

arizona region



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and **GARY H. ROSENBERG**

Abbreviations: A. B. C. (*Arizona Bird Committee*); B.A.N.W.R. (*Buenos Aires Nat'l Wildlife Refuge*); 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 RAPTORS

An early Com. Loon was at Wahweap Sept. 30 (NB). A **Least Grebe** was photographed on a small pond along West Turkey Cr. in the Chiricahua Mts. Aug. 1–2 (N. Snyder, J. Shifflett, ph. D. Fischer); there are about 8 previously accepted records for the state. A minimum of 20 W. Grebes were reported in s. Arizona Oct. 27–Nov. 23, along with an additional nine in the north Nov. 27–28 (MS, DT). A pair of Clark's Grebes with three dependent young were at Ganado L. Oct. 15 (DS, CL), and were still present there Nov. 28 (MS, GHR, BH); there are but a couple of breeding records for n. Arizona. Three more Clark's were reported from s. Arizona.

Three Masked Boobies were reported from the upper stretches of the Gulf of California during extended cetacean surveys conducted in September (R. Rowlett). A juv./dark-morph Red-footed Booby was

well-described 5–8 mi n. of Isla San Jorge, Sea of Cortez, Sonora, Mexico, Nov. 9 (†DK, †RP, †JWh, et al.); another or the same Red-footed Booby was observed earlier during the aforementioned research cruise (R. Rowlett). A few Neotropic Cormorants were reported this fall, including one at Kino Springs Aug. 7 (RP), one at Picacho Res. Sept. 28 (JyWi, SGa), and two at Indian Bend Wash, Scottsdale (M. Ray et al.). Following 1996's lackluster buildup, the number of Am. White Pelicans at P.R.D. reached a maximum of only four by Nov. 27 (RD); this is a dramatic decline from the large numbers of 2 or more years ago. Elsewhere in s. Arizona, single Am. White Pelican sightings included one in Tucson Nov. 4, one at Patagonia L. Nov. 8, and one at Willcox Nov. 23 (all *vide* JHa). There was a scattering of Brown Pelicans reported from s. Arizona, including one–two at P.R.D. Oct. 16–Nov. 29 (RJ, et al.), one at L. Pleasant Oct. 17 (RW), one in Mesa Oct. 25 (M. Baker), and one at Picacho Res. Oct. 28 (RP).

A couple of sizable concentrations of Great Egrets were reported in the s. part of the state, including 23 at Picacho Res. Sept. 29 (RP) and another 14 along the Santa Cruz R. near Tucson Nov. 9 (MS). Casual visitors, single Tricolored Herons were reported from Gilbert Sept. 28 (C. Drowley), and from P.R.D. Oct. 16 (RJ). Rarer still was an imm. **Reddish Egret** found at P.R.D. Aug. 24 (†CB); there are 6 previously ac-

cepted records for the state. A Cattle Egret was discovered at Rimmy Jim Tank, s. of Gray Mt., N.I.R., Sept. 5 (CL). Also very rare in the north, a Green Heron was at Cameron Sept. 5 (CL). Another impressive fall Arizona concentration of 5000 White-faced Ibises was reported in Page Sept. 1 (CG). An elusive imm. Roseate Spoonbill attracted attention at Picacho Res. Sept. 25–Oct. 4 (D. Clark, ph. †MS); this is the 5th sighting in the state since 1992.

Snow Geese were reported from a variety of locations beginning in early November, with a maximum of 30 at M.F.L. Nov. 2 (CG, B. Melberg). Considered scarce in the state, single Tundra Swans were at the Florence S.T.P. Nov. 22 (*vide* SGa) and in Gilbert Nov. 28–Dec. 1 (B&L Winterfield). Proving themselves creatures of habit, single returning male Eur. Wigeons were located at Nogales Nov. 3 (MS), Ahwatukee Nov. 29 (RD), and Indian Bend Wash Nov. 29 (PM). Very scarce in n.w. Mexico, a female Wood Duck was observed in Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Nov. 10 (DK, †RP). A rare migrant in n. Arizona, a pair of Hooded Mergansers were at Becker L. Nov. 27 (GHR, MS). Another female Hooded was at Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Nov. 27 (DK, †RP), where this species is considered very rare.

Red-breasted Mergansers are quite rare in Arizona away from the L.C.R.V., but this fall there was an influx into the s. portion of the state in November; one was at the Avra Valley (Snyder Hill) S.T.P. Nov. 1 (MS), with two present there Nov. 27; three were at Willcox Nov. 3 (SH), with one remaining until Nov. 6; one was at the Sierra Vista S.T.P. Nov. 5 (SH); and two were at P.R.D. Nov. 27 (RD). It was a good fall for Surf Scoters in s. Arizona with three found: singles at the Green Valley S.T.P. Oct. 28–31 (RP, et al.), Willcox Nov. 9–15 (*vide* JHa), and the Avra Valley S.T.P. Nov. 13–21 (GHR, WR). Even less regular, two White-winged Scoters were found; the first was an imm. male found at Ganado L. Nov. 28 (BH, GHR, †MS), and the 2nd was found at the Bill Williams delta, L. Havasu, Nov. 28 (S. Snyder).

A large concentration of 100+ Black Vultures was at Sells Nov. 15 (DT). White-tailed Kite numbers continue to fluctuate in Arizona. This fall only six were reported, including one at Palominas Aug. 5 (HB),

two near Apache Aug. 16 (TC), one in Chandler Nov. 21 (*vide* SGa), and two at Fountain Hills Nov. 22 (H. Osborn). A rather late juv. Com. Black-Hawk was found in Portal Oct. 21 (DJ), and was seen flying up Cave Cr. Canyon the following day (C. Jensen). An ad. Red-shouldered Hawk continued at Beaver Dam Wash, seen Oct. 4 (SS). Crested Caracaras have been found to wander away from traditional spots in s. Arizona; this fall one was seen as far east as Sierra Vista Oct. 22 (BR).

RAILS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Two Com. Moorhens were observed on a small golf course pond in Mesquite, along the Arizona/Nevada border, Oct. 4 (SS); there are few reports from this region. A family unit of Sandhill Cranes (two adults, one juvenile) was present at the Kachina Wetlands outside Flagstaff Sept. 29 (J. Hildebrand), representing the first local record since the 1930s. Rarely reported in the state away from Willcox, a Snowy Plover was at the Avra Valley S.T.P. Sept. 2 (RP). Rare in the north, a Black-necked Stilt was at Rimmy Jim Tank Sept. 12 (CL). Very late Am. Avocet records for n. Arizona included two at Lyman L. Nov. 28 (MS, GHR), and one at Round Rock L. Nov. 29 (GHR, MS). A casual migrant here, a Ruddy Turnstone was photographed at the Avra Valley S.T.P. Sept. 1–4 (†MS, ph. GH), with a 2nd bird reported there Sept. 4 (JT). Two Sanderlings were seen in n. Arizona, where they are very scarce migrants; one was at Wahweap Aug. 11–15 (CL), and another was at M.F.L. Aug. 30 (CL). Two Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported from s. Arizona Aug. 31–Sept. 29, and another eight were reported from n. Arizona Aug. 4–Sept. 10.

A large concentration of 460 W. Sandpipers was present at M.F.L. Aug. 16 (CL). A rather early Pectoral Sandpiper was at Gilbert Aug. 7 (*vide* SGa). Considered very rare in n. Arizona, two basic-plumaged Dunlin were reported; one was at M.F.L. Oct. 15 (DS, CL), and another was at Pasture Canyon L. Oct. 17 (DS, CL). Stilt Sandpipers are rare in the north, so one at Wahweap Aug. 4 (CL), and another at M.F.L. Aug. 30 (CL) were noteworthy. Another Stilt Sandpiper at El Mirage Pond, s.w. of

A surprise was this Least Grebe on a pond along West Turkey Creek, Chiricahua Mountains, Arizona, on August 2, 1997. Arizona had fewer than ten previous records, all from farther west in the state.
Photograph/Dan Fischer

SA The single most significant event affecting Arizona this fall had to be the passage of hurricane *Nora* into s.w. Arizona. Not since tropical storm *Kathleen* in 1976 had there been such a large influx of pelagic species into the interior southwest. With the history lesson of *Kathleen*, birders were well prepared for *Nora*, arriving on the scene shortly after the hurricane's passage. As the eye of the storm passed through L. Havasu on the afternoon of Sept. 25, birders were already out making many interesting discoveries. A brief synopsis follows, while more complete accounts will be published elsewhere.

Hurricane *Nora's* arrival into Arizona brought with it a plethora of interesting sightings, most centered around L. Havasu City on the Colorado River. On Sept. 26, a procellarid identified as a **Black-vented Shearwater** was observed from the marina at L. Havasu City (†CB, SSt), and another or the same was north of there (RJ, SGa); this is the first report of this species in the state. Two Black-vented Shearwaters were reported the following day (†BJ, JiB). Large numbers of **Least Storm-Petrels** were reported (and photographed) by various observers, with estimates ranging from 35–500 individuals (ph. †B. Grossi, TC; †BH). Smaller numbers of **Black Storm-Petrels** were also present (ph. †B. Grossi, TC; †BH), with estimates of Least:Black ratios varying from 3.5:1 to 15:1. There are only 2 previously accepted records of Least Storm-Petrel from Arizona, and no prior Black Storm-Petrel records for the state. In addition, two birds showing characteristics of **Leach's Storm-Petrels** were well-described from L. Havasu City Sept. 26 (†BH); one of these was a dark-rumped individual, while the other possessed a prominent white rump. *Nora* passed close to 2 different Leach's Storm-Petrel breeding colonies on her northward advance. It is also worth noting that two–three dark-rumped Leach's Storm-Petrels had been recorded in the upper stretches of the Gulf of California Aug. 18 (R. Rowlett) as part of an extended research cruise.

In addition, an **Ashy Storm-Petrel** was reported from the L. Havasu N.W.R. Sept. 27 (†BJ, †JiB); there are no previous Arizona records. While this species does not normally occur in the Gulf of California, *Nora's* path was largely along the Pacific coast of Baja, which coincides with the southern limits of Ashy Storm-Petrel distribution.

While procellarids featured most prominently, several other interesting species were reported in association with *Nora*. Two **Parasitic Jaegers** (an adult and immature) were observed on L. Havasu Sept. 26 (RJ, SGa, CB, SSt); there are only 5 previously accepted sightings for the state. Finally, 21 frigatebirds (*Fregata* sp.) were observed flying NE over Telegraph Pass, Gila Mts., e. of Yuma, just ahead of the storm Sept. 25 (L. Piest). These were likely Magnificents, particularly since this species was reportedly "plentiful" in the Gulf of California during this time (R. Rowlett). However, packing winds of 110 knots, northbound hurricane *Nora* passed within 60 mi of the Islas Revillagigedos, where Great Frigatebirds are resident. Whether or not a frigatebird would fly for some 950 mi ahead of a slow moving hurricane will be debated, though members of this genus have a history of long distance vagrancy.





Red Phalarope at Many Farms Lake, northeastern Arizona, on October 16, 1997.
Photograph/David Stejskal



A number of Sabine's Gulls occurred in Arizona this fall. This juvenile was at Picacho Reservoir at the end of September 1997.
Photograph/David Stejskal

Phoenix, Oct. 18 (TC) was getting late. A juv. **Ruff** was discovered at Picacho Res. Oct. 3 (D. Touret, †MK, †D. Morrison et al.) but could not be relocated. There are 3 accepted records for the state.

A scattering of six Short-billed Dowitchers were reported in s. Arizona Aug. 25–Sept. 1. Four Red Phalaropes were reported; one was at G.E.P., s.w. of Phoenix, Aug. 24 (PM, RJ et al.); another was at L. Havasu following hurricane *Nora* Sept. 26 (RJ, SGa); one was at P.R.D. Sept. 27 (PM, T. Brodner); and one was at M.F.L. Oct. 16 (ph. DS, CL). A tardy Wilson's Phalarope was at the Green Valley S.T.P. Oct. 31 (RP).

An unidentified imm. jaeger was reported from the Gila Bend S.T.P. Aug. 9 (D. Alexander). Two Herring Gulls were noted in s.e. Arizona; one first-winter bird, initially identified as a Thayer's, was in Nogales Oct. 23–Nov. 7 (SH, ph. †GHR), and another was at P.R.D. Nov. 29 (TC). Sabine's Gulls were widely reported: one was at Willcox Sept. 7–21 (J. Ambrose et al.); one was at the Sierra Vista S.T.P. Sept. 8 (FD), two were there Sept. 27 with one remaining to Sept. 29 (JWh); one was at Arizona City Aug. 26 (*fide* JHa); and one was at Picacho Res. Sept. 29–Oct. 4 (*fide* JHa, ph. MS, DS). Another Sabine's Gull was identified on lower L. Mary, s. of Flagstaff, Sept. 26–28 (P. Wang, RR), and a late bird was at M.F.L. Oct. 16 (CL). Additionally, small numbers of Sabine's Gulls were along the L.C.R.V. associated with *Nora* Sept. 25–Oct. 3, with a single day maximum of eight (RJ, TC, SGa, DS).

Rare to casual migrants in the state, Com. Terns were reported from scattered locations. Those away from the Colorado R. included one at Chilchibito Sept. 19 (AF), two–four at lower L. Mary Sept. 26 (P. Wang, RR), one at Picacho Res. Sept. 28–30 (JyWi), and one at the Sierra Vista S.T.P. Oct. 7 (SH).

Inca Doves appear to have established themselves in n.w. Arizona, as evidenced by four at Beaver Dam Wash Oct. 4 (SS). Small numbers of Ruddy Ground-Doves were reported in Arizona; one discovered at the P.A.P. pecan grove Sept. 25 (JiB) was joined by a 2nd Oct. 12 through the period (ph. DS, v.t. CDB); at least four were present at Paloma Oct. 26 to early November (RJ, SGa); one was at Arivaca Nov. 23 (MS, GHR, WR), and another was at the Sierra Vista S.T.P. Nov. 25 (SH). Very rare in Arizona, a Groove-billed Ani was discovered at the Sierra Vista S.T.P. Nov. 8–21 (K. Blumenthal-Pretti et al.). A Lesser Nighthawk was observed in Page Sept. 3 (CL), where the status of this species is still being investigated.

A Broad-billed Hummingbird was a rare visitor to Scottsdale Nov. 21 (D. deAugusto). White-eared Hummingbirds were reported from Miller Canyon, and from Comfort Springs, Carr Canyon, in the Huachuca Mts. during the period. This summer's **Plain-capped Starthroat** remained through Aug. 31, when it was reportedly banded (*fide* JHa). A 2nd, cooperative Plain-capped Starthroat was at the Paton's in Patagonia Oct. 7–16 (Patons, v.t. CDB). There are 9 accepted records for the state, and an additional 9 awaiting review. The pair of Berylline Hummingbirds discovered this summer in Ramsey Canyon attempted to nest (unsuccessfully), and were last seen Sept. 4 (*fide* JHa, ph. MS). Another one–two were present in Madera Canyon Aug. 9–12 (SH et al.). A slightly out-of-place Violet-crowned Hummingbird was at the P.A.P. pecan grove (J. Levy, GM, T. Huels). Two Magnificent Hummingbirds were found away from the mountains; one was in Oro Valley at Catalina S.P. Sept. 12 (GM), and another was at Agua Caliente Park in e. Tucson Oct. 26 (MS). Only two Lucifer Hummingbirds were reported from the Portal area (*fide* DJ). Two Anna's Hummingbirds were still present at Beaver Dam Wash in n.w. Arizona Oct. 4 (SS), where this species appears to be established.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was discovered at the P.A.P. pecan grove Oct. 25 (K. Kroesen, P. Salomon, ph. MS), and remained through the period; there are about

8 records for the state. Rare visitors to Arizona, three single Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported from Tucson Nov. 1–19 (RP, MS, JHa). Single flickers showing characteristics of Yellow-shafted forms were seen at Whitlow Dam Oct. 17–Nov. 25 (JB) and Teec Nos Pos Nov. 29 (†MS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH ORIOLES

A late Greater Pewee found singing in Patagonia Oct. 9 (DS) was where this species has wintered in recent years, while one in Madera Canyon Nov. 27 (*vide* JHa) may have been attempting to winter locally as well. A rather tardy Pacific-slope Flycatcher was in s.w. Phoenix Oct. 18 (TC). Of the four territorial male Willow Flycatchers present on the upper S.P.R. this summer, one attracted a mate and twice attempted nesting, both efforts unsuccessful (DK). A Dusky-capped Flycatcher found at Gillespie Dam Aug. 10 (†RW, SB) represented only the 4th *Maricopa* record. A late Thick-billed Kingbird was at Patagonia Oct. 9 (DS). Casual to Arizona, two rather late Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported this fall; one was n. of Globe Nov. 12–15 (R. Day), and another was in Sierra Vista Nov. 17 (†M. Halloran, D. Jacques). Three Bank Swallows in s.w. Phoenix Oct. 18 (TC) were late Pinyon Jays were again present in the Chiricahua Mts. this fall; 20 were visiting feeders in Paradise Sept. 17 (D&M Julian), 15 were seen along the Paradise road Sept. 30 (DJ), with another one in Jasper's yard below Portal Sept. 27.

Two **Black-capped Gnatcatchers** were still present in Brown Canyon Aug. 4 (WR, R&JH, v.t. CDB). A female Varied Thrush was a treat at Kitt Peak Oct. 30 (F. Fekel). A **Wood Thrush** was identified in e. Tucson Oct. 25–27 (W. Leitner, †MS et al.); there are about 13 records for the state. Another scarce visitor to the state, Brown Thrasher reports included singles at Rimmy Jim Tank Sept. 29 (CL), Hassayampa R. Oct. 4 (RF), along lower Camp Cr. Oct. 17 (RB), near Queen Valley Oct. 29 (†JB), and e. Tucson Nov. 30 (†JHa). A lingering Bell's Vireo was on the Colorado R. at CRM 51.5L in the Grand Canyon Aug. 29 (NB). A "Solitary" Vireo found at B.T.A. Oct. 8 (ph. DS, ph. MS, m.ob.), initially identified as a Blue-headed Vireo, generated a great deal of discussion both locally and through the Internet. Gaps in our knowledge of variability in song and plumage in this complex currently precludes identifying some individuals. The B.T.A. vireo was a nervous wing flicker, and sang a song qualitatively different from most Blue-headed Vireos

(i.e., those found away from Alberta); these 2 attributes were suggestive of Cassin's Vireo. The record will be debated by the A.B.C. A Hutton's Vireo n. of its normal range was identified in Walnut Canyon, near Flagstaff, Sept. 7 (AF). Increasingly rare as a vagrant to the state, a Red-eyed Vireo was found along the S. Fork of the Little Colorado R. near Springerville Aug. 10 (R. Bowers, †JG).

Two Tennessee Warblers were reported this fall; one was at the P.A.P. pecan grove Aug. 30 (S. Levy), and another was at Kino Springs Oct. 6–9 (J. Hubbard). Rarely reported in n. Arizona away from the Colorado R., a Lucy's Warbler was noted at Cow Springs L. Aug. 22 (CL). This fall's only N. Parula report was of one in s.w. Phoenix Oct. 4 (PM). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was found s. of Prescott Oct. 17 (CT), and another was in c. Tucson Nov. 3 through the period (SH). Two **Magnolia Warblers** were found; one was at B.T.A. Sept. 29–30 (†BJ, SGA, CT), and a 2nd, well-described bird was at Topock Nov. 27–29 (†D. Wight). There are currently 9 accepted Arizona records, plus an additional 10 pending review. A single Black-throated Blue Warbler was in Tempe Oct. 31 (SB). A Yellow-throated Warbler delighted birders in c. Tucson Nov. 1–28 (C. Green et al.); there are close to 20 records for the state. Seldom reported away from breeding areas in Arizona, a rather late Grace's Warbler was at the P.A.P. pecan grove Oct. 3 (T. Huels).

Mark Stevenson had an affinity for **Prairie Warblers** this fall, finding two in little more than 24 hours. The first was at Wahweap Nov. 30 (ph. †MS, GHR), and the 2nd in n.e. Tucson Dec. 1 (ph. †MS, ph. GHR); there is only a single prior documented record for the state, along with 3 previous sight records. A paltry three Black-and-white Warblers were found this fall, including singles in s.w. Phoenix Oct. 11 (PM), the Hassayampa R. Preserve Oct. 15 (RF), and e. Tucson Nov. 2 (*vide* JHa). Seven Am. Redstarts were found between Aug. 11–Nov. 9. A male Prothonotary Warbler collided with a window at the Southwestern Research Station in Cave Cr. Oct. 15 (*UA).

Casual in the state, single Worm-eating Warblers were along the South Fork of the Little Colorado R. Aug. 10 (R. Bowers, †JG), and in Patagonia Oct. 5–8 (D. Barth). Six N. Waterthrushes were reported Aug. 24–Sept. 27. It was a good fall for Kentucky Warbler, with singles at the Hassayampa R. Preserve Sept. 17 (RF) and in Scottsdale

Nov. 19 (†JB, CB); there were only 2 previous *Maricopa* records. A female Hooded Warbler was detected in Garden Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Sept. 21 (†WR). Two migrant Painted Redstarts were detected; one was at the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum Aug. 16 (MS), and another was at the P.A.P. pecan grove Sept. 8 (*vide* JHa).

A female Summer Tanager found in Cameron Aug. 11 (CL) was in a region where there are few records. Only five Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported in s. Arizona Aug. 12–Oct. 20. A female Varied Bunting in Patagonia Oct. 9 (DS) was late. It was another busy fall for Painted Buntings in Arizona; a juvenile was in Brown Canyon Aug. 4 (WR), a male was at the B.A.N.W.R. Aug. 5 (T. Ulen), a female was along Proctor Rd. below Madera Canyon Aug. 11 (JiB), and four males and one female were in the Portal area Sept. 8–13 (*vide* DJ). Six Dickcissels produced an average showing in s. Arizona; two were along the upper S.P.R. at Hereford Sept. 24 (DK), one was in Portal Sept. 24–Oct. 6 (DJ), one was at the P.A.P. pecan grove Sept. 26 (RF), one was in a Tucson yard Sept. 29 (DS), and a late individual was in California Gulch Oct. 25 (K. Groschupf).

A male White-collared Seedeater of the w. Mexican subspecies *torqueola* was observed at Kino Springs Aug. 24 (K. Guse, K. Converse, G. Schwab); since this species is not known to occur closer than c. Sinaloa, Mexico, the origin of this attractive species is suspect. A Grasshopper Sparrow found w. of Buckeye Nov. 7 (RB, M. Billota. C. West) provided only the 5th *Maricopa* record. Three–four Fox Sparrows were reported, including one at B.T.A. Oct. 16–Nov. 24 (LH, RJ, JJ, v.o.) that was felt by some observers to be of the "red" *iliaca* subspecies group; this form has rarely been documented in Arizona. A Harris's Sparrow returned to a Kingman yard Nov. 18 (NM) through the period.

Quite exceptional were four McCown's Longspurs discovered at Round Rock L. Oct. 16 (CL, DS); this species is considered accidental in n. Arizona. Inspection of a Loggerhead Shrike larder at the San Bernardino N.W.R. revealed the remains of a Bobolink Oct. 19 (A. Moorhouse). Two very late Scott's Orioles were present in Sycamore Canyon Oct. 24 (DS, CL). Also late was a Bullock's Oriole present in Flagstaff Sept. 20 (CL).

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new mexico region



SARTOR O. WILLIAMS III

Continuing a recent trend, New Mexico's fall season was generally wetter and warmer than "usual." Although the well-publicized Pacific storms of late September only brushed the state, they nevertheless may have assisted the arrival of a previously unreported waterbird—New Mexico's 494th verified species, pending acceptance by the Bird Records Committee. Meanwhile, conspicuously lacking was any repeat of last year's massive incursion of finches, parids, nuthatches, and jays.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (*Bitter Lake N.W.R.*); Bosque N.W.R. (*Bosque del Apache N.W.R.*); E.B.L. (*Elephant Butte Lake*); L.V.N.W.R. (*Las Vegas N.W.R.*); N.R.T. (*north Roosevelt Co. migrant trap*); R.G.V. (*Rio Grande Valley*).

LOONS TO DUCKS

An exciting loon season was capped by a **Red-throated Loon** at Stubblefield L. Nov. 8 (JEP, JO) and single Pacifics at Stubblefield Nov. 8 (JEP, JO), Cochiti L. Nov. 10 (WH), and Nutria L. Nov. 9–26 (JO, ph. DC). Common Loons lived up to their name with one–four at 13 sites in 9 counties; earliest was one at Clayton L. September 28 (DE, BN). Horned Grebes were rarely reported included singles at Chuska L. Nov. 9 (JO)

and near Lordsburg Nov. 28 (JO). A pair of Clark's Grebes with three young was at Bosque N.W.R. Aug. 25 (PS); one Clark's and five Westerns were at Cannon A.F.B. Oct. 23 (RR), where not previously reported. Late for the north was an Am. White Pelican at Morgan L. Nov. 22 (TR); 52 were still at E.B.L. Nov. 29 (CR). A juv. Brown Pelican at Sumner L. Oct. 25 (JEP, ph. JO) furnished the 3rd *DeBaca* record. Noteworthy for the Pecos Valley were up to five Neotropical Cormorants at B.L.N.W.R. Aug. 6 (SW) & 31 (JO). At Bosque N.W.R., Neotropics generally outnumbered Double-crested by a ratio of 10:1 September–November (v.o.); 40 of 56 Neotropics there Oct. 16 were in breeding plumage (SOW).

Peripheral Great Egrets were singles near Ft. Sumner Sept. 10 (PS) and at Deming Sept. 5 (LM). An ad. Little Blue Heron at Bosque N.W.R. Aug. 8, 12, & 26 (JO, M. Patten, PS) was the only report; a Tricolored was n. to B.L.N.W.R. Aug. 20 (ph. WR) & 31 (CR, DE, BN, JO). A remarkable two **Reddish Egrets** were photo-documented—an adult at B.L.N.W.R. Aug. 4 (ph. WR) and an immature at E.B.L. Aug. 31 (WW) until Sept. 6 (DE, BN, JEP, ph. JO); first recorded in New Mexico only in 1991, these represented the state's 5th and 6th records. Late was a Cattle Egret at Mangas Nov. 15–25 (RF).