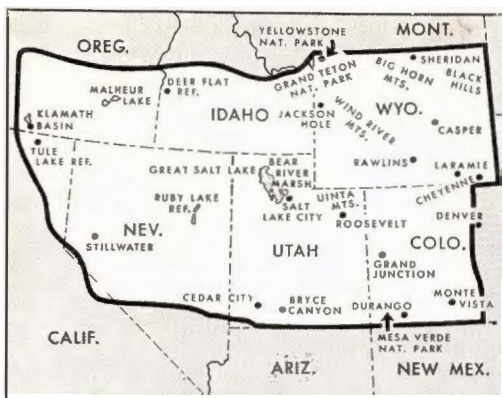


GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.—The spring migration continued until about the third week of June, a month which was cool and wet. This is an understatement. It was the wettest June on record—another understatement. June was the wettest month yet recorded in central Wyoming or, to put it another way, June and the early part of July were the rainiest period we have ever had. This was true of both Colorado and Wyoming and to a lesser extent of the western part of the Region. The remainder of the period was characteristically hot and dry, without rain, which is normal. Owing to the floods, water birds and shorebirds had a poor nesting season, but upland gallinaceous birds did very well. Passerines



had their troubles with heavy rains and didn't seem to do very well.

The Region still has too few observers, and our knowledge of the distribution of birds is too fragmentary. Consequently, a mist-netting program at Ruby Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in northeastern Nevada is rewriting our knowledge of the birds of that area. A somewhat similar phenomenon is occurring at Craters of the Moon Nat'l Monument in central Idaho, caused merely by the presence of a competent observer.

For the past nine years Pyramid Lake in western Nevada, which is fed by the Truckee River, has been drying up. This year there was a huge run-off from the Sierra snowpack, and Pyramid Lake rose to the level of 9 years ago. This was fortunate because Anaho Is., the famous rookery in the lake, would have become part of the mainland had the drying process continued (JMD).

Loons—A sighting of an adult Com. Loon and 3 apparent juveniles on Torrey Lake at the Audubon Camp of the West in the Wind River Mountains of western Wyoming (WAH) is a probable breeding record farther south and east than previously reported in the Region.

Pelicans—This year Anaho Is. in Pyramid Lake was used by 6500 adult White Pelicans, and 1500 young were produced (LDN). The White Pelican population at Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in eastern Oregon, where the species did not breed, was 2300 birds (ELMcL). Bear River Marshes at the upper end of Great Salt Lake had 10,000 White Pelicans, which bred elsewhere (GRZ).

Geese and Ducks—A straggling Snow Goose found at Mulligan Lake in South Park in the Colorado mountains on June 4 (RG) was unusual for that area. A Ross' Goose was seen at Tule Lake in the Klamath Basin in extreme northern California on Aug. 4 (JG). Because of early high water, Stillwater Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Nevada experienced a drop in the breeding population of ducks, which resulted in decreased production (LDN). In contrast, Malheur Refuge produced 22,800 waterfowl this year compared with 13,000 last year, thanks to much better water conditions; at this refuge Gadwall production was up 117 percent to 8700 (38 percent of the total production),

with Redheads second and Blue-winged/Cinnamon Teal third in importance (ELMcL). At Bear River Marshes breeding was very scattered because of the high water, with a production of 14,360 ducks (GRZ). Monte Vista Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in southern Colorado produced 18,000 ducks compared with 23,000 last year, owing to the cool moist weather, and brood sizes there were smaller (CRB). Wood Ducks were found nesting on the Carson River on the eastern slope of the Sierra in western Nevada on June 14, with 3 groups totaling 21 birds being observed (JMD).

Heron—A Green Heron found at Fish Springs Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in the desert of western Utah on Aug. 6 (DMcK) was most unusual.

Eagles—A Golden Eagle nesting on a haystack at Malheur Refuge (ELMcL) also was rather unusual. We have no general statement as to how Golden Eagles fared this year except for one educated estimate for all of Wyoming that they had better than average success in rearing young this year (EP).

Grouse, Cranes—A very successful breeding season for Sage Grouse was noted in the vicinity of Craters of the Moon Nat'l Monument (DLC). This species also did well in central Wyoming, particularly in an area where sagebrush had been destroyed with 2-4D (OKS). Two Sandhill Cranes spent the summer at Monte Vista Refuge; although none have nested there yet, more and more cranes have used this refuge (CRB).

Shorebirds—Two Mountain Plover nests were found near Antero Reservoir in South Park, in the mountains west of Colorado Springs, June 18 and 24 (RG); formerly this bird was much more common in Colorado.

Owls—A gray phase Screech Owl was seen on June 21 in Zion Canyon, southern Utah (BL), and another was found dead on July 10 in Logan Canyon, northeastern Utah (DMF); this bird is not often reported in Utah. A *Pygmy Owl* was seen at Louise Lake near the Audubon Camp of the West for the first record of this bird in the Wind River Mountains (WAH). A Saw-whet Owl was mist-netted at Ruby Lake Refuge for the first record for northeastern Nevada (DEL); another was reported in juniper-piñon growth at Cedar City in southern Utah on July 27 (SM).

Woodpeckers—Lewis' Woodpeckers were found to be remarkably common at Craters of the Moon Nat'l Monument (DLC). A Northern Three-toed Woodpecker found nesting at Brighton, Utah, in the Wasatch Range near Salt Lake City, was almost three-fourths of a mile from pine trees (GK); usually this bird is closely associated with pines.

Flycatchers, Swallows—On July 10 a Great Crested Flycatcher was found at the Horticultural Station in Cheyenne, southeastern Wyoming (RH), a splendid trap of trees in the middle of a vast treeless prairie. This bird is accidental in Wyoming. An E. Phoebe was seen on June 5 at the Goose Egg in central Wyoming (OKS), where this bird has been casual. Purple Martins were seen at Tony Grove Lake, Logan Canyon, all June and July, but

nests were not found (DMF). Nine martins were present on Aug. 8 near Cedar City in southwestern Utah (SM). Martins are rare in Utah and even scarcer in the states to the east until one gets to the plains.

Mockingbirds—There was a minor invasion of this species in the Carson City-Truckee area, where they are normally scarce, and an immature bird was seen near Carson City (JMD). Ordinarily the Mockingbird is confined to southern Nevada, and there are no breeding records for central Nevada.

Warblers—The mist-netting program at Ruby Lake Refuge yielded a Myrtle Warbler, the first recorded in northeastern Nevada; a *Blackpoll Warbler*, the first record for the state; and a *Northern Waterthrush*, also a first record for the state (DEL). On June 9 a *Cape May Warbler* was seen in eastern Oregon sagebrush country at Malheur Refuge by the Oregon Natural History Society; this is probably the first record for the state (ELMcL).

Bobolink, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Sparrows—The large Bobolink colony present last year south of Logan, Utah was not present this year (DMF); apparently this species can be variable. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen at Sheridan in northern Wyoming, July 16-31 (TK); this species is often seen as a migrant in Wyoming but rarely in the middle of summer. A pair of Evening Grosbeaks was reported on July 5 near Bergen Park west of Denver (VR); it is suspected that these birds may have nested in the area and, if so, this would be a new station for them in Colorado. An Indigo Bunting was seen on June 21 in Zion Nat'l Park, southern Utah, where it has not been recorded previously (BL). This bird has been considered casual in Utah. Another was seen on June 6 at Goose Egg in central Wyoming, where they are probably only rare and where intergrades with the Lazuli Bunting are not too unusual (LL). Mist-netting at Ruby Lake Refuge yielded a *Harris' Sparrow*, the second record for northeastern Nevada, and a *White-throated Sparrow*, the third record for the state (DEL).

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