

Yet, because of the weather conditions, it was one of the liveliest and most exciting migrations in years, with "eastern-type" waves of migrants concentrated near streams and held back by the cold. Most arrivals were delayed and nesting had not yet begun. The migration was clearly extending into June. Some species lingered longer before continuing on their northward journey.

All streams and ponds were low and winds were drying the seeps, thus moving birds to new habitats generally on the edges of towns. Some high altitude birds were staying lower than usual, while many species were still in flocks at the end of May.

The cold retarded plant growth and curtailed blossoming. Vegetation was also seared by drought—"only the mesquites were in cheerful bloom" (BJ). Many range and forest fires were being fought and forests were closed to most activities. The cold also apparently affected insect life. In the Chiricahua Mts., Cochise Co., Ariz. flycatchers were found to be starving; W. Tanagers and others had little or no fat reserves (SR). Many insect-eaters came to suet feeders all during the spring.

LOONS, GREBES—A Com. Loon was seen Apr. 12 at the Dexter Fish Hatchery, Chaves Co., N. Mex. (ED). Two more were seen near Ivins, Washington Co., Utah on May 7 (GK). Two or 3 W. Grebes were near Cliff, Grant Co., N. Mex. Apr. 25 (CD, BE) to May 8 (RF, et al.). Another was seen at San Ildefonso Pueblo, Santa Fe Co., N. Mex. May 20 (LH). A Least Grebe was seen at Big Bend Nat'l Park, Tex. Apr. 15 (RW).

CORMORANTS, PELICANS—Found at Phoenix, Ariz. May 15 were 3 White Pelicans (RT). An unusual number was the 8 Double-crested Cormorants near Patagonia, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz. May 2 (WM).

HERONS, IBIS—Two Little Blue Herons were found at Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, near Roswell, N. Mex. May 8 (DB, VM); 1 was counted at El Paso, Tex. the same day (E.P.A.S.), another was seen near Las Cruces, N. Mex. Apr. 16 (SW); and 1 was in Tucson, Ariz. May 26-31 (HF, GG). An Am. Bittern was seen near Nogales, Ariz. May 6 (BFW); with 1-3 found on Bitter L. Refuge from Apr. 28 (JHS) to May 8 (DB). Single Least Bitterns were sighted at Big Bend Park on Apr. 15 (RW), at El Paso May 8 (E.P.A.S.), near Phoenix May 18 (SD), and near Winkelman, Pinal Co., Ariz. May 20 (SD, HL, ER). Three White-faced Ibis were at Ganado Lake, Apache Co., Ariz. May 17 (BJB, WW); while 1 was seen at Winkelman May 20 (SD, HL, ER).

GEESE, DUCKS—A White-fronted, a Snow, and a Ross' Goose remained in Phoenix until May 5 (SD). A Snow Goose was at Bitter L. Refuge May 8 (N.M.), and a Ross' Goose wintered at Las Vegas, Nev. until Apr. 15 (CL, MVM et al.). Black-bellied Tree Ducks arrived late near Nogales May 6 (BFW), and 2 were seen in Tucson on May 8 (PN). Many species of ducks lingered

SOUTHWEST REGION / Patricia R. Snider

The spring of 1971 was unusually cool, windy, and very dry; "as dry as anyone can remember" (BJ). It was said to be the driest in 25 years or more. Since last October there have been few storms. Hard freezes were still occurring in the northern highlands until June.



through May, with an Am. Widgeon and a Ring-necked Duck still present in Tucson on June 2 (GG, PN). On Apr. 26 there were 2 Lesser Scaup in Phoenix (BL) with 1 seen at San Ildefonso Pueblo May 12-13 (PS). A Bufflehead ♀ was seen in Tucson on the late date of May 8 (GG, PN). Two Com. Goldeneyes were at Bitter L. Refuge May 8 (N.M.) Still in Tucson on June 2 were 4 late Ruddy Ducks (GG, PN). A late Com. Merganser was seen near Parker, Ariz. May 30 (PN, JLW, RAW). A very bedraggled Red-breasted Merganser was on the Desert Game Range near Las Vegas on May 7 (CL, et al.). Another was photographed on Apr. 11 at Maxwell Nat'l Wildlife Refuge near Cimarron, Colfax Co., N. Mex. (SL); while 15 in Phoenix Apr. 15 was a rare sight (BB, RAW, et al.).

HAWKS—Two Mississippi Kites were at Big Bend Park May 29 (RW); and 4 were seen at Winkleman May 15 & 20 (SD, ER), where they first appeared in 1970. A Broad-winged Hawk was reported from Ramsey Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Cochise Co., Ariz. Apr. 11 (FS). On Apr. 28 an adult White-tailed Hawk was seen between Deming and Silver City in Luna Co., N. Mex. (BE). Another was reported near Cedarvale, Torrance Co., N. Mex. Apr. 24 (LW); with a third encountered near Sierra Vista, Cochise Co., Ariz. Apr. 25 (DL). It was suggested that perhaps this species was wandering in search of habitat similar to its usual niche, in response to an impoverished food supply in its normal Texas range (BE). A Harris' Hawk was seen near Sahuaro Lake, Maricopa Co., Ariz. Apr. 21 (RF); with 2 being seen on Bitter L. Refuge May 8 (N.M.) and 25 (VM). A sub-adult Bald Eagle was reported near Taos, N. Mex. Apr. 17 (LW). An Osprey glided along a ridge at 8000 ft. on the Desert Game Range in a snowstorm (MVM, et al.) Apr. 18. Another was seen at the newly-formed L. Patagonia May 2 (WM). A Caracara was reported near Sells, Ariz. May 16 (GK).

QUAIL, CRANE, RAILS—On May 7 there were 5 or 6 Harlequin Quail in Ruidoso, Lincoln Co., N. Mex. (TF, RR). Apr. 9 was a late date for the high count of 480 Sandhill Cranes at Bitter Lake Refuge (LK). Forty-one Clapper Rails were counted near Yuma, Ariz. May 13 (RT), while a Virginia Rail at Fort Huachuca, Ariz. Apr. 21 was a new local record (PH). At least 10 Black Rails were found at West Pond near Imperial Dam, Imperial Co., Calif. May 21-22 (LJ, DH, GS). A Com. Gallinule was seen in Big Bend Park May 29 (RW).

SHOREBIRDS—Five Semipalmated and 125 Snowy Plovers were counted at Bitter L. Refuge May 8 (N.M.). Rare to uncommon in the Region, a Snowy Plover was seen near Las Vegas May 15 (MVM); while a Semipalmated Plover was at the Dexter Fish Hatchery Apr. 14 (VM). Phoenix reported 1 of the latter Apr. 19 (BB, EF, BL) with 4 May 8 (BB, SD, HL). A Ruddy Turnstone was at Bitter

L. Refuge May 28-29 (DB, LK, VM). Two Whimbrel were seen there Apr. 19 (LK, VM) with 1 Apr. 18 (CB). Still another was seen at Phoenix Apr. 20 (BB, BL). A Long-billed Curlew was seen near Las Vegas Apr. 23 (MVM). Willets numbering 107 were on Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, near Socorro, N. Mex. Apr. 28 (JS) with 188 counted from Hatch to Las Cruces May 1 (SW). Unusual was 1 at Tucson May 8 (GG, PN). Another rare species in the Southwest is the Silt Sandpiper: 1 was seen Apr. 30 at Española N. Mex. (JW), with Bitter L. Refuge reporting 5 on May 8-9 (VM, WT, N.M.). Fifteen Marbled Godwits were counted in Phoenix Apr. 15 (BB, RAW). A Sanderling was an exciting find at Bitter L. Refuge May 8-9 (JH, LK, N.M.). At least 2 Am. Avocets were nesting in Phoenix by late May (BB). A total of 2600 Wilson's Phalaropes was counted at Bitter Lake Refuge (N.M.), 150 at El Paso (E.P.A.S.), and 92 at Tucson (GG, PN), all May 8. With 2 Wilson's and a N. Phalarope near Las Vegas June 5 were 4 **Red Phalaropes**, for the first Nevada record. They were photographed and details will be published elsewhere (CL, MVM, CR).

GULLS, TERNS—Thirty-six California Gulls were over L. Pleasant, north of Phoenix May 9 (SD). More than 60 Franklin's Gulls were seen over the Rio Grande at Embudo, Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex. Apr. 16 (JW), with 11 at Tucson Apr. 18 (HF) and up to 5 seen in Phoenix Apr. 20-May 8 (BB). A Bonaparte's Gull was seen there Apr. 15 (BB, BL, EF). An adult Heermann's Gull was recorded there Apr. 29 for the first Maricopa Co. record (BB, BL). This gull has been seen in Tucson the last 2 winters. A Forster's Tern was seen along the Gila R. near Cliff May 8, and 1 was in Los Alamos, N. Mex. May 14 (PS, JT).

DOVE, ANI, OWLS—A White-winged Dove was found in Silver City May 22 (DZ) and a Groove-billed Ani was seen in Big Bend Park May 25 (RW). One to 3 Barn Owls were reported to be on Bitter L. Refuge May 8-9 & 25 (LK, VM, N.M.). A Whiskered Owl was seen in Carr Canyon, Huachuca Mts. Apr. 11 (JA, FS). A pair of Flammulated Owls was seen in Capulin Canyon, Jemez Mts., Sandoval Co., N. Mex. May 23 (KTM). An Elf Owl was seen near Cloverdale in the Peloncillo Mts., Hidalgo Co., N. Mex. May 29 (PH).

WHIP-POOR-WILL, SWIFTS—On May 15 a Whip-poor-will was calling in McKittrick Canyon, Guadalupe Mts., Hudspeth Co., Tex. (SW). Black Swifts were seen Apr. 1 near La Joya State Game Refuge, Socorro Co., N. Mex. (RLT). Reports of *Chaetura* (sp.) swifts were: 1 at Roswell May 3 (VM), 1 with swallows near Dixon, Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex., May 30 (JW), and about 12 on May 11 at the Desert Game Range (CL). The Vaux's Swift was more common in migration in s. Arizona with a very late one seen in Tucson May 30 (GG, PN). More than 1000 White-

throated Swifts were counted May 23 near Winkelman (CT, MM, RAW).

HUMMINGBIRDS—There were 3 reports of Lucifer Hummingbirds, none definitely verified. A ♀ was seen between Nogales and Patagonia May 2 (IL, PN); 1 was in Florida Canyon, Santa Rita Mts. near Tucson Apr. 27 (fide BFW); and a pair was in Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahua Mts. May 8-10 (fide SR). A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird was seen near St. George, Utah May 7 (GK). Usually nesting from January to March, an Anna's Hummingbird nest in Phoenix Apr. 6-May 4 was very late (SD). A rare spring migrant was a ♂ Calliope Hummingbird in Silver City May 21 (MZ). A ♂ Rivoli's Hummingbird was photographed in Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mts., May 3-4 (CL). Another was in Phoenix May 27 for the second Maricopa Co. record (BB). The first Violet-crowned Hummingbird appeared near Nogales on the early date of May 2 (BFW). The White-eared Hummingbird, now quite regular in Ramsey Canyon, first arrived May 1 (JP, FS).

TROGON, KINGFISHERS—The Coppery-tailed Trogon was apparently very late in returning. Only one report came in: May 22 in Cave Creek Canyon (RF). A Belted Kingfisher was seen at 8000 ft. at Rose Canyon L. on Mt. Lemmon, Santa Catalina Mts. near Tucson Apr. 16 (JA, DL). The sighting of a Ringed Kingfisher at Amado, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz. Apr. 15 (JA) was unconfirmed. It has only been reported in recent years from the Lower Rio Grande in Texas.

WOODPECKERS, BECARD—Late for the lowlands were a Lewis' Woodpecker north of Phoenix May 12 (ER) and 1 on the Desert Game Range May 11 (CL). Also late were a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Patagonia May 2 (WM) and 1 in Guadalupe Canyon, Cochise Co., Ariz. May 29 (CFL). A ♀ Williamson's Sapsucker was on Mt. Lemmon April 30 (AR). A Downy Woodpecker, which stayed at Bitter Lake Refuge all winter, was last seen Apr. 8 (JCC, LK). An Arizona Woodpecker was in Garden Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Apr. 14 (JA). The first Rose-throated Becard returned to Patagonia on the late date of May 22 (BH).

FLYCATCHERS—A Tropical Kingbird at Amado on May 1 was early (PN). The Thick-billed Kingbird arrived late to Patagonia May 9 (BH); while 1 was seen in Big Bend Park May 25. It may be the same one that wintered in a different locality (RW). Probably owing to the lack of insects, Wied's Crested Flycatchers were observed eating hummingbirds in both Cave Creek and Ramsey Canyons (fide PN). A very emaciated one died soon after it was caught by hand in Cave Creek Canyon May 9 (SR). Most species were late in arriving. A Traill's Flycatcher was still at Kino Bay, Sonora, Mexico at the end of May and had not yet migrated (SR). A W. Flycatcher (race *difficilis*) was at Komatke, Maricopa Co., Ariz. June 6 (AR). Has the Buff-breasted Flycatcher been overlooked or are its numbers on the in-

crease? It was again found in Scotia Canyon, Huachuca Mts., arriving Apr. 8 (FS) with 5 counted Apr. 11 (JA, FS). It was also reported from Cave Creek Canyon May 9 (fide SR), and 1 was singing June 1 at Bear Canyon on Mt. Lemmon for the first Pima Co. record in a long time (BBa, CM). A Coues' Flycatcher was seen in the Pinal Mts. south of Globe, Ariz. May 6 (SH, BJ). Several W. Wood Pewees of the dark northern race *saturatus* were collected near Las Cruces May 19-21 (AR). There were more than usual reports of Olive-sided Flycatchers with "very many" near Las Cruces May 19-21 (AR) and more than usual present along the Gila R. (DZ). A Vermilion Flycatcher was seen on the Desert Game Range Apr. 14 (MVM); 1 was at El Paso May 8 (E.P.A.S.); 1 was near Roswell Apr. 12 (ED); and 2 were on Bitter Lake Refuge in late April and early May (DB, N.M.).

SWALLOWS—There was a very good flight of Violet-green Swallows, with over 1000 at Caballo L., Sierra Co., N. Mex. May 7 (MM, JR); numbers at Corrales, Bernalillo Co., N. Mex. May 9 (JD); and at least 823 on the Gila R., N. Mex. in a count May 8 east from the Arizona line (RF, DZ, et al.). Rare in Arizona was a Bank Swallow seen near Nogales May 2 (BBa). Purple Martins were seen at Ruidoso May 7 (TF, RR); several were seen Apr. 16 over Juniper Tank, San Carlos Indian Reservation, Graham Co., Ariz. (BJ); some were reported Apr. 28 at Dixon (JW); 5 were seen over Fenton L., Jemez Mts. May 9 (MS); and 12 were counted at 9000 feet in the Apache Nat'l Forest, Apache Co., Ariz. May 19 (GK).

CORVIDS—The Blue Jay which wintered in Los Alamos remained until Apr. 26 (LH). Scrub Jays which came into the lowlands last winter have stayed. One was seen in Tucson Apr. 29 (PN), 2 were at Nogales May 2 (fide BH), 2 were at Phoenix May 18 (SD, ZB, HL). 2 were near Las Cruces May 19-21 (AR), and 2 were on Bitter L. Refuge May 8 (DB). Twenty Mexican Jays were seen in the Apache Nat'l Forest on May 18 (GK). Six Com. Crows counted near Cliff May 8 (DZ, et al.) suggest a continued spread into the Gila Valley. Six Clark's Nutcrackers were found May 8 at Rustler Park, Chiricahua Mts. (SR).

TITMICE, NUTHATCH, CREEPER—A Plain Titmouse was seen May 15 south of Globe (SH), and it was also seen near the Mexican border in the Peloncillo Mts. May 29 (PH). A Com. Bush-tit was building a nest along the Santa Cruz R. just inside Sonora on May 2 in cottonwood forest—a low altitude habitat (BH). The only reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches were 4 at Phoenix Apr. 8 (AA, CC); in the Apache Nat'l Forest May 19 (GK); and present at Las Vegas, N. Mex. all spring (ES). A Brown Creeper was building a nest near Patagonia Apr. 15 (JA).

WREN, THRASHERS—A Long-billed Marsh Wren at Nogales May 2 was late (GG). A Catbird col-

lected in Big Bend May 7 was the third park record and first specimen (RW). There was a substantial number of Brown Thrashers left from last winter's "invasion". The one which wintered on the Desert Game Range was still present Apr. 6 (CL); 1 was at Fort Huachuca April 13 (JA); 1 was in Cave Creek Canyon May 9 (fide SR); 1 was at the San Bernardino Ranch, east of Douglas, Ariz. June 7 (IB, BW); 1 was eating suet at a Silver City feeder Apr. 28-30 and was photographed (DZ); and 1 was at Bitter L. Refuge May 8-9 and 25 (LK, VM, N.M.). One to 2 Curve-billed Thrashers were seen near Las Vegas Apr. 5 & 16 (CL, MVM, et al.). Two were at Bitter L. Refuge May 7 & 25 (LK, VM, et al.). A Le Conte's Thrasher was seen in Tucson Apr. 23 (JA) and on the Desert Game Range Apr. 24 (MVM) and May 11 (CL).

THRUSHES—A Robin seen in Tucson on May 29 may nest there (PN). There were more Swainson's Thrush reports than usual, including one found dead in Roswell May 25 for the first Chaves Co. record (VM). Townsend's Solitaires seemed to be more numerous this spring; lingering near Nogales until June 2 (IB, BW) and at Globe until May 13 (SH).

KINGLET, GNATCATCHER, PHAINOPEPLA, WAXWING—Ruby-crowned Kinglets were reported in good numbers. An unusual locale for the Black-tailed Gnatcatcher was 1 near Cliff May 8 (DZ). The farthest up the Gila R. reported previously was at Redrock, N. Mex. The Phainopepla was noteworthy for its absence in the Gila Valley this spring (DZ). One was at Bitter L. Refuge May 29 for the first Chaves Co. record (DB, LK, VM). Cedar Waxwings were strikingly abundant in the Tucson area through early May with a few lingering into June (PN).

VIREOS—Hutton's Vireo reports were: 2 singing in the Pinal Mts. Apr. 9 (SH, BJ); 1 or more seen near Las Vegas Apr. 18 & 24 and May 6 (MVM, et al.); 1 seen in the Apache Nat'l Forest May 18 (GK); 1 near Phoenix Apr. 2 (BB); and 1 seen in a Bayard, N. Mex. yard May 16, as was a Bell's Vireo Apr. 5 (RF). There were more reports than usual of Gray Vireos. A Red-eyed Vireo was seen on the Desert Game Range May 16 with another near Las Vegas June 5 (MVM).

WARBLERS—There was an exceptionally good migration of warblers; all of the regular species were much more numerous. A Black-and-white Warbler in Sabino Canyon, Santa Catalina Mts. Apr. 19 may be the same one seen last winter (JC). One was near Nogales May 2 (BBa), 1 was in Los Alamos May 2 and another was reported in Bandelier Nat'l Mon., Sandoval Co., N. Mex. May 16 (LH). Tennessee Warblers were reported near Tucson Apr. 25 (CCo, RO) and May 6 (PN). The first Colima Warbler arrived at Big Bend Park on Apr. 10—the earliest record yet (RW). An adult ♂ Parula Warbler was on the

Desert Game Range May 16 & 19 (MVM). On Apr. 26 6 Olive Warblers were on Pinal Peak with a ♂ singing May 17 on Mt. Graham near Safford, Ariz. (RS). A Magnolia Warbler came to Roswell May 7 (VM). A Black-throated Blue Warbler was recorded on Bosque Apache Refuge May 18 (JS). Townsend's and Hermit Warblers were up in abundance in the western part of the Region. A Blackpoll Warbler was found in the Apache Nat'l Forest May 18 (GK). A Palm Warbler was at Pinos Altos, Grant Co., N. Mex. Mar. 29 and stayed for at least a week (DZ, CD, et al.); while another was seen near Roswell May 9 (ED). An Ovenbird was singing at Roswell May 9 (ED) with 1 reported the same day in Cave Creek Canyon (fide SR). A Red-faced Warbler north of Phoenix on May 12 at 4000 feet was unusually low in altitude and the first Maricopa Co. record (BB, SD, et al.). An Am. Redstart was found May 30 in Prescott, Ariz. (AR); 1 on May 30 was in Embudito Canyon near Albuquerque, N. Mex. (JR); a ♂ was near Las Cruces May 14 (LC); 1 was near Patagonia Apr. 12 (JA); and on June 3, 3 were near Las Vegas (MVM). Painted Redstarts were seen in Big Bend Park after Apr. 10 (RW). On May 15 a courting pair was seen at Mormon Tank, San Carlos Ind. Res. (BJ); while 1 was seen in the Apache Nat'l Forest May 18 (GK).

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS—The Wagler's Oriole had not yet returned to Big Bend Park (RW). The first Orchard Oriole was recorded there Apr. 20, somewhat later than usual (RW). On May 7 one was seen at Caballo L. (MM, JR). Boat-tailed Grackles were seen near Las Vegas June 2 (MVM); 1 was seen near Cliff May 8 (DZ); 3 were at Bitter L. Refuge May 8 (DB, VM, JHS) and a few were displaying near Prescott June 1 (AR). Com. Grackles were seen at Las Vegas, N. Mex. all spring (WH) with 1 at Bitter L. Refuge May 8 (DB). A ♂ Bronzed Cowbird was seen near Sells May 16 (GK); this species is apparently becoming more regular within Big Bend Park and was seen after May 29 (RW). W. Tanagers in migration were commoner than in most years. A pair of Hepatic Tanagers was seen in Bandelier Nat'l Mon. May 30 (CA); and it was in the Apache Nat'l Forest on May 18 (GK).

FINCHES—A ♂ Cardinal near Las Vegas May 10 was the second Nevada record (TH). There were many reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings in the Southwest; almost an "invasion" of the former. Lazuli Buntings were said to be particularly abundant in late April and early May. A Painted Bunting was found near Roswell May 29 (SW). Evening Grosbeaks and Cassin's Finches were in the lowlands in unusually good numbers. Over 35 Cassin's Finches were banded near Phoenix during April (ER). There were scattered records of Purple Finches in the western part of the Region. The only Red Crossbills reported were 2 on Apr. 8 (AA, CC) and

Apr. 20 (SD) in Phoenix; with 2-8 present at Globe Apr. 13 through May (SH, BJ). Pine Siskins were in unusually large numbers in the lowlands. Am. Goldfinches may be spreading southward. They were reported at Tucson and Nogales (PN), Globe (SH, BJ), El Paso (E.P.A.S.), Albuquerque (JD), Las Vegas, N. Mex. (WH, ES), Conchas L., San Miguel Co., N. Mex. (WH), Silver City (CS), and Bitter L. Refuge (DN, JCC, LK). Over 300 Lesser Goldfinches were found in Phoenix Apr. 1-6 (SD).

SPARROWS—Juncos lingered much later than usual. Golden-crowned Sparrow reports were: 1 near Las Vegas Apr. 23 (MVM); 1 near Phoenix Apr. 27 (BB, BL, DM); 1 in Silver City Apr. 28 (DZ, CD, BE); and 1 in Las Vegas, N. Mex. Apr. 21-May 15 (WH). Chipping and White-crowned Sparrows were migrating in good numbers, but later than usual. A Fox Sparrow was reported near Phoenix Apr. 27 (BB, BL, DM). A ♂ **Lapland Longspur** was seen Apr. 30 with a flock of Lark Sparrows at Roosevelt L., Gila Co., Ariz. (BJ, EJ).

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