

# arizona



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The summer season began as one of the driest in years, and although the monsoon rains came early, they petered out just as fast, resulting in a drier-than-normal season, particularly in the southeastern portion of the state. The summer was difficult to characterize, but a number of interesting nesting records was found, including at least one new nesting species for the state (White-faced Ibis). Also of interest was Arizona's second-ever nesting pair of Red-shouldered Hawks, and the usual plethora of interesting nesting records found by the Arizona Breeding Bird Atlas crew in northern Arizona. A few of the rarities reported previously were still present, including the Carolina Wren that is well into its second year! Of particular note is the recent expansion of Eurasian Collared-Dove into Arizona; it was only a matter of time.

**Abbreviations:** H.R.P. (Hassayampa River Preserve); Li.C.R. (Little Colorado River); L.C.R.V.

(Lower Colorado River Valley); S.P.R. (San Pedro River); T.T.L. (Tempe Town L.); W.W.D. (White Water Draw).

## LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

A very early Common Loon at T.T.L. 26–30 Jul (DC, SG) furnished only the 2nd *Maricopa* July record; there are few records before October in s. Arizona. The Least Grebe first discovered 2 Jun at the Sweetwater Wetlands and reported in the spring report, remained through the period (m.ob., ph. MS). Four Brown Pelicans, about normal for an Arizona summer, were reported: one at Green Valley S.T.P. 8 Jul (*vide* MS), another at Apache Junction 25 Jul (T. Plunkett), and 2 at T.T.L. 26 Jul (DC, SG, M. Moore). Least Bitterns are rarely found away from known breeding areas in the southern part of the state, therefore, one at W.W.D. 25 Jul (BP) was noteworthy. Locally uncommon with few summer records, a Great Egret was at Kingfisher Pond along the upper San Pedro River 21 Jun (JW). This summer we received single reports for both Little Blue and Tricolored Herons, both casual visitors from the south. The Little Blue was at Willcox 3 Jun (GC, TS), whereas the Tricolored was found 27 Jul at the Nogales S.P. (BS).

This year the exciting news came from L.C.R.V. that **White-faced Ibis** had finally been confirmed nesting in Arizona, when B. Zaun and K. King (USFWS biologists) discovered a nesting colony 21 Jun within an island

of bulrush at Cibola N.W.R. Although approximately 1500 ibises used this 40 x 40 m stand of bulrush as a nightly roost, only about 75 nests were observed. Most Wood Storks found in the state have been immature birds that wandered north from Mexico in late summer or early fall, so an adult found dead on the early date of 19 Jun n. of Tacna (L. Witaker, ph. LP) was unusual. A number of interesting ducks was found during the period, including a pair of Gadwalls with young at Nogales S.P. 17 Jul (JD), 2 American Wigeons at W.W.D. 30 Jun (MS), and another single at Nogales S.P. 17 Jul (JD). Two pairs of Blue-winged Teal were at the Avra Valley S.T.P. 17 Jun (JH), 3 males were at W.W.D. 30 Jun (MS), and a single male was at Willcox 30 Jun (MS). This species is a casual summer visitor anywhere in s. Arizona. Two lingering Ring-necked Ducks were at Tucson 17 Jun–4 Jul (MS), and an early male Lesser Scaup at Green Valley S.P. was present 18–25 Jul (MS, BP).

Two Mississippi Kites were seen near Cascabel 11 Jul (B. Accord et al.); this is just south of where a pair had been established in the late 1990s. It is not known if this represents an expansion from the Dudleyville area, but it is heartening to know that the small population near Cascabel remains. Early migrant Northern Harriers were noted at a number of locations: one at W.W.D. 1 Jul (JS), one at Water Ranch Ponds, *Maricopa* 22 Jul (JB), 2 at Big Chino Valley 23 Jul (CT), an individual at Salome 28 Jul (RH), and another at Granite Creek, *Yavapai*, 31 Jul (CT). The two *Maricopa* records are the first ever for July. Unusual was a Northern Goshawk seen at a lower-than-normal elevation and out of its preferred pine forest habitat at Harshaw Creek road 16 Jun (JBo). The second confirmed nesting of **Red-shouldered Hawk** in Arizona was discovered this summer at the Hassayampa River Preserve (J. Driscoll, R. Glinski). Unfortunately, by 10 Jul, after more than a month of incubation, it was obvious the nest would fail. The only other previous nesting in the state was along the Colorado River (Mittry Lake) in 1970. Swainson's Hawks were found nesting ne. of Winslow 27 Jun (CL, BW); only a few old records exist for this area. Another pair was found at Polacca Wash, Hopi Tribal Lands, 2 Jul (CL, BW), another new nesting location. A Zone-tailed Hawk nest was discovered 4 Jun (TC) at the Big Springs Work Center, *Coconino*, a site that had apparently been occupied for a few years but that had gone unreported. This is the only known nest on the Kaibab Plateau. A Crested Caracara, east of its known range, was reported at Douglas 3 Jun (C. Nishida).

Small populations of Chukar persist in Arizona, largely in the n. and w. reaches of the Kaibab Plateau and on Black Mesa. This year individuals or small coveys were found in Paria Canyon 7 Jun (TD), Cataract Canyon 2 & 29 Jul (SA), and on the e. slope of Black Mesa 17 Jul (TD). Scaled Quail appears to be a little more widespread in the Li.C.R. drainage in *Navajo* and *Apache* than prior literature has suggested. They were noted w. of the Petrified Forest N.P. 20 Jun (TD, LAM), ne. of Hunt 21 Jun (SA, CW), nw. of Chambers 21 Jun (BT, BW), e. of Saint Johns 14 Jul (TC), and n. of St. Joseph City 11 Aug (BW, TD). A remnant population of California Quail, first released in Arizona during the 1960s and as yet not accepted on the state list, also survives. This year coveys were regularly noted in remote areas of the upper Li.C.R. and below Lyman Lake (B. Heap), where an individual was heard calling 15 Jul (TC).

#### SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The only report of Snowy Plover we received was of 2 at the Water Ranch Ponds 27 Jul (SG). Early shorebirds included a Marbled Godwit found at W.W.D. 19 Jun (D. Flower), with another or the same one there 30 Jun (MS), single Stilt Sandpipers at Willcox 22 Jul (BP) and Sunrise Lake 28 Jul (RMJ), and Short-billed Dowitchers at W.W.D. 16 Jul (J. Mueller, P. Saloman) and Willcox 28 Jul (RT). A Common Snipe was a month early at Yuma 29 Jul (DT). Southbound Wilson's Phalarope can arrive in Arizona by mid-June, most often adult females. Therefore, a report of 3 pairs, with one pair tending a juvenile, from Ganado Lake 13–14 Jun (TM, TC) was interesting. Casual in Arizona, an adult Laughing Gull in breeding plumage was at W.W.D. 8 Jun (*fide* J. Hand). Other seasonal gull reports were a Franklin's Gull at Willcox 15 Jun (RT) and 3 ad. California Gulls at Reid Park, Tucson, 3–9 Jul (MS).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** definitely arrived in Arizona this year; one was at Snowflake 5 Jul (JBo, DS) and 2 were at Roper Lake S.P. 22–23 Jul (J. Williams, B. Metheny, JD). The Ruddy Ground-Dove that spent last winter in a Phoenix yard continued throughout the summer (S. Martin). A Greater Roadrunner nest found 28 Jul at Page (CLa) is the first confirmed breeding for the region. Three Vaux's Swifts at South Fork of Cave Creek in the Chiricahua Mts. 27 Jul (DJ) were more than a month early. A male White-eared Hummingbird spent the summer at the Beatty's in Miller Canyon (T. Beatty, m.ob.). Berylline Hummingbirds were noted in Whitetail Canyon in the Chiricahua Mts.

27–30 Jul (DJ) and in their more usual haunts in both Miller and Ramsey Canyons of the Huachuca Mts. (m.ob.). Nesting was documented twice in Ramsey Canyon, where a female Berylline built a second nest after the first was destroyed by a storm. A casual visitor to the state, a male Eared Trogon was discovered in South Fork 28 Jul (*fide* DJ). A Belted Kingfisher near Pinetop 14 Jul (TC) added to the growing number of summer records above the Mogollon Plateau. Acorn Woodpeckers continued to be present at lower-than-normal elevations this summer. One was found at Tucson 13 Jun (GH), and at least 2 were still at the Arizona State University campus throughout the period, with nesting behavior noted.

#### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS

An ad. Dusky Flycatcher was observed feeding a fledgling in the southern Hualapai Mtns 27 Jul (PF), the first confirmed breeding record from this mountain range for the Arizona Breeding Bird Atlas. An adult Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher seen and heard along a sycamore-lined creek in the southern Pinaleno Mts. near Stocton Pass 1 Jul (TC), provided one of few records of this species from this under-birded mountain range. A pair of Tropical Kingbirds nested at Quitobaquito, Organ Pipe N.M., 24 May–30 Jun+ (ph. T. Tibbitts), the species' most southwesterly nesting in the state. A Thick-billed Kingbird at the entrance to Skeleton Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., 6–13 Jun (DJa) provided what was probably the first record from this mountain range away from the Portal area. Another pair was present most of the period at Kino Springs near Nogales (RH), where the species has been found only sporadically. An Eastern Kingbird was found on the L. Havasu N.W.R. 26 Jul (S. Goodchild); the number of reports has decreased during the past decade, and it is now considered only casual as opposed to a rare but regular migrant.

A **White-eyed Vireo** was found singing at the Florida Work Station in Florida Wash, Santa Rita Mts., 23 Jul–31 Jul+ (W. Leitner), providing about a 13th state record. A Hutton's Vireo found in proper habitat along the New Mexico border se. of Springerville (TC) provided what was likely a first *Apache* record; this species has been found a bit farther south and likely breeds on the White Mountain Apache Indian Reservation. Red-eyed Vireo reports included one at Whitlow Dam 15 Jun (J. Bartley *fide* JWi) and one along the upper S.P.R. near Hwy 90 on 12 Jul (S. Burlow *fide* DKr); caution should be used when identifying this species in Arizona dur-

ing the summer, as the similar Yellow-green Vireo can be dull in appearance and seem similar to a Red-eyed (as was the case with the summer 1999 bird at Patagonia). A real **Yellow-green Vireo** was found along Harshaw Canyon (Rocking Chair Ranch section) 18 Jun–31 Jul+ (JHa, C. Smith, m.ob.), providing what will be only a 6th Arizona record; interestingly, five of the six state records were from June or July, as opposed to most California records, which have mainly occurred later in the fall.

An early Bank Swallow was at W.W.D. 25 Jul (B. Percival). The **Carolina Wren** that was found during the summer of 1999 near Dudleyville along the lower S.P.R. was still present at the end of the season. Amazingly, Winter Wren may be fairly widespread as a breeding bird in wet drainages of the Mogollon Rim ne. of Payson. Breeding was confirmed last year (adults carrying food), and 2 different birds were found this year in Canyon Creek upstream from the Canyon Creek Fish Hatchery 12 Jul (C. Wise), marking the 3rd canyon in the area to have Winter Wrens during the summer. The closest known breeding area to Arizona is northern California, but summering individuals have been reported recently from the Jemez Mts. in northern New Mexico (*fide* W. Howe). A juv. American Dipper reported from the spillway of Parker Dam 25 Jul (R. Higson) represented only the second report from the L.C.R.V., and one of the few lowland reports for the state. A pair of **Black-capped Gnatcatchers** were present in Chino Canyon mid-Jul+ (JLD et al.); a female had been present here for at least a few years, as well as a presumed hybrid male, therefore the presence of a non-controversial male at this location is of great interest.

#### WARBLERS THROUGH MEADOWLARKS

A female Northern Parula reported from along the upper S.P.R. near the Hwy 90 bridge 23 Jul (*fide* Sga) would represent only a second local summer report. Outstanding, particularly for northern Arizona, was a Yellow-throated Warbler at Cameron 13–16 Jun (CL); there were only about 20 previous records for the state. A female American Redstart at Arivaca Cienega 21 Jun (MS) provided one of the few late June records for se. Arizona. A Worm-eating Warbler at Tumacacori 1 Jul (B. Powell) furnished what was only the 2nd July record for the se. portion of the state. A Wilson's Warbler at Cameron 23 Jun (CL) was late. The Rufous-capped Warbler that was found in French Joe Canyon during the winter season was present throughout the period (m.ob.).

Three Green-tailed Towhees were still present at Portal 30 Jun (DJ), representing the latest "spring" record for se. Arizona. A Cassin's Sparrow e. of St. Johns 14 Jul (TC) furnished one of the few *Apache* records and was well n. of this species' normal distribution in the state. A pair of Black-chinned Sparrows near Pipe Springs N.M. 2 Jun (B. Thatcher) was north of this species' known distribution in Arizona; there are breeding records for Black-chinneds from nearby Zion N.P. in southwestern Utah. A number of singing Sage Sparrows southwest of Grand Canyon Village (South Rim) 11 Jun (LAM, CW) was well west of this species' previously known breeding range in the state. A very late Lincoln's Sparrow was at Cameron 10 Jun (CL).

Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at Prescott 6 Jun (M. Dunn), near Watson L. 6 Jun (K. Wingert), at French Joe Canyon 8 Jun (S. Healy), and at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson 23 Jun (MS); this species is rare but regular through most of Arizona in June. A male Varied Bunting at Whitlow Dam 8 Jun (J. Bartley) was well n. of its normal breeding range in Arizona, but there have been a few other summer reports from nearby Boyce Thompson Arboretum. Two Painted Buntings were at Kino Springs 29 Jul (JBu); this species seems to be regular in the Nogales area in late July and early August. Multiple calling Eastern Meadowlarks near Truxton, *Mohave*, 31 Jul (S. Ames, PF) provided additional proof that this species is a regular breeder in the northwest portion of the state.

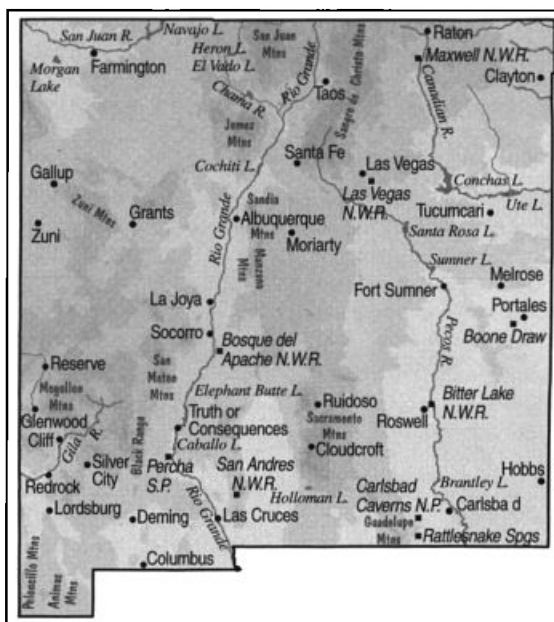
#### CORRIGENDA

The location of the Arizona (Strickland's) Woodpecker reported from ne. of Carefree, *Maricopa* (*N. Am. Birds* 54:84) should be changed to se. Galiuro Mountains, *Pinal*.

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# new mexico



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**S**ummer 2000 was a season of contrasts, with generally dry conditions broken occasionally by intense local storms, while forest and range fires continued to complicate life for birds and birders. Nevertheless, serious work toward documenting breeding birds proceeded on several fronts, and a new species was added to the state list.

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

#### LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS

Always noteworthy in summer, single Common Loons were at Nutria L. 3 Jun (DC) and Bill Evans L. 7 Jul (GE). The Jicarilla Indian Reservation's Stinking (Burford) L. is a vital Eared Grebe nesting locale, but this year the lake was dry and abandoned by grebes and other waterbirds. Elsewhere, up to 250 Eared Grebe nests were at Horse L. 23 Jun (DS), and a second

wave of nesting there had 120 nests 21 Jul (DS); farther east, 20 Eared nests at Maxwell 18 Jun (DC) furnished a new breeding locale. Western Grebes likewise abandoned Stinking L.; a Western nest plus 4 broods at Mundo L. 22 Jun (DS) furnished a local first, and 8 nests were at Horse L. 21 Jul (DS). Clark's Grebes found Stubblefield L. to their liking, with 5 nests there 20–21 Jun (ph. DC) and 20 nests 16 Jul (CR). A Great Egret n. to Springer L. 26 Jun–16 Jul (SOW, JP, CR) provided a local first; 3 were n. in the R.G.V. to La Joya 30 Jul (BV), while 20 provided a Pecos Valley high at B.L.N.W.R. 7 Jul (GW). Seven Snowy Egret nests at Holloman L. (HR) furnished a Tularosa Basin first. Rare but regular herons included single ad. Little Blues near Los Lunas 29 Jun (DS) and at Bosque 10 Jun (JP, JO), and a Tricolored at B.L.N.W.R. 14–25 Jun (JWM, GW). A **Reddish Egret** at B.L.N.W.R. 10–29 Jul (GW, JP, ph. JO) furnished the state's 9th well-documented record. **White Ibises** made news, with 2 adults at B.L.N.W.R. 12 Jun (JBM) and another at L.V.N.W.R. 15–17 Jul (JP et al., vt. JO). White-faced Ibises failed to nest at any of their known breeding locales. Lingering ducks included 5 Ring-neckeds at B.L.N.W.R. (GW) and one at Percha (GE) 2 Jun, a Lesser Scaup at Zuni 8 Jun (DC), and a Bufflehead at Nutria L. 12 Jun (DC). Unusual for *Luna* was a female Common