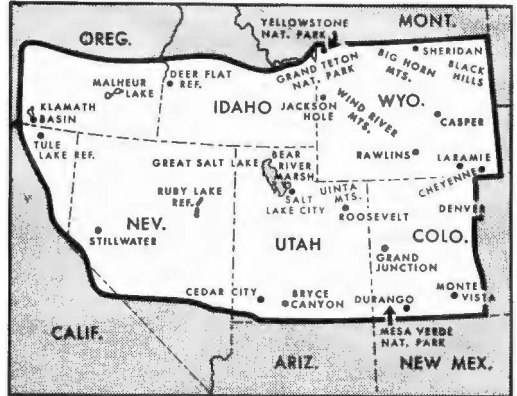


GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION. — The season began with heavy snows over much of the Region. June was very cold and wet, with



a particularly bad record late snow involving the lowlands as well as the mountains over the eastern half of the Region, June 13-15. At Gothic, Colo. on the western slope of the Rockies at 9500 feet elevation, a severe snowstorm on June 24-26 raised havoc with breeding birds, and many dead warblers, Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, a Hermit Thrush and a White-crowned Sparrow were found after the storm (*MP*). Overall nesting success was poor. West of Denver in the Rockies, Violet-green and Tree Swallows as well as Mountain and Western Bluebirds had no nesting success at all, although Mountain Chickadees, Pygmy Nuthatches and juncos did better (*WWB*). Alpine birds such as the rosy finches could still be found in big flocks at low altitudes in such areas as the Upper Green River in Wyoming as late as June 28 (*OKS*). It could be said, in fact, that this has been one of the most disturbed nesting seasons this Region has experienced. Those birds that completed their nesting before the period began did much better.

Geese, Ducks — Stillwater Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Nevada had an almost adequate amount of water for the first time in years. Instead of being spread all over the place, the water was concentrated in areas where it would be most useful, with the result that Canada Goose production was 46 percent higher than last year and there were 13 percent more ducks, principally Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal, Redheads and Ruddy Ducks (*LDN*). At Deer Flat Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Idaho, high run-off from the winter snows played hob with geese nesting on the Snake and Payette Rivers, which are part of the refuge, and nesting success dropped from 83 percent last year to 63 percent this year (*JTA*). Bear River Marshes at the upper end of the Great Salt Lake in Utah lacked an airplane to conduct aerial censuses for a while, but the impression was that the ducks did well. The fall migration figures for early August at Bear River Marshes showed great increases in Pintails from 10,400 last year to 79,650 this year and in Redheads from 3300 last year to 9325 this year, with other species increasing by smaller percentages and the three teal species down (*LFG*). Monte Vista Nat'l Wildlife

Refuge in southern Colorado had excellent water conditions, and its duck production was at a new high (CRB). A male *Barrow's Goldeneye* was observed at Trappers Lake, 50 miles east of Meeker in western Colorado, June 17 (JC); this species is rare in the Colorado Rockies, although it is common farther north. Two young *Hooded Mergansers* were seen at Nampa, Idaho, June 8 (HES).

Quail, Gulls, Tern, Pigeon — The Bobwhite is doing a little better in western Idaho but numbers are still small (JTA); elsewhere in the Region the Bobwhite has not survived. Ring-billed Gulls had a good breeding season in the Klamath Basin, with over 1000 immatures present on July 15 (JH). The observation of a Caspian Tern at Lake DeSmet in northern Wyoming on July 13 (TK) was unusual; this is probably too late for a nesting bird, however. A *Band-tailed Pigeon* was seen in Waterfalls Canyon, Grand Teton Nat'l Park on Aug. 9 (OKS) for one of the first records of the species for the state of Wyoming.

Hummingbirds — Late nests of the Broad-tailed Hummingbird found on July 13 and 25 in Utah and eastern Nevada (GK) were perhaps related to the delayed season. On Aug. 6 in the Wasatch area of Utah, Kashin found a concentration of 30-40 hummers, including Black-chinned, Broad-tailed, Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds. A female Rufous Hummingbird with a definite brood spot was mist-netted in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park on July 10 (AC); there are no breeding records of the species for Colorado. A big migration of Rufous Hummingbirds was reported from high ground near Durango, Colo. where an abundance of moisture produced more flowers than usual (OR).

Flycatcher, Swallow, Thrushes, Kinglets — An Ash-throated Flycatcher was observed on Aug. 5 at Dubois on the Upper Wind River of Wyoming (MB); the locality seems far north for the species but it has been seen several times in this area before. A Purple Martin was seen near Cedar City in southern Utah on Aug. 11 (SM); this is a very rare bird in southern Utah. A Veery was found at Steamboat Springs, Colo., west of the Continental Divide, June 14 (D.F.O.), and another was noted at Jackson Lake in Grand Teton Nat'l Park, Wyo., June 26 (OKS). Both localities are far west of the species' normal range in Colorado and eastern Wyoming. Hugh Kingery pointed out that the Golden-crowned Kinglet is more common at high elevations in the Colorado Rockies than has generally been supposed; he found them regularly this summer on eight trips into the high mountains. Perhaps other observers have missed them by not being familiar with their call notes.

Vireo, Warblers — A *Philadelphia Vireo* identified at Durango, Colo. on July 10 (OR) was a great rarity. An Orange-crowned Warbler was observed *feeding young* on the Aspen, Colo. ski slope on June 29 (HK); the nest of this warbler has not yet been found in Colorado, although it is a relatively common breeding species a little farther north. The sighting of a *Chestnut-sided Warbler* at Carlin in western Nevada on June 3 and 4 (LA) constituted a first record for the state.

Fringillids — An Indigo Bunting observation at Durango on July 12 (OR) was a first record there, but this species does wander far west of its ordinary range at times. This particular individual was a pure Indigo Bunting whereas the hybrids have been more common. The sighting of a *Blue Grosbeak* near Reno at Sparks, Nev. on June 22 (JMD) constituted a first record for that area. A flock of 35 was seen at Cedar City in southern Utah on Aug. 11 (SM); flocks of this species are rarely reported. At a feeder in Casper, Wyo., juvenile Evening Grosbeaks still in downy plumage appeared early in July and were photographed (JY). There have been no breeding records of the species in Wyoming, but more and more have stayed later and later at Casper for several years. Four White-winged Crossbills were noted at Gothic, Colo. on the western slope of the Rockies, Aug. 2 (CA). This species has been a rare straggler in Colorado, but perhaps a big year is coming up.

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