

**SOUTHWEST REGION.**—It was a strange fall as expressed by some observers. Migration was disappointing with most species below normal and late.



Even though migration waves in the Region are normally hard to detect with birds dribbling through, this was more evident than usual this fall. There were few concentrations of birds in flocks, perhaps because of good food supplies and mild open weather. Only at Carlsbad, N. Mex. was the flight considered excellent (SW). Fewer winter visitors have arrived and there were only scattered reports of montane species to the lowlands.

Rainfall in northern New Mexico was considered good with from one to seven inches over average totals. In the southern areas the rainfall was considered "pitiful" (LVA) with the driest year in three in southeastern Arizona (BH); Tucson had three inches below average (SMR).

After a cool summer which lasted into mid-September, the weather turned unusually mild and remained so until after Thanksgiving when the first killing frost occurred as far south as Nogales, Ariz.

In northern New Mexico there were very good crops of piñones, pine cones, and juniper berries. Weeds were lush and plentiful. Nogales had an outstanding Emory Oak crop. Ponds and streams were high in the north and open till Nov. 30.

Nogales has had a record-breaking invasion of grasshoppers; there is no sign as yet that spraying of insecticides has affected birdlife. Florence M. Thornburg and others are fighting to save the unique Patagonia woods near Nogales, which is threatened by a housing development. This area possesses many exotic Mexican species found nowhere else.

There were a few waves evident. A cold front arrived on Aug. 17 with rain through the 20th. This brought a few species to the lowlands in Utah (RHW); and a peak flight of warblers to Corn Creek on the Desert Game Range near Las Vegas, Nev. (CGH). Minor fronts went through on Sept. 1 and 6. On Sept. 7 Typhoon Emily was said to be in the Gulf of California. This may have caused heavy rain in Santa Fe that evening; this possibly stopped migrants, causing peak dates at both Santa Fe and in Nevada (CGH) on Sept. 7 and 8.

The next peak period was Sept. 17-21. A front

passed on Sept. 17, bringing rain to valleys, and snow to the Rockies and northern Arizona. Snow fell at elevations as low as 9500 feet in Santa Fe, with a second front immediately on the 20th. This apparently removed flycatchers from the Overton, Nev. area (GK); a small flurry of warblers was reported at Roswell, N. Mex. on Sept. 17-19 (VM); and migrants were in the Phoenix, Ariz. area, Sept. 16 to 21 (MLB). Most summer residents were gone from Washington County, Utah by Sept. 15 (RHW).

Another storm occurred, Oct. 15-18; with a sudden local storm dumping ten inches of wet snow on Santa Fe, breaking many tree limbs. A minor cold front passed on Nov. 16. Rain fell, Nov. 22 to 26, with snow in the mountains. A killing frost followed the 27th and 28th with record Lows into the end of the month, finally freezing ponds.

**Loons to Cormorants**—Two Common Loons were on Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, near Roswell, on Oct. 18 to 20 (VM, ANC). Between 300 to 400 Eared Grebes were near Tucson on Nov. 26 (WB, RDO). Three Horned Grebes were at "Kinsley's" Pond halfway to Nogales on Nov. 23 (FMT) and 3 (the same?) were near Nogales on Nov. 26 (BH). A White Pelican was on Navajo Lake near Aztec, N. Mex. on Oct. 12 (AN). A flock of 60 Double-crested Cormorants was seen near Amado, Ariz. on Sept. 6 (SRD).

**Hérons**—A Green Heron was found near Farmington, N. Mex. on Sept. 23 (AN). Another Yellow-crowned Night Heron was collected near Gila, N. Mex. on Oct. 20 (BKH). An immature *White Ibis* was seen on Bitter Lake Refuge on Nov. 6. Photographs of the bird are to be sent to N.M.O.S. files (VM). This should be the first record for New Mexico.

**Waterfowl**—At the Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge near Socorro, N. Mex. the migration of geese was about equal to last year's before Nov. 22. Then the population jumped from 3040 to 4750 as compared with 3335 to 5589 in 1964. Included were 1400 Snow and Blue Geese. Thirteen Ross' Geese appeared for the third year and there were 2 White-fronted Geese reported. Ducks peaked at 8300 from Oct. 22 to Nov. 5. This was about average, but since then numbers have been below normal (LAO). Otherwise, the migration was considered slow. A pair of Wood Ducks was seen on the Bosque Refuge on Oct. 15 (LAO). A Red-breasted Merganser was near Hurley, N. Mex. on Oct. 27 (BKH).

**Hawks**—Hawks were considered low at Roswell because of a decrease in rodents, especially rabbits (VM). Hawk populations also were low near Tucson (SMR, DSP); but normal in Nogales (BH), and good in the Rio Grande Valley. Black Vultures seem to be extending their range near Nogales and north, and have become regular there in late summer (BH, DSP). The Mississippi Kites remained at Roswell till Sept. 3. As many as 11 were seen at once. Swainson's Hawks were down in numbers in the Roswell area (VM). Two Harris' Hawks were seen near Chandler, Ariz. on Nov. 12 (WGR). Three Black Hawks were seen near Phoenix on Sept. 1

(*WP, fide MLB*). Golden Eagles are alarmingly low in numbers, but Red-tailed and Ferruginous Hawks seem to have increased (*DSP, et al.*). Three Bald Eagles were seen over Big Lake near Eager, Ariz. on Nov. 21 (*DSP*); Pigeon Hawks were seen at Santa Fe on Nov. 25 and at Grand Canyon Nat'l Park on Nov. 15 (*GK*). An Osprey was seen carrying a *rabbit* at Loving, N. Mex. on Oct. 9 (*SB, SW*)! Another was seen over the Sandia Mountains near Albuquerque, N. Mex. on Sept. 26 (*JLT*); and a third at Cliff, N. Mex. on Oct. 20 (*BKH*). The Caracara also seems to be extending to the north: one was at Tucson on Nov. 27 (*WB, RDO*); and 6 were near Redrock, Ariz. the same day (*DSP*).

**Quail**—Broods were large and numerous at Phoenix after last spring's abundant vegetation (*MLB*). Twelve Harlequin Quail were seen in the Davis Mountains, Texas, at 7600 feet in Elbow Canyon on Nov. 27 (*RB, DTB*).

**Shorebirds**—Mountain Plover were in numerous small flocks near Tucson after being absent last year. This is probably because of the return of short grass areas due to the drought (*DSP*). Four Semipalmated Plovers were near Tucson on Sept. 6 (*WB*); one at St. George, Utah, on Aug. 24 (*RHW*); and 2 near Alamogordo, N. Mex. on Nov. 1 (*JRD*). Am. Golden Plover were seen on Bitter Lake Refuge on Oct. 1 (*VM, ANC*); 3 were at Overton, Nev. on Oct. 20 (1 collected—*RHW*). They were also seen with Black-bellied Plovers near Farmington from Sept. 23 till Oct. 16 (*AN*). A Ruddy Turnstone was seen at Lake Avalon near Carlsbad on Oct. 18 (*ORL*). Roland Wauer collected a Knot at St. George on Sept. 12. A Bonaparte's Gull was collected near Tucson on Nov. 26 (*RDO, WB*).

**Owls to Kingfishers**—A Long-eared Owl was in the Davis Mountains, Texas on Nov. 27 (*RB, DTB*). A Flammulated Owl was seen at 6000 feet in the Pinal Mountains near Globe, Ariz. on Nov. 22 (*BJ, SC*). Late dates were as follows: Lesser Nighthawk, Nov. 8, on the Saguaro Nat'l Monument near Tucson (*BL*); Common Nighthawk at Santa Fe until Oct. 7; and Poorwill, one near Tucson on Oct. 27 (*MP*); one on Nov. 8 on the Saguaro Monument (*BL*). Another was found injured in Paradise Valley, Ariz. and later died on Oct. 26 (*JB, fide MLB*). A nest with two nearly fledged young of the Rivoli's Hummingbird was found in the Pinal Mountains on Aug. 16 (*GN*). A possible very early migrant was a male Rufous Hummingbird banded in the Animas Mountains, Hidalgo Co., N. Mex. on July 3 (*BM*). A phenomenal number have visited feeders in the Phoenix area with about 100 seen on Sept. 21 (*MLB*). Conversely, they were unusually scarce about Santa Fe and at Globe (*BJ*). Anna's Hummingbirds appeared in Tucson on Oct. 13 (*FMT*). Two Black Swifts were seen over Globe on Sept. 28 (*LLH*). A Green Kingfisher was seen near Nogales on Nov. 26 (*BH*).

**Woodpeckers to Titmice**—A Northern Three-toed Woodpecker was seen on Sandia Crest near Albuquerque on Aug. 31 (*JLT*). An immature Red-headed Woodpecker was in the Sangre de Cristo

Mountains near Santa Fe on Oct. 2 (*WBL*). Two Yellow-shafted Flickers were at Overton, Nev. on Oct. 26 (*RHW*). Flycatcher numbers were deemed low by several observers. A Western Wood Pewee was feeding young on the nest near Sunflower, Ariz. on Aug. 17 (*MLB*). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher roosted with kingbirds near Tucson from September until Oct. 10 (*SMR*) and was seen again on Nov. 2 (*BL, AS*). Cave Swallows were reported from a new locality in southeastern New Mexico—near Malaga on Sept. 19. There are caves nearby (*JP, SW*). There are good numbers of Piñon Jays in the northern highlands. A Blue Jay was seen at Cedar Crest, N. Mex. on Oct. 7 (*BM*), and another on the Bosque Refuge on Nov. 7 (*LAO*). Black-eared Bushtit phases (with white eyes) were seen in the Davis Mountains of Texas on Nov. 27 by *DTB* and *RB*. Surprisingly, one was collected and another seen in the Sandia Mountains near Albuquerque in July and in mid-Sept. (*JLT, BM*). There were a few scattered reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches, but no invasion as yet.

**Wrens to Starling**—At Roswell a Brown Thrasher was found on Nov. 28 and a Catbird on Oct. 3 (*VM*). A Winter Wren was seen in the Sandia Mountains on Oct. 28 (*JLT*); and another at Fort Bayard, N. Mex. the same day (*BKH*). A *Varied Thrush* was seen at Patagonia on Oct. 27 (*DJ*); Nov. 20 (*MP, WAM*), and later (*fide FMT, SMR*). Hermit Thrush numbers still seem low. Robins, Mountain and Western Bluebirds, and Townsend's Solitaires seem to be staying in the highlands. Four or five flocks of Ruby-crowned Kinglets were seen in the Pinal Mountains on Nov. 22 (*SC, BJ*). There were few reports of Cedar Waxwings. Starlings have increased all through the southern Rio Grande Valley, as far south as El Paso, Tex. (*LVA*).

**Warblers**—A Black-throated Blue Warbler was collected near Mammoth, Ariz. on Oct. 23 (*PH*). A Black-and-white Warbler was seen at Loving on Sept. 15 (*SW*). Also reported was a Nashville Warbler at Roswell on Sept. 25 (*VM*); a Palm Warbler at Loving on Oct. 1 (*SW*); and a large concentration of about 100 Hermit Warblers in the Graham Mountains near Safford, Ariz. on Aug. 16 (*WP, fide MLB*). A Northern Waterthrush was at Phoenix on Aug. 18. (*SRD*).

**Icterids, Tanagers**—A Bobolink was seen near Tucson on Aug. 20 (*WB*). Scott's Oriole was again seen in the Sandia Mountains on Sept. 4 (*JLT*). A Summer Tanager was at Loving on Sept. 7 (*JP, SW*).

**Finches**—There were few reports of montane finches to the lowlands. Late breeding records were of Cardinals in Phoenix on Sept. 29 (*MLB*); and of Blue Grosbeaks in the Sandia Mountains on Sept. 9 (*JLT*). Two male Indigo Buntings were again at Nogales on June 15 (*BH*); they were seen three times in August at Fort Bayard (*BKH*); and were at Loving on Sept. 19 (*JP, SW*). A Painted Bunting was in Nogales on Sept. 21 (*KN*). Lark Bunting numbers are reduced in Arizona (*DSP, SMR*), were missed for the first time at Santa Fe, but were in good numbers in southeastern New

Mexico in late August. Possibly numbers shifted eastward owing to dryness in the west.

**Sparrows**—A nest with three young Rufous-crowned Sparrows was found near Albuquerque on the late date of Sept. 6 (*JLT*). A Slate-colored Junco was at Mesa, Ariz. on Oct. 27 (*WCR*). Dennis L. Carter found a Golden-crowned Sparrow at Grand Canyon Village, Ariz. on Oct. 12 (with *RLC*). Single Fox Sparrows were seen at Globe on Nov. 22 (*BJ*) and at Fort Bayard on Oct. 14 (*BKH*). A Field Sparrow was seen at Carlsbad Nat'l Park on Nov. 27 (*RM, SW*). White-throated Sparrows were reported at Skull Valley, Ariz., near Prescott, on Sept. 21 (*RLP*); at Globe on Nov. 29 (*BJ*) and at Nogales on Oct. 31 (*BH*).

**Contributors**—LuVenia Arnold, Mrs. Joseph Birchett, Mary L. Bonnewell, Roy Brooks, David T. Brown, Walter Bulmer, Sam Burkham, A. N. Carter, Dennis L. Carter, Sara Cook, Richard L. Cunningham, Salome R. Demaree, John R. Douglass, Charles G. Hansen, Bruce K. Harris, Bill Harrison, Lyndon L. Hargrave, Peter Hubbell, Betty Jackson, Mrs. David Jones, Gleb Kashin, Orrin R. Letsons, W. Burton Lewis, Barbara Lund, Barbara McKnight, Richard Melvin, William A. Meteers, Vester Montgomery, Alan Nelson, Gordon Nicholson, Katy Noble, Leslie A. Olver, Robert D. Ohmart, William Patey, Martin Paulsens, Robert L. Pearson, John Phillips, Don S. Prentice, W. Cal Royall, Stephen M. Russell, Elmer Schooley, Anne Steenburgh, John L. Tatschl, Florence M. Thornburg, Roland H. Wauer, Steven West.—PATRICIA R. SNIDER, P. O. Box 2411, Santa Fe, N. Mex. 87501.