

The event of the season was the publication of the *Arizona Breeding Bird Atlas*, a trove of information invaluable to those interested in the avifauna of Arizona. Also making an Arizona debut was a Black Turnstone. Abetted by a hot July and the second-latest onset of monsoon rains ever—two weeks late—a record 270,000 hectares were burned in wildfires.

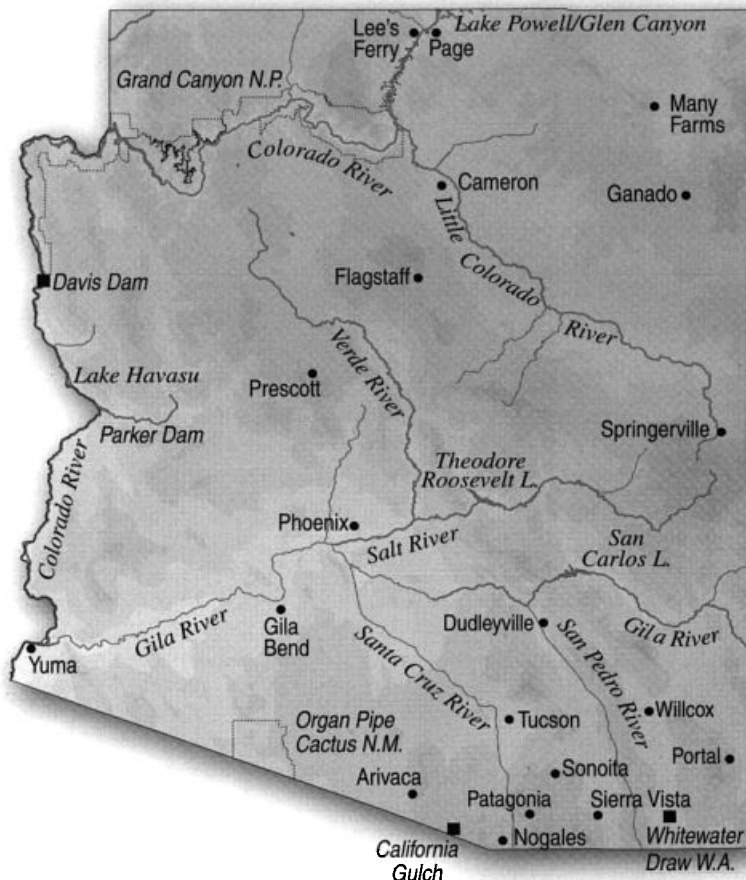
**Abbreviations:** A.B.C. (Arizona Bird Committee), A.V.S.T.P. (Avra Valley S.T.P.), B.T.A. (Boyce Thompson Arboretum), L.C.R.V. (lower Colorado R. valley), H.R.P. (Hasayampa R. Preserve), P.L.S.P. (Patagonia L. S.P.), P.R.D. (Painted Rock Dam), S.C.L. (San Carlos L.), Sweetwater (Sweetwater Wetlands, Tucson), S.P.R. (San Pedro R.), White-water (Whitewater Draw W.A.).

## LOONS THROUGH CARACARA

Casual in summer, 2 Common Loons were on Horseshoe Res. 10 Jun+ (P. Dockens, *vide* TC) and one was at Dateland 10 Jun–4 Jul (S. Olmstead, *ph.* HD). Present since spring, the Least Grebe at Sweetwater was observed nest-building on 11 Jul (JLD) but went unreported after 23 Jul, continuing its pattern of intermittent absence. A small number of Western Grebes was present below P.R.D., with nesting noted 4 Jul+ (TC, TM, LP). At S.C.L., up to 700 *Aechmophorus* grebes were present 3 Jul, with a few nests of both species observed (DJ). Brown Pelicans wandered inland from the Sea of Cortez in above-average numbers beginning 1 Jul, with an estimated 65+ seen (*m.ob.*) Those farthest inland were singles at Willow L. 8 Jul (*ph.* W. Cooper, *vide* CST) and Roosevelt L. 21 Jul (A. Smith). The largest groups were 13 near Yuma 1 Jul (LP), 10 on L. Havasu 15 Jul (K. Blair), and 15 in the P.R.D. area in late Jul (BG). Neotropical Cormorants away from more typical areas included one e. to Fountain Hills L. 2 Jul+ (KR) and up to 2 w. to P.R.D. 4–17 Jul (TC, TM). Taking advantage of refilled reservoirs, Double-crested Cormorants nested again below P.R.D. 4 Jul+ (TC, TM) and in several colonies at a new location, Horseshoe Res. (P. Dockens, *vide* TC). Ardeids also took advantage of refilled reservoirs, with multiple species nesting below P.R.D. (TC, TM, PD) and along Horseshoe Res. (P. Dockens, *vide* TC). An imm. Reddish Egret at P.L.S.P. 22–24 Jul was a first for *Santa Cruz* (D. Pratt, *ph.* M. Brown). Cattle Egrets were observed nesting below P.R.D. 12 Jun+ (PD), with more than 200 pairs present 4 Jul (TC, TM); 20 were near S.C.L. 3 Jul (DJ), where nesting has not been reported previously. No fewer than five pairs of White-faced Ibis feeding young below P.R.D. 20 Jul (TC, *ph.* LP) represented only the 2nd nesting record for Arizona.

A Greater White-fronted Goose with a damaged wing summered at Fountain Hills

# Arizona



L. (KR). Partly grown Redheads below P.R.D. 4 Jul (TC, TM) represented only a 3rd *Mari-copa* nesting record. In Prescott, a Blue-winged Teal was a rare summer visitor 15 Jun (B. Thomen). A worn female-plumaged scap at Dateland on 4 Jul (*ph.* KR), possibly a Greater, will be reviewed by the A.B.C.; there are no summer records of the species for the L.C.R.V. At Glen Canyon Dam, 2 Common Goldeneyes were seen in Jul (J. Spence); the species has summered there recently.

Two Osprey were below P.R.D. 4 Jul+ (BG, PL); Osprey have recently nested as close by as the w. Phoenix valley. A White-tailed Kite at Picacho Res. 3 Jun (J. Cochran) and an ad. with 2 juvs. in the San Rafael Valley 31 Jul (JS) were the only ones reported. Three Mississippi Kites were in St. David 22 Jul+ (M. Matson). Whether the recent colony will persist there bears watching. Northern Harriers are opportunistic breeders in Arizona with few confirmed nests. The presence of 3 ad. female and 3 juv. harriers near Portal 5 Jul (RW) marked only their 2nd nesting in

## Mark M. Stevenson

(Non-Passerines)

4201 East Monte Vista Dr #J207

Tucson, Arizona 85712-5554

(drbrdr@att.net)

## Gary H. Rosenberg

(Passerines)

P.O. Box 91856

Tucson, Arizona 85752-1856

(ghrosenberg@comcast.net)



Nearly unprecedented in Arizona in June, this Sabine's Gull was part of an array of surprises at Willcox between late May and early June 2005 (here 7 June). Photograph by Mark Stevenson.

se. Arizona. A remarkable find was a single Short-tailed Hawk in the Pinal Mts. near Globe 17–18 Jun (J. Alcock et al., †D. Pearson), well n. of their nearest prior documented occurrence (in the Huachuca Mts.). Single Short-tailed Hawks were reported from Barfoot Park throughout the summer (RW, JLD, m.ob.) and in Carr Canyon 23 Jun+ (m.ob.). Two Crested Caracaras near Red Rock 25 Jul (RH) and one below Madera Canyon 27 Jul (M. McQuerrey) were e. of known nesting areas.

## RAILS THROUGH SAPSUCKERS

Quite rare n. of the Mogollon Rim, a Common Moorhen was at Long L. 12 Jun (EM). The lone summer Sandhill Crane was present again at Luna L. in Jun (PD et al.). A basic-plumaged Marbled Godwit at Willcox 3–11 Jun (MMS, MP) may be considered casual. A Black Turnstone was an exciting first state record at Willcox 2–5 Jun (R. Eastman, ph. MMS, R. Ditch, J. Estis). Although they are fairly common along the Sea of Cortez and rare but regular at the Salton Sea, the nearest record to Arizona was on the California side of L. Havasu in 1948. Single juv. Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported from Willcox 29–30 Jul (ph. DS) and Green Valley S.T.P. 30 Jul (C. Cathers). A Short-billed Dowitcher heard at P.R.D. 20 Jul (TC, LP) was the only one reported. Early southbound shorebirds at Willcox included a Greater Yellowlegs 20 Jun (J. McCabe), 2 Marbled Godwits 3 Jul (DS), and single Sanderlings 18–19 (J. Coons) & 29 Jul (B. Schutsky). At Dateland, a Long-billed Dowitcher 3–25 Jun (HD, PD) was early. Even by Arizona standards, it was a summer of few larids. Quite unexpected was a subad. Sabine's Gull at Willcox 7–10 Jun (P. Pratt, ph. R.A. Rowlett et al.), furnishing one of

very few Jun records statewide. Twelve Caspian Terns and 6 Forster's Terns above P.R.D. 12 Jun (PD) were unexpected away from the L.C.R.V. in midsummer. A Black Tern at Willcox 25 Jun (ph. R. Shantz) was casual.

Ruddy Ground-Doves, typically absent in summer, were present at a number of locations. A late report was received of a pair attempting copulation at Rio Rico 14 May (G. Hentz, *vide* TC). Elsewhere, one was near Red Rock 14 Jun–8 Jul (MK), another was at Quigley W.A. 25 Jun (TM), and 4 were seen courting in the w. Phoenix valley 7–9 Jul (R. Jones), near where a pair apparently nested last year. The pair of Northern Saw-whet Owls present in Rustler Park in the spring was active again during the summer (m.ob.). The Buff-collared Nightjars near California Gulch were reported through 27 Jul (m.ob.); one or 2 heard in Brown Canyon 17 Sep (L. Liese et al.) indicated that they summered there again.

White-eared Hummingbirds were far more numerous than usual. Most unusual was one at Columbine, Pinaleño Mts. on 9 Jul (S. Wethington), only the 2nd ever found in that range. Singles were in Madera Canyon 1–11 Jul (L. Calvo, G. West, ph. A. Tozier), while up to 4 were in the Portal area in late Jul (RW, S. Kennedy, T. Prestby). In their more regular eastside Huachuca Mt. haunts, up to 13 were reported, including an amazing 8 at Beatty's in Miller Canyon 15 Jul (N. Aley, TB, JH, M. McQuerrey, R. Romea, M. Smith). At Ramsey Canyon, a female Berylline Hummingbird appeared 21 Jun+ (P. Brodtkin, †GB). Meanwhile, hybrid hummingbirds of apparent Berylline parentage summered in Ramsey Canyon and Miller Canyons again (m.ob.) Continuing their recent increase in numbers in eastside

Huachuca Mt. canyons, up to 7 Violet-crowned Hummingbirds were reported (m.ob.), with 4 in a single yard (JH). In a repeat of last year, one visited a feeder high in the Santa Catalina Mts. 6 Jul (MA). At least one nested in Portal (m.ob.), and an ad. was banded in Madera Canyon 27 Jul (G. West). Lucifer Hummingbirds also maintained their recent trends in the Huachuca Mts., with up to 5 in Ash Canyon (M. J. Ballator) and 4 more in nearby canyons (TB, B. Behrstock, JH). There was a female Lucifer at a feeder in Duquesne, Patagonia Mts. 8 Jul (JS). The first southbound Rufous Hummingbirds arrived in the Huachuca Mts. 27 Jun (M. J. Ballator, TB), at Sipe White Mountain W.A. 28 Jun (D. Roten), and in Flagstaff 30 Jun (J. Hildebrand). Allen's Hummingbirds, rare migrants, were reported: 2 banded in Madera Canyon 11 Jul (G. West) and another banded there 27 Jul, and singles in Patagonia 23 Jul (C. Lundblad), Portal 23 Jul (S. Kennedy), and Arivaca 26 Jul (G. West). No nests of Elegant Trogon have been discovered in the Patagonia Mts, but a juv. in Duquesne 25 Jun with 2 ads. (noted previously) suggested breeding there (JS). Record early in se. Arizona, a Belted Kingfisher was along the S.P.R. near Hereford 10 Jul (M. Marsden), besting the local early arrival date by a month. Also very early was a southbound juv. Williamson's Sapsucker in the Chiricahua Mts. 28–29 Jul (B. Bickel, RW et al.); they seldom arrive in s. Arizona before mid-Aug.

## FLYCATCHERS THROUGH MIMIDS

Greater Pewee is casual anywhere above the Mogollon Rim, so 2 at Coleman L. 8 Jun (EM, C. Holm) and one at Black Canyon (K. Penland) were of interest. Several Buff-breasted Flycatchers were reported from the Rincon Mts. during summer surveys (*vide* MA); this species has been found there again in recent years. A Dusky-capped Flycatcher in the Pinal Mts. 17 Jun (D. Pearson) was n. of usual breeding areas in the state. A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher at Rose Canyon, Santa Catalina Mts. 23–26 Jul (J. Danzenbaker, MA) provided one of the few records ever of this species from n. of the Santa Rita Mts. Tropical Kingbirds were found nesting at a number of locations away from the Santa Cruz R. Valley, including three pairs at H.R.P. 2 Jul (*vide* TC et al.) and a pair near Winkelman 10 Jul (JLD). Other locations of interest included ne. Tucson, Kino Springs, Rio Rico, and along the upper S.P.R. At least one Thick-billed Kingbird remained at H.R.P. 2 Jul (TC) after 3 were found there during May; this location is well n. of previous known nesting areas in the state. An Eastern Kingbird, casual in the state during summer, was at Tumacacori 13 Jul (KK). Another species casual in Arizona during the sum-

mer, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was reported from Roll near Yuma 24 Jun (B. Brochu, *vide* HD). A Rose-throated Becard was first detected this summer at the Patagonia Roadside Rest Area 26 Jun (C. Cathers), and a pair was found nest-building there 15 Jul (JLD). Another singing male was found at the e. end of Patagonia L. 21 Jul (D. Pratt et al.), and a worn female was found along Sonoita Cr. above Patagonia L. 5 Jul (WR). The stretch of Sonoita Cr. from Patagonia L. upstream to the Roadside Rest continues to be the stronghold for this species in the state. A pair of Bell's Vireo nest-building at Page Springs 26 Jun (R. Radd) was away from usual breeding areas and at an unusually high elevation. A Yellow-throated Vireo, casual in Arizona during summer, was in Carr Canyon 20-23 Jul (ph. B. L. Sullivan). A Red-eyed Vireo, also casual during the summer, was reported at Rio Rico 12 Jul (†T. Wheeler).

A Western Scrub-Jay 3 km w. of Ruby 26 Jul (SH) was at least the 3rd report from this area in the past few years, suggesting a small population there. Scattered reports of Clark's Nutcrackers from the Santa Catalina, Rincon, and Chiricahua Mts. from Jun-Jul were likely remnants from last winter's mini-invasion that brought birds to s. Arizona (RW, MA, MK et al.). Two Purple Martins found in California Gulch 21-26 Jul (DS, SH) were well s. and w. of known breeding areas in s. Arizona. Very early Tree Swallows included one at A.V.S.T.P. 4 Jul (RW), 2 there 8 Jul (P. Kline), one at Saguaro N. P. 9 Jul (J. Higgins), and 4 at Mammoth 10 Jul (JLD). Also very early was a Bank Swallow at Green Valley 9 Jul (RW, D. Smyth). At least one pair of Black-capped Gnatcatchers continued to be seen at P.L.S.P. during the summer (RT, SH, JLD et al.). Another pair with young was reported from Montosa Canyon 15-29 Jul (MK, RH, N. Bent et al.), and a disheveled individual banded at Tumacacori 23 Jul (ph. L. Norris, GB et al.) was thought to be this species.

An Aztec Thrush reported from S. Fork of Cave Cr. Canyon 30 Jun (†S. Cardinal, S. Durst) was very early for Arizona; most of the previous records come from Jul-Aug. A Gray Catbird summered 8 Jun+ at Rio de Flag, Flagstaff (CL), where casual. Two others remained in a Portal yard most of Jun (L. & T. Gates), and another was in Madera Canyon 10 Jul+ (J. Burns et al.); this species is casual in summer away from the White Mts. region. Unusually high for the species

in Arizona, a Curve-billed Thrasher was at Rose Canyon in the Santa Catalina Mts. 23 Jul (PL).

## WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Single Northern Parulas included a singing male at Granite Basin 25 Jun (CST) and a female in the upper Verde Valley 11 Jul (J. Saar). A Townsend's Warbler in the Santa Catalina Mts. 6 Jun (MA) was quite late for an Arizona spring migrant, whereas one also seen in the Santa Catalina Mts. 22 Jul (PL) was very early for a fall migrant. A Black-and-white Warbler, casual in summer, was reported from the San Manuel Crossing of the lower S.P.R. 28 Jul (S. Stump, *vide* TC). Single American Redstarts were found at Cienega Cr. 25 Jun (J. & T. Brewer), in a Portal Yard 1-15 Jul (L. & T. Gates), and along the S.P.R. near Fairbank 1 Jul (G. Johnson). Also casual in summer were Prothonotary Warblers at B.T.A. 18-23 Jun (K. Anderson et al.), along the S.P.R. near Hereford 1 Jun (M. Marsden), and at Black

breeding records for this species in Arizona.

A Western Tanager in Sabino Canyon 13 Jun (WR) was likely a very late spring migrant. The pair of Flame-colored Tanagers that nested in Madera Canyon during the spring attempted another nesting in Jun but were not reported after 10 Jul (m.ob.). Two White-crowned Sparrows on Humphrey's Peak near Flagstaff 30 Jun (CL) suggested local breeding there. At least 11 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported across s. Arizona 5 Jun-31 Jul (m.ob.); this species has become rather numerous during the late spring and summer in Arizona in recent years. Another low-elevation report from Sabino Canyon was of a Black-headed Grosbeak 13 Jun (WR). A Lazuli Bunting on Mt. Hopkins Rd. 13 Jul (JLD) was a bit early, but at least 50 (mostly ad. males) at Kino Springs 31 Jul-2 Aug (JLD et al.) were more in line with this species' pattern of staging in s. Arizona in late summer before continuing southward into Mexico for the winter. Of note were individual Indigo Buntings at Cow



A rarity in Arizona at any season but most surprising in summer, a Yellow-throated Vireo in Carr Canyon 20 July 2005 was found during the American Birding Association convention, held at Tucson. Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.

Canyon along the Mogollon Rim 28 Jun (K. Penland). An Ovenbird was found dead on the University of Arizona campus in Tucson 3 Jun (*vide* T. Huels; \*University of Arizona). Louisiana Waterthrushes tend to show up in Arizona during two distinct periods, late July and winter. This summer, 3 were found: one at Peña Blanca L. 20 Jul (S. Johnsen et al.), one near Hereford along the S.P.R. 22-23 Jul (†S. Schuette), and another at Agua Caliente Park, Tucson 22-24 Jul (D. Touret et al.). The only Hooded Warbler of the season was a worn female at San Bernardino N.W.R. 20 Jul (RW). A "tattered" male Wilson's Warbler was at Sheeps Crossing, White Mts. 19 Jul (D. Roten), providing another summer report from that area; there are no

Spring L. 23 Jun (CL), at H.R.P. 2 Jul (TC), and at S. Fork of the Little Colorado R. 4 Jul (J. Videle); this species is a rare breeder across the Mogollon Rim region of cen. Arizona. Continuing a now well-established pattern of staging in s. Arizona in late Jul-early Aug, no fewer than 15-20 Painted Buntings were reported 14 Jul+ (m.ob.). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported in greater numbers than usual this late summer at a variety of s. Arizona localities, suggesting potential nesting in the Region. A Streak-backed Oriole was reported from a Portal yard 15 Jul (†L. & T. Gates), while another was located along the Santa Cruz R. near Tumacacori 23 Jul+ (W. Leitner; ph. KK, GB), providing a first Santa Cruz record. A belated report of a Lawrence's Goldfinch was received for the Nogales area 14 May (TC), a very late date for se. Arizona.

**Observers** (subregional editors in boldface): Moez Ali, Tom Beatty, Gavin Bieber, Troy Corman, Henry Detwiler, Pierre Deviche, Jon L. Dunn, Bill Gross, Stuart Healy, John Hirth, Rich Hoyer, Doug Jeness, Keith Kamper (Tucson RBA), Melody Kehl, Chuck LaRue, Paul E. Lehman, Tracy McCarthey, Elaine Morral, Lin Piest, Molly Pollock, Kurt Radamaker, Will Russell, Dave Stejskal, Mark M. Stevenson, Joshua Stewart, Rick Taylor, Carl S. Tomoff (Prescott), Richard E. Webster, Janet Witzeman (*Maricopa*), Rick Wright. 🐦