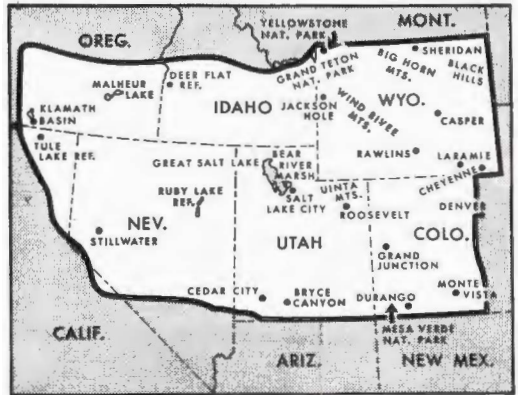


GR EAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION. —A heat wave in Wyoming and Utah during the last half of May advanced the timing of the



migration, with the result that movement there was largely over by the first of June. Although the Great Basin was warm and dry throughout much of the reporting period, spring was very wet in the Rockies west of Denver, and the migration was described as poor there. In a half day of mist-netting at Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, Colo., Allegra Collister trapped only two birds, far below average. At Durango, Colo. where early arrivals, late arrivals and some late-lingering winter residents were recorded, Oppie Reames described the migration as odd and without pattern.

Swans, Geese, Ducks — A count of 45 adult Trumpeter Swans at Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in eastern Oregon during the report period was a new high for this colony (*ELMcL*). A total of 800 Canada Geese nesting in the vicinity of Monte Vista Nat'l

Wildlife Refuge in southern Colorado represented an increase over last year (CRB), but at Bear River Marshes in Utah, gosling production dropped to 1092 from last year's total of 1486, a decrease perhaps reflecting better water conditions outside the refuge so that breeding birds were not as concentrated this year (LG). In the great Klamath Basin of eastern Oregon, the duck population dropped drastically, from 30,000 Mallards last year to 3500 this year and from 570,000 Pintail last year to 250,000 this year (RLV). Otherwise, the waterfowl migration in the Klamath Basin was much the same as last year. At Stillwater Wildlife Management Area in western Nevada, water conditions were excellent, with a 13 percent increase in breeding duck populations (LDN). About the same number of nesting ducks as last year was reported from Monte Vista Refuge; there are principally Mallards at this refuge and an early May count yielded a total of 15,500 birds (CRB). The observation of a pair of *Fulvous Tree Ducks* near Cedar City in southern Utah on May 10 (SM) constituted the first record for that area. A female Canvasback and 3 young were noted at Bear River Marshes (LG); this locality is rather far south for the Canvasback.

Eagles — The only encouraging report of Golden Eagles came from Malheur Refuge where 10 nests were described as doing well (ELMcL). The central Wyoming population of this species, which has been perhaps the largest in the nation, experienced the destruction of a number of nests owing to human disturbance, including shooting (OKS).

Gallinules, Shorebirds — Near Utah Lake in central Utah, 2 Com. Gallinules were seen on May 18 (GK); the species is only casual in Utah. On May 17, 2 Mountain Plover were observed in South Park, a high grassland in the Rockies west of Denver where the species probably breeds (RG). The sighting of a *Whimbrel* at Malheur Refuge on May 3 (BD) constituted the refuge's first record of the species; this is surprising as the Whimbrel is common on the coast and is occasionally seen inland elsewhere and since Malheur is one of the most intensively birded areas in the Region. A count of 500 Greater Yellowlegs at Lower Klamath Nat'l Wildlife Refuge on April 11 (JH) was the largest concentration reported in recent years. The observation of a Dunlin at Grand Junction on April 10 (LFE) was an unusual record for western Colorado; a total of 275 at Malheur Refuge on May 3 (ELMcL) seems high for an inland area.

Swifts, Martin, Dipper, Thrasher — A sizable concentration of 2000 White-throated Swifts seen on April 17 over the Cedar Valley of southern Utah (SM) may perhaps be explained by the occurrence of rain in the nearby mountains. A Purple Martin was seen on May 10 at Durango, Colo. (OR); the species is rare there. High water resulting from the wet weather wreaked havoc with Dipper nesting in the Rockies west of Denver (WWB). A *Brown Thrasher* was seen at Craters of the Moon Nat'l Monument in central Idaho on May 11 (DLC); this constituted the second record for Idaho.

Starling, Warblers, Icterids — Starlings are on the increase in the Region. One was observed feeding two juvenile cowbirds at Nampa in western Idaho on May

27 (HES). There were almost no unusual warblers reported during the season. The sole exception was a Black-and-white Warbler seen on May 21 at Malheur Refuge where the species is very rare (ELMcL). Bobolinks were again found in wet meadows near Utah Lake on May 18 (GK); this area had dried up in the past and the Bobolink had disappeared, but with this year's high water the species reappeared. Occurrence of the Bobolink is very local throughout the Region.

Finches, Sparrows — Red Crossbills were absent from the Rockies west of Denver (VR) and from central Wyoming (OKS). A Harris' Sparrow observation on May 15 and for several days thereafter at Durango (OR) was a rare record for that area. A White-throated Sparrow that spent the winter on the upper Wind River near Dubois in central Wyoming finally disappeared on May 5 (MB).

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