

Arizona



Mark M. Stevenson (Non-passerines)
Gary H. Rosenberg (Passerines)

Abnormally dry conditions favored observers, but a hard mid-January freeze damaged crops and routed many insectivores. The first state record Couch's Kingbird made do with dead honeybees. Another first, a Lesser Black-backed Gull, came earlier in the season. Red-necked Grebes were found in unprecedented numbers.

Abbreviations: A.V.S.T.P. (Avra Valley S.T.P.), B.T.A. (Boyce-Thompson Arboretum), G.W.R. (Gilbert Water Ranch), H.R.P. (Hassayampa R. Preserve), L.C.R.V. (Lower Colorado R. Valley), S.P.R. (San Pedro R.), Sweetwater (Sweetwater Wetlands, Tucson), Whitewater (Whitewater Draw W.A.).

WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS

The persisting Fulvous Whistling-Duck alternated between two Scottsdale locations all season (m.ob.). Very rare in Arizona, a blue-morph Ross's Goose was at Cibola N.W.R. 21 Dec (B. Hart). More Cackling Geese (p.a.) were reported, with a "probable" in Phoenix 25 Dec (DS), 3 in Scottsdale 6-9 Jan (TC, ph. PD), one in Goodyear 20 Feb (ph. M. Herring), and the fall bird still in Goodyear through 25 Feb (KR, m.ob.). Tundra Swans were seen in above-average numbers: 24 at Whitewater 5 Dec (SW, TW), up to 6 at Watson L. 5 Dec-19 Feb (BN, S. & S. Burk, CST), 2 in Pinetop 16 Dec (*vide* J. Videle), one at Benson 18 Dec-26 Feb (CC, ph. M. Auslander), one at A.V.S.T.P. 20 Dec (AC), one at Palo Verde 24 Dec-27 Jan (DPo, TC et al.), and 4 at Havasu N.W.R. 28 Dec (*vide* N. Miller). A female Eurasian Wigeon was a good find in Scottsdale 20-21 Dec (KR, ph. PD). In greater Phoenix, at least 6 male

Eurasian Wigeons were found on the waterfowl survey 20 Jan (*vide* TC); others were at Flagstaff 3 Jan-8 Feb (J. Hildebrand, ph. G. Botello) and L. Mary 23 Feb (L. Harter). The hybrid wigeon wintered again in Willcox (MMS, ph. CDB). Extralimital Mexican Ducks were at Rio Salado, Phoenix 28 Jan (PD) and Thatcher 16 Feb (TC). Numbers of Blue-winged Teal have increased in recent winters, with 20 at Tres Rios, Phoenix 16 Dec (J. Jones, TC) and 34 on the Tucson C.B.C. 17 Dec (*vide* S. Birky); at least 25 remained through Jan (m.ob.).

Rare away from the Colorado R., up to 3 Greater Scaup wintered again in Tempe (PD), and one was at Benson 6-7 Jan (SF). A Surf Scoter, present since fall, remained at Parker Dam through 14 Feb (CB, SSt, ph. MMS). More Long-tailed Ducks than usual were seen: one taken by a hunter on the San Carlos R., Gila 24 Dec (R. Babb, *vide* TC), one at Parker Dam 9 Dec-14 Feb (CB, SSt, ph. MMS), 3 at Green Valley S.T.P. 9 Dec (R. Freeman, T. Staudt, ph. T. Kent), one in Tucson 12-25 Dec (R. Lasky, ph. MMS), one in Glen Canyon 27 Dec-3 Jan (G. Nealon), and one at Willow Beach, L. Mohave 31 Jan-26 Mar (ph. J. Barnes). Casual away from the Colorado R., a

throated Loon in Arizona, so one on the Bill Williams Arm of L. Havasu 9-26 Dec (†CB, SSt, ph. MMS) created a stir. Two were together there 16-17 Dec (ph., †MMS, MP; B. Sutton). Pacific Loons are rare even in the L.C.R.V. One with an injured wing was at L. Havasu, Site 6 between 19 Dec and 14 Feb (W. Sutton, CL); at Katherine Landing, 2 were seen 14 Jan (R. Wilt) followed by 4 there 20 Jan (JY et al.); and one was on the Bill Williams Arm 3 Feb (R. Haaseth, D. Finch). Four Common Loons were on Upper L. Mary 1 Dec (N. Gaines), 14 were on L. Havasu 9 Jan (MMS, MP), 2 were at Katherine Landing 20 Jan (JY et al.), and one was at Arizona City 20-27 Feb (B. Burns et al., DJ). A Yellow-billed Loon reported on the Bill Williams Arm 14 Jan (†R. Wilt) went unconfirmed.

Horned Grebes, expected on the L.C.R.V. in winter, are rare elsewhere in Arizona. Fifteen continued on L. Havasu 15 Dec (MMS, MP), 2 were in Tucson 19 Dec-11 Jan (J. Higgins, ph. MMS), one was on Saguario L. 22 Jan (TC), and one continued in Palo Verde through 24 Dec (TC et al.). The late-fall Red-necked Grebe at Kearny was the harbinger of a spate of winter reports across the Southwest. In Arizona, one was on the Bill Williams



Two Red-throated Loons frequented Bill Williams Delta on the Lower Colorado River 9-26 (here 14) December 2006. There have been fewer than fifteen records of the species from Arizona. Photograph by Mark M. Stevenson.

male Barrow's Goldeneye was at Sedona S.T.P. 23 Dec (T. Linda). In the past 20 years, numbers of Hooded Mergansers wintering in Arizona have increased substantially; 94 were found on the Phoenix waterfowl survey 20 Jan (*vide* TC), and 17 were at Pinetop 18 Feb (MMo). In Chandler, up to 400 Common Mergansers in Jan (DP) was a large concentration; up to 200 were at Willcox in Jan (EW, SH). Red-breasted Merganser is rare away from the L.C.R.V. Up to 3 were in Palo Verde 2-24 Dec (TC, KR), one was at Arizona City through 6 Dec (m.ob.), and up to 2 were at Casa Grande S.T.P. through 1 Dec (P. Salomon et al.).

There are only about 10 records of Red-

Arm 7 Dec-20 Jan (K. Blair, ph. T. Godfrey, MMS), 2 were at Mesquite Bay, L. Havasu 26 Dec-8 Jan (S. Barlow, ph. MMS), with possibly one of the same birds at Site 6 on 23 Feb (ph. K. Brinnet), and one was above Davis Dam 25 Jan (TC).

Stray Brown Pelicans winter irregularly in the L.C.R.V. One was on Martinez L. 27 Dec (M. Chambers), 4 on L. Havasu 1 Jan (GB), and one on Mitty L. 5 Feb (DS). The 20 Jan Phoenix area waterfowl survey tallied 190 Neotropic Cormorants and 450 Double-crested Cormorants, reflecting the explosive increase in numbers of both species there in recent years (*vide* TC). At Patagonia L., 16

Neotropics were present 9 Feb, with numbers swelling to 25 by the end of the period (RW, SH et al.). In the Prescott area, 38 Double-crested were on Willow L. 16 Feb (BN); smaller numbers were reported from Goldwater L. and Lynx L. (BN, S. Burk). American Bitterns are rare visitors to Arizona. Singles were at Rio Salado, Phoenix 16 Dec–11 Feb (M. Scott, TG), Tres Rios, Phoenix 2–3 Feb (L. Miller), and Yuma 19 Feb+ (S. Detwiler). A Least Bittern was calling at Saguaro L. 22 Jan, where they apparently have not previously been detected in winter (TC). Great Blue Heron nests with partially grown nestlings in Chandler 21 Jan (TC) suggested very early egg-laying; rookeries typically form in Feb in the low desert. A new heronry was found at Saguaro L. 22 Jan (TC). Five Great Egrets were n. to Watson L. 26 Dec (BN), and one was at Willow L. 9 Jan (BN), where they have been considered accidental in winter. In wintering flocks of up to 250 White-faced Ibis, a bird identified as a Glossy Ibis at Rio Salado, Phoenix 20 Jan–16 Feb (TG, ph. J. Holloway, M. Van dewater, H. Speicher) was controversial; it will be reviewed by the A.B.C.

White-tailed Kites were widely reported again, with more than 25 seen across s. Arizona from Yuma (HD) to San Bernardino N.W.R. (REW). The highlight was a group of 10 together in the San Rafael Valley 6 Dec (SH). Gray Hawk is casual in winter in Arizona. Single subads. were at Amado 7 Dec–24 Jan (RW et al.) and San Bernardino N.W.R. 17 Feb (REW). A Red-shouldered Hawk continued at H.R.P. (*vide* V. Montgomery), and another was reported from St. David 27 Feb (D. Beaudette). In Tucson, single Zone-tailed Hawks were again reported at many locations; the number present is unclear. Others were seen at G.W.R. 19 Dec–6 Jan (RW et al.), Camp Creek 2 Jan (W. Thurber, *vide* TC), and Chandler 21 Jan (TC). The Crested Caracara invasion continued in the Santa Cruz Flats, with multiple reports of up to 20 individuals and a single report of 33 at one site (M. Kehl, m.ob.).

In the Santa Cruz Flats, Mountain Plover numbers peaked at 91 on 2 Dec (DP, MMo). The peak count in the Sulfur Springs Valley was 60 (SH). Six were reported near Vicksburg 23 Dec (PD, M. Weber), and 10 were at Tacna 14 Jan (TC et al.). The first northbound American Avocet was early at Whitewater 17 Feb (D. Carlson, EW). Lesser Yellowlegs is casual in Arizona in winter; singles were near Arlington 24 Dec (DPo, TC) and G.W.R. 25–27 Feb (MMo). There was a mini-invasion of

Red Phalaropes, with one at Green Valley S.T.P. 13–17 Jan (M. Suomala, ph. A. Tozier), one grounded in Redfield Canyon 13 Jan (ph. J. Feldman), and one at Whitewater 23 Jan (SH). Also on 13 Jan, Bonaparte's Gulls were put down: one at Willcox (ph. R. Shantz), 6 at Arizona City (DP, ON), and 3 at Picacho Res. (DP, ON). A casual straggler from the s. in any month, a Heermann's Gull was at Whitewater 12 Dec (C. Fuller, ph. S. Swarts). Also considered casual in winter, 4 California Gulls were at scattered se. Arizona locations 13–15 Jan (DP, ON, SH, JY), and one was at Willcox 25 Jan–2 Feb (SH, EW). Herring Gulls were more common than usual away from the L.C.R.V., with one at Palo Verde 9–12 Dec (KR, DPo), one at Kearny L. in Dec (ph. B.



This first-cycle Thayer's Gull at Katherine Landing 7–20 (here 7) January 2007 provided one of the few well-documented records of this species from Arizona. Photograph by Mark M. Stevenson.

Ruszala), one at Whitewater 15 Jan (JY), 3 at San Carlos L. 21 Jan (DJ, JY, SS), and one at Saguaro L. 22 Jan (TC). Eight together at Bullhead City 20 Jan was a high count even for the L.C.R.V. (JY, GB). Exciting was a first-cycle Thayer's Gull near Bullhead City 7–20 Jan (MPO, ph. MMS, ph. D. Clark); there are fewer than 10 prior Arizona records. Even more exciting was Arizona's first Lesser Black-backed Gull, a first-cycle bird at Palo Verde 10–16 Dec (ph. B. Grossi; ph. PD, GHR, CDB, vt. MPO), a species considered overdue in the state. Casual in the state in winter, 2 Caspian Terns were at L. Havasu 15 Dec (MMS, MPO), and one was at Alamo L. 11 Jan (K. McCarty, *vide* TC).

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKER

Typically absent from n. Arizona in winter, 2 Band-tailed Pigeons were at a Flagstaff feeder 12 Jan (ph. K. Murphy). In an Avondale yard where flocks of Ruddy Ground-Doves have been found for several years, up to 18 were present 19 Dec+ (T. Hildebrandt et al., TC). Overall numbers were much lower than last

winter's sensational total: 3 at Cook's L. 30 Dec (D. Laush, *vide* TC), one at Tubac 12 Jan (K. Kaufman), one at Tacna 12 Jan (R. Jones, SS), and 2 at Kino Springs 7 Feb (SH).

A wandering Western Screech-owl was found dead along Hwy. 89 s. of Bitter Springs 2 Feb (CL). Both Long-eared and Short-eared Owls were present in relatively large numbers in Arizona this winter, suggesting a good prey base after last summer's rains. Northern Saw-whet Owls wandered too. One was found dead w. of Belmont 2 Jan (CL), one was in a Tempe yard 3–12 Jan (R. Bimrose, ph. ON), and another was in Fountain Hills 13 Jan+ (ph. S. & C. Wood). A Broad-billed Hummingbird arrived early in Portal 9 Feb (REW). Despite the hard freeze in Jan, single Violet-crowned Hummingbirds stayed all winter in lower Ramsey Canyon (J. & M. Hirth) and the Mule Mts. (TW, SW), in addition to several others reported into Dec, including one in Bisbee 28–31 Dec (ph. D. Danforth). The Violet-crowned Hummingbird × Broad-billed Hummingbird hybrid stayed at B.T.A. all season. Apparently the same male Allen's Hummingbird that provided Arizona's first winter record last year returned to a Huachuca Mt. foothills feeder 18 Dec–21 Jan (ph. C. Melton) but vanished after a snow-storm.

Fewer Elegant Trogons were reported than last winter. Two were in the Huachuca Mts. 23 Dec (M. Pretti, B. Dumke), up to 3 were reported at Patagonia L. (P. Lehman, B. Adler, SH), 2 were in the Patagonia Mts. (M. Brown), and a spring migrant was along the S.P.R. near Hwy. 90 on 23 Feb (D. Beaudette, SH). A few Green Kingfishers were seen in the S.P.R. valley on either side of the coldest weather: one was s. of Hwy. 90 between 9 Dec and 10 Jan (SH), and one was in St. David 22 Dec (*vide* TW), with possibly the same bird nearby 10–24 Feb (R. Forrest). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a rare winter visitor, was reported in Tucson 9 Dec (DS), at Sweetwater 15 Dec (AC), at B.T.A. 31 Dec–11 Mar (E. Hough, ph. PD), and in Montosa Canyon, Santa Rita Mts. 15 Jan (RW, SS). More problematic to identify are female daggetti Red-breasted Sapsuckers and their hybrids. Individual birds reported as Red-breasted were at Coon Bluff along the Salt R. 7 Jan–4 Feb (ph. J. Weser), along lower Sabino Cr. 22 Jan (B. Guldseth; ph., †RW), and at Peña Blanca L. 23–26 Feb (S. Johnsen, ph. A. Tozier); these will be reviewed by the A.B.C. Hairy Woodpeckers wandered out of habitat to Catalina S.P. 1 Dec (E. Wright) and Sycamore Res., Santa Catalina Mts. 16 Dec (G. Warren,

SF). Very rarely seen in the lowlands, an Arizona Woodpecker was in lower Sabino Canyon 14 Dec–1 Jan (D. Touret, WR).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS

A Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher was at Robbins Butte 19–27 Dec (TC); all documented winter records of members of this complex are of Pacific-slope Flycatcher. No fewer than 7 Eastern Phoebes were detected during the winter (3 found originally during the fall); this species has become regular in small numbers in s. Arizona during the late fall and winter. An impressive 75 Vermilion Flycatchers were found 17 Dec on the Tucson C.B.C. (*vide* S. Birky), a new high count that continues a steady increase of wintering individuals in recent years. At least one pair was investigating nest sites at Duncan on the very early date of 17 Feb (TC). The only winter report of Dusky-capped Flycatcher was of one seen and heard at Kino Springs 9 Jan (SH); this species is casual at best in the state during winter. Without a doubt, the bird of the season in Arizona this winter was the Couch's Kingbird discovered at Tacna 11 Jan–7 Mar (†PL; ph. KR, MMS, GHR; v.r. PD). This individual remained present for nearly two months and was observed feeding on dead honeybees at the edge of an alfalfa field during the cold snap. It was extremely well documented by recordings of its diagnostic vocalizations and by photographs. If accepted, this will represent a first Arizona record. Although Cassin's Kingbirds usually linger into the late fall and winter in s. Arizona (typically around Tucson), one in Hereford 10 Feb (P. Sockness) was thought to be an early arriving migrant. A Thick-billed Kingbird found in Yuma 9 Jan–15 Mar (HD) was a returning bird for the 5th winter in a row. Casual in Arizona in winter, an ad. male Rose-throated Becard was present at Patagonia Lake S.P. 20 Dec–28 Feb (B. Adler et al., SH).

Casual during winter, Bell's Vireos were seen at Rio Salado, in Phoenix 23 Dec (TG) and at G.W.R. 9 Jan–8 Mar (RW et al.). A Gray Vireo was located in Spook Canyon in the Gila Mts. 3 Mar (HD, S. Detwiler); this species is seldom searched for during the winter in the remote areas in which it regularly winters in sw. Arizona. American Crows have the propensity to show up at odd locations in Arizona during winter; this year, one was reported in Tucson 16 Dec (†KK, JM, BN) and one s. of Amado 20 Feb (†M. Brooks). A count of 36

Tree Swallows on the Gila River C.B.C. 27 Dec (*vide* TC) was high for s. Arizona in winter. A Violet-green Swallow at Gilbert 14 Feb (DP) was likely an early spring migrant, as was a Cliff Swallow at the same location 10–14 Feb (PD). Scattered Barn Swallows were found at s. Arizona locations during Dec, while singles at Santa Cruz Flats 26 Jan (DJ) and at Sweetwater 28 Feb (DS) may have wintered locally. Of the more than 15 Winter Wrens found this winter statewide, 3 were identified by call (and plumage) as "Eastern" Winter Wrens. One was at Huachuca Canyon 3 Dec (RH), one along the S.P.R. s. of Hwy 90 7 Dec–13 Feb (SH), and one was at Tubac 7 Jan (WR). The status of "Eastern" Winter Wren in Arizona is still poorly understood, as identification requires detecting subtle call differences, as well as somewhat variable plumage characteristics.



This male Lapland Longspur was discovered wintering in the Sonoita Grasslands near Elgin 12 February 2007; inexplicably, there are fewer than fifteen documented records of the species from Arizona. Photograph by Gary H. Rosenberg.

Lowland reports of Golden-crowned Kinglets gleaned from eBird data included one in Tucson 10 Dec (RW), one at H.R.P. 8 Jan (C. Miller), and one in Portal 21 Feb (R. LaFortune). Black-capped Gnatcatchers continued at several locations where they have been found in recent years, including Patagonia Lake S.P., Sonoita Creek above Patagonia Lake, Proctor Rd. below Madera Canyon, and in Montosa Canyon in the Santa Rita Mts. One potentially "new" location was Chino Canyon, where a pair was reported 28 Dec (SJ); this is a location that hosted this species in the 1980s and intermittently during the 1990s, but it has seldom been checked thoroughly in recent years. Eastern Bluebirds are extremely rare along the S.P.R. corridor; therefore, up to 10 at the San Pedro River Inn 1 Dec–11 Jan (MM) and 4 along the river near Hwy. 90 on 3 Jan (EW) were of interest. Up to 4 Easterns were also found at San Bernardino N.W.R. 14 Dec–17 Feb (REW), where this species is casual at best. It was a major flight year this winter across s. Arizona for Moun-

tain Bluebird, but rarely is the flight actually witnessed as it was this year: on 7 Dec, along Hwy. 64 between Valle and Tusayan, between 3000 and 5000 were estimated, and in the Pinetop/Show Low area, some 775 were found on the local C.B.C. 16 Dec! Intriguing was a report of a Hermit Thrush of an e. subspecies (probably *faxoni*) at Madera Canyon 9 Dec (WR); its large size and buffy flanks were noted. There are no verified records of e. Hermit Thrushes in Arizona. It was a better-than-average year for Rufous-backed Robin in s. Arizona, with one at Whitlow Dam 7 Dec (JBa), one along Sonoita Creek below Patagonia Lake 7 Dec (B. Adler), one on the Tres Rios C.B.C. in Phoenix 19 Dec (*vide* D. Yellin), one at B.T.A. 24 Dec–20 Jan (E. J. Peiker et al.), one at Jake's Corner, Gila 10–20 Feb (ph. S. & C. Wood), with another there 19 Feb+ (ph. Mark Brown; ph. D. Nelson, KR), and finally the one reported at the H.R.P. during the fall season was present until at least 20 Jan (J. Hammon). The Varied Thrush found during the fall along the S.P.R. s. of Hwy. 90 was still present 1 Dec (D. Beaudette).

The only Gray Catbird reported was one in Bisbee 23 Jan (WW). Unambiguous Brown Thrashers were at Catalina S. P. 3–26 Feb (R. Payne; ph. A. Rogers) and one continuing at the B.T.A. all season (m.ob.). An intriguing thrasher reported as a possible Long-billed Thrasher (which would be a first for Arizona) at E. Whitetail Canyon, Chiricahua Mts. 1 Jan–11 Feb (ph. RT) may well have been a Brown Thrasher x Curve-billed Thrasher hybrid. The A.B.C. is reviewing this record, the results of which will be published later.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

An Olive Warbler at Pine 16 Dec (JE) was well n. of this species' usual winter distribution in Arizona. Northern Parulas were on the Tres Rios C.B.C., Phoenix 16 Dec (J. Jones, TC) and on the Tucson C.B.C. 17 Dec (M. Kehl). Four Yellow Warblers and 5 Chestnut-sided Warblers were found during the winter (mostly on C.B.C.s), about average for s. Arizona in winter. A female Black-throated Blue Warbler was reported at Bill Williams N.W.R. 6 Feb (K. Blair), and the male that was located in Huachuca Canyon during the fall remained until at least 9 Dec (ph. J. Hand). A first-year female Pine Warbler was well documented in the Mule Mts. near Bisbee 22 Jan+ (TW; ph. SW, MMS); this species is casual during winter in s. Arizona. A Palm Warbler was at White-

water 4-6 Dec (SH, GHR), and another was at Rio Salado, Phoenix 28 Jan-16 Feb (ph. PD); this species is also casual at best during winter in s. Arizona. No fewer than 7 Black-and-white Warblers were found during the winter season, more than usual. The only American Redstart was one at Topock 15 Dec (MMS, MPo). A Worm-eating Warbler attempting to winter along the Santa Cruz River near Tubac 22 Dec-17 Jan (S. Johnsen et al.; ph C. Cathers) was quite unusual. Unprecedented were four different winter reports of MacGillivray's Warblers, one at Sweetwater 20 Dec-9 Jan (C. Taylor), one at Soldier Creek, Sierra Vista 22 Dec (D. Beaudette, SH), one in Tucson 27 Dec (P. Sockness), and one at the B.T.A. 16 Jan (R. Wilt); this species is casual in Arizona during the winter, and none of the above reports were documented. A Hooded Warbler, also casual during winter, was reported along the Hassayampa River s. of Wickenburg 12 Dec (R. Strickland, D. Ghiglieri). At least 10 different Wilson's Warblers were reported, above average for a winter; most were during Dec and before the heavy freeze in mid-Jan. Almost unheard of in winter, Red-faced Warblers were found along South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon 16 Dec (J. Puschock) and in Humboldt Canyon, Patagonia Mts. 14 Feb+ (Matt Brown).

Small numbers of Clay-colored Sparrows appeared to be present all winter along the S.P.R. (M. Marsden, EW) and at San Bernardino N.W.R. (REW); this species is an irregular fall and winter visitor mostly in the extreme se. portion of the state. At least 20 Fox Spar-

rows were reported statewide, most of which were the expected Slate-colored form from the Rocky Mts., while a few were the Red type. A Lincoln's Sparrow at Flagstaff 30 Dec (CL) provided one of the few winter reports ever for n. Arizona. At least 6 different Harris's Sparrows were found during the winter, an above-average number for this rare wintering sparrow. Still considered a review species by the A.B.C., and still surprisingly rare in Arizona, single Lapland Longspurs were at Rousseau Sod Farm, Scottsdale 6 Dec (ph. R. Widner) and in the Sonoita Grasslands near Elgin 12 Feb+ (ph. CDB, ph. GHR; MMS, MPo). Chestnut-collared Longspurs away from known wintering areas included 5+ at Reservation Tank 9 Dec (CL), 2 at Scottsdale 9-11 Dec (M. Scott, H. Beatty), one at Palo Verde 26 Dec (KR), and 7 e. of Flagstaff 28 Jan (CL).

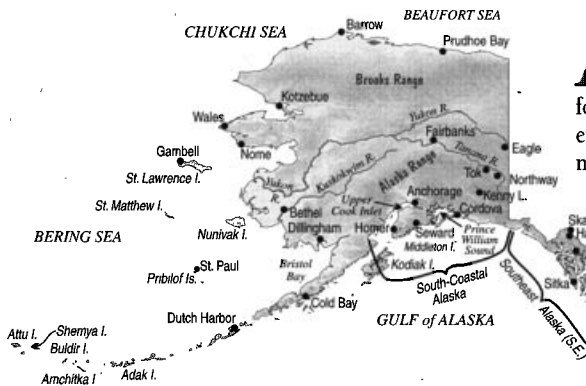
Winter Rose-breasted Grosbeaks included one in Ash Canyon 13 Jan (R. Behrstock) and a male at Sweetwater 27 Feb+ (P. Kline; ph. C. Postmus). Up to 2 Common Grackles were in Bisbee 20 Dec-10 Feb (ph. WW; J. Hirth, m.ob.); there have been only about 10 prior documented reports from Arizona accepted by the A.B.C. Four different Orchard Orioles were well documented with photographs this winter, with one at Phoenix 22 Dec (*vide* J. Burns), one at a different location in Phoenix 24 Dec (ph. B. Grice), one in Surprise, Maricopa 28 Dec (ph. D. Bradford), and one in Mesa 21 Jan (ph. L. Fetter); most of the records of this species in recent years have been during the winter season. The Streak-

backed Oriole that returned to G.W.R. during the fall season was seen regularly throughout the period (m.ob.). Numerous Lawrence's Goldfinches were detected in normal wintering areas where this species irregularly appears (Santa Cruz River Valley), but 8 in Elmerville on the Sedona C.B.C. 23 Dec and 2 at San Bernardino N.W.R. 3 Feb (REW) were both in areas away from their normal winter distribution in the state (that is, when they occur).

Observers: Charles Babbitt, Jack Bartley, Chris D. Benesh, Gavin Bieber, Cliff Cathers, Andrew Core, Troy Corman, Henry Detwiler, Pierre Deviche, Jeff Estis, Shawneen Finnegan, Tom Gaskill, Stuart Healy, Doug Jenness, Keith Kamper (Tucson RBA), Chuck LaRue, Paul Lehman, Michael Marsden, Michael Moore (MMO), Oliver Niehuis, Brian Nordstrom, David Pearson, Dave Powell (DPo), Molly Pollock, Gary H. Rosenberg, Kurt Rademaker, Will Russell, Scott Schuette, Sig Stangeland (SSt), Dave Stejskal, Mark M. Stevenson, Rick Taylor, Carl S. Tomoff, Wezil Walraven, Richard E. Webster, Sheri Williamson, Erika Wilson, **Janet Witzeman** (Maricopa), Tom Wood, Rick Wright, John Yerger. 🐦

Mark M. Stevenson (Non-passerines)
4201 East Monte Vista Drive, #1207
Tucson, Arizona 85712-5554, (drrbrdr@att.net)
Gary H. Rosenberg (Passerines)
P.O. Box 91856, Tucson, Arizona 85752-1856
(ghrosenberg@comcast.net)

Alaska



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An intense and lengthy high-pressure system that sprawled over the Region for the entire month of November eventually gave way to nearly a month of winter low-pressure systems. Heavy snows then blanketed the state south of the Alaska Range, and the same storms brought endless rain and wind to most of the Southeast. The strong November

freeze-up seemingly gave little hope for late southbound birds or lingering semi-hardy forms, which is more typical. But there were near-record numbers and a nice diversity of December passerines, mostly on the

immediate North Gulf Coast. The remainder of the season alternated from high-pressure cold spells to large low-pressure storms, punctuated by a near month-long continental high drifting over the Mainland from the High Arctic in February. This ridge pushed all storms from the Aleutian Low well south of the North Gulf Coast, and these hammered the Southeast with near-record snows and rains farther south. The season ended with well above-average snow accumulations south of the Alaska Range. It was otherwise a very quiet season, more like winters from the 1970s and 1980s.

WATERFOWL THROUGH CORMORANTS

Whooper Swans again ventured eastward in the Aleutians to Adak, where 3 were present