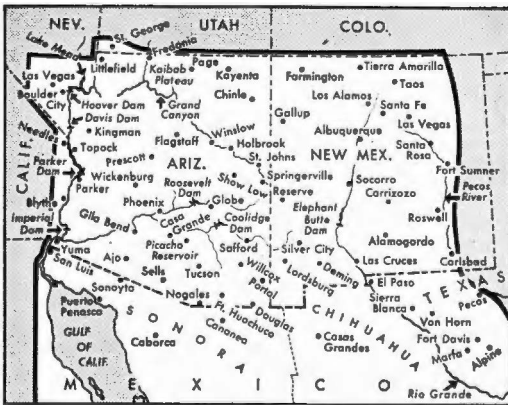


**SOUTHWEST REGION.** The spring season was dry, warm in northeastern New Mexico grading off to considerably cooler than usual in southwestern



Arizona. Northern New Mexico had more wind than usual. Record low relative humidity readings occurred at Tucson, Ariz. with only 1 per cent on May 26. Drought was again on the land. Only the mountains above Santa Fe, N. Mex. provided more run-off than usual. The Rio Grande was virtually dry at Albuquerque at the end of May. Bill Harrison reports from Nogales, Ariz.: "Some of the oaks appear to be dying on the parched hillsides and canyons; the Lochiel area,

where a tall grass cover is usually present, looks like a sandy wasteland."

There seems little to say about birds in general, or about groups of birds, for the season. Contributors' reports featured unusual species occurrences that did not indicate trends or any relation to other species or climatic changes. The tremendous area of the Region with its far-spaced observers, and its geographic and climatic diversity, usually makes it difficult if not imprudent to attempt any generalizations. Patricia R. Snider's report for the Santa Fe area characterized the migration as for the most part a week or two early, and ending sooner than usual.

**Loons, Pelicans, Herons**—A Common Loon was noted at Lake Avalon, near Carlsbad, N. Mex., April 24 (BKH). Since *Brown Pelicans* have never before been reported from New Mexico, these records are of interest: 1 seen at the Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, April 16 (LAO); 2 at Elephant Butte Reservoir, April 23 (JG); 2 at Lake McMillan on the Pecos, April 28, and 6 there the following day, one of which hung around for several more days (RCB, BKH). The last was definitely recognizable as a soiled White Pelican when seen at closer range in good light (BKH); this naturally casts suspicion on all the other records, and serves to emphasize once again the value of photographs or collecting to verify unusual records. The Little Blue Heron has now been seen so many times in New Mexico that additional records are almost commonplace: 1 at Lake McMillan, April 30 (RCB), and 1 at the Bosque Refuge, May 24 (LAO). A photograph of an adult taken at the Bosque Refuge a year ago, on May 6, 1962, by BM turned out very well and is satisfactory proof that the species has occurred in the state. A *Cattle Egret*, possibly the first seen in New Mexico, was present on the Bosque Refuge, May 10 to 14 (LAO). An adult *Snowy Egret* was found on the Gila River near Cliff, Grant Co., N. Mex., April 25 (DAZ).

**Waterfowl**—A pair of Mallards nested in a pasture 7 miles south of Carlsbad; 5 week-old young and both adults were seen in a nearby canal, May 29 (RCB). Two Common Goldeneyes were lingering at a stock tank along Beaver Dam Wash in extreme southwestern Utah, May 14 (DLC). A male *White-winged Scoter* stayed at the Dexter Nat'l Fish Hatchery on the Pecos River, N. Mex., April 1 to 7 (CM).

**Hawks**—Gray Hawks were present in a number of southeastern Arizona localities this spring, including the San Pedro Valley and virtually within the city limits of Tucson (JTM). Only 2 *Harris' Hawks* were to be found in the Topock Swamp, Ariz. on the Havasu Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge (RLD); the birds were common there until recently. A *Black Hawk* nest near Patagonia, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz. was occupied for the eighth consecutive year, but is apparently the only one in the county (WH). Two *Golden Eagles* seen south of Hurley, Grant Co., N. Mex., April 12, were the last noted in the general area this spring (DAZ).

**Rails, Gallinules**—Two downy young *Virginia Rails* were observed at the Bosque Refuge, April 29 (LAO). Common *Gallinules* with young were seen

at Arivaca Junction ("Kinsley's"), Ariz., May 25 (Maricopa Audubon Society).

**Shorebirds**—Bruce K. Harris' notable work in establishing the status of waterbirds, notably shorebirds and gulls and terns, in southeastern New Mexico continued, as many of the following records attest. At Lake McMillan, 4 Semipalmated Plovers were seen on April 21, and more than 17 were noted there May 4 (BKH). A Long-billed Curlew came down in the observer's yard at Santa Fe, April 27 (PRS). Four Willets were found at Lake Avalon, April 21 (BKH), and 1 was seen at Montezuma, San Miguel Co., N. Mex., May 6 (ES). Sixteen *Silt Sandpipers* (2 collected) were at Lake McMillan, May 17 (RCB, BKH). Single Sanderlings were identified at Lake McMillan, April 2 and 21 (BKH), and 2 were taken there, May 17 (RCB, BKH). About 10 pairs of Black-necked Stilts were nesting at the 35th Avenue sewage ponds, Phoenix, Ariz., May 17; both eggs and new young were found (Salome Demaree).

**Gulls, Terns**—Ten Franklin's Gulls were drifting high to the northeast over ponds 20 miles east of Carlsbad, May 3 (BKH), and the same observer noted the species at Lake McMillan as follows: 1 May 7, 3 May 13, and at least 32 on May 22. Twenty-two were seen at Lake McMillan, May 20 (RCB). Two Bonaparte's Gulls were found at Santa Fe, April 19 to 29 (PRS). Eight to 10 Forster's Terns (2 collected) were at Lake McMillan, May 1 (BKH). Sixteen Common Terns were identified at ponds 20 miles east of Carlsbad, May 3, and singles were at Lake McMillan, May 7 (collected) and May 22 (BKH).

**Doves, Owls**—An early White-winged Dove was seen at Globe, Ariz., March 21 (BJ). One was present in tamarisks along the Pecos River, 2 miles south of Lake McMillan, May 13 to 20 (RCB); it was also heard by BKH on May 17. Two White-wings were seen along Beaver Dam Wash, May 14 (DLC); the same observer also saw them there last summer. A Short-eared Owl dead in the road south of Hurley, April 12, was the first recorded in southwestern New Mexico in about a year (DAZ).

**Goatsuckers, Swifts**—A Common Nighthawk at Tesuque, N. Mex., May 21 was about 2 weeks early (PRS). Two Lesser Nighthawks at Globe, April 17, also were early (BJ). A Vaux's or Chimney Swift was seen at Nogales, April 26 (WH), and 2 or 3 were noticed over Carlsbad May 15, 18, and 20 (BKH).

**Kingfishers, Woodpeckers**—Four Green Kingfishers were seen along the Rio Magdalena at Agua Caliente, Sonora, Mex., May 26 (WH). Two Lewis' Woodpeckers were still present in Box Canyon, Santa Rita Mts., Ariz., April 17 (FT).

**Becards, Flycatchers**—At least 2 pairs of Rose-throated Becards were nesting at Patagonia, May 25 (WH, FT). An Eastern Kingbird was seen along the Pecos River 2 miles south of Lake McMillan, May 17 (BKH, BW). At least 5 pairs of Thick-billed Kingbirds were nesting along Sonoita Creek near Patagonia, May 25 (WH). Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were observed at the Bosque Refuge, April 24 to 25 (LAO). Two Black Phoebees at Espanola, Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex., May 1, provided the first

May record for that area (MC, PRS). One was noted at Montezuma, May 26 (ES). Two Gray Flycatchers were singing, apparently on territories, north of Silver City, N. Mex. on April 21 (DAZ).

**Corvids**—On April 16, 3 Common Crows were present at St. George, Utah, where they are common in winter (DLC). A flock of 10 Piñon Jays was seen in a Joshua Tree forest east of Beaver Dam Wash, May 14 (DLC). Three Clark's Nutcrackers were observed at Papago Well, on the Cabeza Prieta Game Range, western Pima Co., Ariz., April 16 (NMS).

**Nuthatches, Dippers, Thrashers**—Two Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen near Silver City on the unusual date of April 21 (KLD, DAZ). A Dipper near Montezuma, May 24, was very late (ES). The Brown Thrasher is another bird whose records are becoming commonplace in this Region, especially in New Mexico. One was noted at Lake Avalon, May 2 (BKH), and another was seen at Patagonia, May 23 (FT). Three Crissal Thrashers were observed at St. George, April 29 (DLC).

**Pipits, Waxwings, Starlings**—There was a good flight of Water Pipits at Santa Fe, with one seen as late as May 24. One with a white head but otherwise normally colored was seen there on April 17 (PRS). There were scattered reports of Cedar Waxwings almost throughout the Region, the largest number reported being 150 in 2 flocks at Gran Quivira Nat'l Monument, N. Mex., May 18 (BM). Ninety experimental nesting boxes for Starlings were put up on palm trees at Litchfield Park, Maricopa Co., Ariz., Feb. 14 and 15. First egg clutches were completed March 9 or 10, and the last one on May 21. Ninety per cent of the boxes were occupied (CR).

**Vireos, Wood Warblers**—A Bell's Vireo was singing at the Washington Ranch, near Carlsbad Caverns Nat'l Park, N. Mex., May 6 (BKH). A Gray Vireo was singing at Sitting Bull Falls in the Guadalupe Mts., N. Mex., about 25 miles southwest of Carlsbad, on May 20 (BKH, BW). A male Parula Warbler was collected at Stevens Tank, about 25 miles northwest of Jal, Lea Co., N. Mex., April 11 (BKH), and a female was noted at Cedar Crest, Bernalillo Co., N. Mex., May 10 (BM). Two Myrtle Warblers were seen near Cliff, April 25 (DAZ). A Grace's Warbler observed at the Bosque Refuge between April 22 and 26 (LAO) was unusual for a lowland locality. An *Orenbird* was taken at Stevens Tank, May 18 (BKH, BW). A male *Hooded Warbler* was found along Sonoita Creek near Patagonia and carefully observed for at least 10 minutes, April 20 (Tucson Audubon Society), apparently the second record for Arizona. A male Am. Redstart was seen near Patagonia, May 23 (FT).

**Orioles**—Three male Orchard Orioles, 1 collected, were found at the Washington Ranch, May 5 (BKH). A male Hooded Oriole was seen there the same date. Two Hooded Orioles were seen along Beaver Dam Wash, May 14 (DLC). The species was much less common at Globe for the second consecutive spring (LLH). A male Scott's Oriole was observed at Cedar Crest, April 17 (BM).

**Fringillids**—A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was reported from Albuquerque, May 5 (AM), and a male was

taken at Sitting Bull Falls, May 20 (*BKH, BW*). A male Indigo Bunting was found 7 miles south of Carlsbad, May 9 (*RCB*), and another was present at Cedar Crest, May 24 to 27 (*BM*). A hybrid Indigo X Lazuli Bunting was captured and banded at the Bosque Refuge, May 2 (*LAO*). Five Cassin's Finches seen at Silver City, April 20, were the first noted there since last fall (*DAZ*). At least 4 Pine Grosbeaks spent the last week of May at Montezuma (*ES*). There were many more flocks of Lark Buntings than usual in April in the Carlsbad area (*RCB*).

**Note**—Please send all records for the Nesting Season to the undersigned at 5403 Inverchapel Road, Springfield, Va.

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