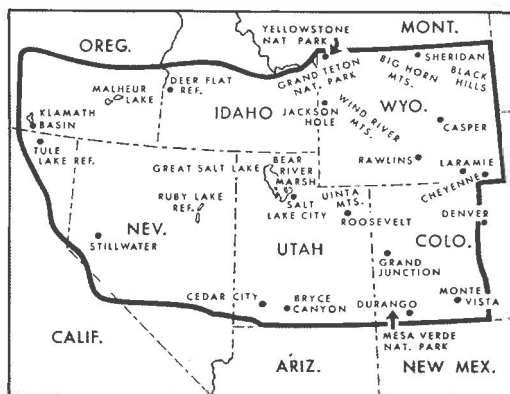


**GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.**—It always should be noted how absurd it is to call April and May the spring migra-



tion period in this area. In the mountainous parts spring migration occurs in June. In the Great Basin the waterbirds have passed their peak migration before April, and April and May represent part of the breeding season.

This short season found the area dry, particularly so in the Great Basin, but my correspondents differ as to whether it was hot or cold; apparently it was some of both. If there were any migratory waves, they were not reported. The nearest thing to a good migratory wave was noted in Casper in central Wyoming on May 20. Oppie Reames reported that in Durango in southwestern Colorado not only was it dry but the migration was poor with fewer species and smaller numbers than usual.

The drought situation at Malheur in eastern Oregon, part of the Great Basin, is potentially serious. David Marshall, the biologist there, reports the poorest run-off from adjacent mountains in 20 years. The water level at Malheur is rapidly dropping and much of the Blitzen Valley is dry. The result is less food for ducks and a very poor breeding season in prospect with very low numbers. In contrast, the shorebird population has risen with much mud flat exposed, and the fish-eating birds are on the increase. For the first time in many years White Pelicans nested at Malheur (400 birds).

*Geese.*—Bear River Marshes had 261 broods of Canada Geese hatched this year, an increase of 35 over last year (Bolwahn).

*Grouse.*—Reed Ferris in the first week of April found a strutting group of 78 Sage Hens north of the sandhills area near Rexburg in eastern Idaho. He

states that the Sage Hen has been diminishing in that area. Farther east, in Wyoming, the Sage Hen is a common bird.

*Swans*.—Ernest Greenwalt, the refuge manager at the National Elk Refuge just north of Jackson and adjoining Grand Teton National Park, had 2 nesting pairs of Trumpeters on Flat Creek this year.

*Cranes*.—The largest concentration of Sandhill Cranes (350 birds) in the Region occurred at the growing Monte Vista Refuge in southern Colorado, April 5 (Bryant).

*Shorebirds*.—David Marshall reported that on the newly exposed flats at Malheur there were great flocks of dowitchers, Least Sandpipers, Am. Avocets and Willets. There were 25 pairs of Black-necked Stilts where last year there were none. In the rare category were 4 Semipalmated Plovers, May 8; 5 Sanderlings at nearby Harney Lake, May 19 (DuMont), and an Am. Golden Plover, May 28 (DuMont), near Frenchglen.

*Phalaropes*.—On May 21 Lockerbie reported the greatest concentration of Northern Phalaropes that he has ever seen at Farmington Bay on the Great Salt Lake, just north of Salt Lake City. He gave no figures other than "thousands upon thousands," but since his experience goes back about 60 years, it must have been a very great number. On one area, there was an "undulating carpet of birds on the water" half a mile wide. He suggests that few Northern Phalaropes may have been seen on the Pacific flyway this spring; so many went north via the Great Salt Lake.

*Doves*.—Sidney Hyde observed a large migration of Mourning Doves, May 7, with 500 birds scattered over 30 miles of roadway near Gunnison on the western slope of Colorado, May 7.

*Owls*.—On April 5 near Salt Lake City, Gleb Kashin found a Flammulated Owl, a little-known bird in this Region. On May 30 he found the nest of the Saw-whet Owl, another uncommon owl. Anna Strahan reported that 3 of the 4 Great Gray Owls known to her at Fort Klamath, Klamath Basin of Oregon, have been killed by cars. Fifty Short-eared Owls have been present on the Monte Vista Refuge in southern Colorado (Bryant).

*Swifts*.—Where the Provo River flows into Lake Utah, central Utah, 2 Vaux's Swifts were seen on May 10 by a party that included Kashin and Lockerbie. Among a large flock of White-throated Swifts there Lockerbie also thought there was a Chimney Swift. There is only a record or two of either swift in Utah.

*Hummingbirds*.—Mrs. Crews at Hotchkiss in the mesa country of western-central Colorado reported so many people have taken up feeding hummers in her area that many fewer came to her feeders.

*Mockingbirds*.—Four nesting birds were near Payson in central Utah (Pfouts). Three others were reported in northern Utah by Kashin, McCollough and Lockerbie. Ordinarily this is an uncommon bird in Utah.

*Gnatcatchers*.—Richard Follett had one on May 24 in the Cache Valley of northern Utah, where it is uncommon.

*Vireos*.—At Pocatello on May 16, L. M. Baylor had a Solitary Vireo, a scarce bird for this area.

*Orioles*.—On May 30 near Eureka in dry west-central Utah, Kashin and others found 6 Scott's Orioles, an unusual bird for the state.

These are the highlights of this season here.—  
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