

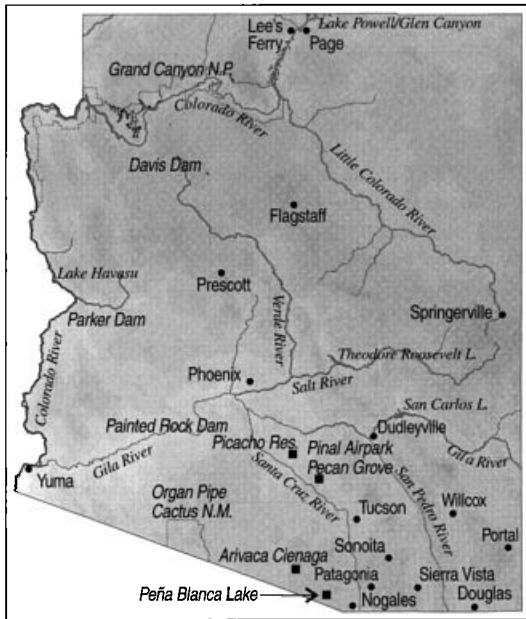
Parsons, Marilyn Parsons (MPa), Fred Petersen, Lois Ports, Mark Ports, Kathy Robertson, Tuula Rose, Terry Sadler, Mike San Miguel, Rick Saval, Greg Scyphers, Dennis Serdehely (DSe),

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



## Gary H. Rosenberg

P.O. Box 91856  
Tucson, Arizona 85752-1856  
(ghrosenberg@comcast.net)

## Roy M. Jones

2237 North Sunset Drive  
Tempe, Arizona 85281  
(barbet@primenet.com)

**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

again 6 Oct (DSta). A casual transient, records of Surf Scoter are always interesting. This year, individuals were at Sahuarita L. 11-12 Nov (ph. MMS, m. ob.) and at Flagstaff 15-22 Nov (ErM, DHe) A Long-tailed Duck, casual in the southeast, was a big surprise at the Apache Station Wildlife Area Cochise 23 Nov (SB). Accidental anywhere away from the L.C.R.V., 3 Barrow's Goldeneyes were at Becker L. 14 Nov (DR); interestingly, this species was found here last year Red-breasted Mergansers were found in about normal numbers this year, with 6 individuals reported away from the L.C.R.V. during Nov

### KITES THROUGH TERNS

Four White-tailed Kites (2 ad. and 2 juv.) were near Portal along Stateline Rd 4 Aug (CG); this is e of the species's normal range and suggests local breeding. Ten Mississippi Kites were at St. David 28 Aug (HL), which suggests another very successful breeding season since the species returned to the area two years ago. An individual that was part of a family group that spent the summer in the Prescott region, n. of the their normal range, was last seen 6 Sep (EMo) Several individual Gray Hawks were at unusual locations during the season: Sulfur Springs Valley 5 Aug (RT), Tucson along the Santa Cruz R. 9 Sep (WR), and P.R. 23 Sep (EL) Late Common Black-Hawks were at B T A 3 Oct (BD, SG) and Page Springs 13 Oct (RRa) The pair of Red-shouldered Hawks at H R P remained throughout (m. ob.). **Short-tailed Hawks** returned to the state again this year Reports of the species came from the Huachuca Mts. at both Miller and Carr Canyons 18 Aug-9 Sep (CDB, WW, T&BeP et al.), while an ad. with a buffy juv. present in the Chiricahua Mts. at Barfoot Park 5 Aug-3 Sep (FG, CDB, MMS, JHa, RiW) suggests nesting. Late Zone-tailed Hawks were one each at Yuma 23 Oct (HD) and Tucson 5 Nov (DSte), while several early Ferruginous Hawks were n. of Elfrida 24 Sep (NH). The only Rough-legged Hawk reported away from usual areas was an individual at W.W.D. 18 Nov (SW et al.). Casual in *Maricopa*, a Crested Caracara was a nice find along the Gila R. w. of Phoenix 12 Nov (CW). After a couple of years of nearly bone dry conditions at P.R. it did not take long for Clapper Rails to return once water was put back in the reservoir; we received multiple reports of this species there during Aug (MI, WT, WL).

Small wintering flocks of Sandhill Cranes are not uncommon in w. *Maricopa*, but >100 reported near Arlington 8 Oct (BG, MR) was noteworthy. A sizable concentration of Mountain Plovers returned to Friendly Corners

again this year; 45 were counted at the Western Sod Farm 22 Nov (TG). Overall, though the season seemed less than satisfying for shorebirds, several uncommon but regular species were observed in very small numbers, i.e., Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers. This is primarily due to the general lack of the small ponds and flooded agricultural fields that constitute much of the desert shorebird habitat. As more and more of these areas are converted to housing, we are likely to see this trend continue. American Avocets occasionally nest in cen. Arizona; this year they raised young at E.M.P. (MB). Lesser Yellowlegs are rare anywhere in the state during winter; late individuals were at E.M.P. 14 Nov (SG) and P.R. 25 Nov (RHo). The only Marbled Godwit reported to us was one at Roosevelt L. 23 Aug (JE). A casual transient in the state, the shorebird of the season was definitely the Ruddy Turnstone that was present for only a few hours at E.M.P. 9 Aug (TC et al.). Sanderlings were observed in above-average numbers this fall; we received five reports that totaled 14 individuals (KK, TS, CB, BuJ, DW). A few Semipalmated Sandpipers, about normal for a fall season, were reported; singles were at G.W.R. 23-28 Aug (EyS, JaS, SG), A.V. 24 Aug (MMS), and Many Farms L. 22 Sep (CB, BJ). After last year's poor fall season for Stilt Sandpipers, the numbers this year seemed to return to normal, with individuals at A.V. 2-5 Aug (MI, RD), Rimmy Jim Tank 5 Aug (CL), E.M.P. 8 Aug-15 Sep (MB, RW, AVA, JBu), G.W.R. 1 Sep (SG, JaS), and Willcox 6 Oct (BiS, JHa, et al.). Short-billed Dowitchers put in a nice showing this season. Four individuals were observed in the Gilbert area on different ponds 5 Aug-28 Sep (SG, CB, JSm, SL), although it is hard to say how many birds were present here; another was at W.W.D. 6 Oct (KK). The only Red-necked Phalarope report was of an individual at W.W.D. 6-11 Oct (KK, PS, JMc).

A possible Parasitic Jaeger generated a lot of excitement when reported at W.W.D. 30 Oct (SH); all three jaeger species are accidental in the state. Unlike shorebirds, gulls and terns put in a nice showing this season. Interesting reports were of a Laughing Gull at W.W.D. 1-13 Aug (JBo, MMS, m. ob.) and a Franklin's Gull at T.T.L. 23 Aug (EyS, JSm, *vide* Diana Stuart). Reports of Sabine's Gulls were 2 at Lyman L. 12 Sep (SH), one at Tucson 28 Sep (BN, ph. MMS), and 4 at Roosevelt L. 3-4 Oct (JE). Rare-but-regular terns included 2 Caspians at Gilbert 2 Sep (HF), while Common Terns noted included one at Becker L. 7 Sep (CB), 7 at Concho L. 5 Oct (JV), and 5 at W.W.D. 6-8 Oct (KK). Black Terns were 15 W.W.D 3 Aug (RHu et al.) and 8 at E.M.P. 27 Aug (MB).

### DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Band-tailed Pigeon was at an unusually low elevation at the Sweetwater Wetlands, *Pima* 20 Oct (RT). Eurasian Collared-Dove continued its expansion in the state; new locations were Black Canyon City and the Phoenix Zoo (JT, RMJ). A single White-winged Dove at Flagstaff 1 Nov (PF) was n. of the species's typical range After a couple of winters with few records, Ruddy Ground-Doves returned to the state in high numbers this year; at least 15 individuals were reported from various location including Patagonia, Tolleson, Tucson, H.R.P., E M P, Douglas, and W.W.D. We received an interesting report of a **Black Swift** from (of all places) Sky Harbor International Airport in Phoenix, an air traffic controller sighted it as it soared with White-throated Swifts around the tower 18 Sep (EB). Although it's reported almost annually, this species has still not been physically documented in the state.

The only White-eared Hummingbirds found away from regular areas were one at a low elevation in Portal 3 Aug (CGr) and one in Box Canyon, Santa Rita Mts. 14 Aug (GM, BC) The only Berylline Hummingbird of the season was at its normal haunts in Ramsey Canyon 4 Aug-4 Sep (MP). A Violet-crowned Hummingbird sw. of Tucson 14 Nov (CTi, et al.) was a bit n. of normal range, while a Blue-throated Hummingbird was lower than normal at the Patons' in Patagonia 21 Nov (JHa et al.) The Plain-capped Starthroat first found 25 Jul and subsequently seen by many observers was in the lower reaches of French Joe Canyon until at least 3 Sep (MMS, JBo, Jo&LH, m. ob.); another individual was at Sycamore Canyon 5 Aug (BaJ). Observers are reminded that all reports of this species should be accompanied by a written description, and if possible, a photograph. Four late *Selasphorus* hummers were one in the Mule Mts. 5 Nov (RHu), 2 at Bisbee 23 Nov (SW), and one at Tucson 30 Nov (BN) Banders in the Huachuca captured a remarkable number of Allen's Hummingbirds during the season, many of them late; high captures were 4 on 18 Sep and 3 on 2 Oct (GW). A late Elegant Trogon remained in Madera Canyon until at least 28 Nov (DMc). Lewis's Woodpeckers once again wandered into the lowlands of the se. during Oct and Nov, likewise, Acorn Woodpeckers were discovered at lower-than-normal elevations and away from their preferred oak habitat at P.A.P. 15 Sep (BiS) and at G.R.P. 23 Sep (RMJ, SG).

### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS

It appeared to be an excellent year for post-breeding dispersal of Northern Beardless-Tyrannulets, with several reports n. of their

usual nesting range in Arizona: singles were at the H.R.P. 8 Sep (JoB), near Superior 12 Sep (CTo), B.T.A. 17 Sep (CTo), and Camp Creek 15 Oct (TC). Another indication that it was a good year for tyrannulets were the report of singles at Agua Caliente Park in Tucson 13 Nov (JHa et al.) and in Chino Canyon 14 Nov (SJ, NM). This species is only irregularly reported this late into the season, and these later records may suggest either a good breeding success, or the mildness of the fall weather, or both. Extraordinary was a report of a "silent" Eastern Wood-Pewee along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson 8 Oct (WR); there have been only three or four acceptable reports of this species in the state, all of them of singing individuals. A sparse fall and winter visitor to riparian areas in the s. portion of the state, single Eastern Phoebes were reported from P.R. 22 Oct (B&LW), Rio Verde near Phoenix 11 Nov (TC), and from along Sonoita Cr. above Patagonia L. 25 Nov (WR).

A Tropical Kingbird at the Phoenix Zoo 18 Aug (RMJ) and another along the Gila R. w. of Phoenix 4 Sep (TC) provided two of the few reports of this species away from actual or suspected breeding locations. A late report was of one still present at the P.A.P. pecan grove 16 Sep (Bis et al.). Another indication of a very mild fall was several reports of lingering Cassin's Kingbirds in s. Arizona: one was in Bisbee 7 Nov (SW), one was at S.W.W. 8 Nov (JHa, MMS), and one was at Patagonia L. 14 Nov (GB et al.). A Thick-billed Kingbird was at the Palo Duro Golf Course pond 19 Aug (WL, WT); this location is away from known breeding areas. Western Kingbird is considered a very common breeding bird and migrant across s. Arizona, but the report of literally "thousands" (about 100/mile) throughout the Sulphur Springs Valley 5 Oct (RH et al.) was extraordinary and likely represented the last big push of this species migrating southward. The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in sw. Phoenix reported sporadically during the summer season was still present as of 29 Sep (TC, MB). Elsewhere, one was reported near Prescott 4 Oct (J. Barton, *vide* CTo), and another was at Yuma 24 Oct (HD); this species is still considered casual in the state.

There seemed to be a good winter in the making for Northern Shrikes in n. Arizona, with several reports beginning in late Oct from the triangle created between Flagstaff, Page, and Kayenta (CL), the only reliable area in the state for this species. A very late Bell's Vireo was reported singing 31 Oct in Bisbee (SW). Two different Red-eyed Vireos were reported this fall, one from Powers Butte 24 Sep (MB) and another from Eagar 29-30 Sep (DR, GC); this species is still a very casual migrant anywhere in the state. After last winter's incredible inva-

sion of virtually all the montane species, only a few species seemed to be on the move this fall. Single Western Scrub-Jays appeared in the lowlands in Phoenix 1 Oct (G. Knowles, *vide* T. Gatz), at Bill Williams N.W.R. 7 Oct (HD), and at Parker 15 Nov (MMS). Pinyon Jays also were sighted at lower-than-usual elevations, with >100 along the Verde R. 4 Sep (T. Linda), and 8 at Slate Creek Divide 7 Sep (SG, SH), but this early movement apparently did not continue. A single American Crow was out of place in Arlington 13 Nov (TC, CW). A very late Tree Swallow was at A.V. 1 Dec (MMS). Also out of place was a single White-breasted Nuthatch in Tucson 27 Sep (JHi).

Winter Wrens are seldom reported from n. Arizona; therefore, one in Flagstaff 12 Oct (CL), 3 along the Little Colorado R. near Cameron 28 Oct (CL), and one in Pasture Canyon 1 Dec (CL) were all significant. Another seen in Cave Creek Canyon 21 Oct (JB) was the only report this fall from s. Arizona. An American Dipper at Shultz Tank 22 Oct (CL) was away from known breeding areas in n. Arizona. Three Swainson's Thrushes netted in the Santa Rita Mts. 17 Sep (WL, WR) were believed to be of the race *C. u. swainsoni*, of which there are only a handful of documented records (almost all from May) in the state; this race breeds n. and w. of Arizona to British Columbia but migrates almost exclusively e. of our state. Always of interest, a Varied Thrush was near Flagstaff 7 Nov (DH). A greater-than-usual number of migrating Gray Catbirds, casual away from breeding areas in ne. Arizona, was reported this fall, with one in E. Whitetail Canyon 14-15 Oct (RT), one in Madera Canyon 19-23 Oct (BP et al.), and another in Lyle Canyon near Canelo 30 Oct-5 Nov (D. Rhodes). A Brown Thrasher, a casual fall and winter visitor to the state, was at the B.T.A. 17 Nov+ (JBa et al.).

### WARBLERS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

Single Tennessee Warblers were reported from Springerville 13 Aug (DR, GC) and from along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson 12 Oct (J&SL); this species remains a casual migrant in the state. A very late Nashville Warbler was at S.W.W. in Tucson 9-11 Nov (KK). This was an extraordinary fall for Northern Parula, a casual migrant, with no fewer than 9 reported statewide. A late Yellow Warbler was along the Salt R. w. of Phoenix throughout Nov (TC). Chestnut-sided Warblers, now seemingly annual in the state during the late fall and winter, were reported from Granite Basin near Prescott 15 Sep (B. Pranter, B. Thomen), at the B.T.A. 12 Oct (JBa), at S.W.W. in Tucson 7 Nov+ (GB et al.), and from along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson 14 Nov

(J&SL). Another warbler that used to be casual in the state, but has become virtually annual during the fall, Black-throated Blue Warblers were reported at the Pinal Homestead near Superior 14 Sep (CT), at the B.T.A. 8-10 Oct (RM&JJ et al.), and at Kino Springs 22 Oct (J&MH et al.). One warbler that has decreased dramatically over the past 20 years, Black-throated Green Warbler, was in Cave Creek Canyon 20 Oct (JBo). A Townsend's Warbler in Flagstaff 11 Nov (F. Brandt) was quite late.

A Pine Warbler reported from along the Salt R. w. of Phoenix 9 Oct (†CB, S. Stangeland) represents only the 8th state record, if accepted by the A.B.C. A Blackpoll Warbler, still casual in Arizona, was in a ne. Tucson yard 25 Oct (ph WR). No fewer than 6 Black-and-white Warblers were reported from during the fall 19 Aug-1 Dec. Likewise, 5 American Redstarts, about normal for a fall, were reported 7 Aug-27 Oct. The only Prothonotary Warbler of the fall was one at Patagonia 3 Aug (J. Hansen, MMS, MI). Single Ovenbirds, casual in the fall and winter, were in Oro Valley 22 Nov (D. Prichett) and at Agua Caliente Park 29 Nov+ (DW, m ob.). At least 15 Northern Waterthrushes were reported statewide this fall 4 Aug-7 Oct. A Louisiana Waterthrush was along Sonoita Creek at the Roadside Rest 30 Aug (CDB, et al.), it is interesting that there are two distinct time periods when this species turns up in Arizona, one during late summer, and the other during winter. A Hooded Warbler, casual in the state during fall, was at Granite Basin 27 Sep (CTo). Very late Wilson's Warblers included one at Roger Road S.T.P. 7-21 Nov (GB et al.) and one at St. David 25 Nov (RH). A Painted Redstart was out of place at the B.T.A. 16 Sep (CTo). A very late Yellow-breasted Chat lingered at Agua Caliente Park in Tucson 22 Oct (RT).

Late Summer Tanagers were reported from the Little Colorado R. near Cameron 12 Oct (CL), from Reid Park in Tucson 9 Nov (DW), from the Little Colorado R. again (different individual; greenish-yellow, thought to possibly be the e. race) 12 Nov (CL), and from the Gila R. w. of Phoenix 24 Nov (TC). A Scarlet Tanager was at the Phoenix Zoo 5-7 Oct (RMJ et al.), there have been only about 20 previous state records.

Clay-colored Sparrow reports were one in Tempe 4 Oct (†K. Groschupf), one along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson 8 Oct (WR), another along the Santa Cruz 12 Oct (J&SL), and 2 along the Santa Cruz 20 Oct (WR, NL). This species is a rare to casual fall transient and winter resident in s. Arizona. With Fox Sparrow on the verge of being split into three or more distinct species, it has become important to distinguish the different forms that occur in the state during winter. This fall, the

**SA** The saga of the pair of **Rufous-capped Warblers** in French Joe Canyon continued this summer and fall with tantalizing reports of the two birds carrying nesting material—then, on 7 Aug, a nest was located with the female sitting on it (F. Gallo). By 16 Aug, the female was seen carrying food and a fecal sac (MMS), and on 18 Aug a recently-fledged juv. was first reported (J. Cochran). In all, the pair successfully fledged three juvs., and the family was reported through 9 Sep. Although a Rufous-capped Warbler was found on a nest with two eggs in Cave Creek Canyon in Jul 1977, this nesting in French Joe Canyon represents the first known successful nesting in Arizona and in the United States.

Slate-colored subspecies was reported from Pena Blanca L. 9 Oct (BM), from Paradise 20 Oct (JBo), from Lockett Meadow near Flagstaff 29 Oct (CL, RR), and from S.W.W. in Tucson 7 Nov (MMS, KH). Two other subspecies were reported, an apparent Sooty Fox Sparrow at Madera Canyon 24 Oct (D. Touret, RP), and a Red Fox Sparrow from Pasture Canyon 3 Nov (CL). At least 10 different White-throated Sparrows were reported 20 Oct–24 Nov around s Arizona. The only Harris's Sparrow of the fall was of one at Cornville 27 Nov (ph. RRA). Up to 7 McCown's Longspurs were found on the Ft McDowell I.R. 25 Nov+, in the same area where one was discovered last winter; this represents only the 2nd *Maricopa* record (ph. RMJ et al.).

A Pyrrhuloxia at Sedona 24 Aug (L. Francis) was n. of this species's normal range in Arizona. A very late Black-headed Grosbeak was at Fountain Hills 6 Nov (J. Smith et al.). Late Varied Buntings included 5 at Kino Springs 7 Oct (JiB, BSc) and one in Whitetail Canyon 14 Oct (RT); most individuals of this species are gone by late Sep. No fewer than 20 different Painted Buntings were found 4 Aug–7 Oct, a far greater-than-usual number than is typical in fall. This incursion should finally dispell the idea that many of the Arizona reports pertained to escaped cage birds. Single Dickcissels were at P.A.P. pecan grove 19 Sep (ph. GHR, WR), at S.W.W in Tucson 8 Oct (JHa et al.), and at Willcox 11 Oct (PW).

A **Rusty Blackbird** was along the Santa Cruz R. 8 Oct (WR); there have been only about 15 previous records for the state. A late Hooded Oriole was reported from Patagonia L. 2 Nov (SH), and a late Bullock's Oriole was at Kino Springs 12 Oct (LL). After the past few years,

local observers can be forgiven for becoming jaded about **Black Rosy-Finch** (due to large flocks present near Page), but in reality, it is still considered accidental in Arizona. This fall, 3 were along the highway near Pipe Springs NM 23 Nov (JBo). The only Lawrence's Goldfinch reports of the fall were of 2 along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson 14 Oct (WR, NL) and of one at Evergreen Cemetery in Tucson 31 Oct (RH).

**Contributors:** Charlie Babbitt, Mike Baker, Steve Barlow, Sally Barnes, Jack Bartley, Robin Baxter, Tom Beatty, Chris D. Benesh, Bill Berky, Louis Bevier, Barbara Bickel, Gavin Bieber, Kathleen Blair, Jerry Bock, Ned Boyajian, Ed Boyd, Clait Braun, Hank Brodtkin, Terry Brodner, Jim Burns, Josh Burns, Cliff Cathers, Dale Clark, Barry Cooper, Troy Corman, Alan Craig, Gary Crandall, Robert Darby, Diana Davis, Bix Demaree, Henry Detwiler, James Dick, Rich Ditch, Al Driscoll, Jon Dunn, Allison Ellicott, Jeff Estis, Frank Fekel, Peter Friederici, Frank Gallo, Steve Ganley, Joseph Gebler, Tony Godfrey, Joe Gottlieb, Keith Graves, Clive Green, Chet Gresham, Jodi Griffith, Bill Grossi, Robbie R. Duerksen, Herb Fibel, Peter Friederici, Jay Hand, Ned Harris, Bill Harvey, Sherry Hayes, Karen Havlena, Jim Havlena, Mike Hawkes, Stuart Healy, Diana Herron, John Higgins, John Hildebrand, John Hirth, Marty Hirth, Dottie Hook, Rich Hoyer,

J. Hudson, Rob Hunt, Kelly Hutton, Marshall J. Iloff, Dave Jasper, Barbara Johnson, S & R Johnsen, Bud Johnson, Roy M. Jones, Sue Katz, Ken Kertell, Eric Lautner, Heidi Lauchstedt, Nick Laviola, Wade Leitner, Susannah Lerman, B. Levy, S. Levy, Larry Liese, Gail Mackiernan, Bill Massey, Matthew Matthiesen, Janine McCabe, Doug McFall, Brian McKnight, Bill Metheny, Norma Miller, Trent Miller, Elaine Moore-Craig, Eric Moore, Steve Moore, Elaine Morrall, Pete Moulton, John Mueller, Colby Neuman, Brian Nicholas, Mike Overton, Richard Palmer, Jim Parks, David Pearson, Ian Phillips, Bev Pickering, Tom Pickering, Nathan Pieplow, Brigid Pollock, Mark Pretti, Roger Radd, Gary H. Rosenberg, Donna Roten, Ruth Rudesill, Michael Rupp, Will Russell, John Saba, Peter Salomon, Mark Schalcker, Bob & Jean Scheibe, Bob Schutsky, Bill Scott, Chuck Sexton, Ed Shoben, Eyal Shocat (EyS), Norm ShROUT, Curtis Smith, James Smith (JSm), Dale Stahlecker, Sig Stangland, Tom Staudt, Dave Stejskal, Judy Stevens, Mark M. Stevenson, Rick Taylor, Carol Timmons, Carl Tomoff, Will Turner, Dave Quady, Anita Van Auken, Jimmy Videle, Wezil Walraven, Peter Walsh, Billy Weber, David West, George West, Russ Widner, John Wilson, Richard Wilt, John Williams, Sheri Williamson, Barb Winterfield, Lou Winterfield, Cathy Wise, Robin Wollcot, Joanne Woodley, Bob Witzeman, Janet Witzeman, Brenda Zaun.



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