

**SOUTHWEST REGION.** Continuing the trend begun last winter, the northern half of the Region was cool and wet while the southern portion stayed dry



and warm. Big Bend Nat'l Park, Tex. had one of the driest summers in many years (*RHW*); rainfall at Roswell, N. Mex. was barely half normal (*VM*); and it was one of the warmest summers in the last dozen years at Silver City, N. Mex. (*DAZ*). The dry area extended to Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge near Socorro, N. Mex. which had below average rainfall (*RWR*) and to Cedar Crest near Albuquerque, N. Mex. (*BM*). Southern Arizona also began the season

with dry conditions, but this was changed in July by the heaviest rains in several years at Nogales (BH) and near Globe (BJ). Mountain areas of northern New Mexico (MBS, WH, ES) and southern Nevada (RDJ) also had much better rains than normal. Populations seemed generally good in both wet and dry areas, and most localities reported good nesting success.

**Grebes, Herons** — A *Least Grebe* that arrived at Big Bend Nat'l Park on July 6 and remained through August (RHW) provided the park's first record of this species. A nest of the Green Heron was found at Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge near Roswell, N. Mex. on June 15 (VM); the nest was later abandoned. A Snowy Egret was seen at Mormon Lake near Flagstaff, Ariz. on June 3 (JAT). A Black-crowned Night Heron was observed near Alpine, Apache Co., Ariz. on May 29 (JAT). The Least Bittern bred near Scottsdale, Ariz. (RRJ, *fide* AR), and an Am. Bittern was heard calling in a small marsh near Eagar, Apache Co., Ariz. on June 7 (HTA).

**Geese, Ducks** — Several pairs of probably feral Canada Geese were reported on a lake located between Eagar and Alpine, Ariz. on June 1 (JAT) and June 7 (HTA). Two broods of wild Mexican Ducks were reared on Bosque del Apache Refuge, N. Mex. this year, and it is planned to mark them with colored wing tags to find where they migrate (RWR). A pair of Redheads was observed on Lake Mary south of Flagstaff, Ariz., June 28 (RAH). Two female Com. Mergansers with broods were seen on the Gila River east of Silver City, N. Mex. on June 20 and 27 (DAZ).

**Vultures, Hawks, Eagles** — Turkey Vultures were present in good numbers in southwestern New Mexico (DAZ). A *Swallow-tailed Kite* was photographed at Big Bend Park on Aug. 5 (RHW). The Mississippi Kite failed to nest at Roswell this year (VM). Single Sharp-shinned and Ferruginous Hawks observed near Silver City on June 5 (DAZ) were probably late migrants. Gunners destroyed a Cooper's Hawk nest near Silver City by killing the female and 4 young on June 7; two other nests were also shot up, one of them by an employee of the state game department who regularly shoots all hawks there. Red-tailed Hawk numbers were low in southwestern New Mexico, but adult Swainson's Hawks were reported in good numbers, although no young were seen. Two immature Harris' Hawks were seen near Roswell on Aug. 7 (VM). There are now about 4 pairs of Black Hawks along the Gila River; a collector took 1 female (DAZ). There were several reports of Golden Eagles; this species may be increasing somewhat with the assistance of protection laws, according to Dr. Zimmerman. Four Prairie Falcon nests in southwestern New Mexico had 7 young in June (DAZ). A Peregrine Falcon was seen in Grand Canyon Nat'l Park, Ariz. on June 29 (RAH).

**Rails, Gallinules** — Virginia Rails were heard along the Colorado River between Imperial and Laguna Dams on June 15 and later (GMCC, *et al.*) and on July 13 (RPN). A Sora was found near Eagar, Ariz., June 7 (HTA). At least 4-6 *Black Rails* were found in a minimum of two locations along the Colorado River in California near Imperial Dam, June 15-Aug. 2 (GMCC,

AC, JMS, JLA, RPN, *et al.*). A *Purple Gallinule* was found on a ranch near Elida, Roosevelt Co., N. Mex. on June 18; it was photographed and remained there "almost as a pet" through July 23 (ALG, *fide* BM).

**Shorebirds, Terns** — An unusually heavy migration of Upland Plovers occurred in the Pecos River Valley; birds were first heard at Roswell on June 27, with 165 seen there on Aug. 12 (VM). A belated report of a *Semipalmated Sandpiper* collected near Phoenix, Ariz. on April 27, 1969 (RRJ, AR) was just received. Black-necked Stilts were seen at Farmington, N. Mex. on June 13 (APN). Also seen in Farmington on June 13 was a Forster's Tern (APN). The Least Tern failed to nest on Bitter Lake Refuge this summer, although 10 were present on June 15 (VM). An adult Black Tern was seen at Chino Springs, Yavapai Co., Ariz., July 16 (AR).

**Pigeons, Doves, Cuckoos, Anis** — The normal number of Band-tailed Pigeons came down to the Sonoita River at Patagonia, Ariz.; apparently the population was not affected by the last hunting season (BH). The species also was noted as common in the Gila and Mimbres Valleys of New Mexico (DAZ). Single Inca Doves were observed in June and July at places near Silver City where they are rare (DAZ). Reports of Yellow-billed Cuckoos continued to increase. In New Mexico, 1 was seen in Madrid in early June (JLD) but the species arrived very late in the Gila Valley, not being noted until mid-June (DAZ); 23 were seen near Carlsbad on June 30 (SW); 1 was noted at Las Vegas on July 4 (WH); and the species was heard often at Roswell during July (VM). In Arizona, 1 was present in Phoenix from July 4 to Aug. 10 (SRD, *et al.*), and 1 was found nesting at Sullivan Lake, Yavapai Co. on July 16 (AR). A *Groove-billed Ani* remained at Big Bend Park from June 17 on and built at least three unsuccessful nests (RHW).

**Owls** — Two Barn Owl nests were found near Roswell; young left one nest on July 30; the other was found to be empty on July 8 (VM). A young Barn Owl was seen at Tempe, Maricopa Co., Ariz. on July 10, and another was killed by flying into wires in Phoenix on July 30 (UEM). A Flammulated Owl was heard calling in Cedar Crest three times in mid-July (BM). A colony of Burrowing Owls near Roswell contained 54 birds, mostly young, on July 5 (VM).

**Nighthawks, Swifts, Hummingbirds** — Near Springerville, Ariz., at an elevation of 9000 feet, 75 Com. Nighthawks were seen on June 21 (RPN). A Chimney Swift was observed at Roswell on June 12, with 2 seen on June 18 (VM). No Rufous Hummingbirds were seen at Las Vegas, N. Mex. (ES), but normal numbers were reported elsewhere. The species returned early, with birds noted in Nogales by July 10 (BH). An adult female *Rivoli's Hummingbird* was collected at Cedar Crest on July 31 (BM); this tends to substantiate some of the various sight records from northern New Mexico in recent years.

**Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Swallows** — Red-shafted Flickers and Red-headed Woodpeckers were scarce at Roswell, perhaps owing to the usurping of their nest holes by Starlings (VM). A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher was found in a different

locality from that of last year, on Sonoita Creek, June 14 (CH, et al.). A Coues' Flycatcher was found in Oak Creek Canyon near Sedona, Coconino Co., Ariz. on June 23 (RAH). About 30,000 swallows, mostly Trees with a few Cliff and Rough-winged, were encountered south of Santa Ana, Sonora, Mexico, Aug. 11-13 (BH, RPN). Five pairs of Purple Martins were found nesting in the Pinos Altos Mountains near Silver City on June 26 (DAZ) and in Black Creek Canyon east of there on June 13-14 (HEK).

**Crow, Titmice, Creepers, Starling** — At least 1 Com. Crow was present through July along the Gila River near Cliff, N. Mex. (DAZ). An observation of a Bridled Titmouse feeding young on June 1 in a cavity in a canyon near Reserve, N. Mex. (BM) established the first local breeding record. Two Brown Creepers were seen in the Pinal Mountains near Globe, Ariz. on July 26 (BJ). Starlings continued to increase in the Silver City area, with a roost of 75 found in July (DAZ).

**Vireos, Warblers** — A Solitary Vireo summered in lower riparian woods along the Gila River, where the species normally is not seen (DAZ). A singing Yellow-green Vireo was found on Sonoita Creek on July 18 and its song was tape-recorded (DB, fide BH); another was reported to have been seen in Ramsey Canyon in the Huachuca Mountains east of Nogales on June 27 (RAH, et al.). A Red-eyed Vireo was observed at Sonoita Creek on June 17 (VGD, LS, et al.). The "fall" warbler migration began early. A Black-throated Green Warbler was collected at Big Bend Park on Aug. 8, and an early Townsend's Warbler and a Hermit Warbler were seen there on the same day (RHW). Another Townsend's Warbler was noted on Mount Elden near Flagstaff, Aug. 14 (JLA). A Northern Waterthrush was discovered in Roswell on Aug. 15 (VM).

**Icterids** — Bobolinks did not return to the area near Springerville, Ariz. where they were reported last summer (RPN). Numbers of Hooded and Bullock's Orioles were considered down in the Gila Valley near Silver City (DAZ). An Orchard Oriole was seen in Cave Creek Canyon near Portal, Ariz. on June 4 and 7 (HTA, et al.) and a singing male was found between Laguna and Imperial Dams in California on June 15 (GMcC, AC). A Wagler's Oriole mentioned in the previous account stayed at Big Bend Park until Aug. 5; it was trapped and banded (RHW, et al.). Common Grackles were seen in Roswell in groups of 10-30 through August, with 8 nests found on June 1 (VM). An immature was seen following its parents in Las Vegas, N. Mex. on June 25 (WH). The first Boat-tailed Grackle nest for California was found at Imperial Dam on June 14 (GMcC, AC), with the first young being seen on June 28 (AS, et al.). This species was seen all summer at Farmington, N. Mex. (APN), but the birds were not nesting in the usual place at Espanola, N. Mex. (PRS). The first Bronzed Cowbird for Big Bend Park was found on July 4 (RHW); the species is still pushing northward in the Gila Valley and this year bred 8 miles north of Cliff, N. Mex. (DAZ). Parasitism by this species and the Brown-headed Cowbird reached a new high in the vicinity of Tucson, Ariz. (FT).

**Finches, Sparrows** — A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen in Madera Canyon near Tucson on May 24 (JAT) and June 28 (RW). An Indigo Bunting nest was found at Cliff on June 12 (DAZ), and singing males were noted near Payson, Ariz. on June 19 and 27 (ELR) and at Acomita, N. Mex. on July 7 (AR). A hybrid Lazuli X Indigo Bunting was found by an Indian boy at Fort Apache, Ariz. on June 9; it proved to be a year-old male. Increased numbers of reports of Varied Buntings continued to be received, with a bird seen feeding young at Big Bend Park, June 19 (RHW). A lone female Cassin's Finch seen at Big Bend Park on July 20 (RHW) was early. Red Crossbills were recorded at Los Alamos, N. Mex. all summer from June 4 on (PRS), with 6 seen in the Black Range east of Silver City on June 12 (HEK); in Arizona, the species was noted in the Pinal Mountains on June 6 and July 26 (BJ), with 15 noted on Mount Elden on Aug. 14 (JLA). A Sage Sparrow was singing at Mormon Lake, Ariz., in an area free of sagebrush, on June 3 (JAT). Cassin's Sparrows were less numerous than last year in southwestern New Mexico, but "scores" were present in May and June near Gage, west of Deming, Luna Co., N. Mex. (DAZ). This species arrived at Big Bend Park on June 6, but the birds did not stay and may have been migrants (RHW). Both Cassin's and Botteri's Sparrows were considered to be in good numbers at Nogales, probably as a result of excellent grass growth after the summer rains (BH). At Big Bend Park, Black-chinned Sparrows were found to be nesting at higher altitudes than usual (RHW). Sharing the spotlight with the Wagler's Oriole at Big Bend Park was the second United States record of the Five-striped Sparrow (*Aimophila quinquestriata*) of Mexico. A bird of this species was first discovered on Sonoita Creek near Patagonia, Ariz. on June 12 (BH, TC & ZC), with 2 found on June 14 (VGD) and young found on Aug. 18 and later (BH, FT, et al.). Full details of this record are to be published in *The Auk*. It should be noted that scores of birders had the privilege of seeing this bird, including two *Audubon Field Notes* regional editors (TC, OKS), and one wonders what would have happened if someone had collected it before it had the opportunity to nest.

**Corrigenda** — In the Spring Migration account for 1968, the reference to a Great Blue Heron rookery (*Audubon Field Notes* 22:562) should read *La Cueva*, not just *Cueva*. In the last Fall Migration account (*Audubon Field Notes* 23:88-91) the references to 2 Western Grebes on Mormon Lake near Flagstaff and an adult Virginia Rail with nearly grown young at Mormon Lake should both have read *Norman Lake, near Tucson, Ariz.*; in the reference to a Semipalmated Plover at the Key-Pittman Wildlife area, *Ariz.* should be corrected to read *Nez.*; the reference to 3 Northern Waterthrushes at Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument should read 1-2; the reference to a Pyrrhuloxia at Carefree, Ariz. should be corrected to a *Rose-breasted Grosbeak*; and the listing of Armando Rea in the section on contributors should read *Amadeo Rea*.

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