



originally from farther north echoed Mr. Douglass' words in reference to January and February. March, which was warmer, produced a few snowfalls but these did little to improve moisture conditions. Around El Paso, Tex., where it was very dry, the continued removal of woody vegetation from ditches and stream banks not only further reduced wildlife habitat, but contributed significantly to dust storms. Similar dry conditions prevailed throughout southern New Mexico at lower elevations. Albuquerque was considered to be the driest point in the state. With few exceptions mountain snow packs were considered insufficient for summer water needs in the heavily cultivated and more populous valleys. As in New Mexico, little snow or rain fell over much of Arizona. Everywhere precipitation was local, some places receiving normal or near normal amounts, others almost none.

More remarkable than the climate, however, was the very poor birding. This resulted from the virtual absence of high altitude species at lower elevations coinciding with a lack of unusual visitors and reduced or scattered populations of regular species. Five contributors used the word "dull" in summarizing their reports. The McKnights wrote from Cedar Crest, N. Mex. that the "primary characteristic of this past season was the lack of certain species." Lyndon Hargrave and Mrs. Jackson reported from Globe, Ariz. that there were "smaller numbers of individuals this year," of such common birds as White-crowned Sparrows and Brown Towhees. Such statements were typical of many reports. About Santa Fe and Albuquerque, winter populations of the usual species appeared to be normal, though scattered, early in the period. Most contributors' reports were replete with negatives. From Nogales, Ariz. Bill Harrison wrote, "Steller's Jays were not recorded in any of the low mountains where they sometimes occur during winter. There were no Robins at all and Cedar Waxwings were recorded only once. No Lawrence's Goldfinches were here. . . . I did not record any Cassin's Finches." At Tucson, Mrs. Thornburg "heard of only 4 Robins seen," and added "Lark Bunting flocks were mostly small, and no large flocks of Brewer's Sparrows or Gambel's White-crowns were seen." Most of these comments apply equally well to the Silver City, N. Mex. area where the normally common birds seemed

SOUTHWEST REGION.—The winter season as viewed by most contributors was cold, dry, and uninteresting. December was pleasant and in general warmer than usual, but it was dry. January was bitterly cold in the northern part of the Region and colder than normal throughout. At Albuquerque this was the coldest January since 1879. Elsewhere in New Mexico, including Las Vegas, Taos, and Raton, new low records of near -40° F. were set. At Gallup some thermometers registered an unofficial but nonetheless astonishing 50 degrees below zero. Even at Yuma, Ariz. cattle tanks froze over on two nights. February was more nearly normal, but there was another brief cold spell in mid-month. John Douglass, reported from Petrified Forest Nat'l Park, near Holbrook, Ariz. that "this winter has been average when compared with winters I have experienced in Ft. Collins, Colo. in the past." Other southwesterners

scarce and almost no higher altitude birds such as Townsend's Solitaires, Mountain Bluebirds or jays (other than Scrub Jays) appeared (*DAZ*). From Carlsbad, N. Mex. Bruce Harris reported the usual Lark Buntings, longspurs, and open country sparrows "common . . . in direct contrast to the winter of 1961-62," but commented on the great scarcity of all thrushes.

Grebes, Cormorant—A Single Horned Grebe, molting into breeding plumage, was carefully studied on Lake McMillan, near Carlsbad, March 19 (*BKH*). A Western Grebe appeared at the Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge on the Rio Grande, March 11 (*LAO*). Double-crested Cormorants first arrived at that refuge, March 4 (*LAO*).

Waterfowl—Six Whistling Swans were seen at Lake Mead, Clark Co., Nev., Jan. 24 (*W'CR*). An increase in waterfowl numbers was noted in New Mexico by the Fish & Wildlife Service's midwinter survey and by individual observers. According to published reports for the Central Flyway as a whole, there were 14 per cent more Mallards than in 1962, but this is still 26 per cent below the eight-year average. Pintail numbers were likewise increased but remained 40 per cent below the long-term average; Redheads, up slightly, were 30 per cent below. Counts of Snow and Blue Geese in the Central Flyway were 72 per cent above last winter's, and 23 per cent above the average. At the Bosque del Apache Refuge the second largest goose population since establishment of the refuge was recorded, with peak numbers of 4600 Canada, 1200 Snow, and 28 Blue Geese on Dec. 31 (*LAO*). Four Blue Geese were seen with 50 Snows near Carlsbad, Jan. 31 (*BKH*); on March 9 about 1500 Snow Geese were observed there (*BKH*). Also near Carlsbad were 5 Red-breasted Mergansers, Jan. 28 (*RCB*) and 20 (including 11 males) in the same area, March 7 (*BKH*). Two Hooded Mergansers were seen near Carlsbad, Jan. 28 (*RCB*) and one at the Bosque del Apache Refuge, Jan. 23 (*LAO*). Canvasbacks were more common than usual in December near Española, N. Mex. (*W'BL*), but the maximum number of this species reported from the Bosque del Apache Refuge was only five birds on Jan. 22 (*LAO*). A Wood Duck remained on a pond near Santa Fe all winter (*W. Huey, fide PRS*); 2 more were seen, Dec. 12, at Carlsbad (*RCB*), and 1 at the Bosque del Apache Refuge, Jan. 18 (*LAO*).

Hawks, Eagles, Falcons—Swainson's Hawk, a species which winters in South America, was reported from three localities, but with no supporting details or even mention of the bird's presence being unusual. Such reports (and those received of Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks) cannot be accepted without substantiating evidence. In the Santa Fe-Los Alamos, N. Mex., area "good numbers" of most hawks (except Sharp-shinned Hawks and eagles) were reported. Dr. Walter R. Spofford, who spent considerable time in February and early March checking on Golden Eagles in western Texas and southeastern New Mexico, counted 33 Golden Eagles during a detailed survey from a light plane in the Fort Stockton-Glass Mts.-Davis Mts. area of Texas. The pilot related that he "usually shoots about 400 [eagles]

each winter, and other pilots account for about 300 or 400 more, in the Trans-Pecos." At Marfa, Tex., Dr. Spofford examined eight dead eagles shot (from a truck) at one ranch. To quote Dr. Spofford further: "Northeast of Roswell, N. Mex., on March 15 . . . I counted 20 Golden Eagles and 5 white-headed [Bald] eagles in 3 hours of flying over some 400 square miles. One eagle was struggling in a trap and two dead ones near traps were observed. [The pilot] does the annual shoot-off for the Lincoln County Woolgrowers' Association, and told me he usually gets about 450 per winter-spring. In 1960-61 he shot 950." According to Dr. Spofford this pilot does not shoot Bald Eagles. Nevertheless, such destruction of Golden Eagles—many of which certainly are not stock-killing individuals—is deplorable. An adult Bald Eagle was seen near Valentine, Tex. several times during February (*W'RS*), and an immature was observed near Carlsbad, Jan. 22 (*RCB, BKH*). Peregrine Falcons were reported from three localities: Clark County, Nev., Jan. 21 (*W'CR*); Mesa, Ariz., Dec. 3 (*W'CR*), Petrified Forest Nat'l Park, Feb. 14 (*JRD, MD*). Prairie Falcons seemed somewhat more common than usual throughout their range in the Region.

Crane, Rails—Sandhill Cranes reached a peak population of 3494 at the Bosque del Apache Refuge, Dec. 18; most left with the onset of the cold front, Jan. 11 (*LAO*). Two Common Gallinules were seen on March 31 at this refuge (*LAO*), and 3 were present at Arivaca Jct. ("Kinsley's"), Ariz., Jan. 30 (*FT*). A Sora was seen near Tucson, Dec. 28 (*FT*), and another at Quitobaquito in Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument, Ariz., Jan. 9 (*BJ*).

Shorebirds, Gulls—A March 17 concentration of 130 Long-billed Curlews in the Rio Grande Valley north of El Paso was noteworthy (*LVA, et al.*). Single Herring Gulls were seen near Carlsbad, Dec. 12, and Jan. 19; and 6 (among 1500 Ring-billed Gulls), Jan. 27 (*BKH*).

Swifts, Hummingbirds, Kingfishers, Woodpeckers—Many White-throated Swifts were seen over the Verde River, south of Bartlett Dam, Maricopa Co., Ariz., Jan. 5 (*W'CR*). A Costa's Hummingbird arrived in the Tucson Mts., March 8 (Mrs. S. L. Tainter, *fide DW'C*); 12 or more males were seen there, March 19 (*DLC*). Both ♂ and ♀ Anna's Hummingbirds remained in Tucson from Dec. 1 to Feb. 4 (*FT*). A ♀ Green Kingfisher was observed at Patagonia, Dec. 26 (*FT*). Except for Red-shafted Flickers, woodpeckers "particularly all *Dendrocopos*" were "unusually scarce" in the Santa Fe area (*PRS, et al.*). The pair of Acorn Woodpeckers first seen in Los Alamos last July wintered there and was frequently observed (*JT, W'BL, DR*). A Williamson's Sapsucker was seen in El Paso, March 6 (*MBK*).

Tyrant Flycatchers, Corvids, Nuthatch—Two Eastern Phoebe were recorded, March 15, near Carlsbad. They were about one mile apart and each was with a single Vermilion Flycatcher (*BKH*). Another Eastern Phoebe was seen near Pierson, Sonora, Feb. 9 (*W'H*). The first Say's Phoebe arrived somewhat early at Santa Fe, March 9; they appeared in greater numbers beginning on March 23 (*PRS*). Piñon

Jays were numerous around Santa Fe until Jan. 2, but very few were seen thereafter (*PRS, et al.*). None were observed in southwestern New Mexico this winter (*DAZ*). Clark's Nutcrackers were "unusually scarce" at Los Alamos (*WBL, et al.*). Two Gray Jays were seen on Pajarito Mt. in the Jemez Mts. southwest of Los Alamos, Feb. 24 (*WBL, DR*). A Red-breasted Nuthatch seen in El Paso, Dec. 22 (*LVA, et al.*) was the only one reported.

Mimids, Thrushes, Waxwings—Sage Thrashers were uncommon to rare this winter in contrast to last year. Brown Thrashers appeared in several places west to Tucson, Dec. 1 (*IP*), and near Patagonia, March 10 (*WH*). Robins were very scarce or absent in every place mentioned by contributors, and although average populations of both Mountain and Western Bluebirds were present about Santa Fe in early winter they seemed to disappear in January. Very few of either species were reported in southern New Mexico where both were common last winter. Townsend's Solitaires were rare throughout the Region. No Bohemian Waxwings were seen and only few and scattered reports of Cedar Waxwings were received.

Starlings, Warblers, Icterids, Tanager—Large numbers of Starlings wintered at Santa Fe and began to move out of the area about March 10 (*PRS*). An estimated 25,000 were seen at St. George, Washington Co., Utah, Jan. 26 (*WCR*). Starlings are now resident around Globe where the population remained about the same as last winter's (*LLH*). A Painted Redstart wintered in Sabino Cañon near Tucson, where it was seen, Dec. 17 and Jan. 18 (*FT*). The species was present in the Pinos Altos Mts. north of Silver City, March 25 (*FDJ*). An Am. Redstart was seen near Patagonia, Dec. 27 (*FT, et al.*). Unusual were about 50 Boat-tailed Grackles at Española, Dec. 30 (*WBL, JT, MT*). A Summer Tanager was recorded, Feb. 9, at Agua Caliente, Sonora, about 20 miles south of the international boundary (*WH*). There appears to be no other winter record of this bird from Sonora.

Fringillids—A Black-headed Grosbeak seen on Dec. 30 at Española (*PRS, MC*), and two Blue Grosbeaks near Nogales, Dec. 28 (*PA, WH*), were unusual. There were normal numbers of Cassin's Finches at Los Alamos (*WBL*) but few elsewhere. Probably the most unusual observation of the season was that of 6 *Common Redpolls* in Petrified Forest Nat'l Park, Dec. 1 (*Mr. & Mrs. RDR*). The birds were observed at leisure by experienced observers. Except for the Santa Fe-Los Alamos area very few Evening Grosbeaks were seen anywhere in the Region. Three Rufous-winged Sparrows were seen, Dec. 20, near Oro Blanco, Ariz., a new locality record (*WH*). Several observers commented on the scarcity of White-crowned Sparrows. The species was not common at Silver City where far fewer than usual were seen during the fall migration. A Harris' Sparrow was reported on the Las Vegas, N. Mex., Christmas count (*ES*), and a White-throated Sparrow was seen near Carlsbad, Dec. 19 (*BKH*). Song Sparrows were recorded in record numbers in the Santa Fe area (*PRS, et al.*); 210 were counted on the Española Christmas count (equal to the number of Gray-headed Juncos).

Two Swamp Sparrows were found at Española, Dec. 30 (*JT, MT*), and another was observed on Dec. 20, Feb. 14, and March 21 in the Atascosa Highlands northwest of Nogales (*PA, DLC, WH, WW*). One was seen near Gila, N. Mex., March 14 (*DAZ*).

Note: Please send all records for the Spring Migration and Nesting Season reports to Mr. Gale Monson, 5403 Inverchapel Road, Springfield, Va.

Contributors—Peter Alden, LuVenia Arnold, R. C. Brummett, Dennis L. Carter, Marjorie Cromer, John R. Douglass, Margaret Douglass, Lyndon L. Hargrave, Bruce K. Harris, William Harrison, Betty Jackson, Franklin D. Jones, Mary Belle Keefer, W. Burton Lewis, Barbara McKnight, Daniel McKnight, Leslie A. Oliver, Ivan Peters, Don Rose, Mr. & Mrs. R. Dudley Ross, W. Cal Royall, Jr., Elmer Schooley, Patricia R. Snider, Walter R. Spofford, Florence Thornburg, Marylou Travis, James Travis, Warren Winslow.—DALE A. ZIMMERMAN, *Dept. of Biology, Western New Mexico University, Silver City, N. Mex.*