

MT 28 May (MD): 31 Western and 137 Eastern Kingbirds were counted. The same area hosted a mind-boggling fallout of an estimated 7500 Mountain Bluebirds 7 Apr (MD). A total of four Idaho Blue Jay reports was about average for the season.

If accepted, A Bewick's Wren in Ravalli 6 Mar (WT) will provide Montana's 5th record. Single Northern Mockingbirds made an appearance near Oakley, ID 28 Apr (LR), Camas 22 May (JC), and Red Lodge, MT 28 May (BJ). Rare warblers of the season included a Chestnut-sided Warbler at Camas 30 May (DCl, CW), a Blackpoll Warbler near Helena, MT 13 May (CC), single Black-and-white Warblers in Jefferson, ID 12 (RM) & 18 May (JC), and a total of 3 Ovenbirds at Camas 19-

24 May (JC, DCl). A Summer Tanager at Camas 10 May (†JC) was the Gem State's 8th. Rare anywhere in the Region, an Indigo Bunting at Red Lodge, MT 27 May (BJ) provided a local first. The only Rose-breasted Grosbeak was near Hailey, ID 30-31 May (JS), where many precedents have occurred. A Baltimore Oriole discovered in Valley 18 May (†LB) will be Idaho's 5th, if accepted. A male Brambling that graced Bellevue, ID 8-16 Apr (ph., †KC) is expected to provide Idaho's 3rd record. Also noteworthy in Bellevue was a wandering Lesser Goldfinch 24 Apr (KC) that represented a local first.

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Great Basin



Rick Fridell

Several observers commented on a fairly slow spring migration in the Great Basin. Mojave Desert area species, typically found only in the southern portion of Nevada and southwestern Utah, were observed outside of their expected ranges, including Common Moorhen, White-winged Dove, Anna's Hummingbirds, Costa' Hummingbird, Lucy's Warbler, and Hooded Orioles. In addition, Utah's first confirmed nests of both Anna's Hummingbird and Painted Redstart were located in Washington County. Even in a slow spring, the Great Basin Region had its fair share of rare and vagrant sightings, highlighted by Yellow-billed Loon and Broad-billed Hummingbird in Nevada and Red-throated Loon and Heermann's Gull in Utah.

Abbreviations: Antelope I. (Antelope Island S.P. and Causeway, Davis, UT); Bear R. (Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Box Elder, UT);

Corn Cr. (Corn Creek Unit, Desert N.W.R., Clark, NV); H.B.V.P. (Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, Clark, NV); L. Mead (Lake Mead N.R.A., Clark, NV); Lytle (Lytle Ranch Preserve, Washington, UT); Miller's R.A. (Miller's Rest Area, Esmeralda, NV); Ouray (Ouray N.W.R., Uintah, UT); Pyramid L. (Washoe, NV); Red Hills (Red Hills G.C., St. George, Washington, UT); Zion (Zion N.P., Washington, UT).

WATERFOWL THROUGH VULTURES

Large concentrations of waterfowl capitalized on the unusually wet conditions at Quichapa L., with up to 21 species observed, including Tundra Swan, Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross's Goose, and others rarely found in arid Iron, UT (SH). Several drake Eurasian Wigeons were observed this spring: at Bear R. 26 Mar (BO), Farmington Bay W.M.A., Davis, UT 2 Apr (J&KB), and Stillwater N.W.R., Churchill, NV 2 Apr (BHe). An exceptionally high concentration of over 50 Blue-winged Teal was at Bear R. 8 May (SC). Rarely observed in the Region in the spring, a Surf Scoter was photographed 25 Apr at Spring Mt. Ranch S.P., Clark, NV (KeC, *fide* CTi). Equally surprising was a female Long-tailed Duck 13 Apr at Chicken Creek Res., Juab, UT (MWe). A late male Barrow's Goldeneye lingered in Lemmon Valley, Washoe, NV until at least 28 May (J&GA). A Red-throated Loon was a major surprise 17 May at Willard Bay

S.P., Box Elder, UT (ph., †KE et al.). A Yellow-billed Loon observed 3 Mar at Pyramid L. (p.a., JT, MMA et al.) was unfortunately not relocated. A Red-necked Grebe also made a very rare spring appearance 20-23 May at Willard Bay S.P., Box Elder, UT (BHu, †KP, ph. BC et al.). An American Bittern was found at Corn Cr. 22-26 May (J&MC, GS).

HAWKS THROUGH TERNS

Surprisingly, 2 White-tailed Kites were reported from Nevada this spring: one observed briefly, flying over Mesquite, Clark, NV 19 Mar (DA), while the other lingered at Corn Cr. 15-19 Apr (ph. RSa, ph. BG, CTi, JBr). A Common Black-Hawk was photographed 3 Apr at the unusual location of Searchlight,



Of the two White-tailed Kites reported in Nevada in spring 2006, this one lingered 15-19 (here 19) April 2006 at Corn Creek, Desert National Wildlife Refuge, Clark County. Photograph by Bob Gotschall.

Clark, NV (TK). Nevada also supplied the only reports of Red-shouldered Hawks, with individuals at Reno, *Washoe* (5 Mar; FP) and Fallon, *Churchill* (2 Apr; BHe). A single Broad-winged Hawk was reported 23 Apr flying over Veyo, *Washington*, UT (LT), and 5 were photographed 25 Apr near Grandeur Peak, *Salt Lake*, UT (†JL). Broad-winged Hawks are rare-but-regular migrants through the Region. After an increase in observations over the past few years, the only Zone-tailed Hawk reported this spring was at Corn Cr. 22 Apr (SW). An albino American Kestrel was observed 22 Apr at the UNR Football Stadium, Reno, *Washoe*, NV (EK). Common Moorhens observed 10 May at Fallon, *Churchill*, NV (MMe et al.) were n. of their expected range.

Shorebird reports in the Region were lower than average; however, a few significant sightings were submitted. As usual, Antelope I. led the way, with the American Golden-Plover there 21 Apr (TA et al.) one of the more noteworthy vagrants. Whimbrels were found at Carson L., *Churchill*, NV (22 Apr; GS) and Bear R. (9 May; RW). Additional reports from Antelope I. included Utah's 15th documented Ruddy Turnstone 7 May (†KP) and up to 4 Red Knots 7-14 May (J&KB, KP et al.). A Sanderling made a rare ne. Nevada spring appearance 6 May at Big Soda L., *Churchill* (MMe et al.). A White-rumped Sandpiper observed 19-20 May at Deseret Ranch, Rich (GB, MS et al.) would be only Utah's 6th record if documented and accepted. Up to 8 Stilt Sandpipers were at Bear R. 10-21 May (BO, J&KB), and a single Stilt Sandpiper was photographed 21 May at Fish Springs N.W.R., *Juab*, UT (ph. CN, TN). Short-billed Dowitchers made a good showing this spring in Utah, with single birds at Chicken Creek Res., *Juab* (6 Apr; BHu, TA et al.), Panguitch L., *Garfield* (2 May; RF), and the Virgin R. near Hurricane, *Washington* (15 May; ME, RF). Utah's 3rd documented Heermann's Gull made a brief appearance at Sand Hollow S.P., *Washington*, UT (ph. RF). An ad. Mew Gull was a great find at Virginia L., *Washoe*, NV 8-12 Mar (FP et al.), and a first-year Glaucous-winged Gull was reported from Pyramid L. 4-19 Mar (Mma, SSn, DN). Least Terns were found at the Provo Airport Dike, *Utah*, UT (20 May; JB) and at H.B.V.P. (27 May; fide JBr).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

White-winged Doves were observed n. and e. of their typical range at three Utah locations, including several at Bluff, *San Juan* 1 Mar+ (LG et al.), 2 at Leeds, *Washington* 9-28 Apr (CS), and 2 at Wahweap, L. Powell, *Kane* 6 May (TA). Long-eared Owls continued at



This male Broad-billed Hummingbird, first observed 16 December 2005, remained at a Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada residence well into the spring. It was last observed 31 March 2006 (here 21 December 2005). Photograph by Scott Page.

Corn Cr. through the spring, with a high count of 13 there on 14 May (CTi et al.). Breeding Long-eared Owls were also observed at two additional Clark, NV locations this spring (Spring Mt. Ranch S.P. and Wheeler Camp Spring; J&MC). Six Black Swifts observed 29 May flying over St. George, *Washington*, UT were a nice surprise (SSu, KrC, RF). The only Vaux's Swift in the Region was observed at Gunlock S.P., *Washington*, UT 21 Apr (LT). The Broad-billed Hummingbird first reported 16 Dec (SPe) lingered at a Las Vegas, Clark, NV residence until 31 Mar (PG, ph. SPa). After several years of increasing ob-



Reports of Common Grackles are increasing in the Great Basin. This individual visited Miller's Rest Area, Esmeralda County, Nevada, 27 (here) through 29 May 2006. Photograph by Martin Meyers.

servations in *Washington*, Utah, the first nesting Anna's Hummingbirds were documented at Silver Valley, Leeds 3 Mar+ (CS, CoP) and at Red Cliffs R.A. 12 Mar (RF). An Anna's Hummingbird was also observed n. of expected range in Verdi, *Washoe*, NV 25 Mar (CTh). Reports of northerly Costa's Hummingbirds included a male 22 Apr at Fernley, *Lyon*, NV (DSe) and a nesting pair at Lida, *Esmeralda*, NV 28 May (GS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

An Eastern Phoebe photographed at Corn Cr 2 Apr (DeS, ph. DaS et al.) and an Eastern Kingbird located 16 May at Pahrnatagat N.W.R., *Lincoln*, NV (DH) were far from typical range. Three Purple Martins were observed 14 Apr flying over the H.B.V.P. (JR, PM). Nesting Western Bluebirds in a yard in Ely, *White Pine* (10 Apr+; AQ) were very unusual for e. Nevada. Varied Thrushes were observed 22 Apr at Pahrnatagat N.W.R., *Lincoln* NV (B&BD) and 29 Apr at the Big Cottonwood Ranch, Beaver Dam Wash, *Washington*, UT (RD, RF). Gray Catbirds were found at two atypical Utah locations: Lucin Pond, *Box Elder* 19 May and Black Rock, *Millard* 21 May (both CN, TN). A Brown Thrasher was sporadically observed at Corn Cr. 2-17 Apr (BG, RS et al.), and another was briefly seen at Hardware Ranch, *Cache*, UT 22 May (StP).

A Lucy's Warbler at the Dyer Pond, *Esmeralda*, NV 20 May (RSt, DG, GS) was slightly n. of expected range. The only Chestnut-sided Warbler report came from Como Springs, *Morgan*, UT 8 May (ChP). A Hermit Warbler lingered 13-22 May at Lida, *Esmeralda*, NV (GS, RSt, DG), and a Palm Warbler was photographed 23 Apr at Corn Cr. (SPa, ph. GP). Black-and-white Warblers were reported from several locations including Garr Ranch, Antelope I. (23 Apr; J&KB), Corn Cr. (9 May; DH), and Indian Cr., *Dyer*, *Esmeralda*, NV (28 May, GS). American Redstarts in Nevada were at Dyer, *Esmeralda* 13-14 May (GS) and Miller's R.A. 21 May (RSt, DG, GS), and in Utah, a banded male returned to the Jordanelle Wetlands, *Wasatch* for the 8th consecutive summer 21 May+ (JB, MMu), and a first-year male was seen at Lytle 29 May (SSu, RF). Ovenbirds were found at Lucin Pond, *Box Elder*, UT 19 May (CN, TN) and at the Circle L Ranch *Dyer*, *Esmeralda*, NV 29 May (GS). Six Northern Waterthrushes were observed 12-22 May in five Utah counties (*Box Elder*, *Juab*, *Millard*, *Utah*, and *Washington*). Surprisingly, the only Nevada report was from Dyer Pond, *Esmeralda* 13 May (GS). A female Hooded Warbler was photographed at Dyer, *Esmeralda*, NV 29 May (GS). A pair of Painted Redstarts was observed again this year along the North Fork of the Virgin R., in Zion. The birds were first reported 18 Apr (†R&LM), and a nest was located on the canyon wall in a hanging garden 7 May (KrC, ph. RF).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

A Black-throated Sparrow found 30 Apr at the Jordan River Parkway, *Salt Lake*, UT (PF et al.) was far n. of typical breeding range. A wayward female Lark Bunting was found during a late spring snowstorm in Central, *Wash-*

ington, UT 13-15 Mar (LT). An ad. male Lark Bunting was observed 27 May near Benson, Cache, UT (BR). Utah's 10th documented Clay-colored Sparrow was photographed 8 Apr at Cottonwood Wash, San Juan (†TA et al.). Two Swamp Sparrows were observed in Nevada: 19-20 Mar at the H.B.V.P. (JBr et al.) and 3 May at Dyer, Esmeralda (ph. GS). The only White-throated Sparrow reported during the season was at Willard Bay S.P., Box Elder, UT 5 Mar (J&KB). By contrast, Harris's Sparrows made a strong spring showing, with 2 in each state. Harris's Sparrows were found in Nevada at Rye Patch Res., Pershing 3 Mar (MMa, SSn, DN) and nw. Reno, Washoe 1-4 May (FP); Utah birds were at the Jordan River Parkway, Salt Lake 19 Mar-22 Apr (PF, J&KB) and w. of the Great Salt L., Box Elder 19 May (CN, TN). Up to 9 Chestnut-collared Longspurs were observed at Horse Ravine, Lemmon Valley, Washoe, NV 26 Mar (FP). A Painted Bunting in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, UT 10 May (p.a., †HL) would be a long-over-

due state first. A male Bobolink was found at Fish Springs N.W.R., Juab, UT 21 May (CN, TN). Common Grackles were observed away from typical locations at the Dugway Proving Grounds, Tooele, UT 5 May (CZ) and Miller's R.A. 27-29 May (MMe et al.). Hooded Orioles are occasionally seen n. of their typical breeding areas, and the trend continued this season, with reports of ad. males visiting feeders in Reno, Washoe, NV 6-12 Apr (J&GA, FP).

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New Mexico



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The statewide drought deepened to historic proportions during spring 2006, while climatologists proclaimed the recent period the warmest on record; whatever the long-term consequences of these events may be for birds, the short-term impacts seemed negligible this season. Meanwhile, birds and birders were active, and numerous rarities were documented, including two

(Black Rail and Vaux's Swift) not previously verified for the state.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); Bosque (Bosque del Apache N.W.R.); G.B.A. (Gila Bird Area, Grant); N.R.T. (n. Roosevelt migrant trap w. of Melrose); P.O. Canyon (Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts.); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley); R.S. (Rattlesnake Springs area, Eddy).

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

Surprisingly late was a Greater White-fronted Goose at B.L.N.W.R. 7-10 May (JP, JO). A Tundra Swan lingered at French L., Colfax until 17 Apr (ph. DC); farther s. were an ad. at La Joya 15 Mar (DH) and 2 imm. at Socorro until 25 Mar (JO, JP). Unexpected was a pair of Wood Ducks in a tree at Boone's Draw 5 May (CGL). The popular Eurasian Wigeon at Albuquerque was last seen 12 Mar (ph. JO). Single Barrow's Goldeneyes were at French L. 2-18 Mar (ph. DC) and L. David, San Miguel 19 Mar (WW). West of usual haunts was a Horned Grebe at Acomita L., Cibola 5 Mar (BN, CR); late were 4 at Stubblefield L. 9 May (ph. EW). High counts for Eared Grebes were 950 at Stinking L. 13 May (DS) and 400 at Stubblefield L. 1 May (DC). Early for the nw. were 49 American White Pelicans at Bluewa-

ter L. 5 Mar (CR); persecution of pelicans continued in Eddy, including one found shot at L. Avalon 5 Mar (SW). Surprising were two Double-crested Cormorant nests at Clovis 27 May (CR), a Curry first; only 12 Double-crested nests and no Neotropical Cormorant nests were in the San Marcial area 2 May (RD).

Up to 3 American Bitterns were noted at B.L.N.W.R. 1 Mar-29 Apr (GW, WW, JP, CR) and provided the only reports. Early Least Bitterns were singles at Bosque 22 Apr (DH) and B.L.N.W.R. 29 Apr (JP, CR); in May, vocal Least were at those two sites plus Clabber Hill Ranch in e. San Miguel and the Fort Sumner area (m.ob.). Four Great Blue Heron nests on the Navajo R. n. of Dulce 13 May (DS) established a new breeding locale; two nests were at Mule Creek, Grant 13 May (EL), where not recently reported. Continuing their expansionist trend, Great Egrets were n. to Colfax (DC) and Quay (CR) and w. to Grant (EL, RS) and Hidalgo (fide AC). A Tricolored Heron at Bosque 2 May (GF) furnished the lone report. Annual in recent years, single Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were at Luis Lopez 30 May (ph. JO), B.L.N.W.R. 24 May (J. Montgomery, GW), and Tatum 11 May (JP). An ad. White Ibis entertained many at B.L.N.W.R. 26 Apr-11 May (GW et al., ph. CGL, ph. JO). Now an expected spring mi-