

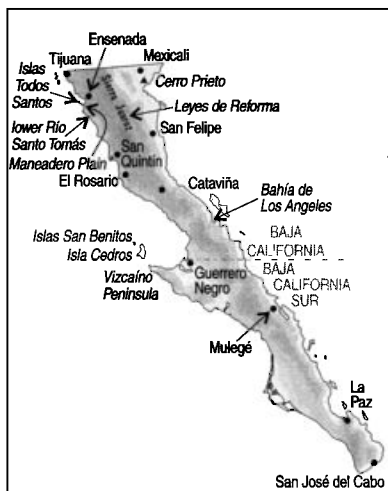
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Baja California Peninsula



Abbreviation: U.A.B.C.S. (Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur).

CORMORANTS THROUGH GULLS

An ad. Neotropic Cormorant at Ojo de Agua, e of La Purisima, 26 Oct (†FMR et al.) represents the 3rd peninsular record n. of Bahía Magdalena. Southerly waterfowl at Lagunas de Chametla (La Paz sewage ponds and vicinity) included up to 5 Greater White-fronted Geese 9-29 Oct (RC et al.) and one Lesser Canada Goose (*tavernieri/parvipes*) 29 Oct-30 Nov (RAE et al.). Swainson's Hawks winter primarily in South America, so up to 19 roosting—and probably wintering—in Ciudad Constitución 26-29 Oct (RAE, vt. RAH) were unexpected. Among few previous peninsular records, 2 were w. of Ciudad Insurgentes 26 Feb 1994. Although Crested Caracaras are seen regularly n. to around Guerrero Negro, one just s. of Villa Jesús María 22 Oct (KLG et al.) was the first seen in B.C. since 1994. The identification of a *richardsoni* Merlin at Guerrero Negro 22 Oct (†KLG et al.) was relatively straightforward; it was the first for B.C.S. The identification of Peregrine Falcon subspecies is generally considered more problematic. A juv. showing the characteristics of *tundrius* was at Rancho San José de Castro 6 Oct (SNGH, RAH).

Several calling Clapper Rails at Estero San Gregorio 28 Oct (RAE, RAH) were at a new location for the species. Golden-Plovers are rarely recorded in the Region; this season's only report was of 2 Americans at Bahía Asunción 17 Oct (REW). Lagunas de Chametla hosted a number of interesting shorebirds: an ad. Semipalmated Sandpiper 21 Aug (first for B.C.S.; GB et al., *U.A.B.C.S.); a late juv. Baird's Sandpiper 29 Oct (RAE, RAH); single juv. Pectoral Sandpipers 9 Oct (first for the La Paz region; RC et al., *U.A.B.C.S.) and 26 Oct (RAH, RAE); a juv. **Curlew Sandpiper** 25 Oct-3 Nov (first Regional and 2nd Mexican record; †RAE, vt. RAH, LS, GB, *U.A.B.C.S.); and an ad. Stilt Sandpiper 25 Oct-1 Nov (first confirmed record for B.C.S.; vt. RAH, RAE, LS, GB; *U.A.B.C.S.). Gulls in unexpected places included an ad. Heermann's at Cataviña 22 Oct (KLG et al.), ad. Yellow-footed on the Pacific coast at San Juanico (2) and Estero

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Regional coverage was better than ever this season, yielding 14 new state records, five new to the Region. Unprecedented numbers of vagrant passerines were found, mostly in *Eucalyptus* trees infested with sugary lerps covering the larvae of small insects. With the insects having spread south to at least Bahía Tortugas (no significant infestations were found in the Cape District), birders have found it worthwhile, if unaesthetic, to check stands of sickly *Eucalyptus* for lerp-fueled wanderers. Webster termed it "some of the best disgusting birding possible."

Hurricane *Juliette* crossed southern Baja California Sur 27-30 Sep and moved up the Gulf of California before dissipating in central Baja California on 2 Oct. Storm-driven waifs went unrecorded, but abundant rainfall apparently prompted opportunistic nesting by various landbirds in Baja California Sur: Common Ground-Doves at Ciudad Constitución 29 Oct (RAE), Costa's Hummingbirds east of San Ignacio 24 Oct (KLG), and Cactus Wrens near San Gregorio 28 Oct (RAH).

We welcome Roberto Carmona to our editorial team this season. He is part of an active group of biologists in the La Paz area whose contributions we look forward to in coming years.

San Gregorio (9) 28 Oct (RAE, RAH), and a worn ad. Black-legged Kittiwake one km s. of Todos Santos 27 Oct (KLG et al.; presumably left over from the previous flight, cf. *N. A. B.* 55: 483).

PIGEONS THROUGH THRUSHES

An imm. Band-tailed Pigeon at Rancho El Descanso 12-15 Oct (JEP et al.) represents one of few lowland records in the Region. Ruddy Ground-Doves were recorded in record numbers. A female at Cataviña 9 Oct (SNGH, vt. RAH), a pair at Bahía de Los Angeles 21 Oct (ph. M&GF), and an ad. male at Santa Teresita, B.C.S. 13 Oct (†MSM) were n. of previous Regional records. Birds at seven locations from La Purisima southward 25-30 Oct (RAE, vt. RAH) included a flock of 50+ at Villa Morelos 26-29 Oct. A Long-eared Owl at La Salina 21 Oct (REW) was presumably a fall migrant, the first such record for the Region. A **Common Nighthawk** flying s. along the beach s. of El Socorro, B.C. at dawn on 20 Oct (†REW) was heard well and seen in silhouette. The species is extremely rare as a migrant in California, and there are no previous Regional records. A female Xantus's Hummingbird at Cadejé 28 Oct (RAE) was at a new location for the species. Woodpeckers made news with a Lewis's Woodpecker at San Ignacio 24 Oct (first for B.C.S.; †KLG et al.); Williamson's Sapsuckers at El Rosario 15 Oct (REW), Cataviña 19-22 Oct (REW, †KLG et al.), and Rancho San José de Castro 6-17 Oct (SNGH, vt. RAH, REW); 3 Red-naped Sapsuckers on the Magdalena Plain 27 Oct (RAH, RAE); a Red-breasted Sapsucker at Bahía Tortugas 7 Oct (first for B.C.S.; vt. RAH, †SNGH); and a Downy Woodpecker at El Descanso 3 Oct (RAH, SNGH). Reports of Northern Flickers in n. B.C.S. were undocumented and the species remains unconfirmed in the state.

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at Rancho El Descanso 18 Sep (ph. †MJI, †DSC, vt. †RAH) was the 2nd recorded in B.C. and the Region. Noteworthy records of congeners included Least Flycatchers at La Misión 19 Sep (DSC, vt. RAH, †MJI), Bahía Tortugas 7 Oct (2-3; vt. RAH, SNGH), and Arroyo Hondo, n. of El Triunfo 26 Oct (KLG); single Hammond's Flycatchers near Salsipuedes, n. of Ensenada, 14 Oct (REW), and at Bahía Asunción 8 Oct (2nd for B.C.S.; SNGH); and a Dusky Flycatcher at Cataviña 18 Sep (MJI, DSC, vt. RAH). An early Eastern Phoebe at El Rosario 12 Oct (†MSM, JEP) represented the 5th Regional record. New to the Region was the **Great Crested Flycatcher** found at Bahía Tortugas 7 Oct (†SNGH, †RAH). Three Tropical Kingbirds were seen in Oct and a record 9+ Thick-billed Kingbirds were at five traditional

sites from Arroyo Hondo southward 24-26 Oct (RAE, RAH, KLG et al.). We suspect the latter species is now resident in the s. Cape District, although unrecorded Mar-Sep. Three Western Kingbirds in n. B.C.S. in Oct were overshadowed by an Eastern Kingbird at Bahía Asunción 6-8 Oct (SNGH, vt. RAH) and a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at San Juanico, B.C.S. 28 Oct (RAE, vt. RAH).

Vireos were represented well with 4-5 Plumbeous Vireos noted in Oct; possible nominate (eastern) Warbling Vireos at Bahía Tortugas 7 Oct (†RAH, †SNGH) and Santiago 25 Oct (RAH, RAE); Philadelphia Vireos at Punta Banda 10-15 Oct (vt. RAH, RAE), Maneadero Plain 10 Oct (†RAH, SNGH), and Guerrero Negro 23 Oct (first for B.C.S.; ph. †KLG et al.); a Red-eyed Vireo at El Sauzal, B.C. 10-11 Oct (vt. RAH et al.); and Yellow-green Vireos at Bahía Tortugas 7 Oct (SNGH) and Punta Banda 10 Oct (SNGH, vt. RAH). The peninsula's first **Winter Wren** record came from Cataviña 19 Oct (†REW). A Townsend's Solitaire at Cataviña 19-21 October (REW et al.) was at low elevation and was as far s. as ever recorded on the Region's mainland. An American Robin at Guerrero Negro 23 Oct (MUE, KLG) furnished one of few records for B.C.S. A Varied Thrush near Ejido Zarahemla 15 Oct (vt. REW) was in the northwest, where small numbers occur with some regularity in fall and winter.

WARBLERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

Tennessee Warblers were unusually plentiful, with 16 or 17 found during 5-20 Oct (vt. RAH, vt. REW et al.). Two Virginia's Warblers at Punta Banda 19 Sep (RAH et al.) were the only ones recorded, while a total of 5 Lucy's Warblers 18 Sep-14 Oct was more than expected. Northern Parulas were found at Bahía Asunción 6 Oct (†RAH, SNGH), Bahía Tortugas 7 Oct (SNGH, RAH), El Socorro 9 Oct (SNGH, RAH), and on the Maneadero Plain 11 Oct (MSM, JEP), bringing the number of fall records to 10. Five Chestnut-sided Warblers found 19 Sep-23 Oct included 2 in B.C.S.: Rancho San José de Castro 7 Oct (SNGH, vt. RAH) and w. of Gavilán 23 Oct (KLG et al.). Five Magnolia Warblers found 19 Sep-21 Oct (vt. REW et al.) included one in B.C.S.: Bahía Asunción 8 Oct (SNGH, vt. RAH). An imm. female **Cape May Warbler** at Punta Banda 23 Sep (†RAE) provided a first for B.C. and only the 2nd peninsular record. It was an exceptional fall for Black-throated Blue Warblers, with 9 or 10 found 6-20 Oct (vt. RAH et al.). Black-throated Green Warblers were found as follows: Punta Banda 23 Sep (RAE); up to 3 on the Maneadero Plain 10-30 Oct+ (RAH et al.); and Guerrero Negro 13 Oct (MSM).

Six Blackburnian Warblers at coastal locations



This Red-breasted Sapsucker at Bahía Tortugas 7 October 2001 was the first for Baja California Sur. Photograph from digital video by Robert A. Hamilton.

17 Sep-18 Oct (†DSC, †MJI, vt. REW et al.) included the first for B.C.S.: Guerrero Negro 5 Oct (†RAH, SNGH); Rancho San José de Castro 6-7 Oct (SNGH, vt. RAH); and Bahía Tortugas 18 Oct (REW). The peninsula's 3rd Yellow-throated Warbler, at Boca de San Jacinto, B.C.S. 24 Oct (vt. †RAH, RAE), belonged to the more expected race, *albiflora*. An early imm. male Pine Warbler foraging in lerp-infested *Eucalyptus* on the Maneadero Plain 11 Oct (†JEP, †MSM) was the first to be confirmed on the peninsula. Six Prairie Warblers 17 Sep-30 Oct (†REW, vt. RAH et al.) was a healthy sum, whereas 7 Palm Warblers in B.C. 9-31 Oct was, if anything, a bit low. A Bay-breasted Warbler at Punta Banta 14 Oct (†REW) was the 3rd for B.C. and the peninsula. A flood of Blackpoll Warblers poured through coastal areas 18 Sep-23 Oct, 15 being recorded in B.C. and 3 in n. B.C.S. Black-and-white Warblers, which winter regularly in B.C.S., were comparatively scarce, with up to 22 birds about evenly split between the two states 19 Sep-30 Oct. American Redstarts were more abundant, with 23 in B.C. 18 Sep-30 Oct (most probably migrants) and 24 in B.C.S. 5-30 Oct (many presumably wintering).

Building on 10 previous peninsular records, an imm. female Prothonotary Warbler at La Salina 17 Sep (RAH, DSC, †MJI) was followed by an imm. male there 23 Sep (RAE), and an imm. male was at Guerrero Negro 8 Oct (vt. RAH, SNGH). After just seven previous fall records in the Region, Ovenbirds were found at Cataviña 18 Sep (MJI, DSC, vt. RAH), Punta Prieta 16-19 Oct (vt. REW), Bahía Tortugas 7 Oct (SNGH, vt. RAH), and Ciudad Constitución 27 Oct (RAE). A **Connecticut Warbler** at El Sauzal 17 Sep (†MJI, †DSC, RAH) provided the first record for B.C. and 3rd for the peninsula. Belding's Yellowthroats were found at two locales where

not recorded by Rodríguez-E. et al. (*Animal Conservation* 2: 77–84, 1999): a male at Santiago 26 Oct (KLG), and a male and female together at Cadejé 28 Oct (RAE, vt. RAH). A male Hooded Warbler at La Salina 21 Oct (REW) was the 2nd for B.C. (both fall), while a female near Gavilán 5–16 Oct (SNGH, vt. RAH et al.) was the 3rd fall record for B.C.S. Single Canada Warblers at Santa Inés 18 Sep (DSC, vt. RAH, MJI) and Punta Banda 20–21 Oct (†REW) brought B.C. even with B.C.S., the two states now claiming four records each, all in fall. Two Yellow-breasted Chats at Cataviña 18 Sep (RAH et al.), one there 16 Oct (REW), and another at Bahía Tortugas 7 Oct (RAH, SNGH), were away from known wintering areas to the s. and presumably migrants.

A female Hepatic Tanager at Rancho El Descanso 18 Sep (†DSC, ph. †MJI, RAH) was the 3rd for B.C. and the peninsula. Summer Tanagers were present in force, with at least 20 split evenly between the two states (ph. KLG et al.). Four Scarlet Tanagers were found 15–23 Oct (vt. †REW, †KLG et al.); another at San José del Cabo 25 Oct (RAE, vt. RAH) was the first for the s. third of the peninsula. One or more Spotted Towhees were far s. at Cataviña 18 Sep and 9 Oct

(RAH et al.), and one at Punta Prieta 16–19 Oct (REW) was even farther south. An imm. Golden-crowned Sparrow at Punta Eugenia 18 Oct (REW) was a Vizcaíno Desert first. A Slate-colored Junco and up to 3 Gray-headed Juncos were at Punta Banda 14–21 Oct (REW). One of the latter had a dark maxilla and paler throat like *J.h. dorsalis*, but that subspecies is essentially sedentary on the breeding grounds in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.

At least 10 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks—9 of them in B.C.—exceeded expectations. Five or 6 Indigo Buntings in the Region 18 Sep–17 Oct was a typical number, whereas 11+ Dickcissels throughout the peninsula 18 Sep–24 Oct (ph. M&GF, vt. RAH, †MJI et al.) nearly doubled the previous high seasonal total. Bobolinks were also relatively numerous, with 8 on the central peninsula 5–25 Oct (ph. M&GF, vt. RAH et al.). A female Bronzed Cowbird at Rancho El Descanso 18 Sep (†DSC, †MJI, vt. †RAH) represented just the 3rd record away from the Río Colorado delta. Orioles were reported as follows: Orchards at Bahía Tortugas 7 Oct (SNGH, RAH) and on the San Quintín Plain 12 Oct (JEP, MSM); Bullock's at Santa Inés 5 Oct (SNGH) and Rancho San José

de Castro 7 Oct (SNGH, RAH); Baltimore's at La Bufadora 4 Oct (RAH, SNGH), on the Maneadero Plain 14 Oct (MSM), and at Punta Banda 14 Oct (JEP, MSM); and Scott's on the Maneadero Plain 17 Sep (RAH et al.), at La Bufadora 4 Oct (RAH), 2 at Santa Inés 5 Oct (RAH, SNGH), and 4 at Misión Santo Domingo 15 Oct (REW).

EXOTICS

An ad. male African Darter (*Anhinga [melanogaster] rufa*) at Ensenada 24 Sep–3 Dec (RAE, ph. EM, RAH) adds to several recent records from *San Diego* and *Imperial*, California

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Mexico

Héctor Gómez de Silva

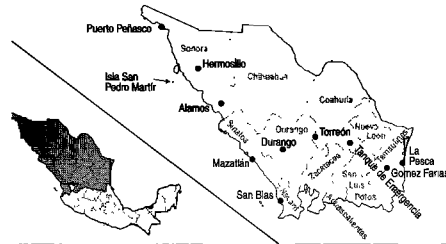
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Fall 2001 continued to provide records of birds outside their distributions mapped in Howell and Webb (1995), including a few first state records, as well as migrants and vagrants. Birder coverage continues to be spotty, with no reports from large parts of the country. A large difference between knowledge of bird distribution and seasonality in Mexico and such knowledge in the U.S. and Canada is that, in most areas of Mexico, months or years may pass between visits by birders. A much smaller proportion of those vagrants and accidentals that are out there actually become reported in Mexico. Even the relatively intensely birded Mexico City continues to yield new records (this fall produced the first record of Herring Gull in the D.F.).

Birders living in Torreón, Coahuila continue to find vagrants in their area and adjacent parts of Durango, though many more vagrants were found in spring. Perhaps the most exciting accidental reported this fall was the Ruff found by John Forcey near Puerto Escondido, Oaxaca. This species had not been reliably recorded in Mexico until very recently, though there are accepted

recent records from Yucatan and from Baja California (Howell et al. *Annotated checklist of the birds of Baja California and Baja California Sur*. Monographs in Field Ornithology, in press) prior to this Oaxaca record.

NORTHERN MEXICO



HERONS THROUGH OWLS

One Boat-billed Heron was sighted in Taninul (around 20 km e. of Ciudad Valles), S.L.P. 15 Nov (BC): An ad. **White Ibis** was spotted 27 Oct catching and eating a large river shrimp in shallow waters near La Isla on the lower Nazas R., Dgo.; it was accompanied by a couple of White-faced Ibis (FVP, FGE). A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was seen well from the railroad tracks along the Abelardo L. Rodríguez dam in Hermosillo, Son. 26 Nov (JMB, DN, BO). Three ducks resembling female **Mallards** were near San Pedro, Chih. 1 Sep

(HGdS). Five **Harris's Hawks** were on telephone poles between Janos and the turnoff to Casa de Janos, Chih. 30 Aug, and 3 were between Janos and Nuevo Casas Grandes, Chih. 8 Sep (HGdS). Passage of Swainson's Hawks was evidenced by dozens, including juvs., seen daily roosting on bushes—and a group of 35 once seen feeding on the ground—around San Pedro through the first week of Sep, with peak numbers on 3 & 4 Sep (HGdS). A Golden Eagle was seen around Rancho El Cuervo, Chih. 4 Sep (HGdS).

Around 1000 Long-billed Curlews were reported in a field at Hedionda Grande, Coah. 4 Nov (DH). A flock estimated to contain 225 Thick-billed Parrots was seen 20 Nov feeding on pine cones in Dgo. along Highway 40, roughly 11 km towards Ciudad Durango from "La Espina del Diablo" on the continental divide (JMB, DN, BO). The breeding season of Maroon-fronted Parrots is Jul–Oct. This year, the species had relatively low breeding success, with only 8 pairs raising fledglings in El Taray, Coah., the largest breeding colony, whereas 21 pairs raised fledglings in both 1998 and 2000 (CMC). A few Maroon-fronted Parrots were seen in their wintering grounds at Peña Nevada, N.L. in mid-Oct, which is unusually early (CMC). One Vermiculated Screech-Owl was seen near Gómez Farias, Tamps. 1 Oct (DP).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

A very active **Tufted Flycatcher** was seen in Bosque Venustiano Carranza, a city park in Torreón, Coah