

Mendocino 23 Jan (Dave Jensen, DT) and Redding, *Shasta* 22 Jan (Bea & Bob Currie). Among the 14 wintering Bullock's reported was a young male that arrived on F.I. 4 Feb and started an unprecedented pre-alternate molt there (PP). A Scott's Oriole in Golden Gate Park 22 Dec—20 Mar (†ASH, †JWtg, m. ob.) was only the 2nd S.F. City record.

Perhaps the landbird of the winter was a **Common Redpoll** at a feeder in Anderson, *Shasta* 3-17 Feb (Barbara Peck, BED, ph. LkC, †Mike San Miguel, m. ob.). Except for a controversial late May specimen in coastal *Humboldt*, all prior redpolls in California had been in the Great Basin region of the extreme northeast. This C.V. occurrence was unprecedented and at about the same latitude as the previous southernmost record at Eagle L., *Lassen*, a flock in Nov—Dec 1899. Goldfinches lingering farther n. than usual were 4 Lessers at Mono City, *Mono* 15 Feb (KNN) and a smattering of Lawrence's, including at Pillar Pt. Harbor, *San Mateo* 15 Dec (Al DeMartini) and males at backyard feeders in San Ramon, *Contra Costa* 10-19 Jan (Lauri English) and Loomis, *Placer* 15 Jan (EP).

Corrigenda

Short-eared Owls occasionally breed along the *San Mateo* shore of S.F. Bay; thus a road-killed owl at Año Nuevo 18 Jul 2000 (*N.A.B.* 55: 479) was unusual in summer for the coastal locale, not for the county. A Costa's Hummingbird in *Mono* 29 May 2001 was mistakenly published as a Calliope Hummingbird (*N.A.B.* 55: 353). We thank PJM for these corrections.

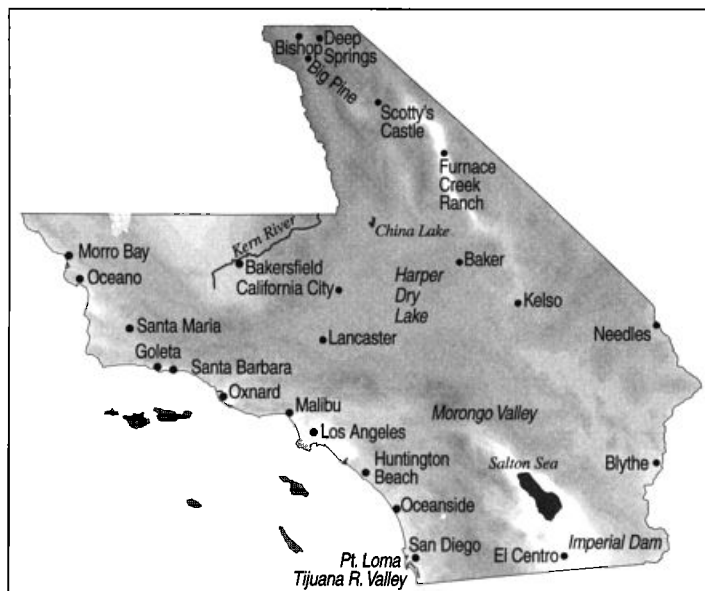
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Southern Pacific Coast



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Although some precipitation fell in the early part of the season, it turned out to be one of the driest winters on record in southern California. Since most winter birding activities

in the Region (and, hence, records of significance) are concentrated in landscaped urban and suburban areas or agricultural regions with a great deal of imported water, such drought conditions do not have clear effects on our wintering avifauna; they are likely, however, to be felt in upcoming spring migration and nesting seasons. This winter saw some significant seabird and waterbird records, including a Short-tailed Albatross, at least two Masked Boobies, an Emperor Goose, and a probable Band-tailed Gull. There were no major incursions of landbirds, and it was a fairly standard winter for over-wintering flycatchers, warblers, vireos, and the like. Of note among landbirds was California's first winter season Smith's Longspur.

Abbreviations: C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. Kern); E.A.F.B. (Edwards Air Force Base, se. Kern); F.C.R. (Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Monument, Inyo); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park in extreme e. Kern); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, Riverside); S.B.C.M. (San Bernardino County Museum); S.C.R.E. (Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, Ventura); S.E.S.S. (s. end of the Salton Sea, Imperial); V.C.G.P. (Ventura County Game Preserve near Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station, Ventura). Because 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.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A Red-throated Loon on Wiest L. near Brawley, Imperial 20 Dec (LWC) was inland. Up to 2 Red-necked Grebes on L. Perris, Riverside 12 Jan—24 Feb (DPe) were not only far s. but also inland, where considered accidental; the only coastal record came Pt. Mugu, Ventura 12-17 Feb (PR).

A Short-tailed Albatross was photographed near Santa Barbara I. 19 Feb—22 Mar (JA). A Manx Shearwater, rarely reported in s. California waters, was photographed off the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Los Angeles 23 Feb (TMcG).

A subad. Masked Booby was well photographed in La Jolla, San Diego 30 Dec—10 Jan (MBu), another was caught in Corona del Mar, Orange 12 Jan (ph. in *Orange County Register*; taken to a rehabilitation center), and a third (same bird as in La Jolla?) was at Dana Point, Orange 9 Feb—7 Mar+ (CM). An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird photographed over La Jolla 4 Jan (TMcG, SW, AM) was one of a very few found in California in winter.

The Tricolored Heron at Bolsa Chica, Orange remained through 9 Dec (ES), and an imm. at the Tijuana R. mouth, San Diego 29 Dec (GMcC) was the only other one reported. The Reddish Egret at Point Mugu, Ventura remained through the end of the period (WW), single birds remained along the coast of San Diego from the fall on Batiquitos Lagoon through 12 Dec (MBa) and at the Tijuana R. mouth through 23 Dec (RBl), 2 were at the San Diego R. mouth through the end of the period (MUE), and another was on San Diego's Mission Bay 29 Dec (PZ); at least 2 inland near Blythe, Riverside 5-10 Jan (RHl) were on the Colorado R., where very few have been found. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

in La Jolla 6 Dec (CN) was probably the bird that has been frequenting this area for the past 20 years. A Wood Stork near Escondido, San Diego 29 Dec (KW) was one of 2 that arrived here in 1980.

An Emperor Goose photographed at Becher's Bay on Santa Rosa I. 16 Jan—6 Mar (SMaG) established the 2nd record s. of *San Luis Obispo*. Three Tundra Swans at Blythe 26 Dec (RHl) and another in flight over s. San Diego Bay 16 Feb (DPa) were unusually far south. A Common Teal, rare in s. California, was at Upper Newport Bay, Orange 30 Dec—12 Jan (JW). A male Tufted Duck on L. Perris 17 Jan—27 Feb (BP) was undoubtedly the same bird present here last winter. A male Harlequin Duck at Arroyo Laguna, San Luis Obispo 13-18 Jan (KC) was believed to be the same bird present here last winter, and the male found on Mission Bay in San Diego 28 Oct was still present at the end of the period (RBl). A Surf Scoter on the Salton Sea at Salt Creek S.B. 21 Jan (CMcG) and a White-winged Scoter on Tinemaha Res., Inyo 20 Nov—27 Jan (JLD) were the only scoters found inland. A Long-tailed Duck at S.E.S.S. 1 Dec (GMcC) and another near Blythe 26 Jan (RHl) were inland, where rare, and up to 6 in Long Beach, Los Angeles 23 Dec—6 Feb (KL, KLG, MSanM) was a large number to be found together in s. California. Single Barrow's Goldeneyes near Blythe 9 Dec and 21 Feb (RHl) were at the s. limit of this species's normal winter range on the Colorado R.

HAWKS THROUGH SKIMMERS

A Northern Goshawk at C.L. 16-31 Dec (BSh) was only the 2nd in e. Kern. One Harris's Hawk was still present from the 1994 incursion at Borrego Springs, San Diego at the end of the period (RT), and another was near Warner Springs, San Diego 17 Dec (BSie). The Broad-winged Hawk that arrived on San Clemente I. 31 Oct remained through the period (BLS). A Swainson's Hawk at V.C.G.P. 25 Jan+ (WW; ph.) and another over Lake Forest, Orange 16 Dec (JEP) were evidently wintering locally, but one near El Centro, Imperial 15 Feb (KZK) was an early spring migrant followed by at least 4 more in the next two days. Single Zone-tailed Hawks were along the coast in Santa Barbara/Goleta (DMC), San Clemente/San Juan Capistrano (DRW), and Escondido (MUE) throughout the period, an imm. was in the Upper Ojai Valley, Ventura 6 Jan (BSil), an ad. (returning?) was at nearby L. Casitas 12-17 Feb (TT, DPe), one was at Laguna Niguel, Orange 29 Jan (VL), and another was near Mesa Grande, San Diego 17 Dec (BSa); farther inland, single ads. were at Blythe 1-2 Dec (RHl),



Lemon Tank's fresh water is the only source on San Clemente Island, so it's a good spot to wait for vagrants such as this Prairie Warbler, which stayed here from October through mid-December 2001. Photograph by John T. Brollini.

near El Centro from the summer to 21 Feb (KZK) and another with it 5-13 Dec (KZK), and around Brawley, Imperial 25 Jan—9 Mar (TH) Single Rough-legged Hawks near Calipatria 18 Dec (BED) and El Centro 4 Feb (CMcG), and another near Blythe 26-28 Dec (RHl) were the s. most of the very few reported.

A Sandhill Crane around Bishop, Inyo 17 Dec—24 Jan (CH) and 6 over Venice, Los Angeles 8 Dec (EG) were away from areas of regular occurrence. Wintering Pacific Golden-Plovers along the coast included single birds at Hermosa Beach, Los Angeles 30 Nov (KL), Bolsa Chica, Orange 4 Nov—10 Feb (DRW), in Del Mar, San Diego 3-30 Jan (NF) and at the Tijuana R. mouth 22 Aug—13 Jan (RP), 4 at Seal Beach, Orange throughout the period (JF), and 9 on San Clemente I. 6 Feb+ (BLS); inland, one was near Brawley 1 Feb (MSanM). The only Mountain Plovers along the coast were 12 at n. Vandenberg A.F.B. 16 Dec (AA) and 18 at Seal Beach through the period (JB); 3476 were counted on the primary wintering grounds in the Imperial Valley during a valley-wide survey 29 Jan—6 Feb (CMcG). Black and white oystercatchers on San Miguel I. 20 Feb (PM) and in San Diego 27 Jan (MBM, BKP) were not seen well enough to eliminate hybrid American x Black Oystercatcher hybrids. A Solitary Sandpiper near Chino, San Bernardino since 28 Aug, was still present 19 Jan (JEP) and believed to be the same bird here during the last two winters. A flock of 25 Ruddy Turnstones at S.E.S.S. 17-18 Dec (GMcC) was a remarkable number for an inland location at this time of the year. A wintering Wilson's Phalarope was in Indio, Riverside 1 Dec—8 Jan (ES), and another was at S.E.S.S. 24 Nov—28 Feb+ (GMcC).



One of two recorded this winter in the Region, this Rusty Blackbird was photographed on San Clemente Island on 14 February 2002.
Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.

Single Laughing Gulls, rare on the Salton Sea in winter, were at N.E.S.S. 5 Jan (CMcG), S.E.S.S. 30 Dec—7 Jan (GMcC), and near Niland 16 Feb (LS). An ad. **Band-tailed Gull** seen on San Clemente I. 8 Feb (JTB) will establish the 2nd record for California if endorsed by the C.B.R.C. A Mew Gull at N.E.S.S. 24 Dec—21 Jan (C-TL) and another at S.E.S.S. 10-14 Jan (JEP) were far inland, where rare. The Lesser Black-backed Gull present at N.E.S.S. since 11 Nov was still present at the end of the period (CMcG), and an ad. near Chino 9 Jan (JEP) was the first to be found in *San Bernardino*. A Glaucous Gull in San Diego 4 Feb (DA) and another on San Clemente I. 5 Feb (JTB) were the only 2 reported. A Gull-billed Tern at S.E.S.S. 18 Dec (KLG) is one of a very few found in California in winter, as were single Elegant Terns on Morro Bay, *San Luis Obispo* 19 Jan (MDH) and San Diego Bay 20 Jan—8 Feb (REW, RP). Four Black Skimmers at N.E.S.S. 5 Jan (CMcG) were unusually late stragglers from the summer.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Up to 4 White-winged Doves in Blythe 23 Dec—14 Jan (RHi), 2 in Calipatria 18 Dec (GMcC), up to 2 near El Centro 13 Dec—22 Feb (KZK) and one in Brawley 23 Feb (GMcC) were in areas where very few have been recorded in winter, and single birds in Carpinteria 18 Dec (RWH) and Ventura 1 Feb (RBu) were the only 2 reported along the coast. One Ruddy Ground-Dove was still present at F.C.R. 18 Feb (CH), 3 were still present in Blythe at the end of the period (RHi) and 2 photographed near El Centro 27 Jan—28 Feb (KZK) established the 2nd record for *Imperial*. Three Lesser Nighthawks remained at Finney L., *Imperial* all winter (GMcC), and 2 more were near El Centro 30 Jan (KZK).

Up to 30 Vaux's Swifts around Oceanside 13 Dec—4 Jan (JS, RP, MBi), and 50 over

Sweetwater Res. 16-17 Jan (GC) were in coastal *San Diego*, where small numbers regularly winter. Two or 3 migrant Allen's Hummingbirds near El Centro 1-18 Feb (KZK) were in an area where few have previously been recorded, and an Allen's Hummingbird on Pt. Loma, *San Diego* 6 Jan (REW) was probably wintering locally, this area being outside the known range of *sedentarius*.

Lewis's Woodpeckers were a little more widespread than normal in the w. portion of the Region, with 2 near El Centro 1 Dec—28 Feb+ (GMcC) being the southeastern most. At least 15 Acorn Woodpeckers were present in *Inyo* during Jan (T&JH), and one near El Centro 19 Jan—28 Feb (JL, GMcC) was only the 6th to be found in the "Salton Sink." Single Williamson's Sapsuckers near Rancho Santa Margarita, *Orange* 16 Dec—26 Feb (GLT) and in Silverado Canyon, *Orange* 16 Dec (BML) were close to the coast, where rare. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a rare but regular vagrant to s. California, was near Mecca, *Riverside* 13 Jan—9 Feb (C-TL), the 5th to be found in the "Salton Sink."

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CORVIDS

A Greater Pewee found in Pomona, *Los Angeles* 1 Dec (DAG; ph.) remained through the period. Exceptionally late was a Western Woodpecker in Goleta, *Santa Barbara* 3-6 Dec (DMC). *Empidonax* flycatchers recorded during the period included a Least near Imperial Beach 9 Dec (GMcC), Duskiess in Solvang, *Santa Barbara* 15 Jan—17 Feb (FE) and along the lower Colorado R. near Earp, *San Bernardino* 1-4 Feb (MBM), Hammond's at Laguna Niguel, *Orange* 10 Nov—2 Feb (JEP), Anaheim Hills, *Orange* 4 Dec—19 Jan (JEP), San Diego 22 Dec—1 Mar (GH), and Blythe 4-29 Jan (DWA), and 9 "Westerns" in coastal counties, along with a late interior bird at Bakersfield, *Kern* 16 Dec (C&JM). Nine wintering Eastern Phoebes, a bit above average, included 6 on the coastal slope and 3 on the low deserts.

A Dusky-capped Flycatcher was in San Diego 15 Dec+ (JEZ); one or 2 now winter annually in the Region. Ash-throated Flycatchers, rare in winter, were found at Borrego Springs, *San Diego* 17 Dec (JWi), Palm Desert, *Riverside* 5 Dec—8 Feb (MSanM), and Blythe 10-17 Feb (RHi), all areas where somewhat regular, but coastal birds in Long Beach, *Los Angeles* 23 Jan—3 Feb (KSG) and near Imperial Beach 15 Dec—22 Feb (GMcC) were more unusual. **Brown-crested Flycatchers** in Long Beach 5-8 Dec (RBa) and Huntington Beach 13 Dec—15 Mar (MJI) were among the few ever recorded along the coast of California.

Five Tropical Kingbirds were found along the coast during the period; less expected were single Western Kingbirds near Goleta 5-21 Jan (CAM) and in San Diego 16 Dec—13 Feb (GMcC). The wintering Thick-billed Kingbird in Pomona was present through the period (KLG).

Northern Shrikes, regular in the northeasternmost part of the Region, were in Bishop 23-24 Dec (J&DP) and C.L., *Kern* 25-26 Jan (SSt). Loggerhead Shrikes continue a precipitous decline on the coastal slope; away from the San Jacinto Valley, *Riverside* (where good numbers continue to be recorded), only 154 were counted on 20 C.B.C.s on the coastal slope; just five years ago the total was 437! Shrikes were unrecorded for the first time ever on the Pasadena/San Gabriel Valley C.B.C., and only 15 were found on the three *Orange* C.B.C.s (90 on the same counts in 1993, DRW).

Winter Plumbeous Vireos outnumbered Cassin's 17 to 13 in the coastal counties; on the deserts, a Plumbeous was in El Centro throughout the period (KZK). Exceptionally rare in winter, a **Bell's Vireo** was in Coronado, *San Diego* 15 Dec (REW). Even more surprising was a well-described Gray Vireo in a desert wash 13 km w. of Needles, *San Bernardino* 9 Jan (DDi); the only previous winter records have been in Elephant Tree (*Bursera microphylla*) stands in e. *San Diego* (Unitt, *Western Birds* 31: 258-262, 2000). A Warbling Vireo in Carlsbad, *San Diego* 22 Dec (JD) was among the few ever recorded in mid-winter in the Region, and a Philadelphia Vireo in Coronado 15-16 Dec (REW) established only the 4th winter season record for California.

A Steller's Jay in Santa Maria, *Santa Barbara* 21 Dec (CA) was in an unusual location. Unexpected in mid-winter was a Bank Swallow in Irvine 27 Dec (LDT). Also normally rare in mid-winter, Barn Swallows were found in unprecedented numbers, e.g., several in *San Luis Obispo* in December, 16 in Santa Barbara 5 Jan, 16+ in coastal *Los Angeles* in Dec, 31+ in coastal *San Diego* in Dec, and, inland, one near Lancaster and 2 at E.A.F.B. 17 Jan (MSanM, probably too early for spring migrants), one at F.C.R. 4 Jan (RAH), several near Victorville 4 Jan (RMcK; specimen S.B.C.M.), and 26 on the Salton Sea (South) C.B.C. 18 Dec.

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

Federally Threatened California Gnatcatchers continue to lose habitat to urban development, but new populations are being found in the course of environmental impact studies as illustrated by up to 20 near Moorpark, *Ventura* through the period (BED) at the nw. edge of

the species's range. American Robins were present in above-average numbers, with a spectacular flight of up to 10,000 birds near Arroyo Grande, *San Luis Obispo* 29 Jan (BKS). A Brown Thrasher, casual in the Region, was in Moreno Valley, *Riverside* 24 Dec+ (C-TL). A Gray Catbird was in a Long Beach yard 25 Jan—10 Mar (JSB). The only Bohemian Waxwing found was in Bishop 9 Jan (J&DP).

A female Golden-winged Warbler in Costa Mesa 1-19 Jan (LDT) established the 2nd winter record for *Orange*. A Tennessee Warbler remained in Goleta from the fall to 5 Jan (JRS), and others were in nearby Isla Vista 31 Dec (LRB) and in Mission Viejo, *Orange* 16 Dec—24 Feb (JEP). Orange-crowned Warblers were considered relatively numerous in the n. Owens Valley this winter by *Inyo* observers. A Nashville Warbler at a hummingbird feeder in Bakersfield 26 Dec—24 Feb (JCW) was the first to winter in *Kern*. Northern Parulas were on the coast in Long Beach 26 Feb (KSG) and Gardena, *Los Angeles* 23 Dec (KL), and on the low desert near Mecca, *Riverside* 21 Jan—23 Feb (C-TL) and at S.E.S.S. 1 Jan—12 Feb (CMcF). Chestnut-sided Warblers were found in Goleta 5 Jan (RHt), near Glendale, *Los Angeles* through Mar (RBa), near Encino, *Los Angeles* 9 Jan+ (JDB), in El Segundo, *Los Angeles* 16 Jan—Mar (RBa), and in San Diego 18 Nov—9 Mar+ (MMR). A male Black-throated Blue Warbler in Newport Beach 3 Nov—8 Mar (M&BN) was the 4th to be found in winter in *Orange*. In addition to wintering birds in Coronado and National City noted in the fall report, Black-throated Green Warblers were found in Arroyo Grande 13 Nov—9 Dec (BKS), Goleta 2-3 Dec (RHt), Lake Forest, *Orange* 9 Dec—17 Feb (LDT), Carlsbad 22 Dec (PU) and Spring Valley, *San Diego* 20 Jan—21 Feb (MH). A Blackburnian Warbler, casual in winter, was near Goleta 18-26 Dec (JRS). The Grace's Warbler initially found in Sep on Pt. Loma remained through the period (GMcC), and at least 2 of the 3 male Pine Warblers found in Nov in Long Beach also remained through the period (TEW); another Pine Warbler was in Santa Barbara 30 Dec+ (HPR). A Prairie Warbler found in Oct on San Clemente I. remained to 12 Dec (JTB). Thirteen Palm Warblers were on the coastal slope during the period, and birds in Bishop 15 Dec—24 Jan (REM, JLD) and in Maricopa, *Kern* 22 Jan (BKP) were unusual for the n. interior. A Bay-breasted Warbler, declining as a vagrant to California and with few previous winter records, was in Long Beach 29 Dec—7 Jan (KLG).

Seventeen Black-and-white Warblers were in the coastal areas; inland, one remaining to 8

Dec in California City (MMcQ) was the latest for the *Kern* deserts, and another was in El Centro 17 Dec—7 Jan (GMcC). Seven American Redstarts were found during the period along the coast; 6 at S.E.S.S. in Dec (GMcC) was a normal number, and one near Earp, *San Bernardino* 22 Feb (MBM) was part of a small wintering population on the lower Colorado R. An Ovenbird in San Diego 26 Dec (TB) was the only one reported. Three Common Yellowthroats in the n. Owens Valley 15 Dec—20 Jan (J&DP) eclipsed the three previous winter records for *Inyo*. A MacGillivray's Warbler near El Monte, *Los Angeles* 15 Dec (JLF) was the only one reported, as was a female Hooded Warbler at Coronado the same day (RP). At least 35 Wilson's Warblers were found during the period along the coast, but one on the high desert in Lancaster 15 Dec (LWA) and another in El Centro 6 Dec—18 Feb (KZK) were unexpected. A Painted Redstart remained in Palm Desert to at least 8 Feb (KG, GMcC).

TANAGERS THROUGH ORIOLES

A returning ad. male Hepatic Tanager was near San Dimas, *Los Angeles* 22 Dec—21 Jan (MSanM). A remarkable 27 Summer Tanagers were found along the coast from Goleta to San Diego during the period, and a female was in Brawley, *Imperial* 19 Dec (GCH); one in Big Pine 29 Dec (J&DP) establishes the first winter record for *Inyo*. The Scarlet Tanager found 28 Nov at Oceano was last seen 3 Dec (KJZ).

Nine Clay-colored Sparrows were found along the coast during the period; a far more unusual winter *Spizella* was a Black-chinned Sparrow on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, *Los Angeles* 22 Dec (CTC). A Lark Bunting was on the Carrizo Plain, *San Luis Obispo* 18 Feb (Jse), and one on San Clemente I. 11 Feb (BLS) were firsts for winter at those locations. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows at expected sites included up to 2 at Morro Bay 1 Dec—26 Feb (MDS) and up to 6 at Seal Beach N.W.R., *Orange* in Dec and Jan (JF); 2 videotaped at V.C.P.G. 23 Jan to period's end (DD) were away from tidal saltmarsh habitat normally frequented. Red Fox Sparrows were reported from Los Angeles 21 Dec—14 Feb (RBa), Huntington Beach 30 Dec—9 Mar (JSB), and Santee, *San Diego* 12 Feb (MBM). Sixteen Swamp Sparrows and 55 White-throated Sparrows were at or above normal numbers, though sightings of these regular winterers are not always reported. A good showing of 11 Harris's Sparrows included 7 along the coast and 4 in *Inyo*. A longspur "slam" at S.E.S.S. included up to 3 McCown's 30 Dec—5 Jan (TE), up to 150 Chestnut-collareds 31 Dec—2 Feb (GMcC, MSanM), 21+

Laplans 18 Dec—5 Feb (GMcC) and a **Smith's Longspur** near Calipatria 31 Dec—16 Jan (TE, GMcC); the last was in an alfalfa field with a large flock of Chestnut-collared Longspurs, and was the first for *Imperial*, only the 2nd for the Region, and established the first winter record for California.

Five Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and 2 Black-headed Grosbeaks were along the coast during the period, and late Blue Grosbeaks were near Imperial Beach 9 Dec (GMcC) and near Victorville 13 Dec (SJM). An Indigo Bunting in Long Beach 3 Dec (RBa) was a very late fall vagrant. The natural origin of a female Painted Bunting near Imperial Beach 29 Dec (GMcC) is uncertain.

Two Rusty Blackbirds, a declining vagrant to California, were found: a returning bird in Goleta 8 Dec+ (GBW) and one on San Clemente I. 14 Feb+ (BLS; ph.). A Common Grackle n. of Bishop 15-18 Dec (JLD) was the latest fall record for *Inyo*. In addition to the wintering bird in Irvine noted in the fall report, Orchard Orioles were in Ventura 29 Dec (OA) and San Diego 11-19 Jan (MBM). A Hooded Oriole in Ridgecrest 31 Dec (AH) and 3 in Bakersfield 31 Dec—24 Feb (BJM, MMcQ) were away from more expected coastal winter habitats. Eight Baltimore Orioles were found along the coast during the period. A Bullock's Oriole near L. Isabella 11 Jan (NJS) establishes only the 3rd winter record for *Kern*; another in Bakersfield 24 Feb (MMcQ) might have wintered locally. The Black-backed Oriole present near Imperial Beach in the spring and early summer of 2000 and 2001 was refound 2-13 Jan (JC); its presence in mid-winter might suggest, but certainly does not prove, a non-natural origin.

Cited observers (county coordinators in bold-face): Alex Abela, Don Adams, Douglas W. Aguiard, Larry W. Allen, Jon Anderson, Corinne Ardoin, Onik Arian, Richard Barth (RBa), Mona Baumgartel (MBa), Louis R. Bevier, Mark Billings (MBi), Richard Bledsoe (RBL), Jeffery S. Boyd, John Bradley, Jean D. Brandt, Terence Brashear, John T. Brollini, Milo Burcham (MBu), Ron Burns (RBu), **Eugene A. Cardiff** (*San Bernardino*), George Chaniot, Karen Clarke, Luke W. Cole, Charles T. Collins, **David M. Compton** (*Santa Barbara*), Jim Connelly, Brian E. Daniels, Jim Determan, Don DesJardin, Dean DiTommaso (DDi), Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, **Tom M. Edell** (*San Luis Obispo*), Fred Emerson, Michael U. Evans, Ned Fergusson, Jon L. Fisher, John Fitch, **Kimball L. Garrett** (*Los Angeles*), Karen S. Gilbert, Elisa Graham, Kay Green, Daniel A. Guthrie, Robert W. Hansen,

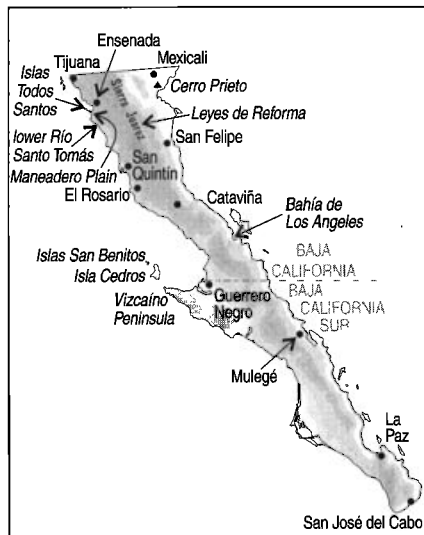
Marlin D. Harms, Tom Harrison, Marjorie Hastings, Gjon C. Hazard, Anna Hearn, **Tom & Jo Heindel** (*Inyo*), Roger Higson (RH*i*), Ron Hirst (RH*t*), Gus Hollenbeck, Chris Howard, Robert A. Hudson, Marshall J. Iliff, Kenneth Z. Kurland, Kevin Larson, Brian M. Leatherman, Cui-Ty Lee, Vic Leipzig, John Luther, Sandra MacGillivray, Christina Maranto, Curtis A. Marantz, Robert E. Maurer, Barbara J. Maxwell, Paige Martin, **Guy McCaskie** (*Imperial*), Catherine McFadden, Chet McGaugh, Todd McGrath, **Robert McKernan** (*Riverside*), Michael McQuerry, Anthony

Merceica, Clark and Jean Moore (C&JM), M. Brennan Mulrooney, Stephen J. Myers, Martin and Barbara Natland (M&BN), Christine Nyhan, Dennis Parker (DPa), Jim and Debby Parker (J&DP), Robert Patton, Brandon K. Percival, David Pereksta (DPe), James E. Pike, Brian Prescott, Hugh P. Ranson, Michael M. Rogers, Paul Rosso, Bob Sander (BSa), Mike San Miguel (MSanM), Larry Sansone, N. John Schmitt, Brad K. Schram, Jeff Seay (JSe), Beaujorn Shull (BSh), Betty Siegel (BSie), Brad Sillasen (BSil), Jerry Smith, Susan Steele, Mike D. Stiles, John R. Storer, Emilie Strauss, Brian

L. Sullivan, Robert Theriault, Tom Thomason, Gerald L. Tolman, Larry D. Tripp, Phil Unitt, Stanley Walens, Ken Weaver, Richard E. Webster, **Walter Wehtje** (*Ventura*), Joel Weintraub, Grant B. Weyburne, **Douglas R. Willick** (*Orange*), Jim Wilson (JWi), **John C. Wilson** (*Kern*), Thomas E. Wurster, Paul Zephe, James E. Zimmer, Kevin J. Zimmer. An additional 40+ observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports this season; all have our appreciation.



Baja California Peninsula



California Sur); U.A.B.C.S. (Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur).

BOOBIES THROUGH TERNS

Near the California border, three species of boobies were recorded at Islas Los Coronados: an ad Masked and 3 ad. Browns 20 Jan (REW) and an ad. Blue-footed 27 Jan (†BKP, vt. DB). Brown Boobies have become regular on these islands in recent years, and it was an exceptional season for Masked Boobies in California, so the Blue-footed Booby was actually the least expected. Although up to 38 were recorded on these islands in 1971, the species has gone unrecorded on the coast of California since 1990.

American Bitterns appear to be in decline on much of the continent and are rarely reported in our Region; one was at Estero Punta Banda 3-12 Dec (RAH et al.). Up to 5 ad. and 2 imm. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were found at Lagunas de Chametla 14 Dec-15 Feb (RC, LS et al.), where the species has occurred fairly regularly since 1995. Noteworthy geese included Snows at Estero Punta Banda and on the Maneadero Plain 4 Jan (DSC, MSM et al.) and at Estero San José del Cabo 20-30 Jan (up to 5; GB, AC et al.), and a Lesser Canada Goose continuing at Lagunas de Chametla to at least 26 Mar (RC, SGM et al.). Regionally rare ducks included male Eurasian Wigeon at Estero Punta Banda 3 Dec (RAH, RAE) and 13 Jan (MDC), a female Greater Scaup at Estero Punta Banda 12 Dec (SM, ELM) and 5 females at Guerrero Negro 6 Feb (JEP, DSP), and 3 female Hooded Mergansers on the Maneadero Plain 4-5 Jan (MJI et al.).

Continuing the trend from recent years, 3 Harris's Hawks were relatively far n. at Heroes de la Independencia 12 Jan (MDC). On the heels of last Oct's birds at Ciudad Constitución, 19 Swainson's Hawks were just w. of Ciudad Insurgentes 2 Feb, and 2 juvs. were at Santa Teresita 5 Feb (all JEP, DSP). A juv. Zone-tailed Hawk at El Rosario 25 Jan (JEP, DSP) was the only one found in B.C.

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Temperatures were near average this season, but rainfall was very low. The Region's first ever Christmas Bird Count was held at Ensenada, bringing out a modest contingent of eager birders from both the U.S. and Mexico. This seasonal report lists 4 January—the CBC date—a remarkable 19 times, evidence that the count generated a considerable volume of noteworthy distributional information that would have otherwise escaped detection.

Abbreviations: B.C. (Baja California); B.C.S. (Baja