

SOUTHWEST REGION.—Hopes that this summer's rains would follow the pattern set by the heavy downpours received last summer have been dashed, and a general drought continues to possess the land. Everywhere but in the highest mountain regions, and in extremely localized lowland areas, rainfall has been deficient and in most places considerably so. Coupled



with the low rainfall of the past winter season, this means that drought conditions are particularly bad. Stream flows throughout the Region were still at or near record lows, a state of affairs that has persisted for so long one wonders if they ever will recover. Forest fires of unusual number and size raged in Arizona during June. The weather has generally been warmer than normal. Despite the dryness, the breeding season for passerine birds was generally a good one, in the Los Alamos, N. Mex. area especially, where unusual numbers of young Red-shafted Flickers, Western and Cassin's Kingbirds, Say's Phoebe, Western Wood Pewees, Steller's Jays, Mockingbirds, Western and Mountain Bluebirds, Audubon's and Grace's Warblers, Western Tanagers, Pine Siskins, and Chipping Sparrows were noted.

Heronry through Ibisry.—A small Great Blue Heron colony containing 6 nests was discovered on Long Meadow Ranch in the Williamson Valley, Yavapai Co., Ariz., July 22 (Heidi McLernon). Although Am. Egrets hatched eggs in 18 nests on the Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, N. Mex., not a single young one reached maturity (Raymond J. Fleetwood). Fifty Wood Ibises were observed at Mitty Lake, near Yuma, Ariz., July 18 (Gale Monson). A flock of 23 White-faced Ibises was

found at Tal-Wi-Wi, north of Litchfield Park, Ariz., July 1 (James T. Bialack, James R. Werner).

Waterfowl.—Two Snow Geese were seen on the Bosque del Apache Refuge, June 2, and an individual bird was seen there June 6, 7, and 29 (R.J.F.). Another was noted in the Rio Grande Canyon north of Pilar, Taos Co., N. Mex., July 7 (Patricia R. Snider). A Black-bellied Tree-duck was collected at River Ranch, southwest of Phoenix, Ariz. and near the Salt River, June 3 (J.T.B., J.R.W.), and another was seen there, June 5 (J. M. Simpson, Ben J. Clark). This is but the third Arizona locality in which this bird has been found. However, one must take into account the possibility of these being escapes. Scattered Am. Widgeons, Pintails, and Blue-winged Teal were seen on ponds and in marshes in the Phoenix area during July (J.T.B., J.M.S., J.R.W.). A male Canvas-back was observed at Bennett's Marsh, 4½ miles southwest of Marinette, Maricopa Co., Ariz., July 5 (J.M.S.), while a female was noted at Ramsey Pond, 3 miles south of Marinette, July 28 (B.J.C., J.M.S.).

Hawks.—Two adult **Mississippi Kites** were found in a woods on the west side of El Paso, Tex., July 31 (Mary Belle Keefer, Lena McBee, Carolyn McClintock). They were seen there the following day (Mr. & Mrs. D. C. Johnson), and were still present, Aug. 18 (L.M.). Mrs. McBee reasons that heavy storm conditions in central-western Texas at the time may have been responsible for the kites' appearance. An adult Mexican Black Hawk was seen at a nest containing 2 young near Fort McDowell, along the Verde River, Ariz., July 4 (J.T.B., J.R.W.). Desert summertime records of the Peregrine Falcon included the following: 2 at Little White Tanks, Castle Dome Mountains, Kofa Game Range, Yuma Co., Ariz., June 16 (G.M.); 1 at Four Peaks Dam, Kofa Mountains, Kofa Game Range, June 28 (Hal Irby); 1 a mile east of Tolleson, Ariz., July 30 (J.M.S., J.R.W.); and 1 at Ramsey Pond, Aug. 12 (J.M.S., J.R.W.). An extremely early Pigeon Hawk was seen repeatedly at Salt River Marsh, just east of the confluence of the Gila and Salt Rivers, Ariz., Aug. 4 (J.T.B., J.R.W.).

Gallinaceous Birds.—Scaled Quail were numerous in Big Bend Nat'l Park, Tex. (H. J. Brodrick). Arizona state game and fish department summer surveys showed that Gambel's Quail numbers were at least equal to last year's, despite the drought.

Shorebirds and Gulls.—Two Snowy Plovers at West Pond, near Imperial Dam on the Imperial Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Ariz.-Calif., July 5, were unusually early (G.M.). A Black-bellied Plover was found on the Bosque Refuge, Aug. 15 (R.J.F.). A Common Snipe was noted near the Trailer Ranch, 5 miles southwest of Santa Fe, N. Mex., Aug. 13 (Louis A. Stimson). A Spotted Sandpiper at West Pond, July 5, was early (G.M.); at least 5 nests of this shorebird were found on the Bosque Refuge (R.J.F.). Two Greater Yellow-legs had already returned to the Bosque Refuge, June 29 (R.J.F.). A Marbled Godwit was seen at Ramsey Pond, July 1 (J.T.B., J.R.W.). Neither the Am. Avocet nor Black-necked Stilt nested on the Bosque Refuge this summer (R.J.F.). A Franklin's Gull was observed on the Bosque Refuge, June 15 (R.J.F.).

Cuckoos though Trogons.—A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen at Roger Toll Pass (6500 ft.) in the Chisos Mountains, Big Bend Park, June 28 (HJB). Four Burrowing Owls were noted a few miles northeast of Yuma, July 18 (GM). A male Allen's Hummingbird was discovered in Chiricahua Nat'l Mon't, Ariz., July 8 (Bruce K. Harris). Single male Calliope Hummingbirds were observed in Albuquerque, N. Mex., July 26 (F. J. Freeman), and at Los Alamos, Aug. 3 and 4 (PRS). A male Rivoli's Hummingbird was discovered in Chiricahua Nat'l Monument, July 7 (BKH). A male Coppery-tailed Trogon was found in Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mountains, Ariz., June 9 (JTB, Allan R. Phillips, JRW); another was seen there, July 5 (BKH); and one was seen and one (sex?) heard, July 25 (JMS).

Flycatchers and Swallows.—Five Rose-throated Becard nests were found near Patagonia, Ariz., this summer (Florence Thornburg). An Eastern Kingbird was seen north of Aztec, N. Mex., July 19 (Betty Jackson). Three Cassin's Kingbirds were observed at River Ranch, June 5 (BJC, JMS). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was noted near Florida, Luna Co., N. Mex., May 26 (Bart Long, *vide* RJF). An Eastern Phoebe was seen at El Paso, Aug. 5 (LM, CM). A Western (?) Wood Pewee in New Mexico, near Canutillo, Tex., July 17, may have been a breeding bird (LM). Two pairs of Vermilion Flycatchers nested on the Bosque Refuge (RJF), further evidence of the species' slow extension of its breeding range northward. A Barn Swallow at New River Pond, near Peoria, Ariz., Aug. 12 (JMS, JRW) was early.

Nutcrackers through Starlings.—A few Clark's Nutcrackers were present at Prescott, Ariz., during the period (HM). A flock of 14 Common Bushtits was feeding on *Acacia* seeds at Globe, Ariz., July 11 (BJ), and 2 small flocks were noted at El Paso, July 25 (MBK, LM). Bewick's Wrens were seen at Globe after Aug. 1 (BJ). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers seen at Tunnel Spring, Kofa Mountains, Kofa Game Range, June 25 to 29, more or less established the species' breeding in these desert mountains (GM). A Common Starling was observed at Globe during the second week of July (BJ).

Vireos and Wood Warblers.—A Yellow-throated Vireo was seen in the scanty brush about Heart Tank, Sierra Pinta, Cabeza Prieta Game Range, Yuma Co., Ariz., June 4 (GM). A singing Tennessee Warbler was found at Patagonia, June 2 (FT). A stray Orange-crowned Warbler was observed at Tunnel Spring, Kofa Game Range, June 25 and 26 (GM). A small flock of Virginia's Warblers was noted at El Paso, July 25 (MBK, LM). A Yellow Warbler was found at Cholla Tank, Kofa Mountains, Kofa Game Range, July 26 (GM). A Black-throated Gray Warbler at El Paso, July 25 and 2 Townsend's Warblers, Aug. 5 and 14, were somewhat early (MBK, LM). Surely a most unusual occurrence, the first of its kind in the area, was that of a small flock of Red-faced Warblers in trees and brush on the west side of El Paso, Aug. 1. The scattered birds were estimated to be from 4 to 10 in number (Johnsons, MBK, LM, CM). A lingering Am. Redstart was seen in Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mountains, June

9 (JTB, ARP, JRW).

Blackbirds.—Great-tailed Grackles were apparently well-established at the Alcalde Marsh, north of Espanola, Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex. (PRS). A flock of 23 at the River Ranch, July 30, contained at least 11 young birds (JMS, JRW). A pair of Bronzed Cowbirds was seen in Globe, June 17 (BJ), and young were often seen in July (Lyndon L. Hargrave, Harold Marsh).

Finches and Sparrows.—A male and female Black-headed Grosbeak were noted at the River Ranch, June 30 (JMS, JRW). A male Indigo Bunting was observed in the Chiricahua Mountains, Ariz., May 23 (Dudley Ross). A male Lazuli Bunting was singing at Patagonia during the first week of July (FT). At a rain-water catchment about 6 miles south of Ajo, Ariz., 2 pairs of Varied Buntings were seen, May 8, and the following day 6 pairs and a single male came in (J. T. Wright). About 7 Evening Grosbeaks were found in Santa Barbara Canyon, above Penasco, Taos Co., N. Mex., June 23 and 24 (FJF); a flock of 6 was noted along the Rio Grande in Bandelier Nat'l Monument, N. Mex., July 30 (LAS); and a few flocks were appearing at Los Alamos in August (PRS). A Vesper Sparrow was collected near Fort Bliss, Tex., July 28 (*vide* LM). The Black-throated Sparrow seems to be extending its range in Arizona's Yavapai County (HM).—GALE MONSON, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service*, P. O. Box 1032, Yuma, Ariz.