

Southern California



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The summer period marked the continuation of a prolonged and severe drought throughout the Region, and though quantitative data on breeding success and adult mortality are lacking for almost all species, anecdotal observations suggest that this has been a difficult and non-productive period for resident and migratory birds alike. The Region's mountains lost their meager snow pack early, and many normally "permanent" springs and streams were dry by early summer. Annual growth was minimal, suggesting that seed crops for wintering birds arriving this fall will be extremely poor.

Most of the season's highlights involved waterbirds, and what was certainly the rarest bird of the period was a briefly seen large storm-petrel that showed the characters of Tristram's Storm-Petrel of the central and western North Pacific Ocean. An incursion of Horned Puffins brought at least 19 birds to the Region (as far south as San Diego), and an extremely rare Parakeet Auklet was found beached near Los Angeles. Other notable records included the Region's seventh Hawaiian/Galapagos Petrel well offshore, its eleventh Wilson's Plover in Coronado, San Diego County, and a Red-faced Warbler in the San Bernardino Mountains, one of the few to summer in the Region's mountains.

Abbreviations: B.S. (Butterbredt Spring at the 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 in extreme e. Kern); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, Riverside); P.P. (Piute Ponds on Edwards A.F.B., ne. Los Angeles); S.C.R.E. (Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, Ventura); S.E.S.S. (s. end of the Salton Sea, Imperial); S.F.K.R.P. (South Fork Kern River Preserve near Weldon, Kern);

S.J.W.A. (San Jacinto Wildlife Area, including Mystic L., sw. Riverside); 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 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 Bird Records Committee (C.B.R.C.) review list (see <www.wfo-



This adult Red-billed Tropicbird photographed far to the south-southwest of San Miguel Island, California on 21 July 2007 was in an area where small numbers probably occur annually. Photograph by Thomas M. Blackman.

cbr.org) is forwarded to the C.B.R.C. and archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

WATERFOWL THROUGH STORKS

Single Brant at a farm pond in the w. Antelope Valley, Kern 11 Jun (RAE), in El Monte, Los Angeles the same day (CA), and at L. Elsinore, Riverside 5 Jun (LRH) were obviously lost. A Wood Duck with 6 ducklings in Hart Memorial Park near Bakersfield, Kern 16 Jul (K&BK) was unexpected. The presence of a pair of Redheads with 7 ducklings at the Santa Ynez R. mouth 3 Jul (WTF) provided the first record for nesting in Santa Barbara. A Surf Scoter at Owens L., Inyo 17 Jun (SLS) was inland in the ne. part of the Region. A White-winged Scoter at N.E.S.S. 24 Jun-1 Jul (CMcG) was evidently summering at this location. A Common Merganser at S.J.W.A. 28 Jul (JFG) was unexpected.

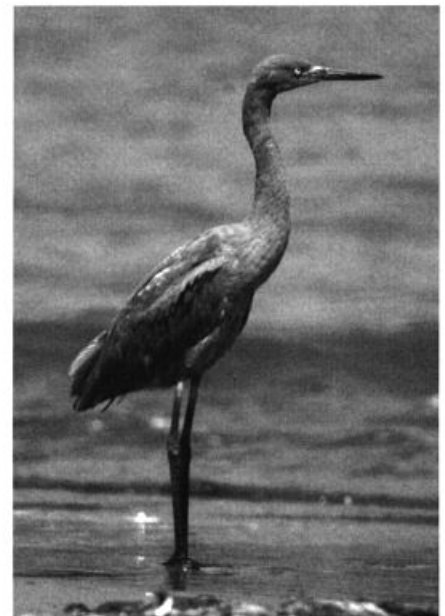
A Red-throated Loon, most unusual inland, was at S.E.S.S. 8 Jun (GMcC). A Common Loon at S.E.S.S. 18 Jun (BLS) was late for a spring migrant, as was another on Castaic Lagoon, Los Angeles 22 Jun (MSanM), but one at Apollo L. in Lancaster, Los Angeles 20 Jul (JSF) and 3 on Big Bear L., San Bernardino 27 Jun (DL) were probably summering.

A Laysan Albatross found dead at the Santa

Margarita R. mouth near Oceanside 13 Jun (BF) provides the 4th record for San Diego. A Black-footed Albatross 31 km s. of Goleta, Santa Barbara 21 Jul (JSF) was only the 3rd recorded in the n. Santa Barbara Channel. A Galapagos/Hawaiian Petrel 160 km sw. of San Nicolas I. (32.15° N, 120.53° W) 3 Jul (JY) provides another record for the waters off s. California. A Flesh-footed Shearwater, rare in s. California waters, was in the Santa Barbara Channel near Anacapa I. 9 Jun (JSF), and another was seen from shore at Pt. Dume in Malibu, Los Angeles 23 Jun (KLG). A large dark storm-petrel seen near the Cortez Ridge off Santa Rosa I. 21 Jul was identified as a Tristram's Storm-Petrel (SNGH), a species with, as yet, no accepted records for North America.

A Red-billed Tropicbird ssw. of San Miguel I. 21 Jul (JSF) was the only one reported. A Blue-footed Booby was well studied at Pt. Vicente on the Palos Verdes Pen., Los Angeles 9 Jun (KGL). A Brown Booby was at Pt. Vicente 2 Jun (KGL), and 3 more were at La Jolla, San Diego, with a first-year bird 5-24 Jun (MS, GMcC, CH), and an ad. and subad. together 27 Jul (PEL). Brandt's Cormorants successfully fledged 11 chicks at Port Hueneme

Harbor, establishing the first record for nesting on the coast of Ventura. American Bitterns evidently nested at L. Elsinore, Riverside, as



This young Reddish Egret, photographed in Santa Barbara, California harbor on 7 July 2007, moved northward to Goleta and then southward to Carpinteria during the following four weeks. It is only the third ever found in Santa Barbara County. Photograph by Bernardo Alps.



This first-summer Mississippi Kite remained for only a short time in the Tijuana River Valley near Imperial Beach, San Diego County, on 8 July 2007 before leaving this perch, gaining altitude, and disappearing from view to the south. Photograph by Anthony Mercieca.

an ad. and one fledgling were seen there 11 Jun (JSF). The only Little Blue Heron away from coastal San Diego was an ad. at S.C.R.E. 11 Jul (BA). A Tricolored Heron at S.E.S.S. 14 Jul (GMcC) was probably the same bird seen in this area in May and Jun. At least 4 Reddish Egrets were present on the coast of San Diego and Orange during the summer; one around Santa Barbara 7 Jul–10 Aug (BA) provided the 3rd record for Santa Barbara. The continuing pair of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in Imperial Beach, San Diego fledged 3 young in early Aug (GMcC), and the ad. paired with a Black-crowned Night-Heron at North Island Naval Air Station, San Diego was still attending a hybrid nestling 3 Jul (MM). Two second-year Roseate Spoonbills at S.E.S.S. 19–26 Jun (EM, GMcC) were believed to be 2 of the 3 in this area during the winter, but 3 hatch-year birds there 26 Jul+ (GMcC) were new arrivals. The first of the few (maximum 9 at the end of Jul) Wood Storks at the S.E.S.S. this summer was seen 1 Jun (GMcC).

KITES THROUGH PUFFINS

A first-summer Mississippi Kite in the Tijuana R. Valley near Imperial Beach 8 Jul (PU) was evidently a late spring vagrant. Northern Harrier nests near Westmorland 26 Apr (BM) and se. of Brawley 30 Apr (BM), both containing eggs, provide the first evidence of nesting in the Imperial Valley, Imperial. An imm. Sharp-shinned Hawk at V.A.F.B. 26 Jul (PK) and another in the San Bernardino Mts. 12 Jul (SJM) were both out of season. A Swainson's Hawk near Brawley, Imperial 27 Jun (DRW) provides the first record in summer at the Salton Sink. What is presumed to be the same Crested Caracara present in the

Tijuana R. valley during the winter was again present 18 Jun+ (SES).

A Wilson's Plover in Coronado 13–21 Jun (MS) was the 5th to be found in San Diego. A Solitary Sandpiper in Bishop, Inyo 16 Jul (JLD) was the earliest of the 6 reported by the end of the month. A Red Knot at S.J.W.A. 19 Jul (CMcG) was the only one inland away from the Salton Sea. Reports of ad. Semipalmated Sandpipers included single birds in Goleta 29 Jul (NAL), at P.P. 7–24 Jul (JSF), and S.J.W.A. 28 Jul (MSanM), and the only juv. was one in Goleta 29 Jul (NAL). A Baird's Sandpiper at S.J.W.A. 24 Jul (CMcG) was the only one reported. A Stilt Sandpiper at P.P. 24–30 Jul (MSanM) and 2 at S.J.W.A. 22 Jul (HBK) were the only ones reported away from S.E.S.S. A male Ruff was at S.E.S.S. 8 Jul (GMcC), and a female was at S.C.R.E. 28 Jul (JG).

A South Polar Skua was 120 km s. of San Miguel I. 21 Jul (JSF), and single birds were seen from shore at Leo Carrillo State Beach, Los Angeles 9 Jun (MSanM) and Pt. Dume 23 Jun (KLG). A subad. Pomarine Jaeger, rare in midsummer, was on the beach at S.C.R.E. 5 Jul (RS). A subad. Long-tailed Jaeger 129 km ssw. of San Miguel I. 21 Jul (JSF) may well have summered off s. California. A Laughing Gull at Bolsa Chica, Orange 1 Jul (LO) was the only one on the coast. Single Franklin's Gulls lingered at S.E.S.S. through 21 Jun (GMcC) and N.E.S.S. through 24 Jun (CMcG), and others were at Owens L. 17 Jun (SLS) and S.J.W.A. 14 Jul (CMcG), and on the coast in Oceano, San Luis Obispo 12–20 Jun (MLS), V.A.F.B. 5

Jun (NAL), at La Jolla 5 Jun (MS) and near Imperial Beach 21 Jun (RTP). At least 3 Heermann's Gulls (2 ads. and one second-year) were present inland around S.E.S.S. through the summer (GMcC). A second-year Lesser Black-backed Gull at Bolsa Chica 10 Jun–18 Aug (BED) provides the first summer record for California.

Caspian Terns enjoyed a banner breeding year at S.E.S.S., with a minimum of 500 young produced; some ads. were still on eggs in early Sep. Perhaps because of this abundance of Caspians at the few suitable nesting sites, breeding success of Gull-billed Terns and Black Skimmers in that area was quite poor this year (KCM). A hatch-year Elegant Tern was inland, where casual, at S.E.S.S. 26 Jul–5 Aug (GMcC). A Common Tern at Big Bear L. 10 Jun (JL) was a late spring migrant at an inland location. Most unusual was an ad. Arctic Tern at P.P. 1 Jun–1 Aug (MSanM). Least Terns remained at S.E.S.S. through 27 Jun, with a high count of 5 there 8 Jun (GMcC) but with no evidence of nesting; single birds at Klondike L. near Big Pine, Inyo 12–13 Jun (T&JH) and Zzyzx, San Bernardino 20–22 Jun (RF) were at unusual inland locations. A colony of at least eight pairs of Least Terns that successfully fledged young at a groundwater recharge reservoir in Anaheim, Orange (DRW) was about 24 km inland.

At least 15 Common Murres, unexpected in extreme s. California waters in summer were seen along the Los Angeles coast in Jun



This Horned Puffin at Point Arguello on Vandenberg Air Force Base, Santa Barbara County, on 5 June 2007 was one of at least 19 found along the southern California coast this summer. Photograph by Wes T. Fritz.

and Jul (KGL, KLG, JSF, JLF), and another was at La Jolla 23 Jun (JP). Single Pigeon Guillemots at Newport Beach, Orange 6 & 24 Jun (BED) were unusually far south. A moribund Parakeet Auklet on the beach in Venice 18 Jun (KLG; *LACM) was the first to be found in Los Angeles. Unexpected were 13 Marbled Murrelets along the coast of San Luis Obispo in Jun (TME, GPS), with the southernmost being one at Shell Beach 13 Jun



Four Chimney Swifts were observed feeding with Cliff Swallows over San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego County, on 3 June 2007. Photograph by Trent R. Stanley.

(MLS); the species is previously unrecorded in the county at this time of year. Two Ancient Murrelets, casual as far s. as *San Luis Obispo* in summer, were at San Simeon 2-3 Jun (AFS), 2 were near there 16 Jun (DP), 2 more were at Guadalupe Beach, *Santa Barbara* 7 Jun (BKS), and 2 were farther s. at Pt. Dume 23 Jun (KLG). Rhinoceros Auklets were more numerous than normal in *San Luis Obispo*, and one was as far s. as *La Jolla* 27 Jul (PEL). Of greater interest was the presence of Horned Puffins, undoubtedly associated with the influx of these birds to cen. California, with as many as 14 found along the coast of *San Luis Obispo* (TME, NG, AFS, GPS, MLS), one at V.A.F.B. 5 Jun (WTF), 2 in flight off Leo Carrillo State Beach 9 Jun (MSanM), another in flight past Point Vicente 30 Jun (KGL), and one alive at North Island Naval Air Station 31 Jul (MM; *SDNHM).

PIGEONS THROUGH WRENS

Single Band-tailed Pigeons on San Clemente I. 29 Jun (JEB) and 29 Jul (RDD), on Pt. Loma, *San Diego* 3-25 Jun (JMo, SBM), and in Ridgecrest, *Kern* 5 Jul (JB) were well away from preferred habitat in the mts. A White-winged Dove in Malibu 14 Jun (DGa) was on the coast, where unexpected. An Inca Dove in Harbor City 21 Jul (KGL) was the first to be reported in coastal *Los Angeles*. Five Yellow-billed Cuckoos were found away from known nesting areas, with single birds in Tustin, *Orange* 25 Jun (WG), Irvine, *Orange* 27-28 Jun (BH), at Batiquitos Lagoon, *San Diego* 17-19 Jun (SB), near Mission Bay in *San Diego* 23 Jun (PS; *SDNHM), and inland near Brawley

8 Jul (GMcC); a pair near Big Pine 17-28 Jun (SLS) and another along San Felipe Cr. in e. *San Diego* 3-4 Jul (PJ) were in suitable breeding habitat, but only 5 were found at the S.F.K.R.P. 7 Jul (BB). Up to 4 Chimney Swifts were at San Elijo Lagoon, *San Diego* 2-11 Jun (GMcC, TRS), and 2 were over El Monte, *Los Angeles* 30 Jul (JFG). The presence of 2-5 Vaux's Swifts, including a fresh juv., at Atascadero, *San Luis Obispo* 26 Jul (AFS) suggested local nesting; this species is unrecorded breeding south of *Santa Cruz* along the coast of California. A White-throated Swift at Fig Lagoon near Seeley, *Imperial* 14 Jul (GMcC) provides the first mid-summer record for the Imperial Valley. Allen's Hummingbirds of the "resident" subspecies *sedentarius* continue to expand their range eastward and southward, with territorial males e. to Montclair, *San Bernardino* (MSanM) and s. into *San Diego* at Fallbrook (KW) and Del Mar (GMcC). An Acorn Woodpecker on San Clemente I. 2 Jun (JMZ) was unexpected, as were single Hairy Woodpeckers along the Santa Ana R. e. of Yorba Linda, *Orange* 5 Jul (DRW) and near Bolsa Chica 25 Jul (RAE).

A calling Least Flycatcher was photographed in Mojave, *Kern* 4 Jun (DSC). A Hammond's Flycatcher in Green Canyon in the San Bernardino Mts., *San Bernardino* 14 Jul (BED, CAM) was well s. of the s. limit of the species' breeding range in the Sierra Nevada. A Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher near El Centro 31 Jul (KZK) was the earliest to be found in fall in the Salton Sink. A pair of Vermilion Flycatchers near the species' w. limit at Prado Regional Park, *San Bernardino* raised two broods of 3 young during the period (JEP). Five pairs of Brown-crested Flycatchers were in Whitewater Canyon, *Riverside* in May and Jun (SJM); a single bird was banded and photographed on Pt. Loma, *San Diego* 24 Jun, where completely unexpected (JMa). An Ash-throated Flycatcher sw. of Brawley 8 Jun-8 Jul (GMcC) and another nw. of Calipatria 27 Jun (DRW) were unusual for the Salton Sink in midsummer. An Eastern Kingbird was at F.C.R. 29 Jul (V&GW). The female Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Twenty-nine Palms continued from May and was observed constructing a nest 13 Jun (B&ST); a migrant was in Imperial Beach 3 Jun (VLM).

Three Yellow-throated Vireos appeared in mid-Jun, with one on Camp Pendleton, *San Diego* 13 Jun-1 Jul (JA, EK), one in Wilmington, *Los Angeles* 16 Jun (KGL), and one on Pt. Loma 17 Jun (JMo). A Warbling Vireo in Huntington Beach 22 Jun (BED) was unseasonable. The only Red-eyed Vireo reported was at Famosa Slough, *San Diego* 11 Jun (JP). Two of the few remaining nesting sites for

Purple Martins in the Region are Nojoqui Falls County Park, *Santa Barbara*, where 15+ were noted 22 Jun (NS), and near Lost L. in the Cajon Pass, *San Bernardino*, where several ads. and 4+ juvs. were present 9 Jun-17 Jul (HBK, DG). A Bank Swallow in Goleta 3 Jun (NAL) was a late spring migrant. The general increase in summering Mountain Chickadees in coastal *Orange* continued; one was present for the 2nd consecutive summer in Newport Beach (DRW). Detection of Winter Wrens at 10 sites around Montana de Oro S. P., *San Luis Obispo* 4 Jul (AFS) suggests that this is now a well-established breeding area.

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES

A Townsend's Solitaire at V.A.F.B. 29 Jun (MB) established only the 2nd summer record for *Santa Barbara*. A Hermit Thrush on the summit of Big Pine Mt., *Santa Barbara* 15 Jun was one of the few to summer in the San Rafael Mts. (PAG); unseasonable lowland birds were in Pacific Palisades, *Los Angeles* 12 Jun (RB) and near Jawbone Canyon, *Kern* 27 Jun (DMcN). Miles from breeding habitat, a Wrentit in Marina del Rey, *Los Angeles* 22 Jun (TMcG) was the 2nd in this general area in



Very few Brown-crested Flycatchers have been found on the coast of Southern California, so this one caught and banded on Point Loma, *San Diego* County on 24 June 2007 was unexpected. The fact that dark brown on the outer web of the rectrices crosses the feather shaft onto the inner web, and that the rufous on the inner web extends to the tips of the feathers, leaves no doubt as to which of the larger *Myiarchus* was caught. Photograph by John Martin.

the past year. A Gray Catbird, a casual vagrant in the Region, was in Oceanside, *San Diego* 24 Jun (AH).

The late spring push of Northern Parulas continued during the period, with 7 more birds found 3 Jun-7 Jul. A singing male in the



This singing Yellow-throated Warbler, a lost spring vagrant, at Lake Jennings northeast of El Cajon, San Diego County, was photographed on the first day of its 7-8 July 2007 stay. Photograph by Trent R. Stanley.

Sepulveda Basin in Encino, Los Angeles 18 Jun–18 Jul was joined by a female 27 Jun (remaining through 26 Jul); a nest was constructed in a patch of Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*), but apparently no young were produced (BED). Chestnut-sided Warblers were at F.C.R. 6 Jun (LEP) and in La Jolla Canyon, Ventura 19 Jun (AS). A count of 311 Yellow Warblers in the vicinity of S.F.K.R.P. 7 Jul showed the species to be at its highest numbers there since the early 1900s (BB). A Magnolia Warbler was on San Clemente I. 5 Jun (JuW). A Yellow-rumped Warbler at F.C.R. 9 Jun was very late for the desert lowlands (C&RH). Early fall Hermit Warblers were in the Laguna Mts., San Diego 25 Jul (PGi) and at Ridgecrest, Kern 28 Jul (JS). A very late vagrant Yellow-throated Warbler was at L. Jennings, San Diego 7-8 Jul (MBS). A Blackpoll Warbler was at C.L. 8 Jun (SLS). Four straggling Black-and-white Warblers were along the coast 2-26 Jun, along with 4 American Redstarts during Jun; another redstart was at California City, Kern 16 Jun (TEW, LLA). An Ovenbird was in Los Angeles 18 Jun (DS); another at Mt. Palomar, San Diego 13 Jun (PU) was present for the 3rd year at this locality. Three singing MacGillivray's Warblers were on Mt. Palomar 13 Jun (PU); there is only one previous summer record for San Diego. Mid-

summer Hooded Warblers were at La Jolla Canyon 24-25 Jun (M&JS), Cuyamaca Mt., San Diego 30 Jun–15 Jul (GR, TMB), and in the Santa Ynez Mts., Santa Barbara 22-29 Jul (SNGH). A singing Wilson's Warbler in Huntington Beach 28 Jun–29 Jul (LRH) was unexpected in the coastal lowlands of Orange. A Red-faced Warbler in Green Canyon, se. of Sugarloaf in the San Bernardino Mts. 26 Jun–20 Jul (EAC) marked only the 7th time this species has been found in suitable breeding habitat in the Region. The Painted Redstart at Agua Dulce Cr. in the Laguna Mts. remained May–25 Jul (PGi). Summer Tanagers nw. of the species' breeding range included one in the Santa Ynez Mts., Santa Barbara 29 Jul (DMC) and a pair in Claremont, Los Angeles 16 May–13 Jun (JI).

Bell's Sage Sparrows probably typified the dismal nesting success of chaparral and coastal sage scrub passerines this year; regular surveys in an area n. of Santa Clarita, Los Angeles through the breeding season showed that this normally common resident virtually disappeared by mid-May, with no young produced (HLJ). A Bell's Sage Sparrow on Pt. Loma 2-3 Jun (JR, PU) was away from breeding habitat. A Vesper Sparrow on San Clemente I. 1 Jul (JEB) was quite unseasonable. At least 7 Grasshopper Sparrow territories were found on San Clemente I., with nesting documented (NNJ). Two Large-billed Savannah Sparrows had arrived at Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station, Ventura by 11 Jul (DV). Late lingering Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows included one (with a broken leg) in Irvine through 23 Jun (LO) and one in the Tijuana River Valley, San Diego 24 Jun (RA).

At least four Northern Cardinal territories were found in the Sepulveda Basin during the period (BED), suggesting that escapees are establishing yet another small coastal population here. Small numbers of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are a typical fixture in the Region in summer; this year, 10 were found 1 Jun–4 Jul along the coast, with others on the deserts at B.S. 1 Jun (DMcN) and Zzyzx 22 Jun (JaW). Three different unseasonable Black-headed Grosbeaks were around S.E.S.S. 22-29 Jun (KZK, DRW). Eleven Indigo Buntings scattered through the Region 25 May–29 Jul (in addition to those noted in the spring report) included late spring vagrants, summering birds, and early fall migrants. Single male Bobolinks were on San Clemente I. 2 Jun (JMZ) and at F.C.R. 6 Jun (LEP). A Tricolored

Blackbird at Zzyzx 1 Jun (C&LL) was well out of range. Scott's Orioles w. of their expected range were at Cuyamaca S. P. 3 Jun (CGE), in the Laguna Mts. 30 Jun (PZ), and in the Santa Ynez Mts. 23 Jul (SB). Purple Finches breed only very locally in the Region's lowland riparian habitats; of note were singing males and a begging juv. in e. Orange, Orange 3-10 Jun (DRW) and several pairs in Temescal Canyon s. of Corona, Riverside 17 May–19 Jun, with several juvs. noted on the last date (SJM).

Cited observers (county coordinators in bold-face): Ralph Achenbach, Bill Adams, Chris Akiyoshi, Bernardo Alps, Jim Asmus, Liga L. Auzins, Morgan Ball, Bob Barnes, Susanne Barrymore, Richard Barth, Thomas M. Blackman, Steve Brad, James E. Bradley (San Clemente Island), Judy Breitenstein, Eugene A. Cardiff, David M. Compton (Santa Barbara), Daniel S. Cooper, Brian E. Daniels, Ryan D. Drobeck, Jon L. Dunn, Tom M. Edell (San Luis Obispo), Claude G. Edwards, Richard A. Erickson, Jon S. Feenstra, Jon L. Fisher, Brian Foster, Wes T. Fritz, Robert Fulton, Peter A. Gaede, Noah Gaines, David Garrett (DGa), Kimball L. Garrett (Los Angeles), Peter Ginsburg, Wayne Gochenour, Dave Goodward (DGo), Jim Greaves, John F. Green (Riverside), Christine Harvey, Loren R. Hays, Tom & Jo Heindel (Inyo), Al Henegar, Bob Hoakim, Chris and Rosie Howard (C&RH), Steve N. G. Howell, John Ivanow, Oscar Johnson (Ventura), Naira N. Johnston, H. Lee



This male Hooded Warbler photographed in the Cuyamaca Mountains of San Diego County on 30 June 2007 was one of three territorial birds found in the Southern California region this summer. Photograph by Thomas M. Blackman.

Jones, Paul Jorgensen, Eric Kershner, Howard B. King, Alexander E. Koonce (San Bernardino), Kenneth Z. Kurland, Ken and Brenda Kyle (K&BK), Kevin G. Larson, Paul E. Lehman, Nick A. Lethaby, Cindy and Les Lieurance (C&LL), John Luther, Dee Lyon, Vanessa L. Malcarne, Curtis A. Marantz, John Martin (JMa), Sara B. Mayers, Guy McCaskie (Imperial), Chet McGaugh, Doug McNair, Bob Miller, Kathy C. Molina, Marie Molloy, Eliza-

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cy States, Susan L. Steele, Don Sterba, Mary Beth Stowe, Brian L. Sullivan, Becky & Steve Turley (B&ST), Philip Unitt, David Vander Pluym, Justin Walker (JuW), Jason Wallace (JaW), Ken Weaver, Douglas R. Willick (Orange), John C. Wilson (Kern), Vicki and Gerry Wolfe (V&GW), Thomas E. Wurster, Jason Yakich, Paul Zepf, Jim M. Zingo. An additional 25± observers who could not be individual-

ly acknowledged submitted reports this season; all have our thanks. ☺

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Baja California Peninsula



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Coverage was light this season, except in the Cape District in July. Highlights there included a lingering Cackling Goose, nesting Redheads for the second consecutive year, the Region's first Great Frigatebird, the state's first Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, the Region's first nesting Tropical Kingbirds, a Red-eyed Vireo, and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Migrant landbirds were especially numerous, perhaps the result of early departure from the drought-ravaged western United States following nesting attempts failed or not initiated. Highlights in the north included unseasonable geese, a Red-eyed Vireo, plus Black-and-white and Yellow-throated Warblers.

WATERFOWL THROUGH JAEGERS

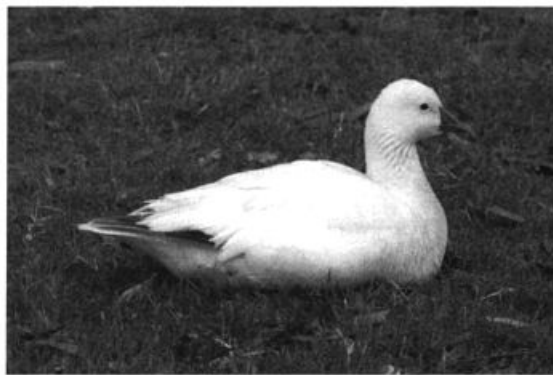
Three geese failed to leave the Region for the summer. In Tijuana, a Greater White-fronted present since Feb 2005 and a Ross's since Jan

2007 were seen 29 Jul (ph. MJB), and near La Paz a Cackling found in Mar 2007 was seen again 12-17 Jul (ph. MJB, RAE, SGM). Nesting ducks were poorly reported in Baja California, with only Mallard (Tijuana; Chula Vista, w. of El Hongo; Real del Mar; Ojos Negros) and Ruddy Duck (Tijuana) represented. Ruddies also nested in the far s. at Estero San José, San José del Cabo, as did Redheads for the 2nd year (up to six broods 11-13 Jul) (ph. MJB, RAE, ph. SGM). Ducks at Lagunas de Chemetla 12-17 Jul included a Blue-winged Teal, 6 Cinnamon Teal, and a Redhead (MJB, RAE, SGM). In Baja California, a Northern Pintail was at Laguna Figueroa 6 Jun, and 6 Redheads and a Red-breasted Merganser were at Estero Punta Banda 5 Jun (RAE). Up to three pairs of Least Grebes were at Lagunas de Chametla 12-20 Jul, and two nests were found (SGM, MJB, RAE). One bird was at a new locality s. of there: El Rosario 18 Jul (SGM). Up to six broods of Pied-billed Grebes were at Estero San José 7-13 Jul (SGM et al.).

Tubenose reports were tame compared to last summer. Highlights included a Northern Fulmar n. of Is. Los Coronados 11 Jun (WTH, DWP, PAG); about 400 Cook's Petrels primarily in deep water s. to 27° N on eight days during 10 Jun-1 Aug (AT, CR, KAR); and from Pta. Arena 6-15 Jul: 500+ Pink-footed, a Townsend's, and 50 Black-vented Shearwaters, and a Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel (MJB, RAE, SGM). At Is. Los Coronados, one Brown Booby was reportedly still on a nest 15 Jul-3 Aug, and the Blue-footed Booby was last seen 15 Jul (DWP, WTH). The only Red-footed Booby reported was at Pta. Arena 15 Jul (SGM). At least two pairs of Pelagic Cormorants nested at Is. Los Coronados 20 Mar-15 Jul (DWP et al.). Photographing

frigatebirds at Lagunas de Chametla 19 Jul payed off for Mlodinow, as subsequent examination of images revealed one of an imm. Great Frigatebird, the first to be found in the Region. The species nests just to the s. of Regional waters at Is. Revillagigedos.

Two Soras at Estero San José 13 Jul (SGM) were presumably early migrants. A Solitary Sandpiper at Lagunas de Chametla 17-20 Jul (ph. SGM) was eight days earlier than any prior Regional "fall" record. Unseasonable shorebirds (i.e., those seen in the first two or three weeks of Jun) included 3 Wandering Tattlers at Is. Los Coronados 11 Jun, with one on 24 Jun (DWP et al.), a Greater Yellowlegs at El Rosario and 2 at Laguna Figueroa on 6 Jun, 2 Western Sandpipers at Estero Punta Banda and 45 at Laguna Figueroa on 5 Jun, 3 Least Sandpipers and a Dunlin (apparently a first Jun Regional record) at Laguna Figueroa 5 Jun, and a Wilson's Phalarope elsewhere on



This Ross's Goose, first found in January 2007 at Parque de la Amistad, Tijuana, Baja California, was photographed here 29 July 2007, establishing the first summer record for the Baja California Peninsula. Photograph by Mark J. Billings.

Laguna Figueroa 6 Jun (all RAE). Four Wilson's Phalaropes at Héroes de la Independencia 18 Jun (RAE, TM) represented the vanguard of fall migrants.

The only Sabine's Gull reported was near Is. Los Coronados 11 Jun (DWP, WTH, PAG). Several Sooty Terns at Rocas Alijos, far sw. of