COVER: Riparian corridors in the southwestern United States support high avian diversity, but have been negatively affected by altered hydrologic regimes and invasion by salt cedar (Tamarix spp.). Brand et al. (p. 199) examined factors influencing avian communities along the San Pedro River, one of the last free-flowing rivers in the region. Native woodlands dominated by cottonwood (Populus fremontii) or mesquite (Prosopis spp.) supported the highest levels of species richness and unique species, including canopy species such as Summer Tanager (Piranga rubra). Salt cedar stands had lower species richness and contributed little to regional avian diversity compared with native woody riparian vegetation. Photograph of a male Summer Tanager by Adrian & Jane Binns/VIREO, vireo@ansp.org
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