

Southern Pacific Coast



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The prolonged drought conditions in the Region continued through the fall, though effects on migration through the Region were unclear. Highlights of the fall included three Streaked Shearwaters offshore (the first for the Region) and an adult Little Stint in Los Angeles County.

Abbreviations: C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. Kern); E.A.F.B. (Edwards Air Force Base, se. Kern); F.C.R. (Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Monument, Inyo); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park in extreme e. Kern); L.A.C.M. (Los Angeles County Museum); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, Riverside); S.C.R.E. (Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, Ventura); S.D.N.H.M. (San Diego Natural History Museum); S.E.S.S. (s. end of the Salton Sea, Imperial); V.A.F.B. (Vandenberg Air Force Base in w. Santa Barbara); V.C.G.P. (Ventura County Game Preserve near Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station, Ventura). Because 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 of Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

LOONS THROUGH IBIS

Only 3 Pacific Loons were reported inland 22 Oct and later (CR, TAB, C & JM). A Red-necked Grebe at Bolsa Chica, Orange 12 Aug—13 Oct (AW) was unusually far s. and may have summered locally; one on L. Casitas, Ventura 1 Nov (BSi) and another on L. Perris, Riverside 10 Nov+ (HK) were inland, where accidental.

Northern Fulmars moved into s. California waters in Nov as indicated by 4 off La Jolla 9 Nov (GMcC), 11 off W. Cove Pt. on San Clemente I. 25 Nov (BLS), and 130 during a pelagic birding trip off Pt. Conception, Santa Barbara 30 Nov (DMH). A Buller's Shearwater found recently dead in Coronado, San Diego 1 Oct (SW) had recently ovulated and still retained one ovum with yolk (PU; *S.D.N.H.M.), quite surprising for a species that only breeds around New Zealand. A Streaked Shearwater 11 km off Santa Cruz 1. 7 Sep (DMH), another about 16 km s. of Santa Barbara 26 Oct (EA, LRB), and a 3rd seen from W. Cove Pt. on San Clemente I. 24 Nov (BLS, EK) were the first to be reported in s. California. A Flesh-footed Shearwater, scarce off s. California, was seen from W. Cove Pt. on San Clemente I. 25 Nov (BLS). A Manx Shearwater off the Santa Maria R. mouth, San Luis Obispo/Santa Barbara 8 Sep (BKS) provides yet another record for s. California. An Ashy Storm-Petrel found on a street in San Diego 10 Sep (PU; *S.D.N.H.M.) was the 3rd such record in the past 20 years. A loose flock of 11+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels 8 km w. of San Miguel I. 28 Sep (DMH) is far more than previously seen at one time in s. California; another was photographed off Avila, San Luis Obispo 21 Sep (BKS).

A Red-billed Tropicbird was seen during a pelagic birding trip off San Pedro, Los Angeles 3 Aug (DMH), 2 were photographed 26 km off San Diego 11 Aug (MJ), 2 more were seen on a trip off Point Conception, Santa Barbara 28 Sep (DMH) and at least 5 were seen from San Clemente I. between 4 Aug and 19 Sep (BLS, CRK). A Blue-footed Booby was well seen from W. Cove Pt. on San Clemente I. 17 Nov (BLS); the only other boobies reported were unidentified imm. off Pt. Vicente, Los Angeles 1 Sep (DMH) and off La Jolla, San Diego 9 Aug (GCH, JAM).

The Little Blue Heron found at Bolsa Chica 9 May remaining through 17 Aug (DRW), an ad. near Blythe, Riverside 9 Aug—9 Sep (RH), an ad. at Laguna Dam, Imperial 4 Sep (RLMcK), and an imm. near Chino, Riverside 9-16 Sep (JEP) were the only 4 reported away from coastal San Diego. The Tricolored Heron at Point Mugu, Ventura since 25 Jun was still present 10 Aug (DPe), and another was at Los Osos, San Luis Obispo 9-11 Aug (JP). The ad. Reddish Egret at Point Mugu since 15 Sep 2001 was still present at the end of the period, and accompanied by an imm. 5 Sep—11 Nov (OA); single birds were at Malibu, Los Angeles 20 Sep (MK) and along the Los Ange-

les R. in Paramount, *Los Angeles* 4-22 Sep (RBa), up to 2 were on the Santa Ana R. in Huntington Beach/Costa Mesa, *Orange* 27 Jul—10 Nov (LRH, JLD), another was at Bolsa Chica 9 Oct—6 Nov (COJ), and at least 4 were found along the coast of *San Diego* during the period (MUE); inland, single birds were at S.E.S.S. 7-18 Sep (LW) and 14 Nov+ (KZK), and N.E.S.S. 19-20 Oct (DG); an emaciated imm. in Poway, *San Diego* 6 Sep (PU; *S.D.N.H.M.) was away from any body of water. The Yellow-crowned Night-Heron found on San Elijo Lagoon, *San Diego* 11 Jun was still present 24 Sep (RTP), and another was in Ventura, 19 Sep—26 Nov (GF). A Glossy Ibis was well studied in the Prado Basin, *Riverside* 13-19 Sep (JEP).

DUCKS THROUGH TERNS

A Tufted Duck at L. Perris 2-10 Nov (TAB, HK) was probably the same bird present at this location last winter. The male Harlequin Duck on Mission Bay in San Diego during the last two winters was again present 26 Oct+ (BD). Reports of scoters inland included 9 Surf Scoters at various locations in the Owens Valley, *Inyo* between 13 Oct and 24 Nov (T&JH) along with single birds in Barstow, *San Bernardino* 2 Nov (HK), near Little Rock in the Antelope Valley, *Los Angeles* 20 Oct (JFe), and at Desert Center, *Riverside* 20 Oct (CMcG), a remarkable flock of 50 Surfs along with a White-winged and 2 Black Scoters at North Shore, *Riverside* 16 Nov (TAB), and single White-winged Scoters at F.C.R. 1 Nov (T&JH) and Tinemaha Res. near Big Pine, *Inyo* 9 Nov+ (T&JH). A Long-tailed Duck at F.C.R. 1 Nov (T&JH) and another on Tinemaha Res. near Big Pine 30 Nov—1 Dec (JLD) were inland.

A Northern Goshawk near Ridgecrest, *Kern* 16 Nov+ (JN) was quite far south. A Harris's Hawk was still present at Borrego Springs, *San Diego* 30 Oct (PJ). The Broad-winged Hawk that arrived on San Clemente I. 31 Oct 2001 was last seen 10 Oct (BLS); migrants included single birds at V.A.F.B. 6 Oct (BKH), Hansen Dam, *Los Angeles* 5 Oct (KLG), Rolling Hills, *Los Angeles* 24 Sep (LA; *L.A.C.M.), Irvine, *Orange* 8 Oct (JEP) and Point Loma, *San Diego* 11 Oct (JAM) on the coast, and at F.C.R. 1 Nov (T&JH), G.H.P. 28 Sep—2 Oct (TEW) and 6-16 Oct (TEW), and at Desert Center 29 Sep (CMcG) inland. A Zone-tailed Hawk near El Centro, *Imperial* 26-27 Sep (KZK) was evidently a migrant, but individuals in Santa Barbara/Goleta 26 Oct+ (HPR), the Upper Ojai Valley, *Ventura* 19 Nov (BSi), San Juan Capistrano, *Orange* 24 Nov (SM) and Escondido, *San Diego* 9 Oct+ (MF), and inland at Brawley, *Imperial* 29 Oct+ (AK) were all probably wintering locally. A Crested Caracara near Oxnard, *Ventura* 8 Aug (A&JC) adds one more to the recent reports from along the California coast.

Four Sandhill Cranes at Desert Center 11

Sep (CMcG) were early and at an unusual place. The only American Golden-Plovers were 2 inland at S.E.S.S. 14 Oct (JLD, GMcC). Nine Pacific Golden-Plovers seen along the coast between 15 Aug and 3 Nov (GPS, BKS, DD, GCH, RT), along with single birds inland at E.A.F.B. 8-13 Oct (MSanM) and near Chino 11 Aug (JEP), were migrants; 5 in Seal Beach, *Orange* 21 Oct (JFi) and single birds at Bolsa Chica 2 Sep+ (BED) and at the Tijuana R. mouth, *San Diego* 28 Aug+ (RTP), along with 17 on San Clemente I. 10 Oct + (JHP, HAC) were believed to be at wintering localities.

A Wandering Tattler at S.E.S.S. 19 Sep (KZK) was inland. Single Ruddy Turnstones on Owens L., *Inyo* 28-30 Aug (MR) and 23 Sep (ZR), and near Blythe 1-2 Sep (RH) were inland and away from the Salton Sea. A Black Turnstone at S.E.S.S. 1-8 Aug (GMcC) is one of a very few to be found inland in fall. Single Red Knots, extremely rare inland away from the Salton Sea, were near Lancaster, *Los Angeles* 4 Sep (MSanM) and at E.A.F.B. 11-13 Sep (MSanM) and 26 Aug (AH). An ad. Little Stint in Long Beach, *Los Angeles* 25-26 Aug (KLa) is the 7th to be found in California. A juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at E.A.F.B. 19-22 Oct (VH, TMcG) was the 2nd to be recorded in Kern, and another was on the coast in Irvine 29 Sep (LO). A Stilt Sandpiper at Independence, *Inyo* 25 Aug (RAH), another near Lancaster 30 Aug (KA), up to 2 at V.C.G.P. 6-10 Sep (TMcG), and single birds near Oxnard, *Ventura* 11 Nov (DVP) and Anaheim, *Orange* 19-26 Sep (BSa) were the only ones found away from S.E.S.S. Three Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found, with one inland at E.A.F.B. 11-14 Sep (TMcG), and single birds along the coast on San Clemente I. 4-25 Sep (BLS) and the near Imperial Beach, *San Diego* 3-10 Oct (GMcC). Seven Ruffs were reported, with single birds along the coast at V.C.G.P. 1-28 Sep (DD), at Bolsa Chica 15 Sep (IB), near Imperial Beach 5-15 Sep (EC) and 14 Sep—6 Oct (DPa), and s. San Diego Bay 25 Oct + (GMcC, DPa), and inland at E.A.F.B. 25-28 Sep (TMcG) and near Brawley 1 Nov (GMcC). Single Red Phalaropes at C.L. 26-27 Sep (SSt), Owens L. 28 Aug (CL-J), F.C.R. 11 Oct (RF), in the Prado Basin 19 Sep (JEP), and S.E.S.S. 17 Nov (BQ) were inland and rare.

A South Polar Skua seen from W. Cove Pt. on San Clemente I. 8 Sep (BLS) was unusually close to land. The only jaegers found inland were 2 juv. Parasitic Jaegers at N.E.S.S. 11-14 Oct (CMcG), a juv. Long-tailed Jaeger at Owens L., *Inyo* 19-21 Aug (JLD) and an ad. photographed at N.E.S.S. Oct 4 (CMcG), and single unidentified jaegers at N.E.S.S. 29 Sep (CMcG) and at S.E.S.S. 26 Sep (KZK). A Laughing Gull in Santa Maria, *Santa Barbara* 26 Nov (KZ) and one near Blythe 28 Jul—10 Aug (RH) were the only 2 reported away from the Salton Sea. As expected, small numbers of

Franklin's Gulls passed through the Region between 8 Aug and 3 Nov, including at least 15 in the Imperial Valley. A first-winter Little Gull was seen moving s. with Bonaparte's Gulls from Pt. Vicente, *Los Angeles* 24 Nov (MSanM). Up to 2 somewhat early Mew Gulls at S.E.S.S. 25 Oct—1 Nov (GCH, DSC), another in Brawley 1 Nov (GMcC), and 2 juvs. at E.A.F.B. 3 Nov (TMcG, MSanM) were inland. Two Sabine's Gulls were reported inland, including an ad. at E.A.F.B. 11-14 Sep (MSanM) and a juv. near Calipatria, *Imperial* 18 Sep (GMcC). Numbers of Common Terns seen moving through s. California have declined dramatically in the past 10 years and are now rarely reported from the interior away from the Salton Sea; single birds at C.L. 9-11 Sep (SSt), near Cantil, *Kern* 25 Sep (TMcG), and at Hansen Dam 18 Aug (KLG) were of note. An Arctic Tern at S.C.R.E. 20 Aug (JEP, DEW) is one of a very few found on shore.

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Single Band-tailed Pigeons at G.H.P. 12 Oct (TEW), near Blythe 9-11 Nov (RH), and on San Clemente I. 8 Oct (AMC) were away from areas of normal occurrence. From the number of White-winged Doves reported on the Channel Islands—e.g., 3 San Nicolas I. 24 Sep (WW) and 13 on San Clemente I. 22 Aug through 2 Oct, with a high count of 7 on 11 Sep (BES)—compared to the number seen along the coast (8 this fall), it appears many westward vagrants overshoot the coast. Six Ruddy Ground-Doves were reported, including a female at F.C.R. 6 Oct (JLD), a male there 11-18 Nov (RF, TMcG), and up to 4 near Blythe 26 Oct—16 Nov (RH, HK).

A Chimney Swift flying with Vaux's Swifts over Malibu, *Los Angeles* 11 Oct (TMcG) provides one of a very few records in fall. A Broad-billed Hummingbird in Claremont, *Los Angeles* 8-21 Sep (MJSanM) is only the 2nd reported in California since 1999. A minor flight of Lewis's Woodpeckers brought small numbers to s. California, with one near Imperial Beach 5-6 Oct (MS) and 2 at Niland, *Imperial* 25-27 Oct (BMi) being the southernmost. Single Acorn Woodpeckers at California City, *Kern* 21 Sep (TEW), G.H.P. 22-29 Sep (KLe), Morongo Valley, *San Bernardino* 19 Oct (TAB), and on San Clemente I. 6 Oct (BLS) had wandered far from areas of expected occurrence. A Williamson's Sapsucker in Morongo Valley 1-5 Oct (AEK, KG) and another in Fullerton, *Orange* 21 Nov (DLP) were at unexpected locations. Nine reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers included single juvs. as far s. as near Niland, *Imperial* 16 Nov+ (TAB) and in Brawley 14 Nov (GMcC). A White-headed Woodpecker in Arcadia, *Los Angeles* 25 Nov (MSanM) was at a low elevation, and another in California City, *Kern* 5 Oct+ (AEK) was far from any area of normal occurrence.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher near El Centro 29 Aug—14 Sep (GMcC) was the earliest fall migrant ever for the Salton Sink, as was a Western Wood-Pewee at S.E.S.S. 1 Aug (GMcC). A well-described but silent Alder Flycatcher was at Deep Springs, Inyo 13 Sep (JLD). Five Least Flycatchers were along the coast 8 Sep—29 Oct, with others inland at Cactus City, Riverside 3 Oct (TEW) and near El Centro 20 Sep (KZK). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were well studied near Cantil, Kern 4 Oct (MSanM, TMcG) and at nearby California City 5 Oct (TE, VH); another *Empidonax* photographed near Pt. Mugu 10-29 Oct (DPe) was also likely this species. Six Eastern Phoebes were noted after 22 Oct; only one, at Huntington Beach, Orange 18 Nov (JEP) was along the coast. A Brown-crested Flycatcher at California City 27-28 Sep (JCW) was the first ever noted on the Kern deserts and among the few ever found away from breeding areas in the state. In addition to 15 Tropical Kingbirds along the coast after 22 Sep, some of which remained to winter, one was at Desert Center, Riverside 20 Sep (CMcG). A Thick-billed Kingbird at Santa Paula, Ventura 19 Nov+ (SHe) was the only one reported. Single Cassin's Kingbirds near El Centro 22 Sep (KZK) and Niland 15 Oct (GMcC) were in the Imperial Valley, where casual. A Western Kingbird at F.C.R. 6 Oct (JLD) was the latest fall record for Inyo. Six Eastern Kingbirds were found 2-29 Sep, with 4 along the coast and 2 in e. Kern.

Northern Shrikes were n. of Bishop, Inyo 28 Oct+ (JLD) and at F.C.R. 3 Nov (ad.; JLD). A Cassin's Vireo at Inyokern 5 Aug (LK) provided the earliest fall record for Kern. Yellow-throated Vireos at Wilmington, Los Angeles 30 Sep—6 Oct (RN), Pt. Loma, San Diego 19 Oct (G&AH), and G.H.P. 13 Oct (TEW) constituted a good showing for a species that averages about one per fall in the Region. Bell's Vireos, rarely seen in migration, were in Torrance, Los Angeles 1-8 Sep (MB, DM) and Anaheim 18 Sep—4 Oct (DRW); an exceptionally late bird was n.

of Bishop 4 Dec (J&DP), and singles were at S.E.S.S. 26 Oct (DSC), 21 Nov+ (GMcC), and 24 Nov (KZK). Philadelphia Vireos were at California City 14 Sep (JCW), Blythe 27-29 Sep (HK, RH), and San Clemente I. 3 Oct (BLS). The only Red-eyed Vireos reported were n. of Bishop 21-25 Aug (J&DP), in New-

port Beach, Orange 31 Aug (DRW), and in Redlands, San Bernardino 22 Sep (RLMcK). A Yellow-green Vireo was photographed on San Clemente I. 18 Sep (JHP, BLS).

SWALLOWS THROUGH PIPITS

Small numbers of migrant Purple Martins were noted 22 Aug—21 Sep, including 2 imms. on San Clemente I. 15 Sep (BLS). A Winter Wren at Stovpipe Wells, Death Valley National Park, Inyo 2 Nov (JLD, T&JH) exhibited some characters of the boreal/eastern *hiemalis* group. At least 5 Chestnut-backed Chickadees in the Goleta/Santa Barbara area 20 Aug+ suggest a continued range expansion of this species southward along the coast. Relatively few Red-breasted Nuthatches were found in the lowlands, but White-breasted Nuthatches of the coastal *aculeata* group underwent a substantial movement into the lowlands of the coast and w. deserts after mid-Aug. A Pygmy Nuthatch at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino 20 Sep (BMo) was at an unusual locality.

A California Gnatcatcher well studied at DeForest Park, Long Beach, Los Angeles 14 Sep (KLa) was in an urban area some 18 km from the nearest breeding areas of this very sedentary Threatened species. Mountain Bluebirds were more common and widespread on the deserts than usual, and some small flocks reached coastal areas. A *Catharus* photographed near El Centro 15-16 Sep (KZK) appeared to be a Gray-cheeked Thrush and is currently under review by the C.B.R.C.

Gray Catbirds were found on Pt. Loma 18 Oct (BeM) and 21 Oct (EC) and inland at Cuyamaca State Park, San Diego 17 Nov (TMcG, MSanM), n. of Blythe 13-18 Oct (RH), G.H.P. 23 Oct (VH), Ridgecrest 25 Oct (SSt), and n. of Bishop 27 Oct (J&DP). Brown Thrashers, seemingly decreasing as a vagrant to California, were at Shoshone, Inyo 28 Sep (JEP), G.H.P. 14-28 Oct (SSt), and Pt. Loma 30 Oct (MS). Red-throated Pipits made only a minor showing, with one on San Clemente I. 30 Sep—1 Oct (BLS), one at Pt. Hueneme, Ventura 5 Oct (TMcG), and up to 2 near Imperial Beach 5-18 Oct (GMcC).

WARBLERS

A Blue-winged Warbler near Cantil 4 Oct (MSanM) provided only the 2nd fall record for Kern. Sixteen Tennessee Warblers were

found on the coastal slope 19 Sep—10 Nov, and 6 more were in e. Kern 10 Sep—13 Oct. Twenty-five Virginia's Warblers were on the coast 30 Aug—19 Oct, plus a very late bird in Lakewood, Los Angeles 16 Nov (KSG); 11 more were on the deserts of Kern and Inyo 11 Aug—15 Sep. Lucy's Warblers were on the coast at Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo 1 Oct (BKS), V.A.F.B. 19 Sep (BKH), Goleta 2 Oct (PK), and Irvine 7 Sep (LDT); one was at Blythe 29 Sep (RH), well after local breeders had departed. Eight Northern Parulas on the coast 13 Sep—6 Nov were about normal; an ad. male n. of Bishop 14-21 Aug (J&DP) represented the earliest fall record for Inyo, another was there 28 Aug—8 Sep, and one was at China L. 19 Sep (SSt). A Yellow Warbler at F.C.R. 2 Nov (JLD) was quite late for the n. deserts. Ten Chestnut-sided Warblers along the coast 23 Sep—7 Dec included 5 at Pt. Loma; on the deserts, one was at G.H.P. 2-4 Oct (AH). Two Black-throated Blue Warblers, males on San Clemente I. 16 Oct (BLS) and in Coronado 6-11 Nov (BF), were fewer than expected. Five Magnolia Warblers along the coast 29 Sep—22 Oct and 3 more on the Kern desert 21 Sep—12 Oct were about normal. Black-throated Green Warblers were at Oceano, San Luis Obispo 10 Oct (BAB), Goleta 2-14 Oct (JH), Huntington Beach 22 Sep (LDT), and Pt. Loma 22 Sep (SSm); another in National City, San Diego 23 Oct+ (DWA) returned for its 7th winter. A Hermit Warbler near El Centro 6 Aug (KZK) established the earliest fall record for the Salton Sink. Five Blackburnian Warblers were on the coast 21 Sep—24 Oct, and a very late bird was at Hemet, Riverside 23 Nov (CT). A Grace's Warbler was in Irvine 26 Oct (IH), and another returned for its 2nd winter on Pt. Loma 11 Sep+ (DS, GMcC). Eight Prairie Warblers were at coastal or island localities 15 Sep—20 Oct. At least 31 Palm Warblers were on the coastal slope after 28 Sep, and another 10 were on the deserts 1 Oct—18 Nov. The only Bay-breasted Warblers were on Santa Barbara I. 21-22 Sep (NAL), San Clemente I. 4 Oct (BLS), and in Orange, Orange 15-19 Oct (NM). Twenty-eight Blackpoll Warblers on the coast 13 Sep—6 Nov were augmented by seven on the deserts 21 Sep—5 Oct.

A Prothonotary Warbler was in Anaheim 17-20 Sep (BML), and another was in San Diego 23 Sep (PU; *S.D.N.H.M). The only Worm-eating Warbler was found in Carpinteria 26 Sep—25 Nov (A&JC). Of 9 Ovenbirds 1 Sep—10 Nov, 5 were on the immediate coast or offshore islands. The 3 Mourning Warblers included one n. of Bishop 22 Aug (JLD), one at Mojave, Kern 11 Sep (MJSanM), and a surprising ad. male on Pt. Loma 21-25 Sep (JW, GMcC). Hooded Warblers were at Newport Beach 12-15 Sep (JEP), Oceanside 11 Sep (SG), and at Coronado 31 Oct+ (EC). A good showing of Canada Warblers included birds



Red-throated Pipits have become annual autumn vagrants to California, particularly at traditional areas such as the Tijuana River Valley Sod Farms; however, this individual photographed 1 October 2002 at Lemon Tank, San Clemente Island, furnished one of only six records for the California Channel Islands and represents a first island record. Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.

on Santa Barbara I. 20 (male) & 21 Sep (female; NAL), at Pt. Loma 19-20 Sep (JW) and 23 Sep (TP), near Imperial Beach 6-7 Oct (GMcC), inland at N. Haiwee Res., Inyo 8 Sep (SSt), and at Hemet, Riverside 4 Oct (CT). Painted Redstarts were at El Capitan, Santa Barbara 31 Oct—2 Nov (JD), near Inyokern 29 Sep—1 Oct (J&PM), and at Palm Desert, Riverside after mid-Sep (KG). A Yellow-breasted Chat in Manhattan Beach, Los Angeles 12 Nov+ (KLa) was exceptionally late.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

An ad. male Scarlet Tanager retaining most of its alternate plumage was on San Nicolas I. on the unlikely date of 8 Aug (SHa); a late fall vagrant was at Lemon Heights, Orange 24-27 Nov (JEP).

Up to 4 American Tree Sparrows were at F.C.R. 1-30 Nov (T&JH); farther s., one at G.H.P. 12-13 Oct (TEW) was the earliest for Kern by three weeks, and another was at E.A.F.B. 2 Nov (TEW). Clay-colored Sparrows were widespread, with 30 at various coastal localities after 31 Aug and at least 13 more on the deserts 27 Aug—16 Nov. Black-chinned Sparrows are rare migrants in the Region, so birds near Seeley, Imperial 12 Aug (KZK), at G.H.P. 13 Aug (TEW), and near Pt. Mugu, Ventura 3 Sep (OA) were noteworthy. A Vesper Sparrow at Montana de Oro S. P. 19 Oct (JSR) was unusual for coastal San Luis Obispo. Thirteen Black-throated Sparrows were along the coast 20 Aug—26 Oct. Up to 6 Lark Buntings were on San Clemente I. 19 Sep—9 Oct (BLS), and another was at Pt. Loma 14-15 Sep (DWA). A Le Conte's Sparrow photographed at F.C.R. 6-7 Oct (RBe) was the 11th to be found at this locality. Up to 3 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were at Seal Beach, Orange, a regular winter locality, 21 Oct—4 Nov (JFi). A Large-billed Savannah Sparrow on San Clemente I. 7 Oct (BLS) was the first for the island in over 60 years. The only Red Fox Sparrow reported was one at G.H.P. 17 Nov (TEW). Harris's Sparrows were reported only from Independence, Inyo 4 Nov (A&LK) and Blythe 17 Nov+ (RH). Difficult to explain was a White-throated Sparrow near Ridgecrest 9 Aug (BMe); some 40 others appeared in the Region after 30 Sep. Two Dark-eyed Juncos of the subspecies *caniceps* at G.H.P. 10 Sep (JLD) were quite early.

Some 20 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found in the Region after 1 Sep; a summering bird at Montana de Oro was present to 28 Aug (NC). Eighteen Indigo Buntings, somewhat below average, were found 7 Aug—31 Oct. A Lazuli Bunting at F.C.R. 11-12 Oct (RF) was the latest for Inyo. An ad. male Painted Bunting near El Monte, Los Angeles 1-2 Aug (AL, MSanM, SSo) appeared to be wearing a Fish and Wildlife Service band; females or imm. males were in Bishop 5-6 Sep (J&DP), at G.H.P. 14 Sep (TEW), and near Imperial Beach 5 Nov (BW). Dickcissels were

at G.H.P. 10 Sep (JEP) and 14-21 Sep (TEW), at F.C.R. 29 Sep (ad. male; JEP), and in Baker, San Bernardino 13 Oct (LDT).

Only about 30 Bobolinks were found along the coast 6 Sep—31 Oct; another 4 were on the deserts 14-29 Sep. Rusty Blackbirds were at Panamint Springs, Inyo 2-3 Nov and F.C.R. 2-5 Sep (CH, RBe), and coastally on San Clemente I. 24 Oct (BLS) and near San Pedro, Los Angeles 16-28 Nov (DMH). Great-tailed Grackles continued their increase on the n. coast, with flocks of 20 in Morro Bay 4 Aug (MDH) and 25 at Oceano 1 Nov (TME). A Common Grackle (of the expected subspecies *versicolor*) was at Panamint Springs 3 Nov



Two McCown's Longspurs were recorded on San Clemente Island this fall, including this cooperative adult male photographed 24 October 2002 at Lemon Tank, along with a first-year female at the same location 8 October. These observations represent the first two records for San Clemente Island, and two of three records for the California Channel Islands, the first being of a male on Santa Barbara Island 1 July 1981. Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.

(GMcC). A Bronzed Cowbird at La Quinta, Riverside 12 Nov+ (DLH) was well outside the species' spring and summer pattern of occurrence; one near Calipatria to 22 Sep (GMcC) was the latest for the Salton Sink.

Orchard Orioles were near Pt. Mugu 20 Sep (OA, DD), on San Clemente I. 20 Sep (BLS), in Santa Barbara 15 Oct—1 Nov (BN), and in Manhattan Beach 16-18 Nov (KLa). Seven Baltimore Orioles were along the coast after 29 Sep, with an earlier HY male at Huntington Beach 7-13 Sep (JLD) and a female there 15 Sep (BED); on the deserts, one was near Niland 24-27 Oct (MJSanM), and another was at Desert Center 27 Oct (DSC).

Purple Finches were more numerous than usual on the n. deserts, with singles at F.C.R. 2-5 Nov (DH) and China Ranch, Inyo 2 Nov (T&JH) and a total of 8 in e. Kern 8 Oct—16 Nov; one in Rovana 20 Oct (JLD) showed characters of nominate *purpureus* from the East. Nutmeg Mannikins continue their expansion in the Santa Barbara area, with over 40 birds noted through the period (DMC).

Cited observers (county coordinators in boldface): Lucy Agid, Douglas W. Aguillard, Onik Arian, Kumaran Arul, Eileen Avery, Larry R. Ballard, Richard Barth (RBA), Rosie

Beach (RBe), Tom A. Benson, Ian Boustead, Bill A. Bouton, Martin Byhower, Heather A. Carlisle, Neil Clipperton, David M. Compton (Santa Barbara), Anne M. Condon, Daniel S. Cooper, Elizabeth Copper, Art and Janet Cupples (A & JC), Brian E. Daniels, Jason Dart, Don Desjardin, Bill Doyle, Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, Tom M. Edell (San Luis Obispo), Michael U. Evens (San Diego), Matthew Farley, Jon Feenstra (JFe), Gary File, John Fitch (JFi), Brian Foster, Rick Fridell, Kimball L. Garrett (Los Angeles), Karen S. Gilbert, Dave Goodward, John F. Green (Riverside), Kay Green, Steve Gustafson, Marlin D. Harms, Sandee Harvill (SHa), Gjon C. Hazard, Donald L. Hay, Loren R. Hayes, Sanger Hedrick (SHe), D. Mitch Heindel, Tom & Jo Heindel (Inyo), Roger Higson, Brad K. Hines, Jim Hodgson, Gus and Annie Hollenbeck, Irene Horiuchi, Debbie House, Chris Howard, Andrew Howe, Vernon Howe, Robert A. Hudson, Curtis O. Johnson, Michael Johnson, Paul Jorgensen, Al Kalin, Paul Keller, Eric Kershner, Howard King, Andrew and Leah Kirk (A&LK), Louise Alexander, C. Robby Kohley, Nancy E. Koonce (San Bernardino), Muriel Kotin, Kenneth Z. Kurland, Cheyenne Laczek-Johnson,

Kevin Larson (KLa), Brian M. Leatherman, Andrew Lee, Nick A. Lethaby, Kelli Levinson (KLe), Jim and Patty Manion (J&PM), John A. Martin, Guy McCaskie (Imperial), Chet McGaugh, Todd McGrath, Robert L. McKernan, Bob Meade (BMe), Steve Metildi, Ben Miller (BeM), Bob Miller (BMi), David Moody, Nathan Moorhatch, Clark and Jean Moore (C&JM), Bill Moramarco (BMo), Barbara Neher, Richard Norton, Jeff Novak, Leo Ohtsuki, Dennis Parker (DPa), Jim and Debby Parker (J&DP), Robert T. Patton, Dave Perkesta (DPe), John Perkins, James E. Pike, Jonathan H. Plissner, Tim Plunket, David Vander Pluym, Dick L. Purvis, Bob Quinn, Hugh P. Ranson, Chris Rintoul, Jim S. Royer, Miko Ruhlen, Zed Ruhlen, Matthew Sadowski, Mike San Miguel, Michael J. San Miguel, Bill Sauer (BSa), Brad K. Schram, Brad Sillasen (BSi), Gregory P. Smith, Susan Smith (SSm), Daniel Smyth, Steve Sosensky (SSo), Susan Steele (SSt), Brian L. Sullivan, Cathi Tomsen, Larry D. Tripp, Richard Trissal, Philip Unitt, Walter Wehtje (Ventura), Anthony West, Bob Williams, Douglas R. Willick (Orange), John C. Wilson (Kern), Libby Wolfe, Shauna Wolf, Joe Worley, Thomas E. Wurster, Kevin Zimmer. An additional 50± observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports this season; all have our thanks. 🐦