

SOUTHWEST REGION.—This summer season was mostly wet, particularly in July and August, with many ponds filled and the Rio Grande running high.



This has been one of the wettest years with the most constant moisture in some areas. This eased drought conditions and improved ranges, greening them considerably.

June was cool and windy which delayed plant growth. Spring migration lasted until June 13. Snow remained on the higher peaks of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains near Santa Fe till July 20. Snow falls whitened peaks from June 9 to 11 and again on July 16! Hailstorms on June 15 to 20 caused some nest destruction, mainly of Mockingbirds near Carlsbad, N. Mex. (SW). July temperatures were warmer than usual and August was reported as normal.

Populations scattered widely instead of clustering near water as in dry years, and numbers were normal. There was some late breeding due to the late start, and fall migration began late—on about August 15. Charles Hansen reported no signs of disease on the Desert Game Range, near Las Vegas, Nev.

The rains produced good growth of weeds which should provide excellent food conditions and cover for the coming winter. Especially good were crops of cleome and sunflowers (good for birds, but bad for sufferers of hay fever). Also looking good are crops of piñones, acorns, and mountain cones.

Waterfowl—Production was up slightly at the Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge near Socorro, N. Mex. (WEG). The New Mexico Game Dept. reported that there are about 150 Mexican Ducks left; some have been released at Bosque Refuge from artificially reared stock and others are at the La Joya Refuge near Bernardo (WSH). Two Black-bellied Tree Ducks flew out of a tree near Nogales, Ariz. on July 3 (TC).

Hawks—The Mississippi Kite again nested near Roswell, N. Mex. (VM). Young Zone-tailed Hawks were seen in the Peloncillo Mountains, Hidalgo Co.; and nests of a Black Hawk near Cliff and a Goshawk near Silver City were reported from New Mexico (BKH). The latter, seen at an unusually low altitude on July 14, will be depicted in *The Condor* (with RRI). Mr. Harris also reported an Osprey near Gila Hot Springs, Grant Co., N. Mex. on June 26. On June 5, a pair of Peregrine Falcons was seen in Big Bend Nat'l Park, Tex., where they have nested (RAR, JDS, RB).

Shorebirds—At Bitter Lakes Nat'l Wildlife Refuge near Roswell, N. Mex. 5 Pectoral Sandpipers were seen on July 31 and a Marbled Godwit on July 5 (VM). White-rumped Sandpipers were found in Las Vegas, N. Mex. in early July (ES), and at Avalon Lake near Carlsbad on Aug. 15 (SW). An Am. Avocet nest was found near Willcox, Ariz. on May 7 (SMR, DL).

Terns—A Black Tern was seen at a stock tank near Piñon in the Sacramento Mountains, Otero Co., N. Mex. on July 5 (RRI, BKH). At least 12 Least Terns at Bitter Lakes Refuge showed nesting signs, but no eggs were found (VM).

Doves—Some 1100 Mourning Doves were banded at the Bosque Refuge of which 75 percent were immatures (WEG); and an unusual concentration was recorded in the Transition Zone of the Desert Game Range (CGH). Two White-winged Doves in the Davis Mountains were the first recorded for Jeff Davis County, Texas (AL, FW).

Owls, Kingfishers—On July 20 BKH found one dead Barn Owl near Deming, N. Mex. and another near Hurley. An Elf Owl was seen at a hole in a juniper at Big Bend Nat'l Park on June 4 (RAR, et al.). Two Belted Kingfishers near Loving on June 13 provided the first summer record for Eddy County, N. Mex. (JF, SW).

Hummingbirds—Numbers were reported as abundant from 8000 to 9500 feet in the Sandia Mountains near Albuquerque, N. Mex. (including the Calliope) (BM); and in the Sheep Range, Las Vegas,

Nev. (CGH). Smaller numbers were seen at Monjeau Peak in the Sierra Blancas, N. Mex. where an area of gilia was reduced by establishment of a church camp (VM). A male Rivoli's Hummingbird was banded on July 3 in the Animas Mountains, Hidalgo Co., N. Mex. (BM). Lucifer Hummingbirds, formerly rare, have increased in Big Bend Nat'l Park with at least five being seen on June 5 (RAR, *et al.*).

Flycatchers—Thick-billed Kingbirds again nested at Patagonia, Ariz. (FMT) and in Madera Canyon near Tucson (AHC, TS, JM, FNT). Nests of a Western Flycatcher on July 10 (BJ) and of a Coes' Flycatcher on June 20 (GN, LLH) were found in the Pinal Mountains near Globe, Ariz. An Eastern Kingbird spent several days at Corn Creek, Desert Game Range in early June (CGH), and another was seen at Las Vegas, N. Mex. on June 13 (ES). A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher was carrying nesting material on June 22 in Madera Canyon (JPK).

Swallows—About 2000 Cliff Swallows appeared on the Bosque Refuge on Aug. 10-12 (WEG). West reported over 200 nests destroyed by vandalism near Carlsbad. A late Barn Swallow nest, containing eggs, was found at Vaughn, N. Mex. on Aug. 9 (AL, FW). Purple Martins were reported the most numerous ever observed at Tucson from June 7 on, with at least 300 being seen almost daily (FMT).

Wrens, Kinglets—A Carolina Wren was found singing on June 4 at 6000 feet at Big Bend Nat'l Park, a rather high altitude (RAR, *et al.*). Two Ruby-crowned Kinglets in the Pinal Mountains, Ariz. were seen at 7500 feet on July 10 (BJ, EJ).

Thrushes—Unusually low in altitude was a Robin's nest in Tucson on June 12 (GG, FMT). A Wood Thrush found dead on the highway near Malaga, N. Mex. on May 23 has been preserved (DF, SW).

Phainopeplas—Seven were seen near Cliff along the Gila River on July 11 where they are seldom observed in summer, though regular in winter (BKH). Three were in the Davis Mountains, Tex. on June 3 and a nest was found in an ash, where they are uncommon (RAR, *et al.*).

Vireos—Several Gray Vireos were heard singing on July 4 in the Guadalupe Mountains, Eddy Co., N. Mex. (BKH, RRJ). Also heard and seen was one at Big Bend Nat'l Park on June 4 (RAR, *et al.*). A Bell's Vireo was singing in mesquite at Harroun Lake, near Malaga, N. Mex. on Aug. 2 (JP, SW).

Warblers—Lucy's Warblers were last seen at Globe on July 8 (BJ). The higher parts of the Sheep Range, Nev. were alive with warblers; they began moving onto the Desert Game Range on Aug. 15; Black-and-white Warblers were seen twice there—one on Corn Creek in early June and one in the Sheep Range in yellow pines at 8000 feet. A Northern Waterthrush was banded at Corn Creek (CGH). There was a female Am. Redstart at Loving on June 6 (JP, SW).

Orioles, Tanagers—Good numbers of young Bullock's Orioles and Western Tanagers were present at Corn Creek, Nev. (CGH).

Finches and Sparrows—A male Rose-breasted

Grosbeak was seen in Madera Canyon on July 3, where there have been several records in the last few years (HC, TS, *vide* FMT). An Indigo Bunting was singing at Cedar Crest, N. Mex. from June 9 until July 30. One male was banded on July 11 and another on July 17, although only one was seen at a time (BM). Further a singing male was reported near Gila Hot Springs on June 26 (BKH), and still another on July 4 in the Guadalupe Mountains, Eddy Co., N. Mex. (RRJ, BKH). The last one was collected.

Two singing male Varied Buntings appeared in a juniper at Carlsbad Caverns Nat'l Park, N. Mex. on July 18 (SB, JF, SW).

The report of 2 adult Lesser Goldfinches feeding young out of the nest on Aug. 15 is the closest to an actual nesting record in the Pecos Valley (VM). A male Am. Goldfinch was found at Loving on June 12 (SW). A pair of Cassin's Finches was carrying nesting material at Greer in the White Mountains of Arizona on May 14. This may be a new breeding area (SMR). Nearly 400 Lark Buntings were on the Bosque del Apache Refuge on Aug. 11 to 13 (WEG). A Mexican Junco was seen in the Pinal Mts. near Globe at 7500 feet on July 10 (BJ) and July 17 (LLH).

Contributors—Ruth Black, Sam Burkham, Theodore Chase, Jr., Allan and Helen Cruickshank, David and John Fischer, Grace Gregg, Wayne E. Gueswel, Charles G. Hansen, Bruce K. Harris, Lyndon L. Hargrave, William S. Huey, Earl and Betty Jackson, R. Roy Johnson, Joseph P. Kleiman, Donald Lamm, Anne LeSassier, Janett MacNeil, Barbara McKnight, Vester Montgomery, Alan Nelson, Gordon Nicholson, John Phillips, Stephen M. Russell, Elmer School ey, J. Dan Scurlock, Ted Steele, Florence M. Thornburg, Steve West, Frances Williams.—MRS. PATRICIA R. SNIDER, P. O. Box 2411, Santa Fe, N. Mex. 87501.