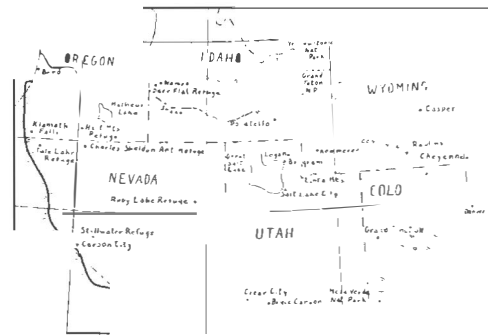


TAIN REGION.—In this vast region of deserts, high mountains and plateaus, the weather is almost



local. Take Durango, for instance, in southwestern Colorado, which lies at over 7000 ft. and is surrounded on the west, north and east by mountain ranges of from 12,000 to 14,000 ft. The precipitation in this area has almost no bearing on what happens elsewhere. In the semi-desert around Stillwater Refuge in western Nevada there were some showers in April and May; it rained on twelve different days in the two months, and the country became greener than it has been in many years. In general, April and May were cooler and moister than usual but by the end of May the weather was hot.

Again I have to protest April and May as the spring migration period. It is the breeding season for many of our birds, and in the high mountains there isn't much spring migration by June 1st. We have to wait until late June to find the breeding population. In the Durango area the leaves were not out above 9000 ft. by June 1st.

At Klamath Basin, Leroy Giles, the biologist, reports through Tom Horne, Refuge Manager, that

as usual their real spring migration was over by April 1st, but that April and the first half of May were cold and the shorebird and late duck migration was delayed by two weeks. Their peak migration was on March 6, with the height of the Pintail movement and 97,000 Snow Geese reported on the same date. White-fronted Geese peaked a little later at 39,600 on March 27. The Whistling Swan peak was 12,000 on March 13.

It is interesting to compare the Klamath Basin with the Bear River Marshes at the upper end of Great Salt Lake. William Reid reports from Bear River under the direction of Vanez Wilson, the manager. These are two of the great waterfowl concentration areas in the nation. While Bear River does not have the geese and swans to compare with Klamath in the spring, in the duck category it is a different story. Bear River had more of the Green-winged Teal, 70,500 to 6400; Gadwall, 9000 to 2300 for Klamath: Am. Widgeon, 15,000 to 2600; Redhead, 20,000 to 1700; and scaup, 35,000 to 22,000, while Klamath had more of the Pintail, 285,000 to 98,000; Shoveller, 54,000 to 4500; Buffle-head, 1920 to 300 and Ruddy Duck, 55,800 to 25,000. In shorebirds the comparison shows that many species peter out by the time they get over to the western edge of the Great Basin at Klamath. In general, Bear River is a far better place for shorebirds. For instance, the Black-bellied Plover high was 350 at Bear River as compared to 6 at Klamath; Marbled Godwit, 1500 to 1; Long-billed Curlew, 125 to 11; Am. Avocet, 4500 to 350; Black-necked Stilt, 600 to 40; dowitcher, 1300 to 54. On the other hand, Klamath reported such things as 750 Red-backed Sandpipers and Ruddy Turnstones which do not occur at Bear River.

Grebes.—Eared Grebes were reported in numbers from all points as usual, but Lockerbie says there are more this year than he has ever seen, the flocks running well over 1000.

Hérons.—The Am. Egret occurs in numbers at Stillwater and at Klamath but does not get much further east.

Swans, Geese, and Ducks.—A small boy with a .22 shot one of the Trumpeter Swans on Flat Creek at Jackson this spring. Therefore, the show of swans from the highway was not so good. The boy was not punished. Dale Southerland, the biologist at Stillwater in western Nevada, reported through Chester Markley, the manager, that the peak of Whistling Swans was 2000 on March 2. The pattern of waterfowl in general follows Klamath at Stillwater, but the numbers are not so great. Mrs. Carman had a Ross's Goose on May 15 at Evans Lake in western Colorado. Bear River had a good breeding season of Canada Geese with 320 broods, up 90 from last year. There were 171 per cent more ducks using the new Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge in southern Colorado (Bryant) than last year. The Mallard is the most common waterfowl species and reached 7000 this spring.

Grouse.—Don Hunter reported an increasing number of Sage Hens in southeastern Idaho and an open season is being considered. Parts of Wyoming have

an open season, which is short because the bird is so stupid the kill can be very great. Except for young birds, they are poor eating.

Gulls.—Three Bonaparte's Gulls were reported at Farmington Bay, Great Salt Lake, May 6 (Lockerbie) and at Deckers Lake. There was one at Casper in central Wyoming, April 22 (OKS).

Shorebirds.—There were 3 Red-backed Sandpipers at Ocean Lake in central Wyoming, May 12 (Warkley). Eighty Marbled Godwits were reported at Saratoga Lake in south-central Wyoming, April 26 (Lambertsen). Stillwater reported a concentration of 5000 dowitchers in the last half of May. In general, water conditions were excellent for shorebirds at Stillwater and the usual local breeding birds—Am. Avocets and Black-necked Stilts,—were having a highly successful season. Four Am. Golden Plover were reported at Farmington Bay in May by Lockerbie. He also had Northern Phalaropes there on May 15 in "untold thousands" for the biggest concentration yet reported of these birds.

Hummingbirds.—Mrs. Crews at Hotchkiss, in western Colorado, so far has had only Black-chinned Hummers at her feeder, but they take up to 1½ pints of syrup daily.

Jays, Mockingbirds, Bobolinks.—Mrs. McIntyre at her remarkable banding station at Devils Tower in northeastern Wyoming banded young Gray Jays coming to her feeding station by May 22. Mockingbirds were reported at Driggs in eastern Idaho, May 26 (Hunter) and at Rawlins in southern Wyoming, May 30 (Lambertsen). An increase in their numbers was reported at Cheyenne in southeastern Wyoming, where they are found regularly (Snyder).

There was a Bobolink near Victor in eastern Idaho, May 20 (Hunter). This bird is found in scattered localities as far west as Malheur in this Region.

Finches.—Don Hunter had a Lark Bunting in eastern Idaho, May 23, near St. Anthony's, an unusual record. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was found at Rawlins, Wyo. on May 18 (Lambertsen). Most places in this Region reported Evening Grosbeaks staying later than usual but there was a tremendous concentration in Durango in mid-May. Oppie Reames conservatively reported 545, May 19. Don Thatcher had White-winged Crossbills at Echo Lake west of Denver on May 19. These birds probably occur regularly in this Region but are very irregular when compared with the more common Red Crossbill.

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