

Southwest Region

Arizona

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Abbreviations: AB.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.S.V. (*Sulphur Springs Valley*).

Montane Invasion

We begin this report with an account of one of the most widespread "montane" invasions that we can remember. It really was a continuation of the invasion that began during the fall, when we noticed large numbers of Red Crossbills and Lawrence's Goldfinches, as well as northern species such as Clark's Nutcrackers and Cassin's Finches, arriving in the lowlands in s. Arizona. This movement continued well into the winter and was joined by a variety of other species that were present in much greater-than-usual numbers throughout the state, including Lewis' Woodpecker, Mt. Chickadee, Western and Mountain bluebirds, Am. Robin, and Evening Grosbeak. Hundreds of Cassin's Finches and Evening Grosbeaks were pre-

sent in the Portal area, as were large numbers of Lewis' Woodpeckers, and a roving flock of Pinyon Jays. Clark's Nutcrackers wandered to weird localities such as the B.T.A., Dec. 21–Jan. 30, along the Gila R. at Welton Jan. 17 (PL, SF), and three at Page Feb. 17 (J. Alston). A Steller's Jay was seen at a very low elevation in Aravaipa Canyon Jan. 26 (PF), and a Mt. Chickadee was at Dudleyville Jan. 26 (PF). The true flavor of the invasion, though, were the finches: it seemed that Red Crossbills and Cassin's Finches were everywhere!

Grebes to Mergansers

Horned Grebe is a rare but regular winter visitor to Arizona in winter; this season singles were found at Parker Dam Jan. 7 (RH), in Glen Canyon Jan. 8 (JS), and at least one above Glen Canyon Dam on L. Powell Jan. 17–Feb. 21 (CL *et al.*). Likely brought about by severe weather to the north, a remarkable 1500 Eared Grebes were counted at L. Powell Jan. 16 above Glen Canyon Dam, and an even more staggering total of 15,500 on L. Powell just inside Utah across from the Wahweep marina (CL). By sunrise the next morning, all of the grebes had departed. Two Red-necked Grebes were discovered near the Wahweep marina on L. Powell Jan. 24, remaining until at least Feb. 1 (SH, RD, MS *et al.*); there were 6 previous records for the state. Also noteworthy was a Red-necked Grebe found in Rocky Pt., Dec. 22 (†TC), Sonora, Mexico, one of few records for that country. A W. Grebe in Flagstaff Dec. 14 was late (JC, K. Gooby). Other tardy W. Grebes were at Green Valley Dec. 9 (MS) and at Parker Canyon L., Dec. 12 (RP). There were a scattering of Brown Pelicans around s. Arizona this winter; one was at P.R.D., Dec. 8–Jan 16 (MS, PL, SF), one at Saguaro L., Dec. 8 (M. Bilotta), one (found

dead) at Ft. Huachuca Dec. 23 (D. Rhodes), one at the Bill Williams R., Jan. 7 (RH), and one at Horseshoe L., Jan. 17 (*vide* SGA). Concentrations of Am. White Pelican grew to only >40 individuals at P.R.D., Dec. 8 (MS) and dwindled to 23 there Feb. 22 (RP); this winter's high count was the lowest since winter 1992–1993. Neotropical Cormorants put on a great showing in s. Arizona; in addition to scattered singles in s.w. Phoenix Dec. 31 (E. VanderWerf), and the Gila R. CBC Dec. 30 (A. Grossi), there were concentrations of ≤6 at P.R.D., Jan. 12 (TC), five at Arivaca L. in early December (WR *et al.*), and ≤16 at Patagonia L., Feb. 14 (RP).

An imm. Little Blue Heron was reported on the Arizona side of the Imperial N.W.R., Dec. 30 (S. West), representing one of <5 records for the L.C.R.V. and one of few winter Arizona records. An Am. Bittern was seen along the Salt R. near Coon Bluff Dec. 20 (C. Anderson), where this species is a scarce winter visitor. A large gathering of 24 Tundra Swans was at P.R.D. in late January (TC, H. Detwiler), and another 12 were seen Jan. 17 near Tacna, Mohawk Valley (PL, SF). A Greater White-fronted Goose present in Page Jan. 20–Feb. 14 (CL *et al.*) provided the first winter record for the N.I.R. A Snow Goose was also present in Page Jan. 8–Feb. 14 (CL, P. Svingen); there are few winter records for n. Arizona. Rounding out the goose assemblage in Page were two Ross' Geese, sparse winter visitors in n. Arizona (CL).

At least five Eur. Wigeons were reported. In addition to birds in the greater Phoenix area and Nogales, one was photographed at Beaver Dam Wash Feb. 23 (ph. SS). The ♂ Tufted Duck was present through the period in Mesa for its 5th winter. For a species considered rare to casual in Arizona, a flock of ≥30 Greater Scaup observed at Lee's Ferry Jan. 18 (CL *et al.*) was one of the most remarkable concentrations ever reported in Arizona; this species may prove to be more numerous in winter at the location, as large numbers were also seen here in the winter of 1994–1995. An Oldsquaw was at the Sierra Vista S.T.P., Dec. 19 (J. Hanna, G. Crandall), and another was in s.w. Phoenix Dec. 22–Jan. 29 (SG, RJ, PM); this species is a very rare winter visitor to the state. The White-winged Scoter found this fall at Lee's Ferry was still present there Feb. 8 (CL, TC, JS). Once again, large concentrations of Barrow's Goldeneyes were reported from Lee's Ferry between Nov. 29–Jan. 25, with a high count of 45 (JS, CL); another single was reported along the Colorado R. at Parker Dam Dec. 8 (SG, RJ). A large concentration of 100 Hooded Mergansers were reported in late January from the Arrow-



head Ranch, n. Phoenix (J. Maxie). Seldom reported in n. Arizona, several Red-breasted Mergansers were reported from L. Powell near Glen Canyon Dam Jan. 17–Feb. 21 (CL *et al.*). Eighteen Com. Mergansers furnished a large concentration for the upper San Pedro R., Jan. 20 (S. Holzhouer).

Vultures to Kittiwake

Concentrations of Black Vultures included 50 at Sells Dec. 21 (RP) and 55 at the P.A.P. pecan grove Dec. 31 (E. VanderWerf). An Osprey at Glen Canyon Dam Jan. 19 (CL) furnished the first winter N.I.R. record. The only White-tailed Kites reported were two at Palominas Jan. 4 (DKr *et al.*). A N. Goshawk was seen along Echo Cliffs, s. of Page, Dec. 13 (CL), a somewhat odd, treeless locality for this species. A Red-shouldered Hawk, a casual visitor to the state, was seen at Catalina S.P., Feb. 20 (RH), and the Beaver Dam Wash bird was still present Feb. 23 (SS). A “Harlan’s” Red-tailed Hawk was photographed in Marana Dec. 25 (ph. MS), and another was at Laveen Jan. 28 (SM). At least two were also in the Sulphur Springs Valley (WR, ph. GHR). Crested Caracaras were reported from a variety of locations; singles were s. of Picacho Dec. 5 (NC), Friendly Corners Dec. 7 (MS), P.A.P. pecan grove Dec. 31 (L. VanderWerf), and s. of Buckeye Jan. 12 (TC). Up to four Virginia Rails wintered in Pasture Canyon, e. of Tuba City, Dec. 9–Feb. 5 (CL) providing the first winter record for the N.I.R.; \leq three Sora also wintered at this location.

American Avocet is a rare winter visitor to s. Arizona, so two birds at Sierra Vista S.T.P., Jan. 5 (J&A Hirth), and one along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson (RH) were noteworthy; single avocets at M.F.L., Jan. 9 (CL) and at Beaver Dam Wash Feb. 23 (SS) in n. Arizona were remarkable. A Lesser Yellowlegs near Roll Jan. 17 (PL, SF) was an exceptional find for winter. Long-billed Curlews are scarce and localized in winter in s. Arizona, and 15 on the San Rafael grasslands Dec. 15 (RP) were away from familiar wintering sites. A Sanderling at El Mirage Dec. 1 (CBa) was extremely tardy. A W. Sandpiper, rare in winter in s. Arizona, was at P.R.D., Dec. 8 (MS). Two Least Sandpipers at Cow Springs L., Dec. 8 (CL) were remarkably late. Two lingering Dunlin were at the Gila Bend S.T.P., Dec. 8 (MS). Ninety-four Long-billed Dowitchers at P.R.D., Feb. 22 (RP) represented a very large winter concentration. A Red Phalarope in Scottsdale Jan. 13–14 (A. Spencer) provided only the 2nd winter record for *Maricopa*. The 2nd-winter Mew Gull found Nov. 30 at the Wahweep marina remained to at least Dec. 21. A Black-legged Kittiwake was in e. Mesa Jan. 11–12 (C.

Fisher *et al.*, ph. J. Burns, MS, v.t. CDB); this provides only the 3rd record since 1990.

Doves to Kingfishers

A Ruddy Ground-Dove was at the San Xavier Mission Dec. 9 (GM, T. Huels). In Arivaca, a ♂ Ruddy was found Nov. 20 (†NC), and numbers soon grew to \leq six through the period (m.ob., v.t. CDB). At Paloma Ranch, \leq five Ruddy Ground-Doves were present after Jan. 25 (H. Oetwiler *et al.*). Long-eared Owls were reported from scattered locations in s.e. Arizona. A Short-eared Owl, very rare in s.e. Arizona, was on the San Rafael Grasslands Feb. 15 (RP). Five different N. Saw-whet Owls were found at lowlands localities; one was at B.T.A., Nov. 11 (CT), at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix in late December (R. Dummer), at the Patagonia Sanctuary Jan. 5 (phs., TC, MS), and one was found dead along the upper S.P.R., n. of Fairbanks, Feb. 22 (A&S Anderson, ph. R. Silver). A wintering Lesser Nighthawk was observed on the Gila R. CBC Dec. 30 (B. Nieman) and another (or the same) was at Gillespie Dam Feb. 10 (CL); this species is casual in winter in s. Arizona.

Wintering Broad-billed Hummingbirds in s.e. Arizona included two males in Ventana Canyon Dec. 28–Feb. 3 (MS), one at Ft. Lowell Park Jan. 26 (RH), and another through the period in c. Tucson (J. Bock). A hardy Anna’s Hummingbird was at Beaver Dam Wash Feb. 23 (SS), perhaps an early returning migrant. A Violet-crowned Hummingbird was at the Paton’s feeders Feb. 5; more unusual was one found in n. Tucson Dec. 22 (L. Bryan). A ♂ Magnificent Hummingbird was present in Ventana Canyon, n. Tucson, Dec. 28–Feb. 3 (MS); though this species regularly winters in s.e. Arizona in small numbers, it is generally found at higher elevations. A Rufous/Allen’s Hummingbird wintered in Portal (N. Moore-Craig, A. Craig). Casual in winter, an Elegant Trogon was discovered along Sonoita Cr. on the Circle Z property Jan. 5 (ph. MS), and another was near the San Pedro House Jan. 27 (F. Rose). A calling Eared Trogon was observed in Sawmill Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Jan. 27 (B. Stocku, R. Mellon); at least one individual of this species as been present in this range since at least 1991. Several pairs of Green Kingfisher were reported along the upper S.P.R., indicating that this species is strengthening its foothold in Arizona.

Woodpeckers to Vireos

Downy Woodpeckers are seldom seen away from breeding areas within the state, therefore, one along Short Cr. at Colorado City Jan. 26 (ph. MS) was of interest. Two

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, casual in Arizona during the winter, were reported; the individual found during the fall at Coon Bluff was still present Dec. 17 (P. Moulton), and another was found at Fountain Hills Dec. 20 (T. Brodner). The “probable” hybrid sapsucker (apparently mostly Red-breasted) that has returned to the B.T.A. for the past few winters was seen there again Jan. 9 (A. Van Auken). A female-plumaged Williamson’s Sapsucker was at an odd location at Kino Springs Jan. 1 (E. VanderWerf), but sought out the only pine tree in the area! The only “Yellow-shafted” form of N. Flicker seen this winter included one at Colorado City Dec. 1–8 (TC, CL, GHR, P. Lindsay) and one found dead along the highway about 30 mi n. of Flagstaff Dec. 7 (CL).

A Greater Pewee was located along the Salt R., n.e. of Phoenix, Dec. 20 (TC), in the same location that one has wintered during the past 2 winters. An “apparent” Pacific-slope Flycatcher was found at the Phoenix Zoo Jan. 24, while another “Western-type” Flycatcher was at Ramsey Canyon Jan. 6 (J&M Hirth). The only definitely identified “Western” Flycatchers in Arizona during the winter have been Pacific-slopes. At least three E. Phoebes were found; one was present at Arivaca L. beginning Nov. 29 (NC), one returned to the B.T.A. for the 3d winter Dec. 1–6+ (M Patten, GR, P. Lindsay *et al.*), and another was found at Patagonia Jan. 1 (MS, CDB). The Vermilion Flycatcher that was found at Page during November was last seen Dec. 18 (B. Russell). Perhaps indicative of a mild winter, three Cassin’s Kingbirds were at Green Valley Dec. 27 (RP), and another was there Feb. 13 (ph. B. Zimmer).

Very unusual for the middle of January was an influx of swallows along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson; one Violet-green, one Bank, and three Barn swallows were seen Jan. 16 (RH), all being casual at that season anywhere in Arizona. Another Violet-Green Swallow was at Snyder Hill S.T.P., Feb. 27 (RH). American Crow is an irregular visitor to the Sulphur Springs Valley during recent winters; therefore, about 20 there Dec. 29 (S. Healy) and \geq 100 there Jan. 19 (WR) indicated that this was a flight year for the species. Two Mt. Chickadees found again at Florida Saddle, Santa Rita Mts., Jan. 18 (RH) provided further indication that this species is most likely resident there. Although Black-capped Chickadee is resident along the Virgen R. in s.w. Utah, historically there have been very few sightings anywhere in n.w. Arizona. This winter an incredible six were located along Short Cr in Colorado City, an area very rarely birded, Dec. 1–7 (ph. TC, CL, ph. GHR, P

Lindsay); at least one still present Jan. 26 (MS). There have been <10 previous records for Arizona. A Plain Titmouse found through the period at B.T.A. (CT) was at a lower-than-usual elevation for the species in Arizona. Winter Wrens appeared more frequently this winter than usual, with several sightings from s. Arizona during January and February. One at Pasture Canyon near Tuba City Dec. 9 (CL) was one of the few ever from the N.I.R. An Am. Dipper was in Sycamore Canyon, Atascosa Mts., Jan. 24 (NC, RH). This species is a casual visitor to the mountains of s. Arizona during winter.

Two Golden-crowned Kinglets at Lee's Ferry Dec. 20 (JS) represented one of the few n. Arizona records away from breeding areas in the high mountains. The only Rufous-backed Robin reported was from Patagonia Feb. 7 (D. Wiles). Likewise, the only Brown Thrasher, casual in the state during winter, was one reported from Oracle Dec. 31 (†RP). Two Crissal Thrashers in the sagebrush near Colorado City Dec. 1 (TC, CL) furnished further indication that this species is resident in the Arizona Strip in the n.w. portion of the state. Five N. Shrikes, about average for winter, were sighted on the N.I.R., Dec. 12–Jan. 15 (CL). A singing Solitary Vireo was present at Flagstaff on the early date of Feb. 5 (P. Wang).

Warblers to Finches

A Golden-winged Warbler well-described from Sabino Canyon Feb. 12 (†J. Pruett) provides one of the few winter records of this species for the state. Although Orange-crowned Warbler is a fairly common winter resident in s. Arizona, one at Lee's Ferry Jan. 1 (CL) provided what is apparently the first winter record for the N.I.R. Two N. Parulas were found; one was on the Carefree CBC Jan. 2 (J. Held, B. Ingle), and another was at the Phoenix Zoo Jan. 24 (RJ). No fewer than five different Chestnut-sided Warblers were found in s. Arizona; one was at Scottsdale Dec. 1 (JHo), one was at Ft. Lowell Park in Tucson Dec. 21–Jan. 16 (G. Hentz *et al.*), one was along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson Dec. 25 (S. Mills *et al.*), one was in Tempe Dec. 25 (D. Laush), and another was in s.w. Phoenix Jan. 1–9 (SGa). Another indication of a somewhat milder-than-usual winter was the greater number of reports of both Black-throated Gray and Townsend's warblers from s. Arizona during January. One of the better warblers found during the winter was a Palm Warbler at the Empire-Cienega Riparian area Dec. 19–21 (R. Floyd, E. Edmonds); there are very few winter records for the state. Two Black-and-white Warblers found in s.w. Phoenix during the fall remained there until at least Jan.

9 (SGa). Another Black-and-white was in Patagonia Jan. 1 (MS), and another was at Dudleyville Jan. 26 (P. Friederici). Louisiana Waterthrushes have become almost regular along streams somewhere in s. Arizona during the winter in recent years; this year, one returned to the B.T.A. for the 2nd consecutive winter and was still there Jan. 4 (CT); another was found in Sycamore Canyon in late November and remained there until at least Jan. 24 (NC *et al.*). Wilson's Warbler is only a casual winter visitor to s. Arizona, therefore, one in Sabino Canyon Dec. 7–16 (WR, MS), one at Camp Cr., Jan. 2 (W. Thurber, M. Parent), and another along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson Jan. 25 (RH) were of great interest. A Painted Redstart in Rackensack Gulch near Carefree Jan. 2 (TC) was well n. of this species' winter range in Arizona. Extremely late were reports of Yellow-breasted Chats from B.T.A., Nov. 18–Dec. 22 (CT), and from Whitlow Dam Dec. 21 (J. Bartley). Individual Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found in Sabino Canyon Dec. 7 (WR), and near Tacna Jan. 17 (PL, SF). An incredibly late Indigo Bunting was found in n. Arizona at Navajo Bridge over the Colorado R. at Marble Canyon Dec. 1 (ph. TC, CL).

SA By now, it is well known that the Sonoita Grasslands are a winter haven for grassland sparrows and longspurs, and with a little diligence, one can find numbers of Grasshopper Sparrows, Chestnut-collared Longspurs, and a variety of other sparrows, such as Vesper and Savannah. Also, with a bit more work, one can usually find a Baird's Sparrow or two. But getting good looks at this secretive species is typically problematic, to say the least. During the past couple of years, Caleb Gordon, a graduate student at the University of Arizona, has been studying Baird's Sparrows in the Sonoita Grasslands, and this year he banded an impressive (for Arizona) 11 individuals. On Jan. 7 a snowstorm hit s. Arizona, covering the Sonoita Grasslands with a blanket of snow, forcing the sparrows to seek food along the only open ground, the roadsides. Caleb surveyed the Sonoita Grassland area during Jan. 8 and found an amazing 29 Baird's Sparrows, as well as 124 Grasshopper Sparrows, 404 Chestnut-collared Longspurs, 306 Vesper Sparrows, and 233 Savannah Sparrows, and a variety of other grassland species. The lesson is if one really wants to see Baird's Sparrow, wait for a snowstorm and drive the grasslands!

Four different Rufous-crowned Sparrows were found along the Echo Cliffs s. of Page Jan. 13–19; the distribution of this sparrow in n. Arizona is still unclear. A flock of >50 Sage Sparrows near Vermillion Cliffs Jan. 11 (J. Spence) was an unusually high concentration for this portion of the state in winter. Five-striped Sparrows were again found wintering in Sycamore Canyon, with individuals present Nov. 30 and Jan. 20 (NC). A Black-throated Sparrow found along Hermit Cr., Glen Canyon N.P., Dec. 14 (CL) represented one of the few winter records from n. Arizona. A Clay-colored Sparrow was reported from Kino Springs Jan. 25 (†S. Mlodinow); this sparrow is still considered casual at best from anywhere in s. Arizona during the winter months. No fewer than seven Golden-crowned Sparrows were reported statewide Dec. 12+. Unusual for winter were 2 different sightings of "oriantha" White-crowned Sparrows, one from the upper S.P.R., Jan. 26 (S. Mlodinow), and another from the P.A.P.P., Feb. 20 (RH). Extremely rare in the state were two Lapland Longspurs, one male in the Sulphur-springs Valley Jan. 17 (PL, SF), and another male found in the San Rafael Grasslands Feb. 19 (R. Bowers).

The Rusty Blackbird that was found at the Nogales S.T.P. in late November remained there until Dec. 10 (*vide* SGa). A large flock of ≥2000 Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen in Yuma Feb. 21 (RP). Two Bronzed Cowbirds near Roll, Gila R. Valley, Jan. 17 (PL, SF) were w. of where this species has wintered previously in the state. An Orchard Oriole was located in a yard in Scottsdale during the first week of December, and remained there until Dec. 25 (C. Sumrall), and another first-winter male was in n.w. Tucson Jan. 7–8 (E. Goldman, CDB; ph. MS); this species is casual in s. Arizona during the winter.

One of the outstanding birds of the season was a Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch seen at Sunset Crater Feb. 12–16 (CL, JC), but it was nothing compared to the invasion of Black Rosy-Finches in n. Arizona. After the initial flock of >80 seen near the Echo Cliffs in late November, small flocks of 20–100 individuals were seen regularly in that area through most of the period. In addition to the Echo Cliffs birds, six were found at Sunset Crater Dec. 6 (GHR, P. Lindsay), 28 were there Feb. 12, and 12 were there Feb. 16–21 (JC, CL *et al.*). Another flock of about 50 individuals were seen along the Vermillion Cliffs Jan. 11 (J. Spence). One of the more incredible records of the season were two Pine Grosbeaks that were seen coming to a feeder in Paradise; there were only a couple of extralimital records away

from the high mountains in Arizona that were considered valid.

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New Mexico

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The season was characterized by generally ample precipitation statewide, while December's mild weather was broken abruptly by an early January snowstorm that reached the Mexican border. Several genuine rarities were found, and the season was made memorable by spectacular movements and numbers of cardueline finches.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (*Bitter Lake N.W.R.*); Bosque N.W.R. (*Bosque del Apache N.W.R.*); C.C.N.P. (*Carlsbad Caverns N.P.*); E.B.L. (*Elephant Butte Lake*); R.G.V. (*Rio Grande Valley*); Zuni (*Zuni Indian Reservation*).

Loons to Ducks

Among the several waterbird surprises were a Pacific Loon at Caballo L., Jan. 3 (CR) and a **Yellow-billed Loon** at Willow L., *Eddy*, Dec. 23 (CC), the latter the state's 6th in 6 years. Horned Grebes were prevalent, including in the Pecos Valley s. to Bottomless Lakes S.P.; highs elsewhere were five at Ute L., Jan. 31 (CR), seven at E.B.L., Jan. 30 (JH), and 10 at Caballo L., Jan. 31 (JH). The Cochiti L. **Red-necked Grebe**, first reported in late November, was seen Jan. 5 (JO) & 11 (JEP), after which the lake froze over; one and possibly two Red-neckeds were at Caballo L., Jan. 30–31 (JH), where at least one had persisted through much of 1996. Over 3000 Eared Grebes were at Caballo L., Jan. 3 (BZ), but *Aechmophorus* grebes were notably scarce both there and at E.B.L. until late January. Single imm. **Brown Pelicans** were at upper E.B.L., Jan. 30 (JH) and at High Rolls Jan. 15 (*fide* E. Fields); the latter, with measurements indicating the w. race, was rehabilitated and released in California. Unprecedented numbers of Double-crested Cormorants "discovered" the lower Pecos Valley, including 294 in the Brantley L. area Dec. 28 (TH) and 805 at Loving Dec. 23 (SW); also at Loving were two Neotropics (SW). Neotropics also were in the middle R.G.V. (where resident), but outnumbered Double-crested only at Bosque N.W.R. (v.o.). Lingering Cattle Egrets were one at E.B.L., Dec. 21 (JEP, JO), eight at Mesilla Dec. 27 (JO), and one near Loving Dec. 23 and Jan. 24 (SW). A good season for Tundra Swans

found 10 at Maxwell N.W.R., Dec. 14 (JEP, JO), and 13 at Bosque N.W.R., Dec. 21 (JEP, JO), where one–two remained into February (v.o.); the Pecos Valley yielded one at Bosque Redondo L., Dec. 31 (JEP) and another (or the same) at nearby Summer L., Jan. 19 (JO). An ad. **Trumpeter Swan** eluded many in the Bernardo-La Joya area, where it was found Feb. 2 (ph. JO) and last seen Feb. 16 (JEP, JO) Peripheral Ross' Geese included 20 at Farmington Jan. 31 (TR), one at Clayton L., Dec. 27 (CR, LH), and five at Virden Dec. 28 (JO). Wood Ducks away from the San Juan and Rio Grande valleys included one–four at Clayton Dec. 27 (CR, LH), Tucumcari Jan. 31 (CR), Ruidoso Jan. 4 (L. Cordova), Silver City Jan. 5 (EL), Lordsburg Jan. 22 (EL), and Deming Jan. 1 (JO). Notably early Cinnamon Teal included singles at Lordsburg Jan. 19 (CR), Bosque N.W.R., Jan. 23 (T. Bulow, *fide* PRS), and Zuni Jan. 25 (DC) **Eurasian Wigeons** made yet another good showing, with single males at Albuquerque Dec. 21–Feb. 20 (M.L. Arthur, HS, NMC), Caballo L., Jan. 20 (M. Fraker) and Feb. 18 (GE), and B.L.N.W.R., Jan. 11–Feb. 7 (WR). Greater Scaup were rarely reported included one at Bottomless Lakes S.P., Jan. 31–Feb. 1 (JO, GE) and two near Garfield Jan. 26 (JO). Oldsquaws have been a regular feature of recent winters; this season found one at Clayton L., Jan. 11 (ph. JO), two at Sumner L., Dec. 22 (JO), and one at Bottomless Lakes S.P., Dec. 21–Feb. 2 (v.o.). The only Barrow's Goldeneye away from the San Juan R. was a male at Cochiti L., Dec. 24 (WW).

Eagles to Gulls

Incubation was in progress at the state's 2 known Bald Eagle nests, one each in *Colfax* and *Sierra*, by Feb. 17 (SOW, KCW); a sizable Bald Eagle roost was discovered in s. Albuquerque, where there were ≥ 18 Jan. 19 (DS). Sharp-shinned Hawks outnumbered Cooper's in the Caballo (BZ), Las Cruces (GE), Silver City (D&MZ), and Peloncillo Mts. (AC) areas. At Silver City (where Cooper's were formerly the commoner of the two), Sharpies feasted on the abundant cardueline finches (D&MZ). An imm. **Crested Caracara** at B.L.N.W.R., Jan. 31 (ph. WR) and later (GE, JEP, ph. JO) was last seen Feb. 5 (*fide* WR); this furnished a *Chaves* first and the first well-documented New Mexico record in over a decade. Another good winter for Merlins found one–three December–February at 26 locales from the Pecos Valley westward (v.o.). Perhaps following a recolonization "trend," an **Aplomado Falcon** was discovered n. of Hachita Dec. 30 (T