STATUS AND TAXONOMY OF THE COLORADO DESERT AVIFAUNA OF BAJA CALIFORNIA

Michael A. Patten*, Eric Mellink**, Héctor Gómez de Silva**, and Thomas E. Wurster

* San Diego Natural History Museum, Box 121390, San Diego, California 92112, USA
** Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada, Apartado Postal 2732, Ensenada, B.C., México

ABSTRACT

The western Sonoran Desert, the Colorado Desert, extends into the northeastern portion of the Baja California Peninsula, encompassing the floodplain of the lower Río Colorado, a part of the Salton Sink, and the northwesternmost Gulf of California. The avifauna of this arid, hot region has not been studied extensively but, as expected, it appears to be most similar to that of the Salton Sea region, southwestern Arizona, and western Sonora. Herein we have compiled available data on species and subspecies occurring in the region to elucidate patterns of occurrence and relative abundance compared to these adjacent regions, and to set the groundwork for future work in the area. We provide status and references, including many previously unpublished sight records, for all avian taxa reliably recorded in the region (280 native species and an additional 56 subspecies). We also list species likely to occur, on the basis of their status in adjacent regions, but not yet recorded in the Colorado Desert of Baja California (26 species), and we have specifically addressed and debunked several species claimed for the region.

RESUMÉN

El Desierto Sonorense Occidental, el Desierto del Colorado, se extiende y penetra en la porción nororiental de la Península de Baja California, englobando las planicies inundables cerca de la desembocadura del Río Colorado, una parte de la Cuenca del Salton, y la parte mas noroccidental del Golfo de California. La avifauna de esta árida, calurosa región no se ha estudiado extensivamente pero, como se esperaría, ésta parece ser muy similar a la de la región del Mar del Salton, suroccidente de Arizona, y occidente de Sonora. Aquí hemos compilado información disponible sobre especies y subespecies que ocurren en la región para elucidar patrones de ocurrencia y abundancia relativa comparados con estas regiones adyacentes, y establecer el trabajo base para trabajos futuros en el área. Proporcionamos el status y las referencias, incluyendo varios registros de observaciones no publicados previamente, para todos los taxa con registros fidedignos en la región (280 especies nativas y 56 subespecies adicionales). También enlistamos a especies que probablemente ocurren, con base en su status en regiones adyacentes, pero que no han sido aún consignadas para el Desierto del Colorado de Baja California (26 especies), y hemos analizado específicamente y descartado varias especies consignadas para la región.
The Baja California Peninsula has a long history of ornithological exploration, although early ornithological exploration was distinctly concentrated on the northwest coast, in the northern peninsular ranges (the Sierra Juárez and Sierra San Pedro Mártir), and in the Cape District. Extensive collecting and field study through the 1920s culminated in publication of Grinnell’s (1928) important tome, still the most comprehensive review of the peninsula’s avifauna. Extensive work since has focused on these same regions, with increasing attention to coastal wetlands (Massey and Palacios 1994), the Vizcaíno Peninsula, Isla Guadalupe, and the southern Gulf of California (Wilbur 1987, Erickson et al. 2001).

One region of the Baja California Peninsula, the low-lying northeastern Colorado Desert and Río Colorado delta, has received decidedly little attention by comparison, despite its strikingly distinct birdlife and biogeography (Nelson 1922, Bancroft 1926). There were notable, but uneven, early efforts in the Río Colorado delta and associated Gulf of California (Stone and Rhoads 1905, Murphy 1917, Huey 1927) and data remain limited, so a thorough description of the region’s avifauna remains impossible. Yet there are enough historical and recent data to paint a more or less complete, albeit provisional, portrait of the birdlife of this intriguing region. Were it not for recent detailed avifaunal works for neighboring regions, namely the lower Colorado River valley (Rosenberg et al. 1991), Sonora (Russell and Monson 1998), and the Salton Sink (Patten et al. in press), such an effort might still be seriously wanting.

Heavy reliance on these works will inherently lead to a few errors of commission, but the benefits far outweigh the costs of serious errors of omission from northeastern Baja California evident in both Grinnell (1928) and, especially, Wilbur (1987; see Everett 1988). Although we attribute no species to the Colorado Desert avifauna of Baja California that has not been recorded definitely, we often infer status of species in this region from neighboring regions with significantly more data; wild organisms ignore political boundaries. To that end, we present an annotated checklist for the avifauna of northeastern Baja California that is both complete and accurate to the extent possible. We hope this effort contributes to an increased appreciation for, and study of, this region, such that we can one day paint that complete portrait.

**Topography and Biogeography**

As defined herein, northeastern Baja California is an inverted triangle including the whole of Colorado Desert area bounded to the north by the United States border, to the east by the Río Colorado, and to the west by the base of the eastern escarpment of the peninsular ranges, specifically the Sierra Juárez, Sierra las Pintas, Sierra Tinaja, and Sierra de San Felipe (Figure 3-1; see Nelson 1922). The southern end of Bahía de San Felipe (±31°N latitude), at Punta Radar, establishes the southern tip of the triangle. Only a modest amount of waters in the Gulf of California are included, inward from a line between Rocas Consag (off San Felipe) and the east side of Isla Montague. Biotically and climatically, this region is the southwestern limit of the Colorado Desert floristic province (Figure 3-2; Nelson 1922, cf. Bancroft 1926). The region is characterized by low rainfall, most of which occurs during monsoonal flows northward through the Gulf of California during summer months (Turner et al. 1995, Patten and Minnich 1997). Aside from the eastern escarpment of the peninsular ranges and the Sierra Cucapah and Sierra Mayor, which separate the Mexicali Valley from Laguna Salada, the area is below, at, or only slightly above sea level (Nelson 1922). Therefore, the region considered herein lies below ±150 m elevation and generally below 50 m. Indeed, save for various mountains and for sandy benches lying between the Río Colorado and Mexicali Valley (e.g., Mesa...
Andrade), much of the northern portion of this region lies within the lakebed of historical Lake Cahuilla and much of the southern portion lies within the Río Colorado floodplain.

The majority of the Mexicali Valley is now under extensive agriculture, with isolated ranches supporting patches of trees ranging from Fremont Cottonwood *Populus fremontii* (some probably remnant natives) and *Eucalyptus* spp. to Athel Populus fremontii, Saltcedar *T. ramosissima*, and *Myoporum* spp. Both the Río Colorado and Río Hardy formerly supported extensive gallery riparian forest dominated by cottonwood, Black Willow *Salix gooddingii*, and Arrowweed *Pluchea sericea* (Figure 3-3; Murphy 1917, Nelson 1922). Large stands of riparian forest remain along the Río Colorado between Algodones and Mezquital, but most has been cleared or has been overtaken by non-native Saltcedar (Figure 3-4). Characteristic vegetation in undisturbed desert is Creosote *Larrea tridentata*, Brittlebush *Encelia farinosa*, Quailbush *Atriplex lentiformes*, Spiny Saltbush *A. polycarpa*, Honey Mesquite *Prosopis glandulosa*, Screwbean *P. pubescens*, Catclaw *Acacia greggi*, Ocotillo *Fouquieria splendens*, and, in washes, Blue Palo *Cercidium floridanum* (Nelson 1922, Turner et al. 1995). Atypical of most deserts of southwestern North America, cacti are poorly represented, with most species being small (e.g., *Echinocereus* spp., *Mammillaria* spp.) and occurring on slopes of the eastern escarpment of the Peninsular Ranges, though there are stands of Senate *Cereus schottii* just north of San Felipe. Vegetation transitions to species characteristic of the Vizcaíno Desert (e.g., Red Elephant Tree *Bursera hindsiana*, Cordón *Pachycereus pringlei*) at the southern edge of Bahía de San Felipe at Punta Radar (Figure 3-2). Extensive mudflats and alkaline flats surround the northern edge of the Gulf of California, the latter covering Laguna Salada and Salinas Ometepec. Floodplain habitat was formerly extensive (Figure 3-5), though seasonal flooding persists (Figure 3-6). Vegetation is sparse in these areas, generally nothing more than a low cover of saltgrass *Distichlis* spp. and/or pickleweed *Salicornia* spp.

### ANNOTATED LIST OF THE BIRDS

Accounts are synthetic rather than exhaustive, with a summary statement about status rather than a list of all known records. The list is arranged in a phylogenetic sequence and using species-level taxonomy and nomenclature following the latest edition of the American Ornithologists’ Union’s *Check-list of North American Birds* (A.O.U. 1998) plus its most recent supplements. An alternate taxonomic treatment is offered when we differ from the A.O.U. treatment. When only one subspecies is known from the region, the trinomial is provided directly following the common name. If multiple subspecies are known or expected, the status of each is abstracted in the account. We do not list taxonomic authorities; they may be found in A.O.U. (1957, 1998), Gibson and Kessel (1997), and Patten et al. (in press). Species listed in brackets are not supported by definite records for northeastern Baja California but might be reasonably expected to occur in the region based on inferences from records for the Salton Sea, lower Colorado River, and northwestern Sonora. Many additional species have been recorded in adjacent regions as casual vagrants (e.g., Common Black-Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus*, Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa*); they too could reach northeastern Baja California, but are not included herein because we cannot predict all vagrants that may occur.

Status presented for each species is based on numerous sources. Important early publications (Murphy 1917, Nelson 1922, Bancroft 1927, Huey 1927, Grinnell 1928) formed the baseline, as did extensive museum holdings. Standard abbreviations for museum collections are AMNH = American Museum of Natural History, New York; ANSP = Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia; FMNH = Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago; LACM = Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles; MVZ = Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Uni-

Most recent fieldwork has been rather haphazard in geographic coverage, but with regular surveys conducted at Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto (Molina and Garrett 2001), around Isla Montague (Palacios and Mellink 1992, 1993, Peresbarbosa and Mellink 1994, Mellink et al. 1997), and in the Sierra las Pintas (H. Gómez de Silva). When limited records support a numerical and/or seasonal status consistent with the Imperial Valley and lower Colorado River Valleys, we extrapolated from those valleys with little comment. We have drawn attention to all cases where a species’ status was mainly extrapolated from adjacent regions rather than based on direct data from Baja California. Rather than Anglicized names, locality names follow standard usage in Mexico (with the exception of “Mexicali Valley” instead of “Valle de Mexicali”). In this vein, “Colorado River” consistently refers to the United States portion of the river, whereas “Rio Colorado” refers to the Mexico portion. All uncredited records and statements about status, distribution, and taxonomy (including synonymy) for the Salton Sea and Imperial Valley of southeastern California are from a forthcoming book on the avifauna of that region by Michael A. Patten, Guy McCaskie, and Philip Unitt (Patten et al. in press).

Status designations for each species are conventional. Common refers to a species that is encountered frequently and/or in large numbers. Fairly common refers to a species that is encountered routinely in modest numbers. Uncommon refers to a species encountered infrequently and in small numbers. Rare refers to a species encountered only on occasion (e.g., extremely small numbers annually or less), but with a sufficient number of records to suggest that the region lies within its regular range (albeit perhaps on the periphery). Casual refers to a species that has been recorded on one to several occasions; vagrant is used when the region lies outside the normal range of the species, but visitor is used if the region lies within its normal range. Seasonal designations mostly reflect what the birds are doing and thus are not human-defined seasons per se. Thus, a Black-chinned Hummingbird (scientific names are in the list below) in March is a spring transient, but a White-crowned Sparrow then is still wintering and a Le Conte’s Thrasher is likely fledging young. Separate statements about migration and wintering/summering are used only for species with a substantial migrant presence (e.g., Western Sandpiper) in addition to wintering/summering.

For the record, claims of the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron Nyctanassa violacea, California Condor Gymnogyps californianus, Broad-winged Hawk Buteo platypterus, Golden Eagle Aquila chrysaetos, Winter Wren Troglodytes troglodytes, and Gray Catbird Dumetella carolinensis by Rhoads (Stone and Rhoads 1905, Murphy 1917) are considered invalid and are disregarded (see Grinnell 1906, 1918). Excepting the condor, all have been recorded on the lower Colorado River (Rosenberg et al. 1991) and/or around the Salton Sea, but with precious few records of each despite substantially greater coverage. We also omit claims of infrequent occurrence of Barrow’s Goldeneye Bucephala
islandica at the Río Colorado delta (Kramer and Migoya 1989). This species winters regularly on the lower Colorado River, but with only three records south of Parker, Arizona (Rosenberg et al. 1991); there are only six records for the Salton Sea. It is unknown farther south and has not been recorded reliably in Mexico. Claims of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks *Dendrocygna autumnalis*, Muscovy Ducks *Cairina moschata*, and Masked Ducks *Nomonyx dominicus* breeding and wintering in northeastern Baja California (Kramer and Migoya 1989) are baseless and herein ignored. A few additional species claimed in the region without sufficient documentation, but which might occur, are treated in the species accounts in brackets.

**GAVIIFORMES**

*Gaviidae*

**Red-throated Loon** *Gavia stellata*. Rare spring transient (April) on Gulf of California (Huey 1927, REW); rare in winter (Devillers et al. 2001; two at San Felipe 15 January 1989 TEW).

**Pacific Loon** *Gavia pacifica*. Fairly common winter visitor (November–April) on Gulf of California; numbers larger in spring (e.g., 1200 in San Felipe area 29 March 1985; REW). One summer record, from San Felipe 22 August 1992 (KAR, TEW).

**Common Loon** *Gavia immer*. Fairly common migrant in spring (April–May) and fall (late September–November), with a high count of a remarkable 1500 birds during fall (Mellink et al. 1997). Uncommon winter visitor (late September–mid-April) to Gulf of California. Two summer records, from Volcano Lake on unspecified summer date (Friedmann et al. 1950) and Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto 1 September 2000 (SNGH et al.).

**Yellow-billed Loon** *Gavia adamsii*. Casual summer vagrant. One in basic plumage at Campo El Paraíso 30 June 1973 (Simon and Simon 1974), impugned by Phillips (1990), represents one of three Mexico records, all from Baja California.

**PODICIPEDIFORMES**

*Podicipedidae*

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps podiceps*. Fairly common breeding resident.

**Horned Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*. Rare winter visitor (November–April) on Gulf of California. This species is generally treated as monotypic, with *P. a. cornutus* not diagnosable (Mayr and Cottrell 1979).

**Eared Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis californicus*. Common winter visitor to Gulf of California (November–March); uncommon through summer as a non-breeder; e.g., alternate-plumaged bird at Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto 4 June 1998 (EM et al.).

**Western Grebe** *Aechmophorus occidentalis occidentalis*. Uncommon to irregularly fairly common breeding resident; e.g., up to 300 birds with ±20 young at south end of Laguna Salada 20 March–23 April 1984 (REW). *Aechmophorus* of unknown species were reported summering at Volcano Lake 11 June 1918 (Oberholser 1919), suggesting potential breeding for some time.

**Clark’s Grebe** *Aechmophorus clarkii transitionalis*. Uncommon resident; probably breeds around Río Colorado delta and Mexicali Valley. In general outnumbers its congener on Salton Sea by ratios of 2:1 or 3:1. However, *Aechmophorus* species are of near equal abundance in Imperial Valley and the Western predominates in northeastern Baja California; e.g., of ±300 *Aechmophorus* (including five young) at Laguna Salada 28 March 1985 only 15% were Clark’s (REW), a ±5:1 ratio in favor of Western. On Gulf of California, ratio is even higher in favor of Western (KLG, MAP).
PROCELLARIIFORMES

Diomedeidae

Laysan Albatross *Phoebastria immutabilis*. Rare spring (May) visitor to head of Gulf of California (Newcomer and Silber 1989). A few have moved northward through Salton Sea region (Patten and Minnich 1997).

Procellariiidae

[Cook’s Petrel *Pterodroma cookii*]. Four or five records for Salton Sea (Patten and Minnich 1997), all from July, of birds that presumably moved north from Gulf of California, but no records for northeastern Baja California. Species is monotypic, *P. c. orientalis* being a synonym (Mayr and Cottrell 1979).

Pink-footed Shearwater *Puffinus creatopus*. Fairly common summer visitor (May–October) to northern Gulf of California (Wilbur 1987, RAR). This species and next two occur almost strictly well offshore.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*. Common visitor to northern Gulf of California, mainly in summer (April–October).

Black-vented Shearwater *Puffinus opisthomelas*. Uncommon summer visitor (March–September) to northern Gulf of California, sometimes occurring later in the season (e.g., December at El Golfo de Santa Clara, Sonora; KLG).

Hydrobatidae

Leach’s Storm-Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* subsp.? Rare summer (June–September) visitor to northern Gulf of California (RAR). Many individuals are dark-rumped, but may be either nominate subspecies, which has many synonyms (Ainley 1980, Unitt 1984), or *O. l. socorroensis*.

Black Storm-Petrel *Oceanodroma melanias*. Common breeder in Gulf of California; most often reported April–October. Breeds or formerly bred on Rocas Consag off San Felipe (Bancroft 1927). Perhaps resident in gulf (Wilbur 1987)—e.g., a series of eight specimens from Rocas Consag 31 January 1940 (LACM 50463–50470)—but most disperse away from gulf in winter.

Least Storm-Petrel *Oceanodroma microsoma*. Common breeder in Gulf of California; most often reported April–October. Breeds or formerly bred on Rocas Consag (Bancroft 1927).

PELECANIFORMES

Phaethontidae

Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus mesonauta*. Although not attributed to Rocas Consag by Wilbur (1987), a pair was taken there 12 April 1925 (Bancroft 1927, UCLA 15092, 15097) and an adult photographed there 20 February 1995 (RAR; Figure 3-7). Otherwise rarely noted in northern Gulf of California, although recorded even at mouth of Río Colorado, 25 April 1925 (van Rossem and Hachisuka 1937) and breeds off Sonora (Mellink and Palacios 1993).

Sulidae

[Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra personata*]. A subadult reported east of Rocas Consag 23 September 1997 (RAR, MF) was just outside the region covered herein. Otherwise unknown in northern Gulf of California. *S. d. californica* is a synonym (Pitman and Jehl 1998).

Blue-footed Booby *Sula nebouxii nebouxii*. Irregularly fairly common perennial visitor, but mainly a post-breeding dispersant (July–November) to northern Gulf of California and associated Río Colorado delta. May be common in El Niño years; e.g., a few thousand on Rocas Consag 19 August 1998 (EM).

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster brewsteri*. Irregularly fairly common perennial visitor, but mainly a post-breeding dispersant (July–December) to northern Gulf of California and Río Colorado delta. May be common in El Niño years; e.g., 12 at San Felipe 15 January 1989 (TEW), 10 at San Felipe 22 February 1998 (RAE). Breeds on Rocas Consag (Bancroft 1927), where various specimens taken; e.g., two adults 31 January 1940.
American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*. Fairly common winter visitor (late October–March); especially common in spring (e.g., 17,500 at Río Colorado delta 20 March 1984; REW, LRB). Uncommon non-breeding summer visitor (Howell and Webb 1992), but including 450 at Laguna Salada 15 May 1989 (Howell and Pyle 1990).

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*. Common resident on Gulf of California, but breeds south of northernmost gulf (Anderson et al. 1976). Regularly occurs during summer (late April–mid-November) at inland bodies of water, such as Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto. Rare inland in winter (late November–February) along rivers and at ponds and lakes.

Phalacrocoracidae

Brandt’s Cormorant *Phalacrocorax penicillatus*. Rare visitor to northern Gulf of California (Wilbur 1987, Russell and Monson 1998); recently discovered breeding on Isla San Jorge in northeastern gulf (Cervantes-S. and Mellink 2001).

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus albociliatus*. Common perennial visitor, reaching peak numbers in winter (Mellink et al. 1997); not known to breed, but breeds commonly at Salton Sea and uncommonly on lower Colorado River (Rosenberg et al. 1991).

Fregatidae

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*. Rare to uncommon post-breeding visitor, principally late May–September (Ruiz-C. and Rodriguez-M. 1997). Some occur as early as mid-March (e.g., Campo Don Abel 19 March 1984; REW, LRB), including a concentration of up to 20 (90% adult males) around San Felipe 28–29 March 1985 (REW). Species is monotypic, *F. m. rothschildi* being a synonym (Palmer 1962).

CICONIIFORMES

Ardeidae

American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus*. Uncommon to rare winter visitor (late August–April).


Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias wardi*. Common breeding resident. *A. h. wardi* includes *A. h. treganzai* and *A. h. hyperonca* as synonyms (Mayr and Cottrell 1979).


Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* subspp. Common local breeding resident (Palacios and Mellink 1992, Molina and Garrett 2001). Most individuals are *E. t. candidissima*, including breeders on Isla Montague based on egg size (E. Mellink unpubl. data). Detailed measurements of skins and additional specimens are needed; a few may be *E. t. brewsteri* from farther south on Baja California Peninsula, but which has reached Imperial Valley (Rea 1983).

[Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*]. No records; a rare summer visitor (May–July) to Salton Sea, with two breeding records, so probably a regular (albeit rare) visitor to northeastern Baja California.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor ruficollis*. Rare summer vagrant, with three records from Río Colorado delta (Mellink et al. 1997) and an adult at Yurimuri 23 April 1984 (REW). Occurs nearly annually as a summer vagrant (mid-April–September) to Salton Sea, so presumably occurs more regularly in northeastern Baja California than records indicate. May occasionally occur in winter, given a handful of Salton Sea records at that season. *E. t. occidentalis* is a synonym of *E. t. ruficollis*.

Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens dickeyi*. Casual vagrant, probably mainly in fall (August–October). Four records, from San Felipe 28-30 December 1970 (Devillers et al. 2001), 22 August 1992 (KAR,
TEW), near San Felipe 28 March 1985 (REW), and Río Colorado delta in fall 1993 (Mellink et al. 1997).

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis ibis*. Common breeding resident; colonized northeastern Baja California in mid-1960s, with breeding since early 1970s (Mora 1997).

**Green Heron** *Butorides virescens anthonyi*. Fairly common breeding resident. The type specimen of *B. v. anthonyi* was taken along the Río Alamo at Seven Wells.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli*. Fairly common resident and breeder, the latter at least at Isla Montague.

**Threskiornithidae**

**White-faced Ibis** *Plegadis chihi*. Common non-breeding visitor, principally September–April (Patten et al. 1993) to Mexicali Valley and Valle de Río Colorado. Potentially breeds; e.g., three (of ±35 present) in full alternate plumage along Río Colorado near Ejido Chiapas 10 May 1997 (RAH, SNGH). The species has increased in southern California in past half-century (Shuford et al. 1996), including around Salton Sea (where breeding began in 1954), but Wilbur (1987) seriously underrepresented its status in northeast Baja California. The paucity of Mexicali Valley records in 1960s–1980s undoubtedly resulted from lack of coverage, not a lack of ibis.

**Roseate Spoonbill** *Ajaia ajaja*. Rare, irregular post-breeding (June–October) visitor (Bancroft 1922, Grinnell 1926); no recent records (Wilbur 1987).

**Ciconiidae**

**Wood Stork** *Mycteria americana*. Rare post-breeding visitor (May–October). Formerly more numerous (Hill and Wiggins 1948, Wilbur 1987), but few recent records; e.g., up to 10 at Campo Thy-Thy 27–28 August 1994 and nine at Terrenos Indios 7 September 1995 (Ruiz-C. and Rodríguez-M. 1997).

**Cathartidae**

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* subspp. Common perennial visitor, most numerous in spring (January–May) and fall (August–October). Most records pertain to *C. a. meridionalis*, of which *C. a. teter* is a synonym, but nominate subspecies of Mexico reaches lower Colorado River valley (Rea 1983). Species may breed locally on eastern escarpment of mountains.

**ANSERIFORMES**

**Anatidae**

**Fulvous Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor*. Formerly numerous along Río Colorado in “winter” (Saunders and Saunders 1981). Now a rare spring transient (Patten et al. 1993).

**Snow Goose** *Chen caerulescens caerulescens*. Rare winter visitor (mid-October–mid-April); formerly more numerous (Murphy 1917).

**Ross’s Goose** *Chen rossii*. Numbers wintering around south end of Salton Sea have increased 3–4 orders of magnitude over past 50 years, so species may reach Mexicali Valley regularly, but only (tentative?) report is of several shot by hunters in December 1950 or January 1951 (Saunders and Saunders 1981).
Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* subspp. Fairly common winter visitor (mid-October–April). Most are *B. c. moffitti* (Saunders and Saunders 1981). A small portion (±5%) are presumed to be *B. c. parvipes*, of which *B. c. taivneri* is a synonym. A “flock” of *B. c. minima* was 8 km east of Cerro Prieto 10 February 1928 (CCL); a few reach Imperial Valley each winter. Reasons are unknown for attribution of *B. c. leucopareia* to Río Colorado (Friedmann et al. 1950), but it has occurred in adjacent Sonora (Russell and Monson 1998).

**Brant Branta bernicla nigricans.** Uncommon spring transient (mid-March–mid-May) first noted in 1926 at San Felipe (Huey 1927). Most numerous at northern edge of Gulf of California, but multiple records inland at Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto (e.g., seven on 10 May 1997; RAH, SNHG). May occasionally winter at Río Colorado delta (Price 1899). Populations wintering in Gulf have increased substantially since mid-1960s (Llinas-G. 1998, Russell and Monson 1998), so now likely much more frequent in northeastern Baja California. Two summer records from Cerro Prieto, two 4 June 1998 (KLG) and four 26 August–4 September 1995 (KAR et al.). Attribution of the Atlantic Brant *B. b. hrota* to Río Colorado delta (Kramer and Migoya 1989) is dubious (few valid records for southern California; Garrett and Dunn 1981).

Gadwall *Anas strepera strepera*. Fairly common winter visitor (October–April). Claimed breeding (Kramer and Migoya 1989) is unfounded.

[**Eurasian Wigeon Anas penelope**]. Potential casual winter visitor. One tenuous record of five males, 18 females purportedly photographed at Campo Sonora 8–10 December 1995 (Ruiz-C. and Rodríguez-M. 1997). Congregations of males are sometimes noted in southern California, but a report of 18 females is undoubtedly erroneous given identification difficulty. No more than two males have been found together in Salton Sink, where species is nearly annual.

American Wigeon *Anas americana*. Fairly common winter visitor (September–April).


Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*. Casual winter visitor; two records, on Río Hardy 2 February 1981 (Wilbur 1987) and four at Mexicali 27 November 1992 (TEW). Uncommon spring transient (probably mid-February–early-May) and presumably uncommon fall transient (mid-August–mid-October). Only migrant records are from spring: a pair on Río Hardy near Ejido Durango 25 March 2000 (MAP et al.), four at Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto 5 April 1996 (TEW), a male on Río Alamo 13 km east of Mexicali 21 April 1894 (USNM 133753), ±30 near Campo Mosqueda 22 April 1984 (REW), and one near La Ventana 23 April 1984 (REW). A hybrid male Blue-winged × Cinnamon Teal was near La Ventana 23 April 1984 (REW). Species is monotypic, *A. d. orphna* being a synonym (Mayr and Cottrell 1979).

Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera septentrionalium*. Common transient in spring (late January–April) and fall (mid-July–October); uncommon breeder (Howell and Pyle 1990, Howell and Webb 1992). Rare winter visitor.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*. Common transient and winter visitor (late July–early May); a few probably summer, but does not breed.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*. Common transient and winter visitor (mid-July–mid-May); probably summers on occasion.

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca carolinensis*. Common transient and winter visitor (August–early May); probably summers on occasion.

Canvasback *Aythya valisineria*. Rare winter visitor (October–April).

Redhead *Aythya americana*. Fairly common winter visitor (October–April). Fairly common breeder around Salton Sea (Garrett and Dunn 1981), so probably breeds in Mexicali Valley, a statement sup-
ported by ±200 individuals at Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto 4 September 1995 (SNGH et al.) and its status as “common” in summer on Ríos Hardy and El Mayor (Ruiz-C. and Rodríguez-M. 1997).

**Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris***. Rare winter visitor (late October–mid-April); typically small numbers (<10) recorded, but ±30 were along Río Hardy 28 February 1987 (TEW).

**Greater Scaup *Aythya marila nearctica***. Two records of females, 2 km northeast of Cerro Prieto 7 February 1928 (Grinnell 1928, MVZ 52068) and near Río Colorado delta 20 March 1984 (REW, LRB). A rare to uncommon winter visitor to Salton Sea, so presumably a rare winter visitor on Gulf of California, but no records even for Sonora (Russell and Monson 1998). *A. m. mariloides* is a synonym (Banks 1986).

**Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis***. Fairly common winter visitor (late October–April).

**Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata***. Fairly common in winter (November–March) in northern Gulf of California (Sanford et al. 1903); e.g., ±475 at San Felipe 22 February 1998 (RAE et al.). Common spring transient (mid-March–May), as at San Felipe in April 1926 (Huey 1927); may occasionally summer. One record inland, of three at Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto 11 November 1995 (KAR, CR).

**White-winged Scoter *Melanitta fusca deglandi***. Probably a rare spring transient (mid-March–May), but only one record, from Río Colorado delta in December 1898 (Price 1899). Annual in spring and nearly annual at other seasons at Salton Sea.

**[Black Scoter *Melanitta nigra americana***]. With ±20 individuals recorded at Salton Sea, all in summer and winter, this species presumably moves through northeastern Baja California to some degree, but no regional records and those for Sonora are not verified (Russell and Monson 1998).

**Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis***. Casual spring vagrant. One sight record from San Felipe 1 April 1926 (Huey 1927, cf. Grinnell 1928). Annual at Salton Sea in spring and fall so presumably moves through northeastern Baja California with some regularity.

**Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola***. Uncommon winter visitor (November–April).

**Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula americana***. Rare winter visitor (mid-November–mid-April), with late females at Volcano Lake [=Cerro Prieto] 3 May and 5 May 1915 (USNM 259900, 259901). One summer record, of a female at Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto 1 September 2000 (SNGH et al.).


**Common Merganser *Mergus merganser americanus***. Generally a rare winter visitor (mid-November–early April), although 200 were at Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto 12 November 1995 (KAR).


**Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis rubida***. Common winter visitor (October–mid-April); presumably breeds uncommonly in Mexicali Valley and around Río Colorado.
FALCONIFORMES

Accipitridae

Osprey Pandion haliaetus carolinensis. Common breeding resident around Gulf of California (Henny and Anderson 1979). No recent breeding in region covered herein (Anderson et al. 1976), but bred formerly at San Felipe (Huey 1927) and breeds near Rio Colorado delta in Sonora (Mellink and Palacios 1993) and at Puertecitos to south (EP). Fairly common non-breeding visitor nearly throughout, though uncommon to rare in Mexicali Valley and rare in open desert.

White-tailed Kite Elanus leucurus majusculus. Rare fall and winter visitor (mid-August–mid-April), principally to Mexicali Valley, where potentially a rare breeding resident (Patten et al. 1993). Small numbers regularly reach Rio Colorado (Russell and Monson 1998, TEW, MAP).

Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus. Rare winter visitor (late October–mid-March). Several older records for Rio Colorado delta (e.g., Stone and Rhoads 1905) have been questioned (Grinnell 1906). Four recent records: three at La Ventana 20 March 1984 (REW, LRB), three at Laguna Salada 7–8 January 1987 (AMS, MBA “Bulletin Board” 1:4 [April 1987]), an immature at Campo Mosqueda 14 January 1989 (Patten et al. 1993), and an adult there 30 December 1999 (MAP). Of note are records from Sonora portion of Valle de Rio Colorado at Ciénega de Santa Clara, El Doctor, and El Golfo de Santa Clara (Abarca et al. 1993, EP, KLG). Based on specimens from southern California, wintering birds are presumed to be northerly H. l. alascaranus, but nominate subspecies (which breeds in Arizona and Sonora) may occur.


Sharp-shinned Hawk Accipiter striatus velox. Uncommon winter visitor (mid-August–April).

Cooper’s Hawk Accipiter cooperi. Uncommon winter visitor (early August–early May); perhaps a former breeder on Rio Colorado (Murphy 1917). If A. c. mexicanus of Pacific Northwest is recognized (see Whaley and White 1994), then many migrant and wintering birds would pertain to it, but potential breeders and other migrants/winterers would be A. c. cooperi.

Harris’s Hawk Parabuteo unicinctus superior. Formerly common breeding resident (Grinnell 1928, WFVZ 83655), but not recorded since mid-1920s. However, population fluctuations irregularly bring birds back into southern California (Patten and Erickson 2000) and probably also north-eastern Baja California. Two recent records from Rio Colorado delta portion of Sonora, from El Doctor 9 April 1994 (Russell and Monson 1998) and El Golfo de Santa Clara 5 December 1999 (KLG).

Red-shouldered Hawk Buteo lineatus elegans. Two records of juveniles from Mexicali, 14 January 1989 and 14 December 1994 (TEW). A rare fall/winter dispersant (late August–April) around Salton Sea, where it has increased sharply since late 1970s, so date span of occurrence likely broader. Reports from Rhoads (Murphy 1917) are inconclusive.

Swainson’s Hawk Buteo swainsoni. Rare transient in spring (mid-February–mid-May) and probably in fall (early October–early November). Three recent records of wintering birds, a dark-morph juvenile near Ejido Chiapas 10 January 1994 (SNGH, PP) and up to two adults (one dark, one light) at Ciudad Victoria 10–15 December 1994 (KAR et al.). Winters sparingly in adjacent Imperial Valley (beginning in 1990s).

Red-tailed Hawk Buteo jamaicensis. Widespread in western North America, B. j. calurus is a common winter visitor (late August–early May). Breeds uncommonly, principally around Rio Colorado and at eastern edge of Peninsular Range escarpment. A dark immature at Mexicali 1–15 December 1994 (KAR et al.) was B. j. harlani, a rare winter visitor to the Salton Sink.

Ferruginous Hawk Buteo regalis. Rare winter visitor (October–mid-March), probably annually in
small numbers (Patten et al. 1993). An extremely late bird was photographed at San Felipe 28 April 1991 (REW).

[Rough-legged Hawk *Buteo lagopus sanctijohannis*]. Wilbur (1987) did not list species for Baja California, despite a published record for 1962 (*Audubon Field Notes* 16:365, Erickson et al. 2001), but no records for northeastern Baja California. Rare, nearly annual winter visitor (late October–February) to Salton Sea region, especially Imperial Valley, where a light-morph juvenile was only ±10 km north-northwest of international border 11 December 1994 (MAP et al.).

**Falconidae**

Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway*. Former, presumably rare, winter visitor to Río Colorado delta. Four records of seven individuals before 1930, one at “head of Río Hardy” 7 December 1896 (SDNHM 349), two on upper Río Hardy in February 1905 (Stone and Rhoads 1905), one along Río Colorado 16 km south of United States border 21 December 1922 (SDNHM 10492), and three (one collected) 11 km west southwest of Pilot Knob 15 March 1928 (Grinnell 1928, MVZ 52104). Species is monotypic, *C. c. audubonii* being a synonym (Dove and Banks 1999).

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* subspp. Nominate subspecies is a common breeding resident, with numbers augmented in winter (mid-August–May). There are several winter specimens of southerly *F. s. peninsularis* from Río Colorado delta region 14 October 1927–4 February 1928 (Grinnell 1928, MVZ 52101–52103).

Merlin *Falco columbarius columbarius*. Rare winter visitor (late September–early April). *F. c. bendirei* is generally treated as a synonym (Palmer 1988). *F. c. richardsoni* of Great Plains may occur on occasion, but no records.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus anatum*. Rare perennial visitor, mainly along Gulf of California; breeds or formerly bred on Rocos Consag (Bancroft 1927).

Prairie Falcon *Falco mexicanus*. Uncommon winter visitor (September–April). May breed on rocky slopes of low-elevation mountains.

**GALLIFORMES**

**Odontophoridae**

Gambel’s Quail *Callipepla gambelii gambelii*. Common breeding resident south to La Ventana (see Wilbur 1987). Uncommon to fairly common farther south, reaching range limit at south edge of Bahía San Felipe (RAH, SNGH).

California Quail *Callipepla californica californica*. Fairly common breeding resident around San Felipe (Grinnell 1928, MVZ 47907, 47908). Sympatric with the Gambel’s Quail south from open desert north of San Felipe (REW); potential hybrids have been noted (Wilbur 1987). *C. c. plumbea* is a synonym (SDNHM specimens from type locality of each are not separable).

**GRUIFORMES**

**Rallidae**

[Black Rail *Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*]. As noted by Wilbur (1987), known from lower Colorado River just north of Mexico border (Rosenberg et al. 1991), but no records for northeastern Baja California. Rare breeding resident at various locales in Imperial Valley, including All American Canal near Calexico <1 km north of Mexico border (Am. Birds 33:897); also known from Ciénega de Santa Clara and El Doctó, Sonora (OH, KLG).

Clapper Rail *Rallus longirostris yumanensis*. Uncommon breeding resident along Río Colorado and Río Hardy (Ruiz-C. and Rodríguez-M. 1997), with probably some winter influx to the delta. Perhaps half of world population breeds in Río Colorado delta at Ciénega de Santa Clara, Sonora (Abarca et al. 1993).

Virginia Rail *Rallus limicola limicola*. Uncommon resident and presumed breeder along Ríos Colorado and Hardy (breeds uncommonly in Salton Sink); numbers probably augmented in winter.
**Sora Porzana carolina.** Uncommon winter visitor (August–early May). Possibly breeds on Río Hardy (OH).

**Common Moorhen Gallinula chloropus cachinnans.** Fairly common breeding resident.

**American Coot Fulica americana americana.** Common breeding resident, with higher numbers in winter.

**Gruidae**

**Sandhill Crane Grus canadensis** subspp. Rare winter visitor (late October–March); formerly common (Murphy 1917), but no recent records. Nominate subspecies of Alaska and northern Canada predominates. Because *G. c. tabida* is predominant subspecies wintering in lower Colorado River valley (Rosenberg et al. 1991), it likely occurred in northeastern Baja California, but no specimens.

**CHARADRIIFORMES**

**Charadriidae**

**Black-bellied Plover Pluvialis squatarola.** Common transient and winter visitor (July–mid-May); probably summers annually (see Mellink et al. 1997).

**Snowy Plover Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus.** Uncommon breeding resident along Gulf of California and at Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto (Molina and Garrett 2001). Also breeds in Río Colorado delta at Ciénega de Santa Clara, Sonora (Mellink et al. 1996).

**Wilson’s Plover Charadrius wilsonia beldingi.** Uncommon winter visitor (mid-September–early April). Recorded at Isla Montague 21 September 1997 (RAR, MF) and several additional records from Río Colorado delta (Mellink et al. 1997). Apparently bred in San Felipe area before extensive human settlement (Devillers et al. 2001) but now unconfirmed as a breeder north of Puertecitos (Palacios and Mellink 1996). However, two males and a female at Estero La Ramada north of Campo Don Abel 20 June 1991 included a pair acting agitatedly, as if egg/chicks nearby (SNGH, SW). Also recently noted north of San Felipe between 28 March (1985, four pairs at Campo Los Amigos and Campo Don Abel; REW) and 4 August (1990; TEW), suggesting a small population persisted until early 1990s and perhaps to present (E. Palacios *in litt.*).

**Semipalmated Plover Charadrius semipalmatus.** Fairly common transient in spring (mid-March–mid-May) and fall (July–October); uncommon winter visitor.

**Killdeer Charadrius vociferus vociferus.** Common breeding resident.

**Mountain Plover Charadrius montanus.** One record, of a lone bird south of Algodones 16 November 1994 (TEW). Principal wintering site for the species is Imperial Valley (Garrett and Dunn 1981), where there are records south to international border. Species has been attributed to areas near Bahía Adair, northwestern Sonora, in winter (May 1976). Thus, species undoubtedly winters in agricultural expanses of northern Mexicali Valley and probably migrates through to some degree.

**Haematopodidae**

**American Oystercatcher Haematopus palliatus frazari.** Uncommon perennial visitor to northern Gulf of California, most numerous in spring and fall (Mellink et al. 1997). A pair at Isla Montague 10 June 1993 may have been breeding (Peresbarbosa and Mellink 1994). Breeding confirmed at Isla Montague (EM) 7 May 1998 (two pairs with one egg each) and 27 May 1999 (one pair with one egg).

**Recurvirostroidea**

**Black-necked Stilt Himantopus mexicanus mexicanus.** Fairly common breeding resident.

Scolopacidae

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*. Fairly common transient and winter visitor (July–early May).

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*. Fairly common transient (late March–April, July–October); uncommon in winter (Patten et al. 1993).

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria cinnamomea*. Rare fall transient 22 August (1992, Mexicali Valley; TEW) to 29 September (1996, near Cerro Prieto; KLG), with passage presumably as early as late July. Two spring 1894 records from Río Alamo 13 km east of Mexicali, 18 April (USNM 135484) and 20 April (USNM 135485). One winter record, perhaps tentative, from Rio Hardy in December 1896 (Grinnell 1928).

Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*. Common transient and winter visitor (late June–mid-May); some oversummer.

Wandering Tattler *Heteroscelus incanus*. Uncommon winter visitor and transient along Gulf of California coast, most often noted during northbound migration in spring. One was collected inland at a playa of Río Alamo 12 km east of Mexicali, 27 or 28 April 1894 (Mearns 1907:130, USNM 133767). Grinnell (1928) said whereabouts of specimen were unknown, but it might be USNM 133767. Original collection data indicate it was taken in Baja California at a “Laguna of Salton River” [= Alamo River] 27–28 April 1894 by E. A. Mearns (J. P. Dean in litt.), so reasons for Grinnell’s statements are unknown.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*. Fairly common transient and winter visitor (late July–mid-May).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*. Common transient in spring (mid-March–early May) and fall (late July–September), but especially the former. One winter record, 25 km southeast of Mexicali 29 December 1991 (Patten et al. 1993).

Long-billed Curlew *Numenius americanus*. Common transient and winter visitor (July–early May); probably oversummers in small numbers, as in adjacent Imperial Valley. Species is monotypic, *N. a. parvus* being a synonym (Grinnell and Miller 1944, Phillips et al. 1964).

Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa fedoa*. Common transient and winter visitor (July–mid-May); non-breeders probably summer regularly.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres interpres*. Fairly common transient (April–May, July–September) and winter visitor, mainly at Gulf of California. A flock of 25 was inland at Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto 10 May 1997 (RAH, SNGH).

Black Turnstone *Arenaria melanocephala*. Uncommon transient (April–May, July–September) and winter visitor at Gulf of California.


Red Knot *Calidris canutus roselaari*. Fairly common transient in spring (mid-March–May), when more numerous (e.g., ±1500 in San Felipe area 28–29 March 1985; REW), and fall (July–October) and winter visitor. Mainly occurs around Gulf of California, but seven were at Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto 23 July 1995 (KAR) and two were there 1 September 2000 (RAH et al.). See Patten et al. (in press) for subspecies treatment.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*. Uncommon transient (mid-March–May, late July–September) and winter visitor; most numerous at Gulf of California.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*. Common transient and winter visitor (late June–mid-May); most numerous shorebird in Río Colorado delta (Mellink et al. 1997).

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*. Common transient and winter visitor (late June–early May).

Baird’s Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*. Presumably a rare fall transient (mid-July–early October), but only two records, of three near Mexicali 7 [not 9] September 1987 (Patten et al. 1993) and one at Primero Estero that same day (TEW).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*. No records but may occur on rare occasion. Rare fall transient (September–November) at Salton Sea; no verified records for Sonora (Russell and Monson 1998).


Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus*. Presumably a regular, though uncommon, transient in spring (mid-April–mid-May) and fall (mid-July–mid-September), but only one record, from Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto 23 August 1997 (MAP et al.). A few hundred winter regularly in Imperial Valley, hundreds pass through south end of Salton Sea each year, and small numbers winter in western Mexico south of southern Sinaloa. Still, there are few records for Sonora (Russell and Monson 1998), so perhaps migrants routinely fly over northeastern Baja California and northwestern Mexico.

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus caurinus*. Common spring transient (March–early May); fairly common fall transient (July–October). Given its status in Sonora (Russell and Monson 1998), presumably an uncommon winter visitor along Gulf of California. *L. g. hendersoni* of the Great Plains may occur on occasion, but no records. Non-breeders probably summer regularly.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*. Common transient and winter visitor (July–mid-May); a few non-breeders probably summer each year.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago delicata*. Fairly common but somewhat secretive transient and winter visitor (late August–April).

Wilson’s Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*. Common transient in spring (mid-March–mid-May) and fall (mid-June–October). Roughly 5000 were at Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto 23 July 1995 (KAR).

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*. Common transient in spring (April–May) and fall (July–November). Roughly 10,000 were at Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto 23 August 1997 (MAP et al.) and 7500+ were there 4 September 2000 (MAP, BDS). Perhaps winters on Gulf of California.

Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicaria*. Casual spring vagrant; one record, of an adult male at San Felipe 17 April 1926 (Huey 1927, MVZ 47871). Probably rare fall vagrant given that fall records (July–November) predominate at Salton Sea.

Laridae

Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*. Three records from Campo Don Abel, one 20 March 1984 (REW, LRB), five 22 April 1984 (REW), and 28 on 27 April 1991 (REW). An unidentified jaeger was near San Felipe 29 March 1985 (REW). Wilbur (1987) listed but one Gulf of California record, and Russell and Monson (1998) did not accept any Sonora records, but there are ±16 records for Salton Sea, including a flock of 27 adults 4 May 1986 (*Am. Birds* 41:147), so perhaps regular in northeastern
Baja California. An unidentified jaeger north of San Felipe 28 February 1987 (TEW) indicates that this species or the following one winters occasionally in northern gulf.

**Parasitic Jaeger Stercorarius parasiticus.** Presumed rare fall transient (late August to mid-November), especially around head of Gulf of California, as this species is regular at Salton Sea in fall. A juvenile was inland at Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto 4 September 1995 (SNGH et al.). In spring, six were at Campo Don Abel 19 March 1984 (REW, LRB) and one was there 22 April 1984 (REW).

**Long-tailed Jaeger Stercorarius longicaudus pallescens.** Casual fall vagrant. Two records from Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto, a juvenile 26 August–4 September 1995 (KAR et al.) and an adult 4 September 1995 (SNGH et al.).

**Laughing Gull Larus atricilla.** Fairly common breeder at Isla Montague (Palacios and Mellink 1992) and rare breeder at Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto (Molina and Garrett 2001); fairly common summer visitor elsewhere, mainly June–mid-October but recorded as early as 19 March (1984, 30 at Campo Don Abel; REW, LRB). Rare in winter away from gulf from 27 November (1992, eight along Rio Hardy; TEW) to 28 February (1987 [not 1991], Rio Hardy; Patten et al. 1993), mainly from Rio Hardy but with records north to Mexicali (e.g., four along Rio Nuevo 14 December 1994; TEW). *L. a. megalopterus* is a synonym.

**Franklin’s Gull Larus pipixcan.** Rare spring transient (mid-March–early June). Four records from Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto, adults 10 May 1997 (RAH, SNGH), 14 March 1998 (KAR, HG), and 19 May 2001 (2; KLG) and a first-summer bird 4 June 1998 (KLG, EM). Individuals also recorded at Campo Don Abel 19 March 1984 (REW, LRB) and Laguna Salada 23 April 1984 (REW). Considering status at Salton Sea, probably rare fall transient (August–October) and summer visitor, but only one record at these seasons, from Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto 20 August 1995 (KLG, TEW).

**Bonaparte’s Gull Larus philadelphia.** Fairly common to uncommon transient and winter visitor (late October–May); most numerous in spring (March–May).

**Heermann’s Gull Larus heermanni.** Common perennial visitor (most numerous as post-breeding dispersant, July–November) to northern Gulf of California and probably through inland northeastern Baja California, as this species reaches Salton Sea annually.

**[Mew Gull Larus canus brachyrhynchus].** No records but 2–3 occur annually in winter (November–March) at Salton Sea, so it should occur in northeastern Baja California.

**Ring-billed Gull Larus delawarensis.** Common winter visitor (late July–early May); uncommon non-breeding summer visitor.

**California Gull Larus californicus** subspp. Common winter visitor (late July–early May), with largest numbers around Rio Colorado delta in March–April (Mellink et al. 1997); uncommon non-breeding summer visitor. Most are presumably nominate subspecies (e.g., adult male at San Felipe in April 1926; SDNHM 10466) but *L. c. albertaensis* undoubtedly occurs, though probably <15% of birds on basis of specimens from Salton Sea.

**Herring Gull Larus argentatus smithsonianus.** Fairly common winter visitor (mid-September–mid-April).


**Yellow-footed Gull Larus livens.** Common breeding resident on Gulf of California, but not in northeastern Baja California (Anderson et al. 1976).
Large numbers (±2000 birds) disperse inland through Mexicali Valley to Salton Sea each May–November (Patten 1996). Most occur along northern gulf beginning in March and April (e.g., San Felipe 29 March 1928; FMNH 158569). Basis for claimed breeding on Rocas Consag (Grinnell 1928) is unknown.

**Western Gull Larus occidentalis wymani.** Rare winter visitor (October–March). Four records for San Felipe, one 29 December 1970 (Devillers et al. 1971), up to two 22–23 February 1998 (SNHG et al.), one 23 September 1998 (HG), and two photographed 25 March 2000 (MAP et al.). Also an adult at Campo Don Abel 22 April 1984 (REW). Annual in small numbers at Salton Sea and increasing in northern Gulf of California in adjacent Sonora (KLG). Subspecies determination based on specimens and careful sight records for Salton Sea.

**Glaucous-winged Gull Larus glaucescens.** Presumed rare winter visitor (mid-October–mid-April). Only four records, all from San Felipe, “a few individuals” 22 March–25 April 1926 (Huey 1927, MVZ 47832), third-winter bird 29 March 1985 (REW), and first-winter birds 14–15 January 1989 (up to two; TEW et al.) and 30 December 1999 (MAP). Probably regular in small numbers.

**Glaucous Gull Larus hyperboreus barrovianus.** Three winter reports. One (perhaps tentative) from San Felipe 11 March 1951 (Audubon Field Notes 5:227). First-winter birds photographed at Laguna Salada 7–8 January 1987 (AMS, MBA “Bulletin Board” 1:4 [April 1987]) and San Felipe 20 February 1997 (KAR; Figure 3-8). Nearly annual in winter (December–March) at Salton Sea and five records for northwestern Sonora, four from Puerto Peñasco (Russell and Monson 1998) and one photographed at El Gofó de Santa Clara 26 January 1997 (KLG).

**Sabine’s Gull Xema sabini.** No records. Given multitude of records for Salton Sea, principally in fall (mid-September–mid-October), and two tentative reports for Sonora (Russell and Monson 1998), likely passes through northeastern Baja California on occasion. Species is generally treated as monotypic, X. s. woznesenskii being a synonym.


**Caspian Tern Sterna caspia.** Uncommon breeder (mid-April–October) at Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto (Molina and Garrett 2001); fairly common perennial visitor elsewhere. Might breed at Isla Montague (EP, EM).

**Royal Tern Sterna maxima maxima.** Fairly common resident along Gulf of California (Wilbur 1987), breeding at Isla Montague (Palacios and Mellink 1993), though not annually and greatly fluctuating in number; e.g., 135 nests 7 May 1998, but only 16 nests 27 May 1999 (EM). Two at Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto 10 May 1997 (SNHG, RAH) were inland.

**Elegant Tern Sterna elegans.** Potential breeding on Isla Montague (Palacios and Mellink 1992) was later confirmed (Palacios and Mellink 1993), recently with 160 nests 7 May 1998 and 2 nests 27 May 1999 (EM). Otherwise a fairly common non-breeding and post-breeding (April–October) visitor to Gulf of California (Wilbur 1987), with records as early as 19 March (1984, 15 at Campo Don Abel; REW, LRB). One inland record: adult at Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto 19 May 2001 (KLG).

**Common Tern Sterna hirundo hirundo.** Presumably a common fall transient (late July–mid-November), but few records; e.g., eight in San Felipe area 4 August 1990 (TEW) and adult and 2–3 juveniles at Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto 4 September 1995 (SNHG et al.). Presumably an uncommon spring transient (late April–mid-June). Winter reports for the northern Gulf of California (e.g., May 1976) are questionable.
Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*. Not recorded but ±25 records from Salton Sea, mainly in June, so species likely moves through northeastern Baja California.

**Forster’s Tern Sterna forsteri.** Uncommon breeder at Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto (Molina and Garrett 2001). Fairly common perennial visitor elsewhere (see Howell and Webb 1992), most numerous April–October.

**Least Tern Sterna antillarum** subsp.? Uncommon breeder on Isla Montague (Palacios and Mellink 1992) and at estuaries north of San Felipe (Palacios and Mellink 1996). Otherwise uncommon spring and summer visitor (early April–late August), mainly along Gulf, but noted along Río Hardy in spring (Ruiz-C. and Rodriguez-M. 1997) and 50 were at Laguna Salada 21 August 1984 (REW). Least Tern subspecies in Mexico are in need of critical review and potential revision (Patten and Erickson 1996). Breeders probably are *S. a. mexicana* of adjacent Sonora, but attribution of breeders and validity of subspecies have not been properly assessed (Palacios and Mellink 1996).

**Black Tern Chlidonias niger surinamensis.** Common transient in spring (late April–early June) and fall (August–September); sometimes numerous (e.g., thousands in northern Gulf of California during late September 1997; RAR, MF). May summer on occasion.

**Black Skimmer Rynchops nigra nigra.** Common breeder (April through November) at Isla Montague (Palacios and Mellink 1993, Peresbarbosa and Mellink 1994) and Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto (Molina and Garrett 2001). Uncommon to rare visitor elsewhere, with some wintering on northern Gulf.

**Alcidae**

**Craveri’s Murrelet Synthliboramphus craveri.** May breed on Rocos Consag (Bancroft 1927) and presumably resident on waters of northern Gulf of California, but seldom noted and may withdraw southward in winter.

**COLUMBIFORMES**

**Columbidae**

**White-winged Dove Zenaida asiatica mearnsi.** Common breeder (late March–September). Winters from San Felipe southward; one record elsewhere, 18 km southwest of La Ventana 17–18 December 1997 (HG).

**Mourning Dove Zenaida macroura marginella.** Common breeding resident.

**Inca Dove Columbina inca.** Uncommon to locally common (e.g., 40 at Mexicali 14 December 1994; TEW) resident and presumed breeding. Recent colonist, first recorded at Mexicali 4 August 1984 (REW); early claims from upper Río Hardy (Stone and Rhoads 1905) are suspect (Grinnell 1928). Numerous records for Mexicali area and Algodones (Patten et al. 1993, SNGH, KAR et al.). Also recorded at San Felipe, with two adults and an apparent juvenile 10 May 1997 (RAH, SNGH).

**Common Ground-Dove Columbina passerina pallescens.** Common breeding resident.

**CUCULIFORMES**

**Cuculidae**

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo Coccyzus americanus.** Formerly fairly common breeder along Río Colorado, but now essentially extirpated throughout lower Colorado River valley (Rosenberg et al. 1991). Presumably formerly bred along Río Hardy, as evidenced by four 11 km east of Cerro Prieto 2–15 June 1928 (Grinnell 1928, MVZ 52911-52914). One recent record, of two calling adults at Murguia, Río Hardy, 9 July 1995 (KAR). *C. a. occidentalis* is not diagnosable, so species is best considered monotypic (Banks 1988, Patten et al. in press).

**Greater Roadrunner Geococcyx californianus.** Fairly common breeding resident.

**STRIGIFORMES**

**Tytonidae**

**Barn Owl Tyto alba pratincola.** Uncommon breeding resident.
Strigidae

Western Screech-Owl *Otus kenneicottii* subspp. *O. k. yumanensis* is an uncommon breeding resident along ríos Colorado and Hardy and low-elevation canyons of eastern escarpment of various mountain ranges (just outside region covered). Also in settled areas with adequate tree cover, whether *Populus* or *Eucalyptus*, particularly in Mexicali Valley (e.g., in Washingtonia at Mexicali 4 September 2000; MAP). Based on habitat and subspecies’ distribution, birds in vicinity of San Felipe (e.g., 1 September 2000; SNGH et al.) presumably *O. k. cardonensis* of central Baja California Peninsula.

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus pallescens*. Fairly common breeding resident.

[Elf Owl *Micrathene whitneyi whitneyi*]. Presumed former breeder (March–August) on Río Colorado, but no records (Wilbur 1987) and now nearly extirpated in lower Colorado River valley (Rosenberg et al. 1991).

Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia hypugaea*. Fairly common breeding resident, with a decrease in winter (Palacios et al. 2000); the Río Colorado delta is its stronghold in Baja California.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus wilsonianus*. Casual winter vagrant. One record, ±9 km south of San Felipe 22 February 1998 (RAE et al.). This bird was hooting much of the night, so was perhaps on breeding territory (SNGH), but nesting unknown in Salton Sink and sporadic in lower Colorado River Valley (Rosenberg et al. 1991).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus flammeus*. Rare winter visitor (mid-October–mid-March), principally around Río Colorado, but probably also in Mexicali Valley.

CAPRIMULGIFORMES

Caprimulgidae

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis texensis*. Common breeder (mid-March–mid-October). Winters rarely, with four records, from San Felipe 14 January 1967 (Devillers et al. 2001), Campo Sonora 12 January 1982 (DES), and Campo Mosqueda 10 January 1994 (SNGH, PP) and 12 November 1994 (TEW). Two or three were also reported by Rhoads in February 1905 (Stone and Rhoads 1905). *C. a. inferior* of southern Baja California is a synonym (Dickerman 1985).

Common Poorwill *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii* subspp. *P. n. hueyi* is a fairly common breeding resident along Río Colorado. Nominate subspecies presumably migrates through in small numbers in spring (mid-April–mid-May) and fall (October), but only record is of a male at Cerro Prieto 20 April 1905 (USNM 197778). Friedmann et al. (1950) mistakenly attributed *P. n. californicus* to northeastern Baja California (they undoubtedly meant “northwestern”).

APODIFORMES

Apodidae

[Black Swift *Cypseloides niger borealis*]. No records, but presumably a casual spring transient (mid-May–early June).

Vaux’s Swift *Chaetura vauxi vauxi*. Common spring transient (mid-April to mid-May); uncommon fall transient (September–mid-October).

White-throated Swift *Aeronautes saxatalis saxatalis*. Fairly common winter visitor (September–mid-May). Potentially breeds in some canyons on eastern escarpment of mountains. Forages over vast areas away from breeding sites (Grinnell and Miller 1944, Garrett and Dunn 1981), so even mid-summer records should not be construed as evidence of local breeding.

Trochilidae


Anna’s Hummingbird *Calypte anna*. Uncommon, local resident; presumed breeder in Mexicali Valley. Began breeding along lower Colorado River in 1962 (Rosenberg et al. 1991) and now established there, so probably breeds on the Río Colorado. Un-
common to fairly common winter visitor elsewhere, south to San Felipe; e.g., two at Las Palmas 31 December 1999 (MAP).

**Costa’s Hummingbird Calypte costae.** Fairly common breeding resident.

[**Calliope Hummingbird Stellula [Selasphorus calliope]**. Presumably a rare spring transient (late March–early May), but no records.

**Rufous Hummingbird Selasphorus rufus.** Uncommon spring transient (mid-March–April); rare fall transient (mid-July–mid-September). An early adult male was collected in Sierra Cucapah 24 February 1905 (Stone and Rhoads 1905, ANSP 48293). There are but three records of Allen’s Hummingbird in the Salton Sink, where the Rufous Hummingbird is regular, so records of *Selasphorus* spp. for northeastern Baja California are assumed to be *S. rufus*.

**CORACIIFORMES**

**Alcedinidae**

**Belted Kingfisher Ceryle alcyon.** Fairly common winter visitor (August–mid-May). *C. a. caurina* is a synonym (Mayr and Short 1970).

**PICIFORMES**

**Picidae**

**Gila Woodpecker Melanerpes uropygialis** subspp. Uncommon breeding resident. Nominate subspecies, of which *M. u. albescens* is a synonym (Phillips et al. 1964), occurs mainly along Río Colorado. Also locally west to Mexicali Valley from Mexicali (e.g., three 4 September 1995; SNGH) to Ejido Durango (e.g., two 31 December 1999; MAP) and along Río Hardy (e.g., 8 February 1905; ANSP 48289). *M. u. cardonensis* occurs around San Felipe and south and west from there. Claims of *M. u. cardonensis* (as opposed to nominate subspecies) north to near California border (Grinnell 1928) should be verified.


**Red-naped Sapsucker Sphyrapicus nuchalis.** Rare winter visitor (late September–mid-March), approaching uncommon on Río Colorado. An apparent hybrid Red-naped × Red-breasted *S. ruber* Sapsucker was at Campo Mosqueda 15 December 1994 (TEW).

**Red-breasted Sapsucker Sphyrapicus ruber daggetti.** Casual winter visitor. One or two records from Campo Mosqueda (perhaps a returning bird) 27 November 1992 and 15 December 1994 (TEW). Species is casual east of the Sierra Nevada–Peninsular Range axis.

**Ladder-backed Woodpecker Picoides scalaris** subspp. Fairly common breeding resident. *P. s. cactophilus* occurs in Mexicali Valley (where uncommon) east through Río Colorado delta. *P. s. eremicus* occurs around San Felipe north to Sierra las Pintas (Grinnell 1928). Misidentified *P. scalaris* from San Felipe were named a distinct subspecies, *P. nuttallii longirostrata* (Huey 1927:27) of Nuttall’s Woodpecker *P. nuttallii* (see Grinnell 1928:121).

**Northern Flicker Colaptes auratus** subspp. Fairly common winter visitor (late September to early April). Based on specimens from Salton Sea and lower Colorado River (SDNHM), most (±70%) are *C. a. canescens* of Sierra Nevada and Great Basin, but some are *C. a. collaris* of Pacific Coast. No records of *C. a. luteus*, the Yellow-shafted Flicker of northeastern North America, but likely occurs as rare fall and winter vagrant; *C. a. borealis* is a synonym (Phillips et al. 1964).

**Gilded Flicker Colaptes chrysoides** subspp. *C. c. mearnsi* was a former uncommon resident of Río Colorado and upper Río Hardy (Grinnell 1928), but is now nearly extirpated the length of lower Colorado River (Rosenberg et al. 1991). Known from three records, all from Río Hardy 6 km southeast of Benito Juárez 23–27 January 1928 (MVZ 52196–52198). Based on habitat and subspecies’ distribution, *C. c. brunnescens* of central Baja Cali-
fornia reaches southern tip of Colorado Desert at northern limit of *Pachycereus* at Punta Radar (e.g., two 25 March 2000; RAH et al.). Subspecies was previously known only south of ±30° N latitude, so Punta Radar would represent a major range extension (for any Gilded Flicker).

**PASSERIFORMES**

**Tyrannidae**

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** *Contopus cooperi* subspp. Uncommon spring transient (late April–May). Of note was an exceptionally late bird 11 km east of Cerro Prieto 14 June 1928 (Grinnell 1928, MVZ 52925). Based on specimens from southeastern California, nominate subspecies predominates, but small numbers (<15%) are *C. c. majorinus* of montane southern California and northern Baja California. One fall record, from Mexicali 1 September 2000 (RAE et al.).

**Western Wood-Pewee** *Contopus sordidulus* subspp. Common spring transient (mid-April–mid-June); fairly common fall transient (mid-August–mid-October). Based on specimens from Imperial Valley (SDNHM), both *C. s. saturatus* of Pacific Northwest and *C. s. veliei* of the Southwest occur as migrants, with the latter occurring earlier during migration.

**Willow Flycatcher** *Empidonax traillii* subspp. *E. t. brewsteri* of Pacific Northwest south through Sierra Nevada is a common transient in spring (mid-May–mid-June) and fall (August–early October). *E. t. extimus* breeds rarely along Rio Colorado and formerly along Rio Hardy, where five taken 11 km east of Cerro Prieto 31 May–14 June 1928 (Unitt 1987, MVZ 52931–52935).

**Hammond’s Flycatcher** *Empidonax hammondii*. Uncommon to fairly common spring transient (mid-March–mid-May).

**Gray Flycatcher** *Empidonax wrightii*. Uncommon transient in spring (mid-April–early May) and fall (late August–early October); rare to uncommon winter visitor (late November–late February), mainly in open desert scrub, but also occasionally around ranchitos (e.g., near Colonias Progreso 17 December 1994; RAE et al.). See Western Flycatcher, below.

**Dusky Flycatcher** *Empidonax oberholseri*. Rare spring transient (mid-April–mid-May) through Salton Sea region, but no records for northeastern Baja California.

**Pacific-slope [Western] Flycatcher** *Empidonax difficilis difficilis*. Fairly common spring (mid-March–May) and fall transient (mid-August–mid-October). A winter report from Rio Hardy 2 February 1995 (Ruiz-C. and Rodríguez-M. 1997) is in error—the photographs are of *E. wrightii*. Species limits versus the Cordilleran Flycatcher *E. [d.] occidentalis* require more data (Phillips 1994). If properly sexed, a female from Rio Alamo ±40 km east of Mexicali (Seven Wells) 16 April 1894 (USNM 133714) is *E. d. [="o." hellmayri* (wing = 68.5 mm), but breeders do not arrive in southern Arizona until 7 May (Phillips et al. 1964:88), so specimen is apparently missexed (the measurements fit male *E. d. difficilis*).

**Black Phoebe** *Sayornis nigricans semiatra*. Common winter visitor (mid-August–March); fairly common breeder, perhaps since mid-1950s because considered only a winter visitor by Miller et al. (1957).

**Eastern Phoebe** *Sayornis phoebe*. Casual winter vagrant. One record 18 km southwest of La Ventana 3–7 March 1998 (HG).

**Say’s Phoebe** *Sayornis saya* subspp. The northerly nominate subspecies is a common winter visitor (mid-September–April); *S. s. quiescens* is an uncommon and local breeding resident.

**Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus rubinus flammeus*. Rare to uncommon winter visitor (mid-October–March). Formerly bred along Rio Hardy; e.g., adult male and immature female 11 km east of Cerro Prieto 28 May 1928 and 10 June 1928, respectively (Grinnell 1928, MVZ 52936, 52937; cf. Murphy 1917). Recently bred at Campo Rio Hardy, with pair present 20 March–21 August 1984 raising two young (REW). Adult males at mouth of
Rio Hardy 27 August 1994 (Ruiz-C. and Rodriguez-M. 1997, UABC 663) and Campo Mosqueda 4 September 2000 (MAP) suggest continued breeding along that drainage. Up to four at golf course along Río Nuevo in Mexicali 4–25 August 1990 (TEW et al.) suggest breeding in Mexicali Valley.

Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens*. Fairly common transient (mid-March–mid-May, mid-July–mid-October); uncommon to rare winter visitor; breeds at San Felipe (Huey 1927), in low-elevation canyons in mountains (HG), and perhaps elsewhere (e.g., Rio Hardy, Rio Colorado). Species is monotypic, *M. c. pertinax* of Baja California Sur being a synonym.

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus magister*. No records, but a potential breeder on Rio Colorado, where apparently a recent colonist (Rosenberg et al. 1991).

Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus*. Casual vagrant. One record, of one photographed at Laguna Salada 22 June 1997 (KAR; Figure 3- 9).

Cassin’s Kingbird *Tyrannus vociferans*. Casual vagrant. One record, from Pozo Salado 6 April 2000 (REW).

Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis*. Common breeder (early March–September).

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus* subspp. Fairly common breeder; common winter visitor. Three subspecies occur as breeders, *L. l. gambeli* in Mexicali Valley, *L. l. excubitorides* (of which *L. l. nevadensis* and *L. l. sonoriensis* are synonyms; Phillips 1986) along Rio Colorado (and probably west into Mexicali Valley to some degree), and *L. l. grinnelli* in vicinity of San Felipe. Winter influx is of *L. l. excubitorides* from Great Basin. Mexicali Valley breeders in past were mostly *L. l. excubitorides* (e.g., AMNH 439714, 10 km south of Mexicali 19 April 1915), but *L. l. gambeli* appears to be displacing it in Salton Sink, where it now predominates even in Imperial Valley. Phillips (1986:77) synonymized *L. l. gambeli* with *L. l. mexicanus*, giving the latter an odd, disjunct range.

**Vireonidae**

Bell’s Vireo *Vireo bellii arizonae*. Former common breeder along Rio Colorado; now nearly extirpated in lower Colorado River valley (Rosenberg et al. 1991). Presumed breeder along Rio Hardy based on specimens from 11 km east of Cerro Prieto 2 and 12 June 1918 (Grinnell 1928, MVZ 53002, 53003) and near Sierra Cucapah 5 April 1905 (USNM 197958). Only recent record is of singing male along Rio Hardy 20 March 1984 (REW, LRB).

Gray Vireo *Vireo vicinior*. One record, of an adult male at San Felipe 12 April 1926 (Grinnell 1928, MVZ 48247). Attributed to most of northeastern Baja California in winter (Bates 1992), but no evidence it winters in region. Feeds almost exclusively on *Bursera microphylla* fruit during winter (Bates 1992), so it may winter in *Bursera* scrub around San Felipe. Thus, whether the mid-April bird was a spring transient or overwintered is unknown.

Plumbeous Vireo *Vireo plumbeus plumbeus*. No records, but presumably, at the least, a rare winter visitor (November–mid-March).

Cassin’s Vireo *Vireo cassinii cassinii*. Uncommon spring transient (late March–mid-May). Probably a rare fall transient, but no records.

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus swainsonii*. Common transient in spring (mid-March–May) and fall (late July–mid-October).

**Corvidae**

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis*. Presumably a rare to casual winter vagrant (October–April), but only one record, of six at San Felipe 20 February 1997 (RP, KAR). Collected in Valle de Rio Colorado, Sonora, 14 March 1894 (van Rossem 1945). Claims of flocks on Rio Colorado (Stone and Rhoads 1905) are doubtful.

Common Raven *Corvus corax clarionensis*. Fairly common breeding resident.
Alaudidae

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris* subspp. Common winter visitor, mainly *E. a. leucolaema* of Rocky Mountains (Behle 1942) and *E. a. ammophila* of Mojave Desert (Miller et al. 1957). *E. a. leucansiptila*, a Colorado Desert endemic, is a fairly common breeding resident.

Hirundinidae

[**Purple Martin** *Progne subis subis*]. No records, but presumably a rare spring transient (mid-April–mid-May), when recorded regularly on lower Colorado River (Rosenberg et al. 1991) and at Salton Sea.

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*. Common transient and winter visitor (early July–early May).

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina thalassina*. Fairly common spring transient (mid-February–April); uncommon fall transient (October). Breeders along cliffs above Laguna Salada near La Ventana, at least in wet years (e.g., 50 pairs 20 March–23 April 1984; REW), might be *T. t. brachyptera* of southern Baja California and Sonora, but specimens are lacking. Birds breeding sparingly in lower Colorado River Valley might be intermediates between *T. t. thalassina* and *T. t. brachyptera* (Phillips 1986:15), complicating the picture. *T. t. lepida* is a synonym of the nominate (Phillips 1986).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* subspp. Common transient and breeder (mid-February–early October). Uncommon winter visitor. *S. s. psammochrous* is breeding subspecies, but most transients (and perhaps also wintering birds) are of northerly nominate subspecies (SDNHM).

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia riparia*. Uncommon to fairly common transient in spring (late March–early May) and fall (early July–September). Reports from Río Hardy in February 1905 (Stone and Rhoads 1905) are questionable.

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* subspp. Common transient and breeder (February–early October). *P. p. tachina* is breeding subspecies; it and nominate subspecies account for migrants. One with rufous forehead in Mexicali Valley 9 May 1997 (SNGH) may have been *P. p. melanogaster*, of which *P. p. minima* is a synonym (Phillips et al. 1964). Forehead color is variable and partly age-related (M. A. Patten pers. obs.), however, and *P. p. melanogaster* is unrecorded west of southeastern Arizona and eastern Sonora.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica erythrogaster*. Common transient in spring (mid-February–late May) and fall (early July–early November). A few may winter annually, but no records.

Remizidae

Verdin *Auriparus flaviceps acaciarum*. Common breeding resident.

Sittidae

[**Red-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta canadensis*]. No records, but a rare, nearly annual fall and winter visitor to the Imperial Valley, so expected in the Mexicali Valley.

Troglodytidae


Rock Wren *Salpinctes obsoletus obsoletus*. Uncommon resident around San Felipe and in Sierra Cucapah. Rare winter visitor elsewhere (mid-October–mid-March).

Canyon Wren *Catherpes mexicanus conspersus*. Rare elevational visitor, wandering to lower elevations (<150 m) in rocky habitats, mainly during winter months (September–March).

Bewick’s Wren *Thryomanes bewickii* subspp. Fairly common winter visitor (mid-September–mid-April). Based on specimens from Imperial Valley (SDNHM), most birds in Mexicali Valley are coastal *T. b. charienturus*, but a few (<5%) are Great Basin *T. b. eremophilus*. The latter is predominant.
wintering subspecies on lower Colorado River (Phillips et al. 1964).

**House Wren Troglydtes aedon parkmani.** Uncommon winter visitor (late August–April).

**Marsh Wren Cistothorus palustris** subsp. *C. p. aestuarinus*, with *C. p. deserticola* a synonym (Unitt et al. 1996), is a fairly common breeding resident. Considering status in adjacent southern California (Unitt et al. 1996), winter numbers augmented by both *C. p. pulverius* of Great Basin and *C. p. plesius* of interior Southwest. Miller et al. (1957) erroneously attributed *C. p. paludicola* of coastal Pacific Northwest to Río Colorado, but subspecies not recorded reliably even in California (Unitt et al. 1996).

**Regulidae**

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet Regulus calendula calendula.** Fairly common winter visitor (October–April).

**Sylviidae**

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Polioptila caerulea obscura.** Fairly common winter visitor (late August–mid-May). *P. c. amoenissima* is a synonym (Phillips 1991).

**Black-tailed Gnatcatcher Polioptila melanura lucida.** Fairly common breeding resident.

**California Gnatcatcher Polioptila californica pontilis.** Uncommon resident near south end of Bahía San Felipe, where sympatric with the Black-tailed Gnatcatcher (RAH, SNGH et al.). Specimens are lacking, but subspecies is presumably *P. c. pontilis* of central Baja California, the northernmost taxon known to reach Gulf of California (Atwood 1991, Mellink and Rea 1994). Subspecies was previously known only south of ±30°N latitude, so Bahía San Felipe represents a major range extension.

**Turdidae**

**Western Bluebird Sialia mexicana** subsp. Rare, irregular winter visitor, mainly to Río Colorado (Grinnell 1928) and San Felipe (Huey 1927, A.O.U. 1957, REW, MAP). Birds on Río Colorado (SDNHM) are *S. m. bairdi* of interior Southwest, as presumably was sole record for Mexicali Valley, of 20 at Mexicali 14 December 1994 (TEW). Birds at San Felipe (SDNHM) are *S. m. anabelae* of Sierra Juárez and Sierra San Pedro Mártir.

**Mountain Bluebird Sialia currucoides.** Presumably a rare, irregular winter visitor (mid-November–early March). Only two records, “several” 32 km southwest of Pilot Knob 29–31 January 1928 (CCL) and a female 37 km south of El Mayor 20 February 1928 (Grinnell 1928, MVZ 52742).

**Swainson’s Thrush Catharus ustulatus** subsp. Uncommon spring transient (May). Most migrants are nominate subspecies of Pacific Northwest, but some *C. u. oedicus* of cismontane California may occur.

**Hermit Thrush Catharus guttatus** subsp. Uncommon transient and winter visitor (late September–April). Based on status in Imperial Valley (SDNHM), most are nominate subspecies from interior Alaska and adjacent Canada. *C. g. nanus*, called *C. g. osgoodi* by Phillips (1991), of coastal southeastern Alaska and northwestern Canada presumably accounts for small percentage. A specimen from San Felipe 12 April 1926 is *C. g. sleveni* of central California coast (Grinnell 1928, MVZ 48388). *C. g. sequoiensis* of Sierra Nevada, some southern California mountains, and (subspecies presumed) Sierra San Pedro Mártir (Erickson and Wurster 1998) might be a rare migrant, but unrecorded in Colorado Desert.

**American Robin Turdus migratorius propinquus.** Uncommon, irregular winter visitor (late October–mid-April); sometimes fairly common (e.g., 30+ at Mexicali 14 December 1994; TEW).

**Mimidae**

**Northern Mockingbird Mimus polyglottos polyglottos.** Common breeding resident. *M. p. leucopterus* is a synonym (Phillips 1962).
Sage Thrasher *Oreoscopites montanus*. Uncommon to fairly common spring transient (mid-January–March); presumably rarely winters (mid-November–February).

[Bendire’s Thrasher *Toxostoma bendirei*]. Casual winter vagrant; one report, from Algodones 14 January 1988 (Daniels et al. 1993). Contrary to claims by Wilbur (1987), the Algodones record was first potentially valid record for Baja California (Patten et al. 1993), though details probably not sufficient to establish identification fully (Howell et al. 2001). Nelson (1922:126) attributed species to northeastern Baja California without providing specifics.

Crissal Thrasher *Toxostoma crissale coloradense*. Uncommon breeding resident, mainly in mesquite thickets.

Le Conte’s Thrasher *Toxostoma lecontei lecontei*. Uncommon breeding resident, mainly in sandy, open desert scrub around San Felipe and Pattie Basin (Murphy 1917, Grinnell 1928).

Motacillidae

American Pipit *Anthus rubescens pacificus*. Common winter visitor (October–early May). *A. r. geophilus* is a synonym.

Bombycillidae


Ptilogonatidae

Phainopepla *Phainopepla nitens lepida*. Fairly common breeding resident in mesquite thickets laden with *Phorodendron californicum*; otherwise common, with non-breeders in a variety of habitats late September–March.

Parulidae

Orange-crowned Warbler *Vermivora celata* subsp. Common transient and winter visitor (mid-August–mid-May). Most (±60%) are West Coast *V. c. lutescens*, followed by Great Basin *V. c. orestera* (±40%). Small numbers of *V. c. celata* of Alaska, northern Canada, and Northeast presumably move through during fall (October) and winter in small numbers.

Nashville Warbler *Vermivora ruficapilla ridgwayi*. Fairly common spring transient (late March–mid-May); uncommon to rare fall transient (mid-August–early October). Casual in winter; two records, from Mexicali 3 March 1999 (RAH) and near Ejido Durango 31 December 1999 (MAP).

Lucy’s Warbler *Vermivora luciae*. No recent records, but presumed to be a fairly common breeder (late March–August) in extant riparian forest on Río Colorado (especially near Algodones). Casual elsewhere, with two adult males along Río Hardy 32 km southwest of Pilot Knob 15–16 March 1928 (MVZ 52536, 52537), where it probably bred formerly.

Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia* subsp. Common transient (mid-April–May, August–October), mainly *D. p. morcomi*, widespread in western North America and with *D. p. brewsteri* as a synonym. *D. p. morcomi* presumably augmented by small numbers (<5%) of *D. p. rubiginosa* of Alaska, particularly in late spring and fall (but no records). An early male *D. p. morcomi* was 130 km south of Mexicali 5 April 1915 (AMNH 440072). *D. p. morcomi* is probably regular in winter, but only one record (subspecies presumed), from Mexicali 14 December 1994 (TEW). *D. p. sonorana* of Arizona formerly bred on Río Colorado and upper Río Hardy (Grinnell 1928).

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata* subsp. *D. c. auduboni* of Audubon’s Warbler subspecies group is a common winter visitor (mid-September–early May). Fewer than 5% of wintering birds are *D. c. hooveri* of the Myrtle Warbler subspecies group, with one a late bird at San Felipe 10 May 1997 (RAH, SNGH).

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Dendroica nigrescens*. Fairly common spring transient (late March–mid-May); uncommon fall transient (Sep-
tember–October). An adult male on Río Colorado 2 March 1928 (MVZ 52560) and a bird at Campo Mosqueda 15 December 1994 (TEW) were presumably wintering.

**Townsend’s Warbler** *Dendroica townsendi*. Fairly common spring transient (mid-April–May); probably rare fall transient (late August–October), but no records.

**Hermit Warbler** *Dendroica occidentalis*. Uncommon spring transient (mid-April–May).

*[American Redstart* *Setophaga ruticilla]*. No records, but presumably a rare winter visitor (October–mid-April), as small numbers winter annually in Imperial Valley (McCaskie 1970) and in lower Colorado River Valley (Rosenberg et al. 1991).

**MacGillivray’s Warbler** *Oporornis tolmiei tolmiei*. Fairly common transient in spring (late March–mid-May) and fall (late August–early October).

**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas* subspp. *G. t. occidentalis*, of which *G. t. scirpicola* of southern California and *G. t. arizela* of the Pacific Northwest are synonyms, is a common breeding resident. Other populations of *G. t. occidentalis* augment breeding population during migration and winter.

**Wilson’s Warbler** *Wilsonia pusilla* subspp. Based on status in Salton Sink (LACM, MVZ, SDNHM), Pacific Coast *W. p. chryseola* a common transient in spring (mid-March–May) and fall (mid-August–October). One in winter, along Río Colorado south of Algodones 14 January 1989 (TEW), was presumably this subspecies. Small numbers (<10%) of migrants, particularly later in fall and spring, are likely *W. p. pileolata* of Alaska and Great Basin. Nominare subspecies attributed, without specific data, to Río Colorado (Miller et al. 1957); there are no records for southwestern North America.

**Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens auricollis*. Uncommon breeder (mid-April–mid-September) on Río Colorado and Río Hardy. Rare transient elsewhere in both spring (late April–mid-May) and fall (September).

**Thraupidae**

**Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra* subspp. *P. r. cooperi* a former fairly common breeder in riparian forest along Río Hardy and Río Colorado (Grinnell 1928, Miller et al. 1957). *P. r. rubra* of eastern North America probably occurs as a scarce fall and winter vagrant; e.g., female just west of Colorado Desert at Cañon Las Palmas 30 October 1957 (Miller et al. 1957, MVZ 52510). Only two recent records, females along Río Hardy 23 April 1984 (REW) and at Campo Mosqueda 28 December 1996–19 February 1997 (KAR, RP), presumably were *P. r. rubra*.

**Western Tanager** *Piranga ludoviciana*. Common transient in spring (mid-April–May) and fall (mid-July–October). An exceptionally early male was ±50 km north of San Felipe 30 March 1926 (Huey 1927).

**Emberizidae**

**Green-tailed Towhee** *Pipilo chlorurus*. Rare transient and winter visitor (mid-September–early May).

**Spotted Towhee** *Pipilo maculatus* subspp.? Presumed rare winter visitor (October–mid-April), but only two records, from Algodones 11 January 1990 (TEW) and 18 km southwest of La Ventana 21–22 April 1998 (HG). Specimens from lower Colorado River valley are *P. m. curtatus* of western Great Basin (Grinnell and Miller 1944, Phillips et al. 1964), so it should account for most records. Near the region, *P. m. megalonyx* of cismontane southern California has been collected in Imperial Valley (Cardiff 1956) and *P. m. montanus* of Great Basin and Rocky Mountains has nearly reached lower Colorado River (Phillips et al. 1964).

**Abert’s Towhee** *Pipilo aberti aberti*. Common breeding resident. *P. a. dumeticolus* is a synonym (Phillips 1962).

**Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina* subspp. Uncommon winter visitor (mid-September–April). *S. p. arizonae*, a widespread breeder in western North America, probably accounts for vast majority (>95%) of records, but *S. p. boreophila* of Alaska.
and boreal Canada has been taken in Imperial Valley and S. p. passerina of eastern North America has been taken on lower Colorado River (Phillips et al. 1964), so occasional individuals may be these subspecies.

**Brewer’s Sparrow** *Spizella breweri breweri*. Common winter visitor (early September–April).

**Vesper Sparrow** *Pooecetes gramineus confinis*. Uncommon winter visitor (late September–March).

**Lark Sparrow** *Chondestes grammacus strigatus*. Fairly common winter visitor (late September–April). Breeding began in the Imperial Valley in mid-1980s and might now occur in Mexicali Valley.

**Black-throated Sparrow** *Amphispiza bilineata deserticola*. Uncommon to fairly common breeding resident, in moderately dense desert scrub near and above sea level, as at Sierra Cucapah (Stone and Rhoads 1905), Sierra las Pintas (HG), and San Felipe (REW, MAP).

**Sage Sparrow** *Amphispiza belli nevadensis*. Fairly common winter visitor (late September–mid-April) from Mojave Desert and Great Basin. Includes as synonyms *A. b. canescens* and *A. b. campicola* (Patten and Unitt 2001).

**Lark Bunting** *Calamospiza melanocorys*. Rare to casual winter and spring vagrant (November–early May) to Salton Sea, but only three records for northeastern Baja California, a male ±50 km north of San Felipe 22 March 1926 (Huey 1927), a small flock near San Felipe 4 April 1926 (Huey 1927), and ≤ 200 (including singing males) near San Felipe 19 March–23 April 1984 (REW, LRB). Mistakenly called “common throughout [Baja California] in winter” by Miller et al. (1957).

**Savannah Sparrow** *Passerculus sandwichensis* subsp. *P. s. nevadensis* of the Great Basin is a common winter visitor (mid-August–mid-May). Based on status in Salton Sink (MVZ, SDNHM), small numbers (<5%) of wintering birds are *P. s. anthinus* of Alaska and adjacent Canada, including one from 32 km southwest of Pilot Knob 26 January 1923 (MVZ 52370). One from San Felipe 11 April 1926 is *P. s. brooksi* of coastal Pacific Northwest (Grinnell 1928, MVZ 48112). *P. s. rostratus* breeds commonly around Rio Colorado delta, perhaps south to San Felipe (Miller et al. 1957), with isolated breeding inland at Campo Geotérmico Cerro Prieto (Molina and Garrett 2001). It winters (mid-July–mid-February) in various portions of northeastern Baja California, including sparingly in agricultural fields (e.g., near Algodones 29 December 1991; MAP et al.), but is threatened and declining (Mellink and Ferreira-B. 2000).

**Grasshopper Sparrow** *Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus*. Casual winter vagrant. One record, from 18 km southwest of La Ventana 20 December 1997 (HG). Only *A. s. perpallidus*, widespread in western North America, has been recorded in California and Baja California.

**Fox Sparrow** *Passerella iliaca schistacea*. Casual winter visitor. Two records, of a male along Río Alamo 32 km southwest of Pilot Knob 28–31 January 1928 (Grinnell 1928, MVZ 52470, CCL) and a female at Mexicali 1 February 1929 (UMMZ 167282).

**Swamp Sparrow** *Melospiza georgiana ericrypta*. No records, but presumably a rare winter visitor (November–March) given its status in Imperial Valley and on lower Colorado River (Rosenberg et al. 1991), including one on east bank of Río Colorado near Moctezuma, Sonora, 31 December 1999 (MAP) within 50 m of Baja California border.

**Song Sparrow** *Melospiza melodia* subsp. *M. m. fallax*, of which *M. m. saltonis* is a synonym (Patten 2001), is a common breeding resident in riparian thickets throughout, but especially along Río Colorado and Río Hardy. Small numbers of *M. m. montana*, which includes *M. m. fisherella* (Patten 2001) of northern Great Basin, winter regularly on lower Colorado River (Grinnell and Miller 1944, Phillips et al. 1964). A few *M. m. heermanni*, with *M. m. cooperi* a synonym (Patten 2001), of cismontane central and southern California reach Imperial Valley each winter. It presumably occurs...
occasionally, at least in Mexicali Valley, and has been “recorded from east base of Sierra San Pedro Mártir” (Miller et al. 1957).

**Lincoln’s Sparrow** *Melospiza lincolnii* subspp. Nominate subspecies, with *M. l. alticola* a synonym, is a fairly common winter visitor (late September–mid-April). *M. l. gracilis* of southeastern Alaska and coastal British Columbia has reached lower Colorado River (Grinnell and Miller 1944, Phillips et al. 1964) and Imperial Valley (SDNHM), so probably occurs sparingly.

**White-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia leucophrys* subspp. Common winter visitor (mid-September–mid-May), predominantly *Z. l. gambelii* of Alaska and adjacent Canada. Small numbers are *Z. l. oriantha* of montane West, mainly during migration (September–October, late April–May).

**Golden-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia atricapilla*. Presumed to be a rare winter visitor (November–early April), but only two records, from south of Algodones 12 November 1994 (TEW) and Mexicali 28 December 1996 (KAR).

**Dark-eyed Junco** *Junco hyemalis* subspp. Rare winter visitor (October–March). Based on specimens from Imperial Valley and lower Colorado River (SDNHM), over 90% are two subspecies in the Oregon Junco complex, *J. h. montanus* of northern Great Basin, the most numerous, and *J. h. thurberi* of montane California. Most of remainder are in the Slate-colored Junco complex (e.g., Sierra Cucapah 24 February 1905; ANSP 48366), both *J. h. cismontanus* of Canadian Rocky Mountains and nominate subspecies of eastern North America, with the former accounting for >90% of records. No records of the Gray-headed Junco *J. h. caniceps* or Pink-sided Junco *J. h. mearnsi*, but each probably occurs as each is annual (or nearly so) at Imperial Valley and lower Colorado River Valley (Phillips et al. 1964, MAP).

**McCown’s Longspur** *Calcarius mccownii*. No records, but probably a casual winter visitor, as in adjacent Imperial Valley. Phylogenetic placement of the longspurs should be basal to the emberizid radiation (Patten and Fugate 1998).

**Lapland Longspur** *Calcarius lapponicus alascensis*. No records, but probably a casual winter visitor given status in adjacent Imperial Valley.

**Chestnut-collared Longspur** *Calcarius ornatus*. Casual winter visitor. One record, a flock of up to 50 south of Algodones 12–16 November 1994 (TEW, KAR).

**Cardinalidae**

**Black-headed Grosbeak** *Pheucticus melanocephalus maculatus*. Common spring transient (April–May); uncommon fall transient (August–mid-October).


**Lazuli Bunting** *Passerina amoena*. Fairly common to uncommon transient in spring (April–May) and fall (August–September).

**Indigo Bunting** *Passerina cyanea*. No records, but regular on lower Colorado River (Rosenberg et al. 1991) and recorded seven times around Salton Sea. Also one of the more common “eastern” birds recorded in southern California (Garrett and Dunn 1981).

**Icteridae**

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus sonorensis*. Common breeding resident, with numbers augmented in winter. *A. p. neutralis* of southern Pacific Coast has reached Imperial Valley (Grinnell and Miller 1944, MVZ 8205) and Arizona (Phillips et al. 1964, Rea 1983), so it may occur on occasion.
Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta neglecta*. Fairly common breeding resident; common winter visitor (October–March).

Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*. Uncommon breeder (Grinnell 1928, Howell and Pyle 1990, Howell and Webb 1992); fairly common to common winter visitor (October–April).

Brewer’s Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus minusculus*. Common winter visitor (October–March). Breeding began in Imperial Valley, south to El Centro, in the past 15 years, so it may breed in Mexicali Valley. Late birds at the Río Hardy 22 April 1995 and 28 May 1994 (Ruiz-C. and Rodríguez-M. 1997) were either summering or breeding.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus* subssp. Common breeding resident in the Mexicali Valley and along the Río Colorado. This species has not really extended south beyond the limits of agricultural development in the region. *Q. m. nelsoni* of Sonora was the first to colonize southeastern California (beginning in 1964, breeding by 1968) and thus presumably northeastern Baja California. *Q. m. monsoni* of Chihuahua and southeastern Arizona reached southeastern California in mid-1980s and probably also occurs in adjacent Baja California. It may displace the smaller *Q. m. nelsoni* (Rea 1969, W. Wehtje pers. comm.).

Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus loyei*. Rare presumed breeder (mid-April–early September), with records from Algodones (including six birds 9 July 1995; KAR), Benito Juárez (SNGH et al.), and Mexicali (KLG). A recent colonist.

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater* subssp. *M. a. obscurus* is a common breeding resident. Winter numbers are augmented by *M. a. artemisiae* of Great Basin.

Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus nelsoni*. Uncommon breeder (mid-March–mid-September), but local (most breeders use *Washingtonia* palms), so generally only in settled areas. One winter record, 18 km southwest of La Ventana 16–17 December 1997 (HG).


Scott’s Oriole *Icterus parisorum*. Uncommon breeder around San Felipe (Huey 1927, MVZ 48060, 48061). Has occurred in spring (May 1997, April 1998) in Sierras las Pintas (HG). Rare winter visitor, mainly around San Felipe (e.g., 23 February 1998; RAE et al.). An 8 January 1982 male listed at “San Felipe” by Wilbur (1987) was actually ±24 km north of that town (DES).

Fringillidae

[Purple Finch *Carpodacus purpureus californicus*]. No records, but presumably a rare, irregular winter visitor (September–mid-April).

House Finch *Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*. Common breeding resident.

Pine Siskin *Carduelis pinus pinus*. Presumably a rare and irregular winter visitor (November–March). Four records, the first of “2 or 3 flocks” at Río Alamo 32 km southwest of Pilot Knob 21–31 January 1928 (CCL), including an adult male collected (Grinnell 1928, MVZ 52358). Individuals were 10 km south of Algodones 29 December 1991 (Patten et al. 1993) and 12 November 1994 (TEW) and at Río Hardy 3 February 1995 (Ruiz-C. and Rodriguez-M. 1997).

Lesser Goldfinch *Carduelis psaltria psaltria*. Fairly common winter visitor (September–April); presumed uncommon breeder given status in Imperial Valley. Taxonomy follows Phillips et al. (1964).

Lawrence’s Goldfinch *Carduelis lawrencei*. Given its status on lower Colorado River (Rosenberg et al. 1991) and around Salton Sea, presumably a rare spring transient (late February–April) and casual winter visitor (Miller et al. 1957); has bred. Only records are of three in Sierra
American Goldfinch *Carduelis tristis salicamans*. Presumably a rare winter visitor (mid-November–April) based on its status in adjacent Imperial Valley, but only two records, of a “very few” at Mexicali 19 February 1990 (ENA, DK) and a female 18 km southwest of La Ventana 18 December 1997 (HG).

**NON-NATIVE SPECIES**

Ring-necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* subss. Fairly common resident in Mexicali Valley (Leopold 1959, Patten et al. 1993), although its establishment is disputed (Howell and Webb 1995:768) despite records of up to 20 birds on 25+ occasions from mid-1980s to present (TEW, MAP et al.). Definitely breeds at Colonias Progreso, Carranza, and Bórquez (J.M. Pereyra pers. comm.), mostly in vegetated drains and asparagus fields. Also a sizable breeding population on Río Colorado south of Yuma (Brown 1989). Birds originally introduced into Mexicali Valley were in *P. c. torquatus* subspecies complex from central and eastern Asia (Leopold 1959). Some birds recently taken by hunters are hybrids between that complex and apparent *P. c. principalis/chrysomelas* subspecies complex of Afghanistan (Cramp and Simmons 1979), introduced along lower Colorado River (Brown 1989) and presumably reaching Baja California.

Rock Dove [Feral Pigeon] *Columba livia*. Common breeding resident. Use of the name “Feral Pigeon” rather than “Rock Dove” for introduced, highly human-modified populations was advocated by Howell and Webb (1995) and Patten et al. (in press).

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*. Common breeding resident, presumably first reaching area in late 1950s (see Cardiff 1961).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*. Common breeding resident that probably reached Mexicali Valley by the early 1910s (based on records in adjacent Imperial Valley). Established throughout, even in more “natural” habitats such as marshes and riparian along rivers.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

George F. Barrowclough and Christine Blake (American Museum of Natural History), Louis R. Bevier and Nate Rice (Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia), René Corado (Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology), Carla Cicero and Jason A. Mobley (Museum of Vertebrate Zoology), Charles M. Dardia (Cornell University), James P. Dean and Craig Ludwig (National Museum of Natural History), Kimball L. Garrett (Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County), John C. Hafner (Moore Laboratory of Zoology, Occidental College), Fritz Hertel (Dickey Collection), Janet Hinshaw (University of Michigan Museum of Zoology), and David Willard (Field Museum of Natural History) provided data about specimens in their care. Portions of Chester C. Lamb’s field notes were reviewed at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. Patten’s specimen work was partly funded by a grant from the American Museum of Natural History. Gómez de Silva’s fieldwork in Sierra Las Pintas was supported by grants from Lincoln Park Zoo’s Scott Neotropic Fund, Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza, A.C., and Programa de Apoyo de la División de Estudios de Posgrado, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Compañía San Felipe, S.A. de C.V provided logistical and in-kind support for this fieldwork. Eugene N. Anderson, Richard A. Erickson, Kimball L. Garrett, Robert A. Hamilton, Osvel Hinojosa-Huerta, Steve N.G. Howell, Kathy C. Molina, Eduardo Palacios, J.M. Pereyra, Peter Pyle, Kurt A. Radamaker, Donald E. Schmoldt, Brenda
D. Smith, Paul F. Springer, Philip Unitt, Richard E. Webster, and Walter Wehtje supplied copies of field notes and/or other unpublished data. Lastly, we thank Kenneth P. Able, Jon L. Dunn, Richard A. Erickson, Kimball L. Garrett, Steve N.G. Howell, Eduardo Palacios, Scott B. Terrill, and Richard E. Webster for their careful reviews of the manuscript.

**LITERATURE CITED**


Devillers, P., A.M. Craig, J.A. Devillers-Terschuren, and X. de Heering. 2001. Distribu-
tional records from the Mexican state of Baja California. This volume.


———. 1918. Robert Cushman Murphy’s “Natural history observations from the Mexican portion of the Colorado Desert.” Condor 20:97.


---