

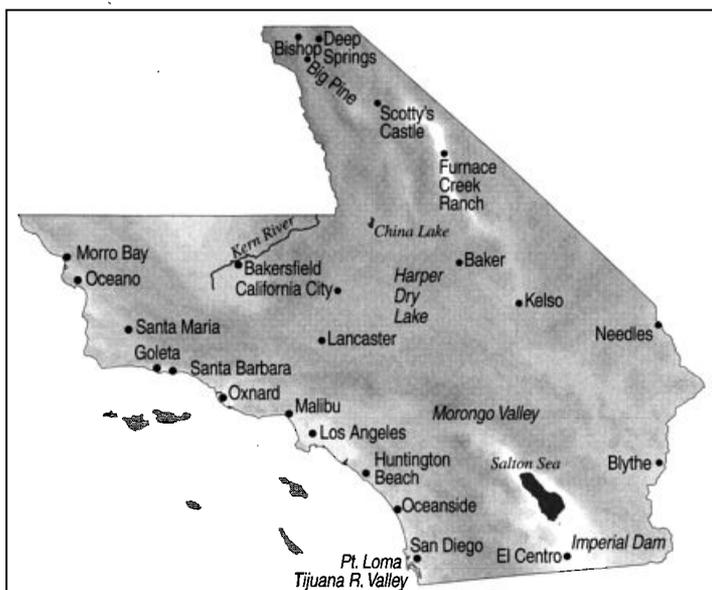
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Southern Pacific Coast



Angeles); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, *Riverside*); S.C.R.E. (Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, *Ventura*); S.D.N.H.M. (San Diego Natural History Museum in San Diego); S.E.S S (s. end of the Salton Sea, *Imperial*); S.F.K.R.P (South Fork Kern River Preserve near Weldon, *Kern*); 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 for Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

LOONS THROUGH HAWKS

A Red-throated Loon on Tinemaha Res. near Big Pine, *Inyo* 9 Nov (T&JH), along with 7 Pacific Loons in the Owens Valley, *Inyo* between 26 Oct and Nov 24 (T&JH, JLD) and one near Seeley, *Imperial* 26 Oct (GMcC) were inland. A Wilson's Storm-Petrel, rare in S. California waters, was off China Pt. on San Clemente I. 6 Sep (BLS).

Red-billed Tropicbirds continued off China Pt. on San Clemente I. through 24 Sep (BLS), 9 were encountered during an organized birding trip to the waters off San Nicolas I. 18 Aug (DMH), one was near Prisoner's Harbor on Santa Cruz I. 13 Sep (DMC), another was off Laguna Beach, *Orange* 25 Aug (JWi), and one was found on the beach San Onofre, *San Diego* 7 Oct (S.D.N.H.M.), indicating more than normal numbers were in S. California waters. A Brown Pelican at C.L. 8-9 Nov (SSt) was only the 4th to be found in *Kern*.

A Little Blue Heron at Laguna Dam, *Imperial* 1 Aug (RMcK) was the only one reported away

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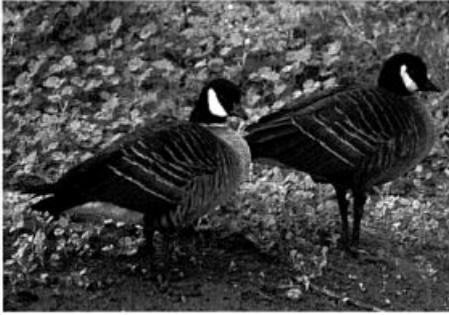
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This fall saw higher than average totals of eastern passerine vagrants, with numbers of most species far exceeding those of last fall; however, many observers remarked that western

migrants seemed fewer in number than normal. The only Asian landbird vagrants were two pipit taxa and the Region's second Northern Wheatear. Most irruptive species (such as Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins) were in relatively low numbers, although a movement of interior scrub-jays occurred for the second year in a row.

Abbreviations: C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. *Kern*); E.A.F.B. (Edwards Air Force Base, se. *Kern*); F.C.R. (Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Monument, *Inyo*); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park in extreme e. *Kern*); N.H.M.L.A.C. (Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County in Los



These Canada Geese found 14 October 2001 at Chad's Bluff represent only the fourth record from San Clemente Island. The darker individual perished in Wilson Cove, providing a specimen of the Aleutian race *leucopareia* (*Los Angeles County Museum). The paler bird remained at Lemon Tank until 7 November and was also one of the small races. *Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.*

from coastal *San Diego*. An imm. Tricolored Heron was inland at S.E.S.S. 30 Sep-1 Dec (GMcC, BMi), and single birds were on the coast at Irvine/Upper Newport Bay, *Orange* 16 Sep-14 Nov (BED, BH) and Bolsa Chica, *Orange* 28 Oct+ (J&EH). An imm. Reddish Egret at Little L. 29 Sep-4 Oct (JLD, ph.) was the first in *Inyo*, and the one found at S.E.S.S. 17 Aug remained through 12 Oct (MP); along the coast the imm. in Goleta, *Santa Barbara* remained through 11 Sep (JRS), what may have been this same bird was at Point Mugu, *Ventura* 15 Sep+ (DL), and at least 6 were in *San Diego* 25 Aug+ (GMcC, GCH, MI, GLR). Two Wood Storks near Winterhaven, *Imperial* 2 Aug (RMcK) were in the Colorado R. Valley, where seldom encountered in recent years.

Three Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Laguna Dam, *Imperial* 1 Aug (RMcK) were in an area where unrecorded in recent years. A Harlequin Duck on Mission Bay, *San Diego* 28 Oct+ (SC) was probably the same bird present in Mar. A Surf Scoter at N.E.S.S. 2 Nov (CMcG), a White-winged Scoter on Tinemaha Res., *Inyo* 22 Nov-1 Dec (JLD), and a Black Scoter there 9 Nov (JLD) were all inland. A Hooded Merganser along Triunfo Creek in the Santa Monica Mts., *Los Angeles* 22 Aug (BED) probably summered locally.

One Harris's Hawk remained from the 1994 incursion at Borrego Springs, *San Diego* through 25 Oct (PJ). A Broad-winged Hawk near Port Hueneme, *Ventura* 12-13 Oct (DPe) and an imm. on San Clemente I. 31 Oct+ (BLS) were the only 2 convincingly reported. Fifty Swainson's Hawks at Borrego Springs 27 Oct (PJ) was the largest migrant flock reported, and one at California City, *Kern* 21 Nov (JM) was the latest. A Zone-tailed Hawk in Santa Barbara/Goleta, *Santa Barbara* 16 Nov+ (DMC) was believed to be the same bird present every

winter since 1993-1994, and another around Escondido, *San Diego* 19 Aug+ (MB) was the same bird present for several years; inland one was over Cuyamaca Rancho S.P., *San Diego* 10 Nov (SB), an ad. was near Blythe, *Riverside* 10-11 Nov (RH), the one near El Centro, *Imperial* 12 Jul remained through the end of the period (KZK), and 2 ads. were over Brawley, *Imperial* 12 Oct (MP).

CRANES THROUGH ALCIDIS

A flock of 22 Sandhill Cranes near Brawley, *Imperial* 8 Sep (GMcC) documents just how early this species arrives in s. California. Four ad. Pacific Golden-Plovers on the *Ventura* coast 16 Aug (OA, DL), 4 juvs. near Port Hueneme 14-15 Oct (DD), and one on San Clemente I. 3 Aug (BLS) appeared to be migrants, but one at Hermosa Beach, *Los Angeles* 30 Nov+ (KL), up to 4 at Seal Beach, *Orange* 21 Sep+ (BED, JFi), one at Bolsa Chica 4 Nov+ (JEP), and another in Imperial Beach, *San Diego* 22 Aug+ (RP) were wintering locally. Single juv. American Golden-Plovers were near Port Hueneme 14-15 Oct (DD) and 10 Nov (LC). A Mountain Plover near Port Hueneme 3-10 Nov (JFe) was the only one reported on the coast. Two hybrid American x Black Oystercatchers were at Seal Beach 17 Aug (JFi).

A short-staying Wood Sandpiper was reported in Blythe 1 Sep (RH); there are no accepted records for California. An ad. Black Turnstone, rare inland, especially so in fall, was at Salton City, *Imperial* 22 Aug (MBS, ph.). A Red Knot at Tinemaha Res 13 Sep (CW), one in Blythe 2-6 Aug (RH) and 3 more near Lancaster, *Los Angeles* 3 Aug (MSanM) were the only ones found inland away from the Salton Sea. Semipalmated Sandpipers appeared to be scarcer than expected, with only 17 juvs. found between 3 Aug and 2 Sep. An ad. Curlew Sandpiper was on San Elijo Lagoon, *San Diego* 9 Aug (DVB, BMu), and another was at Bolsa Chica 17-23 Sep (JA). Single Stilt Sandpipers in Goleta 11 Aug (NAL), V.C.G.P. 13 Aug-3 Sep (OA, MSanM) and S.C.R.E. were on the coast, and one in Blythe 16 Oct (RH) was inland and away from the S.E.S.S. The only Buff-breasted Sandpipers were single juvs. near Port Hueneme 16 Sep (LB, ph.) and on San Clemente I. 2-7 Sep (BLS, ph.). An ad. Ruff was at V.C.G.P. 15-27 Aug (OA), single juvs. were in Long Beach, *Los Angeles* 1-16 Sep (KL), 7-20 Oct (KL), and 10 Nov (DSC), another juv. was near Blythe 1-7 Oct (RH), and an ad. male was near Brawley 8-23 Sep (PAG, GMcC). Single Red Phalaropes at Little L. 4-6 Oct (JLD) and on Tinemaha Res. 22 Oct (JLD) and 3-7 Nov (REM) were inland.

Ten South Polar Skuas seen during a pelagic trip out of *Ventura* 18 Aug (DMH) was a large number for a single day in S. California waters.

A juv. Long-tailed Jaeger at Salton City 26 Sep (GMcC) was the only jaeger reported inland. Two Franklin's Gulls were at C.L. 19 Aug (TEW), another was there 26 Sep (SSt), at least 20 were found at S.E.S.S. between 1 Sep and 26 Oct (GMcC), and a late migrant was near Brawley 24 Nov (B&NlaF, ph.). A Heermann's Gull at S.E.S.S. 30 Sep (GMcC), another on L. Perris, *Riverside* 19 Oct (CMcG) and one in Palmdale, *Los Angeles* 4 Nov (KLG) were inland. Mew Gulls in the interior, where rare, were at S.E.S.S. 11 Nov (ES, ph.) and in Palmdale 4 Nov (KLG), both were quite early. A Lesser Black-backed Gull at N.E.S.S. 11 Nov+ (CMcG) was the same bird present last winter. A first-winter Glaucous Gull at Dana Point, *Orange* 25-26 Nov (JEP) was somewhat early. At least 4 Sabine's Gulls were found in *Inyo* between 13 Sep and 4 Oct (JLD, GCH), single birds were at C.L. 7 Sep (SSt) and 3-5 Oct (SSt), a juv. was near Lancaster 8 Sep (MSanM), another was near Blythe 24-27 Sep (RH), and 3 more were seen on the Salton Sea between 8 and 26 Sep (GMcC). A Least Tern near Seeley, *Imperial* 18 Aug (PS) was inland.

An Ancient Murrelet was at Newport Beach, *Orange* 24 Nov (BED), and at least 20 were seen flying s. off La Jolla, *San Diego* 25-30 Nov (PAG, GMcC, SWa).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A count of 39 Eurasian Collared-Doves in Isla Vista 27 Sep (NAL) shows that this species is well established in *Santa Barbara*; 2 near El Centro 7 Aug (GMcC) and one at Desert Center, *Riverside* 2 Nov (CMcG) may have originated from farther east. Forty-five White-winged Doves were reported from along the coast, with an unprecedented 15 together on San Clemente I. 8 Sep (BLS), and one in San Luis Obispo 1 Nov (MTH) being the northernmost. A Common Ground-Dove in Independence 15 Oct (AK) was only the 3rd to be found in the Owens Valley



Fewer than normal numbers of longspurs were found in Southern California this fall, and this Lapland Longspur at Furnace Creek Ranch, *Inyo* County, was one of only nine reported.

Photograph by Larry Sansone.



This male Scarlet Tanager in Goleta, Santa Barbara County 14 November 2001 was one of nine found along the coast of southern California this fall. Photograph by Peter Gaede.

Up to 5 Ruddy Ground-Doves at F.C.R. 13 Oct-22 Nov (JLD, JM), one at G.H.P. 20-22 Oct (TEW), and a minimum of 5 around Blythe 3 Nov+ (RH, ph.) were more than in recent years.

A migrant Yellow-billed Cuckoo was on San Clemente I. 31 Aug (BLS). Astonishing was an **Elf Owl** caught in the Whittier Hills e. of the Los Angeles Basin 29 Sep (*fide* DAG; ph. N.H.M.L.A.C.); this species is virtually extirpated in California and is previously unrecorded away from the southeast portion of the state. A Long-eared Owl on San Clemente I. 29 Nov (JTB) was unexpected. At least 2 Chimney Swifts with migrant Vaux's Swifts near downtown Los Angeles 9 Oct (MJSanM) were late. A male Broad-billed Hummingbird was on Pt. Loma, San Diego 22 Oct (REW).

Acorn Woodpeckers appeared to be on the move as indicated by single out-of-range birds at G.H.P. 9 Sep-21 Oct (KSG), in Irvine 24 Nov (BED), on Pt. Loma 20-21 Sep (GMcC) and 8 Oct (REW), and 5 on San Clemente I. between 21 Sep and 18 Nov (BLS). A handful of Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers in e. Kern during the period suggests these species were also on the move. A Williamson's Sapsucker at G.H.P. 11-12 Sep (KSG) was only the 6th in fall in e. Kern. Reports of 8 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers scattered throughout the Region were about average.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CORVIDS

Least Flycatchers, rare but regular in fall, were at Irvine, Orange 6-12 Oct (GLT, COJ, BED), Pt. Loma, San Diego 21-23 Sep (GCH, JLD), and near Imperial Beach 15-16 Oct (EC). Dusky Flycatchers, scarce and poorly understood in fall, were in Redondo Beach, Los Angeles 18 Sep (DLM) and G. H. P. 16 Oct (TEW). Fall vagrant Eastern Phoebes were at San Simeon Cr. San Luis Obispo 11 Oct (GPS), in Irvine 3 Nov (LO, BED), on San Clemente I. 6 Oct (JHP), on Pt. Loma 2 Nov (JWo), and at Laguna Dam, Imperial 6 Nov (RMcK); another near Lakeview, Riverside 15 Nov+ (CMcG) was a returning win-

tering bird. A Great Crested Flycatcher on Pt. Loma 10-13 Oct (REW) stayed longer than this species's usual "one-day wonders." Even rarer on the coast was a Brown-crested Flycatcher at the same locality on 13 Oct (REW, DPa); another Brown-crested at Laguna Dam 23 Sep (GCH) remained quite late in a breeding area. Nine Tropical Kingbirds were found along the coast 15 Sep-3 Nov; another near Seeley, Imperial 22 Sep (GCH) was the 3rd for the Imperial Valley. Late Western Kingbirds included one in Torrance, Los Angeles 28 Nov (DLM) and in the interior at Ridgecrest, Kern 14 Oct (BS); one at Deep Springs 30 Sep (DSC) was the latest for Inyo. Six Eastern Kingbirds were found, 16 Sep-18 Oct, with 4 on the deserts and 2 along the coast. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in El Monte, Los Angeles 13 Nov (BED) was the only one reported.

A Bell's Vireo, very rare away from breeding sites, was on San Clemente I. 7 Oct (BLS). Blue-headed Vireos were near Pt. Mugu, Ventura 27 Sep (OA) and Port Hueneme 7 Oct (DPe), and in the interior at Blythe 30 Sep (RH), Horse Thief Springs, San Bernardino 20 Oct (BD), and G. H. P. 22 Oct (TEW). Nineteen Plumbeous Vireos were found in coastal counties 16 Sep-22 Nov, with some likely remaining to winter. A Yellow-throated Vireo, casual in fall, was near Pt. Mugu 7-8 Oct (DD, ph.). A Warbling Vireo at G. H. P. 25 Oct (JEP) was the latest fall record for Kern. Documented Philadelphia Vireo records came from San Clemente I. 4 Oct (BLS) and Huntington Beach 7 Oct (LO) and 27 Oct (JEP). Five Red-eyed Vireos were found along the coast 31 Aug-17 Oct. Yellow-green Vireos, now regular in fall, were in Goleta, Santa Barbara 7-8 Oct (DMC) and near Port Hueneme 11-12 Oct (OA).

Interior ("Woodhouse's") Scrub-Jays were on the move for the 2nd consecutive fall, being found in various lowland localities in Inyo, e. Kern and e. San Bernardino after 23 Sep; one e. of Lancaster 29 Oct (MSanM) was the first for Los Angeles. Pinyon Jays were also noted well away from breeding areas, including up to 2 at Desert Center, Riverside 7-23 Sep (CMcG) and 6 on the lower Colorado R. at Senator Wash, Imperial 7 Nov (RMcK).

SWALLOWS THROUGH WARBLERS

Only 4 migrant Purple Martins were found along the coast, 11-23 Sep, and another was at Deep Springs 14 Sep (JLD); this species is casual in Inyo. A Winter Wren at California City, Kern 3-4 Nov (TEW) was thought to be of the e. *hiemalis* group by call. A Northern Wheatear made a brief appearance at La Jolla, San Diego 18 Oct (SSm, DA), establishing only the 2nd record for the Region. A Rufous-backed Robin

at Blythe 11-14 Nov (RH, ph.) was the 9th for California. Gray Catbirds appeared in the interior at California City 6-13 Oct (TE), Blythe 20 Oct (RH), and E. A. F. B. 29 Oct (MSanM), and on the coastal slope at Pt. Loma 10 Oct (VC) and Claremont, Los Angeles 4 Nov+ (DAG). Very scarce in recent years in California, Brown Thrashers were found at F. C. R. 13-21 Oct (JLD), Inyokern, Kern 15-16 Oct (WH), and La Jolla 17 Oct (FB).

Up to 5 Red-throated Pipits were in the Port Hueneme area 17 Oct-3 Nov (OA, DPe), and another was near Imperial Beach 13-19 Oct (GMcC). Birds at the former locality were joined by an American Pipit of the Asian subspecies *japonicus* 29 Oct-3 Nov (NAL); previous reports of this taxon have all coincided with influxes of Red-throated Pipits.

Forty species of warblers were found in the Region this fall; among the regular e. vagrants only Mourning Warbler went unreported. A female Golden-winged Warbler, the 8th for Orange, was at Huntington Beach 6 Oct (JEP). Thirty-two Tennessee Warblers were found along the coast 12 Sep-28 Nov, and one was inland at G. H. P. 15 Sep (KHL); this is more than triple last fall's total for a species that has declined in recent years as a vagrant to California. Eighteen Virginia's Warblers on the coast 3 Sep-13 Nov was a normal total; 5 more were on the deserts 1 Sep-13 Oct, with the last record (at G. H. P.) being the latest for Kern (TEW). Coastal Lucy's Warblers were in Long Beach, Los Angeles 1 Sep (TEW), Irvine 13-14 Oct (LDT), and San Clemente I. 2-7 Nov (BLS, JTB, ph.); one near Bishop 2-3 Sep was the farthest n. ever for Inyo (J&DP). Seven Northern Parulas were along the coast 30 Sep-16 Nov, 5 more were inland 6 Oct-8 Nov, plus an exceptionally late bird n. of Bishop 2-10 Dec (J&DP). Of 19 coastal Chestnut-sided Warblers, 18 were found 18 Sep-3 Nov, with at least 2 of these remaining to winter; an earlier bird was in Westchester, Los Angeles 30 Aug (BPE). In the interior, Chestnut-sideds were at G. H. P. 30 Sep (JCW) and 8 Oct (TEW) and at Ridgecrest 3 Oct (JoS). Sixteen Magnolia Warblers were along the coast 11 Sep-11 Nov, and another was at California City 25-29 Sep (JEP). Cape May Warblers, among the rarest e. warbler strays in recent years, were on San Clemente I. 20 Sep-17 Oct (JHP; BLS, ph.) and at Avila Beach, San Luis Obispo 25-27 Nov (RHZ). Ten Black-throated Blue Warblers were in coastal counties 7 Oct-27 Nov, and 7 more were on the deserts 6-28 Oct. Five fall vagrant Black-throated Green Warblers were along the coast 13 Oct-28 Nov, and wintering birds in San Diego were in National City 9 Nov+ for a 5th year (DWA) and in Coronado 30 Nov+ (EC); inland one was at Horse Thief

Springs, *San Bernardino* 8 Oct (AE). Thirteen Blackburnian Warblers were on the coastal slope 7 Sep–18 Nov; exceptionally late was a bird in the n. interior near Bishop 2 Dec (JLD). A Yellow-throated Warbler in Solana Beach, *San Diego* 24 Oct (PAG) was a “yellow-lored” bird rather than the more expected *albiflora*. A Grace’s Warbler found on Pt. Loma 20 Sep (GMcC) remained to winter; another Grace’s was in Del Mar, San Diego 9 Nov (EC). A Pine Warbler was well-described from Cactus City, e. of Indio, *Riverside* 21 Oct (DSC); coastally, where more regular, one was on Pt. Loma 4–6 Oct (REW), and 3 wintering birds were in Long Beach 25 Nov+ (KSG, TEW). Seven Prairie Warblers were along the coast 10 Sep–6 Nov, with one of the 3 on San Clemente I. remaining until the end of the period (BLS). About 50 Palm Warblers were found on the coast 22 Sep–24 Nov; on the deserts one was at G. H. P. 18 Sep for the earliest fall record for *Kern* (MSanM), 2 more were there 30 Sep–1 Oct (TEW) and 20–26 Oct (TEW), and one was at N. E. S. 2 Nov (CMcG). A good showing of 3 Bay-breasted Warblers included birds at Pt. Loma 20–21 Sep (JWo), at Refugio, *Santa Barbara* 3–4 Oct (DMC), and near Pt. Mugu 23–28 Oct (OA). Some 37 Blackpoll Warblers on the coast 14 Sep–2 Nov were about normal, as were 5 on the *Kern* deserts, including the latest for that area at G. H. P. 27 Oct (TEW).

Thirty-five Black-and-white Warblers along the coast 1 Sep+ and 9 on the deserts 20 Aug–7 Nov were about normal totals. Some 50 American Redstarts, 80% coastal, were found after 2 Sep. Prothonotary Warblers were found along the coast at Pt. Loma 16 Sep (HK), near Pt. Mugu 22 Sep (DPe; vt.), and near Port Hueneme 6–11 Oct (OA; DPe, video); inland singles were at Olancho, *Inyo* 4 Oct (J&DP) and In-Ko-Pah, *Imperial* 8 Oct (DWA). A wintering Worm-eating Warbler was in Goleta 30 Nov+ (GBW). Six Ovenbirds were found along the coast 22 Sep–20 Oct, with additional birds inland at Morongo Valley, *San Bernardino* 13 Sep (LDT), California City 6–13 Oct (TEW), and F. C. R. 21 Oct (CH, RBe). Northern Waterthrushes were almost evenly divided between coastal records (10 birds 25 Aug–5 Oct) and those in the interior (12 birds 2 Sep–28 Oct); another waterthrush in Torrance, *Los Angeles* on 8 Aug (DLM) was not identified to species. A Kentucky Warbler was in Encinitas, *San Diego* 30 Sep (DWA), and another was inland at G. H. P. 6 Oct (HB). The fall’s only Connecticut Warbler was at G. H. P. 23 Sep (JeS), constituting the 5th for *Kern*. Hooded Warblers were in e. Anaheim, Orange 14–15 Oct (DRW) and on Pt. Loma 7 Oct (PJ) and 10 Nov (SWo), and inland at G. H. P. 22–23 Oct (TEW). Five Canada Warblers were along the coast 18 Sep–29 Oct. Five Painted Redstarts were more

than expected; different individuals were at Pt. Loma 18–24 Sep (TP) and 22–24 Sep (GMcC), one was near Pt. Mugu 27 Sep (OA), one was near Seeley 15 Sep (JK), and a wintering bird was found in Palm Desert, *Riverside* 24 Nov+ (ES). Only 5 Yellow-breasted Chats were reported along the coast 8 Sep–4 Oct, though not all observers report this difficult-to-detect species.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Casual away from its few breeding sites in the Region, a Hepatic Tanager was at G. H. P. 1 Oct (TEW). Summer Tanagers were widespread, with at least 27 in the coastal counties 25 Aug+ and 6 more inland (away from breeding areas) 11 Sep–19 Nov. Remarkably, 9 Scarlet Tanagers were found this fall, all along the coast: birds were at Pt. Loma 9 Oct (JWo), 22–28 Oct (GCH), 27–28 Oct (REW), and 29 Oct–10 Nov (JWo), at La Jolla 19 Oct (PAG), on San Clemente I. 26 Oct (BLS) and 7 Nov (HAC), in Goleta 14–17 Nov (WTF; PG, ph.), and in Oceano, *San Luis Obispo* 28–29 Nov (KJZ). A Western Tanager at California City 22 Oct (TEW) was the latest fall record for the *Kern* deserts.

A **Cassin’s Sparrow**, casual in California, was photographed on San Clemente I. 2 Nov (BLS). The only American Tree Sparrow was at F. C. R. 27 Oct (SK). At least 21 Clay-colored Sparrows were along the coast 14 Sep–30 Nov, and 8 more were on the deserts 7 Oct–3 Nov. A Black-chinned Sparrow, rarely encountered away from breeding habitat, was on San Clemente I. 16 Nov (CWB). The only Lark Bunting reports were from V. C. G. P. 16 Sep (OA) and San Clemente I. 22 Sep (BLS). Wintering Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrows arrived at Seal Beach N. W. R., *Orange* by 19 Oct (JFi). The first (Large-billed) Savannah Sparrow was noted 15 Aug at Playa del Rey (RBA), and small numbers were found thereafter n. to Morro Bay, with a high count of 4 at Bolsa Chica 2 Sep (BED). One was at N. E. S. 7 Sep (CMcG); this subspecies is far more numerous at the s. end of the Salton Sea. Harris’s Sparrows were at Tinemaha Res. 9 Nov (JLD) and Bishop 17 Nov (J&DP), with another on the coast at Goleta 30 Nov (WTF). Relatively few longspurs were found this fall, with only 5 Chestnut-collared and 9 Lapland reported; in addition, McCown’s were found near Port Hueneme 26–27 Oct (DD) and near Lancaster 29 Oct (MSanM).

Two male Northern Cardinals at Laguna Dam, *Imperial* 6 Nov (RMcK) were part of a tiny lower Colorado R. population; another male near Blythe 8–9 Aug (RH) was possibly wild. Twenty Rose-breasted Grosbeaks along the coast 6 Sep+ and another 6 on the deserts 13 Aug–26 Oct was an average showing. Ten Indigo

Buntings were along the coast 3 Aug–18 Nov, including a female feeding fledglings at H. C. P. (where a pair summered) on 19 Aug (BED), one near Bishop 2–3 Dec (J&DP) was remarkably late for the Region, let alone the n. interior. Ad male Painted Buntings in Torrance 23 Sep (DLM) and near Imperial Beach 16–23 Nov (GMcC) could well have been escapees, but a drab green female in Bishop 22 Aug (J&DP) and an ad. female banded near Victorville 13 Oct (SJM) were probably natural vagrants. Dickcissels were on San Clemente I. 7 Oct (BLS) and 17 Oct (ELK), in Ocean Beach, *San Diego* 13 Oct (REW), and in Goleta 14 Oct (NAL).

Thirty-three Bobolinks were on the coastal slope or offshore islands 15 Sep–26 Oct and another 9 were on the deserts 18 Sep–4 Nov, a bird at G. H. P. on the last date was the latest ever for *Kern*. An impressive 6 Orchard Orioles were found along the coast 26 Aug–24 Sep, plus a wintering bird present in Irvine 10 Nov+ (DRW). Six Baltimore Orioles reported 20 Sep–18 Nov along the coast were augmented by a bird at Deep Springs 14 Sep (JLD).

EXOTICS

A European Goldfinch apparently of the central Asian gray-headed *caniceps* group was on San Clemente I. 1 Aug (JTB, ph.). Twenty-five Nutmeg Mannikins in Goleta 24 Sep (JH) was a high count for *Santa Barbara* of this expanding exotic species.

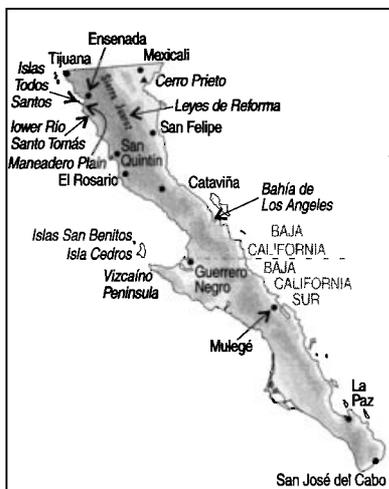
Cited observers (county coordinators in bold-face): Jim Abernathy, Douglas W. Aguillard, Onik Arian, David Au, Richard Barth (RBA), Rosie Beach (RBe), Fred Belinsky, Lance Benner, Mark Billings, Steven Bobzien, David V. Blue, Harold Bond, John T. Brollini, Christopher W. Burney, **Eugene A. Cardiff** (*San Bernardino*), Heather A. Carlisle, Susan Carter, Luke Cole, **David M. Compton** (*Santa Barbara*), Virginia Conway, Daniel S. Cooper, **Elizabeth Copper** (*San Diego*), Brian E. Daniels, Bill Deppe, Don Desjardin, Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, **Tom M. Edell** (*San Luis Obispo*), Al Eisner, Barbara P. Elliott, Jon Feenstra (JFe), John Fitch (JFi), Wes T. Fritz, Peter Gaede, **Kimball L. Garrett** (*Los Angeles*), Karen S. Gilbert, Peter A. Ginsburg, Daniel A. Guthrie, Michael T. Hanson, Joan Hardie, Beverly Hargrove, Jim and Ellen Hargrove (J & EH), Gjon C. Hazard, D. Mitchell Heindel, **Tom & Jo Heindel** (*Inyo*), Wanda Hewett, Roger Higson, Chris Howard, Marshall Iliff, Curtis O. Johnson, Paul Jorgensen, Eric L. Kershner, Howard King, Andrew Kirk, Sandy Koonce, Jim Kuhn, Kenneth Z. Kurland, Bill and Nancy La Franboise (B & NLaF), Kevin Larson, Nick A. Lethaby, Kelli H. Levinson, Dee Lyon, Robert E. Maurer, **Guy McCaskie** (*Imperial*),

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Rogers, Mike San Miguel, Michael J. San Miguel, Paul Saraceni, Jeff Seay (JeS), Joyce Seibold (JoS), Greg P. Smith, Susan Smith (SSm), Bob Steele, Susan Steele (SSt), John R. Storrer, Mary Beth Stowe, Emilie Strauss, Brian L. Sullivan, Gerald L. Tolman, Larry D. Tripp, Stan Walens (SWa), Richard E. Webster, **Walter Wehtje** (*Ventura*),

Grant B. Weyburne, **Douglas R. Willick** (*Orange*), Jeff Williams (JWi), **John C. Wilson** (*Kern*), Shauna Wolf (SWo), Chris Wood, Joseph Worley (JWo), Thomas E. Wurster, Roger H. Zachary, Kevin J. Zimmer. An additional 25+ observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports this season.

Baja California Peninsula



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Regional coverage was better than ever this season, yielding 14 new state records, five new to the Region. Unprecedented numbers of vagrant passerines were found, mostly in *Eucalyptus* trees infested with sugary lerps covering the larvae of small insects. With the insects having spread south to at least Bahía Tortugas (no significant infestations were found in the Cape District), birders have found it worthwhile, if unaesthetic, to check stands of sickly *Eucalyptus* for lerp-fueled wanderers. Webster termed it “some of the best disgusting birding possible.”

Hurricane *Juliette* crossed southern Baja California Sur 27-30 Sep and moved up the Gulf of California before dissipating in central Baja California on 2 Oct. Storm-driven waifs went unrecorded, but abundant rainfall apparently prompted opportunistic nesting by various landbirds in Baja California Sur: Common Ground-Doves at Ciudad Constitución 29 Oct (RAE), Costa’s Hummingbirds east of San Ignacio 24 Oct (KLG), and Cactus Wrens near San Gregorio 28 Oct (RAH).

We welcome Roberto Carmona to our editorial team this season. He is part of an active group of biologists in the La Paz area whose contributions we look forward to in coming years.

Abbreviation: U.A.B.C.S. (Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur).

CORMORANTS THROUGH GULLS

An ad. Neotropic Cormorant at Ojo de Agua, e of La Purisima, 26 Oct (†FMR et al.) represents the 3rd peninsular record n. of Bahía Magdalena Southerly waterfowl at Lagunas de Chametla (La Paz sewage ponds and vicinity) included up to 5 Greater White-fronted Geese 9-29 Oct (RC et al.) and one Lesser Canada Goose (*tavernieri/parvipis*) 29 Oct-30 Nov (RAE et al.) Swainson’s Hawks winter primarily in South America, so up to 19 roosting—and probably wintering—in Ciudad Constitución 26-29 Oct (RAE, vt. RAH) were unexpected. Among few previous peninsular records, 2 were w. of Ciudad Insurgentes 26 Feb 1994. Although Crested Caracaras are seen regularly n. to around Guerrero Negro, one just s. of Villa Jesús Maria 22 Oct (KLG et al.) was the first seen in B.C. since 1994. The identification of a *richardsoni* Merlin at Guerrero Negro 22 Oct (†KLG et al.) was relatively straightforward; it was the first for B.C.S. The identification of Peregrine Falcon subspecies is generally considered more problematic. A juv. showing the characteristics of *tundrius* was at Rancho San José de Castro 6 Oct (SNGH, RAH).

Several calling Clapper Rails at Estero San Gregorio 28 Oct (RAE, RAH) were at a new location for the species. Golden-Plovers are rarely recorded in the Region; this season’s only report was of 2 Americans at Bahía Asunción 17 Oct (REW). Lagunas de Chametla hosted a number of interesting shorebirds: an ad. Semipalmated Sandpiper 21 Aug (first for B.C.S.; GB et al., *U.A.B.C.S.); a late juv. Baird’s Sandpiper 29 Oct (RAE, RAH); single juv. Pectoral Sandpipers 9 Oct (first for the La Paz region; RC et al., *U.A.B.C.S.) and 26 Oct (RAH, RAE); a juv. **Curlew Sandpiper** 25 Oct-3 Nov (first Regional and 2nd Mexican record; †RAE, vt. RAH, LS, GB, *U.A.B.C.S.); and an ad. Stilt Sandpiper 25 Oct-1 Nov (first confirmed record for B.C.S.; vt. RAH, RAE, LS, GB; *U.A.B.C.S.). Gulls in unexpected places included an ad. Heermann’s at Cataviña 22 Oct (KLG et al.), ad. Yellow-footed on the Pacific coast at San Juanico (2) and Estero

