

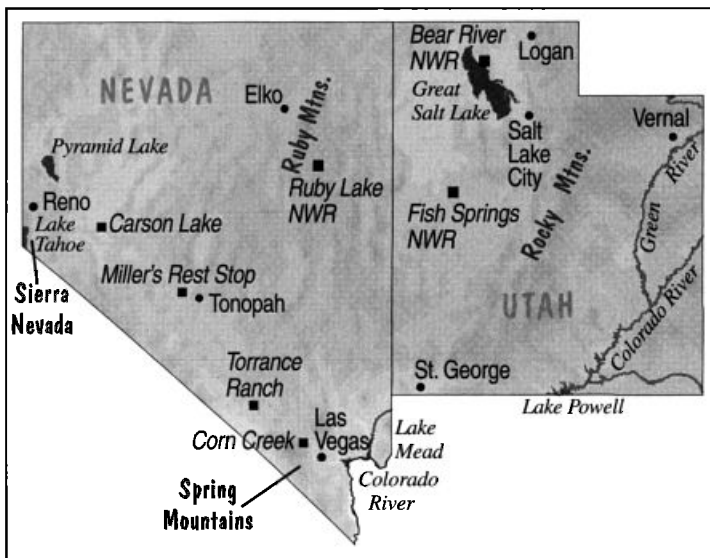
Goycoolea (BGo), BB Hahn, Paula Hansley, Stephanie L. Hanson, J.B. Hayes (JBH), Leon Hicks, Tyler Hicks, Dona Hilkey, Joe Himmel (JH), James Hollingsworth (JHo), Rachel Hopper, Jane Hunter (JHu), Mark Janos, Dave Johnson, Tina Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Joey Kellner, Loch Kilpatrick; Hugh Kingery, Joan Kleypas (JKl), Ray Korpi, Nick Komar, Tony Leukering (TL), David A. Leatherman, Andrea

S. Lueders, Forrest Luke, Joe Mammoser (JMm), Bill Maynard, Jack Merchant (Jme), Rich Miller, Larry Modesitt, SeEtta Moss, Duane Nelson, Kent Nickell, Stan Oswald, Ken Pals, Brandon K. Percival, Nathan Pipelow, John Prather, John & Lisa Rawinski (J&LR), Joe Roller (JR), Gene Rutherford, Ira Sanders, Pearle Sandstrom-Smith, Bill Schmoker (BSc), Karleen Schofield, Dick Schottler (DSc), Larry

Semo, Jack Short, David Silverman (DSi), Carol Simmons (CSi), Clif Smith (CSm), Drew Smith (DSm), Andrew Spencer, Bob Spencer (BSp), Dave Steingraeber (DSt), Kathy & Don Stevens, Van A. Truan, Randy Vernon, Glenn Walbek, David Waltman, Jim & Rosie Watts (J&RW), Jeff Webster (JW), Loy Wheeler, Christopher L. Wood, Brenda Wright, Mark Yaeger, Eric Zorawowicz.



# Great Basin



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The fall season is typically the most exciting in the Great Basin, and so it was this year: a good scattering of sea ducks started to show up on area lakes and reservoirs by the end of the reporting period; shorebirds again made a good showing in northern Utah; and the vagrant traps hosted the usual assortment of rare passerines. Few observers were willing to generalize about the weather or to speculate about its possible relation to avian distribution and abundance this fall. Some of the most notable species that were reported included Red-throated Loon, Mississippi Kite, American Golden-Plover, Ruff, Arctic Tern, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, White-eyed

Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Prairie Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and Common Redpoll.

**Abbreviations:** A.I.C. (Antelope Island Causeway, *Davis*, UT); A.M.N.W.R. (Ash Meadows N.W.R., *Nye*, NV); B.R. (Bodyfelt Ranch, *Nye*, NV); C.L. (Carson L., *Churchill*, NV); C.C. (Corn Cr., *Clark*, NV); D.C. (Devil's Canyon, *San Juan*, UT); F.S.N.W.R. (Fish Springs N.W.R., *Juab*, UT); G.R. (Garr Ranch, *Davis*, UT); G.L. (Glover Lane, *Davis*, UT); G.M.H.W. (Goshute Mountains Hawk Watch, *Elko*, NV); H.B.V.P. (Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, *Clark*, NV); H.R. (Hyrum Reservoir, *Cache*, UT); L.S. (Lake Shore, *Utah*, UT); M.R. (Mantua Reservoir, *Box Elder*, UT); M.R.S. (Miller's Rest Stop, *Esmeralda*, NV); P.N.W.R. (Pahranagat N.W.R., *Lincoln*, NV); P.L. (Pyramid L., *Washoe*, NV); Q.C.R. (Quail

Creek Reservoir, *Washington*, UT); S.L. (Soda L., *Churchill*, NV); S.N.W.R. (Stillwater N.W.R., *Churchill*, NV); W.F. (Washington Fields, *Washington*, UT).

## LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

Single **Red-throated Loons** were found at Q.C.R. 22 Nov (RF) and at Minersville Res., *Beaver*, UT 27 Nov-1 Dec (DS et al.). There are only two previous Utah records, and both of them are more than 20 years old. Pacific Loons numbered one to 2 at three Utah locales 20 Oct-30 Nov (v. o.), but the only Nevada report was of 2 at P.L. 20 Oct (TF et al.). Horned Grebes numbered up to 4 at four Utah locales 22 Sep-27 Nov (v. o.); in Nevada, the species was noted at Alamo, *Lincoln* 6 Oct (M&JCr) and at P.L. as early as 26 Aug (DSe). A Red-necked Grebe at P.L. 3 Nov (FP) was the only one reported.

An American Bittern was found at W.F. 27 Sep (RE, KW), and a good count of 5 came from S.N.W.R. 25 Oct (BH). A Least Bittern at A.M.N.W.R. 5 Aug (JC) was the only report. Green Heron reports came from four locations in Nevada and from three in Utah (v. o.). Cattle Egrets made a better-than-usual showing in Nevada, with reports from five locations led by 24 at Moapa, *Clark* 30 Sep (MC, JCr).

Small flocks of Tundra Swans were noted at three Nevada locales 11-19 Nov (v. o.), and more than 200 were seen at Salt Creek W.M.A., *Box Elder*, UT 10 Nov (JM). Three Trumpeter Swans at H.R. 12-22 Nov (JLf et al.) were the only ones reported. Greater White-fronted Geese numbered 2-7 at three Nevada locales 26 Aug-18 Nov (v. o.), while the only Utah report was of a single bird at Jordan R. Parkway, *Salt Lake* 3 Oct (*vide* MMo). Snow Goose maximum was 3000 at C.L. 21 Nov (JW); 3 "Blue" Geese also were on hand at C.L. on that date (JW). Ross's Geese were found at four Nevada locales 11-30 Nov (v. o.).

Wood Ducks at nine Nevada locations were led by a count of 6 at Oxbow Park, *Washoe* 4



Any golden-plover in the Great Basin is notable. This bird, first located at Fish Springs N.W.R., Juab County, Utah 21 October 2001 (and photographed there on the final day of its stay, the 28th), was determined after some discussion to be a juvenile American Golden-Plover. Photograph by Terry Sadler.

Nov (AW); Utah reports included 2 at Draper, *Salt Lake* 15 Nov (SA) and a good 24 at La Verkin Cr., *Washington* 23 Nov (SS et al.). A Blue-winged Teal at B.R. 20 Oct (DT) was the only report. A Eurasian Wigeon was a nice find at E.S.N.W.R. 31 Oct (JG). A Greater Scaup was at P.L. 20 Oct-13 Nov (v. o.), and 3 were at S.L. 21 Nov (JW). A Long-tailed Duck put in an appearance at A.I.C. 3 Nov (TJ). Scoters went unreported in Nevada, but they made a nice showing in Utah: 2 Black Scoters were at M.R. 27 Oct (LW), and one was at H.R. 3-11 Nov (v. o.); single Surf Scoters were found at an impressive five locales 20 Oct-17 Nov (v. o.); and White-winged Scoter reports included a single bird at M.R. 27 Oct (LW) and up to 3 at H.R. 3-29 Nov (v. o.).

An early (or overwintering?) Common Goldeneye was at H.B.V.P. 19-21 Sep (v. o.), and 2 Barrow's Goldeneyes at Logan 10 Nov (CG et al.) was the sole report for that species. A Bufflehead was at A.M.N.W.R. on the unusual date of 5 Aug (JC). One Hooded Merganser at A.M.N.W.R. 9 Nov (SG) and 2 at S.L. 10 Nov (TF et al.) were the only Nevada reports; there were records at three Utah locales, including 15 at Q.C.R. 27 Nov (DS, BS). Red-breasted Merganser reports included one at P.N.W.R. 12-18 Nov (RF et al.), one at H.R. 10 Nov (CG et al.), and 3 at M.R. 3 Nov (JB, KB).

A **Mississippi Kite** at Henderson, *Clark* 5 Aug (ph., †M&JCr) was one of just a handful of Nevada records. Bald Eagles were noted at four Utah locales (v. o.), and a mere 6 passed by the G.M.H.W. during the fall season (*fide* HG). Red-shouldered Hawks were reported from an impressive 14 locations in Nevada, but the only

Utah records were of single birds at Callao, *Juab* 21-22 Aug (RF) and at W.F. 12 Oct (RF, KW). Broad-winged Hawk is hardly the sort of bird that Regional birders think of as commonplace, and most observers would count themselves lucky to see one anywhere in the Great Basin. Yet they are of regular occurrence at the G.M.H.W., with a staggering 79 being counted this fall (*fide* HG).

Two Zone-tailed Hawks were at P.N.W.R. 16 Sep-11 Nov (JC), and one was at Pine Park, *Washington*, UT 13 Aug (RF, KCo). A Rough-legged Hawk at S.N.W.R. 15 Oct (BH) was early. Merlins at three Nevada locales were led by 46 at the G.M.H.W. (*fide* HG); single birds were found at seven places in Utah (v. o.). Peregrine Falcons numbered 29 at the G.M.H.W. (*fide* HG), and singles were noted at three other Nevada locations (v. o.); reports of one to 2 birds came from four Utah locales (v. o.).

### GROUSE THROUGH TERNS

The Gunnison Sage-Grouse is associated in most people's minds with Colorado, but the species does range into our Region; there was a report of 3 from near Monticello, *San Juan*, UT 23 Nov (TB). Two Common Moorhens at H.B.V.P. 19 Sep (TF et al.) were the only ones reported. Migrant Sandhill Cranes numbered up to 5 at four Nevada locations 9 Sep-10 Nov (v. o.).

Black-bellied Plovers were scarce, with reports of 2 at Saltair, *Salt Lake*, UT 19 Sep (AN et al.), 15 at A.I.C. 27 Aug (LL), and single birds at three Nevada locations 21 Aug-30 Sep (v. o.). A juv. **American Golden-Plover** was at E.S.N.W.R. 21-28 Oct (†MSt et al., ph. TS).

Rather tardy were a Snowy Plover at A.I.C. 16 Nov (JLf) and 2 Semipalmated Plovers at P.L. 4 Nov (MM).

Solitary Sandpipers were found at three Nevada locales 5 Aug-16 Sep (v. o.) and at four places in Utah 1 Aug-7 Sep (v. o.). A Ruddy Turnstone at A.I.C. 13 Oct (JB, KB) was the only one reported. Single Sanderlings were noted at H.B.V.P. 29 Sep-4 Oct (v. o.) and at S.L. 21-26 Sep (v. o.), while small flocks were at Saltair, *Salt Lake*, UT 5 Sep (AN et al.) and at A.I.C. 21 Sep (TJ, PK). The usual scattering of Semipalmated Sandpipers included 2 at C.L. 21 Aug (JD et al.), one at H.B.V.P. 4 Oct (MC, JCr), and one to 2 at Utah L., *Utah*, UT 14-24 Aug (DS, EH). Baird's Sandpipers numbered up to 5 at six Nevada locations 3 Aug-6 Oct (v. o.), while reports from six Utah locales were led by 35 at Farmington Bay W.M.A., *Davis* 9 Oct (TJ).

The Pectoral Sandpiper passage was a little better than usual: small flocks numbering up to 7 were reported from eight Nevada locations, with the last record coming from S-Line Res., *Churchill* on the late date of 10 Nov (TF et al.) There were reports of Pectorals from eight Utah locales, including 10+ at Fool Creek Res., *Millard* 13 Oct (DA). Stilt Sandpiper reports included the following: one at Provo Airport Dike, *Utah*, UT 1 Aug (DS), one at G.L. 19 Aug (JB, KB), and 5 at G.L. 28-29 Sep (TJ, BB). A **Ruff** at G.L. 23 Sep (ph. DG et al.), if accepted by the Utah Bird Records Committee, would be a state first. Single Short-billed Dowitchers were noted at C.L. 21 Aug (JD et al.), S.L. 26 Aug (DSe), G.L. 27-29 Sep (v. o.), and at the SR-9 sewage ponds, *Washington*, UT 10-12 Oct (RF). Single Red Phalaropes were nice finds at P.L. 27 Sep (†SH et al.) and at the Logan sewage lagoons, *Cache*, UT 20 Oct (JLw).

Bonaparte's Gulls were scarce in Nevada, with reports of up to 3 birds at three locations 7 Sep-18 Nov (v. o.). They were better represented in Utah, though; there were reports from six locations 24 Sep-27 Nov, including several counts in double digits (v. o.). Herring Gulls were noted at four Nevada locations, with a top count of 11 at P.L. 4 Nov (MM); one to 3 were found at three Utah locales. Single Thayer's Gulls were noted at P.L. 15 Nov (JW) and at the Logan sewage lagoons, *Cache*, UT 20 Oct (JLw et al.). P.L. hosted up to 2 Glaucous-winged Gulls 27 Oct-15 Nov (v. o.) and one "Olympic Gull" (Glaucous-winged Gull x Western Gull) also during that time span (v. o.). The Sabine's Gull flight was good: reports from eight Nevada locations 3 Sep-12 Oct were led by 5 at P.L. 27 Sep (v. o.); in Utah, there were reports of one to 2 birds at five locations 19 Sep-17 Oct (v. o.).



Among riparian specialists in the West, Bell's Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Blue Grosbeak come to mind, but in the Great Basin, the Long-eared Owl is also a riparian specialist, not uncommon but often overlooked in riparian surveys and neglected in management plans for such habitats. This bird roosted at Fish Springs N.W.R., Juab, Beaver County, Utah on 28 October 2001. Photograph by Terry Sadler.

The Common Tern passage was modest: a flock of 12 was found at Rye Patch Res., Pershing, NV 13 Sep (GS); a flock of 6 were at P.L. 27 Sep (v. o.); and 2-3 were at Q.C.R. 22 Sep-12 Oct (RF, KCo). An Arctic Tern was a good find at Washoe L., Washoe, NV 28 Sep (KG et al.).

## DOVES THROUGH VIREOS

The plot thickens! *Streptopelia* doves continue to show up in our Region, but several observers have rightly questioned the origin and identification of Ringed Turtle-Doves, Eurasian Collared-Doves, and possible hybrids in the Great Basin. This period's sightings included: a Ringed Turtle-Dove at Bryce Canyon N.P., Garfield, UT 6 Aug (BP, MPa); 3 Eurasian Collared-Doves at L.S. 2-3 Sep (DG & LW); and a Eurasian Collared-Dove at Fallon, Churchill, NV 2 Aug (MA). A White-winged Dove at M.R.S. 6 Sep (JBr) was northerly.

A Vaux's Swift at Dyer, Esmeralda, NV 15 Sep (fide GS) provided the only report. A male Black-chinned Hummingbird at Reno 22 Nov (ph. LWi) was quite tardy. Northerly Anna's Hummingbirds were noted at two Reno area locations 3 Aug-10 Nov (v. o.), and a Costa's Hummingbird at Reno 12 Nov (LWi) was something of a surprise.

There was a strong passage of Lewis's Woodpeckers through Nevada: migrants were reported from at least 22 lowland locations 31

Aug-27 Oct, and flocks numbered into the double digits at three of these locales (v. o.). Acorn Woodpecker is accidental in Nevada, so it was thrilling to have 2 in the state this fall: the first was at Wadsworth, Washoe, NV 4 Oct (ph., †JL, DW), but it did not stick around; the 2nd was at C.C. 19-24 Oct (DC et al.), and it was enjoyed by many. Meanwhile, an individual at D.C. 11 Nov (JB, KB) was at a more expected locale. Easterly Red-breasted Sapsuckers were reported from F.S.N.W.R. 27 Sep (LW), at St. George 4 Oct (LJ), and at three cen. or e. Nevada locations 20 Oct-30 Nov (v. o.). Meanwhile, hybrid sapsuckers (Red-breasted x Red-naped) were noted at four e. Nevada locales 10-14 Oct (v. o.). Away from far w. Nevada, hybrids are considerably more likely than pure Red-breasted Sapsuckers, and observers should be aware of this problem.

An extralimital Nuttall's Woodpecker was at Circle-L Ranch, Esmeralda, NV 16 Sep-2 Oct (GS et al.). Flickers present an interesting challenge to Great Basin birders, especially in s. Nevada. All three of the major populations (Red-shafted, Yellow-shafted, and Gilded) are present to varying degrees, but the occurrence of hybrids complicates the matter. This fall, possible Gilded Flickers were noted at three s. or cen. Nevada locations away from the breeding grounds near Searchlight (v. o.), and possible Yellow-shafted Flickers were reported from six s. or cen. Nevada locations (v. o.). The only Yellow-shafted x Red-shafted hybrids were single birds at two Reno area locations 30 Oct-14 Nov (TF et al.).

Migrant Willow Flycatchers were noted at eight Nevada locations 12 Aug-3 Oct (v. o.), while 2 birds near Mt. Rose, Washoe, NV were thought to be breeders (TF, KS). The species is nearly extirpated as a breeder in n. Nevada. Least Flycatchers were reported from three Nevada locations 26 Aug-20 Sep (v. o.), and it is gratifying that all three records were accompanied by good written descriptions. Meanwhile, a Least Flycatcher at G.R. 9-14 Sep was seen by many. A late Gray Flycatcher was at C.C. 15 Nov (RF, KW). Black Phoeebes made their usual fall incursion into n. and cen. Nevada, with reports from eight locations 9 Aug-2 Nov (v. o.). The most northerly record for Utah was of a bird at Draper, Salt Lake 14 Sep (KC, SC). An Eastern Phoebe strayed to C.C. 22-23 Nov (KR, †RS). A male Vermilion Flycatcher at Circle-L Ranch, Esmeralda, NV 2 Nov (JW) was northerly. A Cassin's Kingbird at H.B.V.P. 28 Oct (MC, JCr) was the only report. Eastern Kingbirds were found at three n. Utah locations 17-25 Aug (v. o.).

Northern Shrike reports came from the following locations: M.R.S. 20 Oct (DT); Elko 26

Oct (MP, LP); D.C. 11 Nov (JB, KB); and Utah L., Utah, UT 14 Nov (KC). A White-eyed Vireo was found at Peavine Ranch, Nye, NV 2 Sep (†JBo). Gray Vireos are almost never seen on migration, so a report of an apparent upslope migrant at 2400 m in the Pine Valley Mountain Wilderness, Washington, UT 18 Aug (SS, PS) was interesting. The Cassin's Vireo flight was rated by several observers as better than usual. There were reports of a Philadelphia Vireo at G.R. 30 Aug-25 Sep (m. ob.). The record appears to be credible, but there was some question as to whether more than one individual was present during the period of observation. At least one Red-eyed Vireo was at G.R. 16 Aug-29 Sep (v. o.), and another was seen at Provo Canyon, Utah, UT 4 Sep (KC).

Single Steller's Jays wandered to the lowland locations of W.F. 27 Sep (RF) and Dyer, Esmeralda, NV 2 Oct (MS et al.). Western Scrub-Jays staged a major invasion into the lowlands of Utah and especially Nevada (m. ob.). The Pinyon Jay flight was comparatively minor, with reports from only three lowland desert locations in s. Nevada (v. o.). And the Clark's Nutcracker flight was virtually nonexistent, with the only sightings coming from C.C. 8 Sep-9 Nov (v. o.).

## SWALLOWS THROUGH WARBLERS

A Purple Martin at L.S. 26 Aug (JB & KB) was unusual, and a Cliff Swallow at Virginia L., Washoe, NV 29 Nov was quite late (JW). Mountain Chickadees made a better-than-usual incursion into the lowlands of Nevada this fall. It was felt by several observers that some of the birds exhibited characters of the nominate subspecies, for which there exist no known Nevada records. Winter Wrens were found at G.R. 9-23 Sep (v. o.), at Q.C.R. 13-29 Oct (RF, KCo), and at six Nevada locales 31 Aug-18 Nov (v. o.).

The only Swainson's Thrush reports came from P.N.W.R. 14 Sep (RF, KW) and Floyd Lamb S.P., Clark, NV 14 Oct-1 Nov (v. o.). Varied Thrushes were noted at six Nevada locations 8 Oct-25 Nov (v. o.), while the only Utah report came from G.R. on the early date of 23 Sep (v. o.). Gray Catbird reports included the following: 6-8 near Eden, Weber, UT 14-16 Aug (LL); one at Jordanelle Res., Wasatch, UT 14-16 Aug (CD); and a stray to M.R.S. 22-26 Sep (v. o.). Brown Thrashers were found at C.C. 25 Oct-23 Nov (JC et al.), at S.N.W.R. 17 Nov (ph. BH), and at Garden City, Rich, UT 18 Nov (JBy). A Bendire's Thrasher was at Hurricane Fields, Washington, UT 11 Sep (RF).

An American Pipit at the summit of Mt. Rose, Washoe, NV 4 Aug (TF, KS) may have been a local breeder. The species was not

detected here during the recently completed Nevada Breeding Bird Atlas. The first migrant Cedar Waxwings were seen at Numana, *Washoe*, NV 12 Aug (TF). A Phainopepla at Peavine Ranch, *Nye*, NV was northerly (JBo).

A Tennessee Warbler at Washoe L., *Washoe*, NV 30 Sep (†PL) was the only sighting this fall. The peak of the Orange-crowned Warbler flight through Nevada seemed to occur during the period 13-16 Sep (v. o.). A late Nashville Warbler lingered at Willard Bay S.P., *Box Elder*, UT until 28 Nov (CS, MSo). Chestnut-sided Warblers made a nice showing, with sightings at G.R. 29 Sep (BB, TJ), L.S. 26-28 Aug (JB et al.), Q.C.R. 22-30 Sep (RF et mult. al.), M.R.S. 6 Sep (JBr), and Lida, *Esmeralda*, NV 22 Sep (GS, MM). A possible Cape May Warbler was reported from M.R.S. 3 Oct (JBr). Black-throated Blue Warblers were found at C.C. 23 Oct-5 Nov (v. o.) and at G.R. 8 Sep (DG). Myrtle Warblers were noted at three Nevada locales 2-25 Oct (v. o.).

The Townsend's Warbler flight through Utah was better than average and was highlighted by a remarkable one-day high of 20+ individuals at G.R. 13 Sep (TJ). A Hermit Warbler in the Spring Mountains, *Clark*, NV 12 Aug (SG, HH) was somewhat off the beaten path, and a hybrid Hermit Warbler x Townsend's Warbler was found at the Carson R. Diversion Dam, *Churchill*, NV 14 Aug (TF). The parulid of the season was a **Prairie Warbler** at Q.C.R. 28-30 Sep (DG et al.). Palm Warblers were noted at three Nevada locations 26 Sep-3 Oct (v. o.). A possible Bay-breasted Warbler was reported

from Lovelock, *Pershing*, NV 13 Sep (JW). Blackpoll Warblers were found at a good five Nevada locations 9 Sep-2 Oct (v. o.).

Black-and-white Warblers were found at L.S. 23-27 Aug (DS et al.) and at three Nevada locales 19 Aug-23 Nov (v. o.). American Redstart reports came from eight locations in Nevada 31 Aug-9 Oct (v. o.) and from three in Utah 23 Aug-1 Oct (v. o.). Two or more Prothonotary Warblers were found at two locations in the Dyer, *Esmeralda*, NV area 8-22 Sep (GS et al.). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was a good find at C.C. 1-2 Sep (KWa, RS). One or 2 Ovenbirds were at C.C. 19 Sep-25 Oct (v. o.). Northern Waterthrushes were seen at 10 Nevada locales 23 Aug-16 Sep (v. o.) and at four locations in Utah 15 Aug-3 Sep (v. o.).

### TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Summer Tanager at Dyer, *Esmeralda*, NV 16 Sep (GS, JBr) was somewhat northerly, and one was found at St. George 6 Oct (SS, RF). A well-described female **Scarlet Tanager** at Crystal Springs, *Lincoln*, NV 11 Oct (†JD et al.) was one of only a handful of records for the state.

An American Tree Sparrow was at the unexpected locale of C.C. 4-10 Nov (SG, JC). At more expected locations were 8 at Ruby Valley, *Elko*, NV 11 Nov (KV) and 7 at Farmington Bay W.M.A., *Davis*, UT 21 Nov (TJ). A Clay-colored Sparrow was at Q.C.R. 24 Sep-6 Oct (RF et mult. al.). Possible Brewer's Sparrows of the *taverneri* subspecies were found above 3000 m in Great Basin N.P., *White Pine*, NV 11 Aug (MP, LP). This subspecies's status has not been determined in the Great Basin, and more work is needed here. A Black-chinned Sparrow at nearly 2700 m along the Ophir Creek Trail, *Washoe*, NV 20 Aug (†JD, GB) was remarkable in every way: latitude, altitude, and habitat.

Single Lark Buntings were reported from Butler Basin, *Nye*, NV 20 Aug (JBr) and from Torrance Ranch, *Nye*, NV 9 Sep (JBr), and 3 were at Tremonton, *Box Elder*, UT 9 Sep (*vide* MSt). A Grasshopper Sparrow at Hurricane Fields, *Washington*, UT 4 Aug (RF) afforded the only report. Three juv. Lincoln's Sparrows near Mt. Rose, *Washoe*, NV 4 Aug (TF, KS) indicated local breeding. A Swamp Sparrow was reported from Tonopah 3 Oct (JBr). White-throated Sparrows numbered up to 3 at nine Nevada locations 3 Oct-25 Nov (v. o.), but the only Utah reports were of singles at Cedar City, *Iron* 4 Nov (SS) and at Sugar House, *Salt Lake* 2-8 Nov (MSt). Harris's Sparrows were seen at Provo Airport Dike, *Utah*, UT 3 Oct (EH) and at Jordan R. Parkway, *Utah*, UT 5-10 Nov (TR et al.). Golden-crowned Sparrows were widespread in w. Nevada, and single individuals ranged as far e. as the Fish Spring

Mountains, *Juab*, UT 20 Oct (MSt) and Red Cliffs Recreation Area, *Washington*, UT 24-29 Nov (RF). Slate-colored Juncos were noted at three Nevada locales 27 Oct-2 Nov (v. o.).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found at seven Nevada locations 15 Aug-19 Nov (v. o.), but one at L.S. 25 Aug (MW) was the only record for Utah. Single Indigo Buntings were found at B.R. 8 Sep (GS, JBr), at Lytle Ranch, *Washington*, UT 29 Sep (RF et al.), and at C.C. on the late date of 23 Nov (KR). An ad. male Dickcissel was seen at Tonopah 20 Sep (JBr)

A female Bobolink strayed to M.R.S. 8 Sep (GS, JBr). Single Common Grackles put in appearances at B.R. 9 Oct (†JD et al.) and at Sandy, *Salt Lake*, UT 11 Oct (KL). Great-tailed Grackles continue to expand in Utah, as evidenced by a flock of 35+ (including juvs.) at Cedar City 19 Aug (SS et al.). A female Baltimore Oriole at the Carson R. Diversion Dam, *Churchill*, NV 28 Sep (MG et al.) was a nice find.

Some 25+ Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches were at Arches N.P., *Grand*, UT 12 Nov (JB, KB). An apparent Brown-capped Rosy-Finch at Monticello, *San Juan*, UT 23 Nov (TB), if accepted by the Utah Bird Records Committee, would be a state first. Red Crossbills were barely noted, with the only reports coming from the following locales: Incline Village, *Washoe*, NV 22 Aug (JD); Ophir Creek Trail, *Washoe*, NV 28 Sep (JD); and D.C. 11 Nov (JB, KB). A **Common Redpoll** at Woods Cross, *Davis*, UT 15 Nov (SCo) heralded an impressive invasion of the species in the months to follow. Two Evening Grosbeaks at C.C. 9 Nov (SS et al.) made for the only report.

### EXOTICS

A Nutmeg Mannikin was a delightful if "uncountable" visitor to Rancho San Rafael Park, *Washoe*, NV 30 Aug (DAR).

**Observers:** David Allan, David Arsenaull (DAR), Mike Amos, Sharon Andrus, Giff Beaton, Joel Beyer, Kathy Beyer, Todd Black, Jim Boone (JBo), Jeanie Boynton (JBy), John Brack (JBr), Bob Bradley, Steve Carr, K.C. Childs, Jack Cochran, Steve Coleman (SCo), Kristen Comella (KCo), Donna Crail-Rugotzke, Marian Cressman, Jim Cressman (JCr), Carol Davis, Jon Dunn, Ted Floyd, Rick Fridell, Kimball Garrett, Shawn Goodchild, Jim Graham, Dana Green, Mike Green, Howard Gross, Carol Gwynn, Bill Henry, Steve Howell, Eric Huish, Heather Hundt, Lee Jones, Tony Jones, Phil Kline, Kim Lane, Peter LaTourrette, Lisa Lister, James Lofthouse (JLf), Jean Lown (JLw), Jim Lytle, Jim McIntyre, Martin Meyers, Milton Moody (MMo), Anne Neville, Bob

**SA** Fox Sparrows breed in the high mountains of the Great Basin and are commonly encountered on migration and occasionally in winter here. But which of the four or more distinctive forms occur in our Region? The Slate-colored Fox Sparrow breeds throughout much of the Region, and the Thick-billed Fox Sparrow is common in the Carson Range and perhaps elsewhere in w. Nevada. Single Sooty Fox Sparrows were recorded at three Nevada locations this fall, and one or 2 Red Fox Sparrows were at Corn Creek, *Clark*, NV 19 Oct-9 Nov (v. o.). It is obvious that virtually any sort of Fox Sparrow can show up in the Great Basin, but it is likewise clear that we lack good occurrence data for the multiple forms that occur here. Observers in the Great Basin are thus urged to try to identify migrant Fox Sparrows to the level of subspecies whenever possible.

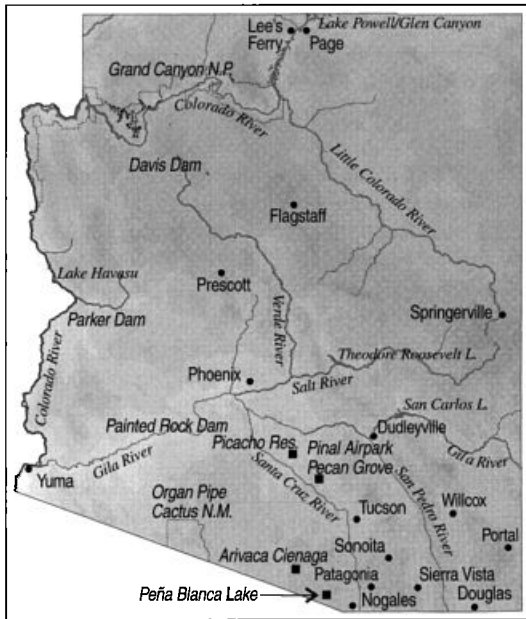
Parsons, Marilyn Parsons (MPa), Fred Petersen, Lois Ports, Mark Ports, Kathy Robertson, Tuula Rose, Terry Sadler, Mike San Miguel, Rick Saval, Greg Scyphers, Dennis Serdehely (DSe),

Bryan Shirley, Dennis Shirley, Kei Sochi, Carolyn Somer, Mark Somer (MSo), Mark Stackhouse (MSt), Priscilla Summers, Steve Summers, Dennis Trousdale, Ken Voget, Alan

Wallace, Kevin Wallace (KWa), Jack Walters, Kevin Wheeler, Larry Williams (LWi), Diane Wong, Merrill Webb, Larene Wyss.



# Arizona



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**Abbreviations:** Arizona Bird Committee (A.B.C.); Avra Valley Waste Water Treatment Plant (A.V.); Boyce Thompson Arboretum (B.T.A.); Cow Springs L. (C.S.L.); El Mirage Pond (E.M.P.); Gilbert Water Ranch (G.W.R.); Granite Reef Picnic Area (G.R.P.); Hassayampa River Preserve (H.R.P.); Imperial N.W.R. (I.N.W.R.); Lower Colorado R. Valley (L.C.R.V.); Navajo Indian Reservation (N.I.R.); Picacho Reservoir (P.R.); Sewage Treatment Plant (S.T.P.); Sweetwater Wetlands (S.W.W.); Tempe Town L. (T.T.L.); White Water Draw Conservation Area (W.W.D.).

## LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

Away from the L.C.R.V., where they're more regular, Common Loons were found in above-average numbers this season and were widespread: in the s., singles were at G.W.R. 20-21 Oct (JoB), G.R.P.A. 28 Oct (JSm), Fountain Hills 29 Oct-8 Nov (JSm, SL), and Willcox 3 Nov (GB); and in the n., they were at Flagstaff 25 Oct (CL), Big L. 26 Oct (DR), and Becker L. 27 Oct (DR). Likewise, it was a good year for Western Grebes in the s., with as many as 11 reported from various locations; early individuals were at G.W.R. 23 Sep (SG) and W.W.D. 3 Oct (FF). About normal, a few Clark's Grebes were away from the L.C.R.V.: individuals were at Becker L. 10 Sep (SH), G.R.P. 2-28 Oct (EL, JB, JSm), and at Nelson Reservoir 26 Nov (DR). A rare but regular wanderer from the Gulf of California, Brown Pelicans showed up at A.V. 1 Aug (MI), Patagonia L. 7-16 Aug (AE), Willcox 21-30 Aug (MMS, CDB), and at W.W.D. 28 Oct (RHu). The only Neotropical Cormorant—away from the species's usual haunts of Patagonia L. and the confluence of the Salt and Gila R.—was at Arizona City 26 Oct (MMS, BiS).

Early American Bitterns were at Nelson Reservoir 4 Aug (DR) and P.R. 18 Aug (WT, WL); others included individuals at W.W.D. 1-12 Nov (PS, JM) and Patagonia L. 8-17 Nov (SH, GB), and 2 were at P.R. 25 Nov (RH et al.) Wandering herons were well represented this season. Single Little Blues were at Patagonia L. in early Oct (PW) and at E.M.P. 11 Nov (EL), while Tricolored Herons were at W.W.D. 2-29 Sep (JM, KK et al.) and a confirmed 2nd individual was at Patagonia L. 28 Sep-28 Oct (JBo, BP). The status of **Reddish Egret** has dramatically changed in the last half-decade; before 1996, there were only six records. Since then, the number has more than doubled. This fall alone, we received four additional reports: from G.W.R. 26 Aug (†JS, SL), I.N.W.R. 3 Sep (BZ, MH) & 5 Sep-3 Oct (ph. GHR), and one stayed very late at P.R. 21 Oct-22 Nov (B&LW, m. ob.) Rare for the N.I.R., a Green Heron was at Kayenta 5 Oct (CL). Hot on the heels of the state's first record of **Glossy Ibis**, another ad was reported this fall at E.M.P. 11 Aug (†TC) Black Vultures were reported n. of their normal range; 8 were w. of Phoenix 22 Oct (JSa, SL), and an incredible >100 were counted at P.R. 26 Oct (CDB, MMS).

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks occasionally nest in *Maricopa*; this year several ads. with young were at E.M.P. starting 4 Aug (MB, m. ob.) and a lone ad. was a first for the n. part of the state at C.S.L. 5-21 Oct (CL). This year seemed to be below average for migrant Greater White-fronted Geese; we received only three reports. Singles were at Tucson 23-26 Oct (DW et al.) and at Green Valley S.T.P. 25 Nov (MMS), and 2 were at W.W.D. 29 Sep (KK) The case with white geese was quite the reverse their numbers were high for locations away from the L.C.R.V. High counts were of 21 Snow Geese at Willcox 23 Nov (SB) and 45 at W.W.D. 30 Nov (SH). Single Ross's Geese were reported from seven different s. locations during late Oct and Nov; an apparent Snow x Ross's Goose hybrid at Sahuarita L. provided plenty of fodder for discussion when it was found 11 Nov (MMS, m. ob.). The only Greater Scaup reported to us was one at L. Havasu 27 Oct (CB). The **Harlequin Duck** that surprisingly summered in the Grand Canyon was seen