



**The status of Semipalmated Sandpiper as a migrant in Nevada is still poorly known. This bird was at Big Soda Lake, near Fallon, Nevada, May 7, 1998. Photograph/Brian Sullivan**

Mar. 13–16 (BHu, m.ob.) and a Tufted Duck × scaup e. of Timnath, *Larimer*, Mar. 15 (JM). The real question is, are the Tufteds domestic and breeding with wild scaup, or are both species wild birds? Rare in S.L.V., a male Surf Scoter was at Monte Vista, *Rio Grande*, May 7–11 (JJR, LR), and a male White-winged Scoter was at Antelope I. Marina, *Davis*, UT, Apr. 26 (*fide* MS).

#### **RAPTORS THROUGH TERMS**

Northern expansion of **Mississippi Kite** resumes. Two were circling near the capitol in Cheyenne, WY, May 20 (JLD), providing the state's 2nd record, and one was at Burlington, *Kit Carson*, CO, May 19 (DSi). An ad. **Common Black-Hawk** was reported from Fountain Creek R.P., *El Paso*, CO, May 11 (JDi); if accepted, it will provide the 3rd Colorado record. Three Red-shouldered Hawks were recorded in Colorado: an immature at Rocky Ford S.W.A., *Otero*, Mar. 1–2 (MJ, BKP, m.ob.); one at Clifton, *Mesa*, May 9 (RWO); and one at Gregory Canyon, *Boulder*, CO, May 29 (PGe). Knowing the identification of the subspecies at Clifton would be most interesting. Possibly Colorado's highest count, 45–50 Broad-winged Hawks occurred at Ft. Collins, *Larimer*, Apr. 26 (JF); also of note, one was at Heber Valley, *Wasatch*, UT, Apr. 26 (MS, DW). The Gyrfalcon at Hamilton Res., *Larimer*, CO, remained up to Mar. 22 (RAR).

A Black Rail was at Two Buttes Res., *Baca*, CO, May 21–24 (DSi, m.ob.) and populations appear somewhat lower in "now normal" Arkansas Valley sites. A **Clapper Rail** was heard at Las Vegas Valley Wash, *Clark*, NV, May 28 (SM, HY); which may provide the 2nd Nevada record. The U.S. Forest Service is conducting prescribed prairie burning to attract Mt. Plover and Long-billed Curlew. It appears to have worked; in *Baca*, CO, Apr. 9 a count of 148 Mt. Plovers were counted in several burns (SJD). Also, 61 were counted on the Pawnee N.G., *Weld*, CO, Apr. 14 (SJD, FK). An early Solitary Sandpiper was along the Carson R., *Churchill*, NV, Apr. 10 (BH). An **Upland Sandpiper** w. of Winnemucca May 12 (BS) provided the 3rd Nevada record. High counts of Whimbrel were noted in Colorado: 14 near Galetton, *Weld*, in early May

#### **VAN A. TRUAN and BRANDON K. PERCIVAL**

**T**he "El Nino" event for most of the Region was definitely a yawner for migration, especially in Colorado. Nevada had its first Neotropical Cormorant and Black Turnstone; Utah had its first Iceland Gull; and Wyoming its first Eurasian Collared-Dove, but none of these records seem to be attributable to the phenomena. The northern and western areas of the Region had higher than average moisture, but the rest of the Region was at or below normal. The jet stream was split most of the season, with cold fronts traveling north and south of the Region.

**Abbreviations:** B.R.B.R. (*Bear River Bird Refuge, UT*); C.V.C.G. (*Crow Valley Campground, Weld Co., CO*); N.G. (*Nat'l Grasslands*); R.P. (*Regional Park*); S.L.V. (*San Luis Valley, CO*).

#### **LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL**

A late Com. Loon was in *Baca*, CO, May 23 (TL, JBr, DSv, IS). A Pacific Loon at Soda L., *Churchill*, NV, Apr. 24–25 (GC, RF) provided the 5th record for the Lahontan Valley. An imm. **Brown Pelican** was at Pagosa Springs, *Archuleta*, CO, May 28–30 (BFR, m.ob.), probably a wanderer from the southwest. A **Neotropical Cormorant** was at

Las Vegas Feb. 27–Mar. 10 (RF, m.ob.), providing a first Nevada record. An Am. Bittern at Jackson L. Dam, WY, May 10 (*fide* BR) was most unexpected. A Least Bittern was in Pueblo, CO, Apr. 30 (*fide* PSS). Northern Colorado had three ad. Little Blue Herons and an ad. Tricolored Heron. Rare in n.e. Nevada were a Green Heron in Elko, *Elko*, Mar. 14 (GC) and two in Reno May 11 (GC). An ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron w. of Pueblo Mar. 28 (MJ, BKP). Colorado's bird of the season was an ad. **White Ibis** near Bayfield, *La Plata*, Apr. 15–May 2 (LA, m.ob.), providing the 2nd state record; probably the same bird was at the Blanca Wetlands, S.L.V., May 5 (JJR, LR). It appears that Colorado birders are looking closer through flocks of White-faced Ibis. In Colorado, Glossy Ibis reports, all adults, included one near Sugar City, *Crowley*, Apr. 12–20 (MJ, BKP et al.); another near Brighton, *Adams*, Apr. 18 (RO); one in Colorado City, *Pueblo*, Apr. 22 (DSi), two at Queens S.W.A., *Kiowa*, May 4–5 (DN, DS, m.ob.) and one near Cheraw, *Otero*, May 14 (DSi, BKP, KS).

The male Am. Black Duck in Greeley, *Weld*, CO, stayed to Mar. 15 (RM, m.ob.). Utah had two Eur. Wigeons: a male at B.R.B.R. Mar. 9–21 (VAS, m.ob.) and a male at Utah L., *Utah*, Mar. 11–13 (NH). Presumed to be hybrids, Colorado had a possible male Tufted Duck × scaup in Denver

(JHi) and an amazing 35–40 at Mile High L., *Adams*, May 2 (BB). Also, four in South Park at Antero Res., *Park*, May 17 (TL, PG), and one s. of Alamosa, *Alamosa*, May 16 (JJR) were noteworthy. A Hudsonian Godwit was near Cheraw, CO, May 14 (BKP, BD, DSi) and one was in *Weld*, CO, May 27 (DS, WF). Three Ruddy Turnstone were reported in e. Colorado. Long overdue, a **Black Turnstone** was reported from Carson L., *Churchill*, NV, Apr. 23 (DT, EM, RF, JTi), providing a first state record.

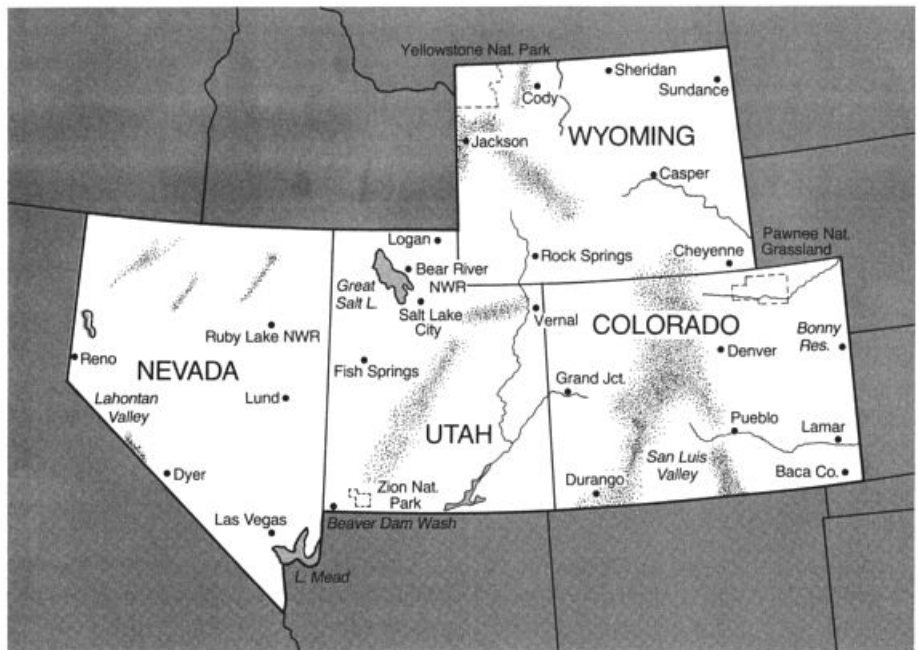
Rare in Nevada, a Semipalmated Sandpiper was at Big Soda L., near Fallon, May 7 (MI, ph. BS). A noteworthy Short-billed Dowitcher at Grand Teton N.P., May 7 (*vide* BR) provided one of the few reports for w. Wyoming.

A first-year Laughing Gull was at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*, CO, May 8 (BBr). An ad. Franklin's Gull was at Rye Patch Res., NV, May 11 (MI, BS) and two were at Sod House, NV, May 14 (MI, BS). Possibly Utah's first **Iceland Gull** was at B.R.B.R., UT, Mar. 14–16 (J&KB, TS, m.ob.); the bird was in first-winter plumage. A 3rd-winter Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Adobe Creek Res. (Blue L.), Bent, CO, Mar. 28 (LL). A first-winter **Western Gull** lingered from winter at Pyramid L., *Washoe*, NV, to Apr. 5 (MM); if accepted, it will furnish the 3rd state record and first from n. Nevada. A Glaucous-winged Gull was at B.R.B.R. Mar. 13–21 (VAS). Possibly due to high water at normal e. Colorado sites, Least Terns were reported at other reservoirs in the Arkansas Valley. One was at L. Henry, *Crowley*, CO, May 11 (BKP), and another at Two Buttes Res., *Baca*, CO, May 23 (IS).

#### PIGEONS THROUGH THRUSH

Rare in the desert, a Band-tailed Pigeon was at Corn Cr., *Clark*, NV, May 30 (CT). Three **Eurasian Collared-Doves** in Cheyenne May 16–17 (CAS) provided a first for Wyoming. Others were singles at Holly, *Prowers*, CO, May 7 (JE, RD, SDo); Fowler, *Otero*, CO, May 17 (TL, PG); Campo, *Baca*, CO, May 3 (VZ) & 30 (RO); and the resident (eight) at Rocky Ford, CO. Higher numbers than usual, 20 White-winged Doves were around Las Vegas in May (*vide* RPS), and three were reported in s.e. Colorado in May. The only report of Black-billed Cuckoo was at Bonny Res., *Yuma*, CO, May 29 (BF).

The Snowy Owl n. of Wiley, CO, stayed to Apr. 23 (v.o.). The first record in 8 years, a N. Pygmy-Owl was in Sheep Cr. Canyon, *Daggett*, UT, Mar. 8 (RSb). In w. Colorado, 34 Long-eared Owl nests were found and 82 juvenile and two adults banded Apr. 12 and



later (RL, KP). A surprising three N. Saw-whet Owls were at Cottonwood Canyon, *Baca*, CO, Mar. 3 (MI), and one was heard again at Ft. Lyon, *Bent*, CO, May 6–9 (BKP, BD, DSi, m.ob.)

A Lesser Nighthawk was at Nee Noshe Res., *Kiowa*, CO, May 7 (DN), and on May 14 a pair were observed there (BKP, BD, DSi). A male **Whip-poor-will** was also at Nee Noshe Res. May 7 (DN). A pair of **Vaux's Swifts** were reported at Lehi, *Utah*, May 13–31 (KST, m.ob.), nest building in a chimney, providing Utah's first nesting record. Others were noted at Logan, UT, May 22 (MRC, FRK); along the Humboldt R., in Winnemucca, NV, May 12 (MI, BS); at Fallon, *Churchill*, NV, May 16 (CE); along the Truckee R., in Reno May 17 (CE); and at Quail Creek Res., *Washington*, UT, Apr. 24 (MW).

A male **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was reported from C.V.C.G., CO, May 21 (JE, BF) for the 2nd documented state record. For the 4th year, two Black-chinned Hummingbirds were at Linwood Canyon, *Sweetwater*, WY, May 31 (RSb), no nest yet found. A male Costa's Hummingbird was at a feeder in Mogul, *Washoe*, NV, Mar. 18+ (GC), and another provided the first Lahontan Valley record at Fallon, NV, May 29–31 (RF).

Two Acorn Woodpeckers remained in Durango, *La Plata*, CO (*vide* RSt). Most unusual in the mountains, a Red-bellied Woodpecker was at Georgetown, *Clear Creek*, CO, May 9 (JH). A singing E. Wood-pewee was in *Baca*, CO, May 23–24 (DSv, IS, TL, JBr). A calling **Alder Flycatcher** was

w. of Pueblo, CO, May 23 (BKP). Single E. Kingbirds were near Beowawe, NV, May 28 (MI, BS) and in the W. Desert of Utah May 30 (VAS et al.). Four reports of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers came from s.e. Colorado in May.

Two Carolina Wrens were reported in e. Colorado this spring. Unusual in the mountains of Colorado, a Winter Wren was at L. Deweese, *Custer*, CO, Mar. 1 (DSi, DJ). Colorado had two Sedge Wrens; one w. of Pueblo Apr. 10 (BKP) and one at Two Buttes Res. May 10–11 (JP, m.ob.). Eastern Bluebirds were reported from 5 e. Colorado counties. Colorado had 13 Veeries, and one was killed by hitting a window in Cody, WY, May 31 (UK). In what appears to be a trend, Colorado had seven Gray-cheeked Thrushes, all but one in the Arkansas Valley. Nevada's 3rd **Wood Thrush** was at Big Smoky Valley, *Nye*, May 31 (RF, JB, GC).

#### VIROES AND WARBLERS

Becoming regular in Colorado, single White-eyed Vireos were reported from Ft. Collins May 4–5 (BP, m.ob.) and Chatfield Res., *Jefferson/Douglas*, May 19–26 (JK, m.ob.). Two Cassin's Vireos were recorded: one at Ft. Collins, CO, May 22–23 (DAL, WPL) and one along the Lower Truckee R., NV, May 25 (GC). Yellow-throated Vireos were at Ft. Lyon, *Bent*, May 1–2 (VZ, m.ob.) and n. of Wellington, *Larimer*, May 19 (S&KM). Unusual in Nevada, a Red-eyed Vireo was n. of Tonopah, *Nye*, May 31 (GC et al.).

Single Blue-winged Warblers, all in Colorado, were found at Lamar, *Prowers*,



At the famous vagrant trap of Corn Creek, near Las Vegas, Nevada, this Ovenbird was a good find May 24, 1998. Photograph/ Jane Thompson



In Mesa County, western Colorado, this adult Golden-crowned Sparrow put in an appearance in late April 1998. Photograph/ Steve Bouricius

May 2–3 (DSi, DJ, m.ob.); Lathrop S.P., *Huerfano*, May 8 (JJR, LR); Two Buttes Res., *Baca*, May 17 (JP); Prewitt Res., *Washington*, May 19 (DAL); and Lamar May 20 (DSi, BKP, BD). A singing male **Golden-winged Warbler** was at Fontenelle Dam, *Lincoln*, WY, May 30 (C&BB, RSb). Also, single Golden-winged Warblers in Colorado were at L. Henry, *Crowley*, May 11 (BKP, m.ob.); near Capulin, *Conejoes*, May 16, the first S.L.V. record (JJR); and at Tamarack Ranch S.W.A., *Logan*, May 19 (DSi). A Tennessee Warbler n. of Tonopah, NV, May 31 (GC et al.) was unusual. Rare in Wyoming, a Magnolia Warbler was at Fontenelle Dam May 24 (RD, JLD). A **Cape May Warbler** hit a window in Las Vegas May 14 (JC), providing one of few records for Nevada. Another Cape May stopped at Two Buttes Res., CO, May 10 (JP). A male Black-throated Blue Warbler found its way to *Montezuma*, CO, May 28 (CLW). This species is very rare in s.w. Colorado.

A rare migrant, a male **Hermit Warbler**, was in Littleton, *Jefferson*, May 5 (TJ). An amazing bird anywhere in w. Wyoming, a **Blackburnian Warbler** was at Jackson May 20 (*vide* BR). In Colorado, singles were at Lamar May 7 (DSv), C.V.C.G. May 26 (CLW), and Boulder May 26 (BM) & 30 (PGe). Also in Colorado, a singing male Yellow-throated Warbler was photographed from Ft. Lyon May 16 (BKP, GR, ph. DQ, RO). Two “western race” Palm Warblers visited Stillwater N.W.R. Apr. 8 (R&NG); they are rare in Nevada. In Wyoming, single Black-and-whites were found at Jackson May 19 (*vide* BR) and Fontenelle Dam May 24 (RD, JLD, RSb), and two were in the

Cheyenne area May 16 (JLD). An Am. Redstart visited Fontenelle Dam May 21 (RSb) & 24 (RSb) and Pyramid L., NV, May 21 (BSu). Eastern Colorado had reports of three Prothonotary Warblers (all males): at Gregory Canyon, *Boulder*, May 20–22 (CF, SP et al.); C.V.C.G. May 26 (CLW, m.ob.); and Pueblo May 28 (BKP, MJ). Also in Colorado, three single Worm-eating Warblers were reported, at Bear Creek R.P., *El Paso*, May 2 (JMy, m.ob.); Lamar May 2–10 (GA, ph. DQ, m.ob.); and Hasty, *Bent*, May 8–9 (JR, BF, GE, m.ob.).

An Ovenbird was at Corn Cr., *Clark*, NV, May 24 (ph. JT). A N. Waterthrush was found n. Tonopah May 31 (GC et al.). The warbler of the season for Colorado was a **Louisiana Waterthrush** at Two Buttes Res. May 9 (JM). Also in Colorado, two Kentucky Warblers were reported, one at Lamar May 3 (BG, JD) and one in *Jefferson* May 30 (PE). A male Mourning Warbler was in Pueblo May 15 (DSi, BKP). Single Hooded Warblers were noted at Corn Cr., NV, Apr. 25 (RS, JEi) and at Fontenelle Dam, WY, May 21–24 (RSb, m.ob.). A rare Colorado migrant, a female Canada Warbler was reported from C.V.C.G. May 21 (JF).

#### TANAGERS TO CROSSBILLS

Five Summer Tanagers were reported from e. Colorado, and a female at Smokey Valley, NV, May 31 (GC, RF) was a bit n. of normal range. Single Scarlet Tanagers in Colorado were reported from Ft. Lyon May 8–10 (BKP, DSm, ph. DQ, m.ob.) and *Lincoln* May 11 (CLW, JK, NE); two graced Lamar May 11 (RW, VZ).

An Indigo Bunting was at Ruby Lake

N.W.R., NV, May 19–25 (JTj). Most interesting was a male Painted Bunting at Delta May 23–26 (M&SZ), an extremely rare find in w. Colorado. Also, a male was in Cottonwood Canyon, *Baca*, CO, May 21 (PG, LM). Rarely observed in Nevada, a Dickcissel was at Tonopah, *Esmeralda*, NV, May 30 (JEi) & 31 (GC, RF). Eastern Towhees continue to be observed regularly in n.e. Colorado, in *Sedgwick* and *Logan*. A **Cassin’s Sparrow** was skylarking at Jean, *Clark*, NV, May 14–15 (MC, JC), providing the 3rd Nevada record. Twenty-two Field Sparrows were reported from 6 counties in e. Colorado. A **Baird’s Sparrow** in *Baca*, CO, Apr. 17 (DSv) was one of a few documented reports from Colorado. North of their normal range, Sage Sparrows reports included Grand Teton N.P., WY, Mar. 27 (*vide* BR); Jackson, WY, Mar. 29 (*vide* BR); two in *El Paso*, CO, Mar. 28 (RB); and one at Chatfield Res., *Douglas*, CO, Apr. 18–23 (SS, JK, DS). A **Le Conte’s Sparrow** in Estes Park, *Larimer*, CO, Apr. 25–30 was most unexpected for the mountains (SW, ph. DC, m.ob.). An ad. Golden-crowned Sparrow was at Redlands, *Mesa*, CO, Apr. 25–26 (KHi, ph. SB).

A Bobolink at Stillwater Slough, *Churchill*, NV, May 21 (BH) provided the 2nd record for the Lahontan Valley. Very rare w. of the Great Basin, an ad. male **Common Grackle** was at Ruby Lake N.W.R., NV, May 9–13 (JTj). A first year male **Orchard Oriole** was at Tonopah May 31 (JEi), where there are few records. A Baltimore Oriole was at Wilson, WY, May 23 (*vide* BR) and a Scott’s Oriole was in the W. Desert, UT, May 30 (VAS et al.). Five

White-winged Crossbills were at Sundance Ski Resort, Utah, UT, Apr. 26 (MS, TS).

**Cited Observers:** Loretta Annala, George Armburst, Joel & Katy Beyer (J&KB), Cliff & Bev Boevers (C&BB), Steve Bouricus, John Brack, Jim Bradley (JBr), Bob Brandle, Bob Brown (BBr), Richard Bunn, Cheyenne Audubon Society (CAS), Graham Chisholm, Dick Coe, Mark R. Collie, Jim Cressman, Marian Cressman, Raymond Davis, Bob Dickson, Jordan Dimmick, Stephen J. Dinsmore, Joseph DiPasquale (JDi), Sharon Dooley, Jane L. Dorn, Robert Dorn, Patty Echelmeyer, Jake Edge, Jim Eidel (JEi), Chris Elphick, Norm Erthal, Gail Evans, Warren Finch, Bill Fink, Robert Flores, Joe Fontaine, Carol Fredericks, Bob Frye (BFr), Peter Gaede, Peter Gent (PGe), Bob Goycoolea, Robert & Nancy Gustafson (R&NG), Jim Hengevald, Bill Henry, Katie Hill (KH), Ned Hill (NH), Joe Himmel (JHi), Bill Huntley (BHu), Marshall Iloff, Mark Janos, Dave Johnson, Tina Jones, Joey Kellner, Ursula Kepler, Fritz Knoff, Florence R. Knoll, Dave A. Leatherman, Tony Leukering, Rich Levad, Lindsay Lilly Jr. (LL), William P. Lisowsky, Joe Mammoser, Lisa Marchet, Ed Mark, Steve & Kathy Martin (S&KM), Richard Maxfield, John Maynard (JMy), Martin Meyers, Bill Miller, Scott Mills, Duane Nelson, Ric Olson, Brandon K. Percival, Suzi Plooster, Kim Potter, John Prather, Bill Pulliam, David Quesenberry, John J. Rawinski, Lisa Rawinski, Bert Raynes, Joe Roller, Gene Rutherford, Ron A. Ryder, Terry Sadler, Pearle Sandstrom-Smith (PSS), Rick P. Saval, Rita Schlageter, Karleen Schofield, Dick Schottler, David Silverman (DSi), Drew Smith (DSm), V. Arnold Smith (VAS), Steve Stachowiak, Mark Stackhouse, Kay Stone (KSt), Richard Stransky (RSt), Rick Steenberg (RSb), Brian Sullivan, Dan Svingen (DSv), Ila Svingen, Jane Thompson, Jeanne Tinsman (JT), Carolyn Titus, Dennis Trousdale, Susan Ward, Rosie Watts, Merrill Webb, David Wheeler, Christopher L. Wood, Ronda Woodward (RWO), Helen Yard, Vic Zerbi, Michael & Shirley Zubowicz (M&SZ).

**Van A. Truan**, 1901 Court Street, Pueblo, CO, 81003, and **Brandon K. Percival**, 835 Harmony Drive, Pueblo West, CO, 81007 (e-mail: flammowl@juno.com)



# arizona region



## GARY H. ROSENBERG and CHRIS D. BENESH

Through much of Arizona, spring temperatures were rather mild and migration subdued. Though some observers felt that breeding was late in some areas, in general, there was better breeding success than in recent years, thanks to the mild weather and an abundance of food following good winter rainfall.

**Abbreviations:** A.B.C. (*Arizona Bird Committee*); B.A.N.W.R. (*Buenos Aires Nat'l Wildlife Ref.*); 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*); S.S.V. (*Sulphur Springs Valley*).

## GREBES THROUGH MERGANSERS

Very scarce in s.e. Arizona, single Horned Grebes were reported from Willcox Mar. 30 (D. Raten, G. Crandall), Patagonia L. Apr. 2-3 (M-B. Stowe, RP), and from the Avra Valley S.T.P. Apr. 5-10 (JHa et al., ph. MS). A single W. Grebe at Patagonia L. May 6-15 (MS, GHR) was late. A Clark's Grebe, rare in spring, was also present at Patagonia L. May 6-15 (MS, GHR). American White

Pelicans are regularly noted in passage in s. Arizona, but a flock of 150 circling over Sierra Vista May 24 (B. Anderson) was noteworthy. There was a scattering of March sightings of Brown Pelicans, with one at Sierra Vista S.T.P. Mar. 1 (*vide* JHa), one in Sahuarita Mar. 28 (RP), one in Canyon L. Mar. 28 (D. Enriquez), one in Nogales L. Mar. 29 (Tucson Audubon), and one in Peoria Mar. 29 (M&J Loesing). A single Brown Pelican remained at P.R.D. through the period (m.ob.). Neotropic Cormorants continued to be widely reported, primarily birds continuing from winter season; most noteworthy was the first *Yavapai* record, one at Watson L. Mar. 22 (CT). A remarkable 56 Double-crested Cormorants were present in Arizona City Mar. 16 (MS).

Three Least Bitterns were at Tres Rios, w. of Phoenix, May 13 (A. Peyton, CF); this species is considered rare in *Maricopa*. Two Great Egrets were reported in the Grand Canyon, one at RM 118 May 5, and the 2nd at River Mile 250 May 13 (CL). A Little Blue Heron was photographed in Tucson May 3 (T. Price), and another was seen flying over the Phoenix Zoo May 14 (RJ). Three **Brant** were found in Cornville Apr. 6 (ph. RR), with one remaining until Apr. 19 (ph. MS); there are 4 accepted state records. Very scarce in s.e. Arizona, four Greater Scaup