

# MOUNTAIN PLOVER RECORDS FOR ARIZONA

## Breeding Areas

### Apache Co.

- August 1914 - several flocks near the town of Springerville
- 1 October 1989 - 1 bird at Many Farms Lake
- 27 March 1991 - 2 (presumed pair) in Pueblo Colorado Wash Valley sw. of Ganado
- 30 June 1994 - 4 alternate plumaged birds nw. of Springerville
- 15-16 May 1996 - 15 alternate plumaged bird (+ nest w/eggs) nw. of Springerville
- 12 April-21 June 2006 - 4 pair plus 3 singles; this included 3 nesting attempt (chicks observed at one location), all nw. of Springerville n. to w. of Lyman Lake State Park (3 individual first noted 30 March)

### Navajo Co.

- 14 June 1995 - 2 (presumed pair) on Navajo Nation land ne. of Winslow

**SUMMARY: The short-grass prairie habitat northwest of Springerville is the only known consistent Mountain Plover breeding area in Arizona with birds arriving in late March or early April and remaining into July or August. However there are 100s of square miles of potential breeding habitat to the north and west of this area which have never been surveyed. Southbound migrants likely pass through this region of the state from August through October. Specific breeding sites are typically in or near extensively overgrazed and/or trampled areas often near windmills, corrals and man-made livestock watering areas. Some are also in or adjacent to Gunnison's prairie-dog colonies.**

## Wintering Areas

### Mohave Co.

- 4 September 1951 - unknown number at Topock

### La Paz Co.

- Feb./March 1977 - flock south of Parker (1976-1985 0-82 Parker, Rosenberg et al., 1991)
- 29 March 1980 - unknown number near Parker
- 21 January 1987 - 50+ s. end of Colorado River Indian Tribe (CRIT) land
- 06 November 2004 - 40 CRIT land, on Peterson Rd. (s. of Parker)
- 23 March 2007 - 1 CRIT land

### Yuma Co.

- Winters 1993-1999 - 40-100 in fallow/leveled fields south of City of Yuma
- 27 December 2003 - 54+ sw. side of Ave B and County 19th Street (e. of Gadsden)
- 02 January 2005 - 33 e. of Gadsden
- 01 December 2005 - 300+ sw. side of Ave B and County 19th Street (e. of Gadsden)
- 14 January 2007 - 9 just ne. of Tacna
- 06 December 2009 - 175+ e. of Gadsden (in two separate flocks)

### Maricopa Co.

10 September 1952 - flock near 56<sup>th</sup> St. and McDowell Rd., Phoenix  
 7 March 1966 - 50 e. of Chandler  
 5 Jan.– 8 March 1967 - 150 along Painted Rock Dam Road  
 Jan./Feb. 1968 - 180-200 along Painted Rock Dam Road  
 26 February 1969 - 150 s. of Chandler  
 25 January 1970 - 150 along Painted Rock Dam Road  
 10-20 February 1970 - 70 along Painted Rock Dam Road  
 27 November 1973 - 31 se. of Riggs Road  
 15 January 1974 - 40 along Painted Rock Dam Road  
 23 February 1974 - 84 along Painted Rock Dam Road  
 9 November 1974 - 39 along Painted Rock Dam Road  
 27 November 1975 - 28 near Chandler  
 27 February 1977 - 60-100 along Painted Rock Dam Road  
 4 February 1978 - 340 along Painted Rock Dam Road  
 Jan./Feb. 1979 - 90-120 along Painted Rock Dam Road  
 10 January 1981 - 42 along Painted Rock Dam Road  
 27 April 1986 - 1 at El Mirage Pond, sw. of Phoenix  
 16-29 Sept. 1991 - 1 Gila Farms Pond, Gila River Indian Community land  
 7 December 1991 - 4 along Painted Rock Dam Road  
 27 October 2007 - 1 Rousseau Sod Farms in Scottsdale  
 21 December 2003 - 35 near Jaeger Pond, Paloma Ranch

#### Pima Co.

Winter 1965/66 - numerous small flocks around Tucson  
 8-11 January 1983 - 4 Marana  
 31 October 1991 - 1 Snyder Hills Wastewater Ponds w. of Tucson  
 14 November 1996 - 3 near Marana  
 3 January 1998 - 14 sw. of Marana  
 15 February 2002 - 2 just south of Pinal Air Park pecan grove

#### Pinal Co.

11 December 1914 - 5 in a field on the Gila River Indian Reservation  
 10 November 1992 - 25 w. of Casa Grande  
 22 November 1992 - 113 w. of Casa Grande  
 15 October 1994 - 4 s. of Casa Grande  
 28 November 1994 - 93 s. of Casa Grande  
 Dec. 1994-March 1995 - 50 in Western Sod fields near Friendly Corners  
 3 December 1995 - 70 in Western Sod fields near Friendly Corners  
 30 December 1995 - 10 in Western Sod fields near Friendly Corners  
 3 November 1996 - 4 in Western Sod Fields near Friendly Corners  
 January 1997 - unknown number at Brooks Turf Farm near Queen Creek  
 8 February 1997 - 15 in Western Sod Fields near Friendly Corners  
 6-11 August 1998 - 4 in Western Sod fields near Friendly Corners  
 24 December 1998 - 17 in Western Sod fields near Friendly Corners  
 29 September 1999 - 22 in Western Sod fields near Friendly Corners  
 06 December 1999 - 15 in Western Sod fields near Friendly Corners  
 28 January 1999 - 4 Western Sod fields near Friendly Corners  
 17 January 2000 - 2 Western Sod fields near Friendly Corners  
 25 November 2000 - 30 Western Sod fields near Friendly Corners

- 24 December 2000 - 11 Western Sod fields near Friendly Corners
- 04 January 2001 - 30 Western Sod fields near Friendly Corners
- 07 January 2001 - 80 (appr.) along Ethington Road (s. of Hwy. 84) w. of Casa Grande
- 22 November 2001 - 40 Western Sod fields near Friendly Corners
- 17 February 2002 - 10 Western Sod fields near Friendly Corners
- 18 Oct.-21 Dec. 2002 - 3-10 Western Sod fields near Friendly Corners
- 08 December 2003 - 3 Western Sod Farm
- 18-27 December 2004- 13-20 sod fields on Tweedy Road between Pretzer and Harmon Rds. (Santa Cruz Flats)
- 28 December 2004 - 22 Western Sod fields
- 7-22 February 2005 - 50-67 sod farm on Tweedy Road between Pretzer and Harmon Rds.
- 17 December 2005 - 2 Western Sod fields
- 4-29 January 2006 - 8-20 sod farm on Tweedy Road between Pretzer and Harmon Rds.
- 22 December 2006 - 31 sod farm on Tweedy Road between Pretzer and Harmon Rds.
- 18 Jan.-27 Feb. 2007 - 12-30 sod farm on Tweedy Road between Pretzer and Harmon Rds.
- 08 December 2007 - 71 sod farm on Tweedy Road between Pretzer and Harmon Rds.
- 18 Feb.-11 Mar. 2008 - 11-23 sod farm on Tweedy Road between Pretzer and Harmon Rds.
- 26 Oct.-18 Dec. 2008 - 13-27 Evergreen Turf (N of Pretzer and E of Curry)
- 19 January 2009 - 125 Santa Cruz Flats sod farms (high reported for winter)
- 17 Sept.-28 Nov 2009 - 1-18 Evergreen Turf (N of Pretzer and E of Curry)
- 11 January 2010 -20 circular sod field n. of Pretzer between Curry and Tweedy

Cochise Co.

- 23-24 February 1915 - 14 collected in the Sulphur Springs Valley
- 7 January 1978 - 1 e. of Rt. 666
- 10 January 1981 - 40 near Wilcox Playa
- January 1982 - 30 s. of Wilcox
- 3 November 1982 - 2 n. of Elfrida
- 15 Dec.-15 Jan. 1983 - 7-15 e. of Elfrida
- Winter 1983/84 - 85 near Elfrida
- 4 March 1984 - 33 near Elfrida
- November 1984 - 36-48 e. of Kansas Settlement
- 1-30 January 1985 - 88-100 near McNeal/Elfrida
- 26 Nov.-1 Dec. 1985 - 2 near McNeal/Elfrida
- 9 December 1985 - 16 near McNeal/Elfrida
- 6 Jan.-7 Feb. 1986 - 100-120 near McNeal/Elfrida
- 7 Nov.-27 Dec. 1986 - 30-50 near Elfrida
- 27 January 1987 - 131 near Elfrida
- 23 October 1987 - unknown number in Sulphur Springs Valley
- 4 December 1987 - 30 near Elfrida
- 1 January 1988 - 75 near Elfrida
- 13-28 January 1989 - 13-40 near Elfrida
- late January 1989 - 180+ in Sulphur Springs Valley
- 24 January 1995 - 250 near Elfrida
- 26 January 1996 - 212 near Elfrida
- 3 January 1999 - 140 near Elfrida
- 2-29 January 2001 - 7-12 ne. of Elfrida (Essay Hay Co. – Rucker Canyon Road)
- 2 December 2001 - 12 w. of McNeal
- 5 January 2002 - 25 w. of McNeal

- 28 December 2002 - 10 near Elfrida  
 03 January 2004 - 15 ne. of Elfrida  
 12 October 2004 - 1 near Kansas Settlement  
 20 January 2005 - 30+ n. of McNeal  
 15-26 December 2005 - 5-41 n. of McNeal (high on later date)  
 09 Feb.-15 Mar. 2006 - 24-30 n. of McNeal  
 04 January 2008 - 3 n. side of Davis Road w. of McNeal  
 12 January 2008 - 40+ Central Hwy. near Elfrida  
 2 December 2009 - 50 in field at intersection of S. Windsong Ln. and E. Phillips Rd, Sulphur Springs Valley

**SUMMARY: Wintering plovers are found primarily in agricultural areas of southern and western Arizona. Typical habitat selected for wintering is sod farms, recently cut alfalfa lands and relatively flat fallow fields with little vegetation and lacking much in the way of dirt furrows. Only the habitat provided by the sod farms remains little changes from one year to the next, allowing them to be more consistent wintering sites. Some plovers begin to arrive or migrate through this region of the state in early August and September with numbers slowly building through November and even December. Peak numbers are typically noted in December and January with most leaving the wintering areas by mid-March. Due to their cryptic coloration and passive behavior, these plovers are often difficult to detect and easily missed. Also with private property and tribal access issues there are extensive agricultural areas in southern and western Arizona that are not visited during the winter by birders. These uncharted agricultural lands likely harbor many more wintering plover flocks.**

### MOUNTAIN PLOVER RECORDS FOR SONORA, MEXICO

- 22 November 1973 - about 45 near Volcan Colorado in the Sierra el Pinacate  
 December 1980 - 20-25 e. of Sierra el Pinacate  
 4 January 1981 - flock n. of Puerto Penasco  
 7 January 1985 - 41 ne. of the mouth of the Rio Concepcion  
 10 February 1989 - 6 near Puerto Penasco  
 26 February 1990 - 3 near Puerto Penasco Airport

### LITERATURE REVIEWED

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Information was also gleaned from *North American Birds* (published by American Birding Association), and its earlier versions formally published by National Audubon Society when known as *American Birds* and *Field Notes*. Records were also compiled from birder observation posts to the AZ/NM Listserv. 1995-2009. Archives. BIRDWG05@Listserv.Arizona.Edu.