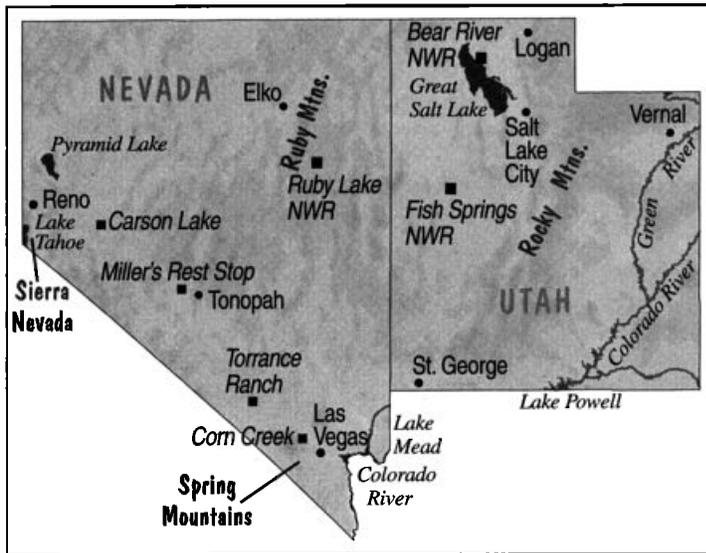


Great Basin



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The winter was mild and fairly dry in northern Nevada and Utah, which boosted the Truckee Meadows, Pyramid Lake, and Carson City Christmas Bird Counts to all-time record highs. The downside of the mild weather was that visitors from the north were in short supply. In the southern part of the Region, temperatures were about average and precipitation was somewhat above average. As in the north, the general pattern in southern Nevada and Utah was primarily toward lingering winterers and early migrants.

Abbreviations: H.B.V.P. Henderson Bird (Viewing Preserve Clark, NV); W.B.L. (West Bountiful Landfill Davis, UT). Christmas Bird Counts referred to in this report include: Elko (Elko, NV), 30 Dec; Fallon (Churchill, NV), 15 Dec; Pyramid Lake (Washoe, NV), 1 Jan; Salt Lake City (Salt Lake, UT), 17 Dec; Truckee

Meadows (Washoe, NV), 16 Dec; Walker Lake (Mineral, NV), 29 Dec; Nevada Bird Records Committee (N.B.R.C.); Utah Bird Records Committee (U.B.R.C.).

Loons Through Ducks

Up to 4 Pacific Loons were at L. Mead, Clark, NV 6 Dec–25 Feb (RS et al.), 3 were at Katherine's Landing, Clark, NV 15 Jan (MSm), and one was at Quail L. Res., Washington, UT 14 Jan (SS). A Yellow-billed Loon at Nelson's Landing, Clark, NV 3 Dec (MC, JCr) was reported without details by two very experienced observers. Small numbers of Horned Grebes were reported from four Nevada locations, and a Red-necked Grebe was at L. Mead, Clark, NV 26 Jan–10 Feb (ph. CT, RS et al.). An American Bittern made the Walker L. C.B.C., and one was at Farmington Bay W.M.A., Davis, UT 13–24 Jan (v.o.). A Great Egret returned to Reno 16 Feb (LW), and a Green Heron was at H.B.V.P. 26 Jan (RS). A few White-faced Ibis lingered until the Fallon C.B.C.

An impressive concentration of 1580 Tundra Swans was noted at Lemmon Valley Marsh, Washoe, NV 13 Jan (TF et al.). A Bewick's Swan also was reported from this location on the same date (†NB) but could not be confirmed during subsequent visits to the marsh. Although the record must remain hypothetical, it was lent some credibility by the large number of swans and other surface-

feeding waterfowl in the area, as well as by the observer's brief but diagnostic written description. The only Trumpeter Swan report was of a single bird at South Fork Res., Elko, NV 2 Dec (MP, LP).

Greater White-fronted Geese were reported from five Nevada and two Utah locations with a maximum of 9 at H.B.V.P. 13 Feb (TF). A Blue Goose was seen in Reno 23 Dec (MM), and single Ross's Geese were reported from several spots in Reno 16 Dec–17 Feb (v.o.) Canada Geese of one or more of the small races were found at 3 n. Nevada locations, with a top count of 8 at Reno 17 Feb (TF, MM).

Wood Ducks were present at the usual spots in Churchill and Washoe, NV, and the top count was 15 at Reno 17 Dec (TF); the top count in Utah was 12 at Provo, Utah 22 Jan (BP). Drake Eurasian Wigeon were found at Provo, Utah, UT 18–24 Jan (v.o) and at the following Nevada locations: Reno 16–23 Dec (DM et al.); Fort Piute Reservation, Clark 15 Jan (MSm); Genoa, Douglas 3 Feb (TF et al.), and the Clark County Sanitation District ponds 30 Jan (CT et al.). The first date for Cinnamon Teal in n. Nevada was 17 Feb in Reno (TF, MM).

Greater Scaup at two Utah and four Nevada locations were led by 12 at H.B.V.P. 13 Feb (TF). A White-winged Scoter was at Pyramid L. 13–21 Jan (LW, JW). Single Long-tailed Ducks were noted at Farmington Bay WMA, Davis, UT 27 Dec (BF) and at Deer Creek Res., Wasatch, UT 1 Jan (JBe). Barrow's Goldeneyes were reported from six Nevada and six Utah locations, and the top tally was 6 at Lemmon Valley Marsh, Washoe 17 Feb (FP, GP). In addition to the usual reports in far w Nevada, a single Hooded Merganser was at Floyd Lamb S.P., Clark 18 Feb (RS). Red-breasted Merganser sightings came from three Nevada and two Utah locations, and the best count was 10 at L. Mead, Clark 12 Jan (RS).

Raptors Through Woodpeckers

Reports of wintering Ospreys, all from Clark, NV, included one at Big Bend State Recreation Area 12 Jan (RS), 2 at Las Vegas Wash 30 Jan (CT et al.), and one at Fort Mojave Indian Reservation 23 Feb (RS). Bald Eagles were reported in small numbers from at least 17 Nevada locations (v.o.), and the top count was 6 in the Carson Valley 25 Feb (JW et al.); in Utah, massive numbers staged at Farmington Bay WMA, Davis, UT, and the top count exceeded 300 birds (m.ob.). Single Red-shouldered Hawks were at Provo, Utah, UT 16 Dec–13 Jan (v.o.) and at four Nevada locales during the period (v.o.). Multiple Merlins were present in Reno all period (v.o.), and sin-

gle birds were noted at 3 other n. Nevada locations, in Utah, a bird of the black race was seen at St George, *Washington* 15 Jan (KW, RF).

A Common Moorhen lingered at Fallon, *Churchill*, NV until 1 Dec (BH), and up to 5 were at H.B.V.P. 11–19 Feb (CN et al.). At least 20 American Avocets lingered for the Fallon C.B.C., and 4 were still at Farmington Bay WMA, *Davis*, UT 13 Jan (HG et al.); the earliest return was a single bird at Reno 16 Feb (LW). A Greater Yellowlegs remained in Reno until 19 Dec (TL), and the first spring arrival was a single bird at Washoe L., *Washoe*, NV 23 Feb (JW). A Spotted Sandpiper was at Fort Mojave Indian Reservation, *Clark* 23 Feb (RS); the species is occasional during the winter months in Nevada. Least Sandpipers were present at five widely scattered Nevada locations during the season, with a high count of 200+ on the Fallon C.B.C. Lingering Dunlins included 77 on the Fallon C.B.C. and 7 on the Walker L. C.B.C. A small flock of Long-billed Dowitchers was present throughout the period at the rather northerly locale of Reno (v.o.), and a single bird at H.B.V.P. 13–17 Feb (TF et al.) was at a more expected location.

It was an undistinguished winter for gulls in Nevada, but Utah produced some good records. The only Bonaparte's Gull in Nevada was a single bird at L. Mead 9 Dec (MC, JCr), while the top count in Utah was 50+ at the Antelope Island Causeway, *Davis* 3 Dec (AR). Single Thayer's Gulls were reported from L. Mead 16–29 Jan (MSm et al.) and from Fort Mojave Indian Reservation 23 Feb (RS), while 2 were at W.B.L. 27 Dec–2 Jan (v.o.). A well-studied possible Iceland Gull was at W.B.L. 22 Dec–6 Jan (†DSH et al.); the possibility of a hybrid or an aberrant Thayer's Gull could not be ruled out, however. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at W.B.L. 2–6 Jan (†CNe et al.). Single Glaucous-winged Gulls were reported from W.B.L. 4–9 Jan (JBe et al.) and from Nevada at Pyramid L., *Washoe* 10 Feb (TF et al.), L. Mead 11 Feb (MC, JCr), and the Walker L. C.B.C. Single Glaucous-winged x Western Gull hybrids were found on the Walker L. and Pyramid L. C.B.C.s; the Pyramid L. bird remained throughout the reporting period (v.o.) At least 3 Glaucous Gulls were at W.B.L. 6 Jan (MS, DW), and one was at Utah Lake State Park, *Utah*, UT 13–22 Jan (v.o.).

A northerly White-winged Dove lingered at Fallon, *Churchill*, NV until 16 Feb (v.o.). At unexpected locations were a Western Screech-Owl at Las Vegas 9 Jan (CT et al.) and a Northern Pygmy-Owl on the Fallon C.B.C. At least 10 Anna's Hummingbirds wintered at six Las Vegas area feeders (v.o.). Single Costa's Hummingbirds were at North Las Vegas, *Clark*,

NV 30 Dec–18 Feb (RS) and at Boulder City, *Clark*, NV until 20 Jan (SG). The only Lewis's Woodpecker report was of 2 birds at the Gilcrease Ranch, *Clark*, NV 6 Jan (MC, JCr). A Yellow-shafted Flicker was at Salt Lake City 13 Dec (JBe).

Flycatchers Through Finches

The status of Black Phoebe in n. Nevada remains poorly understood; this winter, reports of single birds came from Mason Valley W.M.A., *Lyon* 3 Feb (DS) and from *Carson City* 19 Feb (JWa). Northern Shrikes were reported from two Nevada and six Utah locations (v.o.). Single Western Scrub-Jays at H.B.V.P. 19–24 Feb (NB, JC) and at Las Vegas Wash, *Clark*, NV 13 Feb (CT et al.) were far from the mountains. Lowland Pinyon Jays included 1 at H.B.V.P. 16 Dec (RSa) and 100+ at *Carson City* 24 Feb (NB).

Swallows occur so early in the year in s. Nevada that it is hard to know whether they are migrants or winter residents. Some 100+ Tree Swallows were at Big Bend, *Clark* 15 Jan (MSm), and a Rough-winged Swallow was at Las Vegas Wash, *Clark* 9 Jan (CT et al.). Meanwhile, Barn Swallows were back at Las Vegas Wash, *Clark* 13 Feb (CT et al.). A handful of Mountain Chickadees on the Fallon C.B.C. were far from the highlands and foothills in which they are normally resident. Single Winter Wrens at Provo, *Utah*, UT 16 Dec–12 Jan (v.o.) and on the Walker L. C.B.C. were the only reports. A Black-tailed Gnatcatcher at Big Bend, *Clark* was carrying nest material on the early date of 15 Jan (MSm).

More than 100 Mountain Bluebirds gathered at Indian Lakes Road, *Churchill*, NV 13 Dec (AC). Single Varied Thrushes were reported from the following locations: Provo, *Utah*, UT 6–22 Jan (MMo et al.); Pyramid L. 29 Dec (*fide* JT); Walker L. C.B.C.; Ogden Nature Center, *Weber*, UT 11 Jan (LS, PS); and Alamo, *Lincoln*, NV 8 Feb (SG). A flock of 10 Bohemian Waxwings was at Elko 25 Dec (MP, LP), and 18 were present for the Elko C.B.C. A northerly Orange-crowned Warbler showed up at Reno 30 Jan and was present until the end of the reporting period (LW et al.). Myrtle Warblers were reported from the Fallon and Truckee Meadows C.B.C.s; the wintertime status of this bird in Nevada is not well known, and further study is needed. A Yellow Warbler at H.B.V.P. 1 Dec. was quite late (RS), and a Black-and-white Warbler was at Mathis Park, *Washington*, UT 21 Dec (RF). Tardy or wintering Common Yellowthroats were noted on the Salt Lake City C.B.C., at Tonaquint, *Washington*, UT 23 Dec (RF), and at H.B.V.P. 24 Feb (JC).

A Rufous-crowned Sparrow at Red Rock Canyon, *Clark*, NV 8 Jan–11 Feb (CT et al.) was a surprise. The Fallon C.B.C. produced two late Vesper Sparrows. White-throated Sparrows were noted at three Utah locations 10 Dec–13 Jan (v.o.). The only Nevada Harris's Sparrow was reported from Tonopah 11 Dec (JB), but Utah reports came from three locations 13–23 Dec (v.o.). Away from the Sierra foothills (where they are expected), Golden-crowned Sparrows were observed on the Fallon C.B.C., at Numana, *Washoe*, NV 13 Jan (LW), at Red Rock Canyon, *Clark*, NV 15–18 Jan (RS et al.), and at Red Cliffs Preserve, *Washington*, UT 20 Jan (RD). Pink-sided Juncos were reported from nine widely scattered Nevada locations, and Slate-colored Junco from six (v.o.). A flock of 4 Snow Buntings was at the Provo Airport, *Utah*, UT 4 Jan (RSt).

Yellow-headed Blackbirds lingered for the Fallon and Salt Lake City C.B.C., and a Hooded Oriole was present all winter in Las Vegas (BS). The best Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch counts were 281 on the Elko C.B.C. and 300 at Wallsburg, *Wasatch*, UT 7 Dec (GJ *fide* DSh). Upwards of 1000 Black Rosy-Finches were estimated at Antelope Island, *Davis*, UT 15 Jan (DG). The top Red Crossbill count was 71 on the Salt Lake City C.B.C. Small flocks of Evening Grosbeaks were reported from two Nevada and three Utah locations (v.o.).

Cited observers: Joel Beyer (JBe), Nancy Bish, John Brack, Ali Chaney, Jack Cochran, Rob Dobbs, Bill Fenimore, Ted Floyd, Rick Fridell, Hugh Gillilan, Shawn Goodchild, Dana Green, Bill Henry, Grant Jense, Tim Lenz, Dave McNinch, Martin Meyers, Milton Moody (MMo), Colby Neuman (CNe), Christina Nycek, Bob Parsons, Fred Petersen, Gayle Petersen, Lois Ports, Mark Ports, Alan Rogers, Mike San Miguel (MSm), Rick Saval, Betty Seebeck, Dennis Serdehely, Dennis Shirley (DSh), Lee Shirley, Paul Shirley, Steve Sommers, Mark Stackhouse, Reed Stone (RSt), Jane Thompson, Carolyn Titus, Jack Walters, John Warpeha (JWa), David Wheeler, Kevin Wheeler, Larry Williams.

