

SOUTHWEST REGION.—As the Albuquerque, N. Mex. weather bureau office declared, "the peculiar, astonishing weather of the first part of the



year finally stabilized to a normal pattern by fall." Early autumn was still wet, but thereafter it was warm and dry until the last week of November. Frost came early in the highlands, by mid-October.

The tail end of Tropical Storm Katrina brought strong winds and rain from the Gulf of California to desert areas, Sept. 1-3: $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches of rain (nearly the whole year's total) fell at Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument, Ajo, Ariz. (RLC), and showers came to Phoenix (UEM) and Tucson (DSP). With Katrina came terns and probably some shorebirds, and the passage of migrants was blocked; the period through Sept. 5 produced good flights east into New Mexico.

During the period of Sept. 21 to 23, Hurricane Beulah left the South Texas coast, sending strays ahead of it into the eastern part of the Region; then swept through northern Mexico, missing western Texas; and finally turned north into Arizona, headed toward Colorado. Once again the passage of migrants through the Region was blocked, producing good birding from the 18th through the 25th of September.

Aside from the special circumstances created by Katrina and Beulah, migration was generally early and sporadic, with some curious gaps and many species passing through. The summer's rains assured a good food supply, except for the fruit and nut crops damaged by late spring frosts.

In Nogales, Ariz., as in most of the West, habitat changes are occurring with lightning speed: freeways and locked gates are springing up all over (BH).

Frigatebird, Herons—A *Magnificent Frigatebird* was found dead near Silver City, N. Mex. on Oct. 1 (DAZ). At Big Bend Nat'l Park, Tex. a Louisiana Heron first seen on Aug. 19 stayed for two weeks; two Yellow-crowned Night Herons, one of which was collected, were seen on Sept. 9 and 13; and a severe windstorm on Oct. 27 brought to the park its first *Cattle Egrets* (RHW).

Swans, Geese, Ducks—Two Whistling Swans were present at Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife

Refuge, Socorro, N. Mex., Nov. 9-13 (EVK, BM, PRS). This refuge also had 900 Canada Geese, 3300 Snow Geese, 32 Blue Geese and 60 Ross' Geese, as well as an estimated 7000 ducks, by Nov. 30 (EVK); the increase in the duck population here was ascribed to more open water. Numbers of waterfowl were thought to be normal to good in most areas of the Region. A storm brought a good flight to the Farmington, N. Mex. area on Nov. 4 (APN). Wood Ducks were seen at Big Bend Park on Oct. 28 and Nov. 10 (RHW); near Dexter, N. Mex. on Nov. 23 (VM); and at Las Vegas, N. Mex. on Nov. 22 (ES). A *White-winged Scoter* was photographed at Bosque del Apache Refuge on Oct. 20.

Hawks—On Sept. 30 at Antelope Flat near San Carlos, Ariz., a mixed flight of several thousand birds was observed; the majority were Sharp-shinned Hawks, with many smaller birds also present (CAT, *fide* BJ). Numbers of both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were down at the Desert Game Range near Las Vegas, Nev. (CGH). Noteworthy were a Broad-winged Hawk at Big Bend Park, Sept. 4 (RHW); a lingering Gray Hawk near Nogales, Ariz., Nov. 25-26 (BH, FT); and a Pigeon Hawk near Tucson, Nov. 18 (*fide* SMR).

Quails, Turkey—It was an excellent year for quail in New Mexico (BM) and Nevada (CGH), but numbers of Scaled, Gambel's and Harlequin combined were down in Arizona by 40 percent owing to a poor hatch except in irrigated areas (FT, BH, DSP). Numbers of Gambel's Quail also are declining in the Yuma Valley of Arizona, probably because of chemical spraying (DSP). Still improving in numbers are Harlequin Quail (DAZ, RAF, BH DSP). A low Turkey kill in Arizona was reported (FT).

Sandhill Crane, Shorebirds—Sandhill Cranes arrived on Sept. 24 at Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Roswell, N. Mex., with a peak of 28,000 on Nov. 4 (VM); on Sept. 27 at Bosque del Apache Refuge, with 4100 there by Nov. 30 (EVK); and on Oct. 2 at a new State Refuge near Bernardo, N. Mex. (JLS, BM). Most observers reported a good shorebird flight, even in desert areas where shorebirds seldom appear. Many rarities were seen, including a *Knot* near Phoenix on Aug. 20 (RPN). Marsh birds and shorebirds stayed longer than usual at Bosque del Apache Refuge (EVK), and this apparently was the case elsewhere in the Region as well.

Terns—After Tropical Storm Katrina passed over Organ Pipe Monument, 2 Com. Terns, an adult Least Tern, and a Black Tern were seen during Sept. 3-6; both Com. Terns were collected (RLC).

Pigeons, Anis—Band-tailed Pigeon numbers were up around Silver City, N. Mex. (RAF, DAZ) and near Phoenix (UEM). Single *Groove-billed Anis* were found near St. John's, Ariz., Oct. 24 (*fide* SMR), and Phoenix, Aug. 20 (RPN).

Owls, Hummingbirds, Trogon—There were more reports of owls than usual. A Ferruginous Owl was found at Organ Pipe Monument, Oct. 20

(RLC). The hummingbird flight was good, with more reports of the Calliope Hummingbird (RAR, BM, BJ, RAF, ENW) than usual. At Big Bend Park, the last Lucifer Hummingbird was seen on Nov. 10 and an Anna's Hummingbird was collected on Nov. 5 (RHW). A Rivoli's Hummingbird was observed in Silver City on Oct. 18 (DAZ). The last Coppery-tailed Trogon left Cave Creek Canyon near Portal, Ariz., Aug. 23 (JPG, *fide* RAF).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers—Acorn Woodpeckers were moving into new areas (VM, FT, UEM), and Lewis' Woodpeckers seemed to be spreading into southern lowlands (RAF, DAZ, RHW, UEM, BAL). The flycatcher migration was good. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was collected at Big Bend Park, Sept. 3 (RHW), and a Gray Flycatcher was banded at Cedar Crest, N. Mex., Sept. 6 (BM).

Corvids, Chickadees, Nuthatches—Gray Jays and Clark's Nutcrackers were observed moving lower in the mountains above Santa Fe, N. Mex. (PRS). Two Blue Jays were seen at Bitter Lake Refuge on Oct. 9 (VM). There were only scattered reports of Steller's, Scrub and Piñon Jays and Mountain Chickadees in the lowlands. Two Black-billed Magpies were observed on Nov. 3 at Four Corners, Ariz.-N. Mex., where the species is seldom reported (RPN). An increase in numbers of Com. Ravens at Grand Canyon Nat'l Park was reported (*fide* BAL). White-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches were reported in good numbers in the highlands.

Mimids, Thrushes, Kinglets—A Catbird was seen near Roswell, N. Mex., Oct. 21 (VM). Brown Thrashers were reported at Las Vegas, N. Mex. on Nov. 19 (WVH) and at El Morro Nat'l Monument, Valencia Co., N. Mex. on Aug. 18 (BJ), and 2 were banded together near Tucson on Oct. 21 (SMR). Robins, Western and Mountain Bluebirds and Townsend's Solitaires mostly stayed in the highlands. A Wood Thrush was observed at Tucson on Oct. 21 (SMR). Golden-crowned Kinglets were seen at Las Vegas, N. Mex. (ES), Roswell (VM), and Big Bend Park (RHW). Ruby-crowned Kinglets were reported in very good numbers, especially in the eastern half of the Region (BM, PRS, ENW, VM, RAR, WVH, BJ, APN, ES).

Waxwings, Phainopepla, Starling, Vireo—Only scattered reports of Cedar Waxwings were received (BM, VM, PRS, BJ, FT). Phainopeplas were reported as increasing in number near Phoenix (UEM). Starlings were seen four times in September and October at Organ Pipe Monument (RLC) and were observed usurping saguaro cacti for nesting near Tucson (FT). A Red-eyed Vireo was seen at Organ Pipe Monument, Sept. 4 (RLC), and 2 were banded at Cedar Crest, N. Mex., Sept. 8 and 19 (BM).

Warblers—There were many reports of strays, especially of Nashville Warblers (BM, PRS, WCT, RHW) and Am. Redstarts (BM, RHW, RLC). Big Bend Park had a good flight of Black-and-white Warblers in early September (RHW). Near Tucson a Prothonotary Warbler was banded on Oct. 21 and a Chestnut-sided Warbler on Sept. 23 (SMR). An Olive Warbler was seen at Las Cruces,

N. Mex., Oct. 15 (SW). Two Magnolia Warblers were observed near Greer, Ariz., Sept. 5 (MM, *fide* UEM). A Black-throated Blue Warbler was seen near Reserve, N. Mex., Oct. 29 (BM); another was at Las Cruces, Oct. 18 (SW). A good flight of Audubon's Warblers occurred; the species arrived later and stayed longer than usual. It also was a good year for Townsend's Warblers (BM, RLC, RAR, UEM), with more than 75 observed at Big Bend Park on Aug. 31 (DS). Hermit Warblers were found at Big Bend Park on Aug. 31 (DS), at Organ Pipe Monument on Sept. 22 (RLC), and near Tucson (FT). An Ovenbird was seen near Tucson on Oct. 3 (SMR). Late Yellow-breasted Chats were found at Phoenix (UEM), at Big Bend Park on Nov. 3 (RHW), and at Cedar Crest (BM).

Finches—At Organ Pipe Monument, an Indigo Bunting was seen on Aug. 28, a Painted Bunting on Sept. 22, and a Dickcissel on Sept. 12 (RLC). At least two Dickcissels were near Globe, Ariz., Sept. 28-Oct. 1 (IT, CAT, LLH), and there were good numbers of this species at Big Bend Park all September (RHW). Very few reports of highland species were received—Evening Grosbeaks were seen only at Chama, N. Mex. (ENW) and Los Alamos, N. Mex. (WBL) and Cassin's Finches only in Las Vegas, N. Mex. (ES). A pair of Pine Grosbeaks was observed near Globe, Ariz., Oct. 1 (IT). There were only scattered reports of Pine Siskins from the lowlands. A huge flock of Am. Goldfinches appeared at Big Bend Park on Nov. 3 (RHW). Lawrence's Goldfinches spread east to Globe, Oct. 17-Nov. 21 (IT).

Sparrows—Rufous-winged Sparrows seen at Organ Pipe Monument on Sept. 22 and Oct. 17 (RLC) may represent post-breeding wanderers. Slate-colored Juncos were at Chama on Nov. 21 (ENW); one was in the Sandia Mountains near Albuquerque on Nov. 10 (RIL). A wave of juncos came to Cedar Crest on Oct. 25 (BM). Harris' Sparrows were seen at Las Vegas, N. Mex. on Nov. 25 (WVH) and Santa Fe on Oct. 27 (PRS). White-crowned Sparrows were generally late in arriving. A Golden-crowned Sparrow was banded at Cedar Crest on Nov. 8 (BM). White-throated Sparrows were observed at Las Vegas, N. Mex. on Nov. 3 (WVH) and near Superior, Ariz. on Nov. 24; the species was banded at Tucson on Nov. 4 (SMR). It may become a good year for the Chestnut-collared Longspur. This species was seen near Claunch, N. Mex. on Nov. 21 (JSF, DMN) and near Silver City (RAF), with some near Nogales by the end of November (BH).

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south of Soldotna, on Oct. 1, were comparatively late for the species there.

Pigeon Hawk—Of interest, although the species has wintered there, was a Pigeon Hawk observed at Soldotna on Nov. 15 (MAS).

Shorebirds—Approximately 50 Am. Golden Plovers were present at the Fairbanks city dump through most of September. A single Black-bellied Plover was recorded there with 6-8 Golden on Sept. 24 (DDG, RH & BM). Dowitchers (sp.) and Western Sandpipers were recorded daily at Coho at least through Aug. 29 (MAS). One late Dunlin was observed with Rock Sandpipers at Portland Is., near Juneau, on Nov. 23 (RJG).

Gulls—A single adult *Ring-billed Gull* recorded near the Subport, Juneau, Nov. 29 (RJG), was most unusual and of particular interest since, to the editor's knowledge, there is no specimen for Alaska. A lone Sabine's Gull was noted in Sitka Sound about 20 minutes out of Sitka on Oct. 9 (OW).

Alcids—No Kittlitz's Murrelets were recorded anywhere in Glacier Bay after early September, and very few puffins were present after that time (RJG, GS & OW). On Sept. 17 the same observers noted many Ancient Murrelets, 8 Cassin's Auklets, and 1 Rhinoceros Auklet in Glacier Bay.

Mourning Dove—Although not strictly within the area covered by this report, a *Mourning Dove* observed at about Mile 40, Aishihik Lake Road, southern Yukon Territory on Sept. 30 (RJG), was late and at the northern edge of its range, hence of sufficient interest to be included here.

Hawk Owl—Since the species was not recorded in the area during the entire summer, a Hawk Owl seen near Brooks Camp, Katmai Monument on Sept. 1 (CLE, et al.) was apparently a migrant. One was present during early November on the University of Alaska campus at College (*vide* RB), but no other reports of the species were received. It must have been scarce in the Fairbanks area, as it is easily noticed when present.

Wheatear—The first fall migrant was observed along the airport road at Tanana on Aug. 20 (MLB). At least 5 were seen in the vicinity of Haines on Sept. 2 (RTW), and a male in full plumage was seen on the 4200-ft. summit of Mt. McGinnis on Oct. 7 (RJG), the fifth sighting in two years in that area.

Kinglets—Golden-crowned Kinglets were last