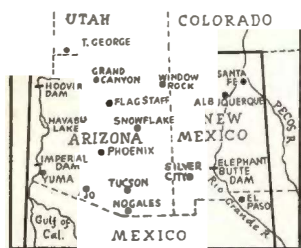


SOUTHWEST REGION.—Since this is the first report from a new region, a few words of description may not be amiss. The region embraces a



diversified and complex area, with life zones ranging from the hottest Lower Sonoran on the desert floors to extensive tracts of Canadian, and even Hudsonian life zone conditions in the mountains. Small, isolated, and extremely rugged

mountain ranges often exceeding 10,000 feet in elevation are strewn on the otherwise desert map of southeastern Arizona and southern New Mexico. Verdant irrigated valleys offer a sharp contrast to desert surroundings. The Mogollon Rim runs east and west across central Arizona, extending into western New Mexico, presenting a formidable physical barrier creating a sharp change in climatic conditions. In northern Arizona and northwestern New Mexico the Rim breaks on the north into a high plateau land, most of it a mile or more above sea level. It is therefore apparent that there exists a complexity of topographical, climatic, and vegetative differences that has a pronounced effect on the distribution and composition of birdlife in the region. To cite one species as an example: the Audubon's warbler winters at El Paso, Texas, and Tucson and Parker, Ariz.; breeds at Williams and Flagstaff, Ariz., and Cloudcroft, N.Mex.; and is a transient only at Holbrook, Lupton, and Snowflake, Ariz. Then, too, there are such distributional phenomena as the occurrence of a partially Mexican avifauna in portions of southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico; a great sweep of transients to the Pacific coast through the deserts of southwestern Arizona which hardly affects the southeastern part of the state; as well as peculiarities in the migrations of many individual species concerning which little data have been obtained.

The season.—Spring in this area was backward, cool, and dry. In the Parker vicinity, flowers were very late. Mesquites were not in bloom until April 10, 15 days later than last year; and were not in full bloom in Tucson until about April 27, a full 4 weeks later than in 1947. Although the winter snowfall was heavy in many of the elevated areas, it had little effect on the widespread drought conditions in much of Arizona and New Mexico. Hence, water, cover, and food conditions continued generally poor. As a result of these unfavorable conditions, migration and nesting were behind schedule, with few exceptions.

Loons, grebes, and pelicans.—Quite a number of common loons migrated along the Colorado River in April, with as many as 15 seen on Havasu Lake,

Apr. 20 (Monson). A horned grebe was seen on the Bill Williams arm of Havasu L., Apr. 19 (M.). An eared grebe was noted at El Paso, Mar. 5 (Mrs. McBee, Miss Keefer), and another at Snowflake, Apr. 27 (Mrs. Levine, Phillips). The peak of its passage on the Colorado River occurred about Apr. 25, when more than 120 were seen on Havasu L. (M.). As many as 13 western grebes were still present, May 13, at Havasu L. (M.); 1 was seen at Lake Ascarte, El Paso, Apr. 16 (M.-K.). The Colorado River white pelican flight seemed smaller than usual, with a maximum of 350 seen near Needles, Calif., Apr. 6 (M.). A brown pelican was observed at Cibola, Ariz., on the Colorado River, Apr. 22 (W. Pulich).

Cormorants, herons, and ibises.—Double-crested cormorant colonies near Topock, Ariz., were in full incubation during the latter part of March, with the first young hatching before Apr. 20. Smaller numbers of great blue herons and American egrets nest in the same colonies, the herons nesting earlier than the cormorants, and the egrets later (M.). The first snowy egrets were seen near El Paso, Tex., Mar. 21 (M.-K.), at Tucson, Mar. 29 (J. Veghte), and at Snowflake, Ariz., May 7 (L.). The green heron was first noted at Topock, Ariz., Apr. 6 (M.), and at Tucson, Apr. 11 (P., R. Streets, T. Cohen). Single American bitterns were noted at Topock, the Bill Williams River delta, Ariz., and Havasu L., Mar. 6, Apr. 12, and May 12 (M.). Sixteen glossy ibis were noted near El Paso, Apr. 11 (M.-K.), 9 at Havasu L., Apr. 20 (M.), about 25 near Joseph City, Ariz., Apr. 26 (P.), and 11 at Snowflake, May 4 (L.).

Waterfowl.—Mrs. Lena McBee at El Paso writes, "Duck migration is about as it has been for 5 years," an observation which might well apply to the remainder of the region. A Canada goose was still present near Needles, Apr. 6 (M.), and 2 were seen above Imperial Dam on the Colorado River, Apr. 22 (Pulich). A white-fronted goose was seen near Williams, Apr. 21 (P.). About 80 snow geese were lingering below Davis Dam on the Colorado River, Mar. 5 (Pulich). Virtually no migrating pintails were seen along the Colorado River (M.). The first cinnamon teal (6) were seen at Tucson, Feb. 29 (Tucson Bird Club). The height of a limited redhead migration on the Colorado River occurred on Havasu L., Apr. 13, when 132 were seen (M.). A few ring-necked ducks were still present near Imperial Dam, May 13 (A. Halloran). A male canvas-back was seen, May 7, at Snowflake (L.). The last buffle-heads were 2 near Parker, May 13 (M.), and 1 near Imperial Dam the same date (Halloran). Perhaps the most surprising waterfowl records were the large numbers of red-breasted mergansers seen at Havasu L., beginning about Apr. 10 and lasting through May 20, with a maximum of over 880, Apr. 19 (M.). One male was found dead in the road about 18 miles east of Quartzsite, Ariz., Apr. 19 (Pulich).

Hawks.—The turkey vulture arrived at Lupton, Apr. 4 (M. Wetherill). A Swainson's hawk was seen near Gila Bend, Ariz., Mar. 12 (Mr. & Mrs. E. D. Morton), and 1 at Tucson, Mar. 21 (H. Brandt), but others were not seen until Apr. 11, at Tucson (P., Cohen). Three Harris's hawks were seen at Tucson, Mar. 2, where they are rare (W. Foerster, M. Nice, P.). Single marsh hawks were still present near Sahuarita, Ariz., May 2 (P., W. & A. Foerster, I. Peters), and near Portal, Ariz., May 13 (Brandt). Migrating ospreys were noted at Havasu L. and Topock from Mar. 14 to Apr. 28 (M.); 1 was seen at Snowflake, May 30 (L.). Pigeon hawks were seen at Havasu L., Apr. 9, 12 (M.).

Gallinaceous birds.—The nesting of Gambel's quail along the Colorado River took place more than a month later than last year, with the first young not seen until May 17, at Topock (M.). Young were seen at Tucson, Apr. 30 (M. Nichols). All evidence points to a poor nesting season.

Shorebirds.—A rare straggler from the ocean, a black turnstone, was noted at Havasu L., May 21 (M.). Wilson's snipes were reported still "numerous" at San Bernardino Ranch, extreme southeastern Arizona, May 1 (Brandt, A. Gross). Two lesser yellow-legs were seen near Holbrook, Apr. 26 (P.), and about 30 at San Bernardino Ranch, May 1 (Brandt, Gross), while at El Paso they were seen in small numbers from Feb. 8 to Mar. 29 (M.-K.). A good avocet migration took place at Havasu L. and Topock, extending from Mar. 11 to Apr. 14 (M.). Few black-necked stilts were noted: 5 at a nesting locality near El Paso, Mar. 21 (M.-K.), where 3 fresh eggs were found, May 15 (Gen. G. Meyer).

Gulls and terns.—A good flight of California gulls occurred at Havasu L. from Apr. 1, when 275 were seen, to May 13 (M.). Two ring-billed gulls were seen at Tucson, where they are rare, Mar. 24 (C. Vorhies, L. Wehrle). A Franklin's gull was present at Havasu L., Apr. 13-15 (M.), and 2 were seen near Joseph City, Apr. 26 (P.). The earliest black tern was seen near Parker, May 1 (M.); 1 was seen at Snowflake, May 14 (L.).

Doves through kingfishers.—The first white-winged doves were noted, Apr. 6, at Tumacacori National Monument, Ariz. (B. Jackson); Apr. 16 at Carr Canyon in the Huachuca Mts., Ariz. (E. Jacot); Apr. 22 near Phoenix (Pulich); Apr. 24 at Tucson (Mrs. Foerster); and Apr. 29 in the Bill Williams delta (M.). A band-tailed pigeon was seen in the New York mesquite thicket on the Gila River southwest of Phoenix, Ariz., May 14 (Pulich). A horned owl nest with fresh eggs was found, Apr. 6, near Oro Grande, N. Mex. (Meyer). A whip-poor-will was seen in the Santa Catalina Mts., Ariz., May 4 (Mrs. Thornburg). A good flight of Vaux's swifts took place along the Colorado River, an exceptionally early individual noted, Apr. 1, at Havasu L.; they were last seen May 10 near Parker (M.). An early black-chinned hummingbird was seen at Tucson, Mar. 13 (Mrs. Steele).

Costa's hummingbirds had deserted their breeding territories in the Havasu L. area by May 10 (M.). A late lowland record for the broad-tailed hummingbird was obtained, May 17, east of Cascabel in the San Pedro valley, Ariz. (P.). Its arrival was reported on May 2, 7 miles north of U.S. Highway 66 on the Ft. Defiance road, Ariz. (Wetherill). The blue-throated hummingbird was first seen at Carr Canyon, Apr. 8 (Jacot). An early coppery-tailed trogon was seen in Ramsey Canyon in the Huachuca Mts., Apr. 11 (Jacot). The last belted kingfisher was noted at Havasu L., Apr. 27 (M.); at Snowflake, May 20 (L.).

Woodpeckers.—The last red-shafted flicker was noted at Havasu L., Apr. 15 (M.). A Lewis's woodpecker was seen at Wickieup, Ariz., Apr. 20 (P.). A belated Williamson's sapsucker was seen in the Chiricahua Mts., Ariz., May 2 (Brandt).

Flycatchers.—An early sulphur-bellied flycatcher was seen, May 11, at Cave Creek in the Chiricahua Mts. (L. Hargrave). Arizona crested flycatcher was noted at Feldman, Ariz., Apr. 28 (P.). The oliveaceous flycatcher arrived, Apr. 14, at Carr Canyon (Jacot). In the Colorado River valley, black phoebes had virtually disappeared by Apr. 30, apparently to breed elsewhere (M.). First western wood pewees were noted at Parker, Apr. 17 (M.), at El Paso, Apr. 30 (M.-K.), and at Snowflake, May 14 (L.). A stray vermilion flycatcher was seen at Snowflake, May 20-21 (L.). Beardless flycatcher was feeding young in the nest at mouth of Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mts., Ariz., May 31 (P., Brandt, Gross).

Swallows.—An unusually late tree swallow was seen, May 24, at San Bernardino Ranch (Hargrave). Very early barn swallows arrived at El Paso, Mar. 21 (M.-K.), at San Bernardino Ranch, Apr. 5 (Brandt), at Topock, Apr. 6 (M.), and at Snowflake, Apr. 17 (L.). An exceptionally early flight of cliff swallows took place, 4 being seen at Agua Caliente in the lower Gila valley, Ariz., Feb. 28 (Mortons), 3 near Parker Dam, Feb. 27 (M.), and 2 at Tucson, Mar. 4 (Mrs. Nice, P.). They were common migrants along the Colorado River from Apr. 15 to May 5 (M.). Arrival of breeding birds near Lupton was delayed until May 18, although the species was noted there, Apr. 13 (Wetherill). An exceptionally early report for the purple martin is that of 1 seen 6 miles south of New River, Ariz., Mar. 18 (Pulich).

Jays and titmice.—Single long-crested jays were seen flying gradually northward on the desert east of Douglas, Ariz., May 22 and 24 (!) (Brandt, Hargrave, P.). The wintering flock of pifion jays at Tumacacori National Monument was last seen Apr. 19 (Jackson), having arrived last Nov. 12. A pair of white-breasted nuthatches was seen at Tucson as late as Apr. (T.B.C.), and a pair was seen at the San Bernardino Ranch, Apr. 3 to 9 (Brandt). A brown creeper was nest building in the Chiricahua Mts., May 13 (Hargrave, P.).

Wrens through vireos.—Crissal thrasher nests containing nearly full-grown young were found at El Paso as early as Apr. 8 (Meyer). Four or 5 robins were still present at Tucson, Apr. 22 (Mortons). Blue-gray gnatcatchers were still common in the Big Sandy Valley in western Arizona, Apr. 19-20 (P.). American pipits were last seen near Wickieup, Apr. 19 (P.), and at San Bernardino Ranch, Apr. 20 (Hargrave, Brandt). Phainopeplas still had some small young in the nest near Parker, May 1. The small breeding colony at Snowflake was arriving, May 30 (L.). Bell's vireos were late in arriving, not being seen until Mar. 27 in the Bill Williams delta (M.); an early individual was seen at Tucson, Mar. 19 (T.), but no more until Mar. 26 (M.-K.). At Tumacacori National Monument, a nest with 4 fresh eggs was found, Apr. 30 (Jackson). A gray vireo was seen near Valentine, Ariz., Apr. 21 (P.).

Wood warblers.—Lucy's warbler arrivals were reported, Mar. 17, at Topock (M.), and, Mar. 29, at Tumacacori National Monument (Jackson); as many as 21 were seen near Tucson, Mar. 25 (P., Veghte, M.-K., Mrs. Wright). A Virginia's warbler was seen at Hueco Tanks, El Paso, Apr. 18 (M.-K.). Yellow warblers were very late in arriving along the Colorado River, where they were not seen until Apr. 17, near Parker (M.); on Apr. 27 in the Snowflake-Shumway area they were already fairly common (P., L.). Single northern waterthrushes were seen near Tucson, May 13 (Mortons, Mr. & Mrs. Kent), east of Cascabel, May 17 (Brandt, P., and others), and at Snowflake, May 24 (L.). The pileolated warbler probably the commonest transient warbler in the Southwest, was common in El Paso by Apr. 11 (M.-K.), along the Colorado River from Apr. 15 to May 20 (M.), and near Holbrook by Apr. 25 (P.). An early report of red-faced warbler came from Carr Canyon, Mar. 23 (Mrs. Healy). The painted redstart was seen at San Bernardino Ranch, Apr. 3 and 7 (Brandt); young were out of the nest in the Santa Rita Mts., May 28 (T.).

Finches and sparrows.—Black-headed grosbeak arrival dates were Apr. 12, Bill Williams delta (M.), and Apr. 28, Shumway (P.). Young were just out of the nest in the Santa Rita Mts., May 30 (Gross). A flight of Lawrence's goldfinches was the feature of the past winter in the Rio Grande valley; still flocks of 50 and 80 at El Paso, Mar. 8 (M.-K.). One was still present near Parker, Apr. 3 (M.). A lark bunting was seen near Holbrook, Apr. 26 (P.); they have been virtually absent in western and south-central Arizona the last winter. Botteri's sparrow was found May 22 at San Bernardino Ranch (Brandt, Hargrave, P.). A red-backed junco nest with 4 fresh eggs was found at Cloudcroft, May 8 (Meyer). Arizona juncos were still present in Sonoran zones at Sabino Canyon in the Santa Catalina Mts., Mar. 31 (T.), and on Cave Creek above Portal in the Chiricahua Mts., Apr. 1

(Brandt), probably due to a good February snowfall and a cold March. An Arizona junco was building its nest in the Santa Catalina Mts., Apr. 17, later destroyed by a house wren after 3 eggs were laid (T.). —GALE MONSON, *Havasu Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Parker, Ariz.*