



Part of a very broad invasion that brought individuals as far south as Texas, this Snowy Owl north of Lake Holbrook in Otero County, Colorado 17 March 2002 was one of at least four still in the state in the spring season 2002. Photograph by Larry Semo.

W.H.R. 1 May (CLW, JB) and the other at L.P. 18 May (SJD, JBF). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was at Casper 5-6 May (B&DW, JL). A male **Connecticut Warbler** was at W.H.R. 18 May (CM, JL, GL, SJD, JBF), and a male **Hooded Warbler** was at E.K.W. 30 Apr—4 May (CM) and a female there 15-19 May (CM, HS, SJD).

Colorado was no less productive. A **Lucy's Warbler** at Lamar, *Prowers* 21 Apr (BPG) provided the 5th state record. A female Northern Parula was in *Alamosa* 27 May (JRa, LR), while a Chestnut-sided was there 2-4 May (LR). A female Hermit was at Barr L., *Adams* 4 May (TL). Single Blackburnian in *Bent* 7 May (DN), at Durango, *La Plata* 13 May (JBy, SA), at C.B.R., *Pueblo* 16-18 May (CLW), and in *Morgan* 18 May (JRi). A Yellow-throated at L. Beckwith in Colorado City, *Pueblo* 2 May (DS). Single Pine Warblers appeared in *Prowers* on 19 Apr (BPG, SC) and 8-10 May (BPG, ph. DAL). Two singing Prairies were in *Pueblo* 28 May (VAT). A female Bay-breasted Warbler was banded at C.B.R., *El Paso* 19 May (TL), and single male Blackpolls were seen in *La Plata* 7-8 (SA, JBy) & 20 May (JBy, SA). A female Black-and-white Warbler was in *Alamosa* 27 May (JRa, LR); a male Prothonotary was at Boulder 2-5 May (TF). A Worm-eating Warbler was in *Alamosa* 16 May (JRa), providing the 2nd San Luis Valley record. Single Kentucky Warblers were rare in *Baca* 5 May (BKP) and at Chatfield Res. 7 (GW; male) & 14 May (JBH; female). A Mourning Warbler was found in *Bent* 9-11 May (DN, SO), and another was in the same county 23 May (DN). A male Hooded Warbler was in *Montezuma* 26-31 May (D&MH), a rare find in sw. Colorado.

**TANAGERS THROUGH CROSSBILLS**

A male Hepatic Tanager was banded at C.B.R., *El Paso* 11-12 May (RL). A Summer Tanager was at Casper, WY 9 May (CM, AH, BR). A Green-tailed x Spotted Towhee was in Casper, WY 16 May (ph. CM, HS). A male **Eastern Towhee** was at E.K.W. 11 May (CM) may be Wyoming's first confirmed record. A **Black-throated Sparrow** was at Seedskafee N.W.R., *Sweetwater* 11-12 May (DF). Easterly were a Sage Sparrow in *Bent* 14 Mar (DN) and 2 in *Jefferson* 5 Apr (RO). Single White-throated Sparrows in Wyoming were one at W.H.R. 1 May (CLW, JBn) and one at Fontenelle Dam 24 May (RS). Three Snow Buntings were in *Gunnison* 19 Mar (LS). At least 6 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were in e. Wyoming 7-24 May (v. o.). A male Indigo Bunting was at W.H.R. 18-24 May (SJD, JBF, DF). A female Painted Bunting was banded in *Prowers* 22 May (BPG). One to 5 Great-tailed Grackles were at T.M.W.A. 21 Apr—8 May (JBF, SJD, DF). A first-spring male **Baltimore Oriole** was at W.H.R. 25 May (DAL). A male Scott's Oriole was in *Jefferson* 13 May (ASy). A Purple Finch was at C.B.R., *El Paso* 5 May (TL, NG). A pair of **White-winged Crossbills** visited Casper, WY 7 Apr (CM) and one was at L.P. 1 May (CLW, JBn). Eight to 10

White-winged Crossbills were at Ft. Collins 16 Mar (DAL).

**Cited observers:** Lyle Anise, Susan Allerton, Jason Beason (JBn), Jim Beatty (JBy), Bob Brown, Stacey Campbell, John Cobb, Alan L. Contreras, Coen Dexter, Stephen J. Dinsmore, Lisa Edwards, David C. Ely, Doug Faulkner, Ted Floyd, Joe B. Fontaine, Jim Gaither, Brian P. Gibbons, Nancy Gobris, Stephanie L. Hanson, J.B. Hayes, Hendrik Herlyn, Dean & Mona Hill (D&MH), Ann Hines, Rachel Hopper, Dave Johnson, Joey Kellner, Gloria Lawrence, Jim Lawrence, David A. Leatherman, Tony Leukering, Rich Levad, Chris Michelson, Joe Mammoser (JMa), Richard Mendez (RMz), Jack Merchant (JMe), Rich Miller (RMi), Duane Nelson, Ric Olson, Stan Oswald, Chris Owens, Brandon K. Percival, Scott Rashid, John Rawinski (JRa), Lisa Rawinski (LR), Betty Rickman, Joe Rigli (JRi), Bill Schmoker, Hustace Scott, Alice Selby (ASy), Larry Semo, David Silverman, Andrew Spencer (ASp), Rick Steenburg, Elena Thomas, Janeal Thompson, Van A. Truan, Glenn Walbek, Bruce and Donna Walgren (B&DW), Richard & Robin Wolcott (R&RW), Chris L. Wood, Mark Yaeger, Barry Zimmer, Kevin Zimmer.



# Great Basin



**Steve Summers**

2146 North Chandler Drive  
Cedar City, Utah 84720  
(summers@cedarcity.net)

**Rick Fridell**

3505 West 290 North  
Hurricane, Utah 84737  
(rfridell@redrock.net)

The Spring season was unusually dry, with some areas experiencing no precipitation during May. Many rivers and lakes in the southern half of the Region were at the lowest recorded levels in decades. At Corn Creek, observers thought this was one of the best spring migrations ever, with numbers of birds exceeding those of the previous five years. It may be the

drought dried up springs and seeps across the Great Basin ranges, concentrating birds in areas with permanent water sources. Birds that are typically well into their mountain breeding habitats by the end of the season were still at lowland locations in early June. Spring flowers were very scarce at many upland locations, and birds such as Broad-tailed Hummingbirds remained in lowland riparian areas and deserts with 100+° Fahrenheit temperatures through the end of the season. And it looks like the Summer season is shaping up to be extraordinarily dry as well. Although many rarities were reported over the bird Internet lines, only a few were very well documented, and for many, no documentation was received at all. It is important to send documentation on all rare birds to your regional editors and appropriate rare bird committees, even if they have been reported on the bird lines. We'd like to thank Ted Floyd who got the Great Basin Region off to a great start. He will be missed throughout the Great Basin, but we all wish him good luck as the new editor of *Birding*.

**Abbreviations:** A.I.C. (Antelope Island Causeway, *Davis* UT); Ash Meadows (Ash Meadows N.W.R., *Nye* NV); Corn Cr. (Corn Creek, Desert N.W.R., *Clark* NV); Farmington Bay (Farmington Bay W.M.A., *Davis* UT); Fish Springs (Fish Springs N.W.R., *Juab*, UT); H B V P. (Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, *Clark* NV); Lemmon V.M. (Lemmon Valley Marsh, *Washoe* NV); Lytle (Lytle Ranch Preserve, *Washington* UT); Miller's R.A. (Miller's Rest Area, *Esmeralda*, NV); Red Hills G.C. (Red Hills G.C., St. George, *Washington*, UT) Overton (Overton W.M.A., *Clark* NV); p a (pending acceptance by appropriate state records committee); P.L. (Pyramid L., *Washoe* NV); Q.C.R. (Quail Creek Res., *Washington*, UT), Stillwater (Stillwater N.W.R., *Churchill* NV).

## LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A **Yellow-billed Loon** at P.L. found earlier in the winter lingered until at least 19 Mar (TL). This species is starting to be a rare but semi-regular visitor to the Region. Single Horned Grebes were reported from P.L. through Mar and into early Apr. The only Utah reports were of one at Paragonah, *Iron*, UT 21 Apr (SS) and one at A I C 28 Apr (J&KB). A **Red-necked Grebe** was at PL 2-19 Mar (TF, NB, TL). One was on the PL CBC but had not been seen since 28 Jan. Three reports of Brown Pelican, all in Nevada, were most unusual. The first was at Ash Meadows 5 May (p. a. DJ, *vide* SG), the 2nd at Stillwater 13 May (p. a. WHe) and the last, an imm, at H.B.V.P. 22 May (p. a. JH).

Several American Bitterns were reported from their regular haunts in Utah (*Box Elder*, *Juab*, *Millard*, and *Uintah*). Great Egrets are much more regular in Nevada than in Utah. Utah reports this spring included 3 at Henefer, *Summit* 28 Apr and 2 at Circleville, *Piute* (both J&KB). A juv. **California Condor** was sighted at Goodsprings, *Clark*, NV on 21 Apr (DB)—undoubtedly a wanderer from the Arizona release sites but impressive nonetheless. More records of this remarkable species should probably be expected in the years ahead. Greater White-fronted Geese went unreported from Utah, but up to 11 were seen at Lemmon V.M. 2 Mar—2 Apr (KM, TF, FP), and 2 were at Overton 7 Apr (JC). On 2 Mar, a high count of 7000 Snow Geese was made at Carson L., *Churchill*, NV (JWa). More than 100 Ross's Geese were seen among 2000+ Snow Geese at Gunnison Bend Res., *Millard*, UT (J&KB). Other reports of Ross's Goose came from *Box Elder*, *Davis*, *Utah* and *Washington* in Utah and *Washoe* in Nevada. Always hard to identify, Trumpeter Swans were reported from Lynndyl, *Millard*, UT 10 Mar (J&KB) and Henefer Wastewater Ponds, *Summit*, UT 14 Apr (DO'B et al.). The highest reported number of Tundra Swans for the season was 1000+ at Bear River N.W.R., *Box Elder* UT (JM et al.) 1 Apr. Nevada's highest reported count was 175 on 2 Mar at Lemmon V.M. (FP). There were nine reports of Wood Ducks from three Utah counties (*Cache*, *Grand*, *Uintah*) and three Nevada counties (*Churchill*, *Clark*, *Washoe*) spanning the season. Blue-winged Teal reports (11 total) were received from four Nevada counties (*Clark*, *Churchill*, *Lincoln*, *Nye*), and four Utah counties (*Davis*, *Summit*, *Utah*, *Washington*), with the earliest at *Nye* 31 Mar and the latest at *Churchill* 17 May. A Eurasian Wigeon was at Lakeridge G.C., Reno 6 Mar (JD, TF). A Eurasian x American Wigeon drake, which is rarely reported in the Region, was at Rosewood G.C., Reno 6 Mar (JD, TF). Greater Scaup, a scarce but regular visitor to the Region, were at Carson L., *Churchill* 2 Mar (JWa), Key Pittman W.M.A. 2 Mar, *Lincoln*, NV (J&MC), A.I.C. 3 Mar (J&KB), P.L. 19 Mar (TL), and Farmington Bay 23 Mar (W&DSg). The 25 Greater Scaup at A.I.C. provided an unusually high count for the Region. Single Barrow's Goldeneyes, another scarce visitor, were at Lemmon V.M. 3-20 Mar (FP, TL, TF et al.), *Cache* Valley, *Cache*, UT 6 Mar (JLo), A.I.C. 20 Mar (PBe), and Farmington Bay 26 Mar (W&DSg).

## HAWKS THROUGH TERNS

Common Black-Hawks were reported as breeding or possibly breeding at three sites in *Washington*, UT. The first reported date of

arrival this spring was 9 Apr along the Santa Clara R. It is hard to tell whether black-hawks are becoming more established in this area or whether birders are getting out into more suitable habitat to look for them. In the last few years, the trend has been toward increasing Red-shouldered Hawk sightings in the Region, and this Spring was no exception. Three birds were reported: one from Warm Springs Ranch, *Clark* NV 1 Mar (TE, DM), one from Stillwater 12 Mar (WHe); and one from Overton 7 Apr (JC). There were two reports of Broad-winged Hawk, both from Utah and both on the same day, 14 Apr. One was at Lytle (RF, KCm), and one was at Utah L. (Genola) (DG, JVM). An extremely late report of a Rough-legged Hawk came without details at H.B.V.P. 11 May (B&PH). Merlins were widely reported throughout the Region, as expected, with the latest being 20 Apr at Carson L., *Churchill* (MME). A Peregrine Falcon flying over Red Hills G.C. 25 May was carrying a prey item, possibly a bat.

The recently discovered Clapper Rails continue at Overton. One was heard there 3 May (DSe et al.). No Black Rails were reported. Nesting of Sandhill Cranes was confirmed for the Carson Valley, *Douglas* NV when a pair with young were seen there 18 May (B&BC). A migrant Sandhill Crane 4 May was a little out of place at Old City Park, Moab, *Grand* UT (DF). Another found dead at Cottonwood Creek, Lake Powell 10 Apr had been banded in Arizona in 1999 (JS). An American Golden-Plover at A.I.C. 13 Apr was the only one of this scarce migrant reported (GB et al). Two Snowy Plovers at Kolob Res. 16 Apr were noteworthy as being at the unusually high elevation of 2428 m (C&MS). Owing to the drought, typically full high elevation lakes and reservoirs showed receding shorelines. An early Lesser Yellowlegs was at Las Vegas Wash, *Clark* NV 5 Mar (CT). Solitary Sandpipers seemed a bit scarcer than usual, with only 3 reported for the Region. Whimbrel is always a good find in the Great Basin, so three reports this spring are noteworthy. The first was in Carson V., *Douglas*, NV 28 Apr (JWa). Up to 2 were seen along the A.I.C. 28 Apr—12 May, and another was at Farmington 12 May (PM). A **Hudsonian Godwit** was reported from Farmington 20 Apr (p. a. J&KB). A flock of about 200 Marbled Godwits 22 Apr at Wahweap Bay, *Kane*, UT was described as a "particularly large flock for Lake Powell" (JS). The only Ruddy Turnstone report came from A.I.C. 23 May (AS). The first Sanderling of the season was at A.I.C. 13 Apr (GB). By 25 May, an estimated 2000+ were gracing the shores of A.I.C. (J&KB). Two were at Overton 3 May

(DSe). A high count of 600+ Western Sandpipers was made 28 Apr at A.I.C. (J&KB). Baird's Sandpipers are very rare as spring migrants and are usually found early, so a slightly late one at H.B.V.P. 11 May was noteworthy (B&PH). Single Dunlins were reported only from A.I.C. and H.B.V.P. 20 Apr & 6 May, respectively. Five were at H.B.V.P. 11 May (B&PH).

An ad. Mew Gull was reported at the Lemmon Drive McDonald's, Reno 29–30 Mar (ph. MR, JT). Thayer's Gulls are somewhat regular in the n. portion of the Region in both states. Four (2 first-years and 2 ads.) were near their probable s. limit of regular occurrence at Walker L., *Mineral*, NV 5 Mar (JD). A Herring Gull (probably a second-year bird) was at Q.C.R. 16 Mar. where they are seldom recorded (P&SS, RF). A Glaucous-winged Gull was at P.L. 2–11 Mar (TF, NB et al.). A rare spring Common Tern was at Q.C.R. 20 May (RF). Two very rare **Least Terns** were reported from Utah. The first was along the Virgin R., *Washington* (†KW) 15 May, and the second was reported without details from the Provo Airport Dike, *Utah* 16 May (MJ).

## DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

**Eurasian Collared-Doves** are again in the news. One was at Corn Cr. 27 Apr (RSa). There has been some debate about the origin of individuals of this species in Nevada and Utah, as well as in adjacent states. It's interesting that this species has not been reported until rather recently, with most of the sightings (perhaps all) in Nevada and Utah in rural areas. If some or all of these birds are escapees, why is it only *now* that they are escaping? This species is definitely moving westward from naturalized populations in the Southeast, and there are now records from most of the lower 48 states. Isn't it likely that these birds are part of that movement? A northerly White-winged Dove was at Fish Springs 2 May (JBa, SO, RSi). More normal was a White-winged Dove at Corn Cr. 12 May, which remained until 31 May (RSa). Inca Doves were reported from *Washington*, where they are breeding and found year-round.

Most unusual was the occurrence of Black Swifts in *Washington*. The first were reported in the Washington Fields 14 May, where they were seen off and on until the end of the period (J&KB, ph. RF, KW). There is only one previous record of this species in *Washington*. Away from *Washington*, 3 were seen at Pelican L., *Uintah*, UT 24 May (J&KB). A major flight of Vaux's Swift occurred in the w. and s. part of the Region, with too many reports (24+) to include here. The first were reported from *Washington*, UT 16 Apr (RF) and the last continued into

summer. Most sightings were of single birds. The highest totals were 10 at Sunset Park, Las Vegas 2 May (J&MC) and 11 at Oxbow Park, Reno 10 May (MMe). Reported sightings came from three Nevada counties (*Clark*, *Lyon*, *Washoe*) and three Utah counties (*Kane*, *Utah*, *Washington*), but they were most certainly more widespread.

Anna's Hummingbirds continue to make a presence in sw. Utah. One male was found 14 Mar (CS) and seen until at least 16 Mar (RF, SS, PS) in Leeds, *Washington*. Another was photographed at Canyon Ridge, Hurricane, *Washington* 2–6 May (RF, KCM). A Calliope Hummingbird at Corn Cr. 9 May was a good find for this desert location (SG). One at Provo, *Utah*, UT 6 May was more expected (MMo). Lewis's Woodpeckers are rare in the s. deserts and in many years are not recorded at all. One was at Overton 9 Mar (B&PH), and up to 3 were at Corn Cr. 27 Apr–2 May (RSa, NB, JT, JC).

## FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatchers were much more evident than usual at lowland migrant traps. Normally only one or 2 a season are seen at places like Corn Cr. and St. George, but this spring, observers were reporting several in a day and throughout the season. There were four reports of **Least Flycatchers** all banded and/or photographed. The first was of one banded at the Ambrose Nature Study Area, Carson City 23 May (JE, JLy, B&BC). The next 3 all came on the same day, 26 May. A photographed bird was at Lytle (p. a. RF, KCM, P&SS); one was banded and photographed at the Carson R. delta, *Lyon*, NV (JE, JLy, B&BC); and one was banded at Numana, Truckee R., *Washoe*, NV (JE, JLy, B&BC).

Northerly Black Phoebes were at P.L. 2–11 Mar (TF, LW, NB); Silver Saddle Ranch, *Douglas*, NV 13 Mar (NB); Mason Valley, *Lyon*, NV 3 Apr (FP); Univ. of Nevada, Reno 12 Apr (TF); and Idlewild Park, *Washoe* 13 Apr (TF et al.). Vermilion Flycatchers were widely reported throughout *Clark*, with a high count of 6 at

Bunkerville Co. Park 11 Apr (DM, DC). They were also reported at their usual locales around St. George, *Washington*, UT. One at Ash Meadows 31 Mar was approaching its northerly limits (JC). One at Capitol Reef N.P. (housing area), *Wayne*, UT 13 Apr was definitely out of range (DW). A Cassin's Kingbird at Lytle 26 Apr was at a usual, but not regular, locale (RF, KW).

The last reported Northern Shrike of the season was seen at the Provo Airport Dike, *Utah* 17 Mar (CPy). There were only three reports of migrating Cassin's Vireos, 2 in *Washington* 14 & 26 Apr and one in *Clark* 13 May. A **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported from Red Hills G.C. 14 May (p. a. J&KB; †to the Utah Bird Records Committee). As yet, there are no accepted records of this species for Utah, and the species is extremely rare anywhere in the West during the spring migration. A Red-eyed Vireo was at Corn Cr. 31 May (RF, RSa). Purple Martins are not often reported from this Region. The only report this season was one at Springville, *Utah* 23 May (J&KB). A singing Cactus Wren in Leeds, *Washington*, UT 16 Mar was probably at the extreme n. limits for the species in the state (P&SS, RF). Two old nests were also found there. Winter Wrens are scarce winter visitors to the Region and occasionally stay in the area into spring. This year, the latest report came on 24 May at Maple Canyon, *San Pete*, UT (KCI). Occasionally some do stay into the summer. The most southerly report was of one at Q.C.R. 19 Apr (RF).

Swainson's Thrush is an expected spring migrant in s. Nevada, but this year observers noted that it was more numerous than usual. Most reports were from *Clark*, but they were reported in Carson City and *Esmeralda* as well. In Utah, Swainson's Thrush is not an expected migrant, especially in the south, so one at the Washington Diversion Dam, *Washington* 22 May was noteworthy (RF). Varied Thrushes, always good finds in the Region, were at Reno 7

**SA** Many Cordilleran/Pacific-slope Flycatchers were reported this season. Martin Meyers reported multiple "Westerns" at Dyer, Lida, Beatty, and Corn Cr. 25–27 May. Most were silent birds, but he noted that "at each stop, at least one or two gave the upslurred call suggestive of Pacific-slope, whereas none gave the two-note Cordilleran call." A "Western" at Lytle 26 May also called several times with the upslurred note of a Pacific-slope (RF, KCM, P&SS). There are no records of Pacific-slope Flycatcher for Utah. Several observers (including both regional editors) have commented on the fact that Cordillerans in breeding habitat in Utah and Idaho can give a Pacific-slope-like call in addition to their usual two-note call. This is certainly the case in e. Oregon and ne. California, where Summers is familiar with this problem. The field separation of these sibling species may not be possible without full song, which is rarely heard from migrants in this area. It is interesting, in any case, that the two-note call of the Cordilleran is virtually never reported here from migrating birds.

Mar (MJE) and Elko 17 Mar (M&LP). A Brown Thrasher was reported at Corn Cr. 27 Mar—5 May by many observers. It was not clear whether only one bird or more were involved. A Brown Thrasher at Stillwater 22 Apr provided that area with a rare report (WHe). Bendire's Thrashers put in a good showing in Clark with one (or more?) at Corn Cr. 6 Apr—8 May, one at H B V.P. 14 Apr (B&PH), and one at Floyd Lamb S.P. 26 Apr (NM). Bohemian Waxwings were only reported from two locations. Fifteen were at Rye Patch Dam, Pershing, NV 1 Mar (JD), and 10+ were at Foote Res., Millard, UT 14 Mar (KW, MG).

### WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS

No fewer than 27 species of warblers were reported in the Region this season. Unfortunately, most reports were gleaned from the Internet, and very few reports included documentation of any sort. A Tennessee Warbler hung around Corn Cr. 17–31 May (RSa, RF), and one was photographed at Parker Ranch, Nye, NV 26 May (R&DSe, MMe). An unexpected female Lucy's Warbler was mist-netted and banded at Fish Springs 7 May (JBa). This is likely the most northerly record of this species in the Region. Four reports of **Northern Parula** were quite good for the Region. The first at Corn Cr. 2–5 May (JC, DC-R) was followed by one at Lower Spanish Fork R., Utah, UT 20 May (DSh), one at Capitol Reef N.P., Wayne, UT 25 May (DG), and one at Santa Clara R. above Gunlock Res., Washington, UT 26 May (†P&SS, RF). A nice male **Chestnut-sided Warbler** graced the Virgin R. at the Washington Diversion Dam, Washington 17 May (†RF, KW, MG). A described first-spring male **Cape May Warbler** was at Corn Cr. 25 May (p. a. †CT, N&KM). A male **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, very rare for spring, was reported from Deseret Ranch, Rich, UT 25 May (p. a. MS). Hermit Warblers were at Corn Cr. 16 Apr (DTr); Pine Valley Mts., Washington 25 Apr (TS); and Lytle 11 May (ph. PF). This species is a scarce spring migrant in the s. portions of the Region. An undocumented, and unprecedentedly early, Blackpoll Warbler was reported from Bunkerville, Clark, NV 12 Apr (p. a. JWa). Six individual Black-and-white Warblers provided more reports than usual at the following locations. Corn Cr. 4–12 May (FO, RSa); Miller's R.A. 18 May (MMe, DTr); Slate Canyon, Utah 22 May (MW); Lakeshore, River Lane, Utah (TR), Torrence Ranch, Nye 26 May (DSe, GS); and Parker Ranch, Nye 28 May (LC). Four American Redstarts were reported, all females or first-spring males: Miller's R.A. 18–19 May (MMe, DTr); Lower Spanish Fork R., Utah (DSh), Corn Cr. 23 May (RSa); and Red Hills

G.C. 24–25 May (RF, KCM, P&SS). One or more Ovenbirds were reported from Corn Cr. 16 Apr—31 May (m. ob.). There was indication whether one or multiple individuals were involved. The only other Ovenbird report came from Torrence Ranch 25–26 May (m. ob.). A Northern Waterthrush was at Corn Cr. 11–16 May (m. ob.), and one was at Bodyfeldt Ranch, Nye, NV 17 May (DTr). A Louisiana Waterthrush report with no details came from Deseret Ranch, Rich, UT 27 May (p. a. MS). If accepted by the state review committee, this would constitute Utah's first record. Utah's 2nd **Kentucky Warbler** was a male banded and photographed at Sheep Creek Canyon, Uintah 25 May (RN et al.). No description was submitted for a Hooded Warbler reported 27 Apr at Natural Bridges N.M., San Juan, UT (p. a. DF). This would be a somewhat early date for this distinctive species. Most observers commented on the abundance of migrating Wilson's Warblers. One observer called it "astounding." Following last year's Painted Redstart at Zion N.P., another (or possibly the same) bird showed up again this year. A singing male was first reported 7 Apr at the Temple of Sinawava (PP), and was subsequently seen by many observers. One observer thought there might have been two redstarts present. Then, on 28 Apr, two separate birds were definitely seen more than 2 km apart (RF, KCM). The 2nd bird was silent, perhaps indicating a female was also present. The last reported sighting was 13 May (J&KB). Another Painted Redstart was reported without details at Bunkerville County Park, Clark 8–10 Apr (p. a. RSt, DG, DC).

A report of an ad. female Hepatic Tanager at a feeder at Stillwater 21 May comes without details (p. a. WHe). Since this is well n. of this species's expected range, we hope this record will be submitted to the state records committee. Two northerly Summer Tanagers were reported. A second-year male was mist-netted and banded at Fish Springs 13 May (JBa), and a male was at Miller's R.A. 18 May (MMe).

### SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

Clay-colored Sparrow reports numbered five, which is unexpected. The first was at Provo Airport Dike, Utah 27–28 Apr. (MW, TR). This was followed by individuals at Corn Cr. 8 May (†CT, N&KM), Red Hills G.C. 13–14 May (†RF, KCM, J&KB), Lower Spanish Fork R., Utah 20 May (DSh), and Lytle 26 May (†RF, KCM, P&SS). Grasshopper Sparrows were again found on Antelope I., Davis, where at least one was seen 25 May (J&KB). Fox Sparrows are only uncommonly reported during migration in Utah and s. Nevada, so individuals at City Creek, Salt Lake City 16 Mar (KCC, KK) and

Corn Cr. 31 Mar (B&PH) are interesting. The one in Salt Lake was likely a Slaty form, but the one from Corn Cr. could have been any of several subspecies. A White-throated Sparrow was at Leeds, Washington, UT 4 Apr (C&MS), another was at the Provo Airport Dike 29 Apr (TR), and a 3rd was at Fish Springs 29 Apr (SO). These were the only reports this spring. The only Golden-crowned Sparrow reported was one at Corn Cr. 11 May (JC).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are getting to be regular spring migrants. This year there were seven reports, all males. An early one was photographed at a feeder in Elko, NV 1 Apr (Larry Heske *vide* Pete Bradley). One in Panguitch, Garfield, UT 15 May may be that county's first (CW). One at Dyer, Esmeralda 17 May (MMe) and one at Miller's R.A. 27 May (JWa, DTr) were at regular vagrant traps, as was one banded at Fish Springs on 22 May (JBa). Corn Cr had one 23–26 May (RSa, CT et al.). One in the White Mts. at Queen Canyon, Mineral, NV 27 May is probably one of a few records for that under-birded county (J&DP). Indigo Buntings are another regular "eastern" vagrant to the Region, but the only ones reported this spring were from Corn Cr. 2–31 of May, with a high count of 5 (2 ad. males, 2 first-year males, one female) 19 May. A male **Painted Bunting** was seen by several observers at Corn Cr. 8–13 May. It was photographed by CT on the last day of its stay there. The origin of Painted Buntings outside of their normal range in the Southwest is often questioned, and inasmuch as thousands are trapped for sale in Mexico annually, there is good reason to consider captive origin. But this spring saw a notable irruption of this species from mid-May to early June into many parts of the continent, and, in this context, an overshooting May migrant is quite plausible in our Region.

Migrant Bobolinks are always notable in the Region. Two, then one, were at Miller's R.A. 14 & 18 May (JWa, MMe, DTr). A male was at Fish Springs 16 May (JBa); and at least one was in the Heber Valley, Wasatch, UT 17 May, where they are known to breed (J&KB). Tricolored Blackbirds were at their known areas in the Carson Valley 11 Apr—20 May. A high count of a 10 nesting pairs was made 28 Apr (B&BC). Two Common Grackles were reported from Taylorsville, Salt Lake 26 Apr (CD), and 3 were at Charleston Park, Cache, UT 18 May (J&KB). A fairly well-described **Bronzed Cowbird** was at Red Hills G.C. 8 May (MMo et al.). If accepted, this would constitute Utah's 3rd record. A photographed male Baltimore Oriole was at Corn Cr. 9 May (CT). Numbers of Scott's Orioles in some desert locations were remarkable. At Lytle during late May, 50+ were counted.

# Arizona

ed in the orchard at the ranch. They were also much more numerous at Corn Cr. than normal. Perhaps the drought has driven them out of their parched Joshua Tree—juniper woodlands habitat. Likewise, there were surprising numbers of Cassin's Finches in Dyer, NV 17 & 25 May. On the 17th, at least 35 were there and on the 25th there were nearly as many (MMe). A holdover from last season's invasion of Common Redpolls was at a residential feeder in Emigration Canyon, Salt Lake 13 Mar (J&SSa). Finally, an obvious escapee European Goldfinch was seen and photographed in Layton, Davis, UT 31 Mar (BF).

**Contributors and cited observers:** Jay Banta (JBa), Glenn Barlow, Pat Bean (PBe), Joel & Kathy Beyer, Jack Binch (JBi), Nancy Bish, Donn Blake, Pete Bradley (PBr), Richard, Brune, KC Childs (KCC), Beth & Bill Clark, Jack Cochran, Kevin Colver (KCl), Kristen Comella (KCM), Donna Crail-Rugotzke, Jim & Marian Cressman, Dorothy Crowe, Laura Cunningham, Marilyn Davis, Jon Dunn, Jim Eidel, Mary Jo Elpers, Damian Fagan, Bill Fenimore, Ted Floyd, Rick Fridell, Pomera Fronce, Shawn Goodchild, Matthew Gowans, Dana Green, Ray Groesbeck, Brian & Phoebe Hawson, Jim Healey, W. Henry (WHe), William Hunter (WHu), Debi Johnson, Mike Johnson, Katie Knight, Tim Lenz, Kent Lewis, James Lofthouse (JLo), Jim Lytle (JLy), Kevin Mack, Neil & Karen McDonald, Don McIvor, Paul Merola, Martin Meyers (MMe), Milton Moody (MMo), Russell Norvell, Deedee O'Brien, Sam Orr, Felix Owens, Jim & Debby Parker, Christian Peay (CPy), Fred Petersen, Cheryl Paterson (CPT), Paul Pisano, Mark & Lois Ports, Mike Rogers, Tuula Rose, Terry Sadler, Jeffrey & Susan Saffle, Mike San Miguel, Rick Saval (RSa), Greg Scyphers, Donna Segni (DSe), Wes Segni, Dennis Serdehely (DSe), Rebecca Serdehely, Charlie & Marilyn Sheard, Dennis Shurley (DSh), Robert Sims (RSi), Arnold Smith, John Spence, Mark Stackhouse, Rose Strickland (RSt), Priscilla Summers, Steve Summers, Jane Thompson, Donna Thorum (DTh), Carolyn Titus, Dennis Trousdale (DTr), Julie VanMoorhen, Jack Walters (JWa), Merrill Webb, Kevin Wheeler, Larry Williams, Jason Williams (JWi), Cathy Woodard, Dave Worthington.



## Gary H. Rosenberg (Passerines)

P.O. Box 91856  
Tucson, Arizona 85752-1856  
(ghrosenberg@comcast.net)

## Mark M. Stevenson (Non-Passerines)

4201 East Monte Vista Drive, #J207  
Tucson, Arizona 85712-5554  
(drbrdr@att.net)

**E**xtrême dry conditions persisted statewide, leading to early forest fires and eventual closure of many public lands. Migrants were concentrated at the remaining water sources, giving at least the appearance of large numbers. *Empidonax* flycatchers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were particularly numerous this season. Conversely, shorebirds were considered sparse in most areas. Very exciting was Arizona's second Snow Bunting, far to the south in Thatcher. Nearly as exciting was another nesting by Rufous-capped Warblers in French Joe Canyon.

**Abbreviations:** A.B.C. (Arizona Bird Committee), A.V.S.T.P. (Avra Valley Sewage Treatment Plant), C.S.L. (Cow Springs L.), H.R.P. (Hassayampa River Preserve), L.C.R. (Lower Colorado River), N.I.R. (Navajo Indian Reservation), P.A.P. (Pinal Air Park pecan grove), S.P.R. (San Pedro River).

## LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

Several loons were late in migrating or depart-

ing, including a Pacific Loon at Lake Havasu City 13 Apr (RD et al.), a Common Loon at Sierra Blanca L. 18 May (DR, GC), and the wintering **Yellow-billed Loon** at Lake Havasu City, last reported 13 Apr (RD, m. ob.). Still casual, a Least Grebe at Sweetwater Wetlands, Tucson 8 May+ (†BZ, KZ; ph. GHR, m. ob.) was the 2nd at this site in two years, and only the 3rd ever from spring. Casual away from the L.C.R., a Horned Grebe was at Becker L. 28 Mar (DR) A Red-necked Grebe on L. Havasu 13 Mar (†JH) would be about the 8th record if accepted by the A.B.C. The pattern of occurrence of Clark's Grebe is still being discerned; spring reports were from Willow L. 26 Mar (CST), 2 at Fountain Hills 6 Apr (TC), Tucson 19 Apr—12 May (D. West), Santa Cruz R., Tucson 21 Apr (MMS), 3 at Saguaro L. 11 May (TC), Willow L. 12 May (CST), and Crescent L. 24 May (SB)

A Brown Pelican at Luna L. 25 Apr+ (DR, GC, m. ob.) was the 3rd record from this site in the ne.; all 3 have been imm. Thirty Neotropic Cormorants were along the Gila River w. of Phoenix 30 Mar (TC), now regularly outnumbering those at Patagonia L. at this, their n limit. An American Bittern at Willcox 26 Apr—18 May (B. Percival, DS et al.) was late for the se A flyby Little Blue Heron over Sweetwater Wetlands 25 Apr (†MMS, RH) was casual. A late migrant Canada Goose was at Willcox 2 May—2 Jun (RT et al.). Montezuma Well hosted a male Eurasian Wigeon 19 Mar (B Hirth) Another late migrant, a female Surf Scoter was at Thatcher S.T.P. 13 May—2 Jun (ph. JW, m