

Arizona 22nd December 1997 - 11th January 1998

General information

This report contains bird observations from a three-week visit to Scottsdale, Arizona, made by Hans-Åke & Karin Gustavsson. The main purpose of the trip was visiting friends and sightseeing, but some time was devoted to birding too, mostly around Phoenix in central Arizona but also on trips to the southeastern and northern parts of the state.

As most travel reports from Arizona cover the summer season and as the birding normally is concentrated to the southeastern parts, this is meant to be a complement to the information that is given in most other reports.

Birding in general

Winter birding in Arizona is rather different from that in the warmer months. Many of the specialty species of the "Sky Islands" in southeastern Arizona are migrants and not present or only present in small numbers this time of the year. The weather is much cooler (see section below), especially in the mountains and snow might cause traffic problems in the north.

Birding is exciting anyway, with larger number of ducks and geese present, as well as wintering Bald Eagles, Sandhill Cranes and a number of different Sparrows.

Travel

We flew with British Airways from Copenhagen to London-Gatwick and from there, non-stop to Phoenix, which was very convenient. The tickets cost 7665:- SEK (about 950 USD) each.

In Phoenix we rented cars for two periods. First, for three days (29-31 Dec) a Mercury Tracer was rented from National Car Rental to a cost of 140 USD including free mileage, insurances, tax and a full tank of gas. To our surprise it wasn't easy to get a good deal for this first period as it was the weekend after Christmas and almost all rental companies were out of clean, serviced cars. When we returned the car, National wanted to charge us 155 USD, which was almost 15 % more than their written cost estimate said, which we got when we picked up the car. Reason for this was that the tank of gas that was included from the beginning now had to be paid extra for. We refused to pay this and after some argument National dropped this claim and the whole story was probably an unfortunate error. But, there are plenty of car rental agencies around, so why take the risk...

For the second period (2-10 Jan) another Mercury Tracer was rented from Enterprise Rent-a-car to a cost of 286 USD for nine days including everything except gas. No trouble at all this time.

In Scottsdale we stayed with friends living there, but on our trips to the southeast and to the north we stayed in different motels with prices varying from 28-55 USD a night for two persons. When we visited Grand Canyon, we stayed over night inside the National Park at the Bright Angel Lodge, just next to the canyon. This cost 56 USD for a large comfortable double-room, still quite reasonable!

Weather

During our visit we experienced unusually cold weather and more rain than normal. This was caused by several passages of heavy depressions, moving east over the continent from the Pacific Ocean, and thus creating northerly, cold airstreams over the southwestern states.

Most days it was reasonably warm during daytime, but in the early mornings it was normally very cold and we had several nights with frost. When visiting Arizona this time of the year, it's therefore advisable to bring a warm sweater, a wind- and rainproof jacket and gloves. As footwear, sneakers are normally o.k. for birding but beware that some of the desert plants and cactuses have very sharp thorns and that a pair of boots give better protection. Also, when visiting mountainous areas, especially in the north where it is frequently snowing, a pair of boots are normally a better option.

Even though that the weather can be cold, the sun is surprisingly strong and a sun-protection cream is recommended.

Literature & maps

We used R.C. Taylors "*A Birder's Guide to Southeastern Arizona*" (342 pp) which gives good site-information for the southeastern parts as well as some general information about birding in Arizona. The book is highly recommended.

Another book that gives information about other parts of Arizona as well, although not in the same detail as the Taylor guide above, is "*Birding Arizona - 45 Premier Birding Locations*" by McMillon (199 pp).

Both books are normally available from well-stocked bookstores, specialized in natural books, e.g. The National History Book Store in England, or Naturbokhandeln in Sweden. The latter book was found in almost every bookstore in Arizona too.

Fairly good maps like the MapArt "*Arizona*", scale 1:825 000, are easy to find in bookstores and gas stations etc. Cost: 2:95 USD.

In Tucson, the Tucson Audubon Society Nature Shop (300 E. University Blvd., #120, Tucson AZ 85705) could be worth a visit. Hours 10am to 4pm, Monday through Saturday, to 6pm Thursdays.

A field checklist for Southeastern Arizona, with information of the status of each species, is available if you send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and 25¢ to the address above.

Useful contacts

The Maricopa County Audubon Society in Phoenix is operating a phone service, with current number (602) 631-9761 (see Phone-directory), where information is given about coming events, contact-persons for visiting birders (!) and hot-line phone numbers, at the time being (602) 832-8745 in Phoenix. The information about interesting observations on this number was updated weekly.

Itinerary

Dec 22: Left Malmö at 04.55 and arrived in "Sky Harbour" in Phoenix at 14.50, local time. Time difference to Sweden -8 hours. To our disappointment it was raining and the temperature was only +10° Celsius. What a start in a place with more than 300 sunny days a year!

Dec 23: +12° Cloudy, chilly morning

Woke up at 04.00, still not adjusted to American time. Birded in our friends' garden until they woke up. Gila Woodpecker, Curve-billed Thrasher, Cactus Wren and Great-tailed Grackle were the first new acquaintances. Sightseeing and shopping in Scottsdale the rest of the day.

Dec 24: +13° Mostly cloudy, heavy rain in the afternoon

Made a bicycle trip to "Westworld", an exhibition and horse-riding area on the outskirts of Scottsdale, in the afternoon. A few new species like Gambel's Quail, Abert's Towhee and Black-throated Sparrow were recorded.

Dec 25: Frost in the morning, +8° Mostly sunny and about 10 cm snow in the mountains

Christmas day. Left Scottsdale at 09.20 and headed north. First stop at Montezuma Castle National Monument, just along the Interstate 17 (exit 287). The Castle is a cliff-dwelling, built by the Sinagua people in the 12th century, and along the small river that is floating through the area a good variety of birds were found, among others Red-naped Sapsucker, Crissal Thrasher and Green-tailed Towhee. The place is well worth a visit, both for its historical and for its ornithological qualities. Continued through the Red Rock State Park to Oak Creek Canyon, north of Sedona. Magnificent scenery! The afternoon was spent in Jerome, about 25 miles to the southeast, an old mining village and site of one of the first copper mines in Arizona. Not many birds were seen in this area, a few Spotted Towhees and a Rock Wren among the few. Returned to Scottsdale in the evening.

Dec 26: Frost in the morning, sunny but chilly

Non-birding day.

Dec 27: +2-16° Sunny

Another bike-ride to Westworld, this time in the morning. Short visit at Saguaro Lake, east of Scottsdale at lunchtime. Along the road a flock of about 100 White-throated Swifts were seen at the Verde River, just east of Fountain Hills.

Dec 28:

Non-birding day

Dec 29: +16° Mostly sunny

Left Scottsdale at 07.30 and arrived at the Avra Valley Sewage Ponds, west of Tucson, at 10.00. A nice area where several ducks, 3 White-fronted Geese, 5 Western Sandpipers and the only Lark Sparrows of the trip were found. The area is fenced off but birdwatchers are welcome and the staff were very friendly. Continued to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum a few miles further north around lunchtime. Here, many of the plants, animals and birds living in the Sonoran Desert are displayed and desert ecology is explained in the various exhibitions. A visit is highly recommended!

Drove eastwards in the afternoon and stayed over night in a motel in Willcox, a small dusty town along the Southern Pacific Railroad, just north of the Sulphur Springs Valley.

Dec 30: +3-14° Cloudy until lunch, then clearing up

Started early at Willcox Lake, a few ponds adjacent to the Willcox golf course. The area held good numbers of ducks, among others 1 female Lesser Scaup. Also found were 1 Snow Goose, Marsh Wren, loads of Sparrows and a small flock of Scaled Quails. For the latter species this locality probably is the easiest place to find it.

Continued south through the Sulphur Springs Valley, with frequent roadside stops. Large numbers of Sandhill Cranes, and a good variety of raptors, e.g. Cooper's Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk and Golden Eagle kept us busy. Around the huge farms, Rainbow Ranch and Spitler Land and Cattle Company, large numbers of Shore Larks, Sparrows and Blackbirds were

feeding on the farmlands. A flock of Longspurs was seen among the Shore Larks, but unfortunately the distance was too long for a safe identification.

At the Hyannis Pond, further south, an immature Bald Eagle, about 1500 Sandhill Cranes and the only Common Yellowthroat of the trip were found. Since the publishing of the Taylor-guide, this area has become a Nature Reserve and is partly open to public again! A small dirt road is leading down to the water from a lone house along Coffman Road, and from there, good views of the southern part of the pond can be obtained.

The Sulphur Springs Valley deserves at least a whole day of birding if you want to check it properly, and we left with a feeling that there still was much to see.

In the late afternoon we made a short visit to the old wild west mining town Tombstone, which was found to be a real tourist-trap. Stayed over night in a small motel in Benson instead.

Dec 31: +8-18° *Sunny and rather windy*

Visited the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve until lunchtime. An interesting area of riparian woodland along the Sonoita Creek, which probably is even more interesting to visit in the summer months. Among other birds, Common Ground Dove, House Wren and Lazuli Bunting were found. Made short stops at the Patagonia Sewage Ponds, which unfortunately were completely dried out, and the Patagonia Roadside Rest Area, a well known rarity hot-spot, before returning north, towards Phoenix without any stops. Back in Scottsdale at 17.00.

Jan 1: +22° *Sunny and warm*

Resting day. Visited the area around Cave Creek Dam in the afternoon but rather few birds were seen.

Jan 2: +10° *Cloudy, strong southwesterly winds and about 10 cm of snow on higher elevations*

Left Scottsdale in the morning and headed north. First, another visit at Montezuma Castle National Monument was made, but this time there were a lot fewer birds around. A Canyon Wren was new for the trip although. Continued to Montezuma Well, a small lake with lush vegetation in the otherwise rather dry surroundings, before we went on, through Flagstaff and towards the Grand Canyon. Arrived at 15.30 and spent the rest of the day looking at the impressive scenery. Stayed overnight in the Bright Angel Lodge, just on the edge of the canyon.

Jan 3: +4-10° *Rain during the night, cloudy during the day*

Spent the morning hours walking along the trails on the South Rim of Grand Canyon. Western Bluebird, Hairy Woodpecker, Plain Titmouse, Mountain Chickadee and Pygmy Nuthatch were seen in the coniferous forest. Left at 11.00 and drove east towards Cameron. Just after leaving the National Park, a flock of about 20 Elks crossed the road a few hundred yards in front of the car. Arrived at Monument Valley, at the Utah border, in the late afternoon and spent the rest of the day admiring this magnificent area.

Spent the night in a roadside motel in Cayenta, about 25 miles south of Monument Valley.

Jan 4: 0-+10° *Frost during the night, cloudy and heavy rain in the afternoon*

Started our return south early in the morning. Visited the Wupatki National Monument and Sunset Crater National Monument northeast of Flagstaff. In the juniper forests in that area Sage Thrasher, small flocks of Mountain Bluebirds (finally!), American Robins and Pinyon Jays were seen. Continued south as it started to rain and arrived in Scottsdale at 17.00 after being stuck in a traffic congestion on the Highway for over an hour.

Jan 5: +13° *Sunny but rather chilly*

Drove the so called "Apache Trail" through the mountains east of Phoenix. A fantastic ride on narrow, winding roads through a breathtaking scenery up to the Theodore Roosevelt Dam. Beware that there are no gas-stations between Apache Junction and northeast of the Theodore Roosevelt Lake! Didn't make as many stops as we would have liked to, because we were running out of time (and gas) and as it was beginning to get dark. But, the area looks very good for birding and deserves more time for a thorough check.

Jan 6: +18° *Sunny*

Birding in the early morning around Cave Creek Dam, in the northern part of Phoenix. 23 Least Sandpipers, 10 Buff-bellied Pipits, 2 Cooper's Hawks and a probable Cassin's Finch were seen.

Jan 7: +14° *Sunny*

A morning visit to the area around the Verde River, just east of Fountain Hills. Nice habitat with riparian woodland along the river but rather difficult to get access. The area is part of the Fort McDowell Indian Reservation and unfortunately there are lots of No Trespassing-signs around. Permission to visit the area can probably be obtained at the Tribal Office in Fort McDowell, according a police officer that I talked to. The area seems to hold a lot of birds so it's probably worth the effort. Along the bridge, where Highway 87 crosses the river, 3 Harris' Hawks, 5 Greater Yellowlegs, 3 Spotted Sandpipers, 1 Northern Rough-winged Swallow and 3 male Vermilion Flycatchers were found.

Visited the Phoenix Zoo in the afternoon and among the zoo-birds a free-flying Green Heron and some Orange-crowned Warblers were added to the list.

Jan 8: +13° *Mostly cloudy*

A full day birding around the Theodore Roosevelt Lake, about 100 miles northeast of Phoenix. The lake itself held impressive numbers of birds: several thousand dabbling ducks, hundreds of Western Grebes, about 1200 Canada Geese and 9 Snow Geese, lots of Waders - unfortunately too distant, 3 Bald Eagles, at least 23 Double-crested Cormorants and 25 Ring-billed Gulls to mention a few.

The area is protected as a wintering site for ducks and geese and some parts are not open to public access. Good views over the muddy banks in the northwestern part of the lake could be obtained from the Cholla Campground, which is well signposted from road 188. A scope is essential although! Northwest of the lake there are large areas of riparian woodland, which held Crissal Thrasher, Hermit Thrush and Bridled Titmouse. The whole area is very interesting and a visit is definitely recommended!

On the way back to Scottsdale, the Highway Patrol stopped me for speeding. Fortunately I got away with a warning and didn't get fined, probably as I was a foreigner.

Jan 9: *Frost in the morning. +14° and rather sunny during the day*

Visited the surroundings of Horseshoe Dam, about an hour drive north of Scottsdale, in the morning. Another highly interesting area with lots of Western and Black-necked Grebes in the reservoir, 21 Great White Egrets, 1 Green Heron, an adult Bald Eagle, 1 Red-naped Sapsucker and 1 Vermilion Flycatcher in the river marshes and ponds downstream from the dam.

Jan 10: +10° *Cloudy and heavy rain from lunchtime*

Started the day with a calling Great Horned Owl heard while taking a shower! The bird was sitting just outside the house and was seen together with a second bird a few minutes before flying off. Birded until 10.00 along the "Bush Highway" and in the Lower Salt River Recreation Area, east of Scottsdale. Visited three different recreation sites along the river with 1 Bald Eagle, 11 Harris' Hawks, the only Sharp-shinned Hawk of the trip, 16 Greater Yellowlegs and another Vermilion Flycatcher as result. As it was a Saturday morning, the area was rather crowded with people and a visit during weekdays is probably a little bit calmer.

Jan 11

No birding. Left Phoenix at 21.30 and were back in Malmö on 12th of January at 23.45, tired but relaxed and full of new impressions.

List of species

Pied-billed Grebe - *Podilymbus podiceps*

2 Regency Hyatt Hotel, Scottsdale 23.12, 1 Saguaro Lake 27.12, 2 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1, 3 Horseshoe Dam 9.1, 2 Lower Salt River Recreation Area 10.1.

Black-necked Grebe - *Podiceps nigricollis*

4 Saguaro Lake 27.12, 1 Avra Valley Sewage Ponds 29.12, 6 Willcox Lake 30.12, about 100 Canyon Lake, Apache Trail 5.1, 15 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1, 136 Horseshoe Dam 9.1.

Western Grebe - *Aechmophorus occidentalis*

Numerous (500+) Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1, about 100 Horseshoe Dam 9.1.

Double-crested Cormorant - *Phalacrocorax auritus*

23 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1, 33 Horseshoe Dam 9.1.

Great Blue Heron - *Ardea herodias*

1 Regency Hyatt Hotel, Scottsdale 23.12, 1 Avra Valley Sewage Ponds 29.12, 2 Willcox Lake 30.12, 1 Apache Trail 5.1, 4 Verde River, E Fountain Hills 7.1, 6 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1, 25 Horseshoe Dam 9.1, about 10 Lower Salt River Recreation Area 10.1.

Great White Egret - *Egretta alba*

1 Verde River, E Fountain Hills 8.1, 21 Horseshoe Dam 9.1, 7 Indian Bend Golf course, Scottsdale 10.1.

Green Heron - *Butorides virescens*

1, apparently wild, Phoenix Zoo 7.1, 1 Horseshoe Dam 8.1.

White-fronted Goose - *Anser albifrons*

1 adult and 2 immatures Avra Valley Sewage Ponds 29.12.

Snow Goose - *Anser caerulescens*

1 white morph Willcox Lake 29-30.12, 8 white morph Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1.

Canada Goose - *Branta canadensis*

26 Willcox Lake 29-30.12, about 1200 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1.

Green-winged Teal - *Anas crecca*

9 Avra Valley Sewage Ponds 29.12, 18 Willcox Lake 30.12, 10 Verde River, E Fountain Hills 7.1, about 700 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1, 15 Lower Salt River Recreation Area 10.1.

Mallard - *Anas platyrhynchos*

Rather common. Largest number: about 1000 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1.

”Mexican Duck”

6 males Coffman Road, Sulphur Springs Valley 30.12, 1 male showing characters of this form Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1.

Pintail - *Anas acuta*

20 Avra Valley Sewage Ponds 29.12, 1 male Hyannis Pond, Sulphur Springs Valley 30.12, 2 Verde River, E Fountain Hills 7.1, about 1000 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1.

Shoveler - *Anas clypeata*

30 Avra Valley Sewage Ponds 29.12, 85 Willcox Lake 30.12, 30 Hyannis Pond, Sulphur Springs Valley 30.12, about 500 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1.

Gadwall - *Anas strepera*

15 Avra Valley Sewage Ponds 29.12, 5 Montezuma Well 2.1, 2 Verde River, E Fountain Hills 7.1, about 800 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1, 5 Horseshoe Dam 9.1.

American Wigeon - *Anas americana*

Rather common. Largest numbers: 200 Scottsdale 22.12-10.1, 300 Willcox Lake 30.12, about 1000 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1.

Canvasback - *Aythya valisineria*

1 male Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1.

Redhead - *Aythya americana*

1 male and 1 female Avra Valley Sewage Ponds 29.12, 1 male Horseshoe Dam 9.1.

Ring-necked Duck - *Aythya collaris*

15 Saguaro Lake 27.12, 7 Avra Valley Sewage Ponds 29.12, 3 Montezuma Well 2.1, 10 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1, 3 Horseshoe Dam 9.1.

Lesser Scaup - *Aythya affinis*

1 female Willcox Lake 30.12.

Bufflehead - *Bucephala albeola*

2 males and 4 females Avra Valley Sewage Ponds 29.12, 1 female Montezuma Well 2.1.

Goosander - *Mergus merganser*

1 female Willcox Lake 30.12, 4 Roosevelt Dam 5.1, 4 Verde River, E Fountain Hills 7.1, 15 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1, 5 Horseshoe Dam 9.1, 32 Lower Salt River Recreation Area 10.1.

Red-breasted Merganser - *Mergus serrator*

1 male Lower Salt River Recreation Area 10.1.

Ruddy Duck - *Oxyura jamaicensis*

About 60 Avra Valley Sewage Ponds 29.12, about 100 Willcox Lake 30.12, 5 Hyannis Pond, Sulphur Springs Valley 30.12, 4 females Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1.

Bald Eagle - *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

1 subadult Hyannis Pond, Sulphur Springs Valley 30.12, 1 adult, 2 imm. Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1, 1 adult Horseshoe Dam 9.1, 1 subadult Lower Salt River Recreation Area 10.1.

Northern Harrier - *Circus cyaneus*

Rather common in southeastern Arizona. Other observations: 1 female-colored Scottsdale 26.12, 2 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1, 1 female-colored Horseshoe Dam 9.1.

Sharp-shinned Hawk - *Accipiter striatus*

1 2nd-year bird Lower Salt River Recreation Area 10.1.

Cooper's Hawk - *Accipiter cooperii*

1 female Sulphur Springs Valley 30.12, 1 male and 1 female Cave Creek Dam 6.1.

Harris' Hawk - *Parabuteo unicinctus*

2 adults Scottsdale 26.12-8.1, 1 adult New River, N Phoenix 4.1, 3 adults Verde River, E Fountain Hills 7.1, 1 Horseshoe Dam 9.1, at least 8 adults and 3 imm. Lower Salt River Recreation Area 10.1.

Red-tailed Hawk - *Buteo jamaicensis*

Common. Birds of the all-dark morph observed at Rucker Canyon Road, Sulphur Springs Valley 30.12 and Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve 31.12.

Ferruginous Hawk - *Buteo regalis*

1 adult Courtland Road, Sulphur Springs Valley 30.12, 1 Lake Montezuma 2.1.

Golden Eagle - *Aquila chrysaetos*

1 adult Spitler Land and Cattle Company and 1 adult east of the Hyannis Pond, Sulphur Springs Valley 30.12, 1 about 15 miles west of Cameron and 1 just north of Cameron 3.1.

American Kestrel - *Falco sparverius*

Rather common throughout Arizona.

Peregrine Falcon - *Falco peregrinus*

1 adult Fountain Hills 8.1.

(Prairie Falcon - *Falco mexicanus*)

2 probables at long distance Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1.

Scaled Quail - *Callipepla squamata*

11 Willcox golf course 30.12.

Gambel's Quail - *Callipepla gambelii*

15 Westworld, Scottsdale 24.12, 35 Westworld, Scottsdale 27.12, 7 Cave Creek Dam 1.1 and 6.1, 2 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1, 6 Lower Salt River Recreation Area 10.1.

American Coot - *Fulica americana*

Common.

Sandhill Crane - *Grus canadensis*

About 2500 Sulphur Springs Valley 30.12: about 900 at Kansas Settlement Road, 5-10 miles south of the junction with Highway 186 and at least 1500 just north of the Hyannis Pond.

Killdeer - *Charadrius vociferus*

Rather common around Phoenix and in southeastern Arizona. Not recorded in the north.

Greater Yellowlegs - *Tringa melanoleuca*

5 Verde River, E Fountain Hills 7.1, 1 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1, 16 Lower Salt River Recreation Area 10.1.

Spotted Sandpiper - *Actitis macularia*

1 Roosevelt Dam 5.1, 3 Verde River, E Fountain Hills 7.1, 2 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1, 1 Horseshoe Dam 9.1, 8 Lower Salt River Recreation Area 10.1.

Western Sandpiper - *Calidris mauri*

5 Avra Valley Sewage Ponds 29.12.

Least Sandpiper - *Calidris minutilla*

About 60 Avra Valley Sewage Ponds 29.12, 10 Cave Creek Dam 1.1, 23 Cave Creek Dam 6.1, 46 Lower Salt River Recreation Area 10.1.

Common Snipe - *Gallinago gallinago*

1 Verde River, E Fountain Hills 7.1, 1 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1.

Ring-billed Gull - *Larus delawarensis*

At least 22 adults and 3 2nd-year birds Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1, 9 (mainly adults) Horseshoe Dam 9.1.

Rock Dove - *Columba livia*

Domestic forms rather common.

Mourning Dove - *Zenaida macroura*

Common.

Inca Dove - *Columbina inca*

2 Scottsdale Horizon Park 27.12, about 5 Sulphur Springs Valley 30.12, 3 Tortilla Flat 5.1.

Common Ground-Dove - *Columbina passerina*

2 Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve 31.12.

Greater Roadrunner - *Geococcyx californianus*

Only two observations: 1 Snyder Hill Road, W Tucson 29.12, 1 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1.

Great Horned Owl - *Bubo virginianus*

2 Scottsdale 10.1.

White-throated Swift - *Aeronautes saxatalis*

About 100 Verde River, E Fountain Hills 27.12, 2 Roosevelt Dam 5.1, about 100 Horseshoe Dam 9.1.

Anna's Hummingbird - *Calypte anna*

Common in central and southeastern Arizona.

Belted Kingfisher - *Ceryle alcyon*

1 Regency Hyatt Hotel, Scottsdale 23.12, 1 Montezuma Well 2.1, 1 Verde River, E Fountain Hills 7.1, 1 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1, 3 Horseshoe Dam 9.1, 2 Lower Salt River Recreation Area 10.1.

Acorn Woodpecker - *Melanerpes formicivorus*

1 male and 1 female Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve 31.12.

Gila Woodpecker - *Melanerpes uropygialis*

Common in southern and central Arizona

Red-naped Sapsucker - *Sphyrapicus nuchalis*

1 Montezuma Castle National Monument 25.12, 1 male Horseshoe Dam 9.1.

Ladder-backed Woodpecker - *Picoides scalaris*

1 female Montezuma Well 25.12, 1 male Saguaro Lake 27.12, 2 females Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve 31.12, 1 Patagonia Roadside Rest Area 31.12, 2 males Verde River, E Fountain Hills 7.1, 1 female Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1, 1 male Horseshoe Dam 9.1, 1 female Lower Salt River Recreation Area 10.1.

Hairy Woodpecker - *Picoides villosus*

1 female close to the Visitors Center, Grand Canyon South Rim 3.1, 1 female Desert View, Grand Canyon 3.1.

Northern Flicker - *Colaptes auratus*

2 Montezuma Castle National Monument 2.1, about 10 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1, 3 Horseshoe Dam 9.1, 1 visiting the hummingbird-feeder in our friends' garden in Scottsdale during 7-10.1. All birds belonged to the "Red-shafted" form.

Black Phoebe - *Sayornis nigricans*

1 Avra Valley Sewage Ponds 29.12, 5 Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve 30.12, 1 Montezuma Well 2.1, 2 Verde River, E Fountain Hills 7.1, 4 Horseshoe Dam 8.1, 6 Lower Salt River Recreation Area 10.1.

Say's Phoebe - *Sayornis saya*

Rather common in central and southeastern Arizona.

Vermilion Flycatcher - *Pyrocephalus rubinus*

3 males Verde River, E Fountain Hills 7.1, 1 male Horseshoe Dam 9.1, 1 male Lower Salt River Recreation Area 10.1. A very attractive bird!

Shore Lark - *Eremophila alpestris*

12 Westworld, Scottsdale 27.12, about 100 Rainbow Ranch, 20 Courtland Road and 10 Coffman Road, Sulphur Springs Valley 30.12.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow - *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

1 Verde River, E Fountain Hills 7.1.

Steller's Jay - *Cyanocitta stelleri*

1 along the road between Flagstaff and Grand Canyon 2.1, 1 South Rim, Grand Canyon 3.1, 5 Sunset Crater National Monument 4.1.

Western Scrub-Jay - *Aphelocoma ultramarina*

3 Montezuma Castle National Monument 25.12, 2 Mather Point, Grand Canyon 2.1, 3 Desert View, Grand Canyon 3.1, 2 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1.

Pinyon Jay - *Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*

About 100 SW Cayenta 4.1, about 40 Wupatki National Monument 4.1, about 80 Sunset Crater National Monument 4.1.

Chihuahuan raven - *Corvus cryptoleucus*

Common in Willcox and in the Sulphur Springs Valley.

Common Raven - *Corvus corax*

Rather common

Mountain Chickadee - *Parus gambeli*

2 South Rim, Grand Canyon 3.1, 2 Sunset Crater National Monument 4.1.

Bridled Titmouse - *Parus wollweberi*

About 20 Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve 31.12, 2 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1.

Plain Titmouse - *Parus inornatus*

4 South Rim, Grand Canyon 3.1.

Verdin - *Auriparus flaviceps*

Common in central Arizona. The only observation in southeastern Arizona was 1 Sulphur Springs Valley 30.12.

White-breasted Nuthatch - *Sitta carolinensis*

5 Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve 31.12, 4 South Rim, Grand Canyon 3.1, 2 Sunset Crater National Monument 4.1.

Pygmy Nuthatch - *Sitta pygmaea*

About 25 (common) South Rim, Grand Canyon 3.1.

Cactus Wren - *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*

Common and conspicuous

Rock Wren - *Salpinctes obsoletus*

1 Scottsdale 25.12, 1 Jerome 25.12, 2 Saguaro Lake 27.12, 1 Patagonia Roadside Rest Area 31.12, 3 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1, 3 Horseshoe Dam 9.1.

Canyon Wren - *Catherpes mexicanus*

1 Montezuma Castle National Monument 2.1, 1 Montezuma Well 2.1, 1 about 15 miles W of Cameron 3.1, 1 Verde River, E Fountain Hills 7.1.

Bewick's Wren - *Thryomanes bewickii*

Rather common. Responding very well to "pishing".

House Wren - *Troglodytes aedon*

3 Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve 31.12.

Marsh Wren - *Cistothorus palustris*

3 Willcox golf-course ponds 30.12

Ruby-crowned Kinglet - *Regulus calendula*

Common but normally seen in small numbers.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - *Polioptila caerulea*

1 male and 1 female Canyon Lake 5.1, 1 female Cave Creek Dam 6.1, 1 female Verde River, E Fountain Hills 7.1.

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher - *Polioptila melanura*

1 male Saguaro Lake 27.12, 1 female Verde River, E Fountain Hills 7.1.

Western Bluebird - *Sialia mexicana*

10 South Rim, Grand Canyon 2-3.1, 25 Desert View, Grand Canyon 3.1.

Mountain Bluebird - *Sialia currucoides*

About 30 in the juniper scrubland around the Wupatki National Monument 4.1.

Hermit Thrush - *Catharus guttatus*

1 Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve 31.12, 1 Patagonia Roadside Rest Area 31.12, 1 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1.

American Robin - *Turdus migratorius*

About 20 Wupatki National Monument 4.1.

Northern Mockingbird - *Mimus polyglottos*

2 Westworld, Scottsdale 27.12, 3-4 Verde River, E Fountain Hills 7.1, 2 Phoenix Zoo 7.1, 2-3 Scottsdale 23.12-10.1.

Sage Thrasher - *Oreoscoptes montanus*

1 Wupatki National Monument 4.1.

Curve-billed Thrasher - *Toxostoma curvirostre*

Rather common in central Arizona.

Crissal Thrasher - *Toxostoma crissale*

1 Montezuma Castle National Monument 25.12, 2 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1.

Buff-bellied Pipit - *Anthus rubescens*

4 Avra Valley Sewage Ponds 29.12, 1 Courtland Road, Sulphur Springs Valley 30.12, 10 Cave Creek Dam 6.1, 1 Verde River, E Fountain Hills 7.1, 1 Lower Salt River Recreation Area 10.1.

Phainopepla - *Phainopepla nitens*

Common in desert scrub, especially in central Arizona.

Loggerhead Shrike - *Lanius ludivicianus*

Common in southeastern Arizona. Less numerous around Phoenix.

European Starling - *Sturnus vulgaris*

Very common.

Orange-crowned Warbler - *Vermivora celata*

3 Phoenix Zoo 7.1.

Yellow-rumped Warbler - *Dendroica coronata*

Rather Common. About 35 birds recorded during 23.12-10.1.

Common Yellowthroat - *Geothlypis trichas*

1 male Hyannis Pond, Sulphur Springs Valley 30.12.

Northern Cardinal - *Cardinalis cardinalis*

1 male Westworld, Scottsdale 24.12 and 27.12, 1 female Montezuma Castle National Monument 25.12, 1 male Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve 31.12, 1 female Patagonia Roadside Rest Area 31.12, 5 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1, 4 males Horseshoe Dam 9.1.

Lazuli Bunting - *Passerina amoena*

1 male and 1 female Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve 31.12.

Green-tailed Towhee - *Pipilo chlorurus*

1 Montezuma Castle National Monument 25.12, 2 Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve 31.12.

Spotted Towhee - *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*

3 Montezuma Castle National Monument 25.12, 2 Oak Creek Canyon, N Sedona 25.12, 4-5 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1.

Canyon Towhee - *Pipilo fuscus*

2 Scottsdale 23.12-10.1.

Abert's Towhee - *Pipilo aberti*

Rather common in desert scrub in central Arizona. Normally seen in small flocks, consisting of 5-15 birds.

Chipping Sparrow - *Spizella passerina*

3 Scottsdale 23.12, at least 50 Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve 31.12.

Brewer's Sparrow - *Spizella breweri*

5 Westworld, Scottsdale 27.12, 2-3 Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve 31.12 10 Cave Creek Dam 6.1.

Vesper Sparrow - *Pooecetes gramineus*

5 Willcox Lake 30.12, 5 Sulphur Springs Valley 30.12, 3-4 just E of Sonoita 31.12.

Lark Sparrow - *Chondestes grammacus*

About 10 Avra Valley Sewage Ponds 29.12.

Black-throated Sparrow - *Amphispiza bilineata*

1 Westworld, Scottsdale 24.12 and 27.12, 3 Saguaro lake 27.12, 2 Avra Valley Sewage Ponds 29.12, 1 Cave Creek Dam 6.1, 1 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1, 2 Horseshoe Dam 9.1.

Sage Sparrow - *Amphispiza belli*

1 Avra Valley Sewage Ponds 29.12, 3 Cave Creek Dam 1.1, about 5 Cave Creek Dam 6.1.

Lark Bunting - *Calamospiza melanocorys*

Numerous in the Sulphur Springs Valley 30.12: about 500 Courtland Road, about 100 just N of Spittler Land and Cattle Company and about 100 Lee Road. Two observations in central Arizona: 1 Cave Creek Dam 6.1 and 7 Scottsdale 9.1.

Song Sparrow - *Melospiza melodia*

1 Montezuma Castle National Monument 25.12, 5 Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve 31.12, 1 Verde River, E Fountain Hills 7.1, 2 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1, 1 Horseshoe Dam 9.1.

White-crowned Sparrow - *Zonotrichia leucophrys*

Common.

Dark-eyed Junco - *Junco hyemalis*

About 10 Montezuma Castle National Monument 25.12, 1 Oak Creek Canyon, N Sedona 25.12, 10 along the road between Flagstaff and Grand Canyon 2.1, common (50) along the South Rim, Grand Canyon 3.1, 5 Sunset Crater National Monument 4.1, common around Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1.

Red-winged Blackbird - *Agelaius phoeniceus*

About 500 Rainbow Ranch and about 100 Lee Road, Sulphur Springs Valley 30.12, about 60 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 8.1.

Western Meadowlark - *Sturnella neglecta*

Only a few birds certainly identified. Unidentified Meadowlarks were common in central and southeastern Arizona.

Yellow-headed Blackbird - *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*

About 100 Rainbow Ranch, Sulphur Springs Valley 30.12.

Brewer's Blackbird - *Euphagus cyanocephalus*

1 male Scottsdale Horizon park 27.12, 10 Tucson 29.12, 2 Scottsdale 9.1.

Great-tailed Grackle - *Quiscalus mexicanus*

Common, especially in urban areas in central and southeastern Arizona.

House Finch - *Carpodacus mexicanus*

Rather common.

Common Crossbill - *Loxia curvirostra*

5 South Rim, Grand Canyon 3.1, 1 male Sunset Crater National Monument 4.1.

Lesser Goldfinch - *Carduelis psaltria*

5 Scottsdale 23.12, 10 Regency Hyatt Hotel, Scottsdale 23.12, 2 males and 1 female Scottsdale 5.1.

House Sparrow - *Passer domesticus*

Common.

Totally 125 species.

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