



**Figure 14.** Frequency of occurrence of clouds with tops colder than  $-38^{\circ}\text{C}$  as revealed by high-resolution satellite imagery for the years 1990-93. (top) June, (middle) July, (bottom) the difference of July minus June. In most years, the northward shift of the rainfall in northwestern Mexico and Arizona occurs rather abruptly around July 1. Despite this shift, the same distinctive signature of the orography and coastal geometry is evident during both months over much of Central America.