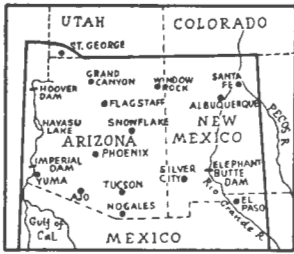


SOUTHWEST REGION.—The word "drought" continued to keynote ecological conditions in the Region. Except in scattered areas (*e.g.*, Big Bend National Park and some high mountain localities), there has been almost no precipitation since last summer. Springs and seeps are drying up. The Gila River run-off in April was the lowest ever measured. Forest fires already were rife in northern New Mexico and Arizona in May. The only bright spots from a moisture standpoint were the Colorado and Salt River valleys, where the water picture is more or less constant, and Sonoita Creek in southeastern Arizona,



where abundant rains last summer resulted in an above-normal flow through the winter and into the spring.

The weather turned cold enough in early April to bring spits of snow to such low altitudes as Bisbee and Tucson in Arizona, and El Paso in Texas.

However, it soon warmed and over most of the period temperatures were about normal. April was unusually windy in Arizona, southern New Mexico, and trans-Pecos Texas.

Grebes through Ibises.—A Western Grebe was observed on Lake Sullivan, near Paulden, Yavapai Co., Ariz., May 14 (Heidi McLernon). White Pelicans migrated through the Colorado Valley in unusually large numbers during March (Gale Monson). At least 12 pairs of Snowy Egrets were nesting again near the Rio Grande on the New Mexico side of the river 7 miles north of El Paso, May 29 (Lena McBee). The number of White-faced Ibis records obtained in Maricopa County, Ariz. between April 24 and May 22 (maximum number, 96) indicates this part of the Salt River Valley is on one of the species' principal migration routes (James R. Werner, *et al.*).

Waterfowl.—**Fulvous Tree-ducks** were recorded in Arizona during the spring migration for the first time since 1899. A flock of 15 was photographed at Martinez Lake, Imperial Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, April 24 (GM); 6 were seen at New River Pond about 2 miles southwest of Peoria, April 28 (James T. Bialac, Frank Brunk, JRW); and one was seen at New River Pond, May 4 and May 9 (JTB, James M. Simpson, JRW). There were several records of Blue-winged Teal from Maricopa County, mostly pairs and 3's, between April 24 and May 22 (JRW, *et al.*). Three were also seen at Big Lake, Apache Co., Ariz., May 18 (Steve Gallizioli). A female Red-breasted Merganser was found at the Palo Verde Marsh, 1 mile south of Palo Verde, Ariz., May 22 (Abe S. Margolin, JRW).

Hawks.—Swainson's Hawks appeared to be unusually common in south-central and southwestern Arizona. Eighteen were seen in a field near Goodyear, April 3 (JRW); 2 were observed over Yuma, April 26 (GM); and a few were seen along the international boundary just east of San Luis, Sonora, Mex., April 30 (Allan R. Phillips). A Zone-tailed Hawk was reported from the Boot Springs area of the Chisos Mountains, Big Bend Park, Tex., May 3 (Roy C. Curbow and R. E. Woodard, *vide* H. J. Brodrick). An Osprey was seen near Cabeza Prieta Tanks on the Cabeza Prieta Game Range, Yuma Co., Ariz., April 8 (Harry L. & Ruth Crockett, GM), an outlandish place for such a bird!

Rails through Gulls.—Virginia Rails continued to be observed in the Phoenix, Ariz. area in April and May, with as many as 10 at the Palo Verde Marsh,

May 14 (ASM, JRW), and 8 at the same place, May 22 (JTB, FB, JRW). A flock of 9 Pectoral Sandpipers was identified at Galisteo Lake at the north end of the Estancia Valley, Santa Fe Co., N. Mex. April 16 (F. J. Freeman). Ten Red-backed Sandpipers were seen at Martinez Lake, April 27 (Hal Irby), an unusually large number for the spring migration. Six dowitchers (*sp.*) were observed at Bennett's Marsh, 4½ miles southwest of Marinette, Maricopa Co., Ariz., May 15 (JTB, JRW), and 2 were noted at Ramsey Pond, 3 miles south of Marinette, May 22 (Ben Clark, JMS); these were very late dates. A flock of 115 Western Sandpipers on a sandbar in the Colorado River channel on the Imperial Refuge, May 12 (Charles R. Darling, GM) were very late for such a large number. A Sanderling was seen on the Imperial Refuge near Norton's Landing, Ariz., May 12 (CRD, GM). A Franklin's Gull was found at Las Cruces, N. Mex., May 1 (LM). Of unusual interest was the appearance of a flock of 7 Sabine's Gulls at Martinez Lake, April 13 (GM), followed by an observation of a single bird just below the lake, April 27 (HI); as far as we know, inland spring records of this arctic gull are extremely rare.

Doves through Woodpeckers.—As many as 5 White-winged Doves were already present at the Salt River Marsh, Ariz., about a mile east of the confluence of the Salt and Gila Rivers, April 8 (ASM, JRW). One was present from May 8 to 29 near Canutillo, Tex., but in New Mexico (Mary Belle Keefer, *et al.*). A report of 12 Burrowing Owls at River Ranch, on the Salt River southwest of Phoenix, April 11 (Mrs. B. M. Demaree, D. T. Fournier) was welcome; one was also seen in the Estancia Valley, April 16 (FJF). A Calliope Hummingbird was found east of Papago Mountain on the Cabeza Prieta Game Refuge, April 27, and at least one was seen the following day at Tule Well, also on the Cabeza Prieta Range (GM, ARP); this was evidence that this hummingbird has a spring migration route through the lowlands of southwestern Arizona. A Coppery-tailed Trogon fed on cherries put out for it at Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains, Ariz., May 14 (LM, *et al.*). Lewis's Woodpeckers were common at Prescott until about May 15 (HM).

Flycatchers.—The female of a pair of **Tropical Kingbirds** was collected at Blue Point, on the Salt River above Granite Reef Dam, Maricopa Co., Ariz., May 19 (JMS, JRW); this was a considerable extension of the range of this species in southern Arizona. A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher in the Chiricahua Mountains, Ariz., May 5, was very early (ARP). About 6 were seen in Madera Canyon, May 18 and 19 (JTB). An Eastern Phoebe was seen at El Paso, April 4 (LM). The flight of Western Flycatchers in southwestern Arizona in late April and during May was unusually heavy, and the same was true of Western Wood Pewees in mid- and late May.

Horned Larks.—A singing Horned Lark south of Wellton, Yuma Co., Ariz., April 29 (GM, ARP) indicated the species was establishing itself in this newly reclaimed area.

Swallows.—There was quite a large swallow migration during May at Los Alamos, N. Mex.; most

of the birds were Violet-greens, but considerable numbers of Bank and Barn Swallows were seen also (Patricia R. Snider). Two Tree Swallows were observed at Bennett's Marsh on the late date of May 15 (JTB, JRW). About 1000 Rough-winged Swallows were feeding over a canal on Luke Air Force Base near Phoenix, April 25 (JRW), and an estimated 1300 were seen at Bennett's Marsh, May 15 and 17 (JTB, JRW). Barn Swallows were migrating over the Cabeza Prieta Game Range, April 29, as were Cliff Swallows the two preceding days (GM, ARP).

Corvids.—Ten or 12 Piñon Jays flew north over Patagonia, Ariz., April 29 (Florence Thornburg). Some Clark's Nutcrackers, remnants of last fall's flight, were around Prescott, Ariz. all spring, with a few still present at the end of May (HM).

Nuthatches.—A Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen near San Xavier Mission, Ariz., April 15 (Tucson Bird Club). One remained at El Paso until May 4 (Ethel Noble). A Pygmy Nuthatch was still present in El Paso, April 15 (MBK).

Wrens and Thrashers.—A singing **Winter Wren** was observed in lower Oak Creek Canyon, Ariz. April 7 (JTB). A Catbird was seen in upper Oak Creek Canyon, May 18 (MBK), and many were seen at the Alcalde Marsh, north of Espanola, Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex., May 31 (W. Burton Lewis, M. Vincent Mowbray). A Bendire's Thrasher nest containing 2 eggs was found in a large patch of jumping cholla cactus off the southwest end of the Sierra Pinta, Cabeza Prieta Game Range, April 27 (GM, Tad Nichols).

Thrushes.—Large flocks of Am. Robins and Western Bluebirds fed on Russian Olive berries at Los Alamos during April (PRS). Robins were seen in Globe, Ariz. until April 18 (Betty Jackson). A male Mountain Bluebird noted west of Buckeye, Ariz., April 28 (JTB, FB, JRW) was very late; one at Heart Tank in the Sierra Pinta, Cabeza Prieta Game Range, April 8 (RC, GM) was also quite late. Hermit Thrushes were common in El Paso during the last few days of April (LM). One on the Imperial Refuge, May 12 (GM), and another at Four Peaks Dam, in the Kofa Mountains on the Kofa Game Range, Yuma Co., Ariz., May 16 (GM), were extremely late. Olive-backed Thrushes were common migrants in late April and early May in southwestern Arizona. Late records of Townsend's Solitaires included 1 in Kofa Queen Canyon, Kofa Mountains, April 11 (GM); 2 or more in Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mountains, May 18 (JTB); and 4 in the upper Chiricahua Mountains, about May 27 (W. E. Lanyon).

Kinglets through Starlings.—Ruby-crowned Kinglets were still widespread in the Chiricahua Mountains, May 5 to 10 (ARP), and one lingered in Madera Canyon at least to May 19 (JTB). Cedar Waxwings were common in Tucson in April, especially the last half of the month, but all were gone by mid-May. Maximum population was about 250, April 15 (ARP). Thirty-five were feeding on mulberries at El Paso, May 4 to 10 (LM). At least 40 were seen in Madera Canyon, May 18 and 19 (JTB).

In a non-wintering area near Tucson, there were no Phainopeplas during April (TBC, ARP), but by May 4 there were 4 (WEL), and by May 15 they were common (Mrs. Sylvia Thomssen). Perhaps 6 pairs of **Common Starlings** were nesting about Tucson (ARP, *et al.*). A most surprising discovery was a roost of about 1000 at Bennett's Marsh, May 29 and June 5; still more surprising, the birds were all immatures! This indicates a far greater population in south-central Arizona than suspected (JTB, JRW).

Vireos and Wood Warblers.—In general, this was one of the best spring migrations for these birds in years, particularly in southwestern Arizona, where they literally swarmed along the desert washes in late April and through most of May. Bell's Vireos and Lucy's Warblers remained scarce along the Colorado River, however (GM). Two Black-capped Vireos were seen on the west side of the Chisos Mountains, Big Bend Park, May 20 (James R. Youse). A Red-eyed Vireo was taken in Owl Woods, Ariz. on the Imperial Refuge, May 28 (GM). Two **Palm Warblers** were carefully identified at Walnut Grove, along the Hassayampa River near Wagoner, Yavapai Co., Ariz., April 29 (HM, Una Miller). Northern Water-thrushes were seen at Anthony, N. Mex., May 1, and in New Mexico near Canutillo, Tex., May 13 (MBK, LM, Lilla Thomas). Another was noted at Patagonia, May 17 (FT). Most observers commented on the unusually large numbers of Black-capped Warblers.

Blackbirds and Tanagers.—A male Bronzed Cowbird was seen at the Southwest (Boyce-Thompson) Arboretum, Superior, Ariz., April 18 (BJ), and a pair was present at the Gila Pueblo, near Globe, after May 4 (Lyndon L. Hargrave). A male Summer Tanager in Santa Elena Canyon, Big Bend Park, April 6 (JRY), would seem to be unusually early.

Finches and Sparrows.—A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was discovered in Madera Canyon, May 13, and another was seen west of Patagonia the following day (Edward & Margaret Chalif, Elizabeth Forster, FT); one was also found at Chain Tank, in the Castle Dome Mountains, Kofa Game Range, May 23 (Huysen J. Johnson). Black-headed Grosbeaks were reported as unusually common in southern and central Arizona, excepting the Phoenix area. In the Chiricahua Mountains in early May they were abundant (ARP). A male Indigo Bunting was singing on Mt. Union in the Bradshaw Mountains, Yavapai Co., Ariz. May 29 (HM). Evening Grosbeaks were found in many places through the Region, lingering, following the winter's historical flight. Numbers fed in elms at Prescott during late April and in May, with many still present on May 20 (HM). They were common in the Flagstaff, Ariz., and Oak Creek Canyon sectors in mid-April (ARP). About 15 were feeding in elms at Globe until May 12 (BJ), and a maximum of 21 were seen south of Globe until May 16 (Jean King). Large flocks were in Los Alamos from late April to mid-May (PRS). About 200 Cassin's Finches were feeding in a field near Flagstaff, April 21 (ARP). Pine Siskins were very numerous at Prescott all spring, often feeding with Evening Grosbeaks (HM). About 200 were

at Los Alamos, May 10 (PRS). Two Lawrence's Goldfinches were seen in Kofa Queen Canyon, Kofa Mountains, April 11 (GM). About 30 Red Crossbills were still present at El Paso, May 12 (LM); 8 to 10 were in Prescott, feeding in ornamental white firs, May 24 (SG); and 2 were in Los Alamos, May 28 (PRS). Green-tailed Towhees were unusually plentiful, almost region-wide during the spring migration.

Small numbers of Oregon and Gray-headed Juncos were still present in the Kofa Mountains, Kofa Game Range, on the unheard-of late date of April 11 (GM). *Extremely* late Oregon Juncos were 1 (*thurberi*) at Papago Well, Cabeza Prieta Game Range, April 27 (GM, ARP); 2 at Wagoner, April 29 (HM); and 1 at Wilbanks Cabin, Kofa Mountains, May 16 (GM). Four Black-chinned Sparrows from last fall's flight were still present in Kofa Queen Canyon, Kofa Mountains, April 11 (GM), and a very late one was taken northeast of Tule Well on the Cabeza Prieta Game Range, April 28 (GM, ARP). A Golden-crowned Sparrow was carefully identified along Granite Creek 6 miles north of Prescott, May 3 (HM). A late Fox Sparrow was seen at Wagoner, April 29 (HM, UM); and an individual of the eastern or Alaskan subspecies was taken at Four Peaks Dam, Kofa Mountains, May 15¹ (GM).—GALE MONSON, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Box 1032, Yuma, Ariz.*