

# SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Guy McCaskie

Dry weather continued through most of the winter. Heavy rains at the end of February and early March brought the rainfall for most areas up to near normal for the year, but this did little to reduce the effect of five years of drought.

Mountain birds were relatively scarce in the coastal lowlands, with virtually no Mountain Chickadees present, and only a handful of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Golden-crowned Kinglets reported. Numbers of berry-eaters such as robins and Cedar Waxwings were in general unimpressive, although Hermit Thrushes were far more numerous than usual. Very few Purple Finches moved from areas of normal occurrence, and Pine Siskins were virtually absent away from known breeding areas.

An exceptional cold spell in late December undoubtedly impacted a number of insectivorous species such as Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and clearly had an adverse effect on birds attempting to winter north of normal range, as was evident from the numbers of such species as Solitary Vireos, Nashville Warblers, Wilson's Warblers, Summer Tanagers, and Northern Orioles present in December compared to those still present in January and February.

**Abbreviations:** B.V.R.A. (*Buena Vista Recreation Area, s.w. corner of the San Joaquin Valley, Kern Co.*); F.C.R. (*Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, Inyo Co.*); H.D.L. (*Harper Dry Lake, n.w. of Barstow, San Bernardino 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.E.S.S. (*south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.*); V.A.F.B. (*Vandenberg Air Force Base, Santa Barbara Co.*). 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 Michael A. Patten, P.O. Box 8612, Riverside, CA 92515-8612) for all rarities listed in this report, and records submitted without documentation are not published.

## LOONS TO PELICANS

At least five Red-throated Loons were found on large bodies of fresh water w. of the Coast Range, where small numbers are present each winter. A Com. Loon on West L. near S.E.S.S. Dec. 10 (JLD) was in an area where few winter records are known. Single Red-necked Grebes, unusual anywhere south of Pt. Conception, were in Ventura Jan. 7-25 (RJM), Oxnard Feb. 23 (RJM), and Marina del Rey Dec. 7-Feb. 10 (BE). A bird believed to be a light morph Wedge-tailed Shearwater was seen near 32° 45' N-120° 45' W, about 60 mi s.w. of San Nicolas I., Jan. 15 (RRV); there are only 2 accepted records for this species in California. A few Short-tailed Shearwaters were along the coast as indicated by singles off Pismo Beach Feb. 3 (EVJ), off Newport Beach Dec. 21

(MTH), off La Jolla Mar. 6 (JO'B), and off San Diego Jan. 1 (CGE). Most unusual for S. California waters was the presence of 15 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels in the area of 34° 00' N-123° 00' W, far off Pt. Conception, Jan. 21 (RRV). Eleven Ashy Storm-Petrels netted on San Miguel I. during the night of Jan. 7 (JD) strongly suggested nesting at this locality.

Four Red-billed Tropicbirds were seen far off San Diego, with two together at 31° 10' N-118° 50' W on Jan. 9 (RRV), and single birds at 31° 20' N-120° 15' W and 31° 05' N-120° 45' W on Jan. 10 (RRV). Five Red-tailed Tropicbirds a little more than 200 mi off San Diego Jan. 11-12 (RRV) were in an area where this species is reported somewhat regularly. Ten Brown Pelicans on the Salton Sea Dec. 13 had declined to two on Jan. 13 (WRR); these and an immature near Brawley, Imperial, Jan. 26 (GMCC) may have spent the winter locally.

## HERONS TO RAPTORS

Three Tricolored Herons were around San Diego with an immature at the mouth of the Tijuana River near Imperial Beach found Dec. 7 (GMCC),

an adult found there Jan. 1 (GMCC), and a subadult near the mouth of the San Diego River found Jan. 26 (PJ), all present through February. The ad. Reddish Egret spending its 9th winter around s. San Diego Bay was present through at least Jan. 1 (GMCC), and the immature in the same area was present through at least Feb. 8 (DSe). The ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron near Imperial Beach remained through Jan. 7 (DA), and the individual present around La Jolla and San Elijo Lagoon since October 1981 was in La Jolla Dec. 18-Feb. 26 (JO'B). Two Wood Storks near Escondido Dec. 28-Feb. 13 (PJ) were along the coast, where very rare.

At least 65 Greater White-fronted Geese were reported during December and January along the immediate coast, where now considered quite rare, including flocks of 20 at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, Santa Barbara, 15 near Del Mar, and 11 at Point Mugu, Ventura. At least 40 Snow Geese were reported from the same area, including flocks of 13 at Point Mugu and 11 near Oceanside; an adult photographed at Seccombe Lake near San Bernardino Feb. 24 (MAP) was of the blue morph, exceptional away from S.E.S.S. Twenty-seven

Ross' Geese were also reported along the coast, including a flock of seven in Anaheim Dec. 7-Jan. 1 (DRW); one at F.C.R. throughout the period (T & JH) and seven near Cantil, Kern, Feb. 1 (MTH) were at interesting localities. Up to seven Canada Geese of the endangered race *leucopareia* were near Del Mar Dec. 16-Jan. 21 (LS), and at least 13 "Cackling Geese" were along the coast, including six together at S.C.R.E. Dec. 31-Feb. 10 (LRB).

Since Blue-winged Teal are rarely found away from the coast in winter, 12 s.e. of Bakersfield throughout the season (JCW) and 15 around the Salton Sea Dec. 10 (JLD) were of interest. At least 28 Eur. Wigeon were reported, including two males far inland near Helendale, San Bernardino, Nov. 11-Mar. 3 (MAP). Most significant was a ♂ Common Pochard at Silver Lakes near Helendale Jan. 17-Feb. 23 (EAC), undoubtedly the same bird as present here during the winter of 1988-1989 (AB 43:365). At least seven Tufted Ducks were in the Region this

through the period (BLA), and an imm. male was present nearby Dec. 30 through February (RW).

Ten Oldsquaws were found along the coast, with a female on San Diego Bay Nov. 20-Feb. 24 (JLD) the southernmost; one photographed inland near Cantil Dec. 8 (MTH) was apparently only the 2nd found in Kern; one shot at S.E.S.S. Dec. 22 (WRR) and another seen there Feb. 13 (WRR) were also inland. Since Black Scoters are quite rare s. of Pt. Conception, the presence of six scattered along the coast, including up to two together on San Diego Bay Jan. 8 through February (DA), were more than expected in recent years. Two Surf Scoters on the Salton Sea near Salton City Dec. 9 (JLD) and three more at N.E.S.S. Feb. 18 (GMCC) were inland, where rare. A White-winged Scoter on the Salton Sea at the mouth of Salt Creek Dec. 10 (JLD), another at N.E.S.S. Dec. 16 (MAP), and two more at S.E.S.S. Dec. 13-18 (WRR) were also rare inland. An ad. ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye on Tinnemaha Res. near Big Pine,

adult in Escondido Dec. 19-Mar. 12 (MM) and an immature there Jan. 30-Mar. 18 (MM). The fact that only one Rough-legged Hawk was reported from along the coast, and none was found in the n.e. portion of the Region, illustrates just how scarce this species was this winter. A Merlin photographed near Bishop, Inyo, Jan. 26 (T & JH) appeared to be of the dark race *suckleyi*, considered very rare in S. California.

#### CRANES TO ALCIDS

An imm. Sandhill Crane photographed at N.E.S.S. Dec. 29 (MAP) was away from any area of regular occurrence; up to two immatures near San Juan Capistrano Dec. 20-Feb. 10 (RAE) and another over Orange Feb. 25 (SG) were along the coast, where now considered casual. A Black-bellied Plover at Edwards, Kern, Feb. 16 (MTH) was unexpectedly early for this area. Reports of wintering Lesser Golden-Plovers included two near Santa Maria still present Mar. 9 (JSR), six on V.A.F.B. Jan. 18 (KH), five near Point Mugu Feb. 9-Mar. 1 (RJM), up to 12 at Seal Beach through the period (DRW), and one near Del Mar Feb. 7 (DP), all identified as the Asiatic *fulva*, the only form known to winter in the State. The only Mountain Plovers found along the coast, where they have become rare, were the usual flock of up to 30 near Santa Maria (KH), up to 13 on V.A.F.B. (KH), 15 near Point Mugu Jan. 26-Mar. 10 (DDJ), and 10 near Imperial Beach (GMCC).

Two Ruddy Turnstones near

Salton City Dec. 9 (JLD) and another at S.E.S.S. Dec. 18 (GMCC) were inland where unusual in winter. A Wilson's Phalarope, most unusual in winter, was at S.E.S.S. Feb. 11 (HEC).

Four ad. Laughing Gulls, rare in California in winter, were at N.E.S.S. Dec. 29 (KR), one was on Finney L. near S.E.S.S. Dec. 10-17 (JLD), and another adult was photographed near Westmorland Jan. 30 (BRZ). A first-winter Franklin's Gull, very rare anywhere in California in winter, was on V.A.F.B. Dec. 16 (KH), and another was in Santa Barbara Feb. 5 (FS). The Mew Gull found at the B.V.R.A. Nov. 24 was still present Dec. 22 (SF), and first-winter birds at S.E.S.S. Dec. 18 (GMCC) and N.E.S.S. Dec. 9-Feb. 2 (JLD) were also far inland. An ad. Herring Gull on Klondike L. near Big Pine Dec. 30 (T & JH) was among very few ever found in Inyo. Even rarer in this general area was a first-winter Thayer's Gull in Victorville, San Bernardino, Jan. 1 (MAP). Since W. Gulls are considered casual inland, up to three at N.E.S.S. Dec. 17-Feb. 18 (JLD) were of interest. A 2nd-winter Glaucous-winged Gull at N.E.S.S. Dec. 29 (KR), and an adult at S.E.S.S. Dec. 18-Jan. 26 (JLD), were far inland where considered rare. An ad. Glaucous Gull standing on the ice at Tinnemaha Res. near Big Pine Dec. 23-25 (MTH) was the first found inland away from the Salton Sea; along the coast at least 11 first-winter birds were found, including nine along the Santa Barbara coast (AA, SEF, BKH, KH, MAH, JSR, KJZ) and up to two at S.C.R.E. Jan.



**Tufted Duck at Ventura, California, February 9, 1991. At least seven individuals were found in southern California during the season. Photograph/ Don Desjardin.**

winter, with a female near S.C.R.E. Jan. 19-Mar. 5 (RJM), a female at nearby Satcoy Dec. 23 (JLD), up to two males on Castaic L., Los Angeles, Dec. 28-Jan. 28 (KLG), a male on nearby Pyramid L. Jan. 14-Feb. 7 (BJ), another male on Quail L., Los Angeles, Feb. 1-Mar. 8 (DK), and a 5th male on Puddingstone Res., Los Angeles, for at least its 3rd winter Nov. 17-Jan. 30 (MB). The ♀ Harlequin Duck at Point Mugu since Nov. 17 remained

Inyo, Jan. 5-6 (T & JH) was in an area where small numbers may be regular.

Two Black-shouldered Kites near Westmorland Feb. 18 (GMCC) and another at S.E.S.S. Feb. 22 (KLG) were in the s.e. corner of the Region, where still considered rare. At least four Zone-tailed Hawks were along the coast of San Diego this winter, with an adult near Oceanside Dec. 22 (GMCC), another adult near San Marcos Dec. 22 (JO'B), an



**First-winter Glaucous Gull at the Santa Clara River Estuary, California, February 19, 1991. Photograph/Brad Sillescu.**



14-Mar. 2 (RJM).

A Com. Tern in Goleta Nov. 18-Jan. 15 (RGJ) was clearly attempting to winter locally. Up to 175 Black Skimmers at Point Mugu Jan. 3-Mar. 2 (RJM) and up to 16 in Santa Barbara Jan. 1-Feb. 4 (FS) were by far the largest numbers ever north of *Orange*, and surprising for this time of year.

Reports of Xantus' Murrelets included one off Santa Barbara Dec. 29 (JLD), two off Newport Beach Jan. 20 (MTH), one off La Jolla Jan. 1 (DJ), and another off San Diego Jan. 28 (BRZ). A few Ancient Murrelets



**Ancient Murrelet at the Ventura Marina, California, January 1, 1991. Photograph/Bob Heffer.**

moved south into S. California waters as indicated by up to two in Ventura Jan. 1-7 (DDe), one off Newport Beach Dec. 15 (MTH), two off La Jolla Dec. 12-16 (JO'B), and three more there Mar. 6 (JO'B).

#### DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

Three White-winged Doves near Santa Ynez, *Santa Barbara*, Dec. 12-15 (CP), another near Solvang Jan. 27 (HPS), and one near Imperial Beach Dec. 9 (REW) were away from the w. edge of the low desert, the only area in the State where this species regularly winters. Two ♀ Ruddy Ground-Doves were still at F.C.R. Dec. 14 (T & JH), probably attempting to winter. Since Short-eared Owls have become alarmingly scarce in this Region in recent years, one on Upper Newport Bay Dec. 3-30 (PK) and another near S.E.S.S. Dec. 29 (BM) were of interest. Two Lesser Nighthawks, very rare in winter, were near Lakeview, *Riverside*,

Jan. 1 (DLD) and two more were over Lower Otay L. near San Diego Jan. 5 (KR). A Com. Poorwill in Randsburg, *Kern*, Dec. 13 (DVB) and another at H.D.L. Dec. 9 (EAC) were among very few ever found in the e. portion of the Region in winter.

Four Vaux's Swifts near downtown Los Angeles Mar. 16 (KLG), 50 over El Monte Jan. 22 (DRW), another group of about 50 near Oceanside Dec. 22 (GMcC), and one near Imperial Beach Dec. 8 (GMcC) were all undoubtedly wintering. A ♂ Broad-billed Hummingbird in *Orange* Feb. 11 (DRW) was the first to be found in California in 2 years. Well described Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers included an immature near San Luis Obispo Dec. 13-Jan. 8 (DR), another in Arroyo Grande, *San Luis Obispo*, Dec. 20 (MB & NM), and another inland at Desert Center Dec. 8 (CMcG). A Downy Woodpecker at H.D.L. Jan. 16 (EAC) was away from any area of normal occurrence.

#### FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS

The Greater Pewee spending its 3rd winter in San Diego was still present at the end of the period (B & IM), and another near Tustin Feb. 10-13 (GMcC) was only the 2nd to be found in *Orange*. Wintering Gray Flycatchers included one in Santa Barbara Dec. 29-Jan. 1 (BS), another in Riverside Dec. 27 (C-TL), and a 3rd near Rubidoux, *Riverside*, Feb. 8-9 (CMcG). A "W. Flycatcher" in Mission Viejo Dec. 16 (BED), another in Irvine Dec. 30 (DRW), and a 3rd in Del Mar Dec. 16 (JO'B) were the only

ones reported this winter. Four E. Phoebes were present with one spending its 3rd winter in Santa Barbara Oct. 30-Feb. 8 (RWH), another in Grand Terrace, *San Bernardino*, Nov. 1-Feb. 1 (DG), a 3rd in the Prado Basin near Corona Feb. 3 (EAC), and the 4th along the Santa Ana R. near Riverside Dec. 16-Jan. 6 (SJM). A Vermilion Flycatcher spending its 2nd winter near Santa Maria Oct. 21-Jan. 13 (SFB) was unusually far north. The only Ash-throated Flycatcher was near Imperial Beach Dec. 2 (REW). A Tropical Kingbird at Los Serranos L. near Chino Jan. 29-Mar. 31 (HEC) and another in Anaheim Nov. 13-Feb. 16 (DRW) were away from the immediate coast, thus most unusual; one on V.A.F.B. Jan. 30-Mar. 15 (KH) was apparently the same bird present here the past 2 winters, and another in Goleta Sept. 27-Feb. 5 (RGJ) was apparently the same bird present here the past 4 winters. A Cassin's Kingbird at Finney L. near S.E.S.S. Jan. 19 and Feb. 10 (HEC) was among very few ever found in this area. A Thick-billed Kingbird near Tustin Dec. 16-Mar. 16 (DRW) was clearly the same bird that spent the last 8 winters at this location. A W. Kingbird in the Prado Basin Park

near Corona Feb. 8-9 (DRW) was only the 5th ever found in S. California in winter.

A N. Rough-winged Swallow over El Monte Jan. 18 (DRW), another in Irvine Dec. 2-30 (DRW), one in Anaheim Dec. 21-Feb. 10 (JP), another in Costa Mesa Jan. 11 (JP), and two near Imperial Beach Dec. 15-Feb. 3 (GMcC) clearly spent the winter locally.

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three more in Santa Barbara itself, indicated some moved from the mountains into the coastal lowlands; one in Bakersfield Dec. 28–29 (MOC) suggested a few may also have moved down into the Central Valley. A Plain Titmouse of the coastal race *transpositus* in Mecca Dec. 29–31 (GH, \*S.B.C.M.) was the first ever found in the vicinity of the Salton Sea. Single Winter Wrens near Lakeview Dec. 16 (SJM) and Dec. 18–Jan. 27 (SJM), and another near Imperial Beach Dec. 3–15 (DP), were the southernmost reported; the latter was thought to be a bird from the e. population on the basis of its call.

A Brown Thrasher, a rare straggler, was near Calexico Dec. 13 (WRR). A Sage Thrasher at L. Los Carneros near Goleta Jan. 8 (JPH), another in Irvine Dec. 24 (JB), and a 3rd in Orange Feb. 2 (BED) were along the immediate coast, where unusual in winter. The ad. White Wagtail found in Satcoy Nov. 8 was still present Mar. 9 (RJM). A Bohemian Waxwing was well



**Bohemian Waxwing at Big Pine, California, January 8, 1991.**  
Photograph/Tom Heindel.

photographed in Big Pine Jan. 8–13 (T & JH), and up to three were present in Bakersfield Jan. 16–19 (JCW), indicating a few reached S. California this winter. The only N. Shrike reported was an adult at Tinnemaha Res. near Big Pine Feb. 14 (T & JH).

A Bell's Vireo, most unusual in winter, was near Imperial Beach Dec. 2–Jan. 5 (REW) with a 2nd nearby Dec. 15 (GmC). Fifteen Solitary Vireos were along the coast in

December, including at least six along the Tijuana R. near Imperial Beach, but with only three remaining past the end of December; inland four were around Bakersfield in December with only two remaining later, and one more was in Brawley Jan. 20–31 (EAC); all but three *cassinii* near Imperial Beach and two more in Orange were of the gray form *plumbeus*.

#### WOOD WARBLERS

A ♀ Golden-winged Warbler along the Tijuana R. near Imperial Beach Dec. 15 (REW) may have been an exceptionally late fall vagrant, since much looking by a number of interested observers failed to locate it again. A Lucy's Warbler in Goleta Nov. 22–Dec. 23 (RPH) was attempting to winter locally, but evidently succumbed to the cold spell in late December. Seventeen Nashville Warblers were reported in December, but with only five of these remaining past the New Year. A Virginia's Warbler in Riverside Oct. 28–Mar. 3 (MAP) and another in Brawley Nov. 10–Jan. 31 (MAP) were both returning for their 2nd winter. A N. Parula in San Diego Dec. 2–Jan. 18 (B & IM) was apparently the same bird present here during the past 2 winters.

A Chestnut-sided Warbler, very rare in winter, was present in Pacific Beach, San Diego, Dec. 13–Jan. 31 (JO'B); another near Imperial Beach Dec. 1–3 (REW) was probably a late fall vagrant. A Magnolia Warbler in Lompoc Nov. 18–Dec. 7 (KH) appears to have been an exceptionally late fall vagrant. A ♀ Cape May Warbler in Costa Mesa Feb. 9 into March (RAH) was about the 7th known to have spent the winter in S. California. Only 12 Black-throated Gray Warblers were found along the coast, and singles were inland in Brawley Dec. 10 (JLD) and Jan. 26 (MAP). Thirteen Hermit Warblers were reported between Morro Bay and San Diego, now being found regularly along the coast in small numbers at this season. A Black-throated Green Warbler in Lompoc Nov. 18–Dec. 5 (KH) may have been attempting to winter locally but was more likely a late fall vagrant. The Grace's Warbler found in Santa Barbara Sept. 23 was still

present Feb. 25 (HPR). A ♀ Pine Warbler in San Diego Mar. 3–21 (DP) undoubtedly spent the winter locally, and was about the 12th known to have wintered in S. California. Nine Palm Warblers along the coast were fewer than expected, but one at N.E.S.S. Dec. 29 (SJM) was among very few ever found inland at this time of year.

Eight Black-and-white Warblers were reported: singles in San Luis Obispo Dec. 1–15 (JSR), Goleta Dec. 21 (RGJ), Carpinteria Nov. 30–Jan. 26 (LRB), Ventura Dec. 17–Jan. 9 (BL), Long Beach Dec. 22 through February (DSt), Huntington Beach Nov. 3–Feb. 9 (BED), Escondido throughout the period (PJ), and near Imperial Beach Dec. 3–9 (JO'B). An Am. Redstart present for its 3rd winter in Santa Ana Nov. 15–Dec. 30 (DRW), one near Oceanside in December (PU), another in La Jolla Dec. 2 (JO'B), one in San Diego all winter (REW) and two more along the Tijuana R. near Imperial Beach in December (REW) were all along the coast where rare in winter, but four or five around S.E.S.S. were in an area where small numbers regularly winter.

At least five N. Waterthrushes were along the Tijuana R. near Imperial Beach in December (REW) but only two were still there at the end of the period, suggesting some may have been late fall migrants or failed to survive the late December cold snap. A MacGillivray's Warbler, very rare in winter, was seen in Ventura Dec. 25 (RL), another was found in San Marino Feb. 18 (DC), and a 3rd was near Imperial Beach Dec. 1 (REW). A ♀ Hooded Warbler in El Toro, Orange, Dec. 15–16 (LRH) was apparently a very late fall straggler. Forty Wilson's Warblers along the coast in December was an above average number for winter, but fewer than half of these remained into the New Year.

#### TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A ♂ Hepatic Tanager in Santa Barbara Oct. 23–Apr. 3 (HPR) was undoubtedly the same bird present here during the past 8 winters, and another ad. male was present nearby Nov. 29–Dec. 29 (BL0). Twenty-two

Summer Tanagers were reported, but only seven of these were found after the first of the year. Western Tanagers appeared scarcer than usual with only 26 reported along the coast. The only Rose-breasted Grosbeak reported was in Santa Barbara Dec. 29 (KB). A Black-headed Grosbeak, most unusual in winter, was in Oceano Dec. 6 (KJZ) and another was in San Diego Jan. 8 (D & MH). A ♂ Indigo Bunting inland in Brawley Jan. 19–20 (EAC) was among very few ever found in S. California in winter.

A Clay-colored Sparrow, very rare in winter, was present in Lompoc Nov. 12–Jan. 20 (KH). Three Large-billed [Savannah] Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis rostratus*) at S.C.R.E. from fall through Feb. 23 (RJM) were the northernmost reported. A Grasshopper Sparrow, rarely found in winter, was near Valencia, Los Angeles, Dec. 29 (KLG), and another was on the Plano Trabuco, Orange, Jan. 11 (LRB). A Le Conte's Sparrow at H.D.L. Jan. 6 (EAC, \*S.B.C.M.) was only the 3rd ever found in California in winter. Swamp Sparrows appeared to be more numerous than usual with 20 reported along the coast, and at least 12 more inland including seven around the Salton Sea. White-throated Sparrows appeared to be a little more numerous than usual with at least 35 reported. The only Harris' Sparrows found this winter were one in Goleta Dec. 29–Jan. 11 (TW), another in Long Beach Nov. 17–Dec. 19 (MH), and a 3rd in Irvine Jan. 1–30 (BED).

Two McCown's Longspurs, rarest of the regularly occurring longspurs in California, were on the Plano Trabuco Dec. 16 (RAE), two more were near Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino, Jan. 26–Feb. 3 (RMCK), and four were near S.E.S.S. Dec. 9 (JLD). Reports of Lapland Longspurs included up to six near Lucerne Valley Jan. 26–Feb. 6 (RMCK), one in Encino Dec. 23 through February (JSR), one on the Plano Trabuco Dec. 16–Jan. 11 (RAE), and three at S.E.S.S. Dec. 9 (JLD). More Chestnut-collared Longspurs were found than expected with a flock of up to 50 near Lucerne Valley Jan. 26–Feb. 6 (RMCK) and another



flock of up to 30 on the Plano Trabuco Dec. 16-Jan. 11 (DRW); one in Irvine Dec. 30 (BED) was probably a late fall vagrant.

A Rusty Blackbird in Malibu Dec. 11 through February (BP) was the only one reported this winter. A ♂ Com. Grackle, casual to accidental in California, photographed near Big Pine Dec. 12 (T & JH) is best treated as a very late fall vagrant. A ♀ Orchard Oriole on Pt. Loma in San Diego Mar. 9-15 (GMCC) had undoubtedly wintered locally. A Hooded Oriole, rare in winter, was found in Ventura Dec. 31 (RGJ), another was in nearby Simi Valley Jan. 30 (FH), three were together in San Marino through the period (DC), and another was inland in Bakersfield Dec. 29-Feb. 15 (JCW). Northern Orioles were scarcer than usual with only 53 found along the coast, including a "Baltimore" in Goleta Dec. 14 (JEL), another in Ventura Dec. 31 (PEL), and a 3rd on Pt. Loma Jan. 13 (REW).

Two Purple Finches in Brawley Jan. 26 (MAP) were in an

area where considered rare but proving to be regular. A few Red Crossbills were reported including two in Big Pine Dec. 13 (T & JH), two in California City Feb. 1 (MTH), and at least 12 on V.A.F.B. Dec. 22-Feb. 18 (KH), along with flocks of up to 50 in the San Gabriel Mts. of Los Angeles during January and February (KLG). A flock of 20 Evening Grosbeaks present in Big Pine all winter (T & JH) and five more in Ridgecrest Jan. 1 (DM) were in the n.e. portion of the Region where small numbers can be expected; up to 50 around Big Pines in the San Gabriel Mts. during January and February (KLG) were the only ones reported from the mountains; one in Ventura Dec. 25 (VK) was along the coast where unexpected, and another in Brawley Dec. 10 (JLD) was in the s.e. corner of the State, where accidental.

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