

SOUTHWEST REGION. — Cool temperatures and much precipitation prevailed in the northern half of the Region this spring, while the southern portion



from Tucson to Globe in Arizona and from Silver City to Roswell in New Mexico remained warm and dry. Snow continued to fall in the northern highlands until early May, with a heavy snowstorm in northern New Mexico, May 5-9. This storm apparently stopped migrants to the south, for something like a wave occurred at Globe, Ariz., May 3-7 (*BJ*).

Grebes, Cormorants, Herons — A number of Horned Grebes in breeding plumage remained on Lake Mead near Las Vegas, Nev. through most of May (*MVM, CL, et al.*). A lack of breeding pairs of Double-crested Cormorants and Great Blue Herons at

Havasus Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge on the California-Arizona border near Needles was believed responsible for a 70 percent decline in production below last year's figures for these two species (BDG). A rookery comprising 300 nests of Double-crested Cormorants and Black-crowned Night Herons was found near Elephant Butte Lake, Truth or Consequences, N. Mex., in May (JLD). Great Blue Heron rookeries were found at two new localities in Grant County, N. Mex., at Redrock on May 10 and near Gila on May 25 (RAF). A Louisiana Heron was seen at Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge near Roswell, N. Mex. on May 12 (GLI, VM). This heron is becoming more regular at Big Bend Park, and this spring 1 was seen there on May 24 (RHW).

Goose, Ducks — A White-fronted Goose seen at Big Bend Park on April 30 (RHW) constituted the first local record. Two Mexican Ducks were seen again near Nogales, Ariz. on May 4 (BH).

Hawks, Eagles — A Broad-winged Hawk was seen at Big Bend Park, April 15-25 and again on May 18 (RHW). A Zone-tailed Hawk was found north of San Carlos, Gila Co., Ariz. on May 23 (BJ), and a nest of this species was located near Phoenix, Ariz. on May 16 (ELR, SRD). Single Black Hawks were noted at two localities near Phoenix, at Sycamore Creek, April 5-6 (RPN, et al.) and at Bartlett Dam, April 6 (BB). An adult Bald Eagle was seen over the Salt River near Seneca, Ariz. on April 15 (GK) and over the Young Bridge across that river on May 17 (BJ). There were a good number of reports of Golden Eagles and Prairie Falcons. Two pairs of Peregrine Falcons may be nesting in Big Bend Park (RHW). Single Ospreys were reported on Lake Roberts near Silver City, N. Mex., April 27 (MH, fide RAF), on Havasu Lake Refuge, May 7 (BDG), and on Navajo Lake near Farmington, N. Mex., April 7 (APN).

Rails, Shorebirds — A survey of Clapper Rails showed a "good number" on Havasu Lake Refuge (RT, DT, fide BDG). Two Semipalmated Plovers were seen at Virden, Hidalgo Co., N. Mex., May 3 (N.M.O.S.). Fifty-one Snowy Plovers were counted at Bitter Lake Refuge on May 12 (GLI). A Long-billed Curlew was seen at Big Bend Park on April 8 (RHW); 2 were noted near Las Vegas, Nev. on April 13 (MVM). A *Whimbrel* was collected at Big Bend Park on April 28 (RHW). Twenty-five Willets were seen at Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument, Ajo, Ariz. on May 6 (JM) and 35 near Gila, N. Mex. on May 3 (N.M.O.S.); another was seen at Saguaro Lake near Phoenix, April 27 (BB). A high count of 186 Marbled Godwits was made near Farmington, April 27 (APN). An Am. Avocet nest found in Phoenix on April 29 (SRD) constituted one of the state's very few records. On May 7, 33 Black-necked Stilts were observed on the Desert Game Range near Las Vegas, Nev. (JBH).

Gull, Tern, Dove — A Bonaparte's Gull was reported at Bartlett Dam near Phoenix, April 6 (BB, fide UEM). A Caspian Tern was seen on Lake Mead near Las Vegas, Nev., May 3 (MVM, et al.) Also noted in the Las Vegas area was a White-winged Dove, seen on May 7 (CL) and May 17 (MVM).

Cuckoos, Ani, Owls — Early Yellow-billed Cuckoos were seen on April 27 at Roswell, N. Mex. (VM) and

on April 28 at Big Bend Park, Tex. (RHW). Another was observed on the Desert Game Range on May 7 (CL). A Groove-billed Ani was seen at Big Bend Park on April 20 and again on May 19 (RHW). Two Barn Owls were found nesting in Roswell in April (VM, et al.). A Flammulated Owl was collected west of Magdalena, Socorro Co., N. Mex., May 14 (JDL); the species was late at Cedar Crest where the first one was noted on May 9 (BM). A Ferruginous Owl was heard at Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument on April 8 (RLC); a pair of these owls was seen by many of those who attended the Cooper Ornithological Society meeting in Tucson and an apparent nest hole in a saguaro was discovered on April 27 (JMS, EB, PRS, et al.). A Saw-whet Owl was banded at Cedar Crest, April 16 and another was netted at Eagle Peak Spring near Reserve, N. Mex. on May 31 (BM).

Swifts, Hummingbirds — A Chimney Swift noted at Big Bend Park on April 28 (RHW) constituted the second local record; this species has been moving west in the last few years. Several Vaux's Swifts were observed on the Desert Game Range, May 7-8 (CL, MVM), while at Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument there were more records than in any previous year, the species being seen nine times between April 19 and May 1 (RLC, et al.). The earliest return of the Lucifer Hummingbird ever recorded occurred at Big Bend Park on March 7, and the Ruby-throated Hummingbird was observed at the park on May 11 for the first time in spring (RHW). Male Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds were seen at a Tucson feeder on April 5 (CG) and 2 Rufous Hummingbirds were observed in Silver City on April 6 (fide RAF); both species are rare migrants in the spring.

Trogon, Woodpeckers — In the course of a study of the Coppery-tailed Trogon, some 11 sightings of the species in the Huachuca Mountains east of Nogales, Ariz. were made after May 16 (RTS). The species also was found in another canyon in Arizona where it has been collected twice before (RAF). A Lewis' Woodpecker was observed on the Desert Game Range, Nev., May 4-10 (MVM, CL); another was seen in Chaco Canyon Nat'l Monument, Bloomfield, N. Mex. on May 9 (DJS) for the first local record of the species. A very late Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was noted in Big Bend Park on May 3 (RHW).

Becard, Flycatchers, Swallows — On May 18 a female *Rose-throated Becard* was discovered at Conchas Lake near Tucumcari, N. Mex. To verify their discovery, a description of the bird was sent by the observers (ES, et al.) to Dr. Alfred M. Bailey, who confirmed that they probably had a sight record of the becard. This should be considered the first sight record of the species for New Mexico, although unoccupied nests have been found previously in Guadalupe Canyon, Hidalgo Co. A *Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher* observation at Big Bend Park on May 11 (RHW, et al.) constituted the second Texas record. An Eastern Phoebe was seen at El Pueblo near Bernal, N. Mex., May 11 (WH). There was a good, late flight of Violet-green Swallows at Chama, N. Mex. on May 30 (ENW). Many Violet-green and Rough-winged Swallows were observed flying low over the ground over Globe during storms, May 3-5 (BJ, IT). Two Bank

Swallows were noted on April 30 at Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument where they are unusual (*JM, RLC*). *Cave Swallows* may now be nesting at Big Bend Park; they were seen there on April 26 and May 27 (*RHW*).

Mimids, Thrushes — A Catbird was banded at Cedar Crest, N. Mex. on May 12 (*BM*), and a pair was seen at Las Vegas, N. Mex., May 30 (*ES, WH*). The Brown Thrasher that wintered in Phoenix remained until April 11 (*LD, UEM*); another, which was photographed, stayed in Silver City, April 15-May 14 (*RAF, et al.*). Two nests of Le Conte's Thrasher were found on the Gila River Indian Reservation south of Phoenix, April 29 (*SRD*). A Wood Thrush was noted at Big Bend Park, May 2 (*RHW*). Single Townsend's Solitaires were observed in the low desert on Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument until mid-April (*RLC*) and near Phoenix on April 4 (*UEM*) and April 5 (*MM, LM*).

Waxwings, Vireos — Bohemian Waxwings from last winter's flight lingered much later than before. Unusual was 1 observed near Phoenix on May 1 (*ELR, EJ*); 2 were seen on the Desert Game Range, May 8 (*MVM*); the species stayed in the Los Alamos-Espanola, N. Mex. area until April 26 (*WBL, PRS*). Several Hutton's Vireos were observed on the Desert Game Range, May 4 and 8 (*MVM*).

Warblers — There was a very good influx of eastern species into the Region. Single Black-and-white Warblers were found at Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument on April 30 (*RLC, JM*), at Redrock, N. Mex., May 3 (*N.M.O.S.*), and on the Desert Game Range, May 4 (*MVM*); 1 present at Cedar Crest on May 21-22 was photographed (*BM*). A Prothonotary Warbler was seen several times in Ramsey Canyon in the Huachuca Mountains in late May (*RTS*). Many species of eastern warblers were found at Big Bend Park, including a Worm-eating Warbler seen on May 1 and 6, a Magnolia Warbler observation on May 18 that constituted the first local record of this species, a Black-throated Blue Warbler on May 11, a Black-throated Green Warbler on May 9, a Chestnut-sided Warbler, which was collected, on May 13, an Ovenbird on May 1, and a Hooded Warbler on April 30 (*RHW*). At the Desert Game Range, a Tennessee Warbler was seen on May 7 (*CL*) and a Parula Warbler on May 4 (*MVM*). The Olive Warbler was found at a new locality, the Four Peaks in the Mazatzal Mountains near Phoenix, on April 13 (*RPN*). The sighting of a Townsend's Warbler near Globe on May 4 (*IT*) was an unusual lowland record for spring. A Northern Waterthrush was present on Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument, May 8-12 (*CC, fide RLC*). Single Am. Redstarts were noted at Las Vegas, N. Mex., May 17 (*ES, WH*) and at Farmington, N. Mex., May 25 (*CS, fide APN*). Unusual lowland localities for the Painted Redstart were a Tucson garden, March 28 (*TS*) and the Desert Game Range, April 13 (*JBH, MVM*).

Icterids, Tanager — Twenty-five Yellow-headed Blackbirds noted on Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument on April 16 (*RLC*) were at an unusual locality for the species. A male Orchard Oriole was seen in Cave Creek Canyon near Portal, Ariz., May 30-31 (*LD*). Last fall the observation of a male

Wagler's (or Black-vented) Oriole (*Icterus wagleri*), which was seen near Big Bend Park on Sept. 19, 1968, but could not be collected, apparently established the first sight record of this Mexican species for the United States. The same individual, or possibly another, re-appeared in Big Bend Park on April 28 and was still present at the close of the report period (*RHW*). The bird was photographed, and full details are to be published in *The Auk*. The Boat-tailed Grackle continues to extend its range. Birds of this species have been seen for the last two summers in the Farmington, N. Mex. area (*APN*) and this spring were noted at Redrock, N. Mex., May 10 (*RAF*), with single birds seen at Gila on May 3 (*N.M.O.S.*) and at Las Vegas, N. Mex., May 30 (*WH, ES*). In Arizona, the species was reported at Phoenix on May 22 (*UEM*) and at Roosevelt Lake on April 12 and on the San Carlos Indian Reservation near Globe on May 23 (*BJ*). These records seem to indicate that the species is spreading up most of the major river valleys in the Region. A male *Scarlet Tanager* was seen in Las Vegas, N. Mex., May 20 (*WH*).

Finches, Sparrows — Along with a good late migration of Black-headed Grosbeaks, a surprising number of *Rose-breasted Grosbeaks* were reported. The species was considered "fairly common" at Big Bend Park, May 8-20 (*RHW*). In New Mexico, 1 was seen at Santa Fe, May 1 (*PC, fide BM*); 1 at Bitter Lake Refuge near Roswell, May 12 (*GLI, VM*); 3 in Roswell on May 14 and 1 on May 19 (*VM*); a pair at Cedar Crest, May 13-15 (*BM*); and another pair in Silver City, May 19-24 (*BJH*). At least 3 individuals were reported in Arizona: 1 noted at Patagonia near Nogales on May 17, 1 banded at Tucson on the same day, and 1 observed in Madera Canyon near Tucson on May 24 (*SMR, FT*). Several Indigo Buntings were seen on the Desert Game Range, May 4-10 and 1 was observed near Las Vegas, Nev., May 25 (*MVM, CL, et al.*). Another, a male, was seen, together with a male Lazuli Bunting at Las Vegas, Nev., May 16 (*WH*), and still another male was noted at Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument, May 31 (*RLC*). A Dickcissel was seen at Big Bend Park on May 24 (*RHW*). Twelve Am. Goldfinches stayed through April near Phoenix (*ELR*). Lawrence's Goldfinches were noted at Lake Pleasant near Phoenix, April 5-6 (*MM, LM*) and at Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument five times between March 21 and April 20 (*RLC, et al.*). A Savannah Sparrow at Globe, April 17-18 was thought unusual (*IT*). There were several reports of immature Harris' Sparrows: 2 at a feeder near Farmington (*JN, APN*); 1 at Las Vegas, N. Mex., April 16 (*WH*); and 1 on the Desert Game Range, May 4-10 (*MVM, CL, et al.*).

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