



Phoenix, Ariz.—the lowest area reporting in the Region—was the only area recording a deficit in moisture (*UEM*).

The rains brought severe flooding, at least in New Mexico, and there was some hail damage. Humidity was unusually high, and winds continued through the summer. Temperatures on the whole were cooler than normal, again with the exception of the Phoenix area. Ponds were again filled, and some areas such as Cedar Crest, N. Mex. were described as "soggy" (*BM*). Forests were re-opened as the extreme fire danger lessened.

Although the "green-up" of early summer was curtailed by spring's drought and frosts, the rains made plant life spring into growth and conditions return to normal, which should assure good food supplies for this coming fall and winter. The grasses at Patagonia, Ariz. were said to be over a man's head (*RPN*), and even the ocotillo of the desert remained in full leaf (*FT*).

Bird populations were considered normal to good in most areas. The scarcity of insects and dearth of plant cover in June delayed nesting, with fewer eggs laid or nestlings fledged. Some species started nesting a second time after the rains began; and some species that depend on grasslands such as the Black-throated Sparrow at Phoenix (*ELR*) and Botteri's and Cassin's Sparrows in southern Arizona (*ASW*, *GMcC*, *ROP*, *DG*) didn't even begin to nest until after the rains began.

There were more birds in northern mountains, some nesting lower than usual. Populations in the Sangre de Cristo Mtns. in New Mexico were the best since the spraying of several years ago, although stretches of pine are still dying. Western Wood Pewees, Warbling Vireos, Hermit Thrushes, Western Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and Lesser Goldfinches were up in numbers. It is interesting to note that Western Tanagers were thought less numerous near Phoenix (*UEM*).

Spring migration lasted well into the middle of June in the north and fall migration had begun by early August. The first cold front on July 20 was rather early; another followed on Aug. 8 with flights reported the next day in such widely separated places as Santa Fe, N. Mex. and Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument near Ajo, Ariz. (*RLC*).

**SOUTHWEST REGION.**—Welcome rains to the east and north all summer brought relief from the drought of last winter and spring, but southern areas stayed dry until July. By the end of the period most observers were recording above normal precipitation; the rains were called a "constant deluge" at Chama, N. Mex. (*ENW*) and a "monsoon season" at Globe, Ariz. (*BJ*). In the lowlands at Tucson, Ariz. rainfall was average (*DSP*, *ASW*), and

There just is not enough space for all the good records received. New Mexico records will be published in more detail in the New Mexico Ornithological Society *Field Notes*, and Arizona records are being sent on to Dr. Stephen M. Russell at the University of Arizona, Tucson.

**Grebes, Pelicans, Bitterns**—Western Grebes seemed in greater numbers at La Cueva State Game Refuge, Mora Co., N. Mex. with up to 10 seen on July 26 (JK. JSF). A disabled Brown Pelican was picked up in downtown Phoenix on Aug. 4 and taken to the zoo (UEM). Two Least Bitterns were calling in Big Bend Nat'l Park, Tex. on June 18 (RHW).

**Ducks**—Production at Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Socorro Co., N. Mex. was a little below average. Flooding undoubtedly destroyed some nests. The Mexican Duck project is starting to pay off as 2 broods of 16 ducklings were seen (RWR). A Ring-necked Duck south of Tucson on July 1 was quite early (JMS). Also early were a Ruddy Duck at Organ Pipe Monument on Aug. 2, and 5 Cinnamon Teal on the Cabeza Prieta Game Range, Pima Co., Ariz. on Aug. 9 (RLC).

**Hawks**—Numbers were reported lower at Silver City, N. Mex. (RAF) and near Phoenix (ELR). Nesting about Tucson seemed normal with lack of grass cover giving an ample food supply of exposed ground mammals for nestlings (DSP). A Goshawk was seen in Madera Canyon near Tucson on July 28 (ASW). Three White-tailed Hawks were at Marfa and Marathon, Tex. on July 16 (RHW). Immature Golden Eagles were seen near Patagonia (RPN) and near Globe on June 3 (BJ). A Prairie Falcon was reported in Organ Pipe Monument on June 1 (RLC). A Peregrine Falcon was seen at Cedar Hill on June 6 (JLS) and 2 at nearby Navajo Dam, San Juan Co., N. Mex. on June 22 (APN).

**Quail**—Nesting success was reduced owing to late plant growth near Tucson with the total hatch averaging 40 percent less (DSP). Gambel's Quail were thought to be plentiful in western Tucson (FT) and there was probably a second hatch there; the hatch was poor near Globe with an average of 8 to a family (BJ). This species was normal at Continental, Ariz., less so about Sabino Canyon near Tucson (ASW), and numerous with many pairs raising 2 broods at Silver City (RAF), but near Phoenix there were nesting failures (ELR). Harlequin Quail were found in Madera Canyon, near Nogales, in the Chiricahua Mtns. in Arizona (ASW, DG, GMcC, JMS) and near Silver City (RAF).

**Gallinules, Shorebirds**—Populations of marsh birds and shorebirds were below last year's at Bosque Refuge, probably because of high water. A pair of Com. Gallinules was photographed there (RWR). Mountain Plover were seen near Santo Domingo Pueblo, Sandoval Co., N. Mex. on June 2 and July 4 (JND, JPF). About 6 pairs of Long-billed Curlews were on the San Augustine Plains west of Magdalena, N. Mex., June 15 (LAT. *ide* WSH).

**Swifts, Hummingbirds**—A Chimney Swift was

seen in Roswell, N. Mex. on July 10 (VM). Hummingbirds appeared to be wandering widely. Violet-crowned Hummingbirds were found near Patagonia, in the Huachuca and Chiricahua Mtns. of Arizona, and in Guadalupe Canyon, Hidalgo Co., N. Mex. (DG, GMcC, UEM, JMS). Ramsey Canyon in the Huachucas also produced at least 2 White-eared Hummingbirds from July 21 through Aug. 16 (GMcC, RPN, ROP, JMS) and a *Berylline Hummingbird* (*Amazilia beryllina*) from late June to early August (DG, PDeB, GMcC, ROP, JMS). The details of this first record north of Mexico will be published elsewhere. One had been reported from Madera Canyon on June 14, 1964. A *Broad-billed Hummingbird* was at Las Vegas, N. Mex. July 16-18 (ES, *et al.*). What was reported to be an Amethyst-throated Hummingbird was found to be a hybrid Anna's X Blue-throated when skins were studied and a photograph taken (DG, GMcC, ROP, JMS). It has been present for 3 years. Could this be the hybrid Blue-throated X Broad-tailed reported last summer? Neither of the two observers (FMT, BH) who saw that bird were in Arizona this summer.

**Flycatchers, Chickadees, Dipper**—This was considered an amazing year for flycatchers in central Arizona (UEM, SRD) and they were numerous at Silver City (RAF). The Mexican Chickadee may have extended its range into the Pinal Mtns. near Globe, where it was observed nesting, June 29-July 13 (BJ, EJ); this species was considered down in numbers in the Chiricahua Mtns. (JMS). There were more records of Dippers in central Arizona (RPN, SRD), and a nest was found May 28 at Chama, N. Mex. (JRN). The only pair of Dippers in Whitewater Canyon, Glenwood, N. Mex. was netted by a team from Tulane University (RAF).

**Mimids, Phainopeplas, Vireos**—Thrashers and Mockingbirds were numerous and had good nesting success at Tucson (DSP) and Phoenix (SRD, UEM, RPN). Single Bendire's Thrashers appeared at Organ Pipe Monument on Aug. 9 (RLC) and near Española, N. Mex. on June 13 (WBL), and Curve-billed Thrashers were observed at Roswell on Aug. 8 (VM). Phainopeplas were unusually abundant in Oak Creek Canyon, Coconino Co., Ariz. (ASW, GG) and at Globe (BJ) in June. Bell's Vireos are spreading in the Globe area (BJ).

**Warblers**—Warblers returned very early to lowlands. A pair of Olive Warblers was in the Pinal Mtns. on June 6 (BJ). A Townsend's Warbler near Globe on Aug. 13 (BJ) and one near Phoenix on Aug. 10 (ELR, UEM) were early. Red-faced Warblers were considered down at Silver City (RAF) but up in numbers along the Mogollon Rim in central Arizona on July 8 (RPN). A ♀ *Hooded Warbler* was seen in the Huachuca Mtns. on July 2 (GMcC). Singing ♂ Am. Redstarts were found near Taos, N. Mex. on June 25 (WVH) and at Cedar Crest on June 16 (BM).

**House Sparrows, Icterids, Tanagers**—House Sparrows have usurped nesting cavities in saguaros and are now abundant on the Tucson desert (FT). Male Orchard Orioles were seen at Cliff, N. Mex. on June 27 (RAF) and near Nogales on July 3

(JMS). A Scott's Oriole was near Blanco, San Juan Co., N. Mex. on June 6 (JLS). A Boat-tailed Grackle was found on a cactus in the middle of the desert at Organ Pipe Monument on June 24 (DG). Bronzed Cowbirds are still increasing at Globe (BJ, IT), near Tucson (ASW), at Phoenix (ELR), and at Organ Pipe Monument (RLC). Their main host seems to be the Hooded Oriole. Western Tanagers were returning along lowland streams by mid-August (ROP, APN, RLC, DSP), which is early.

Finches, Sparrows—There was an increased number of Indigo Bunting reports: at least 3 were at Valmora, Mora Co., N. Mex., July 4 (WVH); 1 was in Tesuque, N. Mex., July 10-11 (WSH); a pair was at Patagonia, July 29, with young out of the nest, Aug. 15 (GMcC, ROP). There is now a "small colony" of this species nesting in Oak Creek Canyon (ASW), and they were on territory in Big Bend Park on June 23 (RHW). Varied Buntings are still increasing and were seen near Patagonia, in Madera Canyon, and in Guadalupe Canyon (GMcC, DG, ROP). In Big Bend Park they were fairly common by early August (RHW). A Red Crossbill was found dead at Bosque Refuge on June 25 (RWR). Rufous-sided, Brown, and Abert's Towhees had good nesting success at Tucson (DSP), Phoenix (UEM), and Globe (BJ). Lark Buntings were near Globe on June 23 (LLH, HM) and had returned to Roswell by July 28 (VM) and to Tucson by Aug. 14 (DSP, ROP). There were fewer Black-chinned Sparrows at Globe, where the species was seen only once (BJ).

Corrigendum—Vester Montgomery wishes to retract his report of Western Gulls at Lake McMillan, near Carlsbad, N. Mex., Dec. 30, published in the Winter Season account (APN 21: 445).

Contributors—Richard L. Cunningham, Paul DeBenedictis, Salome R. Demaree, John N. Durrie, James S. Findley, Ralph A. Fisher, J. Paul Fitzsimmons, Grace Gregg, Douglas Greenburg, Lyndon L. Hargrave, Bill Harrison, Walton V. Hawk, William S. Huey, Earl and Betty Jackson, Jim King, W. Burton Lewis, Guy McCaskie, Barbara McKnight, Una E. Miller, Helen Morgan, Vester Montgomery, Alan P. Nelson, Robert P. Norton, Joseph R. Norwood, Robert O. Paxton, Don S. Prentice, Eleanor L. Radke, Richard W. Rigby, Jim L. Sands, Elmer Schooley, Jay M. Shepard, Fern Tainter, Iola Thomas, Florence M. Thornburg, L. A. Turner, Anna S. Wainger, Eleanor Washburn, Roland H. Wauer.

PATRICIA R. SNIDER (Mrs. Carl E.), P. O. Box 2411, Santa Fe, N. Mex. 87501.