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Islas Los Coronados hosted a returning Cory's Shearwater and a Pigeon Guillemot, Ruddy Ground-Doves were found nesting at Bahía de Los Angeles, and a Gray Catbird and Red-throated Pipit were in the Vizcaíno Desert. All other highlights were in Baja California Sur, where coverage was better this season. Wood Duck and Garganey were at Estero San José del Cabo, and rare warblers included Tropical Parula, Blackpoll Warbler, and Prothonotary Warbler. Three new species were confirmed breeding: Thick-billed Kingbird, Red-winged Blackbird, and Western Meadowlark.

Abbreviations: C.P.G.P. (Cerro Prieto geothermal ponds); E.S.J.C. (Estero San José del Cabo); S.S.P.M. (Sierra San Pedro Mártir).

WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

In the Cape District, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were seen again at Lagunas de Chametla, but 11 at Salinas Punta Colorada 22 May (RAE, MJB, MJI) were at a new location. Seven Greater White-fronted Geese at Santiago 21 May (MJI, MJB, RAE) were quite a surprise but did follow an exceptional winter for the species in Baja California Sur. The last Canada Goose of the season was a lone *moffitti* at C.P.G.P. 22 Apr (ph. GDLG). A male Wood Duck at E.S.J.C. 23 May (ph. MJI, RAE) was the first to be documented in Baja California Sur, but a male was seen at the same location 14 Nov 1987 (*Monographs in Field Ornithology* 3: 192). Rare in the Vizcaíno Desert, a Mallard was at Misión San Fernando 7 May (REW). The wintering Garganey at

E.S.J.C. was last seen 27–28 Apr (ph. MaG).

Lingering Northern Fulmars were off Cabo San Lucas 22 Apr (one, HT) and near the Is. Los Coronados 30 May–6 Jun (up to 3; PH et al.). Amazing was the reappearance of last year's Cory's Shearwater at Is. Los Coronados. On 24 Apr and 8 May, the bird exhibited behavior similar to last year (HRC et al.). It was seen again on 6 Jun (ph. MJI et al.) but missed on at least seven other trips in May and Jun. The pattern of the bird's underwings matched the subspecies *borealis*. High counts of Pink-footed Shearwaters in the Gulf included 50+ near I. San Marcos 16 May (MiG) and 59 seen from shore at Pt. Arena 21 May (MJB, RAE, MJI). A visit to Gorda Bank, off San José del Cabo, 19 May yielded one Townsend's, 9 Pink-footed, 6 Wedge-tailed, and 16 Sooty Shearwaters, as well as a Masked Booby (MJB, RAE, MJI). Brown Boobies nested again at Is. Los Coronados. A pair was first seen nest-building 11–12 Feb (ph. MJB et al.), but the nest ultimately failed (HRC et al.). An impressive amount of avian biomass was concentrated at I. San Marcos 16 May, when 20,000+ Brown Pelicans were feasting on anchovies and flying to and from I. Tortuga (MiG).

A Least Bittern singing at El Rosario 7 May (REW) was at a previously unreported locality. White-faced Ibis have increased their presence significantly in the Region over the past few decades, but nesting remains unconfirmed, even in the Mexicali Valley (*Monographs in Field Ornithology* 3: 36, 178). One of 80 birds at Lagunas de Chametla 20 May carried a stick briefly (ph. MJB et al.), suggesting that situation may not last long. Two White-tailed Kites were seen near Ciudad Constitución 16 Mar (MJI). Wintering Sharpshinned and Cooper's Hawks were still in the Sierra de La Laguna 4–5 Apr (DK et al.). A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks in the Mexicali Valley near Cerro Prieto 13 Dec–13 Apr (RAE, MJI) was suspected of nesting. Apparent migrant Swainson's Hawks in n. Baja California were on the Rio Colorado near Ejido Chiapas 8 (MJB, RAH) & 12 Mar (KAR, SG) and at Ojos Negros 11 May (6; REW). The latest Zone-tailed Hawks in Baja California Sur were one in the Sierra de La Laguna 3–6 Apr (DK et al.) and an imm. at E.S.J.C. 17 Mar (MJI) and 23 May (RAE); 3 others were seen in late Mar (MJI).

Five Virginia Rails and a Sora were at Santiago 17 Mar, but none could be found 21 May (MJI). The behavior of a Baird's Sandpiper near Villa Morelos, Magdalena Plain 16 Mar (ph. MJI) was consistent with a spring migrant rather than a wintering bird. The only Regional precedent for either role was a 26 Mar 2004 migrant at C.P.G.P. South Polar Skuas were widely reported, with singles in Baja California Sur at Gorda Bank 19 May (ph. MJI, MJB, RAE) and Pt. Arena 22 May (MJI, MJB), and in Baja California between I Cedros and Is. San Benitos 28 May (PH) and sw. of Is. Los Coronados 6 Jun (ph. MJI et al.). Three or 4 Franklin's Gulls were at Gorda Bank and nearby E.S.J.C. 19 May (ph. MJB, ph. MJI, RAE). Sabine's Gull reports were limited to the e. side of the Region: one at C.P.G.P. 12 Apr (MJI, MJB) and one s. of I. San Pedro Mártir 2 May (MiG). Black Terns were seen only in the Gulf, with 4 on the e. side of I. Angel de la Guarda 30 Apr and 10+ between I. San Esteban and I. San Pedro Mártir 12 May (MiG).

A Pigeon Guillemot at Is. Los Coronados 30 May (PH) followed only four previous Regional/Mexican records, the most recent from the same location 8 Jun 1977 (DWP, previously unpublished). Craveri's Murrelets appear to have nested unusually early: 34 between Los Islotes and I. Santa Catalina 16–20

SA A number of lingering waterbirds were observed during a five-day visit to s. Baja California Sur in late May (MJB, RAE, MJI). None of the following species are known to breed in the state, although breeding seems possible for some (i.e., Cinnamon Teal, Redhead). Some of these species might still be moving at this time (e.g., Sanderling, Spotted Sandpiper), but most of the following birds were believed to have been immatures that failed to migrate and were expected to spend the rest of the summer season—in some cases their lives—at these s. latitudes.

| Estero San José del Cabo 18, 19, 23 May | La Paz area 20 May |
|---|--------------------------|
| 7 Cinnamon Teal | one Green-winged Teal |
| one Northern Pintail | 17 Black-bellied Plovers |
| 31 Redheads, including 4 "pairs" | 34 Semipalmated Plovers |
| 2 Ring-necked Ducks | 16 Greater Yellowlegs |
| one Clark's Grebe | 3 Willets |
| 2 Sanderlings | 2 Spotted Sandpipers |
| 100 California Gulls | 6 Whimbrels |
| | 5 Long-billed Curlews |
| | 65 Marbled Godwits |
| | 6 California Gulls |
| | one Ring-billed Gull |
| | one Gull-billed Tern |



At Estero San José del Cabo, Baja California Sur, this adult Franklin's Gull was one of three or four reported in the general area on 19 May 2006. Photograph by Mark J. Billings.

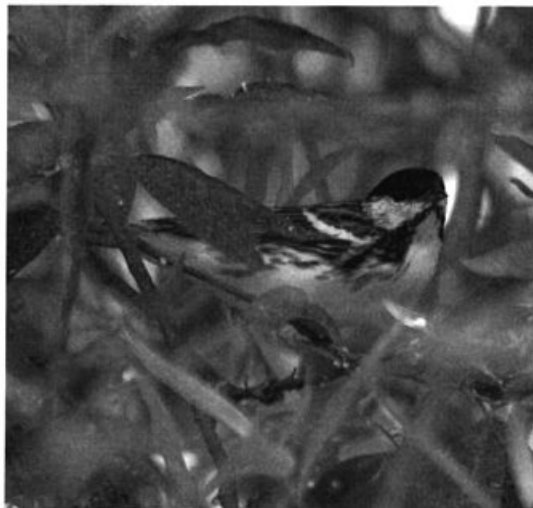
Feb included two pairs with 2 chicks, one-half and three-quarters grown, respectively (PAG), while 70 in the n. part of the pass between the mainland and I. San José 2 Mar included downy young (DAS). Literature on this species' nesting phenology in the s. Gulf was not readily available, but Nettleship (in *Handbook of the Birds of the World*, Vol. 3, 1996) reported "peak laying 2nd half of Feb and early Mar [...] nesting period extends to early Apr" and "incubation [...] probably averages 31-33 days."

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

Seven nesting pairs of Common Ground-Doves represented a high total for Bahía de Los Angeles, and 4 Ruddy Ground-Doves there through 6 Apr included Baja California's first nesting pair (MF, GF). A singing Ruddy and a singing Inca Dove at El Rosario 7 May (REW) were at the traditional boundary between the Vizcaino Desert and the California District. Eurasian Collared-Doves continued their march toward Los Cabos, with individuals near Bahía Concepción 16 Apr (RM) and near Ciudad Constitución 20 May (MJI, MJB, RAE).

Eight northbound Black Swifts in the S.S.P.M. 11 May (†REW) provided one of very few Regional records. Calliope Hummingbirds are rarely reported in the Region, and a male at Cataña 6 Apr (KLW) was early. Seemingly very late for Baja California Sur were 2 Red-naped Sapsuckers in the Sierra de La Laguna 5 Apr (DK et al.). Downy Wood-

peckers now winter with some regularity in the nw., but one at Cantamar 6 May (REW) furnished a unique spring record. A Hammond's Flycatcher in the Sierra de La Laguna 5 Apr (*vide* DK) provided one of few Baja Cal-



A singing male Blackpoll Warbler at Estero San José del Cabo, Baja California Sur 23 May 2006 established the first spring record for the Baja California Peninsula. Photograph by Marshall J. Iliff.

ifornia Sur records. A total of 19 Thick-billed Kingbirds at four Cape District locales 21 May included an incubating bird at Santiago (ph. MJB, RAE, ph. MJI), the first to be found nesting in the Region. Kingbirds found outside of their known breeding ranges included 2 or more calling Tropicals at Lagunas de Chametla 7 Apr–20 May (DK et al.) and a

Western at San Ignacio 2 Jun (PH).

"Solitary" Vireos in the S.S.P.M. have been confusing in the past, with tentative reports of Plumbeous but only nominate Cassin's confirmed. To confuse things further, a brightly colored pair at 2500 m on 8 May was considered possibly *V. c. lucasanus* (v.r., †REW), a subspecies heretofore considered resident in the Sierra de La Laguna. A modern high count of 200 Purple Martins was logged at Lagunas de Chametla 20 May (MJB et al.). Swallows at E.S.J.C. 18–23 May included 30 Northern Rough-winged, 5 Bank, and 6 Barn (MJB, MJI, RAE). A "seemingly territorial" Northern Rough-winged was at Todos Santos 19 May (MJI, MJB). Six Barn Swallows at El Rosario 7 May gave calls consistent with breeders, and one flew under the eaves of a home (REW), but breeding on the Region's mainland remains to be confirmed.

On 10 May in the S.S.P.M., Webster found a Red-breasted Nuthatch calling in the same area where he recorded the Region's only mainland summer record: one 15 Jun 2001. A female Varied Thrush found near Tecate 27 Jan was last seen 17 Mar (JS). A killer cat provided the Peninsula's first specimen of a Gray Catbird—and first adequately documented record of a spring vagrant (cf. *Euphonia* 1: 14–16)—at Bahía de Los Angeles 29 May (JG). Presumed migrant Sage Thrashers were at El Descanso 3 Mar (ph. MJI, ph. MJB) and on the Río Colorado n. of Colonia Carranza 8 Mar (MJI, MJB, RAH). The Region's first spring vagrant Red-throated Pipit was found 7 May at Misión San Fernando (ph., †REW).

Birds lingering in the Sierra de La Laguna 4–5 Apr included 6 Plumbeous Vireos, and 10 Audubon's, 13 Black-throated Gray, 11 Townsend's, and 8 Black-and-white Warblers (DK et al.). Can it be coincidence that the Region's first modern record of Tropical Parula—at Todos Santos 19 May (ph. MJI, ph. MJB, RAE)—comes whence C. C. Lamb (*Condor* 27: 117–118) collected birds on 3 Nov 1923 and 23 Jul 1924? A Palm Warbler was at Guerrero Negro 2 May (AG-A). Another at E.S.J.C. 27 Apr

(MaG) was probably the same bird present since 21 Jan, but the same cannot be said of a singing male Blackpoll Warbler there 23 May (ph. MJI, ph. MJB, RAE), part of a pulse of migrants that day that included 2 Yellow Warblers, 2 Northern Waterthrushes, and a Wilson's Warbler. The wintering female Black-and-white Warbler at the Mexicali Zoo was

last seen 13 Apr (MJB). A singing male Prothonotary Warbler was at Guerrero Negro 2–4 May (ph. AG-A), and 2 Northern Waterthrushes were at Misión San Fernando 7 May (REW).

A Rufous-crowned Sparrow at Misión San Fernando 7 May (REW) was well away from areas known to be occupied by this non-migratory species. Later than previous Baja California Sur records was a Vesper Sparrow near Villa Morelos 16 Mar (ph. MJI). A White-throated Sparrow found near Tecate 27 Jan was last seen 16 Apr (JS). The season's only Rose-breasted Grosbeak was a male at E.S.J.C. 18 May (MJB, RAE). Red-winged Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds are not known to breed s. of n. Baja California, but scattered Apr and May records in Baja California Sur involved nearly 300 of the former—including 5 nest-building females among roughly 75 pairs 14.3 km w. of Ciudad Constitución 20 May (ph. MJI, ph. MJB, RAE)—and 37 of the latter. At the same Magdalena Plain location, 2 food-carrying Western Meadowlarks (MJI, MJB, RAE) furnished another first confirmed nesting record for Baja California Sur. The season's southernmost American Goldfinches—up to 6 at Cantamar 6–12 May—were considered probable breeders (REW).

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