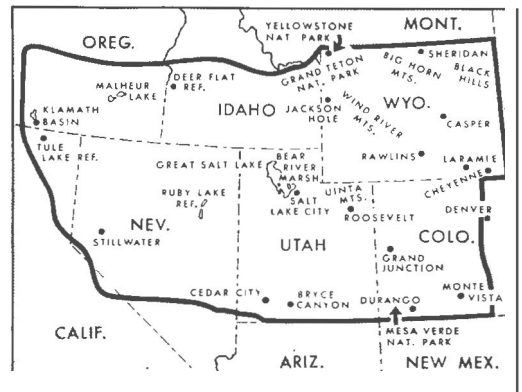


GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.—While the Great Basin simmered in continued heat and drought, establishing new



weather records, the Central Rockies enjoyed a break in the drought with cooler weather.

The Stillwater Refuge, Nev. had the worst breeding season on record. Like most large refuges it is broken up into units but none could be maintained at a decent level. Total duck production was 575 against 20,691 two years ago (Kiger). At Malheur Refuge, Oreg. the situation was as bad. This, the oldest of the refuges, now contains only 500 acres of shallow water instead

of the normal 30,000. Obviously, it is producing only a fraction of its usual waterfowl (Kridler). Bear River Refuge, at the upper end of the Great Salt Lake, fares better. Its waters come from the Bear River with headwaters in mountains where the drought was less severe. As a result, at least one of the five units there had normal water, but two others were dry. In spite of its reduced water, Bear River experienced more birds than last year and more production of waterfowl, perhaps forced in from elsewhere. The highest waterfowl concentration was on Aug. 15 with 177,360. The highest populations were of the same species as in previous years. At the top was the Pintail with 89,875; next was Green-winged Teal with 60,700; followed by Redhead with 30,000 and Am. Coot with 21,000; others were in smaller numbers (M. R. Evans).

There are few big refuges in the Central Rockies, but Monte Vista, Colo. is growing into one. The production there was double last year. The most common bird is and has been the Mallard with a peak concentration of 10,576 in early August; followed by the Pintail with 5720 at the same time. There were 3 Wood Ducks, a rare bird in this region, during the whole period at Monte Vista (R. C. Brown). At Anaho Island Refuge, Pyramid Lake, Nev. the Double-crested Cormorants failed to nest successfully for the 3rd consecutive year, probably because of motor boats. About 3000 White Pelicans and 3000 California Gulls were reared at this refuge. Over the past 10 years the pelicans have been decreasing (Kiger).

Herons.—The growing refuge at Monte Vista had its first breeding Snowy Egrets (Brown).

Swans.—Malheur had 2 breeding pairs of Trumpeter Swan with 2 young each. Their survival is not yet assured (Kiger). In Jackson Hole, Grand Teton Park, there are now several nesting sites of the Trumpeter near the highway. These are at Flat Creek at Jackson, at Jackson Lake Lodge, and halfway between in a small pond (OKS).

Hawks.—The need for protective legislation in several of the states of this Region has become more desperate each year. We now have professional falconers to contend with as well. This editor will not publish any more specific information on these birds until the situation improves.

Shorebirds.—A Red Phalarope, a casual bird inland, was caught in a mist net at Malheur (Kridler). Malheur managed to have a good migrant shorebird concentration of some species, in spite of the drought: on July 25 there were 14,000 Wilson's Phalaropes and 16,000 Am. Avocets (Kridler).

Owls.—Mrs. Carman had 4 Saw-whet Owls at her home near Grand Junction, Colo., Aug. 15. These birds are little seen in the Rocky Mountain region, but may be more common than generally supposed.

Hummingbirds.—L. M. Baylor found a Calliope Hummingbird nest in the foothills of the mountains of central Idaho near Darlington, June 10. The Calliope is common all through the mountains of this area, although it is often difficult to be sure of the identification. Mrs. Crews, in spite of the drought, had a good year with hummers at Hotchkiss, Colo. She had been feeding a pint of syrup a day. She also has raised a deserted brood of young hummers.

Warblers.—Kridler has demonstrated the power of the mist net again. He netted the Am. Redstart for the first time at Malheur Refuge last fall. Since then he has netted the bird 4 times during this past season.

Buntings.—An Indigo Bunting was seen in the Warner Mountains in extreme northeastern California north of Fort Bidwell on July 2 (McCaskie). The bird is casual over most of the West. The Lazuli Bunting has become abundant in the brushy hill country of Wyoming. Mrs. Lambertsen had a concentration of 100 of them in the cemetery at Rawlins, Wyo., June 5.—DR. OLIVER K. SCOTT, 437 East 13th St., Casper, Wyo.