

October 1929 (Miller and Miller, Condor, 32:217, 1930) is apparently the only published record from California.

A group of about 20 people including McCaskie studied a male in breeding plumage which sang continuously for over three hours from a small clump of willows at Squaw Flat, Sespe Canyon, Ventura County, on 31 May 1958. McCaskie saw a bird in fall plumage at Dana Point, Orange County, on 23 August 1964.

Piranga flava. Hepatic Tanager. In coastal California this species has been collected near Shandon, San Luis Obispo County, on 8 November 1959 (Miller and McMillen, Condor, 66:308, 1964) and at Poway, San Diego County, on 30 December 1960 (Huey, Auk, 78:426, 1961); one was seen in Live Oak Canyon near Claremont, Los Angeles County, between 21 and 27 March 1964 (AFN, 18:488, 1964). One was collected along the Colorado River near Imperial Dam on 18 November 1960 (Phillips, Marshall, and Monson, The Birds of Arizona, 1964, p. 175).

David Gains and Larry Sansone discovered an adult male and an (?immature male) coming to roost in a clump of eucalyptus trees in the Rancho Park Golf Course, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, on 4 February 1964. McCaskie and Stallcup saw both birds before they departed on 13 March 1964. An adult male was present at the same spot from 4 November 1964 to 28 February 1965. Apparently small numbers of this species winter in coastal southern California.—GUY MCCASKIE, *Tahoe City, California*, RICHARD STALLCUP, *Oakland, California*, and PAUL DEBENEDICTIS, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 31 March 1966*.

The Occurrence of Longspurs and Snow Buntings in California.—Longspurs and Snow Buntings prefer to associate with Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*) feeding in large open areas of short, dry grass or bare ground. Few observers in California appear to have carefully checked through the many wintering flocks of Horned Larks for these species, and consequently their status here is somewhat uncertain. Recent observations by careful observers have indicated that longspurs are much commoner in California than previously suspected, and that the Snow Bunting may occur in limited numbers in the northern part of the state.

Rhynchophanes mccownii. McCown's Longspur. There appears to be no published record of this species occurring in California; however, a specimen in the McLean Collection was taken at Deep Springs, Inyo County, on 16 October 1949 by Don McLean. On 20 December 1964 Paul DeBenedictis, Art Wang, David De Sante, and I saw a minimum of seven individuals with a mixed flock of longspurs and Horned Larks feeding in a stubble field on the Lower Klamath Wildlife Refuge, Siskiyou County; the birds were seen again in the same field the following day. On 30 and 31 January 1965 Alan Craig, Eugene Cardiff, and I unsuccessfully attempted to collect two individuals we found feeding with other longspurs and Horned Larks near Westmoreland, Imperial County. On 6 November 1965 I collected an immature male (no. 35525, San Diego Natural History Museum [SDNHM]) near Imperial Beach, San Diego County; the bird was feeding in a bare, cultivated field with Horned Larks and other longspurs. It now appears that this species is an occasional fall migrant and winter visitor to California; it is the rarest of the three longspurs occurring.

Calcarius lapponicus. Lapland Longspur. This species has been considered a rare and sporadic winter visitant to the northeastern plateau region of California; in addition there are two October records for the coast of California (Grinnell and Miller, Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 27, 1944). One was taken in Death Valley, Inyo County, on 18 October 1961 (Wauer, Condor, 64:220, 1962).

I have found this species to be a regular winter visitor to the northeastern plateau; the birds occur most commonly in stubble fields, either with flocks of Horned Larks or by themselves. In the Lower Klamath Basin, Siskiyou County, I have seen these birds every winter since my first visit there during November of 1959; flocks of between 50 and 100 are regular, but on 19 December 1961 I saw more than 650 birds together. Along the northern edge of Honey Lake, Lassen County, they also appear to be regular, and I have seen as many as 250 birds in a flock. I saw 10 at Doyle, Lassen County, on 22 January 1962, and one at Deep Springs, Inyo County, on 24 October 1964.

Along the coast they are noted regularly at Point Reyes, Marin County, where observers now look for them; Dean Fisher saw one on 16 September 1956; Richard Stallcup and Paul DeBene-

dictis saw as many as six together on 19 and 20 October 1963, and as many as nine together there between 16 October and 3 November 1964; Ted Chandik located a few in late October of 1965. Farther to the south near Imperial Beach, San Diego County, I saw as many as five together between 19 October and 13 December 1964, and collected an immature female (no. 35103, SDNHM) there on 31 October 1964; I saw two or three there between 30 October and 11 November 1965, and Alan Craig and I managed to mist-net and band one on the latter date.

Inland, and west of the Great Basin, Richard Stallcup found 10 with Horned Larks 20 miles east of Livermore, Alameda County. I saw a single bird with a large flock of Horned Larks on the Carrizo Plains, San Luis Obispo County, on 14 November 1965. Near Westmoreland, Imperial County, Eugene Cardiff and I had a flock of more than 20 under observation between 23 January and 22 February 1965; I collected a female (no. 3665, Cardiff coll.) there on 30 January 1965; Cardiff collected a female (no. 3668, Cardiff coll.) on 31 January 1965, and a highly colored male (no. 3678, Cardiff coll.) there on 22 February 1965; these birds were feeding in a freshly graded field along with thousands of Horned Larks.

Calcarius ornatus. Chestnut-collared Longspur. This species has been collected along the eastern border of California on at least three occasions during the fall: one at Tahoe City, Placer County, on 15 October 1961 (McCaskie, Condor, 64:239, 1962); one near Darwin, Inyo County, on 28 September 1917 (Grinnell, Condor, 20:86, 1918); one from 11 present in Death Valley, Inyo County, on 17 and 18 October 1961 (Wauer, Condor, 64:220, 1962). It is also interesting to note that Gale Monson saw 64 birds of this species along the Colorado River near Yuma, Arizona, on 15 October 1961, and has observed lesser numbers along the Colorado River between 25 September and 10 November of other years including one at Needles Landing, San Bernardino County, on 25 September 1952.

Paul DeBenedictis, Art Wang, David De Sante, and I saw at least nine together on the Lower Klamath Wildlife Refuge, Siskiyou County, on 20 December 1964. Dean Fisher and Alan Craig saw two on Point Reyes, Marin County, on 9 October 1955 (Aud. Field Notes 10:56, 1954); Paul DeBenedictis and Richard Stallcup saw as many as six together there between 10 and 17 October 1963, and up to six there between 16 October and 1 November 1964; Ted Chandik located a few there in late October of 1965. I saw up to four together near Imperial Beach, San Diego County, between 12 and 31 October 1964, and collected an immature male (no. 35104, SDNHM) there on 25 October 1964; and I saw two or three there between 30 October and 11 November 1965. I saw a single individual near Westmoreland, Imperial County, on 23 and 31 January 1965.

It would now appear that small numbers of Chestnut-collared Longspurs occur in California during the fall and winter, and it should not be considered casual as stated in the A.O.U. Checklist (1957).

Plectrophenax nivalis. Snow Bunting. On 25 November 1960 I saw a single bird on the Lower Klamath Wildlife Refuge, Siskiyou County, feeding with a flock of Lapland Longspurs in a stubble field. On 22 December 1965 I collected an adult female (no. 35513, SDNHM) near Tulelake, Siskiyou County; it was feeding with Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs in a cultivated field. Paul DeBenedictis, Marie Mans, and I were able to study a single individual on the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge, Glenn County, on 4 November 1961; the bird was alone and was feeding along the edge of a gravel road. The only prior specimen record for California is that of one collected at Humboldt Bay, Humboldt County, on 25 November 1945 (Sholes, Condor, 48:93, 1946). The species is known to occur in eastern Oregon (Gabrielson and Jewett, Birds of Oregon, 1940), and should occasionally occur in northeastern California.—GUY MCCASKIE, P.O. Box 241, Tahoe City, California, 10 January 1966.

Notes on the Distribution of *Conothraupis speculigera* (Gould).—Among the many enigmas of neotropical ornithology is the apparently anomalous distribution of the Black and White Tanager, *Conothraupis speculigera* (Gould). From the time specimens were first obtained in 1852 until 1966 approximately 30 examples of this species appear to have been taken, 11 of which were collected in 1933 at Samne, in the Departamento de La Libertad, Perú, by Carriker