

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).

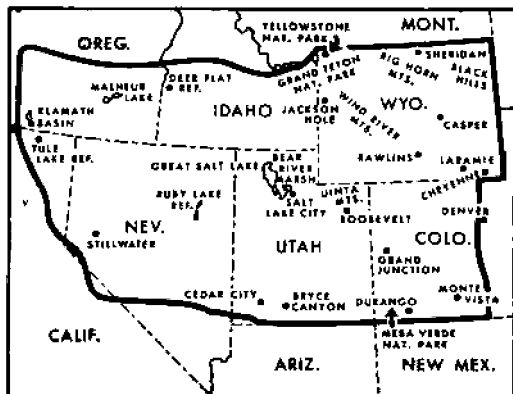
McCown's Longspur, reported only from Three Forks, was first seen on Apr. 20 (early). Two or 3 Lapland Longspurs were seen south of Creston, Wash. on Apr. 17 (S.A.S.). A single Snow Bunting was seen near Missoula on Mar. 19 and 1 that had been dead for perhaps a week was found in a small field near a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

Utah, or feeds every major river system in the w. United States. Major rivers which rise within the Region are the Snake, Yellowstone, Missouri, North Platte, South Platte, Arkansas, Rio Grande, and Colorado. Bird variety in the section is diverse, like the habitats; probably 60 per cent of the AOU species have been recorded here. Many are regarded as rare, but then bird observers in the area are also rare.



Weather in the West this spring was cold and wet. Rains and snows swept through the Region throughout April and May, and the season culminated on Memorial Day weekend with a storm which brought snow from one end to the other—beginning in California on May 25 and ending in Colorado and Wyoming on May 31. After the dry winter, the spring snows brought some mountain snowpacks, such as the Sierra Nevadas, Calif., and Wolf Creek Pass, Colo., up to normal, and most others, like the Front Range, Colo., and the Wind River Range, Wyo., to above normal. Exceptions to the wet weather, the San Luis Valley and San Juan Basin in s. and w. Colorado, seem to be suffering from the same drought conditions now afflicting Texas and New Mexico. The cold, wet weather affected the migration in the Region, delaying it, reducing numbers, or causing the birds to pass right on by. In many areas, high waters caused the shorebirds to move through without stopping, while at the same time creating excellent water conditions in many wildlife refuges, and raising hopes for a fine crop of geese and ducks.

Most important bird news of the Region erupted into national headlines from dead eagles found in Wyoming and then Colorado. Hopefully the ruckus will result in better protection of wildlife, nationally. Over 100 eagles, both Golden and Bald, died in the two states: 22 from poison, perhaps put out for four-legged predators; the rest from electrocution by ungrounded rural power lines. In Casper, the district attorney has charged 5 prominent men with crimes related to the poison deaths. The accused include a prominent stockman and a federal predator control agent. According to these

charges, the men injected severe dosages of thallium sulfate into antelope carcasses, then set them out on the range. Because of an inability to prove intent to kill eagles, the charges accuse the men of violating various game laws respecting, not the eagles, but rather the antelope. Stronger laws are needed, on a federal level, to protect against the unlimited and uncontrolled slaughter of eagles by stockmen operating on old-fashioned and unproven prejudices. The electrocuted birds, found near Worland, Wyo., Craig, Colo., and Greeley, Colo., had died over the past 3 years. After a similar instance in Utah some years ago, power lines were grounded. Audubon officials hope to solve the latest problem in a similar manner.

A worse slaughter apparently strikes every spring at the Great Blue Herons and other fish-eating birds along the Snake R. in e. Idaho. The herons suffer from a bad image with commercial, state and federal trout farms. Professor Charles H. Trost reports, "In the past and, I feel, still, there are an unbelievable number of herons, egrets, kingfishers, etc., slaughtered each year. I have a reputable report of 300 Great Blues killed at one hatchery near Buhl last year. The hatchery operators are very resistant to change. The commercial people do not have a license to kill (even though they still do it), but the federal and state people can legally do it—they are 'protecting' public property. The herons may be more important to the public than the fish, however."

LOONS, GREBES, HERONS, IBIS—Com. Loons, not too often seen in the mountain area, appeared at Dubois, Wyo., Apr. 18 & 28, at Delta, Colo. Apr. 27, and at Antero Reservoir, near Hartsel, Colo., May 23 & 26 (C.F.O., MPS). Only 3 Red-necked Grebes were found during the spring at Rocky Point, Ore.; perhaps pressure from recreation boats and fishermen forced them to move on (JH). Eared Grebes peaked at 3000 and Western Grebes at 1200, in late April, at Stillwater Wildlife Management Area, Nev. Peak at Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Ore., at the same time, was 5200 Eared Grebes; W. Grebes, however, were 2 weeks later than usual (SF). White Pelicans numbered 200 at Lower Klamath Refuge Apr. 25. To the east of their Utah nesting grounds, pelican reports included 2 at Antero Res. May 11 (HEK) and 13 for a week beginning Apr. 23 at L. DeSmet, near Sheridan, Wyo.—the species had never been seen there before in spring, and never more than one bird seen in the fall season. A Green Heron wandered into Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo., the second week of May. Utah's most notable record of the season came from Logan: a Cattle Egret observed 3 miles w. of town on May 6 (Mike Dalton and Janet Young, fide KLD). Is this the first for Utah? This spreading species will probably soon venture into the n.w. states. The White-faced Ibis staged a noticeable migra-

tion, and appeared at some unusual places. Reports included 2 at Sheridan May 3; 50 at Centerville, Utah, May 3 (WWB); 1 at Estes Park, Colo., May 5 (RD); 35 at Durango May 15; 25 at Blue Mesa Res., Gunnison Co., Colo., May 16 (ASH); 30 at Antero Res. Apr. 11 (BMM) and 24 there on May 23 (C.F.O.).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS—After peaking at Malheur in March, most Whistling Swans left shortly after Apr. 1, and all had departed for their breeding grounds by May 7. In the east, where they are unusual, 2-3 birds stayed at Antero Apr. 11-18. Malheur's isolated breeding population of Trumpeter Swans, which apparently winters in California, maintained a steady population of 40-45 during the spring. Two Trumpeters stopped at Dubois May 18-25. Migrating White-fronted Geese reached their maximum numbers during the first week in April, with 200 at Modoc N.W.R., Calif., and 250 at Malheur. Snow Geese, which peaked at Malheur in late March, had dropped to 25,000 there by Apr. 1; all had left by May 7. While abundant in the w. part of the Region, this species is not frequent in the Rockies. Hence of interest are single birds reported from Sweitzer L. near Delta May 3-8; from Sheridan May 10; 1 which stayed for more than a month, Mar. 27-May 15 at Monte Vista N.W.R.; and the flock of 14 at Antero Res. May 11 (HEK) of which 1 remained May 26 (MPS). The Blue Goose, an infrequent visitor to Malheur, was observed twice, Apr. 8 and 16. Ross' Goose peaked at 100 Apr. 1 at Malheur, and like the Snow Goose, all had left by May 7.

The wildlife refuges attract most of the waterbirds in this dry country, with Malheur the star attraction. There the Canada Goose population stabilized at 2900 at the beginning of the period; it included 1030 nesting pairs while the balance, of nonbreeders, moved about the refuge. Ducks peaked during March and by Apr. 1, 107,000 remained, including 75,000 Pintail. By May 1 most of the Pintails had moved northward and the duck population dropped to 63,700. By the end of May the numbers had dropped to 45,000, primarily nesting birds. Blue-winged Teal arrived May 3, three weeks late, but other species varied little from the norm. At Modoc N.W.R., Calif., geese peaked at 1775 in the second week of April; many moved on, and they peaked again the last week of April. The Cackling Geese migrated through, leaving a summer population of 1300 Canada Geese. Ducks built up to almost 9000 the last week in April, with 3000 Shovelers, 1700 Cinnamon Teal, 1000 Pintails, and 700 each Buffleheads and Gadwalls. Total waterfowl present that week was 10,785 plus 3800 Am. Coots. Stillwater estimated its breeding population at 5 per cent of last year's level, and although water is good, nesting began late. The first Mallard brood appeared on May 18, two weeks later than last year's harbinger. Deer Flat N.W.R., Idaho, concentrates on nesting Canada Geese,

and had counted 1209 goslings by the end of May. Heavy snowfall at higher elevations caused a sizable runoff during the nesting season, lessening available habitats. However it was not disastrous, as in 1969, because the high water occurred steadily throughout the season instead of suddenly in mid-nesting. "The number of nests over the past 20 years has remained about the same, but the number of young birds produced has increased by about 20 per cent. This would seem to indicate that the birds are not really trying harder, they are just getting more efficient." (EMB)

Ducks stopped briefly, and only in small groups, around Cedar City, Utah. In Colorado Monte Vista N.W.R. had 42,000 ducks and 1500 Canada Geese as its peak, the first week in April; 25,000 Mallards, 9000 Pintails, and 3500 Gadwalls comprised most of the total. Alamosa N.W.R., Colo., noted duck populations slightly below normal, with nesting slow to start (RLD). An estimated 20,000 Lesser Scaups and 1000 Redheads filled Antero Res. Apr. 11. The brand new Arapaho N.W.R., in North Park, Jackson Co., Colo., attracted more Pintails than anything else—390 on May 21. Its other high counts occurred May 28 with 350 Lesser Scaup, 325 Gadwalls, and 250 Am. Widgeons (RK). Outstanding duck records included Colorado's second record of the **European Widgeon**, carefully studied and identified by an experienced observer at Sweitzer L. near Delta on May 4. The bird was feeding with Canvasbacks, but did not stay (DAG). The Wood Duck, rare on the east slope of the Sierras, was seen near Mammoth, Calif., in May (JMF). The Greater Scaup, rare anywhere inland, was found at Sheridan during April. Barrow's Goldeneye made unusual spring appearances at Malheur—Apr. 13, 14, and 23—each time in different areas. The same species, commonest wintering duck at Dubois, left in mid-May for its nesting areas.

HAWKS, EAGLES, GROUSE—Scattered reports of Goshawk, Sharp-shinned, and Cooper's Hawks revealed little about population trends, although the Goshawk has apparently disappeared as a nesting bird around Evergreen, Colo. A Red-tailed Hawk engaged in a dramatic courtship flight at Dubois Apr. 17, and a nesting pair was feeding young on the San Juan R. below Bluff, Utah, May 3 (RLB). Scattered reports of eagles throughout the Region lift some of the gloom from the appalling slaughter which occurred in Wyoming and Colorado. Golden Eagle nests were found at Stillwater and in the White Mountains, Calif. (JMF). Observations included several birds at Malheur, Sheridan, and Monte Vista; 1 at Canyonlands Nat'l Park Apr. 8 (GJH); 6 at Antero Apr. 11; 2 at Lower Klamath N.W.R. Apr. 25 (OS); 1 along the San Juan R., Utah, May 2 (RLB); 5 at McCoy, Colo. May 26; and 2 near Cisco, Utah May 28 (RLB). Bald Eagle reports, much fewer in number, came from

Dead Horse Point State Park, Utah, Apr. 7 (GJH) and 2 immatures were seen at Malheur Apr. 14; however they were missing from their usual patrol on the Wind River near Dubois. A few Osprey reports came in, although the population at Yellowstone Park is apparently declining (WWD). Reports included 4 sightings in April in the Lahontan Valley near Stillwater, where the bird is rare; 11 observations at Malheur, compared with 4 last year and 2 in 1969 (SF); 2 at L. DeSmet, Sheridan, hopefully searching for a nest site. Six sightings of the Peregrine Falcon came in: Apr. 11 at Cedar City; 1 each on Apr. 16 and May 16 at Malheur; 1 Apr. 25-30 at Monte Vista; 1, or probably 2, at Lower Klamath Apr. 25, observed diving at a pelican, which emerged from the encounter undamaged; and 1 May 11 at Antero (HEK). The first Pigeon Hawk in 2 years was seen at Malheur Apr. 7 and 11 (SF). Blue Grouse are becoming scarce along the Front Range of the Rockies, at least around Eldora, Colo. However White-tailed Ptarmigan breeding densities are showing varied success, according to Colo. Game Fish & Parks Dept. studies relating to hunting and its effects on ptarmigan populations (CEB). Sage Grouse dancing grounds at Malheur emptied by mid-May, but near Walden, Colo., the birds may suffer from an unusual setback: too many bird-watchers. A wildlife conservation officer worried publicly that the steady stream of dance-onlookers was frightening the birds from their intended achievements.

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS, GULLS, TERNS—Monte Vista N.W.R. attracted its highest number of Sandhill Cranes yet, 6121 on Mar. 7-13 (late report). Most of the Monte Vista birds go to Gray's Lake N.W.R., Idaho, where the birds appeared in usual numbers. At Malheur nesting began Apr. 7 and was largely completed by the end of May. Snowy Plovers, rare in the Colorado mountains, scurried along the shores of Antero Res. at least from May 11-31 (HEK, BMM, SG). This species arrived 3 weeks late at Malheur (SF). Three Semipalmated Plovers, first in several years, stopped at Parowan, Utah, Apr. 20 (SM); 3 turned up at Antero May 23 (SG, BMM). Black-bellied Plovers staged a relative eruption; uncommon anywhere in the Rockies, 18 were at Antero May 11 (HEK), and 1 remained there until May 23 (C.F.O.); 4 dropped down at L. DeSmet near Sheridan May 20. Malheur's spring count had 29, and at Stillwater, where the normal complement runs 10-15, a flock of 200 stayed for the last 3 weeks of April.

In Utah shorebirds appeared only briefly, and apparently found the flooded river courses inhospitable, so that only small numbers were observed (SM, KLD). Around Pocatello, the Long-billed Curlew is declining, due to increasing agricultural use (CHT); however many were found at Warner Valley and Lakeview, Ore., as

well as 50 at Klamath Falls, Ore., Apr. 6 (JH). Whimbrels appeared in the desert valley of Dubois: 2 on Apr. 11, 10 Apr. 18. During May, 4 Upland Plovers appeared at L. DeSmet—4 times as many as ever before. Spotted Sandpipers made their earliest appearance at Dubois in 8 years on Apr. 18, were late elsewhere, but numerous throughout the Colo. Rockies, e.g., 70-80 at Estes Park in the aftermath of a May 25 snowstorm (RD). A flock of 14 Willets at Evergreen May 2 was a new locality record, and there were never so many nesting in swampy areas of the Warner Valley and Lakeview (JH). At the north edge of South Park near Como, Colo., 4 Greater Yellowlegs put in an Easter appearance Apr. 11; but they had been at Monte Vista since Mar. 27. The 2 Knots at Stinking L., Malheur, on May 18 were the second record for e. Oregon (CL). Two Pectoral Sandpipers Apr. 26 at Sweitzer L. represent the first spring record for w. Colo., but 12 had already appeared at Dubois Apr. 12. An unusually high number of Long-billed Dowitchers—20—stopped at Parowan, Utah, Apr. 29 (SM). One Stilt Sandpiper at L. DeSmet on May 24 was noteworthy. Near Delta, 15 Marbled Godwits on Apr. 20 & 25 represented unusually high numbers, as did Antero flocks of 25 Apr. 25 and 49 May 9. Wave-chasing Sanderlings seemed out of place at Blue Mesa Res., Gunnison Co., Colo., Apr. 25 (DAG), at Antero May 23 (BMM, SG), and during May at L. DeSmet. Am. Avocets had begun nesting by the end of May at Stillwater N.W.R., Lakeview, and Monte Vista. Two put in a rare appearance at Estes Park, Colo. on May 8 (RD). Black-necked Stilts appeared at their usual time at the nesting grounds at Stillwater, the first arriving on Apr. 5; they arrived 3 weeks early at Malheur (SF); and some were nesting at Lakeview in late April (JH); however the 7 at Monte Vista Apr. 24-30 and the 3 at Antero May 22-23 (C.F.O.) had strayed east of their usual migratory paths. Wilson's Phalaropes were scarce around Logan, Utah (KLD), and arrived late at Pocatello (CHT), but Monte Vista had its first on Apr. 24 and reported 4200 by Apr. 25. On May 11, 2 stray Northern Phalaropes mixed with several Wilson's at Monte Vista (HEK) and the same day a flock of 30 visited Sweitzer L. At Malheur 19 were counted on the spring count May 18.

A California Gull colony was found at Antero (C.F.O.), probably the first between the Great Salt Lake and the eastern Colo. prairie. A check on May 26 found 100 nests (MPS). The Pocatello populations of this bird and the Ring-billed Gull are doing quite well, numbering in the 10,000's. Both are increasing: "With their opportunistic ways, they do well in a changing environment." (CHT) As at Pocatello, California Gulls in the Owens Valley, Calif., are multiplying, nurtured by the lakes and dumps. Drilling for geothermal steam for power will begin in

Mono L. this year; hopefully it won't interfere with the gull colonies on islands in the lake. Four Franklin's Gulls and 2 Bonaparte's appeared at Sweitzer L. Apr. 21. Several Caspian Terns visited Lower Klamath, with 25 on Apr. 17 and 5 on Apr. 25 (OS). A Black Tern May 14 at Gull L. was, surprisingly, the first in the Owens Valley.

DOVES, OWLS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS—Band-tailed Pigeon migration into Colorado came late, because of the cool, wet weather, but numbers remain about the same except in s.w. Colo. where diminished numbers apparently stem from the drought in the southwest (CEB). Mourning Dove populations remain equivalent to 1970 levels, but nesting was also delayed by weather (CEB). However they were slow to appear and slow to build up to their usual numbers at Alamosa (RLD). Doves first appeared in Evergreen May 1, and were unusually numerous at Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park during May (AC) and around Nederland, Colo., where they formerly were rare (GMS). The Barn Owl, scarce in Utah, returned to Salt Lake City during April (GK) and one appeared May 27 near Cedar City. The Burrowing Owl, suffering from increased agriculture around Pocatello, could muster only one pair each at two different colonies. At Logan, Utah, Short-eared Owls were "exceptionally abundant, possibly prospering on rodents that, after the high waters, were concentrated on the remaining high ground" (KLD). Mono Co., Calif., picked up its first record of a Vaux's Swift, a bird found frozen at Mammoth May 28 just after May's final snowstorm. Others, the first in 5 years, were seen in the Owens Valley at the same time. Thousands of White-throated Swifts massed in Cedar Valley, Utah, May 12-20: "driving across the valley, no matter where, they were overhead." (SM) Black Swifts, which often appear in fairly large numbers, were scarce in the same area, with only 3 seen, all on May 25. Observers with feeders notice the arrival of Broad-tailed Hummingbirds; they reported them variously early (Dubois, May 25, "climbing invisible ladders beside long stems of gooseberries"); normal but in half the usual numbers (Deer Creek Canyon, west of Denver, GB); and 2 weeks late (Eldora). A Red-shafted X Yellow-shafted Flicker hybrid appeared five times in April at Dubois and a Red-headed Woodpecker there was the third in 8 years. Williamson's Sapsucker arrived early at Evergreen on Apr. 3.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, NUTHATCHES, WRENS, THRUSHES—On Apr. 29 a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on the Siloam Road west of Pueblo, Colo., had wandered a little north and west of its usual range (DS). Most flycatchers were later than usual; at Malheur E. Kingbirds, Traill's Flycatcher, and W. Wood Pewee arrived late; at Eldora only 1 Traill's and one Western had appeared by the end of May; the other scattered reports of other flycatchers came only during the

last week of May, in low numbers at that. However the Gray Flycatcher is again abundant at Calun L. and along Route 131, Ore. (i.e., 12 in 7 miles—JH). The exceptional record, however, is a **Vermilion Flycatcher** in South Park, near Jefferson, Colo., from May 15-23, verified by photographs (CH). It is the fourth record for w. Colorado.

In contrast to flycatchers, swallows seemed unusually early and numerous throughout Colorado (except Evergreen) and Wyoming. Violet-green Swallows were numerous around Delta in late April, Durango, Colo., May 15, McCoy, Colo. May 26, and they came early to Dubois on Apr. 16; yet they were late at Evergreen, with the first record on May 16. Tree Swallows flocked even more commonly, starting with one winging over the snowy top of the Vail, Colo., ski area Apr. 9 (HEK), to include the third earliest date at Dubois Apr. 10, flocks of 200 or more on Apr. 11 along the Colorado R. at Radium and State Bridge, Colo.; large numbers at Delta during late April and early May, including 485 May 8; continuing flocks during May moving north along the Blue R., Summit Co., Colo., and flocks of 360 May 11 and 200 May 23 at Antero. Malheur counted a peak of 2600 Tree Swallows Apr. 19. Two ♀ **Purple Martins** observed for 15 minutes at Malheur were the first there in 53 years (WA). Clark's Nutcrackers frequented the piñon pines of Natural Bridges Nat'l Mon. during May (GK). Black-capped Chickadees may be spreading to the high country, with an attempted but unconsummated nesting at 9400 ft. in Summit Co., Colo., begun May 22. Red-breasted Nuthatches presented a spotty picture, appearing daily at Evergreen during April, becoming common in the lodgepole pines in Summit Co., in late May, while seen only twice, during May, at Dubois, once at Cheyenne May 17 (MH), and not at all at Sheridan. The Pygmy Nuthatch showed up at Buffalo, Wyo., an unusual location for this rather sedentary species (TK). Brown Creepers were more evident in Summit Co., singing more than usual during May. While the Long-billed Marsh Wren nests at Monte Vista and Alamosa, its appearance near Delta Apr. 28 and May 8 was unusual for w. Colo. A Cañon Wren May 1 at Gunnison, Colo., was the only one for the county in 20 years (ASH). Malheur saw its first Mockingbird in 2 years on May 8 (SF). Flocks of 158 and 134 Robins massed during snowstorms at Dubois Apr. 18 & 25. The Hermit Thrush came back to Malheur 16 days earlier than ever before, on Apr. 7, but Swainson's Thrushes arrived a week later than average (SF). Observers saw no W. Bluebirds at Evergreen, while at Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park record numbers appeared during May, including 216 counted on May 15 (RD, AC). A dozen Golden-crowned Kinglets frequented the forests of Summit Co. May 30-31; spring and summer status

in the Colo. mountains is uncertain. By Apr. 18 some Ruby-crowned Kinglets were establishing territories at their nesting grounds in Summit Co., even as dozens of others migrated through the Blue R. Valley below and on the plains at Denver and east, for another month.

PIPITS, WAXWINGS, VIREOS, WARBLERS—Water Pipits presented a mixed bag: they were missed at Eldora; 8 appeared Apr. 19 at Dubois; and the several flocks during May in Summit Co. were later than last year. One at Monte Vista May 1 constituted a new record for the refuge (NH). The only Colorado report of Bohemian Waxwings came from Summit Co. Apr. 10-11, and the birds had left Sheridan by April. Cedar Waxwings remained at Sheridan all through the season, and turned up May 26 at both McCoy and Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park (RD). Vireos were late with none reported during the period except at Malheur, where the Solitary was 2 weeks early and the Warbling was one week late (SF). The warbler migration in this part of the West is never spectacular, but warblers arrived early at Durango and late at Pocatello (CHT). Both a Black-and-white and a Tennessee Warbler wandered into Bear Creek Canyon west of Colorado Springs on May 22 and May 1 respectively (SG). The same two species were much more notable at Malheur, where 2 Black-and-white Warblers May 18 made the third record for the refuge and probably the third for Oregon (SF). The Tennessee Warbler there was banded on May 31, for Oregon's sixth record (CL, WA, ELM, SF). A Tennessee Warbler also appeared at Dubois May 31. Most abundant migrant warbler in the West is the Audubon's Warbler, which was early at Durango Apr. 10 and at Dubois Apr. 23, but late at Estes Park May 8 (RD). In the Cedar Valley, where it usually is abundant, it passed through only in modest flocks. At Cheyenne 15 migrants lingered on May 27 (MH). Two Black-throated Gray Warblers at Logan May 22 were notable (Richard Paul, fide KLD), as were 2 Blackpoll Warblers at Durango May 8, the first in La Plata County.

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS, FINCHES, SPARROWS—A Bobolink ventured to Manitou L. north of Woodland Park, Colo., May 22 (SG). The Orchard Oriole, rare anywhere in Wyoming, was found in Cheyenne May 27, for that city's first record (MH, OKS). A Rusty Blackbird, unusual at any time in the West, visited Pocatello on May 1, for Idaho's second record of the species (CHT). Com. Grackles were counted 20 times during the period and 2 were found in Estes Park May 27, where they have been limited in numbers (AC). This species shows signs of spreading westward, with the potential of repeating its Denver feat, where it has evicted the Brewer's Blackbird from its conifer nesting sites and banished it from that plains city. Cowbirds seem exceptionally numerous in Logan (KLD) and McCoy, and appeared early at Delta on Apr. 23. A second

record for the Estes Park area was a Scarlet Tanager May 25-30 (WR). The late May storm trapped unprecedented numbers of W. Tanagers in lower Mono Co., Calif. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Pocatello May 28 was apparently a new bird for Idaho. That bird staged a mini-invasion of Colorado, with reports of 2 at Beulah May 11-18 (DAG) and single birds at Grand L. May 22-23 (GB), and Gunnison May 30 (one or two appear there every spring—ASH). An Indigo Bunting strayed west to Dubois May 23-28. Observers throughout the mountains commented on the Evening Grosbeak. At Durango, where spring counters totaled 2041 May 18, the grosbeaks made so much noise it was hard to hear other birds. While they left Monte Vista May 20 (SOS), they continued through the end of the period at Durango, Logan (RMB), Evergreen, Sheridan, and Dubois.

Migrating Cassin's Finches swarmed through Durango all through the spring. They were daily at Evergreen through May 17, peaking at 84 on Apr. 10. Rosy Finches lingered low in Colorado and Wyoming. The Gray-crowned stayed through May 15, and one Black still remained on May 18 at Estes Park (AC, WR), while 5 Blacks remained at Dubois until May 23. Five hundred Brown-capped visited an Estes Park feeder on the late date of May 15, and some remained in that yard through May 25 (AC); they returned from the high country to Eldora three times in May, the last time on May 17. Observers noted no Red Crossbills at Evergreen or Estes Park, although a few birds were noted in Summit Co. and Sheridan.

A 1970-banded Green-tailed Towhee returned to Evergreen May 14, and the species appeared at Malheur the earliest ever, on May 2 (SF). The Rufous-sided Towhee, rare as high as Estes Park, appeared there on the early date of Apr. 5 (Lois Matthews, fide AC). Savannah Sparrows came early to Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, with 2 at Beaver Meadows Apr. 12 and 25 at L. Estes May 20 (RD). Surprising numbers were also counted at Antero, with a peak of 250 on May 23. Evergreen's Cassin's Sparrow finally left on May 13 (Miriam Marshall, fide WWB). A Black-throated Sparrow on May 1 was new to the Monte Vista N.W.R. list (NH), and the bird's appearance at Durango was the first record there in recent years (Tom Frizell, fide OR). Juncos staged a heavy migration during April in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, with the Oregons gone by Apr. 24 (AC), but further south, 9 lingered through May 15 at Durango. A Tree Sparrow near Estes Park on May 15 represents a very late date, one of the latest for Colorado (WR). Feeders held 2 stray Harris' Sparrows through May 17 at Durango (Elva Fox, fide OR), and into May at Dubois. Fox Sparrows are more widespread in the Colorado mountains than formerly. They returned Apr. 18 to Eldora, where they breed along Middle Boulder Creek, and 6

singing males held forth along the Blue R., Summit Co., during late April and May. The Chestnut-collared Longspur, a Great Plains species, straggles into the mountains, and an exhausted bird near Green Mountain Res., Summit Co., was a first county record. The bird is reported as a regular though uncommon migrant at Gunnison, Colo., where half a dozen birds stopped on Apr. 24 (ASH).

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SOUTHWEST REGION / Patricia R. Snider

The spring of 1971 was unusually cool, windy, and very dry; "as dry as anyone can remember" (BJ). It was said to be the driest in 25 years or more. Since last October there have been few storms. Hard freezes were still occurring in the northern highlands until June.



Yet, because of the weather conditions, it was one of the liveliest and most exciting migrations in years, with "eastern-type" waves of migrants concentrated near streams and held back by the cold. Most arrivals were delayed and nesting had not yet begun. The migration was clearly extending into June. Some species lingered longer before continuing on their northward journey.

All streams and ponds were low and winds were drying the seeps, thus moving birds to new habitats generally on the edges of towns. Some high altitude birds were staying lower than usual, while many species were still in flocks at the end of May.

The cold retarded plant growth and curtailed blossoming. Vegetation was also seared by drought—"only the mesquites were in cheerful bloom" (BJ). Many range and forest fires were being fought and forests were closed to most activities. The cold also apparently affected insect life. In the Chiricahua Mts., Cochise Co., Ariz. flycatchers were found to be starving; W. Tanagers and others had little or no fat reserves (SR). Many insect-eaters came to suet feeders all during the spring.

LOONS, GREBES—A Com. Loon was seen Apr. 12 at the Dexter Fish Hatchery, Chaves Co., N. Mex. (ED). Two more were seen near Ivins, Washington Co., Utah on May 7 (GK). Two or 3 W. Grebes were near Cliff, Grant Co., N. Mex. Apr. 25 (CD, BE) to May 8 (RF, et al.). Another was seen at San Ildefonso Pueblo, Santa Fe Co., N. Mex. May 20 (LH). A Least Grebe was seen at Big Bend Nat'l Park, Tex. Apr. 15 (RW).

CORMORANTS, PELICANS—Found at Phoenix, Ariz. May 15 were 3 White Pelicans (RT). An unusual number was the 8 Double-crested Cormorants near Patagonia, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz. May 2 (WM).

HERONS, IBIS—Two Little Blue Herons were found at Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, near Roswell, N. Mex. May 8 (DB, VM); 1 was counted at El Paso, Tex. the same day (E.P.A.S.), another was seen near Las Cruces, N. Mex. Apr. 16 (SW); and 1 was in Tucson, Ariz. May 26-31 (HF, GG). An Am. Bittern was seen near Nogales, Ariz. May 6 (BFW); with 1-3 found on Bitter L. Refuge from Apr. 28 (JHS) to May 8 (DB). Single Least Bitterns were sighted at Big Bend Park on Apr. 15 (RW), at El Paso May 8 (E.P.A.S.), near Phoenix May 18 (SD), and near Winkleman, Pinal Co., Ariz. May 20 (SD, HL, ER). Three White-faced Ibis were at Ganado Lake, Apache Co., Ariz. May 17 (BJB, WW); while 1 was seen at Winkleman May 20 (SD, HL, ER).

GEESE, DUCKS—A White-fronted, a Snow, and a Ross' Goose remained in Phoenix until May 5 (SD). A Snow Goose was at Bitter L. Refuge May 8 (N.M.), and a Ross' Goose wintered at Las Vegas, Nev. until Apr. 15 (CL, MVM et al.). Black-bellied Tree Ducks arrived late near Nogales May 6 (BFW), and 2 were seen in Tucson on May 8 (PN). Many species of ducks lingered