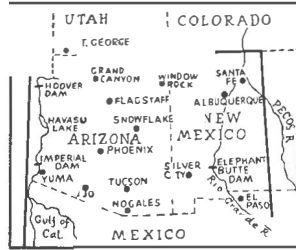


SOUTHWEST REGION.—June was characterized by unusual heat and continued drought. Rains that began falling late in the month and lasted through the period greatly alle-



viated drought conditions in much of Arizona, and extreme western New Mexico. Southeastern and east central Arizona, where many important drainages carried record flows, were especially affected.

Arizona observers generally reported a lush grass growth, with good crops of wild flowers and berries and a plentiful supply of insects. The Rio Grande and Colorado River valleys, however, continued to be deficient in rainfall. As a commentary on the basic drought, Elephant Butte Lake was at the lowest level in its history; Burford Lake in northern New Mexico was dried up; and most Arizona reservoirs were at a very low stage.

Loons through Herons.—Two Common Loons were seen on Havasu Lake, Havasu Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, July 16 and 28, and one was still present, Aug. 6 (Gale Monson). An Arctic Loon was observed there, Aug. 13 (GM). The appearance of 3 species of immature oceanic birds in the Havasu Lake area was noted on Aug. 13: a Brown Pelican flying over Crossroads, Calif., a few miles below Parker Dam; a **Blue-footed Booby** on Lower Havasu Lake; and a **Magnificent Frigate-bird** flying south over the upper part of Havasu Lake (GM). Aside from a moderate south wind that was unusually sustained for the season, there appeared to be no meteorological explanation for these wanderers. This is the second consecutive year the Blue-footed Booby has been seen on Havasu Lake, and it is the first appearance of the Magnificent Frigate-bird there in nearly nine years of observations. A Brown Pelican, perhaps the same one seen Aug. 13, was found in the Bill Williams Delta, Ariz., on Havasu Lake Refuge, Aug. 16 (GM). The Snowy Egret failed to nest in the Topock Swamp, near Topock, Ariz., also on the Havasu Lake Refuge, for the second consecutive year (GM). A Least Bittern was seen on a lawn near Boulder Beach, Lake Mead, Nev., Aug. 1 (Mrs. Glen Boyland *vide* Russell K. Grater).

Waterfowl.—Summering ducks were scarcer than usual in the Region, and most observers reported the first southbound Pintails, and Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal, had not yet appeared by Aug. 15. A

small flock of Blue-winged Teal was seen at Parkview, Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex., June 12 (Patricia R. Snider). A drake Wood Duck was observed at the Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, along the Rio Grande near San Antonio, N. Mex., July 16 (Raymond J. Fleetwood).

Hawks.—A Mexican Black Hawk nest was found along the Verde River above Fort McDowell, Ariz., June 20 (Maricopa Audubon Society), and a nest with at least one young was located along Cherry Creek near Young, Ariz., July 4 (Gene Seeley and Stanley Turner *vide* R. Roy Johnson); single birds were seen at Young, Aug. 2 and 8 (GS). An early Marsh Hawk was noted at Overton, Nev., near Lake Mead, Aug. 7 (James R. Youse). A summering Osprey was seen at Topock, July 14 (GM); also one near Overton, July 28 (JRY). A pair of Peregrine Falcons seen on July 20 in the Bill Williams Delta were the first of their kind seen on Havasu Lake Refuge since last February (GM). An Aplomado Falcon was observed between Hot Springs and Headquarters, Big Bend Nat'l Park, Tex., June 29 (Richard L. Kleen, *et al.*).

Shorebirds, Gulls.—Two pairs of Black-necked Stilts successfully reared young at a small seepage pond at the California end of Headgate Rock Dam, near Parker, Ariz., Aug. 14 (GM). A Ring-billed Gull was observed at the New River Ponds, near Peoria, Ariz., Aug. 14 (RRJ).

Goatsuckers through Kingfishers.—A Whip-poor-will was heard at Mt. Union (7000 ft.) near Prescott, Ariz., June 5 and 18 (Heidi McLernon). The Common Nighthawk was reported as unusually common in the Region: the most abundant in many years' observation at Snowflake, Ariz. (Louise Levine); at least 300 near Young, Aug. 9 (RRJ); common in Albuquerque, N. Mex. (F. J. Freeman); and common along the lower Rio Chama, N. Mex. (PRS). A Black Swift was observed near Pima, Ariz., Aug. 17 (Steve Gallizioli). A male Black-chinned Hummingbird was seen at the top of Cumbres Pass, on the New Mexico-Colorado border, Aug. 1 (PRS). A female White-eared Hummingbird was reported from Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mts., Ariz., July 17 (RLK, *et al.*), and one was also seen in Ramsey Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Ariz., July 18 (Dorothy E. Snyder, Robert Smart, Ellen Stephenson, *et al.*). Early Belted Kingfishers were noted in the Bill Williams Delta, Aug. 3 (GM); at Overton, Aug. 8 (JRY); and at El Paso, Tex., Aug. 8 (El Paso Bird Club).

Woodpeckers through Crows.—A Lewis's Woodpecker nest with young was found in a cottonwood in the northern section of Albuquerque, July 1 (FJF), a Lower Sonoran breeding record for this usually Transition Zone species. One was also seen about a meadow near Pojoaque, N. Mex., all summer (PRS). An Eastern Kingbird was observed at Los Alamos, N. Mex., May 16 (PRS), and one (possibly the same individual) was seen there in late July (Les Hawkins, W. Burton Lewis, Vincent Mowbray). A Tree Swallow nest was found on the Bosque Refuge, with 6 young being fed on July 16 (RJF); this is the first breeding record for New Mexico, and a lowland one as well. Bank Swallow colonies were located near

San Marcial, Socorro Co., N. Mex., as well as in the lower end of the Bosque Refuge (RJF). A flock of 17 Am. Crows was observed near Manzano, Torrance Co., N. Mex., Aug. 1 (FJF).

Wrens through Vireos.—A few Rock Wrens nested along the lower Colorado River (GM). Bendire's Thrasher was absent as a breeding bird in the desert between Blythe and Needles, Calif., for the first time since 1945, at least (GM). A Phainopepla nest with 2 young was discovered at Overton, June 1 (JRY). They were present in the Snowflake-Shumway area above the Mogollon Rim in Arizona, with 2 being seen at Love Lake, near Shumway, July 7; a pair near Snowflake, July 18; and at least 24 at Love Lake, Aug. 14 (LL). They were more numerous than usual at Prescott (HM). A flock of 6 Common Starlings was found near Glendale, Ariz., Aug. 17 (RRJ). A Warbling Vireo was lingering at Overton as late as June 18 (JRY).

Wood Warblers.—A male **Cerulean Warbler** was found dead at Boulder Beach, June 6 (Mrs. Boyland *vide* RKG), a first record for Nevada. Another first specimen for Nevada was furnished by an **Ovenbird** that flew into a house at Boulder City, June 16 (Mrs. A. West *vide* RKG). A female Macgillivray's Warbler at Boulder City, June 8, was very late (RKG). An immature male Am. Redstart was found at Carlsbad, N. Mex., June 15 (R. C. Brummett).

Blackbirds.—An adult male Orchard Oriole was seen about 15 miles southeast of El Paso, near the Rio Grande, June 20 (Mary Belle Keefer, Jasper Wooldridge). A Hooded Oriole nest was found in an Arizona walnut tree near Yava, Yavapai Co., Ariz., June 15 (HM). A Scott's Oriole was observed in the Bill Williams Delta, Aug. 3 (GM). About 40 pairs of Brewer's Blackbirds nested on the O W Ranch near Young (RRJ). The Boat-tailed Grackle was more common than usual at Safford, Ariz. (SG), and a new northernmost record for New Mexico was established when a small flock was seen along the Rio Grande near Espanola, Aug. 8 (Don and Marge Cromer *vide* PRS).

Finches and Sparrows.—A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen at Boulder City, June 28-29 (W. Bromley, Nora Poyser). Most New Mexican observers reported the Black-headed Grosbeak as more common than usual. Indigo Buntings were again found in Oak Creek Canyon, Ariz., and near Prescott (HM). Lazuli Buntings were singing during much of July at Snowflake for the first time (LL), they were more numerous than usual about Prescott (HM), and several were noted at Boulder City as early as Aug. 1 (NP). A male Am. Goldfinch was seen at Chama, N. Mex., Aug. 1 (PRS). At least one pair of Abert's Towhees nested in Boulder City, with young still being fed, June 15 (NP). Several Savannah Sparrows were seen at Parkview, June 12 (PRS). Two male Black-chinned Sparrows were found near Headquarters, Big Bend Nat'l Park, June 29 (RLK, *et al.*). Four White-crowned Sparrows were feeding in a vineyard about 15 miles southeast of El Paso on the extremely late date of June 22 (MBK).—GALE MONSON, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Yuma, Ariz.