



bird populations remained normal with the greatest number concentrated in the irrigated valleys. Especially in Santa Cruz County, Ariz. were there high populations (BH). Food supplies were good, but were exhausted by February in some areas.

Then in February came needed moisture, especially in northern areas. The storms continued into March spreading into desert areas. With the snows came colder weather, making the winter longer than usual. There was no respite in February, as is usually the case. Only by the end of the period were cottonwoods leafing out in Nogales, Ariz. (BH) and crocuses blooming in northern New Mexico.

Many species left with the cold and the storms. Still the colder spring weather didn't seem to hold back the migrants; some even came back earlier than usual. Mountain snow packs in northern New Mexico were nearly normal by late March, but those in Colorado were only half so; so late spring flows are expected to be critical unless there is more rain. Valley soil moisture in the lower Rio Grande Valley was deemed poor with low reservoir storage.

Loons, Grebes—A Common Loon was at Lake McMillan, Eddy Co., N. Mex. on Dec. 20 (RCB). The Arctic Loon mentioned in the fall report stayed in El Paso, Tex. until Dec. 5 (LVA). At Phoenix, Ariz. a Western Grebe was found dead on Dec. 19 (SD), and one was reported on Caballo Lake, Sierra Co., N. Mex. on Dec. 15 (BKH).

Pelicans—No White Pelicans were seen on Lake McMillan after Dec. 21; they usually stay all winter. Nine Olivaceous Cormorants were on two ranches near Nogales on Feb. 15 (BH).

Swans, Geese—Two Whistling Swans were seen on the new Navajo Reservoir, San Juan Co., N. Mex. on March 26 (AN). At the Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, near Socorro, N. Mex. there was a peak of 8582 geese on Dec. 4, a record number; 664 were present in mid-March, 20 times the usual number for then. There were 5000 Snow and 40 Blue Geese at Lake McMillan from Feb. 27 to March 20, twice the usual number (RCB). Present on the Bosque Refuge were 3 White-fronted Geese, Dec. 4 to 31 (LAO). Two again stayed at a ranch pond near Nogales (BH) and one was seen at Española on Dec. 29 (JRT). There were several

**SOUTHWEST REGION**—The warm fall weather continued into winter with above normal temperatures well into January. It was dry everywhere. The ground was not snow-covered even in the higher mountains, and most water courses were open. Therefore, many migrants lingered well beyond their normal departure dates. In spite of the drought, most

records of Ross' Geese: at least 1 seen March 6 and 11 near Loving, Eddy Co., N. Mex. (RCB); 1 near Tucson (FMT); and 2 reported from Bosque Refuge last fall stayed until Dec. 28 (LAO). These include the fourth records for each state.

Ducks—There was a peak of 8480 ducks on Bosque Refuge (LAO), but they were fairly scarce at Tucson (FMT). Two pairs of Mexican Ducks were seen near El Paso on March 28, the first in a long time (LVA). Seven Black-bellied Tree Ducks were seen at Canoa Ranch, near Tucson, on March 12. (Wyldes, *vide* FMT). The Wood Duck which came to Bill Huey's pond in Tesuque, Santa Fe Co., N. Mex. in October, 1962, is still there and is no longer considered wild. One was at Avalon Lake, Eddy Co., N. Mex., Jan. 6 to 20 (RCB); and one was at St. George, Utah on Dec. 12 (WCR); with 11 (2 collected) at Bear Canyon Reservoir, Grant Co., N. Mex. on Dec. 10 to 19 (BKH). There were increased numbers of most species of diving ducks, especially Buffleheads and Redheads. A juvenile *Oldsquaw* was photographed on the Bosque Refuge on Feb. 29 (JD, DM), and seen there until March 9 (LAO). This is the third record for New Mexico.

Hawks—Turkey Vultures returned early to northern areas in spite of the cold. A Goshawk was on the Bosque Refuge on March 25 (LAO). A Rough-legged Hawk was at Washington, Utah on Dec. 13 (WCR). A Harris' Hawk appeared on the Bosque Refuge, Feb. 7 to 14 (LAO) and three were found north of Scottsdale, Ariz. on March 16 (MLB, UM, BL). At least 5 Bald Eagles wintered in the Animas River Valley, San Juan Co., N. Mex. (AN). One was seen in the San Rafael grasslands, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz. on Dec. 28 and Jan. 18 (T.A.S.), a most unusual habitat as the only water is small ranch tanks (BH). An *Aplomado Falcon* was seen near Otis, Eddy Co., N. Mex. on Dec. 23 (RCB).

Cranes, Rails—A peak of 1717 Sandhill Cranes was on the Bosque Refuge on Dec. 4 (LAO). The discovery of 9 *Common Gallinules* near St. George, Utah on Dec. 19 and one on March 12 (DLC, RWR) was considered surprising as the *AOU Check-List* does not list it for the state.

Shorebirds—A *Snowy Plover* was seen at Fort Hancock Lake, Tex. on March 22 and again on April 4 (MBK, LM, *et al*). Six Herring Gulls were at Lake McMillan in December and January (RCB) and at Caballo Lake on Jan. 12 (BKH).

Doves, Owls—A White-winged Dove wintered at Globe, Ariz. for the first time (BJ). A wintering colony of at least 9 Long-eared Owls was at Fort Bayard, N. Mex. (BKH).

Swifts—Wintering White-throated Swifts were 5 seen on the Saguaro Nat'l Mon., Ariz. on Dec. 11 (BJ) and 14 at St. George the same day (DLC), for the first Utah winter record.

Trogons—A male Coppery-tailed Trogon was reported from Cave Creek Canyon in the Chiricahua Mts., Ariz. on Jan. 17 (HC, MC). This is the second state record for mid-winter.

Woodpeckers—Yellow-shafted Flickers were seen in Tesuque, N. Mex. (DM, WIK) and near Carlsbad (RCB). A *Gilded Flicker* was seen in Beaver Dam

Wash, Washington Co., Utah on Feb. 13 and March 26 (DLC, RWR), the first state record. A Red-headed Woodpecker was in Tesuque the first three weeks in December (WIK). A Williamson's Sapsucker was at Mesa on March 19 (WCR) and in the Patagonia Mts. near Harshaw on Dec. 26 (BH). It is rare on the desert.

Flycatchers—Eastern Phoebe was sighted in the Carlsbad area on Feb. 5 and in January (RCB); at Redrock, N. Mex. on March 22 (BKH); and at Patagonia, Ariz. on Dec. 26 (DLC) and Jan. 18 (T.A.S.)

Swallows—Most species began to arrive early even in northern areas.

Corvids, Chickadees—Steller's and Scrub Jays and Clark's Nutcrackers all remained in the mountains, with only one lowland record, a Scrub Jay near Washington, Utah on Dec. 19 (DLC). Mountain Chickadees also stayed higher, with few even in northern valleys.

Nuthatches—The fall invasion of Red-breasted Nuthatches continued into the winter, with most observers reporting at least a few. High counts were 63 in the Sandia Mts. near Albuquerque, N. Mex. (BM) and 19 at Santa Fe on Dec. 21 (JRT).

Wrens, Thrashers—Several December House Wrens were seen. Winter Wren records were one at Santa Fe on Dec. 21 (JRT) and a few in the Nogales area on Dec. 30 and Jan. 18 (BH, T.A.S.). Brown Thrasher records are becoming more common. There were four from New Mexico, one from Tucson, Ariz. (FMT).

Thrushes—Robins and bluebirds invaded lowland areas and were numerous even in the northern highlands in large flocks. Mountain and Western Bluebirds were numerous all over; were reported by news media at El Paso (LVA) and old-timers at Carlsbad had "never seen nothin' like it before" (RCB). Even *Eastern Bluebirds* joined in, being seen near Nogales (BH); near Silver City, N. Mex. (BKH); Loving (RCB); at El Paso (LVA); and even at Corrales, near Albuquerque, Feb. 16 to 22 (4 collected) by JSF, DN, and JD, and near Los Lunas, Valencia Co., N. Mex. on Feb. 29 (JD, BM, DM). There were few lowland records of Townsends' Solitaires, but they were common in the highlands.

Waxwings—Some areas reported good numbers of Cedar Waxwings, but others few or none. Bohemian Waxwings again appeared for the third time in six years in the north, but they arrived later (Jan. 19—WBL) and were not so numerous as before. They were seen at Tesuque (WIK), Los Alamos (WBL), Española and Santa Fe (PRS), about Albuquerque (BM, JD), and at Page, Ariz. near the new Glen Canyon Dam (RWR, HET).

Starlings, Warblers—A flock of Starlings near Carlsbad was estimated at 300,000! (RCB) There was an unusual number of reports of wintering warblers. A Palm Warbler was recorded near Nogales several times during the winter (BH).

Finches—A pair of Cardinals was still in Albuquerque through March (JLS). There were many reports of Evening Grosbeaks and Cassin's Finches in

the highlands. A flock of 35 Rosy Finches was on Sandia Crest, Albuquerque at least until Jan. 26 when they were snowed in. Ten were Gray-crowned, for certain (*JSP*).

Sparrows—There were many reports of sparrows wintering beyond their normal range. Black-throated and Sage Sparrows were at Pipe Springs Nat'l Mon., Ariz. in December, and the *bellii* race of the Sage Sparrow was at Española on March 8 (*WBL, JRT, et al.*). Numerous reports came in of White-throated Sparrows, and there was several reports of Fox and Swamp Sparrows. Chestnut-collared Longspurs were seen in the thousands near Nogales (*FMT, BH*) and were seen at Santa Fe for the first local record and at Las Vegas, N. Mex. from March 15 to 28 in small flocks (*PRS*).

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