

(DGY) and Lost L., *Fresno*, Dec. 27 (*fide* KH) were C.V. rarities. A Magnolia Warbler in Soquel, *Santa Cruz*, Dec. 16–17 (†DLSu) was only the Region's 3rd or 4th for the period. A Black-throated Blue Warbler in S.F. Dec. 28–29 (M. Healy) may have been a late migrant, but one at Clear L., Jan. 3–Feb. 1 (B Atkins, †JRW, m.ob) was one of few to truly winter. The Region's 3rd wintering **Black-throated Green Warbler** returned for its 2nd season to Eureka, *Humboldt*, Dec. 17 (*fide* JCS). The Com. Yellowthroat at MacKerricher S.P., Dec. 21 (DT) furnished one of few winter records for *Mendocino*. The Region's first wintering **Hooded Warbler** was in Capitola, *Santa Cruz*, Nov. 15–Mar. 5 (†DLSu, RMrr, SBT). A Wilson's Warbler in Sacramento Dec. 17 (DSh) was very rare for the interior.

Just one Summer Tanager in Palo Alto, *Santa Clara/San Mateo*, Feb. 14–Mar. 5 (DSt, m.ob) was well below the recent winter average, but 11 W. Tanagers in the c. state Dec. 7–Feb. 10, with five after Jan. 1, was almost invasionary. Our lone Rose-breasted Grosbeak wintered in Menlo Park, *San Mateo*, Dec. 24–Feb. 26 (P. Armer, LCh), but an above-average five Black-headed Grosbeaks plus one *Pheucticus* species were along the c. coast Dec. 17–Feb. 16. A Green-tailed Towhee in San Jose Jan. 29+ (SCR, m.ob.) returned for its 2nd winter; true overwintering individuals are few.

There were only 2 Am. Tree Sparrow reports: ≤two at Fall River, *Shasta*, Dec. 26–Feb. 6 (*fide* BY), and one in Watsonville, *Santa Cruz*, Jan. 1 (†DLSu). After fall's record-breaking total, just two Clay-colored Sparrows came as a surprise: Bolinas, *Marin*, Dec. 11–13 (KH) and Rancho San Gregorio, *San Mateo*, Dec. 23 (RSTh). The Lark Sparrow near Yreka, *Siskiyou*, Jan. 2 (JCR) had little Regional winter precedent in our mountain region. Like recent winter Grasshopper Sparrow sightings, one was along the c. coast at Rancho San Gregorio Dec. 23 (RSTh). However, one on Mt. Hamilton, *Santa Clara*, Dec. 21 (†DES *et al.*) was exceptional in the Diablo Range during winter. A Lincoln's Sparrow at Hot Cr. Fish Hatchery, *Mono*, (7100 ft) Feb. 3 (DS) was exceptionally high for winter. Longspurs again wintered e. of San Jose on Sierra Rd., *Santa Clara*: one Lapland Dec. 11–Jan. 17 (MJM, †SCR, m.ob.) and ≤four Chestnut-Collareds Nov. 1–Feb. 18 (MJM, †SCR, m.ob.).

It was a banner season for orioles. Single Orchards were at Sunset S.B., *Santa Cruz*, Jan. 3 (†DLSu) and S.F. Jan. 15–Feb. 12 (MMcC). Hoodeds were at Live Oak, *Santa Cruz*, to Jan. 20 (A. Robinson, †DSLu) and Half Moon Bay Dec. 17–25 (AME, RSTh). An unprecedented 24 "Bullock's" N. Orioles were found coastally S.F. to *Santa Cruz* all

season. In *Mono* a House Finch at Tom's Place Dec. 9–Jan. 26 (CDHa) and three more in Bridgeport (6500 ft) Feb. 2 (DS), were very rare in winter at these Great Basin locales—and even more exceptional at these high elevations.

Corrigendum:

Credit for the **Light-mantled Sooty Albatross** should have read (RS, †JM, m.ob.).

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Southern Pacific Coast Region

GUY MCCASKIE

This was an exceptionally wet season, especially so for the coastal areas of *Los Angeles* and northward, with most of the rain falling in January and February.

This winter was marked by a good showing of Varied Thrushes, Cedar Waxwings, and Pine Siskins throughout most of the Region; more than the expected number of Lewis' Woodpeckers and Mountain Bluebirds in the western part of the Region; fair numbers of Mountain Chickadees in the coastal lowlands, but a complete absence of Red-breasted Nuthatches away from known breeding localities. Outstanding rarities included a cooperative Lesser Black-backed Gull, what appears to be California's first Slaty-backed Gull, and the second Mourning Warbler ever to winter in North America.

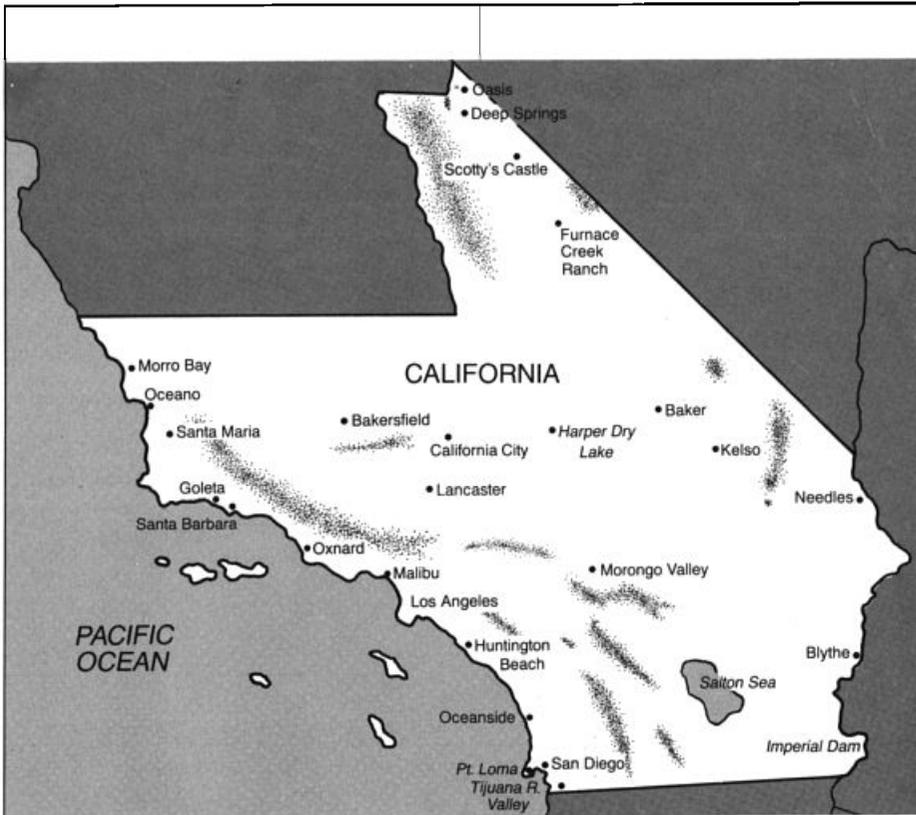
Abbreviations: N.E.S.S. (*north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.*); S.B.C.M. (*San Bernardino County Museum*); S.E.S.S. (*south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.*). As virtually all rarities in s. California are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are normally included. Reports of extreme rarities submitted without documentation are not published.

Grebes to Storks

A Red-necked Grebe, rare anywhere in S. California, was on Morro Bay, *San Luis Obispo*, Feb. 26–27 (JLR). A Buller's Shearwater seen from La Jolla, *San Diego*, Jan. 21 (ADeB, PAG) is one of a very few to be found in California waters in winter, and was unusually close to shore.

An imm. Brown Booby reported on Ship Rock at Santa Catalina I., Dec. 18 (HLJ) added another sighting to the increasing number of records from along the coast.

A Tricolored Heron in Chula Vista, *San Diego*, Dec. 6–17 (BM) and another in Seal Beach, *Orange*, Nov. 28–Dec. 3 (JSB, JEP) were the only two found along the coast this winter. The ad. Reddish Egret found spending its 13th winter around s. San Diego Bay Aug. 28 remained through at least Dec. 23



(ChH); the immature found around the mouth of the San Diego R., Nov. 5 was still present at the end of the period (REW), and another immature was in Chula Vista Dec. 18–23 (TC, ChH). The Yellow-crowned Night-Heron that has frequented the coast of *San Diego* between La Jolla and San Elijo Lagoon since October 1981 was present with nesting Black-crowned Night-Herons in La Jolla Feb. 26+ (PA), and must now be at least 16 years old. An imm. Roseate Spoonbill present near Seeley, *Imperial*, Dec. 27–30 (JK, RH) was the first to be found in California since September 1983, and only the 3rd to occur in winter. At least one Wood Stork was still at the Wild Animal Park near Escondido, *San Diego*, Dec. 10 (MBS), where two joined captive storks at least 4 years ago.

Ducks to Raptors

About 30 Eur. Wigeon scattered throughout the Region was an average number for winter. A ♂ Tufted Duck at Oso Flaco L., *San Luis Obispo*, Dec. 26–Feb. 26 (JSR) was the same bird present here last winter. A ♂ Harlequin Duck, rare anywhere in S. California, was near Seal Beach Jan. 3–6 (MSM). An Oldsquaw near L. Isabella, *Kern*, Dec. 27–28 (JS) and another at S.E.S.S., Dec. 21 (CIB) were inland where unusual; slightly more than the usual small numbers of Oldsquaws were along the coast, with five together in Playa del Rey, *Los Angeles*, Dec. 27 (MSM, KL) being a large number for a single location anywhere in S. California. Re-

ports of scoters away from the coast included a Black Scoter at N.E.S.S., Dec. 31 (C-McG); two Surf Scoters at N.E.S.S., Dec. 31 (CMcG) and three more at S.E.S.S., Jan. 30 (BF, LT); and a White-winged Scoter at N.E.S.S., Dec. 9 (CMcG) and another on Silverwood L., *San Bernardino*, Feb. 11–18 (SJM, CMcG). A ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye on L. Cachuma, *Santa Barbara*, Nov. 25–Jan. 14 (CP) was the same bird photographed there last winter.

Up to three White-tailed Kites around Independence Dec. 31+ (BT, A&LK) are the first to be found in the Owens Valley, *Inyo*, in 10 years. A N. Goshawk near Bishop, *Inyo*, Dec. 28 (T&JH) was in an area where small numbers probably occur every winter.

Three–four Swainson's Hawks were seen in the Imperial Valley this winter, with two near El Centro Dec. 11 (PAG, MAP), one there Jan. 28 (GMcC), and another near S.E.S.S., Jan. 29 (RH), suggesting they remained through the period; one along the coast at Point Mugu, *Ventura*, Feb. 26 (BL) had either wintered locally, or was an exceptionally early spring migrant. At least seven Zone-tailed Hawks were reported: one found in Goleta, *Santa Barbara*, Aug. 24 remaining through at least Jan. 16 (ZL); one found around Ojai, *Ventura*, Aug. 28 remaining through Feb. 17 (BS); another over *Ventura* Dec. 17–Mar. 8 (DMA); one over nearby Santa Paula Mar. 10 (DDJ) that could have been either the Ojai or the *Ventura* bird; one near Mission Viejo, *Orange*, Dec. 17–Feb. 24 (DRW, DLP); another near

O'Neill Park, *Orange*, Dec. 18 (GLT); one near Ramona, *San Diego*, Feb. 8–9 (PS); and the 7th at Santee Feb. 1–26 (D&MH). Since "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawks are rare in California, the presence of one near Brawley Dec. 10–Feb. 11 (KLG), another near Redlands, *San Bernardino*, Dec. 18+ (EAC) for its 2nd winter, and a third near Needles Jan. 1 (MAP), where one has been present during the past 2 winters, are of note. Although Rough-legged Hawks were quite scarce this winter, single individuals pushed as far s. as L. Cuyamaca, *San Diego*, Dec. 2–Jan. 17 (MBS, PAG) and near El Centro Dec. 11 (MAP). Most interesting was an ad. Crested Caracara in Chula Vista, *San Diego*, Feb. 9 (RC, DWA); previous reports of this species in California have been considered possible escapees, but the same factors forcing Harris' Hawks northward could have also forced this bird north.

SA An unprecedented number of Harris' Hawks were present in the s. part of the Region this winter, though local residents revealed at least some of these had been present since much earlier in the year. The largest number at one location was eight around Borrego Springs, *San Diego*, Sept. 13+ (BT), though three had apparently been in this area since at least Apr. 15 (John Ruddley). As many as five were photographed near Boulevard, *San Diego*, between June–November (L. Mauris), though only one could found there Dec. 12–20 (PU). In the s.e. part of the Region two–three were near Westmorland, *Imperial*, Dec. 7–18 (RH), another was elsewhere at S.E.S.S., Feb. 7 (M.Pryor), one was at N.E.S.S., Dec. 31–Jan. 29 (SJM) and ≤five were near Victorville, *San Bernardino*, Jan. 2–21 (RMcK, MSM). Along the coast two remained together in Santee, *San Diego*, Nov. 26+ (DSe), and what appeared to be an escaped/released captive bird was in Irvine, *Orange*, Dec. 10–12 (BED). Harris' Hawks were formerly resident along the Colorado R. and in the Imperial Valley, with 2 records of stragglers in coastal *San Diego*, but disappeared from the state in the early 1960s. A more recent attempt to reestablish this species along the Colorado R. was apparently terminated about 5 years ago. Recent sightings in the s.e. portion of the Region have been attributed to these released birds and/or escaped/released captive birds. However, the numbers this winter suggest an influx from the south, especially so when treated along with at least 10 more in extreme n. Baja California since last summer (TEW, K&CR).



Harris's Hawk at Borrego Springs, California, January 13, 1995. One of eight birds frequenting this area during the season. Photograph/Don Roberson.

Plovers to Skimmers

Wintering Pacific Golden-Plovers included two near Santa Maria, *Santa Barbara*, Jan. 1 (JMC), two more on nearby n. Vandenberg A.F.B., Dec. 18 (AA), ≤three around Point Mugu Jan. 1–Mar. 4 (DDJ), and ≤11 at Seal Beach through the period (DRW). The only Mt. Plovers found along the coast were 13 on n. Vandenberg A.F.B., Dec. 18 (AA) and ≤four around Point Mugu Jan. 1–21 (DDJ); this species is now very rare along the coast. Six Black Oystercatchers in Seal Beach Dec. 4 (DG) was an unexpected number for an area where few have been found. A Solitary Sandpiper in Torrance, *Los Angeles*, Dec. 27 (DMo) was considered the same bird present here each of the past 3 winters, and another photographed in Santee Feb. 8–14 (JZ, BRZ) was also believed to be wintering locally. Six Ruddy Turnstones along the shore of the Salton Sea near Salton City, *Imperial*, Dec. 4 (DSh) were probably attempting to winter on this inland body of water. A count of 106 Sanderlings made on the Salton Sea during a Point Reyes Bird Observatory Pacific Flyway Project shorebird survey Dec. 1–9 (DSh, CH) was a large number for this inland body of water at this time of the year, though much smaller numbers are present every winter. What was believed to be a basic-plumage Curlew Sandpiper was carefully studied with other shorebirds congregated at Upper Newport Bay Jan. 2 (EG&JHS), but was never relocated by the season's end. A Stilt Sandpiper, most unusual anywhere in California away from S.E.S.S. in winter, was in Irvine Jan. 17–21 (JEP, BED). A Ruff photographed near Port Hueneme, *Ventura*,



Female Ruff near Point Mugu, California, February 25, 1995. Photograph/Don DesJardin.



Returning for its third winter was this adult Com. Black-headed Gull in Santa Barbara, California, December 30, 1994. Photograph/Don DesJardin.

Feb. 25–28 (DDJ) was believed to be the same female seen here Nov. 12; another was photographed in the same area Mar. 12 (DDJ), and a female seen at S.E.S.S., Jan. 29 (RH) could have been the same bird present there July 23–Sept. 10.

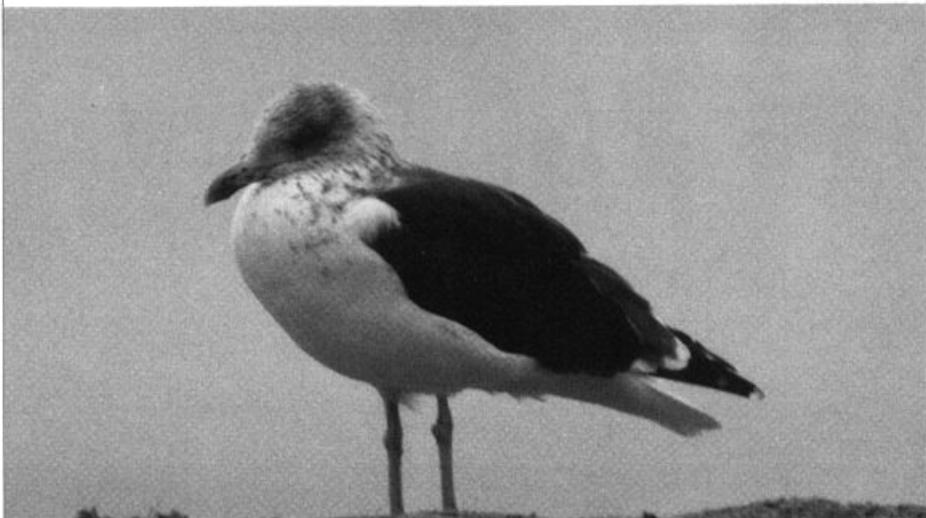
Seven Laughing Gulls near Imperial, Imperial, Dec. 11 (MAP) were either very late stragglers or wintering locally; an adult in San Diego Feb. 24 (ADeB) was on the coast, where rare. A Franklin's Gull in Ventura Dec. 17–24 (TW) and another remaining around Arvin, Kern, from November–Jan. 2 (JCW) were probably late fall stragglers, but it is more difficult to put a "label" on the one seen flying along the coast in Huntington Beach, Orange, Jan. 12 (JEP). A Com. Black-headed Gull photographed in Santa Barbara Dec. 30–Feb. 1 (DDJ, JEL) was the same bird present here during the last 2 winters, and a first-winter bird was photographed at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, Santa Barbara, Jan. 5–10 (BH); there are now more than 25 records of this species in California. Up to three Mew Gulls around Arvin Nov. 13–Jan. 2 (JCW) and another at S.E.S.S., Feb. 20 (JEP) were far inland, where rare. An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull well pho-

tographed at Dana Point, Orange, Dec. 27–Jan. 29 (JEP, LRH) was the 7th to be found in California, and the 3rd along the coast. What appears to be a 2nd-winter Slaty-backed Gull was photographed in Ventura Feb. 5 (DDJ); this species has been found in British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon to our north, but not

previously in California, though considered long overdue. Up to two Glaucous-winged Gulls around Arvin Nov. 13–Feb. 19 (JCW) were in an area where unrecorded prior to this winter; this species, and Thayer's Gulls, are regular in very small numbers, with Herring Gulls as far inland as the w. extreme of *San Bernardino* and *Riverside*, and around the Salton Sea, so should be looked for elsewhere inland where numbers of Herring Gulls are present. The only Glaucous Gull this winter was one in Imperial Beach, *San Diego*, Jan. 8–11 (GMcC). A very late Sabine's Gull was in Oxnard, *Ventura*, Dec. 15 (JFr) The last Elegant Tern of the fall was in Santa Barbara on the late date of Dec. 4 (G&JH). Four Black Skimmers in Pismo Beach, *San Luis Obispo*, Jan. 25 (PM) and two more on Morro Bay Dec. 16 (TME) were unusually far north for this time of the year.

Doves to Woodpeckers

A White-winged Dove in Goleta Jan. 15–19 (PEL) and another in Santee Feb. 14 (BC) were along the coast, where unexpected in winter; the now expected small numbers remained all winter at oases along the e. extreme of the Colorado Desert, *San Diego*. At least two Com. Ground-Doves were still present around Nipomo, *San Luis Obispo*, Feb. 16 (PAW), where found in March 1994; this is the n.w. extreme of this species' expanding range in California. Remarkable was a Flammulated check Owl found freshly dead on a road near Big Bear L. in the San Bernardino Mts., Dec. 17 (RMcK, *S.B.C.M.) since this species is generally believed to leave the United States in winter. The presence of active, rather than torpid, Com. Poorwills in Ridgecrest Dec. 8 & 22 (DVB) probably indicate con-



Adult Lesser Black-backed Gull at Dana Point, California, December 28, 1994. Seventh state record. Photograph/Arnold Small.



This gull in second-winter plumage, photographed February 5, 1995, in Ventura, California, was evidently a Slaty-backed Gull. If confirmed, this would provide a first state record. Photograph/Don DesJardin.

ditions were milder than normal, thus enabling it to hunt. A Lesser Nighthawk in Brawley, *Imperial*, Feb. 16 (CIB) was in an area where small numbers may prove to winter regularly.

Seventy Vaux's Swifts near Glendale, *Los Angeles*, Jan. 1 (KLG) and 50 over downtown Los Angeles Feb. 15 (TM) were large numbers for wintering flocks. The ♂ Broad-billed Hummingbird that returned for its 2nd winter to Camarillo, *Ventura*, Oct. 9 remained through at least Feb. 5 (J&HW) and a female was present in Goleta Dec. 25–Jan. 28 (RPH). A Rufous Hummingbird in San Diego Jan. 18–20 (REW) was believed to have wintered locally. As more observers become familiar with the field marks of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, more of these birds are being correctly identified, including single birds in Santa Barbara Nov. 5–Mar. 22 (CaH) and Dec. 31 (RAH) and a third in La Marada, *Los Angeles*, Jan. 13+ (LS). A Williamson's Sapsucker in Sylmar, *Los Angeles*, Feb. 5 (CoB) was in the coastal lowlands, where rare.

Flycatchers to Vireos

A Greater Pewee near Saticoy Jan. 21–Feb. 21 (JT) was the first to be found in *Ventura*, and another in San Diego Jan. 7–21 (SW, TC) was in Balboa Park where one–two have been found each winter since the winter of 1987–1988. A Least Flycatcher was in Irvine, *Orange*, Dec. 24–Jan. 6 (DRW);

an average of slightly less than one a year are found wintering in California nowadays. A Hammond's Flycatcher, also most unusual in winter, was in El Toro, *Orange*, Jan. 27–28 (JEP, DRW). Five Gray Flycatchers were reported, with single birds in Pasadena, *Los Angeles*, Dec. 10–18 (JFi), near Puddingstone Res., *Los Angeles*, Jan. 14 (JFi), near Ontario, *San Bernardino*, Jan. 2 (DG), in Fountain Valley, *Orange*, Dec. 24–Jan. 17 (GLT) and in nearby Fullerton Jan. 24 (JEP). Only two "Western Flycatchers" were reported, with one near Corona, *Riverside*, Dec. 6 (JEP) and the other in Riverside Jan. 3–20 (CMcG). Three E. Phoebes were found, with one at L. Perris, *Riverside*, Dec. 20 (EAC), another near Temecula, *Riverside*, Jan. 14 (WJM) and the 3rd near Borrego Springs Dec. 13 (KBu). A Vermilion Flycatcher in Buellton, *Santa Barbara*, Nov. 1+ (DLA) was unusually far north. A Dusky-capped Flycatcher was in Fountain Valley Jan. 1–Jan. 15 (PS); there are now more than 20 records of this species in California, with many involving wintering individuals. Only two Ash-throated Flycatchers were found, with one along the coast in Mission Viejo Feb. 5–6 (BED) and the other inland in Niland, *Imperial*, Dec. 20 (BED). The only Tropical Kingbirds known to be present this winter were one in Goleta Nov. 9–Jan. 21 (JEL) for its 3rd winter, another near Point Mugu Jan. 22–Feb. 11 (JT) on the coast, and a 3rd

inland near Ontario, *San Bernardino*, Jan. 2–15 (DG, MAP). A W. Kingbird, most unusual in winter, photographed at L. Hodges, *San Diego*, Dec. 5 (MBS, GR) would appear to have been an exceptionally late fall migrant.

A N. Rough-winged Swallow present in Goleta Dec. 21–Jan. 5 (KBr) is believed to be the same bird present here during the past 2 winters, and another in Irvine Jan. 6 (SGM) presumably wintered locally. A Cliff Swallow near McKittrick, *Kern*, Dec. 8 (MOC) and another in Irvine Jan. 22 (GMcC) appeared to be a wintering birds. Up to three Barn Swallows at the Santa Ynez R. mouth Dec. 7–18 (BH), along with one near Seeley, *Imperial*, Jan. 1–2 (CAM), were undoubtedly wintering locally, but individuals seen at scattered localities along the coast after mid-January are all believed to be early spring migrants.

The Chestnut-backed Chickadee found s. of the species' range in Goleta Nov. 19 remained through at least Jan. 15 (GT). A flock of ≤20 Bohemian Waxwings around Bishop, *Inyo*, Dec. 13–17 (BT) was probably associated with the movement that brought numbers to Mono L. just to the north of this location. The only N. Shrikes reported were in the n.e. corner of the Region where regular in small numbers, and included single birds near Big Pine Dec. 26 (T&JH) and Jan. 6 (T&JH), and a 3rd harassing Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches at a

feeder in Aspendell, *Inyo*, Feb. 15 (T&JH).

A Bell's Vireo photographed at S.E.S.S., Jan. 12 (LJE) was the 5th to be found in this general area in winter. At least 17 Solitary Vireos were found this winter, with most along the coast as expected; six of these were identified as the coastal race *cassinii*, eight as the interior race *plumbeous*, and the remaining three not identified to race.

Warblers

A Tennessee Warbler in Goleta Dec. 2 (JEL) was probably a very late fall straggler, but one in San Diego Jan. 18–Feb. 25 (REW) clearly wintered locally. Eighteen Nashville Warblers along the coast was an average number for winter, but one near Seeley Jan. 1 (CAM) is one of only a few found inland in winter. A N. Parula in Anaheim, *Orange*, Mar. 19–26 (TEW) undoubtedly wintered locally. Twenty Yellow Warblers along the coast this winter was slightly less than we have become accustomed to finding. As expected, a few Black-throated Gray Warblers remained along the coast, with 10 reported between San Luis Obispo and San Diego. A Townsend's Warbler at S.E.S.S., Jan. 7 (CMcG) was inland, where most unusual in winter. The only Hermit Warblers reported were one in Los Osos, *San Luis Obispo*, Dec. 15–17 (KAH), another in Huntington Beach Dec. 31 (GLT), and a 3rd in Ocean Beach, *San Diego*, Jan. 6 (GJ) at a location where one has been seen each of the past 4 winters. A ♂ Pine Warbler was in La Marada, *Los Angeles*, Jan. 13+ (LS); more than 45 have now been recorded in California, with at least a dozen of these spending the winter. A Prairie Warbler remaining in Oceano, *San Luis Obispo*, through Dec. 7 (MP) was a very late fall straggler. Palm Warblers were scarcer this winter than one year ago, but included at least 12 along the coast, and one inland near Mount Signal, *Imperial*, Dec. 17 (RAH, MAP, RAE).

Wintering Black-and-white Warblers included one in Los Osos Dec. 11–17 (TME), up to two in Carpinteria, *Santa Barbara*, Oct. 11–Feb. 21 (JEL), another in Huntington Beach Oct. 22–Mar. 16 (BED), four around San Diego (SEF, TC) along the coast, and one returning for its 2nd year inland to Kernville, *Kern*, Dec. 25–31 (SL). Seven Am. Redstarts found wintering along the coast was about as expected. The Worm-eating Warbler that returned to Santa Barbara Oct. 24 remained through at least Mar. 18 (JNB) for its 2nd winter at this locality. The Ovenbird found inland in El Centro Nov. 16 was still present Jan. 17 (KK), and another was on the coast in Santa Ana, *Orange*, Jan. 1–15 (RAH, RAE). The only N. Waterthrushes reported this winter were one in Newport Beach, *Orange*, Jan. 1–28 (DRW, RAE) and

another near Imperial Beach, *San Diego*, Dec. 17 (GMcC). Remarkable was an ad. ♂ Mourning Warbler in Newport Beach Dec. 31–Feb. 25 (BED), since there appears to be only one recorded previous winter occurrence in the United States, that being one in *Los Angeles* during the winter of 1981–1982. A MacGillivray's Warbler, most unusual in winter, was also in Newport Beach Feb. 6–7 (RAE). At least 15 Wilson's Warblers were found along the coast, this being a little less than average for this time of the year. The Painted Redstart that returned to Arroyo Grande, *San Luis Obispo*, Oct. 1 for its 2nd winter remained through at least Dec. 31 (JLD, JS), and the other that returned to Costa Mesa, *Orange*, Sept. 25 for its 3rd winter remained through at least Jan. 15 (JEP).

Tanagers to Finches

The ♂ Hepatic Tanager that returned for its 2nd winter to Santa Barbara was present Nov. 11–Jan. 2 (HPR), and the female that returned for its 2nd winter to Sylmar in November was still present at the end of the period (KLG). Ten Summer Tanagers along the coast was about average for this time of the year, but 30 W. Tanagers in the same area was certainly less than we have become accustomed to. Three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported during December, with one in Oceano Dec. 1 (KJZ) another in Lompoc, *Santa Barbara*, Dec. 15 (JA) and the third in Huntington Beach Dec. 10 (PS); one on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, *Los Angeles*, Dec. 20 (MSM) remained all winter, and another in Costa Mesa Feb. 19 (BED) undoubtedly wintered locally. A Black-headed Grosbeak, rarer in winter than the previous species, was in Ventura Feb. 21 (GH), and another was in Huntington Beach Jan. 26 (JEP).

Single Green-tailed Towhees in Lompoc Dec. 15–16 (JA) and near Santa Barbara Feb. 18 (GT) were unusually far north for this time of the year. An Am. Tree Sparrow, rare in S. California, was in Weldon, *Kern*, Dec. 16–23 (SAL). Three Clay-colored Sparrows were reported, including a late fall migrant near the Santa Ynez R. mouth Dec. 1 (BH), a wintering bird in Goleta Dec. 26–Jan. 15 (RAH), and another in Orange, *Orange*, Oct. 29–Feb. 4 (DRW). "Large-billed" Savannah Sparrows are increasing in numbers as winter visitors to our coastal marshes, with one in Carpinteria, *Santa Barbara*, Dec. 3 (LRB) and two more on Morro Bay through at least Dec. 31 (JSR) being the northernmost; this species arrives at wintering localities along the coast of S. California in late summer and normally departs by the end of February. Up to 16 Grasshopper Sparrows near Granada Hills throughout the winter (RB) was a remarkable number for anywhere in *Los Angeles*, and one in Irvine Jan. 2 (RAH) furnished additional

evidence that this species is resident rather than a summer visitor along the coast of S. California. Eight Sharp-tailed Sparrows were present in coastal marshes this winter, with ≤five on Morro Bay Nov. 1–Dec. 28 (DVB), two–three on Upper Newport Bay from November through at least Jan. 29 (JEP, JSB), and one more in the salt marshes of Chula Vista Dec. 2–17 (GJ, DWA). Swamp Sparrow numbers were down from last winter, with only 12 found along the coast and only three more inland. Thirty-five White-throated Sparrows scattered throughout the Region was slightly less than normal. A Harris' Sparrow near Big Pine Dec. 10 (T&JH), another in Weldon Dec. 23 into February (SAL), and one more at Thousand Palms Oasis, *Riverside*, in mid-December (DB) were the only three to be found.

The McCown's Longspur found near Oxnard Nov. 12 was last seen Jan. 1 (DDJ) and ≤two were seen near Brawley, *Imperial*, Jan. 28–Feb. 3 (CAM, JLD). The only Lapland Longspurs reported were one near Oxnard Dec. 18–Jan. 1 (DDJ), another in this same area Jan. 1–7 (DDJ), a third at nearby Point Mugu Dec. 28 (BL), one more in Irvine Dec. 11 (RAH), two inland near Palmdale, *Los Angeles*, Dec. 17 (NBB), and a sixth near Brawley Feb. 3 (JLD). Up to 30 Chestnut-collared Longspurs near California City, *Kern*, all winter (MTH) and ≤45 near Brawley Jan. 28–Feb. 11 (SEF, KLG) were large numbers for this Region.

A Rusty Blackbird seen in Harbor Park near San Pedro, *Los Angeles*, Feb. 11 (BB) was probably the same bird photographed here in November. The only Orchard Oriole to be found was a female in Newport Beach Jan. 6 (SGM). Single Hooded Orioles, quite rare in winter, were in Ventura Dec. 2 (VK) and Dec. 17 (DMa), another was in San Marino, *Los Angeles*, all winter (KLG), a 4th was in S. San Gabriel, *Los Angeles*, Jan. 31 (MSM), and ≤two were in Huntington Beach Jan. 1–26 (JEP) At least 30 N. Orioles were found along the coast, as expected, including a ♂ "Baltimore" Oriole in Anaheim Mar. 7 (JEP) and another male near Fallbrook, *San Diego*, Jan. 30 (IQ). The only Scott's Orioles found along the coast were ≤two near San Marcos Pass above Santa Barbara Feb. 1–Mar. 30 (SB) and one–two near O'Neill Regional Park in *Orange* Dec. 18–Feb. 6 (GLT), though small numbers were present along the w. edge of the Colorado Desert in *San Diego*, where regular at this time of the year.

A ♀ Black Rosy-Finch with at least 400 Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches in Aspendell Feb. 11–15 (TC, T&JH) was the first to be reported in this Region in nearly 20 years. A flock of 12 Evening Grosbeaks at Hurkey Creek in the San Jacinto Mts., Dec. 18

(MAP) were far south, especially so in a winter when very few were found elsewhere in the Region.

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Hawaiian Islands Region

ROBERT L. PYLE

Mild El Niño conditions prevailed through the winter, with a pool of warm surface water along the equator south of Hawaii and, surprisingly, another pool of warm surface water northwest of the islands. As is normal during El Niño conditions, rainfall during the winter rainy season was below average at many stations, especially on Hawai'i Island, which may lead to drought conditions during the normally drier spring and summer seasons. More significant for winter-visiting migratory birds was the westerly and southwesterly winds replacing the usual northeasterly trade winds during most of January and February. This may have been related indirectly to the greater numbers and species diversity of gulls and ducks visiting the islands.

Abbreviations: H. (*Hawai'i I.*); K. (*Kauai I.*); M. (*Maui I.*); O. (*O'ahu I.*); J.C.N.W.R. (*Jas. Campbell N.W.R., O'ahu*); K.P.N.W.R. (*Kilauea Point N.W.R., Kauai*); N.P.W.-M.A. (*Nu'upia Ponds Wildlife Management Area, O'ahu*).

Albatrosses to Ducks

Single Black-footed Albatrosses were seen flying by Kilauea Pt., K., Dec. 16 and Jan. 3 (CDi). These are seldom reported now around the Main Islands. Laysan Albatrosses laid a record-high 105 eggs at K.P.N.W.R. this winter, compared to 90 last year. A dark-morph N. Fulmar, rarely reported near shore in Hawaii, was seen well offshore from Keahole Pt., H., Jan. 24 (TS). Cattle Egrets, introduced to the Main Islands 35 years ago and now abundant, seem to wander fairly often to the distant islands. This winter five remained at Johnston Atoll (CDe, 900 mi s.w. of Honolulu), ≤seven were seen at Laysan I. (MBo, 950 mi n.w. of Honolulu), and one was at Midway Atoll (NS, 1200 mi n.w. of Honolulu). A group of six Greater White-fronted Geese were at Hanalei N.W.R. from Dec. 9 to at least Jan. 27 (CDi). These are rare stragglers to Hawaii. Twelve Nene goslings (*Endangered*) hatched from 5 nests in and near K.P.N.W.R. this winter, but unfortunately all were lost to predators (CDi), probably a Barn Owl. Predation had not previously been a problem for this group. It was a good year for wintering migratory ducks. Regular winter counts of N. Shovelers at Kealia N.W.R., M., were ≤48 birds, and flocks of ≥20 were reported at Waipi'o Pen., Honouliuli Unit, and Ki'i Ponds, O., at Kaunakakai N.W.R. on Moloka'i, and at Aimakapa Pond, H. Twenty or more N. Pintails were counted at most of these same sites. Ten other regular migrant species were reported at various localities in small numbers of one–ten. Species considered irregular or accidental turned up too: a

