

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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Southern California experienced a storm-free season with relatively normal weather for this time of year. Migrant landbirds were considered by most observers to be in smaller-than-normal numbers, with alarmingly low numbers encountered along the coast. A minor influx of finches was evident in October, with Pine Siskins the predominant species.

Abbreviations: C.L. (*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 Nat'l Monument, Inyo*); H.D.L. (*Harper Dry Lake, n.w. of Barstow, San Bernardino Co.*); L.A.C.N.H.M. (*Los Angeles Co. Natural History Museum*); N.E.S.S. (*n. end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.*); S.B.C.M. (*San Bernardino Co. Museum*); S.C.R.E. (*Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, Ventura Co.*); S.D.N.H.M. (*San Diego Natural History Museum*); S.E.S.S. (*s. end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.*); S.F.K.R.P. (*South Fork Kern River Preserve near Weldon, Kern Co.*); W.F.V.Z. (*Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology*). 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/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 FRIGATEBIRDS

A Red-throated Loon, most unusual far inland, was on Klondike L. near Big Pine, Inyo, Nov. 2 (T & JH), then on nearby Tinnemaha Res., Nov. 3-14 (T & JH). Four Pacific Loons were found in the e. part of the Region, with one photographed on North L. (el. 9255 feet) near Bishop, Inyo, Oct. 28 (T &



Immature Swainson's Hawk near Santa Maria, California, September 19-25, 1992. Now very rare near the coast. Photograph/Ken Holinga.



JH), another on Tinnemaha Res., Nov. 4–6 (T & JH), and single birds found dead at S.E.S.S., Oct. 26 (WRR) and Nov. 2 (WRR). A Red-necked Grebe in Santa Barbara Nov. 21+ (HM) was the only one found in the Region.

Northern Fulmars were more numerous than usual in October, as indicated by 62 counted during a Los Angeles Audubon Society boat trip off San Pedro, *Los Angeles*, Oct. 18 (KLG). Two Cook's Petrels s.w. of San Nicolas I., Aug. 16 (RAE), about 35 off *San Luis Obispo*, Aug. 9 (JLD), and 8 more there Aug. 19 (RAE) were all over deep water w. of the continental shelf, where this species is seen regularly. A count of 10 Buller's Shearwaters found s. of Pt. Conception during August and September was more than usual, with single birds off San Nicolas I., Aug. 16 (RAE), Dana Pt., *Orange*, Sept. 5 (BT), San Diego Sept. 12 (REW) and Santa Barbara the same day (SJS), and six off *Santa Barbara*, Aug. 18 (RAE). Black-vented Shearwaters were numerous along the coast, with as many as 10,000 seen on a single day from Pt. Mugu, *Ventura*, Aug. 30–Sept. 6 (DD) and 5000 seen off Cayucos, *San Luis Obispo*, Aug. 22 (TME). A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel seen from Pelican Pt., *Orange*, Oct. 25 (MTH) was unusually far south. A flock of 1300 Black Storm-Petrels and 3500 Least Storm-Petrels off San Diego Sept. 13 (JLD) was an unusual concentration for s. California waters and an exceptional number for the latter species.

Two Red-billed Tropicbirds were found in the San Pedro Channel, with one in mid-channel Oct. 17 (MJB) and the other n.e. of the isthmus at Santa Catalina I., Oct. 18 (TF). An imm. Red-tailed Tropicbird photographed at 34°35'N, 122°27'W, about 88



Juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at the Santa Clara River estuary near Ventura, California, October 5, 1992. Photograph/Brad Sillason.

nautical mi s.w. of Pt. Piedras Blancas, *San Luis Obispo*, Aug. 19 (SFB, RAE, DR) is about the 10th to be reported in California waters, with all but the one over Southeast Farallon I., July 3, 1979, over deep water w. of the continental shelf. An imm. Brown Booby 3 mi off Pt. Vicente on the Palos Verdes Pen., *Los Angeles*, Oct. 18 (SJS), is one of a very few found along the California coast. An ad. Neotropic Cormorant photographed along the Colorado R. near Imperial Dam, *Imperial*, Sept. 12 (JT), is only the 4th to be found in California. Three imm. Magnificent Frigatebirds were inland near Seeley, *Imperial*, Aug. 12 (G & KW), and three more a little farther n. at S.E.S.S. Aug. 24 (WT), and single immatures along the coast over Goleta, *Santa Barbara*, Aug. 17 (TS), Pt. Loma, *San Diego*, Aug. 19 (REW), and s. San Diego Bay Aug. 23 (TMer).

HERONS TO RAPTORS

An ad. Little Blue Heron in Carpinteria, *Santa Barbara*, Aug. 24–25 (WF), another at

Pt. Mugu Aug. 16 (CHM), and an immature at Hansen Dam in the San Fernando Valley, *Los Angeles*, Nov. 5–6 (DA), were away from San Diego, where this species is now resident in small numbers. An imm. Tricolored Heron, now much rarer in California than 20 years ago, was at the mouth of the Tijuana R., near Imperial Beach, *San Diego*, Oct. 24–Nov. 13 (JL). The ad. Reddish Egret that has spent the past 10 winters on s. San Diego Bay was again present Aug. 14–Sept. 13 (GMCC) but not later, and an immature at Bolsa Chica, *Orange*, Oct. 18+ (SW) is one of a few found away from *San Diego*. Four Fulvous Whistling-Ducks near Bakersfield, *Kern*, Aug. 22 (MOC), and three at N.E.S.S., the same day (GMCC), are among the few found away from S.E.S.S., in recent years. A flock of 63 Tundra Swans on Klondike L., near Big Pine Nov. 3 (T & JH), were the earliest to be reported this year; single birds on Oso Flaco L., *San Luis Obispo*, Nov. 18–22 (BF),

in Goleta Nov. 23 (JSta) and at S.C.R.E., Nov. 24 (BS), and four in flight near Hansen Dam Nov. 21 (DA) were the only ones found away from the Owens Valley by season's end. Seven Ross' Geese at C.L., Oct. 16 (DVB), was a large number for this area of California. A Brant at Piute Ponds near Lancaster, *Los Angeles*, Sept. 5 (KLG), was believed to have spent the summer at this inland locality. An early Eur. Wigeon on Upper Newport Bay, *Orange*, Sept. 25 (CAJ), was followed by at least 20 scattered throughout the Region by the end of the period. A ♀ Com. Pochard at Silver Lakes n. of Victorville, *San Bernardino*, Nov. 26+ (MAP) was undoubtedly the same bird present here during the winters of 1988–1989, 1990–1991, and 1991–1992. A Tufted Duck near Hansen Dam Oct. 24 (DA) gives us the earliest arrival date for a fall/winter bird in s. California. A Greater Scaup in Irvine, *Orange*, Oct. 2 (JLD), and another at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, *Santa Barbara*, Oct. 16 (LB), were believed to be recently arrived fall migrants, indicating that the first scaup to arrive in s. California in fall may be Greaters rather than Lessers, as suggested by some observers. The ♀ Harlequin Duck first found at Pt. Mugu in 1990 was still present at the end of the period (BL), and the male found in Cayucos in May remained through Sept. 16 (KAH). Two Oldsquaws were found inland, where they are considered casual, with a female on a small pond in Death Valley Junction, *Inyo*, Nov. 27 (GMCC), and a male on the Colorado R., below Parker Dam, *San Bernardino*, Nov. 27+ (SEF); four found along the coast during November was an expected number. A Surf Scoter inland at N.E.S.S., Aug. 22 (GMCC), had probably summered locally, but an ad. female, spotted

at F.C.R., Oct. 17–21 (GMCC), was a fall migrant far from the coast.

Regular hawk watching around Apple Valley on the n. side of the San Bernardino Mts., *San Bernardino*, Sept. 20–Oct. 25, confirms that this is a major flight line for migrant Turkey Vultures. This is the claim made by P.J. Watkins in his 1976 unpublished theses on migrant Turkey Vultures along the Mojave R., with 8141 counted during the period, including 2360 Oct. 3 (VGY). A Black-shouldered Kite sighted near Blythe, *Riverside*, Nov. 8 (MAP), was far from any area of regular occurrence. A Mississippi Kite flying over the coastal slope of the Palos Verdes Pen., Sept. 26 (JLA), is only the 3rd to be found in this Region in fall. An ad. N. Goshawk at Westguard Pass e. of Big Pine Sept. 22 (T & JH) was early for a fall migrant and suggests the possibility of nesting in this area.

An imm. Broad-winged Hawk at Hansen Dam Sept. 15–16 (DMA), an adult there Oct. 15 (DA), and an immature moving S along Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 18 (B & MMcl) were the only three reported. The only flocks of Swainson's Hawks reported were 181 passing over Apple Valley Oct. 14 and 103 passing over the same area the next day (VGY). One near Santa Maria, *Santa Barbara*, Sept. 19–25 (LB) was on the immediate coast, where they are now considered very rare, one knocked out of the sky and killed by a pair of Peregrine Falcons over downtown Los Angeles Sept. 12 (WW, *W.F.V.Z.) met a most unusual end, and one over Chilao in the San Gabriel Mts., *Los Angeles*, Nov. 1 (KLG), was late. Two Zone-tailed Hawks were reported, with an immature over Irvine Regional Park, *Orange*, Nov. 27–28 (DRW) and the other near Santee, *San Diego*, Nov. 4 (DWA). An imm. Peregrine Falcon at Daggett, *San Bernardino*, Sept. 7 (MAP), was in the n.e. portion of the Region, where they are most unusual.

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS

A Sandhill Crane near Lompoc Oct. 3–4 (BHi) is the first to be found in *Santa Barbara* in more than 10 years; two at Tinemaha Res., Oct. 22 (T & JH), another on nearby Klondike L., Nov. 10–11 (T & JH), and three at H.D.L., Oct. 19 (EAC), were away from areas of regular occurrence.

Ten migrant Lesser Golden-Plovers (*dominica*) were found along the coast Sept. 15–Oct. 31, along with an unusually late individual in San Diego Nov. 21–23 (EL) and two a short distance inland at Hansen Dam Oct. 13 (DA). All 20 reported Pacific Golden-Plovers were along the coast, as is normal, with some still present at the end of the period as expected. A juv. Wilson's Plover photographed in Santa Barbara Aug. 11 (FS) is only the 6th to be found in California, and the northernmost before the discovery of this or another individual, in *Monterey* in September. An exceptionally late, if not wintering, Solitary Sandpiper was found in Torrance, *Los Angeles*, Nov. 25–Dec. 4 (DMo). The only Ruddy

Turnstone found inland away from the Salton Sea was one at H.D.L., Aug. 22 (RMck *S.B.C.M.). A juv. Red Knot near Lakeview, *Riverside*, Oct. 4–6 (TMet), was the only one found inland away from the Salton Sea. Sanderlings appeared to be more numerous than expected in the n.e. portion of the Region, with about 50 reported there Aug. 1–Oct. 10; one on Owens L., *Inyo*, Nov. 4 (T & JH), was exceptionally late for this area of California. As is now expected, a few



Gray Catbird at Huntington Beach Central Park, California, on October 12, 1992. Photograph/James R. Gallagher.

Semipalmated Sandpipers passed through the Region during August and early September, when 15 juveniles were found along the coast along with an additional 10 juveniles inland, but one in Irvine, *Orange*, Sept. 27–Oct. 2 (RAH, JLD), was late. Single Pectoral Sandpipers at S.E.S.S., Nov. 2 (GDJ), at Atascadero Nov. 9 (RZ), and in Lompoc Nov. 11–14 (BHi) were somewhat late. A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper photographed at the San Joaquin marsh in Irvine Sept. 29–Oct. 8 (RAH) was only the 3rd adult to be found in California in fall; a juvenile was photographed at the S.C.R.E., Oct. 5 (BS). A juv. Stilt Sandpiper at C.L., Aug. 4 (DVB), another on E.A.F.B., Sept. 7 (MTH), and a 3rd near Hansen Dam Sept. 17 (DA) were inland and away from the Salton Sea, and up to six juveniles on San Elijo Lagoon, *San Diego*, Sept. 21–Oct. 9 (PAG), were along the coast, where they are rare. The ♀ Ruff found inland at C.L., July 20, remained through Sept. 16 and was joined by a juvenile Sept. 8–19 (DVB); along the coast, single juveniles were on Morro Bay, *San Luis Obispo*, Sept. 15 (KAH), near Santa Maria Sept. 18–Oct. 13 (SEF) and in Long Beach, *Los Angeles*, Sept. 18 (BED). Five Red Phalaropes were found inland, with single birds at Deep Springs, *Inyo*, Sept. 10 (T & JH), on Owens L., Sept. 24 (T & JH), at C.L., Sept. 26 (MTH), and on E.A.F.B., Sept. 12 (JCW) and Oct. 13 (MTH).

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

A Pomarine Jaeger on the shore of the Salton Sea at Salton City, *Imperial*, Oct. 31 (GMCC), was in fresh juv. plumage, obviously a recently arrived fall migrant and inland, where it is most unusual. The only Parasitic Jaegers away from the coast were

one over Palmdale, *Los Angeles*, Sept. 6 (CH), another at N.E.S.S., Aug. 22 (GH), two more there Sept. 13 (MAP), and a 5th at S.E.S.S., Oct. 18 (PU). An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger was inland on E.A.F.B., Aug. 23 (MTH), and a juvenile was in Daggett Sept. 7 (MAP). Fifty S. Polar Skuas were found off the coast Aug. 11–Sept. 19, including an amazing 41, just to the s. of Santa Rosa I. Aug. 11 (JLD).

Franklin's Gulls appeared scarcer than normal, with an adult at C.L., Aug. 23 (MTH), and three on the Salton Sea Aug. 7–Oct. 3 (MM, GMCC, MAP) the only four reported. A first-winter Com. Black-headed Gull photographed in Santa Barbara Nov. 21+ (SEF) is the 5th to be found in this Region. A first-winter Heermann's Gull over Hansen Dam Nov. 29 (DA) is one of a very few ever to be found inland away from the Salton Sea. A juv. Mew Gull inland near Cantil, *Kern*, Oct. 10 (MTH), was the first to be found in this area of California. A first-winter Herring Gull at C.L., Sept. 16–19 (MTH), was a little early and in an area in which it is considered rare. An ad. Yellow-footed Gull at the mouth of the Tijuana R., *San Diego*, Aug. 24 (DWA), is one of a very few to be found on the coast of California. Six Sabine's Gulls were found in the interior, with an adult on E.A.F.B., Sept. 12 (MTH), another adult at C.L., Sept. 25–26 (DVB), a juvenile there Oct. 5 (DVB), an adult on Piute Ponds near Lancaster Aug. 30 (KLG), a juvenile on nearby L. Palmdale Sept. 18 (CH), and an adult in El Monte, *Los Angeles*, Oct. 14 (JSc). Migrant Com. Terns appeared to be more numerous than usual in the n.e. portion of the Region, as suggested by reports of at least 35 individuals found there Aug. 22–Oct. 1. Because Black Terns are now rare along the coast, the presence of one at S.C.R.E., Aug. 11 (JLD), two along the coast of *Orange* Aug. 8–Sept. 2 (CAJ, SM), and four to five in coastal *San Diego* July 27–Aug. 30 (TC, PAG, GMCC) are of note. Two Black Skimmers at Arroyo Grande, *San Luis Obispo*, Aug. 21–Sept. 3 (KAH), were the farthest north in the Region.

A nominate Xantus Murrelet, a post-breeding visitor from off Baja California, was seen s.w. of San Nicolas I., Aug. 15 (RAE). Two Craveri's Murrelets, also post-breeding visitors from the south, were off San Diego Sept. 13 (JLD), and 15 more were off Morro Bay Sept. 19 (BKS).

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

A Band-tailed Pigeon on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 24 (PU) was on the immediate s. coast, where it is rare. Eight White-winged Doves were found along the coast, with one in Los Osos, *San Luis Obispo*, Nov. 29–Dec. 2 (HC) the northernmost; one at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley N.M., Sept. 12 (T & JH), was somewhat north of the species' breeding range. Inca Doves continue to be found north of their current range, with one in Desert Center, *Riverside*, Oct. 16 (KAR), three at Iron Mt. Pumping Plant in s.e. *San*

Bernardino Oct. 9 (GMcC), and at least 10 at F.C.R., Sept. 15+ (T & JH). Ruddy Ground-Doves again appeared in the e. portion of the Region, beginning with three at F.C.R., Sept. 12 (MAP), and building up to an amazing 10 there Nov. 26 (RSta), one at Iron Mt. Pump Station Oct. 9 (GMcC), two more there Oct. 22 (GH), and one along the Colorado R. north of Blythe Nov. 26 (SC *L.A.C.N.H.M.); along the coast, a male was near Imperial Beach, *San Diego*, Oct. 23 (EG).

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Galileo Hill in e. *Kern*, Sept. 11 (DVB), is one of a few found away from known breeding localities in fall. At least four Groove-billed Anis were found, with single individuals along the Colorado R. n. of Blythe Sept. 30–Oct. 18 (SC), in Baker, *San Bernardino*, Oct. 22–23 (PEL), near Desert Center Oct. 23 (TB), in El Monte, *Los Angeles*, Nov. 8–9 (RJ), and what was probably the same bird in nearby Whittier Nov. 27+ (JSc), doubling the number recorded in California.

A freshly dead Flammulated Owl in Frazier Park, *Kern*, Aug. 7 (GD *L.A.C.N.H.M.) and another on the Colorado R., s. of Palo Verde, *Imperial*, Aug. 7 (SC *S.D.N.H.M.), were evidently fall migrants, as both were away from known breeding localities. Found at most unusual sites were a N. Pygmy-Owl, at Butterbrecht Springs n. of California City, *Kern*, Aug. 22 (JCW), and a recently dead N. Saw-whet Owl, at Oasis, *Mono*, Nov. 26 (GMcC *S.D.N.H.M.). A Com. Nighthawk at F.C.R., Sept. 19 (MAP), and up to three at C.L., Sept. 2 & 22 (DVB), were in the n.e. portion of the Region, but away from breeding localities, and where small numbers are now being found annually at this time of the year. A Black Swift over Pt. Loma in *San Diego* Sept. 23 (GMcC) was along the coast, where it is unusual in fall. Five Chimney Swifts near Glendale Aug. 11 (KLG) were the latest of the summering birds present around *Los Angeles* this year. A ♀ Broad-billed Hummingbird photographed near Lone Pine Sept. 12–14 (MI, T & JH) was the first to be found in *Inyo* and one of the northernmost ever to be found in California.

An Acorn Woodpecker found dead in Ridgecrest, *Kern*, Aug. 20 (JBre), was far from any area of regular occurrence. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers appeared to be more numerous and widespread, with 11 found in the e. portion of the Region Oct. 6–Nov. 24, a juvenile in Bakersfield, *Kern*, Nov. 8 (MTH), and another in Lompoc, *Santa Barbara*, Nov. 29–30 (BHi). A Hairy Woodpecker in California City Sept. 5–Oct. 24 (MTH) was one of a very few to be found in this high desert area of California.

FLYCATCHERS

Four Least Flycatchers were sighted along the coast, with one in Goleta, *Santa Barbara*, Oct. 9 (LB), another in nearby Carpinteria Sept. 20–21 (PEL), a 3rd in Huntington Beach, *Orange*, Sept. 11–16 (BED), and the

4th on Pt. Loma in *San Diego* Oct. 3–9 (JLD)—giving us an above-average number for this time of year. An early E. Phoebe near Imperial Beach Oct. 8–12 (JOZ) was followed by single birds at Desert Center Oct. 16 (MAP), Yates Wells in extreme n.e. *San Bernardino* Oct. 22 (PEL), Pt. Loma in *San Diego* Nov. 1 (EL), Huntington Beach Nov. 6–7 (SM), near Borrego Springs in e. *San Diego*, Nov. 10 (AM), and California City Nov. 12 (MTH). Single Vermilion Flycatchers at C.L., Sept. 2 (DVB), in California City Sept. 5–24 (MTH), and near Cantil Oct. 27–29 (MTH) were n.e. of the species' normal range, and one in Santa Barbara Sept. 18 (LB) was quite far north for along the coast. A Dusky-capped Flycatcher, a casual straggler to California, was seen in Carson, *Los Angeles*, Nov. 4 (JI); a 2nd was found in Montana de Oro S.P., *San Luis Obispo*, Nov. 7 (JSR). A Great Crested Flycatcher, another casual straggler to California, was near the mouth of the Santa Maria R., *Santa Barbara*, Oct. 4 (JMC). Twenty-nine Tropical Kingbirds along the coast Sept. 15–Oct. 31 were more than usual for this post-breeding wanderer to California. The Thick-billed Kingbird that spent last winter in Seal Beach, *Orange*, was back again Oct. 9+ (DPu). The only E. Kingbirds to be found this fall were single birds in Santa Barbara Sept. 7 (HPR) & Sept. 18 (KB), another at Hansen Dam Sept. 17 (DA), and a 4th inland near Victorville, *San Bernardino*, Aug. 29 (RL). Three Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported, with one inland at C.L., Aug. 7 (DVB), another along Cerro Noroeste Road in the Los Padres N.F., *Kern*, Sept. 6 (RSto), and the 3rd on the coast near Imperial Beach Oct. 10–11 (BMCC)—more than an average number for this time of year.

WRENS TO VIREOS

A Winter Wren in Montana de Oro S.P., Aug. 25 (KAH), and another on s. Vandenberg A.F.B., Sept. 1 (KH), were early for migrants. An unusual location for a Townsend's Solitaire was Santa Rosa I., Oct. 11 (SJS). A Swainson's Thrush carefully studied at F.C.R., Oct. 17–21 (MAP, JLD), showed the characters of *swainsoni*, a race not documented with a specimen as occurs in California. A Hermit Thrush photographed at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley N.M. Oct. 20 (JLD), is believed to be *faxoni*, a race previously unreported in California. A Gray Catbird, a casual wanderer to California, appeared at Huntington Beach Oct. 12–31 (JEP). Six Brown Thrashers were reported, with an early individual at F.C.R., Sept. 19 (KAR), followed by single birds at Hansen Dam Oct. 4 (DA), Iron Mt. Pump Station Oct. 9–12 (PAG) & Oct. 18 (VH), at Cactus City Rest Stop e. of Indio, *Riverside*, Oct. 10–11 (BP), and the 6th in Borrego Springs Nov. 1 (AM). Migrant Bendire's Thrashers were found along the coast on Pt. Loma in *San Diego* Oct. 4 (REW) and in Huntington Beach Oct. 11 (PS), and a wintering bird was observed near Lakeview,

Riverside, Nov. 8+ (TMet). A Curve-billed Thrasher on the Colorado R. n. of Blythe Oct. 8 (SC) was still present at the end of the period and is the first to be found in *Riverside*, about the 15th to be found in the state.

An imm. Yellow Wagtail photographed in Irvine Sept. 19–20 (LRH, DRW) was the 3rd to be found in s. California, and the 10th in the state, all Sept. 4–21. The only Red-throated Pipit found this fall was one near Imperial Beach Oct. 17–20 (D & MH). A Bohemian Waxwing in Big Pine Nov. 18 (T & JH) and a N. Shrike at Oasis Nov. 8 (CMCG) were the only individuals of these 2 visitors from the north to be reported.

A White-eyed Vireo on Pt. Loma in *San Diego* Oct. 25 (PAG) was only the 4th to be found in California in fall. A Solitary Vireo in California City Oct. 23 (JCW) appeared to be of the nominate race, a casual to accidental straggler to California. A Philadelphia Vireo at Galileo Hill Oct. 10 (AS) was the 3rd to be found in *Kern*. Seven Red-eyed Vireos, more than normal in recent years, were reported, with single birds on the coast in Cambria Sept. 26 (TME), Santa Barbara Aug. 9 (JEL), Huntington Beach Aug. 28–Sept. 5 (JEP) and Oct. 4–5 (JEP), and Costa Mesa, *Orange*, Sept. 4 (JEP), one a short distance inland at Hansen Dam Oct. 18 (DA), and another at 6500 feet in the San Gabriel Mts., Aug. 18 (CHM).

WOOD-WARBLERS

The normally expected West Coast species of wood warblers were in alarmingly low numbers, but vagrants from farther east continue to appear in California, resulting in 37 species found in this Region during the period. A ♀ Golden-winged Warbler was photographed in El Capitan S.P., *Santa Barbara*, Sept. 19–20 (SN); there are now >40 records of this species in California. A count of 20 Tennessee Warblers after Aug. 28 was somewhat low, but numbers reaching s. California have been declining in recent years. Only 12 Virginia's Warblers were found along the coast Aug. 15–Oct. 5, a far cry from the numbers found here 20 years ago. Single Lucy's Warblers in Gaviota Sept. 2 (BHi) and at Huntington Beach Oct. 24 (BED) were along the coast, where they are considered rare, and one at C.L., Aug. 8 (MTH), was only the 3rd to be found in *Kern*. A N. Parula at S.F.K.R.P., Aug. 29 (SL), may have been associated with the spring-summer influx; of the 10 found Sept. 4–Oct. 16, one in the Saline Valley, *Inyo*, Sept. 18 (T & JH), and another in Twentynine Palms, *San Bernardino*, Oct. 16 (MAP), were the only two away from the immediate coast. Twelve Chestnut-sided Warblers were found Sept. 11–Nov. 29, with nine along the coast and the remaining three in the e. portion of the Region. Fourteen Magnolia Warblers seen Sept. 13–Nov. 4 was about normal, including nine along the coast and the remaining five in *Kern* and *San Bernardino*. The only Cape May Warblers to be found were a male photographed in Goleta Sept. 30–Oct. 1 (FS)

and another at Huntington Beach Sept. 5 (JEP). An early ♀ Black-throated Blue Warbler in Westminster, *Orange*, Sept. 15–16 (DRW), was followed by eight more Oct. 11–Nov. 14, including five inland, one at 6750 feet in the San Bernardino Mts., Oct. 21 (B & JS). A Black-throated Green Warbler, much scarcer as a vagrant to California today than 15 years ago, was at Hansen Dam Sept. 26 (DA). Single Blackburnian Warblers on Pt. Loma in San Diego Sept. 23 (DGA), in Montana de Oro S.P., Oct. 10 (JSR), and in Oceano Oct. 17 (JMC) were the only three found along the coast, but one near Brawley Oct. 18 (PU *S.D.N.H.M.) was one of a very few found inland, and the first to be found in *Imperial*. A ♀ Pine Warbler at F.C.R., Oct. 21 (CM, JLD), was inland, where it is most unusual, and one on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 25–Nov. 10 (REW) was in the same pines frequented by the male present here all of last winter. All six Prairie Warblers found Aug. 31–Nov. 21 were along the coast, as is normal. Forty Palm Warblers Sept. 15–Nov. 24 was an average number, but the fact that six of these were inland, with single birds at F.C.R., Oct. 3 (MTH), at Galileo Hill Oct. 4 (JCW) & Oct. 10–12 (MTH), at Nipton Oct. 20 (RMCK), at H.D.L., Oct. 19 (SWC), and near Temecula, *Riverside*, Nov. 24 (BM), was unexpected, as this species is rarely found away from the coast. A Bay-breasted Warbler on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 20 (DPo) was the only one reported. Fifty-five Blackpoll Warblers were reported Sept. 7–Oct. 23, with 11 found inland, including three in *Inyo*, six in *Kern*, one at Iron Mt. Pump Station Oct. 11 (CMcG), and the 11th in Twentynine Palms Oct. 16 (KAR). Forty-two Black-and-White Warblers and 68 American Redstarts were normal numbers for this time of year. Two Prothonotary Warblers were found, with one on the coast in Montana de Oro S.P., Sept. 26–28 (JMcD), and the other inland at Manzanar, *Inyo*, Nov. 14–15 (A & LK). Six Ovenbirds, four in the n.e. portion of the Region and the other two along the coast, Sept. 27–Nov. 6, were about average. Twenty-five N. Waterthrushes, most noted during September, as expected, were slightly fewer than usual. A Kentucky Warbler, much rarer in fall than in spring, was at Galileo Hill Oct. 25 (HB). A Mourning Warbler, well studied at F.C.R., Oct. 5 (GMcC, JLD), was only the 2nd to be found inland in fall. The Hooded Warblers that nested in La Canada Flintridge remained into September, with one juvenile accompanying the female there Sept. 11 (GB). A ♀ Hooded remaining in Montana de Oro S.P., June–Sept. 16 (GPS), a female near Victorville Sept. 5–26 (SJM), and a male in Davy Brown Campground, *Santa Barbara*, Sept. 10 (ZL), were all believed to have spent the summer locally; the same could not be said, however, for the male at regularly worked Hansen Dam Aug. 16 (DA), nor obviously the one to two males there Nov. 21+ (DA). The only Canada Warblers to be reported were one in Redondo Beach, *Los*

Angeles, Oct. 8 (DMo), and another on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 23 (MG, TC). A Painted Redstart, always an exciting find, was seen on Pt. Loma in San Diego Aug. 31 (J & DS). A Yellow-breasted Chat in Los Osos, *San Luis Obispo*, Nov. 14 (KAH), and another near S.C.R.E., Nov. 28 (BO'C), were both unusually late.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A ♂ Hepatic Tanager in Irvine Nov. 21+ (MTH) appeared to be wintering locally. An average number of Summer Tanagers were found, with at least 20 along the coast and a half-dozen in the e. portion of the Region. Two Scarlet Tanagers were found: one on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 24 (CGE, TC) and a rather late individual in Oceano, *San Luis Obispo*, Nov. 27–Dec. 7 (JMC). Fifteen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks scattered throughout the Region was a little fewer than normal. A Blue Grosbeak in Torrance, *Los Angeles*, Nov. 18 (DMo), and another at the Oso Pump Station in the Antelope Valley, *Los Angeles*, Nov. 28 (JBra), were both unusually late. Twenty Indigo Buntings at various places within the Region during August–October were certainly fewer than we expect; one in Irvine Nov. 21–24 (RAE) was quite late. Single “female” Painted Buntings were along the coast in Goleta Sept. 2–3 (SEF) and in San Diego Sept. 4 (NW), and a 3rd was inland in Mojave, *Kern*, Oct. 6–7 (GH). A Dickcissel, much rarer today than 10 years ago, was at F.C.R., Oct. 3–5 (JLD), and one to two were near Imperial Beach Oct. 1–10 (PU, TC).

A Green-tailed Towhee in Montana de Oro S.P., Nov. 19–20 (B & EE), was only the 3rd to be found on the immediate coast of *San Luis Obispo*. The only Am. Tree Sparrows to be reported this fall were single birds at Mesquite Springs in Death Valley N.M., Nov. 8 (KGH), and in California City Nov. 2 (HB). As usual, small numbers of Clay-colored Sparrows were found, with about 20 along the coast, and another 15 in the e. portion of the Region. A Field Sparrow photographed at F.C.R., Oct. 16–17 (JLD), appeared to be of the expected w. race *arenacea* and is only the 3rd to be found in California. Five Black-throated Sparrows were found along the coast, where the species is considered a very rare visitor, mid-August to early October. Eight Lark Buntings were reported from various localities within the Region, including one on the coast in Gaviota, *Santa Barbara*, Sept. 9–13 (SEF). Large-billed Savannah Sparrows were again found along the coast, with single birds at the mouth of the Santa Ynez R., Sept. 4 (BHi) and Nov. 21+ (BHi), and on Morro Bay Oct. 24 (GPS) the northernmost. Eight Grasshopper Sparrows in the e. portion of the Region during October was more than expected in this area of California. Early Sharp-tailed Sparrows in Malibu, *Los Angeles*, Sept. 27 (CA, KLG), and near Oceanside, *San Diego*, Oct. 11 (RRV), were in freshwater marshes, but one at the mouth



Immature male Cape May Warbler in Goleta, California, October 1, 1992.
Photograph/Shawneen Finnegan.

of the Tijuana R., in Imperial Beach Nov. 24 (TC), was at the precise spot at which three had spent much of last winter, and in a salt-water marsh, as is typical for most individuals found in California. Reports of at least 30 Swamp Sparrows scattered throughout the Region after Oct. 4 indicated that more than usual were present. However, <20 White-throated Sparrows, and only four Harris' Sparrows were reported, suggesting that these 2 species were in less than expected numbers. Longspurs were decidedly scarce this fall, with five Lapland Longspurs found at 3 locations Sept. 27–Nov. 21 (JSti, SC, MTH, RAE), and 14 Chestnut-collared Longspurs at 8 locations Oct. 10–Nov. 24 the only ones reported.

Numbers of Bobolinks found along the coast have declined dramatically in recent years, with four in Goleta Aug. 30–Sept. 30 (SEF, PEL), single birds in Irvine Sept. 19 (SM) and Oct. 2 (JLD), and four or five near Imperial Beach Oct. 1–20 (GMcC, TC, DWA) the only ones reported; inland numbers were about as expected, with 6 individuals at F.C.R., Sept. 19–Oct. 17 (T & JH), 2 in Independence, *Inyo*, Sept. 12 (A & LK), another there Oct. 12 (A & LK), one at Galileo Hill Sept. 12 (MTH), and another at H.D.L., Oct. 1 (SWC). The only Rusty Blackbird to be found this fall was on Santa Cruz I., Nov. 14 (MAH). Single Com. Grackles, still a casual to accidental straggler to California, were met up with in Big Pine Nov. 7 (T & JH) and at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley N.M., Nov. 28 (RSta). The only Orchard Orioles reported were an ad. male and a female together in downtown Los Angeles Aug. 25–26 (MCW) and an imm. male at F.C.R., Sept. 15 (GMcC).

A Rosy Finch at Deep Springs L., *Inyo*, Oct. 4 (T & JH), was early for such a low-land locality. Two Pine Grosbeaks at about 9000 feet on the e. slope of the Sierra above Bishop Oct. 16 (T & JH) established only the 2nd record for *Inyo*, this species normally remaining in the heavily forested areas w. of the Sierra crest. Small numbers of Purple Finches were away from areas of normal occurrence throughout much of the Region, with one at F.C.R., Oct. 17 (MAP), and three in Nipton, *San Bernardino*, Oct. 20 (RMCK), unusually far out on the desert. A



Female Hooded Warbler banded near Victorville, California, September 5, 1992.
Photograph/Stephen J. Myers.

few Cassin's Finches appeared to be associated with the Purple Finch movement, with one at the Cactus City Rest Stop e. of Indio Oct. 11 (MAP) at the most unusual locality. Pine Siskins certainly invaded the Region, in high numbers throughout most areas by late October, as indicated by such counts as 325 in the Cuyama Valley of e. *Santa Barbara* Nov. 9 (SEF). A Red Crossbill recently found dead along the Colorado R., n. of Blythe Aug. 20 (SC *S.D.N.H.M.), was certainly at an unexpected locality. An influx of Evening Grosbeaks into the n.e. portion of the Region in October brought individuals as far south as Iron Mt. Pump Station Oct. 9-12 (MAP), Victorville Oct. 11 (KLG), along the Colorado R., n. of Blythe Oct. 19-20 (CMA), and to Desert Center Oct. 16 (GH).

Addendum: The Tufted Duck on L. Isabella Jan. 17-18 (AB 46:314, 1992) was found by Gjon Hazard, not by John Sterling.

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