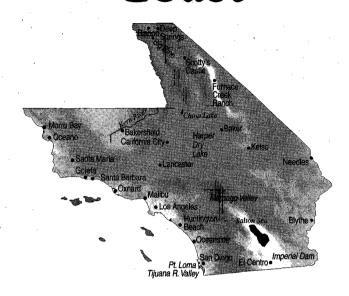
Southern Pacific Coast



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nly a day or two of significant precipitation Occurred through the entire period, and the twelve-month period ending 30 June 2002 was the driest on record in Los Angeles and many other stations in the Region. Droughtdeciduous vegetation characterizes most of the shrublands that dominate natural habitat in the Region, and these plants were largely leafless through the spring; annual growth was practically nonexistent in the deserts and chaparral areas, and spring migrants were thus largely deprived of their most important foraging areas. What resulted was heavier-than-normal use by migrants of landscaped residential areas, parklands, and desert "oases," as well as a concentration of migrants at natural riparian areas. Flights of many warblers and other species were characterized as "spectacular" and "umprecedented," and exceptional numbers of

Calliope Hummingbirds were noted in the coastal and desert lowlands. The season saw many notable early and late dates and concentrations. It is difficult to tease away the drought impacts that concentrated migrants at a few well-worked localities; it might be this concentrating effect that led to early and late birds being more readily encountered (rather than truly extended migrations). A couple of noteworthy seabirds were found, but the passage of shorebirds was somewhat uneventful.

Abbreviations: C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. Kern Co.); E.A.F.B. (Edwards Air Force Base, se. Kern); F.C.R. (Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Monument, Inyo); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park in extreme e. Kern); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, Riverside); S.E.S.S. (s. end of the Salton Sea, Imperial); S.F.K.R.P. (South Fork Kern River Preserve near Weldon, Kern); V.A.F.B. (Vandenberg Air Roce Base near Lompoc, Santa Barbara). Because 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 (C.B.R.C.) review list is forwarded to the C.B.R.C. Secretary and archived at the Western Foundation for Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

LOONS THROUGH HAWKS

A Yellow-billed Loon present on the Arizona side of Havasu L. since Feb moved to the San Bernardino side 4 Mar—8 Apr (MBM, NMo) One of the 2 Red-necked Grebes wintering on L. Perris, Riverside was still present 11 Mar (CAM), A Laysan Albatross 109.5 km w. of Pt Conception, Santa Barbara 27 Apr (JoB) was in an area where this species is probably of regular occurrence. A Murphy's Petrel 104 km w. of Pt. Conception 27 Apr (TMcG, DMH) and another seen from West Cove Pt on San Clemente I. 19 Apr (BLS) are 2 of only a few ever seen in s. California waters. Two Manx Shearwaters well seen from West Cove Pt on San Clemente I. 4 Mar (BLS) add to the evergrowing list of records for the Region.

The subad. Masked Booby present at Dana Point, Orange since 9 Feb was last seen 28 Apr (MJ, CD) and joined by the released rehabilitated bird 25 Feb—24 Mar (DRW). A Brown Pelican in flight high over Big Bear L. in the San Bernardino Mts. 21 May (VL) was an unexpected sight. A Neotropic Cormorant, a species for which there are only 10 previous records for California, was in Blythe, Riverside 12 Apr (RHi).

A Little Blue Heron at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, Orange 9 May+ (PK) and another spending its 2nd summer in the Prado Basin Riverside/San Bernardino 10 May+ (JEP) were the only 2 reported away from coastal San Diego. A Tricolored Heron in Goleta, Santa Barbara 12-21 May (RPH) and another at the Tijuana R. mouth, San Diego 2-28 May (MH, KCM) were the only ones reported Reddish Egret at Pt. Mugu, Ventura was still present 19 Mar (DBr), the last of the 2 at the San Diego R. mouth remained through 22 May (MB), and single birds were near Oceanside, San Diego 14 Apr-8 May (BF), Chula Vista, San Diego 5-21 May (GCH), and Coronado, San Diego 5 May (GCH). The Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in La Jolla, San Diego 6 Dec was still present 4 May (SW). The long-time resident Wood Stork near Escondido, San Diego was still present 17 Mar (PDelP).

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck at S.E.S.S. 27 Apr (CMcG) was the only one reported. A female Harlequin Duck flew n. past Pt. Piedras Blancas, San Luis Obispo 16 Apr (BAB) The only Long-tailed Duck reported was one moving n. with thousands of Surf Scoters off Pt Mugu, Ventura 23 Mar (DPe).

A Northern Goshawk in the San Bernardino Mts. near Baldwin L. 30 May (CMcG) was in an area where this species could nest A Mississippi Kite, a rare spring straggler to California, put in a brief appearance at Blythe 27 May (RHi). A Harris's Hawk of unknown

origin has been present around Blythe since 17 Mar (RHi). The Broad-winged Hawk that spent the winter on San Clemente I. was still present at the end of the period (BLS). Fifty Swainson's Hawks near Borrego Springs, San Diego 16 Mar (HS) was the largest flock reported this spring. Single Zone-tailed Hawks in San Diego were near L. Henshaw 30 Mar (RBR), near L Murray 25 Mar (DBo) and over Spring Valley 11 Apr (MH), and the wintering bird at San Clemente, Orange remained through 19 Mar (MS). A Ferruginous Hawk on San Clemente I. 6 Mar (NMu) was only the 2nd to have reached this offshore location.

CRANES THROUGH TERNS

A calling Sandhill Crane that passed over Blythe 12 May (RHi) was exceptionally late for a migrant. The wintering Pacific Golden-Plovers at the Tijuana R. mouth remained to at least 26 Mar (RTP). Three Mountain Plovers at Owens L., Inyo 7 Mar (MP) were unexpected. An American Oystercatcher was on San Nicolas I. 21 May (WW); this species's range extends n. to n. Baja California, where hybridization with Black Oystercatchers is not uncommon. Single hybrid American x Black Oystercatchers were in Laguna Beach, Orange 8 May (KLP) and Long Beach, Los Angeles 9 Mar (KLG), 2 flew past Newport Beach, Orange 28 Apr (JEP), and another was found paired with a Black Oystercatcher on San Clemente I. in May (NMu).

Since few Solitary Sandpipers are found along the s. California coast in spring, one near Nacimiento L., San Luis Obispo 21 Apr (RHZ) was of note; single birds at Borrego Springs 13-20 Apr (AME, GCH) and near Lancaster, Los Angeles 28 Apr (LLi), a minimum of 6 around Blythe between 21 Apr and 29 May (RHi), 8 in e Kern after 12 Apr (JCW) and one at F.C.R. 25 May (MSanM) were in the e. part of the Region, where considered regular in small numbers. A Wandering Tattler, a casual straggler to the interior, was at S.E.S.S. 12 May (MBM). A Black Turnstone at N.E.S.S. 30 Apr—1 May (GMcC, CMcG) was the only one reported inland. A Stilt Sandpiper at the Tulare Lake Drainage District 5 May (RHa) and another at C.L. 17 May (SSt) were only the 2nd and 3rd to be found in Kern in spring. The only Ruff reported was a female near Lakeview, Riverside 20 Apr (EAC).

About 25 Franklin's Gulls were found migrating along the coast, with 5 passing Pt. Vicente, Los Angeles 27-28 Apr (KLa, MSanM), at least 4 in Goleta between 28 Apr and 18 May (DMC, JH) and 15 flying n. past Pt. Piedras Blancas between 10 Apr and 16 May (RAR); however, 15 in the e. part of the Region

between 13 Apr and 31 May were fewer than expected. A Heermann's Gull at C.L. 29 May (SSt) was inland and away from the Salton Sea. The Lesser Black-backed Gull spending its 5th winter at N.E.S.S. remained through 18 Mar (HY). An ad. Western Gull at Owens Lake 28 Mar (JZ, CH) was the 2nd to be found in Inyo. Single Glaucous Gulls flew n. past Pt. Piedras Blancas on 10 & 17 Apr (RAR). High numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes were along the n. coast in Mar, as illustrated by 8 off Pt. Mugu 12 Mar (PR), 160 off Goleta 14 Mar (DMC), and 5000+ off Pt. Piedras Blancas Mar 18 (RAR), but quickly moved n., with single birds at Pt. Piedras Blancas 11 Apr (RAR) and Santa Barbara 5 May (PAGa) being the latest Two Least Terns were found far inland, and away from the Salton Sea, with one at C.L. 16 May (SSt) and the other at F.C.R. 19 May (JDB).

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo on the coast near the mouth of Honda Cr., Santa Barbara was present on the remarkably early date of 24 May (MAH). A Eurasian Collared-Dove near Bishop 8 Mar (J & DP), a pair remaining in Ridgecrest since May 2001 (LLa), another at G.H.P. 14-25 Apr (TEW), up to 9 near Blythe 19 May+ (RHi), and 3 in Calipatria 4 May (GMcC) had all most likely reached these locations from areas e. of California; one in Chula Vista 29 May-1 Jun (GMcC) was the first to be found in San Diego, and introduced populations in coastal Ventura and Santa Barbara are expanding. Two male Ruddy Ground-Doves were still present at F.C.R. 11 May (T & JH), 4 remained at different locations around Blythe to 8 Mar (RHi) and 27 Mar (RHi), the last of the 2 near El Centro, Imperial remained through 15 Mar (KZK), and a female was near Nipton, San Bernardino 14 May (JS). An Inca Dove at Menifee, Riverside 1 Apr (ES) and another at Yucca Valley, San Bernardino 28 May (HK) were farther to the nw. than previous records.

A Common Nighthawk in Independence, Inyo 18 May (A&LK) appears to have established the earliest date for a spring migrant in California. A Common Poorwill near El Centro 28 Mar (KZK) was an early spring migrant. Calliope Hummingbirds were far more numerous than normal along the coast, with an exceptionally early male on Pt. Loma, San Diego 9 Mar (REW), followed by counts of up to 12 in a day between 22 Mar and 11 May, and a very late straggler there on 20 May (REW); elsewhere along the coast and foothills "record high numbers" were in Orange between 7 Apr and 11 May (DRW), "unprecedented numbers" were in Los Angeles in late

Apr and early May with a migrant noted in Tujunga as late as 25 May (KLG), more than 10 were in *Ventura* between 10 and 30 Apr (WW), about 50 in *Santa Barbara* between 3 Apr and 15 May (DMC), and one was at Atascadero, *San Luis Obispo* 10 May (RHZ). Inland, "unprecedented numbers" passed through e *Kern*, as indicated by about 40 at G.H.P. between 6 Apr and 12 May (TEW).

More than the expected number of Acorn Woodpeckers was found away from areas of normal occurrence, with 4 in e. *Kern* between 13 Apr and 11 May (KLe, TEW), one at Cactus City, *Riverside* 13 May (CMcG), one on Pt Loma 12 May (REW), and another on San Clemente I. 23-27 Mar (JHP).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CORVIDS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher in Irvine, Orange 8 Apr (MSanM) was rather early, and 8 birds in Long Beach, Los Angeles 8 May (KSG) was a large concentration; singles at S.E.S.S. 2 Jun (GMcC) and near El Centro, Imperial 9 Jun (KZK) were the latest spring records for the Imperial Valley. A Western Wood-Pewee at G.H.P. 14 Apr (TEW) was the earliest ever for Kern. The only Least Flycatcher was a singing bird at S.F.K.R.P. 30 May+ (MW). Four Dusky Flycatchers were identified along the coast, where scarce in spring, 1-20 May (RoH, JEP, DRW). Early migrant Gray Flycatchers included one at Butterbredt Spring 6 Apr (TEW, the earliest ever for Kern) and 2 at Birchim Canyon near Bishop, Inyo 14 Apr (J&DP). Perhaps due to drought conditions, Say's Phoebes lingered and even nested at more coastal localities than usual; details to follow in the summer report The wintering Dusky-capped Flycatcher in San Diego was last seen 20 Apr (ML); the last certain report of the wintering Brown-crested Flycatcher at H.C.P. was 15 Mar (PK). A Cassin's Kingbird, casual in e. Kern, was at C L 26 Apr (SSt); the first of the spring in Inyo was w. of Bishop 26 Apr (J&DP). A Western Kingbird in Independence, Inyo 26 Mar (RAH) was early for that n. locality. Eastern Kingbirds, rare but regular in late spring, were at C.L. 15-16 May (SSt) and California City 7-8 Jun (MMcQ).

Rare as a migrant, a Bell's Vireo of the Pacific Coast subspecies *pusillus* was on Pt Loma 6 May (REW); recovering breeding populations continue to reoccupy breding sites, e.g., a singing bird (and later pair) at Harbor L. near San Pedro, *Los Angeles* 8 May+ (SSo, KLa). A Plumbeous Vireo at G.H.P. 12-13 Apr (TEW) was by far the earliest for e. *Kern*, 2 Cassin's Vireos near El Centro 28 Feb (KZK) were the earliest for *Imperial*. A Yellow-throated Vireo, casual in spring, was at G.H.P. on 13

Apr (DR), California's earliest spring record by a day A Philadelphia Vireo at well-worked El Dorado Park, Long Beach 21 Mar—11 Apr (KSG; BED, TEW) certainly wintered somewhere nearby, as the spring vagrants to California have appeared no earlier than 23 May Three Red-eyed Vireos, a decreasing vagrant to the Region, were found in *Kern*: Indian Wells Canyon 15 May (DLaB) and G H P. 24 May (TEW) and 31 May—2 Jun (TEW); another was at F.C.R. 24 May (AH, VH)

A Steller's Jay (subspecies undetermined) at Deep Springs, *Inyo* 24 May (AH, VH) was well outside breeding habitat. Up to 6 American Crows in California City 23 Mar—8 Jun (TEW) were outside normal range.

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS

Two calling Winter Wrens along Pine Cr. near Bishop 11 May (J&DP) may indicate local breeding. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet on San Nicolas I. 20-22 May (RoH) was quite late. Breeding success of California Gnatcatchers was thought to be quite low due to drought conditions; of interest was a single bird in Huntington Beach, *Orange* in Apr and May (LDT), isolated by 8 km of urban habitat from the nearest known breeding localities.

Late Townsend's Solitaires in coastal areas included birds on San Clemente I. 8 (JHP) & 19 May (TTH) and on Pt. Loma 8 May (REW); 10 at G.H.P. 20 Apr (TEW) was a very high count. Swainson's Thrushes appeared early over a wide part of the Region; record or nearrecord early dates included one at San Simeon, San Luis Obispo 6 Apr (RAR), one in Pacific Palisades, Los Angeles 8 Apr (RB), one in Irvine 14 Apr (DRW), one at G. H. P. 21 Apr (TEW), and one near Bishop, Inyo 2 May (J&DP). Late Varied Thrushes along the coast included one at San Simeon 4 May (RAR) and one on Pt. Loma 10 May (REW). Gray Catbirds, casual in spring, were at Pt. Loma 27-28 May (REW) and Ridgecrest, Kern 29 May (JS). A Brown Thrasher at Eaton Canyon, Los Angeles 2 Mar-5 May (JF) was present for the 2nd consecutive late winter/early spring period; the wintering bird in Moreno Valley, Riverside was last reported 25 Mar (JG). A Curve-billed Thrasher at Otay Mesa, San Diego 29 Apr (PU) was close to the international border and considered a probable escapee by the observer.

The migration of western warblers was spectacular, due to the concentrating effects of oases, landscaped parks, and gardens in an extremely dry year when natural scrub habitats were parched. With birds concentrated at wellworked localities, some interesting early and late dates were obtained as well, though it is

debatable whether these truly reflect early or late movements. A Nashville Warbler at Ridgecrest 21 Mar (JS) was the earliest ever for Kern. A Townsend's Warbler near El Centro 6 Apr (KZK) was the earliest spring migrant ever recorded in Imperial, and 2-3 at V.A.F.B. 3 Jun (CF) were very late. The Hermit Warbler migration was widely considered to be the most impressive in memory, with major coastal waves late in the first week of May as evidenced by counts of 70+ in Long Beach, Los Angeles 6-7 May (KSG) and 45 at H.C.P. 5 May (DRW), and a smaller wave late in the 3rd week of May. A concentration of 2000+ Wilson's Warblers in just a small portion of landscaped G.H.P. 29 Apr (KSG) must have been a spectacular sight.

Among our scarce and vagrant warblers, 5 Tennessee Warblers along the coast 10 May-2 Jun and one at Ft. Piute, San Bernardino 24 May (JS) were perhaps a bit below average. A Virginia's Warbler in Inyokern 4 May (JS) was only the 2nd well-documented spring record for Kern; also unusual was a migrant in Bishop 3 May (J&DP), whereas one near Riverside 14-17 Mar (JG) had certainly wintered locally. Thirteen Northern Parulas 26 Apr-11 Jun (7 coastal and 6 on the deserts) was about normal; quite early was one on Pt. Loma 13 Apr (DF). The wintering Black-throated Blue Warbler in Newport Beach, Orange was last seen 15 Apr (M&BN), and wintering Chestnut-sided Warblers in Los Angeles were last seen 7 Apr (RB) in El Segundo and 21 Apr near Glendale (RB). The only Magnolia Warbler was a male at F.C.R. 26 May (SBT). A Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler on San Nicolas I. 20 May (WW) was a vagrant from e. North America. Of the Black-throated Green Warblers wintering in San Diego, the National City bird stayed latest, being last seen on 18 Apr (DWA).

A Blackburnian Warbler at Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo 5-6 Apr (AW, CAM) must certainly have wintered locally; a spring vagrant male was in Afton Canyon, San Bernardino 13 May (JS) and another was at F.C.R. 24 May (AH, VH). Yellow-throated Warblers, casual in spring, were on San Clemente I. 3 May (JTB), Goleta 23 May (NS), and the Prado Basin s. of Chino, San Bernardino 30 May (DhP). The Grace's Warbler present since Sep on Pt. Loma was last seen 20 Apr (SSm). Spring vagrant Palm Warblers were at Butterbredt Springs 4 May (AH), 13 May (RAB) and 17 May (MSanM), at G.H.P. 16-18 May (ES) and 12 Jun (KSG), in Bishop 7 May (CH), and on San Clemente I. 15 Apr (NMu); the wintering bird in San Diego was last seen 20 Apr (ML). The last of the wintering Pine Warblers in Long Beach, Los Angeles was seen 15 Apr (KSG); a male at Pt. Loma 3 Apr (VJ) likely wintered locally, as the few spring vagrants for California have been in late May and early Jun (despite the fact this is an early migrant in the East). A Blackpoll Warbler at G.H.P. 10 Jun (KSG) was the 4th spring record for Kern.

Twelve Black-and-white Warblers were noted in the interior 29 Apr-5 Jun, and another 13 were at coastal or island localities 14 Apr-5 Jun. The only Prothonotary Warbler was in Ridgecrest 3 May (LSu); a Worm-eating Warbler was reported without documentation from Morongo Valley 18-26 May (EAC). Eleven to 12 Ovenbirds 19 May-12 Jun was about average; 10 of these were on the deserts. A singing male Northern Waterthrush 20-21 Apr in Huntington Beach (JEP) was followed by one in Wilmington, Los Angeles 7 May (TM) and 12 on the deserts 8 May-5 Jun. A Kentucky Warbler, casual in spring, was at G.H.P. 2 Jun (TEW). A male Mourning Warbler was at F.C.R. 26 May (SBT); only about 15% of California records are for spring. A Hooded Warbler at Cottonwood Springs, Riverside 27-28 Mar (MO'B) was extraordinarily early; birds on San Nicolas I. 21 May (RoH), in Goleta 22 May (DMC), and at Horse Thief Springs in the Kingston Mtns., San Bernardino 3 Jun (JS) were in a more expected time frame. A female Canada Warbler was in Yucca Valley, San Bernardino 24 May (JS). A Painted Redstart was at Morongo Valley 24-28 Apr (LSw), along with Kern's 3rd through 5th records at G.H P 13 Apr (DR) and 8 May (JLF) and at Ridgecrest 29 Apr-1 May (LSu); the wintering bird in Palm Desert, Riverside was last seen 23 Mar (DG).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A female Hepatic Tanager on Pt. Loma 11 Jun (REW) was well out of range. An ad male Scarlet Tanager in Tustin 13 May (W&VG) was the 2nd spring record for *Orange*. Western Tanagers near Olancha (JLW) and Bishop (J&DP) 14 Apr were the earliest for *Inyo* by four days.

Small numbers of Clay-colored Sparrows were noted in the coastal counties, with a wintering bird in Santa Barbara remaining to 13 May; one in Irvine 8 May (RAE) was the 2nd spring record for *Orange*. Several Black-throated Sparrows wandered w. to the coast, with 4 in coastal Los Angeles 18 Apr—4 Jun, and singles in Tustin 18 May (RoH), near Corona 15 May (JEP), Pt. Loma 13 Apr (SSm), and Leucadia, *San Diego* 4 May (SB). Lark Buntings were on San Clemente I. 24 May (JTB) and F.C.R. 24-26 May (AH, VH, SBT). Two migrant *schistacea*-

group Fox Sparrows at G.H.P. 23 May (ILD) seemed quite late. Late migrant Swamp Sparrows on the desert were at G.H.P. 4-5 May (TEW) and 22-23 May (MSanM, JLD) and Shoshone, Inyo 24 May (MSanM). A Lincoln's Sparrow near Castaic, Los Angeles 16 May (BED) was late for the coastal slope. Several coastal wintering White-throated Sparrows remained to Apr and even early May; 8 migrants were on the deserts 3-24 May, and a very late bird was near Riverside 25-27 May (JG). A Harris's Sparrow was in Atascadero, San Luis Obispo 6 May (RHZ). Two to 3 Chestnutcollared Longspurs near Independence, Inyo 20 Apr (A&LK) were among the latest ever found ın the Region.

A count of introduced Northern Cardinals in the Whittier, Los Angeles area on 23 Mar yielded 12 birds, with about half of suitable habitat censused (MCL). Two singing Pyrrhuloxias were near Palo Verde, Imperial 27 May (KB); breeding has been documented in desert washes some 100 km to the north. At least 17 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were in coastal areas 22 Apr-9 Jun, and a few birds earlier in Apr were known or suspected to be wintering locally; another 9 were on the deserts 15 May-13 Jun, with an exceptionally early (possibly wintering?) male in Palm Springs 25 Mar (ES). There were 13 coastal Indigo Buntings 5 May-9 Jun, and 26 on the deserts 26 Apr-2 Jun. A Lazuli Bunting at Butterbredt Spring 6 Apr (TEW) was the earliest ever for Kern. A Dickcissel in Rovana 11 May (J&DP) was the earliest spring record for Inyo.

Up to 3 Bobolinks at F.C.R. 24-26 May (AH, VH, SBT) were expected, but a male near Seeley 4-5 Jun (BM) was only the 2nd for Imperial. Four Bronzed Cowbirds in Brawley 2 Mar (J&DP) were the earliest ever for Imperial, and northerly birds were Kern's 3rd at Ridgecrest 7 May (LSu) and a pair at F.C.R. 25 May (MJSanM). An ad. male Orchard Oriole in Los Osos, San Luis Obispo 17 Mar (JMcD) was not known to have wintered. Spring vagrant Baltimore Orioles were on San Clemente I. 30 May (BLS), at F.C.R. 26 May (SBT), and in California City, Kern 27 May (JCW); 2 in Ventura 5 Apr (OA), one on Pt. Loma 24 Mar-8 Apr (DL), and one in Rancho Cucamonga, San Bernardino 29 Mar (JA) had likely wintered locally. A Bullock's Oriole at Diaz L. 21 Mar (JLW) was the 2nd earliest spring record for Inyo. Three Scott's Orioles, scarce on the coast, were at Pt. Loma 7-28 May (REW). Fifty Red Crossbills on Frazier Mountain, Ventura 12 Mar (JT) included nest-building birds.

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