

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

The Occurrence of Certain Flycatchers in California.—In California the following species of flycatchers have been considered casual or accidental.

Tyrannus tyrannus. Eastern Kingbird. In 1944 this species was thought to breed along the eastern border of California, but all the records have been of single individuals; in addition three fall records were cited for coastal southern California (Grinnell and Miller, Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 27, 1944:249). Several records of migrants have since been published. One was collected near Bloomington, San Bernardino County, on 25 August 1947 (Hanna and Cardiff, Condor, 50:46, 1948). Published sight records in Audubon Field Notes include three fall records from eastern California (10:58, 1956; 18:74, 1964; 19:46, 1965), a spring and a fall record from the Sacramento Valley (17:431, 1963; 19:74, 1965), and at least 12 fall records from along the coast between Marin and San Diego counties (3:31, 1947; 13:67, 1959; 15:431, 1961; 16:71, 75, 1962; 17:69, 1963; 18:69, 74, 533, 1964; 19:180, 1965).

We have had little success in finding this species in eastern California in the summer. DeBenedictis saw a single bird at the north end of Honey Lake, Lassen County, on 4 July 1964. McCaskie and DeBenedictis observed a lone singing, displaying bird at Deep Springs, Inyo County, on 15 July 1962, and McCaskie found two birds at the same location on 14 July 1963. These records are probably of wandering, nonbreeding individuals. Until definite evidence is obtained, the Eastern Kingbird should not be considered a breeding species in California.

Along the coast we have the following records. DeBenedictis and many others saw one near Alameda, Alameda County, on 23 September 1961. Stallcup saw one near Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County, on 27 August 1965. One was at Dana Point, Orange County, between 15 and 28 September 1964, and was seen on three occasions by McCaskie. McCaskie and Stallcup collected one near Carlsbad, San Diego County, on 29 August 1961; it was not saved as a specimen but was assumed to be an adult because it had an extensive bright-orange crown. On 28 September 1963 McCaskie collected an immature female (San Diego Natural History Museum No. 30767) at Solana Beach, San Diego County; he saw one there on 27 August 1964, and another that remained there between 25 September and 2 October 1964. McCaskie saw one near Imperial Beach, San Diego County, on 3 October 1965.

Clearly this species occurs regularly along the coast of California as a rare fall migrant and should not be considered casual there.

Tyrannus crassirostris. Thick-billed Kingbird. McCaskie carefully studied an individual near Imperial Beach, San Diego County, on 19 October 1965; attempts were made to collect it the following day, but it was gone. There is no previous record of this species in California. However, several other species of northwestern México, including the following one, now appear to wander regularly north along the coast in the fall, and the occurrence of the Thick-billed Kingbird is not entirely unexpected. The occurrence of this species in California has been recently photographically substantiated.

Tyrannus melancholicus. Tropical Kingbird. This species was not detected in California until 1947 but has since proved to be a regular northward wanderer along the coast. Single birds have been collected along the coast during the late autumn in Humboldt (Mall, Condor, 58:163, 1956), Marin (Cogswell, Condor, 54:117, 1952), and Alameda (Russell, Condor, 50:90, 1948) counties, and 11 others were seen in Sonoma and San Mateo (McLean, Condor, 60:72, 1958), Monterey (Legg, Condor, 55:219, 1953), and San Diego (McCaskie and Banks, Auk, 81:356, 1964) counties. In addition there are at least 15 autumn sight records from Humboldt to San Diego counties reported in Audubon Field Notes (8:40, 1954; 9:53, 1955; 14:338, 1960; 17:65, 355, 1963; 18:75, 383, 1964; 19:74, 80, 1965). The only reports away from the coast are from the lower Colorado River, where the Tropical Kingbird has been noted as far north as the vicinity of Topoc, Arizona (Phillips, Marshall, and Monson, The Birds of Arizona, 1964:79).

We have seen this species on many occasions. McCaskie and Stallcup saw three on Point Reyes, Marin County, on 22 October 1960, and Stallcup and DeBenedictis saw three there between 18 and 25 October 1962, one of which Stallcup banded on 25 October. Stallcup saw one on Point

Bolinas, Marin County, on 16 October 1964, another on Point Bonita, Marin County, on 30 October 1964, and another in Alameda, Alameda County, on 18 September 1963. McCaskie and DeBenedictis saw one at Dana Point, Orange County, on 11 October 1964. In San Diego County, McCaskie collected an immature male (SDNHM No. 30768) at Solana Beach, saw one at Point Loma on 1 November 1963, another in National City on 23 November 1963, five near Imperial Beach between 25 September and 10 October 1964, and six there between 3 October and 11 December 1965. Our specimen, like all the earlier ones, is referable to the west Mexican race, *occidentalis*.

Birds recorded in December have been considered very late fall stragglers. However, a single individual remained on Bay Farm Island, Alameda County, between 27 November 1962 and 4 May 1963. It was seen by many observers, including Stallcup and DeBenedictis during its stay, and demonstrates that the species can survive a California winter.

This species is presently considered "casual" in California (A.O.U. Check-list, fifth ed., 1957: 334), and its tendency to move northward in the fall has been pointed out previously (Cogswell, *op. cit.*). Clearly the magnitude of this movement has been underestimated, and the probability of additional winter occurrences is not remote.

Muscivora forficata. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. By 1944 there were one June and three fall records of this species, all from southern California (Grinnell and Miller, *op. cit.*:251). Since then single individuals have been collected by J. Hartley at Ferndale, Humboldt County, on 1 November 1957 (California Academy of Sciences No. 60368) and by R. H. Wauer in Death Valley, Inyo County, on 3 May 1962 (Wauer, *Great Basin Nat.*, 23:165, 1963). Others have been reported from La Mirada, Los Angeles County, during the winter months of 1947 and 1948 (Hall, *Condor*, 49: 132, 1947 and Cogswell, *Audubon Field Notes*, 2:150, 1948) and near Indio, Riverside County, on 25 October 1948 (Tinkham, *Condor*, 51:99, 1949). In addition there are two June and two late-fall sight records reported in *Audubon Field Notes* (3:252, 1949; 10:52, 407, 1956; 11:62, 1957).

McCaskie collected an immature male (SDNHM No. 30769) at Solana Beach, San Diego County, on 22 November 1963, and saw another individual repeatedly between 22 February and 3 April 1965 near Imperial Beach, San Diego County. The latter individual often fed on the ground, catching insects in the grass, and was seen to regurgitate pellets composed of the hard parts of the insects it caught.

This species has now been recorded eight times during the late fall, three times in the winter, and three times in the late spring. Its continued appearance in small numbers can be expected.

Sayornis phoebe. Eastern Phoebe. Two winter specimens were known from California by 1944 (Grinnell and Miller, *op. cit.*:252). Since then one was collected near Shandon, San Luis Obispo County, on 3 December 1952 (Munro, *Condor*, 56:108, 1954), and it has been seen twice in San Diego County in the late fall and early winter (Beemer, *Condor*, 52:274, 1950; McCaskie and Banks, *op. cit.*:358). In addition there are 12 sight records recorded in *Audubon Field Notes* (1:165, 1947; 6:214, 1952; 11:62, 1957; 12:60, 1958; 13:407, 1959; 15:440, 1961; 16:75, 448, 1962; 18:75, 487, 1964; 19:80, 1965) on dates between 19 September and 16 May.

We saw an individual that remained in Inverness, Marin County, between 27 December 1961 and 14 January 1962. A bird found and photographed near Carmel by R. L. Branson on 22 December 1963 was seen several times by McCaskie and Stallcup during its stay through February 1964; an individual was seen by McCaskie and DeBenedictis at the same place on 28 December 1964. Stallcup saw one at Thousand Palms Oasis, Riverside County, on 28 December 1963. An individual found by Ted Chandik near El Toro, Orange County, on 29 December 1963 was seen by McCaskie on 30 December; it remained for about a week. McCaskie saw one near Imperial Beach, San Diego County, on 3 December 1965.

This species has been considered "accidental" in the southwestern United States. It is now called a rare transient and winter visitor in Arizona (Phillips, Marshall, and Monson, *op. cit.*:83) and the numerous records for California indicate a similar status there as well.—R. GUY McCASKIE, *Tahoe City, California*, RICHARD STALLCUP, *Oakland, California*, and PAUL DEBENEDICTIS, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, 19 January 1966*.