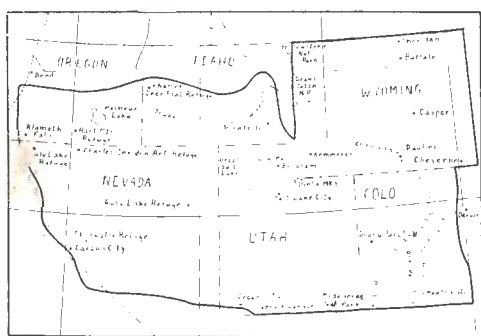


GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.—This season was hot and dry in general over this whole vast area of mountains and deserts. Since the Region is normally hot and dry at this time of year, this does not seem exceptional. However, almost all stations report exceptionally hot, dry weather in spite of the fact that weather in this Region tends to be local. What goes on east of the



Divide may have little to do with what goes on to the west, and the southern part of the Region has entirely different storm systems than the northern part. Because of heavy snows in the western mountains last winter, water condition at the refuges was excellent, and waterfowl had a very fine breeding season. Of course, we are involved in our usual problem: that the dates of this report do not cover our breeding season. The geese have long since hatched by June 1 while the Ruddy Duck season was only half over by August 15 at Klamath. The most interesting thing this season was the movement of Dickcissels (see below).

Swans.—The Trumpeter Swan had an extremely poor breeding season all over the Jackson Hole-Grand Teton-Yellowstone Region. There were almost no cygnets from remote Bridger Lake (OKS) southeast of Yellowstone Park to Flat Creek along the highway at Jackson. A clutch of 9 eggs at Marys Bay on Yellowstone Lake was taken by a bear (Warkley). However, the Trumpeter has increased so that almost every pond in the northwestern area of Wyoming has a Trumpeter pair by now. There is a new man, Mr. Greenwalt, in charge of the Elk Refuge at Jackson. He will be glad to show visiting birders swans and cranes, and the nation's most spectacular scenery.

Ducks and Geese.—We have some very precise information on the duck breeding season through some exact reports from Stillwater Refuge in western Nevada, Klamath Basin, Bear River Marshes at the north end of Great Salt Lake, Monte Vista Refuge in southern Colorado, and the Waterfowl Breeding Ground Survey in Utah by Noland Nelson of the Utah State Fish and Game Department. By air and ground counts Utah had a 27 per cent increase in breeding population of ducks and geese. This returns the geese to normal after last year's decline. Southern Utah didn't do so well because of drought. The northern Utah success is attributed to ideal conditions.

William Reid at Bear River Marshes reports duck nests counted on 13 sample plots increased from 240 last year to 418 this year. The most common nesting duck was the Redhead with a 27,000 peak reported July 3. By mid-August the southward migration was well on its way with the Pintail build-up amounting to 350,000. Leroy Giles at Tule Lake gives us some production figures for the Klamath Basin covering major producing areas: Lower Klamath, Tule Lake, and Upper Klamath, as well as smaller areas. The

Redhead leads the ducks again with 27,205 production. Alas, the Am. Coot is the most common water bird with a production of 43,700. The other large figures in duck production are Cinnamon Teal, 19,495; Mallard, 15,635; Gadwall, 12,670; and Ruddy Duck, 10,070. It would be interesting to print all the figures from Klamath and Bear River but space does not permit it. Dale Sutherland, the wildlife management biologist at Stillwater, reports that heavy runoff on the Truckee and Carson River watersheds insured an abundant water supply for Stillwater and by June 1 all units had reached maximum operating levels—something unheard of in those parts. It rained slightly twice during the summer which is about par for the course. The breeding season was very successful. The dates for the breeding season are particularly inappropriate for Stillwater as much of the hatching has occurred before June 1. Charles Bryant reports from Monte Vista in southern Colorado that the Refuge is still growing nicely with new pond construction, and the production of ducks was at a new high. The Mallard is most common there with a concentration of 1500.

Shorebirds.—C. W. Lockerbie had "unbelievable numbers" of Willet, Am. Avocet, and Black-necked Stilt at Farmington Bay on Great Salt Lake on July 3. This was the greatest concentration he had ever experienced, and since he has had more experience than anyone else in the West, it must have been something! He didn't venture a guess as to numbers but it would have to go some to surpass the Bear River estimate of 15,000 Am. Avocets and 8000 Black-necked Stilts, Aug. 14. Undoubtedly the Great Salt Lake sees the bulk of these birds. The only other competitor in this Region is Stillwater in western Nevada with 1000 avocets, although they had 8000 dowitchers on July 18.

Owls.—Killpack had 5 Long-eared Owl nests at Roosevelt in eastern Utah in addition to the usual Horned Owl nests. All young had flown by May 20.

Poor-wills.—The Wyoming Audubon Society had Poor-wills at Devils Tower in northeastern Wyoming on July 16 on the open hillside below the Tower.

Hummingbirds.—R. G. Beidleman, Professor of Biology at Colorado University, reported from Rocky Mountain National Park several records for the Calliope Hummingbird including a collected specimen on July 30 (Earl Erickson). These are the first for the Park. The Rufous Hummingbird was more common than for the past 6 years. Out in the real hummingbird country on the mesa southeast of Grand Junction, Mrs. Crews reported from Hotchkiss that there were swarms of hummers. Lots of people feed them there as much as a pint of syrup a day. The Black-chinned breeds locally and the Rufous and Broad-tailed are migrants. Lockerbie reported it was also a great year for hummers at Salt Lake, the same four species.

Wrens.—Don Thatcher reported the Winter Wren from near Jenny Lake in Jackson Hole (Grand Teton National Park) in June, an unusual record.

Dickcissels.—Ordinarily the Dickcissel is seen on the eastern border of Wyoming only occasionally. This year there was a massive invasion with almost

every alfalfa field boasting a pair of Dickcissels as far west as 10 miles west of Casper in central Wyoming (OKS). The Wyoming Audubon Society found them all through the eastern half of northern Wyoming and Mildred Snyder reported them from Cheyenne in southern Wyoming. This is a westward movement of at least 200 miles for the bird. This is an unprecedented change, as far as we know, and the reason for it is not clear.

Grosbeaks and Crossbills.—Beidleman reported Evening Grosbeaks with young at Estes Park, Aug. 2, at about 9500 feet (Mrs. J. E. Schaab) and 5 on Aug. 18 at 8500 feet (Beidleman). The on again, off again Red Crossbills are now off again in the Colorado Rockies west of Denver (Beidleman and Thatcher) but were as numerous as ever in the Wyoming ranges (OKS).

Sparrows.—Thompson Marsh had a Fox Sparrow in song at Evergreen in the Rockies west of Denver on July 7, a very unusual record.—DR. OLIVER K. SCOTT, 437 East 13 St. Casper, Wyo.