

SOUTHWEST REGION.—Once again the Southwest is in the grips of a drought, particularly in southern and eastern New Mexico where conditions are critical. Roswell had only 1.1 inch of rainfall on June 13 (*VM*), and Carlsbad has had two inches so far this year. The Pecos River quit running into Lakes McMillan and Avalon near there on July 15 and these lakes were drained in early August (*RCB*).

Water is still running in the lower Rio Grande Valley, but Elephant Butte and Caballo Lakes are both very low. Water has been cut off at the Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge.

June was generally hot, dry, and unusually windy. Ranges became dry and many forage plants were cured prematurely. Rains beginning in mid-July in



the northern highlands, and especially in southern Arizona, helped considerably. Tucson had almost five inches (FMT, DSP) and Mesa had three (WCR). These rains were steady and widespread, causing grasslands to green up and filling dry ranch ponds.

In spite of a slow start in June, weed growth and wild fruit production were considered good to normal in most areas. In general, observers agreed that the drought did not overly affect breeding-bird populations with many species staying in the irrigated valleys or wherever there was water and shade. The Patagonia, Ariz. area has been sold for development (VGD) and torn up in places for a road. Areas of Cave Creek Canyon in the Chiricahua Nat'l Monument, Ariz. have also been torn up for new camping areas, destroying some of its natural beauty and a few birding areas (DM).

Cormorants, Herons—Three Olivaceous Cormorants again appeared near Nogales, Ariz. on June 10 (BH). Wading-bird populations were normal on Bosque del Apache Refuge, with 5 Wood Ibis staying for two weeks in mid-July (LAO). Thirteen also were seen on Picacho Lake, near Coolidge, Pinal Co., Ariz. on July 9 and 14 (FMT, BH, et al.). A Little Blue Heron was on Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, near Roswell, N. Mex. on July 30 (VM).

Ducks—Various species of ducks including divers lingered into the summer even in southern localities. Cinnamon Teal were at Carlsbad for the first summer record (RCB); at Tucson (BH, FMT, et al.); and a pair was at Greenland Lake on June 11, first record for the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, Ariz. (DLC, LD). Production of young at Bosque del Apache Refuge was fair at 150, largely Mallards and Gadwalls with a few Green-winged Teal and Shovelers (LAO). Black-bellied Tree Ducks appeared near Nogales on June 10, with 5 near Tucson on July 9 (BH), and at Phoenix, Ariz. on July 4 (UM, Mr. & Mrs. HF).

Hawks—It was an extremely poor nesting season in southern Arizona because of the cold spring, with only a 25 percent increase in Red-tailed Hawks (SHL). No nesting of Marsh Hawks was found near Roswell because of drought (VM). An Osprey was at Lake Avalon after early July (RCB). Nests of Cooper's Hawks were found near Globe (BJ) and

Portal, Ariz. (DM); of Gray Hawks near Tucson and Hayden, Ariz.; and of Prairie Falcons near Tucson (DSP). A concentration of over 15 Harris' Hawks was east of Redrock, Ariz. (DSP). Mississippi Kites nested in at least two places near Roswell for the third consecutive year (VM). A pair of *Zone-tailed Hawks* nested unsuccessfully at Los Alamos, N. Mex. Photographs were obtained. Though this is north of the normal range, this is the fourth year in over ten that it has been seen in that area. It was last seen on Aug. 9 (WBL, JRT, et al.). Nests also were found in Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mts., Ariz. (BH, FMT); and in the Peloncillo Mts., Hidalgo Co., N. Mex. (BKH).

Quail—Upland game bird populations at Bosque del Apache Refuge were good, with the exception of Ring-necked Pheasants of which only one brood was seen (LAO). The reproduction of Gambel's Quail in southern Arizona was deemed very poor (SHL), but was average on the Desert Game Range near Las Vegas, Nev. (OGH), and populations were considered excellent on Bosque Refuge (LAO). The late summer rains in Arizona were a boon to Harlequin Quail, resulting in its abundance (SHL). A brood of 12 was at Fort Bayard, N. Mex. on July 22 (BKH). Also reported were 2 Chukars near Continental, Ariz. on June 29 (FMT); with young found in Tucson in August (Jack Mantle). A pair of *Elegant Quail* were again seen at Nogales on July 4 and 12 and may nest (FMT, BH, WW).

Shorebirds—A Sora hit by a car was collected near Carlsbad on Aug. 10 (RCB) and at least one was near Redrock, N. Mex. on July 25 (BKH). Am. Coot numbers were very low on the Bosque Refuge with only fair nesting (LAO). Fledgling Com. Gallinules were seen near Carlsbad on June 15 (RCB) and near Washington, Utah on July 9 (DLC, DE, RWR) where it has apparently become established. Four to 10 Snowy, Piping, and Semipalmated Plovers were seen at Lake Avalon on Aug. 10 (RCB). This is probably the first New Mexico record for the *Piping Plover*. Killdeer were far less numerous at Roswell, as were Long-billed Curlews near Vaughn and Dunlap, N. Mex. (VM). After late July RCB heard Upland Plovers calling all over the vicinity of Carlsbad. An adult female *Red Phalarope* was at Picacho Lake on July 30 (BH).

Gulls, Terns—An unusually high count of 9 Black Terns was at Santa Fe on July 31 (PRS). Unusual was a Franklin's Gull at West Pond, Imperial Dam, Calif. on June 5 and 6 (GM, PD). An immature *Black Skimmer* was observed closely on Lake McMillan on Aug. 5 and 7 (RCB, RC, et al.) for the first New Mexico record.

Doves, Swifts—A White-winged Dove was sighted 25 miles north of Roswell on June 4, the first Chaves County record (VM). Two Chimney Swifts on June 15 and 4 on June 17 were at Roswell, for the second local record (VM). Several Black Swifts were seen in the Chiricahua Mts. near Portal on July 17 (DL, BKH, JPH).

Hummingbirds—There seemed to be fewer hummingbirds this year in northern New Mexico and at Globe (BJ). Calliope Hummingbirds were either

absent or missed at Cedar Crest (BM) and Tesuque, N. Mex. (DM) where normally at least a few are seen each year. Because of a poor supply of cottonwood fuzz after the late spring, nesting was below normal at Nogales (BH).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers—Several pairs of Red-headed Woodpeckers have been seen for several years at Sandia Pueblo, Bernalillo Co., N. Mex. (BM, et al.) and another was near Pojoaque, N. Mex. on July 8 (Kay Harper). Thick-billed Kingbirds again nested successfully in Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mts. (FMT).

Swallows, Catbird—Purple Martins were reported on June 12 from Las Vegas, N. Mex., where they are rare (EWS). A Catbird came to the Pecos Fish Hatchery, San Miguel Co., N. Mex. on July 6 and 9, a new locality record (PRS, MAC).

Corvids—A Black-billed Magpie was seen near Sahuarita, Ariz. on July 30 (DSP), and a Gray Jay in the White Mts., near Greer, Ariz. on Aug. 8 (BKH). Most exciting was the Magpie-Jay (*Calocitta formosa*) of the dark-throated race *arguta* or *colliei*, which arrived in Douglas, Ariz. in Dec. or Jan. last winter, probably after a storm, and has remained in a residential section since. It started a nest there in June. This species new to the Checklist (except for the very doubtful Audubon painting) was photographed (EP, FMT, BH, et al.).

Vireos, Warblers—A Gray Vireo nest was found near Seven Springs in the Tonto Nat'l Forest, north of Phoenix on June 23 (MH, MLB). A Red-eyed Vireo was carefully watched on the California side of Laguna Dam on June 5 (GM, PD). A female Am. Redstart was seen along Nogales Wash on July 4 (BH).

Grackles—A female Boat-tailed Grackle was collected at West Pond on June 6, for the first California record (GM, PD). The Common Grackle again appeared at Las Vegas, N. Mex. in June (EWS).

Finches—Several Blue Grosbeaks were seen on the North Kaibab Trail on July 30, the first record for Grand Canyon Nat'l Park (DLC, DE). The incursion of Indigo Buntings mentioned in the spring report continued into summer. Records which were received were: 1 at Cedar Crest, July 8 till 12 (BM); 1 at Redrock, N. Mex. on July 14 (JPH, BKH); at least 4 near Nogales on June 21 (Liscum Diven), June 27, July 4 and 18 (BH); 1 in Cave Creek Canyon on June 6 (PAB); and at least 3 in Grand Canyon Nat'l Park on July 30 (DLC, DE). Most reports were of singing males. Also a hybrid Indigo X Lazuli Bunting was found in Sabino Canyon, Santa Catalina Mts., near Tucson on June 7 (PAB).

Sparrows—Lark Buntings put in a good appearance rather early, mostly in southern areas. Numbers were recorded in Santa Fe (PRS), and Las Vegas (EWS) in northern New Mexico. Greater numbers than usual were at Roswell (VM), Tyrone, N. Mex. (BKH), and in southern Arizona (FMT, DSP, BH). Grasshopper Sparrows were found in numbers at Sonoita, Ariz. this summer (BH, FMT). Also found in greater than usual numbers were Cassin's and Botteri's Sparrows; both more numerous than ever

before in the grasslands of southeastern Arizona from Bisbee to Sonoita, Tucson, Nogales, and Douglas (FMT, BH). Rufous-winged Sparrows were seen and heard at the bridges below Madera on July 29 (FMT). Two nests of the Rufous-crowned Sparrow were found in June at Fort Bayard (BKH). Three Black-chinned Sparrow family groups were near Leeds, Utah on July 23 (DE), and they spent the summer in Embudo Canyon in the Sandia Mts. near Albuquerque (BM). A small flock of Baird's Sparrows came to Las Vegas, N. Mex. in early August (EWS). A White-throated Sparrow was at the San Simón Ciénega, Hidalgo Co., N. Mex., May 29 (VGD).

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