

Nevada at Lida, *Esmeralda*, 1 Jun (MM) and at Corn Cr. 12 Jun (PF). A Green-tailed × Spotted towhee hybrid was noted e. of Old Park, *Grand*, CO, 23 Jun (TL). In Nevada, singing Grasshopper Sparrows were observed in the Montana Mts., *Humboldt*, 14–20 Jun and in the Black Rock Range, *Humboldt*, 24 Jun (LN). A *leucophrys* White-crowned Sparrow was singing near Hugo, *Lincoln*, CO, 12 Jun (TL). Possibly due to an excellent grass crop this season, dozens of McCown's Longspurs were in s.e. *El Paso*, CO, 26 Jun (AV). The male Painted Bunting in Cottonwood Canyon, *Baca*, CO, stayed to 2 Jun (TL). A singing male Bobolink was seen along Franklin L. in Ruby Valley, *Elko*, NV, 11 Jun (GC), and at least three others were seen e. of Lamoille, *Elko*, NV, 9 Jul (TE, NW). A Com. Grackle was at Kauffman Ranch, UT, 5 Jun (PRS). Rarely reported from the w. slope of Colorado, a female Orchard Oriole was at Uravan, *Montrose*, 3 Jun (IS). A Scott's Oriole e. of Lamoille, NV, 9 Jul (TE, NW) was north of its normal range. Eight Black Rosy-Finches were observed at the s. limit of their breeding

range in the Tushar Mts. (Delano Peak area), *Piute/Beaver*, UT, 17 Jul (PRS, JKr, LW). Two White-winged Crossbills near Aspen, *Pitkin*, CO, 26 Jun (TL) and reports of others in adjacent regions may be early signs of an invasion year to follow. A male and female Red Crossbill were at the upper end of Six Mile Canyon, *Storey*, NV, 6 Jun (DS).

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# arizona region

**GARY H. ROSENBERG  
and ROY JONES**

It was a strange summer. It began with Arizona experiencing one of the worst droughts that anyone could remember. Our impression was that few birds bred successfully in the mountains, as suggested by large numbers of Western Tanagers and Pine Siskins remaining at lowland feeders well into July. Then the rains came! This summer's monsoon rains were perhaps the best in years, transforming the parched desert into a sea of green. Time will tell whether the rains came in time to save what was shaping up to be a disastrous breeding season. Surprisingly, Arizona added two species to its state list, both of which were perhaps long overdue. A territorial Carolina Wren spent the entire season along the lower San Pedro River, establishing a first record west of the Continental Divide (although there are now a number of reports for as far west as the Rio Grande in New Mexico). Two Short-tailed Hawks were discovered in Miller Canyon in the Huachuca Mountains, one of which was

photographed, finally documenting the occurrence of this species for the state.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Chris Benesh who has graciously shared his expertise and time in co-authoring the Arizona regional report for the past several years but has resigned due to other commitments. His valuable input will be missed.

**Abbreviations:** A.B.C. (*Arizona Bird Committee*); Arizona Strip (*n.w. Arizona n. of Grand Canyon and w. of Page*); 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*); H.T.L. (*Hualapai Tribal Lands, n. of Kingman*); 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*); W.S.F. (*Western Sod Farm*).

## GREBES THROUGH RAPTORS

The only Eared Grebe of the season was a single bird at Green Valley S.T.P. 16 Jun–1 Jul (MS, PS); Willcox has been the only location where this species has nested in s.e.



Arizona, but the water levels there have been too high in recent years. A Clark's Grebe, casual at best in s.e. Arizona during the summer, was at Patagonia L. 5 Jun (MS). Mid-summer reports of Am. White Pelicans are few and far between; therefore of interest were one at Willow Tank 13 Jun (O. McCaffrey, *vide* DJ), a high count of 41 at Picacho Res. 13 Jun (JH), and five at Upper L. Mary near Flagstaff 3 Jul (F. Welsh). Brown Pelican, normally a fairly regular summer visitor from Mexico, put in a poor showing this season with only one report of a single bird at Patagonia L. 5–23 Jun (MS, E. Johnson). Neotropical Cormorants have certainly become more wide-

spread in s. Arizona during the past 5 years, and numbers continue to increase at Patagonia L., with a high count of 28 there 5 Jun (MS). Elsewhere, there were three along the Santa Cruz R. in n.w. Tucson 6–19 Jun (MS) and a single at Picacho Res. 12 Jun (RP). Fifteen Double-crested Cormorants were at an odd locality on a pond in Tempe 10 Jul (RW). In n. Arizona, single birds were seen 7 Jun at Fool Hollow L. and Show Low L., both near Show Low (MS); Double-crested are not known to nest at lakes in that region.

One of the best birds of the summer, and a 7th state record, was an ad. **White Ibis** found at Nogales S.T.P. 5 Jul (JS, ph. MS, GR) and remaining there (or at an adjacent small pond) through the period. White-faced Ibis is casual in the state during June, and therefore one in Maricopa 6 Jun (RJ), nine at Nogales S.T.P. 21 Jun (NC), and four in Green Valley 28 Jun (MS) were all noteworthy; the latter birds likely represented early southbound migrants. A number of ducks over-summered in s. Arizona this season. Most unusual was a pair of Gadwall that produced eight young at a golf course pond in Nogales 6 Jul (MS). Single female Am. Wigeons were at Reid Park in Tucson 6–21 Jun (MS) and in Green Valley 16–28 Jun; another six were at Willcox 21 Jun (MS). One N. Shoveler remained at Green Valley 16 Jun (RP), while four were present at Willcox 21 Jun (MS). More unusual were summering male Blue-winged Teal at Green Valley 6 Jul (MS) and at Willcox 9 Jul (MS). Male N. Pintails were seen at Mammoth 7 Jun (MS) and at Willcox 21 Jun (MS). A male Ring-necked Duck remained at a pond in Nogales 5 Jun–23 Jul (MS), a pair were present at Green Valley 16–28 Jun (RP, MS), and a single female was seen at Agua Caliente Park in e. Tucson 23 Jun–14 Jul (RP, MS). A late Redhead was at Picacho Res. 13 Jun (JH), while at least two were present at P.R.D. all period (RW, M. Baker). Certainly one of the most unusual ducks of the season was a Com. Goldeneye that spent the entire season below P.R.D. (m.ob.); this individual was likely a sick or injured bird left over from last winter's large invasion into the Southwest. In n. Arizona, nine Com. Goldeneyes were still at Glen Canyon Dam 3 Jun (CL), while two Barrow's Goldeneyes remained there until 15 Jun (CL), likely establishing a statewide record late date for this species.

An early Osprey was seen at Arivaca L. 22 Jul (MS). Single White-tailed Kites were seen 13 Jun at the P.A.P. pecan grove (JH), where they have nested in the past, and at

Chandler Heights 21 Jun (R. Timmons, K. Young); this species continues to be reported sporadically at a number of locations throughout s. Arizona but has not become well established at any one site. Intriguing was a male N. Harrier seen in grassland near Pipe Springs N.M. 9 Jun (PF, LAM); there have been only 2 known nesting attempts by harriers in Arizona. For the 2nd consecutive year, Sharp-shinned Hawk apparently nested near Barfoot Park, Chiricahua Mts., with one present there 27 Jul (DJ); Sharp-shinned is the least common of the three accipiters in the mountains of s.e. Arizona. Away from its normal breeding areas in the state, a Gray Hawk was at Guadalupe Canyon 27 Jul (RH). A Zone-tailed Hawk nest with young at Peach Spring Canyon, H.T.L., 26 Jul (PF, KN) added to our growing knowledge base about the status of this species in Arizona; Zone-tailed appears to be a rare but regular breeder in the mountains just s. of the Grand Canyon. Similarly, very few nests of Ferruginous Hawk have been located in Arizona, and a nest with young discovered 15 mi s.w. of Pipe Springs N.M. 12 Jun (TC) provided only the 2nd nest site for the Arizona Strip.

**SA** The most exciting news of the summer was the presence of a light-morph **Short-tailed Hawk** at Miller Canyon 26 Jul through the period (†RH). Although this light individual was not documented with direct physical evidence, it led to the discovery of a dark-morph bird in early August also in Miller Canyon (also by RH). The dark-morph Short-tailed Hawk was photographed, thus becoming a first record for Arizona; there had been 4 previous sight reports from both the Huachuca and Chiricahua Mts. More details of this possibly nesting pair will appear in the fall report.

#### **RAILS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS**

A Clapper Rail was present at Picacho Res. 13 Jun (JH), where it is believed to be a rare but regular resident. A pair of Am. Avocets, a species only recently found nesting in the Phoenix area, produced two young at Gilbert S.T.P. 6 Jun (RJ). It is always amazing how early shorebirds begin passing through our Region. One Greater and four Lesser yellowlegs were seen at Green Valley S.T.P. 6 Jul (MS). An early W. Sandpiper was at Willcox 20 Jun (JS). Single Spotted Sandpipers at Nogales and Patagonia L. 5 Jun

(MS) were likely late spring migrants, whereas one at Picacho Res. 22 Jun (JS) was more likely a returning fall bird. A Stilt Sandpiper at Willcox 8 Jul (JS) was a bit early, as was a Marbled Godwit seen there on the same day. The only report of Semipalmated Sandpiper was an adult at Willcox 17 Jul (PL). Three Wilson's Phalaropes at the Green Valley S.T.P. 16 Jun (MS) were very early. The only interesting seasonal gull sighting was a California Gull at Green Valley S.T.P. 16–28 Jun (MS), perhaps a sick or injured bird.

White-winged Dove reports continue to accumulate for n. Arizona; this summer one was at Page 12 Jul, while two were together there 27 Jul (CL), suggesting possible breeding. Greater Roadrunners are seldom reported from n. Arizona, so four seen along the Arizona Strip 11–13 Jun (TC, PF, LAM), one between Snowflake and Concho 14 Jun (CW, KN), and one w. of Cameron 22 Jun (PF, KN) were all of interest; this species appears to be widely—but sparsely—distributed throughout n. Arizona. Long-eared Owl is yet another species whose breeding status in Arizona is poorly known. This summer at least three different Long-eareds were sighted 10–14 Jun in pinyon-juniper habitat along the Arizona Strip (LAM, PF), and another was at Steamboat, w. of Ganado, 24 Jun (PF, KN)—suggesting that it also is a rare but regular breeder in n. Arizona.

Violet-crowned Hummingbirds away from normal areas of occurrence included one at the San Pedro House, upper S.P.R., 26 Jun–20 Jul (L. Liese, T. Wood et al.), one at Miller Canyon beginning 5 Jul (T. Beatty, JH), one at Madera Canyon 7 Jul (NC), and one at Tucson 27 Jul (GH). A White-eared Hummingbird was at the S.W.R.S. in Cave Cr. Canyon 12–17 Jun (DJ), where it is not reported annually; one–two individuals were around all season at the Beatty's in Miller Canyon. A female Lucifer Hummingbird sitting on a nest in Leslie Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., 26 Jun (R. Magill, L.B. Myers) was exciting, as there have been only 2 other nests found previously in Arizona. This was a particularly good year for Berylline Hummingbird in s.e. Arizona, with one reported mid-June from the S.W.R.S. in Cave Cr. Canyon (*vide* DJ), one beginning 5 Jul at the Beatty's in Miller Canyon (†MS, CB, RP), one reported from Ramsey Canyon Inn 18–20 Jul (†B. Carrell), and one at the Santa Rita Lodge in Madera Canyon 9–10 Jul (NC, B. Massey). Caution is advised, however, in the identification of

Berylline Hummingbird in s. Arizona; there appears to be at least one hybrid at the Beatty's in Miller Canyon that probably had a Berylline as one of its parents.

#### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

A Cordilleran Flycatcher found in a canyon above the Aubrey Cliffs, H.T.L., 21 Jul (PF, KN) was in a region of the state where it had not been found nesting previously. At least four pairs of Buff-breasted Flycatchers were reported having nested above the S W R.S. in Cave Cr. Canyon as of 2 Jul (*fide* DJ), in recent years, this species has been found in small numbers in the Chiricahua Mts, most often in Rucker Canyon on the w side, but also with regularity in Cave Cr. Canyon. A Tropical Kingbird at Hayden 7 Jun (MS) was at a new locality along the lower S.P.R., where this species has been found nesting in small numbers. A Thick-billed Kingbird at California Gulch 26 Jul (NC) was probably a post-breeding wanderer from Mexico. Warbling Vireos have been suspected of breeding in the Mazatzal Mts in extreme n.e. *Maricopa*, and finally a pair with a nest was located at Slate Cr. Divide 21 Jun (JW, RW). A Gray Vireo was reported at Guadalupe Canyon 27 Jul (RH). Despite almost annual reporting of this species away from known nesting areas by experienced observers, there still remains no physical documentation of a "migrant" Gray Vireo in the state! A singing Yellow-green Vireo at the Patagonia Roadside Rest Area 21–24 Jul (RH, JLD et al.) was very exciting; there have been only 5 previous records of this vireo from Arizona.

A very late Tree Swallow was at Picacho Res 13 Jun (JH), and a very late Bank Swallow was at Patagonia L. 5 Jun (MS). An extremely exciting find—and a first state record for Arizona—was a singing territorial male **Carolina Wren** at Cook's L. along the lower S.P.R. 13 Jun through the period (T Koronkiewicz; tape TC, GHR; ph. MS, TC) This species appears to be spreading westward; there are a number of recent records from the Lower Rio Grande R. in c. New Mexico, but the Arizona record is the first from w. of the Continental Divide. After being reported for a number of years during the summer in the Oak Cr. drainage, **Winter Wren** was finally confirmed as an Arizona nesting species when at least two different singing males and a presumed female were observed carrying food in See Canyon above Christopher Cr. along the Mogollon Rim 2 Jul (tape J. Rourke, KN). A pair of Crissal Thrashers, together with an

old nest, was found at The Gap, s. of Page, 15 Jun (PF, LAM); the Arizona Atlas project has recently confirmed that this species is widespread throughout n.w. Arizona in small numbers. An Am. Pipit at Kayenta 5 Jul (CL) represented the first mid-summer report from the N.I.R. Yet another pair of **Black-capped Gnatcatchers** was located in s. Arizona, this time in California Gulch 23 Jul through the period (CDB, RH; tape DS); this was the 5th pair to be found in the state during the past 3 years.

**Blue-winged Warbler** was always considered one of the rarest "eastern" vagrants in Arizona, but one mist-netted and photographed along the upper S.P.R. near Hereford 17 Jul (†ph. M. San Miguel, HB) provided the 3rd record during the past 7 months and anywhere from the 7th to the 13th for the state (depending on pending A.B.C. decisions). A singing Golden-winged Warbler at Cook's L., lower S.P.R., 18 Jun (TC) provided one of the few summer records of this species. A Virginia's Warbler along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson 26 Jun (MS) was at a very low elevation for the species during the summer. At least two singing male Yellow Warblers were on territory 1 Jun–2 Jul in Portal (DJ), where they are not known to nest. A very late migrant Yellow-rumped Warbler was seen at The Gap 15 Jun (PF, LAM). An Am. Redstart was at Cameron 6–21 Jul (CL); there were no previous mid-summer records for the N.I.R. An Ovenbird at Arivaca L. 25 Jun (MS) provided a rare summer report. A Com. Yellowthroat 13 Jun was at an odd locality in the Arizona Strip, well away from water (TC). At least three pairs of Red-faced Warblers were detected at Slate Cr. Divide in the Mazatzal Mts. in extreme n.e. *Maricopa* 21 Jun (JW, RW). Although no nest has been found, this species is suspected of breeding in small numbers at this locality. Another Red-faced Warbler seen at Petrified Forest N.P. 4 Jun (J. Greenlaw, A. Banks), well away from known breeding areas in the state, was presumably a spring overshoot.

At least four ad. Hepatic Tanagers—one with recently fledged young—were found on H.T.L. 20–26 Jul (PF, KN); the Arizona Atlas project has confirmed breeding for this species in small numbers in the mountains just s. of the Grand Canyon. Some 30–50 W. Tanagers were still coming to feeders in the Portal area 2 Jul (DJ)—a startling example of the extreme drought that existed before the summer monsoons kicked in. A pair of Canyon Towhees located 8 mi e. of Keams Canyon, Hopi Indian Reservation, 8 Jul (PF) expanded well to the northwest the

known range of this species in n. Arizona. At least four Black-chinned Sparrows were found at Coconino Rim of Gray Mt. n. of Flagstaff 23 Jun (PF, KN); there are still very few reports of this sparrow from the Navajo Nation. We received an unconfirmed report of a pair of Streak-backed Orioles nesting along the San Pedro R. near Dudleyville during early July (*fide* TC); for several years this species has nested in small numbers along this stretch of the river. Hundreds of Pine Siskins at feeders in Portal 2 Jul (DJ) again reflected the severity of Arizona's drought; siskins normally do not visit these feeders in the early summer when they are nesting at higher elevations in the Chiricahuas. There are very few, if any, mid-summer Arizona records of Lawrence's Goldfinch, so a report of a male from H.T.L. 21 Jul (PF, KN) was truly odd.

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