

mountain west



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Moisture in the Region was marked by a wet March, later becoming quite dry, especially in southern areas. In e. Colorado, temperatures warmed early, most trees were fully leaved by early May, and record 100°F highs were recorded in May. Weather fronts and the jet stream stayed north of normal, allowing birds to move through but not holding them for more than a day or two.

The highlights of the reporting period from Nevada were (1) a better-than-average presence of vagrants at the desert oases in the south, (2) an unprecedented passage of Vaux's Swifts in the Reno area and elsewhere, and (3) good numbers and variety of shorebirds in the Lahontan Valley (although no Regional rarities). Colorado had two first state records, a Slaty-backed Gull (seen by hundreds) and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.

Abbreviations: C.C. (Cottonwood Canyon, Baca/Las Animas, CO); C.V.C.G. (Crow Valley Campground, Pawnee National Grasslands, Weld, CO); H.B.V.P. (Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, Clark, NV); H.P.R.A. (High Plains

Research area, near Cheyenne, WY); H.R. (Hereford Ranch, near Cheyenne, WY); F.C.R.P. (Fountain Creek Regional Park, El Paso, CO); L.V. (Lahontan Valley, w. NV); S.L.V. (San Luis Valley, CO); S.W.A. (State Wildlife Area); W.R.G. (Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, Jefferson, CO). Because the majority of reports received in the Region come from Colorado, we are using site and county names for Colorado to save space; other sightings list the state (except for Carson L., Pyramid L., and Walker L., all in Nevada). Most rarities were seen by many birders, so only the person(s) who found or identified it first, or reported the bird to us, are included (except for major rarities).

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

Rare in spring, an ad. Red-throated Loon was in *Bent* 3–21 May (CF, BKP). The wintering Yellow-billed Loon at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, stayed to 19 Mar (v.o.); an ad. was at Big Johnson Res., *El Paso*, 25 Mar–28 Apr (BM, ph. †GWL). At least one Least Bittern was at John Martin Res, *Bent*, 14–15 May (BKP, MJ). Rare in w. Colorado, single Great Egrets were in *Mesa* 7 Apr (TL, RLd) and *Delta* 27–28 May (TL). Five Little Blue Herons were reported in e. Colorado 5–26 May. Single Green Herons were at Oxbow Park, NV, 22 Apr (TF) and Rancho San Rafael Park, NV, 7 May (FP). Colorado's 3rd **White Ibis** was at Barr L., *Adams*, 19–30 Apr (EY, JD, TL, m.ob.). Nine Glossy Ibises were reported from e. Colorado 8 Apr–23 May (v.o.); most unusual was one in w. Colorado near Edwards, *Eagle*, 24 Apr (BBE, †JMe). A 17 May aerial survey of White-faced Ibis in

the L.V. produced 1873 pairs (BH, LN), down 55% from last year.

WATERFOWL

A *nigricans* **Brant** was at Swan L., NV, 18–21 May (TF, KM, m.ob.). The wintering Eurasian Wigeon in Pueblo stayed to 21 Apr. Blue-winged Teal in Nevada were at Carson L. 11 Apr (TF, JL), Washoe L. 7 May (GS), Soda L. 14 May (TF), and S-Line Res. 20 May (MM). Colorado had a large invasion of Greater Scaup, with possibly record numbers—1000 at Barr L. 22–29 Mar (TL, DF). A male **Tufted Duck** was found at Barr L. 28 Mar (†KS), the 2nd for Colorado. Four Surf Scoters appeared in e. Colorado 26 Mar–17 May. A pair of Red-breasted Mergansers was noted at Walker L. 19 Mar (GS, DS) and 2 more were found at Pyramid L. 26 Mar (DS). A high count of 3000 Ruddy Ducks was in *Weld* 13 Apr (JF).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

The Red-shouldered Hawk in *Arapahoe* stayed until 12 Mar (IS, DQ, KS); an imm. was at Floyd Lamb S.P., NV, 17 Mar–2 Apr (RPS) and another was present until 28 May at Mormon Ranch, NV (BL). A Peregrine Falcon was noted at Carson L. 13 May (v.o.). The introduced Ruffed Grouse in Nevada were noted in the Santa Rosa Mts. 13 May (JW). A pair of Virginia Rails were noted in Morgan, UT, 8 Apr (VAS, LSm), providing the first area record. More Black Rails than usual were reported from se. Colorado, with ≤17 in *Bent* 29 Apr–26 May (DQ, BKP) and 2 in *Otero* 23 May (SO). The first **Common Moorhen** reported in Colorado since 1993 appeared at John Martin Res. 7–21 May (Sse, m.ob.).

An American Golden-Plover was in *Kiowa* 9–10 May (TL). In Nevada, 2 Solitary Sandpipers were at Carson L. 25 Apr–6 May (LN) and one at S-Line Res. 26 Apr (TF, LN). Eight Upland Sandpipers were reported in e. Colorado 29 Apr–7 May (v.o.). Thirty-four Whimbrels passed through e. Colorado 23 Apr–20 May and a flock of 30 was in *Yuma* 13–14 May (BR, DFO); one was at Carson L. 6 May (GC). Single Hudsonian Godwits were in *Prowers* 16 Apr (CLW, TL, MJ, BKP) and *Yuma* 13–14 May (BR, DFO). A **Wandering Tattler** wandered inland to Antelope S.P., UT, 6 May (DPu et al.), providing one of the few Regional records. Ruddy Turnstone reports included one in *Bent* 6 May (MJ, BDK), 3 in *Kiowa* 8 May (FL), one in *Kiowa/Bent* 9 May (DN), and 2 at Soda L., Casper, WY, 13 May (CM). A Red Knot was at Carson L. 25–29 Apr (LN), with another



Posing as if to display their differences, this Yellow-billed Loon (left) and Common Loon (right) were photographed 16 April 2000. The Yellow-billed, a rare bird in the interior of the coterminous United States, remained on Big Johnson Reservoir near Colorado Springs, Colorado, 25 March–28 April. Photograph by Greg W. Lasley

at Soda L., WY, 29 May (CM). A Baird's Sandpiper was at Soda L., NV, 29 Apr (MM, GS). Single Short-billed Dowitcher were reported from S-Line Res. 26 Apr (TF, LN); several *hendersoni* were in Otero 21 May (CLW, TL, LSe) and in Weld 22 May (NK). Colorado's first known displaying male **American Woodcock** was at Rocky Ford S.W.A., Otero, 13 Apr–10 May (SO, m.ob.).

GULLS THROUGH NIGHTJARS

A high count of 117 Bonaparte's Gulls was recorded in Larimer 25 Apr (SJD). Mew Gull sightings included an adult in Boulder late Feb–25 Mar (v.o.), an ad. in Arapahoe

SA The Horseshoe Lake area of Loveland, Larimer, was a gull haven this spring for rare and unusual gulls. Highlights included 11+ Thayer's Gulls, up to 6 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Colorado's first Slaty-backed Gull, a basic adult, 6 Mar–6 Apr (DCE, DAL, m.ob.), 3 Glaucous-winged Gulls, including a second-basic found during the winter and remaining to 19 Mar, a first-basic 7 Mar (MJ), and another first-basic 29 Mar–3 Apr (vt. SMI, m.ob.), 4 Glaucous Gulls, a second-basic Nelson's Gull (hybrid Glaucous × Herring), and a Great Black-backed Gull. The lake may have had some winter kill fish or was a staging area for gulls.

6–13 Mar (GW), a second-basic in Boulder 13–14 Mar (BS, MS), a first-basic found in Dec was seen again at Barr L. 28 Mar (CLW), and another ad. in Larimer 31 Mar (SJD). Colorado's 2nd and 3rd records of **Iceland Gull** included a first-basic at Pueblo Res. 18–19 Mar (BKP, MJ, VAT, m.ob) and a first-alternate at Prince L. #2, Boulder, and near Erie, Weld, 9–26 Apr (JV, PGe, m.ob.). Other Lesser Black-backed Gull sightings included an alternate-adult in Pueblo 17–19 Mar (BKP), a second-basic in Kiowa 16 Apr (BBH), and a 4th-year in Jefferson 30 Apr (LSe). Three other Nelson's Gull reports included two imms. at Pueblo Res. 18–22 Mar (TL, DF, MJ, BKP) and one imm. in Prowers 9 Apr (BKP, MJ). An ad. **Western Gull** was photographed at L. Mead, NV, 8 May (J&MC). A first-year Great Black-backed Gull was in Arapahoe 10 Apr (BBr). A high count of 12 Caspian Terns was recorded in Colorado 15 Apr–28 May (v.o.), including a very early one in El Paso 25 Mar (BM). Five Common Terns were reported from L. Mead, NV, 8 May (J&MC).

New Eurasian Collared-Dove locations for e. Colorado include Swink, Otero (DD, *fide* DAL); Ovid, Sedgwick, 1 Apr (CLW, TL, LSe); Flagler, Kit Carson, 15 Apr (RSi); w. of Ft. Lyon, Bent, 16–21 Apr (KH, m.ob.); and Sterling, Logan, 22–23 Apr (SEM). A **White-winged Dove** at Casper, WY, 30 Apr–5 May (GL, JL) may provide the 2nd or 3rd state record. Four White-winged Dove were found in e. Colorado 29 Apr–13

May. It appears that **Inca Doves** are now breeding in Colorado. At least 7 were in Rocky Ford this spring, several of them nest-building (SO, m.ob.). Others were in Lamar, Prowers, 16 Apr (TL, CLW, MJ, BKP) and at Logandale, NV, 2 May (J&MC). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported from Torraine Ranch 29 May (GS) and Tonopah 29 May (DT), both in NV. A Spotted Owl was heard in Pueblo 21 May (CLW, TL, LSe). A Northern Saw-whet Owl was in C.C. 17 Apr (BBH). A Lesser Nighthawk was reported in Lamar 4–6 May (TM).

SWIFTS THROUGH JAYS

A rare spring Black Swift was reported in Pueblo 20 May (TL, CLW). A **Vaux's Swift** was observed in Reno, NV, 28 Apr (JA), and a remarkable 150+ were there 7 May (TF, KS); they were present through the end of the period and at least two pairs were observed in courtship display 30 May (TF). In the deserts, Vaux's Swifts were at Corn Creek, NV, 7 May (J&MC) and Dyer, NV, 18 May (J&MC). North of normal, a Costa's Hummingbird at Limerick Creek, NV, 4 May (JW). A Rufous Hummingbird in the S.L.V., Conejos, 20 May (JJR) and an ad. was at Rocky Mt. N.P. 2 Jun (S. Schulte). Two pairs of **Acorn Woodpeckers** continued at Durango, La Plata, 6 Apr (TL, RLd, CS) and one was in Beulah, Pueblo, 20 May (PH).

An Eastern Wood-Pewee was noted in Otero 2 May (SO) and another in Bent 13

May (RO, DQ). Colorado's first **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was singing at Pueblo 28–29 May (MJ, VJ). A Least Flycatcher was located near Tonopah, NV, 17 May (JB). Twenty-nine Black Phoebes were in w. Colorado in *Montrose* and *San Miguel* 7 Apr–8 May (TL, RLd, KP, DF). Colorado's first breeding **Vermilion Flycatchers** fledged one young in *Otero* 26 Mar–31 May (LZ, m.ob); a male Vermilion Flycatcher was at Holbrook Res., *Otero*, 1–5 Apr (FL, BKP, GR, WR). An early Cassin's Kingbird was at Corn Creek, NV, 16 Mar (CT) and a pair were at Dyer, NV, 21 May (MM, GS). At least two pairs of Eastern Kingbirds were in ne. Elko, NV, in late May (MP). A male **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was banded at Torrance Ranch, NV, 20 May (KV), and singles were in *Prowers* 4 May (JV) and *Pueblo* 16 May (†DSi). A Northern Shrike was noted at McClellan Mt., NV, 4 Mar (JE, TF).

A rare **White-eyed Vireo** was at Lida, NV, 21 May (MM, GS). Another four were in e. Colorado this season. Bell's Vireo sightings included singles in *Prowers*, *Boulder*, and C.V.C.G. A Yellow-throated Vireo was found in *Otero* 3 May (DSc). Cassin's Vireos were reported from Las Vegas, NV, 2 May (CT) and at C.V.C.G. 26 May (JR, DQ, RO, JV). A Blue-headed Vireo was in *Pueblo* 19 May (†DSi), and at C.V.C.G. 27 May (BBr, GR, WR). Rarely reported from w. Colorado, a singing Red-eyed Vireo in *Routt* 30 May (FL). Three were found at H.R. 24 May (CLW) and one was at Torrance Ranch, NV, 24–27 May (KV). Two Violet-green Swallows wandered e. to *Yuma* 18 May (DAL). American Crows continue to expand into se. Utah; a pair nested for the first time in Morgan 1 Mar–30 May (VAS).

TITMICE THROUGH WARBLERS

Rare in the S.L.V., a Bewick's Wren was in *Rio Grande* 20 May (JJR). Two Veeries and a Gray-cheeked Thrush were found at H.R. 24 May (CLW); four Gray-cheekeds were in e. Colorado. At least 3 Swainson's Thrushes were at Sunset Park, NV, 15 May (TF). Single Varied Thrushes were in *Huerfano* 11 Mar–6 Apr (RSc, PHi, DHi), *Boulder* 14–15 Mar (JY), Oxbow Park, NV, 29 Mar–2 Apr (TF, DY), and Pyramid L. 6 May (MM). A Northern Mockingbird was at Casper, WY, 12 Apr–31 May (CM).

Colorado birders recorded a total of 36 warbler species. Of the more regularly occurring species in Colorado, the following were reported: 11 Tennessees (1–21 May), 8 Nashvilles (20 Apr–22 May), 18 Northern Parulas (17 Apr–28 May), 8 Chestnut-sideds (6–27 May), 4 Magnolias (14–19 May), 5

Black-throated Blues (6–20 May), 9 Black-throated Grays on the plains (22 Apr–21 May), a single Black-throated Green (4 May), 4 Townsend's (23 Apr–12 May), 3 western Palms (30 Apr–21 May), 9 Blackpolls (4–24 May), 17 Black-and-whites (23 Apr–26 May), and 6 Hoodeds (20 Apr–23 May). Of the rarer species, reports included (all are singles, unless indicated): Blue-winged Warblers in *Bent* 28–30 Apr (RO, DQ), *Adams* 29 Apr (MAG), and in *Pueblo* 29 Apr (MY), 16 May (†DSi), and 20 May (BKP, LB, MJ). Golden-winged Warblers were at *Crowley* 5 May (BBr), *Baca* 7 May (BKP), C.V.C.G. 14 May (LR), and *Larimer* 15–16 May (SG, H&DF, JF).

In Nevada, Tennessee Warblers were at Tonopah, NV, 3 May (JB), Indian Springs, NV, 28 May (MS, TW), and Casper, WY, 29 May (CM). In Nevada Northern Parulas graced Corn Creek 6–7 May (RPS) and 29 May (RPS), Torrance Ranch 7 May (KV), H.R. 20 May (CM, GJ), H.P.R.A. 20 May (CM, GJ), Tonopah 20–21 May (JB), Dyer 21 May (MM, GS), and Indian Springs 28 May (MS, TW). Wyoming's was at Fontenelle Dam 20 May (R&JS). Chestnut-sided Warblers were in Casper 10–14 May (CM) and H.R. 20 (GJ, CM) & 23 May (CLW). A male Magnolia Warbler and a female Black-throated Blue Warbler were at H.R. 20 May (CM, GL). A male Blackburnian Warbler was in *Larimer* 9 May (JMa), while a female turned up at C.V.C.G. 20–21 May (BBr, JF). A Grace's Warbler was singing in Rye, *Pueblo*, 7–10 May (DSi). Wyoming's 2nd **Prairie Warbler**, a male, was at Lion's Park in Cheyenne 18–20 May (GJ, CM, m.ob.). A male Prairie was in *Bent* 14 May (BKP, MJ). A male Pine Warbler was in *Prowers* 25–26 May (BKP, TB). The **Palm Warbler** found during this winter at Casper, WY, stayed to mid-Apr (AH). A Blackpoll Warbler was at H.R. 20 May (GJ). Single Bay-breasted Warblers were at F.C.R.P. 14 May (AV), *Prowers* 21 May (BKP), and C.V.C.G. 24 (CLW, JF), 25 (SEM), & 28 May (JR, DQ). Black-and-white Warblers were at Bodyfelt Ranch, NV, 20–27 May (v.o.) and Torrance Ranch, NV, 20–26 May (v.o.), and one was at Fontenelle Dam, WY, 26 May (R&JS). Four American Redstarts were at H.R. 24 May (CLW) and others were at six locations in s. Nevada 26–29 May (v.o.). Prothonotary Warblers were found in *Prowers* 22 Apr (RLz, NE, DQ,

MJ) and *Otero* 21 May (SO). Worm-eating Warblers were reported in Colorado from *Otero* 1 May (TM), *Bent* 5 May (JK, SSt), *Washington* 7 May (JMa), C.V.C.G. 16 May (JHi, DM), and F.C.R.P. 19 May (MJ). A **Swainson's Warbler**, a Regional rarity, was reported from Nee Noshe Res., *Kiowa*, 30 Apr (GR, WR). An Ovenbird was at H.R. 20 (GJ) & 23 May (CLW); another was at Torrance Ranch, NV, 28 May (GS). Kentucky Warblers were reported at W.R.G. 14 May (NE) and in *Prowers* (GR, DAL). Mourning Warblers were in *Prowers* 4 May (BKP, TM), *Baca* 9 May (CLW, TL), *Jefferson/Douglas* 13 May (JK), *Prowers* 14 May (GR, WR, MJ), and *Bent* 14 May (CLW). Northern Waterthrushes were at Lion's Park, WY, 23 May (CLW), Bodyfelt Ranch, NV, 26–27 May (GS), and Dyer, NV, 26–27 May (GS). Single Hooded Warblers were at Tonopah, NV, 14 May (JB), Las Vegas, NV, 15–17 May (TF), Fontenelle Dam, WY, 26 (R&JS) & 27 May (FL), and Lida, NV, 28 May (JB).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Hepatic Tanagers were reported from *Prowers* 14 May (DAL, CLW), Torrance Ranch, NV, 16 May (KV), and *Pueblo* 19 May (CLW, TL). A male Scarlet Tanager in the S.L.V., *Rio Grande*, 20 May (JJR) was most unusual; others included singles in *Baca*, *Pueblo*, *Prowers*, and at C.V.C.G. The wintering Eastern Towhee at Penrose, *Fremont*, stayed to 16 Apr (RWa, JW, m.ob.). A Cassin's Sparrow was n. of normal at Torrington, WY, 21 May (CM). A Black-chinned Sparrow at Tonopah, NV, 3 May (JB) was also unusually north. Single



Field identification of Thayer's vs. Iceland Gull is hotly debated, as is whether these gulls are actually separate species. In the East, the problem is telling a Thayer's from a dark Iceland; in the West, the problem is reversed. Some birds in the West, however, are sufficiently pale to allow reasonably confident identification, such as this apparent Iceland (note the whitish wingtips) in *Boulder* during April 2000. Photograph by Christopher L. Wood

Sage Sparrows were in *Pueblo* 23 Mar (BKP), *Douglas*, 4 (JK) & 6 Apr (CLW) and *Jefferson* 6–7 Apr (ph. CLW). Unusual in Utah, a Lark Bunting was at Red Hawk, *Summit*, 17 May (LLu).

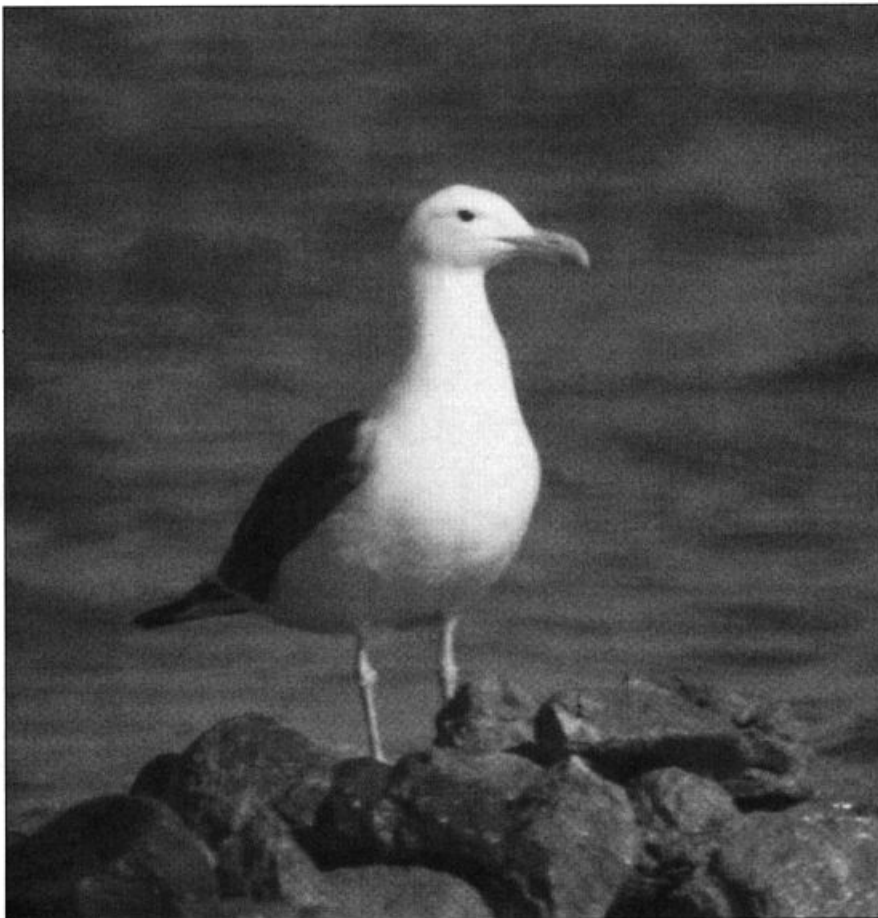
Finally someone is birding sparrow habitat in far e. Colorado during sparrow migration. Searches yielded 6 Baird's Sparrows, which included 2 se. of Campo, *Baca*, 22 Apr (MJ, TL, CLW, DQ), and 4 n. of C.C., *Baca*, 30 Apr (DF, TL, CLW, DHa). Another Baird's was in *Mesa* 27 May (GW, GG). The wintering Le Conte's Sparrows at Ft. Lyon stayed to 25 Mar (v.o.). Three Fox Sparrows were in e. Colorado this spring, including ones of the eastern race in *Baca* 7–22 Apr (DAL) and *Teller* 10 Apr (RB), and one of the Rocky Mt. race in *Bent* 29 Apr (RK, BKP, RO). Single White-throated Sparrows were at Reno, NV, 1 May (FP), Tonopah, NV, 3 May (JB), Dyer, NV, 21 May (MM), and Torrance Ranch, NV, 25–26 May (v.o.). A Harris's Sparrow was near Tonopah, NV, 20 May (GS). Golden-

crowned Sparrows were widespread and easy to find in nw. Nevada in early April (v.o.); this species clearly uses the western Great Basin and Sierra east slope more extensively than was previously documented. Also, an ad. Golden-crowned was in *Montrose* 22 Apr (GR, WR) and another was in *Baca*, 30 Apr (DF, DHa).

A male **Northern Cardinal** was at Amargosa Valley, NV, 19 May (J&MC). Rose-breasted Grosbeak sightings included a pair at Corn Creek, NV, 15 May (MS); one banded at Torrance Ranch, NV, 16–29 May (GS, KV); one near St. George, UT, 17 May (VAS); one at Beatty, NV, 18 May (J&MC); and one at H.R. 23 May (CLW). An Indigo Bunting was at Reno, NV, 15 Apr (FP) and others were widely noted at the desert oases in s. NV 26–28 May (v.o.). A **Painted Bunting** wandered into Casper 8 May (GL), furnishing one of few Wyoming records; also rare were a female at Corn Creek, NV, 13 May (J&MC) and an ad. male in *Bent* 7 May (FL). A Rusty Blackbird was

reported at Carson L. 29 Apr (LN, JP). A rare Common Grackle was near Torrance Ranch, NV, 22 May (JB). A Great-tailed Grackle was at Soda L. in Casper, WY, 27 Apr (CM, GL); another at Swan L., NV, 28 May (FP) was at a new location for this species. An Orchard Oriole was at the Mormon Ranch, NV, 23 May (BL, PSu) and a Hooded Oriole at Fallon, NV, 8–13 May (BH et al.) was n. of normal. A **Baltimore Oriole** was at Tonopah, NV, 20–21 May (JB). A **Common Redpoll** found dead at Torrance Ranch, NV, 21 May (KV) was well s. of normal and unseasonal. Lawrence's Goldfinches were noted at Lida, NV, 3 May (JB) and 27 May (DM, MS). A pair of Evening Grosbeaks reappeared at Incline Village, NV, 25 Mar–31 May (PS)

Observers cited (area compilers in bold-face): COLORADO: George Armburst, Jason Beason, Alan Bell (ABe), Brad Benter (BBe), Bonnie Boex (BBo), Sue Bonfield (SBo), Ann Bonnell (ABo), Leon Bright, Bob Brown (BBr), Merlynn Brown, Tamie Bulow, Richard Bunn, Elaine Coley, Alex & June Cringan, Art Dahl, Donna Davis, Raymond Davis, Steve Den (SDe), Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), Bob Dickson (BDk), Beth Dillon (BDI), Stephen J. Dinsmore, Sharon Dooley (SDo), Jennie Duberstein, Michael Duffy, David C. Ely (DCE), Norm Erthal, Bob Evans, Helen & Darrell Fargo, Doug Faulkner, Bill Fink, Joe Fontaine, Carol Fredricks, Ken Fredricks, Peter Gent (PGe), Beverly Gholson (BGh), Scott Gillihan, Mark A. Gonzalez, Gregg Goodrich, Lee Gregory, Glenn Hageman, Jeane Hageman (JHn), B.B. Hahn, Joanne Haller (JHr), David Hanni (DHa), Dodie Hiatt (DHi), Paula Hiatt (PHi), Dean & Mona Hill, Joe Himmel (JHi), Ken Hollinga, Jane Hunter (JHu), Paul Hurtado, Mark Janos, Vicky Janos, Pete Janzen, Susan Jenkins, Dave Johnson, **Tina Jones**, Bill Kaempfer, Joey Kellner, D. W. King, Rachel Kolokoff, Nick Komar, Greg W. Lasley, **David A. Leatherman**, Randy Lentz (RLz), **Tony Leukering**, Rich Levad (RLd), Norm Lewis, Lin Lilly, William P. Lisowsky, Forrest Luke, **Joe Mammoser** (JMa), Sue Martin (SMa), Dick Maxfield, Bill Maynard, **Jack Merchant** (JMe), Steve E. Messick, Tim Mitzen, Steve Mlodinow (SMI), Randy Moench, Duane Nelson, Darrin O'Brien, Ric Olson, Stan Oswald, Arvind Panjabi, David Pantle (DPa), Doug Paul (DPu), Linda Paulson, Brandon K. Percival, Dale Peterson (DPe), Pete Plage, Myron & Suzi Plooster, Kim Potter, David Quesenberry, Scott Rashid, John J. Rawinski, Van Remsen, Bob Righter, Joe Roller, Lee Rowe, Gene Rutherford, Wendi Rutherford, Ira Sanders, Michael San Miguel, **Karleen Schofield**, Dick Schottler, Chris Schultz, Jeff Schultz, Ron Sclar (RSc), Aaron Sell, Scott Seltman (SSe), **Larry Semo**



Western Gulls, like many other large are occurring with increasing regularity away from their normal range. This adult was photographed at Lake Mead Nevada, 8 May 2000, providing one of few records for the intermountain West.

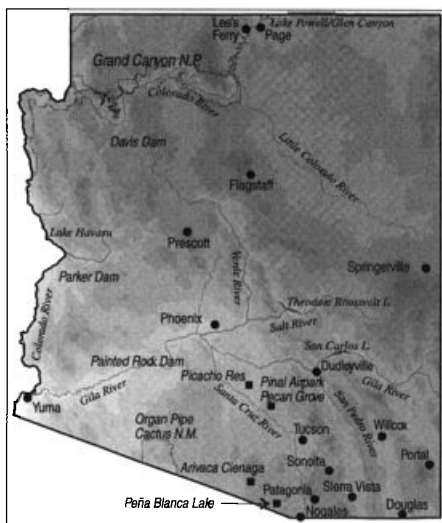
Photograph by Marian Cressman

(LSe), Randy Siebert (RSi), David Silverman (DSi), Linda Smith (LSm), **V. Arnold Smith**, Steve Stachowiak (SSt), Paul Sweet, Bob Spencer, Mort Staatz, Emily Thurston-Moench, Van A. Truan, John Tumasonis, Terry Uveyama, John Vanderpoel, Alan Versaw, Glenn Walbek, Jim Watts, Rosie Watts (RWa), Christopher L. Wood, Ronda Woodward (RWO), Mark Yaeger, Jeff Yegian, Eric Yetsko, Sandra Zerbi, Vic Zerbi, Laurie Zuckerman. **NEVADA:** John Anderson, John Brack, Dick Brune, Graham Chisholm, Jim & Marian Cressman, Jim Eidel, Bob Goodman,

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The most striking characteristic about the spring was just how dry it has been in Arizona. The drought is extending into a third year, likely to spell bad news for breeding birds throughout the state. Evidence of the severity of the drought trickled in during the spring: very late sparrows and warblers at migrant sites in the southeast and a plethora of lingering ducks. More striking though were Acorn Woodpeckers seen in the lowlands—and possibly attempting nesting in Phoenix! It will be interesting to see if widespread nest failure will be documented during the

breeding season. The Arizona Atlas Project continued to provide interesting range extensions of a number of species, particularly Dusky-capped Flycatcher. It was a mediocre season for rarities, although gems such as White-rumped Sandpiper and Eastern Wood-Pewee can hardly be considered mediocre.

Abbreviations: A.B.C. (Arizona Bird Committee); N.I.R. (Navajo Indian Reservation); P.A.P. (Pinal Airpark Pecan Grove); S.P.R. (San Pedro River); S.T.P. (Sewage Treatment Plant); W.W.D. (White Water Draw, Cochise),

GREBES THROUGH HAWKS

Although slightly outside of the period but no less exciting, a **Least Grebe** was found at the Sweetwater Wetlands, *Pima*, 3 Jun (GC, RS), providing only the 2nd state record for spring/summer. Extreme drought s. of the border in Sonora, Mexico (persisting now for at least three years), no doubt contributed to this occurrence, which is approximately 400 miles n. of the species' known nesting range. Individual Western

and Clark's Grebes persisted into mid-May at several locations in the se.; both species were present at Willcox 19 May (CDB). Very interesting was the late American Bittern found 20 May at Kingfisher Pond (P. Davidson). Always of interest, a Little Blue Heron found along the Salt R. w. of Phoenix 24 Apr and another one at Willcox 3 Jun (GC, RS) were the only reported this season. Wood Storks do not usually make their appearance in the state until July, so 2 at Quitobaquito 1 Jun (ph. GC, RS) were early; this species is still considered casual at best in Arizona. Although Black Vultures are present throughout the year in the s. central part of the state, nests have been difficult to find. A nest with one large nestling at Patagonia 4 Apr (MS et al.) was only the 3rd ever found in Arizona.

A male Wood Duck was present in what appeared to be appropriate habitat for nesting in Buehman Canyon, *Pima*, 26 May (TC). A number of puddle ducks were present throughout the period; a female Bufflehead at Willcox 2 Jun (GC, RS) was very late. Migrant Long-tailed Ducks were found 27–28 Mar at Glen Canyon Dam (CTL) and at Parker Dam 7 Apr (*vide* SG). Three Common Goldeneyes along with 2 Barrow's were still present below Glen Canyon Dam on the late date of 31 May (CTL). In recent years, Gray Hawks have expanded their breeding range in s. Arizona. This year, pairs above San Carlos L. 3 Apr (JK), along the Gila R. below Coolidge Dam 4 Apr (JK), and a nest along Paige Creek, *Pima*, 11 May (RH, M. Coker) indicate a northward extension of its breeding distribution. Although it was suspected that a pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** present at the Hassayampa R. Preserve last year might have nested, nesting was confirmed this year 20 Apr (RD et al), providing a 2nd state nesting record.

RAILS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologists doing Yuma Clapper Rail (*R. l. yumanensis*) surveys saw and heard a Black Rail along the Agua Fria R. below L. Pleasant 29 Mar (L. Fitzpatrick), providing the first *Maricopa* record. A Clapper Rail was discovered at the confluence of the Hassayampa and Gila Rivers 2 May, while pairs were at Buckeye Valley 9 May and along Sisson Road near Gila Bend 10 May (DT). Spring American Golden-Plovers are always noteworthy in Arizona, with fewer than 10 records for the season. An individual still in basic plumage [or first alternate?-ed.] was at Whitewater Draw 26 Apr–7 May (D. West, †, ph. MS). A late Greater Yellowlegs was at Willcox 25 May