

♂ Black-throated Blue in spring plumage was observed at Regina Oct. 19-21 (ELF, FHB). **Kentucky Warbler** became a new hypothetical species for Saskatchewan when one was studied at close range for two hours at Moose Jaw Sept. 25 (JCH, DR). There were 3 sightings of Connecticut Warblers at Saskatoon Aug. 23-Sept. 17 (SJS, ARS) and others at Fargo Aug. 22-Sept. 14 (EGA).

**BLACKBIRDS** — The largest flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds reported were 4000 at Stettler, Alta. Sept. 7 (LML), 1000 at Lemberg, Sask. Sept. 6 (RLS) and 2000 Aug. 29 at Leeds, N.D. (ACF). In Alberta, there were 3000 Brewer's Blackbirds at Stettler Aug. 28 (LML) and 1400 at Cochrane Sept. 26 (C.F.N.S.).

**TANAGER, GROSBEAKS, BUNTINGS** — At Saskatoon, a W. Tanager was seen Sept. 23 (WCH) and up to 3 Black-headed Grosbeaks were present Aug. 25 through Sept. 1 (PO, JBG). Blue Grosbeak adults with a juvenile, w. of Sioux Falls Aug. 21 may have nested nearby (HK). Four Lazuli Buntings observed carefully at Pinawa, Man. Oct. 11 constitute the easternmost sight record for Manitoba (BNT, IH). Lark Buntings were more noticeable in South Dakota with 3 adults and 4 young at Humboldt Aug. 25 (HK) and a heavy migration through Rapid City the last week in August (EMS).

**SPARROWS** — One Henslow's Sparrow was identified at Sioux Falls Sept. 6, with another 2 on Oct. 22 near Humboldt (HK, GB, RN). Two Le Conte's Sparrows were seen at Altamont, S.D. Oct. 6 (BKH) and 9 near Humboldt Oct. 22 (HK). Good movements of Slate-colored Juncos occurred Sept. 16 and Sept. 25-26 at Edmonton, Sept. 20 at Bowdoin Refuge, Oct. 20 at Winnipeg and Oct. 23 at Jamestown, the 200 birds at the latter place being the highest number reported for the Region. Tree Sparrow peaks occurred Sept. 16 and again Oct. 10-15 at Edmonton, Oct. 10-17 at Saskatoon, Oct. 16 at Raymore, Sask. (73 birds) and Oct. 24 at Brandon, Man. (100 birds). Two hundred White-throated Sparrows at Bowdoin Refuge Sept. 22 was the highest number reported for the region. There was an above-average movement of Harris' Sparrows through the Region with 75 near Rosetown, Sask. Sept. 30, 300 at Bowdoin Refuge Sept. 22, 60 at Jamestown Oct. 23 and 67 at Sioux Falls Oct. 22.

**LONGSPURS** — Smith's Longspurs were reported from Leeds, N.D. (3 on Oct. 24, RLR), LaMoore, N.D. (1 killed at Omega Tower Oct. 4, JTL) and from near Gettysburg, S.D. where 60 were seen on Sept. 15 (BJR).

*Note:* The above is a summary of 80 reports from no less than 296 observers, a very concrete demonstration of interest and concern. In addition to the pleasurable hours afield, each observer has spent between 1 and 10 hours preparing his report, and each subeditor has devoted considerably more time and effort. Again, I must acknowledge my appreciation of the efforts of all observers, and particularly the work of my subeditors, without whose help this task would not be possible.

**CORRIGENDA** — *AB*, 25: 593: Prairie Falcon date was Jan. 3, not 23. *AB*, 25: 759: Rudolf Koes, not Hoes. The line "another w. of Dickinson, N.D. on May 21 (WGM)" refers to Cinnamon Teal, not Wood

Duck. *AB*, 25:760. LaMoore and Buchanan, N.D. refer to the Burrowing Owl, not the Saw-whet Owl. The Great Crested Flycatcher at Walhalla was on May 23, not May 29. On behalf of the gremlins in my typewriter, my apologies.

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## SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

/ Frances Williams

The first push of fall migrants occurred Sept. 18-19, after a front which brought snow to Colorado and rain to most of the rest of the Region. But there were no obvious "peaks" after that date, even though fronts came through about once a week. The weather was apparently too "good" during these frontal passages to push any migrants southward. Non-passerine migration produced some rarities, and most species occurred in usual numbers although somewhat late. But passerine migration was "nothing unusual, actually less than usual," as Mrs. Nichols wrote from Dallas. Passerines arrived late, lingered late, and were in general

in very low numbers. The only exceptions were the sparrows, which increased after a two-year period of low populations.

**LOONS, GREBES**— Common Loons began arriving in the Region in early November, and were on most of the large reservoirs by the end of the period. A bird tentatively identified as an **Arctic Loon** was closely studied at Bellevue, Neb., Nov. 9-16. Photographs seem to confirm the identification (TM, mob). Red-necked Grebes arrived in Washington Co., Colo., Sept. 6, an early date (JRe, VR). A flock of 40 Horned Grebes was sighted in Cleveland Co., Okla., Oct. 31 (MAJ, GER). On the same date, there were large concentrations of Eared Grebes at Oklahoma City (JGN) and Midland, Tex. (M.N.). A congregation of 800 W. Grebes was sighted at Loveland, Colo., Oct. 24



(RAR). This species wandered as far east as Cleveland Co., Oct. 5 (LJW); Lancaster Co., Neb., Nov. 5-9 (SD); Randall Co., Tex., Oct. 7-11. At the latter locality, it was associated with 50 Pied-billed, 10 Eared, and 3 Horned Grebes (PA).

**PELICANS, CORMORANTS, ANHINGAS**— White Pelicans moved through the Region in good numbers from Sept. 20-Oct. 29. Peaks included 2000 in Sequoyah Co., Okla., Oct. 15 (PN) and 1000 in Dallas, Oct. 6 (D.C.A.S.). One at L. Meredith in the Texas Panhandle on Nov. 20 was a late straggler (BL). Most observers reported fewer Double-crested Cormorants than normal, but in Lee, Washington and Brazos Cos., Tex., no decrease was noted (KAA). Five Anhingas in Dallas, Aug. 15 were the first in many years. One lingered until Sept. 6 (HN).

**HERONS**— A Little Blue Heron was sighted at Omaha, Aug. 1 & 14 (GC et al.). Cattle Egrets occurred throughout c. Oklahoma and Texas during September and October. One photographed in Howard Co., Tex., Sept. 17 constituted a first record at that locality (LBP). The largest flock was in Rogers Co., Okla., where 96 were counted Oct. 3 (D & HGo). The species lin-

gered at Buffalo Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Tex. until Nov. 11 (PA) and at Midland until Nov. 14 (M.N.). In Adams Co., Colo., 53 Snowy Egrets were counted on Aug. 15 (VR). The Louisiana Herons which were reported in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas in July and early August (AB 25:873) remained until late September. It was the first occurrence of this species at Tyler, Tex. since 1956 (OCS). Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported at Longmont, Colo., Aug. 15 (IB); Howard Co., Oct. 8 (LBP); Eldorado, Tex., Aug. 31 (CCW). A Black-crowned Night Heron at Ft. Worth in mid-October was noteworthy (F.W.A.S.).

**STORKS, IBISES, SPOONBILLS**— Good numbers of Wood Ibises wandered throughout Texas during September. One in Tom Green Co. was west of the normal range of the species and was photographed Sept. 12 (CCW). They were still present in Washington Co. as late as Oct. 30 (GM). White-faced Ibises were sighted in Dallas Aug. 20-Sept. 6 (D.C.A.S.) but they moved across the remainder of the Region from Sept. 20 — Oct. 3. At Buffalo Lake Refuge a peak of 28 was counted Sept. 25 (KS). Roseate Spoonbills were sighted at Dallas Aug. 15 — Oct. 6 (D.C.A.S.) and at L. Somerville, Lee and Washington Cos., Tex., Sept. 9 (GM).

**WATERFOWL**— Trumpeter Swans which had nested at Valentine Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Neb. were still present Sept. 13 (TM). Large flights of Canada Geese were observed in c. Oklahoma and n.c. Texas, Oct. 7-8. On Oct. 9, a small flock was sighted in Tom Green Co. (FW). But 4000 remained at Desoto Bend Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Neb., where there were also several thousand White-fronted Geese, Oct. 15 (NGJ). With 100,000 Snow Geese at Plattsmouth Wildlife Refuge, Neb. in mid-November (NGJ) it seems impossible that any could be found elsewhere. But small flocks were common in n.e. Colorado, Nov. 3-30 (RAR) and 300 were sighted as far south as Bell Co., Tex., Nov. 3 (MW). Three Blue Geese at Clayton, New Mex., Oct. 2 supplied a first record (WCo). There were more ducks in the Ft. Collins area than in many years (RAR) and big flights arrived in Nebraska during September (NGJ). Texas observers reported that ducks were slow in arriving, and there was little buildup until late November. A Mottled Duck was found in Lee Co., Sept. 9 (GM). Cinnamon Teals were noted in Lancaster Co., Oct. 17 (NGJ) and Washington Co., Okla., Sept. 7-21 (B.A.S.). A Eur. Widgeon was identified at Ft. Collins, Nov. 22 (MSZ). Wood Ducks were sighted in Otero Co., Colo., Oct. 9 (VT); Bell Co., Oct. 8 (MW); Midland, Oct. 31 (TJ). Hooded Mergansers were reported at Omaha, Sept. 24 (GC) and Cleveland Co., Nov. 30 (PB, VC). This species has become a regular visitor to s.-c. Kansas in the past five years (KK, J Cox). The only Oldsquaw reported was at Hagerman Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Tex., Nov. 6 (WP). A White-winged Scoter was located in Arapahoe Co., Colo., Oct. 18 (WCh).

**HAWKS**— A hawk count in Payne Co., Okla., Oct. 2 produced 122 hawks of 7 species, a very good record (ZM). There were two movements of Mississippi Kites in the Region, the first Sept. 2-6, the second, Sept. 26-27. Single birds in Howard Co., Oct. 4 (LBP) and

Dallas, Oct. 15 (HN) were late stragglers. A Goshawk in Lancaster Co., Sept. 27, was early (RL). A flight of 25 Red-tailed Hawks was recorded in Osage Co., Okla., Sept. 20 (B.A.S.). Harlan's Hawks were noted in Adams Co., Colo., Sept. 19 (D.F.O.); Oklahoma City, Oct. 24, 31 & Dec. 4 (JGN) Washington Co., Okla. Nov. 7 (ED); Wichita, Kans., Nov. 4 (JCox); Dallas, Oct. 16 (HN, PJ). The only flight of Broad-winged Hawks observed was in Hopkins Co., Tex. and comprised about 200 birds (AMo). No large concentrations of Swainson's Hawks were sighted. Rough-legged Hawks moved into the Region in good numbers by mid-November. Golden Eagles continue to be seen in normal numbers in their usual haunts. One in Midland Co., Oct. 10-Nov. 7 was a third record (DLe). Only 7 Bald Eagles were reported. At least 45 Ospreys were sighted, with dates ranging from Sept. 11 to Nov. 7. Prairie Falcons were in good numbers in Colorado. Game Commission personnel reported a total of 14 Prairie Falcons in Nebraska from Sept. 15-Oct. 29. Few were seen elsewhere. Only 10 Peregrine Falcons were reported. Pigeon Hawks were noted in Weld Co., Oct. 23 (RAR), Denver, Nov. 13 (DHu) and Midland, Oct. 2 (TJ).

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS** — Observers at Wray, Colo. counted 25 Greater Prairie Chickens in early November (SB). Game, Fish & Parks biologists banded 900 Bobwhites in n.e. Colorado during the period. The flock of Turkeys in Midland County now numbers over 100. It was formerly thought that treeless areas were not suitable habitat for Turkeys, but this flock uses oil tanks and other oil field structures as roosting sites. Food is provided by an extensive growth of Havard Shin Oak "shinnery" (*Quercus havardii*) (M.N.).

**CRANES, RAILS** — A Whooping Crane was sighted flying with Sandhill Cranes over the Wichita Mts. Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Okla., Oct. 31 (LJW) and three paused at Salt Plains Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Okla., Nov. 16 (LB). Observers in e. Colorado were excited by the large flights of Sandhill Cranes in their area. Near Aurora, on Oct. 29, 6000 birds were counted in 2½ hours, in three big flocks (KW, MOS). At Ft. Collins, flocks of 50 to 1000 birds were sighted Oct. 15-Nov. 2 (RAR). In Otero Co., 6000 were estimated Oct. 9 (VT). Smaller flocks passed over Pawnee Grasslands, Oct. 9 (NH) and El Paso Co., Oct. 30 (MPS). Sandhill Cranes were sighted in Omaha, where they had not been recorded in several years, on Nov. 9 (TM). Small flocks arrived in Brazos Co., Nov. 4 (KAA) and Bell Co., Nov. 3 (MW). The wintering population in w. Texas was widely scattered this fall, possibly because most playa lakes contained water after late summer rains. Virginia Rails were located in Larimer Co., Colo., Sept. 8 (VB); Waco, Tex., Sept. 4 & 11 (RC, JCor); Brazos Co., Oct. 8 (GFC).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Piping Plovers were sighted at Denver, Oct. 23 (D.F.O.); Washington Co., Okla., Sept. 12 & 14 (DGo et al.). Pueblo Co., Aug. 29 (VT et al.); Oklahoma City, Aug. 4, Sept. 15, Oct. 2 (JGN). A flock of Mountain Plovers in El Paso Co., Aug. 28 totaled 50 birds (DB). On the same day, four were noted at Buffalo Lake Refuge (KS). Ruddy Turnstones occurred at Amarillo, Sept. 6 (PA) and Oklahoma City,

Aug. 4-28 (JGN). A Woodcock was located in Cleveland Co., Nov. 24 (M & WH), and one was banded in Brazos Co., Nov. 6 (RI). The only report of Whimbrels was in Pueblo Co., Sept. 4 (LJ & MPS, VT). **Knots** made news on the plains this fall. They supplied first county records in Dallas Co., Sept. 11 (HN et al.) and Pueblo Co., Sept. 8 (DGR). Other reports came from Ft. Collins, Sept. 4 (RAR) and Oklahoma City, Aug. 22 (JGN); two birds were photographed at Oklahoma City (BPar; JRo). The only Dunlin reported was at Oklahoma City, Oct. 17 (JGN). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found in Arapahoe Co., Aug. 29 (JRe); Amarillo, where they constituted a second record, Sept. 6 (PA); Omaha, Aug. 29 (TM); Oklahoma City, where there was a peak of nine, Aug. 19-Sept. 15 (JGN). Hudsonian Godwits were photographed in Washington Co., Colo., Sept. 6 (JRe, VR), and were also sighted in Washington Co., Okla., Sept. 15 (DGo).

**PHALAROPES, GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMER** — Northern Phalaropes were once considered unusual migrants on the plains, but are now of regular although uncommon occurrence. A Glaucous Gull remained at Oklahoma City, Nov. 7-13 (JGN, mob). Some aggregations of Franklin's Gulls were of immense proportions: 750,000 at Tishomingo Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Okla., Nov. 4 (GZ) and "about a million" in Cleveland Co., Oct. 31 (GER). Bonaparte's Gulls were widespread in the Region in late October and early November, and remained at Oklahoma City until the end of the period (JGN). Sabine's Gulls were located in Colorado in Morgan Co., Sept. 19-Oct. 3 (D.F.O.); Huerfano Co., Sept. 19 (DGr); Pueblo Co., Sept. 29 (DSi); and in Cleveland Co., Okla., Oct. 3 (GMS, WH). Forster's, Common and Caspian Terns were widespread in the Region. An immature Com. Tern was collected at Oklahoma City Aug. 28 (JRo); another, a bird tentatively identified as a Com. Tern, was collected in Osage Co., Oct. 19 (AM & SM). A Least Tern was noted at Tyler, Aug. 14, 22 (GSm). A Black Skimmer was sighted in Cleveland Co., Oct. 3 (FP, GER) and was collected Oct. 5, the second record of the species for Oklahoma (GMS). There was a previous sight record in May, 1967 (JGN).

**DOVES, CUCKOOS, OWLS** — Inca Doves continue to increase at Midland (M.N.) and Waco (C.T.A.S.). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo remained at Dallas until the late date Oct. 27 (D.C.A.S.). A Groove-billed Ani appeared in Payne Co., Okla., Nov. 16 (HCa). A Snowy Owl at Ft. Collins, Sept. 2 was early (DHe). Burrowing Owls were located in Brazos Co., Oct. 9-Nov. 5 (KAA et al.). Long-eared Owls remained at Buffalo Lake Refuge Oct. 10-Nov. 21 (KS). The only Short-eared Owls reported were at Ft. Collins, Nov. 6-30 (RAR) and Tulsa, Nov. 20 (ES, PK).

**GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS** — Chuck-will's-widow, a species seldom recorded in fall, was noted at Waco, Oct. 3 (LMB). A Whip-poor-will was found dead at Dallas, Sept. 4 (EH). A flight of 100 Com. Nighthawks passed over Longmont, Sept. 19 (JF). Hundreds of Chimney Swifts were seen continuously in Lancaster Co., Aug. 25-Sept. 27. The last stragglers were noted Oct. 1 (NGJ). Six White-throated Swifts were observed in Palo Duro Canyon, Randall Co., Tex., Nov. 23 (PA, RK). Six Ruby-throated

Hummingbirds were netted at Hays, Aug. 26-Oct. 6 (CAE). A Rufous Hummingbird at a feeder in Tulsa, Nov. 13-19, provided a second record there (T & HP).

**KINGFISHERS, WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS** — A Green Kingfisher was sighted in Kimble Co., Aug. 20 (CCW). A large flight of flickers in Wichita, Sept. 25-27 was composed of 70 per cent Yellow-shafted birds, most of the remainder being hybrids (KK). A Pileated Woodpecker in Dallas, Oct. 31, was noteworthy (D.C.A.S.). A Red-headed Woodpecker in Waco, Oct. 10 was the first in several years (C.T.A.S.). An Acorn Woodpecker in Clayton, Sept. 11 provided a first record there (WCo). A Williamson's Sapsucker was located at L. Meredith, Oct. 14-16 (BL, PA). Three E. Kingbirds at Frionia, Tex. the first week in September were unusual (CDL). Great Crested Flycatchers were sighted at Amarillo in late August (PA) and at Buffalo Lake Refuge, Oct. 2 (KS). A Black Phoebe in Howard Co., Oct. 17 constituted a first record there (LBP). Olive-sided Flycatchers occurred at Omaha, Aug. 21 & Sept. 23 (B & LP). A Vermilion Flycatcher in Washington Co., Okla., Sept. 30 represented a first county record (DGo, ED).

**SWALLOWS, CORVIDS** — High counts of migrating swallows included 1000 Rough-winged and Barn Swallows at Tulsa, Sept. 19 (PK) and "hundreds" of Barn and Cliff Swallows at Wellington, Kans., Sept. 15 (KK). In Rogers Co., Okla., there was a massive flight of Barn Swallows, which was estimated to number 20,000 birds, Oct. 3 (D & HGo). "Hundreds" of Purple Martins flocked in Hastings, Neb., July 28 (ERR). It was estimated that there were at least 1000 Blue Jays in the oak woods near L. Thunderbird, Cleveland Co., Nov. 30 (GER). A Blue Jay at Muleshoe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Tex., Oct. 24 was unusual (FW), as was a flock of 60 at Clayton, Sept. 2 (WCo). Scrub Jays occurred in numbers just east of the foothills of Colorado. Many observers reported they had never before seen Scrub Jays on the plains (MOS, mob).

**NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS, WREN** — A Red-breasted Nuthatch was sighted at Ellis, Kans., Sept. 6, a very early date (RW). By early November, a few Red-breasted Nuthatches had arrived at Omaha, Dallas, Ft. Worth and Amarillo. Brown Creepers were unusually numerous in Lancaster Co. from Sept. 9 to the end of the period (NJG). A Carolina Wren was located in Adams Co., Oct. 16 (LW).

**MIMIDS, THRUSHES** — Fifteen Catbirds were counted in Jefferson Co., Colo., Sept. 4 (D.F.O.). Catbirds left Lancaster Co. by Sept. 26 (NGJ) and were sighted in Stillwater, Okla. (ZM) and Midland (JK), Oct. 25. Sage Thrashers were east of their normal range at Wichita, Nov. 21 (MM) and Tarrant Co., Tex., Nov. 6 & 12 (MRa). Several hundred Robins were found at Wellington, Sept. 19 (KK) and thousands invaded Lancaster Co., Nov. 10-20 (NGJ). A Wood Thrush was sighted in Adams Co., Oct. 16-17 (D.A.S.). Concentrations of thrushes occurred in Colorado after the Sept. 18 snowstorm: 41 Hermit Thrushes at Waterton (HEK) and 20 Swainson's Thrushes in Adams Co. (LW). Three Hermit Thrushes were netted at Hays, Oct. 5-8 (CAE). Six Veeries banded at the same location, Sept. 6-12 were early (CAE). Thrushes were scarce in w. Texas (T.P.A.S., M.N.)

**PIPITS, VIREOS** — Sprague's Pipits were noted at Wichita, Sept. 29-Oct. 12 (KK). Only one Red-eyed Vireo was banded at Longmont, Sept. 9 (AC), but this species was recorded at Friona, Aug. 27 & 31 (CDL) and Buffalo L. Oct. 4 (KS). There were a number of reports of Philadelphia Vireos, which are unusual in the fall.

**WARBLERS** — A Golden-winged Warbler at Tulsa, Sept. 12 was a second fall record for the area (LR). A Blue-winged Warbler was sighted at Dallas, Sept. 4 (WP et al.). Tennessee Warblers were recorded in Jefferson Co., Sept. 14 (PE), Hays, Sept. 12-18 (CAE), and at Lincoln on the late date of Nov. 1 (SD). Banders at Hays netted 116 Orange-crowned Warblers, Sept. 29-Oct. 2 (CAE). Magnolia Warblers were noted at Johnson Co., Kans., Sept. 29 (MLM); Jefferson Co., Oct. 3 (D.F.O.); Omaha, Sept. 22 (TM). Black-throated Blue Warblers were located in Omaha, Sept. 25 (L & BP); Pueblo, Oct. 2-4 (DGr et al.); Hays, Oct. 7 (MRo). More than half of all warblers banded at Longmont were Audubon's (AC). Black-throated Green Warblers were unusually numerous in Lancaster Co., Sept. 16-Oct. 21 (SD) and remained late at Hays, Nov. 11 (CAE). A Grace's Warbler at Midland, Sept. 16 was the first since 1956 (JK). Chestnut-sided Warblers were located in Jefferson Co., Sept. 4 (VR); Omaha, Sept. 21 (BP); Wichita Mts. Refuge, Oct. 10 (JGN). A Blackpoll Warbler in Adams Co., Sept. 11 (RA), and another at Longmont, Oct. 9 (AC) were the second fall records at those localities. A Prairie Warbler in Bell Co., Sept. 10 & 18 provided a first record there (MW). A Louisiana Waterthrush in Parmer Co., Tex., Sept. 5 was the first recorded there (CDL), and another in Washington Co., Okla., Oct. 4, the second recorded in fall (ED). Very late stragglers were Macgillivray's Warbler at Denver, Oct. 23 (JCoo); Yellow-breasted Chat at Littleton, Colo., Nov. 27-29 (JCoo); Canada Warbler in Lee Co., Nov. 7 (B.O.S.); Am. Redstart at Dallas, Oct. 23 (HN) and Cleveland Co., Nov. 6 (MAJ).

**ORIOLE, FRINGILLIDS** — A ♀ Bullock's Oriole was identified at Bartlesville, Oct. 3 (SM). A Lazuli Bunting at Ellis, Aug. 20 was the first fall record (RW). Sparrows arrived late throughout the Region, most arriving in mid-October. No real build-up of winter sparrow populations occurred until mid-November. A Henslow's Sparrow was located in Brazos Co., Nov. 5 (KAA), and a Cassin's Sparrow in Bell Co., Nov. 12 (MW). A Brewer's Sparrow at Hays, Sept. 14 was one of the few records there. Birds believed to be Brewer's Sparrows were carefully studied at Dallas, Oct. 30 (JH, HN). It is unfortunate that no specimens were secured. A migrating flock of several hundred Lapland Longspurs was observed near Nunn, Colo., Oct. 26 (DZ). About 500 of this species were sighted in Johnson Co., Kans., Nov. 12 (MLM).

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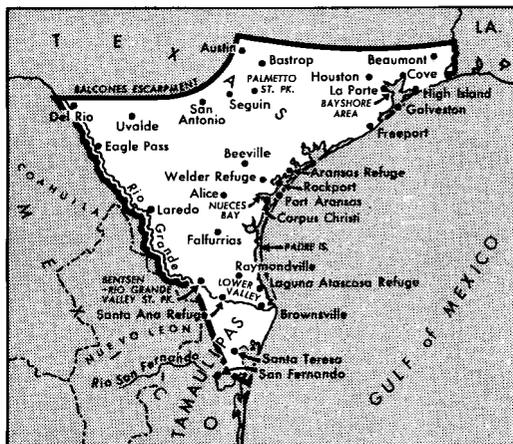
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## SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/Fred S. Webster, Jr.

The wet trend set during the latter part of the long breeding season intensified and continued until November. September and October were wet months in most areas, extremely wet in some localities. Torrential rains accompanying Hurricane Fern drenched the central coast; coastal counties n. and e. of Corpus Christi received up to 20 in., while the community of Papalote, Bee Co., about 25 mi. n. of Corpus Christi, caught 35 in. over a two-day period. Heavy rains followed the storm's course inland to the Mexican border. Throughout the season, some excessively heavy rains occurred as a result of instability or frontal passage, but these were confined to relatively small areas; however, rainfall from whatever triggering action adds up, and it must have seemed that major streams in the western half of the Region were running at flood stage more often than not. Shifflett, resident manager of Santa Ana Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, wrote "The first flood occurred on Sept. 21, and covered approximately 80 per cent of the refuge. No sooner had the first receded when a second flood covered the entire refuge except for scattered patches. Water remained on the uplands for about two weeks. Most of the vegetation in the lakes seem to have been washed away and most herbaceous vegetation was drowned." At Welder Wildlife Refuge, Cottam commented on the extreme conditions to which wildlife habitat there had been subjected in recent seasons: high waters of Hurricane Beulah in September 1967, tree-stripping winds of Hurricane

Celia in August 1970, unprecedented drought from December 1970 to August 1971, and finally, devastating rains of Fern. South Texas must have appeared a bit unfamiliar to migrating birds, and some shift in feeding areas became a necessity; brim-full reservoirs were short on aquatic plant food, but this loss was offset by countless intermittent ponds and flooded pastures along the coastal prairies. Dispersal of waterfowl, waders and shorebirds must have been greater than usual, and may account for scarcity of reports of large concentrations for most species. A mild, frost-free fall extended the growing and blooming season for many plants beyond the normal time span, and late grasses and weeds — brought on by drought-breaking rains during the summer — contributed food and cover for migrants. Insect populations thrived throughout the season. It would appear that resident birds — particularly waterfowl and quail, whose nesting activity



had been curtailed during the dry spring — would respond to the transformed environment with a late nesting attempt. Such, indeed, was the case with quail; however, nesting success was minimized in many areas as rains continued. Along the inland course of Fern, nesting was definitely terminated, according to the Bones. Some dead Bobwhite and Scaled Quail were found, apparently drowned, where brush cover was not available. The Axtells, travelling on U.S. 77 in Kenedy Co. Oct. 16, found nesting activity on intermittent lakes along the highway: Pied-billed Grebes being fed at 1 nest and another nest had incubation in progress, a Black-bellied Tree Duck had downy young, and a Com. Gallinule family had small young.

**HURRICANE FERN** — This erratic storm began as a tropical depression e. of Florida Aug. 29, subsequently crossed c. Florida and attained hurricane status around midnight on Sept. 8 while some 230 miles e. of Brownsville. After menacing first one and then another section of the Texas coast, Fern reached land at 7 a.m. Sept. 10 midway between Matagorda and Freeport, however, she changed direction then and moved s.w. along the coast. At 7 p.m. Fern stalled over Corpus Christi Bay with 60 m.p.h. winds near the center, but later resumed a s.w. course inland and