

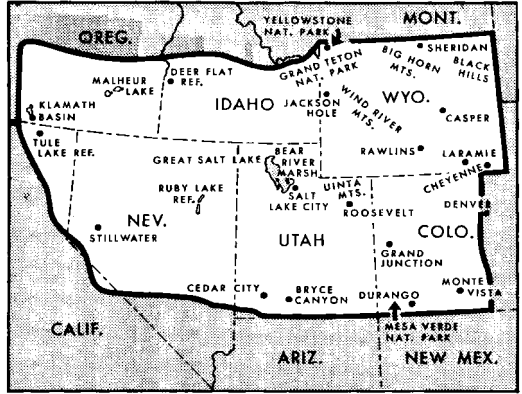
birds were also noted in May e. of Yakima along Highway 24. A Clay-colored Sparrow was singing at Lavington, July 8. White-crowned Sparrows, presumably race *oriantha*, were observed in the Bozeman area. The usual small numbers of Fox Sparrows were observed in the mountains in various parts of the Region. 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,

and Whistling Swans; 7100 birds succumbed during spring migration.

GREBES—Grebes had a good nesting year at the wildlife refuges: Klamath N.W.R., Malheur N.W.R., Ore., and Farmington Bay W.M.A., Utah all had better production than in 1970; Eared Grebes at Malheur increased dramatically, from 400 nests in 1970 to 900 nests this year. Also at Malheur, a pair of Horned Grebes produced 3 young; none hatched last year. At Eagle L., Calif., Western and Pied-billed Grebes increased substantially over 1970, and Eared dropped a little; 2558 grebe nests were found. One curious feature was the late nesting by W. Grebes (only); in 1970 young birds hatched the last week in June; in 1971 hatching did not occur until Aug. 14-21.

PELICANS, CORMORANTS, HERONS—White Pelicans had a mixed year, with increases or normal nesting reported from the Klamath Refuges and Minidoka N.W.R., Ida. (WHS), while Farmington Bay's breeding pairs dropped to 300, and Eagle Lake's non-breeding population was halved, to 116. On June 2, 4 passed through Ruby Lake N.W.R., Nev., a place where pelicans are only occasional transients despite nesting sites to the north, east, and west. Nesting Double-crested Cormorants increased at Malheur from 45 pairs in 1969 to 70 pairs this year. Small colonies near the gull colonies around Pocatello also did well. However cormorants did not attempt breeding at Eagle L. after a none-too-successful try last year when only 2 young survived from 22 eggs laid. An imm. appeared near Eckert, Colo. (LLF); the bird rarely is seen on the Colorado Western Slope. Klamath Refuges' colonies of cormorants, herons, and egrets had populations as in 1970. Despite high water, Com. Egrets at Clear L., Calif., showed a 75 per cent increase in nesting. Malheur recorded different figures—the 69 nesting Com. Egret pairs represented a decline to a third of the 1969 level—and nesting Snowy Egrets (35 pairs), was about half of 1969's level. On the other hand, Great Blue Herons and Black-crowned Night Herons increased (to 116 and 650 pairs respectively). Small Great Blue heronries did well at Ruby Lake N.W.R. near Debeque, Colo. (SD), and at 2 locations near Pocatello. However at Eagle L., owing to disturbance, the birds abandoned a colony which last year produced 53 young. Visitors found Malheur's first **Green Heron**, later confirmed by refuge personnel (WA). The **Cattle Egret** made its expected debut in Idaho with a bird at Minidoka N.W.R. July 1. With Snowy Egrets, it stayed in the refuge vicinity for part of the month, with no evidence of breeding (JDH, WHS, CHT). The Snowy Egret had a good year in the San Luis Valley, Colo. despite the drought, but not as good as 1970 (CRB, RAR). Snowy Egrets abandoned a roost used by 40-80 birds near Grand Junction, Colo., owing to gravel mining and interstate highway construction. The 18 young Am. Bitterns produced at Monte Vista marked good success for that species. A Least Bittern flushed consistently

from the same section of marsh at Honey L., Calif., causing suspicions of nesting (JR, fide TM). The White-faced Ibis is declining at Farmington Bay—250 pairs bred this year compared with 1000 2 years ago. A few nested at Ruby L., Malheur, and Honey L., at the latter a decline from recent years (JR, fide TM).

EXOTICS—The incredible happened at the Great Salt L.: an Am. Flamingo appeared at Bear River N.W.R. in June and Aug., and at Farmington Bay. On June 1, an Egyptian Goose visited Bear R. This species has occurred in the past at the Klamath Refuges. Photographs verified both identifications. Origin of the 2 exotics (for this Region) is unknown; the only clue is that neither bird escaped from the Salt Lake City Zoo. (ML). [But surely from somewhere—Ed.]

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS—Trumpeter Swans have increased as breeding birds in the Region; nesting occurred at Malheur (9 nests), Ruby L. (2 nests, 6 young); Grays Lake N.W.R., Ida. (1 nest, Nat'l Elk Refuge, Jackson, Wyo. (1 nest, unsuccessful), and Yellowstone L., Wyo. (MB). Canada Geese enjoyed unusual nesting success throughout the Region. Confirming a possible record year were 2400 young at Malheur—up 70 per cent from last year's 1400. Malheur's superb nesting conditions (the lakes larger by 40 per cent and half again as much sago pondweed as last year) brought a 30 per cent increase of breeding pairs of ducks—to 20,700. Farmington Bay had 2700 breeding pairs, principally Cinnamon Teal and Ruddy Duck; Monte Vista N.W.R. had 13,950 young, 60 per cent of them Mallards. Mallard was also the commonest species at Arapaho N.W.R., Colo., Hutton L. and Pathfinder N.W.R., Wyo. (RK), which together produced 1895 young of 11 species. Only Ruby Lake N.W.R. reported a poor year, with breeding population down 35 per cent from 1970 and all species except Ruddy Duck down. Cinnamon Teal suffered the greatest decline—63 per cent.

Ducks visited a few surprising places away from the refuges. A Pintail, rare in summer, was observed on the E. Fork of the Virgin R., at Zion Nat'l Park, Utah (WPF). A report of a possible hybrid Green-winged X Cinnamon Teal came from Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park (R.M.N.P.—BS). Ring-necked Ducks appeared at Alvord L. in s.e. Ore. June 14, with no trees for miles (HBN), and near Hahns Peak, Colo. June 16-18. A pair of Com. Goldeneye, not known as a Colorado nester, spent most of the summer in on the Colorado R. near Debeque, Colo. (SD, LG). The first reported nesting of the **Hooded Merganser** in Colo. came with the observation of a ♀ with young on the Encampment R. 30 miles n.w. of Walden (AP, fide HH).

HAWKS, EAGLES—Goshawks must have done well, judging by the number of reports. Nesting success was reported from Steens Mt. at Malheur; from Summit Co. and Boulder, Colo. (LJ). Judging by the late fledging date—late July—the Boulder

record may have represented a second nesting attempt after an unsuccessful first try. The Red-tailed Hawk met with success in Oregon: usually scarce, they were more numerous than usual in the Alvord Basin (HBN) and 6 pairs nested successfully at Malheur. An imm. Rough-legged Hawk seen June 5 near Lakeview Ore. was late in returning north (JHH), and one at Nampa, Ida. July 23 is inexplicable. The Black Hawk nested again at Springdale, Utah; originally found in 1962, this is its only known breeding location in the Region (JG).

Scattered reports came in of Golden Eagle nests: Nat'l Elk Refuge; Owyhee R., Ore. (JHH); R.M.N.P., with frequent sightings of imms. (KD); Evergreen, Colo.; McCoy, Colo. (2 nests); Grand Junction, Colo. (SD); Sheridan, Wyo.; and usual numbers along the Snake R. in c. Idaho (WHS). Zion, however had only one report of an eagle during the summer, on July 15. One Bald Eagle pair nested at Eagle L., fledged 2 young July 1-4. Ospreys seem to have expanded their nesting locations to a number of the large reservoirs. Responding to special attention at Eagle L., 47 breeding pairs produced 48 fledglings, showing a stable trend there. Others nested at Flaming Gorge, where 3 pairs built nests on rock pinnacles 150-350 ft. above the reservoir for the second year (JRG); Grand L., Colo. (2 pair—JWJ); Electra L. near Durango, Colo.; and possibly Chambers L., Colo., n. of R.M.N.P. (DBo). Other Ospreys were seen at Sheridan in June and at a small pond west of Boulder, Colo. June 13-14 (PJ). Monte Vista had 15 Marsh Hawks nesting, but the 8 pairs at Farmington Bay compared disastrously with the 10-year average of 50 pairs. At Flaming Gorge, the decline of the Prairie Falcon offsets the new Osprey records. A 1959 pre-impoundment study of the area showed this falcon "the most common raptor along the river." It was seen but once in 1971, in courtship flight (JRG). The change from river canyon to reservoir must have had great impact on this dry-country hawk. A pair of Peregrine Falcons returned to an historic site in Idaho where they have nested for over 30 years (WHS). A pair of Pigeon Hawks in Ore. was feeding young July 4 (MM, fide JHH).

GROUSE—Blue Grouse did well in n. Colo. (CEB). Many were noted around Hahns Peak and in Zion's high country. However they met less success in s. Colo., owing to the low winter snowfall (low survival of adults) and the low moisture conditions in spring (reduced vegetation growth) (CEB). White-tailed Ptarmigan had their best nest success in 5 years in alpine Colorado, because of warm dry weather during the setting season. Fall densities are projected at 35-60 birds per sq. mi. (CEB). Sage Grouse populations did well at Klamath and Rupert, but declined to 64 per cent of normal in Mono Co., Calif., where fall will usher in heavy hunting pressure again (fide JMF).

CRANES, RAILS—Sandhill Cranes met high nesting success at the important nesting area at Grays

Lake N.W.R., Ida. due to an abundance of shallowly flooded meadows caused by above-average spring runoff (AMW). At Malheur 229 nesting pairs (about the same number as last year) were counted. Near Hahns Peak, 1 pair hatched 2 young; more cranes nested in this vicinity until a reservoir, Steamboat L., flooded the historic nesting grounds. A pair of cranes stopped on the N. Fork of the Tongue R. near Sheridan for 2 weeks in late July–August. Monte Vista noted 300 nesting pairs of Soras, with good success, and a tape recorder attracted 5 pair near Grand Junction (LG, LFE). Am. Coots met 90 per cent nesting success, with 1000 young, at Monte Vista. At both Eagle L. and Farmington Bay, about 2500 pairs nested.

SHOREBIRDS—The Klamath Refuges reported good nesting of shorebirds, as did Monte Vista. Farmington Bay had 5 nesting pairs of Snowy Plovers, and several were present at Antero Res., Colo. on two trips during the summer (HEK). Mountain Plovers were discovered at a new location 15 miles w. of Pueblo, Colo. with a colony of 40 birds (JC, fide DAG). Com. Snipe enjoyed good success at Monte Vista, with 325 pairs nesting there. The Long-billed Curlew has drastically declined from its 10-year average of 35 pairs at Farmington Bay; only 2 pairs were found this year. A colony near Parowan, Utah, did not return, but another was reported from a location 30 miles w. of Cedar City (SBM). The colony near Nampa, Ida. had 200 birds through the season. Monte Vista had 408 nesting Spotted Sandpipers, with 300 young. Again this year, a Solitary Sandpiper was seen in mid-summer, July 14, on the Encampment R. in n. Colorado (TS). The Willet, like the curlew, has drastically declined over the 10-year average of 60 pairs at Farmington Bay; only 7 pairs were found in 1971. However many were noted in the Warner Valley, Ore., in early June. (JHH). R.M.N.P.'s second record came when a flock of a dozen stayed at Granby Res. July 11-13 (RH). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** (typically a late, and not numerous, plains migrant) at Antero Res., Colo. constituted the first record for mountain Colorado (HEK). A Least Sandpiper at Alvord L., Ore. was tardy on June 14 (HBN). At L. Merriam, a 9000-ft. lake s.e. of Challis, Ida., on July 28, a flock of 30 Am. Avocets flew around the mountain lake several times, alighted, and began feeding (fide CHT). Black-necked Stilts nested at Monte Vista; probably 9 pairs with 14 young. Farmington Bay's breeding population declined to 100 pairs. The stilt made a rare visit to Ruby Lake N.W.R. Monte Vista's substantial population of shorebirds included 2000 young produced by 1500 pairs of Wilson's Phalaropes. At Mono L., Calif., on July 9 Northern predominated over Wilson's in a flock of several thousand phalaropes; on July 29, similar numbers prevailed, but with the species' proportions reversed. Neither species breeds in the area.

GULLS, TERNS—California Gulls continue to increase throughout the Region. The colonies are scattered, so that the flock of 8 at Granby Res., Colo. July 13 was one of only a handful of records so far in n. Colorado (RH). Ring-billed Gulls also met with normal success at their nesting grounds at Klamath. At one colony near Idaho Falls, an unknown predator destroyed the nests; the Ring-billeds re-nested at another colony on the periphery of California Gull nests, and did well even though 2 weeks behind their neighbors (CHT). Two very large colonies of Franklin's Gulls at Grays Lake N.W.R. carried populations comparable to last year's, when the combined high count reached 45,000 birds, including 13,000 young (AMW). Farmington Bay had 300 breeding pairs of this gull, and some bred at Nat'l Elk Refuge. At Lower Klamath L., 15 Bonaparte's Gulls seemed out of place June 6 (HBN). While Farmington Bay had 150 nesting pair of Forster's Terns, the small flock of strays found near Zion June 27 was noteworthy (DG, fide RAS). The Eagle L. population of Forster's and Black Terns dropped to 450 from last year's 700. Farmington Bay's Caspian Tern population was only 4 nesting pairs, down as were many other birds there. Klamath reported normal numbers of Forster's, Caspian, and Black Terns.

PIGEONS, CUCKOOS—A Band-tailed Pigeon appeared at Ruby L. July 14, where the bird is accidental. In Colorado, the birds met with mixed success in nesting: they had a poor year in s.w. Colorado, while in c. and Eastern Slope Colorado populations were comparable to 1969-70 (CEB). Colorado's cool spring delayed the nesting of Mourning Doves, but they had excellent success; trap samples showed 70-90 per cent imm. (CEB). The species also had a good year at Klamath, Pyramid L., Nev. (B.B.S.), and Dragerton, Utah (B.B.S.). At Curlew Valley, s. of Pocatello, they continued to lay eggs on the ground among the sagebrush well into July, although with poor success (CHT). However, doves suffered a slight decline on B.B.S. in c. and e. Nevada. Malheur had its second record of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo June 24 (SF); several were found along the Arkansas R. w. of Pueblo. The Roadrunner was conspicuous by its absence at Zion, with only one report.

OWLS—Barn Owls nested near Marsing, Ida. (BS), and apparently again at Salt Lake City (GLK). Now rare, reports came from Cedar City, Utah, June 3, and from Malheur. Great Horned Owls had successful nesting throughout the area, and Malheur had 14 nesting pairs—11 successful. The Long-eared Owl decreases on the Snake R., c. Idaho (WHS); only one pair nested at Malheur. Monte Vista had 6 nesting Short-eared Owls, but Farmington Bay had only 2 pairs, a drastic reduction compared with its 10-year average of 50. Pygmy Owls were reported twice in Utah during June—at Cedar City June 20 and Zion June 23 (JG). Three Flammulated Owl

nests n. of Woodland Park, Colo., established that species as more common than realized in c. Colorado. Nesting in flicker holes in a ponderosa pine/aspen habitat, 2 pairs had fledged young by July 27, while a bear killed the third pair.

NIGHTHAWKS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS—A Lesser Nighthawk was found n. of its usual range at Vernon, Utah, w. of Provo in June (GLK, WS). The Black Swift, nesting commonly in s.w. Colo., appeared at new locations on the Eastern Slope of Colo., including 6 on the n.w. slope of Pikes Peak July 28, at 13,000 ft. (RFB); 3 on Mt. Evans July 10 (WWB); 1 unusually low at Estes Park June 21 (SW, GN); yet the birds were rare this year at L. Isabel s.w. of Pueblo, where last year they appeared regularly. Hummingbirds thrived at feeders throughout Colorado, except at L. Isabel where the drought probably affected them. Black-chinned Hummingbirds stayed all summer at La Veta, Colo., Oak Creek, Colo. (JCT), and Durango, Colo. Zion had several records of 2 or more nestings, all done by mid-June, with many young fledged from both the first and second nestings. Zion, however, had no reports of the normally common Broad-tailed, and 300 miles e. at Durango, fewer came than last year. Broad-tailed did well, though, in the remainder of Colorado. Rufous first came to the Region at Jefferson, Colo., July 2, Zion July 7, and Dubois July 12; it arrived at other locations in mid- and late July. Hundreds massed near Cedar City July 28, the largest concentration ever seen there. Rufous is an aggressive bird, and drives other hummingbirds away from feeders; 2 hummingbirds found dead under a La Veta feeder were suspected of being victims of a Rufous (LAC). Scattered reports of Calliope Hummingbirds came in late July from the Colo. foothills. A ♀ **Rivoli's Hummingbird** came daily to a feeder in Springdale, Utah, July 7–Aug. 9. Photographs confirm this record, probably Utah's first.

WOODPECKERS—Farther south than normal, Pileated Woodpeckers were found near Boise, Ida. (BS), and four times May 21–July 11 near Sun Valley, Ida.; possibly they nested there on the n. slope of Baldy Mt. (WHS).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—The E. Kingbird nested at Honey L., Calif. with 3 almost full-grown young in the nest Aug. 14; the only other California nesting occurred last year at Lava Beds Nat'l Monument (TM, RS). A pair of E. Kingbirds spent the summer at Grand Junction, Colo. (LG) and they were found at Dubois June 16 & July 30. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, the second in 2 years, appeared in n.w. Colorado at Hahns Peak July 18. Scattered reports came in of E. Phoebe: a pair, possibly nesting judging by alarm calls, etc., was found near Flaming Gorge Dam July 15 (GLK). Normally the bird is an occasional migrant through the Region, with reports such as the individual birds

at Sheridan July 7 (PIH) and Rupert May 24. A Black Phoebe was noted at Cedar City, n. of its usual range, while only one sighting came from Zion, where the bird is normal. A territorial Least Flycatcher was noted for the second consecutive year near Pennock Pass, w. of Fort Collins, Colo. June 19 & 26 (PeH); this bird is regarded as a rare migrant in extreme e. Colorado. Reports of the same species came from R.M.N.P. July 1 (CC) and Sheridan during June and July. Gray Flycatchers are reported as numerous in s. Oregon (JHH), s. Idaho in ravines or near water (CHT), and near Cañon City, Colo. (DAG, CAG, DS). In R.M.N.P. a pair of W. Flycatchers nested on a Park Service cabin, undisturbed by the passing parade (AC).

At Zion, Violet-green Swallows were scarce, and Rough-winged Swallows, usually common, were absent. In Colorado the Rough-winged is a plains bird, but one was banded at Estes Park June 30 (AC). Nesting Barn Swallows at Unionville, Nev. (40 miles s.w. of Winnemucca), fledged July 23, but returned for 5 evenings to roost in the nest. Tucking the 5 grown young into a cramped nest prompted an "hilarious struggle" (REW).

JAYS, CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES — A Blue Jay remained in Cheyenne, Wyo., during the nesting season (MEH). Com. Ravens were more abundant than in other years in the Humboldt Range of Nevada (REW), but were down at Zion, with uncertain nesting success. A flock of 60 White-necked Ravens south of Cañon City on June 6 was further west than usual on an unusual date (HEK). Black-capped Chickadees, as well as Plain Titmice and Com. Bushtits, were down at Zion. The bushtit near Cañon City July 28, which displayed all field marks of a Black-eared Bushtit (not on the Colorado list), was presumably an imm. Com. Bushtit (DAG, CAG). Red-breasted Nuthatches were found at scattered places in Colorado and Wyoming, but were rare in s. Idaho (WHS). Nesting Brown Creepers increased noticeably in Summit Co., Colo.

DIPPERS, WRENS — Drought pushed the Dipper higher into the mountains w. of Pueblo; and a successful nesting occurred near McCoy, Colo., even though a cat killed the ♀. A ♂ House Wren supervised 2 nests at Franklin Basin, Utah, while pairs at Dubois and McCoy raised 2 broods in the same nests. No Bewick's or Rock Wrens were noted at Zion, where they usually nest commonly; Cañon Wrens were also down there. The Long-billed Marsh Wren had a good hatch by 90 nesting pairs at Monte Vista, and Farmington Bay had normal numbers.

THRASHERS, THRUSHES, KINGLETS, PIPITS, WAXWINGS — Mockingbirds are increasing at Durango "markedly" and have moved into the Cortez, Colo., area (OR, RSy). Malheur had 2 observations of Catbirds during the season. A Brown Thrasher found dead near Bayfield, Colo., was an unusual w. Colorado record (RSy). Bendire's

Thrasher, normal in s. Utah, was seen twice in c. Utah, near Vernon (GLK, WS). The Sage Thrasher increased in n.e. Utah, but dropped in numbers in Nevada (B.B.S.). Robins increased by 50 per cent in Franklin Basin. They arrived in Eldora in Feb., but did not begin nesting until May, and achieved only about 50 per cent nesting success due to unhatched eggs, storms, and predators (ravens). They declined in the dry country of w. Colorado (B.B.S.). Malheur had its first summer record of the Hermit Thrush. At Eldora, Swainson's Thrushes have declined from common status 20 years ago to rarity now; none at all appeared this year. A pair of Mountain Bluebirds was carrying food into a hole in the bank of a small gully at Estes Park, an unusual nesting location (AC, SW, GN). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were common throughout Zion, with young fledgling June 25; a few were found around Cañon City, Colo., including a pair feeding a huge young cowbird in a diminutive nest Aug. 7 (HEK). Water Pipits delayed moving to their tundra breeding areas, perhaps due to the inclement late spring. In early June they were seen far below timberline at Sheridan, Togwotee Pass, Wyo. (MB), Lower Klamath Refuge (HBN), and in Summit Co. At the same time, however, some were their nesting grounds in Summit Co., and several nests with eggs were found near Tennessee Pass, Colo. June 25 & July 4 (NH). Cedar Waxwings were regular at Malheur until June 30; present in s. Idaho after an absence of several years; found at Sheridan all summer; and in Colorado at McCoy, Palisade (SD) and Steamboat Springs (C.F.O.). A Phainopepla was found above Springdale, towards Zion (RIK). Loggerhead Shrike numbers declined on B.B.S. in Nevada. The Starling may be diminishing around Dubois, and throughout Nevada (B.B.S.). It nests commonly in the aspen forests around Flamingo Gorge, from 6200-7200 ft., "competing successfully" with the Tree Swallow and Mountain Bluebird for nest holes (JRG).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Red-eyed Vireos nested at L. Isabel, having 2 young in mid-July. They occurred at Sheridan during June and July, and s.e. Oregon had 2 records (HBN). Warbling Vireos were common at Unionville, Nev. (REW), but scarce in the Colorado foothills (GMS, HH). Banders at Malheur caught their second 1971 Tennessee Warbler June 12, their seventh record, Oregon's ninth. A pair of late, stray Chestnut-sided Warblers (the ♂ singing) near Sedalia, Colo., July 3 were unusual (JC), as was an earlier one near Jefferson, Colo. May 26 (RG). The habitat at Sedalia resembles that near Colorado Springs, where the species nested in 1968, but the Sedalia bird could not be found again. The Ovenbird nested near Story, Wyo. (PIH) and was further w. than usual at Rupert, Ida., May 29.

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS — Although absent from s. Idaho around Rupert, 2-3 Bobolinks stayed at

Nat'l Elk Refuge for a week in early June. Orchard Orioles raised young w. of Pueblo. The range of the Scott's Oriole apparently extends to w.c. Utah: reports came from its regular haunts 50 miles n. of Delta, on Topaz Mt. (GLK), and of an ad. with young from the Confusion Range, in Utah 50 miles n.n.e. of Baker, Nev. (fide REW). Yellow-headed and Red-winged Blackbirds thrived at Nat'l Elk, Farmington Bay, and the Klamath Refuges. Wyoming picked up a new bird for its state list with a **Tricolored Blackbird** found by visitors to Yellowstone Nat'l Park July 27. The bird, a single, brilliant ♂, "sang incessantly, and successfully drove a Red-wing from the territory, and made life miserable for the ♀ members of the local Red-wing breeding colony." The bird stayed for a week and a half (RFF). Although doing well at Klamath and Nat'l Elk, the Brewer's Blackbird was down at Farmington Bay. It seemed on the increase in the Colorado mountains, to the point of becoming a nuisance at La Veta (LAC). Com. Grackles spread slowly to the west; now regular at Dubois, other records this year include 2 near Steamboat Springs June 20 (C.F.O.) and 3 at Estes Park June 12 (D.F.O.). The spring ♂ Scarlet Tanager at Estes Park stayed there until June 23, singing during the entire period; however observers found no evidence of nesting (AC). In similar Ponderosa Pine habitat, another ♂ in full song was found near Glendo, Wyo., June 14; nearby were other tanagers, presumably all Western (RES).

FINCHES, GROSBEAKS, BUNTINGS — The Rose-breasted Grosbeak, apparently new in Idaho with a record at Pocatello in May, appeared at Rupert June 12 (WHS). Black-headed Grosbeaks were missing from Eldora for the first time this year. Blue Grosbeaks continue to increase around Durango; they were noted feeding young on a B.B.S. route between Dolores and Cortez, Colo. (OR). A similar increase in Blue Grosbeaks occurred at Cedar City, where unusual numbers appeared in July after nesting. The Indigo Bunting made its regular but rare appearance in the Sheridan area June 20. Colorado had a number of reports, including a ♂ singing during June at Red Rocks Park w. of Denver (JC, HEK), and 3 reports from the Pueblo area (DAG, DS, NE). Durango's heavy concentration of Evening Grosbeaks started leaving town June 4, and for 3 days large numbers flew n. at dusk; numbers had diminished greatly by June 7. The last one was seen at Rupert June 21, but in Colorado nesting reports persisted from Durango, Estes Park (MP), and Eldora, but not in Summit Co. Cassin's Finches nested in aspen, instead of conifers, in Franklin Basin, and fed from hummingbird feeders at Jefferson, Colo. Pine Grosbeaks seemed more numerous than usual in the Colorado Rockies (NH), and appeared at L. Isabel for the first time since 1969. Brown-capped Rosy Finches thrived in the high Colorado Rockies; near Silverton, Colo., a pair was feeding nestlings July 15

on Storm King Mt., at the high elevation of 13,200 ft. (HEK). Although Idaho and s. Colorado had no Red Crossbills, the n. Colorado and Wyoming Rockies had scattered flocks and individuals during the summer; at least one nest was found at Estes Park (KD). Seven White-winged Crossbills perched on a rail fence at the Stub Creek Ranger Station in Larimer Co., Colo. (JLW, fide RAR). The Lark Bunting, erratic in Idaho, was found nesting in the Elba and Albion Valleys s. of Rupert, and one appeared at Minidoka N.W.R. July 3 (JDH). Scattered individuals and small flocks appeared at R.M.N.P. in June and July, and a ♂ was at Hahns Peak July 13.

SPARROWS, JUNCOS — Vesper Sparrows were reported as scarce at Sheridan, both in the lowlands and in the mountains. Lark Sparrows seemed more abundant than ever in the Humboldt Range near Winnemucca, Nev.; the spring weather favored their habitat (REW). Wandering Lark Sparrows appeared in R.M.N.P. in Moraine Park and above timberline at Fall River Pass July 30 (LLF), a typical, post-breeding dispersal. Several pairs of Cassin's Sparrows were found w. of Pueblo (DS, DAG). On June 30 Zion recorded its first mid-summer record of the Rufous-crowned Sparrow. The Black-throated Sparrow, usually a common nesting bird at Zion, was not seen there at all; it also dropped in numbers in Nevada (B.B.S.). It is maintaining its usual numbers in s.e. Oregon, however, where it breeds in a restricted area (HBN). One was seen on the Idaho State campus at Pocatello May 31, adding to the very few Idaho records (MRC). Sage Sparrows seem more numerous than usual in the Klamath Basin (JMH), and nesting in s.e. Oregon was completed by June 14. The species was also noted at Dubois June 11 & July 20. In Franklin Basin an Oregon Junco picked a strange nest site: an aspen cavity. Gray-headed Juncos had highly successful nestings at Evergreen. Young were out of the nest at R.M.N.P. by July 8, but fledged very late, in Aug., in Summit Co. and at Bailey, Colo. (NH). The dry conditions did not affect the Chipping Sparrows around Pueblo; they hatched good numbers. Seen to 10,000 ft. there, they began scattering to the plains in late July, and to 12,000 ft. in the Indian Peaks Wilderness near Granby, Colo. (HEK). Numbers of Brewer's Sparrows declined on 3 B.B.S. in Idaho and e. Utah. In Durango they were carrying food to the nest in mid-June, while they were still migrating w. of Pueblo at the same time. In s.e. Oregon nesting apparently was much delayed; June 13-17, when they should be hatching eggs and feeding young, ♂'s were in full song, very, very late (HBN). On June 14 came Oregon's first record of the **Clay-colored Sparrow**. Found in the Alvord desert, observers attracted it with an Audubon bird call; it sang its distinctive, buzzy song, so different from the common Brewer's, and showed off all its

field marks (HBN). Fox Sparrows were noted at 3 locations on the Colorado Eastern Slope (D.F.O., RFB, GMS) and 2 or more were singing on the Elk R. near Steamboat Springs; this is the fifth location they have been recorded in w. Colorado.

CORRIGENDA — Am. Birds 25:86: the Tennessee Warbler was seen Sept. 12, not Oct. 12. Am. Birds 25:703 & 775: The Utah Cattle Egret was not the first for Utah; 1 or 2 have been reported at Bear R. N.W.R. each year since 1968.

I omitted from the last report my acknowledgment of Dr. Oliver K. Scott's 17 years of service to Audubon Field Notes and American Birds. He has reported well and accurately on the birdlife of this Region for almost 2 decades. Dr. Scott's knowledge of the Region's birdlife is unsurpassed, and he is a leading authority on the birds of Wyoming as well as keeper of the Wyoming state list. Now incoming President of the Murie Audubon Society in Casper, he continues his fine contributions to the Audubon Society. Currently he and the Murie group are diligently working to counter the threats to the eagle populations in Wyoming, which in winter harbors more eagles than any other of the lower 48 states.

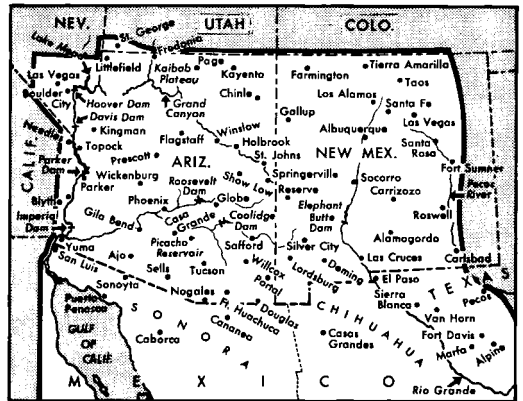
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SOUTHWEST REGION / Patricia R. Snider

This summer was a period of extremes in weather. Severe drought conditions continued into mid-July. The coolness of late spring changed suddenly to one of the hottest spells on record. Forests were closed entirely while many disastrous



fires burned over thousands of acres of timber and grasslands, with the air becoming ominously smoke-laden. Drought conditions spread southward in Mexico as far as Sinaloa, perhaps forcing some exotic species to move north. Some cities were forced to restrict water use, most stock tanks and streams dried up completely, while rivers became mere trickles.

Then in July an abrupt change to the opposite extreme occurred in this land of "too little or too much". Heavy rains began to bring floods. Yearly precipitation totals rose to more nearly normal levels. The continued pattern of moisture and coolness at last brought forth some long-delayed weed and plant growth. The countryside again became green and "spring blossoms" bloomed.

Bird populations were not too plentiful until the rains began. Nesting was terribly slow in getting started, with some species apparently not trying at