

NOTES FROM THE FIELD – August-September 2020 by David Pereksta

It is rare to find a first county record locally, but we were rewarded with two first Ventura County records within a month of each other. Ventura County's first **White-eyed Vireo** was in the riparian forest along Matilija Creek above the lake 27 Aug-22 Sep (JG, PL, BS & RR), which may have been there from 9 Jul. Hot on the heels of that, Ventura's first **Blue-winged Warbler** was found at Pitts Ranch Park in Camarillo 26-27 Sep (JMu). The **White-eyed Vireo** attracted numbers of birders to the Matilija riparian area who also found a **Yellow-throated Vireo** 28 Aug-13 Sep (LK & DS), **Plumbeous Vireo** 27 Sep (SS & KS), **Ovenbird** 3 Sep (DKB), **Black-and-white Warbler** 31 Aug-1 Sep (JB) and another on 25 Sep (MBe), **Kentucky Warbler** 28 Aug-18 Sep (CM), **Hooded Warbler** 28 Aug-4 Sep (LK & DS), **American Redstart** 4 Sep (JMu), **Black-throated Sparrow** 26 Aug-5 Sep (PL) with two there 28 Aug-3 Sep (JS), **Brewer's Sparrow** 27 Aug (PL), and a **Summer Tanager** 4-20 Sep (MB).

A **Franklin's Gull** was attracted to active harvesting on the sod fields along Hueneme Road 28 Aug-19 Sep (DS & LK). A **Black Tern** was at Marina Park on 5 Aug and later at the Santa Clara River Estuary 5-9 Aug (BSi). It was joined by a second individual 6-7 Aug (DP). A **Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel** was off Ventura on 6 Sep (DB & EB). A multi-day deepwater pelagic trip spent time in Ventura County waters near the San Juan Seamount on 9 Sep where it found four **Black-footed Albatrosses**, three **Townsend's Storm-Petrels**, and six **Buller's Shearwaters** (DP, TM et al.). The same trip on 10 Sep had a **Long-tailed Jaeger**, a **Guadalupe Murrelet**, 11 **Black-footed Albatrosses**, 2 **Townsend's Storm-Petrels**, and a **Cook's Petrel** west of the Cortes Bank (DP, TM, et al). A **Long-tailed Jaeger** and a pair of **Craveri's Murrelets** were off Ventura on 17 Sep (DP). Three boobies were seen off Ventura on 28 Aug including a **Nazca Booby**, **Red-footed Booby**, and **Brown Booby** (JB). **Neotropic Cormorants** are becoming more frequent in southern California and one of the few Ventura County records to date was at the Santa Clara River Estuary 23 Aug-2 Sep (DKB).

Three **Pacific Golden-Plovers** were on the Oxnard Plain near Point Mugu on 7 Aug (DDJ & DP) and another was there on 15 Aug (DP). As many as four **Pacific Golden-Plovers** at one time (likely more individuals) were on the Oxnard Plain sod fields 23 Aug-18 Sep (m. obs.). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at Garbage Ditch 23-25 Aug (AS, DM, CS, & RT) and as many as six were on the Oxnard Plain 1 Aug-3 Sep (LS, DP, & DDJ). **Solitary Sandpipers** were on the Oxnard Plain on 11 Aug (LS) and 19 Aug (DDJ).

Individual **Swainson's Hawks** were in Camarillo on 4 Aug (BH & DBu), over Matilija Creek on 2 Sep (JG), at Wheeler Canyon on 5 Sep (DKB), and on the Oxnard Plain on 13 Sep (DP & LS).

Single **White-winged Doves** were in Ventura on 26 Aug (ASz), at the Ventura Settling Ponds on 25 Aug (RF & PF) and 3 Sep (DM), Calleguas Creek on 5 Sep (JA), La Jolla Canyon on 9 Sep (BCB & SB), and Sycamore Canyon on 24 Sep (DP & MR). **Plumbeous Vireos** were in Ventura 4-5 Sep (RM), Mae Boyer Park 10-17 Sep (CT), CSU Channel Islands on 25 Sep (BCB & SB), and Pitts Ranch Park 27-30 Sep (EE). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was in riparian habitat along the Ventura River on 25 Sep (JM et al). Individual **Purple Martins** were at the Santa Clara River Estuary 7-11 Aug (DM & AS), on the Oxnard Plain on 7 Aug (DP), and Arnold Road on 24 Aug (DC & NK) and 6 Sep (DM). A **Bank Swallow** was at the Ventura Settling Ponds on 24 Aug (DP & LS) and another was over the Oxnard Plain on 3 Sep (DP). As many as four **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** continued at Rincon Creek through 27 Sep and another continued at Camino Real Park through 26 Sep.

Migrant **Brewer's Sparrows** included one at Bob Kildee Park on 12 Sep (DP) and one at the Ventura Settling Ponds on 24 Sep (TB). A **Black-throated Sparrow** was at La Jolla Canyon on 30 Sep (DKB).

Bobolinks included one at the end of Arnold Road on 10 Sep (JS) and three on the Oxnard Plain on 13 Sep (DP & LS). Three **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were on the Oxnard Plain on 16 Aug (LS). A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at Rincon Creek on 8 Sep (FS et al) and another was in Thousand Oaks on 26 Sep (KR & SR). Individual **Summer Tanagers** were reported from several places including continuing at the Ventura Settling Ponds through 29 Sep, the Laguna Tamarisks 13-15 Sep (KK), Ventura on 28 Sep (DP), and continuing at Rincon Creek through 24 Sep.

Warbler highlights for the period were many. Individual **Ovenbirds** were at the Laguna Tamarisks on 22 Sep (MBe), Sycamore Canyon 25-28 Sep (BH), and Ventura 28 Sep-1 Oct (DP). A **Northern Waterthrush** was at the Ventura Settling Ponds 3-30 Sep (DM). **Black-and-white Warblers** were at Arroyo Verde Park on 12 Sep (SS), the Laguna Tamarisks 22-29 Sep (MBe), and Sycamore Canyon on 28 Sep (BCB & SB). **Tennessee Warblers** included one at the Laguna Tamarisks 13-16 Sep (MS & JS) and another at Bob Kildee Park on 15 Sep (MBe). A **Lucy's Warbler** was at San Buenaventura State Beach 25-26 Sep (AS & DM). **Virginia's Warblers** were at the Ventura Settling Ponds 24-27 Aug (DC & NK) and in Ventura on 18 Sep (MT). A **Kentucky Warbler** was reported at the Laguna Tamarisks on 12 Sep (LE). A **Blackpoll Warbler** was at Bob Kildee Park 12-14 Sep (JM). A **Palm Warbler** was at Pitts Ranch Park 27-28 Sep (LS). The wintering **Painted Redstart** from Arroyo Verde Park last year returned 25-30 Sep (AF).

Thank you to those who reported sightings during the last month. If you have any questions about local birds or have a good one to report (please no calls about nuisance birds), call or e-mail David Pereksta at 805-659-5740 or <pereksta@pacbell.net>

Good birding,
David Pereksta

Observers: John Apperson, Mike Baker, Joel Barrett, Marc Better, Derik Bowen, Erin Bowen, David Buettner, Stephen Bylin, Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin, Dan Cooper, Don DesJardin, Linda Easter, Elias Desjardin, Pat Farris, Rick Farris, Adele Ferguson, Kandace Glanville, Jesse Grantham, Bruce Henderson, Logan Kahle, Deven Kammerichs-Berke, Nurit Katz, Karl Krause, Peter Larramendy, Curtis Marantz, Jerry Maryniuk, Dan Maxwell, Todd McGrath, Robert McMorrان, John Mueller, David Pereksta, Rick Ridgeway, Martin Ruane, Karen Rusch, Steve Rusch, Florence Sanchez, Larry Sansone, Spencer Seale, Adam Searcy, Christian Schwarz, Bill Shanbrom, Kirill Shtengel, Dessi Sieburth, Brad Sillasen, John Sterling, Antal Szijj, Ryan Terrill, Cameron Tescher, and Michael Tiffany