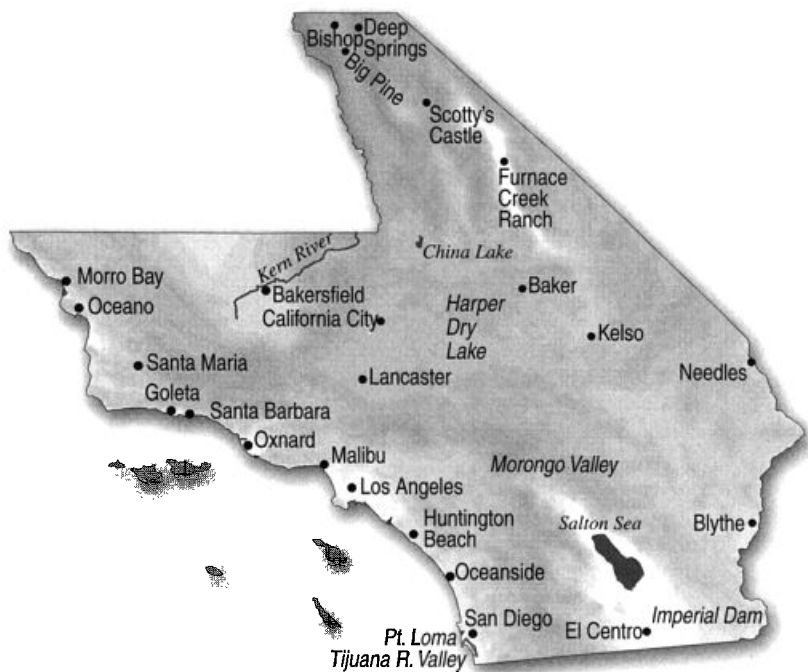


Southern Pacific Coast



Guy McCaskie

954 Grove Avenue
Imperial Beach, California 91932
(guymcc@pacbell.net)

Kimball L. Garrett

Natural History Museum
of Los Angeles County
900 Exposition Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90007
(kgarrett@nhm.org)

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A Pacific Loon inland near Mecca, *Riverside* 3 Jan (EAC) was believed present since 15 Nov, so is best considered a late fall migrant. Single Red-necked Grebes near Point Mugu, *Ventura* 4 Jan (WW) and Coronado, *San Diego* 14 Dec (DPo) were unusually far s., while one inland on L. Perris, *Riverside* 16 Dec–5 Mar (HBK) was believed to be the same bird present here during the past two winters.

An albatross, most likely Laysan, flying along the Long Beach Freeway in Long Beach, *Los Angeles* 5 Jan (MCE) was presumably a bird that had ridden a ship into the Port of Los Angeles and become confused. Numbers of Northern Fulmars along the coast declined in Jan, but small numbers continued to be seen through the end of the period. A Flesh-footed Shearwater, rare off s. California, was off Pismo Beach, *San Luis Obispo* 17 Jan (BKS). A concentration of 50–80,000 Black-vented Shearwaters attracted to schooling sardines off La Jolla, *San Diego* 23 Jan–10 Feb (SES, SW) contained a substantial portion of the world's population. The Masked Booby found on San Clemente I. 10 Aug remained through 8 Jan (BLS). The Anhinga found near Seeley, *Imperial* 8 Nov was last seen 16 Jan (MLF).

An ad. Little Blue Heron at Upper Newport Bay, *Orange* 26 Dec (DE) was the only one reported on the coast away from *San Diego*; an ad. at S.E.S.S. 3 Feb (GLM) was only the 3rd to be found at the Salton Sea in winter. A Tricolored Heron on Upper Newport Bay 21 Dec (GeH), then at Seal Beach, *Orange* 27 Dec–19 Mar (JFi, BS) was the only one this winter. The Reddish Egret found at S.E.S.S. 8 Nov remained through 24 Mar (GMcC). What was probably the second-year Roseate Spoonbill photographed near Seeley 5 Jan (RF) was seen e. of Brawley 5 & 17 Feb (REM, *vide* BM) and at S.E.S.S. 21 Mar–13 Apr (JFG); this is only the 2nd in California since 1983.

Up to 2 blue-morph Ross's Geese, very rare, were at S.E.S.S. 6 Dec–7 Mar (AKK, GMcC). A Brant near Seeley 23 Feb (JD) was an early spring migrant from the Gulf of California. Three Tundra Swans in Goleta, *Santa Barbara* 3 Dec (DMC) were the southernmost on the coast, and 12 in flight over Palm Springs, *Riverside* 11 Mar (PM *vide* KL) were the southernmost in the interior. Up to 2 male Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal were in Goleta 24 Nov–24 Feb (WTF), and another was on

Precipitation in the Region through the period was a bit below normal, and many observers commented on the relative scarcity of wintering *Zonotrichia* sparrows and other common species. And once again this year, there were no clear incursions of irruptive landbird species. Declining numbers of waterbirds (particularly fish-eating birds such as American White Pelicans) on the Salton Sea point to its continuing problems as freshwater input is reduced. Highlights this winter included a Roseate Spoonbill in the Imperial Valley, only the Region's second in the last twenty years, and California's first January Scarlet Tanager. Other wintering birds of note included a Yellow-throated Vireo in San Diego, a Blackburnian Warbler in Imperial Beach, three wintering Grace's Warblers in San Diego,

Santa Barbara County's first Verdin, and two Curve-billed Thrashers near Parker Dam.

Abbreviations: C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. *Kern*); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, *Riverside*); S.E.S.S. (s. end of the Salton Sea, *Imperial*); V.A.F.B. (Vandenberg A.F.B. in nw. *Santa Barbara*); 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 of Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

Upper Newport Bay 13 Feb (W&DJ). Four Harlequin Ducks were found along the *San Luis Obispo* coast this winter (DK, AFS, FH), and the male found on San Diego Bay Mar 2001 was still present at the end of the period. Single Surf Scoters on the Salton Sea at the mouth of Salt Cr. 13 Dec (PS) and the Alamo R. mouth 16 Dec (MJI), a White-winged Scoters on the Colorado R. below Parker Dam, *San Bernardino* 20 Dec–20 Feb (*fide* MSt, TE), 2 around N.E.S.S. 13 Dec–10 Jan (PS, DAG) and 2 more at S.E.S.S. 17 Dec–1 Jan (JL, SAG) were all inland, where rare. A Long-tailed Duck remaining at Barstow, *San Bernardino* through 28 Dec (HBK), one at N.E.S.S. 6 Dec (DAG), and another at S.E.S.S. 14–15 Feb (*fide* BM) were the only ones reported inland. A male Barrow's Goldeneye at Blythe, *Riverside* 14 Dec–1 Jan (RH) and 2 females there 11 Jan (BED, CAM) were the southernmost of the small number found wintering on the Colorado R.; one near Bishop, *Inyo* 10 Dec–9 Jan (J&DP) was the only one found away from the Colorado R. Interesting was an ad. male Common x Barrow's Goldeneye with both species of goldeneye below Parker Dam 8–30 Jan (JLD, GMcC).

HAWKS THROUGH TERNS

Wintering Zone-tailed Hawks included an imm. near Fallbrook, *San Diego* 17 Dec–11 Feb (MJW, RR), and returning ads. around Goleta, *Santa Barbara* through 1 Feb (NAL), near Escondido, *San Diego* through 23 Jan (CR), and Brawley, *Imperial* through 16 Feb (GMcC); an imm. at Casper Wilderness Park, *Orange* 20 Dec (SM) may have been a late fall wanderer. A Swainson's Hawk photographed near Cuyama, *Santa Barbara* 18 Jan (WTF) was evidently wintering locally; the first migrant was one in the San Jacinto Valley, *Riverside* 20 Feb (DRW), followed by 134 passing over Borrego Springs, *San Diego* the following day (PJ). For the first time in many years, Rough-legged Hawks went unrecorded in the Owens Valley (T&JH), indicating that very few ventured s. into this Region.

Wintering Pacific Golden-Plovers included 3 near Pt. Mugu 9 Mar+ (DDesJ), up to 4 at Seal Beach, *Orange* through the period (JFi), one at Bolsa Chica, *Orange* 27 Sep–3 Mar (JEP), another around Imperial Beach, *San Diego* through the period (RTP), and up to 6 on San Clemente I. 27 Jan–19 Feb (BLS). Nine Mountain Plovers on V.A.E.B.

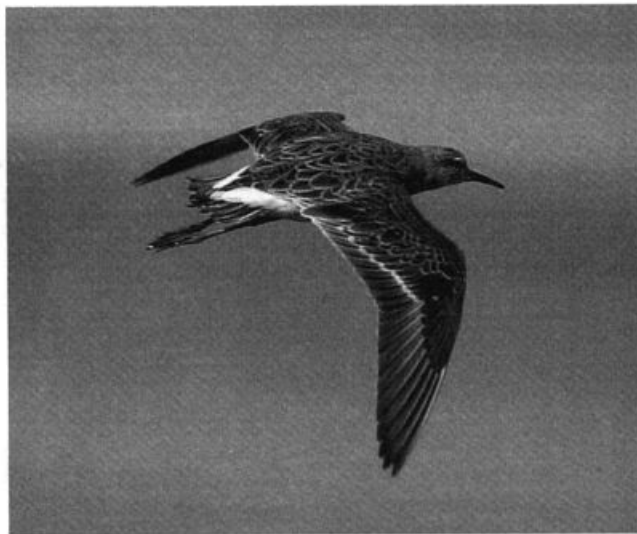
(n.) 14 Dec (AA) and up to 22 at Seal Beach 27 Dec–28 Feb (JFi) were the only ones known wintering along the coast. Hybrid American Oystercatcher x Black Oystercatchers were reported from Albert's Anchorage on Santa Cruz I. 15 Feb (DH), at White Pt. on the Palos Verdes Peninsula,



Pacific Golden-Plovers have overwintered regularly at only a very few locations in southern California in recent years, one of those being San Clemente Island, where this one was photographed 19 February 2004. Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.

Los Angeles 1 Feb (JFe), and at Newport Beach, *Orange* 31 Dec (LDT).

A Solitary Sandpiper in the Prado Basin 16 Mar (JEP) probably wintered in that area; spring migrants are not expected before mid-Apr. The Wandering Tattler found inland near Calipatria, *Imperial* 25 Nov was still present 28 Feb (GMcC), and what was



Ruffs are found in southern California in most winters. This female was photographed on the south shore of the Salton Sea, Imperial County on 16 January 2004, one of three in the area in winter 2003–2004. Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.

presumably another was photographed at S.E.S.S. 15 Dec (BED). Ruddy Turnstones again wintered at S.E.S.S., with a high count of 15 there 16 Dec (GCH, MJI). Reports of single Ruffs came from V.C.G.P. 7

Feb+ (LS), near Norco, *Riverside* 22–24 Dec (HBK), near Calipatria 25 Nov–4 Jan (MJI, BM), and S.E.S.S. 16 Dec–2 Jan (MJSanM, SAG) and 14 Jan–18 Feb (PEL, BP). Two Short-billed Dowitchers at S.E.S.S. 16 Dec (TE) were the first to be found inland in winter. A Wilson's Phalarope at Bolsa Chica 21 Nov–20 Mar (VL, PK, LRH), 2 at S.E.S.S. 16 Dec (GCH), and another there 18 Feb (BM) were wintering locally, as was a Red-necked Phalarope on s. San Diego Bay 16 Jan (RTP). A Parasitic Jaeger around N.E.S.S. 15 Nov–3 Jan (EAC) established the latest date for a presumed fall migrant at the Salton Sea. A first-winter Laughing Gull in Oceano, *San Luis Obispo* 7 Jan–4 Mar (PEL), and an ad. at Pt. Vicente, *Los Angeles* 24 Jan (KGL) were on the coast, where rare; a first-winter bird at the Prado Regional Park near Chino 29 Jan–16 Mar (HBK, JEP) was only the 2nd to be found in *San Bernardino*. Up to 2 ad. Little Gulls were at the Prado Regional Park 21 Dec–16 Feb (ME, NM), one was on L. Mathews, *Riverside* 15 Nov–28 Dec (KFC), and another was on L. Perris 18 Feb–5 Mar (HBK, JFG). A late fall

migrant Mew Gull was inland at C.L. 18 Dec (SSt), and at least 4 were found around S.E.S.S. during the winter (GMcC). An ad. Yellow-footed Gull at Dana Pt. 20–21 Dec (JWe) was the 3rd to be found in *Orange*, and a first-winter Western Gull at the Prado Regional Park 24 Dec–16 Mar (CAM, JLD) may be only the 2nd to be found in *San Bernardino*. A first-winter Glaucous Gull at Morro Bay, *San Luis Obispo* 19 Dec–18 Jan (TME), another in Long Beach, *Los Angeles* 11 Jan (KGL), and a 3rd at Bolsa Chica in Dec (*fide* DRW) were the only ones reported. A first-winter Black-legged Kittiwake inland at the Prado Regional Park 4–13 Jan (SBT) was certainly lost, and the species was virtually non-existent along the coast, with only 6 reported. As Elegant Terns are normally gone from California by the end of Nov, one in Coronado 19 Dec (MSa) and up to 3 in Cayucos, *San Luis Obispo* 28–29 Dec (KJZ) were unusually late.

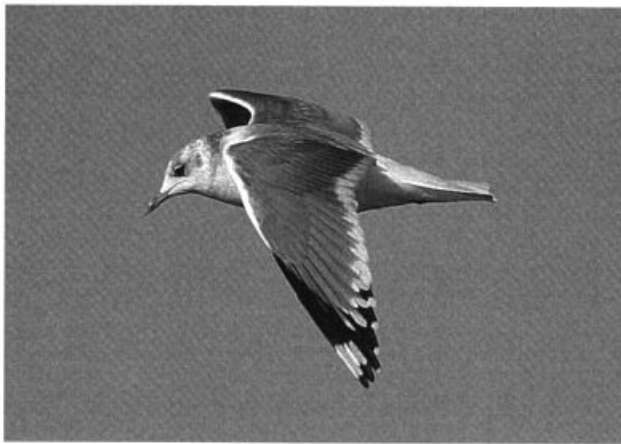
DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

Far greater numbers than normal of Band-tailed Pigeons present in the lowlands of *Orange* in Dec (DRW) suggested a movement of these birds from higher elevations. Eurasian Collared-Doves are now established as resident in Ridgecrest, *Kern* (LL) and Bishop (T&JH), these being the northernmost

areas colonized by birds arriving from the East. Wintering White-winged Doves included 5 in *Santa Barbara*, where for some unknown reason they are of annual occurrence, one at N.E.S.S. 3 Jan (CMcG), and at least 6 in the Imperial Valley through the period (GMcC). An Inca Dove near Victorville, *San Bernardino* 21 Dec (CMcG) and 3 in Loma Linda, *San Bernardino* 6 Feb (DG) were w. of where previously recorded. A Ruddy Ground-Dove in Bishop 14 Dec–13 Jan (JAP) established the northernmost record for California; at least 12 remained near Calipatria through the period, with a recently fledged young there 16 Feb (GMcC, PU), and another was in Niland 16 Nov (BED). This species appears to be following in the footsteps of the Inca Dove, expanding its range northwestward into se. California.

At least 4 Lesser Nighthawks were known to have wintered in the Imperial Valley, *Imperial* (BM, GMcC), where small numbers appear to be annual, but a nighthawk, probably Lesser, photographed in Goleta 16–26 Dec (GT) was totally unexpected. A male Broad-tailed Hummingbird in Claremont, *Los Angeles* 14 Dec–14 Feb (JIE) was one of a very few found wintering in California. The Gila Woodpecker found at Borrego Springs 22 Sep was still present 16 Feb (PJ). A Williamson's Sapsucker in Goleta 3–19 Jan (MJK) was on the coast, where unexpected, and another near Bakersfield, *Kern* 13 Jan (K&BK) was the first to be found in the s. San Joaquin Valley. Reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers included 11 along the coast and 5 more inland, supporting the idea that this woodpecker is a rare but regular winter visitor to s. California.

A Willow Flycatcher at Morro Bay 20–21 Dec (KAH) was exceptionally late; there are very few winter records for the Region. The only Least Flycatcher was in El Monte, *Los Angeles* 4 Jan (BED). A few Gray and Pacific-slope Flycatchers were noted on the coastal slope, as expected, but a bird of the latter species remaining near Bishop through 7 Dec (J&DP) was exceptionally late for the far n. interior. Hammond's Flycatchers are now regularly recorded in early winter in the Region; at least 6 were found in Dec and early Jan along the coast, with a returning bird in San Diego 13 Dec (GuH) remaining through the end of the period. Six wintering Eastern Phoebes in the Region, at least



Mew Gulls are relatively rare inland. This adult was faithful to one location at the south shore of the Salton Sea, Imperial County, California 9 December 2003–27 March 2004. This flight portrait, taken 16 January, shows the pattern typical of the expected North American race *brachyrhynchus*: the white mirrors on primaries 9 and 10 (the outermost) almost touch the broad white markings on the middle primaries. The Eurasian races *canus*, *heinei*, and *kamtschatschensis* show more black through the primaries. Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.

2 of which were returning birds, included 4 in *Imperial*.

A Dusky-capped Flycatcher, a species casual in the Region, was in Fountain Valley 9 Dec–15 Feb (JEP), establishing the 11th winter record for *Orange*. Ash-throated Flycatchers, very rare in winter away from the se. deserts, were near Imperial Beach 22 Nov–10 Jan (GMcC) and at Prado Regional Park 14 Dec (HH). Expected were 4 Tropical Kingbirds along the coast during the



This adult Little Gull photographed at Prado Regional Park, San Bernardino County, California on 23 December 2003 was one of up to two present there between 21 December 2003 and 16 February 2004. Photograph by Matt Sadowski.

winter, but one at Prado Regional Park 4–18 Jan (LT, AEK) was well inland; other singles near Seeley 14 Mar (GMcC) and at Wister, S.E.S.S. 14 Mar–13 Apr (GMcC) were undoubtedly the same birds found at

these locations in the fall and thus constituted the first wintering birds for the Salton Sink. Forty-five Cassin's Kingbirds through the period constituted the highest winter count for *San Luis Obispo* (TME). Western Kingbirds, casual in midwinter, were near Camarillo, *Ventura* 3–6 Feb (V. Wilson, *vide* WW), in Costa Mesa, *Orange* 28 Dec (JEP), and San Diego 11–14 Dec (GMcC). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were at Pt. Piedras Blancas, *San Luis Obispo* 20–28 Dec (SG) and Irwindale, *Los Angeles* 7 Dec–11 Jan (JFe).

SHRIKES THROUGH PIPITS

An ad. Northern Shrike at Tinemaha Res., *Inyo* 25 Jan–16 Feb (T&JH) was in an area where the species is regular; more unexpected was an imm. in Wofford Heights

near L. Isabella, *Kern* 20 Jan–20 Mar (JS). The *pusillus* Bell's Vireo found on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, *Los Angeles* in Oct remained to 19 Feb (KGL); another in Niland 16 Dec (BED) was felt to be too green and yellow to be *pusillus*. A Gray Vireo in Anza-Borrego Desert S. P., *San Diego* 6 Dec (AH) was in the species' only known wintering area in the Region. A Yellow-throated Vireo in San Diego 11 Dec–18 Jan (JOZ) was only the 3rd to occur in midwinter in the Region. Once again, Plumbeous Vireos outnumbered Cassin's during the winter, with 22 of the former (all but one on the coastal slope) and only 6 of the latter (all coastal) reported. A Warbling Vireo, casual in midwinter, was in Redlands, *San Bernardino* 11 Jan (RLMcK).

Five Yellow-billed Magpies near Gaviota, *Santa Barbara* 2 Jan+ (JLaB) were at a coastal locality where now very rare. An exceptional count of 21 Bank Swallows was made at S.E.S.S. 16 Dec (GMcC). A Cliff Swallow in Playa del Rey, *Los Angeles* 29 Dec (KGL) and another at Prado Regional Park 1 Jan (MSanM) were unseasonal. Barn Swallows continued their unprecedented winter abundance, with high counts including 23 in *Santa Barbara* 3 Jan (DMC), 47 in coastal *Orange* 28 Dec (DRW), and 250+ at S.E.S.S. in Dec (GMcC).

Up to 3 Juniper Titmice w. and nw. of Bishop in Dec and Jan were w. of their normal White Mts. range (J&DP, JLD). A Verdin in *Santa Barbara* 21 Dec–6 Jan (MAH) was well out of range and the first for the county. Up to 2 Pygmy Nuthatches in Morro Bay 10–20 Dec (GPS) were the first for that area since 1989. Three

Marsh Wrens on San Clemente I. 11 Jan (BLS) were the first to be found in winter on the island. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Tinemaha Res. 6–24 Dec (JWi) was very late for the far n. interior. Up to 21 Western Bluebirds at S.E.S.S. 16 Dec–28 Feb (GMcC) were more than expected for that area. A Gray Catbird was in a patch of willows in Gardena, Los Angeles 22 Dec–7 Feb (MJB), and a Brown Thrasher was in Claremont 24 Jan–15 Feb (CMcF). A Curve-billed Thrasher, casual in California though numerous in nearby Arizona, was at Black Meadow Landing near Parker Dam Nov–20 Feb (*vide* BD), and

another was below Parker Dam on the latter date (TE). In addition to the 5 Sprague's Pipits found near Calipatria in late Nov, another 4 were in a different set of dormant fields near there 15 Dec–17 Apr (GMcC).

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS

Twenty-four species of warblers were noted during the winter period. A Tennessee Warbler was near Pismo Beach 1 Dec (JA). Some 16 Nashville Warblers were in coastal areas during the period, with another inland near Mecca 3 Jan (EAC). The only Northern Parulas found were up to 2 at Picacho State Recreation Area, Imperial 14 Dec–2 Feb (TE). A Chestnut-sided Warbler wintered in San Diego 19 Nov–9 Apr (MSa), and another was near Calipatria 7–8 Dec (GMcC). Black-throated Blue Warblers are casual in winter in the Region, but this year saw 2: near Pismo Beach 29 Feb (MSm) and at Picacho State Recreation Area 14 Dec–18 Feb (TE, HD). Black-throated Green Warblers included an imm. male in Lake Forest, Orange 14 Dec–3 Jan (JEP) and a returning male in National City, San Diego 12 Jan (DWA). A Townsend's Warbler in Indio, Riverside 6 Dec (SSw) was one of the few to be found in winter in the Salton Sink. A wintering imm. female Blackburnian Warbler near Imperial Beach was present 8 Dec–10 Apr (MSa, GMcC); there are very few winter records of this species in North America. An amazing 3 Grace's Warblers



This Sprague's Pipit (right), one of four that overwintered in the area (into April), was photographed 14 February 2004 in a grassy field near Calipatria, Imperial County, California, about 14 kilometers east of the south end of the Salton Sea. This species had been considered casual in the Salton Sink. In the same vicinity on the same date was this Large-billed Savannah Sparrow (left); this subspecies is a regular winter visitor to the Salton Sea area but is normally only found near the shoreline. Photographs by Martin Meyers.

were on Pt. Loma, San Diego 3 Jan (SBT, GMcC, MTH); all appeared to be wintering, as 2 were first found during the fall period. A Prairie Warbler was in Gardena 21 Dec–16 Feb (KGL). The 5 Pine Warblers recorded were an ad. male in Morro Bay 12–14 Dec (TME), a dull female in Long Beach 1–29 Feb (KSG), a male in Newport Beach 16 Feb–12 Mar (PC), and 2 near Imperial Beach 7 Dec–27 Jan (MB). At least 11 Palm Warblers were noted near the coast,



In southern California, Northern Shrikes are extremely rare away from the northern half of Inyo County, so this first-winter bird photographed near Wofford Heights, Kern County attracted much attention during its stay between 20 January (here 24 January) and 20 March 2004. Photograph by Kelli Levinson.

with another at Wofford Heights 4 Jan (MH) and 2 different birds at S.E.S.S. 7 Feb (BLS) and 25 Feb–2 Mar (SaS, JBa). Approximate totals of 22 Black-and-white Warblers and 10 American Redstarts were found in coastal areas, with up to 8 more redstarts in regular winter haunts at S.E.S.S. through the period. Northern Waterthrush-

es included a returning bird at V.C.G.P. through the period (RB), one near Imperial Beach 14 Dec (GMcC), one in Riverside 7–31 Dec (HBK), and a bird at Wister, S.E.S.S. 14 Mar–3 Apr that had been seen earlier in Oct and Nov (GMcC). A Prothonotary Warbler was in San Diego 12–15 Dec (DWA). A MacGillivray's Warbler, casual in winter in the Region, was in Newport Beach 28 Dec–14 Feb (BED). In addition to numerous Wilson's Warblers on the coastal slope, one was at S.E.S.S. 7 Feb–6 Mar (CC, TEW).

Summer Tanagers found during the period included 35+ along the coast plus single birds in Niland 16 Dec (BED), Calipatria 13–15 Feb (GMcC), and Bard, Imperial 27 Dec (MSanM). A male Scarlet Tanager in San Diego 2 Jan (GMcC, SBT, MTH) represented the first Jan record for California; apparently a very late fall straggler, it was not present after this date.

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

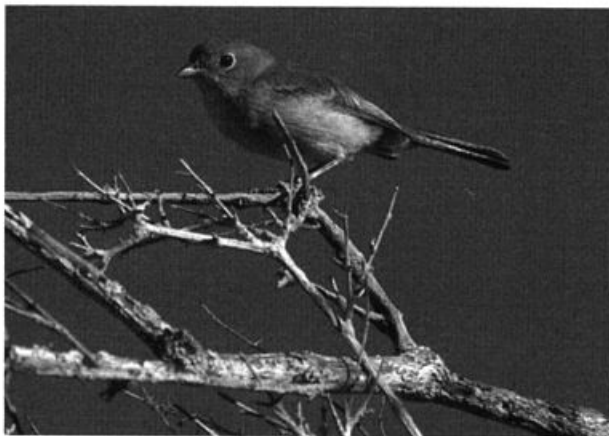
The only mid-winter Clay-colored Sparrow reports were of a bird continuing from the fall to 1 Mar near Lake View Terrace, Los Angeles (KLG) and one in Newhall, Los Angeles 2 Jan (MSanM). Two Black-throated Sparrows in the Lakeview Mts., Riverside 16 Dec (CMcG) were on the coastal slope and a bit out of range. Two Grasshopper Sparrows near Niland 21 Feb (BM) marked the 2nd consecutive winter this species has been found in the Salton Sink. Up to 2 Lark Buntings were in Santa Clarita, Los Angeles 24 Feb–2 Mar (BED). A few Large-billed Savannah Sparrows occurred in coastal salt marshes, including up to 6 banded at Morro Bay 1 Dec–19 Feb (TME). Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found at Morro Bay 1 Dec–22 Jan (2 b.; RO), V.C.G.P. 5 Feb (DD), and Seal Beach N.W.R., Orange from the fall through 19 Mar (up to 4; JFi). A Red Fox Sparrow was at Montaña de Oro, San Luis Obispo 6–20 Dec (KJZ). About 17 Swamp Sparrows were reported, the northernmost inland bird being at C.L. 30 Dec–15 Jan (SSt). Harris's

Sparrows were in Santa Barbara 27 Dec–19 Jan (HPR), San Elijo Lagoon, *San Diego* 28 Nov–6 Jan (JBe), Wildomar, *Riverside* 28 Jan (CMcG), Blythe 12 Feb (RH), and near Niland 8 Jan–16 Feb (BM), with up to 4 around Bishop 25 Dec+ (T&JH). Concentrations of longspurs included up to 15 Laplands and 175 Chestnut-collareds near Calipatria 26 Nov–7 Feb (GMcC) along with 3–4 McCown's Longspurs there 15 Dec–5 Jan (TE), up to 15 Chestnut-collareds near Niland 16 Jan–13 Mar (BM, JBa), and up to 9 Laplands and 2+ McCown's near Palmdale, *Los Angeles* 16 Dec (JFe); a single Chestnut-collared was near Lakeview, *Riverside* 15 Dec (CL). The Snow Bunting first found on San Clemente I. 15 Nov was seen intermittently through at least 21 Feb (BLS).

Eight Black-headed Grosbeaks were found in coastal areas through the period, double the count of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks found in Goleta 5 Feb (S&AL), Laguna Niguel, *Orange* 10–24 Jan (GM), and San Diego 3 (GuH) & 17–19 Jan (JWi). An Indigo Bunting photographed near Bishop 13 Dec (J&DP) was exceptionally late.

Southeast of their normal haunts were male Tricolored Blackbirds in Anza–Borego S. P. 24 Feb (DA) and near Calipatria 22 Feb (DSC). A male Common Grackle in Willowbrook, *Los Angeles* 11 Jan–7 Feb (KGL) was likely a returning bird. An ad. male Orchard Oriole was in Goleta 18–19 Dec (WTF). Seven Hooded Orioles were reported in coastal counties, with another in e. Bakersfield 20 Jan+ (A&RD) being only the 2nd in winter in *Kern*. A few Bullock's Orioles wintered in coastal areas, but it was the opinion of observers in *Orange* and *Los Angeles* that winter numbers of this species are declining (DRW, KLG); this species is quite rare on the deserts in winter, so 2 in Rancho Mirage, *Riverside* 5 Dec (RH) and one near Calipatria 16 Dec (PN, JWi) were of interest. Baltimore Orioles included up to 2 in Goleta 18 Dec–28 Jan (MC, ADeM), one in Irvine through the period (JEP), one in Fountain Valley 28–29 Dec (LO), and one in Santa Ana, *Orange* 28 Dec–3 Jan (DPu). Northwest of their normal winter range, 2 Scott's Orioles were in Montecito, *Santa Barbara* 14–31 Dec (JEL).

A Purple Finch was at Picacho State Recreation Area 27 Dec (MSaM), an area where quite rare. A Cassin's Finch in Santa Ynez, *Santa Barbara* 10 Feb (JMC) was the first to be found in that area. Small flocks of American Goldfinches appear only sporad-



It was only in December 1999 that Gray Vireos were found to winter in California, so this photograph taken in Anza–Borego Desert State Park, San Diego County 6 December 2003 provides welcome documentation of its presence at this time of year. Photograph by Robert McMorran.

ically in the Salton Sink, so 10 in Niland 25 Jan (PJ) were of interest.

Cited observers (county coordinators in boldface): Alex Abela, Don Adams, Douglas W. Aguillard, Jerry Ambrose, James Barr, Richard Barth, Jim Benten (JBe), Mark Billings, Martin J. Byhower, Kurt F. Camp-



The Picacho State Recreation Area on the Colorado River, Imperial County, California hosted a pair of eastern parulids for most of the winter: a Northern Parula (left) and a male Black-throated Blue Warbler, the county's fifth and the first during the winter, respectively (both photographed 17 December 2003).

Photographs by Bob Miller (left) and Henry Detweiler.

bell, Eugene A. Cardiff, Jamie M. Chavez, Mike Collins, David M. Compton (*Santa Barbara*), Chris Conard, Peyton Cook, Daniel S. Cooper, Brian E. Daniels, Al DeMartini, Bill Deppe, Don Desjardin, Henry Detweiler, Jim Dowdell, Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, Tom M. Edell (*San Luis Obispo*),

Dan Emory, Josh I. Engel, Marcus C. England, Michael Evans (*San Diego*), Martha Estus, Michael L. Feighner, Jon Feenstra (JFe), John Fitch (JFi), Rob Fowler, Wes T. Fritz, Kimball L. Garrett (*Los Angeles*), Donn Gaede, Karen S. Gilbert, Steven A. Glover, David A. Goodward, John F. Green (*Riverside*), Shirley Green, Freeman Hall, Murrelet Halterman, Karen A. Havlena, Loren R. Hays, Gjon C. Hazard, Allison Heather, Matt T. Heindel, Tom & Jo Heindel (*Inyo*), Harsi Heilpern, Roger Higson, David Hill, Gus Hollenbeck (GuH), Mark A. Holmgren, Gerco Hoozeweg (GeH), Marshall J. Iliff, William and Delores Jenisch (W & DJ), Paul Jorgensen, Al K. Kalin, David Keeling, Melissa J. Kelly, Howard B. King, Peter Knapp, Alexander E. Koonce (*San Bernardino*), Ken and Brenda Kyle (K&BK), John LaBonte, Kevin G. Larson, Lisa Lavelle, Cin-Ty Lee, Paul E. Lehman, Vic Leipzig, Joan E. Lentz, Susan and Andy Lentz (S&AL), Nick A. Lethaby, Kurt

Leuschner, James Lomax, Paula Magazine, Curtis A. Marantz, Gillian Martin, Robert E. Maurer, Guy McCaskie (*Imperial*), Cathy McFadden, Chet McGaugh, Robert L. McKernan, Steve Metildi, Bob Miller, Nathan Moorhatch, Guy L. Monty, Leo Ohtsuki, Regina Orr, Phil Nelson, Ed Pandolfino, Jim and Debby Parker (J&DP), Robert T. Patton, John A. Peterson, James E. Pike, David Povey (DPo), Bob Power, Dick Purvis (DPu), Hugh P. Ranson, Christine Rideout, Royce Riggan, Matt Sadowski (MSa), Michael J. San Miguel, Mike San Miguel (MSanM), Larry Sansone, Bob Schallman, Alan F. Schmierer, John Schmitt, Brad K. Schram, Peter Siminski, Gregory P. Smith, Maggie Smith (MSm), Susan E. Smith, Susan Steele (SSt), Mark Stevenson (MSt), Sam Stuart (SaS), Brian L. Sullivan, Sandy Swan (SSw), Linda Terrill, Scott B. Terrill, George Thompson, Larry D. Tripp, Philip Unitt, Stanley Ventura Walens, Walter Wehtje (*Ventura*), Joel Weintraub (JWe),

Douglas R. Willick (*Orange*), Matthew J. Williams, James Wilson (JWi), John C. Wilson (*Kern*), Thomas E. Wurster, James O. Zimmer, Kevin J. Zimmer. An additional 35± observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports this season; they have our thanks. ☺