

**SOUTHWEST REGION.**—All-important rainfall ranged from much better than normal in southwestern and through eastern Arizona to below normal in the Pecos and lower Rio Grande valleys. In northern Arizona and northern New Mexico, however, precipitation was closer to normal, with some heavy local rains. Most of the higher mountains had fair snow cover by the end of November. Temperatures



were generally above normal until mid-November, producing an unusually mild autumn. A rash of late records of individual birds of many species resulted, although the main migratory flights seemed little affected.

The late summer production of grasses and weeds was remarkable in much of southern Arizona; at Nogales the growth was termed the best in 20 years. A prodigious grasshopper crop appeared with the growth. In northern New Mexico, however, the rains were too late to overcome the effects of summer drought, and consequently cover and feed conditions were poor. Early summer rains in the Pecos Valley meant good conditions there. The summer drought in New Mexico is reflected in records: the Rio Grande flow at Otowi, in Santa Fe County, was the lowest since 1895, and the Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge below Socorro suffered the worst drought in its 24-year history.

As usual, many observers commented on dwindling bird habitat, especially in the vicinity of such cities as Phoenix, Ariz. and El Paso, Tex.

Loons, Grebes, Pelicans, Herons—Single Common Loons were seen at Phoenix: 1 at the 35th Avenue sewage disposal pond, Oct. 29 (SRD, JW) and Nov. 24 (SRD); and 1 at Encanto Park Lagoon from Nov. 5 until at least Dec. 3 (MLB). One was also seen at Tornillo Lake below El Paso, Nov. 2 (MBK, et al.). An Arctic Loon, present on Ascarate Lake, El Paso, Nov. 25 to 30, provided a new locality record (MBK and many others). A Western Grebe was found at a stock pond on Pipe Spring Nat'l Monument, Ariz., Oct. 8 to 11 (DLC). About 600 White Pelicans arrived at Lake McMillan, Eddy Co., N. Mex., Oct. 16 (RCB). A Green Heron crippled by pheasant hunters along the Gila River near Cliff, Grant Co., N. Mex., Nov. 23, was brought to BKH.

Waterfowl—Two Ross' Geese were staying at the Bosque Refuge after Nov. 8 (LAO), a second valid record for New Mexico. Two Black-bellied Tree Ducks were noted at the 35th Avenue sewage disposal pond, Phoenix, Oct. 29 and Nov. 12 (SRD, JW). Two were found at St. David, Ariz., Nov. 16 (T.A.S.). Two Mexican Ducks were identified at the San Simon Cienega, Ariz.—N. Mex., July 2 (ERG, LS). Two "Blue-winged" Teal remained at Espanola, N. Mex. until Nov. 19 (PRS). Four Red-

heads were noted at Santa Fe, N. Mex., Aug. 19, and 1 was also seen there on Aug. 21 (PRS). Two Canvasbacks were seen on a pond near Regina, north of Cuba, Sandoval Co., N. Mex., Sept. 2 (PRS). The first *White-winged Scoter* specimen for Arizona was obtained by hunter Chuck Biller at Ashurst Lake, southeast of Flagstaff, Nov. 16 (fide SHL, who has the specimen). More than 1000 Ruddy Ducks were at Lake McMillan, Sept. 25 (RCB).

Hawks—Two Turkey Vultures were seen at Santa Fe as late as Oct. 6; the main southward flight occurred Sept. 9 to 13 (PRS). Two lingered at Nogales until Nov. 3 (WH). The last Swainson's Hawk was seen at Nogales, Nov. 3 (WH). A Harris' Hawk was noted in the Rio Grande Valley above El Paso, Nov. 9 (LVA, et al.). A Marsh Hawk was watched as it killed 1 out of a flock of 8 Shovelers near Lake McMillan, Oct. 18 (RCB). At Santa Fe Marsh Hawks were much less common than last year (PRS). Two Peregrine Falcons were seen along the Santa Cruz River near Nogales, Oct. 19 (WH).

Cranes, Shorebirds, Gulls—Sandhill Crane numbers declined at Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, N. Mex., possibly because of a shift in agricultural practices in that part of the state. This involves growing less sorghum and more cotton and alfalfa, as well as cutting green sorghum for silage (RDJ). September records for Baird's Sandpiper at Santa Fe included 8 on Sept. 10 and 1 on Sept. 13 (PRS). Three Am. Avocets at Bitter Lake Refuge, Nov. 29, were unusually late (RDJ). Four Northern Phalaropes were seen at Santa Fe, Sept. 23 (PRS). Unusual numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls were found in the El Paso region: 2 at Fort Hancock Lake, Hudspeth Co., Tex., Nov. 2; 7 there, Nov. 24; and 2 at Ascarate Lake in El Paso, Nov. 25 (all MBK, et al.).

Pigeons, Doves, Macaws, Anis—Flocks of 25 to 30 Band-tailed Pigeons were seen regularly in the Ft. Bayard, Grant Co., N. Mex. area in November (BKH). Most Mourning Doves had left Santa Fe by Sept. 3, possibly because of a scarcity of *Cleome* seed (PRS). Six Military Macaws were observed in the Rio Yaqui Valley east of Hermosillo, Sonora, Sept. 4 (DMN). The first *Groove-billed Ani* authentically identified in Arizona since 1928 was found in lower Sabino Canyon, Santa Catalina Mountains, Oct. 19 (T. A. S.).

Goatsuckers, Swifts, Hummingbirds—A Common Nighthawk was seen at Santa Fe as late as Oct. 3 (PRS). Ten White-throated Swifts were seen at Fort Hancock Lake, Nov. 29 (MBK, LM). A male hummingbird identified as Allen's was found at Tucson, Ariz., Oct. 31 and a few days thereafter (FMT).

Woodpeckers—Three Yellow-shafted Flickers were seen along the Black River, near Malaga, Eddy Co., N. Mex., Oct. 25 (RCB) and 1 was collected 8 miles southwest of Milnesand, Roosevelt Co., N. Mex., Oct. 26 (BKH). A Red-shafted Flicker was observed at Lake McMillan, Nov. 20, where they were common by Sept. 25 (RCB). There were far fewer Lewis' Woodpeckers than usual at Santa Fe (PRS). A Downy Woodpecker was found at Ft. Bayard, Nov. 19 (BKH).

**Flycatchers**—An Eastern Kingbird was killed by a car near Tucson, Sept. 1 (*FMT*), and another was seen there on Sept. 15 (*T. A. S.*). One was observed at El Paso, Sept. 21 (*EM*). Great numbers of Western Kingbirds were noted at the White Sands Missile Range, N. Mex., Aug. 26 to 30, and again in southern Arizona and northern Sonora, Sept. 2 to 5 (*DMN*). One at Tucson on Oct. 20 (*T. A. S.*) and one in Skull Valley, Yavapai Co., Ariz. on Oct. 29 (*MAS*) were late. Also late were Cassin's Kingbird singles at Santa Fe, Oct. 12 and 15 (*PRS*) and 2 at Nogales, Nov. 24 (*WH*). An Eastern Phoebe was seen at Cedar Crest, Sandia Mountains, N. Mex., Oct. 13 (*BM*) and 1 was collected at Bitter Lake Refuge, Oct. 18 (*RDJ*). A Black Phoebe was seen at Riverside, near Espanola, N. Mex., Oct. 13 (*WBL, et al.*). A Great Crested Flycatcher was carefully identified at the White Sands Missile Range, Aug. 29 (*DMN*). Two Buff-breasted Flycatchers were noted at Agua Caliente, Sonora, 28 miles south of Nogales, Oct. 26 (*WH*). A wood pewee (Western?) in the Rio Grande Valley above El Paso, Nov. 9 (*LVA, et al.*), was very late. Vermilion Flycatchers have increased considerably in New Mexico in recent years. This is evidenced, in part, by the following records: 4 nests found during the summer in the Carlsbad vicinity (*RCB*); 2 at the Bosque Refuge, Nov. 11 (*BM*); and at least 20 in the Bitter Lake Refuge vicinity, Nov. 30 (*RDJ*).

**Swallows**—These birds stayed later than usual in most localities. Violet-green and Rough-winged Swallows were still seen at Nogales, Oct. 19 (*WH*). Both Tree and Barn Swallows were observed at the 35th Avenue sewage disposal pond, Phoenix, through November (*MLB*). Two Barn Swallows were lingering at Santa Fe, Oct. 6 (*PRS*), and several were seen at Nogales the same day (*WH*). Five Purple Martins were found in the Tucson Mountains, Ariz., Oct. 15 (*FET*).

**Corvids**—More than 10 Mexican Jays were seen along U. S. Hwy. 60, north of the Salt River and near the Carrizo turn-off, Ariz., Nov. 2 (*BJ*). A flock of at least 1000 Piñon Jays was seen on the open plains north of Albuquerque, N. Mex., Nov. 29; only a few were found at Santa Fe after Oct. 12 (*PRS*). Three Clark's Nutcrackers were noted on the Heart Bar Ranch on the Gila River headwaters, N. Mex., Sept. 28 (*BKH*).

**Chickadees, Nuthatches**—Five Mountain Chickadees were seen in poplars at Pipe Spring Nat'l Monument, Oct. 11 (*DLC*). This is a *Red-breasted Nuthatch* year. First to be noted in the Region was 1 at Cedar Crest, Aug. 29 (*BM*). Other records included: 2 in the Rio Grande Valley above El Paso, Sept. 15 (*LVA, MBK*), also 3 there on Oct. 12 (*LVA, et al.*); 1 at Petrified Forest Nat'l Park, Ariz., Sept. 25 (*JRD*), also Oct. 6 (*JRD*) and Oct. 9 (*LKH*); 1 at Ft. Bayard, Sept. 26, where it was common in piñon-juniper on Nov. 12 (*BKH*); 1 at Los Alamos, N. Mex., Sept. 29 (*WBL*); 1 at Pipe Spring Nat'l Monument, Oct. 11 (*DLC*); and 1 at Encanto Park, Phoenix, Nov. 5, followed by many later reports (*MLB*).

**Thrashers, Thrushes, Starlings**—Mockingbirds

left Santa Fe early, by Aug. 31 (*PRS*). A Brown Thrasher was identified at Corn Creek Station, Desert Game Range, Nev., Oct. 3 (*CGH*), and 1 was found at Petrified Forest Nat'l Park, Oct. 10 (*JRD*). Four Robins had appeared at El Paso by Sept. 29 (*MBK*). About 28,000 Starlings were roosting in cattails growing in excavations left by gravel removal operations in the Salt River bed at Phoenix in November (*CR*).

**Vireos, Wood Warblers**—A *Red-eyed Vireo* was taken in a mist net at Bitter Lake Refuge, Sept. 19 (*RDJ*), and another was seen at Cedar Crest, Sept. 26 (*BM*). A Black-and-white Warbler was found at Douglas Pond, Tucson, Sept. 15 and 22 (*T. A. S.*). The following were late records of Orange-crowned Warblers: 3 at Pipe Spring Nat'l Monument, Oct. 11 (*DLC*); 1 at Santa Fe, Oct. 12 (*PRS*); 1 in the Rio Grande Valley above El Paso, Nov. 9 (*LVA*) and Nov. 23 (*LVA, MBK*), and 1 at El Paso, Nov. 20 (*MBK*). A Nashville Warbler was seen in the Rio Grande Valley above El Paso, Sept. 7 (*MBK, et al.*). Audubon's Warblers were fairly common at Los Alamos up to Nov. 10 (*WBL*). A Townsend's Warbler lingered unusually late at Los Alamos, until Oct. 26 (*WBL*). A Northern Waterthrush was caught in a bat net in the Rio Yaqui Valley east of Hermosillo, Sonora, Sept. 4 (*DMN*). Late Wilson's Warblers included 3 at Pipe Spring Nat'l Monument, Oct. 11 (*DLC*); 1 in the Rio Grande Valley above El Paso, Oct. 12 (*LVA, et al.*); 1 at Los Alamos, Oct. 18 (*WBL*); and 1 at Petrified Forest Nat'l Park, Oct. 22 (*JRD, HWW*). Am. Redstarts were observed at Cedar Crest, Aug. 6 to 21 and Sept. 4 to 5 (*BM*). A Painted Redstart was seen at Douglas Pond, Tucson, Sept. 15 (*T. A. S.*).

**Icterids, Tanagers**—Boat-tailed Grackles have not been found at Carlsbad during the past 2 years (*RCB*). Unusual Summer Tanager records were a male on July 30 and a pair on Sept. 19 near Santa Clara, Utah (*RWR*); 5 at Rattlesnake Spring, Eddy Co., N. Mex., Aug. 24 (*RCB*); a male at Corn Creek Station, Desert Game Range, Sept. 26 (*CGH*); and 1 at Ft. Bayard, Oct. 7 (*BKH*).

**Finches and Sparrows**—Evening Grosbeaks were abundant this fall at Los Alamos (*WBL*). Large flocks were seen flying south over Espanola, Nov. 19 (*PRS*). Lawrence's Goldfinches were reported only from Nogales and St. David (*WH*). A Le Conte's Sparrow was carefully identified at San Ildefonso Pueblo, Santa Fe Co., N. Mex., Nov. 24 (*WBL, JRT, et al.*). Rufous-winged Sparrows were singing near the bridges below Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mountains, Ariz., Sept. 6 (*FMT*). A Fox Sparrow was found at Los Alamos, Nov. 1 (*WBL*). White-throated Sparrows were reported in November from Los Alamos (*WBL*) and El Paso (*LVA, MBK, et al.*).

**Corrigendum**—The Dunn's Bridge mentioned under Sage Sparrow in the Summer Season Report (*Audubon Field Notes* 17:476) is not in Santa Fe, but north of Taos, N. Mex.

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