

FIRST RECORD OF A SNOW BUNTING IN ARIZONA

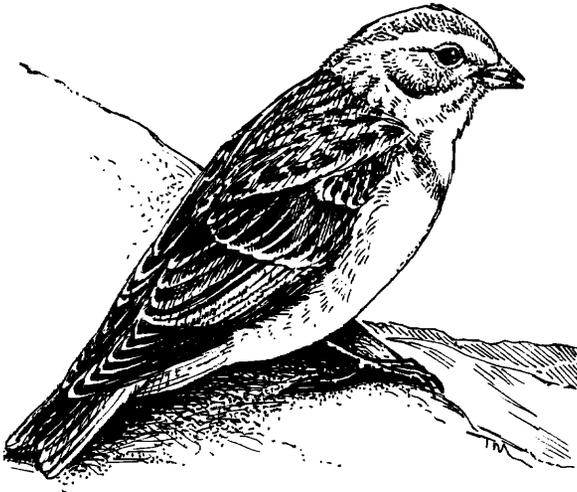
WALTER BOYCE, 3636 Oakdale Rd., Birmingham, Alabama 35223

LEE ELLIOT, Rt. 2, Box 196, Cedar Bluff, Alabama 35959

On 3 November 1981 we found a freshly dead female Snow Bunting, *Plectrophenax nivalis*, at the Tanner Ranch, 2 km southwest of Littlefield in Mohave County, Arizona. This unusually early southern occurrence constitutes the first specimen (University of Arizona 14222) reported in Arizona. The nearest previous sightings were 95 km to the northeast in Zion National Park, Utah, where two birds were seen in January 1979 (Kingery, *Am. Birds* 33:302, 1979) and 1980 (Kingery, *Am. Birds* 34:295, 1980).

We found the bird in Bermuda Grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) pasture adjacent to a small pond in the Virgin River floodplain at an elevation of 600 m. The typical habitat surrounding the floodplain is Mohave Desert scrub dominated by Creosote Bush (*Larrea tridentata*), White Bursage (*Ambrosia dumosa*), and *Opuntia* spp.

Accepted 5 May 1983



Snow Bunting

Sketch by Tim Manolis