

## SOUTHWEST REGION

/ Scott Mills, Stephen Alden and John Hubbard

Hot weather with some precipitation followed the summer monsoon in s. Arizona. In New Mexico, observers mentioned high precipitation levels, particularly from August through early October. Early snows were recorded in n. New Mexico in late August, but the winter snows did not arrive until October.



Excellent seed crops were produced by summer rains in Arizona, but rains in New Mexico seemed too late to allow many grasses and forbs to produce mature seeds. In Arizona, Fringillids, especially longspurs and Lark Buntings, arrived in greater numbers than in the previous fall. This may be a function of this season's winter food crop.

An interesting variety of vagrants appeared in the region during the report period. Shorebirds and gulls from the west and wood warblers from the east were most interesting. First records were recorded in both Arizona and New Mexico.

**LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS** — Common Loons, always unusual in New Mexico, were represented by single birds at Bitter Lake N.W.R. (hereafter Bitter Lake) Oct. 18 & Nov. 1 (DB, BS) and near Las Cruces Nov. 16 & 24 (BP). Another single was reported from Phoenix Nov. 2 (KI). Reports of Horned Grebes included two at Bitter Lake Nov. 3 (JH), five in the vicinity of Bonita, Ariz., Oct. 6 (DD, JB), three at Punta Santa Rosa, Sonora, Mex., Nov. 29-30 (SMi *et al.*) and a single near Chandler, Ariz., Oct. 5-7 (RW, JW *et al.*). Three very early W. Grebes were at Painted Rock Dam (hereafter P.R.D.), Maricopa Co., Ariz., since Aug. 22 (m. ob.), and counts of 35 at Elephant Butte L., N. Mex., in September (Mickey Lang) and 100, Nov. 27 (BP) were the highest counts of the many reports of this

species. An impressive 444 White Pelicans were counted at Bitter Lake, Oct. 11 (DB); 23 of the large summer flock at P.R.D. (GB *et al.*) remained on Oct. 5, and a single came down at Portales, N. Mex., and lingered for several days in late September (Tony Genaro). Three Brown Pelicans were sighted at P.R.D. Aug. 22 (GM *et al.*). Double-crested Cormorants were still at P.R.D., Nov. 7 and two were seen in Phoenix, Nov. 13-15 (JW, SD *et al.*). A **Magnificent Frigatebird**, undoubtedly the same bird seen during the summer, was observed at P.R.D., Aug. 4 (RN), Aug. 8 (ST) and Aug. 27 (Allen Guenther).

**HERONS, STORKS** — An impressive 75 Green Herons were counted at Bitter Lake, Aug. 9 (DB), and records of singles came from Kirtland, N. Mex., Sept. 23 (*vide* AN) and Pleasanton, N. Mex., Sept. 18-23 (LS). Reports of Little Blue Herons, scarce in New Mexico, were of two birds at Bitter Lake Aug. 22 and three there Aug. 30 (DB). Cattle Egrets continue to increase in the region with nine reported sightings totaling 68 individuals. Unusual was an ad. **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** near Roswell, N. Mex., Aug. 31 (JS, MW). Two Wood Storks were seen at P.R.D., Aug. 8 (ST).

**WATERFOWL** — A single Whistling Swan was observed flying south with 17 Snow Geese over Tucson Nov. 12 (SA). Over 3000 Black Brant were counted in wintering areas off Punta Santa Rosa, Sonora, in the Gulf of California Nov. 28-29 (SMi *et al.*). An imm. White-fronted Goose lingered at Green Valley, Ariz., from Nov. 21 until the end of the period (SA). Arizona reports of Snow Geese were singles at St. David, Nov. 9 (m. ob.) and Sierra Vista Oct. 5 (SMi, TJ, SA). This species peaked at 14,000 at Bitter Lake Nov. 22 (DB, BS). A **Ross' Goose**, rare in Arizona, appeared n.w. of Tucson Nov. 9 (Emmy Wolfe), and two were present there Nov. 12-17 (GG, GM *et al.*). At Bitter Lake 125 Ross' Geese were counted Nov. 20 (DB), while a single bird was present among Snow Geese at McAlister L., San Miguel Co., N. Mex., Nov. 30 (JH). Black-bellied Tree Duck sightings include two n. of Phoenix Aug. 11 (MS, RB), two at Ruthrauff pond, Tucson, Sept. 22-25 (SA, SMi, TJ) and one in Phoenix, Oct. 5-6 (RW, DS *et al.*). Wood Ducks, regular but scarce in the region, were reported as follows: a pair at Ruthrauff Oct. 23 (MH) and two males there Nov. 24 (Mike and Dianna King), two males and three females near Albuquerque, Nov. 15 (CH) and one at Bitter Lake Oct. 25 (DB). One Surf Scoter (imm./fem.) was reported from Sierra Vista, Ariz., Nov. 12 (Fletcher Sillick *et al.*). Six Red-breasted Mergansers were seen at Wilcox, Ariz., Nov. 11 (m. ob.) and a female turned up at Alamogordo, N. Mex., Nov. 25 (BP). A Hooded Merganser, scarce in New Mexico, was shot by a hunter at Bitter Lake Nov. 17 (*vide* BS). The first evidence of breeding of Ruddy Duck in s.e. Arizona was the sighting of three ducklings at Kinsley Pond, Pima Co., Aug. 18 (Patty Meyers, ER).

**RAPTORS** — With the exception of Accipiters, good numbers of raptors were recorded in New Mexico by observers and in Dept. of Game and Fish censuses. (Accipiters were in better-than-usual numbers in s.e. Arizona.) More than 200 Turkey Vultures were ob-

served flying south over Roll, Ariz., Oct. 8 (JG). The latest reports of the species from New Mexico were ones and twos at Bitter Lake Oct. 4 (DB), Acomita Oct. 7 (MC, JH), and Ft. Bayard Oct. 12 (RF). Lowland Goshawks were a subadult s. of La Joya, N. Mex., Nov. 17 (MC, JH) and an adult in the Avra Valley, Pima Co., Ariz., Nov. 22 (SA). Migrating Swainson's Hawks were seen in the Phoenix area Sept. 15-Oct. 5; concentrations of 20-30 birds were seen near Oscura, N. Mex., Sept. 18 (MC, GS) and over Las Cruces Oct. 6 (BP), and nearly 250 were seen in field n.w. of Willcox, Ariz., Sept. 21-22 (Rich Glinski). A late individual was reported at Gila Bend, Ariz., Nov. 7 (ST *et al.*). From New Mexico, early arrival, single Rough-legged Hawks were reported at Eagle Nest, Colfax Co. (RB), the Upper Mimbres Valley, Grant Co. (RF) and s. of Las Cruces (BP), all in the week of Oct. 18-25. Another was seen flying in a snowstorm on the mesa n. of Mt. Taylor, N. Mex., Nov. 23 (MC, JH). Ferruginous Hawks were numerous in the Sulphur Springs Valley, Cochise Co., Ariz., Oct. 26 (SS). Twelve Golden Eagle sightings were recorded in Arizona during the period. Bald Eagles were reported as follows: eleven ad. at Vermejo Park, N. Mex., Nov. 27 (Ted Burt), one adult 18 mi. s.w. of Rodeo, N. Mex., Nov. 21 (Joanne Vinik), two adults at Pleasanton, N. Mex., Nov. 26 (LS) and two adult and three immatures at McAlister L., N. Mex., Nov. 28 (WH). Marsh Hawks were very numerous in s.e. Arizona in mid-November. An Osprey was sighted at Ruthrauff, Tucson Sept. 26 (TJ). Only four Peregrine Falcon sightings were received, two in New Mexico and one each in Sonora and Arizona. Merlins continue to be scarce with only five individuals reported: a pair seen near Gila Bend, Nov. 7 (SD, ST *et al.*), a male seen taking a Mourning Dove in the Tucson Mts., Sept. 18 (Ruth Steffins), one at Peña Blanca, N. Mex., Nov. 15 (WS) and one killed by dove hunters near Tucson in early September (*vide* SMi). Several observers commented on apparently higher-than-usual numbers of Am. Kestrels. An unusual sighting was of a "flock" of 20 kestrels in a single mesquite tree near Wellton, Ariz., Sept. 30 (JG).

**TURKEYS THROUGH RAILS** — Twelve of the Turkeys (race *intermedia*) released at Bosque del Apache, N.W.R., N. Mex. during the summer were sighted Nov. 24 (WS). Three exceptionally early Sandhill Cranes were at Rosebud, Harding Co., N. Mex., Sept. 7 (KG); other early reports were four near Buckeye, N. Mex., Sept. 29 (JH) and three at Bitter Lake Oct. 4 (BS), while 87 were counted near Cliff, N. Mex., Oct. 22 (RF). On their wintering grounds near Kansas Settlement, Arizona, 700-800 cranes were seen Nov. 24 (Harriette Barker *et al.*). A new locality for Virginia Rail is the Laguna Indian Reservation, at Dripping Vat, N. Mex., where at least three were present Nov. 22 (JH). An imm. Sora, no doubt a migrant, was found dead on a street in Santa Fe Sept. 14 (JH).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Single Semipalmated Plovers, rarely reported in New Mexico only a few years ago, were noted at Mesilla Park, Nov. 22 & 26 (BP, Rick Reid) and in Lovington, Sept. 30 (MC, JH). In Arizona, unusually large numbers were 18 seen at Pichacho Res.,

Aug. 15 (GM) and 27 at P.R.D., Aug. 22 (GM). The last sighting of Snowy Plovers at Bitter Lake was 60 birds Aug. 23 (BS). A newly hatched Killdeer at Ruthrauff, Tucson, Oct. 26 (ER) was a late nesting record. High counts of Mountain Plovers were 75 e. of Estancia, N. Mex., Sept. 23 (RT *et al.*), 25 near Rosebud, N. Mex., Sept. 7 (KG) and 39 at P.R.D., Nov. 9 (RN). An Am. Golden Plover, a species rarely seen in Arizona, was reported in Phoenix, Oct. 24-25 (SD, HL *et al.*). Counts of 30 Long-billed Curlews came from Buckeye, N. Mex., Sept. 27 (MC, JH) and the vicinity of Lovington, N. Mex., Oct. 4 (GS). The highest count of the species was 190 on the Colorado R., near San Luis, Ariz., Sept. 28 (RN, DT).

An Upland Sandpiper, rare in Arizona, was found in Phoenix, Oct. 5 (ST, SM, KA). The second state record for Wandering Tattler was a single in n. Phoenix Oct. 13-14 (MS, RB *vide* JW). A Red Knot in breeding plumage was sighted at P.R.D., Aug. 10 (RW *et al.*), and a molting individual was found in Phoenix Aug. 20 (ST). Pectoral Sandpipers, regular in Arizona, were reported in New Mexico where normally rare as follows: three near Kirtland Sept. 23 (*vide* AN), seven in Lovington Sept. 30 (MC, JH), and a late individual near Mesilla Dam, Nov. 22 (BP, RR). Short-billed Dowitchers continue to be reported from Phoenix and Maricopa Co., Ariz. with five sightings (4-5 individuals) during August and September. Five sightings of Stilt Sandpipers, all from s. Arizona, totaled 13 individuals. Three Semipalmated Sandpipers (one specimen) were found at Picacho Res., Ariz., Aug. 15 (GM). The first Arizona record of Ruff was a single bird observed and photographed in Phoenix Nov. 10-Dec. (RN, DD *et al.*). Interesting was a single Am. Avocet near Kirtland, N. Mex., Nov. 11-14 (*vide* AN) and 50 near Alamogordo, Sept. 15 (BP). A Red Phalarope, a rare transient in Arizona, turned up in Phoenix Aug. 20 (ST).



Ruff, Phoenix, Ariz., Nov. 15, 1974. First state record. Photo / Janet Witzeman.

**JAEGERS, GULLS AND TERNS** — An imm. jaeger (probably Parasitic) was seen at P.R.D., Aug 22 (GM) and again Aug. 29 (MH *et al.*). Herring Gull reports were two (ad. and imm.) at Sierra Vista, Ariz., Oct. 29 (DD, JB) and one ad. n.w. of Tucson Nov. 13 (GG). Single Franklin's Gulls were seen at P.R.D., Aug. 4 (RN), n.w. of Tucson, Oct. 28 (GG) and one found dead at Pipe Spring Nat'l Mon., Ariz., Sept. 24

(RWi). Ruthrauff Pond produced a Bonaparte's Gull Nov. 9 (GG) and a Heermann's Gull Nov. 2 (Doug Stotz). An imm. Sabine's Gull was seen in Phoenix Nov. 4 (RB). Common Tern sightings were reported as follows: three at P.R.D. Sept. 1 (RN), one at Bartlett L., Maricopa Co., Ariz., Sept. 14 (RN), and two at P.R.D., Oct. 5 (RN *et al.*). Two Least Terns were seen at P.R.D., Aug. 10 (RW, JW *et al.*). Two Caspian Terns, size and calls noted, at Bitter Lake, Sept. 13 (MW), constitute an interesting record of species is not substantiated from New Mexico and is doubtlessly rare in occurrence there.

**CUCKOOS THROUGH SWIFTS** — A late Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen near Gila, N. Mex., Oct. 6 (BP). The first New Mexico record of a Black-billed Cuckoo was an individual collected after striking a window near Silver City Sept. 13 (DZ). A vagrant Groove-billed Ani was found near Marana, Ariz., Nov. 20-24 (TJ *et al.*). Two adults and one young Flammulated Owls seen Aug. 9 near Mora, N. Mex. (KG), represent a new locality record. A Com. Nighthawk seen in Arenas Valley, Grant Co., N. Mex., Oct. 27 (RF) was late, as was a Lesser Nighthawk over Hermosillo, Sonora, Nov. 28 (SA, JS, SMi). One of the few Arizona records and the first for Maricopa Co. was of a Chimney Swift seen over Tempe Aug. 5 (ST).

**HUMMINGBIRDS AND WOODPECKERS** — Reports of unusually large numbers of hummingbirds, particularly in the lowlands and mountains of s. Arizona during August and early September, were received from many observers. Broad-tailed and Rufous Hummingbirds were particularly abundant in the White Mts., Ariz., in mid-August (SH, SMi). Continued evidence of the eastward range expansion of Anna's Hummingbird was a male seen at La Cueva, Organ Mts., N. Mex., Sept. 13 (BP). In New Mexico the last hummers reported in the north were unidentifiable females and immatures seen Oct. 1, while in the southwest the late date was Nov. 14 at Bayard (RF). An exception was a possible Black-chinned Hummingbird at Albuquerque Oct. 21 (DL). A Com. Flicker (Yellow-shafted) was present at Bitter Lake beginning Aug. 29 (JC). Red-headed Woodpeckers, spotty in New Mexico, were reported only at Albuquerque, with two on Aug. 24 (RT) and at Bitter Lake, with one Sept. 25 (DB). Beginning Sept. 4, up to 20 Lewis' Woodpeckers were present at Los Alamos (WL), and one was seen near L. Roberts, Grant Co., N. Mex., where the species is irregular (RF). Single Williamson's Sapsuckers were seen at Roswell, Sept. 14 (MW), Tombstone, Ariz., Oct. 13 (DD) and at P.R.D., Nov. 7 (ST, SD). Downy Woodpeckers appeared in Roswell Aug. 8 & 25 and once in November (MW); also in Pleasanton, N. Mex., Oct. 24-25 (JH).

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — A vagrant E. Kingbird was reported from near Willcox, Ariz., Aug. 18 (SH, Glen McDonnell); one was present in Santa Fe, in September (KG). A Thick-billed Kingbird feeding one young near Patagonia, Ariz., Aug. 9 is interesting since little is known about the breeding and migration dates of the species in Arizona (SS). Single late W. Kingbirds were seen s. of Tucson Oct. 26 (SMi) and

Nov. 13 (TJ). A Cassin's Kingbird was present near Buckeye Sept. 27 (JH) where infrequent. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were staging for migration near Buckeye, Sept. 28 with ten counted in one flock (JH); another was present near Lovington Oct. 4 (GS), and one appeared far west of its normal range in Wellton, Ariz., Oct. 13 (DR, GR). A large *Myiarchus* at Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy Co., N. Mex., Sept. 7 may have been a Great Crested Flycatcher, but the possibility of Wied's cannot be discounted. A late Wied's Crested Flycatcher was seen in Avra Valley, Ariz., Sept. 14 (TJ). Five late Olivaceous Flycatchers were seen and heard at Sonoita Ck., near Patagonia, Ariz., Oct. 16, but none was seen there on Oct. 28 (SS). Two E. Phoebes, rare in w. New Mexico, were present at Glenwood, Oct. 25 (JH). A late Hammond's Flycatcher was banded at Cedar Crest, N. Mex., Oct. 10 (BM). A ♀ or imm. ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher at Cochiti, N. Mex., Oct. 18 (WS) was out of range. A Beardless Flycatcher seen Oct. 5-6 at Aravaipa Canyon, Pinal Co. (DB, JB) was at a new Arizona location. Notable records of Tree Swallows were 20 near Mora, N. Mex., Aug. 10 and at least 30 in the San Pedro Parks area, Sandoval Co., N. Mex., Aug. 20-21 (KG). A very late Barn Swallow was seen in the Avra Valley, Ariz., Nov. 2 (SA, SMi). The usual fall roost of Purple Martins near Tucson was located in a city trailer court this year from at least Sept. 14-20, and observers estimated about 15,000 individuals.

**JAYS THROUGH WRENS** — Common Crows appeared in Albuquerque starting in mid-October (Dot DeLollis), while further east and south 1-3 were identified at Clines Corners Nov. 3, Mountainair, Nov. 3 and Capitan, Nov. 8 (JH). Single Blue Jays appeared at Tesuque, N. Mex., Oct. 24-31 (Bill Huey) and at Las Vegas, Oct. 21 and Nov. 25 (WH). The only lowland report of Steller's Jay was one at Farmington, N. Mex., Oct. 9 (*vide* AN). Three Gray Jays were seen in the San Pedro Parks, N. Mex., Aug. 20 (KG) where seldom reported but probably regular. Three Clark's Nutcrackers were present in Water Canyon, Magdalena Mts., N. Mex., Nov. 16 (JH). Red-breasted Nuthatches made a notable appearance in New Mexico this fall, with reports including the east side of the Sandia Mts. (BM), the Magdalena Mts. and Tillie Hall Peak (JH). Burro Mts. (GS), and a single s. of Roswell Sept. 27 (JS). A Dipper was seen on the w. fork of the Gila R., Catron Co., N. Mex., Sept. 24 (GS). Winter Wrens, unusual and irregular in the region, were represented by two individuals, one at Otowi Bridge, near Los Alamos Oct. 20 (WS) and one seen near Seven Springs, Maricopa Co., Ariz., Oct. 12-Nov. 14 (GB, RB).

**THRASHERS, THRUSHES** — A Gray Catbird appeared out of range at Farmington, N. Mex., Oct. 6-13 (AN); also one at Taos, N. Mex., Sept. 10 (Dixie Gillette). A Brown Thrasher was present at Farmington Sept. 15, 29 (AN), where it is certainly rare. A single Curve-billed Thrasher was seen just s. of Santa Fe on Aug. 21; five were present in Pleasanton, Aug. 30-Sept. 2 (JH), where the species is uncommon and local. Bendire's Thrasher appeared to be as numerous in late fall in the Avra Valley, near Tucson, as they had been during the summer. This species is probably more

numerous in winter than generally reported, as it is easily overlooked because of its close resemblance to the Curve-billed Thrasher. Many observers reported Sage Thrashers as very numerous in s.e. Arizona. American Robins had gathered in good numbers at Cedar Crest, N. Mex. by mid-November, where they were feeding on juniper berries (BM); elsewhere there were few reports of the species and no reports of concentrations. One **Varied Thrush** was observed with a flock of Am. Robins at Moccasin, Mohave Co., Ariz., Sept. 29 (RWi). Mountain Bluebirds were seen in large flocks in many parts of New Mexico and were very numerous in the lowlands of Arizona where few had appeared last year. Townsend's Solitaire also showed signs of a lowland invasion, with reports of abundance in the Upper Sonoran habitat areas around Phoenix (JW). An early migrant solitaire was noted at Cedar Crest, N. Mex., Aug. 13 (BM).

**SYLVIIDS THROUGH VIREOS** — A late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was observed at Farmington Nov. 10 (*vide* AN). Golden-crowned Kinglets appeared Oct. 27 in the Superstition Mts., near Phoenix where from two to four were seen (RB, JW, RN). Two lowland reports of the species from the Phoenix area were also received, one in Lower Sonoran desert Oct. 30 (Mary Debert) and six at Seven Springs in junipers Nov. 11 (GB). Sprague's Pipit was sighted in the grasslands near Elgin, Ariz., Oct. 28 and Nov. 11, with at least seven seen on the former date (SS). Cedar Waxwings were reported rather widely in New Mexico, signaling a possible invasion into the state; no reports of any numbers were received from Arizona. A ♀ Phainopepla was present Oct. 25 at Pleasanton, where the species is irregular and uncommon (JH). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was observed in Phoenix Sept. 17 (Bonnie Burch) for one of the few fall Arizona records. A late *plumbeus* Solitary Vireo was seen on Oct. 28 at the Jornada Exp. Range, Doña Ana Co., N. Mex. (BP). Single Red-eyed Vireos appeared in Phoenix, Aug. 6 (DS, PB), Sept. 21 (RW *et al.*) and Nov. 3 (DS). A possible Yellow-green Vireo was carefully described from the vicinity of Portal, Ariz., Aug. 31 (Bryan Obst).

**WARBLERS** — Nine reports of Black-and-white Warblers were received from throughout the region. This species appears to be an uncommon but a regular transient there. Four reports of Tennessee Warbler were received, three of singles from the Phoenix area on Aug. 25 (ST, SM, KA), Oct. 1 (ST) and Nov. 3 (SHe); also one from near Leasburg S.P., N. Mex., Oct. 4 (BP). Large numbers of Nashville Warblers were noted in the Phoenix area, and the following are reports from New Mexico, where the species is seldom reported: one at Cedar Crest Aug. 8-11 (BM) and two or three in the Burro Mts., Sept. 2 & 8 (RF). Northern Parula Warblers appeared at Phoenix Aug. 16 (ST, JW) and Sept. 2 (RB, ST); another was seen near Kaibab, Ariz., Sept. 27 (RWi). A Magnolia Warbler was seen at Tempe, Ariz., Oct. 25 (ST). The first specimen record of **Cape May Warbler** for New Mexico came from Silver City where one was found dead Oct. 4 and preserved (DZ). Black-throated Blue Warblers appeared again in the region with an incredible seven sightings! Three of these were seen at Pipe Spring Nat'l Mon, Ariz., a

female Sept. 27-28, a male Sept. 29 and another female Oct. 1 (RWi). Singles also appeared near Seven Springs, Ariz., Oct. 23 (SM, KA), at Bitter Lake Oct. 14 (DB), and Oct. 13 and 14 at Silver City (DZ *et al.*). Black-throated Green Warblers were sighted at Phoenix, Oct. 21 (ST) and Madera Canyon, Pima Co., Ariz., Oct. 23 (Eddie Chalif); also 1-2 were seen at Farmington Oct. 30-31 (*fide* AN). A ♀ or imm. ♂ **Blackburnian Warbler** was seen 7 mi. s.e. of Rodeo, N. Mex., Sept. 4 (RS). A Grace's Warbler wandered to a lowland locality at Pipe Spring Nat'l Mon., Sept. 26 (RWi). Chestnut-sided Warblers appeared in Arizona four times: singles were seen at Kaibab Sept. 27, Pipe Spring Sept. 28 and Oct. 1 (RWi) and at Ft. Huachuca Oct. 14 (Robert Smith) and Oct. 17 (Ray Steiner). A Palm Warbler was seen at Seven Springs Oct. 16 (SD, JW). In Arizona Ovenbirds appeared in Tempe Sept. 15 (SM, KA) and at Seven Springs Oct. 12-13 (GB *et al.*). Twelve sightings of N. Waterthrush were reported Aug. 21-Sept. 30. A possible Connecticut Warbler was seen in the Dragoon Mts., Cochise Co., Ariz., Sept. 2 (DD, JB, Richard Hammon) and would be the first state record if authentic. An ad. ♀ **Canada Warbler** found dead Sept. 29 at Pipe Spring Nat. Mon., (RWi) and preserved is the first record of the species for Arizona. At least nine Am. Redstart reports were received for the region, and a lowland record for Painted Redstart came from Phoenix Sept. 24 (ST).

**ICTERIDS, TANAGERS** — The Baltimore race of the N. Oriole was reported in Phoenix Sept. 12 (ST) and at Rattlesnake Springs, N. Mex., Sept. 14 (BP); the latter is the second New Mexico record of the subspecies, the first was only last spring. Late was a ♂ Scott's Oriole at City of Rocks S.P., N. Mex., Oct. 5 (BP). At least 50 Great-tailed Grackles were present in Lovington Sept. 27-30, where the species is reported by residents as having been present and breeding for the last 3-4 years (JH); also reported at Las Vegas Aug. 14 (WH). Late were single ♂♂ W. Tanagers at Sandia Park, N. Mex., Oct. 7 (MH) and at White Sands Nat'l Mon., Nov. 28 (*fide* BP). Unusual was a Summer Tanager present Aug. 1-28 at Cedar Crest, an imm. male that lingered from the previous reporting period (BM).

**FRINGILLIDS** — Three Pyrrhuloxia were present at Cedar Pt., Chaves Co., N. Mex., Sept. 30 where they are not known to be regular (JH). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was reported at Bitter Lake Aug. 23 (DB). A ♂ Blue Grosbeak at Los Alamos Aug. 9 was at an unusually high altitude of 7340 feet (WL). More reports of Indigo Buntings were received from the region, where this bird is becoming increasingly regular. A late nesting of a Varied Bunting was recorded when a female was seen feeding two young in Gardner Canyon, Pima Co., Ariz., Sept. 22 (MH). A Painted Bunting was seen at St. David, Ariz., Sept. 22 (DD). No large scale irruptions of carduelines were evident in the region, except that the Lawrence's Goldfinch was abundant around Tucson where it was virtually absent last fall. Five Pine Grosbeaks were present in the San Pedro Peaks area, Aug. 20-21 (KG), and seven apparent Brown-capped Rosy Finches were at Angel Fire, Colfax Co., N. Mex., Nov. 27 (RBr). A Brown Towhee in

Farmington Sept. 29 was unusual (AN). This appears to be an especially good year for Lark Buntings with very large flocks (1000+) seen often in the vicinity of Las Cruces (BP), Tucson and the Sulphur Springs Valley. Three Lark Buntings were at Los Alamos Aug. 7 and 200 were near Santa Fe Aug. 21 (JH).

Baird's Sparrows were reported from near Elgin, Ariz., Nov. 9 & 11 (SS) but an estimate of numbers was impossible owing to the elusive nature of the species. A late Five-striped Sparrow was observed near Patagonia, Ariz., Oct. 16 (SS). The last nest reported to fledge Rufous-winged Sparrows was in Avra Valley near Tucson Sept. 9 (TJ). Botteri's and Cassin's Sparrows seemed particularly common this year in the grassland surrounding the Santa Rita Mts., Ariz., perhaps owing to the excellent summer rainfall in the area. Several nests of Cassin's Sparrow were found there, with the last evidence of nesting on Sept. 15 (TJ). Singing birds were present near Rodeo, N. Mex., Aug. 11-Sept. 10 (RS), and two late (wintering?) birds were seen in Avra Valley Nov. 2 (SMi, SA). Single Yellow-eyed Juncos were north of their usual range in the Superstition Mts., Oct. 26 (RN *et al.*) and Oct. 28 (JW *et al.*). A Tree Sparrow, a sparse winter resident in n. Arizona, was seen in House Rock Valley, Nov. 15-17 (DT), and Harris' Sparrows appeared n.w. of Tucson with one Nov. 14 (Martin Paulsen) and two Nov. 24 (Mike King). White-crowned Sparrows were reported in fewer than usual numbers in Phoenix and Globe, Ariz., but were abundant around Tucson and in s.e. Arizona. Single White-throated Sparrows appeared as follows: one banded at Tanque Verde Ranch, near Tucson, (Chas. Corchran), Patagonia, Ariz., Nov. 21 (Jeff Mangum), n.w. Tucson, Nov. 9-14 (Bill and Wilma Meter) and at Eagle Nest, N. Mex., Nov. 6-28 (RBr). Single Swamp Sparrows appeared along the Salt R., near Phoenix, Nov. 2 (PB, DS, RB, RN) and at Nogales, Ariz., Nov. 10 (Bill Harrison). Chestnut-collared Longspurs were especially abundant in s.e. Arizona during the period, and strays appeared west of their normal Arizona range with two at P.R.D., Nov. 7 (ST *et al.*) and two between Oracle and Florence Sept. 30 (Seymour Levy).

**CONTRIBUTORS** (Area compilers in bold face) — Stephen Alden, Kathy Altiera, Gene Bauer, Jon Bealer, Delbert Boggs, Robert Bradley, Robert Bright (RBr), Paul Burch, Marshall Conway, **Jodi Corrie**, Bitter Lake N.W.R.; Doug Danforth, Salome Demaree, Ralph Fisher, Jack Gibson, Keith Giezantanner, Grace Gregg, Murray Hansen, Walton Hawk, Steve Hedges (SHe), Steven Hilty, John Hubbard, Charles Hundertmark, Kathy Ingram, Betty Jackson, Terry Johnson, W. Burton Lewis, Helen Longstreth, Stan Majlinger, **Barbara McKnight**, Cedar Crest; Scott Mills (SMi), **Gale Monson**, Tucson; Alan Nelson, Robert Norton, Bill Principe, Dick Robinson, Gwen Robinson, Elsie Rose, Gregg Schmitt, Robert Scholes, Barney Schrank, Jim Silliman, Steven Speich, David Stejskal, William Stone, Lowell Sumner, Mary Lee Swartz, Scott Terrill, Ross Teuber, Dick Todd, Marjorie Williams, **Rich Wilt**, Pipe Spring Nat'l Mon.; Robert Witzeman, **Janet Witzeman**, Phoenix; **Dale Zimmerman**, Silver City; **SCOTT MILLS, STEPHEN**

**ALDEN — Department of Biological Sciences, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, 85721. JOHN HUBBARD — 2097 Camino Lado, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501.**