

southern pacific coast region



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This summer was a little cooler than average, especially so along the coast. Spring migrants were still passing north through the Region in early June and established some significantly late dates in a number of localities. Breeding Bird Atlas survey work continues in *Los Angeles* and *San Diego*, with all results to be published at the completion of the projects.

Abbreviations: C.L. (*China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme n.e. Kern Co.*); G.H.P. (*Galileo Hill Park in extreme e. Kern Co.*); I.M.P.P. (*Iron Mt. Pumping Plant in s.e. San Bernardino Co.*); N.E.S.S. (*north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.*); S.C.R.E. (*Santa Clara R. Estuary near Ventura, Ventura Co.*); S.E.S.S. (*south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.*); S.F.K.R.P. (*South Fork Kern R. Preserve near Weldon, Kern Co.*). Since virtually all rarities in s. California are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are included. Documentation for species on the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC) review list is forwarded to the CBRC secretary and archived at the Western Foundation for Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS

A Pacific Loon near El Centro, *Imperial*, 11 Jun (GMcC) was a late spring migrant moving through the interior. A Horned Grebe at N.E.S.S. 4–18 Jun (BMu) and another at S.E.S.S. 27 Jun (MAP) were both either exceptionally late spring migrants or attempting to summer locally. Totally unexpected was an ad. **Red-tailed Tropicbird**



A first-summer Mew Gull (standing beside a second-summer Ring-billed Gull) at the south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial County, on 18 June was only the fifth to be found on the Salton Sea at this time of the year. Photograph/Kenneth Kurland

flying over Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, *Orange*, 10 Jul (JI, JEP, DEW); this species is expected in small numbers far offshore but is virtually unrecorded from anywhere on the coast. An ad. Neotropic Cormorant at N.E.S.S. 4 Jul (MAP) was believed to be the same individual present at this location last summer. The only Magnificent Frigatebirds reported were one over Coronado, *San Diego*, 14 Jul (MB) and what may have been the same bird over nearby Pt. Loma a week later (EW).

A Least Bittern in *California City, Kern*, 12 Jun (MTH) was a late spring migrant at an unexpected location. A sub-ad. Tricolored Heron photographed in *San Diego* 6–12 Jun (JP), an adult at *Bolsa Chica* 26 Jun (TEW), and what may have been the same adult there 20–23 Jul (KSG) were unexpected, as records along the coast in summer are few and far between. An imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron flying in from the ocean near *La Jolla, San Diego*, 5

Jul (JR) was obviously on the move and one of a very few to be reported in California. Numbers of Wood Storks reaching California each summer continue to decline, with only 15 present at S.E.S.S. this summer (GMcC) and none elsewhere.

The presence of a pair of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks with ten ducklings on *Finney L.* 27 Jul (BMi) was the only evidence of nesting this summer by a species now nearly extirpated as a breeding bird in California. A male Harlequin Duck at *Playa del Rey, Los Angeles*, 5 Jul and later (RB) was believed to be the same bird found here 16 May (KL). A noteworthy selection of scoters was present on the Salton Sea, with at least six Surf Scoters at N.E.S.S. from spring through 31 Jul (BMu, MAP, AME), up to four White-winged there during the same period (GMcC, MAP), and a Black Scoter found there 28 April joined by a second 4 Jun–31 Jul (BMu); another White-winged Scoter was at S.E.S.S. 23–25 Jun (MAP). A

Long-tailed Duck on the coast in Ventura 26 Jun and later (DD) clearly spent the summer locally. A female Bufflehead with two half-grown ducklings at N.E.S.S. 1 May (MAP) provided by far the southernmost nesting record in California. Although a Com Goldeneye in Bishop 27 May–17 Jun (T&JH) and another on Tinemaha Res. 19–30 Jun (T&JH) provided the first summer records for *Inyo*, it is considered rare but almost annual at this time of the year farther south on the Salton Sea.

A White-tailed Kite near Bluff L. in the San Bernardino Mts. 24 Jul (JEP) was at the exceptionally high elevation of 8000 ft. A pair of N. Goshawks that raised three young in the Golden Trout Wilderness Area of *Inyo* this summer (RAH) furnished one of only a few Regional nesting records. A Cooper's Hawk in Brawley 18 Jun (MJSanM) was an early fall migrant. A Harris's Hawk at Tinemaha Res. 9 Jul (T&JH) was probably an escapee.

PLOVERS THROUGH TERNS

Single Am. Golden-Plovers on the coast at S C R E. 2 Jul (DD) and on San Diego Bay 17 Jul (DP) were probably early fall migrants, but one at S.E.S.S. 11 Jun–18 Jul (KZK, MAP) appears to be the first known to spend the entire summer in California. A Pacific Golden-Plover was near the Santa Maria R. mouth 23 Jun (JMC). A pair of **Semipalmated Plovers** successfully hatched young at the Santa Maria R. mouth, *Santa Barbara/San Luis Obispo*, 14–18 Jul (JMC, BH, PN) for the first known nesting in California; this species is previously unrecorded nesting s. of Coos Bay in Oregon.

A **Whimbrel** with an obvious white rump photographed at C.L. 9–16 Jun (MTH) was identified as the Asiatic race *variegatus*, only the 3rd to be reported in California and the first inland in North America. A Ruddy Turnstone at N.E.S.S. 4 Jun–24 Jul (GMcC, MAP) appears to be only the 2nd to have summered inland in s. California, even though small numbers of non-breeding birds are regularly present through June at select locations along the coast, five at Tulare L., *Kern*, 25 Jul (JCW) were the only migrants reported inland away from the Salton Sea. Three Semipalmated Sandpipers at the Santa Maria R. mouth 30 Jul (GPS) were the first fall juveniles. A basic-plumaged Dunlin on Morro Bay 13 Jun (TME) was probably summering locally, but an alternate-plumaged individual at the Santa Maria R. mouth 20–27 Jun (CAM) was remarkably late if a spring migrant. A basic-plumaged Stilt Sandpiper

at S.E.S.S. 21 Jun (BMu) appears to be the first found on the Salton Sea in summer; one in alternate plumage at S.C.R.E. 2 Jul (DD) was the only migrant reported away from S.E.S.S. A Ruff at S.E.S.S. 12–13 Jul (BMu) was obviously a fall migrant. An alternate-plumaged Red Phalarope at S.E.S.S. 20 Jun (BMu) was unexpected considering the date and inland location.

Franklin's Gulls continued to pass through the Region in early June, with ten around the Salton Sea 1–6 Jun (MAP, GMcC) and one at C.L. 9–10 Jun (MTH); one-year-old birds at S.E.S.S. 2 Jul (GMcC), N.E.S.S. 23 Jul (BMu), and on the coast in Imperial Beach 8 Jul (RP) were summering s. of this species' breeding range, and a juvenile at S.E.S.S. 31 Jul (GMcC) was an early fall migrant. The first-year Little Gull at S.E.S.S. 23–30 May was last seen 6 Jun (BMi). The ad. Heermann's Gull associating with nesting California Gulls at S.E.S.S. since 2 May remained through 26 Jul (GMcC); in addition an immature was inland at N.E.S.S. 15–30 Jul (MAP) and an adult was at S.E.S.S. 22 Jul (MAP). Since Mew Gulls are rare along the coast in summer, a first-summer bird in Oceano, *San Luis Obispo*, 20 Jun (CAM) was noteworthy; a first-summer bird at S.E.S.S. 6 Jun–2 Jul (BMi) and a 2nd-summer bird at N.E.S.S. 6–17 Jul (BMu) are the 5th and 6th to be found on the Salton Sea at this time of the year. Two ad. W. Gulls at S.E.S.S. 8 Jun and later (BMu) and a first-summer bird there 24 Jul (GMcC) were inland, where rare.

Eight pairs of Royal Terns successfully nested along with about 1600 pairs of Elegant Terns at Bolsa Chica this summer (CTC), but most of the Elegant Tern nests on s. San Diego Bay failed due to coyote and Barn Owl predation. An Elegant Tern at S.E.S.S. 2 Jul (GMcC) was one of a very few found inland. An ad. **Bridled Tern** at Bolsa Chica 10 Jul (JEP, DRW, LRH) was believed to be the same individual seen here on 17 Jul last year.

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Band-tailed Pigeon far out on the desert in California City 30 Jul (MTH) was most unusual considering the time of the year. A pair of Eur. Collared-Doves of unknown origin found nesting in Oceano in June (BAB) provided the first evidence of breeding in *San Luis Obispo*; a single paired with a Ringed Turtle-Dove in Brawley in July (CAM, MJSanM) was the first for *Imperial*. A White-winged Dove in California City 10

Jun (AH) was a bit n.w. of this species' normal range; one in Goleta, *Santa Barbara*, 2 Jun (GT) and another in Seal Beach, *Orange*, 28 Jul (DSP) were rare on the coast. Three Com. Ground-Doves in Nipoma, *San Luis Obispo*, 6 Jun (BAB) were at the n. extreme of this species' range on the coast of California.

Up to two Yellow-billed Cuckoos near Big Pine, *Inyo*, 29 Jun–26 Jul (T&JH) and seven pairs at S.F.K.R.P. in June and July (SL) were at known breeding localities, but single birds along the coast near Culver City, *Los Angeles*, 14 Jun (KL), Oso Flaco L., *San Luis Obispo*, 18–26 Jun (BAB), near San Simeon, *San Luis Obispo*, 15 Jul (GPS), and inland at Finney L. 23 Jun (MAP) were late migrants far from any known nesting localities. A calling Com. Nighthawk over Santa Barbara 22 Jun (DC) was only the 2nd to be found in *Santa Barbara*. A Black Swift over Huntington Beach, *Orange*, 5 Jun (JEP) and up to seven over Oso Flaco L. 4–6 Jun (PN) were late spring migrants. The only Chimney Swifts reported were two over Pt. Loma in San Diego 15 Jun (REW)—though unidentified *Chaetura* were near Atascadero, *San Luis Obispo*, 12 Jul (GPS) and over Morro Bay 25 Jul (GPS).

A Broad-tailed Hummingbird near Cantil, *Kern*, 4 Jun (RC) was w. of this species' normal range. An Acorn Woodpecker at *Zzyzx*, *San Bernardino*, 2 Jun (CC) was well e. of this species' range in California; another photographed at S.E.S.S. 17–18 Jul (GMcC) was only the 4th for that area, but one on the e. slope of the Sierra Nevada near Independence, *Inyo*, 12 Jul (SNGH) was in an area where previously recorded. A Hairy Woodpecker far out on the desert at G.H.P. 10 Jun (MTH) was unprecedented.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SILKY-FLYCATCHERS

Two Western Wood-Pewees in Newport Beach, *Orange*, 21 Jun (KSG) were significantly late, as were two Pacific-slope Flycatchers near Palmdale, *Los Angeles*, 15 Jun (KLG). Two pairs of Brown-crested Flycatchers in Mojave Narrows Park near Victorville, *San Bernardino*, and 5–7 pairs at S.F.K.R.P. this summer (SJM, BB) were at the w. extreme of this species' known breeding range. A Tropical Kingbird in Santa Barbara 25 Jul (DN) was the first to be found in California in July; there are a couple of August records from the Farallon Is., but fall vagrants are not expected prior to early/mid-September. Single E. Kingbirds at I.M.P.P. 6 Jun (MAP) and S.E.S.S. 14 Jun

(BMu) were late spring stragglers, but one in Ridgecrest 7–10 Jul (PW) was the first to be found in *Kern* in summer. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, always an exciting bird to find in California, was on Santa Cruz I. 22 Jun (PH), and another was at I.M.P.P. 23 Jun (BMu).

A White-eyed Vireo at G.H.P. 25 Jun (MTH) was a late spring vagrant, and a Warbling Vireo at the south end of the Salton Sea, *Imperial*, 10–18 Jun (BMi, BMu) was significantly late in its migration. Up to five Red-eyed Vireos at S.F.K.R.P. 12 Jul and later (SL) were in an area where breeding has previously been suspected; one along the E. Fork of the San Gabriel R. in the San Gabriel Mts. 11 Jun (DK) and another at Morro Bay 24 Jul (PN) were lost summer wanderers. A White-breasted Nuthatch in Borrego Springs, *San Diego*, 31 Jul (MJ) and another at S.E.S.S. the same day (GMcC) had wandered eastward from the coast range into an area where very few have been found. Two pairs of Red-breasted Nuthatches nesting in Goleta this summer (MAH, PSMcN) provided the first breeding records for the lowlands of *Santa Barbara*. A **Wood Thrush** at G.H.P. 16 Jun (KSG) was a late spring vagrant and only the 3rd to be found in California at this time of the year. A Brown Thrasher at Cactus City, *Riverside*, was also a late spring vagrant, and an Am. Pipit at China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, *Kerns*, 11 Jun (SS) was significantly late in its passage. Found on Pt. Loma in San Diego 16 Jun (REW), a female Gray Silky-flycatcher (origin unknown) was still present 28 Jul.

WOOD-WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A remarkable number and variety of vagrant wood-warblers were found scattered throughout the Region in June, including a male Blue-winged Warbler at Butterbredt Springs, *Kern*, 8–10 Jun (VH); six N. Parulas at various locations between n. *Inyo* and interior *San Diego* between 1 & 26 Jun (T&JH, MTH, TEW, PU); a Chestnut-sided Warbler in Morongo Valley, *San Bernardino*, 3–6 Jun (CMB); a Magnolia in Newport Beach 11–12 Jun (KLP) and a male Black-throated Blue there 5–7 Jun (KSG); a male Blackburnian in Lone Pine Canyon on the n. slope of the San Gabriel Mts., *San Bernardino*, 20 Jun (JA); a female Blackpoll at Oso Flaco L. 26 Jun (CAM) and a male there 30 Jun–2 Jul (CAM); four Ovenbirds in e. *Kern* between 5 & 11 Jun (MTH) and another in Santa Barbara 4 Jun (KB); a Connecticut Warbler at Butterbredt

Springs 12 Jun (TEW); a Canada at Leo Carrillo S.B., *Los Angeles*, 10 Jun (BA); and a female Hooded Warbler at G.H.P. 5 Jun (MTH). In addition, single Black-and-white Warblers were along the e. slope of the Sierra Nevada in *Inyo* 18 & 24 Jun (GJ, WR), three were in e. *Kern* 9–10 Jun (MTH), one was in Newport Beach 11–12 Jun (BED), and another was at S.E.S.S. 14 Jun (BMu). At least a dozen Am. Redstarts were found scattered throughout the Region between 5 & 24 Jun. A Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler near Port Hueneme, *Ventura*, 25 Jul (KSG) was unprecedented. Two Townsend's Warblers at Finney Lake, *Imperial*, 6 Jun (BMi), one near Bishop, *Inyo*, 14 Jun (J&DP), and a Hermit Warbler in Joshua Tree N.P. 8 Jun (CMcG) were significantly late migrants. Two young Hermit Warblers near Rose Mine on the n.e. slope of the San Bernardino Mts. 25 Jul (JEP) were suspected to have been fledged locally.

A pair of Hepatic Tanagers found along Arrastra Cr. e. of Baldwin L. on the n.e. slope of the San Bernardino Mts. 26 Jun (WJM) was still present 24 Jul—at the same location where this species was first found nesting in the late 1960s. A pair of Summer Tanagers along the Santa Clara R. in Soledad Canyon, *Los Angeles*, in June and July (SJM) was w. of this species known breeding range, and one in Lone Pine, *Inyo*, 5 Jun (WR) was the only other reported away from known breeding localities. A W. Tanager in Brea, *Orange*, 20 Jun (KSG) was very late.

A Black-chinned Sparrow in California City 30 Jul (MTH) was the first to be found in the e. *Kern* desert in fall. A Dark-eyed Junco at G.H.P. 10 Jun (MTH) was a remarkably late spring migrant. A male N. Cardinal along the Colorado R. at Rio Vista near Earp, *San Bernardino*, 30–31 Jul (BMu) was in the only area of California where naturally occurring birds can still be found. A male Pyrrhuloxia in Newport Beach 1 Jun (CH) was of questionable origin, but another in Yucca Valley 31 Jul (ZA) could well have wandered from w. Arizona. A total of seven Rose-breasted Grosbeaks reported from various localities throughout the Region between 4 Jun and 2 Jul was about average. At least 15 Indigo Buntings were reported this summer, including three males on territories in the Prado Basin, *Riverside/San Bernardino* (JEP), and two territorial males along Upper Big Tujunga Cr. in the San Gabriel Mts. (SJM) that both appeared to be paired with Lazuli Buntings. A male Tricolored Blackbird in Big Pine 8 Jun (T&JH) was one of a very few ever

found in *Inyo*. A Baltimore Oriole found in Goleta 30 May remained through 18 Jun (JEL), and another was at Morongo Valley 4–6 Jun (DZ). A Pine Siskin near Imperial Beach 6 Jun (TRC) was remarkably late for a coastal locality this far south.

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