

species has yet to be confirmed nesting on the North Kaibab. A N. Parula was reported from s.w. Phoenix June 6, and another was at the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum July 6 (B. Bickel). A Prothonotary Warbler was present briefly in Tucson July 6 (ph. †MS). Quite out-of-place was a Worm-eating Warbler described along the upper S.P.R. July 13 (†S. Proctor, R. Estelle). A window-killed Ovenbird was discovered in Tucson July 1 (ph. S. Cornelius; * to University of Arizona). A female MacGillivray's Warbler was banded along the upper S.P.R. on the unseasonal date of June 22 (M. San Miguel).

Owing to the generous summer rains, Cassin's Sparrows were reported from a variety of locations, including several singing at Petrified Forest N.M. July 7–10 (T. Persons, R. Bangert). A singing Rose-breasted Grosbeak was 10 mi w. of Flagstaff June 9–15 (S. Rosenstock). A female Lazuli Bunting was along the upper S.P.R. June 24 (DK); this species rarely breeds there. An ad. male Painted Bunting was along the upper S.P.R. July 28 (S. Housden); this species is a casual to rare visitor to the state. A male Bobolink was reported from Tavasci Marsh June 11 (RR). A pair of Hooded Orioles bred successfully in Page for the 2nd consecutive year (JS). A pair of Streak-backed Orioles were observed feeding young near Dudleyville July 16 (T. McCarthey). The male Baltimore Oriole found in s.w. Phoenix May 30 was last seen June 11 (RJ). A male Am. Goldfinch was completely out of season along the upper S.P.R. July 17–22 (R. Estelle, S. Proctor, RH).

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new mexico region



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Summer 1998 was a season of contrast, with the dry and windy conditions of spring continuing through June. But then the spell was broken abruptly by rains almost statewide throughout July.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (*Bitter Lake N.W.R.*); Bosque N.W.R. (*Bosque del Apache N.W.R.*); L.V.N.W.R. (*Las Vegas N.W.R.*); N.R.T. (*North Roosevelt County migrant trap near Melrose*); R.G.V. (*Rio Grande Valley*); Zuni (*Zuni Indian Reservation*).

GREBES TO DUCKS

In some years, over 1000 pairs of Eared Grebes may nest at Stinking L., but low water this year resulted in no breeding (DS); only small numbers of Eareds nested elsewhere. A sub-ad. Brown Pelican took up residence at B.L.N.W.R. June 17–July 24 (GW *et al.*, ph. WH, v.t. JO); elsewhere, an ad. Brown at Mescalero L. June 13 (*fide* AP) may have been the same one sighted at Ruidoso May 13 (AP). Neotropic Cormorants continued in the Pecos Valley, with one–three at B.L.N.W.R. June 19–July 24 (GW *et al.*); northerly in the R.G.V. was a Neotropic at Isleta July 11 (CR). Double-crested Cormorants are not known to breed in *Chaves*, so their presence at B.L.N.W.R. June–July, including 24 on July 17 (GW), was interesting. Noteworthy was a vocal

Least Bittern at Española June 23 (WW); three were at Tucumcari L. July 7 (WW). An ad. Little Blue Heron at Bosque N.W.R. June 7 (JO) was the only R.G.V. report. Bitter Lake N.W.R. hosted several rare herons, including a calico Little Blue from July 8 into August (WH *et al.*), two Tricoloreds from July 24 into August (GW *et al.*), and a remarkable two **Reddish Egrets** July 17–24 (v.o., v.t. JO), with at least one present by July 14 (JM, GW) and one persisting into August.

An unbanded ad. **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** made a brief appearance at White Sands Missile Range headquarters, *Dona Aña*, July 15 (ph. D. Holdermann). Three immature-plumaged Hooded Mergansers at Bosque N.W.R. July 5 (JEP, JO) may have been raised locally. Rio Rancho, home to Intel, has also become home to Ruddy Ducks, with a bright male at the sewage ponds July 5 (WH) and a female with four chicks at the golf course July 26 (*fide* HS).

RAPTORS TO QUAIL

Four of the 5 known Osprey nests in n. New Mexico were successful, fledging nine young by late July (DS). Single White-tailed Kites were near San Antonio June 17 (N&SC) and s. of Virden July 5 (DE, BN). Three pairs of Mississippi Kites—including one constructing a nest—were on the Rio Casas Grandes, n. Chihuahua, June 2

(WH), apparently the first reported breeding for Mexico. The number of known Bald Eagle breeding territories was doubled this season with the discovery of 2 new—and eventually successful—nests in *Colfax* (R. Sever, C. Torrez, SOW). Common Black-Hawks returned to the Rio Hondo, where an active nest was observed at San Patricio, *Lincoln*, June 5 (SOW). Three Zone-tailed Hawks were in the Canadian Canyon near Mills July 22 (fide HS). Studies of the beleaguered Ferruginous Hawk by Hawks Aloft provided encouraging news—20 of 24 monitored nests in the Estancia Valley were successful, as were 14 of 21 nests in the San Agustin Plains area and 4 of 5 nests near Farmington (GG *et al.*).

Helicopter surveys for bighorn sheep in the Pecos Wilderness located White-tailed Ptarmigan at 3 sites: three birds on N. Truchas Peak July 7 and two singles n. of Barbara Peak July 8 (ER). Surveys found no Lesser Prairie-Chickens in historic range in n. e. New Mexico; farther south, surveys and other information indicated the chickens were gone from two-thirds of their historic range e. of Roswell and Carlsbad (N.M. Game & Fish). In June, the U.S.F.W.S. ruled that federal listing of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken was “warranted, but precluded” by higher priorities. A new westerly locale for N. Bobwhite was established with one on the Canadian R. near Sabinoso June 27 (CR).

MOORHENS TO TERNS

A pair of Com. Moorhens was tending chicks at San Marcial July 18 (JEP). Ever resourceful, urban Am. Coots produced young at Rio Rancho (WH) and Deming (LM). Late was a Black-bellied Plover at B.L.N.W.R. June 5 (GW). Snowy Plovers at B.L.N.W.R. peaked at 426 July 2 (GW); Snowies in other areas included four at Ute L. July 18 (JO), up to six at Bosque N.W.R. June 6–July 18 (JO, JEP, CR), 12 at Holloman L. June 13 (SW), and three at Brantley L. June 6 (JO). Late was a Semipalmated Plover at B.L.N.W.R. June 9 (CM); early were one–three there July 31 (JEP, GW). Mountain Plovers were scarce in their n.e. stronghold with only 2 reports; southbound migrants began arriving at turf farms by mid-July. An imm. (pre-flight?) Mt. Plover with one–two adults w. of Nageezi, *San Juan*, July 22–23 (ph. TR) may have been locally produced.

Earliest returning Solitary Sandpipers were two at Tucumcari L. July 7 (WW) and four at B.L.N.W.R. July 8 (WH). Single Willets were at Bosque N.W.R. July 5 (JEP,

JO) and B.L.N.W.R. July 2 (GW). Southbound Upland Sandpipers were passing over B.L.N.W.R. by July 28 (GW). Apparently lingering from May’s strong showing was a **Hudsonian Godwit** at B.L.N.W.R. June 5–7 (GW, SW). Unusual were 21 Marbled Godwits at B.L.N.W.R. June 23 (GW); and four Marbleds at Elephant Butte L. July 2 (JEP, JO, DE, BN). Among the highlights at B.L.N.W.R. were a **Ruddy Turnstone** July 22 (GW) and a **Red Knot** July 31 (JEP, GW). Earliest W. Sandpipers were one at the Lordsburg playa (JEP, JO), and 15 at B.L.N.W.R. July 2 (GW); the latest White-rumped was at B.L.N.W.R. June 9 (CM). A remarkable 290 Stilt Sandpipers were at B.L.N.W.R. July 24 (GW). A Com. Snipe winnowing s. of Fenton L. June 27–28 (PF) provided a new summer locale. Late were two Red-necked Phalaropes at Holloman L. June 6 (JO).

One–seven Franklin’s Gulls were at 7 locales in the north and east June 5–July 19 (v.o.); Franklin’s in mountain terrain were singles June 6 at Corona (SOW) and Mayhill (JO). Notable for the southeast was a 2nd-year California Gull at B.L.N.W.R. July 18 and later (SB, JM *et al.*). A Caspian Tern was at B.L.N.W.R. June 10 (GW), where another appeared July 17–18 (GW, SB); two Caspians at Morgan L. June 7 (ph. TR) were the first for *San Juan* in many years. Single Least Terns wandered W to Bosque N.W.R. June 5 (WH) and Morgan L. July 9 (TR); the breeding population of Least near Roswell numbered 7 pairs (JM).

DOVES TO SWIFTS

Continuing their presence at Ft. Sumner were one–two **Eurasian Collared-Doves** seen and heard on various dates June–July (v.o.); other Eurasians continued to reside at Roswell, while one at B.L.N.W.R. July 31 (JEP, GW) provided a local first. At least 3 pairs of White-winged Doves were in the Casa Solana area of Santa Fe June–July (ER); other northerly White-wingeds included one near Tucumcari July 7 (WW) and four at Ft. Sumner June 2 (SOW), where one was still singing July 19 (JO). Joining other interesting doves at Ft. Sumner were five Incas at 2 locales June 1–2 (SOW) and three there July 19 (JO); other northerly Incas were singles at Melrose June 7 (SW) and Tucumcari July 18 (JO). A Com. Ground-Dove singing in Clanton Canyon July 4 (JEP, JO) provided the only report. Yellow-billed Cuckoos where rarely reported included two each at Berrenda Cr., *Sierra*, June 8 (GG) and Last Chance Canyon, Guadalupe Mts., June 30 (SW). Elf

Owls, recent arrivals to the Guadalupe Mts, continued there, with two in Last Chance Canyon June 30 (SW) and three in Dark Canyon June 23 (SW). A Long-eared Owl pair with five young was w. of Nageezi July 23 (TR); there were six other summering Long-eareds. A Whip-poor-will heard in Gallinas Canyon n.e. of Las Vegas June 6 (CR) furnished at least the 3rd recent summer record for that northerly area.

The Black Swift colony in the Jemez Mts had 8 active nests July 17 (HS), the highest count yet for New Mexico’s lone breeding site; unusual were three Blacks at Nambé Falls July 15 (WW) and three over Clanton Canyon July 2 (DE, BN). Possibly summering Chimney Swifts were two at Tucumcari L. July 7 (WW), five at Clovis June 6 (SW), and four at Roswell July 5 (JM).

HUMMINGBIRDS TO FLYCATCHERS

North were 15 Broad-billed Hummingbirds in the c. Peloncillo Mts. July 24, where a just-fledged juvenile documented the first New Mexico breeding away from Guadalupe Canyon (WB). A juv. Lucifer banded at P.O. Canyon July 25 (JDM) was locally produced; another juv. Lucifer was s. of there July 24 (WB). Two Magnificent Hummingbirds were n. to Cedar Crest June 21–30 (J.D. Ligon). Early and far east was an imm male Anna’s Hummingbird at Roswell June 12–14 (SB) and another young male was banded near Tijeras June 23 (JDM). Southbound Calliopes had returned to New Mexico by July 2, when one was banded near Tijeras (JDM); in the east, single Calliopes were at Clayton July 12 (fide LF), on the Oklahoma line in *Union* July 20 (LF), and at Carlsbad July 15–16 (fide SW). Earliest returning Rufous Hummingbirds were two males at Mogollon June 27–28 (JO) and a female banded near Tijeras June 29 (JDM). A full-gorgeted, green-backed male of the Rufous/Allen’s type at Sapillo Crossing July 25 (DE, BN) may have been an Allen’s, a species yet to be confirmed in the state.

A pair of Elegant Trogons was tending two fledglings in the Peloncillo Mts. July 25 (WB). Red-headed Woodpeckers in unusual locales were singles w. of Mosquero June 27 (CR) and n. of Caprock June 5 (SOW). A Gila Woodpecker was at Mangas June 29 (RF); one–two Gilas were at 2 sites on Deer Cr. w. of Antelope Wells June 11–12 (SOW). Downy Woodpeckers were feeding noisy nestlings at Fourth of July, Manzano Mts, July 26, (HS), likely a first for *Torrance*.

Late migrant W. Wood-Pewees were conspicuous in the east, including 45 at

Boone's Draw June 9 (CM); noteworthy was one singing at Grenville June 13 (KDS). Two very vocal **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were videotaped together at Rattlesnake Springs June 6 (ph. & v.t. JO), providing only the 2nd definite New Mexico record. An *Empidonax* of the Willow/Alder type at N.R.T. June 9 (CM) was making "pipping" calls and may have been an Alder, a species heretofore unreported in New Mexico; at least six migrant Willows were also there that day (CM). Another impressive season for Gray Flycatchers produced reports from 18 locales, including 9 BBS routes, and included one-two s. to the Black Range June 12 (PB) and July 1 (SOW) and the Guadalupe Mts. June 5 and July 4 (SW), plus a high 17 in the Pecos-Rowe Mesa area June 7 (CR). Four singing Dusky Flycatchers were near Capilla Peak June 21 (WH), where an active nest July 22 (ph. HS) confirmed breeding in the Manzano Mts., the southernmost yet for New Mexico. A territorial but apparently unmated **Buff-breasted Flycatcher** in Clanton Canyon June 1-17 (WW *et al.*, tapes LG, CM, v.t. JO) furnished the 3rd Peloncillo Mts. report in 4 years. Single E. Phoebes were late at Ft. Sumner June 2 (SOW) and Caballo S.P. June 15 (GE). Two Vermilion Flycatchers at Bruhns Farm, s. *Harding*, July 18 (JO) established a new northeasterly locale. Cassin's Kingbirds were unusually common e. to *Union*, including 15 at Grenville June 13 (KS). South were two E. Kingbirds at Bosque Redondo June 9 (CM).

VIREOS TO THRUSHES

The Gila R. s. of Redrock was found to contain the largest Bell's Vireo population yet discovered in New Mexico, with 44 pairs along a 4 mi stretch; 46% of 70 nest attempts were successful (JMP). A singing Gray Vireo in the Ladrone Mts. June 21 (NC) furnished a new locality. Red-eyed Vireos included one at Mesilla June 5 (RM) and two at Rattlesnake Springs June 2 (SW). A singing possible **Yellow-green Vireo** was at Zuni July 4 (DC).

Blue Jays apparently summering w. to the R.G.V. were two at Los Lunas July 11 (CR) and one at Las Cruces June 12 (SW). Pinyon Jays were widespread and numerous, including 10 e. to Ragland July 19 (JO) and one s. to Berrenda Cr. June 8 (GG). Ten Purple Martins were entering hollow tubes on a radio tower at Gray Hill near Magdalena June 19 (GG); and Violet-greens were nesting high in the stone walls of the Quarai ruins June 27 (HS). Unusual was a Bank Swallow at Six Mile Dam July 7 (SW);

the species is known only as a migrant in *Eddy*. At least 40 Cave Swallows were at the La Union, *Doña Ana*, bridge site July 23 (SW), where young were banded July 24.

A Mt. Chickadee pair feeding young in a cavity at Aguirre Springs June 3 (JNP) established a breeding first for the Organ Mts. Far east were two Juniper Titmice near Ragland July 19 (JO). Noteworthy for the lower R.G.V. was a Bewick's Wren at Percha June 1 (GE) and June 10 (CM). A **Winter Wren** singing below Jemez Falls June 28 (DE) and July 11 (JEP) provided the 3rd Jemez Mts. summer report in 4 years, remarkable for a species whose nearest known breeding is hundreds of miles to the northwest. Marsh Wrens abandoned the dry Stinking L., but nearby Enbom L. had 12 singing males and 2 active nests June 13-14 (DS), while Stone L. had 6 occupied territories and 2 active nests June 14 (DS). One-two Black-tailed Gnatcatchers were at San Simon Cienega July 3 (JEP, JO).

One-two Veerys singing in willow thickets at Chama June 12-13 (JEP) and June 21 (tape JO) furnished the 2nd Rio Chama summer report in 3 years; in the Sangre de Cristo Mts., one Veery was singing near Peñasco June 12-13 (DE, BN). Among the late migrants at N.R.T. June 9 were single Swainson's and Hermit thrushes (CM).

MIMIDS TO TANAGERS

Gray Catbirds were conspicuous in peripheral areas. Brown Thrashers nested successfully at Bosque Redondo June 9 (CM) and July 8 (WH). Meanwhile, the remarkably persistent Long-billed Thrasher at Bosque Redondo was still singing June 14 (ph. WH). Well s. of known breeding areas was an ad. Am. Pipit in the Mogollon Mts. e. of Silver Creek Divide, *Catron*, June 27 (JO). Notable summer Cedar Waxwings were seven at Chama June 20 (JO) and two at Los Alamos June 10 (JT). Phainopeplas wandered N in the R.G.V., with one at Riley June 12 (HS) and three at Escondida June 7 (HS); east were one at Quarai June 13 (HS) and five in the Guadalupe Mts. June 30 (SW), while notable were one-two in the Lake Valley area June 8 (GG) and July 16 (LM).

A singing Olive Warbler was n. to Rainy Mesa near Reserve June 27 (JO). A singing Lucy's Warbler at Escondida June 7 (HS) was near the n. edge of its R.G.V. distribution; noteworthy was a Lucy's on Berrenda Cr., *Sierra*, June 8 & 27 (GG, N&SC). A singing **Worm-eating Warbler** near Cliff June 24 was still there July 2 (ph. DH) & 20 (DH). A late Ovenbird was singing at Albuquerque June 10 (JH) Intriguing was a

male Hooded Warbler singing near Cliff June 18, seen foraging with a female Hooded July 1, and sighted again July 2 (ph. DH) & 8 (DH *et al.*); another male Hooded was at Albuquerque June 1 (JH). The warbler of the season was a late **Canada Warbler** at N.R.T. June 9 (CM), only the 7th overall for New Mexico but the 2nd for *Roosevelt*. North of usual was a Red-faced Warbler near Quemado L. July 5 (BN), as was a Painted Redstart in the Jemez Mts June 18 (KCS).

Summer Tanagers may now be regular n. to the Canadian R. near Sabinoso, where there was one June 27 (CR); three were n. to Bosque Redondo June 27 (JEP). Notably late—and a 1st for *Colfax*—was a male **Scarlet Tanager** near Raton June 12 & 18 (KMS).

SPARROWS TO FINCHES

The onset of rains in early July resulted in rapid detection of Cassin's Sparrows in the northwest and west. Albuquerque's w. mesa also came alive, with 35 Cassin's singing there July 10 (WH), while in the Animas Valley, where surveys found only one June 11 (SOW), over 50 were singing July 31 (SOW). Botteri's Sparrows continued to thrive in the middle Animas Valley, with 28 territories in a 2.5 mi reach July 30-Aug. 1 (SOW); in the w. Playas Valley June 12, a male Botteri's was singing in McKinney Flats for the 2nd consecutive year and another was on lower Deer Cr., where there had been a pair in 1996 (SOW). Noteworthy were up to six Rufous-crowned Sparrows in the Santa Fe R. canyon near La Cienega June 5 & 24 (GG, CR), as were singles at 2 sites above nearby Cochiti L. July 18 (WH). In stark contrast to last year, Lark Buntings were notably scarce, with 12 at Grenville June 13 (KDS) the high count, unusual were two s. to Black R. Village June 24 (SW), while an early migrant reached Deming July 14 (LM). Savannah Sparrows suggestive of breeding were four in the Nutria Valley June 30 (DC), one near Stinking L. June 18 (DC), 21 near Angel Fire June 21 (CR), and five at Maxwell June 14 (KG).

Northerly was a N. Cardinal at Tucumcari L. July 7 (WW). A Pyrrhuloxia singing in the Mescalero Sands e. of Roswell July 9 (WH) was noteworthy, as the species is not known to breed in *Chaves*. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Rattlesnake Springs June 6 (JO) provided the only report. North was a Painted Bunting on Pajarito Cr. w. of Tucumcari July 7 (WW) & 18 (JO), and another was heard at Bosque Redondo June

9 (CM); a male Painted near El Paso Gap, w. Eddy, (JO) provided a local first. Dickcissels summer regularly in fields s. of Ft. Sumner, where the high this season was six July 8 (WH).

Bobolinks summer regularly only in the Los Ojos-Parkview area, where there were one–three June 12–13 (JEP, DE); unusual was a singing male in *Sandoval* s. of Fenton L. June 27–28 (PF). Single Com. Grackles at Aztec June 5 & 15 (TR) demonstrated continued presence in the northwest. Bronzed Cowbirds pushed n. in the e. plains and Pecos Valley, including four in *Union* June–July (LF), singles at Tucumcari July 18 (ph. JO) and Ft. Sumner July 19 (ph. JO), and five at Roswell June–July (SB). Orchard Orioles n. of usual were three w. of Tucumcari July 7 (WW) & 18 (JO) and another n. of Tucumcari July 18 (JO), plus singles at Ft. Sumner July 19 (JO), Bosque Redondo June 27 (JEP), and B.L.N.W.R. June 18 (WH).

Unusual was a Pine Grosbeak singing at Chama June 20 (JO).

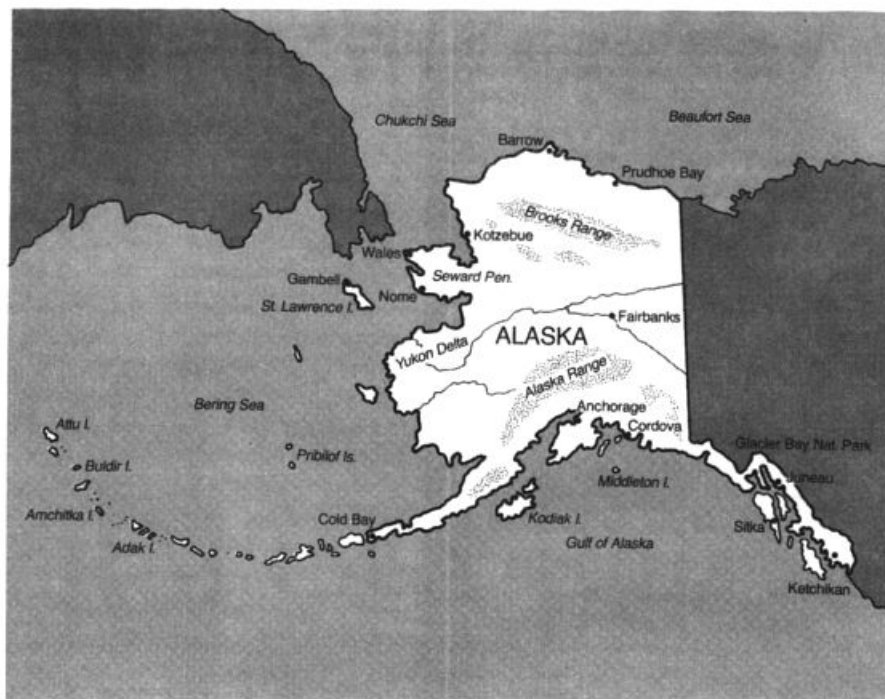
Noteworthy was a House Finch nest on the Oklahoma line in *Union* (LF). Red Crossbills were widely reported in the north and west, with highs of 23 on Golondrina Mesa, *Rio Arriba*, June 30 (CR), 150 at Mt. Taylor July 3 (WH), and 17 at Zuni June 16 (DC); peripheral were one in the Chuska Mts. July 25 (TR), five in the Sandia Mts. July 4 (CR), and two in the Black Range June 12 (PB). The only Evening Grosbeaks were in the north, with 10 near El Rito June 20 (JEP) and a high 60 near Angel Fire June 21 (CR).

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As the historic El Niño's winter/spring influences faded from Alaska by mid-summer, cooler wet weather filled in behind and summer barely materialized across at least the North Gulf Coast. Warmer temperatures began to prevail only by the end of the period. Heavy cloud cover, intermittent and persistent light rain, and very cool temperatures were this season's norm. For instance, portions of Upper Cook Inlet had rain on 25 of July's 31 days. North across the Mainland, cool conditions dominated. Local precipitation was more normal. When cooler parameters follow a protracted break-up, shorebird breeding fares poorly and there was at least local implication that such was the case, e.g. parts of the North Slope and Upper Cook Inlet.

Because of agency research reporting schedules, I receive few breeding season summaries for passerines, so there was little indication either way about that group's successes. This summer's less-than-stellar weather factors must certainly have been dominated by a broad southeast flow, as the season's highlights were punctuated by extralimitals and casuals from Southeast Alaska and points farther east. These rarities were focused in the greater Anchorage

area, no doubt a result of the extensive coverage at that entry point. Seabird numbers, distribution and rarities included more than the usual noteworthy highlights, mainly from the Bering Sea/North Pacific interface, where last season's record high surface temperatures didn't materialize. With Terry Doyle gone from the eastern Interior and no Hyder visits reported, exceptional records and highlights were lacking compared to past summers.

Abbreviations: North Gulf (*North Gulf of Alaska*); SE (*Southeast Alaska*); SC (*South-coastal Alaska*); SW (*Southwest Alaska*); UCI (*Upper Cook Inlet*).

LOONS TO RAILS

A party of at least six Com. Loons in Safety Lagoon near Nome July 25–26 likely represented staging failed breeders from the e. sections of the Seward Pen., where they are quite rare migrants and possible breeders. Most Seward Pen. reports are singles. Hearsay Arctic Loon reports continue to increase from the Nome area, but very few are substantiated. Visitors are cautioned that this Palearctic form is a casual migrant between n. Norton Sound and Wales—the Gambell seawatch continues to be the most consistent spot.