

SOUTHWEST REGION. — This past winter was for the most part mild, open, and dry. Exceptions were periods of storms and cold from Dec. 25 to Jan. 10



and again in late March. Populations were generally low and more scattered; there was a complete absence of winter wanderers.

Loons, Grebes, Cormorants — Common Loon records included 1 in El Paso, Tex. Dec. 13, 20; 3 at Carlsbad, N. Mex. Dec. 22, and 1 on Dec. 26 (*SW, LM, et al.*); with one found dead near Tucson, Ariz. on Dec. 13 (*PRN*). Two *Red-throated Loons*, the first Nevada record, were seen on Lake Mead near Las Vegas on Dec. 21; further data will be published elsewhere (*KK, CSL*). A *Red-necked Grebe* in winter plumage was reported near Carlsbad on Dec. 26 (*LM, SW*). On an aerial census Dec. 12 about 6000 Eared Grebes and 1000 Western Grebes were on Lake Mead, at Overton and the Pahrnatag Valley, Nev. with 6420 Eared Grebes seen on Dec. 21 (*CSL*). A Least Grebe reported last August at Big Bend Nat'l Park, Tex. stayed all winter (*RHW*). Two Double-crested Cormorants spent the winter in El Paso (*SW, LC, et al.*). An Olivaceous Cormorant was seen at Hereford, Ariz. on Jan. 1 — a new locality (*BH, et al.*).

Hérons, Ibis — A *Cattle Egret* reported last fall at Phoenix, Ariz. remained until at least Dec. 27 (*M.A.S.*). Another was seen in El Paso Feb. 10 (*SW, LC*). A Yellow-crowned Night Heron came to Carlsbad Dec. 26 (*LM, SW*). A White-faced Ibis on the Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, near Socorro, N. Mex. Dec. 9 and 19 (*BMA*) was later than normal.

Swans, Geese, Ducks — There was an increase in records of the Whistling Swan: 1 was at Anapra, Dona Ana Co., N. Mex. on Jan. 6 (*SW*); 2 were in Phoenix Jan. 6-March 12 (*SRD, et al.*); with up to 6 at Tucson Dec. 7 into January; and 1 at St. David, Ariz. (*VV, PRN, BH, et al.*); 7 at the Imperial Nat'l Wildlife Refuge on the Arizona-California border in late January and early February (*fide AC*); 2 at St. George, Utah Jan. 19-Feb. 3 (*BAL*); 30 at Pahrnatag Feb. 8 (*MVM*); with 1 or 2 at Farmington, N. Mex. Nov. 29-Dec. 13 (*APN*). Geese numbering 5619 were on Bosque del Apache Refuge on Dec. 4. This peak goose count included 1478 Canada, 4000 Snow and Blue, and 20 Ross' Geese. Most were gone by Feb. 13 when 3 White-fronted Geese were counted (*BMA*). On Dec. 20, 5 Ross' Geese were at El Paso (*SW*). Six more wintered at the Imperial Refuge (*AC*). Six White-fronted Geese were near Las Vegas, Nev. on Dec. 6 and remained all winter (*CSL, MVM, et al.*). On the Imperial Refuge 3 *Fulvous Tree Ducks* stayed through December (*AC*). On Dec. 9, 20,000 ducks were on the Bosque del Apache Refuge; including 15,000 Mallard, 2200 Shoveler, 1100 Gadwall, and 1200 Pintail (*RMA*). There were 15,228 Mallard around Farmington on Dec. 28 (*APN*). A Mexican Duck was trapped and banded at Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, near Roswell, N. Mex. Jan. 11 (*DLB, VM, et al.*). A male Blue-winged Teal seen at St. George Feb. 2 was unusual (*PAL*). Wood Duck records included 1 near Farmington Dec. 5 (*fide APN*); a female at Las Vegas from Dec. 28 through the winter (*MVM, CSL, et al.*); at least 2 in El Paso after Jan. 6 (*SW*); 1 near Scottsdale, Ariz. in December (*JLW*); 1 at Tucson Dec. 7 (*PRN*); and 1 near Hurricane and Springdale, Utah all winter (*BAL*). A Common Goldeneye at Big Bend Park Jan. 8-12 was the first sighting there (*RLW*).

Vulture, Hawks — Numbers were generally up. Fourteen Black Vultures were seen near Laveen, Ariz. Jan. 1 (*SRD*), and 12 were at Phoenix Jan. 25 (*BB*), the first record this far north. Another was at Sells, Ariz. March 24 (*CSL*). An adult Red-shouldered Hawk was near Socorro, N. Mex. March 13 (*SW*); another seen Dec. 6 near Las Vegas, Nev. stayed until March 1 (*CSL, MVM*). A Harlan's Hawk was seen near Nogales, Ariz. Dec. 22 (*BH, RT, RPN*). Single White-tailed Hawks were seen at Socorro on March 13 (*SM*) and near Columbus, N. Mex. Dec. 21 (*RAF*). Harris' Hawks were reported as increasing north of Tucson (*DSP*). There was an encouraging increase in reports of Golden Eagles. A pair of Bald Eagles was breeding in Maricopa County, Ariz. Feb. 15 (*RT*). On March 18 there were 2 Caracaras near Mesa, Ariz. (*AC*). This was an "invasion year" for Pigeon Hawks; they were reported at Phoenix and Hereford (*BH, SRD*); at St. George (*BAL*); and at Silver City and Columbus (*RAF*).

Ptarmigan, Quail — Two *White-tailed Ptarmigan* were sighted by Game Dept. officials on Costilla Peak, Taos Co., N. Mex. on Feb. 11 during an aerial elk count. The species was thought to be extinct in the state (*RDW*). About 200 Masked Bobwhite were re-introduced during the period into old habitats near

Arivaca and Ruby, Ariz. (DSP). Harlequin Quail are making a gradual comeback near Silver City after losses due to the snows of two years ago (RAF).

Cranes, Gallinule — The peak number wintering on the Bosque del Apache Refuge was 6100 with the last (4) seen March 6 (BMA). Unusual records were 500 near Columbus Dec. 21 and about 150 near Gila, N. Mex. March 15 (RAF); with 8 at Theba, Ariz. Feb. 10 (SRD). A *Purple Gallinule* on Jan. 4 at St. David was very unusual (CSM).

Shorebirds, Gulls — There were 2 Whimbrels at Phoenix Dec. 23 (SRD,BB) and 1 at St. George March 22 (BAL). Six Pectoral Sandpipers were seen at Phoenix Dec. 27 (JLW,M.A.S.). A Bonaparte's Gull was on Lake Mead Dec. 21 (CSL), with one in Tucson Dec. 7 (GG). An adult was seen March 2 on Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument, near Ajo, Ariz. (RLC). A large number for Herring Gulls was the 14 on Lake Mead Dec. 14 (CSL).

Owls, Hummingbirds — Some eight pairs of Saw-whet Owls were found to be present on Mount Humphrey in the San Francisco Peaks near Flagstaff Ariz., with several pairs more in the Bradshaw Mountains near Prescott, Ariz. from January to early March (JLW,RAW). A Spotted Owl was collected there in December (RRJ). A male Anna's Hummingbird lingered in El Paso until Dec. 17 (LM, MBK, fide SW). For the second year a pair nested at Scottsdale as early as Jan. 7 (SRD). A Rufous Hummingbird near Phoenix (ELR) and at Nogales (BH), both on March 27, were considered unusual. For the first time a Broad-billed Hummingbird stayed at a feeder near Phoenix through January (fide PRN).

Kingfisher, Woodpecker, Flycatcher, Swallows — A female Green Kingfisher remained at Nogales Jan. 17-March 17 (BH). A Lewis' Woodpecker was seen in Tucson Jan. 1 (CSM), while another was on Havasu Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Ariz.-Calif. March 9 (CSL). An Eastern Phoebe was found near Carlsbad Dec. 26 (LM) and Jan. 23 (SW). Another was seen near Nogales on March 22 (CSL). Two Rough-winged Swallows on Feb. 25 and 2 Barn Swallows on March 27 were the earliest ever recorded there (RLC). On March 27 there were also 4 Barn Swallows at Nogales (PRN).

Jays, Titmice, Nuthatches, Creepers — There was no flight of these species to the lowlands this winter. There were scattered reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches: 4 in Phoenix March 17 (SRD); 2 were at Los Alamos, N. Mex. Jan. 3-April 4 (PRS); 1 was north of Taos, N. Mex. Dec. 21 (WH); and 1 at an Albuquerque, N. Mex. feeder from Dec. 1 through March (JND).

Thrashers, Rufous-backed Robin, Bluebirds — A pair of Brown Thrashers was reported in Albuquerque March 18 (fide BM). A Sage Thrasher at St. George on March 21 was unusual (BAL). A *Rufous-backed Robin* was banded near Saguaro Lake, Maricopa Co., Ariz. on March 24 (AC). An Eastern Bluebird in Roswell Jan. 29 was the first Chaves County record (VM). There was no flight of bluebirds to the lowlands, although about 15 Mountain Bluebirds were on Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument on Dec. 28 (RLC).

Kinglets, Vireos, Warblers — A Black-tailed Gnatcatcher near St. George on Dec. 29 was the first local record (fide BAL). A Golden-crowned Kinglet stayed in Phoenix Dec. 15 through late December (fide JLW). A Bell's Vireo singing at Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument on Feb. 11 was very early (RLC). On March 30 the first *Louisiana Waterthrush* ever recorded at Big Bend Park was seen (RHW). A male Wilson's Warbler on Dec. 24 and 29 was an unusual winter record for Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument (RLC).

Blackbirds, Orioles, Tanager — A Hooded Oriole lingered in El Paso until early February while a Scott's Oriole stayed there until mid-February (SW,et al.). Another Hooded Oriole wintered in Scottsdale Dec. 13-March 9 (SRD). A male Scott's Oriole again wintered at a feeder in Nogales (BH). A Bullock's Oriole was reported from Phoenix on Jan. 25 (BB). A *Rusty Blackbird* was seen near Phoenix March 4 (ELR,SRD) and 6 (JLW,RAW). Common Grackles are increasing at Roswell with 180 counted on Dec. 22 and 115 on March 30 (VM). A Western Tanager was noted in Scottsdale on Dec. 10 (SRD).

Finches — A Cardinal was observed near Roswell several times Feb. 27-March 24 (VM), and a Black-headed Grosbeak was seen there Dec. 22 (DLB). Two Lazuli Buntings were reported; 1 in Phoenix Jan. 9 (BB); and 1 near Las Vegas, Nev. Dec. 21 (CSL). There were very few reports of Evening Grosbeaks from either the lowlands or the highlands. A Brown Towhee in Phoenix on Dec. 27 was unusual (PRN,M.A.S.). Numbers of Lark Buntings wintered in southern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico. (RAF,BH, M.A.S.).

Sparrows — A White-winged Junco banded in Los Alamos Jan. 23 was the third in two winters there (PRS). There were several reports of Slate-colored Juncos: 3-5 at Las Vegas, all winter (WH,ES); 1 at Los Alamos Jan. 5-March 16 (PRS); 1 at Pipe Springs Nat'l Monument, Ariz. Dec. 23 (BAL); one near Jemez Springs, N. Mex. Dec. 3-March 30 (MBS); 3 near Wickenburg, Ariz. Feb. 14 (JLW); 1 in Phoenix Dec. 17-27 (SRD,JLW); with 10 on Jan. 4 (BB), and 2 on March 27 (SRD). A Tree Sparrow was discovered Dec. 6 near Las Vegas, Nev., remaining through Dec. 28 (MVM,CSL). At Pipe Springs Monument 2 immature *Harris' Sparrows* were seen Dec. 23 (BAL). Four more were reported near Las Vegas, Nev. on Dec. 6 and 2 on Dec. 28, where they have been present for three winters in a row (CSL,MVM). A Golden-crowned Sparrow was noted at St. George Dec. 29 (BAL); with one seen near Phoenix Dec. 6 (APN), and an immature identified in Scottsdale March 4 (SRD). An (Eastern) Fox Sparrow was seen in Las Vegas, Dec. 26 (ES). A Swamp Sparrow reported near Farmington on Dec. 27 provided the first local record (APN,et al.). Another was found on Feb. 3 near St. George (BAL).

Contributors — BMA, Bert M. Anduss; DLB, Delbert L. Boggs; BB, Bonnie Burch; LC, Larry Coalson; AC, Allegra Collister; RLC, Richard L. Cunningham; SRD, Salome R. Demaree; JND, John N. Durrie; RAF, Ralph A. Fisher, Jr.; GG, Grace Gregg; BH, Bill Harrison; WH, Walton Hawk; RRJ, R. Roy Johnson; MBK, Mary Belle Keefer; KK, Ken King;

CSL, Charles S. Lawson; BAL, Barbara A. Lund; M.A.S., Maricopa Audubon Society of Phoenix; CSM, Carl S. Marvel; BM, Barbara McKnight; LM, Lena McBee, VM, Vester Montgomery; MVM, M. Vincent Mowbray; APN, Alan P. Nelson; PRN, Philip R. Norton; RPN, Robert P. Norton; DSP, Don S. Prentice; ELR, Eleanor L. Radke; ES, Elmer Schooley; MBS, Marjory B. Swain; FT, Fern Tainter; RT, Richard Todd; VV, Vincent Vesterly; RHW, Roland H. Wauer; RDW, Robert D. Welch; SW, Steven West; JDW, Janet L. Witzeman; RAW, Robert A. Witzeman. — *PATRICIA R. SNIDER, 4432-A Alabama St., Los Alamos, N. Mex., 87544.*

ALASKA REGION. — Following one of the coldest winters on record in most of the Region, this winter season was generally very mild and without significant