

SOUTHWEST REGION

/Janet Witzeman, John P. Hubbard and
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After an undistinguished August, September brought two major storm systems. The first of these, Hurricane *Kathleen*, arrived violently September 9-10, precipitating Arizona's first (and last?) sightings of Least Storm-Petrel in the Davis Dam area; for more details see the Mountain West and Southern Pacific Coast Regions, and the Changing Seasons. The storm also brought multiples of Magnificent Frigatebird: four were riding gale-force winds northward across I-10 near Tacna, Arizona on September 10 (Scott Robinson); others were found later in adjacent Regions. A second period of rain occurred most of the last week of September. This produced some visible concentrations of migrant passerines; during a break in the weather on the 26th, Carl Tomoff described a pile-up of migrants at Prescott reminiscent of an Eastern-states "wave."



October and November in the Region reproduced, in microcosm, the pattern of the continent: warmer and milder than usual in the western areas, surprisingly cold and snowy farther east. In Arizona many species lingered (or many lingerers survived), but the seemingly delayed arrival of such common fare as Audubon's Warblers and White-crowned Sparrows lent a "birdless" aspect to many areas through October. Due to space limitations, most of the numerous late arrival and departure dates cannot be listed here.

More and more Southwestern birders are taking advantage of the "oasis effect" — the phenomenon wherein strays and vagrants concentrate in small patches of favorable habitat when these are surrounded by large tracts of unfavorable habitat. Some "oases" mentioned repeatedly below are Boone's Draw, on the plains of Roosevelt County, east-central New Mexico; the Bill Williams Delta (below: B.W.Delta), where the Bill Williams River empties into the Colorado River twenty miles northeast of

Parker, Arizona; and Sabino Canyon, northeast of Tucson at the south base of the Santa Catalina Mountains.

LOONS, GREBES — Arizona Com. Loons away from the Colorado R. were at Phoenix, Springerville, and twice at Prescott; three at Evans L., s.w. New Mexico, Nov. 6 (RAF) were notable.

Horned Grebes continue to be turned up by alert observers; nine were reported at five Arizona locations Oct. 15 - end of period. Notable for the Prescott, Ariz., region were single W. Grebes on Watson L., Sept. 15 & Oct. 29 (CST).

PELICANS THROUGH IBISES — A White Pelican present Oct. 10-17 on Willow L. (CST) was unusual for the Prescott area. Olivaceous Cormorant records are becoming regular; Arizona had singles on Parker Canyon L., Oct. 21 (#B & CY), and Patagonia L., Oct. 24 (#B & CY, DD). In s.w. New Mexico the species occurred on Evans L. (RAF *et al.*); singles thought to be this species were near Antelope Wells Aug. 16 (BP) and near Cloverdale Aug. 7 (JBD) — both were out-of-place no matter what species they were.

An odd heron observed Aug. 14-15 at the B.W.Delta, Ariz., and carefully described (#DStz), may have been a Louisiana x Little Blue hybrid; both species breed in coastal Sonora, the likely origin of this bird, Four Little Blue Herons, a notable number for New Mexico, were found Aug. 24 at Bosque del Apache N.W.R. (GZ). A single Cattle Egret was observed Oct. 1 (WH) at Las Vegas, a new area of occurrence for the species in New Mexico.

A single imm. White Ibis was photographed at Bitter Lake N.W.R., N. Mex., Sept. 21-27 (BWS *et al.*), and an extraordinary nine individuals were present (and beautifully photographed) at Bosque del Apache Sept. 17 - Oct. 5, with one present there as late as Oct. 21 (GZ *et al.*). There were only two previous records for New Mexico!

Some 250 White-faced Ibis, an amazing number for the area, dropped out of the sky at Morgan L., n.w. N. Mex., Sept. 11 (APN). The species is unusual in Arizona after October; however, several at Cibola N.W.R. (KVR) and one at Phoenix (JW *et al.*) remained into December.

WATERFOWL — More White-fronted Geese were reported in Arizona than in most recent years. A flock of 32 was at Picacho Res., Sept. 21 (BJo, MH); two were seen Oct. 3, and 14 on Oct. 28 near Ehrenberg (KVR, L&AH); and two at Phoenix from Oct. 15 on (ST *et al.*) established only the sixth local record. A flock of 35+ Snow Geese in the snow near Cloverdale, s.w. New Mexico, Nov. 14 (JPH *et al.*) was eye-catching and rather unusual for the area.

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks celebrated their new name (see *Auk* 93:875-879) by nesting at St. David, Ariz. (B&CY *et al.*), with two immatures still present Nov. 20 (DD); this is only the first or second nesting record in the San Pedro Valley.

A severe botulism outbreak near Alamogordo in August and September claimed the lives of about 3000 birds — mainly N. Shovelers and teal, but also other ducks and waterbirds. Wood Ducks showed up more widely than usual in the Pecos and Rio Grande Valleys of New Mexico, and several Hooded Mergansers were seen in the latter area. One or more ♂ Surf Scoters at Evans Lake Nov. 6 and later (#RAF) added to the handful of records for New Mexico.

As of the end of the period, several Barrow's Goldeneyes and two Oldsquaw had returned to the Davis Dam area; details will be in the winter report.

RAPTORS — On Sept. 22, seven hours of watching yielded 152 raptors of eleven species over Sierra Grande, n.e. New Mex-

ico; totals included 42 Kestrels, 36 Turkey Vultures, 25 Sharpshinned, and 22 Red-tailed (JPH). Such "hawk mountains" or concentration points for migrating raptors are relatively few and little-known in the Southwest.

PTARMIGAN THROUGH GALLINULES — The White-tailed Ptarmigan reaches its southern outpost in New Mexico, and is considered "endangered" there; evidence of its continued presence included reports of five seen and one photographed on Wheeler Peak Sept. 15 (Don Cunico, Jack Crellan), and two seen on Santa Fe Baldy in November (#Fred Stimson).

As of the end of the period, six of the Whooping Cranes from the Gray's Lake foster-parent experiment had returned to winter quarters in New Mexico. Three first-year and two second-year birds were at Bosque del Apache N.W.R., and one second-year bird was at Bernardo State Game Refuge (*fide* Jack Woody). One of these stopped en route at Corrales Nov. 6 (RLT *et al.*); a second-year individual at Bernardo S.G.R. Oct. 6 (Jim Sands *et al.*) may have been an unaccounted-for seventh bird.

An imm. **Purple Gallinule** in Sabino Canyon Sept. 11-17 and possibly later (BJo, DStz, #KK, m.ob.) was only the second acceptable Arizona record in the last quarter-century.

SHOREBIRDS — Although there are few records for Semipalmated Plover in n. Arizona, CST had five during the period north of Prescott. The only Am. Golden Plover in Arizona was one Sept. 24-25 (RBr, SB, JT) at Phoenix, where the species occurs annually. A well-detailed individual near Alamogordo Sept. 26 (#BP) was one of the few credible records for New Mexico, where there are only sight records.

Two Ruddy Turnstones at Phoenix Aug. 7-8 (SB, #JW *et al.*) established the fifth Arizona record. a **Whimbrel** photographed w. of Lordsburg Aug. 10 (BB) was the only verified recent record for New Mexico. None was found in Arizona this year, but six or more were across the river in flooded fields s. of Ripley, Cal., July 31 - Aug. 2 (KVR *et al.*). Two Red Knots, rare in New Mexico, were at Bitter Lake N.W.R. Oct. 14 (BWS, D. Boggs).

Several species of shorebirds appeared at Tyrone, s.w. New Mexico, Aug. 28 - Oct. 5, including Baird's Sandpipers (RAF). Baird's were common as usual in appropriate habitat in Arizona; the high count was 250+ at Wilcox Sept. 5 (MRo, DStz). One at Phoenix Nov. 24 (DStz, SRD, HL) was extremely late. Unusual for New Mexico was a Stilt Sandpiper n. of Albuquerque Sept. 7 (#RLT). Small numbers of Short-billed Dowitchers, Stilt Sandpipers, Marbled Godwits and Sanderlings appeared as usual at the major concentration points for shorebirds in Arizona.

S.A.

There was one definite Red Phalarope report this fall: one at Phoenix Sept. 28-30, detailed and photographed (RBr, #R&JW). As usual, several less definite reports were received. Many of these seem to be based on N. Phalarope *adults*, which are paler and plainer-backed than the immatures and thus approach the field-guide renditions of the autumn Red. On several dates in mid-September, only 10% of the Northerns at Phoenix were adults (KK), and these stood out noticeably from the numerous immatures; in areas where fewer Northerns occur, the few adults might easily be singled out and mistaken for Reds.

Perhaps the season's most bizarre report was that of an apparent Am. *Oystercatcher* seen at night by spotlight near Antelope Wells, s.w. N. Mex., Aug. 10 (#JBd). The observer — quite experienced at spotlighting — gave a thorough and convincing description, though we are aware of the great scarcity of inland records of this species.

GULLS, TERNS — Single imm. Sabine's Gulls were at Davis Dam Sept. 17 (CSL) and at Bitter Lake N.W.R. Oct. 1 (BWS *et al.*). At Tucson an immature was seen Sept. 24 - Oct. 2, with a second immature present Sept. 25-26 and an *adult* there Sept. 25 (RBa, GM, m.ob.). Adults are much less frequent inland than first-year birds.

In the Lower Colorado Valley KVR noted the first Caspian Terns in late July and the first Com. Terns Aug. 26; both species were seen regularly through Sept. 19. In the remainder of the Region both these species are rare; the only other Caspian noted this fall was at Patagonia L., Ariz., Aug. 7 (DD *et al.*). A **Common Tern** collected Aug. 30 (* to Smithsonian) at Morgan L., extreme n.w. New Mexico (CGS), established the first confirmed record of the species in that state.

CUCKOOS, OWLS, NIGHTJARS — New Mexico's second confirmed **Black-billed Cuckoo** was mist-netted at Boone's Draw Sept. 6 (CGS). A Roadrunner seen Nov. 20 e. of Fredonia, extreme n. Arizona, was at the periphery of the species' range (B. Lunceford, *fide* SH).

A brief survey Sept. 14-15 turned up a Ferruginous Owl in lower Sabino Canyon, where the species has apparently not been seen since 1973 (KK, JW *et al.*). Evidently a downslope movement of Saw-whet Owls occurred. One was seen at Quemado, N. Mex., another was at Mt. Taylor, N. Mex., and two road casualties were found in the Santa Fe area, all Nov. 10-22; one which reached the Lower Sonoran desert north of Phoenix, was hit by a car Nov. 30 (*fide* E. Radke). Intriguing was the presence of a Whip-poor-will in Ramsey Canyon, Ariz., from Nov. 19 through the end of the period (B&CY *et al.*).

HUMMINGBIRDS — Two ♂ Lucifer Hummingbirds were present at feeders at Portal Sept. 9 - Oct. 6, with an imm. male also present in early September (SS, m.ob.); extensive notes by DAZ (#) and photographs by the Spoffords document the record. The number of individuals suggests that the birds might have nested locally.

An ad. ♂ Calliope Hummingbird Sept. 2 in Ehrenberg (AH, *fide* KVR) was unusual for the Lower Colorado Valley. A ♂ Rivoli's Hummingbird wandered north to Prescott Sept. 26 - Oct. 1. (B. Burns, CST). Northeast of their normal range were three or more Blue-throated Hummingbirds at Silver City Sept. 17-30 (M. Mosely, DAZ).

The latest Violet-crowned Hummingbird in Ramsey Canyon, Ariz., was one seen Oct. 13 (B&CY). Broad-billed Hummingbirds seemingly nested late in upper Guadalupe Canyon, with young still present in two nests in August (BB).

KINGFISHERS, WOODPECKERS — Single ♂-plumaged Green Kingfishers, regular wanderers to s.e. Arizona, were at Patagonia in late September (GH, RM, #B&CY) and at St. David Oct. 9 (#JBL *et al.*).

A single imm. Red-headed Woodpecker, always noteworthy in the Southwest, was at Socorro Oct. 9-10 (PB). Lewis' Woodpeckers appeared at Prescott (where somewhat irregular) Oct. 15, and four were present by the end of the period (CST). A ♀ Williamson's Sapsucker on Sierra Grande, N. Mex., Sept. 22 (JPH) was a local first.

Two Downy Woodpeckers were found Nov. 26 at Teec Nos Pos, extreme n.e. Arizona, an area where the species is rarely recorded but may winter regularly. One of these had extensive white spotting on the wing-coverts and was possibly a more northern or eastern race, not *P. p. leucurus* of the Arizona mountains (DStz, R&JW).

FLYCATCHERS — Significant further elucidation of the *Empidonax* picture in east-central New Mexico occurred this

fall. Extensive mist-net operations at Boone's Draw Sept. 4-16 (JPH *et al.*) yielded over 200 *Empidonax* flycatchers of six species; the majority (170 birds) were **Least Flycatchers**! Another 25 were Willow Flycatchers, and there were very small numbers of Dusky and Hammond's. Three **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** (* to Smithsonian, Univ. New Mex., Delaware Mus. Nat. Hist.) established the first records for the state, while four W. Flycatchers were among the easternmost ever recorded for the species (another bird thought to be a Western was seen Sept. 9 at Clayton - #WC).

Peripheral records of Tropical Kingbirds in August included two east of Douglas and three near Winkelman, Ariz. (DD, GM *et al.*); these were probably summering birds rather than part of the northward fall dispersal. Single **Great Crested Flycatchers**, rare in New Mexico, were banded and photographed at Boone's Draw Sept. 5 (CGS) and Sept. 10 (BMCK). An E. Phoebe, uncommon in Arizona, was at the B.W.Delta Nov. 15 (AH, *fide* KVR).

A possible *E. Wood Pewee* found by Bob Yutzky in Ramsey Canyon, Ariz., Sept. 23-25 (#B&CY, AC, FS), was carefully described, photographed, and tape-recorded; the evidence is still under examination by the Arizona Bird Committee.

CORVIDS — Arizona's first **Blue Jay**, long overdue, appeared Oct. 31 - Nov. 9 at an "oasis situation" n.w. of Page; excellent photos documented the record (#Joan Middleton, *fide* RPB). Our original doubts as to the bird's wild status (it was somewhat tame in behavior) were mostly dispelled by the logical location and timing of the occurrence, as well as by the news of a major invasion to the north of us this fall. A Scrub Jay in B.W.Delta Sept. 15-16 and several sightings south of Parker through November (KVR *et al.*) were quite unusual for a year in which no major flight to the lowlands occurred.

The Black-billed Magpie may be re-invading n.e. Arizona, where it was common prior to the turn of the century. The species is now numerous at Teec Nos Pos, and several were seen in November (DStz, R&JW) at Many Farms, where first noted four years ago. In addition, one was seen Nov. 18 (B. Lunceford, *fide* SH) at Fredonia, n.w. Arizona; numbers have occurred recently near adjacent Kanab, Utah (SH), so further records at Fredonia seem likely.

PARIDS THROUGH WRENS — A **Black-capped Chickadee** was found at Teec Nos Pos, extreme n.e. Ariz., Nov. 26 (#DStz, R&JW). There have been very few Arizona records; however, the species is resident in the San Juan Valley of adjacent n.w. New Mexico. No Mountain Chickadees were reported from the s. Arizona lowlands; unexpected, therefore, were several in the B.W.Delta Nov. 14 (KVR, DW) — apparently the first for the Lower Colorado Valley! Also at low elevation were eight at Cabezon, N. Mex., Oct. 18 (JPH), and others appeared at Las Cruces, Albuquerque, the San Juan Valley, and in n.e. Ariz. at Moenave and Chinle Wash. A Bushtit at B.W.Delta Nov. 16 (KVR) was one of very few records for the Lower Colo. Valley.

Red-breasted Nuthatches seemed scarce in Arizona, but a good flight developed across New Mexico, with records in such lowland areas as the San Juan Valley (CS *et al.*), c. Rio Grande Valley (LH *et al.*), and at Boone's Draw, where six were banded (JPH *et al.*). This movement was echoed by Pygmy Nuthatches, considerably more unusual in the lowlands; singles were noted Sept. 2 at Albuquerque (#JE), Aug. 27 at Socorro (#PB), and Sept. 8 at Boone's Draw (photos - BMCK).

Although the Brown Creeper is generally scarce in the Lower Colorado Valley, Rosenberg found them to be fairly common by mid-November in B.W.Delta and points south. Winter Wrens were first noted Oct. 13 at B.W.Delta (KVR), Oct. 19 at Socorro (#PB), Oct. 23 at Peppersauce Canyon, Ariz. (PN, DStz), and

Nov. 13 at Ramsey Canyon (B&CY); eleven had been reported by the end of the period, presaging exceptional numbers during the winter.

MIMIDS, THRUSHES — The status of Bendire's Thrasher in New Mexico outside the breeding season is poorly known; a careful sight record of one was made near Hatchet Gap Nov. 7, and one was collected near Antelope Wells Nov. 12 (JPH).

Rufous-backed Robin reports were scarce, with only two by the end of November. However, one of these appeared unusually far east in the lower (Arizona) half of Guadalupe Canyon, Oct. 21 (GM, PW). New Mexico's first documented **Varied Thrush** (* to Univ. New Mexico) was collected by a cat in Albuquerque Oct. 18 (*fide* RLT). Another was seen Oct. 17 at Bandelier Nat. Mon. (#R. Wauer). While a few reach the n.e. United States almost annually, the species seems less inclined to move southward; it is uncommon at Albuquerque's latitude even in California.

KINGLETS THROUGH VIREOS — Golden-crowned Kinglets staged one of their largest invasions ever, with individuals and flocks reported from at least 19 lowlands localities throughout Arizona and New Mexico by the end of November. Similarly, November sightings of N. Shrikes in three n.e. Arizona areas (DStz, R&JW) presaged a major flight winter for this species. An unexpected discovery involved numbers of Sprague's Pipits in the lower Animas Valley and vicinity, s.w. New Mexico, in mid-November, with at least 25 seen on snow-free roads e. of Cloverdale on the 13th (#JPH).

One or possibly two Hutton's Vireos, rarely recorded in the Lower Colorado Valley, were at B.W. Delta Nov. 14-16 (AH, *fide* KVR). Migrant Gray Vireos are seldom noted in the Arizona lowlands; one south of Yuma Sept. 6 (KVR) was apparently the first fall record for the Lower Colorado Valley. The only definite Red-eyed Vireo reported was one at Sabino Canyon Oct. 4 (#WGR).

WARBLERS — Opposite edges of the Region agreed on one basic tenet: the early-fall predominance of Wilson's Warblers. In the Lower Colorado Valley, KVR termed this species "the most abundant migrant"; and at Boone's Draw Sept. 4-16, no less than 214 of 275 warblers netted were Wilson's. Among the remaining warblers netted at Boone's Draw, individuals of distinctly western forms seemed to outnumber eastern forms by four to one, although the sample was not large enough for strong conclusions.

Despite impressions of a lackluster migration and scarcity of migrants after mid-September in some areas, a surprising number of eastern warblers appeared. A **Prothonotary Warbler** at Sabino Canyon Sept. 10 (#BJo *et al.*) was Arizona's fifth. At Boone's Draw, where New Mexico's first confirmed **Golden-winged Warbler** occurred last April, a male was seen Sept. 5 (#JPH). A **Magnolia Warbler**, quite rare in the Region, was banded and photographed at Boone's Draw Sept. 9 (BMCK). Arizona's Bicentennial vagrant was an imm. **Cape May Warbler** on Sycamore Creek n.e. of Phoenix Oct. 30 (#ST, #JW) — the second record for the state; the first occurred in 1875!

Single **Black-throated Green Warblers** were carefully studied at Sabino Canyon Sept. 14-16 (DStz, #KK, ST) and at Phoenix Sept. 26 (ST); caution is necessary at such atypically early dates, which coincide with the main passage of Hermit x Townsend's Warbler hybrids. A **Blackburnian Warbler** at Peppersauce Canyon, Ariz., Oct. 21-24 (#DStz, RND *et al.*) established the state's third acceptable sight record. A clearly photographed imm. **Bay-breasted Warbler** at Santa Fe Oct. 20 (JE) represented only the fourth record for New Mexico. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** at Patagonia Sept. 25 (#DStz, MH) was quite early; the three previous Arizona records and the four from n. Sonora have all

occurred between mid-October and mid-March. Two **Mourning Warblers** were netted at Boone's Draw: an imm. male collected (* to Smithsonian) Sept. 8 (CGS) and an ad. male banded and photographed Sept. 10 (BMcK) provided the second and third records for New Mexico. The imm. ♂ **Hooded Warbler** found at Pleasanton, N. Mex., July 27th lingered until Oct. 11 (#LS); another was at Dixon, N. Mex., Aug. 29-30 (Jack Whetstone *et al.*) and an adult male was at Patagonia, Ariz., Sept. 14 (#DStz,GG). Most records of this species in the Region are in spring rather than fall. A ♂ **Canada Warbler** at Roswell Sept. 22 (#MW) was only the second recorded in New Mexico.

Among the less unusual warblers, the Black-and-white noted at Portal the first week in July remained until Aug. 11 (F. Ranson), and another was at B.W. Delta Sept. 16 (KVR); Arizona normally sees more than this during a fall. Single Tennessee Warblers were at two points near Springerville, Ariz., Aug. 10 (ST, SB) and Aug. 12 (DStj), one was banded and photographed at Boone's Draw Sept. 10 (JPH), and another was seen at Peppersauce Canyon Oct. 24 (#ST *et al.*); records of this species have increased in recent years. Northern Parulas appeared Oct. 13 in Sabino Canyon (DStz) and Nov. 13 near Parker (KVR). A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler was at Albuquerque Oct. 22 (DDL) and a female was reported e. of Phoenix Nov. 21 (#CAS). Single Chestnut-sided Warblers were noted in Sabino Canyon Sept. 14 (TP, #DStz *et al.*), Sept. 25 (#RPR), and Oct. 13 (#Dtz, GG *et al.*), and another was in Peppersauce Canyon Nov. 21 (#DStz, BJo *et al.*). Myrtle Warblers were recorded more commonly than usual in New Mexico w. of the Rio Grande this fall (JPH). Arizona had reports of five N. Waterthrushes and ten Am. Redstarts, which is about average.

According to *Birds of Ariz.*, Virginia's Warbler is casual in the Lower Colorado Valley, but intensive coverage there this season turned up six Aug. 26 - Sept. 7 (KVR *et al.*). An Olive Warbler in Gallinas Canyon of the Black Range, s.w. New Mexico, Sept. 3 (DAZ) was one of the few records for that area. A Grace's Warbler at Bitter Lake N.W.R., N. Mex., Oct. 27 (BWS) was late and at an unusually low elevation.

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS — Single Bobolinks, rare transients in Arizona, were found Sept. 10 near Phoenix (ST) and Sept. 13 near Palominas, Cochise Co. (#BY). An imm. ♂ "**Baltimore" Oriole** (* to Smithsonian) at Boone's Draw Sept. 12 (JPH) provided the first specimen record for New Mexico. A ♂ Scott's Oriole remained through the end of the period in an area near Silver City where such a bird has wintered for the last two years (*fide* Jean Ralston), and a male came to feeders at Globe, Ariz., as late as Nov. 9 (*fide* BJA).

Burgeoning Great-tailed Grackle populations continue to cause comment. At Isleta, N. Mex., an impressive concentration of 2500-3000 was roosting Sept. 19 (O. Van Buskirk), while seven seen Oct. 12 at Aragon, N. Mex. (JPH), may signal an expansion into that pine plateau area. At Globe, Ariz., the species was present through the autumn for its second year (BJA). A Com. Grackle at Los Alamos, N. Mex., Nov. 12-13 (LH) was unusual there and late.

A Summer Tanager at Sabino Canyon Nov. 13 (TP, DStz *et al.*) appeared small and dark and was thought to be possibly of the eastern race, *P. r. rubra*. Although it is rare in Arizona, all late fall and winter specimens have proven to be of this form.

FRINGILLIDS — Late reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were imm. males n. of Tucson Oct. 31 (Ray Harm) and at Pleasanton, N. Mex., Nov. 17-19 (#LS). An imm. ♀ **Painted Bunting** collected Nov. 8 on the Colorado R. north of Ehrenberg, Ariz. (B. Anderson, *fide* KVR) established the first confirmed record away from the s.e. corner of the state and also the latest fall record for Arizona! Less unusual, but still notable, were three individuals banded and photographed at Boone's Draw Sept. 10 (CGS *et al.*).

Several Dickcissels were present at Boone's Draw Sept. 4-12 (JPH), and one was found at an oasis situation 80 mi. w. of Phoenix Sept. 5 (ST, KK, R&JW). A **Brown-capped Rosy Finch** nest with young was discovered Aug. 21 at Nambe L., e. of Santa Fe. Photographs (Paul Hendricks) confirmed this as the first documented breeding of the species in New Mexico, although nesting has been suspected in the past. A single ♀ **White-winged Crossbill** was studied as it foraged with 20 Red Crossbills on Sierra Grande Sept. 23 (#JPH); this was perhaps the fourth record for New Mexico. A **Baird's Sparrow** was seen Nov. 27 about 30 mi. n.e. of Deming (#BP, L&AH); there are practically no recent records for s.w. New Mexico, although evidently it was fairly common a half-century or so ago.

The Sonoita Creek colony of Five-striped Sparrows, which was quite successful in 1975 (ten adults present, 15 young fledged), suffered a serious setback this year. Only four adults returned, one of which promptly disappeared, and no young were fledged during the 1976 season (*fide* S. Mills).

The first Sage Sparrow in the Parker area showed up Sept. 5 (KVR), ten days earlier than any previous record away from the breeding grounds. The first Dark-eyed Junco noted in the Parker region was, oddly, a Slate-colored on Sept. 30, possibly an early record for this form (KVR, DW). A Gray-headed Junco, rare in the Lower Colorado Valley, was found s. of Parker Nov. 19 (KVR). One Tree Sparrow, a sparse winter visitor to n.e. Arizona, was with a flock of juncos in Chinle Wash Tes Nez Lah Nov. 26 (DStz, R&JW). A Clay-colored Sparrow was reported Oct. 24 near Sonoita, Ariz., by an observer familiar with the species (#CY). An apparent imm. **Field Sparrow** was closely observed Oct. 20 in Albuquerque (#DDL); the species is quite rare that far west.

There were indications of a better-than-average Harris' Sparrow year in s. Arizona; and in the extreme northeast, where records are few, one was seen at Teec Nos Pos Nov. 26 (DStz, R&JW) — the bird may be regular there, but birders are not. Reported Golden-crowned Sparrows were subadults near Parker Oct. 21 (KVR), at Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Oct. 24 (DStj), near Phoenix Nov. 6 (CAS), and one remarkably early at Patagonia Sept. 20 (CY). Reports of White-throated Sparrows in New Mexico were almost numerous, occurring statewide, and by the end of the period it was clear that this winter would be one of the biggest ever for the species in Arizona.

A final extraordinary record was the observation of a single Chestnut-collared Longspur at Antelope Wells, extreme s.w. New Mexico, on Aug. 2 (#BP) — an "early record" practically in a class by itself.

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