

arizona region



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Abbreviations: A.B.C. (*Arizona Bird Committee*); B.A.N.W.R. (*Buenos Aires Nat'l Wildlife Refuge*); L.C.R.V. (*Lower Colorado R. Valley*); G.F.P. (*Gila Farms Pond*); M.F.L. (*Many Farms Lake*); 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*); W.S.F. (*Western Sod Farm*).

LOONS THROUGH CRANES

There was a small influx of Pacific Loons into the state, with singles found at San Carlos Nov. 2 (A. Moors), at Hickiwan, Tohono O'odham Nation Nov. 11 (J. Babcock), and at Parker Canyon L. Nov. 8–11 (JH, P. Solomon). A great find was the **Least Grebe** at Willcox Nov. 3 through the period (D. Morrison, ph. MS); there are about nine accepted records for the state. No fewer than 36 W. Grebes were present in various areas in s.e. Arizona Aug. 5 through the period (MS). An ad. Brown Pelican was at P.R.D. Sep. 19 (DS, P. Backstrom), and another was found in Nogales Nov. 14–24 (RH, et al.). Forty-nine Snowy Egrets was a rather large concentration for M.F.L. Sep. 19 (CL). The Tricolored Heron found in Jul. at Picacho Res. was seen again Aug. 17 (J. Saba). Another good find was a **Reddish Egret** present at Gila Farms Pond Aug. 10–11 (†RJ); this was the 4th *Maricopa* record.

A single Eur. Wigeon returned to Tempe Oct. 15 (*fide* SGa). Two early Ring-necked Ducks were in e. Tucson Aug. 9 (MS, GHR, et al.). Scarce in s.e. Arizona, a single Greater Scaup was at the Sierra Vista S.T.P. Oct. 15 (SH). Casual in s. Arizona, a Surf

Scoter was present at the Avra Valley S.T.P. Nov. 18–22 (P. Solomon, ph. MS). Rarer still was a female White-winged Scoter at the Green Valley S.T.P. Nov. 3–6 (B. Wotten, S. Mahoney, ph. MS, GH). A pair of White-tailed Kites was present near the entrance to the Coronado National Memorial throughout the period, and another was seen 7 miles n. of Bowie Oct. 15 (B. Honser). Rather far w. in Arizona was a single Zone-tailed Hawk seen near Tacna Oct. 4 (RH). Crested Caracaras were found away from traditional areas, with singles reported from Picacho Res. Nov. 16 (D. Trentley) and from Sierra Vista Nov. 17 (C. Florian, S. Ambrose). A Com. Moorhen found at Pasture Canyon Nov. 20–25 (CL, S. Davidson) was only the 4th record for the N.I.R. Somewhat out of place was a pair of Sandhill Cranes seen at the Sierra Vista S.T.P. Oct. 13 (SH).

PLOVERS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

An Am. Golden-Plover was found at Willcox Oct. 1 (SL, JL). More amazing was the first documented Arizona sighting of **Pacific Golden-Plover** found by †Rich Hoyer at the W.S.F. near Friendly Corners Aug. 6. Felt to be a first-alternate-plumaged bird, it remained until at least Aug. 12 (ph. GH, MS, voice rec. RJ, DS). Scarce in migration in Arizona, a juv. Snowy Plover was at W.S.F. Sep. 17 (DS). Remarkably early for s. Arizona, four Mountain Plovers were discovered at W.S.F. Aug. 11 (RH) and remained through the period. Rather rare in n. Arizona, four Black-necked Stilts were in Page Aug. 24 (CL), with one still there Sep. 16. Also, three more were present at Rimmy Jim Tank Sep. 13 (CL), with one there Sep. 23–25.

Arizona's third **Northern Jacana** was discovered at Arivaca L. and subsequently seen and documented by numerous observers Oct. 15–23 (E. Bennett, ph. †MS, GHR). Two Lesser Yellowlegs in s.w. Phoenix Nov. 14 (TC) were late. Three Sanderlings were discovered in n. Arizona this fall with singles at Cow Springs L. Aug. 12 (CL), Wahweap Sep. 8–9 (CL), and Tuba City Sep. 18 (CL). In addition, two were at Willcox in s. Arizona Sep. 12 (RH, ph. MS). Five Semipalmated Sandpipers was an aver-

age showing for the fall. Considered rare in n. Arizona, a very early Dunlin was at Wahweap Sep. 28 (CL, JS). Another scarce fall migrant in Arizona, several Short-billed Dowitchers were located, including a concentration of five in Tucson Sep. 21 (RH, ph. †MS). A very early Com. Snipe was in s.w. Phoenix Aug. 1 (TC). A very large flock of 350–400 Red-necked Phalaropes was observed along the Colorado R. at L. Havasu Oct. 14 (RH, MS, DS). Four Red Phalaropes were reported this fall in s. Arizona, with singles at the Avra Valley S.T.P. Sep. 19 (ph. †MS), the C.A.P. Basin w. of Tucson Oct. 15 (D. West), the Amado S.T.P. Oct. 28 (ph. †MS), and the Benson S.T.P. Nov. 12 (†MS, CDB).

Casual in Arizona, a Laughing Gull was present at Patagonia L. Aug. 13–15 (†GHR, D. Clark). Also casual, two ad. Heermann's Gulls were found in the state this fall, with one in w. Tucson along the Santa Cruz R. Oct. 25 (SL, JL, ph. MS), and another at Willcox Oct. 26 (†M. Haldeman). Three Herring Gulls were reported in the state away from the Colorado R.; one was at Ganado L. Oct. 11 (CB), and two were in Willcox Nov. 12 (CDB, ph. MS). This fall again saw spectacular numbers of Sabine's Gulls in the state, with no fewer than 13 individuals seen. One was in Kayenta Sep. 5 (CL) and another there Sep. 13–14 (GHR), one at the Green Valley S.T.P. Sep. 8 (ph. MS), one at Becker L. Sep. 13 (RJ, RF), one at El Mirage Sep. 13 (CB), one at Round Rock Sep. 14 (GHR), two at Tsaille L. Sep. 14 (GHR), one at Crescent L. Sep. 16 (GHR), three at Wahweap Sep. 22 (CL, JS), and one at L. Havasu Sep. 26 (CB, S. Strangeland). One of Arizona's rarer larids, an ad. Black-legged Kittiwake was at Willcox Nov. 15 (†JH, ph. GH). Two to four Com. Terns seen at L. Havasu Oct. 14 (DS, RH, MS) were a bit late. Three more Com. Terns at the Benson S.T.P. Oct. 1 (SL, JL) were also rare.

No fewer than 10 Ruddy Ground-Doves were reported this fall, with one in Lukeville Oct. 2 (RH), one at the P.A.P. pecan grove Oct. 3 (RD), one at Kino Springs Oct. 28 (†MS), one at Paloma Nov. 1 (RJ, SGa), one in s.w. Phoenix Nov. 7 (M. Baker, D. Fink), one at the Sweetwater Wetlands in Tucson Nov. 11 through the period (J. Nance, ph. MS), two in Maricopa Nov. 13 (R. Witze-man), one at Picacho Res. Nov. 24 (L.

Liese), and one in Patagonia Nov. 27 (M. Brown). Casual in the state, a Groove-billed Ani was reported from L. Montezuma Sep. 24–29 (D. Hook). A Barn Owl at Pasture Canyon Sep. 25 (CL) was only the 8th record for the N.I.R. A late Flammulated Owl was heard calling along South Fork, Chiricahua Mts. Oct. 4 (DJa), and another was picked up in w. Phoenix Oct. 20 (*fide* SGa).

The male Berylline Hummingbird first reported this spring was still present in Ramsey Cyn Aug. 6 (T. Bishop). A Violet-crowned Hummingbird seen along the upper S.P.R. Sep. 6 (m. ob.) was slightly out of place, as were singles in Miller Cyn Sep. 5–11 (S. Johnson, et al.), one at the P.A.P. pecan grove Oct. 3 (RD), and one in Portal Oct. 12 through the period (NM-C, AC). Quite out of place was a Magnificent Hummingbird seen at the Patons' feeders in Patagonia Sep. 23 (RH). Scarce in n. Arizona, an Anna's Hummingbird was seen in Greer Sep. 18 (RH). An ad. Allen's Hummingbird seen defending territory along the upper S.P.R. Sep. 11 (DK) was extremely late for this species in the state.

TROGONS THROUGH THRASHERS

Unusual were 3–4 Elegant Trogons in Portal in mid-Nov. (DJa). Green Kingfishers are slowly increasing in number along the upper S.P.R. again (*fide* DK), and elsewhere singles were at Kino Springs Aug. 5–20 (M. Williams, ph. MS), at Sycamore Cyn Aug. 28 (RH), and at Sonoita Cr. in Patagonia Aug. 30 (M. Miller et al.). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was reported from Coon Bluff Nov. 7 (S. Burge, R. Witzeman). Rare in Arizona, "Yellow-shafted" Flickers included a female at B.T.A. Nov. 4–22 (RH et al.), a male there Nov. 18 through the period (JiB), and another along the upper S.P.R. near Hereford Nov. 16–29 (JH).

A territorial Greater Pewee was in s.w. Phoenix Nov. 27 (TC). The **Eastern Wood-Pewee** found at Madera Canyon remained until at least Aug. 20 (*fide* SGa). A tardy Willow Flycatcher was at Dateland Oct. 4 (RH). Rarely seen in migration in Arizona, an E. Phoebe was at Paloma Oct. 25 (RJ). A late Dusky-capped Flycatcher was in Paradise Oct. 7 (DJa). A couple of late Brown-crested Flycatchers were in a Tucson yard Sep. 4–8 (ME, DS). Of interest was a Tropical Kingbird found away from traditional areas at the W.S.F. near Friendly Corners Aug. 12 (RJ). E. Kingbird reports this fall included two at Cow Springs L. Sep. 5 (CL), one at Becker L. Sep. 6 (ph. CB), and one at Canelo Hills Sep. 12 (J. Bock).

Quite rare in the state, a White-eyed Vireo was found in Portal Aug. 19 (†GHR et al.). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was reported from lower Sycamore Canyon Nov. 30 (†DS); there are currently two accepted sight records for the state and a photographic record under review. An impressive three Red-eyed Vireos were reported in the state this fall, including one along the S.P.R. at Escapule Wash Aug. 13 (RH), one on Mt. Lemmon Aug. 15 (JiB), and another at Lee's Ferry Sep. 23 (CL, NB). Highly intriguing was the report of a male *Sinaloa Martin* seen flying low overhead in good light for 10 seconds at Barfoot Junction in the Chiricahua Mts. (T. Morgan, K. Walz); this species is unrecorded north of Mexico, but occurring as far north as central Sonora, it is generally considered a likely candidate to wander into Arizona. A late Violet-green Swallow was at the Sierra Vista S.T.P. Nov. 22 (DK). Late Barn Swallows included one at Wahweap Nov. 4–5 (CL) and four along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson Nov. 29 (MS).

Two pairs of Bridled Titmouse successfully nested along the upper S.P.R. during the period (DK), providing the first local breeding for this species. Out of place was a Red-breasted Nuthatch at B.T.A. Oct. 10 (DS, T. Staudt). A singing Brown Creeper was found along the upper S.P.R. Aug. 7 through the period (DK). Casual in n. Arizona, a Winter Wren was at Pasture Cyn Nov. 25 (CL). Of interest was an Am. Dipper found in lower Sycamore Cyn Nov. 30 (DS, RH, ph. MS). A Rufous-backed Robin was seen briefly in an oleander hedge near the W.S.F. Oct. 8 (†RH), and another was at B.T.A. Nov. 18 through the period (JiB, RD). A greater-than-normal number of Gray Catbirds was reported in the state this fall, with singles at Kino Springs Oct. 11 (S. Johnson), the Phoenix Zoo Oct. 24–25 (J. Jones), Kingfisher Pond, upper S.P.R., Nov. 5 (JWh), Wahweap Nov. 5–6 (CL, JS), and one in Sonora, Mexico, e. of Puerto Peñasco Nov. 7–8 (L. Langstaff). Rare in Arizona, a Brown Thrasher was at B.T.A. beginning Nov. 27 (JiB).

WARBLERS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

An above-average three Tennessee Warblers were reported this fall, with one in Cameron Sep. 18 (CL), one at Arivaca (SL, JL), and one along the Santa Cruz R. n.w. of Tucson Nov. 18–19 (RH). Four N. Parula reports was above average; singles were near Page Springs Sep. 2 (†ME, N. Brinkley), the Roger Rd. S.T.P. in Tucson Oct. 9 (C. Cathers), the Arizona Sonora Desert

Museum Oct. 25 (ph. MS), and Dudleyville Nov. 22 (RH). Late Yellow Warblers included two in s.w. Phoenix Nov. 14 (TC) and one in Arivaca Nov. 21 (RH). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was at the Roger Rd. S.T.P. Nov. 13–19 (ph. MS, CDB). Casual in the state, a Cape May Warbler was found in n.e. Tucson Nov. 28 through the period (RH et al.). Two Black-throated Blue Warblers were found with one in Sycamore Cyn Oct. 24 (*fide* SGa), and a second in Cave Cr. Cyn, *Maricopa*, Oct. 30 (B. Eilerts). Of interest was a Palm Warbler found along Sonoita Cr., above Patagonia L. Oct. 24 (D. Lauten, RH); this species is casual in Arizona. One of Arizona's rarer warblers, a Bay-breasted Warbler was found in Horseshoe Cyn, Chiricahua Mts., in early Nov. (AC, NM-C). A Blackpoll Warbler found in Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Mexico, Oct. 2 (SGa) may represent the first record for this species in Sonora. Sixteen reports of Black-and-white Warbler was an above-average fall showing. Five Am. Redstarts were reported this fall in the state. Three Prothonotary Warblers were found this fall, with one in Sabino Cyn Aug. 7 (†MS), one at Granite Reef Sep. 24 (†SGa), and another in w. Tucson Nov. 3 (SL, JL). Very scarce in the state, a Worm-eating Warbler was in Miller Cyn Sep. 18 (B. Stocku). An Ovenbird was found in Gilbert Oct. 13–24 (D. Johnson). Very scarce in Arizona, single Louisiana Waterthrushes were along the upper S.P.R. Sep. 10 (DK, HB) and in upper Sycamore Cyn Nov. 30 (rec. DS, RH, ph. MS). Casual in the state, Kentucky Warbler reports included one in Cameron Sep. 18 (CL), and in w. Tucson Oct. 8–15 (ph. †MS et al.). An imm. female **Mourning Warbler** was banded, measured, and photographed along the upper S.P.R. in Garden Wash (†JWh); if accepted by the A.B.C., this will be one of fewer than ten records for the state. Rare in fall, a single Hooded Warbler was in w. Tucson Sep. 22–30 (RH, ph. MS, GH), and (it or another) was seen again there Nov. 11 (J. Nance). Four Painted Redstarts were found this fall in lowland riparian areas away from breeding habitat: Sonoita Cr. Sep. 23 (RH), the Santa Cruz R. n.w. of Tucson Sep. 24 (RH), upper S.P.R. Oct. 1 (DK), and Camp Cr. Oct. 31+ (JC). Arizona's first winter record of **Rufous-capped Warbler** was discovered along the S.P.R. near Hereford Nov. 14 (M. Pretti, m. ob. ph. GHR, JiB) and remained through the period.

Casual in Arizona, an imm. male Scarlet Tanager was in Paloma Oct. 25 (†RJ). At least eight Clay-colored Sparrows were reported in Arizona this fall, an above-aver-

age showing. The only Rose-breasted Grosbeak sightings included one in Miller Cyn Oct. 13 (ph. MS, RH) and one in Whitetail Cyn, Chiricahua Mts. Nov. 29 (R. Taylor). Painted Buntings continue to be reported in the state in small numbers. This fall singles included a male in Tanque Verde Wash e. of Tucson Aug. 9 (†MS), one at Empire Cienega Ranch Sep. 10 (MS), one at Willow Tank Sep. 11 (DJa), one at Becker L. Sep. 13 (RJ), and a late ad. male in n.e. Tucson Nov. 16 (S. Keefe). No fewer than 13 Dickcissels was an impressive fall total. A Bobolink, rare in fall, was at the W.S.F. Oct. 21 (†RH, MS). Casual in Arizona, an Orchard Oriole was at the P.A.P. pecan grove Oct. 17 (WR), and an ad. male returned to a w. Tucson feeder Sep. 23 (H. McCrystal). The fall's only Lawrence's Goldfinch report was of one at Tanque Verde Wash, e. Tucson, Sep. 15 (K. Kaufman, MS).

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Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *North American Birds* are keyed on page 24.

new mexico region



SARTOR O. WILLIAMS III

A warm and generally dry autumn provided mild conditions for birds and birders. Wandering waterbirds and eastern passerines brought excitement, but submontane incursions were lacking. Meanwhile, the state list was increased by one, to 497.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (*Bitter Lake N.W.R.*); Bosque N.W.R. (*Bosque del Apache N.W.R.*); E.B.L. (*Elephant Butte Lake*); L.V.N.W.R. (*Las Vegas N.W.R.*); N.R.T. (*north Roosevelt County migrant trap near Melrose*); R.S. (*Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy County*); R.G.N.C. (*Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque*); R.G.V. (*Rio Grande Valley*); Zuni (*Zuni Indian Reservation*).

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

A good loon season found single **Red-throated Loons** at Springer L. Nov. 14 (JEP, vt. JO) and Sumner L. Oct. 21–Nov. 1 (WW, JEP, JO) and single Pacifics at Springer L. Oct. 31 (JEP, JO) and Heron L. Nov. 7 (M. Haldeman). Commons again lived up to their name, with reports from 20 sites statewide, including 14 at Storrie L. Nov. 11 (WH). Small numbers of Horned Grebes were at 6 e. lakes; earliest was one at L.V.N.W.R. Oct. 18 (CR, BF). An Eared Grebe feeding a chick at Toadlena L. Sep. 20 (ph. TR) furnished a rare *San Juan* breeding record. Perhaps owing to stresses elsewhere, **Brown Pelicans** made an impressive showing, with one–two at Sumner L. Sep. 19–Nov. 11 (v.o.), one–three at E.B.L. Sep. 10–Nov. 27 (v.o., ph. DC), and one–four at Brantley L. Sep. 12–Oct. 19 (v.o.). Scarce in

recent years, an Am. Bittern was at B.L.N.W.R. Nov. 15 (ph. JO) & 27 (JEP). Peripheral Great Egrets included one n. to Stubblefield L. Aug. 2 (JO) and three w. to Deming Oct. 5 (LM). At B.L.N.W.R., where there were two **Reddish Egrets** in late Jul., a single was present on numerous dates Aug. 1–Sep. 11 (JEP, JO, GW) and again Nov. 27 (JEP), while another (perhaps one of the original two?) appeared at Sumner L. Aug. 9 (vt. JO). One–two Tricolored Herons were at B.L.N.W.R. Aug. 1–Sep. 17 (JEP, JO, GW). Unusual was a Cattle Egret at Santa Fe Nov. 21 (S. Phillips); late were 12 at B.L.N.W.R. Nov. 29 (JO). Three Tundra Swans were at Maxwell N.W.R. Nov. 13 (DE). Three Wood Ducks at Glorieta Nov. 3–11 (SOW) furnished a local first. Eurasian Wigeon has become annual in New Mexico; this season found one at R.G.N.C. Nov. 1 (WH). Four Redhead broods were in the Chuska Mts., *San Juan*, Sep. 13 (TR). Early Ring-necked Ducks were four at Toadlena L. Sep. 26 (TR) and one at B.L.N.W.R. Sep. 11 (GW). The only Greater Scaup were two males at Stubblefield L. Oct. 25 (JO). Surf Scoters caused excitement at L.V.N.W.R., with one–three Oct. 29 (WW) to Nov. 15 (DE, JEP, JO, BF, PS).

RAPTORS THROUGH PLOVERS

Migrant Ospreys were much in evidence statewide; noteworthy for the Sacramento Mts. were two at Grindstone L. and three at Mescalero L. Sep. 16 (AP). Single White-tailed Kites were at La Joya Oct. 2 (E. Harvey) and Carlsbad Sep. 17 (SW). North was a Mississippi Kite at Puerto de Luna, *Guadalupe*, Aug. 30 (JO); late was one at Bosque N.W.R. Oct. 16 (CR). Out of range were single Com. Black-Hawks at Santa Rosa Aug. 5 (WW) and Aug. 30 (JO); very late were singles at Glencoe, Hondo Valley, Nov. 22 (AP) and Mangas Nov. 5 (LM). Encouraging for the west were reports of one–three Harris's Hawks in *Hidalgo* (JO), *Luna* (JO, LM), *Doña Ana* (P. Jungemann), and *Otero* (RC). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** at Maxwell N.W.R. Sep. 6 (D. Svingen) may have represented the w. race. The record 14 Broad-winged Hawks counted at the