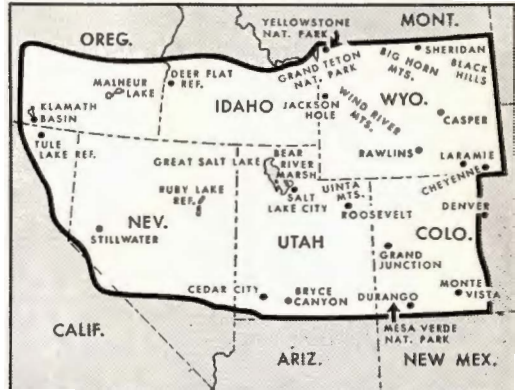


GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUN—TAIN REGION.—In sharp contrast to 1965, which was a very wet year, this summer was remarkably



hot and dry. The exception was in extreme southern Utah, where Zion Park reported as much moisture as usual. Some places considered this one of the driest summers on record, but areas such as the Great Basin have little or no rain in the summer anyway. All in all, it was an extremely dry summer. Since the Great Basin refuges had a large holdover of water from last year they did fairly well. Any depending on this year's run-off, such as the Bear River Marshes, upper end of the Great Salt Lake, had poor production of waterfowl. Most observers agreed that other birds seem to have had a good nesting season.

**Pelicans**—The largest breeding population of White Pelicans reported was from Anaho Island in Pyramid Lake, western Nevada, where 3000 young are produced. This refuge is under the administration of Stillwater Refuge (*LHW*). There were 5000 adults in this area and at Stillwater, itself (*LHW*). Some 5000 more were reported at Malheur, Oreg., where the drying marsh made improved feeding conditions. However, there was no nesting there (*HFD*). Egrets, herons and cormorants doubled their nesting at Malheur (*HFD*).

**Ibis**—Only 2 nests of the White-faced Ibis were found in the Klamath Basin, where this species is becoming rare (*EJO'N*).

**Swans**—Trumpeters had large broods at Malheur: 5 broods with 15 cygnets (*HFD*). There were 7 pairs at Ruby Lakes, Nev. with 11 cygnets (*DEL*). There is often great attrition in the raising of Trumpeter broods. A pair with 6 cygnets, June 6, on the Nat'l Elk Refuge, Jackson Hole, Wyo. was down to one cygnet by Aug. 9 (*DER*). Trumpeters are steadily increasing, but shortly they may reach their limit of suitable habitat in the Jackson Hole area.

**Ducks & Geese**—The Klamath Basin, Oreg.—Calif.

had a 5 percent increase in Canada Goose production. Ducks did better, also, in spite of the poorest precipitation in many years (EJO'N). At Stillwater, Nev. relying on last year's water, there was good production of ducks with 4304 young in spite of the short run-off (LHW). Malheur produced 37,000 ducks in 1965. This year, owing to the drought, there was little suitable habitat in the Blitzen Valley (40 percent of normal) and even less in the "Double O" unit. Some 13,000 ducks were produced (HFD).

Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho, the great Mallard refuge during the fall and winter, had less suitable breeding habitat and produced only 1000 ducks which compared favorably with previous years. There is a fair goose production on the nearby Snake River islands which are part of this refuge. There were 3000 Canada Geese there by the end of this period (RVP).

At the Monte Vista Refuge, San Luis Valley, Colo. there is continued improvement. Conditions were better than ever and more ducks were produced for a total of 22,888 birds; 16,718 of them were Mallard. This growing refuge ranks now with the great ones.

Hawks—All seemed to agree that these birds are steadily becoming scarcer. It is thought that hawks are being transported out of the western states to falconers in the East in relatively large numbers.

Osprey—Three pairs nested on Jackson Lake, Grand Teton Park, Wyo., June 30 (MMB). Three other pairs were nesting near the falls of the Yellowstone in Yellowstone Park (OKS), but we do not have figures on young. An Osprey nested at Electra Lake, 10 miles north of Durango, Colo. (OR). These birds are uncommon migrants in Colorado and there have been very few nesting records. Three young birds were seen at Palisades Lake on the Snake River, Wyoming-Idaho border (GK).

Shorebirds—Fifteen thousand Am. Avocets at Stillwater (LHW) is the highest concentration reported in this Region. At the same time, there also were 8000 Black-necked Stilts at this refuge.

Owls—Short-eared Owls turn up on the refuges in numbers as conditions are often excellent. This year 5 pairs nested at Monte Vista (CRB). A Great Gray Owl was seen, June 10, in the southern part of Yellowstone Park (JLH). These birds occur regularly in small numbers in both Yellowstone and Grand Teton Parks, but few visitors are fortunate enough to see them.

Woodpeckers—There has been a huge infestation of bark beetles in the lodgepole pines of Grand Teton Park. Whole sections of the forest are dead or dying, in spite of a very extensive and unwise spraying program by the Park Service (cf. Adolf Murie's article in the June 1966 issue of *National Parks Magazine*—"Pesticide Program in Grand Teton Park"—Vol. 10, p. 17-19). This is the land of the Northern Three-toed Woodpecker. Several were seen near Two Ocean Lake, July 10 (OKS). On nearby Pilgram Creek a nest was found with feathered young (GK). Apparently, so far, these birds are surviving the poisoning.

Vireos—Gray Vireos were present all summer in two localities at Arches Nat'l Monument, Utah

(DLC). They were not known there until last year.

Warblers—A Chestnut-sided Warbler was mist-netted at Malheur on June 21 (CFZ). This is the first record for the state. A Wilson's Warbler was found feeding a young Brown-headed Cowbird, west of Denver on July 23 (RG).

Buntings—An Indigo Bunting was found near Cedar City, southern Utah, July 15 (SM). This bird is casual in Utah. Lark Buntings appear to have shifted west this season to higher elevations in Colorado. They were reported in Rocky Mountain Park (AC).

Rosy Finches—Two Black Rosy Finches were found on the Steens Mountains of eastern Oregon, June 19 (CFZ). These birds have not been recorded in this area before.

Sparrows—Cassin's Sparrows were found in the Great Sand Dunes Nat'l Monument to the west of the Sangre de Cristo range on the east side of the San Luis Valley, Colorado. This is farther west than it had previously occurred. Two singing birds were seen on July 2 (RG); and again on July 25 (WR). A Rufous-crowned Sparrow was found singing and nesting at Zion Park, June 28 (RW). This is the first nesting record for the bird in Utah.

Conaributors—MMB, Mike M. Browne; CRB, Charles R. Bryant; DLC, Dennis L. Carter; AC, Allegra Collister; HFD, Harold F. Duebber; RG, Robert Gustafson; MH, Milton Haderlie; JLH, John L. Hamilton; GK, Gleb Kashin; DEL, Donald E. Lewis; SM, Stewart Murie; EJO'N, Edward J. O'Neill; RVP, Ronald V. Papika; OR, Oppie Reames; DER, Donald R. Redfern; WR, William Reid; OKS, Oliver K. Scott; RW, Roland Wauer; LHW, Larry H. Worden; CFZ, C. Fred Zeillemaker.—DR. OLIVER K. SCOTT, 437 East 13th Street, Casper, Wyo.