

# Southern California



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The fall season was typically dry and warm. Although migration was somewhat lackluster and many regular “eastern” vagrants were in relatively short supply, it was an outstanding fall for ultra-rarities, especially among waterbirds and most notably at the Salton Sea. The crowning highlight was surely California’s first Ross’s Gull at a record southerly location for the species. Other major rarities included California’s second American Woodcock, third White Ibis, and fourth Piping Plover, the Region’s second Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and the Region’s first Streak-backed Oriole since 1997.

**Abbreviations:** C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. 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 Salton Sea, Riverside); P.P. (Piute Ponds on Edwards A.F.B., ne. Los Angeles); S.E.S.S. (s. end of Salton Sea, Imperial); 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), SBMNH (Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History), and SDNHM (San Diego Natural History Museum). Because most rarities in s. California are seen by multiple observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and/or 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.

## WATERFOWL THROUGH STORKS

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck taken by a hunter at the Kern N.W.R. 11 Nov (*vide* SS) is one of a very few reported in the Central Valley in recent years. A flock of 15 Tundra Swans at C.L. 29 Nov (SLS) was a large number for this far

south. A Eurasian Wigeon on Morro Bay 8 Oct (JSR) was the earliest this fall/winter. Two Harlequin Ducks on the coast of *San Luis Obispo* and another on the coast of n. *Santa Barbara* in Oct were near the s. limit of the species’ range. Six Surf Scoters were inland, with single birds at Klondike L. near Big Pine, *Inyo* 15 Nov (T&JH), C.L. 2-3 Nov (SLS), Baker, *San Bernardino* 24 Oct (MSanM), on the Colorado R. at Parker Dam, *San Bernardino* 12 Nov+ (TEW), plus 2 at S.E.S.S. 28 Oct–19 Dec (GMcC). A White-winged Scoter inland at S.E.S.S. 28 Aug (MJB) had undoubtedly summered locally, but single birds at N.E.S.S. 12 Nov (KL) and S.E.S.S. 2-3 Dec (PJ) were migrants. On the coast, only 14 White-winged Scoters, 5 Black Scoters, and one Long-tailed Duck were reported in Nov, indicating the bulk of the population of all



This immature Blue-footed Booby at the Whitewater River delta, California on 2 September 2006 (here) was one of at least seven that pushed northward from the Gulf of California to the Salton Sea in August 2006. Photograph by John Puschock.

three species were remaining to the n. of Southern California. A male Barrow’s Goldeneye on Diaz L. near Lone Pine, *Inyo* 5 Nov (SLS) was early and at an unexpected location.

Reports of Pacific Loons inland included single birds at Atascadero L., *San Luis Obispo* 3-4 Nov (AJ), Searles Dry L. near Trona, *San Bernardino* 4 Nov (SH), L. Perris, *Riverside* 3 Nov (RMcK), S.E.S.S. 28 Oct (DVP), and near Imperial, *Imperial* 30 Nov–8 Dec (JSF). The only Red-necked Grebes were one at Morro Bay, *San Luis Obispo* 23-26 Nov (TME) and inland, where casual, at Searles Dry L. 4 Nov

(SH). A recently dead Short-tailed Albatross recovered at Morro Bay 5 Aug (PM; \*SBMNH) had been banded as a “chick” on Torishima I. 25 Apr 2006. Remarkable was a Galapagos/Hawaiian Petrel seen from shore at Pt. Dume, *Los Angeles* 12 Aug (KLG); another was 136 km sw. of San Nicolas I. 6 Sep (SNGH), bringing the total number of records to about 25 in California waters. An Ashy Storm-Petrel captured in Spring Valley, *San Diego* 30 Nov (Project Wildlife; \*SDNHM) was about 32 km inland.

Two Red-billed Tropicbirds were seen off *San Diego* 4 Sep (TH), with the closest 19 km w. of La Jolla, and 3 more were within one km of the e. side of San Clemente I. 21 Oct (CRK, JLD). A subad. Masked Booby on the breakwater to Los Angeles Harbor 14 Oct (KLG, SK) was the 13th to be recorded in California. At least 7 Blue-footed Boobies were on the Salton Sea, with up to 2 at N.E.S.S. 5 Aug–7 Sep (CAM, MSanM), and 5 more at S.E.S.S. 25 Aug, dwindling to one 22 Oct–19 Dec (TE, GMcC); these were the first to be found on the Salton Sea since the fall/winter of 1997–1998. At least 7 Brown Boobies were reported along the coast, with 4 from shore around San Diego in Oct/Nov (DH, TRS, MJB), single birds 20 km nw. of San Diego 12 Aug (BIJ), off Oceanside, *San Diego* 11 Oct (BB), and picked up in Newport Beach, *Orange* 10 Oct (LB), along with 3 more w. of San Clemente I. between 11 Oct and 2 Nov (MiS); the fact that this species is now nesting on the Los Coronados Is. off extreme nw. Baja California (see N.A.B. 56: 489) probably accounts for birds off *San Diego* and possibly for those found farther to the north. An imm. Red-footed Booby caught on the beach at Camp Pendleton, *San Diego* 5 Aug (BF; \*SDNHM), and another 5 km wnw. of the Palos Verdes Pen., *Los Angeles* 14 Oct (KLG, SK), increases to 10 the number recorded in s. California.

The only Little Blue Heron away from coastal *San Diego* was an ad. inland on the Wister Unit at S.E.S.S. 12-16 Aug (DWN, GMcC). Three Tricolored Herons were around San Diego, with single birds at the San Diego R. mouth 1 Aug+ (PAG), around the Tijuana R. mouth 8 Oct+ (JeS), and at San Elijo Lagoon 16-19 Oct (KM); at least 2 more were inland at S.E.S.S., with an imm. 1-25 Sep (OJ, GMcC) and an ad. on both 9 Sep (MJSanM) and 28 Oct (TEW). Reddish Egrets away from coastal *San Diego* and *Orange* included 2 on the *Ventura* coast 14 Aug–3 Sep (PR, JSA, AS), an imm. at various creek-mouths on the *San Luis Obispo* coast 10 Aug–17 Sep (NA), one at N.E.S.S. 14 Aug–4 Sep (HBK), and one at S.E.S.S. 19 Aug–2 Sep (HBK, KZK). The Yellow-crowned Night-Heron pair found at Im-



This near-adult Masked Booby on the Los Angeles Harbor breakwater, Los Angeles County, California was the first of two booby species seen by an ornithology class on a boat trip out of San Pedro on 14 October 2006. Photograph by Stacy Krueger.

perial Beach, San Diego in Jun 2005 was still present at the end of the period, but the last of the 3 young disappeared in early Sep. An imm. White Ibis at N.E.S.S. 5 Aug (BO) was only the 3rd to be found in California. A Glossy Ibis near Calipatria, Imperial 25-26 Aug (TE, GMcC) adds another to the increasing number reported around S.E.S.S. A first-year Roseate Spoonbill at S.E.S.S. 1 Sep (OJ, DVP) was followed by 5 there 21 Oct–22 Nov (HBK, WTF), this being the largest number in California since 1977. A Wood Stork at S.E.S.S. 4 Sep (GMcC) was the latest of the birds present in the summer.

## KITES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A first-year Mississippi Kite remained in Imperial Beach 6-9 Sep (GMcC); it fed on large flying scarab beetles (*Cotinus texana*). Single migrant Broad-winged Hawks were along the coast at Deer Canyon, San Luis Obispo 4 Oct (BKS) and Arcadia, Los Angeles 3 Sep (MJSanM); inland singles were at G.H. 22 Sep (SLS) and Desert Center, Riverside 30 Sep (CMcG). A total of 560 Swainson's Hawks passed through the Borrego Valley in e. San Diego between 8 Oct and 2 Nov, with 300+ on 8 Oct (PJ) the high count. Single Zone-tailed Hawks were near Devore, San Bernardino 13 Oct (RC), over San Juan Capistrano, Orange 8 Oct (PTC), and at Irvine 6 Nov (VL), and wintering birds returned to Goleta, Santa Barbara 5 Oct (FE), Ojai, Ventura 5 Oct (BD, DR), and Escondido, San Diego 5 Aug (JC). A Rough-legged Hawk near Seeley, Imperial 28 Oct+ (MJB) was exceptionally early for this far south. A subad. Crested Caracara near Imperial Beach 9 Sep+ (TAB) appeared settled for the winter.

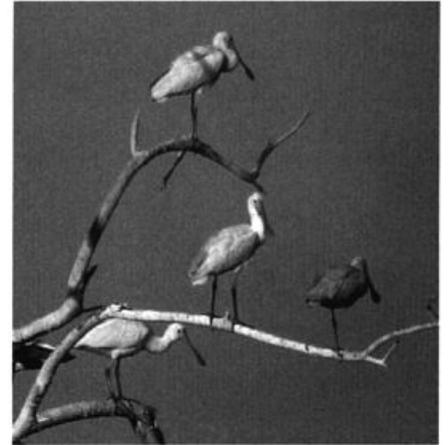
Single Sandhill Cranes over Irwindale, Los Angeles 7 Oct (AL), at Big Pine 5 Nov (SLS), and at C.L. 25 Sep (SLS), plus 4 in the Antelope Valley, Los Angeles 21-22 Oct (MSanM), were all outside areas of regular occurrence.

Single juv. American Golden-Plovers at San Simeon, San Luis Obispo 31 Oct–13 Nov (TME), Goleta 1 Nov (NAL), and on the Oxnard Plain, Ventura 13 (DP) & 21-30 Oct (CAM) provided the only reports. Single presumed migrant Pacific Golden-Plovers were in Long Beach, Los Angeles 27 Aug–14 Sep (RB) and 31 Aug (RB), at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego 20 Aug (SES), and at Del Mar, San Diego 25 Sep (DH), but birds at Guadalupe, Santa Barbara, on the Oxnard Plain, Seal Beach, Orange, Bolsa Chica, Orange, and near Imperial Beach after late Aug

were at known wintering localities. A Wilson's Plover in Coronado, San Diego 11 Oct (DP) was the 11th recorded in California. Even rarer was a Piping Plover at Red Hill at S.E.S.S. 7 Aug–19 Dec (OJ), this being only the 4th in California and the first inland. Two Mountain Plovers at Fort Mohave, San Bernardino 3 Sep (RMcK) were unusually early, and one on the beach at Morro Bay 24 Oct (JSa) was at an unexpected location. Apparently pure American Oystercatchers were in San Pedro, Los Angeles 28 Sep (TGM) and on Pt. Loma, San Diego 26 Aug+ (JD).

As usual, small numbers of Solitary Sandpipers passed through the Region in Aug/Sep, with the latest being one in Long Beach 19 Oct (RB); up to 2 near Seeley, Imperial 3 Oct+ (GMcC) appeared to be wintering locally. A Wandering Tattler in an irrigated field near N.E.S.S. 12 Aug (DWN) was inland. Remarkable for the season were 3 Upland Sandpipers: one inland near Bishop, Inyo 1 Oct (LN, CG), another on the Los Angeles R. in Long Beach, Los Angeles 23 Sep (LS), and an exceptionally late bird on the Oxnard Plain 28 Oct (N&MF). Ruddy Turnstones inland away from the Salton Sea included single birds at C.L. 18-19 Aug (SLS) and Havasu Landing, San Bernardino 4 Sep (RMcK). Up to 3 Black Turnstones were inland at S.E.S.S. 5 Aug–11 Sep (HBK, KLG, JSF). A Red Knot at the San Jacinto W.A. near Lakeview, Riverside 26 Aug (CMcG) was the only one reported inland away from the Salton Sea. Only 20 Semipalmated Sandpipers, all but one being juvs., were found along the coast, along with 12 more inland, between 5 Aug and 9 Sep. A White-rumped Sandpiper at C.L. 15 Aug (SLS) was only the 7th recorded in California in fall. Numbers of Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers were again lower than expected but included a flock of 73 Baird's at Owens L., Inyo 26 Aug (SLS). A juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was at the Santa Maria R. mouth, San Luis

Obispo/Santa Barbara 29-30 Oct (MPB). A Rock Sandpiper at Marina del Rey, Los Angeles 22 Nov+ (JLF, BGJ) was the first found this far s. in 40 years. Four Stilt Sandpipers were reported along the coast, where rare, between 17 Sep and 6 Nov. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper on San Clemente I. on the early date of 4 Aug



Five hatch-year Roseate Spoonbills appeared at the south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial County, California 21 (here 23) October 2006 and attracted much attention, drawing birders from throughout California. Photograph by Wes Fritz.

(SWS) was probably an ad.; another was on the Oxnard Plain 20-29 Oct (JMCM); and another was inland at the San Jacinto W.A. 4 Sep (CMcG). At least 9 Ruffs were present along



This Rough-legged Hawk, apparently an adult female, was photographed 28 October 2006, its arrival date for the winter near Seeley, Imperial County, California. It was early for so far south and one of a very few to reach Southern California this fall. Photograph by Mark J. Billings.

the coast between 23 Aug and 25 Nov, along with single birds inland at S.E.S.S. 4-15 Sep (HD) and 9 Sep (DVB). An American Woodcock at Desert Center 8-11 Nov (DG, \*LACM) was taken by a Prairie Falcon and is the 2nd to be found in California. The only Red Phalaropes found inland were 4 at C.L. 9-10 Nov (SLS).

## JAEGERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A young Pomarine Jaeger at S.E.S.S. 18-22 Nov (BM, GMcC) was one of a very few ever found inland in California. A Parasitic Jaeger was inland at P.P. 8 Sep (MSanM); up to 5 per day were seen on the Salton Sea in Sep, with the range of dates there 31 Aug-30 Oct (GMcC) and the total number of individuals probably exceeding 20. In addition, at least 5 Long-tailed Jaegers were on the Salton Sea between 31 Aug and 25 Sep (GMcC, TE). Four Laughing Gulls were found along the coast between 20 Aug and 18 Nov (TH, MJB, KW, WTF), and higher-than-normal numbers remained at S.E.S.S. through the end of the period, as indicated by a count of 325 on 22 Nov (GMcC). Although virtually unreported elsewhere in the Region, Franklin's Gulls were more numerous than usual on the Salton Sea, with at least 40 between 6 Aug and 25 Nov, including a high count of 17 at S.E.S.S. 2 Nov (GMcC). A first-winter Little Gull was at N.E.S.S. 19 Nov (TE). At least 5 Heermann's Gulls, rare inland, were around S.E.S.S. in the period 11 Aug-30 Nov. A Mew Gull at S.E.S.S. 18-19 Nov (HBK) was inland. A second-year Lesser Black-backed Gull, a very rare straggler to California, was at N.E.S.S. 9 Sep (TE), and up to 3 ads. were at S.E.S.S. 8 Oct+ (GMcC, PEL). At least 18 Sabine's Gulls were found inland between 24 Aug and 16 Oct, including one at F.C.R. 13 Sep (JEP). A second-year or ad. Black-legged Kittiwake was inland at S.E.S.S. 22 Oct (GMcC), and a first-year bird was near Calipatria, *Imperial* 18 Nov (BM). Totally unexpected was California's first Ross's Gull at Red Hill at S.E.S.S. 17-19 Nov (GMcC; ph., m.ob.), establishing the southernmost record anywhere. An exceptionally late Gull-billed Tern was at S.E.S.S. 20 Nov (MJSanM). Single juv. Arctic Terns at P.P. 8 Oct (MSanM), near Seeley 16 Oct (GMcC, PEL), and in Irvine 3-21 Sep (LO) were inland, where rarely found. Two Least Terns lingered through 16 Sep near Imperial Beach (MJB), and one was inland at N.E.S.S. 28 Aug (CMcG). Single Marbled Murrelets at n. V.A.F.B. 12 Aug (WTF) and in Santa Barbara 31 Oct (JoS) were s. of the species' normal range.

A Band-tailed Pigeon at Ramer L., *Imperial* 10 Nov (MB, RST) was one of a very few found at the Salton Sink. About 25 White-winged Doves along the coast was about average. Single Inca Doves in San Bernardino 30 Oct (KS) and at Santee, *San Diego* 3 Oct (CGE) were w. of the Coast Range. A Ruddy Ground-Dove in La Cañada 10 Oct+ (MH) was the first in *Los Angeles*, and small numbers continue in the Imperial Valley near Calipatria. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo on San Timoteo Creek in Redlands, *San Bernardino* 12 Aug (RMcK) was a migrant. Reports of a dozen



This subadult Crested Caracara found in the Tijuana River Valley, San Diego County, California 9 (here 10) September 2006 was still present at the end of November and adds another to the list of records for the coast of California. Photograph by Thomas A. Blackman.

Short-eared Owls from coastal *Los Angeles* southward suggested a minor influx of these birds into the area. A migrant Northern Saw-whet Owl in the desert at Borrego Springs, *San Diego* 28-29 Oct (PJ) was at an unexpected locality.

The female Broad-billed Hummingbird in



Unexpected was this adult Piping Plover on the south shore of the Salton Sea, Imperial County, California; this long-staying bird was found on 7 August 2006 (here) and was still present 19 December. Photograph by Ryan Terrill.

Mission Viejo last winter returned 25 Nov+ (DRW). A young male Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Arroyo Grande, *San Luis Obispo* 16-25 Oct (CL) was only the 2nd to be identified in s. California. A young male Black-chinned Hummingbird in Arroyo Grande 18-27 Oct (CL) was exceptionally late. A male Broad-tailed Hummingbird near Ramona 10-18 Sep (GC) was the first to be found in *San Diego*. A Calliope Hummingbird, rare on the

coast in fall, was at Cachuma L., *Santa Barbara* 16 Sep (WTF). Eight reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers scattered throughout the Region was fewer than normal. A White-headed Woodpecker at the s. end of the Carrizo Plain N.M. 20 Sep (KS) was the first in *San Luis Obispo*.

## FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PIPITS

Late wood-pewees, silent birds best left unidentified to species, were in *Riverside* 4 Nov (TAB) and *Santa Barbara* 21 Nov (OJ). Single Least Flycatchers were at Sheep Creek Springs, *San Bernardino* 31 Aug (JEP), *Santa Barbara* I. 17 Sep (NAL), *China Ranch*, *Inyo* 23 Sep (SJM), and *Crystal Spring* in the *Kingston Mts.*, *Inyo* 26 Sep (MSanM, TMcG). The earliest of 6 Eastern Phoebes, some of which remained to winter, were at *San Jacinto W.A.*, *Riverside* 14 Oct+ (HBK) and near *Santa Ynez*, *Santa Barbara* 17 Oct (WTF). Fourteen Tropical Kingbirds were along the coast after 16 Sep; a bird returned for its 3rd winter near *Seeley*, *Imperial* 24 Sep+ (GMcC). The Thick-billed Kingbird in *Wilmington*, *Los Angeles* returned for its 2nd winter 4 Nov+ (KGL). The only Eastern Kingbirds were near *Cantil*, *Kern* 5 Sep (MSanM), *Primm*, *San Bernardino* 6 Sep (CAM), and *Big Pine*, *Inyo* 6-9 Sep (T&JH).

A Bell's Vireo in *Pasadena*, *Los Angeles* 4 Nov+ (JG) was extensively green and yellow, resembling the nominate subspecies, which is a casual vagrant to California. At least 34 Plumbeous Vireos were on the coastal slope after 17 Sep, with 5 more noted on the s. deserts 2 Sep-4 Nov. A Yellow-throated Vireo at *China Ranch* 13 Oct (JEP) established only the 4th fall record for the desert portion of the Region. A Philadelphia Vireo, casual in fall, was near *Oxnard*, *Ventura* 25-27 Oct (DKE, TEW, LLA). Only 4 Red-eyed Vireos were found, with 3 along the coast 28 Sep-4 Oct and one in the *Panamint Mts.*, *Inyo* 3 Sep (SLS). A Yellow-green Vireo was at *Oceano*, *San Luis Obispo* 30 Sep-5 Oct (MLS, TME).

A flock of 200 Bank Swallows at *Tinemaha Res.*, *Inyo* 26 Aug (JLD) was an exceptionally high count for the Region. An Oak Titmouse at *G.H.P.* 28-29 Sep (JLD) was the first to be found at this well-worked locality. There was virtually no movement of Red-breasted Nuthatches this fall, but *aculeata* White-breasted Nuthatches moved widely into the coastal and w. desert lowlands after early Aug; an interior (*mexicana* group) bird was at *Needles* 3 Sep (RMcK). A Brown Creeper on *San Clemente* I. 5 Nov (SWS) was the first to be found on that island.

A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at *C.L.* 21-22 Nov (SLS) was the latest ever found in e. *Kern*. A



California's seventh White-rumped Sandpiper in autumn was this adult at China Lake, Kern County 15 August 2006. Photograph by Bob Steele.

California Gnatcatcher in Huntington Beach, Orange 7 Sep (JEP) was well away from known areas of residence; another in the Santa Ana R. wash in Highland 26 Nov (DKa) was in w. San Bernardino, where nearly all populations have been extirpated. Mountain Bluebirds in Torrance, Los Angeles 25 Oct+ (RM) and V.C.G.P. 29+ (MSanM) portended an impressive winter movement into the coastal lowlands. Rare in the Salton Sink, 3 Western Bluebirds were in Niland 12 Nov (GMcC). A Swainson's Thrush near El Centro 26 Aug (GMcC) was early for a fall migrant. A Hermit Thrush in Long Beach 2 Sep (KGL) was extremely early, especially for a bird showing the characters of the *guttatus* group. A Wood Thrush at Crystal Springs in the Inyo portion of the Kingston Mts. 19 Aug–10 Oct (WRD) was only the 15th for the Region. Even rarer, a Rufous-backed Robin was photographed in Riverside along the Coachella Canal e. of the Salton Sea and just n. of the Imperial line 23 Oct (AK).

Gray Catbirds were found on Pt. Loma, San Diego 25 Sep (MSa), at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino 29 Sep (TAB), and at Horsethief Spring, Kingston Mts., San Bernardino 8-14 Oct (E&ET). Brown Thrashers were at Harbor Regional Park near San Pedro, Los Angeles 4 Nov+ (KGL) and Pt. Loma 5 Nov+ (MJB). A Curve-billed Thrasher along the Colorado R. at Big River, Riverside 1 Nov (DG) was in an area where one or 2 have been seen in recent years. At least 8 Sprague's Pipits had returned to fields n. of Calipatria, Imperial 28 Oct+ (GMcC). The only Red-throated Pipits were an ad. in the Tijuana River Valley, San Diego

28-30 Oct (GCH) and a very late individual in Irvine 23 Nov–9 Dec (LO).

## WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Numbers of "eastern" warblers were generally near or below recent five-year means for the Region, particularly in coastal areas; only Blackpoll Warbler was well above average (See Table 1 below).

A Golden-winged Warbler at Montana de Oro S. P. 23 Sep (JSR) established only the 2nd record for San Luis Obispo. Eleven migrant Virginia's Warblers (all but 3 coastal) was about half the expected number. Four Lucy's Warblers were found along the coast, where rare, 2 Sep–31

Diego continued, with birds 22 Sep+ (MJB) and 3 Oct+ (TB), and 2 additional birds 15 Oct (MTH, GMcC). Another Grace's was in Long Beach 12 Oct (RB), and a returning wintering bird was in Santa Maria, Santa Barbara 30 Sep+ (DMC). An impressive 6 Pine Warblers were recorded late in the fall; an immature male was at V.A.F.B. 13 Oct, with imm. females nearby 19 & 30-31 Oct (JMC); in Orange, birds were in Mission Viejo 4 Nov (PTC) and Costa Mesa 12 Nov (JEP), and one was in Bell Gardens, Los Angeles 17 Nov (JSF). A Bay-breasted Warbler at G.H.P. 7-8 Oct was killed by a shrike on the latter day (KL; \*LACM).

A Connecticut Warbler was well described from Scotty's Castle, Death Valley N.P. 2 Oct (JMH); this species is less than annual in the Region. A Mourning Warbler, casual in the Region, was at G.H.P. 16 Sep (KL, TEW). Hooded Warblers, always rarer in fall than spring, were near Oxnard Ventura 14-15 Sep (DV) and at Morongo Valley, where females were found 27 Aug (JSt) and 29 Sep (TAB) and a male was found 29 Sep–1 Oct (TAB). A Painted Redstart was in Goleta 22 Nov+ (MAH), and 4 returning wintering birds in Los Angeles were first found 8 Oct–2 Nov; migrants were at Pt. Loma 9 Sep (TH) and at Zzyzx, San Bernardino 7-8 Oct (SJM). Vagrant Scarlet Tanagers were in Torrance, Los Angeles 17 Oct (DLM) and San Clemente I. 19 Oct (SWS).

Clay-colored Sparrows made a good showing, with 38 in the coastal counties 24 Aug–3 Nov and 13 more on the deserts 13 Sep–24 Nov. A Black-chinned Sparrow s. of Olancho, Inyo 26 Aug (JLD) was the first to be found on the

Species	Coast	Desert	2006 Total	Five-Year Mean
Tennessee Warbler	17	7	24	24.0
Northern Parula	1	2	3	9.6
Chestnut-sided Warbler	15	5	20	16.6
Magnolia Warbler	7	3	10	12.0
Black-throated Blue Warbler	7	4	11	7.8
Black-throated Green Warbler	2	0	2	4.6
Blackburnian Warbler	1	1	2	10.2
Prairie Warbler	5	0	5	6.0
Palm Warbler	22	0	22	43.4
Blackpoll Warbler	37	12	49	36.2
Black-and-white Warbler	41	7	48	40.8
American Redstart	28	15	43	41.0
Prothonotary Warbler	4	5	9	4.4
Ovenbird	3	3	6	5.4
Northern Waterthrush	11	15	26	23.0
Canada Warbler	5	1	6	4.4

Oct, with another wintering in Goleta 24 Nov+ (RPH). Northern Parulas made a poor showing, with the only birds being at Banning, Riverside 16 Sep (RMcK), C.L. 28 Sep (SLS), and Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo 16 Oct (GPS). A Cape May Warbler, a species averaging only one per fall in the Region in recent years, was at Horsethief Spring 8-21 Oct (E&ET). A Yellow-rumped Warbler at G.H.P. 1 Sep (MSM) set an early fall arrival record for e. Kern. Black-throated Green Warblers were near Arcadia, Los Angeles 17 Sep (AL) and in Encinitas, San Diego 26 Sep (GCH). Two Blackburnian Warblers, at Crystal Spring 21 Sep (TMcG) and in Oceanside 10 Nov (JZ), was well below the recent mean of 10 per fall. A Yellow-throated Warbler in Costa Mesa, Orange 12 Nov+ (DRW) was wintering. The spate of fall Grace's Warblers at Pt. Loma, San



This first-winter Black-legged Kittiwake was a total surprise to those looking at Sprague's Pipits in a dormant field of rye grass near Calipatria, Imperial County, California 18 November 2006 (here). Photograph by Peter Weber.



This well-documented Yellow-green Vireo at Oceano, San Luis Obispo County, California was photographed on the first day of its 30 September–5 October 2006 stay. Photograph by Brad K. Schram.

floor of the Owens Valley; another near Brawley 20 Aug (GMcC) was in an area where very rare. The only coastal Lark Buntings were singles on San Clemente I. 3 & 13 Sep (JEB); 4 more were on the deserts 8 Aug–14 Sep. The earliest coastal *rostratus* Savannah Sparrow was found 3 Sep in Oxnard (DP); an excep-



This Wood Thrush found at Crystal Springs in the Inyo County portion of the Kingston Mountains, California 19 August 2006 (here 17 September) had probably arrived in the late spring; it completed its fall molt and departed in October. Photograph by Stephen J. Myers.

tional 65 were counted at Seal Beach N.W.R./Anaheim Bay, Orange during high tides of 6 Nov (LRH). Three Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were at the latter locality 5 Nov (JF); another was at Bolsa Chica, Orange 21–22 Oct (MaS). The only Harris's Sparrow reported was at Zzyzx 11–13 Oct (WRD). A Lapland Longspur at the Santa Maria R. estuary, Santa Barbara 1 Oct (NAL) was somewhat early. Single McCown's Longspurs were near Pt. Hueneme, Ventura 8 Oct (AS) and near Lancaster, Los Angeles 27 Oct (MSanM). The earliest Chestnut-collared Longspur re-

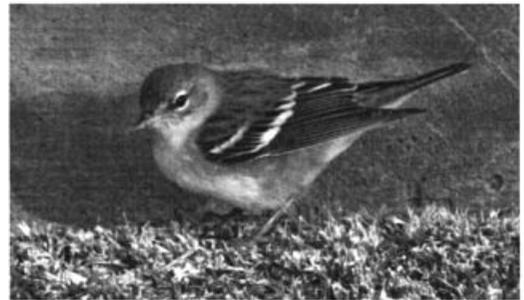
port was from F.C.R. 1 Oct (JMh).

Seven Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found along the coast 17 Sep–1 Oct, and 6 more were on the deserts 4 Sep–28 Oct. Coastal Painted Buntings were an ad. male in Mission Viejo 5 Oct (BMcC) and a female near Imperial Beach, San Diego 16 Sep (MJB); imms. were on the desert at Desert Center, Riverside 30 Sep (CMcG) and China Ranch, Inyo 12–17 Oct (JEP). Single Dickcissels were on San Clemente I. 1 Sep (JEB), Pt. Loma 26–28 Sep (PAG), and China Ranch 13 Oct (JEP).

Thirty-two Bobolinks were along the coast 9 Sep–18 Oct, and 7 more were on the deserts 15 Sep–14 Oct. Up to 5 Tricolored Blackbirds remained near Seeley, Imperial from the summer period through at least 24 Sep (GMcC). An ad. male Rusty Blackbird, a species declining as a vagrant in the Region, was at F.C.R. 21 Oct (BS, SLS). Five Orchard Orioles were along the coast after 8 Sep, and 4 more were on the deserts 9–30 Sep. A Hooded Oriole at Cactus City, Riverside 8–11 Nov (DG, CMcG) was very late for the deserts. A male Streak-backed Oriole at Zzyzx 9–15 Oct (MJSanM) was enjoyed by many and well photographed during its stay; there are only seven previous records for the Region, the most recent in 1997. Ten Baltimore Orioles, including some returning wintering birds, were found on the coast after 18 Sep; another was at Rovana, Inyo 6–7 Oct (JLD). A Bullock's Oriole near Niland 22 Oct (GMcC) was quite late for the Salton Sink. A Scott's Oriole at G.H.P. 13 Aug (TEW, LLA) was the latest ever for e. Kern; migrants near Westmorland 14 Aug (JLD) and near Niland 14 Sep (GMcC) were in an area where quite rare. A female Purple Finch at F.C.R. 21 Oct (SLS) was in an area where rare.

Cited observers (county coordinators in boldface): John S. Adams, Nick Armstrong, Liga L. Auzins, Richard Barth, Thomas A. Benson, Bobbi Best, Mark J. Billings, Liza Birkle, Thomas Blackman, David V. Blue, James E. Bradley, Matt Brady, Mark P. Brown, Jamie M. Chavez, Rick Clements, Jeffery Coker, David M. Compton (Santa Barbara), Peyton T. Cook, Gretchen Cummings, William R. Deppe, Jay Desgrosellier, Henry Detwiler, Becky Donahue, Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, Tom M. Edell (San Luis Obispo), Claude G. Edwards, Fred Emerson, Jon S. Feenstra, Jon L. Fisher, John Fitch, Brian Foster, Nick and Mary Freeman, Wes T. Fritz, Carolyn Gann, John Garrett, Kimball L. Garrett (Los Angeles), Peter A. Ginsburg, David Goodward, John F. Green (Riverside), Steve Hampton,

Loren R. Hays, Gjon C. Hazard, Tom & Jo Heindel (Inyo), Ron P. Hirst, Justin M. Hite, Mark A. Holmgren, David Holway, Steve N. G. Howell, Terry Hunefeld, Mark Hunter, Allan Joachim, Barbara G. Johnson, Oscar Johnson (Ventura), Brian I. Jones, Paul Jorgensen, Doug Karalun (DKa), Dexter Kelly (DKe), Ann Kern, Howard B. King, C. Robby Kohley, Alexander E. Koonce (San Bernardino), Stacy Krueger, Kenneth Z. Kurland, Kevin G. Larson, Andrew Lee, Paul E. Lehman, Vic Leipzig, Nick A. Lethaby, Kurt Leuschner, Kelli Levinson, Cheryl Lish, Curtis A. Marantz, Guy McCaskie (Imperial), Beth McCaughy, Chet McGaugh, Todd McGrath, Robert L. McKernan, Jimmy McMorran, Ron Melin, Kurt Miethke, Thomas G. Miko, Bob



This confiding Bay-breasted Warbler at Galileo Hill Park, Kern County, California 7–8 (here 8) October 2006 was captured and killed by a Loggerhead Shrike shortly after this photograph was taken. Photograph by Kelli Heindel-Levinson.

Miller, David L. Moody, Peter Mounier, Stephen J. Myers, Larry Nahn, David W. Nelson, Leo Ohtsuki, Bruce Ostyn, Dennis Parker, Robert T. Patton, David Pereksta, James E. Pike, Jim Roe, David Roine, Paul Rosso, Jim S. Royer, Matt Sadowski (MSa), Michael J. San Miguel Jr., Mike San Miguel, John Sayers (JSa), Larry Schmahl, Mark Schmitt (MaS), Brad K. Schram, Adam Searcy, Kathy Sharum, Gregory P. Smith, Maggie L. Smith, Michael Smith (MiS), Susan E. Smith, Trent R. Stanley, Bob Steele, Susan L. Steele, John Sterling (JS), Jeremiah Stock (JeS), John Storrer (JoS), Samuel W. Stuart, Steve Summers, Ryan S. Terrill, Elaine and Eric Tipton, David Vander Pluym, Ken Weaver, Douglas R. Willick (Orange), John C. Wilson (Kern), Thomas E. Wurster, Jim Zimmer. An additional 30+ observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports this season; all have our thanks. ☺

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