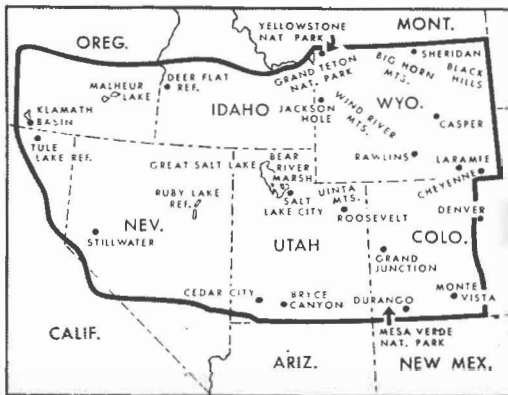


GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.—The fall was warm and dry until the last week of November when winter came



in with a vengeance, bringing freezing weather over much of the Region. The weather varies a great deal in an area so large, mountainous, and dry, however, and this general pattern did not apply to some parts of the Region.

Several observers complained of the lack of birds, particularly in the mountains west of Denver and in the Salt Lake City area, sections with the only two large population concentrations in the Region.

While driving around a curve on a road in eastern Oregon at 25 m.p.h., Tom Love had a Great Blue Heron fly into the back seat of his car. He stopped the car and took out the bird, which was only stunned, and it flew away. Aren't

you glad that you were not in that back seat?

Swans—The number of Trumpeter Swans at Ruby Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in eastern Nevada varies between 18 and 25 adults, but only 1 cygnet was produced this year (*DEL*). More than 43 young have been produced by this colony in recent years, but what happens to them after they have flown is something of a mystery. There is a lot of suitable habitat in eastern Nevada, however. The weather was so mild that Whistling Swans had not arrived in numbers at Stillwater Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Nevada by the end of the period (*LDN*). There were 13,000 at Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, the great sump in eastern Oregon, by Nov. 25 (*ELMcL*). A total of 26,250 Whistling Swans at the Bear River Marshes at the upper end of the Great Salt Lake on Nov. 15, with many cygnets present, was a new record high (*GRZ*). Although the Region boasts huge concentrations of Whistling Swans, they are confined to the great refuges for the most part, and when one appeared on Nov. 20 at Hotchkiss, on the western slope in Colorado (*TC*), it caused as much stir as it would in regions that lack the big concentrations.

Geese, Ducks—The Klamath Basin in southern Oregon experienced a build-up of geese and ducks to 2,900,000 in early November, a high figure due more to migrants arriving and *staying* in the area than to larger numbers of migrants this fall. The peak in geese in the Klamath Basin was reached on Nov. 10 with 495,000 "Cackling" Canada Geese, 507,000 White-fronted Geese, and 500,000 Snow Geese (*EJO'N*). At Deer Flat Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Nampa, Idaho, the Canada Goose peak was 11,500 in the last week of November; last year the peak was 10,000 in mid-October (*RVP*). At Bear River Marshes, Snow Geese reached a peak of 12,400 on Nov. 15, but numbers dropped off rapidly within a few days (*GRZ*). The Pintail is the most common fall duck in the Klamath Basin area, as it is over most of the Great Basin, whereas the most common wintering duck is the Mallard, particularly along the rivers of Idaho and Wyoming. The Pintail peak in the Klamath Basin was 1,600,000 on Oct. 28 (*EJO'N*). On the same date the basin had 80,000 Mallards, 200,000 Am. Widgeon, and 65,000 Ruddy Ducks, but only 5600 Red-heads (*EJO'N*). Deer Flat, primarily a Mallard refuge, had fewer birds because of the warm fall; only 150,000 by the end of the period (*RVP*). Bear River Marshes had a fine season owing to the mild weather and plenty of water; on Sept. 27 there were 507,000 ducks on the refuge and an equal number outside, a very high total. Highs of 287,000 Pintails, 138,000 Green-winged Teal, and 48,500 Am. Widgeon were recorded (*GRZ*). Botulism remains a great killer of ducks at Bear River Marshes; 15,000 died of it in the refuge and 22,000 just southwest of the refuge this year (*GRZ*). Stillwater Wildlife Management Area in western Nevada had good water conditions this fall, which is unusual. Ducks peaked at 210,850 during the second week of October; these were mostly Pintails,

Gadwall, Green-winged Teal and Redheads. The peak in Canvasbacks was 21,000, a high count, in the last week of October (LDN). Malheur Refuge had more water than last year but not as much as in 1965. There was good production of sago pondweed. A survey in August showed that 1 square foot of lake bottom produced 1½ pounds of vegetation; there are 4000 acres of sago at the refuge, in addition to 1100 acres planted to grain. This year there was a double peak in duck numbers at Malheur Refuge, one in mid-September (Sept. 10-16) mostly comprising Pintails (some 80,000 were noted) and a second peak in October (Oct. 15-21), with 19,700 Mallards, 43,000 Gadwall, 17,300 Green-winged Teal, 79,000 Am. Widgeon, and 13,000 Canvasbacks. The Canvasback figure is particularly high. It is believed that the total number of migrants at Malheur Refuge was about the same as last year, although the peak total was down by about 50,000, reflecting the double peak noted this year. A fair-sized Wood Duck population is building up on the lower part of the Carson River in western Nevada, where several groups of 10 were seen this fall (LDN); this is a new development for that locality. A Wood Duck was observed at Monte Vista Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in southern Colorado, where the species is very rare, and 2 were brought in by hunters (CRB). Three Wood Ducks were taken by hunters on the Little Bear River in northeastern Utah in October (DMF). White-winged and Surf Scoters and a Greater Scaup were brought in by hunters at Stillwater Refuge (LDN), and another Greater Scaup was taken by a hunter at Logan in northeastern Utah on Nov. 19 (DMF). Although there are scattered reports of the White-winged Scoter from all the states of the Region, the Com. Scoter is very rare. Several of the latter species, however, were seen at Pyramid Lake in western Nevada on Nov. 4 and 5 (JMD).

Turkey Vulture, Hawks—Sixteen Turkey Vultures were observed at Glendo Reservoir in eastern Wyoming, Sept. 20 (LM); some of them were feeding on a freshly dead cow while a nearby very odorous dead cow didn't attract them. A good concentration of Rough-legged Hawks was reported from Malheur Refuge (ELMcL), and the species was reported as more numerous than usual in western Nevada (JMD). Golden Eagles seemed to be holding their own in western Idaho (TL). A Black Hawk again was seen south of Springdale in southern Utah on Sept. 11 (BAL). This southern species has been seen in this area in five of the last six years, and it bred once.

Turkey, Sandhill Crane, Shorebirds—Turkeys continued to spread and multiply. One was seen just outside Bryce Canyon Nat'l Park in southern Utah, Aug. 24 (DEM). A total of 1500 Sandhill Cranes were on Monte Vista Refuge, Oct. 22–Nov. 4 (CRB). The only other big concentration of cranes in the Region was at Malheur Refuge, where 2400 were present on Oct. 30 (ELMcL). Several Buff-breasted Sandpipers were seen on Aug.

26 at the Standard Oil sump just north of Casper in central Wyoming, a locality where the species has been observed in three of the last six years (OKS).

Franklin's Gull, Barn Owl, Broad-tailed Hummingbird—Franklin's Gulls were reported hawking by the hundreds at Evergreen in the mountains west of Denver on Sept. 22 (WWB). A Barn Owl was seen again north of Salt Lake City on Sept. 10 (GK). Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were seen at Grand Junction in western Colorado as late as Oct. 7 (LE).

Blue Jay, Wood Thrush, Sprague's Pipit—Two Blue Jays were observed at Rawlins in southern Wyoming in late November, a locality which is remarkably far west for this species (JL). A Wood Thrush was reported near Eldora in the front range west of Boulder (GS); the species is casual in Colorado. A Sprague's Pipit seen at Lake De Smet in northern Wyoming in November (TK) is one of the first reports for this bird in Wyoming in the fall.

Waxwings—Bohemian Waxwings arrived early this year in Colorado and Wyoming, and mixed flocks of Bohemian and Cedar Waxwings were reported. At Red Feather Lakes in the northern front range of Colorado, 54 Bohemian and 131 Cedar Waxwings were noted on Oct. 14 (JRS).

Vireos, Warblers—A Philadelphia Vireo was observed at Durango in southwestern Colorado on Sept. 16 (OR); this is the farthest west the species has been recorded in Colorado, and there are only a few records for the eastern part of the state. A Nashville Warbler observed at Craters of the Moon Nat'l Monument in central Idaho on Sept. 12 (DLC) was a first record; several other birds also were added to the records of the area merely because of the presence of a highly competent birder as naturalist at the monument. A Blackpoll Warbler that flew into an office window at Malheur Refuge on Sept. 7 (ELMcL) provided the first record of this species for Oregon. A Palm Warbler was seen on Lookout Mountain, west of Denver, on Sept. 30 (VR); this species is being reported more frequently from the Rockies. Another Canada Warbler was seen on the Wind River near Dubois, Wyo., Sept. 23 (MB); this was the state's second record in recent years.

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