

**SOUTHWEST REGION.**—After a relatively dry winter and spring, we have had a wet, cloudy summer with unusually high humidity. June began hot



and dry, but the rains began somewhat earlier than normal at the end of the month. There were no abnormal droughts or cold spells.

The moisture came too late to help this season's wild flowers, but the prospects for next year look

good. Vegetation was stunted owing to a slow start, still many blossoms were produced. This should give a good seed crop for the coming winter. Grasses, too, were making a good crop of seeds by August and ranges seemed greener than usual.

There are signs of a very good acorn crop. Indians say this means a long, hard, cold winter. It is true that migration certainly began earlier than normal. Red color appeared on the mountain maples after the first "feel of fall" on August 12. Also looking good are juniper berries and spruce cones in the higher mountains. Ponds were generally full.

Not many reports of unusual birds were received, and populations seemed pretty well scattered. The nesting season had normal limits; some species began early, but few continued late into the summer. Food supplies were termed adequate to excellent.

Bird populations still seemed low in the northern mountains, perhaps a result of massive spraying for the spruce budworm several years ago. Part of the city of Santa Fe was sprayed for a tussock moth in July. Albuquerque and other cities were spraying for mosquitoes carrying encephalitis. Definitely down in numbers in the mountains are Western Wood Pewees, Western Tanagers, and Hermit Thrushes. Also a vast project is in the works to poison all the remaining prairie dog colonies after a few cases of sylvatic bubonic plague were diagnosed.

Grebes, Cormorants, Pelicans—Lingering Eared Grebes were at Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, near Roswell, N. Mex. on June 4 (VM) with 2 at Willow Lake, near Carlsbad, N. Mex. in June (SW). On four occasions young Western Grebes were seen in the headwater area of Lake Havasu Nat'l Wildlife Refuge on the Arizona-California border (JMW). Two Double-crested Cormorants on June 9 and 4 White Pelicans on July 20 were found at the Overton Refuge, Nev. (RHW).

Hérons—Green and Black-crowned Night Herons have increased over last year in the Carlsbad area (SW). Four Snowy Egrets came to a pond near Nogales, Ariz. on July 22, the first record there for that month (BH). Least Bitterns were seen throughout the Topock Marsh on Havasu Lake (JMW).

Ducks—Records of Black-bellied Tree Ducks are increasing. They were around Nogales all summer with up to 7 seen at once (BH) and 8 found on July 4 (GMC, CL, AJC). One was at "Kinsley's" Pond, Amado, Ariz. on June 9 (FMT) and 8 were at the St. David's ponds, Ariz. on July 21 (PRS). A male Mexican Duck was seen on the Rio Grande near Las Cruces, N. Mex. on June 4 (TZC). Duck production at the Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, near Socorro, N. Mex. was about average and was mainly composed of Mallards and teal (EVK). Surprising was a female Canvasback with 8 young at the Overton Refuge on June 9. Seven were seen there on July 20 (RHW).

Hawks—A Goshawk soared by just over the Colorado line on Cumbres Pass, near Chama, N. Mex. on Aug. 14 (PRS). Mississippi Kites were again present in small numbers at Roswell all summer. The one nest found contained a large young on Aug. 13 (VM). A Black Vulture came to Nogales on June

18 and there were 2 on July 28; it has become more or less regular in the last few years (BH). There was a slight increase in reports of Golden Eagles, but the species is still in serious trouble. A pair was in the Davis Mts., Jeff Davis Co., Tex. on June 16 (DTB); another pair was north of St. John's, Ariz. on Aug. 11 (BJ, EJ); one in the San Juan Mts. near Canjilon, N. Mex. on July 3 (PRS); and one near Weed, Otero Co., N. Mex. on Aug. 13 (SW). Apparently spreading northward are Harris' Hawks. They were seen more often than usual near Roswell with up to three in a group in July (VM). A Black Hawk was at Beaver Dam Wash, Mohave Co., Ariz. on June 14 (RHW). A Marsh Hawk nest was found at the Bitter Lake Refuge on June 16 (VM), and a Sparrow Hawk nest was at Littlefield, Nev. on June 14 (RHW).

Quail—Introduced Afghan White-winged Pheasants again nested at Bosque Refuge (EVK). An increase of Gambel's Quail was indicated by a report of many seen in the Globe, Ariz. area; 4-7 young per family were usual (BJ, SVH). Good numbers were on the Desert Game Range, Las Vegas, Nev. with up to 150 or 200 seen at a time instead of the normal 30 (CGH). They had a good hatch at Nogales, but most of the young disappeared after heavy cold rains. Scaled were common at Elgin, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz. (BH) and numbers were back to normal at Carlsbad (SW). Two Harlequin Quail were in Cave Creek Canyon of the Chiricahua Mts., Portal, Ariz. on June 17 (ZC) and are now fairly regular in the Davis Mts. (DTB).

Rails and Gallinules—Clapper Rails may be spreading in the lower Colorado River valley. One was seen on June 19 in Topock Marsh, one nearby on June 22 at Beal's Lake, and 2 in Topock Gorge on July 2 (JMW). Yet another was at Imperial Dam, Calif. on June 25 (GMC). A young Virginia Rail was collected at St. George, Utah on June 16 (RHW). Single Common Gallinules were at Carlsbad, June 12 (SW, BHA); Bitter Lake Refuge on June 14 (DLB); and St. George on June 16.

Avocets, Stilts, Terns—Am. Avocets may nest at Overton Refuge where 7 were seen on June 9. Also present was a Black-necked Stilt, and 2 Forster's Terns, with 20 there July 20 (RHW).

Doves, Cuckoos, Anis, Owls—North of its range was a Ground Dove collected at Overton Refuge on July 20 (RHW). Inca Doves were seen all summer at Needles, Calif. (JMW). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were found more frequently than ever before at Roswell from June 27 until at least Aug. 13 (VM). One was at Patagonia, Ariz. on June 9 (FMT) and July 21 (PRS). A Groove-billed Ani there on June 8 was photographed (BH, TS, ACr). A dead Barn Owl was found near Loving, N. Mex. on July 4 (SW). Two young Horned Owls at Beaver Dam Wash in Arizona on June 14 and a young Long-eared Owl on June 15 in Utah were reported (RHW).

Troglons, Hummingbirds—The Coppery-tailed Trogon in southeastern Arizona is apparently in reduced numbers (BH). Good numbers of migrating hummingbirds were reported. A dead Rufous Hummingbird was found near Carlsbad on Aug. 2 (SW).

A male Costa's Hummingbird at Big Bend Nat'l Park, Tex. was the first record there (RHW). A few Violet-crowned Hummingbirds were in the Huachuca Mts., Santa Cruz Co., Ariz. (BH); one was near Patagonia on July 3 (GMC); and one was at the feeder in Cave Creek Canyon all the week of June 17 (VR, TZC).

**Woodpeckers**—An Acorn Woodpecker was at Show Low, Ariz. on Aug. 13 (BJ). A pair of flickers collected at Beaver Dam, Ariz. in May were identified by Dr. Lester Short as a Gilded X Red-shafted hybrid. A mated pair of Yellow X Red-shafted was found there on June 15 (RHW). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher appeared on the Desert Game Range on June 23 (CGH). Two nests of the Wied's Crested Flycatcher were found near Imperial Dam, Calif. on June 25 (GMC, GSS, DG); and that of a Vermilion Flycatcher on June 2 near St. George. An Eastern Kingbird was at Beaver Dam, Ariz. on July 21 (RHW). They have increased in the Española, N. Mex. valley (PRS, JRT). A Buff-breasted Flycatcher was feeding young in the nest in the Huachuca Mts. on July 10 (BH).

**Swallows, Jays, Ravens, Nuthatches**—The nest of a Rough-winged Swallow was found near Loving on June 12 (BHA, SW). In a census of Cave Swallows at the Carlsbad Caverns Nat'l Park they were found nesting in at least five caves with 213 adults, 309 young and 20 eggs counted in the nests (SW). Nesting Violet-green Swallows were in the Davis Mts. and a few Steller's Jays were found there on June 16 (DTB). A Common Raven nest was found in the Davis Mts. on June 16 (DTB). A Red-breasted Nuthatch was on Mt. Lemmon near Tucson, Ariz. in August (BH).

**Bushtits, Thrushes, Starlings**—Three Black-eared Bushtits were in Big Bend Nat'l Park on June 15 (TZC). Robins had a good nesting season at Roswell (VM). Western Bluebirds were up in numbers in Los Alamos, N. Mex. (MAC, JRT). An Eastern Bluebird male was at Lochiel, Ariz. on July 10 (BH). Starlings were not numerous at Globe, but were fairly common (BJ); numbers were definitely down in the Santa Fe area (PRS).

**Warblers**—Migration of warblers had begun in August on Mt. Lemmon (BH), at Big Bend Nat'l Park the first part of the month (RHW), and at Cedar Crest, Bernalillo Co., N. Mex. by Aug. 13 (BM). Four Colima Warblers were at Big Bend Park on June 15 (TZC) and 6 were seen there in August (RHW). Lucy's Warblers were common in the Globe area up to 4500 feet (BJ). A Virginia's and a few Audubon's Warblers were at 8700 feet in the Davis Mts. on June 16 (DTB).

**Orioles, Blackbirds, Tanagers**—A Scott's Oriole nest was found in Carlsbad Caverns Park on June 17 (SW). Two Hooded Oriole nests were at Littlefield, Nev. on June 14 (RHW) and 2 more were located at Globe on June 2 and 8 (LLH). A Boat-tailed Grackle was at West Pond, Imperial Co., Calif. on June 25 and an immature Bronzed Cowbird was with Bullock's Oriole parents at Parker Dam, San Bernardino Co., Calif. the same day (GMC, GSS, DG). There were 4 pairs of Summer Tanagers at Beaver

Dam, Ariz. on June 14 (RHW). Four Hepatic Tanagers were in the Pinal Mts. near Globe on July 13 (BJ, DH).

**Finches**—Several Cardinal nests were found at Globe (BJ). A male Blue Grosbeak was at Parker's Pond near there on June 8. A hybrid Indigo X Lazuli Bunting appeared there the same day (RR). A Lazuli Bunting was on Lake Havasu on June 20 (JMW) and a male singing near Nogales on July 9 was considered unusual (BH). At least 2 pairs of Indigo Buntings were at Beaver Dam, Ariz. on June 14. Blue Grosbeaks were across the line in Utah the next day (RHW). An increase in Painted Buntings was recorded at Carlsbad (SW) and Varied Buntings are still on an upswing. One was in Guadalupe Canyon, Hidalgo Co., N. Mex. on July 3 (GMC); a pair was at Big Bend Park on June 16 (TZC); and a male was singing at Patagonia on July 10 where it is rare, but regular (BH). A male Dickcissel was singing west of Loving on June 30 (SW). Red Crossbills were seen on Monjeau Peak, near Ruidoso, N. Mex. on July 22 (WR, fide VM) and a flock was on Mt. Lemmon in August (BH). A Pine Siskin was at 8100 feet in the Davis Mts. on June 16 (DTB).

**Sparrows**—Botteri's and Cassin's Sparrows were singing near Nogales and Elgin at least by June 4 (BH). A Rufous-winged Sparrow was singing at Patagonia on June 17—a new locality for it (PMT, BH, FS). A (Gambel's) White-crowned Sparrow lingered in Tucson until July 5 (PMT, JG). Cassin's Sparrows also were noted as being abundant and widely distributed in the Roswell area with at least 10 singing in one place on June 14, but no nests were found (VM). A young Mexican Junco was in the Pinal Mts. in pines on July 13 (BJ).

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