



mos and Cedar Crest, N. Mex., -36° at Taos, Española, and Jemez Springs, N. Mex., and 18° at Phoenix, Ariz. Otherwise the winter averaged generally milder with more wind than normal. By late March forest areas were being closed due to extremely high fire danger. Much vegetation has been destroyed by the combination of drought and cold. Many highland species of birds moved into the nearby lowlands for the winter.

LOON—A loon collected at Balmorhea Lake, Reeves Co., Tex. had the bill shape of the Yellow-billed, but was the size of a Common. The specimen, now at Texas A & M, is being studied to determine if it is a small Yellow-billed, a Common with an unusual bill shape, or a hybrid of the two (PI, RW, SW).

CORMORANT, PELICAN—A Double-crested Cormorant was seen in El Paso, Tex. Dec. 5 (WHu). The species nested early at Havasu Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, near Needles, Calif. with some eggs found as early as Jan. 10 and young hatching by Jan. 15 (BG). A White Pelican seen in Phoenix on Dec. 29 died the next day (BB, et al.).

HERONS—Great Blue Herons were also beginning to nest early: as early as February at Havasu Lake Refuge (BG), and Feb. 25 near Silver City, N. Mex. (RF). A Green Heron was seen near El Paso Feb. 8 (WHu) and a Cattle Egret was present at Phoenix Jan. 28–Mar. 5 (BB, SO). Three Green Herons, a Com. Egret, a Snowy Egret, 52 Black-crowned Night Herons, and 3 Am. Bitterns were counted at Jicacho Reservoir, near Coolidge, Pinal Co., Ariz. Mar. 14–17 (DL, SS, BB). At least 2 Am. Bitterns were seen this winter at Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, near Roswell, N. Mex. (LK, VM), with 1 or 2 at Phoenix Dec. 24–Jan. 21 (SB).

SWANS, GEESE—A Whistling Swan, unable to fly, was found on Bitter Lake Refuge on Jan. 10 and died a few days later (LK, VM). One was seen at El Paso Jan. 2 (WHu) with 2 observed flying over Radium Springs, Doña Ana Co., N. Mex. Mar. 13 (BB, SW). Up to 9 were seen at Farmington, N. Mex. Dec. 30–Jan. 24 (AN).

SOUTHWEST REGION

/ Patricia R. Snider

Drought continued to be a serious problem in the Southwest; this region is ready to dry up and blow away! At Globe, Ariz. it was "the driest in 7 years" (BJ); there was thick dust along the banks of the Verde River near Mesa, Ariz. where it usually is beautifully green (AC); and it was said in the press that it was the driest since 1924 with precipitation at half normal levels. The only moisture of any consequence came Jan. 1–3 followed by a week of intense, record-breaking cold. Recorded temperatures of -25° at Los Ala-

A flock of about 2000 geese was flying south near McNary, Hudspeth Co., Tex. on Feb. 21; during a weekend of storms in w. Texas (GW). At Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, near Socorro, N. Mex., on Jan. 4 there was a peak of 2750 Canada Geese, 6 White-fronted Geese, and 100 Ross' Geese; with Snow Geese peaking at 6453 on Dec. 1. Each year the count of Snow Geese at the refuge increases (JS). A peak of 7 White-fronted Geese was counted on Bitter Lake Refuge March 3 (LK); while one spent the winter with a Snow Goose near Phoenix (FM). A flock of about 40 Snow Geese flew south over Tucson, Ariz. on Dec. 29, an unusual sight (MP). A Ross' Goose and 7 Snow Geese were in El Paso Dec. 15 to Jan. 2 (WHu, SW, et al.); and another Ross' Goose was photographed near Las Vegas, Nev. where it wintered (CL, VMow, et al.).

DUCKS—On Dec. 15 there was a peak of 25,000 ducks on Bosque del Apache Refuge; and the first returning Mexican Duck was recorded on March 10 (JS). On Dec. 22 there were 3 Black-bellied Tree Ducks near Patagonia, Ariz (WM). Pintails totalling 295 were counted at a pond near White Ledge, San Carlos Indian Reservation, Ariz. on Feb. 6 (BP). Blue-winged Teal are uncommon in Arizona; 1 was at Tucson Jan. 21 (BC, TB); it was seen Jan. 30 at St. David, Cochise Co. (GG, PN); 1 stayed at Nogales from mid-Feb. to mid-March (BH); 1-2 were in Phoenix Mar. 8 & 23-31 (BB, SO); with 1 at Picacho Reservoir Mar. 14 (DL, SS). A ♀ Wood Duck wintered near Nogales (BH, PN), with 1 at Phoenix Dec. 1 (SD) and Mar. 14 (RWie), and 2-6 at Farmington Dec. 26 & Mar. 7 (AN). After the January cold spell up to 111 Canvasbacks were counted in Tucson (PN). There were more reports of Com. Goldeneyes and Com. Mergansers than usual. Two Hooded Mergansers wintered near Phoenix (FM), while 2 Red-breasted Mergansers were on Canyon Lake, Maricopa Co., Ariz. Jan. 24 (SO).

VULTURES, HAWKS—New Mexico has finally passed a law protecting vultures, hawks, and owls! Fourteen Black Vultures were seen in Phoenix Jan. 17 (RWit) and 7 on Feb. 5 (BB, EF). Unusual was a Goshawk at Roswell on Mar. 24 (VM); another was seen near Reserve, N. Mex. Mar. 28 (BM). One was on Mt. Charleston, near Las Vegas, Nev. Dec. 27 (CL). A Harlan's Hawk remained in Tucson until Mar. 17; 2 more joined it Mar. 7-8; 1 of these was trapped and banded (BC, PN, et al.). An uncommon sight in winter was a Zone-tailed Hawk over Tucson on Jan. 19 (RC). A **White-tailed Hawk** was present on the San Rafael grasslands near Patagonia Jan. 5-Feb. 8 (EN, BC, et al.). Numbers of Rough-legged and Ferruginous Hawks and Golden and Bald Eagles were increased. A Harris' Hawk was seen on several occasions near Roswell (CB, VM). Caracaras seem to be becoming more regular in s. Arizona; 1 was in Phoenix Feb. 20 (RT),

1 was seen in Tucson Dec. 6 (BC), and there was an "all-time high" of 7 at Continental, Pima Co. on Feb. 3 (BB, PN). Prairie Falcons were in good numbers this winter. A Peregrine Falcon was sighted several times near Phoenix Dec. 10-Jan. 7 (SD, RWit, et al.); 1 was seen Feb. 26 near Camp Verde, Yavapai Co., Ariz. (SB); 1 was seen at Arlington, Maricopa Co., Ariz. Mar. 8 (BB, EF); 1 was in the San Rafael grasslands Feb. 2-5 (BW, et al.) and Jan. 3 (PN).

CRANE, RAILS—About 5000 Sandhill Cranes wintered in the vicinity of Columbus, N. Mex. with 150 more near Silver City (RF). Near Arlington 46 were counted Feb. 21 & 24 (SB). A peak of 7500 was counted on Bosque del Apache Refuge on Dec. 1 (JS). Clapper Rails were absent on Havasu Lake Refuge in the fall and winter (BG). The use of tape recorders in the Southwest has been changing our understanding of the status of rails in the region. Two Virginia Rails called out near Nogales on Dec. 22 were the first recorded for Santa Cruz Co. (RT). On Jan. 2 near Las Vegas, Nev. 51 Virginia Rails and 9 Soras were called out (CL, VMow, et al.). At Picacho Reservoir 5 Virginia Rails and 11 Soras were seen (DL, SS).

PLOVERS—A Snowy Plover at Bitter Lake Refuge on Mar. 16 was early (DB); as was a Killdeer nest near Dexter, N. Mex. Mar. 12 (JS). There were 3 Mountain Plovers near L. Arthur, Chaves Co., N. Mex. Mar. 26 (JSi, VM).

SANDPIPERS, AVOCET, PHALAROPE—A total of 250 Long-billed Curlews were seen at Phoenix Mar. 21-25 (BB, JWit). Eight Willets were seen near Las Vegas, Nev. on Mar. 20 (VMow). For the first time 8 Am. Avocets wintered at Phoenix (BB, et al.); while 4 N. Phalaropes were found there Mar. 31 (BB, SO).

GULLS—At Phoenix 1-2 Bonaparte's Gulls were seen Dec. 26-27 (BB); with 1 in Tucson Jan. 2 seen with a **Heerman's Gull** (HF).

PIGEONS, DOVES—Unusual were 3 Band-tailed Pigeons wintering at Fort Bayard, N. Mex. (RF, JG) and 1 at Nogales (BH). An Inca Dove was seen in Silver City on Jan. 20 and Mar. 19 (CS).

OWLS—A Barn Owl was recorded near Cliff, Grant Co., N. Mex. Mar. 14, with a Pygmy Owl in Bayard, N. Mex. Dec. 5 (RF). Another Pygmy Owl was calling near Reserve Mar. 28 (BM). Several Screech Owls and a roost of at least 30 Long-eared Owls were found at Marana Air Park, s. Pinal Co., Ariz. in late Mar. (BC). Burrowing Owls were said to be increasing in the Tucson area (DP). From 1 to 4 Long-eared Owls were seen on several occasions in the Phoenix area Dec. 27-Feb. 7 (JWit, PN, et al.); 1 was near Las Vegas, Nev. Jan. 3 (CL); and 1 was at Radium Springs Mar. 12 (SW). Short-eared Owls were in good numbers this winter. A Saw-whet Owl was trapped and banded in a garage near Cedar Crest Mar. 13, then released (JWo, BM).

SWIFT, HUMMINGBIRDS—Early records included 20 White-throated Swifts at Overton, Nev. Jan. 31 (VMow); some near El Paso in mid-Feb. (LD); over 100 near Las Vegas, Nev. Feb. 22 (CL); and 20 near Cliff on Feb. 28 (RF). An Anna's Hummingbird was at a feeder at Coolidge Dam, Gila Co., Ariz. Dec. 16 (BJ). A Broad-tailed and a Rufous Hummingbird lingered at Big Bend Park until December (RW); and a Rivoli's Hummingbird spent the third winter in Ramsey Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Cochise Co., Ariz., where a Blue-throated Hummingbird stayed until Jan. 12 (JP). A **Violet-crowned Hummingbird** which remained at a feeder in Tucson from late November until late February provided the first U.S. winter record and the first record for Pima Co. (BW, PN). For the second winter single Broad-billed Hummingbirds wintered at feeders in Nogales and Phoenix (BH, SD, FM).

KINGFISHER, WOODPECKERS—A Green Kingfisher was seen near Patagonia Dec. 22 (WM). A hybrid Yellow x Red-shafted Flicker was seen in Phoenix Dec. 28 (RWit), and a Yellow-shafted Flicker was found at Canoa Ranch near Tucson Jan. 1 (GG, PN). There were more than the usual number of reports of Williamson's and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in the lowlands this winter. Also reported in good numbers were Hairy Woodpeckers. Rare in the lowlands: a Downy Woodpecker was at Bitter Lake Refuge all winter (LK, DB) and another was seen at Las Vegas, Nev. Mar. 19 (CR, RP). Arizona Woodpeckers were found to be scarce this past winter in s.e. Arizona (AC, DC).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—A Thick-billed Kingbird remained in Big Bend Park from late December through Apr. 5 (RW). An early W. Wood Pewee was seen near Silver City Mar. 27 (RF). A Vermilion Flycatcher was found north of Globe Mar. 27 (BJ), while a Beardless Flycatcher was singing at Nogales on Dec. 23 (BH). Most Swallows were returning to southern areas earlier than usual. A small flock of Violet-green Swallows was observed in the Avra Valley near Tucson most of January and February (DP), 8 were seen near McNary, Tex. Feb. 20 (GW); while a Tree Swallow was noted at Española Dec. 27 (JT, et al.). They were present at Overton after Jan. 31 (CL).

JAYS, CROW—A Blue Jay remained all winter at Los Alamos (WS). A few Scrub Jays descended to the lowlands; with 1 reported at Agua Caliente, Sonora, Mexico along the Rio Magdalena on Mar. 21 (BH). Three flocks of Mexican Jays were found along Ash Creek, San Carlos Ind. Res., on Feb. 11 (BJ). There were 4 Com. Crows near Phoenix Mar. 4 (BB, DM) and 2 on Mar. 14 (DM); 1 was seen at Hoover Dam, near Las Vegas, Nev. Feb. 22 (CL); and 2 were at Canoa Ranch on Jan. 1 (GG, PN).

PARIDS, NUTHATCHES, CREEPER—Some Mountain Chickadees moved into the lowlands during the

winter. Bridled Titmice wintered in the Phoenix area (ER). About 10-12 Com. Bushtits on Bitter L. Refuge Mar. 19 were the first record for Chaves Co. (LK). There were a few scattered reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches: they were seen regularly in the Chisos Mts. of Big Bend Park (RW); and seen in Tucson at irregular intervals all winter (GG, PN); in the Las Vegas, N. Mex. area in February and March (ES, WHa); with 1 present in Phoenix Jan. 19-Mar. 2 (BB, SD). There were a few scattered reports of Pygmy Nuthatches in the lowlands with 1 in Roswell Dec. 12 (DG) and 4 on Dec. 22 (VM); and reports of 1-3 in Phoenix at intervals from Dec. 1 to Mar. 8 (BB, SD). Brown Creepers were also reported irregularly in the lowlands with 1-6 at Phoenix all winter (BB, SD), and seen regularly in the Chisos Mts. (RW).

THRASHERS—There were more than the usual number of reports of vagrant Brown Thrashers: 1 wintered on the Desert Game Range near Las Vegas, Nev. (JD, VMow); 1 or 2 were found in the mountains near Cedar Crest Dec. 3 (MH) and Dec. 16 to Feb. 23 (BA); 1 stayed in Ramsey Canyon until Mar. 12 (JP, FS); 2 were in El Paso Dec. 19 (WHu); 1 was at Bitter Lake Refuge Mar. 11-12 (LK); and 1 was seen near Douglas, Ariz. Mar. 14 (PH). Single Le Conte's Thrashers were recorded in the Las Vegas, Nev. area Dec. 20 (VMow) and Jan. 3 (CL). There were more than the usual number of wintering Sage Thrashers in the s. lowlands.

THRUSHES—Most lowland areas reported an increase in the number of wintering Robins. Single **Rufous-backed Robins** were recorded to be wintering at feeders in 3 widely separated places in Tucson (BB, PN, Rch, MB). Still another was seen in Nogales Dec. 22-23 (GG, RWit). A Hermit Thrush spent the winter through Mar. 15 in Bayard (RF); one was seen on the San Carlos Reservation Feb. 6 (BJ); and another was seen Feb. 8 in El Paso (WHu). Another was at Frisco Hot Springs, Catron Co., N. Mex. Feb. 14 (BM). Bluebirds were scarce in early winter near Tucson, but increased in numbers in January when it was not unusual to see all 3 species together (PN). This was the only lowland area reporting them in any numbers. There were scattered records of Townsend's Solitaires in the lowlands.

KINGLET, WAXWING, PHAINOPEPLA, SHRIKE—There were 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets near the Gila Cliff Dwellings Natl. Mon., Catron Co., N. Mex. Feb. 13 (RF); 1 was seen near Roswell Mar. 17 (ED); several were near Ocate, Mora Co., N. Mex. Mar. 21 (JW); and on Dec. 27 on Mt. Charleston, Nev. (CL). Most reports of Cedar Waxwings came from the s. lowlands; there were very few seen in the n. highlands. Three Phainopeplas were seen near Safford, Ariz. on Dec. 14 (RF). A N. Shrike was collected in Albuquerque, N. Mex. on Dec. 13 (RK).

VIREOS—A Hutton's Vireo was seen n. of Phoenix on Mar. 13 (ER); while a few Bell's Vireos were banded near Tucson Mar. 27 (SR). 1-3 Gray Vireos remained at Big Bend Park Dec. 10 to Feb. 6. One was collected for the first definite winter record in the area (RW). A Solitary Vireo was seen in Phoenix Dec. 26-27 (SB), with 4 counted on Jan. 7 (ER). A Warbling Vireo at Canoa Ranch on Feb. 25 may have been an exceptionally early migrant (GG, PN).

WARBLERS—There were 2 Black-and-white Warblers in Phoenix Dec. 27 (BB); 1 was in Sabino Canyon near Tucson Dec. 29 (AW) and Jan. 3 (LS), and it appeared at Big Bend Park earlier than normal, on Mar. 20 (RW). Many species of warblers were returning early including a Virginia's on Mar. 31 (SD, ER) and a Macgillivray's on Mar. 29 (SD) in Phoenix. Two Myrtle Warblers were banded near Tucson Mar. 6 (SR). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was collected near Nogales Dec. 22 (LS, fide BH). Two Wilson's Warblers were counted near Phoenix Dec. 27 (JWi). A Painted Redstart along the Rio Grande in Big Bend Park on Mar. 20 was the first record there in the lowlands (RW).

ORIOLES, FINCHES—At least 7 Hooded Orioles spent the winter at feeders in Tucson (PN). A male Scott's Oriole again wintered at a Nogales feeder (BH). A Cardinal wintered in El Paso (GW). A Pyrrhuloxia again wintered in Silver City (CS); 1 was seen on Bitter L. Refuge most of December (LK, VM); at least 12 were seen at L. McMillan, Eddy Co., N. Mex. Mar. 26 (JSi, VM); and 1 was found on the La Joya State Game Refuge, Socorro Co., N. Mex. Feb. 10 (JSa). A Lazuli Bunting was spotted in Phoenix Dec. 27 (SD) with another in Nogales Jan. 16 (BH, et al.). A few Purple Finches moved east: 30-40 were in Cave Creek Canyon, near Portal, Cochise Co., Ariz. after Jan. 1 (AC), and 6 were in Ramsey Canyon from mid-December to Mar. 28 (JP, AC, FS). Three were in Phoenix Dec. 21-Jan. 1 (SD), and a ♂ was on Mt. Charleston Feb. 23 (CL). Cassin's Finches also moved into the s. highlands with a few spreading into nearby lowlands and they were numerous in the n. highlands. Evening Grosbeaks were in good numbers in the highlands with a few wandering into the lowlands. Some Lawrence's Goldfinches moved e. with 3 reported in Tucson Dec. 14 (JA); they lingered near Globe until Feb. 27 (SH); there were scattered reports at Phoenix most of the winter (RWit, ER); and 11 were found on Dec. 15 fifteen miles s. of Nogales in Sonora, Mexico (CL). A Dickcissel was seen on the Desert Game Range Jan. 3 (VMow) with 2 counted near Aztec, N. Mex. Dec. 26 (TO). A flock of **Black Rosy Finches** was located in late March at Sunset Crater Nat'l Monument in Coconino Co., Ariz. (DMag). There were only scattered reports of Red Crossbills: 7 on Mt. Charleston Dec. 27 (CL); 1-6 in Phoenix Mar. 2-16 (SD); a ♂ in Globe Mar. 17 (SH); seen in the foothills near

El Paso on Mar. 22 (GB); and 5 near Reserve Mar. 28 (BM). An Abert's Towhee was found in the Upper Sonoran Zone n. of Phoenix, where it is rare, on Mar. 31 (SD, ER).

SPARROWS—A Grasshopper Sparrow was found in Phoenix Dec. 27 for the first Maricopa Co. record (PN). Always hard to find, the Baird's Sparrow was seen repeatedly in the San Rafael grasslands from Jan. 3 to Mar. 8 (BBr). A Le Conte's Sparrow was seen in Roswell Dec. 22 (VM). A Rufous-winged Sparrow was found s. of Nogales in Sonora, Mexico Dec. 3 (CL). Cassin's Sparrows wintered throughout grassy areas in Big Bend Park up to 4200 feet (RW), and Sage Sparrows were considered more common than usual in the Tucson area (PN). A White-winged Junco remained in Los Alamos Dec. 10-Jan. 11 (PS). Slate-colored Juncos were reported from Los Alamos (PS); Las Vegas, N. Mex. (ES, WHa); Dixon, N. Mex. (JW); at Albuquerque Mar. 25-27 as a hybrid (DD); with 27 counted in Phoenix Dec. 27 (SB, BC). Finally the species was seen at Grants, N. Mex. (AS) and on Feb. 15 near Las Vegas, Nev. (VMow). A Mexican Junco was seen north of Phoenix on Jan. 13 was n. of its usual range, and provided the first record for Maricopa Co. (SD). A Tree Sparrow was seen on the Desert Game Range Jan. 3 (VMow) with 15 at Las Vegas, N. Mex. Jan. 1 (ES). Three Black-chinned Sparrows found near Nogales in Sonora, Mexico on Dec. 22 for the second year may be the first and second records for Sonora (BH). An unusually large number—30—was seen in Sabino Canyon Feb. 4 (BC, PN). Many were found at the Four Peaks Mts. e. of Phoenix at 6000 feet on Mar. 31 (DMag). Brewer's Sparrows were unusually numerous below 3900 feet at Big Bend Park this winter (RW). Harris' Sparrows were seen in the Las Vegas, Nev. area in various places from Dec. 5 to Mar. 13 (CL, VMow). A Golden-crowned Sparrow was seen near Phoenix Dec. 9 (SD, ER) with 2 on Mar. 11-12 (DM). Another spent most of February at a Tucson feeder (RC), while still another was near Las Vegas, Nev. Jan. 3 (CL). The only White-throated Sparrow report was of 2 at widely separated feeders in Tucson (RC, MB). A reddish form Fox Sparrow spent Nov. 29-Jan. 1 near Phoenix with 2 seen Dec. 11 (ER). One was seen in another area of town Dec. 9 & 17 (SD, ER); it was also seen in Molino Canyon near Tucson Feb. 2 (PN); near Tucson Feb. 6 (SR); and at "Kinsley's Pond" s. of Tucson Feb. 20 (PN). A Swamp Sparrow was seen near Nogales Feb. 25 (PN). Chestnut-collared Longspurs were common on the grasslands of s.e. Arizona (BH, PN). A Lapland Longspur was seen near Las Vegas, Nev. Jan. 3 (CL). Three of the rarer McCown's Longspurs were seen at Hereford, Cochise Co., Ariz. Jan. 31 (TB, BC).

CORRIGENDA—AFN24:704 for the Black-bellied Tree Ducks at Patagonia add the date June 30.

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