

Laird Henkel, Pablo A. Herrera, Craig Hohenberger, Joan M. Humphrey, **John E. Hunter** (*Trinity*), Ken Irwin, Alvaro Jaramillo, **Robert J. Keiffer** (*Mendocino*), **Robin L.C. Leong** (*Napa & Solano*), Gary S. Lester, Cindy Lieurance, Les Lieurance, Janet Linthicum, Michael J. Mammoser, **Timothy D. Manolis** (*Sacramento & Yolo*), John Mariani, Matthew Matthiessen, Mac McCormick, Bert McKee, **Peter J. Metropulos** (*San Mateo & Mono*), Roger Muscat, Kristie N. Nelson, **Jude C. Power** (*Humboldt*), **Peter Pyle** (F.I.), **Robert J. Richmond** (*Alameda*), **Michael F. Robbins**

(*Amador*), **Don Roberson** (*Monterey*), Steve Rovell, **Ruth A. Rudesill** (*Sonoma*), Jeff Seay, Debra L. Shearwater, Shearwater Journeys, David Shuford, Dan Singer, Paul F. Springer, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling, Dan M. Stobel, Emilie Strauss, **David L. Suddjian** (DLSu; *Santa Cruz*), Chris Tenney, Richard Ternullo, Ronald S. Thorn, Chuck E. Vaughn, **Kent Van Vuren** (*Merced & San Benito*), **Jerry R. White** (*Lake*), **Brian D. Williams** (*Placer & Nevada*), **Bob & Carol Yutzy** (*Shasta*), m.ob.= many observers. Many more observers were not specifically cited, but all are appreciated.

Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. In most regions, place names given in italic type are counties. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *North American Birds* are keyed on page 352.



southern pacific coast



Guy McCaskie

954 Grove Ave.
Imperial Beach, California 91932

Kimball L. Garrett

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
900 Exposition Blvd.
Los Angeles, California 90007
(report to McCaskie)

Dry conditions prevailed throughout the Region. Some noteworthy waterbirds were found at the Salton Sea, and the first fall migrant shorebirds reached the Region at the end of June. As always, late spring migrants continued to move through the

Region into the latter half of June, and included a few vagrants from the East.

Abbreviations: C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, ne. *Kern*); F.C.R. (Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley N.P., *Inyo*); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park, e. *Kern*); N.E.S.S. (north end of the Salton Sea, *Riverside*); S.E.S.S. (south end of the Salton Sea, *Imperial*); S.F.K.R.P. (South Fork Kern River Preserve, near Weldon, *Kern*). Since 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 (CBRC) review list is forwarded to the CBRC Secretary and archived

at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

BOOBIES THROUGH PTARMIGANS

An ad. Masked Booby, a casual straggler to California waters, was associating with nesting Western Gulls on San Nicolas I. 5 Jun (SH). An ad. Little Blue Heron inland at S.E.S.S. 1 Jul (BED) was the only one reported away from coastal *San Diego*. Three **Glossy Ibis** photographed at S.E.S.S. 1 Jul (PAG, GMcC, MAP), with at least one reported in that area through 6 Aug (SK), probably included the one near Calipatria on 27 May (Spring report). One in *San Bernardino* 29–31 Aug 1999 (*N. Am. Birds* 54:104) was the first to be reported in California, and it will be interesting to learn weather these birds are reaching California by crossing the Southwest or moving northward from the w. coast of s. Mexico. A Wood Stork in Sorrento Valley, *San Diego*, 8 Jul+ (CDeW) was on the coast where now a casual to accidental straggler.

The two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks found at S.E.S.S. 28 May (Spring report) remained through 22 Jun (AK, GMcC) and established the 16th record for the state. No more than 2 pairs of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were present around S.E.S.S. this summer (BM), with no evidence of successful nesting; this species is on the verge of being extirpated as a breeding bird in California. A Brant far inland in Bishop, *Inyo*, through 31 Jul (T&JH) had been present since 11 May, and another at Inyokern, *Kern*, through 16 Jun (TM) had been present since 16 May. Four Surf Scoters at Buena Vista L., *Kern*, 2 Jul (JMC), 2+ at

N.E.S.S. 1 Jun–22 Jul (GMcC), 3+ at S.E.S.S. 6 Jun–30 Jul (GMcC), and a female White-winged Scoter at N.E.S.S. 1 Jun–16 Jul (GMcC) were all summering inland. A Long-tailed Duck at Pt. Piedras Blancas, *San Luis Obispo*, 1 Jun (RR) was a late migrant flying north.

A Mississippi Kite seen catching insects in the air over the Lucerne Valley 12 June (JE), was at an expected time of the year, and only the 2nd for *San Bernardino*. An ad. Bald Eagle at L. Henshaw, *San Diego*, 18 Jun (PU) and at nearby L. Cuyamaca 20 Jun (DB) were unexpected considering the time of the year. An imm. Sharp-shinned Hawk over Arcadia, *Los Angeles*, 9 Jun (TEW) and an adult in the Inyo Mts. 16 Jun (REW) were unseasonal. A Northern Goshawk in the Inyo Mts. 16 Jun (REW) was in an area where nesting is suspected. The pair of Harris's Hawks near Boulevard, *San Diego* (Spring report), fledged 3 young 12 Jul (PU), establishing the first successful nesting since the species was extirpated as a breeding bird in California in the 1950's. Up to 25 sub-adult Swainson's Hawks near L. Henshaw 17–25 Jun (SSm, GRe, JEP) were unexpected considering the date, but evidently attracted to the incredible number of grasshoppers in that area. Single ad. Zone-tailed Hawks near Warner Springs, *San Diego*, 24 Jun (EH) and on Mt. Laguna, *San Diego*, 22 Jul (DWA) suggest the possibility of nesting in these areas. A White-tailed Ptarmigan near Piute Pass w. of Bishop 19 Jul (JC) was near the s. limit of this introduced species' expanding range in the Sierra Nevada.

SANDPIPERS THROUGH SKIMMERS

A Solitary Sandpiper near Olancho, *Inyo*, 5 Jul (REM) was an early fall migrant, and followed by 1-2 at C.L. 24-31 Jul (SSt). The presence of a pair of Spotted Sandpipers with chicks near Norco, *Riverside*, 6 Jul (HK) established nesting in that area. A Red Knot on Mystic L. near Lakeview, *Riverside*, 28 Jul (CMcG) and a Sanderling at C.L. 24 Jul (SSt) were the only ones reported inland away from the Salton Sea. Up to 2 ad. Semipalmated Sandpipers on Tinnemaha Res near Big Pine, *Inyo*, 10–13 Jul (JLD) and one at Bolsa Chica, *Orange*, 1 Jul (JM) were fall migrants. An ad. **Red-necked Stint** was seen briefly at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, *Santa Barbara*, 13 Jul (BKH). An ad. Baird's Sandpiper at C.L. 14 Jul (SSt) and another near San Pedro, *Los Angeles*, 31 Jul (DMH) were the earliest this fall. A Pectoral Sandpiper at Sorento Valley 23 Jul (SSm)

and another in Goleta, *Santa Barbara*, 25-26 Jul (WF) were noteworthy since adults are rare in California. A "winnowing" Common Snipe in Upper Lockwood Valley, *Ventura*, 7 May (WW) suggests the possibility of nesting at that location, and one at G.H.P. 23 Jul (KSG) was an early fall migrant.

A Parasitic Jaeger well seen at the Whitewater R. mouth at N.E.S.S. 1 Jul (CAM) is only the second credibly recorded on the Salton Sea in summer; Pomarine Jaeger has proven to be the "expected" jaeger on the Salton Sea at this time of the year. Laughing Gulls were sitting on 3 nests at S.E.S.S. 17–19 May (BM) and a chick fledged 28 Aug (KCM); there are only two previous records of attempted nesting at the Salton Sea since the 1950s (*W. Birds* 31:106–111). An ad. Laughing Gull, rare along the coast, at Guadalupe Dunes, *Santa Barbara*, 16 Jul (JCR) coincided with an influx of post-breeding birds to the Salton Sea. A Franklin's Gull at C.L. 14 Jun (SSt) was the only one reported. The ad. Heermann's Gull present at S.E.S.S. since 11 Mar (Spring report) was still present at the end of the period (KLG); at least 7 more at various locations around the Salton Sea in Jul, including 4+ around the Whitewater R. mouth 15–16 Jul (GMcC, MAP), was more than expected. A first-year Thayer's Gull around the Whitewater R. mouth at N.E.S.S. 23 Apr–6 Aug (MAP, GMcC, AME) appears to be the first known to summer in California. A first-year Sabine's Gull at the Whitewater R. mouth 15–16 Jul (GMcC) is the 7th to be found around the Salton Sea in summer.

Two Elegant Terns were at S.E.S.S. 6 Jun (KCM, BM) and a Royal/Elegant Tern was there 15 Jun (BM); Royal is accidental and Elegant is a casual straggler to the Salton Sea. On the coast, the Bolsa Chica tern colony again moved north to the nearby Port of Los Angeles where 10–15 pairs of Royal and 3500 Elegant Terns were attending nests in June (CTC); a **Sandwich Tern** was with them 21–23 Jun (MA, NM) and an apparent Sandwich × Elegant hybrid was there 26 Jun (CTC). An Arctic Tern near Oceanside, *San Diego*, 4 Jun (DP) had oil on its underparts, as has been the case for most previous onshore birds in spring. Single ad. Arctic Terns inland at N.E.S.S. 1 and 9 Jun (GMcC), and a first-year bird near Salton City 22 Jun (GMcC), fall within the period of previous spring records at the Salton Sea. At least 2 Least Terns at N.E.S.S. 9 Jun–5 Aug (GMcC, MAP, AME), single birds at Salton City 1 Jul (MAP) and 17 Aug (GMcC), and at S.E.S.S. 6 and 22 Jun (GMcC) were at an

inland location where 2-3 are found most years, but one at C.L. 19 Jun (SSt), another at Piute Ponds near Lancaster, *Los Angeles*, 1 Jul (MSanM), and a third at the Prado Basin near Corona, *Riverside*, 4 Jul (DSP) were unexpected. A Black Skimmer at the Prado Basin near Corona 28-30 Jun (DSP) was inland and away from the Salton Sea.

CUCKOOS THROUGH VIREOS

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at G.H.P. 4 Jun (KSG) was at an expected time and location for a spring migrant. However, single birds at S.E.S.S. 22 Jun (GMcC), Brea, *Orange*, 23 Jun (TN), Morongo Valley, *San Bernardino*, 13 June (KG), and California City, *Kern*, 17 Jun (MSanM), and 2–3 at G.H.P. 17 June (KSG), with one remaining through 30 Jul, indicated a late movement of these birds through S. California at that time. One at China Ranch, *Inyo*, 20 Jun (MSanM), 12 pairs at the S.F.K.R.P. during the period (SAL), and 2 in the Prado Basin near Corona in Jun (DSP) were at known breeding localities, but a calling bird in riparian habitat near Lompoc, *Santa Barbara*, 1-2 Jul (DMC) was away from any known nesting site. A calling Common Nighthawk in Goleta 14 Jun (GBW) was only the 3rd to be found in *Santa Barbara*. Two Chimney Swifts over downtown Los Angeles 3 Jun (KLG) were believed to be summering locally. A pair of Ladder-backed Woodpeckers evidently nesting along the Santa Ana R. near Mentone, *San Bernardino*, in May (DRW) were west of the species' known breeding range.

Over 40 Willow Flycatchers at G.H.P. 11 Jun (KSG) demonstrate how common this species can be as a late migrant in the deserts, and the latest migrant reported was at F.C.R. 21 Jun (T & JH). About 25 territorial males of the endangered subspecies *extimus* were at S.F.K.R.P. in July (MJW), 14-16 territorial males were along the Santa Ynez R. *Santa Barbara* 21 Jul+ (CF), and a pair near Fillmore during the summer (JGr) provided the first record for breeding in *Ventura* in decades. A Least Flycatcher at G.H.P. 17 Jun (KSG, TEW) was the first reported in spring in e. *Kern*. At least 5 Vermilion Flycatcher territories were located in the Victorville/Apple Valley area, *San Bernardino*, during the period (SJM). The presence of a pair of Brown-crested Flycatchers with 3 recently fledged young at Borrego Springs 26–31 Aug (MBS) established the first record for *San Diego*; elsewhere along the w. edge of this species' expanding range, 6 were at S.F.K.R.P. 8 July (RAB) and an estimated 8 pairs were along the Mojave R. near Victorville throughout

the period (SJM). The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at S. Belridge, *Kern*, in May (Spring report) evidently paired with a Western Kingbird and was still present 9 Jul (JM).

Singing White-eyed Vireos, casual stragglers to California, were at Vandenberg Air Force Base, *Santa Barbara*, 8–12 Jun (JGa) and in Rancho San Diego, *San Diego*, 5–15 Jul (PF). Encouraging were at least 7 singing Bell's Vireos at Santa Fe and Hansen Dams, *Los Angeles*, 1–2 Jul (KLG) and 6 pairs along the Mojave R. between Victorville and Oro Grande through the summer (SJM). Up to 2 vagrant Red-eyed Vireos were at G.H.P. 17–18 Jun (KSG), single birds were on San Nicolas I. 17 Jun (RAH) and in Goleta 23 Jun (KLW), and possible summering birds were at S.F.K.R.P. 22 Jun (PLW) and 25 Jun–5 Jul (RAB). A Plumbeous Vireo on the e. slope of the Piute Mts., *Kern*, 1 Jul (TEW) was in appropriate mature Pinyon Pine breeding habitat. A Hutton's Vireo on the n. slope of the Piute Mts. 7 Jul (TEW) was well away from any known nesting area.

SWALLOWS THROUGH WOOD-WARBLERS

Fifty-seven active Purple Martin nests were found in the Tehachapi Mts., *Kern*, 29 Jun–5 Jul (BW); this is believed to be the largest breeding population in S. California. A Mountain Chickadee at G.H.P. throughout the period (KSG) established the first summer record for e. *Kern*, and a White-breasted Nuthatch there 23 Jul (KSG) was the earliest ever in fall. Three singing Winter Wrens in the Greenhorn Mts., *Kern*, 9 Jul (TEW) were at the southernmost limit of their breeding range in the Sierra Nevada; intriguing was a well-described individual farther s. at 7400 ft on Breckenridge Mtn. 29 Jul (AS). A Golden-crowned Kinglet at Palomar Mtn. S.P., *San Diego*, 7 Jul (SJ) was south of this species known breeding range. A pair of Western Bluebirds at a nest in Mojave 10 Jun (TEW) provided the first breeding record in e. *Kern*. A Gray Catbird, a rare straggler to California, was on San Nicolas I. 18 Jun (RAH), one was banded near Lone Pine, *Inyo*, 20 Jun (WR) and a third was at Camp Pendleton, *San Diego*, 28 Jun (PAG).

A late spring vagrant Tennessee Warbler was near Independence, *Inyo*, 12 Jun (CMcC). In addition to the 20+ N. Parulas in spring (Spring report), 8 were found along the coast 1 Jun–29 Jul, including a pair feeding a chick at Gaviota Hot Springs, *Santa Barbara*, 22–23 Jul (LRB); 4 more were inland at S.F.K.R.P. 11 Jun–16 Jul

(RAB), one was at G.H.P. 18 Jun (BED), and another was near Niland, *Imperial*, 9 Jun (GMcC). A female Chestnut-sided Warbler on San Nicolas I. 16–17 Jun (RAH) and a male there 17–18 Jun (RAH) were very late spring vagrants. Eleven Black-and-white Warblers 1 Jun–6 Jul included 3 along the coast, and 8 in e. *Kern* and *Inyo*. Four late spring American Redstarts were in e. *Kern* and *Inyo* 8–24 Jun, and a suspected summering bird was in Irvine, *Orange*, 16 Jul (JF). A lost female Prothonotary Warbler was in Baker, *San Bernardino*, 6–13 Jun (BD). Five Ovenbirds were found 2–23 Jun, with single birds along the coast on San Nicolas I. 17 Jun (RAH) and in Goleta 23–24 Jun (KB), and inland at G.H.P. 17 Jun (KSG), Baker 6 Jun (BD), and in El Centro 2 Jun (KZK). The only Northern Waterthrush reported was one at Silverwood L., *San Bernardino*, 3 Jun (DG). A male Mourning Warbler on San Nicolas I. 17–18 Jun (RAH) is one of only a few found in spring in the Region. A male Hooded Warbler in Goleta 19 Jun (GBW) was the only one found.

TANAGERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

A well-described Hepatic Tanager in Long Beach 9 Jun (RB) provides the first acceptable record of a spring vagrant in *Los Angeles*; a pair was at a traditional nesting site along upper Arrastre Creek in the San Bernardino Mts. 11 Jun+ (SK). In their California strongholds 39 Summer Tanagers were counted at S.F.K.R.P. 8 Jul (RAB) and 20 pairs were estimated summering along the Mojave R. near Victorville (SJM); the species continues to expand its range westward, with 7 pairs along San Felipe Creek in Anza-Borrego Desert S.P. and a pair in nearby Borrego Palm Canyon Jun–Jul (PJ, LH) being the first known to nest in *San Diego*; a pair on Cuyamaca Peak, *San Diego*, 10–18 Jun (GRo, GH) were well above the lowland riparian habitat normally used for nesting. Early fall Western Tanagers near Victorville 13 Jul (RAE) and in El Centro 15 Jul (KZK) appeared less than a month after the last of the spring migrants at G.H.P. 18 Jun (KSG).

Ten Rose-breasted Grosbeaks 1 Jun–21 Jul were evenly divided between the coastal and interior counties. Nineteen Indigo Buntings were at S.F.K.R.P. 8 Jul (RAB), 3 territorial males were in the Prado Basin near Corona all summer (DSP), and at least 10 other territorial males were scattered throughout the Region, including males paired with Lazuli Buntings in Jacumba, *San Diego*, 28 Jun–1 Jul (JW) and at Oak Creek, *Inyo*, 21 Jun (WR), the latter with

fledged young. An imm. male Orchard Oriole at Panamint Springs, *Inyo*, 4 Jun (T & JH) was a late spring vagrant. The **Black-backed (Abeille's) Oriole** found near Imperial Beach 9 April (Spring report) remained through 4 Jul (JL). A male Bobolink, a casual straggler to the coast in spring, was in Goleta 11 Jun (DMC).

EXOTICS

A Black-throated Magpie-Jay nest was found near Imperial Beach (BH), with the pair tending a fledged young 29 Jul (SSm), and a pair of Nothern Cardinals also fledged young in the same area (BH). An illegal release of Yellow-fronted Canaries (*Serinus mozambicus*) near El Monte, *Los Angeles*, in Jun (KLG) may have involved several hundred birds; observers should be alert for continuing sightings of this African species.

Cited observers (County coordinators in boldface): Douglas W. Aguillard, Mathew Amalong, Larry R. Ballard, Robert A. Barnes, Richard Barth, Dave Bittner, Karen Bridgers, Jaime M. Chavez, Charles T. Collins, **David M Compton** (*Santa Barbara*), Elizabeth Copper (*San Diego*), Jack Crowther, Brian E. Daniels, Bill Deppe, Cheryl DeWitt, Jon L. Dunn, **Tom M Edell** (*San Luis Obispo*), Alan M. Eisner, Richard A. Erickson, Jeremy Ertl, Peter Famolaro, Chris Farmer, John Fitch, Wes Fritz, John Gallo (JGa), **Kimball L. Garrett** (*Los Angeles*), Karen S Gilbert, Peter A. Ginsburg, Dave Goodward, Jim Greaves (JGr), Kay Green, Robert A. Hamilton, Edward Hall, Bill Hass, Lorie Hargrove, Sandee Harvill, Gjon Hazard, D. Mitchell Heindel, **Tom & Jo Heindel** (*Inyo*), Brad K. Hines, Stefan Johansson, Paul Jorgensen, Alan Kalin, Howard King, Sandy Koonce, Steven A. Laymon, John Lewis, Curtis A. Marantz, Robert E. Maurer, **Guy McCaskie** (*Imperial*), Chris McCreedy, Chet McGaugh, Terri Middlemiss, Bob Miller, Kathy C Molina, Joseph Morlan, Nathan Mudry, Stephen J. Myers, Tom Newhouse, Dennis Parker, **Michael A. Patten** (*San Bernardino* and *Riverside*), Dharm S. Pellegrini, James E. Pike, Ginger Rebstock (GRe), William Richardson, John C. Robinson, Geoff Rogers (GRo), Richard Rowlett, Michael San Miguel, Alison Sheehy, Brad Sillassen, Gregory P. Smith, Sue Smith (SSm), Susan Steele (SSt), Mary Beth Stowe, Philip Unitt, Grant B Weyburne, Richard E. Webster, **Walter Wehje** (*Ventura*), Mary J. Whitfield, Kathleen L. Whitney, Brian Williams, Pamela L. Williams, **Douglas R. Willick** (*Orange*), Jim Wilson, **John C. Wilson** (*Kern*), Thomas E. Wurster and Kenneth Z Kurland. An additional 30+ observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports this season.