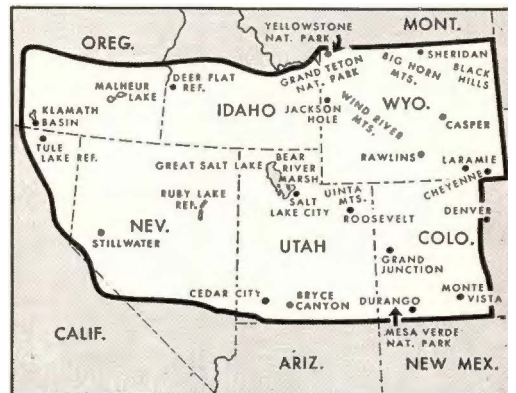


GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.—The winter was relatively warm. In this Region there has never before been so much



moisture. The heavy precipitation reached from the western part of the Region to eastern Wyoming. The prospects for summer water levels for waterfowl breeding have never been better. The Boise River watershed in western Idaho contained 200 percent of its normal supply of snow (the highest on record). Other areas are not far behind. The Klamath Basin grain fields, which the waterfowl use, were flooded and unavailable so the waterfowl were largely forced out. The prospects for the coming breeding season are excellent (*EJO'N*). Malheur Refuge, which had almost dried up, is back to the level of 1958 and

stream flow into the great eastern Oregon sump is predicted to be 150 percent of normal (HFD). Stillwater Refuge, Nev., which recently had been virtually dry, is now back in business in a big way. This area depends on the snow pack of the Sierra, which this year is tremendous. In southern Utah, in the last four months there has been 7.14 in. moisture as compared with 1.19 in. for the same period last year (SM). The high Wasatch Mountains in northern Utah had 160 in. of snow at Alta, a record for recent years. The heavy moisture spread into southern Colorado, where the high dry San Luis valley has soil moisture 130 percent above normal and the surrounding mountains are loaded with snow in sharp contrast to recent years. The Monte Vista Refuge in this arid plain has benefited greatly (CRB). Only in eastern and central Wyoming are there dry areas. The Pacific fronts have lost all their moisture by the time they get this far to the east. This part of the Region is dependent on Arctic fronts from the north, and these have been few and dry. However, several extremely cold fronts did come in late March, but they brought little water and hardly affected the birds; they merely delayed spring migration.

What became of the Bohemian Waxwings and Evening Grosbeaks? The waxwing is a normal winter feature over the northern part of this Region, but there were none this year. The very few Evening Grosbeaks seen early in the season promptly disappeared. As a substitute for the Bohemian there were a number of records of wintering Cedar Waxwings: 70 at Salt Lake City, Feb. 6 (GK); several flocks at Logan, Utah (DMF) and 7 at Casper, Wyo. during February (AO).

Swans—There were 5000 Whistling Swans at Malheur, March 12-18 (HFD) and 7060 in the Klamath Basin, Feb. 28 (EJO'N). Stillwater had 7300 at the peak in the second week of January. This is the highest number since 1958 (PAS). Bear River Marshes, at the north end of the Great Salt Lake, have more than the rest of the refuges combined. There were 30,000 at Bear River, Dec. 3—a very high count (VW).

Ducks and Geese—Stillwater, Nev. had the highest number of Pintails on record with 67,000, March 4; and the highest number of Ruddy Ducks on record with 54,000 in the last week of March. The previous high was 16,700 in 1960. The Common Merganser also had the highest on record at 2800 in the last week of January (PAS). All these records are probably a result of better water conditions. Wood Ducks are steadily increasing in the northwestern part of this Region. There were 25 at Deer Flat Refuge in western Idaho, Feb. 20 (GHC); 10 wintered at Malheur (HFD). The spring migration at Bear River has been average (VW). The peak in ducks was 486,000 in early December. At Malheur the peak Snow Goose count was 95,000, March 12-18. There has been a steady small decline in these birds over the last several years. The peak in ducks was 185,000, March 12-18—an improvement over last year. As usual, most of these ducks were Pintails—140,000 (HFD).

At the great refuges in the Klamath Basin on the

California-Oregon line the peak in waterfowl was early in December with 404,740. Of these, the Pintail was most common with 314,000, March 14-20; next Shoveler, 116,790, Dec. 6-12; Snow Goose, 85,000, March 21-27; Mallard, 57,760, Dec. 6-12; Ruddy Duck, 57,600, March 14-20. These figures are an improvement over last year. There were 2200 Ross' Geese in the last week of February and one Emperor Goose, which is very rare (EJO'N).

Eagles—The reports indicate that eagles, particularly the Golden, are down in numbers; but 20 Bald Eagles were reported wintering in the Parowan, Utah, area (SM). The central Wyoming flyway had Golden Eagles moving south well into February, apparently a result of relatively mild weather.

Cranes—The injured *Whooping Crane* at Monte Vista Refuge, Colo. is doing well. There were 2000 Sandhills present at this refuge by the end of March (CRB), making it the second largest concentration of Sandhills in the Region. The largest concentration was near Malheur, where there were 5000 in the Harney valley in March (HFD).

Gulls—Herring Gulls were seen in March at the Farmington Bay Refuge near Salt Lake City. There were 4 on March 14 (RH, G. Ketel) and there was also a Glaucous Gull. Both species are rare in this area. Farmington Bay is the best birding place near Salt Lake City. Another Herring Gull was seen at Springdale, Zion Park, Feb. 14 (RHW)—first record for the Park.

Owls—A Pygmy Owl was reported from Capitol Reef National Monument, Utah, Jan. 23 (DLC). Another was noted at Parowan on Dec. 4 and Jan. 21 (DLC). This little owl is not often reported.

Flycatchers—An out-of-range Eastern Phoebe was collected at Springdale, March 27 (RHW).

Bluebirds—Western Bluebirds wintered at Durango, Colo., beginning Jan. 20. Up to 50 were seen regularly (OR). There were also Western Bluebirds in the Grand Junction area, where they are more unusual, March 15 (LE).

Warblers—Owing to the relatively warm winter there was an Audubon's Warbler in a city park at Salt Lake City, Feb. 14 (GK).

Sparrows—There were 44 Sage Sparrows in Arches National Monument, in southeastern Utah, Dec. 22, although they were migrants and did not stay; this is the first winter record for the area (DLC). With an excellent reporter in this area for the first time the list and the dates of birds in southeastern Utah are being rapidly changed. Only the high lights are reported here. A Swamp Sparrow was collected at Springdale, March 2 (RHW). This bird is casual in Utah. Four Golden-crowned Sparrows were seen at Zion Park during the winter and 3 were banded (RHW). This bird should be very rare in southern Utah. A Harris' Sparrow found at Christmas time remained all winter in Rocky Mountain National Park (first park record) (JL). At lower elevations these birds are not uncommon.

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JL, James Larson; SM, Steward Murie; EJO'N, Eugene J. O'Neill; AO, Allen Ormand; OR, Oppie Reames; PAS, Peter A. Schwabenland; RHW, Roland H. Wauer; VW, Vanez Wilson.—DR. OLIVER K. SCOTT, 437 East 13th Street, Casper, Wyo.

Corrigendum—The Pomarine Jaeger recorded on Sept. 13, 1964 (*APN* 19 (1):64) should be Mono Lake, *Calif.*, not Nevada. However, it is believed to be the first inland report for California.