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Usually large numbers of waterbirds were present in the Cape District, where flocks of Eared Grebes and Bonaparte's Gulls were particularly impressive. Common Black-Hawk, Lesser Black-backed Gulls, and Yellow-browed Warbler were Regional firsts, the last also new for Mexico. Christmas Bird Counts fared well this season, with especially interesting passerines in Ensenada, gulls and terns in the Río Colorado Delta, and waterfowl and shorebirds in Ensenada de La Paz. Seven Northern Parulas and one Tropical Parula were seen in the Cape District.

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

WATERFOWL THROUGH JAEGERS

Greater White-fronted Geese were exceptionally numerous in the n. this winter, with at least 84 reported 11 Nov–11 Feb. Seven and 4-5 Snow Geese were in the ne. and nw., respectively. An ad. Ross's Goose at Lagunas de Chametla 5 Nov–28 Mar (ph. VA, ph. SGM et al.) provided Baja California Sur with its 2nd record, and others were at C.P.G.P. 19 Nov (2; MJB, RAE, MAP) and Tijuana 10 Jan (ph. MJB). A Cackling Goose at Lagunas de Chametla 12-18 Nov was joined by 2 others on the last day of its stay (ph. VA, NA). Singles were at E.S.J. 6-7 Jan (KC, ph. SGM et al.) and the El Centenario tank 3-28 Mar (ph. MJI, ph. SGM et al.). None was conclusively identified to subspecies, despite several supportive photographs. Eleven *moffitti* Canada Geese in the n. were expected, but an appar-

ent *parvipes* near Ejido Chiapas #3 on 6 Jan (ph. KAR et al.) established the first well-documented record for the subspecies in the Region.

Wood Ducks were seen again at the Mexicali Zoo, but a male near Ejido Chiapas #3 on 6 Jan was at a new location (ph. KAR et al.). An extremely worn male Eurasian Wigeon at Lagunas de Chametla 10 Jan (ph. †SGM et al.) was only the 3rd in Baja California Sur; 4 were in the far north. An apparent male Northern Shoveler × Gadwall hybrid at Lagunas de Chametla 28 Nov (ph. VA) was last seen at the El Centenario tank 28 Mar (SGM). Canvasback is on the decline in the Region, with only 3 tallied during the 29 Dec Ensenada C.B.C., down from 125 on 19 Dec 2002 (*fide* MJB, RAE, EM). It is considered rare in the ne., so 2 at C.P.G.P. 25 Jan were noteworthy (RAH et al.).

A Greater Scaup in Guerrero Negro 18 Nov (AG-A, GF, MF) and a female at E.S.J. 7 Jan (SGM et al.) were southerly but not as fancy as an ad. male White-winged Scoter at Laguna Ojo de Liebre 15 Dec (ph. RC, IM), establishing the first confirmed record for Baja California Sur. Two Black Scoters reached the nw. 10-11 Nov (MDC et al.), but a Red-breasted Merganser made it as far as E.S.J. 6-14 Mar (ph. MJI, REW), one of few in the s. Cape District. A Horned Grebe in Mexicali 21 Dec (ph. MJB, RAE) was the first found in the Region's deserts. *Aechmophorus* grebes are rarely reported from the s. Cape District, where 2-3 Westerns were in La Paz 16 Dec–10 Jan (*fide* EP; SGM et al.).

A total of 9 Short-tailed Shearwaters at the Nine Mile Bank 31 Mar (DWP et al.) surely topped the previous high count for the Region. Red-billed Tropicbirds well offshore between Ensenada and I. Guadalupe 15 Mar (MJB et al.) and off Cabo Colonet 26 Mar (2, PAG) were unseasonal. A Brown Booby was an overdue first for I. Guadalupe, at its s. end 16 Mar (PP, ph. MJB et al.). An impressive 259 American White Pelicans were tallied during the 16 Dec Ensenada de La Paz C.B.C. (*fide* EP), but a long-dead Brown Pelican at Leyes de Reforma 30 Jan had probably arrived the previous summer/fall (ph. MJB, RAE; *UABC 1738).

Two American Bitterns at Lagunita El Cipres 29 Dec (MJB et al.) were at a location where previously recorded, but an imm. Bald Eagle nearby the same day (MJB, ph. JAM et

al.) was one of the biggest surprises on the Ensenada C.B.C. An imm. Mississippi Kite was near San José del Cabo 24 Mar (†SGM), precedent having been set in winter by one at Todos Santos 10 Jan 1988 (*Monographs in Field Ornithology* 3: 121). A Sharp-shinned Hawk at I. Guadalupe 16 Mar (MJB et al.) and a Merlin the following day (MSM) were new for the island. An imm. Common Black-Hawk at Miraflores 26 Mar (ph., †SGM) was the first to be confirmed in the Region. An ad. Broad-winged Hawk at Miraflores 6 Jan (KC, ph. SGM et al.) was followed by it or another ad. and 2 imms. 26 Mar (ph. SGM). Swainson's Hawks put on a good show in the s.: one was at E.S.J. 6 Jan (SGM et al.), 3 were at the El Centenario tank 3 Mar (ph. MJI), and 91+ were with 110 Crested Caracaras on a recently cut alfalfa field in San Juan de los Planes 5 Mar (ph. MJI). A Ferruginous Hawk at the El Centenario tank 12 Jan (†SGM, †DL et al.) was the 4th for the peninsula's tip and first away from La Laguna, while an ad. male Merlin at Miraflores 8 Jan was of the unexpected *richardsoni* subspecies (ph. SGM et al.).

Sandhill Cranes were found again in the ne., with 3 at the Mesa Andrade wetlands 7 Dec (ph. ESM) representing only the 3rd modern record for the Region. Solitary Sand-



Barely reaching Baja California Sur, this adult male White-winged Scoter at Laguna Ojo de Liebre 15 December 2006 was the first confirmed in the state. Photograph by Roberto Carmona.

pipers seem to be rare-but-annual winter visitors in the s. Cape District; up to 3 were at Santiago 8 Jan–27 Mar (ph. SGM et al.), and one was at E.S.J. 6 Mar (MJI). To our knowledge, a Ruddy Turnstone at Playa Coyote, n. of La Paz, 11 Jan (SGM et al.) established the first recent record for the Cape District. Lagunas de Chametla hosted a Pectoral Sandpiper 16 Dec–29 Mar (*fide* EP; SGM) and a first-winter Ruff 28 Nov–29 Mar (ph. VA, ph. SGM et al.), the former a 2nd in winter and the latter a 3rd ever for Baja California Sur.

Two Thayer's, a Yellow-footed, and 2-3



This immature Common Black-Hawk at Miraflores, Baja California Sur 26 March 2007 established the first confirmed Regional record. Photograph by Steven G. Modinow.

Glaucous-winged Gulls were typical for the Mexicali Valley, but a Mew at the Mexicali Country Club (ph. KAR) and a first-winter Western at a landfill w. of Colonia Pacifico (†KAR et al.), both 29 Dec, were the 2nd and first in the valley, respectively. Overdue for Baja California, and coinciding with unprecedented numbers to the n. at the Salton Sea, were records of 4-5 Lesser Black-backed Gulls: a third-winter and a first-winter bird were together at the Río Colorado delta 20 Dec (†RAE, ph. †MJB); an ad. at the landfill was well photographed, but a first-winter bird there was not documented 6 Jan (ph. KAR, RJ, DP); and an ad. at Laguna Guerrero Negro 25 Jan was just n. of the state line (ph. RC, AC).

Gull-billed Terns were found in the ne. for the 3rd consecutive winter: 4 at the Río Colorado delta 20 Dec (MJB, RAE) and 3 at C.P.G.P. 25 Jan (MJI et al.). Up to 7 were around La Paz 10 Jan–3 Mar (SGM et al.). There are few Regional winter records of Common Terns, but they were well represented in the Cape District 6 Jan–26 Mar: 10 at E.S.J., one at La Paz, up to 15 at Punta Arena, one near Pichilingue, and 2 at the Chametla flats (ph. SGM et al.). Up to 3 Elegant Terns were reported around La Paz 16 Dec–11 Jan (fide EP; SGM et al.). Since there are only four records of overwintering Black Skimmers at the Salton Sea (Patten et al. 2003: *Birds of the Salton Sea*), 2 at C.P.G.P. 21 Dec (MJB, RAE) are best considered late, but the species is regular in the n. Gulf of California in winter. Two Parasitic Jaegers at the Río Colorado delta 20 Dec (MJB, RAE) were unexpected, but even rarer were 3 Long-tailed Jaegers seen from shore at Punta Arena 4 Mar (ph. MJI), establishing the 2nd winter record for the Region.

OWLS THROUGH ORIOLES

A Short-eared Owl at Mesa San Jacinto 12 Nov (MDC et al.) was the Region's first in more than four years. Similarly scarce in the coastal lowlands is Long-eared Owl, yet early in the morning of 29 Dec one was seen on the Maneadero Plain (†PAG, WF) and 2 were heard on the lower Río Santo Tomás (JEP). Rare winter hummingbirds seen on the 29 Dec Ensenada C.B.C. included 2 Costa's (fide MJB, EM) and an unidentified *Selasphorus* (SBT). Another *Selasphorus* in the nw. was s. of Playas de Tijuana 24 Nov

(RAE). Two imm. male Black-chinneds at E.S.J. 7 Jan (SGM et al.) and an apparent imm. female there 6 Mar (ph. MJI) join a small number of previous winter records from the Cape District. One of 2 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers found on the 29 Dec Ensenada C.B.C. was refound the next day (SBT, ph. RST et al.). The first sapsucker to reach I. Guadalupe was a probable Red-naped 17 Mar (KAR, MSM). Downy Woodpeckers, rare visitors to

birds were found in the Cape District during early Jan (SGM et al.), but a recently discovered kingbird roost at E.S.J. hosted up to 3 Westerns 5 Jan–13 Mar (SGM et al.) and a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 30 Jan–13 Mar (ph. LB, ph. REW).

Single Bell's Vireos were found at three locations on the Maneadero Plain 29 Dec (fide MJB, EM), one of them a colorful individual thought to be of the nominate subspecies, last seen 30 Dec (ph. †DSC, MSM). The only northerly Plumbeous Vireo was at the Mexicali Zoo 29 Dec–25 Jan (KAR et al.). Five Horned Larks (3 singing) at the El Centenario tank 3 Mar (ph. MJI) were record far s.; they appeared to match the s. subspecies *enertera*. As usual, Mountain Bluebirds were found at scattered locations in the nw., but 4 at Mesa Andrade 26 Jan (MJI et al.) were the first found in the ne. since 1928. An ad. Red-throated Pipit near the El Centenario tank 3 Mar (ph. MJI) furnished the 4th winter record for the s. Cape (and Region).

Warbler-power fueled the 29 Dec Ensenada C.B.C., including 4 Nashvilles, 6 Yellows, singles of Black-throated Gray, Hermit, Palm, and Black-and-white, 4 American Redstarts, and 6 Wilson's, but most remarkable was the ad. *albilora* Yellow-throated Warbler at Estero Beach 29-30 Dec (ph. RST et al.). Otherwise, warbler highlights included a Tennessee



Of the four or five Lesser Black-backed Gulls found in Baja California this season, this adult at Laguna Guerrero Negro 25 January 2007 was the southernmost. Photograph by Roberto Carmona.

the nw., were s. of Playas de Tijuana 28 Dec (ph. DSC, MSM) and at Playas de Tijuana 7 Jan (MJB). Three birds showing characteristics of Yellow-shafted Flicker were found this season, on the Maneadero Plain 29 Dec (†PP), roughly 6 km w. of Tecate 20 Jan (JS), and at Ojos Negros 30 Jan (MJB, RAE); unfortunately, none was seen well enough to confirm all relevant characteristics. Ten Tropical King-

at E.S.J. 7 Jan–13 Mar (SGM et al.); 2 Orange-crowns showing characters of *V. c. celata* at E.S.J. 7 Jan (†SGM); a Nashville in Mexicali 25 Jan (RAE et al.); a Lucy's at Miraflores 6 Jan (SGM et al.); Northern Parulas at E.S.J. 6 Mar (†MJI), El Salto on the w. side of the Sierra de La Laguna 15 Mar (ph. REW), and Todos Santos 8 Apr (KAR, CR); a female Tropical Parula again at Todos Santos 4 Mar–8 Apr



This *albilora* Yellow-throated Warbler, photographed on 30 December 2006, was among the highlights of the previous day's Ensenada Christmas Bird Count. Photograph by Matt Sadowski.

(ph. MJI, ph. REW et al.); a male Black-throated Blue in Guerrero Negro 15 Nov–30 Mar (AG-A, ph. RC et al.) for its 3rd consecutive winter; 2 Black-throated Grays at the Mexicali Zoo 21 Dec (male; ph. MJB, RAE) and 25 Jan (female; RAE); a Hermit in Tijuana 15 Nov–8 Jan (ph. MJB); Palms at Punta Arena 5 Mar (MJI) and E.S.J. 24 Mar (SGM); a female Black-and-white returning to the Mexicali Zoo for perhaps its 4th winter 24 Oct–25 Jan (RAE, ph. MJB); and 4 additional northerly American Redstarts. Mlodinow's thorough coverage of small towns in the s. Cape District 25–30 Mar yielded a nice variety of vagrant warblers: Nashville, 3 Northern Parulas, Chestnut-sided (still present 7 Apr; KAR, CR), Magnolia, and Ovenbird at Miraflores; Lucy's at Caduaño; and another Northern Parula at Agua Caliente. A 16–19 Mar visit to I. Guadalupe produced up to 8 Audubon's, a Myrtle, and a Townsend's Warbler (LLM et al.).

An ad. male Hepatic Tanager was a welcome surprise at Santo Tomás 31 Dec (†MB, ph. RST et al.), and wintering Summer Tanagers in Baja California outnumbered Westerns by 13 to 11 (both above-average totals). Only 2 Summers were seen in Baja California Sur. Three Brewer's Sparrows were on the Maneadero Plain

29 Dec, as was a single Vesper (*fide* MJB, EM). The season's only Red Fox Sparrow was in El Rosario 27 Dec (ph. JEP). Single Swamp Sparrows were on the Maneadero Plain 29 (†JEP) & 30 Dec (ph. MS, DWP). Single White-throated Sparrows were in Tijuana 16



Three of the Fox Sparrow subspecies groups are believed to winter regularly in Baja California, primarily in the mountains. The fourth, Red Fox Sparrow, is casual. This Red Fox Sparrow, presumably of the taxon *zaboria*, was photographed in El Rosario 27 December 2006. Photograph by James E. Pike.

Nov (ph. MJB), on the Maneadero Plain 29 Dec (*fide* MJB, EM), and roughly 6 km w. of Tecate 29 Dec–19 Jan (JS). Unusual juncos in Baja California included 4 Slate-colored of varying purity, single Pink-sideds at Santo Domingo 28 Dec (ph. JEP) and in the Mexi-

cali Valley 26 Jan (MJI), and 3 Gray-headed in the Mexicali Valley 25–26 Jan (MJB, ph. MJI et al.) followed by one on the Maneadero Plain 11 Mar (MJB, RAE, TM). A *Pheucticus* grosbeak heard in Ensenada 29 Dec sounded like a Black-headed but was treated only as a member of the genus (SBT, RAH). Two Common Grackles were in El Rosario 26–27 Dec (ph. JEP), with one still present 26 Feb (ph. MJB, WTH). Three Great-tailed Grackles at Punta Abreojos 24 Jan (EDZ-H, *fide* HGdS) were at a new location for the species, slightly s. of previous peninsular records. Wintering orioles included 2 Orchards at E.S.J. 7 Jan (KC, DL); a Bullock's roughly 6 km w. of Tecate 17 Nov–19 Mar (JS) and 2 on the Maneadero Plain 29 Dec (PP); and Baltimores in Tijuana 8 Jan (ph. MJB) and San José de Comondú 17 Mar (REW).

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