

# SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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This was a spring of contradictions. The movement of *Charadriiformes* through most of the interior was depressing, though one or two unusual species were found on the Salton Sea. The passage of landbirds was disappointing, though we were inundated with vagrants normally associated with the South-eastern United States.

The lack of stormfronts from the north, with no adverse conditions to ground them, may have contributed to the absence of waterbirds in the northeastern portion of the Region, but the lack of landbirds can not be dismissed as lightly.

Our normal occurring migrant landbirds appeared to be in alarmingly low numbers throughout the Region, but with one or two remarkable exceptions, such as the passage of over 2000 birds through Butterbredt Springs in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mts. north of Cantil, Kern, in a couple of hours during the morning of April 18 (MTH), and an even larger number passing through this same small "oasis" on May 9 (MTH). However, it was a phenomenal spring for vagrants, with the scarcer species more common than our traditionally-expected ones as indicated when comparing the occurrences of Yellow-throated Vireos, Northern Parulas, and Hooded and Kentucky warblers, against those of Black-and-white Warblers, American Redstarts, and Northern Waterthrushes. In all, observers were disappointed by the numbers of migrant birds seen, but were excited by the number and quality of the vagrants encountered.

**Abbreviations:** C.L.N.A.W.S. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme n.e. Kern Co.); E.A.F.B. (Edwards Air Force Base, s.e. Kern Co.); F.C.R. (Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Monument, Inyo.); 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, Ventura Co.); S.E.S.S. (south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.); S.F.K.R.P. (South Fork of the Kern River Preserve near Weldon, Kern Co.). As virtually all rarities in s. California

are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are included. Documentation is on file with the California Bird Records Committee (C.B.R.C. c/o Michael A. Patten, P.O. Box 8612, Riverside, CA 92515) for all rarities listed in this report. Records submitted without documentation are not published.

## LOONS TO PELICANS

A Pacific Loon, most unusual inland, was near Victorville, San Bernardino, May 29 (AME); this species also seemed to be moving N along the immediate coast rather than farther out to sea in May, with many more than normal resting on the water, and dozens found in weak and/or starving conditions—a result of the current El Niño condition? Ten Com. Loons at N.E.S.S. May 2 (WW) was a large number for this location; one in basic plumage on the Salton Sea near Salton City, Imperial, May 31 (MAP) would be unusual if attempting to summer as suspected, and another in basic plumage on L. Isabella, Kern, May 24 (JCW) may also attempt to summer.

A Black-footed Albatross at 30°30'N 118°12'W Apr. 7 (Jim Citanovitch *vide* SW) is one of a very few seen in the San Pedro Channel in recent years. Larger than normal numbers of Black-vented Shearwaters remained in s. California waters later than expected as indicated by 3000+ off Point Mugu, Ventura, Mar. 8 (DDe), up to 2000 off Ventura Mar. 16-17 (DDe) and 1500+ in the San Pedro Channel Apr. 25 (SJS).

Brown Pelicans moved N out of the Gulf

of California into the Salton Sea much earlier than normal, with six at S.E.S.S. Apr. 24 (DDi) building up to about 400 by May 8 (WRR); all were a year old or older, suggesting these birds failed to successfully nest, and dispersed from the breeding colonies earlier than usual.

## HERONS TO RAPTORS

An imm. Little Blue Heron at S.C.R.E. May 29-June 2 (BS) was the only one found away from the San Diego area where resident. The imm. Reddish Egret that spent the winter around s. San Diego Bay remained through at least Mar. 29 (GMcC), another immature was there Apr. 17 through the end of the period (RP), an adult was at Point Mugu Mar. 28 (AS) and what may have been the same adult was at Seal Beach Apr. 12-May 9 (SM); this species occurs annually on San Diego Bay, but is considered accidental elsewhere in California. The ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in La Jolla during the winter paired with a Black-crowned Night-Heron, and was attending a nest in April (FH); one of the two present in the Tijuana R. valley near Imperial Beach, San Diego, since October was still present Mar. 31 (D & MH). A Wood Stork at Finney L. near S.E.S.S. May 24 (DAu) was the earliest of this post-breeding wanderer to be seen this year, but no more were found by the end of the period.

A Greater White-fronted Goose at S.E.S.S. May 16 (MAP) was late for a migrant. Small numbers of Brant found around the Salton Sea after Mar. 4 (SS, MAP), and up to 16 found on L. Henshaw in the moun-







**Red Phalarope (in basic plumage) at Klondike Lake, near Big Pine in the Owens Valley, California, April 3, 1992. Photograph/Tom Heindel.**

tains of *San Diego* Mar. 21-28 (GMcC), were in areas of regular occurrence for birds migrating north out of the Gulf of California, but away from these areas, single birds were found inland on the Twisselman Road Evaporation Ponds near Los Hills, *Kern*, Mar. 9 (DY) and Apr. 27-May 4 (MOC), on Holiday L. in the Antelope Valley, *Los Angeles*, May 17 (KLG), near Lancaster, *Los Angeles*, May 17 (KLG) and at H.D.L. May 18 (EAC). A ♂ Green-winged Teal of the Eurasian form was well-described from Sun Valley in the San Fernando Valley Mar. 11 (DAL, DMA). What was probably the imm. ♂ King Eider initially found in Seal Beach 13 Dec. 1991, and then found working its way from pier to pier N, was at Hermosa Beach, *Los Angeles*, Mar. 29 (KLG) and at King Harbor in Redondo Beach, *Los Angeles*, May 14 through the end of the period (RAE). The two Harlequin Ducks that have been present at Point Mugu since Nov. 1990 were still present at the end of the period (BL), and a male at Cayucos, *San Luis Obispo*, May 24 through the end of the period (GPS) appeared settled in for the summer. Late Oldsquaws included a wintering bird remaining at Point Mugu through Apr. 10 (BL), up to four at Avila, *San Luis Obispo*, Mar. 7-Apr. 28 (TME) and another wintering bird present in Santa Barbara through May 20 (JEL); two worn immatures in Long Beach from the beginning of the period to at least May 28 (MHe), and one on Morro Bay May 17 through the end of the period (B & EE) are likely summering. A Black Scoter seen off Goleta May 7 (RGJ) was late for a migrant, and one on Morro Bay May 17 through the end of the period (TME) will probably spend the summer at that location. A flock of over 1000 Surf Scoters on L. Henshaw Mar. 21 (GMcC), with at least 200 still present May 28 (GMcC), was an impressive concentra-

tion for an inland locality; a ♂ Surf Scoter near S.E.S.S. Apr. 6 (WRR) and a female at N.E.S.S. May 16 (MAP) were the only two found on the Salton Sea where normally more numerous at this time of year. A White-winged Scoter at S.E.S.S., Mar. 1 (SM) was the only other scoter found inland. A Hooded Merganser near Temecula, *Riverside*, Apr. 2-9 (MAP) and four at Saticoy, *Ventura*, Apr. 11-12 (DDe) were a little late.

A first-year Mississippi Kite at F.C.R. May 17 (T & JH) was the 8th to be found at this location at this time of year, but another at S.F.K.R.P. June 5 (JS) was the first to be found in *Kern*. A Sharp-shinned Hawk at F.C.R. May 27 (T & JH) was exceptionally late for such a locality. A Swainson's Hawk at S.E.S.S., Mar. 10 (DAu) was the earliest to be reported this spring, but numbers seen during the rest of the season were disappointing, but did include a single bird on the immediate coast over San Clemente Apr. 10 (DRW). A pair of Zone-tailed Hawks on Hot Springs Mt., *San Diego*, May 16 (DWA) was undoubtedly the same pair that nested here each year since at least 1986. A Merlin at L. Skinner, *Riverside*, Apr. 29 (CMcG) was extremely late.

#### GROUSE TO ALCIDES

A Sage Grouse near Deep Springs, *Inyo*, Mar. 28 (SM) was at the s. extreme of this species' range in California. A Clapper Rail well photographed in Desert Center, *Riverside*, May 31 (GH), appeared to be of the race *levipes* based on the amount and intensity of the cinnamon coloration on the underparts, and was certainly at a most unexpected locality.

Three Pacific Golden-Plovers near Santa Maria, *Santa Barbara*, Apr. 5 (JMC), and one at Seal Beach Apr. 19 (SM) were the latest of the known wintering birds. A migrant Pacific golden-plover at S.E.S.S. May 2 (GMcC) was inland where considered very rare, and another Golden-Plover, not identified to species, was at S.C.R.E. May 31 (BHe). An oystercatcher on Pt. Loma in San Diego Mar. 11-May 7 (DRH) showed characteristics of an Am. Oystercatcher but, using Joseph R. Jehl's criteria (Hybridization and Evolution of Oystercatchers on the Pacific Coast of Baja California in *Neotropical Ornithology*, 1985), was clearly a hybrid. Up to five Black Oystercatchers on Pt. Loma Mar. 20-May 2 (B & MM) was an exceptional number for this area. Reports of Solitary Sandpipers included an unusually early individual in Santee, *San Diego*, Mar. 21-23 (GLR), at least 15 scattered throughout the Region during April, and a late individual at F.C.R. May 24 (ST). A Wandering Tattler, a casual straggler to the interior, was photographed at N.E.S.S. May 16 (GMcC, MAP). Two Whimbrels on Owens L. in the

Owens Valley, *Inyo*, Apr. 11 (T & JH), and another on nearby Tinnemaha Res., Apr. 13 (T & JH), were of interest since this species is quite rare in this area of California; however, a little to the s.w. in Lancaster numbers peaked at 900 on Apr. 18 (KLG). Ruddy Turnstones moved N through the Salton Sea between Apr. 18 and May 10, with 25 at Salton City Apr. 26 (REW) being the largest single-day count this year. Two Sanderlings at the Tulare Lake Evaporation Ponds at the s. end of the San Joaquin Valley, *Kern*, Apr. 25 (SF), five on E.A.F.B. May 7-14 (MTH) and one more at C.L.N.A.W.S. May 16 (MTH) were the only ones found inland away from the Salton Sea this spring. A Surf-bird, casual to accidental away from the immediate vicinity of the coast, was on the Los Angeles R. just north of downtown Los Angeles Apr. 3 (KLG). The highest single day count of Red Knots on the Salton Sea this year was 125 on Apr. 26 (REW), but one photographed near Los Hills Apr. 27 (MOC) was the only one found away from the Salton Sea. As usual, a few Semipalmated Sandpipers were found with migrant W. Sandpipers, with three at N.E.S.S. Apr. 26 (REW), one at S.E.S.S. May 9 (RMCK), six together there May 10 (GMcC), two more there May 16 (BED), and single birds along the coast at Point Mugu May 2 (LAS) and the Santa Maria R. mouth May 22 (JSR). A White-rumped Sandpiper at S.E.S.S. May 30-31 (MAP, KAR) was the 12th to be found in California, and the 4th to be found on the Salton Sea at this time of year. A Baird's Sandpiper, very rare in spring, was on Klondike L. near Big Pine, *Inyo*, on the early date of Mar. 13 (T & JH). A Red Phalarope near Borrego Springs in e. *San Diego* Mar. 7 (KE), and another on Klondike L. near Big Pine Mar. 13 (T & JH) were at unexpected localities, especially so considering the time of year.

At least five S. Polar Skuas seen during a pelagic birding trip from San Pedro to Santa Barbara I. and the Osborne Bank May 31 (KLG) was more than expected. Two ad. Laughing Gulls, casual along the coast, were in Goleta May 6 (PEL), two more were on Upper Newport Bay May 9 (RT), one was in La Jolla May 16 (PU) and what was probably the same bird was at the mouth of the San Diego R. later that same day (TC). Reports of Franklin's Gulls included up to three on Oso Flaco L., *San Luis Obispo*, Apr. 25-26 (BKS), two near Santa Maria May 6 (JMC), three in Goleta May 9 (RGJ), two on Owens L., Apr. 19 (T & JH), two at E.A.F.B. May 23 (MTH), another at nearby California City May 24 (AS), two near Lancaster May 9 (KLG), one at N.E.S.S. May 10 (GMcC) and a 17th at S.E.S.S. May 2 (MAP). An ad. Little Gull, a very rare to casual visitor to Cal-



ifornia, was present at Santa Maria and on nearby Oso Flaco L. Mar. 24-May 22 (JMC, JSR), a first-year bird was in Playa del Rey, Los Angeles, Mar. 21 (MHe) and what was probably this same bird was photographed in nearby San Pedro Apr. 26-29 (MHe), and another first-year bird was inland at N.E.S.S. May 10 (GMcC). A 2nd-summer W. Gull, very rare away from the immediate vicinity of the coast, was compared directly with Yellow-footed Gulls at Salton City May 2 (MAP). A first-year Sabine's Gull, rare inland, especially so in spring, was at N.E.S.S. May 31 (GMcC).

Three Gull-billed Terns at S.E.S.S. Mar. 16 (WRR) building up to 25 by Mar. 20 (KCM), and five on s. San Diego Bay Mar. 29 (GMcC) were the earliest to be found this spring; one at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, Santa Barbara, May 12 (BHi) is only the 2nd ever to be found along the coast away from San Diego Bay, but the other was at this exact location June 3, 1990 (*Am. Birds* 44:1187, 1990). A Least Tern, a casual to accidental straggler to the interior away from the Salton Sea, was in California City May 23 (TW) followed by two more together there June 3 (JS); in addition one was at S.E.S.S. May 2 (MAP).

An alternate plumaged Pigeon Guillemot in La Jolla May 14-17 (DPo) was only the 2nd to be found in San Diego, though one was photographed a little to the south at the Los Coronados Is. in extreme n. Baja California 6 June 1969 (*Audubon Field Notes* 23:626, 1969). A sick Horned Puffin, rare on inshore waters, was captured at Pismo Beach, San Luis Obispo, Apr. 20 (EVJ).

#### DOVES TO HUMMINGBIRDS

A White-winged Dove on Pt. Loma in San Diego May 6 (PAG), another near Perris, Riverside, May 7 (RAE) and two in Newport Beach May 26 (RAE) were west of this species' normal range. The ♂ Inca Dove found in Borrego Springs, San Diego, Feb. 16 was still there well into April (AM), and two present at F.C.R. since October were seen feeding a recently fledged young there on May 24 (GMcC) to give us the n. most nesting locality in North America. A Com. Ground-Dove at Butterbredt Springs May 16-23 (MTH) and another at F.C.R. May 24 (GMcC) were well to the north of this species' normal range. The ♂ Ruddy Ground-Dove present in Ridgecrest, Kern, during the winter was still there Apr. 4 (MA), and three (two males and female) at F.C.R. May 17 through the end of the period (GMcC) were believed to have been present since the fall, and suspected to be nesting.

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at F.C.R. May 22 (PR) is the earliest to be found in s. California in recent years; one at Galileo Hill Pk.,

east of California City, Kern, June 4 (MTH), and another on the coast, where most unusual, in Goleta June 5 (DDe) were on more expected dates, this species being one of the latest to arrive in California in spring. Two Black Swifts over downtown Los Angeles May 26 (KLG) were the only migrants reported this spring. The first Chimney Swifts to be seen this year were two over Glendale, Los Angeles, May 15 (KLG); small numbers of these birds now regularly summer in the Los Angeles area. A ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Bluff L. in the San Bernardino Mts. May 19-20 (GH) was away from the limited area of normal occurrence in s. California.



Away from its usual coastal haunts was this Wandering Tattler at the north end of the Salton Sea, California, on May 31, 1992. Photograph/ Deborah L. Davidson.

#### FLYCATCHERS TO VIREOS

An Alder Flycatcher at Butterbredt Springs May 30 (MTH, DVB, MOC) was only the 2nd reported giving the "fee-beo" song in California, the first being a tape-recorded bird on the S.F.K.R.P. 9-11 July 1991 currently under review by the C.B.R.C.. However, two or three "Traill's Flycatchers" giving "pip" calls attributed to Alder Flycatchers (Whitney and Kaufman. *Birding* 18:153-159, 1986), have previously been reported, but not endorsed by the C.B.R.C.. A Least Flycatcher, most unusual in spring, was carefully identified in San Pedro May 25 (MHe). A ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher near Cantil, Kern, May 7 (DVB) and a female at S.F.K.R.P. May 16 (JS) were away from areas of normal occurrence. The Dusky-capped Flycatcher present in Orange during the winter was last seen Apr. 4 (DRW). A Brown-crested Flycatcher at Ft. Piute, San Bernardino, May 9 (KAR) was in suitable nesting habitat, and not far from the Colorado R. where expect-

ed. The Thick-billed Kingbird that wintered in Seal Beach was last seen Apr. 25 (LRH), and the one that wintered in Lone Pine remained through at least Apr. 1 (T & JH). The only E. Kingbird to be found was one at S.F.K.R.P. June 2 (JS). Four Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported, with single birds on the coast in Laguna Beach Mar. 17-25 (JEP), and inland near Cactus City, Riverside, May 23 (JB), H.D.L. May 18 (EAC \* S.B.C.M.) and at F.C.R. May 24 (GMcC).

Two Wrentits, presumably a pair, in Sand Canyon at the extreme s.w. corner of Inyo, Mar. 15 through at least June 9 (T & JH) were the first to be found in that county, and extend the range of this species a short distance E onto the e. slope of the Sierra Nevada Mts.; another pair at Cushenberry Spring near the n. base of the San Bernardino Mts. May 30 (RMcK) were at a desert location. A Brown Thrasher, a casual straggler to California, was at Oasis, Mono, May 24 (NBB).

An unprecedented five White-eyed Vireos were found, with single birds along the coast at Upper Newport Bay May 10 (WG) and in Wilmington, Los Angeles, May 25 (MHe), and inland at Butterbredt Springs May 14-17 (MTH), at S.F.K.R.P. May 24-25 (MW) and at Deep Springs, Inyo, May 31 (T & JH), bringing the total number recorded in s. California to 14, with all but two of these being in spring. An amazing seven Yellow-throated Vireos were reported, with single birds along the coast along Mono Creek, Santa Barbara, May 23 (JMG), in Redondo Beach May 9-10 (BB, EM), La Canada, Los Angeles, June 9-14 (RAE), Orange May 9 (DPu), Huntington Beach May 28-30 (JEP) and on Pt. Loma May 17 (GLR), and inland in Morongo Valley June 3 (EAC). A singing Red-eyed Vireo, a casual straggler to California, was at S.F.K.R.P. May 20 (JS) and another was in San Luis Obispo May 27 (EVJ).

#### WOOD WARBLERS

Southern California's 11th (6th in spring) Blue-winged Warbler was well studied in Mojave, Kern, May 22 (DVB, JCW). A ♂ Golden-winged Warbler, always an exciting bird to find in California, was at Oasis May 8 (BS). Tennessee Warblers were far scarcer than normal with only five found during May. Northern Parulas appeared to invade S. California, with an early individual on Pt. Loma Apr. 3-4 (PAG) followed by no fewer than 65 scattered throughout the Region by early June, with some of these still present in mid-June—an amazing number for a species unrecorded in the state prior to 1952. Only four Chestnut-sided Warblers were reported, with single birds inland near Big Pine May 28 (T & JH) and at California City May 23 (CL), and along the coast at Oso Flaco L. May 15 (JMC) and in Newport Beach May



16 (DRW).

A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler over the open ocean about 15 mi s.w. of the Palos Verdes Pen., *Los Angeles*, May 31 (MHe, KLG), and another male on Pt. Loma May 18 (MBG) were unexpected since no more than a dozen have previously been found in s. California in spring, though it occurs regularly in small numbers every fall. A Yellow-throated Warbler, a very rare straggler to California, on Pt. Loma May 8-10 (DK) appeared to be of the western race *albilora*. Two singing Grace's Warblers on Clark Mt., *San Bernardino*, May 23-24 (RJR) were at a locality where this species may occasionally nest. The Pine Warbler present on Pt. Loma all winter was still there, and in full song, on Apr. 12 (GMcC), and the female that wintered in Laguna Beach was last seen Mar. 15 (RAE). A Palm Warbler that spent the winter in Irvine was still present Apr. 12 (MTH); one at Oso Flaco L. Apr. 25 (BKS), another in Goleta Apr. 1 (SEF), a 3rd in Long Beach Apr. 3 (KLG), and another inland in San Timoteo Canyon, *Riverside*, Apr. 14 (RMcK) all probably wintered somewhere on the w. coast since vagrants from the east are not normally encountered in California until the latter half of May.

A ♀ Blackpoll Warbler, much less common in spring than in fall, was in Redondo Beach May 16-17 (EM). A singing **Cerulean Warbler** on Pt. Loma June 6 (REW) was only the 4th to be found in California in spring. Fifteen Black-and-white Warblers between May 9 and June 3 was far fewer than expected, as was 20 American Redstarts between Apr. 12 and June 2. A ♂ Prothonotary Warbler, a rare straggler to California, was near Wildrose Ranger Station in Death Valley Nat. Mon., *Inyo*, May 8 (RHN) and another was found in Newport Beach May 17 (WG). Four Worm-eating Warblers were found, with single birds along the coast in Redondo Beach May 26 (MHe) and Huntington Beach May 7 (DPu), another inland at Butterbredt Springs May 24 (H & PB) and the 4th inland near Big Pine May 19 (T & JH). Seven Ovenbirds, with one at Panamint Springs, *Inyo*, May 23 (NBB), five in e. *Kern* between May 20 and June 4 (RAE, MTH), and one on Pt. Loma May 22 (DT) was less than expected.

The only N. Waterthrushes reported this spring were one near Bishop, *Inyo*, May 3 (DPa), four in e. *Kern* between May 9 & 29 (MTH, JS, AME) and one along the coast in Irvine May 8 (DRW). A cooperative Louisiana Waterthrush in Huntington Beach May 3-6 (BED) was only the 6th to be found in California. Far more than the expected number of Kentucky Warblers were found with 24 reported between May 9 and

June 19. This includes single birds on the immediate coast in Los Osos May 9 (JSR) and Carpinteria May 16 (BA); one in the coastal lowlands near Corona, *Riverside*, June 19 (RMcK); nine along creeks on the upper w. slope of the coast range, with seven of these in the Santa Ynez R. watershed in *Santa Barbara* May 24 through June 19 (JMG, WW—including three near P-Bar May 28-29). Single individuals were at Mountain Homes Village in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mts. May 28 (JG), on Temecula Cr. near Fallbrook, *San Diego*, June 19-22 (KW) and on a small creek near Pine Valley, *San Diego*, June 8 (BC); nine at "oases" in the e. part of the Region with one at F.C.R. May 25 (RST), seven in e. *Kern* between May 9 and June 7 (AH, RAE, JMC, LT, RAH, MTH, MOC) and one in Morongo Valley June 10 (EAC); one on the w. slope of the Sierra Nevada Mts. in S.F.K.R.P. May 22 (MBS), and another high in the San Gabriel Mts. at Chilea June 15 (DS).

A Mourning Warbler, most unusual in spring, was in Mojave May 22 (MTH). Hooded Warblers were also far more numerous and widespread than usual with at least 36 found scattered throughout the Region between Apr. 18 and June 19, including up to six at S.F.K.R.P. May 20-22 (JS) with four of these still present in mid-June, up to four in Descanso Gardens located in La Canada-Flintridge, *Los Angeles*, May 10 (GB) through the end of the period, and a territorial male in Santa Barbara May 16 to the present (SEF), all appearing settled in for the summer.

#### TANAGERS TO FINCHES

As usual, a few Summer Tanagers, all presumably of the nominate race *rubra*, were found with about 15 scattered throughout the n.e. part of the Region, and another 20 along the coast during May and early June. Twenty-five Rose-breasted Grosbeaks scattered throughout the Region during May appeared to be a little fewer than normal. A somewhat early Indigo Bunting on Pt. Loma Apr. 11-12 (GMcC) was followed by at least 15 scattered throughout the Region between May 5 and early June. A Dickcissel at F.C.R. May 22 (MAP, BED) was one of only a few found in California in spring.

A Clay-colored Sparrow, most unusual in spring, was near Butterbredt Springs May 24 (MTH) and another was in Joshua-tree woodland e. of Lancaster Apr. 24 (KLG). A Black-chinned Sparrow in Weir Canyon, *Orange*, Mar. 9 (BED) followed by another there Mar. 11 (BED) were very early for spring migrants. A Black-throated Sparrow on the Palos Verdes Pen., Mar. 31 (FT) and another in Newport Beach Apr. 6 (RAE) were along the coast where rare. A Sharp-



Louisiana Waterthrush in Huntington Beach, California, on May 5, 1992. Photograph/Mitch Heindel.

tailed Sparrow at F.C.R. May 22 (BHe) was the 6th to be found inland in California, but five of these were in this general area at this time of year. A singing Swamp Sparrow in San Diego May 30 (PU) is best treated as a spring vagrant rather than a very late staying wintering bird.

As usual a few Bobolinks were found in the n.e. portion of the Region, with an early male in California City May 8 (JCW), at least six at F.C.R. between May 17 and 24 (T & JH, MAP), and up to eight near Independence, *Inyo*, June 2-14 (AK); along the coast where much rarer, a singing male was at the Santa Ynez R. mouth May 14 (BHi), another was near San Pedro May 24 (MHe) and a 3rd was in Torrance, *Los Angeles*, May 29 (DMO). The Com. Grackle found in Big Pine Feb 16 was still present Mar. 29 (T & JH), and another was seen along the coast on Pt. Loma Apr. 23 (VPJ & BJ). Nine ♂ N. (Baltimore) Orioles found scattered throughout the Region between May 8 and June 7 constituted an average number.

A Lesser Goldfinch showing the characters of the black-backed race *mexicanus* was observed in La Tuna Canyon, *Los Angeles*, May 9 (KFC) and another was seen at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Nat. Mon., *Inyo*, May 8-14 (T & JH).

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