

- Jan 17 (GSS, H & PB) and another was near Imperial Beach Dec. 20 - Jan. 11 (GMCC). The only Wilson's Warblers reported were one near Santa Barbara Jan. 18 (PL) and another in Long Beach all winter (SW). Two or three Am. Redstarts were present around Finney L., Imperial Co., all winter; this species regularly winters in this area in small numbers.

**ORIOLES, BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS** — A ♂ Orchard Oriole was at a feeder in Northridge, Los Angeles Co., Jan. 29 (GSS); one or two of these birds are found in s. California every winter. Amazing was the presence of up to five Scott's Orioles in Morongo Valley Dec 28 - Mar. 9 (SC, MP, GSS); this is the rarest oriole to be found in California during the winter. A "Baltimore" Oriole was in San Diego Dec. 6-13 (JD) and 12 "Bullock's" Orioles were found along the coast between Santa Barbara and San Diego during the period. Six Rusty Blackbirds on Santa Catalina I. Jan. 2-4 (LJ) were unprecedented; one at Kelso, San Bernardino Co., Mar. 25-26 (VR, KHB) was undoubtedly a spring migrant moving through the area. Two Great-tailed Grackles at Ramer L., Mar. 22 (HK) were the only ones found away from the Colorado R. valley. Nine W. Tanagers along the coast between Los Angeles and San Diego during the winter were about average; one near Bishop Dec. 13 (LSM) was exceptionally late for this locality. A Summer Tanager was in Goleta Jan. 6 (PL, JD), another was in Northridge Feb. 15 (GSS), and a third was in San Diego Dec 20 - Jan. 2 (JD); small numbers regularly winter in s. California.

**FINCHES** — A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was in San Diego Dec. 6 (JD) and another was in Arcadia Dec. 23 (GSS); this species is found virtually every winter in s. California and is more likely than the Black-headed Grosbeak. A Black-headed Grosbeak in Big Pine Dec. 14 (TH) was exceptional for that locality. Most interesting was an Indigo Bunting in Goleta Feb. 17 (PL) and another at San Marcos, San Diego Co. Mar. 9 (JK); there are few winter records indeed. A flock of 15-30 Cassin's Finches in the Laguna Mts of San Diego Co. during March (JK, JD) and one in the Granite Mts. of e. San Bernardino Co. Mar. 24 (VR) were of interest locality-wise. Pine Siskins were more numerous than usual along the coast and in the coastal lowlands. Up to 200 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were present in Westguard Pass of the White Mts., Inyo Co., throughout the winter (TH); this species clearly occurs regularly as this locality. A few Red Crossbills moved into the area as evidenced by two near Arcadia Jan. 3 (GSS), two on the Palos Verdes Pen. Mar. 16 (GSS) one in Rialto Dec. 16 (SC) and a flock of ten in the Cuyamaca Mts., Mar. 21 (JD, VR).

**SPARROWS, LONGSPURS** — A few Green-tailed Towhees were found in the southern portion of the Region as expected but one in the New York Mts. of e. San Bernardino Co., Jan. 7 (VR, EW) was unusual. Two Lark Buntings near Irvine, Orange Co., Jan. 12 (MP) were the only ones reported. Up to three Sharp-tailed Sparrows were present on Newport Bay Dec. 1 - Mar. 14 (GSS, MP *et al.*). "Slate-colored" Juncos appeared to be commoner than usual among flocks of Dark-eyed Juncos and a "Pink-sided" Junco was seen in Niland, Imperial Co., Jan. 25 (VR). Seven Gray-headed Juncos were

reported including one in the New York Mts. Dec 3 (VR). A Tree Sparrow remained in San Diego Dec 13-21 (JD); this is unusually far south for this species. A Clay-colored Sparrow, very rare in California during the winter, was in Santa Barbara Nov. 5 - Feb. 13 (PL, LB) and another was photographed at Newport Bay Jan 2 (DH). A Harris' Sparrow remained in Goleta all winter (PL), one was in Claremont Jan. 5 (DG) and at least 12 were seen in Inyo County during the period. White-throated Sparrows appeared to be present in average numbers with 15 individuals reported. Single Swamp Sparrows were in Goleta Dec. 15 - Feb. 18 (PL), Riverside Dec. 6-21 (VR, SC), Anaheim Feb. 17 - Mar. 1 (FEB, HK) and at F.C.R. Mar. 14 (VR); one or two are reported every winter.

A McCown's Longspur was still present near Imperial Beach Dec. 6 (JD) and two were found near Westmorland, Imperial Co., Jan. 25 (JD, VR). A Lapland Longspur was at F.C.R. Jan. 17 (LSM), two were at Dominguez Hills, Los Angeles Co., Jan. 1 - Feb. 10 (FH, GSS), two more were found near Newport Jan. 13 (LJ) and up to eight were noted around Westmorland Jan 25-Feb. 7 (JD, VR); a few of these birds are found in the Region every winter.

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## Siskin plumages

To the Editor:

I noted the SA in *American Birds* (28:644, 1974) relative to the supposed European Siskin reported from Wisconsin. The description indicated that it was probably a male. What is not apparently generally known is that, although the Pine Siskin usually has hen-feathered males, once in a very long time it produces a cock-feathered male. Such a bird might well be taken for a European Siskin or for a Pine Siskin-goldfinch hybrid. The only specimen I have ever seen is in the collection at the Agassiz Museum, in Cambridge, Mass. It was vetted by Ernst Mayr.

Charles H. Blake