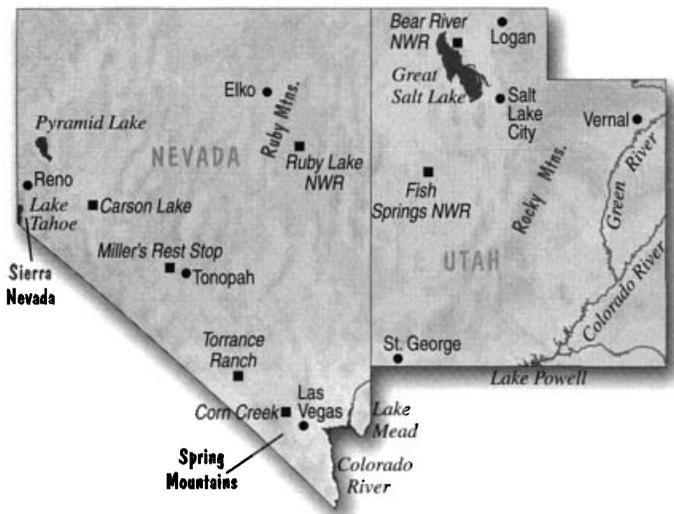


Great Basin



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The dry conditions of spring and summer continued throughout the Basin for the fall. Many areas are still well below normal for precipitation, and the mountains head into winter with a below-average snow pack. How the drought may be affecting birds is not clear. Mountain species were little reported in the lowlands, perhaps due to the mild conditions and lack of snow at higher elevations. Warbler migration was average, with a few highlights and no large concentrations reported.

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); Garr Ranch (Garr

Ranch, Antelope Island S.P., Davis, 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); Parker Ranch (Parker Ranch Preserve, Nye, NV); Red Hills G.C. (Red Hills Golf Course, St. George, Washington, UT); Overton (Overton W.M.A., Clark NV); P.L. (Pyramid L., Washoe NV); Q.C.R. (Quail Creek Res., Washington, UT); South Shore G.S.L. (South Shore Great Salt Lake, Salt Lake, UT); Stillwater (Stillwater N.W.R., Churchill NV); U.B.R.C. (Utah Bird Records Committee), Washington Fields (Washington Fields, Washington, UT).

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Four reports of Pacific Loon (Washoe, NV; Garfield, Morgan and Salt Lake, UT) were normal for the Region. Horned Grebes were widely reported, with a high count of 8 at L. Tahoe, Washoe 11 Nov (MM). Four Red-necked Grebes were reported: single individuals were observed at P.L. 2 Oct–23 Nov (JF, SF), East Canyon Res., Morgan, UT 28 Oct–3 Nov (ph. JTo, BHt, GC), Lindon landfill pond, Utah, UT 1–5 Nov (ph. KCC, EH, TR), and Q.C.R. 17 Nov–18 Dec (ph. RF). An unusually high count for Washington of 471 American White Pelicans was made at Sun River G.C. 23 Sep (BHu).

Low numbers of Wood Ducks were widely scattered throughout the Region, as is normal. However, an unusually large concentration of 44 was observed 28 Nov at a pond along LaVerkin Cr., Washington (S&PS, RF, KCo). Two Eurasian Wigeons were found this season. The first was at Stillwater 10 Oct (BHe) and the 2nd at Sunbrook Golf Course (St. George), Washington 12 Oct (WHu et al.). This species is not reported every year. Greater Scaup are being

found with more regularity, as observers become more familiar and confident with their identification. Eight were at Q.C.R. 4 Nov (RF), one was at Lower Bowns Res. 6 Nov (BHu, CS), and 16 were counted at P.L. 28 Nov (JWt). A bird first thought to be a male Greater Scaup at Green Springs G.C., Washington 31 Oct appears, on examination of photos taken later, to be a Ring-necked Duck x scaup hybrid. Two Long-tailed Ducks were found, both in Utah: one female was at East Canyon Res. 3 Nov+ (J&KB), and an ad. female and an imm. female were at Lower Stillwater (Rock Creek), Duchesne, UT 12 Nov (BM). This fall saw a major invasion of Surf and White-winged Scoters into the Great Basin. The first Surf Scoters reported were 4 from Stillwater 29 Sep (RSm, fide BHe). Subsequently there were nearly 50 reported through the rest of the season in Nevada (Clark, Douglas, Washoe) and Utah (Cache, Morgan, Washington). A high count of 32 was at P.L. 6 Nov (JWt, BHa). The first White-winged Scoter was at H.B.V.P. 20 Oct (TLA). Shortly thereafter, they were found at P.L., with a high count of 4 on 6 Nov (JWt, BHa). One was in the Carson Valley, Douglas 23 Nov (JE, B&BC, BG). They hung on through the rest of the season at P.L. Utah's first White-winged Scoter of the season was observed at East Canyon Res., Morgan 28 Oct. (DSh), and 2 were seen there 2 Nov (EH). Other Utah localities included one at Q.C.R. 30 Oct (RF), one at Powell Slough, Utah 1–6 Nov (KCC, AC), and one female at Washington's new Sand Hollow Res. 21 Nov (CS, BHu) into Dec (RF, SS). An interesting goldeneye at Q.C.R. 2 Nov was thought to be a Common x Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid (RF, GB).

HAWKS THROUGH TERNS

In recent years, Common Black-Hawks have been regular breeders in sw. Utah but have not been recorded in Zion N.P. for several years, so the appearance of 2 there 9 Aug–10 Sep (BS, LB, KW et al.) was noteworthy. Red-shouldered Hawks in w. and s. Nevada are becoming so regular that they seem hardly worth mentioning anymore. This fall saw 11 individuals from five counties (Churchill, Clark, Lincoln, Nye, Washoe). Utah's only report was one at Lytle 29 Sep (S&PS, RF, KCo). Although not as regular as in Nevada, they are becoming almost annual in s. Utah. A dark-morph Broad-winged Hawk was counted in the Goshute Mts. Hawkwatch 21 Sep (DMc), and a light-morph bird was photographed over Bountiful Peak, Salt Lake, UT in early Oct (ph. JLg). A Zone-tailed Hawk was seen 4 Aug at Pine Park, Washington, Utah's only known regular location for this species (JJ et al.). The Goshute Mountains Hawkwatch in ne. Nevada completed its 17th year. The flight started off very slowly but remained steady through Oct. As of 28 Oct, 19,833 migrant raptors had been recorded. Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, and Red-tailed Hawks and American Kestrels comprised 90% of the flight. Approximately 1,500 raptors were banded.

It was a good fall for American Golden-Plovers in Utah, where they are not recorded

annually. One was at the Hurricane sewage ponds, *Washington* 4–6 Sep (RF, KCo), one at Utah Lake S.P., *Utah* 18 Sep (KCC), and another was in the Washington Fields, *Washington* 19 Sep (RF). A high count of 137 Snowy Plovers was made 12 Aug at South Shore G.S.L. (DO'B et al.). A well-described Mountain Plover was found 4 Sep at Patterson Res., Ash Meadows (†MC) for one of few Nevada records. Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, *Box Elder*, UT produced some remarkably high shorebird counts 4 Aug (MS et al.) including 30,000+ Black-necked Stilts, 4000+ Marbled Godwits, 750+ Semipalmated Sandpipers (an unprecedented count for the Region and possibly for the western U.S.), 3000+ Western Sandpipers, 4500+ Least Sandpipers, and 6500+ Baird's Sandpipers (another high count).

Solitary Sandpipers were widely reported throughout the Region 8 Aug–19 Sep. Two Whimbrels were found: one on 2 Aug at the South Shore G.S.L. (MS et al.) and one 25 Aug at Carson L., *Churchill*, NV (N&MB, JTh). The only reported Sanderlings were one at Zunino/Jiggs Res., *Elko*, NV 22 Aug (JCo) and 3 at Provo Bay, *Utah*, *Utah* 28 Aug (DSh). Away from Bear River, Semipalmated Sandpipers were found at Shoal Cr., *Enterprise*, *Washington*, UT 2 Aug, a county first (BHu, CS, JJ), at H.B.V.P. 3–10 Aug (3 birds; ST, RSa), at Hurricane sewage ponds, *Washington* for a county second 10–11 Aug (RF; SS), and at the South Shore G.S.L. 12 Aug (3 birds; DO'B et al.). A Stilt Sandpiper 3 Aug at H.B.V.P. was the only one reported (ST). A Red Phalarope visited A.I.C. 12 Oct (DTh, MT, LL), and one was at Gunlock Res., *Washington* 24–25 Oct (ph. RF).

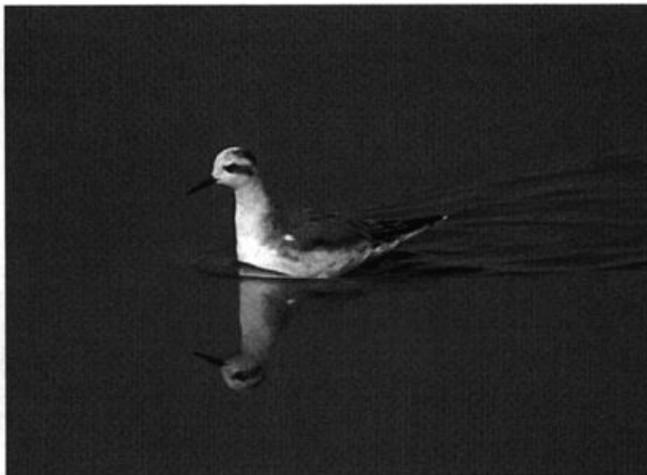
A basic-plumaged ad. Heermann's Gull was reported without details from Indian Springs sewage ponds 27 Oct (p.a. JWt). Up to 3 Glaucous-winged Gulls were reported from P.L. 27 Oct+ (m. ob.). The only Sabine's Gull reported this fall was an ad. at Soda L., *Churchill*, NV 21 Sep (JWt et al.). Common Terns were widely reported throughout w. Utah, with a high count of 12 at A.I.C. 10 Sep (CW, JH).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Band-tailed Pigeon in Reno 27 Oct–2 Nov was a nice find for that area (AW). Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to turn up in Utah. A belated report of a possible breeding pair in Blanding, *San Juan* in Apr 2002 comes from Mona Hill of Colorado. Around 10 were seen on River Lane, Springville, *Utah* 30 Nov (EH, KCC). (This is the same group reported earlier this year but dismissed when someone talked to a local resident who said they were "their" birds. Upon further investigation, it appears the residents simply feed the doves, which were

present when they moved in.) Another Eurasian Collared-Dove was found at the Salem water treatment facility, *Utah* 3 Nov (DSh). *Washington's* first collared-doves were found 31 Oct in Washington City (DSh). By the end of the period, up to 14 had been observed in the Washington City area (m. ob.). A White-winged Dove strayed n. to Garr Ranch 29 Aug (GB, PF, BF, JT). Quite unusual was the presence of up to 8 White-winged Doves in Washington City 31 Oct+, providing a rare early winter record for Utah (m. ob.).

Vaux's Swifts were reported from Nye, NV and *Utah* and *Washington*, UT 8 Sep–12 Oct (m. ob.). This species is an irregular migrant through the basin. A female Broad-billed Hummingbird was a surprise 11 Aug in the Washington Fields, *Washington*, UT (†RF, KCo, SS). Anna's Hummingbird reports were one in Reno 10 Sep (AW), another at Red Cliffs Rec. Site, *Washington*, UT 28 Sep (RF, KW et al.), and one in Leeds, *Washington* 1 Nov (C&MS). A Calliope Hummingbird was at Scott M. Matheson Wetlands Preserve, *Grand*, UT 20 Aug, where seldom reported (JLl, fide DF). Lewis's Woodpeckers enjoyed a good fall in the Region, being widely reported throughout the period. Fourteen were counted at Green Springs, Nye, NV 11 Sep (RB). An Acorn Woodpecker was at a cache tree along Hwy. 12 between mile markers 93 and 94 in *Garfield*, UT 15 Oct–24 Nov (DSh, m. ob.), a state-first for many birders. This is a very enigmatic species in Utah, showing up unexpectedly at various locales in the s.-cen. portion of the state and then disappearing for periods of times. Red-breasted Sapsuckers



Fall 2002 migration brought an unusually high number of sightings of coastal species into the Great Basin, including Red-necked Grebes, Surf and White-winged Scoters, and this Red Phalarope, photographed 24 October 2002, at Gunlock Reservoir, Washington County, Utah. Photograph by Rick Fridell.

were reported from Corn Cr. 10–16 Oct (RF, KW et al.) and Oxbow Park, Reno 18 Oct–11 Nov (FP, RB). Red-naped x Red-breasted Sapsuckers were at Red Hills G.C., *Washington*, UT 18 Oct (RF et al.), Spring Mt. S.P., *Clark*, NV (CT, JR), and Snow Canyon S.P., *Washington* 29 Nov (KCo).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Northerly Black Phoebes were at Rancho San Rafael Park, Reno 5 Aug (FP) and P.L. 10 Nov (LW). An Eastern Phoebe graced Corn Cr. 31 Oct–2 Nov (DH, DTr). An ad. male Vermilion Flycatcher at Boyd-Humboldt Valley Wetlands, *Elko* 22 Sep was far n. of its normal range in Nevada and may be a county first (DMc). A Cassin's Kingbird in the Hurricane Fields, *Washington* 2 Sep provided s. Utah with a rare fall sighting (RF, KCo). Wayward Eastern Kingbirds were at Farmington Bay W.M.A., *Davis*, UT 28 Aug (HG), Miller's R.A. 31 Aug (FP), and Highland Park, Tonopah, Nye, NV 14–17 Sep (GS, DTr et al.). A photographed Philadelphia Vireo at Red Hills G.C. 27 Oct may be Utah's first documented record if accepted by the U.B.R.C. (†LT, ph. †RF, KCo). Rare, but not too unexpected, Red-eyed Vireos were reported from Garr Ranch 29 Aug (GB, PF, BF, JTo), Parker Ranch 11 Sep (LC), and Lytle Ranch 21 Sep (BB, TJ). A Steller's Jay was definitely out of habitat at Dyer, *Esmeralda*, NV 21 Sep (MM). Kaysville, *Davis*, UT had a Blue Jay visiting a feeder 27 Oct–2 Nov (MA fide GB). Purple Martins are scarce breeders in the Region and are rarely reported in migration, so the following reports, all of single birds, were noteworthy: Tony Grove L., *Cache*, UT 2 Aug (JVM), Springville, *Utah*, UT 24 Aug (KCC), Washington Fields 31 Aug (SS), Parowan sewage ponds, *Iron*, UT 1 Sep (SS), and Moapa dairy farm, *Clark*, NV 1 Sep (MC).

An early Winter Wren was at Circle L Ranch, *Dyer*, *Esmeralda*, NV 11 Sep and was followed by several reports throughout the Region into winter. There were several reports of Varied Thrushes in Nevada. Two at Stillwater 6 Sep (BHe) and one at Parker Ranch 19 Sep (LC) were exceptionally early. More normal were singles at Numana Hatchery, *Washoe*, NV 3 Oct (JF, SF) and Corn Cr. 16 Nov (RSa). Utah's only Varied Thrush, where the species is decidedly rarer, was at Springdale, *Washington*, UT 10–14 Oct (LB et al.). Gray Catbirds put in a good showing as well, with observations from Willard Bay S.P., *Davis*, UT 11 Sep (CW), Pahrana N.W.R., *Lincoln*, NV 12 Sep (SG), Corn Cr. 17 Oct (N&KMc), 11 Nov (Casey Rucker, fide TL), Bodyfeldt Ranch, Nye 22 Oct (J&GH, JD), and Wood's Cross, *Salt Lake* 10 Nov (SCo). Brown Thrashers were reported from a backyard in Vernal, *Uintah*, UT 18 Aug–2 Sep (RoB), Corn Cr. 12–13 Oct (RSa, ph. RF, KW), Great Basin N.P., *White Pine*, NV 27 Oct (MR, JWd), and Sparks, *Washoe*, NV 17 Nov (JS). A singing Le Conte's Thrasher at Torrance Ranch, Nye, NV 23 Oct (JMo) was considerably n. of its known range in the state.

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS

The only Tennessee Warbler reported this fall was one at Corn Cr. 25 Oct (DMA, RF, KW). A

Virginia's Warbler at Lida, Esmeralda, NV 21 Sep was a bit out of range for migration (MM, GS). A female Chestnut-sided Warbler was photographed at Lytle 29 Sep (ph. SS, PS, RF, KCo). Two Magnolia Warblers made appearances in Nevada: one at Miller's R.A. 7 Oct (JE)

and one at Bodyfeldt Ranch, Nye, NV 22 Oct (†J&GH, †JD). Contributing to the increasing evidence over the last few years that Hermit Warblers are regular but scarce migrants through s. Utah was the presence of up to 3 on Navajo Mt., San Juan 13–23 Aug (CL). A Hermit Warbler at H.B.V.P. 26 Aug was at a desert location where they are not often found (TLA). A Prairie Warbler at Miller's R.A. 21 Sep was a real rarity for Nevada (GS, MM et al.). Palm Warblers were in Nevada at Corn Cr. 8–12 Oct (JoC, ph. RF, †Rsa, m.

ob.) and Miller's R.A. 16–28 Oct (JE, ph. JWt, DTr). A well-described Blackpoll Warbler was at the Carson Diversion Dam, Churchill, NV 28 Sep (DA et al.). Black-and-white Warblers were found at Miller's R.A. 14–17 Sep (GS, DTr et al.), Parker Ranch Preserve, Nye, NV 19 Sep (LC), and Corn Cr. 7–19 Sep (JWt et al.). At least 15 American Redstarts were found 22 Aug–16 Oct in Nevada (Churchill, Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye) and Utah (Davis, Grand, Juab, Utah, Washington). A Prothonotary Warbler was seen briefly and not refound at Corn Cr. 21 Sep (†Rsa) for a rare Nevada record. Utah's first documented Worm-eating Warbler was photographed at Red Cliffs Recreation Site, Washington 28 Sep (KW, ph. RF, ph. SS et al.). Ovenbirds were at South Weber, Davis, UT 29 Aug (JBj), Miller's R.A. 29 Sep (JWt, fide DTr), and Corn Cr. 20 Sep–19 Oct (MC, ph. RF et al.), where more than one bird may have been present. At least 8 Northern Waterthrushes were found 20 Aug–27 Sep in Nevada (Clark, Esmeralda, Nye) and Utah (Davis, Grand, Salt Lake). Utah's 2nd Kentucky Warbler was at Upper Sand Cove Res. 30 Aug (p.a. †RF). Hooded Warblers put in a good showing in Nevada, with one each at Bodyfeldt Ranch, Nye 14 Sep (GS), Miller's R.A. 14–20 Sep (GS, DTr et al.), and Corn Cr. 3 Oct (†Rsa).

A Hepatic Tanager was a great find at Miller's R.A. 29 Sep (ph. JWt et al.). A Summer Tanager at Circle L Ranch, Esmeralda, NV was a bit far n. for the species (GS). A late Western Tanager was at Corn Cr. 25 Oct (DMA, RF, KW).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

American Tree Sparrows are quite rare in the

desert, so one at Corn Cr. 31 Oct was a nice find (DT, C&RT). The only Lark Bunting reports were from Corn Cr. 31 Aug (FP), Miller's R.A. 2–10 Sep (FP et al.), and Fairfield, Utah, UT 18 Sep (EH, KCC). Grasshopper Sparrows are likely regular but little-reported migrants



This Hepatic Tanager put in a rare appearance in the Great Basin at Miller's Rest Stop 29 September 2002. During migration, Miller's Rest Stop, located along Highway 95/6, 19 kilometers northwest of Tonopah, in Esmeralda County, Nevada, is a true hotspot for vagrants. Photograph by Jack Walters.

through the Region, so of interest were singles at Hurricane Fields, Washington, UT 17 Sep (RF, KCo), Corn Cr. 25 Oct (DMA, RF, KW), and H.B.V.P. 25 Oct (DMA). Conventional wisdom has been that the Sooty Fox Sparrow types do not occur in the Region, but recent sightings indicate that this may not be the case, at least in w. Nevada. This fall a Sooty Fox Sparrow was photographed at Penoyer Farms, Rachel, Nye, NV (J&GH, JD). Three Swamp Sparrows were found, all in Nevada: Corn Cr. 13 Oct (RF, KW), Miller's R.A. 20 Oct (ph. JWt et al.), and Twin Springs, Nye (JD, J&GH). White-throated Sparrows virtually exploded over the Region, with at least 16 reported 26 Sep–2 Nov.

A very early McCown's Longspur was seen on Antelope I. (Great Salt Lake) 11 Sep for a rare Utah record (†CW, JH). Ten well-described Chestnut-collared Longspurs were found in Railroad Valley, Nye 23 Oct (†JD, J&GH). Surprisingly, only one Rose-breasted Grosbeak was reported this fall, an imm. male at Wah Wah Valley Ranch, Beaver, UT (EH, KCC). Indigo Bunting reports were down this fall, with only 2 reported: a singing male was seen in the Washington Fields 2 & 11 Aug (RF, KCo, SS), and one was at Garr Ranch, Davis, UT 31 Aug (J&KB). A Dickcissel was at Corn Cr. 1 Sep (FP). Transient Bobolinks were reported only from Nevada at Soldier Cr., Lamoille, Elko 14 Aug (NB, JTh), SR-277, Elko (JCo), and Miller's R.A. 10 Sep (JWt). Two Common Grackles appeared in a Taylorsville, Salt Lake backyard 4 Aug (CD), while singles were at Bloomington, St. George, Washington (P&DW, fide CD), Penoyer Farms, Nye 23 Oct (ph. JD, J&GH), and Cedar City, Iron, UT (ph. S&PS). An inex-

plicably early Common Redpoll appeared briefly at an Orem, Utah, UT feeder 22–23 Oct and stayed long enough to be photographed (KCC). Utah's first Lawrence's Goldfinch was found 2 Oct at Chekshani Cliffs, Iron (SS) and photographed 3 Oct (RF). Unfortunately, it did not stick around for others to see. Nevada's 3rd or 4th Lawrence's Goldfinch was found at Corn Cr. 17 Oct (ph. JWt).

Cited observers and contributors: John G. Anderson, Martha Ann David Arsenault, Brian Ashton, Penny Barkley, Glenn Barlow, Dennis Becca, Joel & Kathy Beyer, Jack Binch (JBj), Nancy Bish, Mike Bish, John Bjerregaard (JBj), Donn Blake, JL Boone, Lonny Boring, Bob Bradley, Steve & Alice Brocoum, Richard Brune (RiB), Ron Brunson (RoB), Cristi Carmichael, Glenda Cotter, Steve Cerocke (Sce), KC Childs (KCC), Beth & Bill Clark, Joan Clark (JoC), Jack Clark (JaC), Jack Cochran (JCo), Steve Coleman (SCo), Kristen Comella (KCo), Alan Condie, Marian Cressman, Laura Cunningham, Carol Davis, Nicky Davis, Jon Dunn, Kristen Dutcher, Jim Eidel, Seth Factor, Damian Fagan, Bill Finemore, Joe Fontaine, Rick Fridell, Pomer France, Hugh Gillilan, Shawn Goodchild, Bob Goodman, Carol Gwynn, Joan & George Hardie, Bill Hart (BHa), Alex Hartman, Dave Helm, Bill Henry (BHe), Hermi Hiatt, Bill Hill (BHi), Jack Hugus, Eric Huish, Bill Hunter (BHu), Bob Huntington (BHT), Grant Jense, Stephen Jones, Tony Jones, Judy Jordan, Hugh Judd, Paul Kirby, Josh Kreitzer, Tiffany Lance (TLA), Chuck LaRue, Tim Lenz (TL), Kent Lewis, Jerry Liguori (JLg), John Liller (JLl), Letitia Lussier, David Mandell (DMA), Brian Maxfield, Neil & Karen McDonal, James McIntyre (JMc), Don McIvor (DMc), Martin Meyers,



Utah's second reported but first documented Worm-eating Warbler was found 28 September 2002 during a local Audubon Society field trip. It was feeding in a campground riparian area at Red Cliffs Recreation Site, Washington County. Photograph by Rick Fridell.

Jim Moore (JMo), Jens Munthe (JMu), Ann Neville, Chris Nicolai, DeeDee O'Brien, Felix Owens, Fred Petersen, Mark & Lois Ports, Melissa Renfro, Jon Rickert, Bruce Robinson, Tuula Rose, Casey Rucker, Rick Saval (RSA), Greg Scyphers, Dennis & Becky Serdeheli, Charlie Sheard, Marilyn Sheard, Jean Sherman, Dennis Shirley (DSh), Bob Showler, R. Smith (RSm), Mark Stackhouse, Reed Stone (RSt), Steve Summers, Priscilla Summers, Sam Terry, Jane Thompson (JTh), Donna Thorum (DTh), Matthew Thorum, Alton Thygerson, Carolyn Titus, Richard Titus, Jack Torrey (JTo), Larry Tripp, Dennis Trousdale (DTr), Julie Van Moorhen, Alan Wallace, Jack Walters (JWt), John Warpeha (JWp), Merrill Webb, Sid Westerman, Kevin Wheeler, Larry Williams, Patrick & Dori Williams, John Woodward (JWd), Chris Wood, Jim Woolf (JWf). ☺