



This region is so large and diverse that it is hard to identify any broad migratory waves. There was a wave of Audubon's Warblers reported from Reno in w. Nevada on Oct. 28, after the first severe freeze (JMD) but this probably applied only to the e. edge of the Sierras.

In contrast to the large numbers of siskins and Red-breasted Nuthatches reported last year in the valleys, there have been few, particularly in the Salt Lake area, this year (WS). At the end of the period almost none of the winter visitors to the Rockies had appeared, as they usually do in November. There were only scattered reports of such birds as Bohemian Waxwings, Rosy Finches and Evening Grosbeaks. This winter is going to be different.

PELICANS, HERONS — The White Pelican reached a peak of 2160 on Aug. 25 at Malheur Lake in e. Oregon. This total was 3440 less than last year (WLA). At Least Bittern was recorded Sept. 1 at Malheur where it is rare (WLA). Another was seen at Upper Klamath Lake, Ore. Aug. 17 (LW). There were 2 Com. Egrets at Farmington Bay on the Great Salt Lake Sept. 10 (GK), where they are unusual. They are more common west of that area.

SWANS — A gathering of 15,000 Whistling Swans at Malheur Nov. 8–21 was about as large as it was a year ago (ELMcL). At Bear River Marshes the Whistler flocks were up to 25,500 on Nov. 9, for the highest concentration in the region, as usual. However, this was far below the 1969 record of 41,000 at Bear River. The colony of Trumpeter Swans at Malheur has now reached 50, with 12 cygnets reared this year (ELMcL). This colony is slowly becoming successful.

GEESE, DUCKS — Stillwater Marsh in w. Nevada had good water conditions and waterfowl utilization of the marsh increased. The duck migration peaked at 194,200 on Oct. 12, a week earlier than 1969 and 20 percent higher. While populations of Green-winged Teal, Shoveler, and Redhead were down 11–17 percent, Gadwall at 26,135 were up 54 percent and widgeon at 34,500

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

/ Oliver K. Scott

This fall seemed more normal than most. It was relatively warm until the close of the season and the real freeze-ups came later. The Great Basin had more precipitation than usual; it is often bone dry at that time of year. There were floods in s.w. Colorado in early September but elsewhere precipitation was normal or below normal in the Rockies.

were up 90 percent. The Canvasback count reached 27,200, the highest ever recorded at Stillwater (LDN).

Malheur Lake had a relatively better waterfowl migration due to the fifth wettest fall since 1937, and the flow of the Donner und Blitzen R. increased. Harney Lake, which had been dry, increased to 5000 acres by the end of the period. In peak numbers the waterfowl were better than last year but not up to 1967, the last good year. Canvasback made a new high of 21,000 on Oct. 11-24, which is the best since 1965. However, widgeon, Gadwall, and Pintail were down considerably from 1967. There were 80 Hooded Mergansers at Krumbo Reservoir in the Malheur Basin Nov. 10, which is the greatest concentration ever recorded there (ELMcL), and perhaps anywhere else in the West. The total Malheur population was 200 on that date which must be a record for this relatively rare bird. The migratory waterfowl head southwest when they leave Malheur, heading for the Warner Valley which seems to be their next stop.

Deer Flat Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in w. Idaho ran its customary course this year with the largest concentration of Mallards in the Region. Of 600,000 ducks on Lake Lowell at the refuge, 98 percent were Mallards. An aerial census revealed another 150,000 on the nearby Snake River, making this by far the largest concentration of Mallards in the Pacific Flyway (JTA). Canada Goose is the only other species of waterfowl using this area in numbers. Up to 9000 were present from September to the end of the season (JTA). At Bear River Marshes there was an extraordinary concentration of 80,000 Canvasback on Nov. 9. The Canvasback is making a fine comeback in the Great Basin. The other high counts at Bear River were 94,000 Pintail and 90,000 Am. Widgeon on Nov. 2. Monte Vista Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in Colorado reported that the water remained open during this period for the first time in 17 years. The refuge had its greatest utilization ever by ducks and geese. The local flock of Canada Geese has now risen to 2600 since it was established a few years ago, and some limited hunting is now permitted (CRB).

RARE WATERFOWL — There was an Oldsquaw on Nov. 11 at Granby Reservoir in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park. This was the second record for the area (RG). There was another at Moore's Slough s. of Sheridan in n. Wyoming on Nov. 16 (PH). Still another was collected at Carson Lake Pasture in the Lahontan valley of western Nevada near Stillwater on Dec. 3 (LDN) which is very unusual. In w. Colorado, more reservoirs are being established as elsewhere in the West with resultant increases in shorebirds, Canada Geese, and other waterbirds such as grebes, gulls and terns (LFE).

HAWKS — A Harlan's Hawk was reported from Monte Vista Refuge in Colorado (CRB), and

there were several sightings in n. Wyoming (TK). A Rough-legged Hawk was spotted on Nov. 26 about 45 miles s. of Tonopah, Nev., just over the California line in the southern Great Basin, where it is scarce (RW).

TURKEY, CRANES — The Fish and Game Departments of many western states are busy restocking Turkeys. As a result they were found in Zion Nat'l Park, Utah, for the first time this year (RAS). Three were seen w. of Fort Collins, Colo. in the Rockies on Oct. 18 (MT) — another relatively new area. There were 2929 Sandhill Cranes at Malheur on Oct. 5. This population had gradually built up from 400 breeding birds at the start of the season. Many of these birds were marked with leg bands and streamers so that their migration routes could be traced. It was believed that most of these birds nested in s.e. Oregon (CDL). About 4000 cranes migrated through the San Luis valley (Monte Vista N.W.R.) in the fall of 1970, which showed a steadily increasing use of that area (CRB). The only other big concentration of Sandhills was 500 near Driggs in s. Idaho on Oct. 8 (RF).

SHOREBIRDS — On Oct. 25 an immature male Ruff was seen and well documented at Lower Klamath Nat'l Wildlife Refuge. This is a casual bird on the West Coast and this was possibly the second record for that area (RF *et al.*). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were again seen in e. Wyoming: Sept. 30 near Sheridan (TK) and Sept. 7 at Yant's Puddle, the Standard Oil sump at Casper. There was a Knot Sept. 13-14 at Lake DeSmet in n. Wyoming (TK, PH) where this bird is considered casual.

GULLS, OWLS — A *Sabine's Gull* at Yant's Puddle Sept. 26 (JT) provided another record of this species, which is casual inland. A flock of 400 Franklin's Gulls was seen swirling and feeding near Horseshoe Lake in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park on Oct. 18. The birds soared as high as 12,000 ft., providing a spectacular sight not uncommon in that region (HK). A Barn Owl was seen in the Cedar Valley of s. Utah Sept. 9 and Oct. 29 (SM), where it is now scarce.

HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS — A heavy migration of hummingbirds was reported at Durango, Colo. from the last two weeks of August to mid-September (OR). Perhaps the rains in that area had something to do with this. A *Blue-throated Hummingbird* on Sept. 7 at Evergreen in the mountains west of Denver (WWB) will be reported in detail elsewhere. This is probably the first report of this species for Colorado. There is a great increase in the number of people feeding hummers in Colorado and Wyoming. An Acorn Woodpecker near Springdale in s. Utah Aug. 25 was very unusual (PS). There was a Northern Three-toed Woodpecker north of Lake of the Woods in the Klamath Basin area on Oct. 13 (JH) which is the first report in some time from that area.

JAYS, BLUEBIRDS — Blue Jays now resident at Cheyenne, Wyo. (MH) and are seen regularly. One bird crossed the mountains west to Laramie, Wyo. Oct. 22 (ABM) but the jay is not regular there. Flocks of up to 1500 Piñon Jays were seen at Cedar City in s. Utah (SM) where they seemed more common than usual. A W. Bluebird at Eldora, w. of Boulder, Colo., Sept. 15 (LE) is the only report of this species in 20 years in that particular area. There were 3 at Estes Park, not far away, on Sept. 15 (MP). In w. Idaho a remarkable number of juvenile birds were seen still being fed by parents in late August and September, including Mourning Dove Sept. 13, Black-chinned Hummingbird Sept. 14, Robin, W. Tanager Aug. 24, Am. Goldfinch, Aug. 24 (HES), but we have no explanation.

WARBLERS — A *Tennessee Warbler* was seen on Florida Mesa near Durango on Oct. 12 (OR). This species is rare in the area with only one other record in recent years. There was a good flight of Virginia's and Orange-crowned Warblers in September in Durango but a poor one for Audubon's (OR). A Black-throated Blue at Malheur Oct. 10 was unusual (WLA). There were 3 Am. Redstarts seen at Malheur this season which seems unusual — but Malheur has tremendous coverage by local observers.

SPARROWS — Golden-crowned Sparrows were seen on several occasions in Reno. This is the third year that Golden-crowned Sparrows have been seen there, either in fall or winter, and may represent a real expansion of their range, since there have been only occasional sightings in the past (JMD). Three Harris' Sparrows at Durango on Nov. 28 represent the third year in succession that these birds have been seen in that region (OR). They are regular winter visitants in the n. and e. part of this large Region. There were two early Harris' Sparrows at Dubois, Wyo. Nov. 1–17 (MB). A White-throated Sparrow in Laramie in s. Wyo. Oct. 22 (ABM) was an uncommon occurrence, but this bird is regularly seen in migration in the e. half of Wyoming. A *Cassin's Sparrow* at Evergreen Nov. 9 was still present at the end of this period (WWB). This is further north than previously reported. This bird was repeatedly seen by many observers and banded. Three Snow Buntings at Malheur on Nov. 23 following a snowstorm was unusual then; there have been only 2 other records in the last 5 years (WLA).

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