

Manitoba (BR). At Fargo, there were more goldfinches than ever before, with 150 counted on Jan. 2 (EGA), while 117 were counted at Bismarck on Jan. 3 (RNR). The only crossbill record was of 2 Reds at Rapid City on Dec. 27 (EMS). An unusual winter record at Billings, Mont. was a **Rufous-sided Towhee** at a feeder Jan. 19 (KH), after 4 had been seen on the Jan. 2 C B C. White-winged Juncos showed an increase at Rapid City where they formed 65% of the junco population at one feeding station, and where 278 were counted on Dec. 27 (EMS). Snow Buntings were reported as decreased at many locations but at Calgary on Jan. 24, 12,500 were seen in two hours (WWS) and flocks of up to 1000 were seen at Rosetown (WER), Saskatoon and Kenaston, Sask. (PLB). The highest count in North Dakota was of 720 birds between Bismarck and Dickinson on Feb. 6 (WAB).

CONTRIBUTORS (area editors in bold face)—Don Adolphson, John R. Akin, Ernest A. Alfstad, **Eliz. G. Anderson**, P. L. Beckie, Margaret Belcher, E. Bossenmaier, David Braddell, Frank H. Brazier, Wm. A. Buresh, F. W. Cameron, Frank J. Cassel, **Herb Copland**, Eliz. Cruickshank, Chesley M. Dinkins, Conrad A. Fjetland, James E. Frates, Richard W. Fyfe, Ann M. Gammell, Ken Gardner, R. E. Gehlert, David E. Goeke, **J. B. Gollop**, Joyce Gunn, Michael J. Hampson, Kathryn Hicks, Eliz. K. Hubbard, Douglas H. Johnson, Joseph W. Johnson, J. Keizer, Frank F. Kelley, **Edith W. Kern**, Rodney J. King, Herbert Krause, Jack Lane, Wayne E. LeBien, L. M. Lohr, David C. McGlaughlin, W. E. McKay, John Milliken, Robert W. Nero, William Niven, Richard Palindat, Connie Pratt, Robert D. R refuse, Robert N. Randall, Wayne E. Renaud, S. D. Riome, Barbara Robinson, B. J. Rose, **Esther M. Serr**, **Hugh C. Smith**, **Wayne W. Smith**, **Paul F. Springer**, R. W. Sutton, Esther A. Swenson, Robert R. Taylor, Don Tennant, R. Thomson, George Toews, Herbert G. Troester, **R. W. Turner**, Steve Waycheshen, Jim A. Wedgwood, D. N. White, N. R. Whitney, A. E. Wilkins.—**C. STUART HOUSTON**, 863 University Drive, Saskatoon, Sask.

SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION / Frances Williams

Winter was mild and very dry throughout the Region. The drought was most prolonged in western Texas, where only four inches of rain fell in 1970, and none at all during the first three months of 1971. Normally a mild winter leads to wintering farther north than normal by many species, but the drought and resulting lack of water and food counteracted the mild temperatures. Not only did all the playa lakes dry up, but also such large man-made lakes as Buffalo in the Texas Panhandle and North Concho at San Angelo, Texas went dry. At several localities this

left sewage evaporative ponds as the only habitat for water birds. This situation resulted in more reports of rare species, as it concentrated birds and bird watchers at the same locations.



LOON, GREBES, PELICANS—A Red-throated Loon was sighted in Roger Mills Co., Okla., Dec. 1 (GRo, RRo). Red-necked Grebes were reported at Cherry Creek Recreation Area, Arapaho Co., Colo., Feb. 28 (JRE); Colorado Springs, Colo., Mar. 20 (RAR); Potter Co., Tex., Mar. 12 (KS, PA). Unusual winter records of White Pelicans were at Great Salt Plains Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Okla., Jan. 2 (KES) and Midland, Tex., Jan. 9 (TJ). Large migrating flocks of this species were noted in Hood Co., Tex., Mar. 27 (WP et al.) and Hulah Reservoir, Okla., Mar. 1 (WHL).

CORMORANTS, ANHINGA, BITTERN—Several flocks comprising up to 400 Double-crested Cormorants were observed in McLennan Co., Tex., Feb. 20 through Mar. (LMB). At Dallas, 300 were sighted on Mar. 20 (HN). A "large flock" was seen in Rogers Co., Okla., Mar. 28 (HG, DG). An Anhinga in Brazos Co., Tex., Mar. 26 was one of the few records there (KAA, GFC). Am. Bitterns wintered at L. Meredith in the Texas Panhandle (BAL et al.) and one was sighted in Pontotoc Co., Okla., Mar. 26 (WAC).

SWANS, GEESE—Except for a single bird at Dallas, Dec. 31–Jan. 1 (PJ et al.), Whistling Swans were reported only from the w. part of the Region. Seven arrived at the Midland sewage ponds Feb. 18 and 1 was still present at the end of the period (M.N.). Four were seen at Ft. Collins, Colo., Mar. 17 (RAR). Others were noted at L. Carl Elting near Kenton, Okla., Dec. 28 (WMD), Larimer Co., Colo., early Mar. (DB), and Salt Plains Refuge, Jan. 3–11 (FLB). Snow Geese were more common than usual in w. Texas

in Mar., 300 being counted at the Amarillo sewage ponds in mid-month (PA), 200 at Hereford, Tex. early in the month (PA) and 22 at the Midland sewage ponds, Mar. 15 (M.N.). Three Ross' Geese were identified at Ft. Collins, Mar. 12 (RAR). This species was also observed at Muleshoe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Tex., Dec. 15–Dec. 24 (CDL) and Longmont, Colo., in late December (CR).

DUCKS—A **Mottled Duck** collected in Washita Co., Okla., Dec. 16 was a first State record (MME). Cinnamon Teal occurred somewhat e. of their normal range at Dallas, Feb. 25 (D.C.A.S.); McLennan Co., Mar. 27 (LMB); Tarrant Co., Tex., February and March (EB, IW); McCurtain Co., Okla., Mar. 22 (WAC); Wichita, Kans., Mar. 20 (KK). If ducks could be said to "irrupt", **Oldsquaw** did this winter. Texas records were at Midland through the period (M.N.), Tarrant Co., Feb. 11–13 (EB, JL), L. Meredith, Jan. 5, Mar. 17 & 24 (BAL, PA et al.). Colorado records were at Ft. Collins, Dec. 5 (PH), Jefferson Co., Dec. 18 & 27 (VR, HK), Huerfano Co., Nov. 26–Mar. 20 (VT). It was also noted at Wichita, Dec. 26 (KK), Tulsa, Feb. 17–Mar. 20 (ARe, BRe), Hulah Reservoir, Jan. 1 (SM). White-winged Scoters were sighted at Salt Plains Refuge, Mar. 24 (MAJ), Cherry Creek Recreation area, Dec. 12 (JRe), Johnson Co., Kans. (JSa et al.), Clayton, N. Mex., Dec. 4 (WC).

HAWKS—All observers reported good wintering populations of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, most Buteos, and Sparrow Hawks. Goshawks were seen near Kenton, Okla., Dec. 28 (LM), Lawrence, Kans., Dec. 29 (RF), and Omaha, Dec. 26 (GWO). More Harlan's Hawks were reported than usual, but some of these may have been mis-identifications because of confusion with melanistic Red-tailed Hawks. **Rough-legged Hawks** invaded the plains in unusual numbers. Observers in Otero Co., Colo. could count 40 almost any day (VT), and 23 were counted in Denver, Dec. 26 (D.F.O.). Many were observed in north central Texas, and they reached as far south as McLennan Co. (LMB). Golden Eagles winter at many large reservoirs in the w. half of the Region, as well as in rough areas of mesas and cliffs. Most observers report that the species is holding its own or even increasing slightly. At one ranch in Ector Co., Tex. where 2 Golden Eagles are normal in winter, 6 were present. Unfortunately they roosted on power line poles, and 3 were electrocuted when their wings made contact with two wires at once. A slight increase in numbers of wintering Bald Eagles was noted at several reservoirs. Twenty-three were counted at Great Salt Plains Refuge, Jan. 2 (KES). More adults than immatures were present in most areas. The only report of an Osprey was at Denison, Tex., Mar. 20 (RRy). A Caracara was noted in Brazos Co., Mar. 28 (GFC). The only Peregrine Falcon reported was at Quivira Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Kans. in late December (CD).

CRANES, RAIL, SHOREBIRDS—Sandhill Cranes seem to wander more widely each spring. They were sighted at Irving, Tex., Mar. 14 (WP), Pontotoc Co., Mar. 18 (WAC), Cleveland Co., Okla., Mar. 20 (GS), Stillwater, Okla., Feb. 26–Mar. 4 (ZM). A Virginia Rail wintered at L. Meredith (BAL). Observers at Tyler, Tex. counted 35 Am. Golden Plovers, Mar. 22 (OCS), and 10 were noted at Dallas, Mar. 20 (WP). This species was also observed at Tulsa, Mar. 17–20 (ARe, BRe). Am. Woodcocks were seen at Dallas, Dec. 26 & 30 (D.C.A.S.), Feb. 16 (PM) and one was sighted in Kaufman Co., Tex., Jan. 2 (PSi, RSi). A Dunlin occurred in Tarrant Co., Mar. 26 (ML, JL) and one at Midland, Mar. 27–31 was a first County record (TJ et al.). Spotted Sandpipers at Brush, Colo., Dec. 22 (GAS) and Big Spring, Tex., Jan. 3 (KR) were unusual winter occurrences.

PHALAROPES, GULLS, TERN—Five Wilson's Phalaropes at Midland's sewage ponds were the first January record (TJ). A ♀ N. Phalarope in breeding plumage remained at the same location Feb. 6–Mar. 15 (M.N.). There was an amazing number of sightings of **Glaucous Gulls**: Oklahoma City, Jan. 24–Feb. 28 (JNe); Salt Plains Refuge, Jan. 2–20 (FLB); Ft. Gibson Dam, Okla., Jan. 23 (JNo, JT); Redmond Reservoir, Kans., Feb. 20 (BG et al.); Loveland, Colo., Feb. 11–13 (MH, RAR); Prewitt Reservoir, Colo. (JRe); Cherry Creek Recreation Area, Jan. 3 (JCo). A **Black-legged Kittiwake** at Denver, Mar. 19–25 was a third state record (PE et al.). A Forster's Tern in Brazos Co., Jan. 23 was a first winter record (GFC).

PIGEON, OWLS, POOR-WILL—A Band-tailed Pigeon spent Dec. 12 near Friona, Tex. (CDL). **Snowy Owls** occurred in Colorado for the first time in many years. They were sighted at Greely, Dec. 13 (GS); Ft. Collins, Jan. 14 (BH); Nunn, Feb. 13 (GW); Cherry Creek Recreation Area, Jan. 2–23 (JRe et al.). Long-eared Owls were found at Dallas, Jan. 18 (TG); Buffalo Lake, Mar. 3–25 (KS); McLennan Co., Feb. 20 (RC); Brazos Co., Dec. 13 (DJ); Arnett, Okla., Dec. 26 (LG). They were common at Denver throughout the period (HK) and were observed at Ft. Collins, Jan. 30–Mar. 6 (SO). Short-eared Owls wintered in good numbers throughout the Region. A Poor-will was captured in a building on the campus of East Central State College, Ada, Okla., Mar. 15. It was photographed, banded and released (WAC).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHER, CORVIDS—A Red-bellied Woodpecker was sighted in Potter Co., Tex., Dec. 31 (BAL). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were scarce in Tarrant Co. (MRa) and Bartlesville (ED) but 1 seen in Denver on Dec. 27 was the first record since 1953 (D.F.O.). Red-cockaded Woodpeckers are resident at the McCurtain Game Preserve, McCurtain Co., Okla., one of the few places in the State where they may be readily