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# Southern Pacific Coast Region

## GUY MCCASKIE

An exciting fall season with a good selection of rarities, and a massive influx of mountain species to the deserts and coast.

Abbreviations: C.L. (*China L. Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme n.e. Kern Co.*); C.S.U.L.B. (*California State University, Long Beach*); E.A.F.B. (*Edwards Air Force Base, s.e. Kern Co.*); F.C.R. (*Furnace Cr. Ranch, Death Valley N.M., Inyo*); H.D.L. (*Harper Dry Lake, n.w. of Barstow, San Bernardino Co.*); I.M.P.S. (*Iron Mt. Pump Station in s.e. San Bernardino Co.*); K.R.P. (*South Fork Kern R. Preserve near Weldon, Kern Co.*); L.A.C.N.H.M. ( $\geq$  Los Angeles County Natural History Museum  $\leq$ ); N.E.S.S. (*north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.*); S.B.M.N.H. (*Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History*); S.B.C.M. (*San Bernardino County Museum*); S.C.R.E. (*Santa Clara R. Estuary near Ventura, Ventura Co.*); S.D.N.H.M. (*San*

*Diego Natural History 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 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 for Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

## Invasion of Mountain Forest Birds

Observers throughout this Region witnessed a massive invasion of mountain forest birds into the deserts e. of the mountains, and the coastal lowlands w. of the mountains, with Clark's Nutcrackers, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Red Crossbills being the most abundant.

Since White-headed Woodpeckers are rare away from areas of normal occurrence, the presence of one flying over barren Kelso Valley, Kern, Sept. 20 (SAL), two in Bakersfield, Kern, during November (JCW), five at scattered locations close to the coast in Santa Barbara Oct. 6–12 with two remaining through the end of the period (G&JH), one in Agoura Hills, Los Angeles, Oct. 12–22 (RW) and Orange's 3rd at Blue Jay campground in the Santa Ana Mts., Oct. 18+ (BED) suggests a significant movement of this normally resident species. However, Lewis' Woodpeckers, with slightly more than average numbers scattered throughout the



Region, was the only other woodpecker that appeared to be on the move.

*Corvids* were clearly moving, with small numbers of Steller's Jays scattered in the lowlands of *Inyo* in November (T&JH) and three or four at desert oases in e. *Kern* between Sept. 23–Oct. 31 (JSe, AW, DMo), and slightly more W. Scrub-Jays (dull colored birds from the interior) than in most falls at desert oases in e. *Kern* during September and October (MTH, JLD). A flock of 120 Pinyon Jays over K.R.P., Oct. 20 (SAL) and 20 near Santa Ynez, *Santa Barbara*, Sept. 6 (CP), along with single birds at scattered high desert oases throughout the e. portion of the Region in September and October, and *Imperial's* 2nd in El Centro Nov. 15–Dec. 5 (RHig), indicated this species was also on the move. Clark's Nutcrackers, however, moved across the high desert and to the coast in exceptional numbers. The earliest in the high deserts were 10 near Walker Pass, *Kern*, Aug. 26 (MHa) and another in nearby Kelso Valley Sept. 6 (SAL), and the earliest on the coast were two near Montecito, *Santa Barbara*, Sept. 15 (LL). In the high deserts numbers peaked during September–October, with such interesting observations as one at >100 ft. near Badwater in Death Valley N.P., Nov. 13 (F&SB), seven flying across open desert near I.M.P.S., Oct. 3 (JLD) and one at Desert Center, *Riverside*, Oct. 20 (CMcG). Numbers peaked a little later along the coast, with one at Cerro Alto Campground near Atascadero Oct. 17 (FL) being the first in *San Luis Obispo* since 1964, 12–15 flying over Topanga Canyon near the coast of *Los Angeles* Oct. 27 (GH), two at Blue Jay Campground in the Santa Ana Mts., Nov. 17 (RD) providing *Orange's* 2nd, and six at Cuyamaca S.P., *San Diego*, Nov. 7 (JK) being a sample of the numerous reports from coastal areas.

Red-breasted Nuthatches swarmed across the deserts and settled in for the winter along the coast in unprecedented numbers. The first were seen in the high deserts in August; within a month >30 a day were being seen at various localities in e. *Kern* (MTH), and by early November impressive numbers (eg. >20 in Brawley's Riverview Cemetery) had reached the Imperial Valley (GMcC) at the s. border of this Region. The first noted along the coast were one on San Nicolas I., Aug. 17–19 (WW), two in *San Luis Obispo* Aug. 25 (SS, JH), and one in La Crescenta, *Los Angeles*, Aug. 30 (KLG); quickly thereafter they were considered numerous and widespread throughout the coastal lowlands from *San Luis Obispo* through *San Diego*, with such numbers as >ten in

Redondo Beach Sept. 7+ (DMa), 20 at Castaic Lagoon Nov. 11 (KLG), 20 in Huntington Beach's Central Park in *Orange* Nov. 11 (BED), ten on Pt. Loma in San Diego Sept. 24 (JWo), and ten on San Nicolas I., Sept. 27–29 (WW).

A few Pygmy Nuthatches also reached the high deserts, where previously virtually unrecorded, with four in e. *Kern* between Aug. 12–Sept. 14 (DMo, MTH) and 12 in Yucca Valley, *San Bernardino*, Oct. 28 (EAC). However, this species was much more conspicuous along the coast, particularly so n. of *Orange*, with such concentrations as 14 in Oceano, *San Luis Obispo*, Sept. 2 (TME) and 10–12 in Tarzana, *Los Angeles*, Aug. 20 (G&LM); most had disappeared by mid-September. Single White-breasted Nuthatches near Cantil, *Kern*, (*tenuissima* Oct. 24; MTH) and in Brawley (*aculeata* Nov. 28; MAP), along with a few noted on the floor of the Antelope Valley in November (KLG), and more than normal numbers on the coastal slope of *Los Angeles*, *Orange*, and *San Diego* could also have been associated with this invasion. In addition, Mt. Chickadees were somewhat more numerous and widespread in the coastal lowlands, and included *San Luis Obispo's* 4th in Shandon Nov. 29 (KJZ).

The most conspicuous species of this fall's invasion was the Red Crossbill, with flocks of 20–60 encountered throughout the Region, suggesting the total number involved was in the thousands. Eight at K.R.P., Aug. 22 (SAL) were the first, but it was not until more than a month later that the majority of these birds moved across the deserts, with such numbers as >50 a day at various localities in e. *Kern* during October (MTH), 60 near Palmdale in the Antelope Valley Nov. 11 (MSM), 30 at Desert Center, *Riverside*, Nov. 3 (MAP), 20 in Brawley Nov. 9+ (GMcC), and nine–ten at Borrego Springs in e. *San Diego* Oct. 31+ (MGa). Along the coast the first was in Goleta, *Santa Barbara*, Oct. 1 (KB), but it was not until the end of October that the masses arrived, and the incursion was variously described as "largest invasion to coastal *San Luis Obispo* in recent years," "more in *Santa Barbara* than experienced in years," "one of the largest invasions ever recorded in the lowlands of *Los Angeles*," "unprecedented numbers in *Orange*," and "all over the place in *San Diego*," with two reaching San Nicolas I., Oct. 25–27 (WW). At the same time, Cassin's Finches were moving, but in far fewer numbers. Better-than-average numbers were in the lowlands of *Inyo* and e. *Kern* during October (T&JH, MTH), but such reports as four at

I.M.P.S., Nov. 3 (MAP), four at Desert Center Nov. 4 (RAE), and two–three in Brawley Nov. 9–10 (GMcC) indicates the movement was widespread. Small numbers also reached the coastal slope, including one along Cuesta Ridge Oct. 27 (GPS) for *San Luis Obispo's* 2nd, "several" in the Santa Ana Mts., Oct. 18–Nov. 10 (BED, RAH) for *Orange's* first, and three on San Nicolas I., Oct. 26–27 (WW). Pine Siskins were widespread over much of the Region, not in large numbers, suggesting they were also involved in this movement.

Evening Grosbeak was another species obviously involved. The first was one at Deep Springs, *Inyo*, Sept. 13 (JLD), but by October small numbers were throughout the lowlands of *Inyo* and e. *Kern*, with reports of single birds at Yucca Valley Oct. 28 (EAC), Nipton, *San Bernardino*, Nov. 10 (EAC), and I.M.P.S., Oct. 5 (MAP) being the southernmost. Along the coast small numbers were present after the first reached Santa Barbara Oct. 20 (HPR); single birds in Morro Bay Oct. 27 (GPS) and La Crescenta, *Los Angeles*, Oct. 22 (KLG), along with two–three in the Santa Ana Mts., Nov. 1–11 (BED, RAE) and ≤eight in Cuyamaca S.P., *San Diego*, Nov. 11+ (PAG) illustrated the numbers present along the coast.

### Loons to Herons

A Red-throated Loon found on a highway in Borrego Springs, *San Diego*, Nov. 22 (RT) was at a most unlikely location. A Laysan Albatross sitting on the water in a cove at Middle Anacapa I., Aug. 20 (JA) may have been exploring potential nesting localities. Six "Cookilaria" over deep water off Pt. Conception, *Santa Barbara*, Oct. 27 (MHe) were most likely Cook's Petrels. Seven Flesh-footed Shearwaters off Pt. Conception Oct. 27 (MHe) was a large number to be seen in S. California waters in a single day. Buller's Shearwater was the commonest *Procellariidae* off Pt. Conception Oct. 27 (MHe) with 1500–3000 seen from the boat, this being one of the largest concentrations reported in S. California. Two recently dead Sooty Shearwaters at N.E.S.S., Aug. 24 (ph. CMcG) had undoubtedly reached this area from the Gulf of California. Two Wilson's Storm-Petrels were reported, with one about 45 mi off San Diego Sept. 8 (GMcC) and the other over Lausen Knoll off *Orange* Sept. 28 (GLT). A Leach's Storm-Petrel found on San Diego Bay Aug. 11 (PU, \* S.D.N.H.M.) represented one of a very few found on shore in S. California. Five Red-billed Tropicbirds w. of the Channel Is., Aug. 31 (MHe, KLG) and another s w

of Santa Rosa I., Sept. 8 (PCC) were over waters where this species is probably regular at this time of the year, but one found dead on a beach in Huntington Beach Oct. 19 (CTC, \* C.S.U.L.B.) is one of a very few found on the coast. An influx of boobies from the Gulf of California into s.e. California brought a Blue-footed Booby, along with 22 Brown Pelicans, to Mystic L. near Lakeview, *Riverside*, Aug. 31 (MAP); one–three to N.E.S.S., Sept. 1–7 (MAP, CAM), with one remaining through Oct. 6 (CMcG); one–two to S.E.S.S., Sept. 1–7 (A&VH, PU), with one remaining through Sept. 21 (CAM), and an imm. Brown Booby to S.E.S.S., Aug. 28 (GMcC, ph LB). An imm. **Red-footed Booby** photographed 12 mi s.s.w. of Santa Barbara Aug. 31 (BKS, CAM) was the 2nd to be found in *Santa Barbara* waters. An ad. Neotropic Cormorant at S.E.S.S., Sept. 1 (MAP) may have been associated with the influx of boobies.

An ad. Little Blue Heron at S.C.R.E., Aug. 28 (BLa) and an immature at Dana Point, *Orange*, Sept. 10–14 (RHin) were the only two reported away from coastal *San Diego*. The only Tricolored Herons to be found were an immature flying N past Newport Beach, *Orange*, Aug. 11 (BED), an immature along the Santa Ana R. in Huntington Beach Aug. 28–Sept. 8 (JEP), and a 3rd in Port Hueneme, *Ventura*, Sept. 13–Oct. 2 (LO'N). The Reddish Egret with a slightly deformed bill returned to Imperial Beach, *San Diego*, Oct. 13+ (BM) for its 15th winter, and an immature was at Bolsa Chica, *Orange*, Sept. 14–Oct. 20 (RBa).

### Swans to Rails

Two Tundra Swans on Tinemaha Res. near Big Pine, *Inyo*, Oct. 22 (T&JH) were early for S. California, and another at F.C.R., Nov. 2–4 (GMcC) was at an unusual locality. A Brant on Tinemaha Res., Oct. 2 (T&JH) was the last of the five that spent most of the summer at that inland location. A ♂ Eur. Wigeon on Morro Bay, *San Luis Obispo*, Sept. 30 (GPS) and another in California City, *Kern*, Oct. 5–6 (JLD) were the earliest of the nearly 15 to be found this fall. The Tufted Duck found summering near Lancaster, *Los Angeles*, was still present Aug. 18 (KLG); a female in Saticoy, *Ventura*, Nov. 28+ (STu) was the only one found this fall. A Surf Scoter found dead on a highway near Weldon, *Kern*, Oct. 20 (BR) and a White-winged Scoter in Big Pine Nov. 18 (T&JH) were inland, where rare. A White-tailed Kite at F.C.R., Nov. 4 (MJS) was the first to be seen at this well-worked location. Three N Goshawks were seen passing over a rap-

tor monitoring site near Weldon between Sept. 23 and the end of October (SeR), an adult was seen near San Marcos Pass, *Santa Barbara*, Sept. 30 (DVdP), and another was photographed in San Pedro, *Los Angeles*, Nov. 23 (MHe). A Harris' Hawk at Butterfield Ranch in Anza Borrego Desert S.P., *San Diego*, Sept. 8 (ECr) may have moved N from Baja California or wandered S from the apparent resident population at Borrego Springs; anyone is welcome to guess whether the single birds around San Diego Oct. 14 (PU), Oct. 23 (RBe), and Oct. 29 (CGE) were escapees or genuine vagrants from Baja California. The only Broad-winged Hawk reported was one over the Palos Verdes Pen., *Los Angeles*, Oct. 1 (KL). A Swainson's Hawk at Pt. Mugu, *Ventura*, Nov. 23 (AS) was late and on the immediate coast, where rare. A Zone-tailed Hawk had returned to Goleta Oct. 24+ (SeR) and another was back around Ojai, *Ventura*, Oct. 12+ (STu) for their 4th winters, an immature was well seen over Hermosa Beach, *Los Angeles*, Sept. 16 (KL), and single birds in Orange Oct. 20 (KP), Irvine Oct. 20 (MD), and Escondido Oct. 23 (MBS) were in coastal *Orange* and *San Diego* where rare but regular at this time of the year. A **Yellow Rail** found on a downtown Santa Barbara street Nov. 13 (JEL, \* S.B.M.N.H.) is one of less than half-a-dozen reported in S. California.

### Plovers to Terns

Six migrant Am. Golden-Plovers along the coast between Sept. 22–Nov. 3 was slightly less than normal. A Pacific Golden-Plover was inland at S.E.S.S., Sept. 8 (JLD), one was at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, *Santa Barbara*, Nov. 5–24 (BH), another was on San Nicolas I., Nov. 14 (WW), and ≤five were at known wintering locations near Santa Maria, *Santa Barbara*, Port Hueneme, and in Seal Beach, *Orange*, after Aug. 31 (CP, CAM, TEW). A Wandering Tattler at S.E.S.S., Sept. 7–8 (KLG) was inland, where casual. A Ruddy Turnstone at the Piute Ponds near Lancaster Aug. 4 (MSM) was the only one found inland away from the Salton Sea. A Black Turnstone photographed at E.A.F.B., Sept. 1–2 (MTH, DVb) was the 2nd to be found in *Kern*. A juv. Red Knot at E.A.F.B., Sept. 7 (MTH) and two on Baldwin L. in the San Bernardino Mts., Sept. 13 (EAC) were also the only ones found inland away from the Salton Sea. A Sanderling at H.D.L., Nov. 11 (EAC, \* S.B.C.M.) was late for an inland location away from the Salton Sea. About 30 juv. Semipalmated Sandpipers were found along the coast between Aug 3–Sept 12,

but one on Tinemaha Res. near Big Pine Aug. 17 (T&JH) was the only one reported from an inland location. A **White-rumped Sandpiper** at H.D.L., Sept. 10 (EAC, \* S.B.C.M.) was the 3rd to be found in S. California in fall. A juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, rare in S. California, was photographed near Santa Maria Oct 22–25 (JMC). Since Stilt Sandpipers are rare away from S.E.S.S., the presence of a juvenile on Morro Bay Aug. 17–18 (RM), another at S.C.R.E., Aug. 25–Sept 1 (CAM), a 3rd at the Santa Ynez R. mouth Aug. 28–30 (BH), and a 4th on the Los Angeles R. in Long Beach Sept. 2–3 (MHe) were of note. Four Ruffs were found, with an adult inland at S.E.S.S., Sept. 9 (JLD), and juveniles along the coast at Point Mugu Sept. 13–14 (GMcC) and Oct. 13 (RA), and at the Santa Maria R. mouth Oct. 13 (CAM). A Red Phalarope photographed at S.E.S.S., Sept 7 (RS) and another seen at Daggett, *San Bernardino*, Nov. 17 (MAP) were inland

Parasitic Jaegers normally occur inland, particularly on the Salton Sea, in small numbers every fall, but an adult photographed at S.E.S.S., Oct. 26 (KZK) was the only one reported this year. A juv. Long-tailed Jaeger at Bombay Beach, *Imperial*, Sept. 3 (GMcC) and another at N.E.S.S., Sept. 7 (CAM) occurred at the time most young of this species are found inland. A dozen S. Polar Skuas were seen during 4 pelagic bird boat trips off S. California between Aug. 31–Oct. 27 (MHe, PK), indicating this species is regular over these waters at this time of the year.

Only three Franklin's Gulls were reported, with one near Santa Maria Oct. 11 (KH), another in Fountain Valley, *Orange*, Nov. 5 (JEP) and the third in Corona, *Riverside*, Nov. 8–9 (JEP). An ad. Little Gull was with Bonaparte's Gulls in Corona Nov. 8–30 (JEP); this species is proving to be a rare but regular visitor to California

A **Black-headed Gull** in Santa Barbara Nov. 26+ (LC) was the same bird present at this location during the past 3 winters. An ad. Heermann's Gull, very rare to casual inland, was at S.E.S.S., Aug. 24 (STu). A juv. Mew Gull photographed at the Santa Ynez R. mouth Sept. 5 (BH) was early, but at the same time of the year when other "exceptionally early" juveniles have been found; a 2nd-year bird at S.E.S.S., Aug. 28 (GMcC) had probably spent the summer locally, another 2nd-year bird on L. Isabella, *Kern*, Nov. 10 (DVb) was one of a very few found in this area of California. A juv. Herring Gull on Mystic L. near Lakeview Aug. 31–Sept 6 (MAP) was early. Three W. Gulls were far inland on the Salton Sea, with a 3rd-year

bird at S.E.S.S., Aug. 10–Sept. 7 (GMcC), a juvenile at N.E.S.S., Aug. 17–Sept. 7 (GMcC), and another juvenile near Salton City Sept. 3 (PAG). A juv. Black-legged Kittiwake, casual to accidental inland, was on Spring Valley L. near Victorville, *San Bernardino*, Nov. 17 (MAP, ph. EAC). Six Sabine's Gulls were found inland with an adult near Olanchia, *Inyo*, Aug. 15 (T&JH), a juvenile in Tecopa, *Inyo*, Oct. 3 (JSt), a juvenile on L. Isabella Oct. 3–5 (SAL), another at C.L., Sept. 26 (MTH), an adult at E.A.F.B., Sept. 15–24 (MTH), and another adult on L. Palmdale in the Antelope Valley Sept. 24 (JLD).

A Royal Tern, well described along the San Gabriel R. in Whittier, *Los Angeles*, Nov. 9 (NJS) was about 15 mi inland, and one of a very few ever to be found away from the coast. An Arctic Tern photographed with Com. Terns at the Santa Ynez R. mouth Aug. 11 (BH) is one of a very few found on shore along the coast. The ad. Sooty Tern that spent the summer at Bolsa Chica was last seen Aug. 30 (TB) and another (same?) was reported from Pt. Fermin, *Los Angeles*, Aug. 18 (MHe).

#### Doves to Woodpeckers

A White-winged Dove on San Nicolas I., Aug. 17–Oct. 26 (WW) was the farthest west, one at Pt. Buchon Oct. 2 (CFT) was the farthest north on the coast, and another at F.C.R., Oct. 8–16 (REW) was the farthest north inland of the >25 found n. and w. of this species' breeding range. Inca Doves continue to push northward across the desert, with  $\leq 15$  at F.C.R., Oct. 4–Nov. 2 (T&JH). A Com. Ground-Dove in Mojave Oct. 6 (A&VH) was only the 4th to be found in *Kern*. A Ruddy Ground-Dove was at F.C.R., Oct. 12–Nov. 2 (GMcC), another was in Ridgecrest, *Kern*, Nov. 6–15 (LS), and a third was photographed at I.M.P.S., Oct. 30 (EAC); this species is now being found at desert oases in small numbers every fall.

An ad. Black-billed Cuckoo on San Nicolas I., Aug. 18 (WW, MAP, \* S.B.M.N.H.) was the earliest by 8 days of the 13 now recorded in California. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo, now rarely found away from known breeding localities, was at S.C.R.E., Sept. 20 (BSm). A N. Saw-whet Owl found recently dead at F.C.R., Oct. 4 (T&JH) was at an unusual locality. A Black Swift at C.L., Sept. 14 (MTH) and another at K.R.P., Sept. 27 (MHa) were the first to be seen in *Kern* in fall. A Chimney Swift well studied at C.L., Sept. 14 (MTH) was one of a very few ever reported in California in fall.

A chattering Broad-billed Hummingbird was in Westchester, *Los Angeles*, Sept

24 (JLD) and another was seen at Desert Center Oct. 20–21 (CMcG). A well photographed Violet-crowned Hummingbird in La Costa, *San Diego*, Nov. 13–Dec. 3 (F&B Scheible) was the 4th to be found in California.

At least ten Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found scattered throughout the Region after Sept. 30, indicating this species is a rare but regular fall and winter visitor to S. California. A Williamson's Sapsucker at Oasis, *Mono*, Sept. 13 (JLD), another at H.D.L., Oct. 4 (CMcG), and a 3rd at I.M.P.S., Oct. 30 (EAC) were at desert oases far from areas of normal occurrence.

#### Flycatchers to Vireos

A calling Eastern Wood-Pewee was well studied in Huntington Beach Nov. 1–6 (BED); there are 3 endorsed records of this species, along with  $\geq 2$  late fall reports of birds believed to be this species, in California. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was photographed at Galileo Hill in e. *Kern* Sept. 11 (JLD, MO'B), and another was banded on San Nicolas I., Sept. 27–28 (MAP, WW); there are 6 previously endorsed records for this species in California. Four Least Flycatchers were found, with one photographed in San Pedro Sept. 11 (MHe), another in Huntington Beach Sept. 19–21 (JEP), and two in Costa Mesa, *Orange*, Oct. 23 (BED). An E. Phoebe banded on San Nicolas I., Nov. 13–14 (WW) was the only one found this fall. A Dusky-capped Flycatcher, a very rare but annual straggler to California, was in Newport Beach, *Orange*, Nov. 29+ (DRW). A Great Crested Flycatcher photographed near California City Oct. 4 (STa) was the 2nd to be found in *Kern*. At least 20 Tropical Kingbirds were found along the coast in September and October, as is normal, but one photographed inland at Panamint Springs Sept. 13 (T&JH) was the 2nd in *Inyo*; another photographed at K.R.P., Sept. 22 (SAL) was the first for *Kern*; and a 3rd in Baker, *San Bernardino*, Sept. 12 (DSC, BLy) was also inland, where considered exceptional. A Thick-billed Kingbird in Pomona, *Los Angeles*, Sept. 9+ (CMB) was the same bird present at this location each of the past 4 winters and was joined by a second in mid-November (CMB). The only E. Kingbirds found were one in Bishop, *Inyo*, Aug. 7 (D&JP) and another at Big Bear L. in the San Bernardino Mts., Aug. 27 (DMY). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, always an exciting bird to find in California, was near Imperial Beach Nov. 18 (DP).

A cooperative Arctic Warbler photographed in Oceano Sept. 28–Oct. 1 (BED, CAM) was one year after Califor-

nia's first was banded in *Monterey* (FN 50:112, 1996). A Black-tailed Gnatcatcher at Mesquite Springs in Death Valley N.P., Oct. 8 (REW) was significantly n. of this resident species' known range. Three Gray Catbirds were found, with one near Piedras Blancas, *San Luis Obispo*, Sept. 29 (GPS), another near Point Mugu Oct. 18–19 (BLa), and the 3rd inland at Desert Center Nov. 16–17 (WJM).

An ad. Black-backed Wagtail at Dana Pt., Sept. 27–Oct. 7 (JWe) was the same bird present here last winter, but is believed to have fallen prey to a raptor. Four Red-throated Pipits were reported, with one at the Santa Maria R. mouth Oct. 18 (BH), another at the Santa Ynez R. mouth Oct. 19 (BH), and two together in Irvine Oct. 19–20 (BED). A Sprague's Pipit photographed in Irvine Oct. 19–20 (BED) was the 2nd in *Orange* and another photographed at C.L., Oct. 20–22 (DVB) was the first in *Kern*. An imm. N. Shrike in Independence, *Inyo*, Nov. 20+ (A&LK) was the only one found this fall.

A Gray Vireo in Wilmington Sept. 23 (JAJ) was one of a very few ever to be found in California away from known breeding localities. Two nominate Solitary (Blue-headed) Vireos were carefully identified, with one in Huntington Beach Oct. 4–22 (JEP) and the other on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 7 (PAG). A Yellow-throated Vireo, a casual straggler to California, was photographed in Wilmington Sept. 28–Oct. 5 (TEW) and another was seen in Huntington Beach Oct. 5–6 (TEW). Single Hutton's Vireos in Mojave Sept. 22 (JCW) and near Cantil Oct. 24 (MTH) were far out on the desert, where virtually unknown, and another on San Nicolas I., Sept. 16 (MAP, WW) had crossed a significant amount of open water. Four Philadelphia Vireos were found, with one inland near Olancha Oct. 15 (T&JH), another photographed at Galileo Hill Oct. 6–12 (JLD), and single birds along the coast in Montana de Oro S.P., *San Luis Obispo*, Oct. 10 (JMC) and in Manhattan Beach Sept. 25 (MHe). A Red-eyed Vireo inland at Panamint Springs Oct. 3 (T&JH) and six more along the coast between Sept. 19–Oct. 13 was about average. Three Yellow-green Vireos were found, with one on Pt. Loma in San Diego Sept. 6 (DWA), a 2nd there Sept. 20–Oct. 17 (PAG), and the 3rd in Huntington Beach Sept. 20 (CAM); this species occurs annually along the coast at this time of the year in small numbers.

#### Wood Warblers

Along with the 11 widespread w. species of wood warblers, observers found all 15

of the rare-but-regular vagrant species reaching California in fall: Tennessee (15 between Sept. 16–Nov. 8), Virginia's (13 along the coast between Aug. 26–Oct. 19 and >12 in the high desert in September), Lucy's (four along the coast between Sept. 14–Oct. 25), N. Parula (four in *Santa Barbara* between Sept. 5–Oct. 17, and one at Nipton Oct. 2; EAC), Chestnut-sided (17 between Aug. 31–Oct. 20), Magnolia (seven between Sept. 20–Oct. 21), Black-throated Blue (nine between Oct. 6–25), Blackburnian (eight between Sept. 21–Nov. 10), Prairie (nine between Sept. 9–Oct. 26), Palm (>45 between Oct. 3+), Blackpoll (30 between Sept. 11–Nov. 4), Black-and-white (40 in September and October), Am. Redstart (50 between Aug. 12–Nov. 9), Ovenbird (seven between Sept. 21–Oct. 28) and N. Waterthrush (25 between Aug. 27–Oct. 26).

A Cape May Warbler—much reduced in numbers from 10 years ago—at F.C.R., Nov. 2 (PAG) was the only one reported. A Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler on San Nicolas I., Aug. 18 (MAP, WW) was more than a month earlier than expected. The only Black-throated Green Warblers were one on San Nicolas I., Sept. 14 (MAP, WW), another in Oceano Sept. 19–Oct. 6 (HY), and a 3rd in National City, *San Diego*, Nov. 27+ (DWA). A Bay-breasted Warbler, also much scarcer than 10 years ago, was in Mission Viejo, *Orange*, Nov. 26+ (JEP). Numbers of Prothonotary Warblers reaching S. California continues to increase, with four at desert oases in *Inyo* between Sept. 13–Oct. 21 (A&LK, MJSM, JSt), and five more along the coast between Aug. 30–Oct. 1 (CB, BLA, SJG, JEP, CAM). Three Worm-eating Warblers were found, with one in Wilmington Sept. 29 (JAJ), another at the Santa Ynez R. mouth Nov. 5 (BH), and the 3rd photographed in San Pedro Nov. 23+ (MHe). A Kentucky Warbler was in Montana de Oro S.P., Sept. 5 (BP) and another was at Pleasant Canyon in the Panamint Mts., *Inyo*, Oct. 4 (CMcG). A Connecticut Warbler in Montana de Oro S.P., Sept. 16 (GPS) could not be relocated later the same day. A Mourning Warbler was well described at Hansen Dam in the San Fernando Valley Sept. 24 (DMA). A ♀ Hooded Warbler at I.M.P.S., Oct. 5 (MAP) was the only one reported this fall. Single Canada Warblers along the coast at Morro Bay Sept. 5–18 (KMH), Montana de Oro S.P., Oct. 11–12 (JMC), and near Goleta Oct. 19 (RC) was an expected number, but one banded at K.R.P., Sept. 15 (SAL) and another seen at Galileo Hill Sept. 20 (DVB) were inland where far fewer are found. A Painted Redstart was at Agua

Caliente in e. *San Diego* Oct. 1–2 (MGr), and another was on Pt. Loma in San Diego Sept. 21 (CGE); one near Goleta Oct. 3+ (KB) was spending its 2nd winter at that location, and another in San Diego Oct. 30+ (SW) was also believed to be wintering locally.

### Tanagers to Orioles

Two Scarlet Tanagers were found along the coast, with one on San Clemente I., Oct. 17 (ECo) and the other photographed in Wilmington Oct. 25–26 (MHe). Fifteen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks scattered throughout the Region between Sept. 28 and the end of the period was a little less than expected, as was 25 Indigo Buntings between Aug. 11–Oct. 6. A Painted Bunting was in California City Sept. 1 (MTH), and different birds were in Huntington Beach Aug. 31 (CO) and Sept. 15 (JEP). Only three Dickcissels were reported, with one inland at F.C.R., Sept. 25–28 (JLD), and single birds along the coast in Santa Barbara Sept. 17–18 (JNB) and Torrance Sept. 21 (ph. KL).

An Am. Tree Sparrows at Deep Springs Nov. 4 (T&JH), two–three at F.C.R., Nov. 2–10 (GMcC, PAG, A&VH) and another near Cantil Nov. 2 (MTH) were in the area of S. California where small numbers can be expected at this time of the year. Clay-colored Sparrows were more numerous and widespread than normal, with ≥40 scattered throughout the Region between Aug. 31–Nov. 11. Five Lark Buntings were found, with three in the n.e. part of the Region between Sept. 7–14 (AS, JLD, RAHu) and single birds in Carpinteria Sept. 30 (JNB) and near Pt. Mugu Sept. 2 (MJSM); another in Bishop Nov. 10+ (D&JP) appeared to be wintering locally. Single Grasshopper Sparrows at Galileo Hill Sept. 19 (MTH), Needles, *San Bernardino*, Oct. 14 (EAC), F.C.R., Oct. 21 (MJSM), and on a boat half way between Ventura and Santa Cruz I., Oct. 6 (JSt) were all at unexpected localities. Swamp (seven reported), White-throated (13 reported) and Harris' sparrows (six reported) were all scarcer than normal. A **White-winged Junco** at Desert Center Nov. 3 (MAP) was the 2nd to be found in California, the first having remained at a feeder in *Marin* during the winter of 1990–1991 (*AB* 45:318 and 494, 1991).

A McCown's Longspur was near Lancaster Nov. 1–2 (MI, A&VH) and another was near Pt. Mugu Nov. 2 (DD). At least 15 Lapland Longspurs found scattered throughout the Region between Oct. 20–Nov. 28 was about average. A ♂ **Smith's Longspur** at Galileo Hill Oct. 10 (DVB, ph BSm) was the 4th to be found in Cali-

fornia, but the first in this Region. Twenty Chestnut-collared Longspurs at 7 locations within the Region was less than expected.

The number (15 between Aug. 30–Oct. 27) of Bobolinks found along the coast has declined substantially in recent years, but four in *Inyo* between Sept. 25–Oct. 13 (MJSM, T&JH, PAG), single birds in e. *Kern* Oct. 5–12 (MTH) and Oct. 10 (DVB), and one at Desert Center Oct. 25 (A&VH) was about normal for inland locations. The only Rusty Blackbird was one along the Los Angeles R. in Long Beach Nov. 10–16 (MHe). A Com Grackle, a casual straggler to California, was at I.M.P.S., Oct. 24–25 (EAC). Seven Orchard Orioles scattered throughout the Region between Sept. 15–Oct. 14 was about as expected, as were seven Baltimore Orioles between Sept. 6–Oct. 31.

### Addendum

A report from Gerry McChesney of an Am. Oystercatcher on the s.e. side of San Nicolas I., June 3–16 and another at the n.w. side of that same island June 15 was received too late to be included in the Summer Report.

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# Hawaiian Islands Region

## ROBERT L. PYLE

Warm weather continued to set new daily records through the fall and—except for an occasional sharp storm—dry conditions persisted, particularly in the southern islands. At the beginning of December the governor declared a drought emergency on Moloka'i, Maui, and Hawai'i islands. No hurricanes or significant tropical storms affected the islands this year.

Abbreviations: H. (*Hawai'i I.*); J.C.N.W.R. (*James Campbell N.W.R., Oahu*); K. (*Kaua'i I.*); M. (*Maui I.*); O. (*Oahu I.*); U.S.F.W.S. (*United States Fish & Wildlife Service*).

## Loons to Ibis

A loon observed just beyond the surf off Wailea/Kihei, M., Nov. 21 was identified as an **Arctic/Pacific Loon** (†JA). Both previous records of loons in Hawaii have been of this species pair. The small Pied-billed Grebe population remains at Aimakapa Pond, H., where one–two individuals were reported in late October and November (PS, TH, GW). One Short-tailed Alba-

ross first seen at Sand I., Midway, Oct. 26 was still there at year's end. This bird (band #015) occupied the same grass patch last winter and sat on an infertile egg for 60 consecutive days. It now has a golden sheen on head and neck, although still retaining some dark feathering on crown and nape (U.S.F.W.S.). Two hybrid Laysan x Black-footed albatross were reported at Tern I., F.F.S., Nov. 8–9 (SB). The shearwater fallout on Kaua'i this fall totaled 951 birds, including 867 Newell Shearwaters (*Threatened*). A few died, but most were banded and released. The totals are down slightly for the 4th consecutive year (TT). During a cruise from Kaua'i to Midway Nov. 5–18, observations at sea conducted on 3 full days and parts of 4 other days recorded counts of 27 species of seabirds (SB). Interesting visitor species included four San Juan Petrels, 14 White-necked Petrels, and 41 Black-winged Petrels. The larger count of Black-wingeds than the others is in line with the frequency of past reports of these species in Hawaiian waters. Other visitors included 14 Sooty Shearwaters, 43 Short-tailed Shearwaters, 11 Leach Storm-Petrels, and ten Band-rumped Storm-Petrels. Most of the Black-wingeds and Leaches were in the Kaua'i-Ni'ihau area. All observations of these species were recorded in the e. section between Kaua'i and Laysan. One bird identified as a Cook or Stejneger Petrel was sighted nearer Midway. Bad weather with strong winds hampered observation through much of the trip, particularly w. of French Frigate Shoals. A detailed report with analysis was prepared (SB). A dark

