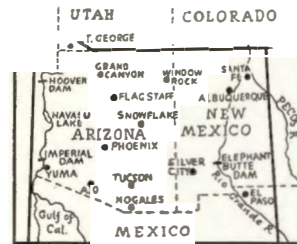


SOUTHWEST REGION.—The weather was generally normal, possibly somewhat cooler and less windy than usual. One exception to this normalcy was an unseason-



ably heavy but gentle rain over most of Arizona and parts of western New Mexico, April 27-28. As a legacy of the unusually abundant moisture of the past fall and winter in Arizona, water conditions were ex-

ceptionally good, in many areas the best in 40 years. Plant growth was generally retarded by about 2 weeks, and many of the larger desert shrubs failed to produce any bloom in south-central and western Arizona. The ground cover over most of the Arizona desert was remarkably heavy.

Hérons, Waterfowl.—A Louisiana Heron was observed near Ft. Hancock, Texas, April 16, the second record for the El Paso area (Mary Belle Keefer, Jasper Wooldridge). Two were discovered on the Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, N. Mex., June 3 (Russell Clapper, Raymond Fleetwood, Ray Meschkat), a first record for the state. Eight Canada Geese were still present on the Bosque Refuge, April 11 (RF), and a brood of 7 young Gadwall was found there, May 21 (Nathan Meeks).

Hawks.—Four Black Vultures and 1 Audubon's Caracara were observed between Sells and Tucson, Ariz., April 28 (Robert Pyle, *et al.*). A caracara was also seen near Sells, April 1 (Hugh and Margaret Dearing), and near Arivaca, Ariz., April 8 and May 11 (Bruce Cole). Sixteen Swainson's Hawks were soaring over Boulder City, Nev., May 20 (Warren Pulich). A Zone-tailed Hawk was seen over Tucson, where it is rare, April 17 (J. T. Marshall, Jr.). A Mexican Goshawk was noted at Tumacacori Nat'l Monument, Ariz., May 1 (Betty and David Jackson). A Mexican Black Hawk was seen in Oak Creek Canyon, Ariz., April 6 (Mrs. Robert Pugh). A late Marsh Hawk was found in the vicinity of Newberry Peak, southeast of Searchlight, Nev., May 1 (Richard Burns, Russell Grater). A very late Pigeon Hawk flew past Topock, Ariz., on the Havasu Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, April 29 (GM).

Gambel's Quail.—A bumper crop of Gambel's Quail hatched in the Colorado valley and over most of

southwestern Arizona; broods of more than 15 young were commonly reported. At the same time, unusually large concentrations of adults were to be found, especially in the Castle Dome Mountains, Ariz., on the Kofa Game Range, May 25 (Arthur Halloran).

Shorebirds and Terns.—A huge flock of 124 Long-billed Curlews was feeding in an alfalfa field 1½ miles south of Mesa, Ariz., April 3 (GM). Three Spotted Sandpiper nests were located on the Bosque Refuge, May 19, 27 and 28 (RF). A flock of 180 Marbled Godwits, probably the largest flock ever seen in Arizona, flew over Topock, April 29 (GM). Three hundred Wilson's Phalaropes were present on the Bosque Refuge, May 9 (RF). A flock of 24 Northern Phalaropes was seen on the Bill Williams Arm of Havasu Lake, May 16, and 1 was seen near Needles Landing on Havasu Lake, May 19; these were the first spring records from the Colorado valley (GM). Two Forster's Terns seen near Ft. Hancock, Texas, April 16 (Lena McBee), and 2 at Havasu Lake, April 17 (GM), were unusually early. A Least Tern was found on the Bosque Refuge, N. Mex., May 16 (RF), the first record for that area.

Doves, Owls.—During the period, Mourning Doves were found commonly throughout the desert areas within 15 to 20 miles of the Colorado River, at least from Parker north to Boulder City (RG, GM, WP). A White-winged Dove at Warren, Ariz., April 10 (Mary Matchette), 2 in the Bill Williams Delta, Ariz., on the Havasu Lake Refuge, April 16 (GM), and 3 at Cienega Spgs., near Parker, April 18 (Glenn Bradt) were unusually early. Two Horned Owl nests less than 1/10 of a mile apart, and both containing young, were found at Beal Lake in the Topock Swamp, Havasu Lake Refuge, April 9 (GM). A Burrowing Owl was found dead in the road about 25 miles southeast of Boulder Dam, Ariz., April 6 (WP). Another victim of automobile traffic was a Long-eared Owl, along U. S. Hwy. 95 about 25 miles south of Needles, Calif., May 7 (GM, Allan R. Phillips).

Goatsuckers, Swifts, Kingfishers.—A Whip-poor-will was calling in the oaks of the lower Santa Rita Mountains, Ariz., April 6 (JTM). The first Poor-will was heard on the Bosque Refuge, April 3 (RC). A Chimney Swift was found in a chimney at headquarters on the Bosque Refuge, April 22 (RC, RF). The only Vaux's Swift noted all spring in the Colorado valley was 1 at Topock, April 29 (GM); they were not definitely noted elsewhere in the region. A Belted Kingfisher in the Bill Williams Delta, May 16, was very late (GM).

Woodpeckers and Flycatchers.—Four Lewis's Woodpeckers that appeared at Grand Canyon Village, Grand Canyon Nat'l Park, Ariz., in February, remained into mid-May—an unusual occurrence for the South Rim (Harold Bryant). A Williamson's Sapsucker was still present in Rucker Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., Ariz., April 15 (JTM). There was no definite record of Cassin's Kingbird in the Tucson area until April 8, when 1 was seen in town (ARP). A Scissortailed Flycatcher was found on the Bosque Refuge, April 18 to 22 (Thomas Davis, RC, RF, Bart Long),

one of the few records for the Rio Grande valley in New Mexico. A Black Phoebe was observed at Cameron, Ariz., April 15 (WP). *Empidonax* flycatchers were almost absent from southern and western Arizona during the period, as were also Olive-sided Flycatchers.

Wrens through Phainopeplas.—The Rock Wren nested freely in broken areas along the Colorado River at least in the Parker to Needles district (GM). One or more young Bendire's Thrashers was already on the wing west of Santa Rosa, Papago Indian Reservation, Ariz., April 6 (ARP). Unusually late Am. Robins were 3 near Tucson, April 28 (Dorothy Snyder, Ellen Stephenson, et al.); 2 at Topock, April 29 (GM); and 1 at Boulder City, May 10 (WP). Cedar Waxwing numbers were below normal in southern and western Arizona, with no May flight evident, after the great February and March invasion (GM, ARP). Hardly any Phainopeplas were seen in the Indian Dam area on the Santa Cruz River above Tucson, April 25 to 29 (JTM, ARP, et al.), but the species was abundant there, May 23 (ARP, Wendell Swank).

Vireos and Wood Warblers.—A Bell's Vireo was seen at Socorro, N. Mex., April 5 (RF), the farthest north it has been found in the state. A Gray Vireo was seen on Havasu Lake Refuge about 7 miles below Needles, April 29 (GM). Warbling Vireos were very scarce throughout southern and western Arizona. Migratory warblers were very uncommon during April and early May, throughout southern and western Arizona and in adjacent California and extreme southern Nevada. A Lucy's Warbler was observed near Shumway, Ariz., where it is rare; also, 1 was seen on Carrizo Creek in southern Navajo Co., Ariz., both on April 18 (R. W. Dickerman, ARP). A male Am. Redstart was seen on the Bosque Refuge, May 8 (RF), and an immature male or female at Portal, Ariz., April 29 (Dorothy Snyder, et al.).

Blackbirds and Orioles.—A male Bobolink was seen on the Bosque Refuge, May 29 (RF), the second record for the lower Rio Grande valley in New Mexico. Evidence that the Western Meadowlark nested on the desert in California within 30 miles of Havasu Lake was found in a singing male seen near the north end of the Turtle Mts., May 13 (GM, ARP), and a family group of 6 seen about 20 miles south of Needles, in the southwest foothills of the Chemehuevi Mts., May 29 (GM). A male Hooded Oriole found at Sunrise Acres, northeast of El Paso, May 26 (Mrs. A. Andresen, MBK) was the first record for the immediate El Paso area. An adult ♂ Orchard Oriole was seen near Hereford, Ariz., May 6 (Dorothy Snyder, et al.), the first Arizona record. A ♀ Boat-tailed Grackle was seen at Quitobaquito, Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument, Ariz., April 27 (RP, et al.). At least 20 Brown-headed Cowbirds were feeding at the mule corrals at Grand Canyon Village during the last half of May—the largest aggregation ever seen there (HB). A male Bronzed Cowbird was seen on the Colorado River Indian Reservation, Ariz., near Parker, April 14 (GM).

Finches and Sparrows.—Black-headed Grosbeaks and Lazuli Buntings were very scarce throughout

southern and western Arizona. Three Evening Grosbeaks were seen at Boulder City, April 28 (RG), and another was observed there, May 5 (WP). Cassin's Finches have been unusually abundant at Grand Canyon Village (HB). The first nest of the Lawrence's Goldfinch outside of California was found at Cienega Springs, near Parker, about March 15; young left the nest on or about April 17 (GB). Green-tailed Towhees, reported as scarce in the Tucson area (ARP), were more common than usual in the Parker and Topock areas, being noted regularly in April (GM). The far-west Lark Bunting invasion lasted into late April and early May, as evidenced by the following: more than 90 still present about 20 miles south of Needles, April 26 (GM); big flock near Congress Junction, Ariz., April 27 (Harry & Ruth Crockett); from 50 to 75 seen along road leading to Pierce's Ferry, Ariz., on Lake Mead, April 29 (RB, Leon Mitchell); 6 or more near Aguila, Ariz., May 1 (WP); and about 60 5 miles north of Searchlight, May 2 (WP). Three Grasshopper Sparrows were noted at Ventana Ranch, Papago Indian Reservation, April 6 (ARP). Two or 3 Baird's Sparrows were found near Sonoita, Ariz., April 22 (DS, ES, *et al.*). Young Rufous-winged Sparrows with tails about 2/3 grown were seen near Vail, Ariz., May 19 (Eliot Porter), other young were seen near Tucson, May 20 (AP, EP), and full-grown young were found below the Rincon Mts., Ariz., May 24 (EP); but in the Indian Dam area near Tucson there was no evidence of nesting, May 23, as was also the case with other species there (ARP). Three Clay-colored Sparrows were singing near Sonoita, April 22 (DS, ES, *et al.*). The White-crowned Sparrow (not Gambel's) was very scarce throughout southern and western Arizona. At least 2 McCown's Longspurs were noted in a flock of about 11 longspurs near Sonoita, April 22; big flocks of Chestnut-colored Longspurs in the area had apparently left or broken up (DS, ES, *et al.*).—GALE MONSON, *Havasupai Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Parker, Ariz*