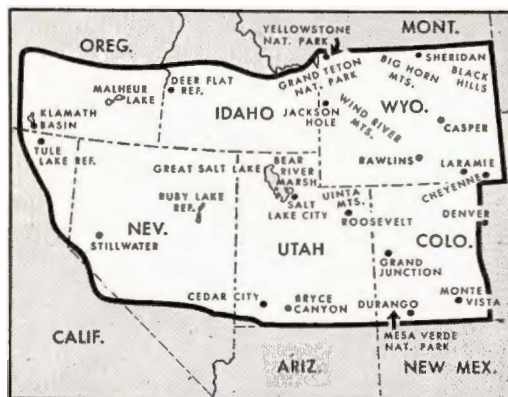


GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUN-TAIN REGION.—April and May produced an ex-traordinary mishmash of weather. It was hardly spring. We had summer with a large dose of win-ter; there was no moderation. Generally, it was very dry—probably the fundamental trouble. April was warm, except April 17-20, when a super cold wave struck the Region. Temperatures were driven down to sub-zero in central Wyoming. The large fruit crop in Utah and western Colorado was destroyed. The cold wave went into southern Colorado, also; it was more moderate in the Great Basin to the west, but still very unseasonal. In the warm weather which followed, the grasses were ahead of schedule, but the tree foliage was much delayed; many leaves were not out at the end of this period. Many exotic



trees were partially or completely killed although native species, such as the cottonwoods, were not hurt, the conifers were badly damaged. Since the cold preceded the arrival of the insectivores, most of these survived.

If there was any migration, it was very poor and the birds went through so fast they were not seen, or the area was by-passed. Residents turned up about on time, until the cold wave; then they were delayed. The extreme dryness and lack of cold fronts caused the poor migration. For instance, in Cheyenne, Wyo. there was a super-drought with no moisture in April and May, and only 15 percent of normal since the first of the year. Normally, April and May produce much of the year's moisture. Paserine birds are usually caught by a few patches of trees that are artificially grown in an area such as the city of Cheyenne. By mid-May the trees were dying unless irrigated and there were hardly any migrant landbirds (MH). Greater numbers than usual of Audubon's Warblers were seen in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, Colo. in May. It is suggested that owing to the drought on the plains the birds kept more to the Colorado mountains (AC). In spite of the drought, many interesting birds were seen.

The great waterfowl refuges of the Great Basin had good holdover moisture from last year and did reasonably well insofar as breeding birds went.

**Grebes**—There was an absence of Eared Grebes in the Klamath Basin, May 28 (WT). Western Grebes appear to be increasing at Bear River Marshes, Great Salt Lake (LFG).

**Hérons**—A Green Heron, a rare bird in the Rockies, was at Antero Reservoir in Park County, west of Denver, May 15 (RG).

**Swans**—Seven Trumpeter Swan nests were found during this period at Ruby Lakes, Nev. (DEL). There were 3 known and 4 suspected nests at the Malheur Refuge, Oreg. (HPD). This species is doing well and expanding into selected areas of its former range.

**Ducks and Geese**—Bear River Marshes reported that the migration of wild fowl passed through rapidly with a peak of 72,631 on April 1, down 33 percent from last year (LFG). The Malheur Refuge has 40 percent of the potential of water flooding in

the Blitzen valley. This is its principal tributary, but there is enough water from last year in Malheur Lake to compensate. The nesting population at Malheur is 900 pairs of Canada Geese and 12,000 pairs of ducks (HPD). At Stillwater, Nev. the waterbird migration was over by the start of the period. Duck nesting is in full swing (LHW). Water conditions are inferior to last year, owing to less snowpack in the Sierra and early warm weather (JMD). Canada Goose production was reported as good over most of this Region. Lake Wolcott on the Minidoka Refuge, Snake River, Idaho was high. The goose nests were inundated but the birds renested (LDN). Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho reports that the water level has been reduced on Lake Lovell—there is little duck and goose breeding there. The nearby islands in the Snake River unit have almost as many nests as last year—271 versus 292 (RVP). The Monte Vista Refuge continues to expand. Water conditions in this San Luis valley refuge are excellent with a big crop of ducks expected. The refuge itself expects about 15,552 ducklings (CRB).

**Eagles and Hawks**—There are fewer nests of the Golden Eagle in Wyoming this year than usual. Some effort is being made to keep track of nests and many have been destroyed this year, mostly by humans (EP). Golden Eagles are not doing very well in southern Utah either (SM). In general, all reports of hawks are down. The only report was of a good flight of Ferruginous Hawks near Cedar City, Utah in May (SM). Six were seen in one morning.

**Gallinules**—A Common Gallinule was seen at Bear River Marshes (LFG). This bird is casual in Utah.

**Shorebirds**—The drop in water has laid open large areas of mud flats at Malheur Refuge. There is an increase in the nesting of the Am. Avocet and Black-necked Stilt (HPD).

**Hummingbirds**—A Black-chinned Hummingbird was seen at Utah State University, Logan, Utah, May 10 (RK). This bird is rare there. The abundance of hummers on the western slope of Colorado was reaffirmed (TC).

**Flycatchers**—A Hammond's Flycatcher was mist-netted at Malheur on May 16, a first spring record (CFZ). As many birders are not sure of the Hammonds—Dusky differentiation, the mist-net seems to be a more accurate way of identification. An Olive-sided Flycatcher on May 31 was another first spring record also for Malheur (CFZ).

**Thrashers**—A Bendire's Thrasher at Arches Nat'l Monument in Utah, April 20, was farther north than this bird has been reported previously (DC). On May 9 another was seen in the nearby needles district of the new Canyonlands Nat'l Park (RD). Perhaps this has been another overlooked species. Another Bendire's was seen, May 16, near Lund in the desert of southwestern Utah (SM).

**Gnatcatchers**—A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, April 16 (RB)—a first record for this bird in the Park, northern Colorado. They are more common both west and north of this.

**Warblers**—Three Painted Redstarts appeared in

Zion Park, Utah, April 24, and stayed 5 days. April 26, 1930 was the last recorded appearance of this species in Zion (RW).

**Bobolinks**—Ten Bobolinks were seen near Logan, Utah, May 23 (DMF). The colony near Malheur is increasing (WT). This bird is very local throughout the West.

**Tanagers**—A Summer Tanager was found at the Horticultural Station, Cheyenne, May 14 (OKS, *et al.*)—the first record for Wyoming.

**Buntings**—An Indigo Bunting was found in Zion Park, May 31 (RW). Another was near Provo, Utah, May 8 (GK). This has been a casual bird in Utah. No hybrids between Lazuli and Indigo Buntings have been reported this year.

**Other Fringillids**—A Lark Bunting was seen near Bear River Marshes, May 23 (DMF). They appear to be increasing in numbers at this refuge (LFG). Farther east this bird is much more common.

Large flocks of Gray-headed Juncos seen at Durango, Colo. on April 20 were very late (OR). The April weather seemed much like February. A Black-throated Sparrow was seen west of Brothers, Oreg., May 30 (WT, *et al.*), farther west than previously reported. A Le Conte's Sparrow at Moab Slough, Utah, April 19, is another casual record for that state (DC).

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