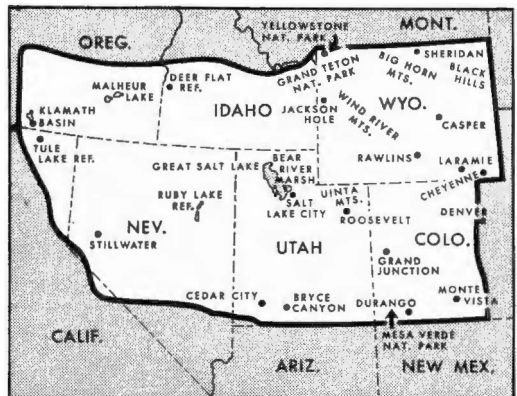


GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.— During this season the weather was so unusual as to present a somewhat confusing picture. It



started with an earlier-than-normal arrival of winter in December, followed by a springlike moderating of temperatures over much of the Region during January and February, and ending with a return to wintry conditions again in March. The result of the "early winter" was the termination of the fall migration earlier than usual in December, with few late-lingering migrants. The midwinter thaw seemed to result in a commencement of breeding activities for some species at dates earlier than usual, even in February. The return of winter with accompanying deep snows probably caused the earlier attempts at breeding to fail. Whereas northern Colorado and southern Wyoming mountain areas had measured all-time record snow depths by the end of March, the western Great Basin, with little winter precipitation, was preparing for drought. This season will be remembered ornithologically as the "year of the White-winged Crossbill," reflecting an invasion that began last season.

Pelicans, Swans — The White Pelican seemed to be diminishing rather rapidly. Deer Flat Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, on the Oregon-Idaho border, where formerly there were many, recorded only one sighting, and that was on March 19 when 24 birds were seen (*JTA*). Only 2 were seen at Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Harney Co., Oreg., during this period (*BD*). There were 50 Trumpeter Swans wintering at Malheur Refuge, a new high count. The colony there produced 13 young last year, to add to last year's population of 40 (*ELMcL*). At Malheur Refuge too there were 5500 Whistling Swans at the height of the spring migration, Feb. 8-14, a week earlier than last year but about average in numbers (*ELMcL*). As usual the Bear River Marshes in Utah harbored more swans than any other refuge in this Region. The spring migration peaked at 17,600 during the second week of March, a noteworthy count.

Geese, Ducks — At Deer Flat Refuge the fall migration of waterfowl reached a peak the third week in December, about a week later than usual, when there were 624,000 ducks present, most of them Mallard. Severe weather immediately following reduced the numbers by one half. At Monte Vista Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in southern Colorado, a refuge with smaller but growing transient populations, there were 29,000 Mallard in December (*CRB*). An *Oldsquaw* was observed at Lake De Smet in northern Wyoming, Dec. 26 (*TK*). At Stillwater Wildlife Management Area in western Nevada, the Canada Geese started nesting in the last week of March, earlier than usual (*LDN*). At Malheur Refuge the peak count for Snow Geese was 40,000, March 15-21, 30,000 less than last year, and a decline for which we have no immediate explanation (*ELMcL*). Proof indeed that we had spring in January and February was the nesting, by Feb. 1, of Canada Geese in Deer Flat Refuge (*JTA*). At Stillwater W.M.A. the duck population increased 24.7 percent over last year's, but there were still only 49,870 birds present at the peak in mid-March, mostly Pintail and Green-winged Teal. Malheur Lake, the great eastern Oregon sump, had poor prospects this year, but an unprecedented 3.35 inches of rain in January improved conditions immeasurably. At Malheur, the

height of the migration occurred during the first week in March, when 93,700 waterfowl were recorded, 78,000 (or 83 percent) of which were Pintail. This was a month earlier than last year (*ELMcL*). The spring migration was about normal at Bear River Marshes, with the highest concentration of waterfowl during the second week of March: 124,000, of which 98,200 (or 79 percent) were Pintail. One week later 8300 Canvasback and 7500 Green-winged Teal were recorded, with other species in much smaller numbers. There were 10 Oldsquaw recorded at Idaho Sand Dunes Lake in western Idaho, March 25 (*HES*).

Hawks, Woodpeckers, Mimids — Two Harlan's Hawks were seen during January at Monte Vista Refuge and one remained throughout the period. The species had not been previously recorded from this area (*CRB*). A Broad-winged Hawk on March 30 north of Sheridan, Wyo. represents a bird of prey believed to be only casual in Wyoming (*TK*). A Yellow-shafted Flicker was recorded at Cedar City, Utah, Dec. 30 (*SM*). Another was seen at Salt Lake City, Feb. 4 (*GK*). This is a rare bird at both locations. Still another was observed at Nampa in western Idaho several times during the winter (*HES*). At Deer Flat Refuge 6 of 8 wintering near headquarters were Red-shafted-Yellow-shafted intergrades (*JTA*). With unduly warm weather early, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were moving northward at Springdale in southern Utah in February (*CH*). A Brown Thrasher wintered in Chicago Creek Canyon near Idaho Springs in the Rockies west of Denver (*WWB*). Another was noted at Big Horn, Wyo., Jan. 10 (*FS*).

Waxwings, Kinglets, Warblers — It was a poor winter for Bohemian Waxwings, with none reported from Reno, Nev. (*JMD*), or Salt Lake City, only 1 from Denver, and an average flight at Casper, Wyo. Cedar Waxwings wintered as usual at Reno (*JMD*), and were seen in Salt Lake City sporadically during the winter (*WS*). There were 30 at Casper, March 15 (*OKS*), and 50 or more at Glenwood Springs, Colo. on March 24; all are highly unusual occurrences. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were seen on numerous occasions at Hotchkiss, Colo. on the western slope of the Rockies, probably due to the warm winter (*TC*). The same conditions probably accounted for the report of Myrtle and Audubon's Warblers (1 each) visiting a feeding station at Durango, southern Colo., during the winter (*OR*).

Blackbirds, Sparrow, Bunting — A large roost at Mahala Slough near Stillwater Refuge, Nev. was estimated at 100,000 birds, of which about 35 percent were Starlings, 1 percent were Yellow-headed Blackbirds, 60 percent were Red-winged Blackbirds, and 5 percent were Brewer's Blackbirds (*LDN*). This is a large roost for dry country. A White-throated Sparrow wintered at Dubois, high on the Wind River in western Wyoming, thanks to feeder largess (*MB*), for the second year in succession, and raising the possibility that these out-of-range visitors were the same individual. Finally a flock of 70 Snow Buntings spent most of the winter near Arco near Craters of the Moon Nat'l Monument, central Idaho, where they are probably regular but not often reported (*DLC*).

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SOUTHWEST REGION. — This past winter was for the most part mild, open, and dry. Exceptions were periods of storms and cold from Dec. 25 to Jan. 10