

Arizona



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The early summer heat broke with ample July rains in southeastern Arizona. Precipitation was much more erratic in the rest of the state, and the western half of Arizona remained in marked drought condition. The season's highlights included California Condor nestlings, Short-tailed Hawk fledglings, nesting Long-eared Owls, and the apparent nesting of Crescent-chested Warblers. Atypical for summer, Lawrence's Goldfinches were found in small numbers across a broad swath of the state.

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

GEESE THROUGH TERNS

A goose at the Green Valley S.T.P. 7 Jun+ (PS, ph. MMS) was thought to be a Ross's Goose × Snow Goose hybrid. This may have been the same "Ross's Goose" reported at this location the previous summer. The Scottsdale Ross's Goose continued through the period, providing the first *Maricopa* summer record (MM). A male Wood Duck at Sweetwater 8 Jun+ was a casual summer visitor (P. Collins). A Common Merganser remained at Whitewater until 4 Jul (ph. SH). They are unexpected in summer away from nesting areas along the Mogollon Rim. Also unexpected in summer, a Common Loon was on L. Havasu 9 Jul (B. Campos, T. Magarian), and a Clark's Grebe was at Willcox 2-25 Jun (H. Hansen et al.). Relatively few Brown Pelicans wandered into Arizona from the Sea of Cortez this summer, with only

3 reported away from the L.C.R.V., all in late Jul. Reports of numerous Neotropic Cormorants continued from along the Salt R. and Gila R. near Phoenix, and 8 were at Patagonia L. 2 Jul (SH). Surprisingly out of place was a Double-crested Cormorant at a pond atop Kitt Peak 13-17 Jul (E. Halbedel). An ad. Little Blue Heron at B.T.A. 23 Jun (CST) was a casual summer visitant from Mexico. Reflecting population declines in the Southwest, 5 Wood Storks at Mittry L. 16 Jun (ph. HD) represented only the 5th Arizona report of this species since 1990. The introduced California Condors in n. Arizona produced 2 nestlings this year (Peregrine Fund).

White-tailed Kites continue to do well, with ads. and fresh juvs. in Marana 8 Jun+ (MB et al.), an active nest at Las Cienegas National Conservation Area 15 Jul (B. Burns, M. Nicosia), and a juv. near Hidden Valley, Pinal 23 Jul (ph. N. Lange) indicating nesting. Others were reported in the San Rafael valley 1 Jun (TC) and s. of Sonoita 20 Jul-4 Aug (J. Levy). Several Northern Harriers lingered in se. Arizona into Jun and early Jul, but nesting was not detected. Casual in the L.C.R.V., a Harris's Hawk was reported in Arizona opposite Blythe 21 Jul (R. Higson). Gray Hawk continues to expand into new areas. Extirpated as a breeder in the Tucson area in the 1960s, the species has returned: 2 were fledged along Tanque Verde Cr. (P. Collins, MMS). A pair nested in lower Ramsey Canyon (J. & M. Hirth), and out-of-place individuals were seen near Rincon Cr. 5 Jun (MA) and in Fish Canyon in the Santa Rita Mts. 19 Jul (J. Levy). The nesting pair of Short-tailed Hawks near Barfoot Park fledged 2 young in early Jul (H. Snyder), while a single Short-tailed was observed over Carr Canyon 26 Jun+ (MA, SH, m.ob.). There were no reports of the species from other locations. Despite nesting along the lower S.P.R., Zone-tailed Hawk has been accidental in summer along the upper S.P.R., so 2 at St. David 8 Jul+ (KK, DJ) and 2 at Escapule Wash 14 Jul (A. Miller) were intriguing. A few Crested Caracaras lingered outside the nesting range in the Santa Cruz Flats from last winter, with one seen 23 Jun and 2 seen 17 Jul (DJ).

Once again, the lone Sandhill Crane summered at Luna L. 27 Jul+ (SH); the species is unexpected in Arizona in summer. Near Gila Bend, the high count of Snowy Plovers

reached 13 after the spring nesting (BG). The shorebird highlight of the season was a Ruddy Turnstone at Willcox 22 Jul-1 Aug (C. Lundblad, R. Messenger, ph. MMS, R. Shantz); they are less than annual in Arizona. Also at Willcox were a Sanderling on 23-24 Jul (R. Messenger, R. Palmer), and the first southbound Wilson's Phalaropes appeared on 15 Jun (TC). Franklin's Gull is casual in summer; one was at Willcox 24 Jun-8 Jul, and 2 were there 8 Jul (J. McCabe, KK, DJ). Quite unexpected in summer in Arizona, a Common Tern was at Mittry L. 7 Jul (HD).

PIGEONS THROUGH TROGONS

Thirty or more Band-tailed Pigeons were at atypically low elevations in Portal 16-25 Jun and in nearby lower Cave Cr. into Jul (EH). Interrupting the recent explosion of sightings, just 2 Ruddy Ground-Doves were reported, at Cascabel 12 Jul (MA) and s. of Amado 26 Jul (MB). Whiskered Screech-Owls are known from the New Mexico portions of the Peloncillo Mts. but not so from the Arizona side,



This Yellow Grosbeak in Ash Canyon, Arizona 1 (here) and 2 June 2007 was, amazingly, in the same yard frequented by an Aztec Thrush in 2006! Photograph by Robert Behrstock.

where up to 2 were heard 28 Jul (A.Z.F.O., TC). After the spring reports of rare nesting Long-eared Owls in se. Arizona, another ad. and juv. were seen at Dudleyville 20 Jun (MA). Up to 4 Buff-collared Nightjars continued at the Oro Blanco Mine through 15 Jul



Five juvenile Wood Storks were located at Mittry Lake near Yuma 16 June 2007 (here); the species is considered casual in Arizona, mostly in summer. Photograph by Henry Detwiler.

(MK et al.). Seldom found n. of Flagstaff, a Whip-poor-will heard near Mangum Spring on the Kaibab Plateau 31 Jul (Z. Zdinak) was perhaps the northernmost individual ever detected in Arizona.

Broad-billed Hummingbird is rare in e. Cochise away from Guadalupe Canyon. Two were in Portal 18 Jul (EH), and one was in the Peloncillo Mts. 29 Jul (A.Z.FO.). Up to 3 male White-eared Hummingbirds were at their favored location in Miller Canyon, Huachuca Mts. this summer (T. Beatty) but absent elsewhere. Intriguing was an apparent hybrid hummingbird most closely resembling White-eared near Fly's Peak in the Chiricahua Mts. 30 Jul (ph., v.r. REW). Hybrids with Broad-billed Hummingbird have been reported in the past. The Berylline Hummingbird reported in Ramsey Canyon in spring continued through 3 Aug (m.ob.). A female Berylline found in lower Cave Creek Canyon 10 Jul (ph. EH) nested unsuccessfully 31 Jul–16 Aug (T. Batty et al., REW). Away from typical Sonoita Cr. and Guadalupe Canyon locales, several Violet-crowned Hummingbirds were found in east-side Huachuca Mt. canyons again this summer, and one was in Portal 13 Jul (EH). Startling in the desert was a male Blue-throated Hummingbird at Tucson's Agua Caliente Park 13-14 Jul (SC, MA, ph. C. Jorgenson). Even in migration, they are seldom seen away from mountain canyons. The crowd-drawing sur-

prise at Agua Caliente Park though was a Plain-capped Starthroat 5-26 Jun (R. Carlson, ph. O. Niehuis, MMS, A. Tozier), the 2nd earliest Arizona record and one of the few found away from mid-elevation canyons. Away from their east-side Huachuca Mts. stronghold, the only Lucifer Hummingbirds reported were singles at Fort Bowie National Historic Site 24 Jun (†J. McCabe) and Madera Canyon 2 Jul (G. West). A Calliope Hummingbird was an early migrant in Miller Canyon 4 Jul (MK). The first southbound Rufous Hummingbird appeared a bit early at Kitt Peak 27 Jun (E. Halbedel). Another was in Pine on 30 Jun (J. Estis). Only 3 Allen's Hummingbirds were reported, all males, at Ramsey Canyon 4 Jul (MK), near Marana 25 Jul (K. Kroesen, MB), and on the e. slope of the Chiricahua Mts. 30 Jul (REW).

In the Patagonia Mts., 2 Elegant Trogons were below Harshaw townsite 19 Jun+ (R. Baxter); nesting remains unconfirmed in that range. Two Gilded Flickers in lower Ramsey Canyon 19 Jun (J. & M. Hirth) were away from the known nesting areas of this resident se. Arizona species.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH MIMIDS

Very late Western Wood-Pewees away from breeding areas in the state included one along the Bill Williams R. 15 Jun (B. Campos) and one at Mittry L. 16 Jun (HD). Two Gray Flycatchers in Cottonwood Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 29 Jul (TC) may have been breeding locally; the status of potential breeding birds in the se. corner of the state is still an uncertainty. A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher at Oak Creek Canyon 10-16 Jun (K. Murphy, CL; ph. D. Rasmussen) provided one of the few reports of this species from this far n. in the state, most of which have also come from Oak Creek Canyon. As in 2006, a pair was present at Aspen Springs in the Sierra Prieta Mts. near Prescott through at least 12 Jun (CST). Tropical Kingbirds continue to flourish in the Santa Cruz R. valley, with another new nesting pair located at Roger Road W.T.P., Tucson 15 Jun+ (J. Bock). Two pairs were detected at H.R.P. 24 Jun+ (KR et al.), where they have nested since 2001. Thick-billed Kingbirds continued to be found at odd localities (after a few during the spring season), with an individual at Hunter's Hole near Yuma 3 Jun (P. Hosner, *vide* HD), a pair nesting at Tumacacori 10 Jun (MMS,

MP), one along Cienega Cr. 11 Jun (MA, SC), and one at H.R.P. 15 Jul (M. Herring). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher located at Camp Verde 2 Jul (P. Ollig) was seen feeding a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher × Western Kingbird hybrid 4-19 Jul (R. Radd; ph. D. Rasmussen, J. McKay).

Two different Yellow-throated Vireos were located this summer, one along Cienega Cr. 5 Jun–26 Jul (ph. MA; v.r. JH, PD), and another along Sonoita Cr. near Patagonia 31 Jul (s.r. CDB); this species continues to be casual anywhere in the state. A Cassin's Vireo at H.R.P. 24 Jun (ph. KR et al) provided a first Jun record for *Maricopa*. A singing male Red-eyed Vireo in upper Miller Canyon 23 Jun–14 Jul (v.r. JH; C. Smith, S. Carnahan) was a surprise, as this species has become quite casual in the state. Rarer yet were 2 different Yellow-green Vireos found in the state, one along Cienega Cr. 27 Jun–4 Jul (MA, v.r. MP, †MMS), and another at Cook's L. 12-17 Jul (†S. Sferra, D. Laush, †TC); all Arizona records have been during summer, quite different from the pattern of vagrancy for this species on the California coast, where most records are from the fall.

Unusual were 2 Clark's Nutcrackers reported at Barfoot Park 2 Jun (T. Magarian et al.), likely lingering birds from a winter incursion. Several Tree Swallows reported at Patagonia L. 2 Jun (SH) were likely early southbound migrants. Scattered Violet-green Swallows at the B.T.A. in Jun and Jul (CST) were unusually low for breeding birds. A very late Bank Swallow was at Page Springs 8 Jun (R. Radd)



This Ruddy Turnstone, a species casual in Arizona, was present at Willcox 22 (here 30) July through 1 August 2007. Photograph by Robert Shantz.

A White-breasted Nuthatch at Sweetwater 26 Jul (MMS, MP) was away from breeding habitat in se. Arizona, as was a Pygmy Nuthatch found in riparian habitat near San Simon 18 Jul (REW); both reports are suggestive that nuthatches may be on the move this fall and winter. A singing House Wren at Morgan City Wash 21 Jul (TC) was also well away from known breeding areas in the state. Black-



This Plain-capped Starthroat present in Tucson, Arizona 6-26 (here 9) June 2007 was one of the farthest north ever reported in the state, apart from the second state record, which was in Phoenix in 1978. Photograph by Oliver Niehuis.

capped Gnatcatchers successfully bred at Patagonia L. (SH) and along Proctor Rd. below Madera Canyon (E. Enbody), with reports coming from these areas throughout the period. Elsewhere in se. Arizona, Black-capped were again reported in Guadalupe Canyon 27 Jun (N. Pederson, M. Baumann), in Leslie Canyon (B. Radke, *vide* REW), and along Sonoita Cr. near the Rest Area 31 Jul+ (CDB). There has now been continuous presence in Arizona for more than 10 years!

Townsend's Solitaire is not known to breed in s. Arizona, so 4 in the Chiricahua Mts. at scattered locations 15 Jun (S. & B. Birky), and one singing along the Crest Trail in the same mts. 30 Jul (REW), suggested possible breeding there again this summer. A Swainson's Thrush banded at Tumacacori 25 Jun (L. Norris, W. Leitner) provided the "latest" Jun record for se. Arizona, where this species does not breed. A Wood Thrush, still considered casual anywhere in the state, was well described from Madera Canyon 2 Jun (†C. Burrell, B. Tarbox). A Rufous-backed Robin reported from high in the Santa Catalina Mts. 17 Jun (†A. Palmer), and again 26-29 Jul (MA, †T. Pepper, L. Brown), was at an unusually high elevation and out of the normal season that this species typically occurs in Arizona; there is only one previous summer report, and that was from riparian habitat along the San Pedro River. Quite intriguing was the report of 3 Gray Catbirds at Rio de Flag ("Logan's Crossing") near Flagstaff 30 Jun+ (B. Cooley et al.); the only known nesting area in the state is in willow-alder riparian habitat in the White Mts. in the ne. Arizona.

WARBLERS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

Rather amazing was the discovery of a **Crescent-chested Warbler** feeding a recently fledged young in East Turkey Cr., Chiricahua Mts. 12-16 Jul (J. & J. Geeson; ph. I. Davies; ph., †L. Seitz; H. Batcheller; ph. REW; NMC, AC, DJ); this will represent the 7th record from Arizona and the first likely breeding record for the United States. Five different singing male Northern Parulas were reported from early Jun, always interesting, but about normal for this time of year in Arizona. A Yellow Warbler in Portal 1-14 Jun (L. & T. Gates) was away from usual breeding areas in the state. Quite unusual from early summer, a singing male Chestnut-sided Warbler was found in lower Miller Canyon 18 Jun (P. Walsh). Similarly, a male Black-throated Blue Warbler was at Buck Spring, *Coconino* 14-18 Jun (C. Armstrong, L. Harter). Very late, a Yellow-rumped Warbler was at B.T.A. 17 Jun (T. Webster), and a Townsend's Warbler was at Hearst Tank, South Rim of the Grand Canyon 12 Jun (B. Gatlin). Rare in summer, Black-and-white Warblers were reported at San Pedro House 19 Jun (P. Walsh) and near Cascabel 13 Jul (MA). Four American Redstarts were reported this summer, one at Whitlow Dam 21 Jun (J. Bartley), one at Las Cienegas National Conservation Area 26-29 Jun (D. Palmer), one in Picture Canyon, Flagstaff 28 Jun (T. Blodgett), and one along Cienega Cr. 1 Jul (SC); this species is a rare but regular transient, although reports in Arizona have decreased markedly during the past 20 years. More casual in the state, a singing male Prothonotary Warbler was at

Dudleyville 19 Jun (MA). A singing Ovenbird (likely the same individual) was at Buck Spring, *Coconino* 19-30 Jun (L. Hart). Normally a rare but regular transient, but unusual this late in Jun and at this elevation, a Northern Waterthrush was in Flagstaff 13 Jun (ph. N. Gaines). The best month to find Kentucky Warbler in Arizona is Jun; singles were in Garden Canyon 11-12 Jun (M. Kehl, J. Woodley, †J. Hirth) and at Las Cienegas National Conservation Area 23-29 Jun (ph. RW, D. Smyth et al.; v.r. MP). Hooded Warbler also often appears in Jun; this summer produced one singing at Madera Canyon 9 Jun (WR), a female at Comfort Spring 17 Jun (KR et al.), and one in Portal 22 Jun (REW, RAR). A very early Wilson's Warbler was at Sweetwater 14 Jul (MMS).

The Flame-colored Tanager present at Madera Canyon since spring was last reported 29 Jul. A returning Flame-colored Tanager × Western Tanager hybrid was at Rucker Canyon 1 Jun (REW, RAR). A singing White-collared Seedeater of the w. Mexican subspecies was present at Kino Springs 25 Jun+ (B. Sutton, ph. S. Sams); the Arizona Bird Committee has previously considered individuals in Arizona as "likely" escapees but will review this new sighting nonetheless. Two family groups of Abert's Towhees at Whitewater 26 May+ (REW) were away from any known nesting areas for this species. Rufous-winged Sparrow was again found singing at Guadalupe Canyon 29 Jul (TC, A.Z.F.O.), where it had been found once previously, perhaps indicating a small population in the area. White-crowned Sparrows of the pale-lore subspecies *gambelii* lingered in Arizona, with one in Portal through 17 Jun (DJ) and one at Sopor Ranch, *Santa Cruz* through 14 Jul (K Groschupf); the dark-lore form *orintha* is the more typical early summer visitor in se. Arizona.

Ash Canyon strikes again, with a **Yellow Grosbeak** 1-2 Jun (ph. RB), amazingly in the same yard in which one of last year's Aztec Thrushes turned up! This will make the 14th accepted record for Arizona (and the 2nd for Ash Canyon), a vast majority of them having occurred in late May and Jun. Only one Rose-breasted Grosbeak was reported, an ad. male at Nutrioso 30 Jul (SH). A Black-headed Grosbeak banded at Tumacacori 16 Jun (W. Leitner, L. Norris) was away from breeding habitat in se. Arizona. One along Cienega Cr. 1 Jul (SC) was likely an early migrant. Lazuli Buntings started showing up at migrant locations in the last week of Jul, about a week earlier than usual. A Varied Bunting in Portal most of Jun (L. & T. Gates) was away from breeding areas in the state, as was one at

Whitewater 17 Jun (D. Beaudette). The bulk of Varied Buntings do not arrive in Arizona to breed until early to mid-Jun. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found in small numbers at scattered locations in se. Arizona where not known to breed. A pair of Bronzed Cowbirds was in a Cornville yard 1-2 Jun (R. Radd); this species is known to "breed" sparingly to n. to n. *Yavapai*.

Red Crossbills were again at scattered locations low in the Chiricahua Mts. in the period; this species is apparently *not* annual in this range (EH, DJ). Early Pine Siskins were reported in Scottsdale 11 Jul (J. Bartley) and in Paradise 21 Jul (EH, J. Lewis). Clearly the

finch phenomenon of the season was an unusually early and widespread irruption of Lawrence's Goldfinches in the state, with no fewer than 15 different reports (mostly in groups of 1-4 individuals) received beginning in early Jun and continuing through Jul, some from as far n. as Prescott and Pine (N. Silacci, J. Estis). Normally, irruptions of this species from California occur during the winter season. A female-plumaged American Goldfinch was out of place (early) in Tucson 15 Jul (MMS).

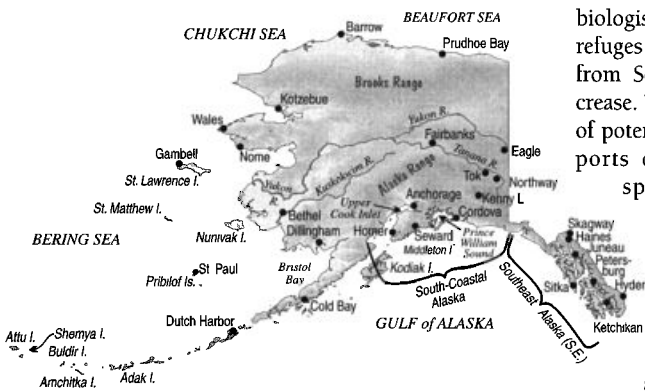
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Alaska



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Relatively widespread cool spring conditions prevailed into the early summer across the Region, with below-average temperatures, lengthy cloudy periods, and lower precipitation totals. It was therefore also a relatively quiet fire season. The vast Interior zone was probably the only area of the state where warm, sunny, dry conditions dominated much of the season. But even there, thunderstorm cells were common afternoon events for most of July. Northbound migrants ended up showing a mostly on-time phenology, while breeding onset seemed a little late, at least at some locales. Rarities at the classic peripheral sites continued well into June, while overshoots to Interior and southeastern sites were spotty at best. A late May cyclone brought a nice array of Palearctic migrants to the western Aleutians, many of which stayed into mid-June. Coverage from the eastern Interior suffers without dedicated

biologist/birders staffing wildlife refuges there, but summer reports from Southeast continue to increase. There were a few surprises of potential new breeders and reports of probable pioneering species prospecting new sites. As always, documentation of rarer species was spotty, and I must continue to remind observers to submit documentation with all reports of rare, casual, or accidental species. Referenced details, specimens, photographs, videotape, and audiotape are on file at the University of Alaska Museum.

GEESE THROUGH ALCIDS

Slightly late was a report of 2 Tundra Bean-Geese at Buldir I. 6-7 Jun (SL, CS). The lone Adak **Spot-billed Duck**, first discovered in late May, was still there 13 Jul (ph. JL). Adak has now sported all but one of the Aleutians' four-plus records of mostly long-staying individuals. Two eclipse-plumaged Cinnamon Teal found in the Juneau area 23 Jul (PS) were most unusual summer reports. A drake Redhead at Gustavus 12 Jun (BP) and a female Ring-necked Duck at Kodiak 4 Jun (RAM) were both odd, off-season records for the North Gulf coast, where most records come from late fall and winter. The Ring-necked was a first Kodiak summer re-

port. Two Lesser Scaup present on Kagankaguti L. on the Alaska Pen. 4-23 Jun (LD) were at the periphery of this species' taiga breeding range. Single late Smews reached e to Buldir I. 5-7 Jun (ph. SL), where habitat has limited past reports, and at St. Paul I. 3 Jun (Field Guides). A fly-by **Great Egret** over the Barrow shoreline 16 Jun (Field Guides, DS, ph. KH) represents the first North Slope/Beaufort Sea record of this otherwise casual spring/summer visitor in the Region.

The end of the shorebird passage reached into Jun, highlighted mostly by Bering Sea vagrants, including a Terek Sandpiper reported at St. Paul I. 4 Jun (Field Guides) and another at Buldir I. 8-10 Jun (SL, SS, EA, CS) and a Far Eastern Curlew at Buldir I. 31 May (ph. SL, EA, SS, CS). A Red Phalarope was most un-



This lucky shot substantiates the first northern (and Arctic Coast) Alaska record of Great Egret, seen near Barrow on 16 June 2007. Photograph by Kevin Heffernan.

usual and late in Cook Inlet at Kenai 9 Jun (KT, TE), and a Stilt Sandpiper was located well w. of typical range in Nome 11 Jun (Field