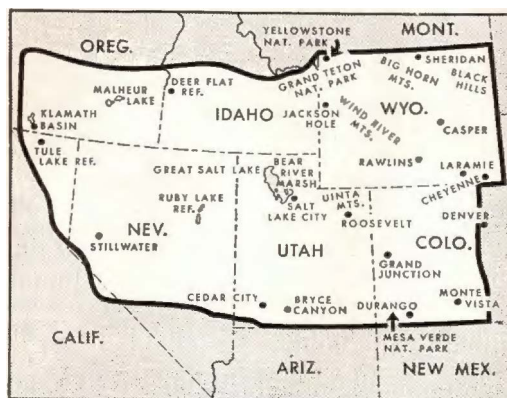


GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.—After a cold, wet spring summer was delayed. Moisture levels were normal or high.



This hurt a few species of waterfowl, such as the Trumpeter Swan. No young were raised at Ruby Lakes, Nev. (DEL). Most areas reported increased duck production, although it often was retarded. In general, our summer was short but good. A disturbing number of observers are reporting fewer birds than formerly—one such is Mrs. Crews at Hotchkiss in the orchard country of the western slope of Colorado. It is highly likely that this decrease has resulted from pesticides.

Heavy June rains in the Great Basin, particularly Nevada and southern Idaho, caused a tremendous growth of grass with fine conditions for many species of birds. In turn, the grass became a fire hazard and large tracts were burned. However, this is not bad as the great change man has wrought on the western ranges has been to stop fires. This has altered the character of the vegetation as much as consistent overgrazing by sheep. Fire removes brushy plants and promotes growth.

Egrets—Two *Cattle Egrets* were seen on Aug. 9 at Farmington Bay, Great Salt Lake (GK)—a predicted range extension.

Ducks—Malheur, Oreg. had adequate water and the best breeding season since 1958 with about 35,000 ducks produced (HFD). Bear River Marshes, north of the Great Salt Lake, enjoyed almost perfect water and vegetation conditions and the second highest duck production in 21 years. The Gadwall was the most common with Cinnamon Teal, Redhead, Pintail, Mallard and Shoveler following in that order (RAK). Minidoka Refuge on the Snake River, Idaho, produced 6000 ducks, largely Mallards (RGN). Monte Vista Refuge, San Luis valley, Colo. again produced more ducks than ever before. This growing refuge produced 14,000 ducks this year—mostly Mallards (CRB).

Four adult ♂ Wood Ducks were seen at Malheur, July 14—an unusual record (HFD). Numbers of Wood Ducks use Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho, as a loafing area during the molt (WCR). Canvasbacks were found nesting at Hutton Lake in the Laramie Plains (CL)—unusual for Wyoming.

Hawks—There was an immature Black Hawk near

Springdale, Utah, July 9 (DLC).

Cranes—There were at least 5 pairs of Sandhill Cranes nesting in the Warner Valley (ENA)—a remote, unspoiled valley in eastern Oregon.

Shorebirds—A large concentration of nesting Mountain Plover was found near Sprague Lake, Laramie Plains, July 18. There were about 25 birds (OKS). Another pair of Mountain Plover was found at Hutton Lake in June (CL).

Gulls & Terns—An adult *Herring Gull* was seen on the Yellowstone River in the Park, Aug. 10 (PAB). A Caspian Tern nested for the first time in several years at the Bear River Marshes (RAK).

Swifts—There has been an invasion of Black Swifts in the Parawan, Utah, area. Up to 40 a day were seen among the White-throats (SM), whereas only a few were seen last year. It is believed they nested on ledges above Paragonah, but it is not known whether there are waterfalls. This interesting high mountain species is believed to nest only within the spray distance of waterfalls.

Flycatchers—On June 20 there was a Cassin's Kingbird in the Salt Lake area (GK)—an unusual occurrence.

Warblers—A pair of *Prothonotary Warblers* was at Eldora, Colo., June 5-12 (GS). This species has occurred before as an accidental.

Buntings—The Indigo Bunting was seen several times at Zion Canyon National Park, Utah. There were two males singing in the lower park, June 23. Another was heard on June 29, and again on July 22, 27, 28 (DLC)—all males and at different places. *Lark Buntings* were seen in eastern Idaho for the first time, at Roberts, June 9 and 14 (AB).

Sparrows—A nesting Fox Sparrow was found north of Dillon in the central Rockies at 9500 ft. (HBH). This is a rare bird in Colorado, but more common farther north.

Contributors—ENA, Eugene N. Anderson; AB, Al Bruner; CRB, Charles R. Bryant; PAB, Paul A. Buckley; DLC, Dennis L. Carter; HFD, H. F. Duebert; HRH, Harold R. Holt; DEL, Donald E. Lewis; RAK, Robert A. Karges; GK, Gleb Kashin; CL, Carroll Littlefield; SM, Stewart Murie; RGN, Robert G. Nelson; WCR, William C. Reffalt; OKS, Oliver K. Scott; GS, Gail Shickley.—OLIVER K. SCOTT, M.D., 437 East 13th St., Casper, Wyo.