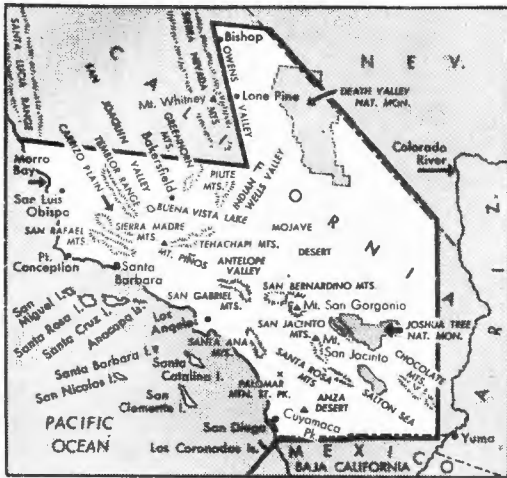


**SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION.** — This winter was mild and dry with temperatures averaging above normal and rainfall totals falling far below normal throughout the Region. A number of species normally considered to be summer visitors were



recorded wintering. After the influx last fall, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Pine Siskin continued to be common and widespread throughout the Region. Robin and Cedar Waxwing were extremely scarce throughout the Region even though there appeared to be an ample food supply for them.

**Loons, Grebes** — All three species of loons appeared to be less numerous than last winter. A Red-necked Grebe was seen near Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo Co., on Feb. 12 (*EAC & SC*), and another was seen there on March 26 (*MP*); one was seen along the coast of the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Los Angeles Co., between Feb. 12-March 7 (*RSc & RB*); and 1 was seen inland on Sweetwater Reservoir, San Diego Co., Dec. 20-Jan. 2 (*GMCC, JA et al.*). This species may be regular south to Morro Bay, but the San Diego record represents the southernmost for the Pacific Coast.

**Pelicans** — A few White Pelicans were present along the coast as usual. Brown Pelican continues to decline; only 12 were found during a survey around the Santa Barbara Islands in Late March (*WA*).

**Hérons, Ibis** — Cattle Egrets continue to increase; along the coast up to six were present throughout the winter in the Santa Barbara area (*RW & NM*); 3 were near Newport, Orange Co. on March 24 (*DS*); 9 were spotted near Costa Mesa, Orange Co. on Feb. 7 (*TSi*); up to 6 were around Oceanside, San Diego Co. Dec. 7-Feb. 4 (*AF & HDB*); and up to 5 remained near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co. Dec. 1-Jan. 2 (*GMCC, JA et al.*). Inland at the south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co., Cattle Egret were continually present, with a high count of 150 on Feb. 28 (*GMCC et al.*). The Reddish Egret found at the mouth of the San Diego River, San Diego Co. on Nov. 1 was last recorded Dec. 21 (*GMCC & PD*). Two Louisiana Herons were observed at Seal Beach, Orange Co. on Feb. 26 (*DS & GSS*), and 3 or 4 were present in the San Diego area throughout the period. The species is regular in limited numbers along the southern coast of this Region during the winter. An adult Louisiana Heron was present at the south end of the Salton Sea, Dec. 22-March 20 (*RE et al.*), the second record for this inland locality. A Least Bittern was seen in San

Diego on March 21 (*GMCC*), and 1 was observed at the south end of the Salton Sea on Feb. 17 (*RE*). White-faced Ibis were found wintering in the coastal lagoons at Point Mugu, Ventura Co., at the mouth of the Santa Margareta River, San Diego Co., and at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co.; they were also quite common around the south end of the Salton Sea.

**Waterfowl** — Eight Whistling Swans were found near Independence, Inyo Co. on Feb. 21 (*EAC & SC*); 2 were on Lake Carneros, Santa Barbara Co. on Jan. 11-13 (*NM*); 1 wintered at Oceanside Dec. 7-March 5 (*HDB et al.*); and 1 was at the south end of the Salton Sea on Dec. 9 (*RE*). This species is possibly regular in the northeastern portion of the Region, but very rare along the coast and in the southern portion of the Region. Robert Ellis (Refuge manager) reported the peak numbers of the regular wintering species of waterfowl on the Salton Sea Nat'l Wildlife Refuge were as follows:

Canada Goose	3290 on Jan. 11
Snow Goose	19,000 on Dec. 7
Ross' Goose	50 on Jan. 11
Mallard	325 on Jan. 4
Pintail	84,000 on Jan. 25
Green-winged Teal	23,300 on Jan. 25
Cinnamon Teal	1465 on March 15
American Widgeon	45,500 on Jan. 25
Shoveler	11,990 on Jan. 11
Canvasback	260 on Jan. 25
Ruddy Duck	29,000 on Feb. 19

A bird showing the characteristics of the Brant was present at Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. between March 8 and the end of the period (*RW*). This eastern species, or race, is reported irregularly along this coast. A "Blue Goose" was present with the Snow Geese at the south end of the Salton Sea during January and February. One or two White-fronted Geese were reported wintering along the coast in Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Diego Counties as is normal; 70 were found on Lake Mathews, Riverside Co., on Jan. 24 (*EAC & SC*). A single *Fulvous Tree Duck* was present near Goleta Feb. 10-11 (*FST*); 13 were found near San Bernardino, San Bernardino Co. on Feb. 1, and 3 were still present on Feb. 8 (*JVC, EAC & SC*); and 15 were at Finney Lake, Imperial Co. on Jan. 25 (*RR*). This tree duck is casual around the Salton Sea during the winter, and virtually unknown west of the mountains at any time in recent years. Blue-winged Teal were reported from along the coast and around the Salton Sea as usual with most occurring in the latter half of February and during March; 4 males at Goleta, in late March (*RW*) represented the only report involving more than a single individual. A European Widgeon was at Morro Bay on Jan. 3 (*EAC & SC*); 1 was at Goleta between March 7 and the end of the period (*RW*); 1 was seen at Sandyland, Santa Barbara Co., on Jan. 20, and 2 were there, Feb. 14 and 17 (*LC*); single birds were seen on Legg Lake, Los Angeles Co. Feb. 2-March 2 (*DS, JA & GSS*); near Newport on March 28 (*DS*); and at the south end of the Salton Sea on March 16 (*RE*). The species is regular in limited numbers with flocks of American Widgeon in the

Region. Two or three Wood Ducks were found in the southern portion of the Region, where they are rare. Two Oldsquaw were seen on Morro Bay on Jan. 1 (EAC & SC); 1 was present near Santa Monica, Los Angeles Co. Dec. 6-22 (DS, JA & GSS); and 1 was seen near Newport on Dec. 27 (GSS). In this Region Oldsquaw is regular in very limited numbers. A Harlequin Duck was discovered along the rocky coast near San Simeon, San Luis Obispo Co. during March (Tom Hyland *vide NM*) and is probably regular in this area. White-winged Scoter was far more numerous than usual this winter; in many areas this species was as common as the normally much more abundant Surf Scoter. Four White-winged Scoters were seen inland at the south end of the Salton Sea on Jan. 24 (EAC & SC). Single Common Scoters were reported from San Simeon on Dec. 31 (EAC & SC), Morro Bay on Feb. 1 (EAC & SC), Goleta on Jan. 18 (RW), Ventura, Ventura Co. on March 9 (GSS) and on March 13 (JA), Santa Monica on Dec. 21 and on Jan. 14 (JA & GSS), Redondo Beach, Los Angeles Co. on Dec. 24 (JA), Palos Verdes Peninsula on March 29 (RB), and Newport Beach on Dec. 27 (GSS). This scoter is found in very limited numbers in the Region. Two Hooded Mergansers were near Oceanside on Dec. 23 (AF), and 1 was at the north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co. on Dec. 27 (JA).

**Hawks, Eagles** — A Rough-legged Hawk at Oasis, Mono Co. on Feb. 21 (EAC & SC), 2 on the Carrizo Plain, San Luis Obispo Co. Dec. 6 (RW) and 1 there on Jan. 3 (EAC & SC) were the only individuals reported. Ferruginous Hawks were reported throughout the Region and seemed to be present in larger-than-normal numbers; a flock of 10 found on the Carrizo Plain Dec. 6-7 (RW, NM *et al*) was the largest concentration reported. A Bald Eagle was at Lake Cachuma, Santa Barbara Co. on Feb. 15 (RW), and 2 were there on March 23 (KA); 1 was seen at Lake Arrowhead, San Bernardino Co. on Dec. 25 (JA); 2 remained at Lake Mathews throughout the winter (ENA & GSS); 1 was noted at Point Mugu on Jan. 19 (GSS & DS), and another was there on March 28 (RW). Two Ospreys wintered at Lake Cachuma (NM). A Peregrine Falcon was at Goleta on March 27 (RW); 1 was seen near Imperial Beach on Feb. 15 (GMcC); and 1 was observed at the south end of the Salton Sea on Jan. 16 (RE). Peregrines are rapidly vanishing from this Region. Single Pigeon Hawks were reported from Oasis on Feb. 21 (EAC & SC), the Carrizo Plain on Dec. 6 (RW), Goleta on Feb. 7 (RW), Arcadia, Los Angeles Co. on Dec. 11 (GSS), and near Imperial Beach on Dec. 21 (GMcC). This is a scarce bird in our Region.

**Cranes, Shorebirds** — About 600 Sandhill Cranes were found at Soda Lake in the Carrizo Plain on Dec. 6 (NM); 2500 were there on Jan. 3 (EAC & SC), and 300 were still present on Feb. 1 (TSc). The Carrizo Plain is the only place in this Region where they occur regularly. One Sandhill Crane was seen at the north end of the Salton Sea on Dec. 27 (JA). Up to 5 Am. Golden Plovers were present near Marina del Rey, Los Angeles Co., Jan. 18–April 1 (BB, DS & GSS); 1 was found at Bolsa Chica, Orange Co. on Dec. 27 (GSS); 1 present in San Diego Oct. 9–March 1 (PD & GMcC), and another was seen at the south end of the Salton

Sea on Jan. 24 (GMcC), 1 was there on Jan. 31 (GMcC), 2 were found there on Feb. 22 (RW), and 1 on March 27 (TM). This shorebird appears to winter regularly in very small numbers in this locality. A single Sanderling was found at Salton City on Jan. 24 (GMcC), an unusual inland record for the winter period. Red Phalaropes were present along the coast until the end of December. A flock of 45 Northern Phalaropes spent the entire winter at the south end of San Diego Bay (AC & GMcC).

**Jaegers, Gulls, Terns** — A Parasitic Jaeger was seen near Oceanside on Dec. 7, and 2 were there on Jan. 17 (HDB). A Glaucous Gull at Morro Bay on Feb. 12 (EAC & SC), was the only one reported. A Glaucous-winged Gull — rare inland — was seen at Salton City on Jan. 24 (GMcC), and one was at the south end of the Salton Sea Jan. 24–Feb. 28 (GMcC). A Western Gull was at Salton City on Jan. 9 (EAC & SC) and on Jan. 24 (GMcC), and another was observed at the south end of the Salton Sea on Jan. 24 (GMcC). The species is rare at this inland locality. An adult *Little Gull*, the second record for California, was present at Redondo Beach, Dec. 22-25 (RS, RB, GSS *et al.*). Black-legged Kittiwakes were again numerous along the coast with up to 100 birds present around Redondo Beach throughout the period. Two or three Common Terns — very rare at this time of the year — spent the winter in the San Diego area (GMcC & PD). Royal Terns were found as far north as Morro Bay in December, but were not to be found that far north later in the winter. Six very late Elegant Terns were recorded at Morro Bay on Dec. 26 (EAC & SC).

**Alcids** — Common Murre was more numerous than usual in the southern portion of the Region; exceptional numbers were reported on Christmas Counts from San Diego and Orange Counties; up to 10 were found along the coast off Redondo Beach during December (JA, GSS & RB); 15 were spotted off San Diego, Jan. 19, and 8 were there, Jan. 27 (JJ). The Common Murre is irregular this far south.

**Doves, Nighthawks, Swifts, Hummingbirds** — A White-winged Dove was noted at Rancho Santa Fe, San Diego Co. on Jan. 15 (AF), 1 was seen at Bonita, San Diego Co. on Dec. 20 (JA), and 2 were found near Imperial Beach, during December (GMcC). This species is rare along the coast. Two Ground Doves were found on March 12 near Temecula, Riverside Co. (AF), which is outside their known range. The Lesser Nighthawk seen flying over Riverside, Riverside Co. on Dec. 13 (ENA) was either a very late fall migrant or a wintering bird. A flock of 100 Vaux's Swifts were seen near Oceanside on March 31 (AF); these birds were at the locality where a similar flock spent most of last winter. The date of this observation is too early for normal spring migrants and it is suggested they were also wintering birds. An adult male Black-chinned Hummingbird was carefully studied on the Palos Verdes Peninsula on Jan. 29 (RB). There are virtually no confirmed winter records of this species for California.

**Woodpeckers** — A Yellow-shafted Flicker was seen in Santa Barbara on Jan. 10 and Jan. 19 (RW), 1 was reported on the Palos Verdes Peninsula on Dec. 22 (RB), 1 was present in Oceanside Dec. 27–Feb. 7

(HDB), and 1 was seen near Niland, Imperial Co. on Dec. 28 (PD). This eastern form is recorded regularly in limited numbers. The only Lewis' Woodpeckers reported in the Region were 5 near Paso Robles on Feb. 20 (MP), 1 wintered in Solvang, Santa Barbara Co. (GF), and 1 was seen in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, San Diego Co. on Dec. 14 (HDB).

**Flycatchers, Swallows** — A Tropical Kingbird was present near Imperial Beach Dec. 19-20 (GMcC) — probably a late fall migrant. An Ash-throated Flycatcher was reported from Borrego Springs, San Diego Co. on Feb. 23 (RW). A Gray Flycatcher, present from the fall period, remained on Point Loma, San Diego Co. until at least Feb. 5 (TT); 1 was present near National City, San Diego Co. on Dec. 14 (GMcC) and Dec. 20 (JA); another was found near Imperial Beach on Dec. 6 (HDB) and March 21 (GMcC). A Western Flycatcher was found near Riverside on Dec. 7 and Dec. 13 (JA *et al.*), and 1 was seen near National City on Dec. 14 (GMcC) and Dec. 20 (JA). This flycatcher is casual in this Region during the winter. One or two Vermilion Flycatchers in the San Diego area were the only ones reported. Three Barn Swallows at the south end of the Salton Sea on Jan. 24 (GMcC) were probably wintering.

**Chickadees, Nuthatches, Thrushes, Kinglets, Waxwings** — A flock of at least 10 Chestnut-backed Chickadees at Dune Lake, San Luis Obispo Co. on March 14 (RW *et al.*) was south of the normal range; however, the species is pushing southward. Red-breasted Nuthatch remained quite numerous and widespread throughout the coastal areas after the influx of last fall, and many are still present. Robins were extremely scarce throughout the Region during the entire winter; in many areas it was clear that no northern birds arrived, thus leaving only the resident populations, which are small, to winter here. A Varied Thrush — scarce in this Region — was seen in the Santa Ynez Mountains, Santa Barbara Co. on Dec. 27 (SK), and single birds were seen on Mount Palomar, San Diego Co. on Feb. 15 (AM) and March 21 (AM). Four Golden-crowned Kinglets were observed in Santa Barbara on Jan. 27 (RW), 1 was in Oceanside Dec. 23–Feb. 7 (HDB), and 1 was seen near Chula Vista, San Diego Co. on Dec. 13 (SB). The species is rare in this Region away from the high mountain. Many reporters commented on the absence of Cedar Waxwings and those reporters seeing them were able to find only a very few.

**Vireos, Warblers** — A Bell's Vireo — casual during the winter — was present near Bonita between Dec. 18 (AC) and Jan. 17 (GMcC). The Yellow-throated Vireo discovered in Riverside on Dec. 5 remained until at least March 19 (EAC, GSS *et al.*). A Solitary Vireo killed itself against a window in Santa Barbara on Dec. 5 (specimen to S.B.M.N.H.); up to 5 were present in Riverside throughout the winter (EAC *et al.*) and single birds were reported from the north end of the Salton Sea, Dec. 27 (JA); Pasadena, Los Angeles Co. Dec. 29 (GSS & JA); Bonsall, San Diego Co. Feb. 7 (HDB); Oceanside, Feb. 7 (HDB); near Bonita, Dec. 18–Feb. 22 (AC & GMcC); and National City, Feb. 22 (GMcC) — a large number for a single winter. A Warbling Vireo was present in Santa Barbara Dec.

13–March 13 (RW). The bird was photographed (prints to S.D.N.H.M.) and represents the first substantiated winter record for California. A Black-and-white Warbler was discovered at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co., on Dec. 13 (GSS); the species is casual during the winter. Single Nashville Warblers were reported from Montecito, Santa Barbara Co. Jan. 5-11 (JK), from Riverside on Feb. 7 (GSS) and March 7 (JA), from Bonita Dec. 18–Jan. 17 (AC & GMcC), and from Imperial Beach Dec. 13 (GMcC). The Parula Warbler found near Imperial Beach on Nov. 2 was last seen on Jan. 2 (HDB, JA & GSS). A Yellow Warbler was noted at Point Mugu on March 14 (GSS), 1 was found near Castaic, Los Angeles Co. Dec. 28 (BB), 1 was observed at the south end of the Salton Sea Jan. 18 (GMcC & HDB), and 2 were seen near National City Dec. 14 (GMcC) with 1 still present on Dec. 20 (JA). The species is very rare during the winter. At least 5 Black-throated Gray Warblers — rare during the winter — spent the season in Riverside (GSS, EAC & SC), and one was on Point Loma Jan. 2 (TT). A Hermit Warbler was on San Cayetano Mountain, Santa Barbara Co. on Jan. 30 (SW), and one was found at Paradise Camp, Santa Barbara Co. on Feb. 2 (NM). The species is regular in very limited numbers in this Region during the winter. A Prairie Warbler was seen near Imperial Beach on Dec. 19 (RSt *et al.*) and Jan. 24 (HDB), marking the first winter record from California. A Northern Waterthrush was seen near Vista, San Diego Co. on Dec. 26 (AF), and 1 was reported near Imperial Beach on Dec. 13 (GMcC). The species is casual during the winter. A MacGillivray's Warbler was continually present in Duarte, Los Angeles Co. Oct. 15–March 14 (MSM), and 1 was seen in Riverside March 7 (DS); this species is only a casual visitor during the winter. A Wilson's Warbler was in Goleta on Dec. 27 (JF); 2 were in Riverside on Dec. 7-8 (GMcC & GSS), and 1 was there Feb. 7 (GSS); 3 were found in Oceanside (HDB); 1 was seen in National City on Dec. 14 (GMcC); and 1 was noted near Imperial Beach Feb. 1-15 (GMcC). This species is regular in very limited numbers during the winter. Up to 5 Am. Redstarts were found at the mouth of the New River at the south end of the Salton Sea during January and February (GMcC, EAC & SC); 1 was at the mouth of the Alimo River on the same shore Jan. 18 and Feb. 28 (HDB & GMcC).

**Orioles, Tanagers** — A Scott's Oriole — irregular during the winter — was present in Montecito, Santa Barbara Co. on Dec. 10-13 (RH), and 1 was found in Valley Center, San Diego Co. on Jan. 22 (AF). A Baltimore Oriole was present at a feeder in Santa Barbara Nov. 3–March 31 (NM), and 1 was observed in La Mesa, San Diego Co. on Jan. 5 (TT). Small numbers of this species are regular every winter. As usual a few Bullock's Orioles were reported from the Santa Barbara and San Diego areas. A Western Tanager was seen in Riverside on Feb. 7 (GSS & BB), 1 was discovered near Lakeview, Riverside Co. on March 19 (GSS), 1 remained in Arcadia all winter (JA & GSS), and 1 was on Point Loma on Feb. 20 (AC); a few are reported every winter. The Hepatic Tanager reported from Rancho Park, Los Angeles Co. on Oct. 31 was not seen after Jan. 15 (GSS). A Summer Tanager was

reported in Santa Barbara March 14 (*KA*); singles were seen in Griffith Park, Los Angeles Feb. 26 (*fide GSS*), near Riverside, March 7 (*JA & DS*), in Carlsbad, San Diego Co. Jan. 4 (*HDB*) and Chula Vista Dec. 20-21 (*AC & GMcC*). The species is regular in very limited numbers in winter.

**Finches, Sparrows** — A Black-headed Grosbeak was present in Montecito during most of December (*NM*). Pine Siskin was quite numerous and widespread throughout the Region, and occurred in many areas where it is normally considered rare. A few Red Crossbills were present, with 24 noted at Montecito Dec. 10 (*NM*), 2 at Altadena, Los Angeles Co. on Jan. 30 (*TSc*), 2 at Riverside on Dec. 7 (*GMcC & EAC*), and 11 on Point Loma on Feb. 3 (*AC*). There was a definite flight of these birds last fall, and large numbers were reported from the Region to the north of us. Up to 5 Lark Buntings were present around Homeland, Riverside Co. during the winter (*EAC, SC, GSS et al.*), 1 was near Temecula, Riverside Co. on Feb. 28 (*HDB*), and 2 were present near Imperial Beach on Dec. 20 (*GMcC*). The species is a casual stray in California today. A Black-throated Sparrow was seen along the coast near Bonita on Dec. 21 (*GMcC*). A few Slate-colored Juncos were reported, as is normal. Two Gray-headed Juncos — scarce but regular — were seen in the San Bernardino Mountains, San Bernardino Co. on Dec. 22 (*JA*), and 1 was seen near La Jolla, San Diego Co. on March 10 (*PD*). A Black-chinned Sparrow was seen near Santa Barbara on Jan. 22 (*RW*). This is a very rare bird during the winter. A Harris

Sparrow spent the entire winter in Arcadia (*JA & GSS*), 1 was found in Valley Center on Dec. 17 (*AF*), and 1 was seen near Imperial Beach Dec. 20-24 (*HDB & GMcC*). White-crowned Sparrows were thought to be scarcer than normal by a number of reporters. Single White-throated Sparrows were reported from Lompock, Santa Barbara Co. Dec. 1–Jan. 9 (*FT*), from Santa Barbara on Jan. 4 (*FT*), from Arcadia throughout the winter (*JA & GSS*), from Warner Springs, San Diego Co. on March 17 (*TT*), and from Imperial Beach Dec. 20 (*GMcC*); 1 was at the south end of the Salton Sea Dec. 7 (*GMcC*), and another was at a different locality there on Dec. 13 and Jan. 9 (*EAC & SC*).

**Contributors** — Kim Aanerud, Waldo Abbott, E. R. Abeles, E. N. Anderson Jr., Jon Atwood, Leo Best, H. D. Bohlen, Susan Bond, Richard Bradley, Bruce Broadbooks, Eugene A. Cardiff, Steven Cardiff, Leslie Cook, Alan Craig, Pierre Devillers, Robert Ellis, Gordon Fish, John Flavin, Alice Fries, Ruth Holbrook, Joe Jehl, Seybert Kinsell, Jewell Kriger, Tim Manolis, Nelson Metcalf, Mike San Miguel, Art Morley, Mike Perrone, Richard Robins, Rusty Scalf, Thayer Scudder, Trudy Siptroth, Richard Stallcup, Don Sterba, G. Shumway Suffel, Frank S. Trimble, Frances Tryon, William Ure, Josephine C. Vaughn, Richard Webster, Sanford Wilbur, Jon Winter, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History (S.B.M.N.H.), San Diego Natural History Museum (S.D.N.H.M.). — *GUY McCASKIE, San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, Calif.*