

Southern Pacific Coast

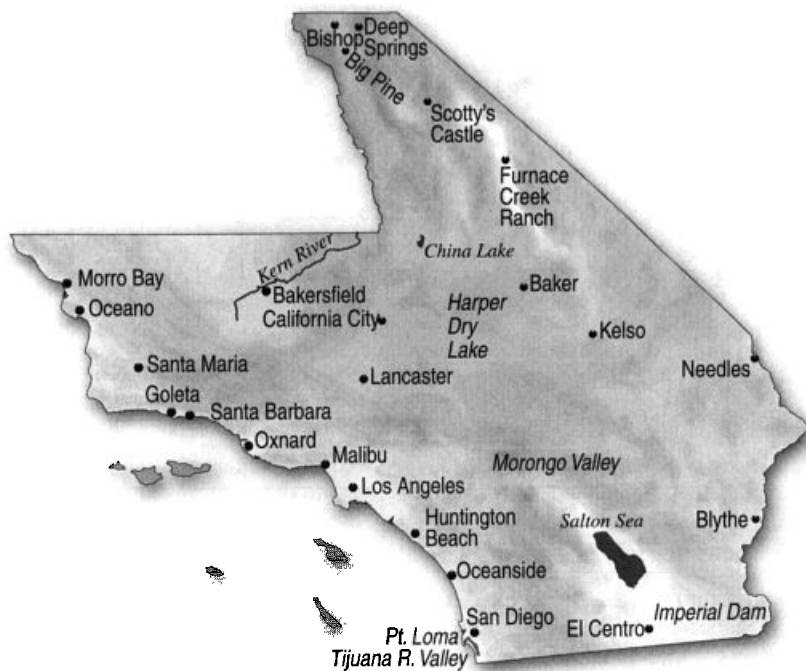
In contrast to fall 2003, there was an impressive movement of some irruptive species, notably Red-breasted Nuthatch and Pine Siskin, into the lowlands of the Region; the pinnacle of these movements was a Pine Grosbeak on the Kern desert, the first for the Region away from the High Sierra Nevada population that barely reaches the Region's northern border. In contrast, many observers commented on the scarcity of American Robins over much of the Region, and the fall flight of Cedar Waxwings was relatively minor. It was a rather uneventful season for western migrants and for vagrants, exceptions being the Region's third Sedge Wren in Santa Barbara, two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, and seven Painted Redstarts. There were few notable waterbirds or shorebirds.

Another milestone book on the Region's birds has just seen publication, the *San Diego Bird Atlas* by Philip Unitt (*Proceedings of the San Diego Society of Natural History*, No. 39, 2004); this book is both a major breeding and winter season atlas, reporting results from 1997 to 2002, and a complete avifaunal treatment of the nation's most species-rich county (updating the author's classic 1984 *The Birds of San Diego County*).

Abbreviations: C.L. (China L. Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. Kern); E.A.F.B. (Edwards A.F.B., 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); P.P. (Piute Ponds on Edwards A.F.B., ne. Los Angeles); S.C.R.E. (Santa Clara R. Estuary near Ventura, Ventura); S.E.S.S. (s. end of the Salton Sea, Imperial); V.C.G.P. (Ventura County G.P. near Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station, Ventura). Museum collections abbreviated in the text are: SDNHM (San Diego Natural History Museum). Because virtually all rarities in s. California are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying each bird are included. Documentation for species on the California 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.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

The only Pacific Loon reported from the interior was one on L. Perris, Riverside 14–16 Oct (RMcK). The only Red-necked Grebes to reach the Region were 3 at Cambria, San Luis Obispo 7–8 Nov (TME). Two Flesh-foot-



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ed Shearwaters off Avila, San Luis Obispo 25 Sep (BKS), another at Estero Bay, San Luis Obispo 29 Oct (BKS), one near Santa Rosa I. 9 Sep (DD), and 5 seen during a pelagic trip from Ventura to the n. Channel Islands 20 Nov (TMcG) were more than expected in s. California waters. The only Red-billed Tropicbirds reported were 3 near San Nicolas I. 11 Sep (TMcG). An ad. Masked Booby found at China Pt. on San Clemente I. 13 Jul remained through 15 Aug (BLS) and was believed to be the same bird present 10 Aug–3 Oct 2003. An ad. male Anhinga soaring over Fig Lagoon near Seeley, Imperial 25 Oct (KZK) was probably the same bird present 8 Nov 2003–18 Jan 2004.

A juv. Little Blue Heron in Carpinteria, Santa Barbara 11 Jul+ (LM), another at Malibu, Los Angeles 8 Aug–18 Sep (TEW), and an ad. about 19 km e. of Brawley, Imperial 11

Sep (RMcK) were the only three reported away from coastal San Diego. The Reddish Egrets in Huntington Beach/Costa Mesa, Orange and Bolsa Chica, Orange in Jul remained through 17 Aug (BED) and 7 Sep (MJI), and additional single imms. were at Seal Beach, Orange 15 Sep (BS), San Diego 14 Sep (DK), and inland at N.E.S.S. 19 Sep (KuL) and S.E.S.S. 1 Aug (BLS).

Two Tundra Swans on Tinemaha Res. near Big Pine, Inyo 29 Oct (T&JH) and another at C.L. the same day (SS) were the first of this fall, and one on Spring Valley L. near Victorville, San Bernardino 19–30 Nov (SJM) was the southernmost. Single blue-morph Ross's Geese were at S.E.S.S. 16 Nov+ (MSanM) and 26 Nov+ (RSI). The Harlequin Duck found on San Diego Bay in Mar 2000 was still present at the end of the period (MBi). The only scoters inland were a Surf



Ruffs are rare but regular fall migrants through southern California. This female was at the Ventura County Game Preserve, Ventura County, California 12 September 2004. Photograph by Larry Sansone.

Scoter on Klondike L. near Big Pine, *Inyo* 7 Nov (T&JH), 2 on Spring Valley L. 31 Oct (SJM), and another at S.E.S.S. 22 Oct (GMcC). Numbers of White-winged Scoters reaching the s. California coast have declined dramatically, with 3 in *Los Angeles* and 2 in *San Diego* in Nov (DB, RB, MSa) being the only ones reported. The only Black Scoters found were one on Morro Bay, *San Luis Obispo* 21 Nov+ (TME), one at Malibu 13 Nov (KLG), and 1-2 at El Segundo, *Los Angeles* 22 Nov+ (RB), and the only Long-tailed Ducks were single birds at the Santa Ynez R. Mouth, *Santa Barbara* 7-10 Nov (WTF), *Ventura*, *Ventura* 22 Nov (JMcM), and *Marina del Rey*, *Los Angeles* 12 Nov+ (DB). Both species are considered rare in s. California.

HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

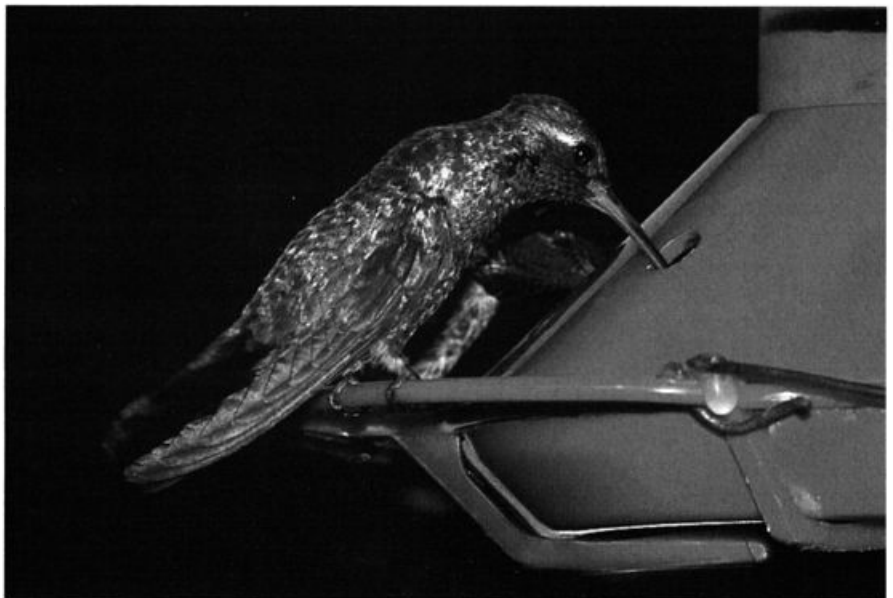
Single Red-shouldered Hawks at Baker, *San Bernardino* 12 Nov (MBra), near Blythe, *Riverside* 24 Sep (RH), and at Brock Ranch, *Imperial* 10 Sep (RMcK) were unusually far from areas of regular occurrence. Single Broad-winged Hawks at Orange 30 Oct (DRW) and *San Diego* 25 Sep (DAd) were the only ones along the coast, but one in California City, *Kern* 26 Sep (MTH), 2 together there 3 Oct (JCW), and single birds at Mojave, *Kern* 27 Sep (RT), *Desert Center*, *Riverside* 23 Sep (CMcG), and along the Coachella Canal e. of Niland, *Imperial* 23 Sep (JFG) were inland. Wintering Zone-tailed Hawks returned to Goleta, *Santa Barbara* 6 Oct for the 12th winter (R5m) and to Brawley, *Imperial* 31 Oct for the 3rd winter (KZK); one at Laguna Beach, *Orange* 29 Nov+ (JWi), up to 3 around Blythe 9 Oct (RH), and one in *San Clemente* 31 Oct-1

Nov (MSi) were probably wintering locally, but single birds at Orange 29 Oct (MT), near Oceanside, *San Diego* 10-12 Sep (PT), and at Bonita, *San Diego* 17-18 Nov (CR) appeared to be migrants.

The only American Golden-Plovers were singles near Pt. Mugu, *Ventura* 11-23 Sep (CAM) and at La Jolla 2-21 Oct (LC). Six Pacific Golden-Plovers on the Oxnard Plain, *Ventura* between 21 Aug and 23 Sep (N&MF, KR, DD) and single birds at Huntington Beach, *Orange* 11 Sep (JEP) and *San Elijo Lagoon*, *San Diego* 26-30 Aug (PAG) were believed to be migrants, but 2 at Seal Beach, *Orange* 2 Oct+ (RAH), up to 2 at Bolsa Chica, *Orange* 20 Aug+ (BED), and

up to 2 near Imperial Beach, *San Diego* 20 Sep+ (MSa) appeared to be wintering locally. Up to 2 Mountain Plovers on the beach at the Santa Ynez R. mouth 11-15 Oct (BKH), and singles at Malibu 16 Oct (HSW), near Oceanside 15 Aug (DPa), and at Imperial Beach 9 Oct (DPa), along with an unusually early one at C.L. 11 Sep (TEW), were away from areas of normal occurrence. An American Oystercatcher was seen flying along the coast at Newport Beach, *Orange* 17 Aug (MJI), and 2 black-and-white oystercatchers were observed on *Santa Cruz I.* 16 Nov (DC).

A Solitary Sandpiper at Blythe 6 Nov (RH) was unusually late, as virtually all pass through the Region in Aug-Sep. A Wandering Tattler at P.P. 17 Aug (MSanM) was one of a very few to be found inland away from the Salton Sea. A Ruddy Turnstone at Owens L., *Inyo* 9 Aug (MJP) was the only one found inland away from the Salton Sea. At least one of the 2 Black Turnstones found at S.E.S.S. 3 Jul remained through 22 Oct (GMcC). A Red Knot at Desert Center, *Riverside* 8 Aug (CMcG) was inland and away from the Salton Sea, as were 3 Sanderlings at scattered locations in *Inyo* between 19 Aug and 16 Sep (T&JH), and one at Lancaster, *Los Angeles* 2 Oct (JF). Juv. Semipalmated Sandpipers were decidedly less numerous than expected, with 25 found along the coast and only 8 inland, and the same could be said for Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers. Single Stilt Sandpipers were on the coast at Carpinteria 14 Sep (PG) and S.C.R.E. 1 Aug-12 Sep (DDesj); inland, single birds at Klondike L. 30 Aug (T&JH) and C.L. 28 Aug-8 Sep (TEW), up to 2 in the *Riverside* portion of the Prado Basin 8-15 Sep (JEP), and up to 2 more at Blythe 29 Aug-26 Sep (RH) were all



Two Broad-billed Hummingbirds were found in the Region this fall, with this adult male at Arroyo Grande, *San Luis Obispo County*, California, 2-12 (here 11) November 2004. Photograph by William A. Bouton.

away from the S.E.S.S., the only area in the Region where this species is expected. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was on the Oxnard Plain 10–28 Sep (DD). Reports of Ruffs included single birds on the coast at the V.C.G.P. 12 Sep (LS), Long Beach, Los Angeles 10 Sep–16 Oct (RB), and Bolsa Chica 17–25 Sep (BED), as well as inland at C.L. 25 Sep (AH), S.E.S.S. 10–12 Oct (BLS), and near Calipatria, Imperial 12 Oct (GMcC). The only Red Phalaropes found inland were single birds at C.L. 8 Sep (SS) and Desert Center 9 Oct (CMcG).

SKUAS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Four South Polar Skuas were seen during a pelagic trip from Ventura to the n. Channel Islands 20 Nov (TMcG). Single Parasitic Jaegers were inland on L. Cachuma, Santa Barbara 11–18 Sep (HP), the Riverside portion of the Prado Basin 8 Sep (JEP), N.E.S.S. 3 Oct (MJI), Salton City, Imperial 5 Oct (GMcC), and at S.E.S.S. 3 Oct (MJI). Franklin's Gulls were less numerous than expected, the only ones reported being single birds at San Luis Obispo 12–21 Nov (MBro) and at the San Jacinto W.A., Riverside 14 Nov (MBra), along with 6 around S.E.S.S. between 27 Aug and 10 Oct (GMcC, JFG). An ad. Little Gull at the San Jacinto W.A., Riverside 12 Nov (CMcG) and adjacent L. Perris 21 Nov+ (HBK) was believed to be the same bird as was present last winter. Single Heermann's Gulls at Lancaster 25 Sep (N&MF), near Victorville 16 Oct (SJM), at Blythe, Riverside 7–9 Nov (RH), at N.E.S.S. 3 Oct (MJI), and at S.E.S.S. 22 Oct (GMcC) were inland, where unexpected. A Yellow-footed Gull at Dana Pt., Orange 4–14 Nov (JWe) was one of a very few found along the coast. The only Glaucous Gull of the season was at Baywood, San Luis Obispo 9–27 Nov (LT). At least 20 Sabine's Gulls were found inland between 20 Sep and 28 Oct, including single juvs. at such unexpected places as F.C.R. 2 Oct (SS), Boron, Kern 2 Oct (SJM), and along I-15 between Baker and Barstow, San Bernardino 3 Oct (JEP). An exceptionally late Gull-billed Tern remained around Imperial Beach, San Diego 18–20 Nov (MSa, LD). Nesting attempts by over 400 pairs of Black Skimmers at the Salton Sea in Aug generally failed, with fewer than 30 young believed to have reached fledging age (KCM). A Marbled Murrelet at Malibu 13 Nov (KLG) was unusually far south.

The presence of 6 Eurasian Collared-Doves at Malibu 2 Oct+ (KLG) and one in Costa Mesa, Orange 31 Aug (MJI) established first records for those coastal counties. As usual, a few White-winged Doves wandered westward, with about 40 reported along the coast after early Aug and a re-



This image of a Tropical Kingbird taken at Point Loma, San Diego County, California 14 October 2004 captures nicely the shape of the wingtip—slightly more rounded than in its congener Couch's Kingbird. This species occurs annually along the southern Pacific coast. Photograph by Tony Leukering.

markable 25+ (16 together on 21 Sep) on San Clemente I. between 17 Aug and 7 Oct (BLS). Single Ruddy Ground-Doves at F.C.R. 2 Oct (SS), at G.H.P. 13 Oct (AH), and near El Centro, Imperial 15 Nov+ (KZK) were the only ones away from the now resident population near Calipatria. A Flammulated Owl in Short Canyon, nw. of Inyokern 11 Oct (SS) was only the 2nd found in e. Kern, and the same is true for the Northern Pygmy-Owl in nearby Grapevine Canyon 23 Oct (SS). For the 2nd consecutive fall as many as an estimated 30,000 Vaux's Swifts roosted in



This Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was present at Wister, Imperial County, California 3 through (here) 5 September 2004 and was the first to be found in the Salton Sink. Photograph by Kenneth Z. Kurland.

the Cooper Arms building in downtown Long Beach in Sep–Oct (DaC). A male Broad-billed Hummingbird, a casual straggler to California, was at Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo 2–12 Nov (CL), and another was at Dana Pt., Orange 20–22 Oct (MD). An exceptionally late Calliope Hummingbird frequented a feeder in Bishop, Inyo 4–9 Oct

(J&DP). A Gila Woodpecker at Corn Springs, Riverside 25 Sep (DG) had wandered far from any area of normal occurrence. Reports of Williamson's Sapsuckers away from the mts. included single birds at G.H.P. 23 Sep–3 Oct (TEW) and Crystal Springs, San Bernardino 16 Oct (SJM). At least 13 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found scattered throughout the Region after 15 Oct. At least 6 White-headed Woodpeckers around Santa Barbara after 24 Oct and one in Ridgecrest, Kern 4 Sep (SBT) were outside the species' normal range.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH NUTHATCHES

An Olive-sided Flycatcher near El Centro 27 Aug (GMcC) was the earliest ever for the Salton Sink. The latest Willow Flycatcher report was one at Manhattan Beach, Los Angeles 21 Oct (RB). Well-documented Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were Imperial's first at Wister, S.E.S.S. 3–5 Sep (MJS) and one at G.H.P. 3 Oct (TEW). Least Flycatchers, rare but regular in the Region, were at Goleta, Santa Barbara 3 Oct (WTF), Pt. Mugu, Ventura 3 Oct (DPe), Torrance, Los Angeles 25 Sep (KGL), and Pt. Loma, San Diego 22 Sep (MSa); on the deserts, one was at Mojave, Kern 27 Sep (RT). A late migrant Hammond's Flycatcher was at Playa del Rey, Los Angeles 18 Nov (RB), though more were found in the Region during the winter period. The window for coastal migration of Gray Flycatchers was suggested by a total of 11 during the period 6–25 Sep in coastal Los Angeles. A Pacific-slope Flycatcher at Bakersfield 28 Nov (K&BK) was the latest in fall for Kern. An Eastern Phoebe near Chino, San Bernardino 24 Nov (JEP) portended several more found during winter. Coastward wandering Vermilion Flycatchers were found as far north as Guadalupe, Santa Barbara 21 Oct (JMC). At least 13 Tropical Kingbirds were found on the coastal slope (mainly on the immediate coast) 21 Sep+; in the interior, one was near Niland 12 Oct (GMcC), and another was at Ramer Lake near Calipatria 4 Dec (BM). A Cassin's Kingbird near Niland 21–22 Oct (JFG, SJM) was in an area where rare.

Late Western Kingbirds were at Goleta 28 Oct (NAL), Lake Forest, Orange 28 Oct (PC), Lake View Terrace, Los Angeles 30 Oct (KLG), Bishop 2–3 Nov (AK, C&RH; the latest for Inyo by a month), and Irvine 25 Nov (BED; wintering?). Only 5 Eastern Kingbirds were reported, from 30 Aug–14 Oct. Up to 2 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were at Blythe 7–14 Nov (RH), and a returning

wintering bird was at Irwindale, Los Angeles 23 Nov+ (CA).

Migrant Bell's Vireos are noted more frequently as the Region's population of *pusillus* recovers dramatically; 7 were along the coast 24 Aug–25 Sep, with an exceptionally late bird at Long Beach 3 Nov (RB); one at Ridgecrest 24 Sep (JCW) was the first to be found in fall in e. Kern. Blue-headed Vireos, casual in California, were well described from Pt. Loma 17 Sep (MTH, GMcC) and Santa Catalina I. 28 Sep (DG). Hutton's Vireos well away from expected areas included *Imperial's* first at Brawley 30 Oct–15 Dec (GMcC) and one at G.H.P. 20 Nov (TEW). Late coastal Warbling Vireos were at Playa del Rey 4 Nov (DSC) and Orange 13 Nov (DRW); exceptionally late interior birds were at G.H.P. 23 Oct (AH), n. of Bishop 5 Nov (J&DP), and in Brawley 25 Nov (RSt). The summering Red-eyed Vireo at Huntington Beach was last seen 22 Aug (BAA); 5 others were noted in the Region 24 Aug–23 Oct. Well-documented Yellow-green Vireos were at Pt. Loma 15 Sep (TP) and Goleta 11 Oct (NAL).

Up to 6 Pinyon Jays at L. Cuyamaca 22 Sep–6 Oct (PJ) were among the few found in *San Diego* in the past decade. Wandering Clark's Nutcrackers were in *San Diego* 9 Nov (MFa; *SDNHM) and G.H.P. 3 Oct (KeL). Six migrant Purple Martins, now rarely noted, were found in the coastal lowlands 20 Aug–30 Sep. A Bank Swallow in Irvine 24 Oct (JLD) was the latest ever found in *Orange*.

A modest invasion of Red-breasted Nuthatches was first noted on the deserts by



Only the third to be found in the Region, this Sedge Wren was found in Goleta, Santa Barbara County, California 13 October 2004. Photograph by Wes T. Fritz.

early Sep, with smaller numbers in planted pines on the coastal slope by mid-month. Relatively large numbers of Pygmy Nuthatches were found well away from breeding areas, with up to 3 on the e. Kern deserts 6 Sep–13 Oct (RT, AEK), one at Oceano, *San Luis Obispo* 28 Aug (NAL), some 35 in coastal *Santa Barbara* 20 Oct+, up to 9 on the Palos Verdes Pen., *Los Angeles* 2 Nov+ (RD), and one at Westminster, *Orange* 22 Oct (MJJ).

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS

A House Wren near El Centro 19 Aug (KZK) was the earliest to be found in fall in the Salton Sink. A well-documented Sedge

Wren at Goleta 13 Oct (NAL) was only the Region's 3rd and the first for *Santa Barbara*. An American Dipper was recorded on Santa Cruz I. for only the 2nd time on 18 Nov (DC). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Brawley 7 Aug (MBi) established the earliest fall record for the Salton Sink. California Gnatcatchers again appeared well away from known areas of residence, with up to 3 at Bolsa Chica, *Orange* 25 Sep–15 Nov (BED, MJJ).

The 5 Gray Catbirds found during the period were all from the deserts of *Inyo* and *Kern* 2 Oct–21 Nov. The only coastal report of Sage Thrasher was of one at Playa del Rey 22 Sep (RB). Last winter's Curve-billed Thrasher returned to Black Meadow Landing near L. Havasu, *San Bernardino* 4 Nov+ (LD). A Bendire's Thrasher, very rare on the coastal slope, was at Calimesa, *Riverside* 22 Aug (SE).

The movement of Red-throated Pipits this fall was more "normal" than last year's big push; at least 7 and perhaps as many as 11 were found along the coast 1 Oct–13 Nov, and another was at California City, *Kern* 9 Oct (N&MF). Sprague's Pipits, now known to be annual in Bermuda grass fields in the se. part of the Region, included up to 5 near Calipatria 14 Nov+ (RT, MBra, GMcC) and one at Palo Verde, *Riverside* 27 Nov (MSanM).

With few exceptions, vagrant warblers (and other passerines) from e. and boreal regions were found in much lower numbers this fall than last and often in numbers well below average. Twelve Tennessee Warblers were in coastal areas 3 Sep–16 Oct, with 3 more on the deserts 21 Aug–9 Oct. About 12 Virginia's Warblers were on the coast 18 Aug–3 Oct, with a late bird at Goleta 23 Oct (NAL); 3 more were in the interior 13 Aug–4 Sep. The only coastal Lucy's Warblers were singles near Oxnard 25–29 Sep (JF) and at Long Beach 16 Oct (KGL); one at Wister, S.E.S.S. 5 Aug (GMcC) was one of the few in recent years in the Salton Sink. An ad. male and an imm. Northern Parula at Huntington Beach 15 Aug (MJJ) perhaps suggested local nesting; 8 more were on the coastal slope 4 Sep–8 Oct, along with singles in *Inyo* 31 Aug and 12 Sep. Nine Chestnut-sided Warblers were along the coast 29 Sep–21 Oct, with another 4 on the deserts 25 Sep–13 Oct. Five vagrant Magnolia Warblers were along the coast 22 Sep–18 Oct, plus another wintering bird at Goleta 2 Nov+ (FS); additional birds were on the n. deserts at Tinemaha Res. 27 Sep (T&JH) and G.H.P. 2–3 Oct (JCW). A drab female Cape May Warbler was at Long Beach 24–26 Oct (KSG); a bright Cape May-like bird near Oxnard 3–4 Oct (OA, DRW) appeared to be a hybrid of unknown parent-



Red-breasted Nuthatches staged a moderate invasion into the Region. This one was in El Centro, Imperial County, California 4 September 2004. Photograph by Kenneth Z. Kurland.



Hutton's Vireo is exceptionally rare in the eastern half of this Region. This one was present in Brawley, Imperial County, California 30 October–15 December (here 7 November) 2004, the first to be found in the Salton Sink. Photograph by Kenneth Z. Kurland.

age. Nine Black-throated Blue Warblers included 5 along the coast 27 Sep–21 Oct and 4 in the interior 24 Sep–30 Oct. Black-throated Green Warblers were near Oxnard 25 Sep (MSanM), at Goleta 23 Oct (NAL), at Riverside 30 Oct (TAB), at Santa Maria, *Santa Barbara* 6 Nov (JMC), and in the interior n. of Bishop 20–23 Oct (JLD). Six Blackburnian Warblers were along the coast 18 Sep–17 Oct, and another was at Ridgecrest 8 Nov (SS). Pt. Loma's wintering Grace's Warblers returned 17 Sep+ (male; EAC) and 25 Sep+ (female; GMcC). A Pine Warbler photographed at China Ranch, *Inyo* 16 Oct (SJM) was toward the early end of the species' fall/winter window in the Region and at an unusual inland locality. Only 5 Prairie Warblers were found, 3 along the coast 10 Oct–20 Nov, plus birds in e. Kern at Ridgecrest 30 Sep (SS) and China Lake 3 Nov (SS). Forty-seven Palm Warblers along the coast 26 Sep–22 Nov was a fairly good showing; only 5 were on the deserts, 3 Oct–3 Nov. Bay-breasted Warblers were on San Clemente I. 22 Oct (HAC) and in *Inyo* near Bishop 20 Oct and 9–12 Nov (J&DP). Blackpoll Warbler numbers were somewhat below average, with at least 24 along the coast 15 Sep–31 Oct and 3 more in e. Kern 23 Sep–9 Oct.

Forty coastal Black-and-white Warblers 28 Aug+ and 7 on the deserts 21 Sep+ included a few that were apparently remaining to winter. Similarly, some of the 28 coastal American Redstarts 3 Sep+ and 15 desert birds 3 Sep+ remained to winter, and a male at Huntington Beach 7 Aug–9

Sep (CAM) may have summered locally. Prothonotary Warblers included a male at Huntington Beach 9 Sep and a female there 10 Oct (both JEP), one at Inyokern, Kern 11–18 Sep (LK), and one at California City 3 Oct (JCW). A Worm-eating Warbler was nw. of Bishop 9–12 Nov (CE, T&JH); about one per fall occurs in the Region. Seven Ovenbirds included 3 on the coast 26 Sep–6 Oct and 4 in the interior 22 Sep–11 Oct. Among the 22 reported Northern Waterthrushes was a rather early bird at Inyokern 19 Aug (LA). The only documented Kentucky Warbler was one at Goleta 28 Sep (WTF). Amazing were 2 different Connecticut Warblers, the first in the Region since 2001, in *Santa*



This hatch-year male Scarlet Tanager remained near Imperial Beach, San Diego County, California 31 October through 2 (here 1) November 2004, the only one found in the Region this fall. Photograph by Tom Blackman.

Barbara; one was on Santa Cruz I. 25 Sep (JLD), and another was at Santa Barbara 15–17 Oct (AB). A MacGillivray's Warbler near El Centro 7 Aug (KZK) was the earliest to be found in fall in the Salton Sink. Hood-

ed Warblers, always less numerous in fall than in spring, were at G.H.P. 22 Sep (AH) and California City 2 Oct (AH); the summering bird at Huntington Beach remained through 4 Oct (LRH). Five Canada Warblers were found along the coast 19 Sep–16 Oct. Rather exceptional were 7 Painted Redstarts found during the period: at Warner Springs, San Diego 8 Sep (MBS), Solana Beach, San Diego 13 Sep (RTr), Pt. Loma 16–18 Sep (MSa), Lake View Terrace 18–19 Sep (KLG), Irvine 16 Oct (BED), Laguna Niguel, Orange 17 Oct+ (SSc), and e. Anaheim 21–22 Oct (BML). A Yellow-breasted Chat at G.H.P. 28 Oct (K&BK) established the latest fall record for Kern.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A single Scarlet Tanager near Imperial Beach 31 Oct–2 Nov (THu) was a far cry from the 5 recorded last fall. Late Western Tanagers on the deserts were at Blythe 17 Oct (RH), Grapevine Canyon nw. of Inyokern 23 Oct (*fide* JCW), and near Niland 18 Nov (JFG). A Spotted Towhee e. of Lancaster 5 Sep (KLG) was early for a desert migrant. Fifteen coastal Clay-colored Sparrows 15 Sep–31 Oct were augmented by 13 on the deserts 8 Sep–6 Nov. Four Black-throated Sparrows were found along the coast 2 Sep–7 Nov. A scattering of Lark Buntings through the Region included an impressive 13 recorded from San Clemente I. 7 Sep–7 Oct (BLS). Grasshopper Sparrows, scarce and poorly understood migrants on the deserts, were at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley N. P. 30 Sep–1 Oct (JEP), at Independence 19 Oct (BH), and near Seeley, Imperial 26 Oct (KZK). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow had returned

to the regular winter site at Morro Bay by 15 Oct (GPS). A Red Fox Sparrow of the w. race (*Passerella iliaca zaboria*) near El Centro 17–20 Nov (KZK) was one of the few ever found in the Salton Sink, where birds of the *schistacea* group are the ones most often recorded. A Lincoln's Sparrow at G.H.P. 29 Aug (TEW) was a very early migrant. Coastal Harris's Sparrows were on San Clemente I. 13 Oct (JMcM) and in Orange at Tustin 24–27 Oct (S&MA) and Huntington Beach 14 Nov (BAA); 10 more on the deserts included 8 in *Inyo* and an early bird at Morongo Valley 17 Sep (DZ). A White-throated Sparrow x Golden-crowned Sparrow hybrid returned to Arroyo Grande for its 2nd winter 11 Nov+ (BKS).

The only McCown's Longspur reported was one near Calipatria 27 Nov+ (GMcC). An exceptionally early Lapland Longspur

SA The most surprising bird of the season was a stunning female or imm. **Pine Grosbeak** at G.H.P. 3–7 Nov (K&BK, m.ob.). Tame, as this species is apt to be, the bird allowed close scrutiny and photography; photographs suggested, because of the rather deep bill, that it was not of the endemic Sierra Nevada subspecies *californica*. Various plumage and structural characters, along with known movement patterns of the various subspecies, suggest that this bird was either *leucura* of the boreal regions or *montana* of the Rocky Mountains. In any case, it was the first Pine Grosbeak to be found in Kern and the only one for the Region away from the resident range of *californica*, which barely touches the highest portion of Inyo; several Pine Grosbeaks found in ne. California in winter 1972–1973 (A.B. 27: 657, 1973) were thought not to be *californica*.

was at C.L. 25 Sep (MTH); also very early was one on San Clemente I. 2 Oct (BLS), followed by 18 others on that island and at least 14 more elsewhere along the coast 11 Oct+. The earliest Chestnut-collared Longspur was also at C.L. 2 Oct (TEW). Remarkable was a Snow Bunting on San Clemente I. 3–14 Nov (JMCM); this bird, apparently an ad., could have been the same individual that established a southerly record on the island last fall. Only about 15 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found, including 10 at coastal localities 16 Aug–6 Nov and another 4 or 5 on the deserts 14 Sep–26 Nov. A Lazuli Bunting at Goleta 14 Nov (RPH) was very late. The latest Indigo Bunting was one at F.C.R. 31 Oct (JLD). Painted Buntings were at Encino, Los Angeles 7 Aug (ad. male; AL), Ridgecrest 15 Sep (SS), Goleta 29 Sep (DMC), and China Ranch 2 Oct (JEP); records of this species—an annual vagrant whose patterns of occurrence are obscured by escapees from captivity—are now no longer reviewed by the C.B.R.C. Four Dickcissels were found along the coast 9 Sep–2 Oct, with another 3 on the deserts 23 Sep–2 Oct.

A Tricolored Blackbird at Borrego Springs 23 Nov (PJ) was among the few ever found in the desert portion of San Diego. The fall was a poor one for Bobolinks, with only 23 found along the coast (11 of these on San Clemente I.) and 5 on the deserts; one at Bolsa Chica 14 Nov (BED) was quite late. The only Rusty Blackbird, a declining vagrant to the Region, was an ad. male at Tinemaha Res. 5–7 Dec (T&JH). Common Grackle, in contrast, is being found increasingly often in California; one was at Desert Center 17 Oct (CMcG). Orchard Orioles were on San Clemente I. 25 Aug (JMCM), near Pt. Mugu 5 Sep (DPe), at Goleta 24 Oct (DMC), and at Wister, S.E.S.S. 31 Oct (DaR). Only 5 Baltimore Orioles were reported, the earliest being singles at Huntington Beach 28 Sep (TN) and at N.E.S.S. 29 Sep (SJM). Southward migration of Bullock's Orioles is quite early, with most birds gone from the interior by early Sep, so one at Wister, S.E.S.S. 29 Sep (JLD) was noteworthy. A Scott's Oriole at Valyermo, Los Angeles 13 Nov (JF) was well away from known wintering areas.

Red Crossbills staged a moderate invasion onto the Mojave Desert in Nov, with 60+

found in planted pines in the Antelope Valley of Los Angeles and Kern, and a few birds noted elsewhere inland; 20+ were at various localities at Santa Barbara 30 Oct–18 Nov, and other coastal birds included 2 at Torrance, Los Angeles 16 Nov (DM) and one at Bolsa Chica 6 Nov (BED). A Black Rosy-Finch at Aspendell, Inyo 14–18 Nov (SS, JLD) provided one of the few recent records for the Region. Purple Finches on the deserts, where quite rare, were at Desert Center 23 Sep (CMcG) and Horsethief



The status of Grasshopper Sparrow in southeastern California is poorly understood, and only a few have been documented in the Salton Sink. This one was found near Seeley, Imperial County, California 26 October 2004. Photograph by Kenneth Z. Kurland.

Spring in the Kingston Mts., San Bernardino 16 Oct (SJM). Pine Siskins were widely reported, with most county coordinators commenting on the much larger than usual flight; the major movements began in early to mid-Oct, but an exceptionally early bird was at G.H.P. 29 Aug (TEW). A few Evening Grosbeaks were on the deserts of Kern and San Bernardino 2 Oct+; more unexpected was one on Santa Cruz I. 22 Oct (DAS).

Cited observers (county coordinators in boldface): Don Adams (DAd), Bruce A.

Aird, Chris Akiyoshi, Steve and Marian Alter (S&MA), Onik Arian, David Armstrong (DAR), Liga Auzins, Richard Barth, David Bell, Tom A. Benson, Mark Billings (MBi), Allyn Bissell, Matt Brady (MBra), Mark Brown (MBro), Heather A. Carlisle, Jamie M. Chavez, David M. Compton (Santa Barbara), Lyann Comrack, Peyton Cook, Daniel S. Cooper, Doug Cooper, Elizabeth A. Copper, David Coy (DaC), Brian E. Daniels, Maya Decker, Ray DeLong, Don Desjardin, LeRoy Dorman, Jon L. Dunn, Tom M. Edell (San Luis Obispo), Steve Edelman, Claus Engelhardt, Meryl Faulkner (MFa), Jon Feenstra, Nick and Mary Freeman (N&MF), Wes T. Fritz, Peter Gaede, Kimball L. Garrett (Los Angeles), Karen S. Gilbert, Peter A. Ginsburg, David Goodward, John F. Green (Riverside), Robert A. Hamilton, Loren R. Hays, Matthew T. Heindel, Tom & Jo Heindel (Inyo), Roger Hig-

son, Brad K. Hines, Ron P. Hirst, Chris and Rosie Howard (C&RH), Andrew Howe, Bob Hudson, Terry Hune-field (THu), Marshall J. Iliff, Paul Jorgensen, Dan King, Howard B. King, Andrew Kirk, Louise Knetch, Alexander E. Koonce (San Bernardino), Kenneth Z. Kurland, Ken and Brenda Kyle (K&BK), Alexandra Lamb, Kevin G. Larson, Brian M. Leatherman, Nick A. Lethaby, Kurt Leuschner (KuL), Kelli Levinson (KeL), Cheryl Lish, Curtis A. Marantz, Liz Mason, Guy McCaskie (Imperial), Chet McGaugh, Todd McGrath, Robert McKernan, Jim McMorran, Bob Miller, Kathy C. Molina, David Moody, Stephen J. Myers, Tom Newhouse, Dennis Parker (DPa), Jim and Debby Parker (J&DP), Halli Pedersen, Dave Pereksta (DPe), James E. Pike, Tim Plunkett, Michael J. Prather, Collene Reck, Kay Regester, Matt Sadowski (MSa), Florence Sanchez, Mike San Miguel, Michael J. San Miguel, Larry Sansone, Bob Schallman, Susan Schaar (SSc), Brad K. Schram, David A. Sibley, Mark Sil-

verstein (MSi), Gregory P. Smith, Ron Smith (RSm), Rich Stallcup (RSt), Susan Steele, Mary Beth Stowe, Brian L. Sullivan, Linda Tanner, Monte Taylor, Ryan Terrill, Scott B. Terrill, Paul Theobald, Richard Trissel (RTr), Hartmut S. Walter, Walter Wehtje (Ventura), Joel Weintraub (JWe), Jeff Williams (JWi), Douglas R. Willick (Orange), John C. Wilson (Kern), Thomas E. Wurster, Dee Zeller. An additional 50+ observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports this season; all have our thanks. 🐣