

SOUTHWEST REGION

Arizona, Sonora

/Janet Witzeman

Weather continued to have an effect on the habitat and thus the occurrence of birds in the state. The deluge of late September—early October from Tropical Storm *Octave* destroyed valuable riparian vegetation, especially in the Tucson and Prescott areas. Flooding also created high levels in ponds and lakes that covered shorebird habitat in the Flagstaff area.

However, a positive change in habitat has been provided by the new large irrigation storage pond in Chandler, south of Phoenix, that has attracted new and unusual species to south central Arizona.

The season was brightened by interesting visitors from south of the border, including a first record for the United States.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — A Red-throated Loon, rare winter visitor to the Gulf of California, was observed at Guaymas, Mex., Nov. 27 (DSj, N. Krug). An Arctic Loon, an uncommon transient, especially in s.e. Arizona, was found at Tucson Oct. 14 (JS, KK). It appears that Com. Loons may stop over regularly on lakes near Flagstaff—one was at Ashurst L., Nov. 4 (JC, m.ob.) and up to five were on L. Mary and Mormon L., during November (JC, TC). Farther e. and s. were two on L. Pleasant Nov. 30 (TC), one at Chandler Oct. 15 (DSj *et al.*), one at Becker L., Oct. 27 (KR) and one in the s.e. at McNeal Oct. 27 (AM).

Breeding of Pied-billed Grebes in s. Arizona is variable in timing; two partly grown young at Nogales Nov. 5 indicated a rather late nesting record (GM *et al.*). The only Horned Grebes reported during the period were individuals in s.w. Phoenix Nov. 12-13 (DSj *et al.*), and at Arivaca Jet., Nov. 26 (JS). Individual W. Grebes were reported from scattered localities in s.e. and e. Arizona: one near McNeal stayed at least until Nov. 30 (AM).

Four Am. White Pelicans were at Prescott, where they are uncommon, on the late date of Nov. 27 (CT); at least one was in Phoenix during November (DT); and 21 were counted at Painted Rock Dam thereafter, P.R.D.) Oct. 22 (DSj, RF). A Double-crested Cormorant, rare in n.e. Arizona, was seen at Lyman L., Nov. 19 (GM, BHe). Magnificent Frigatebirds are sparse visitors to s.w. Arizona: one at Sierra Vista Aug. 21 (†J. & B. Epler) was remarkably far e.

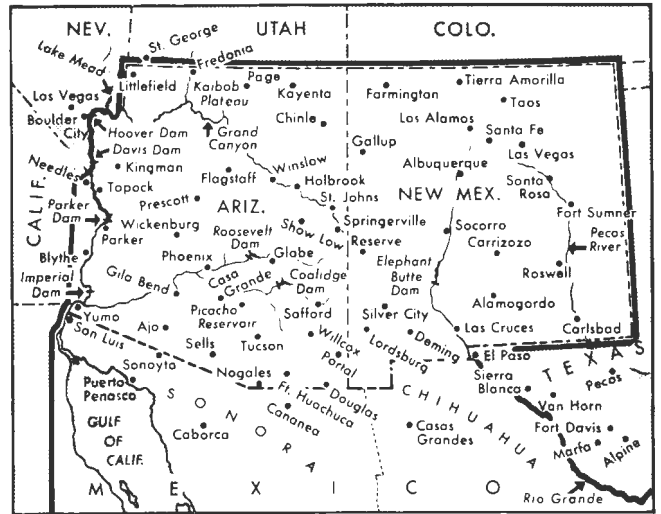
An Am. Bittern, rarely encountered in s.e. Arizona, was observed at Elfrida Oct. 22 (AM, TD). Cattle Egrets are becoming more common in s.e. Arizona—up to 12 were recorded at McNeal Aug. 10–Nov. 5 (AM); two were seen in Douglas Nov. 2 (AM) and seven in Huachuca City Nov. 20 (DD). Up to 165 White-faced Ibises at McNeal during September and October was a high total for s.e. Arizona; eight were still present Nov. 5 (AM *et al.*). Another late White-faced Ibis was still at P.R.D., Nov. 6 (DSj, CB, RF).

WATERFOWL — Tundra Swans, formerly uncommon away from the Lower Colorado River (hereafter, L.C.R.), were found in s.e. Arizona for the 3rd consecutive winter; four were at McNeal Nov. 28 (AM) and five at Huachuca City Nov. 20 (RS). Four ♀ and two ♂ Wood Ducks plus two or three broods of immatures, seen Aug. 12 on Peck's L., near Prescott, were suspected of having bred there (CT). The species was recorded again at Winkelman, where uncommon; up to three were present Oct. 11–Nov. 17 (K. Lease). One was in Tucson Nov. 16–23 + (*vide* Cd) and more than usual (6) were in Phoenix during the period (MJ, TC *et al.*). A very late Cinnamon Teal was at Becker L., Springerville Nov. 19 (GM).

A Eur. Wigeon returned to Phoenix in early November for the 5th winter after an absence of one year (M. Carpenter *et al.*). An imm. White-winged Scoter in Prescott Nov. 27–30 (V. Miller, CT) was the first for that area; there have been about 24 individuals recorded in the state.

RAPTORS — Single Ospreys, uncommon in s.e. Arizona, were reported e. of Portal Sept. 23 (WS), at McNeal Oct. 3 (AM) and at San Simon Cienega Oct. 17 (WS, RM). More than usual—up to 14—were recorded around and w. of Phoenix; at least one stayed into December (m.ob.).

Additional evidence of Black-shouldered Kites nesting in the state was provided by up to two adults Sept. 14–Nov. 30 and up to two



immatures Oct. 24–Nov. 30 at Elfrida, s.e. Ariz. (ph., AM). However, the nesting s. of Casa Grande was not successful. The 2 nests with incubating adults discovered during the summer were found to have blown down after a storm in late August; one of these contained egg shells (RG). Only one bird, an adult, was seen there Sept. 31 (TG, MJ *et al.*). Sightings of individual adults in new areas were at Vekol Wash e. of Gila Bend in August (*vide* RG), at the Gila Bend sewage pond Oct. 22 (RF) and near I-10 and Sacaton, Gila R. Indian Reservation Nov. 20 (DSy).

An imm. Broad-winged Hawk was found in a canyon s.e. of Oracle Oct. 3 (D. Ellis); there have been about a dozen previous state records. Up to five Harris' Hawks were reported in extreme s.e. Arizona during the period (DD, TD, AM); two in the Welton area Nov. 30 were thought to be from the re-introduced population on the L.C.R. (*vide* DT). An imm. Zone-tailed Hawk, rare in the w. part of the state, was seen near Taona Sept. 22 (†JJ, DK); an individual over Tucson Nov. 13 (†L. Comrack) was quite late.

An imm. Crested Caracara strayed N to Chandler Nov. 11 (†D & MSy).

TURKEY THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — A flock of eight Wild Turkeys was seen Nov. 16 in Arroyo Cajon Bonito, Sonora, Mex., 5 ± mi s.e. of Guadalupe Canyon (T. Potter, AM, TD). The status of the species in this area is poorly known. Three Montezuma Quail at Nutrioso Aug. 19 (BHe) indicated that the White Mts. population survived the winter of 1978–1979. The populations in parts of s.e. Arizona have built back up to good levels (KK). A Purple Gallinule, the second record of this sparse visitor for the year, was observed at McNeal on the late date of Oct. 2–18 (DD, †AM, TD).

Three uncommon species of shorebirds were recorded: a Red Knot at Willecox Sept. 14–24 (†AM, CB *et al.*), a Red Phalarope at Chandler Oct. 22–23 (DSj, RF), and two Ruddy Turnstones—one at Tucson Sept. 17 (PN) and one at Phoenix Oct. 19 (DSj).

Individual Black-bellied Plovers were at McNeal Oct. 5 & 16 (AM, DD, RBa), at Picacho Res., July 30 (JS), at the Chandler sewage pond Sept. 15 (PB); and eight were counted at P.R.D., Oct. 22 (DSj, RF). In contrast to their status elsewhere in the state, Black-necked Stilts are generally rare in extreme s.e. Arizona. A number of reports from that area this fall included up to six at the Bisbee-Douglas sewage ponds Oct. 2 (AM). A Whimbrel at Prescott Aug. 5–6 (CT) was the first for that area and one of only a few records away from the L.C.R. Four Marbled Godwits were recorded in s.e. Arizona (AM *et al.*); and three s. and w. of Phoenix (RW, PB) included one on the late date of Nov. 6 at P.R.D. (DSj, CB, RF). Up to three Sanderlings were at Willecox Sept. 14–Oct. 2 (AM, m.ob.), and one at Nogales Sept. 24 (DSj *et al.*).

GULLS, TERNS — An ad. Laughing Gull at Nogales Sept. 24 (DSj, JBa, JS, Cd) was the 2nd for that area; there are <10 records for the state. Surprising was the ad. Sabine's Gull at Cibola N.W.R., Oct. 6 (†DK, JJ); only a few adults have been found inland. Up to four Herring Gulls, uncommon away from the L.C.R., were found at P.R.D., Oct.

23-Nov. 6 (DSj, RF, CB, PB). From one to two Com. Terns were found far e. at McNeal Oct. 2-5 (AM, DD, TD).

CUCKOOS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Only 14 Yellow-billed Cuckoos (more common before habitat destruction on the Bill Williams R.) were detected on the L.C.R., during August and early September (DK).

A Ferruginous Owl was found Oct. 15 at Tucson in a different locality from that of the pair there during the past 2 summers (T. Meyer, GM). Two newly fledged Spotted Owls were seen in Sycamore Canyon Aug. 30 (DK, KC). A late Com. Nighthawk was recorded at Prescott Sept. 15 (CT).

Adding to the summer records of the following 2 species of hummingbirds from s. of the border were a Plain-capped Starthroat in Copper Canyon near Coronado N.M., Aug. 20 (RBr, PB); and a Berylline Hummingbird in Garden Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Aug. 6 (J. Arvin). Portal continued to attract Lucifer Hummingbirds: two imm. females were at feeders there Sept. 4-Oct. 7 (S & WS); a female was seen in Guadalupe Canyon Aug. 20 (DD, AM, RBo) and a male in Leslie Canyon near Douglas Aug. 28 (DD). An apparent imm. White-eared Hummingbird was at a feeder in Madera Canyon Aug. 10 (GM). The majority of reports of White-eared Hummingbirds in Madera Canyon actually pertain to \emptyset Broad-billed Hummingbirds which are very common there. Another White-eared Hummingbird was observed in the Chiricahua Mts., Sept. 10 (RM).

Records of Calliope Hummingbirds in s.e. Arizona continued to mount: a male was at Portal feeders Aug. 10 and an imm. male was there during September (S & WS); a female was found dead at Portal Aug. 19 and a male was observed near Rustler P., Chiricahua Mts., Aug. 28 & Sept. 3 (RT). One of the Magnificent Hummingbirds in the Pinal Mts., near Globe, remained at least until Sept. 12 (RH, BJ); and even farther n. and e., one at a feeder in Eagar in early August (F. Fanning, *fide* GM) provided one of only a few records for the White Mts.

Two young Anna's Hummingbirds seen in a nest in Mesa, e. of Phoenix Nov. 16 (V. Murphy, *fide* JW) represented the earliest nesting record of that species in the state. Anna's Hummingbirds were more in evidence than usual in the Globe area throughout the period (RH, J. Spencer, BJ).

KINGFISHERS, WOODPECKERS — A Green Kingfisher at Ariavaca Aug. 14 (S. & J. Levy) furnished the first report of this rare straggler since 1978.

A Red-breasted Sapsucker, an uncommon visitor, was observed at Pena Blanca L., w. of Nogales Nov. 5 (GM, Cd *et al.*). An early δ Williamson's Sapsucker was seen s. of Rustler P., Aug. 16 (RT). A δ Hairy Woodpecker at Beaver Dam Wash., n.w. Ariz., Oct. 15 was at a lower than usual elevation (JC, LP).

FLYCATCHERS, CROWS — There were two E. Phoebes during the period—one e. of Tucson Nov. 20 (JS) and one at Cibola N.W.R., Nov. 16-22 (\dagger KC, DK, JJ). A Cassin's Kingbird, an uncommon transient on the L.C.R., was at Cibola N.W.R., Aug. 12 & 16 (DK), and three were observed at Ehrenberg Sept. 13-early October (CH, LL, KC, DK). Two very late Cassin's Kingbirds were seen in Bisbee Nov. 22 (AM); and a late first-year W. Kingbird was seen in Avra Valley near Tucson Nov. 14 (CT).

American Crow has recently become a local abundant fall and winter resident on the L.C.R.; by late-October flocks of up to 500+ were counted at Cibola N.W.R. (DK).

CHICKADEES THROUGH THRASHERS — A Mountain Chickadee, only a casual winter visitor on the L.C.R., was at Cibola N.W.R., Oct. 24 and another individual was recorded there Nov. 14 (DK). Red-breasted Nuthatches were found at low elevation localities around Prescott in October (CT); and two were recorded at Tuba City Aug. 24 (JC). Pygmy Nuthatch is not known to be a resident in the Pinal Mts., so those seen the last week of August to Sept. 8 were unusual (RH). Two Winter Wrens, sparse winter residents, were seen at Beaver Dam Wash Oct. 15 (JC, LP) and three were in Oak Cr. Canyon Nov. 16 (JC).

A δ **Aztec Thrush** in Madera Canyon Aug. 30-Sept. 13 (\dagger KC, \dagger DK, ph., JS, m.ob.) was only the 5th for the state but the 3rd record from that area. Records of Gray Catbirds away from their breeding areas contin-

ued to accumulate: one was far n. and w. at Beaver Dam Wash Oct. 22 (LP) and one was on the San Pedro R., at Hereford Oct. 28-29 (P. Sisk, J. Newman, *fide* RS).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A Yellow-throated Vireo was discovered in Madera Canyon Aug. 5 (\dagger L. Thompson); there have been about 16 previous records in the state. A Gray Vireo was netted, banded and photographed Aug. 21 in Catalina Foothills, Tucson (P. Walters), an area where the species is apparently rare.

There were few e. vagrant warblers reported this fall, but representatives of 2 species strayed N from Mexico. A **Crescent-chested Warbler** found in Garden Canyon Sept. 3-15 provided a first for the United States (D. Heathcote *et al.*). Details and photos will be published elsewhere. A **Rufous-capped Warbler**, discovered in Coronado N.M., Aug. 14 (MJ), represented only the 3rd state record.

A **Cape May Warbler** was found at Picacho Res., Oct. 15 (DSj, CB, RF). There have been only 4 previous state records. An ad. δ **Golden-winged Warbler** at Prescott Aug. 14 (CT) added to the mystery of the status of that species—a year ago a female and four young were present for over 2 weeks in early September in another locality in Prescott. There had been records of only four individuals in the state prior to these.

A δ Prothonotary Warbler at Portal Oct. 6 (\dagger S & WS) was about the 16th for the state. An imm. Chestnut-sided Warbler at Boyce Thompson Arboretum Nov. 12 (\dagger DSy) was the only one of that species reported.

A female and four imm. Olive Warblers were seen together in a flock on Mingus Mt., n.e. of Prescott Sept. 15 (CT), adding another locality in the n. part of the species' range. The δ Hooded Warbler that spent the summer at Page Springs s. of Sedona, remained until Sept. 15 (CT). A late and low elevation Painted Redstart was recorded on the Hassayampa R., s. of Prescott Nov. 28 (CT).

There was one Tennessee Warbler, three Black-and-white Warblers, three Am. Redstarts and two N. Waterthrushes reported during the period.

SPARROWS, BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES — A δ **Yellow Grosbeak**, discovered in a remote side canyon of Sycamore Canyon, Atascosa Mts., Aug. 12 (\dagger T. Harvey), represented the 8th state record. An Indigo Bunting, a rare transient on the L.C.R., was observed at Ehrenberg Sept. 26 (\dagger LL). An imm. δ Painted Bunting (an uncommon visitor) was at Portal Aug. 20 (ph., RF, DSj), and a δ Painted Bunting was reported in with the many Lazuli Buntings at Benson Sept. 3 (JBo). Two Dickcissels (one * to U. of A.), sparse transients, were found at Tucson Sept. 14 (RBo). Three individuals of another sparse migrant, Clay-colored Sparrow, were recorded—one at Douglas Sept. 13 (AM, RM, S & WS), one at McNeal Sept. 14 (AM) and one (* to U. of A.) at Tucson Sept. 15 & 23 (RBo, GM, WD).

Three Abert's Towhees were seen Oct. 19 in 2 areas near Roosevelt L., e. of Phoenix, where the species has not been recorded previously (BJ). A Swamp Sparrow was seen Nov. 19 at Richville, n.e. Ariz. (GM, BHe) where few records of this species have been recorded. Two Harris' Sparrows were reported—one in Tucson Nov. 13-23 was banded (C. Corchran, Cd), and an ad. male at Rio de Flag, s. of Flagstaff Nov. 27-28 (JC). Two McCown's Longspurs, uncommon winter visitors, were found at Becker L., Springerville Oct. 27 (KR).

A Bobolink was observed Aug. 20 in the area near Springerville where the species nested in 1979 (BHe); and an individual at Wilcox Sept. 28 (GM, WD) represented one of only a few records of this sparse migrant in s.e. Arizona.

Scattered reports of individual Purple Finches, irregular fall and winter visitors, came during late October and early November from Parker (KR), w. of Gila Bend at Paloma (DSj), s.w. Phoenix (DSj), Canelo Hills Cienega (GM, T. Clark), Santa Catalina Mts. (RBo, WD), w. of Prescott, s. of Prescott (CT); and two on the Hassayampa R. (CT). Red Crossbills in "good numbers" were inhabiting the Chiricahua Mts., Mt. Lemmon, Bill Williams Mt., Flagstaff, Oak Cr. Canyon all fall (RT, CT); and around Prescott where they were paired and singing by the end of the period and suspected of breeding again (CT).

An ad. Lesser Goldfinch, feeding nestlings Oct. 10 in the pine-oak riparian zone near Prescott, was late for that elevation (CT). A few Evening Grosbeaks in the San Francisco Mts., and Bill Williams Mt., in October were the only ones reported during the fall (CT).

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