

Southern California



Guy McCaskie | Kimball L. Garrett

This spring drew raves from both coastal and desert birders for the volume of western migrants moving through the Region from late March through May, but it was one of the poorest in recent decades for quantity and quality of vagrants. Several especially impressive waves of migrants were noted during the period, including a large movement of passerines through the mountains and foothills of San Diego County 22 April to 4 May, a large movement through the Imperial Valley on 27 April, and an impressive passage of Wilson's Warblers and other songbirds on 7 May in Orange County. Especially unusual for the Region were the 30+ tideline carcasses of songbirds at Coronado, San Diego County 20 May reported by Matthew Sadowski and Thomas Myers, suggesting unfavorable conditions for migrants offshore at that time; perhaps related to this event, an especially strong nocturnal migration was noted on the nights of 17 and 18 May on San Clemente Island.

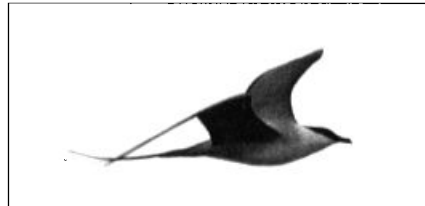
Precipitation was somewhat above normal for the period, though the total for the entire rainy season ended up well below average. The typical late spring coastal overcast was limited, and by the period's end, the expected "June gloom" was an almost complete no-show. Noteworthy records included yet another spring Laysan Albatross sighting on the southern deserts, two Upland Sandpipers, and two Broad-billed Hummingbirds.

Abbreviations: B.S. (Butterbredt Spring, s. end of the Sierra Nevada above Cantil, e. Kern); C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. Kern); E.A.F.B. (Edwards A.F.B., se. Kern); F.C.R. (Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley N.P., Inyo); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park, e. Kern); N.E.S.S. (n. end of Salton Sea, Riverside); P.P. (Piute Ponds on Edwards A.F.B., ne. Los Angeles); S.E.S.S. (s. end of Salton Sea, Imperial). Museum collections abbreviated in the text are: SDNHM

(San Diego Natural History Museum). 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 B.R.C. (C.B.R.C.) review list is forwarded to the Secretary and archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

A flock of 24 Brant near Imperial, Imperial 8 Apr (GMcC), 35 at N.E.S.S. 7 May (LS), and flocks of 11 and 15 flying northward through the Borrego Valley, San Diego 9 & 12 Apr (PJ, JMa) were along the route followed by this species migrating from the Gulf of California to the Pacific coast. An exceptionally late migrant Eurasian Wigeon was near Lone Pine, Inyo 14 May (T&JH). A flock of 61 Surf Scoters on L. Henshaw, San Diego 16 Mar (BKS) had been grounded by inclement weather when migrating from the Gulf of California to



One of three Long-tailed Jaegers found around the San Juan Seamount 96 kilometers southwest of San Miguel Island, California in late April 2006, this bird was photographed 28 April. Photograph by Walter Carnahan.

the Pacific. A Black Scoter, exceptionally rare inland, was at a fish farm near Niland, Imperial 17 May (BM). Two somewhat late wintering Long-tailed Ducks remained at Marina del Rey, Los Angeles 6 Apr (RB), and another was still present at Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo through 19 Apr (PEL).

A Red-throated Loon on Cuyamaca L., San Diego 24 Apr (MBS) was inland, where unexpected. The only reports of migrant Pacific Loons inland were of single birds near the N.E.S.S. 23 May (HBK) and near Imperial 8 Apr (GMcC). A Red-necked Grebe off Goleta, Santa Barbara 2-6 Apr (DMC) was unexpected. Pelagic trips off s. California in late Apr produced 6 Laysan Albatrosses at the San Juan Seamount 22 Apr (TMcG, JSF) and 4 there 28 Apr (TMcG); 5 Flesh-footed Shearwaters and about 15 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were seen at various locations over deep water 22-29 Apr (TMcG, JSF). A Laysan Albatross seen flying northward in the Borrego Valley 10 Apr (JB) had undoubtedly moved from the Gulf of California; it is the 9th to be found in this general area of the Sonoran Desert in spring/early summer. An imm. Short-tailed Albatross 16

km sw. of Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo 19 Apr (PEL) adds another to the encouraging increasing number of records in recent years. A Mottled Petrel, casual within 320 km of the coast, was photographed about 120 km w. of San Clemente I. 6 Apr (JDY). A dead Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel near Oceanside, San Diego 11 May (BF); *SDNHM) was unusually far south. Two Red-billed Tropicbirds, regular off s. California in small numbers, were near the "Mushroom" off Los Angeles 29 Apr (TMcG). A decomposing Brown Booby was found at the mouth of the Tijuana R., San Diego 2 May (RTP; *SDNHM). A Brown Pelican on Searles Dry L., San Bernardino 8 Apr (SCH) and another picked up at E.A.F.B. about 22 Apr (fide Stan Gray) were both most unusual as to the location and time of the year.

A Little Blue Heron in Marina del Rey 23 Mar-25 Apr (DB) was the only one away from coastal San Diego. Three Reddish Egrets remained in San Diego and Orange through Apr (TAB, GMcC), with one still on San Diego Bay at the end of the period (MS). The 2 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons found in Imperial Beach, San Diego in Jun 2005 were still present and attending a nest 31 May (GMcC), and another ad. was near the San Diego R. mouth, San Diego 27 Apr-29 May (TM).

HAWKS THROUGH PUFFINS

A Mississippi Kite, a casual straggler to California, was at F.C.R. 26-28 May (ERP, OJ), the 10th to be found in the state in spring. A Harris's Hawk at S.E.S.S. 5 Mar (KLG) was within the historic range of this species, and another at Borrego Springs 25 Apr (RT) was in the area where small numbers persisted Apr 1994-Feb 2002. A first-year Broad-winged Hawk on San



This Mississippi Kite was photographed on the first day of its three-day stay at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley National Park, California 26-28 May 2006. Photograph by Edward R. Pandolfino.

Clemente I. 22 Mar and 4 Apr (SWS) had probably gone undetected since its arrival in the fall, but another near Big Pine, Inyo 6 May (J&DP) was a spring vagrant. Swainson's Hawks continued to pass through the Borrego Valley through 3 May, with a total of 1600

counted since Feb (HC, PJ); elsewhere, large flocks included 90+ in the w. Antelope Valley, Los Angeles 27 Mar (MSanM), 30-35 near L. Henshaw 14 Mar (PU), and 18 near El Centro, Imperial 12 Mar (KZK). Single Zone-tailed Hawks at F.C.R. 27 May (MT) and over Norco, Riverside 5 May (HBK) were unexpected at these locations, but one near Warner Springs, San Diego 16 Apr (DM) was close to an area where this species has nested. A wintering Merlin near Lakeview, Riverside remained until the exceptionally late date of 6 May (CMcG).

Single northbound American Golden-Plovers were at S.E.S.S. 18 May (GMcC) and C.L. 20-21 May (SLS). Three wintering Pacific Golden-Plovers remained in Seal Beach, Orange through 29 Apr (TAB), and 3 more were still near Imperial Beach 9 Apr (RTP); one in alternate plumage on San Diego Bay 27 Mar (MS) was thought to be a migrant. With coastal s. California lying within the area of overlap between American and Black Oystercatchers, observers encounter a variety of black-and-white oystercatchers ranging from phenotypically "pure" Americans to Blacks that have some white feathering; identifying these birds presents a challenge. Individuals approaching "pure" American Oystercatcher were in Goleta 8 Apr (DMC), at Royal Palms Beach 4 May (DLM), and nearby Cabrillo Beach, Los Angeles 16 May (BA).

Reports of Solitary Sandpipers, scarce in spring, included early birds in Blythe, Riverside 24 Mar (RH) and Bishop, Inyo 30 Mar (J&KW), followed by 9 more scattered throughout the Region 16-30 Apr. Single Wandering Tattlers, casual inland, were at S.E.S.S. 23-29 Apr (GMcC, JMo) and 9 May (RJN). An Upland Sandpiper in Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino 18-19 May (JZ) and another at G.H.P. 4-8 Jun (RST) provide the 8th and 9th spring records for California. Two Black Turnstones at S.E.S.S. 15 May (REW) were late migrants moving northward from the Gulf of California, but another there 28 May+ (HBK) may have been attempting to summer locally; one at P.P. 26 Apr (RJN) was one of a very few ever found inland away from the Salton Sea. A Red Knot at E.A.F.B. 22-23 Apr (TEW) was the only one found inland away from the Salton Sea, as were up to 2 Sanderlings at C.L. 28 Apr-4 May (SLS). The only Semipalmated Sandpiper reported was one at S.E.S.S. 12 May (GMcC). Two Baird's Sandpipers, rare in spring, were at Owens L., Inyo 9 Apr (SLS), another was at C.L. 1-5 May (SLS), and 2 more were at S.E.S.S. 5-12 May (KLG). A Pectoral Sandpiper, also rare in spring, was in California City, Kern 23-29 Apr (MMcQ). A northbound Ruff at C.L. 16-22 May (SLS) was only the 2nd to be found in



This first-year Broad-winged Hawk, photographed on San Clemente Island, California 4 April 2006, was believed to have been present (but undetected) through the winter until first seen on 22 March. Photograph by Sam W. Stuart.

Kern in spring. A Red Phalarope at C.L. 17 Apr (SLS) was the only one found inland.

A Long-tailed Jaeger, rare in the Region's waters in spring, was near the San Juan Seamount 22 Apr, and 2 were there 28 Apr (TMcG). Single Laughing Gulls at Cayucos, San Luis Obispo 2 Mar (TME), Pismo Beach, San Luis Obispo 30 Apr (JMC), the Ventura R. mouth, Ventura 8-17 Apr (OJ), and Malibu 30 Apr (BW) were on the coast, where rare. Franklin's Gulls were scarcer than normal, with one on the coast at Playa del Rey, Los Angeles 6-9 Apr (RB) and only 16 in the interior 15 Apr-30 May. A first-summer Little Gull



This American Golden-Plover at China Lake, Kern County, photographed here on the first day of its 20-21 May 2006 stay, was one of two found in the Southern California region this spring. The fact that the primaries extend well beyond the tip of the tail, and that bird has not yet attained full breeding plumage, strongly favor American over Pacific. Photograph by Bob Steele.

was at S.E.S.S. 12-15 Apr and again 28 May+ (KLG, JMo), and another was at Salton City, Imperial 29 Apr (DE). An ad. Heermann's Gull remained around S.E.S.S. 17 Feb-5 May (KLG). A Yellow-footed Gull at C.L. 29 Apr (TEW) was the first to be found in Kern and one of a very few ever found away from the Salton Sea. A Western Gull at Lancaster 20 Apr (MSanM) was most unusual. A young Glaucous Gull on San Clemente I. 8-19 Apr (JEB) provided the first record for the island,

and single birds at Pt. Piedras Blancas, San Luis Obispo 20 Apr (RAR) and Malibu, Los Angeles 9 Apr-3 May (CT) were on the coast. A Sabine's Gull, very rare inland in spring, was at Lancaster 14 Apr (MSanM, TMcG). On 23 Apr, an Elegant Tern, casual inland, was near Seeley, Imperial, and 6 more were at the Salton Sea N.W.R. at S.E.S.S. (GMcC), with 2 remaining through 15 May (REW). A Least Tern at Marina del Rey 1 Apr (WL) was exceptionally early, and at least 3 were present inland around S.E.S.S. 12 May+ (GMcC). A Craver's Murrelet found dead on the beach in Coronado, San Diego 19 May (MS; *SDNHM) was exceptionally early for California; the previous early date was 11 Jul 1972. A Tufted Puffin, rare in s. California waters, was 16 km off Refugio S.B., Santa Barbara 22 Apr (TMcG).

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

A pair of White-winged Doves in Brawley, Imperial 3 Mar (DRW) had undoubtedly wintered locally, as the first spring migrants do not normally arrive in this area until mid-Apr, 10 along the coast and on offshore islands 25 Apr-30 May were w. of the species' normal range. Away from the resident population near Calipatria, a Ruddy Ground-Dove present near El Centro all winter remained through 27 May (KZK). A migrant Yellow-billed Cuckoo at B.S. 4 Jun (RST) was the earliest this year. Up to 47 Short-eared Owls near Cantil, Kern 17 Mar (MSanM) was a remarkable concentration. Reports of migrant Black Swifts included an early bird over Santa Barbara 27 Apr (PAG), 50 over Carlsbad, San Diego 26 May (ZS), 10 at Huntington Beach, Orange 27 May (JEP), and 27 at Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo 27 May (BKS).

Male Broad-billed Hummingbirds near Ramona, San Diego 14-18 Apr (BC) and El Centro 20-21 Apr (GMcC) are only the 3rd and 4th to be found in California in spring, with the latter being the first for Imperial. An exceptionally early Calliope Hummingbird on Pt. Loma, San Diego 4 Mar (SES) was followed by above-average numbers along the coast and foothills, as indicated by 6 frequenting a feeder in Arcadia, Los Angeles 16 Apr (MSanM) and up to 4 in Atascadero, San Luis Obispo 8-25 Apr (RHZ). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird, casual away from known breeding locations, was frequenting a feeder in Inyokern, Kern 16 Apr-15 May (SLS).

An Olive-sided Flycatcher in Brawley 15 Apr (PEL) was the earliest ever for the Salton Sink. A Greater Pewee in Griffith Park, Los Angeles 17 Apr (RB) could not be refund, but with no records of spring migrants in California, it seems likely that it wintered in the area

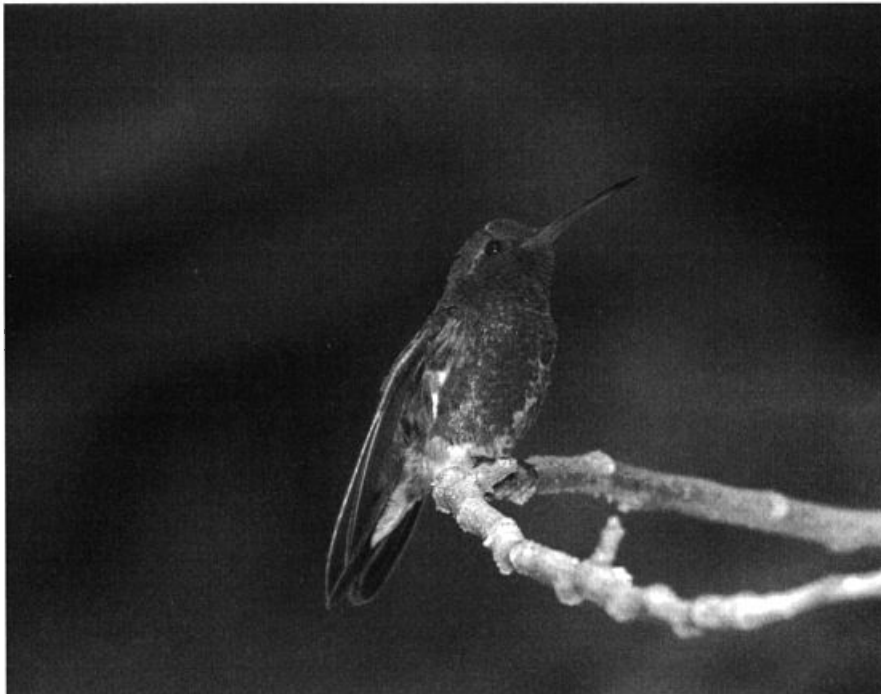


Like most "American Oystercatchers" on the coast of California, this one in Goleta, Santa Barbara County 8 April 2006 showed some admixture of genetic material from Black Oystercatcher, as suggested here by the ragged demarcation line between the black breast and white belly and by the dark flecking on the white uppertail coverts. Photograph by David M. Compton.

An intriguing report of an Eastern Wood-Pewee heard and photographed on Santa Catalina I. 12 May (JND) will be reviewed. A Western Wood-Pewee in Long Beach, Los Angeles 2-3 Apr (KSG) was exceptionally early. The earliest Willow Flycatcher was at Mojave Narrows, San Bernardino 23 Apr (SJM). Sixteen reports of migrant Gray Flycatchers in the lowlands spanned 1 Apr–13 May. A Hammond's Flycatcher in Elysian Park, Los Angeles 11-25 Mar (RB) likely wintered locally. The various wintering Eastern Phoebes remained as late as 9 Apr (in Rose Canyon, San Diego; JR); 2 in the Prado Basin, Riverside 15-27 & 22-31 Mar (JEP) might also have wintered. Say's Phoebes nested near the coast in Torrance, Los Angeles (fledglings being fed 22 May; DLM) and at Bolsa Chica, Orange (nest with eggs found on 30 May; RAE). Vermilion Flycatchers nested again in San Bernardino, with young fledging on 8 Jun (TAB; see *Western Birds* 36: 56-58). Two pairs of Brown-crested Flycatchers returned to their sole San Diego breeding outpost in Borrego Springs 12 May+ (ELK, MBS). The latest report of a wintering Tropical Kingbird was in Long Beach 26 Apr (KSG). A Cassin's Kingbird in Ridgecrest, Kern 17-21 May (SLS) and up to 2 at Westmorland, Imperial 2-12 Mar (TMcG, TE) were outside the species' regular range. The only Eastern Kingbirds reported were in Torrance 30 May (BCo) and at F.C.R. 3 Jun (V&GW). Single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were on San Clemente I. 14 May (MGH) and at F.C.R. 27-31 May (MT, AG).

SHRIKES THROUGH PIPITS

Only 3 Loggerhead Shrikes were reported countywide in Orange during the period (RAE), and numbers are similarly of concern in other coastal counties. Bell's Vireos arrived late (11 Apr) at their most important Regional site in the Prado Basin, and numbers there



This male Broad-billed Hummingbird near El Centro, California 20-21 April 2006 (here on the latter date) provided the first record for Imperial County and the Salton Sink. Photograph by Todd McGrath.

were down by a third from last year (JEP). Yellow-throated Vireos, casual in the Region, were at B.S. 14 Apr (TEW) and at Old Mission Dam, San Diego 31 May (CH). A Plumbeous Vireo in Lancaster, Los Angeles 5 Mar (JSF) was at a locality surveyed well through the winter; it was possibly a very early migrant. A Cassin's Vireo near El Centro 20-23 May (KZK) established the latest spring record for the Salton Sink. Two Hutton's Vireos on Clark Mt., San Bernardino 27 May (CC) were presumably of the sw. interior *stephensi*, a subspecies for which there are no documented records for California; 2 (presumably coastal *oberholseri*) at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino 6 May (JEP) were slightly out of range.

This was a banner spring for migrant Purple Martins, with an exceptional high count of 29 at Oso Flaco L., San Luis Obispo 28 Apr (MPB); 18 migrants were noted in Santa Barbara 26 Apr–24 May, including one several km offshore on 14 May (TMcG), and about 20 were in coastal San Diego 27-28 Apr. Two martins on San Clemente I. 24 May (SWS) established only the 2nd spring record there. Several dozen Tree Swallows were found dead in nest boxes in Saticoy, Ventura in Apr (JW), apparently having succumbed to starvation. The only known colony of Bank Swallows in the Region, near Bishop, had 75 birds 13 May (J&DP).

A pair of Mountain Chickadees attempting to nest at Lake Forest in Apr (KM) was outside the breeding range in Orange; similarly, a nest-

ing pair of White-breasted Nuthatches in Buena Park 1 May+ (DLP) was the first for that part of Orange. Two singing Winter Wrens in Pine Creek Canyon 29 Apr+ (C&RH) were at a probable breeding locality in Inyo. A juv. American Dipper along Big Tujunga Cr. just n. of Sunland, Los Angeles 21 May (MSanM) was away from known localities in the San Gabriel Mts. A Golden-crowned Kinglet on San Clemente I. 17 May (SWS) was late, as was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Costa Mesa 18 May (BEE). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on San Clemente I. 30 May (SWS) established a late record for the island. A California Gnatcatcher in Long Beach 16 Apr (JSB) was several km from the nearest occupied habitat, and a somewhat out-of-range pair fledged young at Bolsa Chica by 28 May (RAE).

A nesting pair of Western Bluebirds in Redlands, San Bernardino 17 May (AEK) was unusual for that locality but part of this species' recent expansion into urban residential areas. Late coastal Townsend's Solitaires were on Pt. Loma 3 May (SES) and San Clemente I. 30 May (SWS), and a Hermit Thrush in Huntington Beach 29 May (BED) was quite late for the coast. Eight km across a dense urban hardscape from the nearest known nesting locality, a Wren-tit in the Baldwin Hills in Culver City, Los Angeles 18-23 Mar (WL) was quite a surprise; there are no historical records for these hills, despite seemingly appropriate habitat. Belatedly, we report another out-of-



Reports of Calliope Hummingbirds indicated they were more numerous than normal this spring in some parts of California. This male was one of six at a feeder in Arcadia, Los Angeles County on 16 April 2006. Photograph by Mike San Miguel.

range Wren-tit at Clark Dry L. in the Borrego Valley 27 Feb (MBS). The spring's vagrant mimids included a Gray Catbird near El Centro 18 May (KZK) and a Brown Thrasher at Deep Springs, Inyo 4 Jun (C&RH). California Thrashers in the coastal lowlands away from areas of known occurrence were at Playa de Rey, Los Angeles 14 May–3 Jun (JC) and Bolsa Chica 25 Apr–30 May (RAE). Five American Pipits near Bishop 29 May (J&DP) were late for the Inyo lowlands. A probable White Wagtail of undetermined subspecies was described from Ryan Ranch in Joshua Tree N.P., Riverside 5 May (TR); there is but a single previous spring record in the Region (a male *lucens* in Inyo 10 May 2003).

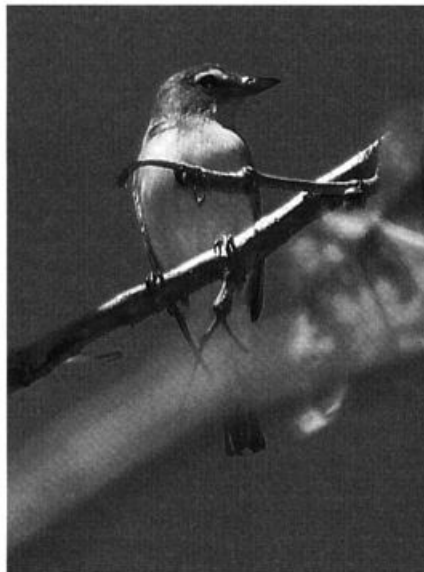
WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Nashville Warbler near El Centro 18 Mar (KZK) was the earliest ever in spring for the Salton Sink. A Virginia's Warbler at Playa del Rey 5 Mar–21 Apr (RB) was probably wintering locally. Single Lucy's Warblers, casual in the Imperial Valley, were at Wister 22–25 Mar (DRW) and near Seeley 1 Apr (GMcC). Northern Parulas were in lower-than-average numbers this spring, with 15 noted in coastal counties 18 Apr–3 Jun and 3 more on the deserts 12 May–3 Jun. A Chestnut-sided Warbler was at B.S. 4 Jun (RST). An ad. male Magnolia Warbler in Santa Barbara 18 Apr (PAG) was rather early for a spring vagrant. A Townsend's Warbler in Rovana 7–8 Apr (JLD) was the earliest ever found in Inyo by 10 days. Yellow-throated Warblers, casual in the Region, were on San Clemente I. 10–11 May (SWS) and Pt. Loma 15 May (AM). A Blackburnian Warbler was at B.S. 27 May (MMcQ, DV). Known wintering Palm Warblers remained as late as 28 Apr at Camp Pendleton (PGi) and 29 Apr in Torrance, Los Angeles (DLM), but birds thought to be spring vagrants were near Torrance 1 May (DLM) and in Goleta 4 May (HPR).

Five migrant Black-and-white Warblers were along the coast 18 Apr–13 May, and 9 were on the deserts 13–28 May. Prothonotary

Warblers were on Pt. Loma 4–9 May (PGi) and at Zzyzx, San Bernardino 26 May (SBT). Four Ovenbirds were found on the Kern deserts during the period (fide JCW). The only Northern Waterthrushes found on the coast were in Torrance 4 May (DLM) and on San Clemente I. 9 May (JEB). Kentucky Warblers were at G.H.P. 15 May (SG) and 1 Jun (K&BK) and at B.S. 27 May (GiL). A briefly seen but well-described Connecticut Warbler at B.S. 23 May (SSu) would constitute only the 2nd spring record for the Region (and the earliest for California

by 12 days) if accepted. A male Hooded Warbler on San Clemente I. 9 May (SHa) was the first to be recorded on the island; others on the coast were at Pt. Loma 19–20 Apr (PGi) and at Ocean Beach, San Diego 2 Jun (GPJ), and 3 were on the n. deserts 21–28 May. Canada Warblers, casual in spring, were at G.H.P. 31 May (K&BK) and 8 Jun (AEK). A Painted Redstart at Agua Dulce Cr. in the Laguna Mts., San Diego 29 Apr+ (GLR, DPa) was probably returning from the previous summer; migrants were at G.H.P. 17–19 Apr (PEL) and 11–12 May (BK) and near Tecopa, Inyo 7 May (RC). A Yellow-breasted Chat at Wister, S.E.S.S. 16 Apr (PEL) was the earliest ever for the Salton Sink by six days.



This singing Yellow-throated Vireo was only known to be present at Mission Trails Regional Park near Santee, San Diego County, California for one day, 31 May 2006. Photograph by Trent R. Stanley.

Hepatic Tanagers had returned to their traditional nesting site in the San Bernardino Mts. at Arrastre Cr. 13 May (REW). Slightly out of range, up to two pairs of Western Tanagers were nesting at Cerro Alto Campground, San Luis Obispo 4–28 May (MLS,

TME). Clay-colored Sparrows not mentioned in the winter report were at Lakewood, Los Angeles 1–11 Mar (with 2 on the last date; RB, TEW) and in Redlands 28 Feb–2 Apr (TT). Black-chinned Sparrows are very rare migrants in the lowlands, so 7 along the coast and on San Clemente I. 1–30 May were noteworthy; the earliest arrival in breeding habitat was at Sunshine Summit, San Diego 14 Mar (PU). Black-throated Sparrows are also very rare in coastal regions; this spring, 7 were found 3 Apr–14 May. Spring migrant Swamp Sparrows were near Bishop 16 Apr (J&DP) and at F.C.R. 10 May (BKS). Several White-



This Gray Catbird near El Centro, Imperial County, California 18 May 2006 established the second record for the Salton Sink and was the first to be photographed there. Photograph by Kenneth Z. Kurland.

throated Sparrows were found in May, with the latest being in Bishop 14 May (C&RH). Breeding Oregon Juncos were found on Santa Catalina I. 13 May (JND et al.). A late Pink-sided Junco was at Cuyamaca Mt., San Diego 24 Apr (MBS), and a Gray-headed was on Clark Mt. 27 May (CC).

Seven Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were in coastal counties 7 Apr–21 May, and 10 were on the deserts 15–28 May. A Black-headed Grosbeak at La Jolla 26 Mar (THu) was a record-early arrival for San Diego, but one in Oceano 9 Mar (ChL) had likely wintered locally. The expected scattering of Indigo Buntings in May was augmented by apparent male Indigo Bunting × Lazuli Bunting hybrids 13 May at Morongo Valley (TEW) and 28 May at Desert Center (MSanM). Lazuli Buntings at Dulzura, San Diego 25 Mar (DPo) and near El Centro 31 Mar (KZK) established record-early dates for those areas.

Bobolinks are rare but regular late spring vagrants in the Region; one was in National City, San Diego 30 May (RTP), up to 2 were at F.C.R. 26–29 May (ERP), and one was at nearby Cow Creek 3 Jun (V&GW). The nesting efforts of some 4000 ad. Tricolored Blackbirds in the San Jacinto Valley, Riverside were successful this spring after Audubon California negotiated with a wheat farmer to delay harvesting (AEK); some 6000 Tricoloreds at a dairy in Cuyama, Santa Barbara 18 Apr (PEL)



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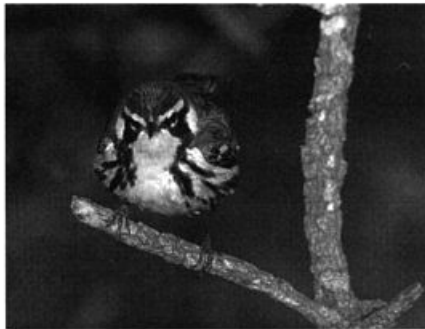
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A Yellow-throated Warbler on Point Loma, San Diego County, California 15 May 2006 stopped only long enough to get a drink and was seen only by the photographer, though other birders were nearby. Photograph by Tony Mercieca.

was an impressive number, and out-of-range individuals were on San Clemente I. 29 Apr (SWS) and Afton Canyon, *San Bernardino* 21 May (DB). A male Bronzed Cowbird at G.H.P. 10 May (TMcG) established the 4th record for Kern. An ad. male Orchard Oriole was at B.S. 19 May (JMCM). A Hooded Oriole at Los Osos 7 Mar (JSR) was the earliest spring arrival ever in *San Luis Obispo*. Two Baltimore Orioles in Carpinteria 15 Mar–19 Apr (PAG) could have wintered locally; late spring vagrants were in Niland 28 May (MM, JMo) and at Laws, Inyo 10–12 Jun (J&DP).

A Pine Siskin in Long Beach 20 May (KGL) was unexpected, given the near absence of a winter flight. Six Lawrence's Goldfinches in Inyo 21 Apr–11 Jun were at the edge of the species' range. Quite unexpected was a flight of up to 200 Evening Grosbeaks on Mt. Pinos, *Ventura/Kern*; 4 were there 8 Apr (CH), and 125–200 birds were estimated on 22 & 25 Apr (MSanM, AEK). Two other Evening Grosbeaks were at Figueroa Mt., *Santa Barbara* 18 Apr (WTF), and 6 were in Bishop 19 May (J&DP).

Cited observers (county coordinators in boldface): Bernardo Alps, Richard Barth, David Bell, Thomas A. Benson, Jeff Birek, Jeffrey S. Boyd, James E. Bradley, Mark P. Brown, Butch Carter, Jamie M. Chavez, Roy Churchwell, Jonathan Coffin, Hal Cohen, David M. Compton (*Santa Barbara*), Chris Conard, Barbara Courtois, Jeff N. Davis, Jon L. Dunn, David Easterla, Todd Easterla, Bettina E. Eastman, Tom M. Edell (*San Luis Obispo*), Richard A. Erickson, Jonathan S. Feenstra, Brian Foster, Wes T. Fritz, Peter A. Gaede, Kimball L. Garrett (*Los Angeles*), Karen S. Gilbert, Pete Ginsburg (PGi), Ashley Gooding, Stan Gray, John F. Green (*Riverside*), Susan Hammerly (SHa), Steve C. Hampton, Christine Harvey, Tom & Jo Heindel (*Inyo*), Matt G. Hethcoat,

Roger Higson, Cher Hollingworth, Chris & Rosie Howard (C&RH), Terry Hunefeld (THu), Ginger P. Johnson, Oscar Johnson, Paul Jorgensen, Barbara Kelly, Eric L. Kershner, Howard B. King, Alexander E. Koonce (*San Bernardino*), Kenneth Z. Kurland, Ken & Brenda Kyle (K&BK), Walter Lamb, Kevin G. Larson, Paul E. Lehman, Cindy Lieurance (CiL), Cheryl Lish (ChL), Debbie Marlow, John Martin (JMa), Guy McCaskie (*Imperial*), Chet McGaugh, Todd McGrath, Jimmy McMorran, Michael McQuerrey, Anthony Mercieca, Martin Meyers, Bob Miller, Jake Mohlmann (JMo), Katharine Monger, David L. Moody, Stephen J. Myers, Thomas Myers, Richard J. Norton, Drew Pallette (DPa), Edward R. Pandolfino, Jim & Debby Parker (J&DP), Robert T. Patten, James E. Pike, Dave Povey (DPo), Dick L. Purvis, Hugh P. Ranson, Jim Roberts, Geoffrey L. Rogers, Richard A. Rowlett, Jim S. Royer, Tobin Rummel,



This Painted Redstart at Galileo Hill Park in eastern Kern County, California was photographed on the first day of its 17–19 April 2006 stay, the first of two that visited this desert oasis this spring. Photograph by Bob Steele.

Matthew Sadowski, Mike San Miguel, Larry Schmahl, Brad K. Schram, Maggie L. Smith, Susan E. Smith, Zack Smith, Susan L. Steele (SLS), Mary Beth Stowe, Sam W. Stuart (*San Clemente I.*), Steve Summers (SSu), Robert Theriault, Ryan S. Terrill, Scott B. Terrill, Chris Tosdevin, Tarik Townsend, Mike Tyner, Philip Unitt, David Vander Pluym, Bobby Walsh, Jan Wasserman, Walter Wehtje (*Ventura*), Richard E. Webster, Douglas R. Willick (*Orange*), James & Kay Wilson (J&KW), John C. Wilson (*Kern*), Vicki & Gerry Wolfe, Thomas E. Wurster, Jason D. Yakich, Roger H. Zachary, Joe Zarki. An additional 30+ observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports this season; all have our thanks. ☺

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