SOUTHWEST REGION

Arizona, Sonora

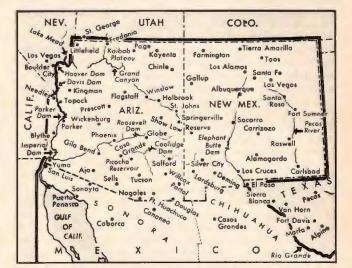
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This summer two areas were covered more thoroughly than ever before, enabling us to fill in more of the gaps in our knowledge of the state. An intensive study was made along the San Pedro River, Gila River, and lower Bonita Greek in the southeast, and along the lower Gila River in the southwest. And now that we have a resident birder in the northeast corner, that area has been providing some significant records as well. Another set of records was provided from the newly opened Granite Reef Aqueduct (part of the Gentral Arizona Project) that is transferring water (and wildlife) from the Colorado River to central Arizona.

Visitors from south of the border provided excitement as usual—a new state record, two new nesting records, and a surprising quantity and quality of hummingbirds.

ABBREVIATIONS — G.R.A. = Granite Reef Aqueduct; L.C.R. = Lower Colorado River; S.P.R. = San Pedro River.

GREBES THROUGH HERONS — Both Western and "Clark's" grebes remained at Prescott again for the 2nd summer, with a maximum of 17 individuals June 14 and diminishing numbers thereafter (CT). Only one Am. White Pelican was recorded this season; it was at Tucson July 7 (R. Kennedy). Individual imm. Brown Pelicans were reported at 3 areas in Tucson June 29-July 19, plus one in Green Valley, s. of Tucson, in late July (fide SSu). Another immature was along the G.R.A. at Vicksburg July 27-28 (SF, MC). The imm. Olivaceous Cormorant at Willcox since early spring was still present July 2 (GM). More Magnificent Frigatebirds than we have had in recent years were reported; six were observed over Yuma July 10 (†E. & L. Schmidt, F. & J. Szehner), and three were carried E to the mouth of Madera Canyon during a storm July 6 (ph. BZ, B. Drummond, JD et al.). One June 5 at Yuma (GR) represented the earliest date



for the state and only the 3rd for June. The majority have been recorded from July to October.

A Least Bittern at Guevavi Ranch, Nogales, June 15-25 + (JBo, SK, ph. SSu) was in a new locality and represented one of only a few records for s.e. Arizona. A Snowy Egret was present on and off all summer at Prescott where the species is usually only a migrant (CT). A late Snowy Egret was at Willcox June 9 (BC), and five were along the G.R.A., e. of Vicksburg, all period (SF, MC). An early Tricolored Heron was at Willcox June 9 (+BC, LH) and apparently remained until July 24 when it or another was reported there (M. Garland). There are now almost 2 dozen state records of this straggler from the south. A Cattle Egret, uncommon anywhere in the state in summer, especially in n. Arizona, was at Prescott June 6-14 (CT). An ad. Yellowcrowned Night-Heron at Dudleyville June 26-July 12+ (JS, ph. SSu) was probably the same individual as was there in May 1984.



Three Magnificent Frigatebirds near Madera Canyon, Ariz., during a storm July 6, 1985. Photo/Barry Zimmer.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS — Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were present at the Patagonia Sanctuary all summer for the first time (R. Baxter). Wood Ducks nested again at Prescott (at least one pair) and at Clarkdale (at least 2 pairs) in June (CT). A Green-winged Teal (an uncommon nester) remained into July in Prescott (CT), and one was observed at Green Valley July 18 (TM). Two Mallards with "Mexican Duck" characteristics, observed on the Gila R. near Kearny July 26, were n. and w. of the normal distribution of this form (†CH, TC).

Two δ Blue-winged Teal and a female were at McNeal June 24 (AM); the species is uncommon in s.e. Arizona in summer. One to eight Cinnamon Teal were at Willcox June 9-13 (BC, AM, BrJ), and a \Im Cinnamon Teal with four ducklings were observed at Tucson June 19 (GM); there are very few nesting records for the s.e. The species was found breeding again at Buckeye, w. of Phoenix, in June (CH, TC), and a few were present all period along the G.R.A. (SF, MC). Gadwalls nested for the 3rd consecutive year at Prescott (CT).

Small numbers of non-breeding summering Redheads were reported at Willcox, Tucson, Painted Rock Dam, G.R.A., and Prescott. A Ring-necked Duck, uncommon away from the White Mts. in summer, was at Guevavi Ranch July 14 (PL).

Common Merganser is known to breed in small numbers only in the White Mts. and below the Mogollon Rim. A \Im Com. Merganser seen flying over Bonita Cr. and the Gila R. e. of Safford June 7 was in suitable breeding habitat, and not far from where the species has been found breeding in New Mexico (CH, TC). A \Im Com. Merganser at Many Farms L., n.e. Arizona, June 19 (BrJ) was also in an area where it had not been recorded previously during the summer.

Summer records of Osprey away from the White Mts. are scarce; one spent the entire period at Prescott (CT). This summer's reports of Black-shouldered Kites included an adult and five immatures at Elfrida June 24, two adults and an immature at Douglas June 24, two adults at the San Bernardino Ranch e. of Douglas June 27 (AM), and one w. of Nogales near Ruby July 15 (†MJ). Records of Mississippi Kites away from the S.P.R. were of two flying w. of Sonoita July 25 (GM) and one along the Gila R. w. of Phoenix at Buckeye July 30 (†TC, CH).

Suspicions that a pair of N. Harriers at the San Bernardino Ranch May 25 might have been nesting proved to be correct. The pair was still present June 14, but when the nest was checked June 27 it was found to have been abandoned, with one broken egg and a whole egg containing an embryo (AM *et al.*). This represented the 2nd known nesting attempt away from n.e. Arizona, where the species has not been found nesting since 1890. A pair of Com. Black-Hawks that raised two fledglings along the S.P.R. near Mammoth represented the first known successful nesting of the species on the river since 1977. However, only one nesting pair was found along lower Bonita Cr., where more (3+) had been recorded in past years, and this pair did not successfully raise young (CH, TC). The Ferruginous Hawk is an uncommon resident of n. Arizona, and only formerly near Prescott, so of interest was the adult near Sullivan L., n. of Prescott, July 28 (H & AG).

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS — Two Clapper Rails along the Gila R. e. of Buckeye all period were in a new location (CH, TC).

Again as last year, a very late Black-bellied Plover was at Willcox June 2 (JBo). A Snowy Plover, scarce in n.e. Arizona, was at Many Farms L., July 20 (BrJ). One at Willcox, where it has been rare in recent years, was seen June 9 (BC).

Records of Black-necked Stilts are uncommon in extreme s.e. Arizona and also at Prescott, so of interest were three at Willcox June 13 (AM, BrJ) and a few at Prescott all period (CT). Forty Black-necked Stilts were counted along G.R.A., e. of the Hassayampa R., during the period (SF, MC). Am. Avocets at new summer locations were an adult and chick at Moaning L., n.e. Arizona, in early June (BrJ), a pair on the S.P.R. near Winkleman in mid-June (CH, TC), 13 at the Mammoth sewage ponds June 27 (GM), and five along the G.R.A. e. of Vicksburg all period (SF, MC). Ten were at McNeal June 24 (AM), where the species has been found only since 1983.

An ad. Northern Jacana, a first for the state, was found at Kino springs June 7 (†R. & E. Hellman *et al.*), then disappeared and was re-discovered June 15 at nearby Guevavi Ranch (SK, JBo, m.ob., ph. EH, PL, BZ) where it remained through the period at least into September. There are no records for Sonora, Mexico, so it was surprisingly far n. of n. Sinaloa where the species is known to occur. This represented the first record in the United States w. of c. Texas, where records have been sparse in recent years.



Northern Jacana near Nogales, Ariz., July 21, 1985. First Arizona record. Photo/Ed Harper.

Sixty Willets at Prescott June 26 (BT) made a large concentration, especially on that early date. Early single Long-billed Curlews were at Vicksburg June 17 (SF, MC), at Many Farms L., June 24 (BrJ), and at Prescott June 26 (BT); another one was at Prescott July 5 (CT), and a large concentration of 25 was at Willcox July 14 (PL). Early Marbled Godwits were four at Many Farms L., June 24 (BrJ), and one at Prescott June 29 (BT); a large group of 28 was at Prescott July 18 (BT).

Two early Semipalmated Sandpipers were found at Willcox July 20 (†BP, DH, BCo). A Pectoral Sandpiper at Willcox June 13 (AM, BrJ) represented either the latest spring record or the earliest fall record for the state. Again, increased coverage in n.e. Arizona has resulted in our learning that Stilt Sandpiper is not as scarce a migrant there as the few past records had indicated; individuals were observed at Round Rock L. and Many Farms L., July 20 (BrJ). Also, one was at Prescott July 18 (BT) where there are only a few records. An adult at Willcox July 14 (PL) was one of the earliest for the state.

A breeding-plumaged ad. Short-billed Dowitcher, seen and heard at Willcox on the late date of June 9, appeared to be of the race *hendersoni* (+BC, LH). An ad. Com. Snipe at Willcox July 14 (PL) was the earliest on record, and may have summered there.

JAEGERS THROUGH NIGHTJARS — An ad. **Pomarine Jae**ger discovered at L. Pleasant, n.w. of Phoenix, June 7-10 (C. Berginc, †RBr, CB, PB, TC, SD, RF, HL, CK) provided a first local record and the 4th for the state. As suggested by TGz, it may have arrived at that locale by having followed the G.R.A.

An imm. Laughing Gull at Willcox June 9 (+BC, +JS), represented the 4th record for s.e. Arizona and about the 8th overall for the state. A very late, or summering, non-breeding ad. Franklin's Gull was at Many Farms L., June 19 (BrJ). An imm. Ringbilled Gull, uncommon in summer, was at Willcox June 9 with an imm. California Gull, which is rare so far e. and represented one of the few summer records for the state (+BC).

A breeding-plumaged ad. **Gull-billed Tern** was carefully studied at Willow L., Prescott, July 4 (+BT, CT, H & AG *et al.*). This represented the first record for n. Arizona and only the 4th for the state, the others having been in spring in w. and s. Arizona.

Band-tailed Pigeons remained at the lower-elevation riparian area in the Verde Valley through June into July when they normally move up higher into the forest (CT).

A Black-billed Cuckoo seen and heard at Many Farms L., July 9 (†BrJ) represented the 4th state record, although the species has not yet been documented with a photograph and is still on the hypothetical list. The previous records were from s.e. Arizona. Censusing in appropriate habitat on the S.P.R. and Gila R. revealed surprisingly few Yellow-billed Cuckoos; only near Pima, n.w. of Safford, were they found to be common. West of Phoenix, along the Gila R., numbers were found to be stable in cottonwood-willow habitats regenerated since the 1980 floods, but numbers were sparse in similar habitat between Laguna and Imperial dams on the L.C.R. (CH, TC). A Groove-billed Ani was at Buckeye July 30 (†TC, CH); there have been only 4 other records of this scarce straggler in the past 6 years.

A Flammulated Owl was heard calling in the Lukachukai Cr.



Juvenile N. Saw-whet Owl near Pinery Campground, Chiricahua Mts., Ariz., May 28, 1985. Photo/Joe & Cathy Pope.

area, n.e. Arizona, July 1 (BrJ); although not surprising, this represented a record from a little-known part of the state. A Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl found at Dudleyville July 17 (BS) and heard there July 29 (SSu) was in a new locality and represented the first record for the S.P.R. The four young Long-eared Owls from the nest near Rock Pt., Navajo Reservation, were still present in mid-June (J. & T. Willetto, BrJ). A 2nd indication of N. Saw-whet Owl nesting in the Chiricahua Mts. this year was provided by the sighting of a juvenile at Pinery Campground May 28 (ph. †J. & C. Pope) and a pair in the same area in early July (EG).

A new nesting record for Arizona and the United States was provided by a pair of **Buff-collared Nightjars** below the entrance to Madera Canyon that produced two young in mid-July (†EH, †MJ, m.ob.). There were also records of individuals e. of Tucson July 1 (CdeW, SSu) and at Catalina S.P., July 3 (SSu).



Buff-collared Nightjar below Madera Canyon, Ariz., July 7, 1985. Fledglings were found later at this site, for the first confirmed U.S. nesting. Photo/Barry Zimmer.

HUMMINGBIRDS — Unprecedented numbers of four rare hummingbird species occurred this summer. A \mathcal{S} White-eared **Hummingbird** seen on the S. Fork trail, Portal, July 6 (SFi), plus three to four observed in S. Fork July 11 (RM), preceded the discovery of a nest there July 13 (A. Clay)—the first for Arizona and the United States. And still more—a male that visited feeders at Shannon Campground, Pinaleno Mts., July 3-7 + (ph., fide SSu) was the first for that area; and a female frequented a feeder in Madera Canyon July 12-27 + (KK, m.ob.) where there had been only 2 previous records.

There were four Berylline Hummingbirds: one at Patagonia June 8 (†R. Long), the first for that locale, one in S. Fork, Portal, June 29-30 (ph. BZ, †JC, m.ob.), one at Silver Cr. Spring, n.w. of Portal, July 2 (RM), and one higher up in the Chiricahua Mts., near Barfoot Crossing, Rustler Park Trail July 18 (†BP, DH, BCo). Two Plain-capped Starthroats at a feeder in Whitetail Canyon, Chiricahuas, July 10, and at least one to July 27 + (RT, m.ob.) provided about the 10th record for the state.

Seven Lucifer Hummingbirds occurred, the majority in the Chiricahuas as usual; one in a peripheral area was a female or immature at Madera Canyon July 12-27 + (KK, m.ob). Two ø Lucifers were present again for the 2nd year near Sonoita from late June to early July (*fide* SSu). In the Chiricahuas an ad. male was seen along the road to Cave Cr. Canyon June 2 (+BC, LH), and single ø Lucifers were at S. Fork July 5 (SFi), at Silver Cr. Spring July 5 (E. Froelich), and at Portal in mid-July (m.ob.).

Single Broad-billed Hummingbirds, uncommon in the Chiricahuas, were recorded in 2 canyons there in July (RM, RT). A 9 Violet-crowned Hummingbird on a nest was found along the S.



Berylline Hummingbird in S. Fork, Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., Ariz., June 29, 1985. Photo/Barry Zimmer.

Fork trail July 20 (TM). A Violet-crowned Hummingbird in Madera Canyon, where it has been recorded only the past 3 years, was present through July. Allen's Hummingbird is an uncommon migrant; a male frequented a feeder in Madera Canyon July 12 (KK, MJ *et al.*), and one was examined in the hand on Signal Peak, Pinal Mts., July 26 (R. Heffernon).

KINGFISHERS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — Summer records of Belted Kingfisher in the White Mts. cause speculation of possible nesting there; two males were at Greer and one male at Sunrise L., July 4 (TC), and a pair at S. Fork, Little Colorado R., July 21 (DS). The \Im Green Kingfisher at Kino Springs was seen again June 22 (DS, CH, RN) and it, or another, was found at nearby Guevavi Ranch July 21-27 + (ph. EH, TM *et al.*).

A 9 Three-toed Woodpecker seen s.w. of Matthew Peak, Chuska Mts., extreme n.e. Arizona, July 23 (BrJ) furnished one of the few records for that little-worked area. Two pairs were recorded on the road to Blue, White Mts., July 7 (RBr).

An extralimital N. Beardless-Tyrannulet at lower Bonita Cr., July 25 +, was isolated from traditional breeding areas, the closest being Arivaipa Cr. near Klondyke (†CH, TC). Willow Flycatcher has not been known to breed or summer regularly away from the higher elevation riparian areas in the state since the 1960s, so of interest was the number of singing birds along the S.P.R. all summer (five or more at Dudleyville and three at San Manuel) plus a breeding pair near Ft. Thomas on the Gila R. (CH, TC). An early Gray Flycatcher was at Bonita Cr. near the Gila R., July 25 (†CH). A Buff-breasted Flycatcher was in Rose Canyon, Santa Catalina Mts., June 20 (BS), where the species has been re-found in recent years; one at Baldy Saddle, Santa Rita Mts. in early July (T. Strong) was the 2nd there this year, but also only the 2nd since before 1920. As suggested 2 years ago, the species seems to be reclaiming its former range.

A very worn *Myiarchus* sp. flycatcher that was mist-netted and photographed in hand at Elgin July 15 had features that indicated it may have been a Nutting's (RBo, BD). The photographs are being examined. There is one definite record of Nutting's for Arizona and the United States. Tropical Kingbirds recorded near Winkleman a year ago were thought to be out-ofrange, however, throughout this summer the species was found to be a fairly common breeder on the S.P.R. from w. of Hayden (2 pairs) on the Gila R., at Hayden (one pair), Dudleyville (5 + pairs), and San Manuel (2 pairs). This represented a significant increase in the breeding range, as the only previous nesting records on the S.P.R. have been at Cook's L., and there only in the past 10 years (CH, TC).

An ad. Thick-billed Kingbird strayed farther N than ever in Arizona, to Prescott, where it was found July 22 (†H & AG). One was at Portal June 8 (L. Elliott) where it has straggled twice before. An ad. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher observed at Many Farms L., July 2 (BrJ), was only the 3rd for n.e. Arizona. Seven occupied nests of Rose-throated Becards were counted at Arivaca June 24 (GM, TH). An individual was at Madera Canyon June 1 (JS) where the species had been recorded only once previously.

SWALLOWS THROUGH WARBLERS — In mid-July, nests of both Tree Swallows and Violet-green Swallows were found in bluebird nesting boxes at Parks, n.w. of Flagstaff; in the 2 Tree Swallow nests, three young were fledged from one and five from the other (G. Bateman). The \mathcal{P} Cave Swallow's attempt to nest with a Cliff Swallow at Tucson was a failure (TH). A Barn Swallow nest found June 11 at Navajo Community College, Tsaile, n.e. Arizona, later proved to be successful (BrJ) and represented the first for that area. Barn Swallows also nested at Prescott again for the 2nd year (CT). Several in Globe from May to mid-July suggested that they may have been breeding there as well (BeJ).

A Clark's Nutcracker was seen July 13 on Fly Peak, Chiricahua Mts. (EG), where it is not known to breed. One hundred Black-billed Magpies (including 75 young) were counted in July at Many Farms L. (BrJ) where the species has increased in numbers in recent years.

A Red-breasted Nuthatch at S. Fork, Chiricahuas, July 14 (PL) was at an exceptionally low elevation for this season. Whitebreasted Nuthatches were found to be uncommon but regular breeders near San Manuel, S.P.R., representing the lowest elevation for breeding of this species in Arizona (CH, TC). A singing Winter Wren along the W. Fork of Oak Cr. near Sedona June 10-16 (A. Greene, V. Gilmore *et al.*) represented the first summer record for the state. A Gray Catbird in Dudleyville July 18 (†TC) marked an unusual date for it to be away from its regular breeding area.

Suspected nesting of Phainopepla in n.e. Arizona was unconfirmed until this summer, when a pair found nesting at St. Johns June 30 + fledged two young; several other individuals were seen in town from late June on (BH).

Bell's Vireo was found to be common and widespread along the S.P.R., and widespread and less common near Ft. Thomas, Gila R. However, along the L.C.R., only one male was found near Laguna Dam, and it subsequently disappeared, leaving no known individuals in an area considered to be the last stronghold of the species on the L.C.R. Willows and cottonwoods destroyed in the 1983 flood in that area are regenerating and, it is hoped, will allow for the return of the species there in the future (CH, TC). Individual Red-eyed Vireos were at Pipe Springs N.M., June 2 (PB, CH *et al.*) and at Portal June 8 (RM).

An Orange-crowned Warbler was observed at Bear Wallow, Mt. Lemmon, July 16 (TM); the species is only a sparse and local breeder in the Santa Catalina Mts. Yellow Warbler was found to be a common to abundant breeder in the S.P.R. valley, and less common near Ft. Thomas and Bonita Cr. However, no breeding or summering individuals were found on the Gila R. w. of Phoenix or along the L.C.R. (CH, TC). Olive Warblers were present all summer at the upper end of Oak Cr. Canyon, on the Mogollon Rim and above at Mt. Eldon, and bred again in the Sierra Prieta Mts. near Prescott (CT).

There were 2 records of Worm-eating Warbler in the Chiricahuas: one at S. Fork June 24 (G. & J. Maender) and one in Whitetail Canyon July 14 (RT, +PL, +C. Marantz). Of the 2 dozen or so previous records there had been only 2 in mid-summer. A Louisiana Waterthrush in Ramsey Canyon July 18-20 (+TGn *et al.*) furnished the 4th late July record for the state; there have now been about 14 records overall.

Although there are a few summer records of Black-and-white Warbler, the singing male at Prescott June 11 (CT) was probably a late migrant. A \circ Am. Redstart at Buckeye June 24-25 (†TC, CH) and a male at Patagonia July 23 (C. McGaugh, T. Myers) added to the growing number of non-breeding summer records in the state. A very late N. Waterthrush at S. Fork, Chiricahuas, June 21 (†S. Sloane, A. Stern) was only the 2nd in summer for the state. The & Hooded Warbler at Page Springs remained through its 3rd summer there and on into the fall (*fide* CT). Another was in Ramsey Canyon June 30 (†M. Newstrom *et al.*), for one of several summer records for the Huachuca Mts.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — The δ Flame-colored Tanager and ⁹ W. Tanager in Cave Cr. Canyon, Chiricahuas, nested a 2nd time with only one young surviving this time, having fledged in mid-July (SSu, m.ob.). Summer Tanagers were found to be common on the S.P.R. and Gila R. at Ft. Thomas, but there was none found w. of Phoenix on the lower Gila R. or L.C.R. between Imperial and Laguna dams, an area where they were fairly common prior to the 1983 floods (CH, TC). Two Summer Tanagers were observed near Heber July 20-21 (BH); the species is a sparse transient in n.e. Arizona, especially at that elevation.

Varied Buntings at interesting locations were a male at Portal June 10 (\pm F. Hamlen), a male in the Swisshelm Mts. near Elfrida July 22 (AM), and one in Davidson Canyon, about 25 min. of Sonoita, July 25 (GM). A δ Painted Bunting, a late summer visitor, was seen at a ranch near Hereford July 20 (\pm TGn).

Six adults and two young Green-tailed Towhees on top of the Carrizo Mts., n.e. Arizona, July 6 (BrJ, C. LaRue) added new information from this little-worked area. Six to eight Blackchinned Sparrows with some young found e. of Sycamore Res., Santa Catalina Mts., June 22 (JBa, JBo), represented the first breeding evidence for that mountain range. The species breeds more commonly farther n. in Arizona and only sparsely and locally in other parts of s.e. Arizona.

Two ad. Grasshopper Sparrows with a juvenile were studied at Chino Valley, n. of Prescott, July 28-29 (†H & AG, BT). Except for a possible nesting record at Camp Verde in 1916, this was the first evidence of the species' nesting away from s.e. Arizona. Of interest is the fact that a male was found at Chino Valley in July 1973. It may have been nesting there earlier and overlooked. An unseasonal White-crowned Sparrow (gambelii) at a Portal feeder July 5 (ph. S & WSp) provided one of only a few summer records for s. Arizona.

Three Orchard Orioles were reported, two (a singing imm. male and a female) near Kino Springs June 8 (GM, F. Scheider), and a female in n.w. Tucson July 23 (RBo). A late Red Crossbill was at Phoenix June 6 (DS), and a late Pine Siskin was near Hayden June 3 (CH).

CORRIGENDUM — Great Egret is, and has been, a fairly common resident on the L.C.R., nesting mainly at Topock Marsh but also at a number of smaller rookeries. The report that nesting of Great Egret near Yuma in 1984 was the first confirmed breeding in the state in a decade (*AB* 38:1048) was incorrect.

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