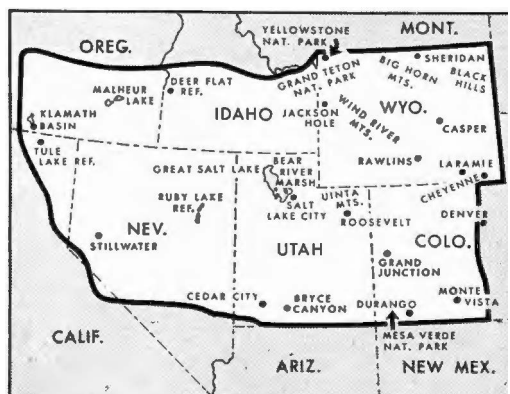


GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.—The rains came and there was much rejoicing! This multiregion had more diver-



gence of weather than usual. In southern Colorado there was continued drought and high dry winds with accompanying dust storms (*OR, Mrs. JJC*); the southern Colorado Rockies had a tragic lack of snow. In contrast, rains in the Great Basin have been wonderful. Stillwater Refuge, Nev. is back in business after being dried out for several years. Malheur, Oreg. had fine rains. The Silvies River, one of the tributaries to the Malheur sump, ran water for the first time in five years (*EK*). Ruby Lakes, Nev., which is in a dry basin, has excellent water (*DEL*). There was so much water in southern Idaho that the geese lost most of their first nesting by flooding on the Snake River at the Minidoka Refuge (*SRW*). In general, these two months were not too remarkable as the spring goes, but we have more unusual records, which, perhaps, reflects more observers. The increased water supplies augur well for the future.

Monte Vista Refuge, southern Colorado, has a different problem—only 5 in. of rain annually. It lies in a stunning setting in the San Luis Valley, a desert floor surrounded on three sides by 13,000 ft. mountains. The Refuge is trying to reintroduce cranes and geese, in addition to acting as a refuge and breeding area to great numbers of other waterfowl. They are hampered by lack of water (*CRB*). The water comes from wells and springs which have gone dry. Agriculture is profitable in the valley and artesian water is pumped for irrigation; but the water-table is steadily dropping. This is an old story in the West and South-

west—by using bigger and better pumps they postpone until the future unpleasant decisions. The surrounding mountains are overgrazed and hold less water than formerly. Erosion is speeded up. Run-off is easier and less goes into the water-table. This is federal land, but the Administration's feeble efforts to make a change are no better than the previous feeble efforts.

Grebes—There were 1200 Horned Grebes at Minidoka Refuge on the Snake River, southern Idaho, at the end of April—an early date (*SRW*). Eared and Western Grebes also occur there by the thousand.

Hérons—A Little Blue Heron was found dead at Draper, near Salt Lake City, on May 25 (*DD*). The specimen of this bird—casual in Utah—is preserved.

Waterfowl—There are very good prospects for a better duck breeding season. Goose nesting was delayed by the wet weather, but nesting numbers were good on the Snake River, western Idaho (*GHC*) and Bear River Marshes, Utah (*GMN*).

Hawks—Stewart Murie had a Harris' Hawk at close range on April 11, at Parowan, southern Utah. We are not aware of any records for the state. A pair of Black Hawks again was seen in Springdale, along the Virgin River in southern Utah. The nest was first seen on April 9, and photographs were made of the birds (*DC, RW*). There are four active Golden Eagle nests at the Malheur Refuge (*EK*).

The "order of peck" was demonstrated at Malheur. A Canada Goose took over a Red-tailed Hawk's nest in a cottonwood tree. A Great Horned Owl's nest was taken over by a Red-tail—possibly the evicted one! A Great Horned Owl took over a Swainson's Hawk's nest. Records at Malheur show the Swainson's Hawk less common than 25 years ago (*EK*).

Shorebirds—Two Dunlins were seen at Market Lake, Roberts, Idaho, on May 10 (*AB*). This is a rare shorebird in the area. A flock of 450 Marbled Godwits stayed at Lowell Lake, Deer Flat Refuge, for the last two weeks of May (*GHC*). A concentration of this size is unprecedented for the area.

Gulls—There was a Glaucous Gull, April 7, at Farmington Bay on the Great Salt Lake near Salt Lake City (*CL*). This bird is rare there.

Owls—A Flammulated Owl was banded at Malheur, May 4 (*EK*). This bird is considered rare in Oregon.

Swifts—There was a Vaux's Swift at Utah Lake, central Utah, May 12 (*GK*), where it occurs regularly in migration.

Nutcrackers—Clark's Nutcrackers have disappeared from the mountains north of Denver south to Colorado Springs. There is no explanation; they have not been seen since last year (*HRH*).

Warblers—Another Bay-breasted Warbler was seen at Cheyenne on May 15 (*Mrs. RDH*). This bird has been almost regularly reported in spring from this part of Wyoming. There was a Parula Warbler inside the front range at Deckers on the South Platte River in Colorado, April 11 (*HRH*). The date is early, but others were seen about the same time in eastern Colorado—although farther west than generally reported. A Blackpoll Warbler was seen at the Portneuf River, southern Idaho, in early May (*SRW*).

This bird is rare so far west. A Black-throated Blue Warbler was seen at Malheur Refuge headquarters on May 2—one of the first spring records for the state (EK). The most exciting report of a stray warbler, however, is from the Mantle Ranch, Dinosaur Nat'l Monument, northwestern Colorado—a Worm-eating Warbler was seen on May 1 by an observer who knows the bird well (DR).

Bunting—At the Malheur meeting of the Western Bird-banders, June 1, a *Painted Bunting* was mistaken for the first record for Oregon (EK). How's that!

Sparrows—A Harris' Sparrow was seen at Market Lake, Rexberg, Idaho, until April 22 (AB). This is a scarce late fall, early spring and sometimes winter visitor in this Region (the farther east one goes the more common it becomes). Black-chinned Sparrows were first seen at Zion Park this spring. They were seen several times from April 24 (RW). A Golden-crowned Sparrow was seen along Shunes Creek in Zion, April 22 (DC). This is one of the few records for Utah.

Contributors—AB, Al Bruner; CRB, Charles R. Bryant; DC, Dennis Carter; GHC, Gene H. Crawford; Mrs. JJC, Mrs. J. J. Crews; DD, Douglas Day; Mrs. RDH, Mrs. Robert D. Hanesworth; HRH, Henry R. Holt; GK, Gleb Kashin; EK, Eugene Kridler; DEL, Donald E. Lewis; CL, Charles Lockerbie; SM, Stewart Murie; GMN, Gerald M. Nugent; OR, Oppie Reames; DR, Dick Russell; RW, Roland Wauer; SRW, Sanford R. Wilbur.—DR. OLIVER K. SCOTT, 437 East 13th St., Casper, Wyo.