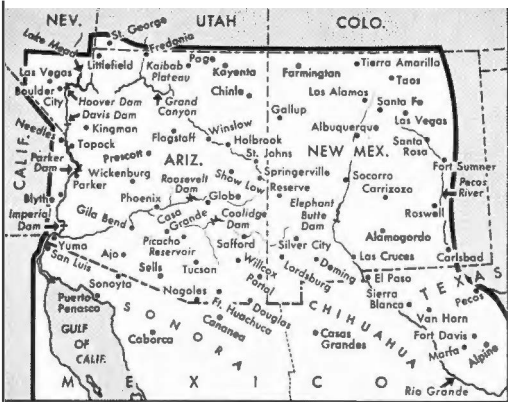


**SOUTHWEST REGION.**—Following on the heels of a very cold winter, the spring months were exceptionally cool. Nights were cold until mid-June



even on the Mexican border in SE Arizona and SW New Mexico. The usual spring winds were late, and were particularly strong throughout May interfering with observers and perhaps with the birds as well. In New Mexico it was the windiest May in five years. This was another extremely dry spring in most

localities, with below normal precipitation in March and April and practically none in May. However, stream flow remained well above average resulting from melting of above-normal snow packs in the mountains. This run-off seemingly prompted new clearing and cultivation in river- and stream-bottoms where dwindling amounts of low elevation mesic habitats—never very extensive here—continued to decline alarmingly. Added to this were other discouraging reports of habitat damage or destruction including wholesale clearing and herbicide spraying of large tracts of piñon-juniper woodland near Flagstaff, a vast Department of Agriculture spraying program in the Sangre de Cristo Range to combat spruce budworms, and unsightly, inexcusable logging of splendid timber at Rustler Park in the Chiricahuas. Continued overgrazing and burning of mesquite thickets and sycamores in the Arizona portion of Guadalupe Canyon are certainly affecting that area's attractiveness to birds; conditions in the canyon have steadily deteriorated during the past few years.

Except at Roswell and Santa Fe, N. Mex., where the warbler migration was "good" (VM, PRS), observers agreed that the spring flights of passerines were disappointing. The shorebird migration seemed better than usual in New Mexico, an impression created in part by better coverage of suitable areas heretofore neglected. Most contributors commented upon the delayed arrivals of passerines and the lingering of winter birds until late in the season. It was tempting to link such events with the prevailing cool weather, but evidence of any direct relationship was lacking. Of particular interest was the appearance of numerous eastern species. The concentrations of warblers and other migrants in the Roswell area occurred from May 24 to 26 and again on May 29 following prolonged northwest winds. Although the flights consisted mostly of western species, a Chestnut-sided Warbler, Indigo Buntings, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were present. A Rose-breast also appeared in Arizona's Painted Desert on May 15, after 4 days of strong WSW winds there. The Orchard Oriole at Silver City appeared on May 15 following the same windy conditions in that locality, but another Orchard Oriole had been seen from May 1 through May 15 near Portal, Ariz. Similarly, one might be tempted to link the presence of a Yellow-throated Vireo at Santa Fe on May 23 with the winds, but this would not explain the occurrence of two birds of that species at Patagonia, Ariz. on April 14. The Kentucky Warbler seen on May 16 in the Chiricahuas might have been blown off course by the strong winds of the preceding few days, but what about the one at Roswell, May 9 and 10? Some correlations seem more than coincidental, but more extensive observations on both birds and weather conditions are necessary before valid conclusions can be drawn.

Inasmuch as significant bird movements extended well into June, the following discussions disregard our customary March-May seasonal limits. Presentation of spring nesting data will be deferred until the next issue.

**Grebes, Pelicans**—Two Least Grebes were seen

in the Nogales, Ariz. area: one at Pena Blanca Lake, April 20 (AC), and one east of Nogales, May 2 (W'H). Nine White Pelicans appeared at the Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Socorro Co., N. Mex., April 3 (RGY); 35 were seen at Lake McMillan, north of Carlsbad, April 29. In the El Paso area, where pelicans are rarely seen, one was reported on May 19 (LI'A. *et al.*).

**Hérons, Ibises, Waterfowl**—A Little Blue Heron reported at the Bosque del Apache Refuge, May 1 (FSD), was photographed on May 5 (BMcK, DMcK). It is hoped that the photography was successful, for the species' claim to a position on the N. Mex. list to-date rests solely on sight records. An adult *White Ibis*, the first for Arizona, was seen at Martinez Lake on the Imperial Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, April 4 and 5 (GM, LO). A Fulvous Tree Duck was seen at Bitter Lakes Nat'l Wildlife Refuge near Roswell, April 11 (RC).

**Hawks**—A Mississippi Kite seen near Roswell, May 12, was the first local record since June, 1958 (IM, AR). Three were seen in the Rio Grande Valley north of El Paso, May 12 (MBK, LT, EC, LI'A). An adult Broad-winged Hawk was seen at close range east of Carlsbad, March 28 (BH), and an immature was observed in the same area, May 27 (BJH, DAZ). A single Zone-tailed Hawk was seen in Bandelier Nat'l Monument near Los Alamos, N. Mex., April 28 (LGH). Extensive work failed to disclose any Black Hawks along the Gila River near Cliff and Redrock, N. Mex. Predator "control" in the area may be partly responsible. A late Bald Eagle was seen at Espanola, N. Mex., May 2 (MC, PRS). Ospreys were reported 8 times between April 2 (Bosque del Apache Refuge—FSD) and April 28 (Montezuma, N. Mex.—ES). One was seen near Nogales, April 20 (CS, MS).

**Gallinaceous Birds**—Small groups of Harlequin Quail were seen in the Davis Mts., Jeff Davis Co., Texas, March 13 and 14 (RR), but no Arizona or New Mexico reports of the species were received. On May 11, the New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish, as part of a joint exotic bird venture between the state and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, released several hundred Black Francolins and Gray Francolins, trapped in India in March. About 200 of each species were released near Deming, 262 Blacks at Redrock, and 139 Grays at Cliff, following a period of predator removal in the latter area. Newspaper statements attributed to an official of the State Game Commission implying that there are "no native birds in most of this state and we're trying to get those suited for this type of terrain" seem incredible in view of the large healthy populations of Gambel's Quail and some Scaled Quail in the release areas. The state reportedly is abandoning its Chukar program after several releases totaling nearly 25,000 birds proved unsuccessful.

**Shorebirds, Gulls**—Two Semipalmated Plovers were seen near Santa Fe, April 20-30 (PRS); 2 others were recorded at Carlsbad, April 29 and 30, and 1 at Bosque del Apache Refuge, May 5 (BH). About 50 Mountain Plovers were seen near Bonita, Ariz., March (SHL). Another was seen near

Navajo, Ariz., April 12, 13, and 26 (RR). A *Ruddy Turnstone* was discovered at Lake McMillan, near Carlsbad, May 7 (EL, OL) and collected for the first New Mexico record (BH, RCB). A Pectoral Sandpiper near Santa Fe, April 17 (PRS), was considered unusual, and so were the 5 White-rumped Sandpipers identified there, April 22 (PRS). Six White-rumped Sandpipers were seen on April 23 at Avalon, N. Mex. (CMcC). Four Baird's Sandpipers were recorded at Bitter Lakes Refuge, April 23 (RC), and others noted from April 29 to May 7 near Carlsbad (BH, OL, EL). Two Stilt Sandpipers were seen at Lake McMillan, May 1 (BH). A Semipalmated Sandpiper, the second definite New Mexico record, was collected near Dexter, Chaves Co., May 1 (BH), and another was seen at Lake McMillan, May 7 (EL, OL). Wilson's Phalaropes appeared in large numbers: 200 on April 23, and 500 on April 30, at Bitter Lakes Refuge (RC). The species was seen from April 23 to May 17 near Santa Fe, with a peak of 70 individuals, May 1 (PRS). A Bonaparte's Gull, rare in the northern Rio Grande Valley, was seen near Santa Fe, April 2 (PRS). A Least Tern was recorded at Lake McMillan, May 7 (EL, OL).

**Doves, Owls**—White-winged Doves, usually uncommon in the Rio Grande Valley north of El Paso, were reported there 5 times from April 7 to May 19, with 40 observed on May 12 (LI'A. *et al.*). At Silver City, where the species is casual, a calling bird remained from May 24 (LLO) to June 11 (MAZ). A male was collected on May 10 at Lake Avalon, north of Carlsbad (BH) where it is rare. One of 4 White-winged Doves seen May 1 to June 15 at the Corn Creek Field Station of the Desert Game Range near Las Vegas, Nev., was collected for the first state specimen (NBM). Nevada's second Flammulated Owl was collected at the same place, May 20 (NBM). A Pygmy Owl was discovered drinking water from a pan on the observer's porch in Santa Fe, April 5 (PRS). Burrowing Owls were reported in greater numbers than usual from southern New Mexico. A dozen were seen daily, May 26-28, east of Carlsbad (BH, REM, DAZ). Several others were seen in late May near Las Cruces, Silver City, and Lordsburg (REM, DAZ) where few have been noted during recent years. A Short-eared Owl was seen in the El Paso area (Durlings), April 7 (MBK, LI'A).

**Goatsuckers, Swifts, Hummingbirds, Trogons**—The first Common Nighthawk arrived in the Petrified Forest Nat'l Monument, Ariz., May 22 (LKH); the first was recorded at Silver City, June 6 (MAZ). From June 1 to 18 numbers were noted each morning flying northeast over Guadalupe Canyon in SW Hidalgo County, N. Mex.: 46 were counted, June 9 (DAZ). Two males collected there on June 13 were not in breeding condition (REM). Arrival of single Lesser Nighthawks was recorded on April 24 at Carlsbad (BH), and April 28 at the Bosque del Apache Refuge (RGY). A flock of 300 Lesser Nighthawks was seen along the Rio Grande 3 miles south of Truth or Consequences, N. Mex., June 7 (MOS), seemingly at a late date for so many migrants. Two Chimney Swifts were seen at Alameda, north of Albuquerque, May 26 (JSF)—apparently the fourth

New Mexico record. The season's first Broad-billed Hummingbirds were recorded in Cave Creek Canyon in the Chiricahua Mts., Ariz., May 31 (BH). Both Rivoli's and Blue-throated Hummingbirds were seen there, April 15 (DLC). Arrival of the Violet-crowned Hummingbird was recorded in Guadalupe Canyon (N. Mex.) on the morning of June 7 (DAZ). At the well-watched feeders of the Southwestern Research Station in the Chiricahuas, no Violet-crown was seen until June 21 when one arrived (HH, *et al.*, *vide* WCR); 2 individuals were present there the next day (WCR, HH, DAZ). A Lucifer Hummingbird was seen below Laguna Meadow in Big Bend Nat'l Park, Texas, May 29 (DAZ). Coppery-tailed Trogons were observed copulating in Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mts., Ariz., May 23 (HC, RC, *vide* CR).

**Tryant Flycatchers**—An Eastern Kingbird was seen at Santa Fe, May 8 (PRS), and another at Albuquerque, May 25 and June 1 (JSF). A pair of Thick-billed Kingbirds was found at Patagonia, May 31 (WH), but the first (and only) one to be seen in the New Mexico portion of Guadalupe Canyon appeared on the morning of June 4 and remained only an hour. No others were located during the next two weeks, although a single bird was seen later in the Arizona part of the Canyon (BH, REM, DAZ). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen at the Corn Creek Field Station of the Desert Game Range near Las Vegas, Nevada, May 1, and another was collected there on May 20 (NBM). These are apparently the first published records of the species for the state, although a bird was seen in the same place two years ago (NBM). Two Scissor-tails were seen at Ft. Bliss, Tex., on May 9 (TMC). A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, the first noted in New Mexico since the unconfirmed report of Rockhill in April 1915, appeared in Guadalupe Canyon, June 3, and was seen by several observers (BH, REM, MAZ, DAZ). It promptly disappeared from the area and was not seen again. The following observation on the arrival, May 21, of Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers in Cave Creek Canyon in the Chiricahuas is important enough to be recorded in detail. "At 5:10 P.M.," writes WCR, "I saw three small specks coming in from the southeast at a great altitude. When they were directly above me, the birds dropped straight down to [near] the canyon floor and came streaking down the road. The birds, now identified as Sulphur-bellied [Flycatchers], split up and stopped in separate trees. I believe I witnessed the arrival [of the species] as these were the first observations of the year." A singing Gray Flycatcher was on territory near Silver City from April 9 to April 25 (DAZ). *Empidonax* flycatchers, apparently of this species, were seen in the area through May 10 on which date a ♀ Gray Flycatcher was collected (DAZ). A ♀ Western Flycatcher was collected in Guadalupe Canyon, N. Mex., June 16 (DAZ).

**Jays, Mimids**—Migrating jays were seen at Silver City on May 1, when 8 Piñon Jays, 10 Steller's Jays, and 35 Scrub Jays were observed during a one-hour period flying toward the northeast in small straggling groups. A single winter-banded Piñon Jay remained

at Silver City on May 4, and an unbanded bird was seen there on May 20 (DAZ). Clark's Nutcracker was last seen at Silver City, April 30 (3 birds—LLO, WEZ); 1 was heard, May 3, in the Pinos Altos Mts. (DAZ). Mockingbirds first appeared near Silver City, April 11 (WEZ), and were common thereafter. A Catbird was reported from Santa Fe, May 30 (MH, *vide* PRS).

**Waxwings, Phainopepla**—The remnants of last winter's Bohemian Waxwing flight were 25 birds at Española, April 8, and 30 at Santa Fe, April 10 (PRS). Cedar Waxwings remained in Nogales until June 7 or later (WH), and 7 were seen in Guadalupe Canyon, N. Mex., June 3 (DAZ). The first Phainopepla in more than a year was seen north of El Paso (in N. Mex.), May 12 (LVA, *et al.*). The species was abundant in Guadalupe Canyon in early June.

**Vireos**—A closely observed, singing *Yellow-throated Vireo* in Santa Fe, May 23 (PRS), and 2 seen on April 14 at Patagonia (WH), were unique observations for New Mexico, and Arizona, respectively. The species is accidental in the West, having been recorded once (May, 1932) in Nevada. The infrequently reported Hutton's Vireo was seen on April 11 in the Chiricahua Mts. (RR), and a mated territorial male was observed north of Pinos Altos, Grant Co., N. Mex., April 29 (DAZ, MAZ). Nonbreeding ♂ Gray Vireos were collected in the New Mexico portion of Guadalupe Canyon, June 16 and 18 (REM). A Bell's Vireo found at the mouth of Mogollon Creek north of Cliff, April 27 and 28 (JLS, DAZ) was a new locality record.

**Wood Warblers**—With the exceptions already mentioned, the warbler migration was generally regarded as poor. Some fairly common species (*e.g.*, Townsend's Warbler) were not reported at all. At Montezuma, N. Mex., not one flock of Audubon's Warblers was seen (ES). The species was likewise uncommon in the Silver City area (DAZ). At Roswell, the May flights consisted mostly of Wilson's and MacGillivray's Warblers. At Santa Fe, there was a "very good" migration of Yellow Warblers on May 23, and a flight of Wilson's Warblers on May 30 (PRS). A Parula Warbler was seen and heard in Santa Elena Canyon, Big Bend Nat'l Park, March 31 (JA). A pair of Orange-crowned Warblers was on a restricted territory, behaving like breeding birds, on Signal Peak in the Pinos Altos Mts., Grant Co., N. Mex., April 29 (MAZ, DAZ). Two pairs of Colima Warblers were found below Laguna Meadow on the South Rim Trail in Big Bend Nat'l Park, May 29 (BJH, REM, LLO, DAZ). An Olive Warbler was found on Signal Peak, in the Pinos Altos Mts., April 29 (MAZ, DAZ). New Mexico's first *Chestnut-sided Warbler* was seen at Bitter Lakes Refuge, May 24, by an observer familiar with the species in the East (RC). Northern Waterthrushes were seen near Carlsbad, May 8 (BH); El Paso, May 12 (MBK, *et al.*); Cliff, May 17 (DAZ); Santa Fe, May 22 (PRS); and Bitter Lakes Refuge, May 24 (RC), but were not reported from Arizona. A late Wilson's Warbler, present for nearly 2 weeks in the New Mexico portion of Guadalupe Canyon, was collected on June 18 (REM). A ♂

*Kentucky Warbler* was closely observed at Roswell, May 9 and 10 (VM), the second sight record for New Mexico. Arizona's second record of the species was obtained on May 16 when a singing ♂ was seen in Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., by an eastern observer who knows the species (RMacA). Am. Redstarts were seen near El Paso (Durlings) on May 12 and 17 (LT, EC, LVA, MBK, CMcC), near Carlsbad, May 14 (BH), at Portal, Ariz., May 23 (WCR), and near Roswell, May 26 (VM). Particularly noteworthy was the collection of a ♀ Slate-throated Redstart, *Myioborus miniatus*, on the eastern boundary of our Region near Jal, Lea Co., N. Mex., April 16 (BH)—the first North American record of this tropical species.

**Icterids**—An adult ♂ Orchard Oriole, the first for western N. Mex., was seen near Silver City, May 15 (DAZ). Another adult ♂ was frequently seen from May 1 to May 15, near Portal, Ariz. (HH, et al.). A ♂ Hooded Oriole seen near Carlsbad Caverns, April 14, was unusual (BH), and the one collected on May 12 on the Desert Game Range near Las Vegas, Nevada (NBM), was apparently that state's second specimen. Numbers of Hooded Orioles were greatly reduced in the Globe, Ariz., area (BJ, LH). A Common Grackle observed at the Bosque del Apache Refuge, May 23, was the first seen in that area (RGY).

**Fringillids**—Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen at two Albuquerque locations, May 13 and 14 (JSF). A ♂ and 3 females were seen at the Bitter Lakes Refuge, May 23 and 24 (RC), and at the Painted Desert Inn, Petrified Forest Nat'l Monument, Ariz., a ♂ was seen May 15, 16, and 18 (LKH, NM). Lazuli Buntings were reported less frequently than Varied Buntings this spring! Earliest report of the latter was a singing ♂, June 4, in Big Bend Nat'l Park (PW). A ♂ in poor plumage arrived in Guadalupe Canyon, June 9, for the first New Mexico record of the species. It remained on a large territory for at least a week and evaded collection daily (DAZ). Several were seen in early June in southern Arizona (SHL, JL, JTB, WCR). Indigo Buntings invaded New Mexico and southeastern Arizona along with the Varied Buntings. A molting ♂ was seen at Bitter Lakes Refuge, May 24 (RC), and May 26 (VM). Near Portal, Ariz., a ♂ was seen on June 1, 3 males on June 2, and at least 5 singing males and 2 females on June 12 (WCR, et al.)! Another ♂ in mottled plumage was collected in Guadalupe Canyon, Ariz., June 13 (SHL, JTB). Nearly 100 Evening Grosbeaks remained at Silver City on April 26, and a few lingered there until May 17 (DAZ, WEZ). Four remained to June 3 at Las Vegas, Nev. (NBM). Cassin's Finches were last noted on April 21 at El Paso (PL, DL, et al.) and April 25 at Silver City (DAZ). Up to 20 Red Crossbills were seen in El Paso, April 9 to April 22 (CMcC, PL, DL, et al.). About 2000 Pine Siskins were seen near Cliff, April 26 (DAZ). Lark Buntings remained until May 7 at Santa Fe (20—PRS), and May 11 at Gila Bend, Ariz. (7—GM). Two Black-chinned Sparrows were seen at El Paso, April 14 (CMcC, LVA). A singing Clay-colored Sparrow was studied at Santa Fe, May 7

(PRS). New Mexico Harris' Sparrow reports no longer are surprising. One was seen at the Bosque del Apache Refuge from April 12 to 15 (RGY) and another near Santa Fe, April 29 (PRS). The one wintering at a Cedar Crest, N. Mex., feeder remained until May 3 (BMcK). Single White-throated Sparrows were seen at the Bosque Refuge, April 17 (AC) and May 11 (RGY), and one was present at Patagonia until April 18 (DLC).

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