

## ARIZONA BIRD COMMITTEE REPORT, 2021–2023 RECORDS

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**ABSTRACT:** From 2021 through 2023 the Arizona Bird Committee reviewed 403 reports (several individual records comprise multiple reports) and updated the Arizona bird list through 2023, adding five species—the White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*), American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*), Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquata*—inadvertently left out of the last report), Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus aurantiirostris*), and Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*)—bringing the Arizona state list to 570 species in good standing.

This is the 11th published report of the Arizona Bird Committee (ABC) (Speich and Parker 1973, Speich and Witzeman 1975, Rosenberg and Witzeman 1998, 1999, Rosenberg 2001, Rosenberg et al. 2007, 2011, 2017, 2019, and Rosenberg and Rademaker 2021). This report covers records from 2021 to the end of 2023 and includes some records from prior years reviewed during that interval. The ABC reviewed a total of 259 reports, of which 251 (97%) became accepted records. Five species were added to the Arizona list, the White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*), American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*), Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquata*), Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus aurantiirostris*), and Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*)—bringing it to 570 species in good standing.

Other highlights in this report include Arizona's first photographed Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger*), third Common Crane (*Grus grus*), third Black Turnstone (*Arenaria melanocephala*), third Yellow-footed Gull (*Larus livens*), *thirteen* different Lesser Black-backed Gulls (*Larus fuscus*), multiple Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels (*Hydrobates tethys*) in the wake of Hurricane Hilary, third Black Storm-Petrel (*Hydrobates melania*), third and fourth Swallow-tailed Kites (*Elanoides forficatus*), second Gray-collared Becard (*Pachyramphus major*), *eleven* different Tufted Flycatchers (*Mitrephanes phaeocercus*), second Pine Flycatcher (*Empidonax affinis*), first Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) since 1999, second and third Clay-colored Thrushes (*Turdus grayi*), third White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*), third and fourth White-winged Crossbills (*Loxia leucoptera*), and *seven* different Yellow Grosbeaks (*Pheucticus chrysopheplus*).

The current Arizona Bird Committee (2024) consists of Chris D. Benesh, Tommy DeBardleben, Felipe Guerrero, Ryan O'Donnell, David J. Stejskal, Caleb Strand, Jake Thompson, and Jason Wilder. Recent committee members who also voted on records in this report include Andrew Core, Troy Corman, Lauren Harter, Eric Hough, Keith Kamper, Scott Olmstead, Kurt Rademaker (who is also our web master), David Vander Pluym, Magill Weber, and Gary H. Rosenberg (who serves also as secretary). Janet Witzeman serves in a nonvoting capacity as assistant secretary, as she has done since the committee began in the early 1970s.

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The ABC's web site ([arizonabirdcommittee.org](http://arizonabirdcommittee.org)) includes the Arizona state list, a list of species currently reviewed, the ABC's bylaws, a list of current committee members, a brief history of the ABC, an electronic form for reporting, and all past reports of the ABC (as published in *Western Birds*). When a species is removed from the ABC's review list, we mention that information in the species accounts in the reports, as well as in the news of the committee.

The ABC encourages observers to submit documentation for species on the review list, as well as for species new to Arizona. The ABC's review list can be found at [arizonabirdcommittee.org](http://arizonabirdcommittee.org). All species with fewer than 30 records in the state are on the review list. Once there are 30 or more accepted records, the ABC evaluates whether or not it should be removed from the review list. Some species have remained on the review list longer if the committee agrees that circumstances, such as a serious field-identification issue, warrant retention. All material should be submitted via the submit form on the ABC's web page at <https://arizonabirdcommittee.org/PhotoSubmit/ABCSubmitMain.aspx> or sent to Rosenberg at the address above. The committee would like to emphasize the importance of submitting documentation of sightings directly to the ABC for review. Reports, including those with written descriptions, posted on local electronic mailing lists or at [www.eBird.org](http://www.eBird.org) should not be assumed to have been discovered by the ABC, nor be assumed to be intended as documentation of a rarity for the ABC. The ABC prefers reports submitted directly to the committee. The ABC thanks the many observers (200+) who have submitted their documentation of sightings to the ABC for this report. Each record listed below includes a locality, county (abbreviation: see below), date span, and initial observer if known. Additional observers who submitted written reports (as indicated by the symbol †), photographs (ph.), video recordings (v.r.), and sound recordings (s.r.) are also listed. All records are of sight reports unless noted otherwise with a symbol for a photograph, sound recording, or specimen. As of 2024 the ABC's current policy is to review reports of birds recurring in successive years only if the bird has departed and then returned. Reports of individual birds that persist for multiple years without leaving are not reviewed after the initial acceptance. In most cases, the total number of Arizona records for a species includes the number of records accepted by the ABC plus those published in *Birds of Arizona* (Phillips et al. 1964) or in the *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Arizona* (Monson and Phillips 1981). The ABC emphasizes that a report listed under "reports not accepted" means that the documentation supplied was insufficient and/or did not meet the standards of the committee for substantiation.

Abbreviations for Arizona counties are APA, Apache; COS, Cochise; COC, Coconino; GIL, Gila; GRA, Graham; GRE, Greenlee; LAP, La Paz; MAR, Maricopa; MOH, Mohave; NAV, Navajo; PIM, Pima; PIN, Pinal; SCR, Santa Cruz; YAV, Yavapai; YUM, Yuma. Other abbreviations used include †, written description; ph., photograph; s.r., sound recording; v.r., video recording; N.M., national monument; N.W.R., national wildlife refuge; SDNHM, San Diego Natural History Museum; S.P., state park; s.t.p., sewage treatment plant. The finder of a bird who also submitted details is acknowledged first; other observers who submitted details follow.

Of the numbers appearing in parentheses (*n, n, n*) after each species' name, the first represents the total number of reports published by Phillips et al.

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(1964) or Monson and Phillips (1981) that the ABC considers correct but has not formally reviewed, provided the species was included on the ABC's first (1972) checklist. (The symbol “#” symbol denotes a species not recognized or not on the review list at that time.) The second number is the number of records accepted by the ABC from 1972 until this report, and the third number is the number of records of the species published in this report. For example, in the case of the Red-eyed Vireo, (5, 43, 3) signifies that five records were published in *Birds of Arizona*, 43 records were accepted and published in previous ABC reports, and three others are published in this report. The sum of these numbers gives the total number of accepted records to date. All totals reflect the number of reports and not the number of individual birds (e.g., 200 Least Storm-Petrels at Lake Havasu, MOH, after Tropical Storm Nora on 26 September 1997 constitute one record).

### ACCEPTED REPORTS

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK *Dendrocygna bicolor* (6, 13, 2). One was at Aztec, YUM, 12–21 Jun 2023 (JBa, KMc; ph. HD), and one was at the Narramore Road ponds in Arlington, MAR, 22–30 Jul 2023 (ph. TC). Perhaps the same individual recurred there 15–16 Nov 2023 (ph. BB, AL) and later moved to the nearby Lower River Road ponds 16–19 Nov 2023 (ph. JRh, GHR). This species has declined in recent decades and is now only a casual and irruptive visitor (Monson and Phillips 1981, Hamilton et al. 2007).

BRANT *Branta bernicla* (2, 17, 1). The only report was of one along the Salt River in southwest Phoenix, MAR, 16–23 May 2021 (TB, RM; ph. PD, CR). As with all previous Brant records in Arizona, this individual was the western form *B. b. nigricans*.

TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator* (0, 11, 10). Arizona's frequency of Trumpeter Swan reports has increased in recent years. One was at Watson L., Prescott, YAV, 2 Dec 2020 (†, ph. DJS, JcN, FG), one was at Queen Valley, PIN, 16 Jan–7 Feb 2021 (ph. PD, DJ, GK), one was near Taylor, NAV, 10–12 Feb 2021 (ph. JWs), one was at Happy Tank, about 23 km. n.e. of Heber, NAV (ph. JWs), one was at Granite Reef Recreation. Area, MAR, 16 Nov–6 Dec 2022 (†, ph. PD), one was at the John Lake playa, 19 km nw. of Winslow, COC, 22 Nov–11 Dec 2022 (JS; †, ph. JWi), one remained at Safford, GRA, 22 Nov 2022–18 Mar 2023 (JC; †, ph. DD, GHR), one was at Golden Valley w. of Kingman, MOH, 6–7 Jan 2023 (†, ph. MB), one was at Ganado Lake, APA, 28 Dec 2023 (ph. ES), and one was at Toka Sticks Golf Club, Mesa, MAR, 23 Mar 2023 (ph. RWa).

LEAST GREBE *Tachybaptus dominicus* (4, 25, 5). One was at the Glendale recharge ponds 9 km w. of Glendale, MAR, 9 Jan 2021 (DMo; ph. PD), one was at Ruby, SCR, 31 May–30 Jul 2022 (ph. DBy), one was at Peña Blanca Lake, SCR, 24 Apr–15 May 2023 (ph. TS), one was near the dam along the road into California Gulch at Ruby Lakes, SCR, 31 May–28 Aug 2023 (ph. DBy), and one was at Arivaca Lake, PIM, 2 Nov 2023 (ph. CNe). The Least Grebe is still considered casual in the southern Arizona but has become almost annual. The ABC removed it from the review list at the end of 2023.

WHITE-TIPPED DOVE *Leptotila verreauxi* (0, 0, 2). Arizona's first confirmed White-tipped Dove was at the confluence of Garden and Scheelite canyons on Fort Huachuca in the Huachuca Mountains, COS, 29 Apr–8 Jun 2022 (RBo; †, ph., s.r. GHR, JMc; Figure 1). Possibly the same individual was on Fort Huachuca in Huachuca Canyon, COS, 23 Apr–11 Jul 2023 (†, ph. RBe). Van Rossem (1945) reported this species north in Sonora only to San Javier and Tecoripa (~28.6° N), but Russell



FIGURE 1. A White-tipped Dove in Garden Canyon, Fort Huachuca, 29 April–8 June 2022 established a first Arizona record.

*Photo by Gary H. Rosenberg on 3 June 2022*

and Monson (1998) mapped it north along the Río Sonora to about Avizpe (~30.34° N, ~110 km south of the international border). Reports via <https://ebird.org> suggest it is now fairly common north to El Aribabi Conservation Ranch (30.856° N), just 53 km south of the border.

**BLACK SWIFT** *Cypseloides niger* (3, 8, 2). A Black Swift at Florence, PIN, 14 Aug 2023 (†, ph. PH) was the first photographed in Arizona. Another was seen at Río Rico, SCR, 20 Sep 2023 (†BL). This species is a casual migrant in the state, mostly in fall; there is only one Arizona specimen (see Rosenberg et al. 2019).

**COMMON CRANE** *Grus grus* (0, 2, 1). A Common Crane was in a flock of Sandhill Cranes (*Antigone canadensis*) at Duncan, GRE, 13–17 Feb 2021 (†, ph. ASm). It is possible that this was the same adult as at Willcox in November 2020 (see Rosenberg and Rademaker 2021). If treated as a different bird, it represents a third Arizona record. Since 2015 there have been three records of the Common Crane in adjacent New Mexico, also of single birds in flocks of Sandhill Cranes (Williams and Baumann 2023).

**PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER** *Pluvialis fulva* (0, 3, 2). A Pacific Golden-Plover at Coolidge, PIN, 24 Jul 2019 (†, ph. DJ) had been accepted as Arizona's fourth record of this species, but it was inadvertently left out of the last report. Another was at Paloma Ranch, MAR, 30 Aug 2021 (DMo; †, ph. ROD). All five of Arizona's Pacific Golden-Plovers have occurred between late June and early September.

**NORTHERN JACANA** *Jacana spinosa* (0, 7, 2). One was on the Fort McDowell Yavapai Indian Reservation n.e. of Fountain Hills, MAR, 14–18 Dec 2021 (†, ph. MV), and one was at the Tres Rios Wetlands, 6 km s. of Tolleson, MAR, 24–28 Oct

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2023 (KP; †, ph. GK, GHR). Despite Russell and Monson (1998) citing only one hypothetical record of the jacana for Sonora, reports via eBird suggest this species occurs regularly at least as far north as Navojoa, possibly to Guaymas. There are few records between there and Arizona, likely because of poor coverage.

UPLAND SANDPIPER *Bartramia longicauda* (3, 12, 4). One was along Greene Reservoir Road on the Santa Cruz Flats, PIN, 28 Sep 2021 (†, ph. SK, NH). At Willcox, COS, were one 27–29 Apr 2022 (ST; SA, MO, DJS) and another 18 Aug 2023 (†, ph. TWo). One was at Quail Creek in Green Valley, PIM, 19 Aug 2023 (†, ph. CK, AK). The one at Willcox in April 2022 was only the third Upland Sandpiper recorded in Arizona in spring. Most records are from mid-July to September, with a majority in August.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT *Limosa haemastica* (0, 8, 3). The three accepted records are of one at Lone Butte Pond (formerly Gila Farms Pond) 23 km s. of Phoenix, MAR, 25 May–1 Jun 2021 (†, ph. DPe), two at Evergreen Turf Farm, Santa Cruz Flats, PIN, 23 Aug 2023 (†, ph. JMi), and another two, likely different individuals, at White Star Dairy in Stanfield, PIN, 25 Aug 2023, with one remaining until 17 Sep 2023 (JMo, KKa; †, ph. TWo, CBe). Prior to these reports, there had been only one previous fall record from Arizona (see Rosenberg et al. 2019).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK *Scolopax minor* (0, 0, 1). Arizona's first American Woodcock was discovered in Cave Creek Canyon near Portal, COS, 6 Nov 2021, and was last reported 15 Nov 2021 (HM; †, ph. JY, LC; Marble 2022; Figure 2). This species is a casual visitor in New Mexico mostly east of the Continental Divide (19 records; Williams and Baumann 2023) and accidental in both California (Patten et al. 1999) and Nevada (Tinsman and Meyers 2016).

RUDDY TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* (2, 12, 1). One record of a juvenile on the John Lake playa, 19 km nw. of Winslow, COC, 26–27 Aug 2021 (W&BC; ph. JWi). At least in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, this species was more regular in Arizona during fall migration (see Rosenberg and Witzman 1998), but there have been few records since it was returned to the review list in 2002.



FIGURE 2. This American Woodcock at Cave Creek Canyon 6–15 November 2021 provided a first Arizona record.

Photo by John Yerger on 8 November 2021

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BLACK TURNSTONE *Arenaria melanocephala* (0, 2, 1). Arizona's third Black Turnstone was at Spot Road Farm, 9 km ese. of Aztec, YUM, 23–24 May 2021 (†, ph. KR; †, ph. AC). This species is fairly regular in small numbers at the Salton Sea, California (Patten et al. 2003), and has occurred in adjacent New Mexico only once, also in May (Williams and Baumann 2023).

RED KNOT *Calidris canutus* (2, 21, 6). On the John Lake playa, 19 km nw of Winslow, COC, were one 28 Aug 2021 (JT, AS; †, ph. JWi) and another 19 Aug 2023 (JMz; †, ph. KHk). One was at Spot Road Farm, 9 km ese. of Aztec, YUM, 22 Sep (†, ph. BJo), two were at Paloma Ranch, 17 km w. of Gila Bend, MAR, 2021 25–27 Sep 2021 (DMo; †, ph. JMc), one was at White Star Dairy, Stanfield, PIN, 23 Jul 2022 (NW, KHa; ph. TDj, NPu), and one was at Willcox, COS, 16–18 Sep 2023 (†, ph. TWh). The Red Knot was encountered more regularly from the 1970s to 1990s (see Rosenberg and Witzeman 1998) when populations of this species were apparently larger. It remains a casual migrant in Arizona, with the majority of records occurring during fall migration.

RUFF *Calidris pugnax* (0, 13, 2). One at a dairy e. of Maricopa, PIN, 9 Sep 2021 (†, ph, DPe), and one at Caballero Dairy in the Santa Cruz Flats, PIN, 14–18 Oct 2021 (†, ph. CHi; †, ph. JMc). This species remains a casual visitor, with all but one of the Arizona's Ruffs occurring in fall or winter.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER *Calidris acuminata* (0, 6, 2). Two records, both of juveniles, on the John Lake playa, 19 km nw. of Winslow, COC, 29–30 Sep 2021 (BO; †, ph. CMc), and at White Star Dairy, Stanfield, PIN, 15–18 Oct 2023 (†, ph. PD; †, ph. GHR, CR). All but one of Arizona's Sharp-tailed Sandpipers have been recorded from late September to early November; see Rosenberg et al. (2017) for the one spring record.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis* (0, 20, 2). Two records, both at Willcox, COS, of two birds 23–24 May 2022 (ph. ST) and one there 27 Jun 2022 (ph. ST). This species remains a casual late spring migrant in Arizona, with most records from late May and June.

POMARINE JAEGER *Stercorarius pomarinus* (2, 10, 3). Accepted records are of one at San Carlos Reservoir, PIN and GRA, 8 Oct 2021 (KKa; †, ph. DJ, CMc), one near the San Pedro River 13 km e. of Sierra Vista, COS, 25 Oct 2023 (ph. ST), and one at the Green Valley s.t.p., PIM, 8–11 Nov 2023 (DBr, CTe; †, ph. GHR, NPu). The Green Valley bird was eventually captured and brought to a local rehabilitation facility, where it died (disposition of the specimen unknown). The Pomarine is the jaeger most expected in Arizona after the end of September.

PARASITIC JAEGER *Stercorarius parasiticus* (2, 18, 3). One juvenile was at Pittsburg Point, Lake Havasu City, MOH, 12–16 Sep 2021 (†, ph. GHR, KVR; ph. CMc), another was at Bill Williams N.W.R., LAP, 7 Sep 2022 (†, ph. KKa), and two were at Lake Havasu near Lake Havasu City, MOH, 15 Sep 2023 (ph. NPe, RR). Virtually all of Arizona's records of the Parasitic Jaeger are from September.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER *Stercorarius longicaudus* (0, 18, 1). One juvenile on Lake Havasu from Pittsburg Point, MOH, 12–15 Sep 2021 (†, ph. GHR, KVR) was the only Long-tailed Jaeger reported during this period. In early and mid-September this species and the Parasitic Jaeger are the more expected in Arizona than the Pomarine.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla* (1, 23, 5). The five records were of one along the Santa Cruz River at the Ina Road bridge, Tucson, PIM, 6 Nov 2021 (ph. MRT; †, ph. AC, GHR, NPu), one at the Glendale recharge ponds 9 km w. of Glendale, MAR, 25 Nov 2021 (SB; †, ph. JRi), one at Bill Williams N.W.R., LAP and MOH, 1 Dec 2021–14 Jan 2022 (†, ph. NPe), one at Quitobaquito, Organ Pipe

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Cactus N.M., PIM, 14 Nov 2023 (†, ph. KG), and one at the Ajo s.t.p., PIM, 28 Nov 2023 (†, ph. DBa). Most Arizona records are from mid-November to early January.

SHORT-BILLED GULL *Larus brachyrhynchus* (0, 28, 3). One was at the Benson s.t.p., COS, 24 Mar 2021 (†, ph. DJS), one was at the Castle Creek boat ramp, Lake Pleasant, YAV and MAR, 27 Nov 2021–14 Jan 2022 (JWh; †, ph. GHR, BJo), and one was at the north end of Lake Havasu, MOH, 23 Dec 2022 (ph. NW), with likely the same individual found at Windsor Beach, Lake Havasu City, MOH, 27–28 Jan 2023 (ph. KKa). All three were in their first plumage cycle. The Short-billed Gull is a casual late fall and winter visitor, most occurring along the Colorado River, and it was removed from the ABC's review list at the end of 2022.

YELLOW-FOOTED GULL *Larus livens* (0, 1, 2). Arizona's second Yellow-footed Gull was a first-cycle bird at Windsor Beach, Lake Havasu S.P., MOH, 10 Sep 2021–8 Feb 2022 (ph. KKa; †, ph. GHR, CMc, JMc). A second-cycle bird at nearby Pittsburg Point, Lake Havasu City, MOH, 5–8 Oct 2022 (ph. KKa) possibly represented the return of the previous year's bird. Arizona's first Yellow-footed Gull was a subadult bird at Wahweep, Lake Powell, COC, 23 April 1999 (Rosenberg 2001).

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides* (3, 17, 4). One was at Telephone Cove, Lake Mohave, MOH, 15 Nov 2021 (†, ph. KKa, CMc), one was at the n. end of Lake Havasu, MOH, 28 Jan 2023 (†, ph. CS, RR), one adult was at Lakeside Park, Tucson, PIM, 13–15 Oct 2023 (ML; †, ph. MMS, CR), and one was at San Carlos Reservoir, PIN, 27 Dec 2023 (†, ph. KKa, DJ). All Arizona records involve *L. g. thayeri*.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* (0, 21, 13). An amazing 13 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were documented for this report: one at the Sedona Wetlands Preserve, 12 km wsw. of Sedona, YAV, 31 Mar 2021 (†, ph. SH), one at San Carlos Reservoir, PIN and GRA, 25 Oct–13 Nov 2021 (DPe; †, ph. CMc), one at the Glendale recharge ponds, 9 km w. of Glendale, MAR, 16 Nov 2021 (†, ph. JRi), one at Two Cow Cove, Lake Pleasant, MAR, 8 Dec 2021 (PDA; †, ph. BJo), a different individual at the Castle Creek boat ramp, Lake Pleasant, YAV, 17 Dec 2021 (ph. DSp), one at Windsor Beach, Lake Havasu S.P., MOH, 18 Dec 2021 (†, ph. JY), one at San Carlos Reservoir, PIN, 1 Apr 2022 (†, ph. DJ), another there 27 Dec 2023 (†, ph. DJ, KKa), one at Rotary Park, Lake Havasu City, MOH, 8 Oct 2022–3 Jan 2023 (†, ph. ASi, AKu), one at the north end of Lake Havasu, MOH, 12 May 2023 (†, ph. PH), one first-cycle bird at Parker Canyon Lake, COS, 6–23 Oct 2023 (AB; †, ph. MMS, GHR), with an adult dropping in there briefly 13 Oct 2023 (†, ph. CBe), and one at Bill Williams N.W.R., LAP, 24 Dec 2023 (†, ph. DGr). This species' frequency in the western U.S. has increased greatly during the last decade; the first Arizona record was in 2006 (Rosenberg et al. 2011).

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus* (0, 6, 1). The first report of a Glaucous Gull in Arizona since 2014 was of one first-year bird at Willow Lake, Prescott, YAV, 13–17 Nov 2023 (†, ph. DMI).

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea* (2, 5, 4). The four records were of one or two adults at Arivaca Lake, PIM, 14 Jun 2022 (ph. BN), one second-year bird at Rotary Park, Lake Havasu City, MOH, 13–14 Jul 2022 (†, ph. KKa), and one adult at Arizona City, PIN, 2 Jul 2023 (CS; †, ph. GHR). An older record was discovered by David Stejskal, who noticed the cover of an old issue of *The Roadrunner* (newsletter of Maricopa Audubon Society) from 1975 showing a supposed Forster's Tern that was actually a misidentified Arctic Tern, photographed at Painted Rock Dam, MAR, 10 Jul 1974 (ph. RWi). Most of Arizona's previous Arctic Terns were found during two distinct seasons, mid-May–mid-June, and September–October, and now three July records fall outside these intervals.

ELEGANT TERN *Thalasseus elegans* (0, 21, 19). An amazing 19 records of the

Elegant Tern were documented for this report, many with multiple individuals. As many as four were at the Patagonia Lake spillway, SCR, 16 May 2021, with one persisting 18–21 May 2021 (LD; †, ph. DJS). At Arivaca Lake, PIM, were four 21 May 2021 (ph. BN) and two 27 Jun 2023 (ph. CBe). Two were at Roper Lake S.P. near Safford, GRA, 21 May 2021 (ph. KW), one at the Amado s.t.p., PIM, 22 May 2021 (JH; †, ph. CHI, PI, GHR, NPu), one at Lakeside Park, Tucson, PIM, 24–29 May 2021 (SG; †, ph. LH), two at Arivaca Lake, PIM, 28–29 Mar 2022 (ph. BN), and two at Canoa Ranch Conservation Park, PIM, 28 Mar 2022 (ph. CTr). Two at Patagonia Lake S.P., SCR, 20 Apr 2022 increased to four 22 Apr 2022 (ph. DVo, RV). Others were there 4 May 2023 (ph. TFa, JFa, IM) and 19–23 June 2023 (LD; †, ph. JA). Two were along I-19 near Canoa, PIM, 27 Apr 2022 (ph. SC, CSm, TL). One at the Amado s.t.p., PIM, 14 Jun 2022 (†, ph. DJS) was possibly the same individual 8 km n. at Canoa Ranch, PIM, 15–16 Jun 2022 (ph. CTh). Single individuals were at Randolph Park, Tucson, PIM, 17 Jun 2022 (†, ph. MMS), at Arthur Pack Regional Park, PIM, 21 Jun–16 Jul 2022 (†, ph. JWl), at Alamo Lake S.P., LAP, 22 May 2023 (†, ph. PH), and at Paloma Ranch, MAR, 19 Jun 2023 (†, ph. HD). One at Quail Creek, Green Valley, SCR, 20–27 Jun 2023 (†, ph. NPu, MMS) was also seen at the Green Valley s.t.p., PIM, 21 Jun 2023 (ph. HDo). Up to three (2 adults, 1 juvenile) were at a pond on Barnes Road, Stanfield, PIN, 28–30 Jun 2023 (†, ph. GHR, BJo). The status of this species has changed greatly in recent years, with numbers of spring records increasing; it has become an expected spring visitor/transient at lakes and ponds in southern Arizona, especially following strong s.w. winds from the northern Gulf of California.

BLACK SKIMMER *Rynchops niger* (0, 11, 1). The report of one at White Star Dairy, Stanfield, PIN, 3 May 2021 (KKa; †, ph. GHR, JMc, PD) was the only one of this casual spring and summer visitor accepted from 2021 through 2023.

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD *Phaethon aethereus* (2, 6, 1). Arizona's ninth Red-billed Tropicbird was photographed on Lake Havasu above Parker Dam (from Take-off Point), LAP and MOH, 21 Aug 2023 (†, ph. CMc). This individual was brought to Arizona by Hurricane Hilary, and it represents the first time a Red-billed Tropicbird has been seen and photographed in Arizona by multiple observers—all other records were of “downed” individuals found either dead or weakened, and brought to rehabilitators.

WEDGE-RUMPED STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates tethys* (0, 7, 4). Hurricane Hilary brought numerous Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels to Arizona, with reports from at least four different locations. The majority were seen on Lake Havasu between Parker Dam and Lake Havasu City, LAP and MOH, or from Pittsburg Point in Lake Havasu City, MOH, 21 Aug 2023 (†, ph. CDB, DJS, TWo, DGo; Figure 3), with a high of 24 counted from boats. The exact number was impossible to ascertain, and all seen on Lake Havasu are treated as one record; single individuals were reported there through 23 August. Gochfeld salvaged one specimen found 5 km se. of the Lake Havasu City boat-launching ramp (SDNHM 57716). Additionally, single birds were photographed at the Glendale Recharge ponds, 9 km w. of Glendale, MAR (ph. JRi), at Lake Pleasant, MAR (ph. SHo), and at the Lower River Road ponds, Palo Verde, MAR (ph. CKo), all on 21 August 2023. This is the second hurricane to bring Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels to the Desert Southwest, the first being Hurricane Newton in 2016 (see Rosenberg et al. 2019). It should be noted here that multiple observers reported Leach's/Townsend's Storm-Petrel (*Hydrobates leucorhous/socorroensis*), but none of these reports was submitted to the ABC, and none was adequately documented. A sight report of a Leach's/Townsend's in September 1997 (Tropical Storm Nora), though accepted by the ABC (see Rosenberg 2001), should now probably be re-evaluated given the recent documentation of the Wedge-rumped, a potential vagrant not considered in 1997.



FIGURE 3. This Wedge-rumped Storm Petrel was one of at least 24 found on Lake Havasu on 21 August 2023, brought to Arizona by Hurricane Hilary.

Photo by Doug Gochfeld

BLACK STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates melania* (0, 2, 1). Hurricane Hilary brought at least three Black Storm-Petrels to Lake Havasu between Pittsburg Point in Lake Havasu City and Parker Dam, MOH and LAP, 21 Aug 2023 (†, ph. CDB, DJS, TWo). The multiple individuals on Lake Havasu are considered as one record. The previous Arizona records were of multiple birds (up to 40) on Lake Havasu, MOH, 26 Sep 1997 in the wake of Tropical Storm Nora (Rosenberg 2001), and one at Benson, COS, 10 Sep 2016, three days after Hurricane Newton passed (Rosenberg et al. 2019).

LEAST STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates microsoma* (0, 6, 2). Hurricane Hilary brought at least 35 Least Storm-Petrels to Lake Havasu between Pittsburg Point in Lake Havasu City and Parker Dam, MOH and LAP, 21–22 Aug 2023 (†, ph. DJS, CDB, TWo). Gochfeld salvaged one specimen found floating just 600 m west of the Arizona/California line and 2 km nw. of Pittsburg Point (SDNHM 57717). Elsewhere, one was at Scorpion Bay, Lake Pleasant, MAR, 21 Aug 2023 (CBe, TDB; †, ph. ROD). The Least appears to be the storm-petrel most prone to being blown to the Desert Southwest by hurricanes that pass through the Gulf of California (Rosenberg 2001, Patten et al. 2003, Rosenberg et al. 2019).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD *Fregata magnificens* (4, 13, 4). Individuals were photographed at Sahuarita, PIM, 28 Sep 2021 (†, ph. PI) and along I-10 near Sacaton, PIN, 27 Jul 2022 (†, ph. ADu, JD). Multiple frigatebirds preceded the leading edge of Hurricane Hilary, with at least 11 seen near Imperial Dam, YUM, 20 Aug 2023 (ph. TWo) and two at Mittry Lake, YUM, 20 Aug 2023 (ph. KPe, CG). Unlike the influx of storm-petrels found on 21 August, none followed the storm. Given the several inland North American records of both the Great Frigatebird (*F. minor*) and Lesser Frigatebird (*F. ariel*) (see Sullivan et al. 2007), the ABC does not regard the Magnificent as the default frigatebird in Arizona, so acceptance of any frigatebird species requires photographic documentation.



FIGURE 4. This juvenile-plumaged Yellow-crowned Night Heron was at Gilbert Water Ranch 17 November 2023–6 February 2024, establishing a sixth Arizona record.

*Photo by Pierre Deviche on 18 November 2023*

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON** *Nyctanassa violacea* (1, 3, 2). Juveniles were at Seneca Lake, 48 km ne. of Globe, GIL, 1–12 Sep 2022 (†, ph. JMc; †, ph. GHR) and at Gilbert Water Ranch, MAR, 17 Nov 2023–6 Feb 2024 (†, ph. DF, PD; Figure 4). These represent the first records from Arizona since the immature bird at Painted Rock Dam, MAR, 13 Aug–5 Sep 2005 (Rosenberg et al. 2011). Given the recent expansion of this species over the past 20 years in southern California, from the Imperial Valley north to Los Angeles, it is not surprising that dispersing juveniles should make it to Arizona.

**WHITE IBIS** *Eudocimus albus* (2, 10, 2). One was near Fisher’s Landing, YUM, 6 May 2023 (†GTh). Also, a stunning adult stood out well in a flock of White-faced Ibises and moved around to several locations near Arlington, MAR, 15 Nov 2023–4 Mar 2024 (AL, BB; †, ph. GHR, EK). This species remains a casual visitor to Arizona.

**GLOSSY IBIS** *Plegadis falcinellus* (0, 19, 9). Nine reports of the Glossy Ibis were well documented, of one along Mohave Road near Parker, LAP, 8 Apr 2021 (ph. M&LS), ones at Buckeye, MAR, 15–16 Aug 2021 (ph. CS, NW), 18–20 Dec 2021 (CS; †, ph. CMc), and 19 Mar 2023 (ph. JLi), one at Willcox, COS, 3 May 2022 (ph. CS, JW), one at Gilbert, MAR, 29 Aug 2022 (ph. DVa, DC), one at the John Lake playa, 19 km nw. of Winslow, COC, 9 Apr 2023 (†, ph. JWi), one in Stanfield, PIN, 31 May 2023 (ph. KKa), and one at the Lower River Road ponds, Palo Verde, MAR, 23–28 Jul 2023 (ph. JW). The ABC remains concerned about possible hybrids with the White-faced Ibis (*P. chihi*) being identified as pure Glossy Ibises.

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** *Elanoides forficatus* (0, 2, 2). Two different Swallow-tailed Kites were photographed, both swooping down and drinking at lakes, and then vanishing. One was at Patagonia Lake S.P., SCR, 6 Aug 2023 (†, ph. MF; Figure 5), and one was at Hidden Cove near Holbrook, NAV, 4 Sep 2023 (†, ph. GH). There are now at least 20 records for New Mexico, many of which appear to represent birds



FIGURE 5. Arizona's third Swallow-tailed Kite at Patagonia Lake State Park 6 August 2023 was one of two found in the state that year.

*Photo by Mark Faucher*

dispersing in late summer (Williams and Baumann 2023), as does a report along the Gila River in Virden, New Mexico, 10 km from Duncan, GRE, Arizona, on 20 Aug 2022 (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S117284240>).

**RINGED KINGFISHER** *Megaceryle torquata* (0, 0, 1). A Ringed Kingfisher was seen briefly at Dankworth Pond, GRA, 9 Sep 2018 (†, JC), then photographed 4 km to the n. at Roper Lake S.P., GRA, 4 Oct 2018–3 Mar 2019 (†, ph KW; Figure 6; †, ph JMc, GHR, AC; see Coker 2019), representing a first Arizona record. In western Mexico, the Ringed Kingfisher is regular only as far north as the vicinity of Mazatlan, Sinaloa, but the Texas population does appear to disperse in fall and winter to some degree north and west of the core breeding range, yielding wanderers as far north as Amarillo (see <https://ebird.org/checklist/S17480450>).

**RED-HEADED WOODPECKER** *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* (3, 5, 5). Five different Red-headed Woodpeckers were accepted, one in Pinedale, NAV, 6 May 2021 (†, ph JFu), one in Flagstaff, COC, 9–10 Jun 2021 (TP; †, ph JW), one at Arthur Pack Regional Park, Tucson, PIM, 27 Sep 2021 (†, ph. CTh), one in Avondale, MAR, 25–31 Dec 2022 (JNE; †, ph. PD), and one near San Simon, COS, 6 Jan–29 Apr 2023 (†, ph. RWe; †, ph. GHR). A majority of the Arizona records are from fall and winter.

**GRAY-COLLARED BECARD** *Pachyramphus major* (0, 1, 1). Arizona's second Gray-collared Becard was a female along the South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon near Portal, COS, 23 May 2023 (†, ph. TFo). The previous Arizona record was of one in the same area 5 Jun 2009 (Rosenberg et al. 2011). This species has occurred within about 250 km of the Arizona border in Sonora, Mexico (Russell and Monson 1998).

**NUTTING'S FLYCATCHER** *Myiarchus nuttingi* (1, 7, 2). One Nutting's Flycatcher photographed and sound-recorded at Bill Williams N.W.R., MOH and LAP, 13 Feb–22 Mar 2022 (ph., s.r. VS, RS, NW), the first one well documented there in five years, suggests that this species *still* occurs along the Bill Williams River. The most recent previous report was 5 July 2017—see <https://ebird.org/checklist/S37984704>. Nutting's Flycatcher was first found along the Bill Williams River in 2008 (Rosenberg



FIGURE 6. Arizona's first Ringed Kingfisher was at Roper Lake State Park 9 September 2018–3 March 2019.

*Photo by Kelly Wright on 4 October 2018*

et al. 2011) and successfully bred along there through at least 2015 (Rosenberg et al. 2017). Elsewhere, one was found along Paige Creek, PIM, 24 Mar–11 Nov 2022, and again 25 Mar–21 Apr 2023 (†, ph. s.r. PS; ph., s.r. MMS, NPu, NPe). Although the same individual (same broken bill) occurred in both years, it is unknown if the 2023 record represents continuous presence or the return after an absence.

**GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER** *Myiarchus crinitus* (1, 3, 3). One was at Sunflower, MAR, 2–4 Sep 2022 (†, ph. TDB), one was at Sun Lakes, Chandler, MAR, 23–24 Sep 2023 (DC; †, ph. ROD, AC, PD, GHR; Figure 7), and one was at the Tres Rios Wetlands, 6 km s. of Tolleson, MAR, 28–29 Oct 2023 (ALw; †, ph. GHR). Most of Arizona's Great Crested Flycatchers, as well as those in western New Mexico and California, have occurred from mid-September to late October.

**COUCH'S KINGBIRD** *Tyrannus couchii* (0, 3, 2). Two accepted records of vocalizing individuals: one was in Green Valley, PIM, 21 Dec 2022–1 Apr 2023 (†, ph. DGf; †, ph., s.r. GHR, NPu), the other in Tubac, SCR, 15–19 Nov 2023 (PC; †, ph. MMS). Additional records from Nevada, west Texas, and California are also from late fall and winter (Rosenberg et al. 2019).

**TUFTED FLYCATCHER** *Mitrephanes phaeocercus* (0, 5, 11). An astounding 11 different Tufted Flycatcher reports were accepted including those of one at Reef Townsite Campground in Carr Canyon, COS, 8 Mar–9 Apr 2018 (ph. DSu, BMC) and of one in upper Ramsey Canyon, COS, 9 Mar–13 Jul 2018 (ph. RWo); these were inadvertently left out of the ABC's last report. The species had been present at both these locations during the summer of 2017 (Rosenberg et al. 2019). Additional accepted records are of one in Rucker Canyon, COS, 10–13 May 2021 (†, ph. LG, JP), one in Box Canyon, Santa Rita Mts., PIM, 18 May 2021 (†, ph. CJa, CJC, BJa, AJ), one near Stewart Campground in Cave Creek Canyon, Portal, COS, 21 May 2021 (†, ph. RVB), one in Rucker Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., COS, 11 Apr–18 May 2022 (GW; †,



FIGURE 7. This Great Crested Flycatcher at Chandler 23–24 September 2023 established the sixth Arizona record.

*Photo by Gary H. Rosenberg on 24 September 2023*

ph., s.r. GHR, NPu, PI), one at Rose Canyon Lake, Santa Catalina Mts., PIM, 18–26 May 2022 (RT; †, ph. MMS), one at Cave Springs Campground in Oak Creek Canyon, COC, 31 Jul–1 Aug 2–22 (ph. ASm, JO; †, ph. JWi), one at the amphitheater in Madera Canyon, SCR, 5 Apr 2023 (†, ph. ADe, EB), one in upper Ramsey Canyon, COS, 22 Jun 2023 (s.r. CBo), and one in South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon, Portal, COS, 8 Sep–21 Oct 2023 (†, ph. DR). The Tufted Flycatcher's frequency in Arizona has certainly increased since the first state record in 2005 (see Rosenberg et al. 2011).

LEAST FLYCATCHER *Empidonax minimus* (3, 11, 5). Five accepted records, of one at Raven Butte, Barry M. Goldwater Range, YUM, 14 Sep 2021 (†, ph. ROD), one in the Sonoita Creek State Natural Area below Patagonia Lake, SCR, 1 Nov 2021–23 Jan 2022 (†, ph. DJS; ph. CMc), returning to the same territory 17–22 Dec 2022 (†, ph. DJS, CG) and again 16 Dec 2023 (†CG), one at the Slaughter Ranch e. of Douglas, COS, 7 Nov–21 Dec 2022 (†, s.r. RWe; †, ph., s.r. ST), one at Gilbert Water Ranch, MAR, 3 Sep–7 Oct 2023 (†, ph. ROD; †, ph. PD, JBu), and one at the Tres Rios Wetlands, 6 km s. of Tolleson, MAR, 24 Dec 2023 (†, ph. NPe). This species remains a casual migrant in Arizona, with many of the records from late fall and winter.

PINE FLYCATCHER *Empidonax affinis* (0, 1, 1). After the astounding discovery of the first Pine Flycatcher for the United States in 2016 (Rosenberg and Stejskal 2018), another was found at Rose Canyon Lake, Santa Catalina Mountains, PIM, 11 Apr–21 Jul 2022 (†, ph. JMe, LBA; †, ph. s.r. CDB, GHR, NPu; Figure 8). The bird was initially reported as a Western Flycatcher, but the very early date piqued the interest of Chris Benesh, who, reviewing the documentation for eBird, determined that the bird was in fact a Pine Flycatcher. Fortunately it was still present, and on territory,



FIGURE 8. Arizona's second Pine Flycatcher was at Rose Canyon, Santa Catalina Mountains, 11 April–21 July 2022.

*Photo by Chris D. Benesh on 11 May 2022*

in mid-May, when it was well documented. The two Arizona records, both very well documented, are the only two for the United States of this species otherwise restricted to Mexico (north to southeastern Sonora) and Guatemala.

**BLUE-HEADED VIREO** *Vireo solitarius* (0, 5, 5). Accepted records of birds photographed are of one along the Verde River, Box Bar Recreation Area, MAR, 19 Nov–14 Dec 2021 (†, ph. TDB), one at Northsight Park, Phoenix, MAR, 30 Dec 2021 (†, ph. BJo), one at Jewel of the Creek Reserve, Cave Creek, MAR, 3 Nov–15 Dec 2022 (TDB; †, ph. MV), one at Crossroads at Silverbell District Park, Marana, PIM, 29 Dec 2022–12 Jan 2023 (†, ph. CS, NPe; †, ph. GHR, MMS), and one at Willow Lake, Prescott, YAV, 18–20 Sep 2023 (†, ph. TDB). Each of these individuals appeared to be brightly plumaged, all showing contrast between a green back and gray head, but potential confusion with bright-plumaged Cassin's Vireos (*V. cassinii*) remains an identification problem.

**PHILADELPHIA VIREO** *Vireo philadelphicus* (5, 19, 6). The six accepted records are of one at Leslie Canyon N.W.R., COS, 6 Oct 2022 (†, ph. ST), one at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum, PIN, 15–19 Oct 2022 (†, ph. DK), one at Peña Blanca Lake, SCR, 20 Oct 2022 (†, ph. CS), one along Tanque Verde Wash in e. Tucson, PIM, 7–13 Nov 2022 (ph. JMo, KKa), one in Portal, COS, 20 Jun 2023 (†, ph. RWe, RAR), and one at Black Canyon City, YAV, 4 Dec 2023–1 Jan 2024 (TDB; †, ph. PD). Most Arizona records are from late fall, and the ABC still cautions observers about possible confusion of the Philadelphia Vireo with bright-plumaged fall Warbling Vireos (*V. gilvus*).

**YELLOW-GREEN VIREO** *Vireo flavoviridis* (1, 17, 3). One at Leslie Canyon N.W.R., COS, 27 Aug–7 Sep 2022 (†, ph. ST), one in Montosa Canyon, SCR, 21–22 Jun 2023 (†, ph., s.r. SS; †, CBe), and one at San Bernardino N.W.R., COS, 24 Jun 2023 (†, s.r. RWe). Most of the Arizona records extend from June into September.

**CAVE SWALLOW** *Petrochelidon fulva* (0, 11, 1). One was along the Santa Cruz

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River in Tucson, PIM, 23 Feb 2022 (†CS). Apart from the birds nesting on the University of Arizona campus in Tucson during the late 1970s and early 1980s (see Rosenberg and Witzeman 1999), all the other Arizona records have been during fall and winter.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus* (x, 2, 1). Two were at Teec Nos Pos, APA, 10–21 Jan 2023 (†, ph. NPe; †, ph. GHR). The history of the Bohemian Waxwing in Arizona is complicated and not well documented. Prior to the establishment of the ABC, it was considered a sparse, erratic winter visitor in northern Arizona, with scattered reports (undocumented?) from southern Arizona (Monson and Phillips 1981). The ABC has reviewed (and accepted) only two reports, of multiple individuals at Katherine Landing, Lake Mohave, MOH, 12 Jan–6 Feb 1977, and of one with Cedar Waxwings (*B. cedrorum*) in Lutz Canyon, COS, 16 Dec 2004 (Rosenberg and Witzeman 1998; Rosenberg et al. 2007). Reports of invasions, such as 40+ individuals at Ganado, APA, 18 Feb 1979 (Monson and Phillips 1981), and 150+ individuals in Flagstaff, COC, during Feb 1984 (see Rosenberg and Witzeman 1998), and several other potentially good records, have not been submitted to or reviewed by the ABC. The paucity of recent Arizona records likely reflects a broader retraction to the north of the Bohemian Waxwing's winter range.

SINALOA WREN *Thryophilus sinaloa* (0, 4, 0). After being in Huachuca Canyon, COS, during the winters of 2013–2014, 2014–2015, and continuously Aug 2015–May 2016 (Rosenberg et al. 2019), one was again there 4 Aug–18 Oct 2018 (KB; ph. CHa). We consider all these reports to represent the same individual.

CAROLINA WREN *Thryothorus ludovicianus* (0, 5, 1). An older record only recently reviewed by the ABC was of one along the San Pedro River near Escapule Wash, COS, 11 May 2016 (ph. WB). In New Mexico, this species has been found during the past decade at various locations along the Rio Grande.

ORANGE-BILLED NIGHTINGALE-THRUSH *Catharus aurantiirostris* (0, 0, 1). Arizona's first documented Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush visited a residence near Bisbee, COS, 15 Jun 2022 (†, ph. KLa; Figure 9; Lambertson 2022). There were only four previous records for the United States, two from Texas (Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., April 1996; Edinburg, May 2004—Lasley et al. 1996, Lockwood et al. 2005), one, amazingly, from near Spearfish, South Dakota, July 2010 (Fowler 2010), and one from nw. New Mexico July 2015 (Williams and Baumann 2023).

VEERY *Catharus fuscescens* (2, 2, 1). One sound-recorded at Walker Creek near Camp Verde, YAV, 31 May–2 Jun 2022 (BW, KMU; †, s.r. JMc). Formerly, the Veery was apparently a rare breeding resident along the South Fork of the Little Colorado River near Eagar, APA, where it was collected in 1936, rediscovered in 1975, and present in small numbers into the early 1980s (Monson and Phillips 1981). The ABC has accepted only one other record supported by a photograph, of one at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum 4 Jul–25 Aug 1992 (Rosenberg and Witzeman 1999).

WOOD THRUSH *Hylocichla mustelina* (0, 22, 4). Accepted records are of one at Oatman, MOH, 22 Oct 2021 (†, ph. TMc), one at Portal, COS, 5–9 May 2022 (ph. CC), another there 12–13 Oct 2023 (ph. RWe), and one at St. David, COS, 28 May 2023 (†, s.r. TC). Most Arizona records fall into two distinct intervals, either from early October to early December or from mid to late May.

CLAY-COLORED THRUSH *Turdus grayi* (0, 1, 2). The ABC re-evaluated and accepted a previous report (based on a photo only) from Portal, COS, 21 Jun 2015 (ph. T&LG), which had not been accepted because the bird's provenance was questioned (Rosenberg et al. 2019). It now represents the first Arizona record. Another Clay-colored Thrush, Arizona's third, was photographed at Madera Canyon, SCR, 18 Apr 2022 (ph. DA). The other Arizona record was for Arivaca Cienega, PIM, in May 2020 (Blackford et al. 2021, Rosenberg and Radamaker 2021).



FIGURE 9. Arizona's first Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush was discovered at a residence near Bisbee 15 June 2022.

Photo by Ken Lamberton

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba* (0, 2, 1). Arizona's third White Wagtail was evidently an adult *M. a. ocularis* at Willcox, COS, 27 Apr 2023 (†, ph. TGo; †, ph. PI, NPu, CBe; Figure 10). The previous spring record from Arizona was of a yearling of the black-backed form *M. a. lugens* (Peter Pyle pers. com.) at Ajo, PIM, 29 Mar–1 Apr 2017 (Rosenberg et al. 2019).

BLACK ROSY-FINCH *Leucosticte atrata* (3, 3, 2). A flock of 47 were at Echo Cliffs s. of Page, COC, 3 Jan–8 Feb 2023 (RM; †, ph. JW), where this species has been found during at least four previous winters (1996–1997, 2000–2001, 2018–2019, and 2020–2021—Rosenberg and Witzeman 1999, Rosenberg et al. 2007, Rosenberg and Rademaker 2021), and three were along the nearby cliffs above Lee's Ferry, COC, 4 Mar 2023 (†JR).

PURPLE FINCH (EASTERN) *Haemorhous purpureus purpureus* (1, 0, 2). The ABC deleted the subspecies *H. p. californicus* from its review list at the end of 2022 but still wanted to review reports of the eastern subspecies, as Phillips et al. (1964) had reported one specimen from Tucson collected 6 Jan 1956—the status of this subspecies in Arizona is uncertain. Two subsequent reports have been reviewed and accepted, of one at Whitetail Canyon, Chiricahua Mountains, COS, 30 Nov 2022 (†, ph. RT), and one in Bisbee, COS, 25 Dec 2022 (ph. KLa).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL *Loxia leucoptera* (0, 2, 2). A sight report of four individuals at Kaibab Lodge, north rim of the Grand Canyon, COC, 1 Jun 2022 (†GTa) was accepted on a second round *after* additional reports of two to four were well documented nearby at De Motte Campground, COC, 9 Sep–12 Oct 2022 (ph. JMo; †, ph. GHR, PI, CMc; Figure 11). The two previous Arizona records came from the south



FIGURE 10. Arizona's third White Wagtail was this adult bird at Willcox 27 April 2023.

*Photo by Pat Isaacson*

rim of the Grand Canyon, COC, 17 Nov 2007 (Rosenberg et al. 2011) and from the Chuska Mts., APA, 10 Dec 2017 (Rosenberg et al. 2019). This species has been recorded in New Mexico at least 30 times and is considered an occasional transient and breeder in the mountains in the northern portion of that state (Williams and Baumann 2023).

FOX SPARROW (THICK-BILLED) *Passerella iliaca megarhyncha* (2, 0, 1). Phillips et al. (1964) and Monson and Phillips (1981) listed just two specimens of this thick-billed subspecies of Fox Sparrow in Arizona, thus the ABC decided to review reports of this form in the state. One individual was accepted as this form at Slate Creek Divide, MAR, 25–28 Oct 2022 (ph. s.r. CS, DVa).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW *Spizelloides arborea* (#, 7, 1). One was at Toh de



FIGURE 11. One of up to four White-winged Crossbills at De Motte Campground, north rim of the Grand Canyon, 9 September–12 October 2022, establishing a fourth Arizona record.

*Photo by Chris McCreedy on 18 September 2022*

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Niihe Lake, 11 km sw. of Chinle, APA, 10 Dec 2021 (ph. CS). The American Tree Sparrow is apparently a rare, but somewhat irregular winter visitor to northern Arizona and the ABC is interested in all reports of this species in the state, particularly reports south of the Mogollon Rim.

BOBOLINK *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* (#, 23, 3). One at Rio de Flag, Flagstaff, COC, 17–26 May 2021 (†, ph. JWi), two at the Hidden Cove golf course, 4 km nw. of Holbrook, NAV, 18 May 2021 (†, ph. CMc, CL), and one at the John Lake playa, 19 km nw. of Winslow, COC, 18 Sep 2021 (†, ph. JWi). This species is a casual visitor to Arizona, mostly in fall and mid–late May. Despite many records prior to the early 2000s, the species' frequency in Arizona has declined, so the ABC has decided to retain the Bobolink on its review list.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD *Euphagus carolinus* (9, 27, 5). The five accepted records are of one at Sweetwater Wetlands Park, Tucson, PIM, 31 Dec 2021–1 Apr 2022 (SN; †, ph. GHR), one at the Glendale recharge ponds, 9 km w. of Glendale, MAR, 11 Jan 2022 (v.r. CS), one at Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, PIM, 22 Nov–30 Dec 2022 (ph. BN), one at Agua Caliente Park, Tucson, PIM, 9 Dec 2022 (ph. CG), and one at Coon Bluff Recreation Area, MAR, 26 Dec 2022–13 Mar 2023 (RJ; †, ph. PD). Although there is a persistent concern over confusion with Brewer's Blackbird (*E. cyanocephalus*), the ABC deleted the Rusty Blackbird from its review list at the end of 2022.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora chrysoptera* (1, 25, 3). One was at Granite Reef Recreation Area, MAR, 19 Feb–19 Mar 2022 (RR; †, ph. JBu), one was in the South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon near Portal, COS, 3 Jun 2022 (ph. LSi), and one was at Lower Camp Creek, MAR, 4–6 Nov 2022 (ph. DDe). The Golden-winged Warbler remains a casual transient and winter visitor to Arizona.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora pinus* (1, 18, 2). One was at Summerhaven, PIM, 26–27 May 2022 (SCo; †, ph. MMS), and one was at Gilbert Water Ranch, MAR, 10–27 Aug 2022 (NBP; †, ph. JWi, JBu). Like the previous species, the Blue-winged Warbler is a casual transient in Arizona.

CAPE MAY WARBLER *Setophaga tigrina* (1, 14, 7). Accepted records are of one at the Sedona Wetlands Preserve, 12 km wsw. of Sedona, YAV, 30 Apr 2022 (ph. RA), one on the Santa Cruz Flats, PIN, 5 Oct 2022 (†CS), one at Spot Road Farm, 9 km ese. of Aztec, YUM, 4 Nov 2022 (†, ph. GHR, CG), one at West Wetlands Park, Yuma, YUM, 24 Feb–14 Apr 2023 (KHa; †, ph. GHR), one at Desert View, south rim of the Grand Canyon, COC, 8 Oct 2023 (ph. BG), one that flew into a window in Sierra Vista, COS, 30 Oct 2023 (KLe; preserved as SDNHM 57715), and one in Patagonia, SCR, 23 Dec 2023–3 Apr 2024 (ph. MBr). Of the 22 accepted records, nearly half have been of wintering individuals.

TROPICAL PARULA *Setophaga pitiayumi* (0, 11, 1). One was along the Agua Fria River at Morgan City Wash, MAR, 20 Sep 2021 (†TC). Most Arizona records involved singing males in June and July—this record is the first in fall.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER *Setophaga castanea* (0, 23, 2). One was at Arivaca Lake, PIM, 5 Nov 2023 (†, ph. JMc), and another was at Portal, COS, 24 Dec 2023–6 January 2024 (†, ph. TGT, SV). The Bay-breasted Warbler remains a casual transient in Arizona, with most records from fall.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER *Setophaga fusca* (0, 29, 2). One was at Parker Canyon Lake, COS, 21 May 2021 (EW; †, ph. DPa), and one was at Log Corral Spring, MAR, 1 Apr 2022 (†, ph. TDB). As there are now more than 30 records for Arizona, the ABC removed the Blackburnian Warbler from its review list at the end of 2022.

PINE WARBLER *Setophaga pinus* (0, 27, 7). Accepted records are of one at Desert

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Breeze Park, Chandler, MAR, 6 Jan–8 Apr 2022 (SL; †, ph. PD, JBu), one at Himmel Park, Tucson, PIM, 14 Oct–18 Nov 2022 (†, ph. CG), one at Patagonia Lake S.P., SCR, 17–27 Dec 2022 (SA, MN; †, ph. MMS), one at East Lawn Palms Cemetery, Tucson, PIM, 5–10 Feb 2023 (SO; †, ph. MMS), one along the Anza Trail in Green Valley, PIM, 10 Feb–1 Apr 2023 (KHa; †, ph. MMS), one at Jesse Owens Park, Tucson, PIM, 18 Nov 2023–15 Feb 2024 (NPe; ph. PS), and one along the Verde River e. of Fountain Hills, MAR, 13 Dec 2023 (ph. MV, TC). The Pine Warbler has become almost annual in Arizona, with many of the birds wintering.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER *Setophaga virens* (7, 32, 2). One was along the Santa Cruz River in Tucson, PIM, 14 Dec 2021–11 Jan 2022 (†, ph. SG; †, ph. NPu), and another was at Santa Rita Lodge, Madera Canyon, SCR, 3–4 Sep 2022 (†, ph. BS). There are now more than 40 records of the Black-throated Green Warbler in Arizona, and the ABC deleted it from its review list at the end of 2022.

FAN-TAILED WARBLER *Basileuterus lachrymosus* (1, 13, 3). Extraordinarily, one was along the Salt River at Granite Reef Recreation Area, MAR, 13–14 Nov 2022 (TWa; †, ph. PD, PI, JBu, BJo, TBe, GHR, BP), and another found the same day along Cañada del Oro Wash, Catalina Regional Park, PIM, 13 Nov 2022 remained until 22 Nov 2022 (TDj, CHi; †, ph. GHR, MMS, PI; Figure 12). These represent Arizona's latest and northernmost records (see Hippenmeyer and Waters 2023). Another Fan-tailed was found in Box Canyon, PIM, 12–14 May 2023 (†, ph. JMa; †, ph. DJS).

CANADA WARBLER *Cardellina canadensis* (0, 17, 3). One was at Tubac, SCR, 5 Oct 2021 (†, ph. CMc), one was in Florida Canyon, PIM, 22 May 2023 (†KB), and one was at Moon Valley Park, Phoenix, MAR, 13–18 Sep 2023 (†, ph. GV; ph. JBu). The Canada Warbler is a casual visitor to Arizona in both late spring and fall.

FLAME-COLORED TANAGER *Piranga bidentata* (0, 24, 6). Single males were in Ramsey Canyon, COS, 20 Apr–2 May 2022 (†, ph. KKo), in Miller Canyon, COS, 22 Apr 2022 (ph. MH), in Huachuca Canyon, COS, 26–27 April 2022 (ph. ST), and at Mule Pass, COS, 16 Aug–13 Sep 2023 (†, ph. KLa). Females were in Ida Canyon, Huachuca Mountains, COS, 25 Apr 2022 (FG; †, ph. DJS) and in Miller Canyon,



FIGURE 12. This Fan-tailed Warbler at Cañada del Oro Wash near Catalina 13–22 November 2022 established the second northernmost record of this species.

Photo by Gary H. Rosenberg on 14 November 2022



FIGURE 13. This Blue-black Grassquit at Cluff Ranch near Safford 15–17 July 2023 established a first record for Arizona (and the United States).

Photo by Gary H. Rosenberg on 16 July 2023

COS, 5 May 2023 (BH, SLo; †, ph. PI). A majority of the now 30 accepted Arizona records come from either the Santa Rita or Huachuca Mountains.

YELLOW GROSBEAK *Pheucticus chrysopheplus* (1, 25, 7). June continues to be the best month for the Yellow Grosbeak in Arizona: one was at Peña Blanca Lake, SCR, 5 Jun 2022 (RBa; †, ph. PI), one was at the Paton Center for Hummingbirds, Patagonia, SCR, 4 Jun 2023 (ph. RD), one was at the George Walker House in Paradise, COS, 6 Jun 2023 (JPe; ph. NW), one was at Mule Pass, COS, 7–8 Jun 2023 (†, ph. KLa), and one was at Santa Rita Lodge, Madera Canyon, SCR, 16 Jun 2023 (†, ph. CBo). More remarkable, and unprecedented for Arizona, were two fall records, of one at the Sedona Wetlands Preserve, 12 km wsw. of Sedona, YAV, 26 Oct 2021 (†, ph. LS) and one in Tempe, MAR, 6 Oct 2022 (ph. NK). Most Arizona records are from mid-May to mid-August.

BLUE-BLACK GRASSQUIT *Volatinia jacarina* (0, 0, 1). A Blue-black Grassquit, a first for Arizona and the United States, was discovered at Cluff Ranch Wildlife Area 13 km w. of Safford, GRA, 15–17 Jul 2023 (†, ph. LP; †, ph. GHR, JA; Figure 13; Plummer 2024). In Sonora, Russell and Monson (1998:285) reported only one record of this species north of Alamos, “a few kilometers north of Quiriego” (~27.55° N). More recent reports to <https://ebird.org> extend north to Santo Tomás (28.975° N, 109.197° W, 265 km south of the international border) and include photographs of a probably nesting pair at Tepoca (28.430° N, 109.257° W) 8 Aug 2022 (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S120568452>). Much farther north but much less explicit is a report of four along Highway 89 between Cananea and Banámichi (153 km s. of Cananea by road) 13 Jul 2023 (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S145389219>). As these dates imply, the Blue-black Grassquit disperses north during the summer monsoon season.

#### NON-ACCEPTED REPORTS

GARGANEY *Spatula querquedula*. A photograph of a supposed Garganey at Thatcher, GRA, 24 Jul 2021 showed a Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*), the more expected species at this location and date.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD *Archilochus colubris*. A male reported

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in Rucker Canyon, COS, 13 May 2021 was not photographed, and some committee members believed that a Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*) was not adequately eliminated.

BLACK SKIMMER *Rynchops niger*. A sight report of one at Ehrenberg, LAP, 24 May 2023 was lacking in details sufficient for acceptance.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*. Photographs of one reported as this species at Patagonia Lake, SCR, 14 May 2021 were of an apparent hybrid, showing facial and eye characteristics intermediate between the Glossy and White-faced Ibis (*P. chihi*). A flock of 12 reported at Gilbert, MAR, 19 Apr 2022 were obvious White-faced Ibises—virtually all previous Glossy Ibis records have been of one or two individuals.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO *Vireo solitarius*. Photographs of vireos reported as this species at Desert Breeze Park, Chandler, MAR, 1 Apr 2022, and at Veterans Oasis Park, Chandler, MAR, 4 Mar 2023, were not definitive for the Blue-headed and most likely represented bright Cassin's Vireos (*V. cassinii*).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora chrysoptera*. An apparent male photographed at Rio Rico, SCR, 4–5 May 2021 showed a very slight yellowish wash on the underparts, which some on the committee believed to be evidence of hybridization (or a back-cross) with the Blue-winged Warbler (*V. cyanoptera*). There was disagreement within the committee as to the importance of this character, and whether or not it provided evidence sufficient to consider this individual not a pure Golden-winged. At the time of the writing of this report, this record had gone two rounds, and was discussed at an ABC meeting, yet still did not get enough votes for acceptance.

YELLOW GROSBEAK *Pheucticus chrysopleus*. A sight report from the San Rafael Valley, SCR, 27 Jul 2021 had inconsistencies that did not rule out a poorly seen oriole.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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