

SOUTHWEST REGION.—After a warm, dry and windy June, this was to become a very moist and cool summer. At Roswell, N. Mex., the 12 inches



of precipitation received by Aug. 15 was about the average yearly total (VM). At Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument, Ariz., 7.3 inches had been received, whereas normally 6.3 inches is reported (RLC). Only in the low deserts of southwestern Arizona, and especially at Phoenix, did it remain hot and dry, with 114 rainless days (UEM).

Spring migration lasted well into June, and fall migration began very early. Shorebirds were arriving in Phoenix by July 7 (RPN), and warblers were already appearing in southern areas by early August. There were indications of a highly successful nesting season.

A scarcity of birds in the Chiricahua Mountains near Portal, Ariz. was said to be due to last winter's deep snows, which killed many resident species (VR, *fide* AC), and at Silver City, N. Mex., it also was thought that the severe storms had affected land birds (RAF).

One effect of the wet season was that birds were more evenly distributed and not concentrated in watered areas as in dry years. Excellent food conditions resulted from the rains, with the best vegetation on rangelands in many years and good crops of berries, fruit, acorns and piñon nuts. At Nogales, Ariz., where frost had damaged oaks in the canyons, it was found that those on ridges had a good crop (BH).

In the Patagonia area near Nogales a projected lake is expected to be filled this fall. The lake will come to within four miles of the tract saved by the Nature Conservancy and will cover all sycamore habitat in the area. This may displace species such as the Gray Hawk and Rose-throated Becard. Will they move up the Santa Cruz River toward Tucson or leave the area entirely?

Cormorant, Frigatebirds—A Double-crested Cormorant stayed near Quitobaquito, Organ Pipe Cactus Monument, Ariz. until at least June 10 (RLC). Three immature *Magnificent Frigatebirds* flying north up the Colorado River between Laguna and Imperial Dams near Yuma, Ariz. on July 20 were followed for about 5 miles in a car and were observed flying over both the Arizona and California sides of the river (RGM).

Hérons, Bitterns—One to two Black-crowned Night Herons were in the Phoenix area, July 7-14 (SRD, RPN). Four Yellow-crowned Night Herons arrived at Big Bend Nat'l Park, Tex. on Aug. 6 (RHW). Six Least Bitterns, including young, were seen on West Pond near Imperial Dam, Calif. during June and July (RGM).

Ducks—Black-bellied Tree Ducks are reportedly increasing in Arizona: at Nogales, where it is suggested there would be still more if nest boxes were put up (BH); in the Tucson area (DSP); and near Phoenix, where up to 13 were noted, June 12-17 (ELR, SRD, *et al.*). At least one brood of Mexican Ducks was seen at Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge near Socorro, N. Mex. (EVK). A ♂ Blue-winged Teal was on West Pond, June 22 (RGM). At Organ Pipe Cactus Monument, 7 Cinnamon Teal and 2 Shovelers on Aug. 5 (RLC) established the monument's earliest fall records. Two badly worn Red-breasted Mergansers were noted on West Pond on July 20 (RGM).

Vultures, Hawks—Five Black Vultures were seen near Sells, Ariz. on July 7 (RGM). A juvenile Mississippi Kite stayed at Big Bend Nat'l Park, Tex., June 2–July 17, and fed on the abundant cicadas, apparently moving on when they died out (RHW). An Osprey was observed at West Pond on June 22 and a bird thought to be the same individual was seen there on July 20 (RGM).

Galliforms—All species of quail had a very successful nesting season near Tucson, Ariz. (DSP). At Havasu Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge on the

Arizona-California border below Needles, the Gambel's Quail hatch was late because of earlier drought but was highly successful (*DJM*); the hatch of this species also was deemed good at Nogales (*BH*) and in the mountains near Tucson (*FT*). Numbers of Harlequin Quail were down in the Silver City, N. Mex. area, probably owing to last winter's snows (*RAF*). Bosque del Apache Refuge reported an excellent hatch of Gambel's Quail and pheasants (Ring-necked/"White-winged"), the best in the last three years (*EVK*). "White-winged" pheasants have been established in the Phoenix and Florence areas of Arizona (*DSP*), and the state will allow hunting there this year.

Gallinules, Shorebirds, Gull—Two broods of Com. Gallinules were seen at Havasu Lake Refuge out of an estimated population of 30 (*DJM*). A Semipalmated Plover was noted at West Pond on June 22 (*RGM*). A Snowy Plover came to Phoenix on July 13 (*RPN*). At Organ Pipe Cactus Monument, 14 Black-necked Stilts on June 10 and 4 Wilson's Phalaropes on Aug. 7 were considered rare (*RLC*). A second-year California Gull was found near Phoenix on July 7 (*RPN*).

Pigeons—Numbers of Band-tailed Pigeons were thought to be good, perhaps because of the heavy mast crop in the northern and southwestern mountains of New Mexico (*JLS*) and in southeastern Arizona (*BH*). Both states are to allow limited hunting this fall.

Cuckoo, Roadrunner, Ani—Yellow-billed Cuckoos were said to be up in numbers, along with an increase of tent caterpillars, at Roswell, N. Mex. (*VM*), at Big Bend Park where a nest was found on July 23 (*RHW*), in the Nogales area (*BH*), and around Laguna Dam on the Colorado River north of Yuma, Ariz. in June and July (*RGM*). Single birds were seen on July 12 (*SRD*, *HL*) and heard on Aug. 4 (*RPN*) at Phoenix where the species is listed as very rare (*UEM*). Heavy snows have apparently thinned out the Roadrunner population around Silver City, N. Mex. (*RAF*). A Groove-billed Ani came to a Nogales, Ariz. feeder in mid-June (*KN*, *vide BH*).

Owls—A young Flamulated Owl was observed eating a swallowtail butterfly in Big Bend Park on June 8 (*RHW*), and a nest of this species with 4 young was located at Pinos Altos near Silver City on June 9 (*CH*, *DAZ*). Numbers of Great Horned Owls were much reduced around Silver City (*DAZ*). At Organ Pipe Cactus Monument, a Ferruginous Owl was seen from an office window at 11:25 A.M. on June 20, and the species was heard calling into July (*RLC*).

Four Spotted Owls were noted near Reserve, N. Mex. in late June (*BM*). This species was heard calling in the same areas as Great Horned Owls in Cave Creek Canyon in the Chiricahua Mountains, June 16-18 (*BAM*).

Hummingbirds, Kingfisher—There was a marked decline of all species of hummingbirds in Cave Creek Canyon and in Ramsey Canyon in the Huachuca Mountains east of Nogales, perhaps because more flowers were in bloom and the birds

were thus more widely dispersed. An adult ♂ *Allen's Hummingbird* was netted and banded near Portal, Ariz. on Aug. 2 (*AC*); this established the first Cochise County record. Another arrived at a Nogales feeder on July 6 and stayed for almost two weeks (*BH*). A ♀ Violet-crowned Hummingbird was observed on a nest in Guadalupe Canyon on the New Mexico border east of Douglas, Ariz. on the late date of Aug. 10 (*RJW*). A Green Kingfisher was seen in Big Bend Park on Aug. 6 (*RHW*).

Flycatchers—An E. Kingbird was seen at Chama, Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex. on July 26 (*ENW*) for the first local record. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher appeared on the upper Gila River near Silver City in June (*RAF*, *et al.*). A pair of Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers were on territory in a new locality on the Sonoita River near Nogales on Aug. 11 (*BH*), but this locality lies within the area to be flooded. At least 3 pairs of Wied's Crested Flycatchers were present in June and July at Laguna Dam where the species has apparently become established as a breeder (*RGM*). An Olivaceous Flycatcher noted in Big Bend Park on July 7 (*RHW*) and a Black Phoebe seen at Organ Pipe Cactus Monument on June 28 (*RLC*) were believed to be post-breeding wanderers. A calling Coues' Flycatcher was noted in Big Bend Park on June 8, although no nest was found (*RHW*).

Swallows—Violet-green Swallows nested in the Upper Basin, Big Bend Park, leaving by Aug. 1 (*RHW*). The population of Barn Swallows in southeastern Arizona, especially around Nogales, has increased greatly in recent years (*ARP*, *BH*). About 20 Cave Swallows were noted over a golf course in Fort Stockton, Pecos Co., Tex. on Aug. 11 (*RHW*).

Jay, Wrens—A *Steller's Jay* at Organ Pipe Cactus Monument on June 14 (*RLC*, *JY*) was far from its normal habitat. On June 17 in Rustler Park in the Chiricahua Mountains, "a rather buffy looking wren, probably a House, was feeding young out of the nest. The young was an extreme of the Brown-throated Wren—dark rusty above, with buff breast, a prominent buff supercilium, and strongly barred flanks" (*BAM*). This observation should add fuel to the theory that they should be considered one species.

Thrashers, Thrushes, Phainopepla—Eight Bendire's Thrashers were found near Los Lunas, Valencia Co., N. Mex. on June 15 (*JND*, *JPF*); some were later collected for a University of New Mexico study (*JLD*). Another was noted in Guadalupe Canyon, Ariz. on June 18 (*BAM*). Robins had a good breeding season at Roswell (*VM*) and Los Alamos, N. Mex. A *Rufous-backed Robin* was seen in Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains near Tucson on July 15 (*JH*), establishing the first summer record. A dead Swainson's Thrush was found in a Phoenix yard on the late date of June 1 (*SRD*). Phainopeplas were seen at three new localities in New Mexico: near Reserve, Catron Co. on June 28 (*BM*), near Tyrone, Grant Co. on June 21, and at Fort Bayard, Grant Co. on June 26 (*RAF*).

Warblers—At Big Bend Park, 130 Colima Warblers were counted on a May 6-14 census, with 2 nests found on June 6 and 2 more nests found on July 6 (RHW). At one of the nests was an adult that had been banded in 1967, and all of the young from this year's nests were banded (RHW). A Parula Warbler was still singing on June 4 in Ramsey Canyon, where the species was reported last spring. A pair was also seen near Tucson (RPN, *et al.*). An immature ♂ Am. Redstart was singing in Madera Canyon, June 6-7 (RLC).

Icterids, Tanagers—A singing ♂ and a ♀ Bobolink were noted near Snowflake, Navajo Co., Ariz., June 15-16 (RPN). A ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird was observed on July 26 near Lukeville, Pima Co., Ariz. (RLC) where the species is rare. Nine *Boat-tailed Grackles* were noted on the California side of Imperial Dam, June 16, and a female was seen carrying nesting material to a palm in the park near the dam (MP). Another female was seen carrying food on July 20 at West Pond, although no nest was found (RGM). These may be indications of the species' first breeding in the state. Also spreading into this area is the Bronzed Cowbird, noted at Laguna, Parker and Imperial Dams, with an observation of an immature being fed by a Bullock's Oriole on June 20 (RGM). Hepatic Tanagers seemed more common in the piñon-juniper woodlands at Big Bend Park (RHW).

Finches, Sparrows—A ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak at Organ Pipe Cactus Monument on June 28 (RLC) was either a late spring or early fall migrant. A ♂ Indigo Bunting was noted at Portal, Ariz., June 17 (BAM); the species bred again at Patagonia, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz. (RPN); and a pair was seen on June 12 at Cliff near Silver City, N. Mex. where the species remains rare but now seems to be regular in summer (DAZ). A pair of Varied Buntings was seen in lower Madera Canyon on June 19 (MP). At Big Bend Park, the population of this species has shown a further increase: they were recorded in numbers all through the park grasslands; a nest was found on June 6; and an adult was observed feeding young on July 13 (RHW). Rufous-winged Sparrows were believed to be spreading, with a small colony found near Mammoth, Pinal Co., Ariz. (FT). Cassin's Sparrows were locally abundant in desert grassland west of Deming, N. Mex. in early June (DAZ). Numbers also seemed higher in southeastern Arizona wherever the grass was thick enough. On the other hand, Botteri's Sparrows seemed less common than usual (BH).

Contributors—AC, Allegra Collister; RLC, Richard L. Cunningham; JLD, John L. Darling; SRD, Salome R. Demaree; JND, John N. Durrie; RAF, Ralph A. Fisher, Jr.; JPF, J. P. Fitzgerald; JH, John Hamilton; BH, Bill Harrison; CH, C. Heidenreich; EVK, Evon V. Klett; HL, Helen Longstreth; BAM, Bruce A. Mack; RGM, R. Guy McCaskie; BM, Barbara McKnight; DJM, David J. Mickelson; UEM, Una E. Miller; VM, Vester Montgomery; KN, Kathy Noble; RPN, Robert P. Norton; MP, Michael Perrone, Jr.; ARP, Allan R. Phillips; DSP, Don S. Prentice; ELR, Eleanor L. Radke; VR, Vincent

Roth; JLS, James L. Sands; FT, Fern Tainter; RJW, Ralph J. Wall; ENW, Eleanor N. Washburn; RHW, Roland H. Wauer; JY, Jessie Young; DAZ, Dale A. Zimmerman.—PATRICIA R. SNIDER (*Mrs. Carl E.*), 4432-A Alabama St., Los Alamos, N. Mex., 87544.