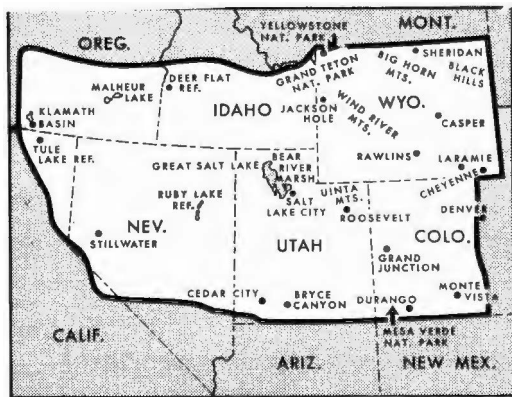


GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION. — The past season was not fall in some parts of the Region; it was summer and then winter. In the



Rockies warm weather was terminated by violent snowstorms in mid-October, with the temperature at Evergreen west of Denver falling to -8° F. on Oct. 13, the lowest temperature on record for the time of the year. The result of the lack of a true fall was a poor migration. Perhaps the birds rushed through and so were not seen, but at any rate most observers thought the season much poorer than usual. The invasion of the lowlands by mountain species that occurred last

year was not repeated this fall, but almost all observers reported numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches at lower elevations.

Loon — An observation of an *Arctic Loon* at Lake DeSmet in northern Wyoming on Oct. 7 (TK) established a first record for the state.

Swans — The number of Whistling Swans at Bear River Marshes on the Great Salt Lake rose to a new peak of 41,200 in spite of an early onset of cold weather that drove out most waterfowl in mid-September (LFG). At Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in eastern Oregon, 14,000 were present, Nov. 9-15 (ELMcL); this is a good count for that area.

Geese, Ducks — A *Black Brant* was taken by hunters near Stillwater Wildlife Management Area in western Nevada (fide LDN). Five *Emperor Geese* were noted at Tule Lake in the Klamath Basin on Oct. 11 (MW); this species is very unusual inland but has occurred in the Klamath Basin almost regularly. At Bear River Marshes, ducks peaked in early September with a total of 565,000 present; ordinarily the peak would have occurred two weeks later with at least 200,000 more ducks present (LFG). Only 230,000 ducks were present at Deer Flat Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Idaho by the end of the reporting period; as usual 90 percent of these were Mallards (JTA). With an improvement in run-off, Malheur Lake grew somewhat during the period, and there was good growth of aquatic plants such as sago pondweed that provide food for ducks. Ducks peaked at 98,500, an increase of 45 percent over last year's peak at Malheur but still 51 percent under the peak for 1967, a comparable year; Canvasbacks peaked at 14,600, a good concentration compared with 1400 in 1968 and 12,800 in 1967 (ELMcL). Although western Nevada has been very dry, previous run-off from the Sierras produced good water conditions at Stillwater Wildlife Management Area. The profile of the duck migration there was long and low, with a low peak of 161,045 occurring Oct. 19-25, several weeks later than usual. This was a great improvement over last year's figures but not much better than the totals for the last good year, 1967. Canvasbacks diminished in numbers from the totals for previous years, although Stillwater is a big Canvasback refuge (LDN). Observations of rarer ducks during the fall included 2 Wood Ducks on Klamath Lake, Nov. 28 (LP) and 3 Oldsquaws at Lake DeSmet in northern Wyoming, Oct. 7 (TK). A White winged Scoter was seen several times during the fall at Monte Vista Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in southern Colorado where the species has not been recorded previously (CRB). Farther north in Wyoming this scoter is seen regularly in the fall.

Hawks, Eagles — A good flight of Red-tailed Hawks was noted in Western Nevada in late October and November (JMD). A good flight of hawks anywhere in the Region is news! In eastern Wyoming, 15 Swainson's Hawks were sighted at Hawk Springs in Goshen Hole, Oct. 20 (RS); this is the largest concentration reported in some time. Goshen Hole is an excellent place for finding birds but has been covered poorly in recent years. A concentration of 50 Bald Eagles was reported at Klamath Lake during the fall (RG), this is about usual for the area. A large concentration of

Ospreys also was reported at a refuge established for this species by the U.S. Forest Service and Oregon Game Commission at Crane Prairie Reservoir, 25 miles southwest of Bend, Oreg.; 48 pairs fledged 35 young there this year (AB).

Grouse, Cranes, Shorebirds — There were 850 Sage Grouse in the Pahsimeroi River valley of Idaho after the hunting season in September (WSh), this is the largest number of these birds reported in a long time. On Oct. 31, 5000 Sandhill Cranes were noted at Hawk Springs, Wyo. (RS), the only large number reported this season. A Semipalmated Sandpiper was observed at Honey Lake in eastern California, at the western edge of the Great Basin, on Nov. 29 (DFDeS, et al.); this is unusual for the area. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was seen at Grand Junction in western Colorado on Sept. 18 (LFE); this shorebird may be more common in this area than has been acknowledged previously. Several thousand Northern Phalaropes were seen at Abert Lake, Oreg. on Aug. 26 (OS, fide JH).

Woodpecker, Flycatcher, Swallows — The sighting of a Pileated Woodpecker on the middle fork of the Salmon River in Idaho, Nov. 14 (WSh) is an unusual record for these columns. An Eastern Phoebe was seen near the Jordan River at Salt Lake City, Utah, Sept. 11 (GK); this is a casual record. Purple Martins were reported at two localities this fall: at Cedar City in southern Utah, where 17 were observed on Sept. 11 (SM), and at Sheridan, Wyo. (TK). Martins are rare anywhere in this mountain country.

Thrasher, Thrush, Waxwings — Another Brown Thrasher lingered in the mountains west of Denver in spite of the harsh fall weather there, being seen near Idaho Springs on Nov. 30 (WWB). A Veery was banded in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park on Aug. 26 (AC); there are only two previous records for the park. A large flight of Bohemian Waxwings noted at Salt Lake City on Nov. 19 (WSt) was the only large concentration reported so far.

Warblers — A Black-and-white Warbler sighting at Evergreen, Colo. on Aug. 31 (JC) was unusual. A Tennessee Warbler observation east of Lake Tahoe in Nevada on Aug. 29 (RPR) is probably a casual record for the Region; another, late, Tennessee Warbler was seen at Lake DeSmet, Wyo. on Oct. 17 (TK). A Nashville Warbler was banded in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park on Aug. 26 (AC); the species is rare in the park. Two Magnolia Warblers observed in the foothills west of Denver on Oct. 8 (D.F.O.) also were unusual. The warbler migration was said to have been particularly poor at Salt Lake City (EG).

Grosbeaks, Crossbills — A pair of Blue Grosbeaks observed at Glens Ferry, Elmore Co., Idaho on Aug. 30 (LP) were farther north than usual, but the species has bred in this area. In the northern part of the Region there was an invasion of Pine Grosbeaks into the lowlands, with 20 noted at Craters of the Moon Nat'l Monument near Arco, Idaho on Nov. 6 (DLC), 20 seen at Casper, Wyo. on Nov. 13 (OKS), and many present at Sheridan, Wyo. during October and November (TK). A flight of White winged Crossbills this fall was the first in a number of years: 2 were seen at Nampa, Idaho on Sept. 20 (HES), 50 were noted at

Jenny Lake in Grand Teton Nat'l Park, Wyo. on Oct. 14 (DLC), with a smaller group seen nearby on Avalanche Trail on Sept. 6 (OKS); and another small group was reported at Sheridan, Wyo., Nov. 23-26 (TK).

Sparrows — Harris' Sparrows were reported in numbers this year: 2 were seen at Cheyenne, Wyo. on Oct. 13 (RH), 2 at Dubois in western Wyoming on Oct. 19 and subsequent dates (MB), 4 at Grand Junction, Colo. on Nov. 6 (LG), and 1 at Durango, Colo., Nov. 19-29 (OR). This species seems to be more frequently reported in this area. There were scattered reports of the White-throated Sparrow outside of Wyoming, where the species is a regular fall visitor. One was seen at Eagleville, Modoc Co., Calif. (RS), and another was observed at Arrowhead Mine in southern Utah where the species is rare (SM).

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