(JO), and 3 at Valley of Fires, Lincoln 4 Dec (CR, BN). Attracting national attention was a Yellow Grosbeak at Albuquerque. First noticed in early Dec (ph. R. Powell) and 5 Jan (ph. M. Ratliff), it was discovered by birders 22 Jan (JEP, JO et al.) and enjoyed (and photographed) by hundreds through the season. Apparently a subad. male, the grosbeak frequented feeders in the North Valley through 1 Feb, then relocated to the University area mid-Feb—Mar (m.ob.).

An impressive Rusty Blackbird season produced 3 at Ute L. 27 Dec (ph. DC), one at B.L.N.W.R. 1-3 Dec (JH, JEP, ph. JO), 3 at R.S. 17 Dec-7 Jan (JEP, ph. JO, JB, DK, CGL), and 2 at Las Cruces 17 Dec (W. Whitford). Common Grackles continued to linger or overwinter n. and w. of expected, but haphazard reporting continued to confuse the issue; credible reports included one w. to Playas 10 Jan (P. Lehman) and 2 at Deming 29 Jan (LM), singles n. to Albuquerque 18 Dec (A. Rominger) and San Antonio 2 Jan (JEP), 3 at Eagle Nest 3 Dec (DC), one at Maxwell 1 Jan

(ph. DC), and 6 at Santa Rosa 14 Dec (WW). Up to 10 Bronzed Cowbirds were at Las Cruces Dec-Feb (m.ob., ph. BZ). A male Bullock's Oriole, first noted at Percha in late Nov, remained Dec-Jan (ph. CGL, ph. JO, JEP) and was last reported 3 Feb (BN, CR). The dependable three-species flock of rosy-finches entertained many at Sandia Crest, where 271 were banded through 25 Feb-203 Blacks, 39 Brown-cappeds, and 29 Gray-crowneds (NC, SC et al.); a three-species flock of 30 at Eagle Nest 13 Dec (DC) provided the only additional locale. What was described as an eastern Purple Finch was at Percha 24 Jan (G. Bieber). Montane finches were notably scarce-small numbers of Cassin's Finches were reported on seven widely scattered C.B.C.s, Red Crossbills were detected only twice during the season, and the few Evening Grosbeaks reported were largely restricted to the Sangre de Cristo Mts. Lesser Goldfinch continued to make its winter presence known n. of expected, including outnumbering American Goldfinch 28 to 24 at Farmington 17 Dec (AN).

Initialed observers: Jonathan Batkin, Matt Baumann, David Beatty, David Cleary, Nancy Cox, Steve Cox, Alan Craig, Craig Cranston, Robert Doster, Deanna Einspahr, Trevor Fetz, Bernard Fov. David Griffin, David Hawksworth, William Howe, Jeff Howland, Charles Hundertmark, Iim Krakowski, David Krueper, Carroll D. Littlefield, Carl G. Lundblad, Martin MacRoberts, Larry Malone, Raymond Meyer, Narca Moore-Craig, Alan Nelson, Bruce Neville, Frank Oatman, Jerry Oldenettel, John E. Parmeter, James N. Paton, Nick Pederson, Mary Ristow, Christopher Rustay, Janet Ruth, Lawry Sager, Marcy Scott, Roland Shook, Dale Stahlecker, John Trochet, Brad Vaughn, Gordon Warrick, Mark Watson, Richard Webster, Steve West, William West, Elton Williams, S. O. Williams, James Zabriskie, Barry Zimmer, Dale Zimmerman. 😂

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Arizona



Mark M. Stevenson | Gary H. Rosenberg

a Niña conditions resulted in an extremely dry winter statewide: there were 143 straight days without rain in Phoenix, a record, and essentially no snowpack in the mountains. Mild temperatures allowed many species to winter in unusually high numbers. Two potential first state records were documented, a Royal Tern and a Brown-chested Martin.

Abbreviations: A.B.B.A. (Arizona Breeding Bird Atlas), A.B.C. (Arizona Bird Committee), A.V.ST.P. (Avra Valley S.T.P.), B.T.A. (Boyce Thompson Arboretum), G.W.R. (Gilbert Water Ranch), H.R.P. (Hassayampa R. Preserve), L.C.R.V. (lower Colorado R. valley), P.L.S.P. (Patagonia Lake S.P.), S.P.R. (San Pedro R.), Whitewater (Whitewater Draw W.A.).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CORMORANTS

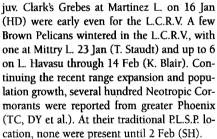
Fulvous Whistling-Ducks have been extremely scarce in Arizona in recent decades. The one-day Scottsdale record from Nov heralded a change. What was presumably the same bird was relocated 2-29 Dec on Chaparral L. (H. Bond, ph. PD) and again 7 Jan+ at nearby McCormick Ranch (TC, DY). In Green Valley, a flock of 18 was on a golf course pond 3 Dec (ph. C. Trible), and other singles turned up in e. Mesa 4 Dec-29 Feb (M. Tomme, ph. MW) and at Topock Marsh 13-28 Dec (†A. Haskew; D. Henderson). Casual in Prescott, 2 Snow Geese were present 18 Dec+ (CST). Ross's Goose is accidental in the Grand Canyon region, so 5 at CRM-8 on 4 Feb (CL, ph. G. Nealon) were remarkable. Still very rare in the state, Cackling Goose reports included 3 in Scottsdale 17 Jan-3 Feb (†PL; ph. N. Kaznajian), 2 near the confluence of the Gila R. and Agua Fria R. 13 Feb (ph., †MMo), and 3 on L. Mary 19 Feb (JP).

Six unbanded Trumpeter Swans seen at Kino Springs 6-9 Jan (R. & R. Thompson, ph. L. Smith) relocated to Corona de Tucson S.T.P. 15-26 Jan (B. Howard, ph. A. Tozier); there are only two prior records for se. Arizona, both since 1994, and few for the state. Eurasian Wigeon reports included one at Flagstaff 9-21 Dec (ph. N. Gaines) and 2-3 in Scottsdale (TC, J. Jones, m.ob.) all season. A hybrid wigeon was at Sun City 23 Nov–13 Dec (CST); another returned to Willcox 24 Dec+ (SH). In addition to the Mexican Ducks reported in the fall at Gilbert, another was in Chandler 12 Feb (MMo).

Surf Scoter is a rare, primarily late-fall migrant; reports came from Prescott L. 28-30 Nov (CST, ph. S. Burk), Many Farms L. 1 Dec (MMS, MP), and Ashurst L. 3 Dec (JP). By far the rarest scoter in the Southwest, a Black Scoter at Saguaro L. 18 Feb-3 Mar (J. Rusinow, S. Fried, ph. KR) made only the 8th state record. Nearly annual in the state in winter, single Long-tailed Ducks were at Watson L. 3-13 Dec (ph. S. Burk) and Parker Dam 4 Dec-19 Feb (H. Van Oosten). While 3 Barrow's Goldeneyes at Parker Dam 8 Dec-15 Jan (H. Van Oosten) were fewer than expected there, an ad. male near the confluence of the Gila R. and Agua Fria R. 29 Jan-4 Mar (ph. BG) was only a 2nd Maricopa record and one of very few from s. Arizona away from the L.C.R.V.

Chukars inhabit some of the least-visited areas of n. Arizona, so knowledge of the extent of their range is incomplete. In lower Glen Canyon, 37 were seen 1 Oct at the mouth of Waterholes Canyon (G. Nealon), several flocks were near Lowery Thumb 17 Dec (CL), 12 were on Echo Peaks 28 Jan (CL), and 40 were near Lowery Spring at the base of Vermilion Cliffs 18 Feb (JP), apparently representing a recent range expansion (fide CL). In Tucson, both of the long-reported Least Grebes were present all season (m.ob.) One reported from P.L.S.P. 14 Dec (†G. Jones) will be reviewed by the A.B.C.; they are typically found on small ponds. Horned Grebe is a casual transient and

wintering species away from the Colorado R.; singles were reported near Granite Cr. 25-26 Nov (CST), P.L.S.P. 24-30 Dec (W. Russell), and Roosevelt L. 26 Dec (KR). Although Western Grebes may nest in almost any month in the L.C.R.V., most nesting occurs Apr-Jul (A.B.B.A.) and even later at higher elevations; five or six pairs with downy young at Roosevelt L. 4 Jan (KR) were very early there. Dependent



This apparent Brown-chested Martin

was found by Rick Wright on 3 Febru-

ary 2006 at Patagonia Lake State Park, Santa Cruz County, Arizona. If ac-

cepted, it will furnish a first record for

Arizona and a third for North America.

Photograph by Gregg Rosenberg.

EGRETS THROUGH ANI

A Great Egret at Lyman L. 25 Dec-8 Jan (PL, 10) was unexpected that far n. in winter. Also farther n. than usual was a Green Heron at Willow L. 11 Dec (CST). The enigmatic White lbis was seen again in the Arlington area 18-27 Dec (TC et al.); what is apparently the same individual has been present there in multiple consecutive seasons. Black Vultures winter along the international border from Nogales westward, near Phoenix, and irregularly in the Santa Cruz valley, thus, 2 at Douglas in Dec were unexpected (A. Moorehouse). Numbers of White-tailed Kites have fluctuated in s. Arizona since the species first arrived in the late 1970s. Some 21 reports this season represented a big upswing from recent winters: 3 near Portal (DJ), one or more near Elfrida (GB, H. Hansen), 2 at Hereford (MMa), one near Lochiel (R. Wolcott), 4 in the San Rafael Valley (C. Braun), one near Elgin (m.ob.), one near A.V.S.T.P. (J. McCabe, RT), 2 in the Santa Cruz Flats (m.ob.), up to 3 at Paloma (TC, TM), one near Buckeye (J. Hammon), and 2+ in the Tacna–Welton area (PL, HD). Red-shouldered Hawk is casual in the state except for a resident pair at H.R.P. This winter, two pairs were reported in and near the preserve by several observers (C. Fisher, H. Beatty, TC, TM). A Zonetailed Hawk in the Santa Cruz Flats 18 Jan (PL, ph. N. Kazanjian) was in an area where they have not been-reported in winter. Continuing recent trends, Crested Caracaras wandered farther outside their core w. Pima range, including one near Portal 3 Dec (DJ), up to 4 in the Santa Cruz Flats (MW, M. Kehl), one near the

Gila R.-Agua Fria R. confluence 29 Dec-13 Feb (K. & L. Bielek), one near Whitewater I Jan (D. Palmer), one near Arlington 22-27 Jan (TC, T. Hildebrandt), one at Red Rock 23 Jan+ (RW), and one near Marana 2 Feb (K. Kroesen).

A Black Rail reported from Topock Marsh 28 Dec (†N. Miller) was at about the n. limit of the species' range in the L.C.R.V. The wintering Sandhill Crane count in the Sulfur

Springs Valley was the 2nd highest ever at 30,000+ (Arizona Department of Game & Fish). Reports of Mountain Plovers included 300+ in Yuma 1-14 Dec (HD), up to 50 in the Santa Cruz Flats (MW, PD), and up to 41 near Elfrida (SH, EW). Given the large amount of agricultural habitat that goes unsurveyed, it is difficult to assess the true size of the species' wintering population in Arizona. A few northbound American Avocets arrived several weeks early at multiple locations in se. Arizona beginning 13 Feb. Casual in the state in winter, a Lesser Yellowlegs was at G.W.R. 10 Dec-18 Feb (R. Ditch, RH). A flyby Dunlin at A.V.S.T.P. 21 Dec (DS) and 2, farther n. than is typical, at Willow L. 31 Dec-5 Jan (W. Bull, W. Anderson) were the only ones reported. An ad. Heermann's Gull was at Parker Canyon L. 15 Jan (MB); the species is casual in every season but occurs primarily in late fall. Sparse away from the L.C.R.V., 2 Herring Gulls were at Roosevelt L. 2 Dec (MMS, MP), and one was at Saguaro L. 3 Dec+ (KR). There are virtually no tern records from se. in winter, so it was doubly surprising when a first state record Royal Tern made a few turns around the large pond at Willcox 15 Feb (ph., †M. Victoria). The species is uncommon year-round on the Sea of Cortez but rarely strays inland; even at the Salton Sea it is only a casual summer visitor.

Ruddy Ground-Doves had another impressive season. Outstanding was one that sur-

vived single-digit temperatures in Flagstaff 6 Dec-4 Jan (CL, ph. J. Coons), providing a first *Coconino* record. Not quite as far n., one was in Granite Cr. Park, Prescott 21-28 Nov (B. Pranter, S. McDougall et al.); one seen one km away 21-24 Jan (CST) may have been the same individual. Notable concentrations included up to 19 at Red Rock 4 Dec (GB), 10 at Kino Springs (SH), 12 at El Mirage 15 Dec (TC), and 27 in a yard in w. Phoenix 15 Jan (TC, TM). Smaller numbers were at scattered locations from Yuma to Whitewater and n. to Mesa. The Groove-billed Ani at G.W.R. was last reported 11 Dec (m.ob.)

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A male Broad-billed Hummingbird in Yuma 25 Nov-14 Dec (ph. HD) furnished one of fewer than 10 records for the L.C.R.V., where it occurs as a fall and winter transient. In addition to 5 wintering Violet-crowned Hummingbirds in se. Arizona, northbound migrants began appearing in the 2nd week of Feb, with 6 in by the end of the month, a strong early showing. Unexpected in winter, a Costa's Hummingbird was in Portal through 12 Feb (DJ). Casual in winter, Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were reported from Ash Canyon all winter (MJB), Phoenix 30 Oct-23 Jan (P. Hershberber), in Prescott (first local winter record) 21 Dec+ (CST), and in Clarkdale 24 Dec-5 Jan (ph. D. Van Gausig). An early imm. male Broad-tailed was at G.W.R 11-18 Feb (RH, ph. J. Holloway). By the last week of Feb, early individuals were as far n. as Payson and Pine (J. Estis, L. Estis). The first northbound Rufous Hummingbirds arrived in Yuma on the early dates of 17 Feb (HD) and 18 Feb (A. Borgardt). The hummer of the season was an imm. male Selasphorus that wintered at a feeder in lower Miller Canyon, eventually molting to reveal itself as Arizona's first winter Allen's Hummingbird (C. Melton, ph. C. van Cleve). Another sign of the warm winter, Elegant Trogons were more widely reported. Of 16 reported, 4 in Humboldt Canyon, Patagonia Mts 28 Dec+, 3 together below the mouth of Madera Canyon 28 Dec (fide R. Freeman), and one taking suet in Ash Canyon 25 Jan+ (MJB, ph. C. van Cleve) were the most remarkable. Scarce Green Kingfishers were reported on the upper S.P.R. (m.ob) and at P.L.S.P. (m.ob.). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reports included singles in Marana 3-8 Dec (GB, †RH), near Portal 1 Jan (N. Moore-Craig), in Seven Springs Wash 2 Jan (TC), and in Bisbee, a juv. 4 Feb (J. Whetstone) With the challenges presented by intergrade sapsuckers, Red-breasted Sapsuckers reported from the Catalina Mts. 4 Dec (ph. M. Kehl),

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Yuma 2 Jan (ph. HD), and Avondale 9-20 Jan (ph J. Truan) will be reviewed by the A.B.C. Another individual was well described from E Whitetail Canyon in the Chiricahua Mts. 25 Feb (RT) but was not photographed.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PIPITS

Greater Pewee is rare to casual in s. Arizona during the winter, mainly in the lowlands; therefore, several reports in late fall and early winter from higher-than-usual elevations were indicative of the dry, warm winter: singles were near Prescott 18 Nov (CST), in Madera Canyon 11 Dec (G. Jones), in Ramsey Canyon 18-29 Jan (EW), at Patagonia 20-22 Jan (JWo), and again in Madera Canyon 22-26 Jan (SF). Hammond's Flycatcher winters regularly in riparian areas in s. Arizona, but reports from the Prescott area in Granite Basin 19 Dec-1 Apr (CST), Granite Dells 21 Dec-24 Mar (D. Moll), and Lynx Cr. 1 Jan (S. & S. Burk), as well as singles at Sunflower 16 Jan (TC) and Bill Williams N.W.R. 9 Feb (K. Blair), were likely a result of the mild winter. A Dusky Flycatcher was at Sunflower 16 Jan (TC). "Western Flycatchers" (Pacific-slope/Cordilleran) are normally rarer than the other Empidonax species during winter, but reports of no fewer than 6 (lıkely all Pacific-slopes) were received. Although Eastern Phoebe is a rare-but-regular winter visitor, nine reports was a greater number than usual for one season. A high count of 67 Vermilion Flycatchers on the Tucson Valley CBC. in late Dec (fide S. Birky) was nearly double the previous high, another indication of the mild conditions. A Dusky-capped Flycatcher at Quigley W.A. near Yuma 25 Dec-12 Jan (HD, PL) provided one of few winter records ever for the L.C.R.V. In a normal winter, there might be a scattering of Ash-throated Flycatchers found in proper winter habitat in s Arizona; this winter no fewer than 50 were reported, clearly indicating that this species wintered farther n. than the typical winter range, which is largely in w. Mexico. Cassin's Kingbirds also lingered into the winter, with one in Tucson 28 Dec (GHR), at least 6 in the Santa Rita Mts. 1 Jan (G. West), and one near Painted Rock Dam 26 Feb (KR et al.) providing the first Maricopa winter record. The Thick-billed Kingbird that returned to Yuma for a 3rd winter remained throughout the period (HD). A Rose-throated Becard (either female or imm. male) at P.L. S.P. 4 Dec-4 Feb provided one of the few winter records for Ari-

A Bell's Vireo, casual at best during the winter in Arizona, was at G.W.R. 15 Jan+ (RH). Another reported from Tucson 27 Feb (V. McKinnon) may have been an early migrant. Two Warbling Vireos at Yuma 28 Feb+ (A &

H. Borgardt, HD) were likely early migrants. The sensational bird of the year (or decade!) was a probable Brown-chested Martin photographed at P.L. S.P. 3 Feb (†RW, D. Smyth; ph. Greg Rosenberg). If accepted by the A.B.C., this would represent the first record for Arizona, as well as for the w. United States; there are just two other U.S. records. It is always difficult determining whether swallows seen during the winter season are lingering individuals, wintering birds, or early migrants. This season, scattered Tree Swallows were reported in early Dec, then again in mid-Feb. A Violet-green Swallow was in Hereford 8 Jan (M. Marsden), and several were reported from Saguaro L. 28 Jan (D. Stuart). Northern Rough-winged Swallows were numerous in Dec, with a high total of 214 on the Salt/Verde Rivers C.B.C. 14 Dec (fide KR), followed by scattered reports in Jan. At least 12 Barn Swallows were also reported during the winter; individuals reported in late Feb likely represented early returning migrants.

The Carolina Wren found in Cave Creek Canyon near Portal in fall was reported into Mar (ph. O. Niehuis, v.r. PD; †J. Hirth); one of the two previous state records remained for nearly two years. About 12 reports of Winter Wrens were received from scattered localities in s. Arizona, perhaps slightly more than usual; both "eastern" and "western" call-types were reported, once again suggesting that birds of both subspecies groups winter in Arizona, though the actual status of each is still uncertain. A pair of Black-capped Gnatcatchers along Sonoita Cr. sw. of Patagonia 18 Dec (†MMS, MP) perhaps represent a previously unreported pair. Pairs continued at several established localities, including Proctor Rd. below Madera Canyon, Montosa Canyon, and P.L.S.P. Exceptional for the winter season, a Wood Thrush was in Cave Creek Canyon near Portal 4-12 Dec (M. Meyers; ph. M. Brooks); most of the previous Arizona records are from either fall or late spring. It was an above-average winter for Rufous-backed Robin, with 3 found: one in lower Miller Canyon 3 Jan-3 Mar (C. van Cleve; ph. C. Melton), one at B.T.A. 8 Jan-27 Mar (ph. O. Niehuis, M. Weber), and one in Ramsey Canyon 11-31 Jan (R. Romea). Varied Thrush, casual in the state during winter, was found in Huachuca Canyon 3 Dec (fide E. Wilson), nearby Scheelite Canyon 7 Dec (RW, D. Smyth), Granite Basin near Prescott 11 Jan (CST), and in Flagstaff mid-Feb-7 Mar (R. Ray, fide P. Kegley). The 2 Gray Catbirds found in Portal in fall wintered there (L. Gates). Sage Thrashers were found farther n. than usual this winter: singles were at Prescott 21 Dec (CST), Overgaard 29 Dec (K. Penland), and at several other sites above the Mogollon Rim (m.ob.); this species is casual at best during winter in n Arizona. The Brown Thrashers found during the fall season at B.T.A. and near Hereford were both present throughout the season. A Curve-billed Thrasher was found wintering in Prescott 12 Dec+ (J. Morgan), where this species is considered accidental. A Sprague's Pipit found on the Gila River C.B.C. 27 Dec (TC) was n. and w. of this species' normal winter range in Arizona.

WARBLERS THROUGH ORIOLES

An Olive Warbler reported on the San Francisco Peaks w. of Flagstaff 11 Feb (J. Prather) was perhaps the first winter report from n. Arizona A Tennessee Warbler, casual in the state during winter, was in Sabino Canyon 21-31 Dec (WR). A Nashville Warbler in Yuma 23 Feb-1 Mar (A. & H. Borgardt, HD) was likely a very early spring migrant. Extraordinary was the report of a Lucy's Warbler from Whitewater 4 Dec (RH); the species is virtually unknown from the state in winter. Northern Parula, normally very rare in the state in winter, was seen with more frequency than usual, with no fewer than nine sightings, mostly during Dec. Another indication of the very mild winter, at least 13 Yellow Warblers were reported in s Arizona. Four Chestnut-sided Warblers, about normal for any given winter, included one in Scottsdale 2-15 Dec (J. Newel), one in sw Phoenix 4-17 Dec (TC), one in Marana 14 Dec (RH), and one at Imperial N.W.R. 18 Dec (ph HD). A Magnolia Warbler, casual in the state in winter, was reported from Rio Rico 17 Dec (J Ambrose). Black-throated Blue Warbler is also casual in winter; a male was in Sawmill Canyon 10 Dec (A. & A. Miller), while one in Granite Basin near Prescott 19 Dec-6 Jan (D Moll, CST) provided a first local winter record Two Yellow-rumped Warblers found on 18 Dec (E. Morral) provided a Mormon Lake C.B.C first. A Hermit Warbler, casual in the state in winter, was reported from nw. Tucson 18 Dec (E. Moll, S. Walker, M. Flory). The Prairie Warbler found at G.W.R. during the fall was last reported 4 Feb (m.ob.). Another first-year female Prairie was in Chandler 7-21 Jan (†TC, D. Yellan); this species has become more prevalent in Arizona during the past 15 years The only Palm Warbler reported was at Punkin Center 11-19 Feb (ph. KR), probably representing a first Gila record. Ten Black-andwhite Warblers were reported between 3 Dec and 2 Jan. Only one American Redstart was reported. The Ovenbird found at the Phoenix Desert Botanical Gardens during the fall was still being seen as of 27 Feb (ph. PD) Louisiana Waterthrushes wintered at the same localities as last year, along Sonoita Cr above

Patagonia L. and along the S.P.R. s. of Hwy. 90. Common Yellowthroats were found at higher elevation and farther n. than usual during the late fall and winter; 2 were at Willow L. 11 Nov-6 Jan (CST), one was at Lynx Cr. 25 Nov-21 Dec (W. Anderson), and up to 3 were at Watson L. 6 Jan (CST). Scattered Wilson's Warblers were reported later than usual into Dec, with one exceptionally late at Pena Blanca L. 29 Jan (B. Hilsenhoff). One of the best finds of the winter was a Red-faced Warbler in Humboldt Canyon in the Patagonia Mts. 24 Dec+ (J. Stewart, MB); there are very few U.S. winter records. A Rufous-capped Warbler discovered in upper Sycamore Canyon, Santa Cruz 6 Dec+ (D. Jones, KK; ph. DS) provided the first relatively accessible individual in the state since the species disappeared from French Joe Canyon.

A Western Tanager, casual in the state in winter, was at B.T.A. 26 Dec-19 Feb (G. Burgess et al.). Green-tailed Towhees were found farther n. than usual, with several reports from the Prescott area Nov-Dec (fide CST). A Field Sparrow reported from Springerville 12 Feb (†H. & C. Fellows) is under review by the A.B.C. and would represent only a 7th Arizona record if accepted. A Lark Sparrow at Watson L. 21 Dec (ph. S. Burk) was n. of its usual winter range in the

state. A Grasshopper Sparrow at Paloma Ranch 28 Jan-26 Feb (TC) was in an odd habitat; this species is seldom seen away from the grasslands in the se. portion of the state, where it is resident. At least 20 Fox Sparrows were found statewide in the expected ratio (about 75% schistacea from the Rocky Mts. and 25% zaboria or iliaca). No fewer than 20 Swamp, 20 White-throated, 8 Harris's, and 5 Golden-crowned Sparrows were reported this winter, all above normal counts. Up to 2 Mc-Cown's Longspurs were present at A.V.S.T.P. 8 Dec-20 Jan (DS, MP), w. of the species' normal winter range in the state. Two Lapland Longspurs, still only casual in the state, were at Reservation Tank 43 km e. of Flagstaff 4 Feb+ (J. Prather et al.).

Both casual in the state in winter, an imm. male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was in Scheelite Canyon 1 Jan (SH) and a female Black-headed Grosbeak was reported from Portal 5 Feb (M. Willys, fide DJ). A male Indigo Bunting was at Banning Cr. in the Mule Mts. 20 Jan (PL); there are very few mid-winter reports from Arizona. A female Orchard Oriole wintered in an Ahwatukee yard for a 4th consecutive year 15 Nov+, and a male appeared there 15 Feb+ (G. & S. Barnes). Another male was in a Queen Creek yard 22-26 Dec (ph. D. Sejkora), and yet another male reappeared in

a Tucson yard 18 Feb+ (N. Markowitz, J. Ogden et al.). Casual in winter, female-plumaged Hooded Orioles were at Ahwatukee 1 Dec+ (G. & S. Barnes) and at Yuma 14 Dec (HD) The Streak-backed Oriole found during the fall at G.W.R. remained until 22 Mar; another was located along Sonoita Cr. near Patagonia 18 Dec (ph. GHR, DS), with the same individual being seen sporadically at different locations upstream until 22 Jan (T. Watkins, MB et al.), only a 2nd Santa Cruz record.

Observers: Mary Jo Ballator, Gavin Bieber, Matt Brown, Troy Corman, Henry Detwiler, Pierre Deviche, Bill Grossi, Stuart Healy, Rich Hoyer, Shawneen Finnegan, Dave Jasper, Keith Kamper (Tucson RBA), Chuck LaRue, Paul Lehman, Michael Marsden, Tracy McCarthey, Michael Moore, Jerry Oldenettel, Molly Pollock, John Prather, Kurt Radamaker, Gary H Rosenberg, Dave Stejskal, Mark M. Stevenson, Rick Taylor, Carl S. Tomoff (Prescott), Magill Weber, Richard E. Webster, Rick Wright, Erika Wilson, Janet Witzeman (Maricopa), Joe Woodley, Daniela Yellan.

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Alaska



Thede Tobish

ith mild conditions lingering from a late fall season and a slow snow-pack deposition across most of the Region, winter 2005–2006 was nearly a carbon copy of the previous winter. Indeed, because of a fairly stable Aleutian Low coupled with sporadic freeze-up conditions and moist, northerly upper-atmosphere flows, at

least the coastal sections of the southern half of the state continued to produce above-average numbers of late migrants and semi-hardy species. Christmas Bird Counts were at or slightly

> species totals and highlights, and waterbirds, as is typical, dominated accounts of noteworthy species. Many birds previously considered rare and/or irregular in

above long-term averages for

Alaska a decade ago are now, because of better coverage and experiences of local residents, being found annually and in many cases are widespread, at least on the coastal periphery.

Abbreviation: North Gulf (North Gulf of Alaska). Referenced documentation is on file at the University of Alaska Museum. *Italicized place names* or *dates* denote especially unusual locations or dates for the noted species.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

Although there are occasional reports of Snow Goose into early Dec, an imm. around Juneau 14 Dec-5 Feb (GVV, DM) was unique and one of the Region's few "true" winter reports. Two Brant were very late and rare at Cordova 17 Dec-16 Jan (AL), especially given that most fall migrants bypass the North Gulf; a few, usually singles, winter in milder North Gulf sites. Unusual and late Cackling Geese were reported from Kodiak, with a single present through 18 Dec (ph. RAM), and the Juneau area, with 2 present 14 Dec-15 Jan (GVV). Dabbling ducks covered North Gulf habitats in near-record numbers, which diminished only slightly through the season Examples of unprecedented winter tallies included 1235 Gadwalls around Kodiak 31 Dec (SS), 638 American Wigeons and 3988 Mallards on the Juneau C.B.C. 17 Dec, 71 Northern Pintail in Gustavus 17 Feb (BP), and 169 Green-winged Teal in Juneau 17 Dec (all fide GVV, PS). Collectively, these probably represent the highest counts of "regular" wintering dabblers for the North Gulf subregion. No-