The season was notable for nesting rarities in the "second spring," including Lucifer and Berylline Hummingbirds and Rufous-capped Warbler. Shorebird habitat was limited, but Dateland and Ashurst Lake provided some surprises. Monsoon rains were spotty and ended early; despite a mid-September drenching from a tropical depression, the drought continued.

Abbreviations: A.B.C. (Arizona Bird Committee), A.V.S.T.P. (Avra Valley S.T.P.), B.A.N.W.R. (Buenos Aires N.W.R.), B.T.A. (Boyce Thompson Arboretum), H.R.P. (Hassayampa R. Preserve), L.C.R.V. (lower Colorado R. valley), M.F.L. (Many Farms L.), N.I.R. (Navajo Indian Reservation), P.L.S.P. (Patagonia Lake S.P.), S.C.L. (San Carlos L.), S.P.R. (San Pedro R.), Sweetwater (Sweetwater Wetlands, Tucson), Whitewater (Whitewater Draw W.A.).

## LOONS THROUGH CARACARA

Casual away from the L.C.R.V., single Pacif-1c Loons were observed at Whitewater 24-26 Nov (S. Kennedy) and Willcox 25-26 Nov (ph. RT). Common Loons made a good showing in migration, with nine found away from the L.C.R.V. 10 Oct-22 Nov (m.ob.) A Least Grebe at Kearny L. 24-26 Nov (ph. M. Peterson, MK) makes the most northerly documented state record of this casual visitor from Mexico. At Sweetwater, the intermittent Least Grebe resurfaced 24 Nov+ (D. Smyth, m.ob.). Remnants of the Brown Pelican incursion lingered into Sep (m.ob.). One at Willcox 22 Sep (ph. DS) and 5 at Alamo L. 26 Sep (K&CR) were the latest reported. Twenty Neotropic Cormorants in Chandler 28 Nov (PD) and 25 at Tres Ríos 11 Nov (TC) indicated that large numbers continued in Maricopa. Conversely, numbers were low at P.L.S.P. and Arivaca L. (m.ob.). Surprising was the re-appearance of an ad. White Ibis at Palo Verde 27 Nov+ (ph. PD). Following the summer trio, a Roseate Spoonbill was in the Nogales-Rio Rico area 23 Aug-22 Sep (ph. M. Gardler et al.). The California Condor introduction program had good news, with 2 juvs. fledging in late Nov (Peregrine Fund).

Large numbers of migrating Greater White-fronted Geese were reported, with 100 seen 11 Sep–23 Nov, including 36 over Tucson 11 Sep (MP, MMS) and 45 over Dateland 2 Oct (GW). A blue-morph Snow Goose in a flock at Whitewater 24 Nov+ (S. Kennedy et al.) was unusual for Arizona. A Tundra Swan, rare anywhere in the state, was at Willow L. 20–21 Nov (CST, W. Cook). A male American Wigeon × Eurasian Wigeon hybrid was reported in Flagstaff 28 Nov (JP), and another returned to Willcox 13 Nov+ (H. Tucker, L. Figueroa). Five Greater Scaup were reported. Surf Scoters put in another good showing, with 2 each at Green Valley

# Arizona



S.T.P. 8–12 Oct (MM, D. Knox, ph. MMS), Sunrise L. 14 Oct (DS), Ashurst L. 31 Oct (TL, J. Capuano), and S.C.L. 15 Nov (KK). A flock of 5 juv. White-winged Scoters at Ashurst L. 15 Oct was remarkably early and large (TL). More expected was a lone female on L. Havasu 6 Nov (KR et al.).

Once again, there were few reports of White-tailed Kite, with singles at Amado 8 Aug (]. Brake) and B.A.N.W.R. 9 Aug (M. Hunnicutt). Quite late was a Common Black-Hawk at Page Springs 12 Nov (R. Radd). Red-shouldered Hawks, casual in the state, were reported at Río de Flag 10-21 Sep (CL) and Granite Creek 16 Oct+ (†CST). Though scarcely reported, at least one remained at H.R.P. (JBo). At Grand Canyon hawkwatch sites, a total of 19 Broad-winged Hawks was tallied 21 Sep-3 Oct, with a one-day peak of 10 on 27 Sep (Hawk Watch International, S. Olmstead). Casual elsewhere, singles were at Marana 23 Oct (RT) and Pasture Canyon 25 Oct (CL). In the Chiricahua Mts., up to 3 Short-tailed Hawks were reported, with a juv. being fed 5 Sep (MK) and the last report of

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# Gary H. Rosenberg

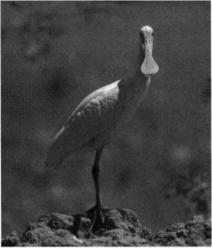
(PASSERINES) P. O. Box 91856 Tucson, Arizona 85752-1856 (ghrosenberg@comcast.net) the season on 17 Oct (m.ob.) The individual in the Huachuca Mts. was last reported 8 Aug over Miller Canyon (m.ob.). A pair reported from the Catalina Mts. was undocumented. In Prescott, a Zone-tailed Hawk was a late straggler 15 Oct–4 Nov (E. Moore). Another was spotted 17–31 Oct over Yuma (D. Taylor), where casual.

#### **PLOVERS THROUGH TERNS**

In Yuma, extensive habitat at a desert shrimp farm near Dateland drew many interesting birds. Up to 6 Black-bellied Plovers were reported there 6 Aug-16 Oct, with a peak of 3 on 21-29 Sep (m.ob.) At Paloma, 2 were seen 2 Oct (BG), while one was at Willcox 5 Oct (SH). An American Golden-Plover was at Dateland 13 Oct (I. & T. Sanders). Snowy Plovers were seen in good numbers at Dateland 11 Sep-2 Oct (m.ob.), with a maximum of 15 on 18 Sep (PD). Rare on the N.I.R., a Snowy was at Kayenta S.T.P. 3--6 Sep (CL). A lone Mountain Plover near Kansas Settlement 12 Oct (DT) was the only one reported. A late Willet at Dateland 16 Oct (HD) appeared to be injured. Casual near Prescott, a Whimbrel was reported from Willow L. 6 Oct (B. Thomen).

A casual fall transient, a Red Knot was at Willcox 25-30 Sep (J. Higgins, ph. N. Harris). Single Sanderlings at Ashurst L. 28-29 Aug (J. Hildebrand, ph. JE) and Prescott 2 Sep (TM) were good finds locally. At Dateland, Sanderlings were seen 11 Sep-5 Oct, with a peak of 5 on 18 Sep (m.ob.). Of 8 Semipalmated Sandpipers reported statewide, only singles at Dateland 4 Sep (ph. KR) and Cow Springs L. 29 Sep (ph. J. Coons) were described. A White-rumped Sandpiper reported from Willcox 7 Aug (vt. R. Terrill, M. Brady) will be reviewed by the A.B.C.; the few prior records are from late spring. The shorebird of the season, a juv. Ruff was at Dateland 21 Sep-3 Oct (ph., †BG, ph. GHR, MMS), providing only a 5th state record. A total of 7 Short-billed Dowitchers was reported from Dateland 4 Sep-5 Oct (m.ob.), with a peak of 4 on 4 Sep (ph. KR). Elsewhere, numbers were below recent norms, with 2 at Willcox 24-28 Aug (KK, MMS) and singles at Palo Verde 25 Aug (BG) and A.V.S.T.P. 4-5 Sep (RWr et al.). Very late was a Wilson's Phalarope at Palo Verde 27 Nov (PD). Sizable flocks of Red-necked Phalaropes were seen at Dateland, with 200 on 28 Aug (HD) and 250 on 18 Sep (PD). More than 100 were on M.F.L. 13 Sep (GHR). Rare transients, single Red Phalaropes were reported from Dateland 11 Sep (PD) and 3-5 Oct (RWr, †DJe) and at A.V.S.T.P. 29-30 Sep (ph. MMS) and 2 Nov (PK).

A cooperative juv. Long-tailed Jaeger was well documented at Ashurst L. 28–29 Aug (J. Hildebrand, ph. JE, ph., †JP). A secondwinter Heermann's Gull was a good find near Blythe 7 Nov (R. Higson). Herring Gull is rare away from the L.C.R.V.: singles were at Dateland 3 Oct (RWr) and Ashurst L. 27 Oct ( $\dagger$ JP), 2 were at Whitewater 13 Nov (T. Fry, TL), and a surprising 4 were at Palo Verde 13 Nov (TC, TM). It was another good



This Roseate Spoonbill, a casual late summer stray to southern Arizona, frequented several ponds in the Nogales area 23 August through 22 (here 1) September 2004. *Photograph by Jeff Estis*.

fall for Sabine's Gull, with 14 away from Dateland 9 Sep–10 Oct including 2 ads. at Ashurst L. 16 Sep (M. Haldeman et al.), another ad. there 18 Sep (JP), and an ad. in Springerville 10 Sep (CBa). At Dateland, no fewer than 9 were seen 11 Sep–5 Oct (m.ob.), including 2 ads., with a peak count of 4 on 1 Oct (HD). Both Caspian and Common Terns were reported in above-average numbers away from the L.C.R.V. A report of a juv. Arctic Tern from Ashurst L. 26 Sep (†JP) will be reviewed by the A.B.C.; there are few Arizona records.

#### **PIGEONS THROUGH FLICKERS**

Rarely seen in the lowlands, single Bandtailed Pigeons were seen in residential e. Tucson 6 & 18 Oct (DS). Eurasian Collared-Doves continued their conquest of the state, with 10 at Alamo L. 25 Sep (K & CR) the most interesting sighting. A Common Ground-Dove in Overgaard 24-29 Sep (ph. K. Penland) was unexpected n. of the Mogollon Rim. Ruddy Ground-Doves continued at Red Rock 4 Aug+ (SH, m.ob.), with up to 9 reported in late Nov (BG). Fall arrivals were seen as well: singles at Gila Farms pond 18 Sep (R. & J. Jones), Palominas 27 Oct-9 Nov (ph. G. Lewis), and Arlington 31 Oct (PD), and 2 at the San Pedro House 22 Nov+ (ph. SH, C. Bradshaw). In Coconino, there appeared to be a movement of Greater Roadrunners (CL et al.). Tracks of one in Canyon del Muerto, Apache 7 Oct possibly represented a local first (CL). A Groove-billed Ani along the upper S.P.R. 22 Oct (E. & J. Wilson, vt. C.W. Melton) furnished about the 5th local record.

Flammulated Owls are seldom seen in migration; one snagged in Halloween décor in Chandler 29 Oct was taken to rehabilitators (A. Peyton). The only Short-eared Owl reported was at B.A.N.W.R. 27 Nov (M. Gerber). Quite a surprise was an imm. male Broad-billed Hummingbird at a Flagstaff feeder 2 Oct (ph., †S. MacVean); there are very few records from n. of the Mogollon Rim. Wandering northward from Mexico, up to 3 White-eared Hummingbirds were in eastside Huachuca Mt. canyons 1 Aug-18 Sep (B. Feltner, T. Beatty, S. Finnegan); a male was seen in the Chiricahua Mts. at Sunny Flat 1 Aug (B. Monk). Well documented was a nesting Berylline Hummingbird at Ramsey Canyon 4-20 Aug (T. Moore, M. Pretti, ph. J. Hanley); the nest and 2 young vanished on 10 Aug. The apparent Berylline hybrid continued in Ash Canyon until 5 Sep (M.J. Ballator). A Plain-capped Starthroat was reported near Peña Blanca L. 24 Aug (D. Palmer et al.). A nesting Lucifer Hummingbird at Coronado N.M. 4-14 Aug (ph. S. Mann) provided only the 3rd documented nest in Arizona; 2 young were fledged (R. Hamilton). West of expected range was a female Lucifer at Arivaca 7 Sep (GW). Seven Allen's Hummingbirds were reported: 5 banded in Arivaca and one each banded in Madera Canyon and Paradise (GW, J. Lewis, R. Hamilton). The male Elegant Trogon returned to Sonoita Cr. above P.L.S.P. by 24 Oct (WR). Green Kingfishers remain sparse, with only a female along the S.P.R. at Kingfisher Pond 12 Aug+ (J. Pike, ph. M.B. Stowe) and a male at Kino Springs 6 Sep (D. Flower, ph. MMS) reported. There was a small statewide movement of Williamson's Sapsuckers away from expected habitat in Aug and Sep (m.ob.). The only documented Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was a juv. along Sonoita Cr. above P.L.S.P. 24-31 Oct (WR, ph. GHR). Photographs of 2 potential Red-breasted Sapsuckers near Mittry L. 14 Nov+ (ph. HD) did not conclusively exclude hybrids. There was a small movement of Downy Woodpeckers on the N.I.R. and Yavapai. Seven Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flickers reported statewide was above recent norms.

## FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS

A late Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen in E. Whitetail Canyon 20 Oct (RT). Greater Pewees lingered later into the fall than usual, with one in Madera Canyon 26 Oct (R. & R. Wolcott), and were detected away from normal breeding areas, both at Pinal Air Park pecan grove 2 Oct (K. Kroesen) and along the upper S.P.R. near the San Pedro House 3 Oct+ (M. Pretti, P. Sockness et al.), where several sightings likely pertain to the same individual. This species is casual anywhere in se. Arizona during the late fall and winter. Late Willow Flycatchers were reported from along the Santa Cruz R. near Red Rock 11 Oct (†D]e) and from along the Verde R. at Río Verde 11 Oct (TC). Another Willow/Alder Flycatcher at Sweetwater in Tucson 7 Oct (DS) was thought possibly to be an Alder, for which there are still no documented state records. A well-described Least Flycatcher from Cameron 5 Sep (†1C, CL), awaiting evaluation by the A.B.C., would represent one of few accepted Arizona records. At least 8 Eastern Phoebes, more than usual for a single fall, were reported statewide, most from the expected dates in Oct and Nov. Two were reported very early, with one on the e. side of the Chiricahua Mts. at Willow Tank 15 Aug (†P.D. Hulce) and one in Flagstaff 20 Aug (C. Fultz). A Vermilion Flycatcher was at Wenima W.A. near Springerville 25 Sep (DR), where casual.

A relatively early Northern Shrike was reported from Upper L. Mary 15 Nov (JP). Quite amazing was a report of a White-eyed Vireo from the "pine" zone in the Chiricahua Mts. near Onion Saddle 2 Aug (†C. Gaskill), while another was reported from E. Whitetail Canyon (the 3rd report from that location!) 22 Aug (†RT); both reports will be evaluated by the A.B.C. There are very few documented reports of Gray Vireo away from nesting areas in the state; one in Montosa Canyon, Santa Rita Mts. 5 Sep (†RH et al.) was thus of interest. A singing Yellowthroated Vireo, casual in Arizona, was found along Sonoita Cr. near Patagonia 24 Aug-5 Sep (†DS, ph. G. L. Armistead, v.r. PD). One of the best finds of the season was a Blueheaded Vireo at Sabino Canvon 23 Oct (†WR, †MMS, ph., †GHR; MP); there are only two previously accepted sight reports of this species in Arizona. The only report of Red-eyed Vireo this fall was of one at Sweetwater 15 Sep (†1. & M. Hirth).

Pinyon Jays did not wander into s. Arizona this fall, but a flock of 20 in the Hualapai Mts. near Kingman 26 Sep (KG) was well away from breeding areas in n. Arizona. Clark's Nutcrackers made a minor movement into Arizona this fall, with reports of single birds at Bill Williams N.W.R. 30 Sep (K. Blair) and in the Chiricahua Mts. 17 Oct (JBo); flocks apparently heading south in the Flagstaff/Humphrey's Peak area in Oct suggested a more widespread movement for this species, which was generally *not* detected farther south. A Cave Swallow well studied at Willcox 20 Oct (†DS) represented only the 5th report from Arizona.

Winter Wren is a rare-but-regular fall transient and winter resident along the Mogollon Rim (where this species has apparently bred), south to canyons in s. Arizona, with both of the continental subspecies groups possible. This season produced a scattering of reports, mostly of western (*pacificus* group) birds in Oct and Nov, but at least one of a calling *hiemalis* (eastern subspecies group) in Cave Creek Canyon 7 Nov (WR). Small numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets moved into lower-than-expected areas such as at the B.T.A. 18 Nov (JB) and along Queen Cr. near Superior 20 Nov (CBa). Blackcapped Gnatcatchers continued at recent breeding locations: P.L.S.P., Proctor Rd. below Madera Canyon, Montosa Canyon, and Rock Corral Spring in the Tumacacori Mts. Additional reports received this fall included at least another pair (possibly more?) upstream from P.L.S.P. along Sonoita Cr. 24 Oct+ (MMS et al.) and a non-breeding male along Arivaca Cr. 5 Sep (RH).

The only Rufous-backed Robin reported

along the upper S.P.R. 23 Nov (M. Pretti) and a Virginia's Warbler at Kino Springs 10 Oct (J. McCabe et al.). Reports of Northern Parula were about average, with one at Overgaard 1 Aug (K. Penland), one at Río Rico 3 Sep (R. Wilt), and one at Granite Basin 6 Sep (B. Pranter, K. Wingert et al.). Chestnutsided Warbler reports included one at Whitlow Dam 26 Aug (JB), one in Portal 18 Sep (T. & L. Gates), and one at Sweetwater 28 Oct (G. Romig), and likely the same individual there 24 Nov-3 Dec (PK et al.). A Blackthroated Blue Warbler along Lynx Cr., Yavapai 30 Aug (H. Black, S. Reed) was early for the state, whereas one at the Grand Canyon (North Rim) 11 Oct (B. Mulrooney; ph. D.



Arizona's fifth Ruff was discovered by Bill Grossi at the Dateland shrimp ponds 21 September 2004 (here); it remained through 3 October. *Photograph by Gary Rosenberg*.

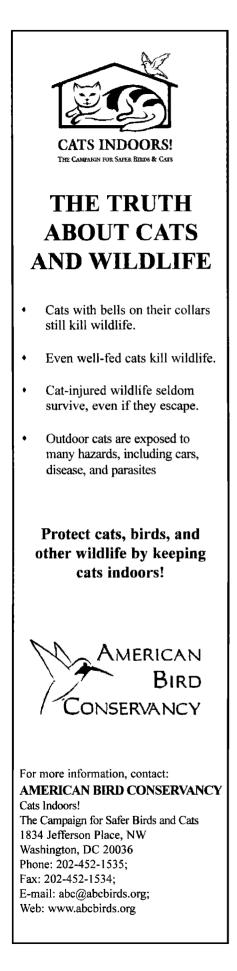
for the period was along the Santa Cruz R. near Tubac 21 Nov (JBo). Varied Thrushes, casual in Arizona during fall and winter, included one along Horton Cr., Tonto N.F. 16 Oct (J. Rorabaugh, fide T. Gatz), one in Madera Canyon 24 Oct (K. & M. Graves), 2 at Oak Flat near Superior 19 Nov+ (E. Strong et al.), and one at Cibola N.W.R. 29 Nov (M. Muchowski). A late Gray Catbird was at Wenima W.A., where the species breeds, 5 Oct (DR). Elsewhere, up to 2 were at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum 12-13 Oct (M. Brooks, K. Krebs, RT; ph. E. Wilson), and another was in e. Tucson 18 Oct (MMS). Six different Brown Thrashers were reported, perhaps a few more than usual for a single season.

#### WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Extremely late were a Nashville Warbler

McNicholas), another on 11 Oct at Rio Verde (TC), and one at Seven Springs 12 Oct (R. Widner) were seen on more expected dates for this regular vagrant. Scarcer in recent years, an ad. male Black-throated Green Warbler was also found at Rio Verde 11 Oct (TC). A Palm Warbler at Prescott 4 Oct (B. Pranter) provided a first Prescott area record. Other reports this fall of this casual warbler included one along the upper S.P.R. 6 Oct (P. Walsh) and one in a Portal yard 30 Oct (NM-C, AC). Another great find at Rio Verde was a Bay-breasted Warbler 13 Oct (†]. Burns). The only Blackpoll Warbler of the season was one reported from Cow Springs L. 24 Sep (CL).

In the rare-but-regular category, 6 Blackand-white Warblers, 14 American Redstarts, 5 Prothonotary Warblers, 7 Ovenbirds, and at least 15 Northern Waterthrushes were re-



ported statewide. A Louisiana Waterthrush, likely a returning individual, was along Sonoita Cr. above Patagonia L. 24 Oct+ (WR; ph. GHR). An impressive 7 different Hooded Warblers were found this fall, including one that was present 10 Aug–29 Sep at Las Cienegas C.A. (J. Notestine, J. Whetstone, MMS, DS), and a very late individual at Scottsdale 15 Nov+ (JB). Painted Redstarts were found at a number of interesting

low-elevation localities in s. Arizona this fall (e.g., Tucson, S.P.R., Las Cienegas C.A.), but more impressive was one on the n. flank of the Mohave Mts. 28 Aug (K. Blair), and one at Ganado L. 15 Sep (ph. GHR), providing only a 2nd report from the N.I.R. The pair of **Rufous-capped Warblers** discovered in Sycamore Canyon during the spring and summer was observed carrying food to young on 11 Aug (KK et al.); this is only the 2nd nesting of the species in Arizona away from French Joe Canyon.

Late were single Summer Tanagers in Tucson 30 Oct (K. Kaufman) and at Madera Canyon 15 Nov (C. Bradshaw). A molting ad. male Scarlet Tanager in Eagar 10 Sep (†CBa) provided one of the earliest fall reports for the state. A late Western Tanager

was in Sabino Canyon 17 Nov (WR). Of interest was the report of 3 Five-striped Sparrows in the Quinlan Mts. at the n. base of Kitt Peak 18 Sep (E. Halbedel); if confirmed, this would represent a new nw. extension for the species. The only American Tree Sparrow reported was one from Pasture Canyon 24 Nov (CL). After last year's "invasion" of Clay-colored Sparrow in se. Arizona, only 2 were reported this season, one at Tacna 28 Aug (HD) and one in Horseshoe Canyon, Chiricahua Mts. 1-13 Oct (P.D. Hulce). Easily the season's rarest sparrow was a Field Sparrow in a Portal yard 31 Oct (vt., †NM-C, AC), providing only a 4th Arizona report. Harris's Sparrow is the rarest of its genus in Arizona, so one in Flagstaff 2-5 Nov (J. Hildebrand, TL), one at Oak Flat Camp Ground near Superior 19 Nov+ (E. Strong et al.), and one in Gisela 29 Nov (ph. JE) were of interest. Eight Lapland Longspurs at the Scottsdale sod farm 7-25 Nov (TC et al.) was one of the largest concentrations ever for this casual species in Arizona.

Common Grackle, casual in Arizona, was reported from a Flagstaff feeder 9 Sep (†JC), while another was in an Eagar yard 15 Oct (ph. DR, GC). The Orchard Oriole that frequented a Paradise feeder during the summer was last reported 11 Aug (J. Lewis). Another reported from Scottsdale 11–12 Sep (JB) may provide a first Sep record for Maricopa; a male that wintered in a Tucson yard returned 13–15 Nov (J. Ogden), and one visited the famous bird bath in Tolleson 29 Nov (BG).

After becoming very difficult to find in Arizona in recent years, Pine Grosbeaks were reported with frequency; at least 4 were seen at Sheep Crossing, White Mts. 18 Sep–7 Oct (ph. GHR et al.), and there were numerous reports of small "flocks" from various points along the South Rim of the Grand



This juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger, a species casual in Arizona, was present at Ashurst Lake near Flagstaff 28 (here) and 29 August 2004. *Photograph by Jeff Estis*.

Canyon, as well as on Bill Williams Mt. beginning 1 Nov (S. Olmstead, S. & E. Clark, CL et al.). Finches in general appeared to be on the move, with numerous reports of Cassin's Finches, Red Crossbills (including 3 at Paloma 26 Sep [ph. HD]), Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks from areas in n. and cen. Arizona, as well as a few across the s. portion of the state. Very intriguing was an unconfirmed report of a Common Redpoll at Kearny 24 Nov (M. Peterson) by an experienced observer; there are no confirmed Arizona records. Fall 2004 was a "moderate" invasion year for Lawrence's Goldfinches in s. Arizona, with reports as far n. as Prescott and Kingman.

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