

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Guy McCaskie



This spring was dry, with few of the storms generating in the Gulf of Alaska reaching southern California, leaving the entire Region in a serious drought condition. A number of rarities were found immediately before the Memorial Day Weekend; but a cold front passing through during the Memorial Day weekend seemingly pushed the regular migrants and hoped-for vagrants from the Region, leaving many birders working the desert oases in the northeastern portion of the Region disappointed.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.L.N.W.C. = China Lake Naval Weapons Center in extreme n.e. Kern; F.C.R. = Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, Inyo; L.A.C.N.H.M. = Los Angeles County Natural History Museum; N.E.S.S. = north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside; S.C.R.E. = Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, Ventura; S.D.N.H.M. = San Diego Natural History Museum; S.E.S.S. = south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial. 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 TO BOOBIES — A Pacific Loon, quite rare inland in this Region, was at N.E.S.S. May 20 (CMcG). Small numbers of Com. Loons were found inland during the latter half of April, when this species is obviously moving north through this Region, but one at C.L.N.W.C. May 31 (DVB) was late for such a locality.

A Black-footed Albatross about 20 mi off San Diego May 19 (GMcC) was relatively close to shore for this area. Three Laysan Albatrosses were seen during a scientific cruise off S. California in April with one each at 128 nautical mi s.s.w. of San Nicolas I. Apr. 19, 59 nautical mi s.w. of San Nicolas I. Apr. 22, and 12 nautical mi n.n.w. of San Nicolas I. Apr. 24 (all PPY). Eleven Murphy's Petrels, now considered regular over the deep waters far off California, were again encountered with single birds at 148 nautical mi w.s.w. of San Nicolas I. Apr. 21, 55 nautical mi s.w. of

San Nicolas I. Apr. 22, 149 nautical mi s.w. of San Nicolas I. Apr. 26, 132 nautical mi s.w. of San Miguel I. Apr. 27, and at 99 nautical mi s.w. of San Miguel I. Apr. 27, along with six more between 40 and 78 nautical mi w. of San Nicolas I. Apr. 25 (all PPY). The only Cook's Petrels seen within 200 miles of the coast were five between 84 and 115 nautical mi s.w. of San Miguel I. Apr. 27 (PPY). Two Short-tailed Shearwaters 31 nautical mi s.w. of Pt. Conception, Santa Barbara, Apr. 29 (PPY) were late for S. California waters. A freshly dead Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel was found on Torrance Beach, Los Angeles, May 16 (CW, *L.A.C.N.H.M.), this record probably associated in some way to the February "wreck." A Least Storm-Petrel 35 nautical mi s.s.w. of San Nicolas I. Apr. 22 (PPY) was the earliest ever to be found in California waters.

Six Red-billed Tropicbirds were reported, all far off-shore, with one 52 nautical mi s.w. of San Clemente I. Apr. 18, two at 116 nautical mi s.s.w. of San Nicolas I. Apr. 19, and the other three between 47 and 58 nautical mi s.w. of San Nicolas I. Apr. 22 (all PPY). A dying ad. ♂ **Brown Booby** found on the beach in Imperial Beach, San Diego, Apr. 2 (*fide* PU, *S.D.N.H.M.) is only the 4th ever to be reported from the coast of s. California.

HERONS TO FALCONS — An imm. Little Blue Heron initially found on Upper Newport Bay, Orange, Jan. 28 and still present at the end of the period (DRW), and an adult near Lakeview, Riverside, June 4 (DRW), were the only two found away from coastal San Diego. There was an influx of Reddish Egrets to the coast with the first noted on San Diego Bay Mar. 23 (LS), then three at the mouth of the San Diego R. Apr. 26 (CGE), and finally seven together on s. San Diego Bay May 6 (REW); one at Marina del Rey, Los Angeles, Apr. 27 (JR) and another at Pt. Mugu, Ventura, Apr. 17-19 (BA) were north of San Diego, where very few have been recorded. Two Cattle Egrets at Deep Springs, Inyo, May 18 (MJL), one at Owens L., Inyo, May 19 (T & JH), and another at F.C.R. May 18-25 (MJL) were unusual for this time of year. The Yellow-crowned Night-Heron that has been present along the

coast of *San Diego* on and off since 1981 was present in La Jolla Mar. 1–24 (DaK). A Wood Stork at Guajome L. near Oceanside Apr. 23–26 (FRT) was along the coast where now considered very rare indeed.

A Ross' Goose that spent the winter on Laguna Lake, *San Luis Obispo*, was still present May 16 (KAH), another that had been present on Santa Catalina I. since Dec. 14 was still there June 4 (MG), and a 3rd around s. San Diego Bay was last seen May 18 (GMcC), these all being late for this species in s. California. As is normal, Brant were found inland in the s.e. portion of the Region during March and April with 200 on L. Henshaw in the mountains of *San Diego* Mar. 11 (GMcC) and 150 at N.E.S.S. Apr. 14 (GMcC) being the largest flocks. A flock of 40 Brant seen flying north over Butterfield Ranch in e. *San Diego* Apr. 8 (BED) was obviously on the move; one bird near Lancaster, *Los Angeles*, May 12 (DVB) and another photographed near Lost Hills, *Kern*, May 13–24 (RAE) were at unusual localities. A "Cackling" Canada Goose, somewhat rare in s. California, in Bishop, *Inyo*, May 2–12 (T & JH) was late.

A ♂ Eur. Wigeon still present on Morro Bay Apr. 15 (KAH) was the latest staying of the wintering birds, and another on Little Lake, *Inyo*, Apr. 16–22 (RHN) was not only at an unusual locality, but also quite late. Two ♂ Harlequin Ducks at Pt. Sal, *Santa Barbara*, May 26 (DeK) were probably summering locally. An Oldsquaw still present on Morro Bay Apr. 30 (TME) and another at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, *Santa Barbara*, Apr. 21–25 (BJM) were both a little late; one on L. Perris, *Riverside*, Mar. 28–31 (CMcG) and another on a small reservoir near Westmorland, *Imperial*, Mar. 31–Apr. 14 (GMcC) were inland where considered casual. A ♀ Black Scoter, casual to accidental inland, was at N.E.S.S. Apr. 14 through the end of the period (KR) and an imm. male was at nearby Desert Shores, *Imperial*, Apr. 13 through May (KR). More than the expected numbers of Surf Scoters were found inland with 100 together on L. Henshaw Mar. 11 (GMcC), six more on nearby L. Cuyamaca Mar. 24 (GMcC), up to 20 at N.E.S.S. after Apr. 14 (GMcC, MAP), and up to four at nearby Desert Shores after Apr. 13 (KR). Up to eight White-winged Scoters at N.E.S.S. after Apr. 14 (GMcC, MAP) made an exceptional number for an inland locality, and another was at nearby Desert Shores Apr. 13–14 (KR). Fifty Red-breasted Mergansers at N.E.S.S. Apr. 14 (GMcC) made a high number for an inland locality.

Three Black-shouldered Kites around S.E.S.S. Apr. 28 (BED) and two more near Holtville, *Imperial*, May 21 (RMcK) were in an area where this species may be expanding its range. A first-year Mississippi Kite, a casual spring vagrant to s. California, was photographed at Oasis, *Mono*, May 25–26 (MF, PR). A pair of Bald Eagles, a species that has only recently reestablished itself as a breeding bird in s. California, was at a nest near Tinemaha Res. in the Owens Valley in March but deserted at the end of April (T & JH), and another pair was at a nest containing 2 eggs near L. Gregory in the San Bernardino Mts. in April (SJM), giving us 2 new breeding localities.

A Sharp-shinned Hawk in suitable nesting habitat in the San Jacinto Mts., *Riverside*, May 27 (RMcK) would be exceptionally late for a migrant, but there is only one record of nesting in s. California. An ad. N. Goshawk, a casual to accidental straggler to the coast of s. California, was near Santa Margarita, *San Luis Obispo*, Mar. 18 (JR). Swainson's Hawks were reported in greater numbers than usual, with the largest flocks being of 110 near Pomona, *Los Angeles*, Apr. 14 (BL), 40 over Pasadena Apr. 18 (MCL), 20 over Piru, *Ventura*, Mar. 11 (RJM) and 19 near Imperial,

Imperial, Apr. 7–8 (RHi), and groups of up to five, along with a number of single individuals, reported from at least 15 widely scattered localities during April. An ad. Zone-tailed Hawk on Hot Springs Mt., *San Diego*, May 5 & 20 (JO'B, GMcC) was at a known nesting site. A Merlin at Valyermo, *Los Angeles*, Apr. 21 (KLG) was rather late.

PLOVERS TO PUFFINS — A Black-bellied Plover at F.C.R. Apr. 1 (MAP) and another there Apr. 18 (T & JH) were among very few ever found in this area of California. A Lesser Golden-Plover, rare inland, near Lancaster Apr. 15 (MTH) and another there May 13 (WD) were both felt to be of the N. American form *dominica*, and a 3rd at S.E.S.S. May 22 (GMcC) was clearly *dominica*; two *fulva* at Seal Beach May 5 (DRW) were the last of the 11 that spent the winter at this location, and a bird photographed on the coast at S.C.R.E. May 15 (RJM) appears to have been *dominica*. Twenty-four Snowy Plovers at Edwards, *Kern*, Mar. 24 (MTH) had not been present earlier so were clearly spring migrants.

Twenty-five Solitary Sandpipers, normally very rare in spring, were reported, with single birds in Irvine Apr. 10 (BED), near Santa Paula, *Ventura*, Apr. 1 (RJM), near Ventura Apr. 29 (DD), and on n. Vandenberg A.F.B. Mar. 31 (TME) and Apr. 26 (KH) being along the coast, and single birds at S.E.S.S. Apr. 28 (KR), 1000 Palms Oasis, *Riverside*, Apr. 29 (CMcG), and at least 18 at various localities in the high desert in the e. portion of the Region between Mar. 31 and May 17. A flock of over 3000 Whimbrels seen flying n. near Brawley, *Imperial*, May 3 (RMcK) illustrated just how numerous this species can be in this area of California at this time of year. A ♂ *Hudsonian Godwit* photographed at S.E.S.S. May 21 (RHi) was only the 5th to be found in s. California. As usual, small numbers of Ruddy Turnstones passed through the Salton Sea between Apr. 21 and May 29, with 26 on Apr. 21 (RMcK) being the largest single day count this year; single birds at C.L.N.W.C. Apr. 28 (MTH) and at Edwards May 12 (JLD) were the only two found away from the Salton Sea. A Black Turnstone, very rare to casual inland, was at Salton City Apr. 28 (KR), two more were at N.E.S.S. Apr. 29 (RMcK), and a 4th was at S.E.S.S. May 22–28 (GMcC). A Surfbird, casual inland, was at N.E.S.S. May 3 (RMcK).

Single Red Knots near Lancaster Apr. 29 (MTH) and at Edwards May 12–13 (JLD), along with up to two near the Kern N.W.R. May 13–24 (RAE), were the only ones found inland away from the Salton Sea. At least 16 Sanderlings, normally quite rare inland away from the Salton Sea, were found at various localities in *Kern* and *San Bernardino* between May 3 and June 3 (MOC, EAC), and more than 250 were found on the Salton Sea Apr. 21 (RMcK). As expected, a few Semipalmated Sandpipers were found, including one along the coast in Goleta May 7 (PEL); two at S.E.S.S. May 22 (GMcC), one at N.E.S.S. Apr. 29 (RMcK), another there June 2 (REW), one near Lakeview, *Riverside*, May 9 (CMcG), one at Harper Dry Lake, *San Bernardino*, May 3 (EAC), and a 7th in the Fremont Valley of e. *Kern* May 11–12 (MTH) were inland. A Baird's Sandpiper, decidedly rare in spring, was at Harper Dry Lake May 17 (EAC) and another was near Lost Hills, *Kern*, Apr. 20 (JCW). Wintering Stilt Sandpipers remained around S.E.S.S. through March and up to 20 there between Apr. 28 and May 12 (GMcC) were considered spring migrants. A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** photographed at Edwards June 3 (MTH) was the first to be found in s. California in spring. A ♀ Ruff on Batiquitos Lagoon, *San Diego*, Mar. 31 (DRW) was probably a spring migrant, and another female was inland near Lancaster Apr. 21–May 12 (KLG).

An ad. Laughing Gull photographed 41 nautical mi s.w.

of San Nicolas I. Apr. 22 (PPy) was at an unusual locality, and an adult at S.E.S.S. May 12 (GMcC) was a little early for that locality. Reports of Franklin's Gulls included an



Adult Franklin's Gull at Edwards Air Force Base, California, May 6, 1990. Photograph/Matt T. Heindel.

immature off San Simeon Mar. 24 (JCW), an adult at S.E.S.S. Apr. 14 (GMcC), another adult there May 5-12 (MAP), three adults together at Edwards May 5-6 (MTH), four different adults at C.L.N.W.C. between Apr. 5 and May 7 (DVB), and five different adults around Owens L., Inyo, between Apr. 19 and May 19 (T & JH). An imm. Little Gull photographed at the Santa Ynez R. mouth May 7-June 14



Immature Little Gull (with Bonaparte's Gull) at Santa Ynez River mouth, California, May 10, 1990. Photograph/Alex Abela.

(BH) departed with the Bonaparte's Gulls with which it was associating. A Heermann's Gull, very rare inland, was at Desert Shores near N.E.S.S. Apr. 28 (KR). A 2nd-winter Mew Gull at S.E.S.S. Mar. 31 (GMCC) was far inland. A dark-mantled gull photographed at Edwards Apr. 13 (MTH) was thought by the observer to be Lesser Black-backed Gull rather than W. Gull; either species would be accidental at this location. The only Glaucous-winged Gull found far inland was a first-year bird at N.E.S.S. Apr. 14 (GMcC). A first-year Glaucous Gull, quite rare in s. California, was in Anaheim Mar. 14 (JPi). A Sabine's Gull on the beach near the mouth of Oso Flaco Creek, San Luis Obispo, Apr. 21 (PPE) and another 34 nautical mi s. of San Nicolas I. Apr. 23 (PPy) were both a little early.

Gull-billed Terns again appeared along the coast on San Diego Bay with the first noted Apr. 8 (RN) and as many as 15 present by the end of the period. Two Elegant Terns at S.E.S.S. May 12 (GMcC) furnished only the 2nd record for *Imperial*. An Arctic Tern 8 nautical mi n.n.w. of San Nicolas I. Apr. 24 (PPy) was unusually early for s. California waters; one adult at S.E.S.S. June 2 (REW) and an adult and a first-year bird together at N.E.S.S. June 9 (GMcC) were inland and at the time of year previous birds have been found in this area of California.

Four Tufted Puffins, very rare in s. California waters, were seen 2 mi off San Simeon May 3 (JMcD).

PIGEONS TO PIPITS — Eight Band-tailed Pigeons at oases in the high deserts of San Bernardino and e. Kern between May 4 and June 1 were probably related to last winter's movement. A White-winged Dove on Pt. Loma, San Diego, May 19 (REW), and another in Claremont, Los

Angeles, May 6 (DG) were w. of the species' normal range. An Inca Dove, a species that appears to be expanding its range, was at F.C.R. May 15-28 (DG). One of the two Ruddy Ground-Doves that spent the winter at F.C.R. was still present Apr. 7 (DDeS). Two calling Whip-poor-wills had already returned to L. Fulmor in the San Jacinto Mts. by Apr. 27 (BED).

Noteworthy reports of migrant Black Swifts included a flock of 19 over Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo, May 28 (BS), 40 more over Los Osos June 2 (JSR), single birds over Glendale May 30 (KLG), at S.C.R.E. May 29 (DD), and near L. Cachuma, Santa Barbara, May 31 (PEL), two over Chatsworth, Los Angeles, May 16 (DD), and three over Pt. Loma May 12 (EC). Up to six Chimney Swifts were around downtown Los Angeles after May 20 (KLG), and single birds in the Fremont Valley May 11 (MTH) and at F.C.R. May 26 (REW) were in the n.e. portion of the Region; in addition, an unidentified *Chaetura* near Carpinteria May 27 (MAH) may also have been a Chimney Swift. A Lewis' Woodpecker at S.E.S.S. May 5 (MAP) was at the most unusual locality of at least 30 reported from the e. portion of the Region in April and early May, all undoubtedly related to the influx of last fall and winter. An Acorn Woodpecker in Huntington Beach May 5 (DRW) was outside the species' normal range, as were about 15 scattered about the high desert of Riverside, San Bernardino, and e. Kern between Apr. 28 and May 26, and another at Deep Springs May 11 (MJL), these all probably associated with last fall's movement of these birds.

More than the expected number of Dusky Flycatchers were found along the s. coast of the Region with at least five on Pt. Loma between Apr. 28 and May 5 (REW, GMcC), and three more in Orange between May 10 & 17 (BED, RAE). In addition, Gray Flycatchers were far more numerous than expected along the s. coast with at least 13 on Pt. Loma between Apr. 21 and May 12 (REW, GMcC) and four more in Orange during the same period (RH, JB, BED). A singing Cordilleran Flycatcher at Schulman Grove in the White Mts., Inyo, May 12 (MJL) gave us additional evidence that this species may breed in this area. The E. Phoebe found wintering in San Simeon remained through Apr. 17 (RS) and another near Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Mar. 17 (BH) had probably wintered locally. A Vermilion Flycatcher near Imperial Beach Mar. 14 (EC) and another at the San Diego R. mouth Apr. 28 (REW) were away from any area of regular occurrence, and another near Weldon, Kern, May 7 through the end of the period (SaF) was to the n.w. of this species' known range. The Thick-billed Kingbird that spent its 8th winter near Tustin was last seen Apr. 6 (DRW). The only E. Kingbirds found this spring were one at Little Lake May 25 (RHN) and another at F.C.R. May 26 (REW). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a casual straggler to California, was found in Afton Canyon, San Bernardino, May 25 (DMW).

A Scrub Jay at Harper Dry Lake May 3 (EAC) was far from suitable habitat. A Chestnut-backed Chickadee along the Santa Clara R. near Santa Paula May 26-June 7 (MAH) was the southernmost ever found in California. A Winter Wren in Mojave, Kern, June 1 (TME) was surely lost. A Townsend's Solitaire on Santa Cruz I. Apr. 14 (MW) and another on Pt. Loma May 8-9 (B & IM) were at coastal localities, and more than the expected number were found at desert oases in the n.e. portion of the Region during April and May. A Varied Thrush in Mojave May 24 (MTH) was late. An American Pipit at F.C.R. May 27-28 (RAE) was also late for such a locality.

VIREOS, WOOD WARBLERS — A Bell's Vireo in Mojave May 4 (MTH) was one of very few ever found at

migrant traps in this area. A Yellow-throated Vireo, a casual straggler to California, was found near Anaheim Hills, *Orange*, May 17 (RAE). A Red-eyed Vireo photographed in Mojave June 2–3 (JF) was the only one found this spring.

A ♂ **Blue-winged Warbler** in Huntington Beach May 28 (DRW) was one of very few ever found in California. The only Tennessee Warblers found along the coast this spring were an unusually early one on Pt. Loma Mar. 30–31 (CGE), followed by single birds May 14–15 (REW) and June 3 (REW), and two more in Huntington Beach May 16–19 (BED) & 29 (LRH); in addition, single birds at Mojave May 25–26 (PEL), F.C.R. May 26 (REW), Big Pine May 24 (JLD), and the Fremont Valley June 2–3 (MTH) were the only ones reported from the desert oases. A Virginia's Warbler in the Chocolate Mts. e. of Niland, *Imperial*, May 16 (RMcK) and another at Deep Springs May 15 (DG) were the only two reported. Up to seven Lucy's Warblers seen in suitable nesting habitat near Borrego Springs, *San Diego*, during April (JO'B) appeared to be on territories; this area is west of the species' known range in s. California. A Lucy's Warbler at 1000 Palms, *Riverside*, Apr. 21 (CMcG), another in Desert Center, *Riverside*, Apr. 7 (MAP), two in Kelso, *San Bernardino*, Apr. 7–8 (CMcG), and another there May 28 (GH) were also away from known breeding localities.

Northern Parulas were more numerous than usual with 12 found along the coast between Apr. 4 and June 7, and six more in the n.e. portion of the Region between May 15 and June 3. The Chestnut-sided Warbler found wintering at Finney L. near S.E.S.S. was still present Apr. 21 (GMcC), in breeding plumage; a male in Mojave May 27 (JCW) and another in Huntington Beach June 4 (DP) were spring vagrants. A ♀ Black-throated Blue Warbler, exceptionally rare in spring, was found in the Chocolate Mts. June 18 (DRW). A Palm Warbler in Redondo Beach, *Los Angeles*, Apr. 19 (DM) was felt to be a spring vagrant rather than a bird having wintered locally, and another in Huntington Beach May 3 (BED) was definitely a spring vagrant, as was an individual at F.C.R. May 18–20 (MJL). A ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler, decidedly rare in recent years, was in California City May 25 (ShF). Black-and-white Warblers were scarcer than normal with only six found along the coast in April and May, and five more in the e. portion of the Region between May 5 & 27. An Am. Redstart near Morro Bay June 9 (GPS) was the only one found along the coast, and 20 in the n.e. portion of the Region between Apr. 28 and June 8, along with one more in the Mule Mts. of e. *Imperial* May 22 (RMcK), were far fewer than normal.

A Worm-eating Warbler in Mojave May 25 (JCW) was one of very few found inland in spring. Reports of Ovenbirds included one along the coast on Pt. Loma May 20 (EP), 10 in the n.e. portion of the Region between May 5 and June 8, and one more in Regina, *Imperial*, May 18 (RMcK). A singing ♂ **Louisiana Waterthrush** in Mojave May 21 (CM) was only the 4th ever to be found in California and the first during spring. A N. Waterthrush near Imperial Beach Apr. 25 (CGE) was a little early, being followed by another on the coast in Redondo Beach May 3 (DM) and eight more in the e. portion of the Region between Apr. 29 and May 26. A ♂ Mourning Warbler in Mojave May 20 (MAP) was also one of very few to be found in s. California in spring. A ♂ Hooded Warbler at Agua Caliente Hot Springs in e. *San Diego* Apr. 21 (JO'B) was early for a spring vagrant, with a male in the Fremont Valley June 2 (DVB) and a female in Huntington Beach June 8 (JPi) being on more expected dates. A **Red-faced**



Louisiana Waterthrush at Mojave, California, on May 21, 1990. Fourth state record. Photograph/Matt T. Heindel.

Warbler was well seen in Carruthers Canyon in the New York Mts. of e. *San Bernardino* May 13 (ES), there being fewer than 10 accepted records of this species for California.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — A Summer Tanager in San Luis Obispo June 3 (GW) was undoubtedly a spring vagrant, as were seven found at desert oases in the e. portion of the Region between May 19 and June 8. The only Rose-breasted Grosbeaks found along the coast were single birds in Goleta May 28 (KB), near Santa Paula May 26 (MAH), and on Pt. Loma June 3 (REW); seven at desert oases in the n.e. portion of the Region between May 14 and June 1 were far fewer than expected. Indigo Buntings were also scarcer than normal with one in Santa Barbara May 20 (BJM) being the only one found along the coast; in addition, a male was found in the San Gabriel Mts., *Los Angeles*, May 16 (SJM), and only 15 more were found in the e. portion of the Region between May 4 and June 1, far fewer than normal. A ♂ Dickcissel, a casual straggler to California, was present for a short time in Los Osos May 7 (P & SG).

A Green-tailed Towhee near Hi Mt. Lookout Mar. 24 (RZ) was only the 5th to be found in *San Luis Obispo*. A Clay-colored Sparrow on Santa Catalina I. Mar. 10 (DeK) could well have wintered locally, but two together at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Nat. Mon., *Inyo*, May 14 (T & JH) were clearly spring vagrants. A Black-throated Sparrow in Huntington Beach Apr. 23–25 (J & SG) was along the coast where considered very rare, especially in spring. One or two Lark Buntings were present at Agua Caliente Hot Springs Apr. 4–28 (BT) and another was at Finney L. near S.E.S.S. Apr. 21 (JO'B), this being the time of year small numbers are occasionally found in the s.e. portion of the Region, but four together in Palo Verde, *Imperial*, May 22 (RMcK) were late. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow, a rare strag-



Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Galileo Hill, California, on May 21, 1990. Very rare inland in the west. Photograph/Matt T. Heindel.

gler to California and accidental inland, was in Mojave May 13 (MTH) and another was at Galileo Hill, *Kern*, May 20–24 (H & PB). A Swamp Sparrow in Fullerton, *Orange*, Mar. 22 (JPi) had not been present earlier in the winter so was assumed to be on the move, and another in Mojave May 4 (MTH) was clearly a migrant. Four White-throated Sparrows were found in e. *Kern* after Apr. 29, with one in

the Fremont Valley June 2 (MTH) being exceptionally late. A Harris' Sparrow in Brawley, *Imperial*, Apr. 21–28 (BED), and another in the Fremont Valley May 4 (MTH) were the only two reported this spring.

The only Bobolinks found this spring were singing males at Deep Springs May 19 (MJL), Harper Dry Lake May 24 (EAC), near Bakersfield June 2 (JCW), and on Santa Catalina I. June 4 (MC). The Rusty Blackbird found wintering at C.L.N.W.C. remained through Mar. 17 (DVB). Bronzed Cowbirds had returned to Brawley by Apr. 21 (GMCC) where small numbers have been found in recent summers, with as many as 10 different birds seen there by the end of the period; a female in Morongo Valley Apr. 29 – May 12 (MAP) was well to the n.w. of this species' limited range in California. An imm. ♂ Orchard Oriole found in Santa Ana Feb. 24 was still present Apr. 20 (BED).

A few Purple and Cassin's finches were found at desert oases in the n.e. portion of the Region including a Cassin's Finch at F.C.R. May 25–29 (BED). A ♂ Evening Grosbeak in Altadena, *Los Angeles*, May 11 (W & BR) was at a somewhat unusual locality, but small numbers were reported from the desert oases in the n.e. portion of the Region at about the same time, including a late individual at F.C.R. May 25–27 (NBB), indicating a small movement of these birds.

ADDENDUM—A report of a ♂ Harlequin Duck in Sunset Beach, *Orange*, between Oct. 1989 and Feb. 1990 (Bob & Millie Helfer) was received too late to be included in the Winter Report, and may have been the same bird that spent the winters of 1984–1985 to 1987–1988 in nearby Bolsa Chica.

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