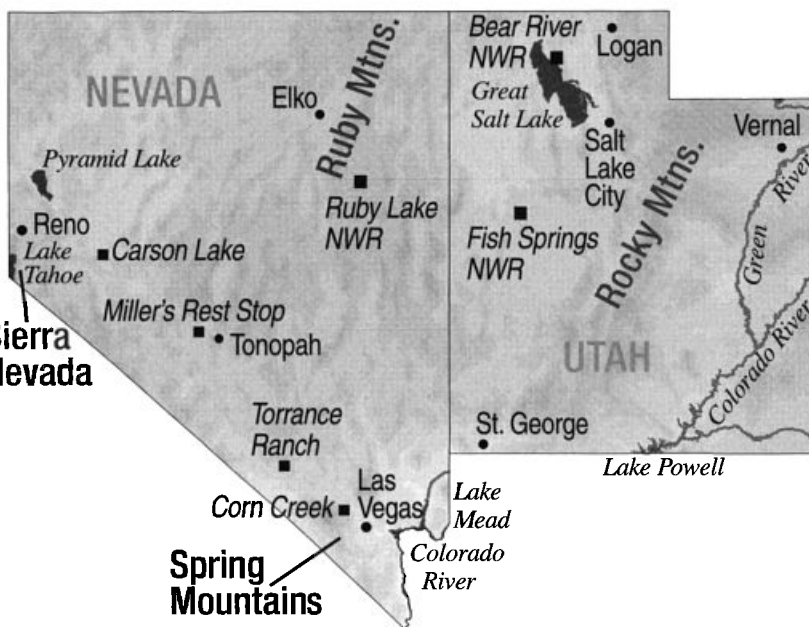


Great Basin

WARBLERS THROUGH CROSSBILLS

A singing male **Golden-winged Warbler** was at Black Hills N.F., near Hulett, *Crook*, WY 17-23 Jun (MR, DF). Late migrant warblers included a male Black-throated Blue Warbler in Denver 10 Jun (MB); a male Blackpoll Warbler at Colorado City, *Pueblo* 4 Jun (DS); a male Prothonotary Warbler in Ft. Collins 1 Jun (NKr); and a male Kentucky Warbler in Ft. Collins 7-9 Jun (NKr). The male Hooded Warbler found in late May in *Montezuma* was still present 2 Jun (*vide* SA), and a female Hooded Warbler was at Tamarack Ranch, *Logan* 2 Jun (NKr). Two male (one ad. and one first-year) Summer Tanagers were in Pueblo 13-14 Jun (VAT). Four singing Cassin's Sparrows were e. of Torrington, *Goshen*, WY 21 Jun (DF, RL); apparent numbers in Colorado were much reduced by the extreme drought. North of normal, 2 ad. and 3 juv. Black-throated Sparrows were in Loveland, *Larimer* 26 Jun—3 Jul (NK, DAL, RH). A Northern Cardinal was singing in the Bear Lodge Mts., WY 18 Jun (NB). A male Painted Bunting was in Cottonwood Canyon, *Baca/Las Animas* 23 Jun (JC). A male Baltimore Oriole was at Florence, *Fremont* 11 Jul (MPe). A pair of White-winged Crossbills was found breeding in *Eagle* 29 Jun (TJ, DJ).

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The extended drought in the Great Basin continued through the summer season. Water levels in many streams, lakes, and reservoirs reached all-time lowest recorded levels. There were very few bird reports on the Internet birdlines during the season and even fewer summer reports submitted. It is difficult to speculate to what extent the continuing high heat and drought influenced the distribution of birds in the Region—or rather the activity of birders.

Abbreviations: Ash Meadows (Ash Meadows N.W.R., *Nye*, NV); Corn Cr. (Corn Creek, Desert N.W.R., *Clark*, NV); H.B.V.P. (Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, *Clark*, NV); Hurricane S.P. (Hurricane/SR-9 Sewer Ponds, *Washington*, UT); 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); S.M.M.W.P. (Scott M. Matheson

Wetlands Preserve, *Moab*, *Grand*, UT), S.S.G.S.L. (South Shore of the Great Salt Lake, *Salt Lake*, UT), Sunset Park (Sunset Park, *Las Vegas*, *Clark*, NV).

LOONS THROUGH TERNS

There were two reports of Common Loons summering in the s. part of the Region: Ash Meadows 5 Jul (JC) and 19 Jul+ at the recently constructed Sand Hollow Reservoir, *Washington*, UT. Two to three pairs of Eared Grebes successfully fledged 8 young at the H.B.V.P. in s. Nevada (RS). Great Egrets are irregular during the summer in Utah, so one at the James W. Fitzgerald W.M.A., *Toole*, UT 28 Jul was noteworthy (KCh et al.). Blue-winged Teal, a scarce but regular summer visitor to the Region, were reported from two Nevada counties (*Clark*, *Washoe*) and two Utah counties (*Wasatch*, *Washington*), with a high count of 10 observed at H.B.V.P. 6 Jul (RS).

A **White-tailed Kite** was reported from Locomotive Springs W.M.A., *Box Elder*, UT (†JN). This would be the 4th Utah record (p a.). A pair of Common Black-Hawks was seen along the N. Fork of the Virgin R., *Zion* N.P. on 21-22 Jun (DH). It is not known whether these black-hawks were nesting or were post-nesting visitors to the area. Although Common Black-Hawks have recently nested in other riparian areas within *Washington*, UT, it has been over 30 years since the last

confirmed nest in the Zion National Park area. Red-shouldered Hawks were reported from Corn Cr. 22 Jun (RS) and Parker Ranch Preserve, Nye, NV 7 Jul—7 Aug (LC). A single Zone-tailed Hawk was observed at an elevation of 3486 m at Bald Mountain, Great Basin N P, *White Pine*, NV 31 Jul (JF).

Common Moorhens are uncommon and localized permanent residents in the s. portion of the Region, so ads. with 2 fledged young at H.B.V.P. 7 Jul (RS) and an ad. and juv. at Berry Springs Marsh, *Washington*, UT 16 Jul (RF) were noteworthy. Snowy Plovers were reported from Soda L., *Churchill*, NV 14 Jun (TL) and from Ash Meadows 5 Jul (JC), while at S.S.G.S.L. an incredible count of 129 individuals was made 26 Jul (AN, DO et al.). The first southbound Lesser Yellowlegs in Nevada were reported from Ash Meadows 5 Jul (JC), and the first in Utah were observed at S S G.S.L. 8 Jul (AN, DO et al.). A very early, or perhaps late, Solitary Sandpiper was seen at Lemmon Valley, *Washoe*, NV 24 Jun (TL, JT). A well-documented Semipalmated Sandpiper was observed at the H.B.V.P. 12 Jul (†RS). The only Baird's Sandpiper reported during the summer season was observed at the Hurricane S.P. 28 Jul (KCo, RF).

An ad. light-morph **Parasitic Jaeger** was observed at Deseret Ranch, *Rich*, UT 6-13 Jun (p a, MS et al.). If accepted by the records committee, this would be the 9th record of Parasitic Jaeger in Utah, with most of the observations occurring in Aug and Sep. Lone Franklin Gulls were reported on somewhat early dates in *Churchill*, NV 26 Jun and *Washington*, UT 16 Jul. Two rare **Least Terns** were observed flying over Crystal Res. at Ash Meadows 20 Jun (p. a. SG). This report followed a strong spring season with two Least Tern reports in Utah. Black Terns are rare migrants through sw. Utah, so an ad. observed at the Hurricane S.P. 22 Jul (KCo, RF) was notable.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Several White-winged Doves were reported n. of their breeding range during the summer season. The first was found at Miller's R. A. 2 Jun (DT), another was observed in Moab, *Grand*, UT 14 Jul (DF), and a 3rd was reported from along the Jordan R., *Salt Lake*, UT 20 Jul (JHo). The only Yellow-billed Cuckoo reported during the summer season was seen at Corn Cr. 22 Jun (RS). Black Swifts continued their unusual presence in *Washington*, UT, with between 7 and 23 individuals observed flying over the Washington Fields 4-16 Jun (RF, KW, KG, MG). A single Black Swift was also seen flying over Kolob Res.,

Washington, UT 29 Jun (RF). The major spring flight of Vaux's Swifts continued into the summer season, with a single individual observed at South Fork Pinto Cr., *Washington*, UT 9 Jun (S&PS). Reports of Anna's Hummingbirds are becoming increasingly common in the Great Basin, and this summer season was no exception, with an ad. male observed visiting a feeder in Reno, NV 23 Jun (D&AM).

Although bird sightings were relatively few during the summer reporting season, there were many noteworthy woodpecker reports. First, a pair of Lewis's Woodpeckers was found nesting in an aspen cavity near Kolob Res., *Washington*, UT 8 Jun (JJ et al.). The site was revisited 29 Jun, and the ads. were observed feeding young. At this time an additional nest with young was also located (RF). These are the first confirmed breeding records of Lewis's Woodpeckers in *Washington*, UT. A well-described **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found at White Pine L., *Cache*, UT 7 Jul (†RR). This bird was last reported 27 Jul (EJ). This is one of only a handful of records for this rare species in Utah and represents the first *Cache* sighting. Black-backed Woodpeckers are extremely rare in the Great Basin, and, as contributor Will Richardson noted, "it may be arguable whether or not the w. slope of the Carson Range, NV constitutes the Great Basin." Nevertheless, Will's finding of two active nests in the Tahoe Basin, in the Carson Mts., is worthy of note. The first nest was located 24 Jun near Marlette L., *Washoe*, and the 2nd nest was located 25 Jun at Logan House Cr., *Douglas* (WR).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Unusually high numbers of Olive-sided Flycatchers continued to be seen at lowland migrant traps, with the last report of the season from Corn Cr. 11 Jun (RS). A pair of Vermilion Flycatchers was observed feeding a fledgling throughout the season at Red Hills G.C. (m. ob.). A juv. Vermilion Flycatcher was found at Corn Cr. 26 Jul (RS). An Eastern Kingbird was reported from the Provo Airport Dike, *Utah* 15 Jul (KCh). A somewhat late migrating Cassin's Vireo was observed along the Virgin R., *Washington*, UT 3 Jun (KCo, RF). A Red-eyed Vireo, first reported in late May, lingered at Corn Cr. through 3 Jun (DT, RS, †C&RT).

A late migrating Swainson's Thrush observed at Corn Cr. 9 Jun (RS) added to the unusually high numbers reported from *Clark* during the spring season. A Brown Thrasher was observed at Miller's R.A. 1-2 Jun (J&KB,

DT). Another Brown Thrasher was reported from Sunset Park 23 Jun (ST). Bendire's Thrashers are very rare summer residents in sw. Utah, so a juv. reported from the Beaver Dam Slope, *Washington* 14 Jun was notable.

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS

There were an incredible 27 warbler species reported in the Great Basin Region during the spring season; and the summer season continued with a strong warbler showing. A Blue-winged Warbler was reported without details from Sunset Park 11 Jun (CP, *vide* CT). A Lucy's Warbler was observed in N Cottonwood Canyon, *San Juan*, UT 10 Jun (DF). A **Northern Parula** was photographed and banded at Capitol Reef N.P., Wayne, UT 16 Jul (TC et al.). Quite unusual for spring, a male **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, was banded in Sheep Cr. Canyon, *Daggett*, UT 4 Jun (RN et al.). A male Black-throated Green Warbler was a good find at Corn Cr. 2 Jun (RS), and an errant Black-and-white Warbler was observed at Cave Lake S.P., *White Pine*, NV 14 Jun (RB). An imm. American Redstart was reported from Corn Cr. 1 Jun, and an ad. female was observed there 9-19 Jun (RS). An ad. male American Redstart graced the Jordanelle Wetlands, *Wasatch*, UT through 30 Jun (b. 7 Jun; RN et al., m. ob.). A male **Prothonotary Warbler** was observed at Corn Cr. 8-9 Jun (†RS). An errant **Worm-eating Warbler** was mist-netted and banded at S.M.M.W.P. 25 Jun by Utah Division of Wildlife Resources personnel (*vide* DF). A single Ovenbird and a Northern Waterthrush were reported from Corn Cr. 9 Jun (RS). Summer Tanagers are rare anywhere outside the extreme s. portion of the Region, so a male and female were nice extralimital finds at Newspaper Rock, *San Juan*, UT 10 Jun (DF).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

Rufous-crowned Sparrows are rare permanent residents in extreme s. Nevada and sw. Utah. The only report of this very local species was of 2 from the lower slopes of the Virgin Mt. range, *Clark*, NV 2 Jun (JC). There were two unusual mid-Jun sightings of White-throated Sparrows in the Region. Corn Cr. 10-11 Jun (WE, RS) and Red Hills G.C. 15 Jun (SS). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks continued a recent trend with a strong summer showing in the Region. They were found at four Nevada locations: a female at Miller's R.A. 1 Jun (J&KB) and males at Fallon, *Churchill* 11 Jun (CG), Corn Cr. 19 Jun (RS), and Oxbow Park, Reno, *Washoe* 14 Jul (FP). Male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were also

reported from B.Y.U. Arboretum, *Utah* 7 Jun (DM), Lytle 14 Jun (RF), and Draper, *Salt Lake*, UT 3 Jul (ND). The only reports of Indigo Buntings for the season came from *Esmeralda* and *Clark* in Nevada and *Washington*, UT. A somewhat late migrant Bobolink was a nice find at the H.P.V.P. 2 Jun (JH, CP). Common Grackles were observed in Randolph City Park, *Rich*, UT 2 Jun (JV, DG). Finally, a Pine Siskin was out of place at Ash Meadows 5 Jul (JC).

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Arizona



GREBES THROUGH HAWKS

The **Least Grebe** continued at S.W.T. 1 Jun+ (m. ob.). Still considered casual in summer in s. Arizona, Eared Grebes were 5 at Willcox 1 Jun+ (JBo, MPo, MMS, m. ob.), 2 at the Chandler S.T.P. 7 Jul (PD, DPe), and one on the Gila Indian Reservation 4 Jul (PD, DPe) No nesting was observed. Casual Western Grebes away from known breeding areas were singles at Thatcher S.T.P. 2-7 Jun (JBo, MPo, MMS), Willcox 2-18 Jun (JBo, MPo, MMS), and Amado S.T.P. 21 Jul (JH et al). Even less common, Clark's Grebes were one at Willcox 2-12 Jun (HD, m. ob.) and 2 there 13 Jun (BS, MMS). Several Clark's were observed at Roosevelt L. 14 Jul, where they may breed (TC). Casual in summer away from the L.C.R.V., American White Pelicans included 10 at Tucson 2 Jun (B. Hotchkiss), one at Willcox 4 Jun (BM, DP), 2 at Alamo L. 11 Jun (TM), 50 at Roosevelt L. 20 Jun (JE), and 2 at Marana 25 Jun (MMS). **Brown Pelicans** appeared in unprecedented numbers across the state beginning in the 2nd week of Jun, with reports of up to 50 specific birds during the season. At least 18 were taken to recovery centers (*vide* BB, TC), and numerous others were observed dead along roads sw. of Phoenix (*vide* TC) and elsewhere, indicating substantial mortality. Totals of greater than 25 are very rare. Estimates of 100+ birds in Arizona this summer (TC) reflect high recruitment of juvs. in Sea of Cortez breeding areas and suggest possible prey limitations there. Numerous dispersing juvs. were found in similar straits in far se. California at the same time (*vide* C. Pelizza).

A Neotropical Cormorant at Alamo L. 11 Jun (TM) was nw. of usual areas and likely repre-

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The prolonged drought continued statewide, leading to major forest fires and the closure of most public lands until

mid-July, when the summer rains began. The closures significantly reduced observer coverage of most of the state.

Abbreviations: A.B.C. (Arizona Bird Committee); A.V.S.T.P. (Avra Valley Sewage Treatment Plant); B.T.A. (Boyce Thompson Arboretum); H.R.P. (Hassayampa River Preserve); L.C.R.V. (Lower Colorado River Valley); N.I.R. (Navajo Indian Reservation); P.A.P. (Pinal Air Park pecan grove); S.P.R. (San Pedro River); S.W.T. (Sweetwater Wetlands, Tucson).