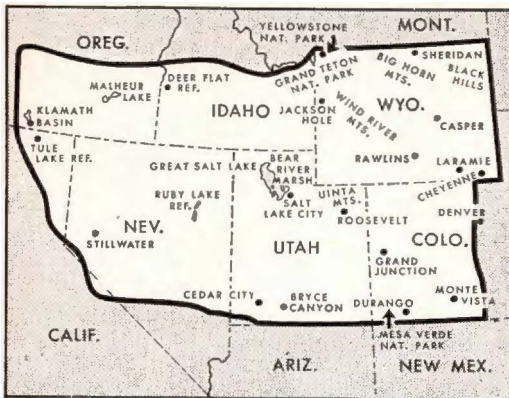


GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY  
MOUNTAIN REGION.—April and May (it was  
hardly a spring) were as cold and wet as any on  
record in many areas and also in the Region as a  
whole, in spite of its great variety of climate. A  
storm, starting on April 1st in central Wyoming,  
dropped up to thirty inches of wet snow on the  
prairies and foot-hills killing almost all the larger  
animals that were not fed by man. Spring birds  
present at that time ate juniper berries and survived.

At the end of this period in May many places at  
higher elevations had not received their usual spring  
birds. Many birds prolonged their stay at lower



elevations before going to their breeding grounds, such as Olive-sided Flycatchers at Salt Lake City during the last two weeks of May (GK). In most areas vegetation and birds were 2-3 weeks behind, and the vegetation seemed later than the birds. There was ice on the marshes in eastern Idaho until May (DGB). Water prospects for the coming duck breeding season are better than they have been in years. Durango, Colo. was the exception, being both cold and dry (OR).

A wave of migrants—such as the eastern half of the country knows—is rare in this Region, perhaps because there are fewer perching birds. What waves we do have are associated with storms with northerly winds. A real concentration took place in Zion Canyon, Utah, on May 5-7, as a result of a rain and snowstorm. After the storm dozens of dead birds were found there and at nearby Springdale. These birds were *Empidonax* (sp.), Red-breasted Nuthatch, Audubon's Warbler, Virginia's Warbler, and Gray-headed Junco (DLC). Another storm with high northerly winds on May 27-28 at Minidoka Refuge on the Snake River, Idaho, caused landbirds to be very numerous on May 29 in an area where ordinarily there were few. Species such as Red-eyed Vireo and Black-headed Grosbeak, rarely seen there, were common (SRW).

Herons—A Common Egret was present, April 1, at Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho. This is unusual (WCR).

Swans—Ruby Lakes, Nev., where water conditions are better than for many years, has four pairs of Trumpeter Swans nesting (DEL).

Geese and Ducks—Bear River Marshes, Utah reported a normal migration, but about three to four weeks late. The high count of ducks was 113,848 on April 8 (VW); this should have occurred in mid-March. A lot of water is flowing into the Great Salt Lake from the Bear River Marshes.

Two Ross' Geese were seen with Snow Geese north of Roberts, Idaho, April 26, the first record for that area (AB). One White-fronted Goose also was seen there, April 26 (DGB). About 4000 Ross' Geese were seen near Burns in the Malheur region, April 15; although they occur there regularly, this is the highest number reported.

A nesting survey of Canada Geese in the Snake River region showed 70 nests this year as compared

with 51 last year (WCR)—a harbinger of good waterfowl breeding performance this spring. At Malheur 761 pairs of Canadas are nesting—up 366 pairs from last year (JCS)—another indication of better water conditions. The only rare duck reported was a pair of European Widgeon—the first record for the area—on April 18-19 (BG) at Antero Reservoir in a mountain valley west of Denver.

Hawks—A Peregrine Falcon seen on May 24 at Parowan, Utah, continues the scattered reports of these birds in the Rockies and Great Basin. There was another report from Casper, Wyo. (OKS).

Cranes—At Monte Vista Refuge in the high dry San Luis valley of Colorado there were 100 Sandhill Cranes, April 1-4 (CRB). This new refuge is becoming a principal crane stopping area.

Shorebirds—A Snowy Plover and a Black-bellied Plover were two new birds for the Minidoka Refuge, Idaho (SRW). Another Upland Plover was seen at Malheur, May 31 (JGO, JBC, Jr.). Perhaps this bird is more regular than has been supposed.

Owls—One Flammulated Owl was caught in a mist net in Zion Canyon, Utah, May 7 (RW); one was found in a yard in the Park, May 8 (RW); another was found dead during the same period. There was also one in the Kolob area of the Park, May 21 (RW). These are the first recordings from Zion Park. Owing to the intensive efforts of the present personnel, many birds are being found that probably have been overlooked there in the past.

Flycatchers—There was a Vermilion Flycatcher at Gabbs, Nev. on April 2 and for several following days (Mrs. WCK). This is farther north in Nevada than this bird usually is reported.

Martins—Five Purple Martins were seen in the big wave at Minidoka, May 29 (SRW). Gleb Kashin had 2 Purple Martins near Salt Lake City, May 10, but they appear there almost every year, whereas this is a first for Minidoka.

Warblers—Unusual warblers seen this spring are: Cape May Warbler at Kittridge west of Denver, May 10 (HRH)—first record for the Denver area; Canada Warbler, May 24, in Bates Hole on the North Platte River, Wyo. (OKS)—a new record for Wyoming; Parula Warbler (rare) at Casper, May 15 (OKS); Townsend's Warbler at Cheyenne, May 14, unusual in spring (MH). In the migratory stopping up or wave at Minidoka on May 29 there was an Am. Redstart (very rare) and 2 Black-and-white Warblers (SRW); a pair of Tennessee Warblers at Malheur headquarters, May 29 (JGO, JBC, Jr.)—another repeat of a new bird for Oregon of last year at the same place.

Orioles—A female Hooded Oriole was at Malheur, May 29 (JGO, JBC, Jr.), a new record for Oregon.

Buntings—Two Indigo Buntings, a great rarity in southern Utah, were seen at Parowan (SM), May 27 and following days.

Sparrows—The Black-chinned Sparrow was found in Zion Canyon, April 22 (DLC, RWR) and April 29 and May 1 (DLC).

Corrigendum—An error crept into a previous report in which 50 Wood Ducks and 50 Hooded

Mergansers were attributed to Minidoka Refuge instead of Deer Flat Refuge. See *Audubon Field Notes* 17(1): 61.

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