-slope Flycatchers, were found, all being along the coast as expected.

Single E. Phoebes were present in San Simeon Jan. 7–Mar. 14 (JA), Goleta Dec. 26–Jan. 23 (AB), Santa Barbara Nov. 1–Feb. 19 (RWH) for its 2nd winter, Arcadia, Los Angeles, Dec. 16–Mar. 2 (BKC), and Irvine Dec. 4–Feb. 28 (DRW). A ♀ Vermilion Flycatcher that spent the winter at F.C.R. (T & JH) and a male near Santa Maria Dec. 15–Feb. 11 (PEL) were both at the n. extreme of the species' range. The only Ash-throated Flycatchers reported were one in Huntington Beach Nov. 15–Mar. 21 (DRW) and another at Finney L. near S.E.S.S. Feb. 8 (JiM). A Tropical Kingbird at Los Serranos L. near Chino Jan. 23 (CMcG) was one of very few ever found inland in California, but at the same location where one spent the winter of 1981–1982, and was reported again Feb. 4, 1984. Single Tropical Kingbirds were also present along the coast in San Simeon Jan. 11–14 (BS), Goleta Oct. 4–Feb. 25 (HPR), and Santa Barbara Dec. 23 (HM). The **Thick-billed Kingbird** found spending its 8th winter near Tustin was still present Mar. 31 (LRH).

A N. Rough-winged Swallow in Ventura Dec. 23–25 (RJM) was one of few to be found along the coast of California in winter. One or two Bank Swallows seen near Niland, Imperial, Dec. 10–21 (MAP) were probably wintering locally.

JAYS TO VIREOS — A Steller's Jay at San Marcos Pass near Santa Barbara Dec. 29 (MAH) and another in Encino Jan. 17–Feb. 3 (JLD) were both well away from the closest areas of normal occurrence. A flock of 150 Pinyon Jays found in the Laguna Mts. Jan. 6 (D & MH) with two flocks numbering over 200 there the following day (JO, D & LS) and smaller numbers through Jan. 12 (GMCC) established one of very few records for this species in *San Diego*; one in Blythe Jan. 7 (KR) was at a most unusual locality.

A Winter Wren in Los Angeles Dec. 29 (GB), another in Long Beach Dec. 8 (DRW), and a 3rd in Laguna Hills, Orange, Dec. 10 (DRW) were the southernmost along the coast this winter. A sad piece of news was that the last of the remaining habitat for the California Gnatcatchers on the Palos Verdes Peninsula is slated to be bulldozed, thus extirpating this species from *Los Angeles*. Hermit Thrushes were clearly more numerous and widespread than usual. Some observers felt Am. Robins were present in larger than normal numbers, this supported in part by concentrations such as the 2500 coming to a roost in Redlands Jan. 4–14 (RMCK). Varied Thrushes were clearly more numerous and widespread than normal with the southernmost being about 25 found in *Orange*, another 10 found in *San Diego*, and one present in Whitewater Canyon, *Riverside*, Dec. 23–Jan. 22 (DAH).

Sage Thrashers were widely scattered, being found in some unexpected localities as indicated by three near Big Pine, *Inyo*, Dec. 31–Feb. 26 (T & JH) and three different birds along the coast. A Bendire's Thrasher, unusual in winter, was near Blythe Jan. 1–7 (JSte, MAP) with a second there Jan. 7 (MAP). A **Curve-billed Thrasher** in Brawley Jan. 21–Mar. 3 (PP) was only the 6th found in California away from the Colorado R. Valley. A Sprague's Pipit on the Plano Trabuco near Mission Viejo Dec. 2–Feb.



Willow Flycatcher at Point Mugu, California, January 21, 1990. The species is very rarely identified in North America in winter. Photograph/Bob Heffer.

19 (BED) was the first to be found in *Orange*. The N. Shrike found at C.L.N.W.C. Nov. 9 remained through Dec. 17 (RH) and was the only one reported this winter.

Twenty-three Solitary Vireos, far more than expected, included eight gray birds of the interior race *plumbeus*; all were along the coast except for two of the gray birds found wintering around Bakersfield (MTH, JCW). A Warbling Vireo, most unusual in winter, was in Carpinteria Jan. 8 (RWH).

WOOD WARBLERS — Reports of wintering Tennessee Warblers included four around Santa Barbara between Dec. 30 and Jan. 6 (RAH, JLD, JC, BA), one in Ventura Dec. 25–Feb. 24 (JSta), one in La Jolla Feb. 10 (JO'B), one on Point Loma Jan. 6–Feb. 3 (REW), and another there Feb. 3–6 (REW). Fifteen Nashville Warblers along the coast were about average for this time of year. Unexpected were four wintering Virginia's Warblers inland, with one in Riverside Feb. 25–Mar. 4 (MAP), another in Palm Desert, *Riverside*, Nov. 25–Dec. 23 (MG), one spending its 2nd winter at Finney L. near S.E.S.S. Dec. 2–Mar. 17 (DS), and the 4th in Brawley Feb. 17–24 (CM); in addition, single individuals were along the coast in San Diego Jan. 31–Feb. 3 (DF) and in Imperial Beach Jan. 21–Feb. 16 (REW). A Lucy's Warbler in Loma Linda, *San Bernardino*, Feb. 2–4 (DRW) was the first to be found inland in winter, and single birds were along the coast in Santa Barbara Dec. 30–Jan. 21 (SEF) and in Mission Viejo Dec. 9–17 (BED). Two N. Parulas were found with one seen at S.E.S.S. Dec. 21 (GMCC), and the other present in San Diego Dec. 28–Feb. 19 (DA) spending its 3rd winter at this location.

Thirty-five Yellow Warblers along the coast were more than usual, but two or three around S.E.S.S. were slightly fewer than expected. A Chestnut-sided Warbler was in Loma Linda Nov. 25–Dec. 23 (HMe), and another found at Finney L. near S.E.S.S. Feb. 11 (HEC) was still present Mar. 31. A ♀ Black-throated Blue Warbler in Huntington Beach Dec. 27–28 (JP) was probably a late fall vagrant. Thirty-five Black-throated Gray Warblers were found along the coast, and six more were around Bakersfield where small numbers appear to regularly winter. Eight Hermit Warblers were present in the n.w. portion of the Region where small numbers are found every winter, but one in Vista, *San Diego*, Dec. 23–Feb. 19 (JO) was the only one found away from that area. At least 14 Palm Warblers were found along the coast including one apparently of the race *hypochrysea* in Goleta Dec. 30–Apr. 1 (RPH); in addition, a single bird in Bakersfield Jan. 1–21 (JCW) and a banded individual at Los Serranos Lake Jan. 13 through February (MAP) were inland, where considered exceptional.

Nine wintering Black-and-white Warblers were found along the coast, a few more than normal. As usual three or four Am. Redstarts were found around S.E.S.S., where small numbers regularly winter, and two more were at N.E.S.S. Dec. 17–23 (MAP), but one in Santa Ana Dec. 31–Feb. 16 (LL) and another in San Diego Jan. 13 (JO) were the only two found along the coast. An Ovenbird near Upland, *San Bernardino*, Dec. 10–Jan. 28 (*fide* DG) was apparently only the 4th ever found wintering in s. California. Six N. Waterthrushes were reported this winter with one at S.C.R.E. Oct. 28–Jan. 1 (BHe), another in Ventura Jan. 5 (SE), two at Pt. Mugu Jan. 13–Mar. 3 (RJM), one at Doheny State Beach, *Orange*, Dec. 2 (BED), and the 6th in Irvine Oct. 8–Feb. 11 (TEW). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** found in La Jolla Feb. 9 (JO'B) was still present Mar. 21. This was only the 3rd to be recorded in California, and the first ever in winter, the previous two

being found in August, but a very small number appear to occasionally winter in s.e. Arizona. Forty Wilson's Warblers along the coast was a larger than expected number. A Painted Redstart in San Diego Jan. 30–Feb. 27 (MEG) was undoubtedly wintering locally; one or two of these birds have been found somewhere in s. California each winter in recent years.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — A ♂ Hepatic Tanager in Santa Barbara Nov. 10–Apr. 1 (DH) was spending its 8th winter at this location. Sixteen Summer Tanagers were found along the coast with one in Oceano Oct. 15–Feb. 17 (JSR) being the northernmost. As is normal about 60 W. Tanagers were found along the coast, virtually all frequenting flowering eucalyptus. Seven Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported along the coast, but five of these were seen only during December, leaving a male in Silverado Canyon, *Orange*, Dec. 25–Mar. 18 (GM) and another in San Diego Dec. 17–Jan. 12 (DHe, *S.D.N.H.M.) as obvious wintering birds; a male in Brawley Feb. 11 (HEC) was apparently the first away from the coast at this time of year. Single Black-headed Grosbeaks in Goleta Jan. 7 (TEW) and Santa Barbara Dec. 10–Jan. 21 (JEL) were both clearly wintering locally, this species normally being scarcer than the Rose-breasted Grosbeak at this time of year.

A Green-tailed Towhee in O'Neill Regional, *Orange*, Dec. 21–Feb. 25 (JP) was the northernmost found this winter. Most observers checking the s.e. portion of the Region felt Rufous-sided Towhees were more numerous than usual in that area of California. An American Tree Sparrow near Lakeview Dec. 19–Feb. 17 (BC) was one of very few ever found in *Riverside*, and another in Fullerton Dec. 30–Jan. 28 (BO'C) was the first for *Orange*. A Clay-colored Sparrow, not normally found in s. California in winter, was at Atascadero Dec. 26 (KJZ), another was in *Orange* Nov. 25–Mar. 2 (JB) and a 3rd was in Yorba Linda, *Orange*, Jan. 15–Mar. 22 (BED); these followed a heavy influx of this species last fall. A Brewer's Sparrow, very rare along the coast in winter, was in Yorba Linda Jan. 15–Mar. 22 (JLD). The **Field Sparrow** found in *Orange* Nov. 25 was present through at least Jan. 6 (JP). The only Lark Bunting found this winter was in Mecca, *Riverside*, Dec. 17–Jan. 20 (TM, *S.B.C.M.). Savannah Sparrows of the large-billed race *rostratus* were found in coastal marshes north to Morro Bay, where one was banded Jan. 26 (GPS). This was the 2nd winter significant numbers have been found along the coast, indicating a return to the status of 50 years ago. The Sharp-tailed Sparrow found in San Diego Oct. 16 was still present Dec. 12 (JW). Forty-five Swamp Sparrows were reported with all being on coastal slope except for one near Lakeview, *Riverside*, Dec. 22–Jan. 14 (CMcG) and another near El Centro Feb. 16 (JML). Only 16 White-throated Sparrows were found, all being along the coast, and 11 of these in *Santa Barbara*. Nine Harris' Sparrows scattered throughout the Region were about average.

A ♂ McCown's Longspur near S.E.S.S. Jan. 31 (JLD) was the only one found this winter. Six Lapland Longspurs were at Pt. Mugu Dec. 3 (RJM), up to three were present on the Plano Trabuco near Mission Viejo from November through Feb. 19 (MTH) and one was seen near Needles Jan. 15 (J & MC). A flock of 25–30 Chestnut-collared Longspurs was present on the Plano Trabuco from November through Feb. 19 (MTH), five more were in Irvine Dec. 31–Jan. 1 (WG), and one was seen in the Fremont Valley of e. Kern Feb. 10 (MTH).

The only Rusty Blackbirds found this winter were one on Santa Cruz I. Dec. 9 (MAH, *U.C.S.B.), the bird initially

found at S.C.R.E. Nov. 25 that remained through Dec. 20 (RJM), and a 3rd at C.L.N.W.C. Jan. 1–Feb. 10 (MTH). The only reports of Orchard Orioles were of two males spending their 4th winter in Irvine Nov. 19–Feb. 25 (MTH), and an imm. male in Santa Ana Feb. 24–Mar. 3 (BED). Of the six Hooded Orioles reported from along the coast, five were seen only in December, leaving a drab female with other wintering orioles in La Jolla Mar. 3 (GMcC) as the only one definitely present through the period. Seven “Baltimore Orioles” were found among the 90 or so N. Orioles wintering along the coast. As usual, small numbers of Scott’s Orioles were found along the w. edge of the desert in the extreme s. portion of the Region, but nine found scattered along the coast were more than expected in that area. Two Great-tailed Grackles near Bakersfield Dec. 3–26 (RS) added to the very few records for the San Joaquin Valley.

Five Rosy Finches along the Saline Valley Road near Whip-poor-will Canyon, *Inyo*, Dec. 30 (FT) were in an area where flocks regularly occur at this time of year. Many observers felt Purple Finches were slightly more numerous than usual along the coast, this being supported by 50 in O’Neill Regional Park Dec. 17 (DRW). An Evening Grosbeak on Big Pine Mt., *Santa Barbara*, Dec. 3 (MAH, *U.C.S.B.) was the only one reported.

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