

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.—We start on a sad note. Charles W. Lockerbie died at 84 years on Sept. 20. For many



years he was the guiding light among bird-watchers in Utah and had the greatest enthusiasm and knowledge in the Utah Audubon Society. The mountain west has lost its most prominent birder.

The fall was wet and warm. In many areas we had the most delayed winter on record. This has resulted in many late dates. Perhaps the most extraordinary was a Lesser Goldfinch nest in Zion National Park, Utah, from which the last young left on Nov. 5 (*RW, DLC*). The increased moisture has put most of our Great Basin Refuges back into good shape. Consequently, with increased duck numbers, the fall waterfowl migration was leisurely, but much improved.

It is only rarely that waves of migrants are noted in the West in conjunction with storm fronts. Such a wave occurred in Zion Park on Oct. 20-21. Not only was there a big influx of birds, but three new species were added to the Utah list. These were: Eastern Phoebe in Zion Canyon, Oct. 21 (*DLC*); Oct. 22 (*AC*); Palm Warbler, lower Zion Park, Oct. 20 (*DLC, CJ, RW*); Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Oak Creek Canyon, caught in a mist net and collected, Oct. 25 (*RW*). Another was banded in the same place, Nov. 3 (*RW*). Two were seen near Pine Creek Bridge, Nov. 6 (*DLC*), and one was found dead on Switchback Road, Nov. 12 (*DLC*). This influx of hitherto unknown species is remarkable. Or have they been missed?

While the migration in the Great Basin was exciting, the reports from the Central Rockies were dull, except for Durango, where again there was much moisture and warm weather with more birds than usual (*OR*).

Hérons—A Green Heron, a rarity in Utah, was seen in the Jordan River near Salt Lake on Oct. 13 (*RF*).

Swans—Malheur in eastern Oregon reported 4 broods of Trumpeter Swans with 15 cygnets surviving. This is the best reproduction since this species was introduced at Malheur (*EK*). Ruby Lakes, Nev. had 6 cygnets surviving by the end of this period (*DEL*). Whistling Swans were reported in more

normal numbers from Malheur. There were 1850 on Nov. 19—three times as many as last year (EK). Some 18,000 Whistling Swans were present at Bear River at the upper end of the Great Salt Lake by the end of this period—not as many as last year, although they may increase later (VW). The Klamath Basin, Oreg. had 1050 at the peak—about the same as last year (EJO'N). Minidoka Refuge in southern Idaho had about 1000 (SRW).

Ducks and Geese—A fine improvement was experienced in water conditions on the Upper Klamath Basin and the Klamath Forest area. However, the duck migration did not increase over last year. This year the peak of ducks was 1,800,000 on Oct. 5. There were 715,000 geese at the peak of the migration on Oct. 15. Last year's drought had figures a little under these in geese, but it is difficult to compare since the rate of migration makes a difference. Klamath had more serious trouble with botulism. Sick and dead ducks and geese on Lower Klamath and Tule Lake amounted to 25,642. About 6028 were picked up alive and treated, with 82 per cent recovery (EJO'N).

On Malheur Lake there are now 12,000 acres of water instead of last year's 1500. This is the best in 4 years for this season of the year. The duck migration this year, prolonged fall was leisurely with the peak at 151,200 on Oct. 27. This is almost twice last year's high, but there were almost as many 3 weeks earlier and 4 weeks later. The total waterfowl count was 2½ times last year's and was the highest since 1957 for the same period (EK).

The fall migration of waterfowl has been so slow at Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho, that by the end of this period there were only 310,000 ducks there, of which 85 per cent were Mallards (WCR). This is about half the expected number. The peak of the Canada Goose migration at Deer Flat was 9000 birds, Nov. 1.

Minidoka, Idaho, on the Snake River, reported a peak of 150,000 ducks, Oct. 5—more and earlier than usual. By the end of this period there were 30,000 Mallards, the most common wintering duck; 20,000 Canvasback (SRW).

The waterfowl migration at Bear River peaked at 471,555 on Oct. 12. This is better than last year and also a little better than 1961 (VW).

The rare ducks reported included a Black Duck picked up dead at Lower Klamath in September (EJO'N). There were 15 Wood Ducks at Deer Flat Refuge, Oct. 15 (WCR). At the end of this period there were 50 Wood Ducks and 50 Hooded Mergansers at Minidoka (SRW). Another Wood Duck was reported at Parowan, Utah, Oct. 28 (SM).

Hawks—Minidoka Refuge reported the largest number of Golden Eagles with 25 resident there this fall (SRW). All other areas reported only a scattering of eagles. Bald Eagles were reported from Bryce Canyon Nat'l Park (RWR). This is the only place they are reported that is not on some sort of a waterway. A Peregrine Falcon was seen at Parowan, Nov. 13, 27-28 (SM). These birds are seldom reported in the West.

Owls—The irruption of rodents increased in the

Malheur Basin, Oreg. as did the Great Horned Owl population. From Sept. 9 to Oct. 20, 14 Saw-whet Owls were banded (EK); this owl had been thought to be much more scarce. There were 2 Barn Owls at Deer Flat Refuge (WCR). A roost of 15 Long-eared was found at the eastern end of Minidoka Refuge, Nov. 14 (SRW). Group roosting of this species has not been reported for some time. An immature Flammulated Owl—rarely seen—was picked up near Durango, Sept. 1 (OR). A Great Gray Owl was seen feeding young in Yellowstone National Park, Sept. 4 (AB). This bird occurs regularly in north-western Wyoming, but most of us are not fortunate enough to see one.

Hummingbirds—At Hotchkiss in the mesa country of western Colorado the hummers were plentiful (JJC). Mrs. Crews fed 30 a day until Sept. 13. There were Rufous, Broad-tailed and Black-chinned.

Wrens—Winter Wrens were reported from Salt Lake City, Nov. 28 (GK), and from Zion Nat'l Park, Nov. 6 (DLC). Every year a few are reported.

Thrashers—A Brown Thrasher was seen at Minidoka on Sept. 5 and stayed for several weeks (SRW). We are not aware of any other records for Idaho. A Green-tailed Towhee, Nov. 28, in City Canyon, Salt Lake City, was very late (GK).

Thrushes—A Wood Thrush—a new bird for Idaho—was seen at headquarters at Minidoka, Oct. 8-9 (SRW). An Eastern Bluebird was seen at Estabrook in the Laramie Range, Wyo., Sept. 1 (OKS). They may be more common than has been supposed.

Warblers—A second record of the Tennessee Warbler in Oregon was made when a bird was mist-netted at Malheur, Oct. 15 (EK). The first record was last June 14 when one was collected at headquarters. With the aid of a mist net in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, Colo. three warblers were added to the park list: Nashville, Sept. 7, 23; Magnolia, Sept. 10; and Palm, Sept. 20 (AC).

Bobolink—There was a Bobolink in winter plumage a few miles east of Gunnison, Colo. (HLC). These birds are scattered very sparsely over the West and rarely are reported in the fall.

Contributors—AB, Alan Baldrige; DLC, Dennis L. Carter; AC, Allegra Collister; HLC, Howard L. Cogswell; JJC, Mrs. J. J. Crews; RF, Reed Ferris; CJ, Carl Jepson; GK, Gleb Kashin; EK, Eugene Kridler; DEL, Donald E. Lewis; SM, Stewart Murie; EJO'N, Edward J. O'Neill; OR, Oppie Reames; WCR, William C. Reffalt; RWR, Richard W. Russell; OKS, Oliver K. Scott; RW, Roland Wauer; SRW, Sanford R. Wilbur; VW, Vanez Wilson.—DR. OLIVER K. SCOTT, 437 East 13th Street, Casper, Wyoming.