

SOUTHWEST REGION.—The fall started rather cool and moist, at least in the northern areas, although Phoenix, Ariz. had a terrifically hot summer



until Sept. 10. In southeastern New Mexico in late August, particularly in the Carlsbad area, there were rains up to eight inches with damaging floods.

After early September it became a superb autumn with unusually mild weather, though it was very dry. No tremendous storms moved through the area and frosts were late. At the end of the period there were still flowers in protected places in northern areas.

The summer and early fall rains produced a heavy weed crop, giving a good supply of seeds. Food supplies are termed adequate to excellent; acorns are good, as are conifer cones in southern Arizona (BH). It was a good year for fruit in northern New Mexico, with abundant apples (BM). Many have been left on the trees.

The migration began early and was rather skimpy.

Migrants apparently drifted through and were well scattered, with no conspicuous concentrations because of the open weather. Many species lingered well beyond normal departure dates; others left earlier than usual.

A "semi-wave" was observed at Big Bend Nat'l Park, Tex. on Sept. 24 (RHW). The biggest date at Cedar Crest, N. Mex. was quite late—Oct. 29 (BM).

This is another of those winters, it appears, when high-altitude, boreal species are present in numbers at relatively low elevations (DAZ). Of great interest is the unprecedented invasion into desert areas of Red Crossbills.

Two projects are under way by the Federal Bureau of Land Management in Hidalgo County, New Mexico. One is the blasting of four potholes at the San Simón Ciénega, each consisting of an acre, with ammonium nitrate fertilizer used. A well has been drilled and a pump and pipeline installed to these potholes in order to maintain water levels. A research project is now under way on the use of these potholes by Mexican Ducks. Owing to their high value as a wildlife and recreational area, lands owned by the Bureau in Guadalupe Canyon, in the same county, are being put in protective withdrawal. They were to have been gotten rid of as required by the Land Classification Act (LAO).

A great loss was the unexpected death in August of Mary Bonnewell of Phoenix. Other losses in the Region were due to transfers: Cal Royall to Denver; Richard Russell to Virginia; and Bruce Harris to North Dakota. Roland Wauer was transferred from Bryce Canyon Nat'l Park, Utah to Big Bend Park.

Loons, Grebes, Pelicans—A Com. Loon appeared near Farmington, N. Mex. on Nov. 26 and 27 (APN). Records of Western Grebes are still increasing: they were seen at Las Vegas, N. Mex. on Oct. 30 (DM) and Nov. 15 (ES); at the La Joya State Game Refuge, near Bernardo, N. Mex. on Oct. 22 (WCT); and at Tucson, Ariz. on Nov. 13 and 14 (AMW, HC, GG). A Brown Pelican was in Phoenix, Sept. 1 to 3 (BH, UEM). Another was on Lake Havasu Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Ariz.—Calif. on Oct. 9 (BDG). White Pelicans were found near Tucson, Sept. 26 (FRT) and Oct. 15 (BW).

Hérons—A Louisiana Heron was at Big Bend Park on Aug. 26 (RHW). There were fewer Snowy and Com. Egrets in the Roswell, N. Mex. area this fall (VM).

Geese—The first Canada Geese arrived at Lake Havasu on Oct. 9 (BDG). At the Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, near Socorro, N. Mex., 25 were seen, Oct. 23 (WCT) with a peak population there of 1805 on Dec. 2. On Sept. 29 2 Blue and 33 Snow Geese arrived and built up to 1882 Snows and 26 Blues by Dec. 2. A *Black Brant* was present from Oct. 31 to Nov. 25 (EVK). The first 6 Snow Geese arrived at Lake Havasu on Oct. 9 (BDG) and 35 flew over White Sands Nat'l Mon., N. Mex. on Oct. 5 (JRD). A White-fronted Goose was at the Picacho Reservoir near Coolidge, Ariz. on Oct. 26 (UEM).

Ducks—There was an exceptionally good flight of ducks at Farmington on Oct. 18 (APN) and at Española, N. Mex. on Nov. 1 (PRS, MAC). Populations at Bosque Refuge fluctuated weekly with 5000 present on Dec. 7 (EVK). There were at least 4 broods with 43 young produced of Black-bellied Tree Ducks near Nogales, Ariz. (BH). Wood Ducks were found at Lake Havasu on Oct. 9 (BDG), Nogales on Nov. 12 and in October (PA, BH), and on the Bosque Refuge, Nov. 22 (DD). Unusually high counts of Buffleheads were recorded with 900 at Farmington on Oct. 18 (APN) and 300 in Las Vegas in November (ES). Seen at Roswell on Nov. 10 were 3 Hooded Mergansers (ANC).

Hawks—Tucson had an excellent migration (DSP) and arrival dates at Roswell were average (VM). There was a Zone-tailed Hawk at Big Bend Park on Sept. 10 (RHW). A Swallow-tailed Kite was seen daily at Fort Davis, Tex., from Aug. 23 until Sept. 4 (LDM, et al., fide FW). Golden Eagle numbers continue low. The only record of a Bald Eagle was near Phoenix on Nov. 12 (UEM).

Quail, Cranes, Turnstone—Quail numbers were reported good at Farmington (APN) and abundant near Magdalena, N. Mex. (JAB). Sandhill Cranes first arrived at the Bosque Refuge on Sept. 24 and rose to 4741 by Dec. 7 (EVK); and they came to Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Sept. 30, building up to 19,000, then dropping to 5000 soon after the hunting season opened (WR). A Ruddy Turnstone was seen at Phoenix, Sept. 24-25 (RPN, RW, fide UEM).

Gulls, Cuckoos—A Bonaparte's Gull was found at the La Joya Refuge on Oct. 23 (WCT); with 3 in Bitter Lake Refuge on Nov. 10 (VM, JHS); and one at Tucson on Nov. 11 (DSP). A Groove-billed Ani was photographed in Albuquerque on Dec. 3 (AM, BM, JSF, et al.). A Black-billed Cuckoo was sighted at Peña Blanca Lake near Nogales on Oct. 11—a hypothetical first record for the state (RS, fide SMR).

Owls, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers—A Flamulated Owl was seen at Big Bend Park on Sept. 24 (RHW). Another was captured and photographed near Sacramento Peak, Otero Co., N. Mex. on Oct. 25 (PT, JRD). On the same day a Saw-whet Owl was trapped in a Los Alamos, N. Mex. garage (MAC). Reports of Rufous Hummingbirds were increased in southeastern New Mexico and Texas (RHW, CRB, SW, VM). On Oct. 23 a feeder in Ramsey Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Ariz. still fed Rivoli's Blue-throated, and Violet-crowned Hummingbirds which had been there all fall. With them was a male White-eared Hummingbird, 2 mid-August arrival (BH, EMT, et al.). The first Anna's Hummingbird arrived in Tucson, Sept. 19 (FRT). There was a good flight of Red-shafted Flickers to the lowlands. Also a small migration of Hairy Woodpeckers was noted at Silver City, N. Mex. from Oct. 1 to Nov. 20 (DAZ). One in Phoenix on Nov. 20 was the first valley record there (SRD).

Corvids, Titmice, Nuthatches, Creepers—There were scattered lowland records of the corvids. A

Scrub Jay was at Lake Havasu on Oct. 9 (BDG); two Com. Ravens were near Yuma, Ariz., Sept. 4 (BH); also 10 Clark's Nutcrackers in the Chiricahua Mts., Ariz., Oct. 28 (SMR) and 3 reported at Big Bend Park, Oct. 30 (fide RHW). There was a good flight of Mountain Chickadees, all three nuthatches, and Brown Creepers to desert lowlands. They all "invaded" Phoenix on Nov. 26 (UEM). At Superior, Ariz. on Nov. 7 chickadees were seen with a Red-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches (SMR). It was the first time chickadees had come to Silver City in a decade (DAZ). In the Sandia Mts. near Albuquerque on Sept. 27 in 45 minutes 18 Red-breasted Nuthatches were banded (BM). A Pygmy Nuthatch was seen at the Babocomari Ranch near Nogales on Oct. 23 (BH). A Brown Creeper was at Big Bend Park on Nov. 24 (RHW) and one was at White Sands on Nov. 20 (JRD).

Wrens, Thrushes—A Winter Wren was in Araucaria Canyon, 50 miles southeast of Phoenix, on Nov. 16 (RPN). Robins, Townsend's Solitaires, and Western and Mountain Bluebirds were staying commonly in the foothills and highlands. Records of the Mexican Rufous-backed Robin continue to increase. This fall one was seen at Big Bend Park from Oct. 23 to Nov. 4 (RHW) and another has been near Phoenix since Nov. 14. An excellent color slide came with the Arizona record (ELR, RPN, UEM, et al.). A Wood Thrush was collected in Cave Creek Canyon on Oct. 28 for the first Arizona record (SMR, et al.).

Kinglets, Waxwings, Vireos—There were scattered records of Golden-crowned Kinglets in southern areas. The Cedar Waxwing also had a flight to the lowlands. There were flocks in Farmington after Nov. 13 (APN), in the Magdalena area (JAB), at Big Bend Park on Nov. 14 (RHW), and thousands arrived in Phoenix on Nov. 28 (UEM). There was a sight record of a White-eyed Vireo near Tucson on Nov. 13 (EW, fide SMR).

Warblers—A male Kentucky Warbler spent a day in a Tucson yard on Sept. 18, arriving after a week of storms and winds from the east (FRT). There were late records of almost every species of warbler into November. An Olive Warbler female was seen at Big Ben Park on Aug. 19 (CRB) and a male Cape May Warbler came to Silver City on Nov. 20 (DAZ).

Orioles, Tanagers, Finches—Late records also were of a Hooded Oriole on Nov. 17 to 26, a Western Tanager on Nov. 2, and 3 Hepatic Tanagers after Nov. 26; all from the Phoenix area (UEM, FH, M.A.S.). An Indigo Bunting was found at Corn Creek, Desert Game Range, Nev. (CGH). Numbers of Evening Grosbeaks and Cassin's Finches have been good in the highlands. There were scattered New Mexico records of Pine Grosbeaks: 4 at Corrales near Albuquerque on Nov. 6 (JSF); 1 in the Pecos Wilderness Area near Cowles, (JLT); 1 at Peñasco, Oct. 30 to Nov. 1 (AS), and a large flock in Chama, after Nov. 1 (EW).

Crossbills—The big news was the flight of Red Crossbills to southern areas. This flight apparently began as early as July 17 near Ruidoso, N. Mex.

(*Reid*). The invasion seems to be great and widespread from the low piñon areas to the high country (*DSP*). There was a large flock in the Sandia Mts. from mid-September to mid-November (*TS*, *JSF*, *BM*, *JD*); they arrived in Silver City, Nov. 20 (*DAZ*); several were in Big Bend Park, Oct. 30 and Nov. 6 (*RHW*); and with many in Phoenix after Nov. 26 (*UEM*). They seem to be in all the southern mountains—seen in the Animas Mts., N. Mex. on Nov. 21 (*DN*); Santa Ritas, Santa Catalinas, and Graham Mts., Ariz. after Oct. 30 (*SMR*); in the Pinal Mts. near Globe, Ariz. on Oct. 31 (*FMT*); and with flocks of hundreds in the Chiricahua Mts. on Oct. 28 (*SMR*, *DAZ*). They were even seen in Tucson after Aug. 2 (*FMT*, *SMR*) and in Nogales after late November (*BH*).

Sparrows—There has been a high population of sparrows in southern Arizona due to the good supply of seeds (*DSP*, *BH*, *SMR*). Lark Buntings arrived late in Tucson, but were fairly plentiful after Nov. 15 (*DSP*). An Olive Sparrow appeared in Big Bend Park on Nov. 20 (*RHW*). The Golden-crowned Sparrow returned to the Tucson yard where it spent last winter (*AMW*, *FMT*). A Slate-colored Junco came to Phoenix, Nov. 23 (*RPM*, *BD*), and 2 were in Big Bend Park, Nov. 24 (*RHW*).

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