

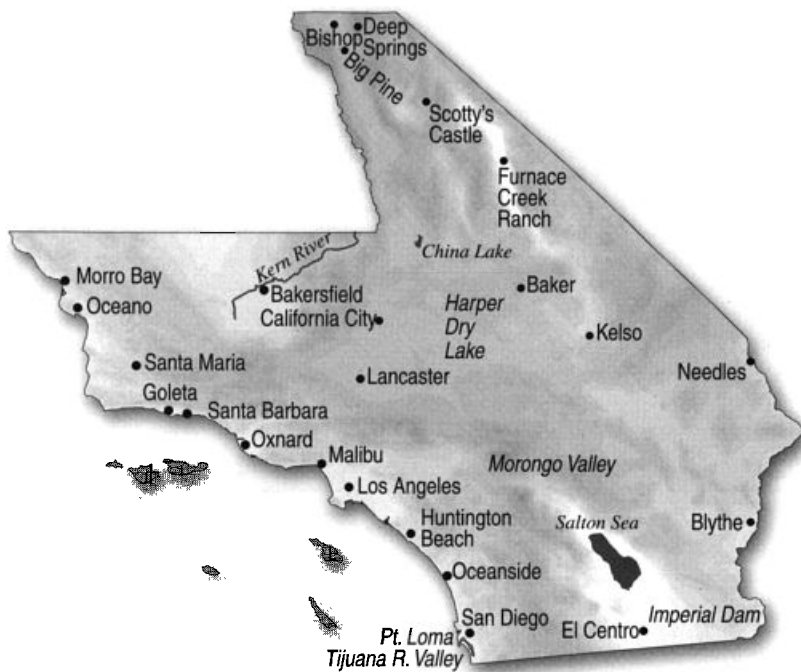
Southern California

A first North American (and second Northern Hemisphere) record must surely be singled out as the highlight of the season: in this case it was a Ringed Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma hornbyi*), also called Hornby's Storm-Petrel, seen and photographed off Santa Rosa Island on 2 August. Another seabird of note was a subadult Short-tailed Albatross at Santa Cruz Island. Exceptionally rare shorebirds included a Wilson's Plover and a Red-necked Stint. An interesting development this summer was the presence of several Southwestern (or "Madrean") montane species in the mountains: Greater Pewee, Red-faced Warbler, Painted Redstart, and Hepatic Tanager were all found in the mountains of San Diego County. As always, birds pay no attention to our artificial seasonal cut-off dates, so many of the records noted in the present report are simply a continuation of late spring vagrancy that began in May.

Abbreviations: B.S. (Butterbredt Spring, s. end of the Sierra Nevada above Cantil, e. Kern); C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. Kern); E.A.F.B. (Edwards A.F.B., se. Kern); F.C.R. (Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley N.P., Inyo); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park, extreme e. Kern); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, Riverside); P.P. (Piute Ponds, Edwards A.F.B., ne. Los Angeles); S.C.R.E. (Santa Clara R. 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 A.F.B., nw. Santa Barbara); V.C.G.P. (Ventura County Game Preserve near Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station, Ventura). Museum collections abbreviated in the text are: LACM (Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County) and SDNHM (San Diego Natural History Museum). 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 B.R.C. (C.B.R.C.) review list is forwarded to the Secretary and archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A Common Loon at F.C.R. 6–11 Jun (C&RH) was a late spring migrant at an unusual location. A subad. Short-tailed Albatross was photographed at Prisoner's Harbor on Santa Cruz I. 6 Jul (JMcM, SWS); this is the 3rd to be seen in s. California waters in the past five years. A Northern Fulmar at Pt.



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Vicente, Los Angeles 9 Jul (KGL) was the only one reported this summer. Up to 20 Cook's Petrels 80 km s. of San Clemente I. 31 Jul–2 Aug (WW) were in an area where undoubtedly regular. A Wilson's Storm-Petrel, rare in s. California waters, was 80 km s. of San Clemente I. 31 Jul (WW). Totally unexpected was a Ringed Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma hornbyi*) well photographed about 40 km ssw. of Santa Rosa I. 2 Aug (PPY, CO); this is not only the first of this Humboldt Current species to be recorded in North America but also only the second in the Northern Hemisphere.

A Red-billed Tropicbird seen from San Clemente I. 4 Jul (SWS) was the only one reported. A Brown Booby at Scorpion Harbor on Santa Cruz I. 6 Jul (SWS) and another near Pt. Piedras Blancas, San Luis Obispo 22 Apr+ (RAR) add 2 more to the ever-increas-

ing number found off the coast of s. California. A major movement of Brown Pelicans from the Gulf of California into se. California in late Jun placed hundreds on the Salton Sea, along with smaller numbers scattered across the deserts to the n., such as 10–12 over Corona, Riverside 3 Jul (MG) and single birds near Blythe, Riverside 13 Jul (RH), in the East Mojave National Scenic Area, San Bernardino 17 Jun (DB), and at Halloran Summit e. of Baker, San Bernardino 17 Jun (SGo); one on Baldwin L. in the San Bernardino Mts. 10 Jul (DK) was at a high elevation.

Although Least Bitterns are relatively common in the s. portion of this Region, they are much scarcer to the n., so confirmed breeding near Bishop, Inyo (J&DP) and at Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo (BW) is noteworthy. A Little Blue Heron in Goleta, Santa



This confiding subadult Short-tailed Albatross was only a short distance off the pier at Prisoner's Harbor on Santa Cruz Island, California 6 July 2005. Photograph by Jimmy McMorran.

Barbara 13 Jul+ (DMC) and another on Upper Newport Bay, Orange 15 Jun (NK) were the only ones found away from San Diego. Reports of Reddish Egrets included one at Point Mugu, Ventura 31 Jul (DP), 3 in coastal Orange 9 Jul+ (BED, LRH, LW), and single birds on s. San Diego Bay, San Diego 22 Jul (JBa) and 29 Jul+ (MC). Two subad. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons remained in Imperial Beach, San Diego 27 Jun+ (LW-L, MJB, MS); this species is a casual straggler to California from w. Mexico. Two ad. Glossy Ibis were found in the Imperial Valley, Imperial, with one near Calipatria 16–17 Jul (PEL, JF) and the other near Westmorland 29 Jul (CC); this brings the total number now recorded in California to eight.

A Tundra Swan remaining in California City, Kern through the period (K&BK) is one of a very few known to have summered in California. Apart from Redheads, *Aythya* ducks are rare in s. California in summer. Five Canvasbacks—one at N.E.S.S. 6 Jun (GMcC), 2 at Mystic L., Riverside 12 Jun (BM), and 2 in the Prado Basin, Riverside 12 Jun+ (JEP)—were thus of note, as were 2–3 Ring-necked Ducks at Oso Flaco L., San Luis Obispo 19 Jun–11 Jul (MLS) and singles in Orange, Orange 28 Jun–6 Jul (RAH), California City 21–24 Jun (K&BK), and N.E.S.S. 14 Jun–2 Jul (CMcG). A Bufflehead near Bishop all summer (J&DP), a Black Scoter at Playa del Rey, Los Angeles 25 Jun (BJ), and a Common Goldeneye near Blythe 25 Jun (RH) were also unusual.

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A pair of White-tailed Kites, rare breeders in the Salton Sink, successfully fledged one young from a nest near Seeley, Imperial in May (GMcC). A pair of Bald Eagles at L. Hemet, Riverside 4 Jun (TAB) was at a location where this species bred last year, and birds near Harmony, San Luis Obispo 27 Jul (GPS) were suspected to have nested locally. A Zone-tailed Hawk at Bonita, San Diego 28 Jul (CR) provided an exceptionally early date for the coastal lowlands. Calling Black

Rails were at two locations through the summer in the Imperial Valley, Imperial, where this secretive bird undoubtedly nests (GMcC). The presence of an ad. Sora with 4 chicks in Goleta, Santa Barbara 12 May (KB) provides one of a very few modern records for nesting in s. California.

A stunning Pacific Golden-Plover was in Coronado, San Diego 22 Jun (MS), one of a very few found anywhere in California in Jun. A Wilson's Plover, remarkably scarce as a vagrant to California given that it breeds only 120 km away in the Colorado River delta, remained at Batiquitos Lagoon, San Diego 2 Jun–1 Jul (SMW, MJB, MS). Because significant numbers of some of the larger and medi-



One of two subadult Yellow-crowned Night-Herons present in Imperial Beach, San Diego County, California after 27 June 2005, this bird was photographed on 28 August 2005. Photograph by Thomas A. Blackman.

um-sized shorebirds remain through the summer, it is difficult to determine arrival dates for fall migrants. A Greater Yellowlegs at Hansen Dam, Los Angeles 10 Jun (KLG) would be remarkably early if a fall migrant, but alternate-plumaged Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs at E.A.FB. 22 Jun (MSanM) were clearly new arrivals. An exceptionally early Solitary Sandpiper was at E.A.FB 30 Jun (SGr); the next arrivals came at C.L. 18 Jul (SS), near Lancaster, Los Angeles 21 Jul (JF), and at Tinemaha Res. near Big Pine, Inyo 23 Jul (T&JH). A Wandering Tattler on Point Loma, San Diego 7 Jun (PPr) was believed to be summering locally. A few nonbreeding tattlers are probably present along the coast every

summer, but they are rarely reported; one at South Laguna, Orange 5 Jul (KLP) was probably an early fall migrant. An early fall migrant Black Turnstone at Cachuma L., Santa Barbara 15 Jun (HP) was inland. A Surf-bird in Coronado 11 Jun (MJB) was either an exceptionally late spring migrant or summering locally. A Red Knot at S.E.S.S. 21 Jun (MTH) was probably summering locally; one inland near Lancaster 20 Jul (MSanM) was a fall migrant. An ad. Semipalmated Sandpiper at C.L. 22 Jun (SS) established the earliest date for a fall migrant in California; 3 on the Los Angeles R. in Long Beach, Los Angeles 26 Jul (KGL) were the first of the juvs. Fall migrant Western and Least Sandpipers appeared to return early, with the first Westerns at S.E.S.S. 21 Jun (MTH, GMcC) and the first Least a week later (GMcC), and the first juvs. of both species at Bolsa Chica, Orange 24 Jul (BED). It is anyone's guess whether the Red-necked Stint at C.L. 13 Jun (SS) was a late spring or early fall vagrant; it establishes the 10th record for California. A Stilt Sandpiper at S.E.S.S. 10 Jun (GMcC) provides one of a very few records for California in summer; one in Long Beach 19–20 Jul (RB) was on the coast, where rare. A male Ruff at S.E.S.S. 31 Jul (RHD) remained into the winter.

SKUAS THROUGH FLYATCHERS

A South Polar Skua was seen from San Clemente I. 10 Jun (JMCM). Late spring migrant Franklin's Gulls were at N.E.S.S. 8 Jun (MSanM), in Santa Barbara 14 Jun (JMG), and near Lancaster 20 Jun (MSanM); one at S.E.S.S. 29 Jul (GMcC) was a hatch-year bird recently arrived. Five Heermann's Gulls, rare inland, were found at S.E.S.S. between 26 Jun and 3 Jul (JFG, GMcC, HBK). Gull-billed Terns had a highly successful season at S.E.S.S., with over 180 pairs fledging at least 150 young at a single colony at Rock Hill, over 250 pairs of Caspian Terns also nested at Rock Hill and Mullet I., with many young fledged from the former site (KCM). Two Elegant Terns were inland at S.E.S.S. 25 Jun (JFG), another was there 2 Jul (MTH,



These young Reddish Egrets at Bolsa Chica in late July 2005 were two of three present in coastal Orange County, California, at that time. Photograph by Raul Roa.



One of two Glossy Ibis seen in the Imperial Valley in July, this one (right) was photographed with a White-faced Ibis and a Cattle Egret near Calipatria, Imperial County, California on 17 July 2005. Photograph by Oscar Johnson.

GMcC), and one more was at N.E.S.S. 2–3 Jul (CMcG, JFG, HBK). Small numbers of Least Terns are now found on the Salton Sea every summer, with up to 4 at S.E.S.S. 2–29 Jul (MTH, GMcC) and 2 at N.E.S.S. 3 Jul (HBK); however, 2 elsewhere inland at the Prado Basin, *San Bernardino* 25 Jun (DVP), one near Lancaster 24 Jun (LS), and another on Tinemaha Res. 16 Jun (JLD) were far more noteworthy. Numbers of Common Terns at Coronado increased from one on 20 Jun to 40+ at the end of the period (MS); this species was much more numerous throughout California in the 1970s but has decreased dramatically since that time. About six pairs of Forster's Terns nested this year at S.E.S.S. (KCM). Black Skimmers had their first successful season at the Salton Sea since 2001, with over 500 pairs fledging at least 200+ young (KCM); 2 in the Prado Basin 28 Jun–1 Jul (JEP) provide one of a very few records for this species in *San Bernardino*. Up to 5 Pigeon Guillemots off Pt. Vicente between 12 Jun and 9 Jul (KGL) and one off South Laguna 19 Jul (KLP) were unusual for this far s.; 4 at San Clemente I. 10 Jul (JMCM) were exceptional. A Tufted Puffin, rare off s. California, was near Santa Cruz I. 5 Jun (KLG).

A recently dead Yellow-billed Cuckoo recovered at the Santa Margarita R. mouth, *San Diego* 25 Jun (BEF; *SDNHM) and another seen on Point Loma, *San Diego* 5 Jul (EA) were on the coast, where rarely recorded. Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to push westward, as indicated by the presence of single birds on San Clemente I. 3 Jun (JPJ) and 8 Jul (SWS). The presence of a Short-eared Owl near Imperial Beach 13 Jul (Arnold Grassi, *vide* RAP) suggests local nesting, though the species is believed gone from s. California as a breeding bird. A Northern Saw-whet Owl at S.F.K.R.P. 23–24 Jun (MMcQ) was in an unexpected area. Two White-throated Swifts seen entering a hole in a large highway sign at Salton City, *Imperial* in Mar and Apr (BM) were thought

to be a breeding pair and if so would establish the first record for nesting in the Salton Sink. An ad. male Allen's Hummingbird was well photographed in El Centro, *Imperial* 29 Jun (KZK) to substantiate the 3rd fall record at the Salton Sink. A Gila Woodpecker at Corn Springs near Desert Center, *Riverside* 4 Jun (JFG, CMcG) was well away from any known area of normal occurrence.



This young Tundra Swan, photographed on 7 March 2005, remained through the summer in California City, Kern County, California. Photograph by Ken Kyle.

A singing Greater Pewee in the Laguna Mts., *San Diego* 11 Jun–3 Jul (MM) was the first of this species to be found in summer in California; all previously accepted state records are from mid-Sep–mid-Apr in the lowlands. For the 3rd year in a row, a Least Flycatcher was found summering at S.F.K.R.P. with one there 30 May–27 Jun (AS). A Dusky Flycatcher in Long Beach 4 Jun (KGL) was an exceptionally late spring migrant. Juv. Say's Phoebes in early Jul at Madrona Marsh in Torrance, *Los Angeles* suggested local nesting (DM), and a nest with young was found in Long Beach on 4 Jun (KLG); one at Bolsa Chica 3 Jun (LRH) was exceptional in summer for coastal *Orange*. Unseasonal coastal Vermilion Flycatchers were at Madrona Marsh

2 Jun–7 Jul (DM) and in Irvine 29 Jun (GM); in the inland valleys, a male continued through 11 Jun at Hidden Valley Wildlife Area, *Riverside* (LLaP), but a May nesting attempt in San Bernardino failed (TAB). Four to five pairs of Vermilions were at Ridgecrest, four pairs were at S.F.K.R.P. (JCW), and a pair raised young at Mojave Narrows Regional Park, *San Bernardino* this summer (SJM). Numbers of nesting Brown-crested Flycatchers at S.F.K.R.P. were down to six to eight pairs this summer (BB).

SHRIKES THROUGH WARBLERS

Dismal numbers of Loggerhead Shrikes on the coastal slope, including a near absence from *Orange* (DRW), suggest that recovery efforts lavished on San Clemente I. (*mearnsi*) populations of this species might also be directed to the mainland (as well as to the critically endangered *anthonyi* subspecies of the remaining Channel Islands). More upbeat is the current situation with Least Bell's Vireos (subspecies *pusillus*), which continue to recover their former range; one on the Salinas R. n. of Paso Robles, *San Luis Obispo* 2 Jul (PB, TR) suggests local nesting. The Yellow-throated Vireo on San Clemente I. was present through 2 Jun (SWS). A Plumbeous Vireo in Los Angeles 12 Jun (JF) was quite late for the coastal lowlands; a singing bird in Fawnskin in the San Bernardino Mts. (MF) was slightly w. of previously known sites in this range. The song of a Warbling Vireo in Irvine 12 Jun (BED) suggested the *e. gilvus* group, as yet undocumented in California. Late vagrant Red-eyed Vireos (not noted in the spring season's report) were on San Clemente I. 2 Jun (SWS), in Long Beach 19 Jun (KGL), and at Horsethief Spring, *San Bernardino* 9 Jun (AH).

Away from the Tehachapi Mts., Purple Martins hang on in the Region primarily in *Santa Barbara*, where 10–14 pairs were at two sites near Solvang 29 Jun (JMG); an early fall migrant was at Playa del Rey 31 Jul (KGL). A Violet-green Swallow at Dana Point 14 May–26 Jun (PC) was unseasonal for the



In Coronado, San Diego County, California, this stunning Pacific Golden-Plover was present for one day, 22 June 2005. Photograph by Matt Sadowski.

immediate coast of *Orange*. Over 40 Bank Swallows at Tinemaha Res., *Inyo* through Jun (T&JH) were in an area with no known colonies. A White-breasted Nuthatch at Hart Park in Bakersfield, *Kern* 28 Jun (K&BK) was a very early migrant. A Hermit Thrush on Pt. Loma 7 Jun (SES) was an exceptionally late migrant. A Brown Thrasher in Borrego Springs, *San Diego* late May+ (John Rudley; PJ) was one of the few ever to summer in California. A Bendire's Thrasher feeding fledglings in the Kelso Valley, *Kern* 27 May (DL) was at the extreme w. edge of the species' range.

A Lucy's Warbler was at Harbor Regional Park near San Pedro, *Los Angeles* on the odd date of 22 Jun (RAH). In addition to the 21 Northern Parulas noted in the spring report, 8 were on the coastal slope 5 Jun–2 Jul, and another was in Blythe, *Riverside* 13 Jul (RH). Late migrant Yellow Warblers were near Seeley, *Imperial* 10 Jun (GMcC) and at California City, *Kern* 21 Jun (K&BK). A Yellow-rumped Warbler at Castaic Lagoon, *Los Angeles* 11 Jun was exceptionally late for the lowlands. Other late spring vagrants included a Chestnut-sided Warbler on Pt. Loma 7 Jun (JWo), a Blackburnian Warbler there 5–6 Jun (MJB), and a Yellow-throated Warbler in Bishop 17 Jun (J&DP). A Palm Warbler on Pt. Loma 5 Jul (EA) was unseasonal, as were Black-and-white Warblers in the Santa Ynez Mts., *Santa Barbara* 15 Jul (MAH), in Fullerton, *Orange* 17 Jul (RAE), and w. of Bakersfield 26 Jul (WM). Five American Redstarts on the coastal slope 2–28 Jun augment numbers reported in the spring report. A Prothonotary Warbler was in Vista, *San Diego* 18 Jun (KM). An Ovenbird on Palomar Mt. 18 Jun–9 Jul (MMcC) was presumed to be the same individual found last summer. Two territorial MacGillivray's Warblers were on Palomar Mtn. 5 Jun (PU); there are no confirmed nestings for *San Diego*. A singing MacGillivray's in Irwindale, *Los Angeles* remained in an area well below breeding habitat until 26 Jun (AL). Two Painted Redstarts in the Laguna Mts. 12 Jun–17 Jul (TM, MJB) were thought to be a pair; another pair summered at Fawnskin, with fledged young seen on 9 Jul (CJ, CTL). A Red-faced Warbler at William Heise Regional Park near Julian 6–12 Aug (PAG, MS) was likely present through the summer, a seasonal first for *San Diego*.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Adding to the list of sw. montane species found in the Laguna Mts. this season, a male Hepatic Tanager was present there 16–28 Jun (GMcC). At least three pairs were in the Rose Mine/Arrastre Cr. area of the e. San Bernardino Mts. 10–24 Jun (HvanO, AEK).

A juv. Black-throated Sparrow at Playa del Rey 24 Jul (KGL) was a very early vagrant to the coast. One of the few significant Grasshopper Sparrow populations in the greater Los Angeles area is at Rancho Sierra Vista near Newbury Park, *Ventura*, where 6–9 territorial males and several juvs. were



This male Wilson's Plover spent the month of June 2005 (here 4 June) among nesting Least Terns at Batiquitos Lagoon, San Diego County, California. Photograph by Matt Sadowski.

found 16–18 Jun (WW). A *rostratus* Savannah Sparrow at Bolsa Chica 2 Jul (BED) was an early fall arrival. A Lincoln's Sparrow was in the Laguna Mts. 26 Jun (MJL); nesting is not documented for *San Diego*.

A female Northern Cardinal in Blythe 5 Jun (RH) was one of the few reported recently on the California side of the Colorado R. The late spring push of vagrant Rose-breasted Grosbeaks barely subsides during the summer season; 4 were noted w. of the deserts 4 Jun–9 Jul, and others were n. of Bishop 19 Jun (J&DP), at Chiriaco Summit e. of Indio 4 Jun (JFG, CMcG), and in Blythe 22 Jul (RH). An early fall migrant Black-headed Grosbeak was near El Centro 9 Jul (KZK), and a Lazuli Bunting at the same lo-



A Tufted Puffin was the highlight of a trip off Santa Cruz Island, Santa Barbara County, California on 5 June 2005. Photograph by Steve Sosensky.

cality 5 Jul (KZK) was the earliest fall record for the Salton Sink. A scattering of Indigo Buntings through the Region included up to 2 singing males in the Laguna Mts. 11–26 Jun (TM, MJL). An Orange-breasted Bunting (*Passerina leclancherii*) was singing in Mission Viejo, *Orange* 17 Jun (BED), clearly an escapee.

An ad. male Tricolored Blackbird in Bishop 18–24 Jun (J&DP) was slightly out of range. Yellow-headed Blackbirds in Goleta

1–7 Jun (WTF) and at L. Cachuma 17 Jul (JBe, HP) were among the few found in summer in *Santa Barbara* in the past 40 years. A Scott's Oriole was observed carrying food in Santiago Canyon e. of Irvine 20 Jun (RAE); breeding was previously undocumented in *Orange*. Pine Siskins lingered into Jun from the winter invasion in the mts. of *San Diego*, but nesting attempts failed, and the species was absent after 28 Jun (PU, JW). A Lawrence's Goldfinch, casual in *Inyo*, was at Mahogany Flat Campground 11 Jun (SES).

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