

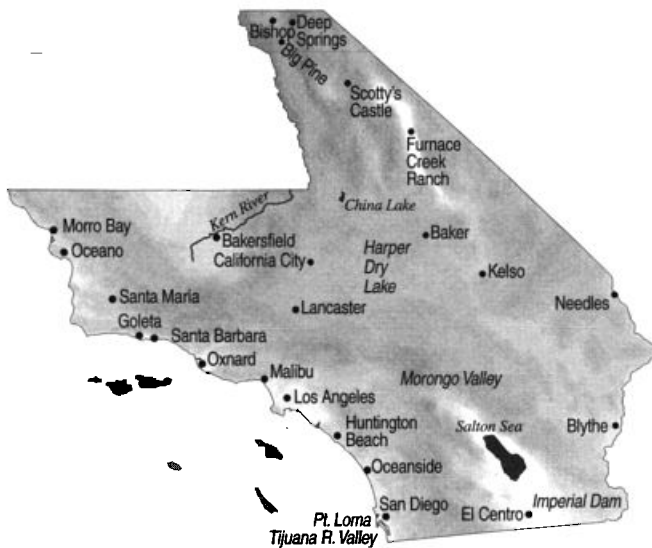
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Steurer (*El Dorado*), Emilie Strauss, **David L. Suddjian** (*Santa Cruz*), Moss Templeton, Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn, Dorothy Tobkin, John Trochet, Frank Vanslager, Chuck E. Vaughn, Matt Wachs, Brian J. Weed, Denise S. Wight, **Brian D. Williams** (*Nevada*), Adam Winer, Jay Withgott, **David G. Yee** (*San Joaquin*). Many more observers were not specifically cited; all are much appreciated.



Southern Pacific Coast



mented in 2001 versus only nine in 2002) Records of many migrant passerines in the coastal and desert lowlands throughout late June and early July were difficult to classify as late spring birds, early fall birds, or simply wanderers, but these were also likely reflective of poor breeding success. Most nesting larvae did poorly at the Salton Sea, with all attempts by California Gulls and nearly all those by Black Skimmers failing, and Gull-billed Terns fledging fewer young than in recent years (KCM).

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.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, *Riverside*); S.C.R.E. (Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, *Ventura*); 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.A.F.B. (Vandenberg Air Force Base in nw. *Santa Barbara*); 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.

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Following a record dry winter, there was virtually no precipitation during the two months of summer, resulting in dangerously dry conditions throughout the foothills and mountains and a series of extensive high-intensity fires. Breeding passerines appeared to have fared poorly in the Region. Results of a multi-year study conducted by Doug Bolger and Michael A. Patten of Dartmouth College documented a nearly complete reproductive collapse of nesting Wrentits, Spotted Towhees, California Towhees, and Rufous-crowned Sparrows (258 nest attempts docu-

FULMARS THROUGH GROUSE

A Northern Fulmar near Santa Cruz I. 9 Jun (DMH) was probably attempting to summer locally. A Flesh-footed Shearwater, rare in s. California waters, was off the e. side of Santa Cruz I. 8 Jun (DMH). A subad. dark-morph **Red-footed Booby**, entangled in fishing line, was captured in La Jolla, *San Diego* 20 Jul (MF, GMcC). For the 2nd consecutive year, no frigatebirds were reported in the Region.

An American Bittern on the Wister Unit at S E S S. 18 May—15 Jun (GMcC, JF) was one of a very few ever to be found at the Salton Sea in summer. The ad. Little Blue Herons found at Bolsa Chica, *Orange* 9 May remained through the period (DRW), another found in the Prado Basin, *Riverside/San Bernardino* 10 May remained into Jul (JEP), and single ads. in Carpinteria, *Santa Barbara* 9-11 Jun (DMC), Point Mugu, *Ventura* 10 Jul + (MR), Irvine, *Orange* 18 Jul (DC) and near Lakeview, *Riverside* 12-14 Jun (BS, JFG) were all away from coastal *San Diego*, where resident A Tricolored Heron at Point Mugu 25 Jun+(MR) was unusually far n. and the only one reported. Imm. Reddish Egrets at the Tijuana R. mouth, *San Diego* 14 Jul (DH), at the San Diego R. mouth 18 Jul (MB) and in Costa Mesa/Huntington Beach, *Orange* 27 Jul+(LRH) may have involved a single bird moving n. along the coast, and the one found at Point Mugu 15 Sep 2001 was still present at the end of the period (MR). A subad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, a casual straggler to California, was at San Elijo Lagoon, *San Diego* 11 Jun+ (BC). Wood Storks did not arrive at the S.E.S.S. until early Jul; this species was formerly a common post-breeding visitor to the Salton Sea (present from late May into Oct), but numbers have steadily dropped during the past 20 years, and a high count of only 23 was obtained this summer on 11 Jul (TA).

Again, there was no evidence of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks breeding in *Imperial*; a group of up to 9 present at various locations in the Imperial Valley and at S.E.S.S. 10-28 Jun (AK, JF, GMcC, BM) appeared to be non-breeders wandering through the area. The presence of an ad. Sharp-shinned Hawk near Arroyo Grande, *San Luis Obispo* 6-10 Jul (BKS) suggests nesting in that area. An imm. Northern Goshawk at Rock Creek L., *Inyo* 21 Jul (CH & RB) was in an area where this species probably breeds. A Harris's Hawk continued near Blythe, *Riverside* through the period (RH). Remarkably, the Broad-winged Hawk that arrived on San Clemente I. 31 Oct 2001 was still present at the end of the period (BLS). A Crested Caracara was present on n.

V.A.F.B. Jul 14-23 (BKH), and another was photographed near Lakeview, *Riverside* 4 Jul (TS); previous reports of this species in California are suspected to be of escapees.

An extensive survey of Blue Grouse throughout the historic breeding areas of *Kern* in Apr yielded only 8 birds in the Sunday Peak area of the Greenhorn Mts., probably the only remaining birds in the county (JB1).

RAILS THROUGH PUFFINS

A calling Black Rail near Blythe 2-7 Jun (RH) could not be relocated after the area was sprayed to kill aquatic vegetation. A Solitary Sandpiper at Blythe 2 Jun (RH) was late for a spring migrant, and one near Independence, *Inyo* 15 Jul (RAH) was the first of the fall. A Wandering Tattler, a casual straggler to the interior in fall, was at S.E.S.S. 20 Jul (BMi). An ad. Semipalmated Sandpiper with a flock of migrant Western Sandpipers at S.E.S.S. 28 Jun (GMcC) establishes the earliest date for a fall migrant in California; one in Long Beach, *Los Angeles* 27 Jul (KL), 3 in Goleta, *Santa Barbara* (PAG), and one in Irvine, *Orange* 30 Jul (LDT), along with 3 in San Diego 31 Jul (RTP) were the earliest juvs. A Baird's Sandpiper in Irvine 27 Jul (MSanM) was the earliest this fall.

Two South Polar Skuas, scarce but regular in s. California waters in spring, were near Santa Cruz I. 9 Jun (DMH). A Laughing Gull at C.L. 5-7 Jun (SSt) was only the 4th to be found in *Kern*, one at Bolsa Chica 30 Jun (AL) was on the coast where rare, and another at Blythe 28 Jul+(RH) coincided with the influx of post-breeding birds to the Salton Sea. A Franklin's Gull at S.E.S.S. 2 Jun (GMcC) and another at C.L. 5-7 Jun (SSt) were probably late migrants, but another at N.E.S.S. 23 Jun (GMcC) may have been summering locally. An ad. Heermann's Gull, a rare but regular visitor to the Salton Sea, was at N.E.S.S. 10 Jun (DN), and up to 2 were at S.E.S.S. 31 Mar—6 Jul (GMcC); one flying n. up Earthquake Valley in e. *San Diego* 3 Jul (JBa) was obviously lost. A worn imm. Mew Gull at S.E.S.S. 2-23 Jun (GMcC) was evidently attempting to summer locally, and a bedraggled Thayer's Gull at N.E.S.S. 31 May—23 Jun (GMcC) was clearly attempting to do so. About 80 pairs of Gull-billed Terns nested at S.E.S.S., with moderate success, but fewer than 50 pairs each of Caspian Terns and Black Skimmers nested, and nearly all attempts failed; similarly, all 30 California Gull nest attempts failed there (KCM). Two ad. Least Terns with a flying juv. at S.E.S.S. 27 Jul (GMcC) were at the same location where 2 ads. had been present 4 May—2 Jun (GMcC),

which suggests local nesting; however, nesting is unrecorded at the Salton Sea. A Tufted Puffin off the e. end of Santa Cruz I 8 Jun (DMH) is one of a very few reported in s. California waters in recent years.

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Band-tailed Pigeon at G.H.P. 7 Jun (TEW) and another on San Clemente I. 30 Jun (BLS) had wandered far from the nearest areas of normal occurrence. A Eurasian Collared-Dove on San Clemente I. 5 Jul (JTB) was the first to reach the Channel Islands. A White-winged Dove at Wofford Heights, *Kern* 4 Jul (NJS) was nw. of the species's breeding range, and another on San Clemente I. 28 Jun (BLS) was well to the west. An Inca Dove photographed in Whittier, *Los Angeles* 2 Jun (CA) was well to the w. of this species's expanding range and may have been an escapee

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** at Pachalka Springs on the w. side of Clark Mt., *San Bernardino* 24 Jun (JA, DNo, SSo) is the 16th to be found in California but the first in spring. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo near Blythe 2-10 Jun (RH) and another at G.H.P. 12 Jun (KSG) were probably normally occurring migrants, but single birds near Lakeview, *Riverside* 30 Jun (HBK), at Finney L., *Imperial* 7 Jul (TMcG), at S E S S 13 Jul (GMcC), and in Manhattan Beach, *Los Angeles* 20 Jul (DMH) were late for migrants, so presumably wanderers; 10 pairs were at known nesting areas at S.E.K.R.P. after 15 Jun (MH), and single birds in Bishop 5-6 Jun (J&DP) and at Scissors Crossing in e. *San Diego* in Jul (JBa) were in suitable breeding habitat.

The presence of a Long-eared Owl on San Clemente I. 20 Jul (BLS) suggests nesting. Calling Whip-poor-wills near Heart Bar Campground in the San Bernardino Mts through Jun (HBK, AEK) suggest breeding at that location, but breeding has yet to be documented in California. The only Chimney Swifts were single birds over Long Beach 9 Jun (KL), sw. Los Angeles the same day (RBa), and West Los Angeles 17 Jul (DD). Two Vaux's Swifts over Long Beach 1 Jun (KL) and another over Irvine 4 Jun (LDT) were late spring migrants, and an unidentified *Chaetura* was over Goleta 13 Jun (HPR). A *Selasphorus* (probably Allen's) in Escondido 16 Jun (BM) was an exceptionally early fall migrant. More than expected numbers of Acorn Woodpeckers were present on the e. slope of the Sierra Nevada in *Inyo*, with nesting documented at two locations (A&LK), and one at G.H.P. 20 Jul (TEW) and another at Scissors Crossing 17 Jun (JB) were obviously lost

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CORVIDS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher at G.H.P. 30 Jul (KSG) was an early fall migrant, as was a Western Wood-Pewee there 16 Jul (KSG); one singing on San Clemente I. 1 Jul (BLS) was at a locality where the species is not known to breed. Nine male and 13 female Willow Flycatchers of the endangered subspecies *extimus* fledged 16 young at S.F.K.R.P. (MH). The Least Flycatcher found at S.F.K.R.P. on 30 May was last seen 9 Jun (BB). A Hammond's Flycatcher at G.H.P. 5 Jun (KSG) was the latest spring migrant for *Kern*. Gray Flycatchers at a nest near Ball Flat, n. of Big Pines, *Los Angeles* 27 Jun (JTi) were in an area where breeding has only recently been documented. Up to 3 Pacific-slope Flycatchers in e. *Kern* 29 Jun (TEW) appeared to be very late spring migrants. A nesting pair of Black Phoebes fledged 2 young on San Clemente I. in late Jun (BLS), for the island's first confirmed breeding. Say's Phoebes are increasingly encountered as breeders in the coastal part of the Region, with birds through the period near Burbank (RB), in the Baldwin Hills (A&EB), and in Calabasas (JH), all *Los Angeles*, as well as a breeding pair in Goleta 2-17 Jun (DMC). An Ash-throated Flycatcher through the period in El Centro, *Imperial* (KZK) was in an area where the species is not known to breed; others near S.E.S.S. 28 Jun and 6 Jul (GMcC) were wanderers or early fall migrants. A pair of Brown-crested Flycatchers summered at Scissors Crossing, *San Diego* (JBa), and 9-11 pairs were thought to be breeding in and near S.F.K.R.P. (MW, BB). Eastern Kingbirds were at Baker, *San Bernardino* 9-11 Jun (LWA, HBK), n. of the Santa Maria R. mouth, *San Luis Obispo* 28 Jun (TBC), and on San Clemente I. 20 Jul (JTB). A Cassin's Kingbird at F.C.R. 4 Jun (MSanM) was at an unusual locality.

Loggerhead Shrikes continue to undergo a striking decline as breeders on the coastal slope of the Region, though numbers this year might also have been impacted by the severe and prolonged drought; in *Los Angeles*, shrikes were found at only eight sites in the coastal basins and valleys in May and Jun (KLG).

A White-eyed Vireo was photographed and taped near Lompoc, *Santa Barbara* 13-15 Jun (JTi, JS), this species has proved nearly annual in spring in the Region. A Gray Vireo in w. Phinney Canyon in the Grapevine Mts., *Inyo* 29 Jun (JLD) was the first found in many years in that area. A Yellow-throated Vireo, casual in spring, was in Huntington Beach, *Orange* 7 Jun (LDT). For the 2nd consecutive year, Warbling Vireos nested in an urban res-

idential area in Los Angeles (RB), and one was singing persistently in urban e. Anaheim, *Orange* 25 May—12 Jun (DRW); early fall migrants were at Picacho S.R.A., *Imperial* 9 Jul (P J) and near El Centro 13 Jul (KZK). Single Red-eyed Vireos were at California City and G.H.P. on the late date of 25 Jun (KSG).

A Steller's Jay near Lakeview, *Riverside* 22 Jul (CH) was at an odd locality. Only 2 Purple Martins were found in all of *Los Angeles* through the period, despite focused searches in most appropriate breeding habitat (KLG). Unseasonal Bank Swallows were near Lake View Terrace, *Los Angeles* 22 Jun (KLG) and at Piute Ponds n. of Lancaster, *Los Angeles* 5 Jul (JF). An Oak Titmouse along Oak Creek nw. of Independence 21-22 Jul (A&LK) established the northernmost record for *Inyo*. At least a dozen *aculeata* White-breasted Nuthatches in lowland areas away from breeding sites in *Orange*, *San Diego*, and w. *Riverside* in Jul (LRH, REW, JEP) may portend a fall irruption. A Winter Wren along Pine Cr. nw. of Bishop (J&DP) 17 Jun—4 Jul was the 2nd to summer in *Inyo*.

THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS

A Townsend's Solitaire photographed on San Clemente I. 10 Jun (BLS) was in an odd locality for a montane breeding species. Provision of nest-boxes continues to promote the expansion of Western Bluebirds in s. coastal areas; a fresh juv. was on Pt. Loma 12 Jun (REW). One or more singing Swainson's Thrushes were in restored willow bottomland habitat below Imperial Beach, *San Diego* 25 Jun—14 Jul (MS, DH); one along Pine Cr. nw. of Bishop 17 Jun—4 Jul (J&DP) was the 3rd summer record for *Inyo* ("Olive-backed Thrushes," *Catharus swainsoni ustulatus*, breed to the north in *Mono*). A Hermit Thrush on 16 Jun at Villa Park, *Orange* (DEW) was extremely late for the lowlands. An American Robin was slightly out of range at G.H.P. 20 Jul (TEW), and the species nested in Blythe, *Riverside* (RH), where a rare but regular breeder. A Gray Catbird was in Butterbredt Canyon 22 Jun (MW), the 3rd spring record for *Kern*. A fall migrant Bendire's Thrasher was in Blythe 21 Jul (RH). Nesting American Pipits at 3300 m at South Fork Lake, w. of Lone Pine, *Inyo* on 11 Jul (FE) were in an area where breeding had been presumed. Unusual midsummer Cedar Waxwings were at Castaic Junction, *Los Angeles* 20 Jul (JLF) and Blythe through the period (RH).

Two Lucy's Warblers were found in the Imperial Valley, where very rare: an ad. near

Brawley 2 Jun (GMcC) and an imm. near El Centro 3 Jul (GMcC). Late vagrant Northern Parulas stretched well through the season, as usual, with birds in Encino, *Los Angeles* 10 Jun (DK), Santa Barbara 19-23 Jun (MAH), Blythe 23 Jun (RH), the San Bernardino Mts 26 Jun (DRW), Scissors Crossing 5 Jul (JBa), and Carpinteria, *Santa Barbara* 14 Jul (RWH). A Yellow Warbler at G.H.P. 29 Jun (TEW) was mid-way between e. *Kern*'s latest spring and earliest fall records; 3+ singing males along the concrete-banked Los Angeles R. near Glendale through the period (RB, KLG) were in an urban setting. A late spring Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler was in Newport Beach, *Orange* 8 Jun (JEP), and single Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warblers at F.C.R. 29 Jun (JLD) and in Bishop 3 Jul (J&DP) were unseasonal for the lowlands. A Black-throated Gray Warbler near El Centro 29 Jul (KZK) was the earliest fall record for the Salton Sink. Very late Townsend's Warblers were at Jenks L. in the San Bernardino Mts. 7 Jun (CMcG) and on Clark Mt. 8 Jun (HBK). A Hermit Warbler on Santa Rosa Mt., *Riverside* 17 Jun (BM) was at the limit of the species's breeding range. Black-and-white Warblers near El Centro 6 Jun (KZK) and Scissors Crossing 23 Jun (JBa) were late spring vagrants, but a singing bird near Corona, *Riverside* 29 Jul (JEP) was thought to have summered nearby, and one near El Monte, *Los Angeles* 29 Jul—1 Aug (AL) was probably an early fall migrant. American Redstarts were in Goleta 15 Jun (GT) and on San Clemente I. 21 Jun (BLS), and 5 others were on the deserts 15 Jun—29 Jul. Late migrant Northern Waterthrushes were at California City and Butterbredt Canyon 15 Jun (JCW). A Kentucky Warbler, casual in spring, was in Santa Barbara 9-10 Jun (RS). A MacGillivray's Warbler in Newport Beach 8 Jun (DRW) was the latest spring record for *Orange* by a week. Hooded Warblers were at Clark Mt. 8-9 Jun (HBK, MCF) and in Goleta 20-21 Jun (RPH).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Hepatic Tanager at the foot of Clark Mt. 8-24 Jun (HBK, LWA, DNo et al.) was near nesting habitat, and two presumed nesting pairs were at a traditional site along Arrastre Cr in the San Bernardino Mts. through Jun (HBK, AEK). A playback census yielded 50+ pairs of Summer Tanagers at and near S.F.K.R.P. during the period (TW); this is the species's stronghold in California, but 2-3 pairs nested at Scissors Crossing (JBa) as well as a few other sites. Five additional Summer Tanagers were in the coastal lowlands 8 Jun—1 Jul,

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along with a late migrant at G.H.P. 25 Jun (KSG). A pair of Western Tanagers at Cerro Alto Campground 6 Jul provided the first nesting record for *San Luis Obispo* (AFS, JSR). A Spotted Towhee at G.H.P. 25 Jun (KSG) was well away from the nearest breeding habitat. Dry conditions probably contributed to a breeding attempt by Grasshopper Sparrows in Jun and early Jul on a weedy slope in a cemetery in Hollywood, *Los Angeles* (RB) and to the presence of 2 singing males in a clearing in chaparral at 1050 m above La Cañada, *Los Angeles* (JTo). A (Thick-billed) Fox Sparrow in Jawbone Canyon 2 Jun (TEW) was the latest spring record for the *megarhyncha* group for e. *Kern*. Exceptionally late White-crowned Sparrows were on San Clemente I. 23 Jun (AVB; subspecies undetermined) and at G.H.P. 18 Jun (KSG; *oriantha*); with the latter bird was a late Golden-crowned Sparrow. A juv. Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco in Irvine 23 Jun (RAE) was probably fledged in a local *Eucalyptus* grove.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appeared widely in the Region, with 8 along the coast 2 Jun—22 Jul and 7 more in the interior 4-23 Jun. A pair of Black-headed Grosbeaks fledged young at Picacho State Recreation Area, *Imperial* in Jul (PJ); this species was not recorded nesting by Rosenberg et al. (1991. *Birds of the Lower Colorado River Valley*. University of Arizona Press). One near El Centro 3 Jul (KZK) provided the earliest fall record for the Salton Sink. Small numbers of Indigo Buntings, including pairs and territorial males, were found widely in the Region; up to 5 males were at S.F.K.R.P. through the period (BB).

Two male Bobolinks were in Independence 5 Jun (RAH). Casual in mid-summer, a Baltimore Oriole was in Somis, *Ventura* 19-20 Jun (WW). A pair of Scott's Orioles at Pine Valley, *San Diego* 18 Jun (BM) was at the w. edge of the species's range. Up to 5 Cassin's Finches were present through the period in Big Pines, *Inyo*, with a juv. on 8 Aug suggesting possible nesting at this Owens Valley site (T&JH). An male American Goldfinch in Independence 18-21 Jun (RAH, A&LK) was exceptionally late and well s. of typical interior breeding range. Up to 6 Nutmeg Mannikins, a species rapidly naturalizing in the Region, were in San Luis Obispo 26 Jun+ (MDS).

Cited observers (county coordinators in boldface): Jim Abernathy, Chris Akiyoshi, Larry W. Allen, Tom Anderson, Joe Barth (JBa), Bob Barnes, Richard Barth (RB), Mark Billings, Ashleigh V. Blackford, Jim Bland

(JB1), John T. Brollini, Ann and Eric Brooks (A&EB), Bob Chaddock, David Chapple, David M. Compton (*Santa Barbara*), Travis B. Cooper, Don Desjardin, Jon L. Dunn, Tom M. Edell (*San Luis Obispo*), Fred Emerson, Richard A. Erickson, Michael Evens (*San Diego*), Meryl Falkner, Jon Feenstra, Jon L. Fisher, Mary Carmona Freeman, Peter A. Gaede, Kimball L. Garrett (*Los Angeles*), Karen S. Gilbert, John F. Green (*Riverside*), Charity Hagen, Murrelet Halterman, Robert W. Hansen, Jim Hardesty, Loren R. Hays, D Mitchell Heindel, Tom & Jo Heindel (*Inyo*), Roger Higson, Brad K. Hines, Ron P. Hirst, David Holloway, Mark A. Holmgren, Chris Howard and Rosie Beach (CH & RB), Robert A. Hudson, Paul Jorgensen, Al Kalin, Howard B. King, Andrew & Leah Kirk (A & LK), David Koepfel, Alexander E. Koonce (*San Bernardino*), Kenneth Z. Kurland, Kevin Larson, Andrew Lee, Guy McCaskie (*Imperial*), Todd McGrath, Chet McGaugh, Bob Miller, Kathy C. Molina, Brennan Mulrooney, David Nelson (DNe), Dick Norton (DNo), Robert T. Patton, Jim and Debby Parker (J & DP), James E. Pike, Hugh P. Ranson, Jim S. Royer, Martin Ruane, Matt Sadowski, Mike San Miguel (MSanM), Bill Sauer, Alan F. Schmierer, N. John Schmitt, Brad K. Schram, Tim Searl, Ron Smith, Steve Sosensky (SSo), Susan Steele (SSt), John Sterling, Mike D. Stiles, Brian L. Sullivan, John Thompson (JTo), Jim Tietz (JTt), Guy Tingos, Larry D. Tripp, Richard E. Webster, Walter Wehtje (*Ventura*), Mary Whitfield, Douglas R. Willick (*Orange*), John C. Wilson (*Kern*), Tiffany Woznicki, Thomas E. Wurster. An additional 35+ observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports this season.

