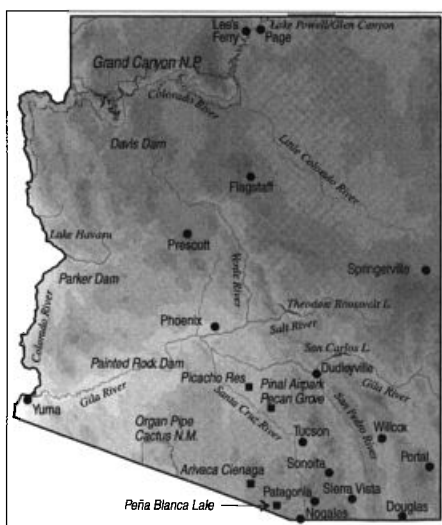


(LSe), Randy Siebert (RSi), David Silverman (DSi), Linda Smith (LSm), **V. Arnold Smith**, Steve Stachowiak (SSt), Paul Sweet, Bob Spencer, Mort Staatz, Emily Thurston-Moench, Van A. Truan, John Tumasonis, Terry Uveyama, John Vanderpoel, Alan Versaw, Glenn Walbek, Jim Watts, Rosie Watts (RWa), Christopher 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,

Ted Floyd, Bill Henry, Jim Lytle, Kevin Mack, Martin Meyers, Dave McNinch, Larry Neel, Jim Paruk, Fred Peterson, Mark Ports, Mike San Miguel (MS), **Richard P. Saval**, Greg Scyphers, Dennis Serdehely, Kei Sochi, Pam Straley, Polly Sullivan (PSu), Carolyn Titus, Dennis Trousdale, Ken Voget, Jack Walters, Tom Wurster, and Dave Yakitch. **UTAH:** Letitia Lussier (LLu). **WYOMING:** Ann Hines, **Greg Johnson**, Gloria Lawrence, Jim Lawrence, Forrest Luke, **Chris Michelson**, Rick & Janis Steenberg.



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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

(GC, RS). Large concentrations of Whimbrels were discovered in a flooded field east of Yuma (D'Ta), with 18 found 20 Apr and 53 there 6 May. The latter count is probably the highest ever documented in Arizona. The most exciting shorebird of the season was the **White-rumped Sandpiper** at the Sierra Vista S.T.P. 16–18 May (ph. BZ, K Zimmer, MS, m.ob.); there are still fewer than 10 acceptable records for the state. Several other spring shorebird records were also of note: 2 Dunlins at Green Valley 20–24 Apr, the only report (RP, T. Stuart); a Stilt Sandpiper at W.W.D. 6 May (MS); and Red-necked Phalarope reports of one at Willcox 7 May (MS) and 3 at Phoenix 28 May (RMJ).

A Laughing Gull at Marana 16 May (J. Hays, G. Hentz, L. Liese) was the only report we received of this casual visitor. Heermann's Gulls put in a nice showing this spring, with four reports 9–15 Apr: Patagonia L. 9 Apr (M. Brown), Nogales 11 Apr (DW), another (different age) there 15 Apr (B. Massey), and two at Ajo 10–13 Apr (*fide* TC, MS). During the last decade Least Terns have become a regular spring and early summer visitor in small numbers; this year individuals were reported at San Carlos L. 12 Apr (G. Hentz), Roper L. State Park 9 May (ph. J. Fowler), and Willcox 25 May (GC, RS). Late-staying Ruddy Ground-Doves were recorded at P.A.P. pecan grove 10–29 Apr (AS, TP et al), and the individual that spent the winter at a cen. Phoenix residence remained throughout the period (T&S. Martin). An interesting report of 2–5 large all-black swifts from Mormon L. 13 May (J. Grahame) adds yet another sight report of Black Swifts for Arizona; there continues, however, to be no physical documentation for this species in the state. Berylline Hummingbirds returned again to Ramsey Canyon, with one on 19 May (BZ et al) and a pair building a nest 25 May (GC, RS) White-eared Hummingbirds returned to Miller Canyon 27 Mar (T. Beatty). A pair of Belted Kingfishers was seen feeding young in Oak Creek Canyon 30 May (CTL); there are still few documented nesting records this century for Arizona. Lowland records of Acorn Woodpeckers are mostly from late summer and fall, so one in Tucson 12–14 May (DW), another in Tempe 14–26 May (D. Keiser), and up to 5 on the campus of Arizona State Univ. throughout the period (JB, D. Stuart) were unusual and perhaps indicative of the severe drought we have been experiencing. The A.S.U. reports are most interesting because nesting behavior was observed on several occasions.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS

An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was seen and heard singing at Sunny Flats Campground in Cave Creek Canyon 2 May (J. Bock et al.) and, if accepted by the A.B.C., would represent only a 4th or 5th Arizona record. A Least Flycatcher was closely observed along Sonoita Creek near Patagonia 13 May (BZ, KZ); there are still only a handful of well-documented reports from the state. A late Eastern Phoebe was at Kingfisher Pond, S.P.R., 3 May (JWh); there are very few true spring migrants from the Southwest. The Arizona Atlas Project has greatly increased our understanding of Dusky-capped Flycatcher distribution in the state. This spring individuals were found away from known breeding areas at Fossil Creek, *Yavapai*, 5 May (TC), on Pinal Peak 23 May (RH), and near Peach Springs, *Mohave*, 26 May (P. Friederici). An intriguing report was received of a Great Kiskadee along Sonoita Creek 18 Mar (†B. Wooldridge); there are only two previous accepted records of this tropical flycatcher from Arizona, one of which is also from Mar. Always a nice find in the state, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were at Kingfisher Pond, S.P.R., 22 Apr (E.&J. Conrad) and at Ash Fork, *Yavapai*, 19 May (ph. J. Burton, E. Olds).

One of the best birds of the spring, a **White-eyed Vireo** was found in a yard near Portal 6–7 May (B. Rapoza, ph. MS; t.r. DS); there are fewer than 10 records from se. Arizona and photos obtained represent the first photographic documentation of this species in the state. A Red-eyed Vireo, still casual in the state during spring, was along the Santa Cruz R., Tucson, 25 May (RH). There have been relatively few documented nests of Tree Swallow for the state, therefore, a nest found at the Canyon Creek Fish Hatchery 29 May (C. Wise, C. Land) was of great interest. The **Carolina Wren** at Cook's Lake along the lower S.P.R. last summer was present throughout the period. After the discovery of nesting Winter Wren along the Mogollon Rim in cen. Arizona last summer, a search of surrounding areas produced another individual 28 May (TC) ±10 mi from the original site. Individual Marsh Wrens at Whitewater Draw and Willcox, both 4 May (MS), were considered quite late. A female Black-capped Gnatcatcher was reported from Chino Canyon 18 Mar (RH) where there has been a well-documented female since 1996. There were a few reports of a male from that location, but with the presence since 1996 of a well-documented probable hybrid Black-capped × Black-tailed

Gnatcatcher, any report of a male Black-capped from Chino must be documented.

The Rufous-backed Robin that wintered at Patagonia L. was seen through 15 Apr (MS), as was the one that wintered at the B.T.A. (M. Pollark). The only reports of Varied Thrush this spring were one from Tolleson 8 Apr (B. Grossi) and a female at Green Valley 4 Mar (B. Massey); this species is still a casual visitor to the state. A Gray Catbird was along Sonoita Cr. near Patagonia 14 Mar (J. Bock) and an individual (same as during the winter?) at Portal was seen again 2–8 May (*fide* DJa). A late Sage Thrasher was reported from near Portal 7 May (DJa). A single Brown Thrasher was also near Portal 25 May (Dja); another that wintered in a Scottsdale yard was still present 15 Apr (J. Bartley).

WARBLERS THROUGH ICTERIDS

A Tennessee Warbler was located in cen. Tucson 23 Mar–6 Apr (MS, RH), a very early date for a spring migrant, so this individual may have wintered locally. At least 7 Northern Parulas, slightly more than usual, were reported from Arizona 23 Mar–30 May. The Chestnut-sided Warbler that wintered in cen. Tucson was last seen 12 Apr (RH). Outstanding in spring, a Magnolia Warbler was well-described from along Hospital Ridge, *Coconino*, 4 Jun (P. Sweet, B. Hedinger). Rarely seen in the lowlands during spring migration, a Grace's Warbler was in lower Aravaipa Canyon 15 Apr (MS); one in breeding habitat on Mt. Lemmon 19 Mar (J. Bock) was at least a week earlier than normal arrival dates. Palm Warblers, casual in the state during spring, were at Sipe Wildlife Area near Springerville 30 Apr (*fide* SG) and Whitewater Draw 2–4 May (T. Godfrey, ph. MS). At least six Black-and-white Warblers, about normal for spring, were located around the state 15 Apr–13 May. Similarly, 3 American Redstarts were found during May; of interest was one near Bylas, *Graham*, 9 May (B. Thatcher, C. Land), as we have received few bird reports from that region. Prothonotary Warblers have almost become rare-but-regular during the spring; this season, one was at St. David 5–6 May (ph. MS) and another was in Portal 10–14 May (S. Spofford, DJa). Two different Ovenbirds were reported this spring, one in Portal 7 May (*fide* DJa), and another in Harrison Canyon, *Cochise*, 12 May (S. Aemes). At least nine Northern Waterthrushes were reported statewide, all 1–18 May. Kentucky Warbler is much more likely in the state during May than any other month; this spring one was located in Oak Creek Canyon 11–19 May (H. Herlyn et al.) and another was in Portal

17–18 May (P. Wang, J. Haynes). Two MacGillivray's Warblers at Madera Canyon 29 May (RH) and another along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson 31 May (RH) were late for spring migrants. Another warbler that is much more likely to occur during spring is Hooded Warbler; this season one was at Ramsey Canyon 16–17 Apr (D. Flower), a female was at Kino Springs 8 May (MS), and another was in Prescott 15–19 May (E. Moore, J. Morgan). The Rufous-capped Warbler in French Joe Canyon last winter was seen throughout the period, albeit sporadically.

An apparent Flame-colored × Western Tanager was present in Garden Canyon 15–16 May (ph. BZ, KZ, MS); this cross is interesting, as the only region where the two species potentially overlap is s. Arizona. The **Eastern Towhee** that wintered along Sonoita Creek near Patagonia was last reported 14 Mar (MS). Of great interest was the report of a Field Sparrow from Willow Tank 13 Mar (†R. Taylor); if accepted by the A.B.C., this would represent only a 4th Arizona record. Late were 2 Swamp Sparrows during May, one at Kingfisher Pond along the upper S.P.R. 3 May (JWh) and another, singing (!), along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson 25 May (RH). No fewer than 9 White-throated Sparrows, most of which likely wintered, lingered into spring in se. Arizona, the last one being reported 8 May. A late Golden-crowned Sparrow was at Granite Cr. near Prescott 9 May (CST). The Lapland Longspur that was reported during the winter season from Vaca Ranch in the San Rafael Valley was last reported 4 Mar.

Five male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, about average, were seen around the state during Apr/May. Above-average numbers (8) of Indigo Buntings were reported around the state 11–29 May. Three Bobolinks were reported, one at Page 13 May (B.&K. Bobowski), a male in the Dome Valley, Yuma, (fide JW), and another male w. of Phoenix 28 May (M. Chew). Still considered casual in the state, May seems to be an excellent time for this species to occur in Arizona.

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new mexico



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The dry winter gave way to an even drier spring, culminating in some rather well-publicized fires in May, notably at Los Alamos. Generally poor water and poor cover conditions were the rule, and migrations of most groups (shorebirds, wood-warblers) were unspectacular. Nevertheless, remnant water bodies and scattered green oases attracted several genuine rarities.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); Bosque N.W.R. (Bosque del Apache N.W.R.); E.B.L. (Elephant Butte Lake); N.R.T. (n. Roosevelt migrant trap near Melrose); P.O. Canyon (Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts.); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley); R.S. (Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy); Zuni (Zuni Indian Reservation).

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

A quiet loon season found a Pacific at Brantley L. 28 Apr (DE), a late Common at Nutria L. 27 May (DC), and another Common coping with a fishing lure in its bill at Roberts L. 5 May (MS, JZ); last season's **Yellow-billed Loon** was last seen at Cochiti L. 11 Mar (WH). An ad. male **Anhinga** put in a brief appearance at B.L.N.W.R. 29 Apr (JEP, JWM), providing the 3rd well-documented state record and the first since 1981. Increasingly rare, a single American Bittern was at Bosque N.W.R. 12–24 Mar (DE, BN, JEP); 1–2 were at B.L.N.W.R. 7–14 Apr (GW, JWM). High counts for Little Blue Herons were 2 each at Los Lunas 23–30 May (J. Kelly) and B.L.N.W.R. 21 Apr (GW, JWM). Always a rare treat, 1–2 Tricolored Herons were at B.L.N.W.R. 18 Apr–14 May (v.o., ph. JO). Single ad. **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons**

were at B.L.N.W.R. 20 May (JWM) and Clanton Cienega, **Hidalgo**, 13 May (NMC); undetailed was one at Ft. Sumner 6 Apr (S. Smith, fide PS). Ibises were much in the news, including ad. and imm. **White Ibises** at B.L.N.W.R. 11–26 May (JWM et al.); the adult was last seen 19 May (JEP, JO), the imm. 26 May (JWM). A **Glossy Ibis** attaining breeding plumage was at Bosque N.W.R. 21–22 Apr (JEP, DE, BN, ph. JO) and another (or the same?) in full breeding plumage was there 12–13 May (DE, BN, JO). High count for White-faced Ibises was 500 at Percha 21 Apr (MS, JZ). Some 1000 Snow and Ross's Geese were the victims of pesticide poisoning near Dexter 12 Mar (USFWS); carbofuran sprayed on alfalfa was the likely culprit. A female Barrow's Goldeneye was on the Rio Grande at Pilar 7 Mar (WW); the species is unexpected away from the San Juan R. An unusual, brown Ruddy-like duck was at the Deming sewage ponds 10 May (LM); details included black face mask and white eye ring but, apparently, no white in the wings.

Reports of White-tailed Kites have increased over the past decade, but nesting remained undocumented; this season found 2 (one perched on a nest) n. of the Cedar Mts, **Luna**, 11 Apr (RM), 2 near Hermanas 10 Mar (RM), 2 n. of Hachita plus a single nearby 19 Mar (RM), 2 at Glenwood 23–24 Apr (B&DM), and an undetailed one in **Chaves** in early May (fide SB). The three **Colfax** Bald Eagle nests each had nestlings 25–26 May (SOW). Only 2 Northern Goshawks passed the Sandia Mts. hawkwatch lookout this spring (HWI), down considerably from previous years. Peripheral Common Black-Hawks were singles n. to Isleta 3 May (J. Drummond) and e. to R.S. 11 May (SW). An ad. Harris's Hawk near Riverside 20–25 May (RSS) provided a Gila Valley first; in the