



conditions are the best they have been in years in the Great Basin. Springs were running in the mountains more profusely than they have in many seasons. After September the fall was warm and freeze-up had not come in most areas by the end of this season. Water and weather resulted in a late but better waterfowl migration than for some years. Information on the movement of landbirds is scanty and the paucity of cold fronts contributed to the lack of records. From the middle of September to the end of November there were no cold fronts worth mentioning in the Central Rocky Mountain area. At Casper, Wyo. during this period of ten weeks there was only .11 inch of moisture—this is equivalent to one heavy dew elsewhere.

A weak, cold front, Sept. 3-5, on the eastern edge of the Rockies brought excellent banding conditions in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park—121 birds were banded in 44 hours (*AC*).

Grebes—The mortality among Western Grebes and Eared Grebes increased on Lower Klamath Lake in the Klamath Basin, Oreg-Calif.—presumably a result of the washing effect of last winter's floods on surrounding fields that had been treated with pesticides (*EJO'N*).

Swans—The Trumpeter Swan did not increase in Jackson Hole-Teton Nat'l Park, Wyo., where the bird has reached its limit in suitable habitat. At Ruby Lake, Nev. there were 9 cygnets, making a total of 26—a new high (*DEL*). Eleven cygnets were produced at Malheur, Oreg. from 4 broods. This is second only to 1963. The total Trumpeter Swan population at Malheur is now up to 40—another new high (*HFD*).

The Whistling Swans had not yet arrived in great numbers at Stillwater Refuge, Nev. at the end of this fall season (*PAS*). There was a poor showing in the Klamath Basin of only 560 (*EJO'N*). Malheur had 5500 on Nov. 10-16 (*HFD*). Bear Lake Marshes, Great Salt Lake, had 24,000—an all-time high (*LFG*).

Ducks & Geese—At Stillwater the fall waterfowl migration was the best on record. November 17 was the peak of the migration with 246,000 ducks: Pintail was top at 65,000; Green-winged Teal, 56,000 (ordinarily this is the common duck at Stillwater); Shoveler, 34,000; Ruddy Duck, 35,000; Gadwall,

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.—Although it is difficult to generalize in such a large area, 1965 was extraordinarily wet through September; some areas had their coldest, wettest September on record. The Region has since returned to its normal dry state, but water

21,000; Redhead, 28,000 (highest number on record) Canvasback, 21,000 (highest since 1958) (*PAS*).

The Klamath Basin, where water conditions are now excellent, had the peak waterfowl migration the last week of October: 3,287,710—two weeks later than last year's 3,319,880. The Pintail, as always, was the most numerous with 1,553,400; next, Am. Widgeon at 260,500; (Cackling) Canada Goose, 382,000; White-fronted Goose, 335,800; Snow Goose, 301,000 (*EJO'N*).

Malheur also has excellent water conditions; 40,000 acres of water this fall with 12,000 acres in good sago pondweed production, the principal food at Malheur. Elsewhere the waterfowl feed principally on cereal grains. The peak of the duck population at Malheur was 375,000 on Oct. 6-12; Pintail, 115,000; Am. Widgeon, 112,000; Mallard, 50,000; Green-winged Teal, 25,000. This is the highest number of ducks there since 1957. There were 25,000 Canvasbacks on Nov. 10-16, a very high figure. There were few young Snow Geese; presumably these birds had a poor nesting season in the Arctic (*HFD*).

Summer Lake, northeast of the Klamath Basin, confirms the poor production of Snow Geese. About 200,000 were present at Summer Lake by Nov. 20, but very few were young birds. Some 75 percent of these geese breed on Wrangel Island off the north coast of Siberia (*CEK*).

Bear River Marshes, Utah, enjoyed fine water conditions and had a high of 602,700 ducks on Oct. 14—the highest figure since 1957 (*LFG*). Deer Flat Refuge near Boise, Idaho, is a big Mallard refuge but because of the warm fall there were only 200,000 there—a 70 percent drop from last year (*RVP*). Monte Vista Refuge, Colo. had a peak of 23,200 ducks, Sept. 26–Oct. 2. These were principally Mallards (*CRB*).

Rare Ducks & Geese—Five *Wood Ducks* have been staying at a pond near Salt Lake City (*GK*). They were seen, Sept. 20, and before. These birds are very rare in the Mountain West. A pair of Oldsquaws was seen on Standard Lake just north of Casper, Wyo. from Nov. 21 (*OKS, et al.*). The Standard Oil Refinery at Casper used to pollute the North Platte River for miles, but this chemically contaminated water now flows to a sump just north of town and goes through a series of settling ponds and ends up pure and loaded with food in a big protected lake. This is now the best place in Wyoming to see waterfowl, wading birds, grass birds, etc. as well as Antelope. Another Oldsquaw was at Malheur, Oct. 21 (*HFD*).

Klamath Basin's rarities were 9 *Emperor Geese*, a *European Widgeon*, 2 *Egyptian Geese* and 2 (Tule) *White-fronted Geese* (*EJO'N*). A *Ross' Goose* was picked up at Bear River Marshes on the east side of the Great Basin where it is very rare, whereas it is relatively common on the west side of the Rockies (*LFG*). Another *Ross' Goose* was seen at Monte Vista, Colo. (*CRB*).

Ten Hooded Mergansers were seen on an estuary off Upper Klamath Lake, Nov. 27 (*VGD, et al.*).

Hawks—A Swainson's Hawk at Richfield, Utah,

Nov. 18, was late (*GK*). A Peregrine Falcon was reported at Tule Lake in the Klamath Basin, Nov. 26 (*VGD, et al.*), and at Cedar City, Utah, Aug. 19 and Nov. 20 (*SM*).

Waders—Two *Mountain Plover* were seen at Cedar City, Sept. 24; 4 were seen at the same place, Oct. 4 (*SM*). This bird has been thought to be casual in Utah. There was an *Upland Plover* at the same place, Aug. 28 and 29 (*SM*)—another very rare bird.

Jaegers—A jaeger, said to be a *Pomarine*, was seen at the Clifton sewage lagoon near Grand Junction, Colo., Oct. 15 (*LFE, et al.*). Jaegers have now been reported in all the mountain states and probably should no longer be regarded as accidental.

Swifts—Three *Vaux's Swifts* were at Springdale, Utah, from Sept. 11 to 15 (*RHW*). This is the first record for southern Utah.

Owls—A dead male *Flammulated Owl* was found in Blacksmith Fork Canyon, Utah, Sept. 21 (*DMF*). Not far away a Saw-whet Owl was seen on Sept. 27. A *Pygmy Owl* was seen close by on Nov. 19 (*DMF*). All these owls are rare.

Goatsuckers—There was a late report of a Whip-poor-will calling at Pine Lake, northeast of Bryce Nat'l Park, July 7 and 9 (*RWR*)—a first record from that area, I believe.

Swallows—Some 8 Purple Martins were last seen at Cedar City, Utah, Aug. 17 (*SM*).

Bluebirds—There are persistent reports of decreased numbers of Mountain Bluebirds. They are believed to be only one-quarter as common as fifteen years ago at Durango, Colo. (*OR*).

Vireos and Warblers—A Gray Vireo was still singing in Arches Nat'l Monument, Utah, on Aug. 17 (*DLG*). An *Am. Redstart* was banded at Malheur, Aug. 24 and a *Tennessee* on Aug. 31 (*CFZ*). Another *Am. Redstart* was collected in Logan Canyon, Utah, Aug. 27 (*DMF*).

Starlings and Blackbirds—Since last year Starlings have decreased 50 to 75 percent in the Lahontan valley near Stillwater, Nev. Decreases in Brewer's Blackbirds, particularly, were noted in western Nevada (*PAS*) and central Wyoming (*OKS*). Although we have no figures, big flocks have become little flocks—it is presumed this is a result of insecticides and bird poisonings.

Redpolls—There were 4 redpolls at 9400 ft. in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, Oct. 30 (*JS*) and 3 on Crow Hill at 8200 ft. near Bailey in the Colorado Rockies, Nov. 14 (*BG*), which indicates a heavy flight of redpolls this year.

Contributors—*CRB*, Charles R. Bryant; *DLC*, Dennis L. Carter; *AC*, Allegra Collister; *VGD*, Valeria G. DaCosta; *HFD*, Harold F. Duebber; *LFE*, Lucy F. Ela; *DMF*, Dennis M. Forsythe; *LFG*, Lloyd F. Gunther; *BG*, Bob Gustafson; *GK*, Gleb Kashin; *CEK*, Chester E. Kebbe; *DEL*, Donald E. Lewis; *SM*, Stewart Murie; *EJO'N*, Edward J. O'Neil; *RVP*, Ronald V. Papika; *OR*, Oppie Reames; *RWR*, Richard Russell; *JS*, Jeffrey Sanders; *PAS*, Peter A. Schwaabland; *OKS*, Oliver K. Scott; *RHW*, Roland H. Wauer; *CFZ*, C. Fred Zeilemaker.—*DR. OLIVER K. SCOTT, 437 East 13th Street, Casper, Wyo. 82601.*