**1956**

*Autumn Migration, 1955*

**PALOUSE - NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION**.—August and September were warmer and drier than usual, extending the summer season. However, except for a few stragglers, some of which stayed remarkably late, August and September migrants appeared to depart about on schedule. Fall rains began in mid-September at Libby, with snow in the mountains. Winter struck very early throughout the Region, bringing snow and temperatures far below zero by mid-November.

 

Temperatures moderated during the remainder of the month but the snow persisted. The

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cold snap, while too late to affect most migrants, caused some late-staying species to hurry their departure and some winter visitors to appear earlier than usual. Unless otherwise credited, observations from the Bozeman, Mont., area are those of Clifford V. Davies; Great Falls, Mont., area, John Person, Gorham Swan-berg and Thomas Walker; Missoula, and Ninepipe and Kicking Horse Reservoirs, Mont., Ralph L. Hand; Moscow and Lewiston, Idaho, Pullman and Turnbull Wildlife Refuge, Wash., Jared Verner; Spokane, Wash., area, Stephen O. Stanley, and Libby, Mont., the editor.

*Loons, Grebes, Herons*.—A few Common Loons were migrating through Great Falls during the last half of October. Three were seen on the Missouri River, Oct. 24. Hand reported 15 Red-necked Grebes at Seeley Lake, northeast of Missoula, Sept. 4. Horned Grebes were at Great Falls from Sept. 17 to Nov. 5. The highest number was 5. One bird was picked up in Libby on Sept. 20, as were a Western Grebe, Nov. 20, and a Pied-billed, Nov. 13. The birds appear to lose their way during the night, often in fog, and alight in town, then are unable to take off again. A few Eared Grebes were noted at Seeley Lake (RLH) and Great Falls. A few Westerns were noted by all reporters and about 60 were seen, Oct. 22, on a lake north of Sandpoint, Idaho (TR). John Person reported 12 Double-crested Cormorants, Aug. 19, near Great Falls. A Great Blue Heron still lingered near Three Forks, Mont., Nov. 6 (CVD).

*Waterfowl*.—Whistling Swans were migrating during October and early November in northern Idaho and western Montana. Canada Geese stopped by hundreds at Turnbull during October (2,500 on Oct. 23–SOS). On the same date, Davis saw about 50 Snow Geese flying high near the Bridger Mountains near Bozeman. S. O. Stanley reported that ducks seemed to be concentrated at Turnbull and other lakes of the Columbia Basin, as potholes dried up early. Verner recorded 15,000 Mallards at Turnbull on Oct. 1. Up to 2,000 were noted in the Great Falls area, but the cold weather of mid-November decreased their numbers, as it did for Canada Geese and swans. Pintails were noted mainly at Turnbull (1,000 on Aug. 1) and at Kicking Horse (rather common, Aug. 26). Green-winged Teal were commoner than usual around Missoula and Ninepipe and Kicking Horse, and were fairly common in the Great Falls area. Blue-winged Teal (and perhaps Cinnamon) were fairly common at Ninepipe and Kicking Horse, but sporadic elsewhere. Wood Ducks were common at Missoula but scarcer at Spokane. Redheads were widely but sparingly recorded, but Ring-necked Ducks appeared only at Turnbull (74 on Oct. 1). At Great Falls, the Am. Golden-eye arrived early, Nov. 5, and reached a peak of over 500 on the Missouri on Thanksgiving Day. Buffleheads were noted only at Lewiston (2 on Nov. 25) and Ruddies were mainly at Turnbull (59 on Oct. 1). The fall duck migration, in spite of the late summer, arrived early at Turnbull. Species were well represented in October (W. A. Rodgers, *fide* SOS).

*Vultures, Hawks, Eagles.*—At least 14 Turkey Vultures were in the colony at Missoula. The species was not noted elsewhere. Records of hawks were few, except from Great Falls, where Swainson's migrated through in numbers (100 on Sept. 1). Rough-legged Hawks appeared there early (Oct. 22) but were not reported elsewhere. A Bald Eagle was noted near the close of the period near Spokane and at Libby (Douglas Munts); Golden Eagles appeared on the prairies near Great Falls during October and November. Hand reported the Marsh Hawk as commoner than usual. Five Gyrfalcons appeared at Great Falls, Nov. 18. Walker suspects that the severe weather is responsible for so many of these birds arriving. A Sparrow Hawk was still at Spokane on Nov. 24 (Earl Pettibone).

*Coot and Shorebirds*.—Am. Coot were common as usual in Western Montana and eastern Washington. A Ringed Plover showed up at Great Falls, Aug. 30, and 5 at Potlatch, Idaho, a few days later (JV). Hand identified one at Kicking Horse on two days in August. Verner reported a Black-bellied Plover collected in Spokane County, Sept. 13, and 2 more seen near Cheney, Wash., Oct. 2. Some Killdeer lingered and probably will winter as usual in a few places. Wilson's Snipe were gathering and migrating in September and October. Spotted Sandpipers were mostly gone by mid-September. The Solitary Sandpiper appeared first on July 11 at Turnbull and was noted sparingly at several places, with the latest record, Sept. 25, at Missoula (late). Greater Yellowlegs, scarce as usual, appeared at the early date of June 23 at Turnbull and also were noted there the latest (Oct. 23, SOS). Great Falls had the best migration of Lesser Yellow-legs, with 250 on Aug. 24. Pectoral Sandpipers were recorded at Missoula and Libby (first records here for Hand and Rogers), and were fairly common at Turnbull in September. Least Sandpipers stayed later than usual at Libby, until Sept. 10, and until Oct. 2 at Turnbull. Great Falls had up to 110 Baird's in August. Dowitchers were mostly migrating through Turnbull, where a few Sanderlings were also noted. Western Sandpipers appeared very early at Great Falls, on June 20, and were fairly common in several localities. Am. Avocets were not noted after August, and Wilson's and Northern Phalaropes were mostly gone before Sept. 1. The former species of phalarope was abundant around Great Falls.

*Gulls and Terns*.—Ring-billed Gulls were abundant as usual around some lake areas, but a few California

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Gulls were seen at West Medical Lake, Wash. (SOS), as well as 2 Bonaparte's, Oct. 12. One of the latter species appeared at Turnbull in July. An excellent migration of the Franklin's Gull passed through the Great Falls area, with 5,500 on Aug. 11 and nearly 4,000 on Sept. 26. Numbers of Common Terns also passed through during August. Hand noted single Forster's at Ninepipe and Kicking Horse, and Verner got a very late record of a Black Tern on Sept. 6 at Turnbull.

*Doves, Owls*.—A remarkable record of a Mourning Dove nest with 2 eggs and an adult on the nest on Sept. 11 was obtained near Three Forks, Mont., by Martin Dwyer. Horned Owls began appearing in Great Falls on Nov. 10 with the cold weather, and Pygmy Owls appeared in Libby by Nov. 14 (early), apparently due to the cold and snow. Short-eared Owls were noted at Ninepipe and Great Falls.

*Nighthawks, Swifts, Kingfishers, Hummingbirds*.—The Common Nighthawk left on schedule in the first week in September, in spite of the warm, summery weather, except for a straggler in Spokane, Sept. 27. A Vaux's Swift was noted on Aug. 28 at Libby, where it is rare, and was last seen at Missoula on the same date. Hummingbirds seemed very scarce. The only record was Hand's last date of Aug. 25 for the Rufous. Belted Kingfishers were migrating into Turnbull, beginning Aug. 19.

*Woodpeckers*.—The Red-shafted Flicker showed no appreciable migratory movement except at Great Falls, where most had left during October. The Yellow-shafted showed a very light migration, as usual, through Great Falls, where a hybrid was also noted. Lewis's W6odpecker was common at Missoula, scarce at Libby, and had mostly left by mid-September. A rare White-headed Woodpecker was seen near Spokane, Oct. 16 (Warren Hall, *fide* SOS). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers seemed scarce and were not seen after September. Downy Woodpeckers appeared in Great Falls on Sept. 1.

*Flycatchers*.—Most Eastern Kingbirds departed as usual, before Sept. 1, with a late bird at Turnbull, Sept. 9. The last date for the Western Kingbird was Sept. 5 at Great Falls. Traill's was last noted at Libby, Aug. 8, and the Least, Aug. 18, in the Cabinet Mountains near Libby. The Western Flycatcher was not seen after early August (Missoula and Great Falls). Hand noted a very late Western Wood Pewee on Sept. 23.

*Larks, Swallows*.—Horned Larks had mostly left the Spokane area before late October and showed a light flight at Missoula in early September. Violet-green and Tree Swallows left in August, except for 25 of the latter noted on Sept. 11 near Spokane. Davis reported great flocks of Bank, Rough-winged, Barn and Cliff Swallows on Aug. 19 in the Gallatin valley, Montana. Barn Swallows, as usual, furnished the latest records of these (Sept. 11 at Spokane).

*Jays, Chickadees, Nuthatches*.—A flock of 15 or 20 Steller's Jays was noted, Oct. 15, in the Cabinet Mountains near Libby (Dale Smith), perhaps a vertical migration movement. The Am. Crow seemed to have migrated out of the Missoula area by mid-September. Clark's Nutcracker appeared in flocks of 5 to 20 in the Spokane area by Sept. 15, but elsewhere appeared to remain in the mountains. Snow and cold at Libby forced Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees into town to feeding stations much earlier than usual. The former species and Red-breasted Nuthatches had appeared in Great Falls, Aug. 23. Dippers, Wrens, Thrushes.—Two Am. Dippers appeared at Great Falls, Nov. 16. House Wrens appeared to have left early (Aug. 24 at Missoula, Aug. 26 at Libby), but a late bird was at Spokane, Sept. 30. A Long-billed Marsh Wren remained until Nov. 20 near Great Falls, but the Rock Wren had disappeared by mid-September. Am. Robins were generally flocking and moving in early October. Varied Thrushes were still present in the Cabinet Mountains the last of October (Bill Cole) but arrived at feeding stations in Spokane by Nov. 15. The Hermit Thrush was reported only by Verner, whose last date was Sept. 24, near Moscow. Davis reported extra-large flocks of Mountain Bluebirds in his area in early September. Western Bluebirds (25) were observed on Sept. 11 in the Spokane area, where they sometimes winter. Townsend's Solitaire had come down from the mountains only at Great Falls (Nov. 24).

*Kinglets, Pipits, Waxwings*.—Ruby-crowned Kinglets were migrating in September west of the Divide and in October through Great Falls. Water Pipits were migrating throughout the area as early as Aug. 29 (Libby) and until Nov. 6 (Great Falls). A single Bohemian Waxwing appeared in a flock of Cedar Waxwings at Libby, Oct. 3, an unusually early date. They did not arrive in numbers until Nov. 3, however, and then built up to a spectacular flock estimated at 1,800, the largest in the experience of the editor at Libby (9 winters). Great flocks had arrived in Bozeman by Nov. 20. Cedar Waxwings showed peak numbers at Libby on Sept. 18, with a flock of 145. The species lingered in small numbers to the end of the period in several places.

*Shrikes, Starlings, Vireos*.—The Gray Shrike was reported by Verner as more abundant in the Moscow area than usual, and Stanley reported 2 Loggerheads at Turnbull, Oct. 23. Starlings still seem to be on the increase, especially at Great Falls. The Red-eyed Vireo appeared to have left western Montana by Sept. 1, except for a very late straggler at Missoula, Sept. 23. Verner remarked that his last Red-eyed was very late, on Aug. 24, so the species seems to follow a different schedule in his area. Solitary Vireos left during early September. Hand also got a late record for the Warbling Vireo—Sept. 13.

*Warblers*.—Orange-crowned Warblers were migrating in the Spokane area in mid-September, as were the Yellow, Audubon's and Macgillivray's. In western Montana, west of the Divide, the Yellow and Macgillivray's disappeared, as usual, by Sept. 1, and Audubon's was moving during September and early October, with the last date Oct. 16 at Libby. Verner saw a Nashville Warbler, Sept. 18, in the Moscow area where it is exceedingly rare in autumn. A **Black and White Warbler** was identified, Oct 11, at Spokane, where it is very rare (Mrs. A. I. Buchecker, *fide* SOS). Hand again found a few Common Yellowthroats remaining at least to Oct. 2. Black-

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capped Warblers passed through in late September and early October, although at Missoula they arrived, Aug. 28. Hand got another late record, an Am. Redstart on Sept. 23. A Northern Water-thrush was noted in Great Falls, Sept. 16, but the last record at Libby was, as usual, in mid-August.

*Bobolinks, Meadowlarks, Blackbirds, Orioles*.—Bobolinks were reported only from Missoula, where the last date, Sept. 1, was rather late. Western Meadowlarks were massing for migration in early October at Great Falls and were gone by Oct. 24. At Libby 5 birds were found dead, Nov. 12, as winter struck. They were found inside a chicken coop, where they apparently had taken refuge (Bill McConnell). One bird, which was skinned and mounted, appeared to be in emaciated condition. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were last noted at Ninepipe on Aug. 2. A few Red-wings, along with Brewer's Blackbirds, were still at Turnbull, Oct. 23 (SOS). Hand's last record of Bullock's Oriole at Missoula was on July 31. Brewer's Blackbird was very common at Missoula. Brown-headed Cowbirds seemed scarce and disappeared by Aug. 1.

*Finches*.—Two Black-headed Grosbeaks passed through Libby on Aug. 16, the only ones reported. Lazuli Buntings likewise seemed scarce and were not seen after Aug. 1. Evening Grosbeaks were present in moderate numbers in several localities. The maximum at Libby was 46. Cassin's Finch lingered into October around Spokane. Pine Grosbeaks arrived early in Libby (Nov. 13), with the cold snap. Davis noted a flock of 50 Black Rosy Finches, Sept. 4, circling a peak in the Bridger Range near Bozeman. Common Redpolls arrived about on schedule at Libby (Nov. 8) and appeared on Nov. 13 at Great Falls. Pine Siskins at Libby failed to show large migrating flocks and were gone by late October. Large flocks were noted in the Little Belt Mountains near Great Falls, however. The Am. Goldfinch was very common at Missoula. A flock of 9 appeared in the wintry weather at Great Falls, Nov. 20. Red Crossbill records were few, in marked contrast to their superabundance a year ago. They were common in the Little Belts during the fall; however, the odd phenomenon of White-winged Crossbills in Great Falls in July was reported by John Person.

*Sparrows.*—Spotted Towhees left in September. Savannah, Vesper, Lark and Chipping Sparrows appeared to be migrating in late August and September. A few Slate-colored Juncos appeared in Spokane. Oregon Juncos were common at Spokane, Missoula and Great Falls, but scarce, as usual, at Libby. Am. Tree Sparrows arrived at Lewiston on Nov. 25. White-crowned Sparrows appeared as early as Aug. 29 (Libby) and a few were still in Spokane in late November. An unusually good migration of White-throated Sparrows was observed at Great Falls, with a peak of 23 on Sept. 19. Fox Sparrows in this Region seem to disappear in mid-summer, but one was recorded near Fairfield, northwest of Great Falls, Oct. 9. Movement of Lincoln's Sparrows was noted in late September and early October at Missoula and Great Falls. A few Song Sparrows were migrating in mid-September around Great Falls but no movement was apparent elsewhere. Snow Buntings arrived with the cold spell at Libby (Nov. 15, early) and at Great Falls.—THOMAS ROGERS, *Libby, Mont.*

*Autumn Migration, 1955*

**GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION**.—Charles W. Lockerbie was made honorary president of the Utah Audubon Society.



For twenty years he has been their field chairman and has had four terms as president. He remains the grand old man of birding in the West. Temperatures and precipitation were about normal over this Region during this period until the second week in November, when an unprecedented cold wave hit the whole area, sending temperatures well subzero in the northern part and bringing snow to the whole Region. This was particularly remarkable since the climate tends to be local among the mountains and deserts. Leo Young, reporting for Bear River Marshes at the north end of Great Salt Lake, says the census showed 356,375 waterfowl on November 9. A week later, with ice over most of the area, the estimate was 35,000. This cold wave ended the waterfowl migration for the most part over the whole Region. There were some other effects. An **Ancient Murrelet** was captured in Roosevelt, in eastern Utah on Nov. 12 (Killpack). A weirder spot for an alcid could hardly be imagined. Roosevelt is in a very arid but irrigated area on the plateau south of the high Uinta Mountains. However, this is the second record for the state. We have an unusually high number of extraordinary birds to report this time.

*Herons*.—Don Hunter of Rexburg, Idaho, had an Am. Egret on Sept. 7 at Mud Lake in eastern Idaho, which he thinks is the first record for that state.

*Swans and Geese*.—Grace Nelson reported the greatest count of **Trumpeter Swans** on record on the National Elk Refuge in Jackson Hole on Oct. 31. There were 33 birds of which 10 were cygnets, the greatest number since the transplanting of the bird (two pairs) from Red Rock Lake in Montana in 1938. Carl Jepson, naturalist at Grand Teton, has been transferred to Zion. For the first time a few (12) Whistling Swans remained through the summer at Bear River. Formerly only crippled or lead poisoned birds remained. The high fall count was 22,500 on Nov. 9, up 5,500 from last year. A flock of 9 White-fronted Geese was seen, and 2 taken, at Ogden Bay Refuge on Great Salt Lake,

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Oct. 18 (Killpack). This is the largest number of these birds reported out of their flyway in some time.

*Ducks*.—On Oct. 19 a **European Widgeon** was taken at Bear River for the first record for the state of Utah. The Pintail at 386,000 was about the same as last year. The other two high species were 140,000 Green-winged Teal and 100,000 Am. Widgeon. The number of Canvas-backs was up to 60,000, an increase of 21,000 over last year. The Stillwater Refuge in Western Nevada near Carson Sink was troubled with low water. Consequently most of their waterfowl counts were low. A new high of 30,000 Green-winged Teal was reached on Oct. 19, however. Monte Vista Refuge in south central Colorado is steadily improving. There were 25,000 ducks there this year instead of 8,000 as last year. The maximum number of immature and female Harlequin Ducks in the Cascade Area of Yellowstone River in Yellowstone Park was 15 and that was on Sept. 8 (Warkley). Fifty Ring-necked Ducks were seen by Mrs. Shaw at Deer Flat Refuge in southwestern Idaho on October 27. There were 38 at National Elk Refuge, Jackson, Wyo. on Nov. 9 (Mrs. Nelson).

*Turkeys.*—A dozen Turkeys were reported on Elk Mountain in southern Wyoming in early October (Lambertsen). This bird is now spread over much of the forested area of the eastern half of Wyoming and is steadily increasing. Jean Pinkley, archeologist at Mesa Verde National Park in southwestern Colorado writes, "Six Turkeys were replanted in the Park this past spring. They were released in the headquarters area and settled down in what is actually a heavily populated area. This fall, two hens have spent the entire season on the house lawns of Park residents. They have no fear of humans, merely moving a few feet away when one appears. Children running and playing between houses do not seem to bother them. I am personally convinced that when we say the Cliff Dwellers domesticated the Turkey we have the cart before the horse."

*Cranes and Shorebirds*.—Monte Vista in Colorado has the largest concentration of Sandhill Cranes reported, with 200 on Nov. 25 (Bryant). Lockerbie reported about 800 dowitchers at Farmington Bay on the Great Salt Lake on Sept. 25. There are 2 reports of Am. Golden Plover for this Region. Lockerbie had one at Farmington Bay, Sept. 25, and Don Hunter had one on Sept. 7 at Mud Lake in eastern Idaho. This is a casual bird in this Region.

*Gulls and Terns*.—Dr. Stanford reported Franklin's Gulls by hundreds to thousands feeding in Cache Valley in northeastern Utah when the Grasshoppers were "ripe." A late note: Lockerbie found 9 immature Common Terns out of 35 terns near Great Salt Lake on July 21. He says, "I have reversed my opinion of the Forster's status in and about our alkaline marshes in favor of the Common." The editor in near-by Wyoming at first thought the Common Tern was common but then decided that marks implied in Peterson's Guide were not so obvious and that the Common Tern was a rarity. It remains a difficult identification in most plumages.

*Owls*.—Warkley had 6 Short-eared Owls at Ocean Lake in central Wyoming, Nov. 5.

*Hummingbirds*.—Mrs. Crews reporting from the Grand Junction area of northwestern Colorado says, "The first hummingbird feeders on Hanson Mesa were placed about five years ago and since that time the Scouts became interested and now every home on the Mesa has feeders out. We have found that the hummers come a little earlier each spring, stay a little later in the fall, and until this year, they came in ever-increasing numbers. Only 1 Allen's appeared and no Rufous this year. (The editor doubts the Allen's.) We had only Black-chinned and Broad-tailed. At no time the past summer did we feed more than two pints of syrup in a single day, while three years ago we fed as much as three quarts of syrup in a day at the height of the migration during the last two weeks in August and the first two weeks in September. This year the birds did not arrive until May 1, which was two to three days late, and the birds were so much wilder. Only one fed from the feeder I was holding in my hand for them. Other years many of the birds were very tame and if a window were open, they would come into the home."

*Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Nutcrackers, Jays*.—Mrs. Waltman found a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (Red-naped) feeding all night on an abundant supply of bark insects in Sheridan, Wyo., this fall. Florence Thornburg of Tucson, Ariz. found an immature Scissor-tailed Flycatcher along the Wood River in Idaho near Sun Valley. The bird was present several days and was first seen Aug. 6. We believe this may be the first record for the state although the bird has been found not far south in Utah. Three flocks of about 200 each of Clark's Nutcrackers were reported by Warkley on the Sweetwater River south of the Wind River Mountains in Wyoming on Aug. 22 in open sagebrush country. Nutcrackers descended into the Foothills in numbers this fall west of Denver (Thatcher). The Piñon Jay is also more common there. Oppie Reams in Durango in southwestern Colorado reports that the Scrub Jays are back in their usual numbers after the decreased number last year.

*Waxwings, Grosbeaks, Sparrows*—Don Thatcher reported an early flock of 20 Bohemian Waxwings in the foothills west of Denver, Nov. 6. Small flocks of Evening Grosbeaks showed up in Rawlins (Lambertsen) and Casper (OKS) in central Wyoming in November. There were almost none last year. One hundred and twenty Pine Grosbeaks were reported on the southwest end of Uintah Range in eastern Utah (Killpack), Oct. 22, which must be within their normal range. Alexander Sprunt found a **Baird's Sparrow** at Devil's Tower in northeastern Wyoming, Sept. 7 (Grace McIntyre). There were 10 immature Harris's Sparrows at Roosevelt, Utah, Nov. 30 (Killpack).—DR. OLIVER K. SCOTT, *437 East 13th, Casper, Wyo*.

*Autumn Migration, 1955*

**NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION**.—Au- gust was the driest of record with the number of sunny days greater than normal, but with temperatures slightly below normal. This trend continued through September, but with no extreme departures from normal. In contrast, October was one of the wettest of record, with a total of over 5 inches (Seattle). Temperatures were slightly below normal. From an above normal temperature on November 9, we were plunged into the lowest readings ever recorded for that month. Freezing temperatures continued for a week, broken by snowfall of 6 to 8 inches on the 17th, which disappeared the next day with warm rain.

 

Extensive damage was done to vegetation, which had not yet become dormant. Theed Pearse at Comox, Vancouver Island, observed that the extreme cold (to 4° there) had little effect on the movement of birds; generally it would have brought a lot of birds to settled areas. Another comment he made was on the poor migration of passerines— once or twice there were good flocks of Am. Robins, but other species were few or absent. In addition, he had good evidence that there is a considerable migration along the foothills, which have now been cleared of timber. Thus land birds are not confined to the beaches and narrow strip of lowland as previously. Both Pearse and A. R. Davidson at Victoria found the water birds present in their usual number. Some gaps occur in the data, due to sickness and absence of some observers during significant times.

*Loons, Grebes, Shearwaters, Fulmars*.—There was a good showing of Common Loons at Comox in October; very few were around at the end of the period. Arctic and Red-throated Loons returned to Victoria, Oct. 14. The first Red-necked Grebe was seen at Victoria, Sept. 11 (ARD), and the first at Seattle, Sept. 17 (Zella M. Schultz). Horned Grebes were at Victoria, Aug. 23 (ARD); in the San Juan Islands (flock of 20), Sept. 4 (ZMS), and at Blaine, Oct. 1 (Lucile H. Kline). The first Eared Grebe came to Bellevue, Wash., Sept. 25 (Walter Hagenstein). A raft of about 100 Western Grebes was seen near Harper, Kitsap Co., Wash., Sept. 17 (Seattle Audubon Society). They came to Blaine, Sept. 30, but were not noted at Victoria until Oct. 5. There were an estimated 500 at Comox, Nov. 9. The first Pied-billed Grebe was noted at Victoria, Aug. 22. A Pink-footed Shearwater and a (Pacific) Fulmar (dark phase) were taken five miles off Neah Bay, Wash. (Juan de Fuca Strait), Sept. 5 (Garrett Eddy). The absence of shearwaters at Comox was noticeable.

*Swans, Geese, Ducks*.—Whistling Swans (7) were at a lake near Comox, Oct. 7 (Heinrich, *fide* TP). A Whistling Swan put down at Bellevue, Nov. 5, where migrations of Canada Geese were noted, Oct. 11 and 12, and a White-front was seen, Oct. 14 (WH). White-fronts were first recorded at Comox, Aug. 28. The migration of geese was probably normal there, but the birds were flying very high in fine, still weather. About 250 Canada Geese were at Blaine, Oct. 19. There was a big movement of Mallards and Am. Widgeons at Comox in mid-October, but the usual flocks of Pintails in August did not show up. Pintails were seen at Blaine, Sept. 21; there were about 1,200 on Oct. 11. They were not seen at Victoria until Oct. 28 (late, ARD). Gadwalls came to Bellevue, Nov. 16; Am. Widgeons and Shovellers, Sept. 17. Am. Widgeons (200±) were also seen at Harper on Sept. 17 (SAS). Shovellers were first noted at Victoria, Sept. 29. Ring-necked Ducks were at Bellevue, Sept. 26; Canvas-backs, Oct. 10. Canvas-backs were at Victoria, Oct. 28. Greater Scaups were seen at Victoria, Sept. 27, with the main flocks on Oct. 2. Two females were noted near the south end of Bainbridge Island, Oct. 2 (SAS). A female Lesser Scaup was at Seattle, Oct. 14 (ZMS). First Am. Golden-eyes were at Victoria, Nov. 5; at Blaine, Nov. 8 and at Bellevue, Nov. 15. Two of the advance guard (1 male in eclipse plumage) were at Harper, Sept. 17 (SAS). Buffleheads appeared at Bellevue, Oct. 18; at Victoria, Oct. 21; and at Blaine (20), Nov. 25. A male Old-squaw in full breeding plumage in the San Juan Islands, Sept. 4, may have been a cripple. One was seen off Bainbridge Island, Oct. 30 (Mrs. J. I. Colwell). They came to Victoria, Nov. 1.

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There was a flock of 5 to 10 flightless Harlequin Ducks in the San Juan Islands, July 30 (ZMS). An estimated 300 Harlequins (with males in eclipse), and up to 800 scoters of various species were at Point Holmes, Coast Dist., B. C., Aug. 29 (TP). Harlequins were at Victoria, Oct. 15. Am. Scoters were at Victoria, Nov. 6. One immature American was found dead at Port Angeles, Wash., Nov. 12, with the skin of the neck almost completely severed (WH). Ruddy Ducks returned to the Victoria area, Oct. 9. There were 150 to 200 on Green Lake, Seattle, Oct. 14 (ZMS). Nine were noted at Blaine, Nov. 8. Hooded Mergansers were at Victoria, Sept. 1 (ARD); and at Green Lake (1 male, 2 females), Oct. 14 (ZMS). Red-breasted Mergansers came to Victoria, Aug. 17, with the main flock arriving at the end of October. There were 50 to 60 at Seattle, Nov. 6 (SAS). Five female Am. Mergansers were off Bainbridge Island, Oct. 2 (SAS). They were first seen at Bellevue, Oct. 10 (WH).

*Vultures and Hawks*.—Up to 67 Turkey Vultures were over the Victoria area, Sept. 25; a few small lots were seen up to Oct. 18. An Osprey at Harper, Sept. 17, was probably migrating (ZMS). Bald Eagles were seen occasionally at Victoria. Three or possibly 4 birds of the year were at Comox in November. Immature Golden Eagles were seen near Victoria on Sept. 25, Oct. 18, and Oct. 30 (ARD, J. O. Clay & Party). A Marsh Hawk was noted in the San Juan Islands; Sept. 4 (ZMS); 1 at Blaine on Aug. 29 and Sept. 2 (LHK). Only 1 Sparrow Hawk was seen at Victoria, Sept. 28; 2 at Blaine, Sept. 14, and 1, Oct. 4.

*Cranes, Coots*.—At Comox, 12 Sandhill Cranes, with 6 juvenals were noted in mid-October. Am. Coots returned to Blaine for the winter on Oct. 11.

*Shorebirds.*—Shorebirds were mostly late in arriving at Comox; otherwise they were about average, with no rarities. At Sidney, 18 miles north of Victoria, 54 Black Oyster-catchers were seen, Sept. 28 (a goodly number, ARD). An Am. Golden Plover was seen at Victoria by competent observers, Sept. 18, and another on Oct. 21. Black-bellied Plovers arrived at Victoria, Sept. 18. Some were still there at the end of the period. Four at Blaine for one day, Aug. 15, were no doubt stragglers, as the bays there are too muddy and too heavily populated for this species. Surf-birds were seen at Victoria between July 19 and 23; Black Turnstones came in at the same time and were quite common by Aug. 15. At least 4 Ruddy Turnstones (rare transients) were seen at Victoria in July. Two or 3 Surf-birds were seen in the San Juan Islands, July 23, with Black Turnstones (ZMS). Wilson's Snipe records were spotty; 1 at Bellevue, Sept. 27; a specimen brought to the Museum, Oct. 10; 2 at Victoria, Oct. 22; 1 at Rockport, Skagit Co., Wash., Oct. 23 (Fern Skinner); and 2 at Blaine, Nov. 13. Two Hudsonian Curlews were at Victoria from mid-October; 6 came to Blaine, Sept. 30, for one day only. Single Wandering Tattlers were reported from Victoria on July 23, Aug. 17 and 20, and Oct. 18. At Comox, a juvenal was seen, Aug. 29 and 30. A flock of 18 Red Knots was seen 10 miles north of Victoria, Sept. 18 (seldom seen in autumn, ARD). Returning Greater Yellow-legs were recorded at Comox, Aug. 24, a month late, but at Victoria there was 1 on July 3, and 23 in a flooded field, Aug. 13. A few were seen at Blaine from July 19 to Oct. 20. Eight Lesser Yellow-legs were seen at Oyster River, Vancouver Island, July 30; and 3 at Victoria, Aug. 15 (ARD). Rock Sandpipers came to Victoria, Oct. 25 (JOC). The first Pectoral Sandpiper was at Oyster River, July 28. Pectorals were at Comox in somewhat greater numbers than usual during the period, the young still showing red on top of the head. Generally Western Sandpipers are moving south at Victoria by the end of June; about 100 were at Sidney, July 2. From July 10 to about mid-August flocks of small sandpipers at Victoria averaged 300 in number; mostly Western, with about 10 per cent Least, and a few Semipalmated, which are very difficult to distinguish. Of a flock of about 1500 small sandpipers at Sidney, July 23, apparently most were Westerns (ARD). Westerns (500±) were last seen at Blaine, Sept. 12. A few Sanderlings were at Victoria from Aug. 24 to Sept. 21, where Northern Phalaropes were seen at various points from Aug. 11 to Sept. 11, in flocks up to 300.

*Jaegers, Gulls*.—Only one Parasitic Jaeger was seen at Comox during the period, but the scarce Long-tailed Jaeger was seen by Laing, Aug. 25 (TP). A Parasitic Jaeger was collected off Port Townsend, Wash., Sept. 2 (GE). They were "numerous" off southern Bainbridge Island, Oct. 2 (SAS). The main return of Glaucous-winged Gulls to the Seattle area occurred the week of Oct. 23 to 30 (ZMS). Herring Gulls (4) were first seen at Green Lake, Seattle, Oct. 14. Mrs. Schultz thought Herring Gulls were scarcer in the Puget Sound area this fall. California Gulls returned in small numbers to Victoria, July 12, and were in goodly numbers by Aug. 15. California Gulls began returning to the Seattle area, July 7, and were almost all gone by Nov. 27. Two or 3 Ring-billed Gulls were noted at Seattle, Oct. 14 (ZMS). The first Short-billed Gulls came to Victoria, July 12, and were fairly numerous by Sept. 17, mostly adults. At Seattle they were fairly common by Sept. 17, which is a little too early for the area (SAS). Three adult Bonaparte's Gulls put in at Victoria, July 17; by Aug. 1, there were about 500; and 75 were still around Sidney, Oct. 28 (ARD). A flock at Comox, Aug. 29, contained one Franklin's. There was a big migration of Bonaparte's at Comox, Sept. 12 (at least 1000, with a good proportion of young birds). The last (150±) were seen at Blaine, Oct. 2. Two Sabine's Gulls were taken from a flock of 50 off Edmonds, north of Seattle, Aug. 28 (GE). The first Heermann's Gulls came to Victoria, July 10. Never numerous, the largest flock contained about 18, mostly immature birds; the last were seen, Oct. 5. A flock of 12 or more Heermann's off southern Bainbridge Island, Oct. 2, contained 3 juvenals, which are not often seen in southern Puget Sound (ZMS). Common Terns were seen

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at Victoria in small numbers from Sept. 11 to 23, with 25 on the 16th. The first seen at Blaine were 56 on Sept. 14, and the last 20 were on Oct. 14. They were seen in hundreds at Harper and off southern Bainbridge Island, Sept. 17 and Oct. 2 (SAS).

*Alcids, Pigeons, Owls*.—Common Murres were very scarce in the Sound to the end of period. An Ancient Murrelet, badly injured, was found in a basement in downtown Seattle, Nov. 26; it was prepared as a specimen. The last flock of Band-tailed Pigeons (50±) was seen at Victoria, Oct. 23. At Bellevue, about 30 on Nov. 23, was the smallest number W. H. Ransom had seen in five years. He blamed the poor crop of Madroña berries. A Mourning Dove seen at Comox, Nov. 1, was very late (Laing, fide TP). At Victoria, 12 were seen, Aug. 18; 4 on Sept. 18, and 1 on Sept. 28. One on Lopez Island, Aug. 25, was the first ever noted for the San Juan group (ZMS). A Saw-whet Owl (uncommon) was picked up dead at Comox in November.

*Nighthawks, Swifts, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers*.—Common Nighthawks were seen at Victoria, Sept. 24; 1 bird on Oct. 15 was very late. They were last reported in Seattle, Sept. 19 (Mr. & Mrs. R. M. Boggs). Black Swifts were noted at Bellevue, Oct. 7, 9 and 10 (WH). A young Rufous Hummingbird was brought to Mrs. H. L. Schumacher in Seattle, Sept. 24. The last Rufous was seen at Blaine, Sept. 17, but lone birds were noted at Victoria up to Oct. 12. A Yellow-shafted Flicker was seen at Comox, Nov. 15 (Laing, fide TP). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker returned to lowlands near Sidney, Nov. 17 (ARD). At Seattle a number were noted in many places the first two weeks in November (Violet E. Cannon and others).

*Flycatchers, Swallows*.—A Western Flycatcher was seen at Bellevue, Oct. 30 (VEC & JIC). A considerable number of swallows (sp.) were circling high over Bellevue, with a few Black Swifts, Oct. 10 (WH). The last Violet-green Swallows were reported at Seattle, Aug. 21 (RMB), and at Blaine, Sept. 10 (LHK). About 50 Barn Swallows were still feeding young at Comox, Aug. 29. There was only one report from Seattle, Sept. 8, which is not particularly late (RMB). Purple Martins were heard at Seattle, Sept. 12 (ZMS).

*Ravens, Chickadees, Bushtits*.—Common Ravens were fairly numerous at Comox; 20 or more were seen, Sept. 11, but all had gone by the end of the period. They were seen fairly often at Victoria, as they fly from the mountains to the beaches. Chestnut-backed Chickadees (24) came to Blaine, Nov. 22. Bushtits were still increasing at Comox; an estimated 60 were at the same place as last year, and a few in a new location (D. Guthrie, *fide* TP).

*Wrens, Thrushes*.—The last House Wren was seen at Victoria, Aug. 24. Late migrant Am. Robins that generally winter at Comox arrived by the end of October. Varied Thrushes were quite rare at Comox, and did not show up during the cold weather the first part of November as expected. One was found dead at Seattle, Sept. 26; the first were noted at Bellevue and Rockport, Oct. 27 (FS, WH). A fair number of Hermit Thrushes were noted at Victoria from Sept. 24 to 29, with a migration of Varied Thrushes. The Hermits were noted in several places in Seattle and at Bellevue, Nov. 18, after the snow storm; a few were found dead (VEC, WH). The last Olive-backed Thrush was reported from Seattle, Sept. 29 (RMB).

*Kinglets, Pipits, Shrikes, Starlings*.—The mixed parties of kinglets, chickadees, nuthatches, etc., that used to be seen regularly at Comox, seemed to be entirely absent. Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets returned to Victoria about Sept. 25 (ARD); Golden-crowns to Seattle, Sept. 26, and Ruby-crowns, Sept. 30 (RMB). Both species seemed to be more numerous in the Seattle area (ZMS). The first Water Pipits were seen at Victoria, Sept. 11, with the height of migration about Sept. 18. The last was observed, Oct. 5. A group of 24 was at Rockport from Sept. 20 to 22 (FS). In mid-September a flock was flushed from the lawn of a residence near the University of Washington campus, an odd place (ZMS). A Gray Shrike was seen at Bellevue, Oct. 11 (WH); and at Victoria, Nov. 1 and 7. In a flock of about 1,500 Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds at Comox (no date given), there were an estimated 500 **Common Starlings**, by far the largest number ever seen there. A small flock of starlings was seen at Victoria, Oct. 15.

*Warblers.*—Orange-crowned Warblers were in good song at Comox, Aug. 21. The last one was seen at Blaine, Sept. 2. They seemed to be numerous at Seattle during mid-September and were last reported, Sept. 20 (RMB). Two Yellow Warblers were seen at Comox as late as Aug. 19; and 2 at Victoria, Sept. 6. One was banded at Blaine, Sept. 12, and the last was reported at Seattle, Sept. 24 (late, RMB). Audubon's Warblers were seen in widely separated places at Comox in early November (Laing, *fide* TP). The main migration of Audubon's at Victoria occurred from Sept. 24 to 29. Two were at Blaine on Sept. 28. The last Black-throated Gray Warbler was seen at Seattle, Oct. 1 (RMB). A male Townsend's Warbler at Comox, Sept. 18, with other migrant small birds, was late. They are permanent residents in the Puget Sound area in small numbers. Mrs. Schultz observed a Hermit Warbler just north of Seattle, Aug. 16. They are rare north of the Tacoma "prairies." Two Common Yellowthroats were at Blaine, Aug. 26; the last seen was one on Sept. 1; and the last at Bellevue, Sept. 17. Black-capped Warblers were last reported at Blaine, Aug. 21, which was early (LHK), in contrast to the Seattle report of Sept. 22, which was late (RMB).

*Meadowlarks, Blackbirds, Tanagers*.—A group of 44 Western Meadowlarks came to fields at the Kline place near Blaine, Nov. 13, during the very cold weather. This was a goodly number for that area at that time of year. The last Red-winged Blackbird was seen at Rockport in the foothills, Oct. 17; and the last Brewer's, Nov. 22. The last Western Tanager was noted at Blaine, Sept. 16.

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An immature bird was picked up dead at Seattle, Sept. 14.

*Finches, Sparrows*.—Five **House Finches** at Blaine, Oct. 19, were Mrs. Kline's first record. A Gray-crowned Rosy Finch (very occasional) was recorded at Rockport, Nov. 17 (FS). Am. Goldfinches were feeding young at Comox, Aug. 29; the last was at Victoria, Oct. 19, and at Blaine, Oct. 22. Savannah Sparrows were much below average on migration at Comox. The main flight at Victoria was in the middle of August, with the last on Oct. 19. A small flock of a larger subspecies was seen, Oct. 20. The last one at Blaine was recorded, Sept. 22. An Am. Tree Sparrow was recorded at Bellevue, Oct. 21 (WH). Chipping Sparrows were last seen at Victoria, Sept. 29. One White-crowned Sparrow sang once on the campus of the University of Washington, Sept. 5 (MRF). The scarcity of these and the Golden-crowns in migration at Comox were marked; usually they are quite common. Five (Gambel's) White-crowned Sparrows were trapped at Blaine, Oct. 23. First Golden-crowns came to Victoria, Sept. 7; to Blaine, Sept. 28; to Bellevue, Oct. 4 (banded, WHR); to Seattle (2 immatures), Sept. 19 (RMB). Fox Sparrows had not turned up in usual numbers in the Region. The first return for Victoria was Sept. 23 (not many); and 1 was found dead at Seattle, Sept. 18. Two transient Lincoln's Sparrows were seen at Victoria, Aug. 5; 1 at Bellevue, Sept. 14 (1 dead, Sept. 22, WH) ; and at Seattle, Sept. 22 (RMB). A pair of the unusual **Snow Buntings** at the southern end of Bainbridge Island, Oct. 30, were well described by Mrs. Colwell.—MARTHA R. FLAHAUT and ZELLA M. SCHULTZ, *Washington State Museum, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash.*

*The Winter Season, 1955-56*

**PALOUSE–NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION**.—The past winter was the most prolonged of any for many years. Snow and cold arrived early in November and lasted well into March. Missoula and Libby, Mont. recorded subzero temperatures for all five winter months. Snow cover was continuous until about mid-March. The lowest temperature was at Bozeman, Mont.: –37° on Feb. 16. Walker reported milder conditions after Jan. 1 at Great Falls, Mont., however. The long, rather severe winter appeared to be responsible for a marked decrease in numbers of many wintering birds, mostly among the ground and water feeders. Geese and most ducks were scarcer, as were Killdeer and probably Wilson's Snipe. Am. Robins and many fringillids were less common. On the other hand, some winter visitors, notably Pygmy Owls, Gyrfalcon (see fall migration report), Common Redpolls and Bohemian Waxwings appeared in larger numbers than normal. Unless noted otherwise, observations for Lewiston and Moscow, Idaho and Pullman, Wash. are by Jared Verner; for Spokane, Wash., the Spokane Bird Club, courtesy of Stephen O. Stanley; for Bozeman, Mont., Clifford V. Davis; for Great Falls, Mont., John Person, and Gorham Swanberg and Thomas Walker; for Missoula, Mont., Ralph L. Hand, and for Libby, Mont., the editor.

*Grebes, Herons*.—A few Horned Grebes wintered on the Snake and Clearwater Rivers near Lewiston, Idaho and a few Pied-billed stayed in the Spokane area. Great Blue Herons wintered in small numbers as usual. One wintered at Libby, which is not usual (Ed Dutton, Jr., TR). An **Am. Bittern** was noted on Dec. 27 at Lewiston—Verner's first winter record in his area.

*Waterfowl.*—Wintering Canada Geese were much less common, probably due to the severe weather. However, Verner counted 278 along the Snake River near Wawawai, Wash. Jan. 15. Mallards wintered commonly except at Missoula and Libby. Gadwall, Am. Widgeon and Pintails wintered in smaller numbers than last year. Wintering Green-winged Teal appeared very scarce and no Wood Ducks were seen after November. But few Redheads, Ring-necked Ducks, Canvas-backs and Lesser Scaups were noted during the winter. Am. Golden-eyes were present in increased numbers at Great Falls but seemed about as usual elsewhere. A few Barrow's were reported. A few Buffleheads wintered. A male and a female Old-squaw were on the Missouri River at Great Falls during late December and January. Hooded and Am. Mergansers wintered as usual, but a pair of Red-breasted, rare in the Region, was observed near Spokane in January and February (SOS, W. Hall).

*Hawks*.—Hawks appeared in about the usual numbers. Rough-legged Hawks were widely reported, particularly from east of the Continental Divide in Montana, but the Ferruginous was noted only as single birds on Christmas Counts at Great Falls and Rexburg, Idaho. Few Golden Eagles were noted as usual but the Bald Eagle seemed more common around Great Falls. Marsh Hawks were present as usual in the Moscow area. One seen on Feb. 18 near Great Falls may have wintered. The only Osprey record was on Spokane's Christmas Count. A female Gyrfalcon was found dead in Great Falls, Jan. 10, by Mrs. N. H. Brown and sent to the collection at Montana State College (CVD). A few Prairie Falcons wintered around Great Falls.

*Gallinaceous Birds*.—Thirty Sage Hens were noted west of Harrington, Wash., Jan. 3 (SOS). European Partridge, California Quail and Ring-necked Pheasant were reported about as usual, the quail only from the Lewiston area (450 on Dec. 27).

*Coot, Shorebirds, Gulls*.—Am. Coot were reported wintering at Great Falls, Spokane and Lewiston. No observations were available for Flathead Lake in western Montana. Killdeer wintered at Lewiston and Libby, but in decreased numbers. Wilson's Snipe numbers appeared to be down also. The usual gulls for the Region were not reported, except for the Herring, which was present in unusual numbers at Spokane (15 or 20 birds). A single bird was noted at Great Falls in early January. The first record of the **Glaucous-winged Gull** at Spokane was of 3 birds on Feb. 5 (WH). They were seen, Feb. 12 (SOS).

*Doves, Kingfishers, Owls*.—Mourning Doves were in usual numbers at Lewiston. Seven were as far north as Potlatch, Idaho, Feb. 7 (JV). All reporters from west of the Continental Divide advised the Pygmy Owl as more common than usual. Verner reported observing 3 of these owls on the same day. At Libby, this species arrived at the very early date of Nov. 14, apparently driven from the mountains by the wintry weather. Short-eared Owls were noted in the Moscow area and one at Missoula, Feb. 29, may have wintered. The rare Hawk

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Owl was seen, Jan. 6, near Missoula. A few Belted Kingfishers wintered west of the Continental Divide and along the West Gallatin River in the Bozeman area.

*Woodpeckers*.—Red-shafted Flickers appeared to be present in normal numbers. Unusual were the records of a Yellow-shafted wintering at Great Falls and one at Missoula, Feb. 20. Other woodpeckers appeared to be as usual, except for the remarkable occurrence of a **Lewis's Woodpecker** at Missoula, from Jan. 25 to March 17. Larks, Jays, Chickadees, Nuthatches.—Horned Larks were abundant east of the divide in Montana and in eastern Washington. Verner estimated at least 2000 on Feb. 4 between Colfax and Turnbull Refuge, Wash. Steller's Jay was a regular feeding station visitor in Bozeman. Am. Magpies appeared to be more common around Bozeman, where farmers are starting a poison bait drive against them. An extermination campaign at Great Falls resulted in the killing of 4,159 of the birds there in 1955 (Cascade Co. Wildlife Club, Me TW). Common Ravens were reported from Bozeman and Libby. No Am. Crows stayed at Spokane this winter but 25 or 30 wintered at the Bozeman city dump and 1 near Pullman, Wash. Clark's Nutcracker appeared more commonly, visiting feeding stations regularly at Bozeman and Spokane and appearing occasionally at Missoula and Libby. Black-capped Chickadees appeared as usual and Mountain Chickadees appeared commonly at Bozeman, Libby, Moscow, Pullman and Spokane. Nuthatches seemed to be present in usual numbers, with the Pygmy abundant at Spokane.

*Creepers, Dippers, Wrens*.—Brown Creepers appeared sparingly. A flock of 10 was noted first in Great Falls, Jan. 3 (Gorham Swanberg). Moscow had 4 on Dec. 26. Single birds were noted at wide intervals in Libby. Am. Dippers wintered in usual numbers throughout most of the Region. Washington had a monopoly on wrens. Spokane recorded 2 Winter Wrens on the Christmas Count. Verner reported the Cañon Wren and the Rock Wren along the Snake River at Wawawai, Wash.

*Thrushes, Kinglets*.—Am. Robins were much less common than last year. Spokane reported a large infix in mid-December and January. They were scarcer than usual at Libby, Missoula, Moscow and Pullman. More wintering birds were noted at Great Falls than last year, however. A flock of 25 staying in the junipers along the Missouri River was the largest noted. Varied Thrushes wintered more commonly in Spokane but showed a great decrease at Lewiston and Moscow, with only 2 records all winter. A few Townsend's Solitaires were noted by most reporters, the normal situation. Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported sparingly, in contrast to the usual situation. Spokane found only 7 on the Christmas Count, in comparison with 124 last year! Only Verner considered them to be present in usual numbers, in his area.

*Waxwings, Shrikes, Starlings*.—The Bohemian Waxwing invasion was again the most spectacular winter event of the bird world in the Region, and probably exceeded the excellent flight of last winter. From the observations available, it appears that the flocks follow down the main ranges of the Rocky Mountains from Canada and then spread out east and west as food supplies dwindle. To support this theory is the fact that the first record of the species was again at Libby, Mont. where 1 bird appeared, Oct. 3. Of more significance was a mixed flock of about 250 Bohemian and Cedar Waxwings there on Nov. 3. Bohemian numbers there increased to a peak of around 1,800 by mid-November. A similar picture appeared in Missoula, with at least 1,000 Bohemians in late November. Numbers dwindled at Libby and Missoula during December; only 33 could be found on Libby's Christmas Count! However, Spokane noted large flocks in mid-December with the peak in January. Moscow had some 2,000 on Dec. 26. Bozeman reported scattered flocks from late December on. At Great Falls, far out on the plains, the birds did not arrive in large numbers until Feb. 13 (1,200 birds), although a few appeared in December. More thorough study of this bird's migration should prove most rewarding. Cedar Waxwings apparently wintered only at Missoula, where Hand noted 15 or 20 birds. Elsewhere they had left by early December or sooner. A few Gray Shrikes were noted as usual. Verner considered them fairly common in the Moscow area. One was seen to catch a Song Sparrow in Libby in late December. Common Starlings were noted as common to abundant at every station reporting; no wintering birds were noted at Libby or Missoula, however.

*House Sparrows, Blackbirds*.—Davis noted the House Sparrow to be absent from the Bozeman city area, with huge flocks at the city dump instead. The birds were seemingly scarce in Libby. The continuous snow cover and the presence of Pygmy Owls may have been the important factors. A Pygmy Owl was reported to have caught one of the birds. A few Western Meadowlarks wintered at Bozeman, Missoula, and Pullman, and possibly at Spokane. They were in normal numbers at Lewiston, where they winter commonly. Red-winged Blackbirds were noted wintering only at Lewiston, as they usually do; on Dec. 27, 250 were estimated. On the same day 30 Brewer's Blackbirds were counted there. A male lingered near Moscow on Dec. 29. The second Idaho record of a **Purple Grackle** was that of an adult male collected at Lewiston, Dec. 27, and verified by the U. S. National Museum.

*Northern Finches*.—Evening Grosbeaks were fairly common in the Region, appearing at each reporting locality. Spokane had the highest Christmas Count (297) in recent years. A few Cassin's Finches wintered at Spokane, in marked contrast to the large numbers of last year. A flock of about 150 rosy finches wintered along the Missouri near Great Falls. Both Gray-crowned and Hepburn's were noted. The Gray-crowned were common near the Continental Divide between Monida and Lima, Mont., Nov 16 (Hand). Pine Grosbeaks appeared in western Montana from Libby and Fortine in the northwest to Bozeman in the south. The Common Redpoll was observed throughout the Region. Reporters in eastern Washington described them as unusually abundant. A few Pine Siskins wintered around Spokane, the only place reporting them, in contrast to last year. Wintering

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Am. Goldfinches appeared scarce, except in the Moscow-Pullman area, where numbers were as usual. Red Crossbills were either scarce or absent during the winter period. No White-winged Crossbills were noted.

*Sparrows*.—Oregon Juncos were present in markedly smaller numbers than last year in most instances. The persistent snow cover probably was important. Two birds remained to feed at a banding station in Libby, where snow was 2 to 3 feet deep much of the winter. Two also appeared at Great Falls, where juncos generally do not winter. A few Slate-colored Juncos wintered in Spokane again. Am. Tree Sparrows wintered in smaller numbers than last year at Great Falls and were not noted at Missoula. Several other localities reported from 1 to 31 on the Christmas Count. Only a few White-crowned Sparrows were noted wintering, these at Lewiston and Wawawai on the Snake River, where they were very common last winter. One noted on the Rexburg, Idaho, Christmas Count may have wintered. Song Sparrows seemed to have wintered in usual numbers. Only a few Snow Buntings were observed: 10 at For-tine (W. Weydemeyer), Dec. 27; about 15 near Plaza, Spokane Co., Wash. Feb. 4, and about 10 at Big Arm on Flathead Lake, March 11 (Bill Cole).

*Corrigendum*.—In Vol. 9, p. 273, 9 lines from bottom, read "where they appeared (Pine Siskins) in flocks of 100 or more, " not "1,100 or more."—THOMAS ROGERS, *1306 Dakota Ave., Libby, Mont.*

*The Winter Season, 1955-56*

**GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUN- TAIN REGION**.—It is with the greatest pleasure that the editor can add a report from one of the greatest waterfowl paradises in America, the great Klamath Basin. There are two refuges there beside each other, Lower Klamath and Tulelake just over the state line in California. However, the fields to the north in which the birds often feed are in Oregon. Tom Home is the manager at Tulelake and Leroy Giles the biologist. In general the weather is local in this Region, but it appears that there were heavy snows particularly in the mountains in northern Utah, Idaho, and eastern Oregon. Tulelake which is the terminal sump of the Lost River had floods. Over the rest of the area the winter was mild and dry. In this Region the seasons are all mixed up. While this is officially the winter report, for many species we are reporting their spring migration and for at least one the nesting season, the Canada Goose. At Bear River Marshes at the upper end of the Great Salt Lake, Vanez Wilson reports the spring migration was late and not up to last year. The peak at Bear River was on March 22. At Klamath the story is the same. Spring migration began about Feb. 20, and reached a peak on March 7 when about 120,000 geese were counted, primarily Snow and White-fronts.

*Swans*.—The Whistling Swan winters in great numbers in the Great Basin. The peak in the Klamath Basin was 12,000 on March 13, while at Bear River the maximum was 5,450 on Dec. 8. By the end of March most of the swans have gone north. Ogden Bay Refuge, just down the Lake from Bear River, reported an unusually high winter population of 4,500 Whistling Swans (Nelson).

*Geese*.—At Tulelake they are trapping, dyeing, and banding geese. In March 162 Snow Geese were trapped and 2 Ross's Geese. The Snows are dyed pink and the Ross's yellow. On the same program last year the Snow Geese were seen in Alberta, along the Mackenzie River, near the Arctic Coast, and on Banks Island. The Ross's Geese were seen in June near Great Slave Lake. Two Ross's Geese were seen at Farmington Bay on Great Salt Lake near the city on Feb. 20 (Shaffer). About 12,000 Snow Geese were reported at Mud Lake in Eastern Idaho in the third week of March (Hunter).

*Ducks*.—Ducks were down in numbers at Klamath during the winter and early spring migration. An exception was the Lesser Scaup which on March 20 was estimated at 22,000, the highest number in recent years. At Bear River the Pintail remains the most common duck but the high was only 98,000 and that was on March 22. About 135,000 Mallards were reported from Deer Flat Refuge in southwestern Idaho, Dec. 26 (Mrs. Shaw). The new wildlife refuge at Monte Vista in southern Colorado is making good progress. Charles Bryant, the manager, says there was a 100 per cent increase in the waterfowl population this winter. The most common duck was the Mallard with a low of 4,000 in the last week of January. The average, however, was about 10,000.

*Hawks*.—Eagles were present in numbers at Bear River during the winter. The highest count was 16, Golden Eagles on March 28 while the high was 4 for Bald Eagles on Feb. 28. The corresponding hi figures for Klamath were 15 Golden Eagles and (s Bald Eagles. A maximum of 22 Golden Eagles reported from Monte Vista Refuge in southern Colorado in mid-January along with 6 Bald Eagles (Bryant). Jepson believes several pairs of Golden Eagles nest in Zion National Park. The Golden Eagle seems to migrate north in this country in March but is present in numbers all winter, while the Bald Eagle winters and goes north earlier. This pattern is true for this whole Region. The Bald Eagle got down into Utah in unusual numbers this winter. Lockerbie had a dozen scattered about central Utah. During the winter months the Marsh Hawk is the most common hawk at Klamath with a high of 76 and the Rough-leg next with 30. Bear River has about the same but fewer birds.

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*Shorebirds*.—By March 28 there were 2,580 Am. Avocets at Bear River.

*Owls*.—Fifteen Short-eared Owls were wintering at Lower Klamath on Jan. 31.

*Nutcrackers*.—Clark's Nutcrackers were driven into the valleys by heavy snows in the mountains at Rexburg in eastern Idaho (Hunter), and at Logan in northeastern Utah (Stanford). Dr. Stanford says this is the second time this has happened in 25 years. In Logan the nutcrackers caused much excitement by their numbers, food hunting, and snatching activities. Nutcrackers came down to lower altitudes than usual in the Denver area but it is not clear that heavy snows were the cause there. (Thatcher).

*Waxwings.*—Bohemian Waxwing records are of interest. There were almost none at Rexburg (Hunter) in eastern Idaho where they often occur in flocks of 1,000 in the winter. There were very few at Salt Lake (Lockerbie). There were no reports from Colorado of the birds. However, there were many at Sheridan in northern Wyoming (Waltman) and the usual numbers in flocks of several hundred at Casper in central Wyoming (OKS).

*Starlings*.—Common Starlings continue to increase. There were 5,000 in a flock at Salt Lake City, Feb. 20 (Shaffer), and up to 2,000-3,000 at Roosevelt in the Uintah Basin in eastern Utah (Killpack).

*Finches*.—There was a big flight of Evening Grosbeaks. Salt Lake had the largest flight in many years (Lockerbie). They were reported from all Wyoming points including Sundance in northeastern Wyoming (McIntyre). The winter was so open and mild that the usual great concentrations of Rosy Finches of 3 species did not materialize at Mesa Verde in southern Colorado (Pinckley).

*Sparrows*.—There were several Harris's Sparrows wintering at Hotchkiss, Colo. near Grand Junction (Crews). Killpack at Roosevelt in eastern Utah collected a Lapland Longspur (Alaska subspecies) on Dec. 18 and again on Jan. 28, when there was a flock of 42. This is the second record for the Uintah Basin and fourth for the state. This is remarkable since the bird is a usual migrant in much of Wyoming and in Colorado east of the Rockies.—DR. OLIVER K. SCOTT, *437 East 13th St., Casper, Wyo.*

*The Winter Season, 1955-56*

**NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION**.—The second coldest November on record for the Seattle area, noted in the fall report, probably had an influence on bird distribution for the rest of the winter. There was an extensive killing of vegetation, especially the ornamental plants. The cold weather continued into March with precipitation above normal. Below-normal temperatures with increased precipitation are unusual for this area. Temperatures averaged 3° to 5° below normal throughout most of the period. Below-freezing temperatures were recorded at Seattle seven times in January, ten times in February, and eleven in March. There were no below-freezing temperatures after the middle of March, but temperatures were below average for the rest of the period. Snowfall was light in the lowlands, but above average in the mountains. At Victoria, B. C. the winter was described as cold and wet, with much snow.

*Loons, Grebes, Cormorants, Herons*.—There were few Common Loons at Comox (Theed Pearse), but they were fairly common at Victoria (A. R. Davidson) and near Port Townsend, Wash., on Puget Sound. Arctic Loons seemed more abundant this winter. On Dec. 10, 300 were seen near Port Townsend and on Feb 4, 100 were noted at Sydney (ARD). Only a few Red-throated Loons were recorded. Red-necked and Horned Grebes were regularly seen, but they were less common at Victoria (ARD). As usual, only a few Eared Grebes were seen in the area. The normal numbers of Western Grebes were observed. An estimated 5,000 were seen following the herring near Comox, B. C. (TP). Double-crested, Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants were all reported in normal numbers. A raft of about 1,800 Brandt's was seen near Port Townsend, March 11. An Am. Bittern was seen at Seattle on Dec. 26 and another on March 24 (Walter Hagenstein). No Green Herons were reported this winter.

*Swans, Geese, Brant*.—The only Whistling Swans reported were 7 that wintered near Bellingham, Wash. (Lucile Kline). Four Trumpeter Swans wintered at the mouth of the Courtenay River and 25 at Powell Lake, B. C. (TP). There were fewer Canada and Snow Geese this winter. One (Cackling) Canada Goose was seen at Seattle, Dec. 2. Black Brant were first observed near Port Townsend, Feb. 12 and at Victoria, March 4 (ARD). In the middle of March, 1,500 were noted at Comox (TP).

*Ducks*.—There were fewer fresh-water ducks this year. The scarcity of Am. Widgeon and Shovellers was especially evident in the Seattle area. A few Gadwalls, Pintails, Canvas-backs, and Green-winged Teal were reported as usual. Am. Golden-eyes, Buffleheads, White-winged and Surf Scoters, and Greater Scaup were normally abundant. Seven Barrow's Golden-eyes were seen at Seattle, Dec. 26 (ZMS). Old-squaws, Harlequin Ducks, and Am.-Scoters were frequently observed, mainly near Port Townsend and northward. As in most years, a few Ring-necked

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Ducks were reported. Ruddy Ducks appeared to be less abundant this year. There were fewer Am. and Hooded Mergansers at Seattle, but Red-breasted Mergansers were present in normal numbers on salt water.

*Hawks*.—Hawks in general appeared to be scarcer than usual. One Goshawk was reported from Blaine, Wash., March 19 (LK). One Marsh Hawk was seen at Stanwood, Wash. Bald Eagles were seen in the northern Puget Sound and Vancouver Island areas as usual. Pearse reported 10 observed during herring runs in March near Comox, B. C. One Golden Eagle was reported in the Victoria area about March 20 (ARD). A Peregrine Falcon was seen at Comox, March 1 (TP).

*Rails, Shorebirds*.—Virginia Rails were reported from Seattle, Jan. 11, and from Stanwood, Feb. 27. Am. Coots were in their usual numbers, as were Black Oyster-catchers, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Black Turnstones, Wilson's Snipe, and Sanderlings. Two Surf-birds were noted at Victoria, March 31 (ARD). Red-backed Sandpipers were fewer in places where usually seen in abundance. Three dowitchers were seen in Seattle, Dec. 26.

*Gulls, Alcids*.—All gulls were seen in usual numbers except Short-bills, which appeared to be less abundant, at least on the lakes at Seattle. Pearse reported enormous numbers of Glaucous-winged Gulls following herring runs near Comox in March. Common Murres were relatively scarce from December to March, but then appeared in normal numbers. Pigeon Guillemots and Marbled Murrelets were in normal numbers and a few Cassin's Auklets were seen near Port Townsend. Ancient Murrelets seemed to be more abundant; 84 were seen in Admiralty Inlet, Wash., Feb. 12. Rhinoceros Auklets were numerous in November, 'but then abruptly disappeared and were not noted again in numbers until the end of March. Two Tufted Puffins at Orcas Island, Wash., Dec. 26 were unusual, as they probably winter offshore. Pigeons, Owls, Woodpeckers.—There were fewer Band-tailed Pigeons in the Seattle area, probably as a result of the destructive November freeze that destroyed the Madrona and other berries that form their winter food supply. For the period, there were only three records of Short-eared Owls. The winter was apparently hard on woodpeckers in general and Red-shafted Flickers in particular. More than usual were found dead. One Yellow-shafted Flicker was reported from Seattle, Jan. 13 (WH).

*Larks, Titmice, Nuthatches, Wrens*.—Four Horned Larks wintered near Victoria, B. C. (ARD). Black-capped and Chestnut-backed Chickadees were in normal numbers. Bushtits seem to be doing well, being recorded well up Vancouver Island. Forty-four were reported from Orcas Island, Dec. 26, and several flocks of 10 to 30 near Seattle (Webster H. Ransom). Red-breasted Nuthatches, Winter and Bewick's Wrens were common, but fewer Brown Creepers were seen. Marsh Wrens were reported only from Seattle, Dec. 26.

*Thrushes*.—Am. Robins were much scarcer this winter, but Varied Thrushes were more abundant. Townsend's Solitaires were reported at Victoria, Dec. 13 and Feb. 12 (ARD), and on Orcas Island, Dec. 26.

*Kinglets, Pipits, Waxwings, Shrikes*.—Both Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were down in numbers, but this may be a return to more normal numbers after the upswing of the past two years. Water Pipits were recorded near Seattle, Feb. 18. Cedar Waxwings were very scarce at Victoria, 5 recorded (ARD), while 145 were counted in Seattle, Dec. 26. No Bohemian Waxwings were noted. Gray Shrikes were recorded at least nine times; three times from Victoria (ARD), four from Seattle, once from Blaine (LK), and once from Comox (TP).

*Starlings*.—East of Lake Washington, Seattle, estimates of wintering Common Starlings ranged from 2,500 to 5,000 birds (WH, WR). At Victoria, 8 were reported on Jan. 12; 4 on Feb. 11; and 2 on Feb. 12. Mrs. Kline saw her first at Blaine, Jan. 29. Pearse reported an increase at Comox, with two flocks of 30 to 40 being seen.

*Warblers, Blackbirds, Tanagers*.—Audubon's and Townsend's Warblers wintered in small numbers in the Seattle area. Western Meadowlarks and Red-winged Blackbirds wintered in normal numbers. In the Seattle area Brewer's Blackbirds were much scarcer than usual. An adult female Western Tanager was first observed at Bellevue, Dec. 21, and was found dead, Dec. 25.

*Northern Finches*.—Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finches were reported in normal numbers. House Finches are doing well both in Seattle and at Victoria, where 70 to 100 wintered, and have spread to rural areas (ARD). Pearse saw 2 Pine Grosbeaks at Comox on Jan. 25. Pine Siskins were much scarcer than last year. Only 1,164 were counted on Dec. 26, compared with 5,580 in Seattle last year. Only 5 Am. Goldfinches were reported from Seattle, Dec. 26. Red Cross-bills were not so common near Seattle, and a flock of 20, Feb. 28, was the only report from Victoria (ARD).

*Sparrows*.—Spotted Towhees were present in normal numbers. Oregon Juncos were very abundant. Slate-colored Juncos were reported from Victoria on Feb. 14 and March 31 (ARD); Orcas Island on Dec. 26, and near Bellevue on Jan. 11, 18 and 29 (WH). **Am. Tree Sparrows** were reported from the Seattle area on Dec. 26, 27 and March 11 (WH) and from Orcas Island on Dec. 26. A few White-crowned Sparrows wintered in the area. Golden-crowned Sparrows were more numerous than White-crowns, but were down in numbers at Victoria. Fox Sparrows were also scarcer at Victoria and at Comox. A **Harris's Sparrow** in adult plumage was carefully identified at Victoria, B. C. It was recorded from Dec. 7 to the end of January. This is the first record from that area since 1894 (ARD). On Dec. 26, 9 Lincoln's Sparrows were seen on Orcas Island and 1 at Seattle. Song Sparrows were abundant as usual.—WILLIAM R. GOODGE and ZELLA M. SCHULTZ, *Washington State Museum, University of Washington, Seattle 5, Wash.*

*Spring Migration, 1956*

**PALOUSE - NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION**.—The Region experienced a slow spring with a cold March, and with snow persisting until mid-March in eastern Washington and into April in western Montana. Stanley reported early migrants at Spokane, Wash. to be a little slow, and Hand noted a similar situation for most of the early species at Missoula, Mont. At Libby, Mont., however, many birds were ahead of usual dates; for example, Tree Swallows were 10 days earlier than the first arrival date in 9 years' observing. Along the Snake River

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in Idaho, where relatively mild conditions prevail, many migrants made their first appearance. The migrational movement, generally speaking, appeared to move next to northern Idaho and eastern Washington, then to northwestern Montana (Libby), next to the Missoula and St. Ignatius, Mont. area and last of all to Bozeman, Mont. This roughly corresponds to the order of increasing altitude of the areas, rather than to increasing latitude. Unless otherwise noted, credit for reports is as follows: Bozeman, Mont., Clifford V. Davis; Missoula, Mont., Ralph L. Hand; St. Ignatius, Mont., Mr. and Mrs. Earl L. Hiett; Spokane, Wash. area, Spokane Bird Club, courtesy of Stephen O. Stanley; Moscow, Lewiston and Snake River, Idaho, and Pullman, Wash., Jared Verner, and Libby, Mont., the editor.

*Loons, Grebes, Herons*.—Hand reported a Common Loon at Kicking Horse Reservoir, Lake Co., Mont., April 26 and a Red-necked Grebe at nearby Ninepipe Reservoir, May 15. Only 3 Horned Grebes were observed in the Region, but Eared Grebes were fairly common migrants. On May 7 several landed on the streets in Bozeman and were taken to nearby ponds. Several Western Grebes were at Ninepipe in April and May, as well as a Pied-billed (RLH). Great Blue Herons wintered at Spokane and St. Ignatius and were noted elsewhere arriving the last of March and early April.

*Swans, Geese, Ducks*.—T. D. Burleigh observed 83 Whistling Swans at Lewiston, Idaho, March 24. Canada Geese were migrating during late March and early April. Several thousand had congregated at Turnbull Refuge south of Spokane in early April (SOS). About 500 were noted at Ninepipe (ELH). A (Cackling) Canada Goose was on the Snake River between Wawawai and Almota, Wash., April 22 (J. David Solf, *fide* JV). Snow Geese were reported only from Missoula and Lewiston. Over 2,000 Mallards were counted on the Snake River on March 11. Gadwall were scarce—only a pair at Ninepipe (RLH). Am. Widgeon and Pintails occurred commonly at several stations. Green-winged Teal were common at Missoula, March 25 to April 19. Cinnamon Teal were seen at Missoula and at Medical Lake, Wash. (SOS). Ring-necked Ducks were last seen at Spokane on April 8 and a pair was at Kicking Horse, April 26 (RLH). A few Canvas-backs were reported from Spokane, the Snake River and Three Forks, Mont. (CVD). Lesser Scaup arrived in large numbers in mid-March at Spokane. Wintering Am. Golden-eyes left in March but others were still migrating through in April at Missoula. The rare Barrow's Golden-eye was seen on the Spokane River, March 24. Buffleheads were noted at Lewiston (1) and Three Forks (CVD). Ruddy Ducks were most numerous at Turnbull (about 50 on April 24) (SOS). Verner reported a flock of 15 Hooded Mergansers on the Snake River near Wawawai, March 11.

*Vultures and Hawks*.—Turkey Vultures appeared, May 1, near Manhattan, Mont. where they have occurred for the past two years (CVD). The first arrival at Missoula was on April 30. Stanley saw one at Turnbull, April 22. A Goshawk, rarely reported in the Region, was found dead at Missoula, April 15, having been shot a few days before. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks appeared to be very scarce, but Red-tailed Hawks seemed fairly common, appearing in March and April. The Swainson's Hawk arrived at Bozeman, April 21, and was the most common hawk there during the spring. The Prairie Falcon arrived at Bozeman, April 30. Wintering Pigeon Hawks were last noted at Spokane, Feb. 13, and at Missoula, March 10.

*Cranes, Coots, Shorebirds, Gulls*.—Seven Sandhill Cranes flew over the Little Spokane River, March 23 (M. C. Haggin, *fide* SOS). Am. Coots were first seen at Ninepipe, April 2 (RLH). They are a year-round resident in the Spokane area. Earliest Killdeer migrants were 2 at Moscow, Feb. 29 (TDB). Spotted Sandpipers were first noted on May 13 at Libby (early), Spokane and the Snake River. A Solitary Sandpiper was noted at Libby, May 13, the first spring record there in 9 years' observing. The species was not reported elsewhere. The only yellow-legs record was of a Greater at Turnbull, April 22 (SOS). Dowitchers were seen only at Sprague Lake in Washington (May 6, SOS) and at Kicking Horse (RLH, ELH) in mid-May. The Hietts found about a dozen Am. Avocets at Kicking Horse on May 17. The earliest observation of Wilson's Phalarope was at Kicking Horse, May 15 (RLH). About 1,000 Ring-billed Gulls were observed during the spring season at West Medical Lake, Wash. (SOS). They were first seen, April 2, at Ninepipe (RLH). A few California Gulls were with the Ring-billed at Medical Lake. A single Forster's Tern was seen, May 15, at Ninepipe as well as the most unusual Caspian Tern, 4 of which were identified (RLH). Black Terns were noted returning at Sprague, Wash., May 6 (SOS), and near Missoula, May 22.

*Doves, Owls, Swifts, Hummingbirds*.—Davis reported Mourning Doves as very abundant at Bozeman. Hand observed an early return at Missoula, April 19. The first Spokane record was on April 8. A Pygmy Owl was noted at the base of Moscow Mountain, near Moscow, Idaho, as late as March 31. A Short-eared Owl was seen at Ninepipe, May 15 (RLH). Vaux's Swift, noted only at Missoula, was first seen on May 9. Black Swifts appeared only at Libby, 3 on May 10 and 9 on May 24. These are the first records earlier than June, in 9 years' observing (ED). Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds set

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new early records at Libby (May 5 and 6, respectively) but these and the Black-chinned were about 2 weeks late at Spokane, arriving in mid-April. At Missoula the Rufous appeared, May 18; Calliope, May 12 (early), and the Black-chinned, May 31. The Black-chinned was first noted on May 21 at Libby.

*Woodpeckers, Flycatchers*.—Migrant Red-shafted Flickers appeared at Missoula in early March. Lewis's Woodpecker arrived in May, the earliest observation along the Clearwater River near Greer, Idaho, being on May 6 (JV). Davis noted one near Buffalo, Mont. May 30; this is his first record for that area. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was first noted at Missoula, April 13, and appeared elsewhere only at Libby, first on April 16. Eastern Kingbirds arrived around May 20 at nearly every station. The Western Kingbird was first seen at Spokane, April 29, but was not seen at Manhattan, Mont. until May 19 (CVD). Say's Phoebe was the earliest of the flycatchers, with 2 noted along the Snake River near Wawawai, March 3. Traill's was first observed near Sprague, Wash., May 6 (SOS), but was not noted at Missoula until June 1. The Least Flycatcher was noted, May 26, in the Bridger Mountains near Bozeman. Hand reported Wright's as arriving on May 9 and Hammond's on May 17 at Missoula. The Western Flycatcher was observed only from the Spokane area (May 30 by Earl Pettibone) and the Bridger Mountains (May 26, CVD). Western Wood Pewees arrived from May 25 to 30, but had not been observed around Bozeman at the close of this period.

*Larks and Swallows*.—Horned Larks arrived the last of March at Spokane. Some seen on Feb. 29 at Missoula may have wintered, but the species became rather common there after March 17. Two Violet-green Swallows appeared along the Snake River at Almota, Wash. March 11. The birds were at Spokane, March 19, and had arrived at Libby on March 17 (early). Tree Swallows were near Lewiston, March 16 (TDB); Spokane and Libby (single birds), March 18; Missoula, April 8, and Bozeman, April 12. Earliest Bank Swallows were noted near Ravalli, Mont., April 26 (RLH) and first Rough-winged, at Turnbull and at Penewawa on the Snake River, April 22 (SOS, JV). Barn Swallows, like so many spring migrants, appeared first along the Snake River (Almota, April 29), then at Turnbull (May 6, SOS) and later in the mountains (May 15 in Lake Co., Mont. by RLH and May 19 at Bozeman). Cliff Swallows followed a similar pattern but started earlier, beginning with one bird near Lewiston on April 2.

*Jays, Chickadees, Nuthatches, Dippers*.—A few Common Ravens were noted quite regularly at Libby. The Am. Crow arrived in March in eastern Washington but not until mid-May at Missoula. A flock of Piñon Jays was observed along the Madison River west of Bozeman, April 21. Clark's Nutcracker lingered in Bozeman until April 20 and until the late date of May 5 at a feeding station in Spokane (1 bird). A single Mountain Chickadee was noted, May 31, in the valley at Missoula. Red-breasted Nuthatches were very scarce at Spokane, Libby and Missoula. The White-breasted and Pygmy were noted as common at Spokane. A Brown Creeper was at Bozeman, April 7, but had departed earlier elsewhere. Am. Dippers left Greenough Park in Missoula after March 8.

*Wrens, Catbirds, Thrushes*.—The first House Wren record was on May 5 at Libby. Winter Wrens were singing along Cedar Creek, in the Cabinet Mountains near Libby, May 19, with several feet of snow remaining. Long-billed Marsh Wrens were numerous at Turnbull on April 22 (SOS). The Rock Wren had reached Bozeman by May 9. Arrival dates for Catbirds were surprisingly uniform: April 20 to 23 for 5 stations reporting it. Migrating Am. Robins appeared in February and early March at Bozeman but were late at Libby, with no pronounced movement until mid-March. Burleigh reported migrants at Moscow on March 17. Missoula had migrants beginning on March 2. Varied Thrushes, which are winter visitors at Spokane, had left about March 24 but were arriving at Libby by March 18 and lingered there until April 21. One was heard whistling at 5,400 ft. elevation at Lower Cedar Lake in the Cabinet Mountains near Libby on May 19, although about 6 feet of snow persisted. Hermit Thrushes were observed twice: 1 at Spokane, May 5, and 2 at Pullman, April 25 (JDS). The Olive-backed Thrush and Veery were observed returning between May 20 and the end of the month. Western Bluebirds, noted only at Spokane, were first seen, March 17. Mountain Bluebirds appeared from March 16 on. At St. Ignatius they appear to have been replaced by Starlings. Townsend's Solitaires were not seen April 7 (Moscow).

*Kinglets, Pipits*.—Golden-crowned Kinglets were last observed, April 29, at Spokane but were singing commonly around 5,000 ft. elevation near Cedar Lake near Libby on May 19. The first Ruby-crowned Kinglets appeared at Spokane, March 18 (Buchecker). Two very early arrivals appeared at Potlatch, Idaho, March 25 (TDB). Water Pipits were noted migrating as early as March 10 at Libby, where they were noted occasionally until May 16 (late). Large flocks were at Turnbull on April 22 and at Sprague on May 6 (SOS).

*Waxwings, Shrikes, Starlings*.—Bohemian Waxwings had all gone before the last of March. Cedar Waxwings appeared to be scarce. None were seen after February at Missoula, where some winter. They were reported elsewhere only from Spokane, June 3, and Libby, where they arrived in small numbers on the fairly early date of May 24. A Gray Shrike was collected, April 3, at Moscow (TDB). Burleigh also collected a Loggerhead at Genesee, Idaho, March 24, and one was seen at Sprague, May 6 (SOS). A Loggerhead Shrike was seen at Libby, March 31. Starlings were common to abundant from mid-February or March.

*Vireos and Warblers*.—First dates for Solitary Vireos were: Libby, May 12; Missoula, May 17, and Turnbull, May 25 (SOS). The Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos appeared on May 20 or later. Audubon’s Warbler opened the warbler migration as usual, with April 23 at Libby the first date. One was singing

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at Cedar Lake, 5,400 ft. elevation, May 19. The Nashville followed at Libby on April 27, a rather early date for it. Next was the Yellow Warbler, May 4, at Spokane. Arriving after the middle of May were Macgillivray's, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat (Spokane, June 2, Hunt; Wawawai, May 20), Am. Redstart and Townsend's Warbler. Black-capped Warblers were noted migrating from May 23 (Missoula) until June 2 (Libby). The Northern Water-thrush appeared at Missoula and Libby around the last of May.

*Meadowlarks, Blackbirds, Orioles*.—Bobolinks showed up, May 19 or later, at Bozeman, Missoula and St. Ignatius. Western Meadowlarks appeared in early March at Libby (R. Denning) and by mid-month or later elsewhere. Some wintered at St. Ignatius. Earliest dates for Yellow-headed Blackbirds were April 20 at Manhattan, Mont. (CVD) and April 22 at Turnbull (SOS). Male Red-winged Blackbirds began arriving near the last of February at Missoula. A single bird was reported on Feb. 29 at Libby, in spite of cold and snow (J. Sichting). Females were arriving about a month later, although they were not seen in the Bozeman area until April 21. Arrival dates for Bullock's Oriole were very consistently around May 20. Brewer's Blackbirds were recorded first at Spokane, in mid-March, but elsewhere appeared mostly in April. Purple Grackles arrived at Bozeman, May 21. Brown-headed Cowbirds were appearing during the first half of May.

*Tanagers, Finches and Sparrows*.—The Western Tanager was noted first near Sprague, May 6, and had reached Missoula by May 23, Bozeman by May 26. A Black-headed Grosbeak was at Wawawai, May 13, and was seen near Spokane, May 20. Arrival dates for Missoula and Bozeman were May 22 and 26, respectively. A Lazuli Bunting was noted at Penewawa on the Snake River, May 13 (H. A. Salberg, *fide* JV). They arrived later in May elsewhere. Cassin's Finches appeared later this year, the first on April 2 at Spokane. Larger flocks than usual were noted at Bozeman and Libby. The latest Common Redpolls seen were a flock near Pullman, March 18. Pine Siskins, erratic migrants as usual, arrived anywhere from March 31 (Lewiston—TDB, and Libby) to May 12 (Missoula). Am. Goldfinches, where not wintering, arrived in May. Red Crossbills put in few appearances; a few were seen at Spokane and Libby. Hand reported the species absent since June 23 of last year! The Green-tailed Towhee was seen at Bozeman, May 26. Spotted Towhees were arriving around mid-March but were not noted until April 10 at Missoula. Lark Buntings were abundant in Fergus and Judith Basin Counties, Mont. by May 30 (CVD). Savannah Sparrows were first noted, April 8, at Saltese Marsh near Spokane and were generally passing through during late April and until mid-May. They were present in unusual numbers at Libby (about 60 in a flock on May 3), where rainy weather may have detained them. Vesper Sparrows were noted at Lewiston, March 24 (TDB) and a very early one at Libby, March 31. They had reached Missoula April 18. Lark Sparrows reached Spokane by May .The last Slate-colored Junco was noted at Spokane on March 24. It is a rare winter visitor there. Migrant Oregon Juncos reached Missoula, March 8, Libby in late March and Bozeman by April 1. A pair had penetrated into the Cabinet Mountains near Libby, to about 5,400 ft. elevation by May 19, when practically all ground was still deeply snow-covered. No Am. Tree Sparrows were noted at Lewiston after April 2. The first Chipping Sparrow record was for April 30 at Pullman. White-crowned Sparrows were migrating through from April 23 until mid-May. Very surprising was the occurrence at Libby, on the very early date of March 24, of a single bird, singing, and in immature plumage. The species was much commoner at Libby; 27 were banded, compared to 6 last year. A Fox Sparrow arrived, March 19, at Moscow. The species was on schedule at Libby, arriving on March 31. A Lincoln's Sparrow was collected at Lewiston on April 1 (TDB). A few passed through Libby from May 9 to 13. Song Sparrows increased in number around the last of February at Missoula. Chestnut-collared Longspurs were noted with Horned Larks in numbers between Harlowtown and Judith Gap, Mont., May 30.—THOMAS ROGERS, *Libby, Mont.*

*Spring Migration, 1956*

**GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION**.—In this vast region of deserts, high mountains and plateaus, the weather is almost local. Take Durango, for instance, in southwestern Colorado, which lies at over 7,000 ft. and is surrounded on the west, north and east by mountain ranges of from 12,000 to 14,000 ft. The precipitation in this area has almost no bearing on what happens elsewhere. In the semi-desert around Stillwater Refuge in western Nevada there were some showers in April and May; it rained on twelve different days in the two months, and the country became greener than it has been in many years. In general, April and May were cooler and moister than usual but by the end of May the weather was hot. Again I have to protest April and May as the spring migration period. It is the breeding season for many of our birds, and in the high mountains there isn't much spring migration by June 1st. We have to wait until late June to find the breeding population. In the Durango area the leaves were not out above 9000 ft. by June 1st. At Klamath Basin, Leroy Giles, the biologist, reports through Tom Home, Refuge Manager, that

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as usual their real spring migration was over by April 1st, but that April and the first half of May were cold and the shorebird and late duck migration was delayed by two weeks. Their peak migration was on March 6, with the height of the Pintail movement and 97,000 Snow Geese reported on the same date. White-fronted Geese peaked a little later at 39,600 on March 27. The Whistling Swan peak was 12,000 on March 13. It is interesting to compare the Klamath Basin with the Bear River Marshes at the upper end of Great Salt Lake. William Reid reports from Bear River under the direction of Vanez Wilson, the manager. These are two of the great waterfowl concentration areas in the nation. While Bear River does not have the geese and swans to compare with Klamath in the spring, in the duck category it is a different story. Bear River had more of the Green-winged Teal, 70,500 to 6,400; Gadwall, 9,000 to 2,300 for Klamath; Am. Widgeon, 15,000 to 2,600; Redhead, 20,000 to 1,700; and scaup, 35,000 to 22,000, while Klamath had more of the Pintail, 285,000 to 98,000; Shoveller, 54,000 to 4,500; Bufflehead, 1,920 to 300 and Ruddy Duck, 55,800 to 25,000. In shorebirds the comparison shows that many species peter out by the time they get over to the western edge of the Great Basin at Klamath. In general, Bear River is a far better place for shorebirds. For instance, the Black-bellied Plover high was 350 at Bear River as compared to 6 at Klamath; Marbled Godwit, 1,500 to 1; Long-billed Curlew, 125 to 11; Am. Avocet, 4,500 to 350; Black-necked Stilt, 600 to 40; dowitcher, 1,300 to 54. On the other hand, Klamath reported such things as 750 Red-backed Sandpipers and Ruddy Turnstones which do not occur at Bear River.

*Grebes*.—Eared Grebes were reported in numbers from all points as usual, but Lockerbie says there are more this year than he has ever seen, the flocks running well over 1,000.

*Herons.*—The Am. Egret occurs in numbers at Stillwater and at Klamath but does not get much further east.

*Swans, Geese, and Ducks*.—A small boy with a .22 shot one of the Trumpeter Swans on Flat Creek at Jackson this spring. Therefore, the show of swans from the highway was not so good. The boy was not punished. Dale Southerland, the biologist at Stillwater in western Nevada, reported through Chester Markley, the manager, that the peak of Whistling Swans was 2,000 on March 2. The pattern of waterfowl in general follows Klamath at Stillwater, but the numbers are not so great. Mrs. Carman had a Ross's Goose on May 15 at Evans Lake in western Colorado. Bear River had a good breeding season of Canada Geese with 320 broods, up 90 from last year. There were 171 per cent more ducks using the new Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge in southern Colorado (Bryant) than last year. The Mallard is the most common waterfowl species and reached 7,000 this spring.

*Grouse*.—Don Hunter reported an increasing number of Sage Hens in southeastern Idaho and an open season is being considered. Parts of Wyoming have an open season, which is short because the bird is so stupid the kill can be very great. Except for young birds, they are poor eating.

*Gulls.*—Three Bonaparte's Gulls were reported at Farmington Bay, Great Salt Lake, May 6 (Lockerbie) and at Deckers Lake. There was one at Casper in central Wyoming, April 22 (OKS).

*Shorebirds*.—There were 3 Red-backed Sandpipers at Ocean Lake in central Wyoming, May 12 (Warkley). Eighty Marbled Godwits were reported at Saratoga Lake in south-central Wyoming, April 26 (Lambertsen). Stillwater reported a concentration of 5,000 dowitchers in the last half of May. In general, water conditions were excellent for shorebirds at Stillwater and the usual local breeding birds—Am. Avocets and Black-necked Stilts,—were having a highly successful season. Four Am. Golden Plovers were reported at Farmington Bay in May by Lockerbie. He also had Northern Phalaropes there on May 15 in "untold thousands" for the biggest centration yet reported of these birds.

*Hummingbirds*.—Mrs. Crews at Hotchkiss, in western Colorado, so far has had only Black-chinned Hummers at her feeder, but they take up to 1½ pints of syrup daily.

*Jays, Mockingbirds, Bobolinks*.—Mrs. McIntyre at her remarkable banding station at Devils Tower in northeastern Wyoming banded young Gray Jays coming to her feeding station by May 22. Mockingbirds were reported at Driggs in eastern Idaho, May 26 (Hunter) and at Rawlins in southern Wyoming, May 30 (Lambertsen). An increase in their numbers was reported at Cheyenne in southeastern Wyoming, where they are found regularly (Snyder). There was a Bobolink near Victor in eastern Idaho, May 20 (Hunter). This bird is found in scattered localities as far west as Malheur in this Region.

*Finches.*—Don Hunter had a Lark Bunting in eastern Idaho, May 23, near St. Anthony's, an unusual record. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was found at Rawlins, Wyo. on May 18 (Lambertsen). Most places in this Region reported Evening Grosbeaks staying later than usual but there was a tremendous concentration in Durango in mid-May. Oppie Reames conservatively reported 545, May 19. Don Thatcher had White-winged Crossbills at Echo Lake west Denver on May 19. These birds probably occur regularly in this Region but are very irregular when compared with the more common Red Crossbill.—DR. OLIVER K. SCOTT, *437 E. 13 St., Casper, Wyo.*

*Spring Migration, 1956*

**NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION**.—The months of April and May were mild in this area. The average temperatures were slightly above normal. The maximum daily temperature recorded at Seattle, Wash., ranged from 48 degrees to a high of 88 degrees on May 30. The minimum temperatures ranged from 36 to 58 degrees. The rainfall was below normal for both months. A total of 1.27 inches was recorded for the two months. Although no unusual migrations were reported some species of land birds appeared somewhat earlier than usual. In only a few cases did they arrive later than usual. The water birds in most cases seemed to have left for the breeding grounds sooner in most years.

*Loons, Grebes, Herons*.—Theed Pearse reports that Common Loons are scarce at Comox, B. C. They are not present at some regular nesting localities. A. R. Davidson reported some still around at the end of the period at Victoria, B. C. The last Horned Grebes were seen at Blaine, Wash., on April 26 (Lucile Kline) and the last Western Grebes on May 1. This represents an early departure for both species. Six Great Blue Herons at Blaine on April 26 were the first seen for the spring and 32 were seen at the breeding colony on May 28 (LK). This seems to be an early arrival.

*Swans, Geese, Brant*.—On May 8, 31 Whistling Swans were last seen at Blaine (LK). On April 24, 250-300 Canada Geese were reported at Seattle. From April 15 to 21 large numbers of this species were reported. Snow Geese were seen at Blaine on April 30 (LK). A good migration of Black Brant was reported. Six hundred were seen on April 10 at Blaine (LK). They were last seen at Comox (TP), Victoria (ARD), and at Blaine (LK) around the middle of May.

*Ducks.*—Wintering and migrating pond ducks were not reported after April, which is an early departure. Cinnamon Teal, which are uncommon in the area, were seen at Seattle by Bob and Elsie Boggs from May 7 to 17. Diving ducks departed at the normal time. Seven Red-breasted Mergansers were seen at Oak Bay, B. C. on May 26 (ARD), but they were last seen at Blaine on May 10 (LK). Hooded Mergansers are becoming rare at Comox (TP).

*Shorebirds, Gulls*.—The migration of shorebirds came at the normal time. Two Surf-birds were seen on April 1 at Oak Bay (ARD). A late arrival of about 1,000 Bonaparte Gulls, mostly immatures, was reported at Comox (TP). Flocks of immature Short-billed Gulls were also seen.

*Pigeons and Doves*.—Band-tailed Pigeons seemed to be scarcer at Comox this year. Mourning Doves, which are not abundant west of the Cascades, were seen during the period at Diablo Dam, Wash. (Mrs. Harold Skinner), Victoria, B. C. (TP) and at Roy, Wash. (Zella Schultz).

*Nighthawks, Hummingbirds*.—Common Nighthawks arrived at the normal time around the first part of June. Hummingbirds arrived at the normal time this year, but large numbers were found dead in the Seattle area, probably owing to the lack of food caused by the severe winter.

*Flycatchers, Swallows*.—Traill's Flycatchers, Olive-sided Flycatchers, and Western Wood Pewees arrived in the area early. Pewees were abundant at Spanaway on April 20. The first Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at Comox on May 4 (TP). Western Flycatchers arrived at the normal time. Pearse believes that Olive-sided Flycatchers are more numerous at Comox this year. He also states that all species of swallows are the scarcest in forty years. As a whole, the swallows arrived at most places at the normal time. Thirteen Cliff Swallows seen at Blaine on April 11 (LK) represent an early arrival.

*Thrushes*.—Varied Thrushes were last seen at Victoria on April 7 (ARD) and at Seattle on April 21 (BEB), indicating an early departure to the breeding areas. Olive-backed Thrushes were first seen at Victoria on April 22, an early arrival, but were on time in other areas. Pearse notes fewer at Comox this year. He also states that the Western Bluebird has almost ceased as a nester there. Two Mountain Bluebirds were seen at Diablo Dam on May 26 (HS).

*Kinglets, Pipits, Waxwings*.—On April 1 there was a small migration of Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Victoria (ARD). On April 20, 24 were seen at Blaine (LK). One hundred Water Pipits were noted on April 28 at Victoria (ARD) and a few were seen

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at Newport near Seattle on April 21. Cedar Waxwings arrived at the usual time. They were less numerous at Comox (TP) and at Victoria (ARD).

*Starlings, Vireos, Warblers.—*The only Common Starling reported this spring was one seen at Oak Bay near Victoria on June 1 (ARD). Solitary and Warbling Vireos arrived on time in most areas. A Warbling Vireo, seen at Victoria on April 18, represents an early record. Warblers were first seen at the usual time at most places. At Blaine, however, Orange-crowned, Yellow, Black-throated Gray, and Pileolated Warblers were late. There seemed to be fewer Myrtle Warblers this year.

*Blackbirds, Tanagers, Grosbeaks*.—There were fewer Brewer's Blackbirds and no Red-winged Blackbirds at Diablo Dam (HS). A Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen at Comox (TP). Brown-headed Cowbirds, which are now regularly reported from the Seattle area, were seen several times this spring. John Larsen saw one on May 2. They were seen by others on May 5 and 6. A female was noted on May 20 and 4 males on June 5 (BEB). Western Tanagers were seen at Seattle at the usual time. Black-headed Grosbeaks were also on time. There seemed to be fewer Evening Grosbeaks this spring.

*Goldfinches, Sparrows*.—Am. Goldfinches were fewer in number at Comox (TP). Seventy-three were noted at Blaine on May 13 (LK). Chipping Sparrows arrived at the usual time, but White-crowned Sparrows were late in most areas. Golden-crowned Sparrows were abundant this spring. At Victoria, 50 were seen on April 22 (ARD). There was a large migration at Comox on May 6. The only report of Lincoln's Sparrows was of one banded at Diablo Dam on April 18 (HS).—WILLIAM R. GOODGE and ZELLA M. SCHULTZ, *Washington State Museum, University of Washington, Seattle 5, Wash.*

*The Nesting Season, 1956*

**PALOUSE - NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION**.—After a rather backward, cool spring and summer in most localities, conditions became hot and dry during July and August. In general, conditions appeared favorable for nesting birds, except for the drying up of many small ponds in the Great Falls area. At Turnbull Refuge, Verner reported "a fine spring, which resulted in a very good early hatch of Mallards." His report from the refuge is again outstanding. Observers for the Region are as follows: for Bozeman, Mont. and the eastern slopes of the Rockies, Clifford V. Davis; for the Great Falls, Mont. area and the Little Belt Mountains, Tom Walker; for Missoula, Mont. and Ninepipe and Kicking Horse Reservoirs, Lake Co., Mont. Ralph L. Hand; for St. Ignatius, Mont. Earl and Lola Hiett; for the Libby, Mont. area and Melita Island, about 10 miles north of Polson, Mont. in Flathead Lake, the editor; for the Spokane, Wash. area, Stephen O. Stanley, and for Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, southwest of Cheney, Wash. and the Pullman, Wash. and Mos. cow, Idaho area, Jared Verner. Credit for other observations is indicated in the text.

*Loons, Grebes*.—A pair of Horned Grebes was seen feeding 4 young at Turnbull Refuge, June 27. Twenty-six broods of Eared Grebe, totaling 49 young, were observed at the refuge during the summer. The species was unusually common in the Bozeman, Mont area also. Walker noted an exceptional migration at Great Falls this spring, with a peak of about 200 birds on May 1. At least a dozen pairs of Western Grebes, mostly with young, were noted at Ninepipe, Aug. 1, where the Hietts saw one on Aug. 14.

*Waterfowl*.—Canada Geese were widely reported. They were at Ninepipe and Kicking Horse. A nest was found, April 24, on the Upper Yellowstone in Yellowstone National Park (CVD). The birds were reported nesting on islands in the Missouri River near Great Falls. Verner counted 24 broods totaling 92 young at Turnbull, and 18 nests with 111 eggs on islands of the Snake River in Whitman County, Wash. He also reported a very good hatch of Mallards at Turnbull, where he located 100 broods. The species appeared to be in normal numbers elsewhere, with the possible exception of the Great Falls area, where drought conditions dried up many small ponds. Walker reported that Freeze-out Lake near Great Falls has been improved for waterfowl, as it is now possible to maintain a constant water level there. At Turnbull, Gadwall and Am. Widgeon appeared with 17 and 22 broods, respectively. Pintail were noted breeding only at Turnbull (3 broods). Other species breeding there were Green-winged, Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Shoveller, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Canvas-back, Lesser Scaup and Ruddy Duck. Several pairs of Wood Ducks nested near Missoula but the species was not reported around Spokane this summer. Three Barrow's Golden-eyes and a downy young were seen near Okanagan Falls, B. C. on June 20 (H. L. Cogswell). A pair of Hooded Mergansers with young was noted on the Little Spokane River near Spokane. Broods of Am. Mergansers appeared near Great Falls and Missoula.

*Vultures and Hawks*.—Turkey Vultures occurred near Missoula, Manhattan, and Choteau, Mont., and Rockford, Wash. A nest of young Sharp-shinned Hawks was discovered in the Bridger Mountains near Bozeman in early August (Robert Edwards). Several Ferruginous Hawks were seen in the Bridger and Snowy Mountain areas. Davis located a nest of the Golden Eagle with 2 fertile eggs, in mid-April near Miles City, Mont. Walker noted about 15 pairs of Ospreys nesting along the Missouri River in the Gates of the Mountains region north of Helena, Mont. A young Prairie Falcon shortly out of the nest was caught and promptly released at Great Falls, July 13. A Peregrine Falcon's nest was located on a cliff in the Little Belt Mountains on July 10. Two downy young were in the nest. Near Great Falls a Sparrow Hawk nest was located in a hole in the side of a 75 foot sandstone cliff.

*Gallinaceous Birds*.—Davis reported Blue Grouse in all mountain areas visited by him, including the Snowies. Ruffed Grouse broods were widely but

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sparingly reported from the mountains of the Region. The European Partridge appeared to be increasing around Missoula, with coveys of 20 to 30 noted frequently in August. The birds seemed scarce at Great Falls.

*Coot, Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns*.—The Am. Coot bred abundantly at Turnbull Refuge (90 broods noted) and at Ninepipe and Kicking Horse. Killdeer were numerous, with many young, in the Spokane area. Verner noted a nest with 4 eggs on April 12 at Pullman, Wash. Wilson's Snipe was seen less commonly than usual around Bozeman. A few Spotted Sandpipers were out of the egg on June 21 at Turnbull. Old and young Forster's Terns were on the wing at Ninepipe and Kicking Horse in early August. The earliest report of young, flying Black Terns was on July 9 at Turnbull.

*Doves, Owls, Cuckoos, Nighthawks*.—Mourning Doves were numerous as usual around Spokane. Hand and Davis report the birds as more common than usual around Bozeman and Missoula, respectively. Concentrations up to 150 birds were noted near Missoula in early August. The Great Gray Owl was observed in three different places in the Bridger Mountains during July (CVD). A yellow-billed Cuckoo was noted about 20 miles north of Coulee Dam, Wash. June 21, and a Poor-will, June 20 (HLC). Common Nighthawks appeared at Missoula, June 9. Eight nests with 2 eggs or young were located at Turnbull, June 20 or later. The species seemed more numerous than usual at Spokane.

*Swifts, Hummingbirds*.—Black Swifts were noted only in northwestern Montana, first on May 10. About 10 were seen in Glacier National Park at Avalanche Camp, Aug. 13 and 14 (Roger Eriksson). One or 2 Vaux's Swifts appeared at intervals over Missoula. The White-throated Swift bred fairly commonly along the cliffs of the Missouri River above Cascade, Cascade County, Mont. (TW) but Davis found them absent from their usual nesting areas. Rufous, Black-chinned and Calliope Hummingbirds were all reported, with a nest of the Black-chinned in the Little Spokane River area (C. Smedley). The latter species was noted elsewhere only at Libby.

*Woodpeckers, Flycatchers*.—Lewis's Woodpecker was noted as far east as Garneil, Fergus County, Mont. (CVD). One was carrying food in the foothills of the Little Belt Mountains, July 13. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was noted breeding in several localities of the Region. Young Arctic Woodpeckers were out of the nest on July 17 in the Bridger Mountains. Adult Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen in a canyon south of Bozeman in June. A nest of the rare White-headed Woodpecker was observed near St. Marks, Benewah Co., Idaho, June 17 (E. Pettibone). The first occupied nest of the widely reported Eastern Kingbird was one at Bozeman, June 10. A pair of Western Kingbirds had a nest with young, July 1, at Warland, Lincoln Co., Mont. (TR). A nest with 6 eggs of Say's Phoebe was found under a bridge near Wawawai, Whitman Co., Wash., April 22. Seven occupied nests of Traill's Flycatcher were observed at Turnbull from June 13 to July 24. A parent bird, apparently this species, was feeding 3 young out of the nest at Libby, Aug. 13. Western Flycatchers were noted in the Bozeman area. Western Wood Pewees bred commonly around Spokane. A nest of this species on Melita Island in Flathead Lake, Lake Co., Mont. was observed from July 10 to Aug. 4. The eggs were believed to have hatched about July 24. The young had not left on Aug. 4. A nest of the Olive-sided Flycatcher was observed near Nine Mile, down the Spokane River from Spokane (SOS).

*Swallows*.—The first record of young Violet-green and Tree Swallows out of the nest was on July 4 at Libby. On Aug. 5 Bank Swallows were feeding young on wires at St. Ignatius. Rough-winged Swallows were unusually common in the Bozeman area and were entering nest holes the second week in June. Nine broods of Barn Swallows were noted at Turnbull between July 2 and Aug. 16. Cliff Swallows were observed in nests, May 20, at Bozeman and a colony of several hundred nested again at Great Falls at Giant Springs.

*Jays, Chickadees, Nuthatches, Dippers*.—Steller's Jay and the Common Raven were observed only at Libby. Young Am. Magpies in the nest were found at Bozeman the second week of April. On June 24 at St. Ignatius a young magpie and young Am. Crows were about. A flock of Piñon Jays was observed along the Madison River, near Bozeman, April 21. At Bend, Ore. a flock of about 10 adult and 20 young of this species was noted; several adults were feeding young birds (H. L. Cogswell). Young Black-capped Chickadees left their nest cavity in Libby on June 1 and 2, the earliest reported. Mountain Chickadees nested in Bozeman and in a bird house in the Little Belt Mountains. White-breasted Nuthatches, scarce as usual, appeared only at the Little Spokane River and on Melita Island. The Red-breasted, reported more widely, was noted nesting along the Little Spokane (CS). The Pygmy appeared only around Spokane, failing to show up on Melita Island between July 7 and Aug. 4. Davis noted Am. Dippers commonly in his area, feeding young. Several nests were found in the Little Belt Mountains; the earliest contained young on May 27.

*Wrens, Thrushes*.—Young Winter Wrens, barely able to fly, were observed at Big Creek in Ravalli Co., Mont. July 10 (RLH). Verner located 3 nests of the Long-billed Marsh Wren, June 17, at Turnbull. About half dozen young Rock Wrens were seen at a rock slide near Great Falls in early August. The Am. Robin appeared to have had an unusually successful nesting season in some areas, for immature birds seemed much more common than usual in Spokane and Libby during August. Varied Thrush fledglings, on the other hand, were reported only from the top of Moscow Mountain near Moscow, Idaho, June 9. Hermit and Olive-backed Thrushes and Veeries were widely reported. Veery nests were noted at Turnbull, June 14 (J. David Solf) and the Little Spokane River (CS). Three well-fledged immature Western Bluebirds accompanied their parents at The Dalles, Ore. June 17 (TR) and a nest with 4 eggs was discovered at Turnbull, June 11. Mountain Bluebirds appear to be dwindling in

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numbers. Davis remarks that the species is seldom seen in his area. Hand wonders if the starlings could have anything to do with the situation. However, Mountain Bluebirds appeared in normal numbers at Great Falls. Townsend's Solitaire nesting, seldom reported, was observed in two localities: Logging Creek in the Little Belts, June 2, and East Pipe Creek, north of Libby, where a fledgling was being fed, June 21 (John Blackford).

*Kinglets, Pipits, Waxwings, Shrikes*.--Adult or young Ruby-crowned Kinglets were observed at Bozeman, Missoula, Spokane, Libby, Melita Island and Moscow Mountain. The Water Pipit was found with young in late July and early August above 8,000 feet in the mountains around Bozeman. Eriksson noted the species at Logan Pass in Glacier Park, Aug. 13. Five Cedar Waxwings, apparently a family group, appeared at St. Ignatius, Aug. 3. The first immatures noted at Libby were 4 on Aug. 5. The species was more numerous along the Little Spokane than some years. Two young Loggerhead Shrikes made their appearance with their parents, July 26, at Great Falls, and a Gray Shrike was reported near Twodot, Mont., Aug. 14 (CVD).

*Starlings and Vireos*.—The Common Starling still appears to be on the increase in the Region. Positive nesting records were obtained for the species in Libby and St. Ignatius. At Spokane an increase in nesting sites was reported. The Solitary Vireo was almost completely absent from the Little Belts, where it was common last year. Hand described the species as one of the characteristic birds of the lower north slope of Mount Sentinel, at the eastern edge of Missoula. The birds were also noted at Libby. The Warbling Vireo appeared more abundant than the Red-eyed as a city dweller. Stanley mentioned numerous nestings in Spokane.

*Warblers*.—The Orange-crowned Warbler was seen near Bozeman and Missoula. The Yellow Warbler carried away top honors for the most reports of nests and young. Audubon's Warbler ran second, with nesting records for the Little Belts, Melita Island, Missoula and Spokane. An **Oven-bird** was again noted—up to July 14—in the Little Belts, in the same spot as last year. A nesting pair of Northern Water-thrushes was observed, June 17, at St. Marks, Idaho (EP). Macgillivray's Warbler was found nesting in the Little Belts and at Rockford, Wash. (SOS). Yellowthroats were noted as usual. Hand found the Black-capped, June 30, at Cache Creek, Mineral Co., Mont. Am. Redstarts were common to numerous bat actual nesting records were few. A family was noted at St. Ignatius, Aug. 5, and Verner found a nest at Turnbull, June 17. It contained 3 eggs and a young Brown-headed Cowbird, newly hatched.

*Bobolinks, Blackbirds, Orioles, Tanagers*.—Bobolinks summered at Bozeman. Several nesting pairs were at St. Marks, Idaho (EP). Young Yellow-headed Blackbirds were in the nest near Three Forks, Mont. on June 7 and immatures were noted at Reardan, Wash. on July 22. Red-winged Blackbirds were numerous as usual. Young were in the nest at Bozeman, June 5. Walker obtained his second record of a **Baltimore Oriole** in Great Falls in June. Bullock's Oriole was noted nesting near Bozeman, Spokane and Boardman, Wash. (TR). An immature **Rusty Blackbird** was found dead near St. Ignatius, Aug. 10. The Brown-headed Cowbird was found to have parasitized an Am. Redstart's and a Traill's Flycatcher's nest and a young bird was being fed by a Warbling Vireo, all at Turnbull. On Melita Island, a young cowbird was following a Western Tanager. The latter species was very common around Bozeman, Missoula and Libby. Walker found a nest with young in the Little Belts on the rather late date of Aug. 6.

*Finches*.—Black-headed Grosbeaks appeared at Bozeman, Missoula and Libby. The Lazuli Bunting was unusually abundant from Bozeman eastward and was noted frequently along the Columbia River between Oregon and Washington, during a trip in June (TR). A pair was noted nesting at St. Ignatius. Cassin's Finches were carrying nesting material, May 20, in Bozeman, where they were common. At Spokane they were less numerous than last year. Pine Grosbeaks were observed at higher elevations in the Little Belts and in the mountains around Bozeman. Black Rosy-Finches were seen on Sacajawea Peak, Gallatin Co., Mont. the first part of August. Red Crossbills were common in the mountains surrounding Bozeman and on Melita Island. However, Hand had not noted the species around Missoula for over a year. The birds, including a family group, were noted in Spokane during the summer.

*Sparrows*.—Many young and old Spotted Towhees frequented the Missouri River bank at Great Falls in late July and this species and the Green-tailed were common around Bozeman, defending territories in May and June. Immature Vesper Sparrows just able to fly were noted at Missoula, July 17. Young Lark Sparrows were reported near Harrington, Wash. July 22 and near Spokane a week later. The species was scarce around Missoula, much decreased from previous years. The Oregon Junco was common and breeding around Bozeman, Missoula, Melita Island and Libby. The first immature out of the nest was a fully-fledged one noted at Libby, June 23. Twenty-two young of this species were banded on Melita Island between July 11 and Aug. 4. The Pink-sided bred commonly in the Little Belts. Eggs in one nest there hatched on July 14. Chipping Sparrows were numerous as usual, with many young birds in evidence at Libby and Spokane. At the heads of the creek valleys in the Little Belts White-crowned Sparrows bred in moderate numbers. They were abundant in the Bozeman region. Song Sparrow nests were located at St. Ignatius and at Turnbull.—THOMAS ROGERS, *Libby, Mont.*

*The Nesting Season, 1956*

**GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION**.—This season was hot and dry in general over this whole vast area of mountains and deserts. Since the Region is normally hot and dry at this time of year, this does not seem exceptional. However, almost all stations report exceptionally hot, dry weather in spite of the fact that weather in this Region tends to be local. What goes on east of the

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Divide may have little to do with what goes on to the west, and the southern part of the Region -has entirely different storm systems than the northern part. Because of heavy snows in the western mountains last winter, water condition at the refuges was excellent, and waterfowl had a very fine breeding season. Of course, we are involved in our usual problem: that the dates of this report do not cover our breeding season. The geese have long since hatched by June 1 while the Ruddy Duck season was only half over by August 15 at Klamath. The most interesting thing this season was the movement of Dickcissels (see below).

*Swans.*—The Trumpeter Swan had an extremely poor breeding season all over the Jackson Hole–Grand Teton–Yellowstone Region. There were almost no cygnets from remote Bridger Lake (OKS) southeast of Yellowstone Park to Flat Creek along the highway at Jackson. A clutch of 9 eggs at Mary’s Bay on Yellowstone Lake was taken by a bear (Warkley). However, the Trumpeter has increased so that almost every pond in the northwestern area of Wyoming has a Trumpeter pair by now. There is a new man, Mr. Greenwalt, in charge of the Elk Refuge at Jackson. He will be glad to show visiting birders swans and cranes, and the nation's most spectacular scenery.

*Ducks and Geese*.—We have some very precise information on the duck breeding season through some exact reports from Stillwater Refuge in western Nevada, Klamath Basin, Bear River Marshes at the north end of Great Salt Lake, Monte Vista Refuge in southern Colorado, and the Waterfowl Breeding Ground Survey in Utah by Noland Nelson of the Utah State Fish and Game Department. By air and ground counts Utah had a 27 per cent increase in breeding population of ducks and geese. This returns the geese to normal after last year's decline. Southern Utah didn't do so well because of drought. The northern Utah success is attributed to ideal conditions. William Reid at Bear River Marshes reports duck nests counted on 13 sample plots increased from 240 last year to 418 this year. The most common nesting duck was the Redhead with a 27,000 peak reported July 3. By mid-August the southward migration was well on its way with the Pintail build-up amounting to 350,000. Leroy Giles at Tule Lake gives us some production figures for the Klamath Basin covering major producing areas: Lower Klamath, Tule Lake, and Upper Klamath, as well as smaller areas. The Redhead leads the ducks again with 27,205 production. Alas, the Am. Coot is the most common water bird with a production of 43,700. The other large figures in duck production are Cinnamon Teal, 19,495; Mallard, 15,635; Gadwall, 12,670; and Ruddy Duck, 10,070. It would be interesting to print all the figures from Klamath and Bear River but space does not permit it. Dale Sutherland, the wildlife management biologist at Stillwater, reports that heavy runoff on the Truckee and Carson River watersheds insured an abundant water supply for Stillwater and by June 1 all units had reached maximum operating levels—something unheard of in those parts. It rained slightly twice during the summer which is about par for the course. The breeding season was very successful. The dates for the breeding season are particularly inappropriate for Stillwater as much of the hatching has occurred before June 1. Charles Bryant reports from Monte Vista in southern Colorado that the Refuge is still growing nicely with new pond construction, and the production of ducks was at a new high. The Mallard is most common there with a concentration of 1,500.

*Shorebirds*.—C. W. Lockerbie had "unbelievable numbers" of Willet, Am. Avocet, and Black-necked Stilt at Farmington Bay on Great Salt Lake on July 3. This was the greatest concentration he had ever experienced, and since he has had more experience than anyone else in the West, it must have been something! He didn't venture a guess as to numbers but it would have to go some to surpass the Bear River estimate of 15,000 Am. Avocets and 8,000 Black-necked Stilts, Aug. 14. Undoubtedly the Great Salt Lake sees the bulk of these birds. The only other competitor in this Region is Stillwater in western Nevada with 1,000 avocets, although they had 8,000 dowitchers on July 18.

*Owls*.—Killpack had 5 Long-eared Owl nests at Roosevelt in eastern Utah in addition to the usual Horned Owl nests. All young had flown by May 20.

*Poor-wills*.—The Wyoming Audubon Society had Poor-wills at Devils Tower in northeastern Wyoming on July 16 on the open hillside below the Tower.

*Hummingbirds*.—R. G. Beidleman, Professor of Biology at Colorado University, reported from Rocky Mountain National Park several records for the Calliope Hummingbird including a collected specimen on July 30 (Earl Erickson). These are the first for the Park. The Rufous Hummingbird was more common than for the past 6 years. Out in the real hummingbird country on the mesa southeast of Grand Junction, Mrs. Crews reported from Hotchkiss that there were swarms of hummers. Lots of people feed them there as much as a pint of syrup a day. The Black-chinned breeds locally and the Rufous and Broad-tailed are migrants. Lockerbie reported it was also a great year for hummers at Salt Lake, the same four species.

*Wrens*.—Don Thatcher reported the Winter Wren from near Jenny Lake in Jackson Hole (Grand Teton National Park) in June, an unusual record.

*Dickcissels*.—Ordinarily the Dickcissel is seen on the eastern border of Wyoming only occasionally. This year there was a massive invasion with almost

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every alfalfa field boasting a pair of Dickcissels as far west as 10 miles west of Casper in central Wyoming (OKS). The Wyoming Audubon Society found them all through the eastern half of northern Wyoming and Mildred Snyder reported them from Cheyenne in southern Wyoming. This is a westward movement of at least 200 miles for the bird. This is an unprecedented change, as far as we know, and the reason for it is not clear.

*Grosbeaks and Crossbills*.—Beidleman reported Evening Grosbeaks with young at Estes Park, Aug. 2, at about 9,500 feet (Mrs. J. E. Schaab) and 5 on Aug. 18 at 8,500 feet (Beidleman). The on again off again Red Crossbills are now off again in the Colorado Rockies west of Denver (Beidleman and Thatcher) but were as numerous as ever in the Wyoming ranges (OKS).

*Sparrows*.—Thompson Marsh had a Fox Sparrow in song at Evergreen in the Rockies west of Denver on July 7, a very unusual record.—DR. OLIVER K. SCOTT, *437 East 13 St. Casper, Wyo.*

*The Nesting Season, 1956*

**NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION**.—After a mild, dry spring, June had more precipitation than usual and below normal temperatures were recorded throughout most of the month. July and August, however, were generally fair. Temperatures averaged above normal and there was little precipitation. There were many days in July with temperatures several degrees above normal. During the month there were no days without at least some sunshine. Although the weather during the spring and summer was generally favorable for nesting birds, the severe winter, no doubt, decreased the food supply of many species. This seems to be true for birds such as the Band-tailed Pigeon that feed on berries. Several observers noted increased numbers of young of a few species, especially robins. Probably the warm, dry spring was a factor in this increase.

*Grebes, Petrels, Cormorants, Herons*.—A. R. Davidson saw 2 immature Pied-billed Grebes at Victoria on July 26. Walter Hagenstein noted 5 young on Aug. 4, near Seattle. Leach's Petrels were found nesting on Tatoosh Island, Wash. on July 28 (Garrett Eddy, Frank Richardson and William Goodge). One nest contained a downy young. Pelagic Cormorant nests were started at Victoria by June 1. On June 24, newly hatched young were noted. They were still in the nest on Aug. 15 (ARD). Breeding birds of this species were noted on Tatoosh Island on July 28. There were downy young in the nests. Green Herons were noted near Seattle on July 8 and Aug. 9 (WH). An immature bird was brought to Mrs. H. L. Schumacher from Edmonds on July 23. Theed Pearse reported only 30 instead of the usual 35 Great Blue Heron nests at Comox. The young were ready to fly by July 7.

*Ducks, Hawks, Grouse, Quail*.—Pearse reports several pairs of Ring-necked Ducks were seen at Comox. They are probably nesting on small lakes in the nearby foothills. He states that Ring-necked Ducks are rare in the area and before that have been seen only in winter. H. L. Cogswell saw a female Harlequin Duck with downy young seven miles east of Hope, B. C. on June 20. Young Ospreys ready to fly were noted at a nest near Sydney on July 30 (ARD). Five adult Bald Eagles were seen on Whidbey Island on June 17 (Zella Schultz and others). Two were seen on Vancouver Island on June 9 and 3 on July 27. Pearse reports that Ruffed and Blue Grouse are scarce at Comox this year. A female Ruffed Grouse and newly hatched young were seen at Goldstream, Vancouver Island, on June 15 (ARD). A female and 3 downy young were noted by Mrs. Harold Skinner at Diablo Dam, Wash. on July 3. Young California Quail, newly hatched, were brought to Mrs. Schumacher on July 9 in Seattle. Young were first seen in Victoria on June 30 (ARD).

*Shorebirds, Gulls*.—The first young Killdeer were brought to Mrs. Schumacher in Seattle on April 25. Other young were brought to her on July 18. Young Killdeer were seen near Seattle on July 29 (WH). Newly-hatched Spotted Sandpipers were recorded by Mrs. Schumacher on July 16 at Seattle. More gulls than usual summered at Comox. Up to 600, mostly Bonaparte's Gulls, were seen on occasion. Bonaparte's Gulls do not usually summer in that area at all (TP).

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*Pigeons, Owls*.—Both Webster Ransom near Seattle and Pearse at Comox report fewer Band-tailed Pigeons in their areas this season. A downy young brought to Mrs. Schumacher on Aug. 28 seems to be a late nesting record for the Seattle area. The only nesting record for owls was a young Screech Owl about 3 days old brought to Mrs. Schumacher on May 15.

*Nighthawks, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers*.—Five young Common Nighthawks were brought to Mrs. Schumacher in Seattle from Aug. 19 to 25. They were not common at Victoria this year. Two eggs were noted on June 22 near Victoria and one at Sydney on Aug. 7 (ARD). The first young Rufous Hummingbirds were noted in Seattle on May 20. Two left the nest at Diablo Dam on July 20 (HS). Three male Calliope Hummingbirds were seen at Allison Pass on the Hope—Princeton road on June 20 (HLC). Young Pileated Woodpeckers were noted at Victoria on June 26 (ARD).

*Flycatchers, Larks, Swallows*.—Pearse reported that the Eastern Kingbird can be looked upon as a regular though uncommon summer resident and seems to be making a gradual increase in the Comox area. Bab and Elsie Boggs reported the nesting of a pair of Traill's Flycatchers in Seattle. The eggs were laid July 4 to 6 and hatched by July 20. On Aug. 5 the birds left the nest. Young were flying by June 23 at Victoria (ARD). A young Horned Lark was found dead near Victoria on July 7 (ARD) and adults and young were noted by Mrs. Lucile Kline at Blaine this summer. Young Violet-green Swallows left nests at Diablo Dam on July 30 and Aug. 3. Young Cliff Swallows were reported at Seattle on July 11 (WH) and July 19 (HLS). Birds of this species were still feeding young at Victoria on Aug. 1. A young Tree Swallow was brought to Mrs. Schumacher on July 15.

*Jays, Bushtits, Wrens*.—A young Steller's Jay was brought to Mrs. Schumacher at Seattle on May 20. A young Common Bushtit just out of the nest was brought to her on May 15. Bushtits are fairly common around Victoria (ARD). There were no House Wrens seen at Comox and fewer Winter Wrens this summer (TP). There seemed to be fewer of the latter near Seattle also.

*Thrushes, Waxwings, Kinglets*.—Ransom noted a great increase in the number of young Am. Robins near Seattle. A young robin was reported at Seattle on April 22 (HLS). Flying young Olive-backed Thrushes were seen at Victoria on July 14 (ARD). A young Cedar Waxwing about 12 days old was brought to Mrs. Schumacher on July 30. Ruby-crowned Kinglets, which are not usually found west of the Cascades in summer, were noted near Victoria on July 26 and Aug. 4 (ARD).

*Starlings, Vireos, Warblers*.—The only Common Starlings reported this Summer were seven seen at Cadboro Bay near Victoria on July 10 (ARD). A Solitary Vireo just out of the nest was brought to Mrs. Schumacher on July 1 and she received a young Warbling Vireo just out of the nest on Aug. 4. A pair of this species began nest building on May 19 in Seattle. The young hatched on June 14 (BB, EB). The first young Myrtle Warblers were noted in Seattle on May 19. Warblers, except Macgillivray's, were noted in usual numbers at Comox this summer (TP).

*Icterids.*—Young Western Meadowlarks were reported out of the nest on June 23 in Victoria (ARD). The Brown-headed Cowbird, which has recently entered western Washington, has now reached Vancouver Island. A young bird fed by Song Sparrows at Comox was last seen on Aug. 3 (TP). Males were seen at Victoria on June 23 and June 30. A young bird was seen at Cadboro near Victoria on July 15 (ARD). A newly-hatched young was brought to Mrs. Schumacher in Seattle on July 3. Ransom reported a very good season for Brewer's Blackbirds in the Seattle area. The first young bird was observed at Seattle on July 3. A young bird in the nest was seen at Victoria on June 9 (ARD).

*Grosbeaks, Finches, Sparrows*.—Black-headed Grosbeaks were feeding young on July 12 in Victoria (ARD). A nestling House Finch was brought to Mrs. Schumacher in Seattle on May 2. Nestling Am. Goldfinches were brought to her on May 30. A late record is one out of the nest on Aug. 27. Young Slate-colored Juncos were out of the nest in Victoria by June 15. Nestling White-crowned Sparrows were brought to Mrs. Schumacher on May 25. Young were flying in Victoria by June 2 (ARD). Song Sparrows were observed feeding young in Seattle on May 17 (BB, EB).—WILLIAM R. GOODGE and ZELLA M. SCHULTZ, *Washington State Museum, University of Washington, Seattle 5, Wash.*

*End 1956*