

**SOUTHWEST REGION.**—At lower elevations throughout the Region weather was warm and dry. At higher levels unusually mild conditions prevailed. At Santa Fe, N. Mex. winter conditions finally appeared, Nov. 14, when a four-day storm began depositing snow. By December 1, however, this was largely gone. After a very dry summer in southern Arizona, the ample fall rains were welcome. These resulted in good crops of fall annuals and grasses almost everywhere, providing abundant food for the late migrants and winter residents. Similar favorable conditions were reported from most of New Mexico.



There were no comments on piñon seed crops. Large numbers of acorns were reported in the Chiricahua Mts. in early November (BJ). Insect food remained abundant much later than usual. Except at Santa Fe, where a series of rains and cold fronts from Aug. 15 to Nov. 19 brought in so many waves of birds as to make this "a very memorable fall migration" (PRS), the southward movement was generally considered only fair to good. Reports of large concentrations of birds were few and scattered. Nevertheless, field work was productive in many places. I particularly regret that space limitations do not permit detailed treatment in these pages of Patricia Snider's careful correlations of weather phenomena and bird movements throughout the period. Observers in the Santa Fe-Albuquerque area, and in southern Arizona, commented on many species lingering late. Although the season produced no notable invasions there were more rarities reported than usual.

"Progress" reports from Phoenix, Ariz. included mention of a possible dam and housing developments threatening Sonoita Creek. At Nogales, Ariz. a court order was forcing a landowner to drain his swamp which has produced nesting Blue-winged Teal, and such rarities as Green Kingfishers and Black-bellied Tree Ducks (WH). New Mexico's Mimbres River fared better when landowners voted to ignore recommendations by the Army Engineers that a dam be built on the river northeast of Silver City.

**Loon, Cormorant, Frigatebird**—A Common Loon was picked up from the ground at Nogales, Ariz., Nov. 10, and released on a local pond where it remained for a day (WH). The Olivaceous Cormorant was last noted, Aug. 19, at the ranch tank near Nogales where it had been seen frequently. An immature frigatebird (*Fregata* sp.) was seen over Picacho Reservoir, Pinal Co., Ariz., Aug. 29 (SHL). It was observed from a distance of 60 yards and collecting efforts failed. The observer believed the species was "very likely *F. magnificens*" (which has been recorded as an accidental in several inland states).

**Hérons, Waterfowl**—An adult *Louisiana* Heron collected at Lake McMillan near Carlsbad, Aug. 25 (BKH), appears to be the first New Mexico specimen. Also taken there, Aug. 27, was the first New Mexico Yellow-crowned Night Heron specimen (BKH). Per-

haps owing to mild weather farther north, waterfowl were 3 to 4 weeks late in reaching this Region. At the Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge on the Rio Grande, Snow and Blue Geese appeared in normal numbers, but Canada Geese numbered only 207; this was 350 birds fewer than at the same time a year ago (RGY). Ducks were reported in reduced numbers from everywhere except this Refuge where the total population climbed from 1500 in early September to 9400 in late November. This represented an increase of 2500 birds over last fall's population (RGY). A female Wood Duck was reported during the period at Tesuque, N. Mex. (W. Huey, *vide* PRS), and one was collected at the edge of our Region in Lea County, N. Mex. (BKH). A male Wood Duck inside the El Paso city limits, Nov. 23, provided a new area record (MBK), as did a female Oldsquaw and four Red-breasted Mergansers on Ft. Hancock Lake about 50 miles east of El Paso (MBK). A female Hooded Merganser was positively identified near Carlsbad, Nov. 1 (BKH).

**Vultures, Hawks, Falcons**—At Sells, Ariz. 15 Black Vultures were seen, Oct. 29 (FT). An immature Gray Hawk noted on Oct. 3 near Nogales was the last of the season there (WH). An adult Black Hawk seen migrating, Oct. 6, over Cliff, Grant Co., N. Mex. was the only one recorded there in 1962. A Harris' Hawk was seen near Bylas, Ariz., Nov. 4 (BJ). Two others seen, Oct. 24, at the Bosque del Apache Refuge provided a new locality record (RGY); one of these hawks was photographed, Oct. 27 (DMcK). Still another Harris' Hawk was seen 15 miles south of Deming, Luna Co., N. Mex., Oct. 24 (JLS). Two immature Golden Eagles were reported, Nov. 30, from Montezuma, N. Mex. (ES). In contrast to other years, no eagles were seen near Santa Fe by PRS in 1962. Three were noted in late October south of Silver City, where an adult was found badly injured (apparently by an automobile), Nov. 3 (DAZ). An adult Bald Eagle was seen over Arizona's Painted Desert, Sept. 20 (John Lancaster, *vide* LKH). A Peregrine Falcon was recorded at Patagonia, Aug. 29 (WH).

**Gallinaceous Birds**—Numbers of both Gambel's and Scaled Quail remained low or very low in New Mexico. Ten Harlequin Quail were seen near Nogales, Oct. 21 (WH), and a pair with six large young were seen, Nov. 24, in Josephine Cañon in the Santa Rita Mts., Ariz. (WH). Most surprising was a dead adult male of this species found, Nov. 9, along the street almost in front of this editor's house in Silver City. This quail has not been reported from the area in over a year. Turkeys were reportedly common this fall in southwestern New Mexico. Even following the hunting season, flocks of up to 30 birds were seen near Silver City (Ann Hunt, *vide* DAZ).

**Cranes, Shorebirds**—Four Sandhill Cranes arrived on the Bosque del Apache Refuge, Oct. 1. By Nov. 30 the population there reached 2840 birds, only 150 fewer than last year (RGY). Arizona observers commented on the paucity of shorebirds but correlated this with the lack of available habitat. At Santa Fe, N. Mex. 3 Semipalmated Plovers were seen, Aug. 16 (PRS), and one was collected at Lake McMillan, near

Carlsbad, Sept. 20 (BKH). A flock of 128 Killdeer near Carlsbad, Sept. 23, was notable (BKH). Three Mountain Plovers were seen there, Aug. 24, and another, Sept. 5 (BKH). A Ruddy Turnstone, the second recorded in New Mexico, was observed at Lake McMillan, Aug. 29 (BKH). A Long-billed Curlew was noted near Montezuma, N. Mex., Aug. 16 (ES); 2 were reported, Aug. 17, at Ft. Hancock east of El Paso, and 6 others, Aug. 19, in the Rio Grande Valley north of El Paso (LVA, CMcC). A "very good migration" of Upland Plovers began on Aug. 18 at Carlsbad, when a flock of 19 was seen (RCB, BKH). One was collected near Otis, N. Mex., Sept. 17 (BKH). Five *Knuts* were found at Lake McMillan, Sept. 2 (specimen collected) and one was observed there, Sept. 8 (BKH). PRS recorded 3 Pectoral Sandpipers at Santa Fe, Aug. 18, and singles on Sept. 5 and Sept. 27. At Carlsbad BKH listed Pectorals from Oct. 3 to Nov. 1 (one collected, Oct. 9). A probable Short-billed Dowitcher (identified by call) was seen, Sept. 9, near Malaga, Eddy Co., N. Mex. (BKH). One of at least 8 Stilt Sandpipers at Lake Avalon, near Carlsbad, was collected, Sept. 22 (BKH). *Sanderlings* were observed regularly at Lake McMillan from Aug. 24 (one collected) to Sept. 16 (9 seen), with a peak of at least 19 on Sept. 8 (BKH). Mr. Harris' careful field work indicates that some of these shorebird species may be more common in New Mexico than available records would indicate. [The above-mentioned specimens, most of which I have examined, are preserved either in the collection of the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque, or at New Mexico Western College—DAZ.]

**Gulls, Terns**—A *Sabine's Gull* in full adult plumage was seen at Lake McMillan, near Carlsbad, Sept. 6 (RCB, BKH); it was collected by BKH, Sept. 8. Although there are several New Mexico sight records, this is the state's first specimen of this species. Six Black Terns were seen near Ft. Hancock, east of El Paso, and 3 more at Tornillo, Aug. 17 (MBK, EC, CMcC, LT). Two Black Terns were noted near Santa Fe, Sept. 5 (PRS). There were more sight records than usual of terns belonging to the genus *Sterna*. These were variously reported as Common or Forster's Terns, but the only specimen collected (Carlsbad) has so far defied specific identification. A readily identified immature Forster's was seen near Santa Fe, Aug. 15 (PRS).

**Doves, Owls**—A Ground Dove shot by a hunter, Sept. 1, near Deming was preserved as a specimen (DAZ). Another was seen from Sept. 20 through Sept. 30 at the Bosque del Apache Refuge (RGY). The species occurs only casually at these localities. A Barn Owl found injured near Albuquerque (date?) was later preserved as a specimen (BMcK). This owl is fairly common to common in southern New Mexico, particularly in the southwestern counties, but there are few records from the Albuquerque-Santa Fe area. No Short-eared Owls were observed in the Carlsbad area where they usually are seen (BKH).

**Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers**—A male Anna's Hummingbird arrived in the observer's garden at Tucson, Ariz., Oct. 18, and remained for a month, being replaced by an apparent female of the same

species (FT). Adult male Allen's Hummingbirds were reported from the Tucson area, Sept. 12 (M. Paulson, *vide* FT) and Oct. 13 (FT), and from Patagonia, Aug. 29 (W'H). Three Lewis' Woodpeckers were seen, Nov. 19, near Tucson (FT, *et al.*). A female Williamson's Sapsucker in Silver City, Nov. 6, was somewhat below the species' normal elevation range in that area (DAZ).

**Becard, Tyrant Flycatchers**—Near Patagonia, a pair of Rose-throated Becards was feeding three young out of the nest, Aug. 19 (W'H). In the same area, 6 Thick-billed Kingbirds were seen, Aug. 29 (W'H). Two Eastern Kingbirds were noted near Santa Fe, Sept. 5 to Sept. 12 (PRS). An Eastern Phoebe was seen near the San Juan Pueblo, north of Española, Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex., Sept. 3 (PRS). Say's Phoebe were scarce near Globe, Ariz., this fall (BJ), as they were about Silver City (DAZ). On Sept. 29, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was reported from Albuquerque (RT, *vide* BMcK). New Mexico's second specimen of the Great Crested Flycatcher was collected south of Carlsbad, Sept. 8 (BKH, RCB). (Specimen in University of New Mexico Collection.)

**Corvids**—At least 100 ravens (sp.) were seen flying north over Wilcox, Ariz. and for miles south of there, late in the morning of Nov. 4 (BJ). A loose flock of 97 highly vocal Common Ravens was seen apparently migrating southward through the Mimbres River Valley east of Silver City, Oct. 21 (DAZ). In contrast to last fall, there were few noteworthy observations of jays. Piñon Jays were reported only from localities where they occur more or less regularly. The only lowland Clark's Nutcracker reported was a single bird on the Painted Desert in Arizona, Aug. 31 (Chief Naturalist Van Cleave, *vide* LKH).

**Verdin, Nuthatches, Mimids, Thrushes**—Ten Verdins were seen near the northern edge of their range at Beaver Dam Wash, Washington Co., Utah, Aug. 30 (DLC, EW). Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported from many areas but not in large numbers. The southernmost record was of one at Carlsbad, Oct. 1 (BKH). Catbirds were seen near Albuquerque, Sept. 2 (JD), and during the last week of September (Mrs. HM). A Brown Thrasher appeared on Sept. 29 at the Bosque del Apache Refuge (RGY); another was reported, Oct. 8, in Petrified Forest Nat'l Monument (LKH) near where one was seen last fall. At Los Alamos, N. Mex. Hermit Thrushes were more common this fall but disappeared as usual by Oct. 1 in spite of the mild weather (W'BL). There were very few reports of Robins.

**Wood Warblers**—Although no very large numbers were reported, the warbler migration was by no means poor. Of particular interest were a Black-and-white Warbler seen near Carlsbad, Aug. 26 (BKH), and an immature *Parula* Warbler seen, Oct. 6, at Cedar Crest, N. Mex. (DMcK). (An adult male Parula was photographed there in the spring of 1958 by the same observer.) Single Nashville Warblers were seen in Petrified Forest Nat'l Monument, Sept. 1, 2, and 20 (LKH); individuals were banded at Silver City, Sept. 1 and Sept. 11 (MAZ); and three adults were seen, Sept. 8, at the San Simon Cienega, Hidalgo Co., N. Mex. (SHI).

**Icterids, Tanagers**—Five Eastern Meadowlarks were seen and heard singing north of Deming, Luna Co., N. Mex., Oct. 27 (*DAZ*). The species breeds there, but reliable fall records are scarce. At Los Alamos, Western Tanagers remained throughout September, about two weeks longer than normal (*WBL*); one remained to Oct. 3 at Nogales (*WH*). Relatively few Western Tanagers were seen at Silver City this fall (*DAZ*).

**Fringillids**—In southern Arizona nearly all migrant species arrived later than usual and seemed generally scarce (*WH*, *WW*, *FT*). The same was true in southwestern New Mexico. In these areas all sparrows except Chipping appeared less numerous than in former years, and the usual large flocks of Lark Buntings were absent or nearly so. Around Silver City, White-crowned Sparrows were far less common than during any of the preceding five fall seasons (*DAZ*). Dickcissels were seen or heard several times during September in southeastern New Mexico (*BKH*); at least 21 were counted near Carlsbad, Sept. 24, and one was collected, Sept. 29, at Roswell (*BKH*). An immature White-throated Sparrow was observed at Los Alamos, Nov. 3 to Nov. 5 (*WBL*), and at Montezuma, N. Mex., a Fox Sparrow provided a new locality record (*ES*). At Lake McMillan, near Carlsbad, 17 McCown's Longspurs were seen and one collected (specimen at New Mexico Western College) on Nov. 26 (*BKH*). There are few reliable modern records of this species in New Mexico, most reported sight identifications being erroneous. Near Hurley, Grant Co., N. Mex., at least 200 Chestnut-collared Longspurs were seen on Oct. 27 (*DAZ*).

**Contributors**—LuVenia Arnold, R. C. Brummett, Elsie Campbell, Dennis L. Carter, John Durrie, Bruce K. Harris, William Harrison, Lowell K. Higgins, Betty Jackson, Mary Belle Keefer, Seymour H. Levy, W. Burton Lewis, Caroline McClintock, Barbara McKnight, Daniel McKnight, Mrs. Homer Musgrave, James L. Sands, Elmer Schooley, Patricia R. Snider, Lilla Thomas, Florence Thornburg, Roy Tomlinson, Edwin Willis, Warren Winslow, Robert G. Yoder, Marian A. Zimmerman.—DALE A. ZIMMERMAN, *Biology Dept., New Mexico Western College, Silver City, N. Mex.*