

colored having never even been seen at Barr in the fall. The number of Swamp Sparrows was well down after the past several years of high numbers. Individual *Zonotrichia* sparrows out of place were a White-throated at Navajo Res. 9–10 Nov (AS), a Harris's at Paonia 7 Nov (JBn), and Golden-crowneds at Fruitgrowers Res. arriving 2 Oct for the 3rd winter (D. Galinat), 8 Oct in Sedgwick (SL), and 7 Nov near Guernsey, Platte, WY (K. Kranik). Smith's Longspurs were reported twice this fall, though we have seen no details of the 2nd bird: one among other longspurs near Torrington, Goshen, WY 7 Oct (DF) and one in Sedgwick 8 Oct (SL). The species is very rare as far w. as our Region (with only one accepted for Wyoming and none, yet, for Colorado; two reports are circulating), and details should be submitted to the respective records committees.

Two Northern Cardinals were located away from their usual haunts near the Kansas and Nebraska borders, a male at Louviers, Douglas 21 Jul–2 Aug (the Halverstadts) and a female at Rockvale, Fremont 7–9 Aug (fide R. Watts). Bobolinks are another species not often found in fall in the Region, so single birds at Wetmore, Custer 27 Aug (RM) and at Barr 4 Sep

(GW, ph. TL) were of interest. A male Baltimore Oriole was nw. of Windsor, Weld 18 Aug (M. Maeda), well w. of typical range in e. Colorado. Two different Purple Finches graced the Thompson yard in Lamar (the Purple Finch capital of Colorado) 5–7 Nov and 11–13 Nov (J. Thompson, ph. DAL); another was reported from a Franktown yard 27–28 Nov (H&UK). As in recent years, we received exceedingly few reports of Evening Grosbeak, a species that seems to be becoming quite scarce. One was barely on the plains at Ft. Collins 3 Oct, and a flock of 25 was in Estes Park 26 Nov (both DAL).

**Corrigenda:** The site of the Cassin's Sparrow e. of Torrington, WY 22 May 2005 is in *Goshen*, not *Platte*. Raynes' rosy-finches in Jackson, WY occurred on 24 Mar 2005, not in May.

**Addendum:** The Varied Thrush found in Lyons, Boulder in early Dec 2004 was found dead there on 25 Dec (M. Griest; \*Denver Museum of Nature and Science).

**Cited observers** (subregional editors in bold-face): Jean & Jennifer Adams, Larry Arnold, Jason Beason (JBn), Jim Beatty (JBy; sw. Col-

orado), Andy Boyce, Cameron Cox, Coen Dexter (w.-cen. Colorado), Dean DiTomasso, Lisa Edwards, David Elwonger, Doug Faulkner (Wyoming), Ted Floyd, Joey Kellner, Hugh & Urling Kingery, Nick Komar, Steve Larson, Gloria & Jim Lawrence (statewide RBA, Wyoming), David A. Leatherman, Tony Leukering, Kara Lewantowicz, Forrest Luke (nw. Colorado), Terry McEneaney (Yellowstone), Chris Michelson (Casper, WY), Rich Miller, SeEtta Moss, Duane Nelson, Starr Nicely, Susan Patla (Jackson, WY), Brandon K. Percival (se. Colorado), Mark Peterson (cen. Colorado), Bert Raynes (Jackson, WY), Betty Rickman, Bill Schmoker, Larry Semo (ne Colorado), Randy Siebert, David Silverman Andrew Spencer, Jane Stulp, Van Truan Glenn Walbek (n.-cen. Colorado), Cole Wild We also greatly appreciate reports from many other individuals who could not be acknowledged here. 🐦

**Tony Leukering**, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, 14500 Lark Bunting Lane, Brighton, Colorado 80603, (tony.leukering@rmbio.org); **Bill Schmoker**, 3381 Larkspur Dr., Longmont, CO 80503, (bill@schmoker.org); **Christopher L. Wood**, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850, (clw37@cornell.edu)

## Great Basin



### Rick Fridell

The Great Basin experienced dry conditions and above-normal temperatures throughout most of the fall season. Summer-like temperatures lingered into early fall, and conditions stayed unseasonably warm through November. Several contributors reported an extended migration of western species, likely a direct consequence of these warm temperatures. It was an exceptional season for vagrant shorebirds in the

Great Basin. Five Mountain Plovers were photographed in western Nevada, and several rare shorebirds were observed along the Antelope Island State Park Causeway, including well-documented Wandering Tattler, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Curlew Sandpiper, and Red Phalarope. Another fall migration highlight was Utah's first documented Ruby-throated Hummingbird, visiting a feeder in southwestern Utah.

**Abbreviations:** Antelope Island S.P. and Causeway, Davis, UT); Bear River (Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Box Elder, UT); Corn Cr. (Corn Creek Unit, Desert N.W.R., Clark, NV); H.B.V.P. (Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, Clark, NV); Lake Mead (Lake Mead N.R.A., Clark, NV); Lytle (Lytle Ranch Preserve, Washington, UT); Miller's R.A. (Miller's Rest Area, Esmeralda, NV); Pahrana-gat (Pahrana-gat N.W.R., Lincoln, NV); Red Hills (Red Hills G.C., St. George, Washington, UT); Zion (Zion N.P., Washington, UT).

### WATERFOWL THROUGH CONDOR

Significant waterfowl sightings were in short

supply this season in the Great Basin. Typically there is a fair passage of scoters through the Region; however, no White-winged Scoters were reported, and Surf Scoters were reported from only three locations. The first was an early male photographed at the H.B.V.P. 28-29 Sep (JHe). Female Surf Scoters were reported from two Utah locations, Hyrum S.P., Cache (30-31 Oct; KA, JBi) and Antelope Island (2-4 Nov; MMu, BH). Three well-documented female Black Scoters lingered at Antelope Island 11-22 Nov (ph. JBi, ph. TA). Pacific Loons were observed 16 Oct at East Canyon S.P., Morgan, UT (AaS, ArS, CS) and 31 Oct at Hyrum S.P., Cache, UT (BH).

One of the highlights of the fall was the documentation of successful nesting by Least Bitterns in Clark, NV. A pair of Least Bitterns and up to 3 offspring were enjoyed throughout the reporting period by a steady stream of observers at the H.B.V.P. (JBr, JHe et al.). Another pair of Least Bitterns successfully fledged at least one young at the Clark County Wetlands Park, Las Vegas (24 Aug; LC, JBr). A very late Turkey Vulture was a surprise on 27 Nov at Carson City, Carson City, NV



Five Mountain Plovers visiting Dyer, Esmeralda County, Nevada 8-12 (here 8) October 2005 were a rare treat for Nevada birders. Photograph by Greg Scyphers.

(MMe, GS). Fortunately, sightings of California Condors have become regular at the Kolob Meadows/Lava Point area of Zion over the last few years. Sightings continued to increase this fall, with a high count of 12 condors observed 27 Aug (RF et al.). Based on reports of wing tag numbers, it appears the condors present at Zion include at least 20 individuals (DB, J&KB et al.).

## HAWKS THROUGH GULLS

Although Common Black-Hawks are frequently observed in sw. Utah, they are seldom reported from s. Nevada, so one observed in Las Vegas, Clark 7 Sep (RSc, JCI) was noteworthy. Red-shouldered Hawks were reported from 3 Aug–28 Sep at four Nevada locations (in Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, and Pershing); however, none were reported in Utah. Broad-winged Hawks, relatively rare migrants through the Region, were observed at three Utah locations: Beaver Dam Mts., Washington (24 Sep; LT), Big Cottonwood Canyon, Salt Lake (25 Sep; J&KB), and Lee Kay Ponds, Salt Lake (1 Nov; TA).

It was an exceptional season for vagrant shorebird sightings in the Great Basin: water levels in the Great Salt L. were optimal, as were foraging conditions along the Antelope Island S.P. Causeway, Davis, UT. Several American Golden-Plovers were reported at Antelope Island 11 Aug–11 Oct (TA et al.); one was at the far more unusual location of Hickman Flats, San Juan, UT 6 Oct (LG). Mountain Plovers are extremely rare anywhere in the Region, so 5 photographed 8 Oct at the Arlemonte Ranch, Esmeralda, NV (MMe, GS)

were very noteworthy; they lingered through at least 12 Oct and were enjoyed by several Nevada birders. Utah's 4th documented Wandering Tattler was found at Antelope Island 11 Sep (ph., †PF, ph. JBi et al.) and remained through 18 Sep (ph., †MMo). Two Whimbrels were also photographed 6-17 Aug at Antelope Island (SCo, JBi). Whimbrel also made a rare s. Nevada appearance 9 Sep at the H.B.V.P. (LC et al.). Another surprise shorebird was a first-year Hudsonian Godwit photographed 5 Sep



This Wandering Tattler was one of several exceptional shorebirds documented along the Antelope Island State Park Causeway, Davis County, Utah in autumn 2005. Utah's fourth, the tattler was found by Pomeroy on 11 September and lingered a week (here 18 September). Photograph by Milton Moody.

at Fish Springs N.W.R., Juab, UT (KC, ph., †RF). Ruddy Turnstones were photographed at Antelope Island on two occasions: 5-15 Aug (DWi, ph. JBi, BH et al.) and 12-13 Sep (KP, ph. PH). Eight Red Knots were also found at Antelope Island 4 Aug (TA et al.), and another was reported there 13 Sep (PF, KL). An unusually high count of 35 Baird's Sandpipers came from Pyramid L., Washoe, NV (MMe). Utah's 4th accepted Curlew Sandpiper was observed sporadically 14 Aug–12 Sep at Antelope Island (†J&KB, CTa et al.). Stilt Sandpipers were found at Antelope Island, as well as at the more unusual locations of H.B.V.P. (18 Sep; JBr) and Fish Spring N.W.R., Juab, UT (18 Sep; CN, ph. TA). Short-billed Dowitchers were observed 4 Aug at Bear River (ph. TA) and 18 Sep at Fish Springs N.W.R., Juab, UT (CN, ph. TA). Rounding out the shorebird sightings were reports of a Red Phalarope at Antelope Island 4 Aug (p.a., †TA) and 2 photographed there 10 Oct (†CD).

A juv. jaeger, found 10 Sep at Willard Bay S.P., Box Elder, UT (C&SS), elicited spirited debate over its identification. The majority opinion gradually shifted from the original identification of Parasitic to Long-tailed, based on several detailed observations and photographs (ph. JBi, ph. TA). However, as a cautionary reminder on separating these very similar species: the bird was found dead on 13 Sep, measured, photographed, and positively identified as a Parasitic Jaeger (†TA). Two additional jaegers, both unidentified, were reported 9 Sep from Pyramid L., Washoe, NV

(FP, GP, DM). A Mew Gull graced the Lemmon Valley Ponds, *Washoe*, NV 29 Oct–5 Nov (MMe, DM et al.). Six Thayer's Gulls were observed 22 Nov at the Bountiful Landfill, *Davis*, UT (TA), and another was reported 25 Nov at the Lee Kay Ponds, *Salt Lake*, UT (TA). It was an above-average year for migrant Sabine's Gulls in the Region, with six reports totaling 8 individuals. Seven Sabine's Gulls were observed in Utah (*Davis*, *Toole*, and *Wasatch*) 14 Aug–4 Oct (PF, CG, SC, KP), and the only Nevada report was at Red Hawk G.C., Sparks, *Washoe* 8–9 Oct (TD, FP). A Glaucous-winged Gull was found 29 Oct at Pyramid L., *Washoe*, NV (DWo, JT).

### DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

White-winged Doves occasionally wander n. of their expected range; however, this fall there were at least 4 documented at n. locales. Northerly White-winged Doves were found 4 Sep at the Circle L Ranch, *Dyer*, *Esmeralda* (GS) and 13 Sep at Lovelock, *Pershing*, NV (D&RP). Wayward White-winged Doves were also found in Utah, at Bluff, *San Juan* 7 Oct (LG) and Murray, *Salt Lake* 16 Oct (ph. TS). Two Vaux's Swifts observed 29 Aug near Lava Point, *Zion* (J&KB) were the only reports this season. Utah's first documented and much anticipated Ruby-throated Hummingbird was discovered 29 Aug visiting a feeder at Central, *Washington* (†LT et al.). Fortunately, the young male hummingbird lingered through 2 Sep and allowed close study and numerous photographs (ph. RF et al.). Anna's Hummingbirds, now regular in s. Nevada and sw. Utah, were observed at several unexpected locations, including at Carmel Junction, *Kane*, UT (an imm. male 10 Sep; ph. GR et al.) and in Reno, *Washoe*, NV: ad. males 15 Sep (FP, GP) and 7 Oct (JL). A pair of Acorn Woodpeckers was an unexpected surprise 7 Aug–25 Sep near Kolob Res., *Washington*, UT (KC, ph. RF, BH et al.). Red-breasted Sapsuckers were reported from the unusual locations of H.B.V.P. 22 Sep (ph. CP, JBr) and St. George, *Washington*, UT 8 Nov (p.a., †PR).

### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

Least Flycatchers were photographed at two Nevada locations: 10 Sep at the Circle L Ranch, *Dyer*, *Esmeralda* (MMe, GS) and 11 Sep at Pahrnagat (KC, RF). An Eastern Phoebe was an unexpected find 6 Oct at Floyd Lamb S.P., *Clark*, NV (RSc, JC). Eastern Kingbirds turned up at several unexpected locations, including Porter Springs, *Pershing*, NV (23 Aug; RSt et al.), Bishop Springs, *Millard*, UT (5 Sep; KC, RF), Pyramid L., *Washoe*, NV (9 Sep; MMe), and Pahrnagat (11 Sep;



This juvenile jaeger discovered 10 September 2005 at Willard Bay State Park, Box Elder County, Utah was found dead 13 September and subsequently identified as a Parasitic. Photograph by Tim Avery.

KC, RF). Red-eyed Vireos were observed 20 Aug at Porter Springs, *Pershing*, NV (D&RS) and 25 Aug at Floyd Lamb S.P., *Clark*, NV (RSc). An out-of-range Blue Jay made a brief appearance at an Ogden, *Weber*, UT residence 29–31 Oct (JR). Unexpected Varied Thrushes turned up on 9 Oct at both Dugway, *Toole*, UT (ph. CZ) and H.B.V.P. (ph. CP, JBr). Gray Cat-

As usual, vagrant e. warblers were found throughout the Great Basin during the fall reporting period. A well-described Tennessee Warbler was observed 25–28 Aug at Willard Bay S.P., *Box Elder*, UT (†KP et al.). Another was found 4 Sep at Sagehen Rd., *Dyer*, *Esmeralda*, NV (GS). The only Northern Parula reported was at the Dyer Pond, *Esmeralda*,



One of three Blackpoll Warblers found in Nevada in autumn 2005, this bird was on the Arlemont Ranch, *Dyer* County 18 September. Photograph by Greg Scyphers.

birds made rare Nevada appearances at Las Vegas, *Clark* (24 Sep; JCo) and at the Circle L Ranch, *Dyer*, *Esmeralda* (2 Oct; GS). A relatively late Gray Catbird was briefly sighted at Red Hills 11 Nov (LT). Brown Thrashers were found 8 Oct at the Circle L Ranch, *Dyer*, *Esmeralda*, NV (GS, MMe) and 20–21 Nov at Bluff, *San Juan*, UT (ph. JHo).

NV 10 Sep (MMe, GS). There were several Chestnut-sided Warblers reported: the first was observed 11 Sep at Gunlock, *Washington*, UT (LT), followed by a female 1–2 Oct at Circle L Ranch, *Dyer*, *Esmeralda*, NV (GS) and females at Red Hills 13 Oct (†PC) and 11 Nov (LT). A first-year female Magnolia Warbler was observed 30 Sep at Pahrnagat

N.W.R., Lincoln, NV (RF, LT). Hermit Warblers are rare but regular migrants through s. Nevada, but until recently they were believed to be very rare in Utah. In recent years, Hermit Warblers have been observed annually in sw. Utah mountains, and 4 were observed this fall 14-27 Aug in Washington (KC, LT, RF). A female Hermit Warbler was also observed at the H.B.V.P. 22 Sep (JBr). A female Blackpoll Warbler was a pleasant surprise 18 Sep at the Arlemonte Ranch, Dyer, Esmeralda, NV (GS, DG, RSt et al.). Surprisingly, the only Black-and-white Warbler in the Region was found 9 Sep at Pyramid L., Washoe, NV (MMe). Five American Redstarts were observed in Esmeralda, NV between 3 Aug and 2 Oct (LW, GS, FP et al.). Surprisingly, Prothonotary Warblers were found at two Esmeralda, NV locations (Sagehen Rd. and Circle L Ranch) on 17 Sep (GS, D&RS, RSt et al.). Another turned up at the Circle L Ranch, Dyer, Esmeralda, NV 1-14 Oct (GS, JD, DH et al.). The only Ovenbird this season was at Corn Cr. 2 Oct (BG). Northern Waterthrushes were observed 17 Aug-30 Sep at six Nevada locations (Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye, and Washoe) and two

Utah locations (Davis and Millard). After several years of sightings, but unconfirmed nesting, Painted Redstarts were observed feeding young in Zion Canyon, Zion 4 Aug-10 Sep (MD, GR et al.).

### SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

Clay-colored Sparrows were observed at two Nevada locations: Corn Cr. (17 Sep; CTi et al.) and Arlemonte Ranch, Dyer, Esmeralda (18 Sep; ph. GS). A female Lark Bunting made a rare fall appearance in the Region 4 Sep at Miller's R.A. (FP). Swamp Sparrows went unreported in Utah but were found 4 Sep at H.B.V.P. (JHe) and 17 Sep at Corn Cr. (CTi et al.). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were surprisingly absent in the Great Basin, with only a single report: 11 Sep at Gunlock S.P., Washington, UT (LT). A somewhat late and extralimital female Bobolink was sighted 8 Nov at H.B.V.P. (fide JBr). A first-fall male Baltimore Oriole turned up 3 Sep at Lida, Esmeralda, NV (GS).

**Contributors and cited observers:** Keith Archibald, Tim Avery, Joel & Kathy Beyer, Jack Binch (JBi), Denise Blyn, Je Anne Branca

(JBr), Steve Carr (SCa), Lorraine Cassidy, Joan Clarke (JCl), Jack Cochran (JCo), Steve Coleman (SCo), Kristen Comella, Peyton Cook, Jim & Marian Cressman, Carol Davis, Massimiliano Dettori, Tom Dozet, Jon Dunn, Rick Fridell, Pomeria Fronce, Dennis Ghiglieri, Lu Giddings, Bob Gotschall, Carol Gwynn, Jim Healy (JHe), Paul Higgins, Jim Hooks (JHo), Debbie House, Bob Huntington, Kent Lewis, Jacque Lowery, Sueann Marshall, Martin Meyers (MMe), Don Molde, Milton Moody (MMo), MarJean Muhlestein (MMu), Colby Neuman, Deedee O'Brien, Carol Perry, Fred Petersen, Gail Petersen, Debbie and Randy Pontius, Kristin Purdy, Jack Rensel, Patricia Richards, Gary Rosenberg, Terry Sadler, Rita Schlageter (RSc), Greg Scyphers, Dennis & Rebecca Serdehely, Aaron Smith (AaS), Arnold Smith (ArS), Celeste Smith, Cindy & Steve Sommerfeld, Rose Strickland (RSt), Clay Taylor (CTa), Jane Thompson, Carolyn Titus (CTi), Larry Tripp, Dennis Williams (DWi), Larry Williams, Diane Wong (DWO), Candy Zaffis. 📍

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

## New Mexico



### Sartor O. Williams III

Early fall 2005 brought welcome precipitation to many parts of the state, contributing to a spectacular waterbird and shorebird migration through the eastern plains. By mid-season, however, the long-term drying trend had resumed, and the season ended both very dry and very cold.

**Abbreviations:** B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); Bosque (Bosque del Apache N.W.R.); E.B.L. (Elephant Butte L.); L.V.N.W.R. (Las Vegas N.W.R.); Maxwell (Maxwell N.W.R. and vicinity); MSB (Museum of Southwestern Biology); N.R.T. (n. Roosevelt migrant trap near Melrose); P.O. Canyon (Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts.); R.G.N.C. (Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley); R.S. (Rattlesnake Springs area, Eddy).

### WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

Making a brief appearance was a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck at Deming 15 Aug (LM, ph. JO); another possibly of this species was glimpsed at Bosque 5 Aug (JO). Noteworthy for the locale and early date were 5 Greater White-fronted Geese at Deming 10 Sep (LM); high counts elsewhere were up to 10 at Maxwell 22-25 Oct (DC, J&MH, JP, JO) and 3 at B.L.N.W.R. 20 Nov (SW). Earliest Tundra Swans were one at Waverly L., Union 6 Nov (JO) and 3 at Vermejo Ranch near Cimarron 17 Nov (ph. DC). A male Eurasian Wigeon at Maxwell 29 Oct (DC) provided a Colfax first; another male was at R.G.N.C 11 Nov (CGL),

where regular in recent years. An apparent Eurasian Wigeon x American Wigeon hybrid was at Socorro 30 Oct+ (m.ob., ph. S. Wilson). Nine Greater Scaup at L.V.N.W.R. 13 Nov (CR) was a large number for so early in the season. A Long-tailed Duck was at Stubblefield L. 18-24 Nov (ph. DC), where there was a male Barrow's Goldeneye 16 Nov (DC) and a female Barrow's 18 Nov (ph. DC). A Lesser Prairie-Chicken strayed w. to B.L.N.W.R. 18 Oct (ph. J. Howland), where last reported several decades ago.

A Red-throated Loon made a brief visit to Springer L. 22 Oct (J&MH). Single Pacific Loons reached Springer L. 22-24 Oct (DC), Miami L. 7 Nov (ph. JO), and Conchas L. 22 Nov (WW). Eared Grebes were successful at Stubblefield L., where six pairs were carrying chicks 8 Aug and some 75 chicks were present 23 Aug (ph. DC). Late for the n. were 1130 *Aechmophorus* grebes at Morgan L. 23 Nov (AN). An imm. Brown Pelican flying through Tijeras Canyon 10 Aug (D. Clayton) was seen later that day on a pond at nearby Sandia Park (D. Weaver, F. Lusso); another imm. was at Sumner L. 2 Oct (NP, JB). Far n. and a *Union* first was a Neotropical Cormorant at Clayton L.