

southern pacific coast region



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The much publicized El Niño had a negative effect on the number and variety of oceanic birds, with Northern Fulmars present in slightly below average numbers, shearwaters scarcer than normal, Black-legged Kittiwakes virtually absent, and alcids extremely sparse. In general, scarcer shorebirds—such as Solitary, Baird's, and Pectoral sandpipers—were less numerous than expected, and numbers of migrant landbirds along the coast were disappointing, although about average through the interior.

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.M. (Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History); N.E.S.S. (north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.); nm (nautical miles); S.B.C.M. (San

Bernardino County Museum); S.D.N.H.M. (San Diego Natural History Museum); S.E.S.S. (south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.). Since virtually all rarities in s. California are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are included. Documentation for species on the California Bird Records Committee (C.B.R.C.) review list is forwarded to the C.B.R.C. Secretary, and archived at the Western Foundation for Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo. All rarity records are subject to ratification by the C.B.R.C..

HURRICANE NORA

Most of the seabirds caught up in hurricane Nora moving up the Gulf of California Sept. 24–25, and across s.e. California Sept. 26, were in the e. part of the storm, as evident by the presence of two **Black-vented Shearwaters**, a **Leach's Storm-Petrel**, at least 36 **Black Storm-Petrels**, and about 100 **Least Storm-Petrels** on the San Bernardino side of L. Havasu Sept. 27 (BJ, JB), with eight Black and six Least storm-petrels still there Sept. 30 (EAC, DM) (see

also the Arizona Region report). Three–four Black and two–three Least storm-petrels seen from the s. shore of the Salton Sea Sept. 27 (DA) were the only *Procellariiformes* found w. of the Colorado R., despite much looking at the Salton Sea Sept. 27–29. Unlike the situation on the Colorado R., where all *Procellariiformes* were gone within a few days, storm-petrels managed to survive on the Salton Sea for a number of weeks, as was the case after *Kathleen* in 1976, and their numbers may have been augmented by birds wandering in from the desert to the east, as suggested by the larger numbers seen in October. Both Black and Least storm-petrels were present at S.E.S.S. through most of October (CBe, TAD, SH, GMCC); the high count was 17+ Blacks along the s. shore Oct. 11 (MAP), and the latest included a Least Oct. 20 (GMCC) and a Black Nov. 9 (HK). An ad. **Red-billed Tropicbird** picked up by Pamela Beare on highway 78 s. of Palo Verde, Imperial, Sept. 27 (* S.D.N.H.M.) was clearly a storm-blown casualty. An imm. Blue-footed Booby at N.E.S.S. Sept. 28–Oct. 6 (CMCG, RMCK) may also have been storm related, but boobies sporadically reach the Salton Sea at this time of year unaided by storms.

LOONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS

Ten Pacific Loons on inland lakes/reservoirs Oct. 25 through the period (BD, EAC, T&JH, MTH) was about average for this time of the year. Single Red-necked Grebes at Morro Bay Nov. 9–23 (EB); Goleta, Santa Barbara, Nov. 30 (TR); Ventura Nov. 28 (ST), and Pt. Mugu, Ventura, Oct. 24 (DSC, WW) were along that portion of the coast n. of Los Angeles where considered rare, but one at Bolsa Chica Nov. 6 onward (PKn) was only the 5th to be found in Orange, and another photographed inland on Spring Valley L. near Victorville Nov. 16 (SJM) was the first to be found in San Bernadino.

The only Laysan Albatross reported was at 34°23'N, 121°47'W (50 nm w.s.w. of Pt. Conception) Oct. 25 (KLG, MH). A Cook's Petrel at 38°36'N, 123°31'W (150 nm w. of Pt. Conception) Oct. 17 (RR) was in an

area where this species is expected. Two Flesh-footed Shearwaters, rare in s. California waters, were reported, with one in the San Pedro Channel off Pt. Vicente Sept. 27 (MSM) and the another near Anacapa I. Oct. 19 (DDJ). A Wilson's Storm-Petrel, rare in S. California waters, was at 35°06'N, 122°14'W (57 nm s.w. of Pt. Piedras Blancas) Oct. 21 (RR), and another was seen one mi off Santa Cruz Island's Scorpion Cove Sept. 5 (JLD). Photographs of a **Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel** reported 65 nm s.w. of Pt. Conception Sept. 6 (BBa, MH, BRi, RS) suggest another species, but the record (photos/written documentation) will be reviewed by the C.B.R.C.

Single Red-billed Tropicbirds at Santa Rosa I. Sept. 7 (MH), 6–8 nm n. of Santa Rosa I. Sept. 13 (KLG), and at 34°42'N, 122°50'W (105 nm w. of Pt. Arguello) Oct. 17 (RR), and two together at 34°47'N, 123°03'W (100 nm s.w. of Pt. Piedras Blancas) Oct. 9 (RR), were in areas where this species is probably regular at this time of year; one photographed in the Santa Barbara Channel off Santa Barbara Aug. 12 (*vide* PCC) was closer to shore than normal, and an emaciated adult picked up in Manhattan Beach, *Los Angeles*, Sept. 29 (KLG, * L.A.C.M.) was one of a very few found on shore. A Blue-footed Booby photographed at Salton City, *Imperial*, Nov. 29 (MBS) could have been the individual seen around N.E.S.S. Sept. 28–Oct. 6. An imm. Brown Booby caught (taken to a wildlife rehabilitation center) on Pt. Loma in San Diego Sept. 27–29 (MPR) and another photographed between Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Is. Oct. 19 (DDJ) add to the ever increasing number of records from coastal s. California; an immature caught on Pt. Loma Nov. 17 showed signs of having been in captivity ("bumble-foot"). An imm. dark-morph **Red-footed Booby** was at 34°52'N, 122°03'W (63 nm s.w. of Pt. Bucon) Oct. 25 (RR). The only Magnificent Frigatebirds reported this year were an immature over Mission Beach, *San Diego*, Aug. 1 (BRa), another over the Santa Barbara Channel Aug. 5 (PCC), two together over Mission Bay in San Diego Aug. 6 (RS), one at Pismo Beach, *San Luis Obispo*, Aug. 20 (C & RR) and another over Morro Bay Sept. 10 (BTM), all being a little later than normal.

HERONS TO CRANES

A Tricolored Heron at Bolsa Chica/Seal Beach Sept. 20+ (EB) and another in Imperial Beach Nov. 3+ (RC) were young of the year that had dispersed northward from

breeding colonies in Mexico. An imm. Reddish Egret at Salton City Aug. 16–31 (GMCC) was on the Salton Sea, where casual; an adult on the coast in Imperial Beach Aug. 7 (MR) was the same bird that has spent the past 15 winters in this area, and an immature was at Bolsa Chica Sept. 21 (PKI).

A Tundra Swan on Tinemaha Res. near Big Pine, *Inyo*, Oct. 22 (T&JH) was early. A blue-morph Ross's Goose was seen with wintering geese at S.E.S.S. Nov. 17 (KS). A female Harlequin Duck was at Morro Bay Nov. 26 (GPS). A handful of Oldsquaws and Black Scoters were found along the coast s. to *San Diego* after late October, as expected. Eight Surf Scoters at various lakes/reservoirs in the Owens Valley, *Inyo*, Oct. 16–Nov. 16 (T&JH) and a White-winged Scoter on Tinemaha Res. Oct. 30 (SG) were the only ones reported inland.

Harris's Hawks remained around Borrego Springs, *San Diego*, through the end of the period, but their numbers have declined from eight in 1994 to no more than four at the end of this period (BT). The only migrant Broad-winged Hawk reported was one moving S along Pt. Loma in San Diego Sept. 28 (SS). Single Swainson's Hawks on Pt. Loma Sept. 30 (REW), near Oxnard Oct. 24 (TEW), and over Costa Mesa, *Orange*, Oct. 26 (SGMo) were on the immediate coast, where rare. A Zone-tailed Hawk in Goleta Sept. 29+ (HPR) and another over Ojai, *Ventura*, Nov. 7+ (BS) were believed to be the same birds frequenting these areas each of the past 4 winters, and an adult over Mira Mesa, *San Diego*, Sept. 14 (RR) was believed to be the same bird seen here last winter; an immature over San Luis Obispo Oct. 14 (JSR) established the northernmost record for this species along the coast, but adults near Escondido Sept. 28+ (PU) and in Carlsbad Nov. 20 (KR) were in the coastal lowlands of s. California, where this species is proving to be a rare but regular winter visitor. A "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk was over the Prado Basin, *Riverside*, Nov. 18 (JEP), and another was at S.E.S.S. Nov. 15 (GMCC). A Rough-legged Hawk over Long Beach, *Los Angeles*, Nov. 17 (JSB) was at an unexpected locality. A Peregrine Falcon at F.C.R. Sept. 23–Oct. 30 (JLD, T&JH), and another at C.L. Sept. 18 (DVB), were in an area of e. California where few are reported.

An ad. **Purple Gallinule** photographed at F.C.R. Sept. 23–Nov. 12 (JLD) was the 3rd found in California, the previous two being immatures in *San Diego* (Oct. 1, 1961) and *Alameda* (Oct. 17–27, 1986). An



Establishing only a third record for California was this adult Purple Gallinule at Furnace Creek Ranch from late September to November 1997. This photograph shows the worn condition of the bird's wing and tail feathers on October 10, but these had been replaced by molt before the bird disappeared in November.
Photograph/Larry Sansone

unseasonal Sandhill Crane at Pt. Piedras Blancas, *San Luis Obispo*, Aug. 18 (GR) and two more near Pt. Mugu N.A.S., *Ventura*, Nov. 27+ (WW) were away from areas of normal occurrence.

SHOREBIRDS TO AUKLETS

The only migrant Am. Golden-Plovers were one along the coast near Pt. Mugu N.A.S. Sept. 3–13 (MSM), another in Long Beach Aug. 30 (RB, MSM), and a third at Seal Beach Oct. 4–19 (DRW), along with two inland at H.D.L. Oct. 6 (EAC) and another near Lakeview, *Riverside*, Sept. 13 (MAP). Migrant Pacific Golden-Plovers included single birds along the coast on San Nicolas I. Aug. 16 (PP) and in Huntington Beach Nov. 16 (JEP), and inland near S.E.S.S. Sept. 8 (JLD). One at the Santa Maria R. mouth, *Santa Barbara*, Nov. 22 (JNB), up to nine near Pt. Mugu N.A.S. Aug. 23+ (DDJ), up to three at Seal Beach Aug. 10+ (DRW), and two near Imperial Beach Oct. 25+ (BR) were all at traditional wintering locations. Three Mt. Plovers near Pt. Mugu N.A.S. Oct. 16–27 (RB) were the only ones found along the coast.

A juv. Ruddy Turnstone at C.L. Sept. 1–7 (DVB) and another at E.A.F.B. Sept. 6 (MTH), along with a Red Knot near Lake-

view Aug. 30 (CMcG), were the only ones found inland away from the Salton Sea. At least 25 Semipalmated Sandpipers along the coast, along with 15 more inland in August, was an average number for this time of the year; two in Goleta Sept. 13–17 (DAK) and two more there Oct. 1–11 (MAH) were later than normal. A **White-rumped Sandpiper** at the Santa Maria R. mouth Sept. 6 (TEW) was the first juvenile to be reported in California. Single juv. Stilt Sandpipers on the coast in Irvine Sept. 5 (JEP) and Goleta Sept. 27 (MAH), along with four inland at C.L./E.A.F.B. Aug. 29–30 (MTH) and three more there Sept. 13–16 (MTH), were the only ones found away from S.E.S.S.. A juv. Buff-breasted Sandpiper at the Santa Maria R. mouth Sept. 4–10 (WW) was the only one found in s. California this year. Six Ruffs were reported, with an ad. male and a juv. female along the coast near Pt. Mugu N.A.S. Aug. 16–30 (MSM) and Sept. 7–13 (DDJ), *Inyo's* first at Keeler on Owens L. Sept. 30 (T&JH), and two more adults and a juvenile inland around S.E.S.S./Brawley between Aug. 23 and Sept. 21 (GMcC), with one of the adults found Aug. 23 (SGM1) still present (probably wintering) Oct. 20 (GMcC). A Red Phalarope at Keeler on Owens L. Sept. 12 (T&JH), another at nearby Independence Nov. 27 (RAH), and two more at C.L. Nov. 27 (SS) were inland, where unexpected.

Single juv. Parasitic Jaegers on the Salton Sea Sept. 21 (GMcC) and Oct. 10 (GMcC), an adult there Oct. 11 (MAP), and another adult on Haiwee Res. near Olan-cha, *Inyo*, Oct. 13 (T&JH) were the only jaegers reported inland. At least ten S. Polar Skuas reported in s. California waters during September and October was about average.

An ad. Laughing Gull in Huntington Beach Nov. 16+ (JEP) was along the coast, where rare. Only three Franklin's Gulls were reported, with single birds on the Salton Sea Aug. 24 (KLG) and Sept. 20 (MAP), and the other on the coast in Los Osos Oct. 22 (BTM), this being far fewer than expected. An ad. Little Gull at C.L. Aug. 29–Sept. 1 (MTH) was the 3rd to be found in *Kern*, and another was reported along the e. shore of the Salton Sea in *Riverside* Nov. 24 (RH1). The **Black-headed Gull** that has spent the past 5 winters in Santa Barbara was back at its usual haunt in the harbor Nov. 17+ (HPR). Six Heermann's Gulls on the Salton Sea in August (KLG, AH, CMcG, SGM1) and another there Sept. 21 (GMcC) was a few more than expected. The **Band-tailed (Belcher's) Gull**, initially found Aug.

3 (BBR, DGS), reappeared at Imperial Beach after a one-month absence and remained through the end of the period. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Dana Pt., *Orange*, Oct. 8+ (JW) was the same bird present here each of the past 3 winters. A first-winter W. Gull at N.E.S.S. Sept. 26 (MAP) is one of a very few to have reached the Salton Sea. The first-year Glaucous Gull that spent the summer at the Santa Maria R. mouth remained through Sept. 22 (JEL) and another (same?) was a few miles to the north in Oceano, *San Luis Obispo*, Oct. 9–31 (BTM). Only five Sabine's Gulls were found inland, with single birds on Tinemaha Res. Sept. 7 (T&JH), on nearby Klondike L. Sept. 8 (T&JH), at C.L. Sept. 23–28 (MTH), on Quail L. near Lancaster, *Los Angeles*, Oct. 29 (RAE), and near Chino, *San Bernadino*, Oct. 2 (JEP); a juvenile at Marina del Rey, *Los Angeles*, Nov. 26 (RB) was unusually late.

An Elegant Tern, casual to accidental inland, was at S.E.S.S. Aug. 24 (KLG). A Com. Tern at F.C.R. Oct. 25 (MSM) was the first to be found at this well birded oasis. The **Sooty Tern** that spent the summer at Bolsa Chica was last seen Aug. 2 (DRW); an adult seen fishing with Elegant Terns off Coronado, *San Diego*, Sept. 2 (BF) adds to the rapidly growing list of reports of this species in s. California.

A Marbled Murrelet in Marina del Rey Nov. 16+ (AG, MSM) is one of a very few to have wandered this far south. An Ancient Murrelet in Coronado Nov. 24 (BF) was somewhat far south. A Parakeet Auklet at 34°34'N, 123°12'W (125 nm w. of Pt. Arguello) Oct. 17 (RR) was in an area where numbers of these birds have previously been reported.

DOVES TO PIPITS

At least 26 White-winged Doves were found along the coast during August and September, as expected; one at Morro Bay Oct. 13 (GPS) was a little farther north than usual, and another inland in Ridgecrest, *Kern*, Oct. 28–Nov. 22 (BS) was unusually late for this area. The only Ruddy Ground-Dove reported was a male near Imperial Beach Oct. 18 (GMcC, TRC).

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo near Cantil Aug. 23 (MTH) was a migrant away from any known breeding locality. A calling Com. Nighthawk in Lompoc Aug. 8 (JAY) was the first to be found in *Santa Barbara*. A Chimney Swift over Whittier, *Los Angeles*, Aug. 16 (LJS) had probably spent the summer locally. A male Broad-billed Hummingbird photographed in Weldon Sept. Oct. 1–4



Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Galileo Hill, eastern Kern County, on September 21, 1997. Only the fifth record for southern California. Photograph/Matt T. Heindel

(KP) was the 3rd to be found in *Kern*, but another near Imperial Beach Oct. 5–8 (PU) was along the s. coast, where this species occurs annually in fall and winter. A male Broad-tailed Hummingbird at a feeder on Mt. Pinos Aug. 10 (BS) was w. of this species' normal range.

A wood-pewee in West Los Angeles Nov. 15 (RB) was remarkably late; at least one such late individual has proved to be an E. Wood-Pewee, so such birds should be identified with extreme caution. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** photographed at Galileo Hill in e. *Kern* Sept. 21 (MTH, JLD) and another photographed at nearby Cantil Sept. 24 (MTH) are the 5th and 6th to be found in S. California. Four Least Flycatchers were reported, with single birds along the coast in Huntington Beach, *Orange*, Sept. 12–19 (JEP); Anaheim Nov. 8–9 (BLE); on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 1 (EC); and the 4th inland at the Iron Mt. Pumping Plant in s.e. *San Bernardino* Sept. 12 (MAP). An E. Phoebe in Los Osos Oct. 24 (GPS) was the only one found. A Dusky-capped Flycatcher in Newport Beach Nov. 16 (JEP) was along the coast, where one or two are found every fall/winter, but another near Bishop Nov. 7 (DP) was only the 3rd to be found in *Inyo*. Brown-crested Flycatchers remaining at a nest-site near N.E.S.S. to at least Aug. 24 (SGM1) established one of the latest dates for such an occurrence in California. Thirteen Tropical Kingbirds were found along the coast between Sept. 13 and Nov.



Sedge Wren at Sycamore Canyon Campground, Point Mugu State Park, California, on October 27, 1997. The intricate pattern of the upperparts is shown well here. Photograph/Larry Sansone



Allowing unusually good views was this fresh-plumaged **Sprague's Pipit** at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Park, California, on October 13, 1997. Photograph/Brian E. Small

30, this being close to the expected number. A Thick-billed Kingbird near Pomona, *Los Angeles*, Oct. 30+ (CBR, TEW) was at a location where at least one has spent the past 5 winters. The only E. Kingbirds reported were one inland at Oasis, *Mono*, Sept. 12 (JLD) and three along the coast, with single birds at Malibu Sept. 9 (MSM), Morro Bay S.P. Sept. 19 (GPS), and on San Nicolas I. Sept. 27 (WW).

A Chestnut-backed Chickadee in Carpinteria, *Santa Barbara*, Sept. 12–Nov. 29 (RWHa) was s. of its normal range, but this species has been extending its range southward along the coast in recent years. A **Sedge Wren** well photographed at Sycamore Canyon Campground in Pt. Mugu S.P., *Ventura*, Oct. 26–27 (DVP) was the 5th to be found in California. An Am. Dipper at Malibu Lagoon, *Los Angeles*, Oct. 22 (AE) is the first to be found along the immediate coast in S. California. A **Dusky Warbler** photographed inland near Cantil Oct. 4–5 (MTH) is the 6th to be found in California, but was followed by at least two more along the coast in the n. half of the State (see Middle Coast Region Report). Totally unexpected was a **Gray-checked Thrush** that hit a window in Encino around Oct. 25 (A. Lowy, * L.A.C.M.) since only 3 have previously been recorded in S. California. A few Varied Thrushes moved S along the coast to San Diego in October, and one was at Ocotillo, *Imperial*, Nov. 10–13 (SVonW). A Wrentit in Morongo Valley, *San Bernadino*,

Oct. 19 (MAP) was at a desert locality e. of this resident species' range.

Three Gray Catbirds were found, with one near Bishop Oct. 17–18 (T&JH), another at Desert Center, *Riverside*, Sept. 28 (MAP), and the 3rd on San Nicolas I. Oct. 26–27 (DDJ, WW). Single Brown Thrashers were inland in Big Pine Nov. 22 (T&JH), near Cantil Oct. 12–15 (MTH), at C.L. Oct. 19 (DVB), and at H.D.L. Oct. 6 (EAC); a 5th was along the coast on Pt. Loma in San Diego Sept. 20 (GMCC). Intriguing was an White/Black-backed Wagtail seen flying up Walnut Cr. in Baldwin Park, *Los Angeles*, Nov. 1 (BED). The only Red-throated Pipit found this fall was one near Pt. Mugu N.A.S. Oct. 17–18 (JAb). A cooperative Sprague's Pipit photographed at F.C.R. Oct. 10–18 (TE, MSM) was the 2nd to be found in *Inyo*.

VIREOS AND WOOD WARBLERS

A Bell's Vireo in Santa Barbara Nov. 2 (HPR) was late and at an unusual location, and another near Corona, *Riverside*, Nov. 18 (JEP) may have been attempting to winter locally. A Blue-headed Vireo was carefully identified near Cantil Oct. 14–16 (MTH), and another was reported at Arroyo Grande, *San Luis Obispo*, Sept. 30 (BKS). A Yellow-throated Vireo, a casual straggler to California, was in the Prado Basin near Corona, *Riverside*, Sept. 10 (JEP). A Hutton's Vireo on San Nicolas I. Aug. 30 (MAP, * S.B.C.M.) shows some in-

dividuals can move considerable distances. Two Philadelphia Vireos provided an average number for this time of the year, with one in Carpinteria Sept. 27–Oct. 4 (JLD) and the other attempting to winter in Irvine Oct. 24+ (JEP). Up to two Red-eyed Vireos were along the coast at Morro Bay S.P. Sept. 16–20 (WAB), along with single birds at nearby Montana de Oro S.P. Sept. 16 (BAB), on s. Vandenberg A.F.B., *Santa Barbara*, Sept. 28 (BH), in Goleta Oct. 8–25 (HPR), and on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 9 (DWA), and inland near Big Pine Oct. 9 (T&JH), Galileo Hill Sept. 20 (MTH), and Iron Mt. Pumping Plant Sept. 19 (MAP). Five Yellow-green Vireos were reported, with an early individual in Goleta Aug. 28 (MAH) followed by single birds near Pt Mugu N.A.S. Sept. 20–22 (TEW) & 27–29 (TEW), at San Elijo Lagoon, *San Diego*, Oct. 8 (MO), and on Pt. Loma Sept. 28 (DWA).

Thirty-nine species of wood warblers were found in S. California during the fall. A male Blue-winged Warbler banded near Victorville Sept. 14 (SJM) was the 22nd to be recorded in California. Three Golden-winged Warblers were found, with single birds along the coast in Huntington Beach Sept. 18 (BED) and in nearby Mission Viejo Nov. 22–28 (JEP), and the other inland at Morongo Valley Oct. 19–25 (MAP, KLe). Ten Tennessee Warblers along the coast between Sept. 21 and Oct. 31, along with one inland at Galileo Hill Oct. 14 (MTH), was



Still among the rarest of the eastern warblers in California, this male Blue-winged Warbler was captured and banded near Victorville on September 14, 1997. Photograph/Stephen J. Myers

less than expected. Small numbers of Virginia's Warblers were found scattered throughout the e. portion of the Region as expected, but only 10 were reported from w. of the Coast Range (nine between Sept. 12 and Oct. 2 and one on Nov. 9). Single Lucy's Warblers in Carpinteria Aug. 21 (LRB), near Ojai Aug. 10 (BS), near Pt. Mugu N.A.S. Sept. 13 (DDJ), and in W. Los Angeles Sept. 19–25 (BP) were w. of this species normal migration path. Three N. Parulas in coastal *San Luis Obispo* between Sept. 8 and Oct. 2–3 (BKS, BAB, KMH), and one inland at Rubidoux, *Riverside*, Oct. 2–6 (DSC), were fewer than expected.

Twelve Chestnut-sided Warblers were found along the coast between Sept. 11 and Nov. 9, along with single birds inland at Galileo Hill Oct. 30 (MTH), Baker, *San Bernardino*, Sept. 26 (JEP), and along the Colorado R. in extreme n.e. *Riverside* Nov. 29 (JM). Six Magnolia Warblers along the coast between Sept. 13 and Oct. 22, along with single birds inland around California City, *Kern*, Oct. 14 (MSM) and Sept. 27–28 (JCW), and at Desert Center, *Riverside*, Oct. 9 (CMcG), represented an average number. Nine Black-throated Blue Warblers scattered throughout the Region between Sept. 23 and Nov. 20 was an expected number for this time of the year. Vagrant Black-throated Green Warblers were near Pt. Mugu N.A.S. Sept. 30 (MSM) and on Pt. Loma in *San Diego* Oct. 2 (REW); a male in National City, *San Diego*, Nov. 4+ (DWA) and a female near Oceanside, *San Diego*, Nov. 16+ (DRW) were the same birds present at these 2 locations all of last winter. Single

Blackburnian Warblers along the coast in Montana de Oro S.P. Oct. 13 (JSR), at Oso Flaco L., *San Luis Obispo*, Oct. 18 (BAB), and near Pt. Mugu N.A.S. Sept. 20–21 (TEW) was less than normal, but one in Bishop Oct. 13–19 (T&JH) and another at Rubidoux Sept. 21–Nov. 30 (DSC) were inland, where seldom found. A Grace's Warbler, a rare straggler to the coast, was on Pt. Loma in *San Diego* Sept. 27 (DWA), and another was in Montana de Oro S.P. Oct. 24–26 (JSR, BAB) was the first to be found in *San Luis Obispo*. A Pine Warbler in Long Beach Nov. 25+ (KG, TEW) appeared to be wintering. Single Prairie Warblers along the coast in Oceano Sept. 25–28 (BAB), Santa Barbara Nov. 2–15 (JNB), and near Pt. Mugu N.A.S. on Sept. 14 (TEW) & 29 (AS) was about as expected, but one inland at Grandview Campground in the White Mts., *Inyo*, Sept. 2 (KE) was at an unusual locality. Thirty Palm Warblers along the coast after Sept. 28 was slightly less than we have become accustomed to, and none was reported from inland. Twenty-five Black-poll Warblers along the coast between Sept. 17 and Oct. 26, along with five in *Kern/San Bernardino/Riverside* between Sept. 20 and 27 was also slightly less than expected.

Thirty-five Black-and-white Warblers and 70 Am. Redstarts scattered throughout the Region during the period was about normal. Slightly more than the expected number of Prothonotary Warblers were found, with single birds along the coast at Montana de Oro S.P. Sept. 28–Oct. 8 (BAB), Malibu Oct. 15–18 (DS), San Pedro Oct. 5 (MH), Anaheim Oct. 10–11 (JH),

Huntington Beach Sept. 28–Oct. 6 (LRH), and on Pt. Loma in *San Diego* Sept. 30–Oct. 4 (PAG), and inland at F.C.R. Oct. 10–12 (MAP), near Victorville Sept. 16 (BD), and in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mts. near Mentone Sept. 27 (EAC). A Worm-eating Warbler in Westminster, *Orange*, Oct. 30+ (JEP) was the only one reported this fall. Five Ovenbirds along the coast between Sept. 25 and Oct. 7, along with a very late individual in Irvine Nov. 29 (JSB), was less than expected. Forty-five N. Waterthrushes scattered throughout the Region between Aug. 30 and Oct. 21 was about average.

A female Kentucky Warbler hit a window near Solana Beach, *San Diego*, Oct. 2 (D. Grine, * S.D.N.H.M.); another in Los Osos Oct. 21+ (BTM) was believed to be the same bird at that location last winter. A Connecticut Warbler, a casual straggler to California, was seen in Morro Bay S.P. Sept. 20 (GPS). Four Mourning Warblers were reported, with one seen in Morro Bay S.P. Sept. 20 (JSR, GPS), another photographed near Port Hueneme Sept. 14 (TEW), a 3rd studied in hand in downtown *Los Angeles* Sept. 24–28 (KLG), and a "probable" near the Los Angeles International Airport Sept. 14 (DY). Three Hooded Warblers were found, with one in Oceano Oct. 2 (BKS), another at El Capitan S.B. near Goleta Sept. 30 (BH), and the 3rd in Wilmington, *Los Angeles*, Oct. 21 (MH). The only Canada Warblers reported were single birds along the coast in Oceano Sept. 15 (KMH), Goleta Sept. 13–18 (KB), and in San Pedro Oct. 11–12 (MSM), and a 4th inland at Galileo Hill Oct. 3 (MTH). Migrant Painted Redstarts were in Dana Pt. Sept. 14 (JW) and on Pt. Loma in *San Diego* Oct. 18 (PAG, GLR), and another returned for its 3rd winter to El Capitan S.B. near Goleta Sept. 28+ (DR).

TANAGERS TO ORIOLES

As usual, a few Summer Tanagers were found along the coast, with 12 reported between Aug. 30 and Nov. 17, but one at Iron Mt. Pumping Plant Nov. 30 (MAP) and another in *Riverside* Nov. 8 (EAC) were the only two found inland. Five Scarlet Tanagers were reported, with single birds along the coast in Carpinteria Nov. 2 (JNB), Wilmington Oct. 17–19 (KLa), and *San Diego* Nov. 30 (KR), and inland at F.C.R. Nov. 10 (SGMo) and Inyokern, *Kern*, Oct. 31 (SS).

Seventeen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks scattered throughout the Region between Aug. 9 and the end of the period, and 22 In-

digo Buntings in the same areas between Aug. 2 and Oct. 31 were less than expected. Single green Painted Buntings were seen in Carpinteria Sept. 13 (DC), Huntington Beach Sept. 13 (LRH), and at F.C.R. Sept. 24 (DN, MAP), and an ad. male was near Victorville Oct. 12 (BD). Two or three Dickcissels were inland at F.C.R. between Oct. 7 and 30 (MJS, MSM, T&JH), along with single birds at C.L. Sept. 20–21 (MTH), near Cantil Sept. 20 (MTH), Galileo Hill Sept. 10–12 (RHo), at Desert Center Sept. 27–Oct. 4 (MAP, RMCK), and along the coast in Cayucos, *San Luis Obispo*, Oct. 6 (SD) and on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 1 (REW).

A pale grayish Rufous-crowned Sparrow photographed at Galileo Hill Sept. 22 (JLD) appears to be one of a very few ever found in California away from known breeding localities. An Am. Tree Sparrows at F.C.R. Oct. 18 (MJS) and another in Red Rock Canyon State Recreation Area, Kern, Nov. 12 (TB) were the only two reported. Fourteen Clay-colored Sparrows at various localities within the Region between Sept. 14 and Nov. 5 was less than we have become accustomed to. Single juv. Black-throated Sparrows near Chino Sept. 17 (JEP), in Manhattan Beach Sept. 21 (TEW) and in Anaheim Sept. 17 (DRW) were w. of this species' normal range. Only four Lark Buntings were found, with single birds at F.C.R. Oct. 17–20 (GMCC), in Inyokern Nov. 14 (SS), at the Santa Maria R. mouth Sept. 6 (PMcN), and on San Nicolas I. Sept. 27–29 (WW). A Grasshopper Sparrow at F.C.R. Oct. 5 (T&JH) was obviously a migrant. Up to two Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Upper Newport Bay, Orange, Nov. 13+ (TN, TEW) were in an area where small numbers are evidently present most winters. Swamp Sparrows were decidedly scarce, with only eight reported between Oct. 7 and the end of the period, and the same can be said for White-throated Sparrows (16 reported Oct. 11–Nov. 30) and Harris's Sparrows (eight reported Sept. 28–Nov. 30). Only seven Lapland Longspurs were reported, with four of these in Inyo/Kern between Oct. 15–23 (MSM, SS, JZ), and the other three in Ventura and Orange between Oct. 17 and Nov. 2 (BLA, JSB). A confiding female **Smith's Longspur** well photographed at F.C.R. Oct. 4–11 (GH, T&JH) was the 5th to be found in California. An early Chestnut-collared Longspur at Galileo Hill Sept. 21 (JLD) was followed by only 15 more at various localities in the Region between Oct. 16 and Nov. 2.

Twenty Bobolinks along the coast be-

tween Sept. 12 and Oct. 18, along with one at F.C.R. Oct. 5–12 (T&JH) and up to two at Borrego Springs Sept. 13–25 (PJ), was far less than encountered 10 years ago. A Rusty Blackbird at F.C.R. Oct. 11–17 (DM) was somewhat early, but one in Arvin, Kern, Nov. 15 (MTH) was the only other one reported. Single Orchard Orioles were found along the coast at Cayucos Oct. 28 (TME), Pt. Mugu S.P. Nov. 2 (DDJ), in downtown Los Angeles Oct. 21 (KLG), Corona del Mar Nov. 17 (JEP), on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 19 (GMCC), and inland at Oasis Sept. 12 (JLD) and Galileo Hill Sept. 14 (MAP). In addition, a female returned to Santa Barbara Nov. 16+ (GT) for its 3rd winter, and a male returned to Laguna Beach Nov. 16+ (JEP) for its 2nd winter. Six Baltimore Orioles along the coast between Sept. 24 and the end of the period, along with one inland at the Cactus City Rest Area on I-10, Riverside, Nov. 2 (MAP), provided an expected number.

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Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *Field Notes* are keyed on page 21.