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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

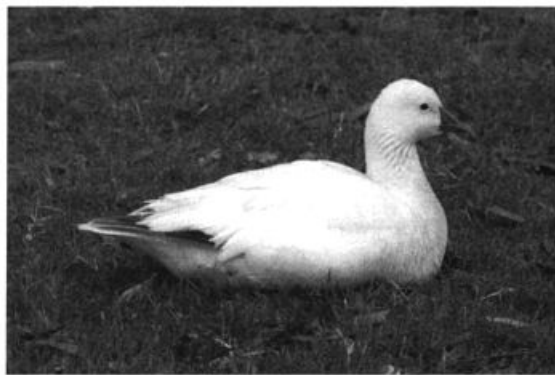
Three geese failed to leave the Region for the summer. In Tijuana, a Greater White-fronted present since Feb 2005 and a Ross's since Jan

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



This Redhead with young at Estero San José, Baja California Sur on 13 July 2007 was one of at least six broods found here in July—a second consecutive year of nesting at this tropical outpost. Photograph by Steven G. Mlodinow.

Bahía Magdalena, 12 Jun (AT) were at the only Regional location where the species has been recorded regularly (breeds there), whereas one at Pta. Arena 15 Jul (†SGM) was the first to be reported alive in the Gulf of California. Least and Elegant Terns were not recorded at Is. Los Coronados by Jehl (1977; *Western Birds* 8: 91-102), but they have been reported regularly near there in recent years. High counts this year were 20 Least and 75 Elegants 15 Jul (WTH, DWP). Common Terns were seen at both ends of the Region. In the north, 3 were in the vicinity of Is. Los Coronados 15 Jul (WTH, DWP) and 15 were n. of there 25 Jul (DWP). In the south, 3 were at sea nw. of Cabo San Lucas 7 Jul (KAR) and one was at La Paz 17 Jul (SGM). Punta Arena continues to provide a remarkable string of stercorariid observations, including this season's only sightings: 2 South Polar Skuas 15 Jul (SGM) and a Pomarine Jaeger 11 Jul (RAE, MJB).

CUCKOOS THROUGH FINCHES

Yellow-billed Cuckoos are proving to be surprisingly widespread in the Cape District. This year, 17 were detected in mid-Jul at seven locations between 70 and 700 m on both sides of the Sierra de La Laguna (SGM, MJB, RAE). Baja California Sur's first Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher visited Caduaño 14 Jul (†SGM); the one antecedent Regional record was from El Descanso in Oct 2002. A pair of Tropical Kingbirds tending at least one fledgling at Lagunas de Chametla 12–20 Jul (RAE, MJB, SGM) supplied the Peninsula's first breeding record; lone individuals were also noted at Estero San José 7-11 Jul (KAR, MJB) and near the La Paz airport 12 Jul (MJB, RAE). Several May–early Aug records dating back to 2001 had hinted that this species might breed in the Cape District. Cassin's Kingbirds appeared at three Cape District locations during mid-Jul, including 2 ads. at El Rosario, an ad. and an imm. at Las Cuevas, and an ad. at Chametla (MJB, RAE, SGM); these sightings might seem to suggest local breeding, but Cassin's Kingbirds are known to initiate southbound migration during early Jul (Tweit and Tweit 2000; *Birds of North America* species account). A to-

tal of 54 Thick-billed Kingbirds encountered in the Cape District during mid-Jul included a stunning 40 at Miraflores; though nesting activity seemed largely completed, two broods



Attracted by pishing, this Red-eyed Vireo allowed itself to be photographed on 14 July 2007 at Caduaño, where it responded similarly the following day. It is rather surprising that two of Baja California Sur's five records are from July. Photograph by Steven G. Mlodinow.

were still being fed at Miraflores and one at Caduaño (all SGM). Though previously suspected, breeding by Thick-billed was first confirmed just last year. Two Western Kingbirds at Estero San José 7 Jul (KAR) added to but a few prior Baja California Sur summer

records, all from Jul. This species is another early migrant, typically first arriving in Sonora during mid-Jul (Russell and Monson 1998, *The Birds of Sonora*).

A Red-eyed Vireo at Rancho El Descanso 5 Jun (RAE) furnished about the 4th Regional record of a northbound migrant; this record's timing fits the vagrancy pattern of Red-eyed Vireo in California. A Red-eyed Vireo singing at Caduaño 14-15 Jul (ph. SGM) furnished Baja California Sur's 5th record; as odd as this record is, it is even more peculiar given that a male was in nearby Miraflores last Jul—both birds were a goodly 1500 km away from the nearest portion of their “normal” breeding range in Texas. A late Bank Swallow enlivened El Rosario, Baja California 5-6 Jun (RAE), while early southbound individuals visited Lagunas de Chametla 13 Jul (RAE) and Estero San Jose 14 Jul (SGM). Two Barn Swallows at Cantamar 4 Jun appeared to be a pair (RAE; see below).

A fresh-plumaged Black-throated Gray Warbler was near San Antonio de la Sierra 13 Jul (RAE, MJB), and a worn bird inhabited the same location 18 Jul (SGM). This species typically molts prior to migration (S. Rohwer), raising the possibility that these individuals had summered, especially since Black-throated Grays normally do not begin southward migration until late Jul or Aug (Dunn and Garrett 1997; *Warblers*). A Yellow-breasted Chat sang persistently at Las Cuevas 16 Jul, and another inhabited Santiago 15 Jul (both SGM); these and other recent sightings suggest that chats breed in the Cape District s. of the published limit at Comandú. A singing Western Tanager in willow riparian habitat e. of Tijuana 18 Jun (RAE, TM) was probably a very late spring migrant. The first southbound Western Tanagers were 3 at Miraflores/Caduaño 14-16 Jul (SGM); the species is a molt-migrant, well known as an early migrant

Three singing Grasshopper Sparrows were found on the Maneadero Plain 15 May–5 Jun (RAE); this species is a scarce and local breeder in Baja California. An imm. male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Miraflores 14 Jul

SA The distribution of birds, especially passerines, on the Pacific islands off Baja California is poorly known. For instance, very little has been published on Islas Los Coronados since Jehl's 1977 summary in *Western Birds* (8: 91-102). A visit by Erickson to I. Coronado Sur in late Jun revealed many surprises, including a **Yellow-throated Warbler** and a Black-and-white Warbler 24 Jun. Perhaps as interesting, however, was the occurrence of several species not known to breed on the islands, though widespread on the Peninsula itself: 2 Costa's Hummingbirds 24 Jun, 2 vocal Blue-gray Gnatcatchers 23-24 Jun, a Northern Mockingbird 23 Jun, a Blue Grosbeak 24 Jun, and a Lesser Goldfinch 23-24 Jun. In addition to the warblers, the goldfinch was the first Coronados record for any season. Unknown is whether these birds summered/nested on the island, but the Blue Grosbeak and Yellow-throated Warbler appeared to be new arrivals.

Also notable was the absence of Barn Swallows. Jehl reported the species nesting regularly, but none have been seen at the islands recently, despite many spring/summer visits beginning in 2002 (HRC, FG, EP). Barn Swallows have never been confirmed nesting anywhere else in the Region.

(†SGM) furnished Baja California Sur's 2nd summer record, the first coming from the Sierra de La Laguna in late Jul 2004; additionally, a Rose-breasted × Black-headed Grosbeak was at Todos Santos last Jul. Black-headed Grosbeaks were far more numerous this Jul than last. The first was noted near Miraflores 11 Jul (MJB), and a maximum of 23 was at Miraflores and Caduaño 15 Jul (SGM). Despite May/Jul visits (in some cases multiple visits) to at least 35 known, suspected, or potential Tricolored Blackbird nesting areas (s. to El Rosario), the only active colony found involved up to 80 birds at the traditional Héroes de la Independencia site 15 May–18 Jun (RAE, HdC, LMLE). Young were still being fed on the last date, but no fledging was confirmed. Approximately 200 birds were found elsewhere, but none exhibited any nesting behavior. Apparently the extreme drought in the California District severely impacted the nesting success of this species and presumably

many others. A Bronzed Cowbird at Las Cuevas 16 Jul (SGM) was about the 3rd for the Cape District, with the first being found as recently as Jan 2005. Brown-headed Cowbirds are now widespread during summer from La Paz to San José del Cabo, with approximately 60 detected during mid-Jul, including juvs. at five locations (SGM). Two flocks of American Goldfinches (both with juvs.), totaling 11+ individuals, were found at two Tijuana locations 29 Jul (ph. MJB); the only prior Regional breeding record, which was Mexico's first, comes from Tijuana in Jul 2000 (*Monographs in Field Ornithology* 3: 153).

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Mexico

Héctor Gómez de Silva

This summer season's report for Mexico was co-written with Amy McAndrews, Jorge Montejó, and Barbara MacKinnon.

NORTHERN MEXICO

A nesting pair of Gray Hawks was discovered 9 Jun in Cañón de Fernández, Dgo. (AH, FVP). Two pairs of Mountain Plovers (at least one with eggs) were at Llanos de la India, Coah. 29 Jun (AGdL, HGdS, m.ob.). A Eurasian Collared-Dove was on the s. outskirts of Saltillo, Coah. 29 Jun (HGdS). A pair of White-naped Swifts was at Salto del Agua Llovida, Dgo. 8 Jun (HGdS, m.ob.). A pair of

Aztec Thrushes was present near Salto del Agua Llovida, Dgo. 5 & 8 Jun (HGdS, m.ob.). Up to 6 Spotted Towhees were seen in desert scrub at Rancho El Tulillo, Zac. through the first week of Jul (MPV).

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CENTRAL MEXICO

A pair of Muscovy Ducks was observed on Río Uxpanapa near Cerro Nanchital 22 Jun, a single bird was along Río Coatzacoalcos near Peña

Blanca 10 Jul, and up to 3 were seen daily 12–13 Jul at Humedales de la Cangrejera (AM, KSH); all of these locations are in Veracruz (as are all locations here, unless noted otherwise). A male Northern Shoveler was in the artificial lake at Bosque de Aragón, D.F. 16 Jun (HGdS, MPV). An ad. Brown Pelican and up to 75 White Ibis at Río Uxpanapa near Cerro Nanchital 21 Jun were out of normal range. A total of 19 Great Egrets roosted on islands in the artificial lake at Bosque de Aragón, D.F. 16 Jun (HGdS, MPV). Two imm. White-faced Ibis were observed near Peña Blanca 11 Jul (AM, KSH, HYH), and 4 imms. were seen 12 Jul at Humedales de la Cangrejera. Approximately 90 Wood Storks were observed flying northward 13 Jul near Acayucan (AM, KSH). A Hook-billed Kite at the UNAM botanical garden, D.F. 15 Jun (HGdS, GdO) furnished only the 2nd summer record from Mexico City. An imm. Cooper's Hawk and an imm. Red-tailed Hawk flew over Volcancillo 10 Jun (LHA, AM, JM).

Many Pale-vented Pigeons were observed along Río Uxpanapa near Cerro Nanchital 21–22 Jun (AAR, LCA, AM, HYH). A Ruddy Ground-Dove heard singing 26 Jul at El Atorón was above normal elevation. Received late was a report of 5 Military Macaws, including a nesting pair, at Parque Nacional el Tepozteco, Mor. from Aug 2006; this observation represents the first documented nesting record of the species for the state of Morelos

