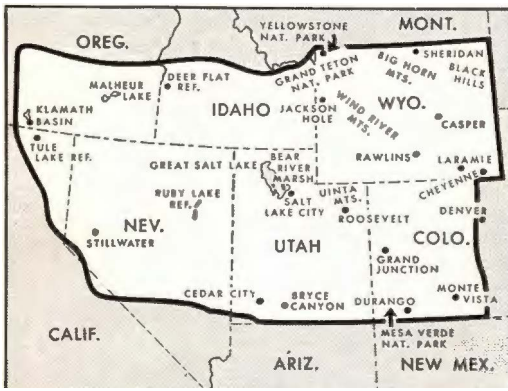


GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.—April and May were endured by local residents as an extension of winter. Frequent



wet snows occurred through May in the central Rockies and plateaus. Most stations reported April and May much colder and more moist than average. Typical was a report from Oliver Larochelle at Modoc Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in northeastern California: "This has been the longest, coldest, wettest spring on record for Modoc County. Snow fell nearly every day of both months and it was snowing May 31." A blizzard swept through northeastern Wyoming in the first week of May, leaving drifts up to 20 ft. deep (LM). There was much loss of livestock, and, as always, it was presumed that there was great loss among the birds. This editor doubts that losses are great in such storms, with the possible exception of young birds in the nest, and this particular storm occurred before the bulk of passerines had arrived. In this connection, Winston Brockner observed 3 Broad-tailed Hummingbirds in a heavy snow storm in the mountains west of Denver, Colo. on May 26, and these birds did survive. The greatest loss after a storm is along highways where cars kill huge num-

bers of birds, mainly Horned Larks, which congregate on the black top after the snow has melted.

Both vegetation and bird migration were 1 to 3 weeks late this season, and much of what is normally called spring migration occurred after May. Winter birds lingered much longer than usual, almost to June. Southern Colorado was very dry until late May. At Stillwater Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Churchill Co., Nev., water conditions were excellent for the first time in a number of years, and a good growth of aquatic vegetation can be expected (LDN). Little food grew last year because of the drought. Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, the great sump in eastern Oregon, has wonderful water conditions this year, and Harney Lake, an overflow area, is expected to get water again (ELMcL).

Waterfowl—At Deer Flat Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Idaho some young Canada Geese hatched about April 15 in the islands of the Snake River and all were hatched by the end of April. The hatch was average and the timing about as usual. The spring migration of waterfowl was over by the start of this reporting period (RVP). A *Black Brant* was seen at Reno, Nev., May 5 (JMD); this bird is rare so far east. At Bear River Marsh in Utah high water spread the nesting waterfowl over a larger area. This made nests almost impossible to count. There was some nest flooding (MKH). A Wood Duck was reported from the Cache valley of northeastern Utah, May 10 (LR). This species is a regular visitor at Deer Flat Refuge, but does not breed there (RVP). A drake Harlequin Duck was seen on May 16 on the upper Wind River near Dubois in western Wyoming, where the species has not been reported recently (MB). Two Hooded Mergansers were observed on April 25 in southwestern Utah, where they are rarely seen (SM).

Hawks—Buteos were again reported as down in western Idaho (TL). The situation seems most discouraging, as we never have an increase reported.

Grouse—A Sage Grouse strutting ground was found at the north end of the National Elk Refuge, Teton Co., Wyo., May 15 (DER). The population of these birds in Jackson Hole is growing.

Cranes—3000 Sandhill Cranes were reported near Burns in eastern Oregon on May 1 (CDL). On the basis of footprints they were identified as *Lesser* in contrast to the *Greater* that inhabit the nearby Malheur Refuge.

Rails—A *Black Rail* seen at Modoc Refuge on April 18 (OEL) established a new record for that area.

Shorebirds—Five Semipalmated Plovers were seen at Utah Lake in central Utah on May 7 (GK). Occurrence of this species in the Salt Lake valley is very unusual. Several more were seen on May 2 in the Fernley marshes of western Nevada and on May 6 at Stillwater Refuge in the same area (JMD). They are probably more common in this part of the Region but have not been reported recently. A Piping Plover was seen at Lake Desmet just east of the Big Horn Mountains in northern Wyoming on May 13 (TK). Ten Whimbrels were at Fish Springs Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Utah on May 21

(DMcK) and 3 at Cheyenne, Wyo. on May 20 (OKS, *et al.*).

Swifts, Owls, Waxwings—*Probable* Chimney Swifts were seen at Grand Junction in western Colorado on April 23 (LFE). This locality is too far west to be sure they were Chimney Swifts and too far east to believe they were Vaux's Swifts. A Barn Owl reported as nesting in the Salt Lake valley (GK) is the first observation of this species there in several years. Since there are no reports of Barn Owls to the east of Utah until one gets to the Great Plains, this is an isolated population. Bohemian Waxwings lingered very late this year, with birds reported at Logan, Utah, May 16 (DMF), and at Dubois, Wyo., May 10 (MB).

Warblers—Black-and-white Warblers were seen near Reno, May 9 and 10 (JMD). Although this is one of the warblers that does straggle west, Reno is very far west for it. A Parula Warbler was seen in the mountains west of Denver on May 13 (RG). There were two reports of Chestnut-sided Warblers: one in the mountains west of Denver, May 13 (RG), and one at Cheyenne, May 20 (FS). Several Blackpoll Warblers were seen this spring: two were at widely separated spots in southeastern Wyoming, Cheyenne and Springer Lake, May 20 (OKS, *et al.*); one netted at Rub Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in eastern Wyoming (DEL); and another was seen at Springer Lake, Wyo., May 18 (TK). A Palm Warbler seen on May 20 at the Wyoming Hereford Ranch near Cheyenne (OKS, *et al.*) is another instance of a bird whose status must be changing. Previously recorded as accidental in the region, this species also was seen last fall.

Grosbeaks and Buntings—A Rose-breasted Grosbeak and an Indigo Bunting were seen in the mountains west of Denver, at Kittredge, May 17 (HK). Both species rarely get into the mountains. Another Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen at Eldora, Boulder Co., Colo. on May 30 (GS). For the first time, Evening Grosbeaks were reported in numbers in May in the orchards of Delta County on the western slope of Colorado (TC).

Sparrows—A Harris' Sparrow was seen at a feeder near Dubois, Wyo., May 3 (MB), an unusually late date.

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