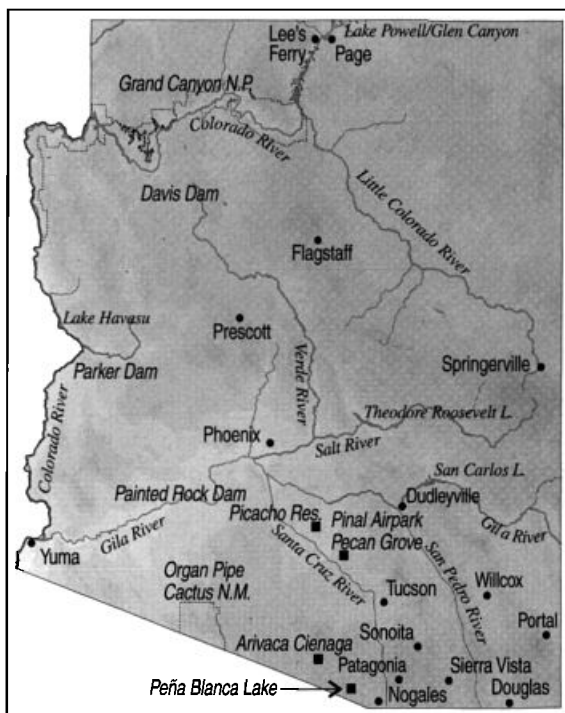


# Arizona



Oriole remained at Fallon, *Churchill*, NV, until 5 Aug (*fide* BH), and a tardy individual remained at L.V. through the reporting period (BS). Reports of **Baltimore Orioles** at T.R. 16 Aug (@KV) and Tonopah 4 Sep were supported by few details. A Scott's Oriole at S.F.R. 27 Aug (MP, LP) was northerly.

In Utah both Gray-crowned and Black Rosy-Finches were in large numbers at six locations 9 Oct–12 Nov (v.o.); in Nevada the meager maxima were 9 Gray-crowns at Tonopah 22 Nov (JB) and 3 Blacks at Tonopah 22–25 Nov (JB et al.). Pine Grosbeaks along Ophir Creek Trail, *Washoe*, NV, 2–16 Aug peaked at 40 birds (v.o.). A female **Purple Finch** was in the Goshute Mts. 19 Sep (@DB, JL). A flock of 30 Red Crossbills descended to the desert oasis of C.C. 6 Oct (RS), 20 were at Salt Lake City 27 Nov (v.o.), and an undetermined number were at Provo 7–30 Nov (v.o.). A White-winged Crossbill was a nice find at Salt Lake City 14 Nov (DO), and a black-backed Lesser Goldfinch was at C.C. 11 Aug (RS). Small flocks of Evening Grosbeaks were noted at five desert locations in Nevada 9 Oct–9 Nov (v.o.).

## Cited observers (subregional editors in bold):

Dawn Alvarez, Don Baccus, Joel Beyer (JB), Kathy Beyer, Nancy Bish, John Brack, Kristie Carmichael, Ali Cheney, Brad Clemens, Traci Clemens, Rosalie Conoy, Rob Dobbs, Jon Dunn, Mary Jo Elpers, Keith Evans, Kurt Finlayson, **Ted Floyd** (Nevada), Rick Fridell, Shawn Goodchild, Bob Goodman, Ed Greaves, Dana Green, Beverly Harry (BHa), Jim Healy (JHe), Bill Henry, Nancy Hoffman, Jack Holley, Jody Humber (JHu), Hugh Judd, Joe Kahl (JKa), Josh Kreitzer, Michael Kutska, Tim Lenz, Kent Lewis, Jerry Liguori, Kevin Mack, Martin Meyers, Ann Mull, Larry Neel, Colby Neuman (CNe), Tom Neuman, Christina Nycek, Deedee O'Brien, Michael Patten (MPa), Don Paul, Courtenay Peddle (CPe), Cheryl Peterson, Fred Peterson, Jim Pike, Lois Ports, Mark Ports, Don Powers (DPo), Melissa Renfro, Jack Rensel, Chuck Ritter, Terry Sadler, Michael J. San Miguel Jr. (MSj), Mike San Miguel (MSs), Rick Saval, Greg Scyphers, Betty Seebeck, Becca Serdehely (BSe), Dennis Serdehely, Drucilla Seward (DSe), Dennis Shirley (DSh), Lee Shirley, Bob Showler (BSh), Brenda Smith (BrS), Margaret Smith (MaS), Michael Smith (MiS), **Mark Stackhouse** (Utah), Sean Stackhouse (SSt), Priscilla Summers, Steve Summers, Jane Thompson, Carolyn Titus, Julie Tuck (JT), Robin Tuck, Paul Ustach, Mark VanderVen, Ken Voget, Jack Walters, Merrill Webb, David Wheeler (DWh), Kevin Wheeler, Tom Williams, Diane Wong, John Woodyard (JWo).



**Roy M. Jones**  
2237 North Sunset Drive  
Tempe, AZ 85281  
(barbet@primenet.com)

**Gary H. Rosenberg**  
P.O. Box 91856  
Tucson, AZ 85752-1856  
(garyhr@northlink.com)

**T**he most dramatic aspect of this fall was, by far, the invasion of Rocky Mountain species into southern Arizona. It was geographically widespread and covered numerous species from a wide array of families, including woodpeckers, corvids, parids, thrushes, and finches. The sheer number of reports was too many to list, so we summarized the invasion in broad terms in a separate section. Apart from the invasion, numerous species lingered later than usual into the fall. Another highlight of the fall was the sudden invasion of Eurasian Collared-Dove reports—we went from no state records to numerous records from all corners of the state in a single season! Time will tell if this was a true expansion into the Southwest.

**Abbreviations:** ABC (Arizona Bird Committee), B.T.A. (Boyce Thompson Arboretum); B.A.N.W.R. (Buenos Aires N.W.R.); G.R.P.A. (Granite Reef Picnic Area), H.R.P. (Hassayampa River Preserve); Li.C.R. (Little Colorado River); L.C.R.V. (Lower Colorado River Valley); N.I.R. (Navajo Indian Reservation); R.R.S.T.P. (Roger Road S.T.P., Tucson); S.P.R. (San Pedro River); S.T.P. (Sewage Treatment Plant); T.T.L. (Tempe Town Lake); W.W.D. (White Water Draw)

## The Montane Invasion

This fall brought one of the most impressive widespread invasions of montane birds to Arizona on record. Several Piciformes were prominent at lower-than-normal elevations this season; Lewis's Woodpeckers were widely reported from late Sep+. Acorn Woodpeckers were found away from preferred oak habitat in Sierra Vista, Phoenix and Tucson, and Williamson's Sapsuckers were at a number of unusual locations, including Ramsey Canyon, Portal, Kino Springs, Pena Blanca L., Phoenix, and Tucson. By early Sep, Steller's Jays and Western Scrub-Jays were being reported from a variety of lower elevations, and by early Oct,

numbers were present well away from mountain areas, such as along the Santa Cruz R. and in city parks in Phoenix and Tucson. Pinyon Jays were also on the move, at least early in the fall, with several reports by early Oct but none after 16 Oct. An indication of what was to come was a Clark's Nutcracker at B.A.N.W.R. 30 Aug (GM et al.); this species staged a mini-invasion into the Chiricahua Mts. An American Crow in Phoenix 7 Oct (CBa) provided one of the few *Maricopa* reports. Mountain Chickadees, Bridled Titmice, White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, and Golden-crowned Kinglets were all found at a variety of s. Arizona locations in greater-than-usual numbers. More unusual was a Juniper Titmouse found at the base of Ramsey Canyon 15 Oct (M. Pretti), as well as lowland reports of Pygmy Nuthatches, with one in a Scottsdale yard 19 Sep (J. Bartley) and 2 more at H.R.P. 12 Oct (A. Van Auken). Thrushes were certainly on the move, with high numbers of Western and Mountain Bluebirds, Townsend's Solitaires, and American Robins in the lowlands. Spotted Towhees were also much more numerous than usual around the state. Cassin's Finches, Red Crossbills, and Pine Siskins were also widespread in the lowlands, and a single Evening Grosbeak at Cook's L., S.P.R., 14 Oct (TC) was likely another member of the montane invasion.

### Loons Through Raptors

An early Common Loon at T.T.L. 26 Jul-4 Aug (DC) provided only the second July record for *Maricopa*. The Least Grebe present all summer at Tucson's Sweetwater Wetlands continued through at least 21 Nov (GM, m.ob.). Western Grebes put in an above-average showing this fall, with no fewer than 85 individuals reported from the s. half of the state. Conversely, 6 Clark's Grebes reported from the s. was about average. American White Pelicans were found away from their normal w. *Maricopa* haunts: 12 were at G.R.P.A. 8 Oct (HF) and another 10 were along the Gila R. w. of Phoenix 26 Nov (KS, LN). Exceptional was a Brown Pelican at the bottom of the Grand Canyon 4 Aug (ph. N. Brown); 2 more were at T.T.L. 16 Aug (DC) and another was found on an e. *Maricopa* pond 26 Nov (JT).

Neotropic Cormorants provided a dramatic example of their expansion into cen. Arizona when 18 were found along the Salt R. w. of Phoenix 8 Oct (TC). Single Double-crested Cormorants, a sparse migrant in the n., were at Glen Canyon 16 Aug, Cow Springs 9-13 Oct, and Pasture Canyon 31 Oct (CL). Always of interest when in the southeast, an American Bittern was at Kino Springs 31 Oct (S). A Least

Bittern at B.T.A. 25 Aug (CT) provided the first record for that location, and another along the Gila R. w. of Phoenix 11 Nov (TC) was late. Casual visitors from coastal Sonora, Mexico, imm. Tricolored Herons were reported near T.T.L. 24 Sep (DC), at the new Gilbert Wildlife Area 21-30 Oct (CD, ph. MMS), and at Patagonia L. 28 Sep-19 Oct (JBo, RH, et al). It was an above-average year for Cattle Egrets in the southeast, with at least 67 individuals reported late Sep-mid-Nov (m.ob.). Another casual visitor from s. of the border, a single Roseate Spoonbill was found w. of Phoenix along the Salt R. 10-12 Aug (MB) and 2 were reported a bit farther w. along the Salt R. 8 Sep (ph. BG), with one still present 18 Sep (BG).

Greater White-fronted Geese were reported from various lowland locations beginning in early Sep, with a maximum of 15 at Gilbert 17 Sep (RHu). White geese were also widely reported: the highest count of Snow Geese was 12 at Apache Station 11 Nov (JH), while Ross's Geese numbered 4 at G.R.P.A. 29 Oct (PM), 2 at Page S.T.P. 26 Nov (CL), and singles at Nogales 14-22 Nov (JZ, MMS) and Avra Valley S.T.P. 25-30 Nov (JH, MMS). Exciting was the discovery of Gadwall nesting at Nogales 14 Aug (MMS). A couple of interesting ducks reported as Eurasian x American Wigeon hybrids were at Page S.T.P. 12 Oct (CG) and at Willcox 18 Nov (MMS). Eurasian Wigeons were at Gilbert 11 Nov (R. Edwards) and Scottsdale 19 Nov (BJ). Another interesting duck was the leucistic Cinnamon Teal at Gilbert 15 Oct (RMJ). The only Greater Scaup report we received was of one at Lee's Ferry 26 Nov (CL, TC, MMS). A very early Common Goldeneye was at Glen Canyon Dam 16 Aug (CL). Rare in Sonora, Mexico, a single Hooded Merganser was found s. of Naco 25 Nov (BO, DN). Red-breasted Mergansers are always of interest away from the Colorado R.; this year individual females were at Tucson 27-28 Oct (MMS) and 22 Nov (D. West) and at Lee's Ferry 26 Nov (CL, TC, MMS).

Two to three late Mississippi Kites were found at St. David 4 Sep (PW). An early Bald Eagle was at Patagonia L. 28 Sep (RH, JBo). A Northern Goshawk provided only the 2nd local record at B.T.A. 11 Nov (CT). Red-shouldered Hawk reports have certainly become more numerous in recent years; this season's were from Page 18 Sep (CL), Pasture Canyon 3-9 Oct (CL), Prescott 1 Nov (*fide* SG); one of the birds that nested at H.R.P. this summer remained throughout the period (m.ob.). Observers should keep in mind that Red-shouldered Hawk is an ABC review species and all relevant information should be forwarded to the committee. A late Zone-tailed Hawk was at



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Laveen, *Maricopa* 11 Nov (TC). It was a good year for Rough-legged Hawks; they were widely reported throughout the region mid-Oct+.

### Rails Through Woodpeckers

With fewer than 10 records for the n., a Common Moorhen at Wahweap 5–7 Aug (CG) was interesting. This year was not what we would term great for shorebirds, but there were highlights. The only Black-bellied Plover report was of one at Willcox 13 Oct (RH, MMS), and the only American Golden-Plover was at El Mirage Pond w. of Phoenix 28–31 Oct (BG, MB). Two Sanderlings were at the Page S.T.P. 21–22 Sep (CL, CG, JS), and one was at Gilbert 27 Nov (JBU). It was an unusually poor year for Stilt Sandpipers; the only report was of one at Gilbert 27 Nov (SG, EB). Red Phalaropes were at the Avra Valley S.T.P. 4–8 Oct (ph. MMS) and at the Green Valley S.T.P. 12 Oct (SJ). Herring Gulls are always interesting; one was at Bill Williams Delta 28 Oct (CB, SS). Once again Sabine's Gulls were widely reported; we received six reports of 7 individuals statewide. A **Black Skimmer** on a Gilbert pond 14–15 Oct (JT, vt. RMJ, ph. MMS) was exciting; there are fewer than 10 records for the state.

Within a single year, **Eurasian Collared-Dove** went from being non-existent in Arizona to being widely reported; fall reports were of individuals at P.A.P. 25 Sep (†CDB), along the upper San Pedro R. 13 Oct+ (CA), at Phoenix 28 Oct (*vide* JW), 2 at Willcox 24 Sep+ (ph. †MMS), and 10 at Fredonia 26 Nov (CL, †TC, †MMS). Ruddy Ground-Doves were also widely reported, of most interest was a female in Prescott Valley 19 Oct (CT, ML). Rare in Arizona, a Groove-billed Ani was w. of Phoenix along the Salt R. 11–23 Nov (TC, MB, JZ). The Berylline Hummingbird noted this summer in Ramsey Canyon was still sitting on a nest 19 Aug (†MMS et al). Green Kingfishers were at Kino Springs 18–20 Aug (DS, CDB), along the Santa Cruz R. 13 Sep (JL), and at Nogales 21 Oct (JS).

A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at B.T.A. 29 Oct (vt. RMJ). Four interesting sapsuckers thought to be hybrid Red-naped x Red-breasted were reported from the southeast. Rare in the state, Yellow-shafted Flickers were noted at Page 14 Oct (CM) and Colorado City 27 Nov (TC et al.).

### Flycatchers Through Mimids

An Olive-sided Flycatcher at G.R.P.A. 2 Oct (R. Avery) provided the latest fall record for *Maricopa*. A Hammond's Flycatcher at Page 3 Nov (CL) provided the latest n. Arizona record. Similarly, a Dusky Flycatcher in Pasture Canyon 20 Oct (CL) was one of the latest reports from N I R A Pacific-slope Flycatcher was reported

from St. David 25 Nov (RT); this species is casual anywhere in s. Arizona during the winter. An Eastern Phoebe was at Cameron 20 Oct–8 Nov (CL), providing only a 2nd N.I.R. report. Additional reports included one at Page 22 Oct (CG) and one at R.R.S.T.P. 1–27 Oct (WR et al.). Late Dusky-capped Flycatchers were at Portal 7 Oct (MMS) and Tubac 24 Oct (LL). A late Thick-billed Kingbird was along Sonoita Cr. near Patagonia 25 Sep (MMS, S. Kornfeld), whereas one along the S.P.R. near Charleston 2 Oct (S. Anderson) was well away from known breeding areas in s. Arizona. Still considered casual in the state, single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were s. of Tolleson 16 Sep–12 Oct (TC) and at B.A.N.W.R. 28–29 Oct (R. Kloss, R. Grohman).

By late Nov it was shaping up to be a good year in n. Arizona for Northern Shrike; one was on Black Mesa 5 Nov (CL), one was at Fredonia 26 Nov (CL, TC, MMS), and a third was along the Echo Cliffs s. of Page 27 Nov (CL, TC, MMS). The White-eyed Vireo found in Florida Canyon during the summer season (W. Leitner) was still present 13 Aug (MMS). Another was reported from B.T.A. 24 Aug (CT); there are fewer than 15 state records. A very late Bell's Vireo was at H.R.P. 26 Nov (J. Bartley). The Yellow-throated Vireo in Harshaw Canyon during the summer was still reported 6 Sep (J. Saba), while the Yellow-green Vireo found during the summer at the same location was last reported 20 Sep (m.ob.).

Greater-than-normal numbers of Tree, Violet-green, and Barn Swallows were lingering or passing through s. Arizona into late Nov. A late Bank Swallow was at Green Valley 13 Oct (MMS). Two **Black-capped Chickadees** were along Short Creek in Colorado City 27 Nov (ph. TC, CL, †MMS); this location is the same one where 6 were found in Nov 1997, suggesting a possible breeding population nearby.

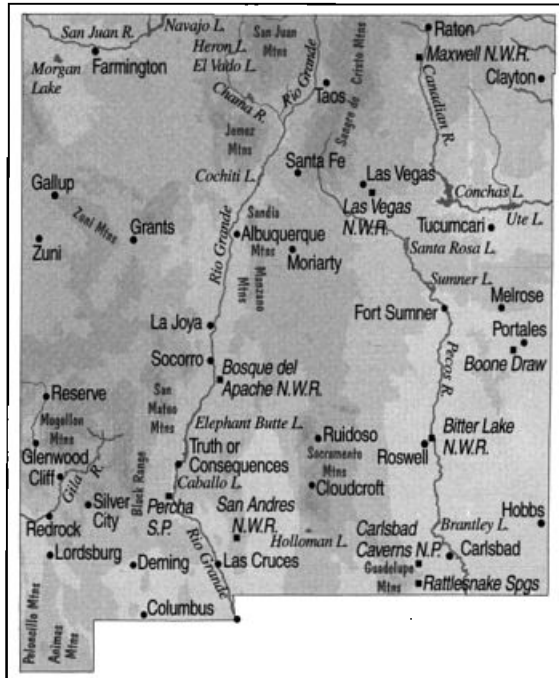
The Carolina Wren found at Cook's L., S.P.R., in 1999 was still present 14 Oct (TC et al.). The Black-capped Gnatcatcher found in Chino Canyon during July was still present 21 Sep (TC, J. Renninger). A **Wood Thrush** in a Scottsdale yard 27 Oct (M. Vanderwater; ph. RD) provided only a 2nd *Maricopa* record. The only Rufous-backed Robin found this fall was at H.R.P. 19 Nov+. A single Varied Thrush, casual in the state, was at Cameron 13 Oct (CL), providing only a 4th N.I.R. report; 2 were at H.R.P. 19 Nov (M. Baker). An **Aztec Thrush** was at Madera Canyon 10–18 Aug (ph. DS, m.ob), providing the first report in Arizona since the 1996 invasion. Always a nice find away from breeding areas in the ne. portion of the state, a Gray Catbird was at Phantom Ranch, Grand Canyon, 24 Oct (†B. Pranter).

### Warblers Through Longspurs

Two Tennessee Warblers were found this fall, one at Sunrise Lodge 9 Sep (J. Jones) and another along the Gila R. w. of Phoenix 11 Nov (TC, M. Baker). No fewer than 6 Northern Parulas were found statewide. A Chestnut-sided Warbler was in Madera Canyon 18 Oct (D Flower) and 2 were at the Phoenix Zoo 15 Nov (RMJ); this species has become a rare but regular late fall and early winter visitor. Still a casual visitor, mostly in fall, a Magnolia Warbler was in Scottsdale 24–25 Oct (ph. TC, †MMS). The only Black-throated Blue Warbler of the fall was at Cameron 20 Oct (CL). Still an excellent find in the state, a Yellow-throated Warbler was at G.R.P.A. 25 Sep (JoB, ph. RMJ); there are ±20 previous Arizona records. An extremely early Pine Warbler at the Phoenix Zoo 1 Oct (ph. †RMJ, JJ) provided only the 8th Arizona record. A Palm Warbler, casual in Arizona, was at Gilbert 27 Nov (JoB). It was an above-average year for Blackpoll Warbler, with 2 birds found this fall, one at Page 8–11 Sep (CL) and another at the Phoenix Zoo 27 Sep–4 Oct (vt. †RMJ). An average number of 4 Black-and-white Warblers were found this fall, but only one American Redstart was reported. It was certainly an above-average year for Prothonotary Warbler across Arizona, with one at Springerville 8 Sep (DC), one along Sonoita Creek near Patagonia 9–10 Sep (J. Krychek, D. Smith), up to 2 at R.R.S.T.P. 19 Sep+ (TC et al., ph. MMS), and another at the Phoenix Zoo 27–28 Sep (DC, RMJ, ph. MMS). Louisiana Waterthrush records in Arizona generally fall into two distinct patterns late summer migrants and late fall or winter visitors; this fall one was at Kingfisher Pond, S P R, 2 Aug (C.&D. Beardmore), one was at Seven Springs 12 Oct (P. Norton), and a third was at Kingfisher Pond 10–26 Nov (J. Hirth et al). A majority of the state's Hooded Warbler records come from spring and summer, so a male at Oak Creek Canyon 27 Sep (†B. Pranter) was significant. The **Rufous-capped Warbler** that wintered last year at French Joe Canyon was still present 16 Oct (TC, MMS). Another at Sawmill Spring, Carr Canyon, 23 Sep (R. Hoyer et al) provided the ±12th record for Arizona.

A Hepatic Tanager at B.T.A. 20 Sep (BW, JW) was both late and away from known breeding areas. Grasshopper Sparrows are rarely seen in Arizona away from the grasslands in the south; therefore, individuals at the Gilbert S T P 9 Sep (TC), Pasture Canyon near Tuba City 3–20 Oct (CL), and Powers Butte W.A. 21 Oct (M. Baker) were of note. Of the 3 Fox Sparrows we received reports for this fall, one was of a "red" type and the other 2 were of "slate-colored" types. A McCown's Longspur at Hank's Trading Post, N.I.R., 21 Oct (CL) furnished only

# New Mexico



a 3rd record for n. Arizona. Extralimital reports of Chestnut-collared Longspurs included one in Pasture Canyon, N.I.R., 9 Oct (CL) and at least 6 at Western Sod Farm, Friendly Corners, 26 Sep (vt. GHR, DS).

## Grosbeaks Through Finches

No fewer than 4 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found this fall, about average. A Varied Bunting was out of its normal range at B.T.A. 28–29 Sep (CT). Seven Painted Buntings, all in mid-Sep, were more than usual for a single fall. Five Dickcissels, all in mid-Sep, were about normal; this species has proven to be a rare but regular fall migrant, once observers learned its distinctive flight call. The only Bobolink of the fall was a single bird at Cook's L., S.P.R., 30 Sep (WR, GHR, MMS). A Hooded Oriole at the Phoenix Zoo 15 Nov (RMJ) was late, as was a Bullock's Oriole along the Salt R. in sw. Phoenix 11 Nov (TC, M. Baker). Lingering Scott's Orioles included one in Harshaw Canyon 14 Oct (B. Massey), one in Paradise 14 Oct (JB), and another in Madera Canyon 30 Nov (D. Flower).

A repeat from the winter of 1996–1997 was the discovery of at least 65 **Black Rosy-Finches** along the Echo Cliffs s. of Page 26 Nov+ (CL, ph. TC, ph. MMS); there were only a couple of previously documented records for the state.

**Contributors:** C. Anderson, Charlie Babbitt, Mike Baker, Chris Benesh, H. Bergholdt, Ken Bielek, S. Birkey, Gus Boss, Bob Bradley, J. Brink, Jerry Bock, Ed Boyd, Josh Burns, Dale Clark, Matt Chew, **Troy Corman** (Arizona Breeding Bird Atlas), S. Davidson, Cliff Drowley, D. Flower, Herb Fibel, Peter Frasier, J. Gable, Steve Ganley, C. Goetze, Bill Grossi, Bill Higgins, **Jay Hand** (Tucson Rare Bird Alert), John Higgins, Rich Hoyer, Ron Huetter, **Dave Jasper** (Portal), S. Johnsen, Roy M. Jones, **Dave Krueper** (San Pedro River), Chuck LaRue, Seymour Levy, Mary Leeper, L. Liese, Sherry Martin, Keith Mellon, Norma Miller, Gale Monson, Narca Moore-Craig, Pete Moulton, Carrie Munill, Laurie Nessel, B. Nicholas, Phil Norton, B. Ostin, Mike Plagens, Mark Pretti, Joan Renninger, Gary H. Rosenberg, Will Russell, J. Ruth, John Saba, Peter Salomon, D. Sonneborn, J. Spence, Dave Stejskal, **Mark M. Stevenson** (Tucson), Karen Stucke, L. Sullivan, Rick Taylor, Jim Taylor, **Carl Tomoff** (Prescott), Peggy Wang, W. Wallraven, D. West, J. Williams, Bob Witzeman, **Janet Witzeman** (Phoenix) J. Zabriskie.



## Sartor O. Williams III

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish  
P.O. Box 25112  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504  
(sowilliams@state.nm.us)

**A**utumn 2000 was generally mild and dry but interrupted at odd intervals with cold temperatures and locally heavy precipitation. Migration was deemed good for most species and especially for shorebirds, which took advantage of receding water levels at several locations, while conspicuous submontane movements were undertaken by several groups, including woodpeckers, corvids, parids, nuthatches, and finches.

**Abbreviations:** B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); Bosque (Bosque del Apache N.W.R.); E.B.L. (Elephant Butte Lake); L.V.N.W.R. (Las Vegas N.W.R.); Maxwell (Maxwell N.W.R.); N.R.T. (north Roosevelt County migrant trap near Melrose); R.S. (Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy); R.G.N.C. (Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley); Sevilleta (Sevilleta N.W.R.); Zuni (Zuni Indian Reservation).

## Loons Through Falcons

Leading the loon news was a **Yellow-billed Loon** at Farmington L. 16–29 Nov (ph. TR), single Pacifics were at Farmington L. (TR), Cochiti L. (BV), L.V.N.W.R. (v.o.), E.B.L. (ph JO), and L. Roberts (EL) 30 Oct–26 Nov. Western Grebes lingering in the n. were 4 at Farmington L. 29 Nov (TR) and one at L.V.N.W.R. 26 Nov (SF). A Neotropical Cormorant at L. Avalon 29 Oct (SW) provided the only Pecos Valley report; unusual was a Double-crested at Deming 13–20 Nov (LM). Bitterns continued scarce, with single Americans at Tucumcari 29 Nov (WW) and B.L.N.W.R. 3 & 10 Nov (GW), and a Least at Willow L, Eddy, 8 Oct (SW, RW) the only reports. First found in July, a **Reddish Egret** remained at B.L.N.W.R. to 19 Aug (GW, DE, BN); another appeared at E.B.L. 19 & 30 Aug (vt. JO; DE, BN, WW). An ad. **White Ibis** at La Joya 11–20 Aug (ph. JO; JEP, DE, BN) was the 6th for New Mexico this year. Seven Tundra Swans graced Maxwell 16–24 Nov (MW, DE, BN, ph. DC); another was near Tucumcari 29 Nov (WW). Wood Ducks in peripheral areas included one at Santa Rosa 29 Nov (WW) and 2 at Alto 11 Aug (fide AP). A male Eurasian