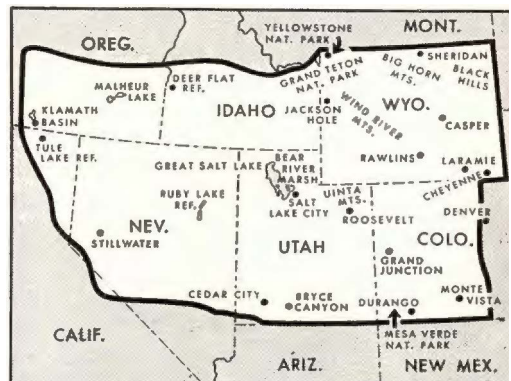


GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAINS REGION.—The fall season, after an exceptionally dry summer, was virtually normal in



moisture and temperature. A great movement of birds from the mountains to lower elevations occurred and in some areas, such as Salt Lake City, it was earlier than usual. In other areas, such as

Casper, Wyo. and the front range of the Colorado Rockies, birds, which normally never come to lower elevations, did so. There is no explanation, but the drought of last summer might have deprived the mountain species of their usual food seeds. On the other hand, an unusually heavy crop of piñon nuts on the mesa around Grand Junction, Colo. brought in large flocks of Evening Grosbeaks, Piñon Jays and Clark's Nutcrackers (*LFE*). Another observer, in southern Utah, felt there were fewer, but more unusual birds. (*SM*).

In Arches Nat'l Monument, Utah, not only was the movement of mountain birds most marked but 4 species not previously recorded were seen: Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper and Cassin's Finch. Grazing in the Monument has finally been largely eliminated; grass is returning and the bird and animal life is changing. So much of the semi-arid West is overgrazed, the average tourist does not realize that the vegetation has been vastly changed.

Herons—There were 70 Snowy Egrets on the Colorado River at Grand Junction, Sept. 1-5; the largest number recorded in that area (*LFE*). A Green Heron in the same area, Nov. 21 (*LFE*) was the first for that region.

Swans—There are now 14 adult Trumpeter Swans and 11 cygnets at Ruby Marsh, Nev. (*OEL*). The adult population does not grow rapidly and the young disappear and are not recorded elsewhere. There was a high fall count of Trumpeter Swans: 45 at Malheur, Oreg. (*DAP*); 99, 13 of which were cygnets, at Jackson Lake dam, Grand Teton Nat'l Park; and 15 more elsewhere on Jackson Lake (*DER*).

Malheur had a respectable peak figure of 8000 Whistling Swans during the third week of November (*DAP*) and the Bear River Marshes, at the upper end of Great Salt Lake, had the highest peak number (20,000) in this Region, Nov. 12 (*LFG*).

Geese and Ducks—Stillwater Wildlife Management Area, at the end of the Carson River, again was hampered by low water and the demand for irrigation purposes exceeded the supply. The Stillwater migration peaked at 100,000 on Oct. 1—less than half last year's figure. Gadwall, Am. Widgeon and Green-winged Teal each numbered around 16,000. Later in October the Canvasback was the most numerous duck at 13,500 (*LDN*).

Due to the previous dry weather, the Klamath Basin did not reach normal water levels until November. In addition, a cold spell on Nov. 13 drove many of the birds away and last year's peak of 3½ million waterfowl was never reached. The Pintail, at 1,705,200, was the most numerous duck at Klamath, Oct. 9-15—a somewhat higher total than last year. Next in abundance was the White-fronted Goose (493,010), Oct. 23-29; then the Cackling Goose (355,050), Nov. 6-12; followed by the Snow Goose (328,030), Nov. 6-12. These figures show a small improvement over last year. Emperor Geese and Black Brant were taken by hunters at Klamath in October (*EJO'N*).

Malheur, Oreg., has shrunk owing to the drought.

Last year the lake covered 40,000 acres; this fall only 18,000 acres. Waterfowl peaked at 265,000 the first week of September: Shoveler, 100,000; Pintail, 60,000; Am. Widgeon, 50,000; Mallard, 20,000; and Gadwall, 18,000. The great flocks of geese that usually stop were seen flying over (*DAP*).

At Bear River Marshes the peak of the duck migration was early. The top came with a low figure of 222,575 on Sept. 9. Rarities included a *Blue Goose*, a *Black Duck*, an *Am. Scoter* and a *White-winged Scoter*. The latter was collected (*LFG*). Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho, had 403,500 waterfowl by the end of this period—375,000 Mallards (*RVP*).

Three White-fronted Geese were reported from Monte Vista Refuge, Colo., the last half of October (*CRB*) and 2 at Lake DeSmet, Wyoming, Nov. 27 (*TK*). Both reports were far east for this species.

Wood Ducks have been rare in the West but the scattered reports each year are increasing: a few were at Reno (*JMD*); 1 on Oct. 1 in Cedar Valley, Utah (*SM*); another on Oct. 27 near Boise, Idaho (*TL*). An *Oldsquaw* was at the Wyoming Hereford Ranch pond near Cheyenne, Nov. 1. (*LM*) and 1 was seen at the Standard Oil refinery sump north of Casper, Nov. 20 (*OKS*). Five *Blue Geese* were seen at Stillwater, Nov. 15 (*LDN*).

Hawks—A Peregrine Falcon was seen in eastern Nevada, Aug. 30 (*RF*). Nests of the Prairie Falcon in this Region are being robbed not only for individual use, but also for commercial purposes. In most western states the birds of prey are not protected. In the mountain states most protection has been by the federal government which owns the greater part of the land. We need a federal law prohibiting the interstate transportation of birds of prey!

Gulls—A Herring Gull was seen at Lake DeSmet, Nov. 20 (*TK*) and 1 spent the fall at the Casper city dump (*FL*). These are almost always first-year birds and are seen regularly in the late fall in eastern Wyoming.

Owls—A Pygmy Owl was banded at Evergreen in the Rockies just west of Denver, Sept. 10 (*WWB*). Another was reported in a bird bath at Bryce Canyon, Utah, Nov. 18 (*DEM*). These owls are being reported more frequently. A *Flammulated Owl* was found alive north of Durango on Aug. 18, but it died shortly afterwards (*OR*). Another was seen by the park naturalist in the front range of the Rockies, Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, in mid-August (*AC*). The only previous record was in 1903.

Jays—A Blue Jay was seen on Cedar Mt., Cedar City, Utah, Oct. 29 (*SM*)—a first record for the state. Another was present in Rocky Mt. Nat'l Park, Oct. 15-17 (*Mrs. RW*) where there have only been two previous records.

Mockingbirds—One was seen near Fort Klamath, Klamath Basin, Oreg., Oct. 18 (*RMcPB*). This bird is rare in this area, but wanders north along its range.

Warblers—Orange-crowned Warblers were seen at Logan, Utah, as late as Nov. 25-26 (*KLD*). A Palm Warbler seen at Casper, Nov. 17 (*LL*), is

believed to be the second record for the state. A first mountain record for Colorado was a Parula Warbler seen in Rocky Mt. Nat'l Park, Aug. 1 (AW).

Redpoll—A Common Redpoll was seen on a peak near Reno, Nev., Nov. 26 (JK), a little south of its usual range.

Sparrow—A rare White-throated Sparrow was seen near Cedar City, Utah, Oct. 5 (SM).

Longspur—A McCown's Longspur was seen in the Cedar Valley, Nov. 24 (SM).

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