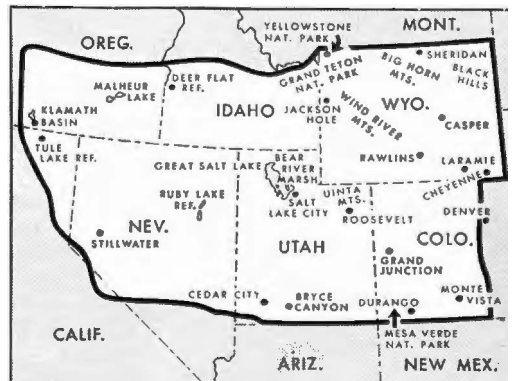


GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.—The spring season was one of contrasts in this Region. The Central Rockies ex-



perienced cold and wet weather, with late snows. It was the coldest April in 38 years at Grand Junction, Colo., and a record snowpack was accumulated in central Wyoming. The western Great Basin, however, experienced very little precipitation and became very dry, with a poor snowpack in the Sierra Nevada. Fortunately, some areas such as Klamath Basin in eastern Oregon and Stillwater Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Nevada had sufficient supplies of water left over from last season. Migration was as varied as the weather. In the Central Rockies the main flights were almost two weeks later than normal, with much of the migration occurring after

June 1. In the Great Basin, however, the migration was regarded as average in most respects. An excellent shorebird flight was recorded in the eastern part of the Region, perhaps because of better water conditions there.

Loon, Grebes—An Arctic Loon collected at Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge constituted the first record for that part of Oregon (ELMcL). A count of 10 Horned Grebes at Grand Junction, Colo. on May 27 (LFE) was higher than is usually reported for this regular spring migrant in the Rockies.

Egrets—Cattle Egrets were reported in two new localities, namely, Bear River Marshes at the upper end of the Great Salt Lake, where 2 were seen on April 20 (PJF) and 1 on April 27 (GK), and Florida Mesa near Durango in southwestern Colorado, where 3 were observed on April 16 (TF).

Geese, Ducks—The Klamath Basin experienced a delayed spring migration, with 11,000 "Cackling" Canada Geese and 800 Ross' Geese still present at the end of April (EJO'N). At Deer Flat Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Idaho, which includes a section of the Snake River, there were 191 Canada Goose broods, down from last year's total (RVP). At Bear River Marshes, on the other hand, Canada Goose production was up 50 percent (PJF). The very dry conditions in parts of the western Great Basin were reflected in the shrinkage of Malheur Lake from 27,000 acres at the beginning of the reporting period to only 19,000 acres at the end. On June 1 there were only 25,000 ducks present at the refuge, down 10,000 compared with last year's totals. Instead of the usual migration peak of 30,000-35,000 Am. Widgeon at Malheur Refuge during the second week of May, only 15,000 were recorded (ELMcL). Ruddy Ducks, however, were somewhat more numerous at Malheur Refuge this year, with a peak of 5800 in the second week of May compared to last year's peak of 3500 (ELMcL). Diving ducks were poorly represented at Stillwater Refuge in western Nevada, with the number of Redheads recorded in migration only slightly above the breeding population (LDN). In contrast to the dryness of some of the refuges in the western portion of the Region, the newly expanded Monte Vista Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in southern Colorado boasted the best water conditions ever, with a count of 20,500 ducks on June 1 representing the breeding population (CRB).

Hawk—A *Broad-winged Hawk* seen at Cheyenne in southwestern Wyoming on May 19 (OKS, et al.) was probably a new record for the state.

Shorebirds—The season was characterized by many reports of good shorebird concentrations. The most remarkable concentration occurred on May 19 at the Wyoming Hereford Ranch near Cheyenne. Present were about 300 Black-bellied Plover—normally 4-5 would be considered a good concentration—2 Ruddy Turnstones, 3 Whimbrels and 1 Hudsonian Godwit along with an assortment of about 300 Willets, dowitchers (sp.) and other shorebirds more common in the Region, including Am. Avocet and Wilson's Phalarope (OKS, et al.). Another Whimbrel was seen at Cedar City in southwestern

Utah on April 22. There were so many reports of Whimbrels this spring, in fact, that the species could be classified as merely uncommon rather than casual as previously reported. Six Hudsonian Godwits were noted at Cedar City on April 28 (SM); heretofore the species has been only casual, at best, at that locality. Semipalmated Plover and Dunlin were numerous and outnumbered Grebe on the Fernley Marshes of western Nevada on May 1 (JMD); both species have been present in spring regularly for several years at least and should no longer be considered unusual in that area. Piping Plover were again seen at Lake DeB. in northern Wyoming in May (TK); the species rarely found this far west. A Knot was observed at Utah Lake on May 11 (GK); this is a very rare bird indeed in Utah.

Owl, Jays, Bushtit—A Flammulated Owl mist-netted at Ruby Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in eastern Nevada on May 16 (DEL) was the first record from that part of the state. Again there was a scattering of Blue Jay reports west of the plains, including one at Canyon City, Colo. on April 5 (WWB) and another at Laramie Wyo. on May 10 (OKS). A Com. Bushtit seen in May at Sheridan in northern Wyoming (TK) was beyond its normal range; the species is occasionally observed in southern and southwestern Wyoming.

Bluebird, Starling—A Western Bluebird was seen on May 4 at Evergreen in the Rockies west of Denver, Colo. (WWB); the species is rare so far east. Reports generally have indicated increasing numbers of Starlings in the western mountains. We now have a report from an observer at Nampa in western Idaho (HES) suggesting that they may be decreasing, and we hope that it is true.

Warblers—A "wave" of warblers, mostly Audubon's but including more Myrtle Warblers than usual, was noted at Durango, April 28-May 11 (OR). Anything like a wave in this Region is news. A pair of Magnolia Warblers was seen on May 11 at South Park in the mountains west of Denver where the species is at best casual (RG); another was seen on May 30 at Green River, Utah, where it must be accidental (HK). A Townsend's Warbler was seen at Craters of the Moon Nat'l Monument in southern Idaho on May 30 (DLC); the species is not often seen in that area. At Fish Springs Nat'l Wildlife Refuge out in the desert of western Utah, 2 Palm Warblers were observed on May 25 (GK). Recently there have been more and more reports of these birds in the West where they are supposedly only casual. A Hooded Warbler found in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park on May 1 (AC) was a first record for the park, and an Am. Redstart seen at Craters of the Moon Nat'l Monument on May 28 (DLC) was a first record for the monument.

Fringillids—Found with Lazuli Buntings at Ruby Lake Refuge on May 6 were 3 Indigo Buntings (DEL); these were much farther west than they are usually found. Two Indigo Buntings were later banded at Ruby Lake Refuge. In central Wyoming, 600 miles to the east, Indigo X Lazuli Bunting

hybrids occur; 3 of these were seen at Casper, Wyo. on May 28 (OKS). A White-throated Sparrow seen at South Park on May 11 and 18 (RG) was unusual for this part of the Rockies.

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