

(9), Ann Means (35), Jack Merchant (5), Brandon Percival (23), Bert Raynes (35), Robert Rothe (10), Terry Sadler (15), Ella Sorensen (Utah Editor, 3868 Marsha Drive, West Valley City UT 84120).

Contributors: Lu Bainbridge, Jay Banta, Helen Downing, Margaret Ewing, Rob Fergus, Jewel Gifford, Dave Hallock, Steve Hedges, Craig Kneedy, Jeff Mackay (JMa), Kim Potter, J. C. Rigli, George and Melodie San Miguel, Alan Schmierer, V. A. Smith, John Spence, Janeal Thompson, Dennis Trousedale, Alan Versaw.

Cited Observers: J. Caler, D. Craig, C. Cushman, L. Danielson, B. Dickson, G. Dunphy, D. Ely, D. Engard, G. Evans, P. Flynn, D. George, S. Knowles, C. LaRue, F. & L. Layton, D. Leatherman, P. Monaco, V. Mowbray, D. Nelson, C. Orr, D. Roth, R. Schageter, B. Spencer, V. & L. Truan, Utah Div. of Wildlife Resources (U.D.W.R.), B. Washnock, M. Wright.
—Hugh E. Kingery, 869 Milwaukee Street, Denver CO 80206.

Southwest Region-Arizona

**DAVID STEJSKAL, CHRIS D. BENESH,
AND GARY H. ROSENBERG**

In contrast to most of the country, the southern half of Arizona generally experienced a very mild winter. This was exemplified by the presence of several species normally absent during this season (e.g. Bell's Vireo), and others that lingered farther north than usual (e.g. Turkey Vulture). In addition, several species appeared in the state weeks ahead of their expected spring arrival dates, including four species of warblers that all appeared in the third week of February. Regional highlights included Arizona's third Glaucous Gull, as well as several persisting rarities (e.g. Eared Trogon, Crescent-chested Warbler, and Tufted Duck), which were all relocated during the period.

Abbreviations: A.B.C. (*Arizona Bird Committee*); B.A.N.W.R. (*Buenos Aires N.W.R.*); B.T.A. (*Boyce Thompson Arboretum*); L.C.R.V. (*Lower Colorado R. Valley*); G.F.P. (*Gila Farms Pond*); M.F.L. (*Many Farms Lake*); N.I.R. (*Navajo Indian Reservation*); P.A.P. (*Pinal Air Park*); P.R.D. (*Painted Rock Dam*); S.P.R. (*San Pedro R.*); S.T.P. (*Sewage Treatment Plant*)

Loons to Waterfowl

A Pacific Loon at P.R.D., possibly one of the individuals reported there during the fall, was present Jan. 23 (DE). Another imm. bird was found at Lee's Ferry near Page Jan. 16+ (†CL). This may represent the first winter record for n. Arizona east of L. Mead. A Horned Grebe at Picacho Res.,

Dec. 12 (PM) was the only one reported. One hundred W. Grebes on San Carlos Res., Jan. 16 was an unusually high concentration away from the L.C.R.V. (MS). More impressive were as many as 1000 Am. White Pelicans at P.R.D. through the period (m.ob.). This is the highest winter concentration ever recorded in Arizona, and numbers this year rivaled those of established wintering areas in the West. Following recent large summer influxes of Brown Pelicans, a few imm. birds have been found during winter. This year was no exception with one–two birds at P.R.D. throughout the period (m.ob.), another at Arizona City Dec. 26–Feb. 21 (MS), and yet another in s.w. Phoenix Jan. 16 (*fide* SGA). Numbers of Neotropical Cormorants at Patagonia L. (where they are now regular) built up from a single bird Jan. 3 to a high of eight by the end of the period (MS *et al.*). More unusual was a single bird at P.R.D., Dec. 24–Jan. 16 (TC *et al.*). There are still only a handful of records for this species in s.w. Arizona.

Once again large numbers of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were found in the Chandler area. One hundred thirty-five Black-bellieds were present through the period at Ocotillo (RJ *et al.*). The only report of Tundra Swan came from Imperial N.W.R., Jan. 9–21 (D. Todd *et al.*). An ad. Trumpeter Swan present through January at Howard L., 30 mi s. of the Grand Canyon, was fitted with a collar that read "Green River, Utah" (R. Birkeland, *fide* TC). This represents only the 2nd report of this species in Arizona and will be evaluated by the A.B.C. Other than birds recorded on CBCs, the only Greater White-fronted Geese reported were singles at Willow L. near Prescott Dec. 18–21 (BT, CT) and in Chandler Dec. 24–Jan. 9 (RJ, MC *et al.*). There are very few winter records of Snow Goose from n. Arizona, so a single bird at Page



throughout the period was noteworthy (C. Pinnock, CL). Single Ross' Geese were reported from Scottsdale Dec. 5–19 (RJ, DE *et al.*) and Chandler Jan. 23 (*fide* SGA); this is an average number during winter. A flock of 1341 Canada Geese in the Chino Valley Dec. 24 was noteworthy (CT). Male Eur. Wigeons found during the fall at the Phoenix Zoo and McCormick Ranch in Scottsdale remained through the period (m.ob.). Elsewhere in Scottsdale, a different male was observed in late February (*fide* SGA). A male present since fall in Prescott was last seen Jan. 5 (*fide* CT), while the male found last fall in Nogales was present through Jan. 1 (*fide* CW). Additionally, another male was found near Chandler Dec. 10, and remained through the period (m.ob.). An Am. x Eur. Wigeon was found at Kino Springs Feb. 23 (SM). This is probably the same individual first found there in winter 1990–1991 and seen again in 1992–1993. The ♂ **Tufted Duck**, first found last winter, returned to the same pond in Mesa in November, remaining until at least Dec. 18 (m.ob.). One of the ♂ Greater Scaup reported from the fall near Chandler remained until Dec. 11 (SGa). Additional single males were found at Snyder Hill S.T.P., Dec. 19 (MS), and at P.R.D. Jan. 23–30 (DE, *et al.*). This species is a rare winter visitor throughout the state. A ♂ Surf Scoter at Lee's Ferry Jan. 30 was thought to be the same bird first found there—and continuously present since—September 1991 (CL, C. Pinnock)! The imm. White-winged Scoter found in Kayenta in late November was present until Jan. 28 (CL), while another was found on Martinez L., L.C.R.V., Jan. 25 (*fide* JW). Besides the normal scattering of small groups and single Hooded Mergansers, a high concentration of 54 Hoodeds was found at Arrowhead Ranch in n.w. Phoenix Jan. 1 (TC). Up to 30 Barrow's Goldeneyes was a noteworthy concentration along the Colorado R. below Glen Canyon Dam (*fide* SGA). In recent years this species has become scarce at traditional winter sites such as Davis and Parker dams; therefore the birds below Glen Canyon Dam may represent a northward shift of the wintering population.

Vultures to Terns

Reports of Black Vultures away from Mexican border areas included 12 at P.A.P. pecan grove Dec. 3–11 (GHe), one there Jan 12 (PM), two at Picacho Res., Dec. 20 (MS), four in the Avra Valley w. of Tucson Jan. 4–7 (J. Coss, J. Martin), and seven s.w. of Phoenix Jan. 9 (D. Rosey). A Turkey Vulture, away from normal winter haunts, was in Sedona Jan. 6–20 (S. Clemenz, H. Haas). The Turkey Vulture is essentially unknown in winter n. of Phoenix. Reports of nearly 28

White-tailed Kites from scattered localities across s. Arizona were encouraging; most reports came from the lower Gila R. Valley. A color-banded N. Goshawk found near Willcox Jan. 19 was likely an ad. female banded summer 1992 in the Coconino N.F. near Flagstaff (M. Scott, B. Bush). Red-shouldered Hawks have been recorded in 7 of the last 8 winters. This year single birds included an immature in Skull Valley, w. of Prescott, Dec. 8 (†B. Pranter, †BT, *fide* CT), an adult in s.w. Phoenix Jan. 8 (CBa), and an immature from the Arivaca Cienega Jan. 12 (†W. Anderson). There are now about 20 state records, most occurring within the past ten years. An exceptionally early sub-ad. dark-morph Swainson's Hawk was seen at P.A.P. pecan grove Feb. 27 (DS), about 2–3 weeks earlier than normal. Extremely unusual for winter were two Zone-tailed Hawks reported from P.A.P. pecan grove. The first involved an adult Dec. 3–11 (GHe), and later an imm. bird Dec. 25–mid-February (GHe, JK). A Rough-legged Hawk seen s.w. of Buckeye Jan. 23 (RJ, JJ) was somewhat s.w. of its normal winter range in Arizona. A Crested Caracara observed at the P.A.P. pecan grove Jan. 12 was n.e. of this species normal range in the state (PM).

A Black-bellied Plover at P.R.D., Dec. 26 probably represents only the 2nd winter record ever for the state. Sixteen Am. Avocets at P.R.D. the same day was a very high number (MS). Very rare were two Lesser Yellowlegs Jan. 23 (S. Burge, R&JW); most of the recent winter records have come from this area. A Sanderling present at the Chandler S.T.P. since fall remained through Jan. 13 (m.ob.). This is the 2nd winter in the past 3 that a Sanderling has attempted to winter at this locality, possibly representing the same individual. A single W. Sandpiper, quite rare in winter, lingered at Snyder Hill S.T.P. until Dec. 19 (MS); a number of recent winter records are from there. A single Least Sandpiper at Page Springs Jan. 7 provided one of the few winter records for n. Arizona (A. Thornburg). A Long-billed Dowitcher at Willow L., near Prescott, Jan. 3 was slightly more unusual (BT). These 2 records might indicate the mildness of the season. Two reports of single Wilson's Phalaropes were received without details, the first at Gilbert S.T.P., Dec. 4 (C. Clark), and a 2nd in Chandler Dec. 24 (B. Ekblad). This species is almost unknown in North America during winter and should be fully documented.

Several interesting gulls were reported, the most significant being a first-winter **Glaucous Gull** at P.R.D., Dec. 24–Jan. 1 (ph. †CBa, †S. Stangeland, ph. †CDB *et al.*). Pending the decision by the A.B.C. on the Yuma winter 1992–1993 record, this represents only the 2nd or 3rd state record. An-

other rare gull was a single Black-legged Kittiwake Dec. 29 on the Gila R., n. of Gila Bend (JW, MC *et al.*); there are only 15 previous state records. Not quite in the same category was a Bonaparte's Gull, along with three Ring-billed and a California gull, in Prescott Dec. 19 (BT, CT). Two Bonaparte's were at P.R.D., Dec. 26–Jan. 8, with one remaining until Jan. 16 (RJ *et al.*). One–two first-winter Herring Gulls, first found in November, remained at P.R.D. until Jan. 23 (m.ob.). Two Forster's Terns were present at P.R.D., Dec. 24, with one remaining until at least Dec. 30 (TC, CDB *et al.*). This represents the first December record for *Maricopa*.

Pigeons to Woodpeckers

A single Band-tailed Pigeon in Cave Cr. n. of Scottsdale Nov. 6, provided a rare lowland record (L. Bustardi, E. Radke). Ruddy-Ground Doves again made a strong showing, with 11 reported throughout the s. part of the state. The female reported earlier at Paloma was present through Jan. 30 (m.ob.); the female at P.A.P. pecan grove was joined by two males Jan. 2 (MS); the male and female at Chandler were joined by two additional males through the period (m.ob.). Two additional birds were found s. of Ocotillo Dec. 24 (B. Ekblad), and another female was present at San Xavier Mission Feb. 12+ (RJ, m.ob.). No fewer than 18 Ruddy Ground-Doves were reported since the beginning of the fall. Western Screech-Owl is very occasionally reported from the N.I.R., so one found dead on Black Mesa Jan. 7 was noteworthy (CL). Highly unusual was a report of Com. Poorwill from suburban n. Phoenix Jan. 4 (L. Bustardi). A Broad-billed Hummingbird in n. Phoenix Dec. 28 was unexpected (B&R Larson). A Violet-crowned Hummingbird wintered for the 4th consecutive year in Bisbee (*fide* JW). Other single birds were reported from Patagonia Feb. 27 and s. of Patagonia Feb. 28 (SM), this was the 3rd consecutive year that Violet-crowns were found there in winter. An Anna's Hummingbird visiting a feeder in Prescott Feb. 1+ indicated the mildness of the season (RD Angus, *fide* L. Muehlbach). A migrant ♂ Rufous Hummingbird at Portal Feb. 28 was e. of its normal spring migration route (DJa). An imm. ♂ Elegant Trogon was present in Patagonia Jan. 18–Feb. 8 (K. Johnson, *et al.*). There are few winter records of this species in Arizona away from Sycamore Canyon, *Santa Cruz*. At least one Eared Trogon was reported sporadically from Ramsey Canyon throughout the period (v.o.). Two Green Kingfishers present through the period at Arivaca Cienega were from an area where seldom reported (m.ob.). Three Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported. The first was an immature at Lee's Ferry Jan. 16–30 (CL), another (age?) was reported from San Xavier

Mission Jan. 30+ (A. Swain, *et al.*), and an immature from lower Camp Cr., Feb. 5 (RB). A Red-breasted Sapsucker was reported from B.T.A., Jan. 29 to at least Feb. 26 (RJ, JJ, *et al.*). A 2nd sapsucker, found there in the fall and seen through the period, was thought by some to be genetically impure (CT *et al.*). This may be the same individual reported there in the fall of 1992. Another Red-breasted Sapsucker was discovered s. of Prescott Dec. 18 (CT). A "Yellow-shafted" Flicker was present through the period s. of Phoenix (P. Beall). This form has been under-reported since its merger with the other two North American flickers in the 1970's.

Flycatchers to Vireos

The Greater Pewee at the P.A.P. pecan grove since fall remained at least through Jan. 3 (GHe, EV). Three E. Phoebe reports were about average. One was along Arivaca Cr., Dec. 19 (GM), one at Cook's L. (D. Laush), and one at B.T.A. mid-January to at least Feb. 4 (CT, PM). A W. Kingbird reported from Oro Valley n. of Tucson Feb. 7 may have been a spring migrant, early by about 3 weeks (†J. Fitzgerald, *fide* CW). An Am. Crow seen s.w. of Phoenix along the Salt R., Dec. 4 (CBa, W. Thurber) was out-of-range. As many as 40 Red-breasted Nuthatches were present in Ramsey Canyon Jan. 2 (EV), representing an unusual concentration. An Am. Dipper present in Sycamore Canyon in the Pajarito Mts. w. of Nogales Dec. 29–Jan. 19 (EV, JBo, LD) was at an odd locale. The Mt. Bluebird invasion noted in s. Arizona in fall continued into winter, with reports from numerous locales, including a high concentration of 800–1000 along Reddington Pass e. of Tucson Dec. 13 (R. Kellman). A ♀ Varied Thrush in Madera Canyon Jan. 27 (LD) was the only report. A N. Shrike found in Prescott Valley Jan. 2 (†W. Anderson) was s.w. of most previous occurrences. Gray Catbird is rare away from breeding areas in the Springerville-Greer region, so one found at Kino Springs Dec. 15 (JK, CDB, C. Phillips) was noteworthy. Sage Thrashers were reported from numerous sites in s. Arizona (m.ob.), with a concentration of eight together at Muleshoe Ranch Preserve in the Galiuro Mts. in February (JWh). Large numbers were present in the juniper grasslands n. of the Verde Valley, n. of Chino Valley, and e. of Superior (CT). The only Brown Thrasher report was of one present at Paloma Ranch Dec. 24–early February (TC, *et al.*). A Curve-billed Thrasher discovered at Camp Verde Jan. 20 (H. Haas), was n. of this species normal range in Arizona. A Bell's Vireo found near Granite Reef Dam Dec. 17–26 was perhaps the 4th winter record for this species in state (M&P Larson *et al.*, ph. TC).

Wood Warblers

An Orange-crowned Warbler at Page

Spring Jan. 7 (M. Cantrell, T. Hurley) was n. of its normal winter range in state; this species is a facultative migrant that lingers farther north during mild winters. A Virginia's Warbler reported from Brown Canyon, B.A.N.W.R., Feb. 16 (J. North, *fide* TU) was one of several species reported during an apparent push of early migrants in mid-February. The **Crescent-chested Warbler** that returned to Patagonia for the 2nd consecutive winter was last reported Jan. 17 (*fide* DJo). A scarce winter visitant, a Yellow Warbler returned for a 2nd year to the Santa Cruz R., Tucson Dec. 22–26 (CDB, B. Benesh). The only report of Chestnut-sided Warbler was from Scottsdale Dec. 20 (A. Tarby, T. Chew *et al.*). The Cape May Warbler found during the fall in Tucson remained throughout the period (m.ob.). The Black-throated Blue Warbler found in Ramsey Canyon in late November was last seen Dec. 20 (*fide* JWh). Two Black-and-White Warblers were reported: singles at Rio Verde n. of Phoenix Dec. 12 (*fide* SGa) and at the Phoenix Zoo Jan. 1 (RJ). Another rare but regular winter visitor was an Am. Redstart at Patagonia Dec. 2–20 (B. Zimmer *et al.*). The Louisiana Waterthrush found at Madera Canyon during the fall remained there until at least Feb. 15 (PL). A molting ♂ MacGillivray's Warbler found in Tucson Feb. 15–Mar. 6 (†L. Fagan, DS) may have wintered locally, but probably was part of the early push of migrants mentioned above. Three Wilson's Warblers found in Brown Canyon, B.A.N.W.R., Feb. 16 (J. North, *fide* TU) were most likely very early migrants. In addition, one at the P.A.P. pecan grove Dec. 25 (GHe) probably represented a bird attempting to winter locally. Another species that arrived incredibly early was a Yellow-breasted Chat found along the lower Salt R. n.w. of Phoenix Feb. 16 (JoB). An Olive Warbler was discovered at Sunset Crater N.M., n. of Flagstaff, Mar. 6 (P. Scott, D. Hews). While n. and w. of its normal breeding range within the state, there is a continuous corridor of coniferous forest connecting this locality to the nearest known breeding areas along the Mogollon Rim.

Tanagers to Crossbills

For at least the 3rd consecutive winter, a ♂ Summer Tanager wintered at the Phoenix Zoo; it was present through mid-January (RJ *et al.*). A 2nd wintering male was located in Scottsdale in late January–Feb. 11 (ph. J. Bartley); this species is a sparse winter visitor to lower elevations in s. Arizona. Irregular in s.e. Arizona in winter was a Blue Grosbeak along Sonoita Creek near Patagonia Dec. 30 (EV). Single Golden-crowned Sparrows, scarce in s.e. Arizona, were re-

ported from Patagonia Dec. 30+ (EV *et al.*), and from the Phoenix Zoo Dec. 30+ (RJ, DE). Another at B.T.A. in the fall remained throughout the period (C. West, K. McBride, *fide* CT). Two McCown's Longspurs identified near Portal Jan. 2 (W. Russell) were e. of normal areas of occurrence in s.e. Arizona. A ♂ N. "Bullock's" Oriole at Prescott Jan. 18–21 (E&J Hollowell, †CT) was at an exceptionally high elevation; virtually all previous winter records have occurred at low elevations around Phoenix, Tucson, and the L.C.R.V. Three Red Crossbills were seen at Red Rock S.P., s.w. of Sedona Dec. 25 (A. Thornburg), and one was in Sycamore Canyon Dec. 29 (EV).

Contributors (Area compilers in

boldface): Charles Babbitt (CBa), Jerry Bock (JBo), Robert Bradley, Josh Burns (JoB), Matt Chew, John Coons (Flagstaff), Troy Corman, Louie Dombroski, Dave Esbaugh, Steve Ganley (SGa), **Virginia Gilmore** (Sedona), **Sharon Goldwasser** (SGo) (Tucson), George Hentz (GHe), **Dave Jasper** (DJa) (Portal), Dan Jones (DJo), Jill Jones, Roy Jones, Jeff Kingery, **Dave Krueper** (Sierra Vista), **Chuck LaRue** (Kayenta), Paul Lehman, Paul McQuarry, Steve Mlodinow, Gale Monson, **John Spencer** (Globe), Mark Stevenson, Bob Thomen, **Carl S. Tomoff** (Prescott), Thea Ulen, Eric VanderWerf, Greer Warren, **Jack Whetstone** (Sierra Vista), **Chuck Williamson** (Tucson), **Robert & Janet Witzeman** (Phoenix).

—David Stejskal, 5755 E. River Rd., Apt. 703, Tucson, AZ 85715; Chris D. Benesh, 2600 W. Ina Rd., Apt. 228, Tucson, AZ 85741; Gary H. Rosenberg, 8101 N. Wheatfield Dr., Tucson, AZ 85741.