

CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND BUNTINGS — FAMILY CARDINALIDAE

Pyrrhuloxia Cardinalis sinuatus

Pretty birds of primarily Mexican distribution pose an increasing problem to birders in San Diego County. What is the likelihood that, when seen north of the border, they are vagrants all the way from the species' natural range versus escapees from captivity in Baja California? The California Bird Records Committee has accepted one *Pyrrhuloxia* from San Diego County and rejected another, though the circumstances of both were similar.

Migration: Although Guy McCaskie wrote that a *Pyrrhuloxia* at Encinitas (K6/K7) 26–27 May 1983 was “best considered an escapee” (AB 37:914, 1983), the California Bird Records Committee accepted it as a vagrant (Bevier 1990). But it questioned the natural origin of one at Point Loma (S7) 10 June 1998; it “appeared ragged” (Erickson and Hamilton 2001). Yet another San



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Diego County report (AB 42:483, 1988) was rejected as inadequately supported, and another (AB 40:525, 1986) was not submitted.