

# **CALIFORNIA SPECIALTIES**

**APRIL 14 – 22, 2007**



Island Scrub-Jay

Photo: Brad Schram

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## **Itinerary**

- 14 April Meet in the evening at hotel in San Diego, get-acquainted dinner.
- 15 April Bird San Dieguito Regional Park at Lake Hodges; J Street Marina, West San Diego Bay; San Diego River mouth. Highlights included fine looks at California Gnatcatcher, followed by a downpour, displaying Western and Clark's Grebes, a Peregrine Falcon's persistent attacks on an American Avocet close by, and a raucous flock of Elegant Terns.
- 16 April Drive to Kitchen Creek Road east of San Diego, then through the Laguna mountains—the higher reaches under two inches of fresh snow at roadside—to lunch at Julian. Migrant western warblers at eye-level outside the Julian sandwich shop gave us an amazing, and unexpected, multi-species show next to the sidewalk. Lake Henshaw's nesting Bald Eagles put on a show impossible in Southern California twenty years ago. Tamarisk Grove Campground in the Anza-Borrego desert had a few migrants; we then drove to our hotel in Brawley south of the Salton Sea. Unseasonably cold today!
- 17 April Birding for the day in the vicinity of the south end of the Salton Sea. Both Ramer and Finney Lakes had comparatively few birds this morning in optimum birding weather—unusually cool, if clear and still. An uncooperative Crissal Thrasher gave some of us a glimpse—the only one we saw. A responsive Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, however, displayed memorably nearby. Three species of dove presented themselves nicely near Calipatria while a fourth, a male Ruddy Ground-Dove, called relentlessly deep within an impenetrable eucalyptus tree. Two first year Yellow-footed Gulls flew by at Obsidian Butte in the Salton Sea's southeast corner while Lesser Nighthawks displayed audibly over the butte behind us. Late afternoon birding in Cattle Call Park in Brawley ended the day nicely with a variety of western migrants.
- 18 April Travel to Maricopa with quick morning birding in Brawley followed by stops at Salton City, Covington Park and Big Morongo Preserve. Migrant numbers were modest in the Morongo Valley, but produced good looks at a roosting Barn Owl, two species of empids, a Plumbeous Vireo, and Lawrence's Goldfinch. Late afternoon birding near Maricopa produced LeConte's Thrasher and Sage Sparrow in wonderful light. High winds below mountains today!
- 19 April Birding along Cerro Noroeste road, Mil Potrero Campground, and the Mount Pinos region. On returning along the Cerro Noroeste ridge we found three California Condors on a hill a mile distant, surrounded by relatively diminutive ravens, feasting on a carcass—amazing. We then traveled through the Cuyama Valley where we found a few thousand Tri-colored Blackbirds at a dairy. Evening at our cliff-top hotel at Shell Beach in San Luis Obispo County.
- 20 April Morning birding in drizzle in Shell Beach near the hotel—where we were treated to a hunting Peregrine Falcon above the cliffs. Birding at Oceano Campground produced a nice selection of western migrants, lingering Cackling

and Ross's geese, and a fantastic female Allen's Hummingbird actively nest-building near the trail. A stop at Los Alamos County Park in Santa Barbara County gave us close-up Yellow-billed Magpies for all to admire at leisure beneath old Valley Oaks. Stopping at an overlook alongside Hwy. 101 gave us excellent 'scope looks at migrating Pacific Loons moving up the Santa Barbara Channel.

21 April Our boat trip across the SB Channel on choppy seas with an off-shore breeze was marginally productive. Only a few Sooty Shearwaters coursed over the channel, a lone Common Murre flew by, and many Pacific Loons went by up-coast. We found Santa Cruz Island in post card-perfect conditions between two days of rain. Although western migrants weren't found on the island, the Island Scrub Jay gave us its total attention after an initial hour of hide-and-seek. The return trip to Ventura Marina brought few pelagic birds, but these included knockout looks at a pair of cooperative (they didn't fly off) Xantus's Murrelets in mid-channel.

22 April Departure for home—after **1239 miles** tour driving distance (plus boat!)

**Code:** 4/10 = this species has been seen on four of ten California Specialties tours

ABD = Anza Borrego Desert

LH = San Dieguito Regional Park, Lake Hodges

K = Kitchen Creek Rd., SD county

LACP = Los Alamos County Park

MPCG = Mil Potrero Camp Ground below Mt. Pinos

MSY = Mission Santa Ysabel

MV = Morongo Valley

SDRM = San Diego River Mouth

SDB = San Diego Bay

SB = Santa Barbara

ShB = Shell Beach

SCI = Santa Cruz Island

SS = Salton Sea Region (includes Ramer and Finney lakes)

TG = Tamarisk Grove Cpgrd., Anza-Borrego State Park

## BIRDS

SWANS, GEESE & DUCKS: *ANATIDAE*

Canada Goose (*Branta Canadensis*) 6/11 ShB and a few at SB

**Cackling Goose** (*B. minima*) 3/11 a wintering bird at Oceano appears to be of the Aleutian subspecies *leucopareia*

Brant (*Branta bernicla*) 11/11 a large migrant flock over SB Channel; SDB; Lake Henshaw shoreline also had a few migrants.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) 11/11 a few where expected: SDRM, Lake Henshaw

American Wigeon (*Anas americana*) 6/11 a few late individuals at Lake Henshaw

Mallard (*A. platyrhynchos*) 11/11 wherever there's fresh water

Blue-winged Teal (*A. discors*) 11/11 SDRM, J St.  
Cinnamon Teal (*A. cyanoptera*) 11/11 fewer than usual—SS  
Northern Shoveler (*A. clypeata*) 11/11 good numbers at SDRM, SS, Lake Henshaw  
Greater Scaup (*A. marita*) 2/11 a rare late bird at J St. Marina  
Lesser Scaup (*A. affinis*) 11/11 a few at SDB  
Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*) 11/11 a few at ShB, SB Channel; large flock off  
Prisoner's  
Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) 7/11 a few lingering birds at SDB  
Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) 11/11 SS and most fresh water venues

PHEASANTS, GROUSE, and TURKEY: *PHASIANIDAE*

Wild Turkey 7/11 a few small flocks in Laguna Mtns.

NEW WORLD QUAIL: *ODONTOPHORIDAE*

**Mountain Quail** (*Oreortyx pictus*) 10/11 a pair seen by a few at Kitchen Creek  
where they called incessantly and all around. Never even heard at Mt. Pinos!  
California Quail (*Callipepla californica*) 11/11 seen a few times in transit; excellent looks  
at Deer Canyon, Arroyo Grande  
Gambel's Quail (*C. gambelii*) 11/11 seen frequently around SS

LOONS: *GAVIIDAE*

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) 9/11 more than usual; ShB, SB, Ventura, SCI  
Pacific Loon (*G. pacifica*) 11/11 many flocks flying up the SB Channel, some close  
Common Loon (*G. immer*) 11/11 a gorgeous breeding plumaged bird at boat side in  
Ventura Harbor was the only one seen

GREBES: *PODICIPEDIDAE*

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) 11/11 a few at Oceano only: surprising  
Eared Grebe (*P. nigricollis*) 11/11 small numbers at SS by historic comparison; SDB  
Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) 11/11 LH, ShB, SS, & SB Channel  
Clark's Grebe (*A. clarkii*) 11/11 LH, SS, Ventura

SHEARWATERS & PETRELS: *PROCELLARIDAE*

Pink-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus creatopus*) 7/11 only one on the channel  
Sooty Shearwater (*P. griseus*) 10/11 15 +/- on SB Channel, less than normal  
Black-vented Shearwater (*P. opisthomelas*) 3/11 one with Sooties, the only one--late

PELICANS: *PELECANIDAE*

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchus*) 11/11 a few at SS  
Brown Pelican (*P. occidentalis*) 11/11 all along the coast; few at SS where now  
uncommon

CORMORANTS: *PHALACROCORACIDAE*

Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) 11/11  
Brandt's Cormorant (*P. penicillatus*) 11/11 ShB & offshore  
Pelagic Cormorant (*P. pelagicus*) 11/11 ShB & offshore

BITTERNS AND HERONS: *ARDEIDAE*

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) 11/11  
Great Egret (*A. albus*) 11/11  
Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) 11/11  
Little Blue Heron 9/11 five in SD river mouth channel; rare elsewhere in California  
Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) 11/11 common near the Salton Sea  
Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) 11/11 very surprising one at TG; SS, & Oceano  
Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) 11/11 LH, SS, SHB, Ventura

IBISES & SPOONBILLS: *THRESKIORNITHIDAE*

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) 10/11 flocks near SS

AMERICAN VULTURES: *CATHARTIDAE*

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) 11/11 daily  
**California Condor** (*Gymnogyps californianus*) 1/11 three birds on the ground at Bitter Creek NWR astounded us all! One flew close enough to see the white above secondaries on the dorsal surface, and its orange head, in our binoculars. A first for this tour, truly spectacular.

HAWKS, EAGLES, & KITES: *ACCIPITRIDAE*

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) 9/11 SD & SS  
White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) 11/11 Fine looks at Lake Hodges; also Nipomo Mesa, SLOCo  
Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) 8/11 LH, SS  
Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) 8/11 a late migrant descending into ABD  
Cooper's Hawk (*A. cooperii*) 11/11 MV, SCI  
Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) 11/11 SB & SLO counties  
Red-tailed Hawk (*B. jamaicensis*) 11/11 commonly seen each area but ocean  
**Swainson's Hawk** (*B. swainsoni*) 5/11 one in Cuyama Valley, uncommon in CA  
Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) 9/11 overhead at MV, harassed by Raven  
**Bald Eagle** (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) 4/11 adults and nestling at a nest at Lake Hodges, & an adult on Santa Cruz Isl.—both breeding locales are re-population by this resurgent sp.

FALCONS & CARACARAS: *FALCONIDAE*

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) 11/11 commonly seen while driving

Peregrine Falcon (*F. peregrinus*) 9/11 an imm. bird pursuing and catching an Am. Avocet at J St. Marina gave us a remarkable show; the adult stooping on prey above our motel at ShB was even more dramatic!

RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS: *RALLIDAE*

Sora (*Porzana Carolina*) 6/11 a calling bird was heard only at Finney Lake  
Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) 10/11 Finney Lake, a few  
American Coot (*Fulica americana*) 11/11 ubiquitous where damp

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS: *CHARADRIIDAE*

Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) 11/11 SDRM, SS, Ventura  
Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) 8/11 a single bird at SS  
Semipalmated Plover (*C. semipalmatus*) 11/11 SDRM & SS  
Killdeer (*C. vociferus*) 11/11 including a nesting bird (two eggs) next to van at SS

OYSTERCATCHERS: *HEMATOPODIDAE*

Black Oystercatcher (*Haematopus bachmani*) 11/11 ShB, and Santa Cruz Island

STILTS AND AVOCETS: *RECURVIROSTRIDAE*

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) 11/11 SDB, SDRM & SS  
American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) 11/11 SDB, SDRM & SS

SANDPIPERS, PHALAROPES & ALLIES: *SCOLOPACIDAE*

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) 11/11 LH & SS  
Wandering Tattler (*Tringa incanus*) 6/11 one at Prisoner's, SCI only  
Greater Yellowlegs (*T. melanoleuca*) 10/11 a few at SS  
Willet (*T. semipalmatus*) 10/10 all sea shores, incl. SS  
Lesser Yellowlegs (*T. flavipes*) 3/11 SS, where uncommon  
Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) 11/11 ocean and salt marsh edges, incl. SS  
Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) 11/11 common at SDRM, a few at SS, Ventura  
Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) 7/11 Red Hill SS and Ventura  
Black Turnstone (*A. melanocephala*) 11/11 ShB, Ventura Harbor—but very few  
Surfbird (*Aphriza virgata*) 6/11 a lone bird at Ventura Harbor breakwater  
Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) 11/11 SDRM  
Western Sandpiper (*C. mauri*) 11/11 SDRM, SS,  
Least Sandpiper (*C. minutilla*) 11/11 SDRM, SS, ShB  
Dunlin (*C. alpina*) 9/11 SDRM, SDB, SS  
**Stilt Sandpiper** (*C. himantopus*) 4/11 **55** at Red Hill, SS, a high number for this scarce CA migrant  
Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) 11/11 SDRM  
Long-billed Dowitcher (*L. scolopaceus*) 11/11 SDRM & common at SS  
Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*) 8/11 a few at SS  
Red-necked Phalarope (*lobatus*) 11/11 few at SS, lower than usual

SKUAS, GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS: *LARIDAE*

Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*) 11/11 LH, Lake Henshaw; SS, SB Channel  
Heerman's Gull (*L. heermanni*) 9/11 one imm. at Ventura breakwater the only one  
Ring-billed Gull (*L. delawarensis*) 11/11 SDB, SDRM, SS, Ventura  
California Gull (*L. californicus*) 11/11 all salt water—although few gulls at SS by historic standards  
**Yellow-footed Gull** (*L. livens*) 6/11 two 1<sup>st</sup> yr. birds at Obsidian Butte—wintering birds  
Western Gull (*L. occidentalis*) 11/11 ubiquitous along coast and SB Channel; one at SS (western shore) where rare  
Glaucous-winged Gull (*L. glaucescens*) 11/11 J St. Marina, SB Channel, 6 at Oceano Lagoon were more than usual this date  
Gull-billed Tern (*Sterna nilotica*) 6/11 J St Marina, SDB, SS  
Caspian Tern (*S. caspia*) 11/11 common at salt water incl. SS  
Forster's Tern (*S. forsteri*) 11/11 SDRM, SS, SB Channel  
Royal Tern (*S. maxima*) 7/11 SDRM  
Elegant Tern (*S. elegans*) 10/11 SDB, SDRM, 3 at SS where *casual* in summer, Ventura  
Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*) 11/11 a few loafing on shore of W SDB

AUKS, MURRES & PUFFINS: *ALCIDAE*

Common Murre (*Uria aalge*) 9/11 off Ventura  
Pigeon Guillemot (*Cepphus columba*) 11/11 Shell Beach, and Santa Cruz Island  
**Xantus's Murrelet** (*Synthliboramphus hypoleucus*) 10/11 two in SB Channel gave us fine looks on the water

PIGEONS AND DOVES: *COLUMBIDAE*

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) 11/11 daily  
Band-tailed Pigeon (*C. fasciata*) 10/11 Mt. Pinos, Arroyo Grande (Deer Cyn)  
White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) 9/11 a few in ABD  
Mourning Dove (*Z. macroura*) 11/11 daily  
Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*) 10/11 Brawley, Calipatria  
Common-Ground Dove (*C. passerina*) 10/11 Calipatria, SS  
**Ruddy Ground Dove** (*C. talpacoti*) 5/11 extremely rare in CA, one singing in a eucalyptus tree near Calipatria was heard only  
Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) 11/11 now countable in California, this bird is rapidly extending its range here—everywhere

CUCKOOS, ROADRUNNERS AND ANIS: *CUCULIDAE*

Greater Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*) 11/11 LH by Neil only, SS by all

BARN OWLS: *TYTONIDAE*

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) 3/11 two roosting birds seen: at Sonny Bono NWR and MV

OWLS: *STRIGIDAE*

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) 11/11 well-seen on roadside dikes near SS

NIGHTJARS: *CAPRIMULGIDAE*

Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) 10/11 Finney Lake & Obsidian Butte, SS

SWIFTS: *APODIDAE*

Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*) 9/11 migrants at LH, Coronado, Pismo Beach

White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes saxatilis*) 11/11 LH, Arroyo Grande, SCI

HUMMINGBIRDS: *TROCHILIDAE*

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilocus alexandri*) 11/11 TG, SS, at close range at MV

Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) 11/11 common in vegetation

Costa's Hummingbird (*C. costae*) 10/11 TG, MV, Arroyo Grande

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) 6/11 MV, Oceano

**Allen's Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus sasin*) 11/11 both resident *sedentarius* on SCI  
and migratory *sasin*—building nest at Oceano

KINGFISHERS: *ALCENINIDAE*

Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) 5/11 one at MV where uncommon-rare

WOODPECKERS & ALLIES: *PICIDAE*

Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) 11/11 common among oaks

Gila Woodpecker (*M. uropygialis*) 11/11 Brawley

Ladder-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides scalaris*) 6/11 at feeder in MV

Nuttall's Woodpecker (*P. nuttallii*) 11/11 MV, Arroyo Grande, LACP

Downy Woodpecker (*P. pubescens*) 10/11 Oceano only

Hairy Woodpecker (*P. villosus*) 10/11 Mt. Pinos

White-headed Woodpecker (*P. albolarvatus*) 8/11 leisurely close-up looks at MPCG!!

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) 11/11 a few only—MPCG, SCI

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: *TYRANNIDAE*

Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondii*) 6/11 Brawley & MV migrants

Gray Flycatcher (*E. wrightii*) 4/11 two or three at MV migrants

Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*E. difficilis*) 11/11 Brawley ("Slippery-slope Flycatcher"), MV;  
island sub-species heard on SC Isl.

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) 11/11 seen wherever there was water

**Vermilion Flycatcher** (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) 11/11 fine looks in Morongo

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) 9/11 SS, MV, MPCG, Cuyama, SCI

Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*) 11/11 LH, Oceano

Western Kingbird (*T. verticalis*) 11/11 every day but the SB/SLO coast & SCI—a real  
push at LH in the morning

VIREOS: *VIREONIDAE*

**Bell's Vireo** (*Vireo belli*) 3/11 one likely of the threatened subspecies *pusillus* at TG

**Plumbeous Vireo** (*V. plumbeus*) 2/11 MV, a rare migrant away from scattered mountain breeding territories in S. Calif.

Cassin's Vireo (*V. cassinii*) 8/11 one at TG, spotted by Jim, performed nicely at ground level

Hutton's Vireo (*V. huttoni*) 10/11 Deer Canyon, AG

Warbling Vireo (*V. gilvus*) 10/10 MV, Oceano: like migrants generally this week, scarce

JAYS, MAGPIES & CROWS: *CORVIDAE*

Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*) 11/11 K & Mt. Pinos

Western Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) 11/11 wherever habitat is appropriate

**Island Scrub-Jay** (*A. insularis*) 10/11 after tantalizing us with brief looks one finally posed & stayed close-by throughout lunch—hoping for unforthcoming handouts

Yellow-billed Magpie (*Pica nuttallii*) 11/11 Cuyama Valley & outstanding up-close looks: Los Alamos

American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) 11/11 common on coastal plain and irrigated farm land, except Imperial Valley

Common Raven (*C. corax*) 11/11 interior dry country, desert, and mountains

LARKS: *ALAUDIDAE*

Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) 11/11 Cerro Noroeste Rd. only

SWALLOWS: *HIRUNDINIDAE*

Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) 11/11 SD, SS, Arroyo Grande

Violet-green Swallow (*T. thalassina*) 11/11 migrants & common on Mt Pinos

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) 10/11 SDRM, SS, Oceano

Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) 4/11 Finney Lake, SS, only

Cliff Swallow (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*) 11/11 very common as migrants and breeders

Barn Swallow (*H. rustica*) 11/11 commonly seen migrants; breeding under SCI pier

CHICKADEES & TITMICE: *PARIDAE*

Mountain Chickadee (*Parus gambeli*) 11/11 common in the mountains; 2 at MV

Chestnut-backed Chickadee (*P. rufescens*) 11/11 riparian at Oceano

Oak Titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*) 11/11 Buckman Sprgs. Rest Stop Hwy. 8, K, Mt. Pinos, Los Alamos

VERDIN: *REMIZIDAE*

Verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*) 11/11 desert, where common

BUSHTIT: *AEGITHALIDAE*

Bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*) 11/11 common in chaparral and oaks

NUTHATCHES: *SITTIDAE*

Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) 4/11 a responsive pair on Mt. Pinos

White-breasted Nuthatch (*S. carolinensis*) 11/11 Laguna Mtns., Mt. Pinos, Los Alamos

Pygmy Nuthatch (*S. pygmaea*) 11/11 Laguna Mtns., Mt. Pinos

WRENS: *TROGLODYTIDAE*

Cactus Wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*) 11/11 heard only in desert at TG

Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) 9/11 a responsive bird close at K

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) 11/11 often heard, less often seen, but com.

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) 11/11 coast and mtns.

Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) 11/11 at Finney Lake & Oceano

OLD WORLD WARBLERS: *MUSCICAPIDAE (Sylviinae)*

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher (*P. melanura*) 11/11 excellent looks near Ramer Lake

**California Gnatcatcher** (*P. californica*) 11/11 well-seen at Lake Hodges, fine looks by all

THRUSHES & ALLIES: *MUSCICAPIDAE (Turdinae)*

Western Bluebird (*Sialis mexicana*) 11/11 well seen many places

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) 4/11 a migrant at TG

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) 11/11 only a few

BABBLERS: *MUSCICAPIDAE (Timaliinae)*

Wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*) 11/11 the voice of the chaparral: LH, K, LACP

MOCKINGBIRDS, THRASHERS & ALLIES: *MIMIDAE*

Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) 11/11 daily

California Thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum*) 11/11 common in chaparral

**Crissal Thrasher** (*T. crissale*) 11/11 a single bird at Finney Lake didn't like our looks

**Le Conte's Thrasher** (*T. lecontei*) 11/11 truly outstanding looks at a quickly responsive bird at Maricopa—walk-away 'scope views!

STARLINGS: *STURNIDAE*

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) 11/11

WAXWINGS: *BOMBYCILLIDAE*

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) 10/11 a flock at Oceano only

SILKY-FLYCATCHERS: *PTILOGONATIDAE*

Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*) 11/11 surprisingly few! A few at MV only. Unusual.

WOOD-WARBLERS: *EMBERIZIDAE (Parulinae)*

Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*) 11/11 a few here and there; subspecies *sordida* on SCI

Nashville Warbler (*V. ruficapilla*) 11/11 a common migrant warbler of the trip

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) 11/11 SS & Morongo

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*D. coronata*) 11/11 commonly seen migrants

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*D. nigriscens*) 8/11 surprisingly common, close-up looks at many males: Laguna Mtns., Julian, SS, Oceano

Townsend's Warbler (*D. townsendi*) 11/11 many wonderful looks at fancy males: Laguna Mtns., Julian, Finney Lake, Oceano

Hermit Warbler (*D. occidentalis*) 9/11 outstanding looks at a cooperative male in Laguna Mtns.

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) 11/11 Julian, SS, Oceano, SCI

Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) 11/11 SS, Oceano—unusually few

TANAGERS: *EMBERIZIDAE (Thraupinae)*

Western Tanager (*P. ludoviciana*) 10/11 only two at Oceano! Unusually few for date

SPARROWS: *EMBERIZIDAE (Emberizinae)*

Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*) 9/11 a responsive bird in scope on Mt. Pinos left us all gasping for superlatives—what a show!

Spotted Towhee (*P. maculatus*) 11/11 common in chaparral and mtn. slopes

California Towhee (*P. crissalis*) 11/11 one of the commonest birds of the tour

Abert's Towhee (*P. aberti*) 11/11 seen by all near the Salton Sea

Rufous-crowned Sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps*) 10/11 one of island race *obscura* the only one seen—migrants not in yet in chaparral on mainland

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) 9/11 K, SS, TG

Black-chinned Sparrow (*S. atrogularis*) 9/11 good looks at Kitchen Creek

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) 11/11 K, Lake Henshaw & Cerro Noroeste Rd.

Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*) 7/11 wonderful looks at a responsive pair in Anza-Borrego SP

Sage Sparrow (*Amphispiza belli canescens*) 11/11 the inland *canescens* race seen well at Maricopa

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) 9/11 "Belding's" subspecies SD Bay (*beldingi*), a grassland race along Cerro Noroeste

Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*) 10/11 "thick-billed" *stephensi* race briefly seen on Mt. Pinos—future split; apparently just arrived, not too responsive

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) 11/11 common, incl. Sta. Cruz Island race *Clementae*

Lincoln's Sparrow (*M. lincolni*) 3/11 a lingering bird at MV, only the 3<sup>rd</sup> for this tour

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) 11/11 lingering wintering birds

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Z. atricapilla*) 8/11 lingering birds at Arroyo Grande  
Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) 11/11 a few in mountains and along coast

CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS & BUNTINGS: *CARDINALIDAE*

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) 10/11 relatively few  
Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*) 8/11 MSY, MV only a couple brief looks  
Lazuli Bunting (*P. amoena*) 9/11 Mission Santa Ysabel: migrants

BLACKBIRDS and ALLIES: *ICTERIDAE*

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) 11/11 every day  
**Tricolored Blackbird** (*A. tricolor*) 11/11 2,000+/- at Cuyama Dairy—mostly males  
Western Meadowlark (*Sternella neglecta*) 11/11  
Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) 10/11 6-8 males with Tri-  
colors at dairy  
Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) 11/11  
Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) 11/11 LH, abundant at SS, spreading fast in  
CA  
Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) 11/11  
Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*) 11/11 at hotel in Mission Valley, a few elsewhere  
Bullock's Oriole (*I. bullockii*) 11/11 very few, cold weather may have slowed movement

FINCHES: *FRINGILLIDAE*

Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) 9/11 Oceano only  
House Finch (*C. mexicanus*) 11/11  
Lesser Goldfinch (*C. psaltria*) 11/11  
**Lawrence's Goldfinch** (*C. lawrenci*) 11/11 LH with Lessers; a cooperative male  
perched for lingering 'scope views at MV  
American Goldfinch (*C. tristis*) 10/11 a few Oceano only

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: *PASSERIDAE*

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) 11/11

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**225 Species**

**1239** Tour miles

**MAMMALS**

Sea Otter  
Coyote  
Mule Deer  
California Sea Lion  
Harbor Seal  
California Ground Squirrel (nearly ubiquitous)

White-tailed Antelope Squirrel  
Gray Squirrel  
Round-tailed Ground  
Merriam's Chipmunk  
Squirrel Brush Rabbit  
Desert Cottontail  
Cottontail  
Black-tailed Jackrabbit  
Risso's Dolphin  
Common Dolphin

## **BUTTERFLIES**

(not many due to cold weather)

Monarch  
Sara Orangetip  
Spring Azure