



GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.

—April and May were as confusing as usual in this Region this year, since for the whole Region they are neither spring, winter, summer, nor breeding season but a mixture of all these. In the high country of western Colorado the last half of the spring migration had not arrived by June 1. The weather was wet and cold with late freezes bothering the large fruit crops in the valleys (Hyde, Mrs. Car-man). However, north of Colorado in Wyoming, April and May were relatively dry and warm so the snowpack in the mountains was way down and there has been an early run-off. Places such as Malheur in the Great Basin in eastern Oregon are a little better off than last year, which was one of the driest on record, but still far below normal. At Malheur the water comes almost solely from the Steens Mountains by the Donner and Blitzen River. The snowpack on

this ridge is easily measured and the amount of water available for the refuge is known ahead of time (David Marshall).

Swans.—The Trumpeter Swan extension program is working out well. Ruby Lakes in eastern Nevada reported 7 nesting pairs, but not all the nests have been located. The birds have spread to the next valley west. The total population of Trumpeters at Ruby Lakes is 33 (Clair Aldous). The Malheur colony is growing; 2 nests have been found so far and more are expected (Marshall). In Jackson Hole on the border of Teton Park, western Wyoming, an irrigation ditch out of the jurisdiction of the Fish & Wildlife Service has made a muddy stream out of the erstwhile beautiful Flat Creek, destroying its value for fishing and wildlife. There is only one pair of Trumpeters nesting on the Elk Refuge, away from the highway.

Geese and Ducks.—Malheur reports that its lower water has caused very low production of Canada Geese. However, duck breeding is about normal, as it is mostly along the Donner and Blitzen River. Incidentally, there is an excellent place for the birder who visits Malheur to stay, at Frenchglen out in the wilderness on the Donner and Blitzen River. The plague of carp at Malheur seems over at the moment so sago pondweed is returning. Therefore, Malheur's duck population should increase during migration—but it would be much larger if there were more water (Bruce Marshall).

At Stillwater Refuge, western Nevada, the water situation remains low and duck breeding is down. As far as breeding goes, this is principally a Redhead, Ruddy, Cinnamon Teal, Gadwall, and Mallard refuge, with a scattering of other ducks and geese (Kiger).

Bear River Marshes at the northern end of the Great Salt Lake report their waterfowl levels are about the same as average, although they are short on water. By the end of this period molting Pintails were starting to arrive. The chief breeding ducks are: Redhead, 8000; Gadwall, 6000. These comprise about 50 per cent of their breeding ducks. To date, they have no botulism (Marvin Duncan).

Monte Vista Refuge in south-central Colorado had an early snow melt while frost was still in the ground; consequently they have the best water level on record for this new refuge. They have a decoy

flock of Canada Geese to help get the area into Canada Goose production, and it is working.

Hawks.—Gleb Kashin and Albert Webb found on April 10 at Toole in dry western Utah a (Sennett's) White-tailed Hawk. This would be the first record for the state. Otherwise, there is nothing notable to report.

Shorebirds.—On April 18 at Stillwater Refuge near Reno, western Nevada, with the large numbers of usual shorebirds, there were 100 Black-bellied Plover and 1000 Dunlins (John Kiger). Since the Black-belly is regarded as occasional and the Dunlin as rare or accidental in this area, this unprecedented concentration seems mysterious. The shorebird migration in eastern Wyoming seemed better than usual. Two Stilt Sandpipers were seen at Cheyenne in southeastern Wyoming on May 1 (Mrs. Hanesworth). She had Black-necked Stilt, May 22. The Whimbrel used to be considered rare in Wyoming but now is seen every spring (OKS). The Long-billed Curlew seems to be rather widely scattered over the northern part of the Region in suitable areas of slightly moist prairie. Concentrations of more than a few are not recorded except in big refuges like Malheur. L. M. Baylor had 7 on April 30 at Fort Hall along the Snake River near Pocatello in southern Idaho. Hyde had a Marbled Godwit high on the western slope of Colorado near Gunnison, May 7. This is the first record for that area.

Gulls.—The Franklin's Gull has established a nesting colony of over 100 at Malheur. This species was not found in Oregon until a few years ago (Marshall).

Owls.—In the Malheur area there was a great die-off of mice and other rodents during the winter. It was cold and the ground was covered with snow. The Great Horned Owl was believed to be caught short as a result. They seemed weak and were found frequently hunting in daylight. This spring not a single nest of the Great Horned Owl has been found, and it is surmised the owls were not in a condition to nest although fair numbers survived the winter (Marshall). Normally, Malheur supports many owls and numbers of nests are located. It is not clear why the Great Gray Owl should be so common at the upper end of the Klamath Basin. Mrs. Strahan has them staked out and can show the well-behaved visitor a nest in the spring. Mrs. Gray of Fort Klamath showed this editor a nest with young still present in the first week of June. There were 7 birds—the highest count known—at the town dump on the last Christmas count (Mrs. Strahan). The bird is consistently reported from the Grand Teton–Yellowstone area, but is found in new spots each season.

Hummingbirds.—Mrs. Crews at Hotchkiss, western Colorado mesa country, had her first Black-chinned, April 21, an early date, and in spite of severe cold. Somehow she has more hummingbirds than anyone else in the Region.

Warblers.—Few good waves of migrants can be discerned in this area, but Carol MacIver reported a wave of Audubon's Warblers, May 7-9, at Rockville, extreme eastern Oregon.

Orioles.—A male Baltimore Oriole was collected

at the Malheur headquarters on June 1 (Marshall). This is believed to be the first record for Oregon.

Grosbeaks.—Durango, in southwestern Colorado, had fewer Evening Grosbeaks than usual this spring (Oppie Reames), but there were more and they stayed almost through May in central Wyoming at Casper (OKS). Mrs. Lambertsen had a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Rawlins, May 20. The bird is unusual in eastern Wyoming but was seen four years ago in Rawlins.

Sparrows.—A White-throated Sparrow appeared at Malheur on April 25 (Marshall). This bird is unusual in Oregon.—DR. OLIVER K. SCOTT, 437 East 13th St., Casper, Wyo.