

NOTES

TWO CALIFORNIA RECORDS OF GRACE'S WARBLER

The summer range of Grace's Warbler *Dendroica graciae* extends as far north and west as southern Nevada. In Nevada it is recorded as a fairly common summer resident in the Sheep Range (Johnson, 1965) and it has also been observed by Jaeger (1927) and Austin (1969) during the nesting season in the Spring Mountains (although both Johnson, and Jaeger himself, have questioned the earlier observation). These two localities are within sixty and thirty miles, respectively, of the California border. *D. g. graciae*, the race which breeds in the United States, is a fairly long distance migrant; definite winter records of this race in Mexico range from Tepic, Nayarit to Amecameca, State of Mexico and Tres Marias, Morelos (Webster, 1961). Considering its normal range and migratory habits, one may expect Grace's Warbler to stray into California occasionally.

The first known occurrence of Grace's Warbler in California was a female collected near Imperial Beach, San Diego County by Guy McCaskie on 29 October 1966. I have examined the specimen, San Diego Natural History Museum #36047, and compared it with other Grace's Warblers in this collection. On 8 September 1968, Martin Terschuren mist netted another individual of this species on Point Loma, San Diego County. I banded, photographed, and released this bird, which is shown in the accompanying photograph. The color slide from which this photograph was made shows a yellow supercilium (becoming white behind the eye), a yellowish spot below the eye, and a yellow chin, throat and breast. A color slide of this bird is deposited in the San Diego Natural History Museum.



Grace's Warbler *Dendroica graciae* photographed on Point Loma, San Diego, California on 8 September 1968.

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Grace's Warbler has rarely been recorded away from pines, though as Webster (1961) has pointed out, it must occur outside of this habitat during migration. The Imperial Beach bird was foraging in an isolated grove of tamarisks (*Tamarix sp.*) surrounded by open farmland. The Point Loma bird was caught in a residential area where there are numerous mature pines of several species.

The bird found near Imperial Beach appears to be an exceptionally late fall migrant. Phillips, Marshall and Monson (1964) cite only one record of Grace's Warbler beyond 27 September in Arizona, that of a bird taken by Coues at Prescott on 29 October 1864. According to Ligon (1961), this species has not been recorded in New Mexico later than 6 October. There are two published December records for the United States. Both are sight records and neither appears to have been documented with a photograph or a detailed description, although in both cases the observers involved are considered competent (R. H. Wauer, pers. comm.). One was recorded by Clyde and Lois Harden on the Zion National Park, Utah, Christmas Bird Count 21 December 1965 ("all week at feeder, studied at 10 ft." - Audubon Field Notes 20:352, 1966). The second was also seen in Zion National Park, by Barbara A. Lund "in December" 1966 (AFN 21:444, 1967).

LITERATURE CITED

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