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It was generally a lackluster season, but there was little coverage except in the Cape District early. The Cory's Shearwater did return to Islas Los Coronados for another year, reintroduced California Condors nested in Mexico for the first time, and apparently wintering Long-tailed Jaegers were again found in the southern Gulf of California.

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

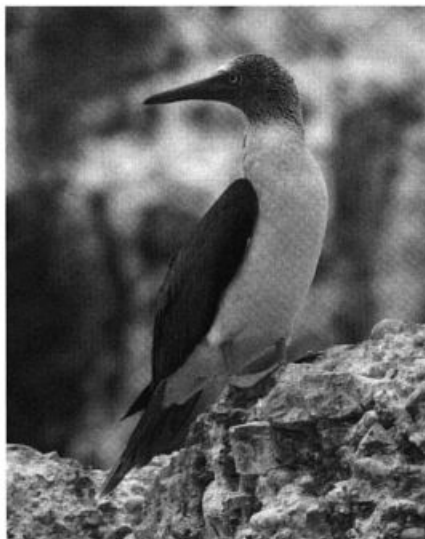
WATERFOWL THROUGH JAEGER

A Ross's Goose found in Jan continued in Tijuana 8 May (ph. †MJB), establishing the first Regional record outside Nov–Mar. Nine Brant at C.P.G.P. 28 Apr (MS, ph. MJB, LDS) were inland, and 2 in La Paz 28 Mar (ph. SGM) were southerly. A male Wood Duck at the Mexicali Zoo 28 Apr (MJB, MS, LDS) provided the first single-bird observation at that location since Mar 2004, and 40 Mallards at the Colonia Zaragoza sewage ponds the same day included a brood (MJB, ph. MS, LDS) that provided only the 2nd breeding record for the ne. Late ducks from Leyes de Reforma n. and w. 14–15 May included 6 Northern Shovelers, 2 Northern Pintails, 2 Green-winged Teal, a Ring-necked Duck, and a Bufflehead (all RAE). A male Black Scoter about 5 km n. of San Felipe 13 Mar (GK, HS) was presumably moving northward with the 3000–4000 Surf Scoters there and established the first Regional record in the Gulf of California.

The only loons found inland this season were 8 Commons at C.P.G.P. 28 Apr (ph. MJB, MS, LDS). Unidentified *Pterodroma* petrels

were seen at sea off Cabo San Lucas 18 Mar (GK, HS) and from Pta. Arranca Cabellos, n. of La Paz, 29 Mar (†SGM). The Cory's Shearwater returned to Is. Los Coronados for its 3rd consecutive year. It was seen on Middle Rock and heard calling 20 Mar–11 Jun (DWP, ph. MS et al.); but on 31 Mar, it was foraging nearby at the Nine Mile Bank (†GMCC et al.). Although regular, Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels are scarcely reported in the Region: 2 were at sea off Cabo San Lucas 18 Mar (GK, HS). Up to 35 Brown Boobies were tallied at/near Is. Los Coronados 8 Jan–24 Jun, including 2 fledglings (HRC et al.); but most remarkable was an ad. Blue-footed there 10 Feb–24 Jun that “appeared to be bonding with an ad. Brown Booby” (ph. WTH et al.).

Nesting herons at C.P.G.P. 28 Apr included at least 12 Great Blue Herons, 25 Great Egrets, and 35 Snowy Egrets (MJB, MS, LDS). Eighteen California Condors have been released in Baja California, some of which frequented the desert w. of San Felipe last winter and some that ranged as far afield as Tecate. A nest with a chick was found high in the Sierra San Pedro Mártir this spring, establishing the first



The booby bonanza at Baja California's Islas Los Coronados continued this year, with up to 35 Brown Boobies (including two nesting pairs) and this adult Blue-footed Booby seen from 10 February 2007 into summer (here 20 March). Photograph by Matt Sadowski.

confirmed breeding record in Mexico. The chick did not fledge (all *vide* HdLC). At least one Broad-winged Hawk remained at Miraflores 7 Apr, but the report of another dark-morph individual (†KAR, CR; undocumented in the Region) did not rule out other potential species. Single Swainson's Hawks about 6 km w. of Tecate 31 Mar & 27 Apr (JS) were the only ones reported in the n.

We have much to learn about golden-

plowers in the Region. Two Americans in basic plumage were at Lagunas de Chametla 28–29 Mar (ph. SGM); Pacific remains unreported in the far s. A Black Oystercatcher near Puerto Lopez Mateos 18 Mar (REW) was apparently the southernmost ever recorded. One of 3 Spotted Sandpipers at Heroes de la Independencia 15 May was “very aggressive toward another,” perhaps hinting at the possibility of nesting, but no sandpipers were there 6 & 18 Jun (RAE). Three Sanderlings at C.P.G.P. 28 Apr (ph. MJB, MS, LDS) were the only ones found inland this season and a Baird's Sandpiper at the El Centenario tank 3 Mar, believed to be a migrant (ph. †MJI), established one of few, and the earliest, Regional spring record.

Franklin's Gulls were at Lagunas de Chametla 29 Mar (ph. SGM), I. San Esteban 5 Apr (2; MG), and C.P.G.P. 28 Apr (2; MJB, ph. MS, LDS). There have been many conflicting reports involving Yellow-footed/Western Gulls from Bahía Magdalena, and this spring was no exception. Iliff saw at least 4 confusing birds with yellowish legs “not as bright as on *livens*” 28 Feb–2 Mar, and Webster reported a Yellow-footed and 750 Westerns (many having “pink legs with extensive areas of dull yellowish”) at Puerto Lopez Mateos 17 Mar. He also noticed discolored legs on nearby Herring Gulls and suggested that some environmental factor or toxic agent might be responsible. We encourage observers to examine these gulls carefully to better understand this new or previously unnoticed situation. Sabine's Gulls were reported from the w. coast of Baja California (18; 26 Mar–11 Jun), the w. coast of Baja California Sur (21; 18–30 Mar), and the s. Gulf (11+; 4 Apr). Black-legged Kittiwakes are rarely reported in the Region, so different individuals at Is. Los Coronados 20 & 31 Mar (DWP, ph. MS et al.) were noteworthy. Nesting birds at C.P.G.P. 28 Apr included 150 Gull-billed, 75 Caspian, and 30 Forster's Terns, and 50 Black Skimmers (MJB, MS, LDS). Two Long-tailed Jaegers in the s. Gulf near Los Islotes and 30+ about 8 km se of I. Espíritu Santo 4 Apr (PAG) were seemingly early and included only one ad. in alternate plumage, suggesting that they may have wintered locally. The presence of unseasonable Long-tailed Jaegers in the Gulf has been one of the greatest Regional surprises recently and demands further study.

DOVES THROUGH ORIOLES

A record number of Mourning Doves was recorded at I. Guadalupe 17 Mar: 470 at the n. end (MSM et al.). Four Ruddy Ground-Doves remained at Bahía de Los Angeles 1–20 Mar (MF, GF), and 45 were in a flock at Todos San-

SA Islands in the Gulf of California are ideally situated for studies in island biogeography and consequently they were the focus of books published in 1983 and 2002 (*Island Biogeography in the Sea of Cortéz* and *A New Island Biogeography of the Sea of Cortéz*). While basic concepts concerning taxonomic differentiation and island size/breeding bird community associations are well covered, insufficient caution was used in the preparation of individual island bird lists. The same is true of a paper on birds of the Midriff (n. Gulf) Islands published in *Ecography* 23: 693–701 (2000).

We are fortunate to receive regular reports from Mike Greenfelder, who visits many of the Gulf islands as a guide each tourist season. From Dec through Apr, he recorded 47 shore- and land-bird species on eight islands, including a number of bird-island combinations not reported previously: Great Egret on Carmen; Black-crowned Night-Heron on Ildefonso; American Oystercatcher on Danzante; Merlin on Carmen; Peregrine Falcon on San Francisco; Belted Kingfisher on Santa Catalina and Danzante; Gila Woodpecker on Danzante; Gray Flycatcher on Santa Catalina; Gray Vireo on Espiritu Santo and Santa Catalina; Violet-green Swallow on Santa Catalina; Marsh Wren on Carmen; and Northern Mockingbird on San Francisco.

We are aware of a considerable amount of similar unpublished data from other observers in previous years and we look forward to the eventual careful compilation of this information. In the meantime, we welcome all reports from this fascinating area.

tos 13 Mar (MJI). Only 4 Vaux's Swifts were seen at E.S.J. this year (24 Mar; SGM), where up to 20 wintered the year before. Rufous Hummingbirds were reported from Bahía de



Like most American Golden-Plovers recorded in the Baja California Peninsula region, this cooperative individual was in southern Baja California Sur, where it was one of two at Lagunas de Chametla 28-29 (here 28) March 2007. Photograph by Steven G. Mlodinow.

Los Angeles northward 9 Feb–mid Apr, with individuals noted offshore at Bahía Todos Santos 15 Mar (PP et al.) and the Nine Mile Bank 31 Mar (GMcC et al.). Notable woodpeckers near Tecate in the far n. included a record-late Red-breasted Sapsucker through 17 Mar that was replaced by a male Downy Woodpecker 17 Mar–late Jun (†JS).

Real del Mar was good for migrant flycatchers, with a record-late Olive-sided Flycatcher 4 Jun (RAE) and the season's only Willow Flycatcher 8 May (ph. †MJB). Two migrant Hammond's Flycatchers were in the nw. 8 May (†MJB), and 3 Hammond's and a Dusky Flycatcher were in the Mexicali Valley 22 Apr (KAR). Four Bell's Vireos at Lagunita del Saucito, near the confluence of Arroyo San Juan de Dios and Arroyo El Cartabon, 27 Apr (ph. GR-C et al.) were at a previously unreported locality. Up to 3 Bank Swallows at E.S.J. 6-24 Mar (MJI, SGM) had undoubtedly wintered at the Cape, whereas 6 in the extreme ne. near Algodones 22 Apr (KAR) were migrants. Up to 3 migratory Ruby-crowned Kinglets on I. Guadalupe 17-19 Mar (KAR et

al.) were in the same groves once occupied by the now-extinct endemic subspecies *obscurus*.

For a species reported to be "fairly common in winter locally s. over the whole peninsula" (Grinnell, 1928, *A Distribution Summation of the Ornithology of Lower California*) and "locally common in the n. but rarer in the south" (Wilbur, 1987, *Birds of Baja California*), we receive very few reports of Sage Thrasher. Granted, recreational birders do not typically frequent the desolate habitats favored by this species. The four scattered reports of individuals since Dec 2006 and daily observations of a few at Bahía de Los Angeles in Jan/Feb (MF, GF) exceeded the number reported for the previous six years. Two were seen on islands: Guadalupe 16 Mar (PP, ph. MJB et al.) and San Benito Oeste 27 Mar (PAG). We encourage the reporting of at least summaries of all observations of this species in the Region.

More than 100 Nashville Warblers in the Mexicali Valley 22 Apr (KAR) established a record Regional count. A Green-tailed Towhee at the Mexicali Zoo 28 Apr (LDS) was judged to be a migrant. Presumably wintering, sparrows on I. Guadalupe 17-19 Mar included 2



Generally rare in Mexican waters, this adult Black-legged Kittiwake was on Baja California's Islas Los Coronados 20 March 2007. Photograph by Matt Sadowski.

Chipping, a Savannah, a Lincoln's, 8 White-crowned, and 8 continental Oregon Juncos (MJB et al.). In the Cape District, good coverage produced high counts of 25 Blue Grosbeaks at Todos Santos 4 Mar (MJI) and 24 Varied Buntings at Miraflores 25-27 Mar (SGM). Suspicions of far s. nestings were generated by 50 Red-winged Blackbirds, including singing males, at E.S.J. 23-24 Mar (SGM) and 2 singing Western Meadowlarks at El Centenario 3-28 Mar (ph. MJI, SGM). Both species were first recorded nesting in Baja California Sur in May 2006. Visitors to the Cape District know how common the Hooded Oriole is; Mlodinow estimated 200+ at E.S.J. 24 Mar and 225 at Miraflores 25-27 Mar.

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