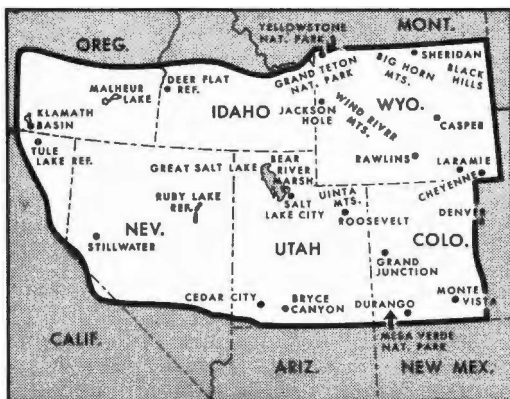


GREAT BASIN—CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

/ Hugh E. Kingery

Warm, dry weather, or drought, heated the Great Basin and Central Rockies this spring. It accelerated the migration and the nesting of many species. We report 4 new state birds—Com. Teal in Nevada, Com. Gallinule in Oregon, Black Phoebe and White-eyed Vireo in Col-orado. We also report on spreading species: welcome visitors like Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and not-so-wel-come invaders like Com. Grackles.



With the summer-like spring, the area saw no precipitation except for brief sieges of light snows or thunderstorms. Snowpacks measured low in the Sierras and the Rockies, although at Crater L. Nat'l Park, Ore., 7 feet of snow massed at park headquarters May 31, 2 feet more than usual.

Those few storms did affect migrating birds, pushed ahead of schedule by the dry, warm weather. At Zion Nat'l Park 105 days without rain ended with rain on Apr. 11 and snow on Apr. 13, the latter storm driving birds down to the valleys from the high country. The same storm became severe at Alturas, Calif., with the 10 in. of snow catching many migrants there and at Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge 3 days later. Swallows suffered the most; Apr. 12 at Alturas many Tree Swallows flew weakly in the blizzard looking for insects; they appeared to be on the verge of collapse, and dead ones were picked up there (and at Malheur) the next few days. At Alturas, 300 Horned Larks, 200 House Finches, and 10 Mountain Bluebirds congregated at the airport to feed on the cleared runway areas. Although April in n. Utah and s.w. Wyoming was cold and stormy, the dryness reached these areas in May; even Dubois, Wyo., did not enjoy its usual May snowstorm.

Spurred by the warmth, birds migrated and began nesting early. Sean Furniss at Malheur studied the arrivals and found that of 103 species, 58 arrived early (6 over a month early, 23 11-30 days early), and only 15 came in later than the average arrival date. The pattern typifies the entire Region.

LOONS, GREBES, PELICANS — Topping the usual scattered Com. Loon occurrences were 25 on Apr. 7 near Provo, Utah (MW), and 5 Apr. 1 at Camas N.W.R., Ida. Grebes moved through the Region mostly in April, with Eared Grebe peaks occurring at Malheur N.W.R. Apr. 9-13 with 5000; Klamath Basin N.W.R. Apr. 15 with 1550; Stillwater N.W.R., Nev. Apr. 23-29 with 2500; and 350 at Camas Apr. 25. Largest concentrations of W. Grebes occurred with 1175 at Klamath Apr. 15; 200 at Antero Res., Colo., Apr. 23; and 800 birds present for breeding at Bear River N.W.R., Utah, May 30. White Pelicans found more available water in w. Nevada, especially in the Humboldt Sink, so that the May 1 peak of 500 represented a decline in Stillwater Refuge use. By May 31 the large carp crop in well-watered Malheur had attracted 1000 pelicans—5 times last year's population—and Bear Lake N.W.R., Ida., had 100; neither group displayed any nesting proclivities. In Mono Co., Calif., the flock of 50 Apr. 7 was a high count of an uncommon migrant. Pelicans have discovered L. DeSmet near Sheridan, Wyo., with 47 present from Apr. 15-May 24, a four-fold increase over the bird's only other spring appearance, last year. Small numbers of pelicans ply a mountain migratory route in Colorado; this year observations came from Grand Junction (2 on May 17) and L. DeWeese near Westcliffe (3 on May 13—P.A.C.).

CORMORANTS, HERONS, IBIS — Populations of Double-crested Cormorants resembled previous years. A colony at Provo comprised 100 birds on May 27 (MW). Heronries at Malheur are booming this year, with all species increasing; nest counts climbed to 71 Double-crested Cormorants (45 in 1971); 133 Great Blue Herons (95 in 1971); 207 Com. Egret (150 in 1971) and more being built; 52 Snowy Egrets (35 in 1971); and 450 Black-crowned Night Herons with more underway. Great Blue Herons may have resumed their former migratory paths along the east side of RMNP, with observations of 3 Apr. 13 and 2 Apr. 17 (RD, WR). Klamath Ref. had 451 Great Blues Apr. 15; at Bear R. the peak was 200 on May 15—10 days later than the peak of 100 at Camas, 170 miles north. Single Green Herons strayed to Hot Creek, Mono Co., Apr. 23, and Dubois May 22-23. Com. Egrets arrived at Stillwater 2 weeks late on Apr. 1. Single, rare birds occurred at Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area, Utah, and at Camas (the first record there). A Cattle Egret also visited Farmington Bay during the spring. Snowy Egret high counts came in late May at or near nesting sites at Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo. (225 birds), Bear River (200 birds), and Camas (30 birds). The Black-crowned Night Herons came mostly in April, with 442 tallied at Klamath, 380 at Bear River, and 400 at Monte Vista on May 2. Two stopped at Hot Creek, Mono Co., May 16, for the second record there. They arrived in numbers at Pocatello by Apr. 30, but there heron killing by fish hatchery people continues. One trout rancher calculated that in 5 years the night heron population in his vicinity dropped from 50 to 10, a measure of population accepted as probably accurate (CHT). White-faced Ibis have become regular although scarce migrants in the mountains: note the third and fourth records in RMNP, 13 on Apr. 12 and 3 on Apr. 18 (AC, WR) and the flocks of 1-2 dozen which visited 5 other marshes in the

Colorado Rockies. Stillwater reported a peak of 350 in late May after the first ibis arrived Apr. 9, a week late. At Malheur they also arrived Apr. 9, a week earlier than ever before. Populations in the Region generally stayed at last year's levels.

GEESE, DUCKS — Blue Geese appeared at Klamath Basin Apr. 2 and Jefferson Co., Ida., at Mud L. (KAM). Other geese peaked at Klamath Apr. 2, with 25,100 White-fronted and 4500 Ross'; the 100 Ross' Geese at Malheur stayed through the first 2 weeks in April.

Despite the dry spring all refuges (except Alamosa and Monte Vista) reported excellent water conditions. Klamath had ordinary numbers of migrants, with these totals for index species: 76,400 Pintails, 17,550 Am. Widgeon, 4810 Canvasback, and 2670 Bufflehead on Apr. 2; 124,100 Shovelers Apr. 10; 21,610 Mallards Apr. 15; and 42,980 Am. Coots Apr. 16. At Malheur personnel fear that the high water levels will diminish in future years as more and more consumptive demands are placed on available waters in the supplying watersheds. Malheur's May 31 nesting population of 37,000 compared with 45,000 in 1971. Camas reported its peak of migration on Apr. 1, with 20,000 Mallards, 2000 other ducks, and 1550 coots. At Grays Lake and Bear Lake N.W.R.'s, Ida. and Ruby Lake N.W.R., Nev., nesting began 1-2 weeks early. Bear River N.W.R., Utah, reported a significant increase of breeding Cinnamon Teal and Redheads. Farmington Bay W.M.A. had its peak migration Apr. 1-15, with 5500 ducks, including 3000 Ruddy Ducks. Monte Vista peaked during the same time, with 17,000 ducks and geese, only 40 per cent of last year. Nearby Alamosa N.W.R. had similar reduced numbers. At Hutton Lake N.W.R., Wyo., ducks peaked Apr. 2 at over 4200, of 9 species and 3900 Lesser Scaup used the refuge Apr. 19; Pathfinder N.W.R., Wyo. had its peak of 4100 Apr. 26, including 220 Pintail and 1200 Redhead; Arapaho N.W.R., Colo. achieved its peak use at May's end, with 4 nesting species having a collective total of 1600 (RFK).

Outstanding single duck record was the **Com. Teal** found Apr. 4 loafing on Mahala Slough near Fallon, Nev. The bird accompanied a spring of 25 Green-winged Teal. First record for Nevada and for the Region, this species could occur among migrating flocks of teal in other places as well (CTO, LDN). At a pond west of Salt Lake City 12-15 Ring-necked Ducks stopped—matching last year's desert stopovers in e. Oregon. A ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye called at Farmington Bay Apr. 9 (WS, EG), and the species reappeared at Malheur for the second spring in a row. Hooded Mergansers were scarce, with the only report 1 at Blackfoot Res. in e. Idaho (RRH). In Mono Co., 30 Red-breasted Mergansers stopped briefly, an unusual number of an uncommon bird.

HAWKS, EAGLES — Few observers reported Goshawks, Sharp-shinned, or Cooper's Hawks; population trends are undecipherable from the reports. Swainson's Hawks have declined at Malheur from 6 nesting pairs 15-30 years ago to 3 nests in the 1960's, only 1 nest last year, to only 1 bird so far this year. In the desert west of Salt Lake City an intensively studied area has but 1 nest, where the species has raised only 2 young in the past 3 years (GLK). Sheridan, however, reported a

good migration of Swainson's Hawks. Rough-legged Hawks stayed late at various points, including one very late one at Malheur May 20. Ferruginous Hawks have 7 nests in the study area west of Salt Lake, and Eureka, reported 8 observations. The Black Hawk arrived in Springdale, Utah, Apr. 17, and observers have seen it frequently since then.

Golden Eagles seem to hold their own this year; the over 50 observations throughout the Region imply that the population remains stable. This despite continued isolated killings like 2 in Wyoming—one with a message attached to the carcass informing the public that "he died that lambs may grow." Most Bald Eagles had left the Region by spring, except for nesting areas in n.e. California and s. Oregon. Reports of about 24 Ospreys came in, including 4 sightings each at Rupert, Ida., Seedskaadee N.W.R., Wyo., and Malheur. Unusual Ospreys on Apr. 18 visited Evergreen, Colo. (SB) and Salmon, Ida., and on May 11 Grand Junction. Of several Prairie Falcon reports, most disquieting are Malheur's lack of observations at one of 1971's successful eyries. We received only 3 Peregrine Falcon reports.

GROUSE, CRANES, RAILS — Adding to last season's Sage Grouse summary, Rupert had 165 strutting cocks, compared with 187 last year; they have suffered a reduction on the s. side of the Snake R. because of a series of cold wet springs, and now drought. The 11 strutting grounds south of Malheur had 358 cocks. Most Sandhill Cranes had departed Monte Vista by Apr. 14, at Malheur 855 had arrived Apr. 22-23 (HES). At Ruby Lake N.W.R. the first chicks debuted May 16; 15 breeding pairs are on that refuge. Virginia Rails appeared commonly at Alamosa and Monte Vista, with a peak at Monte Vista on May 25 of 200 birds. Am. Coots peaked at the end of the season on May 30 at Bear River with 9800 birds. Com. Gallinules made 3 rare appearances: on May 12 and 23 observers found 1 at Hot Creek, Mono Co.; 1 found at Ruby L. stayed for 2 weeks. Then on May 20 a **Com. Gallinule** was spotted on Cole I. Dike at Malheur; after the initial identification, the bird vaulted vertically from 2-foot high vegetation, flew across a patch of open water, and dropped into marsh vegetation. Possibly Oregon's first observation, it was at least the most thoroughly verified, seen by at least 6 observers from Corvallis Audubon Society (DH, EE, CFZ *et al.*).

SHOREBIRDS — Stillwater noted a peak of 50 Snowy Plovers in mid-May; a rare one scurried along the sands at Antero Res. Apr. 15 (HEK). Small populations are nesting at Bear R. and Malheur. Black-bellied Plover peaked at Stillwater with 200 in mid-April, a week earlier than usual. Malheur's first came Apr. 9, 4½ weeks earlier than last year. Largest flocks of Long-billed Curlews were 216 at Nampa, Ida. May 5, and 100 at Camas N.W.R. May 1. Four Whimbrels dropped into L. DeSmet near Sheridan May 10, and an Upland Plover appeared there May 4 (PIH). Malheur noted its first Solitary Sandpiper in several years, May 1-3. A stray flock of 25 Willets visited L. Isabel in the mountains west of Pueblo, Apr. 30. At Alturas on Apr. 16, 200 migrating Willets flew low over town during a mid-night lightning storm. RMNP had a rare visit from 4 Greater Yellowlegs Apr. 13-25 (WR). A Knot fed at L.

DeSmet, with Black-bellied Plovers, on May 10. A super flock of Dunlin—800 strong—stayed Apr. 16-22 at Stillwater, largest flock ever seen there and perhaps in Nevada. Usually they visit in groups of 10-25, although 200 occurred May 1, 1970. Long-billed Dowitchers arrived on time at Stillwater, with a peak of 2000 Apr. 16-22; Bear R. saw a peak of 3000 May 8, and Sheridan hosted several hundred May 10. Highest regional count of Marbled Godwits was 450 at Bear R. Apr. 27. The Hudsonian Godwit at Ocean L. near Riverton gave Wyoming one of its few records (OKS). At Malheur 2050 Am. Avocets concentrated Apr. 9-13, while at Bear R. they peaked at 880 a month later, May 19. They arrived Apr. 17 at Rupert, and there every mud lake has 8-20 nesting pair, a great increase; simultaneously, no Black-necked Stilts were seen there—they occurred commonly 20 years ago. Rare reports of stilts came from Nampa May 2 (4 birds); 1 at Antero Res. Apr. 23 (HEK); and 1 May 5 at Monte Vista. The 1600 Wilson's Phalaropes at Monte Vista May 8 hardly matched last year's peak of 4200 birds. Single N. Phalaropes were noted at Grand Junction May 11 and Camas May 25, with Malheur counting a peak of 73 May 19.

GULLS, TERNS — At Gray's L., 16,500 Franklin's Gulls have begun nesting, and north of there, 1 of the 2 colonies in Jefferson Co., Ida., has grown much larger than last year (KAM). Malheur has 500 nests, up from 325 2 years ago. Three Bonaparte's Gulls wandered to Bear R. Apr. 20; 1 visited Big Alkali L., Mono Co., Apr. 23; and 2 came to Grand Junction May 25. Both Forster's and Black Terns arrived 1-2 weeks earlier at Malheur than at more southern but further inland Ruby L.

DOVES, ROADRUNNER, OWLS — Following the discovery of large flocks of Band-tailed Pigeons in w. Nevada late last spring (Am. Birds, 26:636), a flock spent May at Mammoth L., Mono Co. Mourning Doves appeared in unusually large numbers at Zion, the first Apr. 1, followed by flocks of 20 and 30; increased numbers stopped at Eldora, Colo., in early May. Spring counts included 150 May 16 at McCoy, Colo., and 319 May 25 at Grand Junction. Zion observers saw Roadrunners 3 times, an improvement over last year. The only Barn Owl observations came from Nampa Apr. 1 and May 20, and from Monte Vista, 2 birds May 18.

GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS — Poor-wills came early to the Region, with first ones reported Apr. 23 near Pueblo (DSi) and at Zion; the first ones reached Eureka May 17. Com. Nighthawks came in a bit early too, the first May 18 at Zion, and, during the last week of May, first reports at McCoy, Alturas, Grand Junction, Eureka, and Malheur. Chimney Swifts have expanded west across the Great Plains to Colorado's Piedmont cities; they have now moved up the Arkansas R. valley as far as Florence (DSi). White-throated Swifts must stage spectacular migrations across unpopulated desert regions; a large flight was flying low like swallows over the sagebrush Apr. 27 between Moab and Monticello, Utah (W&SS). Increased numbers of hummingbirds are attending Springdale feeders; partly from the drought, partly because feeders increase in popularity among the townsfolk. By May 1,

200 Black-chinned were enjoying their offerings. Two Black-chinned arrived Apr. 14 at Grand Junction, unusually early for there. The first Broad-tailed came into Beulah, Colo., Apr. 16 (DSi); into RMNP Apr. 22, 2 weeks early; and to Oak Creek, Colo. (HTh) and Salt Lake City the first week in May. Around Colorado Springs observers counted 123 on May 13. A large ♀ hummingbird, probably a Rivoli's, has begun frequenting feeders in Springdale. Although seen 25 times by 3 observers, it has not yet been identified positively because of its extreme timidity.

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS — Malheur had 3 observations of Yellow-shafted Flickers, and usual numbers of Red-shafted. However in the Salt L. Valley flickers have drastically declined, probably owing to unsuccessful competition with Starlings; they remain, however, at higher altitudes (*vide* EG). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker showed itself at Devils Tower Nat'l Monument, Wyo., in May (BS), in an area seldom studied by birdwatchers.

Although none had arrived at Colorado Springs by mid-May, E. Kingbirds had arrived at Ruby L. May 17 (first refuge record); Camas May 18; Malheur May 19; and Honey L., Calif., May 29 (TM, RS). W. Kingbirds arrived early at Mono Co. (Apr. 7), Zion, Malheur, and Eureka; on time at Pueblo, Pocatello, and Stillwater; and late at Salt Lake City, by 3 weeks, and Alturas. An out-of-habitat bird visited mountain-ringed Jefferson, Colo., May 28. Say's Phoebe at Zion produced their first young May 9—18 days earlier than last year, and the birds were especially numerous in Zion Canyon. At Rockville, Utah, a Black Phoebe had completed a nest Apr. 22, after smearing mud over 10 feet of wall while searching for a suitable location. Colorado's first recorded Black Phoebes took up residence under a bridge over the St. Charles R., 10 miles s.w. of Pueblo. Found May 13, the nesting pair shows signs of undertaking a second nesting in June. (P.A.C.) At Malheur flycatchers arrived an average of a week early; Camas had an *Empidonax* on May 1; and first W. Flycatchers appeared at RMNP and Colorado Springs May 13 and McCoy on May 14. The Olive-sided Flycatcher at Sheridan May 5 was likewise early.

SWALLOWS, JAYS, CHICKADEES, WRENS — Swallows constitute the most numerous migrant family of perching birds in this Region. Very likely outnumbering ducks, they spread out so that counts do not mount as high as for waterfowl. Violet-green Swallows flew in early, being already common in early April at McCoy and by Apr. 13 in Estes Park, Colo. (RD); several were seen at Mt. Carmel, Utah, Apr. 8, with 20 at Springdale Apr. 15. Durango tallied 523 on its Spring Count May 13. The introduction tells of troubles of early Tree Swallows. They arrived early not only in the w. part of the Region but also in the mountain fastnesses of n. Wyoming at Jackson by Mar. 17. They did not arrive in the Colorado high country nesting sites until May; on May 28 ♀♀ joined the ♂♂ at Jefferson, Colo., inaugurating courtship and competition for nest sites. Barn Swallows peaked at 2800 at Bear R. May 15. A Purple Martin May 27 (PIH) completed the roster of all 7 swallows at Sheridan this spring. Scrub Jays, which scattered onto the Colorado plains this winter, apparently wandered

into the mountains as well: I visited Eldora May 17. Piñon Jays seemed more abundant than usual, with spring count totals, all May 13, of 438 at Durango; 200 at Colorado Springs; 88 at Grand Junction; 100 at McCoy; but only 13 at Pueblo and none reported from Zion. At Malheur, observers saw few Mountain Chickadees this spring, and no high-country birds like White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches, creepers, Dippers, woodpeckers, Townsend's Solitaire, or Golden-crowned Kinglets; perhaps because of the warm weather these birds frequented the high country exclusively. Three Colorado locations reported the only Red-breasted Nuthatches. RMNP had its first record of Long-billed Marsh Wrens with 3 on Apr. 18 (WR); another occurred at Antero Res. Apr. 9 (BMM).

THRASHERS, THRUSHES — A Mockingbird wandered up to RMNP, seen Apr. 18 & 25. The 2 found at widely-separated spots in the Pocatello region May 18 & 28 may presage a spread into s. Idaho. Bendire's Thrashers persist in places north of their known range, with 2-3 May 2 and 9 in the semi-desert west of Salt Lake City, and 1 in Mono Co., Calif. Apr. 15 (DR); in both places Sage Thrashers populated the sagebrush for contrast in identification. The April storm drove hundreds of Robins down to Zion Can., to join an already abundant population; at McCoy 300 thronged on Apr. 26. Breeding Robins arrived in the Crater L. Nat'l Park high country in mid-April. The first Hermit Thrush reached RMNP Apr. 25, 16 days early (WR), while first Swainson's Thrushes came in Apr. 18, only 4 days early (WR). Two E. Bluebirds strayed up to RMNP Apr. 10 (WR) and I stopped at Sheridan Apr. 19 (PIH). Small numbers of W. Bluebirds dotted the Region with the most reported the 36 which dropped into Zion Canyon with the April snows. Pueblo's spring count produced 72 Mountain Bluebirds May 13; Durango's tallied 47 the same day. At Eldora the nesting Mountain Bluebirds have not returned to their usual location. At Jefferson, Colo., bluebirds lost the competition for a nest site to Tree Swallows May 30.

GNATCATCHERS, KINGLETS, PIPITS, STARLINGS — Blue-gray Gnatcatchers occur commonly in the piñon/juniper country, as evidenced by the 29 on Durango's spring count, but they are rare in non-piñon areas of e. Colorado. Hence the single birds at RMNP May 4 (RD), May 13 (MT), and May 18 (AC), coupled with a handful of plains records (in S. Great Plains Region), suggests an unusual influx. Only a few Loggerhead Shrikes were reported, but those observers commenting said they appeared in normal numbers. Starlings continue to expand, nesting everywhere at Salt Lake City (EG), the first ones appearing at Jefferson, Colo., and a rare one at Crater L. Apr. 15. Hope springs eternal though—does the 25 per cent drop on the Durango spring count signal a decline from the saturation point?

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A not-quite-white-eyed **White-eyed Vireo** which stayed at Bear Creek near Boulder, Colo., May 12-14 added itself to the Colorado list (PJ, LJ, TM). For the third consecutive year, Bell's Vireos were found near Colorado Springs May 13 (ACA). First Gray Vireos reached Springdale Apr. 22,

and at Cañon City, Colo., a pair was already nesting by May 13 (P.A.C.). Early by 16 days was a Solitary Vireo at RMNP, while Malheur's first Warbling Vireo arrived 18 days late. A noisy Warbling Vireo at Zion Inn, seated on its nest, automatically called whenever any person approached.

At Salt Lake City warblers arrived slowly, but came in their usual numbers. In other locations they came in a little early. In Boulder's Bear Creek, less than half a mile from the White-eyed Vireo (supra), Colorado's 9th or 10th Golden-winged Warbler displayed song and resplendent spring plumage to 20 observers May 20-21 (PJ, C.F.O.). Camas added the Orange-crowned Warbler, a common migrant through the Region, to the refuge list. Three Parula Warblers surprised observers at Westcliffe May 13 (P.A.C.), further west than the normal stragglers. Yellow Warblers had not yet arrived at Fish Creek, near Estes Park, by the end of the period, a place where they were common last year by May 15 (RD). The first ones came into Zion Apr. 12, Ruby L. May 4, Camas May 7, McCoy May 9, Salmon May 17, and Dubois May 18. A Magnolia Warbler May 11 provided RMNP's second record. Audubon's Warbler, commonest western warbler, began arriving in early April everywhere. Migrants peaked in most places in early or mid-May, except in Mono Co. where they peaked Apr. 23; they had arrived in their nesting habitats by late May. In late May P.A.C. members discovered a colony of Ovenbirds near Rye, Colo., with at least 5 singing ♂♂. Two Yellowthroats strayed to RMNP Apr. 18, and 2 others to Mammoth L., Mono Co., Apr. 23-24.

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES — W. Meadowlarks wandered up to Eldora during May, a little higher than their usual haunts. Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds did the same Apr. 18 at RMNP where they are rare, as did a Bullock's Oriole to Jefferson, Colo., May 28. Brewer's Blackbirds prosper at places like Nampa (570 May 7), Malheur (401 Apr. 22-23, HES), Salmon, Zion, RMNP (438 May 13), and Pueblo (331 May 13), but dropped down at Dubois. A **Boat-tailed Grackle** strayed into Durango, for the second Colorado record (OR); perhaps it is spreading north from Farmington, N. Mex., which harbors a small population. The Com. Grackle spreads west: Dubois had 1 Apr. 23; RMNP had 15 on the spring count; Sheridan counted them in April and May; Durango had 1 May 13 (OR). From s. Idaho came that state's first spring records: 2 near Holbrook May 10 with other blackbirds and 3 May 14-20 at Pocatello. Brown-headed Cowbirds also expand, with marked increases at Eldora, RMNP (44 on spring count, 23 at Allens Park), and Jefferson, Colo. (12 on May 29). More W. Tanagers than ever were seen by our Jackson observer, with 12-15 during late May, feeding on suet bags all day long. A Summer Tanager strayed north to Eureka May 19.

FRINGILLIDS — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks continue to appear in the Region. This season we had reports in May from Colorado Springs, Evergreen, RMNP, Aspen (CAJ), Pueblo, Pocatello, and Nampa. (The species was first recorded in Idaho last year.) Black-headed Grosbeaks are missing from Eldora for the second year. Blue Grosbeaks may be expanding northward;

they arrived at their now-regular nesting haunts on the Jordan Narrows near Salt Lake City May 7 (EG, GLK), and Ruby L. had a new refuge record with a pair May 8-9, the ♂ staying on for 2 weeks; 1 came to Dubois May 21, the first in 6 years. Indigo Buntings occurred along the Colorado and Wyoming foothills and west to Grand Junction May 26 (HTr). Evening Grosbeaks reappeared commonly throughout the Colorado mountains and at Crater L. Malheur's first observation in a year came with a single bird May 13. A Purple Finch patronized an Evergreen feeder Mar. 29-Apr. 8 (SB). An enormous flock of 2-3000 Cassin's Finches flew over Estes Park May 14, "strung out in a loosely organized flock." (WR). Perhaps inclement weather had grounded them, and when released they made this dramatic northward movement. Rosy finches lingered in n. Colorado and Wyoming. April storms brought large numbers of Gray-crowned to Dubois and Jackson feeders, but most left by May 1. The Apr. 11 storm brought in 500 Black Rosy Finches, the n.w. Wyoming nesting form, to Jackson, reduced to 75 Apr. 30; all finally quit the feeder largesse by May 10. The flock of 16 Gray-crowned, 2 Black, and 225 Brown-capped was very late on May 13 at Estes Park (MP), and 1 Brown-capped returned to an Eldora feeder May 31. The last Com. Redpoll at Estes Park was seen Apr. 6. Pine Siskins invaded the Colorado mountains, with abundance at many locations, including 499 on the Durango spring count May 13, plus many at Dubois and Salmon in late May. Red Crossbills continued common in their selected locales—Westcliffe, Evergreen, and a single flock at RMNP May 23 (KD), and 60 at Nampa Apr. 16.

SPARROWS — Lark Buntings migrate vertically from the plains in the fall, but May 28-29 found 3 ♀♀ in RMNP at 8000 feet (KD) and one at Bailey, Colo. (NH). A breeding colony was located near St. Anthony, Ida. (CHT). Oregon Juncos left Nampa early, the last date being Apr. 7; other last dates were Salt Lake City Apr. 15, Springdale Apr. 17, McCoy Apr. 20, Summit Co. Apr. 23, Evergreen Apr. 24, Dubois May 8, RMNP May 13 (2 weeks late). At Zion Apr. 14 found 21 juncos —16 Slate-colored and 5 Gray-headed—storm driven down to the canyon: more of each species than were seen all winter. Large numbers of Chipping Sparrows reached the Region the first week of May; Malheur's first ones on May 2 were 18 days later than in 1971. A Clay-colored Sparrow Apr. 18 was RMNP's first spring record (WR), and Brewer's Sparrows Apr. 18-19 and May 13 also gave RMNP its first spring records (WR, RD). Harris' Sparrows scatter widely but sparsely throughout the Region; included in the spring's 6 reports are an ad. ♂ Apr. 29-May 1, Malheur's only spring record, and an ad. at Honey L. W.M.A., a very late date anywhere in the Region (TM, RS). White-crowned Sparrows left Nampa early, the last ones 2 on May 10. Alturas had 200 Apr. 16, and Malheur's peak came Apr. 22. RMNP hosted the first White-throated Sparrows there, 1 Apr. 26 (MP) and 2 May 18 (WR). Malheur banded 1 Apr. 30, which stayed until May 10, and found another May 9—the first spring observations in 6 years. Fox Sparrows came into Summit Co. by Apr. 23 and Durango counted 3 May 13; single birds appeared in Salt Lake Apr. 19 and May 2, and Malheur counted 6 in 1972, after none last year. Lincoln's Spar-

rows staged a heavy migration at Sheridan in May; came into RMNP 19 days early, on Apr. 26 (WR); and to Dubois Apr. 23, the earliest ever.

CONTRIBUTORS (alphabetically by area) — Alamosa N.W.R.: Robert L. Darnell; Alturas, Calif.: R. E. Moore; Bear L. and Grays L. N.W.R., Ida.: Russell R. Hoffman; Bear R. N.W.R., Utah: William B. Zimmerman; Camas N.W.R., Ida.: Clifford L. Himmel; Colorado Springs, Colo.: Mahlon Speers; Crater L. Nat'l Park, Ore.: James Holcomb; Dubois, Wyo.: Mary Back; Durango, Colo.: Richard Stransky; Eldora, Colo.: Gail Shickley; Eureka, Nev.: Arthur Biale; Evergreen, Colo.: W. W. Brockner; Farmington Bay W.M.A.: Reuben H. Dietz; Grand Junction, Colo.: Lorna Gustafson; Jackson, Wyo.: Elizabeth Walker; Jefferson, Colo.: Carol Hack & Kathy Hawkins; Klamath Basin N.W.R.'s, Ore. & Calif.: Edward J. O'Neill; Malheur N.W.R.: Eldon McLaury & Sean Furniss; McCoy, Colo.: Margaret Ewing; Mono Co., Calif.: John M. Finkbeiner; Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo.: C. R. Bryant; Nampa, Ida.: Idaho State Fed. of Garden Clubs, Belle Shaw; Pocatello, Ida.: Charles H. Trost; Pueblo & Westcliffe, Colo.: David A. Griffiths; Ruby L. N.W.R., Nev.: Lowell L. Napier; Rupert, Ida.: W. H. Shillington; Salmon (Custer & Lemhi Cos.), Ida.: Hadley B. Roberts; Seedskaadee N.W.R., Wyo.: Merle O. Bennett; Sheridan, Wyo.: Tom Kessinger; Stillwater W.M.A., Nev.: Larry D. Napier; Summit Co., Colo.: Hugh E. Kingery; Zion Nat'l Park & Springdale, Utah: Glen & Louise Arnold & Jerome Gifford.

OBSERVERS: Aiken Audubon Society; Colorado Field Ornithologists, Pueblo Audubon Club; Richard L. Bittorff, Natasha Boyd, Sylvia Brockner, Alene Catlett (ACa), Allegra Collister, Kent Dannen, Ruth Defenbaugh, John Douglass, Elsie Eltzroth, Elsie Geoghegan, Dan Heyerly, Carol Ann Jacobson, Lesley Julian, Paul Julian, Gleb L. Kashin, Rodney R. Krey, C. S. Lawson, Kenneth A. Mackenzie, Tim Manolis, Thompson Marsh, Blain M. Marshman, Cathy T. Osugi, Marian Patterson, Oppie Reames, Warner Reeser, Don Roberson, Brad Schram, Oliver K. Scott, Dave Silverman, Walter & Sally Spofford, Rich Stallcup, William Stone, Merle Thielen, Helen Thomas (HTh), Helen Traylor (HTr), Merrill Webb, C. Fred Zeille-maker.

ABBREVIATION: RMNP—Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, Colo. — HUGH E. KINGERY, 10 Emerson #503, Denver Colo. 80218.