

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja*

The Roseate Spoonbill has always been a sporadic vagrant to California. In 1973 and 1977, small irruptions reached the state, mainly the Salton Sea. The incursion of the latter year was responsible for the single sighting of the species in San Diego County. Since 1983, only two have been found in California, raising concern that the source population on the coast of western mainland Mexico has been depleted.

Migration: San Diego County's record of the Roseate Spoonbill is of three seen at the Santa Margarita River mouth (G4) 24 June 1977 (P. D. Jorgensen). These were presumably the same individuals that appeared 35 miles to the northwest at the San Joaquin Marsh in Irvine, Orange County, two days later and remained to 4 October (AB 31:1169, 1977; 32:256, 1978).



Photo by Kenneth Z. Kurland