

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Guy McCaskie

Drought conditions prevailed throughout the season, leaving the Region dangerously dry. Most coastal observers commented on the lack of normal West Coast migrants, but observers working the eastern portion of the Region considered the numbers of these birds passing through that area higher than usual. Observers on a CAL COFI research cruise between September 29 and October 12 reported on birds far offshore, where most observers were unable to reach. We witnessed a movement of Red Phalaropes and Sabine's Gulls through the interior in September and were almost inundated with Red-throated Pipits in October. Birders looking for rarities were well rewarded with a better-than-average selection of stragglers that included some real rarities, with a Little Bunting in San Diego topping the list.

Abbreviations: CLNWC (*China Lake Naval Weapons Center, extreme n.e. Kern Co.*); EAFB (*Edwards Air Force Base, s.e. Kern Co.*); FCR (*Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley, Inyo Co.*); HDL (*Harper Dry Lake, n.w. of Barstow, San Bernardino Co.*); NESS (*north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.*); SBCM (*San Bernardino County Museum*); SCRE (*Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, Ventura Co.*); SDNHM (*San Diego Natural History Museum*); and SESS (*south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.*). As most S. California rarities are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are included. Documentation for all rarities listed in this report is on file with the California Bird Records Committee (c/o Michael A. Patten, P. O. Box 8612, Riverside, CA 92515). Records submitted without documentation are not published.

LOONS TO PELICANS

A Pacific Loon flying S along the freeway through Lancaster, *Los Angeles*, Oct. 26 (JLD), one that landed on a highway near HDL Oct. 26 (FEH), another on the highway near Ridgecrest, *Kern*, Oct. 30 (MOC), and a 4th on Klondike L. near Pig Pine, *Inyo*, Nov. 7 (T & JH) were in the e. portion of the Region, where very rare. A Horned Grebe at the SCRE Sept. 15 (SEF) was early; seven away from areas of normal occurrence in *Inyo* and *Kern* between Oct. 16–Nov. 16 (T & JH, MOC) occurred at the time this species was migrating S through the Region.

Observers on the CAL COFI research cruise off S. California Sept. 29–Oct. 12 saw at least two Cook's Petrels in the vicinity of 30°30'N, 123°40'W (about 300 nautical mi w.s.w. of San Diego) Oct. 1 (RRV), where this species is undoubtedly regular, and four Stejneger's Petrels between 32°50'N, 123°54'W and 33°23'N, 124°19'W (about



regular in small numbers along the coast but is decidedly rarer in the n.e. portion of the Region. The only Tufted Duck was a returning male on Quail L. near Gorman, *Los Angeles*, Nov. 11–17 (JB). An Oldsquaw, rare inland, was on Tinnemaha Res. near Big Pine Nov. 5–30 (JLD), another was at CLNWC Nov. 1–28 (DVB), a 3rd was near Lakeview, *Riverside*, Nov. 23 through the end of the period (CMcG), and a 4th was in Santee, *San Diego*, Nov. 6–8 (CGE). Inland scoters reports included a ♂ Black Scoter flying over Hollywood Res., *Los Angeles*, Oct. 27 (SSu); an unusually early Surf Scoter at CLNWC Oct. 5 (MTH), along with one at HDL Nov. 7 (EAC) and single birds at SESS Oct. 16–19 (WRR) and Nov. 15 (SSc); and a White-winged Scoter on Tinnemaha Res. Nov. 13 through the end of the period (T & JH) and up to two more at SESS Nov. 11–16 (RCL). Single ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye on Tinnemaha Res. Nov. 5

120 nautical mi s.w. of Pt. Conception) Oct. 10 (RRV). What was almost certainly a Townsend's Shearwater was about 3 mi off Pt. Buchon, *San Luis Obispo*, Aug. 11 (KAH, JSR), this the 3rd reported in California waters. A Wilson's Storm-Petrel, very rare in S. California waters, was photographed 10 mi n.w. of Santa Catalina I. Oct. 12 (MH). A Band-rumped Storm-Petrel was identified at 30°59'N, 121°17'W (just over 200 nautical mi w.s.w. of San Diego) Sept. 30 (RRV), this being close to the area where at least nine were seen July 20, 1989 (AB43:1367, 1989). A massive flock of storm-petrels 10 mi off the n.w. tip of Santa Catalina I. Oct. 12 contained an amazing 3000 Least Storm-Petrels (JKA), the largest concentration ever reported in California waters.

Nine Red-billed Tropicbirds off S. California during the CAL COFI research cruise Sept. 29–Oct. 12 (RRV) is about normal. A subad. Red-footed Booby, only the 4th in S. California, was captured on the beach in Redondo Beach, *Los Angeles*, Aug. 18 (DM, JA) and died in a rehabilitation center 8 weeks later. A Brown Pelican on L. Elsinore, *Riverside*, Aug. 14–27 (DRW) was the only one reported inland away from the Salton Sea.

HERONS TO RAPTORS

The only Little Blue Herons away from coastal *San Diego* were an immature in Ventura Aug. 8–9 (BSi), another at Pt. Mugu, *Ventura*, Aug. 24 (FH), and a 3rd immature photographed at Malibu Lagoon Aug. 15–17 (NBB). A Reddish Egret on s. San Diego Bay Sept. 27 through the end of the period (RCh) is the same adult with a slightly deformed bill that spent the past 9 winters in

the area; an immature was in Del Mar, *San Diego*, Oct. 16–19 (JO'B), and another immature was on s. San Diego Bay Nov. 11 through the end of the period (GMcC). The subad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in the Tijuana R. valley near Imperial Beach June 16 molted into ad. plumage and was joined Oct. 13 by what was probably the adult present here last winter, with both remaining through the end of the period (D & MH); another adult photographed along the Los Angeles R. near downtown Los Angeles Sept. 13–Nov. 30 (KLG) was the 4th found in *Los Angeles*.

A family group of Tundra Swans first seen at CLNWC Oct. 30 (DVB) and later on Klondike L. near Big Pine and elsewhere in the Owens Valley, *Inyo*, Nov. 2–14 (T & JH) was made up of what appeared to be a typical adult *bewickii* mated with either a *bewickii* with reduced yellow on the bill or a *columbianus* with an abnormal amount of yellow on the bill, and three young showing varying amounts of whitish coloration at the base of the bill. Individual "Bewick's Swans" are occasionally found with the large flocks of Tundra Swans wintering in N. and C. California, but this subspecies is previously unreported in S. California.

A Garganey at Arroyo Laguna, *San Luis Obispo*, Oct. 2–13 (TME) was the 8th found in S. California; it now appears likely that this long-distance migrant will prove to be a very rare but regular spring and fall visitor to North America's Pacific coast. Reports of Eurasian Wigeon included at least 20 individuals along the coast, along with an imm. male at FCR Nov. 5 (JLD), an ad. male on Little Lake, *Inyo*, Nov. 7–23 (T & JH), and a female there Nov. 10 (GMcC); this species is

(JLD) and Nov. 16 (T & JH) were in the Region's n.e. portion, where small numbers are suspected to occur each fall.

An imm. Bald Eagle near Cantil, *Kern*, Nov. 27 (MTH) was at an unusual location. An imm. Broad-winged Hawk near Oxnard Oct. 14 (BSi), a dark-morph immature on the Palos Verdes Pen. Sept. 29 (MH), a typical immature over Pt. Loma in San Diego Sept. 18 (D & MH), and an adult there Nov. 9 (TC) were the only four reported in S. California. Where do all those birds passing through *Marin* in central California go? A flock of 138 Swainson's Hawks near Shafter, *Kern*, Aug. 20 (MOC) and 30 over Mt. Washington near downtown Los Angeles Oct. 7 (MJJ) were the only migrant flocks. An ad. Zone-tailed Hawk, very rare to casual away from known nesting localities, was over Santee Nov. 2–3 (GD). A Merlin of the dark race *suckleyi*, very rare in S. California, was in the Tijuana R. valley near Imperial Beach Oct. 18 (GMcC). Single Peregrine Falcons near Lancaster Aug. 31 (NBB) and at nearby Palmdale Nov. 24 (KLG) were far from any reintroduced populations.

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS

Sandhill Cranes are very rare away from known wintering locations, such as in the Carrizo Plain, on the Kern N.W.R., and around SESS; hence two over Lone Pine, *Inyo*, Nov. 2 (MP) and another over nearby Independence Nov. 10 (BED) were of interest.

Reports of Lesser Golden-Plovers included over 50 *fulva* along the coast from Aug. 24 through November, single *dominicas* inland at CLNWC Sept. 21–23 (MTH) and Oct. 12 (JCW), up to two at HDL Sept. 26–27

(CMcG, *SBCM), up to three there Oct. 6–10 (RMcK, *SBCM), and five more migrant *dominicas* along the coast between Oct. 3–Nov. 2 along with a couple of unidentified birds in the same period; *fulva* regularly winters along the coast at a few select locations, whereas *dominica* is only known as a migrant through this Region. Since Mountain Plovers are now quite rare along the coast, 10 on Vandenberg A.F.B. in *Santa Barbara* Nov. 21 (KH), up to 12 near Oxnard Oct. 19–Nov. 3 (FH), one photographed in Carson, *Los Angeles*, Nov. 1 (MH), one near San Clemente Oct. 9 (RAE) and up to five near Imperial Beach Oct. 19 through the end of the period (GMcC) are of interest; one inland at EAFB Aug. 10 (MTH), one at HDL Sept. 5 (EAC), and three at SESS Aug. 24 (RMcK) were early. An ad. Wandering Tattler at SESS Aug. 3 (MAP, KAR) is one of a very few ever found inland in fall. Single Spotted Sandpipers at FCR Oct. 27 (JLD) and at CLNWC Oct. 31 (JLD) were late for the Region's extreme n.e. portion, where this species is unknown in winter. A bird believed to be a **Terek Sandpiper** was reported along the Santa Ynez R. in Lompoc, *Santa Barbara*, the morning of Oct. 10 (HM) but could not be refound later. A juv. Ruddy Turnstone on Owens L., *Inyo*, Sept. 1 (BED), an adult at CLNWC Aug. 11–19 (DVB), an adult at EAFB Aug. 10 (MTH), and a juvenile there Sept. 7 (MTH) were the only ones inland away from the Salton Sea. More than the expected numbers of Sanderlings were in the Region's n.e. portion, with three adults between Aug. 10–25 and more than 40 juveniles there between Sept. 6–Oct. 3. Fifteen juv. Semipalmated Sandpipers were along the coast between Aug. 4–Sept. 30, and nine more were inland between Aug. 17–Oct. 2, including up to three at HDL on the unusually late dates of Sept. 27–Oct. 2 (MAP *SBCM). Expected numbers of Baird's Sandpipers passed through the Region in August and September, with two exceptionally late birds still at CLNWC Oct. 26 (MTH) and another on Tinnemaha Res. Oct. 29 (T & JH). Pectoral Sandpipers also appeared in expected numbers between late August and early October, with 66 at HDL Oct. 17 (EAC) and 51 on Owens L. in the Owens Valley Sept. 23 (T & JH) being the largest flocks; two at CLNWC Nov. 4 (JLD) were quite late for the interior, and five at Pt. Mugu Nov. 22 (DD) were late for the coast. Two Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were seen, a juvenile near Santa Maria Nov. 1–5 (SEF), and another photographed at Pt. Mugu Nov. 16–20 (DD). A Dunlin still in juvenile plumage in Long Beach Sept. 9–10 (BED) was early; this species is one of our latest arriving fall shorebirds. The only Stilt Sandpipers away from SESS were an adult inland near Delano, *Kern*, Aug. 25 (JCW) and another adult on the coast at Pt. Mugu Aug. 31 (LS). Four Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported with an adult in the Tijuana R. valley near Imperial Beach Aug. 26–Sept. 7 (DWA, GMcC), two juveniles there Sept. 2–3

(GMcC), and another juvenile on Batiquitos Lagoon, *San Diego*, Sept. 8 (GMcC). The ♂ Ruff in Goleta July 31 remained through Sept. 2 (SEF); five more in September and October included a juvenile inland near Lancaster Sept. 7 (KLG), a juvenile on the coast at Arroyo Laguna Oct. 4 (GPS), another juvenile at SCRE Sept. 4–11 (BSi), a 3rd juvenile on Batiquitos Lagoon Sept. 8 (JO'B), and a male near the mouth of the San Diego R. in San Diego Oct. 26–30 (JM).

An unexpected movement of Red Phalaropes through the interior placed three on Owens L. Sept. 23 (T & JH), up to two at FCR Sept. 8–23 (MAP), another there Sept. 29–Oct. 2 (GMcC), one at nearby Stovepipe Wells Sept. 27 (PEL), up to two near Cantil Sept. 21–22 (MTH), along with at least 22 at CLNWC and EAFB Sept. 20–Oct. 1 (MTH, DVB), at least seven at HDL between Sept. 27–Oct. 28 (MAP, EAC, *SBCM), and one at Imperial Dam Sept. 10 (MMS); late individuals on Tinnemaha Res. Nov. 18 (T & JH), near Lancaster Nov. 16 (KLG), HDL Nov. 21 (EAC), and near Victorville, *San Bernardino*, Nov. 18 (RMcK) may not have been associated with the earlier movement.

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

An ad. Parasitic Jaeger at NESS Oct. 13 (MAP) was the only inland jaeger this fall. A S. Polar Skua, somewhat rare in S. California waters, was off Pt. Fermin Aug. 17 (BED); two more were off San Diego Sept. 7 (GMcC). A Laughing Gull, very rare along the coast, was near Imperial Beach Oct. 5 (EAC). Reports of Franklin's Gulls included two adults near Delano Aug. 16 (JCW), one near Lancaster Aug. 3 (LS), three around the Salton Sea between Oct. 13–26 (MAP), and three more along the coast Aug. 8–Nov. 8 (RJM, LRH, SEF). A subad. Heermann's Gull, accidental inland away from the Salton Sea, was on Tinnemaha Res. Oct. 9 (T & JH), and a first-winter bird was near Lancaster Oct. 23 (RCI). A Mew Gull, very rare in the interior away from the Salton Sea, was



Juvenile Arctic Tern inland at Edwards Air Force Base, California, on September 28, 1991.
Photograph/John Wilson.

near Lost Hills, *Kern*, Nov. 7 (DS). Far more than the expected number of Sabine's Gulls were reported from the interior, with two juveniles on Tinnemaha Res. Sept. 26–28 (T & JH), a juvenile on Diaz Lake in Lone Pine Sept. 21 (RL), an adult at FCR Sept. 24–29 (T & JH), up to three juveniles at CLNWC Sept. 17–28 (RHa), another juvenile there Oct. 3–5 (DVB), up to three juveniles at EAFB Sept. 21–28 (MTH), a juvenile in Baker Oct. 6–15 (DAG), a juvenile at HDL Sept. 26–27 (CMcG), a juvenile near Victorville Sept. 19 (MAP), an adult and juvenile together near Lancaster Sept. 20–24 (B & RS), with the juvenile remaining till Sept. 28 (KLG), eight juveniles together at NESS Oct. 5 (CMcG), two more there Oct. 9 (CMcG), and another there Oct. 13 (MAP), giving a remarkable 27 individuals between Sept. 19–Oct. 15.

A juv. Arctic Tern was inland on Tinnemaha Res. Oct. 8 (T & JH), and another juvenile was well photographed at EAFB Sept. 28–Oct. 3 (MTH); a healthy looking adult was photographed on the coast at the Santa Maria R. mouth Sept. 4 (BHi), and an oiled juvenile was at the mouth of the San Diego R. in San Diego Oct. 6 (GMcC). This species is most unusual on shore, with most records involving oiled or sick birds. An exceptionally late Black Tern at Oso Flaco L. near Santa Maria Nov. 3 (JSR) was the first in *San Luis Obispo* in 5 years; they are quite rare along the coast nowadays. Three Black Skimmers on Morro Bay Aug. 11–12 (JSR) and two more there Oct. 12 (JL) were the northernmost reported.

A Marbled Murrelet on Morro Bay Sept. 28–Oct. 13 (RR) was a little south of normal range and at an unexpected locality. At least six of a loose gathering of 20 Xantus' Murrelets 20 nautical mi w.s.w. of San Nicolas I. Oct. 5 (RRV) were of the southern form, *hypoleuca*, known to move north into California waters in small numbers in late summer. The only Craveri's Murrelets were one off San Miguel I. Aug. 3 (PP), two off Pt. Buchon Aug. 18 (BSc), and at least 12 off Morro Bay Sept. 21 (BSc).

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

The northernmost of the 10 White-winged Doves on the coast was one near Nipomo, *San Luis Obispo*, Aug. 20 (DA). Up to four Inca Doves at FCR Sept. 28 through November (KAR, T & JH) and another at Iron Mountain Pump Station in extreme s.e. *San Bernardino* Oct. 2–30 (JLD) were n. of this species' normal range. A Com. Ground-Dove at Iron Mountain Pump Station Oct. 9 (MAP), one at FCR Aug. 16 (KAR), followed by up to three there Oct. 16–Nov. 1 (T & JH), and another there Nov. 15 through the end of the period (T & JH), were also unusually far north. Again, Ruddy Ground-Doves reached the e. portion of the Region, with a male at Iron Mountain Pump Station Oct. 28 (RAE), another in Baker Oct. 25 (RMcK), single birds near Cantil Sept. 21 (BED) and Oct. 17–18 (MTH), at least six



Four Ruddy Ground-Doves together (of the five present) at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Monument, California, on October 27, 1991. Photograph/Jon L. Dunn.

individuals at FCR between Sept. 21 and the end of the period (T & JH, *et al.*), and one at nearby Stovepipe Wells Oct. 26 (JLD). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo, now most unusual away from known nesting locales, was in Independence Aug. 9–10 (AKi), and another was in Morongo Valley the late date of Oct. 22 (CB).

A Short-eared Owl, which has become alarmingly scarce in recent years, was at FCR Sept. 27 (JLD). Since there are virtually no fall records of migrant Calliope Hummingbirds, single females in Mojave, *Kern*, Aug. 30 (BED) and Sept. 12–14 (MTH), and two together at nearby Butterbreed Spring Sept. 12 (JLD) are of extreme interest.

Reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (whose true status is not yet fully understood due to lack of well-documented records, but which appears to be a rare but regular fall and winter visitor to California) include single juveniles at FCR Oct. 4 (JLD), Galileo Hill in extreme e. *Kern* Oct. 12–24 (MTH), California City, *Kern*, Nov. 8–10 (JCW), in the Cuyama Valley, *Santa Barbara*, Nov. 9 (BSi), *Santa Barbara* Nov. 19 (JEL), Brock Ranch in s.e. *Imperial* Oct. 26 (BED), and in *Santa Isabel*, *San Diego*, Nov. 16 through the end of the period (DWA), and an ad. female in *Cambria*, *San Luis Obispo*, Oct. 27 through the end of the period (TME).

FLYCATCHERS

A Greater Pewee in *San Diego* Nov. 7 through the end of the period (DH) was the same bird that spent the past 3 winters at this location; one in *Huntington Beach* Sept. 11 (BED) and another in nearby *Newport Beach* Sept. 14 (BED) were much earlier than any previous fall records. The only Least Flycatchers this fall were one in *California City* Sept. 24–29 (JLD), another near *Cantil* Sept. 29 (ST), one in *Irvine*, *Orange*, Sept. 15 (RAE), and another in *Huntington Beach*

Oct. 6–9 (JP, BED). Reports of E. Phoebe, a rare but somewhat regular California straggler, included one inland at FCR Oct. 19 (KAR), one on the coast in *Montana de Oro S.P.*, *San Luis Obispo*, Nov. 13 through the end of the period (WDas), another in *Santa Barbara* Nov. 23 through the end of the period (RL), a 4th at *SCRE* Nov. 24 (BN), a somewhat early individual in *Westminster, Orange*, Oct. 11–12 (BO'C, RAE), another there Nov. 16 through the end of the period (DRW), one in nearby *Tustin* Nov. 13 (BO'C), and an 8th near *San Diego* Nov. 3–11 (CGE). A *Vermilion Flycatcher* in *Bishop, Inyo*, Oct. 1 (JRJ) was unusually far north. A *Great Crested Flycatcher* near *Victorville* Oct. 6–7 (SJM) was only the 3rd in inland California. A *Sulphur-bellied Fly-*

catcher in *Huntington Beach* Sept. 13 (BED) and another in *San Pedro* Oct. 20 (RLB) are the 7th and 8th California reports. Eighteen *Tropical Kingbirds* along the coast between Sept. 22–Nov. 26 was an average number this time of year. A *Thick-billed Kingbird* in *Seal Beach* Oct. 29 through the end of the period (TW, JP) is the 9th found in California. The only E. Kingbirds this fall were one inland at FCR Aug. 31 (MAP), one on the coast at *Morro Bay* Aug. 27 (AKn), and a 3rd in *San Pedro* Sept. 7 (MH). Two *Scissor-tailed Flycatchers* were reported, one inland at FCR Sept. 21–22 (MAP) and the other along the coast in *Irvine* Oct. 14–Nov. 12 (TB).

WRENS TO VIREOS

A *Winter Wren* on *Pt. Loma* Oct. 31 (GJ) was the southernmost found on the coast, and another at 1000 *Palms Oasis* near *Indio* Oct. 25 (CBa) was in the s.e. portion of the Region, where few indeed have been found. A *Sedge Wren* in *Huntington Beach* Oct. 15–17 (JP) is the first in S. California and only the 4th in the state. A *Veery* photographed at *Galileo Hill* Sept. 19–24 (RAE) was felt to show characteristics of the western race *salicicola* and is only the 4th *Veery* found in S. California.

A *Gray Catbird*, a casual California straggler, was at *Scotty's Castle* in *Death Valley* Nov. 3 (RCI); another hit a window at FCR Nov. 17 (CC, *SDNHM); a 3rd was in *Nippon, San Bernardino*, Oct. 18 (RMCK); and a 4th was photographed along the coast in *Malibu* Oct. 5–8 (CY). A *Sage Thrasher* on *Pt. Conception* Nov. 2 (BHe) was unexpected since few are found along the coast, especially n. of *Los Angeles*. Three *Brown Thrashers* were found, with one photographed at *Panamint Springs, Inyo*, Oct. 19–Nov. 5 (KAR), another at FCR Nov. 23 (GMCC) in the e. portion of the Region, and one pho-



Veery at Galileo Hill, Kern County, California, on September 22, 1991. Fourth record for southern California. Photograph/Jon L. Dunn.



Tropical Kingbird at McGrath State Beach, Ventura, California, on October 9, 1991.
Photograph/Brad Sillasen.

tographed along the coast in Wilmington, Los Angeles, Nov. 10–13 (MH). A Bendire's Thrasher, a casual coastal straggler, was on Pt. Loma Aug. 18–22 (REW).

Far more than the expected number of Red-throated Pipits were found, including single birds inland at FCR Sept. 21 (MAP), Sept. 23 (JLD), Oct. 4–5 (T & JH) and Oct. 11–24 (MAP), one at CLNWC Sept. 20 (MTH), and another in California City Sept. 22 (MTH); along the coast, two were at Arroyo Laguna Oct. 2 (GPS), one was at Arroyo de La Cruz, San Luis Obispo, Oct. 2 (JSR), another was near Santa Maria Oct. 20–26 (DF), three were in Goleta between Oct. 6–28 (CBe, RPH), two were near Oxnard Oct. 13–19 (DD) and another was there Oct. 26 (FH), one was photographed in San Pedro Sept. 28 (MH), up to two were in the Sepulveda Basin near Encino Oct. 16–20 (WDam), and at least 20 were in the Tijuana R. valley near Imperial Beach between Oct. 6–Nov. 11 (PU, GMcC, REW). Also of interest was an American Pipit showing the characteristics of the Asiatic race *japonicus* in Irvine Oct. 25 (RAE), at least two well-studied in the Tijuana River valley Oct. 26–Nov. 11 (GMcC, REW), and another on nearby Mission Bay in San Diego Nov. 23 (JWF); this race is a rare to casual visitor to extreme w. Alaska that normally winters in Asia; it has previously been seen in California only once (AB44:158, 1990), but there is a specimen-supported record for n. Sonora, Mexico. A Sprague's Pipit, very rare anywhere in California, was well photographed in the Sepulveda Basin near Encino Oct. 20 (LS). The only N. Shrike known

to reach this Region was an adult near Big Pine Nov. 6 (T & JH).

A Solitary Vireo showing characters of the e. race *solitarius* was well seen at FCR Sept. 23 (JLD); another was along the coast on Pt. Loma Sept. 15 (SM); and a 3rd was there Sept. 29 (REW). A Yellow-throated Vireo, a casual California straggler, was banded near Victorville Sept. 22 (SJM), the 2nd fall interior record. Four Red-eyed Vireos were reported, including single birds inland at Deep Springs, Inyo, Sept. 22 (AME) and at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Nat. Mon. Oct. 1 (T & JH); the other two were along the coast, with one in Huntington Beach Oct. 20 (JP) and the 4th on Pt. Loma Sept. 14 (REW). A Yellow-green Vireo, a surprisingly regular California vagrant, was in La Jolla Oct. 5 (JO'B); another was on nearby Pt. Loma Sept. 29 (REW).

WOOD WARBLERS

Although wood warbler numbers were low, variety was better than average: 38 species. In addition to the 11 normally occurring species, all regular vagrants were present, with 15 Tennessee Warblers; 10 Virginia's Warblers, excluding birds near known breeding locales along the Region's e. border; about 50 Palm Warblers, including six in the Region's n.e. portion, where much rarer than along the coast; at least 35 Blackpoll Warblers, including single birds inland, where very rare, at Scotty's Castle Sept. 14 (GMcC), Nipton Oct. 18 (RMcK, *SBCM), HDL Oct. 2 (EAC), and Morongo Valley Sept. 13 (MAP); nearly 50 Black-and-white Warblers; over 80 Am. Redstarts; and about

45 N. Waterthrushes.

A Lucy's Warbler, a casual coastal straggler, was near Imperial Beach Sept. 21 (GJ); another was on nearby Pt. Loma Nov. 1 (REW). The only N. Parulas this fall were singles inland at FCR Oct. 17 (JCS), at Butterbrede Springs Sept. 15 (H & PB), and along the coast near Santa Maria Aug. 24 (DB). Ten Chestnut-sided Warblers along the coast between Sept. 12–Oct. 26 and an additional bird near Malibu on the late date of Nov. 24 (MH), along with single birds inland at Deep Springs Sept. 14 (JLD) and in California City Nov. 2 (JCW) was about average. Eleven Magnolia Warblers scattered throughout the Region between Sept. 14–Nov. 1 were fewer than expected. Five Cape May Warblers was better than recent years, including a male inland at FCR Oct. 4–5 (JLD), single birds on the immediate coast near Oxnard Oct. 5–8 (BHe), on Pt. Loma Sept. 14–15 (REW), near Imperial Beach Oct. 16 (PAG), and a male photographed on the CAL COFI research cruise ship off the n. end of San Clemente I. Oct. 3 (RRV). Thirteen Black-throated Blue Warblers, remarkably regular stragglers to California, scattered throughout the Region between Sept. 27–Nov. 5, was about average. Five Black-throated Green Warblers were found, including single birds inland in California City Nov. 6 (JLD) and Morongo Valley Oct. 18 (MAP), and three in coastal Los Angeles between Oct. 12–Nov. 19 (JFi, JFu, DM). Nine Blackburnian Warblers were along the coast between Sept. 14–Nov. 6, and another was inland at Morongo Valley Oct. 27–30 (KAR, RAE). A Yellow-throated Warbler, a very rare California straggler, was in California City Sept. 22–24 (MOC) and was clearly of the w. race *albiflora*. A Grace's Warbler was on Pt. Loma in San Diego Sept. 14 (DWA), and another in Santa Barbara Oct. 6 through the end of the period (HPR) was the same bird present here last winter. Four Pine Warblers were with a male on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 11 (PAG), another male there Oct. 19–20 (REW), a female near Laguna Beach, Orange, Nov. 24 through the end of the period (RAE) along the coast, and an imm. female inland near Westmorland, Imperial, Oct. 13 (RHi *SDNHM). Nine Prairie Warblers along the coast between Sept. 15–Oct. 13, along with one near Glendale, Los Angeles, Oct. 26–Dec. 13 (KLG) and another near San Diego Nov. 3 through the end of the period that is attempting to winter locally (CGE), was a better-than-average showing for this species. A Bay-breasted Warbler, very rare in recent years, was on Pt. Loma in San Diego Sept. 9 (REW); another was photographed there Oct. 28 (BJR); one was in La Jolla Oct. 10–13 (PAG); and a 4th was on Palos Verdes Pen. Nov. 2 (MH). More than the expected number of Prothonotary Warblers were found, with singles inland at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Nat. Mon. Sept. 25 (T & JH), FCR Oct. 6 (DAG), in California City Sept. 19 (MTH), near Palmdale Sept. 22 (KLG),



Male Common Grackle at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Monument, California, on November 15, 1991. Photograph/Tom Heindel.

along the coast in Bolsa Chica Aug. 31 (CTC), Encinitas Oct. 21 (JK * SDNHM), La Jolla Sept. 15–18 (JO'B), and near Imperial Beach Oct. 13–16 (JO'B), a total of eight. A Worm-eating Warbler, one of the rarer vagrants, was photographed in Redondo Beach, *Los Angeles*, Sept. 28–Oct. 10 (EM); another was well seen on Point Loma in San Diego Oct. 11 (PAG). The only Ovenbirds were single birds inland in California City Sept. 12–15 (MTH), at nearby Galileo Hill Oct. 18 (JCS) and Sept. 26–27 (MTH), and near Trona, *San Bernardino*, Oct. 26 (JLD); and along the coast in Santa Barbara Oct. 24 (FS). A Mourning Warbler, another scarce California vagrant, was in Goleta Sept. 13 (KB). Single ♀ Hooded Warblers were in Imperial Beach Oct. 1 (EC) and on Pt. Loma Oct. 22–25 (BED); the male that spent the summer at Morongo Valley was last seen Sept. 15 (MAP). Single Canada Warblers were in Montana de Oro S.P., *San Luis Obispo*, Sept. 9 (TME); Oceano, *San Luis Obispo*, Oct. 27 (JV); at San Elijo Lagoon, *San Diego*, Oct. 19 (RP); in La Jolla Sept. 13–15 (JO'B); and on the CAL COFI research cruise ship 20 mi w.s.w. of San Nicolas I. Oct. 5 (RRV). The only Painted Redstarts this fall were one at SESS Sept. 26 (HD) and another near Lakeside, *San Diego*, Oct. 14 (CMK).

TANAGERS TO ORIOLES

As usual, Summer Tanagers were scattered throughout the Region, with about 25 reported in September and October; most, if

not all, were probably the nominant form *rubra*. A ♂ Scarlet Tanager was inland at Stovepipe Wells Oct. 11 (BED); a female was along the coast in Huntington Beach Nov. 11 (LRH); another female was on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 20–26 (SM); and a 3rd female was there Nov. 3 (REW). Some 25 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks scattered throughout the Region in September and October was an average number. An imm. ♂ Blue Grosbeak in Pico Rivera, *Los Angeles*, Nov. 24 (JS) was exceptionally late. Twelve Indigo Buntings in various locales Aug. 30–Dec. 2 was fewer than in recent years. An imm. Painted Bunting, casual in California, was at FCR Sept. 21 (MAP); an ad. male of uncertain origin was at a Santa Barbara feeder Nov. 3–5 (PW). Five Dickcissels were reported, with single birds inland near Independence Oct. 5 (AKi), FCR Oct. 19 (GMcC), Galileo Hill Sept. 13–15 (MOC), Iron Mountain Pump Station Sept. 29 (JLD), and one photographed along the coast in Los Osos Sept. 7–10 (KAH).

As usual, a few Am. Tree Sparrows reached the extreme n.e. portion of the Region, indicated by single birds at Scotty's Castle Oct. 19–20 (T & JH), FCR Nov. 1 (T & JH) and Nov. 15 (T & JH), and in California City Nov. 23 (MTH); one on San Miguel I. Nov. 8 (DAG) was the only one along the coast. Twenty-five Clay-colored Sparrows, scattered throughout the Region Sept. 9–Nov. 9, was an average number. A Black-throated Sparrow, very rare along the coast, was in Solvang, *Santa Barbara*, Nov. 8 (HS). Lark

Buntings were decidedly rare, with single birds on the Carrizo Plain, *San Luis Obispo*, Nov. 11–12 (KJZ), on the Kern N.W.R. Nov. 7 (JE), in Twentynine Palms, *San Bernardino*, Nov. 1–7 (CMcG), and on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, *Los Angeles*, Sept. 11–15 (RAE, BO'C), and three together near Blythe, *Riverside*, Oct. 13 (RMcK) being the only ones reported. Large-billed [Savannah] Sparrows, *Passerculus [sandwichensis] rostratus*, were again along the coast, with three at the SCRE Sept. 2–Oct. 11 (BSi), one at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, *Santa Barbara*, Sept. 4 (BHi), and two on Morro Bay Oct. 25 (GPS) the northernmost. Since Grasshopper Sparrows are rarely in the e. portion of the Region, single birds at Deep Springs, *Inyo*, Sept. 14 (JLD), Stovepipe Wells Oct. 5 (JLD), FCR Oct. 5 (GMcC) and Oct. 11–12 (BED), and at Iron Mountain Pump Station Oct. 2 (JLD) were of interest. Two Le Conte's Sparrows were at FCR, one Oct. 5–6 (JLD) and the other Oct. 12–16 (MAP), bringing S. California's number up to 10. Swamp Sparrows were in above-expected numbers, indicated by reports of at least 50 scattered throughout the Region between Oct. 5 and the end of the period. White-throated Sparrows were in normal numbers, indicated by reports of about 40 scattered throughout the Region between Oct. 5 and the end of the period; but a Harris' Sparrow near Cantil Nov. 27 (MTH) and another in Nipton Oct. 25 (RMcK) were the only two found. An early McCown's Longspur in Salton City, *Imperial*, Oct. 13

(KAR) was followed by up to six near Palmdale Nov. 9 through the end of the period (MH, KLG), one in Irvine Oct. 29 (BED), and another in the Tijuana R. Valley near Imperial Beach Nov. 10 (REW). At least eight Lapland Longspurs were in the n.e. portion of the Region between Oct. 16–Nov. 27, but two near Imperial Beach Nov. 10–18 (REW) and another there Nov. 24 (GMcC) were the only three along the coast. Chestnut-collared Longspurs were present in expected numbers, with about 60 in the Region's e. portion between Oct. 5 and the end of the period, including a flock of 20 at HDL Nov. 26 (RMCK), at least 15 near Palmdale Nov. 24 through the end of the period (KLG), and at least 40 along the coast between Oct. 29 and the end of the period, including a flock of about 30 in Irvine Nov. 17 (SM) and one photographed on the CAL COFI research cruise ship 15 mi. w. of San Clemente I. Oct. 3 (RRV). Undoubtedly the most unusual bird was the **Little Bunting**, *Emberiza pusilla*, well photographed on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 21–24 (GMcC, REW); there are only 3 previous records of this Asiatic bunting in North America, two from the extreme w. end of the Aleutian Is. and the 3rd on a boat in the Arctic Ocean, some 150 nautical mi. w. of the n. Alaska coast.

Bobolinks numbers along the coast have declined in recent years, with up to two at Arroyo Laguna Oct. 3–6 (IME), one in Goleta Sept. 19 (PEL), another near Glendale Oct. 2 (KLG), and a 5th in Huntington Beach. Sept. 29 (LRH) being the only ones reported; inland single birds were at FCR Sept. 28–Oct. 4 (KAR) and Oct. 17–19 (T & JH); up to three were near Independence Sept. 27–29 (AKi); four were in e. Kern between Sept. 26–Oct. 3 (MTH, DVB); another was in Baker Sept. 25–Oct. 5 (RMCK); and one was in Desert Center, *Riverside*, Oct. 25 (RMCK). The only Rusty Blackbirds were one at FCR Nov. 15 (T & JH) and another in Twentynine Palms Oct. 19 (EAC). A Com. Grackle, a casual California straggler, was well photographed at FCR Oct. 18 (JCS); another was photographed there Nov. 15 (T & JH). Orchard Orioles were less numerous than usual, with only four along the coast between Sept. 14 and the end of the period; one inland near California City Oct. 31 (MTH) was Kern's first documented record. The only N. (Baltimore) Orioles were a male inland at Stovepipe Wells Sept. 14 (GMcC), single females on Pt. Loma Sept. 9 (REW) and Sept. 15 (REW), and an imm. male in Irvine Nov. 29 (TM). A Scott's Oriole in Lompoc Nov. 4–Dec. 7 (PR) was not only on the coast, where considered rare, but was also unusually far north; one at FCR Nov. 5 (JLD) and another at SESS Aug. 24 (GMcC) were both in areas where virtually unrecorded.

Corrigendum: A Wilson's Petrel off Ventura May 17 (Gerry McChesney) is the first reported off S. California in spring; and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo on Santa Barbara I. July

16–17 (Gerry McChesney) is only the 2nd found on the Channel Is. These reports were received too late to be included in the appropriate seasonal reports.

Contributors (county coordinators in bold-face): Douglas W. Aguillard, Jonathan K. Alderfer, Don Allen, Cameron Barrows (CBa), Robert L. Beckler, Chris Benesh (CBe), Tom Bernardy, David V. Blue, Jean Brandt, Karen Bridgers, N. Bruce Broadbooks, Hank and Priscilla Brodtkin (H & PB), Charlie Callagan, Eugene A. Cardiff (*San Bernardino*), Mark O. Chichester (*Kern*), Ross Christie (RCh), Theresa Clawson, Rick Clements (RCI), Charlie T. Collins, Elizabeth Copper (*San Diego*), Wanda Dameron (WDam), Brian E. Daniels, Ward Dasey (WDas), Guy Deeks, Don Desjardin, Henry Detwiler, John L. Dunn, Tom M. Edell (*San Luis Obispo*), Claud G. Edwards, Alan M. Eisner, Joe Engler, Richard A. Erickson, Shawneen E. Finnegan, John Fisher (JFi), David Flint, Jay Furman (JFu), Kimball L. Garrett (*Los Angeles*), Peter A. Ginsberg, Daniel A. Guthrie, Rick Hallowell (RHa), Don and Marjorie Hastings (D & MH), Karen A. Havlena, Floyd E. Hayes, Loren R. Hays, Fred Heath, Bob Hefter (BHe), Matt T. Heindel, Mitch Heindel, Tom & Joe Heindel (*Inyo*), Diana Herron, Roger Higson (RHi), Brad Hines (BHi), Ron P. Hirst, Ken Hollinga, Joseph R. Jehl, Ginger Johnson, Jerry A. Johnson, Mary J. Jones, Colleen M. Keller, Jeannie Kew, Andrew Kirk (AKi), Aurthur Knodle (AKn), Bart Lane, Paul E. Lehman (*Santa Barbara* and *Ventura*), Joel Leker, Joan E. Lentz, Roger Linfield, Tim Manolis, Helen Matelson, Chet McGaugh, Robert McKernan (*Riverside*), Stephen J. Meyers, Steve Mlodinow, David Moody, Randy J. Moore, Elton Morel, Jim Morris, Bob Neuwirth, John O'Brian, Bill O'Connell, Michael A. Patten, Robert Patton, Jim Pike, Michael Prather, Peter Pyle, Kurt A. Radamaker, William R. Radke, Hugh R. Ranson, B. J. Rose, Paul Rosso, Jim S. Royer, Ron Ruppert, Florence Sanchez, Lawrence Sansone, John Schmitt, Brad Schram (BSc), Skeeter Schulz (SSc), David Shuford, Brad Sillasen (BSi), Beatrice and Richard Smith (B & RS), Gregory P. Smith, Hugh Smith, John C. Sterling, Mark M. Stevenson, Sherman Suter (SSu), Scott Terrill, Philip Unitt, Richard R. Veit, Jody Venema, John F. Walters, Richard E. Webster, Tom Williams, Douglas R. Willick (*Orange*), John C. Wilson, Pat Wilson, Cal Yorke, Kevin J. Zimmer. An additional 80± observers who could not be individually acknowledged also submitted reports this season.—GUY McCASKIE, *San Diego Natural History Museum*, Balboa Park, P. O. Box 1390, San Diego, CA 92112.