



moisture than usual this fall. In places the increase was considerable. Arizona's rains produced floods in Tucson in late August, and it was especially wet at Nogales in late November. At El Paso, September was dry but October and November were wetter than usual. The reverse was true at the Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge farther north on the Rio Grande. At Montezuma, N. Mex. the weather was rainy through Sept. 20, and considered "miserable all fall" by Mr. Schooley. At Silver City, N. Mex. conditions were similar with more rain in September than is usual. On Sept. 3, the season's first cold snap hit Arizona's Painted Desert, produced the first frost at Los Alamos, and brought cloudy, drizzly, much colder weather south to Silver City. Summer and fall rains resulted in good food supplies, particularly at lower elevations where abundant annuals produced a tremendous crop of seed. No information was available on the pine seed crop. Acorns were moderately abundant. The migration was good to excellent in most places, with Cedar Crest, N. Mex., the only locality reporting a poor movement of birds. Great flights of Piñon Jays and Clark's Nutcrackers brought these montane species to the lowlands; they were seen among Saguaro and Ocotillos about Tucson; and at Phoenix, Piñon Jays and Mountain Chickadees fed on Mesquite seeds while Pigmy Nuthatches worked nearby trees! There were also noteworthy lowland incursions of several other species. Wood warblers and sparrows were seen in very large numbers in places. Again this year, southbound passerines were heard over Silver City at night—at 10:50 P.M., Sept. 9, following a moderately severe electrical storm.

Grebes, Pelicans—Two Horned Grebes were seen at El Paso, Nov. 10-13 (Mary Belle Keefer, Caroline McClintock). Western Grebes were seen there by the same observers, Nov. 11-13, and 14 were counted on the Bosque del Apache Refuge, Socorro Co., N. Mex., Nov. 7 (R. G. Yoder). White Pelicans appeared on the Refuge, Sept. 7, and built up to a maximum of 276 on Sept. 26 (RGY).

Hérons, Ibis—At the Bosque del Apache Refuge, 85 Snowy Egrets were counted, Aug. 29 (RGY). At Becker Lake, near Springville, Ariz., 21 White-faced Ibis were seen on Sept. 22 (Richard W. Russell); 42 were observed on the Bosque del Apache Refuge,

SOUTHWEST REGION.—Most localities except Yuma, Ariz. and Roswell, N. Mex. reported more

Sept. 3 (RGY).

Waterfowl—A Whistling Swan at Martinez Lake on the Imperial Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Oct. 30, provided the earliest Arizona record (G. E. Duncan, *vide* Gale Monson); 8 swans were seen near Cuba, Sandoval Co., N. Mex., Nov. 28 (James L. Sands). Five White-fronted Geese were seen the same day at the Bosque del Apache Refuge (RGY). Four were observed south of Santa Fe, N. Mex., Nov. 6 (Patricia R. Snider), and 2 at Arivaca Jct., Ariz., Oct. 8 (Dennis L. Carter). Snow Geese arrived at the Bosque del Apache Refuge on Sept. 25, reached a maximum of 864 by Nov. 28 (RGY). The duck populations there and on Arizona's Imperial Refuge were about the same as during recent years (RGY, GM). At Martinez Lake, on the Imperial Refuge, 27 Fulvous Tree Ducks were photographed, Nov. 16 (GM)—probably the largest flock seen in Arizona in many years. Two ♀ Wood Ducks were shot near Dome, Yuma Co., Ariz., Oct. 15 (Bob Hancock and J. Augenstein, *vide* GM); another ♀ and a ♂ were seen at Espanola, N. Mex., Oct. 29 (James and Marylou Travis). The maximum count of Canvasbacks at the Bosque del Apache Refuge was 38 birds, Nov. 7 (RGY), and 10 more were seen at Arivaca Jct., Ariz., Nov. 19 (DLC, Allegra Collister). At Montezuma, N. Mex., E. W. Schooley noted a remarkable concentration of 200 Buffleheads, Nov. 7. A Surf Scoter was photographed 2 miles below Fisher's Landing on the Imperial Refuge, Nov. 3 (GM). Also substantiated by good photographs was a ♂ Oldsquaw at Bitter Lakes Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Chaves Co., N. Mex., Nov. 4 (A. N. Carter, Vester Montgomery)—the second record for the state.

Vultures, Hawks—Ten Black Vultures were reported near Nogales, Ariz., Oct. 7 (Florence Thornburg). Mississippi Kites were last seen at El Paso during the first week of Sept. (LVA). A White-tailed Kite was reported near Montezuma, N. Mex., Sept. 4 (EWS). The observer had had no previous experience with this species but felt certain of the identification. He suggested that the hurricane which swept well into Texas a day or two earlier was responsible for the bird's presence. Red-tailed Hawks were less common than usual throughout New Mexico. Two Black Hawks were seen near Cliff, Grant Co., N. Mex., Sept. 14 (Dr. & Mrs. Harold R. Peasley), and 4 Gray Hawks were present at Patagonia, Ariz., Sept. 2 (Guy McCaskie, Richard Stallcup). An adult Bald Eagle flew over the Salt River between Globe and Young, Ariz., Oct. 21 (Betty Jackson).

Gallinaceous Birds—Gambel's Quail, despite a "fair" nesting season, were less plentiful than last year in the Rio Grande Valley between Hatch and Socorro, N. Mex. Scaled Quail were decidedly scarce in those areas (Charles Parnell, RGY). Harlequin Quail, so numerous last fall, were unreported this year. Turkeys seemed less common in southwestern New Mexico this fall, but 31 were seen near Pinos Altos, Grant Co., Oct. 28 (John McDowell).

Cranes, Rails—The second season for hunting of "Lesser" Sandhill Cranes (*Grus c. canadensis*) in eastern New Mexico opened on Nov. 4. At the Bosque del Apache Refuge, well west of the legal hunting

area, "Greater" Sandhill Cranes (*G. c. t. ibida*) increased by 1000 birds over last year for a peak population of 3560 (RGY). (This, so far as is known, is the largest wintering flock of these cranes in the United States. The smaller subspecies only rarely occurs on or near this refuge). A flock of 9 Sandhill Cranes seen on Nov. 4 on a Colorado River sandbar in the Imperial Refuge was the largest number seen near Yuma for over a decade (GM). A Marsh Hawk was flushed from a freshly killed Virginia Rail at Becker Lake, Springerville, Ariz., Sept. 28 (RWR). Another Virginia Rail was seen on Aug. 24 in the Growler Valley, Pima Co., Ariz. (GM). Near Montezuma, N. Mex., 10,000 Am. Coots were seen on Nov. 23 (EWS).

Gulls and Terns—Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at El Paso for the first time: one on Nov. 11 and Nov. 18, and 22 on Nov. 20 (MBK, McCc, *et al.*). A Black Tern was seen at Luna Lake, near Alpine, Ariz., Sept. 22 (RWR), and two Common Terns were definitely identified, Sept. 2, on the Colorado River in the Imperial Refuge (GM).

Pigeons and Doves—Mourning Dove populations at Bosque del Apache Refuge dropped drastically after the early heavy rains and remained low. The largest daily fall count there was only 51 birds, Aug. 29 (RGY). On the drier San Andres Refuge in Doña Ana County, N. Mex., an estimated peak of 5000 was reached about Sept. 30 (C. A. Kennedy).

Owls—Burrowing Owls were last seen at the Painted Desert, north of Adamana, Ariz., Oct. 22 (RWR). This species is unusual at Thatcher, Ariz., where one was seen on Nov. 28 (Raymond J. Schneider).

Goatsuckers, Swifts, Hummingbirds—About 20 Poor-wills in the Painted Desert on the night of Oct. 7 represented an unusual concentration in an area where normally but 1 or 2 per night are recorded (Boyd Evison, *vide* RWR). On the same date Royce Hough saw a Poor-will at El Paso where the species is rare. It was last reported in the Painted Desert about Oct. 25 (NM), and one in semi-torpid condition was found in the Castle Dome Mountains, Yuma Co., Ariz., Oct. 29 (Jack Hall, *vide* GM). A concentration of 300 to 500 White-throated Swifts was noted at Cliff, Grant Co., N. Mex., Sept. 14 (Peasleys). Two ♂ Costa's Hummingbirds remained in the Tucson Mountains, Ariz., Nov. 4 to Dec. 2 (SHL), and a ♂ Calliope Hummingbird was seen at Chinle, Ariz., Aug. 19 (BJ). Large ♀ hummers, tentatively identified as Anna's, were at Globe, Ariz., up to Nov. 13 (BJ); similar hummers were reported from Tucson after mid-October (FT). McCaskie and Stallcup probably saw most of the U. S. Violet-crowned Hummingbird population when they noted 3 in the Chiricahuas and 1 in the Huachuclas, Sept. 1, and 7 in Guadalupe Canyon, Sept. 2.

Woodpeckers—Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were perhaps more common than usual, even being reported from desert shrub association in the Kofa Mountains, Yuma Co., Ariz., Oct. 13 (GM). A ♀ Williamson's Sapsucker, considered accidental on the Bosque del Apache Refuge, was seen there, Sept. 7 (DLC). A Downy Woodpecker appeared at the

Painted Desert, Sept. 10 (RWR). Others were recorded regularly in the Pinos Altos Mountains, Grant Co., N. Mex., where they are rare (DAZ), and one was seen in Albuquerque, Nov. 18 (J. S. Findley, JLS).

Flycatchers—An Eastern Kingbird was seen at Agate Bridge, Petrified Forest Nat'l Monument, Ariz., Sept. 3 (NM). A Tropical Kingbird was still on its breeding area near Nogales, Sept. 4 (BH). A Western Flycatcher was banded in Silver City, Aug. 28 (DAZ).

Corvids—A Gray Jay was collected near Big Lake, Apache Co., Ariz., Oct. 21 (Patrick J. Gould). In contrast to their abundance last year, Steller's Jays were virtually unreported this fall. Exceptional, therefore, were the 3-4 banded from Aug. 15 to Nov. 30 at Los Alamos, N. Mex.—more than twice the total banding of any previous entire winter (JT, MLT). At Santa Fe, N. Mex., A. J. Krehbiel saw 10 Scrub Jays on Aug. 12 and 8 the next day, exceptions to his usual daily observations of 1-2 birds. Silent, migrating Scrub Jays were observed in the Painted Desert on several dates, Sept. 3-Oct. 15 (RWR), and through the observer's yard at Silver City, Sept. 21 (DAZ). A Black-billed Magpie seen on Nov. 26 at 7500 feet elevation near Los Alamos, N. Mex., was 2000 feet above the species' normal habitat (W. Burton Lewis). A Common Crow was positively identified in the Petrified Forest Nat'l Monument, Ariz., Nov. 20 (NM), and up to 185 were seen on Oct. 31 at the Bosque del Apache Refuge (RGY); 300 probable crows were seen in Albuquerque, Nov. 25 (AJK). Beginning in August, *Piñon Jays* invaded the entire Region. At Silver City, where normally rare, flocks were seen almost daily, Aug. 25 to October and frequently thereafter. Tens of thousands of birds went through that area, the largest single count being nearly 1000 on Nov. 16 (DAZ). They were present on Aug. 19 at Chinle, Ariz. (BJ), and about 100 were at Globe, Ariz., Aug. 29 (Lyndon Hargrave). The first appeared in the Tucson Mountains on Sept. 10 (SHL). In October "thousands" passed over Saguaro Nat'l Monument, east of Tucson (George Olin), and 190 were seen there, Nov. 18 (DLC). One was heard in the Kofa Mountains, southwest Ariz., Oct. 13 (GM), and flocks went through the Nogales area repeatedly (BH). Nearly 100 Piñon Jays were seen in the mesquite-grassland east of Carlsbad, N. Mex., Oct. 27 (Bruce Harris). The earliest fall report of *Clark's Nutcrackers* was Sept. 13, at 8000 feet elevation in the Pinos Altos Mountains of southwest New Mexico where the species had not been recorded previously (Peasleys). Fifteen were there on Sept. 16 and frequently thereafter (DAZ). On Sept. 23 a few were seen near Hereford, Ariz., in the southern Huachuca Mountains (Earl Jackson). One was observed the same day in Lower Sonoran growth in the Tucson Mountains (SHL); another was reported in Tucson, Nov. 29 (FT). Nutcrackers also reached the desert about El Paso and in that city's Memorial Park, where up to 3 were seen on Oct. 11-20 (LVA, CMcC, MBK, LT). The species had never before been recorded in El Paso. One was seen in the Growler Valley, Pima Co., Ariz., Oct. 26 (GM).

Titmice, Nuthatches—A Mountain Chickadee was seen feeding in the desert 8 miles north of Phoenix, Oct. 31 (Mary L. Bonnewell). On Nov. 16, nine were seen in that city's Encanto Park where smaller numbers were observed on Nov. 13 and 23 (Mrs. Lambert, K. J. Harte). Single White-breasted Nuthatches moved through the Painted Desert on Aug. 12 and 22, and Sept. 5 to 25. They were far more common than usual at Silver City. The species was reported from Sept. 14 onward at Globe, Ariz. (BJ) and one seen at Owl Woods, Ariz., Nov. 4, was the first record for the Colorado River below Parker Dam (GM). Several Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen on Signal Peak, Grant Co., N. Mex., Sept. 13 (Peasleys) and thereafter (DAZ). One was found in the Growler Mountains, Pima Co., Ariz., Oct. 25 (GM), and another visited an Albuquerque feeder from Nov. 3 onward (John Durrie). Pigmy Nuthatches were more common than usual in Grant County, N. Mex. (DAZ), but the most interesting record was of 10 feeding in planted pines in Encanto Park in Phoenix (MLB).

Thrashers, Thrushes—A Brown Thrasher was carefully studied in the Painted Desert, Nov. 5, by an observer familiar with that species and *T. longirostre* (RWR). Catbirds were seen at Montezuma, N. Mex., Sept. 2-8 (ELW), and north of Albuquerque, Sept. 10 (JD). There was a "general invasion" of *Robins* at Mesa, Ariz., where during November scores fed on unharvested dates and grapes. They were more numerous than last year at Tucson (FT), and a flock stayed for a month near Nogales where the species was quite common and reached its peak in early November. Usually only 1 or 2 Robins are seen per year at Nogales and these in spring (BH). At Roswell, N. Mex., Robins were common and remained longer than usual, feasting on bumper crops of juniper and *Pyracantha* berries. The apparent peak there was on Oct. 29, with 250 birds estimated (VM). In the Painted Desert area, the Robin was the second most frequently seen bird species (RWR), recorded on more days than any other species except *Townsend's Solitaire*, which was particularly numerous in the Southwest this year. Up to four solitaires could be seen together constantly after Sept. 24 at Roswell, where they normally are rare (VM), and there were several records after Oct. 13 from the Yuma area (GM). A *Wood Thrush*, the second for New Mexico, was seen well and compared with nearby Hermit Thrushes at Roswell on Nov. 10 (VM). Mountain and Western Bluebirds were widespread in moderate numbers.

Waxwings, Starlings, Vireos—Cedar Waxwings were present in Silver City from late August onward, their numbers increasing in October (LO, DAZ). Flocks of 30-40 were reported from many localities, including Tucson (DLC), after Oct. 10, and 460 at Yuma, Oct. 30-Nov. 16, was the largest number ever recorded in the Colorado Valley. A *Bohemian Waxwing* flew against a window in Santa Fe, N. Mex., Nov. 26 (W. S. Huey). Thousands of Starlings were seen, Nov. 22, along the Rio Grande north of Hatch, N. Mex. (LO), and at Las Vegas, N. Mex., the flocks continue to increase in number and size

(*EW'S*). In the Salt River Valley, between Coon Bluff and Avondale, an estimated 30,000 roosted nightly, Nov. 12-24 (*WER*). The same observer reported the Starling increase in Maricopa County (where the wintering birds feed on unharvested dates) has been awesome in the past 6 years. A Gray Vireo near Yuma, Ariz., Aug. 25, was extremely early (*GM*).

Wood Warblers—Two *Nashville Warblers* were banded at Silver City, Sept. 17 and 20 (*DAZ*, Marian Zimmerman); one collected near Pinos Altos, Grant County, on Sept. 17 appears to be the first actual specimen of the species for New Mexico (*DAZ*). Over 50 Orange-crowned Warblers were seen near Pinos Altos, Sept. 13 (Peasleys), and 125 there Sept. 17 (*DAZ*). A male Black-throated Blue Warbler was seen in Roswell, Oct. 11 (*VM*). The Black-throated Green Warbler seen 5 miles north of Capitan, N. Mex., Sept. 22 (*VM*) was the fourth state record of that species. Townsend's Warblers were more numerous than usual, especially near Silver City, where 8 were seen, Sept. 17 (*DAZ*). Hermit Warblers were reported from Davis Cañon, Pima Co., Ariz., Aug. 24 (*GM*), and at Rustler Park in the Chiricahuas, Aug. 25 (Peter Willmann). Three were seen on Sept. 16 above Pinos Altos, N. Mex. (Peasleys, *DAZ*, *MAZ*). Am. Redstarts were reported from 7 localities, including the Painted Desert where 1 of 4 or 5 was collected, Aug. 22 (*NM*), Elephant Butte, N. Mex. where 3 were seen Aug. 25-27 (*LO*), and Roswell, N. Mex. where the one seen on Sept. 7 was only the second record for Chavez County (*VM*).

Icterids, Tanagers—An estimated quarter of a million Redwinged, Yellow-headed, and Brewer's Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds fed in November in cattle feedlots between Mesa and Phoenix, Ariz. (*WER*). Thirty Bronzed Cowbirds at Phoenix, Oct. 30, were also in a feedlot (*WER*). Western Tanagers appeared in the Painted Desert, July 26 and 27 (*RWR*), emphasizing the early wandering or migration of some individuals of this species. At Silver City, from Aug. 24 to Oct. 2, 50 Western Tanagers were banded—only a small proportion of those seen, and fewer than last year (*DAZ*, *MAZ*).

Fringillids—A ♂ Cardinal at Albuquerque, Nov. 13, was highly unusual (*JLS*), as was a ♀ Painted Bunting at Silver City, Aug. 26 (*DAZ*). A ♂ Varied Bunting was seen on Aug. 20 near Madera Cañon in the Santa Rita Mountains (*PW*), and another ♂ was seen in Guadalupe Cañon, Sept. 2 (*GMcC*, *RS*). Evening Grosbeaks, widespread in November, arrived on Oct. 14 in the Painted Desert (*RWR*), and 100 appeared on Sept. 9 at Tesuque, Santa Fe Co., N. Mex. (Bill Huey). Very few Cassin's Finches were reported. The two banded at Silver City, Oct. 16 (*DAZ*, *MAZ*) were the only ones seen there.

Lawrence's Goldfinches were seen frequently in southern Arizona, and Am. Goldfinches were reported in November from several New Mexico localities. On Oct. 9, hundreds of sparrows, including some Clay-colored and Baird's, were seen south of Tucson (*SHL*). A Baird's Sparrow also was seen near Tucson, Oct. 13 (*DLC*). A Cassin's Sparrow taken on Aug. 25 at Monument 180 on the Mexican

boundary, Yuma Co., Ariz., is the westernmost state record (*SHL*, *GM*). A Black-chinned Sparrow at Globe, Ariz., Sept. 5, was considered most unusual (*BJ*). The species was also seen on Nov. 30 at El Paso where it is rare (*CMcC*). Numerous small flocks of Tree Sparrows appeared in the Las Vegas, N. Mex. area in late November (*EW'S*). White-throated Sparrows were seen in the Painted Desert on Oct. 16 (*RWR*) and Oct. 23 (*NM*), and at Los Alamos, Oct. 29 and Nov. 11-14 (*JT*, *MLT*). An immature Harris' Sparrow was seen at Cedar Crest, N. Mex., Nov. 27 (*BCM*). Fox Sparrows seen on Sept. 10 and Oct. 29 in the Painted Desert were of some western subspecies, but a bright reddish one, perhaps the nominate race, was seen there, Sept. 13 (*RWR*). Other Fox Sparrows were seen in the Tumacacori Mountains, Nov. 8 (*SHL*); the Kofa Mountains, Oct. 13 (*GM*); the Catalinas, Nov. 27 (*RT*, *DLC*); and elsewhere; there were no New Mexico reports. The 64 Chestnut-collared Longspurs at Martinez Lake on the Imperial Refuge, Oct. 15, were by far the largest number ever seen by the observer at one time in southwestern Arizona.—DALE A. ZIMMERMAN, *Biology Department, New Mexico Western College, Silver City, N. Mex.*