

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS OF BIRDS IN NORTHWESTERN BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO

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Even after the contribution of Wilbur (1987) and several recent reports in *Western Birds*, the distributions of many birds in Baja California remain poorly known. Here we report observations made by us separately or together between 1975 and June 1994. We include data only for northwestern Baja California, that is, between the international border and Río del Rosario and west of the summits of the sierras Juárez and San Pedro Mártir. Almost all records are based on sight identification only, owing to the difficulty, even for Mexican citizens, in complying with current collecting regulations in Mexico.

Sites mentioned in the following accounts are plotted in Figure 1. Within each account, sites are ordered from north to south. Initials in parentheses denote the responsible observers.

### SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*). Not recorded from Baja California by Grinnell (1928), this species is still known here from only a few published records (Wilbur 1987). Our records: Bahía de San Quintín, where Horned Grebes had not yet been recorded: 3, 1 December 1986 (PU). Estero de Punta Banda: 6, 27–28 November 1987 (PU); 1, 2 February 1994 (EP). Steve N. G. Howell (pers. comm.) has also noted the species at these two sites, with a maximum of 20 in the Bahía de San Quintín, 8 December 1983. The status of this species in the Bahía de San Quintín and Estero de Punta Banda is probably similar to that on San Diego Bay: an uncommon annual winter visitor.

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*). A "sparse resident the length of the peninsula" (Wilbur 1987), this species is scarce enough as a breeder we list our only two records. El Ciprés pond: 1 adult with a chick, 15 June 1991 (SG). A small temporary pond on the side of the highway 1 km north of Colonet: 1 adult with 5 chicks, 4 June 1994 (SG). S. N. G. Howell (pers. comm.) adds two further localities: Héroes de la Independencia (adult with chick, 14 May 1989) and Rancho San José de Meling (2 adults with 3 chicks, 11 May 1989).

Brandt's Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*). A rock on the northeastern side of South Isla Todos Santos: 40 nesting on 15 April 1991 (EP, EM). This species historically bred on the Islas Todos Santos (van Denburgh 1924, Howell 1912), and Everett and Anderson (1991) concluded that, except at San Martín and Los Coronados islands, its status in Baja California has probably changed little. We, however, found none on the main island, which the cormorants may have deserted because of disturbance by fishermen and, perhaps, tourists.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*). Wilbur (1987) considered this ibis a rare transient, listing only one record for northwestern Baja California. Our findings indicate it

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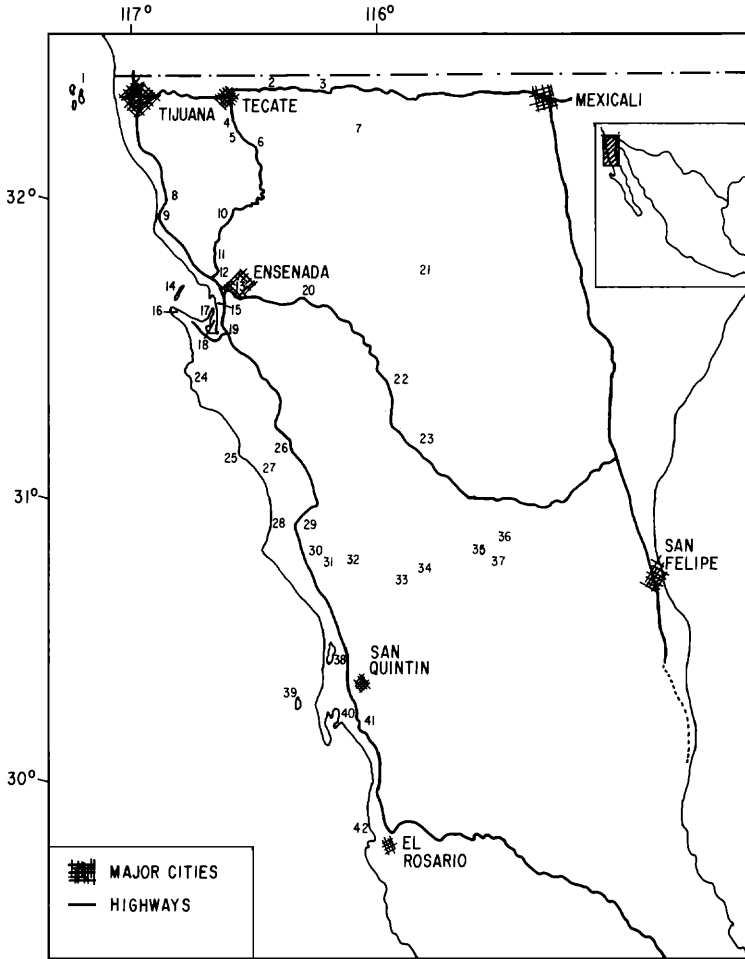


Figure 1. Northwestern Baja California, showing the localities mentioned in the text. 1, Islas Los Coronados; 2, Rancho San Martín; 3, Valle Nachogüero; 4, Rancho Santa Alicia; 5, Rancho San Marcos, Valle Las Palmas; 6, El Testerazo; 7, Japá; 8, La Misión; 9, La Salina; 10, Colonia Guadalupe; 11, San Antonio de las Minas; 12, El Sauzal; 13, Presa Emilio López Zamora; 14, Islas Todos Santos; 15, El Ciprés; 16, Punta Banda; 17, Punta Banda barrier beach; 18, Estero de Punta Banda; 19, Maneadero; 20, Sangre de Cristo (Ojos Negros), Valle San Rafael; 21, Laguna Hanson; 22, Ejido Héroes de la Independencia; 23, Valle de Trinidad; 24, Bocana de Santo Tomás; 25, Punta Cabras; 26, San Vicente Ferrer; 27, Ejido Eréndira; 28, San Antonio del Mar; 29, Colonet; 30, San Telmo de Abajo; 31, San Telmo de Arriba; 32, Ejido Sinaloa; 33, Las Cabras; 34, Rancho San José de Meling; 35, Vallecitos; 36, San Pedro Mártir Observatory; 37, La Grulla; 38, Laguna Figueroa; 39, Isla San Martín; 40, Bahía de San Quintín; 41, La Pinta pond; 42, mouth of Rio del Rosario.

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is now more numerous, probably as the result of a general population increase over the last 10 years (e.g., Ivey et al. 1988, *American Birds* 45:1160, 1991; 46:1178, 1992). La Pinta pond, south end of Bahía de San Quintín: 19, 12 September 1990 (EM). El Ciprés pond and nearby agricultural fields: 24, 20 November 1992 (SG). Estero de Punta Banda: 7, 27 April 1989 (EP). Laguna Figueroa: 1, 24 February 1993; 6, 8 August 1993 (EP, SG, LA). Howell and Pyle (1990) reported 20 circling over Tijuana on 16 May 1989.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*). "Usually 20 or less are observed together" (Wilbur 1987). We noted 56 flying toward a roost in two rows of eucalyptus trees at Valle de las Palmas, 23 February 1991 (AMR, EP, EM, LA).

Whistling Swan (*Cygnus columbianus columbianus*). Japá: 5, 24 November 1988 (PU). Grinnell (1928) and Wilbur (1987) listed nine previous occurrences in Baja California, maximum three individuals per occurrence. Kurt Radamaker (pers. comm.) reports that a maximum of 12 have wintered annually at Héroes de la Independencia since 1984.

White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*). This "rare winter visitor" (Wilbur 1987) has been recorded at various wetlands along the Pacific coast of Baja California. We add a new site to the list. Laguna Figueroa: 1, 15 December 1993 (EP, EM, SG).

Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*). There appears to be only one published record for northwestern Baja California (San Quintín, Wilbur 1987) previous to ours of 21 at Laguna Figueroa, 15 December 1993 (EP, EM, SG). One of the individuals was of the blue morph, the rest of the white. S. N. G. Howell (pers. comm.) found five, all white, at Héroes de la Independencia on 9 January 1994.

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*). Laguna Figueroa: 3 pairs, one with 4 chicks, 29 May 1993 (EP, SG, LA). The only other Baja California breeding localities reported for the Cinnamon Teal are the Valle San Rafael 40 km east of Ensenada (Bryant 1889, Huey 1928), La Grulla in the Sierra San Pedro Mártir (Anthony 1893), Héroes de la Independencia in the Sierra Juárez, and the Río Colorado delta (Howell and Webb 1992).

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*). Laguna Figueroa: 1, 29 May 1993 (EP, SG, LA). We find no previous Baja California reports of this winter visitor outside its normal season.

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*). Bocana de Santo Tomás, in lagoon at mouth of Río Santo Tomás: 1, apparently flightless, 20–21 June 1987 (PU). Small numbers summer annually just to the north along the coast of San Diego County (Unitt 1984), but there is apparently only one previous midsummer report of this species in Baja California, at El Rosario (Wilbur 1987).

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*). El Ciprés pond: 1 female with 10 chicks, 10 June 1990; 1 female with 4 chicks, 30 May 1991; 1 female with 12 chicks, 3 June 1992 (SG). Presa Emilio López Zamora (Ensenada): 3 females with 8 chicks, 23 May 1991 (SG). Laguna Figueroa: 1 pair with 7 chicks, 3 July 1993 (EP, SG, LA). There are only three previous records of Ruddy Ducks breeding on the peninsula: Santiago, cape region, "large colony" in November 1887 (M. A. Frazer in Brewster 1902), "latitude 31° N," no date, (A. W. Anthony in Bryant 1889), and Laguna Hanson, 1925 (Huey 1928).

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). After a decline in numbers a few decades ago, this species is now recuperating, as reflected by our recent observations. El Sauzal: 1, 12 April 1994 (EM). Estero de Punta Banda: 2, 15 February 1992 (EP, SG). San Antonio del Mar: 1, 6 May 1991 (EP, LA). Bahía de San Quintín: 2, 24 February

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1992; 4, 26 September 1992; 1, 24 November 1992; 1, 27 February 1993; 1, 29 March 1993; 1, 28 May 1993 (EP, SG, LA).

Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). San Telmo de Arriba: a pair performing courtship flights, 8 March 1991 (AMR, EP, LA). Nesting of the Northern Harrier on the peninsula has been reported only from "northwest Lower California near the boundary line" (N. S. Goss in Belding 1890), Cabo Colonet, and San Ramon (A. W. Anthony in Bryant 1889). The late Richard P. Phillips photographed a fledgling Northern Harrier at the mouth of the Río San Telmo on 21 June 1967 (photo in file of the San Diego Natural History Museum's Education Department), and S. N. G. Howell (pers. comm.) noted a female carrying prey 14 km east of San Telmo de Arriba on 15 June 1991. Huey (1926) saw the species in April and May 1925 at El Rosario, its southernmost probable breeding locality in Baja California.

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*). Wilbur (1987) reported Cooper's Hawks nesting in Baja California south to about 30° 45' N. We mention our single record, of a nest with at least one downy chick in the Río Santo Tomás 3 km east of La Bocana on 21 June 1987 (PU), because known breeding sites here are so few, because the species may be declining, and because the nest was in a willow. The overwhelming majority of Cooper's Hawk nests in Upper California are placed in live oaks (Asay 1987). Also, at the mouth of the Río del Rosario, a Cooper's Hawk was killing an American Coot (*Fulica americana*) on 28 January 1991 (AMR, EP, EM, LA).

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). This species is still rare in northwestern Baja California, especially during the summer. Bahía de San Quintín: 1, 24 February 1992; 1, 24 November 1992; 1, 28 May 1993 (EP, LA). Salt pond 15 km north of Bahía de San Quintín: 1, 8 August 1993 (EP, LA, SG).

Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*). Punta Banda: 1 adult in the Least Tern nesting colony on the barrier beach, 15 June 1989; 1 in the same place, 23 May 1993 (EP). The only previous reports of Wilson's Plovers on the Pacific coast of Baja California are from south of 28° N in the state of Baja California Sur (Wilbur 1987).

Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*). Road to San Antonio del Mar, 2 km west of Colonet: 12 in an open agricultural field, 25 January 1991 (AMR, EP, EM, LA). El Ciprés pond: 2, 15 December 1989 (SG). Wilbur (1987) thought the Mountain Plover probably fairly common, though little documented. However, the species' current rangewide rarity and extreme localization in winter suggest that all sites be reported.

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*). La Salina: 2, 27 November 1987 (PU). North end of Laguna Figueroa: 3, mixed with Greater Yellowlegs (*T. melanoleuca*), 8 August 1993 (EP, SG, LA). Though the species is a fairly common fall migrant at brackish lagoons in southern Upper California, of the only six published records for Baja California (Wilbur 1987, Patten et al. 1993), only one is for the northwest: La Bocana de Santo Tomás, 14 August 1940, specimen (Huey 1941).

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*). Estero de Punta Banda: 47, 22 February 1992 (EP, LA). Bahía de San Quintín: 18, 28 March 1993 (EP, SG, LA). These are the first published reports of the Red Knot in northwestern Baja California, but the numbers and dates suggest the species is a regular winter visitor at the two localities, as it is at San Diego Bay. Both sites offer the extensive tidal mudflats required by wintering Red Knots.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*). The northern limit of the White-winged Dove's normal range along the Pacific coast has not yet been well defined. We believe it to be the Río San Telmo, where our records are from 12 km east of Ejido Sinaloa, 2 on 22 June 1986, and Rancho San José de Meling, 6 singing on 13

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March 1994 (PU). Short and Crossin (1967) and S. N. G. Howell (pers. comm.) also found White-winged Doves fairly commonly at the latter locality, and Huey (1927) collected a recently fledged juvenile there on 1 October 1926. One at the hot springs at Rancho Vargas, northwest of Los Alamos and east of San Vicente, 10 August 1986 (AMR), more likely represents a migrant; fall migrants generally begin appearing along the coast of San Diego County about this date (Unitt 1984).

Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*). Hills immediately north of El Rosario, 1 km east of the transpeninsular highway: 1, 28 January 1991 (AMR, EP, EM, LA). There are a few previous winter records for southern Upper California but none published for Baja California north of the cape district.

White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes saxatalis*). Wilbur (1987) wrote of this species, "winter records are all from coastal locations, so there may be some withdrawal from higher elevations at that season." San Pedro Mártir Observatory: 12, 28 November 1986 (PU), when ponds in the Sierra San Pedro Mártir remained frozen solid all day, suggesting that White-throated Swifts may attempt to winter at high elevations.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*). One among the volcanoes adjacent to the Bahía de San Quintín, 27 January 1991 (AMR, EP, EM, LA), was presumably an early spring migrant. Our other records are strongly concentrated in the second week of March, suggesting this is the peak of the species' spring migration through northwestern Baja California.

Ladder-backed Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos scalaris*). La Bocana de Santo Tomás: 1 foraging in *Agave shawii*, 21 June 1987 (PU). There is only one record of the Ladder-backed Woodpecker farther north along the coast of Baja California, of a specimen of the brown-breasted subspecies *D. s. eremicus* collected at Ensenada on 27 February 1906 (National Museum of Natural History 196279; Oberholser 1911, M. R. Browning pers. comm.). Short and Crossin (1967) looked for but did not find this species at the mouth of the Río Santo Tomas. In northwestern Baja California, *D. s. eremicus* occurs principally in *Agave shawii*, which is common between Ensenada and Tijuana, so further study may show that the woodpecker extends even farther north. A specimen from the north end of Valle Nachogüero, elevation 3400 feet, about 25 km east of Tecate (Museum of Vertebrate Zoology 52146) is of the pale-breasted subspecies *cactophilus*, as reported originally by Grinnell (1928), although the locality is on the coastal slope.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*). Rancho San Marcos, Valle de las Palmas: 1, 9 March 1991 (AMR, EP, LA). The bird was presumably an early spring migrant, exceeding by one day the previous earliest record for Baja California, 10 March 1897, Islas Todos Santos (Kaeding 1905).

Western Wood Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*). About 14 km northeast of Ejido Eréndira: 1, 21 June 1986; 3, 16 May 1987 (PU). These may have been migrants but seemed to be singing territorially. This species is a common summer resident in the Sierra San Pedro Mártir and probably in the Sierra Juárez (Grinnell 1928, Wilbur 1987), but the only other summer record outside the mountains is of one at Sangre de Cristo at the west base of the Sierra Juárez (near 31° 50' N) 22–23 June 1980 (Wilbur 1987).

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*). Valle de Las Palmas: a pair in a mesquite bosque along the Río de las Palmas just northwest of the town, 19 July 1986 (PU). El Testerazo: a pair with two fledglings in a mesquite bosque, 19 July 1986 (PU). Río San Isidro near the ruins of the Mission San Vicente Ferrer: a pair, 21 June 1986 (PU). Previous breeding-season records of Vermilion Flycatchers in Baja California extend northwest only to Las Cabras, a former locality in the valley of the Río San Telmo (one male collected 4 June 1923, Huey 1926) and Valle de Trinidad

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(two males seen, 11 April 1967, Short and Crossin 1967). On the coastal slope of southern Upper California Vermilion Flycatchers once nested sporadically; since 1968 only two nestings have been reported, from Camarillo, Ventura County (*American Birds* 42:1341, 1988), and northeastern Santa Barbara County (Lehman 1994).

Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*). The long-winged subspecies *T. t. "lepida"* (= nominate *thalassina*, Phillips 1986) breeds in the coniferous woodlands of the sierras Juárez and San Pedro Mártir (Huey 1926, Grinnell 1928, Wilbur 1987), while the short-winged *T. t. brachyptera* breeds mostly in Cardones (*Pachycereus pringlei*) from Santana (28° 40' N) south to Cabo San Lucas. Anthony (1895) reported Violet-green Swallows nesting in the "cardoons" at San Fernando (29° 57' N), and this record has since been assigned to "*lepida*" (Grinnell 1928, AOU 1957), though on what basis is unclear; Anthony did not mention collecting any specimens at San Fernando. Huey (1926) also reported seeing "a few coursing over the marsh" at San Ramon (30° 41' N) "as late as June 6, 1925."

Unitt has found Violet-green Swallows at several coastal locations in northwestern Baja California: Río Santo Tomás 3 km inland from La Bocana (31° 15' N), 5 on 21 June 1986 and 2 on 16 May 1987; along the Río San Telmo 3 km west of San Telmo de Arriba (30° 57' N), 1 on 22 June 1986 and 2 on 21 June 1987; along the Río del Rosario 10 km northeast of El Rosario, 2 on 22 June 1986; El Rosario (30° 03' N), 1 on 22 June 1986. Near Ejido Eréndira on 21 June 1986 a pair was feeding three fledglings at a nest in a hole in a rocky road cut. The site is adjacent to a hill lightly wooded with an isolated colony of Bishop Pines (*Pinus muricata*). The habitat at the other sites includes at least isolated clumps of riparian woodland of willows.

These observations, together with Huey's report, suggest that the Violet-green Swallow is an uncommon and localized but regular summer resident along the coast of northwestern Baja California. The question remains whether this population represents nominate *thalassina*, *brachyptera*, or intergrades.

American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchus*). The southernmost reported breeding locality for this species is Valle de Guadalupe (Huey 1926). Currently, crows can be found commonly down to the edge of the town of San Antonio de las Minas, on the road from Tecate to Ensenada (EM). We have not searched for their nesting, but their presence in this area year round suggests that the southern limit of their breeding has moved south, in association with the development of agriculture, and paralleling a recent spread into the city of San Diego. The species extends east at least to 11 km east of Tecate (6 on 4 November 1988, PU).

Verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*). The Verdin has been reported in Baja California northwest to 40 km east of Ensenada, where Short and Crossin (1967) observed at least four, collected specimens, and saw the birds building a nest in a mesquite. The specimens, according to Phillips (1986 and pers. comm.), are *A. f. acaciaram*, the pale race that inhabits the desert areas of northeastern Baja California and southeastern Upper California, rather than the dark *A. f. flaviceps*, which occurs in central Baja California north to the vicinity of El Rosario (Grinnell 1928). Unitt found two Verdins in the mesquite bosque along the Río de las Palmas just northwest of Valle de las Palmas on 19 July 1986. This observation adds a perspective to the former (last record 1975) fall and winter occurrences of this nonmigratory species in coastal San Diego County. Valle de las Palmas lies only about 55 km southeast of the Tijuana River valley, site of most of the San Diego records, and the Río de las Palmas drains into the Tijuana River.

Cactus Wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*). We found one individual of subspecies *sandiegensis* at Rancho Santa Alicia, at the northwestern end of Valle de las Palmas, 23 February 1991 (EM, EP, AMR, LA), possibly at the southernmost limit

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of this race (Rea and Weaver 1990). An individual captured, and six more seen, on Punta Banda, along the coast, August 1993, were *C. b. bryanti* (EM). A rectrix found in a Cactus Wren nest at Rancho Vargas on 10 August 1986 (AMR) has too much black for typical *bryanti* and resembles *sandiegensis* more closely. This site is south of the known distribution of the subspecies but inland.

"Gray" Thrasher (*Toxostoma cinereum*). We feel certain that Wilbur's (1987) northernmost locality for this endemic, Punta Cabras, is erroneous. We have searched Punta Cabras, finding that it lacks habitat suitable for *T. cinereum*: open scrub with *Myrtillocactus cochal*. The species' northernmost site is Ejido Eréndira, 10 km south of Punta Cabras, where we found two resident pairs on 19 February 1991 and retained one rectrix, now in the San Diego Natural History Museum, as a voucher (PU, AMR, EM, EP, LA). The report for Punta Cabras, and likely other unsupported reports listed by Wilbur, we think based on misidentifications of wintering Sage Thrashers (*Oreoscoptes montanus*), the only other thrasher frequent in the range of *T. cinereum*.

The English name "Gray Thrasher" is grossly misleading, perhaps responsible for such misidentifications, since the bird, especially its northern race, is browner than the Sage and most other species of thrashers. Therefore we propose that the English name of *T. cinereum* be changed to "Baja California Thrasher," since the species is endemic to the peninsula of Baja California (in this case, for parallelism's sake, "Alta California Thrasher" should be adopted for *T. redivivum*), or to "San Lucas Thrasher," used by Ridgway (1907) for the nominate race and by Phillips (1986) for the entire species.

Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*). Near Rancho San Martín, 12 km east of Tecate, in oak woodland: 1, 18 January 1975 (PU). The Golden-crowned Kinglet has been reported only twice previously from Baja California, at Vallecitos in the Sierra San Pedro Mártir on 3 February 1981 (R. Stallcup in Wilbur 1987) and near La Pinta pond on 18 January 1984 (Atwood and Collins 1993).

Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*). Although Phainopeplas are common in summer throughout Baja California's lowlands, they are scarce in winter (Wilbur 1987). Our records add to the known occurrences at this time. Río del Rosario: 1 male, 28 January 1991 (AMR, EP, EM, LA); 2 km east of San Telmo de Abajo: 1 male, 21 February 1991 (PU, EM, EP, LA); San Telmo de Arriba: 1 female, 8 March 1991 (AMR, EP, LA).

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*). Río de las Palmas at Rancho Santa Alicia: 2, an apparent pair, one singing and scolding, one silent, 19 July 1986. Valle de las Palmas, in mesquites as well as willows: 3 singing, 1 of these attending a fledgling Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), 19 July 1986. Near El Testerazo, in mesquites: 1 singing, 19 July 1986. Río San Miguel at La Misión: 1 singing, 20 June 1987. Río Guadalupe near Ejido El Porvenir: 1 singing, 19 July 1986. Falla de Agua Blanca 12 km southeast of Maneadero: 3 singing, 21 June 1986. Ejido Santo Tomás 2–3 km east of La Bocana: 10 singing, 20–21 June 1987. Río Santo Tomás 6 km west of Santo Tomás: 1 singing, 20 June 1987. Rancho Vargas: 1 (possibly 2) singing, 10 August 1986 (AMR). 14 km northeast of Ejido Eréndira: 4 singing, 1 feeding a fledgling cowbird, 21 June 1986. 8 km northeast of Ejido Eréndira: 2 singing, 16 May 1987. 2 km northeast of Ejido Eréndira: 1 singing, 16 May 1987. Río San Isidro near Mission San Vicente Ferrer: 3 singing, 1 abandoned nest containing 3 vireo and 2 cowbird eggs, 21 June 1986. Río San Antonio just west of the transpeninsular highway (15 km north-northeast of Colonet): 4 singing, 22 June 1986. Río San Rafael 6 km northeast of Colonet: 1 singing, 21 June 1986. Río San Telmo 3 km east of San Telmo de Abajo: 3 singing, 16 May 1987. Río San Telmo 3 km east of San Telmo de Arriba: 1 singing, 22 June 1986. Río San Telmo 12 km

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east of Ejido Sinaloa, in dry riverbed vegetated predominantly with Tree Tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*): pair with 2 fledglings, 22 June 1986. Río del Rosario 16 km east-northeast of El Rosario, 2 singing, 22 June 1986. Río del Rosario at El Rosario: 2 singing, 22 June 1986. Unless otherwise specified, these observations are all by Unitt.

All these sites, except that 8 km northeast of Ejido Eréndira, are sites additional to those where Wilbur (1980) found Bell's Vireos. Wilbur had looked for the species at Valle de las Palmas, along the Río Guadalupe, and at El Rosario without finding it, yet we found the species at these sites 6 years later. Possibly regeneration of riparian woodland following the wet winters of the early 1980s contributed in part to these differences.

Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*). The only localities where Orange-crowned Warblers have been reported nesting in Baja California are "arroyos between La Misión and Ensenada" (Howell and Webb 1992), the Islas de Todos Santos (off Ensenada) and South Island of the Islas Los Coronados (off Tijuana). Wilbur (1987) wrote "recorded regularly in the western Sierra San Pedro Mártir in summer ... and presumably breeds there and elsewhere on the northwestern mainland," though this assumption was hardly warranted. The known breeding ranges of several riparian birds that nest regularly in San Diego County, such as the Downy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos pubescens*), Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*), Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*), and Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*), do not extend south of the international border.

Río San Miguel at La Misión: 1, 20 June 1987 (PU). Río Santo Tomas 3 km inland from La Bocana, in riparian woodland: a pair feeding two young and another adult feeding two fledglings, 21 June 1987 (PU). These observations are the first summer and breeding records of the Orange-crowned Warblers from specific localities on the mainland of Baja California. It remains to be determined whether they represent *V. c. sordida* or *V. c. lutescens*. The populations at San Diego and on the Channel Islands, the Palos Verdes peninsula, Islas Los Coronados, and Islas de Todos Santos represent *sordida* (Grinnell 1928, AOU 1957), but *lutescens* breeds south at least to northern San Diego County (specimens from the Santa Margarita River and Palomar Mountain in the San Diego Natural History Museum) and probably as far south as Otay Mountain, within 5 km of the international border (Unitt pers. obs.). The subspecies identification can be confirmed only through comparison of specimens of known age and sex.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*). Cañada Las Pilitas, San Antonio del Mar: 1 immature, 25 February 1991 (AMR, EM, EP, LA). Wilbur (1987) listed five previous records of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak for Baja California, with only one in winter.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). Domecq vineyards just northeast of Colonia Guadalupe: 1 singing, apparently first-year male (belly largely white), 19 July 1986 (PU). Wilbur (1987) cited only three records of Indigo Buntings in Baja California, none farther north than Isla Cedros. The Indigo Bunting is a rare but increasing summer visitor to coastal southern Upper California, where it hybridizes occasionally with the Lazuli Bunting (*P. amoena*) (Garrett and Dunn 1981).

Black-chinned Sparrow (*Spizella atrogularis*). West entrance to Rancho San José de Meling: 1, 21 February 1991 (PU, EM, EP, LA); 3, 8 March 1991 (AMR, EP, LA). Because they were singing, we presume these birds to have been early spring migrants, though the species has not previously been reported so early in either northwestern Baja California or Upper California.

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi*). La Salina: 2 May 1991 (EP, LA); 2, 11 July 1993 (PU). Because of the date and habitat (brackish marsh with



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*Salicornia*) it is likely that the species nests here. Massey (1977) failed to find it at this place.

Gray-headed Junco (*Junco hyemalis caniceps*). San Pedro Mártir observatory headquarters: 1 in a mixed flock of the resident Townsend's Junco (*J. h. townsendi*) and migrants from the north, 28 November 1986 (PU). Wilbur (1987) reported only one record of this easily identified subspecies from Baja California: two collected of four seen by D. F. DeSante at La Laguna in the mountains of the cape region on 10 and 11 November 1968.

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*). This species was recorded by Wilbur (1987) from only the Río Colorado delta and Mexicali area, where it is common. In addition, R. M. Chandler collected one male along the Río Hardy about 19 km south of El Mayor on 8 January 1984 (San Diego Natural History Museum 42826); this first dated record and first specimen from Baja California represents *Q. m. nelsoni*. The Great-tailed Grackle was first observed in San Diego County in 1977 and has been found there in ever-increasing frequency since 1981, so its occurrence in northwestern Baja California was only a matter of time. Howell and Pyle (1993) reported several sightings of Great-tailed Grackles in northern Baja California, including one by Unitt at Bahía de San Quintín. This species now seems to be regular at Maneadero, for example, at least three were there in *Tamarix* on 22 April 1994 (EP). There are now two coastal specimens, both females, in the collection of the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California from Laguna El Rosario (specimens 339 and 340, 8 December 1990). Both are *Q. m. nelsoni*.

Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*). The breeding range of Scott's Oriole in Baja California is known imprecisely. We doubt that it is still "not uncommon" along the Tijuana River 2–10 miles south of the international boundary and 8–20 miles from the coast, as Anthony (1894) reported it in April 1894. In the lowlands of the northwest, our observations suggest it occurs in the valley of the Río San Telmo [3 km west of San Telmo de Arriba: 1 singing male, 16 May 1987 (PU); 12 km west of Rancho San José de Meling, pair, with male singing, 13 March 1994 (PU)] but not farther north. Wilbur (1987) also found Scott's Oriole along the Río San Telmo, at Las Cabras. The species may winter sparsely in this area, too, as suggested by one male 4 km northeast of Colonet, 1 December 1986 (PU). This locality is north of the previous northernmost winter record on the coast of Baja California (foothills east of San Quintín; Anthony 1894).

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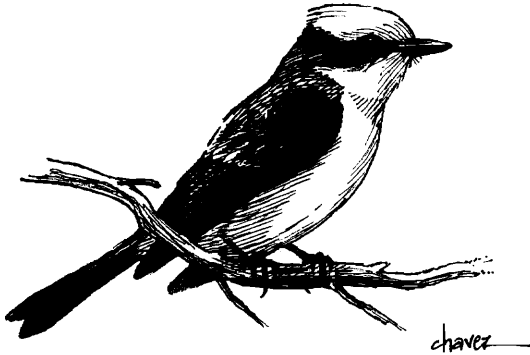
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Vermilion Flycatcher

*Sketch by Jamie M. Chavez*