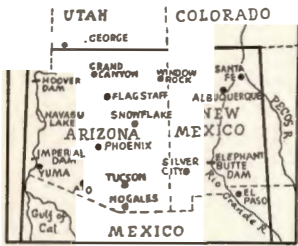


SOUTHWEST REGION.—The weather has been hot and continued dry, with unusually high humidity. The general drought still is unbroken,



although some spotty but heavy rains have been received in parts of southern and northwestern Arizona.

Loons, Cormorants, Herons.—Two Common Loons were seen

on the California side of Havasu Lake opposite Pittsburg Pt., Aug. 7 (Gale Monson), the first August record for the lower Colorado valley. Sixteen Double-crested Cormorant nests were found on the Bosque del Apache Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge, San Antonio, N. Mex. (Raymond Fleetwood). Eighty per cent of young in about 32 Am. Egret nests on the Bosque Refuge failed to survive, as did 95% of young in about 125 Snowy Egret nests; this was unaccountable, as food and water conditions seemed favorable (RF). About 15 young Snowy Egrets found dead in the Country Club Rookery at El Paso, Tex., July 8, were thought to have been victims of a heavy windstorm (Lena McBee). Mortality in young egrets, particularly Snowy Egrets, has also been unaccountably high in nests at Topock, Ariz., on the Havasu Lake Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge; even so, about 148 Am. Egret young and 112 Snowy Egret young survived (GM). The Least Bittern continues very scarce in the Colorado valley, with only 1 summer record, at Perry Thompson Bay on Havasu Lake,

Waterfowl.—Two Canada Geese seen at Topock, Aug. 10, were apparently returning migrants, and not cripples (Edgar Gomer, GM).

Production of Mallards at the Bosque Refuge was only one-half of last year's, the result of a short water supply (RF). Each summer finds a few ducks of various species, mainly Gadwall, Am. Widgeon, Redheads, Lesser Scaups, and Ruddy Ducks, in desert localities. This year, at Arivaca Jct. ("Kinsley's"), Ariz., 2 Gadwall, 1 Am. Widgeon, 1 to 2 Redheads, and 2 Lesser Scaups were seen at various times in June and July (Steve Gallizioli, C. Lockerbie, Allan Phillips). The Gadwall is becoming well-established as a breeding duck at Topock: a nest was found, June 19, a brood of 3 ducklings was seen on June 27, and 2 broods (one of 5 ducklings, one of 6) were seen on July 11 (GM). An Am. Widgeon was found near Tucson, Ariz., July 11 (AP). Two Redheads were observed at Willow Beach on Lake Mohave, Ariz.-Nev., July 7 (Russell Grater), and 6 were noted at Topock, July 11 (GM). Seven Ruddy Ducks, of which at least 4 were young more than half grown, were seen at Arivaca Jct., July 15 (AP).

Hawks.—A gathering of 42 Swainson's Hawks was seen in a Bermuda Grass field near Roll, Ariz., July 14 (SG). A Harris's Hawk was noted near Tucson, June 4 (AP). A pair of Mexican Black Hawks was observed at Blue Point, Ariz., at the confluence of the Salt and Verde Rivers, June 30 (AP, Lewis Yaeger). A Golden Eagle was observed at Mohave Rock, along the Colorado River below Topock, July 26, the first summer record for the Colorado valley (GM). Early arriving Marsh Hawks were: 1 seen at the southern tip of Nevada, opposite Ft. Mohave, Ariz., Aug. 15 (Warren Pulich), and 1 noted 10 miles south of Safford, Ariz., Aug. 16 (SG).

Rails, Gallinules and Coots.—A pair of adult Virginia Rails with at least 6 young was observed on the Bosque Refuge, July 11, conclusively establishing the species as a breeding bird in New Mexico (RF). A Sora was seen at Boulder Beach, Lake Mead, Nev., Aug. 11 (Gordon Gullion, Nora Poyser). Two to 3 Purple Gallinules dropped in on or near Tucson, July 5 to 8, with the last survivor killed by a dog, July 10 (Ivan Peters, AP). The breeding population of Am. Coots was considerably reduced at the Bosque Refuge (RF); a pair (noted July 15 to 22) nested at Arivaca Jct. (Anders Anderson, AP).

Shorebirds and Terns.—Two Snowy Plover were lingering at Topock, June 6 (GM). Two early Black-bellied Plover were seen on the lower part of Havasu Lake, Aug. 7 (GM). Unusually early returning Spotted Sandpipers were 1 at Topock, June 27 (GM), and 1 at Granite Reef Dam, Ariz., on the Salt River, June 30 (AP, LY). As evidence of the remarkably early return of arctic-nesting shorebirds, 2 Least or Western Sandpipers were seen at Havasu Lake, July 3; both species were identified near Parker, Ariz., July 7 (GM). A White-rumped Sandpiper was noted on the Bosque Refuge, Aug. 3 (RF). A pair of Least Terns nested on the Bitter Lake Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge, Roswell, N. Mex., a first

breeding record for the State (Ray Hunter). A Black Tern was seen between headquarters and the checking station on the North Rim of Grand Canyon Nat'l. Park, Ariz., July 31 (Harry and Ruth Crockett).

Cuckoos through Kingfishers.—A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen in Tucson, where it is rare, June 21, and was noted again, July 1 (AP). Two Burrowing Owls were seen 9 miles northeast of Douglas, Ariz., July 19 (SG), and 2 young were seen in House Rock Valley, Ariz., July 26 (Crocketts). Two Whip-poor-wills were noted in Big McKnight Canyon on the Gila Nat'l. Forest, N. Mex., June 27 (C. Pose). A Black-chinned Hummingbird was still apparently brooding on the very late date of Aug. 15, at Anthony, N. Mex. (LM). At least 24 Rufous Hummingbirds were feeding at Indian Paintbrush about 10 miles north of Chama, N. Mex., July 14 (RF), and the species was feeding in numbers at the flowers of Arizona Thistle at Cape Royal on the North Rim of Grand Canyon Park, July 25 (Crocketts). The first returning Belted Kingfisher at the Bosque Refuge was noted on July 26 (RF).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Swallows.—Lewis's Woodpeckers were noted during the period at Albuquerque and Belen, N. Mex., where they may have nested (RF). One was seen between Belen and Los Lunas, July 21 (F. Pose). Two Cassin's Kingbirds were seen in the Bill Williams Delta, June 5, (GM). Two Ariz. Crested Flycatchers (including 1 collected), were noted in the southern tip of Nevada, opposite Ft. Mohave, July 19; at least one other was seen in the same place, Aug. 16 (WP). These are the first records for Nevada, and constitute a further extension of range as noted in the spring migration report. The first returning Black Phoebe observed at Havasu Lake were 2 at Needles Landing, June 28 (GM); the first ones noted at Tucson were 2, July 11 (AP). A Western Flycatcher lingered at Topock until June 20, while the first returning migrants were already present in the Bill Williams Delta, July 13 (GM). Western Wood Pewees continued scarce at the South Rim of the Grand Canyon, while they were common on the North Rim (Harold Bryant). A very late migrant was noted at Parker Dam, Calif., June 18 (GM). A male Vermilion Flycatcher was seen on the Bosque Refuge, Aug. 10, an unusually early date (RF). A pair of Violet-green Swallows was feeding young in an aspen on the North Rim of Grand Canyon Park, July 20 to Aug. 4 (HB). Apparently summering Tree Swallows were 1 noted at Icehouse Bend, near Needles, Calif., June 19, and another at Topock, carrying an egret feather, June 20 (GM). An early returning Bank Swallow was noted at Jop's Harbor on Havasu Lake, July 3 (GM).

Nutcrackers through Mockers.—The oddest occurrence of the period is the presence of Clark's Nutcrackers in the area of Boulder City, Nev. Two were seen at Boulder Beach, Lake Mead,

June 17 to July 1 (NP), and 1 to 2 were present in Boulder City from July 1 to the end of the period (WP). A Verdin's nest was found in a juniper at an elevation of about 3000 feet in the Dead Mts., Nev., Aug. 16 (GG, WP). A Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen at Boulder Beach, Lake Mead, July 25 (NP). The Mockingbird is increasing as a nesting bird in Tucson, possibly as a result of the drought (AP). A Catbird was seen at Navajo, on the narrow-gauge railway west of Dulces, on the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, N. Mex., July 13; another was seen, near Parkview, Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex., July 15 (RF).

Thrushes through Wood Warblers.—A juvenile Am. Robin was observed at El Paso, about May 25, the third evidence of the species' breeding there (LM). A pair of Olive-backed Thrushes, with at least 1 young, was found near Los Brazos, Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex., July 15, a first breeding record for the State (J. Stokely Ligon). Mountain Bluebird young left their bird box nest at Ruidoso, N. Mex., Aug. 7 (LM). A Townsend's Solitaire remained at Boulder Beach, Lake Mead, until June 4 (NP). A Phainopepla was seen on Mingus Mt. above Jerome, Ariz., Aug. 3 (Crocketts). A very late lingering Macgillivray's Warbler was noted at Boulder Beach, Lake Mead, June 12, and the species had already returned there, Aug. 10 (NP). A Yellow-breasted Chat was observed near El Rito, Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex., July 16 (RF).

Blackbirds, Finches and Sparrows.—A pair of Bobolinks was seen in a grassy meadow at the State Fish Hatchery near Park View, July 15, where they were undoubtedly nesting; if so, the first record for New Mexico (RF, JSL). Brewer's Blackbird again nested at Grand Canyon Village, on the South Rim of Grand Canyon Park (HB). Ten to 12 Boat-tailed Grackles were seen at Safford, Aug. 13 (SG). A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was found at Boulder Beach, Lake Mead, June 21 (NP). Black-headed Grosbeaks were noted at or near Tucson, June 4 (AP) and 23 (H. Jeter, AP), and July 4, 13, and 14 (AP). A Blue Grosbeak was noted in Tucson, where it is rare, July 5 (AP). Two Lazuli Buntings stayed at Boulder Beach, Lake Mead, until June 13 (NP). A Song Sparrow was noted along the Gila River at Arlington, Ariz., June 13 (CL).—GALE MONSON, *Havasu Lake Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge, Parker, Ariz.*