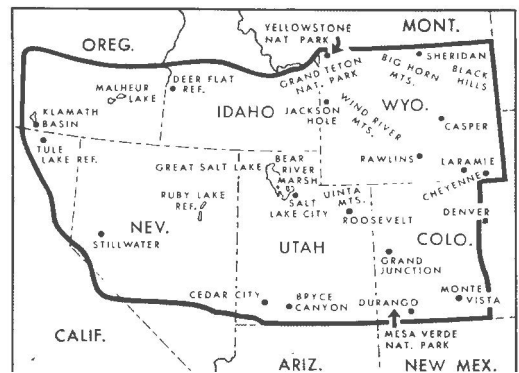


GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.—Ordinarily this report is dominated by the great refuges in the Region, particularly



in the Great Basin, but since the waterbirds have mostly finished their movements before April 1 and the refuges are poorly situated for observing landbirds, the individual observers will carry much of this report.

It is difficult to make any generalization about the numbers of landbirds or even the type of migration we have had, since we have only isolated reports over a vast area of different country, different climate, and different birds. With such a mosaic of information the picture as a whole doesn't make much sense.

The Central Rocky Mountains and Great Basin are not suited to the waves of migrants that are seen in the East. The residents leak in and a few species of migrants are seen, but not in numbers. However, for

the first time in 12 years at Casper in central Wyoming circumstances combined on May 12 at 5:30 A.M. to produce a real wave of migrants. On top of unsettled weather conditions, an extensive cold front struck. The wind spun around to the northeast, blew hard and the temperature plummeted. It shortly brought rains to the lower elevations (5000-6000 feet) and snow above. Cheyenne, Wyo., at 6000 feet, 200 miles to the south, had a blizzard that closed all highways in spite of the late date. While this performance is common in the winter, it is unusual to have weather so violent in late May. As a result, Casper was crawling with migrants for 3 days, many unusual to rare in this part of Wyoming: Swainson's Thrush, Solitary Vireo, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush and Blackpoll Warbler, as well as more common birds, such as two species of towhee, thrashers, vireos, and MacGillivray's Warbler (OKS).

The great Malheur Refuge in eastern Oregon is fast drying up as it did in the 1930's. As a result, the waterfowl are largely bypassing it as a breeding area. The water run-off is very poor for the third year (Kridler). Stillwater in western Nevada is in the same situation (Kiger).

Geese.—Bear River Refuge on the north end of the Great Salt Lake reports a good goose-nesting year. There were 440 broods, averaging 4.83, which is better than last year's 340 broods (M. R. Evans).

Ducks.—The breeding season at Monte Vista Refuge in southern central Colorado is doing well. The Refuge continues to grow and water conditions are good. The production of ducks will be approximately double last year's with the Mallard being the principal duck and Pintail next. The total production this year is projected at 16,000 (C. R. Bryant). Bear River Refuge reports water conditions good and populations unchanged from last year. However, the Bear River has virtually ceased to flow and the future outlook is poor (M. R. Evans). Stillwater Refuge in western Nevada continues to suffer from severe drought. Ordinarily, 4000-5000 pairs of ducks nest there. This year probably no more than 1000 pairs will nest and most of these will not be successful (Kiger). The only rare ducks reported were 50 Wood Ducks the last of March and first of April at Deer Flat Refuge in western Idaho (Gene Crawford, refuge manager). This is a fabulous concentration for Idaho.

Owls.—Anna Strahan at Fort Klamath at the north end of the Klamath Basin, Oreg. had 2 nesting pairs of Great Gray Owls. There appear to be more Great Grays in this area than elsewhere on the continent. At Malheur Refuge headquarters a nest platform for Horned Owls was built of 1/2-in. hardware cloth on one of the few trees there; the owls took to it and raised 2 young (Eugene Kridler). Malheur seems to specialize in firsts in everything!

Swifts.—Again Gleb Kashin had 2 Black Swifts near Provo in central Utah on May 14—similar to last year's observation.

Swallows.—At Farmington Bay near Salt Lake City, on the Great Salt Lake, Kashin and others had 5 Purple Martins on May 7, a rare bird for the Rockies.

Thrushes.—Kridler netted both Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes at Malheur.

Warblers.—Among rarities reported was a Northern Waterthrush netted by Kridler at Malheur on May 19. There is only one previous record for this area. A Hooded Warbler at Casper, May 16, in central Wyoming is a casual record for the state (OKS). L. M. Baylor and Larry McQueen reported the Myrtle Warbler at Pocatello, Idaho. This bird is considered rare in the area, although in Wyoming it is a common migrant; to the west, McCaskie found the bird commonly in the Great Basin in the Honey Lake area of northeastern California, May 13-15. Kashin had an Ovenbird in sage flats near Salt Lake City on May 20. There are only scattered records from Utah for this bird, and sage brush is hardly Ovenbird country.

Bobolink.—Mrs. Lambertsen had one Bobolink near Rawlins, Wyo., on May 27. This species breeds in a number of spots in Wyoming. We find it more common than had previously been supposed.

Orioles.—An Orchard Oriole was seen at Hotchkiss, Colo., May 21 (Mrs. Crews). The Hooded Oriole, as well as the Bullock's, occurs in this area regularly.

Grosbeaks.—Evening Grosbeaks have been plentiful this past winter and were observed at Ruby Lakes, Nev. for the first time (Clair Aldous). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen at Cheyenne, Wyo., May 11, by Mrs. Hanesworth. Another was at Casper, May 19 (OKS). This bird occurs regularly in eastern Wyoming.—DR. OLIVER K. SCOTT, 437 East 13th St., Casper, Wyo.