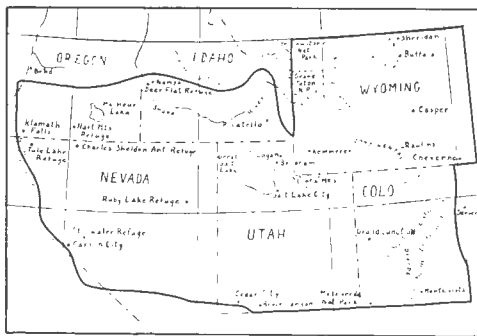


GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.—The warm mild winter was followed by winter weather in March and April and



then a hot May. April and May don't usually represent spring in this Region, but with the season early there was more spring than usual by the time it ended. In the Great Basin the big waterfowl flight is either over entirely or declining by the start of this period, and in the high country residents don't arrive until after the first of June. The season has been relatively wet and it is a good breeding season for waterfowl. The Great Basin refuges called the migration routine.

In the Central Rockies spring was late through April but by June 1 the migration was way ahead of time; so in our confusion of seasons things were as mixed up as ever. We really don't know spring as the eastern part of the country knows it anyway; we have winter and summer with little in between. In general this was just an average season.

Swans.—The wintering Trumpeter Swan population on Flat Creek in the Nat'l Elk Refuge in Jackson Hole in western Wyoming diminished to one breeding pair which again set up housekeeping near the highway (Greenwalt).

Geese.—David Marshall reported that with the fine water conditions, Harney Lake just west of Malheur in eastern Oregon has greater concentrations of waterfowl than Malheur itself. He reported 1000 Ross' Geese from Harney Lake, April 3, and 75,000 Snow Geese. Both these are high figures. At Monte Vista Refuge in southern Colorado Bryant reported that his captive geese are increasing and the Refuge is getting more use.

Hawks and Owls.—Hawks seem to continue their downward course according to the observers in this Region but owls are holding up much better. The Short-eared Owl was reported from all the big refuges in good numbers and was not uncommon elsewhere.

Grouse.—Reed Ferris had the good fortune to visit the stamping ground of the Sharp-tailed Grouse in the Cache Valley of northeastern Utah on April 20 and found 20 birds still there although ordinarily the season is well over by that date.

The Sage Hen continues to be most abundant in central and western Wyoming in the sagebrush plains, but the Sharp-tailed has become rare in these areas. It is said that the Sharp-tailed requires native grasses to survive and with the continued overgrazing has been driven from much of its former range.

Shorebirds.—The shorebird migration this year was good. Lockerbie at Salt Lake City reported 100+ Black-bellied Plover, May 10—a very high count. There were 26 Snowy Plover together on Great Salt Lake, May 14 (Kashin). Some 3755 Marbled Godwits were found at Bear River Marshes at the upper end of Great Salt Lake on April 22, probably a record high figure. The concentration of 7325 Am. Avocets on April 29 at Bear River was less than usual. The Dunlin, ordinarily scarce over this inland Region, showed up in several places. David Marshall had 30 at the Double O units of Malheur Refuge (part of Harney Lake) on May 14. Hugh House had one, May 7, on the Laramie Plains in southeastern Wyoming. There was another one for over a week in central Wyoming near Casper at the Standard Oil Lake, starting on April 27 (OKS). A Whimbrel was seen, May 17, on the Laramie Plains (HH) and 7 more, May 18, at Ocean Lake in central Wyoming (Wyoming Audubon Society). These birds are not supposed to occur in Wyoming. A Ruddy Turnstone, the third record for the state, was seen on May 18 at Ocean Lake in central Wyoming (W.A.S.).

Crows.—Reed Ferris had Crows in Redmond in central Utah on April 23 which is unusual as they have ordinarily left central Utah before the middle of April. The Crow is not a breeding bird in Utah.

Thrushes.—A Wood Thrush was present for a week in Casper in central Wyoming, starting May 29 (OKS). This is the first record of this bird for the state.

Vireos and Warblers.—A Yellow-throated Vireo was found at Casper in central Wyoming on June 1 (OKS)—a first record for this species in the state. Central and eastern Wyoming have been less covered by birders than almost any other part of the country. There have been no residents interested in birds and the status of many species is merely a guess. In this area one checks off a new species for the state as easily as one finds an early or late date in New England. The country is vast and the amount of coverage by competent observers is minimal. Lockerbie reported a good movement of warblers at Salt Lake City but nothing unusual.

Blackbirds and Orioles.—Observers in Utah were impressed with the large migratory movements of blackbirds including Brewer's, Redwings, and Yellow-heads. These birds appear to be increasing (Reed Ferris, Lockerbie, and John Bushman of Dugway). A pair of Orchard Orioles was reported by Mrs. Crews on May 11 at Hotchkiss in the high mesa country of the Western slope of Colorado—the first report of the bird in that area.

Grosbeaks.—On May 18 at Cheyenne Mr. and Mrs. Hanesworth had a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a great rarity in Wyoming. On May 19 there was a large movement of Evening Grosbeaks (several flocks of over a 100 birds) at Hotchkiss, Colo. (Mrs. Crews). Elsewhere Evening Grosbeaks remained very late, as usual, until the end of May. They were reported in large numbers in the Salt Lake area (CWL) where they started to become conspicuous in March.

Sparrows.—A. B. Mickey had a White-throated Sparrow at Laramie on May 17, an unusual spring record.—DR. O. K. SCOTT, 437 E. 13 St., Casper, Wyo.