

within a few minutes in the same area. It seems that walking millet and weed fields in e. Colorado each fall can produce interesting migrant sparrows. A Harris's Sparrow and a Swamp Sparrow were at Indian Springs, Clark, NV, 25 Nov (PL). Nine White-throated Sparrows were reported from Nevada and one was banded at Cibolla Creek near Powderhorn, Gunnison, CO, 2 Oct (SBo). An imm. Golden-crowned Sparrow was observed at C.V.C.G. 1 Oct (DAL) and an imm. was at Ash Creek Res., Washington, UT, 24 Oct (PRS).

A Dickcissel was found at Corn Creek 5 Sep (RS). Eight to 12 **McCown's Longspur** and a **Lapland Longspur** were at Carson L. 23–28 Nov (JLD, PL, LN, m.ob.), providing the second known occurrence for the Lahontan Valley. Also, two Laplands were at the Ponderosa Diary in Amargosa Valley, Nye, 25 Nov (PL). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Crystal Springs 2 Oct (PRS). A late Lazuli Bunting was noted at Corn Creek 27 Nov (RS). Late Bullock's Orioles included an ad. male at Brighton, Adams, CO, 29 Nov (MBI) and an imm. male in Lamar, CO, 30 Nov (DAL). Colorado had two Purple Finch reports, one from Two Buttes Res. 26 Oct (DAL) and one from Franktown, Douglas, CO, 28–30 Oct (H&UK). A pair of Com. Redpolls was s. of normal at Pueblo Res. 20–28 Nov (BKP, m.ob.). A Lawrence's Goldfinch was at Corn Creek 26 Sep (RS).

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The fall season's weather in Arizona saw extremes at both ends of the spectrum. We watched the second-longest recorded monsoon early in the season change to a record-breaking dry spell from late September throughout the remainder of the period. Warm temperatures also persisted in November with several record highs. The combination of an extremely dry spring and the long rainy season led to an extended breeding season for many birds, especially passerines. Reports of birds feeding young in late September and October seemed to be the norm rather than the exception.

Abbreviations: A.B.C. (*Arizona Bird Committee*); B.W.D. (*Bill Williams Delta*); B.A.N.W.R. (*Buenos Aires N.W.R.*); H.R.P. (*Hassayampa R. Preserve*); L.C.R.V. (*lower Colorado R. Valley*); M.F.L. (*Many Farms L.*); N.I.R. (*Navajo Indian Reservation*); P.A.P. (*Pinal Airpark*); P.R.D. (*Painted Rock Dam*); S.P.R. (*San Pedro R.*); S.T.P. (*sewage treatment plant*); U.A. (*University of Arizona, Tucson*); W.S.F. (*Western Sod Farms, near Friendly Corners*).

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS

A casual transient away from the L.C.R.V., a Pacific Loon was at Willow L., Yavapai, 19–20 Nov (BT, CT). At least 60 Horned Grebes at L. Havasu 27 Nov (SGa, RMJ, PL, MSM) provided the second-highest number ever for the state; one was also on an e. *Maricopa* pond 30 Nov (MS). A single Clark's Grebe was at the new Tempe Town L. 6 Nov (S. Burge) and two were at the Avra Valley S.T.P. 14–20 Nov (MS). Although a regular transient in the L.C.R.V., high concentrations of Am. White Pelican were counted there 6 Nov, with 350 at Mittry L., Yuma (D. Taylor) and 1,500 on L. Mohave (SGo). Also, 82 were counted at P.R.D. 23 Oct (SGa, L. Norris). Elsewhere in s. Arizona, individuals or small groups were noted at Arizona City, Pinal, 3 Sep–2 Oct and around Tucson 8–18 Oct. Only two Brown Pelicans were reported, at Tucson 4 Sep (C. Van Hampton) and at B.W.D. 27–30 Nov (PL et al). The northward expansion of Neotropical Cormorants the past few years

continued this fall. One was at Willow L. 9 Aug–12 Oct (BT) and another or the same was at nearby Watson L. 16 Aug–12 Oct (CT). *Maricopa* had its highest number ever: 13 along the Gila R. w. of Phoenix 23 Oct (TC). Rare in the se., Am. Bitterns were along the Santa Cruz R. near Tucson 16 Sep (RH) and at Green Valley S.T.P. 10–12 Nov (S. Johnsen, D. Touret). Prior to 1996 there were only six records of the Reddish Egret for the state. Remarkably, in the last four years an additional four have been documented. If accepted by the A.B.C., an imm. at L. Mohave 30 Sep (†SGo) will be the 10th state record. Seldom found in n. Arizona, two Cattle Egrets were at Ganado L. 4 Sep (CL, RR), while another report of 22 at Willow L. (CT, BT) 3–16 Sep represented one of the highest counts ever for that region. Fifty-three Black-crowned Night-Herons at Ganado L. 4 Sep (CL, RR) was the highest count ever for N.I.R. The White Ibis present since summer at Nogales was last seen 15 Sep (MS). Almost annual in s. Arizona, usually along the Gila or Colorado Rivers, Wood Storks were again present, with four at Imperial N.W.R. 7 Aug (TM, JV).

A concentration of 40–50 Black Vultures sw. of Phoenix 30 Oct (TC) was well n. of their normal range. Gr. White-fronted Geese were found in relatively good numbers this year, with 60 reported from nine different locations; the highest totals were 10 at Ajo S.T.P. 13 Sep and 38 at Green Valley 14 Sep (RP). A Ross's Goose was at Tres Rios Maricopa 20 Nov (TC) and another was at the Page S.T.P. 15–19 Nov (CL). Wood Ducks away from urban areas are always a nice find in s. Arizona; this fall individuals were at Kingfisher Pond, *Cochise*, 10 Nov (*vide* DK) and on the Gila R Indian Reservation 30 Nov (MS). One at Wahweap 29–30 Nov (CL) provided one of the latest reports from the north. The only Com. Goldeneye reported away from the Colorado R. was the male with an injured wing that summered at P.R.D. (and had been present since the invasion of winter 1998/9); it was last seen in early Sep (*vide* SGa). A male Hooded Merganser was at the Avra Valley S.T.P. 20 Nov (MS). In Arizona, Red-breasted Mergansers are only found consistently along the L.C.R.V. and adult males are especially rare away from the river; therefore, one at Green Valley S.T.P. 12 Nov (RP) was unusual. Additional reports of imm. males/females away from the river were five at Nogales S.T.P. 22 Oct (MS), one to two at Avra Valley S.T.P. 5–14 Nov (MS), and another four at Green Valley S.T.P. 19 Nov (C. Dewaard).

Two White-tailed Kites were at the Imperial N.W.R. 5 Aug (JV, TM) and four others were seen irregularly during the period along the Gila R. drainage in w. *Maricopa*. An early N. Harrier was in e. *Maricopa* 4 Aug (RW). The Red-shouldered Hawk present since Apr at H.R.P. was last reported 8 Aug (NM). The excitement of this summer's first state-record **Short-tailed Hawk** continued into fall with both the light- and dark-morph individuals reported sporadically through 4 Sep (*vide* MS). Amazingly, another light-morph bird was reported from near Onion Saddle in the Chiricahua Mts. 22 Aug (CBe), the same location where one was reported in spring. For the third year in a row a Merlin of the *suckleyi* race returned to the Sulphur Springs Valley 17 Oct (SW, TW). For the second year in a row a Crested Caracara was near Sierra Vista, e. of its normal range, this year's from Hereford 25 Oct (R. Heard); interestingly, last year's report was 22 Oct.

RAILS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Clapper Rails are thought to depart most of Arizona for coastal Sonora and farther s. by the end of Oct; therefore, one calling along the Gila R. w. of Phoenix 20 Nov (TC) was noteworthy. Quality shorebird habitat can be difficult to come by in Arizona, especially in the southern deserts, so birders seldom have the combination of both quality habitat and exciting migrant species that makes traveling through the 110°F temperatures worthwhile. Although this year did not live up to years like 1993, slowly receding water level below P.R.D. attracted many observers as well as exciting birds. An uncommon transient state-wide, Black-bellied Plover is always noteworthy. Two were at P.R.D. 31 Aug (RD), singles were at Tucson 26 Sep (MS), Willcox 28 Sep (RP), and El Mirage Pond 2 Oct (CBa), and up to four were at Paloma Ranch 7–23 Oct (m.ob.). Am. Golden-Plovers were found in above-average numbers this fall, with individuals at three different locations: W.S.F. 27 Sep (ph. MS, RH), Willcox 14 Oct (RH), and El Mirage Pond 16 Oct (†TC). Rare in n. Arizona and irregular elsewhere, a Snowy Plover was found at Tuba City S.T.P. 5 Sep (CL, RR) and two more

were below P.R.D. 29 Aug–19 Sep (RMJ). Five Black-necked Stilts were at Ganado L. 4 Sep (CL, RR); they are rare in the north and seldom there in groups.

This fall saw fewer than normal reports of Willet, with only three reports received. Two were at El Mirage Pond 28 Aug (CBa), a dozen were reported below P.R.D. 20 Aug, and one was at W.S.F. 5 Sep (MAP). The shorebird of the season was the **Upland Sandpiper** discovered at W.S.F. Aug 16 (ph. RH); there have been only four previous state records in the 20th Century; like all the others, this one did not linger. Three Marbled Godwits were found in w. *Maricopa* 29 Aug–14 Sep (RMJ, CBa); the only other report from Page S.T.P. 8–13 Sep (CL et al). A report that attracted observers to P.R.D. this fall was that of four Red Knots discovered 29 Aug (RMJ); one was still present 6 Sep (RD) and another was found at Round Rock 14 Sep (ph. GHR). Sanderlings moved through Arizona on a broad front this fall; reports of eight birds came from M.F.L. to Nogales, all between 21 Aug and 25 Sep. This season saw some high shorebird counts at P.R.D. Interesting numbers included 40 Baird's Sandpipers 29 Aug (RMJ),



A rare species inland in western North America, this Red Phalarope visited a park in Tucson, Arizona, 27–31 Oct 1999, where it obliged this photo 29 Oct. Photograph/Mark Stevenson



Representing the most recent of about a dozen Arizona records was this *L. c. brachyrhynchus* Mew Gull in Basic I plumage at Lake Havasu City, 27–30 Nov 1999 (the photo was taken on the first date). Photograph/Paul Lehman

17 Pectoral Sandpipers 19 Sep (RMJ), and 44 Stilt Sandpipers there 19 Sep (RMJ), all representing unusually high counts for the state. The Stilt Sandpiper count was perhaps the highest number ever for Arizona; another 20 were at El Mirage Pond 3 Oct (PM, TC). Short-billed Dowitchers were widely reported; we received eight reports, with highs of four at P.R.D. 12 Sep (RP) and three at El Mirage Pond 16 Oct (TC). A single Red Phalarope was reported 27–31 Oct at Reid Park, Tucson (D. West).

Arizona recorded its fifth and sixth records of Pomarine Jaeger this fall. An adult was found at a pond on Paloma Ranch 8–12 Oct (ph. B. Grossi, ph. JBu, v.r. GHR) and an imm. was picked up along Hwy. 89 n. of Flagstaff 11 Nov (CL, *U.A.). An imm. Parasitic Jaeger was reported at B.W.D. 26 Nov (†CBa, SS); if accepted it would represent one of the latest records for the state. A Mew Gull in Basic I plumage was at L. Havasu 27–30 Nov (SGa, RMJ, ph. PL, ph. MSM); there are about 12 previous state records. Interesting reports of Herring Gulls included individuals at the “jaeger” pond on Paloma Ranch 8 Oct (v.r. GHR, MS), one 6 Nov at Tempe Town L. (S. Burge), and two (Basic I and Basic III) at B.W.D. 26 Nov (CBa, SS). Sabine’s Gull seems to have become a regular fall migrant in small numbers during the last decade. This year at least three imm. birds were reported, one each at Sierra Vista S.T.P. 16–17 Sep (T. Godfrey), Willcox 18–25 Sep (ph. MS; perhaps the same bird), and Sunrise L. in the White Mts. 16 Sep (GHR). Notable Black Tern reports were 30 at Whitewater Draw 20 Aug (RH) and 12 at Ganado L. 4 Sep (CL, RR).

Band-tailed Pigeons are rarely found at low elevations, so one present in early Nov at Fountain Hills, *Maricopa*, (S. Gallizioli)

was significant. Yellow-billed Cuckoo surveys conducted by state and federal agencies 15 Jun–19 Aug on state, federal, and private lands located 172 pairs and 81 unmated adults, for a total of 425 individuals. Many additional birds likely breed on private property that was not accessible. This species is under consideration for being listed as an endangered species in the West. Short-eared Owls are irregularly found in Arizona and they infrequently stay put once found. This year up to five were often easily seen in the San Rafael Valley 9 Oct+ (NC et al.). A late Com. Nighthawk was discovered 12 Oct at Page (J. Alston). A Com. Poorwill was found at the high elevation of 8,000 ft. in Flagstaff 5 Oct (J. Hildebrand).

A Broad-billed Hummingbird, a rare visitor anywhere in the state away from the se., wandered n. to Scottsdale 19–20 Sep (M. Larson). White-eared and Berylline Hummingbird reports continued from Miller Canyon in the Huachuca Mts. early in the period and the interesting probable hybrid Berylline ~ Magnificent Hummingbird, present at the Beatty’s in Miller Canyon since the spring, was last reported 26 Sep (NC). Three Lucifer Hummingbirds were reported, a female was along the upper S.P.R. 28 Aug (SW, TW), a male at Bisbee 15–17 Oct (J. Whetstone), and another individual at the Beatty’s 4 Sep (RP). Eared Trogon invasions into Arizona are tied to, at least in part, availability of madrone berries and other food sources. A male in Cave Creek Canyon 10–28 Nov (JBo et al.) was feeding on madrone berries; this year’s extended and moist monsoon season resulted in a good berry crop (in Arizona at least). A Green Kingfisher was along Sonora Creek upstream of Patagonia L. 10 Nov (JBo); after becoming almost regular in the

state during the past decade numbers have dropped markedly, making sightings of this wanderer from Mexico significant. Lewis’s Woodpeckers staged a mini-invasion into the lowlands this fall; one was at Camp Cr, *Maricopa*, 19 Sep (TC) and up to nine were counted at Oak Flat campground, *Pinal*, 26 Nov+. Several Acorn Woodpeckers were noted at lower than normal elevations as well. One was at Whitlow Dam 18 Aug (JBa), nine were at B.T.A. 14 Sep (CT), and two more were in Scottsdale 16 Sep (JBa) About normal for a fall season, three Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported, with individuals at B.T.A. 17 Oct (RH), Coon Bluff, *Maricopa*, 19 Oct (J. Taylor), and Wahweap 15 Nov (CL). Unusual was the Strickland’s Woodpecker found ne. of Carefree, *Maricopa*, 6 Aug (C. Wise), one of few reports in the state away from preferred habitat. Interestingly, another was found along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson (WR) Yellow-shafted Flickers were reported at B.T.A. 14 Nov (JBa) and Oak Flat campground 24 Nov (RD, C. Fisher).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS

A N. Beardless-Tyrannulet along lower Camp Creek n. of Phoenix 19 Sep (TC) provided only the second *Maricopa* record Intriguing was a report of Least Flycatcher from M.F.L. 4 Sep (CL, RR); Arizona has only a handful of reliable reports and few well-documented ones, so we strongly urge observers to photograph any potential Least Flycatcher! Although E. Phoebes are likely a regular wintering species in s. Arizona (in small numbers), most are discovered on Christmas Bird Counts. This fall, one was at L. Patagonia S.P. 10 Nov (MS). Both a female and imm. female Vermilion Flycatcher were at Page 11–15 Nov (CL), suggesting again that the species bred locally. A Dusky-capped Flycatcher at B.T.A. 23 Aug–14 Sep (CT, RD, RMJ, SGa) was well n. of this species’ normal distribution. Another at L. Patagonia 22 Oct (MS) was considered late for the southeast. Also quite late was a Brown-crested Flycatcher reported from B.T.A. 7 Oct (B. Demaree, L. Hatcher) Somewhat intriguing was a report of a “heard-only” *Great Kiskadee* along the upper S.P.R. 4 Aug (J. Withgott, C. Brady), this makes two of the past three years that competent observers have either glimpsed or heard what they thought was a kiskadee at that location. A late Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher was in Sycamore Canyon 3 Oct (NC). The distribution of Tropical Kingbird in s. Arizona is not well understood, therefore, a pair, presumably nesting in the

trees at the n. end of W.S.F. at least 17–24 Aug (GHR, MS), was noteworthy and provided yet another location along the Santa Cruz R. drainage where the species has been found. North of its normal range and quite late was a Thick-billed Kingbird at Whitlow Dam, e. of Mesa, 21 Sep (JBa). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Huachuca City 3 Oct (L. Craft) remained reliably there through 12 Oct (RP, C. Fisher).

N. Shrikes, an irregular fall and winter visitor to n. Arizona, were reported from Grand Canyon Village 29 Oct (CL), along Hwy. 160 on 10 Nov (CL), and at Mormon L. 14–30 Nov (RP, R. Widner, A. Van Auken). Bell's Vireos were still feeding young at B.T.A. 18 Sep (RMJ) and along Lower Camp Cr. 19 Sep (TC), both incredibly late dates. A Gray Vireo was reported from Kino Springs 26 Sep (NC); there remains no physical documentation of migrant individuals away from the breeding grounds in Arizona, despite sight reports almost annually. Still casual in the state during fall, a Yellow-throated Vireo was reported from B.T.A. 25 Sep (CBa, SS). Certainly a better find was a Philadelphia Vireo in sw. Phoenix 16 Oct (†TC), providing only a fifth *Maricopa* record. The only Red-eyed Vireo this fall was along the upper S.P.R. 13 Aug (RH); once thought of as a rare- but-regular early fall migrant in the state, this species has become decidedly casual during the past 20 years.

CORVIDS THROUGH WARBLERS

Both Steller's Jay and Am. Crow staged mini-invasions into lowland areas Oct and Nov, but numbers of both fizzled out as the fall progressed. The Carolina Wren near Dudleyville that provided Arizona with its first record was last reported 2 Sep (D. Laush). No fewer than 13 Winter Wrens were reported (most from Nov) throughout the state; there is still some question as to which subspecies winters in the state—it is likely that both Eastern and Western birds are involved. Perhaps one of the more reliable locations to find Rufous-backed Robin in late fall and winter is B.T.A. This fall, one-two were there beginning 7 Nov (JBa, m ob.). Elsewhere, one was at the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum w. of Tucson 4–6 Nov (J. Krebs et al.) and another was at Tonto Verde, *Maricopa*, 20 Nov (R. Jetson). Still casual anywhere in the state, a Varied Thrush was reported from Sabino Basin, Santa Catalina Mts., 3 Nov (M. Klinkle). Brown Thrashers, rare in the state, were in Scottsdale 18 Oct+ (JBa) and in Red Rock S.P. 23–29 Oct (*vide* SGa)

A Golden-winged Warbler at Madera Canyon 1–3 Nov (†MS) provided about the 12th record for the se. portion of the state. The only Tennessee Warbler report was from Whitlow Dam 8 Sep (JBa). Single N. Parulas were at Topock Marsh 15–23 Nov (RH, N. Miller) and at Lee's Ferry 21–30 Nov (CL), the latter providing only a fourth N.I.R. report. A female Chestnut-sided Warbler was along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson 17 Nov (WR). Casual in the state during fall, three Black-throated Blue Warblers were found, a male on Mt. Lemmon 10 Oct (S. Birkey), a female in Tucson 18 Nov (S. Birkey), and another male at Katherine's Landing 26 Nov (PL). Outstanding was yet another **Prairie Warbler**, providing an eighth state record; this individual was photographed at Topock Marsh 27 Nov (PL, MSM). Only one Palm Warbler was reported, along the upper S.P.R. 1 Oct (S. Anderson). Black-and-white Warbler reports included individuals below Madera Canyon 11 Sep (NC), in Scottsdale 15 Oct (JBa), at Kino Springs 19 Oct (P. Saloman), and at Wahweap 7 Nov (C. Goetze). At least five different reports of Am. Redstarts were received, about normal for a fall season. Prothonotary Warbler reports included one at Patagonia 4–5 Sep (M. Brown) and one at B.T.A. 13–14 Sep (SGa, CT, RMJ); it is no longer a review species in the state. Also recently removed as a review species, but still only casual, is Worm-eating Warbler; one was at Becker L. 6 Sep (CBa). Individual Ovenbirds were seen at Katherine's Landing 10 Oct (RH) and at Patagonia 18 Oct (NC). Only four N. Waterthrushes, below normal, were reported from this fall. More interesting and north of most reports in the state was a Louisiana Waterthrush along Queen Cr. near B.T.A. 7 Nov (MS). Certainly the warbler of the season was another **Rufous-capped Warbler** in French Joe Canyon 20 Nov+ (K. Kertell); it was in basically the same location as the bird present during 1995–1996, begging the question as to whether it was the same individual.

SPARROWS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

A Clay-colored Sparrow at Prescott 19 Sep (†CT) provided a first local record of this rare migrant in Arizona. Well n. of its normal wintering range in the state, a Baird's Sparrow was reported from Prescott 16–24 Oct (CT). A basic-plumaged male **Lapland Longspur** was n. of Topock Marsh 27 Nov (RMJ, SGa); amazingly, there are still few state records—it is almost certain that the

paucity is not indicative of the species' true status in the state. Late was a Varied Bunting feeding young at Patagonia 9 Oct (NC). No fewer than eight (above average) Painted Buntings were found this fall. Conversely, only three Dickcissels were reported; one at Pasture Canyon 5 Sep (RR, CL) provided a seventh N.I.R. report. It was a better than average year for Bobolinks, with one in Prescott 11 Sep and four there 25–29 Sep (CT), one along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson 11 Sep (J.&S. Levy), and one along the upper S.P.R. 30 Sep (B. Stocku). This fall was not spectacular for Lawrence's Goldfinches, but there were moderate numbers at several se. Arizona locations between Tucson and Nogales; a high count of 70 or more came from n. of Continental 14 Nov+ (RP, m.ob.).

EXOTIC AND LIBERATED BIRDS

Peach-faced Lovebirds, now established and rapidly becoming a pest in the Phoenix metro area, were found at several new *Maricopa* locations this year (*vide* TC, JW). Another African exotic trying to grab a foothold in Arizona, Orange Bishop was reported at two e. *Maricopa* locations (T. Gatz) and at the Sweetwater Wetlands in Tucson (B. Hunt). For the second year in row White-collared Seedeaters were reported in s. Arizona. This year two males, descriptions of which fit the w. Mexico race, were feeding on tall grasses near the Hereford Bridge along S.P.R. 22 Aug.

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