

Southwest Region

Arizona

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This winter was characterized by very mild temperatures and healthy amounts of rainfall throughout the period. Numerous birders from around the United States flocked to the state as part of a much-traveled Ruddy Ground-Dove/Rufous-backed Robin/Streak-backed Oriole/Blue Mockingbird/Gray Silky-Flycatcher (El Paso, TX) loop; most generally met success (though the oriole proved elusive). A good number of frugivores and less-hardy insectivores graced the state, as did the first documented Least Grebe since the late 1970s, adding more excitement to the season for local birders. We also received some rare mid-winter data from the Beaver Dam Wash area in the extreme n.w. corner of Arizona, which shed some light on what is probably the least-birded area in the state.

Abbreviations: A.B.C. (*Arizona Bird Committee*); L.C.R.V. (*Lower Colorado R. Valley*); G.F.P. (*Gila Farms Pond*); M.F.L. (*Many Farms L.*); P.A.P. (*Pinal Air Park*); P. R. D. (*Painted Rock Dam*); S.P.R. (*San Pedro R.*);

S.T.P. (*sewage treatment plant*); S.W.R.S. (*Southwestern Research Station*); V.O.C. (*Village of Oak Cr.*).

Grebes to Herons

This season's report begins with the Region's first documented record of **Least Grebe** since 1978. After receiving an anonymous report of this species from Picacho Res. in December, it was finally confirmed Feb. 10 (NB) and was seen by many until Feb. 14 (ph. JiB, ph., †DE); there are only about 10 previous records of this species in the state. Single Horned Grebes were detected at Nogales S.T.P., Dec. 3–9 (JHi *et al.*) and at Ocotillo Jan. 16 (P. Beall), while the bird found at G.F.P. in late November remained until Dec. 18 (*vide* SGA). At least eight different W. Grebes at 4 non-breeding locations were found during December; no Clark's were found away from the L.C.R.V. this winter.

A flock of >300 Am. White Pelicans, down from last winter's total of >1000 individuals, was present at P.R.D. through most of the period (m.ob.); numbers dwindled to 130 by the end of January, and they were not reported from this location during February. Single individuals were found below Glen Canyon Dam Jan. 30 (JS, CP), representing the first winter record for n. Arizona; another was along the Verde R. below Camp Verde Feb. 27 (T. Lynda), which may represent an early spring arrival. The Brown Pelican that lingered during the fall at P.R.D. remained there throughout the winter (m.ob.). One of the Neotropic Cormorants that was present at P.R.D. for much of 1994 was still present there Feb. 18 (m.ob.). Small numbers of this species were again present throughout the period at Patagonia L.

A Least Bittern heard at Patagonia L., Dec. 6 (N. Wamer) was most likely a very late migrant, whereas one found at Picacho

Res., Feb. 12 (JBo) probably represented a wintering individual. Rare in s.e. Arizona in winter away from Picacho Res., a single Great Egret was at Patagonia L., Jan. 8 (EV).

Waterfowl

Tundra Swans are rarely reported from n. Arizona during any season, therefore three adults at Cow Springs L., Dec. 1–3, three more at M.F.L., Dec. 16–Feb. 11, and six immatures there Jan. 26–Feb. 11 (all CL) were of interest. We were again tantalized by reports of Trumpeter Swans in Arizona this winter; an adult with a neck-collar along with an imm. bird were reported from Kirkland beginning in mid-December (R. Houser, B. Sullivan), with the adult remaining until at least Dec. 30; another immature was reported from Willow Tank s. of Portal Dec. 20–Jan. 10 (*vide* DJ). Although the identity of the adult with the neck-collar is certainly a Trumpeter and its origin is known (a recent reintroduction program in Wyoming), we have received no documentation regarding the imm. birds, and their identification and origin must remain suspect. The single Greater White-fronted Geese that were located during the fall in Tucson and Arizona City both remained through the period; one found at Payson Dec. 22 (J. Jasper) provided a first local winter record and one of the few winter sightings away from traditional wintering areas in the state. Small numbers of Snow Geese were reported during the winter, but three at Camp Verde Dec. 12, two the same day at L. Montezuma (both H. Haas), a single at Flagstaff through much of the period (*vide* JC), and a flock of 30 at Miami (JSp) were all in areas where this species is seldom reported. No fewer than 13 Ross' Geese, far more than usual, were reported statewide; exceptional was one in n. Arizona at M.F.L., Dec. 4, and another there Feb. 10 (CL). In anticipation of the possible future split of large and small Canada Geese, it is worthwhile to note a single "Cackling"-type Goose in a flock of 155 large Canada Geese at M.F.L., Jan. 28 (†CL); there are very few reports of this form from Arizona.

Very early returning, or wintering, ♂ Blue-winged Teals included singles at Willcox Dec. 21 (K. Burton) and Tucson Dec. 22 (MS), and two more were at Kino Springs Jan. 21 (SE). Eurasian Wigeons were reported from the Nogales area, where at least two males and another hybrid male were present throughout the period, and from the Phoenix area where individual males spent the winter at Scottsdale and at Ocotillo (m.ob.). A ♀ wigeon in Nogales, showing features of both Am. and Eur. wigeons, was of interest in light of the number of hybrid male wigeons which appear in N. America (†CDB). The ♂ **Tufted Duck** that returned



2 consecutive winters to a series of ponds in Mesa was found for its 3rd consecutive winter Feb. 27 and remained until at least Mar. 29 (m.ob.). Greater Scaup were reported much more widely than usual; one of the three reported from Fountain Hills during the fall remained there until Jan. 23 (SGa), another was at Arrowhead Ranch in n.w. Phoenix Jan. 1 (SGa), a female was reported from Nogales Jan. 5 (EV), another male was at the Sierra Vista S.T.P., Jan. 30 (SH), and yet another was at Avondale Feb. 26 (*fide* SGa). In addition to these single birds, we received a remarkable report of 87 recorded during waterfowl surveys between Glen Canyon Dam and Lee's Ferry on the Colorado R., Dec. 30 (JS, CP); unfortunately, none of the Greater Scaups seen this winter were documented! These same waterfowl surveys produced an astounding 76 Barrow's Goldeneye Dec. 30, and a ♀ Oldsquaw and a ♀ White-winged Scoter Feb. 27 (both JS, CP). A very high count for the N.I.R. was 51 Com. Goldeneye at Kayenta Jan. 16 (CL). A pair of Hooded Mergansers was seen throughout much of the period in Flagstaff, where they are rare at any season (*fide* JC).

Vultures to Gulls

Forty Black Vultures at P.A.P., Feb. 25 (GH) was a large concentration for this species n. of Nogales. In the same area, two–four Turkey Vultures successfully wintered (EV *et al.*), and another lingering individual was seen near Washington Camp, Patagonia Mts., Dec. 11 (GR); neither of these areas are known wintering grounds for this species. Another individual found e. of Red Rock, Pinal, Feb. 12 (GH) may have been an early spring arrival. An Osprey at Peck's L., Feb. 8 was at an unusual location for winter (AT). A total of 16 White-tailed Kites, about average for a winter, were found around Arizona; of particular note was one found at Bridgeport, Verde Valley, Feb. 11, and, amazingly, one from Homolovi Ruins S.P. near Winslow Feb. 24, which established the first n. Arizona record (VG). Unprecedented numbers of Bald Eagles were seen at and near Mormon L., s. of Flagstaff throughout much of the period, with a high count of 119 individuals (*ca.* 70% adults) being tallied in mid-February. Numbers dropped off sharply after that, and the eagles were gone by the end of March (*fide* JC).

Rarely reported from the lowlands, a N. Goshawk was seen along the upper S.P.R., Feb. 24 (SH). Two "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawks were found in the Region; one returned for at least the 3rd consecutive winter in the Sulphur Springs Valley near McNeal, and another was at P.A.P. throughout the period (m.ob.). More unusual was a report of an ad. "Krider's" Red-tailed seen near Pica-

cho Jan. 24 (DS, C&C Pomarius), possibly representing only the 3rd report from Arizona. Last fall's Rough-legged Hawk found in the Marana area remained there throughout the winter (m.ob.), and another one was found in the San Rafael Valley Feb. 13 (SH). A Crested Caracara, found during the fall season, was n. and e. of its normal range in Arizona at P.A.P., and remained there until Dec. 2 (BJ, MH).

A Clapper Rail found at Picacho Res., Feb. 12 (JBo) provided one of only a few winter records of this species for this locality. A Sora found at Tuba City Jan. 29 (CL) furnished a first winter record for n. Arizona.

The Mt. Plover flock found in the recently discovered sod fields near Friendly Corners this fall grew to about 50 individuals by the end of the period (NB, m.ob.). This species has wintered in the Sulphur Springs Valley near Elfrida for several years, but a high count of >250 Jan. 24 (DS *et al.*) may have represented the largest concentration ever of this species in Arizona. Five Black-necked Stilts near Eloy Dec. 15 (DS), and another two along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson Dec. 26 (GR, MS) constituted two of only a handful of winter reports for s.e. Arizona. In Arizona, Am. Avocets normally only winter in the Phoenix area, so five at the Sierra Vista S.T.P. throughout the period were unanticipated (JWh). A flock of 24 Long-billed Curlews in s.w. Phoenix Dec. 11 probably represented wintering birds (CBa, *et al.*). Another larger flock of 50–90 birds was present Jan. 7+ in the Arizona City area (NB *et al.*). As is the norm, a few W. Sandpipers were found: as many as eight were at Snyder Hill S.T.P. through much of the period (MS), one was on the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson Dec. 25 (MS), another was at the sod farm near Friendly Corners Jan. 19 (PL *et al.*), and yet another was photographed at the Nogales S.T.P., Feb. 9 (GR). Unusual for n. Arizona during the winter months, at least five Com. Snipes were discovered in Pasture Canyon near Tuba City Jan. 29 (CL).

Single Bonaparte's Gulls, casual at best in the s.e. during the winter, were found: one at Sells Dec. 25 (K. Burton) and another at Nogales S.T.P., Jan. 5 (EV).

Doves to Woodpeckers

One–two Ruddy Ground-Doves that were first found in November were seen sporadically at Paloma Ranch w. of Gila Bend until Jan. 20 (PL *et al.*). Additionally, one–two Ruddies frequented the P.A.P. pecan grove Jan. 20–Feb. 16 (m.ob., †CDB, ph. DS). Surprising was a lowland record of N. Saw-whet Owl from the B.T.A., Dec. 16+ (m.ob, ph. BZ). Another was discovered in remote Alcove Canyon at the s. end of the Carrizo

Mts., Apache, Dec. 11 (CL). Very intriguing was a report of *Buff-collared Nightjar* from Guadalupe Canyon Jan. 28 (†B. Kerr); if accepted by the A.B.C., this would represent a first winter record for N. America. The only report this winter of Broad-billed Hummingbird (surprising in such a mild winter) came from a feeder in Green Valley Jan 9–10 (LV, EV). An imm. Violet-crowned Hummingbird visited a feeder in n.w. Tucson Jan. 25+ (J&K Friar), and two returned rather early to the feeders in Patagonia Feb 2 (m.ob.); this species has become increasingly regular in winter in s.e. Arizona. Blue-throated Hummingbird has become regular in winter in Ramsey and Cave-Cr. canyons, but is seldom reported elsewhere during the winter in s.e. Arizona; therefore, a female wintering in Madera Canyon Jan. 10+ was noteworthy (EV *et al.*). Almost unprecedented in c. Arizona during the winter months, a ♂ Magnificent Hummingbird visited a feeder s. of Globe Feb. 20 (E. Jeter)

The wayward Green Kingfisher that made its way to Reid Park in Tucson during the fall was seen sporadically by many throughout the period. The only Yellow-bellied Sapsucker found was an ad. female at Rio Verde Jan. 7+ (TC *et al.*). The status of Red-breasted Sapsucker in Arizona remains somewhat muddled due to disagreement over what characters are indicative of hybrid birds. This has resulted in the widespread belief that most of the reports from the state actually refer to hybrids. This winter, two such suspect birds were seen by many at Green Valley from the fall to Jan. 11 (MS *et al.*) and at B.T.A. throughout the period (m.ob.); although the consensus is that both these individuals were indeed Red-breasted, no photographs accompanied any of the submitted reports. Yet another record of Red-breasted Sapsucker of the race *daggetti* came from Arivaca Dec. 18 (TH, GM). Wintering at an unusually low elevation for the species was a ♂ Williamson's Sapsucker that spent the entire period at B.T.A. (m.ob.). The only report this winter of the "Yellow-shafted" form of N. Flicker came from Patagonia Dec. 15 (LD).

Flycatchers to Shrikes

Three different Greater Pewees were found in the lowlands, lending further proof to the mildness of the winter: the P.A.P. pecan grove bird from the fall remained until Dec 26 (m.ob.), one was in Patagonia Dec. 18 (WR, CDB), and another was at Evergreen Cemetery in Tucson Dec. 26–Feb. 9 (JH, BJ, MH). Another indication of the mild winter was a Dusky Flycatcher found at Page Springs on the Sedona CBC (*fide* JC) that remained there until Feb. 2 (†CL, J. Grahame); this appears to be only the 2nd winter report from c. Arizona. "Western"-type

flycatchers are extremely scarce during winter anywhere in the state, therefore two calling Pacific-slope Flycatchers, one Dec. 11 in s.w. Phoenix (CBA *et al.*) and another at Rio Verde Jan. 7–28 (TC, SGa, ph. DS), and another non-calling bird left unidentified in n.c. Phoenix Jan. 28 (ph. DS, SGa), were of great interest. Two Black Phoebes found at Beaver Dam Wash in the extreme n.w. corner of the state Jan. 13 (SS) provided one of the few local winter reports. The only sighting of E. Phoebe in s. Arizona was of one found throughout the period at B.T.A. (m.ob.). Another bird found at an unusually high elevation in c. Arizona was a Vermilion Flycatcher found at Page Springs Jan. 10 (DT, CL *et al.*); there are only a few records of this lowland species n. of the Phoenix and Parker areas during winter.

A Tree Swallow at M.F.L., Dec. 24 (CL) provided the first winter record of *any* species of swallow for n. Arizona. Three Violet-green Swallows arrived somewhat early at Picacho Res., Feb. 8 (TH, GM). Four Barn Swallows at P.R.D., Jan. 20 (PL, M. O'Brien) would be remarkably early for spring migrants, and are probably best considered wintering birds; the only prior record of this species in January was of a lingering bird from the fall in Tucson Jan. 1, 1987. At least 200 Am. Crows were present at Beaver Dam Wash Jan. 13 (SS), constituting the first local record for this poorly covered area. Hermit Thrush is virtually unrecorded in winter from n. Arizona, so one at Beaver Dam Wash Jan. 13 (SS), and three more at Dinnehotso Jan. 28 (CL) were unanticipated. The Rufous-backed Robin first reported in the fall from B.T.A. was present throughout the period and was seen by many. Another Rufous-backed Robin was reported from a Tucson yard in mid-December (M. Foster).

SA If you are a western birder and were wondering why your Am. Robins numbers were down this winter, we have a pretty good clue. As LaRue commented, "BIG numbers in the Wupatki/Sunset Crater region juniper woodlands reportedly present since October. On Feb. 5, I estimated a one-way arrival rate at the Wupatki S.T.P. of 34,000/hour (a truly unbelievable spectacle)! A few miles south, birds (appearing to be commuting to snowbanks on cinder cones) were passing at an estimated 144,000/hour. National Park Service personnel said that the flights had been like this daily throughout the winter." An invasion of Am. Robins of this magnitude has never before been recorded within Arizona, and those of us who missed this thrilling sight are unlikely to witness it again.

Rarely reported during the winter months, a Gray Catbird in Portal Feb. 9 (DJ) was a good find (but not the best mimid in the area by a long shot!). Individual Brown Thrashers were recorded during mid-December, but could not be relocated subsequently: one put in an appearance in n. e. Tucson Dec. 17 (*fide* LD), and another was found at Patagonia Dec. 18 (DKa). Another bird which has gone almost entirely unrecorded in the winter in n. Arizona is Crissal Thrasher. This winter, one–three birds were found in appropriate breeding habitat on Black Mesa Dec. 21–Feb. 2, while another was found near Cameron Jan. 29, where one was present in late January 1992 (both CL). The prize of the winter for many was the **Blue Mockingbird** discovered in Portal Jan. 4 (B. Tapp, m.ob.); it remained in a very localized area throughout the period. In the minds of these editors, this 2nd documented record for Arizona and the United States helps eliminate most, if not all, lingering doubt associated with the origin of the first Blue Mockingbird from Patagonia in 1991–1992.

Ten N. Shrikes in the Kayenta/Black Mesa region of n.e. Arizona was a slightly better than average showing for the period (CL).

Warblers to Finches

Two different N. Parulas were located. The first was a female at Granite Reef Dam Dec. 18–Jan. 22 (SGa, RJ *et al.*, ph. RD). Another was upstream at Blue Pt. Ranger Station Jan. 19 (D. Frank). A Yellow Warbler was reported on the Salt-Verde R. CBC near Ft. McDowell Dec. 19 (J. Buggs *et al.*). Four individual Black-and-white Warblers were found, with two on the Verde R., e. of Phoenix, Dec. 19 (TC *et al.*), one at Cook's L., Dec. 31 (R. Dummer, D. Laush), and another in n.e. Tucson Feb. 6 (S. Germain). Unprecedented for winter in Arizona was a ♂ Hooded Warbler frequenting a backyard bird bath in n. Phoenix Dec. 12–Mar. 6 (A&M Elliott, ph. RD). A Wilson's Warbler at Patagonia Feb. 7 (J. Cooper) was a bit too early to be thought of as an premature spring arrival, and in light of the mildness of the winter, probably represented a local winterer. A Summer Tanager was observed in c. Phoenix Dec. 25 (D. Rosie); this is the 4th consecutive winter that this species has been found in the Phoenix area. A remarkably late first-year ♂ Scarlet Tanager was seen and photographed near Patagonia Dec. 18 (J. Nance, MS, ph. DKa). This represents the first documented December record for Arizona and one of only a handful for winter in N. America. A young ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak, the first winter record for the state since 1988, visited a feeder in n.e. Phoenix Jan. 26–27 (L. Drolet, *fide*

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RBr). Slightly less rare during winter, a ♀ Blue Grosbeak made an appearance at Patagonia Feb. 17–26 (LD). While Dickcissel is a rare but regular fall migrant in the state, there are only 3 previous winter records, all for s. Arizona prior to 1978, thus one frequenting the V.O.C. area Jan 3–Feb. 27 (B. Turner, AT) was an exceptional find. Always noteworthy, two Am Tree Sparrows were detected at M. F. L., Dec. 24 (CL). Single Swamp Sparrows at Tavasci Marsh, near Cottonwood Dec. 1 (G. Romig) and another at Beaver Dam Wash Jan. 13 (SS) were at new wintering areas for this species. Below-average numbers of Golden-crowned and Harris' sparrows were reported. Only two Golden-crowned Sparrows were found, one near Buckeye Dec. 21 (TC) and another at Beaver Dam Wash Jan. 13 (SS). The only Harris' Sparrow was one reported from Moenave, near Tuba City Jan. 29 (CL) Large numbers ("hundreds" by some accounts) of McCown's Longspurs wintered in the San Rafael Grasslands s. of Sonoita where, in recent years, only a handful of birds had been detected during the winter (m.ob.). A single Lapland Longspur, extremely rare in the state at any time, was seen sporadically in the San Rafael Grasslands mid-January–Feb. 18 (BJ, GR *et al.*).

Forty Great-tailed Grackles at Beaver Dam Wash Jan. 13 (SS) provided a new wintering locality for n. Arizona. Bronzed Cowbird is essentially unknown in winter in the state e. of the Tucson area, so four at St. David Jan. 21 was a surprise. Two more females at Patagonia Feb. 17 (BZ) probably represented early returning migrants. A very early returning Hooded Oriole was found in Tucson Feb. 25 (SE) and may have actually been a bird that wintered locally. A sub-ad. Streak-backed Oriole on the lower S.P.R. near Dudleyville Jan. 22+ (C&C Pomerius, DS, †CDB) eluded most searchers. This species has bred in this general area during the past 2 years and this individual was thought to have been one of the young produced by the recent nestings.

Remarkable was the discovery of a flock of 150 Black Rosy-Finches feeding along the roadside between Bitter Springs and Page in extreme n. Arizona Feb. 25 (JS); this is the largest flock of any rosy-finch encountered in Arizona. The only report of Purple Finch came from a feeder in Sedona Dec. 14 (E. Gardner). Most of the Lawrence's Goldfinches that entered the state during the fall had left by the start of the winter period, but two lingered at P.A.P. until Dec. 3 (SE), one was still at Rio Verde Jan. 7 (TC), and a flock of 20 was seen at Tubac Feb. 16 (F&L Brandt).

Corrigendum

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo specimen (NASFN 48: 972) found in Flagstaff Jun. 9, 1994 was incorrectly accredited to N.A.U. (N. Arizona University); the correct depository for that specimen should have read M.N.A. (Museum of N. Arizona) (*fide* T. Merkel).

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New Mexico

SARTOR O. WILLIAMS III

Exceptionally warm temperatures, plus generally above-average moisture in many areas, combined for a notably mild winter. Conspicuous movements included jays, chickadees, and nuthatches into the lowlands, thrushes and thrashers following patchy food crops, and waterbirds and sparrows wintering north in numbers.

Abbreviations: Bitter L. (*Bitter Lake N.W.R.*); Bosque (*Bosque del Apache N.W.R.*); E.B.L. (*Elephant Butte L.*); R.G.V. (*Rio Grande Valley*); Zuni (*Zuni Indian Reservation*).

Loons to Cranes

Common Loons were well represented, with one-eight at 8 lakes from northwest to southeast. Horned Grebes made perhaps their best showing ever, with one-five at 14 locales in the San Juan, Rio Grande, Pecos, and Canadian drainages (v.o.). Small numbers of Am. White Pelicans overwintered in the lower Rio Grande (v.o.) and Pecos (SW *et al.*) valleys; *maxima* were 43 at Caballo L., Jan. 2 (BZ *et al.*) and 19 at L. Avalon Feb. 19 (JO).

A Great Egret was in the north at Isleta Feb. 19 (JEP); elsewhere, one-three overwintered from Bosque and Bitter L. southward (v.o.). Up to 10 Black-crowned Night-Herons were n. at Morgan L., Dec. 29 (TR) and Feb. 4 (JO); 125 Black-crowned near Carlsbad Jan. 22 (SW) provided a local winter high. Tundra Swans were in the news with one at Maxwell N.W.R., Feb. 11-25 (DM *et al.*), three at Santa Fe Dec. 4-7 (CR, BL, D. MacCarter), ≤five at Bosque Jan. 7-Feb. 25 (v.o.), and three at Caballo L., Dec. 11 (JO). A free-flying Mute Swan was at Caballo L., Jan. 6 (JO). Ross' Geese away from usual areas included six at Farmington Jan. 1 (TR), ≤16 at Columbus Jan. 15-Feb. 6 (JO, CR), and one at Loving Dec. 31 (*fide* SW). Wood Ducks continued to show gains in numbers and range, with reports from 12 locales and a high of 188 at Albuquerque Dec. 18 (HS *et al.*); unusual were three at Zuni Dec. 17 (JT *et al.*), one near Gila Dec. 30 (*fide* RF), one in the Uvas Valley Feb. 18 (CS), and five at Jal Dec. 30 (JO). Amazing was a "pair" of probable **Garganeys** on the Pecos R. near Carlsbad Dec. 20 (SW). The only January Cinnamon Teals were three males at Bosque Jan. 21 (PES). Highs for the now regularly reported Greater Scaup were 14 at Stubblefield L., Feb. 18 (JEP, JO) and 16 at Storrie L., Dec. 17 (CR), with

one-ten at Conchas, Ute, Santa Rosa, and E.B. lakes in December & February (JO *et al.*); the only January report, and in the west, was a male at Tyrone Jan. 21 (SW). An Oldsquaw was n. of Pilar Dec. 31 (ph. BL) and Jan. 19 (PRS). Barrow's Goldeneyes continued to winter in small numbers on the San Juan R. below Navajo Dam (v.o., ph. DC).

A White-tailed Kite was vaguely reported at Rio Rancho in late December (*fide* PRS) and Corrales Jan. 28 (*fide* PRS); much better documented was one in the Uvas Valley e. of Nutt, *Luna*, Jan. 1 (AH, C. Black) and later (v.o.). Unusual for winter (but not unprecedented) was an ad. Com. Black-Hawk at Gila Dec. 30 (K. Skaggs). More evidence of Harris' Hawks moving into the R.G.V. was provided by one-two at Albuquerque Dec. 11 (*fide* PRS), Isleta Feb. 8 (JO), La Joya Jan. 7 (DL), Williamsburg Jan. 20 (PES), Hatch Jan. 14 (BZ), and Las Cruces Feb. 19 (*fide* CS). Merlins put in one of their best showings ever, with at least 40 at 30 sites statewide; 3 races were mentioned (m.ob.).

A Chukar at Rio Rancho Dec. 13 (*fide* PRS) was likely a recent escape. Eight Scaled Quail were at Zuni Dec. 17 (AS), where rarely reported. Sandhill Cranes seemed well established at Columbus, with over 2000 there Jan. 21 (JNP) and Feb. 6 (CR), noteworthy were 150 in the Estancia Valley Dec. 17 (SOW), with lesser numbers there Jan. 3 (CR).

Shorebirds to Terns

Remarkably early was a Semipalmated Plover at Maxwell N.W.R., Feb. 25 (CR), as was a Mt. Plover at Santa Teresa Feb. 19 (DE, C. Wayne). Notably late were two Black-necked Stilts at L. Avalon Dec. 20 (SW, TH) and two Am. Avocets at Roswell Dec. 17 (SMB *et al.*). A few Greater Yellowlegs overwintered at Bosque and other sites (v.o.) and a local first was one at Mangas Jan. 21 (RF); the latest Lesser was at L. Avalon Dec. 22 (JEP, JO). Two Long-billed Curlews were in the Uvas Valley Feb. 5 (CR, BN, DE). Spotted Sandpipers wintered more widely than usual, including singles n. to Navajo Dam Jan. 27 (TR), Española Dec. 31 (BF *et al.*), and Albuquerque Dec. 18 (DM); 13 Spotteds were at Caballo Jan. 2 (BZ *et al.*). Late were one-two W. Sandpipers at L. Avalon until Dec. 22 (SW, JEP, JO) and near Loving Dec. 31 (SW *et al.*), as were single Dunlins at Farmington Dec. 19 (TR) and Morgan L., Dec. 29 (TR); overwintering were one-two Dunlins at Bosque Dec. 17-Feb. 11 (v.o.) and six at Caballo L., Jan. 2 (CR, DE). Early was a Wilson's Phalarope at Bosque Feb. 25-26 (JO).

Late was a Bonaparte's Gull at Albuquerque Dec. 18 (SC); several Bonaparte's