

SOUTHWEST REGION/John P. Hubbard (New Mexico), Kenneth V. Rosenberg and Gary H. Rosenberg (Arizona and northern Sonora)

The fall was generally mild and very dry throughout the Region. Drought conditions returned to the deserts after several consecutive wet years and ephemeral wetlands either dwindled or vanished. The only significant weather events were a tropical storm with violent winds from the Gulf of California September 4-5, and the season's only "winter" storm that swept the Region November 27-29. A cluster of unusual bird records surround these dates in the following report.

The most notable avian event was the dispersal of normally montane species into lowland areas, including several corvids, parids, kinglets, and especially cardueline finches. However systematic monitoring in several local mountain ranges detected no efflux of these species, suggesting a more northerly origin for the invading birds.

This report begins a new format in our Region with New Mexico and Arizona "split" into subregions and treated separately, as follows.

Arizona, Sonora

LOONS TO STORKS — An Arctic Loon at Springerville Nov. 26 (†DD) provided a first Apache County record, and a Com. Loon at L. Havasu Sept. 14 (MK) was early. Up to six Sooty Shearwaters and 15 Least Storm-Petrels were counted among 150+ Black Storm-Petrels off Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Sept. 19 (KR, GR); pelagic species are poorly known in the n. Gulf of California. A Reddish Egret was at Puerto Peñasco Oct. 20-22 (B. Burch) and two were there Nov. 14 (RW, SB). A lone Wood Stork n. of Ehrenberg Sept. 22 (RH) furnished the only Arizona report this year.

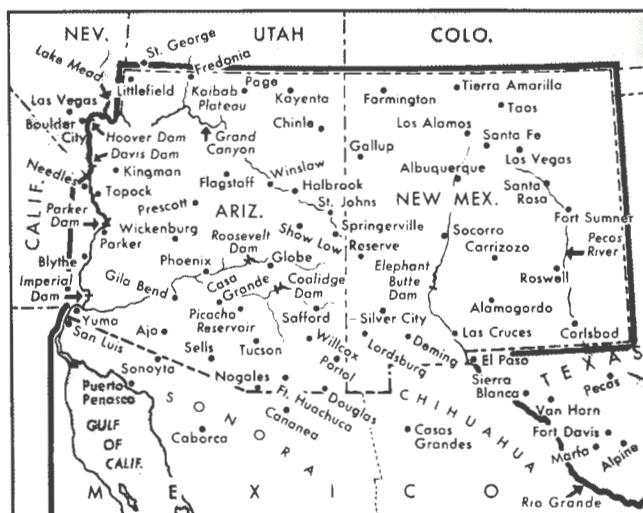
WATERFOWL — Up to 10 Ross' Geese had gathered at Topock by Nov. 27 (J. Dunn); a high count for the lower Colorado River Valley (hereafter, L.C.V.). Phoenix's Eur. Wigeon returned for its fourth winter (m.ob.). Owing to very dry conditions, normally abundant ducks were virtually absent from lakes near Flagstaff this fall (JC). The only scoter report was that of a Surf at Willcox Oct. 24-26 (RS *et al.*).

RAPTORS — An imm. White-tailed Kite near Portal Nov. 17 (†RM) supplied a second local and tenth Arizona record. A Ferruginous Hawk at Phoenix Sept. 24 was very early for the lowlands (KR, ph.). The Black Hawk seen through summer at Bill Williams Delta remained to Aug. 25 (MK *et al.*). A Caracara was near Puerto Peñasco Nov. 14 (RW, SB).

SHOREBIRDS AND LARIDS — Two juv. Semipalmated Sandpipers were found this fall, at Tucson Aug. 13-16 (KK *et al.*) and at Ganado L., Sept. 11 (BW, ph., KR). Dunlin were reported from Willcox, Mammoth, Mesa, and L. Havasu, and Stilt Sandpipers appeared at Willcox, Bisbee, Tucson, and Ganado L. A Ruddy Turnstone at Phoenix Sept. 6 provided an eleventh state record (C. Babbitt). The only Red Phalarope was at Nogales Nov. 29 (BH).

An imm. Pomarine Jaeger was seen off Puerto Peñasco Sept. 19 (GR *et al.*). Lake Havasu again hosted an imm. Parasitic Jaeger Sept. 14-24 (MK *et al.*, ph.) for the third fall since 1977. A first-year **Glaucous-winged Gull** was at Lake Havasu City Oct. 30 (†MK) for about a fourth Arizona report. Different imm. Franklin's Gulls at L. Havasu Sept. 4 (KR) & 14 (MK) were highly irregular, and an adult was at Many Farms L., Apache Co., Sept. 12 (GR *et al.*). A Heermann's Gull at Nogales Nov. 26 (R. Bailowitz, S. Whitman) occurred on a date typical for this species. As usual, 3-4 imm. Sabine's Gulls were found, including one near Bisbee Oct. 12 that was plucked from a pond and killed by a Marsh Hawk as the observer watched (DD, AM, *U. of A.)! Much more unusual was an ad. Sabine's in breeding plumage near Phoenix Sept. 13 (†PB).

Up to seven Forster's Terns at L. Havasu Nov. 28 (KR *et al.*) were extremely late. Remarkable, but not totally unexpected, was a well-described ad. **Arctic Tern** migrating with Commons at L. Havasu Sept. 4 (†WCH, †MK, RH). Interestingly, this bird, like the 2 previous state records, occurred after storms in the Gulf of California.



OWLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — A migrant Flamulated Owl flew into a window at Phoenix Oct 16 (*A.S.U.); in 1980, two others were recovered there Oct. 7 & 10 (all, *fide* K. Ingram). Another window claimed a very late Elf Owl at Tucson Nov. 21 (*fide* WD).

A Band-tailed Pigeon at Parker Nov. 7-15 (ph., MK *et al.*) furnished about a sixth record for the L.C.V., and the second this fall (one was captured near Blythe, Calif. in August). Two Ruddy Ground Doves at Phoenix Oct. 21 (KR, ph. WCH) were most likely escapes but it is not inconceivable for this abundant Mexican species to reach Arizona naturally.

The latest Buff-collared Nightjar was calling at Aravaipa Canyon Aug. 16 (TG). Another rare migrant in the lowlands was the Whippoorwill recovered near Phoenix Sept. 5 (*fide* K. Ingram, *A.S.U.).

Broad-billed Hummingbirds are now regular at Superior, but up to three males at Paloma Sept. 7-Oct. 1 (ph., KR *et al.*) and one at Phoenix through the fall (PB) were beyond their normal range. The summery White-eared Hummingbird at Summerhaven was seen until Sept. 4 and another was at Portal Sept. 5-30 (SS).

WOODPECKERS TO FLYCATCHERS — Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers of the e. race *S. v. varius* were identified at Ehrenberg Oct. 24 (MK) and at Superior Nov. 2 (KR, ph.), whereas the red-breasted race *S. v. daggetti* was at Ehrenberg Oct. 25 (WCH). Wandering Williamson's Sapsuckers were at Petrified Forest N.P., Sept. 12 (GR) and Prescott Sept. 22, the latter preceding an invasion into that area in late fall.

A Rose-throated Becard was in Guadalupe Canyon Sept. 27 (DD, AM). A probable Thick-billed Kingbird was far w. at Bill Williams Delta Sept. 5 (†BW, Who). Single E. Kingbirds were at Round Rock and Teec Nos Pos, Apache Co., Sept. 13 (ph., KR *et al.*) and a third was at Patagonia Sept. 18 (TG). On the heels of a recent nesting attempt in Cave Cr. Canyon, another Buff-breasted Flycatcher was in the Chiricahua Mts., in Whitetail Canyon Sept. 6 (RT).

CORVIDS THROUGH THRUSHES — Common Crows dispersed into unusual lowland areas including 20 n. of Phoenix Oct. 15 (SD) and one at L. Pleasant Nov. 1 (RF). In the L.C.V., where regular occurrence has only been recorded at Cibola N.W.R., the existence of a second large winter roost at Topock was again suggested by a flock of 300 near there Nov. 29 (KR *et al.*). Another flock of 25 was near Poston Nov. 7 & 17 (MK *et al.*) and a single bird was at Parker Nov. 25 (KR, ph.). Wayward Clark's Nutcrackers were found, with one w. of Prescott Sept. 14 (CT), five between Pine and Payson Sept. 27 (*fide* CT), and one at Rustler Park, Chiricahua Mts., Nov. 23 (SG).

A White-breasted Nuthatch in suburban Mesa Oct. 13 (KR) was locally unusual. Red-breasted Nuthatches were widespread in the lowlands including the L.C.V., with an extremely early migrant at Tucson Aug. 16 (JS). A larger-than-normal dispersal of Brown Creepers was also detected, with up to four as far s. as Cibola N.W.R., in the L.C.V., Nov. 17-24 (MK *et al.*).

Winter Wrens seemed more numerous than usual in canyons at middle elevations, but not in the lowlands. Two Varied Thrushes were found, at Prescott Oct. 31 (CT *et al.*) and at Cave Cr. Canyon Nov. 1 (RM).

PIPITS TO VIREOS — Sprague's Pipits again appeared on the L.C.V., with singles n. of Ehrenberg Oct. 17 (WCH) and near Bullhead City Nov. 29 (KR). By early September, Chino Canyon's Black-capped Gnatcatcher pair had fledged eight young from 3 nests (GP *et al.*). Numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets in the L.C.V.,



Imm. Black-capped Gnatcatcher, Tucson, Ariz., Sept. 2, 1981. Photo/Ted L. Eubanks, Jr.

were unprecedented, with more than 15 birds seen Oct. 18-Nov. 31+ (MK *et al.*).

Three Red-eyed Vireos were in Apache County Sept. 10-13 (GR *et al.*) and another was near Nogales Sept. 24 (WD). A Philadelphia Vireo was at Phoenix Oct. 15 (KR, ph.) and a probable one was at Paloma Oct. 1 (KR *et al.*). Incredible were three different Yellow-throated Vireos, at Cook's L., Sept. 6-7 (†SG *et al.*), Bisbee Sept. 14 (†DD), and near Nogales Oct. 24 (†HL *et al.*); there were about nine previous state records. A Hutton's Vireo at Oak Cr. Canyon Aug. 9 was n. of the species' usual range (DS).

WOOD WARBLERS — Thirty-two species of warblers were reported during the fall season in Arizona. A Lucy's Warbler reported from Globe Nov. 3 (M. Wood) was very late. An Olive Warbler at Oak Cr. Canyon Sept. 2 (BW) was at the n. edge of its range, whereas another at Dudleyville, San Pedro R., Sept. 6 (SG *et al.*) represented an unprecedented lower Sonoran zone record. Also of local interest was a Painted Redstart at Phoenix Aug. 29 (M&S Mahaffey).

Rare but regular migrants included ten Black-and-white Warblers, four Tennessees, three N. Parulas, 11 N. Waterthrushes, and 19 Am. Redstarts. More noteworthy but not unexpected were a Black-throated Green Warbler at Phoenix Aug. 20 (DS), a Black-throated Blue near Flagstaff Sept. 6 (DS), and males at San Bernadino Ranch Oct. 12 (K. Burke) and Portal Oct. 23 (†J. Hoffman), single Ovenbirds at Ganado Sept. 11 (KR *et al.*), and Prescott Oct. 5 (PB), and Hooded Warblers at Prescott Aug. 4 (CT), Oak Cr. Canyon Aug. 9-10 (DS), and near Payson Sept. 6 (GR).

The status of Worm-eating Warblers in Arizona may be changing; 4 reports this fall came from Prescott Sept. 3-7 & Oct. 4 (CT), Parker Dam Sept. 5 (BW *et al.*, KR, ph.), and Fort Bowie Oct. 3 (G & J Maender). Prothonotary Warblers were seen Sept. 13 at Tucson (JB) and at Patagonia Sept. 18 (TG). The Yellow-throated Warbler in Cave Cr. Canyon in July remained until at least Aug. 31 (S. Carey). The only Magnolia Warbler was at Prescott Oct. 26 (CT), the only Palm Warbler was at Portal Nov. 11 (SS, RM), and the only Kentucky Warbler was reported at Tucson Oct. 12 (JB). A possible Connecticut Warbler e. of Phoenix Aug. 16 (†RB) would provide only a second state record if accepted. However, Arizona's sixth Canada Warbler was confirmed by many observers in suburban Tempe Sept. 23 (†A. Laurenzi *et al.*).

ICTERIDS AND FRINGILLIDS — A Bobolink was near Bisbee Sept. 11 (AM, ph.). The only Orchard Oriole was at Paloma Oct. 1 (GR *et al.*, KR, ph.), and a N. (Baltimore) Oriole was at Many Farms, Apache Co., Sept. 12 (BW). For the third consecutive year, a Tucson

feeder hosted a Scarlet-headed Oriole Oct. 2+ (*vide* WD). A Rusty Blackbird was at Lake Havasu City Nov. 28 (RF *et al.*, KR, ph.) Eight Great-tailed Grackles, including juveniles, at Many Farms Sept. 12 (GR *et al.*) represented a new breeding locale in n.e. Arizona.

A ♂ Pyrrhuloxia at a Globe feeder furnished only the second record there. Also n. of the usual range was a ♂ Varied Bunting at Superior Oct. 1 (G. Walsberg). The only Painted Bunting was at San Bernadino Ranch Oct. 2 (D. Lanning).

Cardueline finches were on the move. Lowland Evening Grosbeaks were at Teec Nos Pos Sept. 13 (L. Ross *et al.*), Phoenix Oct. 23 (KK), Cooks L., Nov. 14 (GR, *et al.*), plus 11 in the L.C.V., s. to Ehrenberg Oct. 18-Nov. 9 (MK *et al.*). Definite Purple Finches occurred with one at San Bernadino Ranch Oct. 12 (K. Burke, banded), and ten in Cave Cr. Canyon Nov. 22-23 (SG *et al.*). More unusual were Cassin's Finches in the desert, with one at Phoenix Nov. 8 (KR) and an unprecedented six in the L.C.V., Oct. 24-Nov. 7 (MK, JJ, WCH). This was also a Lawrence's Goldfinch year in Arizona, with small numbers passing through the L.C.V., beginning in September, and scattered records e. to Cooks L., and San Simon by November. Mostly singles were reported around Phoenix and Tucson, with the largest group being of 35 at Tucson Nov. 30.

A Grasshopper Sparrow at Teec Nos Pos Sept. 13 (KR, ph.) was a first occurrence for Apache County. Arizona's first ever Le Conte's Sparrow flushed from tall Bermuda grass planted for geese at Topock on the Havasu N.W.R., Nov. 29 (ph., KR, †TG, †RF). Another first for the L.C.V., was provided by a Clay-colored Sparrow Sept. 5 (†WHO, BW); four others were in Apache County Aug. 21-Sept. 13 (GR, KR).

An ad. Golden-crowned Sparrow in the Hualapai Mts., Nov. 29 (KR *et al.*) was at an unusual location. Nine White-throated Sparrows were reported from e. Arizona, and the only Harris' Sparrow was e. of Phoenix Nov. 22 (A. Gast). Finally, another Arizona first was furnished by a Snow Bunting at Littlefield, in the Virgin R. valley of extreme n.w. Mohave County Nov. 3 (Walter Boyce, *U. of A.). Details published elsewhere.

CONTRIBUTORS (Area compilers in boldface) — J. Bock, P. Beall, R. Bradley, S. Burge, J. Coons (Flagstaff), D. Danforth (Sierra Vista), S. Demaree, W. Davis, R. Ferguson, S. Goldwasser (Tucson), T. Gatz, B. Harrison, R. Haywood, William Howe (WHO), W.C. Hunter, J. Jackson, K. Kaufman, M. Kasprzyk (L.C.V.), H. Longstreth, A. Moorehouse, R. Morse, G. Porter, D. Stejskal, J. Saba, R. Scholes, S. & W. Spofford, G. Tomoff (Prescott), R. Taylor, B. Whitney, J. Witzeman (Phoenix), R. Witzeman. Abbreviations: †, written details on file with the Arizona Bird Committee, *, specimens.—KENNETH V. and GARY H. ROSENBERG, 1010 W. 17th Street, Tempe, AZ 85281.