

SOUTHWEST REGION

/ Gale Monson

Sunshine and drought keynoted environmental conditions for the Southwest Region in April and May. Rain and snowfall were almost lacking, continuing the trend that began in late December, so that the first five months of 1972 were the driest in recorded history. Only the Pecos Valley in New Mexico reported rain in appreciable amount, and that consisted of one shower in early May. Snow runoff was equal to or near the poorest on record. Summer rainy season showers began

falling the last 3 days in May, a full month ahead of normal, but too late of course to affect conditions for the present period. Temperatures were about normal, except for the first days of April, when frost prevented the setting of fruit on bushes and trees everywhere in the Region above the Lower Sonoran Zone. In spite of drought conditions, vegetation was in better circumstances than last year—owing, as was remarked in the last report, to unusually good precipitation in the last half of 1971.



Little was consistent in observers' reports. It would be difficult to interpret a consensus for most species. New Mexico observers, especially in the Grande and Pecos valleys, seemed to have detected a decline in many land bird species, but the evidence is inconclusive. Osprey and Franklin's Gulls were reported more frequently than usual. So many reports have been coming in during the last decade of N. Waterthrush, Am. Redstart, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak that the editor hardly feels their occurrences in the Region are noteworthy any longer. Hence, as a rule, reports of the three species will no longer be carried.

LOONS, GREBES — Single Com. Loons May 13 at L. Farmington, San Juan Co., N. Mex. (Four Corners Bird Club [F.C.B.C.], *vide* AN), and at Tule Springs Park, near Las Vegas, Nev. (CL, VM *et al.*), were late. A Horned Grebe was seen at Arivaca Jct., Pima Co., Ariz., May 6 (BD). Single W. Grebes were noted at Phoenix, Apr. 21 (RW) and May 10 (RB); 150 still at Las Vegas Bay, Nev., on L. Mead (CL) comprised an unusually large number for May 13; and 4 were at the n. end of Elephant Butte Reservoir in Socorro Co., N. Mex., May 23 (GZ).

CORMORANTS, HERONS, IBISES — An imm. **Olivaceous Cormorant** was carefully identified at W. Pond, near Imperial Dam, Imperial Co., Calif. Apr. 22 (GMC, Scott Terrill), and Apr. 23 (Shumway Sufell), for the second California record; the first was that of an ad. seen there Apr. 13, 1971 (LJ). At least 5 ads., including one incubating eggs, were in a colony of Double-crested Cormorants at the n. end of Elephant Butte Reservoir, May 23 (GZ *et al.*). A Cattle Egret was observed near Gilbert, Maricopa Co., Ariz., May 3 (VP), and another was at Phoenix, May 21 (JW, RW). An Am. Bittern was calling Apr. 13 at a marsh between

Isleta and Los Lunas, Valencia Co., N. Mex. (JR); at least 7 were in one unit on the Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, N. Mex., and calls were heard, May 10 (GZ). Five White-faced Ibises over Tucson Apr. 5 (StS) were early.

WATERFOWL — Two Snow Geese were present at Fenton L., 16 miles n.w. of Jemez Springs, Sandoval Co., N. Mex. May 14-June 2 (MS). Eleven Black-bellied Tree Ducks at Tucson May 26 (GG) were an unusually large number. Two broods of Mexican Ducks were hatched at Bosque Refuge, the first Apr. 27 (GZ). Ten Blue-winged Teal were remaining on Bosque Refuge May 31 (GZ). A ♂ Red-breasted Merganser was found at Albuquerque Apr. 14 (ME, JR), and a ♀ was at Tucson May 7 (BD).

HAWKS — Two Black Vultures photographed at Papago Well, Pima Co., Ariz. on the Cabeza Prieta Game Range May 1 (Jim Creasey) represent the westernmost Arizona record. A Mississippi Kite was on Bosque Refuge May 24 (GZ). A Zone-tailed Hawk was over Los Alamos, Los Alamos Co., N. Mex. May 13 (LH). A Rough-legged Hawk observed 2 miles n. of Sonoita, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz., Apr. 25 (StS) set a new late record for Arizona. One was reported from near Brazos Lodge on Rio Brazos, Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex. May 20 (Ross Tueber), but without convincing details. A Black Hawk was found just w. of Miami, Gila Co., Ariz. Apr. 21 (Dick & Bea Smith). An imm. Bald Eagle was seen 11 miles s.w. of Horse Springs, Catron Co., N. Mex. Apr. 16 (GZ), and an ad. was over the e. side of the Sandia Mtns., Sandoval Co., N. Mex. May 2 (ME). Eleven Osprey observations were reported, more than usual, most of them not from the Colorado R., where they are regular; they included 1 at Arivaca L., Ariz. Apr. 8, 13, & 27 (John Levy), and one near Farmington, San Juan Co., N. Mex., Apr. 22 (Wm. Stone, *vide* Hugh Kingery). Peregrine Falcons and Pigeon Hawks went unreported, except for one of the latter at Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, N. Mex., Apr. 18 (Locke Mackenzie, *vide* LK). At least 75 Sparrow Hawks at Mormon Farm, near Las Vegas, Nev., Apr. 9 (VM, John & Glade Koch) represented the height of a spring migration.

QUAIL — Two Gambel's Quail were seen at the Grants airport, Valencia Co., N. Mex., during the period (AS).

CRANE, RAIL, GALLINULE — A pair of Sandhill Cranes roosted at Bosque Refuge on the very late dates of Apr. 29-May 1 (GZ). At Buckhorn Marsh on Duck Creek, Grant Co., N. Mex., 3 Virginia Rails were observed Apr. 29 and one on May 6 (RF). An ad. Purple Gallinule was found at Bosque Refuge May 21 (GZ).

SHOREBIRDS — Semipalmated Plover were reported in New Mexico as follows: 1 at McAllister L., San Miguel Co. Apr. 30 (WH, Elmer Schooley); 7 at Bitter Lake Refuge May 2 (DB); and 3 at Kirtland, San Juan Co. May 12 (Burton Lewis, Bill Turner). A Snowy Plover at Wilcox, Cochise Co., Ariz. Apr. 1 (GMC, LJ *et al.*) was the first spring record for s.e. Arizona; the record was followed by an observation of 7 at the same place, May 19 (EC, BW). One to 3 Black-

bellied Plover were at Phoenix Apr. 25-27 (RB), one was there May 3 (RB, RW), and one was observed at Morgan L., San Juan Co., N. Mex. May 13 (F.C.B.C., *fide* AN). Three Long-billed Curlews were noted just n.w. of Tucson on the early date of Apr. 2 (J. Luepke). A single Whimbrel was seen with 4 Long-billed Curlews at Tule Springs Park, Las Vegas, Nev. Apr. 16 (CL). Single Solitary Sandpipers were found at Bosque Refuge, Apr. 18 (GZ), at Bitter Lake Refuge, May 2 (LK), and at Phoenix, May 3 (RW). An unusually large number of Willets—24—were found at Sierra Vista, Cochise Co. May 1-2 (CM, FS). The somewhat cloudy status of Baird's Sandpiper in the Region in spring was slightly clarified by these records: 3 at Willcox, Apr. 1 (GMC, LJ *et al.*), a first spring record for s.e. Arizona; 3 at Las Vegas Wash, Nev. Apr. 28 (CL); 2 at Tule Springs Park, near Las Vegas, Nev., Apr. 29 (CL, VM); and one at McAllister L., Apr. 30 (WH). A Stilt Sandpiper was discovered at Las Vegas Wash, Apr. 28 (CL). A Marbled Godwit was at Tucson, Apr. 22 (GG). A Sanderling was at Tucson, Apr. 20 (Seymour Levy), and 4 were seen at Morgan L., May 13 (F.C.B.C., *fide* AN). An Am. Avocet nest with 2 eggs was found at Tucson, May 7 (HF) for the first local nesting record; there were 4 eggs, May 10; 1 bird was found dead and the nest deserted, May 13, when the eggs were collected for the University of Arizona (*fide* HF). More than 100 N. Phalaropes were counted at Morgan L., May 13 (F.C.B.C., *fide* AN), and 1 was at Phoenix, May 25 (RW).

GULLS, TERNS — An ad. Herring Gull was identified at Morgan L. May 13 (F.C.B.C., *fide* AN). An unusual number of Franklin's Gulls were reported, 10 records in all. They included one of 13 at Las Vegas Bay, Nev. Apr. 8 (CL); 15-20 at San Simon Cienega, Hidalgo Co., N. Mex., Apr. 14 (Robt. Bender); 3 below Parker Dam, Ariz.-Calif. Apr. 16, with good photos (Brian Prescott); 2 at Phoenix, May 9 (RW); 43 at Morgan L., May 13 (F.C.B.C., *fide* AN); and 1 at Willcox, May 19 (EC, BW). A Bonaparte's Gull was at Phoenix, Apr. 21-23 (RS, RW), and one was at Bitter Lake Refuge, Apr. 25 (LK). An ad. Heermann's Gull was photographed at Arivaca Jct. May 11 (Mike Linshaw). A Sabine's Gull was seen at Page, Coconino Co., Ariz. May 25 (MC). Five Forster's Terns were at Bosque Refuge Apr. 28 (GZ), 2 were at Bitter Lake Refuge, Apr. 29 (LK *et al.*), and a "flock" was at Cherry Valley L., Mora Co., N. Mex. Apr. 30 (WH). Two Com. Terns were noted at Las Vegas Bay, Apr. 8 (CL), and 4 were found at Las Vegas Wash, Apr. 23 (VM).

PIGEON, DOVE — Two Band-tailed Pigeons had returned to Pioneer Pass, Pinal Mtns., Gila Co., Ariz. Apr. 29 (BJ). The species was much reduced in the Patagonia, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz. area owing to a shortage of berries (BH). Single White-winged Doves were seen May 13 at Tule Springs Park (CL, VM) and May 14 at nearby Las Vegas (CL).

OWLS — Several Burrowing Owls were noted near Albuquerque Apr. 8 (JD, PF). A Long-eared Owl was found at Page May 25 (MC). A Saw-whet Owl was observed 12 miles e. of El Morro, Valencia Co., N. Mex. May 19 (J. D. Ligon).

NIGHTHAWK, SWIFT — The first-arriving Lesser Nighthawk at Globe, Gila Co., Ariz., was seen May 4 (BJ). More than 600 were on Bosque Refuge, May 15-31 (GZ). A Vaux's Swift at Tule Springs Park, Las Vegas, Nev. Apr. 29 (CL, VM) was very early.

HUMMINGBIRDS — A ♀ Lucifer Hummingbird was reported from Guadalupe Canyon, Cochise Co., Ariz., Apr. 1 (BD); such a record must be taken with a grain of salt, however, due to possible confusion with other ♀ hummingbirds, bill shape notwithstanding. The first-arriving ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird in an Albuquerque yard was seen on Apr. 12; the first ♀ wasn't noted until Apr. 25 (Dorothy DeLollis). A ♀ Anna's Hummingbird was still in Phoenix May 18 (JW). A ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird was at Bosque Refuge, May 5 (GZ). Calliope Hummingbirds were noted in Ramsey Canyon, Huachuca Mtns., Ariz. Mar. 26-Apr. 24 (JP); a pair was in King Canyon, Tucson Mtns., Pima Co., Ariz. Apr. 20 (GMO); and a late one was noted at Mittry L., Yuma Co., Ariz. May 9 (GMO). A Violet-crowned Hummingbird was at Ramsey Canyon May 31 (JP), and a ♂ White-eared Hummingbird was found in Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahua Mtns., Ariz. May 23 (CL).

TROGON — Unusually early was a Coppery-tailed Trogon in Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mtns., Ariz. Apr. 11 (HF *et al.*).

WOODPECKERS — A Red-headed Woodpecker was observed at Bitter Lake Refuge, May 16 (DB *et al.*). Two Williamson's Sapsuckers were identified in Cave Creek Canyon Apr. 4 (LC). A Hairy Woodpecker was still in the n.e. heights, Albuquerque Apr. 6 (JR).

BECARD, FLYCATCHERS — Rose-throated Becards were more numerous than last year along Sonoita Creek below Patagonia (BH); 2 were seen below L. Patagonia, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz. May 26 (GMO). The W. Kingbird arrived at Globe Apr. 10 (BJ). Thick-billed Kingbirds were reported from 3 new localities in Arizona: one in Cave Creek Canyon May 17 to at least May 20 (RG); one at Guevavi Ranch, Santa Cruz Co. May 20 (LS, StS); and one below L. Patagonia, May 26 (GMO). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was present east of Gilbert, Ariz. from at least May 2 to the end of the period (photos: Floyd Thompson, VP, SD *et al.*). An E. Phoebe was reported from Scottsdale, Maricopa Co., Ariz. Apr. 15 (Liscum Diven). A pair of Black Phoebes was seen near Isleta, Bernalillo Co., N. Mex. where the species is now regular, April 8 (JD, PF). A Traill's Flycatcher was singing in a willow thicket in Ephraim Canyon, Nogales, Ariz. May 28 (BH). Several pairs of Vermilion Flycatchers were on Bosque Refuge (GZ), and a pair was nesting at Bitter Lake Refuge Apr. 5 (DB *et al.*).

MARTIN, JAY, CREEPER — Two Purple Martins were observed at Corn Creek, Desert Nat'l Wildlife Range, Nev. Apr. 22 (VM), and 6 were found at Las Vegas Wash, Nev. Apr. 28 (CL). A Blue Jay was seen at Bitter Lake Refuge May 4 (JC, LK). A Brown Creeper was reported near Farmington May 13 (F.C.B.C., *fide* AN).

MIMIDS — Several Catbirds were seen at Española and San Juan, Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex. May 28 (WH). One was at Grants, May 5 (AS). Two Brown Thrashers were identified east of Tucson Apr. 24, and one on May 1 (Phyllis Reid); one was found at Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy Co., N. Mex. Apr. 29 (LH); and 1 was at Bosque Refuge May 15 (GZ).

THRUSHES — A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was carefully identified, with full details supplied, at Tule Springs Park, Las Vegas, Nev. May 13. Attempts to photograph it failed (CL, VM, John O'Connell). A Veery was observed at Corn Creek, Desert Wildlife Range, May 21 (VM); it is the third record for the locality in 5 years. Townsend's Solitaires were "migrating through my yard at 7,550 feet in Los Alamos in good numbers from March 4 to May 4. Singles in oak scrub at 7,100 feet in Los Alamos May 24 & 26 were late to be so low" (PS).

PIPIT — A Sprague's Pipit was carefully identified, with full details supplied, at Bitter Lake Refuge, Apr. 29 (LK *et al.*).

WOOD WARBLERS — A Black-and-white Warbler was seen at Patagonia, May 2 (Polly & Frank Long); 2 were in Copper Canyon, Huachuca Mtns. May 6 & 27 (R. T. Smith); one was in Cave Creek Canyon May 15 (RG); and one was in Guadalupe Canyon, Ariz. May 28 (TP). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was found in Cave Creek Canyon May 20 (RS, RW *et al.*) for the second sight record for Arizona; it was also seen May 25 (RG). A Tennessee Warbler was seen in Cave Creek Canyon Apr. 13-25 (M. Cutler, *vide* SaS); a ♂ was at Phoenix May 5 (RB). A ♂ **Golden-winged Warbler** was reported, with full substantiating details, from Rattlesnake Springs, Apr. 30 (K. E. Elers); it is possibly a first New Mexico record. At least one Parula Warbler was at Corn Creek, Desert Wildlife Range May 27 (VM). Male Black-throated Blue Warblers were seen in Cave Creek Canyon May 2 (SaS) and May 11 (RG); one was also seen in Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mtns. May 30 (Floyd Murdoch *et al.*). Male Myrtle Warblers were carefully identified in Cave Creek Canyon Apr. 7 (LC), and in Sycamore Canyon, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz. May 7 (James Comfort). One or 2 Townsend's Warblers were on Bitter Lake Refuge May 3 (LK, Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Mueller). A ♂ **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found in Guadalupe Canyon, Ariz. May 14 (Carroll Littlefield) for a possible new state record; full details have not been supplied. Four Grace's Warblers were found in Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park, Kane Co., Utah, May 3 (Merrill Webb). A ♂ **Bay-breasted Warbler** was watched at leisure by a number of people in Cave Creek Canyon, May 6 & 7 (TP, LS *et al.*) for the first Arizona record. A Palm Warbler was identified near Farmington May 13 (Bill Martinus, *vide* AN). N. Waterthrushes were reported from 4 New Mexico localities, 3 Arizona localities, and from Las Vegas, Nevada. Am. Redstarts were seen in 2 New Mexico localities, 3 Arizona localities, and at Las Vegas, Nevada.

ICTERIDS — A ♂ Orchard Oriole in full plumage was noted at Bitter Lake Refuge, May 22 (LK). The following will help document the range of Boat-tailed Grackles in New Mexico: 1 at Taos, Taos Co. May 5

(Dixie Gillette); 1 at Silver City, Grant Co. May 12 (RF); 3 near Fruitland, San Juan Co. May 13 (F.C.B.C., *vide* AN); and several at Española May 28 (WH). Bronzed Cowbirds were seen often at Globe in May (BJ), and 1 was in Cave Creek Canyon May 13 (RF).

TANAGER — An imm. ♂ Hepatic Tanager was at Bosque Refuge May 13 (GZ).

FINCHES, SPARROWS — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, mostly ♂ were seen at 5 New Mexico localities; at Cave Creek Canyon; and at Boulder City, Nevada. A flock of more than 150 Blue Grosbeaks was observed at Bosque Refuge May 10 (GZ). A pair of Indigo Buntings was at Bosque Refuge May 3 (GZ), a ♂ was banded at Cedar Crest, Sandia Mtns., May 9 (BM), and there were 6 records for May at Las Vegas, N. Mex. (WH). Pine Siskins were seen or heard daily May 1-24 in the n.e. heights, Albuquerque (Laura Lefkowsky). Nearly 100 Am. Goldfinches were counted May 13 in San Juan Co., N. Mex. (F.C.B.C., *vide* AN). In view of the apparent recent scarcity of Red Crossbills, the following should be of interest: about 12 on Mt. Taylor, Valencia Co., N. Mex., May 7 (BM); 2 ten miles n. of Jemez Springs, May 23, the first seen in 18 months (MS); and about 200 at Jacob Lake, Coconino Co., Ariz., May 26 "made so much noise cracking pine cones it sounded like rain falling" (MC).

At least 3 Botteri's Sparrows were singing in extreme s.e. Arizona, near Guadalupe Canyon, May 28 (TP). A Mexican Junco was singing in an arroyo at 4,000 ft. elevation s.e. of Globe, Apr. 16 (BJ). At least 2 Black-chinned Sparrows were seen in Bitter Lake Refuge uplands, Apr. 29 (LK *et al.*). The wintering Harris' Sparrow at Cave Creek remained until Apr. 16 (Eleanor Radke). Four White-throated Sparrows were still at Patagonia, Apr. 15 (TP, StS), 1 stayed at Ramsey Canyon, Huachuca Mtns., to Apr. 26 (JP), 1 was at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Tucson, Apr. 30 (GMo), and 1 was observed near McNeal, Ariz., on May 5 (StS, TP). Two Swamp Sparrows were last seen at Patagonia, Apr. 15 (TP, StS), and 1 was observed at Tule Springs Park, Apr. 29 (CL, VM).

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