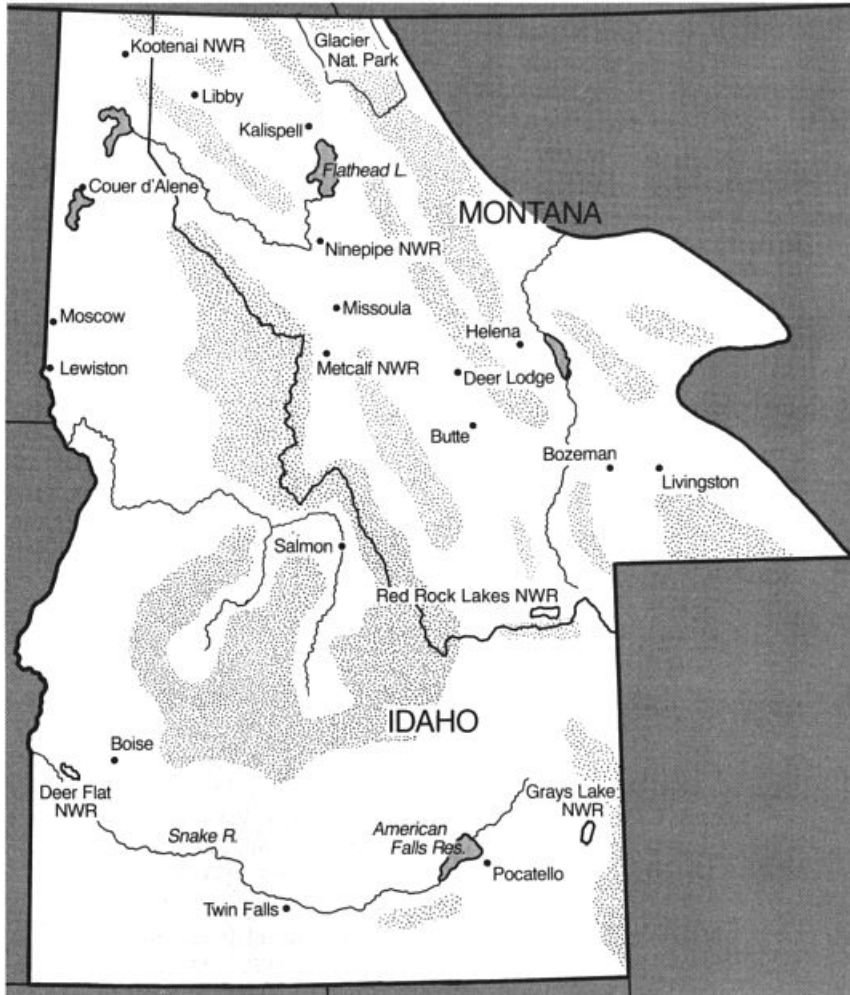


idaho-western montana region



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Spring 1998 was dry and mild through March and April, then cool and wet through May. Many spring migrants arrived earlier than usual. Several observers felt migrant numbers were low, and warbler numbers especially seemed depauperate. Finches however, reinvaded mountain valleys, after being largely absent last winter. The rains of May brought sporadic flooding and mud-slides, and likely caused some nesting failures and delays.

Abbreviations: A.F.R. (*American Falls Res.*,

Bingham Co., ID); D.F.N.W.R. (*Deer Flat Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Canyon Co., ID*); F.B.W.M.A. (*Ft. Boise Wildlife Management Area, Canyon Co., ID*); L.M.N.W.R. (*Lee Metcalf Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Ravalli Co., MT*).

GREBES TO DUCKS

A Red-necked Grebe at Williams L., *Lemhi, ID*, May 12 (HR) represented only the 7th local record. Three Am. White Pelicans at Somers, MT, Mar. 19 (TF) and two at McArthur L., *Boundary, ID*, May 18 (*vide* SS) continued a pattern of increasing reports in n. Idaho and n.w. Montana. Six Great Egrets were reported from s.w. and n. Idaho Apr. 5–May 24 (m.ob.). Great Egrets are

rare but increasing outside of s.e. Idaho. Snowy Egrets are unusual in s.w. Idaho, so one at F.B.W.M.A. May 2 & 3 was notable (PP, DL). Another out-of-place Snowy was near Helena, MT, May 23 and June 1 (GT, m.ob.). A **Little Blue Heron** in the Paradise Valley, *Park*, May 30 (TM) provided Montana's 4th record. Idaho's Cattle Egrets included 10 at A.F.R. Apr. 18 (CT) and one near Emmett, ID, May 4 (RM). Single rare Green Herons visited Idaho at Payette Apr. 20 (FZ, MZ) and Silver Cr. Preserve, *Blaine*, May 9 (RB). A White-faced Ibis at Eureka, MT, May 4 (AD) and two near Cataldo, ID, May 25 (SL) furnished latilong firsts.

A Greater White-fronted Goose at Salmon, ID, Apr. 26 (HR) represented only the 2nd local record, but one near Coeur d'Alene, ID, May 10 (G&PC) was more expected. Idaho's Ross's Goose sightings included two at Mann L., *Nez Perce*, Apr. 2 (CS); two at Dry L., *Ada*, Apr. 11 (JG); and one at Mann L. Apr. 25 (KD).

Eur. Wigeon sightings in Idaho were down from last year. They included one near Coeur d'Alene Mar. 15 (G&PC), three on Coeur d'Alene L. Mar. 17 (SS, m.ob.), one at Lewiston Mar. 29 & 31 (BJ, MK), one-two at Mann L. Apr. 1 & 2 (CS, CV), one at A.F.R. Mar. 13–Apr. 5 (MCR), and one near Challis Apr. 9 (DF, EF). Like last year, Eur. Wigeons were widely reported in w. Montana, with singles at L.M.N.W.R. Mar. 12 (WT); Ninepipe N.W.R., *Lake*, Mar. 19 (C&TT); Missoula Apr. 11 (m.ob.); and three at Kicking Horse Res., *Lake*, Mar. 19 (C&TT). Nine Eur. Wigeons near Somers Mar. 22 included two Am. × Eur. Wigeon hybrids (DC).

Two Harlequin Ducks near Clarkia, ID, May 16 (JF) and a pair spotted on the Henrys Fork R., *Fremont, ID*, May 23 (*vide* CT) furnished latilong firsts. Another pair of Harlequins was in Lewiston May 29 (CV).

HAWKS TO TERNS

Idaho's 4th **Red-shouldered Hawk** lingered at F.B.W.M.A. until Mar. 1, while the one at D.F.N.W.R. remained until Mar. 26 (JG). Regionally rare Broad-winged Hawks included singles at Marsing, ID, Apr. 26 &

27 (RE, ph. JG, DL) and Pocatello, ID, May 1 (MCR). A Swainson's Hawk near Moscow, ID, Apr. 23 and May 9 (G&PC, CS) was locally rare. A Gyrfalcon near Mud Lake W.M.A., Jefferson, ID, persisted until Mar. 18 (KS), while one at Gannett, ID, stayed through late March (PWP).

A Black-bellied Plover 10 mi e. of Midvale, Washington, ID, Apr. 11 was a first for Latilong 11 (DM, DT). Other singles were at L.M.N.W.R. Apr. 17 (DG, WT), Marsing Apr. 18–20 (RE, DM, DT), and Blacks Creek Res., Ada, May 10 (DM, DT). Four Black-bellieds were at Hubbard Res., Ada, May 16–18 (MC, FK, DL, RLR). A rare Snowy Plover was at A.F.R. Apr. 26–29 (MCR, m.ob.).

Ten Black-necked Stilts at L.M.N.W.R. Apr. 24 were locally rare (WT), and two near Salmon, ID, May 8 were a first for Latilong 10 (HR). Stilts appear to be increasing in the Region's n. half. Single Idaho Solitary Sandpipers were at Dry L. Apr. 25 (JG, DL), near Pocatello May 4 (MCR), at Moscow May 9 (CS), and Hubbard Res. May 9 (DH). Two Solitaries were at Ennis L., Madison, MT, May 1 (MDO, JPa)

Idaho's 9th **Whimbrel** visited Hubbard Res. May 5 (†RLR). A rare Sanderling was at Dry L. Apr. 25 (JG, DL), and 10 were at A.F.R. May 2 & 3 (MCR, JP). A Semipalmated Sandpiper was near American Falls, ID, Apr. 29, and three were near A.F.R. May 7 (MCR). Single Dunlins were at Mann L. Apr. 25 (JMo) and near Aberdeen, ID, May 3 (MCR). Two Short-billed Dowitchers at Blacks Creek Res. May 10 (DF, EF) provided one of Idaho's few spring records.

A Franklin's Gull n. of Hailey, ID, May 9 was unexpected (PPR, CTh, PWP). Five Mew Gulls below A.F.R. dam Mar. 20–Apr. 23 (MCR, CT) and one near Post Falls, ID, May 9 (G&PC) were winter holdovers. An Arctic Tern was at A.F.R. May 10 (CT), where they're now almost annual.

PIGEONS TO MOCKINGBIRDS

Idaho's Band-tailed Pigeon hotspot near Ola hosted one Apr. 28–May 31 (DD, FZ, MZ). Another Band-tailed was at Coeur d'Alene L. May 9 (*vide* SS). The only Idaho location that has reliably attracted Yellow-billed Cuckoos has been the Tilden Bridge area, n.e. of Springfield; one–two were there May 27–30 (MCR, m.ob.). One–two rare Barn Owls occupied a barn near Corvallis, MT, mid April–late May (JM, m.ob.). A N. Hawk Owl with recently fledged young was at Glacier N.P., MT, in late May (SG), near where the species nested in 1994. A Black

Swift winging over Hailey May 24 (BS) provided a first for Latilong 19. A locally rare Broad-tailed Hummingbird was in Bozeman, MT, May 24 (JM). Idaho's 13th–16th Least Flycatcher records were furnished by singles n.e. of Boise May 9 (DF, EF) and s. of Pocatello May 14 (JP), and two were at Camas N.W.R., Jefferson, May 25–31 (MCR, DF, EF). Say's Phoebes are uncommon in n. Idaho and w. Montana, so singles at L.M.N.W.R. Mar. 20 (DG), Missoula Mar. 29 (TN), near Lewiston Apr. 2 (CS), Moscow May 1 (CS), n. of Coeur d'Alene May 9 (SS), and two n. of Moscow May 9 (CS) were notable.

Five Blue Jays tarried at a feeder in Nampa until May 1 (*vide* JG); nesting in Idaho is still unverified. Montana Blue Jays stayed until mid-May in Missoula (RF) and Somers (DC). A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was n. of Boise May 9 (RLR), and a pair began nest-building e. of Boise May 19–31, where they nested last year (MC, FK, DT).

Two W. Bluebirds in Pocatello Mar. 10 (RC, JP) and three Mt. Bluebirds at D.E.N.W.R. Mar. 8 (DM, DT) were locally rare. The Florence, MT, N. Mockingbird lingered until Apr. 17 (WT). Idaho mockingbirds were relatively numerous this spring, with singles at Thousand Springs Preserve, Gooding, Mar. 1–3 (COB); near Pocatello May 6 (MCR, JP); n. of Sweet, Gem, May 13–16 (DM, DT, FZ); and Twin Falls May 24–31 (JTr). A pair of mockingbirds was near Mayfield, Elmore, ID, May 8–31 (DT, m.ob.), where the species has nested before.

VIREOS TO GOLDFINCHES

Idaho's first **Bell's Vireo** was at Camas N.W.R. May 28 & 29 (MCR, †CT, m.ob.). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** e. of Pocatello May 20 furnished Idaho's 10th record (RC, JP). Other rare Idaho warblers included a Palm Warbler in Blackfoot, ID, Apr. 26 (JT) and a Black-and-white Warbler in Boise May 17 (MC, FK). An Ovenbird e. of Boise May 30 (DM, DT) provided Idaho's 17th record. Another Ovenbird fatally collided with a Twin Falls window May 23 (JTr).

A male Black-headed × Rose-breasted Grosbeak was in Pocatello May 13 (CT, m.ob.), and another hybrid was e. of Bozeman May 30 (JC). Rare and irregular in the Region, an incredible *five* Rose-breasted Grosbeaks visited feeders in w. Montana from mid-late May (JM), and a single was at Red Rock L., Beaverhead, MT, May 31 (JPa).

A rare Indigo Bunting was at a feeder in Twin Falls May 24 & 25 (RMu). A Lark Bunting was at Minidoka N.W.R., Blaine,

May 9 (MJ, BS), and another was there May 28 (SB); breeding was first documented in Idaho in 1996. Rare Idaho sparrows included a Swamp Sparrow in Boise May 17 (MC, FK) and a Golden-crowned Sparrow at Greenleaf, Canyon, Apr. 2–17 (BD, m.ob.).

Eight **Great-tailed Grackles** were at Marsing Apr. 5 (MD). A nest was discovered there Apr. 19 (RE, DM, DT), and three young fledged May 27 (RE), confirming breeding for the first time in Idaho. Other Great-taileds included singles at American Falls, ID, Apr. 10 (MCR) and D.F.N.W.R. Apr. 17 (DT), and two were at D.F.N.W.R. May 23 (JG).

Common Grackles are uncommon and very local in Idaho, but are apparently continue to expand their range. Two were below A.F.R. May 3 (MCR), while another two were in Salmon May 12–31 (HR). Single Commons were in Carey, Blaine, May 14–31 (PWP); Hailey May 21 (LB), and Boise May 24–31 (DH, RLR, DT). Lesser Goldfinch numbers were up in Boise, where nesting has yet to be confirmed (MC, FK, DT).

Observers cited (subregional editors in boldface): IDAHO: Rudy Boesch, Steve Bouffard, Ray Clark, Marty Collar (MCR), Mark Collie (MC), Gordon and Pam Comrie (G&PC), Mike Denny (MD), Berta Doramus, David Dudley, **Kas Dumroese**, Ron Elam, Dave Faike, Elise Faike, Julie Fronzuto, **John Gatchet**, Dave Hazelton, Bryan Jamison, Mike Johnson, Florence Knoll, **Merlene Koliner**, Dave Lawrence, Steve Lindsay, Russ Manwaring, John Montgomery (JMo), Don Morgan, Robert Murrey (RMu), Christina O'Brien, Jim Paruk (JP), Peggy Peterson (PP), Patty Provonsha (PPR), **Hadley Roberts**, R.L. Rowland, Mary Schlee, Kit Struthers, Brian Sturges, **Shirley Sturts**, Charles Swift, Carol Thomas (CTh), Joel Tinsley (JT), Dave Trochlell, **Chuck Trost** (CT), Jack Trotter (JTr), Carole Vande Voorde, **Poo Wright-Pulliam**, C. Fred Zeillemaker, Melly Zeillemaker. MONTANA: John Carlson, **Dan Casey**, Annie Deuker, Mark Donahue (MDO), Rich Fevold, Tim Fox, Steve Gniadek, Deborah Goslin, **Jeff Marks** (JM), Terry McEneaney, Terri Nall, **John Parker** (JPa), **Don Skaar**, Gordon Thompson, Cindy and Terry Toppins, Wayne Tree.

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