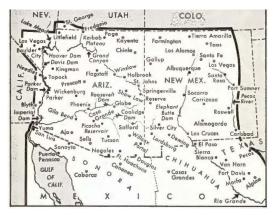
SOUTHWEST REGION.—This was a winter of contrasts. In most cases December and January were mild, with colder weather setting in during Feb-



ruary and March, delaying the arrival of spring. Northern and western areas reported good moisture, but things are still critically dry in southern New Mexico and Texas, and also in southern Nevada. In the northern mountains there were good mountain snow packs, which were slow in melting, to the delight of skiers. These snow packs gave the best prospects of a good run-off to dry reservoirs in southern New Mexico since 1957 with most snow levels at about 150 percent above the 1948 to 1962 average.

Good growth of vegetation in Arizona bodes well for the nesting of quail and other seed-eating birds. Desert areas were lush with bloom. Roosevelt and San Carlos Lakes in southeastern Arizona are close to high water mark; unlike the low lakes in New Mexico as far north as Las Vegas.

Most observers commented on lower wintering populations of birds, with the arrival of migrants normal or a bit delayed. There was a real scarcity of boreal species throughout.

Grebes—At least 7 Horned Grebes were on the Elephant Butte Reservoir, N. Mex. on Feb. 18, with one collected three days later, for the first state specimen (BKH, BH). Also one was at El Paso on Feb. 20 (LVA). Over a hundred Western Grebes were on Roosevelt Lake, Ariz. on Feb. 24 (MLB).

Herons—A Cattle Egret was at El Paso from Jan. 16 until at least March 25 (PI, MBK, LM, et al.).

Waterfowl-There was a decline in goose numbers on the Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, N. Mex. with a population 20 percent below last year's. Snow and Blue Geese were up in numbers (WEG). Two Ross' Geese were on Lake McAlister, Las Vegas, N. Mex. from Jan. 17 (JRT, LGH) until early March (EWS). Ducks were below the five-year average in population on the Bosque Refuge, but the peak of 12,300 was the highest in years (WEG). A Wood Duck was on Sabino Pond near Tucson on Feb. 28 (WB'. Three to five Redbreasted Mergansers were at El Paso from Dec. 4 until Feb. 20 (LVA). One was collected from at least 8 on Elephant Butte Reservoir on Jan. 9 and examined on Feb. 18, for the second state specimen (BKH). A Hooded Merganser spent most of the winter near El Paso (LVA), and 2 were near Nogales, Ariz. on Feb. 13 (BH).

Hawks-A Harlan's Hawk was at Española, N. Mex. on Dec. 27 (PRS), and another was seen near Tucson, Ariz. on Jan. 17 (DSP) and March 17 (WB, RSC, SMR). Wintering Swainson's Hawks were near Continental, Ariz. on Dec. 5 (SMR, RDO), and at Loving, N. Mex. on Jan. 31 (DF, JP. SW). The first one returned near Lordsburg. N. Mex. on March 28 (BKH). A dying Broadwinged Hawk was found near Tucson on Jan. 7. and is now the second state specimen (SMR). There were good numbers of Rough-legged Hawks in Arizona with 2 still near Tucson on March 27 (DSP, SMR, BH). One was recorded at Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, on March 19, for the first Mexican record (WB, JH). A Harris' Hawk was near Roswell, N. Mex. from Dec. 9 until Feb. 27 (VM), and a flight of 8 was near New River, Ariz. on Feb. 3 (MLB).

Quail—Scaled and Gambel's Quail fared well in southern Arizona. Harlequin Quail are apparently in an upsurge of numbers in this area, with 13 in Molino Basin near Tucson on Dec. 23 (BH, FMT), and over 120 counted in one canyon in the Santa Rita Mts. south of Tucson (SHL).

Cranes, Rails—Two Sandhill Cranes appeared in Las Vegas, N. Mex. on Feb. 28 with 22 and 28 seen there subsequently in March (EWS). A Purple Gallinule was found dead at Bitter Lakes Refuge on March 13. This is the fourth record for the Roswell area in recent years (DLB).

Shorebirds—Three Mountain Plover were at Roswell on March 21 (VM) and 3 at Carlsbad, N. Mex. on March 20 (SW), where they were once common but now are seldom seen. About 75 Longbilled Curlews were near El Paso on March 20 (LVA).

Gulls, Terns—At least 4 Herring Gulls were on Elephant Butte Reservoir on Jan. 9, with one collected (BKH). Fifteen or 20 Bonaparte's Gulls were at the same place the same day and 3 were collected (BKH). A Common Tern was at Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, on Jan. 3, for the first state record (WB, JH). Some 25 Caspian Terns were seen over Albuquerque on March 21 (Leonard Oakley, fide BM).

Doves—A Ringed Turtle Dove was seen in Tucson (Weidemans, Mollisons, *fide PMT*).

Owls—There was an "invasion" of Short-eared Owls into southeastern Arizona (DSP) with 50 in one field near Tucson on Feb. 15 (WB) and one at Nogales on Jan. 1 (BH). Burrowing Owls also were much more common than usual there (WB, BH). Eighteen Long-eared Owls were found at one winter roost near Fort Bayard, N. Mex. on Dec. 11; 3 were still present on March 15 (BKH). They were also recorded at Paradise Valley, Ariz. (HRC) on March 31, and near Deming, N. Mex. on Dec. 26 (BKH).

Hummingbirds—There was an unusual number wintering in southern Arizona. An Anna's Hummingbird built a nest in Phoenix in mid-November, 2 young hatched on Jan. 12, and they left the nest on Feb. 8 (*fide MLB*). A Costa's Hummingbird nested east of Scottsdale in early March, raising 2 young (*MLB*); 6 males were displaying near Tucson on Feb. 8 (*RSC*).

Woodpeckers—A Yellow-shafted Flicker was in Tucson, Dec. 9 to 18 (*FMT*); one was at Roswell on Feb. 28 (*ANC*), and another at Dexter, N. Mex. on March 5 (*VM*). A Williamson's Sapsucker was at Roswell, March 17-21 (*ANC*, *VM*), and another was in the Patagonia Mts., Ariz. on Jan. 2 (*BH*).

Flycatchers—A late Cassin's Kingbird was at Nogales on Dec. 9 (BH). An Eastern Phoebe was seen at Patagonia, Ariz. on Dec. 16 (BH) and again on Jan. 2 (FMT, DLC). One was at Beaver Dam Wash, Utah on March 25, and another was collected at Springdale, Utah the next day (RHW). Still another was recorded near Loving, N. Mex. on March 28 (SW).

Corvids—The Magpie-jay that had come to Douglas, Ariz. was found killed by some boys with a BB gun. (See *Audubon Magazine* 67(2):101; (3):135) There was no invasion of jays to the lowlands this winter.

Titmice, Nuthatches-No invasion to the low-lands.

Thrushes—Robins, Mountain and Western Bluebirds, and solitaires were scarce in the lowlands. A *Rufous-backed Robin (Turdus rufo-palliatus)* came to Tucson on Jan. 2 and stayed the rest of the winter. This is the second state record (*FMT*).

Waxwings, Starlings—Also rare in the lowlands, were Cedar Waxwings. About 14,000 Starlings roosted near Overton, Nev. in December and January (WCR). The Starling roost at Mesa, Ariz. reached 1500 to 1900 birds, and there were 4000 near St. George, Utah (WCR).

Warblers—There were a number of reports of wintering species in southern Arizona. A Palm Warbler returned to Nogales for the winter (BH). A Hermit Warbler spent the winter in Sabino Canyon in the Santa Catalina Mts., Ariz. (DSP). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was near Mesa on Jan. 9 (WCR); A Townsend's Warbler was seen from Dec. 12 until Feb. 6 in Sabino Canyon (WB,SMR); and 2 MacGillivray's Warblers were in the Catalina Mts. on Dec. 23 (BL). A Prairie Warbler was in Tucson on Jan. 14 (FMT) and on Jan. 31 (fide SMR). A Black-and-white Warbler was seen at Sabino Canyon near Tucson on Dec. 23 (HC) and on March 26 (WB, SMR). Icterids, Tanagers—A Scott's Oriole wintered in El Paso after Jan. 25 (LVA), and 3 stayed at Nogales (BH). A male Bronzed Cowbird was at Globe on March 21 (LLH). Up to 50 wintered at a feedlot near Phoenix, at least until Jan. 13 (4 collected, WCR). An Hepatic Tanager was at Patagonia on Jan. 2 (FMT), and another was at Phoenix from Jan. 5 through March 2 (SRD, M.A.S.).

Finches—Most boreal species remained higher in the mountains. Evening Grosbeaks, especially, were very scarce in the lowlands. A male Painted Bunting was seen near Tucson on Jan. 16 and collected on Jan. 27 (SMR). A pair of Pine Grosbeaks was seen in the Sandia Mts. near Albuquerque on March 24 (John Tatschl), and 4 were near Lower Rociada, San Miguel Co., N. Mex. on March 28 (WH). They were unusually common at the Santa Fe Ski Basin (WBL). Rosy finches were seen in early December, on Jan. 3, and in mid-February in the Sandia Mts. (BM, et al.).

Sparrows-Lark Buntings were especially numerous in southern Arizona (FMT, SMR, MLB) with up to 5000 near Mesa (WCR). Baird's, Brewer's, and White-crowned Sparrows, and Chestnut-collared Longspurs were especially numerous in southern Arizona (SMR, BJ). A Rufous-winged Sparrow was seen at Nogales for the first time on Dec. 30 (BH). Two Field Sparrows were seen near Málaga, N. Mex. on Jan. 30, and 2 near Carlsbad on March 6 (DF, SW). Some Clay-colored Sparrows were at Nogales in late December (BH). A Harris' Sparrow was at El Paso on March 13 (LVA); and one wintered at Beaver Dam Wash, Utah from Jan. 22 until March 6 (DLC, RHW). One also appeared at Nogales on Dec. 30 (BH). Three Golden-crowned Sparrows were found at Puerto Peñasco, Sonora on Jan. 3 (SMR); and one was at Tucson on Feb. 6 to 8 (WB). A Fox Sparrow was at Cedar Crest, N. Mex. from Feb. 13 for two weeks (BM), one in the Pinal Mts. near Globe on Dec. 5 (BJ), and one in Beaver Dam Wash, Utah on March 25 (RHW). One Swamp Sparrow was in Sabino Canyon near Tucson on Dec. 23, and at least 3 on Dec. 3 (WB).

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