



More than a dozen Red-billed Tropicbirds delighted birders off southern California in autumn 2005, this bird being one of at least five around San Nicolas Island on 10 September. Photograph by David W. Nelson.

closer to the coast are few and far between, so one picked up alive at San Diego 10 Aug (MW; *SDNHM) came as a surprise. A Red-tailed Tropicbird 291 km sw. of San Nicolas I. 28 Sep (TS) and another 342 km wsw. of San Miguel I. 9 Nov (TS) were in areas of regular occurrence; however, a sick bird captured at San Pedro, Los Angeles 19 Sep (*vide* SAK; *LACM) is only the 2nd to be found ashore in California. The Brown Booby at Pt. Piedras Blancas, San Luis Obispo was seen off and on through 21 Aug (DML).

Single Little Blue Herons on Upper Newport Bay, Orange 30 Oct–8 Nov (TC), Goleta, Santa Barbara 13 Jul–5 Aug (DMC) and on Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo 26 Aug (TME), along with one inland at E.A.F.B. 17 Sep (JCW), were the only ones reported away from coastal San Diego. Up to 4 Reddish Egrets in coastal Orange and a similar number along the coast of San Diego suggest this species is expanding its range northward to include coastal s. California; in addition, single birds were farther n. at Point Mugu, Ventura 31 Jul–11 Sep (DPe), and inland at S.E.S.S. 14 Aug (KLG), N.E.S.S. 25 Sep (JFG), and near Blythe, Riverside 23 Sep (RH). The 2 subad. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons found at Imperial Beach, San Diego in Jun were still present at the end of the period (GMCC), but more remarkable was a juv., still retaining down, picked up at El Cajon, San Diego 23 Aug (*vide* MF; *SDNHM); there are no records for nesting in the state. A hatch-year Roseate Spoonbill at Imperial Beach 14 Oct (AM) provided the 2nd record for San Diego, and another was at N.E.S.S. 14 Nov (WW). Numbers of Wood Storks at S.E.S.S. built up to 34 on 11 Aug (AEK), but all were gone after 27 Aug (GMCC); one at N.E.S.S. 11 Aug (CMcG) was unexpected.

HAWKS THROUGH TERNS

A subad. Mississippi Kite, a casual straggler to California, flew southward over the Palos Verdes Pen., Los Angeles 18 Sep (KGL). A Broad-winged Hawk near Orcutt, Santa Barbara 3 Oct (NAL) was the only one reported, highlighting this species' decline in the Region. The passage of Swainson's Hawks

through the Borrego Valley in e. San Diego is monitored daily, with 379 counted between 1 Oct and 7 Nov, including an impressive 279 on 24 Oct (HC, PJ); other large flocks included 13 near the coast at Yorba Linda, Orange 6 Oct (DRW), 58 over Redlands, San Bernardino 9 Oct (RMcK), and 75 roosting near El Centro, Imperial 29–30 Oct

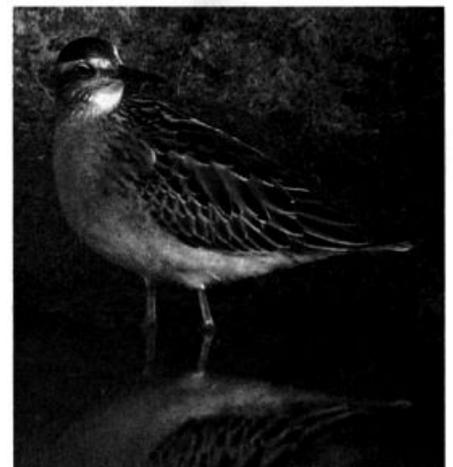


This young Roseate Spoonbill at Imperial Beach on 14 October 2005 established the second record for San Diego County and one of a very few for the coast of southern California. Photograph by Anthony Mercetca.

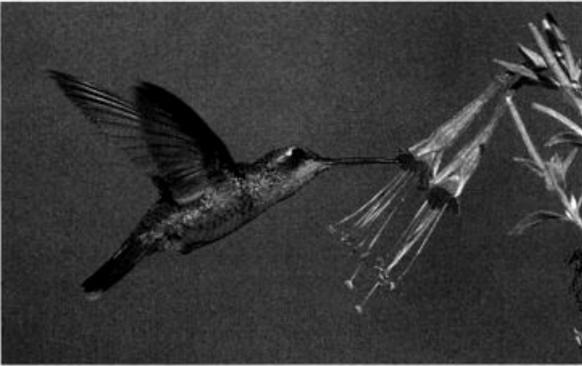
Blythe 16 Oct+ (RH) and near El Centro 24 Sep+ (KZK) were all probably wintering locally, but an imm. near El Centro 15–16 Oct (KZK) appeared to be a migrant. A Rough-legged Hawk near Bishop, Inyo 13 Nov (J&DP) was the only one seen in the Owens Valley, suggesting that few ventured farther s. into the Region. A Crested Caracara near El Centro 9 Nov (KZK) provided the 2nd record for the Imperial Valley.

The only American Golden-Plovers reported were single juvs. on the coast at Guadalupe, Santa Barbara 2–3 Oct (SNGH) and inland at E.A.F.B. 19 Oct (MSanM). Seven Pacific Golden-Plovers on the coast of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Orange, and San Diego between 25 Aug and 23 Oct were believed to be migrants, but up to 5 around Guadalupe, Santa Barbara 24 Sep+ (WTF), one at the Santa Ynez R. estuary, Santa Barbara 27 Nov (WTF), up to 3 at Seal Beach, Orange 9 Oct+ (TAB), one at Bolsa Chica, Or-

ange 12 Aug+ (BED), up to 4 near Imperial Beach, San Diego 9 Sep+ (RTP), and one on San Clemente I. 8 Oct (JMCM) were at known or suspected wintering localities. A Mountain Plover at E.A.F.B. 2–3 Sep (TMcG) and another at C.L. 11 Oct (SS) were early migrants in areas where considered rare, and single birds at Goleta 25 Oct–6 Nov (SGa) and near Santa Maria, Santa Barbara 30 Nov (JMG) were on the coast, where now very rare. Single American Oystercatchers were well seen on Santa Barbara I. 24 Sep (NAL) and Anacapa I. 16 Oct (JF). A Solitary Sandpiper at Baker, San Bernardino 22 Oct (SJM) was late. A Ruddy Turnstone at Blythe 17 Sep (RH) was the only one reported inland away from the Salton Sea. A Black Turnstone inland at S.E.S.S. 3 Aug+ (MSanM, GMCC) appeared to be attempting to winter locally, and another was with it 7 Aug (HBK). Two Sanderlings, scarce inland away from the Salton Sea, were at E.A.F.B. 2 Sep (MSanM). Semipalmated Sandpipers appeared scarcer than normal, with only 7 juvs. found in the e. part of the Region 5–28 Aug, and only 26 more along the coast 1 Aug–11 Sep, but among them the first on San Clemente I. 11 Aug (JMCM). Based on the numbers reported, Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers also appeared to be less numerous than expected, but a late Baird's was at Baker 22 Oct (SJM). A juv Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, rare in s. California, was at S.C.R.E. 6–9 Oct (DDesj). An ad Curlew Sandpiper, a casual straggler to California, was on the Los Angeles R. at Long Beach, Los Angeles 13–14 Aug (RB). Five Stilt Sandpipers on the coast of Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, and Orange 24 Aug–2 Sep, along with single birds inland at C.L. 20–30 Aug (AH) E.A.F.B. 13 Oct (SGr), and Blythe 10 Sep (RH), were all away from the Salton Sea, thus



This juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper remained at the Santa Clara River estuary, Ventura County, California 6–9 (here) 7 October 2005. Photograph by Wes Fritz.



This young Broad-billed Hummingbird, one of two found in the northeastern part of the Southern California region, was photographed on the second day of its stay in Inyokern, Kern County, 26-31 October 2005. Photograph by Bob Steele.

unusual. Single Ruffs were along the coast at Guadalupe 25 Sep–9 Oct (PAGa), Carpinteria, Santa Barbara 11–16 Oct (DH), the V.C.G.P. 22 Sep (JLD), and Huntington Beach, Orange 18 Sep (BED); inland, a juv. was on Owens L., Inyo 5 Sep (SS), the one found at S.E.S.S. 31 Jul remained through the period (GMcC), and another was near Imperial, Imperial 5 Aug (GMcC). A Wilson's Phalarope near Keeler, Inyo 6 Nov (JLD) was exceptionally late for this area. Single Red Phalaropes near Mojave, Kern 26 Aug (AEK) and at C.L. 11 Sep (TEW) were inland.

At least 25 South Polar Skuas found off Santa Barbara and Ventura between 6 Sep and 17 Nov were more than normally reported. A Pomarine Jaeger on L. Casitas, Ventura 7 Sep (DAC) and a juv. Long-tailed Jaeger at S.E.S.S.



This Brown Thrasher remained on Point Loma, San Diego County, California 29 October through 10 (here 5) November 2005. Photograph by Matthew T. Heindel.

19–20 Sep (KLG, GMcC) were the only jaegers reported inland. A Laughing Gull at Cayucos 21 Oct (DML) was on the coast, where rare. Single Franklin's Gulls at Anaheim, Orange 2–23 Oct (DRW) and at nearby

Placentia 25 Nov (JEP) were the only ones found along the coast, and the species was scarcer than normal at the Salton Sea, with only a dozen reported 3 Aug–6 Nov. A Little Gull at L. Perris, Riverside 12 Nov+ (HBK) was believed to be the same ad. present here last winter. A Heermann's Gull at S.E.S.S. 13 Aug (GMcC) was inland. A Mew Gull at N.E.S.S. 14 Nov (WW) was far inland, where rare. A worn Glaucous Gull on s. San Diego Bay 2 Sep (GMcC) had undoubtedly summered locally.

A Sabine's Gull on Tinemaha Res., Inyo 18 Sep (JLD), 4 in e. Kern 18 Aug–27 Sep (SS, MTH,



This cooperative Wood Thrush in Santa Maria 10-12 (here 12) November 2005 was the first to be found in well-worked Santa Barbara County. Photograph by David Furseth.

SGr), single birds at Blythe 27 Aug (RH) and near N.E.S.S. 15 Aug (MJL), 2 at N.E.S.S. 28 Sep (JLD), and another near Seeley, Imperial 25 Sep (JLD) were inland, where scarce.

Common Tern is now quite rare throughout the interior, including the Salton Sea, and along the s. California coast (only one in San Luis Obispo and 5 in Orange reported this fall); counts of 3000+ on the coast of San Diego in Aug (MS, GMcC, DPa), 4000+ at Coronado, San Diego 19 Sep (MS), and 250 still present there 9 Nov (MS) were remarkable.

DOVES THROUGH VIREOS

At least 45 White-winged Doves were seen along the coast between 6 Aug and the end of the period, with a dozen of these on San Clemente I., and with one at Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo 25–31 Nov (DBo) being the northernmost. A Ruddy Ground-

Dove near El Centro 20 Nov+ (KZK) was the only one away from the resident population near Calipatria, Imperial. A Northern Pygmy-Owl in Indian Wells Canyon 27 Nov (BoS) was only the 2nd ever in e. Kern. A calling Common Nighthawk over Inyokern, Kern 8 Aug (VL) was an early migrant in an area where few are found. Single Broad-billed Hummingbirds, casual stragglers to California, were at Inyokern 26–31 Oct (SS) and Big Pine, Inyo 29 Oct–16 Nov (T&JH). Single Black-chinned Hummingbirds at Arcadia, Los Angeles 2 Oct (MSanM), Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo 4 Oct (CL), and Fountain Valley, Orange 8 Oct (JEP) were all unusually late; all are normally gone from California by late Sep. Ten Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found at scattered localities throughout the Region, with most in Nov, but a very early juv. was at Crystal Springs, San Bernardino 30 Sep (JEP).

An unidentified wood-pewee at Dana Pt., Orange 26–28 Oct (PTC) was likely a Western, but the late date introduces uncertainty. An apparent Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded at Starr Ranch Sanctuary, Orange 18 Oct (BeS); as not all characters support this identification, the record awaits judgment from the C.B.R.C. Five Least Flycatchers appeared in the latter half of Sep, with 3 along the coast at Marina del Rey, Los Angeles 14 Sep (DBe), Huntington Beach, Orange 22 Sep (JEP), and Oso Flaco L., San Luis Obispo 30 Sep (KNN), and 2 in Inyo at China Ranch 14 Sep (JEP) and Deep Springs 18 Sep (JLD). An Eastern Phoebe at La Jolla, San Diego 29 Oct (DBa) was followed by 3 more on the coastal slope (some remaining to winter); others were at F.C.R. 5 Nov (TEW) and w. of Bakersfield, Kern 14 Nov+ (BM). Vermilion Flycatchers on Santa Cruz I., Santa Barbara 1–2 Oct (MSk) and at 2025 m at Baldwin L., San Bernardino (HBK) were at unusual localities. A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher at Summerland, Santa Barbara 3 Oct (GR) was only the 16th to be found in California, all records coming



This Red-eyed Vireo in Brawley, Imperial County, California, present 26-27 (here 26) September 2005, was only the second to be found in the Salton Sink. Photograph by Nigel Milbourn.



This immature female Blackburnian Warbler near El Centro, Imperial County, California 10-18 (here 14) October 2005 was just the second to be found in the Salton Sink.

Photograph by Kenneth Z. Kurland.

from along the coast. Some 24 Tropical Kingbirds appeared on the coastal slope 17 Sep+, with most along the immediate coast; some remained to winter. On the deserts, one at Fig Lagoon near Seeley, *Imperial* 9 Oct+ (GMcC) appeared to be wintering. Wintering Thick-billed Kingbirds were at Wilmington, *Los Angeles* 10 Nov+ (KGL), at L. Hodges, *San Diego* 28 Nov+ (SES), and a returning bird at Santa Paula, *Ventura* 3 Dec+ (JMG). A Cassin's Kingbird, casual in the Salton Sink, was at Wister, near Niland 26 Nov (GH). Western Kingbirds are rare in the Region after Sep; exceptionally late birds were at Cuyama, *Santa Barbara* 5 Nov (WTF), El Monte, *Los Angeles* 6 Nov (LWA), Kern N.W.R. 6 Nov (KL), and Blythe, *Riverside* 12 Nov (RH). The only Eastern Kingbirds reported were at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, *Santa Barbara* 4 Sep (SB), San Clemente I. 17 Sep (JMCM), and San Diego 6 Oct (TP). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Irwindale, *Los Angeles* 19 Nov+ (AL) returned for its 3rd winter; migrants were at Onyx, *Kern* 12 Sep (T&JH) and at Blythe 25 Sep (RH).

A White-eyed Vireo at Montaña de Oro S.P., *San Luis Obispo* 24 Sep (MDS) was only the 5th to be found in the Region in fall. Bell's Vireos remained later than normal at some breeding areas, with 6 territorial birds still present at Hansen Dam, *Los Angeles* 17 Sep (KLG); a few dispersing birds and migrants were noted 7 Aug–21 Oct on the coastal slope, with a returning winterer at Long Beach 11 Oct+ (RB). One at Picacho S.R.A., *Imperial* 24 Nov (JL) was exceptionally late. Plumbeous Vireos were exceptionally widespread, with 32 on the coastal slope 16 Sep+; reports in *Los Angeles* outnumbered Cassin's Vireo reports (10:1). Late birds on the desert were at El Centro 14 Oct+ (KZK), at Morongo

Valley, *San Bernardino* 8 Nov (JFG), and at Picacho S.R.A. 24 Nov (JL). A Warbling Vireo at Bakersfield 20 Nov (JCW) was the latest ever for *Kern*. A good showing of 6 Philadelphia Vireos included birds at Lompoc, *Santa Barbara* 23 Sep (JA), Carpinteria 25 Sep (WTF) and 14 Oct (OJ), Pt. Mugu, *Ventura* 1 Oct (WW), and Huntington Beach 21–23 Oct (JEP) and 5–7 Nov (BED). Three Red-eyed Vireos were in coastal *Santa Barbara* 21–27 Sep (NAL, PAGA); one at Brawley 26–27 Sep (GMcC) was only the 3rd ever for the Salton Sink. A Yellow-green Vireo was at El Capitan State Beach, *Santa Barbara* 4 Oct (GCH).

CORVIDS THROUGH WARBLERS

A Western Scrub-Jay 16 km se. of Holtville, *Imperial* 27 Aug+ (DRW) was only the 2nd coastal *A. c. obscura* to be found in the Imperial Valley; others there have been referable to the interior Woodhouse's group. Purple Martins are now very scarce transients through the Region, so migrants at Huntington Beach 15 Sep (JLD), Pt. Hueneme, *Ventura* 16 Sep (DPe), and Hansen Dam 17 Sep (2 birds; KLG) were of interest; another at C.L. 1 Oct (BoS) was the latest for *Kern*. An out-of-range coastal *aculeata* White-breasted Nuthatch was sw. of Bishop 7 Aug (T&JH).

A Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Carpinteria 27 Aug (RT) was quite early. Casual in California, a well-photographed Wood Thrush at



Many birders visited this remarkably cooperative young male Prothonotary Warbler present in a yard on Point Loma, San Diego County, California 5-13 (here 10) November 2005. Photograph by Thomas A. Blackman.

Santa Maria 10–12 Nov (JMG) was the first for *Santa Barbara* and only the 13th for the Region. Exceptionally late Swainson's Thrushes were at Oceano Campground, *San Luis Obispo* 10 Nov (BKS) and Sylmar, *Los Angeles* 23 Nov (RB). Five Gray Catbirds were found: on the n. deserts at F.C.R. 30 Sep (V&GW), China Ranch 16 Oct (SJM), and G.H.P. 7–15 Oct (TE, KL), and coastally at Pt.

Loma 26 Oct–1 Nov (VM) and Montana de Oro 1–5 Nov (SCS). The fall movement of Sage Thrashers was noted from mid-Aug through late Nov, with an exceptional count of 15 birds on San Clemente I. 13 Oct (JMCM). Brown Thrashers, declining as a vagrant to the Region, were on Pt. Loma 29 Oct–10 Nov (PAGi) and at Bishop 3 Nov (KFI) Migrant Bendire's Thrashers were at Desert Center, *Riverside* 20 Aug (CMcG) and coastally at Pt. Loma 15–17 Sep (EA).

An early Sprague's Pipit was well described from Santa Barbara I., *Santa Barbara* 23 Sep (NAL); one near Calipatria 13 Nov+ (GMcC) was in an area where recorded regularly in winter. The only Red-throated Pipits were an imm. in the Tijuana River Valley 30 Sep (TAB) and an ad. there 9–10 Oct (MJB), plus one on San Clemente I. 12 Oct (JMCM). Several early Cedar Waxwings were noted in late Aug, with at least 2 at Avila Beach, *San Luis Obispo* 12 Aug (JND) possibly having summered locally.

Thirty Tennessee Warblers were found in coastal areas 2 Sep–17 Nov, but the only one noted on the deserts was at G.H.P. 19 Sep (MJS). A rather typical count of 18 Virginia's Warblers on the coastal slope 25 Aug–12 Oct was augmented by a wintering bird at Long Beach 24 Nov+ (KGL) and desert sightings at G.H.P. 7 Sep (MSanM) and El Centro 1 Oct (KZK). An exceptional 19 Lucy's Warblers were found along the coast 26 Aug–6 Nov; another was at Barstow, *San Bernardino* 18 Sep (HBK). Northern Parulas are usually scarcer in fall than spring; 8 were noted 20 Aug–22 Oct, with another apparently wintering at Morro Bay 17 Nov+ (LA).

Eighteen Chestnut-sided Warblers were on the coastal slope 23 Aug–17 Nov, with another wintering at Huntington Beach 6 Nov+ (JEP); the only desert sighting was of one near Bishop 11 Sep (J&DP). Six Magnolia Warblers were along the coast 29 Sep–15 Nov; another was at G.H.P. 15 Oct (AEK). Closely matching this pattern were 5 Black-throated Blue Warblers on the coast 23 Sep–2 Nov and one at Mojave 7 Oct (TEa). Cape May Warblers are now only found about once a year in the Region; the fall's only sighting was of one at El Centro 11 Sep (KZK). An Audubon's Warbler at Oceano 26 Aug (BKS) was the earliest ever in fall in *San Luis Obispo*; Myrtle Warblers generally arrive later, and one at Finney L. near Calipatria 27 Sep (JLD) was the earliest ever found in the Salton Sink. Black-throated Green Warblers were on Pt. Loma 1 Oct (SES), Desert Center 16 Oct (CMcG), the Palos Verdes



Painted Redstarts were noted in unprecedented numbers along the coast of southern California this fall, with this one photographed on Point Loma, San Diego County 26 October 2005. Photograph by Thomas A. Blackman.

Pen., Los Angeles 23 Oct (KGL), and at Riverside 5 Nov+ (KS). A Black-throated Gray Warbler 12 Aug and a Townsend's Warbler 21 Aug, both at El Centro (KZK), were early for the se. deserts. Eleven Blackburnian Warblers were found on the coastal slope 17 Sep–10 Nov, and one at El Centro 10–18 Oct (KZK) was only the 2nd ever found in the Salton Sink. The fall's only Yellow-throated Warbler was at Fallbrook, San Diego 20 Sep (MFr). An amazing 4 Grace's Warblers on Pt. Loma, all remaining to winter, included a returning ad. male 18 Sep+ (GMcC), a returning female 20 Sep+ (EA), a hatch-year female 22 Sep+ (TH), and a different male 11 Nov+ (MTH); another Grace's was at Torrey Pines, San Diego 29 Sep (GBG), and one was at Buckhorn in the San Gabriel Mts., Los Angeles 25 Nov (RC). The only Prairie Warblers were singles on San Clemente I. 19 Aug (JMCM), Pt. Loma 24 Sep (PAGi), and near Pt. Hueneme 11 Oct (MSanM). Palm Warblers made a modest showing, with 23 along the coast 21 Sep–6 Nov and additional birds in the interior near Lakeview, Riverside 20 Nov (DG) and near Bishop on the amazingly late date of 26 Nov (J&DP). The only Bay-breasted Warbler found was at Pismo Beach, San Luis Obispo 22 Sep (JMC). Thirty-two Blackpoll Warblers along the coast 14 Sep–21 Oct and 3 on the n. deserts 16 Sep–13 Oct were expected, but one at California City 18 Aug (K&BK) was quite early and one at Goleta 22–23 Nov (WTF) was very late.

Thirty-two Black-and-white Warblers were found on the coastal slope 10 Sep+, with several remaining to winter; 5 were on the deserts 7 Sep–10 Oct. Only 28 American Redstarts were reported 10 Aug+, in addition to the small wintering population at S.E.S.S. Five Prothonotary Warblers were found 16 Sep–13 Nov, but the only Worm-eating Warbler was at Carpinteria 25 Aug (RAH). The only Ovenbird reports were from Malibu 3

Sep (KLG) and San Clemente I. 5 Oct (JMCM). Nineteen Northern Waterthrushes were along the coast 16 Aug–2 Oct, with another 3 on the deserts 19 Sep–10 Oct. A Mourning Warbler was at Manhattan Beach, Los Angeles 24–25 Oct (DBe, KGL). Hooded Warblers were at Huntington Beach 22–24 Sep (LW) and Santa Monica, Los Angeles 24 Nov+ (LP). The only 2 Canada Warblers were at Goleta 18 Sep (DMC) and near Imperial Beach 30 Sep–1 Oct (TAB). A Red-faced Warbler at El Segundo 22 Aug (J&KD) was the first to be found in fall in Los Angeles, and one at Costa Mesa 14–15 Sep (RAH) was the first ever to be found in heavily birded Orange.

An unprecedented incursion of Painted Redstarts began with single migrants at Blythe 7 Sep (RH), Torrance 13 Sep (TD), Camarillo, Ventura 17 Sep (CD), and near Imperial Beach 30 Sep (TAB); later migrants were found at San Diego 4–8 Oct (EA) and 23–26 Oct (NF), at Torrey Pines 25 Oct (CLN), and at Los Angeles 27 Nov (JF). Additional birds at San Diego 7 Oct+ (TRS) and in Los Angeles at San Dimas 22 Oct+ (AL), Los Angeles 27 Oct+ (RB), and Glendora 30 Nov+ remained to winter (with additional birds found in Dec).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A female Hepatic Tanager photographed and well documented at Zzyzx, San Bernardino 7 Oct (SJM) provided one of the few Regional records of a lowland migrant. Scarlet Tanagers, very rare but annual in the Region, were found on San Clemente I. 9 Nov (SL, CML), at Wilmington 12–13 Nov, and on the Palos Verdes Pen. 13 Nov (KGL). An unidentified imm. *Sporophila* seedeater was near Big Pine 9–13 Nov (C&RH); although almost certainly an escapee, its presence in a locality far from the Mexican border and from urban areas is intriguing.

Thirty-two Clay-colored Sparrows were on the coastal slope 11 Sep+, with 4 more on the deserts 18 Sep–14 Oct. An American Tree Sparrow was at F.C.R. 19 Nov (C&RH). A few Black-throated Sparrows wandered to coastal areas, as exemplified by 4 on San Clemente I. 2–16 Aug (JMCM). Small numbers of *rostratus*

Savannah Sparrows in coastal estuaries 13 Sep+ were expected, but one at Blythe 13 Nov (RH) was in an area where few have been recorded since the early 1900s. A Le Conte's Sparrow, casual in California, was at China Ranch near Tecopa, Inyo 11 Oct (JEP). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow at the Santa Maria R. mouth 30 Sep (WTF) was away from areas of regular occurrence. The earliest Swamp Sparrow reported was at Playa del Rey 3 Oct (DBe). A White-throated Sparrow high in the s. Sierra Nevada between Italy Pass and Honey-moon L., Inyo 1 Sep was far earlier than previous fall records in the Region; one at Crystal Spring, San Bernardino 30 Sep (JEP) was somewhat early. The White-crowned Sparrow × Golden-crowned Sparrow hybrid at Arroyo Grande 8 Nov+ (BKS) was a returning wintering bird. The only Harris's Sparrow report was from F.C.R. 26 Oct (JEP). Small numbers of Chestnut-collared and Lapland Longspurs moved through the Region, with the earliest sightings of each being 6 Oct on San Clemente I. (JMCM).

Seventeen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found on the coastal slope 28 Aug–18 Nov, with 3 more on the deserts 11–27 Sep. Late Indigo Buntings included birds at China Ranch 4 Nov (TEW), Huntington Beach until 12 Nov (BED), and Morro Bay 29 Nov+ (DBO); a very late Lazuli Bunting was at Huntington Beach 6 Nov (JEP). Female-plumaged



This female Hepatic Tanager, photographed 7 October 2005 at the oasis of Zzyzx on the eastern Mojave Desert of San Bernardino County, California, is one of few of this species to be recorded as a lowland migrant in California. Photograph by Stephen J. Myers.

Painted Buntings were at G.H.P. 20 Aug (AH), on Pt. Loma 12 Oct (PAGi), and near Palo Verde, Riverside 26 Nov (GCH). The only Dickcissels reported were at G.H.P. 1 Oct (JCW), San Clemente I. 18 Oct (JMCM), and F.C.R. 26 Oct (JEP).

Fewer Bobolinks pass through the Region now than 20 years ago, but a generally good showing 4 Sep–23 Oct this fall included a high count of 14 birds on San Clemente I. 17

Sep (JMCM). A Common Grackle, still only casual in the Region, was at San Luis Obispo 27 Nov+ (JSR). Six Orchard Orioles were found 10 Sep–14 Nov, all on the coastal slope; one on San Clemente I. 18 Aug (JMCM) was early, and at a time when juv. Hooded Orioles pose significant identification problems. A Baltimore Oriole was at Deep Springs 18 Sep (TEW), and 4 more were in coastal *Santa Barbara* and *San Diego* after 21 Oct. Pine Siskins were very scarce in the lowlands this fall, in contrast to the major flight a year ago; the only report from *Orange*, for example, was one at Mission Viejo 7 Oct (BED).

Cited observers (county coordinators in boldface): Larry W. Allen, Eitan Altman, Lisa Andreano, John Ayres, Richard Barth, Dan Bauman (DBa), David Bell (DBe), Thomas A. Benson, Mark J. Billings, Steve Bjork, Dick Boyd (DBo), Jamie M. Chavez, Mary Claypool, Hal Cohen, Peyton T. Cook, Travis Cooper, David M. Compton (*Santa Barbara*), Ron



This basic-plumaged Bobolink (5 September 2005) was one of at least 20 to reach San Clemente Island this fall. Numbers of Bobolink reaching California have declined greatly since the 1970s, but the species is still reported regularly in September and October. Photograph by Jimmy McMorran.

Cyger, Brian E. Daniels, Jeff N. Davis, Chris Dellith, Don DesJardin, Jennice and Karl Dobroszczyk, Tracy Drake, Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, Tom M. Edell (*San Luis Obispo*), Torrey J. Edell, Meryl Faulkner, Jon Feenstra, Nova Fraser, Marj Freda (MFr), Wes T. Fritz, Peter A. Gaede (PAGa), Kimball L. Garrett (*Los Angeles*), Steve Gaulin (SGa), Peter A. Ginsburg (PAGi), Dave Goodward, Gary B. Grantham, Stan Gray (SGr), James M. Greaves, John F. Green (*Riverside*), Robert A. Hamilton, Gjon C. Hazard, Matthew T. Heindel, Tom & Jo Heindel (*Inyo*), Roger Higson, Gerco Hoogeweg, Chris and Rosie Howard, Andrew Howe, Steve N. G. Howell, Dave Hubbard, Terry Hune-field, Marshall J. Iloff, Karen F. Ingram, Oscar Johnson, Paul Jorgensen, Susan A. Kaveggia, Howard B. King, Alexander E. Koonce (*San Bernardino*), Howard B. King, Karl Krause, Kenneth Z. Kurland, Ken and Brenda Kyle (K & BK), Kevin G. Larson, Dave M. Lawrence, Andrew Lee, Vic Leipzig, Nick A. Lethaby, Cecilia M. Leumas,

Kelli Levinson, Cheryl Lish, John Luther, Jennifer Lyle, Suellen Lynn, Guy McCaskie (*Imperial*), Chet McGaugh, Todd McGrath, Robert McKernan, Jimmy McMorran (*San Clemente Island*) Anthony Mercieca, Bill Moffat, Vic Murayama, Stephen J. Myers, Kristie N. Nelson, Christina L. Nowacki, Dennis Parker (DPa) Jim and Debby Parker (J & DP), Robert T. Paten, David Pereksta (DPe), James E. Pike, Lucien Plauzoles, Tim Plunkett, David Povey (DPo), Hugh P. Ranson, Gage Ricard, Jim S Royer, Matt Sadowski, Mike San Miguel, Michael J. San Miguel, Brad K. Schram, Steve C. Shubert, Mike Skram (MSk), Susan E. Smith, Maggie L. Smith, Trent R. Stanley, Thomas Staudt, Bob Steele (BoS), Susan Steele, Becky Stewart (BeS), Kirk Stitt, Ryan Terrill, Scott B. Terrill, Walter Wehtje (*Ventura*), Douglas R. Willick (*Orange*), Mary Williams, John C. Wilson (*Kern*), Vicki and Gerry Wolfe, Lloyd Wright, Thomas E. Wurster. An additional 50+ observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports this season; all have our thanks. ☺

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Baja California Peninsula



Richard A. Erickson
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Gorgonio Ruiz-Campos

Coverage was lighter than in recent years, at least in Baja California. As a result, there was only one Regional first (a hurricane-driven Juan Fernandez Petrel), plus two state firsts, Mourning Warbler in the north and Townsend's Solitaire in the south. Other highlights included Fulvous Whistling-Duck, lingering Cory's Shearwater (see summer report), Manx Shearwater, Mississippi Kites, Ruff, a wayward Belding's Yellowthroat, and a suggestion of first nesting of Great-tailed Grackles in Baja California Sur.

At the start of our sixth year of reporting from Mexico's far west, we thank Eduardo Palacios for five years of service and wish him well in his work on behalf of the Region's birdlife. We welcome Gorgonio Ruiz-Campos of Ensenada as his replacement and look forward to his contributions.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

The now-regular Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (one at Lagunas de Chametla 4 Oct, SGM, CW, RS) was overshadowed this season by a Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Estero San José del Cabo 1 Oct (ph. SGM, CW, RS) and perhaps the same bird at Lagunas de Chametla 1–2 Dec (LS, ph. RC, VA). Although undoubtedly regular formerly in the Colorado Desert, there are only four known reports from Baja California, none more recent than 1958 (S. R. Wilbur, 1987, *Birds of Baja California*, University of California Press), and just two Baja California Sur specimens from Todos Santos in 1928 (*Monographs in Field Ornithology* 3: 119). Mallards are generally uncommon in ne. Baja California but are common in the northwest s. to El Rosario, e.g., 80 were there 20 Oct (MS, LN), and 400 were at Tijuana's Parque de la Amistad 2 Aug (MJB). None have been reported s of there since 2000 (N.A.B. 55: 106). In contrast, Blue-winged Teal become more common to the s., but 225 at Estero San José del