

1961

Autumn Migration, 1960

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN —
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**
/ Thomas H. Rogers

The fall period throughout the Region could certainly be characterized as mild, with temperatures generally above normal and precipitation below normal, until near the end of October, when a storm period brought rain or snow, according to the elevation. November was anywhere from slightly above average to decidedly above average in precipitation, but continued mild temperatures caused most of the moisture to fall as rain. A light



snow cover or none at all prevailed at most localities at the end of the period, with the exceptions of Banff, Alberta, with about 6 inches, and Libby, Mont. with about 5 inches. The mild weather appeared to produce no general change in pattern for the migration. At Baker, Oreg., Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds and Common Crows disappeared early but Mountain and Western Bluebirds lingered late. In eastern Washington Snow Buntings and rosy finches appeared early. E. D. Beacham reported for southwestern Alberta and adjacent British Columbia; R. L. Hand, Missoula and Lake Counties, Montana; C. J. Henry, the National Bison Range, Moiese, Mont.; P. D. Skaar, Bozeman and Ennis Lake, Montana; Ruth P. Ownbey, Pullman, Wash., and Ann Ward, Baker, Oreg. Any exceptions or additions to the above are indicated in the text.

Grebes and Herons.—A concentration of at least 1000 Eared Grebes had moved into the Soap Lake area, Grant Co., Wash. where they winter, by Nov. 11 (Lynn LaFave). Two sightings were reported for immature Black-crowned Night Herons, uncommon in eastern

Washington: 1 at Reardan and 2 at O'Sullivan Dam, Grant Co., both on Aug. 30 (LL and Warren Hall).

Waterfowl.—A record number of ducks was on the lakes of the Columbia Basin in early November, according to the *Spokane Chronicle*, reporting comments of game department officials. About **250,000** of the birds were counted on Banks Lake, Moses Lake and the Potholes Reservoir. About 190,000 were Mallards. In late October over 20,000 geese were counted in the same general area (*Spokane Chronicle*). Four **White-fronted Geese** were noted on Grant County, Wash., lakes (LL & WH) and one was shot near Ninepipe Refuge, Lake Co., Mont. A single **Cackling Goose** was seen at Park Lake, Grant Co., on Nov. 11 (LL & WH). The Am. Widgeon was a common migrant in several localities. Several hundred were at Ninepipe on Oct. 13, when only Mallards outnumbered them there. About **1000** Shovelers were noted wintering in the Lenore Lake area, Grant Co., Wash. (LL & WH). Several other rarities turned

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up: an immature **Surf Scoter** at Turnbull Wildlife Refuge near Cheney, Wash. (Spokane Bird Club, LL & WH); **4 White-winged Scoters** on Lake Minniwanka, Banff National Park, British Columbia (C. Hitchon, I. Halladay), and a single male **Greater Scaup** at Ennis Lake, Madison Co., Mont. The latter was seen in good light at 200 ft. with a 20 X scope. The species is not previously listed for Montana.

Gallinaceous Birds.—Six Sage Grouse, rare in eastern Washington, were observed southwest of Creston, Lincoln Co. (LL & WH). The species was also reported from Meagher County, Mont. Chukars were reported as increasing in the Soap Lake area, Grant Co., Wash. (LL & WH) and very common at the National Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. The White-tailed Ptarmigan was noted during the summer and fall in Glacier National Park at altitudes ranging from 7000 to 9300 ft. (Richard E. Johnson).

Shorebirds.—This and the following group came in for the lion's share of rarities. Hall and LaFave are responsible for the following records, except where otherwise noted: 2 Am. Golden Plover at Reardan, Wash. on Sept. 28, 1 at the same place on Nov. 6 (SBC) and 2 at Harrison Lake, west of Bozeman, Mont. (P. D. Skaar); a **Wandering Tattler** near the British Columbia—Alberta border west of Banff (David W. Sonneborn, Jan Simon and George Wilson); a **Ruddy Turnstone** at Reardan on Aug. 30; 3 Dunlins at Stratford Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on Nov. 11; the Stilt Sandpiper at Reardan, and Sander-ling at Soap Lake and at Ennis Lake in Montana (PDS).

Jaegers and Gulls.—An adult **Long-tailed Jaeger** near Ritzville, Wash. on Aug. 22 constituted the third record for eastern Washington (LL). A **Glaucous Gull** was identified at short range on the Spokane River near Gonzaga University, Spokane, on Nov. 11 and a Mew Gull appeared at the same spot a few days later (LL). A **Franklin's Gull** was observed in this same area in mid-November (SBC, LL & WH) and one was collected at Reardan on Aug. 30 (LL & WH). It seems likely that the man-made lakes in the Columbia Basin are responsible for bringing previously absent species of waterbirds into central and -eastern Washington.

Swifts and Woodpeckers.—Four of the rarely reported Black Swifts appeared at the Bison Range on Aug. 2. Yellow-shafted and hybrid Flickers contributed a small burst of reports. Three hybrids and a Yellow-shafted were noted at Pullman, Wash.; 1 hybrid appeared at Davenport, Wash. (WH & LL), and 1 Yellow-shafted (or hybrid) was seen at Two Medicine Lake, Glacier Nat'l Park (RED. This is the first for the Park. The scarce Williamson's Sapsucker, a female, was identified on Pine Creek near Baker, Oreg. The equally scarce White-headed Woodpecker almost made it into Spokane, as 1 was seen at the western edge of the city in Indian Canyon (S. O. Stanley). Unusual was a Lewis' Woodpecker in the Waterton Park area of southwestern Alberta. The species has been noted in the area only three times in five years.

Swallows and Jays.—A massive gathering of 1000 Barn Swallows was encountered at Oroville, Wash. on Sept. 9 (Bob & Elsie Boggs). A single straggler of this species was found at Silver Lake, Spokane Co., Wash. on the late date of Oct. 22 (WH & LL). A notable number (25-30) of Clark's Nutcrackers was seen at Sumpter, Oreg. on Sept. 29 and a flock of 40 or 50 was found in the Ghost River area along the front ranges of the Rockies in southwestern Alberta in mid-September (IH).

Chickadees, Wrens and Catbird.—Some 50 Chestnut-backed Chickadees and 1 or 2 of the rare Boreal Chickadees were seen in the Salmo Pass area of northern Idaho (WH & LL). Two Long-billed Marsh Wrens at Park Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on Nov. 11 represent a late date for these birds (WH & LL). The latest date reported for the Catbird was Sept. 17 at Libby, Mont. (James Peterson).

Thrushes, Pipits and Waxwings.—Robins with intentions of wintering appeared scarce except at Baker, Oreg., where at least a hundred were present on Dec. 8. Mountain Bluebirds appeared to be scarcer than ever in the Missoula area, but several other localities reported flocks. At Baker, 40-50 were noted

on Nov. 25 and 2 were still present on Dec. 8. At least 1000 Water Pipits were noted at Reardan, Wash. on Sept. 20 (WH & LL). Up to 200 were seen in the Bozeman, Mont. area. Bohemian Waxwings so far have not given much promise of a "waxwing winter," although a flock of about 250 was noted at Missoula and about 1000 were noted at Calgary in late November. The birds were feeding on the berries of the Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*) at the Bison Range.

Warblers and Blackbirds.—Warblers trickled through in small numbers as usual, except for Audubon's, which at times appeared in small flocks and was the commonest species. Wilson's Warbler was seen commonly at Waterton Park in late August (Dick Dekker, CH) and was numerous in early September at Baker. At least 2 **Myrtle Warblers** were recognized in a flock of Audubon's at Missoula on Sept. 14 and one was noted the following day. Missoula and Bozeman reported many Brewer's Blackbirds but the species appeared scarce in eastern Washington and Oregon. A late individual was still at Davenport, Wash. on Nov. 25 (WH & LL). A female Bullock's Oriole was found dead near Spokane on Sept. 21, a late date (WH & LL). A continuing mystery in the Region is the whereabouts of the Brown-headed Cowbird in the fall. Hand points up the question with the observation that only once in 23 years has he seen any after the last of July. That time was in 1958, when flocks occurred during late August and the birds were observed up to Sept. 6.

Finches and Sparrows.—Pine Grosbeaks seemed to be staging something of an invasion, particularly in the Calgary, Alta. area. A flock of at least 75 was observed along the Little Spokane River at Spokane on Dec. 3 and 4 (Jim Acton, SBC). Flocks were occurring regularly at Bozeman (PDS, C. V. Davis) and the species appeared to be rather common at Missoula. The Gray-crowned Rosy Finch was common to abundant at several localities. The species was noted earlier than usual in eastern Washington, where some 500 were noted in Grant and Lincoln Counties. A largely albino individual was collected in the area

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(WH & LL). Redpolls have been almost completely absent thus far. Red Crossbills were noted around Banff, Waterton and Glacier Nat'l Parks in good numbers but were sparse in most other areas. White-winged Crossbills, always scarce, were noted at Red Eagle Lake in Glacier Park in late August (REJ). A Savannah Sparrow at Reardan, Wash. on Nov. 25 furnished a late record (WH & LL). Chipping Sparrows were reported as late as Oct. 23 (1) at Spokane (SBC); Oct. 7 (1) at Pullman, Wash., and Oct. 3 (small flock) at

Missoula. Decidedly noteworthy was the sighting of a **Harris' Sparrow** at Missoula on Oct. 17. This is the fourth record in 23 years. White-crowned Sparrows were migrating between Aug. 28 and late October, with a straggler near Baker, Oreg. on Nov. 27 (Gertrude Inman). Sixty were banded at Spokane; this is more than double the number banded there in any of the three previous autumns (TR). One individual, banded on Sept. 18, was recaptured on Oct. 2, suggesting that the migration is a leisurely affair for at least some of this species. Golden-crowned Sparrows were reported at Bow Lake, Banff Nat'l Park in August and at Flo Lake, Kootenay Nat'l Park on Sept. 10 (Aileen Harmon). Eight Lincoln's Sparrows were banded at Spokane, between Sept. 10 and 30. This compares with none banded in 1958 and 1959 and 1 banded in 1957 (TR). Six birds of this species were noted at Deep Creek, west of Spokane, on Sept. 20. This was the largest number observed at any one time (LL). Lapland Longspurs appeared at Bozeman on Oct. 16 but at Missoula they arrived on Sept. 10 and stayed until Nov. 12, with the maximum number about 35 birds. The earliest appearance of the Snow Bunting was on Oct. 13 at the Bison Range, where they were much more common than in the two previous years.

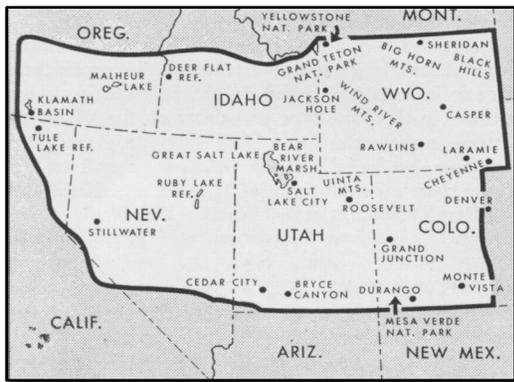
[No contributors were acknowledged]

Autumn Migration, 1960

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

/ Dr. Oliver K. Scott

Drought is a normal phenomenon in this Region so when to call a drought unusual is



a problem, but this year is different ! For instance, in central Wyoming the official average rainfall is being changed from 15 inches to 11 inches, but this year to-date there have been only 6 inches. At Ruby Lakes, in northeastern Nevada, the water level is the lowest in 30 years. Malheur, in eastern Oregon, had the lowest water level in 20 years. We are, therefore, going through the greatest drought in many years.

Apparently, this fall was warmer than usual and the migration was later than usual. We have a bumper crop of off-beat warblers. Eugene Kridler has replaced Dave Marshall as biologist at Malheur. Mr. Kridler has done some netting and banding of landbirds, as well as waterfowl. This has resulted in many new records for Malheur and distribution lists must be revised again.

Swans.—There were 3450 Whistling Swans, Nov. 13, at Malheur on Harney Lake, which this year had most of the waterfowl. This is the highest swan count in 3 years at Malheur (Kridler). Harney Lake is an overflow of Malheur—now largely dry—and has dried up more slowly than Malheur. Six pairs of Trumpeter Swans now live in northeastern Nevada outside Ruby Lakes (Clair Aldous). Ruby Lakes raised 3 cygnets; Malheur perhaps 9. There is hope this species is spreading out again in the Great Basin.

Geese and Ducks.—The waterfowl concentration at Malheur in eastern Oregon, with the lower water levels, was way down. Kridler reported an immature Greater Scaup collected during banding operations on Nov. 18. This bird is thought to be very rare inland, but is so easily missed it may be more common. It has been seen twice before at Malheur, one of the oldest and best watched spots in the western United States. An immature Barrow's Goldeneye was caught at the same time. The Barrow's Goldeneye is not a rare bird in this Region, merely so in a flat basin like Malheur. In the Klamath Basin the peak duck concentration was during Oct. 16-22 with 1,685,000 on Tule Lake and 1,931,000 on Lower Klamath. Peak goose concentrations occurred a little later, in the first week of November, with 251,000 on Tule Lake and 200,000 on Lower Klamath. These figures are not unusual for this ornithological paradise. A blizzard and freeze-up came on Nov. 20 and only a mere 30,000 birds remained (R. M. Abney). Unusual ducks at Klamath were 2 European Widgeon, Nov. 24 (McCaskie), and 1 Surf Scoter on Oct. 29 (Anderson). Another Surf Scoter was seen for the second time in 3 years (OKS) at Casper in central Wyoming, 1000 miles to the east, on a refinery waste lake on Oct. 30. Perhaps more of these birds are moving through this Region than we had thought. An Oldsquaw was collected at Lower Klamath, Nov. 14 (Linn Howard). There are now several records for this bird in the area. At Bear River Marshes, at the upper end of the Great Salt Lake, the water level was very low through the summer and early fall; consequently, the waterfowl numbers were down. However, only 3500 birds were lost from botulism. Later the water level improved (after the irrigation season) but the food supply was limited due to the previous drought. Marvin P. Duncan, the assistant refuge manager, reports the peak of the waterfowl was 624,000 on Sept. 19. This is

a little better than last year and later. A breakdown of their principal species shows:

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Species	Peak Numbers	1960 Date	Comparison with 1959
Canada Goose	3280	Aug. 10	up
Lesser Snow Goose	8100	Nov. 12	up
Pintail	220,000	Sept. 19	down slightly
Green-winged Teal	127,000	Nov. 18	down
Shoveler	100,000	Sept. 19	up
Canvasback	64,000	Oct. 28	up
Gadwall	37,000	Aug. 29	down
Mallard	33,000	Sept. 19	down
Redhead	18,000	Oct. 28	down

Deer Flat Refuge in southwestern Idaho is a fall and winter refuge. In summer, grains are grown around the lake to feed the migrants and the lake itself is a small-boat recreation area. As mentioned in previous issues this is principally a Mallard refuge. The build-up in ducks continued through the fall, and at the end of this time there were 480,000 Mallards present and lesser numbers of other ducks. The next most common were: 60,000 Pintail; 50,000 Am. Widgeon and 50,000 Shoveler. A peak of 5500 Canada Geese occurred, Nov. 2 (Gene Crawford). At Stillwater in western Nevada the low water levels have caused a drastic reduction in the usage of the refuge. Their fall peak was only 58,200 ducks in the last week of September. The record high was in 1958 with 191,000 on Nov. 9. After September the water shortage caused continued deterioration of the habitat and the waterfowl fell off. The Mallard doesn't mind cold weather and ice, and by the end of this period most of the waterfowl at Stillwater were Mallards: about 12,000 on Nov. 17 (John Kiger). The Mallard remained in central Wyoming in the Riverton area several 1000 strong in a territory where there is almost no open water and where the temperature drops repeatedly below zero. The birds glean in old grain fields and maintain an open spot or two on Ocean Lake (OKS). Another Mallard refuge is the new and growing Monte Vista Refuge in central-southern Colorado. This fall there were more birds using the area than ever before: by the end of this period there were 79,000 Mallards and lesser numbers of other ducks. The Pintail at 7840 and the Green-winged Teal at 1000 were the next most common (Charles R. Bryant).

Hawks.—This year the central Wyoming eagle flyway was not in operation until November, when up to 8 were seen in the air at once. There was a good flight on most windy days during the month of November (OKS).

Shorebirds.—There were 30 **Red Phalaropes** on Lower Klamath, Nov. 25 (McCaskie)—a very unusual record. Anderson had a total of 18 in the same area, Nov. 12-17.

Roadrunner.—Miss Reames had one for the first time at Durango, Nov. 10-11.

Owls.—A Pygmy Owl was reported in southern Colorado north of Durango, Oct. 31 (Reames). This little owl may be more common in the central Rockies, but is rarely reported, although one bird is regularly found in the cemetery at Salt Lake City. Glebe Kashin found it there by Nov. 19.

Jays.—A Scrub Jay was found at Laramie in southeastern Wyoming in the yard of Prof. A. B. Mickey on Oct. 29. Apparently, this jay does occur in southern Wyoming, but has not been reported for several years. Two Scrub Jays were reported by Mrs. Crews at Hotchkiss high on the mesa in western Colorado. This must be the edge of its range.

Wrens.—The Winter Wren is seen irregularly in the central Rockies. Kashin had one on Oct. 30 in City Creek Canyon at Salt Lake City.

Starlings.—This bird is reported as increasing at Ruby Lakes, Nev. They were seen there last year for the first time and recently Clair Aldous saw 15. Apparently, this is the pattern all over the Region.

Warblers.—Don Thatcher found a **Bay-breasted Warbler** at Genesee Mt. Park just west of Denver on Oct. 1. There are 3 other records for Colorado. This is rather amazing as the Colorado Rockies or plains are not the general habitat of the Bay-breast. Oppie Reames reported a **Worm-eating Warbler** picked up freshly dead at Durango on Oct. 22. This is unprecedented. Townsend's Warblers were reported from such widely diverse areas as Cheyenne in southeastern Wyoming on Sept. 13 by Mrs. Hanesworth and the headquarters at Malheur in the eastern Oregon sage-brush by Kridler on Sept. 6 and subsequent days, not having been seen there in the fall before. A male **Black-throated Blue** was collected at Malheur, Sept. 27. This is the second record for the refuge and eastern Oregon (Kridler).

Grosbeaks.—Pine Grosbeaks seem more common than usual west of Denver (D'T). Mrs. Lambertsen had 10 in Rawlins for the first time on Nov. 15. Previously, she had seen them on the breeding range in the nearby Snowy Range. They were also seen in numbers at Casper.

Sparrows.—Harris' Sparrow was reported from Malheur, Oct. 22 to Nov. 6, two at a time being seen and banded (Kridler). All birds were immature, as they are in the fall and winter in Wyoming and Utah. As far west as eastern Oregon this would be a rarity. In Wyoming it is a regular winter visitor. On Sept. 18-19 Kridler also banded and collected a White-throated Sparrow.

Longspurs.—Again this year R. G. McCaskie found Lapland Longspurs at Lower Klamath. This year there were at least 200 on Nov. 24-25. This species is not unusual in the same type of habitat on the Wyoming plateau in the eastern part of this Region. Among the longspurs he found a Snow Bunting, a species that occurs there more frequently.

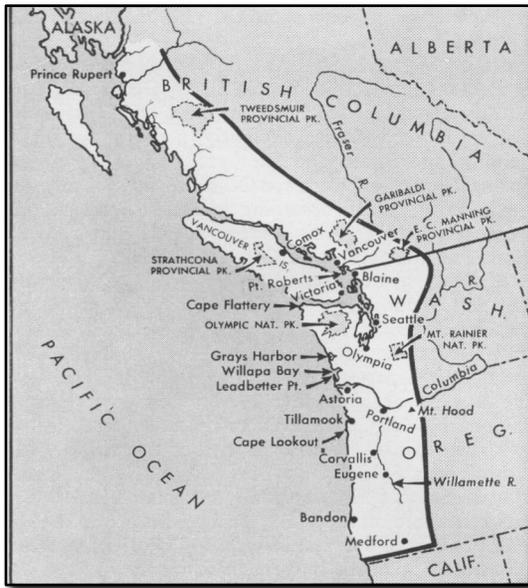
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Autumn Migration, 1960

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION
/ Bob and Elsie Boggs

A good breeding season for most birds has resulted in increased numbers of birds, especially passerines, being



observed in fall migration. Weather conditions were practically normal everywhere. Seattle's rainfall in November totaled 7.97 inches, twice the normal amount, but it was far below Seattle's wettest November, in 1942, when 9.4 inches of rain fell. Some observers noted the relative abundance of fringillids as opposed to insectivorous birds that were seemingly abundant all summer. Flycatchers, vireos, warblers, tanagers and thrushes were scarcer than in 1959;

finches and sparrows were more numerous. The Varied Thrush was a notable exception, as it was scarcely seen at all in the fall of 1959, and was reported this year by practically all observers.

Loons, Grebes, Shearwaters, Petrels.—The loon migration was generally light. The first Arctic Loon noted on the Oregon coast was one at Tillamook, Oreg., Oct. 1 (JBC, JO). The first Red-necked Grebes were seen at Comox, B. C., Aug. 22 (TP). An increased number of Horned Grebes in ratio to the less numerous Eared was noticed at Victoria, B. C. (ARD). Western Grebes were first noted at Grayland, Grays Harbor Co., Wash., Aug. 24 (LDL); and more than 500 were counted in Drayton Harbor, near Blaine, Wash. in October (LK). Twenty-two Sooty Shearwaters were found dead along the beach at Westport, Grays Harbor Co., Wash. on Aug. 23 (LDL); thousands were seen from a fishing boat at Neah Bay in Clallam County, Wash. on Aug. 27-28 (DG, *vide* GA); an estimate of millions was made at Seaside, Oreg., Sept. 5 (Erline Hevel, Aileen Pierson); and a report of thousands at Depoe Bay, also on the Oregon coast, Oct. 19, is the largest number ever seen there by Elizabeth A. Baker. Yet from Victoria comes the news that the Sooty Shearwaters "that usually occur in flocks of a hundred or more in September off the Victoria waterfront were entirely absent" (DS). A Fulmar was found dead, and another one (both light phase) collected at Westport, Aug. 25. A Leach's Petrel was carefully observed with a scope when seen flying one-fourth mile off the ocean beach at Grayland (LDL).

Pelicans, Cormorants, Herons.—Brown Pelicans (uncommon) were seen at Tillamook, Oct. 1 (JBC, JO). Several thousand Double-crested Cormorants were noted flying in a northern direction off Grayland, Aug. 24 (LDL). The Brandt's Cormorant was reported at Point Roberts, Oct. 9 and Nov. 13. Great Blue Herons lingered longer than usual at Blaine. The Green Heron was noted at Bear Creek, near Phoenix, Oreg., Aug. 22 (RB); at Pitt Meadows, B. C., Sept. 4 (JS); and at Portland, Oreg., Nov. 8 (GA).

Swan, Geese, Ducks.—A single Whistling Swan was discovered on Long Beach Island in Willapa Bay on Oct. 29 (JBC, JO). The first migratory Canada Geese were a flock of 135 on Sauvies Island, Sept. 5 (JBC, JO). They were seen at Blaine, Oct. 7 (LK); in Seattle and Medina, Wash. in mid-October (VEC, WMH); at Phoenix, Nov. 2 (RB); and at Boundary Bay, Nov. 11 (GMM). Black Brant were early. One was seen sitting on a sand bar at Tokeland, Pacific Co., Wash., Aug. 23 (LDL); and 8 were found at Point Roberts, Nov. 13. White-fronted Geese were seen flying over Victoria, Sept. 24 (ARD). This bird is rare on the Oregon coast, and a notable record is that of 3 seen at Tillamook,

Oct. 1 (JBC, JO). The Snow Goose winters in large flocks off the mouth of the Frazer River in British Columbia with the first (1200) seen at Sea Island, Oct. 30. Because stragglers occur only at infrequent intervals on southern Vancouver Island, the pair of adult Snow Geese seen on the Oak Bay Golf Course, near Victoria, the last two weeks in November, attracted much attention. Blue-winged Teal (uncommon) were seen at Blaine, Wash. in September; some were banded at the Skagit River Game Reserve on Oct. 3 (LK). A male European Widgeon was seen at Esquimalt Lagoon, Victoria, Nov. 5 (V.N.H.S.); and one on Sauvies Island in November (Barry Lowitz, *vide* GA) was shot by a hunter who mistook it for a Redhead, on which there is no open season this year! Ring-necked Ducks were reported only from Blaine and Vancouver, B. C. Canvasbacks were scarce. Barrow's Goldeneyes (32) were seen at Stanley Park, Vancouver, B. C., Nov. 5; and

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had increased to 60 by Dec. 3. The Hooded Merganser was first seen at Medina, Oct. 30 (WMH), and at Stanley Park, Nov. 5.

Hawks.—A flight of 85 Turkey Vultures represented a higher-than-average count at Victoria (DS). One was seen at Point Roberts, Sept. 5 (Warren Hall, *vide* LFL); 3 at Brooking, Oreg., Sept. 17 (RB); and 13 closely following the shoreline, in west Seattle, Sept. 20 (ELC). On the basis of records received, the Rough-legged Hawk shows a definite increase this fall. It was observed at Victoria, Oct. 22 (ARD); at Point Roberts, Oct. 23 and 29; at Long Beach Island, Oct. 29 (JBC, JO); and at Marpole, B. C., Nov. 2 (WH). Golden Eagles were watched feeding on a dead doe deer near Ashland, Oreg., Nov. 20 (RB). A Bald Eagle was seen at Cape Alava, Olympic Nat'l Park on Aug. 19 (GA). An Osprey was observed at Point Roberts, Aug. 27, and 2 were noted at Pitt Meadows, Sept. 4, while 2 were seen flying south over the ocean beach at Tillamook, Oct. 1 (JBC, JO). The Peregrine Falcon was reported only from Comox (TP) and Tsawwassen Beach in British Columbia (WHH, *et al.*). Also worth noting is the occurrence of a Pigeon Hawk at Comox (TP), and Westport (LDL).

Quail.—An exceptionally late breeding record of the California Quail was provided by a female at Phoenix, Oreg., incubating 8 eggs, Aug. 29, which hatched on Sept. 1 (RB).

Cranes, Rails, Shorebirds.—Sandhill Cranes were observed at Victoria on Sept. 3 & 4 (ARD, GAP). A flock of 12 spent the night in a field west of Victoria on Sept. 12 (DS). About 130 were seen on the Columbia

River, near Ridgefield, Clarke Co., Wash. Since this is just across the river from Sauvies Island in Oregon 555± seen on the island on Oct. 16 (JBC) probably included some of the same birds. Three juvenile Soras were found at Stanley Park, Sept. 17. The Black Oystercatcher, an uncommon visitor in the San Juan Islands, was seen on Low and Lopez Islands on July 23 and 30 (JB); and was seen at Cape Alava, Aug. 19 (GA). Four Snowy Plover, 2 of which were collected, were noted at Tokeland, Aug. 23 (LDL). Over 40 were seen on Sept. 16 at Gold Beach, Josephine Co., Oreg. (VKC), where an Am. Golden Plover also was seen. Other records of the Am. Golden Plover were 1 each in widely scattered localities in Victoria on Aug. 20, Sept. 17, and Oct. 8 (V.N.H.S.). The Knot, an uncommon migrant along the coast of British Columbia, was seen at Tsawwassen Beach, Aug. 27 (WHH, *et al.*), and at Victoria, Oct. 1 (ARD). The rare **Marbled Godwit** (2) was approached to within ten feet at Tokeland, Aug. 23 (LDL); and one was found at Clover Point near Victoria from Sept. 28 until late October (V.N.H.S.). An inland record of the Sanderling was one at Lake Sammamish east of Seattle, Sept. 25 (WMH, Pauline Wood). Both Red and Northern Phalaropes were observed at Tokeland, Aug. 24 (LDL); and thousands were seen at Neah Bay, Aug. 27 & 28 (DG, *vide* GA).

Jaegers, Gulls, Terns, Alcids.—The first **Pomarine Jaeger** for Mt. Rainier Nat'l Park was seen at an elevation of 6600 ft., above Paradise, Sept. 1 (JB). This season's record of the Skua came from Oak Bay, Victoria (C. Guiguet). **Glaucous Gulls** were seen at the city dump in Vancouver, B. C. on several occasions by Frank Oldaker. A good movement of Ring-billed Gulls was in progress at Tokeland, where 1000± were seen on Aug. 23 & 24 (LDL). Approximately 100 were resting on the water at Centennial Beach at Boundary Bay, Sept. 18 (GMM). Franklin's Gulls were again reported this fall: at Stanley Park, and Tsawwassen Beach, Aug. 13; at Blaine, Aug. 24; and at Victoria (at least 6—GAP). The maximum count of Bonaparte's Gulls was 400 on San Juan Island, Aug. 22 (JB); and of Heermann's Gulls, 350 at Tokeland, Aug. 23 (LDL). Four Common Terns still at Blaine on Nov. 24 (LK) set a new extreme in late dates for this species. Two Caspian Terns were observed at Westport, Aug. 23 (LDL). A movement of 1017 Common Murres in a two-hour period in a northwesterly direction off Point Roberts, Nov. 13, may have been part of a cross-migration from Puget Sound to the open coast (WHH). An immature Tufted Puffin was found dead at Westport, Aug. 24 (LDL).

Nighthawks, Swifts, Hummingbirds.—The build-up of Common Nighthawks on Vancouver Island, which started in late July, continued through August. In

traveling a 100-mile stretch of highway between Comox and Victoria, David Stirling counted 400 on Aug. 18; 167 flew south at Miracle Beach Park, Vancouver Island on Sept. 3 (W. J. Merilees); 6 were seen circling over Phoenix, Sept. 10 (RB). A dense flock of 250 Black Swifts was seen flying ahead of a cold front squall cloud at Miracle Beach Park, Sept. 4 (DS); this species was last reported from Lake Terrell, south of Blaine, Sept. 11. The last Vaux's Swifts noted were at Medina on Sept. 5 (WMH). A Rufous Hummingbird was seen in a Seattle garden on Nov. 15 (Mrs. J. I. Colwell).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers.—Red-shafted Flickers, from 12 to 15 at once, were frequently seen eating pears in Mrs. Kline's yard at Blaine. A Pileated Woodpecker was observed at Point Roberts, Nov. 13. A Lewis' Woodpecker appeared at Blaine, Aug. 26. The Eastern Kingbird was reported from Pitt Meadows, July 30, where 2 Western Kingbirds were seen on Sept. 4 (JS). A **Black Phoebe** was seen at the Applegate River, near Medford, Oreg., Sept. 4 (RB); and nested in this same area 2 years ago (Thomas McCamant and James Hicks, *vide* RB). The Traill's Flycatcher was last seen at Little Mountain, Vancouver, near Vancouver, B. C., Sept. 4 (GMM). The Western Flycatcher was last seen at Medina, Sept. 10 (WMH); the Western Wood Pewee, at Pitt Meadows, Sept. 4.

Skylark.—The **Skylark** observed 3 miles southwest of Friday Harbor on San Juan Island on Aug. 14 was a new sight record for the state of Washington (JB).

Swallows, Jays, Chickadees.—The Violet-green Swallow was last seen at Mountlake Terrace, north of Seattle, Sept. 27 (ZMS). Other late dates are: Tree Swallow, Medina, Sept. 23; Barn Swallow, Sea Island, Oct. 30 (unusual); Cliff Swallow, Gardiner, Oreg., Sept. 17 (VKC); and Purple Martin, Mountlake Terrace, Sept. 8. Steller's Jays, so scarce a year ago, have taken over the bird feeders on Vancouver

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Island, and at Burnaby, B. C. Black-billed Magpies (7) were feeding on a dead doe deer near Ashland, Oreg. on Nov. 20 (RB). A pair of Common Ravens was hunting grasshoppers on Hurricane Ridge, 5200 ft., Olympic Nat'l Park on Aug. 21 (GA); 3 were seen at Vancouver, B. C., Nov. 20. A Chestnut-backed Chickadee was roosting in a swallow birdhouse at Phoenix on Sept. 24, and a Plain Titmouse used the same box for roosting on Nov. 22 (RB).

Dippers, Catbirds, Thrushes.—Dippers are regularly found at Goldstream on Vancouver Island with the salmon run in November, but 10 on Nov. 5 is regarded

as double the normal number (V.N.H.S.); a single bird was observed at Steilacoom, Wash., Nov. 11 (Mabel Larrison). Two **Catbirds** were carefully observed at Tokeland, Aug. 24 (LDL). Large flocks of Robins appeared in October and November, with largest numbers seen at Mountlake Terrace, Oct. 11; in south Seattle they were foraging on Madrona berries, Oct. 13 & 21, and Nov. 25 (BB, EB); and 3500 were estimated at a roost on Bear Creek in Jackson County, Oreg., Nov. 25 (RB). The first Varied Thrushes arrived at Victoria, Sept. 13 (ARD); and at Mountlake Terrace, Sept. 25 (ZMS). One was heard on Pilchuck Mountain in Snohomish County, Wash., Oct. 1 (BB, EB). Two Hermit Thrushes were at south Seattle, Sept. 17-18 (BB, EB); and 2 individuals banded at Mountlake Terrace, Sept. 26 (ZMS); another one passed through Medina, Nov. 28 (WMH). The Swainson's Thrush was last seen at Seattle, Sept. 13 (VEC).

Pipits, Waxwings, Shrikes, Starlings.—A single Water Pipit was flitting about on the shore at Boundary Bay, Sept. 18 (GMM). The highest count was 42 at Blaine, Sept. 23 (LK). Fifteen were counted on a school lawn at Phoenix, Oct. 20. Fifty Cedar Waxwings approached from the west and settled in the trees at Point Roberts, Sept. 18 (GMM); they were foraging with Robins and Starlings on Madrona berries in a yard in Seattle, Nov. 25 (BB, EB). The Northern Shrike was at Pitt Meadows, Oct. 10; at Blaine, Oct. 19; and at Point Roberts, Oct. 29. Starlings (5000±) were roosting at Bear Creek, Nov. 25. Between 3500 and 4000 were at a roost on the Ballard Bridge in Seattle, Dec. 4 (ELC). At Vancouver, B. C., the usual roosts were not yet occupied at the end of November.

Vireos, Warblers.—A singing Solitary Vireo was at Mountlake Terrace, Sept. 13; where a Red-eyed Vireo was banded on Sept. 2 (ZMS). Twenty-five Warbling Vireos were concentrated at Point Roberts, Sept. 5 (Hall, *vide* LDL), and were reported from Mountlake Terrace and Phoenix the same day. Better than usual flights of warblers were noted the last part of August and the first week in September (GAP, LK). An unusually late date for the Orange-crowned Warbler is Dec. 3 at Marpole (WH). Nashville Warblers were seen west of Phoenix, Aug. 28; and at Rim Village, Crater Lake Nat'l Park, Sept. 11. A concentration of 87 Yellow Warblers at Marpole, Aug. 12, is a very high number. The last of the abundant Black-throated Gray Warblers was seen in a garden at Vancouver, B. C., Sept. 17 (GMM). Townsend's Warblers passed through Medina, Nov. 10 and 19 (WMH). A Palm Warbler was identified at Marpole, Nov. 1 (WH). A MacGillivray's Warbler was still on Little Mountain, Vancouver, Sept. 4 (GMM).

Orioles, Blackbirds, Tanagers.—A late Bullock's Oriole was observed at Phoenix, Nov. 22 (RB). This is the fourth consecutive year there has been a distinctive fall movement of Brewer's Blackbirds passing through Mountlake Terrace (this year from Sept. 24 to Oct. 7—ZMS). The latest departure date for the Western Tanager was Sept. 27, at Seattle (VEC). A Black-headed Grosbeak was banded at Mountlake Terrace, Sept. 9 (ZMS).

Finches and Sparrows —A female Dickcissel was banded by Mrs. H. M. S. Bell at Victoria on Nov. 16; it was still at her feeding station at the end of the month (V.N.H.S.). Evening Grosbeaks arrived at Mountlake Terrace, Sept. 11; and 8 were feeding in a holly tree at Blaine, Nov. 27. Some peak counts are listed: House Finches, 100, Sea Island, Oct. 30; Am. Goldfinches, 200 each, Tsawwassen Beach, Aug. 27, and Point Roberts, Oct. 9; Red Crossbills, 12, Seattle, Nov. 6; Savannah Sparrows, 1000, White City, Oreg., Sept. 8. Both the White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows were fairly abundant. The rare White-throated Sparrow was observed at a feeder in Victoria in October (I. Briggs). Fox Sparrows were reported in normal numbers. Lincoln's Sparrows were recorded at Medina, Oct. 9 and Nov. 13 (WMH); and were considered above average in numbers at Victoria (DS). Six Lapland Longspurs were at Tsawwassen Beach, Aug. 7. The first Snow Bunting was seen at Esquimalt Lagoon near Victoria, Nov. 5 (V.N.H.S.).

Contributors.—(GA) George Alderson; (BB, EB) Bob and Elsie Boggs; (RB) Ralph Browning; (JB) James Bruce; (VEC) Violet E. Cannon; (JBC) John B. Crowell; (ELC) Elizabeth L. Curtis; (VKC) Vee K. Curtis; (ARD) A. R. Davidson; (DG) Doug Gill; (WMH) Walter M. Hagenstein; (WHH) Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hesse; (WH) William Hughes; (LK) Lucile Kline; (LDL) L. D. LaFave; (GMM) George M. McKay; Doris Nye; Frank Oldaker; (JO) Jim Olson; (TP) Theed Pearse; (GAP) G. A. Poynter; Norman Precious; (JS) Jack Sarles; (ZMS) Zella M. Schultz; (DS) David Stirling; Betty Wise; Gwen Wright; (V.N.H.S.) Victoria Natural History Society.

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The Winter Season, 1960-61

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
/ **Thomas H. Rogers**

The Region experienced one of the mildest winters in many years, with both temperature and snowcover decidedly moderate, at least in the valleys, where most

of the winter bird observations are made. Baker, Oreg. had only two days below zero, the National Bison Range at Moiese, Mont. had a low of just zero—January ranged from zero to 60° !—and Spokane, Wash. stayed well above the 15° above zero minimum most of the time. December was a dry month, January was more nearly normal and February and March became very wet in some areas. Because of high temperatures, moisture fell mostly as rain in the valleys. December was a little cooler than either January or February. The latter months seldom were cool enough to keep much snow on the ground. At Missoula there was never more than eight inches of snow on the ground in town, and the ground was bare much of the time in the Spokane area. Observers in western Montana all reported fewer birds than normal. P. D. Skaar at Bozeman, Mont thought that lack of snow prevented concentration of birds along highways but also believed there was a real shortage of individuals. An early freezeup of lakes there drove waterfowl out. R. L. Hand at Missoula noted a dearth of small terrestrial species and had no explanation for this, especially in view of the shallow snowcover. Exhaustion of Mountain Ash berries at an early date accounted for disappearance of waxwings there. Eastern Washington and Oregon appeared more nearly normal birdwise, except for shortages of eaters of coniferous seeds: Cassin's Finch, Red Crossbill, Clark's Nutcracker and Red-breasted Nuthatch. The fact that nutcrackers and crossbills were up in numbers at Banff, Alta. suggests where these species may have been. The boreal species; Common Redpoll and Snow Bunting, perhaps wintered farther north because of mild conditions. Among the seed-eaters, the Pine Grosbeak spectacularly reversed the trend by widespread and rather abundant appearances. Only a few cases appeared of hardier migrant species lingering late, perhaps because December was of about the usual severity. Except where otherwise noted, E. D. Beacham reported for Banff, Alta.; R. L. Hand, for Missoula and Ninepipe Refuge, Mont.; C. J. Henry, for the National Bison Range, Moiese, Mont.; P. D. Skaar, Bozeman and Ennis Lake, Mont.; and Ann Ward, Baker, Oreg. Credit for other observations is given in the account.

Waterfowl.—For the areas covered by the Region's reporters, waterfowl numbers appeared for the most part normal, but a goodly number of rarities showed up. A single Cackling Goose was noted with a flock of Lesser Canadas at Park Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on two occasions in March (Warren Hall & Lynn LaFave). A Snow Goose staying with domestic geese was found on the Helena, Mont. Christmas Count and a **White-fronted Goose** appeared at Spokane in late December. Gadwalls were seen in larger numbers than usual for winter; some 180 were counted at Alkali and Blue

Lakes, Grant Co., Wash. on Jan. 21 (WH & LL). Greater Scaup, supposedly rare in

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eastern Washington, appeared to be fairly common, in company with the Lesser, on the Spokane River, Washington (WH & LL). A female Oldsquaw, always rare in eastern Washington, was found on the Spokane River in early February, and perhaps the same bird on March 31 (WH & LL). Worthy of special note was a pair of **White-winged Scoters** on the river in Missoula, Mont. on Jan. 10. Also unusual was a wintering pair of Ruddy Ducks on the river at Spokane.

Eagles and Hawks.—The Bald Eagle was reported quite commonly; the Golden, less so. Eleven of the former were counted, between Clark Fork, Idaho and Dixon, Mont., March 24 (Watson Beed, *vide* C. J. Henry) and a peak of 12 was seen at Ennis Lake, Madison Co., Mont., on March 19 (P. D. Skaar). Hawk numbers appeared normal except for the Rough-legged, which appeared in unusual numbers at Bend, Oreg., (16 on Christmas Count), and as many as 8 in a day in eastern Washington (Spokane Bird Club). More Sparrow Hawks than usual appeared to have wintered.

Gulls, Doves and Owls.—Two gulls very rare in eastern Washington were noted in the Spokane area: an Iceland Gull (WH & LL) and a Glaucous-winged Gull (LL). Only a scattering of Mourning Doves wintered in the Spokane-Cheney area, despite the mild winter (SBC). One near Manhattan, Mont. on Jan. 4 was more unusual, but not without precedent (C. V. Davis). Short-eared Owls seemed to be more common again in eastern Washington, after a few winters of low numbers (WH & LL). The species was reported also from Baker, the National Bison Range, Ninepipe Refuge, Missoula and Gallatin Counties, Mont.

Woodpeckers, Larks and Jays.—Lewis' Woodpecker was seen on Feb. 25 and thereafter at the Bison Range. This is a remarkably early date for the Region. Two Horned Larks still at Banff National Park, Alta., at Christmas Count time were unusual. The species was seemingly scarcer than usual at other areas, despite little snowcover. For some unexplained reason Steller's Jay moved to lower elevations in larger numbers than ordinarily in eastern Washington, but Clark's Nutcracker was conspicuous by its absence, apparently because of lack of pine seeds. Its numbers were up in the Banff, Alta., area, however (Cedric Hitchon, *vide* E. D. Beacham).

Nuthatches, Wrens, Thrushes.—White-breasted Nuthatches, usually much less common than the Red-breasted, were observed far more frequently in the

Spokane area than the latter species. A very few Long-billed Marsh Wrens appeared to be taking advantage of the mild winter, for the species appeared on the Christmas Counts at Ennis, Mont.; Cheney, Wash., and Spokane. Robins did not follow the wrens' example, however, for they wintered very sparsely, except for Pullman, Wash. (Ruth P. Ownbey) and Baker, Oreg., where they were abundant. The latter locality also had Western and Mountain Bluebirds and an abundance of Townsend's Solitaires during the winter. The crop of juniper berries there was excellent and no doubt was an important factor.

Waxwings, Starlings, Meadowlarks and Blackbirds.—Some localities had large numbers of Bohemian Waxwings, but they quickly tapered off to small numbers after peaks in December and early January. Spokane had an outstandingly high count of nearly 6000 on the Christmas Count and flocks up to 750 birds were noted at Missoula in early December. Starlings were reported from nearly every observer's locality. In eastern Washington they appear still on the increase and are more widespread (WH & LL). Western Meadowlarks appeared not to winter in any more than usual numbers despite mild conditions; furthermore, during January and most of February the species was absent from Missoula, where it ordinarily winters. A **Rusty Blackbird** banded at Spokane on Dec. 26 was apparently the first record for the state (TR).

Finches.—Evening Grosbeaks appeared scarce or absent in western Montana. Only small flocks were noted in eastern Washington, except for an increase in March. Baker, Oreg. had the species in abundance, however, with from 50 to 100 from January on. A very few Cassin's Finches were found wintering in eastern Washington and Oregon. The winter might almost be called a Pine Grosbeak winter, for the species showed up at nearly every reporting locality, often in unusual numbers. At Spokane, where the mere presence of the species is noteworthy, a phenomenal 216 birds were on the Christmas Count! The Common Redpoll behaved quite oppositely, for it appeared virtually nonexistent in most localities, particularly in western Montana, although it did a little better, but was still scarce, in eastern Washington. Presumably, mild conditions allowed the birds to winter north of their usual winter range. Pine Siskins also wintered sparingly or not at all. Red Crossbills also put in a decidedly sparse appearance except for above-normal numbers in the Banff area.

Sparrows.—A **Sage Sparrow** was identified at Missoula on Feb. 17. Both the species and the date are remarkable. Oregon Juncos were virtually absent from western Montana. At Missoula, Hand found not a single one after Nov. 2, in spite of the shallow

snowcover. The species appeared to be in about the usual numbers in eastern Washington and Oregon. Missoula was short also on Tree Sparrows but Bozeman, Mont. had large numbers and Baker, Oreg. and the Columbia Basin of Washington had good numbers also. Highly unusual was an immature **Harris' Sparrow** seen on two occasions in March at Pullman, Wash. (RPO). At least 2 White-crowned Sparrows appeared to have wintered at Spokane (SBC). Snow Buntings were scarce in eastern Washington, presumably because of the mild winter. However, a few more than usual were noted at the Bison Range and small flocks were frequent at Missoula during November and December.

[No contributors were acknowledged]

The Winter Season, 1960-61

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION
/ Dr. Oliver K. Scott

It may have been cold and moist in some parts of the United States from December to April, but this Region hardly had a winter. It was

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warm and, unfortunately, very dry, too. Over much of this area the drought has gone on almost three years and as a result most of the federal refuges are in trouble. This is particularly true in the Great Basin, where it is most arid, and where the refuges are dependent on nearby mountain snow packs, deficient recently, and even more so this last winter. However, there were signs of improvement in several sectors in March. Durango in southwestern Colorado had 4 inches of rain in March. This is much above normal (Reames). The Ruby Mountains in eastern Nevada went from 50 per cent of normal to 86 per cent in March (Clair Aldous).

Trumpeter Swans.—The word on the Trumpeters from this Region is good. There were 22 wintering at Ruby Lakes in eastern Nevada (Aldous). Seventy-one were beside the highway on Flat Creek in the National Elk Refuge, Jackson Hole, at the start of this period. This is a new high and includes 11 cygnets (Robert Means). Malheur in eastern Oregon has 9 definitely and perhaps 14 cygnets from the last breeding season (Kridler).

Waterfowl.—Although the Bear River Refuge at the north end of the Great Salt Lake had only 50 per cent of normal precipitation this did not much affect the avian population. Spring migration began on Feb. 2 and

the peak, as last year, was during the last week of March. However, the peak number of ducks was only half last year's! Pintail and Green-winged Teal were the most common: 36,700 and 30,300, respectively, with a total of 120,151; this is low (Melvin Evans). Deer Flat Refuge in the Boise valley, Idaho, is part of an irrigation reservoir system so for the third consecutive year there was plenty of water. January was one of the driest, sunniest, and foggiest Januaries in 62 years. It was also relatively warm with never a real freeze-up. The highest concentration of ducks at Deer Flat was 665,000 about the first of December —480,000 were Mallards. Both these figures are high. During January the Mallards fell to 90,000 and the first spring influx began on Feb. 11. The nearby Snake River is also a refuge and includes 35 small islands used as a breeding ground by the Canada Geese (62 pairs this year). Many ducks winter there; the most numerous are the Barrow's Goldeneye and scaup (Gene Crawford). The goose breeding pairs are up from last year by 130 pairs, to a total of 870 for the 3 refuges of the Klamath Basin: Tule Lake, Lower Klamath and Clear Lake (Abney). At Malheur (the great sump in the dry sage-brush plains of eastern Oregon, entirely dependent on the snowpack of the neighboring Steens Mountains) the water expectation is two-thirds of normal; consequently, the water outlook is poor for the third consecutive year. Harney Lake, the overflow from Malheur, continues to dry up; it has entirely dried up in years past. This is no longer a large breeding area since the islands are now part of the shore. Spring migration of ducks began in late February, but was the poorest in several years. The peak was 52,000, which is 75,000 less than last year; it came in mid-March, two weeks earlier than last year. Food conditions are so poor at Malheur that the birds just move in and out. The Snow Goose migration was the same as last year: mid-March, 85,000-100,000. Whistling Swans were more numerous than the previous year but not as high as in 1958. The swans appeared in the 3rd week of February, peaked at 7000 by the end of the month and were all gone by the end of March (Kridler). The Whistling Swan confines itself mostly to the Great Basin. Thirteen swans in a pond at Lovell in the Big Horn Basin of northwestern Wyoming, March 13, were unusual (Moos). Stillwater, in western Nevada, is the refuge most hurt by the drought. Of 14 developed units there will be water for only 2 this year. The agricultural water supply for last year was 70 per cent of normal; this year 40 per cent. Stillwater depends on irrigation return flow and prospects of getting much water are dim. Consequently, the waterfowl numbers are very low. The spring migration began the last week of January and peaked on March 7 at 36,075. Swans, geese and ducks all made new lows for the refuge: about 600 swans and 800 geese (Kiger). A Black Brant was seen at Anaho Island Refuge in Pyramid Lake south of

Stillwater, March 24 (John Kiger, assistant manager). Brant are rare inland. Monte Vista Refuge in southern Colorado continues to grow and the duck population rose to 80,084 in the first week of December—the highest to-date. The ducks were mostly Mallards. The prospects for water are poor but there should be enough for breeding needs. A Hooded Merganser was reported above Marsing on the Snake River, Idaho on Feb. 27 (Carol MacIver). These birds are rare in this region. An Old-squaw was seen at Malheur on the Christmas Count, Dec. 27 (Kridler).

Eagles.—A number of Bald Eagles were reported at Malheur on Dec. 11. There were 36 of which 16 were immature. This is the highest record of the bird at Malheur (Kridler). The Bald Eagle peaked at 57 at Bear River Refuge during the winter (Evans). The only big concentration of the Golden Eagle seemed to be on the eagle flyway at Casper where few figures are available. Many were seen during most of December; probably over 100 passed on good days and there were 31 left by the time of the census on Jan. 2. The numbers continued to decrease

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through the winter and by March only a few breeding pairs remained. Why there is no northward flight is not clear. The food problem of the Golden Eagle may have become serious in some parts of Wyoming. There has been heavy commercial hunting of the Jack Rabbit, and the Jack, one of the principal foods of the eagle, is way down in numbers in Wyoming. Due to the unbalance of nature caused by man, the Wyoming plains now support a huge population of antelope without any normal predation. Man's shooting is the only real control and this is indiscriminate, leaving sick and old in the population. Golden Eagles apparently gang up on antelope and occasionally kill them. This seems impossible but it is reported almost every winter and more so this last year. Mrs. Lambertsen at Rawlins in southern Wyoming had two such reports.

Hawks.—Gleb Kashin found a wintering Swainson's Hawk, Dec. 14, at Salt Lake City—a very late date for this bird.

Owls.—A Pygmy Owl was reported near Grand Junction in western Colorado in March (Mrs. Carmen). This bird is not reported regularly except from the Salt Lake City region.

Jays.—A Blue Jay turned up at Grand Junction during the winter (Mrs. Carmen). This is far west of its normal range but there have been several reports of this type in recent years. A pair of Scrub Jays was found near Pocatello, Idaho, for a month starting in late February

by Larry McQueen and L. M. Baylor. This bird is rare in Idaho.

Woodpeckers.—Mrs. Crews at Hotchkiss, Colo. reported that Lewis' Woodpeckers at her feeding station drive the other birds away. They stuff corn in all the crevices of nearby fence posts and trees.

Flycatchers.—Mrs. Knoblauch reported an out-of-place **Ash-throated Flycatcher** at Gabba, Nev., Feb. 25, although extreme southern Nevada has them all winter. With such a warm season it is surprising there have been so few reports of southern birds staying north.

Horned Larks.—There were very few this winter on the Wyoming plateau, where usually they are common. The customary big flocks along the roads during spring snowstorms were not as large as usual (OKS). Mrs. Hanesworth at Cheyenne reported finding none, where normally they occur by the hundreds.

Nuthatches.—The Pigmy Nuthatch moved up into the mountains of central Wyoming in numbers for the second winter in 12 (OKS). Mrs. Hanesworth reported them in Cheyenne as well.

Waxwings, Grosbeaks.—Our two spectacular winter visitors, the Bohemian Waxwing and the Evening Grosbeak, were present in average numbers in Utah, southern Idaho and Wyoming.

Sparrows.—Gleb Kashin had a **Baird's Sparrow**, March 12, at Farmington Bay on the Great Salt Lake—a great rarity in Utah. McCaskie found 2 Harris' Sparrows at the western border of the Great Basin at Honey Lake in northwestern California on Dec. 20—an unusual record. This bird is a scarce but regular winter visitor in Wyoming and still scarcer in Utah and the Great Basin.

[No contributors were acknowledged]

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The Winter Season, 1960-61

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / Bob and Elsie Boggs

The season was generally warm and wet. There was little snow, considerable fog, and an abundance of rain. The mild season may have accounted for a number of summer species remaining in the area until midwinter.

Loons, Grebes, Pelicans, Herons.—Loons were recorded in normal numbers. Arctic Loons were noted

at Grays Harbor, Dec. 17 (LDL); and at Point Roberts, Dec. 4. Only a single individual of the Red-necked Grebe was seen at Tillamook, Oreg., Jan. 14 (JC, JGO, DR); a few wintered at Drayton Harbor, near Blaine, Wash., and Crescent Beach on Boundary Bay (WHH). Although Western Grebes were considered scarcer at Victoria, B. C. (DS), 5000 were reported from Salt Spring Island, only 30 miles north of Victoria on Jan. 7 (ARD); one was watched on the Columbia River near Portland, Oreg. on Jan. 21 (JC, JGO); and another one on Hood Canal north of Brinnon, Wash. on March 21 (George Alderson). They wintered in high concentrations at Vancouver, B. C., and Point Roberts. Pied-billed Grebes were seen at Burnaby, B. C., Dec. 25, and at Stanley Park in Vancouver, B. C. on March 4 (WHH). Of special interest is the report of 2 Brown Pelicans at Tillamook, Oreg., Nov. 26 (JGO, DR). Roosting Black-crowned Night Herons were discovered in a pine tree at Central Point, Jackson County, Oreg., Jan. 2; and in Phoenix, Oreg., March 15 (RB).

Swans and Geese.—Whistling Swans were recorded in numbers up to 150 on Sauvies Island, near Portland, Oreg., in December and January (John Bodley, *et al.*). A count of about 42 on Nehalem Bay on the Oregon coast was made on Jan. 14. This is "the third consecutive winter in which they have been recorded from there" (JC, JGO, DR). Two were seen on a pond near Federal Way, King Co., Wash. on Dec. 18 (LDL). A pair of White-fronted Geese was seen frequently on the Oak Bay Golf Course in Victoria (DS). Snow Geese appeared to be scarce in the early part of the winter at Vancouver, B. C.; one spent most of February with a flock of widgeons and Mallards at Victoria (V.N.H.S.).

Ducks.—Cinnamon Teal (rare) were seen at Medford, Oreg., Jan. 23 (James Hicks, TM). European Widgeon were seen: on Tillamook Bay in Oregon, Nov. 26 (JGO, DR); at Portland, Oreg., Dec. 3 (Norbert Leupold, *et al.*); at Federal Way, Dec. 18 (LDL); and at Victoria throughout the winter (TC, DS). There was a greater concentration of Shovelers at Burnaby Lake (WHH). The only report for the Redhead was of a single bird at Victoria (GAP). A Ring-necked Duck was seen at Parkland, Pierce Co., Wash. on March 18 (VEC). A female Oldsquaw was carefully observed on Tillamook Bay, Jan. 14 (JC, JGO, DR). Harlequin Ducks were seen at Seattle, Jan. 1 (Elizabeth Curtis), and again in March (Dick Witt, *vide* VEC); 7 were seen in Drayton Harbor on Jan. 14. Ruddy Ducks were reported from Burnaby, B. C., Feb. 12 and March 25 (WHH).

Vultures, Hawks.—A Turkey Vulture (uncommon) was seen in Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 30 (Norman Precious, Betty Wise). Others were noted flying over

the Gold Ray Dam on the Rogue River in Oregon, March 19 (RB); in the Willamette Valley, March 20 (TM); and at Corvallis, Oreg., March 23 (JGO). A Goshawk was observed at Point Roberts, March 10 (Doris Nye). This was a Rough-legged Hawk year, as reports were numerous. A bird was seen at Barview, Tillamook Co., Oreg., Nov. 26 (JGO, DR); one was found on Lulu Island, south of Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 4; one was observed near Grays Harbor in the sandy grassland, Dec. 16 (LDL); one was seen at Depoe Bay, Jan. 20 (JGO); there were 7 in an extensive field on Sauvie Jan. 21 (JC, JGO); and one wintered at the airport in Victoria (ARD). A Rough-legged Hawk in the light phase was seen throughout the period in White City, Jackson Co., Oreg. (RB). An immature Golden Eagle was seen on Mount Baldy in Josephine County, Oreg., Dec. 4 (RB); two were noted

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at Victoria, March 11 (ARD). A Pigeon Hawk was observed in pursuit of Red Crossbills at Garibaldi, Tillamook Co., Oreg., Nov. 26 (JGO, DR); one was seen on the rock jetty at Grays Harbor, Dec. 16 (LDL); and one was observed at Medina, Wash., Dec. 23 (WMH).

Gray Partridge.—A small group (12) was observed on Vancouver Island in late December and early January (GAP, ARD). Six were seen at Point Roberts, March 10.

Shorebirds, Gulls.—A dozen Black Oystercatchers were observed at Cape Flattery in January (TC). Ten **Snowy Plover** were watched at Grays Harbor, Dec. 16 (LDL); more field work in this area in winter might prove this bird to be not as rare as now supposed. Surf-birds were observed at Harper, Kitsap Co., Wash., Jan. 2 (EP, IS). The pair of Whimbrels that are regular winter visitors at Victoria disappeared in late January (V.N.H.S.). A group of about 25 Greater Yellowlegs was on a fresh-water pond near Tokeland, Pacific Co., Wash., Dec. 17, where 2 Knots were seen the same day (LDL). The Rock Sandpiper was seen at Vancouver, B. C., Jan. 1 (Mrs. D. Bradley, WHH); and at Harper, Jan. 2 (EP, IS). Their rarity on the Oregon coast merits a special notice of 2 seen with 27 Black Turnstones at Wedderburn, Curry Co., Oreg., and 1 seen with about 60 Black Turnstones and 25 Surf-birds at Winchester Bay in Douglas County, Oreg., Jan. 23 (TC). The unusually high number of **100,000** was Mr. LaFave's conservative estimate of Dunlins at Grays Harbor on Dec. 17 and 18. When the birds flew up they "seemed to block out all sight of anything else." Three Red Phalaropes were seen feeding within 25 feet of the beach at Jordan River, Vancouver Island, Dec. 5 (DS, RS). Northern Phalarope were noted at the north side

of Tillamook Bay on Nov. 26 (JGO, DR). Fifteen Glaucous Gulls were seen and 1 collected at Grayland, Grays Harbor Co., Wash., Dec. 17 (LDL); two first-year birds and a second-year bird were found at the sewage treatment plant in Portland, Oreg., Feb. 18 (JC, JGO).

Doves, Owls, Hummingbirds.—A Mourning Dove seen on Dec. 17, and again on Jan. 7 (ARD) may have been the same individual counted in the Victoria Christmas Count. Two Barn Owls were located on Sea Island, near Vancouver, B. C. on Feb. 5. A Snowy Owl spent the day of Feb. 4 sitting on a convent roof at Vancouver, B. C. (George McKay, Gwen Wright). A Pygmy Owl was recorded from Sooke, Vancouver Is., Feb. 17. Long-eared Owls were reported only from Vancouver, B. C., where they were present in small numbers in February and March. An Anna's Hummingbird was present at the R. McKenzie-Grieve's residence in Victoria most of February.

Woodpeckers, Jays, Magpies.—Lewis' Woodpeckers were seen on Sauvie Island, Dec. 10 and Jan. 21 (JC, JGO). A Black-backed Woodpecker (rare) was found at an altitude of 6000 ft. on Wagner Butte in Jackson County, Oreg. on March 15 (RB). Steller's Jays enjoyed a good season; observers noted their relative abundance throughout the period. A strong east wind blowing down the Columbia Gorge in the preceding 4 days may account for the sighting of a Black-billed Magpie on Sauvie Island, Jan. 21 (JC, JGO); 2 were seen at Vancouver, B. C., Feb. 6 (A. Adams).

Thrushes, Pipits, Starlings.—Albino Robins were seen at Medina, Wash., Feb. 5 (WMH); and at Phoenix, Oreg., March 22-26 (Mrs. Marvin Browning, RB). Varied Thrushes appeared to be present in normal numbers. A Western Bluebird was noted north of Salem, Oreg., Feb. 27 (JGO); and as many as 9 were counted at Drayton Harbor, Jan. 14. Three Water Pipits were seen at the Victoria Airport on Dec. 31 (GAP). David Stirling estimated that the population of Starlings did not exceed 10,000 on the Saanich Peninsula of Vancouver Island during the winter. Fifteen were counted at Tokeland, Dec. 16 (LDL); and several were seen on Lopez Island, March 25 (Albert Lovejoy). In Vancouver, B. C., the Starlings had abandoned the roost in cedar trees in the residential section, and established a new roost under the Cambie Street bridge.

Vireos, Warblers.—A Hutton's Vireo was noted at Point Roberts, March 5. Orange-crowned and Townsend's Warblers were seen (and photographed) at a feeding station at Medford, Oreg. during the winter (Mrs. Howard Bush, *vide* RB); another Orange-crowned Warbler visited a feeder in Marpole, B. C. from Nov.

20 until early March (W. M. Hughes); and one was seen in south Seattle in December (VEC). •

Orioles, Finches, Sparrows.—A Bullock's Oriole was seen east of Medford, Oreg., March 22 (Ralph Gysin, *vide* RB). A Dickcissel remained at a feeder in Victoria until mid-January (Mrs. Bell). Evening Grosbeaks were fairly common in the Region; they were feeding on bitter cherry pits in a yard in Seattle (BB, EB). A very uncommon bird for the locality was a Pine Grosbeak sighted at Medina, March 12 (WMH). Pine Siskins, Am. Goldfinches and Red Crossbills were seen in smaller numbers than usual. Savannah Sparrows were seen at Point Roberts as early as March 9. A Chipping Sparrow made a brief appearance at Victoria, Dec. 31 (W. Adams, R. Beckett). A Snow Bunting on the Tillamook Bay dike on Nov. 26 was discovered at the same place as 3 were sighted almost exactly a year ago (JGO, DR).

Initialed Contributors.—(BB, EB) Bob and Elsie Boggs; (RB) Ralph Browning; (TC) Theodore Chase, Jr.; (VEC) Violet E. Cannon; (ARD) A. R. Davidson; (IG) Isabel Guthrie; (WMH) Walter M. Hagenstein; (WHH) Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Hesse; (LDL) Lynn D. LaFave; (TM) Thomas McCamant; (JGO) James G. Olson; (EP) Ebba Peterson; (GAP) G. A. Poynter; (DR) Doug Rogers; (DS, RS) David and Ruth Stirling; (V.N.H.S.) Victoria Natural History Society.

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Spring Migration, 1961

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN – INTER-MOUNTAIN REGION / Thomas H. Rogers

After a mild winter and early spring, much of the Region experienced a cool, wet April and May. The National Bison Range at Moiese, Mont. received more than twice the normal precipitation from mid-March through April, with May only slightly less wet. At Missoula, April and early May were cold and wet, with late snowstorms which apparently grounded waterfowl and shorebirds. Hand considered that the retarded spring there slowed the arrival of a number of species of landbirds. Baker, Oreg. experienced a dry April (0.31 in.) and a rather wet May (2.03 in.). At Spokane, Wash. a cool April had about normal precipitation, but May, also cool, had nearly double the normal rainfall. Strong southwest winds buffeted this area, especially in April. Migrants appeared to be about on schedule in eastern Washington, in spite of the cool spring. Credit for observations, with exceptions and additions noted in the text, is as follows: Montana east of the Continental

Divide, P. D. Skaar; Montana west of the Divide, R. L. Hand; National Bison Range, Moiese, Mont., C. J. Henry, and Baker, Oreg., Ann Ward.

Pelicans, Cormorants and Herons.—The first White Pelicans noted in Madison County, Mont. were on lakes there on April 16. Appearance of the birds, routine there, correlates closely with the presence, distinctly *not* routine, of up to 15 at Sprague Lake, Adams Co., Wash. in mid-April (Lynn LaFave & F. Huston, Warren Hall). Double-crested Cormorants were first noted in Madison County, Mont. on April 9. By May 27 about 30 Black-crowned Night Herons had returned to the rookery near St. Andrews, Douglas Co., Wash. (WH & LL).

Geese and Ducks.—Whistling Swans were migrating by hundreds, with the peak in late March. Skaar estimated 600 on March 19 in Madison County, Mont. He noted the first Trumpeters there on February 26. Snow Geese were on the northward move during April, with many flocks passing over Missoula. Nineteen at Sprague Lake, Adams Co., Wash. represented a larger than normal numbers for this area, for the big flocks migrate farther eastward (Spokane Bird Club). A few Ross' Geese accompanied Snow Geese at Francis Lake, Pondera Co., Mont. Peak numbers of Mallards, Pintails and Am. Widgeon were passing through during late March, but Canvasbacks showed a high of 2000 on April 16 in Madison County, Mont. A real rarity was a female **Oldsquaw** on the Spokane River below Spokane, March 31–April 1 (WH, Mr. & Mrs. S. O. Stanley).

Hawks, Cranes.—The Goshawk, seldom reported, was noted in Madison County, Mont., on April 16. A Ferruginous Hawk, rare in eastern Washington, was seen at Pampa, Whitman Co., Wash. on May 6 (LL). A migration peak of **750** Sandhill Cranes was observed near St. Andrews, Wash. on April 22 (WH & LL) and the Washington Department of Game reported **2000** in the Methow Valley in the north central part of the state. The species was on its breeding grounds in southwestern Montana by April 16.

Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns.—Up to 5 Semipalmated Plovers appeared in eastern Washington (Jim Acton, WH); and 2 at Jefferson Island, Madison Co., Mont., constituted an unusual spring record there. Other unusual records were: a Black-bellied Plover at Ninepipe Refuge, Lake Co., Mont.; a Long-billed Curlew at Missoula on two occasions; Solitary Sandpiper and Greater Yellowlegs in Madison County, Mont., where they do not ordinarily appear in spring; a Sanderling at Reardan, Wash. (S.B.C.) and 2 at Harrison Lake, Madison Co., Mont., and a flock of 35 Marbled Godwits at Missoula on April 27 after a 1-inch snowfall

the previous night. Dunlins were again noted in small numbers in eastern Washington at Turnbull Refuge and Reardan (S.B.C., WH & LL, AW & TR). A **Franklin's Gull** was identified at Missoula, May 25 and June 1. This apparently is the first Montana record west of the Divide. Two Franklin's showed up at Reardan, Wash. (LL & FH), as did 1 or 2 Bonaparte's Gulls (LL, WH). A very few of the latter species appeared at Three Forks and at Ennis Lake, Madison Co., Mont. A Common Tern and 18 Caspian Terns were identified in late May at Park Lake, Grant Co., Wash. (LL & FH).

Owls, Hummingbirds.—Short-eared Owls appeared to be recovering from the low numbers of two years ago in eastern Washington (LL & WH). A slight in-

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crease was indicated at the National Bison Range also. The Rufous Hummingbird appeared to be scarce at Missoula in particular and also at Spokane. By implication it was scarce at the Bison Range and Bozeman also, for the species was not mentioned in either of these reports. Normally it is the most common hummer of the Region. Cold, rainy weather may have affected the birds adversely. It did not prevent an early record for a Calliope at Spokane on April 15 (LL). A real rarity was a male **Broad-tailed Hummingbird**, observed at close range at Spokane on April 7 (Vee Nealey & Connie Smedley).

Swallows and Jays.—Violet-green Swallows at Spokane lingered along the streams longer than usual, apparently because of the cool weather, before seeking nesting sites (S.B.C.). Tree Swallow arrival at Missoula was late (April 21). A concentration of at least **3000** of this species was noted along the Jose River in the Cariboo area of British Columbia on April 17 (David Stirling). Clark's Nutcracker was notably absent from the lowlands of the Spokane area but was reported from Baker, Oreg., the Bison Range and Bozeman.

Mimic Thrushes, Thrushes, Pipits & Waxwings.—The first record for the **Mockingbird** for eastern Washington was reported by Hall, when he identified 1 at Sprague on April 15. The same bird, presumably, was seen there subsequently by Acton and by the Spokane Bird Club and was still present on May 25 (JA). A Sage Thrasher as far east as Reardan, Wash. was unusual (WH & LL). A heavy movement of Robins was noted in the Cariboo on April 8, with an estimated 1000 feeding and moving slowly north (DS). The Varied Thrush tarried in the lowlands at Spokane until the late date of April 24 (WH & LL). Water Pipits were seen in large numbers feeding on the floating ice in Hyalite Lake in the mountains in Gallatin County, Mont. on May 21 (C. V. Davis). Two Bohemian Waxwings

lingering at Spokane until April 12, furnished a remarkably late record (WH).

Warblers and Blackbirds.—The warbler migration appeared to be about normal. However, a Myrtle Warbler was seen on May 12 near Spokane, where it is decidedly rare (JA). Audubon's Warbler was not noted until May 14 at Missoula while the corresponding date for the Bison Range was May 2, both late, dates. Hand saw only 2 or 3 Brown-headed Cowbirds since their arrival on May 13 at Missoula, but the species "seemed to be everywhere" in late May at Spokane (S.B.C.).

Finches.—Another headliner for the Region was a female **Blue Grosbeak** carefully identified and banded near Spokane on May 28. This individual and another female of the species were seen a few days later at the same locale (VN & CS). By contrast, Evening Grosbeaks deserve a place in this report by their very abundance, particularly at Baker, the Bison Range and Missoula. At the latter city they were still extremely common as late as June 6. Cassin's Finch appeared to be another arrival retarded by weather at Missoula, for it did not show up until April 29. Red Crossbills were practically unobserved in the western part of the Region but appeared at Missoula as occasional small flocks between April 3 and May 18. A flock in Bozeman in early June was feeding almost exclusively on spruce budworms (CVD).

Sparrows.—Highly unusual was the occurrence of an adult male Lark Bunting at Missoula on May 19. Eight Savannah Sparrows were noted at Baker on March 24, about a month earlier than usual. Two Tree Sparrows were noted at Missoula on the very late date of April 26, following a severe snowstorm. Ann Ward reported a poor movement of White-crowned Sparrows at Baker, but Hand found the species more common than usual at Missoula. First dates for the species were: Baker, April 9; eastern Washington, April 13 (WH & LL); Bison Range, April 29; Missoula, May 4, and Bozeman, May 12 (CVD). A total of 4 Golden-crowned Sparrows was noted in eastern Washington during April and May. It begins to appear that this species may be a regular, although quite rare, migrant through eastern Washington (WH & LL). Very much on the rare side was a **Harris' Sparrow**, carefully identified, near Sprague, Wash., on April 19 and 22 (JA, WH & LL). The Lapland Longspur movement through Missoula seems to be an established thing, even though the species is not common. Singles were noted there in early April. A late Snow Bunting was still at Missoula on April 4.

[No contributors were acknowledged]

Spring Migration, 1961

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

/ Dr. Oliver K. Scott

Ordinarily this report is dominated by the great refuges in the Region, particularly in the Great Basin, but since the waterbirds have mostly finished their movements before April 1 and the refuges are poorly situated for observing land-birds, the individual observers will carry much of this report. It is difficult to make any generalization about the numbers of landbirds or even the type of migration we have had, since we have only isolated reports over a vast area of different country, different climate, and different birds. With such a mosaic of information the picture as a whole doesn't make much sense. The Central Rocky Mountains and Great Basin are not suited to the waves of migrants that are seen in the East. The residents leak in and a few species of migrants are seen, but not in numbers. However, for

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the first time in 12 years at Casper in central Wyoming circumstances combined on May 12 at 5:30 A.M. to produce a real wave of migrants. On top of unsettled weather conditions, an extensive cold front struck. The wind spun around to the northeast, blew hard and the temperature plummeted. It shortly brought rains to the lower elevations (5000-6000 feet) and snow above. Cheyenne, Wyo., at 6000 feet, 200 miles to the south, had a blizzard that closed all highways in spite of the late date. While this performance is common in the winter, it is unusual to have weather so violent in late May. As a result, Casper was crawling with migrants for 3 days, many unusual to rare in this part of Wyoming: Swainson's Thrush, Solitary Vireo, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush and Blackpoll Warbler, as well as more common birds, such as two species of towhee, thrashers, vireos, and MacGillivray's Warbler (OKS). The great Malheur Refuge in eastern Oregon is fast drying up as it did in the 1930's. As a result, the waterfowl are largely bypassing it as a breeding area. The water run-off is very poor for the third year (Kridler). Stillwater in western Nevada is in the same situation (Kiger).

Geese.—Bear River Refuge on the north end of the Great Salt Lake reports a good goose-nesting year. There were 440 broods, averaging 4.83, which is better than last year's 340 broods (M. R. Evans).

Ducks.—The breeding season at Monte Vista Refuge in southern central Colorado is doing well. The Refuge continues to grow and water conditions are good. The

production of ducks will be approximately double last year's with the Mallard being the principal duck and Pintail next. The total production this year is projected at 16,000 (C. R. Bryant). Bear River Refuge reports water conditions good and populations unchanged from last year. However, the Bear River has virtually ceased to flow and the future outlook is poor (M. R. Evans). Stillwater Refuge in western Nevada continues to suffer from severe drought. Ordinarily, 4000-5000 pairs of ducks nest there. This year probably no more than 1000 pairs will nest and most of these will not be successful (Kiger). The only rare ducks reported were 50 Wood Ducks the last of March and first of April at Deer Flat Refuge in western Idaho (Gene Crawford, refuge manager). This is a fabulous concentration for Idaho.

Owls.—Anna Strahan at Fort Klamath at the north end of the Klamath Basin, Oreg. had 2 nesting pairs of Great Gray Owls. There appear to be more Great Grays in this area than elsewhere on the continent. At Malheur Refuge headquarters a nest platform for Horned Owls was built of ½ in. hardware cloth on one of the few trees there; the owls took to it and raised 2 young (Eugene Kridler). Malheur seems to specialize in firsts in everything!

Swifts.—Again Gleb Kashin had 2 Black Swifts near Provo in central Utah on May 14—similar to last year's observation.

Swallows.—At Farmington Bay near Salt Lake City, on the Great Salt Lake, Kashin and others had 5 Purple Martins on May 7, a rare bird for the Rockies.

Thrushes.—Kridler netted both Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes at Malheur.

Warblers.—Among rarities reported was a Northern Waterthrush netted by Kridler at Malheur on May 19. There is only one previous record for this area. A Hooded Warbler at Casper, May 16, in central Wyoming is a casual record for the state (OKS). L. M. Baylor and Larry McQueen reported the Myrtle Warbler at Pocatello, Idaho. This bird is considered rare in the area, although in Wyoming it is a common migrant; to the west, McCaskie found the bird commonly in the Great Basin in the Honey Lake area of northeastern California, May 13-15. Kashin had an Ovenbird in sage flats near Salt Lake City on May 20. There are only scattered records from Utah for this bird, and sage brush is hardly Ovenbird country.

Bobolink.—Mrs. Lambertsen had one Bobolink near Rawlins, Wyo., on May 27. This species breeds in a number of spots in Wyoming. We find it more common than had previously been supposed.

Orioles.—An Orchard Oriole was seen at Hotchkiss, Colo., May 21 (Mrs. Crews). The Hooded Oriole, as well as the Bullock's, occurs in this area regularly.

Grosbeaks.—Evening Grosbeaks have been plentiful this past winter and were observed at Ruby Lakes, Nev. for the first time (Clair Aldous). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen at Cheyenne, Wyo., May 11, by Mrs. Hanesworth. Another was at Casper, May 19 (OKS). This bird occurs regularly in eastern Wyoming. [No contributors were acknowledged]

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Spring Migration, 1961

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / Bob and Elsie Boggs

Spring weather was generally cool, and the month of Mar both cool and wet. The migration, which started early, soon became slow and late. On the whole it was a mediocre migration with few rarities reported.

Loons, Grebes.—The last Common Loons were seen at Blaine, Wash., May 27 (LK). Several good flocks of Arctic Loons were noted on or near Vancouver Island: 100 at Sawmill Bay, April 1 (DS, RS); 160 at Sidney, April 30 (V.N.H.S.); 85 at Fanny Bay, May 8 (DS, RS); and 300 in the Gulf Islands, May 7 (RD). Four Red-necked Grebes at Nehalem Bay in Tillamook County, Oreg., April 1, constitute a very late date for the state (JBC, *et al.*); they were migrating through Blaine the first two weeks in April, and were last seen at Pitt Meadows, B.C., April 29. Horned Grebes lingered in British Columbia coastal waters and at Blaine until the second week in May. Eared Grebes in breeding plumage appeared at Medina, Wash., April 21 (WMH), and at Pitt Meadows, April 29; they were still present at Victoria, B. C. in early May. Late indeed were the 120 Western Grebes still remaining at Vancouver, B. C., May 29 (RD).

Pelicans, Cormorants, Herons.—Five White Pelicans were carefully identified at Pitt Meadows, April 23 (GW). A Double-crested Cormorant was sighted at Pitt Meadows, May 6, where a Green Heron was noted on May 11 (GW). During May a Black-crowned Night heronry was under observation at Medford, Oreg. (RB, JH). A single bird was identified at Pitt Meadows, May 27 (BW).

Waterfowl.—Whistling Swans were seen in Pitt Meadows from April 15 to May 14. A concentration of 8000 waterfowl appeared on Sawmill Bay, Vancouver

Island, April 1. Scoters and Greater Scaup made up the greater part of the raft, but Black Brant, Oldsquaw, goldeneyes, Buffleheads, loons and grebes were present also (DS, RS). Black Brant were found in their usual haunts in good numbers, with the last ones seen on May 20 at Blaine (LK) and in the Gulf Islands (RD). A straggler was seen at Devil's Punch Bowl State Park in Oregon on May 16 (JBC). Snow Geese were seen at Oyehut, Grays Harbor Co., Wash., May 10 (PN), and at Ladner, B. C., April 16 and May 13. A Blue-winged Teal (rare in western Oregon) was seen at Devil's Bowl State Park, May 16 (JBC). Small groups (maximum number 7) were seen at Pitt Meadows from May 7 to 28; and 8 were counted at Victoria, May 22 (ARD). Common Scoters were seen at Blaine, April 9 (WHH); at Point Roberts, Wash., April 16; and at Seattle, April 19 (DW). Hooded Mergansers were last seen at Vancouver, B. C. on May 17 (DN).

Hawks, Cranes.—Three Turkey Vultures were counted in the Coast Range of Tillamook County, Oreg. on April 1 (JBC, *et al.*); and 1 was at Pitt Meadows, May 14. A Swainson's Hawk provided the highlight of a field trip to North Vancouver, B. C. on May 14 (WHH, *et al.*). A Rough-legged Hawk seen at Pitt Meadows, April 22, and again on May 14 may have been the same individual. A group of approximately 100 Sandhill Cranes was reported flying over northwest Portland, Oreg. on April 8 (JO). They formerly nested at Pitt Meadows, and the discovery of small numbers of these birds during April at this location is encouraging.

Shorebirds.—Little of unusual interest was noted in the shorebird migration. Semipalmated Plovers (5) were seen at Ladner, B. C., May 13. Six Snowy Plovers were counted at Oyehut, May 10 (PN). A Surf-bird was seen at Seattle, April 20 (DW). A Long-billed Curlew was discovered just north of Medford, Oreg. on May 8 (JH). Whimbrels were listed at Pitt Meadows, April 23; at Vancouver, B. C., April 6 and May 6; at Oyehut, May 10; and 5 miles north of Newport, Lincoln Co., Oreg., May 16. A Willet was identified at Oyehut, May 10 (PN). Six Baird's Sandpipers were seen at Sea Island, near Vancouver, B. C., May 6; and 3 noted at Ladner, May 13.

Gulls, Terns.—Frank Oldaker, who frequented the Vancouver, B. C. City dump almost daily to read band numbers with his telescope located a Glaucous Gull and a Ring-billed Gull on May 31. An immature **Franklin's Gull** was found at the Oregon State Game Commission Ponds, north of Medford, May 25 (JH). A storm near Vancouver, B. C. on April 3 probably was responsible for the 3 Black-legged Kittiwakes believed to have been blown in from the Gulf of Georgia (GM). Five **Caspian Terns** were seen at Grays Harbor in Washington, May 10 (PN); and 2 located at Spanish

Banks, May 28, may be the first for Vancouver, B. C. (RD).

Swifts, Hummingbirds.—Black Swifts were seen at Vancouver, B. C., May 23, but none had been noticed at Victoria by the end of the period. Early dates for Vaux's Swifts were April 28 at Burnaby, B. C. (WHH); and May 13 at Victoria (GAP). Rufous Hummingbirds began to return to Point Roberts by March 19, but did not arrive in most areas until after the first of April. The cold wet weather probably contributed to their decrease in numbers. A

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Calliope Hummingbird (rare) was seen in the Dead Indian Road area near Ashland, Jackson Co., Oreg., May 13 (JH).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers.—A Yellow-shafted Flicker was seen in Seattle, April 22 (DW). Lewis' Woodpeckers were found on Barnston Island in May, the only locality near Vancouver, B. C. where this species is known to occur. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*nuchalis* race) was seen at Medina, May 8; and a "Red-breasted" (*ruber*) noted at Pitt Meadows, May 14. Western Kingbirds were first seen in Phoenix, Oreg., April 17 (RB); south of Seattle, May 5 (VEC); at Barnston Island, May 6; and at Pitt Meadows, May 14 and 27. Somewhat earlier than usual were a Western Flycatcher at Vancouver, B. C. on April 22 and a Western Wood Pewee at Pitt Meadows, May 11.

Swallows, Wrens, Catbirds.—Violet-green and Tree Swallows were late in arrival. Tree Swallows, normally rather scarce on the southern end of Vancouver Island, were present in above average numbers at Duncan in late April (GAP). Barn Swallows were seen at Medford, Oreg., April 6 (TM), an exceptionally early record for the state; reports from almost everywhere else during April confirmed an unusually early migration. An "earliest-ever" for the Cliff Swallows was their appearance, April 3, at a barn in Pitt Meadows where they have been nesting for years (*vide* WHH). Other very early dates for the Cliff Swallow were April 12 at Seattle (DW); April 19 at Medina (WMH); and April 30 at Blaine (LK). A House Wren was discovered at Blodgett, Benton Co., Oreg. on May 16 (JBC). The Catbird found at Pitt Meadows, May 28, was observed in the same location as last year (GW).

Mockingbirds, Thrushes.—A singing Mockingbird was identified at Medford, April 15 (TM). A major Robin flight occurred between April 8 and 16 at Pitt Meadows. Migrating flocks of Varied Thrushes were seen at Spanish Banks, April 5 (GM). As usual a few lingered in the lowlands until early May (BB, EB,

VEC). Hermit Thrushes were seen almost daily in a yard in Seattle from April 15 to May 24 (BB, EB). The first Swainson's Thrushes were seen at Blaine, April 17; and at Pitt Meadows, May 11, where Mountain Bluebirds were noted on April 22 (GW) and 28 (BW). A Townsend's Solitaire passed through Medina, April 15 (WMH), and 4 appeared at Point Roberts, April 16. Solitaires were found also at Sechelt, B. C., April 18 (LK); and at Pitt Meadows, May 7 and 11.

Pipits, Waxwings, Vireos.—Water Pipits were first sighted at Seattle, April 1 (DW); at Ladner, April 16; at Blaine, April 22; and at Victoria, May 5. Unusually late arrivals were the Cedar Waxwings seen on Barnston Island and at Pitt Meadows on May 28. Hutton's Vireos were seen at Seattle, April 15 (BB) and at Pitt Meadows, May 7. A Solitary Vireo found near Jacksonville, Jackson Co., Oreg. on April 9 (RB) represents a very early arrival. Oddly enough, the Solitary Vireo appeared to have arrived later than usual in Washington and British Columbia.

Warblers.—Orange-crowned Warblers were down in numbers in the Vancouver, B. C. area (WHH); the earliest arrival date was April 8 at Seattle (BB, EB) and Medina (WMH). Another earlier-than-ever date came from Oregon: Yellow Warblers singing at Nehalem Bay on April 1 (JBC, *et al.*). Myrtle Warblers were observed in unusually large numbers at Hatley Park, Victoria, (ARD); and reached their peak numbers, at least 10, at Stanley Park in Vancouver, B. C., April 27. Audubon's Warblers arrived on schedule at Vancouver, B. C., March 29. Not normally found on Vancouver Island, the Black-throated Gray Warbler was reported at Miracle Beach (Betty Westerborg), and at Victoria (GAP). The Townsend's Warbler arrived at Medina, April 3, but was not seen in North Vancouver, B. C. until May 14. MacGillivray's Warblers were scarce and did not arrive until mid-May.

Tanagers, Grosbeaks, Finches.—Western Tanagers made an early showing near Jacksonville, Oreg. when 10 were counted in the Sterling Creek district on April 9 (RB). Black-headed Grosbeaks reached peak numbers at Phoenix, Oreg, May 1, and arrived at more northerly points 2 to 4 weeks later. An unusual migrant in the Puget Sound region was the **Gray-crowned Rosy Finch** seen at Alki Point, Seattle, April 20 (DW). Pine Siskins were widespread and abundant.

Towhees, Sparrows.—A Green-tailed Towhee was seen near the Dead Indian Road, about 10 miles east of Ashland, May 13 (JH). Vesper Sparrows were observed at Roy, Pierce Co., Wash., April 15 (Doris Jelliffe, *vide* VEC); and at Pitt Meadows, May 6 (BW). Some early Golden-crowned Sparrows appeared at Ladner, B. C., March 19; the species was reported plentiful by the end

of April, and the List individuals were noted May 13. A White-throated Sparrow (rare) was identified by Jack Sarles at Ladner on March 19. A Lincoln's Sparrow was noted at Point Roberts, April 16, and another individual was seen on Barnston Island, May 6.

Contributors.—(BB, EB) Bob and Elsie Boggs; (RB) Ralph Browning; (VEC) Violet E. Cannon; (JBC) John B. Crowell, Jr.; (ARD) A. R. Davidson; (RD) Rudi Drent; (WMH) Walter M. Hagenstein; (WHH) Mr. and Mrs. Werner H. Hesse; (JH) James Hicks; William Hughes; (LK) Lucile Kline; Norbert Leupold; (TM) Thomas McCamant; (GM) George McKay; (PN) Paul Newcomb; (DN) Doris Nye; Frank Oldaker; (JO) Jim Olson; (GAP) G. A. Poynter; Doug Rogers; Jack Sarles; (DS, RS) David and Ruth Stirling; Betty Westerborg; (BW) Betty Wise; (DW) Dick Witt; (GW) Gwen Wright; (V.N.H.S.) Victoria Natural History Society.

The Nesting Season, 1961

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTER-MOUNTAIN REGION
/ **Thomas H. Rogers**

The breeding season in the Region can only be characterized as extremely hot and for the most part decidedly dry. Cool weather with heavy rain in early June, continuing the trend of the spring season, gave way abruptly to temperatures in the 90's and above day after day. The mercury went

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above 100° at Baker each month and the heat at Spokane reached a peak of 108° on Aug. 4, after a number of readings in the high 90's. Rainfall was practically nil during this time. S. O. Stanley, reporting for the Spokane, Wash. area expressed the opinion that the mild winter, followed by a moist spring and hot summer, was conducive to a good nesting season, with plenty of insects, fruit, and other food available. C. J. Henry, reporting for the National Bison Range, Moiese, Mont., noted that grasshoppers there had reached threatening numbers. R. L. Hand, reporting from Missoula, believed that many broods of birds were smaller than usual, but hesitated to say that this had any direct connection with the heat and drought. The Regional Editor's impression, from the other reports and from personal observations, is that the production of young birds was perhaps somewhere near normal. Ann Ward reported for the Baker, Oreg. area, and Jim Acton of the Spokane Bird Club was responsible for most of the shorebird observations in the Spokane area.

Loons, Grebes and Waterfowl.—The excellent, detailed report of Werner and Hildegard Hesse for the Chilcotin and Cariboo areas of southern British Columbia contained the only breeding data on the Common Loon. They found young loons on Anahim and Puntzi Lakes in June. They also noted nests or young of the Red-necked and Horned Grebes. The only other reports of nests or young of grebes were of the Red-necked at Newman Lake and Waitts Lake (Spokane Bird Club) and the Eared at Reardan (Lynn LaFave), all in eastern Washington. Unusual records were furnished by a pair of White Pelicans and an adult and 2 immature Black-crowned Night Herons at Cow Lake, Adams Co., Wash. on Aug. 8 (LL). A Trumpeter Swan nest in the Bozeman, Mont. area had produced 3 downy cygnets by June 29 (P. D. Skaar). Waterfowl populations in Washington were believed by the State Game Commission to be high, particularly in the Columbia Basin, where the Mallard population was referred to as "tremendous" (article in the *Spokane Spokesman-Review*, Aug. 18). C. J. Henry reported that the semi-domesticated flock of Canada Geese at the Bison Range produced 3 broods, containing 7, 5 and 3 young. "Our favorite gander," he wrote, "was also found dead of a wound that was probably inflicted by one of Texas Longhorns. He had frequently attacked humans and had been seen going after horses." Another oddity was the presence of a female Hooded Merganser on the Spokane River in downtown Spokane in late June (LL).

Hawks and Eagles.—Hawk populations seemed about as usual. A pair of the uncommon Ferruginous Hawk was noted near Odessa, Lincoln Co., Wash. (LL). Good-sized young Golden Eagles were noted in a nest in the Bozeman area on July 8 (PDS). Numbers of this species seemed to be decreasing at the Bison Range. Up to 4 Bald Eagles were noted at 6 localities in the Chilcotin and Cariboo. Ann Ward followed the progress of a Marsh Hawk nest near Haines, Oreg. and concluded that an unknown enemy was at work, for the nest contained 7 eggs on April 28, 4 young and 1 egg on May 17 and 1 downy young on May 31.

Gallinaceous Birds.—Eight young Mountain Quail were seen in the Eagle Creek area near Baker, Oreg. Production of Chukars at the Bison Range appeared to be excellent, with many large broods, but the Gray Partridge there seemed to have poorer production. Broods of the latter at Missoula were small in many cases, containing only 2 to 4 young, but the species apparently had a very successful season in eastern Washington, according to LaFave.

Shorebirds.—The outstanding event in this category was the finding of breeding Semipalmated Plovers in the **Chilcotin** area of British Columbia, hundreds of

miles south of any other breeding site that has been reported for the province. The three downy young were observed near LeBlanc Lake near the Chilanko River. Twelve more adults were observed on the banks of the Chilanko River about 2 miles to the north. Two Lesser Yellowlegs with 1 young were noted at Phililloo Lake on June 18. In eastern Washington the advance fall migrants had begun arriving by July 15 (Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs) (SBC).

Gulls and Terns.—A Franklin's Gull near Baker, Oreg., on June 19 was Ann Ward's first for the area. The Common Tern appeared at the Bison Range, where it occurs occasionally. Also an uncommon record was the occurrence of 10 adult and 2 immature Caspian Terns at O'Sullivan Dam, Grant Co., Wash. on Aug. 8 (LL).

Owls.—Young Great Horned Owls were observed at Baker, the Bison Range and Bozeman. A pair of Burrowing Owls was seen with 5 young at Baker on June 20. The Short-eared Owl appeared to be building up its numbers again in eastern Washington (LL). However, of 3 nests observed at Baker between March 19 and May 28 at least 2 were unsuccessful.

Poor-wills, Swifts and Hummingbirds.—Two Poor-wills, uncommon in northeastern Washington, were seen near Scotsman Lake in Pend Oreille County on June 20 (LL). Up to 12 Black Swifts were noted at several places in the Chilcotin area. Two male Black-chinned Hummingbirds were noted at Shuswap Lake, B. C. (D. Stirling). This appears to be close to the margin of the species' breeding range. All species of hummingbirds were scarce at the Bison Range and the Rufous was scarce at Missoula. The group appeared to be in normal numbers elsewhere.

Woodpeckers and Flycatchers.—The rare Williamson's Sapsucker was seen at Eagle Creek near Baker, Oreg. and a pair was noted at Signal Peak, 35 miles southwest of White Swan, Yakima Co., Wash. (LL). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was noted near Sullivan Lake and 2 pairs of Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen at Salmo Pass, both places in Pend Oreille County, Wash. (LL). Hand reported that, for the first time in his experience, the Western Kingbird outnumbered the Eastern in the Missoula; Mont. area. At Baker a number of the birds nested around transformers on power poles. (Your Regional Editor has noted several nests of this species in the same sort of location. Is this the experience of others also?) An unusual occurrence of the Least Flycatcher was 1 seen and heard at *Lac La Hache* in the Cariboo

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on June 17 and farther west near **Chilanko Forks** on June 27-28.

Swallows and Jays.—Hand commented that the Violet-green Swallow has virtually stopped using nest boxes at Missoula since the Starling became common. Clark's Nutcracker was generally scarce in the lowlands but was noted in the high mountains of eastern Washington (LL), in the higher parts of the Bison Range, in Gallatin County, Mont. (PDS) and in the mountains near Baker, Oreg.

Chickadees and Dippers.—Mountain Chickadees were found feeding young in the nest in the Tumwater Recreation Area in Wenatchee National Forest, Chelan Co., Wash. at an altitude of only 1800 ft. (Bob & Elsie Boggs). The rare Boreal Chickadee was noted again at Salmo Pass, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (LL). A pair of Dippers was feeding young in the nest on July 7 and 14 near Baker. Adults were feeding young in the nest during mid-June along Bridger Creek near Bozeman (CVD).

Wrens, Mimic Thrushes and Thrushes.—The Callon Wren was observed along the Madison River, Madison Co., Mont. for the fourth consecutive year (PDS). Inadvertently omitted from the summer report for 1959 was the occurrence of a **Mockingbird** on June 7, along the Bozeman–West Yellowstone Road within Yellowstone Park, almost on the Montana–Wyoming boundary. A heavy movement of migrants was in progress at the spot and it seems likely that the bird was caught up in this movement (PDS). Two young Robins were still in the nest at Spokane on Aug. 4. With the temperature officially 108° that afternoon, the parent made no attempt, during the observation, to feed the young, but perched quietly on the nest rim, beak agape (TR). At Missoula many Robins were noted with 1 and 2 young, but elsewhere the crop of young appeared more or less normal. Two nests of Swainson's Thrush were located: 1 near Baker had 2 eggs about July 4 and 3 nestlings on the 20th and the other nest at Twin Lakes, Kootenai Co., Idaho with 3 young about a week old, July 8 (LL). Hand reported the Mountain Bluebird scarcer than ever at Missoula. This scarcity apparently did not extend to other localities, however.

Warblers and Blackbirds.—Warbler numbers appeared to be at least up to normal. Two species whose breeding activities seldom are reported were observed: the nest of a Townsend's Warbler, May 22, on the horizontal limb of a fir tree about 80 ft. up, at the Tumwater campground; and Wilson's Warbler feeding newly fledged young, July 22, in the mountains near Baker at an elevation of about 5500 ft. Blackbird numbers likewise appeared large. The Brown-headed Cowbird appeared to be almost numerous around

Spokane (SBC) and in the Chilcotin, where a maximum of 20 were seen at Anahim Lake on July 21. *Two* cowbird eggs were found in a House Finch Nest at Spokane (TR) and an egg was found in a Trail's Flycatcher nest, also at Spokane (Jim Acton). The species appeared to be decidedly scarce at Missoula, however.

Finches and Sparrows.—A House Finch was feeding a fully-fledged young on April 30 at Spokane (TR). This seems odd, for the bulk of this species appears just beginning to nest in April. Unusual was a pair of House Finches in *Bozeman*, June 12-23 (CVD). The rarely reported Black Rosy Finch was reported with young in the Bridger Mountains in the Bozeman area on Aug. 5 (CVD). Very few Red Crossbills were noted in the lowlands, but they were observed at several localities in the mountains. A nest of the Am. Goldfinch observed at Pullman, Wash. was completed by June 11 and 2 young left the nest on July 11, presumably a quite early date (Ruth P. Ownbey). *Six* Grasshopper Sparrows were noted near Greenacres, east of Spokane, on June 10. This is an unusually high number for the locality (LL). A male Clay-colored Sparrow singing in a sagebrush area near Sheridan, Mont. probably represents a westernmost record for the state (PDS). White-crowned Sparrows were noted in the Cariboo–Chilcotin area, in Pine Creek Reserve at 7500 ft. near Baker, above timberline in the Bridger Mountains (CVD) and in the Gallatin River Canyon, Mont. where young were in flight (PDS). The finding of McCown's Longspur at many spots in the Madison River valley from Three Forks south to Varney strongly suggests that the species breeds farther west than the records show. Likewise, a male Chestnut-collared Longspur giving his territorial song near Three Forks probably is a westernmost record at this latitude (PDS).

Corrigendum.—The account of the Rough-legged Hawk, *Audubon Field Notes* 15(3) 346, appearing in unusual numbers should read "Baker" instead of Bend, Oreg.

[No contributors were acknowledged]

The Nesting Season, 1961

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

/ Dr. Oliver K. Scott

While the Great Basin simmered in continued heat and drought, establishing new weather records, the Central Rockies enjoyed a break in the drought with cooler weather. The Stillwater Refuge, Nev. had the worst breeding season on record. Like most large refuges it is broken up into units but none could be maintained at a

decent level. Total duck production was 575 against 20,691 two years ago (Kiger). At Malheur Refuge, Oreg, the situation was as bad. This, the oldest of the refuges, now contains only 500 acres of shallow water instead

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of the normal 30,000. Obviously, it is producing only a fraction of its usual waterfowl (Kridler). Bear River Refuge, at the upper end of the Great Salt Lake, fares better. Its waters come from the Bear River with headwaters in mountains where the drought was less severe. As a result, at least one of the five units there had normal water, but two others were dry. In spite of its reduced water, Bear River experienced more birds than last year and more production of waterfowl, perhaps forced in from elsewhere. The highest waterfowl concentration was on Aug. 15 with 177,360. The highest populations were of the same species as in previous years. At the top was the Pintail with 89,875; next was Green-winged Teal with 60,700; followed by Redhead with 30,000 and Am. Coot with 21,000; others were in smaller numbers (M. R. Evans). There are few big refuges in the Central Rockies, but Monte Vista, Colo. is growing into one. The production there was double last year. The most common bird is and has been the Mallard with a peak concentration of 10,576 in early August; followed by the Pintail with 5720 at the same time. There were 3 Wood Ducks, a rare bird in this region, during the whole period at Monte Vista (R. C. Brown). At Anaho Island Refuge, Pyramid Lake, Nev. the Double-crested Cormorants failed to nest successfully for the 3rd consecutive year, probably because of motor boats. About 3000 White Pelicans and 3000 California Gulls were reared at this refuge. Over the past 10 years the pelicans have been decreasing (Kiger).

Hérons.—The growing refuge at Monte Vista had its first breeding Snowy Egrets (Brown).

Swans.—Malheur had 2 breeding pairs of Trumpeter Swan with 2 young each. Their survival is not yet assured (Kiger). In Jackson Hole, Grand Teton Park, there are now several nesting sites of the Trumpeter near the highway. These are at Flat Creek at Jackson, at Jackson Lake Lodge, and halfway between in a small pond (OKS).

Hawks.—The need for protective legislation in several of the states of this Region has become more desperate each year. We now have professional falconers to contend with as well. This editor will not publish any more specific information on these birds until the situation improves.

Shorebirds.—A Red Phalarope, a casual bird inland, was caught in a mist net at Malheur (Kridler). Malheur managed to have a good migrant shorebird concentration of some species, in spite of the drought: on July 25 there were 14,000 Wilson's Phalaropes and 16,000 Am. Avocets (Kridler).

Owls.—Mrs. Carman had 4 Saw-whet Owls at her home near Grand Junction, Colo., Aug. 15. These birds are little seen in the Rocky Mountain region, but may be more common than generally supposed.

Hummingbirds.—L. M. Baylor found a Calliope Hummingbird nest in the foothills of the mountains of central Idaho near Darlington, June 10. The Calliope is common all through the mountains of this area, although it is often difficult to be sure of the identification. Mrs. Crews, in spite of the drought, had a good year with hummers at Hotchkiss, Colo. She had been feeding a pint of syrup a day. She also has raised a deserted brood of young hummers.

Warblers.—Kridler has demonstrated the power of the mist net again. He netted the Am. Redstart for the first time at Malheur Refuge last fall. Since then he has netted the bird 4 times during this past season.

Buntings.—An Indigo Bunting was seen in the Warner Mountains in extreme northeastern California north of Fort Bidwell on July 2 (McCaskie). The bird is casual over most of the West. The Lazuli Bunting has become abundant in the brushy hill country of Wyoming. Mrs. Lambertsen had a concentration of 100 of them in the cemetery at Rawlins, Wyo., June 5.

[No contributors were acknowledged]

The Nesting Season, 1961

**NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION
/ Bob and Elsie Boggs**

More than a month's supply of July rain fell on the Region on the 5-6th. This was practically the only measurable precipitation; the remainder of the season was hot and dry. Nesting was not seriously affected. It actually appeared that mountain birds had an exceptionally good season. There was an excellent crop of seeds and berries on plants at higher elevations.

Grebes, Petrels, Cormorants.—Summering Western Grebes were noted in greater than usual numbers at Ladner, B. C., July 29. Black-footed Albatrosses, Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwaters, and Fork-tailed and Leach's Petrels were observed up to 90 miles off the Oregon coast in the first half of June (BK). Cormorant colonies on Mitlenatch and Mandarte Islands, east of

Vancouver Island, appear to be slowly multiplying "in spite of increased human disturbance and heavy crow predation" (DS).

Hérons and Bitterns.—Green Herons were seen regularly at Pitt Meadows, B. C. in June and July. Although no definite evidence was given they may have been breeding birds (WHH). A Least Bittern was discovered in the Hoover Lakes area, near Medford, Oreg. July 29 (Betty Jo Hicks, JH).

Waterfowl.—A Canada Goose, with 5 goslings, was seen at Medina, Wash., May 16 (WMH). Black Brant, uncommon in summer, were seen at Tokeland, Wash., June 12 (LDL); and at Sidney, B. C. and Victoria, B. C. (DS) in July. Mallards appeared to have a good breeding season. Wood Ducks produced young on Orcas Island (JIC) and at Pitt Meadows. Either Greater or Lesser Scaup would be considered uncommon at Boundary Bay in British Columbia where, on July 9, 250 scaup in 2 equal-sized flocks

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flew in at high tide and settled on the beach (GM).

Hawks and Eagles.—A Goshawk (rare) was observed at Pitt Meadows, July 29 (GW). Red-tailed Hawks were nesting in the top of a tall dead tree at Renton, Wash., May 6 (DW). Two adult Golden Eagles and 2 immatures were observed at an elevation of 2500 feet on Vancouver Island, June 7 (David Guthrie, BW). Two immature Bald Eagles were noted at Vancouver, B. C., June 18. One young was produced from a nest at Miracle Beach, Vancouver Island; and 2 young were seen on another nest 7 miles south (BW). A pair of Ospreys was present at a nest near a main road at Point Roberts, July 15 (GM). A Peregrine Falcon (uncommon) was seen on Mitlenatch Island, July 31 (BW). A pair of Sparrow Hawks was photographed at a nest, probably with eggs, on Table Mountain in Kittitas County, Wash. on July 8 (BB, EB).

Grouse, Quail, Cranes.—Spruce Grouse were reported only from E. C. Manning Provincial Park where a brood of 3 young was seen on July 3, and another brood of 4 on July 21. A White-tailed Ptarmigan, accompanied by 3 almost full-grown young, was closely approached on Burrough's Mountain in Mt. Rainier National Park on Aug. 19 (DW). The Gray Partridge appears to be maintaining its low population at Victoria where a covey of 10 was seen in July (A. R. Davidson). Two broods of **Mountain Quail** were produced at Seabeck, Kitsap Co., Wash. (Ted Mallory); this species was believed to be almost nonexistent in the state. A Sandhill Crane was discovered on June 3 at

Pitt Meadows, an area where they formerly nested or occurred in summer.

Rails and Shorebirds.—Seven downy Virginia Rails, only a few hours old, crossed a road at Blaine, Wash., June 24, the first definite breeding record for the locality (LK). Snowy Plovers (3) seen at Westport, Grays Harbor Co., Wash. on June 12 (LDL) may have been breeding birds. Two Killdeer chicks at Medford, April 15, constitute an early record (Ralph Gysin). A second nesting at Blaine resulted in pictures taken of 2 young and 2 eggs in a nest on July 14 (LK). A Whimbrel was found on the ocean shore at Westport, June 12 (LDL). A Solitary Sandpiper was seen at Black Creek, Vancouver Island, July 28 (Jack Robinson, BW). More study in the Grays Harbor area in the summer is needed to establish statistics as to whether the 50 Sanderlings seen at Westport, June 12, were late spring migrants or summering birds.

Terns, Alcids, Owls.—The uncommon Caspian Tern was seen at Fish Lake, 36 miles east of Medford, Oreg. on July 19 (OH). Young Marbled Murrelets appeared in good numbers at Victoria in early July (GAP). Two Cassin's Auklets were seen at sea off Tillamook Bay in Oregon on June 10 (JBC). Tufted Puffins were seen near the mouth of the Columbia River, about 15 miles offshore, June 12 (BK). Observation of a Barn Owl nest in a silo at Blaine on July 9 showed that the young were able to leave the nest, but were still returning to sleep (LK). A Pygmy Owl was seen on Larch Mountain, 25 miles east of Portland, Oreg., June 17 (JBC). A Spotted Owl was found on Mt. Baker, July 16 (GW).

Goatsuckers, and Hummingbirds.—The Poor-will is considered to be only a straggler in western Oregon so these 2 records for July are remarkable: 1 at the Medford Municipal Airport, and 1 on the Rogue River near Shady Cove, Jackson Co., Oreg. (JH). Young Common Nighthawks were being fed in mid-air in Seattle, Aug. 11 (VEC). A Rufous Hummingbird was gathering nesting material at Sechelt, B. C. from April 12 to 19 (LK).

Kingfishers and Woodpeckers.—A nest of the Belted Kingfisher was found at Oyhut, Grays Harbor Co., Wash., May 10 (Paul Newcomb). Immature Pileated Woodpeckers appeared at Blaine the first week in August. Lewis' Woodpeckers were feeding nestlings on Barnston Island, near Vancouver, B. C., May 28 (WHH); while at Victoria they produced at least 2 broods (DS). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were feeding young in E. C. Manning Provincial Park on July 1 (GW). Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers (3) were seen at 4000 feet, Forbidden Plateau, Vancouver Island in July (BW).

Flycatchers and Swallows.—Eastern Kingbirds were regularly seen in Pitt Meadows in June and July, but the first young one was not discovered until July 30. One seen 30 miles north of Victoria on June 1 was out of its known breeding range (GAP). A Western Kingbird was seen on Sauvie's Island, near Portland, Oreg., July 30 (JBC). Ash-throated Flycatchers took over a previously used bluebird box near Medford Oreg., and successfully reared only one young, which left the nest on July 5 (RB). A Hammond's Flycatcher was building a nest in a fir about 23 feet from the ground, on a steep hillside, near Lake Wenatchee, Chelan Co., Wash., May 21. A Dusky Flycatcher nest, with 4 eggs, was found in a wild rose at Squilchuck State Park, June 16 (BB, EB). A nest of a Western Flycatcher, containing 3 half-grown young, was built on a bracket under a carport roof of a summer home located on Eld Inlet, near Olympia, July 29 (CB). An Olive-sided Flycatcher nest was located at Snoqualmie Pass, July 9 (BB, EB). Two immatures were catching their own food at Seattle, July 30 (VEC). Violet-green Swallows (6 pairs) nesting in bird boxes at Blaine had brought off all their young by June 30 (LK); at Seattle the young left a box on July 2 (VEC). Six pairs of Tree Swallows nested in boxes at Blaine, and when the young of these were successfully fledged, all the boxes were occupied again (LK). Barn Swallows were still nest-building at Vancouver, B. C., Aug. 10 (WHH). One brood of Purple Martins was fledged in early July from a 6-compartmented box built on a piling at Eld Inlet. Another box, with 4 compartments, contained a nest of 4 small young on July 29. One of these boxes has been used by Purple Martins almost every year since 1938 (CB).

Thrushes, Kinglets, Pipits.—Robins began nest building on March 19 and the last young left another nest on July 16 at Blaine (LK). Varied Thrushes were feeding 3 young in a nest at 5280 feet, at Layout Camp, east of Hart's Pass, Okanogan Co., Wash., June 26 (BB, EB); they were apparently nesting from sea level to 500 feet south of Squamish, B. C., July 12 (GM). Hermit Thrushes were feeding 4 large young in a nest in a Silver Fir near Twin Camp, Snoqualmie Nat'l Forest, King Co., Wash., July 16 (BB, EB); the excited actions of a bird at approximately 5000 feet on Mt. Baker on July 18 indicated the probable presence of a nest or small young (LK). A Swainson's Thrush nest contained 2 eggs and 2 newly hatched young at Eld Inlet, July 30 (CB). A Western Bluebird with eggs at Medford, April 29, was very early (RB). Golden-crowned Kinglets left the nest at Medina, Wash., May 21 (WMH); and 6 newly fledged young all huddled together on a branch were being fed at Stampede Pass, about 10 miles south of Snoqualmie Pass, July 9 (BB, EB). A pair of Water Pipits with 4 young was observed on Mt. Baker, July 16.

Phainopeplas, Vireos, Warblers.—A *Phainopepla* observed in Medford in mid-May by Mrs. R. M. Kent, Mr. and Mrs. James O. Wanger, and Dr. Elmo Stevenson is a most interesting sight record, as the bird is not known to occur in Oregon. Several Hutton's Vireos (rare) were counted at Miracle Beach between June 15 and Aug. 12 (DS, BW). Three juvenile Red-eyed Vireos were seen at Pitt Meadows, July 22. Townsend's Warblers with young were observed at E. C. Manning Provincial Park on July 1, where immature MacGillivray's Warblers also were seen.

Blackbirds, Finches, Sparrows.—The Rusty Blackbird, considered only a migrant on the coast of British Columbia by ornithologists, is said by local residents to be a common bird in the vicinity of Squamish, where a male was seen and heard whistling on June 8 (LK). Tiny young of the Purple Finch were being fed on Orcas Island, May 30 (JIC). A female Cassin's Finch was building a nest in the spindly top of a 35-foot Alpine Fir at Hart's Pass, June 28 (BB, EB). The House Finch is spreading northward on Vancouver Island, being observed at Oyster Bay and Black Creek during July (DS, BW). A Pine Grosbeak was picking up fine rootlets, at 5500 feet, near Hart's Pass, June 29. Pine Siskins were seen carrying nesting material at Blaine, April 22 (LK). A White-crowned Sparrow nest contained 4 newly hatched young at Seattle, May 24 (DW). Probably a second nesting was that of a pair that hatched 3 eggs at Blaine on Aug. 4 (LK). At Victoria the birds were considered scarcer than usual. An unusual summer vagrant is the White-crowned Sparrow (*gambelii* race) seen at Black Creek, July 28 (JR, BW). A pair of Fox Sparrows was feeding 2 young in a nest built in a small fir and huckleberry bush growing close together on Colquhoun Peak, Snoqualmie Nat'l Forest, King Co., Wash., July 22 (BB, EB). Fledgling Song Sparrows were still being fed at Seattle, Aug. 25 (VEC).

Initialed Contributors.—(BB, EB) Bob and Elsie Boggs; (RB) Ralph Browning; (CB) Mrs. Carl Bunch; (VEC) Violet E. Cannon; (JIC) Mrs. J. I. Colwell; (JBC) John B. Crowell, Jr.; (WMH) Walter M. Hagenstein; (WHH) Mr. and Mrs. Werner H. Hesse; (JH) James Hicks; (BK) Ben King; (LK) Lucile Kline; (LDL) Lynn D. LaFave; (GM) George McKay; (GAP) G. A. Poynter; (JR) Jack Robinson; (DS) David Stirling; (BW) Betty Westerborg; (DW) Dick Witt; (GW) Gwen Wright.

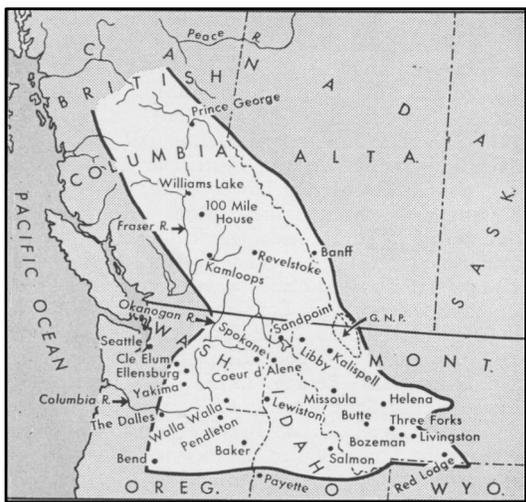
End 1961

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Autumn Migration 1961

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION / Thomas H. Rogers

After one of the hottest summers on record, temperatures in the Region



averaged distinctly below normal from September on. Precipitation in eastern Washington and Oregon remained deficient although approaching normal in November. In western Montana, however, the latter part of the period became decidedly wet, with heavy snows late in November. Unfortunately a summary of conditions east of the Divide at Bozeman is not at hand. For eastern Washington and Oregon the suggestion is there that the cool fall caused many species to migrate early, although the hot early part of the season would hardly explain the departure of the late August and early September migrants. Hall and LaFave noted that the small passerines peaked mainly between Aug. 20 and Sept. 5. Also, shorebirds, generally not up to usual numbers, were about 7-10 days early in arriving and 10-15 days early in departing, according to LaFave. Duck flights also came in early and many northern and mountain species were ahead of schedule. Ann Ward noted that most species at Baker, Oreg. seemed to leave early. Her report of a forced movement of birds in the mountains, with snow falling at the 6000 ft. level on Sept. 2, gives concrete evidence of the effect of the weather. In the Bozeman area the picture seemed to be influenced by drought to the east, for more extensive movements, mainly of the passerines, were noted than in the previous falls, suggesting a shunting of migrants westward. A number of unexpected migrants there—Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, Tennessee Warbler and Green-tailed Towhee—might

have resulted from the same influence. In contrast to the western part of the Region, the Bozeman area furnished an unusually high number of late records (P. D. Skaar). Credit for reports except where otherwise noted is as follows: Missoula, Mont. Ralph L. Hand; National Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. C. J. Henry, and Baker, Oreg. Mrs. Ann Ward.

Loons, Grebes, Pelicans, Herons—A peak of 10 Common Loons was noted at Ninepipe Refuge about Oct. 20 and Red-necked Grebes showed a high of about 50 there around Sept. 1. On the latter date 180 Western Grebes at the refuge comprised the largest concentration for the Region (Owen Vivion, *vide* Seth H. Low). The White Pelican was noted twice in Adams County, Wash.: 1 bird on Sept. 15 (Lynn LaFave) and again on Oct. 7 (2) (Jim Acton). At least 200 Great Blue Herons were at Ninepipe during late summer and early fall (*OV* & *SHL*). Three of the unusual Black-crowned Night Heron were seen in Adams and Grant Counties, Wash. in September (*LL*).

Waterfowl—About 500 Whistling Swans stayed in the north end of Flathead Lake in western Montana during late October and early November (*OTT*, Watson Seed). Canada Goose numbers appeared to be good. The peak at Ninepipe, 2160, came in early November after the hunting season started (*OTT*). Two **Black Brant** were taken at Bynum Reservoir north of Choteau, Mont. on Oct. 28 (Clifford V. Davis). White-fronted Geese were noted in unusual numbers: 35 at Sprague Lake, Adams Co., Wash. (*JA*) and 13 at Ninepipe (*OV*) An estimated 860 Snow Geese came into Ninepipe the evening of Oct. 20, evidently ahead of the snowstorm that hit the area the next day. The birds left on the morning of the storm. The following week saw an average of about 1000 there, but only 2 were noted by the last of the month (*OV*). Nearly 14,000 ducks were on Ninepipe and Kicking Horse Reservoirs in early September. Just before noon on Oct. 22 there were 12,500 ducks on Ninepipe but one hour later, after hunting season had begun, 75,000 were there (*OV*). The birds apparently knew a safe place when they saw it. The Am. Widgeon outstripped the Mallard at least part of the time as the most abundant species (*OTT*, Tom Walker). In eastern Washington the Mallard and Pintail flights arrived in late September and the first half of October (Warren Hall). Two adult male **Black Ducks** were banded and one later collected at Ninepipe (*OV*). A duck on the Little Spokane

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River near Spokane created some furor as it closely resembled a Black Duck but later proved to be an escaped domesticated bird colored much like this species (Spokane Bird Club). Scoters were headliners in

eastern Washington. A single *White-winged Scoter* was first observed at Reardan on Oct. 24 (*JA* & *WH*) and 10 *Surf Scoters* were seen on Banks Lake, Grant Co. (*WH*). One of the latter species even got to the Spokane River within the city, in the spot where many rarities have been showing up, by Gonzaga University (*LL*).

Vultures, Hawks and Eagles—Turkey Vultures appeared in unusual numbers near Baker, Oreg. with 15 seen on Sept. 8. Single Goshawks were seen, Aug. 25 in Pend Oreille County, Wash. (*LL* & *WH*), and Dec. 8 at Ninepipe (*SHL*). A concentration of 15 immature Red-tailed Hawks was noted near Baker on Aug. 29. An immature Bald Eagle on Oct. 29 and an adult on Nov. 12 in the Little Spokane area near Spokane were ahead of the usual dates of appearance (*S.B.C.*). The rare *Peregrine Falcon* appeared twice at Reardan, Wash., an Aug. 17 (*JA*) and Sept. 27 (*LL*). One was identified at the Bison Range on Nov. 19 and 1 was seen at Ninepipe the same day (*CFI*).

Gallinaceous Birds—Populations of upland game birds appeared to be on the upswing in eastern Washington (*WH*) and Blue, Ruffed and Spruce Grouse were numerous in the high country north of Plains, Mont. (Watson Beed). At Missoula a downward trend in the Gray Partridge was possibly a local condition.

Cranes and Coot—Fall records for Sandhill Cranes are scarce in the Region. However, a few were noted: 7 at Ninepipe and Pablo Reservoirs on Sept. 29 (*OV*) and 1 at Alkali Lake, Grant Co., Wash. (*LL*). Am. Coot numbered in the thousands during September and October at Ninepipe and Kicking Horse, with 12,000 the maximum reported (*OV*). Some 10,000 were on Park Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on Oct. 6 (*LL*).

Shorebirds—In spite of drought conditions, these birds appeared in the usual variety and in addition several real rarities showed up. Hand reported that total numbers were down at Missoula, and several species that normally are found at ponds associated instead with Killdeer in open, irrigated fields. These included Am. Golden and Black-bellied Plover, Pectoral and Baird's Sandpiper and dowitchers. Of the many detailed records only the more unusual can be listed here. An *Am. Golden Plover* at Missoula was the first record for Montana west of the Continental Divide, and as many as 3 were seen in a day in eastern Washington (*LL*). The Semipalmated and Black-bellied also appeared to be up in numbers in eastern Washington, with largest numbers seen in a day, 7 and 15 respectively (*LL*). An *Upland Plover* at Missoula was apparently only the second sight record for Montana west of the Divide since the early part of the century.

Yellowlegs appeared to be moving through western Montana in very low numbers, but this seemed to be made up for by larger numbers in eastern Washington, where LaFave noted high one-day counts of 50 and 40 for the Greater and Lesser, respectively. A *Knott*, observed within 15 feet under ideal conditions at Reardan, Wash., was an outstanding rarity, as only one other (hypothetical) record exists for eastern Washington, that in 1909 (*WH*). Short-billed Dowitchers were observed with the Long-billed at Ninepipe (*SHL*). Two Stilt Sandpipers were examined at close range at Harrison Lake, Madison Co., Mont. (P. D. Skaar) and 1 again appeared at Reardan, Wash. (*LL* & *WH*). The most remarkable shorebird rarity of the season was perhaps the *Hudsonian Godwit* noted at Reardan, Wash. This is the second record for the entire state (*WH*). Worthy of note was a Sanderling at Ninepipe (*SHL*) and 1 or 2 at O'Sullivan Dam and Soap Lake, Grant Co., Wash. (*LL*).

Gulls and Terns—Reports from eastern Washington for these birds are splashed with red ink about as much as were the shorebirds. A *Mew Gull* again appeared at Spokane (*LL*) and up to 3 Franklin's Gulls as well (*LL*, *WH*). The latter can be considered a rare but regular migrant in the area. A maximum count of 40 of the uncommon Bonaparte's Gull was obtained at Spokane on Oct. 18 (*LL*). An immature *Sabine's Gull* at O'Sullivan Dam, Grant Co., on Sept. 23 was the first record for eastern Washington (*LL*). The Common Tern may eventually live up to its name in east central Washington, for 22 were noted at Alkali Lake, Grant Co. on Sept. 23 (*LL*) and 1 got as far east as West Medical Lake, Spokane Co., Oct. 14 (*LL* & *WH*).

Owls, Goatsuckers—The seldom reported Long-eared Owl appeared at Baker, Oreg., (2 on Oct. 26) and at Pullman, Wash. (1 on Oct. 8) (Ruth P. Ownbey). From 1 to 3 Burrowing Owls were noted almost daily near Missoula from late September to mid-October. There are few records for the species from western Montana west of the Divide. Three or 4 of the scarce Poor-will were seen at Scotsman Lake, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. on Aug. 25 (*LL* & *WH*). The later records for the Common Nighthawk were obtained at some localities of higher altitude. Some last dates were: Bozeman, Mont., Oct. 1 (late) (*PDS*); Missoula, Sept. 21; National Bison Range and Baker, Oreg., Sept. 15; Spokane, Sept. 10 (*TR*).

Woodpeckers—A migrational movement of Red-shafted Flickers was apparently under way in Pend Oreille County, Wash. on Aug. 25 (*WH*). A Yellow-shafted Flicker was seen in *Missoula* on Nov. 30 (*TW*) and a hybrid female with red nape but orange-yellow wing linings was observed at *Bozeman* on Oct. 1 (*PDS*). Woodpeckers of rare and local occurrence were 1-2

Williamson's Sapsuckers at Baker, Oreg. on three dates in September; the White-headed Woodpecker at Baker (in Ann Ward's backyard—how lucky can some people be?) and in Stevens County, Wash. on two occasions (*LL*, *WH*), and both species of three-toed woodpeckers, in Ferry and Stevens County, Wash. (*LL* & *WH*).

Flycatchers and Swallows—The bulk of *Empidonax* flycatchers appeared to be migrating from mid-August into the first week of September. In general, the swallows appeared to have moved out earlier than usual. At Baker the last flocks were noted on Aug. 17. This seems hard to explain in view of the hot, dry weather.

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Jays and Chickadees—A flock of about 50 Pi□ on Jays was seen near the Gates of the Mountains north of Helena, Mont., Aug. 13 (*TIV*). Clark's Nutcracker continued scarce in eastern Washington (*WH*). However, 10-12 were noted at 5500 ft. near Baker, Oreg. on Oct. 5 and some were in Bozeman on Sept. 24 and thereafter (*PDS*). Ten Boreal Chickadees were found at Salmo Pass, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (*LL* & *WH*).

Wrens and Thrushes—A late-nesting Rock Wren was feeding 2 young at Baker on Sept. 6 and 2 of the birds were still present there on Oct. 24. Robins were migrating as early as late August (*WH*, *LL*) in eastern Washington. "Huge flocks" were noted at Bozeman during the first half of September (*PDS*). Pullman, Wash. had large flocks from mid-September into early December. Many of these birds and hundreds seen in the Spokane area in November will presumably winter. Varied Thrushes were quite commonly reported throughout most of the period at Spokane (*S.B.C.*) and Pullman (up to 4 at a time) and in the mountains near Baker (6-8 yet on Oct. 28). Hermit Thrushes appeared to be trickling through eastern Washington and Oregon in small numbers from mid-September until nearly the end of October. Swainson's Thrushes, night migrants detected by calls and window kills, were moving through Bozeman from Aug. 28 to Sept. 5 (*PDS*).

Pipits and Waxwings—Several hundred Water Pipits at Reardan on Sept. 21 represented a peak movement (*LL*) and 25-30 near Baker on Oct. 25 furnished a late record. Bohemian Waxwings appeared about to stage one of their more impressive appearances. At Missoula, Walker saw a flock he estimated at 3000 or more. At Baker the species—and its food—were scarce. In the Spokane area the waxwings were undoubtedly competing with the large robin flocks for their favorite winter food, the berries of Mountain Ash.

Warblers—A good movement of warblers for this almost "waveless" Region was noted at Long Lake in extreme northeastern Spokane County on Aug. 25. It included some 15 Audubon's, 5 Yellow, 5 Wilson's, a MacGillivray's, an Orange-crowned and 2 Am. Redstarts (*WH*). Audubon's was as usual by far the most numerous. Henry noted a "big flight that peaked on Sept. 17" at the Bison Range. Walker reported a flock of 30 near Missoula on Sept. 11 and 25 at Ninepipe on the 23rd. Skaar recorded large flocks in the valley at Bozeman from Aug. 29 through Sept. 6. On the other extreme of abundance was a **Tennessee Warbler**, decidedly rare in the Region, noted at close range at Bozeman on Oct. 1 (*PDS*).

Bobolinks, Meadowlarks and Blackbirds—Some 200 Bobolinks were at Baker, Oreg. on Aug. 17, but only 1 straggler on the 30th. Three moving south on Sept. 12 in the Ninepipe area were unusual (*SHL*). A flock of close to 100 Western Meadowlarks was noted at the Bison Range just before the snowstorm on Nov. 23 and a group of 20 in the Spokane Valley at Opportunity on Oct. 7 was clearly migrant (*TR*). Yellow-headed Blackbirds left early from eastern Washington, having disappeared during the first week of September (*S.B.C.*). Likewise, the last date for the species at Baker was Sept. 3, when 150 were noted. A straggler was still in the Nine-pipe area on the 12th (*SHL*). Fall reports for the Brown-headed Cowbird are scarce for the Region but an immature was being fed by a MacGillivray's Warbler at Spokane on Aug. 19 (*S.B.C.*)

Finches—Cassin's Finch appeared decidedly scarce in eastern Washington. The birds were still at 6000 ft. in the mountains near Baker, Oreg. on Sept. 16. At Missoula the last date was Oct. 18, rather late. The only report of the Pine Grosbeak in the lowlands was 1 at Poison, Mont. on Nov. 30 (*SHL*). The Red Crossbill was practically absent from the valleys though noted in the mountains.

Sparrows—A Green-tailed Towhee was noted near Dayton, southeastern Washington, on Oct. 15 (Paul Newcomb, *vide* Bob & Elsie Boggs). In the Bozeman area the species was noted in the bottom thickets, out of summer habitat, in late August and early September (*PDS*). The Rufous-sided Towhee was noted at Pullman, Wash. as late as Nov. 11. Last dates for the Savannah Sparrow were: Bozeman, Sept. 5 (*PDS*); Baker, Sept. 27; Spokane, Oct. 11 (*TR*), and Missoula, Oct. 23. The only Grasshopper Sparrow reported was 1 at Spokane on Sept. 23 (*S.B.C.*). Latest dates for the Vesper Sparrow were Oct. 1 (3 in Grant County, Wash.), (*WH*) and Oct. 2 at Missoula. Tree Sparrows (flock of 9) appeared about a month earlier than

normal at Missoula. All other records were for October and November. Chipping Sparrows reached peak numbers at Bozeman around mid-September, with the last record, Oct. 1 (late) (*PDS*). A flock of at least 60 was observed regularly in the Spokane Valley at Opportunity during most of September. It had dwindled to 12 on Oct. 11, 2 on Oct. 29 and 1 persisted until the first snowfall on Nov. 3 (*TR*). The last two dates are apparently without precedent for the area. The White-crowned Sparrow movement appeared to be in about the usual abundance, beginning on Aug. 25 and extending well into mid-October, with a few November stragglers at Spokane (*S.B.C.*) and Baker, Oreg. (1 on Nov. 27). A very rare find was 2 *White-throated Sparrows* at Spokane the last of September (*JA*). The Golden-crowned Sparrow continued as a rare migrant in eastern Washington and Oregon, for an immature bird was identified at Opportunity, Sept. 9 (*TR*); 1 at Spokane on the 10th (*S.B.C.*); 1 at Baker on the 8th and another there on Oct. 27. Up to 7 or 8 Lapland Longspurs were noted at Missoula on what now appears to be an established migration route, between Sept. 3 (early) and Oct. 31. However, the appearance of from 1 to 5 of the birds at *Reardan, Wash.* between Oct. 6 and Nov. 26 was decidedly novel (*LL, WH, S.B.C.*). Are the birds further extending their route westward? Perhaps because of earlier snows, Snow Buntings in small numbers put in earlier than usual appearances: 3 at Ninepipe on Oct. 3 (*SHL*), 4 at Reardan on Oct. 21 (*S.B.C.*), at Missoula on Oct. 24 and 50, a large number for the early date, Nov. 24 in Lincoln County, Wash. (*WH & JA*).

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Corrigenda—The report of Western Kingbirds testing around transformers was for Spokane (*Spokane Bird Club*), not Baker, *Audubon Field Notes* 5(5):482. In Vol. 14 (1):56 "Snowy Egret" should have been "Common Egret."

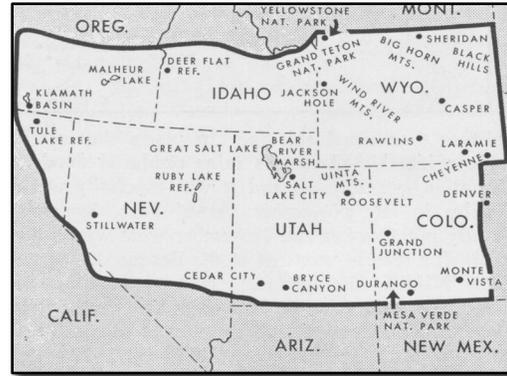
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Autumn Migration, 1961

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.
/ Dr. Oliver K. Scott

A great drought broke this season and while the effects of the dry weather are evident, the outlook for the future is better. Most of the Great Basin refuges are still without much water. The breaking of the drought was punctuated with repeated heavy snows in September in Wyoming. Brad House, biological station, Grand Teton Park, Jackson Hole, found 15 dead

warblers in a small area of a few acres after a foot of wet snow on Sept. 20. These were Audubon's, Wilson's, and MacGillivray's. Many readers may be confused by the term "wet snow" since all eastern snow



is wet. When the temperature is lower, the snow is fluffier, has smaller flakes, and seems to have less moisture content; hence in the Rockies there are mostly dry snows all winter; and wet snows in the spring and fall. Wet snows cling to vegetation and break it down while dry snow does not.

Swans—The number of Trumpeters has been steadily increasing in Jackson Hole within the confines of Grand Teton Nat'l Park. The annual swan count at Jackson Hole on Sept. 27 showed 52 swans with 8 cygnets. The height of the fall concentration on Flat Creek to the south of the National Elk Refuge (contiguous with the Park) had 59 on Nov. 26 (Robert Beans, manager of the Elk Refuge). This count is lower than in recent years and represents an effect of the drought. There were only 2 new Trumpeter cygnets at Ruby Lakes, northeastern Nevada, because of drought and early summer heat (Aldous). At Malheur, eastern Oregon, 102 Whistling Swans were trapped, banded and dyed yellow. *Audubon Field Notes* readers, noting any such yellow dyed birds, should communicate with the Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burns, Oreg. Owing to the drought, the Malheur flight of swans was extremely poor, 210 instead of 3450 last year (Kridler). The Whistling Swan peak at Bear River Marshes at the northeast end of Great Salt Lake was 24,265 on Nov. 29, a very high figure (R. D. Johnson).

Ducks and Geese—Although the drought is broken, the waterfowl migration is still way down. At Ruby Lakes it was only 25 per cent of normal (Clair Aldous) and only 50 per cent of last year at Klamath—the huge refuge area on the California–Oregon line. The high of 1,738,000 ducks on Nov. 3 seems substantial, however. The breeding areas of the geese are farther north and not so much affected by recent drought conditions; there were 603,000 at Klamath at the peak on Oct. 10, as compared with 451,000 in 1960 (O'Neill). At Malheur the drought caused a tremendous reduction in

waterfowl from 137,000 last year, a peak, to 34,000. Last year was poor by comparison with the average (Kridler). Stillwater in western Nevada remains the most damaged by drought of the great federal refuges in the Great Basin. Its waterfowl peak was only 5 per cent of the last good year there in 1958. This year the peak was 11,400. Some species that had been seen by the thousands, such as Canvasbacks (25,000 in 1958) were hardly recorded at all (George Wiseman). At Bear River Marshes Refuge the migrating waterfowl were down from normal 700,000 to 421,000 this year (Johnson). At Deer Flat Refuge in southwestern Idaho the peak of the ducks was Nov. 5 with Mallards predominating as usual. There were 660,000, which is 60,000 better than last year (Gene Crawford). The Monte Vista Refuge in southern Colorado continues to grow and physically hopes to be up to 14,500 acres in a few years. It continues to attract the Mallard, the common wintering duck in the central Rockies. The high was 65,758, Nov. 19-25, but more are expected later in the season (Charles Bryant). Rare ducks reported were a White-winged Scoter at Lower Klamath on Nov. 12 and a European Widgeon on the same date and place (Browning). A Surf Scoter was present at Tule Lake, Nov. 4-24 (O'Neill). A Black Brant and Emperor Goose were shot at Lower Klamath, Oct. 21 (Tom Harper). A Wood Duck was shot at Lower Klamath, Nov. 15, and another was seen on Nov. 22 (McCaskie). A White-fronted Goose was seen in Moffat County, Colo., Oct. 8 (Gene Green). The White-front rarely gets east of the Klamath Basin.

Eagles—Twenty-three Bald Eagles and 11 Golden Eagles were reported at the Lower Klamath Refuges, Nov. 17 (O'Neill). This is the highest concentration reported, but below previous years. Six Bald and 6 Golden Eagles at Bear River were fewer than usual (Johnson). Monte Vista had up to 6 Bald Eagles by the end of this season (Bryant). The central Wyoming flyway had a very poor flight up to the end of this period, perhaps associated with a shortage of rabbits (OKS). Stewart Murie had 3 Bald and 2 Golden Eagles at Parowan, southwestern Utah, in November.

Gallinule—A *Common Gallinule* was seen on July 13 at Ruby Lakes, Nev., a second record for the state (Aldous).

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Owls—A Snowy Owl was reported staying at Ruby Lakes this fall by C. Aldous. This is a very rare bird in Nevada.

Swifts, Hummingbirds—Kingery had 6 Black Swifts at 11,500 ft. on Mt. Powell in the Gore Range, central Colorado, Aug. 20. The exact status of the Black Swift

in Colorado is not clear, but it is rare. Mrs. Crews at Hotchkiss in the Colorado mesa country had few hummingbirds of any species this fall, in contrast to previous years. She had no explanation.

Swallows, Jays—A Purple Martin was seen again in Utah on Sept. 11 at Bear River Marshes (C. H. Snyder). This is a rare bird in Utah. Reitz reported the Piñon Jay common as far east as Torrington in extreme eastern Wyoming.

Wrens, Waxwings—The Winter Wren is rare over most of this area. Carol MacIver had one on Sept. 5 at Rockville, Oreg. Another was seen by A. Webb on Sept. 4 at Salt Lake City. Bohemian Waxwings were reported early this year. A. B. Mickey had 250 at Laramie, Wyo. by Nov. 12.

Warblers—In Wyoming, the peak of the warbler migration was in the first week in September when the Wilson's Warbler was most common. A *Chestnut-sided Warbler*, a casual visitor to the state, was seen near Casper, Sept. 2 (OKS). The Townsend's Warbler is one of the peculiar birds in this Region that is seen much more rarely in spring than in fall migration, and was seen everywhere this fall. Even Bear River Marshes had them for the first time on Sept. 11 (C. H. Snyder). Gleb Kashin had them in fair numbers at Salt Lake City, up to 4 at a time from Sept. 12 to Oct. 15. They were seen repeatedly at Casper. Kingery had 2 north of Boulder in the foothills of the Rockies on Oct. 1. McCaskie had a *Black poll Warbler* on Honey Lake in the northeastern California part of the Great Basin, Sept. 23; the second sight record in the state for this bird. A *Black-throated Blue Warbler* was banded at the Malheur headquarters, the third record for the state—all in the same spot (Kridler). Gene Kridler is showing the remarkable things a mist net can do.

Grosbeaks—As usual, Durango, Colo. had great numbers of Evening Grosbeaks, but this year there were more. Oppie Reams had up to 1000 birds present at one time in October. Durango remains the Evening Grosbeak capital of this Region, perhaps of the continent.

Sparrows—Harris' Sparrow at Tule Lake, Nov. 23 (McCaskie) is a far western record. The bird is relatively common in Wyoming, unusual in Utah and farther west very rare. Another bird was banded at Malheur, Nov. 9 (Kridler). Whether the migration of perching birds was better than usual is hard to say. In Wyoming, at least, the warblers were better than usual, but snowstorms caused great losses. More experienced observers were in the field than ever before, and they communicated with this editor.

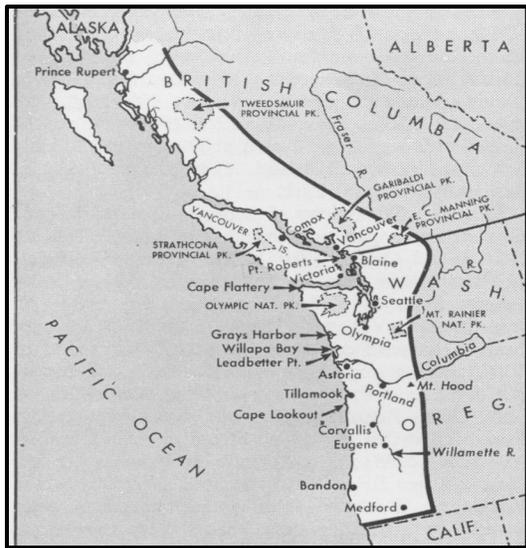
[No contributors were acknowledged]

Autumn Migration, 1961

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION
/ **Bob and Elsie Boggs**

August was dry and sunny; precipitation averaged slightly above normal for the month, however, because of heavy rain on the last day. September and October were drier than usual and November slightly cooler than normal. The major bird event of the fall was an influx of Whistling Swans. It appears that a large number were overtaken by a severe and rapidly moving cold front somewhere in the northern interior. The birds moved down to the coast along the major inlets and the Frazer River valley, and stopped to rest and feed on many small lakes and ponds. Unfortunately many were shot by hunters.

Loons, Fulmars, Egrets—Common Loons were observed earlier than usual; on Sept. 23 at Blaine 6 were seen together (*LK*). Arctic Loons were first seen at Miracle Beach on Vancouver Island, Aug. 31 (*BW*); and at Victoria, B. C., Sept. 9 (*ARD*); but none was reported at Tsawwassen Beach until Dec. 3. A dark phase Fulmar (rare on inshore waters) was observed at Victoria, Nov. 21 (*RYE, DS*). Jim Olson again found Common Egrets in western Oregon: 1 at Fern Ridge Reservoir, 12 miles west of Eugene, Oct. 28, and 2 at Coos Bay, Nov. 12 (see



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Swans—The Whistling Swans that appeared in late October were seen in widely scattered places: 5 at Blaine, Wash., Oct. 19, reaching a high of 110 the next day (*LK*); 37 at Vancouver, B. C., Oct. 20; 14 at Point Roberts, Oct. 21; 16 at Comox, Oct. 21-30 (*BW*); 5 at

Medford, Oreg., Nov. 7 (*JO*); 7 at Coos Bay in Oregon, Nov. 12 and 18 (*JO*); 28 at Sea Island in British Columbia, Nov. 25; and 11 near Ashland, Oreg. (Dr. John Reynolds). A Trumpeter Swan was seen feeding with the Whistlers at Comox, Oct. 23 (*DG, BW*). Canada Geese (24) were observed at Medina, Wash., Oct. 3 (*WMMH*); an early morning migration was detected at Seattle on Oct. 6 (*VEC*); a flock of over 100 was flying south over Carkeek Park in Seattle, Oct. 7 (*DIV*); 300 were counted at Point Roberts, Oct. 8; 100 were seen at Blaine, Oct. 4, where another flock passed overhead on Nov. 4 (*LK*).

Geese—Black Brant (2) were found at Tillamook Bay, Aug. 26 (*JBC, JO*); 3 were seen at Coos Bay, Nov. 12; and 9 were counted at Point Roberts, Dec. 3. Two **Barnacle Geese** were in the Skagit Game Refuge Hospital on Sept. 30. For unknown reasons the game department employees did not consider this unusual (*LK*). A White-fronted Goose was present at Comox, Oct. 1 (*DG*); a flock of 20 flew over Lake Oswego, Oreg., Oct. 6 (*JBC*); a single bird was seen on a golf course at Victoria (*V.N.H.S.*). A pair of Snow Geese was observed in Victoria, Oct. 21 and 22 (*V.N.H.S.*).

Ducks—At Tsawwassen Beach on Oct. 15 a raft of 6000-8000 ducks, in which Mallards, Pintails, Green-winged Teal and Am. Widgeon were identified, was on the mud flats and offshore (*GMM*). Pintails first appeared at Blaine, Aug. 18, and reached peak numbers of 5000 by Nov. 26 (*LK*). That regular "rarity," the European Widgeon (2 male), appeared in Victoria, Nov. 11 (*V.N.H.S.*). One was seen on Green Lake in Seattle, Nov. 18 (Mrs. J. I. Colwell, *vide VEC*); one was seen at Vancouver, Nov. 11 and 22 (*EM, DN, JT*). A Redhead was noted at Victoria, Oct. 26 (*DS, RS*). The Ring-necked Duck was seen at Black Creek on Vancouver Island, Sept. 3 (*BW*); 3 were seen in Seattle, Oct. 9 (*WHH*); and 5 were counted in Seattle, Nov. 18 (*ZMS*). The strong November gales may have been responsible for the appearance of a **Tufted Duck**, a juvenile male, at Vancouver on Nov. 4 (*EM, JT*). It was seen again on Nov. 5, 8 and 11. The identification was confirmed by Dr. I. McT. Cowan and the bird was seen by other members of the Vancouver Natural History Society. A raft of 35 Common Scoters off Salt Spring Island, Sept. 30, was "a large number for the Victoria area" (*ARD*). Red-breasted Mergansers arrived in Seattle, Aug. 21 (*DW*).

Hawks—Turkey Vultures were last seen in the mid-Willamette Valley on Sept. 3, and near Salem, Oreg. on Sept. 24 (*JO*). They were last seen in the Medford area, Sept. 28 (*JH*), and at Victoria, Oct. 14, which is unusually late (*RYE*). A Goshawk was discovered in North Vancouver, Nov. 17 (*DN*). A flock of 18 unidentified buteos passed over Seattle, Sept. 8 (*DW*).

Rough-legged Hawks were seen at Tsawwassen Beach, Sept. 30; and at Pitt Meadows in British Columbia, Oct. 14. A Golden Eagle was mobbed by a dozen ravens on Mt. Becher on Vancouver Island, Sept. 1 (*BW*). A Peregrine Falcon was hunting over a marsh at the Skagit Game Range, Sept. 30 (*LK, ZMS*); others were seen on Mt. Baker on Aug. 27, at Tsawwassen Beach on Sept. 24, and Canoe Pass, near Ladner, B. C., on Oct. 29.

Ptarmigan, Cranes, Rails—Twenty White-tailed Ptarmigan were found on Mt. Baker, Aug. 27 (*GW*). A Sandhill Crane, identified as a "little brown crane," was observed near Talent, Oreg., Oct. 4 (*JH, Franklin Sturges*). A flock was seen over Comox on Sept. 24 (*DG*), but none were reported from the Victoria area. A Virginia Rail was seen at Bear Creek, 2 miles south of Medford, Nov. 5 (*RB*).

Shorebirds—A high number of Black Oystercatchers for the area was 40 at Victoria, Nov. 14 (*ARD*). One day of birding yielded 65 Semipalmated Plovers in the Tillamook Bay and Netarts Bay areas on Aug. 26 (*JBC, JO*); unusually late were a single bird seen at Boundary Bay (*WHH, Betty Wise*), and 4 at Coos Bay (*JO*), Nov. 12. Am. Golden Plover were seen only in Victoria (*ARD, GAP*), and in a field at Boundary Bay (*DN, et al.*). The uncommon Ruddy Turnstone was observed at Drayton Harbour, July 16; at Tillamook Bay, Aug. 26 (*JBC, JO*), and at Victoria, Oct. 9 (*GAP*). This is the sixth consecutive year that a pair of Whimbrels has arrived at Victoria in late October or early November. This year's arrival date was Oct. 8 (*DS*). The Upland Plover, which is considered only casual in southern British Columbia, was observed at Comox, Oct. 1 (*DG*). To see only one of the rare Solitary Sandpiper would be a red-letter day for the observer, but Betty Jo Hicks recorded 4 of these birds on the Rogue River, near Shady Cove, Oreg. on Sept. 29. Wandering Tattlers arrived in Victoria, July 25 (*ARD*), and about 4 remained throughout September. Single Lesser Yellowlegs were seen: at Agassiz, B. C., Sept. 12;

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on Sea Island, Sept. 9; and at Tillamook Bay, Sept. 23 (Harriet Randolph, *et al.*). An early report for the Rock Sandpiper was one at Victoria, Oct. 28 (*GAP*); on Nov. 17, 30 were counted there (*ARD*). There were 2 Oregon records of Pectoral Sandpipers: 1 at Tillamook Bay, Sept. 23 (*JBC, et al.*); 1 at Hubbard, Oct. 9 (Thomas McCamant). The only report of the Baird's Sandpiper was 6 on Sea Island, Aug. 24. A thousand Least Sandpipers, along with only 10 Westerns, were observed at Coos Bay on Nov. 12. This is certainly a disproportionate number, but the observer felt certain of his identification (*JO*). Two Long-billed Dowitchers

were seen at Canoe Pass, July 29 (*WHH*). Semipalmated Sandpipers (rare on the coast) were discovered on Sea Island, Sept. 9. The season's rarest shorebird was a **Marbled Godwit** at Tillamook Bay, Aug. 26 (*JBC, JO*).

Gulls, Terns—A Glaucous Gull was seen at the city dump, Vancouver, Nov. 8 (F. Oldaker). Approximately 45 Caspian Terns were identified at Grays Harbor, Oct. 7 (*WHH*).

Pigeons, Nighthawks, Swifts, Woodpeckers—The poor migration of Band-tailed Pigeons was blamed on the acorn crop failure (*GAP*). The last Common Nighthawk was heard at Eugene, Oreg., Sept. 23 (*JO*). Vaux's Swifts were seen at Black Creek, Sept. 7 (*DS*); and at Medina, Sept. 8 (*WMH*). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*ruber*) made one of its infrequent fall appearances at Victoria in early November (*DS, RS*).

Flycatchers, Larks, Swallows—All flycatchers were scarce. A **Black Phoebe** was observed near Ruch, Oreg., Aug. 27 (*RB*). A Western Flycatcher was observed at Medina, Sept. 22 (*WMH*). Small groups of one of the northern or alpine races of the Horned Lark migrate through Victoria in late September; 6 were counted at Esquimalt Lagoon on Sept. 24 (*DS, RS*). Violet-green Swallows departed from most areas the latter part of September; a late record was of 6 at Blaine, Oct. 6. Late also were Tree Swallows and Rough-winged Swallows at Medford Sept. 28 (*JH*).

Jays, Magpies, Wrens—Steller's Jays were scarce on Vancouver Island, near normal around Vancouver and Seattle, but were numerous at Phoenix, Oreg. The sighting of a Black-billed Magpie at 4000 ft. elevation climaxed a steep climb on the west slope of the Cascades near Enumclaw, Wash. on Nov. 8 (*DW*). A migrant Long-billed Marsh Wren was seen at Victoria, Oct. 7 (*GAP*).

Thrushes—The first Varied Thrushes at Blaine arrived on Sept. 10, and by Nov. 25 there were 10 in one yard (*LK*). They were still abundant on the slopes of Mt. Baker in September, and had arrived at Lake Oswego by Oct. 6 (*JBC*). Varied Thrushes were first noted at Victoria and Seattle, Sept. 20, but they did not appear in the Vancouver area until November. A Hermit Thrush was seen at Blaine, Aug. 25 (*LK*), and one was banded at Mountlake Terrace, Sept. 7 (*ZMS*). They were seen at Point Roberts, Sept. 16 and Oct. 14, and were noted frequently in Seattle in October and November (*BB, EB*). Swainson's Thrushes were found at Medford, Oct. 26 (*JH*). Western Bluebirds appeared to be present at Victoria in greater than usual numbers (*DS*); a flock of 8 appeared in Beacon Hill Park where the observer had never seen them before (*ARD*). Four

birds were near Coos Bay, Oct. 1 (*JO*), 9 were counted at Point Roberts, Oct. 29; and 5 were present at Blaine, Nov. 12 (*LK*). Townsend's Solitaire records were few: 1 each at Duncan and Miracle Beach on Vancouver Island, 1 at Blaine, and 2 at Garibaldi Provincial Park.

Kinglets, Waxwings, Starlings—Golden-crowned Kinglets were passing through Seattle on Sept. 24 (*VEC*) and Oct. 8 (*DW*). Ruby-crowned Kinglets arrived in many areas early; they were seen at Point Roberts, Sept. 16. Cedar Waxwings were feeding in poplar trees at Vancouver, Sept. 23 (*GMM*); 60 were foraging on wild crab-apple trees at Comox, Oct. 15 (*HIV*); and a small flock chose Madrona and Mountain Ash berries for their staple diet at Seattle, Nov. 4 (*BB*, *EB*). Returning Starlings were present "in hundreds" at the Snohomish Slough, north of Seattle, Sept. 24 (*ZMS*); 50,000 were roosting under the Cambie Street Bridge in Vancouver, Nov. 25.

Vireos, Warblers—Vireos and warblers were remarkably scarce. Solitary Vireos were singing at Fern Ridge Reservoir on Sept. 3, and were not seen or heard again (*JO*). Two Nashville Warblers (uncommon) were seen in Victoria (*ARD*). Single Yellow Warblers were seen at Boundary Bay, and Medina, Sept. 24. Ten Myrtle Warblers were seen at Sumas, Wash., Oct. 1. Black-throated Gray Warblers (rare) put in appearances at Victoria (*GAP*) and on Quadra Island, 26 miles northwest of Comox (*BTV*). Townsend's Warblers were more frequently reported: at Drayton Harbour, Aug. 27; at North Vancouver, Aug. 31; in Vancouver, Sept. 3; in Seattle, Oct. 31 (*VEC*); and at Medina, Nov. 2 and 11 (*WMH*).

Tanagers, Finches, Sparrows—Western Tanagers were seen at Medina, Sept. 29 (*WMH*). A Black-headed Grosbeak was banded at Mountlake Terrace, Sept. 4 (*ZMS*). A flock of about 25 Pine Grosbeaks was found at about 4000 ft. on the west slopes of the Cascades east of Enumclaw, Wash., where a single Red Crossbill also was noted, Nov. 8 (*DW*). A *Lark Bunting* was seen with a flock of Brewer's Blackbirds at White City, Oreg., Nov. 13 (*JH*). Savannah Sparrows were abundant in migration, mostly in September. An unusual observation was a Vesper Sparrow at Victoria, Aug. 19 (*ARD*). Oregon Juncos had returned to North Vancouver by Aug. 31; to Mountlake Terrace by Sept. 12 (*ZMS*); to Seattle by Sept. 18 (*VEQ*); and to Pitt Meadows by Oct. 1. White-crowned Sparrows (*gambelii*) appeared in Blaine, Sept. 17, and were still there on Oct. 29 (*LK*); they were present at a feeder in Seattle, Sept. 22 (*VEC*). White-crowned Sparrows were seen regularly in small numbers in the Vancouver area (*WHH*, *et al.*). An early arrival date for Golden-crowned Sparrows at Victoria was Sept. 2 (*ARD*); 40 were counted at Fern Ridge Reservoir, Oct. 28 (*JO*); and the

last one noted was at Medina, Nov. 26 (*WMH*). The White-throated Sparrow was observed at 2 places: Victoria (*V.N.H.S.*) and Seattle (*VEC*). An early Lincoln's Sparrow appeared at Black Creek, Aug. 20 (*DS*).

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"Between Sept. 7 and Oct. 4, at Mountlake Terrace, the appearance of many new and unbanded Song Sparrows seemed to indicate migration of considerable scope. Much variation in size and color was noted although no attempt was made to separate them as to type" (*ZMS*). In the Victoria area Lapland Longspurs were seen in two different locations in September (*GAP*, *DS*); and one was found at Miracle Beach on Vancouver Island on Oct. 28 (*BW*). Two Snow Buntings were observed at Esquimalt Lagoon in Victoria, Oct. 26 (*RS*); and 2 also were seen at Point Roberts, Nov. 4.

Contributors—(*BB*, *EB*) Bob and Elsie Boggs; (*RB*) Ralph Browning; (*VEC*) Violet E. Cannon; (*JBC*) John B. Crowell; (*ARD*) A. R. Davidson; (*RYE*) R. Y. Edwards; (*DG*) David Guthrie; (*WMH*) Walter M. Hagenstein; (*WHH*) Mr. and Mrs. Werner H. Hesse; Betty Jo Hicks; (*JH*) Joseph Hicks; William Hughes; (*LK*) Lucile Kline; (*GMM*) George M. McKay; (*EM*) Ed Moodie; (*DN*) Doris Nye; Frank Oldaker; (*JO*) Jim Olson; (*GAP*) G. A. Poynter; Dr. John Reynolds; Kathleen Robertson; (*ZMS*) Zella M. Schultz; Kathleen Smith; (*DS*, *RS*) David and Ruth Stirling; (*JT*) John Toochin; (*BW*) Betty Westerborg; Betty Wise; (*DW*) Dick Witt; (*GW*) Gwen Wright; (*V.N.H.S.*) Victoria Natural History Society.

The Winter Season, 1961-62

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN- INTERMOUNTAIN REGION / Thomas R. Rogers

The winter can best be described as long, cold and cloudy, particularly in the eastern part of the Region, where there was continuous snow cover in the Montana valleys from late November until the end of the period. Such conditions appeared to affect ground-feeding species and waterfowl adversely in this latter area. In eastern Washington the snow cover was interrupted by thaws and consequently seemed to have somewhat less effect upon birdlife. Weather conditions in the South Okanogan Valley of British Columbia were about normal, however. All areas had many days of subzero weather but, paradoxically, some very high temperatures prevailed. For example, temperatures at Baker, Oreg., ranged from +59° to -28° in January, +46° to -1° in February and +72° to +13° in March!

Total precipitation was above normal for the Region and, since much of it fell as snow, it appears likely that a heavy snow pack will remain in the mountains later than usual. Trying to generalize on the effects of the winter on the bird population is hazardous when one considers the enormity of the Region and the handful of observers, most of whom are largely confined to the lower elevations and local areas, particularly in winter. However, reports do suggest that, region-wide, two species, Bohemian Waxwing and Evening Grosbeak, appeared in more than usual abundance. One can speculate that food shortages forced these tree-feeders into towns. Apparently less abundant, region-wide, were the Pygmy and Short-eared Owls, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper and Common Redpoll. What appear to be local fluctuations are described in the text. W. D. McLaren reported for southern British Columbia, Ralph L. Hand again has reported for the Missoula, Mont. area and C. J. Henry, for the National Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. Ann Ward continued to report for the area around Baker, Oreg. and Ruth P. Ownbey has reported for Pullman, Wash. Others credits are assigned in the text.

Grebes, Herons and Waterfowl—In addition to the usual Pied-billed Grebes, the four other species were noted: an Eared at Wenatchee, Wash. (Christmas count); a Horned at Soap Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on Feb. 22 (LaFave) and 59 Horned at Penticton, B. C., Dec. 26, and the Red-necked and Western at Penticton and Vernon, B. C. Severity of the winter apparently reduced the number of wintering Great Blue Herons at the National Bison Range, but numbers appeared to be normal in eastern Washington and higher in the southern Okanogan. The extended freezing over of some bodies of water forced ducks out of some areas, particularly in western Montana. Ennis Lake, Madison Co., Mont. was virtually closed from Dec. 20 to April 1. Except for Common Goldeneye, few ducks were noted wintering at Missoula and the Bison Range. On the other hand, a great increase in wintering ducks and geese was noted in the Columbia Basin area of central Washington (State Game Dept., *vide* S. O. Stanley). It is believed that wintering Trumpeter Swan numbers are increasing in the southern Okanogan after years of decline (Steve Cannings, *vide* WDM). Unusual records included a Whistling Swan at Alkali Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on Dec. 20 and a group at Rock Lake, Whitman Co., on Jan. 31 (LL), and a Ring-necked Duck near Ennis Lake on Dec. 17 (P. D. Skaar). Some 15,000 Canada Geese were noted in the Basin on Feb. 22 and twice that number on March 2. Many Lesser Canada Geese were among these (Warren Hall & LL).

Hawks and Eagles—At the Bison Range a few Golden Eagles wintered, but the species seems to be gradually decreasing there. No Bald Eagles were seen

there, but 15 adults and 10 immatures were reported at Long Lake down river from Spokane, Wash. (Clay Soliday, *vide* SOS). At Missoula virtual disappearance of the Prairie Falcon was linked by Hand with the scarcity of the ground feeders.

Gallinaceous Birds—The severe winter may have decimated Gray Partridge populations in some areas of western Montana. In the area that Hand watched closely at Missoula, only 3 coveys totaling about 20 birds were present in contrast to the usual 10 or 11 coveys. This species and the Chukar appeared to have suffered drops in numbers at the Bison Range also, but both species appeared to be doing very well in the

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southern Okanogan. The Gray Partridge was noted more often than usual along the highways in the Bozeman area, however (C. V. Davis).

Gulls—In addition to the usual wintering numbers of Ring-billed and Herring Gulls on the Spokane River at Spokane, a *Glaucous Gull* was identified positively at close range on Feb. 1 (WH & LL) and a *Glaucous-winged Gull* was identified on Jan. 27 (Jim Acton).

Doves and Owls—Mourning Doves appeared to winter in decreased numbers in eastern Washington, probably because of increased snow cover. Numbers were up in the southern Okanogan, however. Pygmy Owl records were likewise scarce. Short-eared Owls seemed to have become victims of the weather, for decreased numbers of this species were indicated for most localities.

Kingfishers and Woodpeckers—Henry reported very few Belted Kingfishers at the Bison Range and Hand drew a blank for the species at Missoula for only the second time in 25 years of observing there. High on the list of rarities was a *Red-breasted Sapsucker* that appeared at Spokane on Dec. 29, constituting the first record for eastern Washington (LL). Perhaps equally remarkable, except for the date instead of the locality, was the occurrence of a Lewis' Woodpecker in Bozeman, Mont. on Feb. 9, and regularly thereafter. It probably had wintered, for one of the birds had been seen in the same locality the previous Oct. 15 (PDS). The always scarce White-headed Woodpecker was noted four times: at Namarata, B. C., (Mrs. L. Gibbard, *vide* SC); in the foothills near Haines, Oreg.; in the Little Spokane River area near Spokane (Spokane Bird Club), and a Long Lake west of Spokane (LL).

Larks and Jays—The snow cover appeared to drive another species, the Horned Lark, from western Montana. The birds were not observed between Nov.

29 and Feb. 10 at Missoula and "a very few" were noted at the Bison Range. However, numbers up to 2000 were seen in the Columbia Basin area of central Washington (*S.B.C.*). Steller's Jay was especially noticeable in Bozeman, where groups of 3-8 were seen regularly (*PDS*). Fifteen Pi on Jays at Ennis, Mont. (Christmas count) were a noteworthy occurrence. Clark's Nutcracker seemed to be decidedly scarce in eastern Washington, with only three observations reported. Numbers seemed to be down somewhat at the Bison Range also.

Bushtits, Nuthatches, Creepers—A few *Common Bushtits* were seen with chickadees in the foothills near Baker, Oreg., well north of their generally accepted range. Reversing the season's distributional trend, Red-breasted Nuthatches were decidedly scarce in eastern Washington, went unmentioned in Ann Ward's report from Baker and Hand's Missoula report, but were present in usual numbers at the Bison Range and were noted throughout the period at Bozeman. They were noted commonly in southern British Columbia. Brown Creepers appeared to be rather uniformly scarce throughout the Region.

Dippers, Mimic Thrushes and Thrushes—Two or 3 Dippers wintered as usual along Rattlesnake Creek in Greenough Park at Missoula even though for a time the creek was almost entirely frozen over. Another *Mockingbird* record for eastern Washington was obtained when Ralph Moldenhauer caught and banded one at Pullman (*The Pullman Herald*, Feb. 22, 1962). Robins wintered in unexpected patterns, varying from complete absence at Bozeman through "very scarce" at Baker, Oreg. to "more than usual" in southern British Columbia, "common" at Missoula and "large numbers" at Spokane. At the Bison Range Henry reported "one of the most spectacular waves of robins I have ever seen on Feb. 4. The country literally swarmed with them. We often had 30 to 40 just on our lawn." This was during an unseasonably mild spell which perhaps triggered a northward movement several weeks ahead of the usual time. Varied Thrushes wintered in the Spokane area in decidedly larger numbers than previous years. Pullman, Wash. was the only other locality reporting the species.

Kinglets and Waxwings—Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported only from eastern Washington and Oregon and in very small numbers. None were noted at Baker after December. The only other area reporting them was southern British Columbia. Bohemian Waxwings were noted at every reporting locality, with numbers quite high, and at Spokane gave an all-time high on the Christmas count-15,000. A few Cedar Waxwings were noted at Spokane and Pullman, mostly

in December, but 3 were noted feeding with Robins on Jan. 14 at Missoula.

Meadowlarks and Blackbirds—In spite of the snow cover in western Montana, a few Western Meadowlarks wintered at the Bison Range, Missoula and Spokane with larger numbers in the Columbia Basin and the southern Okanogan. Red-winged Blackbirds stayed at least to Dec. 20 at Ennis Lake in Montana and some wintered in the southern Okanogan, at the Bison Range and around Spokane. A male Brewer's Blackbird at Cheney, Wash. on Dec. 27 was unusual (*WH* & *LL*).

Finches—All reporters agreed that Evening Grosbeaks were common or abundant during the winter. One flock at Spokane was estimated to contain 1000 birds (*S.B.C.*)! A noteworthy record, both for locality and date, was a pair of Cassin's Finches, carefully identified, at *Bozeman* on Dec. 30 (*PDS*). Spokane had a single report for the species, in February. The Pine Grosbeak did not repeat its last year's "invasion" in the western part of the Region, but put in a conspicuous appearance in Bozeman all winter. The 114 seen on the Banff National Park, Alta. Christmas count also help to indicate where the species was concentrated. One might reasonably have expected the hard winter to bring in many Common Redpolls, but not a single record was obtained in eastern Washington, and in western Montana they were scarce. Christmas counts at Banff and at Helena, Mont. did somewhat better. Red Crossbills continued scarce or absent in most localities. The White-winged, rarely encountered, appeared on the Banff Christmas count.

Sparrows—Five Rufous-sided Towhees, unusual at Spokane in winter, were seen on the Christmas count and 1 was noted on the Cheney count and on the

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count at Wenatchee. Oregon Juncos seemed to winter in about the usual numbers despite the snow cover. At Missoula, however, they took advantage of bare ground around houses and were scarce in their usual habitat on the outskirts of town. A sprinkling of Slate-colored Juncos appeared in eastern Washington and a few were noted at Missoula (*RLH*, *K. D. Swan*, *fide RLH*). A *Harris' Sparrow*, decidedly rare in eastern Washington, was observed between Dec. 31 and Jan. 7 at Spokane (*JA*, *S.B.C.*) and 1 was found at Wawawai, Whitman Co. (*LL*). A few wintering White-crowned Sparrows were noted in eastern Washington: 1 at Ruth Ownbey's back porch in Pullman, eating bread during the late January cold spell; 5 near Meadow Lake near Spokane on March 24 (*S.B.C.*) and a few at Adrian, Grant Co. on Feb. 11 (*WH*). A few wintered in southern British Columbia. Two Fox Sparrows at Spokane in late December (*S.B.C.*) and 1 at Wenatchee,

Wash. (Christmas count) may have wintered. A Lapland Longspur at Missoula on Feb. 22 was perhaps an unusually early migrant. Snow Buntings were observed during the early part of the winter at the Bison Range and Missoula and to Jan. 20 in Lincoln County, Wash. where flocks of 500 and 250 were seen (WH & LL).

The Winter Season, 1961-62

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.

/ Dr. Oliver K. Scott

The most salient observation from this varied region of different climates and altitudes is that the drought is broken, even if temporarily. We had a long, hard, snowy winter—second only to the great blizzard of 1949. Ruby Lakes, Nev. had 26 per cent more snow than usual in the mountains of its watershed. Bear River Refuge, north of the Great Salt Lake, expects enough water to supply the whole refuge. Durango, Colo. reports double last year's snow pack in the San Juan Mountains, and so it goes. Therefore, the great federal refuges of the Great Basin expect to be back in business again, and there will be abundant water in the Central Rockies as well. The Monte Vista Refuge is adding another 320 acres in the San Luis valley of southern Colorado. There is enough water to do the job.

Swans—Thirty-eight Trumpeter Swans wintered beside the highway on Flat Creek in Jackson Hole, Wyo. in the Nat'l Elk Refuge (RLM). This Jackson Hole group, in spite of poor breeding seasons, as last year, has steadily increased and before long most of the suitable nesting sites, such as relatively small permanent ponds, will be in use. These ponds are mostly in Grand Teton Nat'l Park and the surrounding national forest. Clair Aldous reported 23 Trumpeters wintered at Ruby Lakes, eastern Nevada. Whistling Swans normally spend the winter in the Klamath Basin, but this year, with the cold and deep snow cover, they were fed by army helicopters in late January. Over 3 tons of feed were dumped to 1100 swans and 2000 geese. The swan peak at Klamath (Tule Lake) came on March 11 with 4020 birds (EO'N).

Ducks and Geese—The abundant moisture flooded the whole Bear River Bay at Bear River Marshes. Consequently, the spring migration of ducks in February and March was spread out, but there were fewer birds than last year in almost every species, except Am. Widgeon, Ruddy Duck and Canada Goose. This is probably a result of last year's poor breeding season. The highest number of a given species was:

Pintail, 51,450; Am. Widgeon, 19,000; Canvasback, 12,850; Green-winged Teal, 12,250 (usually second most common—last year 43,100) (RD'). Most of the Central Rockies were still frozen up at the end of this period because of the tough winter. Owing to the increased number of geese and lack of water and food on contiguous areas, the number of waterfowl on the great Klamath Basin refuges was 71 per cent higher than in 1960 (EO'N). The high in ducks was 275,060 on Dec. 2. Duck totals at Bear River were: Pintail, 123,200; Am. Widgeon, 40,400; Shoveler, 38,700; Ruddy Duck, 19,800; Mallard, 6790; Bufflehead, 5580, with lesser numbers of other ducks. The spring peak for geese was March 11 with: 280,400 Snow, 30,000 White-fronted, and 5590 Canada. Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho, this year, unlike last, froze completely. The high count of ducks the first week in December was 366,000. As always, these were mostly Mallards, but this peak is about half of last year's (GC). At Monte Vista, Colo. the peak in ducks was early in December as usual, but there were not as many as the year before. Mallards peaked at 46,698, representing the bulk of the ducks. The Pintail was the next most common with 4800 (CRB). Therefore, ducks are much reduced in this area but geese have increased or are holding their own. Few rarities were reported. Mrs. Lambertsen had a Hooded Merganser at Saratoga Lake, Wyo. in February. Three Wood Ducks wintered at Monte Vista (CRB).

Eagles—The greatest excitement this winter was provided by the Bald Eagle survey. This bird lends itself to counting since it is strictly confined to open water, a limited commodity in this Region in winter. Therefore, the Bald Eagles are concentrated, unlike the Golden Eagles, which are scattered. The count has shown many more Bald Eagles than was thought possible. There were 56 along the Colorado River from Dotzero at the headwaters down 200 miles

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(Mrs. LE). Bear River Marshes had a good wintering population with a high of 43 on March 13 (RDJ). There were 37 on the 3 great refuges of the Klamath Basin: Tule Lake, Lower Klamath and Upper Klamath, Jan. 21 (EO'N). There were at least 14 on a 75-mile stretch of the North Platte River in eastern Wyoming (OKS); 9 on the Snake River near Nampa, Idaho, Jan. 13 (Mrs. HES); 9 wintered at the Monte Vista Refuge, southern Colorado (CRB); 4 on the Animas River near Durango (OR); 3 at Parowan, Utah (SM), and other scattered birds. If all the open water in this Region were covered, this area would turn out to be a major wintering ground of the Bald Eagle, since many of the streams are fast moving and remain open in spite of very cold weather. All major rivers of this Region appear to winter Bald

Eagles. Only a small part of the area has been covered so far.

Hawks—There was a concentration of 73 Rough-legs at Tule Lake and Lower Klamath on Jan. 21 (EO'N). No other great concentrations were reported. Three Peregrine Falcons wintered at Monte Vista, Colo. (CRB), and 2 at Bear River Marshes (RDJ). This shows that this bird winters in this Region in small numbers. Few rare birds were reported this winter, but we have a report of a Harlan's Hawk at Honey Lake, northeastern California, Jan. 26 (ROP & TC, Jr.). This is believed to be the 7th record for California. However, many observers are not familiar with this bird.

Owls—No important numbers were reported but the number and species are available of owls wintering at Monte Vista Refuge (CRB). These were: Horned Owl, 16; Short-eared Owl, 12; Flammulated Owl, 2; Barn Owl, 3; Long-eared Owl, 8.

Waxwings—Bohemians were reported in numbers, as usual. L. M. Baylor estimated 5000 in the environs of Pocatello, Idaho. However, they seemed to go farther south than usual: 35 at Cheyenne, Wyo., Jan. 9 (Mrs. RDH); numbers at Hotchkiss, Colorado mesa country (Mrs. JJC). At Durango, Colo. flocks of up to 150 were seen (OR); also flocks of up to 50 Cedar Waxwings. Bohemians and Cedar Waxwings regularly occur at the same time during the winter at Salt Lake City (JLK).

Grosbeaks—All reporters this winter had Evening Grosbeaks and in more abundant numbers than usual. Sparrows—Two Harris' Sparrows were reported wintering at Grand Junction (Mrs. FSC). Another was seen at Honey Lake, Jan. 26 (TC, Jr.). The bird was reported from there last winter, and perhaps is not as rare at the western edge of the Great Basin as had been believed.

Contributors—(LMB), L. M. Baylor; (CRB), Charles R. Bryant; Mrs. (FSC), Mrs. Frank S. Carman; (TC, Jr.), Theodore Chase, Jr.; (GC), Gene Crawford; Mrs. (JJC), Mrs. J. J. Crews; Mrs. (LE), Mrs. Lucy Ela; Mrs. (RDH), Mrs. Robert D. Hanesworth; (RDJ), Robert D. Johnson; (GLK), G. L. Kashin; (RLM), Robert L. Means; (SM), Stewart Murie; (EO'N), Edward O'Neill; (ROP), R. O. Paxton; (OR), Oppie Reames, (OKS), Oliver K. Scott; Mrs. (HES), Mrs. Hugh E. Shaw.

The Winter Season, 1961-62

**NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION
/ Bob and Elsie Boggs**

Once again the Pacific Northwest experienced a relatively mild winter. A few extremes were noted. Seattle's high temperature of 60° broke the record for Feb. 2. Snowfall in early March was considerably above normal. Ground-feeding birds, notably Skylarks, Killdeers, Robins, blackbirds and towhees, were having difficulty obtaining food when snow covered the ground, but the weather changed before serious losses occurred. Bohemian Waxwings were seen for the first time in several years.

Loons, Grebes, Fulmars—The rare Yellow-billed Loon was seen in Victoria, B. C. on Dec. 19 (RYE, DS) and on Dec. 23 (GAP). Arctic Loons were scarcer than usual, although a flock of 60 was counted

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at Victoria on Dec. 3 (DS, RS) and an estimated 100 were feeding on herring spawn near Comox, B. C. on March 11 (BW). Most grebes were relatively abundant. The high count for Western Grebes was 6000 near Comox, March 11 (BW). A dead, dark phase Fulmar was picked up in Victoria on Dec. 28 (GAP).

Cormorants, Herons—Six Brandt's Cormorants in breeding plumage on the Campbell River on Vancouver Island, March 10, were unusual (BW). A Green Heron wintered in Seattle (VEC).

Waterfowl—Whistling Swans were still present at the end of March. A pair of Trumpeter Swans spent the winter at Somenos Lake, Duncan, B. C. (DS, et al.). Black Brant had arrived at Netarts Bay on the Oregon coast by Dec. 9 (JBC, JO) and were still present in large numbers on March 25 (AJE). The wintering population of Snow Geese at the Skagit River flats numbered 20,000 (DW), and at Sea Island near Vancouver, B. C., 3500. Five Gad-walls were seen on the Oregon State Game Commission ponds north of Medford, Oreg., March 13 (RB). A movement of Green-winged Teal to salt water took place when fresh water froze inland near Blaine, Wash. (LK). A few were seen on salt water near Whidbey Island, March 28 (AJE). A Cinnamon Teal was reported from Medford, Feb. 1 (JH). European Widgeon sightings were as follows: from Comox, March 12 and Feb. 4 (BW); and at Tillamook Bay, Dec. 9 and Feb. 3 (JBC, JO). No Shovelers were seen at Blaine until March 8, but 2 days later they numbered over 60 (LK). Two Redheads were present in Vancouver from March 10 to 26. Ring-necked Ducks were reported by ones and twos only. Over 200 Canvasbacks were counted along the Columbia River, from Megler to Ilwaco, Wash., March 25 (AJE). Greater Scaup, Corn. Goldeneyes, and Buffleheads were found in usual numbers. A pair of Lesser Scaup wintered at Vancouver where Barrow's Goldeneyes

enjoyed a good season. An unusually high number of Oldsquaws (125) was seen flying north over the ocean near Tillamook Bay, Dec. 9 (*JBC, JO*). Spawning herring in the Comox area brought in thousands of scoters, March 10 and 11 (*DS, BW*). Ruddy Ducks were on the upswing at Vancouver and Blaine. A *male* Hooded Merganser spent the winter at Salt Water State Park, south of Seattle (Mrs. J. I. Colwell); the birds were recorded in numbers up to 10 at Tillamook Bay and vicinity.

Vultures, Hawks—A Turkey Vulture seen flying overhead at Vancouver, March 11 (George M. McKay) was more likely a wintering bird than an early migrant. Several Rough-legged Hawks were seen, but were not nearly so numerous as last winter. Many Bald Eagles seen on Vancouver Island in January were feeding on dead chum salmon along river banks (*DS*); and 1 was seen at Shady Cove, Jackson Co., Oreg., March 6 (Mr. & Mrs. Ted Conway). A dark phase Gyrfalcon was observed at Victoria during December (Charles Guiguet) and on March 3 (*RYE, DS*).

Grouse, Rails, Shorebirds—A Blue Grouse was seen at Coquitlam, B. C., March 31 (*GW*). Two Virginia Rails were seen and another heard near Medford, Oreg., Dec. 17 (*RB*) and one was seen at Victoria, Dec. 26 (Ray Beckett). Black Oystercatchers (6) were seen at Long Beach on Vancouver Island on March 31 (*AJE*). A hungry Killdeer came to a feeding station when snow covered the ground at Blaine on March 6 (*LK*). A flock of 200 Black Turnstones was seen in San de Fuca Harbor on Whidbey Island, Jan. 21 (*DW*); 8 were spotted at Point Roberts, Jan. 28; 55 were seen in Drayton Harbor, Feb. 10; and 26 were seen at Spanish Banks, Feb. 11. At least 2 Spotted Sandpipers remained for the winter at Tillamook Bay (*JBC, JO*) and a single bird was observed at Whatcom Lake on Feb. 18 (*WHH*). Least Sandpipers made a brief appearance at Blaine, Feb. 28 (*LK*); and at the Oregon State Game Commission ponds north of Medford, March 31 (*JH*). Dunlins were reported in about usual numbers. A Long-billed Dowitcher (rare in winter) was seen near Medford, March 31 (*JH*). A pair of Wilson's Phalaropes was observed on Hoover Lakes, north of Medford (Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Tompkins).

Gulls, Doves, Owls—One Glaucous Gull was seen frequently through the winter on the city dump at Vancouver (Frank Oldaker). Ring-billed Gulls were seen at Point Roberts, Jan. 21 (*WHH*). Band-tailed Pigeons enjoyed a good season, even on Vancouver Island, which produced a poor acorn crop. A **Mourning Dove** was seen in Victoria, Dec. 3 (*DS*), and again on March 3 (A. R. Davidson). One was seen north of Seattle, Feb. 16 (*DW*), and 2 were observed at Medford, March 21 (*AJE*). A dead Pygmy Owl was

found in Victoria, Dec. 31 (*DS*). A Long-eared Owl put in an appearance at Vancouver (*DN, GW*). The Short-eared Owl, rarely found on the Oregon coast, was recorded at Tillamook Bay, Feb. 3 (*JBC, JO*). A Saw-whet Owl was noted at Medina, Wash., Jan. 29 (*WMH*).

Woodpeckers, Skylarks—A Lewis' Woodpecker passed through Blaine, Jan. 21 (*LK*). A "small invasion" of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers occurred in the Victoria area. In nearby coastal forests they are permanent residents. A very careful census of the Skylark population at Victoria was made by R. Y. Edwards and David Stirling on March 3-5. The birds were concentrated in flocks wherever food in the form of weed seeds or frozen cabbages was available. The total count was 649, with the largest flocks numbering 213, 138, and 129. Horned Larks (48) were seen with one flock of Skylarks.

Jays, Magpies and Dippers—Steller's Jays were scarce on Vancouver Island. Two Black-billed Magpies wintered near Boundary Bay (*DN, GW*). A Dipper was seen on the Green River, near Black Diamond, Wash., Feb. 11 (*DW*).

Wrens, Mockingbirds and Thrushes—Long-billed Marsh Wrens were discovered at Victoria in December and March (*GAP, DS, RS*), and 2 were counted at Crocker Lake, Clallam Co., Wash. on March 27 (*AJE*). The Mockingbird made news in Oregon. One was seen in Portland on Jan. 12 and again on Feb. 8 (*GPM*); one seen first at Medford on March 7 was still present at the end of the month (Orville Bendure). A 4 Robin caught in a banding trap at Mountlake Terrace on March 3 proved to be a bird banded in the same yard on June 27, 1960 (Zella M. Schultz). It was a banner year for Varied Thrushes, which were present in greater than usual numbers in all low altitude parts of the Region. Hermit Thrushes were seen at Miracle Beach Park, Jan. 9 (*BW*), and in Vancouver, Jan. 21 (*GW*). Western Bluebirds wintered in good numbers at Victoria. Three were seen on Sauviés Island, Jan. 13 (K. C. Batchelder, *et al.*) and 2 were noted at Boundary Bay, Jan. 21 (Betty Wise, *et al.*). During the cold weather the latter half of January at Blaine, Mrs. Kline noticed a female and 2 male Western Bluebirds in her yard, obviously looking for food. She offered mountain blueberries from her freezer, which they refused. On Feb. 22 she found 3 bluebirds dead in a bird box, probably the same birds. A Townsend's Solitaire was regularly seen in a dooryard in Vancouver from Dec. 4 to March 9 (*WHH, Kay Smith*).

Pipits, Waxwings, Shrikes, Starlings—Water Pipits (5) were counted at Boundary Bay, Jan. 21 (*WHH*), and at LaConner, Wash., Feb. 25 (*VEC*). Bohemian Waxwings were first noted in Seattle, Jan. 7 (*VEC*)

where about 50 feasted on hawthorn berries for 2 weeks, and were seen again in Carkeek Park until the end of February (*DW*). They were reported also from Vancouver and Medford (Mrs. Howard Bush). A flock remained at Portland from March 8 to March 19 (*GPM*). A Northern Shrike was seen at Tulalip Harbor, Feb. 12, and another individual was noted the same day at the Skagit River flats (*DW*); 1 was at Saanich, B. C., March 29 (*AJE*). Wintering populations of Starlings appeared to have approximately doubled in both Seattle and Vancouver.

Vireos, Warblers, Meadowlarks, Blackbirds—The uncommon Hutton's Vireo was found at Medina, Dec. 28 (*WMH*) and at Miracle Beach Park, March 17 (*BW*). A few Orange-crowned, Audubon's and Townsend's Warblers wintered throughout the Region. Western Meadowlark's (100±) noted at Blaine, Dec. 28 and March 7, "all seemed to be singing" (*LK*). Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds wintered in some numbers; the largest counts were 300 of the former at Pitt Meadows, B. C., Feb. 4, and 350 of the latter at Sea Island, March 24. Two *Brown-headed Cowbirds* were seen at Boundary Bay, Jan. 21 (*WHH*), and several were reported to have wintered in the Seattle area.

Grosbeaks and Finches—Evening Grosbeaks, in numbers of 1 to 10 were seen commonly in Phoenix, Oreg. during February and March (*RB*) although the species was considered scarce in most areas. Purple Finches were erratic and some places reported them very scarce; they were fairly common in British Columbia. A noticeable movement of House Finches took place in Seattle in March (*DW*); birds were evidently leaving for nesting territories. An Am. Goldfinch was seen at Burnaby, B. C., Jan. 14 (*WHH*); and a flock of 35 were noted in south Seattle, Jan. 21.

Sparrows—A Savannah Sparrow at Victoria, March 29 (*AM*), might have been an early migrant. Slate-colored Juncos wintered in small numbers. The rarity of the Season, the *Harris' Sparrow*, was taken in banding traps: 1 at Vancouver, Jan. 14 (present from early January to end of period and observed by many — Allister Muir); and 1 at Ashland, Jackson Co., Oreg., March 10 (Franklin Sturges). A White-throated Sparrow (rare) visited a bird feeder in Talent, Oreg. in mid-January (Mr. & Mrs. F. J. Daily). Several reports at Victoria were verified by A. R. Davidson. Fox Sparrows were common and widely distributed. A small concentration of Snow Buntings was at Point Roberts, March 18.

Initialed Contributors— (*RB*) Ralph Browning; (*VEC*) Violet E. Cannon; (*JBC*) John B. Crowell, Jr.; (*AJE*) Anthony J. Erskine; (*RYE*) R. Y. Edwards; (*WMH*) Walter M. Hagenstein; (*WHH*) Mr. and Mrs. Werner H. Hesse; (*JH*) Joseph Hicks; (*LK*) Lucile

Kline; (*GPM*) Gerald P. Morsello; (*DN*) Doris Nye; (*JO*) Jim Olson; (*GAP*) G. A. Poynter; (*DS, RS*) David and Ruth Stirling; (*BW*) Betty Westerborg; (*DW*) Dick Witt; (*GW*) Gwen Wright.

Spring Migration, 1962

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN —
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**
/ *Thomas R. Rogers*

April was, generally speaking, a mild, warm month, with precipitation normal or less. Toward the end of the month, however, the weather had a relapse, becoming cool and wet. For example, Spokane's average temperature was only 1.1° F. higher for May than for April! Not until June did conditions become warm again. In spite of abnormal conditions of weather, there appeared not to be any marked overall change in migrational movements, with the usual fluctuations around normal arrival dates. Hand thought that the earlier migrants were affected to some extent but not later ones. The Stanleys, reporting for the Spokane Bird Club, thought that some species, particularly insect eaters were a bit late. All in all, however, no great deviations from normal seemed to have occurred. Ralph L. Hand has continued to report for the Missoula, Mont. area and C. J. Henry and Owen Vivion together reported for the National Bison Range at Moiese and the refuges south of Flathead Lake, Lake Co., Mont. Ann Ward again reported for eastern Oregon; Philip Lehenbauer, for the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash., and Ruth P. Ownbey for Pullman, Wash. Other credits are indicated in the text of the report.

Loons, Grebes, Pelicans and Cormorants—Common Loons showed a peak of 26 on Ninepipe and Pablo Reservoirs, Lake Co., Mont. during late April and early May. The Western Grebe peaked at 200 on May 5 in the same locality. White Pelicans were present in the Bozeman area from April 15 on (*PDS*) and a single bird was noted at Sprague Lake near *Sprague, Wash.* on May 20 (Warren Hall & Lynn LaFave). A single *Double-crested Cormorant* put in a very rare appearance for the latter observers at the same place and date as the pelican.

Waterfowl—At Columbia National Wildlife Refuge migrant waterfowl peaked at 40,500, mostly Mallards and Pintails, during the week of Feb. 25–March 3, about 2 weeks earlier than last year. Whistling Swan numbers appeared to be generally good. Numbers at the Columbia Refuge were double last year's and a peak of 100 was noted at Ninepipe Refuge, Lake Co., Mont. However, the species was scarcer at Baker, Oreg.,

continuing a trend of several years. Seven color-marked swans from Malheur Refuge were noted in western Montana (Owen Vivian) and 1 of the yellow-dyed birds was seen near Cove, Union Co., Oreg. A Red-dyed swan was seen in the Baker area on April 11-12. Canada Goose numbers appeared good in central Washington, with 4000 at St. Andrews on April 7 (Jim Acton) and double the usual numbers at Columbia Refuge. This appeared to be offset by a reduction to about half the normal population at the refuges in Lake County, Mont., thought to be a result of over-harvest during the past hunting season. Four White-fronted Geese were seen at Reardan, Wash. on April 20 (LL), and 3 at Columbia Refuge, April 29—May 5 constituted the first spring record for the refuge. Duck movements were probably normal for most species, although the refuge at Othello noted markedly reduced numbers there, apparently because of the mild conditions during late winter. Redheads were up in the lower Flathead Valley, Lake Co., Mont. and an increase in Pintails at Othello was an exception to the trend there. Two thousand Red-breasted Mergansers at Ennis Lake, Madison Co., Mont. (P. D. Skaar) were probably no more apt to draw comment than the 2 drakes near *Missoula* (Robert S. Hoffman, *fide RLH*) and the single bird at *Sprague Lake, Wash.* (JA)

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Hawks—Very few sightings of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were reported. Two late records of Rough-legged Hawks were singles near Spokane, April 21 (LL), and Edwall, Wash., April 29 (JA). Both Golden and Bald Eagles were down in numbers at Columbia Refuge and the Marsh Hawk seemed unusually scarce at Missoula. A Peregrine Falcon was noted at Ennis Lake in Montana (PDS).

Pheasants, Cranes—Henry reported excellent survival of Ring-necked Pheasants in spite of the severe winter and estimated about 2000 birds on the refuges in the lower Flathead Valley. The earliest record of Sandhill Cranes was of 22 on March 31 in Lincoln County, Wash. (Gary Lancaster) and the highest number was 350 at St. Andrews, Wash. on April 7 (JA) The species was first noted in western Montana on May 13 at Ennis Lake and Belgrade (PDS).

Shorebirds and Gulls—These birds appeared to move through the Region in good numbers, with a generous sprinkling of rarities. Single *Willetts* were identified at Reardan, Wash. (LL) and west of Missoula, Mont. (RSH, *fide RLH*). Believed to be the first record for Washington was a *White-rumped Sandpiper* at Reardan on May 20 (LA and WH & LL). A Dunlin was noted on three different dates in May at Reardan, Wash. (JA, WH) and on May 13 at Lake Helena near

Helena, Mont. (C. V. Davis). About 150 Am. Avocets were counted on Pablo and Ninepipe Reservoirs during April. A few Franklin's and Bonaparte's Gulls again showed up at Reardan and Sprague Lakes in eastern Washington. More remarkable was 1 near *Missoula*, at almost exactly the same location at which one was seen last year during spring migration. Two hundred Franklin's Gulls were at Ninepipe on May 18. The Caspian Tern was first noted on May 14 at Columbia Refuge.

Doves and Owls—Although a few Mourning Doves wintered in eastern Washington, the spring influx was late, with flocks beginning to appear the second week of April (WH & LL). Short-eared Owls appeared not to have made any mass flights, as only a few reports came in, for eastern Washington, around Missoula and in the Bozeman area. A few Burrowing Owls were noted in eastern Washington and on March 23 near Baker, Oreg.

Swifts and Hummingbirds—Vaux's Swift was reported only from Washington and Oregon, with the earliest record, 2 birds at Fan Lake, Pend Oreille Co., Wash., on April 29 (IVH). Large numbers of White-throated Swifts were at Sun Pakes State Park, western Lincoln Co., Wash. on April 7 (JA). A colony of this species, possibly a new colony, was found near Odessa, Wash., the first record of the species in Lincoln County (WH). Black-chinned Hummingbirds were noted only at Spokane and Pullman. The species was, a few years ago, noted regularly at Missoula, but seems to have disappeared from that locality. Rufous Hummingbirds seemed scarce in western Montana, but apparently were in normal numbers elsewhere. Hummingbirds were about on time in spite of cool, rainy weather.

Woodpeckers and Flycatchers—The Lewis' Woodpecker that wintered at Bozeman left sometime between May 6 and 13. A red-breasted individual of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was seen near Wenatchee Lake, Chelan Co., Wash. on May 20 (Zella M. Schultz). Marked contrast was shown in arrival times of Traill's Flycatcher between the western and eastern parts of the Region: Baker, Oreg., April 28; Spokane, May 11; Missoula, June 2 (15-year average is May 31), and Bozeman, June 3. A movement of Least Flycatchers was noted on May 20 at Willow Creek, Gallatin Co., Mont. and large numbers of Dusky or Hammond's were present in the foothills near Bozeman on the 24th (PDS).

Nutcrackers and Nuthatches—Clark's Nutcracker was decidedly scarce. Eastern Washington furnished records of only 2 birds and the species was noted once at Sumpter, Oreg. A pair nested in the Bozeman cemetery (Neil Martin, *fide PDS*). Red-breasted

Nuthatches continued scarce in eastern Washington, but appeared at Baker, Oreg. after being absent all winter.

Wrens, Thrushes and Kinglets—The Canyon Wren was noted for the third consecutive year along the Madison River in Montana (PDS). Mountain Bluebirds continued scarce at Missoula. Hand noted no more than a half dozen birds all spring and none before May 1. A Golden-crowned Kinglet seen on March 31 at Turnbull Refuge near Cheney, Wash. was the first record of the species for the refuge (TR).

Pipits, Waxwings and Warblers—Water Pipits were first noted in eastern Washington on March 29, a very early date (WH & LL). Records of Cedar Waxwings were almost nonexistent. A group of 6 appeared at Baker on May 25 and a flock of 12 came to Vee Nealey's and Connie Smedley's feeding station near Spokane on the 28th. A female *Myrtle Warbler* was collected near Lolo, Missoula Co., Mont. on May 15 (RSH).

Blackbirds—Two male Bobolinks at *Sprague, Wash.* were unusual, since there are few records of the species in eastern Washington (JA). A notable influx of Western Meadowlarks occurred at Bozeman on April 1 (PDS). About 80 Red-winged Blackbirds, about half of them females, were noted at Saltese Marsh near Spokane on Feb. 2, an early date (TR). Large numbers of Brewer's Blackbirds were noted at Bozeman on April 6 (PDS). Brown-headed Cowbirds were very common in the Lake Wenatchee area, May 19-20. The species was apparently absent from this area until about 4 years ago (ZMS).

Finches—Evening Grosbeaks reached a height of abundance at Missoula about June 1 and were still present in numbers on June 5. On the same date the species was still in the valley at Baker, Oreg. A Cassin's Finch with a black bib like that of a House Sparrow was reported at Spokane (VN & CS). Red Crossbills remained scarce except in the 'Bozeman area. Vesper Sparrows were arriving in late March at Baker and Spokane and in late April at Bozeman (PDS). One at Missoula on April 3 was very early for that locality. The first record for the National Bison Range was on April 17. The Grasshopper Sparrow was noted as more common than usual at the latter locality. Six were noted at Four Lakes and several at Sprague, Wash. (LL). Comparative dates

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for arrival of Savannah Sparrows are: Baker, Oreg. and eastern Washington, late March; Missoula, April 18, and Bozeman, May 13 (PDS). A Clay-colored Sparrow

collected at Missoula was the first recorded for Montana west of the Divide (RLH & RSH). Gambel's Sparrows were migrating between April 16 (1 bird near Spokane—TR) and May 23 (Baker, Oreg.). **Mountain White-crowns** were identified at Baker on May 26 and 31 and Hand observed 2 White-crowns that were definitely *not* Gambel's at Missoula on May 24. A generous sprinkling of Golden-crowned Sparrows showed up in eastern Washington (WH & LL, Ruth Ownbey, Spokane Bird Club, ZMS); possibly this correlates with strong southwest winds during the period. Lincoln's Sparrow was first seen at Baker on April 28, the only date when it was noted at Spokane (VN & CS). At Bozeman, the only other locality reporting the species, it appeared on May 30 (PDS). A very few Lapland Longspurs passed through Missoula, where a small movement of these birds appears to have become an established fact. A male Snow Bunting still at Missoula on March 27 appeared to be in breeding plumage.

[No contributors were acknowledged.]

Spring Migration, 1962

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION
/ Dr. Oliver K. Scott

April and May were mostly wet and cold, although a generalization for this Region is difficult. For instance, Malheur in the eastern Oregon sagebrush plains, where the winter snows in the Steens Mountains produce its water, had high winds and dry weather, evaporating much of the snow. Thus the run-off will not be as predicted. Harney Lake at Malheur has finally entirely dried up. Farther east in the Great Basin and Central Rockies the weather has been wet and either broke the moisture records or came close to it. Most correspondents report the weather as just plain miserable since much of the moisture is in the form of wet snow. Durango, as usual, is an exception, its weather being tied more to the Southwest, a much drier area (OR). In general, the perching birds have been slower to appear this year and perhaps there were fewer of them (LMB). The effects of the moisture will be most beneficial to the great refuges of the Great Basin and their waterfowl populations. They wax fair ecstatic about the flow of the Bear River, responsible for the great Bear River Marshes Refuge at the north end of the Great Salt Lake. It is flowing as it did before the country was so heavily overgrazed. In fact, some Canada Goose nests were flooded out, giving fewer broods than last year-415 instead of 440 (RDJ). No correspondent reported any waves of migrants. In the northern Central Rockies of Wyoming there was no

cold front of any significance during the critical period of the last 2 weeks of April and the first 3 weeks of May. A wave of migrants, to be noticed, requires a cold front to bring the birds down and stop them.

Hérons—A Little Blue Heron was seen at Lower Klamath Lake in south-central Oregon on May 31 (Mr. & Mrs. Kimball). This is the first record for this area.

Swans—With excellent water conditions in eastern Nevada and elsewhere, the Trumpeters have been moving about. Three pairs were seen on the upper Humboldt River and there were fewer than that on Ruby Lakes Refuge (Clair Aldous).

Geese—Gene Crawford reported 51 nests of the Canada Goose at the Snake River Refuge in western Idaho—the same as last year. This refuge is administered with Deer Flat Refuge and is to be extended to protect the geese nesting grounds on islands in the river.

Hawks—Dennis Carter had a Black Hawk on the Virginia River south of Springdale near Zion Park, Utah, May 7. This is the first record for Utah. He saw this bird repeatedly and by May 24 there were a pair; perhaps a breeding record for Utah!

Cranes—There were 500 Sandhills at Grand Junction the second week of April—more than anyone can remember (EBC).

Shorebirds—A Stilt Sandpiper was seen for 6 days in early May (DE) at Klamath Marsh. This is the first occurrence reported from that area. Seven Am. Golden Plover were seen at Cheyenne on May 19 (Mrs. RDH), a rare spring record.

Owls—The number of Horned Owls in the area of Malheur is increasing and so is the rodent population. For the second year a man-made Horned Owl's nest was occupied at refuge headquarters. On May 31, Kridler mist-netted a Flammulated Owl at Malheur, a rare bird in Oregon. At Monte Vista Refuge in southern Colorado it is common; C. R. Bryant reported a maximum of 6 during this period.

Swallows—On May 13 the Utah Audubon Society saw 11 male and 3 female Purple Martins at Utah Lake, in central Utah. This is a large number for a rare bird (GLK).

Starlings—The Starling steadily increases everywhere. Stewart Murie at Parowan, southeastern Utah, had them breeding for the first time.

Warblers—Virginia's Warblers, although common enough in the Colorado Rockies, is virtually unknown to the north in Wyoming, but Mrs. Lambertsen had one on May 12 at Rawlins and there was one in Cheyenne, May 28 (Mrs. RDH). The Bay-breasted Warbler, thought to be casual in Wyoming, was

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seen by the Wiards in Cheyenne on May 19. There was a Chestnut-sided Warbler in Casper's Audubon Park for 10 days, starting on May 12 (Mrs. LCR & OKS). This bird is thought to be casual in Wyoming, but this may represent only local ignorance, for the species may be far more common. (For so few observers covering so large a territory it is remarkable how much is known.) Mrs. Rognstad at the same place, had a Worm-eating starting on May 11 and remaining for a week, for the first state record and probably the second record for the Rocky Mountain Region.

Oriole—A Scott's Oriole was seen in Salt Lake City on April 30 (BW)—very far north for this bird.

Grosbeaks—There was a Cardinal at Cheyenne, May 19 (Mrs. RDH); there are few records for Wyoming. On May 13 there was a Blue Grosbeak at Torrington in eastern Wyoming (RCR) —a rare bird in the Region. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported from west of Casper, May 7 (OKS), and in eastern Wyoming at the junction of the Chugwater and Laramie Rivers, May 18 (OKS & RCR). Another was seen at Grand Junction, May 27-28 (LG), a new species for that area of western Colorado.

Contributors—(OR), Oppie Reames; (LMB), L. M. Baylor; (RDJ), Robert D. Johnson; (DE), Dick Evans; Mrs. (RDH), Mrs. Robert D. Hanesworth; (GLK), Gleb L. Kashin; Mrs. (LCR), Mrs. Louis C. Rognstad; (OKS), Oliver K. Scott; (BW), Bert Webb; (RCR), Richard C. Reitz; (LG), Lorna Gustafson; (EBC), Edith B. Carman.

Spring Migration, 1962

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / Bob and Elsie Boggs

The season was cool and late with several periods of gale force winds reaching up to 75 miles per hour. For the most part the migration was a steady and uneventful flow.

Loons, Grebes, Herons—Arctic Loons were scarce at Victoria, B. C., with only small flocks seen in late May. A large flock of 76 Red-necked Grebes was observed at Nanaimo on Vancouver Island, April 3 (AJE). Western

Grebes (1000±) remained at Drayton Harbour, near Blaine, Wash. until May 12, and 2 seen on the ocean at Three Arch Rocks in Oregon on June 3 were extremely late (*JBC, HJ*). The only Green Herons reported were from Pitt Meadows, B. C.

Geese and Ducks—Only a few Whistling Swans were seen. Thousands of Canada Geese passed over Victoria, April 30 (Mrs. Bousfield), the last date the birds were noted in the Region, although 40 Canada Geese (*minima*) were seen at Miracle Beach on Vancouver Island, May 12 (*BW*). Black Brant

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remained until April 21, when 50 were seen at Seattle (*BB, EB*) and 2500 on Willapa Bay (*O.A.S.*). White-fronted Geese were found at Pitt Meadows, April 22; Point Roberts, April 29; and at Victoria, May 5 (*DS, RS*). Snow Geese were seen at Sea Island, near Vancouver, B. C., March 24; at Drayton Harbour, April 3; at Point Roberts, April 15; and at Victoria, May 9 (*TB*). Two Gadwalls were noted at Burnaby, B. C., May 13 (*GW*). Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal were slightly above last year's count. A pair of European Widgeon was seen at Victoria, April 21 (*GAP*). Wood Ducks appeared at Squamish, B. C., April 14 (*AJE*); and at Comox Lake on Vancouver Island, April 26 (*DG*). A pair of Redheads remained in Vancouver until May 9. Nine Ring-necked Ducks were counted on Wolf Lake on Vancouver Island, April 1 (*DG, BW*), and migrating birds were seen at Agassiz, B. C., April 8 and 15 (*AJE*). They were last seen at Vancouver, May 9. About 25 scaup were noted on Tillamook Bay, June 3 (*JBC, HJ*). A pair of Buffleheads appeared at Harrison Hot Springs, B. C., May 29 (*GM*). Six Oldsquaws were counted at Willapa Bay, April 21 (*JBC, JO*). Harlequin Ducks Winter regularly on the Oregon coast; some late individuals were seen at Harris Beach and S. H. Boardman State Parks, May 14 and May 20 (*RB*). Extremely late were 8 seen at Tillamook Bay, June 3 (*JBC, HJ*). A flock of 100 Ruddy Ducks in Drayton Harbour, April 5, was "a large flock" compared to any A. J. Erskine had ever seen in that area. Red-breasted Mergansers (125) were present at Vancouver, May 4 (Doris Nye).

Eagles and Ospreys—An immature Golden Eagle was observed diving at Mallards on a small pond northeast of Comox (*AJE*). An adult bird was seen at 1900 ft. altitude near Black Creek, also on Vancouver Island (*DG, BW, et al.*). British Columbia furnished one more record: a single individual at Vancouver, April 21. Single Bald Eagles were noted at Sauvies Island, April 7 (*JBC, JO*), and at Willapa Bay, April 21 (*O.A.S.*), but 8 were seen in British Columbia on May 26 (*DS, RS*).

The earliest arrival date reported for the Osprey was April 8 at Victoria (*TB*) and Comox (*DG*).

Mountain Quail—"Several trips into Mountain Quail habitat yielded only one calling male. Residents in the area reported this species scarce" (*RS, DS*).

Cranes and Rails—Sandhill Crane's records were notable; 2, Pitt Meadows, April 1 and 20; 1, north of Medford, Oreg., April 5 (Walt Cavanough); 12, Sauvies Island, April 7 (*JBC, JO*); 2, Sidney, B. C., May 9 (*DS, RS*); and 3, Black Creek, May 27 (*DG*). The Sora arrived in the Black Creek area on May 4 (*DG*).

Shorebirds—The shorebird migration was about as usual. Semipalmated Plovers had arrived at Long Beach, Wash. by April 21 (*JBC, O.A.S.*). Am. Golden Plovers, Black-bellied Plovers, Ruddy Turnstones, Wandering Tattlers and Pectoral Sandpipers were reported from Victoria (*ARD, et al.*). Black-bellied Plovers were seen at Point Roberts, April 15; and at Willapa Bay, April 21. An unusual sight record was a **Long-billed Curlew** at Agassiz, B. C., on May 27 (*GM*). A high count of Whimbrels was, 78 at Copalis, Wash., May 20 (Paul Newcomb). A late date for the species is June 3 at Cape Meares along the Oregon coast (*JBC, HJ*). A late Wandering Tattler was seen early on the morning of May 20 at Harris Beach State Park, Oreg. (*RB*). A Willet (rare) was photographed in the Hoover Lakes area, north of Medford, May 21 (*JH*). A Knot (uncommon) was identified on Sea Island, May 19 (*GW*). Dunlins were seen for the first time in several years near Medford (*JH*). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was carefully identified at Drayton Harbour, April 7 (*DD, WHH*). **Wilson's Phalaropes** at Victoria (*ARD*) and Comox (*DS, RS, BW, et al.*) were the first records for Vancouver Island for many years. Two were seen on Sea Island (*GW, et al.*). On April 27, a cold day with snow and high winds, a female Northern Phalarope was sheltering at Victoria (*DS, RS*).

Jaegers, Gulls, Terns, Alcids—A Parasitic Jaeger was at Victoria, May 9 (*GAP*). Ten Glaucous Gulls were identified at Long Beach, Wash., April 21 (Harriet Randolph, *et al.*), and 2 at Garibaldi, Oreg., June 3 (*JBC, HD*). Two Glaucous-winged Gulls were seen on Nicomen Slough, near Diroske, well above the head of tide on the Fraser River, April 8 (*AJE*). Mew Gulls were noted on the late date of June 3 at Tillamook Bay (*JBC, HJ*). Thousands of Bonaparte's Gulls in breeding plumage were seen on the ferry from Seattle to Victoria, May 4 (*ZMS*); and 3 were photographed in the Hoover Lakes area, May 20 (*JH*). Common Terns (200+) were seen about a mile off Victoria, May 4, and 4 Tufted Puffins were seen off Port Townsend, Wash. on the same day (*ZMS*).

Pigeons, Swifts, Hummingbirds—Band-tailed Pigeons were scattered in very small numbers and were not seen in Portland until April 26 (*GPM*).

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Black Swifts were seen at Medina, Wash., May 19 (*WMH*); no others were reported. Rufous Hummingbird's reached Tillamook Bay, March 10 (*O.A.S.*). The main flight of hummingbirds occurred in late March and early April.

Flycatchers—An interesting record for Western Oregon is the sighting of an *Eastern Kingbird* in the Hoover Lakes area on May 30 (*RB*); unusual also was one found at Fitt Meadows, May 27. A Western Kingbird arrived in the Rogue River Valley on April 21; single individuals were seen at Victoria, May 10 (*DS, RS*); and at Nehalem, Oreg., June 3 (*JBC, HJ*). An *Eastern Phoebe* was seen on the Rogue River, near Medford, May 27 (no details—*JH, fide Alderson*). Traill's Flycatchers arrived at Burnaby Lake in British Columbia on May 13; they were scarce and/or very late in most of the Region. A Hammond's Flycatcher was noted at 2500 ft. altitude at Black Creek, May 20 (*DG, DS*). Three Dusky Flycatchers were found on Bowen Island, northeast of Vancouver, May 28. Western Flycatchers arrived on April 17 at Mountlake Terrace, Wash. (*ZMS*), and Victoria (*DS*). The Olive-sided Flycatcher was first seen in Portland, May 8 (*GPM*); elsewhere it arrived much later.

Swallows, Wrens, Catbirds—The earliest Violet-green Swallow was one at Carkeek Park in Seattle, March 15 (Dick Witt). A Tree Swallow was noted at Medina, Feb. 16 (*WMH*). Barn Swallows were seen looking over a nesting site on Bainbridge Island, April 13 (Mrs. J. I. Colwell, *fide VEC*). *Purple Martins* were seen at Willapa Bay, April 21 (*JBC, O.A.S.*); it is highly unusual to find these birds on the Washington coast. House Wrens arrived in Portland, April 24 (*GPM*). The Catbird arrived at Pitt Meadows, May 27.

Mockingbirds and Thrushes—A Mockingbird noted at Medford during March and April was unusual (Mrs. Orville Bendure). Varied Thrushes were last seen at Seattle, April 17 (*BB, EB*), and at Portland, May 3 (*GPM*). Swainson's Thrushes arrived on time (earliest date, May 10, Seattle, *BB, EB*). For the first time in 7 years there were no Western Bluebirds at the home of Bob Adams, north of Bothell, Wash. (*fide ZMS*). This was only evidence of the disaster caused to this species by the cold spells of last winter and this spring. Joseph Hicks saw none at Medford, and Ralph Browning discovered 7 dead birds in 2 bird boxes east of Medford, April 8.

Kinglets, Vireos, Warblers—A heavy Ruby-crowned Kinglet migration was reported at Miracle Beach Park, April 18 (York Edwards, *et al.*), and one seen at Portland, May 4, was the last for that locality (*GPM*). No Hutton's Vireos were reported. An unprecedented early arrival date for the Solitary Vireo for Jackson County, Oreg., was April 5 at Phoenix (*RB*). An early Red-eyed Vireo was found at Pitt Meadows, May 21. The warbler migration was fairly good. Orange-crowned Warblers began arriving on April 5 and were common by the first of May. The first Nashville Warbler arrived at Medford, April 26 (*JH*). Almost 3 weeks earlier than usual were 2 Yellow Warblers seen on Sauvies Island, April 7 (*JBC, JO*). Myrtle Warblers (30) were found on Barnston Island, near Vancouver, April 28. Audubon's Warblers were scarcer than usual on Vancouver Island. An *Am. Redstart* was seen on the Rogue River near Medford in May (*fide JH*).

Blackbirds, Orioles, Tanagers—A Yellow-headed Blackbird (uncommon) was observed at Pitt Meadows, May 21 (*GW*). Bullock's Orioles were noted in the Rogue River Valley, April 25 (W. Burgoyne, Mrs. Howard Bush), and at Portland, May 21 (*GPM*). Western Tanagers arrived very late at Seattle. A very early arrival date for the Black-headed Grosbeak was April 10 in the Rogue River Valley (Mrs. Leroy Thompkins). Two Lazuli Buntings (rare) were seen at Pitt Meadows, May 27 (*GW*).

Finches and Sparrows—Pine Siskins appeared to be more abundant than in the last few years in both western Washington and Oregon. Savannah Sparrows began to arrive the last of March; 62 were present in one field at Pitt Meadows, April 28. A pair of Vesper Sparrows made news in Vancouver, May 3 (*DD*). A Slate-colored Junco remained in a Seattle yard until March 31 (*BB, EB*). Chipping Sparrows arrived early: Portland, April 12 (*GPM*); Squamish, B. C., April 20 (*AJE*); and Medina, April 24 (*WMH*). Although not noted until April 13 at Miracle Beach Park, White-crowned Sparrows were very numerous after that date (*BW*), and 35 were counted at Point Roberts, April 29. White-crowned Sparrows (*gambelii* race) were seen at Mountlake Terrace, May 1 (*ZMS*), and left Seattle, May 6 (*VEC*). Golden-crowned Sparrows were well distributed in migration, and most of the Fox Sparrows passed through in April. A *White-throated Sparrow* was caught and banded by Dorothy Bradley in North Vancouver on May 14. Lincoln's Sparrows were seen on Sea Island, April 7; at Pitt Meadows, April 27; and Vancouver, April 28; and at Miracle Beach Park, May 4. The spring migration added up to a rather unspectacular season, with few rarities, and more late arrivals than early ones,

Contributors (sectional editors' names in boldface) .— **George Alderson** (northwest Oregon); (*BB, EB*) Bob and Elsie Boggs; (*TB*) T. Briggs; (*RB*) **Ralph Browning** (southwest Oregon); (*VEC*) Violet E. Cannon; (*JBC*) John B. Crowell, Jr.; (*ARD*) A. R. Davidson; (*DD*) Doug Dow; (*AJE*) Anthony J. Erskine; (*DG*) David Guthrie; (*WMMH*) Walter M. Hagenstein; (*WHH*) **Mr. and Mrs. Werner H. Hesse** (British Columbia); (*JH*) Joseph Hicks; William Hughes; (*HJ*) Horace Jeter; (*GM*) George McKay; (*GPM*) Gerald P. Morsello; (*JO*) Jim Olson; (*GAP*) G. A. Poynter; (*ZMS*) Zella M. Schultz; (*DS, RS*) **David and Ruth Stirling** (Vancouver Island); (*BW*) Betty Westerborg; (*GW*) Gwen Wright; (*O.A.S.*) Oregon Audubon Society.

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The Nesting Season, 1962

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
/ **Thomas H. Rogers**

The weather for the Region, seemingly usually unusual, was no exception this past summer. It can be summed up as cool and dry in eastern Washington and at the National Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. and cool and wet in the mountains farther east. Few days saw the thermometer go as high as 90°, although June at Spokane showed a range from 34° to 90°! The abnormal coolness appeared to retard nesting and cut down production of young of a few species, but in general the Region appeared to have a reasonably good nesting season. Growth of vegetation was favored and supposedly there will be ample food supplies. Ralph L. Hand continues to report for the Missoula, Mont. area; C. J. Henry and refuge personnel are responsible for reports from the National Bison Range and for Ninepipe Refuge, Lake Co., Mont. and Philip A. Lehenbauer reported for Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash. Credit for other observations is given in the text of the report.

Pelicans, Herons—White Pelicans were more in the news for the Region than usual: besides their expected occurrence in south central Montana, 13 were noted in Benton County, Wash. (Warren Hall) and 2 spent the summer at Ninepipe Refuge, Lake Co., Mont. (C. J. Henry). The population of Great Blue Herons was up at Columbia Wildlife Refuge, although no nesting colony was present. Black-crowned Night Herons were reported only from the latter refuge, where the birds were common visitors.

Waterfowl—Trumpeter Swans were observed at Ennis Lake in Montana. Canada Goose production dropped

at Ninepipe Refuge (*CJH*), but the small, semi-domesticated flock at the Bison Range showed a sharp increase, with 7 broods containing an estimated

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30 goslings. The early nesting success of ducks, particularly Mallards, at Columbia Refuge appeared to be hampered by the cool, wet weather but the late hatch was excellent. Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal apparently nested in about a 3:1 ratio at the refuge and probably did as well or better than last year. These species together were the second most common nesters there and the Blue-winged continued common in the Missoula area. A Hooded Merganser's deserted nest, containing 4 eggs, was found at the Bison Range (Bob Schneider, *vide CJH*).

Hawks and Eagles—The Red-tailed Hawk showed an increased summer population and excellent nesting success at Columbia Refuge. The Golden Eagle continued to decrease at the Bison Range. No active nests and only 2 young on the wing were noted. The species was reported elsewhere only from the Bozeman area (*PDS*).

Pheasants and Partridges—Unfavorable weather interfered with early nesting of Ring-necked Pheasants at Columbia Refuge, despite a large breeding population. A possible decrease was reported from the Bison Range, but Chukars there appeared to have made a good recovery from losses during the severe winter preceding. Production of Chukars at Columbia Refuge was considered only fair. Hand reported some remarkable behavior of a pair of Gray Partridges that supposedly had young nearby. One bird put on a "crippled bird" performance and, when this did not succeed, the other bird, hitherto hidden in the grass, sprang 2 or 3 feet into the air, turned a somersault and landed on its feet. This antic was repeated 3 or 4 times in rapid succession.

Cranes and Shorebirds—Two small Sandhill Crane chicks, perhaps 5 days old, were seen on June 3 at Ennis Lake (*PDS*). The sprinkling of northern-breeding shorebirds was largely routine. There were a few June records: in eastern Washington, Greater Yellowlegs (3) at Reardan, June 23 (*WH*) and the Lesser in late June (*S.B.C.*), while a female Northern Phalarope in breeding plumage at Reardan on June 23-24 was anything but routine (*WH, S.B.C.*). The only report of a June appearance for western Montana was of a Greater Yellowlegs at Missoula on the 26th. Species noted in July, in addition to both yellowlegs, were Solitary Sandpiper (July 8, Missoula), Baird's and Least Sandpipers, Long-billed Dowitcher, Semipalmated and

Western Sandpipers (the latter first on June 30) and Northern Phalarope (perhaps the same bird as in June).

Gulls and Terns—Over 3000 Ring-billed Gulls were noted at Soap Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on June 18 (Jim Acton) and several thousand were seen at nearby Lenore and Alkali Lakes on the same date and in July (Lynn LaFave & WH). A few Bonaparte's Gulls again appeared at Reardan, Wash. (LL & WH) and a single Franklin's was seen there on June 2 (JA). Two Forster's Terns were seen at Nine Mile on the Spokane River downstream from Spokane, where the species is seldom seen (WH). The Caspian Tern was observed upon several occasions in eastern Washington: at Alkali Lake (LL, WH); and O'Sullivan Lake, Grant Co. (JA); in Benton County (WH); at Nine Mile (Stephen & Margaret Stanley, JA) and occasionally at Columbia Refuge, where numbers showed an increase.

Doves, Owls, Goatsuckers, Hummingbirds—Mourning Dove populations appeared to be ample, except at Columbia Refuge, where both nesting population and migrant numbers were down significantly. An adult and 2 grown young of the Barred Owl were observed for several days near Shuswap Lake Park, southern British Columbia. The species is a recent arrival there and is quite scarce (David Stirling). A nesting pair of the Burrowing Owl was observed during the summer near Geiger Field, southwest of Spokane (S.B.C.). A nest of the Short-eared Owl, containing 7 eggs, was found on May 3 at the Bison Range. The first Common Nighthawk of the spring (or summer?) at Bozeman was noted on June 7 (PDS). One of this species was flushed from a nest containing 2 eggs on June 22 near Missoula. At least 6 of the seldom-observed Poorwill were seen near Scotsman Lake, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (WH & LL). Few or no reports of hummingbirds came from western Montana, but numbers seemed to be normal in eastern Washington. The Broad-tailed Hummingbird was noted on two occasions in July at Spokane (Vee Nealey & Connie Smedley).

Woodpeckers—A Yellow-shafted Flicker was seen in the Bridger Mountains north of Bozeman, Aug. 11, for the first time in several years (C. V. Davis). Frequent sightings of the ordinarily scarce Pileated Woodpecker were made at the Bison Range, suggesting an unusually successful nesting season there. At the Range Bob Schneider banded 18 young Lewis' Woodpeckers in 5 nests. A "Red-breasted" Sapsucker was seen on Signal Peak, Yakima Co., Wash. on June 20 (LL). At the same place and date 4 of the seldom-reported Williamson's Sapsuckers were noted (LL). Several sightings were obtained for the Black-backed and the Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers in Stevens and Pend Oreille Counties in Washington (WH, LL).

Flycatchers—As a sequel to earlier reports from this Region of Western Kingbirds nesting by power pole transformers, David Stirling wrote that he has seen a number of the nests so located in the dry interior of British Columbia. From eastern Canada has come a somewhat similar report from Mary Knight, who for four successive years watched a pair of this species raise a brood in a nest on top of such a transformer in southern Quebec. By way of contrast, the species has been noted for 5 or 6 years nesting in eaves troughs of one of the residences at the Bison Range. The Ash-throated Flycatcher, unusual in the intermountain region of Washington, was noted 4 times in June, 3 times in Yakima County and once in Klickitat County (LL).

Swallows and Jays—The cold early summer appeared to retard nesting of Violet-green and Tree Swallows at Spokane and seemed to affect nesting success, as several cases of the former species deserting were reported. Oddly, 2 young Tree Swallows were noted out of the nest near Spokane on the early date of June 25 (TR). A very abundant nesting population of Cliff Swallows at Columbia Refuge appeared to have had excellent nesting success. Clark's Nutcracker was noted only in Pend Oreille County, northeastern Washington and in the Bozeman area. The Common Raven is becoming notably more common near Missoula, apparently because of increased use of nearby fields as dumping grounds for dead cats and dogs!

Chickadees and Nuthatches—The Salmo Pass area in Pend Oreille County, Wash. furnished concentrations of species in these groups, when visited by Acton, Hall and LaFave. Some 75 Mountain Chickadees were counted, plus a few Boreal Chickadees, a dozen Chestnut-backed Chickadees and perhaps 50 Red-breasted Nuthatches on Aug. 4. The same area yielded about 60 of the Chestnut-backed on June 14 (WH & LL). Red-breasted Nuthatches continued scarce in the Spokane area.

Wrens and Thrushes—A number of Bewick's Wrens were observed near Granger and White Swan, Yakima Co., Wash. This is the only colony of the species in the intermountain region of Washington (LL). Western Bluebirds, noted in eastern Washington, were considered scarce and the Mountain Bluebird, also observed in western Montana, was likewise scantily reported. Hand did not see a single bluebird of either species at Missoula after May 31.

Waxwings, Starlings and Warblers—While Cedar Waxwings appeared to be in normal numbers in eastern Washington, they were unusually scarce at Missoula. Starlings appeared to be continuing their winning

streak. They were noted as "abundant, becoming a real pest" and having numerous hatchings in eastern Washington and as overrunning the camp ground at Yakima State Park, Wash. (Bob & Elsie Boggs). A nest of the Nashville Warbler, containing 5 small young, was found on June 12 at the Turn-water Campground, about 10 miles north of Leavenworth, Chelan Co., Wash. (BB & EB). The Northern Waterthrush was found breeding along Harvey Creek and Sullivan Lake, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (WH & LL). On the other hand, the species has not been noted by Ralph Hand (no pun intended) in the Missoula vicinity since 1956. Henry reported the Yellow-breasted Chat as very common at the Bison Range this summer.

Finches and Sparrows—Evening Grosbeaks tarried in the valley at Missoula up to July 23 and then disappeared. The usual pattern is for the species to depart abruptly about mid-June and gradually appear again in late July. The weather conceivably might have been responsible. Cassin's Finch was reported nesting as early as March at Spokane, where numbers appeared to be up (S.B.C.). Numbers of the House Finch, Pine Siskin and Am. Goldfinch apparently were greater there also, but at Missoula the latter two species showed a distinct decrease. Red Crossbills, although scarce, at least were noted occasionally, in eastern Washington, in the Bozeman area (PDS) and in Ravalli County, Mont. (RLH). The only remarkable record for Fringillids was that of an adult male *White-throated Sparrow*, observed within 10 feet at Tumwater Campground, Chelan Co., Wash. on June 13 (BB & EB).

[No contributors were acknowledged.]

The Nesting Season, 1962

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.
/ Dr. Oliver K. Scott

The wet phase that started in the Fall of 1961 continued throughout this period. The only real change has been in the vegetation, owing to overgrazing; this change has been tremendous, from waist-high native grasses and running streams to semiarid sage-brush and dry washes with imported cheat grass. The moisture increase has grown high grass this season and increased the pairs of nesting ducks. Flooding has caused nest losses and many very late broods. Figures on this year's hatch have not yet been received. In southern Utah and particularly southwestern Colorado conditions are drier than usual. The usual summer showers did not materialize. R. G. McCaskie has submitted many new records and distribution extensions from northeastern

California, an area that extends over the Sierra into the Great Basin.

Loons—A Common Loon was seen at Bear River Marshes on July 16 (RDJ)—a most unusual bird at the Refuge this season.

Swans—We have little information except that no young were produced at Ruby Lakes, Nev., according to Donald Lewis, the new refuge manager.

Ducks—The breeding season in the Klamath Basin, Oreg.—Calif. state line, was much delayed by cold, dry weather. There was a 5 per cent drop in total waterfowl production, but the late hatch may add to the total count (EJO'N). Bear River Marshes, Utah, reported double last year's nesting ducks. A sampling showed nesting ducks: Gadwall 34%; Redhead 17%; Cinnamon Teal 15%; Mallard 14%; Pintail 8%; Shoveler 4%. This is an unusual number of Pintails—normally the most common migrant, but almost absent as a breeding bird. There were a few Green-winged Teal nests, unusual for Bear River. Am. Coot continued to be a plague with 75,000 present (RDJ).

Hawks—The members of the Colorado Bird Club have noted a recent plunge in the number of Golden Eagles in the mountain country of Colorado. Harold Holt, the club president, states the breeding pairs were down 50 per cent from last year. The pair of **Black Hawks** seen at Springdale, Utah, this spring summered in the area but no nest was found. These hawks are believed to be the first recorded for the state (DG). Stewart Murie reported a great increase

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in grasshoppers in the non-irrigated land about Parowan, Utah. In addition to many smaller birds, Sparrow Hawks seem more prevalent. Nine were seen on an eighth mile of fence. This bird is a highly successful species throughout the mountain states.

Quail—Mrs. Shaw reported, from Warm Lake in the mountains north of Boise, Idaho, Mountain Quail with 11 chicks, July 29.

Sandhill Crane—Donald Lewis reported 10 pairs of these birds at Ruby Lakes. At Monte Vista Refuge in the San Luis Valley, Colo. they are trying to repopulate with Sandhill Cranes, starting with 14 young birds. The Refuge is continuing to grow under a 7-year program (RCB).

Shorebirds—Mrs. Lambertsen had an Upland Plover near Separation Creek west of Rawlins, Wyo. on Aug.

11. This bird is relatively common in the eastern part of Wyoming but almost unknown in the western.

Swifts—A pair of Chimney Swifts, a casual bird in Wyoming, was seen at Casper on June 2 and there-after (OKS).

Hummingbirds—Mrs. Crews, in Colorado's mesa country, has been feeding Black-chins during the summer. The Rufous and Broad-tails come during the migration season.

Woodpeckers—There were Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers at Cedar Breaks Nat'l Monument, Utah, July 6 (DC). They are common in the heavy forests at the foot of the Teton Mountains, Grand Teton Nat'l Park (OKS). An Acorn Woodpecker was seen at Milford near Honey Lake, Calif., June 19 (RGMcC). The habitat was correct but it was outside of its normal range on the east side of the Sierra.

Warblers—Dennis Carter reported an immature Orange-crowned Warbler being fed in the potato hollow, Zion Park, Utah, June 20—the first breeding record for the Park. R. G. McCaskie collected a female Black-and-white Warbler at Eagleville, Calif., June 30—the first specimen for the state.

Icteridae—Bobolinks are still nesting at the north end of Utah Lake. Many grassy and wet areas are being drained (GK). There were 100 pairs of Tricolored Blackbirds at Honey Lake, June 10—the first report (RGMcC).

Contributors—(RDJ), Robert D. Johnson; (EJO'N), Edward J. O'Neill; (DC), Dennis Carter; (OKS), Dr. Oliver K. Scott; (RGMcC), R. G. McCaskie; (GK), Gleb Kashin; Mrs. H. E. Shaw; Donald Lewis; Mrs. J. J. Crews; Mrs. Walter Lambertsen; (CRB), Charles R. Bryant.

The Nesting Season, 1962

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / Bob and Elsie Boggs

Precipitation was below normal in June and July, but August had over double the average rainfall the first week. It was cool and cloudy until mid-July in the northern part of the Region. Oregon and southwest Washington were warmer and sunnier. The cool late season in the mountains kept many birds at lower elevations. The Douglas-fir forests at lower levels produced a good crop of cones. Passerine birds had a reasonably successful nesting season.

Loons, Fulmars, Cormorants, Herons—Immature Common Loons were observed off Lopez Island July 20 (AC, ZMS). A **Fulmar** seen at Westport, Grays Harbor Co., Wash., June 12 (PN), and 1 at Victoria, B. C., in early July (Guiguet) are both unusual summer records. Double-crested Cormorants were nesting on Mandarte Island, near Sidney, B. C. (WHH). Nests on Colville Island, off the southern tip of Lopez Island in the San Juan archipelago, contained fresh or slightly incubated eggs on July 21 (ZMS). At least 4 pairs of Pelagic Cormorants were nesting at Harris Beach State Park in Oregon, May 20 (Browning); and 150 were seen on or near Mandarte Island, July 1, where they were nesting (WHH). Great Blue Herons were unusually abundant in British Columbia.

Waterfowl—A Whistling Swan was seen at Point Roberts, July 21 (WHH). A White-fronted Goose was observed at Comox, B. C., June 11 (DS, BW). The first Mallard ducklings were seen about April 9 at Reed College, Portland, Oreg., (*vide Alderson*—notice was posted on bulletin board at the college). Two Gadwalls were observed on Sea Island, near Vancouver, B. C., June 7, probably unusually late migrants, as might also have been a Pintail seen there, June 2 (GW). All British Columbia observers reported Blue-winged Teal as much more abundant this season. A brood of 8 Cinnamon Teal was found at Victoria in mid-June (GAP). Common Goldeneyes (4) were seen in Drayton Harbour, near Blaine, Wash., July 14 (WHH). An Oldsquaw summered at Victoria, and 4 were seen at Point Roberts, Aug. 11. It would be the latter, if migrants, were exceptionally early. A Ruddy Duck in juvenile plumage was seen at Blaine, June 3 (LK).

Ospreys and Hawks—An Osprey's nest on Lopez Island contained at least 2 well-feathered young on July 20 (ZMS). A Peregrine Falcon was observed on Sea Island, June 2 (GW). A Pigeon Hawk was seen while the observer was mountain climbing 7 miles north of Snoqualmie Pass, Aug. 11 (PN).

Cranes, Rails, Shorebirds—Three Sandhill Cranes remained near Victoria through June, but none were seen in the Pitt Meadows area, east of Vancouver, B. C. Drainage programs are at least partially blamed for the absence of the cranes. Two nests of the Virginia Rail were located at Victoria (GAP); and an immature was seen near the Oregon State Game Commission ponds north of Medford, Oreg. in June (Cavanough). Soras were found at Point Roberts, July 21 (WHH). Black Oystercatchers were nesting on Mandarte Island (WHH). On Colville Island on July 21 an immature bird was caught and banded by Dr. John Holyoke (*vide AC & ZMS*). A late nesting of a killdeer was reported from Blaine, Wash., where a single egg was being incubated on June 27. Two downy young Spotted

Sandpipers were found at Douglas Lake on Forbidden Plateau on Vancouver Island on July 30 (NH, BW).

Gulls, Terns, Alcids—Nesting Glaucous-winged Gulls had young ranging from an age of about 35 days down to newly hatched on Colville Island, July 21. Some eggs were still being incubated (ZMS). A rare find was a *Caspian Tern* at Miracle Beach Provincial Park on June 11 (Barnes, DS). This species is on the hypothetical list in Munro and Cowan's *A Review of the Bird Fauna of British Columbia*. The likelihood of this bird occurring in British Columbia increases with the finding of a nesting colony on Goose Island in Grays Harbor in July 1958. That date was the first-known nesting in western Washington. Pigeon Guillemots were nesting on Mandarte Island, where a total of 70 birds were seen in the vicinity, July 1 (WHH). On Colville Island on July 21 several nests were found containing newly hatched to almost full-grown young (AC, ZMS). One young Marbled Murrelet, not quite full-grown, was studied off the southern end of Lopez Island, July 21 (ZMS). A Tufted Puffin was seen on Sea Island, July 3 (GW); and 1 was at Victoria, Aug. 2 (Davidson).

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Pigeons and Owls—About 200 Band-tailed Pigeons were seen in a field at Oyster Bay on Vancouver Island, June 1 (BIV). At Seattle on July 13 a Band-tailed Pigeon was building a nest, which later contained a nearly full-grown nestling on Aug. 25 (BB, EB). A Pygmy Owl was seen and heard near Home Lake on Vancouver Island, June 2 (DS); and 2 were heard on Forbidden Plateau, July 30 (NH, BW).

Swifts and Hummingbirds—Vaux's Swifts were seen entering a chimney at Royal Roads College in Victoria, June 2 (TRB). A *Black-chinned Hummingbird* was observed at an altitude of about 4000 feet on the trail from Grouse Mountain to Goat Mountain near Vancouver, B. C., June 24 (GW, et al.). A Rufous Hummingbird was incubating eggs in an alder tree at Tono, Thurston Co., Wash., May 12 (BB, EB); and a nest in a wild honeysuckle vine was under observation at Eld Inlet, near Olympia, Wash., July 7 (CB). A Rufous Hummingbird, flying around 3 miles from any vegetation, was seen on the Emmon's Glacier, Mt. Rainier, July 15 (PN). A Calliope Hummingbird was gathering willow fluff for nesting material while another was feeding small young in a nest in the Chatter Creek Campground in the Wenatchee Nat'l Forest, Chelan Co., Wash., June 27 (BB, EB).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Swallows—Pileated Woodpeckers nested near Shady Cove, Jackson Co., Oreg. (JH). Young Lewis' Woodpeckers were seen

peeping out of the hole on Barnston Island, near Vancouver, B. C., July 15 (WHH). A pair of Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers were observed by their nest at Manning Provincial Park on May 26 (RS, BW). The Eastern Kingbird was seen regularly at Agassiz, B. C. (GM) and on Vancouver Island (uncommon there) in June (DS, BW). At least 2 pairs of Western Kingbirds were present all summer at Agassiz (GM). At Comox one was observed by D. Guthrie and H. McPherson on June 10. Ash-throated Flycatchers nested near Medford, Oreg. (JH). Two nests of the Dusky Flycatcher were found near Beehive Springs Forest Camp in the Wenatchee Nat'l Forest, July 16; both contained young (BB, EB). A scarcity of Western Flycatchers in the Rogue River valley in Oregon was an oddity Joseph Hicks could not explain. At Eld Inlet Western Flycatchers were nesting on May 24, with a second clutch being incubated on July 7 (CB). A pair were feeding young in a nest on a bank above the water at Salt Water State Park, south of Seattle, July 23 (BB, EB). An *Eastern Wood Pewee*, very much out of its normal range, was seen 3 times in the Rogue River valley (JH, et al.). At Blaine all the Violet-green Swallows had fledged by the first week in July (LK). At Eld Inlet a bird was still incubating on July 7 (CB). Tree Swallows had a successful season: 10 pairs nesting in boxes at Blaine (LK), and 5 nests near Medford (JH). At Blaine Barn Swallows were picking up ants on a porch floor and moths off a porch wall to feed their young (LK). On Aug. 6, Purple Martins in bird boxes at Eld Inlet were feeding nestlings, with 2 of the nests containing young about 2 weeks old, and one nest with young about 10 days old (CB).

Nuthatches, Catbirds, Thrushes—Families of White-breasted Nuthatches were present on Roxy Ann, near Medford, June 21 (JH). Catbirds were seen "carrying worms" at Pitt Meadows, July 8. No nest was found (WHH). A Varied Thrush nest with young was found near Victoria (Jim Barnett, et al.). Although no Swainson's Thrushes were seen on a week's camping trip in mid-June around Merlin and Indian Mary Park in Oregon (ZMS), they were seen frequently during the summer at Eugene (GPM), and were numerous and nesting at Dabney State Park in Oregon, June 16 (BB, EB).

Gnatcatchers, Kinglets, Waxwings, Starlings.— A sighting of a family of 6 *Blue-gray Gnatcatchers* on Roxy Ann, June 21, is the best evidence yet that this species now breeds in Oregon (Betty Jo Hicks, JH). Two dead young Golden-crowned Kinglets with almost fully developed tails were found near Mountlake Terrace, Wash., May 6 (ZMS). A Cedar Waxwing nest with young was found near Sumner, Pierce Co., Wash., July 14 (AC). Starlings are extending their breeding range. Young were successfully reared at Des Moines,

King Co., Wash. (*vide EB*); and at Montesano, Grays Harbor Co., Wash. (*CB*). On Lopez Island 2 flocks composed entirely of young birds were seen. Starlings were especially persistent at building in swallow and bluebird boxes at Blaine, even trying to build in boxes with no floors!

Vireos and Warblers—Hutton's Vireos, uncommon in the Region, were feeding a young bird in Miracle Beach Provincial Park, June 11 (*DS, BW*). Very late was the nest of a Solitary Vireo with small young found near Pine Lake in King County, Wash., July 22 (*BB, EB*). A singing **Red-eyed Vireo** was detected in Indian Mary Park on June 16 (*ZMS*). The editors know of no other records for southern Oregon. Townsend's Warblers were feeding nestlings in a Grand Fir along Icicle Creek near the Chatter Creek Campground on June 29, for one of the few recently reported nesting records for this species in Washington state (*BB, EB*). Hermit Warblers were nesting in the mountains on the edge of the Rogue River valley, near Mt. Ashland (Sturgess); and an immature bird was seen at Seal Rock, Benton Co., Oreg., July 26 (*AC*).

Orioles, Grosbeaks, Buntings—Bullock's Orioles were building a nest at Medina, May 20 (Hagenstein); it is a rare summer resident west of the Cascades in Washington. They were plentiful in the Rogue River valley: 4 nests were located near Medford (*JH*), and a pair was finishing a nest in a cottonwood tree at Merlin, June 12 (*ZMS*). A Black-headed Grosbeak was building a nest at Squilchuck State Park, near Wenatchee, Wash., June 23, which contained 1 egg by June 25. On July 14, the nest was abandoned (*BB, EB*). Two territorial *male* Lazuli Buntings were seen north of Vancouver, Wash., June 12. A pair was nesting in shrubbery along the Rogue River in Indian Mary Park (*ZMS*).

Finches and Sparrows—A pair of House Finches, nesting at Miracle Beach Provincial Park, represents the first breeding record, and the second year it has been known to occur, in this locality (*DS, BW*).

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A very young Am. Goldfinch with down still showing through its feathers was seen at a bird bath at Blaine, July 2 (*LK*); a female with an incubating patch was netted, July 20, on Lopez Island, where at least one brood of young was seen out of the nest (*ZMS*). Lesser Goldfinches were nesting at Eugene (*GPM*) and Medford (*JH*). It was probably the abundance of fir cones that produced the "explosion" of Red Crossbills on Vancouver Island, as they were "very numerous" during the summer season (*TRB, BW*). At Eugene they were seen only in June (*GPM*). A single Vesper Sparrow was seen in a garden at Harrison Hot Springs,

B. C., June 27 (*GM*). A Lark Sparrow's nest was found at Medford (*JH*). A first brood of White-crowned Sparrows left the nest in a Seattle yard, May 24; a second brood fledged on June 22. A late brood of 3 young popped out of a nest at Steilacoom, Wash. on Aug. 5 (*BB, EB*). No White-crowned Sparrows were seen in the Grant's Pass area in June (*ZMS*); the species was seen only once at Eugene (*GPM*). At Seattle a Song Sparrow's nest with eggs was abandoned on April 28, the day after a hail and rain storm with winds up to 58 m.p.h. (*BB, EB*). Young birds out of another nest were seen on May 4 (*ZMS*).

Contributors (sectional editors in boldface)—**George Alderson** (northwest Oregon); Ralph Barnes; (*BB, EB*) Bob and Elsie Boggs; (*TRB*) T. R. Briggs; Ralph Browning; (*CB*) Mrs. Carl Bunch; Walt Cavanaugh; (*AC*) Allegra Collister; A. R. Davidson; Charles Guiguet; (*NH*) N. Haas; Walter Hagenstein; (*WHH*) **Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Hesse** (British Columbia); Betty Jo Hicks; (*JH*) **Joseph Hicks** (southwest Oregon); (*LK*) Lucile Kline; (*GM*) George McKay; (*GPM*) Gerald P. Morsello; (*PN*) Paul Newcomb; (*GAP*) G. A. Poynter; (*ZMS*) Zella M. Schultz; (*DS, RS*) **David and Ruth Stirling** (Vancouver Island); F. Sturgess; (*BW*) Betty Westerborg; (*GW*) Gwen Wright.

End 1962

1963

Autumn Migration, 1962

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN —
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**
/ Thomas H. Rogers

The fall period for the entire Region was unusually mild and open. Temperatures



to about the end of September apparently reached no severe lows in the valleys. At Baker, Oreg., the range during the month was from 88° to 28°, and Spokane, Wash. did not record even one frost. Rainy, cloudy or foggy weather was common in October and November, although some notable high temperatures occurred. Spokane dropped barely below freezing in October. Temperatures at Baker ranged from 73° to 21° in October and from 63° to 10° in November. Mild conditions extended into western Montana and southern British Columbia, where, as elsewhere, snow was completely absent in the valleys at the end of the period, the few light snowfalls having quickly melted. A temporary freeze in southern British Columbia was believed to have driven out many waterfowl in mid-October, however. Nearly all the shorebird rarities in eastern Washington appeared during periods when southwest winds were not over 32 m.p.h., but the 100 m.p.h. winds of Oct. 12 on the coast may have brought the Red Phalarope. Clearing weather in mid-October after a week of rain and cloudiness may have induced the Robin exodus at Spokane and Missoula. Many late departures, some exceedingly so, apparently were the direct result of the generally mild conditions. In the Bozeman area, however, Skaar suspected that many of the late dates for landbirds may have been a result of more thorough coverage.

Grebes, Pelicans and Cormorants—A Red-necked Grebe still lingered at Alkali Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on

Nov. 25, as did 2 Horned Grebes (*JA, WH & LL*). The latter species was still in the Kamloops, B. C. area on Nov. 17 (17 birds) and in the Bozeman, Mont. area on the 18th. In the latter area the Eared Grebe was noted on the late date of Dec. 2. Two rare occurrences in central Washington were a *White Pelican* at Stratford, Grant Co. and 5 at O'Sullivan Dam, and 3 *Double-crested Cormorants* at the latter locality (*LL*).

Waterfowl—White-fronted Geese showed up in 4 localities in eastern Washington: Stratford Lake (5) (*JA*), Reardan (1) (*LL*) and Liberty Lake (1) (*GL*). Up to 48 Snow Geese were seen at Stratford Lake, an unusually high number for eastern Washington (*JA*). The species was noted in the Bozeman area on the late date of Dec. 2. At Ninepipe Refuge, Lake Co., Mont. 2 *Ross' Geese* were seen, Dec. 3. One banded bird had a pink stain (dye?) on the breast. The waterfowl movement through the refuge was good, but marked waves were lacking. Although waterfowl were numerous in the Columbia Basin of Washington (e.g., 100,000 on the Potholes Reservoir by mid-October, according to Game Biologist Don Galbreath, *Spokesman-Review*, Oct. 23), general opinion appeared to be that the northern flight was just getting under way by the end of November (Mrs. S. O. Stanley, reporting for Spokane Audubon Society). In the Bozeman area many late occurrences, as late as Dec. 2, were attributed to ice-free conditions at Ennis Lake. Among the rarities were several *Oldsquaw* records: Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. (*JA, WH & LL*) and in the Cariboo of British Columbia. Even more unusual were a *Fulvous Tree Duck* near 100 Mile House, B. C. (Mrs. Lucile Kline) and a *Harlequin Duck* at Soap Lake, Grant Co., Wash. (*WH*). Several occurrences of the *White-winged* and *Surf Scoters* happened in central and eastern Washington suggest that these birds are getting a little less rare as migrants there.

Hawks and Eagles—Highly unusual was a *Harlan's Hawk* carefully identified in Kootenay National Park, B. C. on Oct. 18 (*AJE*). More Golden Eagle records than usual came from eastern and central Washington, but the species still seemed on the down-grade at the National Bison Range. Bald Eagles were reported only from the Cariboo (3 or 4) and at Rock Island, Douglas Co., Wash. (1 on Sept. 7). Both the place and date of the latter record are unusual (*LL*).

Cranes and Shorebirds—Cranes, usually unreported in fall in the Region, were noted at Banks Lake and St. Andrews in Washington (262, *JA*), and near Kamloops and in the Bozeman area. Shorebirds furnished enough red-letter records to fill a report all their own, both with rarities and unusual dates and occasionally with record numbers. *Am. Golden Plovers* (1 or 2) appeared in eastern Washington (*JA, WH, LL*) and the Black-

bellied was noted at Lake Helena near Helena, Mont. (CID), Missoula, Mont. and in eastern Washington (LL). A single **Upland Plover** appeared again at Missoula in the same area where one was noted a year ago. The Spotted Sandpiper furnished late dates of Sept. 30 at Bozeman and Oct. 12 at Spokane (Stanleys). Arrival and departure dates were late for several species: e.g., the Pectoral Sand piper, noted from Aug. 24 to Nov. 2 in eastern Washington and at Missoula 1 was seen on Nov. 23. At Ninepipe Refuge the "peep" sandpipers were scarce and instead Baird's was unusually common, appearing in flocks of 15 to 20. This relative abundance of the species may be related to the remarkable occurrence of a single Baird's at 8500 ft. elevation on the north slope of Gunsight Mountain near Sperry Glacier in *Glacier National Park* on Sept. 3 (REJ). This adds

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another species to the park list. A very late Baird's was noted at Reardan, Wash. on Nov. 17 (SAS). A Dunlin was observed at Reardan on Nov. 10 (JA & WH) and 5 were seen at Stratford, Wash. on the 22nd (JA). A **Short-billed Dowitcher**, the second sight record for Montana, was watched at close range at Harrison Lake west of Bozeman, Aug. 31. Two Stilt Sandpipers, rare enough themselves, were eclipsed by a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**, the second record for eastern Washington (WH & LL). A Marbled Godwit was collected at Lake Helena near *Helena, Mont.* (CJD). Even more remarkable was the **Red Phalarope** at Reardan, Oct. 14, constituting eastern Washington's first record. Possibly the extremely high winds on the coast 2 days earlier account for its appearance inland (JA, WH & Stanleys). Up to 25 Bonaparte's Gulls were noted in eastern Washington, mostly at Soap Lake, Grant Co. (JA, WH, LL, S.A.S.). An immature **Sabine's Gull**, also at Soap Lake, Oct. 6, was the second record for eastern Washington (JA). A Common Tern was noted as far east as Spokane (WH).

Owls and Woodpeckers—A **Flammulated Owl** was noted at Pullman, Wash. on Sept. 11 (RO). A Lewis' Woodpecker appeared at the same site in Bozeman where on wintered last year; it was seen weekly, feeding on acorns. The bird is now known as "Meriwether!" The first record of Williamson's Sap sucker for the Gallatin Valley south of Bozeman was a male at Ouzel Falls.

Flycatchers and Swallows—Eastern Kingbirds were last seen at Spokane on Sept. 3 (LL) and at Bozeman on Sept. 26, both dates considered late. A sight record of a **Tropical Kingbird** was secured near White Swan, Wash. on Oct. 27. The 3 other records of the species for the state are for November (LL). Sept. 15 was a very

late date for the Western Fly catcher at Spokane (LL). Remarkably late were 2 Barn Swallows at Willow Lake, Spokane Co., Wash. on Nov. 17 (SAS).

Nuthatches, Wrens and Thrushes—Red-breasted Nuthatches appeared to have accomplished a definite increase in numbers in the Spokane area. A flock of 15-20 Pygmy Nuthatches, seldom observed in western Montana, was noted near the base of the Mission Mountains east of Kicking Horse Reservoir, Lake Co. Two House Wrens at Reardan, Wash. on Sept. 16 furnished a late record and the species was noted at Lenore Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on Nov. 25 (WH & LL). Robins were scarce in southern interior British Columbia when Erskine observed in the area, Oct. 17—Nov. 18. The birds reached a peak in mid-October in the Spokane area and dwindled rapidly in numbers thereafter. Closely paralleling this were the birds at Bozeman, when large flocks disappeared abruptly between Oct. 16 and 17, and at Missoula, where peak numbers from Oct. 10 to 14 stripped the mountain ash of their berries.

Waxwings—Bohemian Waxwings had not appeared at Baker, Oreg. by Dec. 10 and were almost completely absent in east Washington and at Missoula. However, Bozeman had flocks up to 1000 by mid-November. Flocks of 40-50 Cedar Waxwings were noted at Baker and similar-sized flocks were seen at Missoula. None appeared to be wintering, however.

Vireos and Warblers—A single Solitary Vireo near Reardan, Wash. on Sept. 22 furnished a late record (SAS) and the last one noted by Hand in western Montana was still singing on Sept. 15. The Red-eyed was reported for the fall period only from the Bozeman area, where it was last noted on Sept. 3. *September 30* was a very late date for the Warbling Vireo at Bozeman. A sight record of a **Tennessee Warbler** at Spokane, Sept. 25, was a real rarity for that area (VN & CS). Several warblers produced late records both in eastern Washington and at Bozeman. Most notable was a juvenal MacGillivray's at Spokane on Oct. 3 (LL). A Wilson's there on Oct. 14 was likewise decidedly late (WH & LL).

Blackbirds—A notable concentration of some 400 Western Meadowlarks was noted near Stratford, Wash. on Sept. 8 (LL). Bobolinks, Yellow-headed Blackbirds and Common Grackles left late in the Bozeman area. The latter species paralleled the increase noted during the summer, for flocks up to 400 were noted. Yellow-headed Blackbirds, usually seen into October in eastern Washington, were not noted after Sept. 16 (WH & LL).

Finches—An *Indigo Bunting* was closely observed on Sept. 23 at Three Forks, Mont. Both the place and date are noteworthy. At Missoula Lazuli Buntings were seen in unusual numbers, in flocks up to 25 during August. No large flocks of Evening Grosbeaks have been reported so far. A phenomenal 1500 or more Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were observed near Coulee City, Wash, on Nov. 22. Most of them apparently were Hepburn's but some typical Gray-crowned were seen (JA). Common Redpolls have failed to put in an appearance as yet. Red Crossbills were reported both in eastern Washington and western Montana, but in no great numbers. A single *White-winged Crossbill* turned up at Bozeman on Nov. 13, the first record there since 1958 and an unusual occurrence anywhere in the Region. Five of the birds were seen at Lake Francois, west of Vander-hoof, B. C. (Mrs. LK). This is probably the northern most report for any contributor and species for the Region to-date.

Sparrows—Savannah Sparrows seemed mostly to have left eastern Washington before October, but at Missoula the species was common through September and a few persisted until the late date of Oct. 28. A peak movement of Chipping Sparrows was noted on Sept. 22 in eastern Washington (WH & LL) with the latest date, Oct. 7 (S.A.S.). October 5 was a late date for the species at Missoula. Oregon Juncos had apparently not yet moved down into the valleys to any great extent in some localities. A close-up view of 2 adult *Clay-colored Sparrows* at Missoula seems to indicate a possibility that this species is more than just accidental here. A specimen was collected in the same locality last May. A late date of Nov. 4 for the White-crowned Sparrow was obtained at Bozeman. An adult *White-throated Sparrow* was identified near White Swan, Yakima Co., Wash. (LL). McCown's Longspur was still in the Bozeman area on the late date of Nov. 18, mingling with Lapland Longspurs. The latter species was not

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so common as usual at Missoula, flocks of 15 being the largest. This species appears to be establishing a migrational route through eastern Washington as well, for the birds again appeared at Reardan, up to 8 birds, between Sept. 3 and 26 (WH, LL, S.A.S.). Snow Buntings had already appeared in eastern Washington in fairly large numbers, judging from the 350 seen near Harrington on Nov. 25 (JA, WH & LL). Small groups were noted in southern British Columbia and at Missoula.

Contributors—Jim Acton; C. J. Davis; A. J. Erskine, southern interior British Columbia; Warren Hall; Ralph L. Hand, Missoula and Lake Cos., Mont.; C. J. Henry,

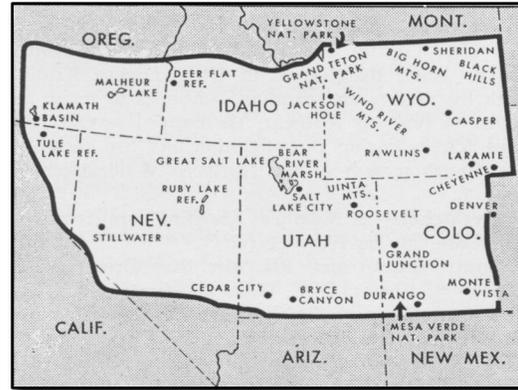
National Bison Range, Moiese, Mont.; Leon D. Hill, Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash.; Richard E. Johnson, Glacier National Park; Mrs. Lucile Kline; Lynn LaFave; Gary Lancaster; Vee Nealey; Ruth Ownbey; P. D. Skaar, Bozeman, Mont. area (Bozeman-Three Forks-Ennis L. triangle); Connie Smedley; Spokane Audubon Society; Mr. & Mrs. S. O. Stanley, and Ann Ward, Baker, Oreg.

Autumn Migration, 1962

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.

/ Dr. Oliver K. Scott

The weather was more unusually irregular this season. The warm summer weather persisted



throughout and gave us one of the warmest falls on record. The western storm of Oct. 10-12 dumped badly needed moisture on the Klamath Basin and Malheur in Oregon, but its effect was not noted in the east. Klamath Basin had 6.01 in. of rain in this period compared with 2.59 last year. The hills around Klamath had 3 ft. of snow on Oct. 10, and 2 in. fell in the basin. Drought conditions were broken and Upper Klamath Lake rose from 1.13 ft. to a normal level. Clear Lake, one of the Klamath Basin Lakes, rose 3 feet (EJO'N). At Malheur the same storm dumped 1 3/4 in., a great deal for that arid basin. Al though the immediate effect is not too evident, the prospects for next year are improved. Malheur and Harney Lakes remain mere remnants of what they normally are. Because of the warm weather, many ducks were still lingering or even had not appeared by the end of this period. There were many late dates for passerine birds. In general, the geese seem to be holding their own over last year, but the ducks are down considerably in numbers.

Loons—A Common Loon was at Kolob Reservoir, north of Zion Park, southern Utah, Sept. 5 (DLC). The loon is unusual in that part of the mountains.

Swans—Shooting of Whistling Swans was permitted for the first time in Utah (1000 licenses) but, owing to the extreme warm weather, the birds did not arrive in time. The peak of 21,300 Whistling Swans at Bear River, northern end of the Great Salt Lake, Nov. 25, was down from last year's 24,000 (*RDJ*). This is by far the greatest concentration of swans in the West. It doesn't seem right that hunting of these great birds should be permitted. At Malheur there were 600 swans, double last year's number, but still way below normal. Thirty-seven were dyed yellow, a total of 181 having been dyed this color since last year. Yellow swans should be reported to Malheur Refuge, Burns, Oreg. More information on the movement of these birds is needed (*EK*). In spite of the recent drought the Trumpeter Swan is doing fairly well. The fall congregation on Flat Creek, National Elk Refuge, Jackson Hole, Wyo. increases year by year. This year there were 56 Trumpeters, including 7 cygnets, beside the highway. The other Trumpeter colonies in this area are slowly growing. At Ruby Lakes, eastern Nevada, where some of the birds are outside of the refuge, there are about 18 individuals (*DEL*). The Malheur colony had at least one cygnet this year (*EK*).

Ducks and Geese—The great Klamath Basin water fowl migration was later than usual with a peak of 1,992,400 ducks the last week of October. (The 1955 high was 5 million.) This roughly coincides with the peak of geese at 771,900 and 600,000 Am. Coot. A breakdown of these figures the first week of November showed: Pintail, 754,800, down 50% from last year; Am. Widgeon, 128,500, up 77%; Shoveler, 65,350, up 6%; Mallard, 49,800, down 25%; Ruddy Duck, 35,500, up 5%; Canvasback, 18,100; Gadwall, 11,350, down 34%; Bufflehead, 7570, down 25%; Redhead, 4500, down 8%. The geese breakdown shows: Cackling Canada Goose, 395,700, up 58% from last year; White-fronted Goose, 265,700, up 25%; Snow Goose, 109,700, down 13%; large Canada Goose, 4970, down 38% (*EJO'N*). At Malheur the Snow Goose migration was 1/3 of last year's, but as the spring migration is by far the greatest, the fall figures do not mean much. There are relatively few other geese at Malheur. There were 76,000 ducks, way below normal, but double last year's estimate (*EK*). Ruby Lakes in eastern Nevada had waterfowl use up 100% over last year, a reflection of the mild weather and open water throughout the period (*DEL*). Actual numbers of birds at Ruby Lakes are much less than at the other great refuges. The Deer Flat Refuge, southwestern Idaho, had 520,000 Mallards at the end of this period (*DEL*); the peak often comes later. Nine thousand geese were using this refuge on Oct. 27, the high for the period (*GHC*). There were 7100 honkers present at Bear River on Oct. 28, the highest number in recent years (*RDJ*). Monte Vista Refuge, southern-central Colorado,

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is growing, but the bird populations do not yet reflect the increase in size. It remains chiefly a Mallard refuge with much smaller numbers of other ducks. By the end of this period 40,000 Mallards were there (*CRB*). At the great Bear River marshes refuge, the peak of ducks was, 367,000 on Oct. 3, instead of last year's 421,000 on Sept. 14. The individual peaks this year were in the usual order, except that the Am. Widgeon has risen to second place, after the Pintail pushing the Green-winged Teal to third place. Figures this year were: Pintail, 193,000; Mallard, 37,000; Gadwall, 27,500; Canvasback, 23,000; Redhead, 15,700; others in lesser order. Again the Am. Coot was common with 79,000 (*RDJ*). On the Soda Lakes the Am. Widgeon was one of the commonest ducks, if not the commonest. However, in this last area the concentrations are only a little over a thousand (*OKS*). At a time when most ducks are decreasing, it looks as if the Am. Widgeon is more than holding its own.

Rarities—Three Black Brant were seen at Flat Creek in Jackson Hole (*EBM*) on Nov. 6. This is the first record for the Elk Refuge and a great rarity in the state. On Nov. 18 a European Widgeon was banded at Deer Flat Refuge in western Idaho (*GC*). A Black Duck was shot on Lower Klamath Lake Refuge in November. On Nov. 20 a Surf Scoter was taken there by a hunter. An *Emperor Goose* was seen on Lower Klamath Refuge, Nov. 22 (*RS*).

Hawks—There are few encouraging notes. No Golden Eagles were seen on the central Wyoming flyway during this period (*OKS*). Elsewhere, few eagles were seen, which was attributed to the warm weather. Harold Holt feels the Golden Eagle is holding its own in Colorado. The scarcity of the Goshawk is alarming, although Stewart Murie had one at Parowan, southern Utah, Sept. 8.

Shorebirds—There were 6 Buff-breasted Sandpipers at the Soda Lakes at Casper, Sept. 2 (*OKS*). This bird may regularly migrate through Wyoming. A *Solitary Sandpiper* was seen at Lower Klamath Lake, where it is rare, Oct. 6 (*Mrs. RB, Mrs. TC*). There was also a *White-rumped Sandpiper* in the same area. This is so rare that perhaps a specimen should have been taken.

Jaegers—A Parasitic Jaeger (compared in size with California Gulls and amount of white in the primaries) was seen on Sept. 2 at the Soda Lakes, Wyo. (a first record for the state—*OKS*). It has long been recorded in the rest of the mountain states. The artificial Soda Lakes are interesting in themselves. The effluent of the Standard Oil of Indiana Refinery (which formerly

polluted the North Platte River), is now pumped into this sump north of the city, where it comes in hot and loaded with industrial wastes. It goes through a series of settling basins and emerges at the bottom of the sump into a large lake where the water is good. Waterfowl and waders abound. The area has been protected by the refinery and the grass is returning on the surrounding range. Large numbers of antelope have returned as have longspurs and other grassland birds. From a noxious pollution problem we have gone to an ornithological paradise, one of the best in Wyoming.

Owls—The only place where the Flammulated Owl can be seen regularly is the Monte Vista Refuge, Colo. Six were present throughout this period and they have been there for several years (CRB).

Cranes—Up to 57 migrant Sandhill Cranes were on the National Elk Refuge in September (JLM). There were 400-500 in the Teton Basin, Idaho on Sept. 21 (RF).

Woodpeckers—There was a Williamson's Sap sucker at Cedar Breaks National Monument, Utah, on Aug. 31 (DLG). This is the first record for the Monument, although the bird occurs all through the mountains of Utah.

Hummingbirds—Mrs. Crews reported a very poor hummer migration in the mesa country of western Colorado. This is confirmed by Oppie Reames in Durango to the south.

Swallows—There were hundreds of Purple Martins at Tule Lake, Aug. 21 (GA). Spraying for mosquitoes for two years in Durango seems to be associated with a drop in the Violet-green Swallow population (OR). Since the mosquito is not the principal food of this swallow, obviously much more than mosquito killing has been done.

Shrike—An immature Northern Shrike was trapped on July 29 at Malheur Refuge (LK). This is the first summer record for Oregon. All those who assume all summer shrikes to be Loggerheads, please take note.

Warblers—There were 2 Magnolia Warblers at Salt Lake City on Oct. 14 (RF & HL). These birds are no better than casual in Utah. Eugene Kridler, with his netting and banding, continues to revise the status of birds at Malheur. He trapped several Red-eyed Vireos during the migration and had the third and fourth records of the Northern Waterthrush on Sept. 5.

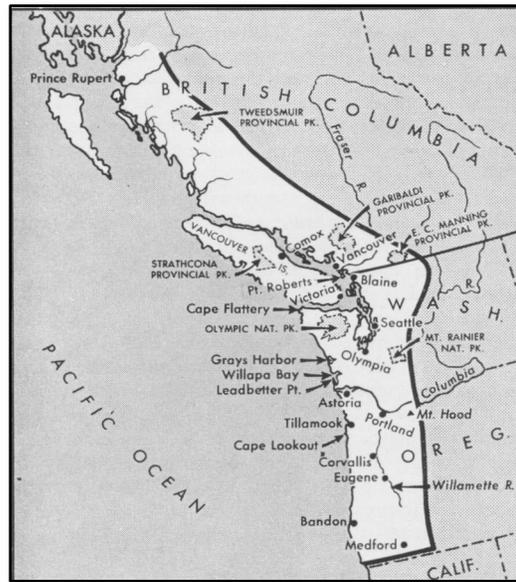
Flycatchers—A Cassin's Kingbird was found at Salt Lake City on Nov. 11 (RH).

Contributors—Mrs. (RB), Mrs. Ray Briggs; (CRB), Charles R. Bryant; (DLC), Dennis L. Carter; Mrs. (TC), Mrs. Ted Conway; (GHC), Gene H. Crawford; (RF), Reed Ferris; (RH), R. Hoehning; (HH), Harold Holt; (RDJ), Robert D. Johnson; (GK), Gleb Kashin; (EK), Eugene Kridler; (HL), Dr. H. Lamb; (DEL), Donald L. Lewis; (EBM), E. Budd Marter; (RLM), Robert L. Means; (EJO'N), Edward J. O'Neill; (LQ), Loraine Quillen; (OR), Oppie Reames; (OKS), Oliver K. Scott; (RS), Richard Stallcup.

Autumn Migration, 1962

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION
/ Bob and Elsie Boggs

Weather-wise the most exciting event of the fall season was the heavy wind storm, the remnants of typhoon Frieda, that swept the Region from south to north mainly on October 12. Unfortunately there were too few observers afield both before and after this date



to detect the true effects of the storm. Above normal temperatures and rainfall produced an excellent supply of "greens" for ducks. On Vancouver Island the Columbus Day storm flattened and flooded a few grain fields in low-lying areas adding to the already bountiful ground feed. Many observers felt the mild weather retarded the return of winter residents. Passerines were scarce; they passed through unnoticed or possibly moved out of the Region along the higher ridges.

Loons and Grebes—Common Loons (23), first seen at Point Roberts on Sept. 9, had doubled in numbers by Sept. 23. Six were seen on the coast of Tillamook County in Oregon on Sept. 29 (O.A.S., JBC). An Arctic Loon was observed at Cape Meares in Oregon, Aug. 22

(*AB*); 1 was present on Aug. 25 at Tillamook Bay where 10 were counted on Sept. 21 (*AB*). The only report of large numbers of Arctic Loons on Vancouver Island was of 150 at Island View Beach, about 9 miles north of Victoria, B. C. on Nov. 12 (*DS*). Red-throated Loons were first noticed at Point Roberts, Sept. 16, and had returned to Tillamook Bay by Sept. 21 (*AB*). No Red-necked Grebes were reported before Sept. 9. A Horned Grebe at Tillamook Bay, Aug. 25, was early (*JBC*). Eared

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Grebes were found on Hoover Lake, near Medford, Oreg., on Oct. 5 (*JH*); at Oyster Bay on Vancouver Island, Nov. 13 (*BW*); and at Tillamook Bay, Nov. 4 (*AB*, *JBC*). Western Grebes were numerous on Vancouver Island: 5000 at Nanoose Bay, north of Nanaimo (*DS*, *RS*), and 4000 at Oyster Bay (*BW*). A single individual was seen at Hoover Lake, Oct. 5 (*JH*).

Shearwaters, Petrels, Pelicans—Sooty Shearwaters were observed off the Oregon Coast from Aug. 22 to Nov. 19 (*EAB*, *AB*). Several were seen at Oak Bay, Victoria, B. C., in late August (*GAP*), and a few hundred were on Willapa Bay in early September (*BB*, *EB*). A Pink-footed Shearwater was identified among the Sooties off Sand Lake, Tillamook Co., Oreg., Nov. 4 (*AB*, *JBC*). Two Fork-tailed Petrels were seen on the Strait of Juan de Fuca between Victoria and Port Angeles. Another was seen off Mitlenatch Island in the Strait of Georgia (*NH*, *BW*). An unusual bird in the Victoria area was a Brown Pelican in flight at Oak Bay, Aug. 17 (*ARD*, *GAP*). This species moved into Oregon in much greater than usual numbers. At Tillamook the first ones (3) were seen, Aug. 31, with a maximum of 60 on Sept. 21, 9 counted on Sept. 29, one only found on Oct. 14, 41 counted, of which 36 were at Netarts Bay, Nov. 3, with 3 still present, Nov. 18 (*AB*, *JBC*, *JO*, *O.A.S.*).

Cormorants, Herons, Bitterns—About 2500 Brandt's Cormorants were estimated to be present on the Chain Islands of Oak Bay, Victoria in September (*ARD*). There were three reports of the Green Heron: an immature bird on Aug. 22 at Tillamook Bay (*AB*), an individual on Aug. 26 flying down a slough that connects to the Fraser River near the Agassiz-Rosedale bridge, near Rosedale, B. C. (*GMM*), and 1 on Oct. 21 in North Vancouver, B. C. (*DN*). An Am. Bittern was noted near Rockaway, Tillamook Co., Oreg., Oct. 14 (*JBC*, *JO*).

Swans and Geese—The appearance of Whistling Swans noted last fall had been approximated. Fewer birds than last year were reported from Blaine (*LK*), Vancouver, B. C. (*WHH*), and Vancouver Island (*AJE*,

DS, *BW*); 25 were seen on Nov. 10 on Sauvies Island, near Portland, Oreg., (*JBC*, *JO*), where they had increased in numbers to 300 by Nov. 22 (*AB*). The south ward flight of Canada Geese occurred between Oct. 3 and Nov. 9. About 2500 were estimated to be present on Sauvies Island, Oct. 21 (*AB*). Black Brant (3) were seen at Tillamook Bay, Aug. 25 (*JBC*); they had not put in an appearance in any large numbers by Nov. 3; 850 were present on Nov. 18 (*AB*). White-fronted Geese were unusually abundant in some localities. At least 32 were at Esquimalt Lagoon near Victoria most of October (*DS*), and 18 were found on Sea Island, near Vancouver, B. C., on Oct. 6 (*KB*, *GW*). An immature bird was noted at Fern Ridge Reservoir, near Eugene, Oreg., Sept. 16 (*JO*); several were seen at Nehalem, Oreg., Sept. 29 and Oct. 14 (*JBC*, *JO*, *O.A.S.*); the peak count was 300 on Sauvies Island, Oct. 10 (*AB*). The first Snow Geese arrived at Lulu Island, near Vancouver, B. C., Oct. 5; about 250 were seen in the Tillamook–Netarts area, Oct. 12 (*AB*).

Ducks—A few of the less common ducks were noted: Gadwall (4) at Burnaby Lake, B. C., Dec. 2 (*WHH*); Blue-winged Teal (150—unusually high count) at Tsawwassen, B. C., Aug. 14 (*WHH*); European Widgeon at Vancouver, B. C., Oct. 30 (*DN*) and Nov. 18 (*DD*), and at Victoria, Nov. 16 (*DS*); Redhead (4) at Tillamook Bay, Nov. 4 (*AB*, *JBC*) and 10 at Vancouver, B. C., Nov. 7 (*AJE*); Hooded Merganser, seen regularly in small numbers off the Oregon Coast and at Vancouver, B. C. (*WHH*). An accidental was the *Spectacled Eider* seen off James Island, near Sidney, B. C., Sept. 25 (C. Guiguet).

Vultures and Hawks—Turkey Vultures were seen flying over the valley at Roseburg, Oreg., Sept. 20 (*JO*); 24 were observed over Victoria, Sept. 23 (*ARD*); they were last seen at Eugene, Oreg., Sept. 29 (*GPM*); a lone bird at Nehalem, Sept. 29, was "out of the ordinary for the coast" (*JBC*). A flight of 25 Swainson's Hawks (uncommon) was seen at Victoria, Oct. 2 (*ARD*). A Rough-legged Hawk was reported from Sauvies Island, Nov. 10 (*JBC*, *JO*); and another one was observed at Netarts, Nov. 18 (*AB*). They were seen regularly at Sea Island from Sept. 22 to Nov. 17 (*WHH*, *GW*). Marsh Hawks (rare on the Oregon coast) were seen at Nehalem and Astoria (*AB*). The last fall record for the Osprey at Point Roberts was Sept. 30; and at Tillamook Bay, Oct. 14 (*JBC*, *JO*). A Peregrine Falcon was observed to take a Dunlin from a wheeling, twisting flock at Tillamook Bay, Nov. 3 (*JBC*, *AB*). A Peregrine was seen flying over the Oyster River on Vancouver Island, Nov. 4 (*BW*); and one was observed at Cape Flattery, Wash., Nov. 17.

Quail, Cranes, Rails—Bobwhite were seen at Hubbard, Oreg., Nov. 19 (*TM*). A California Quail seen

in the dunes at Nehalem Bay, Sept. 29, was out of its habitat (*JBC*). The Sauvies Island population of Sandhill Cranes, with first arrivals on Sept. 23, increased to 400± on Oct. 17, with about 60 still present at the end of November (*AB*). There was a good flight in the Black Creek area of Vancouver Island, where 14 were counted on Northy Lake, Sept. 27 (*BW*). A single Sandhill Crane was seen at Pitt Meadows, Sept. 30 (*KB*). A Virginia Rail was heard at dusk near Rockaway, Oreg., Nov. 3 (*JBC*).

Shorebirds—High counts of Black Oystercatchers at Victoria (52, Nov. 6, *ARD*; 96, Nov. 7, R. Fryer) indicated a good breeding season. The first Snowy Plovers (15) to have been seen for a few years in Tillamook County, Oreg., were found on the ocean beach on Oct. 14 (*JBC*). Surfbirds were noted at Seal Rock, Benton Co., Oreg., July 26, an exceptionally early date (A. Collister). The many reports of Ruddy Turnstones seem to indicate a slight increase. A Spotted Sandpiper was observed at Vancouver, B. C., Nov. 11 (*DD*). A Solitary Sandpiper was noted at Chilliwack, B. C., Aug. 31 (*DN*); 3 were seen together on Sauvies Island, Aug. 29 (*AB*); and 1 was observed at Blaine, Sept. 5 (*LK*). A *Willet* was seen at Tillamook Bay, Sept. 16 (*AB*). Yellow legs, both Greater and Lesser, were especially abundant. A Lesser Yellowlegs was carefully identified on the Rogue River in Oregon on July 1 (*JH*). Knots (rare) were seen at Tillamook Bay, Aug. 22 and 31

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(*AB*); and one at Coos Bay, Sept. 22 (*JO*). A Rock Sandpiper was seen among a flock of Black Turnstones at Point Roberts, Oct. 14 (*WHH*). Reports on Pectoral Sandpipers were conflicting; some observers considered them more abundant, others less so. The records are outstanding for Oregon, where the species is considered a rare fall migrant. One was seen at Sauvies Island, Aug. 29 (*AB*); 6 were counted at the same place, Sept. 14; 35 were seen in a field near Nehalem, Sept. 29 (*JBC*, *AB*); and one was at Sauvies Island for the last date seen, Nov. 10 (*JBC*, *JO*). A Baird's Sandpiper appeared at the edge of the snowfields below the Paradise Glacier ice cave on Mt. Rainier, Aug. 12 (*JBC*). The fall flight of Short-billed Dowitchers at Vancouver, B. C., was a little less than normal (*WHH*). Two Long-billed Dowitchers were seen on the Campbell River on Vancouver Island, Sept. 22 (*DS*, *vide BW*). A single Stilt Sandpiper, for which there are few British Columbia records, appeared at Island View Beach, Sept. 8 (*ARD*). Semipalmated Sandpipers were at Tsawwassen, July 28 (*WHH*). On Aug. 31 an astounding 27 *Marbled Godwits* were seen at Tillamook Bay (*AB*). Late Red Phalaropes were seen at Nehalem, Nov. 23 (*AB*).

Jaegers, Gulls, Alcids—A Parasitic Jaeger at Miracle Beach on Vancouver Island on Aug. 5 was early (*BW*). Others were seen in the Region from Aug. 19 to Oct. 29. On Oct. 14 John Crowell counted "about 500 California Gulls in about an hour, all moving south, at Tillamook Bay. Other species, mostly Western and Glaucous-winged Gulls, were sharing this movement." On Nov. 23 a similar movement was in process farther at sea; both Bonaparte's and Heermann's Gulls, and Black-legged Kittiwakes were identified off Sand Lake (*JBC*, *AB*). An immature Sabine's Gull was approached closely on Sauvies Island, Sept. 23 (*AB*); and one was noted at Victoria, Oct. 13 (Ed Moody). Common Terns appeared at Miracle Beach on Aug. 3 (*NH*). At Victoria Arctic Terns were identified with the abundant Common Terns, Aug. 11 and 14 (*ARD*, *GAP*). High count for the Common Terns was over 500 on Boundary Bay, south of Vancouver, B. C., Aug. 21 (*DN*); and the last ones seen were at Drayton Harbour, near Blaine, Oct. 27. *Caspian Terns* were noted at Tillamook Bay, Aug. 22 (*AB*) and Aug. 25 (*JBC*). At Point Roberts, with only 2 present on Sept. 9, they had increased to 350 on Nov. 11. Marbled Murrelets (140) were seen off Sidney, B. C. on Aug. 25 (*ARD*). Ancient Murrelets were seen at Victoria, Oct. 12 (the day of the storm). After this date they increased in numbers; at least a hundred were seen on Nov. 1. At Point Roberts 200 were observed on Nov. 11.

Pigeons, Doves, Owls—A successful acorn crop resulted in thousands of Band-tailed Pigeons gathering at Victoria in early October before moving south (*DS*). They were feeding on fall webworms infesting the willows at Lake Terrell, near Blaine (Bud Howe, *vide LK*). Late Mourning Doves were noted at Blaine, Nov. 3 (*LK*); and at Black Creek, Vancouver Island, Nov. 13 (*BW*). An interesting observation is of a Burrowing Owl at Boundary Bay in November (*DN*, *GW*), the first record in several years. A Short-eared Owl was noted on Sauvies Island, Nov. 16 (*AB*).

Nighthawks, Swifts, Woodpeckers—The latest date for the Common Nighthawk was also the day of the big wind storm. On Oct. 12 a bird was observed at Eugene, Oreg., battling the wind over the downtown buildings at the height of the storm (*GPM*). The species had been heard at Portland a week earlier (*JO*). Two late Black Swifts were flying over Black Creek, Sept. 27 (*DS*). A Yellow-shafted Flicker was discovered at Campbell River, Nov. 22 (*BW*). A report of a Red-shafted Flicker eating chickfeed at a feeder in the Pittock Bird Sanctuary, Portland was confirmed, Nov. 25 (*GA*). Lewis' Woodpeckers had returned to the Rogue River valley by Sept. 25 (*JH*). A female Williamson's Sapsucker was seen 9 miles south of Chinook, about ½ mile from the eastern boundary of

Mt. Rainier Nat'l Park on Aug. 24 (BB, Dick Witt). A pair of Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers was found in Manning Park, Aug. 5.

Flycatchers, Horned Larks, Swallows—*Empidonaxes* were scarce. An Eastern Kingbird was found at Pitt Meadows, Aug. 28 (DN). The only Traill's and Western Flycatchers reported were seen in September at Seattle (VEC). An exhausted Horned Lark, so weak it made no attempt to fly when people walked within 5 feet of it, was found on the campus of the Univ. of British Columbia, Vancouver, B. C., Sept. 20 (GMM). Although the peak of the swallow migration occurred in September there were a few late dates: Violet-green, Eugene, Oct. 11 (GPM); Tree, Burnaby, B. C., Oct. 20 (AM); Rough-winged, Drayton Harbour, Sept. 6 (KB); Barn, Portland, Nov. 11 (AB); Cliff, Burnaby, Sept. 22 (AM); and Purple Martin, Seattle (VEC) and Eugene, Sept. 14 (GPM).

Jays, Magpies, Chickadees, Mockingbirds—No Steller's Jays were found in Oregon (JH, GPM). A Black-billed Magpie was discovered at Boundary Bay, Oct. 21 (GW). Boreal Chickadees were seen in Manning Park, Aug. 4 and 5 (WHH). At Depoe Bay, Ore., a pair of Mockingbirds, present all summer, was still present at the end of November (EAB).

Thrushes, Kinglets, Shrikes, Vireos—Robins were fairly common in September. They were less frequently seen in November. Varied Thrushes and Hermit Thrushes were scarce. A few Swainson's Thrushes lingered at Seattle until the first week of October (Mrs. J. I. Colwell, *vide* VEC). Western Bluebirds were seen at Pitt Meadows, Oct. 7 (KB). Ruby-crowned Kinglets were found at Point Roberts, Sept. 9. The Northern Shrike was at Point Roberts, Oct. 21; at Black Creek, Oct. 25 (RYE, DS); at Pitt Meadows, Oct. 27; at Astoria, Nov. 11; at Sauvie's Island, Nov. 16 (AB); at Blaine, Nov. 18 (LK); and at Nehalem, Nov. 23 (AB). Solitary Vireos were found at Eugene, Sept. 20 (GPM); and at Seattle, Sept. 26 (VEC).

Warblers—Orange-crowned Warblers foraged in maple trees on the World's Fair grounds at Seattle, Oct. 14 (BB, EB). A Yellow Warbler was found at Seattle, Sept. 21 (VEC). Myrtle Warblers were found in Vancouver, B. C., during October (KB, *et al.*). An uncommon bird for Vancouver Island is the Black-throated Gray Warbler. Three were seen in Victoria in early September (ARD). They were seen from

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Sept. 14 to Oct. 12 at Eugene (11 times, GPM); a single individual was noted at Point Roberts, Sept. 9 (WHH); and 2 were observed at Seattle, Sept. 29 (BB, EB). A

Townsend's Warbler was seen at Drayton Harbour, Sept. 22, and one lingered at Eugene till Nov. 6 (GPM). Perhaps the most unusual find of the fall season was the **Blackpoll Warbler** seen at 2 places. On Sept. 6, 2 were discovered on the campus of the University of British Columbia, where 6 were seen on Sept. 21 (SS). The second locality was Discovery Island near Victoria where 3 were seen on Sept. 15 (KB). A Yellowthroat was noted at the Fern Ridge Reservoir, near Eugene, Sept. 16 (JO). An exceptionally late straggler was a Wilson's Warbler banded at Corvallis on Nov. 2 (Joseph G. Strauch, Jr.).

Blackbirds, Orioles, Tanagers, Grosbeaks—A Yellow-headed Blackbird was noted at Pitt Meadows, Sept. 29 (GW). An immature Bullock's Oriole visited a bird feeder in Medford, Ore., Oct. 29 (JH). Western Tanagers were last seen at Seattle, Sept. 28 (VEC). A Black-headed Grosbeak was seen at Eugene, Sept. 14 (GPM). Evening Grosbeaks were scarce.

Finches and Sparrows—Lesser Goldfinches were present in small numbers all fall at Eugene (GPM). **Lawrence's Goldfinches** were photographed in color in a garden in Talent, Ore. This is the second occurrence of this species in the Rogue River valley (Mrs. Dorothy Tompkins, *vide* JH). Six male White-winged Crossbills identified at Vancouver, B. C., Oct. 19 (SS) are noteworthy. Most migrant Savannah Sparrows passed through in September with peak numbers of 160 on Point Roberts, Sept. 16, and 200 on Sea Island, Sept. 22. Savannah Sparrows on the beaches of Tillamook Bay on Oct. 14 were believed to be storm-displaced, as the observers had never encountered this species there before (JBC, JO). Large flocks of Lark Sparrows and Chipping Sparrows were seen in Jackson, Ore. from Sept. 15 to 30 (JH). A Golden-crowned Sparrow was noted on the Forbidden Plateau, Vancouver Island, Sept. 15 (NH, BW); 12 were seen at Vancouver, B. C., Sept. 18, followed by 2, Oct. 4 and 8, Oct. 14. The species had returned to Point Roberts by Sept. 23, and to the Rogue River valley by Sept. 25. There were 6 records between Oct. 17 and Nov. 9 at Eugene (GPM). Arrival dates at Seattle (VEC), Blaine (LK), and Woodburn, Ore. (TM) were Oct. 18, 24 and 29 respectively. Late arrivals were 6 seen in shrubbery at Garibaldi, Ore., Nov. 3 (AB, JBC). A White-throated Sparrow frequented a feeder at Victoria in late September and early October (*vide* DS). Lincoln's Sparrows were seen from Sept. 15, when one was found at Black Creek (DS, RS) to Oct. 29, when 3 were found at Woodburn, Ore., (TM). One was trapped and banded at Blaine, Sept. 19 (LK), and 2 were noted at Point Roberts, Sept. 23. A **Lapland Longspur** (a male in winter plumage) was carefully studied on Nov. 11 at Astoria, where a Snow Bunting was seen the same

day. Snow Buntings were found at Point Roberts, Nov. 11 (GW).

Contributors (sectional editors' names in bold face)—(GA) **George Alderson** (northwest Oregon); (EAB) Elizabeth A. Baker; (AB) Alan Bald-ridge; (BB, EB) Bob and Elsie Boggs; (KB) K. Boyce; (VEC) Violet E. Cannon; (JBC) John C. Crowell, Jr.; (ARD) A. R. Davidson; (DD) D. Dowe; (AJE) Anthony J. Erskine; (NH) Norma Haas; (WHH) **Mr. & Mrs. Werner H. Hesse** (British Columbia); (JH) **Joseph Hicks** (southwest Oregon); (LK) Lucile Kline; (TM) Thomas McCamant; (GMM) George M. McKay; (GPM) Gerald P. Morsello; (AM) A. Muir; (DN) Doris Nye; (JO) Jim Olson; (GAP) G. A. Poynter; (SS) Susan Smith; (DS, RS) **David and Ruth Stirling** (Vancouver Island); (BW) Betty Westerborg; (GW) Gwen Wright; (O.A.S.) Oregon Audubon Society.

The Winter Season, 1962-63

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION / Thomas H. Rogers

The weather picture for the Region was one of extremes, varying from unusually mild and rather wet to severely cold in January, the only really wintry month. Plunging temperatures in western Montana in late December drove out a number of species of birds that had stayed later than usual. During January the adverse effects upon wild life appeared to be greatest west of the Continental Divide in Montana, where record snowfall combined with subzero temperatures. At the National Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. January was a record breaker, with 41 inches of snow, a 25-day cold snap which reached to -32° F. and yet recorded a maximum of 55° above zero! In addition to bird losses there, 10 antelope on the refuge were believed to have died because of the weather. In the Missoula, Mont. area rather similar conditions prevailed, with the deep

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snow cover forcing ground feeders out of the area or presumably causing them considerable hardship. In the western part of the Region, which had little snow cover and milder temperatures, the result was both to cause some mildly hardy species to remain in the area and to bring about a scarcity of species from the mountains and from farther north. At Baker, Oreg., an excellent cone crop in the mountains held a number of species there. By contrast, the juniper "berry" crop there was poor and was thought to be the reason for the small number of Robins. In the Spokane, Wash. area, however, Mountain Ash berries were abundant, yet

only a handful of Robins remained, and, since the Bohemian Waxwings failed to arrive, the fruit still hung on the branches at the end of winter. Wintering waterfowl populations in the Columbia Basin were high, judging from reports available.

Grebes, Pelicans and Cormorants—The late freeze-up of Ennis Lake, Madison Co., Mont., enabled grebes (Horned, Eared, Western and Pied-billed) to stay late into December and a single Horned Grebe was sighted several times at Spokane in December and January (Spokane Audubon Society). Up to 6 White Pelicans were noted at McNary Nat'l Wildlife *Refuge* during the period. An early Double-crested Cormorant was at Three Forks, Mont. on the last of March (T. B. Holker).

Swans, Geese and Ducks—Whistling Swans wintered in small numbers at McNary Refuge and doubled their use of Columbia Refuge over last year. The species lingered at Ennis Lake until Dec. 21. Trumpeters and Canada Geese were seen at the latter locality as late as Jan. 1 and as early as Feb. 24 and may have stayed through the winter. Canada Geese were up threefold from last year at Columbia Refuge, where abundant fall growth of cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) furnished the birds much food. The birds showed peak numbers, 3500, at McNary Refuge in early January. A plane flight up the Snake River for 20 miles revealed a total of 1000 Canadas and 23,000 Lesser Canada Geese, Feb. 7. Severe conditions in January caused hardship on the reduced number of geese wintering at the Bison Range. The first sighting of a **Ross' Goose** on the McNary Refuge was made on Dec. 2 and 3 hybrid Canada-Snow Geese were observed and 1 collected there. The wintering duck population for the Region was at least average and in some areas was distinctly up from previous years. Major increases were noted at Columbia Refuge for Mallards, Am. Widgeon and Green-winged Teal, with the peak duck population set at 60,000 in late December. At McNary Refuge Mallards peaked at 3000 in early January and widgeons hit the same number in early February. About the same number was noted as a peak at the Bison Range and some 4000 at Ninepipe Refuge. At the two latter places artificial feeding was tried during the cold spell when at least 1 of the dozen Shovelers wintering there died. This species does not normally winter there. Mallard numbers were up in the Bozeman-Three Forks-Ennis area and other species not normally wintering there were noted; for example, Pintail, Am. Widgeon and possibly Bufflehead. Departures of many other species were late. A raft of 1500 Canvasback was seen on the Snake River on the previously mentioned airplane flight. The Ring-necked Duck peaked at 300 on Jan. 4 at McNary Refuge. The largest concentration of Lesser Scaup was of some 6000 on Nine Mile Reservoir on the Spokane River

below Spokane, Jan. 5 (Lynn LaFave). Noteworthy occurrences were 5 *White-winged Scoters* on Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. and 3 male *Red-breasted Mergansers* on Colville Lake near Sprague, Wash. on March 24 (Jim Acton). Seven of the latter species were at Banks Lake on March 30 (Warren Hall). Common Mergansers reached unusually high numbers at Spokane (500) (*WH* & *LL*), McNary Refuge (250) and Ennis Lake (150).

Hawks and Eagles—Both Golden and Bald Eagles were sighted in many localities from central Washington and northern Oregon east to the Bozeman area. The largest concentration of Bald Eagles was 10 near Spokane, Jan. 20 (*WH*). The Golden Eagle showed a major increase at Columbia Refuge. Rough-legged Hawks wintered in the Bozeman area in unusual numbers (38 on Christmas count), but Marsh Hawks appeared to have been killed or forced out of the Bison Range area by the severe weather of January. One *Gyr Falcon* record is enough to make news, but 2 were seen, 1 near Creston, Wash. (*WH* & *LL*) and 1 at Belgrade, Mont., the latter a first for the area. Two records for the Peregrine Falcon for the Bozeman-Ennis area were unusual (Christmas count and C. V. Davis). A Sparrow Hawk apparently weathered the January blizzard period at Missoula.

Gallinaceous Birds—This group appeared to come through the winter well in the western part of the Region, but suffered setbacks in the Missoula and Bison Range areas. Worst affected were Chukars at the latter place, where cold and snow weakened them and made them easy prey for predators, e.g., the Prairie Falcon; some apparently starved. Not a single bird was seen at the beginning of spring. A Blue Grouse at Bonner, Mont. made the headlines by shattering a plate glass window in the principal's office of the school.

Shorebirds and Gulls—Winter's crackdown in western Montana drove some late-staying Killdeer from their pond near Missoula, but the species wintered about as usual elsewhere. California and Ring-billed Gulls persisted to the late date of Dec. 21 at Ennis Lake. The latter apparently wintered as usual in eastern Washington and northern Idaho. Especially noteworthy are the occurrences of a *Glaucous* and a *Glaucous-winged Gull*, both at Spokane and at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The latter is the first-known record for Idaho (*JA*, *WH* & *LL*).

Owls—Records were rather scarce for the group. Great Horned Owls seemed to be up in numbers in the Bozeman area. The Short-eared seemed to be in short numbers. The species fared poorly at the Bison Range, where the remains of several were found, perhaps victims of predation by the Great Horned Owl.

Woodpeckers—A Lewis' Woodpecker, presumably the one dubbed "Meriwether" last winter, again wintered at Bozeman. An area of burned-over Ponderosa Pine at Long Lake on the Spokane River below

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Spokane attracted large numbers of Hairy, Downy and Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers. Up to 14 of the latter species, ordinarily rare, were noted (*S.A.S.*, *JA*, *WH*, *LL*). Highly unusual was a female Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Pullman, Wash., seen three times in *January* and *February*.

Jays, Nuthatches, Creepers—Common Ravens and Black-billed Magpies at Missoula appeared not to be affected by the severe weather, but mild conditions in some areas may have kept the Steller's Jay and Clark's Nutcracker higher in the mountains. However, up to 13 of the latter were seen at Baker (Christmas count). Red-breasted Nuthatches were distinctly more numerous in the Spokane area, with as many as 50 or 60 being seen on a one day trip. Conversely, they were very scarce at Bozeman and surrounding areas, with a single record (*CVD*). Brown Creeper records were scarce, perhaps because of mild conditions.

Thrushes and Waxwings—Wintering Robins were decidedly scarce in the Region, as were Varied Thrushes. Two very late dates were secured for Mountain Bluebirds: a female at Banks Lake on Dec. 16 (*JA*) and 2 on the Christmas count at Baker, Oreg. Ruby-crowned Kinglets, decidedly scarce in winter, turned up at Spokane (1 in December *S.A.S.*) and at Baker (up to 4 in December). Bohemian Waxwings made history by their scarcity. Spokane's Christmas count missed them for the first time. At Bozeman they built up to flocks of 1000 in November but virtually disappeared thereafter. Numbers were down at Missoula and the Bison Range and none were seen at Baker. Perhaps 2000 were seen at St. Maries, Idaho (John Dennis). Cedar Waxwings appeared to winter in unusually large numbers in some localities. At Missoula they lasted out the January cold period and were present in flocks up to 150 in February. The species was reported also at Spokane, Pullman and Pasco, Wash. and Baker, Oreg.

Starlings—Practically every reporting locality mentioned wintering Starlings. They were variously described as "numerous" at McNary Refuge, "increasing by leaps and bounds" in the Columbia Basin area around Columbia Refuge, "usual huge numbers" in the Spokane area, "in much smaller numbers during the severe weather in January" at Missoula and "very few" at the Bison Range. The Fish

and Wildlife Service trapped 9000 in January and February in the Pasco-Richland-Kennewick, Wash. area (*Tri-Cities Herald*),

Warblers and Blackbirds—An Audubon's Warbler at Bozeman on Dec. 17 constituted a highly unusual record (Neil Martin). Small numbers of the birds were noted from late November to late January at Pasco, the only other locality reporting them. A few Yellow-headed Blackbirds wintered at Columbia Refuge, where wintering numbers are increasing. Red-winged Blackbirds wintered unusually successfully in the Bozeman area. Some 30, including an albino, wintered at Ennis Lake, another flock of 100 wintered at Belgrade and about 16, mostly *female*, were seen at Bozeman on Jan. 20. About 10 Brewer's Black birds at Belgrade on March 18, a very early date, suggested that the birds had wintered.

Finches—Evening Grosbeaks put in a scanty appearance or were absent from reporting localities. A few Cassin's Finches were reported wintering at Spokane. Pine Grosbeaks scarcely appeared at all. Five were seen at Bozeman and 1 hit a window in Pasco and was killed. Some 350 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were observed in the Columbia Basin area of central Washington and a few were still there on March 2, a late date (*JA*). A large flock was noted near Baker in early March. Very few Common Redpolls appeared: a few in December at Missoula and in January in eastern Washington. Red Crossbills showed up in increased numbers in eastern Washington, but the only Montana record was of 2 on the Ennis Christmas count. A male White-winged Crossbill appeared at Bozeman.

Sparrows—A few Rufous-sided Towhees wintered in the Spokane area. A Sage Sparrow was still at Pasco, Wash. on Dec. 25. White-crowned Sparrows were seen regularly at Pasco and at nearby McNary Refuge. More unusual were a few that apparently wintered in the Spokane area (*S.A.S.*). A *Harris' Sparrow* at Baker was the first Ann Ward had seen there. It was with a flock of juncos at the end of December. Three Lapland Longspurs were seen near *Harrington, Wash.* on March 31 (*JA*) and 1 on March 11 at Missoula. The usual wintering population was present in the Bozeman area. Snow Buntings were scarce in eastern Washington, but occurred in groups up to 22 to Dec. 16, after which none were noted. In the Bozeman area they were apparently more numerous than usual.

Contributors—Jim Acton; C. V. Davis; John Dennis; Warren Hall; R. L. Hand, Missoula, Mont. area; C. J. Henry, National Bison Range and Nine-pipe Refuge, Lake Co., Mont.; T. B. Holker; Frank L. Kenney, McNary National Wildlife Refuge, Bur bank, Wash.; Lynn LaFave; Philip A. Lehenbauer, Columbia

National Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash.; Neil Martin; Louise Nunn, Pasco, Wash.; Ruth P. Ownbey, Pullman, Wash.; P. D. Skaar, Bozeman-Three Forks-Ennis, Mont. area; Spokane Audubon Society, reported by Mrs. S. O. Stanley, and Ann Ward, Baker, Oreg. area.

The Winter Season, 1962-63

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION
/ Dr. Oliver K. Scott

Although confusion continues as to whether this past season was principally winter, spring, or breeding season, it was a combination of all three. The winter part was the warmest and driest in many years. There were many winter records of birds that should not have been here. The snow pack in the mountains, over most of the Region, is minimal with prospects for summer breeding water fowl very poor. Malheur, in eastern Oregon, looks forward to another dismal season with only 20 per cent of normal snowpack in the mountains unless the heavens really let loose this spring. This is the fifth year of drought for Malheur. But to show how local the weather can be, Ruby Lakes, in the Great Basin in eastern Nevada, had 2.25 in. moisture in

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the first days of February. This is a lot of precipitation in that area and the water prospects for the Lakes is at least average. In general, many observers from widely different areas were of the opinion that there were fewer birds than usual this winter: Torrington, Wyo.; Cheyenne, Wyo. (*Mrs. RDH*); Salt Lake City (*GK*); and Parowan in southern Utah (*SM*).

Swans—There were 18 Trumpeter Swans wintering in the area centered around Ruby Lakes (*DEL*). There were 21 Trumpeters at Malheur, including 3 cygnets from last year (*EK*). There were 31 wintering on Flat Creek in the Nat'l Elk Refuge, Jackson Hole, western Wyoming (*RLM*). These figures show a continued steady increase of this species outside the Red Lakes area. Bear River Marshes, at the north end of Great Salt Lake, had the highest number of Whistling Swans ever reported there, March 22-21, 220 (*LJS*).

Ducks and Geese—Bear River Marshes did not entirely freeze up this winter; the spring migration was better and earlier than usual. The peak number of ducks came on March 22 with 275,685. The Pintail was first with 83,350 (1/3 better than last year); Canvasback with 40,750 (better than double last year); Green-winged Teal, 37,210; Mallard, 34,650; Lesser Scaup, 30,570; Redhead, 19,875; Ruddy, 17, 315; Gadwall,

15,220; Am. Widgeon, 13,600. All of these figures are vastly better than 1962 and 1961, but are not back to those of 1960, except the Canvas back, which is increasing (4 times the 1960 level, *LJS*). Malheur had an earlier spring than usual with a peak of 129,000 Snow Geese (45,000 over recent years). The duck peak was on March 7 with 82,000 on the Refuge and 97,000 on adjacent areas for a total of 179,000. The Pintail was the principal duck with 156,000. Last year's peak for all ducks was 101, 000. Swans by-passed Malheur again and headed for Bear River (*EK*). The Mallards increased at Deer Flat Refuge, in western Idaho near Boise, where there were 700,000 ducks, Dec. 16-22, of which 670,000 were Mallards. This is twice last year's number, but not up to standard, which is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million (*GC*). The southern Idaho outlook for stream flow water this season is poor because "the snowfall during the winter has been the lightest ever recorded in Idaho." The reservoirs are well filled and there will be no shortage this summer. Canada Geese were nesting in the Snake River Refuge by the second week of March (*GC*). The Klamath Basin has the same story as the other Great Basin Refuges; snow pack 23 per cent of normal, but a high storage level in the lakes at the moment fortunately—warm winter, early spring. The first week of December saw the highest peak of waterfowl—408,300—but the spring peak of geese was 148,030, March 26, two weeks later than last year. Peak numbers of ducks were: Pintail, 131,550, Dec. 8; Mallard, 126,550, Dec. 3; Am. Widgeon, 125,950, Dec. 15; Shoveler, 55,170, Dec. 15; Gadwall, 26,280, Dec. 31; Am. Coot, 18,100, Dec. 15; Canvasback, 10,000, Dec. 15; lesser numbers of other ducks. This is an improvement over last year (*EO'N*). Monte Vista Refuge, central southern Colorado, had a slight decrease in Mallards from last year with a top of 44,500, Dec. 23. Although this refuge continues to grow, the numbers of other ducks are not yet large (*CRB*). There were few rarities reported. There was a crippled female Oldsquaw at Tule, Klamath Basin, Dec. 8 (*EO'N*). A Blue Goose was seen, April 4, at Malheur (*EK*). A Barrow's Goldeneye was collected at Bear River, March 27, and found to have lead poisoning (*LJS*). Although rare at Bear River, in the relatively nearby mountainous country of Grand Teton—Yellowstone it is a common breeding bird. A European Widgeon and 6 Hooded Mergansers were at Lower Klamath, Feb. 24 (*TC, Jr.*).

Eagles—More Golden Eagles were reported in some places this year than last. There were 13 at Bear River, March 6, a high count this year; and there were 29 Raids on the same date (*LJS*). On Dec. 26-28 there were 20 Golden Eagles at Malheur, instead of the 12 last year. There are now 3 known active nests (*EK*). In January in the Klamath Basin there were 48 Bald and 3 Golden Eagles on Lower Klamath and Tule Lake,

compared with 37 and 15 last year (*EO'N*). On Jan. 18 there were 2 Bald and 3 Golden Eagles at Zion Park, southern Utah (*RHW*). In southern Idaho the maximum count of Bald Eagles on the Snake River near Rexberg was 20 (9 mature) on Feb. 16 (*DGB*). The Snake River is a great wintering ground of the Bald Eagle but is not well reported. The North Platte River in central Wyoming had 7 adult and 11 immature Bald Eagles on Jan. 13 (*OKS*). Three Bald Eagles wintered at Parowan (*SM*). There were 4 Bald Eagles at Salt Lake City, Jan. 20 (*GK*). The central Wyoming flyway for Golden Eagles was very poor in December—hardly a flight (*OKS*). The governor of Wyoming received permission from the Secretary of the Interior—under the new law—to shoot Golden Eagles molesting livestock in certain central and eastern counties. If the letter of the law is observed we have nothing to fear—however, it probably won't be. These counties contain the greatest number of breeding Golden Eagles, in all probability, in North America. From facts bolstered by information from local ranchers this action was totally unnecessary and senseless. The governor did

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this in spite of the protests of a large number of citizens, and this editor takes it as a personal insult.

Hawks—A Pigeon Hawk was reported at Hotchkiss, mesa country of western Colorado, Jan. 7 (*Mrs. JJC*); another at Klamath Marsh, Oreg., Dec. 9 (*JGC*). On Jan. 7 Kashin had Pigeon, Cooper's, Sharp-shinned Hawks, and Goshawk at Salt Lake City. More accipitrine hawks than usual were present this winter at Parowan (*SM*).

Shorebirds—A *Ruff* was reported at Lower Klamath, Calif., Dec. 19 (*RGMcC, et al.*)—the fourth record for California. Most of Lower Klamath is in California; the rest is in Oregon. There were 2 other records for California in 1962. However, this is the first inland record. Perhaps more inland people should watch for this bird.

Gulls—A *Glaucous Gull* was seen at Bear River Marshes on Feb. 14. This is a rare bird in that area (*LJS*).

Owls—Malheur reports an increase in rodents and the owls are doing well. A nest rigged up for Great Horned Owls at headquarters has been occupied for 3 years. There are 8 known active nests in the area, 5 of which are man-made. This is a very high rate of occupancy—from 8 erected nests (*EK*). The Great Horned Owl is not only highly beneficial in the West, but is also a highly successful species.

Swallows—There were 6 Violet-green Swallows at Lower Klamath, Feb. 24, a result, no doubt of our warm winter (*TC, Jr.*).

Wrens—Early in December several Winter Wrens were seen in Zion Canyon, southern Utah (*RHW*). A House Wren south of Torrington on March 30 was very early (*GS*).

Contributors—(*DGB*), Delwyn G. Berrett; (*CRB*), Charles R. Bryant; (*TC, Jr.*), Theodore Chase, Jr.; (*GC*), Gene Crawford; Mrs. (*JJC*), Mrs. J. J. Crews; Mrs. (*RDH*), Mrs. Robert D. Hanesworth; (*GK*), Gleb Kashin; (*EK*), Eugene Kridler; (*DEL*), Donald E. Lewis; (*RGMcC*), R. G. McCaskie; (*RLM*), Robert L. Means; (*SM*), Stuart Murie; (*EO'N*), Edward O'Neill; (*JGO*), James G. Olsen; (*OKS*), Oliver K. Scott; (*LJS*), Leonard J. Serdiuk; (*GS*), Guido Smith; (*RHW*), Roland H. Wauer.

The Winter Season 1962-63

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION **/ Bob and Elsie Boggs**

A weather variation that significantly affected the bird life was the absence of snow in parts of the mountains. This lack of snow made it possible for one observer to get into the Cascades in Oregon and visit certain of the lakes where goldeneyes, Hooded Mergansers, Buffleheads, Canvasbacks, Ring-necked Ducks, Sandhill Cranes and Golden Eagles were noted. It was the mild temperatures that probably accounted for the Cedar Waxwings and Robins staying at higher elevations until about the first of February when they descended into the valleys, foraging on Pyracantha, Cotoneaster and other berries. Discussion of all migratory birds will be deferred until the spring report.

Loons, Grebes, Egrets—Common Loons in breeding plumage were noted at Coos Bay in Oregon, March 23 (*JO*). A few Red-throated Loons were seen on the Oregon coast, and 120 were on Willapa Bay, Jan. 19 (*AB*). Red-necked Grebes were still present at Tillamook Bay on March 23 (*JBC, O.A.S.*). Horned Grebe numbers were down. Eared Grebes were noted at Vancouver, B. C.; Drayton Harbor, near Blaine, Wash.; and in the Tillamook—Netarts area. Western Grebes (40) were seen at Fern Ridge Reservoir, near Eugene, Ore., Dec. 1 (*JO*). A *Common Egret* was identified at the mouth of the Suislaw River in Florence, Ore. on March 2 (*JO*). An Am. Bittern was found at Elk Lake on Vancouver Island in January (*V.N.H.S.*), and one or more were heard in MacFadden Swamp, near Corvallis, Ore., March 24 (*JGS*).

Waterfowl—Whistling Swans reached a maximum number of 480 on Sauvies Island, near Portland, Ore., Dec. 16, and had decreased to 14 by March 21 (*AB*). Elsewhere 3 were seen at Nehalem, Dec. 20; 8 were present at Victoria, B. C. through January; 2 were located at Pitt Meadows, B. C., Jan. 13; while 20 birds were counted on Willapa Bay, Feb. 16 (*AB, JBC, JO*). A Trumpeter Swan wintered on Langford Lake in Victoria (*vide DS*). Canada Geese (Cackling), which had been numerous prior to Christmas on Sauvies Island, apparently moved out with the freezing weather at the end of December (*AB*). *Black Brant* seen on the Game Commission Pond near Medford, March 14, is possibly a first record for Jackson County, Ore. (*WC, JH*). In December, 25 White-fronted Geese were found on Sauvies Island (*AB*). Two were seen at MacFadden Swamp, March 3 (*JGS*). Snow Goose flocks wintering on the Skagit River flats were reported to contain no juveniles. A *Black Duck* was caught in a banding trap on Sauvies Island, Feb. 19 (Chuck Trainer). Pintails were considered "extremely scarce" in Oregon (*JO*). A pair of Cinnamon Teal was seen at the Game Commission Pond, near Medford, Jan. 28 (*WC*). European Widgeons were reported from 6 localities. At Blaine, Shovelers showed an increase in numbers (*LK*). A tame pair of Wood Ducks attracted attention at Crystal Springs Lake in Portland, Ore. (*GA*). A Redhead at Victoria in March is an unusual winter record. A careful check of the scaup population in Stanley Park in Vancouver, B. C., showed a fairly high count of Lessers (56, Feb. 15, *DD*); this would indicate the birds are not as scarce as formerly presumed. An Oldsquaw was seen on the Columbia River near The Dalles, Ore. on Dec. 23 (*AB*); another individual was at Oysterville on Willapa Bay, Feb. 16 (*AB, JBC, JO*). Harlequin Ducks wintered on the Oregon coast (*GA, AB*) and at Point Roberts (*GMM*). An unusual record of a Surf Scoter was one seen the first week of December on Crystal Springs Lake in Portland (*GA*).

Hawks and Eagles—A Goshawk killed near Ashland, Ore. was prepared as a specimen; another bird was seen in the same area, March 9 (F. Sturges). Rough-legged Hawks were found between Portland and Eugene, Dec. 28 (*AB*); Drayton Harbor, Dec. 31 (*KB*); Boundary Bay, Jan. 1 (*DD, WHH*); Sauvies Island, Feb. 3 (*AB*); Grays Harbor, Feb. 17 (*AB, JBC, JO*); and Pitt Meadows, March 10 (*KB*). Golden Eagles were seen in the Ashnola Valley, east of E. C. Manning Provincial Park from Dec. 28 to Jan. 5 (*GMM*). One was noted at Langley, B. C., March 24 (*DN*). Bald Eagles were widely distributed. They came inland along the rivers during the months of salmon spawning and were seen frequently along the Oregon and Washington coasts. A Sauvies Island population of 12 Marsh Hawks was a high count for western Oregon; 3 were seen at Fort Stevens State Park in Oregon, March

10 (AB). A *Gyr Falcon* was seen perching and hunting at the mouth of the Columbia River on Jan. 27 (AB).

Grouse, Rails, Shorebirds—Ruffed Grouse were present in the Ashnola Valley in early January (GMM); and one was found in Stanley Park in Vancouver, B. C., Jan. 19 (DN). A Virginia Rail

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was detected in MacFadden Swamp, March 24 (JGS). The only Oregon report of Black-bellied Plovers was of 2 at Tillamook, Jan. 6; they wintered in normal numbers in Willapa Bay (AB). Surfbirds were found at Cape Meares, Feb. 21 (AB); and at Yachats, Oreg., March 18-19 (GA). The appearance of Ruddy Turnstones at Vancouver, B. C., in December and January was unusual for winter (KB). At least 300 Common Snipe were observed in a small area in MacFadden Swamp on March 20; by March 24 "they had either left or dispersed over the countryside where they were more evident than in past months" (JGS). A *Willet* was seen near Oysterville on Willapa Bay, Jan. 19 (AB). Greater Yellowlegs were observed at Nehalem, Oreg., Dec. 20; Chinook, Wash. and Grays Harbor, Jan. 19 (AB). Ten Rock Sandpipers were seen at Harris Beach near Brookings, Oreg., Feb. 23 (JH). Long-billed Dowitchers were found on Sauvies Island in December (AB); Portland, March 10 (GA); and at MacFadden Swamp, March 24 (JGS). A flock of about 100 Western Sandpipers was observed feeding with Dunlins at Tillamook Bay, Dec. 9 (AB). Wintering Sanderlings were noted at Seattle (VEC); Florence, Oreg., (JO); Coos Bay; Yachats (Lora Kelts); and Vancouver, B. C. (WHH).

Gulls, Kittiwakes, Alcids—There were several records of Glaucous and Ring-billed Gulls. Bonaparte's Gulls were observed at Fern Ridge Reservoir (JO) and Tillamook (AB) in early December; they remained in numbers in the Vancouver, B. C. area until mid-January (WHH). Four kittiwakes were seen offshore at Fort Stevens State Park in Oregon on Dec. 9 (AB). Pigeon Guillemots were present in the thousands at Three Arch Rocks in Oregon on Dec. 9 (AB). Ancient Murrelets lingered in greater than usual numbers at Victoria, B. C., until late February (DS).

Pigeons, Owls, Woodpeckers—Band-tailed Pigeons wintered in small numbers in the Region, subsisting on acorns and holly and madroña berries. Mourning Doves (40) were seen on Sauvies Island, Jan. 11 (AB). Great Horned Owls appeared to be more abundant on Vancouver Island (D. Guthrie, DS, BW). A Snowy Owl recorded on the Christmas count at Vancouver, B. C. (GMM, Jerry van Tets) was seen again on Feb. 19 and March 3 (DN, KB). The seldom-seen Pygmy Owl was

discovered on Forbidden Plateau on Vancouver Island, Dec. 9 (DS, RS, BW). A Burrowing Owl was seen frequently from Nov. 12 to March 3 on Boundary Bay (DD, Bill Hughes, et al.). Yellow-shafted Flickers were noted in Seattle in December and January (VEC). No Lewis' Woodpeckers were seen at Victoria during the winter season, but Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were considered more abundant (G. A. Poynter, DS).

Flycatchers, Skylarks, Jays, Magpies—Mid-February's freak warm weather probably accounted for the sighting of a *Black Phoebe* near Ruch on the Applegate River in Jackson County, Oreg. on the 14th. The farthest north extension of range of the Skylarks on Vancouver is Duncan; 6 were seen there on March 9 (T. R. Briggs, DS). The Steller's Jay was routinely reported from most localities; at Eugene, Oreg., this species, unlike the Scrub Jay, avoids both urban and suburban areas, but can be commonly found up the McKenzie River or in the Spencer Butte area (GPM). The Steller's Jay was scarce on Vancouver Island. A pair of Black-billed Magpies wintered on Boundary Bay (KB).

Thrushes—Robins were not numerous anywhere until the latter half of the season. The customary numbers of Varied Thrushes failed to materialize as evidenced by observations at Seattle, Portland, Eugene and Corvallis. Western Bluebird records were few in number: 8 seen in the foothills west of the proposed Willamette Wildlife Refuge southwest of Corvallis, Feb. 9 (JBC, JO, et al.); 4 at Blaine, March 13 (LK); and 1 at Drayton Harbor, March 17 (KB). Townsend's Solitaires were observed in the Ashnola Valley at an elevation of 5500 ft. (GMM). One was seen in West Vancouver, B. C. in January (Kay Smith).

Pipits, Waxwings, Shrikes—Water Pipits were found on Sauvies Island, Dec. 16 (AB); and on Boundary Bay, Feb. 2 (DN). No Bohemian Waxwings were reported, and Cedar Waxwings were scarce, except at Eugene. On March 24, a shrike, believed to be a Loggerhead, was seen on the Rogue River, Jackson Co., Oreg. (JH).

Vireos, Warblers—A Hutton's Vireo appeared in a back yard for a few days at Mountlake Terrace, Wash. (Zella M. Schultz). Five were seen at Courtenay, B. C. on March 17 (BW). Orange-crowned and Audubon's Warblers wintered at Victoria. The most unusual observation of the season was the "positive" sighting of 2 *Palm Warblers* near Sidney, B. C. (A. R. Davidson). Could this also be part of the unexplained influx of eastern warblers reported last fall in the Middle and Southern Pacific Coast Regions?

Blackbirds, Cowbirds, Grosbeaks—Three male Tricolored Blackbirds were identified in a flock of

Brewer's Blackbirds near Table Rock in Medford, March 16 (JO). A male Brown-headed Cowbird appeared in Vancouver, B. C. on Dec. 16, and remained for a week. A female was seen at a feeder at Corvallis, Feb. 2 (JGS). Evening Grosbeaks were scarce, except in the Cascade Mountains east of Medford where many were seen in January (JH).

Fringillids—Purple Finches seemed in much reduced numbers throughout British Columbia. Pine Grosbeaks were found in the Ashnola Valley (GMM). Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were observed at Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood, 1000 on Dec. 10 (GA) and 100 on Jan. 26 (AB). Lesser Goldfinches wintering at Eugene were equally as or more abundant than Am. Goldfinches (GPM). Savannah Sparrows were reported as more prevalent than in previous years on Vancouver Island (DS, RS). A few Slate-colored Juncos wintered at Portland, Seattle and Vancouver, B. C. An interesting banding record of an Oregon Junco is that of an adult male banded on Oct. 22, 1958 at Blaine. It was retaken at the same locality on Jan. 2, 1960, Oct. 19, 1961 and March 11, 1963 (LK). Only a few White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows were seen. After a silver thaw on Feb. 3, Fox Sparrows were plentiful at Corvallis (JGS). Three were banded at Blaine (LK).

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and a few appeared at a feeding station at Seattle from January into April (VEC). Lincoln's Sparrows were recorded at Corvallis, Feb. 2 to 5 (JGS).

Contributors (sectional editors' names in boldface) — (GA) **George Alderson** (northwest Oregon); (AB) Alan Baldrige; (KB) K. Boyce; (VEC) Violet E. Cannon; (WC) Walt Cavanaugh; (JBC) John B. Crowell, Jr.; (DD) Doug Dow; (WHH) **Mr. and Mrs. Werner H. Hesse** (British Columbia); (JH) **Joseph Hicks** (southwest Oregon); (LK) Lucile Kline; (GMM) George M. McKay; (GPM) Gerald P. Morsello; (DN) Doris Nye; (JO) James Olson; (DS, RS) **David and Ruth Stirling** (Vancouver Island); (JGS) Joseph G. Strauch, Jr.; (BW) Betty Westerborg; (O.A.S.) Oregon Audubon Society; (V.N.H.S.) Victoria Natural History Society

Spring Migration, 1963

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN—INTER-MOUNTAIN REGION / **Thomas H. Rogers.**

With slight variations for so large a region, the weather for the spring period

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was mild temperature-wise, particularly in central Washington and in the Missoula and Bozeman areas of western Montana. Precipitation showed much more variation, with central and eastern Washington and southern British Columbia very wet until about mid-May, when the weather turned abruptly warm and dry. By contrast, Missoula and the National Bison Range reported abnormally dry conditions for both April and May, while Bozeman continued wet during the period. Baker, Oreg. had a cool mid-April and warmed up somewhat above average after mid-May. Weather seemed to have the most pronounced effect in the Bozeman area, for numerous species appeared early, some very much so. At Columbia Refuge, Othello, Wash., arrival dates were generally earlier than normal, with the conspicuous exception of Blue-winged Teal, which were about 2 weeks late. The season seemed to bring more than the usual number of displacements into and within the Region and in some cases unusually high numbers were recorded.

Loons, Pelicans and Herons—The Common Loon was noted migrating as early as April 21 in the Bozeman–Ennis–Three Forks area, which will be referred to hereafter as the Bozeman triangle. Peak numbers were 30 on April 28 in the above-mentioned locality and 19 at Ninepipe Refuge the first week of May. The Bozeman triangle also had the earliest White Pelican record, April 7. The birds were noted also in central Washington, at Banks Lake (Warren Hall & Lynn LaFave, Jim Acton) and at McNary Refuge, where two separate flights were noted, 30 birds on April 17 and 70 on May 15. A single individual was seen at Ninepipe Refuge, May 1-3. Sixteen Great Blue Herons on the ice at Swan Lake near Vernon, B. C. on March 10 suggested a migrating group.

Waterfowl—Two very late Whistling Swans were at Reardan, Wash. on May 18 (Spokane Audubon Society). Late winter and spring use of Columbia Refuge by this species was up 43 per cent. Noteworthy is a record of 6 or 7 Trumpeter Swans flying north over *Missoula*, April 5. The species was noted in nesting areas as usual in the Bozeman triangle (PDS, Francis Feist). Canada Geese numbers at Columbia Refuge were up significantly and increased production at Ninepipe Refuge was indicated. A single *White-fronted Goose* was reported for the Region, April 17, at McNary Refuge. A sprinkling of Snow Geese was noted in central Washington, in addition to the usual movements in western Montana. At Ninepipe, 7 *Ross' Geese* were seen with 81 Snow Geese on April 30 and 3 or 4 of the former species were identified among Snow Geese along the Clark Fork River near Missoula in mid-April (Philip L. Wright). Phil Lehenbauer

described the migration of waterfowl in the Columbia Basin as unspectacular, with wintering birds and migrants intermingling. In general, surface-feeding ducks at Columbia Refuge were down in numbers, while the divers were more numerous than usual. An important exception was the Mallard, with refuge use up 32 per cent over the 5-year average. The outstanding duck rarity was a male *European Widgeon* on the Little Spokane River near Spokane (WH) and another male at Turnbull Refuge near Cheney, Wash. at about the same time, identified by refuge personnel. Noted in unusual numbers were Ring-necked Duck, 60 at McNary Refuge, and Canvasback, several thousand at Ninepipe (Leon Littlefield). Noteworthy was a pair of Harlequin Ducks at the mouth of Squaw Creek, 20 miles south of Bozeman, May 19 (James Lewis). Equally noteworthy was another pair at Sprague Lake, Wash. on May 4 (WH) and a few Red-breasted Mergansers at Sprague Lake and Alkali Lake, Grant Co., Wash. The total of 7 of the latter species is more than ever noted before in spring in that area (WH & LL).

Hawks—Two exceptionally late dates for Rough-legged Hawks were obtained in the Bozeman triangle: a black phase on April 28 and a light phase, May 26.

Cranes—In addition to the usual reports of Sand-hill Cranes in central Washington and the Bozeman triangle, a single bird appeared near *Lolo, Mont.* where it is believed that none had been seen for at least 30 years (Dave McClay, PLIV). Ann Ward received a report, apparently accurate although she was unable to verify the observation personally, of 9 of the birds at a slough near Baker, Oreg. The birds have likewise bypassed this area for many years.

Shorebirds—The migration was a good one both in eastern Washington and in the Bozeman triangle, and was rich in both numbers and rarities. The good movement around Bozeman was considered as perhaps related to the abundant rainfall and resulting ponds. Black-bellied Plover were noted in unusual numbers at Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. with a peak of 7 on May 16 (JA). Two were noted at Pablo Refuge, Lake Co., Mont., May 10. The Upland Plover is still holding on in small numbers near the Idaho-Washington line east of Spokane (JA, WH, LL). *Thirty* Semipalmated Plover were seen at Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. (JA). Among the rarities was a *Willet* at Banks Lake on May 4 (WH & LL) and a *Knot* on the same date in the Bozeman triangle (T. B. Holker). Additional high numbers were shown by Baird's Sandpiper (150, LL), Least Sand piper (25, LL), Dunlin (30, JA), all at Banks Lake, and Long-billed Dowitcher (70 at Reardan, Wash., JA) and Western Sandpiper (75 at Banks Lake, WH & LL). A *Marbled Godwit* west of the

Continental Divide in the Region is always news, but when up to 150 show up in western Montana, as they did at Ninepipe Refuge, one nearly runs out of superlatives. Even the 31 seen at Pablo Refuge about 2 weeks earlier are eclipsed by comparison (Leon L.). Some 300 Northern Phalaropes at Lake Lenore, Grant Co., Wash. were unusual (JA).

Gulls and Doves—Ring-billed Gulls wintered at Okanagan Lake near Vernon, B. C. for the first time on record. Bonaparte's Gulls at Baker, Oreg., Reardan and near Hauser Lake, Wash. (WH, LL) and at Pablo Refuge (18) were unusual. A few Mourning Doves wintered at Vernon and young left an early nest on April 30.

Owls, Swifts and Hummingbirds—Long-eared Owls were noted at nests in three localities in central and eastern Washington (JA, WH, LL). Barred Owls were heard on two occasions near Shuswap Falls, 28 miles northeast of Vernon, B. C. (James Grant, M. F. Painter). Jim reports that this species is

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probably one of the most common owls of the interior wet belt of British Columbia and is apparently extending its range southward. About 1000 White-throated Swifts were seen near Lenore Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on May 4, a cloudy, rainy day (WH & LL). The earliest Calliope Hummingbird record was for April 22 at Spokane (S.A.S.) and the Rufous was first seen at Vernon on April 28.

Woodpeckers—"Meriwether," the Lewis' Wood pecker that wintered at Bozeman, left about mid-May. One seen on March 24 at Baker, Oreg., was suspected of having wintered. A drumming male of the scarce Williamson's Sapsucker was located in Mitour Gulch, about 6 miles northeast of Missoula (PLW). Up to 9 Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen in the burned area along Long Lake west of Spokane. A number of the birds moved into the area during the winter, presumably taking advantage of wood-boring insects. A nesting hole occupied by a female was found (S.A.S.).

Flycatchers and Larks—The first Western King bird seen at Vernon, B. C. on May 11 was about 10 days later than the average and by contrast, the van guard of the species appeared in the Bozeman triangle on May 12, considered very early there. At least 500 Horned Larks of the pale northern race were noted in flocks in the Ritzville-Odessa area of Washington on April 27 (JA).

Swallows—The earliest record for Violet-green Swallows was of 3 near Vernon, B. C. on March 8. Cliff Swallows were first observed at Spokane and at Columbia Refuge, in late March. A single bird at Missoula on April 26 furnished a very early record for that locality.

Crows and Jays—Several hundred Common Crows wintered in farmlands east of Vernon, B. C. Clark's Nutcracker was reported only from Vernon and from the Bozeman triangle. In the former area young were out of the nest on May 13 at Okanagan Landing.

Wrens and Thrashers—May 5 was a very early first date for the House Wren in the Bozeman triangle. Other first dates were: Bison Range, April 29 (*RLH*); Spokane County, Wash., Apr 25 (*LL*); Pullman, Wash., May 6, and Vernon, B. C., May 10. The Cañon Wren was again noted along the Madison River in the Bozeman triangle. The Rock Wren arrived in this area beginning on May 5, a very early date. A very early Sage Thrasher arrived in summer habitat in this same general area on April 15. A Brown Thrasher mist-netted and banded by Leon Littlefield at Ninepipe Refuge on May 18 furnished the first record for the species for western Montana.

Pipits and Warblers—An aerially performing *Sprague's Pipit* was seen and heard repeatedly near Three Forks, Mont., far west of its usual range. Warblers made headlines for unusual appearances. A *Black-and-white Warbler*, carefully checked against a museum specimen the next day, was seen at Pullman, Wash., May 22. Another was identified carefully by Louise S. Nunn at Pasco, Feb. 21, 1961. A Tennessee Warbler, singing vigorously in Bozeman on May 22, was Dave Skaar's first spring record for the area. At Ninepipe Refuge a mist net yielded the first record of the Orange-crowned Warbler for that station. Three *Myrtle Warblers* along the West Gallatin River in the Bozeman triangle comprised Skaar's second spring record in the area and single birds were identified in Washington at Sprague Lake and Banks Lake (*LL*) and at Deep Creek near Spokane (*JA*). At least 30 Townsend's Warblers were noted in their breeding area in Heyburn State Park, Benewah Co., Idaho (*JA*) and a Northern Waterthrush in the same area was on the western fringe of its range (*S.A.S.*).

Tanagers—First arrival dates for the Western Tanager ranged all the way from April 13 for Baker, Oreg. to May 11-16 in eastern Washington and at the Bison Range, May 25 at Missoula and May 26 in the Bozeman triangle. In the latter area many migrants poured in about June 8.

Finches—Evening Grosbeaks were reported from every station except those of south central Washington and Vernon, B. C. and appeared to be most abundant in western Montana. A few Cassin's Finches may have wintered around Bozeman, for flocks in song were found on Feb. 21. The first date for Baker was March 9 and for Missoula, April 3. At the latter locality a migrant flock of at least 200 was noted on May 2 in Mitour Gulch. Red Crossbills went unreported from western Montana, but appeared at Vernon and Baker and in substantial numbers in the Spokane area (*S.A.S.*). A lone White-winged Cross-bill at Bozeman may have wintered there.

Buntings and Sparrows—The *Lark Bunting* staged a phenomenal invasion in the Bozeman triangle, where it possibly has been noted only once previously. Sightings were made on a number of areas and about 60 birds, males in full song and distributed territorially, were found near Three Forks on May 19. Many birds were still present in the area on June 2, but their summer status is still to be determined. Large flocks of Vesper Sparrows and Oregon Juncos were concentrated along the highway in the Bozeman area by a snowstorm on April 21. A single Oregon Junco still lingered in the Columbia Basin area at Pasco on May 30 (*LSN*). The Clay-colored Sparrow appeared at Vernon on May 19 and the species again showed up at Missoula (singles) at almost the exact spot where one was collected last spring. The White-crowned Sparrow migration appeared to be an abundant one, except at Baker. The birds appeared to "pile up" during the cold spell between April 19 and May 10 at Vernon. An estimated 1000 of the species near Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on May 4 was certainly a remarkable number (*WH & LL*). A sprinkling of May records came in for Golden-crowned Sparrows for eastern Washington. Lincoln's Sparrows were reported from many localities, the record for the Bison Range being the first there—mist-netted. Lapland Longspurs were scarce at Missoula, with only 1 seen in March and 2 in April. The species was noted elsewhere only in the Bozeman triangle, with the latest date, Feb. 24. A Chestnut-collared Longspur was engaged in territorial singing at *Three Forks, Mont.* in the same area where one did likewise in 1961 (see *Audubon Field Notes* 15(5):483).

Contributors—Except where otherwise noted, credit for observations is as follows: Vernon, B. C.,

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James Grant; Bozeman—Three Forks—Ennis, Mont. area, P. D. Skaar; Missoula, Mont., R. L. Hand; National Bison Range, Moiese, and Ninepipe and Pablo Refuges, Lake Co., Mont., C. J. Henry; Baker, Oreg., Ann Ward; Columbia National Wildlife Refuge,

Othello, Wash., Philip A. Lehenbauer; McNary National Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash., Frank L. Kenney, and Pullman, Wash., Ruth P. Ownbey, Mrs. S. O. Stanley reported for the Spokane Audubon Society

Spring Migration, 1963

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION
/ Dr. Oliver K. Scott

The rains came and there was much rejoicing! This multi-region had more divergence of weather than usual. In southern Colorado there was continued drought and high dry winds with accompanying dust storms (*OR, Mrs. JJC*); the southern Colorado Rockies had a tragic lack of snow. In contrast, rains in the Great Basin have been wonderful. Stillwater Refuge, Nev. is back in business after being dried out for several years. Malheur, Oreg. had fine rains. The Silvies River, one of the tributaries to the Malheur sump, ran water for the first time in five years (*EK*). Ruby Lakes, Nev., which is in a dry basin, has excellent water (*DEL*). There was so much water in southern Idaho that the geese lost most of their first nesting by flooding on the Snake River at the Minidoka Refuge (*SRW*). In general, these two months were not too remarkable as the spring goes, but we have more unusual records, which, perhaps, reflects more observers. The increased water supplies augur well for the future. Monte Vista Refuge, southern Colorado, has a different problem—only 5 in. of rain annually. It lies in a stunning setting in the San Luis Valley, a desert floor surrounded on three sides by 13,000 ft. mountains. The Refuge is trying to reintroduce cranes and geese, in addition to acting as a refuge and breeding area to great numbers of other waterfowl. They are hampered by lack of water (*CRB*). The water comes from wells and springs which have gone dry. Agriculture is profitable in the valley and artesian water is pumped for irrigation; but the water-table is steadily dropping. This is an old story in the West and Southwest—by using bigger and better pumps they postpone until the future unpleasant decisions. The surrounding mountains are overgrazed and hold less water than formerly. Erosion is speeded up. Run-off is easier and less goes into the water-table. This is federal land, but the Administration's feeble efforts to make a change are no better than the previous feeble efforts.

Grebes—There were 1200 Horned Grebes at Minidoka Refuge on the Snake River, southern Idaho, at the end of April—an early date (*SRW*). Eared and Western Grebes also occur there by the thousand.

Hérons—A Little Blue Heron was found dead at Draper, near Salt Lake City, on May 25 (*DD*). The specimen of this bird—casual in Utah—is preserved.

Waterfowl—There are very good prospects for a better duck breeding season. Goose nesting was delayed by the wet weather, but nesting numbers were good on the Snake River, western Idaho (*GHC*) and Bear River Marshes, Utah (*GMN*).

Hawks—Stewart Murie had a Harris' Hawk at close range on April 11, at Parowan, southern Utah. We are not aware of any records for the state. A pair of Black Hawks again was seen in Springdale, along the Virgin River in southern Utah. The nest was first seen on April 9, and photographs were made of the birds (*DC, RW*). There are four active Golden Eagle nests at the Malheur Refuge (*EK*). The "order of peck" was demonstrated at Malheur. A Canada Goose took over a Red-tailed Hawk's nest in a cottonwood tree. A Great Horned Owl's nest was taken over by a Red-tail—possibly the evicted one! A Great Horned Owl took over a Swainson's Hawk's nest. Records at Malheur show the Swainson's Hawk less common than 25 years ago (*EK*).

Shorebirds—Two Dunlins were seen at Market Lake, Roberts, Idaho, on May 10 (*AB*). This is a rare shorebird in the area. A flock of 450 Marbled Godwits stayed at Lowell Lake, Deer Flat Refuge, for the last two weeks of May (*GHC*). A concentration of this size is unprecedented for the area.

Gulls—There was a Glaucous Gull, April 7, at Farmington Bay on the Great Salt Lake near Salt Lake City (*CL*). This bird is rare there.

Owls—A Flammulated Owl was banded at Malheur, May 4 (*EK*). This bird is considered rare in Oregon.

Swifts—There was a Vaux's Swift at Utah Lake, central Utah, May 12 (*GK*), where it occurs regularly in migration.

Nutcrackers—Clark's Nutcrackers have disappeared from the mountains north of Denver south to Colorado Springs. There is no explanation; they have not been seen since last year (*HRH*).

Warblers—Another Bay-breasted Warbler was seen at Cheyenne on May 15 (*Mrs. RDH*). This bird has been almost regularly reported in spring from this part of Wyoming. There was a Parula Warbler inside the front-range at Decker's on the South Platte River in Colorado, April 11 (*HRH*). The date is early, but others were seen about the same time in eastern Colorado—although farther west than generally reported. A

Blackpoll Warbler was seen at the Portneuf River, southern Idaho, in early May (SRW).

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This bird is rare so far west. A Black-throated Blue Warbler was seen at Malheur Refuge headquarters on May 2—one of the first spring records for the state (EK). The most exciting report of a stray warbler, however, is from the Mantle Ranch, Dinosaur Nat'l Monument, northwestern Colorado—a Worm-eating Warbler was seen on May 1 by an observer who knows the bird well (DR).

Bunting—At the Malheur meeting of the Western Bird-banders, June 1, a *Painted Bunting* was mist-netted for the first record for Oregon (EK). How's that!

Sparrows—A Harris' Sparrow was seen at Market Lake, Rexberg, Idaho, until April 22 (AB). This is a scarce late fall, early spring and sometimes winter visitor in this Region (the farther east one goes the more common it becomes). Black-chinned Sparrows were first seen at Zion Park this spring. They were seen several times from April 24 (RW). A Golden-crowned Sparrow was seen along Shunes Creek in Zion, April 22 (DC). This is one of the few records for Utah.

Contributors—(AB), Al Bruner; (CRB), Charles R. Bryant; (DC), Dennis Carter; (GHC), Gene H. Crawford; Mrs. (JJC), Mrs. J. J. Crews; (DD), Douglas Day; Mrs. (RDH), Mrs. Robert D. Hanesworth; (HRH), Henry R. Holt; (GK), Gleb Kashin; (EK), Eugene Kridler; (DEL), Donald E. Lewis; (CL), Charles Lockerbie; (SM), Stewart Murie; (GMN), Gerald M. Nugent; (OR), Oppie Reames; (DR), Dick Russell; (RW), Roland Wauer; (SRW), Sanford R. Wilbur.

Spring Migration, 1963

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION
/ Bob and Elsie Boggs

Spring migration began in February when record-breaking warm weather during the second week brought in some remarkably early swallows. April and early May were cool and wet. The last 25 days of May had no measurable rain, and temperatures were above normal. The usual numbers of very early migrants were reported, but the general impression was that the bulk of the migration was considerably delayed.

Loons, Grebes, Petrels, Egrets—Seven Arctic Loons were found at Tillamook, April 5 (AB). An unusually high concentration (800±) was observed in Active Pass in the Gulf Islands between Mayne and Galiano

Islands, May 7 (DS). A Horned Grebe lingered on Sauvies Island, near Portland, Oreg., until May 9 (AB). **Fork-tailed Petrels** were seen at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., Wash., May 15 (JIG). A Snowy Egret (rare) landed on a small pond near Ashland, Oreg., May 6 (J. Reynolds).

Waterfowl—A Trumpeter Swan was seen and heard at Black Creek on Vancouver Island, April 7 (DG, BW). Most of the Black Brant had left by May 18, the last date for which any birds were reported. White-fronted Geese were seen at Hoover Lake, near Medford, Oreg., April 22 and May 6 (A. Butler, JH); at Sauvies Island until May 9; and at Willapa Bay, May 12 (AB). May 3 with 31 on Sea Island, south of Vancouver, B. C. (WHH), and May 4 with 2 at Tillamook (AB) were the last dates reported for Snow Geese. There were several reports of Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal. A very early migrant Cinnamon was a male seen 10 miles north of Medford, March 16 (JO). A male European Widgeon was found at Tillamook, April 5 (AB). Ring-necked Ducks were seen on April 14 and 21 at Vancouver, B. C. (DD), where Canvasbacks were noted last on May 3 (WHH). Lesser Scaup at Stanley Park, Vancouver, B. C., numbered in the hundreds with a high count of 248 on April 7 which had decreased to 30 by April 28 (DD). An Oldsquaw was noted at Tillamook, April 21 (AB). Harlequin Ducks were seen at Tillamook Bay, May 18 (JBC).

Vultures, Eagles, Ospreys—Oregon records for Turkey Vultures were early: 4 at Medford on March 13 (JH); 5 on the Rogue River (JO); and at Corvallis, Oreg. (JGS), March 16. Golden Eagles were noted near Black Creek at an elevation of 2000 ft., April 28 (BW). Bald Eagles were seen on Sauvies Island, May 3; Netarts, Oreg., May 5; at Willapa Bay, May 12 (AB); and Tillamook Bay, May 18 (JBC). Ospreys returned on March 25 to a nest on the Rogue River that has been occupied by this species for over 15 years (JH). Single individuals were seen at Vancouver, B. C., May 3 (WHH), and at Eugene, Oreg., May 23 (GPM). A Peregrine Falcon was discovered on Sauvies Island, April 12 (AB).

Cranes and Rails—Sandhill Cranes were observed on a lake at Howard Prairie, 20 miles west of Ashland, Oreg. (H. Cannasto). On April 3 a flock of over 30 lingered at Northy Lake on Vancouver Island, their usual stopping place (BW). They were seen on Sauvies Island from April 12 to May 24 (AB) and 2 were observed in Victoria, B. C., in mid-May (ARD). A Sora (uncommon) was identified at Radford's Swamp, Black Creek (DG).

Shorebirds—A Black Oystercatcher was seen at Oyster Bay on Vancouver Island, May 11 (Norma

Haas, *BW*). Three Semipalmated Plovers were discovered at MacFadden Swamp, 12 miles south of Corvallis, Oreg., April 30 (Robert M. Storm) and one was carefully noted on Sauvies Island, May 3 (*AB*). A pair of Snowy Plover was seen on Willapa Bay, May 12 (*AB*). Surfbirds, first seen at Bar View, Tillamook Co., Oreg., on April 5 declined in numbers from 45 to 8 on April 21 (*AB*). Ruddy Turnstones were noted at Clover Point, Victoria (*ARD, GAP*), at Willapa Bay, May 12, and at Tillamook, May 15 (*AB*). Black Turnstones numbered 40 at Garibaldi, Tillamook Co., Oreg., April 21, and had decreased to 13 by May 4 (*AB*). Wandering Tattlers were observed at Garibaldi, May 5. Greater Yellowlegs at MacFadden Swamp, seen in numbers between March 20 and 23, had left by March 28 (*JGS*). At Hoover Lake a few were seen in late April (A. Butler, *LT, JH*). Knots (6) were seen at Canoe Pass, near Ladner, B. C., May 11 (*WHH*). A Rock Sandpiper was discovered at Bar View, April 5 (*AB*). Pectoral Sandpipers were observed at Ocean Shores, May 15 (*JIC*). Two Long-billed Dowitchers out of a group of 15 were banded at MacFadden Swamp, April 21 (*JGS*). About 45 (a high count) were found on May 6 at Hoover Lake, where on May 20 an *Am. Avocet* was discovered (*JH*). A Wilson's Phalarope was observed at Canoe Pass, May 11 (*WHH*) and 2 were seen on Hoover Lake, May 20.

Gulls, Terns, Alcids—Bonaparte's Gulls appeared at Qualicum on Vancouver Island, April 10 (*BW*)

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and reached their peak in May: 2500 at Active Pass (*DS*) and 600 at Vancouver, B. C. (*WHH*). A small flight of Common Terns moved through Drayton Harbor, near Blaine, Wash., May 12 (*WHH*). Two Caspian Terns were found on Willapa Bay, May 12 (*AB*). A **Black Tern** was seen at Hoover Lake, May 20 (*JH*). Tufted Puffins were at Three Arch Rocks, Oreg., May 5 (*AB*).

Pigeons and Owls—Band-tailed Pigeons were migrating in large flocks in the Rogue River Valley and foothills near Medford from April 1 to 25 (*JH*). The only Barn Owl of the season was seen at Allison Road, Victoria (*GAP*). A Short-eared Owl remained on Sauvies Island until May 9 (*AB*).

Swifts and Hummingbirds—Vaux's Swift was recorded first on April 14 at Alouette Lake in British Columbia (*DD*) and later in the month at Eugene (*GPM*). All other records were for May: Eagle Gorge in King County, Wash., May 5 (*DW, fide VEC*); 60 at Medford, May 8 (*JC*); and 3 in Mason County, Wash., May 26 (*BB*). A male Rufous Hummingbird appeared in a garden at Medford, Feb. 23 (Mrs. F. Jones). Mrs.

Lucile Kline at Blaine saw a pair on March 11; the first bird appeared at Hubbard, Oreg., March 13 (*TM*). Other localities did not record Rufous Hummingbirds until well into April. Hundreds were observed on telephone wires at Ocean Shores on May 15 (*JIC*). An interesting record of an *Allen's Hummingbird* was reported from Hubbard, April 8. The bird hovered for a moment only 2 feet away from the observer sitting on a log. The bright orange throat patch and green back were clearly seen (*TM*). A Calliope Hummingbird was seen in Medford (*JH*).

Woodpeckers and Flycatchers—A Lewis' Woodpecker was noted on Barnston Island, near Vancouver, B. C., May 4 (*WHH*). The Ash-throated Flycatcher arrived at Medford the first week in May. A Say's Phoebe was observed near Dodge Bridge on the Rogue River, March 12 (*JH*). Traill's Flycatchers, Western Flycatchers, Western Wood Pewees and Olive-sided Flycatchers were not common until late May.

Swallows, Jays, Wrens—The earliest Violet-green Swallow was seen on Feb. 11 at the Game Commission Pond, near Medford (*LT*). In March they were seen regularly and frequently throughout the Region. February dates for Tree Swallows were numerous: Feb. 11 at the Game Commission Pond (*LT*); Feb. 16 at Longview, Wash. (*AB, JBC, JO*); Feb. 17 at Comox, B. C. (*DG, BW*); Feb. 23 at MacFadden Swamp (*JGS*); Feb. 24 at Seattle (*VEC*); and Feb. 25 at Hubbard (*TM*). Rough-winged Swallows were noted at Drayton Harbor, May 1 (*WHH*); at Eagle Gorge, May 5 (*DW, fide VEC*); and at Pitt Meadows, B. C., May 6 (*DD*). Barn Swallows were first seen at Vancouver, B. C., April 26 (*DD*). Cliff Swallows arrived at Eugene, April 16 (*GPM*). A flight of 4000 to 5000 Cliff Swallows, accompanied by a few Purple Martins, stopped at the Game Commission Pond, May 2-4 (*JH*). Two Purple Martins observed at Willapa Bay, May 12, were noteworthy (*AB*). A Gray Jay made an unexpected appearance at Talent, Oreg. in the Rogue River valley on April 28 (*LT*). House Wrens arrived at Canoe Pass, May 11 (*WHH*); and at Hubbard, Oreg., May 13 (*TM*). Three were found on the Tillamook burn, May 18 (*JBC*). Rock Wrens had appeared in Medford by the first week in May (*JH*).

Mockingbirds and Thrushes—A Mockingbird was seen and heard singing at Phoenix, Oreg. in mid-April (Ralph Browning). Hermit Thrushes on Alouette Mountain, May 29, were probably breeding birds. There were no early records of Swainson's Thrushes. The Western Bluebird is becoming a rare bird in the Region. There were no reports from any observers. An interesting find was a Mountain Blue bird at Black Creek, May 12 (*DG, Theed Pearse*). A mated pair of Townsend's Solitaires was noted in the foothills west of

Ashland, Oreg. early in April (FS). A single individual was feeding along the edges of Hoover Lake in the manner of a shorebird (JH). Two were seen at Alouette Lake, May 15 (DD).

Kinglets, Pipits, Shrikes, Starlings—Ruby crowned Kinglets were last seen at Seattle, May 5 (VEC). Water Pipits passed through British Columbia from April 14 to May 11. A Loggerhead Shrike (seen occasionally in all seasons in Jackson County, Oreg., TM) was discovered on the Rogue River road, March 24 (JH). The Starling appears to be increasing in numbers at Miracle Beach on Vancouver Island (BW).

Vireos and Warblers—A high count of Hutton's Vireos was 5 seen at Courtenay on Vancouver Island, March 17 (DG). Solitary Vireos were late. The Red-eyed Vireo is increasing in numbers in the Campbell River area on Vancouver Island; the first arrival was on May 16 (BW). Two were seen at Alouette Lake, May 21 (DD), and at Portland, Oreg., May 30 (JBC). An early Warbling Vireo was heard near Ashland, Oreg., April 18 (FS). Orange-crowned Warblers arrived at Medford, April 5 (JH); at Eugene, April 6 (GPM); at Seattle, April 7 (VEC); and at Hubbard, Oreg., April 8 (TM). A Nashville Warbler was discovered at Pitt Meadows, B. C., May 6 (DD). Yellow Warblers arrived at Hubbard, April 29 (TM); in most localities they were scarce. Audubon's Warblers were down in numbers. The less common Myrtle Warbler was seen in two places: Miracle Beach, April 25 (BW), and Pitt Meadows, May 6 (DD). The Black-throated Gray Warbler was seen in Eugene, April 28 (GPM), but was not noted in other localities until the first or second week in May (AB, DD, JH, TM). Very early were several Townsend's Warblers at Miracle Provincial Park, April 7 (DG, BW). Hermit Warblers were observed at Medford by the first week in May (JH), and several were seen on Larch Mountain, east of Portland on May 24 (AB). The first migrant Yellowthroat was noted on April 8 at Hubbard, Oreg., where a Yellow-breasted Chat was seen on May 13 (TM). A Wilson's Warbler was observed at Campbell River, April 4 (early, BW).

Blackbirds, Orioles, Cowbirds, Tanagers—Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen on Vancouver Island on May 18 (GAP) and one was on Sauvies Island on April 12 (AB). Two adult male **Hooded Orioles** and a female were closely observed at Ashland on May 15 (FS) to provide the first report of this species for

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Oregon. Bullock's Orioles had arrived in Medford by the first week in May (JH); single individuals were sighted at Medina, May 10 (Walter Hagenstein); at Corvallis, May 19 (JGS); and at Hubbard, May 20 (TM).

Brown-headed Cowbirds had increased in numbers on Vancouver Island (DS, BW), and in northern Oregon (JBC). Western Tanagers showed a neat, consistent migration. Localities for this species with arrival dates are listed in order from south to north: Medford, early May (JH); Eugene, May 10 (GPM); Hubbard, May 13 (TM); Seattle, May 14 (BB, EB, VEC); and Alouette Lake, B. C., May 17 (DD).

Grosbeaks, Finches, and Sparrows—Lazuli Buntings were seen in Medford the first week in May (JH). Most observers who found Evening Grosbeaks at all reported them very scarce. House Finches were found at Campbell River, April 6 (BW). A heavy Pine Siskin flight was reported at Medford and Corvallis. Am. Goldfinches (1000±) were foraging in an orchard in early May at Corvallis (JGS). Lesser Goldfinches were present in small numbers at Eugene (GPM). Savannah Sparrows were noted along the Rogue River on April 25 (JH), and at Seattle, April 27 (VEC), but were not seen at Vancouver, B. C., until May 3 (WHH). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was an unexpected visitor seen on the "Big Day" bird count at Medford on May 30, and again on June 2 and 4 (JH, John Linn, Jr.). It was carefully identified by appearance and song. A Harris' Sparrow (uncommon), a male in breeding plumage, was discovered at Victoria, May 20 (DS). Between April 1 and April 25 White-crowned Sparrows were sighted at many locations in the valley and foothills in Jackson County, Oregon. Resident birds arrived in early April, while the *gambelii* race passed through in May. Golden-crowned Sparrows made a poor showing. One or two Lincoln's Sparrows frequented a feeder daily from April 28 to May 5 at Burnaby, B. C. (WHH).

Contributors (sectional editors' names in bold face).—**George Alderson** (northwest Oregon); (AB) Alan Baldrige; (VEC) Violet E. Cannon; (JIC) Mrs. J. I. Colwell; (JBC) John B. Crowell, Jr.; (ARD) A. R. Davidson; (DD) Doug Dow; (DG) David Guthrie; (WHH) **Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Hesse** (British Columbia); (JH) Joseph Hicks (southwest Oregon); (TM) Thomas McCamant; (GPM) Gerald P. Morsello; (JO) Jim Olson; (GAP) G. A. Poynter; (DS, RS) **David and Ruth Stirling** (Vancouver Island); (JGS) Joseph G. Strauch, Jr.; (FS) F. Sturges; (LT) Mrs. Leroi Tompkins; (BW) Betty Westerborg; (DW) Dick Witt.

The Nesting Season, 1963

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN—INTER-MOUNTAIN REGION
/ **Thomas H. Rogers.**

The Region experienced an abnormally cool summer, with precipitation in some areas much above average. June temperatures were average to below; moisture was below normal in the western part of the Region, but abundant in western Montana. July continued cool over the Region, with rainfall average or less, except for the Missoula area, which continued wetter than normal. Almost no summerlike weather occurred, except for the third week of June and the first half of August. Growth of vegetation was favored and summer drying out was considerably retarded in many areas. All in all, the season appeared to be a favorable one for birdlife, with good nesting success.

Credit for reports, unless otherwise indicated, is as follows: National Bison Range, Moiese, Mont., C. J. Henry; Missoula, Mont. area, Ralph L. Hand; Bozeman-Ennis--Three Forks area, P. D. Skaar; Baker, Oreg. area, Ann Ward; Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash., Philip A. Lehenbauer, and McNary National Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash., Earl M. Brooks.

Loons, Grebes, Pelicans, Herons, Ibis—An *immature* Common Loon, seldom reported in the Region, was seen at Osoyoos Lake in extreme southern British Columbia (Werner and Hildegard Hesse). Noteworthy numbers of Red-necked Grebe nests were found at two localities: 14 at Swan Lake, Vernon, B. C. (James Grant) and 11 on Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge (Allan and Helen Cruickshank). Four broods of the Eared Grebe furnished the first breeding record for the species for Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge. The Cruickshanks reported 30 nests of the Western Grebe on Ninepipe. White Pelicans were noted from southern British Columbia to eastern Oregon. A flock of about 65 was seen on July 23 high in the vicinity of Skaha Lake in the Penticton, B. C. area, where it is not known to breed (JG) and a group of 20 at Richland, Oreg. in late June surprised Ann Ward for the same reason. The birds also were noted at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge and at O'Sullivan Dam (Jim Acton) in Grant County, central Washington. Two decidedly unusual records were of 4 immature Black-crowned Night Herons and 2 White-faced Ibis on Ninepipe, both new station records (AC & HC).

Waterfowl—The best success on record at Nine-pipe, 24 broods and 122 young, was reported (Leon Littlefield). Record production for waterfowl was noted at Columbia Refuge and was believed to be up about 20 per cent over 1962. Next to the Mallard in numbers at Columbia were the Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal. The Fish and Wildlife Service McNary Refuge is farming about 300 acres on the Ringold Waterfowl Area along the Columbia River in central Washington, in an effort to prevent depredations by waterfowl upon adjacent farms. Of special interest was a lone male

Oldsquaw at Columbia Refuge in mid-June, the first summer record for the station.

Gallinaceous Birds—Nesting success for the Blue Grouse appeared to be good at the National Bison Range. Four broods, containing 35 young, were noted, July 25 (AC & HC) and refuge personnel have seen them more frequently than usual. At Columbia Refuge Ring-necked Pheasants and Chukars appeared to be having excellent success. The Red-legged subspecies of the latter was introduced there this April. The pheasants were noted as numerous also at McNary Refuge and the Bison Range.

Rails, Shorebirds and Gulls—A Virginia Rail, acting as if it had a nest nearby, was observed near Harrison, Mont. on July 7. This is the first summer record for the area and one of the few for the state (P. D. Skaar). A pair of Marbled Godwits, acting as if they had young nearby, was observed near *Belgrade*, Mont. on June 22 (T. B. Holker). Sixty Northern Phalaropes were seen on the Bison Range potholes on *July 24* (AC & HC). Long-billed Dowitchers in spring plumage were seen in the Bozeman-Three Forks-Ennis triangle on *July 7*. In this same area a high of 60 Franklin's Gulls were observed on June 16. A single observation of this species was made in the west potholes area of Grant County, Wash., where it is rare, on June 27 (PAL). Perhaps the most amazing occurrence for the season was some 300 *Sabine's Gulls* at Blue Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on *June 9* and about 4 hours later about 80 miles to the east at Reardan. Even one of this species is remarkable in eastern Washington. A possible explanation is a 35-40 m.p.h. wind which was blowing from the northwest at the time (Warren Hall & Lynn LaFave).

Doves, Cuckoos, Owls, Goatsuckers—Mourning Dove numbers at Missoula were the reverse of usual, for, in July, when they normally increase, the trend was downward and continued thus to the end of the period. Four observations of the *Black-billed Cuckoo*, the first for the area, were obtained at the Bison Range during July (AC & HC, CJH, Vic Lewin). A pair of Long-eared Owls nested at Lavington, B. C. Three flying young, still calling for food, were seen on July 15 (JG). One was seen near Belgrade, Mont. where it is seldom observed. A nest of the Poor-will

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with 2 young was found near Okanagan Landing, B. C. on July 23 and the young were flying three days later (JG).

Swifts and Hummingbirds—Black Swifts were noted at the Bison Range (AC & HC, CJH) and in Glacier

National Park (Thomas H. Rogers). Vaux's Swift was reported from Baker County, Oreg., (James G. Olson) and Pend Oreille County, Wash., (*LL*, Spokane Audubon Society), all in June. All species of hummingbirds seemed scarce for the Region as a whole. Not a single Rufous was seen at Missoula, the first time since 1952.

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers—Two Williamson's Sapsuckers were noted on Baldy Mountain near Osoyoos, B. C. (*WH* & *HH*). Up to 10 Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers remained in the burned-over area along Long Lake just west of Spokane, Wash. A female Northern Three-toed Woodpecker was observed in the Sullivan Lake area, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (*S.A.S.*). Flycatchers of the usual species were reported in good numbers. The Ash-throated was noted in Grant County, Wash. in the O'Sullivan Dam area (*JA*) and at Columbia Refuge (*WH* & *LL*). An Olive-sided Flycatcher in the latter locality on *June 9* was unusual, as the species ordinarily is found in the mountains (*WH* & *LL*). A pair of Say's Phoebes reared 2 broods *in a carport* in Vernon, B. C. Two nests of Hammond's Flycatchers were located at Sullivan Lake, Pend Oreille Co., Wash.; one contained eggs and the other apparently had small young (Bob & Elsie Boggs).

Swallows and Jays—Hand noted only one small colony of Violet-green Swallows at Missoula, this adjacent to a lumber yard, a cement plant and a small sawmill! On the other hand, Tree Swallows there appeared to be increasing. An adult Barn Swallow was still feeding young out of the nest on Aug. 24 at Columbia Falls, Mont. (*THR*). A recently vacated nest of the Gray Jay found near Vernon, B. C. contained pupae of the parasitic fly, *Apaulina*.

Creepers, Wrens, Thrushes—A Brown Creeper was observed on the nest in the Little Pend Oreille Lakes area in eastern Washington (*SAS*). The Cañon Wren, observed during spring along the Madison River in southwestern Montana, was not seen again and may have abandoned its nesting site. A **Brown Thrasher**, carefully identified, was noted on May 19 and 20 at Pasco, Wash. (Louise Nunn). At Laving-ton, B. C. a young Robin was found dead in the nest, apparently killed by *Apaulina* larvae (*JG*). A number of observations of Western Bluebirds were made at the Long Lake burn west of Spokane. The Mountain Bluebird continued scarce at Missoula but a pair was seen gathering food in June. About 12 nests of Townsend's Solitaire were noted in the Vernon, B. C. area. One contained a Brown-headed Cowbird egg in addition to 4 solitaire eggs. Another contained larvae of *Apaulina*.

Pipits, Vireos, Warblers—At least 3 singing male Sprague's Pipits were found in two different areas, near Three Forks and Manhattan, Mont. from June 2 to July 4. This is the first record for the area, except for an old record by Thomas, quoted by Saunders. Otherwise the closest reported locality is Great Falls. It appeared very likely that the birds were breeding. A Solitary Vireo on June 7 and 10 was a new station record for the Bison Range (*AC* & *HC*) and 1 in Sourdough Canyon in the Bozeman area in July was the third for that locality. Nashville Warblers, seldom reported for the breeding season in the Region, were noted on three occasions in the vicinity of Osoyoos, B. C. (*WH* & *HH*). One seen on *July 18* at the edge of Missoula suggested that it may have summered nearby. A three-story Yellow Warbler nest found at Swan Lake near Vernon, B. C. had a set of warbler eggs and a cowbird egg in the bottom nest, 3 warbler and 2 cowbird eggs in the middle nest and 2 young warblers in the top one. The Northern Waterthrush was reported from only one location, Sullivan Lake, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (*LL*, *SAS*). A nest of the Am. Redstart at Lavington, B. C. contained 2 redstart eggs and a cowbird egg (*JG*).

Blackbirds, Tanagers—Three Bobolinks were seen on two occasions in early June at Cusick in north eastern Washington (*JA*, *LL*, *SAS*) and a pair was noted near Valley, Stevens Co., Wash. on July 29 and Aug. 6 (*LL*). Much suitable habitat exists in eastern Washington and the future success of the species there will be followed with interest. Six of this species were seen at the Bison Range on July 16 (*AC* & *HC*). The species is rare in that area. About 600 nesting pairs of Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Swan Lake, Vernon, B. C., outnumbering the Red-winged, which was estimated at 400 pairs. A concentration of some 5000 of the latter species was noted at Cusick, Wash. on Aug. 3 (*JA*). The nest of a Western Tanager, containing 4 eggs, was found at Sullivan Lake, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (*BB* & *EB*).

Finches and Sparrows—A pair of Black-headed Grosbeaks, uncommon in North Okanagan, was believed to have nested near Vernon, B. C. On the Little Spokane River near Spokane about 10 pairs and young were noted (Vee Nealey & Connie Smedley). In Baker, Oreg., a brood of House Finches was successfully reared in a container for papers by the front door of Stan Ingram's home. The rack contained greenery placed there as Christmas decorations. Pine Siskins, Am. Goldfinches and Red Crossbills were scarce in the Missoula area, but appeared to be in average or above normal numbers in the Spokane area. The nest of a Green-tailed Towhee, containing 4 eggs, was found in the Bozeman area on July 4 (Donald R. Skaar). The Rufous-sided Towhee appeared to be much on the increase near Spokane, with flocks of 15-20 seen

by the first week of August (LL). The massive spring invasion of Lark Buntings did not stay in the Bozeman area. The species was not observed there after June 2. A singing male Grasshopper Sparrow near Three Forks, Mont. on June 30 was unusual. An estimated 6 pairs nested on about 1 square mile of grassland on the Indian Reserve 4 miles northwest of Vernon, B. C. *Clay-colored Sparrows* showed up unexpectedly in western Montana: a singing male for several days in early July at Missoula, at least 3 singing males near Manhattan in June and July and another singing male

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south of Three Forks in June. The only other record for this southwestern part of Montana was a June, 1961 observation at Sheridan. A nest of Brewer's Sparrow in the Bozeman area contained 3 eggs on June 19 (PDS) and another near Virginia City contained 4 eggs on July 17 (C. V. Davis). A Lincoln's Sparrow, the second for the station, was seen at the Bison Range on June 14 (AC & HC). A singing male Chestnut-collared Longspur was again found singing near Three Forks, Mont., June 2.

The Nesting Season, 1963

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION
/ Dr. Oliver K. Scott

The controlling factor, water, for breeding waterfowl was set in the last two seasons and in this season the harvest came. It appeared to be a better breeding season than there has been in several years. July was hot and very dry. In many areas of the Great Basin, Utah, Wyoming and the central Rockies there was no precipitation in July, but daily thunderstorms started in August. Landbirds as well as waterfowl appeared to have a good breeding season, but there are fewer substantiating figures. There was a 75 per cent increase in breeding Mourning Doves at Clear Lake in the Klamath Basin (EJO'N).

Swans—Ruby Lakes reported record production of the Trumpeter Swan with 4 nests and 11 cygnets surviving (DEL). At Minidoka Refuge on the Snake River, southern Idaho, the first goose nesting was 80 per cent destroyed by early high water, but these birds nested again successfully with near normal results (SRW). The ducks there are mostly Mallards and Gadwall about 5000, which is normal. By the end of July the population rose to 35,000, because of the influx of molting Am. Widgeons, Mallards and Gadwalls on Lake Wolcott (SRW). Although Monte Vista Refuge was hit by a water shortage, the number

of Mallards present has almost doubled—up to 14,800. Other species, which are less numerous, were somewhat off (GPE). The refuge has grown, accounting for the increase. Several broods of Buffleheads were found on Lake Yellowstone on July 28 (OKS). Apparently this bird breeds more commonly in northwestern Wyoming than has been supposed. The only rare ducks reported were 4 male and 2 female Wood Ducks at Deer Flat Refuge (WCR). This is the largest count in this region for this rare duck.

Hawks—The Black Hawk nesting attempt near Springdale, southern Utah, raised no young (DLC). A Goshawk nested at Bryce Canyon Nat'l Park (DR). We hope these rare mountain hawks will survive.

Eagles—In spite of allowable shooting of the Golden Eagle in central Wyoming, three nests just north of Casper successfully raised 2 young each. A nest just a mile north of the city, however, was destroyed (OKS). Three young birds of the year were seen in the Kolobara region of Zion Park, July 25 (RW).

Swifts—Black Swifts were reported at Moraine Park and Bear Lake in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park on four days in the third week of August, with up to 3 birds at a time (TC). It is known there are relatively large colonies of these birds in the Colorado Rockies, but the habitat is so inaccessible that they are rarely reported. There were 5 Black Swifts at Salt Lake City, June 18 (GK).

Hummingbirds—A Rivoli's Hummingbird was seen at a feeder on the eastern slope of the Rockies, just south of Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, Aug. 5 (TC). The bird is casual in Colorado, but this is far east.

Swallows—Fifteen Purple Martins—a rare bird in Utah—were seen near Heber on July 10 (GK). This points to a breeding colony in the area.

Warblers, Vireos—A Bay-breasted Warbler was collected on the west side of Upper Klamath Lake on July 6 (RGMcC), the first record for Oregon. A Red-eyed Vireo was found east of Upper Klamath on the same date by the same observer. This specimen also was collected.

Orioles—Scott's Orioles were found at 2 different localities in the juniper forest just south of Salt Lake City, June 29-30 (RF, GK); this is far north for the bird. One was seen carrying food.

Grosbeaks and Buntings—A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was found at 8000 ft. in the front range of the Rockies (Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park), July 16 (TC). This is far west for this bird. Evening Grosbeaks turned up at Durango, July 12 (OR). An Indigo Bunting

was banded in Oak Creek Canyon, Zion Park, July 11 (RW). This seems remarkably far west for this bird, but it is the second record for this Park.

Contributors—(DLC), Dennis L. Carter; (TC), Ted Chandik; (GPE), George P. Eustis; (RF), Reed Ferris; (GK), Gleb Kashin; (DEL), Donald E. Lewis; (RGMcC), R. G. McGaskie; (EJO'N), Edward J. O'Neill; (OR), Oppie Reames; (WCR), William C. Reffalt; (DR), Dick Russell; (OKS), Oliver K. Scott; (RW), Ronald Wauer; (SRW), Sanford R. Wilbur

The Nesting Season, 1963

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / Bob and Elsie Boggs

The June-August period of 1963 has produced "the year without a summer." June was near normal, but July was one of the wettest and coolest ever recorded. August was also a very cool month. An unusual occurrence was the frequent thunderstorms in the Region. Most observers felt the weather had no great effect on nesting birds. Some delayed nesting, particularly in July and August, was noted however.

Grebes, Petrels and Cormorants—A Horned Grebe was seen near Mitlenatch Island in the Strait of Georgia in mid-June (GvT). Evidence that the lighthouse on Destruction Island, off the Washington coast, is still taking its toll of Leach's Petrels is the record of 100± seen flying about the lighthouse the night of July 23 with several picked up dead at its base the following morning (LL). Approximately 360 pairs of Pelagic Cormorants nested along the south shore of Mitlenatch Island, but few raised young successfully because of heavy predation by crows (GvT). They were nesting on Haystack Rock, near Pacific City, Tillamook Co., Oreg., July 1 (TM).

Hérons and Bitterns—The observation of a juvenile *Black-crowned Night Heron* at Glen Lake near Victoria, B. C. is the first sight record of this species for Vancouver Island (T. R. Briggs, Mrs. F. Hurlock, DS). Am. Bitterns were found at Endall Swamp, Black Creek on Vancouver Island in June (DG, BW).

Waterfowl—Black Brant were seen at Black Creek until late in June (BW), and on Destruction Island, July 23 and 24 (LL). A female Lesser Scaup was found on a pond below Fern Ridge Reservoir, Eugene, Oreg., June 16 (JO). A pair of Common Goldeneyes spent the summer at Blaine, Wash. (LK). An Old-squaw seen on Mitlenatch Island in June and July was unusual at that season (GvT). A male Harlequin Duck and 25 immatures and/or females were seen south of Cape

Alava in Clallam County, Wash., July 6 (DW). Fifteen were counted on Destruction Island, July 23 and 24 (LL).

Hawks and Eagles—A melanistic Red-tailed Hawk was seen circling over Dead Indian Road, Jackson Co., Oreg., June 29. The bird was totally black with a red tail (JO). A Golden Eagle's nest with 2 young was found on the cliff of Willow Creek Canyon, south of Madras, Jefferson Co., Oreg., June 11 (TM). An Osprey's nest at Point Roberts was blown down in the October storm of 1962. No Ospreys were seen in the area this season (WHH). An immature Peregrine Falcon was observed on Sauvies Island, near Portland, Oreg., July 26 (AB).

Rails, Shorebirds—Nests of the Virginia Rail and the Sora were found in a small marsh east of Corvallis, Oreg. (JS). The Snowy Plover now appears to be a scarce bird on the Oregon coast. Two early breeding records of the Killdeer were a nest with 4 eggs in Victoria, March 24 (Ralph Fryer), and one with 3 eggs at Corvallis, March 28 (JS). Common Snipe and Spotted Sandpipers were scarce at Vancouver, B. C. (WHH). At least 3 Wilson's Phalaropes spent the summer at MacFadden Swamp, south of Corvallis. A search for nests was unsuccessful, probably because the habitat had been disturbed by agricultural activities (JS).

Gulls and Terns—On Mitlenatch Island nesting pairs of Glaucous-winged Gulls numbered 3000, and 1295 of the young were banded (GvT). On Destruction Island 1000 Glaucous-winged Gulls had many chicks in all stages of growth on July 23 (LL). The 260 Ring-billed Gulls observed on Tsawwassen Beach in British Columbia on Aug. 17 were probably very early migrants. Bonaparte's Gulls, known to summer at least occasionally on Vancouver Island, appeared in the unprecedented numbers of 6000 at Oyster Bay in mid-July (DS). The Heermann's Gull, which breeds in Mexico and wanders north after nesting, made an exceptionally early appearance at Coos Head, Coos Co., Oreg., June 15 (JO). Caspian Terns were sighted at Tsawwassen Beach, July 6 (WHH, PM) and at Oyster Bay, July 15 (Doris Nye). Perhaps the most surprising record of the summer was the discovery of two breeding areas of the *Black Tern*. Six active nests were found in a small marsh near Corvallis, Oreg. (JS). In British Columbia, near Pitt Lake, a nest containing 2 young was first seen on July 13 (WHH, PM) and later on July 17 (Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Dow).

Alcids—Nesting colonies of Pigeon Guillemots were observed on the cliffs near the Arago Light house, Coos Co., Oreg. (GPM). The 250 or so pairs on Mitlenatch Island suffered heavy nest predation from gulls, crows and garter snakes (GvT). The first young Marbled Murrelets were seen at Victoria, July 6 (G. A.

Poynter). Rhinoceros Auklets were nesting in the thousands on Destruction Island, July 23 and 24 (*LL*). Breeding Tufted Puffins were noted at Haystack Rock (*TM*), and on Destruction Island (*LL*).

Doves, Owls, Goatsuckers, Hummingbirds—Mourning Dove nests with eggs were found at Hubbard, Oreg., May 17 (*TM*); and at Alouette

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Lake in British Columbia, June 1 (*WHH*). Great Horned Owls had 2 eggs in a nest on Feb. 18 at Hubbard. On April 22 the young had left the nest but were seen nearby (*TM*). A Pygmy Owl was seen on Larch Mountain, east of Portland, Oreg., on May 24; and one was heard at Meadowlake Dam, south west of Portland, on May 26 (*AB*). Two Poor-wills were flushed at dusk from the slopes of Roxy Ann Butte, near Medford, June 19 (*JO*). The earliest arrival date for the Common Nighthawk was May 27 at Comox, B. C. (*DG*). A good breeding season for Rufous Hummingbirds was experienced; they were nest-building at Hubbard on May 13 (*TM*), and a nest with eggs was found at North Bend, King Co., Wash., May 18 (*BB, EB*). By mid-July a 60 percent increase of Rufous Hummingbirds, mostly immatures, was noted at Phoenix, Oreg. (*RB*), and a good number was observed feeding on huckleberry blossoms at Pole Patch Campground, Gifford Pinchot Nat'l Forest, Skamania Co., Wash. (*BB, EB*). Nests with young were observed on July 12 at Blaine (*LK*), and on July 22 at Hubbard (*TM*).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers—No Lewis' Woodpeckers were known to have nested at Victoria. In the last decade these birds have experienced a steady decline. Habitat changes, the increase in breeding Starlings, and possibly the use of insecticides have been blamed (*DS*). Nestlings were being fed at Pitt Meadows, B. C., July 13 (*WHH*). A Williamson's Sapsucker nest was found in the Ponderosa Pine forest west of Sisters, Deschutes Co., Oreg., June 10 (*TM*). A pair of Western Kingbirds spent the summer south of Corvallis, but no nest or young were found (*IS*). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was seen at Hubbard, June 30 (*TM*). On the Applegate River, near Ruch, Oreg., a pair of Black Phoebe was noted on territory from May 30 to July 11 (*JH, Jack Reynolds, FS*). Western Flycatchers began nest-building on a downspout under a house overhang at Seattle, June 3. The first egg was laid on June 9, and the clutch was complete with 4 eggs on June 12. The young fledged on July 12 (*BB, EB*). A nest containing three young was found on a ledge inside a women's rest room at Champoege State Park in Oregon, July 12 (*TM*). Since the young had already survived the

4th of July week end the observer gave them a good chance of making it!

Swallows, Jays, Bushtits—An exceptionally large brood of 7 young was one of 2 successful nestings of Violet-green Swallows at Blaine (*LK*). A female banded at Blaine in 1962 was found dead at Langlie, B. C. on May 23. Young fledged from a nest box in Seattle on July 13 (*VEC*). At Blaine Tree Swallows hatched 93 eggs of which 66 young were successfully fledged (*LK*). Rough-winged Swallows were nesting at Hubbard, June 24 (*TM*). Barn Swallows were considered very abundant by most observers (*GPM, JS, WHH, et al.*). Steller's Jays were feeding young out of the nest at Seattle, May 18 (*VEC*); and at Burnaby, B. C., May 31 (*WHH*). By mid-July many immatures had appeared at Ashland, Oreg. (*RB*). At Hubbard a pair of Scrub Jays was feeding 3 well-grown young in a nest in a holly tree on May 3 (*TM*). Common Bushtits began building a nest on Feb. 10 in Seattle. This nest came to grief when the tree was cut down a few days later (Mildred Powell). A nest building started on Feb. 21 at Woodburn, Oreg., appeared to be complete on March 22 (Omer Adkinson, *TM*). Common Bushtits were feeding young in a nest at Seattle, May 19; the nest was repaired, presumably by the same pair, on June 11, and young of the second brood were being fed on July 3 (*VEC*).

Nuthatches, Wrentits, Catbirds—White-breasted Nuthatches were feeding young in a nest box near Hubbard, May 12 (*TM*). Wrentits were seen frequently from June 16 to Aug. 9 at Charleston, Coos Co., Oreg. (*GPM*). An immature Catbird and several adults were seen at Pitt Meadows, July 13.

Thrushes, Gnatcatchers, Waxwings—Robins had an extended nesting period, with first nest building on March 15, and young still in the nest on Aug. 9. Mountain Bluebirds fed 3 fully feathered young in a nest in a fence post near the summit of Dead Indian Road, Oreg., June 29 (*JO*). On the slopes of Badger Mountain, Skamania Co., Wash., at 4400 ft. elevation, Mountain Bluebirds carried food to young in a nest hole 26 ft. up in a tall snag, July 21 (late) (*BB, EB*). Positive proof of the breeding of **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** in Oregon was established with the finding of a nest on Roxy Ann Butte, near Medford, May 30. The nest, eggs and incubating female were photographed (Mrs. Howard Bush, *JH*, Mrs. Leroy Tompkins, *et al.*). Cedar Waxwings apparently had a good nesting season.

Crested Myna—A slight increase in numbers was noted. A few were seen in Whalley, south of the Fraser River in British Columbia (*WHH*).

Vireos and Warblers—A Hutton's Vireo was heard in Miracle Beach Provincial Park on July 26 (BW). A nest of the Solitary Vireo with 2 young and 1 egg was found at Camp Adams, near Colton, Clackamas Co., Oreg., June 8 (TM). The Red-eyed Vireo was reported as more common from several British Columbia localities: 2 at Victoria, where they are rare (DS, RS); an increase in the Courtenay-Black Creek area where they were seen as far north as the Campbell River (BW); and "slightly more abundant" at Vancouver, B. C. (WHH). An Orange-crowned Warbler flushed from a nest at Hubbard on May 20, but the nest itself was not found until May 27, at which time it held 3 young (TM). A male Town send's Warbler was observed feeding a juvenal at Sidney, B. C., June 23.

Blackbirds and Grosbeaks—Nesting Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found near the Game Commission Pond at Medford (JH), and in a small marsh east of Corvallis (JS). Three Tricolored Blackbird colonies, averaging 40 individuals each, were found in Jackson County, Oreg. (RB, JH). Recently fledged young were being fed by a Black-headed Grosbeak at Seattle, July 10 (VEC).

Finches and Sparrows—House Finches were incubating eggs by April 26 at Hubbard (TM), and young birds appeared at feeders at Seattle, May 24 (VEC) and at Richmond Beach, north of Seattle, June 16 (DW). An Am. Goldfinch nest at Hubbard held 4 eggs on June 17 and 6 eggs plus one Brown-headed Cowbird egg on June 24 (TM). Immatures

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were being fed at Richmond Beach, July 25 (DW). Young Am. Goldfinches were observed being taught to drink by the parents in a bird bath at Blaine (LK). Rufous-sided Towhees began nest-building at Seattle, April 7. The nest was completed on April 16, held 3 eggs on April 21, and tiny young on May 4 (BB, EB). A nest with 4 eggs was discovered at Hubbard, May 18 (TM). Juveniles were foraging for themselves at Richardson's State Park, Oreg., June 16 (JO). At Medford, Oreg., a *Grasshopper Sparrow* was seen making repeated trips carrying insects, June 26; no nest was found. On Aug. 15, 2 immature birds were discovered (JH). A Vesper Sparrow's nest at Hubbard, June 3, contained 4 young. Fox Sparrows (15) were seen on Destruction Island, July 23 and 24 (LL).

Contributors (sectional editors' names in bold face)—(AB) Alan Baldrige; (BB, EB) Bob and Elsie Boggs; (RB) **Ralph Browning** (southwest Oregon); (VEC) Violet E. Cannon; (DG) David Guthrie; (WHH) **Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Hesse** (British Columbia); (JH) Joseph Hicks; (LK) Lucile Kline; (LL) Lynn LaFave; (TM)

Thomas McCamant; (PM) Paul McKenzie; (GPM) Gerald P. Morsello; (JO) Jim Olson; (DS, RS) **David and Ruth Stirling** (Vancouver Island); (JS) Joseph Strauch; (FS) Frank Sturges; (GvT) Gerry van Tets; (BW) Betty Westerborg; (DW) Dick Witt.

End 1963

1964

Autumn Migration, 1963

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
/ Thomas H. Rogers

Several events stand out particularly for the fall season for the Region. First,



reporters from every station in this large Region were unanimous in describing the period as mild, in several cases extremely so. The first frost in Bozeman, Mont. was on Oct. 24, 10 days later than the previous record. This, combined with the early spring, resulted in a full month more of frost-free season. At the other end of the Region, at Baker, Oreg., the area had, as of Oct. 3, experienced 162 days free of frost, compared to the average of 124 days. The first killing frost at Missoula, Mont. was on Oct. 26 and at Spokane, Oct. 19. Precipitation was distinctly deficient in most areas, but eastern Washington received above-normal moisture in November. Because of the mild temperatures, no snow remained in the valleys at any of the reporting stations. Late departure dates were much in evidence and in some instances arrivals of migrants were retarded. P. D. Skaar, analyzing his records, noted that approximately 40 per cent of his departure records for the Sept. 14–Nov. 30 period were broken, mainly for shorebirds (8 species) and insectivorous passerines (15 species) and commented, "It is certainly reasonable to infer that these late departures were related to the

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late freeze." Next to stand out was the number of displacements from the Pacific coast or from farther west in the Region (see Skaar's comment under Shorebirds). Finally, several areas had an abundance of northern visitors, in contrast to conditions last year.

This would appear to be a contradiction, with weather so mild. Food supply possibly is the important factor here but no data are available at this point.

Loons, Grebes and Pelicans—Common Loons were noted into November, with the two highest numbers on Nov. 3: 15 in the Bozeman triangle and 7 or 8 at Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. (*WH & LL*). A peak of 100 Horned Grebes was recorded in the Bozeman triangle on Nov. 3, but the birds decreased in eastern Washington around mid-October, with 1 at Sullivan Lake, Pend Oreille Co. on Nov. 24 furnishing a very late record (*WH & LL*). Likewise, a late record was the occurrence of 4 Western Grebes, same county and date (*WH & LL*). The White Pelican numbers were up at the Columbia Refuge and at lakes near Sprague and at O'Sullivan Dam (*JA, WH & LL*) and a single was noted on the Snake River at Almoda (*BL*), all localities in Washington.

Waterfowl—The bulk of Whistling Swans appeared in eastern Washington around the last of October. Immature birds, common in flights at Columbia Refuge, indicated excellent production during the summer. About 40 appeared at Harrison Lake, Madison Co., Mont. on Oct. 19 (*NM & PDS*) and the same number was still at Ennis Lake in the same area on Dec. 1. Trumpeter Swans were observed in the same general area. Canada Goose numbers had built up to about 10,000 at McNary Refuge by December. Many (Lesser) Canada Geese were noted in eastern Washington: 6000 at Stratford, Grant Co., 400 at Turnbull Refuge (*LL*) and a moderate increase was noted for the Columbia Basin in general, with the migration 2 to 3 weeks later than usual (*PAL*). An immature **Black Brant** at Harrison Lake provided the third record for the state (*RAH, DRS & PDS*). Twenty White-fronted Geese remained at McNary Refuge. Single birds were seen at Swan Lake near Vernon, B. C. and at Stratford, Wash. (*JA, WH & LL*). A late flight of Snow Geese at Missoula brought many large flocks over the city, Nov. 19-21. In addition to the usual sprinkling of the species in eastern Washington, a flock of 50 was observed at Asotin on Nov. 11 (*LL*). Lehenbauer reported the Mallard migration in the Columbia Basin to be later than normal, with peak usage at Columbia Refuge in mid-November. He noted that the Basin population continued very high, with the distribution altered somewhat, owing to the new Wampum Dam pool on the Columbia River. In late November the pool held upwards of 150,000 Mallards. The peak for the species at McNary Refuge was 13,520, in late October, and at Ninepipe and Pablo Reservoirs, Lake Co., Mont., 70,000 on Nov. 22. Pintail numbers remaining in the Columbia Basin, likewise, were considerably higher than in former years (*PAL*). The species peaked at 26,500 the third week of October at

Ninepipe and Pablo. Abnormally high numbers of Green-winged Teal and Am. Widgeon were staying on in the Columbia Basin (*PAL*) and both species, plus Pintail, were still at Ennis Lake, Madison Co., Mont. on Dec. 1. Some 800 Redheads, noted on Oct. 12 at Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. were gone the following week (*JA* & *WH*). Movement of the Ring-necked Duck into the Columbia Basin was later than normal, as were the arrivals of Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye and Bufflehead (*PAL*). Over 1000 Ring-necked Ducks were at McNary Refuge in November. A sight record of a male **Greater Scaup**, associated with Lesser Scaup at Three Forks, Mont., was obtained on Nov. 30. The White-winged Scoter apparently has become a regular but rare migrant in eastern Washington; a new high of 28 birds at Banks Lake plus 7 at Soap Lake was counted on Oct. 27 (*LL*). The first record of this species in the *Three Forks*, Mont. area was obtained on Nov. 5 when 2 females were noted (*NM* & *PDS*). A male was found at the same spot in late November (*DRS* & *PDS*) and was collected a few days later by Martin. A very late Ruddy Duck was still at Missoula on Nov. 24. A male Hooded Merganser at *Ennis Lake* was the second record for the area.

Hawks and Eagles—The wintering build-up of Golden Eagles was well under way at Columbia Refuge in early November. Up to 3 at a time were noted at Ninepipe Refuge. At the latter place the Bald Eagle had increased to 2 adults and 4 immatures, feeding upon crippled waterfowl. Four individuals were noted in the Bozeman triangle. Two sightings were made of the Peregrine Falcon: 1 at Vernon, B. C. (*JTF*) and 1 at Reardan, Wash. (*JA*).

Gallinaceous Birds—Blue Grouse were reported to be in larger than usual numbers in eastern Washington (*LL*) but the opposite condition appeared true for the Spruce Grouse (State Game Dept.) Mountain Quail were reported in the Region for the first time in this regional editor's experience. "Good numbers" were reported in Asotin County, Wash. (Jack Carpenter, *vide LL*). The Gray Partridge made a good recovery from the low point reached last spring at the Bison Range.

Cranes—Large numbers of Sandhill Cranes were reported. At Cold Springs Refuge, 35 miles from McNary Refuge, 500 were counted in September (*FK*). About 1000 were seen at Knutsford, near Kamloops, B. C., Oct. 13. At Columbia Refuge the peak occurred the second week of October. Farther east at Cow Lake, Adams Co., where the species is unusual in fall, 14 birds were noted on Sept. 1 (*LL*). A flock of 10 was seen flying high over Three Forks, Mont. on Oct. 13, a late date.

Coot and Shorebirds—Am. Coot showed a peak of perhaps 15,000-20,000 at Ennis Lake on Sept. 29 and a few still lingered until Dec. 1. Records for late departure dates were broken for 8 species of shorebirds in the Bozeman triangle. At Missoula and in eastern Washington numbers were below normal for this group. Hand reported a good variety of species at Missoula, however. Only a few Am. Golden Plover were noted in eastern Washington and 1 was noted at Missoula. However, the species put in a

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notable appearance in the Bozeman triangle, with sightings on several dates with numbers up to 6 birds (*NM*, *DRS* & *PDS*). Up to 16 Black-bellied Plover were sighted in a day in eastern Washington and as many as 8 at Three Forks, Mont. A **Ruddy Turnstone**, very rare in the Region, was seen at O'Sullivan Dam, Grant Co., Wash. on Sept. 1 and 2 (*JA*, *LL*). A single Upland Plover appeared for the third consecutive year at *Missoula*. Dunlins appeared as usual in small numbers in eastern Washington, but 1 at *Three Forks*, Mont. on Aug. 11 was the second record for the state. The Stilt Sandpiper appeared in eastern Washington in unusual numbers and stayed later than normally. *Nine* were seen in one day, Sept. 8 which was the last date noted (*JA*, *WH* & *LL*). Particularly noteworthy were 3 Marbled Godwits at *Stratford Lake*, Grant Co., Wash. (*JA*). Sightings of the **Red Phalarope** in four localities make one wonder if there is some common factor involved in the appearance of these birds, so extremely rare in the Region. The localities were Banks and Soap Lakes in Washington (*WH*, *LL*, *S.A.S.*); Bend, Oreg. (*JGO*) and Harrison Lake, Mont. P. D. Skaar said of this and other displaced species in his area, "It is tempting to relate the occurrence of these birds to the prolonged sway of Pacific air-flow during the season."

Jaegers, Gulls, Murrelets—A **Long-tailed Jaeger** was observed at the salmon spawning grounds of Adams River, north of Vernon, B. C. on Oct. 23 and 25 (*JG*). Single Mew Gulls again appeared in eastern Washington, at Park Lake and O'Sullivan Dam, Grant Co. and at Spokane (*JA*, *WH*, *LL*). **Sabine's Gull** somewhat paralleled the Red Phalarope's appearances, with 3 at Alkali Lake, Grant Co., Wash. (*JA* & *WH*), 1 at Adams River, B. C. (*BAS*) and 1 at *Harrison Lake* the second record for Montana. An **Ancient Murrelet** was picked up alive in Spokane County, Wash. in late October (Stan Guenther).

Owls and Goatsuckers—Two Great Gray Owls were seen at the head of Squaw Creek, 20 mi. south of Bozeman, at 8000 ft. (*DW*). A live Poor-will was brought in from the foothills near Bozeman on Sept. 23 (*CVD*). This is the second record for the area since

1909. One picked up alive at Spokane on Oct. 2 furnished a late date (*LL*). Several notably late dates for the Common Nighthawk were obtained: Sept. 21 at Spokane (*LL*), Sept. 28 at Baker, Oreg. and Oct. 3 in the Bozeman area.

Woodpeckers—A Yellow-shafted Flicker appeared at a feeding station at Coldstream Municipality in the Vernon, B. C. area on Nov. 2 and was still present on Dec. 7 (*JTF*).

Flycatchers and Swallows—Three Ash-throated Flycatchers were identified at close range at *Missoula* on Aug. 9, constituting Hand's second record there. A late Say's Phoebe was found on Nov. 3 at Banks Lake (*S.A.S.*). The Western Wood Pewee was observed as late as Sept. 14 in eastern Washington (*S.A.S.*), until Sept. 21 in the Bozeman area and until Sept. 23 at Baker, Oreg. A number of late swallow records were reported. A few Bank Swallows were still at Three Forks, Mont. on Oct. 6. An almost complete albino was seen there earlier in the fall. Young Barn Swallows still occupied a nest in the Vernon, B. C. area on Sept. 9. Cliff Swallows were common at McNary Refuge until the first of November.

Jays, Chickadees and Creepers—A concentration of 150 Piñon Jays near Bend, Oreg., on Oct. 26 was a noteworthy number (*JGO*). Five Boreal Chickadees were noted at Salmo Pass, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. The species is known in the state only in the extreme northeastern portion (*LL*). Six Chestnut-backed Chickadees at 5500 ft. near Baker were Ann Ward's first in eastern Oregon. Four of the birds unexpectedly turned up at Fowle's feeding station at Coldstream Municipality, B. C. The first record of the Brown Creeper on the Columbia Refuge was one caught in a building there on Oct. 7.

Wrens and Mimic Thrushes—A House Wren was still at Bozeman on the very late date of Sept. 22. The Long-billed Marsh Wren was still present at Three Forks, Mont. on Nov. 30 and at Ninepipe Refuge on Dec. 1. Several late dates for Catbirds were reported: Sept. 22 at Bozeman and the same at Spokane, where a number of other late observations were made of the species.

Thrushes—A few Robins lingered well into November at most localities and it appeared that, in marked contrast to last winter, substantial numbers would winter at Spokane. Varied Thrushes appeared commonly at Columbia Refuge in September, were frequent in the Spokane area after early October (*S.A.S.*) and were noted in sagebrush areas at Park Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on Nov. 3 (*WH* & *LL*). At

Vernon, B. C., where they rarely winter, 3 were still present on Dec. 9.

Kinglets and Waxwings—Golden-crowned Kinglets were recorded for the first time at the Bison Range. Oct. 31 was a very late date for a male Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Bozeman and one was coming regularly to a feeding station in Pullman, Wash. in December (*RPO*). Bohemian Waxwing numbers appeared to be building up more slowly than usual, except for flocks up to 750 at Missoula, where, in contrast, Cedar Waxwings disappeared very early, by Sept. 17.

Starlings, Vireos and Warblers—Large concentrations of Starlings built up at McNary and Columbia Refuges in November and a massive movement of some 20,000 was noted on the Pablo Refuge on Oct. 23. The very late date of Sept. 22 was obtained for the Red-eyed Vireo at Bozeman. Several notable records for warblers were secured at Bozeman: a Tennessee Warbler (third record for the area) and 3 Nashville Warblers (*Mrs. LH*) on Sept. 21 and a Townsend's Warbler on Oct. 26, this date in itself remarkably late. The Townsend's Warbler record is the second for the area. A sprinkling of other late warblers occurred, one being an Audubon's at Vernon, B. C. on Nov. 12 (*JTF*). Oct. 8 was extremely late for 2 MacGillivray's Warblers at Spokane, as was Sept. 22 there for the Yellow-breasted Chat.

Finches—Evening Grosbeaks were common in many localities until November, when numbers

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dwindled markedly. A pair of House Finches was observed closely at Three Forks, Sept. 25. This is one of only a few observations for Montana. Pine Grosbeaks staged a winter invasion in some parts of the western end of the Region. Grant reported the species as more numerous than usual at Vernon and many observations were obtained in eastern Washington, where the birds seldom appear. The species also was noted in the mountains at Baker, at Missoula, and appeared to be back to normal numbers at Bozeman after being virtually absent there last year. About 20 Black Rosy Finches, seldom reported, accompanied a flock of the Gray-crowned in the Bozeman area on Nov. 3. Many Common Redpolls appeared in the above area, after about 2 years' absence. The species appeared also at Missoula and the Bison Range. White-winged Crossbills were recorded for the first time at the Bison Range, Nov. 19. The Green-tailed Towhee was noted only in Bozeman, Sept. 17 and 18 (*CVD*).

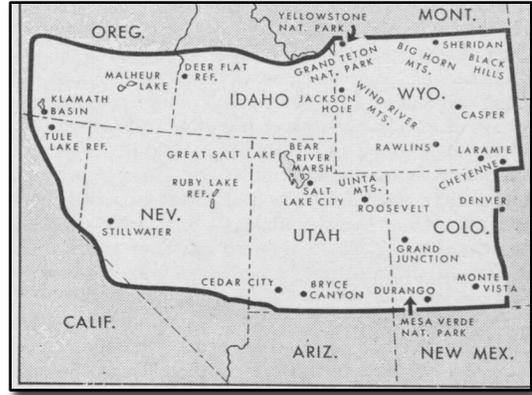
Sparrows—Two Savannah Sparrows at Spokane on Oct. 19 were the latest in at least the last 9 years there (*THR*). The last date for the species at Missoula, Oct. 22, drew no special comment from Hand, however, for that area has shown a number of last dates well past mid-October. The last date at Bozeman, Oct. 13, was considered late. Single *Clay-colored Sparrows* were noted occasionally between Aug. 18 and Sept. 6 at Missoula. A few Brewer's Sparrows, otherwise unreported, passed through the same locality during late August. A single Harris' Sparrow at Missoula on Nov. 2 was Hand's fifth record there. Accompanying it was a late White-crowned Sparrow. A few of the latter species still at Spokane in late November and early December suggested that they might winter there. Single Golden-crowned Sparrows were noted on three dates in September at Spokane (*S.A.S.*). A few Lapland Longspurs passed through Missoula and were noted at Reardan and Cow Lake in eastern Washington (*JA, WH*) and at Bozeman. Only a very few Snow Buntings had appeared by the end of the period.

Contributors—Credit for observations, unless otherwise indicated, is as follows: British Columbia, James Grant; Bozeman-Ennis-Three Forks area (Bozeman Triangle), Mont., P. D. Skaar; Missoula, Mont., R. L. Hand; National Bison Range, Moiese, Mont., C. J. Henry; Ninepipe and Pablo Nat'l Wildlife Refuges, Lake Co., Mont., Leon Littlefield; Baker, Oreg., Ann Ward; Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash., Philip A. Lehenbauer, and McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash., Frank Kenney. Contributors indicated in text: (*JA*) James Acton, (*CVD*) C. V. Davis, (*JTF*) J. T. Fowle, (*JG*) James Grant, (*WH*) Warren Hall, (*Mrs. LH*) Mrs. L. Hardie, (*RAH*) R. A. Hays, (*FK*) Frank Kenney, (*LL*) Lynn LaFave, (*PAL*) Philip A. Lehenbauer, (*BL*) Bob Luhn, (*NM*) Neil Martin, (*JGO*) James G. Olson, (*RPO*) Ruth P. Ownbey, (*THR*) Thomas H. Rogers, (*DRS*) Donald R. Skaar, (*BAS*) B. A. Sugden, (*S.A.S.*) Spokane Audubon Society, and (*DW*) David Worley.

Autumn Migration, 1963

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.
/ Dr. Oliver K. Scott

We start on a sad note. Charles W. Lockerbie died at 84 years on Sept. 20. For many years he was the guiding light among bird-watchers in Utah and had the greatest enthusiasm and knowledge in the Utah Audubon Society. The mountain west has lost its most prominent birder. The fall was wet and warm.



In many areas we had the most delayed winter on record. This has resulted in many late dates. Perhaps the most extraordinary was a Lesser Goldfinch nest in Zion National Park, Utah, from which the last young left on Nov. 5 (*RW, DLC*). The increased moisture has put most of our Great Basin Refuges back into good shape. Consequently, with increased duck numbers, the fall waterfowl migration was leisurely, but much improved. It is only rarely that waves of migrants are noted in the West in conjunction with storm fronts. Such a wave occurred in Zion Park on Oct. 20-21. Not only was there a big influx of birds, but three new species were added to the Utah list. These were: Eastern Phoebe in Zion Canyon, Oct. 21 (*DLC*); Oct. 22 (*AC*); Palm Warbler, lower Zion Park, Oct. 20 (*DLC, CJ, RW*); Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Oak Creek Canyon, caught in a mist net and collected, Oct. 25 (*RW*). Another was banded in the same place, Nov. 3 (*RW*). Two were seen near Pine Creek Bridge, Nov. 6 (*DLC*), and one was found dead on Switchback Road, Nov. 12 (*DLC*). This influx of hitherto unknown species is remarkable. Or have they been missed? While the migration in the Great Basin was exciting, the reports from the Central Rockies were dull, except for Durango, where again there was much moisture and warm weather with more birds than usual (*OR*).

Hérons—A Green Heron, a rarity in Utah, was seen in the Jordan River near Salt Lake on Oct. 13 (*RF*).

Swans—Malheur in eastern Oregon reported 4 broods of Trumpeter Swans with 15 cygnets surviving. This is the best reproduction since this species was introduced at Malheur (*EK*). Ruby Lakes, Nev. had 6 cygnets surviving by the end of this period (*DEL*). Whistling Swans were reported in more

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normal numbers from Malheur. There were 1850 on Nov. 19—three times as many as last year (*EK*). Some 18,000 Whistling Swans were present at Bear River at the upper end of the Great Salt Lake by the end of this

period—not as many as last year, although they may increase later (*VW*). The Klamath Basin, Oreg., had 1050 at the peak—about the same as last year (*EJO'N*). Minidoka Refuge in southern Idaho had about 1000 (*SRW*).

Ducks and Geese—A fine improvement was experienced in water conditions on the Upper Klamath Basin and the Klamath Forest area. However, the duck migration did not increase over last year. This year the peak of ducks was 1,800,000 on Oct. 5. There were 715,000 geese at the peak of the migration on Oct. 15. Last year's drought had figures a little under these in geese, but it is difficult to compare since the rate of migration makes a difference. Klamath had more serious trouble with botulism. Sick and dead ducks and geese on Lower Klamath and Tule Lake amounted to 25,642. About 6028 were picked up alive and treated, with 82 per cent recovery (*EJO'N*). On Malheur Lake there are now 12,000 acres of water instead of last year's 1500. This is the best in 4 years for this season of the year. The duck migration this warm, prolonged fall was leisurely with the peak at 151,200 on Oct. 27. This is almost twice last year's high, but there were almost as many 3 weeks earlier and 4 weeks later. The total waterfowl count was 2½ times last year's and was the highest since 1957 for the same period (*EK*). The fall migration of waterfowl has been so slow at Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho, that by the end of this period there were only 310,000 ducks there, of which 85 per cent were Mallards (*WCR*). This is about half the expected number. The peak of the Canada Goose migration at Deer Flat was 9000 birds, Nov. 1. Minidoka, Idaho, on the Snake River, reported a peak of 150,000 ducks, Oct. 5—more and earlier than usual. By the end of this period there were 30,000 Mallards, the most common wintering duck; 20,000 Canvasback (*SRW*). The waterfowl migration at Bear River peaked at 471,555 on Oct. 12. This is better than last year and also a little better than 1961 (*VW*). The rare ducks reported included a Black Duck picked up dead at Lower Klamath in September (*EJO'N*). There were 15 Wood Ducks at Deer Flat Refuge, Oct. 15 (*WCR*). At the end of this period there were 50 Wood Ducks and 50 Hooded Mergansers at Minidoka (*SRW*). Another Wood Duck was reported at Parowan, Utah, Oct. 28 (*SM*).

Hawks—Minidoka Refuge reported the largest number of Golden Eagles with 25 resident there this fall (*SRW*). All other areas reported only a scattering of eagles. Bald Eagles were reported from Bryce Canyon Nat'l Park (*RWR*). This is the only place they are reported that is not on some sort of a waterway. A Peregrine Falcon was seen at Parowan, Nov. 13, 27-28 (*SM*). These birds are seldom reported in the West.

Owls—The irruption of rodents increased in the Malheur Basin, Oreg. as did the Great Horned Owl population. From Sept. 9 to Oct. 20, 14 Saw-whet Owls were banded (*EK*); this owl had been thought to be much more scarce. There were 2 Barn Owls at Deer Flat Refuge (*WCR*). A roost of 15 Long-eared was found at the eastern end of Minidoka Refuge, Nov. 14 (*SRW*). Group roosting of this species has not been reported for some time. An immature Flammulated Owl—rarely seen—was picked up near Durango, Sept. 1 (*OR*). A Great Gray Owl was seen feeding young in Yellowstone National Park, Sept. 4 (*AB*). This bird occurs regularly in northwestern Wyoming, but most of us are not fortunate enough to see one.

Hummingbirds—At Hotchkiss in the mesa country of western Colorado the hummers were plentiful (*JJC*). Mrs. Crews fed 30 a day until Sept. 13. There were Rufous, Broad-tailed and Black-chinned.

Wrens—Winter Wrens were reported from Salt Lake City, Nov. 28 (*GK*), and from Zion Nat'l Park, Nov. 6 (*DLC*). Every year a few are reported.

Thrashers—A Brown Thrasher was seen at Minidoka on Sept. 5 and stayed for several weeks (*SRW*). We are not aware of any other records for Idaho. A Green-tailed Towhee, Nov. 28, in City Canyon, Salt Lake City, was very late (*GK*).

Thrushes—A Wood Thrush—a new bird for Idaho—was seen at headquarters at Minidoka, Oct. 8-9 (*SRW*). An Eastern Bluebird was seen at Estabrook in the Laramie Range, Wyo., Sept. 1 (*OKS*). They may be more common than has been supposed.

Warblers—A second record of the Tennessee Warbler in Oregon was made when a bird was mist-netted at Malheur, Oct. 15 (*EK*). The first record was last June 14 when one was collected at headquarters. With the aid of a mist net in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, Colo. three warblers were added to the park list: Nashville, Sept. 7, 23; Magnolia, Sept. 10; and Palm, Sept. 20 (*AC*).

Bobolink—There was a Bobolink in winter plumage a few miles east of Gunnison, Colo. (*HLC*). These birds are scattered very sparsely over the West and rarely are reported in the fall.

Contributors—(*AB*), Alan Baldrige; (*DLC*), Dennis L. Carter; (*AC*), Allegra Collister; (*HLC*), Howard L. Cogswell; (*JJC*), Mrs. J. J. Crews; (*RF*), Reed Ferris; (*CJ*), Carl Jepson; (*GK*), Gleb Kashin; (*EK*), Eugene Kridler; (*DEL*), Donald E. Lewis; (*SM*), Stewart Murie; (*EJO'N*), Edward J. O'Neill; (*OR*), Oppie Reames; (*WCR*), William C. Reffalt; (*RWR*), Richard W. Russell;

(OKS), Oliver K. Scott; (RW), Roland Wauer; (SRW), Sanford R. Wilbur; (VW), Vanez Wilson

Autumn Migration, 1963

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION
/ **Bob and Elsie Boggs**

The Region's "summer" arrived in September and October. The delightful Indian days made it a pleasure



to be afield. On Oct. 24 a deep Low in the Gulf of Alaska produced stormy conditions along the British Columbia coast with 117 m.p.h. winds at the weather ship 600 miles offshore. The ensuing discovery of the high seas bird visitors at Clover Point, Victoria, B. C. brought the observers out to brave the gales and rain (see Fulmars and Petrels). This appeared to be a great year for observation of shorebirds. Passerines were scarce, particularly the vireos and warblers.

Loons, Grebes, Shearwaters—A few early migrant Common Loons on Sept. 2 at Blaine, Wash. (*LK*) and on Sept. 9 at Tillamook, Oreg., increased to good numbers by Nov. 1, with a high count of 103 at Point Roberts on Nov. 17 (*WHH*). Arctic and Red-throated Loons were reported as occurring regularly all along the coast and in the Puget Sound area. Horned Grebes were seen on Sept. 7 at Tillamook (*JBC*), where an Eared Grebe was discovered on Nov. 1 (*AB*). About 1000 Sooty Shearwaters were seen between Destruction Island and LaPush, Clallam Co., Wash., on July 23-24. Two Pink-footed Shearwaters were reported, one at Cannon Beach, Oreg., Sept. 14, the other at Tillamook, Sept. 21 (*AB, JBC*)

Fulmars and Petrels—The first discoveries of the "wreck" of Fulmars were between Oct. 24 and 26 at Victoria: up to 7 were seen at one time, mostly dark-phase birds, but some light and intermediate (*DS, GAP, et al.*). In ferrying from Port Angeles and Victoria on Oct. 25, Paul Mackenzie saw 6 Fulmars. On the Oregon coast the first ones were noted at

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Oceanside, Nov. 1 (*AB*), and Three Arch Rocks in Tillamook County. About 36 birds, many dead or dying, were found on the beach at the south jetty, mouth of the Columbia River, Nov. 16 (*AB, JBC*). Fork-tailed and Leach's Petrels were also part of the spectacular blow-in; as many as 60 Fork-tailed and several Leach's Petrels were observed between Port Angeles and Victoria. Several of both petrel species were picked up dead in Victoria where they had struck buildings and wires in the night (*PM, GAP, DS, et al.*). Earlier records were of a few seen on Sept. 2 (*TRB, EM*). Two Fork-tailed Petrels were seen off Cape Flattery in Washington, Oct. 23 (*WHH*).

Pelicans, Egrets, Herons, Bitterns—An encouraging report was that of Brown Pelicans on the Oregon coast. They appeared to be as abundant as a year ago, with the highest count, 100 on Otter Rock off Devil's Punch Bowl State Park on Sept. 24 (*JS*). The Common Egret appears to be achieving the status of a regular, but not common, migrant. One was seen at Fern Ridge Reservoir, near Eugene, Oreg., Sept. 28 (*JO*), and another one near Coquille, Coos Co., Oreg., Nov. 29 (Robert M. Storm, *vide JS*). For the Region, the season yielded 5 reports of the Green Heron, the northernmost at Bellingham, Wash. (*TW, vide LK*). An Am. Bittern was present for 3 weeks in September at Talent, Jackson Co., Oreg. (*RB, JH*).

Waterfowl—Whistling Swans appeared at Blaine, Oct. 23 (*LK*); at Fort Stevens State Park in Oregon, Nov. 16 (*AB, JBC*); and on Sauvies Island (100), Nov. 24 (*AB*). A good flight of Canada Geese (all races) was reported in October and November. Black Brant arrived a month earlier than usual at Point Roberts (*WHH*), and were observed at Mt. Vernon, Wash., Sept. 22 (*VEC*). Most of the White-fronted Geese went over early in October (*AB, JBC, WHH*), with the last reported on Nov. 3 on Lake Washington, near Seattle (*VEC, WMH, DJ*). A few Snow Geese were reported from Vancouver Island, where it is considered a rare migrant (*DS, RS, BW*). European Widgeons, both males, were seen at Seward Park in Seattle (*DW*), and on Sea Island in British Columbia (*WHH*). An early concentration of Am. Widgeon was 4000 at the mouth of the Columbia River on Sept. 14 (*AB*). Harlequin Ducks were noted, in small numbers only: at Seal Rock State Park in

Oregon, Oct. 9 (*JS*); at Garibaldi, Oreg., Nov. 1 (*AB*); at Tillamook, Nov. 2 (*JBC*); and at Seattle, Nov. 2 (*VEC*). Common Mergansers were recorded from the mouth of the Pistol River, Curry Co., Aug. 31, at Sand Lake, Tillamook Co., Sept. 1, and at Yaquina Bay, Sept. 8 (*JO*), all in Oregon. The only Washington state record was of 6 at Cape Flattery, Sept. 1 (*WHH*).

Vultures and Hawks—Turkey Vultures passed through Oregon in regular waves from Aug. 31 to Oct. 28. At Victoria, B. C., about 50 to 75 are known to pass over the city each fall. This year the number exceeded 500. On Oct. 7 a huge flock of 325 arrived from the west, followed the coast over the city and struck out southeast toward the Am. Gulf Islands (*TRB, ARD, DS, RS*). Goshawks (2) were seen at Point Roberts, Oct. 19 (*WHH*), and a single individual was noted near Talent, Oreg., Nov. 14 (*DT*). A decided increase in Sharp-shinned Hawks was noted in the Rogue River valley (*RB, JH*). A Swainson's Hawk was seen twice in August on Dead Indian Road, east of Ashland, Jackson Co., Oreg. (*RB*). There was one report of a Rough-legged Hawk for the period (*TM*). An adult Golden Eagle (rare) was seen on the Wilson River highway in Tillamook County, Oreg., Sept. 7 (*JBC*). Bald Eagle reports were encouraging; the birds were seen in 7 widely scattered localities.

Shorebirds—An exceptionally early date for Semipalmated Plovers (2) was July 6 at Tsawwassen, B. C. (*WHH*). Two Snowy Plovers were at Tillamook, Sept. 12 and 13. A flock of 11 Am. Golden Plovers was found in a salt marsh at Willapa Bay, Sept. 29; a single bird was seen at Tillamook, Oct. 4 (*AB*). Surfbirds (25) were present on Destruction Island, Jefferson Co., Wash., July 23, 24 (*LL*). This species was seen in early August at Yachats, Lincoln Co., Oreg. (*DT*); at Devil's Elbow State Park near Heceta Head in Oregon, Aug. 31 (*SOS*); at Cape Flattery, Sept. 2 (*WHH*); at Seal Rock, Lincoln Co., Oreg., Sept. 8 (*JO*), and at Cape Meares, Tillamook Co., Oreg., Sept. 12 (*AB*). Ruddy Turnstones were seen on Destruction Island, July 23, 24 (*LL*), and at Bellingham the first week in September (*TW, fide LK*). The Long-billed Curlew (rare) was seen in Tillamook County, Oreg. in September and October (*AB, JBC, JO*). Eleven reports of Whimbrels have been received, the first ones single birds at Drayton Harbor in British Columbia on July 14 (*WHH*), and at Boardman State Park in Oregon on Aug. 28 (*RB*), and the latest one a group of 3 at Willapa Bay on Sept. 29. Eleven were seen at Sand Lake, Sept. 1 (*JO*) at Tillamook, Sept. 11 (*AB*), and 10 at Oceanside, Sept. 7 (*JBC*), all in Tillamook County, Oreg. These are exceptional numbers for the Oregon coast. Three were seen at Cape Flattery, Sept. 1 (*WHH*), and 7 at Long Beach, Vancouver Island, Sept. 2 (*PM*). A new western Washington record was made on Oct. 6 when Mr. &

Mrs. George A. Clark, Jr. found an **Upland Plover** at Grays Harbor. The bird was feeding in a field with killdeer and gulls. Single Solitary Sandpipers were reported as follows: at Blaine, July 28 (*LK*); at Victoria in early August (*ARD*); at the mouth of Black Creek on Vancouver Island, Aug. 14 (*BW*); and at Mt. Vernon, Wash., Dec. 1 (*VEC*). A Willet was found at Newport, Lincoln Co., Oreg., Aug. 29 (Ralph Moldenhauer, *fide JS*). Knots (25) were observed at Tillamook, Sept. 14 and 21 (*AB, JBC*); 2 were seen at Victoria, Nov. 18 (*ARD, et al.*). One was found on Aug. 31 at Cape Flattery, where Rock Sandpipers were seen on Sept. 2 (*WHH*). Although there is a recent record on Vancouver Island for the **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**, one on Cherry Point south of Birch Bay (*LK*) and 2 immatures closely approached and photographed at Willapa Bay, Sept. 29 (*AB*) are possibly the first recorded in Washington state since 1940 (*Slipp, J.W., Condor* 45:198). Marbled Godwits appeared along the Oregon Coast: single birds at the mouth of the Pistol River and outside of Coos Bay, Aug. 31 (*JO*); one at Tillamook and 5 at Nehalem, Sept. 12; and 3 at Willapa Bay, Sept. 29

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(*AB*). Both Red and Northern Phalaropes were widely reported. These storm-driven birds arrived in the hundreds in the coastal regions in October and remained through November.

Jaegers, Gulls, Terns, Alcids—Both Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were seen at Tillamook in September (*AB, JBC*). A Long-tailed Jaeger was observed between Port Angeles and Victoria, Oct. 25 (*PM*). A Skua passed south off Cape Meares, Oct. 4 (*AB*). There were 2 reports of Glaucous Gulls: one at Iona, B. C. (*FD*); and an immature at Victoria (*DS, RF*). Franklin's Gulls were seen at Bellingham (*TW, fide LK*) and Drayton Harbor (*WHH*). Bonaparte's and Heermann's Gulls were seen in greater numbers than in previous years. Black-legged Kittiwakes (30) were seen off Cannon Beach, Clatsop Co., Oreg., Nov. 16 (*AB, JBC*). The exciting finds in the Region following the storm seem endless: Sabine's Gulls, on Vancouver Island, and Vancouver, B. C. (*WHH, PM*), Point Roberts, Grays Harbor, and south to Three Arch Rocks on the Oregon coast; Common and/or Arctic Terns, "unusually numerous" at Tillamook (*AB*); Caspian Terns, at Tillamook and Brookings, Oreg. (*RB*) and Willapa Bay; Ancient Murrelets, hundreds passing Clover Point in Victoria in November; Cassin's Auklet, 3 dead and 1 live specimen found on the beach of the south jetty, mouth of the Columbia River.

Doves and Owls—A pair of Mourning Doves lingered at Boundary Bay until Nov. 17 (*WHH*). There

was a small invasion of Great Horned Owls at Victoria beginning in early October (GB, DS). Two Pygmy Owls were heard calling in the Pittock Bird Sanctuary, Portland, Oreg. (AB). A Great Gray Owl was seen on Dead Indian Road, east of Ashland, Oreg., Oct. 8 (CR).

Nighthawks, Swifts, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers—Nighthawks were heard over Roseburg, Oreg., Oct. 3 (JO). Black Swifts tarried in the Campbell River area in British Columbia until Oct. 14 (WHH). Vaux's Swifts were last seen at Hubbard, Oreg., Sept. 23 (TM). A hummingbird, thought to be an Anna's, was seen at Talent, Oreg., Nov. 10. A late Rufous Hummingbird was noted at Svenson, Oreg., Oct. 7 (Mrs. Helen Acton, *vide* TM). A Lewis' Woodpecker was found at Canoe Pass, near Ladner, B. C., Oct. 6 (WHH).

Flycatchers and Swallows—A Western Kingbird was seen at Victoria, Nov. 10 & 11 (ARD, DS, RS, JT). *Operation Recovery* banding at Corvallis resulted in these late dates: Traill's Flycatcher, Sept. 24; Western Flycatcher, Sept. 21; and Western Wood Pewee, Sept. 17 (JS). A Hammond's Flycatcher was banded, also at Corvallis, Aug. 21 (JS). A **Gray Flycatcher** (identifying marks seen well at close range) was out of its range at Eagle Point, Jackson Co., Oreg., Oct. 12 (RB). First migrating flocks of Violet-green Swallows were noted on Sauvies Island, Aug. 17 (JO), although a pair was still feeding young at Blaine on Aug. 21 (LK).

Blue Jay—"It is difficult to believe that Blue Jays could arrive in Victoria under their own power," reported David Stirling. At least 2 were seen and identified in early November (RF, DS, *et al.*), and might have been escaped cage or zoo birds.

Chickadees, Wrens, Mockingbirds—A Mountain Chickadee appeared in a Medina, Wash. yard on Nov. 4 and was still there at the end of the month (WMH, DJ). They were seen in good numbers on Roxy Anne Butte, east of Medford, Nov. 23 (RB). A House Wren was found at Canoe Pass, Oct. 6 (WHH). A Bewick's Wren was feeding 2 young in a nest at Florence, Oreg., Aug. 30 (SOS), an exceptionally late date. A Mockingbird foraged on holly berries in a yard in Blaine (LK).

Thrushes and Gnatcatchers—All thrushes appeared to be scarce. A Hermit Thrush was banded at Corvallis, Sept. 28. The only other reports were single birds seen at Vancouver, B. C. in November (KB, WHH). Western Bluebirds were seen in the Chehalem Hills, about 20 miles southwest of Portland, Oreg., Sept. 23 (TM). Two small flocks numbering 4 or 5 each were seen on San Juan Island, Oct. 19 & 20 (GAC). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was carefully observed and photographed

as it foraged with bushtits in a grove of scrub oaks at Victoria, Nov. 10 (ARD, GAP).

Vireos and Warblers—A Red-eyed Vireo (unusual) was closely observed in mid-September at Talent, Oreg., where the same observer saw a **Black and-white Warbler** on Oct. 7 (RMK). An Orange-crowned Warbler was found at Burnaby, B. C., Nov. 24 (WHH). A late Yellow Warbler was caught and banded at Corvallis, Sept. 29 (JS). Myrtle Warblers were last seen at Tsawwassen, Oct. 6 (WHH). Black-throated Gray Warblers were observed at Grays Harbor, Oct. 22 (PM). Several Townsend's Warblers were noted: at Long Beach, Vancouver Island, Sept. 2 (PM); at Media, Nov. 6 (WMH); in Seattle, Nov. 16 & 28 (VEC, DW). Between Sept. 8 and 26, 19 Yellowthroats were banded during *Operation Recovery* in the Corvallis area (*vide* JS). A Wilson's Warbler was discovered on Quadra Island, near Campbell River, Vancouver Island, Oct. 13 (WHH).

Grosbeaks, Finches, Sparrows—Records of the Evening Grosbeak were scattered and sporadic with no large numbers seen anywhere. Pine Grosbeaks appeared near Victoria, Nov. 28 (ARD, JT). Two Gray-crowned Rosy Finches in North Vancouver, B. C. on Nov. 20 & 21 (Mrs. FD) were rare for that locality. The many reports of Pine Siskins point to a good "siskin winter." A late nesting record of the Am. Goldfinch is one of a nest containing young found at Hubbard, Oreg., Sept. 22 (RB, Harold Hall, TM). A veritable "wave" of Savannah Sparrows occurred in Jackson County, Oreg.; they were counted in the thousands (JH, CR, DT). A small flock was seen among the sand dunes and short grass at Florence, Oreg., Aug. 30 (SOS). Late birds were at Boundary Bay, Nov. 2 (WHH). By the period's end very few White-crowned Sparrows had appeared. Early Golden-crowned Sparrows appeared at a food station in Seattle, Aug. 21 (DJ), but did not arrive in force until late September and October. A Fox Sparrow was seen at Corvallis, Sept. 26 (JS). They were regular thereafter throughout the Region. Lapland Longspurs appeared as follows: 7 at the south jetty, mouth of the Columbia River, Sept. 12; 2 at

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Willapa Bay, Sept. 29 (AB); and 3 in Victoria, Oct. 5 (Victoria Natural History Society).

Contributors (sectional editors' names in boldface)—(AB) Alan Baldrige; (KB) K. Boyce; (GB) Gwen Briggs; (TRB) T. R. Briggs; (RB) **Ralph Browning** (southwest Oregon); (VEC) Violet E. Cannon; (GAC) Mr. and Mrs. George A. Clark, Jr.; (JBC) John B. Crowell, Jr.; (ARD) A. R. Davidson; (FD) Mr. and Mrs. F. Dobson; (RF) R. Fryer; (WMH) Walter M.

Hagenstein; (WHH) **Mr. and Mrs. Werner H. Hesse** (British Columbia); (DJ) Doris Jelliffe; (RMK) Mrs. R. M. Kent; (LK) Lucile Kline; (LL) Lynn LaFave; (TM) Thomas McCamant; (PM) Paul Mackenzie; (EM) E. Moody; (JO) James G. Olson; (GAP) G. A. Poynter; (CR) Carl Richardson; (SOS) Mr. and Mrs. S. O. Stanley; (DS, RS) **David and Ruth Stirling (Vancouver Island)**; (JS) Joseph Strauch; (JT) J. Tateham; (DT) Dorothy Tompkins; (TW) Terry Walsh; (BW) Betty Westerborg; (DW) Dick Witt.

The Winter Season, 1963-64

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
/ **Thomas H. Rogers**

For the Region as a the winter season might be described as of average severity. However, in this large Region, conditions always vary widely from locality to locality. In the Bozeman, Mont. area there was "very little remarkable" about the weather. There were days of extreme cold, in the -30° range but they were not numerous. Snowfall there was average and the larger bodies of water froze in early December and were still ice-covered at the end of March. This did not seem inhibit the wintering ducks and geese, however. Farther west, at Missoula and Moiese, Mont., Spokane, Wash. and Baker, Oreg. the coldest weather of winter, along with much snow, occurred in December. January brought milder temperatures to areas, but the mercury dipped to -10° at Missoula in late February. November, January and February were described as pleasant and dry at the National Bison Range at Moiese. Snowfall was in general persistent. At Missoula the snow cover was shallow but continuously crusted, presumably working hardship ground feeders. At Baker, the winter was described as "steady and unremitting," without the usual January thaw, and a bad one for deer, elk and game birds. At Vernon, B. C., however, conditions were alleviated by warm intervals which melted the snow from exposed slopes and produced, overall, a milder than average season. March was colder than norms; particularly at Missoula, prolonging snow and cover. Conditions at Columbia and McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuges in central Washington, in contrast, showed more moderate temperatures, resulting in ice-free lakes and marshes by the second week of February at the former refuge. This area also was extremely deficient in precipitation. In the Spokane area frozen water apparently drove most waterfowl west into the Columbia Basin. Reports from the two refuges there bear this out. Severe December conditions at Spokane and Baker brought an early and large influx of wintering birds, notably Bohemian Waxwings and fringillids,

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And the cool March apparently retarded their departure into the mountains or northward. At the Bison Range, December, in contrast, appeared to drive out many normally wintering birds.

Loons and Grebes—A very few Common Loon apparently wintered in southeastern British Columbia, as did a few Red-necked, Horned, Eared, Western and Pied-billed Grebes. Quite unusual were 2 Horned Grebes on Coeur d' Alene Lake, Idaho on Feb. 16 (*Mr. & Mrs. SOS*). At Soap Lake, Wash. 400 Eared Grebes were noted on Jan. 27 (*JA*).

Waterfowl—Canada Geese wintered in moderate numbers, except in central Washington, where many congregated. The Columbia Basin wintering population of Lesser Canadas was up some 10-15 percent from last year (*PAL*) and a peak of about 10,000 recorded at McNary Refuge, Burbank, Wash., in December. Up to 20 White-fronted and smaller numbers of Snow Geese were on McNary Refuge. The picture for wintering waterfowl in the Columbia Basin was indicated by an aerial census during-December, when some 950,000 ducks, largely Mallards, and 50,000 Canada Geese were tallied, both all-time records. In addition to some hundreds of Pintails at McNary and Columbia Refuges, a few wintered near Belgrade, Mont. and possibly at Coeur d'Alene Lake (*S.A.S.*). Watson Beed, biologist at the Bison Range, had a male Wood Duck staying with tame ducks for about six weeks in January and February. An *Oldsquaw* was seen in late December on the Spokane River a few miles downriver from Spokane, Wash. (*Mr. & Mrs. SOS*). Eight Red-breasted Mergansers at Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. In late March furnished an unusually high number for the area (*JA*).

Hawks and Eagles—Goshawks appeared to have made an upsurge, for this very uncommon species was mentioned by six reporters, ranging from Montana through British Columbia to Washington. Golden and Bald Eagles were reported from many stations, with the latter species the more abundant. The largest concentration was of 48 Bald Eagles in a distance of 14 miles in the McDonald Valley of Glacier National Park near the end of the salmon spawning season (*Hungry Horse News*, Columbia Falls, Mont.). A Prairie Falcon near Wilbur in east central Washington on Jan. 1 comprised an unusual winter record (*S.A.S.*). Several sightings of Gyrfalcons made near Anceney, 20 miles west of Bozeman, and near Belgrade, Mont. (*DRS, PDS, KT*). Peregrine Falcons were noted only on the Ennis, Mont., Christmas count.

Gallinaceous Birds—This group of birds appeared have come through the winter in high numbers, with the possible exception of the Baker, Oreg. area. At the Bison Range Chukars appeared to be recovering from past low numbers and the species appeared to be gaining a foothold in the Ennis, Mont. area. Two Turkeys of the introduced flock in northeastern Washington were seen near Rice, Stevens Co. (*WH* & *LL*). Grouse populations appeared to be about normal.

Soras and Gulls—A muskrat trapper at Three Forks, Mont. found a freshly caught Sora in his trap on Dec. 8. This is the first winter record for the locality. Two immature Glaucous Gulls were identified at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho (*JA*, *WH* & *LL*). California Gulls were common at McNary Refuge when fish were being poisoned there. An immature *Mew Gull* was examined at close range at Alkali Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on Dec. 7 (*LA*, *WH* & *LL*).

Owls—Five sightings of Snowy Owls were made in eastern Washington at Davenport, Creston and Wilbur. Such an influx had not been noted for many years (*JA*, *WH*, *LL*). Three sightings were obtained in southeastern British Columbia at Kelowna and Enderby. Pygmy Owls appeared in high numbers in two areas. "Unprecedented" numbers stayed in southeastern British Columbia, where many found a smorgasbord of small birds at feeding trays. More of the little owls were noted at the Bison Range than at any previous time in Henry's five and a half years' observation there. Many reports at Spokane also indicated an increase. The species also was noted at Baker, Oreg. which had a surprising 32 Short-eared Owls on the Christmas count. Very few were reported elsewhere. Two Long-eared Owls were noted at a nest site near Harrington, Wash., where a pair nested last year, and 3 were noted at St. Andrews, Wash. (*JA*).

Woodpeckers—Single Yellow-shafted Flickers were noted. One wintered near Vernon, B. C., a female was seen at Pullman, Wash. on Dec. 9 and 1 appeared several times in February at a feeder in Spokane (*LH*). Lewis' Woodpeckers stayed late into December at Penticton, B. C. (19 on Christmas count) and 2 were seen at Oyama, B. C. on Feb. 16. A late bird was at Baker, Oreg., during the early part of the winter period. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen in the Long Lake burn area along the Spokane River west of Spokane (*S.A.S.*).

Chickadees and Nuthatches—Frequencies of several species appeared to shift, some markedly. At Baker, Oreg., the Black-capped Chickadee outnumbered the Mountain 8 to 1, a distinctly unusual situation. The latter species was noted as rather scarce in southeastern British Columbia. More reports than usual came in for

Chestnut-backed Chickadees in the lowlands: 2 at a feeder at Baker, Oreg. all winter; 1 at Coeur d'Alene Lake, Idaho, Feb. 2 (*JA*), and 4 at a feeding station at Vernon, B. C. (*JTF*). White-breasted Nuthatches, never very common in the Region, seemed to be on the increase in some localities. Two along Mission Creek in the Bison Range were the first Henry had seen at the Range. At least 2 were seen at Bozeman, where they are unusual at any time (*RAH*, *NM*, *DRS*, *PDS*). In contrast, the Red-breasted, usually rather abundant, was distinctly down in numbers at some localities. None whatever were reported from the Bozeman area, "conspicuously scarce" was the description of the situation for the Okanagan Valley in southern British Columbia and numbers were down in the Spokane area (*S.A.S.*). In the latter area the Pygmy Nuthatch surged back in increased numbers after last year's decrease (*S.A.S.*).

Wrens and Thrushes—Three records came in for Long-billed Marsh Wrens. Two wintered near Spokane and 3 were seen on the Christmas count at

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Penticton. Several observations of the species were obtained at Three Forks, Mont. in December, January and March (*RAH*, *PDS*) and 3 were seen at Ennis, Mont. on the Christmas count. Wintering Robins were found at most of the reporting localities. Perhaps the most unusual was a single bird seen repeatedly at Bozeman during November, December and January (*DRS*). At Spokane the birds were much more plentiful than during the extremely mild previous winter, when they were practically absent. In Opportunity, eight miles east of Spokane, they were seen regularly, with a flock of 70 the highest number noted (*THR*). Varied Thrushes were noted in the Vernon area as late as the end of December and a few were seen during the winter at Pullman and Spokane, Wash. The species was reported as common only at Othello, Wash., in late December and early January (*PAL*).

Kinglets, Waxwings and Shrikes—Ruby-crowned Kinglets made news by furnishing winter records from three localities: 2 at Kennewick, Wash., Jan. 7 (*LSN*); a male which came regularly to a feeder at Pullman the entire winter, and 1 at Penticton, Dec. 26. Bohemian Waxwings appeared in at least normal numbers after an unprecedented scarcity in many areas last winter. Flocks up to 2000 were seen at Spokane, but at the Bison Range they were described as almost scarce. For the first time in fifteen years at least a few Cedar Waxwings failed to winter at Missoula, Mont. However, a few stayed at Spokane and Pullman. At Baker, Oreg., and Okanagan Landing, B. C. none were noted after December. A very unusual record was that of a

Loggerhead Shrike, carefully observed on the Christmas count at Ennis, Mont. (RAH & GT).

Starlings and Blackbirds—Starlings wintered at most localities, but were numerous at Columbia and McNary Refuges in central Washington. Red-winged Blackbirds apparently wintered at a number of localities, including the Bozeman—Ennis area and the lower Flathead Valley south of Flathead Lake, Mont. (CJH). About 100 Yellow-headed Blackbirds were noted at Stratford, Wash. in January. This is probably the most northern wintering locality for the species (JA, WH). The species was sighted occasionally with wintering Brewer's Blackbirds at Columbia Refuge. An unusual number of the latter species wintered near Belgrade, Mont., with at least 2 flocks of 20-30 present. Highly unusual was a **Rusty Blackbird** observed and later collected at Belgrade during January and February (NM, DRS, PDS).

Finches—Evening Grosbeaks appeared at every reporting locality except McNary and Columbia Refuges in central Washington. In contrast to the sparse numbers last winter, the species was common to abundant in most localities. Cassin's Finch was reported wintering in only two localities. In the vicinity of Vernon, B. C., where the birds normally winter, they were scarce. A very few appeared to have wintered in Bozeman, not a common occurrence there (DRS, PDS). It was something of a Pine Grosbeak winter, after virtual absence of the species last winter. Most localities reported them and two localities, Vernon, B. C. and Bozeman, Mont., listed them as very common. Common Redpoll numbers bounded back after the extreme low of last winter. The species was common at Missoula and Bozeman, scarcer elsewhere. Those that appeared at Baker were Ann Ward's first for eastern Oregon and a single bird at Pullman was Ruth Ownbey's first record there. A **Hoary Redpoll** was noted in a flock of Common Redpolls near Anceney, Mont. on Jan. 19 and 3 were detected in another flock near Ennis, Mont., Feb. 16, in each case with 20X at close range. These are the first records for the area. A few Pine Siskins were noted wintering. Red Crossbills, although reported from several localities, were sparse.

Sparrows—A Tree Sparrow wintered near Vernon, coming regularly to a feeding tray, as did an occasional one at the Bison Range. A small wintering population was noted as usual at Bozeman and small groups, including a flock of 10, were seen at Missoula. Two occurrences of **Harris' Sparrows** were reported. An immature bird was identified near Spokane on March 21 (VN & CS) and 1 was observed at Missoula, March 31. White-crowned Sparrows appeared to winter in larger than normal numbers and in unusual localities. One bird at the feeding station at the Bison Range

from January on apparently furnished the first winter record there. One was noted at Pullman in December and February and more records than normal were obtained in the vicinity of Spokane. The species was occasional at Columbia Refuge but common at McNary Refuge and was more numerous than usual in the Vernon area. A hundred were noted in the Stratford, Wash., area in December (JA, WH). A **White-throated Sparrow** visited a feeder at Coldstream Municipality near Vernon in December and January. Fox Sparrows furnished two unusual records: 1 on the Penticton Christmas count and 1 in early February at McNary Refuge. Snow Buntings were uncommon to scarce. The aggregation for the entire Region was of flocks totaling 250 on the Christmas count near Ennis, Mont. (NM & PDS).

Contributors (sectional editors' names in boldface) — Jim Acton; J. T. Fowle; **James Grant** (southeastern British Columbia); Warren Hall; Ralph I. Hand (Missoula, Mont. area); L. Hardinger; RA Hays; **C. J. Henry** (National Bison Range, Moiese, Mont.); **Frank L. Kenney** (McNary National Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash.); Lynn LaFave; A. Lehenbauer (Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash.); Neil Martin; Louise S. Nunn; Vee Nealey; **Ruth P. Ownbey** (Pullman, Wash. Area); D. R. Skaar; **P. D. Skaar** (southwestern Montana); Connie Smedley; **Mr. & Mrs. S. O. Stanley** (Washington) ; Spokane Audubon Society; Thompson; Ken Todd; **Ann Ward** (northeastern Oregon). Specific records, unless otherwise noted, should be credited to the proper sectional editors.

The Winter Season, 1963-64

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.
/ **Dr. Oliver K. Scott**

All seasons are unusual, but I suppose this winter was way out of line. It started by

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being very mild with late staying birds which gave record high Christmas counts in many areas. January looked normal, but February came in with more snow, blow and cold. In March, the worst winter month, it snowed so much as to break records. Ski resorts closed because of too much snow. It was building up to something special when the season ended. The climax of this continued story will be in the next installment, labeled "spring." A brief summary of the season should read: "snowed and frozen out." This description only applies to the northern part of this Region. Southern

Utah and southern Colorado were as dry or drier than usual. At Zion Park, Utah, it was the driest season on record until mid-March (*DLC*). This means no precipitation. There is some evidence that northern birds were pushed south into the snow-free areas. (See Waxwings)

Ibis—A White-faced Ibis was seen at the Malheur Refuge, eastern Oregon, on Jan. 3—the first winter record there (*EK*).

Swans—Trumpeter Swans wintered well at Ruby lakes, eastern Nevada (*DEL*). The total count was 21—a new high. Winter still gripped this Refuge at the end of the season and the marsh was just beginning to thaw a month late. There is plenty of snow in the mountains. Malheur had 35 Trumpeters—another new high. The snowpack in the mountains there is sufficient for at least a normal run-off, breaking a 5-year drought, if the snow melts fast enough and doesn't all evaporate (*EK*). Jackson Hole, northwestern Wyoming, had 38 Trumpeters on Flat Creek beside the highway in the National Elk Refuge (*FSD*).

Ducks and Geese—Malheur had its spring high in ducks on March 18, with 154,000; 117,750 were Pintails. This is a better flight than last year's total of 101,000. Malheur's spring is much retarded. The peak of the Snow Geese came on April 2 at 105,000, instead of on March 7, as last year, with 129,000 (*EK*). The Klamath Basin reports excellent run-off prospects for the coming season. Peak numbers of ducks: Pintail, 250,000, March 1 (almost twice the number of last year). Other ducks in much smaller numbers: Am. Widgeon with 32,960 on Dec. 29. The first week of December attained the peak of the ducks with 442,000—an improvement over last year's 408,000. Spring concentrations were small by the end of this season. There were 400 Ross' Geese present in December (*EJO'N*). Deer Flat Refuge, western Idaho, in the Snake River Valley, had a peak of 606,000 ducks (700,000 last year) just before the freeze-up, Dec. 21. Of these 520,000 (86%) were Mallards and 75,000 (12%) were Pintails with minor numbers of other ducks. One of the minor species was 50 Hooded Mergansers. After December they had a cold, moist, hard winter—the ice broke up on Lake Lovell (major portion of the Refuge) in March. On March 20 there were only 85,500 ducks present (*WCR*). Bear River Marshes, upper end of Great Salt Lake, normally breaks up in mid-February, but this year it was still frozen by the end of this period. On March 31 there were 145,000 ducks present, compared with a peak of 276,000 on March 22 a year ago. The ducks were up the Bear River from the Refuge in warm spring along the foothills (*GMN*). At Minidoka Refuge, Snake River, Idaho, the Refuge froze, Dec. 12, and was still frozen

on April 1. This is not an all-time record, but is the longest freeze in recent years. The waterfowl managed well by flying south, but the refuge personnel were hard hit by "cabin fever" before spring came. At the start of December there were 106,000 ducks on the refuge: predominantly Mallard, Canvasback and Pintail (*SRW*). Monte Vista Refuge in the high, dry San Luis Valley, Colorado, is still growing and the ducks stayed through the winter. By far the most common are the Mallards. This year there were up to 33,760, Dec. 23 (*CRB*). It is interesting to note that among the scattering of ducks wintering on the National Elk Refuge, Jackson Hole—in a region of deep snow and low temperatures—in water kept open by warm springs, is the Ring-neck. There were 25 this winter (*FSD*). The Ring-neck is believed to be the most common breeding duck in the adjacent Grand Teton Park. Rare ducks reported were 4 Wood Ducks at Springdale, southern Utah, from Feb. 6 (*DLC*). There were 10 Wood Ducks at Flat Refuge, March 28 (*WCR*). A male European Widgeon was banded at Malheur, March 8 (*EK*).

Hawks—A Harlan's Hawk was observed at Honey Lake, Calif., in the Great Basin (*GMcC*). This bird is only casual in the area. About 250 Rough-legs and 150 Red-tails were present at Malheur in December (*EK*). Presumably these high figures are due to the explosion of mice in that area.

Eagles—We have a scattering of eagle reports but no great trend is shown. All the great wildlife refuges of this area have them. The most notable concentration was at the Klamath Basin with 67 Bald and 27 Golden Eagles in January against last year's 48 and 3, respectively (*EJO'N*). The eagle flyway in central Wyoming was very active into January, owing to the unseasonably warm fall. There was little movement down it until mid-December. This gives a false impression of the Christmas count number of 45 Golden Eagles, which cannot be equated with previous years (*OKS*). There was a wintering

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population of 117 Bald Eagles along the Snake River, above Roberts, Idaho, in January (*AB*). There were more eagles of both species at Parowan in southern Utah this year as compared with last (*SM*).

Cranes—there were 1100 Sandhill Cranes at the Monte Vista Refuge, Colo., from March 15 (*CRB*). This is the first large concentration, not only in that area, but in this entire Region.

Gulls—There was a Glaucous Gull at Farmington Bay on Great Salt Lake, near Salt Lake City, March 8 (*GK*).

There are several recent records for this casual bird in Utah.

Owls—At Malheur Refuge nesting sites are built for Great Horned Owls. Four out of 7 artificial sites were occupied (EK). Eighteen Short-eared Owls at Farmington Bay on March 18 was a good count. A Pygmy Owl was netted at Zion Park, Jan. 19 (DLC); this bird is rarely seen there.

Hummingbirds—The report of a White-eared Hummingbird on Grand Mesa, western slope of Colorado, in June 1963 was held over from a previous report (JW). This bird had not been noted in Colorado previously.

Waxwings—This year saw a heavy flight of Bohemian Waxwings which penetrated into southern Utah and Colorado. The highest number reported was 2000 at Salt Lake City, Jan. 12 (RP). About 350 were seen at Fort Bidwell, Calif., Dec. 21 (HMcC). They were at Estes Park, Colorado Rockies, in flocks all winter (AC). They were common as far south as Bryce Canyon (RWR) and Zion Park (DLC). In Colorado Bohemians were present in large numbers with flocks up to 500 as far southwest as Durango (DR) and up to 100 high in the central Rockies at Buena Vista (DR).

Warblers—An oddity of the Malheur Christmas count was a Northern Waterthrush on Dec. 21 (JCS, PK).

Sparrows—Another immature Harris' Sparrow was seen at Honey Lake, Calif., on Dec. 22 (GMcC). A White-throated Sparrow at Tule Lake in the Klamath Basin on Dec. 20 (GMcC) probably represents an unusually late fall migrant.

Contributors—(AB), Al Bruner; (CRB), Charles R. Bryant; (DLC), Dennis L. Carter; (AC), Allegra Collister; (FSD), F. Sheldon Dart; (RF), Reed Ferris; (EK), Eugene Kridler; (GK), Gleb Kashin; (DEL), Donald E. Lewis; (SM), Stuart Murie; (GMcC), Guy McCaskie; (PK), Paul Koelle; (GMN), Gerald M. Nugent; (EJO'N), Edward J. O'Neill; (WCR), William C. Reffalt; (OR), Oppie Reames; (DR), Dorothy Roman; (OKS), Oliver K. Scott; (JCS), John C. Scharff; (SRW), Sanford R. Wilbur; (JW), Julia Wagner.

The Winter Season, 1963-64

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION
/ Bob and Elsie Boggs

A mild winter with no appreciable snowfall in the lowlands accounted for large numbers of waterfowl. January, the wettest in five years, was followed by a dry

February. After the first of March snow piled up in near-record proportions in the Cascade Mountains above 2500 feet. Invasions of "northern" species were light with the possible exception of Snowy Owls and Pine Grosbeaks.

Loons, Fulmars, Cormorants and Egrets—A **Yellow-billed Loon**, first seen at Point Roberts on Dec. 21, was observed regularly until Jan. 26 (WHH, et al.). A dying Fulmar was seen on the South Jetty, mouth of the Columbia River, Jan. 31 (AB). Pelagic Cormorants (5000+) were roosting on the rocks near the south end of Denman Island, near Comox, B. C., March 6 (WJF). Unusual is the wintering of Common Egrets: of 3 seen on the Christmas count at Eugene, Oreg., on Dec. 29, one was still present on Jan. 4 (JO); and one was seen in Medford, Oreg., from Jan. 4 to the end of the period (Don Haller).

Hérons and Bitterns—Two Green Herons were

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observed flying up the Rogue River at Grants Pass, Oreg., Dec. 9 (JO), and one was noted at Tacoma, Wash., March 15 (AB). An Am. Bittern was heard on Whidbey Island, Feb. 1 (DW).

Waterfowl—Trumpeter Swans were seen at Comox, and an immature bird was photographed on Denman Island (WJF). Canada Geese wintered in large numbers. Mrs. Kline reported 400 at Blaine on Dec. 23. About 3000 were on Sauvies Island, near Portland, Oreg. on Dec. 25, and 5000 were concentrated on the Flyway Duck Club grounds at Corvallis, Oreg., Dec. 26 (AB). At Fern Ridge Reservoir, near Eugene, Oreg., over 750 were seen on Jan. 4, which was 3 times the number noted on the Christmas count (JO). Over 400 were counted on Westham Island, near Ladner, B. C., Jan. 1 (WHH). With only a few Black Brant showing up in February, expected numbers were not reached until mid-March when they were counted by the dozens (GAC, KCP) and the hundreds (AB) on Whidbey Island. By the end of March 250 were at Blaine (LK) and flocks of up to 600 were seen on Denman Island (WJF). A White-fronted Goose, first noted at Stanwood, Wash. Jan. 4 (DW), remained there through February (VEC, DJ). Snow Geese were seen on Sauvies Island (AB, JO) and at MacFadden Swamp, near Corvallis, Oreg. (JS). Gadwalls were found on a pond east of Medford, Oreg., Dec. 23 (RB). A **Common Teal** was observed carefully at MacFadden Swamp on Feb. 15 (JS). The only other record for western Oregon known to the editors is of one shot by a hunter on Sauvies Island on Jan. 20, 1954. Cinnamon Teal were first seen at Medford, Feb. 7 (JH), with 5 present on March 28 (JO). About 15 were observed at Corvallis,

Oreg. (JS). There were many reports of European Widgeons and Redheads. A pair of Wood Ducks was seen on Gray's River in Wahkiakum County, Wash., March 8 (AB). The high population (105) of Ring-necked Ducks on farm reservoirs near Medford on Jan. 26 (JO) is noteworthy. Increases were noted in Canvasback and Barrow's Goldeneye populations. Oldsquaws were reported on Whidbey Island, March 15 (AB). Harlequin Ducks were noted in Birch Bay (Bed Howe, *vide* LK, TW) and at Harper, Wash. (VEC, DJ) in January, with the last one noted at Ediz Hook, near Port Angeles, Wash., Feb. 1 (DW). A few Common Scoters wintered on Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. A raft of 250 Common Mergansers and 150 Red-breasted Mergansers was noted on the lower Columbia River near Stella, Wash. on March 8 (AB).

Hawks and Eagles—Rough-legged Hawks were seen at Ladner, B. C., Dec. 7 (WHH), and on Sauvies Island, Dec. 25 and March 6 (AB). A Golden Eagle was watched over Upper Table Rock on March 28, and later the same day an immature was seen on Dead Indian Road, both in Jackson County, Oreg. (JO). Two adult and 11 immature Bald Eagles on the Nooksack River in Whatcom County, Wash., Feb. 24, were the largest number seen in any one area. Ospreys were seen near their nest site at Shady Cove, Oreg., Feb. 14 (Mrs. Ted Conway). A Prairie Falcon was found at Ashland, Oreg., Feb. 10 (JH, Carl Richardson).

Mountain Quail—About 10 birds were found in MacDonald Forest, near Corvallis, on March 15. They have been seen only once before at this location, which is not over 800 ft. in elevation (JS).

Shorebirds—A Semipalmated Plover was discovered at Tillamook, Oreg., Jan. 24 (AB). Six Black-bellied Plover on Feb. 2 and 15 on Feb. 23 at the North Bend mud flats were good numbers for the Oregon coast. Ruddy Turnstones wintered for the second year at English Bay near Vancouver, B. C. (KB). Black Turnstones were noted at Ediz Hook, Feb. 1 (DW). Whimbrels (2) were seen at Tokeland, Pacific County, Wash. in January (VEC, DW), 1 and (5) at Victoria on March 24 (ARD). A Wandering Tattler was seen at North Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 26, and another was at Birch Bay, south of Blaine, Feb. 2 (KB). A Willet was found on Vancouver Island, March 17 (ARD, Jack Barnett). Both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs wintered in greater than usual numbers. Least Sandpipers were discovered on Hoover Lakes, north of Medford, Feb. 27 (JH, Thomas McCamant). Long-billed Dowitchers were present on Sauvies Island, Jan. 26 (AB); they did not arrive at MacFadden Swamp until March 19 (JS). A few Western Sandpipers began to arrive at Blaine the first of March, building up to a high of 1800 by March

14 (LK). A Northern Phalarope was observed at Tokeland, Jan. 25 (VEC, DW).

Gulls and Auklets—An immature Glaucous Gull was seen on Sauvies Island, March 6 (AB). A Mew Gull put in an appearance on the McKenzie River, near Eugene, Oreg., Jan. 4 (JO). Cassin's Auklets were seen in Seattle during January and February (VEC, DJ), and 5 were found dead on the south jetty at the mouth of the Columbia River (AB).

Pigeons and Owls—Band-tailed Pigeons wintered in small groups in Seattle (GAC) and Victoria,

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where they increased to hundreds by the middle of March (DS). Reports were received of Mourning Doves near Victoria; Vancouver, B. C.; Blaine; Portland and Medford. Flocks of over 50 were seen in the Kent and Auburn valleys in King County, Wash. in March. Numbers of these birds seen each year west of the Cascade Mountains seem to be growing. A Snowy Owl was seen at Victoria in December (DS) and one that was first seen near Vancouver, B. C., on Dec. 21, remained until Jan. 26 (WHH). Three Burrowing Owls turned up: 1 on the Christmas count at Comox, B. C. (G. A. Poynter, Betty Westerborg); 1 at Boundary Bay, near Vancouver, B. C., Jan. 1 (Mr. & Mrs. D. D. Dow, WHH); and 1 live-trapped, banded and released on the banks of the Skagit River in January (Howard Channing, *vide* LK).

Chickadees, Wrens, Mockingbirds, Thrushes—The scattered pairs of Mountain Chickadees wintering in Seattle were last seen on March 21 (DW). Rock Wrens were first seen at Ashland, Oreg., Feb. 10 (JH, Carl Richardson). A Mockingbird wintered at Blaine (LK) and one was seen at Kirkland, Wash. (Merritt Major, *vide* VEC). Robins, Varied Thrushes and Hermit Thrushes appeared about average in numbers. Several sightings of Western Bluebirds did not necessarily indicate an increase in numbers as many observers added such comments as "scarce" (DS), "first in over a year" (JO), and "small population" (JS).

Pipits, Waxwings, Vireos, Warblers—The only Water Pipits reported were 2 on Sauvies Island, Dec. 25 (AB). After last winter's absence from the Region, Bohemian Waxwings appeared in several localities. One was seen in Victoria, Jan. 18 (ARD). In early February 10 were counted in a garden in Portland (AB). Flocks of 50 to 100 were seen in Bellingham from Feb. 1 to 20 (TW), and a flock of 100± was observed in Blaine from Feb. 18 to 21 (LK). Cedar Waxwings wintered in greater than usual numbers in Victoria (DS). A Hutton's Vireo was seen at Phoenix, Jan. 12 (RB). A

pair, first seen in Seattle on Feb. 22 (*DJ*), was nest-building on March 22 (Seattle Audubon Society). An Orange-crowned Warbler was found at Harper, Kitsap County, Wash., Jan. 5 (*VEC, DJ*).

Blackbirds, Grosbeaks, Crossbills—A *Yellow-beaded Blackbird* on Westham Island, Jan. 1 (*DDD, WHH*) was most unusual. Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finches were spotty in occurrence, scarce in some areas and abundant in others. Pine Grosbeaks (8) were observed on Whidbey Island, Feb. 2 (*GAC*). Small groups were sighted in Victoria (*DS*) with the largest number 11 on Feb. 11 (*ARD*). The Red Crossbill was absent from Victoria (*DS*). They were seen at a feeder at Trail, Jackson County, Oreg. in January (Carolyn Kelsey).

Sparrows—A Chipping Sparrow was seen in Seattle in January (*DJ*). One was also seen at Ashland, Oreg. on Feb. 20 (Mrs. H. Cecil) was early. An extremely well-authenticated sight record of a *Harris' Sparrow* was of one at a feeder at Montesano, Wash. all winter, seen by many observers (*VEC, D. Coleman, Mrs. Carl Bunch, Mrs. Lindsley, DW, et al.*) and photographers (Florence Bailey, *BB, Ralph Carlson, W. Swanson*). Another unusual feeding-station visitor was a White-throated Sparrow at Victoria (I. R. Briggs). Lincoln's Sparrows were seen near Corvallis on Jan. 11 and March 19. Two were banded on March 27 and 28 (*JS*). One was observed on Whidbey Island, March 15 (*GAC, KCP*). Lapland Long-spurs, which are not recorded with any degree of regularity, were seen at Boundary Bay (*WHH*) and at Point Roberts (*KB*).

Initialed Contributors (sectional editors' names in boldface)—(AB) Alan Baldridge; (KB) K. Boyce; (RB) **Ralph Browning** (southwest Oregon); (*VEC*) Violet E. Cannon; (*GAC*) Mr. & Mrs. George A. Clark, Jr.; (*ARD*) A. R. Davidson; (*DDD*) Mr. & Mrs. D. D. Dow; (*WJF*) W. J. Fitzpatrick; (*WHH*) **Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hesse** (British Columbia); (*JH*) Joseph Hicks; (*DJ*) Doris Jelliffe; (*LK*) Lucile Kline; (*JO*) James Olson; (*KCP*) Kenneth C. Parkes; (*DS*) **David Stirling** (Vancouver Island); (*JS*) Joseph Strauch, Jr.; (*TW*) Terry Wahl; (*DW*) Dick Witt.

Spring Migration, 1964

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION / Thomas H. Rogers

The western portion of the Region experienced a cold, dry spring, often with strong southwest winds. At the western end of the Region, precipitation in the vicinity of McNary Refuge, Burbank, Wash. totaled only 0.19

in. for March, April and May. Columbia Refuge, Othello, Wash., with 0.35 in., endured the driest spring in 25 years. Eastward, precipitation gradually increased until at Ninepipe and Pablo Refuges, Charlo, Mont. precipitation was about 80 per cent of normal. At the Bison Range at Moiese, Mont. moisture was abundant in April and early May, but drought conditions, shared by eastern Washington, set in thereafter. Cloudy skies persisted, however, holding the area to subnormal temperatures most of the remainder of the period. At Missoula, Mont. the spring was cold and damp, retarding vegetation. Only in the Bozeman—Ennis—Three Forks area of Montana were conditions more or less normal. On May 2 and 3 western Montana was hit by storm conditions that brought several inches of snow. Observers believed that, in general, the spring migration was late, presumably because of the weather. However, the Bozeman area had a number of species appearing very early. The early May storm period appeared not to have had any great effect upon the already retarded migration, aside from producing some notable concentrations of a few species of landbirds already in the area. The possibility does present itself, however, that a few of the shorebirds, both rarities and normally expected migrants, might have been "grounded" by the storm instead of passing through unnoticed. However, several shorebird rarities did not appear at the time of the stormy period and a number of the usual migrants normally arrive around the first week of May anyway. Other groups of birds ordinarily arriving in early May appeared to show the normal pattern, with some species early and others late.

Grebes, Pelicans, Cormorants, Ibis—Up to 150 Red-necked Grebes appeared at Ninepipe Refuge, Lake Co., Mont. by May 1. The earliest record for any migrating grebe was of a few Western Grebes on Okanagan Lake, southern British Columbia, March 15. White Pelicans, unusual west of the Continental Divide in the Region south of the Canadian border, were noted in three localities: Ninepipe, 15 on May 26; McNary Refuge, 10 in early April, and Adams Co., Wash. 16 at Cow Lake on April 19 (*AB & LLAF*), and at Sprague Lake, 3 on May 17 (*WH & LLAF*). The species was first noted in the Bozeman, Mont. area on April 18. Thirty Double-crested Cormorants, seen at Ninepipe on May 28, stayed one day and moved on. The *White-faced Ibis* was observed twice at Three Forks, Mont. (*RAH, NM*).

Waterfowl—Several sectional editors reported waterfowl migration as late. At Columbia Refuge, Othello, Wash. the spring movement was about two weeks behind schedule. Cool weather appeared to be the explanation for this general slowness. In the Bozeman area the situation was more nearly normal and a few species put in very early appearances; namely,

Cinnamon Teal on April 5 at Three Forks, Redhead on March 15, and Ring-necked Duck on March 21. The (Cackling) Canada Goose, rare in eastern Washington, was noted twice in that area, at Banks Lake, Grant Co. (*JA*) and near St. Andrews, Douglas Co. (*LLaF* & *AB*). Two hundred Snow Geese near Baker, Oreg., were noteworthy, as the species is rather uncommon in the western part of the Region. Up to 11 **Ross' Geese** were sighted at Ninepipe and 58 were at Pablo Refuge on May 1. Single European Widgeons at Reardan, Wash. (*JA*) and Ninepipe Refuge were real rarities. The former was one of very few records for eastern Washington and the latter is believed to be the first record for that area. A peak of 1500 Canvasback at Ninepipe was the highest number in 15 years. A female Hooded Merganser at Three Forks, Mont. was unusual.

Vultures and Hawks—A very early Turkey Vulture was noted at Baker, Oreg. on March 17. At the National Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. a Red-tailed Hawk nest was examined to see why the adults showed signs of agitation. The nest contained 2 young, 1 dead, with porcupine quills protruding from its abdomen. There was no indication as to how this occurred (*EK* & *GH*). A late Rough-legged Hawk was still at Reardan, Wash. on May 3 (*WH* & *LLaF*). A Ferruginous Hawk was seen near *Creston*, Wash. (*JA*).

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Gallinaceous Birds—The breeding colony of Sharp-tailed Grouse in northern Spokane County, Wash. may be almost extirpated, as only 2 birds were noted this spring (*AB*, *WH* & *LLaF*). Winter carryover of California Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant and Chukar at Columbia Refuge was excellent, but nesting conditions were poor.

Cranes and Rails—Sandhill Cranes were migrating as early as March 20 (Columbia Refuge) and remained as late as May 7 at this refuge and until at least May 20 at Baker, Oreg. The highest number was 1000 at St. Andrews, Wash. on April 19 (*AB* & *LLaF*). A Virginia Rail killed by a car near Vernon, B. C. on March 27 was either an early migrant or possibly a wintering bird.

Shorebirds—A Semipalmated Plover at Missoula, May 6, was Hand's second spring record. Two Black-bellied Plovers, scarce in spring in eastern Washington, were seen at Reardan, May 24 (*JA*, *WH*). At Three Forks, Mont., where the species is likewise scarce, a single bird on May 10 constituted the first spring record (*RAH*, *DRS* & *PDS*). The real rarity for the season was a **White-rumped Sandpiper** on May 23 at Reardan, Wash. (*JA*). This is the second record for the state and occurred in spite of southwest winds of 17 to 24 miles per hour during the period of May 21-24. Only a little

less notable was the appearance of 5 of this same species, May 30, at Three Forks, Mont. It is the first record for the area and one of a few for Montana. Three other unusual records came from this latter area: the first spring records for Baird's and Silt Sandpipers, (*RAH*, *PDS*) and Dunlins (*RAH*, *TBH*, *DRS*, *PDS*); several sightings for each species. Dunlins had been seen there only once previously, last fall, and have been noted very few times in the state. Especially worthy of note were two records of **Short-billed Dowitchers**-2 birds at Missoula, May 2-11, seen under excellent conditions, and 6 in the Cariboo area between Spence's Bridge and Lac La Hache, B. C. (*PM*). Marbled Godwits again appeared in western Montana, 66 on Ninepipe on April 27 and 2 at Missoula following a rather heavy snowfall, May 4. In the Bozeman area the species was still present on June 6 in an area where they are suspected of breeding. An Am. Avocet at Vernon, B. C. was apparently the fourth recorded in interior British Columbia (*NB*). An unusual number of observations of the species at Reardan, Wash. possibly might have some bearing upon the Vernon sighting.

Gulls, Terns and Murrelets—A **Mew Gull**, rare in eastern Washington in spring, was noted at close range at Reardan on May 16 (*FH*). A few Franklin's and Bonaparte's Gulls were as usual noted in eastern Washington at Reardan, and the latter species at Willow Lake, Spokane Co. (*WH* & *LLaF*). Less ordinary were 3 of the latter species at Missoula. Caspian Terns were reported as more common at Columbia Refuge than in the past. Of extreme interest is an **Ancient Murrelet** found alive in a residential area of Missoula, March 19.

Doves, Cuckoos, Owls—Three Band-tailed Pigeons were observed at Princeton in the Okanagan River drainage in southern British Columbia (*PM*). An extraordinary record was that of a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** near Lower Bridge, about 8 miles NNW of Redmond, Oreg. (*LBM* & *PD*, *vide JGS*). A Screech Owl was found under a bridge in the almost treeless area around Creston, Wash. A Snowy Owl was seen 30 miles E of Vernon on April 8 (*SD*). Single Saw-whet Owls, seldom reported in the Region, were found near Sprague, Wash. (*WH* & *LLaF*) and near Bozeman, Mont.

Nighthawks and Swifts—First observations of the Common Nighthawk, with few exceptions, were close to the last of May. At Columbia Refuge, Othello, Wash. the birds appeared on May 18 and at Missoula the earliest appearance was May 24, 6 days earlier than Hand's earliest record in 26 years' observing. The first record of the **Black Swift** for eastern Washington was obtained on May 23 when 2 birds were observed under ideal conditions at Mt. Spokane, Spokane Co. (*FH*).

Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers and Flycatchers —

On June 7, Black-chinned Hummingbirds were noted around headquarters at the Bison Range, in the amazing numbers of 8 or 10 at a time. A male and a female of the rarely observed Williamson's Sapsucker were seen in the vicinity of Oliver, B. C. (FWD, WHH & PM). In the same area the rare White-headed Woodpecker was observed (WHH). This latter species was also noted near Long Lake Dam, Lincoln Co., Wash. (FH); at Vaseaux Lake and near White Lake, in the Vernon, B. C. area by field parties of the British Columbia Nature Council. Nesting activity of Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers was noted in the Long Lake burned-over area down the Spokane River from Spokane, but the site was later abandoned. However, a female was noted in the area on May 2 (S.A.S.). The Ash-throated Flycatcher, described as uncommon at Columbia Refuge, was first noted there on May 13.

Mimic Thrushes & Thrushes—A Sage Thrasher appeared on May 2 during a snowstorm at Missoula. This is Hand's second record for Missoula. At Vernon, B. C. May 13 was an early arrival date for the Veery and May 16 was very early for the species at Bozeman. For comparison, other arrival dates are: Baker, Oreg., May 24; Spokane, Wash., May 15 (S.A.S.), and Bison Range, May 17. The species was present at Oliver, B. C. on May 16 (FWD, WHH & PM). A *Gray-cheeked Thrush*, carefully examined at Bozeman, was the first record of the species for the area and one of a few for Montana. Many Western Bluebirds were seen at the Long Lake burn area west of Spokane (S.A.S.).

Pipits and Waxwings—Water Pipits were observed migrating between April 3 (Bison Range) and May 26 (Spokane area). April 8 at Bozeman was a very early arrival date there. A peak of 500 occurred at Ninepipe on April 20, but at Missoula a peak of several hundred was observed on May 4. Sprague's Pipit was found singing on two dates in May in the area near Three Forks where they were first found last summer. Bohemian Waxwings stayed unusually late in several localities: until April 27 at Spokane, 2 birds (WH); May 4 at Missoula,

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7 birds, and May 11 at Bozeman, 30 birds (DRS).

Starlings and Warblers—At McNary Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. Starlings were found nesting in boxes put up for Wood Ducks. At Missoula a completely albino young Starling, nearly able to fly, was found. Efforts to rear it failed so it was turned over to the collection of Montana University. A female Myrtle Warbler appeared at Lavington, near Vernon, B. C. and

a male was observed at Spokane (VC). The Northern Waterthrush was first noted in the Vernon, B. C. area on May 16 at Cherryville (SD). The species was noted elsewhere only in the Cariboo area of southern British Columbia (PM) and at Bozeman.

Finches—Evening Grosbeaks appeared in abundance at reporting stations in western Montana and at Vernon. At Ninepipe Refuge the migration, considered the largest for many years, had its peak the last week of May. Cassin's Finch probably wintered in the Bozeman area, for songs were heard on Jan. 28 and regularly after March 28. In the Spokane area the species arrived very late, around the last of April (S.A.S.). Inadvertently omitted from the winter report for the Region was mention of 300 Black Rosy Finches along the road between Monida and Lima, Beaverhead Co., Mont. on Jan. 1 (CP, *vide* REJ). Common Redpolls lingered late: to April 18, at Missoula and to the very late date of May 16 at Bozeman (RAH). Red Crossbills were virtually absent at most reporting localities, with a single bird noted in Montana, at Bozeman (RAH). In the Spokane area, the only other area reporting them, numbers were low.

Sparrows—Three reports for *Lark Buntings* west of their usual range raise the interesting possibility that the species might eventually succeed in establishing itself in grasslands in western Montana. In southwestern Montana no large-scale repetition of last year's "invasion" occurred, but a pair was found near Manhattan (RAH) and 2 males were seen near Belgrade. At Missoula from 4 to 10 were seen daily just south of the city during the first half of June. This is the second record for Hand for Missoula or for anywhere west of the Continental Divide. At the Bison Range at Moiese a female was noted on June 9 (WB) and a male was seen the following day (WE & CJH). This is a new record for the Range. The earliest date for the Savannah Sparrow at Bozeman, April 18, was 12 days earlier than any previous record. At Baker, Oreg., a peak of 150 of this species was noted on April 22. A *Grasshopper Sparrow*, Hand's first for the Missoula area, was identified on the heels of the storm period of May 4. At Kennewick, Wash. a window kill of a *Le Conte's Sparrow* provided the first record for the state (LN). At Bozeman immense migrating flocks of Vesper Sparrows were forced to roadsides by the snow on May 3. Many migrating Oregon Juncos mingled with them. At Missoula the latter species became abundant during the same stormy period. A *Clay-colored Sparrow*, the second record for Washington, was watched at close range near Spokane on May 7 (LLaF); another was identified at Missoula on May 27. A Harris' Sparrow again appeared near Spokane at a feeder, April 4 (VN) and 1 was present at Missoula from March 31 to May 4. A heavy migration of White-crowned Sparrows was

noted in most areas. Some 300 were noted at Baker on May 6 and 500 were reported for May 3 in the Spokane area (*WH* & *LLaF*). The species wintered more abundantly than usual around Vernon, B. C. and the first migrant appeared there on April 20. A very early individual appeared at Bozeman on April 8, the same day that the first appeared at Baker, Oreg. At other localities arrival was from mid-April on. An unusually large number of reports came in for Golden-crowned Sparrows. Most surprising was the appearance of at least 10 at Sprague Lake near Sprague, Wash. (*WH* & *LLaF*). A single bird was seen near Spokane (*JA*, *WH*, *VN* & *CS*); 2 were noted at Baker; 2, at Hedley in the Vernon area; 6 near Oliver, B. C. (*FWD*, *WHH* & *PM*), and 3 in the Cariboo (*PM*). A single adult Lapland Longspur in full breeding plumage was identified with Horned Larks near Creston, Wash. on April 19 (*LLaF*) and a few were again noted at Missoula between March 14 and April 23. The species appeared late (April 5) in the Bozeman area.

Contributors (sectional editors, whose names are in boldface, should receive credit for their respective areas unless otherwise indicated). —(*JA*) James Acton; (*AB*) Alan Baldrige; (*NB*) Mr. & Mrs. N. Beaven; (*WB*) Watson Beed; (*VC*) Vina Clough; (*FWD*) Mr. & Mrs. F. W. Dobson; (*SD*) S. Draper; (*PD*) Paul DuMont; **James Grant**, Vernon, B. C. area; (*WH*) Warren Hall; (*RAH*) R. A. Hays; (*CJH*) **C. J. Henry**, National Bison Range, Moiese, Mont.; (*WHH*) Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Hesse; (*GH*) Grant Hogge; (*FH*) Frances Huston; (*REJ*) Richard E. Johnson; **Frank Kenney**, McNary National Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash.; (*EK*) Ernest Kraft; (*LLaF*) Lynn LaFave; **P. A. Lehenbauer**, Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash.; **Leon A. Littlefield**, Ninepipe and Pablo National Wildlife Refuges, Charlo, Mont.; (*LBM*) Larry B. McQueen; (*PM*) Dr. P. Mackenzie; (*NM*) Neil Martin; (*VN*) Vee Nealey; (*LN*) Louise Nunn; (*CP*) Mr. & Mrs. Clint Peck; (*DRS*) D. R. Skaar; (*PDS*) **P. D. Skaar**, Bozeman–Ennis–Three Forks, Mont. area; (*CS*) Connie Smedley; (*S.A.S.*) Spokane Audubon Society, Mrs. S. O. Stanley, compiler; (*JGS*) Joseph G. Strauch, Jr., **Ann Ward**, Baker, Oreg. area.

Spring Migration, 1964

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.
/ **Dr. Oliver K. Scott**

April and May (it was hardly a spring) were as cold and wet as any on record in many areas and also in the Region as a whole, in spite of its great variety of climate. A storm, starting on April 1st in central Wyoming, dropped up to thirty inches of wet snow on

the prairies and foothills killing almost all the larger animals that were not fed by man. Spring birds present at that time ate juniper berries and survived. At the end of this period in May many places at higher elevations had not received their usual spring birds. Many birds prolonged their stay at lower

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elevations before going to their breeding grounds, such as Olive-sided Flycatchers at Salt Lake City during the last two weeks of May (*GK*). In most areas vegetation and birds were 2-3 weeks behind, and the vegetation seemed later than the birds. There was ice on the marshes in eastern Idaho until May (*DGB*). Water prospects for the coming duck breeding season are better than they have been in years. Durango, Colo. was the exception, being both cold and dry (*OR*). A wave of migrants—such as the eastern half of the country knows—is rare in this Region, perhaps because there are fewer perching birds. What waves we do have are associated with storms with northerly winds. A real concentration took place in Zion Canyon, Utah, on May 5-7, as a result of a rain and snowstorm. After the storm dozens of dead birds were found there and at nearby Springdale. These birds were *Empidonax* (sp.), Red-breasted Nuthatch, Audubon's Warbler, Virginia's Warbler, and Gray-headed Junco (*DLC*). Another storm with high northerly winds on May 27-28 at Minidoka Refuge on the Snake River, Idaho, caused landbirds to be very numerous on May 29 in an area where ordinarily there were few. Species such as Red-eyed Vireo and Black-headed Grosbeak, rarely seen there, were common (*SRW*).

Hérons—A Common Egret was present, April 1, at Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho. This is unusual (*WCR*).

Swans—Ruby Lakes, Nev., where water conditions are better than for many years, has four pairs of Trumpeter Swans nesting (*DEL*).

Geese and Ducks—Bear River Marshes, Utah reported a normal migration, but about three to four weeks late. The high count of ducks was 113,848 on April 8 (*VW*); this should have occurred in mid-March. A lot of water is flowing into the Great Salt Lake from the Bear River Marshes. Two Ross' Geese were seen with Snow Geese north of Roberts, Idaho, April 26, the first record for that area (*AB*). One White-fronted Goose also was seen there, April 26 (*DGB*). About 4000 Ross' Geese were seen near Burns in the Malheur region, April 15; although they occur there regularly, this is the highest number reported. A nesting survey of Canada Geese in the Snake River region showed 70 nests this year as compared with 51 last year (*WCR*)—a harbinger of good waterfowl breeding performance

this spring. At Malheur 761 pairs of Canadas are nesting—up 366 pairs from last year (JCS) —another indication of better water conditions. The only rare duck reported was a pair of European Widgeon—the first record for the area—on April 18-19 (BG) at Antero Reservoir in a mountain valley west of Denver.

Hawks—A Peregrine Falcon seen on May 24 at Parowan, Utah, continues the scattered reports of these birds in the Rockies and Great Basin. There was another report from Casper, Wyo. (OKS).

Cranes—At Monte Vista Refuge in the high dry San Luis valley of Colorado there were 100 Sandhill Cranes, April 1-4 (CRB). This new refuge is becoming a principal crane stopping area.

Shorebirds—A Snowy Plover and a Black-bellied Plover were two new birds for the Minidoka Refuge, Idaho (SRW). Another Upland Plover was seen at Malheur, May 31 (JGO, JBC, Jr.). Perhaps this bird is more regular than has been supposed.

Owls—One Flammulated Owl was caught in a mist net in Zion Canyon, Utah, May 7 (RW); one was found in a yard in the Park, May 8 (RW); another was found dead during the same period. There was also one in the Kolob area of the Park, May 21 (RW). These are the first recordings from Zion Park. Owing to the intensive efforts of the present personnel, many birds are being found that probably have been overlooked there in the past.

Flycatchers—There was a Vermilion Flycatcher at Gabbs, Nev. on April 2 and for several following days (Mrs. WCK). This is farther north in Nevada than this bird usually is reported.

Martins—Five Purple Martins were seen in the big wave at Minidoka, May 29 (SRW). Gleb Kashin had 2 Purple Martins near Salt Lake City, May 10, but they appear there almost every year, whereas this is a first for Minidoka.

Warblers—Unusual warblers seen this spring are: Cape May Warbler at Kittridge west of Denver, May 10 (HRH)—*first* record for the Denver area; **Canada Warbler**, May 24, in Bates Hole on the North Platte River, Wyo. (OKS)—a new record for Wyoming; Parula Warbler (rare) at Casper, May 15 (OKS); Townsend's Warbler at Cheyenne, May 14, unusual in spring (MH). In the migratory stopping up or wave at Minidoka on May 29 there was an Am. Redstart (very rare) and 2 Black-and-white Warblers (SRW); a pair of **Tennessee Warblers** at Malheur headquarters, May 29 (JGO, JBC, Jr.) —another repeat of a new bird for Oregon of last year at the same place.

Orioles—A female **Hooded Oriole** was at Malheur, May 29 (JGO, JBC, Jr.), a new record for Oregon.

Buntings—Two Indigo Buntings, a great rarity in southern Utah, were seen at Parowan (SM), May 27 and following days.

Sparrows—The Black-chinned Sparrow was found in Zion Canyon, April 22 (DLC, RWR) and April 29 and May 1 (DLC).

Corrigendum—An error crept into a previous report in which 50 Wood Ducks and 50 Hooded

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Mergansers were attributed to Minidoka Refuge instead of Deer Flat Refuge. See *Audubon Field Notes* 17 (1) : 61.

Contributors—(AB), Alan Baldrige; (DGB), Delwyn G. Berrett; (AB), Al Bruner, (CRB), Charles R. Bryant; (DLC), Dennis L. Carter; (JBC), Jr., John B. Crowell, Jr.; (BG), Bob Gustafson; (MH), May Hanesworth; (HRH), Harold R. Holt; (GK), Gleb Kashin; Mrs. (WCK), Mrs. W. C. Knoblauch; (DEL), Donald E. Lewis; (SM), Stewart Murie; (JGO), James G. Olsen; (OR), Oppie Reames; (WCR), William C. Reffalt; (RWR), Richard W. Russell; (JCS), John C. Scharff; (RW), Roland Wauer; (SRW), Sanford R. Wilbur; (VW), Vanez Wilson.

Spring Migration, 1964

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / Bob and Elsie Boggs

April and May were cooler and drier than normal. At the end of the period exceptionally heavy snow packs remained in the mountains. The migration picture was a varied one, with average shorebird concentrations along the coast, a good landbird migration in Canada, and a scanty landbird movement, mostly in April, in Washington and Oregon. Many observers felt the birds were there but had to be "spooked" out. The spawning herring in Vancouver Island's bays produced some spectacular waterfowl concentrations. On Buckley Bay alone, 75,000 were estimated on March 28, consisting chiefly of Greater Scaup, Surf and White-winged Scoters, Mew Gulls, Glaucous-winged Gulls and Red-breasted Mergansers.

Loons, Grebes, Shearwaters, Herons—A movement of 50 to 60 Common and Red-throated Loons

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was noted at Blaine, March 22 (*LK*). A count of Common Loons produced 50 moving north, along with about 75 Arctic Loons, in one hour at Cape Meares on the Oregon coast, May 10 (*AB, JBC*). An Eared Grebe was seen at Tillamook, Oreg., April 3 (*AB*). Sooty Shearwaters were seen off Long Beach, Wash., May 8 (*AB*). Green Herons were noted at Corvallis, Oreg., April 23 (*JS*); on Sauvies Island, near Portland, Oreg., April 24 (*AB*); and at Pitt Meadows in British Columbia, April 26 (*KB*).

Waterfowl—On May 8 about 9000 Canada Geese (*minima*) were feeding in grassy hollows in the sand dunes at Willapa Bay, where 3000± Black Brant were noted the same day (*AB*). Black Brant were late migrants at Victoria, B. C. (*DS*), Blaine (May 21—*LK*), Tillamook (May 24—*AB*), and Point Roberts (May—*KB*). An **Emperor Goose** was present at Seattle in mid-April (*VEC, DJ*) and photographed (*BB* & *EB*, Wallace Swanson) before it left with the Black Brant. White-fronted Geese made a good showing: 65 at Leadbetter Point, April 25 (*JBC*); 1500 at Tillamook, May 10 (*JBC, AB*); 1 each at Iona, B. C. (*PM*), and Canoe Pass, near Ladner, B. C. (*WHH, PM*), both on May 10; and 2 at Iona, May 31 (*KB*). Snow Geese had declined in numbers in the Vancouver, B. C. area. Late stragglers were 6 Pintails, 4 Green-winged Teals, and 30 Blue-winged Teals at Iona, May 31 (*KB*). A pair of Blue-winged Teal was noted at MacFadden Swamp, near Corvallis, Oreg., from April 24 to 29; it is "suspected that they have nested there occasionally in past years" (*JS*). The species was noted at Nooksack, Whatcom Co., Wash., May 3 (*TW*) and at Portland, Oreg., May 10 (*AB, JBC*). Cinnamon Teal were more abundant than unusual, the latest 2 at Vancouver, B. C., May 30 (*FD*). The only European Widgeon reported was a male at Canoe Pass, April 12 and 19 (*WHH*). Am. Widgeon (15) were seen on a ranch pond in Sams Valley, west of Medford, Oreg., April 18 (*JO*), and were still present in large numbers on Westham Island, near Vancouver, B. C., April 19 (*PM*). A few Canvasbacks remained on Sea Island in British Columbia until May 31 (*KB*). Ruddy Ducks were numerous in the Vancouver, B. C. area. A Hooded Merganser was discovered at Shady Cove, Jackson Co., Oreg., April 5 (*JH*) and 2 birds were seen at MacFadden Swamp, April 29 (*JS*).

Vultures and Hawks—An "earliest-ever" arrival date for the Turkey Vulture is Feb. 15 at Medford, Oreg. (*JH*). They were seen in Victoria on April 2 (Gwen & Tom Briggs). A Goshawk was discovered near Seattle, April 5 (*VEC, DJ*). A **Swainson's Hawk** (rare west of the Cascades) was seen at Bellingham, April 28 (*TW*).

Partridges and Bobwhite—Two Chukar-like birds, seen by the roadside near an old airport several miles

northeast of the Keystone Ferry Dock on Whidbey Island on May 16 (*GAC, NC*) were presumed to be Red-legged Partridges. The Wash. State Dept. of Game has recently introduced this European species on the island. A pair of Bobwhites at Mac-Fadden Swamp on May 20 was the first seen there in 3 years (*JS*).

Rails—Virginia Rails were seen at Seattle from May 13 to 18, and at Useless Bay on Whidbey Island, May 16 (*GAC*). A Sora was seen at Lake Terrell in Whatcom County, Wash., May 3 (*TW*). On May 20, a dead bird that had hit a window was identified as a Sora and became a first record of the species for Jackson County, Oreg. (*JH*).

Shorebirds—Semipalmated Plovers moved up the coast mostly between April 25 and May 10. Six were seen on May 8 at MacFadden Swamp, where a Black-bellied Plover was discovered on April 2 (Paul DuMont, *vide JS*). A Ruddy Turnstone was observed at Point Roberts, May 10 (*KB*). A decline in Black Turnstone numbers was noted at Bellingham, only a few being seen in late April (*TW*). A Lesser Yellowlegs was carefully studied at Hoover Lake, north of Medford, Oreg., April 15 (*RB*), while varying numbers up to 8 were seen at MacFadden Swamp from April 9 to May 8 (*JS*). A flock of 120 was an exceptionally large number of Knots for Tillamook, Oreg. on May 10 (*AB, JBC*); 5 at Canoe Pass on May 10 (*WHH, PM*) and 2 at Iona, B. C. on May 31 (*KB*) is noteworthy. Ten Rock Sandpipers were counted on the rock jetty at Newport, Lincoln Co., Oreg., April 27 (*JS*). The unusual Pectoral Sandpiper was observed at Hoover Lake on April 9, another Jackson County first (*JH*); an extremely tame individual was seen at Canoe Pass, May 10 (*WHH, PM*). Another rarity at Hoover Lake was a Baird's Sandpiper seen and compared with Least Sandpipers, April 10 (*RB, JH*). Short-billed Dowitchers were seen at Newport, Oreg., April 27 (*JS*), at Willapa Bay, May 8 (*AB*), and at Tillamook (*AB, JBC*) and Canoe Pass (*WHH, PM*), May 10. Long-billed Dowitchers arrived at Hoover Lake on April 15 when 4 were seen (*RB*). This number increased to 10 by April 18 (*JO*). On May 9, 250 were estimated at MacFadden Swamp (*JS*). The **Semipalmated Sandpiper** is on the hypothetical list in "*Birds of Oregon*" by Gabrielson and Jewett. This

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species was carefully observed on April 14 at Hoover Lake (with 20 X scope—*RB*) and on May 24 at Tillamook (watched for an hour as close as 30 ft.—*AB*). A Marbled Godwit was discovered at Tsawwassen, B. C., April 19 (*WHH*); and 2 were seen at Iona, B. C., May 31 (*KB*). Wilson's Phalaropes were noted at MacFadden Swamp as early as April 9 (*JS*); 6

were seen at Birch Bay, near Bellingham, May 9 (KB); and 8 arrived late at Hoover Lake, May 29 (JH).

Kittiwakes and Terns—Black-legged Kittiwakes (100±) were observed near Long Beach, Wash., May 8 (AB); and were seen moving north off Cape Meares, May 10 (AB, JBC). A single bird was seen with larger gulls at the Blaine garbage dump, May 17 (TW). A Forster's Tern was identified at Hoover Lake, May 30 (JH). Common Terns were seen at Drayton Harbor, near Blaine, Wash., May 9 (KB) and at Westham Island, near Ladner, B. C., May 17 (TW). Three Caspian Terns were found at Tillamook, May 10 (AB, JBC).

Nighthawks, Swifts, Hummingbirds—Common Nighthawks at White City, Oreg., on May 23 (JH) were earlier than usual. Other early dates were May 30, at Shelton, Wash. (BB, EB); and May 31, at Seattle (VEC, DJ). They arrived at Point Gray, east of Vancouver, B. C. (FD), and Burnaby, B. C. (WHH) by June 4. Vaux's Swifts were in Jackson County, Oreg., April 30 (JH). Two female Anna's Hummingbirds coming to feeders at the Star Ranger Station headquarters of the lower Applegate River area, near Ruch, Oreg., were compared with Rufous Hummingbirds (Mr. & Mrs. Neil Suttel). The birds were observed on May 14 (JH) and May 24 (RB, Art Scott). It is the third sight record for Jackson County, Oreg. Rufous Hummingbirds were first seen at Skunk Bay, west of Hansville, Kitsap Co., Wash., March 22 (GAC, NC), and became common after the first of April.

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers—Lewis' Woodpeckers, apparently are declining in numbers; 2 were observed in Victoria in early April (DS). *Empidonax* flycatchers were scarce in Jackson County, Oreg., (RB, JH), and at Blaine (LK) and Seattle (BB, EB). Eastern Kingbirds were found at Pitt Meadows, May 31 (WHH). The Ash-throated Flycatcher was not seen in Jackson County, Oreg. until May 24 (Russell Davis)—a late date. A Traill's Flycatcher was noted on Roxy Ann Butte, northeast of Medford, Oreg., May 1 (JH). A Hammond's Flycatcher was identified at 5000 ft. in the Siskiyou Mountains, southwest of Medford (RB). Western Flycatchers were first seen at Drayton Harbor, April 26 (WHH). Exceptionally early were Western Wood Pewees at Blaine on March 30 (LK), and near Medford, April 27 (JO).

Swallows—There were several early dates for Violet-green Swallows: at Seattle (DW) and Corvallis (JS), March 19; at Bellingham (TW) and Burnaby (WHH), March 21; and at Blaine, March 25 (LK). The heaviest movement of Violet-green Swallows occurred at Pitt Meadows, April 26, when 300 were seen; almost as many, 250, were observed one day earlier at Drayton Harbor (WHH). Tree Swallows were observed near

Medford, Feb. 7 (JH) and 15 (W. Cavanaugh), and arrived at Blaine on Feb. 19—Mrs. Lucile Kline's earliest date in 25 years of record-keeping. Barn Swallows arrived early. The species was noted at Sea Island, April 18 (WHH), and appeared the following day at Fern Ridge Reservoir, near Eugene, Oreg., (JO), Bellingham (TW), Seattle (VEC), and Westham Island (PM). Cliff Swallows were seen near Seattle, April 5 (VEC, DJ); they appeared to be less numerous in the Vancouver, B. C. area (WHH). Purple Martins were noted at Victoria, April 17 (R. C. Mackenzie-Grieve).

Wrens, Mockingbirds, Thrushes—A Rock Wren was observed at Emigrant Dam, southeast of Ashland, Oreg., April 18 (JO). The Mockingbirds reported for the winter period remained all spring at Blaine and Kirkland, Wash. From April 29 to May 4 a very noticeable movement of Varied Thrushes was observed along the British Columbia coast extending from Sechelt to beyond the Powell River (LK). The Hermit Thrush migratory peak occurred in late April (BB, EB, JO, JS), but a late bird appeared at Burnaby, May 20 (WHH). A very early Swainson's Thrush put in an appearance at Squamish, B. C., May 2 (KB). A *Veery* at Shady Cove, Oreg., was heard singing on May 24 (RB), and was seen on May 25 (JH). Both observers identified the bird without knowing the other suspected it. A pair of Western Bluebirds was observed on Dead Indian Road, east of Medford, April 18 (JO). Two were seen on April 26, and 1 on April 29 at two localities near Eugene (JS). At least 2 pairs were nesting in the Victoria, B. C. area (A. R. Davidson, DS). The only Townsend's Solitaires reported were single birds at Point Gray, April 18 (FD); Squamish, May 2 (KB); and E. C. Manning Provincial Park, May 15 (FD).

Gnatcatchers, Vireos, Warblers—The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen on Roxy Ann Butte on May 13 (JH). Hutton's Vireos (2) were found at Skunk Bay in Kitsap Co., Wash. on March 22 (GAC, NC, Werner Rathmeyer). Later the same day another was seen farther west on the same highway. Solitary Vireos at Seattle on April 4 (VEC) were early. Two *Red-eyed Vireos* were discovered on the newly established Willamette Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, near Corvallis, May 9 (Paul DuMont, *vide JS*). The species was seen near Seattle, May 31 (VEC, DJ), but had not yet arrived in the Vancouver, B. C. area by the end of the period (WHH). Warbling Vireos were late, being first noted at Hoover Lake, May 1 (JH), at Seattle, May 14 (BB, EB), and at Bellingham, May 20 (TW). Orange-crowned Warblers were seen at Drayton Harbor, April 11 (WHH) and were more numerous. The Nashville Warbler was seen at a Seattle feeder, April 9 (DJ). One was trapped and banded at Corvallis, April 23 (JS); and seen in Jackson County, Oreg., April 26 (DT). There were 10 reports of the Myrtle Warbler. The Black-

throated Gray Warbler was observed in Jackson County, Oreg., April 15 (DT). A remarkable number of 50 Townsend's Warblers was recorded for Bar View, Tillamook Co., Oreg., March 15 (JBC, et al.). Hermit Warblers were found at Spanaway Park, Pierce Co., Wash., May 2 (GAC, NC). One was banded near

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Summit, Oreg., May 9 (Ralph Moldenhauer, *vide JS*). A *Northern Waterthrush* was identified at close range and in typical habitat at Shady Cove, Oreg., May 30 (JH). An early Wilson's Warbler was at Long Beach, Wash., April 25 (JBC).

Blackbirds and Grosbeaks—A Yellow-headed Blackbird appeared at White City, Jackson Co., Oreg., April 18 (JO). Five were counted at Fern Ridge Reservoir, April 2 (JS), and a single bird was seen at Canoe Pass, May 10 (WHH, PM). Tricolored Blackbirds were observed at White City, April 18 (JO). Black-headed Grosbeaks at Drayton Harbor, April 25 (KB) were early. Evening Grosbeaks were abundant throughout the Region.

Finches and Sparrows—A *Common Redpoll* was observed at a feeder in north Seattle, April 1 (DW). Red Crossbills were scarce; one was noted at Point Gray, April 18 (FD). A dark, large sparrow, banded at Corvallis, April 23, was identified as the Aleutian race of the Savannah Sparrow (*P. s. sandwichensis*). A Vesper Sparrow was at Perkins Peninsula State Park in Oregon, April 19 (JO). Lark Sparrows were observed near Ruch, Oreg., March 4 (JO). Slate-colored Juncos passed through Seattle (DW) and Burnaby, B. C. (WHH) in early April. The rare Harris' Sparrow put in an appearance at a feeder at Ashland, Oreg. in mid-April (VC). The peak of the White-crowned Sparrow migration occurred between April 26 and May 9. No Golden-crowned Sparrows were seen after May 16. A White-throated Sparrow was seen at Ashland, Oreg. in April (VC). Lincoln's Sparrows were more common than usual at Corvallis (JS). A Lapland Longspur was on Sea Island, April 18 (WHH).

Initialed Contributors (sectional editors' names in boldface).—(AB) Alan Baldrige; (BB, EB) Bob and Elsie Boggs; (KB) K. Boyce; (RB) **Ralph Browning** (southeast Oregon); (VEC) Violet E. Cannon; (VC) Virginia Cecil; (GAC) George A. Clark, Jr.; (NC) Nancy Clark; (JBC) John B. Crowell, Jr.; (FD) Mr. & Mrs. F. Dobson; (WHH) **Mr. & Mrs. Werner H. Hesse** (British Columbia); (JH) Joseph Hicks; (DJ) Doris Jelliffe; (LK) Lucile Kline; (PM) P. MacKenzie; (JO) James Olson; (DS) **David Stirling** (Vancouver Island); (JS) Joseph Strauch, Jr.; (DT) Dorothy Tompkins; (TW) Terry Wahl; (DW) Dick Witt.

The Nesting Season, 1964

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
/ **Thomas H. Rogers**

Most of the Region had a cool, wet summer, with at least twice normal rainfall in June and in some areas in July also. Receiving national attention was the extremely heavy rainfall

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—as high as 16 inches, in Glacier Nat'l Park, according to U. S. Weather Bureau figures—in northwestern Montana on June 7 and 8, which resulted in disastrous flooding with loss of several lives and property damage running into the millions. Principal harm to birdlife appeared to be waterfowl and other species nesting in lowlands and marshes along streams and reservoirs. C. J. Henry reported "tremendous losses" at the National Bison Range at Moiese. The effects at Ninepipe and Pablo Nat'l Wildlife Refuges near Charlo are described in the body of the report. Cool, rainy weather may have been responsible for poor nesting success of some upland game birds. East-central Washington experienced a dry but cool summer. Dry-ground habitat conditions at Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge at Othello were described as only fair because of moisture lack, but marsh habitat was very good, with water levels at near capacity. Waterfowl and upland game nesting there was late. Except as noted in the previous paragraph, nesting success for the Region, as a whole, appeared to be about normal.

Grebes—Nineteen nests of the Red-necked Grebe were observed on Ninepipe Refuge, but success was apparently low for only 3 broods were seen. By contrast, over 100 nests of the Western Grebe there produced about 250 young. Sixty pairs of Horned Grebes and some 200 pairs of Eared Grebes, both species with eggs or young, were noted at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash. (WH). Peak population of the latter species was estimated at 300 and nesting success was considered good (ECB). Six Eared Grebes were noted at 8000 ft. elevation on Fairy Lake, 20 mi. north of Bozeman on Aug. 8 (CVD).

Pelicans and Herons—Unusually large, non-breeding flocks of White Pelicans remained on Ennis Lake, Madison Co., Mont. through June. Seventeen Black-crowned Night-Herons were seen at Columbia Refuge in late June (WH).

Waterfowl—Six Trumpeter Swans have been placed in the captive pen at Turnbull Refuge in an effort to establish a breeding colony there. Severe freezing caused heavy losses of Canada Goose nests at the Nat'l Bison Range during April. Nine-pipe and Pablo Nat'l Wildlife Refuges had good success for this species, with 37 broods totaling 85 goslings. At McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge 25 broods averaged about 4 young each. Most of the nests of the surface-feeding ducks at Ninepipe Refuge were lost because of flooding and predation by skunks. These losses appeared to be offset somewhat by good to excellent production at Columbia and Turnbull Refuges and at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. On the day after the June 7 flood in northwestern Montana, 500 Redheads moved onto Ninepipe reservoir and by June 11 over 1000 were present. These were thought to be unsuccessful nesters.

Vultures and Hawks—Increased numbers of Turkey Vultures were observed in eastern Washington (*WH*). One was seen over the Bridger Mts. north of Bozeman (*CVD*) and one at the fish hatchery at Bozeman (*DRS*), both unusual sites. Nesting of the Golden Eagle was followed in the Bozeman area, with young out of the nest on July 18. An apparently active nest of Swainson's Hawk was found at Baker, Oreg. A Pigeon Hawk, unusual in summer in the Region, was observed near McAllister, Mont. on July 18 (*RAH* & *PDS*).

Gallinaceous Birds—In Glacier Nat'l Park no observations whatever were received of young grouse, perhaps because of wet, cold conditions (*FE*). Nesting success of California Quail at Columbia Refuge appeared to be very low. Likewise production of Ring-necked Pheasants appeared to be poor at most reporting localities, presumably because of cool, wet weather, and at Ninepipe Refuge predation and flooding were important factors. A decided decrease in broods of Gray Partridge at Missoula was attributed to flood conditions of May and early June.

Coot and Shorebirds—Numbers and nesting success of Am. Coot appeared to have suffered a definite decline in the Region, judging from reports from refuges. Killdeer shared the poor nesting success at Ninepipe Refuge, but elsewhere appeared to produce a good to excellent number of young. Six Upland Plovers noted near Newman Lake, Wash. on July 4 were the only ones reported for the Region (*AB*, *SB* & *LLaF*). Marbled Godwits showed up in numbers at Ennis Lake; 40 were seen there on July 18 (*RAH* & *PDS*). Only a few records exist for the species in this area. The same can be said for 11 of this species at Ninepipe Refuge on July 2. Not one young Am. Avocet was seen at Ninepipe Refuge and all avocets left the area after the flood of early June.

Gulls and Terns—Three sightings were obtained of Franklin's Gulls, all in unusual localities. About 100 were along the Jefferson River west of Bozeman on June 21, the same date that a similar flock was seen last year. At Ninepipe Refuge 25 appeared on July 16 and 2 were seen at McNary Refuge in mid-June. A colony of 70 Forster's Terns at Ninepipe Refuge had poor nesting success, with an estimated 5 young produced. Black Terns fared better, with 35 birds producing about 15 young. An adult Sabine's Gull was noted at O'Sullivan Dam, Grant Co., Wash., on June 12 (*LLaF*).

Owls—Two nests of the Great Horned Owl at McNary Refuge were unusual in that one contained 6 young and the other, 6 eggs. A pair of Hawk Owls, seldom reported in the Region, was around Cottonwood Creek Campground, Jasper Nat'l Park, Alta. for 3 days in mid-July (*JHG* & *MAG*). Five young Long-eared Owls were reared at Lavington, B. C. One was seen hunting in daylight near Belgrade, May 30, and one flew from an empty nest, June 7, in the Bozeman cemetery (*DRS* & *PDS*).

Poor-wills, Nighthawks and Hummingbirds—Poor-wills showed up in Spokane County, Wash. for the first time in several years (*JA*, *Mr.* & *Mrs.* *SOS* & *WH*) and about 12 were noted at Scotsman Lake, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (*AB* & *LLaF*). A pair of Common Nighthawks nested on the roof of the Bozeman post office, with eggs present on July

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21 (*CVD*). Hummingbirds, in contrast to last summer, appeared to have regained their numbers in several areas. At Missoula they were scarce until about July 17, when they became abundant, apparently mostly Calliope.

Woodpeckers and Flycatchers—Two young Pileated Woodpeckers were seen leaving the nest on July 4 at Lake Chatcolet near Chatcolet, Benewah Co., Idaho (*AB* & *LLaF*). A pair of White-headed Woodpeckers was observed feeding young in the same area on June 27 (*JA* & *WH*). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was observed on three occasions in June near O'Sullivan Dam, Grant Co., Wash. (*WH* & *LLaF*, *JA*).

Swallows and Wrens—Omitted from the spring report pending confirmation was the sighting of a Barn Swallow on the extremely early date of March 30 at Ninepipe Refuge. No more were seen for about two weeks. A Bewick's Wren was noted near White Swan and 5, near Toppenish, Yakima Co., Wash. in June (*LLaF*). At Ninepipe and Pablo Refuges flooding destroyed most of the nests of Long-billed Marsh Wrens.

Thrushes—Of much interest was the report, by an unnamed observer at Baker, Oreg. of a Robin retrieving a downy young that had fallen from the nest. The adult bird, after much time and effort, succeeded in gripping the young bird near the shoulder and flying back to the nest with it. Western Bluebirds appeared frequently in the Spokane area and several nests were located (*S.A.S.*). In one instance young birds of a first brood helped to feed those of the second brood after the female disappeared (*JA*). Townsend's Solitaires were distinctly fewer in numbers in the Vernon, B. C., area, with few nests found.

Pipits and Warblers—A flock of Water Pipits was noted on Mt. Spokane, Spokane Co., Wash. on July 18 (*Mr. & Mrs. SOS*) and young out of the nest were seen on Sacajawea Peak in the Bridger Mts. on Aug. 8 (*CVD*). A Nashville Warbler, singing and apparently on territory, was observed at Brooks Memorial State Park north of Goldendale, Wash. on June 13 (*TW*). Two northeastern Washington records of the Northern Waterthrush are of particular interest: 1 was seen at Sullivan Lake, Pend Oreille Co. on July 28 (*LLaF*) and 1 was heard along Deadman Creek at the foot of Mt. Spokane on July 18 (*S.A.S.*). The species is not known to breed in the state.

Blackbirds and Tanagers—Bullock's Oriole was observed much more frequently than usual in the Bozeman area (*CVD*). *Flocks* were seen on Montana State College campus in Bozeman on July 29. Brewer's Blackbird numbers appeared to have tripled from last year at Ninepipe and Pablo Refuges. A fully fledged young Brown-headed Cowbird was seen at Missoula following an adult Chipping Sparrow with 3 or 4 young, but the parent bird ignored the cowbird. Two nests of Oregon Juncos near Dishman, Wash. each contained 2 cowbird eggs. One nest failed but the other produced 2 cowbirds (*THR*). Two broods of Chipping Sparrows in Spokane each included a young cowbird (*Mr. & Mrs. SOS*). The peak of spring migration of Western Tanagers was reached on June 7 and the birds were still migrating as late as June 21.

Finches—Red Crossbills appeared in small numbers in forested areas of eastern Washington and in the Bozeman area. In the vicinity of Vernon, B. C. the birds were quite plentiful after June, correlating with a heavy Douglas fir cone crop. White-winged Crossbills, generally considered scarce in the Region, were reported from three areas. A few flocks were noted in the mountain areas near Princeton and Bolean Lake in extreme southern British Columbia. Singing and food-carrying by this species was noted in Maligne Canyon, Jasper Nat'l Park, Alta. on July 13 but a two-hour search failed to reveal the nest (*JHG & MAG*). The

species was also noted at Salmo Pass in the mountains of Pend Oreille County, Wash. (*HJ & LLaF*).

Sparrows and Buntings—The flock of 10 Lark Buntings that appeared at Missoula on June 9 remained in gradually decreasing numbers until June 24, when only a single male was seen. The males sang daily. A male remained near Belgrade until the late date of June 28. Many more observations than usual of Grasshopper Sparrows were secured in eastern Washington. They were noted in six different areas by Acton. About 20 were seen in the vicinity of Sprague on June 5 (*JA*) and at least 25 were seen near Newman Lake on July 4 (*AB & LLaF*). A singing male and later, young birds were repeatedly noted in a field at Opportunity, where the species was not noted in seven years' previous observing (*THR*). The species also was noted near Vernon (*JG*) and Penticton, B. C. (*SC*). Clay-colored Sparrows were found in the Manhattan-Three Forks, Mont. area where they were seen last summer. Brewer's Sparrows apparently summered and nested at Missoula for the first time, for singing males were noted in June, carrying of nesting material was observed on July 1 and young were seen on July 26.

Contributors (sectional editors, whose names are in boldface, should receive credit for their respective areas unless otherwise indicated). — (*JA*) James Acton; (*AB & SB*) Alan and Sheila Baldrige; (*ECB*) **Eugene C. Barney**, Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge; (*SC*) Steve Cannings; (*CVD*) C. V. Davis; (*FE*) Francis Elmore; (*JG*) **James Grant**, southern British Columbia; (*JHG & MAG*) John H. & Myrtle A. Groet; (*WH*) Warren Hall; **Ralph L. Hand**, Missoula, Mont. area, whose name was inadvertently omitted from the spring, 1964 regional report; (*RAH*) R. A. Hays; **C. J. Henry**, Nat'l Bison Range; (*HJ*) Horace Jeter; **Frank Kenney**, McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge; (*LLaF*) Lynn LaFave; **Leon A. Littlefield**, Ninepipe and Pablo Nat'l Wildlife Refuges; (*DRS*) Donald R. Skaar; (*PDS*) **P. D. Skaar**, Bozeman-Ennis-Three Forks, Mont. area; (*THR*) Thomas H. Rogers; (*S.A.S.*) Spokane Audubon Society, Mrs. S. O. Stanley, compiler; (*Mr. & Mrs. SOS*) Mr. and Mrs. S. O. Stanley; **Jack E. Waddell**, Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge; (*TW*) Terry Wahl, and **Ann Ward**, Baker, Oreg. area.

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The Nesting Season, 1964

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.
/ **Dr. Oliver K. Scott**

After a cold, wet spring summer was delayed. Moisture levels were normal or high. This hurt a few species of waterfowl, such as the Trumpeter Swan. No young were raised at Ruby Lakes, Nev. (DEL). Most areas reported increased duck production, although it often was retarded. In general, our summer was short but good. A disturbing number of observers are reporting fewer birds than formerly—one such is Mrs. Crews at Hotchkiss in the orchard country of the western slope of Colorado. It is highly likely that this decrease has resulted from pesticides. Heavy June rains in the Great Basin, particularly Nevada and southern Idaho, caused a tremendous growth of grass with fine conditions for many species of birds. In turn, the grass became a fire hazard and large tracts were burned. However, this is not bad as the great change man has wrought on the western ranges has been to stop fires. This has altered the character of the vegetation as much as consistent overgrazing by sheep. Fire removes brushy plants and promotes growth.

Egrets—Two *Cattle Egrets* were seen on Aug. 9 at Farmington Bay, Great Salt Lake (GK) —a predicted range extension.

Ducks—Malheur, Oreg., had adequate water and the best breeding season since 1958 with about 35,000 ducks produced (HFD). Bear River Marshes, north of the Great Salt Lake, enjoyed almost perfect water and vegetation conditions and the second highest duck production in 21 years. The Gadwall was the most common with Cinnamon Teal, Redhead, Pintail, Mallard and Shoveler following in that order (RAK). Minidoka Refuge on the Snake River, Idaho, produced 6000 ducks, largely Mallards (RGN). Monte Vista Refuge, San Luis valley, Colo. again produced more ducks than ever before. This growing refuge produced 14,000 ducks this year—mostly Mallards (CRB). Four adult male Wood Ducks were seen at Malheur, July 14—an unusual record (HFD). Numbers of Wood Ducks use Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho, as a loafing area during the molt (WCR). Canvasbacks were found nesting at Hutton Lake in the Laramie Plains (CL) —unusual for Wyoming.

Hawks—There was an immature Black Hawk near Springdale, Utah, July 9 (DLC).

Cranes—There were at least 5 pairs of Sandhill Cranes nesting in the Warner Valley (ENA)—a remote, unspoiled valley in eastern Oregon.

Shorebirds—A large concentration of nesting Mountain Plover was found near Sprague Lake, Laramie Plains, July 18. There were about 25 birds (OKS). Another pair of Mountain Plover was found at Hutton Lake in June (CL).

Gulls & Terns—An adult *Herring Gull* was seen on the Yellowstone River in the Park, Aug. 10 (PAB). A Caspian Tern nested for the first time in several years at the Bear River Marshes (RAK).

Swifts—There has been an invasion of Black Swifts in the Parawan, Utah, area. Up to 40 a day were seen among the White-throats (SM), whereas only a few were seen last year. It is believed they nested on ledges above Paragonah, but it is not known whether there are waterfalls. This interesting high mountain species is believed to nest only within the spray distance of waterfalls.

Flycatchers—On June 20 there was a Cassin's Kingbird in the Salt Lake area (GK)—an unusual occurrence.

Warblers—A pair of *Prothonotary Warblers* was at Eldora, Colo., June 5-12 (GS). This species has occurred before as an accidental.

Buntings—The Indigo Bunting was seen several times at Zion Canyon National Park, Utah. There were two males singing in the lower park, June 23. Another was heard on June 29, and again on July 22, 27, 28 (DLC)—all males and at different places. *Lark Buntings* were seen in eastern Idaho for the first time, at Roberts, June 9 and 14 (AB).

Sparrows—A nesting Fox Sparrow was found north of Dillon in the central Rockies at 9500 ft. (HRH). This is a rare bird in Colorado, but more common farther north.

Contributors—(ENA), Eugene N. Anderson; (AB), Al Bruner; (CRB), Charles R. Bryant; (PAB), Paul A. Buckley; (DLC), Dennis L. Carter; (HFD), H. F. Duebbert; (HRH), Harold R. Holt; (DEL), Donald E. Lewis; (RAK), Robert A. Karges; (GK), Gleb Kashin; (CL), Carroll Littlefield; (SM), Stewart Murie; (RGN), Robert G. Nelson; (WCR), William C. Reffalt; (OKS), Oliver K. Scott; (GS), Gail Shickley.

The Nesting Season, 1964

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / Bob and Elsie Boggs

The Region experienced a summer somewhat cooler than normal with precipitation in the northern part much above average. June was cool and damp everywhere, but July was nearer normal in the southern half of the Region. There was a frustrating pattern of alternate cool and warm days with little sunshine in July

and August. The mystery of the season now appears to be the presence of unprecedented numbers of non-breeding ducks and some other waterbirds, chiefly loons and grebes. They were present in concentrations as far north as Vancouver, B. C. and south to Coos Bay on the Oregon coast.

Loons, Grebes, Petrels, Pelicans—Arctic Loons were seen on June 7 at Point Roberts (*WHH*). From June 15 to 19 Arctic and Red-throated Loons, and Red-necked and Horned Grebes were noted at Nehalem, Oreg. (*AB*). A Horned Grebe in breeding plumage was seen at the Swinomish flats near Anacortes, Wash., Aug. 8 (*TW*). A few Western Grebes are seen more or less regularly on Bellingham Bay during the summer, but a flock of over 200 on July 9 was most unusual. A single individual of this species present in June at a State Game Commission pond north of Medford, Oreg. also was noteworthy (*JO*). A Fork-tailed Petrel was seen at Tillamook Bay and Brown Pelicans were noted at Netarts, Oreg., Aug. 2 (*AB, JBC*).

Cormorants and Herons—No Double-crested Cormorants were seen on Colville Island, a federal bird refuge in the San Juan Islands, perhaps a result of shooting by the salmon fishermen (*ZMS*). Over 300 birds were in the Brandt's Cormorant colony near the Sea Lion Caves in Oregon. Eggs were seen in several nests. At least 5 pairs of Pelagic Cormorants were nesting on a cliff south of Strawberry Hill in Lane County, Oreg., June 29 (*BB, EB*). A nest with 2 newly hatched young and one pipped egg was found on Colville Island, July 19 (*ZMS*). Nesting on Mitlenatch Island in the Strait of Georgia dropped to about 300 pairs (*WC*). An immature Black-crowned Night Heron was seen on Hoover Lakes, north of Medford, June 27 (*JO*).

Waterfowl—A *Brant* was reported on Mitlenatch Island on July 29 (*WC*). More than the usual numbers of Black Brant summered in the Region. A Snow Goose at Sea Island, near Vancouver, B. C. on July 4, 7, and 11 is unusual (*FWD, WHH*). Gadwalls, Pintails, Green-winged Teals, Blue-winged Teals, Cinnamon Teals, Am. Widgeons and Shovelers were among the many species of ducks remaining in the Vancouver, B. C. area during June and July. A brood of Blue-winged Teal was noted on Sauvies Island, near Portland, Oreg., Aug. 9 (*AB*). Ring-necked Ducks were found on the Hoover Lakes, June 6 and 27. A female Canvasback was discovered near Coos Bay, June 14 (*JO*). Up to ten of these ducks were seen on Sea Island, July 11 (*WHH*). Four Greater Scaup and a Lesser Scaup were seen on a pond near the Coos Head Coast Guard Station, June 14 (*JO*). A Common Goldeneye was identified at Nehalem, Oreg., June 15 (*AB*). A Bufflehead remained on Hoover Lakes in June (*JO*),

and several were seen on Sea Island from June 8 to Aug. 2 (*FWD, WHH*). At Blaine a female Red-breasted Merganser with 2 young was seen on July 9 (*LK*).

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Hawks and Eagles—Red-tailed Hawks were nesting at Dash Point State Park, near Tacoma, Wash., April 26 (*BB, EB*) and a nest with 2 large young was found at Champoege State Park on the Willamette River in Oregon, June 8 (*TM*). An immature Golden Eagle was observed at Hurricane Ridge in Olympic Nat'l Park, July 19 (*AB*). A pair of Marsh Hawks was noted nesting in the dunes at Fort Stevens State Park in Oregon, June 18 (*AB*). Osprey nests with young were found on the Rogue River between Gold Beach and Agness in Oregon, June 27 (*vide AB*), and on Lopez Island in the San Juan Islands, July 18 (*ZMS*).

Quail and Oystercatchers—Half-grown Bobwhite young were seen at Hubbard, Oreg., July 13 (*TM*). Two birds were heard calling at Lake Oswego in Oregon, Aug. 4 (*AB, JBC*). A pair of Mountain Quail with young was seen on the Tillamook burn, Aug. 2. This species now appears to be a common breeder in MacDonald Forest, near Corvallis, Oreg. A flock of 20, of which at least 15 were immatures, was seen there on Vineyard Hill, Aug. 9 (*JGS*). Black Oystercatchers were reported as increasing in numbers on Mitlenatch Island; 4 pairs were seen, and one nest containing 3 eggs was found on June 24 (*WC*). Eight adults flying around Hall Island in the San Juan Islands on July 18 were presumed to be breeders (*ZMS*).

Gulls and Terns—Glaucous-winged Gull colonies on unprotected islands in the San Juans showed much evidence of molestation. A total of 2398 young were banded on Protection, Hall and Colville Islands. The only island where nesting was undisturbed was Colville, which is a federal bird refuge (*ZMS*). On Mitlenatch Island 1500 young were banded, with an estimate of another 500 young present (*WC, BM*). A pair nesting on top of the 35-foot high Alaska Packers Cannery at Blaine, Wash. became the special concern of the entire crew (*LK*). A Ring-billed Gull was discovered at Oyster Bay on Vancouver Island, Aug. 4 (*WC*). An immature Franklin's Gull was seen with a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls at Birch Bay north of Bellingham, Wash., Aug. 1 (*TW*). An immature Black-legged Kittiwake was found at La Push, Wash., July 18 (*AB*). A subadult of this species was observed off Destruction Island in Washington, Aug. 4 (*PAB*). Three Black terns were seen on Hoover Lakes, June 6 (*JO*).

Alcids, Doves, Owls—Common Murres with small young were seen on Tillamook Bay, Aug. 2 (*AB, JBC*). A Marbled Murrelet was found, June 13, on Cultus

Lake, near Chilliwack. This British Columbia lake is 60 miles from the coast (*WHH*). Between June 15 and 19 up to 5 were seen at Nehalem, Oreg. On July 18 at Lake Quinalt, Grays Harbor Co., Wash., which is 20 miles from the ocean, 3 adults were seen presumably on their way to or from their breeding grounds (*AB*). On July 18 and 19 at Lopez Island groups of 6 to 9 Marbled Murrelets were seen along with several young (*ZMS*). Band-tailed Pigeons and Mourning Doves appeared to have good breeding success. Young Barn Owls left a nest in Jackson County, Oreg., June 8 (Glen Rogie). An immature Saw-whet Owl was banded at Corvallis, Oreg., July 16 (Milford Anholm, *vide JGS*).

Goatsuckers, Swifts, Hummingbirds—A *Poor-will* was picked up dead at Enumclaw, Wash., June 19 (Stanley Johnson); this species only occasionally wanders west of the Cascades into the Puget Sound region. Black Swifts appeared at Bellingham, June 28 (*TW*), and at Blaine, Aug. 11 (*LK*). Both Black and Vaux's Swifts were considered less numerous at Vancouver, B. C. (*WHH*). Many hummingbirds were feeding on the wild flowers in Crater Lake Nat'l Park, where on July 6 an *Allen's Hummingbird* was identified near the top of Mt. Garfield, thus establishing a new park record (*RB, JH*).

Flycatchers—Although the Western Kingbird is a fairly common summer resident in southwest Oregon, there are no recent breeding records. Of interest, therefore, is the pair noted building a nest along the highway on the crossbar of a power line pole 9 miles east of Elkton, Douglas Co., June 14; and the fledging of 2 birds in a nest beneath a revolving neon motel sign at Medford, Aug. 4 (*JO*). Four young Ash-throated Flycatchers left a nest box in south Ashland, Oreg., June 28 (Carl Richardson). *Eastern Phoebes* (2) were seen near the Rogue River and on Dead Indian Road east of Ashland in May (Mr. and Mrs. Conway, Betty Jo Hicks, *JH*, H. Pringle). Fledgling Black Phoebes left the nest near Ruch on the Applegate River in Oregon, May 30 (*RB*, Art Scott). A nest containing young of the Western Wood Pewee was found at Hubbard, Oreg., July 13 (*TM*).

Swallows, Corvids, Titmice—Two broods of Tree Swallows in bird boxes at Blaine on Aug. 12 are fairly late nestings (*LK*). Barn Swallows nested successfully in the Region. Starlings drove the Purple Martins away from their usual nesting site at Bellingham (*TW*). Two Black-billed Magpies appeared in Bellingham, July 20 (*TW*). Two naked nestlings of the Common Crow were discovered in a filbert tree at Hubbard, June 15 (*TM*). A nest containing 3 eggs of the Northwestern Crow was found on the ground on Mitenatch Island, June 8 (*BM*): A Clark's Nutcracker was seen west of Mt. Ashland in the Siskiyou Mts., July 10 (*JH*). A Plain

Titmouse was carrying nesting material into an oak tree at Tou Velle State Park in Oregon, April 18 (*JO*). Common Bushtits did well: nests were found in April in Tacoma and Seattle (*BB, EB*); in May nests were noted at Point Roberts (K. Boyce, *WHH*, P. Mackenzie) and Bellevue, Wash. (*VEC*). Young were out of the nest at Medford, June 6 (*JO*). A second brood in the same nest had left the nest in July at Seattle (*VEC*).

Wrentits, Dippers, Wrens—A Wrentit was carrying food at Florence, Oreg., July 5 (*BB, EB*). Dippers were feeding newly fledged young at Multnomah Falls, east of Portland, Oreg., June 3 (*AB*). Young of about the same age were being fed along Clear Creek, near Darrington, Wash., June 26 (*TW*). A Winter Wren, apparently sitting on eggs on July 1, had built a nest on a shingle that had been placed in an unused woodshed near Yachats, Oreg., to attract Barn Swallows (*BB, EB, C. L. Snow*). A very

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young fledgling Bewick's Wren was trapped and banded at Blaine, Aug. 9 (*LK*). The Long-billed Marsh Wren showed an increased summer population in the Vancouver, B. C. area (*WHH*).

Thrushes, Gnatcatchers, Starlings—Robins raised 3 broods at Blaine (*LK*). Crows destroyed many early nests at Seattle (*VEC*). A Veery was seen and heard near the Rogue River in Jackson County, Oreg., June 1 (*RB, JH*). There were only 3 reports of nesting Western Bluebirds. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were nesting within 8 feet of their 1963 nest on Roxy Anne Butte, near Medford; 4 eggs hatched on June 14 (*JH*). The Starling is continuing to increase in numbers throughout the Region, and is now established as a breeder within the city limits of Seattle (*ZMS*). The species began nest-building at Blaine, Feb. 19, and hatched their second set of eggs on June 12 (*LK*).

Vireos, and Warblers—Several Hutton's Vireos were heard in Miracle Beach Park on Vancouver Island during May and June (*BW*). One was at Clayton Bay, south of Bellingham on Aug. 10 (*TW*) Red-eyed Vireos were up at Bellingham and Miracle Beach. Late nesters were a pair of Warbling Vireos feeding nestlings at Camp Adams, near Colton, Clackamas Co., Oreg., July 31 (*TM*). Three Nashville Warblers were found singing on the eastern slope of Mt. Hood, July 12 (*AB*). Black-throated Gray Warblers were feeding large young in a nest at the Sutton Lake Forest Camp, Siuslaw Nat'l Forest, in Oregon, July 2 (*BB, EB*). At Lake Quinalt this species was feeding fledglings on July 18 (*AB*). Hermit Warblers were building a nest at Suttle Lake on the N. Santiam Highway, Jefferson Co., Oreg., June 11

(*AB*). A juvenile was being fed near Sutton Lake Forest Camp, July 5 (*BB*, *EB*). Two pairs of Yellowthroats were feeding fledglings on Sauvies Island, Aug. 9 (*AB*).

Blackbirds and Tanagers—Although not the first nesting of Yellow-headed Blackbirds in western Oregon, the record of 2 pairs breeding near White City, Jackson Co., Oreg. is noteworthy. The young left the nests in early June (*JH*). Young Western Tanagers were seen at Blaine on June 13 (*LK*) and at Point Roberts on July 18 (*WHH*). A pair was watched carrying food at Camp Adams from July 26 to 31 (*TM*).

Finches and Sparrows—At Seattle Black-headed Grosbeaks were carrying food on June 17 (*VEC*); and a nest with 3 half-grown young was found on July 11 (*BB*, *EB*). Purple Finches were reported unusually scarce at Vancouver, B. C. Banded female House Finches developed incubation patches in April (*ZMS*). A pair of Pine Grosbeaks was observed on Mt. Rainer, Aug. 6 (*PAB*). More Red Crossbills appeared in northwestern Oregon during July and August than were apparent during the same period a year ago (*AB*). An increase was also noted on Vancouver Island (*DS*, *BW*). An adult female Savannah Sparrow captured on Lopez Island on July 18 was found to have an active incubation patch (*ZMS*).

Contributors (sectional editors' names in boldface (— ((*AB*) Alan Baldrige; (*BB*, *EB*) Bob & Elsie Boggs; (*RB*) Ralph Browning; (*PAB*) Paul A. Buckley; (*WC*) Wayne Campbell; (*VEC*) Violet E. Cannon; (*JBC*) John B. Crowell, Jr.; (*FWD*) Mr. & Mrs. F. W. Dobson; (*WHH*) **Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Hesse** (British Columbia); (*JH*) **Joseph Hicks** (southwest Oregon); (*LK*) Lucile Kline; (*TM*) Thomas McCamant; (*BM*) Bill Merilees; (*JO*) James G. Olson; (*ZMS*) Zella M. Schultz; (*DS*, *RS*) **David and Ruth Stirling** (Vancouver Island); (*JGS*) Joseph G. Strauch, Jr.; (*TW*) Terry Wahl; (*BW*) Betty Westerborg.

End 1964

1965

Autumn Migration, 1964

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION / Thomas H. Rogers

Autumn was generally mild in the Region, with wintry weather setting in late in the valleys. After a pleasant October and early November, a massive storm front blanketed



the Region, beginning November 10 and bringing snow and temperatures down to 8° in the Bozeman, Mont. area. Western Montana escaped most of the snow and cold in the valleys but eastern Washington received several inches of snow—but no severe temperatures. The wintry conditions persisted only in the Bozeman area, the snow disappearing from the valleys in western Montana and eastern Washington by the end of the period. Precipitation in most areas was deficient, with the exception of abnormally heavy amounts in eastern Washington in November. The early fall deficiency in eastern Washington resulted in extremely poor water conditions for waterfowl and shorebirds. The mild temperatures appeared to delay the arrival of winter species, but probably did not produce any more than the usual number of late stragglers among summer residents and migrants. A brief mid-November freeze at Turnbull Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash. drove most of the ducks out but many returned with the subsequent thaw.

Grebes, Pelicans and Cormorants—A late Western Grebe remained on the river at Spokane at least until Dec. 5 (*WH; PK & THR*). About 75 White Pelicans were on the Potholes Reservoir, Grant Co., Wash. during October but had disappeared by mid-November (*JA, WH, SAS, JEW*).

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Two of the big birds remained at McNary Refuge until the late date of Oct. 22 (*MCA*). The species successfully reared young along Canyon Ferry Reservoir on the Missouri River near Townsend, Mont. (*CLB*). Three Double-crested Cormorants were at McNary Refuge in mid-October. This species is always rare west of the Continental Divide in the Region. Two to 5 of the birds were noted at Three Forks, Mont., an unusual site in this area (*RAH, PDS*).

Waterfowl—Trumpeter Swans were still at Ennis Lake, Madison Co., Mont. on Nov. 15. Peak numbers (3590) of Canada Geese were reached at Turnbull Refuge in late September but not until the end of November at McNary Refuge (6100) and Columbia Refuge (1400 plus 3500 Lesser). A few White-fronted Geese showed up in eastern Washington, notably 10 at McNary Refuge, Oct. 30. Snow Geese were observed in decreased numbers, possibly because of the settled weather which presumably encouraged fewer stops. A few were noted in eastern Washington. One bird present at McNary Refuge since Oct. 30 was believed to be the **Ross' Goose** that has been seen there for the last two years. The peak of early migrant ducks at Turnbull Refuge occurred again this year in the first half of September and totaled about 16,000 birds. The second peak, about 22,000 ducks, came in mid-October, a date similar to that of 1961 and 1962, but 2 or 3 weeks earlier than last year. Most of these were Mallards. A few species peaks are: 135,700 Mallards at Columbia Refuge; 16,050 Am. Widgeon at McNary Refuge; 800 Redheads at Blue Lake, Grant Co., Wash. (*JA & WH*); 1000 Ring-necked Ducks at Columbia Refuge; Hooded Merganser, 30, at Turnbull Refuge, and Common Merganser, 320, at McNary. The almost complete freezing of Ennis Lake in Montana drove nearly all species of ducks out by Nov. 15. A dearth of ducks was noted in the Missoula and Bitterroot Valley areas of western Montana, apparently because of the mild weather. A few rarities showed up. A male **European Widgeon** was identified on Nov. 29 at Lenore Lake, Grant Co., Wash. (*JA & WH*). Two **White-winged Scoters** were seen at Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash., in October (*JA & WH*). A **Surf Scoter** was seen at Park Lake, Grant Co., Wash., Oct. 10-11 (*JA, WH; LLaF*) and a female of this species at Harrison Lake, Madison Co., Mont. on Oct. 25 was the first for the area and only the third record for the state (*RAH, SMS & PDS*). Red-breasted Mergansers, unusual west of the Continental Divide in the Region, were noted in the Bitterroot Valley near Stevensville, Mont.

Vultures, Hawks and Eagles—Ten Turkey Vultures were observed in early September in the Bitterroot Valley, western Montana (*OF*). A migratory movement

of Red-tailed and Swainson's Hawks, totaling 20 birds, was noted on Sept. 18 and 19 in Okanogan County, Wash. (LHK, *vide* WH). A concentration of 17 eagles, mostly Golden Eagles, was noted at Ninepipe Reservoir, Lake Co., Mont. on Nov. 13 (CJH) and 2 Golden Eagles were seen along the highway between Park Lake and Soap Lake, Grant Co., Wash. in early November (JA & WH). A hawk observed in good light with 20X scope near Manhattan, Mont. on Oct. 25 was believed to be a **Harlan's Hawk**, not previously recorded for the state. Observers should be on the watch for this species, which may have been overlooked previously (RAH, PDS & SMS).

Gallinaceous Birds—Nearly every report for the Region indicated that Ring-necked Pheasant populations were down from previous years, probably because of the cold, wet nesting period. Thirteen of the Turkeys planted in an area south of Turnbull Refuge, Cheney, Wash. by the State Game Dept. have made their way to a food plot on the refuge and were noted there during November and early December.

Cranes and Coot—The largest number of Sandhill Cranes was 70 at McNary Refuge on Sept. 30. Unusually far east in Washington were 3 at Stubblefield Lake in Turnbull Refuge on Oct. 7. Twenty-seven at Alkali Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on Oct. 11 constituted a late record (LLaF). In south-central Montana the latest report for the species was for Aug. 16 at Belgrade. The many thousands of Am. Coots at Ennis Lake in Montana had dwindled by Nov. 15 to 200 birds, which acted a bit dazed as they sat on the frozen lake.

Shorebirds—*Eleven* observations were obtained for Semipalmated Plovers in the Bozeman-Ennis-Three Forks triangle of Montana, with a peak of 10 on Sept. 7 (RAH, PDS). A flock of 17 Killdeer 30 miles east of Vernon, B. C. on Oct. 4 seemed to indicate a migrational movement. Two sightings were made of the Am. Golden Plover in eastern Washington, where it is always rare, at Cow Lake and Reardan (AB, WH & LLaF). The Black-bellied Plover was reported 6 times in the Bozeman triangle (RAH, PDS). A surprisingly late date for the Spotted Sandpiper was furnished by an individual bird on a sandbar of the Bitterroot River near Stevensville on Nov. 15 (GDeV, *vide* CLB). A Pectoral Sandpiper, crippled in one leg, appeared at Missoula on Oct. 12, after others of the species had left and remained in the company of a similarly crippled Long-billed Dowitcher until Nov. 1, when it disappeared. The dowitcher left the next day. A single Pectoral Sandpiper at Reardan, Wash. on July 22 was very early. A peak of 40 was noted there on Sept. 11 (WH). The earliest date ever for the area for the Stilt Sandpiper was July 22 for a bird at Reardan which was still in partial breeding plumage (WH). A **Marbled**

Godwit at Stubblefield Lake in Turnbull Refuge on July 16 furnished the fourth record for eastern Washington (WH & LLaF).

Gulls and Terns—An immature **Mew Gull** was once more noted at Spokane, in mid-October (WH, LLaF) and 11 Franklin's Gulls were seen at the same place and date (WH). At *Ninepipe Refuge* 100 of the latter species appeared on Aug. 7 (PAB). An adult Bonaparte's Gull was identified at Missoula on Oct. 28 and several sightings were obtained for the Three Forks, Mont. area, where fall records are unusual (RAH, PDS, SMS). An adult Common

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Tern was noted at *Spokane*, Aug. 28, and 25 of the birds were seen at O'Sullivan Dam on Sept 3 (WH).

Owls—Burrowing Owls were reported as fairly numerous at McNary Refuge until early fall. Short-eared Owls appeared plentiful in several localities in eastern Washington, a reversal of conditions in preceding years. For example, 31 were seen in a square mile near Spangle (JA). A dead **Boreal Owl** was picked up on the highway near *Bozeman* sometime between Sept. 8 and Oct. 1 by two boys, Kirk Visscher and Gary Russell, who had it mounted and later presented it to the Montana State College collection. The very few state records of the species are for the extreme northwestern part. Several road kills of Saw-whet Owls during October near Vernon and other southern British Columbia localities indicated a sizeable movement there.

Swifts and Woodpeckers—James Grant observed and photographed a nest of the Black Swift with 1 nearly fledged young in the mossy gorge of a mountain stream, 18 miles north of Vernon, B. C. On Sept. 10 the young bird was exercising its wings strenuously and on the 12th the nest was empty. This is the first report of nest or young of this species in the Region since this Regional Editor took over 10 years ago. The occurrence of 150 Common Nighthawks, near Newport, Wash. on Sept. 3 was noteworthy (LLaF). A female Yellow-shafted Flicker, suspected of being the same one that wintered there last year, appeared at J. T. Fowle's feeding station at Vernon, B. C. at the end of October. The first northeastern Washington record for Williamson's Sapsucker in about 10 years was obtained at Grouse Mt. near Orient, Ferry Co. in late September (JA; WH & LLaF). The species also was seen on McKinney Road between Oliver and Rock Creek, B. C. (1 male, 2 females) (WHe & HH) and by Ann Ward in her backyard at Baker, Oreg. How lucky can some people be?

Swallows and Jays—A movement of Bank Swallows was indicated by the presence of 350 of the birds at Richter Pass between Keremeos and Osoyoos, B. C. on Sept. 5 (*WHe & HH*). Three Violet-green Swallows were noted at Spokane on Sept. 21. The general migration there in July was late also (*SAS*). Late records at Missoula were Sept. 5 for the Tree Swallow, and Sept. 11 for the Cliff Swallow. Some 110 Piñon Jays, seldom reported from the Region, were noted in the vicinity of Bend, Oreg., flying over in flocks of 15-20, in a southwesterly direction on Aug. 28 (*LLaF*).

Bushtits, Wrens, Thrashers, Thrushes—Eleven Common Bushtits, not often reported in the Region, were seen on Aug. 27 at Tumalo State Park, Bend, Oreg. (*LLaF*). The Rock Wren was observed near Creston, Wash. on the late date of Nov. 29, when 6 inches of snow lay on the ground (*SAS*). Single *Sage Thrashers* were seen on 4 dates in August and September at Missoula. It appeared unlikely that Robins would winter in any numbers in the Region, although flocks of 50 to 100 were reported in one section of Spokane in late November (*SAS*). A Hermit Thrush was mist-netted and banded at Turnbull Refuge on Nov. 10. Substantial numbers of Western Bluebirds were noted in the Spokane area, with a flock of 50 reported on Sept. 26 (*SAS*). Mountain Bluebirds continued scarce in most areas, but flocks of 30 were noted along the foothills of the Bitterroot Mts. in the Stevensville, Mont. area and 105 were counted along McKinney Road in southern British Columbia on Sept. 7 (*WHe & HH*). Both this species and the Western were noted in the former area into November. At Vernon, B. C., a Mountain Bluebird was observed being chased by a Northern Shrike, with the outcome unknown (*JTF, fide JG*).

Kinglets and Waxwings—Ruby-crowned Kinglets were reported as abundant in the Spokane area and 49 were noted along McKinney Road in southern British Columbia on Sept. 7 (*WHe & HH*). One was still at a feeder at Baker, Oreg. on Nov. 27 and the species was noted on Nov. 28 in the Stevensville area (*OF, fide CLB*). Bohemian Waxwings were scarce or absent in the western part of the Region and put in a belated appearance in western Montana, where sizable numbers did not appear until around Dec. 1. At Kalispell, Mont. many of the birds were caught in a freezing rain and frozen to powerlines overnight but rising temperatures released them the next day (*Daily Inter Lake, Kalispell*).

Warblers and Blackbirds—Audubon's Warbler continued to be by far the most abundant of this family. Noteworthy were the 133 counted between Oliver and Rock Creek, B. C. on Sept. 7, a date on which many other birds were also abundant. The temperature was around 38° with a light overcast, in an

area of mostly conifers at altitude 4500 ft. Five Audubon's Warblers were noted at Baker, Oreg. after a 2.5 in. snowfall on Nov. 11. Bobolinks were not noted in the Region after August. In the Bitterroot Valley, Mont., they assembled in the oat fields in large flocks. Rusty Blackbirds, seldom reported in the Region, were noted at 2 localities: 5 birds flying along the Parsnip River valley 70 miles north of Prince George, B. C. and 1 near Belgrade, Mont. on Nov. 22 and 29 in the same area as seen last winter (*RAH, DRS, SMS, PDS*).

Finches—Evening Grosbeaks appeared in numbers at Missoula, in the Bitterroot Valley and at Bozeman, but scarcely showed at all in the lowlands farther west. At Missoula a female House Finch, carefully identified among a flock of goldfinches, Nov. 1-2, was Hand's first for Montana. Pine Grosbeaks, rosy finches, Common Redpolls and Red Crossbills had not yet appeared to any extent in the valleys. An increased number of observations of White-winged Crossbills was obtained. The species was noted on several dates in August and September in the Salmo Pass area, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (*JA & WH, AB & LLaF*). Two were singing near Pitney Lake southeast of Prince George, B. C. on Sept. 27. Apparently there were very few in central British Columbia this year (*JG*).

Sparrows—At least 4 typical or near-typical Slate-colored Juncos were examined at close range at Missoula at the end of the fall reporting period. Also at Missoula a *Clay-colored Sparrow* was carefully identified on Aug. 21. Single *Harris' Sparrows*

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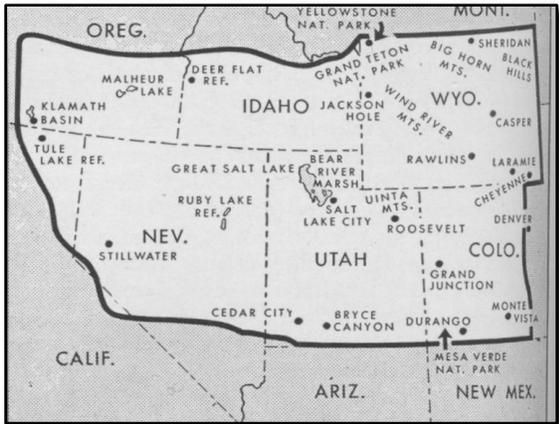
were seen at Missoula on Oct. 8-9 and 28 and 2 immatures of this species were examined at close range at Opportunity, 8 miles east of Spokane, on Oct. 23-24 (*PK & THR*). Small numbers of White-crowned Sparrows remained in the Spokane Valley east of Spokane and perhaps will winter (*PK & THR*). A *White-throated Sparrow* was banded at Turnbull Refuge on Oct. 19 and a Fox Sparrow on Nov. 10. Another late Fox Sparrow record was in the Bitterroot Valley of Montana on Nov. 29. Two records for the species were obtained in the Okanagan Valley, southern British Columbia, where it is considered a rare migrant (*JG, BAS*). Four reports of single Golden-crowned Sparrows were received for the Spokane area, between Sept. 19 and Oct. 17 (*SAS*). A few Lapland Longspurs were noted in eastern Washington (*SAS*) and observations for the species at Missoula were much sparser than usual, with no more than 3 seen at once. However, 1 remained as late as Dec. 5, Hand's second December record there. Very few Snow Buntings had appeared by the end of the fall period.

Contributors (sectional editors, whose names are in boldface, should receive credit for observations in their respective areas unless otherwise stated).—(JA) James Acton; (MCA) **M. Clair Aldous**, McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash.; (AB) Alan Baldrige; **Eugene C. Barney**, Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash.; (CLB) **Carol L. Boyd**, Bitterroot Valley, Stevensville, Mont.; (PAB) P. A. Buckley; (GDeV) George DeVan; (OF) Opal Foust; (JTF) J. T. Fowle; (JG) **James Grant**, British Columbia; (WH) Warren Hall; **Ralph L. Hand**, Missoula, Mont. area; (RAH) R. A. Hays; (CJH) **C. J. Henry**, Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont.; (HH) Hilde Hesse; (WHe) Werner Hesse; (PK) Patrick Karle; (LHK) Mrs. Lucile H. Kline; (LLaF) Lynn LaFave; (THR) Thomas H. Rogers; (DRS) Donald R. Skaar; (PDS) **P. D. Skaar** Bozeman-Three Forks-Ennis, Mont. area; (SMS) Stephen M. Skaar; (SAS) Spokane Audubon Society, Mrs. S. O. Stanley; (BAS) B. A. Sugden; (JEW) Jack E. Waddell, Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash., and **Ann Ward**, Baker, Oreg. Area.

Autumn Migration, 1964

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.
/ Dr. Oliver K. Scott

From one and all came reports of a dearth of landbirds this fall; there is no accounting for



it. Most areas were very dry until November. Perhaps the dryness resulted in a short supply of insects. Of 427 birds mist-netted in Rocky Mountain Park, Colo. in 18 days from late August to mid-September only 15 percent were repeats. This seems a small number and indicates that the migrants did not linger but went right through (AC). Cheyenne, Wyo. had the driest fall in 90 years of weather statistics. Although Cheyenne had few birds Durango, Colo. did also, in spite of a bumper crop of box elder, maple, ash seeds and other foods (OR). Durango was also very dry. A cold front came

into the Great Basin, freezing up Malheur, Oreg. on Nov. 10; Stillwater Refuge, Nev. on Nov. 15; and Ruby Lakes, Nev. on Nov. 18.

Swans—Trumpeter Swans did not do well this year. Few cygnets were reported. Perhaps this was due to the drought. Trumpeters congregated at Ruby Lakes, Nev. where there were 14 by the end of November, but the build-up in eastern Nevada was slow (DEL). Malheur raised 4 cygnets this year (HFD). Of 57 Trumpeters on Flat Creek, National Elk Refuge, Jackson Hole, Wyo. there were only 3 cygnets on Nov. 12 (FSD). There were 22,000 Whistling Swans, a very high count, at Bear River Marshes, Great Salt Lake, by the end of this period (RAK).

Geese—There were 12,000 Snow Geese and 5 Blue Geese at the end of November at Stillwater; Blue Geese are most unusual there (PAS). In the Klamath Basin, Oregon—California border, the peak of the goose migration was on Oct. 25; 205,000 White-fronted; 129,000 Canadas (Cackling); 72,000 Snow (EJO'N)—about the same as last year. A flock of 25 Emperor Geese was seen at Klamath in October; 2 were shot and placed in the local museum. Three Black Brant also were seen, one of which was shot and put in the museum (EJO'N). Both species are rare inland.

Ducks—Malheur Refuge had better water conditions this fall—in recent years Malheur had almost dried up—and had better duck migration also. The peak was Oct. 11-17 with 285,000 birds: Pintail, 85,000; Am. Widgeon, 60,000; Mallard, 50,000. Of particular note were 12,000 Canvasbacks—the largest number in 6 years (HFD). The great Klamath Basin with its several refuges in southern Oregon and northern California has the greatest concentration of migratory waterfowl in this Region. Good water conditions were reported and a peak waterfowl count of 1,797,550 on Oct. 1—almost the same as last year. The peak for ducks was a little later on Oct. 10. The most common ducks were the Pintail with 850,000; Am. Widgeon with 120,000; Mallard, 37,000; Ruddy Duck, 26,000 (EJO'N). The peak of the duck migration at Stillwater, Nev., was on Oct. 20. The most common ducks were Green-winged Teal at 91,700 (down from last year's 155,000); Pintail, 54,000 (down from last year's 79,000); Shoveler, 23,900 (about the same as

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last year); and Gadwall, 18,000. There were 20,000 Canvasback the first week in November, the highest count in 5 years. The Redhead peaked at 5000. While Canvasbacks are making a nice come-back, the Redhead is in trouble. Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho had a good fall duck migration which was almost exclusively

Mallards (95%). The migration came in waves on Nov. 7, 15-16, and 21. This last date was the fall peak with 610,600 ducks. Of these, 580,000 were Mallards with the next most common the Pintail at 20,000 (3.2%) (*WCR*). The Wood Duck is very scarce in most parts of the West with the exception of this refuge, where there were 100 for several weeks this fall (*WCR*). At Bear River Marshes the peak of the duck migration was on Oct. 14 with 684,410 against last year's 471,555. Water conditions were much better. The principal ducks and the highest numbers were: Pintail, 209,500; Green-winged Teal, 117,000; Canvasback, 47,000 (a record for recent years); Am. Widgeon, 32,600; Mallard, 28,700 and Gadwall, 22,500 (*RAK*). Monte Vista is principally a Mallard refuge, but Mallards were late this year as there were only 18,000 at the end of this period (*CRB*).

Eagles—The concentrations reported were 12 Golden Eagles and 5 Bald Eagles at Malheur in late November (*HFD*). At the same time, there were 6 Bald and 6 Golden Eagles at the Stillwater Refuge (*PAS*)—fewer than usual. The central Wyoming Golden Eagle flyway seemed to have a slow start and was hardly going at the end of this period, presaging the poorest flight yet (*OKS*).

Cranes—Monte Vista is attempting to reestablish the Sandhill Crane as a breeding bird in the San Luis valley. Several eggs from Malheur were hatched there and the young are doing fine (*CRB*). Many cranes use the Refuge as a stopping point on migration. There were 1300 there on Oct. 10. The wounded *Whooping Crane* that was brought in is recovering well.

Shorebirds—Two Snowy Plovers, at Grand Junction on Nov. 7 (*LFE*) were the first in several years in that area.

Jaegers—A Parasitic Jaeger was seen at Lower Klamath on Sept. 4 (*GB*)—another record of these pelagic birds inland. At Mono Lake, Nev. a Pomarine Jaeger was reported on Sept. 13 (*TC, Jr.*); there is no previous Nevada observation for the species.

Gulls—Another Sabine's Gull was seen at Casper, Wyo. on Oct. 10 (*OKS*), proving that this bird is not as rare inland as previously thought. It has been seen in this region 5 out of the last 11 years.

Swifts—There were 3 Vaux's Swifts at Parowan, Utah, Aug. 31 (*SM*)—rare migrants. The last of the numerous Black Swifts in the same area was seen on Aug. 29 (*SM*). This is the only accessible point in this Region where these rare birds can be seen in numbers.

Mockingbird—One was seen at Snowville, Utah, where they are rare, on Sept. 19 (*DMF*).

Bluebirds—There is a disturbing decline in the Mountain Bluebird over the past several years at Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park as noted by the park naturalist (*MKP*). This was also noted farther west around Steamboat Springs, Colo. (*AC*).

Vireos, Warblers—A Philadelphia Vireo at Salt Lake City on Sept. 15 was unusual (*GK*). A Black-throated Green Warbler was mist-netted at Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, Sept. 16 (*AC*)—the first record for the Park. Another first record was an Am. Redstart mist-netted in the Park on Aug. 30 (*AC*). It is a more common warbler migrant at lower elevations. An Ovenbird at Cheyenne, Wyo. on Sept. 11 (*MH*) was the only remarkable record for that area. Several remarkable warblers appeared in the mountains west of Denver. On Sept. 15 at Evergreen there was a *Golden-winged Warbler* and a *Black-throated Blue*. Both of these are first records for the mountains (*GS*). At Georgetown, a Palm Warbler, a casual visitor was seen at 8600 ft. on Nov. 17. A Northern Waterthrush was seen at Logan, Utah, where they have been scarce, on Oct. 4.

Tanager—A male Hepatic Tanager stayed at a feeder at the headquarters of Bryce Canyon Nat'l Park, Utah, for almost a month from late August—the first record for the Region (*RWR*).

Rosy Finches—There were 300 Black Rosy Finches at Arches Nat'l Monument, Utah, Nov. 30 (*DLC*). Dennis Carter, who is an excellent birder, has just become naturalist at Arches, next to the new Canyonlands Nat'l Park and La Sal Mountains—a very wild area.

Sparrows—Three White-throated Sparrows were noted at Zion Park, Utah (first record) on Nov. 20 (*RHW*). A late Chipping Sparrow—one of the latest dates on record—was seen at Salt Lake City on Nov. 20 (*GK*).

Contributors.—(*PB*), Pauline Bush; (*MRB*), M. Ralph Browning; (*GB*), Greg Bos; (*CRB*), Charles R. Bryant; (*DLC*), Dennis L. Carter; (*TC*), Jr., Theodore Chase, Jr.; (*AC*), Allegra Collister; (*HFD*), H. F. Duebbert; (*KLD*), Keith L. Dixon; (*FSD*), F. Sheldon Dart; (*LFE*), Lucy F. Ela; (*DMF*), Dennis M. Forsythe; (*MH*), May Hanesworth; (*GK*), Gleb Kashin; (*RAK*), Robert A. Karges; (*DEL*), Donald E. Lewis; (*SM*), Stuart Murie; (*EJO*)'N, Edward J. O'Neill; (*MKP*), Merlin K. Potts; (*WCR*), William C. Reffalt; (*OR*), Oppie Reames; (*RWR*), Richard W. Russell; (*PAS*), Peter A. Schwabenland; (*OKS*), Oliver K. Scott; (*GS*), George Shier; Dorothy Tompkins; (*LW*), Lois Webster; (*RHW*), Roland H. Wauer.

Autumn Migration, 1964

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION
/ Werner and Hilde Hesse

Another wet and cool summer in the northern part of the Region started migration of some birds earlier than usual. However, the dry and very mild October caused many species to linger on the way; this resulted in some late arrival dates farther south. There were no major storms or sudden cold spells and the movement of passerines was, with few exceptions, rather uneventful. While some very exciting observations of seabirds were made, e.g. the remarkable increase of Brown Pelicans along the Oregon and Washington coast, the highlight of this fall was the migration of shorebirds. Altogether 35 species were reported. The numerous sightings of Am. Golden Plover alone would have been outstanding; however, the influx of so many other rarities, such as Willet, Black-necked Stilt, Sharp-tailed, and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, and Hudsonian Godwit was even more exciting.



Loons, Grebes, and Pelagic Birds—About 1000 migrating loons passed Cannon Beach, Oreg., during a 2-hour period, Nov. 1 (AB) and off Tillamook, Oreg. they were flying south all day at an estimated rate of 750 to 1000 per hour on Nov. 14 (WT). Arctic Loons were first seen at Willapa Bay, Wash., Sept. 19, and 8 reached Tillamook the next day. Red-throated Loons appeared in small numbers by the end of September at Point Roberts, Wash. and 50 were observed, Oct. 10 at the mouth of the Columbia River. Horned Grebes were first noted at Denman Island, British Columbia, Aug. 30; reaching Iona, B. C. and Blaine, Wash., Sept. 12; and Sauvie Island, near Portland, Oreg., Sept. 27. Victoria, B. C. reported fewer Eared Grebes this fall and only single birds were noted at Tillamook, Sept. 20;

Yaquina Beach, Oreg., Oct. 18; and Medford, Oreg., Nov. 10. The 16 Pied-billed Grebes seen in Tillamook County, Nov. 14, represented 3 to 4 times the usual number and indicated a migration of this species (JBC). Three Fulmars were seen off Cannon Beach, Nov. 2, and 2 appeared off Cape Meares, Oreg., Nov. 8 (AB). Baldrige also identified 15 Pink-footed Shearwaters among 8000 Sooties off Cannon Beach, Sept. 20. For over one hour 200 Sooty Shearwaters per minute were estimated passing Long Beach, Wash., Sept. 7 (J & MG). The only recorded Fork-tailed Petrels were 2 at the north jetty, mouth of the Columbia River, Aug. 30 (AB, LLF).

Pelicans and Herons—The 5 White Pelicans at Denman Island, Sept. 12, may have been the same that stayed in Victoria from Sept. 15 to 22, and were seen by most of the Victoria bird-watchers. A further increase of Brown Pelicans was reported; 400 were counted on Oct. 4 along the coast between Newport and Otter Rock, Oreg. (AB, JS, WT), and a few individuals even ranged as far north as Willapa and Hoquiam, Wash. Green Herons were found at many locations all through the Region. There were 3 records of Common Egrets; 1 at Fern Ridge Reservoir, near Eugene, Oreg., Sept. 13 (LMcQ); 1 at Tillamook Bay, Sept. 26 (Mr. & Mrs. R. Harris, *vide* JBC); and one near Medford, Oct. 31 (Don Haller, *vide* RB).

Swans and Geese—The number of Whistling Swans at Sauvie Island rose from 40 on Nov. 14, to 135 by Nov. 21, and to see 3 along the coast near Tillamook, Nov. 14, was unusual. Compared with previous years the Canada Goose migration began earlier this fall; 30 had returned to Sauvie Island by Aug. 9 and 200 flew over Drayton Harbor, Wash., Aug. 22. Some very early Black Brant were noted near Ladner, B. C. on Aug. 6, while the larger flocks arrived at their usual time in November. During a field trip of the Oregon Audubon Society to Sauvie Island on Nov. 15, Baldrige found a near adult *Emperor Goose* among 30 White-fronted and all 23 members of the party had an excellent view. Peak estimates of Snow Geese were 1000 each at Iona, Nov. 15 (GES) and at Skagit Flats, Wash., Nov. 26 (AB).

Ducks—The uncommon Gadwall appeared at Portland, Sept. 5 (early); Fern Ridge Reservoir, Sept. 13; Green Lake in Seattle, Wash., Oct. 5; and on the Game Commission Pond, north of Medford, Nov. 22. On the same pond a very late Cinnamon Teal was seen the same day (RB, WC, JH). In mid-November Vancouver, B. C., Victoria, Seattle and Tillamook bird-watchers saw single European Widgeons. The only Redheads were reported from Elk Lake in Victoria on Nov. 21 (ARD). Small numbers of Ring-necked Ducks made

their irregular appearances at Denman Island, Oct. 4; Fort Stevens,

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Oreg., Oct. 10; Rockaway, Oreg., Nov. 14; and Stanley Park, Vancouver, on Nov. 22. The outlook for Canvasbacks seems brighter than in previous years as encouraging reports were received from many locations, with the highest count of 800 at Tillamook, Nov. 1. Barrow's Goldeneyes were again in fair numbers in the Seattle area, 60 were noted on Nov. 26 (VEC). Another species returning early was the Ruddy Duck; 6 were at Terrell Lake, south of Blaine, Wash., July 26 (WHH) and several on Duwamish River in South Seattle, Aug. 16 (VEC). On Nov. 22 at the Game Pond, north of Medford, 2 female Red-breasted Mergansers were identified after a careful study of 20 minutes. This is the first-known record of this species for Jackson County, Oreg. (RB, WC, JH).

Raptors—The cool and rainy summer was blamed for the scarcity of Turkey Vultures on Vancouver Island. Fewer than 30 were seen migrating as compared with 500 last fall. However, Victoria came up with the only observations of 1 Goshawk, Nov. 19, and 5 Swainson's Hawks, Sept. 16 (ARD). On Oct. 17 one immature Golden Eagle was pestered by 7 Marsh Hawks at Point Roberts and the following day another immature flew very low over Chinook, Pacific Co., Wash. (AB). Three successive days of east wind may have been responsible for these sightings. An adult Golden Eagle was seen at Johns Peak, west of Medford, Nov. 22 (RB). Ospreys had left the northern parts of the Region by Sept. 10, but one was still present on Nov. 10 over Little Butte Creek, west of Eagle Point, Oreg. (RB). A striking record was a very early gray-phased Gyrfalcon at the south jetty of the Columbia River on Oct. 10 (JBC).

Quail, Partridges and Cranes—For the first time in two years Bobwhites were noted at Mac-Fadden Swamp, near Corvallis, Oreg., Sept. 7 (JS). There are also signs of a come-back of Gray Partridges at Victoria (ARD). About 300 Sandhill Cranes reached Sauvie Island by Sept. 27, with 17 still present, Nov. 21; and other records came from Pitt Meadows, Sept. 13; Vancouver Island, Sept. 17; and Denman Island, Sept. 27.

Shorebirds—Semipalmated Plovers began returning in July with the main migration taking place during August. Four Snowy Plovers were at Lead-better Point, Willapa Bay, on Sept. 19 (JS, WT). An unusual phenomenon occurred at Bellingham, Wash. where Killdeer aggregated in large numbers in September and gradually diminished. From Oct. 11 none was seen in that area (TW). Iona, Willapa Bay, Nehalem and

Tillamook all had their share of Am. Golden Plovers. Three remained at Iona from Sept. 12 to 27; Willapa Bay had 9 on Aug. 29 and 30 and 6 were still there on Sept. 26; at Nehalem 1 was seen, Nov. 1 and Nov. 8; and Tillamook reported one on Nov. 8. Black-bellied Plovers appeared in mid-July and became numerous during August with 250 at Willapa Bay on Aug. 30. Ruddy Turnstones showed up in small numbers at Dungeness, Wash.; Blaine; Willapa Bay and Cannon Beach. A rare Long-billed Curlew was spotted at Netarts, Oreg., Aug. 29 (LMCQ, JS, WT). All along the coast, Whimbrels were reported; Gray's Harbor, Wash. had the greatest gathering of 33 on July 18 and a very late individual was still at Skagit Flats on Nov. 26 (AB). Spotted Sandpipers moved slowly south, last sightings were Iona, Aug. 23; Bellingham, Sept. 2; Seattle, Oct. 15; and Netarts, Nov. 8. Rare visitors to northwestern Oregon were Solitary Sandpapers on Sauvie Island, Sept. 13 and 18 (AB) and another was in Manning Park, B. C., Sept. 5 (WHH). Three observers spotted a Willet at Cape Meares, Aug. 29, a rare occurrence that far north (LMCQ, JS, WT). Migration of Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs was good; the first Greater was heard at Bellingham, June 30 (TW), and the first two Lessers were feeding on the flats of Iona, July 18. Knots were about average, 16 at Willapa Bay, Aug. 30; 1 at Ocean Shores, Sept. 19; and 12 at Tillamook, Sept. 20. Two records of Rock Sandpipers from the Oregon Coast are noteworthy; 6 at Garibaldi, Oreg., Nov. 8 (AB, JS, WT), and 5 at Tillamook, Nov. 14 (IBC). Satisfactory photographs were taken of a *Sharp-tailed Sandpiper* feeding with 70 Pectorals on the salt marsh at Leadbetter Point, Sept. 26 (AB, JBC). Poor water conditions inland caused by lack of rain forced Pectoral Sandpipers to shift their migration route to the coast (JS), where they were observed in larger numbers than ever before. Dowitchers were widespread and plentiful; Baldrige saw 3000 to 4000 Short-billed at Gray's Harbor on July 18 and 230 Long-billed at Sauvie Island from Sept. 5 to 18. One *Stilt Sandpiper* was feeding with Lesser Yellowlegs on the salt marsh at Leadbetter Point, Aug. 30 (AB, LLF). On the same day and in the same area 2 *Buff-breasted Sandpipers* were seen under perfect conditions and excellent photographs were obtained (AB, LLF). Another Buff-breasted Sandpiper was present in Victoria during the last week of August—the first sight record in recent years (DS). Both the Stilt and Buff-breasted Sandpipers are uncommon in this Region. Marbled God-wits were at Willapa Bay on Aug. 30, Sept. 26 and Oct. 18; also at Yaquina Beach, Oreg., Oct. 4. Fred and Evelyn Dobson made the most exciting discovery when they detected a *Hudsonian Godwit* on Iona, Sept. 13 and studied it carefully at close range. Its identification was corroborated the following evening by (WHH), who found the bird extremely tame and could approach it to within 15 feet. Although there are a few records of

Hudsonian God-wits from the interior of British Columbia, this sighting may represent the first for this Region. The last rarity in this group was an Am. Avocet at Hoovers Lake, near Medford, on Sept. 18 (JH).

Jaegers, Gulls, Terns and Alcids—A Pomarine Jaeger at Ocean Shores, Sept. 20 (TW) and one at Point Roberts, Sept. 26 (WHH) came close enough to be positively identified. Reports of the Parasitic Jaeger were numerous; a late one was at Point Roberts, Nov. 22. The largest concentrations of California Gulls were noted in early and mid-October at the mouth of the Columbia River and on Lake Washington in Seattle. An astonishingly large number of 10,000 Mew and Bonaparte's Gulls

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were observed at Clover Point, Victoria (RF, DS). A few Franklin's Gulls appeared, 1 at Sauvie Island, 1 at Ocean View, 1 at Birch Bay, Wash., all in August and September; and 3 at Bellingham on Oct. 11. A Black-legged Kittiwake was closely observed at Westport, Wash., Oct. 18 (SJ); 15 were near Cannon Beach, Nov. 1; and 2 near Cape Meares, Nov. 8 (AB, JS, WT). A few Forster's Terns were seen near Tokeland, Wash., Oct. 9 (VEC). From July 19 to Nov. 1 Common Terns were moving along the coast. One ventured inland as far as 30 miles east of Portland on Oct. 11 (AB). Also on Oct. 11, north of Brookings, Curry Co., Oreg., an Ancient Murrelet was carefully studied and identified (Mrs. T. Conway and Mrs. R. Briggs, *vide* RB).

Pigeons and Owls—A failure of the acorn crop kept Band-tailed Pigeons down to small numbers at Victoria, but more than usual were reported from Portland. During September two active nests of Mourning Doves were under observation at Hubbard, one young left the nest on Sept. 24 or 25 (TM). Three downy young Barn Owls were discovered at a shipyard in Vancouver on December 3, with an additional 10 adults in the same area (Robin Best). The late breeding and heavy concentration is attributable to an over-abundance of mice this fall. We had only one report of a Snowy Owl at Boundary Bay, B. C., Nov. 22. A Pygmy Owl had returned to its wintering area in Portland by Oct. 10 (AB).

Nighthawks, Hummingbirds, and Flycatchers—The last Common Nighthawks were seen at Bellingham, Sept. 23 and Vaux's Swifts were at Ilwaco, Sept. 26. A Rufous Hummingbird lingered in Victoria until Nov. 5 (ARD). A Western Kingbird, rare on the coast, was observed feeding on dragonflies at Tokeland on Oct. 9 (VEC) and a very late one was seen on Nov. 14 near Talent, Oreg., (Pauline Bush and Dorothy Tompkins, *vide* RB). During early October, 4 or 5 Black

Phoebes visited Mrs. Caroline Kelsey's feeder at Trail, Oreg., another sign of the northward expansion of this species. Last dates of flycatchers were: Traill's Flycatcher at Astoria, Oreg., Sept. 24 (HCA); Western Flycatcher at Denman Island, Sept. 20 (WJF); Western Wood Pewee at Drayton Harbor, Sept. 21 (LK); and Olive-sided Flycatcher at Pitt Meadows, Sept. 27 (GES).

Swallows, Wrentits and Wrens—An unusually high number of Violet-green Swallows, 10,000 to 15,000 in four flocks, was noted south of Corvallis on Sept. 8 (JS). At Drayton Harbor a few Violet-green Swallows stayed until Oct. 8 and Cliff Swallows until Oct. 3 (LK). Thirty-three Purple Martins at Sauvie Island on Aug. 29; 12 at Victoria on Sept. 5; and 11 at Drayton Harbor, Sept. 9, indicate a remarkable increase. A Wrentit, a rare bird east of the Coast Range, was banded and another seen by Ralph Moldenhauer near Summit, Oreg., Sept. 5. In the Rogue River Valley the Long-billed Marsh Wrens are on the increase (RB). A Rock Wren, out of its range, on Denman Island was closely observed by three experienced bird-watchers on Sept. 19 and 20 (WJF).

Catbirds, Thrushes, Pipits and Shrikes—A Catbird discovered at Eugene, Oct. 12, is believed to be the first recorded west of the Cascades in Oregon (LMQ). Robins were reported in large numbers in late November; a flock of 500 was in downtown Victoria and about 1000 at Seward Park, Seattle; but Varied Thrushes seemed to be rather scarce everywhere. A very late Swainson's Thrush was seen at Tillamook, Oct. 25 (JBC). In early August Water Pipits started returning, building up to 200 in Victoria by Sept. 7; and 75 to 100 near Medford on Nov. 14 were the last seen in this Region. An early sighting of a Northern Shrike was made at Iona, Oct. 4 (GES).

Vireos and Warblers—Two Red-eyed Vireos were still singing at Terrell Lake on Aug. 22 (LK); and a Warbling Vireo was late at Astoria, Sept. 30 (HCA). Two Nashville Warblers, seldom reported in this area, were seen in Bellingham on Aug. 30 (TW). Crowell found an immature *Magnolia Warbler* on Oct. 25 in an "island" of trees and undergrowth on the spit separating Tillamook Bay from the ocean. This appears to be the first record for the state of Oregon, although Gabrielson and Jewett in "Birds of Oregon" (1940) place this species on the hypothetical list based on an unsubstantiated record from Salem, Oreg. in January 1907. Late Myrtle Warblers were at Hubbard, Oct. 15 and 28 (TM). An unusual build-up of about 200 warblers, mostly Audubon's, with Orange-crowned, Black-throated Gray, and MacGillivray's Warblers among them, was noticed in Beacon Hill Park, Victoria, during the second week of October (DS, *et al.*). The

migration of Townsend's Warblers began with 9 at Squamish, B. C., Aug. 15, and lasted until Nov. 29, when the last was seen at Hubbard. A very late Yellowthroat was reported from Denman Island, Oct. 17 (WJF).

Orioles, Grosbeaks, Finches and Sparrows—The second sight record of the *Hooded Oriole* for Jackson County was made when a pair was watched and carefully studied south of Ruch, Oreg., Oct. 1 (Mrs. Bonney Suttel, *vide* RB). (See *Audubon Field Notes* 17-4). So far this year Evening Grosbeaks have not been reported. The population of Purple Finches continues to decline, especially in the Vancouver, B. C. and Bellingham areas. Pine Siskins are also down in numbers. Onlookers were surprised when two Am. Goldfinches overtook the northbound Port Angeles to Victoria ferry in the middle of the Strait of Juan de Fuca on Oct. 12. The main migration of Savannah Sparrows occurred during September, the first reaching the Rogue Valley in Oregon on Oct. 1 (JH); but the northern areas reported them as late as October 18 at Drayton Harbor (KB). Unusually late records of Vesper Sparrows come from Stahlbusch Island, east of Corvallis, 2 on Nov. 14 and 1 on Nov. 29 (JS). The uncommon Slate-colored Junco was seen 1 at Trail, Oreg., Oct. 15 (B. Suttel, *vide* RB); 1 in Hubbard, Nov. 7 (Dale Shank and TM); and 2 at a feeding station in Burnaby since October 31 (WHH). White-and Golden-crowned Sparrows arrived at Medford, Sept. 20, a week later than usual (JH). There

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seemed to have been more Lincoln's Sparrows than in other years, with the highest number at Pitt Meadows, where 14 were counted on Sept. 13 (KB) Lapland Longspurs were reported only from three locations, but more than ever were seen at Leadbetter Point in September (AB, JBC).

Contributors (sectional editors' names in boldface)—(HCA) Helen C. Acton; (AB) Alan Baldrige; (BB) Bob and Elsie Boggs; (KB) Ken Boyce; (RB) **Ralph Browning** (southeast Oregon); (VEC) Violet E. Cannon; (WC) Walter Cavanaugh; (JBC) John B. Crowell, Jr.; (ARD) A. R. Davidson; (FWD) Fred and Evelyn Dobson; (WJF) W. J. Fitzpatrick; (RF) R. Fryer; (J & MG) John and Myrtle Groet; (WHH) Werner and Hilde Hesse; (JH) Joseph Hicks; (SJ) Mr. and Mrs. Stan Johnson; (LK) Lucile Kline; (LLF) L. D. LaFave; (TM) Thomas McCamant; (LMcQ) Larry McQueen; (DS) **David and Ruth Stirling** (Vancouver Island); (ES) Eleanor Stopps; (GES) Gertrude E. Smith; (JS) Joseph G. Strauch, Jr.; (WT) William Thackaberry; (TW) Terry Wahl.

The Winter Season, 1964-65

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
/ Thomas H. Rogers

Most of the Region endured a long, snowy, and at times bitterly cold, winter. South-central Montana, around Bozeman, received the first severe blow of winter, with a strong cold front moving in during mid-November, bringing

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an early freeze-up and forcing most waterbirds away. These frigid conditions, with the thermometer as low as -35°, persisted until the first of the year, when temperatures moderated. The cold air masses that plagued northern Montana thereafter did not reach to the Bozeman area and an early break-up of winter there encouraged some early waterfowl returns. Apparently because of the severe early winter conditions, numbers of wintering Mallards, Killdeer and snipe were low, notwithstanding mild weather later. Other areas of the Region, to the north and west, saw mid-December temperatures drop to as low as -30°, lowest of the winter, in several localities. Shortly followed heavy snowfalls, which set all-time records of 31 in. at Missoula, Mont. and 42 in. at Spokane, Wash. Smaller bodies of standing water froze solidly, driving most waterfowl elsewhere. By contrast, January was mild, with no subzero temperatures reported. However, snow fall continued heavy, adding to that already on the ground, and waters remained frozen. February temperatures were average or slightly above, and precipitation was light except in western Montana, where snow fall was normal. The lowest reported temperature was -5°, at the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. March brought another big weather surprise, for both average and minimum temperatures were generally below those the two preceding months. Sunny days and frigid nights were the rule, with precipitation far below normal. In some areas snow cover thinned or vanished, but in others it persisted, and, combined with the low temperatures, worked hardship on some species. Seed-eating northern and montane birds, generally speaking, put in a poor appearance in the valleys, suggesting favorable food conditions nearer their summer ranges. C. J. Henry, who retired in April, has contributed his last report as manager of the Nat'l Bison Range. Happily, however, he plans to remain in the area and continue to report his observations. Leon Littlefield, former manager of Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, has been transferred to Minidoka Wildlife Refuge, Idaho and will certainly be in this Region. However, Frank L. Kenney, transferred

from McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, bank, Wash. is continuing the excellent reports Ninepipe.

Grebes and Herons—A few grebes of several species were noted wintering in the western part of the Region, in British Columbia and Washington. The Red-necked (1) and Eared (4) were seen at Okanagan Landing, near Vernon, B. C. on Dec. 28. Very few Great Blue Herons were known to have wintered in western Montana, and the Vernon, B. C. area had none. Observers believed this to be a direct result of severe weather conditions. At Ninepipe Refuge 4 were present in early March, but subsequent cold weather forced them out. One bird was found in a starved condition, fed and released. Eastern Washington appeared to have normal or higher numbers, with a peak of around 100 at Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash.

Waterfowl—Five Trumpeter Swans stayed at least as late as Dec. 23 at Ennis Lake, Madison Co., Mont. No more were seen until Feb. 7, when 24 were counted. Seventy-five to 100 Whistling Swans remained at Columbia Refuge until the mid-December freeze-up drove them out. Numbers returned with the thaw in early March. Whistling Swans usually winter in hundreds on the South Thompson River between Kamloops and Chase, B. C. and several reports were received that in January some were dying for lack of food after the river froze over. The 300 or so Canada Geese on the reservoir at Ninepipe were forced by the freeze to spend the winter on Flathead Lake and River. Field-feeding waterfowl at Columbia Refuge found conditions poor owing to crusted snow. Numbers there dropped from around 305,000 on Dec. 12 to about 34,000 a week later. By early January only about 15,000 birds were present and the population remained at about this level until the late winter thaw. Mallards, the most abundant ducks at McNary Refuge, Burbank, Wash. declined from their large December and January numbers to about 1000 for the remainder of the period. The severe cold of December drove most waterfowl from the Bozeman and Ennis, Mont areas, but Pintail and Am. Widgeon wintered there in better than average numbers. Mild late winter conditions brought some early returning birds; *e.g.*, 12 Gadwall, apparently paired, at Ennis Lake on Feb. 28. A male Bufflehead there on Feb. 7 probably wintered and a female Hooded Merganser at Three Forks on March 14 (*RAH, DRS & PDS*) was as unusual as the female there last year a week later. Noteworthy was a sighting of 5 Red-breasted Mergansers at McNary Refuge, Feb. 18. At Ninepipe Refuge a wintering population of about 18,000 Mallards apparently survived the long winter well, moving in irrigation canals when the reservoir in the refuge froze. A *European Widgeon* was observed at Ninepipe the last week of March. Ring-necked Ducks regained their place as number 1

diving duck wintering at Columbia Refuge, with numbers equaling those of the Lesser Scaup.

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Hawks and Eagles—More Goshawk sightings than usual were reported. In the Vernon, B. C. area the species was even described as moderately common. Two adult and 1 immature Bald Eagles wintering at Okanagan Landing appeared to subsist mainly on coot. The rarely reported Gyrfalcon was noted at Reardon, Wash. on Dec. 6 (1) (*JA*) and near Vernon, B. C. on Feb. 27 (1). A Peregrine Falcon was seen infrequently at Ninepipe Refuge. A scarcity of Rough-legged Hawks in the Bozeman area was believed to be related to a low vole population there.

Gallinaceous Birds—Complete lack of reports of Sharp-tailed Grouse in the Bozeman area during the fall and winter was beginning to look significant. A downward trend was noted for Ring-necked Pheasants at Bozeman, Missoula, Ninepipe Refuge, Columbia Refuge and Vernon, B. C., but other localities reported at least normal numbers. A few Chukars were still present at the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. The status of the species was down at Columbia Refuge. California Quail appeared to have had very low survival at Vernon, B. C. and Columbia Refuge. About 15 Turkeys were seen near Cedonia, Stevens Co., Wash. where the species has been planted (*JA & WH*).

Rails and Gulls—Three Virginia Rails were seen at Swan Lake, Vernon, B. C. in a spring-fed ditch on Dec. 26 and 1 or 2 were seen for several weeks thereafter. Three gull rarities were reported: a Glaucous Gull at the city dump at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho in February (*Mr. & Mrs. SOS, WH, JA*), an Iceland Gull, collected at the same place, Feb. 22 (*LLaF, WH*), and a Glaucous-winged Gull at the same place on Jan. 1 (*JA*). Up to 50 Herring Gulls were noted there (*SAS*) and a few remained on Okanagan Lake in southern British Columbia.

Doves and Owls—A few wintering Mourning Doves were reported. A small flock was seen at Columbia Refuge at the beginning of the big storm in mid-December. A few small flocks wintered successfully in the Vernon, B. C. area. The only other records were of single birds, near Spokane at a feeding station and at the Bison Range headquarters, feeding with the deer and geese. Pygmy Owls were unusually scarce in the Vernon, B. C. area and were down in numbers around Spokane, Wash. A Great Gray Owl was noted, March 4, about 7 miles west of Bozeman at a low elevation (*NM*). The scarcity of Short-eared Owls in the latter area was thought to be related to the low vole population.

Kingfishers and Larks—Belted Kingfishers wintered in about usual numbers despite the severe winter, except at the Bison Range, where very few were noted. Wintering Horned Larks appeared scarce except at the Bison Range and in the Bozeman area.

Ravens and Jays—An unusual aggregation of about 100 Common Ravens was found around a dead elk in Gallatin Canyon near Bozeman. A flock of 40 Piñon Jays at Ennis, Mont. was apparently wintering.

Chickadees, Nuthatches and Creepers—Birds of these three groups made few appearances in the Spokane area, where they usually are common at feeders. Red-breasted Nuthatches continued extremely scarce in the Vernon area and were unreported in the valleys around Bozeman, but were noted in the surrounding mountains (*NM, RAH*). Chickadees and creepers were scarce or absent at Baker, Oreg.

Thrushes—Robins wintered in fair numbers at most reporting localities. More than usual stayed at the Bison Range and the species reached impressive numbers around Bozeman, where they fed on berries on dry juniper hillsides. Several hundred were observed and it was considered likely that thousands were in the area. A major movement was noted at some localities in the western part of the Region just after mid-February. The movement was mainly between Feb. 21 and 24 in the Spokane area, with 1000 noted at Spangle and large flocks at Spokane and Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash. Vernon, B. C. experienced a similar influx on Feb. 20-21. In the Bitterroot Valley around Stevensville, Mont. thousands of the birds appeared with the severe storm of March 23. Hundreds died during the ordeal. Varied Thrushes wintered in the Vernon, B. C. area in unprecedented numbers. The 62 counted on the Vernon Christmas count were exceeded by those at Penticton. Extreme cold from mid-December to early January, combined with deep snow took a heavy toll of the birds, although feeding stations helped many to survive. A single individual at the Bison Range during the March cold snap furnished the first record for this species for the Range. A flock of 6 Western Bluebirds at Okanagan Landing near Vernon on Dec. 26 and 27 appeared to be close to starvation after 2 weeks of severe cold and deep snow. Several observations of Mountain Bluebirds in the Bozeman area during the first half of March raised the possibility that the birds may have wintered in the area (*HM, PDS*).

Waxwings—"This was surely a Bohemian Waxwing year" in some localities (*Hand*). In the area of Missoula around his home over 2000 were estimated during much of January. Large flocks were in the Bitterroot

Valley south of Missoula, and Bozeman had thousands until late December, after which they scattered, especially to the juniper hillsides to feed with the Robins. Very large flocks, 1 estimated at 2 or 3 thousand, passed through the Vernon, B. C. area during the first half of December, with only a few remaining for the winter. Quite possibly these birds were some of those which arrived on Dec. 17 and later in the Spokane area, where flocks of 1 or 2 thousand swarmed during January. February 22, the last date recorded, found 800 still there. Cedar Waxwings remained at several localities and in more than usual numbers. Exceptional in winter in the Bozeman area, the birds appeared in flocks up to 50 at Norris (with Robins in junipers). Spokane had its share; *e.g.*, 102 on the Christmas count and 32 noted on Feb. 20 (*THR*). The species was present at Baker, Oreg. and up to 45 were observed at Missoula off and on during the winter.

Starlings and Meadowlarks—Starlings, mentioned from practically all reporting localities, were noted as either common or increasing at many of them. Vernon, B. C. noted an influx after mid-February, and the Bison Range, in late January and

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February. Western Meadowlarks were noted wintering in the Bitterroot Valley in western Montana. Large flocks came in with the storm of March 23 and apparently survived it well. A few of the birds made it through the cold and deep snows at Spokane and Vernon. They were present all winter at McNary Refuge and were more common than usual at Columbia Refuge.

Blackbirds—Red-winged Blackbirds wintered successfully in the Bozeman and Bitterroot Valley areas of Montana, and around Spokane. There were 368 on the Christmas count, at Vernon, B. C. Brewer's Blackbirds also remained through the period around Bozeman and Vernon, and, as usual, in the Columbia Basin (McNary and Columbia Refuges).

Finches—Except in the Bitterroot Valley in western Montana, where flocks were reported, Evening Grosbeaks were scarce or absent. No certain records were obtained for wintering Cassin's Finches, but the 30 with the Robins at Norris, Mont. on Feb. 28 probably spent the winter there. Pine Grosbeaks were extremely scarce. That the birds probably never descended from the mountains is suggested by the observation of a sizable flock high in Gallatin Canyon near Bozeman on Jan. 24 (*NM*). Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were not seen in any real numbers except in Ennis, Mont. and in eastern Washington, where they

appeared late, on Dec. 25. The largest number was 1500 near Hartline, Wash. on the above date. Two days earlier, 250 were noted at Ennis. At least 1 Black Rosy Finch accompanied the latter group. Common Redpolls were scarce or absent except in the Vernon, B. C. area. The most seen elsewhere were 50 on Pablo Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, 9 miles north of Ninepipe Refuge. Pine Siskins wintered in numbers only in the Bozeman area, where they were observed regularly, both in the valley and in the mountains. At Vernon a few small flocks arrived on Feb. 2 and the birds became common by mid-month. Am. Goldfinches likewise wintered commonly in the Bozeman area, particularly west at Ennis, Norris and Three Forks. Normally the birds are not seen in the area until May. Small flocks of Red Crossbills were noted around Vernon and Spokane, but they did not appear in the valleys of western and southern Montana, with the exception of the Bitterroot. In the Bozeman area the birds apparently remained in the surrounding mountains, for they were seen in Gallatin Canyon (NM) and in the Bridger Mountains (DRS & SMS).

Sparrows—The only report of a Rufous-sided Towhee perhaps wintering was of 1 at Okanagan Landing on Dec. 26. Oregon Juncos appeared in usual abundance and in some cases were more plentiful than ordinarily. This was the case in the Bozeman area and at Vernon. At the latter locality it was supposed to be partly a result of deep snow on surrounding hillsides. A few Slate-colored Juncos were noted at Vernon, Spokane and Missoula and a single bird was observed through the period at the Bozeman cemetery. Most localities reported Tree Sparrows. An immature *Harris' Sparrow* visited a feeding station regularly during most of December and early January at Glenrose Prairie near Spokane. Wintering White-crowned Sparrows were observed at McNary Refuge, Vernon, Spokane and Baker, Oreg. Snow Buntings appeared very sparsely: 2 observations, totaling less than 100 birds, in eastern Washington; small numbers at Missoula; a single at Belgrade, Mont. and 50 near Ennis, Mont.

Contributors (sectional editors, whose names are in boldface, should receive credit for observations in their respective areas unless otherwise stated).— (JA) James Acton; **M. Clair Aldous** and **Bob Ellis**, McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash.; Eugene C. Barney, Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash.; **Carol L. Boyd**, Bitterroot Valley, Stevensville, Mont.; **James Grant**, British Columbia; (WH) Warren Hall; **Ralph L. Hand**, Missoula, Mont. area; (RAH) R. A. Hays; **C. J. Henry**, Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont.; **Frank L. Kenney**, Nine-pipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo, Mont.; (LLaF) Lynn LaFave; (NM) Neil Martin; (HM) Homer Metcalf; (THR) Thomas H. Rogers; (DRS) Donald R. Skaar; (PDS) **P. D. Skaar**, Bozeman—

Three Forks—Ennis, Mont. area; (SMS) Stephen M. Skaar; Spokane Audubon Society (credit for Spokane area records unless otherwise noted); (Mrs. SOS) **Mrs. S. O. Stanley**, Spokane, Wash. area; (JEW) **Jack E. Waddell**, Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash., and **Ann Ward**, Baker, Oreg. area.

The Winter Season, 1964-65

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.
/ **Dr. Oliver K. Scott**

The winter was relatively warm. In this Region there has never before been so much moisture. The heavy precipitation reached from the western part of the Region to eastern Wyoming. The prospects for summer water levels for waterfowl breeding have never been better. The Boise River watershed in western Idaho contained 200 percent of its normal supply of snow (the highest on record). Other areas are not far behind. The Klamath Basin grain fields, which the waterfowl use, were flooded and unavailable so the waterfowl were largely forced out. The prospects for the coming breeding season are excellent (EJO'N). Malheur Refuge, which had almost dried up, is back to the level of 1958 and

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stream flow into the great eastern Oregon sump is predicted to be 150 percent of normal (HFD). The Stillwater Refuge in Nevada, which recently had been virtually dry, is now back in business in a big way. This area depends on the snow pack of the Sierra, which this year is tremendous. In southern Utah, in the last four months there has been 7.14 in. of moisture as compared with 1.19 in. for the same period last year (SM). The high Wasatch Mountains in northern Utah had 160 in. of snow at Alta, a record for recent years. The heavy moisture spread into southern Colorado, where the high dry San Luis valley has soil moisture 130 percent above normal and the surrounding mountains are loaded with snow in sharp contrast to recent years. The Monte Vista Refuge in this arid plain has benefited greatly (CRB). Only in eastern and central Wyoming are there dry areas. The Pacific fronts have lost all their moisture by the time they get this far to the east. This part of the Region is dependent on Arctic fronts from the north, and these have been few and dry. However, several extremely cold fronts did come in late March, but they brought little water and hardly affected the birds; they merely delayed spring migration. What became of the Bohemian Waxwings and Evening Grosbeaks? The waxwing is a normal winter feature over the northern part of this Region,

but there were none this year. The very few Evening Grosbeaks seen early in the season promptly disappeared. As a substitute for the Bohemian there were a number of records of wintering Cedar Waxwings: 70 at Salt Lake City, Feb. 6 (GK); several flocks at Logan, Utah (DMF) and 7 at Casper, Wyo. during February (AO).

Swans—There were 5000 Whistling Swans at Malheur, March 12-18 (HFD) and 7060 in the Klamath Basin, Feb. 28 (EJO'N). Stillwater had 7300 at the peak in the second week of January. This is the highest number since 1958 (PAS). Bear River Marshes, at the north end of the Great Salt Lake, have more than the rest of the refuges combined. There were 30,000 at Bear River, Dec. 3—a very high count (VW).

Ducks and Geese—Stillwater, Nev. had the highest number of Pintails on record with 67,000, March 4; and the highest number of Ruddy Ducks on record with 54,000 in the last week of March. The previous high was 16,700 in 1960. The Common Merganser also had the highest on record at 2800 in the last week of January (PAS). All these records are probably a result of better water conditions. Wood Ducks are steadily increasing in the northwestern part of this Region. There were 25 at Deer Flat Refuge in western Idaho, Feb. 20 (GHC); 10 wintered at Malheur (HFD). The spring migration at Bear River has been average (VW). The peak in ducks was 486,000 in early December. At Malheur the peak Snow Goose count was 95,000, March 12-18. There has been a steady small decline in these birds over the last several years. The peak in ducks was 185,000, March 12-18—an improvement over last year. As usual, most of these ducks were Pintails-140,000 (HFD). At the great refuges in the Klamath Basin on the California-Oregon line the peak in waterfowl was early in December with 404,740. Of these, the Pintail was most common with 314,000, March 14-20; next Shoveler, 116,790, Dec. 6-12; Snow Goose, 85,000, March 21-27; Mallard, 57,760, Dec. 6-12; Ruddy Duck, 57,600, March 14-20. These figures are an improvement over last year. There were 2200 Ross' Geese in the last week of February and one **Emperor Goose**, which is very rare (EJO'N).

Eagles—The reports indicate that eagles, particularly the Golden, are down in numbers; but 20 Bald Eagles were reported wintering in the Parowan, Utah, area (SM). The central Wyoming flyway had Golden Eagles moving south well into February, apparently a result of relatively mild weather.

Cranes—The injured *Whooping Crane* at Monte Vista Refuge, Colo., is doing well. There were 2000 Sandhills present at this refuge by the end of March (CRB), making it the second largest concentration of Sandhills

in the Region. The largest concentration was near Malheur, where there were 5000 in the Harney valley in March (HFD).

Gulls—Herring Gulls were seen in March at the Farmington Bay Refuge near Salt Lake City. There were 4 on March 14 (RH, G. Ketal) and there was also a Glaucous Gull. Both species are rare in this area. Farmington Bay is the best birding place near Salt Lake City. Another Herring Gull was seen at Springdale, Zion Park, Feb. 14 (RHW) first record for the Park.

Owls—A Pygmy Owl was reported from Capitol Reef National Monument, Utah, Jan. 23 (DLC). Another was noted at Parowan on Dec. 4 and Jan. 21 (DLC). This little owl is not often reported.

Flycatchers—An out-of-range Eastern Phoebe was collected at Springdale, March 27 (RHW).

Bluebirds—Western Bluebirds wintered at Durango, Colo., beginning Jan. 20. Up to 50 were seen regularly (OR). There were also Western Bluebirds in the Grand Junction area, where they are more unusual, March 15 (LE).

Warblers—Owing to the relatively warm winter there was an Audubon's Warbler in a city park at Salt Lake City, Feb. 14 (GK).

Sparrows—There were 44 Sage Sparrows in Arches National Monument, in southeastern Utah, Dec. 22, although they were migrants and did not stay; this is the first winter record for the area (DLC). With an excellent reporter in this area for the first time the list and the dates of birds in southeastern Utah are being rapidly changed. Only the high lights are reported here. A Swamp Sparrow was collected at Springdale, March 2 (RHW). This bird is casual in Utah. Four Golden-crowned Sparrows were seen at Zion Park during the winter and 3 were banded (RHW). This bird should be very rare in southern Utah. A Harris' Sparrow found at Christmas time remained all winter in Rocky Mountain National Park (first park record) (JL). At lower elevations these birds are not uncommon.

Contributors—(CRB), Charles R. Bryant; (DLC), Dennis L. Carter; (GHC), Gene H. Crawford; (HFD), Harold F. Duebbert; (LE), Lucy Ela; (DMF), Dennis M. Forsythe; (RH), R. Hoehning; (GK), Gleb Kashin;

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(JL), James Larson; (SM), Steward Murie; (EJO'N), Eugene J. O'Neill; (AO), Allen Ormand; (OR), Oppie Reames; (PAS), Peter A. Schwabenland; (RHW), Roland H. Wauer; (VW), Vanez Wilson.

Corrigendum—The Pomarine Jaeger recorded on Sept. 13, 1964 (*AFN* 19 (1): 64) should be Mono Lake, Calif., not Nevada. However, it is believed to be the first inland report for California.

The Winter Season, 1964-65

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION **/ Werner and Hilde Hesse**

Undoubtedly the winter of 1964-65 will be remembered for its weather. Normal weather terminated abruptly on Dec. 14, when a high pressure area brought very cold Arctic air and strong northwest winds to most of British Columbia, Washington and Oregon. Between Dec. 15 and 18 temperatures dropped to around the zero mark and previous low records tumbled at many places. A major storm moved warm moist air from the Pacific onto the entire coast, resulting in unusually heavy snow falls in all areas except the extreme southern part of southwest Oregon. While it continued snowing in British Columbia and northern Washington (Vancouver, B. C. set an all-time high for snowfall with 38.4 inches); precipitation turned into heavy rains in southern Washington and all of Oregon. New high rainfall totals for December were established in almost every part of Oregon, numerous places recording totals from one half to two thirds of the expected *annual* amount. At first the snow blanket retained the rain rather than permitting gradual run-off, but as downpours continued, the snowpack in the mountains finally collapsed within a matter of hours resulting in disastrous floods and slides in southern Washington and Oregon. The second and third week of January were dull, cool and wet until the last week brought again heavy deluges to the entire Region causing more floods in northern Oregon. During February cool and wet weather persisted returning to the normal pattern. The first half of March was sunny, and unusually warm, everywhere; around the middle of the month temperatures again dropped below normal, but dry weather held out until the very last day and many records for rain-free periods were broken. Rain and snow greatly impeded bird watchers in their usual field trips and many observations were made from living room windows onto feeding stations in gardens and yards. In many cases this proved to be highly rewarding as birds were attracted to the readily available food supplies. Not only did they appear in much larger numbers, but the closer proximity revealed some species that might have escaped detection in the field. The effects of the weather on birdlife varied greatly. As could be expected, some species that usually winter in the Region disappeared or were greatly reduced. Others remained, but were forced to move to more favorable

locations where they amassed in great numbers. Paradoxically, a few species wintered far north of their normal range. Who would have expected a pair of Anna's Hummingbirds in the Seattle Winter Wonderland?

Pelagic Birds and Egrets—Loons and grebes were not greatly influenced by the weather, although Red-necked and Western Grebes dwindled in numbers by the end of December. Some 100 Western Grebes at the mouth of the Columbia River on Jan. 24 were far fewer than usual (*AB*). About 120 Pied-billed Grebes concentrated on Elk Lake, Victoria, B. C., in late December, no doubt the result of frozen ponds and lakes elsewhere (*DS*). At various times 1 to 4 Fulmars were seen off Clover Point, Victoria, in late December. A Black-footed Albatross, seldom found close to shore, followed the Oregon State University Research Vessel "Yaquina" for about one mile to the entrance of Yaquina Bay, Oreg., Jan 20 (*JS, WTT*). A single Common Egret was observed at the Game Commission Pond near Medford, Oreg., from mid-February to the end of March (*JH*).

Swans and Geese—A wild population of Mute Swans may develop on southern Vancouver Island. Non-pinnioned birds are flying around, visiting lakes and ponds in the area (*DS*). No Whistling Swans wintered in British Columbia and only a few were seen in Washington in early March; about the usual numbers remained in Oregon; 700 on Sauvie Island near Portland, Oreg., and 330 at Tongue Point near Astoria, Oreg. Twenty-one swans, believed to be Trumpeters, were north of Terrace in northern British Columbia on Dec. 1; and 8 spent all winter on the only unfrozen water in the district (*HV*). Good concentrations of Canada Geese were noted at Sauvie Island and Corvallis, Oreg. in February and March (*AB, JS, WTT*); but Black Brant were not as numerous as in other years, probably the result of two consecutive poor breeding seasons in Alaska (*AB*). Two adult *Emperor Geese* were discovered by

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David Stirling at Clover Point, Victoria, March 3, and many Victoria birders could study these rare visitors to the Pacific Coast before they left the same day. A few White-fronted Geese were at Corvallis in early winter, but none were seen again until the return of milder weather; 23 were at Sauvie Island on Feb. 28 (*AB*), 1 at Nehalem, Oreg., March 13, and 2 at McFadden Swamp, south of Corvallis, March 20 (*JS*). Snow Geese did not seem to mind the severe cold; 780 were counted on the Ladner, B. C. Christmas count, thousands stayed at LaConner Flats, Skagit Co., Wash. (*VEC*), 200 were seen at Richfield, Wash., Feb. 14 (*AB*), and 3500 were

estimated at Tsawwassen, near Ladner, March 7 (*FWD*). A new record for Jackson County, Oreg., was a Ross' Goose at Hoovers Lake on March 3, carefully studied by J. Hicks.

Ducks—In early December the usual large wintering populations of surface-feeding ducks were observed; but during and after the cold spell, when shallow waters were frozen and fields covered with snow, Pintails, Green-winged Teals, and Am. Widgeons diminished greatly in numbers and did not build up again until early March. However, less common species, often overlooked among the large masses, could be spotted more easily. Gadwalls were reported from Victoria, Burnaby, Seattle, Richfield, Willapa Bay, Wash. and Tillamook, Oreg. Four Cinnamon Teal at Corvallis, Dec. 29 and Feb. 21 (*AB, JS, WTI*), and 5 at the Game Commission Pond, Medford, Feb. 15 (*JH*), were out of the ordinary. The mounting reports of European Widgeons from all parts of the Region may be the result of closer observations rather than an increase of this species. Diving ducks, with some exceptions, seemed to cope much better with the adverse weather conditions. Scaups disappeared from the Oregon Coast after Christmas, but more than usual were seen around Seattle and Vancouver, B. C. The cold weather forced Barrow's Goldeneyes to disperse from their limited localities; they appeared at Iona Island near Vancouver, B. C.; Point Roberts, Wash., and Blaine, Wash., where they have been rarely seen before. Buffleheads remained numerous at all places, merely shifting to open waters when lakes and ponds froze over. More Harlequin Ducks were counted during the Victoria count than ever before. All scoter species thinned out noticeably in late December and early January around Vancouver, B. C. Common Scoters, considered rare on the Oregon coast, have been more frequently reported during the last two winters, with 20 at Yaquina Bay on Feb. 7 (*JS*). Ruddy Ducks were little affected by the cold, moving to open waters where necessary. There were 419 at Victoria on the Christmas count; 300 at Tillamook, Jan. 16 (*AB*); and 250 at Green Lake in Seattle, March 1 (*ES*). Hooded Mergansers were more prevalent this winter, all over, especially at Drayton Harbor near Blaine, Wash., where as many as 24 were seen on Jan. 24 (*LK*). The fall occurrence of Red-breasted Mergansers at the Game Commission Pond, Medford, appeared not to have been an isolated incident as a male and a female stayed there from Feb. 10 to mid-March (*WC*).

Hawks and Soras—Bird concentrations at feeding stations attracted Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks and they were therefore noticed more often than usual. The sighting of a dark-phase Rough-legged Hawk near Scio, Linn Co., Oreg., Dec. 29 (*WTI*) is noteworthy. Marsh Hawks turned up at Comox, B. C.; Willapa Bay,

South Jetty of the Columbia River, and Nehalem this winter. Birders at Pitt Meadows near Vancouver, B. C. had a special treat when they discovered a Gyrfalcon on Feb. 14 (*GES, et al.*). Equally exciting must have been the observations of a Prairie Falcon at the Willamette Refuge near Corvallis, Feb. 21 (*AB, JS, WTI*); and at Phoenix, Oreg., March 7 (*RB*). A Peregrine Falcon stayed in the vicinity of Victoria most of the winter. It was seen chasing pigeons in the down town area (*DS*). Fortunately it escaped the trapping efforts of local falconers. Two records of Soras in the Medford area, one on the Christmas count, the other on Feb. 18 (*RB, JH*), are of interest.

Shorebirds—As expected, many shorebirds left their regular wintering grounds because of unsuitable weather conditions. However, hardy birders were in for some surprises: 3 Semipalmated Plovers at Tillamook, Jan. 16 (*AB*); a Ruddy Turnstone near Ladner, Dec. 26 (photographed by *FWD*); and 3 Whimbrels on the Victoria count, all would be outstanding records even in normal winters. Surf-birds showed up in greater numbers at Victoria, on Whidbey Island, Wash., and at Nehalem. Black Turnstones decreased in the Vancouver and Bellingham areas. The floods in southern Oregon drove Spotted Sandpipers from their regular habitats in the Rogue River Valley. With fields and ocean beaches covered by ice and snow, Dunlins were forced to vacate the Ladner area for better locations to the south. The Ladner Christmas count showed a decrease of about 20,000 birds this year. But from numerous localities in the Willamette Valley, Sauvie Island, Tillamook, and Astoria higher than usual numbers were reported. Reversing this trend, dowitchers remained 1 north of their normal range; 1 at Drayton Harbor, Jan. 10 (*KB*); 25 near Astoria, Jan. 23; and 20 on Sauvie Island, Jan. 24 (*AB*). In addition, they were on Christmas counts at Victoria, Vancouver, and Corvallis.

Gulls and Alcids—Single Glaucous Gulls were seen along the Oregon coast and Sauvie Island from January to March. The decrease of Ring-billed and Mew Gulls around Ladner and Blaine is attributable again to snow-covered fields. Another puzzling occurrence was that of a Heermann's Gull on the Victoria Christmas count. The trip on board the "Yaquina" produced two Black-legged Kittiwakes off Newport, Oreg., Jan. 20 (*JS, WTI*). Common Murres were scarcer along the entire coast. An unusually large number of 23 Cassin's Anklets was counted by C. Guiget off Victoria on Dec. 27.

Owls—Snowy Owls invaded the Region as far south as Sauvie Island, where this species had not been seen for 15 years. In early January, 9 were seen near Ladner; one was so exhausted that it was picked up and found to be

heavily infested with parasites, but it recovered at Stanley Park Zoo. While none

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was seen in the northern parts after mid-January, one appeared on Sauvie Island on March 1 (H. Nehls, *vide AB*), again on March 19, and 2 were there on March 21 (*AB*). A rarely seen Spotted Owl was collected by Chris Maser in Mac Donald Forest, north of Corvallis, on Feb. 17. A Long-eared Owl arrived in Medford, Dec. 29, just after a heavy snowfall. This bird and nine Short-eared Owls seen around Medford, Jan. 2, were probably displaced from their more eastern range by heavy snow and flood waters (*RB*).

Hummingbirds and Woodpeckers—It is almost unbelievable that a hummingbird could survive one of the severest winters in Seattle; yet a male *Anna's Hummingbird* appeared at a feeder there on Nov. 30, and continued to visit it daily. Later on in the season it was joined by a female Anna's Hummingbird and both were regularly seen until Feb. 27. The feeder was located just outside a window permitting close observations and the taking of brilliant color photographs (*ES, et al.*). The normal range of this species does not extend northward beyond California and this hummingbird is not included in "*Birds of Washington State*" by S. G. Jewett, *et al.*, 1953. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported to be common in the Lebanon, Oreg. area and above average in numbers in Seattle and Vancouver, B. C.; Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers were scarcer than usual in the same locations.

Phoebes, Skylarks, Jays and Nuthatches—A very early migrant or a rare winter visitor was a Say's Phoebe at Lebanon on Feb. 26 (*WT*). December snows concentrated Skylarks in a few favorable places around Victoria. One day 700 were seen in one field (*DS*). Gray Jays were compelled to move to sea level; 1 to 3 were seen at Tillamook during the height of the bad weather. A rare White-breasted Nuthatch in Spanaway Park, south of Tacoma, Wash., March 14 (*VEC, DJ*) was noteworthy, especially as Red-breasted Nuthatches were conspicuous by their absence, with no records from anywhere in the Region.

Mockingbirds, Thrushes and Kinglets—For the second year, a Mockingbird spent the winter at Kirkland, east of Seattle (*VEC*); another was noticed in Seattle from Dec. 28 to Jan. 16 (*ES*), and a third at Ashland, Oreg. from Feb. 1 to 3 (W. W. Wells, *vide RB*). Robins were not detrimentally affected by snow or floods; they were plentiful nearly everywhere and 30,000 continued to roost near Medford although trees and shrubs were surrounded by high water (*RB*). Some

consider the past winter "The Year of the Varied Thrush." At Victoria during the cold spell unprecedented numbers took over bird feeders and apple orchards, often outnumbering Robins. Their new Christmas count record of 1210 was followed closely by Tillamook's 1064; while other areas had the usual or less than normal numbers. Golden-crowned Kinglets endured the cold in most areas, whereas Ruby-crowned Kinglets became extremely scarce everywhere and did not reappear until early March.

Waxwings, Shrikes, Vireos and Warblers—During late December and early January, 11 Bohemian Waxwings were seen at West Vancouver, B. C. Terry Wahl at Bellingham was entertained by a Northern Shrike from Jan. 10 to March 14. It not only sang regularly with much variety, but on one occasion even tried to intimidate a rabbit; it stooped at it, scolded it and attempted to chase it on foot. Hutton's Vireos were heard and seen during late winter on Whidbey Island and Kingston, Wash. (*GAC*), in Victoria (*ARD*), and in Seattle (*VEC*). In spite of the adverse weather, a good number of warblers remained throughout the winter (see Christmas counts). Five Myrtle and 1 Audubon's Warblers frequented a feeder at Seattle where they fed on suet daily from Jan. 8 to Feb. 13 (*ES*). On Dec. 13, just before the onset of the cold weather, a Palm Warbler was discovered among chickadees and Ruby-crowned Kinglets in a thicket at Wiser Lake, southeast of Lynden, Whatcom Co., Wash. It was squeaked to within 6 to 8 feet and all identification marks, including the tail-wagging were noted (*TW*). This species is of accidental occurrence west of the Rocky Mountains. There are only very few previous records.

House Sparrows and Fringillids—Three female House Sparrows at Terrace, B. C., Jan. 2, set somewhat of a record as they were the second sightings of this species in 14 years (*HV*). Evening Grosbeaks were again extremely scarce throughout this Region. Most contributors remarked on the scarcity or absence of Pine Siskins. Paradoxically, Am. Goldfinches were more numerous than in other years at Victoria, Vancouver, and especially in Seattle, where large flocks congregated. However, Portland and the Willamette Valley reported fewer than usual. Scattered records of single Slate-colored Juncos came from Medford, Corvallis, Seattle and Burnaby during January and February. A rare Tree Sparrow was identified by Elton Petri and confirmed by Dr. E. Stevenson at an Ashland feeder on Jan. 30 (*RB*). A Harris' Sparrow on Dec. 12 was the first at a Terrace feeder since Feb. 1952 (*HV*); and one was seen at Lebanon, March 12 and 13 (*WT, JS*). Very unusual was the wintering of numerous White-throated Sparrows at widely separated points, from Phoenix, Oreg. in the south to Comox, B. C. in

the north. The first was sighted on Nov. 17; the last, March 15. Four were banded by J. G. Strauch, Jr. More and more reports of this species have been received during the last few years. A greater number of Fox Sparrows compared with last year was noted at Portland and Vancouver, B. C. No Snow Buntings were reported.

Contributors.— (AB) Alan Baldrige; (BB) Bob and Elsie Boggs; (KB) Ken Boyce; (RB) **Ralph Browning** (Sectional Editor—southwest Oregon); (VEC) Violet E. Cannon; (WC) Walter Cavanaugh; (GAC) George A. Clark Jr.; (JBC) John B. Crowell Jr.; (ARD) A. R. Davidson; (FWD) Fred and Evelyn Dobson; (WJF) W. J. Fitzpatrick; (JH) Joseph Hicks; (LK) Lucile Kline; (TM) Thomas McCamant; (DS) **David and Ruth Stirling** (Sectional Editors—Vancouver Island); (ES) Eleanor Stopps; (GES) Gertrude E. Smith; (JS) Joseph G. Strauch, Jr.; (WT) William Thackaberry; (HV) Horace R. Vance; (TW) Terry Wahl.

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Spring Migration, 1965

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
/ **Thomas H. Rogers**

After a very cold, moisture-deficient March, April temperatures west of the Continental Divide in the Region were about normal, but precipitation was decidedly above normal at many points. At Spokane, Wash. it totaled 2.35 in. (normal, 0.91 in.) and at the Nat'l Bison Range,

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Moiese, Mont., 2.07 in. (normal, 1.08 in.). April at Missoula, Mont. was described as very wet; Baker, Ore. had heavier precipitation than normal. On the other hand, Vernon, B. C. had only 0.77 in. (normal, 0.82 in.). May, by contrast, was generally cooler and drier than normal west of the Divide. At Baker, Ore., temperatures ranged from 80° to 26° and only 0.14 in. of precipitation produced what Ann Ward considered the driest May in at least 11 years. However, stored water there was plentiful and the soil, saturated. Temperatures averaged 3.8° below normal at Spokane and 3° below normal at Vernon. Precipitation at these localities was only slightly subnormal but at the Nat'l Bison Range only 1 in. was recorded (normal, 1.78 in.). Subnormal temperatures and very deficient rainfall, about one-third of normal, occurred in the Missoula-Stevensville, Mont. area. In eastern Washington the migration appeared to be about on schedule. At Baker,

Oreg., birds appeared to make very brief stops rather than lingering as in previous years. At Missoula migrants were somewhat late in arriving, but few if any migrants lingered beyond their usual departure dates. A few spectacular bird concentrations were noted. That of White-crowned Sparrows in southern British Columbia, described later, appeared to be definitely weather-related. The part of the Region east of the Divide, around Bozeman, Three Forks and Ennis, Mont. is usually a world to itself in the Region and this spring was no exception. Spring there was generally mild, particularly during March and April, and a number of early arrivals were recorded for species which normally arrive during these months, and for the non-passerines. However, an intense storm hit the area between May 5 and 7, putting 17 in. of snow in the valley at Bozeman. Strong winds on the 16th and heavy rains on the 23rd curtailed observations, but Skaar's general impression was that the majority of the passerines that arrive in May were about a week behind schedule.

Loons, Grebes and Pelicans—A definite migrational movement of the Common Loon was observed at Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on April 9, when about 10 were seen (*WH*). At Frenchtown, 15 miles west of Missoula, Mont., where the species is unusual, a dead individual was found in a flooded gravel pit. A Horned Grebe in breeding plumage on April 29 was Hand's second Missoula record. A peak of 400 Eared Grebes was noted at Ennis, Mont. on May 9, after 26 had arrived at the early date of April 18. A large concentration of Western Grebes was at Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo, Mont. in May. At least 100 were seen in one rather restricted area on May 17 (*RLH, FLK*). Up to 150 White Pelicans were noted at Ennis, Mont. on May 9 and larger than usual numbers remained into June. West of the Continental Divide, where the species is much scarcer, 4 were seen at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. on May 5 and 6 on May 10. The only other record for the Region was of 5 at Ninepipe for 2 weeks during mid-May.

Cormorants, and Waterfowl—Double-crested Cormorants were noted only at McNary Refuge, 2 March 15, and at Ennis, 3 on the late date of 30. Large numbers of Whistling Swans were ported: 200 at Wilson Creek, Wash., March 21 (*WH*); 140 near Union, Ore. about March 1 (reported by a rancher), and a peak of about 800 at Ennis on April 4. At Ninepipe a small flock of the wintering swans remained until May 1. The peak there was 400 on March 31. Twenty-four Trumpeter Swans were noted on Feb. 7 at Ennis, where they may have wintered. About 160 swans, mostly Trumpeters, were there on March 14. The usual handful remained into summer. A major movement

involving 5000 Canada Geese was observed at Sprague Lake near Sprague, Wash. on March 28 (*S.A.S.*). At the same place about 300 Lesser Canadas were noted on April 3 along with a single White-fronted Goose (*WH*). One bird of the latter species also appeared at McNary Refuge, May 28. The bulk of the Snow Goose migration occurred from mid-March to mid. April. Large flocks passed over Missoula and stopped to feed and rest in the Bitterroot Valley near Stevensville (*RLH, CLB, GDeV*). Up to 500 at a time were noted near Union, Oreg. (reported by a rancher). A tremendous concentration of about 10,000 migrating Pintails was at Wilson Creek, Wash. on March 21 (*WH*). Thousands were at Ninepipe on March 31 (*RLH*). Am. Widgeon peaked at 6500 during the week of March 21-27 at McNary ' Refuge. *Three* reports were received of single **European Widgeons**: at Barnhartvale near Kamloops, B. C., April 23, (*AJE*); at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash., April 15, and at Ninepipe Refuge, the last week of March. A pair of Harlequin Ducks was seen on Whiteman Creek west of Vernon, B. C., April 18 (*BAS*) and 2 were noted in the southern Okanagan valley in British Columbia on May 21 (*FD & ED*). Common and Red-breasted Mergansers reached maxima of 400 and 10 respectively at Ninepipe. Ten or 15 of the latter species were at Banks Lake in Washington on April 3 (*S.A.S.*) and a peak of 500 was noted at Ennis, Mont. April 11.

Hawks and Eagles—One of the rare Ferruginous Hawks was identified near Wilson Creek, Grant Co., Wash. on March 21 and April 3 (*WH, S.A.S.*). Unusual numbers of Bald Eagles were noted on the mud flats at Ennis Lake, with a peak of 40 or more on April 4. One or 2 of the unusual Peregrine Falcon were seen at Ninepipe.

Gallinaceous Birds and Cranes—At least 50 Sage Grouse were observed on the strutting ground near Creston, Wash. on April 9 (*WH*) and again on April 30 (*S.A.S.*). An estimated 60 Blue Grouse were on the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese as were about 15 Ruffed Grouse, 100 Ring-necked Pheasant and 40 Chukars. A spectacular 2000 Sandhill Cranes were resting in a marsh near St. Andrews. Wash. on April 3 (*S.A.S.*) and 350 were still present on April 9 (*WH*). Perhaps this accounts for Ann Ward not seeing even a single crane this spring at Baker, Oreg. Single cranes seen in south-central British Columbia in late April were presumed to be the local race, migrants not having arrived yet (*AJE*).

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Shorebirds—Shorebirds were practically absent in the Bitterroot Valley around Stevensville, Mont. and in the Baker, Oreg. area. In the latter area a slow spring run-off and resulting low water levels apparently

contributed to the situation. The opposite situation, high water, prevented much use of the lake at Reardan, Wash. in April, but May found fairly good numbers there. A single Black-bellied Plover was noted there on May 29-30 (*JA, WH*). A Long-billed Curlew, unusual at Missoula, was present for 3 or 4 days in early May. A sighting of 6 Dunlins in mid-May added another species to the Ninepipe Refuge list. About 500 Long-billed Dowitchers were present at Turnbull Refuge, May 12. This coincided with 400 seen the next day at Reardan (*JA*). A small number of Marbled Godwits arrived on May 10 at Ninepipe, where records for the species are few. The most Northern Phalaropes reported were 45 at Reardan on May 22 (*JA, WH*). A single on the early date of May 2 at Three Forks, Mont. was the only report for east of the Continental Divide. The species was common at McNary Refuge May 16.

Gulls and Terns—Eighty-two yellow-dyed gulls, all Ring-billed except for 2 California, were released around May 1 near Fort Collins, Colo. by personnel of the Dept. of Forest Recreation and Wildlife Conservation, Colorado State University. Reports are requested on any yellow-dyed gulls seen, with time and place of sighting and an estimate of the number of normal-colored gulls associating with them. Distinctly out of the ordinary was the appearing of a Herring Gull, examined carefully by several observers, at *Ennis Lake* (*RAH, JR, DRS, PDS & SMS*). A few Franklin's Gulls, uncommon to rare in eastern Washington and Western Montana, were noted at Ninepipe and 2 were seen at Reardan, Wash. on May 27 (*JA*). Common Terns and presumably some Caspians also, were noted at Ninepipe. Three of the former species were seen at Three Forks, Mont. on May 2 (early) and 1 on the 9th. A Caspian Tern was noted at McNary Refuge, Burbank, Wash., on May 17.

Pigeons, Flycatchers and Swallows—Five Band-tailed Pigeons were seen in the Manning Provincial Park—Princeton area of southern British Columbia on May 21 (*FD & ED*). The Eastern Kingbird was reported as arriving at Ninepipe Refuge on May 1, a very early date. Elsewhere in the Region the species appeared at mid-May or later. A very early Western Kingbird was noted at Vernon, B. C. on April 17 (*BAS*). A Least Flycatcher, unusual in the Region, was identified at Stevensville, Mont. Traill's and Least Flycatchers were not noted at Bozeman until June 4 (late) and the Western Wood Pewee had not yet appeared there by June 5. Some 600 Violet-green Swallows were at Okanagan Landing, southern British Columbia, by March 13. They appeared to survive well the clear weather with temperatures as low as 8° but with sunny days that brought out insects. However, late March brought heavy overcast and subfreezing maximum temperatures and casualties among swallows

were believed to be heavy. Two birds at Okanagan Landing had balls of ice on their tails from dipping over the lake; one died soon after capture and the other seemed almost exhausted. Others sat in trees with ice on their tails. None were seen on March 29 or 30 over the lake, but small flocks were noted over the hillsides at Vernon. By contrast with arrival dates for eastern Washington and southern British Columbia, where Violet-green and Tree Swallows appear in March, these species appeared in April in western Montana. April 11 was an early date for the former species at Bozeman, with the major influx about April 25. McNary Refuge produced by far the earliest record for Rough-winged Swallows, March 18. For the Barn Swallow April 24 was a very early date for Missoula, Mont. First sighting of the species at Bozeman was on the same date (NM) but Vernon, B. C. had an April 11 record.

Wrens, Mimic Thrushes & Thrushes—A very early House Wren was recorded in the Bitterroot Valley near Stevensville, Mont. on April 27 (OF). For the second year the *Cañon Wren* was missed at the Madison River cliffs in south-central Montana, but a singing male was found at similar cliffs along the Jefferson River, Broadwater Co. on May 4. This is about 25 miles north of the old site, which was the known range limit at this longitude. One of the real highlights of the spring was a *Mockingbird*, positively identified at Missoula on May 21. This is apparently the first recorded for Montana. Nearly as unusual was a Sage Thrasher at Stevensville, on May 12. A sizeable nocturnal flight of Swainson's Thrushes occurred at Bozeman on May 23. Mountain Bluebirds appeared to be up from their relatively low numbers in the Spokane area (S.A.S.), the Bozeman area and around Stevensville, Mont. At the latter locality it was thought that perhaps the many nest boxes put up by garden clubs were a factor. Thirty-six were counted in south-central British Columbia between April 22 and May 1 (AJE).

Starlings—At Turnbull Refuge Starlings, more abundant this year, were removing wood shavings from nest boxes erected for Wood Ducks, but left the sawdust. Large numbers were concentrated near headquarters at the Bison Range, where a Starling was seen destroying the young of a Chipping Sparrow. At Spokane there were a number of reports of Starlings usurping other species' territories (S.A.S.).

Vireos and Warblers—Two *Hutton's Vireos* were noted near Oliver in the Okanagan Valley, B. C. on May 23 (FD & ED). This appears to represent an eastward extension of the species' range. A male Myrtle Warbler was seen at Vernon, B. C. on May 9. Two small migration waves were noted in a restricted area at Spokane, in Manito Park. The first, April 28, included, besides a few Orange-crowned, Nashville and

Audubon's Warblers, Calliope Hummingbirds, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Pine Siskins, Am. Goldfinch and Chipping Sparrows. The second, May 21, contained Yellow, MacGillivray's and Wilson's Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Warbling Vireos, Chipping Sparrows and single birds of a few other species.

Blackbirds—On the Swan Lake census near Vernon, B. C. on May 29, 504 adult male Yellow-headed Blackbirds were counted, outnumbering male Red-winged Blackbirds about 2 to 1. A major influx of

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Brewer's Blackbirds was noted at Bozeman between May 2 and 4. In the latter area the Common Grackle was reported as more common than ever, having progressed in the last 7 years from a relatively rare and local bird to one of the more common and widespread species.

Finches—Evening Grosbeaks were spotty in their appearance. Large flocks remained in the Bitterroot Valley during the spring period. In nearby Missoula the birds were frequent in small flocks. An influx occurred at Bozeman about April 26. Elsewhere the birds were reported as scarce or not mentioned. A singing male House Finch appeared at Missoula, May 24, and remained at least until June 3. Recent occurrences of this species in Montana prompted Hand to speculate that the species may be continuing its spread north and east from the Clearwater and Salmon River valleys in northern Idaho, where they have been abundant for many years. Three Black Rosy Finches were observed in a flock of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches north of Ennis, Mont. on May 9 (RAH, DRS, PDS & SMS). A major movement of Am. Goldfinch began on May 9 in the Bozeman area. Ten White-winged Crossbills were seen near Disdero Lake, between Banff, Alta. and Kamloops, B. C. on April 23.

Sparrows—Green-tailed Towhees were first seen in south-central Montana on May 9 (early) in the junipers near Ennis, along with other migrants (RAH, DRS, PDS & SMS). Lark Buntings again appeared west of their usual range, 2 males being seen south of *Three Forks*, Mont., May 30. Grasshopper Sparrows were noted in 2 localities near Spokane: south of Deep Creek, west of the city (S.A.S.) and near Felts Field, at the eastern edge of the city (PK & THR). Sage Sparrows were observed only near Marlin, Grant Co., Wash., April 3 (S.A.S.). A single, singing Clay-colored Sparrow was identified at close range at Missoula on May 24. The White-crowned Sparrow migration was impressive, to say the least, in some localities. Ann Ward had some 200 in her backyard on April 30 and a like number on May 4, when rain, snow and wind prevailed. The peak

around Spokane came at the same time, during the first week of May. Oddly, peak numbers farther north, in southern British Columbia, came a little earlier, in late April. The first large flocks arrived in the central Okanagan Valley about April 22. Erskine reported phenomenal numbers farther north, in the Cariboo region: 700 on April 28 between Williams Lake and Riske Creek, 210 on the 29th between Williams Lake and 105 Mile, and 380 on the 30th from Williams Lake to 150 Mile and north to McLeod Lake. Erskine speculated that the birds had started from the Columbia Basin on the 26th, probably with south or southeast winds, and had been grounded by the snow and rain that blanketed the area the following night. A few small flocks were still passing through the Oliver, B. C. area on the unusually late date of May 12. However, a few were still at Spokane on May 21 (S.A.S.) and a single bird was noted at Baker, Oreg. on May 27. At Missoula the species was common from April 22 to May 24. Single Golden-crowned Sparrows were noted at feeders at Spokane, April 30—May 4 (JA) and May 18 and 21 (Mrs. SOS). Four birds in a flock were seen at Blue Lake and 1 at Soap Lake, both in Grant County, Wash. on May 1 (WH).

Contributors (sectional editors, whose names are in boldface, should receive credit for observations in their respective areas unless otherwise stated).— (JA) James Acton; **M. Clair Aldous**, McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash.; **Eugene C. Barney**, Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash.; (CLB) **Carol L. Boyd**, Bitterroot Valley, Stevens. vine, Mont.; (GDeV) George DeVan; (FD & ED) Fred and Evelyn Dobson; (AJE) Anthony J. Erskine; (OF) Opal Foust; (JG) **James Grant**, British Columbia; (WH) Warren Hall; (RLH) **Ralph L. Hand**, Missoula, Mont. area; (RAH) R. A. Hays; (PK) Patrick Karle; (FLK) **Frank L. Kenney**, Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo, Mont.; **Joseph P. Mazzoni**, Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont.; (NM) Neil Martin; (JR) Jack Robinson; (THR) Thomas H. Rogers; (DRS) Donald R. Skaar; (PDS) **P. D. Skaar**, Bozeman—Three Forks—Ennis, • Mont. area; (SMS) Stephen M. Skaar; (S.A.S.) Spokane Audubon Society, eastern Washington, compiled by **Mrs. S. O. Stanley** (Mrs. SOS); (BAS) B. A. Sugden; **Ann Ward**, Baker, Oreg. area.

Spring Migration, 1965

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.
/ **Dr. Oliver K. Scott**

In many areas April and May were, for the most part, cold and wet. In many areas the spring extended into the middle of June. Owing to much snow on the higher

ground, many species stayed longer in the valleys than usual, such as a Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Durango, Colo. (OR). The moisture situation remains amazing. The Great Basin, normally almost a desert, has more water than in many years. At Ruby Lakes, Nev. the level is the highest in 52 years (CEL). Waterfowl are having an excellent breeding season—it should be one of the best on record. The migration of passerines was late and poor. Dennis Carter, at Arches National Monument, is quite effectively rewriting the status of the birds of southeastern Utah. Only the high lights will be recorded. He decries that phenomenon

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of western migration: the lack of waves of migration. We found out what happens when an 18-inch wet snowstorm interrupts migration as it did in central Wyoming on May 7-9. First, migration was stopped and a wave of migrants was noted. Secondly, the birds survived very well (OKS). Sparrows got under bushes and warblers found food, in spite of the snow, among the early leaves and tree blossoms.

Swans—Two nests of Trumpeters were found at Malheur, Oreg. (HFD) and 4 nests were found at Ruby Lakes, Nev. by the end of the period. One nest hatched 6 cygnets (CEL).

Ducks and Geese—At Malheur, where water conditions are excellent and back to the level of 1958, the peak of the waterfowl migration was in early April (HFD). The numbers were the same as five years ago: 100,000 Snow Geese; 215,000 ducks. Canada Geese were found nesting on May 29 at Bridgeport Reservoir, in the Great Basin near Mono Lake, Calif.—a far south breeding area for this bird (TC, Jr.).

Eagles—Twelve young Golden Eagles were banded this spring near Bear River Marshes, Utah. Study of these nests shows no sign of young lambs or other domestic animals (VTW). It is believed that there are more breeding Golden Eagles in central Wyoming than any other part of the West (OKS). More evidence is accumulating that these birds do not prey on young sheep, as has been alleged by some sheep-men and denied by others. As eagles do feed on carrion (there are always some dead sheep on a sheep range, particularly in spring) this problem is a difficult one for the casual observer.

Cranes—The *Whooping Crane* at Monte Vista Research Station, Colo. is doing well (CRB).

Shorebirds—A Whimbrel was seen near Logan, Utah, May 7 (DMF, et al.). This species has been recorded as casual in Utah but it may have been overlooked. It is more common to the east in Wyoming than the

published records would indicate. A Mountain Plover was collected near Rockville, Zion Park region, March 29 (RW). This bird has been seen only casually in Utah.

Owls—Another Flammulated Owl was banded at Springdale near Zion Canyon on April 7 (RW). Two were banded in the same area a year ago.

Swifts—There were 8 Black Swifts at Parowan Canyon in southern Utah, May 13 (SM). This seems to be the only place in this area where these birds are seen regularly and in numbers.

Hummingbirds—There are persistent reports of sight records of Rivoli's Hummingbirds from the Grand Junction area, Colo. This report is from Piñon Mesa (LEE). The species is considered to be only casual in Colorado.

Flycatchers—It is a real problem to identify migrating *Empidonax* flycatchers in the West. *Empidonax* are common in the West, and except for the Western, they look the same. As they usually do not sing on migration, bird-watchers are frustrated! Dennis Carter has found these birds particularly common and impossible to identify. The first Olive-sided Flycatcher at Rockville, Oreg., was on May 26 (CM) which is about as usual.

Warblers—There were very few unusual warblers recorded for April and May—perhaps because of late arrival. A Myrtle Warbler was seen in Arches Nat'l Monument, Utah, April 28 (DLC) and another nearby on May 11. While these are the first records for southeastern Utah the occurrence of this bird may not be unusual. Dennis Carter, now stationed at Arches Nat'l Monument, is a competent observer. Two Magnolia Warblers, rare spring migrants, were seen at Cheyenne, Wyo., May 27 (MEH). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was seen for the first time in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park by the assistant naturalist (PM).

Orioles—A Baltimore Oriole was seen at Ocean Lake, Wyo., May 23 (LM)—a first record for the Region. Orchard Orioles were again found at Beulah in the Black Hills of Wyoming, May 30 (OKS). This is the only area in the state where they have been seen.

Grosbeaks—A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was killed flying into a window at Arches Nat'l Monument, May 26 (DLC). This is the second specimen and 4th record for Utah. The first specimen was collected at Springdale near Zion Park on May 3 (RW). Evening Grosbeaks reappeared again. At Durango they were seen on April 26, but the spring flight was not as good as usual (OR).

Buntings—Lark Buntings were seen on Highway 6 in Utah near the Colorado-Utah border on May 12 (DLC). This is the first record for southeastern Utah.

Sparrows—A Swamp Sparrow was seen in Winter Canyon, Arches Nat'l Monument, May 19 (DLC). This bird is believed to be casual in Utah. A Field Sparrow was seen in Cheyenne, Wyo., April 16 (MEH). This sparrow is rarely seen in southeastern Wyoming. A Harris' Sparrow at Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park stayed at a feeder all winter and into late April (MKP).

Contributors.—(CRB), Charles R. Bryant; (DLC), Dennis L. Carter; (FC), Jr., Theodore Chase, Jr.; (HFD), Harold F. Duebbert; (DMF), Dennis M. Forsythe; (LEE), Lucy E. Ela; (MEH), May E. Hanesworth; (CEL), C. E. Larochelle; (CM), Carol MacIves; (LM), Louis Moos; (PM), Pat Murphy; (SM), Stewart Murie; (MKP), Merlin K. Potts; (OR), Oppie Reames; (OKS), Oliver K. Scott; (RW), Roland Wauer; (VTW), Vanez T. Wilson.

Spring Migration, 1965

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION
/ Werner and Hilde Hesse

After a dry and warm March, the weather in April and May returned to practically normal for most of the Region. It was cool, cloudy and the expected amount of rain fell. There was a short cold spell with some snow from May 5 to 8 in northern Washington, but in general this spring must be regarded as average. During the period from May 16 to 23, the coast of Oregon and southern Washington experienced unusually strong west and southwest winds which were responsible for onshore and inshore drifts of pelagic birds that generally migrate over the open ocean. Exceptional numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes turned up at the mouth of the Columbia River and in the Victoria, B. C. area. Even more spectacular was the dispersal of Northern Phalaropes. Unprecedented numbers were seen along the shores and many were forced over the Coast Range into the Willamette Valley. A great influx of warblers, Bullock's Orioles and flycatchers, in that order, was noticed in Jackson County, Oreg., at the end of April and the beginning of May. Warblers again were considered more abundant around Lebanon between May 2 and 9. Besides these exceptions, this spring did not produce any really outstanding observations. The northward progress of birds in almost all parts of the Region was normal and as could be anticipated.

Loons, Grebes, Shearwaters and Petrels—Arctic Loons became very numerous in the Strait of Georgia, B. C., starting May 1; a gathering of 600 was noted in

Active Pass on May 5 (*DS*). At Seal Rock, south of Newport, Oreg., Red-throated Loons migrated north at a rate of 400 per hour on May 8 (*WT*). A good concentration of 200 Red-necked Grebes near Victoria, B. C. was observed on April 25 (*DS*). The peak of the Western Grebe migration occurred during the first week of May, when large numbers were reported from the mouth of the Columbia River; Bellingham and Birch Bay, Wash.; also Iona, near Vancouver, B. C. Sooty Shearwaters returned by May 7; several hundred were seen off the north jetty of the Columbia (*AB*). Strong winds brought single Fork-tailed Petrels close to shore near the mouth of the Columbia on May 15 and 23 (*AB*).

Waterfowl—Nearly all of the Whistling Swans wintering in Oregon had left by the end of March; only 3 were seen on Whidbey Island, Wash., April 4 (*GAC*); and 1 juvenile at Iona, April 8 and 10 (*FWD*, *WHH*). The only Trumpeter Swans were near Terrace, northern British Columbia, March 10 and April 2 (*HV*). Canada Goose migration extended over a prolonged period; the first flock arrived at Terrace on March 4 (*HV*); while 3000 were still at Willapa Bay, Wash., May 7; and 50 at the mouth of the Columbia, May 21 (*AB*, *JBC*, *RF*). Black Brant followed the normal pattern, showing signs of departure from late April until the middle of May; however, 200 were still at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., May 25 (*JS*). A large flock of 250 White-fronted Geese flew in a northwesterly direction over Muddy Creek Refuge, near Corvallis, Oreg., April 25 (*JS*); a heavy migration was witnessed along the Oregon coast, May 8 and 9 (*AB*); and 400 were at

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Willapa Bay, May 15; the same day the first 8 arrived at Terrace. The migration of all ducks proceeded normally.

Raptors—Turkey Vultures returned early to Oregon; the first arrived at McFadden Swamp, south of Corvallis, Feb. 17 (*RM*); and Rogue River Valley, Jackson Co., Oreg., as well as Lebanon, Linn Co., Oreg., on Feb. 23. They were not noted in British Columbia until April 1 at Denman Island, near Comox, Vancouver Island; and April 11 at Victoria. Two records of Goshawks at Larson Creek, near Medford, Oreg. on April 9 (*RB*) and May 30 (*FS*) are noteworthy. Rough-legged Hawks remained unusually late in the Vancouver area; one was at Point Roberts, April 10 (*KB*), and one at Pitt Meadows, May 2 (*GES*). Several observers feel that Ospreys are becoming scarce; only a few birds were reported this spring. A Prairie Falcon was seen near White City, Oreg., May 30 (*RB*), and a Peregrine Falcon near Newport Bay, May 8 (*WT*).

Cranes and Coots—Single Sandhill Cranes appeared by the end of March at Pitt Meadows and Lebanon; the majority migrated in the first half of April; 60 were seen at Sauvie Island, near Portland, Oreg., April 5 (*AB*); and 75 east of Ashland, Oreg., April 14 (Bob Maben, *vide RB*). Betsy Strauch must have had an exciting experience when she watched a flock of 200 flying over her home at Corvallis on April 15. Am. Coots left their wintering areas during the latter part of April and by May 16 only a few remained on Lake Washington in Seattle (*ES*).

Plovers and Sandpipers—Large numbers of Semipalmated Plovers were noted; 150 at Tillamook, Oreg., May 2; 150 at Leadbetter Point, Willapa Bay, Wash., May 7; and 100 were still there, May 15 (*AB*, *JBC*, *RF*). Two Am. Golden Plovers were at Yaquina Bay, May 9 (*RM*). Ruddy Turnstones made an appearance along the coast from Yaquina Bay to Victoria between May 9 and 16, with 40 counted at Willapa Bay. The scarcity of Black Turnstones continued into spring; although 60 were seen in North Vancouver, April 4 (*GES*), Bellingham reported only 20 on April 25 (*TW*), and none were at Denman Island, where they have been regular in previous years (*WJF*). The highest number of Whimbrels was 30 at Willapa Bay, May 7 (*AB*); and at Drayton Harbor, near Blaine, Wash., 2 were still present on May 25 (*LK*). A rare Solitary Sandpiper was well observed at Victoria, April 24 to 26 by Ralph Fryer. 3 Willets were discovered at Hoover's Lakes, Jackson Co., Oreg., on April 20 (*JH*). High winds in the middle of May no doubt caused the concentration of 80 Knots at Willapa Bay and Ilwaco, Wash., May 16. Baird's Sandpipers were found at Hoover's Lakes, May 5 (*JH*); and Iona, May 8 (*FWD*). Over 20,000 Dunlins provided a spectacular sight on April 3, when they crowded together in a relatively small area at Canoe Pass, near Ladner, B. C., waiting for the tide to recede. Hundreds of dowitchers migrated north from Willapa Bay on April 25 (*VEC*).

Phalaropes, Gulls, Jaegers and Terns—The unusual movement of Northern Phalaropes was first noticed at Seal Rock on May 8, where thousands concentrated 500 yards offshore (*WT*); and 800 appeared at Willapa Bay and the mouth of the Columbia on May 15 (*AB*, *JBC*, *RP*). The following day flocks from 25 to 250 could be observed far inland at Fern Ridge Reservoir, near Eugene, Oreg.; McFadden Swamp (*AB*, *JS*, *WT*); Lake Oswego, near Portland (K. Batchelder, *vide AB*); and almost anywhere in the sheltered waters of southern Vancouver Island (*DS*). One straggler even reached Ashland and stayed until May 21 (*JH*, *JR*, *FS*). On May 23, 300 were still around the mouth of the Columbia (*AB*). Five pale-phased Parasitic Jaegers were also at the north jetty of the Columbia on May 16 (*AB*); and a Glaucous-winged Gull at Fern Ridge Reservoir

on that day no doubt was drifted to that unusual inland location by the strong winds. The same disturbance must have been responsible for exceptional numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes; flocks up to 500, mostly immature, appeared close to shore at the Columbia and Long Beach, Wash., from May 7 to 21 (*AB, JBC, RF*); during the same period an unusual inshore flight took place around Victoria (*DS*). Arctic and Common Terns, seldom plentiful in spring, were numerous during May at the mouth of the Columbia (*AB*) and at Tsawassen, near Ladner, B. C. (*DS*).

Owls, Swifts and Hummingbirds—A surprisingly late date for a Snowy Owl was April 6, when Dr. N. Fletcher saw one near his home at Comox (*WJP*). Black Swifts arrived at Vancouver on May 26 (*FWD*). Literally thousands of Vaux's Swifts seemed to be rising out of the woodlands near Lebanon after the clearing of a storm on April 24 (*WT*). Mrs. J. Campbell watched 10 Black-chinned Hummingbirds, at least 4 males, buzzing in and out of a blooming cherry tree on Saturna Island, Strait of Georgia, on April 18. A scarce male Anna's Hummingbird was studied at Medford on May 10 (*JH*). The first Rufous Hummingbird was reported from Bellingham, March 20 (*TW*). A remarkable number of Calliope Hummingbirds, 20 to 25, arrived at Medford on April 30 (*RB, JH, FS*).

Flycatchers and Swallows—March 29 was an early date for a Black Phoebe to return to Rush, Oreg. (Mrs. N. Suttel, *vide RB*). Traill's Flycatchers reached Medford by April 28; but were not noted in Seattle and farther north until one month later. Western Flycatchers were first seen on May 1 at such widely separated points as Camas Mountain State Park, southwestern Oregon and Point Roberts, northwestern Washington. While the Medford area reported Olive-sided Flycatchers one month late (none until May 30—*RB*), they arrived right on schedule (mid-May) at Spanaway Park, near Tacoma, Wash. (*ES*), and at Bellingham (*TW*). The unusual warm weather at the beginning of March must account for earlier returns of Violet-green Swallows at Corvallis, Oreg., Ferndale, Wash. and the Vancouver area, which they reached on March 5 and 6. Cliff Swallows were first noted on April 17 at three locations: McFadden Swamp, Drayton Harbor and West Vancouver. All other swallows arrived on or about their expected dates.

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Wrentits, Thrushes, Kinglets and Shrikes—Two Wrentits found in Fort Stevens State Park, near Astoria, Oreg., May 23, were probably in their most northern locality on the Oregon coast (*AB*). There were few reports of Hermit Thrushes; 12 were seen at Point Roberts, April 25 (*GAP*); 2 were there on May 1 (*KB*);

and singles at Seattle (*GAC*) and Drayton Harbor (*WHH*) on May 2. Three Veery records from southwestern Oregon are interesting; Talent, May 6 (Mrs. G. Hartley, *vide RB*); Shady Cove, north of Medford, May 28-29 (*JH*); and Ashland also late May (*JR*). A heavy movement of Ruby-crowned Kinglets occurred near Lebanon on April 18 (*WT*). A late Northern Shrike was at Point Roberts, April 10 (*KB*).

Vireos and Warblers—Solitary Vireos were already at Denman Island on April 19 (*WJF*) and Bellingham, April 22 (*TW*); whereas they were not noted in the Ashland area until April 23 (*RB, FS*). An early Red-eyed Vireo sang at Vancouver on May 8 (*FWD*). Browning considers the first Warbling Vireo near Medford on May 9 two weeks late; yet Bellingham and Seattle report this species as of May 8; and they were at Denman Island from May 11 on. Nashville Warblers were late this year at Ashland, but when they arrived on April 20, they came in high numbers (*RB, FS*). Migration of Myrtle Warblers took place from April 11, east of Lake Washington (Seattle) to May 2 at Pitt Meadows. The northward flight of Black-throated Gray Warblers proceeded in orderly fashion, first sightings near Medford, April 28; Seattle, April 29; Drayton Harbor, May 2. The same can be said for Townsend's Warblers; Ashland, April 30; Point Roberts, May 1; and Terrace, May 10. Yellow-breasted Chats returned to Hoover's Lakes on May 5 (*JH*). The first Wilson's Warbler was reported from McFadden Swamp on April 22 (*JS*).

Blackbirds—More Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported from more locations than in previous years; they were seen from May 8 to June 6 at Hoover's Lakes; Game Commission Pond, near Medford; Brownsville, Oreg.; Terrell Lake, near Ferndale, Wash.; and around Vancouver. A feeder in Bellingham was invaded by 50 Brown-headed Cowbirds on May 10, the highest number reported.

Grosbeaks, Siskins and Towhees—Evening Grosbeaks continue to be very scarce and all observers feel they have diminished considerably, but flocks of from 5 to 20 were in the Ashland area during late April and early May and a good number were seen in a Seattle garden on May 25-26. Pine Siskins, too, did not return in their usual numbers, with one exception, a good migration of this species together with Am. Goldfinches was observed at Lebanon on April 30 (*WT*). Two unusual records came from east of Ashland; a Pine Grosbeak at Green Springs on May 30 (Mr. & Mrs. T. Conway, *vide RB*); and Green-tailed Towhees at Larson Creek, May 3. The latter as far as known is the first record from the foothills of the west slope of the Cascades (*RB*).

Sparrows—The migration of Savannah Sparrows appeared to be normal, except their number was greatly reduced this year at Hoover's Lakes. One of the most outstanding observations this spring was a Rufous-crowned Sparrow near Tou Velle State Park, north of White City, Oreg., on May 28. The bird was well seen at close range by *JH* and must be considered an accidental as their normal range does not extend north from central California and this species is not listed by Gabrielson and Jewett in "Birds of Oregon" (1940). Chipping Sparrows arrived first at Lebanon on April 2, with subsequent records farther north. One Golden-crowned Sparrow loitered in Seattle until May 25 (*VEC*). A cattle feeding ground at Kleena Kleene, near Tweedsmuir Park, B. C. provided a stop-over place for migrating Lapland Longspurs; 7 arrived on March 17; 35 were there on March 24; the peak of 70 on March 31; 20 on April 3; and they had disappeared by April 7 (*AP*). The only other record in the Region was of 4 in dunes at Leadbetter Point, May 7; these included one adult male in breeding plumage (*AB*).

Contributors.—(*AB*) Alan Baldrige; (*KB*) Ken Boyce; (*RB*) Ralph Browning (Sectional Editor – southwest Oregon); (*VEC*) Violet E. Cannon; (*GAC*) George A. Clark, Jr. (*JBC*) John B. Crowell, Jr.; (*ARD*) A. R. Davidson; (*FWD*) Fred and Evelyn Dobson; (*RF*) Roy Fisk; (*WJF*) W. J. Fitzpatrick; (*JH*) Joseph Hicks; (*LK*) Lucile Kline; (*TM*) Thomas McCamant; (*RM*) Ralph Moldenhauer; (*AP*) Adrian Paul; (*GAP*) Allen Paynter; (*JR*) Jack Reynolds; (*GES*) Gertrude E. Smith; (*DS*) David and Ruth Stirling (Sectional Editors—Vancouver Island); (*ES*) **Eleanor Stopps**; (*JS*) **Joseph G. Strauch, Jr.**; (*FS*) **Frank Sturges**; (*WT*) **William Thackaberry**; (*HV*) **Horace R. Vance**; (*TW*) Terry Wahl.

The Nesting Season, 1965

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN —
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**
/ **Thomas H. Rogers**

Diversity of weather among the several sections of this large Region was the situation during the summer period. June brought approximately normal temperatures to the western section, from southern British Columbia to eastern Oregon. Except in the latter section, precipitation was deficient at reporting localities; Spokane, Wash. received only half the usual amount and low rainfall at Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash. brought extremely dry upland conditions through the summer, although marsh conditions were good. July brought somewhat cooler than normal conditions to the Oregon section and, late in the month, fairly heavy rains in that area. At Spokane

hot, dry weather interrupted rather regularly by thunderstorms, produced average overall temperatures, but about twice the expected amount of moisture. The Vernon, B. C. area continued dry and somewhat warmer than normal. Western Montana, on the other hand, experienced a cool, wet summer. Henry described June as the coldest on record for the Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge area near Charlo, Mont., where temperatures varied from 34° to 96°, and in July from 35° to 94°. At the nearby Nat'l Bison Range at Moiese rainfall for June and July totaled 3.33 in., about 1 inch more than normal. Missoula, Mont. had about twice normal precipitation in July and the mercury failed to reach 90° for the first time since records have been kept there. In south-central Montana, however, except for heavy May precipitation contributing to later run-off, the weather was characterized as unremarkable. Observed effects of the Region's weather are mentioned later in this report.

Loons, Grebes—A few Common Loons were noted at Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo, Mont. and 1 was seen on McDonald Lake in the Mission Range about 5 miles northeast of St. Ignatius, Mont. (*JPM* & *VM*). Twenty-four nests of the Red-necked Grebe were counted on Swan Lake near Vernon, B. C. A colony of about 50 nests of Eared Grebes was found at Reardan, Wash. on June 9 (*WH*). The Western Grebe was numerous at Ninepipe Refuge, where at least 10 broods were seen.

Pelicans, Cormorants, Herons—A number of flocks of White Pelicans, 1 with 26 birds, passed through McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. The species was noted around Canyon Ferry near Townsend, Mont. (*CLB*) and numbers up to 600 were seen at Ennis Lake, Madison Co., Mont. all summer. Lowering of the water level there during repair work on the dam exposed extensive mud flats which attracted large numbers of this and certain other species. Flying young pelicans were seen on July 11 and it was considered possible the species bred there. A few Double-crested Cormorants were seen at McNary and Ninepipe Refuges and at Ennis Lake and Three Forks, Mont. The single bird at Ennis Lake was an immature one, unusual there this time of year (July 4 & 11). Black-crowned Night Herons were common feeders at Columbia Refuge, but no nesting activity was noted.

Waterfowl—A pair of Trumpeter Swans near Harrison, Mont. brought off 3 cygnets, tiny on July 4 and one-third grown on Aug. 1. Few young ducks were observed in the Baker, Oreg. area but nesting success for waterfowl was considered high at the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. (*JPM*) and nesting at Ninepipe Refuge was the highest on record. At the latter locality Mallards and Blue-winged Teal led in young produced

and some 200 young Ring-necked Ducks were hatched, a record for the refuge. Two broods of Wood Ducks were noted there and the species was noted for the first time as a breeder at the Bison Range (*WA*). The population of this species ran as high as 35 at McNary Refuge during the period. High on the list of rarities for the season was a *Fulvous Tree Duck*, observed closely at Haystack Reservoir 12-15 miles south of Madras, Oreg. on May 24 (*TMc & JH*). Two broods of the Common Goldeneye were noted at Ninepipe Refuge and up to 10 Red-breasted Mergansers were present there. A pair of Buffleheads was present at Lenore Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on June 17 (*WH*) and a female was at Ennis Lake on July 4.

Hawks & Eagles—A pair of Rough-legged Hawks was seen near Stevensville, Mont. on Aug. 1 (*GDeV*). The Ferruginous Hawk was reported only near Logan, Mont., July 2. The Golden Eagle was noted in the Bozeman, Mont. area, near Sullivan Lake, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (*WH*); near Stevensville, Mont. (4) (*GDeV*) and at the Bison Range, where up to 5 were seen and an immature bird on the wing was noted on July 19 (*WA*). A Peregrine Falcon was seen over Bozeman on June 27.

Gallinaceous Birds—Several broods of Blue Grouse were observed on the wooded ridges at the Bison Range, the earliest on July 20 (*WA & JPM*).

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Ruffed Grouse were up in numbers at Vernon, B. C., correlating with the warm, dry season. Reports on Ring-necked Pheasants varied from "abundant" at McNary Refuge through good production at Columbia and Ninepipe Refuges to "poor hatch—due to cold, wet weather" at Stevensville, Mont. The species has been declining at the latter locality for the past 5 years (*GDeV*). The Washington Dept. of Game expects the pheasant population in eastern Washington to be only average, as hard June rains destroyed many broods. The department noted that Chukar numbers in Whitman County were up but Gray Partridge numbers were poor in the eastern portion of the state (*Spokane Chronicle*, Aug. 9, 1965). No Chukars were seen on the Bison Range. Introduced there in 1953 (120 birds), the species reached a peak of about 500 in 1961 and then declined, with 50 birds estimated there in 1964 (*JPM*). By contrast, Gray Partridges there appeared enjoying good success (*JPM*, Kraft & Krantz). At least 30 broods of Turkeys, averaging 7 per brood, were present in the Colville valley and along Lake Roosevelt in northeastern Washington (Washington Dept. of Game, *Spokane Chronicle*, Aug. 9, 1965). The species was sighted on the Twin Lakes trail in the Elkhorn

Mountains west of Baker, Oreg. Birds were released in that area last year by the Oregon Game Commission.

Cranes, Rails & Shorebirds—As many as 9 Sand-hill Cranes fed regularly on the mud flats at Ennis Lake during the period. Several observations were made of adult and young Virginia Rails at Reardan, Wash. (*JA*, *WH*). A concentration of some 200 Killdeers was noted at the lake at Reardan in late July and early August (*WH*). The first recorded nest for Washington of the Upland Plover was found near Newman Lake, Spokane Co. on June 12. The nest held 4 eggs under incubation (*WH*). In addition to the usual sprinkling of early migrant shorebirds, some species appeared in unusual numbers. Seven or 8 Solitary Sandpipers were at Reardan on the mud flats on Aug. 3 (*WH*) and 6 were seen at Missoula on Aug. 8. By July 25 60 "peep" sandpipers were at Ennis Lake. At O'Sullivan Dam, Grant Co., Wash. some 70 Western Sandpipers were observed on July 10 (*JA*). Unusual was the presence of several Am. Avocets at Ennis Lake all summer. A pair with 4 small young on July 11 was apparently the first proof of the species' breeding in that area. A Northern Phalarope at Reardan, Wash. on July 18 was in breeding plumage, as was 1 of 2 there on July 31 (*S.A.S.*).

Gulls and Terns—Franklin's Gull was especially numerous at Ennis Lake, undoubtedly because of the extensive mud flats. Up to 1000 were seen. Young of the year were seen on July 25 and it is believed some may have bred in the area. Two of this species at Ninepipe Refuge were believed to have nested there. Single adult Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at Reardan, Wash. on July 5 and 24 (*JA*, *WH*) and an immature bird was at Willow Lake, Spokane Co., Wash. on Aug. 4 (*PK & THR*). The Common Tern was regular through the summer period at Ennis Lake in Montana and was seen infrequently at Ninepipe Refuge. Two adults were sighted on June 9 at Reardan, where they are rarely seen in any plumage (*WH*). Forster's Tern was commonly seen at Ninepipe Refuge, where they nested on Tern Island. One was at Ennis Lake on June 27; the species is unusual there in summer. Caspian Terns were common summer residents at Columbia Refuge.

Doves & Owls—Mourning Doves appeared to be up to their usual abundance. At Stevensville, Mont. about 300 were noted on a small area (*GDeV*). At the Bison Range the peak summer population was estimated at 400-600 (*JPM*). The young in one nest that was kept under surveillance were destroyed by Starlings (*WA*). Two records, of an adult and an immature Screech Owl, were obtained at Bozeman, where the species is seldom reported (*PDS*, *CVD*). The Great Horned Owl was noted at Bozeman, Stevensville, Missoula, Ninepipe, the Bison Range, Vernon, B. C. and

Spokane. A Barred Owl was seen on the evening of June 17 at Greenbush Lake near Vernon. Four or 5 Long-eared Owls near St. Andrews, Douglas Co., Wash. on June 17 probably were the family group from a nest located there (WH). Burrowing Owls, seldom reported in the Region, were noted near Moses Lake, Wash. (S.A.S.), McNary Refuge and Belgrade, Mont. At least 3 were at the latter spot, living in improved badger holes, July 21. A very few Short-eared Owls were noted at McNary Refuge, the Bison Range and Ninepipe.

Goatsuckers and Swifts—Two Poor-wills were seen and another heard on the evening of July 13 at Dartford, a few miles north of Spokane and are thought to nest there (S.A.S.). Only small numbers of Common Nighthawks were noted, except for a concentration of "hundreds" feeding low over a toadflax area north of Spokane, July 5 (S.A.S.). The Black Swift was again found nesting in the locality near Vernon, B. C. where it nested last year. A notable flock of 20 Vaux's Swifts was observed at the Bison Range on July 19 (WA).

Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers—Few hummingbirds were reported, except that the Rufous and Calliope became common in early August at Missoula. A male Black-chinned Hummingbird frequented the garden of Mr. and Mrs. N. Beaven at Lavington, 8 miles east of Vernon, B. C. from mid-May until July 17. Lewis' Woodpecker was noted as scarcer than usual in the northern part of its range, in the vicinity of Vernon. The first authentic record for British Columbia of a *Red-headed Woodpecker* was of a single bird near Lavington, July 11 to 13. The most northerly sighting of a White-headed Woodpecker for many years was obtained near Carr's Landing, Okanagan Lake, July 1 (Mr. & Mrs. NB). The Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was seen on Eagle Creek in the Baker, Oreg. area and the Northern was found with young in the nest near Vernon at 2900 ft. elevation, June 25, and along the Mt. Salmo road, Pend Oreille Co., Wash., June 19 (S.A.S.). The species also was noted at 8500 ft. in the Bitterroot Mountains of western Montana (MG). Several active nests of the Western Kingbird, 1 with the eggs being destroyed by Starlings, were found at the Bison Range (WA & JPM). An *Ash-throated Flycatcher*,

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rare in the Region, was seen on the Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash. on July 10 (JA) and 2 or 3 were seen near possible nest cavities along Crab Creek, Grant Co., Wash. (LLaF & WH). A nest of the Western Flycatcher, with 4 young almost fledged, was found in a rock crevice over a small stream near Enderby, B. C. on July 18.

Larks, Swallows, Jays—Housing development south of Missoula is gradually reducing the breeding habitat of the Horned Lark there. Where at least 15 or 20 pairs formerly nested, probably only 2 or 3 pairs now breed. Violet-green Swallows apparently no longer breed in the Missoula area although a few individuals were noted during the summer. However, Cliff Swallows there are again nesting under the Higgins Ave. bridge after construction of the new bridge. A gathering of 100-150 Common Ravens was observed in Virtue Flat near Baker, Oreg. on July 9. The Common Crow population at the Bison Range was believed to be increasing (WA & WB). Seven or 8 Clark's Nutcrackers, perhaps a family group, were seen at Spring Creek Canyon, at the low elevation of about 2000 ft., a few miles north of Reardan, Wash., July 24 (WH).

Mimic Thrushes, Thrushes—Very unusual was a Sage Thrasher in a sage brush area near *Stevensville, Mont.* The species was seen feeding young out of the nest at Baker, Oreg. on July 9. Many Veeries were observed during early July along Ochoco Creek, Ochoco Nat'l Forest, about 25 miles east of Prineville, Oreg. In this area, where little is known of the species' distribution, their nesting density was estimated at 30-40 pairs per mile (JGS, Jr.). In the Spokane area Western Bluebirds and their broods were seen frequently and Mountain Bluebirds somewhat less commonly. Bird houses put up for the latter species around Stevensville succeeded in attracting many pairs, especially along the foothills. Townsend's Solitaire was much more abundant than last year in the Vernon, B. C. area; Grant recorded 24 nests during the period. The species apparently nested also in greater numbers in the Spokane, Wash. area (WH).

Pipits, Starlings and Warblers—At least 3 singing male Sprague's Pipits were present east of *Manhattan, Mont.* from July 21 to Aug. 11. Starlings, abundant at the Bison Range, are believed by longtime residents of refuge headquarters to be increasing there each year. Along with this, Mountain Bluebirds are believed to have decreased at about the same rate, but the relation between these two events is unknown (JPM). Northern Waterthrushes were noted in Hepburn State Park and along the St. Jo River near St. Manes, Idaho, where they have been known to nest for several years (S.A.S.). A nest of the *Yellow-breasted Chat* found at Lavington, B. C. contained 3 chat eggs and 3 cowbird eggs. This is the most northerly breeding record for the chat in British Columbia. An Am. Redstart nest at the same locality also had been parasitized by a cowbird and was deserted.

Blackbirds—Bobolinks appeared to be scarcer in the southern British Columbia area around Vernon, in the vicinity of Bozeman and Stevensville, Mont. A new area for Bobolinks, at the west end of Diamond Lake, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. where both sexes were seen, was reported by a landowner (*LLaF*). The Brown-headed Cowbird has been noted during the last few years as increasingly common in some localities of the Region. Jim Grant had some pertinent comments on the situation: "More numerous than usual. Following hosts recorded locally: Townsend's Solitaire, Veery (2 nests), Am. Redstart (2 nests), Traill's Flycatcher (4 nests), Chipping Sparrow (6 nests), chat, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow Warbler. A junco nest with parent incubating on July 2 contained 2 junco eggs and 8 (eight) cowbird eggs. My impression is that cowbird population is near the saturation level in this agricultural area; in an unprecedented number of cases, nests I was watching being built were parasitized and deserted without my ever seeing an egg of the host." An Oregon Junco nest near Liberty Lake, Wash. contained 2 young cowbirds and 3 juncos, all about 2/3 grown; final outcome of the nest was unknown (*PK* & *THR*). A fledged young cowbird was being fed by an *Empidonax*; perhaps a Dusky, flycatcher near Spokane (*PK* & *THR*). A Lazuli Bunting was seen feeding a young cowbird at Baker, Oreg.

Finches—Three pairs of Evening Grosbeaks frequented a feeding station daily at Spokane and brought young with them on June 8. This is the first evidence of nesting at this low elevation, about 1600 ft. (*S.A.S.*). The species was observed each month in areas of conifers at Stevensville, Mont., where many flocks have been noted for the last 9 months. Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were noted in the Bitterroot Mountains of western Montana at the 8500 ft. level (*MG*). Pine Siskins and Am. Goldfinches seemed scarcer than usual at Missoula, Mont. Red Crossbills were common during the summer in the Spokane area (*WH*, *PK* & *THR*, *S.A.S.*) and in the Stevensville area. The species was noted once in Bozeman (20 on June 27). A flock of about 30 White-winged Crossbills was seen high in the Bridget Mountains northeast of Bozeman, June 6 (*BM*).

Sparrows—A few Lark Buntings again appeared in the Region. A single young bird was seen on July 23 at *Missoula* in the same locality where 10 were seen in June, 1964. This raised the suspicion of breeding in the area, although no others were seen. In south-central Montana a male was seen near *Belgrade* on June 9 and 2 males and a female near *Manhattan* on June 13. On Aug. 1 a pair, the male still in spring plumage, was noted near *Three Forks*. This late date suggested local breeding. The Savannah Sparrow appeared to be holding its own south of Missoula despite the encroachment of residential development. Vesper

Sparrow numbers at Missoula appeared to have declined, but at least 1 pair of Lark Sparrows was believed to have nested south of town. The latter species was described as more noticeable than usual in the vicinity of Three Forks, Mont. A single *Le Conte's Sparrow*, Hand's second record for Missoula, was seen, July 11, during a stormy period. The *Clay-colored Sparrow* was observed from July 18 to Aug. 1 in the same Manhattan—Three Forks, Mont. area as last year. A late Gambel's Sparrow was observed at Meadow Lake, Spokane Co., Wash. on June 6 (Mr. & Mrs. *SOS*).

Contributors (sectional editors, whose names are in boldface, should receive credit for observations in their respective areas unless otherwise stated).—(*JA*) James Acton; (*WA*) Walter Anderson; (*WB*) Watson Reed; (Mr. & Mrs. *NB*) Mr. & Mrs. N. Beaven; **Robert M. Ellis**, McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash.; (*CLB*) **Carol L. Boyd**, Bitterroot Valley, Stevensville, Mont.; (*CVD*) C. V. Davis; (*GDeV*) George DeVan; (*MG*) Marian Gebhart; **James Grant**, British Columbia; (*WH*) Warren Hall; **Ralph L. Hand**, Missoula, Mont. area; (*JH*) Joseph Hicks; (*PK*) Patrick Katie; **Frank L. Kenney**, Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo, Mont.; (*EK*) Ernie Kraft; (*EKr*) Ed Krantz; (*LLaF*) Lynn LaFave; (*TMcC*) Thomas McCamant; (*VM*) Victor May; (*JPM*) **Joseph P. Mazzoni**, Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont.; (*BM*) Bob Moore; (*THR*) Thomas H. Rogers; (*PDS*) **P. D. Skaar**, Bozeman—Three Forks—Ennis, Mont. area; (*S.A.S.*) Spokane Audubon Society; (Mr. & Mrs. *SOS*) **Mr. & Mrs. S. O. Stanley**, Spokane, Wash., area; (*JGS, Jr.*), Joseph G. Strauch, Jr.; **Jack E. Waddell**, Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash., and **Ann Ward**, Baker, Oreg., area.

The Nesting Season, 1965

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.
/ Dr. Oliver K. Scott

The summer was like our spring, cool and wet. Most places have more water than for a number of years. Waterfowl had a better breeding season than for many years. As usual, there is little information on landbirds. Owing to the June rains and the residue of the December 1964 floods there was too much water in the Klamath Basin in southern Oregon; this interfered with duck nesting. Even in the Great Basin the country was green all summer. The milder weather brought breeding birds to lower levels than usual in Zion Park, Utah (*RHW*).

Swans—Trumpeters were doing well at Ruby Lakes in Nevada. There were 3 broods and 10 cygnets (*DEL*). Malheur produced 4 young (*HFD*).

Ducks and Geese—A fine come-back is being made by the Redhead. Both the Redhead and the Ruddy Duck had an exceptionally good season in the Klamath Basin (*EJO'N*). For the second consecutive summer there has been no botulism in the Klamath Basin. This has been a serious problem in the past. Malheur Lake has reached its greatest depth and size since 1958. About 37,000 ducks were produced. This is 15 percent more than last year and 18 percent above the ten-year average. Stillwater Refuge, Nev. has steadily done better in the last 3 years. This year there were 1360 broods of ducks, and 9800 young versus 785 broods and 6849 young last year. In the drought years (1960-62) very few birds nested at Stillwater (*PAS*). The Bear River Marshes, Great Salt Lake, had a good breeding season. On nearby Bear River there were 895 broods of ducks with 6016 young—the second highest count since 1948. There were another 640 broods on the marshes. The predominant nesting species is the Gadwall; 470 out of 640 nests. Between 1948 and 1963 there had been a steady increase in the number of young Gadwalls—since that time there has been a decline. Since 1963 there has been a sharp increase in Redheads (*FG*). These ducks have been also the most common breeder at Stillwater. Monte Vista Refuge, Colo. had the best breeding season ever. Some 18,000 were produced (*CRB*)—the bulk of which were Mallards.

Hawks—A Red-shouldered Hawk was seen regularly from Aug. 8 at Cedar City, Utah (*SBM*). This bird is supposed to be casual in Utah, but this observer has seen it before in the area. There is only one report of the Osprey—from the alpine zone of Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park—where the Longmont Bird Club observed one catch a small rodent on Aug. 11. I missed the bird for the first time in the southern part of Yellowstone Park and the Grand Teton Park (*OKS*). Is this species on the decline in the Rockies also?

Coot—This bird seems ever more successful. Greater numbers than ever were reported from the big refuges of the Great Basin; 54,000 at Bear River Marshes (*FG*); 38,000 at Stillwater (*PAS*); and 100,000 at Malheur (*FD*).

Doves—A White-winged Dove was seen at Bear River Marshes, July 19 (*WCR*). This bird has been accidental in Utah.

Swifts—Six Black Swifts were found at Bridal Veil Falls above Telluride, San Juan Mountains, Colo. (*LFE*). It is believed these birds have a number of colonies in this area.

Hummingbirds—A nesting *Rivoli's Hummingbird* was collected at 8500 feet near Nederland in the Rockies just northwest of Denver on July 22 (*AMB*)—the first nest record for Colorado.

Swallows—Purple Martins, unusual in Utah, were seen in numbers (19) at Cedar City on Aug. 10, 12 and 17 (*SBM*). Five martins were also seen at Lava Beds Nat'l Monument, Oreg. (*JGO*).

Vireos—Dennis L. Carter found Gray Vireos nesting

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at Arches Nat'l Monument and in the nearby La Sal Mountains (an island in the sky) in southeastern Utah, in June. This bird has not been previously reported from this area. It is to be found in lower portions of the Piñon-juniper woodland where black brush is present.

Orioles—A Scott's Oriole nest with young was found at Arches Nat'l Monument on June 29 (*DLC*)—the first nesting record for this part of Utah.

Grosbeaks—A pair of Blue Grosbeaks was found just west of Casper, Wyo. (where this bird has been seen before) on June 24 (*OKS*). This bird has never been known to breed in the state. Nearby on the same date a hybrid Indigo Bunting was nesting and acting like a Lazuli (*HHS*).

Crossbills—White-winged Crossbills were observed in Cheyenne, Wyo., where this wanderer has not been seen in recent years, on Aug. 7 & 9 (*MEH*).

Contributors—(*AMB*), Alfred M. Bailey; (*CRB*), Charles R. Bryant; (*DLC*), Dennis L. Carter; (*AC*), Allegra Collister; (*HFD*), Harold F. Deubbert; (*LFE*), Lucy F. Ela; (*FG*), Frank Gunnell; (*MEH*), May E. Hanesworth; (*DEL*), Don E. Lewis; (*SBM*), Stewart B. Murie; (*EJO'N*), Ed J. O'Neill; (*JGO*), James G. Olsen; (*WCR*), William C. Reffalt; (*PAS*), Peter A. Schwabenland; (*HHS*), Hustace H. Scott; (*OKS*), Oliver K. Scott; (*RHW*), Roland H. Wauer.

The Nesting Season, 1965

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / Alan Baldrige and John B. Crowell Jr.,

The weather in the Region during June and July followed the pattern established by an abnormally dry spring. In western Oregon June temperatures were slightly below average while precipitation was much

below average. For western Washington June temperatures were somewhat above average with precipitation considerably less than average. In July the western portions of both states experienced continued high temperatures together with a greater than usual lack of precipitation. Only at the end of the period did it cool off and rain. The first half of August, therefore,

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showed above-average precipitation and below-average temperatures. Evidence of the effects of this weather pattern on birdlife are conflicting, to say the least. Many species, especially swallows, Cedar Waxwings, House Finches and Am. Goldfinches appear to have had good breeding success, at least in the northern part of this large Region. Some ground-nesting species seem not to have done so well. Pheasants and California Quail are reported down by half in western Oregon. Perhaps this is attributable to a combination of winter kill following abnormal December cold and destruction of cover by severe and widespread flooding in the Willamette Valley and elsewhere in December and January.

Loons, Grebes and Herons—Several Com. Loons were reported as again summering in Drayton Harbor and Birch Bay (*LHK*); birds were also observed at Bellingham, Wash. on July 6 (*TW*) and on the ocean at Sand Lake, Oreg. on July 25; 2 Red-throated Loons also were at the latter place on the same date (*AB, JBC, RF*). A pair of Red-necked Grebes was found with 2 young at Howard Lake some 20 miles east of Ashland, Oreg. on June 23 (Bob Maben, *JH*); the species is a rare breeder so far south. Some 500 Western Grebes were on Bellingham Bay, Wash. June 6 through Aug. 9, where birds of this species have formerly summered in numbers. Recent records of the Black-footed Albatross off the Oregon coast were further supplemented by a sighting of about 50 individuals at sea in the Coos Bay area, Aug. 8 (Jim Anderson). Brandt's Cormorants at Sea Lion Caves, near Florence, Oreg. had both eggs and young, June 16 (*TM*). Great Blue Herons were reported as being unusually numerous during the period at Blaine, Wash.; some 200 birds were counted at Drayton Harbor on July 7 (*LHK*). On July 24 a Com. Egret was found at Fern Ridge Reservoir (*JO*) where the species has occasionally occurred in recent years despite its extreme rarity in the Region. Green Herons were, as usual, sparsely scattered throughout the Region. Two were at Marymoor Park, Redmond, Wash., June 23 (*ES*); one was at Fern Ridge Reservoir west of Eugene, Oreg. on July 17 (*JO*) while a family group of five was on Sauvie Island, west of Portland on August 15. American Bitterns were on Fiddler Creek, an arm of Siltcoos Lake, near Florence, Oreg. on June 12, a place where they were reported to the observer as occurring annually during the breeding season (*JBC*).

During June and July birds of this species also were at Sauvie Island where they probably bred (Charles Trainer, *vide AB*). A single bird was noted at Willapa Bay, Wash. Aug. 1 (*AB*).

Geese and Ducks—A scattering of Black Brant was reported for the northern Oregon coast during late July and early August with 2 birds at the south jetty of the Columbia River mouth, 3 on Tillamook Bay, and 1 at Yaquina Bay. An adult and immature White-fronted Goose spent most of July at Comox Harbour, B. C. (Tom Roberts, *DS*). Wood Ducks apparently enjoyed good breeding success at widely separated localities. Oregon Game Commission biologist Charles Trainer reported that 75 percent of 300 nest boxes on Sauvie Island were occupied, with many of the unoccupied boxes being otherwise unsuited for use. Duck production on Sauvie Island for other species, however, seemed to be down from 1964 levels with Mallards, Blue-winged Teal and Cinnamon Teal being the principally affected species. Pairs of Blue-winged Teal and Cinnamon Teal both were seen with young in the Ladner, B. C. area at the end of June and early in July (*GES*). A female Barrow's Goldeneye with 4 young was seen on Lost Lake in the Santiam Pass of the Oregon Cascades on August 7 (*WT*). Sightings of waterfowl which were out of the ordinary during the period involved 6 Pintails at Sauvie Island, June 8 and 11 (*HN*); 2 Ring-necked Ducks at Ladner, B. C., June 27 and July 1 (*GES*); a female Canvasback at N. Bend, Oreg., June 20 (*JO*); a male at Drayton Harbor, Wash. from June 8 to July 14 when joined by a second male (*LHK*); Greater Scaup in small flocks at Drayton Harbor through the period; 20 birds on Tillamook Bay, July 25 (*AB, JBC, RF*); a pair of Buffleheads at Drayton Harbor, July 9 (*LHK*) and a single bird at Iona near Vancouver, B. C., July 25 (*GES*); 3 Ruddy Ducks at Siltcoos Lake, Oreg. on June 12 (*JBC*) and a male at Blaine, Wash., July 3 and 2 birds at Vancouver, B. C. July 18 (*GES*). White-winged and Surf Scoters could be found regularly on the ocean during the summer along the northern Oregon and the Washington coasts. Eight Common Scoters were at Point Roberts, B. C. on Aug. 15 (*GES*).

Hawks, Eagles and Game Birds—Single immature Goshawks were reported from the Rogue River south of Shady Cove, Oreg. on July 18 (*JH*), and from below Bird Creek Meadows on Mount Adams, Aug. 8 (*AB*). A pair of Bald Eagles at

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Miracle Beach Park, Vancouver Island, raised one young (*DS*). One or both birds of an adult pair were seen on several occasions in the area west of Banks, Oreg. (Jim O'Donnell, Irving Curran). Single adult

birds were noted at Ladner, July 1 (*GES*) and at Willapa Bay, Wash., Aug. 1 (*AB*). There were 3 active Osprey nests near Victoria, B. C. (*ARD*) and a pair was suspected of nesting at Fern Ridge Reservoir (*JO*); a single bird was seen at Pitt Lake, B. C., June 6 (*GES*). Both Ruffed and Blue Grouse were reported to have had poor nesting success in western Oregon, leading to curtailment of hunting this fall. Bobwhite continue well established at scattered points on the west side of the Willamette Valley in Oregon. Two broods of Mountain Quail were noted at Prospects Lake near Victoria, B. C. (Tom Roberts). Ring-necked Pheasant and California Quail also had poor breeding success in the Willamette Valley according to the Oregon State Game Commission.

Rails and Shorebirds—Virginia Rails were observed in Oregon at Fern Ridge Reservoir on June 5 (*JO*) and at Siltcoos Lake, June 12 (*JBC*). Two broods were reported seen on Sauvie Island by Charles Trainer. A pair of Black Oystercatchers was at Sea Lion Caves with two small young, June 16 (*IM*). Two Semipalmated Plovers were at the south jetty of the Columbia River on the unusual date of June 20; the same observer found 150 individuals there on July (*HN*). Four were at Sauvie Island, July 23, while 15 were found there on Aug. 7 (*AB* & *HN*). Surfbirds were at Clover Point, Victoria, on July 16 (*ARD*); more than 50 of these birds were at Cannon Beach, Oreg. on July 24 (*RP*). Small groups of Ruddy Turnstones were seen at Clover Point, July 24 (*ARD*), at the south jetty of the Columbia, July 30 (*HN*) and at Willapa Bay, Aug. 1 (*AB*). Black Turnstones were in numbers at Clover Point, July 16 and at Oysterville, Wash. on Aug. 1. A rare occurrence inland of the Whimbrel was of a single bird at Sauvie Island, June 8 (*HN*); 3 were at the south jetty on June 20 and 1 was found there June 24 (*HN*). Wandering Tattlers were found at four coastal points during the last five days of July. A Greater Yellowlegs at Blaine, Wash., on June 24 (*LHK*), and 2 birds at Howard Lake, 20 miles east of Ashland, Oreg., on July 14 (Swisher & *JH*) were the vanguard of early returnees of this species along with the single bird at Ladner, B. C. July 1 and the 5 there on July 7 (*GES*). A Lesser Yellowlegs was also seen on July 14 at Hoover Lake in Jackson County, Oreg. (Swisher & *JH*). Six Baird's Sandpipers were observed at the south jetty of the Columbia River, July 30, and one was at Sauvie Island, July 31. Least Sandpipers were with four other species at Howard Lake, July 14, lending further credence to the assumption that good numbers of shorebirds migrate southward through the mountains in mid and late summer. Some 500 Western Sandpipers showed up near Blaine, Wash. on July 14 (*LHK*). Three Short-billed Dowitchers were noted at the inland location of Sauvie Island, July 23 (*AB* & *HN*). Four Long-billed Dowitchers were at Howard Lake on July 14 (Swisher

& *JH*) and 16 were at Sauvie Island, July 19 (*HN*). Apparently two individual *Semipalmated Sandpipers* put in an appearance on Sauvie Island. The first was seen July 23 (*AB*) and July 24 (*HN*); the second was found on Aug. 13 (*HN*) and was still present, Aug. 15 (*AB* & *HN*). Both birds were associating with other 'peep'. Five Western Sandpipers at the south jetty, Columbia River on June 24 (*HN*) were the first southward migrants reported of this species. There were 12 Wilson's Phalaropes on a brackish pool at Blaine, July 14 (*LHK*). Three birds of this species were at Willapa Bay, Wash. on Aug. 1 (*AB*); two additional individuals were at Iona, B.C. on July 25 (*GES*). Three Northern Phalaropes at the south jetty on June 20 and 4 there on June 24 (*HN*) may have been remnants of the notable coastal spring migration; one lone bird at Sauvie Island, July 13 (*HN*) was probably a returnee.

Gulls and Terns—One thousand seven hundred Glaucous-winged Gulls were banded on Mitlenatch Island, B. C. By early July numbers of adult and immature California and Ring-billed Gulls had put in an appearance at Sauvie Island and at Fern Ridge Reservoir. An adult Mew Gull at Sauvie Island, July 23 (*AB*) was unusually early as were the 12 birds at Iona, B. C. on July 25 (*GES*). An adult *Franklin's Gull* in full breeding plumage was found at Sauvie Island, July 5 and 6 (*HN*). Immature Bonaparte's Gulls at Bellingham and at Blaine all summer were unusual; 50 of these birds were at Iona, B. C. July 7, with 1 and 2 birds being noted at Sauvie Island, July 13 to July 23; the first immatures appeared there on Aug. 3 (*HN*). Four Bonaparte's Gulls also were seen at Willapa Bay, Aug. 1 (*AB*). Heermann's Gulls were first reported for the Region as of June 20 when an individual was at the south jetty; they were reported as being late and scarce from Victoria, where the first birds were noted on July 18 (*ARD*). An estimated 1000 Black-legged Kittiwakes at the vicinity of the south jetty of the Columbia River was repetitious of the spectacular migratory movements there a month earlier. Three Forster's Terns at Hoover Lake in Jackson County, Oreg., June 10 (0. Swisher) and the single Caspian Tern from Sauvie Island on July 6 (*HN*), were both unusual occurrences for these locations. Thirty of the latter species were counted over the beach at Ocean Shores, Wash. the evening of Aug. 4 (*JBC*).

Alcids, Swifts and Hummingbirds—Hundreds of Com. Murres, with birds of the year predominating, were just beyond the breakers at Ocean Shores, Aug. 5. The first young Marbled Murrelets were seen near Mitlenatch Island, B. C. on July 6 (*DS*). About 150 Band-tailed Pigeons were flocked along a railroad track between Prince Rupert and Terrace, B. C. on June 6 (*HRV*). Some 25 Black Swifts were counted in the area of the University of British Columbia campus in

Vancouver on June 26 (*AB, WHH*); this species was thought to be scarcer than usual at Miracle Beach, Vancouver Island (*DS*). A bird carefully studied, June 20, for half an hour from among 15 hummingbirds feeding in a garden at Shore Acres State Park some 20 miles south of Coos Bay, Oreg. proved to be a male *Allen's Hummingbird*

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(*JO*); it was thus another of the few reported observations of this species in Oregon.

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers and Larks—Two adult Acorn Woodpeckers were feeding young at a nest in the vicinity of Fern Ridge Reservoir, July 17; 3 other birds were seen in the same area (*JO*). Lewis' Woodpecker was reduced this season to a remnant of its usual numbers on Sauvie Island where it has normally been quite conspicuous (*AB, HN*). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were similarly thought to be scarcer on Vancouver Island (*DS*). *Eastern Kingbirds* were reported from three different locations; a pair was seen at Endall Swamp near Miracle Beach, Vancouver Island (*DS*) without specification of date. Three birds were seen at Pitt Lake, June 5 (*GEC*) and one was at Fern Ridge Reservoir in Oregon on the same day (*JO*). Young Ash-throated Flycatchers left a nest on Roxy Ann Butte near Medford, June 25 (*JH*). Four young Black Phoebes left their nest on the Applegate River at Ruch near Medford, June 18, and 19 (*JH*). Fledgling Horned Larks were in a hay field at Lebanon, Oreg., July 15, a late date (*WT*).

Swallows, Jays and Titmice—Barn Swallows were reported to have had an extremely successful breeding season in the Bellingham area (*TW*); the same observation was applicable to their breeding activities in the northern Willamette Valley. Purple Martins were reported at a wide variety of locations from Eugene north to Comox and Iona, B. C., and were thought to have had a good nesting season. A pair of Clark's Nutcrackers on the north side of Mount Ashland in the Siskiyou, July 2, was unusual (*JH*). A Plain Titmouse was feeding young in a nest cavity at Emigrant Lake near Ashland, the extreme northerly edge of its breeding range, on June 23 (*BB*).

Thrushes, Waxwings and Starlings—Late nesting Robins on Aug. 9 were reported from Bellingham (*TW*). Two families of Western Bluebirds totaling 9 to 11 birds were on Parrett Mountain near Newberg, Oreg., July 25 (*AB, JBC, RF*). Three Mountain Bluebirds were at Timberline Lodge on Mount Hood, July 5 (*RF*). Four young Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were out of the nest on Roxy Ann Butte near Medford, June 11 (*JH*). Flocks of Cedar Waxwings were much in

evidence during the report period in northwestern Oregon and throughout the Willamette Valley. The species was moderately numerous around Seattle. Young Starlings at Terrace, B. C. had left their nest by June 26 (*HRV*); they were almost a month behind a brood at Blaine which was out of the nest about the first of the month (*LHK*).

Vireos, Warblers—Hutton's Vireos were feeding young at a nest in a Seattle park on the early date of April 2 (*VEC*). A nest five miles of Medford on July 8 contained 11 eggs-6 from the vireo and 5 from the Brown-headed Cowbird's! (O. & M. Swisher, *JH*). Red-eyed Vireos appeared in several new locations; birds were noted at several places along the Skykomish River to Stevens Pass in Washington, June 19; at the Stillaguamish River, July 5, and at Birch Point southwest of Blaine, July 14 (*TW*). A pair was found along Crabtree Creek east of Lacombe, Oreg., July 11 (J. Strauch, *WT, MC*). Yellow Warblers had a better breeding season in the Bellingham area than in recent years (*TW*). MacGillivray's Warbler was thought to be more numerous than usual in northwestern Oregon and had good breeding success.

Blackbirds—A small breeding colony of 6 or 7 pairs of Yellow-headed Blackbirds in Delta Park, Portland, the only known breeding location in northwest Oregon, raised few young; a single bird was seen at Sauvie Island, July 23 (*HN*). Three individuals of the same species were at Pitt Lake, B. C., June 6 (*GEC*). Several hundred Tricolored Blackbirds nested on Wagner Creek, six miles west of Talent, Oreg. (*JH*). Bight Brewer's Blackbirds at Terrace, B. C. on June 17 were north of their usual range (*HRV*). A *Com. Grackle* in a Seattle yard on June 26 and 27 apparently constitutes the second record of that species in Washington; and the first in the western portion of the state; the bird was photographed and was seen by a number of observers (*ES*). It is anticipated that full details of the record will be published elsewhere. Brown-headed Cowbirds were thought to be less in evidence than in the past two years in the Portland area, but were reported as numerous around Seattle and Bellingham. Few young were noted, however, in the latter place.

Finches and Sparrows—There were fewer than usual Purple Finches in the Seattle area (*ES*). The House Finch was another species regarded as having had a good breeding season, at least in the northern Oregon and Washington portions of the Region. Three Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were seen at Lla'o Rock, Crater Lake, Oreg. on July 11 (*JO*); a single female was on Mount Hood at Timberline Lodge, July 5 (*RF*). Pine Siskins were regarded as much less prevalent in the Portland area this year after several years of abundance.

Am. Goldfinches were prominent in the Bellingham area and were surmised to be on the way to a good nesting season; fledged young were noted by Aug. 1 (TW). An adult Green-tailed Towhee was seen carrying food at Dead Indian Road, Jackson County, Oreg. on June 24 (BB), a point to the west of its more normal haunts in the sage brush country of eastern Oregon. A Rufous-sided Towhee nest in Seattle contained 3 large young on the early date of May 2; the birds had fledged three days later (BB). Lucile H. Kline at Blaine trapped an adult on July 26 which proved to have been banded by her in 1958 when it was adult. The Lark Sparrow bred on Roxy Ann Butte near Medford where young left the nest on June 26 (JH). A lone individual of this species was noted at Seattle, June 23 (ES). A Rufous-crowned Sparrow was found again in the Medford area, this one being seen on June 1 at Modoc Orchard near the Rogue River; the bird was carefully studied at 20 yards with binoculars by a competent local observer (JH). A number of observers in the Portland area and Willamette Valley commented upon the comparative scarcity of Oregon Juncos during the breeding season.

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Contributors—(AB) Alan Baldrige; (BB) Bob and Elsie Boggs; (VEC) Violet E. Cannon; (JBC) John B. Crowell, Jr.; (ARD) A. R. Davidson; (RF) Roy Fisk; (WHH) Werner and Hilda Hesse; (JH) Joseph Hicks; (TM) Thomas McCamant; (HN) Harry Nehls; (JO) James G. Olson; (GES) Gertrude E. Smith; (DS) David and Ruth Stirling; (ES) Eleanor Stopps; (WT) William Thackaberry; (HRV) Horace R. Vance; (TW) Terry R. Wahl.

End 1965