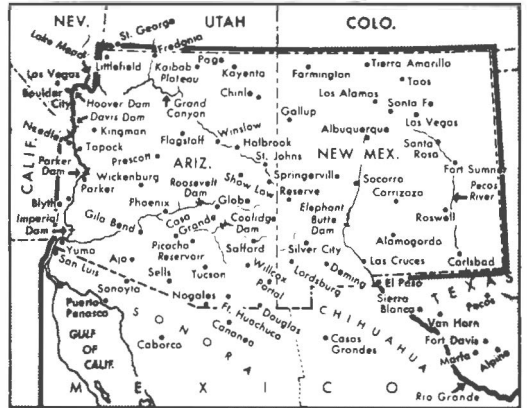


SOUTHWEST REGION

/ Ted Parker

After an unusually late, cool and wet spring, the region experienced somewhat variable weather in June and July, with generally dry and warm conditions in southern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, and



southern Nevada, and cooler, damper weather in most of New Mexico. July rains were somewhat scattered and below normal. Excellent nesting conditions, the result of above-average winter and spring rains, prevailed in nearly all areas. The abundant vegetation and water conditions combined to produce especially optimum nesting conditions for many insectivorous species (flycatchers enjoyed best nesting success in several years), and granivorous species, especially quail and fringillids, also fared well. Breeding was somewhat delayed in the northern parts of the region, and low densities of nesting species reported in the mountains forests may have been the result of a more even distribution of birds through the greater amount of suitable nesting habitat. As a direct result of the cold and snow cover persisting in May, certain high altitude species nested at relatively low elevations. MacGillivray's Warblers, for example, were apparently nesting below 6000 feet in the mountains near Flagstaff, Arizona; the species is usually not found much below 9000 feet. Lark Buntings and Cassin's Sparrows were found in areas where they were previously unrecorded in summer. These and possibly other fringillids took advantage of suitable habitat by either lingering in areas south and west of their usual breeding range (Lark Bunting), or by pushing north into new areas (Cassin's Sparrow). Such trends may also occur among insectivorous species. Olivaceous Flycatchers, for example, were found in the Pinal Mountains of Arizona, far north of any previous nesting area; it will be interesting to see whether the species is there next summer. Included in this report is an unbelievable in-

cursion of Roseate Spoonbills into southwestern and central Arizona, the first documented records of Western Grebe and Tree Swallows nesting in Arizona, and numerous records of vagrant wood warblers in all parts of the region.

GREBES, PELICANS, FRIGATEBIRDS—Three reports of W. Grebe were noteworthy: an estimated 200 adults present at the n. end of Havasu L., Havasu N.W.R., Colorado R. produced nearly 100 young (photographed for the first documented Arizona record of nesting—Robt. Karges); 15 pairs with young were noted near Overton, Clark Co., Nev., July 4 (CL); and one on Picacho Res., Pinal Co., Ariz., July 24 was summering (GMO). Three White Pelicans near Overton July 4 (CL) were the only ones reported. Similarly, only one Brown Pelican was observed, an individual in flight near Tucson July 29 (Dan Sheppard). A Magnificent Frigatebird (age, sex?) was seen east of Yuma, Ariz., July 27 (Allen Guenther, *vide* JWi).

HERONS, STORKS, SPOONBILLS—A possible ad. Little Blue Heron was seen at Isleta Swamp south of Albuquerque June 23 (RT). Three Snowy Egret nests found in tamarisks at Picacho Res., July 24 (GMO) were the first nesting records for the state away from the Colorado R. Similarly, a Black-crowned Night Heron nest found there on the same date was the first away from the river in this century (GMO). As usual, several flocks of Wood Storks (mostly imm.) were seen along the Colorado R., but the big news was of an invasion of *Roseate Spoonbills*, the first on record; there were only three previous records for Arizona.



Roseate Spoonbill, Picacho Reservoir, Ariz., July 7, 1973. Photo/Gene Bauer.

The following reports were received: one adult at Quitobaquito, Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument June 11 (RS), 21 immatures 15 mi. n.e. of Yuma June 18 (StL), six (imm.) 10 mi. s. of Parker Dam, Colorado R. (in Calif.), June 24 (DE, JM, VR), and six (imm.) n.e. of Yuma July 1 (RWe). At Picacho Res. the following counts were representative of the first e. Arizona records: June 4, 23 (Renard Jolly), July 17, 27 (Seymour Levy), and July 24, 32 (GMO); another was seen near Nogales, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz. sometime in July (*vide* Bill Harrison).

WATERFOWL—The following Blue-winged Teal records were of interest: a pair with young on Pahrnatag Lake N.W.R., Lincoln Co., Nev., July 4 (CL, LH), one female with eight young at Bosque del Apache N.W.R., N. Mex., July 12 (GZ), several displaying at Isleta Swamp south of Albuquerque June 2 (JD), and, finally, five males in Phoenix June 28 (SD, Helen Longstreth). A ♂ Wood Duck was present at Tule Springs near Las Vegas, Nev., July 29 (VM).

RAPTORS—An ad. *Broad-winged Hawk* in Scotia Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Ariz., July 1 (TP, Claudia Wilds, Vee Weggel) was the fourth state record. Two northerly records of *Zone-tailed Hawk* were reported: an adult near Jacob L., Coconino Co., Ariz., July 4-12 (R & MW), and another near Los Alamos, N. Mex., July 19 (BL). Golden Eagles were reported in numerous localities in s.e. Arizona and s.w. New Mexico. Walter Spofford reported having seven active nests under observation in this area, and attributed the success (ten young) to a high cottontail and jackrabbit population. "By way of contrast," he states, "a set of four nests in Curlew Valley, s. Idaho, which averaged about one young per nest per year from 1969 to 1972, completely failed in 1973 . . . and no sign of rabbits anywhere."

QUAILS—Gambel's Quail had excellent nesting success in many areas of the region due to the previously mentioned environmental conditions. Similarly, Scaled Quail were doing well in the El Paso area, and in s.e. Arizona.

SHOREBIRDS—A *Whimbrel* at Mormon Farm near Las Vegas, Nev., July 28 (VM), and *eight* carefully identified as they flew south over Imperial Dam, Colorado R., July 1 (RWe) were unusual (the latter number was the highest count ever for Arizona). Three dowitchers identified as *Short-billed* were found north of Yuma July 1 (RWe).

GULLS, TERNS—A *Franklin's Gull* was noted on a pond near Willcox, Cochise Co., Ariz., July 6 (TP), and two were seen northeast of Las Cruces, N. Mex., July 29 (Debra Hickman). An ad. *Least Tern* observed on both sides of the Colorado R. near Imperial Dam July 1 (RWe) was only the third record for the valley.

DOVES THROUGH OWLS—Three *White-winged Doves* were in the Overton, Nev. area July 4, but no evidence of nesting was obtained (CL). A pair of *Monk Parakeets* nested in Las Vegas, Nev.; on July 30 three broken eggs were found below the partially destroyed nest. The adults, which were almost certainly local escapes as opposed to strays from eastern populations, were rebuilding the nest in early August (CL). An *Elf Owl* heard July 6 near Glenwood, Catron Co., N. Mex. (BM), was at the northern limit of its range. An ad. *Long-eared Owl* was found injured at Central, Grant Co., N. Mex., July 29, and a pair nested along the Gila R. near Cliff in the same county (DZ). A *Saw-whet Owl* was banded at Eagle Peak Spring, Tularosa Mts., Catron Co., N. Mex., July 4 (BM). This species is a very local resident of New Mexico's mountains.

NIGHTJARS, SWIFTS—Two Whip-poor-wills were heard July 12 in the Hualpai Mts. south of Kingman in extreme n.w. Arizona (EH); the species has been recorded there since 1948. Nine probable Black Swifts were observed and photographed over Albuquerque June 4 (Pat Basham). White-throated Swifts seen in June and July near Lake Pleasant, Maricopa Co., Ariz. may have been nesting nearby (SD).

HUMMINGBIRDS—Although hummingbirds were generally scarce at feeders in most areas (owing to abundant natural food), several interesting reports were received. An imm. ♂ Lucifer Hummingbird was identified in Ramsey Canyon, Huachuca Mts., July 8 (EH *et al.*) and a female remained in Guadalupe Canyon, Cochise Co., Ariz. into early June (TP). A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird that frequented a Phoenix feeder in June-July (Kitty Johnson) was only the second summer record for that area. Anna's Hummingbirds, formerly unknown in summer, were noted during the period in Tucson, w. of Nogales, and in Yuma. Finally, a much-talked-about hummingbird that appeared at several feeders in Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahua Mts. in June (RS, E & SC, Bob Yutzy) was probably a hybrid Blue-throated X Anna's or Broad-tailed. Hybridization between the former species (*Lampornis* X *Calypte*) has occurred in the past.

TROGONS, WOODPECKERS—A Coppery-tailed Trogon was seen in Guadalupe Canyon, Cochise Co., Ariz. in early June (RS); there were two previous records for the canyon. A Red-headed Woodpecker at Bosque N.W.R., June 20 (GZ) was at the western limit of its range. A Hairy Woodpecker at Camp Pioneer near the Rio Grande north of El Paso June 6 (GW) was quite unusual.

COTINGAS, FLYCATCHERS—Nests were located for eight of nine pairs of Rose-throated Becards present along Sonoita Creek, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz. in early June (TP, Steve Hanselmann). This is virtually the entire U.S. population of this Mexican species. The presence of E. Kingbirds in s. Nevada at Logandale, Clark Co. (3) and in the Pahrangat Valley (2) on July 4 suggested the possibility of breeding (CL). At least 14 pairs of Thick-billed Kingbirds were counted in s.e. Arizona and s.w. New Mexico (ten pairs in Guadalupe Canyon, four of these in the New Mexico portion; and four pairs (low) along Sonoita Creek (TP). A Tropical Kingbird 20 mi. n.e. of Yuma June 10 (StL) was probably an early straggler from Mexico. An uncommon Scissor-tailed Flycatcher appeared at Bisbee Jct., Cochise Co., Ariz., July 16 (Mike Wihler). Very interesting were several pairs of Olivaceous Flycatchers found in the Pinal Mts., Pinal Co., Ariz., June 25 (E & SC). These were well north of any previously known breeding locality.

SWALLOWS, CORVIDS—Tree Swallow nests were found near Kaibab Lodge, Coconino Co., Ariz., July 17 & 21 (R & MW). Adults were photographed at nest holes for the first positive record of nesting in Arizona. Fairly large colonies of Bank Swallows were

located in n.c. New Mexico (RWa). This species is not known to nest in Arizona. Clark's Nutcrackers lingered in the lowlands and in mountains south of their known breeding range through June, following the invasion of the previous fall and winter.

MIMIDS, THRUSHES—Three reports of Gray Catbirds were received: one singing along the Little Colorado R. near Springerville, Apache Co., Ariz., June 29 (E & SC), another on the Santa Clara Indian Reservation, Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex., June 22 (RWa), and a singing bird in the Davis Mts., Jeff Davis Co., Tex., June 29 (PE, JMi). Three Am. Robins in Phoenix June 13 (DS) were unusual summer records for that area.

VIREOS, WARBLERS—A pair of Bell's Vireos nested near Overton, Nev. (CL). An ad. ♀ Golden-winged Warbler (third state record) seen four mi. s.w. of Springerville, Ariz., June 28 (E & SC) was very close to the area where an ad. male was observed July 26, 1972 (*Am. Birds* 26:889). A N. Parula was observed singing on the Santa Clara Indian Reservation June 22 (RWa), an unusual summer record. Another unexpected record was of an ad. ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler seen near Rustler Park, Chiricahua Mts., June 17 (Tom Heindel). The somewhat frequent occurrence (12 records) of this eastern species in Arizona is inexplicable since it is a trans-Gulf of Mexico migrant and is rare even in coastal Texas and e. Mexico in migration. Two Grace's Warblers reported from the Hualpai Mts., n.w. Ariz., July 13 (EH) were at the n.w. limit of their range. Two Red-faced Warblers at Horse Seep, Maricopa Co., Ariz., June 9 (Robt. Bradley) were only the second county records. Two records of ad. ♂ Hooded Warblers were received: one below Rustler Park, Chiricahua Mts., June 30 (Randall Madding, RWe), and another in Sycamore Canyon, Pajarito Mts., Santa Cruz Co., Ariz., June 7 (HK); these represent the third and fourth records of the species for Arizona. An Ovenbird (sixth record for state) was seen in E. Tucson June 8 (Genevieve Oakes), and an imm. ♂ Am. Redstart was observed 15 mi. below Parker Dam on the California side of the Colorado R., June 24 (GMc), an unusual date.

S.A.

It should be mentioned here that several of the wood warblers noted in this report (i.e., N. Parula, Ovenbird, Hooded Warbler) which are usually considered vagrants in the Southwest, winter in small numbers in the lowlands of Sinaloa and Nayarit, Mexico (on the west side of the Sierra Madre Occidental) less than 1000 miles south of Arizona and New Mexico. Some spring (and fall?) records of these species could perhaps be attributed to the closeness of these wintering populations. This would seem to be supported by the fact that the Black-and-white Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, and Am. Redstart, all uncommon to rare migrants in the region, winter rather commonly in Sinaloa and Nayarit. On the other hand, the Louisiana Waterthrush, a regular winter visitant in w. Mexico, has been recorded only a few times in the Southwest.



Five-striped Sparrow, Southeastern Arizona, Sept. 8, 1971. Photo C.S. Lawson.

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS—Great-tailed Grackles continue to increase in many parts of the region, and 400 young produced at Bosque N.W.R. were indicative of this increase. Common Grackles were nesting in increasing numbers at Isleta Swamp s. of Albuquerque (JD). Bronzed Cowbirds also seem to be expanding their range in parts of the region as demonstrated by the following records: an ad. male at Bosque N.W.R., June 6 (GZ), several birds that may have been locally raised in the Silver City, N. Mex. area in July (DZ), and large numbers in the Davis Mts. of w. Texas (PE) where the species was absent just a few years ago.

FINCHES—Indigo Buntings were reported from many localities of the region; this species appears to be a regular summer resident of riparian areas in Arizona and New Mexico. A Painted Bunting (♂) at Camp Pioneer along the Rio Grande R. near El Paso June 6 (GW, Linda Jones) was unusual. Evening Grosbeaks lingered in the lowlands of the region into June following the invasion of the previous winter. Similarly, a pair of Red Crossbills in n.w. Phoenix June 6 - 12 were extremely late (DS). A large flock of Lark Buntings was reported from ten mi. s. of Pipe Spring Nat'l Monument. Mohave Co., Ariz., May 22 (RW), and three were noted at Hachita, Grant Co., N. Mex., June 9 (Alan Nelson). No nest of this species has ever been found in Arizona, but an unverified report of nesting in the c. part of the state was received. Cassin's Sparrows were reportedly common in several areas where they had previously been unrecorded or scarce. At least 20 singing birds were noted in the grasslands east of Mt. Triplet, San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation, Graham Co., Ariz., July 14 (E & BJ). The species apparently bred near Whitewater, Grant Co., N. Mex. with 12 adults being seen July 21 (DZ).

CORRIGENDUM—The Bald Eagle record for Dec. 13 (*Am Birds* 27:647) should be omitted, and the following record added: An ad. Bald Eagle was seen on the Salt R., near the e. end of Roosevelt L., Gila Co., Ariz. Dec. 12, 1972 (Dick & Bea Smith).

INITIALED CONTRIBUTORS—Eugene Cardiff, Steven Cardiff, Salome Demaree, John Durrie, Dick Erickson, Pansy Espy, Leon Hill, Eugene Hunn, Earl and Betty Jackson, Hugh Kingery, Charles Lawson, Burton Lewis, (StL) Steven Liston, Guy McCaske, Barbara McKnight, (JMi) Jody Miller, Gale Monson, Joe Morlan, Vincent Mowbray, Van Remsen, Rich Stallcup, David Stejskal, Ross Teuber, (RWa) Roland Wauer, (RWe) Richard Webster, Geth White, Russell and Marion Wilson, (RW) Richard Wilt, (JWi) Janet Witzeman, Gary Zahm, Dale Zimmerman.—**TED PARKER**, S.U.P.O. Box 10510, University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz. 85720.