

COWBIRDS, TANAGERS — Bronzed Cowbirds are parasitizing a large number of passerine species—including Green Jays, Long-billed Thrashers and Cardinals—in the Santa Ana Refuge area. In one instance, 10 cowbird eggs were discovered with 2 Green Jay eggs (WAS). This species has increased in the 5-county Bone census area out of Falfurrias, while the Brown-headed Cowbird is holding a high population level (OCB). Two pairs of Summer Tanagers were observed carrying nesting material at Anzalduas Park, Hidalgo Co., May 2. "This species has become very rare as a breeder in recent years" (JCA).

FRINGILLIDS — Fifty-eight Cardinal nests were located in the Bone census area, double the count of 1970; 3 nests held dead young. The *Pyrrhuloxia* nest count remained at 64 in the same area; 10 nests had dead young (OCB). The Painted Bunting population was much reduced in the Rockport area (DNM). Two pairs of White-collared Seed-eaters nested at Anzalduas with reportedly limited success (SJ, side WAS). A juvenile Seaside Sparrow was being fed in a Rockport area marsh May 9 (DNM). For the Rio Grande Delta, Arvin reported Botteri's Sparrow scarce during spring due to lack of grasses on "the drought-stricken and overgrazed prairies, but coming into full song after 4-inch rains in late June brought back the grasses." In early July there seemed to be "approximately 1 pair per 5 acres of optimum habitat, while Cassin's Sparrow runs about twice that density, but only where the brush grows more thickly on the prairie edges." Field Sparrows nested in the same area as last year at Beeville (AHG).

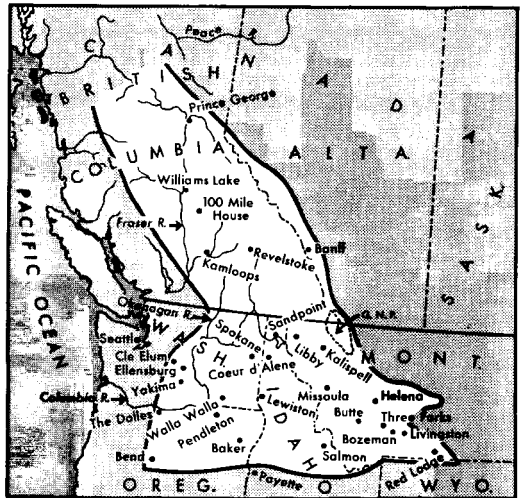
ADDENDUM — The "large all-white gull" referred to vaguely on page 769 of the spring migration report was found and photographed by Jerry R. Smith March 28. After exhaustive study and correspondence, Smith is satisfied to call the bird a Glaucous Gull.

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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION / Thomas H. Rogers

For the great portion of the Region west of the Continental Divide temperatures for the summer reporting period followed a remarkably similar pattern. June was cold. Maximum temperatures at Spokane rose to or above normal on only six days and Baker, Ore. average temperatures for the month were six degrees below normal. June precipitation for much of this w. portion was decidedly above normal, from s. interior British Columbia s. through the more easterly part of Washington to e. Oregon. Farther e. (Missoula) and w. (Yakima and Wenatchee) rainfall was somewhat deficient.



July w. of the Divide continued the June trend, cool and wet except for the area in the immediate rain shadow of the Cascade Mts., which was very dry. At mid-month, after a brief but widespread rain on the 10th, the pattern changed drastically. Maximum temperatures leaped into the 90s and, in central Washington, frequently above 100°F. Walla Walla recorded 111° on the 31st. Little or no rain fell; these drought conditions continued through mid-August, the end of the reporting period.

East of the Divide during June, Bozeman escaped the extremes experienced elsewhere. Precipitation and temperatures were close to normal. However, July was moisture-deficient and August was both hot and dry.

A few reporters commented upon the effect of the season upon bird numbers. Warren Hall had the impression that the Spokane area probably had many nesting failures among most species of passerines but noted that waterfowl and marsh birds apparently had a good nesting season. Upland game species there had poor success, according to newspaper reports. Some reporters re-

marked upon the excellent although somewhat delayed growth of vegetation, which presumably produced abundant food and cover for both birds and insects. Margaret Polumsky at Clarkston, Wash. and Niel Meadowcroft at Walla Walla opined that the heat and drought drove birds out or concentrated them in the more favorable spots. Lacking definite opinions from other reporters, your Regional Editor got the impression from the abundance of records, including many nests and young, that bird life fared well, with a few exceptions. Maybe it was primarily the observers who fared well. We could surely use more of the type of counts made by our refuge personnel, and summer breeding bird censuses such as those of Bob and Norman Woodley, and Ann Ward with Joanne Brown and Larry Roupf. Only these will give us any quantitative data for reliable conclusions.

LOONS, GREBES — The Com. Loon was observed only in Glacier Nat'l Park, Mont. July 19 (PDS). The Red-necked Grebe was noted at Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Lake Co., Mont. on the same day (PDS). The species was seen in Flathead and Lake Cos., Mont. June 5 & 6 (ETH & RAH). An estimated 100 Eared Grebes and 300 Pied-billed Grebes summered at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash. An adult with 4 young, about two-thirds grown, was seen at Spokane Aug. 6 (WAH).

PELICANS, CORMORANTS — White Pelicans were seen in the Bozeman area and up to 5 were noted at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. Double-crested Cormorants were reported only from the rookery at Trident, Mont.

HERONS — Twenty-eight nests of the Great Blue Heron near Belgrade, Mont. contained a total of 64 young birds, June 25 (LM). A heronry in the Sumpter Valley near Baker, Ore. did not fare so well. A check there near the end of June found no adults and 11 dead or dying young. The suspicion was that the parent birds had been shot. Black-crowned Night Herons were noted only along the Yakima R. near Richland and at Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash. (JA).

WATERFOWL — An aerial survey of Turnbull N.W.R. and lakes close by on June 23 and additional ground observation revealed 3 broods, totaling 9 cygnets, of Trumpeter Swans. A swan, presumably a Whistling, was seen on a lake in n. Idaho, between Coeur d' Alene and Sandpoint June 12 (ADA & THR). Swans, probably Whistling, appeared at McNary Refuge on Aug. 16. Brood production of Canada Geese, estimated at 100 young at Turnbull Refuge, appeared to be down somewhat there but at and near McNary Refuge a production of 80 was about double last year's. At Turnbull and Columbia Refuges, nesting success appeared to be about normal. Mallard, as usual the most abundant nester, was up in production at Columbia Refuge from 325 last year to 570. Cinnamon Teal was the next

most numerous breeding species at both refuges, and nearly equalled the effort of Mallards at Columbia Refuge, with 540 young. At McNary Refuge, Mallard success was similar to that of 1970 but other species were down about 50 per cent. Several broods of Bufflehead were noted at Turnbull Refuge and a ♂ and 2 ♀♀ at Medical L., a few miles to the north, June 19, were very unusual (WAH). Only the third record of the Harlequin Duck in the Bozeman area was of a pair photographed on Squaw Creek in late May (MB). Another pair was reported on Hyalite Reservoir, Gallatin Co., Mont. in early July (PG).

HAWKS, EAGLES — In most localities these birds appeared to be in about normal numbers. Over 40 nests of the Red-tailed Hawk were studied near Bozeman by Sarah Johnson. Young were banded and color-marked. Swainson's and Ferruginous Hawks were observed nesting in the Heppner, Ore. area (BT).

Seven nest sites occupied last year by Golden Eagles in the Baker area were checked on June 8. Only one was occupied; the outcome of this nesting was not known (LR). An individual of this species was observed on the nest May 8 in Sweetgrass Co., Mont. (ETH & RAH). A nest of the Bald Eagle with 3 nearly fledged young was found at the s. end of Flathead L., Lake Co., Mont. July 5 (LM). Reports were received on 15 Osprey nests in w. Montana, n. Idaho and n.e. Washington. An occupied nest at Ennis, Mont. was the first reported for that locality. A Prairie Falcon nest with 1 young and 1 egg was found in the Three Forks, Mont. area in May (SR & FV). A Peregrine Falcon was observed near Salmon, Ida. June 12 (MC). All hawk species were scarce in the Walla Walla area.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS — Ruffed Grouse, after very low numbers at Turnbull Refuge, appeared to be making a comeback, with 3 or 4 broods sighted there. At least 30 Sage Grouse were seen on Apr. 17 in their mating dance at the usual area s. of Creston, Wash. Eighteen males were performing in early March on the Yakima Firing Range near Yakima, Wash. Reports suggested that California Quail did well in chick production despite the cool, wet weather but Ring-necked Pheasants suffered serious losses. Three Turkeys were observed in the vicinity of Heppner, Ore. July 10 (GG). The only other Turkey report was of 1 three miles s.w. of Brooks Memorial State Park in the Satus Pass area of Klickitat Co., Wash. (NEW).

CRANE, SHOREBIRDS — An ad. Sandhill Crane was present at Mara Meadows near Grindrod, just n. of Enderby, B.C. from July 1 to mid-August. The species is not known to breed in that area. A Semipalmated Plover was observed June 4 at Yakima, where it is rarely seen (ERC & AR). Several Mountain Plovers, including young of the year, were found in Jefferson Co., Mont. s. of Elkhorn (CVD). This is a new site and the

westernmost known at this latitude. The Long-billed Curlew was described as scarce at Heppner, and Walla Walla, possibly because of the extreme heat. A pair of Upland Plovers were seen on the customary site just e. of Spokane on June 17 (DRP & MP) and a pair was seen at a hitherto unreported location about 12 miles e. of Brown-ing, Mont. July 17 (PDS). A small influx of migrating shorebirds was noted as usual at Reardan, Wash. in mid-July (WAH).

GULLS, TERNS — Ring-billed Gull was, as usual, by far the most abundant gull in the w. portion of the Region. Up to 11 Bonaparte's Gulls, mostly juveniles, were noted at Soda Lake, Grant Co., Wash. July 17 & 19 (JA, WAH). The species is believed to breed on Columbia Refuge at Othello. Three adult and 1 young **Common Tern** were noted near Potholes Reservoir, Grant Co., Wash. July 17 (JA). A Caspian Tern, rarely seen in Spokane Co., was found at Turnbull Refuge Aug. 12 (WH).

DOVES, OWLS — A fairly certain record for the Band-tailed Pigeon, heard only, for St. Mary's L., Glacier Nat'l Park, was obtained July 18. This would be the sixth record for n.w. Montana, all in recent years (PDS). At least normal numbers of owls appeared to be present, with young observed in a number of instances. The Barn Owl appears to be becoming less rare in e. Washington. In the Richland area 1 was observed June 24–July 8 (EM) and an ad. and 2 fully grown young were lured by recordings of their calls near Richland, Aug. 3–4. A **Flammulated Owl** was identified at Heppner, June 30 (BT). Pygmy Owls were present and suspected of nesting on Tower Mt. just e. of Spokane. This appears to be a low elevation, not over 3600 ft., for summer habitat for the species at this latitude.

GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS — The cool June and early July appeared not to have affected the Com. Nighthawk adversely but spring arrival was a little late at Spokane and Yakima. Three observations of Black Swifts were received: several July 8–9 at Ninepipe Refuge (RLE); 2 at Avalanche L. in Glacier Nat'l Park, June 15 (MC), and noted between Lyman L. and Holden, Glacier Peak Wilderness, Chelan Co., Wash. near the end of August (DRS). A few Vaux's Swifts were seen in the vicinity of Yakima (ERC; AR) and along Satus Creek w. of Richland, Wash. Hummingbirds may have been affected by the cool, wet weather. Observers reported their numbers down at Chelan, Clarkston and Spokane.

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS — Lewis' Woodpeckers were observed at scattered localities, mostly in e. Oregon and Washington. On June 20 about 50, many nesting, were seen in oak trees at Ft. Simcoe, Yakima Indian Reservation. Williamson's Sapsucker was found in the Bridger Mts. e. of Bozeman (ETH & RAH); near the e. boundary of Mt. Rainier Nat'l Park (ERC); at Huckleberry Mt. w. of Springdale, Wash. (JA; WAH), and

near Heppner (GG; BT). The scarce White-headed Woodpecker was noted in the Huckleberry Mts. (WAH); in the foothills w. of Yakima (PH; AR); in the Heppner area, a nesting pair (BT), and at Vaseux Lake, B.C., a pair with young in the nesthole (MP). The Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was found n. of Diamond L., Pend Oreille Co., Wash., June 12–13 (JA; TW). An ad. ♂ N. Three-toed Woodpecker was seen gathering food at Trinity Valley in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia May 29–June 10. W. Kingbirds were found nesting on power poles at two localities: in the Wenas Valley n.w. of Yakima and at Lavington, B.C., where presumably the same pair brought off 2 broods from the same nest. Single Ash-throated Flycatchers, one of the rarer summer residents of the Region, were seen during the first half of August at Walla Walla and along Crab Creek on Columbia Refuge (JA). The E. Kingbird and the other small flycatchers of the Region—Say's Phoebe, Trail's, Dusky, Hammond's and W. Flycatchers, W. Wood Pewee and Olive-sided Flycatcher—appeared to be at least as common as usual, with nesting activity and young reported for many of them.

LARKS, SWALLOWS, JAYS — Horned Larks were reported as very common in the Horse Heaven Hills s.e. of Mabton, Yakima Co., Wash. On a 25-mile breeding bird survey July 3, 234 were counted (NEW & REW). Swallows appeared to be common to abundant, with little evidence that the cool, wet weather had hindered them. A possible exception was at Prineville, Ore., where their numbers, except for the abundant Barn Swallows, seemed to be down. At Spokane a pair of Tree Swallows suffered two successive failures, apparently because of lack of food during the rainy days of late June. Of 23 nests of this species examined in detail just e. of Bozeman, most of the young had fledged by July 29 (LM). The jay-crow group appeared to be in good numbers. Clark's Nutcracker, so abundant in the lowlands last winter, was about in normal numbers in the mountains. However, they were more common than usual in the Okanagan Valley of s. British Columbia and were believed to have nested in white pine forest e. of Vernon, not a normal situation, but an unusually heavy cone crop was still on the pines. Eleven birds seen at Tower Mt. close to Spokane were suspected of having remained from the winter influx, and bred there (WAH).

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES — Boreal Chickadees were noted in the usual area of extreme n.e. Washington, at Leola Peak, 15 miles n.e. of Metaline Falls (DRP & MP). The White-breasted Nuthatch, seldom found in the Bozeman area, was seen July 17 in the Bridger Mts. (ETH & RAH).

DIPPER, WRENS — A Dipper was observed carrying food to its nest by the falls in Granite Creek in the Cabinet Mts. s. of Libby, Mont. June 12 (ADA & THR). House Wren occurrences were spotty but 7 or 8 pairs were reported nesting

around a house near Tower Mt. (JR). Nine nests were followed e. of Bozeman. Six had no eggs or young by June 2 but 4 of 6 examined on the 25th had either eggs or young (LM). Bewick's Wren, scarce in the Region, was noted at several localities in the Yakima area.

THRUSHES—Robin nesting success appeared good. Varied, Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes and the Veery were all noted. On a farm near Spokane W. Bluebirds occupied 5 nest boxes. The species was also reported from the Peola area w. of Clarkston, the Chelan area and w. of Yakima, all in Washington, and in the mountains w. of Heppner and at Baker. A pair was located near Vaseux L. in the s. Okanagan Valley, B.C. (DRP & MP). A **Veery** call note was heard at Wildcat Campground 18 miles n.e. of Prineville June 20. A member of Portland Audubon Society was reported as having seen 1 near Ochoco Ranger Station, 23 miles e. of Prineville at about the same time (HN).

PIPITS, WAXWINGS—Three nestling Water Pipits were found at Goose L., n. of Cook City, Mont. Aug. 8 (LM). The species was noted in July at Logan Pass, Glacier Nat'l Park (PDS); on several high mountains near Bozeman in July and August (DRS), and at Lyman L., Glacier Peak Wilderness, Wash. Aug. 24-25 (THR). Several Bohemian Waxwings were seen at Mara Meadows near Grindrod, B.C. July 1.

STARLINGS, WARBLERS—The Starling trapping and reduction program in Yakima Co. apparently is showing results. According to Emily Cragg, there are no hordes of the birds now and no fruit loss problem, after twelve years of the project. In the Vernon, B. C. area a brood of Starlings was successfully reared in a hole in a "witch's broom" in a spruce tree, 16 in. below the nest platform occupied by a young Great Horned Owl and its ♂ parent. The owls seemed to pay no attention to the Starlings.

The Nashville Warbler was noted near Diamond L., Pend Oreille Co., June 12 (WAH) and in Ferry Co., Wash. June 26 (JA). An **Ovenbird** was heard repeatedly s. of Bozeman July 5 (ETH & RAH). This is the third record for the area. A N. Waterthrush was seen carrying food near Bozeman June 27 (SC). The song of this species was heard frequently along the Westkettle R. e. of Penticton, B.C. June 12. All other reports of this species were from n.e. Washington. One was singing at Gillette L. between Colville and Tiger, Stevens Co. June 19 (DRP & MP) and the species was noted at the usual spot at a bog on Calispel Peak, Pend Oreille Co. June 18 & July 4 (JA; DRP & MP). One was enticed into the open by playing back its recorded song, near Sullivan L., Pend Oreille Co., June 14 (TW). A ♀ Am. Redstart was carefully observed June 18 at Prineville, Ore. This is probably the first record for Crooks Co.

BLACKBIRDS—A Bobolink was seen s. of Baker, in early June (LR). The species was observed in the Bozeman area and at the usual site near

Cusick, Wash. The species was locally common in the North Okanagan Valley, with a pair believed to have nested at Lavington. Six ♂♂ and 4 ♀♀ were sighted on the Yakima Indian Reservation July 16. A pair of Bullock's Orioles with 3 or 4 fully grown young was seen near O'Sullivan Dam, Grant Co., Wash. July 19 (WAH). A case of a Vesper Sparrow raising a Brown-headed Cowbird was reported from the Yakima area. At Spokane, where the species was common, there was evidence of parasitism of Audubon's Warbler; Oregon Junco, 3 instances; Chipping Sparrow, and Song Sparrow, 2 instances.

FINCHES—Evening Grosbeaks were mostly at mountain areas but a pair remained at Indian Canyon at Spokane, elevation about 2000 ft. and probably nested, as did a pair in 1965 and 1966. Nesting was noted in the Bumping R. area just e. of Mt. Rainier Nat'l Park Aug. 12; a young bird unable to fly was harassed by a Steller's Jay until rescued by its parent. A singing ♂ and a few ♀ Purple Finches were observed at Nile Creek, w. of Yakima. This is on the e. edge of their range here. House Finches continued to increase at Missoula. Scattered flocks of 40-50 birds were noted almost daily since Aug. 12 and young out of the nest were still being fed by their parents Aug. 18. A pair of Pine Grosbeaks with 2 fully grown young were seen at Salmo Pass, extreme n.e. Pend Oreille Co. July 3 (WAH). A rosy finch without gray on the head, seen on the Beartooth Plateau just s. of the Montana Wyoming border in late June may have been a Brown-capped Rosy Finch ♀, or possibly was a Gray-crowned with an introgression of genes from the Brown-capped (DRS). Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were noted at Logan Pass, Glacier Nat'l Park July 18 (PDS).

Pine Siskins were generally scarce in the valleys and in the Okanagan the same was true for the mountains. Good numbers of Red Crossbills appeared in Bozeman during the summer and small groups of up to 8 birds were noted frequently in Missoula between June 30 and Aug. 15, their first appearance there since 1959. Elsewhere the birds were scarce or absent in the valleys. Young out of the nest were being fed by the parents Mar. 30 at Lavington. The seldom-observed White-winged Crossbill was noted on both sides of the Continental Divide in Glacier Nat'l Park July 18-19 (PDS).

SPARROWS—Single Green-tailed Towhees observed June 14 & Aug. 9 in Morrow Co., Ore. may represent a northeasterly extension of the species' range (GG; BT). The Grasshopper Sparrow appeared to be holding its own or possibly increasing slightly in the Spokane area. Several were seen, some singing, in a nearly undisturbed bunchgrass area 5 miles north of Moses L., Wash. June 19 (DRP & MP). The Sage Sparrow was noted with Grasshopper Sparrows w. of Potholes Reservoir, Grant Co., Wash. July 17 (JA). The former species was observed in the Clarkston-Peola area of s.e. Washington, 1 on June 5 and 2 on July 24. The

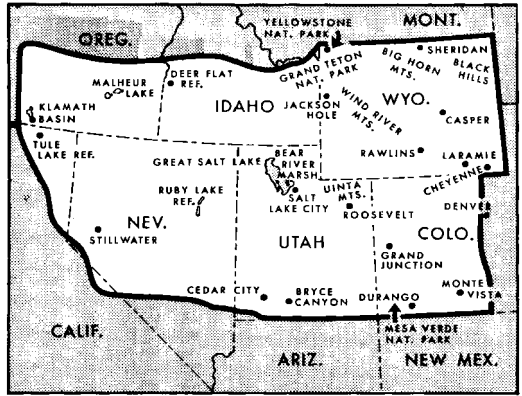
birds were also noted in May e. of Yakima along Highway 24. A Clay-colored Sparrow was singing at Lavington, July 8. White-crowned Sparrows, presumably race *oriantha*, were observed in the Bozeman area. The usual small numbers of Fox Sparrows were observed in the mountains in various parts of the Region. Lincoln's Sparrow was reported in the mountains w. of Yakima, in the Okanagan Valley near Grindrod and at McIntyre L. 25 miles e. of Lumby. McCown's Longspur was noted in the Bozeman area and the Chestnut-collared at Three Forks, Mont. June 27 (LM).

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

Bird news from our Region is topped by new birds added to four state lists: Cattle Egret in Idaho, Rivoli's Hummingbird in Utah, Tricolored Blackbird in Wyoming, and Clay-colored Sparrow in Oregon. Utah had two other birds new to the state, so weird that their inclusion on the state list is hypothetical: an Am. Flamingo and an Egyptian Goose appeared at the wildlife refuges on the Great Salt Lake. All 6 are sight records, but each was backed up with a battery of observers and details, and photographs substantiate the Utah records.

Of equal importance is the hot and dry weather which, after the wet spring, produced ideal nesting conditions and assured better than usual breeding success throughout the Region. After the snows



and rain finally ended, in early June (Dillon, Colo., woke up June 9 to a light blanket of snow on the ground), precipitation practically ceased throughout the Region. At Zion Nat'l Park the temperature rarely dropped below 100°F. during the day; Grand Junction, Colo., had 105° July 13, and the pattern echoed through the mountains and Great Basin. An apparent exception occurred in the mountains e. of Salt Lake City, where colder-than-usual weather apparently drove some mountain species 3000 ft. below their usual haunts (GLK). Also, June in Oregon produced more rain in the Klamath Falls and Lakeview areas than ever before. Thus the hot, dry weather following the wet spring produced better than normal nesting success at the Great Basin wildlife refuges, and mixed conditions elsewhere; but many species were late in nesting.

PREDATORS—The newspapers documented the slaughter of perhaps 500–800 Golden Eagles in s. Wyoming by gunners in helicopters. Audubon Societies in Wyoming and Colorado are working with National Audubon and with government officials to prevent further depredations. The Wyoming story typifies the attitude of the western stockman to sheep losses—all losses are caused by eagles or coyotes. The uneven hand of justice has begun its attack, however. A La Junta, Colo., man was jailed for 90 days for shooting an eagle from a county road. Meanwhile, a Casper, Wyo., rancher (son-in-law of the rancher involved in the Wyoming helicopter killings) pleaded guilty to having put out the antelope carcasses which killed 22 eagles near Casper (Am. Birds 25:775), and received the insignificant fine of \$674.

At Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area on the Great Salt L., Reuben Dietz reported a drop in breeding populations, despite favorable weather for nesting, of fish-eating herons, insect- and aquatic animal-eating ibis, curlews, Willets, avocets, and stilts, and predator Marsh Hawks and Short-eared Owls. All plummeted to 25 per cent or less of the average for the past 10 years. Cause of the decline is under study. At Klamath Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in Oregon and California, fowl cholera hit migrating coots, ducks, geese,