

## A MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD IN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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Perusal of the literature indicates a lack of records of the Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) in San Bernardino County, California. Phillips, Marshall and Monson (1964) noted the occurrence of frigatebirds (*Fregata* sp.) at Lake Havasu, Mohave County, Arizona. Although Lake Havasu borders San Bernardino County, Cardiff (1963) did not include any frigatebird in his review of the avifauna of the county. More recently, McCaskie (1976a) reported a Magnificent Frigatebird over Grand Terrace, located approximately on the Riverside-San Bernardino County line. Additional frigatebird sightings in southern California and in the vicinity of the Colorado River in Arizona and Nevada are discussed by McCaskie (1970), Lawson (1973, 1977) and Speich and Witzeman (1975).

At 1445 on 23 March 1977 the authors and R. G. Hulquist observed an immature Magnificent Frigatebird for several minutes at Chino, San Bernardino County, which is located approximately 33 km from the coast. The bird was flying in a westward direction with a group of perhaps a dozen unidentified gulls. It did not actively flap its wings as it approached, but instead glided in the manner so typical of frigatebirds. The white head and chest, characteristic of immature birds, was plainly visible with the unaided eye; however, the bird was examined with 7x35 binoculars for 90 seconds before it disappeared. All of the observers are familiar with this species, having seen it on numerous occasions in Baja California and Sonora, Mexico.

This observation confirms the occurrence of the Magnificent Frigatebird in San Bernardino County. In addition, it provides another inland California record of this species away from the Salton Sea. As of 1976 such records were "few indeed" (McCaskie 1976a). Furthermore, this record is only the fourth reported for southern California between 1 November and 13 June (McCaskie 1976b).

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