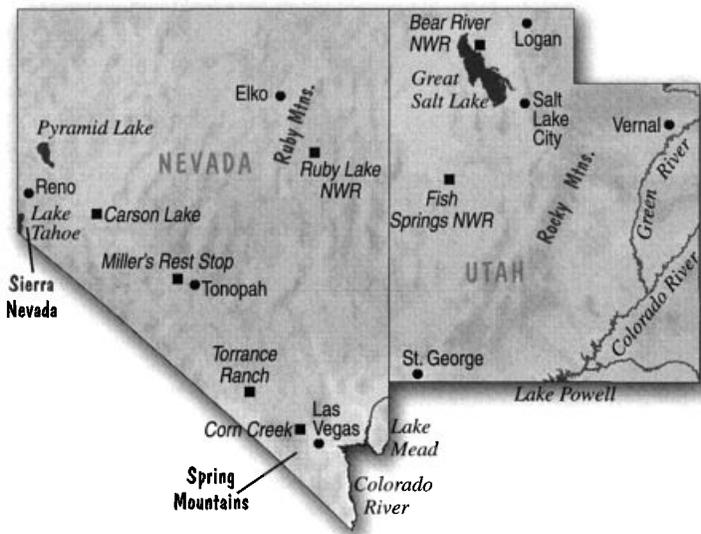


Great Basin



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This fall brought more precipitation than has been seen in five years; by the end of the season, the snow pack was already above average, and more snow was predicted through early winter. Perhaps, finally, the drought will start to break. Among many noteworthy reports, there were several rarities—Reddish Egret, White Ibis, Laughing and Heermann's Gulls, Groove-billed Ani, Painted Bunting, and Yellow-throated Vireo.

Abbreviations: A.I.C. (Antelope Island S.P., Causeway, Davis UT); Bear River (Migratory Bird Refuge, Box Elder, UT); Circle L (Ranch, Dyer, Esmeralda, NV); Corn Creek (Corn Creek Unit, Desert N.W.R., Clark, NV); Dyer (Esmeralda, NV); Farmington Bay (W.M.A., Davis UT); Fish Springs

(N.W.R., Juab, UT); H.B.V.P. (Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, Clark NV); Lake Mead (N.R.A., Clark, NV); Lemmon Valley (Marsh, Washoe NV); Lytle Ranch (Preserve, Washington UT); Miller's R.A. (Miller's Rest Area, Esmeralda, NV); Ouray (N.W.R., Uintah, UT); Pahrnagat (N.W.R., Lincoln, NV); P.L. (Pyramid L., Washoe, NV); Red Hills (G.C., St. George, Washington, UT); Sand Hollow (S.P., Washington, UT); Zion (N.P., Washington, UT).

LOONS THROUGH HAWKS

The only Red-throated Loon reported this season was one at Hyrum S.P., Cache, UT 6–20 Nov (†RR et al.). Four Pacific Loons were reported, which is about normal. A virtual invasion for the Region were 4 Red-necked Grebes reported: singles at P.L. 16 Sep–28 Nov (GS, DSe, m.ob.), Pahrnagat 2–28 Oct (B&BD; details needed), Pineview Res., Weber, UT 2–7 Nov (KP, GB, EL), and H.V.B.P. 26 Nov–6 Dec (HS, CP, JH, ph. RF). This year's Brown Pelican invasion continued into the fall, as birds lingered at Las Vegas Bay, L. Mead until the last 4 were seen 14

Oct (m.ob.). Nevada had its first Reddish Egret with a first-year bird at Pahrnagat 11 Sep–2 Oct (LT, KWh, ph. RF); Utah's first came last fall. On the same day, 11 Sep, Utah's first White Ibis was found n. of Spanish Fork, Utah (DH, KLe, ph. JBi); it stayed until 14 Sep.

Greater White-fronted Geese were widely reported in small numbers throughout the Region in Sep. A Black Brant was at Bear River 10–24 Oct (KWe, PF et al.)—the first of this taxon documented in Utah since 1955. Single ducks that appeared to be Mallard x American Black Duck hybrids were spotted at Kaysville, Davis, UT 4 Oct (MA) and Parowan sewage ponds, Iron, UT (SSu). Single Eurasian Wigeons, always rare in the Region, were at Ouray 5 Nov (DP) and Lemmon Valley, Washoe, NV 11 Nov–4 Dec (SMa et al.). The Lemmon Valley bird was joined by another on 26 Nov (MMY). The only Long-tailed Duck reported was one at A.I.C. 10 Nov (EH et al.). Single female Black Scoters (the rarest scoter in Utah) were at Sand Hollow 6–13 Nov (ph. RF, LT) and at A.I.C. 7–13 Nov (J&KB, ph. PF). Surf Scoters invaded Utah this year, with 10 reports of 21 individuals observed 14 Oct–20 Nov in Cache, Davis, Morgan, Salt Lake, Summit, and Washington. Nevada had one record at P.L. 23 Oct–8 Nov (JW). White-winged Scoters also turned up in good numbers in Utah, with six records involving 14 individuals 7–22 Nov from Cache, Davis, Uintah, and Washington. Nevada had one at L. Mead 29 Oct (RF).

A Common Black-Hawk 16 Sep at Utah Lake S.P., Utah, UT was a very rare find outside of Washington (ph. MMo). Broad-winged Hawks were found at two locations away from known hawkwatches: 2 were at Wellsville Mt., Cache, UT 26 Sep (JSk, RSp, MF), and one was at Central, Washington, UT 23 Oct (LT).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

A Whimbrel was at P.L. 10 Aug (ph. TL, JW), and a Ruddy Turnstone was at A.I.C. 29–30 Aug (J&KB, ph. MMo, ND). Five Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported 5–28 Aug from Churchill and Clark, NV and Box Elder and Washington, UT (BO, TA, JBr, RF, LT, GS). Single Dunlins were found 22 Sep–30 Nov in Churchill, Clark, and Washoe, NV and in Millard, UT (TL, JW, ph. SS, ph.

SA We received an unprecedented number of reports of Blue-headed Vireos this season, many of them photographed. Reports of singles came from at Gunlock S.P., Washington, UT 10 Sep (ph. LT), Big Cottonwood Ranch, Washington, UT 21 Sep (ph. RF), Moapa, Clark, NV 21 Sep (ph. RF), Lytle Ranch, Washington, UT 24 Sep (ph. JBi), Kaufman Ranch, Millard, UT 25 Sep (ph. RF, LT, SSu, KWh), Clear Lake W.M.A., Millard, UT 25 Sep (ph. RF, LT, SSu, KWh), Corn Cr. 22 Oct (†C&RT), and Willard Bay S.P., Box Elder, UT 24 Oct (MS, HJ). All birds appeared to possess field characters described for Blue-headed Vireo. However, some observers expressed skepticism, and even dismay, after seeing multiple brightly colored vireos, and wondered at what point an extremely bright Cassin's Vireo might be taken for a Blue-headed Vireo. Was there really an unusual movement of Blue-headed Vireos through the Region, or was there simply a large number of extremely bright Cassin's Vireos moving through? This problem is not specific to this Region by any means, but we will continue to attend to it in these reports.

SA Blue Jays invaded Utah in possibly unprecedented numbers. Even greater numbers were recorded in areas n. of the Great Basin, so it was clear that this Region was at the s. end of the movement. Utah records were included singles at Mountain Green, *Morgan* 14–17 Oct (AS et al.), Evergreen Cemetery, Springville, *Utah* 16 Oct (GC), Brigham City, *Box Elder* 21–28 Oct (PH, BB), Millcreek, *Salt Lake* 22 Oct (KR), Holladay, *Salt Lake* 2–27 Nov (JD, PF), and Springdale Pond, *Washington* 10–23 Nov (the southernmost reported; ph. RF et al.). The only concentration of reports was of 3–5 at Clarkston, *Cache* 20 Oct–6 Nov (TG, SPe). Nevada had two records, singles at Ely, *White Pine* 6–29 Nov (LC, MWI) and Lovelock, *Pershing* 27 Nov+ (SMc fide D&RP).

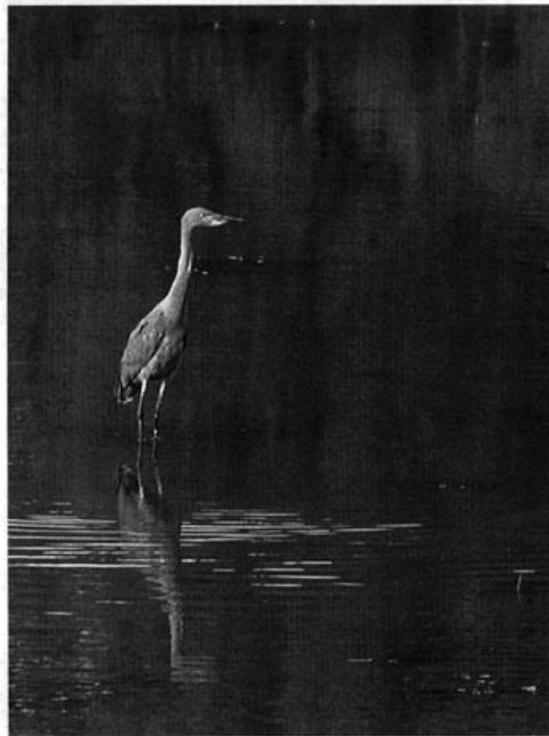
RE, F&GP, MB, KC). Slightly higher-than-normal numbers of Stilt Sandpipers were found: one was at Bear River 9–11 Aug (CN, J&KB et al.), 4 were seen at Utah Lake S.P., *Utah*, UT 19 Aug (TR, EH), one was at Soda L., *Churchill*, NV 21–28 Aug (GS, D&RT, FP), and one was at Farmington Bay 10 Oct (J&KB).

Jaegers made an appearance this season, with single Parasitic Jaegers at P.L. 16 Sep–24 Oct (GS, DSe, ph. TL) and at L. Mead 21 Sep–3 Oct (JBr, EA, ph. CT). Two Long-tailed Jaegers were reported, with one documented at P.L. 22 Sep–2 Oct (JW, ph. TL et al.) and an undocumented one at Pelican L., *Uintah*, UT 29 Sep–1 Oct (DR, fide DP). A Laughing Gull discovered 6 Sep at Walker L., *Mineral*, NV stayed until 13 Sep, allowing several Nevada birders to add this extreme rarity to their state lists (ph. GS, MMe et al.). Almost as rare, a Heermann's Gull was a one-day wonder (as most of this species are inland) at P.L. 24 Oct (ph. GS). Sabine's Gulls made numerous appearances in the Region, with 10 records spanning 5 Sep–10 Oct in *Churchill*, *Clark*, and *Washoe*, NV and in *Davis*, *Garfield*, and *Washington*, UT. A remarkable 6 were seen at L. Mead 3 Oct (JBo). Common Terns also made numerous appearances: 12 reports spanned 30 Aug–5 Oct and totaled 29 individuals in *Churchill*, *Clark*, *Lincoln*, *Washoe*, NV and in *Millard* and *Washington*, UT. A very rare Arctic Tern was fairly well described at Soda L., *Churchill*, NV 26 Aug (JW). A high count of 790 Black Terns on 13 Aug at Bear River must have been an impressive sight (BO).

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Ten Eurasian Collared-Doves were seen at Roosevelt Cemetery, *Uintah*, UT 6 Aug (SC et al.); probably the highest count yet made in the Region was of 45 birds seen in St. George, *Washington*, UT 12 Oct (MTo). It may only be a matter of time before we stop reporting this species in the Great Basin altogether. Single White-winged Doves were n. of their expected range, with one at Twin Springs, *Millard*, UT 23 Aug (KW) and one at Bear River 6 Sep (J&KB). It has been a while since a Groove-billed Ani has made an appearance in the Region; one at H.B.V.P. 28 Oct–2 Nov brought birders from far and wide (JBr, PR, m.ob.). Anna's Hummingbird is now regular in the s. portions of the Re-

gion, but a male at Salt Lake City 31 Oct was well n. of typical range (ph. T&HH). An Acorn Woodpecker at Zion on the Kolob Terrace Rd. 31 Aug was a first in a while for the park (LJ). One found dead 1 Oct behind the visitor center at Pahrnagat may represent a first for *Lincoln* (B&BD). A Red-breasted Sapsucker at Kaufman Ranch, *Millard*, UT 25 Sep added to the growing



Following Utah's first Reddish Egret record in fall 2003, a first-year bird again made a rare appearance in the Great Basin, this time at Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge, Lincoln County, Nevada 11 September 2004. It remained until at least 2 October and was enjoyed by many observers. Photograph by Rick Fridell.

number of Utah records (SSu, LT, RF). A male Ladder-backed Woodpecker was n. of expected range at Chatovich Cr., *Dyer*, *Esmeralda*, NV 3–23 Oct (GS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS

An *Empidonax* suspected of being an Alder was heard calling and photographed at Porter Springs, *Pershing*, NV 11 Aug (p.a., JW, DM). Single Least Flycatchers were reported at Red Hills 4 Sep (RF, LT), Sierra Vista Apts., Tonopah, Nye, NV 11 Sep (TL), *Dyer* 12 Sep (MMe), Circle L 17 Sep (ph. RF, KW), and below the dam at Gunlock S.P.

along the Santa Clara R., *Washington*, UT 24 Sep (LT). If all the recent identifications are correct, this species is being found with increasing regularity during migration in the Region. An Eastern Phoebe was a very good find at Lytle Ranch 4 Sep (ph., †LT). Vermilion Flycatchers were in the n. part of the Region at Carson Diversion Dam, *Churchill*, NV 16 Sep (fide GS) and at Miller's R.A. 25–26 Sep (FP). A late Ash-throated Flycatcher was at Miller's R.A. 17 Oct (GS), and a late Western Kingbird was at Corn Cr. 10 Oct (JW, TL). An early Northern Shrike was discovered 26 Sep at A.I.C. (J&KB).

Utah's 3rd reported Yellow-throated Vireo was well documented along the Provo R. Parkway Trail, *Utah*, UT 29–30 Sep (EH, MMo et al.). Three Red-eyed Vireos were found in Utah: one at Jordanelle Wetlands,

Wasatch 1 Aug (J&KB), one at Hyrum S.P., *Cache* 29 Aug (RW), and one at River Lane, Springville, *Utah* 7–9 Sep (MMo, KCC). A Black-billed Magpie 8 km s. of the county line in New Harmony, *Washington*, UT 3 Oct provided one of very few records for that county (JJ). Varied Thrushes were more numerous than usual, with eight reports involving 13 individuals spanning 9 Oct–28 Nov in *Clark*, *Elko*, *Esmeralda*, *Pershing*, and *Washoe*, NV and in *Davis* and *San Juan*, UT (m.ob.). Two Gray Catbirds were found in Nevada, both in *Esmeralda*, with one at *Dyer* 9–17 Oct (GS et al.) and one at Circle L 17 Oct (GS). Five Brown Thrashers included singles at Indian Creek Crossing, *Dyer* 28 Sep–2 Oct (DT, JT), Lida, *Esmeralda*, NV 2 Oct (TL), Twin Springs, *Millard*, UT 4 Oct (ph. RF, LT, LG), Corn Cr. 6–10 Oct (M&JC et al.), and Carson Valley, *Carson City*, NV 31 Oct (B&BC). A wayward Bendire's Thrasher stayed at Miller's R.A. 11 Sep–10 Oct (ph. MMy, m.ob.). A good winter for Bo-

hemian Waxwings in n. Utah started on 14 Nov, when 100+ were found along Mirror Lake Highway, *Summit* (J&KB). They were seen there through the end of the period.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

It was a good fall for vagrant e. warblers, with 16 species found. Single Tennessee Warblers were at Miller's R.A. 17 Sep (RF, KWh), Red Hills 19 Sep (RF, KC, S&PS), and again at Miller's R.A. 17 Oct (GS). The only Northern Parula graced Pahrnagat 11 Sep (RF, KWh, LT). Six Chestnut-sided Warblers were found, all singles, at Denio, *Humboldt*, NV 9

Sep (SML, BF, DSc), Fish Springs 18 Sep (ph. JBi et al.), Circle L 18 Sep (GS), P.L. 22 Sep (DSe, JW et al.), Miller's R.A. 27 Sep (FP et al.), and Floyd Lamb S.P., Clark, NV 29 Sep (RSc). A well-described Magnolia Warbler at A.I.C. 12–15 Oct stayed around long enough for several to see (†MWe et al.). The only Black-throated Blue Warbler was a male at Provo Canyon, Utah, UT on the perfect date of 6 Oct (MWI). Hermit Warblers found away from expected montane habitats were singles at Carson Diversion Dam, Churchill, NV 24 Aug (DSe) and Pahrangat 11 Sep (RF, KWh, LT). Utah's 5th reported Yellow-throated Warbler was found along River Lane, Springville, Utah 4–9 Sep and viewed by several (TR et al.). A Prairie Warbler was reported in Leeds, Washington 26 Nov (DT; details needed). Palm Warblers were at Santaquin Canyon, Utah, UT 5 Oct (TR), Indian Cr. Crossing, Dyer 10 Oct (ph. GS, DSe et al.), and Kyle Canyon, Charleston Mt., Clark, NV 22 Oct (JSt). Three Blackpoll Warblers was a good showing for Nevada, with singles at P.L. 14 Sep (ph. GS et al.), Miller's R.A. 18 Sep (GS), and Circle L 18–26 Sep (GS). Five Black-and-white Warblers 22 Aug–30 Nov in Clark, NV and Utah and Washington, UT was a normal count. Fourteen American Redstarts (14 Aug–16 Nov in Clark, Esmeralda, and Nye, NV and Juab, Utah, and Washington, UT) was a little above average for the Region. Three Prothonotary Warblers added to the growing number of records for this species in Nevada: Lida, Esmeralda 16 Sep (ph. RF, KWh), Circle L 26 Sep–9 Oct (GS, RS, DG), and Mirage Hotel-Casino, Las Vegas 11 Oct (HF). A very rare Worm-eating Warbler was a nice yard bird in Henderson, Clark, NV 8–9 Oct (BS, ph. TL). Four Ovenbirds were detected 12 Aug–10 Oct in Churchill, Clark, and Esmeralda, NV and Salt Lake, UT. Nine Northern Waterthrushes was probably an average showing (21 Aug–1 Oct, in Esmeralda and Nye, NV and Box Elder, Davis, and Washington, UT). A male Hooded Warbler visited Corn Cr. 10 Oct (JW, TL, RS). A Wilson's Warbler at Lytle Ranch 13 Nov was quite late (LT).

A female Summer Tanager at Circle L 29 Oct was both late and n. of expected range (FP). A nicely photographed male Scarlet Tanager at the Daystar Academy, Casile Valley, Grand, UT 13 Nov was only Utah's 3rd (†THa, L&WH). Two American Tree Sparrows at Zion (Lodge) 13 Nov were s. of normal range and provided one of very few records for Washington (MTh). The only Clay-colored Sparrows reported were both from Washington, UT at Gunlock 24 Sep (LT) and at Lytle Ranch 26 Sep (2 birds; ph. LT et

al.). The only Lark Bunting found was one at Porter Springs, Pershing, NV 28 Aug–12 Sep (FP et al.). Fox Sparrows are scarce but regular migrants through the Region, with the expected race being Slate-colored. But with published papers supporting a split in this species, birders are taking more careful note of subspecies in the field. This fall there were four reports of Sooty Fox Sparrow: one at Miller's R.A. 6 Sep (FP), one at Dyer 11 Sep (GS, MMe et al.), and one (or 2) at Circle L 29 Sep–17 Oct (JW, DM, GS et al.). There were also two reports of Red Fox Sparrow, one at Circle L 17 Oct (GS) and 2 at Corn Cr. 30 Oct (RSa). Swamp Sparrows were at Floyd Lamb S.P., Clark, NV 18 Oct (JCL, RSc) and



This Laughing Gull was found at Walker Lake, Mineral County, Nevada on 6 September 2004 by Greg Scyphers. One of only a few documented in the state, it fortunately remained through 13 September and was visited by dozens of Nevada birders. Photograph by Martin Meyers.

Willard Bay S.P., Box Elder, UT 24 Oct (MS, HJ). It was a good season for Harris's Sparrows, with seven reports totaling 8 birds 30 Aug+ in Clark, NV and Davis, Utah, and Washington, UT. In Utah, Golden-crowned Sparrows are only regular in Washington, so 2 outside of that area were good finds: one at Santaquin Canyon, Utah 5 Oct (DSh) and one at Calf Creek C.G., Garfield 23 Nov (KLa).

Six Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found 30 Aug–5 Nov in Clark and Esmeralda, NV and Millard and Washington, UT. Only 3 Indigo Buntings were reported, well below average. A female Painted Bunting at Corn Cr. 4 Sep is problematic as to provenance, but the place and date fit Arizona occurrence data for this species (M&JC). A male Bobolink at P.L. 28 Oct was the only one reported (BHa). A female Rusty Blackbird was photographed and well documented at the Morgan Water Treatment Facility in Morgan for a rare Utah record (AS et al.). A first-year male Baltimore Oriole was at Corn Cr. 16 Sep (ph. RF, KWh). Two or more White-winged Crossbills were along Silver Lake Trail, Salt Lake, UT 7 Aug, providing an uncommon summer record (CN, TA). Lawrence's Goldfinches staged a mini-inva-

sion into the Region, with four reports: 2 at Kanarraville, Iron, UT (site of Utah's first confirmed record for the species just two years ago) 12–15 Oct (fide SSu, J&KB), one at Lytle Ranch 16 Oct (J&KB), one at Corn Cr. 18 Oct (JC, RSc), and one at Jack's Valley, Douglas, NV 28 Oct (LH).

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