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Drought conditions persisted through a hot and dry June. Observers noted a related lack of nesting success among pine-oak woodland species. Relief arrived with ample rainfall in July, setting the stage for a productive "second spring." Highlights included nesting Ruddy Ground-Doves and an influx of Aztec Thrushes.

Abbreviations: A.V.S.T.P. (Avra Valley S.T.P.), G.W.R. (Gilbert Water Ranch), H.R.P. (Hassayampa River Preserve), N.I.R. (Navajo Indian Reservation), P.L.S.P. (Patagonia Lake S.P.), S.P.R. (San Pedro R.), Sweetwater (Sweetwater Wetlands, Tucson), Whitewater (Whitewater Draw W.A.)

GEESE THROUGH TERNS

Out-of-place summer waterfowl highlights included: a Ross's Goose at Pinetop 4 Jul (T. Godfrey) and another at Green Valley S.T.P. 11 Jul+ (R. Palmer, m.ob.) that was literally in hot water; single Buffleheads at Benson S.T.P. 9 Jul (DS) and Sierra Vista S.T.P. 16 Jul (EW); and the Common Merganser at P.L.S.P. through 6 Jun (SH). The Tucson Least Grebe saga continued, with the bird at Sam Lena Park reported through 17 Jun (AC), the Sweetwater bird reported through 1 Jul (A. Robertson), and one at A.V.S.T.P. 27 Jun–14 Jul (ph. DS). A Western Grebe at Willcox 29 Jul (BM, D. Battaglia) and a Clark's Grebe there 3 Jul (R. Eastman) were casual away from nesting areas. Wandering Brown Pelican numbers were moderate this summer, with fewer than 20 reported statewide, though one made it as far n. as Becker L. 24 Jul (DT). Casual along the S.P.R., a Neotropic Cormorant was near Hereford 17–21 Jun (MM, ph. M.

Taylor). Up to 27 were at G.W.R. in Jul (MMo), but only a paltry 2 were reported from P.L.S.P. (SH, M. J. Iliff). The 2 Little Blue Herons found at Rio Salado, Phoenix in the spring were present all summer, but nesting was not detected (TG). The seemingly resident White Ibis was seen again in Palo Verde 23 Jul (TC).

All three **California Condor** nests in the Grand Canyon region failed this year (Peregrine Fund). An imm. White-tailed Kite along the upper S.P.R. near Hwy 90 on 22 Jul likely fledged from a nest there (M. Guest, *vide* EW). Statewide, 42 Bald Eagles fledged, tying the high record (Arizona Game & Fish). In the Toroweap Valley, three or four pairs of Northern Harriers were seen 2 Jun (TC, CL); nesting had not occurred in the area in 10 years. Gray Hawks continued to be found at higher-than-usual elevations in se. Arizona, with 2 seen separately at the mouth of Madera Canyon (RW, MMS), one in Miller Canyon 27 Jun (P. Santinello), and a nest with young on the lower e. slope of the Chiricahua Mts. 28 Jun (DJ). Also at high elevation was a Common Black-Hawk at Rose Canyon L. in the Catalina Mts. 25 Jul–17 Sep (†DJe, ph. F. Simpson). The only report of the resident Red-shouldered Hawk at H.R.P. was on 3 Jun (EL). The pair of Short-tailed Hawks around Barfoot Park was reported sporadically through the summer (DJ, m.ob.). North of the Chiricahuas, a single Short-tailed Hawk was reported from the Treasure Park area of the Pinaleno Mts. 4 Jun (†DJe, KK); there were no previous reports from that range.

Casual late-summer visitors, an ad. Purple Gallinule was at Sweetwater 30 Jul–12 Aug (D. & P. Pallette, ph. MMS), and another was well described at a pond in St. David 5–24 Jul (J. White) but went unconfirmed. The lone Sandhill Crane spent the summer at Luna L. again (SH). A Snowy Plover at G.W.R. 25 Jul (S. Ganley) was an early migrant. Nesting of Mountain Plovers was first confirmed in Arizona near Springerville in 1996. Of three nesting pairs of Mountain Plovers found near there in Jun, at least one fledged young (T. Bayless). Rare breeders in n. Arizona, 7 American Avocets at Little Ortega L. 12 Jun (J. Videle) were suspected of nesting. A Red Knot at Willcox 29 Jul–1 Aug (BM, ph. D. Battaglia, JLD) makes the earliest record of this casual fall migrant for se. Arizona. A Sanderling and a Semipalmated Sandpiper there 30 Jul (ph. JLD) were also casual. Up to 4 Western Sandpipers at Willcox 3 Jun were apparently very late spring migrants (RH, SH). Three White-rumped Sandpipers were reported at Willcox 6 Jun (†EW); there are fewer than 10 records for se. Arizona, all

from late May–Jun. Six Long-billed Dowitchers at G.W.R. 13 Jul were early. The first southbound Wilson's Phalaropes appeared at Willcox 9 Jun (P. Salomon), and the first southbound Red-necked Phalarope was at A.V.S.T.P. 27 Jul (GB); both were within the expected date range. A Laughing Gull was a good find at Willcox 29 Jun–3 Jul (RT, ph. E. Bustya), whence a large percentage of Arizona records come. An **Elegant Tern** at G.W.R. 14 Jun (ph. B. Grice) made just the 2nd *Maricopa* record. Single Least Terns at Tucson 2 Jun (J. Higgins) and Willcox 4 Jun (DJe) fit the pattern for northbound migrants. However, a Black Tern at Willcox 29 Jun (DS) was between typical migration periods.

DOVES THROUGH SAPSUCKERS

Ruddy Ground-Doves made news when a nest was photographed near the Santa Cruz R. at Red Rock 1 Jul (ph. PD). Although breeding had previously been confirmed in Arizona and California, this is the first actual nest to be documented n. of Mexico. A few Ruddy Ground-Doves were also seen sporadically at Kino Springs this summer (SH, M. Victoria). A Groove-billed Ani was at Arivaca Cienega 9–10 Jun (T. Godfrey, †R. & P. Pearson, ph. MMS); although records come mainly from the fall, there are also several from Jun. A Flammulated Owl found dead in a Tempe yard 4 Jun (B. Burger, *vide* TC) was far from nesting areas. Reports of poor nesting success for the species in the Chiricahua Mts. (DJ) suggest that prey was limited. Conversely, a Long-eared Owl nest with 5 nestlings in Toroweap Valley 1 Jun (TC, CL) suggests ample prey there. Buff-collared Nightjar reports continued from the Oro Blanco Mine site through late Jul (m.ob.). At Proctor Rd., below Madera Canyon, a nightjar was heard 9 Jun (M. Kehl); they have been found irregularly at this location.

Though the drought again adversely affected hummingbird nesting, some of the less-common hummers were seen in good numbers. Three or more White-eared Hummingbirds summered in Miller Canyon (TB, GB, S. Williamson), the individual in Madera Canyon was last reported 7 Jun (D. Bauman), and at Portal, singles were at a private feeder 27 Jun–7 Jul (RAR, REW) and at the Southwest Research Station 2 Jul (D. Estabrooks, S. Wethington). Berylline Hummingbirds were especially numerous for a casual species. At Ramsey Canyon Preserve, a male was present 12 Jun–23 Jul (R. Romea, ph. JWo, O. Niehuis) and a female seen 15 Jul+ (GB, ph. D. Nelson). At Portal, one visited a feeder 25 Jun+ (RAR, †, ph. REW). Another was pho-

tographed in Miller Canyon 27-28 Jun (P. Santinello, ph. JWo, T. Heinrich) and reported again in late Jul (TB). Violet-crowned Hummingbirds at Tumacacori National Historical Park 17 Jun (L. Norris), E. Whitetail Canyon 1 Jul (RT), the e. end of Aravaipa Canyon 2 Jul (S. Wethington, *fide* TC), and the S.P.R. Inn 28 Jul (MM) were away from nesting areas. Others were seen in Portal and in eastside Huachuca Mts. canyons, where they are sparse (m.ob.) After several years of low numbers in the Portal area, Lucifer Hummingbirds were seen at multiple locations there this summer (m.ob.). Several summered in eastside Huachuca Mts. canyons (TB, M. J. Ballator), and in Madera Canyon, a male was present 25 Jun (ph. K. & C. Radamaker), and a female was banded 17 Jul (G. West). Seen between migration periods, a female Calliope Hummingbird was at Portal 4-5 Jun (RAR, REW), and a male was in Aravaipa Canyon 5 Jun (S. Wethington, *fide* TC). An early migrant was reported in Miller Canyon 28 Jun-7 Jul (TB). Rare early fall migrants, 9 Allen's Hummingbirds were reported beginning 9 Jul, all in se. Arizona (M. J. Iliff, GB, JLD, G. West, RAR, REW, M. Victoria, P. Santinello, TB).

No fewer than 8 Elegant Trogons were detected in the Patagonia Mts. (M. Brown, J. Stewart), but again, no evidence of nesting was found. One heard calling at Peña Blanca L. 8 Jun (RW) was well away from the nearest nesting locality in Sycamore Canyon. Jasper reports that trogons arrived late on territory and had half or less of the usual nesting success in the Chiricahua Mts. The only Green Kingfisher reported was one along the upper S.P.R. 21 Jul (A. Miller). A female Williamson's Sapsucker was an extremely late migrant in Portal 5 Jun (ph. REW), and a Red-naped Sapsucker in Huachuca Canyon 7 Jun (R. Behrstock) was also very late.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS

A Willow Flycatcher in Yuma 4 Jun (HD) was likely a late migrant, not of the more-rare local breeding subspecies. A Gray Flycatcher at Peña Blanca L. 8 Jun (RW) was very late for se. Arizona; most have moved north by early May. Several Pacific-slope Flycatchers were detected by voice in early Jun, including 3 in the Kofa Mts. 8 Jun (HD), at least one (and possibly 5) at Peña Blanca L. 8 Jun (RW), and 3 in Sycamore Canyon 8-17 Jun (MK, JB, P. Santinello); small numbers of this migrant are usually found through May. A single Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher was located in the Sierra Prieta Mts., sw. of Prescott, 4 Jun (CST) and later found nesting there in early

Jul (CST, ph. S. Burk); it established a first nesting occurrence for *Yavapai*. The only Tropical Kingbird found away from known nesting locations was one at Whitewater 3 Jul (DT). After the spring excitement of a few Scissor-tailed Flycatchers (a casual spring and fall migrant), singles were reported from Yuma 28 Jun (C. Shaumberg), at Cibola N.W.R. 17 Jul (I. Samuels), and at Willcox 17 Jul (B. Feltner). Only one male Rose-throated Becard was present this summer at the long-standing Patagonia site; it was last reported 6 Jul (m.ob.). Elsewhere, males were found in Huachuca Canyon 24 Jun (ph. K. Heinlein) and Madera Canyon 17 Jul (RH), both locations where this species is not known to nest.

Always a nice find in se. Arizona, a singing male White-eyed Vireo was present at Patagonia 17 Jul+ (A. Chartier, †MMS, v.r., PD); there were only about 20 previous records for Arizona. Continuing this spring's increased reports of Gray Vireo away from known breeding areas, one was reported from Ramsey Canyon 5 Jun (R. Romea, J. Woodley). A Yellow-throated Vireo, casual in summer, was reported from South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon 10 Jun (R. Greenspun). A Cassin's Vireo in Leslie Canyon 17 Jun (REW) was extremely late for a spring migrant. A Red-eyed Vireo, casual during summer in Arizona, was reported from Garden Canyon 24 Jun (†S. Schuette et al.).

Tree Swallows appeared early as south-bound migrants at Benson 23 Jun (DS), at Sierra Vista 2 Jul (EW), and at Portal 3 Jul (P. D. Hulce); normal timing of their arrival in se. Arizona is from mid-Jul through early Aug. The Carolina Wren that has been present near Portal since fall of 2005 was last reported 30 Jun. A Marsh Wren at Cameron 31 Jul (CL) provided the earliest known fall record for the N.I.R. A pair of Black-capped Gnatcatchers found in Guadalupe Canyon provided a first record for New Mexico and was later found in the Arizona portion of the canyon on 5 Jun (ph. J. Oldenettel; †J. Parmeter, B. Wittman), providing a first local record. Elsewhere, a pair nested in Leslie Canyon 17 Jun+ (REW), at least one pair nested again at P.L.S.P., with fledged young present 9 Jul (M. J. Iliff), another pair was in

Montosa Canyon, with young 23 Jun-11 Jul (M. Kehl), with yet another active nest there 31 Jul (L. Sansone), and finally at least one was present near Proctor Rd. below Madera Canyon 28 Jul+ (MPo, MMS).

A Townsend's Solitaire near Barfoot Park, Chiricahua Mts. 10 Jun (G. Levin) followed a few recent summer reports from the range. A Swainson's Thrush in E. Whitetail Canyon 1-2 Jul (RT; ph. R. Shantz) was very out of place, as this species is not known to breed in se. Arizona. A Wood Thrush made a brief appearance at Sweetwater 2 Jul (ph. T. Leona MMS, MPo), providing one of only a few mid-summer records for the state. A Gray Catbird at Whitewater 3 Jul (DT) was well away from the closest breeding areas in the White Mts. A Brown Thrasher in Cave Creek Canyon 21 Jun (DJ) provided the latest Jun record for se Arizona.

WARBLERS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

A female Northern Parula was at Sipe White Mountain W.A. near Springerville 3 Jul (KR, C. Radamaker), where this species is casual in summer. The warbler of the season was a **Tropical Parula** found at Portal 16-23 Jun (T & L. Gates; ph. REW), establishing only a 3rd Arizona record. Another reported from Sycamore Canyon 15 Jul (†T. Johnson) was not seen again. Both will be evaluated by the A.B.C. A singing male Chestnut-sided Warbler along the S. Fork of the Little Colorado R. near Springerville 1-5 Jun (ph. DR, GC) provided one of the few summer reports of this species in Arizona. Late Townsend's Warblers included one near Portal 4 Jun (H. Snyder), one at Rio Salado, Phoenix 17 Jun (EL), and one at Madera Canyon 22 Jun (JB, DS), there are very few Jun records of this species in s. Arizona. A Grace's Warbler in the desert at San Bernardino N.W.R. near Douglas 1 Jun (REW) was just plain lost! An apparent **Grace's Warbler × Yellow-rumped Warbler** hybrid, a combination seldom reported, was at the Sierra Prieta Mts. 4 Jun (CST). Summer Black-and-white Warblers are casual in Arizona; singles were at Flagstaff 6 Jun (W. Fair) and in Madera Canyon 15 Jun (J. Ayres). Six American Redstarts were found statewide, a few more than usual. Amazingly, 2 different

SA On 9 Jul, Karen LeMay looked out her kitchen window in Ash Canyon and noticed a strange bird—an **Aztec Thrush** (ph. K. LeMay, J. Woodley). Little did we realize that this was just the start of what was to be the 2nd largest invasion of this Mexican species into se. Arizona (and the United States), the largest occurring in Aug-Sep 1996, when no fewer than 16 were found. On 21 Jul, another Aztec Thrush was located in upper Garden Canyon (T. Will, B. Altman, C. Beardmore et al.; ph. K. Rosenberg), but the true action began on 24 Jul in Madera Canyon, with first one individual located (G. Lillie), then 7 there later that day (MPo, B. Massey, T. Staudt; ph. A. Tozier, D. Nelson). The invasion peaked at 9 individuals in Madera 26 Jul, with numbers dropping to one or 2 per day by 1 Aug.

Prothonotary Warblers showed up in a Portal yard, a female 2 Jun and a male there 5 Jun (ph. REW, RAR), with one moving to a different Portal yard 9-12 Jun (ph. M. Decker). Yet another excellent bird showed up in a Tolleson yard, this time a Kentucky Warbler 22 Jun (ph. BG), providing only a 6th *Maricopa* record. Late MacGillivray's Warblers were reported from Tucson 3 Jun (*vide* R. Yak-sich) and Portal 22 Jun (M. Decker). Hooded Warblers have become somewhat expected in midsummer; this year, singles were at Com-fort Spring 17 Jun (RH, KK, J. Mohlman), in Miller Canyon 22 Jun (JWo), and at Rio Salado, Phoenix 26 Jul+ (EL; ph. D. Burba). The Rufous-capped Warbler found in Sycamore Canyon during the winter and spring continued through the summer (m.ob.) and was apparently joined by a 2nd bird (female?) 24 Jul-10 Aug (J. Hutchison). One was seen gathering nesting material near Hank & Yank's 25 Jul (BM), but there were no further indications of nesting.

An out-of-place Western Tanager was at San Bernardino N.W.R. 27 Jun (REW). The male Flame-colored Tanager at Madera Canyon remained on territory into Aug (m.ob.). It is unclear whether there was successful fledging this year, but the bird reportedly paired with a female Western Tanager and was seen attending a nest with young 16 (J. Drummond) & 21 Jun (RH). A very late

Green-tailed Towhee was reported from Madera Canyon 15 Jun (J. Ayers); one in a Portal Yard 3 Jul (RAR, REW) may have summered locally. A late Brewer's Sparrow was in Cave Creek Canyon 3-6 Jun (P. D. Hulce, B. Clough). A summering Lark Sparrow at G.W.R. 21 Jun-19 Jul (C. Ross, M. Moore) provided perhaps the first Jun record for *Maricopa*.

Yellow Grosbeak is a casual late spring and summer visitor to se. Arizona, with virtually all of the fewer than 15 accepted records falling between late May and late Jul; therefore an ad. male reported in Sycamore Canyon 10 (†Z. Holderby) & 12-13 Jun (M. Brown, RW et al.) is of great interest and will be evaluated by the A.B.C. No fewer than 14 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, mostly males, were reported during Jun and Jul, consistent with recent patterns. A late Lazuli Bunting was in Madera Canyon 22 Jun (DS). No fewer than 12 different Painted Buntings were reported in se. Arizona during the last 10 days of Jul—certainly the time of year to look for this scarce species.

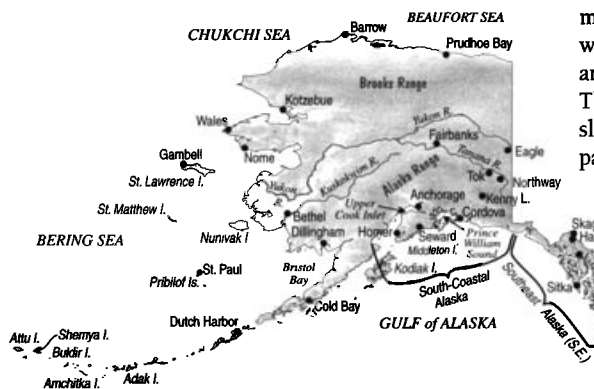
A singing Eastern Meadowlark s. of Colorado City 1 Jun (TC, CL) was n. of this species' normal breeding range in Arizona, which (rarely) extends w. to the s. Grand Canyon region. Yellow-headed Blackbirds are casual in se. Arizona in Jul; a flock of 40-50 at a cattle tank near Portal during most of the

summer (DJ) was unusual. Six Bronzed Cowbirds at Yuma 22 Jul (HD) were w. of their normal nesting areas in s. Arizona. A male Lawrence's Goldfinch at a feeder in Ash Canyon 13 Jul (ph. JLD) provided one of only a few summer reports for se. Arizona. Similarly, an American Goldfinch at a feeder in Portal 18 Jul (RAR, REW) was out of place, as this species does not breed in the state.

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Alaska



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While there were sporadic periods of fine weather, most of the Region was cool and washed with overcast windy conditions and quite a few coastal and alpine June snow storms throughout the sum-

mer. June and July temperatures were below long-term averages, and late July saw serious rains. The season advanced incredibly slowly, especially compared to the past five or six years. For instance, the Nome area had plenty of lingering ice and snow and its coolest June in 21 years. No doubt influenced by persistent winter snowpacks and a very deep Bering Sea pack-ice position that extended far s. of long-term averages, northbound migration was protracted, extending well into mid-June. Biologists with the U.S. Geological Survey noted tardy waterbird arrivals and delayed occupation of territories in shorebirds across most of the coastal tundra in the vast Yukon-Kuskokwim River Deltas. Southbound shorebirds were weakly distrib-

uted in low volumes at the standard first-tier staging sites, for instance at Homer, Kodiak, and Upper Cook Inlet. It was another good season for June-staging waterfowl in the Nome area, where heavy snowpack, persistent cool conditions, and several snow storms delayed northbound migrants and Seward Peninsula breeders from normal early breeding.

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GEESE THROUGH HAWKS

Very late and locally unusual at this season were single Greater White-fronted Geese at Hyder 5-7 Jun (AWP, SCH) and Ketchikan 15 Jun (DW). Another Jun Cackling Goose (subspecies *minima*) was located at Hyder 6-7 Jun (AWP, ph. SCH); the species is a rare early-spring migrant in the s. Southeast. *Fulva* Canada Geese, the taxon introduced in the 1980s at nearby Shuyak I., showed up on the Kodiak I. road system for the first time in summer, with dozens found scattered at several locales 2-25 Jun (*vide* RAM). Two Be-