

SOUTHWEST REGION.—We are happy to report that the trend of above-normal precipitation continued, with unusual amounts of rain and snow in



April. Los Alamos, N. Mex. had more than 14 inches of snow in mid-April, and a heavy hail storm on May 25. The Santa Catalina Mountains near Tucson, Ariz. were blanketed with 9 inches of snow in early April. Streams

generally ran high, and even the major reservoirs were at or near the full mark. Soil moisture conditions were good.

April temperatures were generally a little cooler than normal, save in the extreme southeast. May was as warm as usual until after the 20th, when temperatures shot up to record-breaking extremes in many areas.

Migration was generally late, particularly among passerines. Many migrant land birds were scarce, including species generally very common, such as the *Empidonax* flycatchers, the vireos and wood warblers, Western Tanagers, and most of the fringillids. This lack of birds was noted especially in the central-southern and southeastern parts of the Region, but it was less marked in the Colorado Valley and southwestern Arizona.

Grebes, Pelicans, and Cormorants.—More than 1000 Eared Grebes were on Havasu Lake, Ariz.-Calif., at the Havasu Lake National Wildlife Refuge, April 26; this was an unusually large concentration for spring (Charles R. Darling). Forty to 45 White Pelicans were observed at Lake McMillan, N. Mex., April 1 (Bruce K. Harris), and one was seen near Anthony, Dona Ana Co., N. Mex., May 10 (Roy Fisk). Three Double-crested Cormorants were found at the Canoa Ranch, near Continental, Pima Co., Ariz., April 10 (Seymour H. Levy).

Hérons and Ibises.—Snowy Egrets were unusually scarce along the Colorado River in May (CRD, Gale Monson). They failed to nest this spring at El Paso, Tex. (Lena McBee). Two made a "dry landing" in large bushes along a wash between the Granite and Mohawk Mountains on the Cabeza Prieta Game Range, Yuma Co., Ariz., May 16; the nearest open water was more than 20 miles distant (GM). Between 250 and 300 White-faced Ibises, a very large number for southeastern Arizona, were reported from Picacho Reservoir in Pinal County, April 22 (SHL); and 1 to 2 seen at San Ildefonso, Santa Fe Co., N. Mex., April 24 to 29 (Patricia R. Snider, *et al.*) were the first records from that section.

Waterfowl.—A good migration of ducks, especially Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, and Shoveler, occurred in April in the upper Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico (PRS), and the same was true of the Las Vegas, N. Mex. section, where the Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Am. Widgeon, and Ruddy Duck were especially plentiful (Elmer Schooley). Elsewhere, duck

numbers were about the same as last year. A Black-bellied Tree Duck was seen at Arivaca Junction, Ariz., May 20 (Effie Henretty). Although water areas were often visited, no Blue-winged Teal were seen in the Tucson area (SHL). A male Wood Duck, perhaps crippled, was present from April 25 to the close of the period near Montezuma, San Miguel Co., N. Mex. (ES). A female Bufflehead was observed at Hueco Tanks, northeast of El Paso, March 18 (LM). A Hooded Merganser was noted near Montezuma, April 6, and again on April 20 (ES). The Red-breasted Merganser was often seen on the Imperial Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Ariz.-Calif., from late March until June 1. The maximum number observed was 30 (GM).

Hawks.—Two Mississippi Kites were watched carrying sticks at the Boy Scout Camp, El Paso, May 19 (RF, Al Smith), and the same 2 were also seen on May 27 (IM, *et al.*); the species is now in its third season in that locality. A Harris' Hawk nest with 1 young was found north of Phoenix, Ariz., April 12 (Harry L. Crockett), and another with 2 young in late May was located in the Santa Catalina foothills near Tucson (Mary Jane Nichols). Both nests were built in large sahuaro cactus plants. A Caracara was observed at an earthen water tank in the Avra Valley, Pima Co., Ariz., April 20 (SHL). A Peregrine Falcon was found near Montezuma, April 6 (ES).

Rails, Shorebirds, and Gulls.—A Clapper Rail was seen at Martinez Lake, Ariz. on the Imperial Refuge, May 23 (GM). The first Semipalmated Plover record for northern New Mexico was obtained at Espanola, when one was seen, April 17 and 19 (James and Marylou Travis). Another was observed at Picacho Reservoir, April 22 (SHL). A Common Snipe at Picacho Reservoir, April 22 (SHL) was quite late. A Marbled Godwit was found at Galisteo Lake, Santa Fe Co., N. Mex., April 13 (Leon A. Wiard), and 2 were seen near Santa Fe, April 17 (LAW, *et al.*). More than 1000 Wilson's Phalaropes were noted near Montezuma, May 5 (ES). Two Ring-billed Gulls were seen on April 24, and 3 on May 17, at Redtail Tank in the Growler Valley on the Cabeza Prieta Game Range, Pima Co., Ariz. (GM). A lone Franklin's Gull was observed at Lake McMillan, April 1 (BKH).

Doves, Cuckoos, Owls.—Mourning Doves were much more numerous than usual in the deserts and mountains of southwestern Arizona, ostensibly because of the large amount of available seeds of annual plants. White-winged Doves returned early from the south. One was calling at New Water Well on the Kofa Game Range, Yuma Co., Ariz., April 4 (GM) and a flight of at least 30 was seen over the Tucson Mountains, Ariz., April 13 (SHL), and by the following day they had moved in throughout southern Arizona. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was discovered at Hueco Tanks, May 23 (Caroline McClintock, Mary Belle Keefer). A Long-eared Owl was seen in El Paso, June 1 (MBK, *et al.*); owing to persecution, it is now a very rare bird in that area (LM).

Swifts and Hummingbirds.—Vaux's Swift was unreported. Young White-throated Swifts were being

fed in the nest at Tonto Nat'l Monument, Gila Co., Ariz., April 1 (Harold Marsh). The first Black-chinned Hummingbird was noted in Albuquerque, N. Mex., April 22, later than usual; it is believed that feeding of these birds for several years has resulted in their returning earlier in the spring than if they depended on natural food (Dorothy H. Clark). The first one at Montezuma, however, was not seen until May 19 (ES). At least 2 Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were heard along the Santa Cruz River near Tucson on the late date of May 4 (Joe T. Marshall, Jr.).

Woodpeckers.—A Red-headed Woodpecker was observed near Cliff, Grant Co., N. Mex., April 3 (Harry Hickle—no details). Lewis' Woodpeckers at Yuma, Ariz., April 15 (GM), at Sabino Canyon in the Santa Catalina Mountains, April 21 (G. Gregg), and at El Paso, May 17 (Frances Camp), were unusually late.

Flycatchers, Larks.—A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was observed along the road between Deming and Hurley, N. Mex., May 26 (Marilyn Moore). Numbers of Ash-throated Flycatchers arrived in the Tucson Mountains the night of April 8-9 (SHL). These birds nested in all valleys of the Cabeza Prieta Game Range except on the Lechuguilla Desert; a flock of 104 at Salt Well in the Growler Valley, May 17, was composed mostly of juveniles (GM).

Titmice, Wrens.—A Bridled Titmouse was seen near San Xavier Mission, Ariz. on the unusual date of May 31 (JTM); it is possible they nested there. Bewick's Wrens were back in the Fairview, Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex. area after an absence of more than a year (PRS).

Mockingbirds, Thrushes, Waxwings.—As shown by large numbers of juveniles, Mockingbirds nested commonly throughout the Cabeza Prieta Game Range from the Tule Desert east, in areas where they usually do not nest at all; this is another result of the unusually copious rains of last fall and winter (GM). Bendire's Thrashers were not seen at all in southwestern Arizona (GM). Sixty-four Cedar Waxwings were counted in Yuma as late as May 10 (GM).

Starling.—Most observers reported increased numbers this spring. They were believed to have bred at Globe, Ariz., where juveniles just out of the nest were seen (L. L. Hargrave). There was also a report of nesting in the irrigated section east of Yuma (Lee Bradley), where they were seen into May (Charles E. Kennedy). In the Tucson area, there was a definite increase in numbers, as well as a spreading into hitherto-unoccupied areas (SHL).

Wood Warblers.—A Black-and-white Warbler was noted at El Paso, May 6 (MBK), and one was seen in Canyon del Oro of the Santa Catalina Mountains, May 7 (Jeanette MacNeil, Florence Thornburg). An early Hermit Warbler was seen along the Santa Cruz River near San Xavier Mission, April 16 (JM, FT). An Am. Redstart was found at Hueco Tanks, May 23 (LM).

Blackbirds and Tanagers.—The Western Meadowlark nested in the Las Playas region of the Cabeza Prieta Game Range, Yuma Co., Ariz., as evidenced

by numerous juveniles there, April 25. Dispersed juveniles were seen in scattered areas within a 35 to 40 mile radius of Las Playas, May 17. This is the first time, as far as known, that meadowlarks have nested in the Region (GM). A flock of 12 Boat-tailed Grackles was found 2 miles north of Scottsdale, Ariz., April 12 (HLC), and a male was observed near Roosevelt, Ariz., May 21 (Steve Gallizioli). A male Summer Tanager found at Alcalde, Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex., May 5 (Travises, L. G. Hawkins) is perhaps the northernmost record for the state.

Finches.—At least 5 *Pyrrhuloxias* were seen along a wash on the Cabeza Prieta Game Range between the Granite and Growler Mountains, Yuma Co., Ariz., May 16. This is the first record from west of the Ajo Mountains (GM). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was found at Silver City, N. Mex., May 6 to 11 (Chancie L. Snyder), and one was also reported from Los Alamos, May 9 (Travises). A male Indigo Bunting was seen at El Paso, April 29, and a Dickcissel, April 21 (Mrs. D. T. Johnson). There were more Evening Grosbeaks than usual along the Rio Grande in the Santa Fe area during April (PRS). Many Cassin's Finches were in Los Alamos through April (PRS), and they were also present at Montezuma until at least April 16 (ES). A flock (possibly Purple Finches?) was still present in Globe, April 15 (Betty Jackson, *et al.*). A Pine Siskin at Charlie Bell Well, Growler Mountains, Cabeza Prieta Game Range, May 17, was quite late (GM). A male Lawrence's Goldfinch was found near San Xavier Mission, April 6 (SHL), and a pair was seen in Ten Ewe Canyon of the Kofa Mountains, May 8 (GM). Lark Buntings remained unusually late in the southwest part of the Region; a flock of 50 was observed at Las Playas, and 3 on the Tule Desert, of the Cabeza Prieta Game Range, April 25 (GM); and 25 to 30 were seen along the Cave Creek road north of Phoenix, May 7 (SG).

Sparrows.—Following the expansion of range of the Rufous-winged Sparrow that has occurred in the Tucson area the last two years, the species nested throughout the valley early this year, in April. One young just out of the nest was found near Tucson, May 10 and fully grown young were seen near the mouth of Sabino Canyon, Santa Catalina Mountains, May 21 (Allan R. Phillips). A Clay-colored Sparrow was banded at Los Alamos, where it stayed from April 9 to 17 (Travises). White-crowned Sparrows were thinning out at Silver City, April 16, and were nearly all gone by April 25 (CLS).—GALE MONSON, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P. O. Box 1032, Yuma, Ariz.