

SOUTHWEST REGION. — June and July were drier than usual, but the rains which arrived in August were adequate. Temperatures for the summer were normal.



Plant life was slow in getting started, and spring migration was delayed until mid-June, but by mid-August many species were already gathering in flocks, with fall migrants appearing quite early.

Of particular interest is a report of a flourishing business in cage birds on the other side of the border from Douglas, Cochise Co., Ariz., at Aqua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico; among those being sold were Green Jays, Cactus Wrens, Cedar Waxwings, Robins, Painted Buntings and several species of Mexican finches (RR). Is this possibly the source of many of our exotic sightings?

Cormorants, Herons — Double-crested Cormorants, Great Blue Herons and Snowy Egrets resumed normal nesting activity at Havasu Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge on the Arizona-California border near Parker, Ariz. this summer; it was estimated that 50 young cormorants, 100 young herons and 40 young egrets were produced (BDG). The Great Blue Heron heronries in Grant and San Miguel Counties, N.Mex. were successful (RAF, WH, ES). A colony discovered at Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge near Roswell, Chaves Co., N.Mex. produced at least 13 Green Heron and 40 Snowy Egret young, this constituting the first breeding there in 20 years; also present on the site on June 1 were 2 Little Blue Herons and 1 Least Bittern (DLB, VM). Other Least Bittern reports were of 5 or 6 at West Pond near Imperial Dam, Imperial Co., Calif. on June 13-14 and July 18 (GMCC) and 3 in Phoenix, Ariz. on June 10 (SRD, ELR).

Ibis — Present on Havasu Lake Refuge after July 14 were 8 Wood Ibis (BDG). There were several reports of lingering White-faced Ibis: 10 at Tucson, Ariz., June 11-12 (PRS); 4 at Isleta, Valencia Co., N. Mex., June 14 (JND); 3 near Phoenix on June 22 (AMR). Two also were seen in Phoenix on July 23 (RAW).

Geese, Ducks — About 20 apparently exhausted Canada Geese stayed on a sheep pond near Roswell during the week of June 20 (PW, fide VM). A pair of Black-bellied Tree Ducks observed on Sonoita Creek near Patagonia, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz., date ? (BH) were the first seen there. A male Green-winged Teal lingered near Nogales, Ariz. until June 21 (BH). Cinnamon Teal were seen at Tucson, June 2 (BH) and June 9-12 (PRS); fall migrants returned to Havasu Lake Refuge by late July (BDG). Several Redheads were reported at Phoenix: 1 on June 4, 10 on July 21 and 5 present Aug. 2-5 (BB, RAW). A pair of Ring-necked Ducks was found near Nogales on June 21; the male seemed to be injured and was still present on July 8 (BH). Another male was observed on Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument near Ajo, Pima Co., Ariz. on June 15 (VGD). Two Com. Mergansers were seen at La Cueva State Game Refuge, Mora Co., N.Mex. on June 7 (WH, ES), and a Red-breasted Merganser was noted on West Pond, Calif., June 13-14 (GMCC).

Hawks, Eagles — A Red-shouldered Hawk was seen on the Desert Game Range near Las Vegas, Nev. on July 12 (JBH, MVM). Three Golden Eagle nests were reported: two in Grant County, N.Mex. (RAF) and one in Brewster County, Tex. (RHW). A Marsh Hawk nest was found in Torrance County, N.Mex. on June 16 (EM, BMCK). An Osprey was seen near Phoenix on June 24 (SRD, ELR, et al.).

Rails — Clapper Rails were again seen at Tacna, Yuma Co., Ariz., on June 14, in a different marshy area than those found last spring; Virginia Rails were

common in the same place (DT). Several of the latter were noted in a marsh on the Gila River Indian Reservation, Maricopa Co., Ariz. on July 7 (DT). Soras were seen near Casa Grande, Pinal Co., Ariz. on Aug. 4 (DT). At least 8 calling Black Rails were noted between Imperial and Laguna Dams, Calif., June 13-14 and July 18 (GMCC). Common Gallinules, including at least 1 young, were seen at Bitter Lake Refuge, July 23-27 (DLB, VM).

Shorebirds — At least 2 Snowy Plovers were present near Estancia, Torrance Co., N. Mex. on July 4 (EM, DJM). A Willet observed near Rodeo, Hidalgo Co., N.Mex. on June 12 (RR) was late. Three Pectoral Sandpipers were observed near Las Vegas, Nev. on July 26 (CSL, MVM, GK, JK). Young from the successful Am. Avocet nests at Phoenix, mentioned in the spring report, were seen on June 1-2 and July 2 (BB, SRD). As many as 400 pairs of Black-necked Stilts were estimated to be present near Phoenix on June 22 (AMR); young were reported near Las Vegas, Nev. on July 26 (CSL, MVM).

Gulls, Terns — A Franklin's Gull was photographed near Las Vegas, Nev., July 13 (CSL). At Bitter Lake Refuge, 2 Least Terns were seen on July 9 and 23, but for the second year no nesting was indicated (VM). Lingering Black Terns reported this season included 1 in Phoenix, June 1 (BB, SRD); 13 at Moriarty, Torrance Co., N.Mex., June 6 (PRS); 1 in Tucson, June 11 (PRS); and 1 at Isleta, N.Mex., June 14 (JND). This species had returned to Phoenix by the early date of July 23 (RAW).

Pigeons, Doves — Band-tailed Pigeons moved into the lowlands near Nogales, probably because of the "terrific" acorn crop here (BH), and were seen at lower elevations than usual near Globe, Ariz. on June 24 and on the San Carlos Indian Reservation, Graham Co., Ariz. on July 31 (BJ, SVVH). A White-winged Dove was seen near Las Vegas, Nev. on July 25 (JK, MVM). Large concentrations of Mourning Doves had appeared on Havasu Lake Refuge by mid-August (BDG).

Cuckoos, Owls — At least 2 Yellow-billed Cuckoos, one of which was apparently on territory, were seen on June 21 at Sacaton, Pinal Co., Ariz. (AMR); species was recorded also in two areas near Phoenix (BB, SRD, ELR, JLW, RAW). A Ferruginous Owl was heard calling in Guadalupe Canyon on the Arizona-New Mexico border near Douglas, Ariz., July 3 (GMCC). Colonies of Burrowing Owls were found near Douglas on June 28 (PDH); 4 young of this species were photographed near Las Vegas, Nev., July 26-27 (CSL, MVM, GK, JK). Several Long-eared Owl nests were found near San Antonio, Bernalillo Co., N.Mex. (JW, fide BMCK).

Hummingbirds — A female Lucifer Hummingbird was observed in Ramsey Canyon in the Huachuca Mountains, Cochise Co., Ariz., July 21-26 and was photographed (BB, ELR, SRD, FHS, et al.). A male White-eared Hummingbird was reported in Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains, Pima Co., Ariz. on July 29 (FT) and Aug 5 and 19 (PDH).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers — Acorn Woodpeckers also invaded the lowlands near Nogales, Ariz. Seen fighting at the north end of Oak Creek Canyon,

Coconino Co., Ariz. on June 26 were 2 male Williamsons' Sapsuckers (VGD); another male was seen on Mount Charleston near Las Vegas, Nev. on June 25 (CSL). A second albino Western Kingbird was seen near Roswell, N.Mex., Aug. 5-12 (JHS, VM). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen on June 12 in upper Centennial Wash, Yuma Co., Ariz. (DT), providing the westernmost record for the state; another was observed at the Desert Game Range, Nev., July 11 (MVM, GK, JK). An observation of the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher at Harshaw Creek in the Patagonia Mountains, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz. on June 30 (BH) established a new location for the species. A Wied's Crested Flycatcher was seen at the Desert Game Range on July 25 (JBH, MVM, JK). An Eastern Phoebe was observed near El Pueblo, San Miguel Co., N.Mex. on July 4 (WH). A female Western Flycatcher of the coastal race *difficilis* was collected on June 21 near Sacaton, Ariz. (AMR); it was not yet in breeding condition and constituted the latest record of a spring migrant. A pair of Buff-breasted Flycatchers was found nesting in Scotia Canyon in the Huachuca Mountains, Ariz., July 6-24 with 2 young raised; at least 56 adults were noted in the area (FHS, SRD, ELR, BH, RAW, et al.). North of their usual range were 1 or 2 Coues' Flycatchers observed near Flagstaff, Ariz., June 8 and 12 (BB). A female Western Wood Pewee of the *saturatus* race was collected near Sacaton on June 21 (AMR); this also constituted a late record for a migrant.

Swallows, Corvids, Chickadees, Dipper — At least 300 Purple Martins were observed on the Salt River in Gila County, Ariz., July 31 (DT). At least 3 Gray Jays were noted on Diamond Creek, south of McNary, Apache Co., Ariz., July 22 (BJ, EJ). A Com. Crow was calling on top of Mount Lemmon near Tucson, June 5 (RR). Mexican Chickadees seem to be making a comeback in numbers in the Chiricahua Mountains near Portal, Cochise Co., Ariz. (GMCC, PRS). Two Dippers were discovered on Horton Creek at Kohl's Ranch, Gila Co., Ariz. on July 25 (DT).

Wrens, Thrashers, Gnatcatchers, Phainopepla — Found near Magdalena in Socorro County, N.Mex. on June 13 were 3 Cactus Wrens (BMCK). Two Curve-billed Thrashers sent the summer at a feeder in the foothills of the Sandia Mountains east of Albuquerque, N.Mex. (TMS). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher seen near Roswell, N.Mex. on Aug. 11 (JS, VM) was the first recorded in summer in that part of the state. The Black-tailed Gnatcatcher was observed on Sonoita Creek, June 26 and for some days thereafter (BH); this is a new locality and the elevation is higher than usual for the species. A Phainopepla nest was found in the Burro Mountains south of Silver City, Grant Co., N. Mex. on June 21 (RAF).

Vireo, Warblers — A Red-eyed Vireo was noted on the Desert Game Range, Nev., July 25 (JBH, MVM, JK). A Worm-eating Warbler was seen as it sang in Madera Canyon on June 7 (RR). A male Parula Warbler was collected at Sacaton, Ariz. on June 21 (AMR).

Icterids — A colony of Yellow-headed Blackbirds was found in a marsh near Casa Grande, Ariz. on Aug. 4 (DT). A Scott's Oriole was seen regularly about a home in the foothills east of Albuquerque (TMS). The

Wagler's Oriole again summered at Big Bend Nat'l Park, Tex. (RHW, fide SW). A Boat-tailed Grackle nest was found near Imperial Dam, June 13-14; this species is now of regular occurrence in California (GMCC). On June 21, 3 Boat-tailed Grackles were seen at Sacaton, Ariz. (AMR); this is a new locality for the species. Common Grackles bred successfully at Roswell, June 8-16 (VM); 20 were seen at Los Lunas, Valencia Co., N.Mex., June 14 (JND); and the species was recorded at Las Vegas, N.Mex., June 21 (WH). The Bronzed Cowbird is moving into the Big Bend Park area; at least 2 young were seen with Hooded and Orchard Orioles in early July (RHW).

Finches — Black-headed Grosbeaks seen in the vicinity of Globe, Ariz. on Aug. 4 and 6 (BJ, LS) were below the normal breeding altitude and were probably early migrants. Also unusual there was a Blue Grosbeak seen on Aug. 4 (BJ). A "good concentration" of Indigo Buntings was reported in the Gila River Valley, Grant Co., N.Mex. (TB, fide RAF); 1 was observed on the Desert Game Range, Nev., July 12 and Aug 16 (JBH, MVM); and a pair was on territory at Sonoita Creek on July 4 (GMCC), with a male seen in a different area of Sonoita Creek, June 10-13 (BH, PRS). A Lazuli Bunting was observed north of Phoenix on Aug. 12 (SRD, ELR). The Varied Bunting continues to be reported in good numbers — at Sonoita and Harshaw Creeks (BH) and in Guadalupe Canyon (GMCC, PM) — and was present in canyons just above the open grasslands in Big Bend Park during August (RHW). Cassin's Finches and Pine Siskins summered at lower altitudes than usual in Los Alamos, N.Mex. (PRS). Two Pine Siskins were found and a female was collected above Davis Dam, Clark Co., Nev. on June 3 (GTA, AMR); 5 breeding pairs were found in the Charleston Mountains and 2 females were collected on June 5 (GTA, AMR). Red Crossbills were not seen in Los Alamos after May 31 (PRS) but were noted in the Manzano Mountains near Albuquerque on June 7 (JND), north of Taos, N.Mex. on June 14 (WH), and in S.U. Canyon, near Reserve, Catron Co., N.Mex., June 14 (BMCK). Six were observed in Monica Canyon in the San Mateo Mountains, Socorro Co., N.Mex. on June 13 (BMCK); a pair was noted in the Pinos Altos Mountains north of Silver City, N.Mex. on June 20 (RAF); and the species was present at Cedar Crest, Bernalillo Co., N.Mex. through June and July (BMCK).

Sparrows — In Gardiner Canyon, north of Sonoita, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz. on Aug. 9, a few Grasshopper Sparrows were heard singing and a large concentration of 50-100 Lark Sparrows was noted (PDH). A Lark Sparrow observed north of Phoenix on July 18 (ELR) was early. An observation of the Rufous-crowned Sparrow in S.U. Canyon, N.Mex. on July 4 (JDL, BMCK) established a new locale for this species. The Five-striped Sparrow returned to Sonoita Creek on June 12 (BH); as many as 3 pairs were present there this year (BH, GMCC, et al.). Cassin's Sparrows were reported to be in good numbers near Nogales (BH) and were observed below Madera Canyon on June 5 (GMCC), in Gardiner Canyon on Aug. 9 (PDH), and between Encino and Yesso, N.Mex. on July 8 (BMCK, EM, DJM). This species had an excellent

year at Big Bend Park at elevations below 4200 feet where they began singing about June 25 (*RHW*). Gray-headed Juncos lingered in Los Alamos until June 4 and returned early on July 26 (*PRS*). One or two Black-chinned Sparrows were seen in Kyle Canyon, Mount Charleston, Nev. on June 25 (*CSL*) and Aug. 1 (*MVM, JK, GK*).

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