

SOUTHWEST REGION

Arizona, Sonora

David Stejskal, Janet Witzeman

Some outlying parts of Arizona are covered more thoroughly than others at different seasons, depending upon whether those areas receive visits from birders or if there is a census being conducted there. This fall there were few records from the Lower Colorado River, as the census team has completed its work there; however, the continuing census on the upper San Pedro River is increasing our knowledge of that area. Some important records were also found during a number of birding trips to the northeastern part of the state.

Throughout the report are records of small numbers of normally higher-elevation species scattered through the lowlands, but nothing seemed to materialize into an invasion for any one of them.

ABBREVIATIONS — B.T.A. = Boyce Thompson Arboretum; L.C.R. = Lower Colorado River; P.R.D. = Painted Rock Dam; S.P.R. = San Pedro River.

LOONS THROUGH STORK — Pacific Loon, always noteworthy away from the L.C.R., was reported from Prescott Nov. 2 (CT) and from Tucson Nov. 9–10 (DT, JD, WD *et al.*). Common Loons in s. Arizona included one at Parker Canyon L., Nov. 4 (AH), one at Ruthrauff pond in Tucson Nov. 5 (EB), and another at Tucson Nov. 9–10 (DT, JD, WD *et al.*). Very unusual was the report of a Least Grebe at the Snyder Hill sewage ponds, w. of Tucson Sept. 3 (†RT). There have been very few good records for this species in the state since 1978. Horned Grebes away from the L.C.R. included one at Prescott Oct. 9, two at Clarkdale Oct. 28, and up to three at Prescott during November (H & AG, CT, SGa); one was at Tucson Oct. 31 (MC, DT).



As usual, a few imm. Brown Pelicans entered the state from the Gulf of California during late summer and early fall, including one along I-10 w. of Benson Aug. 22 (M & KL), one at Pena Blanca L., Aug. 27 (BH), and another at the Hyannis Cattle Co. pond near McNeal Aug. 31 (B. Smith). A Double-crested Cormorant at Ortega L., Nov. 8 would seem to be very late for this species in n.e. Arizona (GM, TH). Two Olivaceous Cormorants, rare wanderers from n. Mexico, were reported for the period: an adult at Guevavi Ranch, Nogales Aug. 31 (BH) and another adult at Patagonia L., Sept. 13–22 (†S. Benn, B. Brodie *et al.*).

More reports of Am. Bittern were received this fall, with the most unusual being one at Sells Nov. 19 (GM); one at Prescott Nov. 28–30 provided one of very few records for Yavapai County (A. Greene *et al.*). Records of Cattle Egret from s.e.

Arizona and the n. one-half of the state continue to accumulate, the most noteworthy being 30 at Many Farms L., Sept. 28 (DSj, CB, JS) and one in Guadalupe Canyon Nov. 1 (R. Turner). The former record represents the largest number ever found in n.e. Arizona. The **White Ibis** first reported in June 1986 from Picacho Res. was rediscovered there Sept. 12–14 (PB *et al.*). Four Wood Storks were reported from a stock tank on the Cabeza Prieta N.W.R., Aug. 26 (*vide* JBa), representing one of a handful of records for this species away from the L.C.R. and P.R.D.

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS — Unprecedented numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese were reported this fall, including 60+ at McNeal Sept. 22, and 76 at the Buenos Aires N.W.R., Sept. 27 (W. Schiffler) with five remaining until Oct. 12 (J & AP). Another small flock of six birds was seen at Picacho Res., Nov. 2 (JBo). Ross' Goose is a regular fall and winter visitor to s.e. Arizona, so two to four individuals at McNeal Nov. 13–28 (AM) were not unexpected. As last year, an Oldsquaw was found again at Parker Dam Nov. 22 (CH *et al.*). A ♂ Surf Scoter was found at the Chandler sewage ponds Nov. 16–17 (C. Clarke *et al.*) and a 2nd ♂ Surf Scoter was at the nearby Gila Farms pond Nov. 17 (PB, RBr); a 3rd ♂ Surf Scoter was at Parker Dam Nov. 22 (CH *et al.*). A Hooded Merganser found e. of Vernon, Apache Co., Nov. 10 furnished one of only a handful of records for n.e. Arizona (TH, GM). Red-breasted Merganser is also quite rare in n.e. Arizona, so three at Ortega L., Nov. 8 were noteworthy (GM, TH).

A flock of 190+ Black Vultures at Sells Nov. 19 was the largest flock ever encountered in Arizona (GM, WD, EB). A Gray Hawk in California Gulch, Atascosa Mts., Aug. 1 was unusual (JBa *et al.*). A Red-shouldered Hawk reported near Kansas Settlement Nov. 3 provided one of only a few records for s.e. Arizona (AH); another individual found at Prescott Nov. 15 represented the first record for Yavapai County (CT *et al.*). There are very few records for Zone-tailed Hawk for n.e. Arizona, so an adult at Keams Canyon Oct. 12 was very unusual (JS). A Ferruginous Hawk Oct. 9 at McNeal was about 2 weeks early (AM). Two Crested Caracaras near Toltec on I-10, Oct. 18 (Jim Burns) added to the growing number of records for the species outside the Tohono Oodham (formerly Papago) Indian Reservation.

RAILS THROUGH TERNS — Clapper Rails were again recorded from Picacho Res.; one was seen there Oct. 8 (C. Green, AM) and another one was heard Nov. 8 (GM, D. Lee). This species has been recorded sporadically in this area since about 1975. Perplexing was the report of an apparent Caribbean Coot near Nogales Oct. 4 (JS, BS *et al.*). Can individual variation in Am. Coots explain away this record?

A late Black-bellied Plover was found at the Snyder Hill sewage ponds Nov. 11 (J & AP *et al.*). This fall's report of a Lesser Golden-Plover came from Tucson Oct. 13 (†JP, C. Johnson, JS). The only Snowy Plover reported away from Willcox was an imm. bird at the Chandler sewage ponds Oct. 23 (SGa). Mountain Plover was again found near Elfrida this fall with a flock of 30, Nov. 7 (AM). The Elfrida area is now the only reliable locality known for this species in the state. More Lesser Yellowlegs than usual were reported this fall, including 46 at Willcox Aug. 11 (GM), 120+ at the El Mirage pond s.w. of Phoenix during the last week of August (DSj), and 50 at Bisbee Sept. 6 (AM, TD). The only Sanderlings reported were just s. of Phoenix, with one at the Gilbert sewage ponds Sept. 13–16 (DSj, SGa), one at the Gila Farms pond Oct. 17 (PB, RBr), and another, or the same, at the Chandler sewage ponds Oct. 23 (SGa). From one to three Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported from Willcox Aug. 9–15 (J & AP, †PL, †TC *et al.*); another juvenile was found at Gilbert Aug. 10 (RN, RF), and still another was at El Mirage Aug. 27 (DSj, CH). From one to two Dunlins at Willcox Aug. 11–14 (†PL, B. Zimmer *et al.*) and another at Gilbert Aug. 17 (PB) were more than a month early. Another Dunlin at Sierra Vista Nov. 6 was notable (AM, TD). The only Short-billed Dowitchers reported were two at El Mirage Aug. 27 (DSj, CH) and another one there Sept. 13 (RW *et al.*). Sur-

prising were four Red Phalaropes at Willcox Aug. 21 (†M & KL); the species is usually seen singly or in pairs in Arizona.

A first-year Herring Gull was found in the Bill Williams arm of L. Havasu Nov. 28 (PL, SF). An ad. Sabine's Gull, a very sparse fall migrant through the state, was found at Douglas Sept. 15 (†RT, R. Crabtree, F. Mallard). Two Caspian Terns at Tucson Oct. 2 provided the first record for that area (GM, EB); another in the Bill Williams arm of L. Havasu Nov. 28 was late for that locality (PL, SF). A late Forster's Tern was also in the same area Nov. 22–28 (CH, PL, SF).

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — White-winged Dove usually exits the state by the first week of September, so six individuals at B.T.A., Nov. 2 and one there Nov. 11 were very late for that locality (SGa). A very late Yellow-billed Cuckoo was heard on the Salt R., s.w. Phoenix, Oct. 11 (DSj, CB, RN). An injured Flammulated Owl found in Phoenix Oct. 12 was a real surprise and furnished the 3rd record for the Phoenix area in October (K. Ingram).

Extremely fortunate was the discovery of an apparent Black Swift in a huge flock of White-throated Swifts over Ganado L., Sept. 28 (DSj, JS); there are still no confirmed records for the state. Vaux's Swift is quite rare e. of the Huachuca Mts., so one s. of St. David Sept. 11 (DK) and another near Hereford Sept. 14 (TC) were noteworthy.

An imm. ♀ Broad-billed Hummingbird at a Portal feeder Sept. 14 was in an area where it is considered rare (WR). Two White-eared Hummingbirds were found again along S. Fork, Cave Cr. Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., Aug. 3 (CD), another ad. male was found at Rustler Park, Chiricahuas, Aug. 21 (†M & KL), and possibly one or two different birds were found along S. Fork Sept. 14 (WR, R. Dorrance). The only Berylline Hummingbird reported was one at the Southwest Research Station, Portal, Aug. 5 (T. Mack). A ♂ Lucifer Hummingbird was seen off and on at a Portal feeder Aug. 8–20 (S & WS) and one to three ♂ Lucifer Hummingbirds were also there Aug. 29 through the first week in October (m.ob.). Unusual were one to four Calliope Hummingbirds at a feeder on the upper S.P.R. near Sierra Vista Aug. 23–Sept. 25 (DK); Calliope Hummingbirds are usually found at higher elevations during the fall.

A ♀ Green Kingfisher was seen at Kino Springs, Nogales, Aug. 5 (BF). This species has been seen at this locality sporadically for the last 2 to 3 years. Intriguing were the numerous reports of Green Kingfisher on the upper S.P.R. in November; at least three individuals were recorded: an imm. male Nov. 12–14 (†DK, L. Lay), an ad. female Nov. 29 (DK *et al.*), and an ad. male Nov. 30 (CH, DK, TC). The area where these birds were found was previously closed to the public.

Lowland reports of Lewis' Woodpeckers were of one in Tucson Sept. 9 (SM), one in Sabino Canyon Sept. 27 (*vide* JBa), and one in the Hassayampa R. valley s. of Prescott Oct. 20 (CT); four were at Molino Basin, Santa Catalina Mts., Nov. 2+ (J & AP, m.ob.). The only Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reports came from the upper S.P.R.: an immature Nov. 2 (†DK) and another near there Nov. 28 (DK). A Red-breasted Sapsucker, a sparse winter visitor, was found in Prescott Nov. 27 (BT). The only lowland Williamson's Sapsucker reported was in Tucson Nov. 16 (SM).

Reports of **Least Flycatcher** increased this fall with a total of three reported. One was found near Eagar Aug. 31 (DSj *et al.*), another was observed at B.T.A., Oct. 27 (†CT), and the third was found on the upper S.P.R., Nov. 30 (†CH, DK, TC). A very early Hammond's Flycatcher was reported just s. of St. David July 28 (DK, TC). Encouraging was an additional report of one to two Buff-breasted Flycatchers above Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mts., Aug. 17 (†D. Holway). Reports from this range have been increasing during the past one to 2 years. An E. Phoebe on the upper S.P.R., Sept. 6 (DK) and another at Picacho Res., Nov. 1 (GM, DL) were the only ones reported. A late W. Kingbird was reported from Arivaca Nov. 16 (CG); any kingbird in November requires written details. Two E. Kingbirds were reported for the period, one at Ft. Huachuca Aug. 6 (BF) and another at Many Farms L., Sept. 28 (JS). While the Many Farms

bird is somewhat expected, there are still very few records for s.e. Arizona.

JAYS THROUGH SHRIKES — The only report of Pinyon Jay away from n. Arizona was of a flock of about 100 near Rye Sept. 13 (J. & W. Spencer). There were two lowland reports of Red-breasted Nuthatch—one was at Tonapah, w. of Phoenix, Oct. 23 (M. Jakle) and the other was at Green Valley Nov. 3 (D. Garver). Really surprising was the discovery of a dead Pygmy Nuthatch in n.w. Phoenix Oct. 23 (TC). Lowland records for this species are almost nonexistent. Equally unusual was an Am. Dipper at B.T.A. from Nov. 8 at least through the end of the period (CT, RF). This is the first record for this area and one of few records for the lowlands.

Golden-crowned Kinglets were scarce in the lowlands this fall with the only reports being of one on the upper S.P.R., Nov. 2 (DK) and five at B.T.A., Oct. 29–Nov. 11 (CT *et al.*). A Black-tailed Gnatcatcher along Silver Creek, Chiricahua Mts., Aug. 14 was in a new locality (RT). An imm. Townsend's Solitaire along S. Fork, Cave Cr. Canyon, Aug. 3 could have indicated breeding in the Chiricahuas (CD). A scarce lowland report of this species was of a single bird in Ahwatukee, s. of Phoenix, Oct. 3–7 (PB). Two individual Aztec Thrushes were reported: one ad. male photographed along S. Fork, Cave Cr. Canyon, Aug. 11 was the first for the Chiricahuas (ph. B. Tintle), and another ad. male in Madera Canyon Aug. 13–17 (†J. Cooper, ph. R. Behrstock *et al.*) was the 5th for that area. All but two of the previous records have been in this time period—between late July and early September.

Amazing, if accurate, was the report of an ad. N. Shrike at Nogales Oct. 4 (†JS, BS). The date and the locality make this record difficult to believe.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A pleasant surprise was a singing ♂ White-eyed Vireo at B.T.A., Sept. 6 (RF, †RN *et al.*); this bird obliged Arizona birders by remaining in the area until Sept. 22 (CT). This was about the 5th state record. Also at B.T.A. was a Gray Vireo Sept. 27, which was a local first record and also a bit late (RF). A late Warbling Vireo was also there Nov. 2 (SGa). Three Red-eyed Vireos reported for the period included one at Madera Canyon Aug. 19 (M & KL), another at Sanders Aug. 31 (RF *et al.*), and a 3rd at Ganado Oct. 11 (JS).

A Tennessee Warbler was found in Sabino Canyon Sept. 19 (WR), another was on the upper S.P.R., Sept. 24–25 (†DK), a 3rd was e. of Tucson Nov. 9 (JBo), and a 4th was near Nogales Nov. 20 (KK, LHK). The only Chestnut-sided Warbler reported was one at Ahwatukee Sept. 26–28 (PB *et al.*). An ad. ♂ Magnolia Warbler was a nice surprise on the Verde R., e. of Phoenix, Oct. 9 (†TG, R. Mesta). An almost unbelievable four (one male and three female) Black-throated Blue Warblers were observed at St. Johns Oct. 5 (B. Heap). All previous records have been of single birds. Two Black-throated Green Warblers showed up in the Prescott area, one Sept. 8 (CT) and a male s. of Prescott Sept. 20 (BT). A Yellow-throated Warbler, a very sparse migrant in the state, was found in Madera Canyon Aug. 3 (†RT, C. Robbins *et al.*); another individual was found n. of Cordes Jct., Prescott Nat'l Forest Aug. 17 (†JBu). A very probable ad. Pine Warbler was observed on the unusual date of Aug. 11 in Bisbee (†DD); if accepted, it would provide the first record for this species in the state.

Again, as last fall, a few reports of Louisiana Waterthrush were received for early August. One was found at Patagonia Aug. 2 (†W. Weber, W. Neilly, D. Maynard *et al.*); and another one was found in Madera Canyon Aug. 20 (R. Helton). These were the 3rd and 4th records this year between mid-July and mid-August. A real surprise was the imm. **Mourning Warbler** found at Becker L., Springerville, Aug. 31 (†DSj *et al.*); this was the 2nd year in a row that this species has been found in Apache County. Three Hooded Warblers were found during the period: the individual in Bisbee (since June) remained to Aug. 6 (DD), a female was found in Eagar Sept. 27 (DSj, JS), and another one was found in Molino Basin, Santa Catalina Mts., Nov. 1–6 (J & AP *et al.*).

Five Black-and-white Warblers, 10 Am. Redstarts, and nine N. Waterthrushes were reported, all more than usual.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — A late Summer Tanager was found in a yard in Tempe Nov. 6 (CH). Only one Rose-breasted Grosbeak was reported for the entire period—a male on the upper S.P.R., Oct. 20 (†DK). A Rose-breasted x Black-headed Grosbeak hybrid was at a Portal feeder during the first week of October (S & WS). Certainly out of place was the ♂ Varied Bunting at Becker L., Aug. 30–31 (RF *et al.*); this was the first record of this species n. of the Mogollon Rim. Two ♂ Painted Buntings were found at the Buenos Aires N.W.R., Sept. 20–23 (MAC, m.ob.). Once again Dickcissels were found during mid-September in n.e. Arizona: one at Becker L., Sept. 20 and two at Concho L., Sept. 21 (RN, RF).

A ♂ Black-chinned Sparrow at Hart Tank in the Sierra Pinta, Cabeza Prieta N.W.R., Sept. 1 was certainly unexpected (J. Dunning, S. Vetault). A nice yard bird was a Five-striped Sparrow in Sasabe, w. of Nogales, Aug. 31 (MAC). It is interesting to note that Five-striped Sparrow can wander from its usual haunts from time to time. The only Fox Sparrows reported were singles e. of Tucson Nov. 20 (*fide* JBa) and at Patagonia in late November (KK, m.ob.). A Swamp Sparrow at the Snyder Hill sewage ponds Nov. 11 (JBo) and another near St. David Nov. 13 (DK) were the only ones reported. Two White-throated Sparrows in Ash Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Nov. 1 (J. & B. Epler) and another bird at a Portal feeder Nov. 15–19 (S & WS) were the only ones found. A Golden-crowned Sparrow was observed along the Santa Cruz R., s. of Green Valley, Oct. 4 (JS, BS). An ad. Harris' Sparrow was photographed at Ganado L., Nov. 11 (ph. D. Cleary) and another imm. bird was seen at B.T.A., Nov. 11–28 (CT). Unusual were nine Chestnut-collared Longspurs near Sells Nov. 19 (GM); it is out of character for the species to be in this area.

A nice surprise while looking for one of the Green Kingfishers on the upper S.P.R., was the discovery of an ad. Rusty Blackbird Nov. 30 (†CH, DK *et al.*); Rusty Blackbird is a very sparse winter visitor to the state. A flock of 18 Great-tailed Grackles at Nelson Res., Apache Co., Nov. 9 was considered quite late for n.e. Arizona (GM, TH). An Orchard Oriole was found in a Tucson yard Sept. 14 (RBr).

Entirely unexpected was a Pine Grosbeak near Strawberry, n.w. of Payson, Aug. 19 (B. Burch); this area is not near any known breeding locality in the state. Interesting was the recapture of a banded Purple Finch in Bear Canyon, Santa Catalina Mts., Nov. 11 (B. Dunning); the bird was thought to have been banded in the same area in 1985. The only lowland Cassin's Finch report was of a male at Sunflower, n. of Phoenix, Oct. 8 (H. Longstreth). Since this was not an invasion year, it was surprising to learn of a small flock of Lawrence's Goldfinches (up to 16) at B.T.A., Oct. 27+ (CT); this was the only report for the state. An Evening Grosbeak was at Portal Sept. 2 (TM) and a flock of 20 was found at Canoa Ranch Sept. 6 (TM). Two more individuals were found in Elk Canyon, Baboquivari Mts., Oct. 25 (CG). Evening Grosbeaks were also passing through in ones and twos at B.T.A. during October and November (CT).

ADDENDUM — An imm. ♂ Philadelphia Vireo was found (a roadkill) Oct. 5, 1985 in n.w. Tucson (* to Univ. of Ariz.).

CONTRIBUTORS (Area compilers in boldface) — Charles Babbitt, **John Bates** (JBa, Tucson), Pat Beall, Ed Bessler, Jerry Bock (JBo), Robert Bradley (RBr), Josh Burns (JBu), Mary Ann Chapman, Troy Corman, Doug Danforth, Chris Danzenbaker, William Davis, Tom Deeken, John Drewick, Ben Feltner, Richard Ferguson, Shawneen Finnegan, Harold & Agnes Gaither, Steve Ganley (SGa), Tom Gatz, Sharon Goldwasser (SGo), Clive Green, Bill Harrington-Tweit, Armas Hill, Tom Huels, Chuck Hunter, **Betty Jackson** (Globe), Kenn Kaufman, Lynn H. Kaufman, **Dave Krueper** (upper S.P.R.), Dwight Lee, Paul Lehman, Merrill & Karen Lynch, Scott Mills, Gale Monson, **Arnold Moorhouse** (Huachuca Mts. & McNeal), Terry Morgan, Robert Norton, Jeff & Amy Price, Will Russell, John Saba, **Sally Spofford** (Portal), Walter Spofford, Bill

Sutton, Rick Taylor, Dave Thayer, Bob Thomen, Carl Tomoff (Prescott), Robert Witzeman.—DAVID STEJSKAL (DSj), 229½ W. Turney Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85013; JANET WITZEMAN, 4619 E. Arcadia Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85018.

M. Fletcher).