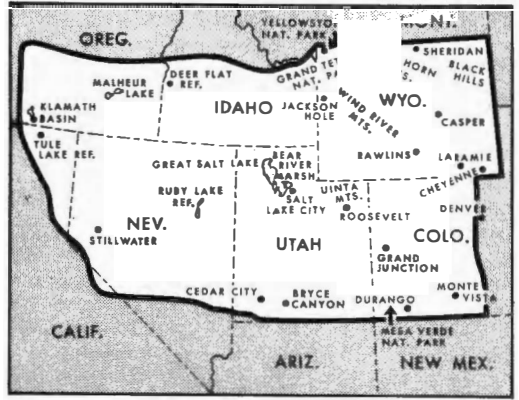


part of the Region was influenced, as usual, by the summer pattern of daily showers. Most observers thought this an average season, but some noted the general paucity of landbirds such as kinglets, warblers and juncos. The early morning chorus was not up to its usual strength in the wooded areas of Colorado (HK) and Wyoming (OKS).



Hérons, Ibis — Snowy Egrets, Black-crowned Night Herons and White-faced Ibis bred in greater numbers than ever before at Monte Vista Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in southern Colorado where water conditions were excellent (CRB). A *Least Bittern* was seen several times in early June at Deer Flat Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in Idaho (JTA); this constitutes the first record of this species for western Idaho. A colony of 600 White-faced Ibis at Stillwater Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Nevada was found to contain many young as well as *thin-shelled eggs*; it was thought that the colony may be somewhat smaller than usual but that production has not yet been affected significantly by the thin-shelled egg syndrome (LDN). This is of interest since, as noted in the last report, the colony of White-faced Ibis near the Bear River Refuge in Utah has suffered almost complete nesting failure during the past three years as a result of the thin-shelled egg phenomenon.

Swans, Geese, Ducks — There were seven active Trumpeter Swan nests at Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in eastern Oregon, a new high for Malheur; only four of these nests, however, produced broods (ELMcL). In spite of the great effort to protect this species, the Trumpeter Swan seems to have a low reproductive rate throughout its range in this Region, although once the young are airborne, losses are believed to be minimal. Canada Goose production at Deer Flat Refuge was up from last year's level but only to about normal; the number of nests in that area seems to be declining but the number of young raised per nest seems to be increasing (JTA). It was found that the period from egg hatching to sustained flight of young at Deer Flat takes 74 days, on the average. Owing to improved water conditions, Stillwater Refuge in Nevada had 32.8 percent more breeding ducks this year, but overall production of young was about the same (LDN). Predation by ravens was believed responsible for the loss in young, but one

**GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.** —Throughout the Central Rockies it was a wet season during June and early July, but thereafter it was dry, with hot weather from mid-June to the end of the reporting period. The Great Basin was just plain hot and dry throughout the period, and the southern

wonders if this simple explanation is really correct. Malheur Refuge also reported better water conditions than last year, with duck production up 43 percent to 33,000 young raised, Redhead production was twice last year's production, and brood size up for all major species breeding at the refuge (ELMcL). Similarly, Bear River Marshes on the Great Salt Lake appeared to have had a good breeding season, with 7.9 duck eggs noted per nest, an average brood size of 6 ducklings, and an overall loss of 3 during the period from the observation of the eggs in the nest to sustained flight of full-grown young. Monte Vista Refuge in southern Colorado produced 18,000 ducks this year, a better production than ever before (CRB). In general, it might be said that goose and duck breeding success was good this year, associated with better than average water conditions.

**Golden Eagle** — There were eight active nests of the Golden Eagle at Malheur Refuge, compared with ten last year (ELMcL). This is the best concentration of this species reported. Secretary Hickel's decision not to allow the killing of Golden Eagles unless there are specific complaints and then only after investigation may be the greatest thing to happen for these birds yet. However, the Federal Predator Control people still report horrendous lamb losses in Wyoming which they ascribe to Golden Eagle predation. In my opinion these reports are pure twaddle (OKS).

**Shorebird, Cuckoo, Owls** — A *Ruddy Turnstone* was observed on July 31 in the marsh at Stillwater Refuge, Nev. (LDN). This is the second record for that area, the first being a dead bird found in 1941. A *Yellow-billed Cuckoo* seen near Beryl, Iron Co., Utah on July 13 (SM) constituted the first record of the species in southwestern Utah in recent years. Colonies of Burrowing Owls also were found near Beryl, with an observation of 35 owls, including young, in sight at the same time on a two-acre gravel pit, one of two such pits in the area (SM). This is the largest Burrowing Owl concentration reported in some time. In early July, two Screech Owl nests were found one-third of a mile apart in Salt Lake City (GK) and another was located in Casper, Wyo. (OKS); this species is not common in either Utah or Wyoming. A *Great Gray Owl* was discovered near the Whitegrass Ranger Station in Grand Teton Nat'l Park, Wyo. in mid-August (OKS), and information received indicated that it has been present in the area for at least a year and may have nested. This species occurs regularly in both Yellowstone and Grand Teton Nat'l Parks but is not common; the owls seem to move after a few years to a new but similar locality. Each year there are several known nests.

**Hummingbirds** — Whether it was because of heavy early moisture which made mountain plants more luxurious or some other reason is not clear, but this was a great year for hummers. At Durango in southwestern Colorado the greatest concentration of hummers (Black-chinned, Broad-tailed, Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds) in many years was reported, including good numbers of young. An *Anna's Hummingbird* observed in Durango on June 21 (OR) furnished the first record for Colorado. There are now many hummingbird feeders in the mountains west of

Denver, and among the sightings reported from that area was a Rivoli's Hummingbird present at Pinecliffe between June 28 (WWB) and July 14 (HK) and seen by many other observers between those dates. This species has been seen regularly west of Denver for several years.

**Woodpeckers, Flycatcher, Mockingbird** — More Williamson's Sapsuckers were reported this year than previously, with more seen in the Colorado Rockies than usual. It is not clear whether there actually were more birds present or whether more observers had better luck. An Eastern Kingbird was seen on June 4 at Stillwater Refuge, Nev. where the species is very rare (LDN). A Mockingbird found on July 30 near Lake DeSmet in northern Wyoming (TK) was north of the species' range in this Region; a Mockingbird nest found on Aug. 12 near Durango, Colo. (OR) provided the first nesting record for that area.

**Thrush, Finches** — A Veery nest was found at 8500 feet elevation near Santa Maria in the mountains southwest of Denver on July 16 (JRC); the Veery hitherto has been very rare that far west in the mountains. Again this year juvenile Evening Grosbeaks still being fed by regurgitation were present at feeders in Casper in early July (JY); the nest of this species has never been found in Wyoming. An immature Lark Bunting was observed at Malheur Refuge on June 16 (RG); the species is a casual visitor to the refuge.

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