

SOUTHWEST REGION.—Except for the first week of April, the Region's weather was unusually cool, dry, and windy throughout. Only at Farmington,



N. Mex. was there optimism, for the April moisture was termed as the best since 1929. In the mountains of northern New Mexico there was a four-inch snow-fall above 9000 feet on May 30 and Los Alamos had a late frost on June 1. At Phoenix, Ariz. there was only one day that reached 100°. In southwestern Utah snow fell generally, even in the Joshua Tree deserts where it is unusual at any time, and especially so in May.

This resulted in a late spring with foliation, blossoming, and fruiting of plants three weeks to a month retarded. Soil moisture was poor in Texas and southern New Mexico particularly, but better in southern Arizona with the help of last summer's rains. Ponds in northern New Mexico remained full.

In spite of the drought, several observers commented that this was the best birding spring in a long time, with an impressive flight of boreal species in some localities and large concentrations of migrants grounded by bad weather. Some individuals even arrived earlier than normal. As usual, peak periods were correlated with days of strong westerly or northwesterly winds.

There were unusually large numbers of warblers in southern Arizona, and at Roswell and Silver City, N. Mex. On May 9 there was a good flight of vireos,

warblers, and Western Tanagers at Granite Reef, Maricopa Co., Ariz. (WCR). The warbler peak at Nogales, Ariz. came April 19 to 24 with 130 individuals banded of ten species. Most left with White-crowned Sparrows as the wind shifted south on April 22 (AC).

In New Mexico there was a good sprinkling of eastern species, but this trend apparently did not spread west into Arizona. On the other hand, there seemed to be a slight trend of some western species to move eastward into the edge of the plains in New Mexico at Las Vegas, Roswell, and Carlsbad.

Loons and Grebes—Detergents pumped into the water at the Phoenix Sewage Ponds caused the death of several loons and grebes (WCR). Single Common Loons were seen there on April 18 (SD) and at Robert's Lake, Grant Co., N. Mex. on May 1 (BKH). On April 18 5 Western Grebes were at Robert's Lake (BKH) and 1 at Phoenix (SD). Also at Lake McMillan near Carlsbad 1 was seen on April 29 and 2 on May 2.

Cormorants—Olivaceous Cormorants were reported five times on a ranch pond near Nogales. Unusual reports of Double-crested Cormorants were of one near Española, Rio Arriba Co. on April 5 (JRT, WBL, et al.) and one near Las Vegas on May 11; these are the first records for north-central New Mexico.

Heron—Rare in Santa Cruz County, Ariz., an adult Black-crowned Night Heron was seen near Nogales on April 12, and an immature on May 9. A subadult Yellow-crowned Night Heron was seen along the Gila River near Cliff, N. Mex. on April 23 (DAZ). The numbers of Common Egrets have definitely declined over those of ten years ago at Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, N. Mex. Two Am. Bitterns were reported at Phoenix on April 1 (SD).

Ducks—The duck flight lasted much later than usual with some birds lingering into June even in southern areas. A female Wood Duck was on the San Pedro River near Bisbee, Ariz. on May 17 (JGO).

Hawks—Golden Eagle numbers are still low. A Prairie Falcon near Nogales on May 10 was said to be the first recorded locally. Mississippi Kites returned to Roswell on April 27; 4 were still present at the end of May.

Quail—Number still seemed low. Fifteen Bobwhites were released at Willow Lake near Carlsbad. At Beaver Dam Wash, Utah, Gambel's Quail were much scarcer—on May 2 only 5 were counted where in some years hundreds are seen. New to the United States Check-List, but unfortunately not collected, was a male *Elegant Quail* (*Lophortyx douglasii*), seen in Nogales on May 31 by two observers familiar with the species in Mexico. It was thought that it might be nesting (BH, WW).

Shorebirds—A Semipalmated Plover was at Santa Fe on April 28 and 2 at Española on May 6 (PRS, MAC, et al.). A Snowy Plover at Fort Hancock Lake, Tex., April 4 until May 5, provided the first local record (LVA, MBK, LM). Phoenix also had one on April 28 (SD). Two Black-bellied Plovers at

Las Vegas on May 18 were a possible second record for New Mexico.

Doves—There were large concentrations of doves reported from the Desert Game Range near Las Vegas, Nev., and in southwestern Utah.

Poor-wills to Trogons—There was little evidence of the Poor-will near Silver City. It was heard on only a few occasions at Cedar Crest, Bernalillo Co., N. Mex., where normally its call is one of the common spring sounds. An unusually large number of White-throated Swifts (600 to 800) were in Las Alamos and 100 were near Mesa, Ariz. on May 7 (SD). A good number of hummingbirds fed in flowering willows on the Desert Game Range. Rare in the spring, a Rufous Hummingbird was at Cedar Crest, April 15-16. Three Coppery-tailed Trogons were seen near Portal, Ariz., May 14 (MLB, et al.).

Flycatchers—A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Mountainair, N. Mex. on May 17 was unexpected (BKH). Sighted near the Canoa Ranch, Continental, Ariz. was an Eastern Phoebe on April 24 (FMT, JM). A pair of Black Phoebes was at Española as early as April 5 (WBL), and the number had increased to 5 by May 6 (PRS, MAC).

Swallows—A flock of over 400 Tree Swallows on April 23 at Washington, Utah, was a most unusual concentration (DLC, RWR). Also seen there on May 7 was a Bank Swallow, which is rare there, and a female Purple Martin, the first reported in southwestern Utah (DLC, RWR). On May 7, 10,000 Cliff Swallows were near Mesa (SD).

Nuthatches—Red-breasted Nuthatches lingered after last winter's flight: 5 near Globe on May 8; 1 at Washington, Utah, on May 13; at Fort Bayard, N. Mex. until May 14 (BKH); and at Los Alamos till May 17—a very late date.

Mimids—Four Catbirds were banded at Cedar Crest from May 12 till June 6. A Crissal Thrasher was discovered in Embudo Canyon on the east side of the Sandia Mts., near Cedar Crest, in April (BM, JSP, et al.).

Thrushes—Lingering late in the lowlands were a few Robins, Mountain Bluebirds, and Townsend's Solitaires: a Robin at Globe till May 5; and solitaires at Santa Fe on May 12. Hermit Thrushes were silent in the mountains near Cedar Crest; they normally sing through May. Evidently there was a small flight of Swainson's Thrushes which were seen during the period May 11 to 19; in the Chiricahua Mts. (MLB), near Nogales, at Glenwood, N. Mex. (DAZ), near Carlsbad (first local record), and at El Paso, Cedar Crest, and Santa Fe.

Warblers—A number of reports were received of eastern species. A Black-and-white Warbler was near Portal on May 14 (MLB). On the same day a *Worm-eating Warbler* was near Hagerman, N. Mex. (BB, fide VM) for the second state record. Cedar Crest reported a Nashville Warbler on April 30 and a male *Chestnut-sided Warbler* on May 16—again the second record for New Mexico. Two Parula Warblers were at Roswell on May 4 and one at Fort Hancock Lake on April 11 (LVA, MBK, LM, et al.). A Palm Warbler was near Cliff on April 23—the third state record (BKH). This is truly an exciting number of

records!

Western warblers moved eastward mainly from May 1 to 7 with a Virginia's Warbler at Las Vegas; and 3 to 5 daily at Roswell where it is a rare species. At Roswell also appeared a Black-throated Gray Warbler, the first since 1954, and two Townsend's Warblers, which are unusual anywhere in the state in spring. The latter was also seen near Carlsbad.

Icterids—A Scott's Oriole was seen in Albuquerque, N. Mex. on April 11 (JW); at Cedar Crest on May 15; and in Embudo Canyon on April 24 (JD, PF). At Portal, 13 were banded, April 27-28 (AC).

Tanagers—There was a spectacular flight of Western Tanagers; especially at Cedar Crest and Santa Fe, where 25 males were seen beside one pond at once. This marked migration from May 1 to 20 also occurred throughout the Salt River Valley, Ariz. (MLB), and at Globe (BJ, LLH).

Finches—Joining the flight from the east were several species of finches. Two male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at Santa Fe on May 21 (PRS, BJH), and one was banded and photographed at Cedar Crest on June 1. Another was seen at Farmington on May 4. There was a minor "influx" of Indigo Buntings; singles at Canoa Ranch on April 24 (FMT, JM); near Las Vegas, N. Mex. on May 27-28 (EWS, et al.); at Santa Fe on May 14; and on May 16 one each was reported at El Paso, Bosque Refuge (BKH), and at Cedar Crest, where it was photographed.

Lazuli Buntings shifted east to Roswell on May 2 (third local record), and to Carlsbad on May 19, for their second record.

Most boreal finches made an appearance, especially Pine Siskins, Evening Grosbeaks, and Cassin's Finches. Pine Grosbeaks appeared at Las Vegas, N. Mex. on May 7, and Red Crossbills were seen at Globe, Las Vegas, Los Alamos, and Cedar Crest.

Sparrows—A Rufous-crowned Sparrow was in Embudo Canyon of the Sandia Mts. from April 11 to 22 (BK, BM). Most unusual were *Black-chinned Sparrows* in Embudo Canyon from April 11 into June; of which 2 were collected (JSP, BK, BM). A Harris' Sparrow was in Albuquerque on April 27 (AM), and one was seen in Washington, Utah two days later.

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