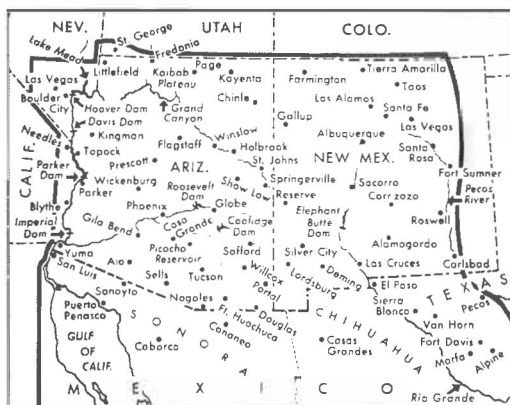


(Mrs. LE). Bear River Marshes had a good wintering population with a high of 43 on March 13 (RDJ). There were 37 on the 3 great refuges of the Klamath Basin: Tule Lake, Lower Klamath and Upper Klamath, Jan. 21 (EON). There were at least 14 on a 75-mile stretch of the North Platte River in eastern Wyoming (OKS); 9 on the Snake River near Nampa, Idaho, Jan. 13 (Mrs. HES); 9 wintered at the Monte Vista Refuge, southern Colorado (CRB); 4 on the Animas River near Durango (JR); 3 at Parowan, Utah (SM), and other scattered birds. If all the open water in this Region were covered, this area would turn out to be a major wintering ground of the Bald Eagle, since many of the streams are fast moving and remain open in spite of very cold weather. All major rivers of this Region appear to winter Bald Eagles. Only a small part of the area has been covered so far.

SOUTHWEST REGION.—Winter in the Southwest was wetter and colder than usual with heavy snows and very low temperatures in places. Decem-



ber and early January were normal, but on Jan. 10 and 11 extreme cold shattered records in southern areas. At El Paso, Tex. the mercury dropped to -8° , followed by 14 days of below freezing weather. Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge on the Rio Grande recorded -19° , freezing all ponds and forcing waterfowl to seek open water elsewhere. At Bitter Lakes Nat'l Wildlife Refuge on the Pecos the -22° temperature resulted in ice three inches thick on the lakes, but ducks managed to keep the springs open and no unusual bird movements were noted. Temperatures at Carlsbad dropped from 70° on Jan. 8 to -20° on the 10th, breaking a 30-year record. Elmer Schooley, at Montezuma, N. Mex., was the only contributor who stated that it "warmed some in early January," but in his area near Las Vegas it already had been down to -28° on Dec. 11. Near Silver City, N. Mex. low readings on Jan. 10 ranged from -13° on the desert to -27° at the 6000-foot level. At Globe, Ariz. the temperature fell to 9° and at Nogales, Ariz. to 7° , dropping leaves from all citrus trees. However, the winter was generally warm at Nogales (WH). Mountains south to the Mexican border remained snow-capped, and thawing during intermittent warmer periods produced heavy stream flows. The snow-pack in the Catalinas, near Tucson, was 10 times deeper than average. The Santa Cruz River flowed continuously after December—a record for recent years. By early March the near-record snow depth in the Rio Grande watershed was 108 inches, double that of last year. Early February's warm spell was followed by unseasonably cold weather which persisted through March, after which the Cumbres Pass snow-pack measured 120 inches. In the lowlands food conditions were normal to good wherever plant cover remained undisturbed. The acorn crop was good in places, but junipers provided little bird food. Heavy crops of Russian olive fruits and unpicked apples maintained the Bohemian Waxwing flocks in northern New Mexico, and berry-laden *Pyracantha*s in many towns supported Robins and Townsend's Solitaires for weeks.

Habitat destruction continues at an accelerated rate in the river valleys so important to wintering birds. Along the Rio Grande, north and south of El Paso, "birding spots are being 'improved' out of existence. Ditch banks are being stripped and thickets cleared" (LVA). "The ponds around Phoenix [Ariz.] . . . have almost all been drained" (MLB). Pond drainage and destruction of cottonwood groves and brushy thickets along the Gila River in southwestern New Mexico is certain to reduce future bird populations there.

The winter was as exciting ornithologically as it was climatically; 223 species were reported. Without leaving New Mexico I saw over 150 between January and April. All major movements of boreal or high altitude species began well before January's cold weather arrived. Contributors believed the weather generally was responsible for the unusual numbers of high altitude species in the lowlands, but few could make direct correlations with specific movements in their areas. Meager information indicated below-normal food supplies in the mountains. Southwestern New Mexico areas above 6500 feet were almost devoid of birds, the species normally present there being found in the river valleys. The few reports of bird mortality could not be linked with certainty to severe weather. Snow and cold concentrated birds in many areas, possibly resulting in larger counts, which did not reflect true population increases.

Cormorants, Waterfowl—A carefully studied *Olivaceous Cormorant*, present at Nogales from Feb. 16 to March 28, was later joined by a second individual (WH, DC, et al.). At Bitter Lakes Refuge waterfowl numbers were higher than during the preceding 3 years with no outstanding shortage of any species (RWC). Canada Geese peaked at 760 birds in late December, a record high for the refuge. Five White-fronted Geese, rare in New Mexico, remained until Jan. 2 (RWC). Six White-fronts stayed from Feb. 16 to March 2 at Bosque del Apache Refuge (RGY, DAZ), and another from Jan. 1 to late March at Nogales (WH). At Bosque del Apache Refuge a record 915 Snow Geese were counted on March 16 (RGY). The refuge duck population totaling 9153 birds (largely Mallards and Pintails) during mid-December, had dwindled to 1321 by March 26. Pintails, usually present about Carlsbad, N. Mex. in hundreds, were recorded this winter by "thousands" (RCB). Common Goldeneyes were reported frequently and in relatively large numbers. Near Las Vegas, N. Mex. 100 were seen in December (ES). Buffleheads, too, seemed more numerous than usual; 150 were present at Concho Lake, Apache Co., Ariz., March 20 (NM). Seven Black-bellied Tree Ducks wintered at Nogales (WH). A Hooded Merganser was seen there, Jan. 1 (WH), and another at Fort Hancock, Tex. Jan. 18 & 19 (MBK, CMcC, et al.).

Falconiformes—Three Black Vultures were seen near Coolidge, Ariz., Dec. 1 (SHL). More melanistic Red-tailed Hawks than usual were reported by observers throughout the Region. If the Swainson's Hawk shot in Albuquerque on Feb. 3 was correctly identified it provides the first authenticated winter record for New Mexico. The specimen was presented

to the University of New Mexico (fide BMcK). A typical adult-plumaged *Harlan's Hawk* wintered at Bosque del Apache Refuge, being seen first on Feb. 17 and last on April 1 (DAZ, RGY, et al.). Another was seen near Cliff, Grant Co., N. Mex. on March 17 (DAZ). A Harris' Hawk was seen in late March at Bitter Lakes Refuge (RWC). Golden Eagles were more common than usual in southwestern New Mexico. Five were found shot near Silver City (DAZ). Nineteen adult *Bald Eagles* and 22 immatures were noted between Dec. 13 and March 26 at Las Vegas, N. Mex. (ES). A Peregrine Falcon was seen at Coolidge, Ariz. on Dec. 1 (SHL). Single Pigeon Hawks were seen at Silver City on Dec. 28 (DAZ), Espanola, N. Mex. on Dec. 30 (WSH), and near Patagonia, Ariz., Feb. 22 (WH). A Caracara was observed near Sells, Ariz., about 65 miles southwest of Tucson, Feb. 21 (DC, FT, et al.).

Cranes and Rails—At Bitter Lakes Refuge Sandhill Cranes increased from 10,000 on Dec. 1 to 13,000, Jan. 23 (RWC). At Bosque del Apache Refuge the peak of 3734 birds (1200 more than last year) was reached, Dec. 12 (RGY). Two Virginia Rails were seen near Espanola, N. Mex. on Dec. 26 (JT, MT). One or more Common Gallinules and some Soras wintered near Nogales (WH). A *Common Gallinule* seen near Cliff on Jan. 31 was the first winter record for N. Mex. (DAZ).

Shorebirds, Terns—Two pairs of Mountain Plover were seen near Roswell, N. Mex., March 16 (VM). Between El Paso, Tex. and Las Cruces, N. Mex. 16 Long-billed Curlews were counted on March 11, and 25 on March 18 (CMcC, LVA, et al.). One was seen on the desert near Adams Well, Castle Dome Mts., Kofa Game Range, Yuma Co., Ariz. March 28 (*George Eustis*, fide GM). A *Caspian Tern*, the first recorded in Arizona in winter, was present at Martinez Lake on the Imperial Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Dec. 30 (GM, OIA).

Doves, Owls, Hummingbirds—A White-winged Dove was photographed on the Bosque del Apache Refuge, Jan. 7 (JD, DMcK); some wintered near Phoenix (MLB) and Nogales (WH). Two Screech Owls, rarely recorded in southeastern New Mexico, were seen in Roswell, Dec. 21 (VM). Several ♀ hummingbirds, believed to be Anna's, frequented gardens in Tucson until Jan. 11 when the temperature dropped to 20° (FT). Some young hummers that left a nest in Yuma on March 15 may have been Anna's, particularly in view of the urban nest site and the early date (GM). However, two nests attributed to Costa's Hummingbirds were found with small young in a cañon east of Scottsdale, Ariz. on March 2 and March 8 (H & RC, et al.). Up to 50 ♂ Costa's Hummers were observed in that cañon, March 8 & 10 (MLB).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers—A record count of 124 Lewis' Woodpeckers was made at Espanola, N. Mex. on Dec. 30 (WBL). Two Eastern Phoebe were recorded at Carlsbad, Dec. 26 & 29, and one remained until March 25 (BH). Another was seen near Hondo, Lincoln Co., N. Mex., March 30 (DAZ). Single Vermilion Flycatchers appeared near Globe, Ariz., Jan. 28 (LLH) and Cliff, N. Mex., Jan. 31

(DAZ). There were no other reports of the species until March.

Corvids—A Blue Jay seen in Roswell, Dec. 21, was the first noted there since 1955 (I'M). Near Santa Fe one was seen from March 10 to March 23 (W'SH). Steller's Jays were reported from several lowland areas. The Scrub Jays recorded, Dec. 17 and 26, at Nogales were the observer's first records there (W'H). White-necked Ravens were not recorded near Cliff in the Gila Valley until March 17, but there, on Jan. 31, 500 Common Crows appeared. They remained in diminishing numbers through March 17 (DAZ). Two *Clark's Nutcrackers* were seen Nov. 23 near Fort Davis, Jeff Davis Co., Tex. (RR). Through December and early January they were conspicuous at Silver City. Except for one seen at Redrock, Grant Co., N. Mex. on Feb. 3 (DAZ, et al.), nutcrackers were unreported between mid-January and late March. Piñon Jays were abundant at Tucson (SHL) and at Nogales where 600 were seen, Dec. 2 (W'H). They were less common around Silver City than during the fall period, but large flocks were frequently seen: 67 were banded from a flock of 125 that returned irregularly to a feeding station (DAZ, MAZ).

Parids through Sylviids—A Black-capped Chickadee was collected, Jan. 8, at Los Lunas, N. Mex. (JD, W'WH). Mountain Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Pigmy Nuthatches wintered in Phoenix (MLB). Mockingbirds were scarce in southern New Mexico and El Paso. Curve-billed Thrashers remained scarce in southwestern New Mexico and El Paso. Migration of some Curve-bills is indicated by the recovery in Chihuahua, Mex. in Dec. 1960, of one banded at Silver City on Sept. 15 of that year. The astonishing total of 174 Sage Thrashers was recorded on the Carlsbad Christmas count (RCB, BH). Robins were common to abundant in many places from Santa Fe, N. Mex. (PRS) to Nogales where a peak (apparently approaching 1000 birds) was reached in early January (W'H). "Thousands" wintered near Phoenix, arriving in late September, reaching a peak in January, and remaining fairly common through March (MLB). In Tucson at least 5000 wintered (SHL). Robins were likewise numerous in southwestern Arizona. Mountain Bluebirds were reported in good numbers from nearly all lower elevation stations. Eighty Townsend's Solitaires were seen on the Espanola Christmas count (W'BL, et al.); 42 were reported from Carlsbad (RCB, BH). At Benson, Ariz., the species was last seen on March 10 (LLH). A pair of Black-tailed Gnatcatchers was seen near Redrock, N. Mex., Feb. 3 (DAZ, BJH). The only Golden-crowned Kinglet reported was seen on March 3 in El Paso (LMcB).

Bohemian Waxwing—Following collection of a single bird in Santa Fe on Nov. 26, 34 Bohemian Waxwings appeared near Albuquerque, Dec. 23 (Jude BMcK). On Dec. 26, 75 were seen in Los Alamos (W'BL). Espanola area observers listed 7300 on Dec. 30 (W'BL, LGH, JT, et al.). Between Santa Fe and Taos over 2000 were seen, Jan. 21 (PRS). Hundreds were reported from Albuquerque from late January through early February (JD, et al.). Near Santa Fe numbers dwindled to five birds on Feb. 18, coincid-

ing with the beginning of warm weather. After cold weather returned 150 waxwings reappeared on March 4 and were still present on March 23 (W'SH). One was seen in Roswell on Dec. 21 (I'M). At Carlsbad one appeared, Feb. 10, and 2 on March 16 (BH).

Wood Warblers, Icterids, Tanagers—Two Painted Redstarts remained in Sabino Cañon near Tucson from December through February, and another was seen at Arivaca Jct. (Kinsley's), Ariz. on Feb. 16 (FT, et al.). At Imuris, Sonora, migrant Painted Redstarts and Lucy's Warblers were noted, March 24 (W'HI). The first Painted Redstarts seen in southwestern New Mexico were 2 recorded on March 25 at Glenwood, Catron Co., and 1 west of Silver City (LO, WEZ). Lucy's Warblers arrived, March 26, at Phoenix (MLB), Globe (BJ) and Cliff (DAZ). Among the icterids found dead after a field test of Starling toxicants near Albuquerque, Dec. 13, was a *Rusty Blackbird*, the second N. Mex. record (W'CR). On Dec. 15, a mile away, a dead *Common Grackle* was found on another toxicant test plot (W'CR). At Benson, Ariz., a ♀ *Rusty Blackbird* was collected on March 7 (SHL). Bronzed Cowbirds were seen at Nogales on Feb. 17 (W'H) and near Mesa, Ariz. (W'CR), 20 birds at each locality. A ♂ Scott's Oriole arrived early at Globe on March 15 (LLH). A ♂ Hepatic Tanager remained at a feeder in Patagonia, Ariz. from Dec. 25 to March 16 (FT, et al.).

Finches—A Blue Grosbeak remained at Nogales from Jan. 1 to March 4 (W'H). A ♂ *Lazuli Bunting* was recorded from Jan. 31 to March 22 at Cliff—the first New Mexico winter record (DAZ). Another wintered at Nogales (W'H), one was banded, Jan. 5, at Mesa (W'CR), and still another was seen at Heart Tank, Sierra Pinta, Cabeza Prieta Game Range, Yuma Co., Ariz., March 29 (GM). *Evening Grosbeaks* wintered commonly at Silver City, Cliff, and Redrock (DAZ). Small flocks were seen in Roswell (Dec. 17, I'M), Carlsbad (RCB, BH), and El Paso (Jan. 20, CMcC). Among the larger counts were 550 seen 50 miles northwest of Tucumcari, N. Mex., Dec. 5 (ET), and 1550 on the Espanola Christmas count. Small numbers reached Tucson (FT, et al.), Nogales (W'H), and Guadalupe Canyon (DAZ). There were "a great many all winter" at Prescott, Ariz. (FDS). A Purple Finch, the third in five years, was seen near Silver City, Feb. 10 (DAZ). Cassin's Finches appeared there, Dec. 28, and soon became common (DAZ). By mid-December they were abundant in the Los Alamos area where 250 were seen on the 19th (W'BL). A flock of 400 rosy finches at Eagle Nest, N. Mex., Feb. 20, probably contained two species, but weather conditions prevented specific identifications (ET). Eighty Am. Goldfinches were seen in the Bosque del Apache Refuge, Feb. 17 (DAZ). Lawrence's Goldfinches were abundant in Nogales (W'H) and common in Tucson (FT). Red Crossbills were seen three times in El Paso between Dec. 10 and March 20 (CMcC, LMcB, LI'A). Two were seen at Central, Grant Co., N. Mex., Jan. 22 (DS).

Sparrows and Longspurs—A Slate-colored Junco was collected near Pleasanton, Catron Co., N. Mex., March 17 (DAZ), and a White-winged Junco was banded at Los Alamos, Dec. 2 (JT, MT). At Los

Alamos, banding showed wintering Gray-headed Juncos to outnumber Oregon Juncos 6.4:1; last year the ratio was 4.5:1 (*JT*, *MT*). The *Field Sparrow* was added to the New Mexico list through collection of one in Lea County on Dec. 24 (*BH*) and another at Los Alamos on Jan. 13 (*MT*, *W^{SH}*). Two Harris' Sparrows were seen, March 15, at San Simon Cienega, Hidalgo Co., N. Mex. (*DJH*, *DJ*). One remained at a Cedar Crest, N. Mex. feeder from Dec. 11 to March 26 (*BMcK*), and another was seen near Albuquerque, Dec. 15 (*JSF*). A White-throated Sparrow was seen at Patagonia on Jan. 13 and Feb. 25 (*W^H*). Fox and Lincoln's Sparrows wintered in several places in southwestern New Mexico (*DAZ*). A Swamp Sparrow was seen near Los Alamos, Dec. 26, and 2 others, Dec. 30 (*JT*, *MT*). One was collected near Dwyer, Grant Co., N. Mex., Dec. 18 (*REM*). Thousands of Chestnut-collared Longspurs wintered in southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona. A *McCown's Longspur*, the second Arizona specimen since the 1920's, was collected on March 7 near Bowie where three were seen, Dec. 10 (*SHL*). A ♂ in breeding plumage was seen in Santa Cruz County, Feb. 22 (*DLC*, *W^H*).

Corrigenda—The report of White-fronted Geese from south of Santa Fe, Nov. 6, 1961 (*Audubon Field Notes* 16(1):63) should be deleted, as the observer reports the birds in question to be captives. The Gray Vireo reported from "near" Yuma (*loc. cit.*) was actually seen near Sinita Tank, 65 air-line miles southeast of Yuma. The observation of 64 Chestnut-collared Longspurs on the Imperial Refuge, Oct. 15 (*op. cit.*, p. 65) should be credited to Gale Monson.

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