

prisingly high count of 100+ in Galveston Co. on May 12 (VLE & JLR), Bay-breasted Warblers were hard to find. Very few Blackpoll Warblers were reported; however, 1 at San Antonio May 10 was newsworthy (JB & WS). A Prairie Warbler at High I. Apr. 25 (DW) represents one of the few spring records for the upper coast. A very late and rare (for the locality) Palm Warbler was seen at San Antonio May 21 (JAL & HOM). While not numerous, Ovenbirds had a long migration period, from late March to late May. A late peak count of 8 birds was made at Austin May 20 (FO & JLR), and 1 was seen at San Antonio June 12 (AH). An unusually heavy movement of Mourning Warblers occurred at Austin and San Antonio during the second half of May, particularly on May 19 & 20; 30 birds were counted at Austin on the latter date (FO & JLR). Two late birds were at Wimberley in Hays Co. on May 31 (CRB). Single MacGillivray's Warblers were reported at Austin on May 7, 19, 20 and 31 (FO, JLR). A major push of Yellowthroats reached the upper coast Apr. 2, as indicated by a count of 78+ at High I. (DW). A late wave at Austin was highlighted by a count of 80+ May 20 (FO & JLR). Wilson's Warblers reached a late peak at Austin between May 19 and 24, but numbers were down. Canada Warblers made a very good showing at Austin between May 20 (35+—FO & JLR) and 24; a few were noted as late as May 30. Am. Redstarts were reported less numerous than usual. Highest count was 75+ at Galveston May 12 (VLE & JLR). Thirty at Austin May 20 (FO & JLR) was a season high; a scarcity of males was noted.

**ORIOLES, TANAGERS**—Orchard Orioles were plentiful in the Corpus Christi area in April (KM), but except for a concentration near Sabine Pass on Apr. 2 (DW), this species attracted little attention on the upper coast. A Hooded Oriole was seen at Austin May 4 (JHG); this is a first locality record. On the basis of available reports, Baltimore Orioles had a very poor migration. A ♂ Western Tanager was seen at High I. May 1 (DW) and reportedly several days earlier. On Apr. 22, a bird of this species visited a certain tree in Rockport for the third consecutive year (DNM). Scarlet and Summer Tanagers received little comment.

**FRINGILLIDS**—Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen as early as Mar. 25 at Cove (AKM) and as late as June 19 at Austin (JLR). A wave was reported at Corpus Christi during the first week of May (KM), and a number were found at High I. May 1 (DW) and in Galveston Co. May 12 (VLE & JLR). An unusual spring migrant, the Black-headed Grosbeak, was seen at Austin May 4 (NC), 5 and 9 (BR), at San Antonio May 8 (HGL), and at Baytown May 11-17 (fide DL). The best wave of Indigo Buntings in years was reported in the Corpus Christi area between mid-April and mid-May (KM). A push was apparent at Austin Apr.

16 (NC), at High Island Apr. 23 and May 1 (DW), and in Galveston Co. May 12 (VLE & JLR). The scarce Lazuli Bunting was found at Austin May 5 (NC). Painted Buntings came to Corpus Christi in large numbers on the night of Apr. 16 (KM), and many ♂♂ of this species were still moving up n. Padre I. Apr. 21 (WAP). Large flocks of Dickcissels were found at High I. and on Bolivar Peninsula Apr. 23 (DW), and between Victoria and Refugio (JHP) and at San Antonio Apr. 24 (HGL). A major movement of Lincoln's Sparrows occurred at Austin Apr. 4 (JLR), and a few were present into mid-May. A very late individual was seen at San Antonio May 24 (JAL).

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### NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION / Thomas H. Rogers

Much of the Region west of the Continental Divide experienced a cool, wet, windy spring. Spokane had about twice normal precipitation in April, but had temperatures of about 2° above



normal. At McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. the month was dry, with 0.22 in. of moisture, compared to the normal 0.48 in. The Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. was also dry, with 0.74 in., 0.34 in. below normal. Baker, Ore. appeared dry except for a rainy spell the third week, followed by cooler temperatures. Southern interior British Columbia was cool and wet. Missoula started out cool and dry but the last half of April brought moderating temperatures and much moisture. East of the Divide, Helena reported normal spring weather and Bozeman, relatively mild conditions.

May appeared near normal in temperature in most areas west of the Divide but s. British Columbia and e. Washington as far southwest as far southwest as Walla Walla received unexpected amounts of precipitation and strong winds. Yakima, in the rain shadow of Mt. Ranier, was, as usual, mild and dry. Baker started out warm and dry but became rainy toward the end, with a destructive windstorm the third week. The entire spring at Prineville, Ore. was described as very cold and windy. Weather at Richland was described by Woodley thus: "In the 17 years that I have lived in e. Washington, I have not seen so much wind, cold, clouds, and rain as we have had this Spring, i.e., April and May." Helena and Bozeman continued the trend set in April.

Indications were that the cool, wet weather delayed the migration at Spokane and Walla Walla. In the Bozeman area, while many early arrival dates for individual birds were recorded, the mild conditions appear not to have speeded up the main mass of migrants. While the weather delayed vegetation, it apparently resulted in quite ample moisture supplies, which are expected to produce excellent growth before the normally dry summer sets in.

**LOONS AND GREBES**—First sighting of the Com. Loon was at Ennis, Madison Co., Mont., Apr. 4 (early). The species was first noted in e. Washington Apr. 17, when about 20 were seen on Banks L., Grant Co. (S.A.S.). Three species of grebes appeared in the Bozeman area on early dates: Eared, Apr. 18 at Three Forks; Western and Pied-billed, Apr. 25 at Harrison L. (RAH, WM & PDS). An unusually large concentration of 208 W. Grebes was on Helena Valley Reservoir near Helena on May 19.

**PELICANS, CORMORANTS AND HERONS**—At McNary Refuge, 14 White Pelicans were sighted on Apr. 9 and 7 on May 19. At Ennis, Mont. the species' arrival was early, Apr. 10 (PDS & RAH). The 20 Double-crested Cormorants present at McNary Refuge in March dwindled to 7 in April; none were seen in May. The birds were first noted at Three Forks Apr. 12 (ETH & RAH). A Snowy Egret was reported present for several days in mid-May in the Gallatin Canyon near Bozeman (fide CVD) and another was noted at Stevensville, Mont. May 5 (CLB). Four Black-crowned Night Herons at L. Helena on Apr. 28

were the first seen there in four years. Some 20 had arrived at the usual nesting site at St. Andrews, Douglas Co., Wash. by Apr. 10 (WH) and about the same number made up the colony at McNary Refuge. About Apr. 22 a White-faced Ibis was reported near Ennis, Mont. (fide CVD).

**WATERFOWL**—Whistling Swans appeared in most impressive numbers in the Baker area, where at least 500 were seen north of town and smaller flocks were reported in nearby localities. One bird was on Coeur d' Alene L. in n. Idaho on Jan. 30 but the first arrivals in the Spokane-Cheney area, Wash. appeared in February (WH). A movement of Trumpeter Swans was noted on Mar. 14 in the Bozeman area, where the species winters. A single White-fronted Goose was observed with Canadas at Sprague L., Sprague, Wash. on Apr. 8 (WH) and 1 was seen in the lower Yakima Valley (AR). One or 2 Snow Geese remained at the marsh just north of Reardan, Wash. to the end of May (S.A.S.). Single Ross' Geese were noted at Central Park near Bozeman on Apr. 17 (ETH, RAH & PDS) and at Walla Walla from Apr. 25 to May 9 (NFM & JRW). A ♀ Black Duck, paired with a Mallard, was identified at Central Park in the Bozeman area and was the first record for the species there (PDS). An apparent hybrid ♂, with body markings of the Am. Widgeon but the green head of a Mallard, was seen on Apr. 3 and 7 at Ravalli Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Stevensville, Mont. (PLW). The peak duck number at McNary Refuge was 6000, over half of which were Mallards. That species peaked at 13,540 and Am. Widgeon at 650 at nearby Ringold Refuge. A record number of 5 Eur. Widgeon was reported for e. Washington, between Mar. 21 and Apr. 17 (WH; S.A.S.). Two Oldsquaw, presumably those seen on the Christmas Bird Count, were still on the Spokane R. east of Spokane as late as Mar. 24 (WH).

**VULTURES, HAWKS AND EAGLES**—Turkey Vultures arrived on Apr. 14 (early) in the Bozeman area (JM). The earliest appearance in e. Washington was on Apr. 4 near Spokane (S.A.S.). Fair numbers of Ospreys were observed in n. Idaho. At least 10 were at Chatcolet L. May 8, and 7 or 8 occupied nests were observed along Priest R. (S.A.S.). A ♂ Pigeon Hawk was seen flying around Tower Mt. just s.e. of Spokane on May 2 (S.A.S.). Four active Golden Eagle nests were being observed in the vicinity of Heppner, Ore. (KH).

An unusual concentration of about 17 Bald Eagles of various ages was reported in the Richland-Eagle Creek area east of Baker on Feb. 24 (I.R. & RH).

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS**—Five Sharp-tailed Grouse s.w. of Creston, Lincoln Co., Wash. on Apr. 10 were the most reported for several years (WH). Twenty-five or 30 Sage Grouse were observed on the strutting grounds south of Creston Apr. 10 &

17 (WH; S.A.S.). Turkeys continued to be seen between Bozeman and Livingston where the species was introduced in 1968.

**CRANES AND RAILS**—Sandhill Cranes were first noted on Mar. 27 near Sprague, Wash. and displayed peak numbers, 2000-2500, April 10 & 17 at St. Andrews, Wash. (WH; S.A.S.). Six Virginia Rails were seen during spring waterfowl pair counts at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash.

**SHOREBIRDS**—The migration of these birds in e. Washington was considered by Hall to be brief, and the species and individuals not numerous. Presumably high water levels were a contributing factor. The Long-billed Curlew, reported from many localities, appeared in the greatest number at Umatilla Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, s. of Richland, Wash. Some 50 were observed, apparently nesting in the sagebrush and grass, May 6 (NFM). A Willet was observed at the Nat'l Bison Range Apr. 15 (DK) and another was seen at Reardan, Wash. May 8 (FBH). Four species of shorebirds posted record early dates for the Bozeman area: Solitary Sandpiper, Apr. 28 (HC); Lesser Yellowlegs, Apr. 12 (HC); Baird's Sandpiper, Apr. 4; and Least Sandpiper, Apr. 17 (HC). Eight other species arrived on earlier-than-average dates there, and a Semipalmated Sandpiper May 9 at Three Forks was the first spring record ever for that area. At least 10 Long-billed Dowitchers stayed until the late date of May 28 at Reardan (S.A.S.). A lone bird strongly suspected of being a Short-billed Dowitcher was observed closely at Missoula May 18.

**LARIDS**—A Bonaparte's Gull at Huston L. near Prineville, Ore. May 23 was John Knox' first record for Crook Co. Two were seen at Sprague L. on the same date (JA). Forster's Tern arrived on the record early date of May 2 at Ennis, Mont. (PDS, RAH, JM & WM).

**OWLS, SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS**—A Pygmy Owl heard on Apr. 26 at Leancoil. Yoho Nat'l Park, B.C. apparently was only the second recorded for the park (WCW). A Long-eared Owl was noted on May 17 near Clarkston, Wash. (MJP). A few Short-eared Owls were reported from e. Washington only. A Chimney Swift was observed carefully north of Manhattan, Mont. on June 2. This is the first local record (RLE). A migrating flock of 20 Vaux's Swifts was observed over Latah Creek near Spokane on May 15 (WH). Arrival dates for hummingbirds in the Spokane area were from one to two weeks later than normal, but the May 15 appearance of the Calliope was early for the Bozeman area.

**WOODPECKERS**—A Yellow-shafted Flicker was reported at the Bison Range May 2 (DK). Six White-headed Woodpeckers were counted at Boise Cascade Park in the Wenas Valley n.e. of Yakima (AR). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were reported in winter and early spring

at Bridger Bowl ski area east of Bozeman, where few records for the species exist (JP).

**FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS**—The first E. Kingbird at Vernon, B.C. was seen on May 9, about five days earlier than average, and the first W. there was seen on the unusually early date of Apr. 17 (JB). First sighting for the latter in e. Washington, May 14, was very late. A Least Flycatcher was identified at Missoula on May 25. Arrivals of Traill's and Dusky Flycatchers and the W. Wood Pewee were also distinctly late in e. Washington.

The Barn Swallow established a record early arrival date of Apr. 17 at Three Forks, Mont. Cliff Swallows were particularly abundant in the Clarkston, Wash. vicinity during May, when 500 were estimated on three dates (MJP). Perhaps these contributed to the buildup at Medical L., Spokane Co., Wash. where "thousands" were reported on May 30 (S.A.S.). At Missoula, all swallows seemed particularly scarce.

**JAYS AND CHICKADEES**—The Blue Jay that wintered at a feeder at Spokane was not seen after Apr. 10 (VN & CS). The spectacular concentration of Clark's Nutcrackers in the Spokane-Cheney area had nearly vanished by the end of May—2 were noted on the 30th. About 10 Chestnut-backed Chickadees, the only ones reported, were seen at Heyburn State Park west of St. Maries, Ida., May 8 (S.A.S.). The Boreal Chickadee was noted only in Yoho Nat'l Park, where it is the most common species of chickadee (WCW). About 12 Common Bushtits were observed in Sumpter Valley near Baker, Feb. 23.

**NUTHATCHES AND WRENS**—A few White-breasted Nuthatches were noted in e. Washington only, at Ahtanum Ranger Station west of Yakima and a few other localities. Inexplicably, no Winter Wrens at all were observed in s. interior British Columbia. The only report for the species was of 1 singing in Heyburn State Park May 8 (S.A.S.). Bewick's Wren was reported from Cold Springs Nat'l Wildlife Refuge near Hermiston, Ore. on Apr. 24 and at Yakima (AR).

**THRUSHES AND WAXWINGS**—Seven reports mentioned sightings of W. Bluebirds, and nine of Mountain Bluebirds. The former species was not noted east of Missoula. A Sage Thrasher arrival on Apr. 12 matched the previous early record for Bozeman (RAH, LM & JM). Most Bohemian Waxwings had left before April. Flocks were moving north through the Okanogan Valley of s. British Columbia during late March and the first week of April. Cedar Waxwings, which wintered in more than usual numbers in some areas, had their numbers augmented in late May by the arrival of migrants.

**WARBLERS**—The warbler migration, with few exceptions, appeared about on time. May 12 for the Yellow Warbler at Bozeman was early (JM). At Dry Falls, Grant Co., Wash. on May 8 Myrtle Warblers were almost as numerous as Audubon's (FBH). The former is generally considered a

scarce migrant in the Region. A **Hermit Warbler**, seen May 29 at Boise Cascade Campground on Wenas Creek n.w. of Yakima, added a species new to that area (REW). A **Black-and-White Warbler**, a rarity in Washington, was closely observed along Crab Creek, Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, about 8 miles n.w. of Othello (PM). A Yellowthroat at Heppner, Ore. on May 7 was distinctly earlier than the usual arrival dates for other parts of the Region (KH).

**FINCHES**—The Lazuli Bunting posted a record early date of May 12 at Bozeman (HC). Evening Grosbeaks, common to abundant in many localities during late winter, remained to the end of May in some places. Numbers dwindled sharply in the Spokane area but at Missoula they built up to a peak about May 20, and about 300 were counted in a limited residential area the last week of the month. In Washington the species apparently did not reach as far south as Pasco or Clarkston but a few were seen at Walla Walla. In Oregon they were present in late February at Hepper (KH) and remained at Baker to the end of May. A wave of migrants passed through the North Okanagan Valley on Apr. 24. The birds were very scarce in that area during the winter.

Sizeable concentrations of Cassin's Finch were noted in several localities: west of Oliver, B.C., "about 40 seen at Sawmill L. and several other localities" (WCW); along Ahtanum Ranger Station Road west of Yakima more than 100 on Apr. 21 (AR), and at Spokane flocks up to 75 at feeders in April. Four **Purple Finches** were seen west of Three Forks, Mont. on Apr. 4 and an imm. ♂ in full song was carefully identified on Mt. Spokane north of Spokane, May 29 (FBH). House Finches at Missoula appeared scarce in early May, perhaps because of nesting, but became more evident toward the end of the month. Mated pairs were noted in many parts of the city. Red Crossbills were practically unreported, with a few noted in the Spokane area only.

**SPARROWS**—The Green-tailed Towhee, reported only from the Bozeman area, was first seen on May 25 (RAH). Savannah Sparrows began arriving on Apr. 5 at Prineville, Ore. and seemed unusually abundant, being found nesting in areas not occupied in the past few years. Their numbers appeared to be down in the Spokane area. The uncommon Grasshopper Sparrow was reported at Vernon, B.C., Spokane and Clarkston, Wash. (MJP). Tree Sparrows, mentioned only for Missoula, were last seen there on Mar. 29. A **Harris' Sparrow** changing to breeding plumage was noted at Lavington, B.C. on Mar. 23. Presumably the same bird had attained full breeding attire by Apr. 18. The White-crowned Sparrow migration was, from an observer viewpoint at least, disappointing at most localities, with no large concentrations. At Spokane generally fair weather during the movement quite possibly sped their passage through. A Golden-crowned Sparrow was

reported at Medical L., Wash. on May 5 (JA) and at Walla Walla 1 was seen Apr. 22 and 4 on the 23rd (NFM). Near Ellensburg, Wash. 2 of this species were netted on Apr. 29 and 3 the following day (PM). A White-throated Sparrow that wintered at a Spokane feeder left on Apr. 15 (RMW).

McCown's Longspur, reported only from Three Forks, was first seen on Apr. 20 (early). Two or 3 Lapland Longspurs were seen south of Creston, Wash. on Apr. 17 (S.A.S.). A single Snow Bunting was seen near Missoula on Mar. 19 and 1 that had been dead for perhaps a week was found in a small field near a busy shopping center there, Apr. 20.

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## **GREAT BASIN-CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION** **/ Hugh E. Kingery**

With trepidation and anticipation I approach the reporting job on this diverse region of 425,000 square miles—15 per cent of the land area of the coterminous United States (more if you flattened out the mountains)—a vast area in which the distance between the two farthest points exceeds the distance between New York and Miami, and which stretches from farther east than El Paso to farther west than Los Angeles. This expanse is little known ornithologically, largely because it contains only 1 per cent of the population of the United States. It contains two principal topographical features—the s. Rocky Mountains in Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, and Idaho, and the Great Basin of Utah, Oregon, and Nevada. Drainage either drops into the sinks of Nevada and