

Guy McCaskie

ABBREVIATIONS — L.S.U.M.Z. = Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology, Baton Rouge, La.; N.E.S.S. = north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.; S.C.R.E. = Santa Clara River Estuary, Ventura Co.; S.E.S.S. = south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.; S.F.K.R.P. = the South Fork of the Kern River Preserve at the e. end of Isabella L., Kern County. As virtually all rarities found in S. California are seen by numerous observers, only the observer initially identifying the bird is included. Documentation is on file with the California Bird Records Committee (% Don Roberson, 282 Grove Acre, Pacific Grove, CA 93950) for all rarities listed in this report, and records submitted without documentation are not published.

Brown Pelican numbers built up to over 200 on the Salton Sea by early July (GMcC) but the species was unreported elsewhere inland. An ad. Olivaceous Cormorant at N.E.S.S., July 19 (GMcC) and Aug. 3 (MAP) was undoubtedly the same bird seen here in spring, and probably the individual seen off and on at this location in late summer since 1982. Single imm. Magnificent Frigatebirds were seen along the coast over s. San

There are very few nesting records for Am. Bitterns in s. California in recent years, hence the presence of at least 5 pairs in the Prado Basin near Corona, Riverside Co., throughout the period, and the finding of a juvenile there July 31 (LRH), were of interest. Two pairs of Great Blue Herons nesting at Legg L. in El Monte (MCL), 6 pairs along the Santa Ana R. in Anaheim (DRW), and 20 pairs nesting along the Kern R., e. of Bakersfield (MOC) were away from known breeding sites. The number of nesting pairs of Great Egrets at Morro Bay rose to 13 this summer (GPS); fair numbers were again present all

summer in coastal Orange and San Diego counties (DRW, EC), along with seven to 20 in the Prado Basin during June and July (LRH), but with no evidence of nesting. Up to four ad. Little Blue Herons were present around Imperial Beach throughout the period, and one was seen with two recently-fledged young July 26 (CGE), indicating at least one pair successfully nested. An ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co., June 21 (DK) and in nearby La Jolla June 27–July 19 (JO'B) was believed to be the same bird initially found in October 1981. Small numbers of White-faced Ibises at various locations along the coast, along with up to 17 in the Prado Basin (LRH), were all thought to be non-breeding wanderers, but 20 pairs at Guajome L. near Oceanside in April were clearly nest-building (EC). An ad. Wood Stork in the Prado Basin July 6+ (LRH) was the only one found away from the s. end of the Salton Sea.

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS — A Fulvous Whistling-Duck at N.E.S.S., June 28 (JO'B) was one of very few to be found away from S.E.S.S. in recent years. Totally unexpected was an ad. Tundra Swan at the Santa Maria R. mouth July 13 (TME); there is only one previous summer record for s. California. A flock of 18 Brant attempting to summer at N.E.S.S. had all succumbed by mid-July (GMCC) but one was still alive at S.E.S.S., July 26 (ML); small numbers attempt to summer on the Salton Sea most years but invariably die as a result of the heat and/or unsuitable foods. Two Wood Ducks in the Mojave Narrows Regional Park near Victorville, San Bernardino Co., July 8 (RMCK) were in suitable breeding habitat, but far from the nearest known nesting locality. Two Canvasbacks, rare to casual in summer, were present at Pt. Mugu throughout the season (JSR), and two more were at N.E.S.S. through June 21 (GMCC). A Ring-necked Duck in Goleta July 7 (CB), two on nearby L. Cachuma July 8 (PEL), and another on Otay L., San Diego Co., Aug. 9 (DK) were all of interest since the species is considered casual through the summer. A Greater Scaup, most unusual in summer, remained at Bolsa Chica all summer (LRH). An Oldsquaw spent the entire summer on Morro Bay (TME). A Surf Scoter at S.E.S.S., June 28 (JO'B) was evidently attempting to summer on this inland body of water. A ♀ Com. Merganser accompanied by 11 young on Nacimiento L., San Luis Obispo Co., May 31 (RR) gave us the first record for breeding in s. California.

A pair of Swainson's Hawks in the Fremont Valley, Kern Co., May 26 (MOC) and another pair seen nest-building (nest abandoned) in the Bitterwater Valley, San Luis Obispo/Kern Co., Apr. 12–16 (GPS) were the only ones found away from the Owens Valley. A pair of Zone-tailed Hawks successfully fledged one young from a nest on Hot Springs Mt., San Diego Co., in July (RHi); a pair that attempted to nest on Santa Rosa Mt., Riverside Co., during the summers of 1978–1981 provided the only previous record for breeding in California. Sightings of Peregrine Falcons along the coast have increased in recent years, no doubt as a result of the "hacking" of captive-bred young by the Peregrine Recovery Team, and it is now difficult to differentiate true wild birds from the locally "hacked" birds; however, one at S.E.S.S., July 7 (RMCK) was most likely from the breeding population in the Gulf of California.

SHOREBIRDS — A Lesser Golden-Plover (*fulva*) at S.C.R.E., July 15–19 (TW) was in full breeding plumage, hence judged to be an early fall migrant rather than a bird summering locally. In s. California, shorebirds are present throughout the summer, only the smaller species such as the "peeps" and Dunlin being rare; late spring migrants are still encountered in the first week of June, and the first of the fall migrants, after the ♀ Wilson's Phalaropes, are back by the last few days of June. The late spring migrants and early fall migrants are always in full breeding plumage, while non-breeding shorebirds remaining through June are invariably in winter plumage or partial breeding plumage at best, making them easily separable from the migrants. An ad. **Mongolian Plover** at S.C.R.E., July 12–17 (JSR, ph.) was believed to be the same individual present

at this location Aug. 7–13, 1982 and July 26–Aug. 2 1983. A count of 77 Snowy Plovers at Harper Dry Lake, San Bernardino Co., May 28 (SWC) indicated good numbers nested there this year, and a pair was seen with young near Lancaster July 17 (BB). An Am. Oystercatcher photographed on Santa Barbara I., May 30 (BWA) was one of a very few ever to be found in California, but the 2nd from this locality.

Single Solitary Sandpipers at China Ranch near Tecopa July 23 (JML) and near Frazier Park July 24 (JML) were the earliest reported this fall. A pair of Spotted Sandpipers accompanied by downy young along the Santa Ana R. in Anaheim June 18 (LRH), and a nest with eggs at San Elijo Lagoon July 14 (S & JG), gave us concrete evidence of breeding along the coast s. of Los Angeles. A calling Long-billed Curlew near Bishop, Inyo Co., June 22 (MH) was in suitable breeding habitat, and in the same area where s. California's only nesting has occurred. A Red Knot at S.E.S.S., July 19 (JO'B) was clearly a fall migrant. Three W. Sandpipers near Santa Maria June 11 (PEL) were exceptionally late spring migrants, and one at N.E.S.S., June 27 (BB) was the first of the adult fall migrants. Two Least Sandpipers near Santa Maria June 11 (PEL) were also exceptionally late spring migrants. A Baird's Sandpiper near Santa Maria July 25–26 (JML) was the earliest juvenile reported this fall. A Stilt Sandpiper at S.C.R.E., July 13–18 (BED) was along the coast where considered very rare. A Short-billed Dowitcher at N.E.S.S., June 28 (GMCC) was the first to be noted this fall. Single Com. Snipe near Cayucos, San Luis Obispo Co., July 6 (TME) & 27 (GPS) were exceptionally early, especially so for the coast. Five ♀ Wilson's Phalaropes at N.E.S.S., June 15 (GMCC) were fall migrants.

GULLS THROUGH SKIMMER — An ad. Laughing Gull at S.C.R.E., June 15 (SR) and another on Upper Newport Bay July 22–25 (LRH) were both along the coast where considered very rare. Three Franklin's Gulls at N.E.S.S., June 12 (DLD) were the only ones found this summer. A Heermann's Gull was seen sitting on a nest on Shell Beach Rocks off Shell Beach, San Luis Obispo Co., May 28 (GPS) but deserted; 2 pairs attempted to nest at this same location in 1980, and the only other nesting attempts in California were in San Francisco Bay in 1979–1981 (W. Birds 14:39–46, 1983). Four Heermann's Gulls on L. Henshaw, San Diego Co., July 6 (RHi), an adult at Salton City July 26 (GMCC), and an immature at N.E.S.S., Aug. 9 (GMCC) were inland where considered casual. An imm. Mew Gull in Oceano July 8 (TME) was unexpected, since few indeed have ever summered in s. California. A Herring Gull, another rarity in summer, was at S.C.R.E., June 28–July 8 (JSR), and a 2nd was at N.E.S.S., Aug. 9 (REW). An imm. Glaucous Gull found at N.E.S.S., May 31 (REW) was still present at the end of the period, to give us the 2nd summer record from this locality.

Thirteen ad. Gull-billed Terns were seen along with seven young on a small islet along the w. shore of the Salton Sea, just s. of Salton City, June 21 (RMCK), and about 75 were seen on nests at S.E.S.S., June 28 (GMCC), giving us an idea as to the size of the breeding population in California. The discovery of 20 Caspian Tern nests at Bolsa Chica this summer (LRH) provided the first breeding record for this species in Orange County, and the first in s. California away from San Diego Bay. An ad. Royal/Elegant Tern at N.E.S.S., June 12 (SWC, DLD) was most unusual, since there is no previous record of a Royal Tern from the interior of California, and only 2 previous records for an Elegant Tern inland. The observers felt the bird was a Royal Tern, but the fact that the bird had a virtually complete black cap would suggest it was an Elegant Tern, since Royal Terns lose the black cap during April–May, and should be in "winter plumage" in June. [This is true of Royals on the Pacific Coast, but the bird could have reached Salton Sea from farther east—K.K.] Three pairs of Forster's Terns found nesting at Upper Newport Bay in June (KF) were the first to be found breeding away from the Salton Sea and s. San Diego Bay. A Least Tern at N.E.S.S., July 6 (GMCC) was inland where very rare.

Black Skimmers continue to increase and expand their range in s. California with 130 nests on s. San Diego Bay (EC), 2 nests on Upper Newport Bay (LRH), 60 nests, all unfortunately destroyed by predators, at Bolsa Chica (LRH), along with 300+ nests at S.E.S.S. (GMcC); two seen periodically at the now mostly-drained Tulare L. in extreme n. Kern County during July (MOC) were clearly the pair nesting just to the n. of the Kern/Kings County line at that locality.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A White-winged Dove at Oasis May 31 (SWC) was unusually far north. Common Ground-Doves were found to be abundant breeders in the Prado Basin near Corona. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo near Barstow May 28 (DLD) and another at Oasis June 12 (BS) were spring migrants, this species being exceptionally late to arrive in California; 9 pairs in the S.F.K.R.P. (SL) and 3 pairs in the Prado Basin (LRH) were the only breeding birds found this year. A pair of Flammulated Owls again nested at Buckhorn Campground in the San Gabriel Mts. (KLG), and two to three calling birds were around Black Mt. Group Camp in the San Jacinto Mts. during May and June (RMCK). Several Long-eared Owls were present in the Prado Basin and one nest was found in June (MW), indicating this area may still support a healthy breeding population. Since few Short-eared Owls have been found nesting in s. California in recent years, a recently-fledged young accompanied by an adult at Harper Dry Lake, San Bernardino Co., May 28 (DLD) was of interest; in addition, up to seven around the S.F.K.R.P. all summer (RS) and two or three in the Fremont Valley, Kern Co., May 26 (JLD) were thought to be nesting. The finding of juv. N. Saw-whet Owls on Hot Springs Mt., June 21 (CGE) added another mountain location to the list of breeding localities for this species in s. California. A calling Whip-poor-will at Angeles Oaks in the San Bernardino Mts., June 15 (KLH) and three or four calling birds at Heart Bar Campground in the same mountain range July 5 (MAP) were at localities where nesting has been suspected in previous years, but a calling Whip-poor-will near Weldon May 31 (MOC) was the first ever to be found in Kern County.

Up to six Chimney Swifts over downtown Los Angeles all summer (KLG) and one over Carpinteria July 6 (LRB) were the only ones reported this year. Three Anna's Hummingbirds in Caruthers Canyon of the New York Mts., e. San Bernardino Co., May 21–22 (SWC) were felt to be post-breeding wanderers from the coast, but the possibility of nesting in this area should be considered. Allen's Hummingbirds now apparently nest throughout much of the Los Angeles Basin, with most along the coast (KLG); the migratory race *sasin* is known to nest along the coast s. to Ventura County, and the non-migratory race *sedentarius* nests on the Channel Is. and locally on the coast on the Palos Verdes Peninsula; hence, without specimens in hand to study, it would be mere speculation as to which race is expanding its range. A Lewis' Woodpecker near Weldon July 26 (RS) was unexpected, since this is far from any nesting localities. A Hairy Woodpecker at 1400 ft in Trabuco Canyon in the Santa Ana Mts., July 4 (DRW) was at a somewhat low elevation considering the time of year.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS — Since the s. form of Willow Flycatcher (*extimus*) is now very rare and local in s. California, and in danger of being extirpated in the Region, it is of significance that 40± pairs were present in the S.F.K.R.P. (RHe), five or six territorial males were along the Santa Ynez R. near Buellton, Santa Barbara Co. (PEL), and 4 pairs were found in the Prado Basin near Corona (LRH). A Dusky Flycatcher on Hot Springs Mt., July 19 (REW) was at the s. limit of the species' breeding range. A pair of Vermilion Flycatchers at a nest in Jacumba (elev. 3000 ft), San Diego Co., June 1 (JO'B) was at an unusually high elevation as well as establishing one of a very few nesting records in s. California away from Morongo Valley in recent years. A Dusky-capped Flycatcher at Deep Springs June 7 (PJM) was the first to be found during the

spring vagrant period. A pair of Brown-crested Flycatchers seen building a nest at China Ranch near Tecopa June 2 (JT) established the first breeding record for this area, and a pair at S.F.K.R.P., July 2–13 (SL), although not proven to be nesting, was well to the n.w. of the species' known breeding range. A vagrant Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was in San Diego June 14–17 (M & JF, ph.) and another was seen in Goleta July 10 (HR).

An imm. Steller's Jay in Santa Barbara July 30–31 (ED) was unexpected, since the species does not breed along the coast s. of n. San Luis Obispo County. A juv. Verdin at Mesquite Springs at the n. end of Death Valley July 23 (JML) was at the extreme n. limit of the species' breeding range in California. Six Red-breasted Nuthatches on Hot Springs Mt., July 19 (REW) and two on nearby Cuyamaca Peak July 3 (D & MH) were thought to be nesting, although breeding is so far unrecorded in these mountains; two in the Mojave Narrows Regional Park near Victorville July 8 (RMCK) may have been nesting in the ornamental pines planted in this area of the desert. Up to six Golden-crowned Kinglets were present on Hot Springs Mt. during June and July (CGE) and were believed to be nesting; breeding is unknown s. of the San Jacinto Mts. in s. California. One or two singing Hermit Thrushes at 5800 ft on Big Pine Mt., Santa Barbara Co., June 20 (JEL) were suspected to be breeding, and would establish the first nesting record for this location if proved. A Brown Thrasher hit by a car on San Clemente I., July 14 (DB-S) was the first ever to be found in s. California at this time of year. Three Bendire's Thrashers near Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino Co., July 8 (RMCK) were thought to be nesting locally. A singing Solitary Vireo at 6600 ft near Weldon throughout the summer (MOC) was of the gray race *plumbeus*; since this form has been expanding its breeding range in California, nesting here at the s. end of the Sierra Nevada Mts. should be considered a possibility.

WOOD WARBLERS — A ♂ Tennessee Warbler in Clairemont July 5 (DW) was only the 2nd ever to be found in s. California in July. A pair of Virginia's Warblers nesting near Wrightwood in the San Gabriel Mts. in June (TW) were the first to be found breeding in this mountain range, significantly to the w. of the nearest known nesting locality on the e. side of the San Bernardino Mts.; two young hatched on June 15, but the final outcome is unknown. It is of interest that Nashville Warblers have been found nesting within one mile of the Virginia's Warbler nest site, indicating this is an area of marginal sympatry. A Lucy's Warbler at Oasis June 7 (PJM) was unusually far north. A ♂ N. Parula at Oasis June 7 (BS) was a late spring vagrant but another in Santa Barbara July 19–Aug. 22 (HR) was probably summering locally. The sighting of a pair of Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warblers feeding recently-fledged young on Hot Springs Mt., July 12 (GMcC) furnished the first evidence of nesting in San Diego County. A Black-and-white Warbler in Redlands June 26 (RMCK) and another in La Jolla July 14 (JM) were both summer stragglers. A ♂ Am. Redstart at Oasis June 12 (PM) was a late spring vagrant. A N. Waterthrush near Bishop Aug. 7 (H & JM) was exceptionally early for a fall migrant; observers should be aware that 2 or 3 fall records of Louisiana Waterthrushes in Arizona fall between July 31 and Aug. 3, and that the only 2 records for California are for Aug. 7 and Aug. 17, indicating it can occur exceptionally early in the Southwest in fall, and may be the more likely waterthrush in early August. Four singing MacGillivray's Warblers in Montana de Oro S.P., June 16 (CM) suggested nesting at this locality, and if so would establish this as the southernmost outpost for breeding along the coast.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — At least one pair of Hepatic Tanagers was again along the upper end of Arastre Creek in the San Bernardino Mts., May 24+ (JSR) and was thought to have nested. Nesting Summer Tanagers were found w. to the Whitewater Canyon, Riverside Co. (SJM), near Valyermo, Los Angeles Co. (H & PB), and Victorville (RMCK); single

birds in Rustic Canyon, Los Angeles Co., June 23 (BW), at Malibu in late June (JKA), and in Santa Barbara all summer (SP) were w. of the species' known breeding range, and considered summer stragglers. A ♂ Scarlet Tanager near Lopez L., San Luis Obispo Co., June 14 (CM) was one of a very few ever found in spring. A pair of W. Tanagers at Cerro Alto Campground near Morro Bay June 26–July 11 (JMCD) appeared to be on territory, and, if nesting, would establish the first breeding record for this area. A ♂ Pyrrhuloxia, an accidental straggler to California, was well seen at Cottonwood Springs in Joshua Tree N.M., June 1 (GH). A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Oasis June 7 (PJM) was a late spring vagrant, but a male and female at the S.F.K.R.P. during late July (SL) and single males in the Laguna Mts., June 21–22 (AR) and in La Jolla July 29 (RP) were all summer stragglers. No Indigo Buntings were found in the S.F.K.R.P., where small numbers had been found in recent summers, but up to three territorial males were present in the Prado Basin near Corona June 4+ (LRH) and nesting should be looked for in this area in the future. A ♂ Dickcissel at Oasis June 9 (BS) was in the same area where Dickcissels have been found at about this time in the past 2 years. Singing Grasshopper Sparrows at 4 locations around Weldon during June and July (RB) were the first to be found in Kern County in many years. Two pairs of Dark-eyed Juncos found nesting in La Jolla in June (JO'B) were the first ever to have been found nesting along the coast s. of Los Angeles County.

A ♀ Bobolink at Oasis June 9 (BS) was late for s. California. Twenty pairs of Great-tailed Grackles nesting in the Prado Basin near Corona this summer (LRH) established the 2nd breeding record w. of the Coast Range; a male in La Jolla Aug. 7 (PH) and another in Goleta July 6–16 (RHs) were both along the immediate coast where still considered very rare. A Com. Grackle, a casual straggler to California, was at Deep Springs June 10–12 (BS). Up to three Bronzed Cowbirds were present all summer in Brawley (GMC), where the species undoubtedly

breeds. An Evening Grosbeak on Mt. Pinos July 24 (JML) was unexpected, there being only one previous record in July.

ADDENDA — A recently-dead (probably shot about Jan. 1) Red-throated Loon at N.E.S.S., Jan. 16 (SWC, *L.S.U.M.Z.) was the first ever to be found on the Salton Sea. Two Lark Buntings, now very rare and irregular in spring, were near Borrego Springs, San Diego Co., Apr. 11 (JK, ph.).

CONTRIBUTORS (County coordinators in boldface) — Jonathan K. Alderfer, Brian W. Arnold, Larry R. Ballard, Robert Barnes, Chris Benesh, Dana Bleitz-Sanburg (DB-S), Bruce Broadbooks, Hank & Priscilla Brodtkin (H & PB), Steven W. Cardiff, **Mark O. Chichester** (Kern Co.), **Elizabeth Copper** (San Diego Co.), Brian E. Daniels, Donna L. Dittman, Eileen Duarte, Jon L. Dunn, **Tom M. Edell** (San Luis Obispo Co.), Claude G. Edwards, Mack & Janet Fader (M & JF), Chris Floyd, Kevin Forster, Sylvia & James Gallagher (S & JG), **Kimball L. Garrett** (Los Angeles Co.), Kern L. Hainebach, Pam Hanlein, Don & Marjorie Hastings (D & MH), Loren R. Hays, Gjon Hazzard, Rick Hewett (RHe), Roger Higson (RH), Ron Hirst (RHs), Mark Holmgren, James Kieran, Dave King, Jeri M. Langham, Steve Laymon, Paul E. Lehman, Joan E. Lentz, Mike Lippsmeyer, Michael C. Long, Hue & JoAnn MacKenzie (H & JM), Curtis Marantz, John McDonald (JMCD), **Robert McKernan** (RMCK) (Riverside Co.), Dave McLeod (DMcL), Peter J. Metropulos, Joanne Moore, Stephen J. Myers, Larry L. Norris, John O'Brien (JO'B), Rusty Padrero, Michael A. Patten, Sally Pierce, Hugh Ranson, Ardith Reed, **Jim S. Royer** (Ventura Co.), Ron Ruppert, Barry Sauppe, Rick Saval, Gregory P. Smith, Jan Tarble, Richard E. Webster, Miles Wheeler, David White, Bernard Willets, **Douglas R. Willick** (Orange Co.), **Tom Wurster** (Santa Barbara Co.). An additional 50+ observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports this season.—**GUY McCASKIE**, San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, P.O. Box 1390, San Diego, CA 92112.