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The early September passage of Hurricane *John* dominated the season's weather and influenced birds by displacing tropical seabirds, providing wetland habitat in dry lakebeds, and rejuvenating upland habitats. Waterbird highlights of the season included a probable Galapagos/Hawaiian Petrel, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Ruff, and White Tern. Landbird migration received less attention than in recent years, and the results were meager. The rarest landbirds found were Grace's and Pine Warblers and the Region's first Chimney Swift.

Abbreviations: C.P.G.P. (Cerro Prieto geothermal ponds); E.S.J. (Estero San José, San José del Cabo).

WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS

We have received few reports of Brant from the Gulf of California; 12 were at Bahía de Los Angeles 12 Nov (MF, GF). The E.S.J. male Wood Duck was seen again 30 Sep–8 Oct (ph. SGM et al.), and 3 males remained at the Mexicali Zoo through 20 Nov (MAP et al.). Two Mallards at Guerrero Negro 2 Nov (AG-A, ph. RC) were very unusual in Baja California Sur. The usual female Harlequin Duck was seen at Pta. Banderas 16 Aug (MJB, RAE) and nearby La Joya 12 Oct (MSM, DSS); the bird has been seen in every month of the year except Feb, May, Jul, and Sep. A Long-tailed Duck accompanied Surf Scoters flying southward past Bahía San Quintín 13 Nov (†HO, †MDC et al.). A Red-throated Loon at La Joya 8 Sep (SNGH, RAH) was early. Nesting grebes included Least at Pichilingue 27 Sep (4 ads. and 4 chicks; LS, ph. SGM) and Lagunas de

Chametla 29 Sep–10 Oct (chick; SGM, LS, RAH) and Westerns at C.P.G.P. 29 Sep (2 ads. with 2 half-grown young; MJI).

A large gadfly petrel at Pta. Arena 9 Oct (MS, †MJB) was almost certainly a Galapagos/Hawaiian Petrel, but the observers considered the identity just short of confirmed. A Buller's Shearwater at the s. end of the Nine Mile Bank 21 Sep (DWP) was in the extreme nw. portion of the Region. Highlights of a 12 Sep boat trip sw. of Ensenada included a Cook's Petrel (TMcG et al.) and a raft of storm-petrels composed of 550 Blacks, 30 Least, and 2 Ashies (MJB, SNGH et al.). However, top billing went to the Wilson's Storm-Petrel nearby (31° 39' N, 116° 47' W) (ph. SNGH et al.). This followed the 3rd Regional/Mexican record in Jul but was the first to be photographically documented. One might have assumed that the Red-billed Tropicbird at Pta. Arena 3 Sep was related to Hurricane *John*, but there were seven more sightings there during a calm 3–10 Oct (all MJB et al.). Brown Booby records continue to accumulate on the n. Pacific coast: singles were sw. of Ensenada 12 Sep (MS et al.), at Playas de Tijuana 14 Nov (†MJB), and at La Joya 28 Dec (PP, RAE, MRT). A Brown Pelican at Rocas Alijos 2 Aug was apparently the first to be recorded at that remote Pacific location (RLP et al.).

American Bitterns are rare in the Region; one at E.S.J. 8 Oct (RAE, MJB) was the first reported from Baja California Sur in four years. Out-of-place Reddish Egrets were at the e. end of the Maneadero Plain (found dead 11 Sep; ph. RAH, SNGH) and at C.P.G.P. 24 Oct–21 Dec (ph. MJB, RAE, MAP). White Ibis were seen in unprecedented numbers n. of their usual range that extends to the Laguna San Ignacio complex. Up to 15 were at Bahía Asunción 30 Sep–16 Oct (ph. MJB, ph. MS et al.), and at least one remained at the Guerrero Negro saltworks 25 Sep–24 Oct (RC, NA, AC).

An ad. Harris's Hawk near the Río Colorado, e. of Mezquital, 16 Nov (MDC et al.) was the first to be reported from the Colorado Desert portion of the Region since early in the last century (see *Journal of Raptor Research* 34: 187–195). Red-shouldered Hawks had been found previously s. to San Javier, so 2 at Ciudad Constitución 9–13 Oct (RAE, RAH et al.) established a new s. limit of the range. The only Swainson's Hawks reported were in the same area, singles at Ciudades Constitución and Insurgentes 9–10 Oct (RAE, RAH). Three Crested Caracaras at Villa Jesus Maria 15 Oct (MSM, DSS) made the highest count in Baja California in many years. Another caracara, this one of dubious natural occurrence—frequenting shopping centers in the Tijuana R. valley, San Diego, for many weeks—crossed into Tijuana at least twice on 10 Sep (ph. MJB, JAM).



This Wilson's Storm-Petrel at sea southwest of Ensenada 12 September 2006 was the first to be photographically documented in Mexican waters. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.

A golden-plover at Laguna Ojo de Liebre 1 Nov (AC, NA) was reported as an American, but we are hesitant to endorse a specific identification without seeing photographs or other documentation. For the 3rd year, Mountain Plovers were found nowhere but at Mesa San Jacinto. An early bird on 10 Sep (ph. RAH ph. SNGH) was followed by counts of 45 (12 Oct; MSM, DSS) and 54 (12 Nov; SG et al.) Solitary (10), Baird's (6), and Pectoral (20+) Sandpipers were reported in typical numbers,

SA After traveling up the w. coast of Mexico for several days, Hurricane *John* made landfall on the se. tip of the peninsula late on 1 Sep, with sustained winds of 110 mph [176 km/hr]. It may have been the perfect storm for delivering tropical seabirds to the Region, but cancelled airline flights prevented hurricane chasers Billings and Erickson from reaching the area until the evening of 3 Sep. Closed roads prevented them from visiting all of the areas they had hoped, but they were able to spend over 11 hours at Punta Arena over two days. Of the birds seen, 25+ Wedge-tailed Shearwaters (possibly as many as 150+) and 11+ Red-footed Boobies appear to be the most attributable to the storm; however, 2 of the former species were seen there in Jul and one of the latter was present 26 Sep and 3 Oct (SGM, BLA). Other sightings there did not match expectations, but only additional observations will tell to what extent the following may have been hurricane related: 2 Pomarine, 4 Parasitic, and 10 Long-tailed Jaegers; and 3 South Polar Skuas (another was there 9 Oct; MJB et al.). The remains of an ad. **Sooty Tern** found at Punta Arena 9 Oct (TJM; *UABC 1698)—establishing the first record for the Gulf—are also believed to be *John's* doing. Much of the peninsula greened up following the rain, and, far to the n., Laguna Chapala was partially filled on 28 Sep, but a Cinnamon Teal and a Least Sandpiper were the only waterbirds seen there (MJB et al.). Late-nesting landbirds at Miraflores may have been related as well: California Towhees nest-building 10 Oct (MS) and a juv. Northern Cardinal begging 11 Oct (RAE).



Mountain Plover is among the Baja California Peninsula's rarest and most threatened species. The only regular wintering location currently known is Mesa San Jacinto, where this early arrival was photographed on 10 September 2006. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.

a Pectoral on the Maneadero Plain 21 Nov (ph. MJB, RAE, MAP) was late. More unusual were a Semipalmated Sandpiper at Los Cerritos 28 Sep (SGM, LS), single Stilt Sandpipers at El Centenario 5-6 Oct (ph. SGM et al.) and the Guerrero Negro saltworks 26 Oct (RC, ph. VA), and a Ruff on the Maneadero Plain 8 Sep (ph. SNGH, ph. RAH).

Two year-old Heermann's Gulls were at C.P.G.P. 24 Oct (ph. MJB, RAE); the only previous records there were of ads. in Apr-Jul 2005. An ad. Herring Gull off Ensenada 12 Sep (SNGH et al.) was record early for the Region. This season's high counts of Yellow-footed and Western Gulls on the "wrong" side of the peninsula were 15+ at San Juanico 4-5 Oct (†DB) and 22 at La Ribera 26 Sep (SGM), respectively. An ad. and a juv. Sabine's Gull were at C.P.G.P. 26 Sep (ph. MJI).

Experienced observers aboard the *David Starr Jordan* observed a White Tern at 23.033° N, 113.524° W, approximately 221 km sw. of Isla Magdalena, 5 Aug (RP, CC). To our knowledge, the only previous Mexican record is of a bird collected near I. Socorro in Jul 1905 (*Proceedings of the California Academy of Science* Series 4, 2: 1-132). A Gull-billed Tern at Laguna Ojo de Liebre 21 Oct (AC, IM) was late for that location. Black Terns were again present in high numbers at the Guerrero Negro saltworks. Maximum counts included 1750 on 12 Aug (VA, AC), 3500 on 29 Sep (MJB, AG-A et al.), and 2100 on 25 Oct (NA, RV). The majority of 110 Common Terns at Estero Punta Banda and off Ensenada 11-12 Sep were first-year birds, suggesting that they were not returning from nesting grounds but rather had traveled to near the n. limit of the summer range for this age group; this may be true of many of the birds seen in our area (SNGH et al.). The only Arctic Tern reported was a juv. at Estero Punta Banda 11 Sep (ph. SNGH, RAH).

PIGEONS THROUGH MIMIDS

A 4 Nov high count of 20 Band-tailed Pigeons at Rancho la Puerta, roughly 6 km w. of Tecate, had dwindled to a single bird by 17-20 Nov (JS). The 26th of Sep seems like a late date for 10 White-winged Doves to remain at Mexicali (MJI). Fifty Ruddy Ground-Doves in Todos Santos 9 Oct (RAH, RAE) was consistent with recent high fall counts in Baja California Sur. At Bahía de Los Angeles, where a pair of these birds nested in spring, a male on 28 Oct was followed by a male and female 31 Oct (MF, GF). In the Cape District, 2 Yellow-billed Cuckoos were still at Miraflores 26 Sep (ph. †SGM), and another was along the road to San Antonio de la Sierra 11 Oct (MS, TJM, LDS). A Lesser Nighthawk was unexpected at Mexicali on the late date of 24 Oct (MJB).

A well-described Chimney Swift at Lagunas de Chametla 5 Oct (†BLaB, †SGM) was unprecedented in the Region. Single Black-chinned Hummingbirds were found 11 Oct at Miraflores (RAH, RAE) and 13 Oct near Ciudad Constitución (MS), and single *Archilochus* hummingbirds were recorded 30



Baja California's third well-documented Ruff, and the first one since 1997, was photographed on 8 September 2006 at a small pond on the Maneadero Plain. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.

Sep at both Caduaño and Miraflores (SGM). Rufous Hummingbirds are seldom seen along the coast in fall, but an ad. male was at El Socorro 13-19 Oct (MSM, DSS). The season's only Lewis's Woodpecker was at "los Manzanitos," at 1710 m in the Sierra San Pedro Mártir, 14 Nov (HO et al.).

Remarkably, only one Willow Flycatcher was reported (Miraflores, 26 Sep, SGM), whereas lone reports of Hammond's Flycatcher at Playas de Tijuana 15 Nov (ph. MJB) and Dusky Flycatcher at Rancho San José de Castro 16 Oct (†MSM, DSS) were more in line with expectations. A late Pacific-slope Flycatcher was in Tijuana 16 Nov (ph. MJB). Eastern Phoebe's are hard to come by in

the Region, but MDC and crew found a first-fall bird at Santo Tomás 12 Nov and an ad. at El Rosario 13 Nov; the latter was at a spot where Carmody had recorded one 17 Nov 2004, suggesting a returning bird. Only 2 Tropical Kingbirds were found in Baja California, 12-15 Oct, but 10-13 were found farther s., 23 Sep-12 Oct. Nine Western Kingbirds 25 Sep-4 Oct, including 4 near El Gaspareño 28 Sep (SGM, LS), was a good showing for Baja California Sur. The only Eastern Kingbird was a first-fall bird at Cantamar 8 Sep (SNGH, ph. RAH). Single migrating or wintering Gray Vireos were at Arroyo Yubay 14 Oct and Bahía de Los Angeles 15 and 17 Oct (all MF, GF). Plumbeous Vireos were record early in both states: El Rosario 10 Sep (RAH, SNGH) and Miraflores 24 Sep (SGM). The only nominate Cassin's Vireo was in Ciudad Constitución 10 Oct (RAE, RAH). A late Warbling Vireo was in Tijuana 16 Nov (MJB). An American Crow at El Rosario 27 Sep (vt. MJB, ph. MS et al.) was as far s. as any Regional record.

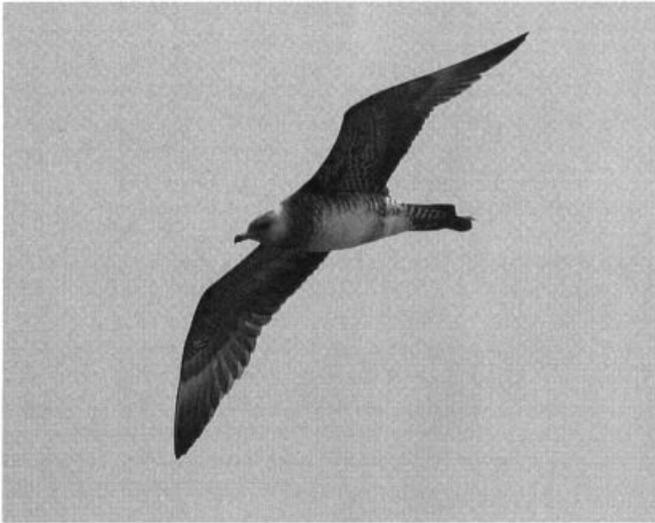
Baja California's only Purple Martin was at

Estero Punta Banda 11 Sep (SNGH, RAH), but many were seen in Baja California Sur during the first half of Oct, with a maximum estimate of 50 near Ciudad Constitución 13 Oct (MJB et al.). Northern Rough-winged Swallows were unusually numerous in the Cape District, with a high estimate of 1050 at Miraflores 26 Sep (SGM). Six Western Bluebirds at the Mexicali Zoo 20 Nov (RAE) were in the ne., where the species occurs rarely and sporadically in fall and winter. A male Varied Thrush at Rancho San José de Castro 16 Oct (MSM, DSS) was the 5th for Baja California Sur, and another

male was at El Rosario 13 Nov (MDC et al.). The season's only Gray Catbird was at Rancho Santa Mónica 16 Oct (MSM, DSS).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

In a generally pitiful season for migratory warblers, species missed or encountered in lower-than-normal numbers included Tennessee (2 in Baja California, 3 in Baja California Sur), Nashville (8, 3), Virginia's (0, 0), Lucy's (2, 0), Chestnut-sided (1, 0), Magnolia (0, 1), Hermit (2, 0), Blackburnian (1, 0), Prairie (0, 0), Palm (2, 1), Blackpoll (2, 3), Black-and-white (3, 16-23), American Redstart (7, 13), Ovenbird (0, 1), and Northern Waterthrush (3, 12). Species found in num-



Although a common visitor to pelagic waters in the Baja California Peninsula Region, Pomarine Jaeger has not been collected in the Region, nor has a photograph been previously published. These birds were off Ensenada, Baja California 12 September 2006 (left) and at Gorda Bank, off the peninsula's southern tip, 9 October 2006 (right). Photographs by Steve N. G. Howell and Matt Sadowski, respectively.

bers closer to normal included Northern Parula (0, 2), Black-throated Blue (1, 3, including a male returning for a 3rd winter to Guerrero Negro 15 Nov+; AG-A, MF, GF), and Black-throated Green (1, 2). Single-observer reports of Blackpolls on 11 & 13 Nov may have been correct, but this species gets very scarce after Oct, and the documentation submitted did not rule out Bay-breasted Warbler, a species that, while much scarcer in the West, tends to migrate later in the season.

Even this lackluster fall managed to produce a number of warbler highlights. An ad. male Yellow-throated Warbler apparently returned to a location in Miraflores that held one last fall, and was seen 24 Sep–12 Oct (ph. †SGM et al.); another was found s. of Ciudad Insurgentes 10 Oct (ph. RAH, RAE). In addition to the male *Grace's Warbler* that returned for a 4th winter to a site near Ciudad Constitución 5–13 Oct (MJB, ph. MS et al.), Baja California's 2nd appeared briefly at El Rosario 15 Oct (MS, †MJB, LDS). The Region's 4th *Pine Warbler*, a first-fall male, was se. of Maneadero 13 Oct (ph. †PAG, DG). An ad. male Prothonotary Warbler was at Miraflores 11 Oct (ph. RAH, RAE). Baja California Sur's 4th Mourning Warbler was at Caduano 23 Sep (†SGM). In Baja California Sur, male Hooded Warblers were near Gavilán 2 Oct (LDS, ph. MS et al.), at San Ignacio 7 Oct (DB), and at Miraflores 11–12 Oct (RAE, RAH et al.). Early in the season, on 19 Aug, single male and female Belding's Yellowthroats were found at a new site for the species: Segundo Bosque, Arroyo La Soledad, near 24° 50' N, 110° 45' W (RC). Also, the Region's earliest migrant Audubon's Warbler was at Rancho El Descanso 10 Sep (SNGH, RAH).

Records of 11 Summer Tanagers were scattered around the n. state, but only 4 were found in the south. The season's only Scarlet Tanager was found 15 Nov at an unlikely locale—La Huerta e. of Ojos Negros (KC, †MDC, †HO et al.). A Vesper Sparrow along the road to La Bufadora 11 Sep (SNGH, RAH) was eight days earlier than previous records. Single Grasshopper Sparrows were discovered 13 Sep on the Maneadero Plain (SNGH) and 6 Oct near El Gaspareño (SGM). An Oregon Junco at Bahía Asunción 16 Oct (MSM, DSS) was in Baja California Sur, where scarce. The season's only longspur was a Chestnut-colored at Villa Jesus Maria 18 Oct (MSM, DSS).

A paltry 3 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported, 2 in the n. and one in the s., and the only Indigo Buntings were singles at El Rosario 9 (SNGH, RAH) & 27 Sep (MS et al.). A Dickcissel at Rancho El Descanso 10 Sep (SNGH) was the only one seen, and Bobolink went unrecorded for the first time since 2000. A female Bronzed Cowbird seen 7 Oct at Lagunas de Chametla (†SGM) was in a location where at least one female was seen the two previous winters. The only definite Orchard Oriole was a calling female s. of Playas de Tijuana 23 Nov, and a late ad. male Hooded Oriole was there the following day (both RAE). Baltimore Orioles were at El Rosario 27 Sep (one, ph. MJB et al.), Miraflores 2 Oct (2, SGM, BLA), and Tijuana 17 Nov (2, ph. MJB). The only Purple Finch was a female at Rancho la Puerta 17–20 Nov (JS). It was not a good year for Lawrence's Goldfinches, but one managed to reach Bahía de Los Angeles 24 Oct (MF, GF). An American Goldfinch (and probably a few more) at Rancho la Puerta 29 Oct–11 Dec (JS) was at a new locality.

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