



lowing species: Loggerhead Shrike, Black Phoebe, Starling, Brown Towhee, and Song Sparrow. Poor-wills were reported calling as early as Feb. 20 (*JH*, *PW*, *ARS*). Perhaps also because of the warm winter, White-throated Swifts were widely reported by several observers. Although direct effects of lack of precipitation and subsequent vegetational growth are hard to evaluate, comments from contributors were generally discouraging and in agreement that numbers of all kinds of birds seemed low.

In fact, this leads to the impression that the entire season might best be summed up as unspectacular in both numbers and species. No significant features of the season stand out. Although there were great numbers of gulls at times, this is a normal, if erratic, occurrence. Alcids and pelagic birds were very scarce; this is also more normal than not. Robins and Cedar Waxwings, although fairly scarce, were arriving normally from January through March. Montane species in the lowlands were practically non-existent. Even though a good supply of orioles and tanagers wintered in certain favorable "pockets" (*i.e.* the eucalyptus grove in Rancho Park, Los Angeles Co.), we now suspect after several successive winters that this, too, is rather normal.

Loons, Grebes, Pelicans—All three species of loons were quite scarce along this part of the coast. However, an Arctic Loon at the north end of the Salton Sea on March 6 (*GMcC & AC*) and on March 20 (*LS & ES*) had made an astounding choice of salt-water habitat—the second inland record. Western Grebes were flocked for the season at usual stations off Venice, Los Angeles Co., at Lake Matthews, Riverside Co., and off the Silver Strand, San Diego Co., but in flocks of from 500 to 800 birds which is about one-fourth its usual numbers. Fulmars were notably scarce offshore as well as close in. The 2 *Blue-footed Boobies* found on Puddingstone Reservoir, Los Angeles Co., last fall remained throughout the season and many people saw them well. White Pelicans were wintering in their usual small numbers coastally, while the first 50 migrants arrived at the Salton Sea on March 12 and another 250 arrived on

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION—The southern part of state received quite contrasting amounts of precipitation from that of the northern portion: 60 percent of normal in December and 20 percent in January, making that month the driest January on record since 1948. With February and March adding little more than traces, this winter was one of the driest in many years. In addition, a warm spell in January and February was so springlike that it encouraged territorial singing and the onset of nesting cycle activity especially early among the fol-

March 22 (RRP). Some 112 that were noted, March 21, on Lake Elsinore, Riverside Co., (TS), remained through the month. By far the most spectacular number of these pelicans, however, were two flocks, totaling from 800 to 1000 birds, flying over Lake Matthews on March 27 (BB & ECh).

Hérons, Storks—Cattle Egrets, from 1 to 6, were seen along the south shore of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co., after Jan. 2. A specimen was taken Feb. 22 (EC) and others were photographed. These birds did *not* associate with the nearby cattle, but were invariably found with gulls in the freshly irrigated fields (RRP, LS, *et al.*). Louisiana Herons were present: as many as 4 wintered in the Imperial Beach marshes, San Diego Co., (GMcC, AC & DC); one remained the season at Bolsa Chica, Orange Co., (LS, DAG, GSS, SW, JL, WH) at least until Feb. 27; and additional individuals were noted as follows: 1 in the Seal Beach marshes, Orange Co., on Jan. 18 (GSS); 1 at Doheny State Beach, Orange Co., from Dec. 16 to 24 (D & HB, EAP); and 1 at Solana Beach, San Diego Co., on Feb. 13 (BB & ECh). A Wood Ibis was remarkably far north in Goleta Slough, Santa Barbara Co., from Dec. 12 through Feb. 14 (MB, *et al.*) one of very few winter records for the state.

Waterfowl—A Whistling Swan, typical of the variety of waterfowl to be seen again on Lake Elsinore, Riverside Co., since its February, 1964, artificial refilling after many years of dryness, was noted on Jan. 8 (EAP & AF). Waterfowl populations at the Salton Sea Nat'l Wildlife Refuge compared favorably with last year's and were above the ten-year average. Peak populations occurred during the end of January with 138,000 ducks present, primarily Pintail and Am. Widgeon. The Snow Geese averaged 23,000, with 28,000 tallied on Feb. 19; with them were associated about 200 Ross' Geese. Canada Geese reached a new high of 4370 in early January; this species has been on the increase for ten years (RRP). Incidentally, about 900 Canada Geese were present on Lake Matthews, Riverside Co., at about the same time (GSS). White-fronted Geese at the Salton Sea Refuge were low in numbers throughout the winter; early spring migrants were noticed at the end of January and early February, swelling the number of these geese to about 400 present at a time. Most geese and ducks had departed by March 13-14, leaving the Shoveler as the most common—a later migrant (RRP). Elsewhere, Am. Widgeon seemed commoner than other ducks such as Pintail. Gadwalls, Blue-winged Teal, Canvasbacks and Greater Scaup, all normally in very small scattered numbers, seemed more numerous than usual to several observers as they were reported more widely in this Region. A few unusual waterfowl were noted: A Blue Goose was at the Salton Sea during December and January (GMcC, WH, RRP, DC). Two European Widgeon were seen repeatedly in Upper Newport Bay by many observers; 2 others were noted at Lake Norconian, Riverside Co., on Jan. 9 (M & RW, L.A.S.). Six or 8 Woods Ducks were scattered through the Region from January through March. Oldsquaws were less common: 1 on San Diego

Bay, Dec. 13 (GMcC); and 1 off Corona Del Mar, Orange Co., on Dec. 29 (ECh). An Oldsquaw on the south end of the Salton Sea on Jan. 23 (GMcC & DC) and again on Jan. 30 (GMcC & AC) is even less usual. The only Harlequin Ducks were 3 females near Anacapa Island, seen Jan. 24 on the boat trip with the Los Angeles Audubon Society aboard (AS, LS, *et al.*). White-winged Scoters and Common Scoters were not found south of Morro Bay (DAG) or near Santa Barbara (NM), although some White-winged were present in San Diego Bay. Two Hooded Mergansers continued their wintering in the Doheny State Beach lagoon until March 3, although an additional female and a male stayed only until mid-January (EAP). Common Mergansers, increasingly scarce, wintered on Lake Elsinore: from 20 on Dec. 25 (EAP) to a high count of 161, including 3 to 4 males, on March 17 (JL); 7 were also noted on Chatsworth Reservoir, Los Angeles Co., on Feb. 28 (DAG).

Birds of Prey—White-tailed Kites continued in good numbers from the fall, especially in Orange County; a most unusual desert sighting of one near the Salton Sea, near Mecca, Riverside Co., occurred on Feb. 13 (EC) and on March 6 (GMcC & AC). Red-tailed Hawks seemed exceedingly common in Orange County, and there were several occasions when 10 to 15 were seen together (SW, AF, WH, JL, EAP). The irregular status of Rough-winged Hawks may be shifting to regular in small numbers as field observers find 2 to 4 every winter. This season boasted: 1 on Dec. 18 east of Temecula, Riverside Co., (M & RW); 1 at Elsinore, Riverside Co., on Jan. 17 (WH & JL); 1 north of Guadalupe, San Luis Obispo Co., on Feb. 6 (NM); and 1 near Westmoreland, Imperial Co., Feb. 13 (EC). A normal number of Ferruginous Hawks were noted, especially in the eastern portions of coastal counties and Riverside County (M & RW, LS & ES, AF). Three immature Bald Eagles wintered at Lake Matthews, Riverside Co., at least from January to mid-March (JL, WH, LS, DAG, AF & EAP). A few Ospreys, Prairie Falcons, and Pigeon Hawks wintered, but the only area reporting Peregrine Falcons was along the Santa Barbara headland (NM).

Cranes, Rails—The Sandhill Crane present in November at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley, remained until March 11 (BBP); 8 were present at the Salton Sea from Feb. 9 to 11 (RRP); this species is rarely noted away from the Carrizo Plain in San Luis Obispo County. Only 7 Clapper Rails, seen in the inundated Seal Beach Marshes in Orange County during the extreme high tides of Jan. 18, compare unfavorably with 200 reported at the same place in 1959 (AFN 13:3;322) (GSS). From this valuable kind of checking, the inference must be that the nearby dredging and marina construction at Huntington Harbor, besides displacing about one third of the original marsh, has also had a great disturbing effect on rails there.

Shorebirds—An *Am. Oystercatcher* was seen and photographed by many people during its stay at Avila Beach, San Luis Obispo Co., from Oct. 25 until the end of March (Ed & M Williams, M & TH); last

May's sighting and this one are the only known accounts of this bird in the Region since 1910. A Black Oystercatcher resting on Doheny State Beach, Orange Co., with gulls on Dec. 8 is notable for its unusual habit and place (*EAP*). Mountain Plover were quite numerous in the Imperial Valley during January and February (*GMcC*) but were not noted in as many places or numbers in Orange County as in previous winters (*WH & JL, et al.*). As many as 5 Am. Golden Plovers wintered near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co. (*GMcC, DC, AC*); 1 was also seen in a flock of Black-bellied Plover at San Pedro, Los Angeles Co., on March 13 (*EAP, SW, ECh & BB*). A *Rock Sandpiper*, possibly 2, were seen at Playa Del Rey, Los Angeles Co., from Feb. 6 through the end of March (*DAG*); also seen there in 1959 and 1960, this is nevertheless quite far south for this species. Wandering Tattlers, Surfbirds, and both turnstones, in better than usual numbers also wintered there and along Orange County shores (*LAS*); Surfbirds increased markedly in numbers in late March as migrants moved north. One Wilson's Phalarope on Jan. 9 in Upper Newport Bay (*BB & ECh*) was the only phalarope reported out of season. In general, other shorebirds were evidently less numerous, undoubtedly owing to the replacement of traditional marshes and mud flats with marina construction.

Gulls, Alcids—A second-year Glaucous Gull, carefully studied and described, was noted at Venice Pier, Los Angeles Co., on March 17 (*IW*); another, also studied and found to be in excellent plumage, was seen at Doheny State Beach, Orange Co., April 11 (*GMcC, AS & EAP*). Glaucous-winged Gulls, California Gulls, and Mew Gulls (only in the Santa Barbara area (*NM*)) were found to be especially numerous all along this southern coast. A Western Gull, strictly a seacoast bird, was surprisingly out of range at the Salton Sea between Jan. 17 and Feb. 13 (*GMcC, AC, EC*). Bonaparte's Gulls, estimated at 50,000 in view at once, were seen about a mile offshore as they streamed past the Newport Pier, Orange Co., on Jan. 16 (*WH & JL*). A Tufted Puffin, seldom seen in this Region, was noted near Santa Cruz Island on Jan. 24 (*AS, L.A.A.S.*). Other alcids seen on the same boat trip include: 1 Common Murre, 4 Ancient Murrelets, and hundreds each of Cassin's Auklets and Rhinoceros Auklets (*AS, L.A.A.S.*)—the only reports of these species.

Doves—A White-winged Dove spent the season since Jan. 11 at Laguna Beach, Orange Co., (*EGT*); 4 were noted in the Santa Barbara area (*JH*); and 1 was seen, March 7, near San Juan Capistrano, Orange Co., (*EAP*); all were unusual near the coast, yet less numerous than last year's influx. One to 5 Ground Doves spent January and February in Garden Grove orange grove (*BB*)—an Orange County locality for wintering not previously reported.

Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Swallows—A Rufous Hummingbird, a species less regular in winter, stayed for the season on Point Loma, San Diego Co. (*GMcC*). A female Yellow-shafted Flicker was noted between March 21 and 28 near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., (*GMcC, AC*).

Three Ladder-backed Woodpeckers were noted in Death Valley on Feb. 3, the third record for the monument (*BBP*). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., from Feb. 22 until the end of the period by a number of fascinated observers (*AC, GMcC, DC, and many others*). A Western Wood Pewee was unusually late at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley, on Nov. 26 (*BBP*). Vermilion Flycatchers were seen: 1 repeatedly at Ramer Lake, Imperial Co., during January and February (*GMcC, AC, LS & ES*); another was noted at the Newport Gun Club, Orange Co., on Feb. 12 (*DAG*); both are unusual sites for wintering. A Barn Swallow in Upper Newport Bay on Jan. 1 (*BB & ECh*), and 3 in San Diego on Jan. 9 (*GMcC & DC*) are unusual winter records.

Titmouse, Wrens, Verdins—A Plain Titmouse was found, Nov. 26, in an unusual desert location near Mecca, Riverside Co. (*EC*). A Winter Wren, also in desert surroundings, was seen at Shoshone, at the south entrance to Death Valley on Feb. 6 (*JL & WH*). A Verdin near the coast is unusual any time, yet one was seen most of the winter near Imperial Beach (*GMcC, AC, DC*).

Thrashers, Thrushes, Kinglets, Waxwings—Sage Thrashers were recorded more numerous and widespread than usual in arid open-brush situations; one at Santa Rosa Park in Santa Barbara on Jan. 17 (*M & TH*) found unusual habitat. The Curve-billed Thrasher remained at Salton Sea Refuge until Jan. 27 (*RRP, et al.*)—the first winter record for this Region. No Varied Thrushes were reported; other thrushes and bluebirds appeared normal. One or 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets wintered in the lowlands near San Juan Capistrano, Orange Co. (*EAP*). A Bohemian Waxwing was located among many Cedar Waxwings in Rancho Park, Los Angeles, on Jan. 16 and 26 (*DAG*); the species is seldom seen in the Region.

Warblers—A Black-and-white Warbler was found at Ramer Lake, Imperial Co., on Jan. 31 (*GMcC, & AC*)—a particularly unusual wintering bird. A Nashville Warbler seen near San Juan Capistrano, Orange Co., on Dec. 8 was a late straggler (*GSS*); yet one wintered from early December through March on Point Loma, San Diego Co. (*AC*). A Palm Warbler near San Juan Capistrano on Dec. 14 was also late (*EAP*); but 3 wintered near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co. By late March, these 3 Palm Warblers acquired summer plumage disclosing that 2 of them were apparently *D.p. palmarum*, but the third was a brightly colored example of *D.p. hypochrysea*—the Yellow Palm Warbler (*GMcC, AC, & DC*) & At least 4 Am. Redstarts lingered along the southern shore of the Salton Sea in February and March (*GMcC, & AC*).

Orioles—Two Hooded Orioles near Pomona, Los Angeles Co., January through March (*EWK*), 9 individuals at a backyard feeder for the entire winter in Santa Ana, Orange Co. (*MH*), 2 at feeders in Montecito, Santa Barbara Co. (*JK, E & AJ*), and 1 in Rancho Park, Los Angeles (*DAG*) demonstrate the dependence of this wintering species on artificial feeding and suitable planting. An adult

male Orchard Oriole was seen on Point Loma, Dec. 6 (AC); another was noted at Carpinteria, Santa Barbara Co., daily through March 3 (HS); and another male was in Santa Barbara on Jan. 3 and 5 (NM, JH, *et al.*). Six Bullock's Orioles at Mrs. Harding's feeder in Santa Ana all winter (MH), 3 at Santa Barbara (JK, JH), at least 20 in Rancho Park (DAG), and 1 which stayed only briefly at Laguna Beach on Feb. 26 (EGT) were those known wintering, apparently depending mostly upon eucalyptus blooms for food. Two male Baltimore Orioles stayed at a Montecito feeder through Feb. 21 (JK), and another wintered at Santa Ana, departing on April 2 (MH).

Tanagers, Grosbeaks—Four Western Tanagers remained at Montecito from Dec. 7 through Jan. 13 (MM); 2 were seen, Jan. 3, in Santa Barbara (NM, *et al.*); and about 6 were present in the San Diego area throughout the period (GMcC). The male Hepatic Tanager that arrived in Rancho Park last November stayed at least until Feb. 28 (DAG). A Summer Tanager also was present in Rancho Park from Dec. 2 to mid-February (DAG); another was noted in San Diego, Jan. 9 (GMcC & DC). Just 1 Black-headed Grosbeak was reported this winter: at Montecito, Santa Barbara Co., from Dec. 5 through Jan. 8 (MM).

Towhees, Juncos, Sparrows—A Green-tailed Towhee at Santa Barbara on Jan. 3 (Mrs. HP), a few near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., for the winter, and 1 at Ramer Lake, Imperial Co., on Jan. 17 (GMcC & WH) were the only ones reported; in suitable sheltering vegetation, a few are probably regular. A Grasshopper Sparrow, Dec. 12, near Westmoreland, Imperial Co., was the only one recorded (GMcC); winter records are too few to get any idea of present status. Two dozen or so Vesper Sparrows were seen on Jan. 24 at the south end of Lake Elsinore, Riverside Co. (JL & WH); and they were fairly common in the Imperial Valley (GMcC); they may be more widespread than these few reports indicate. Scattered Slate-colored Juncos were normally present among Oregons, but there were more reports of Gray-headed Juncos than usual: 2, unreported for last fall, were collected in San Bernardino County in October (EC); 1 was seen in the Laguna Mts. of San Diego County on Dec. 12 (GMcC & WH) and on Jan. 16 (GMcC & AC); 1 was seen at Blythe, Riverside Co., on Feb. 7 (BB & ECh); and 1 was noted with both other juncos in the San Jacinto Mts. on March 17 (Louis Ziegler, *vide* EN). Tree Sparrows may prove to be fairly regular migrants in Death Valley judging from records received these past two winters: 1 banded and photographed at Emigrant Ranger Station on Nov. 23, and another seen there, Nov. 27

(BBP). A wintering Black-chinned Sparrow was noted at Blythe near the Colorado River on Feb. 7 (BB & ECh), and another, singing on March 17 in the Santa Ana Mts. west of Lake Elsinore, is so early that it is a question whether it wintered or was a migrant (EAP). Harris' Sparrows were noted surprising often: 4 in Death Valley, some adult, 1 each day in different sections—Nov. 18, Dec. 24, 31, and March 11 (BBP); 1 was seen on Santa Barbara Mesa on Jan. 3 (JH), and 1 was noted near the Millars' Montecito home in Santa Barbara County from Dec. 15 through March 31 (MM). No Swamp Sparrows were reported and only 5 White-throated Sparrows were noted (JK, DAG, EGT, BBP, GMcC).

Longspurs—Beginning with the appearance of longspurs last fall, observers continued to locate 3 species among great numbers, usually, of Horned Larks in the Tijuana River Valley, San Diego County, and in the Imperial Valley. One Lapland Longspur was seen near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., on Dec. 13 (GMcC & DC) and there were at least 20 near Westmoreland, Imperial Co., between Jan. 23 and Feb. 22 (3 specimens—GMcC, AC, DC, EC). Chestnut-collared Longspurs were found: 1 at Imperial Beach, near San Diego, until Dec. 22 (DC), and 1 near Westmoreland, south of the Salton Sea, on Jan. 23 (GMcC & DC) and again on Jan. 31 (GMcC); there are very few previous records in the Region. Two McCown's Longspurs, one of the first few state records, were found near Westmoreland on Jan. 30 and 31 (GMcC, AC & EC). Although Lapland Longspurs are the best known, few longspurs of any species are reported, owing partly to the lack of searching for them in the eastern portions of the Region.

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