



City, N. Mex., where a record 9 in. of rain fell (compared to a normal 2 in. for the month). Eastward, over the Black Range, at the Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, water conditions were satisfactory during the breeding season, thanks to last winter's moisture, but by mid-August the picture had changed owing to insufficient rainfall. The water situation soon became "severe" and appeared as if it might become critical before improving (RGY). Only .18 in. of rain fell there in August. Certain other New Mexico localities, notably Carlsbad, received considerable rain in July.

There were few specific reports on food supplies, but some observers commented on promising crops of piñon pine cones and juniper berries. Areas which received heavy rains supported tremendous crops of weed seeds.

Mountain forests (435,000 acres) from Las Vegas, N. Mex., to Santa Fe, were sprayed with DDT in early June. A lower dosage (one pound per acre) of insecticide than heretofore used was employed, and officials of various agencies reportedly contemplate a "follow-up survey on the effects of the big spray job." It is encouraging to note interest in, and awareness of, potential biological effects of such spraying, although it is doubtful that there will be obtained many significant data on such things as effects of DDT on nestling mortality among treetop-nesting birds or on fertility and possible genetic effects.

Grebes, Cormorants, Herons—A Least Grebe was seen near Nogales, Ariz., June 7, and reportedly remained into July (WH). Over 100 Western Grebes were seen at Lake Mead in northwestern Arizona, June 9 (GSS). The Olivaceous Cormorant mentioned in the spring report remained at a ranch tank near Nogales throughout the season, being noted last on Aug. 13 (WH). A Little Blue Heron was seen, June 13, at the Bosque del Apache Refuge (RGY), where Snowy Egrets enjoyed a successful breeding season with from 50 to 70 young raised; 240 Snowy Egrets were counted there, July 24 (RGY). The same observer reported a maximum of 58 Common Egrets on the Refuge, June 20.

Waterfowl—The only report of the increasingly rare Mexican Duck was of 2 birds in the El Paso area (Ft. Hancock), June 29 (CMcC, MBK). A ♀

in grasshoppers in the non-irrigated land about Paro-
SOUTHWEST REGION.—June was uniformly dry and cool in New Mexico. July temperatures varied greatly from place to place, but probably averaged slightly below normal throughout. In both New Mexico and Arizona, dry weather continued through July. The USDA *Arizona Range and Livestock Report* (Aug. 1) mentioned "many dry localities" and "declining ranges." Shower activity during July was confined mostly to the White Mountains and south-eastern Arizona, extending eastward as far as Silver

Wood Duck was seen, June 13, at the Bosque del Apache Refuge (RGY). Two ♂ Canvasbacks on a golf course pond in Santa Fe, Aug. 2, were very unusual (PRS). A "notable number"—probably 200 young—of Mallard and Gadwall broods were raised at the Bosque Refuge. The duck population there fluctuated from a low of 100 birds on June 1 to 730 on Aug. 21 (RGY).

Falconiformes—Although no cooperators commented on Turkey Vulture numbers it was my impression that far fewer than normal were seen throughout southwestern New Mexico and eastern Arizona. They were only rarely noted in the Silver City area this summer. A pair of *Mississippi Kites* bred at Roswell, N. Mex., where a nest with one large young was found, July 26 (I'M, ANC). Only one other nest of this species has been found in the state—in the Rio Grande Valley north of El Paso, Tex. in 1960. Five, including 2 immatures, were seen near Anthony, N. Mex., Aug. 4 (MBK). A *Mississippi Kite* shot near Las Cruces (date?) was later obtained and preserved at New Mexico State University as the first New Mexico specimen of this species (RR). Five Sharp-shinned Hawks seen in the desert 10 miles northeast of Tucson, June 22, were believed to be a family group (W'H). Zone-tailed Hawks, presumably breeding in each case, were reported from Tucson, and the Santa Rita and Chiricahua Mountains in Arizona, and Silver City, N. Mex. *Black Hawks* nested in a sycamore grove, at 3800 feet elevation, in Yavapai County, Ariz. in early July (JTB)—probably the northernmost known breeding station. A pair of Harris' Hawks, very rare in the Rio Grande Valley north of El Paso, evidently nested there this summer. Two fearless birds, perched adjacent to a nest, were studied at close range on July 28 and 29 (LVA, CMcC, MBK, MT). Two Marsh Hawk nests were found on the Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge near Roswell, June 6 (I'M, JW) and June 11 (I'M, ANC). Definite New Mexico nest records of this species are rare. The very rare *Aplomado Falcon* was seen in southeastern Arizona in early July (W'CR); there was no evidence of nesting. (Owing to increased persecution of rare southwestern hawks by falconers and illegal egg collectors, additional details are intentionally being withheld on nest sites of falconiform birds mentioned in these reports.)

Galliformes—The expected high production of Gambel's Quail on the Bosque Refuge did not materialize, and very few broods were observed (RGY). Most observers who commented on that species indicated that numbers were lower than usual and that few young were seen. However, in southwestern Washington Co., Utah, 8 miles from the Arizona line, 165 Gambel's Quail were seen, Aug. 3 (DLC). It promised to be a poor year for Scaled Quail in the Carlsbad area, where broods were just beginning to appear in mid-August (BH). At least a few pairs of both the *Black* and *Gray Francolins* released near Deming, N. Mex. last spring were seen with broods of young in mid-summer (JLS). Ring-necked Pheasants had one of their most successful years in the Bosque Refuge (RGY).

Numerous broods of Turkeys were reported from the mountains near Silver City (DAZ).

Rails, Shorebirds—An injured Sora collected in Silver City, July 31 (RI, DAZ), presumably had struck a high wire during migration the previous night. A Semipalmated Plover appeared at Santa Fe, N. Mex., Aug. 12 (PRS). Early southbound shorebirds included a Greater Yellowlegs seen in the Kaibab Nat'l Forest, 5 miles north of Grand Canyon's North Rim, in Coconino County, Ariz., June 29 (DLC). Six Greater Yellowlegs and 40 Wilson's Phalaropes were counted near Carlsbad, July 12 (BH). Wilson's Phalaropes were seen first at Santa Fe, July 6 (PRS), and one was at St. George, Utah, July 13 (DLC). Single Willets were noted at Santa Fe, July 19 (PRS) and near Carlsbad, July 28 (BH). Long-billed Curlews were reported to have nested between Roswell and Fort Sumner, N. Mex., where a rancher saw young birds in June (I'M). Am. Avocets and Black-necked Stilts produced numbers of young at the Bosque Refuge (RGY).

Gulls, Terns—An injured adult *Heermann's Gull*, accidental in our Region, was found in a weakened condition along the road in Madera Canyon, south of Tucson, June 15 (ROP, GP, TC). The bird was in typical adult plumage but had a rather pale bill. Eight Least Terns were observed at Bitter Lake Refuge, June 27, but did not remain in the area (I'M). A few Black Terns remained most of the summer near Carlsbad, but there was no evidence of nesting (BH, RCB).

Doves—Three White-winged Doves were seen, June 14 and 15, and 2 on Aug. 3, 8 miles north of the Arizona line in southwestern Washington County, Utah (DLC). Two were reported on June 14 and one on Aug. 16 at the Bosque Refuge where the species is rare (RGY). That Refuge's Mourning Dove population reached an unprecedented high level, with over 1300 banded during the summer. An early August census on the Refuge revealed 1351 doves.

Swifts, Hummingbirds, Trogon—On July 15, 3 Black Swifts were seen moving ahead of an advancing storm front over the Chiricahua Mountains in southeastern Arizona (W'CR). Three *Chaeturas*, probably Chimney Swifts, were seen over Carlsbad June 17 (BH). Migrant Rufous Hummingbirds were first reported, July 15, from southern Taos County, N. Mex. (AJK). An adult ♂ Calliope Hummingbird remained at Silver City from July 25 to Aug. 1 (DAZ). Another was reported from the Rio Grande Valley north of El Paso, July 28 and 29 (LVA, MBK, et al.). This hummer is seldom recorded in either area. Two Violet-crowned Hummingbirds remained at least until July 21 in Cave Creek Canyon in the Chiricahuas (FT). A pair of Coppery-tailed Trogons nested in Madera Canyon in June (FT), and another was seen in Cave Creek Canyon that month (W'CR, DAZ).

Cotingas, Tyrant Flycatchers—Two pairs of Rose-throated Becards had nests at Sonoita Creek, near Patagonia, Ariz., June 8. These were destroyed, but new nests were built by July 4 (FT, W'H). It is not known if any young were raised. At least three pairs of Thick-billed Kingbirds were in the Patagonia

area, but no nests were found (*WH, WCR*). Only one pair of Thick-bills was found in Guadalupe Canyon in extreme southeastern Arizona (*REM, DAZ*). Two Eastern Kingbirds were seen in New Mexico: at Cimarron, July 13 (*DN*), and on several dates 30 miles south of Vaughn (*BH*). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher incubating eggs in a nest 10 miles south of Roswell, June 22 (*VM*), represents a slight northward extension of this species' breeding range in the Pecos Valley. A Beardless Flycatcher completed its nest in the New Mexico portion of Guadalupe Canyon (southwestern Hidalgo County), June 2, and a bird was seen entering the nest, June 17 (*DAZ*).

Swallows, Mimids, Thrushes—Cave Swallows nested successfully in 7 caves in Carlsbad National Park, N. Mex., the first broods fledging in May, the second in July (*JKB*). Five to 10 Purple Martins were seen near Santa Fe, July 22 (*PRS*). In a new breeding locality for the species, 30 miles north of Roswell, a Crissal Thrasher's nest held 3 eggs, July 21, and 3 young, July 31 (*VM*). Swainson's Thrushes were seen at 8400 ft. elevation on the north slope of Truchas Peak, Taos Co., N. Mex., in early July (*AJK*). One Eastern Bluebird was observed in the Patagonia Mountains, July 27 (*WH*).

Starlings, Vireos, Wood Warblers—The mid-summer population of Starlings in Arizona's Salt River Valley was estimated at about 35,000 birds in early August—the same as in 1961 (*WCR*). Rare in Santa Fe as late as 1953, Starlings now are common; they raised at least 50 young there in early summer (*PRS*). In the Roswell area, 15 to 20 immature Starlings, reportedly too young to have flown far, were seen July 31, providing some evidence of the species' breeding in the Pecos Valley (*VM*). Two Gray Vireos were seen June 28 and July 3 on the south slope of the Catalina Mountains, Ariz. (*PT*). Bell's Vireos nested at Globe, Ariz. in May—a new locality record (*BJ*). A single Red-faced Warbler seen, July 21, in La Luz Canyon, near Cloudcroft, N. Mex. (*LVA*) probably was a migrant or wandering individual. The species is not known to nest east of the Rio Grande, but perhaps it does so rarely. A Yellow-breasted Chat that summered at Cedar Crest, N. Mex. was considered quite unusual, for the species ordinarily is seen there only during migration (*BMcK*).

Icterids, Tanagers—A Hooded Oriole was observed near Carlsbad Caverns, N. Mex., Aug. 5 (*BH*), and an adult ♂ was seen, June 15, at Beaver Dam Wash, near St. George, Utah (*DLC*) where the species has been considered "casual" (*A.O.U. Check-list*). A yellow-plumaged Summer Tanager was well seen, and heard, in the same place, Aug. 3 (*DLC*). Apparently there is no previous record of this species from Utah. Migrating Western Tanagers first appeared in the Carlsbad area during the last week in July (*RCB*). An adult ♂ arrived in Silver City, July 31 (*DAZ*). Three adult males were seen (including one in creosote bush desert), Aug. 3, in southwestern Washington County, Utah (*DLC*).

Fringillids—A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Bosque del Apache Refuge, June 24 (*RGY*), adds another observation to the growing collection of New

Mexico sight records of this species. Most observers reported few or no Lazuli Buntings. Indigo Buntings, however, appeared in several places. In addition to the records cited in the spring report, individuals were seen near Albuquerque, N. Mex. about June 10 (*JSF*) and near Carlsbad Caverns, June 23 (*BH*). One ♂, and probably 2, were seen along the Gila River near Gila, N. Mex., July 20, where one was collected, July 23 (*DAZ*). On an unspecified date in July a ♂ and a presumed ♀ Indigo Bunting were reported along the Mimbres River near Mimbres, N. Mex. (*HWJ, fide DAZ*). In June, a ♂ Varied Bunting was several times observed at leisure and at close range in Carlsbad Caverns National Park where collecting was impractical (*BH, JKB, et al.*). Other males and a female were believed present in the Park. Three singing male Varied Buntings remained near Patagonia, Ariz., Aug. 4 (*WH*). At least 10 pairs of Painted Buntings were found in the Pecos Valley near Carlsbad (*RCB*). Six Lark Buntings were seen at Ruidoso, N. Mex., July 21 (*LVA*), and others were reported from near Carlsbad, July 23 (*RCB*). Cassin's Sparrows were scarce or absent in many places around Carlsbad until June 15 when they became abundant (*BH*). They became conspicuous during the last week in June in grasslands east of Portal, Ariz. on the New Mexico-Arizona state line where they had not been seen earlier in the season (*REM, WCR, DAZ*). A singing ♂ was found 14 miles south of Silver City, July 24—the only one recorded in the area in five years (*DAZ*). Two Botteri's Sparrows were reported from the Santa Rita Range Reserve south of Tucson, June 10 (*ROP, GP, TC*).

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