

delete W. A. Howe as a cited observer, and add W. & A. Hines.

**Compilers (with number of observers who contributed to their compilations):** W. W. Brockner (15), Jim & Marion Cressman (8), Dave Hallock (19), Phil Hayes (9), Ursula Kepler (22), Jim and Gloria Lawrence (15), Tony Leukering (8), Rich Levad (5), William Lisowsky (14), Ann Means (40), Jack Merchant (5), Bert Raynes (5), Robert Rothe (5), Rick Steenberg (5), Janeal Thompson (5).

**Contributors:** Lu Bainbridge, Jay Banta, Helen Downing, Margaret Ewing, Jewel Gifford, Jane Griese (JGr), Mark Janos, Steve Jones, Merlin Killpack, Brandon Percival (18), Lisa and J. J. Rawinski, J. C. Rigli, David and Beth St. George, George and Melodie San Miguel, Alan Schmeirer, V. A. Smith, Steve Summers, Joe TenBrink, Dennis Trousdale, Alan Versaw, Jan and Dave Waddington.

**Cited Observers:** J.F. Barber, G. Bragonier, D. Bridges, R. Bunn, R. R. Cohen, Colo. Field Ornithologists, K. Cook, H. Delafield, B. Dillon, D. Ely, S. Fedorchak, F. Hein, J. & V. Herold, M. Hetrick, J. Himmel (JHi), W. and A. Hines, K. and W. Jones, S. Jorgensen, U. Kingery, J. Mammoser, S. and K. Martin, B. Maynard, M. Mohr, D. Nelson, M. Nikas, D. Perry, B. Ross, J. Reddall, J. Rothe, R. Schlageter, A. Wallace, K. Wallace, L. Wallace, D. Wikkert (DWi).

**Welcome Guests:** Thanks to these visitors to the Mt. West who contributed observations: W. E. Harper, Margery Rutbell, Emilie Strauss, Paul Springer, and Carol Werner.

—Hugh E. Kingery, 869 Milwaukee St., Denver CO 80206.

# Southwest Region

## Arizona

### GARY H. ROSENBERG AND CHRIS D. BENESH

This summer may well be remembered for the dazzling array of "Mexican" rarities that were possible to see in a short period of time. One could fly into Tucson, drive up to Dudleyville and see the nesting pair of Streak-backed Orioles, then turn around and make it to Bog Spring in Madera Canyon for the nesting Flame-colored Tanagers before it got dark. The next morning a birder could start the day in French Joe Canyon, where one of the two singing Rufous-capped Warblers might brighten up an already bright (and hot!) morning, and then make it to the Huachuca Mountains for White-eared Hummingbirds or, if one really lived a charmed life, the wandering Eared Trogon that has been seen sporadically there for a few years. Then, if not already exhausted, it would be off to Cave Creek Canyon for the elusive Berylline Hummingbird. They say it is hot in Arizona during the summer, but from a birder's perspective, this June and July the state was on fire! It would be interesting to calculate the economic impact that this fine selection of "vagrants" had on southeast Arizona.

The Arizona Game and Fish continued their fine efforts with the Atlas program for Arizona. Many new areas were surveyed this

summer, particularly in the northwest portion of the state that was poorly known, and they were kind enough to share some of their results with us. The summer was an extremely dry one, with the "monsoon" rains never materializing during June or July. We will have to wait and see how this has effected the breeding success of many of the grassland species that are highly dependent on the summer rains.

**Abbreviations:** A.B.C. (*Arizona Bird Committee*); L.C.R.V. (*Lower Colorado R. Valley*); G.F.P. (*Gila Farms Pond*); M.F.L. (*Many Farms L.*); N.I.R. (*Navajo Indian Reservation*); P.A.P. (*Pinal Air Park*); P.R.D. (*Painted Rock Dam*); S.P.R. (*San Pedro R.*); S.T.P. (*Sewage Treatment Plant*); S.W.R.S. (*Southwestern Research Station*); and V.O.C. (*Village of Oak Cr.*).

### Grebes to Hawks

After first being found nesting in s.e. Arizona at Willcox in 1992, Eared Grebes were again present there during the summer; at least four adults were present July 16, and three juveniles were observed July 23 (MS). Larger than usual numbers of Clark's Grebes were present, along with many W. Grebes, at P.R.D., July 9 (SGa, RJ), where this species was thought to be scarce. A single Am. White Pelican at Red L. (N.I.R.), June 29 (D. Mikesic) represented one of few mid-summer records for Arizona and probably was a very early migrant. Additionally, 125 were observed at P.R.D. on the early date of July 9 (SGa, RJ), and at least 75 were still present July 15 (RP). One of the two Brown Pelicans at P.R.D., June 4 (m.ob.) may have been the one present there during the spring. Numbers increased at P.R.D. during the summer, with seven July 7 (SGa, RJ), and 15 July 23–24 (m.ob.). Elsewhere, one was at the Gilbert/ Riggs Road ponds near Chandler July 15 (C. Drowley). A Neotropic Cor-



morant made a brief appearance above the dam at P.R.D., July 24 (GHR, CDB, MS *et al.*), this species has been seen at P.R.D. sporadically since December 1993, and may represent the same individuals. Elsewhere along the Gila R., an imm. Neotropic Cormorant was at Gilpe Dam July 29 (TC, B. Erdman).

— A Great Blue Heron rookery comprised of at least ten nests was at an odd locality in Ponderosa Pine forest near Alpine June 8 (GM). A calico-plumaged Little Blue Heron at Watson L., Prescott, July 9–11 (CT, m.ob.) provided one of few records of this wandering species from *Yavapai*. Additionally, two adults were reported from P.R.D., July 22 (P. Moulton, T. Brodner), but could not be relocated. An ad. and an imm. White Ibis were briefly observed flying together at P.R.D., July 23 (†C. Kangas), but could not be found the next day; this record, which would be only Arizona's 7th, is under review by the A B C. Those chasing the White Ibis the following day (July 24) were rewarded with an ad Wood Stork (†GHR, †CDB, MS); virtually all of the previous records for this species in the state have been of immatures.

— Interesting was a pair of Redheads with ten young at P.R.D., July 15 (RP); this species is a sparse nester anywhere in s. Arizona. Seemingly out of place were a ♂ and ♀ Wood Duck at Willow Tank near Portal July 15–30 (DJa). Although Wood Ducks have recently been found wintering in large numbers near Tuzigoot N.M., Verde Valley, the presence of young birds July 22 (*fide* SGa) marked the first record there in summer and suggested local breeding. Wood Ducks have been found nesting previously elsewhere in the Verde Valley and near Prescott. A pair of Ruddy Ducks with young at Willow Tank July 9–27 (DJa, RM) provided the first local nesting record for the Chiricahuas.

— The pair of Ospreys that first nested successfully in 1992 on an artificial platform at Lynx L., Prescott, was again successful (*fide* CT) The only White-tailed Kite report was of one s. of Chandler in early June (RD). Encouraging was news of no fewer than 36 breeding territories of Bald Eagles, with 25 fledged young out of 16 nests (*fide* TC); this was the largest number of territories located in the nearly 20 years that this s.w. population has been studied. Nesting N. Goshawks were located on Black Rock Mt., June 17 and on Mt. Trumbull June 20 (P. Friederici, L. Miller); both these locations are in extreme n w Arizona, where little was known about breeding bird populations. Harris' Hawks were seen at odd localities, with one w. of its normal range at P.R.D., July 15 (RP), and another at Willow Tank (DJa). A Gray Hawk seen soaring above Texas Canyon in the Dragon Mts. in July was well away from breeding localities (D&M Zimmerman). An active



## Call to Muster for the 13th Annual World Series of Birding Midnight to Midnight May 11, 1996

**A Big Day  
Birding Contest  
in the name of  
fun, glory and  
conservation  
dollars  
for the cause of  
your choice.\***

*\* but mostly for the fun*

### Vie for:

*The Urner-Stone Cup*  
Highest Total — Record 225

*The Ed Stearns Award*  
Highest Total/Out of Region  
Team — Record 225!

*The Cape Island Cup*  
Highest Total/Limited  
Geographic Area —  
Record 185

For Registration Materials  
Write to: WSB, Cape May  
Bird Observatory, PO Box 3,  
Cape May Point, NJ 08212  
or call 609-884-2736

Hosted by the New Jersey  
Audubon Society

Endorsed by the American  
Birding Association

Sponsored by: *Birding, Bird  
Watcher's Digest, Birder's  
World, FieldNotes, Living  
Bird Quarterly* and *WILDBIRD*

Ferruginous Hawk nest with a recently fledged young was located n.w. of Ash Fork July 19 (B. Van Pelt), in a part of the state where this species has nested historically.

### Quails to Kingfishers

Numerous observers suggested that numbers of Montezuma Quail were very low, perhaps a result of the very late onset of summer monsoons. It was apparent that Snowy Plover again nested at P.R.D. for only the 4th year when 2 pair were observed in early June, and four individuals along with a juvenile were present July 15 (RP). Of great interest was the discovery of a pair of Mt. Plovers in appropriate nesting habitat near Dilkon (N.I.R.) June 14 (D. Mikesic); there are still no confirmed nesting records of this grassland species in the state. The only report of Whimbrel came from P.R.D., July 15–23 (CBa, RD *et al.*). When habitat is appropriate, P.R.D. seems to be the most reliable spot in the state for Ruddy Turnstone; this summer two were present there July 23 (RJ). July records of Semipalmated Sandpipers are not routine (most records still fall between mid-August and

mid-September), but have increased in number in recent years; one was reported from Willcox July 29 (RP). Also there July 29 were two Dunlin (RP); there are still very few mid-summer reports of this species in the state. July records of ad. Stilt Sandpipers in s. Arizona are becoming expected; this year one was at Gilbert S.T.P., July 17–19 (SGa), six were at Willcox July 29 (RP), and another two were at G.F.P., July 30 (CBa). Likewise, reports of ad. Short-billed Dowitchers during July are becoming more frequent; this year an adult of the race *hendersoni* was reported from Willcox July 29 (RP). Intriguing was a report of a possible ad. *griseus* Short-billed Dowitcher from Willcox July 16 (MS); if this report can be confirmed, it would represent the first record of this "eastern" subspecies from Arizona.

— Although one would think that Bonaparte's Gull is a more likely fall or spring transient, it is interesting that there have been several scattered mid-summer records over the years; this summer one was at P.R.D., July 9 (SGa,RJ), and two were there July 15–29 (m.ob.). As was the case a couple of years ago when large amounts of water was backed-up behind P.R.D., a concentration

of at least 15 California Gulls were present there during most of July (SGa, RJ *et al.*).

Extremely scarce in n. Arizona, a Barn Owl nest with one egg was located under an abandoned bridge n.w. of Fredonia June 17 (TC). After reports in recent years that Burrowing Owls numbers have appeared to decline in s. Arizona for unknown reasons, it was encouraging to learn that at least 3 pairs were relocated below Portal, where this species has been absent for several years. Nesting records of Long-eared Owl anywhere in Arizona are still noteworthy; two adults were found along the Big Sandy R. above its confluence with the Santa Maria R. in w. Arizona June 15 (B. Henry, M. Brown), suggesting possible local breeding. Another adult with a recently fledged young was seen n. of Cordes Jct. in Osborne Spring Wash until at least July 17 (CT, J. Clark). A N. Saw-whet Owl was seen and heard on Black Rock Mt., extreme n.w. corner of the state, June 17 (P. Friederici, L. Miller), representing a new possible nesting locality in Arizona.

— Two ♂ White-eared Hummingbirds were present throughout the period at Ramsey Canyon, where they have been present during the spring and summer for several years. Away from this location, two were reported from the S.R.S. in Cave Cr. Canyon off and on until July 12 (*fide*DJ). Confusing was the intermittent report of one–two Berylline Hummingbirds from Cave Cr. Canyon. As best as we can sort it, it appears that only one bird was involved, a female first seen about July 15 (†M&A Cooksey), then seen building a nest in South Fork July 20 (*fide*DJ), and reported sporadically until Aug. 6. Of note was a Violet-crowned Hummingbird nest discovered in Portal July 1 (RM), where this species is considered an infrequent summer visitor. North and west of its normal range in Arizona, a ♂ Blue-throated Hummingbird was present during most of June at Highland Pines w. of Prescott (*fide*CT); there are very few records of this species from the Bradshaw Mts. Other than the usual two–three Lucifer Hummingbirds present at Portal during the entire summer, a female was reported away from feeders in Madera Canyon July 24 (R. Schutsky, L. Lewis). Third-hand reports of a male at feeders in Patagonia during July were never substantiated. Unusually e. for the species in Arizona, at least three ♂ Costa's Hummingbirds were present in Portal until July 22 (*fide*DJ).

— As in the spring, it appears that there is still a single ♂ Eared Trogon (probably remaining from the 1991 invasion) wandering around in the Huachuca Mts.; this summer it was seen in Miller Canyon July 30 (R. Hoyer). A calling ♂ Elegant Trogon was in Alum Gulch, Patagonia Mts., July 9 (TC, DT), where this species is seldom reported.

### Flycatchers to Warblers

After being listed as an Endangered subspecies in Arizona, surveys for the s.w. nesting form of Willow Flycatcher produced about 160 individuals statewide between June 15–July 25 (*fide*TC). A juv. Black Phoebe in Piute Canyon, 10 mi n. of Navajo N.M., July 2 (L. Miller) was of note as there are few summer records of this species from the N.I.R. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is a casual visitor to the state, with many records coming during the summer season, but seldom is there more than one individual found at a single locality. This summer a pair was located at Dudleyville June 23 (*fide*SGa), and the female was seen carrying nesting material to a tree July 8 (ph. TC, DT), signifying what may be the first nesting attempt by this species in Arizona.

— Tree Swallows have been found nesting at only a few localities scattered around n. Arizona, therefore a pair with three juveniles at Watson L., Prescott, June 28 (CT) were of note, and provided the first nesting record of this swallow for *Yavapai*. Two Tree Swallows in suburban Tucson June 30 were very early for fall migrants. Cliff Swallows found nesting at Alpine in the White Mts., June 8 were at an unusually high elevation for that species (GM).

A pair of Mexican Chickadees nested at an unusually low elevation in S. Fork of Cave Cr. Canyon and fledged five young (*fide*DJ). Away from their nesting areas in the White Mts., summer Gray Catbird records are few and far between; therefore one frequenting a yard in Portal June 20 (J&E Bizilo) through the end of the period was significant.

— An Orange-crowned Warbler in upper Madera Canyon June 26 (MS) was away from known nesting areas in s.e. Arizona, the closest being Mt. Lemmon. A N. Parula was found along the Hassayampa R. near Wickenburg June 5–9 (A. Munoz). A Hermit Warbler in the Pinal Mts. near Globe June 21 (B. Jackson) was probably a very early fall migrant. The only report of Am. Redstart was of a very worn ad. male in Brown Canyon July 6 (GM).

— New nesting localities for MacGillivray's Warbler were located during survey work for the Atlas project; a pair was located at Warm Springs on the w. slope of the Kaibab Plateau June 17 (TC), another singing male was on Black Rock Mt., also June 17 (L. Miller), and a nest with eggs was located on Mt. Logan in extreme n.w. Arizona June 19. A very late Wilson's Warbler was at the P.A.P. pecan grove June 18 (MS).

— Finally, when discussing warblers in Arizona this summer, it is difficult to ignore the two territorial ♂ Rufous-capped Warblers that were found in French Joe Canyon, Whetstone Mts., during the spring season. Both these gems remained on territory throughout the period into August and brought joy to many a birder!

### Tanagers to Orioles

A pair of Hepatic Tanagers seen carrying food in proper nesting habitat on Mt. Logan in the extreme northwest June 20 (M. Latta, T. McCarty) provided a new nesting locality for the state. Another bird on Black Mesa in early June (CL) may have been nesting locally, and would also be well n. of its known breeding range in Arizona. A Summer Tanager at Red-tail Tank, Cabeza Prieta N.W.R., June 18 (D. Griffin) was well away from breeding locations in s.w. Arizona, which are restricted to areas along the Colorado and Gila Rivers. The pair of Flame-colored Tanagers present at Bog Springs, Madera Canyon, during May, reportedly remained there into July and were believed to have fledged young.

— Single ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found in Tempe June 12 (*fide*SGa), and at the base of Mt. Trumbull in n.w. Arizona June 19 (L. Miller). At least two singing ♂ Grasshopper Sparrows were in proper breeding habitat in Chino Valley n. of Prescott from May 16 to at least July 21, when an adult was seen carrying food (CT, B. Pranter, B. Thomen); there were very few *Yavapai* breeding records of this species. The Atlas project turned up new breeding localities for Black-chinned Sparrows in n. Arizona; adults were feeding a recently fledged young on Gray Mt., June 10 (TC), and nesting was confirmed on the w. slope of the Kaibab Plateau June 17 (TC). Despite breeding in s.w. Utah, and despite the abundance of seemingly suitable habitat in n. Arizona, this apparently represents the first breeding of this species in the n. portion of the state. Very early as a fall migrant was a Lark Bunting at Coon Bluff, n.e. of Phoenix, July 15 (P. Moulton). A dark-lored White-crowned Sparrow on Gray Mt., June 11 (TC) was most likely a late spring migrant. The pair of Streak-backed Orioles that nested along the San Pedro R. near Dudleyville last year returned and was attending a nest throughout July; to the best of our knowledge, no young were fledged (*fide*TC).

**Contributors (Area compilers in boldface)**  
Charlie Babbitt (CBa), Parker Backstrom, Jerry Bock (JBo), Jim Burns (JiB), Josh Burns (JoB), **John Coons** (Flagstaff), Troy Corman, Richard Ditch, Steve Ganley (SGa), **Virginia Gilmore** (Sedona), **Sharon Goldwasser** (SGo) (Tucson), **Dave Jasper** (Portal), Roy Jones, **Dave Krueper** (Sierra Vista), **Chuck LaRue** (Kayenta), Gale Monson, Richard Palmer, Will Russell, **John Spencer** (JSp - Globe), Dave Stejskal, Mark Stevenson, Bob Thomen, Ash Thornburg, **Carl Tomoff** (Prescott), **Jack Whetstone** (Sierra Vista), **Chuck Williamson** (Tucson), **Janet Witzeman** (Phoenix)

—Chris D. Benesh, 4308 E. Poe St., Tucson, AZ 85711; Gary H. Rosenberg, P.O. Box 91856, Tucson, AZ 85752-1856.