

PAINTED REDSTARTS ATTEMPT TO BREED IN CALIFORNIA

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On 6 July 1974 Carl Schroeder, Debbie Zache and I found a nest of Painted Redstarts (*Myioborus* [= *Setophaga*] *pictus*) in the Laguna Mountains (32° 51' 40" N, 116° 26' 10" W) of San Diego County, California. This is the first recorded breeding of this species in California. The nesting area was at an elevation of about 5640 feet, approximately one mile downstream from the Agua Dulce campground along Agua Dulce Creek. The area was wooded primarily with Black Oaks (*Quercus kelloggii*), Jeffrey Pines (*Pinus jeffreyi*), and Incense Cedars (*Calocedrus decurrens*). Ground cover consisted mainly of sparse grasses, with scattered lupines (*Lupinus*) and Indian paintbrushes (*Castilleja*). The nest was built on the ground on a steep slope about thirty feet from a temporarily dry streambed. It was under a small Canyon Live Oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*), about a foot high, which with dead leaves and a fragment of a fallen pine branch formed a canopy over it (Figure 1).

When we found the nest on 6 July it contained four young, one to two days old. On 8 July the nesting appeared to be progressing normally. On 13 July however, one nestling was missing and the remaining three were dead; these were salvaged and are preserved in alcohol in the San Diego Natural History Museum. Only one of the adults, which was singing, remained in the area. Considerable disruption of the leaf litter suggested that cattle had walked within two feet of the nest; this may have caused the adults to desert. Neither of the adults could



Figure 1. Nest of Painted Redstart near Agua Dulce campground, Laguna Mountains, San Diego County, California photographed July 1974.

Photo by Jetty McCubbin

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be found in the area on 14 July and the nest was collected (preserved at California Academy of Sciences). One of the adults was, however, reported in the area on 18 July and again on 29 July.

Possibility of breeding was first suspected in late May. Edith Curry reported a single individual in the Agua Dulce area on 23 May. I visited the area on 25 May and found a pair, which was subsequently seen by many people.

Although this represents the first published record of nesting of the Painted Redstart in California, there exist 28 other records in the state, including three substantiated by specimens (see Appendix). Painted Redstarts have been seen in California in every month of the year, but almost half of the records (14) are from fall migration (27 August to 20 November). Six represent spring migration (13 April to 26 May). Four records are for wintering birds (26 September to 30 March); two of these are of individuals returning for three consecutive years. There are five summer records (23 May to 6 August), including the present one. The report for Cedar Falls, San Bernardino County, is best disregarded however, as the identification is questionable (John D. Goodman, *vide* Guy McCaskie).

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APPENDIX

Occurrences of Painted Redstart in California are listed below in chronological order. AFN refers to *Audubon Field Notes* and AB to *American Birds*.

1. Elysian Park, Los Angeles Co. 27 Oct to 1 Nov 1926 (not 1927 as stated in Grinnell and Miller, *Pac. Coast Avifauna* 27:420, 1944). Miller, L., *Condor* 29:77, 1927.
2. Altadena, Los Angeles Co. 14 Jan to Mar 1942, Sep 1942 to Feb 1943 and 26 Sep 1943 to 23 Mar 1944. Allen, W. I., *Condor* 44:76, 1942; Cogswell, H., *Audubon Mag.*, Sec. 2, 45(2):16, 45(3):16 and 45(6):16, 1943; Grinnell and Miller *op. cit.*:420.
3. Near Stubby Spring, Little San Bernardino Mts., Riverside Co. 12 Sep 1950 (Museum of Vertebrate Zoology No. 122934). Miller, A. H. and R. C. Stebbins, *The lives of desert animals in Joshua Tree National Monument*, Univ. of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1964, p. 220-221.
4. Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara Co. 12-14 Jan 1951. Rett, E. Z., *Condor* 53:205, 1951.
5. Spring Valley, San Diego Co. 22-25 Sep 1951. Thornburgh, M. M., *Condor* 55:318, 1953.
6. Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara Co. 9 Oct 1951. Two individuals (one collected, mounted, Santa Barbara Natural History Museum No. 4048). Rett, E. Z., *Condor* 54:115, 1952.
7. Laguna Beach, Orange Co. 27 Oct 1951. Small, A. and R. L. Pyle, *AFN* 6:39, 1952.
8. Mill Creek Canyon, San Bernardino Mts., San Bernardino Co. 14 Dec 1952, 23 Dec 1953 to 30 Mar 1954 and 27 Sep 1954 to early Mar 1955. Goodman, J. D., *Condor* 56:361, 1954; Small, A., *AFN* 8:272, 1954, 9:58, 288, 1955.

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9. Cedar Falls, San Bernardino Mts., San Bernardino Co. 6-7 Jul 1955 (questionable, see text). Small, A., AFN 9:404, 1955.
10. Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara Co. 27 Aug 1956. Small, A., AFN 11:62, 1957.
11. Cottonwood Springs, Riverside Co. 19 Sep 1956. Small, A., AFN 11:62, 1957.
12. Mill Creek Canyon, San Bernardino Co. 8 Oct to 20 Nov 1957. Small, A., AFN 12:60, 1958.
13. Lower Otay Lake, San Diego Co. 19 Jan 1959. Small, A., AFN 13:325, 1959.
14. Cottonwood Springs, Riverside Co. 1 May 1959. Small, A., AFN 13:402, 1959.
15. Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co. 2-8 May 1965. McCaskie, G., AFN 19:512, 1965.
16. La Jolla, San Diego Co. 30 Sep to 1 Oct 1966. McCaskie, G., AFN 21:80, 1967.
17. Whitewater Canyon, Riverside Co. 16-24 Apr 1967. McCaskie, G., AFN 21:542, 1967.
18. Tijuana River Valley, near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co. 28 Aug 1968 (San Diego Natural History Museum No. 36800). McCaskie, G., AFN 23:112, 1969.
19. Point Loma, San Diego Co. 18 Sep 1968. McCaskie, G., AFN 23:112, 1969.
20. Tuna Canyon, Los Angeles Co. 22-23 May 1969. McCaskie, G., AFN 23:627, 1969.
21. Lower slopes of Mt. Palomar, near Pauma Valley, San Diego Co. 25 Jun to 6 Aug 1969. McCaskie, G., AFN 23:696, 1969.
22. Near Springville, Tulare Co. 4 Jul 1969. McCaskie, G., AFN 23:696, 1969.
23. Tijuana River Valley, near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co. 24 Sep 1972. McCaskie, G., AB 27:124, 1973.
24. Cottonwood Canyon, Panamint Mts., Inyo Co. 13-16 Apr 1973. McCaskie, G., AB 27:822, 1973.
25. Clark Mt., San Bernardino Co. 26 May 1973. Johnson, N. K. and K. Garrett, West. Birds 5:45-56, 1974.
26. West Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co. 1-3 Nov 1973. McCaskie, G., AB 28:110, 1974.
27. Near Agua Dulce campground, Laguna Mts., San Diego Co. 23 May to 29 Jul 1974.
28. South Fork campground, South Fork of Santa Ana River, San Bernardino Mts., San Bernardino Co. 28 May to 15 Jul 1974. Two individuals on 28 May. Johnson, N. K. and K. Garrett, West. Birds 5:45-56, 1974. McCaskie, G., AB 28:854, 1974.
29. Point Loma, San Diego Co. 2 Sep 1974 (pers. obs.).