

**SOUTHWEST REGION.** — The winter was mostly cooler and wetter than normal. The storms that flooded California moved eastward, covering southern



Nevada with the deepest snowpack in 60 years, but bypassed southern Arizona, leaving that area warm and dry. December and January were mainly dry, and most of the Region's snow came unusually late in the season. Stream run-off should be active into June.

At the beginning of the period, following a wet summer, food supplies were good in most areas. Bird distribution was somewhat spotty across the Region, and it was necessary to go farther to look for birds, since there was little gathering at oases. Few boreal species descended to the lowlands this winter. Although the cooler weather retarded plant growth, the spring migration seemed to be beginning early.

**Loons, Grebes** — At least 1 Com. Loon wintered on Lake Mead in southern Nevada, being observed there from Jan. 25, with 2 seen on March 29 (*CL*, *MVM*); 16 Com. Loons, along with 1 Arctic Loon and 1 Red-throated Loon, were recorded on the Christmas Count at Balmorhea Lake, Reeves Co., Tex., Jan. 1 (*M.N.*, *fide SW*). A total population of 50,000 grebes was estimated to be present on Lake Mead; most of them were Eared Grebes, but good numbers of Western and Pied-billed Grebes were noted during the period and 2 Horned Grebes in breeding plumage were observed on March 29 (*CL*, *MVM*). Four Western Grebes were present on Balmorhea Lake on Jan. 31 (*SW*).

**Pelicans, Cormorants, Herons** — Six White Pelicans noted near Lake Mead on Dec. 20 (*CL*) were late. At Havasu Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge along the Arizona-California border on the Colorado River south of Needles, Double-crested Cormorants and Great Blue Herons began nesting in mid-February, a month earlier than usual (*BDG*). Both species again were noted nesting on San Carlos Lake near Globe, Ariz. on March 29 (*CAT & IT*, *fide BJ*). Single Green Herons noted near Farmington, N. Mex. on Dec. 7 (*APN*) and at Española, Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex. on Dec. 29 (*WBL*) were unusual. Three Cattle Egrets were observed near Buckeye, Maricopa Co., Ariz., Dec. 12 (*RLC*). An Am. Bittern was seen at Martinez Lake

near Yuma, Ariz., Dec. 6 and 31 (*AC*); 2 were seen on Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge near Socorro, N. Mex., March 16 (*RWR*).

**Swans** — Eighteen Whistling Swans were noted in the Pahrnatagat Valley near Las Vegas, Nev. in December (*CL*); up to 23 were present at Farmington, Dec. 24-Feb. 22 (*APN*); 2 were seen at Bosque del Apache Refuge on Feb. 23 (*RWR*); and 1 was seen at Martinez Lake on Dec. 28 (*RJK*, *fide AC*).

**Geese** — More than 6000 geese were present at Bosque del Apache Refuge on Dec. 1, including 2200 Canada, 3700 Snow, an estimated 100 Ross' and 10 White-fronted Geese (*RWR*). At Havasu Lake Refuge, 1250 Canada and 500 Snow Geese wintered (*BDG*). Six Snow Geese were observed at a stock tank south of Hachita, Grant Co., N. Mex. on Jan. 5 (*MF*, *fide RAF*). A White-fronted Goose and 2 Ross' Geese were seen on Martinez Lake on Dec. 27 (*RJK*, *fide AC*), and, for the sixth consecutive year, a Ross' Goose wintered near Tucson, Ariz. (*FT*).

**Ducks** — At Bosque del Apache Refuge, ducks peaked on Feb. 4 with almost 16,000 counted, including about 12,000 Mallards and 2500 Pintail (*RWR*). Six Black-bellied Tree Ducks wintered near Tucson (*FT*). Up to 7 Mexican Ducks spent February near Nogales, Ariz. (*BH*), and 3 were seen on the Willcox Playa, Cochise Co., Ariz., March 2 (*RPN*, *fide UEM*). Two Wood Ducks also wintered near Tucson (*FT*), and up to 6 were present on Navajo Lake near Farmington, N. Mex., Dec. 21 and 28 (*DH*, *fide APN*). A pair of White-winged Scoters was observed at Henderson Marsh, Lake Mead, Feb. 26 (*CL*).

**Hawks, Eagles** — Hawks were reported in better than average numbers in most areas, except for the Silver City, N. Mex. area where hunting has reduced numbers considerably (*DAZ*) and the Las Vegas, Nev. area (*CL*). A Goshawk was seen near Las Vegas, N. Mex. in late December (*ES*). There was an increase in the number of reports of Ferruginous Hawks and Golden Eagles. Bald Eagle reports were as follows: 1 present at Lake Mead during most of the winter and 1 seen in the Pahrnatagat Valley from January on (*CL*); an adult seen at Havasu Lake Refuge on Dec. 31 and again on March 10 (*BDG*); 1 observed near Stanley, Santa Fe Co., N. Mex. on Jan 5 (*BMCL*); an immature noted on Lake Roberts near Silver City, N. Mex. on Jan. 5, 1 seen in Silver City on Jan. 18, 2 seen north of Silver City near Gila Cliff Dwellings Nat'l Monument on Jan. 25, and 1 seen at Gila Hot Springs on March 21 (*fide RAF*). Two Ospreys were noted at Martinez Lake on Dec. 31 (*AC*). There were more sightings of Caracaras than usual. The species was reported to be present at Red Rock north of Tucson all winter (*DSP*) and near Tucson during the period (*FT*), with 2 seen south of Tucson on Feb. 14 (*AC*). One was observed near Columbus, Luna Co., N. Mex. on Feb. 28 (*JS*, *fide DAZ*); another seen in Big Bend Nat'l Park, Tex. on March 22 constituted the park's first record of this species in many years (*RHW*).

**Quail, Cranes, Plover, Woodcock** — Five Elegant Quail were found near Nogales in late December (*fide BH*). Sandhill Cranes peaked at 5500 on Dec. 6 at Bosque del Apache Refuge (*RWR*); 13 were present on

Feb. 26, 50 on Feb. 27, and 37 on Feb. 28 at the Key—Pittman State Wildlife Management Area near Hiko, Nev. (CL). Two Mountain Plover were observed at Bosque del Apache Refuge on March 18 (RWR). An *Am. Woodcock* was found dead on U.S. Highway 60 near Magdalena, Socorro Co., N. Mex. on March 29 and the specimen, the second for New Mexico, was preserved (JDL, WWH).

**Gulls** — An immature California Gull was collected near Lukeville, Pima Co., Ariz. on March 21 (JM, RLC), and up to 50 wintered on Lake Mead, with a color-marked individual also seen there during the period (CL). A few Herring Gulls and 1 Bonaparte's Gull also were present on Lake Mead (CL); another Bonaparte's Gull was seen near Tucson in early December (GG, et al.).

**Owls, Swifts, Hummingbirds** — A Barn Owl was observed in the Pahrangat Valley on March 30 (BF). An early Flammulated Owl was heard calling in Los Alamos, N. Mex., March 30 (PRS). A Long-eared Owl was banded at Silver Bell west of Tucson in December (SMR, fide FT); 1 was noted at Lukeville, Ariz. on Jan. 4 (JM); up to 3 were recorded near St. George, Utah, Jan. 1—Feb. 9 (BAL). Several hundred White-throated Swifts wintered in the Tucson area (FT, DSP), and up to 40 were seen at Lake Mead, Feb. 1 and 21 (CL, MVM). Hummingbirds were generally returning very early this year. At Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument near Ajo, Ariz., good numbers of Anna's Hummingbirds were present, a male Allen's Hummingbird was noted on Feb. 19, and a male Rufous Hummingbird was observed on March 12 and 17 (JM, RLC). Another male Rufous Hummingbird visited a Nogales feeder in late March (BH).

**Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Jays, Thrasher** — The observation of a *Golden-fronted Woodpecker* at Carlsbad, N. Mex. on Jan. 14 (SW) constituted the second sight record for the state. The sighting of a Downy Woodpecker in the mountains near Las Vegas, Nev. (CL, MVM) was unusual. A Dusky Flycatcher was present at Big Bend Park, Tex., Dec. 30—Feb. 8 (RHW). A Gray Flycatcher was banded near Mesa, Maricopa Co., Ariz. on March 12 (AC), and another frequented a pecan grove near Phoenix all winter (UEM, et al.). At least 10 Blue Jays were seen near Carlsbad, N. Mex. on Jan. 14 (SW), and 1 spent December and January at a feeder in Las Vegas, N. Mex. (ES). A Brown Thrasher was present near Phoenix, Ariz. from Dec. 28 to at least March 31 (UEM).

**Thrushes, Kinglets** — Although numbers were low in the highlands and valleys, very large numbers of Robins were reported in the foothills near Albuquerque, N. Mex. (BMCK) and in the vicinity of Las Vegas, Nev., with the most seen since 1954 in the latter area (LB). Mountain and Western Bluebirds also stayed in the foothills. A few Townsend's Solitaires straggled to the lowlands at Carlsbad, N. Mex. (SW), Organ Pipe Cactus Monument, Ariz. (RLC), and St. George, Utah (BAL). There was an increase in the number of reports of Golden-crowned Kinglets.

**Waxwings, Phainopepla, Shrikes** — The big news of the winter in the northern highlands was the invasion of *Bohemian Waxwings*. The species wintered

at Las Vegas, Nev., with up to 12,000 being seen from Dec. 12 through March 31 (CL). Up to 200 were seen in the vicinity of Virgin, St. George, Springdale and Rockville in Utah, with 3 birds being reported at Moccasin, Coconino Co., Ariz., just south of the Utah—Arizona border (BAL). Flocks of up to 400 birds wintered in the Farmington, N. Mex. area (APN); a flock of about 100 was observed north of Taos, N. Mex. on Dec. 8 (WH); and about 50 were seen in Chaco Canyon Nat'l Monument, McKinley Co., N. Mex. on Dec. 24 (JDS). In the Los Alamos, N. Mex. area, *Bohemian Waxwings* were seen in December, were absent during January and February, and appeared again in late March (PRS, et al.). Ten Cedar Waxwings were noted at Imperial Dam on the Colorado River near Yuma, Ariz., Nov. 6 (AC). The *Phainopepla* was rare at Big Bend Park, Tex. this winter (RHW). More than the usual number of reports of Northern Shrikes, all from New Mexico, were submitted, with the species being seen at Bosque del Apache Refuge on Jan. 11 (JDL, JLD), single birds noted at Española on Dec. 29 (WBL) and Los Alamos on Jan. 4 (PRS), and 1 collected at Cedar Crest near Albuquerque, March 2 (BMCK). There also were more than the usual number of Loggerhead Shrikes in the Tucson area (FT).

**Vireos, Warbler** — There was an increase in reports of wintering Hutton's Vireos, with single birds observed near Lukeville, Ariz. on Dec. 23 (RLC), near Carlsbad, N. Mex. on Dec. 26 (SW), and in the Pinos Altos Mountains near Silver City, N. Mex., this individual noted singing at 7300 feet elevation (DAZ). The species also was present all winter in the mountain woodlands of Big Bend Park, Tex. (RHW). A Solitary Vireo was seen at Mesa, Ariz. in February (AC). A Wilson's Warbler was observed at Organ Pipe Cactus Monument, Ariz. on Feb. 14 (JM).

**Blackbirds, Orioles** — Blackbirds wintered by the thousands near Tucson (FT, UEM), and the Boat-tailed Grackle was reported to be on the increase there (FT). For the fifth consecutive year, a Scott's Oriole wintered at a Nogales feeder (BH).

**Finches, Sparrows** — The Pyrrhuloxia is increasing in numbers in the Tucson area (FT). Good numbers of Pine Siskins were seen in the Globe, Ariz. area (BJ). On March 9, 50 Lawrence's Goldfinches were observed near Tucson (FT); in the Globe area, this species was present until Feb. 4 (IT, BJ). Although numbers of Lark Buntings were down in Arizona (DSP, FT), thousands were present at Big Bend Park during the period (RHW). Good numbers of wintering sparrows were noted at both Tucson (DSP, FT) and Big Bend Park (RHW). A Grasshopper Sparrow was seen at Lukeville, Ariz. on Dec. 23 (RLC). Three Rufous-winged Sparrows wintered near Tucson (FT). Sage Sparrows wintered at Big Bend Park for the first time (RHW). A White-winged Junco was banded in Los Alamos on March 28 (PRS). Numbers of Oregon and Gray-headed Juncos were good in most areas this winter, and there was an increase in the number of reports of the usually rare Slate-colored Junco and White-throated Sparrow, which were found by most observers in the Region. An immature Harris' Sparrow was banded near Silver City, March 23 (DAZ); another

was seen at Bernalillo, Sandoval Co., N. Mex., Feb. 16 (CAH). A Tree Sparrow was observed at Farmington on Jan 3 (APN). Numbers of White-crowned Sparrows were low at Bosque del Apache Refuge (BMCK) and at Globe (BJ), but there were many at Big Bend Park (RHW). A Golden-crowned Sparrow was banded at Silver Bell, Ariz., Jan. 11 (FT). Single Fox Sparrows were seen at Lukeville on Dec. 23 (RLC) and at Balmorhea Lake, Tex. on Jan. 31 (SW). Still increasing is the Swamp Sparrow, with reports this winter of single birds at Sonoyta, Sonora, Mexico on Dec. 23 and at Quitobaquito, Organ Pipe Cactus Monument on March 12 and 26 (RLC). A Lapland Longspur was observed near Las Vegas, Nev. on Jan. 12 and again on Feb. 6 (CL, MVM).

**Corrigenda** — In the last Nesting Season account, the reference to the sighting of a pair of Parula Warblers near Tucson (*Audubon Field Notes* 22:636) should be deleted. In the recent Fall Migration account, the reference to 2 Western Grebes seen on Mormon Lake near Flagstaff, Ariz. (*Audubon Field Notes* 23:88) should have read Norman Lake near Tucson.

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