Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Uncommon as a winter visitor even in coastal northern California, the Red-necked Grebe is casual as far south as San Diego County, where there are three well-supported records. These are the southernmost for the species along the Pacific coast; the Red-necked Grebe is unknown in Mexico.

**Winter:** One was at Sweetwater Reservoir (S12) 20 December 1969–2 January 1970 (AFN 24:538, 1970), one was at the south end of San Diego Bay (V10) 14 March 1977 (AB 31:372, 1977), and one was at Santee Lakes (P12) 30 December 1984–6 January 1985 (D. and N. Kelly, AB 39:209, 1985). Other published reports from the 1950s and 1960s are more likely of misidentified Horned Grebes (Unitt 1984).

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Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Though highly migratory, the Eared Grebe is also flightless for much of the year; its breast muscles atrophy except when needed for migration. Breeding birds use ponds and marshes with fresh to brackish water, but nonbreeders concentrate in water that is hypersaline. In San Diego County, such conditions are found in south San Diego Bay, where the Eared Grebe winters by the thousands. Though the grebe is still common on both fresh and salt water elsewhere, the numbers are much smaller. As a breeding bird the Eared Grebe is rare and irregular in San Diego County, which lies near the southern tip of the breeding range.

**Winter:** The salt works at the south end of San Diego Bay are the center for the Eared Grebe in San Diego County.