**1972**

*Autumn Migration, 1971*

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN -- INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

**/Thomas H. Rogers**



The latter half of August continued the trend of hot, dry weather that started in mid-July. The pattern broke rather sharply the first week of September, when substantial rains were general over the Region. In this cooler-than-normal month. Walla Walla had the fifth coldest September since 1886. Yakima established record lows on the 15th and 29th and s. interior British Columbia posted record lows during the first week. Except for the Spokane and Missoula areas, which were decidedly dry, the Region in general was wet, with up to twice or more normal precipitation. After a pleasant spell just after the beginning of October the weather again turned cool. After the 13ih maximum temperatures reached normal at Spokane only once, on the 22nd. Yet the general picture was one of drought, with some areas receiving only about one-third normal moisture, although a few approached normal. At the end of the month winter struck an early blow, with snow in the valleys even at Yakima and the Tri-cities (Pasco-Kennewick-Richland) in Washington. Yakima reached +11°F. and Missoula, 0°. Standing water froze but thawed in November, when temperatures, normal at last, removed the premature snow cover from the lowlands. However, the trend of moisture shortage continued, the only exception being Walla Walla, distinctly wet. In a few instances weather appeared to affect migration by producing concentrations of birds -notably the October snowstorm -but in general there seemed to be no indication that the cool autumn had hurried departures. In fact, in the Bozeman and Missoula areas a large number of late and record late dates were reported. These probably had little or no significance, since they seemed to represent only late stragglers, not the main body of migrants. At Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash., the waterfowl migration actually appeared to be somewhat delayed. Bohemian Waxwings arrived early at several localities with, or shortly after, the snow and cold at October's end. Weather might have caused this, but it has been my impression that food supply rather than weather is the chief factor affecting winter movements of these birds. Except for Red Crossbills the "northern finches" were not much in evidence.

LOONS AND GREBES - Beside the Com. Loon, largest number, 12 on Okanagan L. at Peachland, B.C. Oct. 10, two other species of loons were reported. An Arctic Loon was seen in Blue L., Grant Co., Wash. Nov. 28 and Dec. 4 (JA, WH). This is the fifth consecutive autumn the species has been found in e. Washington. A **Red-throated Loon** on Ochoco Reservoir just east of Princeville, Ore. Oct. 31 may have been the first for e. Oregon (JK). At the same place and date Knox saw at least 25 Horned Grebes, presumably a migrating group. At least 200 W. Grebes were counted on Okanagan L. near Penticton Sept. 22 (SRC). In the Yakima, Wash. area three observers recorded 26 Pied-billed Grebes in twelve days' afield, between Aug. 31 and Nov. 13, with 5 the largest number in one day. This was considered about normal.

PELICANS, CORMORANTS AND HERONS -- The last dates for the White Pelican and the Double-crested Cormorant in the Bozeman area were Sept. 18 and Oct. 10 respectively. An occasional bird of the former

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species was seen at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. until the first week of November, some two weeks later than last year. Black-crowned Night Herons were noted on Yakima Indian Reservation south of Yakima Sept. 30-0ct. 21, with the largest number, 15. seen on the latter date (ERC, IN. AR). Nine of these birds were seen at Umatilla Refuge. Morrow Co. Ore. Oct. 9-16 but left when hunting commenced.

WATERFOWL -- Whistling Swans were observed at Central Park, south of Manhattan, Mont. between Oct. 17, a record early date, and Nov. 21 (ETH, RAH, PDS). Two at McNary Refuge "at start of period" were apparently very early. The number there climbed to 55, compared to 100 in December. 1970. The peak number at Turnbull N.W.R. was 80. At the end of November 33 Trumpeter Swans, including 7 cygnets were present on Turnbull Refuge. Nine were seen on Skaha L. Penticton, B.C., Oct. 31 (SRC). The 1971 Tri-state Trumpeter Swan aerial survey of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife reported 297 adult and 49 cygnets for s.w. Montana. About one half were on Red Rock Lakes Refuge but only 12 of the cygnets were found there. Canada Geese reached peak numbers during October and November. On Oct. 9, 25-30,000 mostly Lessers, were at Stratford, Grant Co., Wash. (JA, S.A.S.). The Columbia Basin census of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, flown on Nov. 16, 17 & 19 totalled 59,426 of the birds. A study of nesting geese at Ennis L., Madison Co., Mont., revealed at least one bird with some of the markings of the race *maxima* (DC, *fide* PDS). Only a few Snow Geese were reported except for 50 flying over Toppenish Nat'l Wildlife Refuge south of Yakima (LL) in October. This is unusual for the more westerly part of the Region but that only 4 birds were seen at Missoula was surprising. Possibly the hot, dry weather caused them to pass through unnoticed. Two ad. and one imm. Blue Goose were seen with Canadas at Stratford, Grant Co., Wash., Oct. 9 (JA; SAS) and 2 were seen with 4 Snow Geese in the Tri-cities area Oct. 30. A White-fronted Goose was sighted at McNary Refuge Oct. 24 (WH) and one of the latter was at Okanagan Landing Nov. 21 (OL). The Columbia Basin census, Nov. 16-19 found 417,020 Mallards and 42,510 other ducks. At McNary Refuge Am. Widgeon, Pintail and Green-winged Teal numbers were down considerably and Canvasback drastically, from last year. Pintails appeared to have edged out Am. Widgeon for a poor second in numbers in e. Washington and Oregon. Very few unusual species were noted: An Oldsquaw at Haystack Reservoir south of Madras, Ore. Oct. 31 (JK); from 1 to 3 **White-winged Scoters** in e. Washington (Banks and Lenore Lakes in Grant Co., Granite, Medical and Silver Lakes in Spokane Co.), Oct. 9-Nov. 28(WH, S.A.S.), and 2 **Surf Scoters** at Silver L Oct. 24 & 30(JA). Two female or young Hooded Mergansers were seen Aug. 30 on Cranberry L. near Valemount, B.C. (MS). This is near the northern limit of the species' range.

VULTURES AND HAWKS -- Three Turkey Vultures were seen Sept. 6 near the north end of Okanagan L, where they are quite uncommon (MS). The outlook appeared good for Goshawks in interior British Columbia, where snowshoe hares seemed to be reaching peak numbers. A **Harlan's Hawk** was identified for the third autumn just west of Spokane Oct. 10-11 (JA). In the Bozeman area Golden Eagles were observed less frequently than normally, possibly as a result of the slaughter of these birds in Wyoming recently. More encouraging was the report from the Heppner, Ore. area where the birds seemed to have increased. The species was also reported in the Yakima area; on Turnbull Refuge, at Columbia Nan Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash., and at a few widely separated localities in interior British Columbia. The Bald Eagle concentration which occurs each autumn at West Glacier, Glacier National Park, had its peak of 267 birds Nov. 10 and had dropped to 73 on Nov. 24 (LM). Some very far north Prairie Falcon sightings were belatedly reported: 1 on Aug. 24 (MS) and 1 on Aug. 25, 1970 (OS) both in Mt. Robson Provincial Park, B.C. and I in Jasper Nat'l Park on Sept. 1, 1970 (OS). A Peregrine Falcon was seen east of Ochoco Reservoir near Prineville, Oct. 30 (JK). In general, hawk numbers appeared about normal, with the exception of the Walla Walla, Wash. vicinity, where most species seemed to be in low numbers.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- The game checking station at Cache Creek, west of Kamloops, B.C. reported about a 25 per cent decrease from 1970 in both Spruce and Ruffed Grouse. At Turnbull Refuge, however, the latter species appeared to show an upward trend. California Quail appeared to be up to normal numbers or better in e. Washington. The report from Prineville indicated excellent numbers, but that from Heppner a decrease. Ring-necked Pheasant populations appeared to be quite good, with the exception of Prineville, where very few of this year's young were seen. Forty-seven Chukars and 62 Bobwhite released by Spokane Field Trial Club on Turnbull Refuge soon disappeared. From 1 to 5 Turkeys were seen on three dates in October and November in Morrow Co., Ore. (BM).

CRANES AND COOT -Sandhill Cranes were seen migrating Sept. 19-Oct. 14 in the western part of the Region, in the Okanagan and e. Washington and Oregon. Up to 200 at a time were seen over the Tri-cities area of Washington. The last date for the species in the Bozeman area was Oct. 10 (late) at Ennis (RAH & PDS). Am. Coot, numerous as usual, were reported in "vast numbers" at Banks L, Grant Co., Wash. Nov. 28 and at least 1000 were still on Okanagan L., Penticton Nov. 27 (SRC).

SHOREBIRDS -- The migration of this group through

e. Washington was considered by Warren Hall average for variety and numbers. This evaluation probably would fit the situation in most other parts of the Region. The Bozeman area had several late records. Hall noted a peak around mid-August, with 17 species and over 200 individuals at Stubblefield L. on Turnbull Refuge Aug. 12. Two **Am. Golden Plovers** showed up at Harrison, Mont. Sept. 18 (RAH, PDS). Single Black-bellied Plovers were observed at O'Sullivan Dam, Grant Co., Wash. Sept. 19 and Oct. 9 and at Reardan, Wash. in mid-September (JA). Three still in spring plumage were seen at Harrison Aug. 29 (HC, SC, LM, PDS). Twenty Semipalmated Plovers, supposedly a rare transient in s. interior British Columbia, were seen

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Sept. 6 at Shuswap L., at Salmon Arm (MS). A record late date for the Solitary Sandpiper, Sept. 26, was obtained at Belgrade, Mont. (DRS, PDS). An unidentified yellowlegs Nov. 1 at Central Park, south of Manhattan, Mont. would have been a record late date for either species. A crippled Lesser Yellowlegs remained near Missoula until Oct. 16, very late. A single W. Sandpiper there furnished a record late date, Sept. 16. A good movement of Pectoral Sandpipers was noted at Harrison, with a peak of 80 on Sept. 12. Also at Harrison, 400 Baird's Sandpipers were counted Aug. 29, the first date for the fall season. Noteworthy was a **Stilt Sandpiper** at Central Park Sept. 19 (Mr. & Mrs. MB, PDS). The second record for Montana for the **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was obtained at Harrison when one was observed extensively at 100 ft. with a 20x scope Aug. 29 (HC, SC, LM, PDS). A single Sanderling was observed Oct. 9 at O'Sullivan Dam. At Wenas L. near Yakima 75 W. Sandpipers were seen Aug. 19 (ERC)

JAEGERS, GULLS, AND TERNS: -- An imm. jaeger appeared at Reardan, Wash. Aug. 22 (JA). Three Herring Gulls at Glacier Nat'l Park, Mont. Nov. 22 were apparently the first ever recorded there (LM), and 2 at Harrison Sept. 12 furnished the first fall record there. An unusual concentration of 1550 Ring-billed Gulls at McNary Refuge was resting and apparently feeding in a watermelon field nearby. A **Mew Gull**, rare in the Region, was seen at Rimrock L. near Yakima Oct. 21 (RA, BB, PH). The only Franklin's Gulls reported were 1 seen in downtown Spokane Sept. 28 (JA) and 1 imm. at Wenatchee Sept. 25 (MP). An ad. and an imm. **Common Tern**, always scarce in e. Washington, were seen at O'Sullivan Dam Sept. 19.

DOVE -- A good view of a **Band-tailed Pigeon** was obtained at Mt. Robson Provincial Park in e. British Columbia Aug. 6 (MS). A number of sightings of this species have been made by very competent observers in the Shuswap L. area about 120 miles south of the above site, near Salmon Arm (WCW). This adds to the growing suspicion that the species is attempting to push eastward.

OWLS -- Very few Pygmy Owls had appeared by the end of November. One was found near Wenas L., just n.w. of Yakima Oct. 25 (RA, PH) and one was seen in the Salmo area of Pend Oreille Co., Wash. Aug. 28. A pair during the summer at Tower Mt. just s.e. of Spokane suggested breeding there. Two Snowy Owls appeared during the fall period: one near Kalispell, Mont. (CM) and 1 at Banks L., Grant Co., Wash. Nov. 28 (JA). The uncommon Long-eared Owl was noted at several localities: One at Missoula Sept. 25; one at Clarkston, Wash. Sept. 2; one at Heppner, Nov. 20; and the feathers of one, eaten by a larger raptor, near Doreen L., s.e. of Vernon, B. C., Sept. 11. Overlooked in the summer report was a record of one of this species with 2 young near Lamont in n.w. Whitman Co., Wash. June 16 (SH). Five Burrowing Owls were at and near their burrows near Lowden, west of Walla Walla on the surprisingly late date of Dec. 3. Short-eared Owls were scarce, reported only in the Bozeman area and 1 north of St. John, Wash. Oct. 30 (SH). One of the scarce Saw-whet Owls was seen along the Wenas Grade road near Yakima Oct. 25 (RA, PH).

NIGHTHAWKS, SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS -- The Com. Nighthawk was gathering and migrating from late July at Prineville, through Oct. 2 (late) at Bozeman. At least 10 Vaux's Swifts were noted Aug. 28 in the Salmo Mt. area of Pend Oreille Co., Wash., where they nest and about 25 were seen over Sandpoint Ida. Aug. 22 (WH). Twenty White-throated Swifts were still at the nesting cliffs at Vaseux L. in the Okanagan Valley, B. C. Sept. 7 and a flock of 20 Black Swifts was seen Sept. 6 at Salmon Arm, B.C. (MS). A peak gathering of up to 28 Black-chinned, Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds was reported for Aug. 27 at a feeder at Spokane. A Rufous at Bozeman Sept. 5 equaled the late record there. Latest date for the species for the Region was Sept. 18 at Heppner. August 29 was a record late date for the Calliope at Bozeman (LM, OM).

KINGFISHERS AND WOODPECKERS -- Three observers in the Yakima area observed 12 Belted Kingfishers in six different areas during twelve days. The species was scarce in the Walla Walla area because of low stream flow and diversion for irrigation. A flicker with yellow wings (Yellow-shafted or hybrid?) was seen at Bozeman about Nov. 5 (SB) and single birds with red napes were seen in two different localities in the Yakima area Nov. 3 & 6 (PH). A Yellow-shafted was identified at the Tri-cities Oct. 28. (EM). Several hybrids were also noted there. Red-shafted Flickers were migrating into the Tri-cities and Walla Walla areas during September. At the south end of Vaseux Lake 42 Lewis' Woodpeckers, believed to be migrating, were observed Sept. 7 (MS). Fifteen were sighted in the Ahtanum Valley near Yakima Sept. 18. The only other sighting was of I bird at Spokane Aug. 24, A Yellow bellied Sapsucker at Bozeman Sept. 29 furnished a record late date (HC, LM). One was seen at the Tri cities from Sept. 17 through Oct. 8 (EM). A Downy Woodpecker, the second record for Yoho Nat'l Park, Canada, was seen at Leanchoil Aug. 27 (WCW). Four of the scarce White-headed Woodpeckers were found at Cascade Park, Upper Wenas Valley near Yakima Oct. 18 (PH). Two each of the Black-backed and Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers were found in the Salmo area of n.e. Washington Aug. 28.

FLYCATCHERS AND HORNED LARKS -- A Western Kingbird was identified in Mt. Robson Prov. Park, B.C., well north of its normal range, Sept. 3 (MS). Two Ash-throated Flycatchers were noted in Walla Walla from Sept. 4-6. The Western Flycatcher was recorded through the breeding season and as late as Aug. 19 in Mt. Robson Provo Park (MS). The record late date of Sept. 29 was obtained for the Olive-sided Flycatcher at Bozeman (HC, LM). The only sizable concentration of Horned Larks was located on a trip from Walla Walla to Ritzville via Palouse Falls Sept. 24, when flocks of hundreds and even thousands were en countered (NFM).

SWALLOWS -- These birds were, after August, mostly concentrated in the warmer western part of the Region. About 300 Violet-green Swallows were still as far north as Vaseux L. Sept. 7 (MS). The species was described as abundant on Yakima Indian Reservation Sept. 30 (ERC, AR) and over 200 were at Wenas L., n.w. of Yakima Oct. 2 (PH). Barn Swallows were as usual

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the latest hangers-on, with 4 seen in the Tri-cities area Oct. 31 (EM). Late dates were secured for nearly every species in the Bozeman area, with Sept. 19 a record late date for the Tree Swallow at Central Park.

RAVENS AND NUTCRACKERS -- A flock of 30 Com. Ravens was seen flying at Yakima Indian Reservation Oct. 14 (ERC, JN). Most Clark's Nutcrackers had not descended into the valleys yet. However, one seen 4 mi. s.e. of Prineville Oct. 3 was the first ever recorded within the Christmas Count area and several miles from its normal conifer habitat.

CHICKADEES AND NUTHATCHES -- Several Boreal Chickadees were seen Aug. 27 around Emerald L. in Yoho Nan Park (WCW) and at least 6 were found in the Salmon-Shedroof area of n.e. Washington Aug. 28 (JA). The uncommon White-breasted Nuthatch was

reported only from Cascade Park, n.w. of Yakima, (up to 4 birds,) and from Spokane.

WRENS -- Single Bewick's Wrens, and on one date 2, were seen along the Yakima R. near Richland, at Toppenish Creek and at Yakima in Sportsman's State Park on several occasions during the period (EM, AR). A Canyon Wren heard at Vaseux L. Aug. 28 was the second noted since the species was apparently wiped out in that area by the severe winter of 1968-69. (WCW). Possibly the same bird was noted there Oct. 11 (SRC).

MIMIC THRUSHES AND THRUSHES -- Inthe North Okanagan valley Catbirds were more numerous than for several years and were particularly noticeable Aug. 12-24. Bozeman had a record late date of Sept. 29 for the species (SC). It did not appear that Robins would winter in more than scant numbers in the Region. Hermit Thrushes were migrating in September and October, with the latest report mentioning many of the birds at Heppner, Ore. the last of October. An impressive number of Mountain Bluebirds was reported: 25 at Armstrong, B.C. Aug. 23 (JK); 50 at Cascade Park near Yakima Sept. 1-2 (PH), and hundreds at Peola, west of Clarkston, Wash. Sept. 6. Flocks of 30-40 remained around Prineville throughout November. At Gardiner, Mont. Nov. 22 was a record late date for the species (HC).

PIPITS AND WAXWINGS -- What was probably the start of the Water Pipit migration was seen Aug. 30 on Canoe Mt. near Valemount, B.C. where 200 were counted. Forty had reached the lowlands at Salmon Arm by Sept. 6 (MS). They were moving in e. Washington during September and October, with many hundreds seen the latter month. At least 2000 were around O'Sullivan Dam, Grant Co. Oct. 9. By contrast the last date for the birds in the Bozeman area was Sept. 26. At Berg L., Mt. Robson Provo Park, 20 Bohemian Waxwings were seen Aug. 22. The species has been recorded as breeding in the park (MS), Some 30 of these birds, including some imm. birds, were seen on Salmo Mt. in n.e. Washington Aug. 28 (WH). A few arrived at Missoula by Oct. 10 (early) and small flocks were in the N. Okanagan valley the week of Oct. 18. On Oct. 31 flocks of 400-600 were seen flying down the valley at Cusick, Wash. and a few had reached Bozeman the day before. By mid-or late November thousands were at Bozeman and Missoula and perhaps somewhat smaller numbers were in the N. Okanagan.

WARBLERS -- Record late dates for the Orange-crowned Warbler were obtained at Bozeman (Sept. 26) and Missoula (Oct. 22). Wayne Weber's reporting of Michael Shepard's observations in c. British Columbia brought refreshingly new warbler names: Tennessee Warbler, last sighting, Aug. 27, Mt. Robson Provo Park; Magnolia Warbler, last sighting, 2, Sept. 2 at Robson Meadows in the park; **Chestnut-sided Warbler,** belatedly reported but the first record for British Columbia, photographed at Red Pass, Mt. Robson Provo Park June 22, and Blackpoll Warbler, last seen, Sept. 1, near McBride on the upper Fraser R. n.e. of the Park. Two more record late dates came from Bozeman: MacGillivray's Warbler, Sept. 28 (SC) and Am. Redstart, Oct. 4 (HC, KH). One of the former species at Heppner Oct. 1 provided a good late date even for that area.

WEAVERS AND BLACKBIRDS -- The House Sparrow still made news at Missoula, where it is still scarce after being greatly reduced in numbers by an epidemic, suspected of being caused by *Salmonella,* nearly a year ago. The last Bobolinks in the Bozeman area, large flocks Sept. l3, were late (SC, PDS). A Bobolink at Turnbull N .W.R. Aug. 20 may be the first record there (WH). Some late records came in for the Brown-headed Cowbird. The species was last seen at Norris, Mont. Aug. 29 and at Missoula an ad. male was present Sept. 1. The adults usually leave before the end of July there. Eight were found on the Yakima Indian Reservation Oct. 21.

FINCHES -- Black-headed Grosbeaks mostly slipped away unobserved. One or 2 were seen as late as August 22 in the Tri-cities area, (EM) and on the 23rd on the Little Spokane R. near Spokane. Missoula and Bozeman both came up with late dates for the Lazuli Bunting, Sept. 19 and 11, respectively, the Bozeman date a record late. Evening Grosbeaks were common to the end of October at Missoula, then tapered off and disappeared by mid-November. At Vernon, B.C. they were common the first of October. Other lowland areas apparently had few or none by the end of the report period, but sizable flocks were noted in the mountains and foothills of e. Washington. House Finches at Missoula, common through September, were not seen after mid-November but probably moved to nearby areas. The species appeared not to have regained its former numbers in the N. Okanagan after the 1968-69 winter die-off. A few Com. Redpolls had put in their appearance by Nov. 15 or later at Bozeman, Missoula and Spokane. Pine Siskins were scarce or absent at most localities, with the last sighting Oct. 26 at Missoula. Am. Goldfinches were more widespread and indicated they might winter in the western part of the Region. Red Cross bills appeared in most valley areas with conifers, except in the Okanagan, where a poor cone crop was blamed. White-winged Crossbills seemed numerous in Yoho Nat'l Park during the fall period (WCW) and at least 35 were seen in the Gypsy Meadows -Salmo Pass area of n.e. Washington Aug. 28 (JA).

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SPARROWS – Migration of these birds seemed mostly ordinary, but with a liberal sprinkling of 'rarities!’ Late last dates were obtained at Bozeman for the Savannah Sparrow, Oct. 10, and Chipping Sparrow, Oct. 11. Savannah Sparrows remained well into October in the milder western extreme of the Region. Several were seen in a wet meadow near Richland, Wash. on the 9th and one was seen on Yakima Indian Reservation on the 28th. Oregon Juncos were beginning to show up in the valleys. At Walla Walla they appeared with colder weather Sept. 15 and in greater numbers with 20° weather Oct. 27. At Missoula the birds seemed scarce. Slate-colored Juncos were noted at Bozeman, Spokane, the Tri-cities and the Yakima area. Outstanding among unusual records was a **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Missoula Aug. 27. Harris' Sparrows were noted at six localities between Sept. 11 and the end of November, all singles except for 3 at Grindrod. south of Salmon Arm. Oct. 28-Nov. 30 (JM). The other localities were Bozeman, Missoula. Spokane, Coldstream near Vernon, B.C., and 10mi. north of Williams L, B.C. Sept. 18 (AD). The peak of the White-crowned Sparrow migration apparently moved through the N. Okanagan about Sept. 26 when colder weather may have concentrated it. At Prineville the cold and snow at the end of October produced a concentration of the birds unlike anything the previous five autumns. Single White-throated Sparrows were present at Vernon, Sept. 19-Oct 3 (WC, JG) and on the Kinney Lake road, Mt. Robson Provo Park, Aug. 19 (MS). Between late September and mid-October single Fox Sparrows were reported four times at Spokane, twice in the Vernon area and nowhere else. Jim Grant voiced the suspicion that they migrate in his area along the ridges at 3-5000 ft. altitude. One or 2 Golden-crowned Sparrows appeared in the Yakima area on three dates in October and the species was noted at Wenatchee Sept. 25 (MP). Single birds were seen at two places at Spokane on five dates during September and October -the most observations there since 1969. One or 2 Lapland Longspurs were seen near Missoula Sept. 17-Oct. 15 and 2-4 were noted at Banks L and O'Sullivan Dam Oct. 9 (JA). Several migrating Snow Buntings were seen along the shore of Priest L. in n. Idaho in mid October (RMW) and singles were noted at Missoula Nov. 17 & 24.

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*Autumn Migration, 1971*

**GREAT BASIN CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION**

**/Hugh E. Kingery**

Snowstorms and freezing weather spent the fall driving migrants in and out of our Region. Snowstorms struck the Colorado Rockies Sept. 3-4 and Sept. 16-18, with snow depths of6-12 inches along the Eastern Slope but skipping far western Colorado. Despite these



unseasonable snows, birds lingered later than usual, with hummingbirds using icicled feeders at Evergreen, stray warblers found at McCoy, and land birds bottled up in sheltered canyons at Colorado Springs. At the end of September a fierce, cold storm buffeted the northern part of the Region; several hundred swallows perished in the gale-driven rain, snow, and sleet at Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge; late birds appeared at

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feeders in Jackson, Wyo.; Salt Lake City birders found concentrations of migrating songbirds. Then at the end of October a Region-wide snowstorm with freezing temperatures drove migrating ducks south from, and ushered northern ducks and swans to, the wildlife refuges. After this storm had dumped 27 inches of snow on Flaming Gorge Nat'l Recreation Area, Utah, the usual high winds did not materialize and so failed to blow the ridges bare of snow; as a result Horned Larks and Starlings perished by the hundreds (GLM). Regardless of the weather, southern birds penetrated north and west-with records of Louisiana Heron, Cattle Egret, and Rivoli's Hummingbird, observations of seabirds like a jaeger, Emperor Goose, Black Brant. and many scoters pushed inland; and eastern birds moved west, with Blue Jays, Brown Thrashers, warblers, and grackles appearing in the mountains. Observers at Sheridan, Wyo., speculate about a migration flyway which may bring vagrant eastern birds across northeastern Wyoming while traveling to or from central or southern parts of the U.S. and nesting grounds in western Canada and Alaska. This might account for species reported there but not to the south at Casper, Cheyenne, and Denver. This season they noted, and described in detail four species not on Wyoming's state list; all are accepted from Montana and all but the hummingbird for Colorado: Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Philadelphia Vireo, Purple Finch, and Le Conte's Sparrow. One wishes photographs supported the detailed descriptions. Reporters from several widely-scattered, locations in the Region commented on a scarcity of land birds; the comments concerned Zion Nat'l Park, Utah, Dubois, Wyo., Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Ore., and the Denver foothills. However the danger of an offhand conclusion on population trends was noted at Nat'l Elk Refuge, Wyo., where this year's paucity of observations of Sparrow Hawks was attributed not to a population decline but rather to the removal of a small power line across Poverty Flats, which the birds had used for a look-out.

LOONS, GREBES -- Common Loons dropped into several locations in August -Antero Res., Colo., Nampa, Ida. and Pathfinder Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Wyo.; most loons came in November as usual. The only Horned Grebe reports came from the mid-Rockies; 6 at Antero Res. and 5 at Hutton Lake N.W.R., Wyo., Oct. 25. A spectacular concentration of **Eared Grebes** occurred on Mono L., Calif., on Oct. 1: from an estimated 1 bird per 100 square feet, Finkbeiner calculated a minimum number of **200,000** Jackson Co., Colo. had 1050 as its peak Eared Grebe migration, Aug. 3; at Hutton L. the peak number reached 335 Aug. 18. Western Grebes peaked at 5750 at Bear River N.W.R. Utah Oct. 5; other impressive numbers included 1400 at Camas N.W.R., Ida. Sept. 4 (an increase); 150 at Nampa Oct. 1, 110 at Pathfinder N.W.R., Wyo., Sept. 30, and 3000 at the Klamath refuge system, Ore. and Calif. in September,

PELICANS, CORMORANTS, HERONS -- White Pelican peak migration numbers included 3064 in mid-August at Bear R. and 1800 at Malheur, in September 1590 at the Klamath refuges and 255 at Camas N.W.R. Other observations included 100 at Pathfinder N.W.R, Aug. 25 and 50 at Cedar City, Utah Oct. 27-Nov. 2. Double-crested Cormorants stayed late, with 3 at the Klamath refuges Oct. 24-25 (S.A.S.) 15 at Ruby Valley N.W.R., Nev. Oct. 2, one at Collbran, Colo., Oct. 8 (LG), 12 at Nampa Nov.1, and the last leaving Malheur Nov. 23, late by a month. The Cattle Egret at Minidoka N.W.R., Ida., remained there until at least Aug. 21 (GH), and I visited Bear R. Sept. 23.



***Louisiana Heron, Honey Lake Wildlife Management Area. Aug. 24,* *1971. The First N. California record. Photo/John Revill****.*

A **Louisiana Heron** evidenced its widespread 1971 dispersal by visiting Honey L., Calif., Aug. 24-Sept. 3. Found and photographed by John Revill, the bird will be detailed in *California Birds* (TM, G M, RSt). Least Bitterns surprised Malheur observers twice-Aug. 11 and Sept. 8. At Bear R., the White-faced Ibis has developed the soft-shell problem found in many raptors; DDT is reportedly used extensively in the Box Elder Co. mosquito abatement efforts. The Great Salt Lake's Am. Flamingo stayed through the summer, with an observation Sept. 29 at Farmington Bay (WWB).

SWANS, GEESE: -- The Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife has deleted the Trumpeter Swan from "rare" status, and this year took its first swan census since 1968. It covered only historic nesting grounds, and found that Idaho and Wyoming populations had dropped to 70 per cent of the levels of 1967-68, with 134 birds found in the 2 states this year. Cygnet production dropped to about 60 per cent of 1968's, although roughly the same as 1967, a low year in the cycle (TWP). (Compare with more favorable Montana populations reported in Northern Rocky Mountain Region.) At Malheur an introduced population produced 22 cygnets, compared with 12 in each of 1969 and 1970. Trumpeters increased their use of Nat'l Elk Refuge; the fall population there built to 50 ad., 7 imm. Nov. 24; and 32 returned to Ruby Valley N.W.R. Oct. 29. The Oct. 30 storm produced most of the Whistling Swan

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movements. Although the first 5 arrived at Bear R. Oct. 5, the count escalated to 28,800 on Nov. 3. The same storm brought 60 to Seedskadee N.W.R., Wyo., 1l2 to Camas N.W.R., 336 to Minidoka N.W.R.; by Nov. 30 Malheur had 11,200 and Klamath had 5320. In Colorado the whistler is a rare migrant despite its numbers to the west. This fall reports included 12-21 Oct. 1-Nov. 3 in Jackson Co., Colo. (RKr, RSa), and 10 Nov. 4 on the Laramie R., Larimer Co. (PC). See Table 1 for Canada Geese movements. At Tule Lake N.W. R., Calif., an Emperor Goose made an infrequent appearance Oct. 10; at the same location hunters killed 2 Black Brant (EJO). At Eureka, Nev., 17 White-fronted Geese appeared Oct. 31. Malheur had its usual numbers of White-fronted Geese, but only half the 1969-70 counts of Snow Geese. The latter had by Nov. 30 built to only 60-80 per cent of their usual peak at Stillwater W.M.A., Nev., after arriving 2 weeks late.

DUCKS -- See Table I for statistics of the migration. Specific records include from Camas N.W.R., a new bird for Idaho, a **Black Duck** Oct. 24 plus a **Eur. Widgeon** Oct. 22 & 29 by 2 different observers. At Am. Falls, Ida., thousands of Shovelers were moving along the Snake R. Oct. 28-30 (CHT). Wood Ducks appeared in 2 places; 3 at Grand Junction Oct. 3, and 1 ad. at Springdale, Utah Nov. 14-28 (JG, RCF, RKe). A family of 4 Com. Goldeneye Aug. 19 near Bend, Ore. raised speculations of nesting (ODS). The first Barrow's Goldeneye, early by a month, arrived in Dubois Oct. 29 with the storm; numerous reports of scoters came from all over the Region. Single **White-winged Scoters** were found in California: Lower Klamath L. Oct. 24 (S.A.S.), near Honey L. Oct. 30 (RL), Lee Vining Nov. 11 (*fide* JMF), and Tule Lake N.W.R. the first week of Nov. (*fide* EJO); also at Sheridan Oct. 19 and 4 at Grand Junction, Colo., Nov. 3 (C & SS). One of a pair of **Surf Scoters** was shot at Honey L. Nov. 3 (JR); and a **Com. Scoter** visited Sheridan Oct. 11, a first for this part of Wyoming.

HAWKS, EAGLES -- Two hundred Turkey Vultures soared over Malheur Sept. 9, 43 of them young of the year. The third White-tailed Kite in e. California in 2 years was described perfectly, seen in an ancient bristlecone pine forest of the White Mtns., Mono Co., at 10,400 ft. (*fide* JMF). Numerous Accipiter reports included an imm. Goshawk dependent on adults, Yel10wstone Nat'l Park, Aug. 5; a successful nesting in the Steens Mtns. near Malheur, and 6 other observations; and 15 observations each of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks. At Malheur the first week of September, 50 Red-tailed Hawks were counted; and they were abundant in n.e. Calif., with a cast of 14 in one tree on Nov. 12 (DO). Rough-legged Hawks arrived 2-4 weeks late throughout the Region, but apparently in normal numbers. A Black Hawk was reported from Capitol Reef Nat'l Mon., Utah (MM). We have no information on the population of Golden Eagles in c. and s. Wyoming where poison and guns decimated them last winter. At Eureka, Nev., 63 observations compared favorably with the 19 from last year; Malheur, Klamath, Camas, and Monte Vista N.W.R. had frequent observations, but the birds seemed scarce at Sheridan and Zion. Bald Eagles arrived late throughout the Region, with over 3 dozen reports in November, and early observations at Dubois. Nampa, Crater Lake Nat'l Park, Ore., and Deadman Pass, Mono Co., Calif. Ospreys are flourishing in the Crane Prairie area of Deschutes Nat'l Forest, Ore., with a population of 200 birds in the Osprey Management area and 58 active nests in the forest including 11 new ones this year (HR). Reports of3 birds came from Nampa and single birds from Bear River, Eureka, Sheridan, and Mono Co. Malheur had none as usual, but Rupert, Ida. had none for the first time. Prairie Falcons were reported frequently, especially from Klamath, Malheur, Rupert, Monte Vista, Seedskadee N.W.R., and Eureka.

GROUSE -- Blue Grouse populations in Colorado (CEB) and Blue and Ruffed Grouse in n. Utah (J*K)* appeared normal. Blue Grouse began their vertical migrations to the high country in Colorado in mid- September and at Crater Lake by Nov. 16. Sharp-tailed Grouse population of n. Utah is quite low (JK). Sage Grouse are holding their own around Rupert, but in

n. Utah are down from last year though above the IO-year average (JK). Chukars, Ring-necked Pheasant, and Gray Partridge have all increased in n. Utah this year (JK).

CRANES, RAILS -- The first migrating Sandhill Cranes arrived at Monte Vista Aug. 8, with a peak there of 2500 on Oct. 17; all departed by Nov. 20. Malheur's nesting population produced 104 young, compared with 85 in 1970, but the September trend count showed only 7 per cent young, about half that of 1970 (CDL). Overflow from the migration east of the mountains included October sightings of 300 cranes at Sheridan, 300 at Cheyenne (MJ) and a small flock circling in a blizzard in the Poudre Canyon w. of Ft. Collins, Colo. (JC).

RAILS, PLOVERS -- For Am. Coot migration see Table 1. Snowy Plovers occurred at Honey L., with 3 seen Aug. 27 (RSt, TM); 2 at Antero Res. Aug. 8 (HEW); and the last one at Malheur Sept. 16 (J8); its status in uncertain throughout the Region. The Black-bellied Plover repeated its scattered springtime appearances with birds seen at Sheridan Sept. 24-26, 2 at Ft. Klamath, Ore. (S.A.S.) and 37 at Lower Klamath L., Calif. (ODS) both on Oct. 25, and one at Crawford, Colo. **Nov. 22** (LG).

SHOREBIRDS -- Most locations noted fewer than usual. However Malheur observers saw 425 Com. Snipe Aug. 6; flocks of 30-40 are normal, but this concentration reflected the many seen this year. Long-billed Dowitchers peaked at Bear R. Aug. 13 with 6100 and at Malheur Aug. 19 with 6000. Late dates and numbers included 9000 at the Klamath refuges in October, 150 at Bear R. Nov. 9, and 110 at Modoc Nov. 11. Klamath refuges had 49,000 Least and 27,700 W. Sandpipers in September; Bear R. noted peaks of Baird's Sandpipers at 4000 July 23 and 1100 Western July 21. Baird's were found at Honey Aug. 27 (TM, RSt) and Malheur Sept. 6 (JB). Malheur recorded no Marbled Godwits this year, although many occurred last fall. **Hudsonian Godwits** strayed west to Sheridan Sept. 22 (PH) and Tule Lake, Calif. Sept. 10. The latter is a new record for the Klamath Basin (EJO, JMW). Am. Avocets lingered late throughout the Region, with records like the 100

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at Pathfinder N.W.R. Sept. 30, 34 at Modoc N.W.R. Oct. 20, 18-27 at Lower Klamath L. Oct. 24-30 (S.A.S., ODS), over 200 Nov. 6 at Bear R. even though a large part of the marsh had frozen (WS), one Nov. 19 at L. John, Jackson Co., Colo. (RKr), and one at Stillwater W.M.A. Nov. 21. A Wilson's Phalarope visited Antero Res. Oct. 10, a late date. At Klamath, refuge personnel counted 5500 Wilson's and 7000 N. Phalaropes in September; the 5000-5500 N. Phalaropes at Lakeview, Ore., Aug. 24 compared favorably with last year (ODS).

JAEGERS, GULLS -- A dark phase **Parasitic Jaeger** exhibited all its field marks to observers at Malheur Aug. 27; the bird is new for Malheur, and the second or third record for e. Oregon (WA, BA). California Gulls left Malheur by Sept. 21. but stayed in substantial numbers at Antero Res. through mid-October. An Antero bird banded Sept. 10, 1970, was recovered at Eagle L. Calif. Sept. 3, and 1 banded June 30 1970 at Riverside Res. in Morgan Co., Colo., was recovered at Willard Spur, Utah Sept. 13 (RAR). At American Falls Res., Ida. 300-400 Ring-billed Gulls died from a non-violent, unknown cause; a few wintering Bald Eagles fed on them. The cause is under investigation (CHT).

PIGEONS, DOVES, CUCKOOS -- Southward movements of Colorado Band-tailed Pigeons began by late August, increasing by Sept. 15; the substantial numbers which remained departed Oct. 15-23, with the last record Nov. 7 (CEB). At Durango 150 were counted Sept. 10. Mourning Dove southward movement was well under way by late August in Colorado with northern birds moving through Sept. 1-20 (CEB). The Yellow-billed Cuckoo has all but vanished from n.e. California's avifauna, even as a migrant, but Aug. 27 found one at Honey L. "eating a large green caterpillar." (RSt, TM). Observers at Zion again found no Road runners.

OWLS, GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS -- Malheur's first definite Screech Owl was found Nov. 2; then another was found near Bums, Ore. Nov. 21. Salt Lake City had I Nov. 16 (EG). A Great Gray Owl was found in Yellowstone Nat'! Park, on Elk Creek, June 21. Flammulated Owls visited Canon City, Colo. Sept. 1 (DSi), and Durango Sept. 24. Monte Vista's population of 20 Great Horned Owls left the area the first week in October. Summer records of the Pygmy Owl included one at Evergreen Aug. 6 and Sept. 4 (NP, WWB); and one at Cedar City Sept. 10. The first sighting of Burrowing Owls in 3 years at Ruby Valley N.W. R. came Aug. 20, with 5 birds. Com. Nighthawks left Evergreen, Zion, and Dubois in August. Eureka, Alturas, and Nampa in Sept., with the last ones recorded at Malheur Oct. 3 and Salt Lake City Oct. 11 (PJ). A Lesser Nighthawk strayed north to Bear R. Sept. 23 (RR). Poor-wills were common in the Zion high country Sept. 13-28, and a dead one was found Oct. 5. Evergreen's Oct. 16 bird constituted an odd late record (DSt. WWB). At Peaceful Valley, Colo.: 7 Black Swifts were seen Aug. 28 (JF). At Ft. Rock and Steens Mtns., Ore. on Aug. 20-23 came records of White-throated Swifts, rare in Oregon (ODS, WA). The swift migration was noticed especially in Zion, with 400 drifting s.w. in small flocks Aug. 26; 450 at 8000 ft. just north of Zion on Sept. 15. and 9 at Rockville, Utah Oct. 31 (RKe). Other late records include Oct. 3 at Grand Junction and Oct. 30 at Durango.

HUMMINGBIRDS - At Springdale, Utah, hummingbirds reached a peak on Aug. 22, when an estimated 300 visited feeders in the north end of town -the estimate based on their consumption of 300 quarts of syrup; sample counts showed 60 per cent Black-chinned, 30 per cent Rufous, and 10 per cent Broad-tailed. At Virgin, 13 miles e. of Springdale, Rufous were scarce, Calliope numerous. Most hummingbirds left in late August, but they stayed until Sept. 24 in Salt Lake City (EG) and Springdale, past 2 snowstorms to Sept. 25 at Hotchkiss, Colo. (TC), until Oct. 3 at



***A Hummingbird at feeder, Evergreen, Colo., Sept. 18, 1971. Photo/Norma Jean Dawson, courtesy Canyon Courier.***

Durango, and at Grand Junction until Oct. 4 (a Rufous), probably the latest record for Colorado (WED). The female **Rivoli's Hummingbird** at Springdale was last seen Aug. 10; on Aug. 24 at Cedar City a male Rivoli's came to investigate our reporter in a green pickup truck before flaring over the top and out of sight (SM).

WOODPECKERS - Woodpeckers seem scarce in Yellowstone Natl. Park, with only small numbers of the usual species. The cause could be the natural evolutionary changes in the plant communities, as suggested by some research; it could be from strict fire control over the past 100 years, or might be from pest and disease control over the same period. Yellow-shafted Flickers appeared at Malheur Oct. 3 and Salt Lake City Oct. 3-13 (EG); a hybrid was found there Nov. 2 (EG).

FLYCATCHERS, LARKS, SWALLOWS, JAYS -- An ad. Eastern Kingbird at Honey L. was feeding 3 young at Honey L. Aug. 27, probably the same birds which nested there. Late birds were at Malheur until Sept. 11 and Sheridan until Oct. 5. Late Olive-sided

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Flycatchers were noted at Salt Lake City Oct. 4 (GLK) and Estes Park Oct. 6 (RD). At Antero Res. 2500 Homed Larks massed during September, but the numbers dropped to 500 after the September snows. Larks congregated during a snowstorm on the Steens Mts. Oct. 15, the thousands probably en route to lower elevations. At Honey L. over 1500 were seen Oct. 30 (RL). Swallows migrated in their usual numbers, hundreds of all kinds between Rockville and Hurricane, Utah Sept. 28 (RAS); 850 Violet-greens near Colorado Springs Sept. 5 (A.A.S.); and a flock of over 200 at Dubois Aug. 17 being the last seen there

***Rivoli's Hummingbird, Springdale, Utah, July 11*, *1971. First verified Utah record. Photo/Jerome L. Gifford.***

early for a last observation. Blue Jays, which have become common in Denver in the past 5 years, spread into the foothills west of there, with observations near Tinytown (*fide* HEK), Evergreen, and Idaho Springs (*fide* WWB). A Blue Jay mated with a Steller's Jay in Boulder, Colo., and the family, with offspring. frequented feeders there this fall (PJ). Unusually large numbers of Com. Ravens inhabited the territory north of Malheur Oct. 15 (JHH). At Nampa observers counted 3015 Com. Crows Oct. 22. At Durango, Springdale, and Cedar City, observers commented on unusual numbers of Pińon Jays; but at Alturas fewer than usual were present. Clark's Nutcrackers dropped down to Colorado Springs early, and in greater numbers; A.A.S. observers found 50 there in November.

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES - Malheur had no observations of chickadees or nuthatches all fall, except I flock of Com. Bushtits, and fewer chickadees were present at Jackson, Wyo. (EW), Summit Co., Colo. (HER), Salt Lake City (WS), and Zion. During the first week in August 15 Mountain Chickadees wandered into a yard in Grand Junction where they stayed for 24 hours (IB). Although none appeared at Salt Lake City, Red-breasted Nuthatches were fairly common in the Colorado foothills (D.F.O., HEK, WWB).

THRASHERS, THRUSHES - A Mockingbird at Antero Res. Aug. 15 seemed out of place. Brown Thrashers continued scattering into the Colorado mountains with birds Oct. 9 at Grand Junction, and on Oct. 14 at Placerville (RSy) and Idaho Springs (FC, *fide* WWB). Robins, scarce last fall and winter, returned in numbers to the Rockies. Large flocks, often seen during the frequent snowstorms, were noted west of Denver (D.F.O.) and Colorado Springs, Estes Park up to timberline (RD), Dubois, Salt Lake City (EG), and Zion. Varied Thrushes were numerous at Crater Lake with a flock of 100 Nov. 4 at 4500 ft. and birds seen at Malheur Sept. 22-0ct. 6, and Klamath N .W.R. Oct. 25 (S.A.S.). Malheur banders caught only one third as many Hermit Thrushes as last year, the last Oct. 14; other October records included several afterstorm birds in Salt Lake City Oct. 2-3 and 1, Oct. 8 feeding among snow patches (GLK), and the last 1 at Durango Oct. 15. Swainson's Thrushes passed through Durango in greater numbers than normal, with the last on Oct. 27, the day before another storm.

KINGLETS, PIPITS, WAXWINGS, SHRIKES -- Bear R. recorded its first Golden-crowned Kinglet, a dead bird found Sept. 22. Both Malheur and Zion recorded their first fall Golden-crowneds this October, and in n. Larimer Co., Colo. 20 were found Nov. 6 (WCS). Water Pipits were still common above timberline near Silverton, Colo., Sept. 10, but after the second September storm the same observer found many migrating in alfalfa fields with unbaled hay near Salida, Colo., Sept. 20 (OR). Malheur had only one observation of 7 pipits this year, compared with 11 observations of up to 40 birds last year. Rupert counted them in the thousands, and at Eureka, where they are unusual, 1 was seen on Oct. 22 and Nov. 21. By the end of November Bohemian Waxwings had arrived in the northern flanks of the Region with flocks reported at Sheridan, Rupert, and Nampa. In October an estimated 2000 Cedar Waxwings descended upon the honeysuckle berries at Alturas, and left 4 weeks later, after exhausting the berry supply. The first N. Shrikes reported were at Nampa Sept. 19, Eureka Oct. 17, and Dubois, with the tail of a junco in its bill, Oct. 30. A few were seen throughout the Region during November.

VIREOS, WARBLERS, GRACKLES -- A Solitary Vireo at Durango Aug. 21, the yellow subspecies, rather than the usual *V. s. plumbeus.* A Red-eyed Vireo strayed west to Cedar City Sept. 19. Our Region does not enjoy warbler waves on the scale of the eastern states, but a "wave" on Oct. 2 at Salt Lake City, after the Sept. 30 snows, comprised 5 species including 50-75 Audubon's, 25 Townsend's, and a **Black-throated Green Warbler,** observed at 15-20 feet (GLK). The last is only the second sight record for Utah. More Orange-crowned and Virginia's Warblers moved through Durango than in many years, the last on Oct. 20 (EF). Contrariwise our Cedar City reporter found none of the usually common Black-throated Gray and Wilson's Warblers, and only 1 MacGillivray's. The Sept. 6 storm in the Colorado Rockies produced, on Sept. 7, 2 unusual warblers in the same willow bush at McCoy, Colo. a Tennessee and a Connecticut. The bush also held a MacGillivray's for the observers to contrast with the Connecticut (GS). Both are among a handful of Western Slope records. Nashville Warbler reports came from Mindoka N.W.R. (GH) and Evergreen Oct. 2. Magnolia Warblers appeared at Bear R. Sept. 26 (GL, *fide* GLK) and 2 at Colorado Springs Oct. 6-7 (BMM). A Grace's Warbler Oct. 22 at Grand Junction was north of its usual range (SD, LG, SS).

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The Chestnut-sided Warbler at Boulder, Colo., was unusual and very late on Oct. 25 (PJ). Northern Waterthrushes appeared Aug. 26 at Cheyenne (MH) and at Antero Res. Sept. 19 after the mid-September snows. Wilson's Warblers apparently migrated late in w. Colorado; during the usual time, in August, Durango observers saw only one, but they noted a good movement from Sept. 11-Oct. 16 (RSy) as did observers at Hotchkiss Sept. 27-Oct. 3 (TC). Com. Grackles, expanding into the mountains, occurred at Dubois 8 times in August and September, and at Estes Park Sept. 17 when a flock of 24 killed and ate 2 Pine Siskins (MP).

FRINGILLIDS -- Adding to this spring's records of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks is a male at Jackson May 20-June 1, for the second year in a row (EW). A Black-headed Grosbeak was banded at Malheur Sept. 5, the only recent fall record. Late birds were seen near Evergreen (DSt) Oct. 17 and Boulder Oct. 25 (PJ). Evening Grosbeaks were absent from Malheur and scarce at Durango (where they were abundant this spring), but common in n. Colorado, Rupert, and. Crater L. The usual thousands of rosy finches arrived at Victor, Colo., Oct. 29, although a few had come in earlier (NS). The Pine Siskin was the most frequently observed bird at all elevations of Crater L. Nat'l Park, with I flock of 500 Oct. 14; yet the one observation at Malheur compared with 25 banded last year. Numbers of Red Cross bills have irrupted, with many observations from Yellowstone, Denver, Rupert, Nampa, Mono Co., and a nest Aug. 26 at Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park (GF). Ten White-winged Crossbills occurred Aug. 15 at Nampa. After the nesting birds left, wintering Rufous-sided Towhees seemed scarce west of Denver and Colorado Springs. A Brown Towhee was observed near Keno, Ore. Oct. 25, east of the Cascades, probably a first record for e. Oregon (ODS).

SPARROWS -- Vesper Sparrows staged a heavy migration at Sheridan, after scarcity all summer, and were abundant around the Alturas airport throughout September. Winter juncos first appeared at Malheur Sept. 20, 2 weeks earlier than 1970, at Salt Lake City Oct. 2 after the Sept. 30 storm, at Zion Oct. 5, Evergreen Oct. 10, and Alturas Oct. 26, but they seemed scarce in the Colorado foothills and Summit Co., Colo. (HEK). Especially large numbers of Brewer's Sparrows moved through Eureka Sept. 25, and large concentrations occurred in Zion's high country. Last birds were seen at Malheur Sept. 8 and Durango Oct. 16, before a storm. Harris' Sparrows invaded the Region, with first dates at Evergreen Oct. 12, Colorado Springs mid-October, Dubois Oct. 17, Rupert Oct. 22, Malheur Nov. 7 (first in 5 years), and Honey L. Nov. 12 (RSt, *DD, et al*.), and Durango Nov. 18. Q White-throated Sparrow visited Cheyenne Oct. to (MH). Hundreds of White-crowned Sparrows, mostly imm., thronged around timberline Sept. 10 near Silverton (OR), and stayed around Durango until October storms swept them south. A Fox Sparrow occurred at Colorado Springs Nov. 7-9, and Malheur had 5 September observations. Longspurs appeared in n. California, with several dozen found at Honey L. from Oct. 30; Chestnut-collared seemed more common than the usually more common Lapland; and a handful of McCown's also came in (RL, RSt, DD, BAM). At Rupert 8 Snow Buntings flocked in Nov. 6, and Malheur had 7 Nov. 14.

CORRIGENDA -- The Chestnut-sided Warblers reported in *Am. Birds* 25: 828, 874, and 886 are all the same pair, and the species has nested near Colorado Springs, as indicated on p. 886.

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*Autumn Migration, 1971*

**NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION**

**/ John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls**

A slightly warmer-than-usual August was followed by a cool, wet September. October started warm in at least the southern portion of the Region, but frost had been experienced almost everywhere by the middle of the month. November, always a wet month, brought almost twice the usual amounts of rainfall while temperatures were about average for the month.

LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS -- The 53 Red-throated Loons at Tswassen, B.C., Sept. 24 (WC *et al*., *fide* MSch) were an early and unusual concentration; so were the 88 Red-necked Grebes off Tofino, B.C. Sept. 25 (MSh). Eared Grebes appeared in the Region this fall in unprecedented numbers, scattered from Vancouver and the San Juan Is. to coastal Washington and n.w. Oregon, including the Willamette Valley; the estimated *400* at Ganges on Saltspring I., B.C. Nov. 2-3 OR, *fide* WW) is an extraordinary count. Black-footed Albatrosses were found on most of the offshore trips from Aug. 17-Nov. 9 with a spectacular count of 141 individuals around a fishing boat 46 mi. out of Westport, Wash., Sept. 12 (TW *et al*.). A Laysan Albatross was photographed 46 miles out of Westport, Sept. 12 (TW *et al*.). Gerald Sanger observed 16 individuals of that species off coastal Washington and British Columbia between Oct. 16 and Nov. 4. Wayne Campbell, on another vessel, saw a Laysan Albatross 10 mi. off n. Vancouver I. Oct. 26; 3 more followed the ship southward off Vancouver I. the next day and were photographed at about 50°15' N, 130° 11' W. Another observation was made of a single bird at 45° 30' N, 128° 40' W off n. Oregon Oct. 28 (WC, *fide* WW). Fulmars, too, were found on most of the pelagic trips this fall, commencing with 30 off Westport Aug. 29; peak counts were an estimated 400 Sept. 12 and 325 Oct. 16, both off Westport, in which dark birds predominated (TW *et al*.). A half dozen Fulmars were observed Oct. 28 at 44° 30' N, 128° 40' W (WC. *fide* WW). Pink-footed Shearwaters were seen at sea Aug. 17-0ct. 16 with maximum numbers the estimated 300 individuals seen Sept. 12 out of Westport (TW *et al*.). The same observers had the great good fortune of finding two Pale-footed Shearwaters that day also. Single Pale-footed Shearwaters were seen just off Tofino Sept. 18 (SC, *fide* WW) and Sept. 25 (RA, MSh, ASi, *fide* WW). New Zealand Shearwaters were recorded in unprecedented numbers and to surprisingly late dates. There were 7 off Depoe Bay, Oreg. Aug. 17 (FZ *et al*.); four trips from Westport on Aug. 29, Sept. I J, Sept. 12 and Oct. 16 encountered the species in number from 3 to over *150,* the high count being made on the last trip (TRW *et al*.); four birds were seen 15 mi. out of Tofino Sept. 25 (MSh *et al*., *fide* WW), and a total of 70 individuals were observed Oct. 26Nov. 2, 30 of them being in one flock off the Washington coast Oct. 20 and I being off Dixon Entrance n. of Graham I**.,** B. C., Nov. 2 (GS). Sooty Shearwaters were seen regularly offshore; many were still in the vicinity of Gray's Harbor, Wash., Nov. 25 (GH). Two Manx Shearwaters were seen off s. Vancouver I. at 49° 00' N, 129° 40' W on Oct. 27; the birds were as close as 50 ft. (WC, *fide* WW). Fork-tailed Petrels were recorded in maximum number up to 30 on each of the four boat trips from Westport (TW *et al*.) and on the two from Tofino, Sept. 18 & 25 (*fide* WW). Seven of these birds were seen Oct. 26 off the n. end of Vancouver I. (WC, *fide* WW), and 2 were well inside Johnstone Strait between Vancouver I. and the mainland Nov. 4 (GS). A Leach's Petrel was seen in the same area on the same day (GS). An estimated 50 Leach's Petrels were found well out of Westport Aug. 29 (TW *et al*.); a bird of this species was killed Sept. 16 at Brookings, Oreg. when it collided with a power pole (RG).

PELICANS, HERONS -- The more-than-usual number of Brown Pelican reports from the Oregon coast during this report period undoubtedly reflects both an increase in numbers of observers and concern for the status of this species, but upon analysis also indicates that there has been little or no observable change in the status of the Brown Pelican with respect to its fall appearances in this Region in the last decade. The estimated 150 birds -almost all adults -in the Tillamook area Sept. 18-19 (RH & GW, *fide* HN) represents the highest count of individuals from the c. and n. Oregon coasts of which we have a record. Last year gave us the highest count in at least a decade from s.w. Oregon. Reports of immature birds were not lacking this season from other observations made along the Oregon coast. Additionally, single birds were seen at Gray's Harbor Sept. 2 (WB), Sept. 8 (*fide* TW), and at the n. jetty of the Columbia R. on the latter date also, for additions to the comparatively few Washington records of this species. A White Pelican appeared at the Nooksack R. delta in n. Washington Oct. 2 (TW). There were nearly a score of Green Heron sightings from the Vancouver area during the report period (WW); on Sept. 18, an individual of this species was found at Tofino on the w. side of Vancouver L (RA et al., *fide* WW). Additional observations from

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scattered points further south were centered around mid-September for the most part. Up to 5 Com. Egrets were seen in the vicinity of Ilwaco. Wash., in September and early October attracting attention of the local newspaper, which in the Oct. 6 issue printed several excellent photographs from which the birds are unmistakably identifiable; the occurrence may well be the first documented one of s.w. Washington. Individuals were at Tillamook (MK & HN) and at Reedsport, Oreg. the first week in October and at Finley N.W.R. Nov. 8-18 (FZ). An imm. Black crowned Night Heron was observed carefully at Westham I. near Vancouver Aug. 21 (JW, *fide* WW); the same bird or another was seen at nearby Iona I. three days later (WC, *fide* WW). Another imm. was at Brookings, Oreg., Sept. 19-26 (RG). An Am. Bittern appeared at Duncan, B.C., Sept. 11 (JCo); other observations were of two birds from Lulu I. near Vancouver Sept. 18 (LB), 4 from Reifel Refuge, also near Vancouver, Nov. 11 (BM), and single birds from Leadbetter Pt., Wash., Sept. 12 (JBC *et al*.), Tillamook, Sept. 11 (GK *et al*, and Finley N.W.R. Aug. 29 (*fide* FZ).

WATERFOWL -- Three Trumpeter Swans were at Duncan, Nov. 20-30 (JCo). A sick or wounded Brant was seen on log booms at Bellingham, Wash., Nov. 27 (TW). Migrations of Black Brant, Canada, White-fronted and Snow Geese evidently occurred without unusual observations, except the early arrival in good numbers of Snows in late September in the Vancouver area. Three Gadwall at Baskett Slough w. of Salem, Oreg., Aug. 27 (*fide* FZ) were early. A male **Common Teal** was discovered at Finley N.W.R. Nov. 29 (DG & FZ). An estimated 3600 Green-winged Teal at Sea and Iona Is. near Vancouver Sept. 12 was a good concentration (BC, *fide* WW). Two male Cinnamon Teal were still at Seattle Nov. 25 (MP). European Widgeon were widely reported from the Region after mid-October, with a dozen in evidence around Victoria, B.C. (ARD). Uncommon concentrations of Shoveler for this Region were the 200 at Iona I. Sept. 3 (BH, *fide* WW) and 150 at Ladner, B.C. Nov. 8 (RA *et al*., *fide* WW). The 350 Wood Ducks at Finley N.W.R. by mid-November (FZ) was also a noteworthy aggregation. About two dozen Redheads were seen from the last week in September to the end of the period from Vancouver s. to Seattle; a lone bird was at Duncan Oct. 16-30 (JCo). Canvasbacks were sparsely reported from the Vancouver, Victoria and Tillamook areas with no more than 50 at anyone place. A Tufted Duck was again discovered at Stanley Park in Vancouver on Oct. 13 (EM), the same date last year's first of two birds was found; it remained until Nov. 5 and in the interim was seen by many observers. An estimated 800 to 1000 goldeneye, 75 per cent of which were said to be Barrow's, were at Olympia, Wash., during October and November (GH); there were 300 of the latter at Vancouver's Stanley Park Nov. 5 (RK, *fide* WW). An albino Bufflehead, totally white with pink bill and brighter pink legs and feet except for a few dusky feathers on the underparts, was seen at Victoria Oct. 31 (VG). An injured male Oldsquaw at Tsawassen Aug. 17 (GAP, *fide* MSch) was early. Oldsquaw were also reported from Victoria, Pt. Roberts -where 80 were present Oct. 24 (WW *et al*.) -Ocean Shores, Wash., and the n. end of Willapa Bay. White-winged Scoters seem from a number of reports to have been present in the San Juan Is. in unusually large numbers as early as the first week in August; large numbers of Surf Scoters arrived in the vicinity of Vancouver in late September with 2000 seen at Pt. Roberts to the south Sept. 30 (WW). A flock of 80 Com. Scoters at Vancouver Sept. 6 (MSch) is of interest. A group of 47 Hooded Mergansers on Elk L., Vancouver I., Nov. 27 (ARD) was an extraordinary concentration, as was the total of 200 or more Red-breasted Mergansers at Sea L Nov. 17 (WC, *fide* MSch).

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES -- Migrating Turkey Vultures were in groups of 14 at Pt. Roberts Sept. 29, an estimated 40 at Seattle on the same day, 50 on the Rogue R. between Gold Beach and Agness Aug. 21, and 28 at Medford Oct. 3. A. R. Davidson recorded 62 Turkey Vultures passing Victoria between Sept. 11 and Oct. 5. Single Turkey Vultures were seen at Sidney, B. C. (VG), and at Pt. Roberts (KB, *fide* MSch), both Oct. 17. There seen to have been the usual number of scattered fall sightings of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported at Ship-ashore on the Oregon -California border Sept. 19 and then at the Winchuck R. mouth just into Oregon Oct. 3 (RG); the species has been recorded regularly in the n.w. corner of California in the last several years. The first Rough-legged Hawk of the fall appeared in the Frazer R. delta Sept. 11 (WC). There were six reports of Golden Eagles from mid-September to the end of the report period -3 from the Vancouver area, and 3 in the Oregon Cascades from near Portland s. to Ashland. Reports of Bald Eagles were not numerous, but after late September came from throughout the s. half of the Region which is where virtually all our observers operate. Marsh Hawks were said to be in good numbers in the Vancouver area and in n. Washington, but were reported as scarce in the Willamette Valley. There were thirteen different reports of Ospreys, some covering more than one bird, from over much of the s. portion of the Region, the highest number of reports for a single season in at least ten years. Gyrfalcons were recorded four times during the report period; 3 were seen in the Frazer R. delta Sept. 5, Oct. 11, and Nov. 13, and one was found on the Oregon side of the Columbia R. mouth Nov. 6 (RF & HN) where it was harassing Marsh Hawks. A Prairie Falcon was at Medford from Nov. 4 to the end of the report period (JH & MM). Migrating Peregrines were reported from ten different locations and could have involved as many as two dozen individual birds; no sightings were made in Oregon. Pigeon Hawks were very well recorded this fall from the s. portion of the Region, the earliest being a single bird at Sea I. near Vancouver Aug. 25 (KS). Sparrow Hawks seem to be holding their numbers well in the s. half of the Region also.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS, CRANES, SHOREBIRDS -- Two White-tailed Ptarmigan were seen on Mt. Baker, Wash., at the 6000 ft. level Sept. 19 (AS, *fide* WW). Eight California Quail were found at Pt. Roberts Oct. 13 (WR *et al*., *fide* WW), While 5 adults accompanying at least 4 downy young were discovered Sept. 12 near

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Sidney (VG). Sandhill Cranes were widely reported from favored localities after the first of October; a flock of 300 over Terrace, B.C., well to the north, in the first week of November (FF) is of considerable interest. A count of 64 Black Oystercatchers at Victoria Oct. 23 (ARD) is a large one for this species; 4 of these birds Nov. 14 at Deception Pass in the San Juans (AB, *fide* TW) were at an unusual locality. Semipalmated Plovers were noted at many places in the Region this fall, as is usual. The individual at Lummi Bay near Bellingham Nov. 25 (JD, *fide* TW) was late and one at Ross L., Wash., Sept. 30 and Oct. 2 (BM) was at an unlikely place. Am. Golden Plover were reported from thirteen different places in the Region, with multiple occurrences at about half those places, from an early date of Aug. 1, when three birds were seen at Whidbey I., Wash. (MP), to Nov. 12 when one was found at Samish I., Wash. (TW); high count was the 25-30 birds at Ocean Shores, Wash. Sept. 20(GH). An amazing total of 4000 Black-bellied Plovers was seen at Boundary Bay Sept. 6 (MSch). Surfbirds moved into the Region Aug. 28 with a vanguard of 66 birds at Victoria (ARD). There were four reports from scattered localities of Ruddy Turnstones. Counts of 180 Com. Snipe at Iona I. Oct. 23 (GAP, *fide* MSch) and of 100 at Sea I., nearby Sept. 29 (RP) are remarkable concentrations; one at Duncan performing its nuptial flight Sept. 25 (JCo *et al*.) was a curiosity. Long-billed Curlew in groups of two to five birds were seen at Ship-ashore, Aug. 29 (RG), at Whidbey I., Sept. 20 (MP), at Ocean Shores Sept. 20 & 25 (GH), and at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., Oct. 24 (PZ). Whimbrel were seen at many coastal localities and at Vancouver and Victoria; one still at Victoria Nov. 13 (ARD) was late. Three Solitary Sandpipers were at Iona I. Sept. 2 (BM, *fide* WW) and one was there the next day (WR *et al*., *fide* WW); another was seen Sept. 19 near Metchosin, B.C. (VG). A Willet was seen at Leadbetter Pt. Sept. 7 (RV, *fide* TW). Wandering Tattlers and both species of yellow legs were found regularly at favored places; a Lesser Yellowlegs at Whidbey I. Nov. 26 (NL, *fide* TW) was abnormally late. Knots were seen at Leadbetter Pt., Whidbey I., and Iona I. only in the first half of September and only singly, or in one instance, a pair. Rock Sandpipers appeared considerably earlier than normal, one being found at Westport, Aug. 28 (MP) and another at Ocean Shores Sept. 13 (RE). Four Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were observed at Leadbetter Pt. Sept. 6 (JH & MM), one was at Victoria Sept. 7 (RS, *fide* ARD), and birds were seen regularly from Sept. 11 through Oct. 30 at Iona I, with 6 there Oct. 10 (WC *et al*., *fide* WW) being a high count. Pectoral Sandpipers were well reported for September; a count of 200 at Sea I. Sept. 15 (KS, *fide* MSch) is extraordinary, while one still there Nov. 13 (WR et al., *fide* TW) was very late for British Columbia. Baird's Sandpipers were seen at five localities during the latter part of August with the 7 at Vancouver Sept. 18 (KS, *fide* WW) being both the peak number and the last date. Lingering Long-billed Dowitchers were found at Burnaby, B.C., Nov. 6 (BM, *fide* WW), at Finley N.W.R. Nov. 8 (FZ) and at Victoria, Nov. 16 (ARD). The last Short-billed Dowitcher of the season was one at Iona I. Oct. 19 (BM, *fide* WW). The rare Stilt Sandpiper was found at Iona I. Sept. 9 (KS, *fide* MSch); another was discovered at Whidbey I. Oct. 10 (MP). A Semipalmated Sandpiper at Iona I. Sept. 3 (LB; & MP) may have been joined by 2 others, as 3 were banded there Sept. 12 (MSh, *fide* MSch). There were seven records of Marbled Godwits involving up to 12 individual birds in September and the first few days of October from Tofino and Vancouver, B.C., southward. Four good photographs of a **Ruff** taken at Reifel Refuge Aug. 7 (JW) have been deposited with the U.B.C.; it may have been the same imm. male bird which was at Whidbey I. Sept. 4-19 (LB; MP, TW *et al.*). An Am. Avocet appeared at Baskett Slough, w. of Salem, Oreg. Sept. 20-23 (JM, *fide* FZ). Red Phalaropes were seen at sea off Westport Aug. 29, Sept. 11-12, but not on Oct. 16 (TW *et al.)*; none were seen out of Tofino Sept. 11, 18 & 25, but one was seen off the n. end of Vancouver I. Oct. 26 and 14 were 200 mi. off the Oregon coast Oct. 28 (WC, *fide* WW). Northern Phalaropes were seen on most of the same trips, and were scattered through the Strait of Georgia and in most coastal areas after mid-August until the end of September, with peak numbers evident the first half of the latter month; 1000 birds were estimated at Ucluelet, B.C. Sept. 4 (JB, *fide* WW); there were also a number of sightings at Finley N.W. R. and one at Baskett Slough at the end of August and Sept. 2 (FZ).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS -- Pomarine Jaegers were seen on each of the four boat trips from Westport, the maximum being 12 Aug. 29; individuals were also seen off Vancouver I., Sept. 25 and Oct. 27, and 2 out of Prince Rupert, B.C., Sept. 25 (AD, *fide* WW); others were seen at Victoria, Sept. 8 (RS, *fide* ARD), at Grayland, Wash., Sept. 11 (GH), and off Depoe Bay, Oreg., Aug. 17 (FZ et al.). Parasitic Jaegers were much more common, being seen on all boat trips except the Oct. 16 trip from Westport, 10 on Sept. 12 being the peak number, and on numerous occasions in the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca from late August until mid-November. Long-tailed Jaegers were seen off Westport 4 Aug. 29, 2 Sept. 11, 4 Sept. 12and at Ocean Shores where one was noted Sept. 25 (GH). A **Skua** was seen out of Westport Sept. 11, from where 3 were seen on both the Sept. 12 and Oct. 16 boat trips (TW *et al*.); 2 individuals were also seen far at sea off Washington and Vancouver I. on a cruise Oct. 16-Nov. 4 (GS). Glaucous Gulls were in the Vancouver-Bellingham area by November; one was seen 30 miles up Washington's Skagit R. Nov. 28 (DHe, *fide* TW) and up to 5 individuals, 2 of which were adults, followed the vessel off Vancouver I.,Oct. 27 (WC, *fide* WW). An estimated 50,000 Glaucous-winged Gulls were roosting at Vancouver Nov. 9 (JW, *fide* WW); 6 of these birds were 200 miles off the Oregon coast, Oct. 28 (WC, *fide* WW), while Nov. 7 one was noticed inland at Corvallis, Oreg. (JBu, *fide* FZ). An adult W. Gull was at the Vancouver dump Nov. 22 (JW, *fide* MSch). Single Franklin's Gulls were seen at Duncan and at Victoria the last two weeks of August; up to 15 were in the Vancouver -Victoria Bellingham area from early September to mid-November. Bonaparte's Gulls were present in large numbers in the same vicinity, particularly in September and

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October, with some still present in mid-November. Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen at sea on about half the offshore trips in September and October; four 200 mi. at sea off the Columbia R. Oct. 28 (WC, *fide* WW), and one photographed at Iona I. Oct. 11 (BM, *fide* MSch) are of special interest. Sabine's Gulls were seen off Westport Aug. 29, Sept. 11 & 12 when over 400 birds were counted, 300 of them 46 mi. at sea; an imm. was at Blaine, Wash., Oct. 17 (KB, *fide* MSch) and single birds were at Pt. Roberts Oct. 22 (D & MH, *fide* MSch) and off Depoe Bay Aug. 17 (FZ *et al*.). Common Terns were seen regularly in the San Juan Is. and the Strait of Georgia for the first six weeks of the report period, with up to 200 noted Aug. 29 (MSch); one was at Vancouver, Oct. 25 (WC, *fide* WW) and another was at Olympia, Wash., Oct. 26 (GH). A Caspian Tern was near White Rock, B.C., Nov. 11 (AS, *fide* MSch) and one was still at Ocean Shores Oct. 31 (GH). A Black Tern was observed at Iona I., Sept. 2 (BM) and again Sept. 5 (JW, *fide* MSch).

ALCIDS -- Marbled Murrelets with young were prominent in the Gulf Is. of the Canadian San Juans the fourth week of August (JBC). A **Xantus' Murrelet** was collected 57 mi. at sea s.e. of Moresby I., B.C. in Queen Charlotte Sound after it flew on board the vessel at 0430 Oct. 25 (GS); it establishes a new northernmost record of occurrence for this species, considerably exceeding the remarkable reports of just one year ago. An Ancient Murrelet was seen captured by a Peregrine from a scattering of 70 individuals off n. Vancouver Oct. 26 (WC, *fide* WW); 2 of these birds were found at Victoria Nov. 6 (VG). Cassin's Auklets were found by most of the off-shore boat trips during the report period, with the maximum being 150 from Westport Aug. 29. Rhinoceros Auklets were seen regularly on waters around Vancouver I. and in Puget Sound, the maximum being 450 birds Aug. 22 at Deception Pass in the San Juans (RR, GAP, *fide* WW); very few were sighted along the Oregon or Washington coasts. Tufted Puffins were found on three of the four boat trips from Westport and on two occasions off Vancouver I., 10 being the peak number for one day.

OWLS, NIGHTHAWKS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS -- By the end of November there were apparently more than a half-dozen Snowy Owls in the Frazer R. delta (*fide* WW). A Nighthawk was still at Iona I. Sept. 22 (MSch, *fide* WW). A flock of 200 Black Swifts was seen at Surrey, B.C., Sept. 2 (AS. *fide* WW). An estimated 400 Vaux's Swifts roosted at Sumas, Wash., Sept. 28, but were gone the next night (SL, *fide* TW); 'hundreds' had been there Sept. 19 (AS, *fide* WW). Up to 200 Vaux's Swifts were along the Sandy R., e. of Portland Sept. 30 (HN) and a flock of about 100 had been seen at Hoquiam. Wash., Sept. 13 (RE). Four Anna's Hummingbirds were said to be frequenting the Medford area since early October (*fide* OS). A Rufous Hummingbird approached the boat 40 mi. off Westport, Aug. 29 (TW *et al*.); single birds were seen at Duncan, Oct. 6 (JCo) and at Vancouver. Oct. 10 (JW, *fide* MSch).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS -- Yellow-shafted Flickers were reported singly from Ladner, Vancouver, and N. Vancouver in September and from Duncan in early October. Lewis' Woodpeckers appeared in numbers at favored localities in Oregon's Willamette Valley this fall. There were 20 E. Kingbirds present at Pitt Meadows in the Frazer R. delta Aug. 29 (GAP, *fide* MSch). Three W. Kingbirds were near White Rock, B.C. Sept. 5 & 6 (*fide* MSch); single birds were at Finley N.W.R., Aug. 21 (BA, *fide* FZ) and at Duncan, Oct. 2 (JCo). An Ash-throated Flycatcher at W. Vancouver Sept. 8-11 was photographed (GAP, WW *et al*.). A total of 51 Traill's Flycatchers was banded at Medford Sept. 6 (OS). Homed Larks were more generally reported than usual, indicating possibly a larger-than-usual movement through the Region in September and early October. Hundreds of Violet-green Swallows in the vicinity of Portland the last days of September and the first two days of October had gone thereafter. A total of 8 Bank Swallows was found at four different s. British Columbia locations on four dates in September. A remarkable count of 200 Rough-winged Swallows was made at Sea I. Sept. 5 (BC, *fide* MSch). Up to 700 Barn Swallows were estimated to be at Tillamook Sept. 11 (GK, *et al*.); many' were still at Westham I. Nov. 8 (GA, *fide* WW) and 2 were observed at Reifel Refuge Nov. 27 (MP). Three Cliff Swallows still at Westham I. Nov. 11 (BM et al., *fide* WW) were out of the ordinary. Purple Martins were very sparsely reported, with only three sightings involving 16 individuals being brought to our attention this fall.

JAYS, NUTHATCHES, WRENS, MIMIDS, THRUSHES -- Two Black-billed Magpies were at Ross L., Wash., Oct. 4(BM, *fide* WW). A minor influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches occurred in the Vancouver area in September (WW). Two Wrentits were recorded at Finley Nov. 20 (FZ). A House Wren was observed at Salem Sept. 10 (TM). A Long-billed Marsh Wren was caught at Tofino on the w. side of Vancouver in late August (DHr, *fide* WW). A Mockingbird appeared at Lulu I. in the Frazer R. delta Nov. 27 (WC, *fide* WW) and a Catbird was seen at Pitt Meadows Sept. 20 (RL, *fide* MSch). Western Bluebirds were reported only from Iona I. where 3 were recorded, Medford where 8 were found, and Finley N.W.R. where 7 were discovered. Between 20 and 30 Mountain Bluebirds were at Ross L. Wash., Sept. 30 (BM, *fide* WW). Townsend's Solitaires appeared singly at Lulu I. Oct. 10, Westham I., Nov. 29, and at Salem in mid-November.

PIPITS, WAXWINGS, SHRIKES, VIREOS, WARBLERS -- As were the Horned Larks already mentioned, Water Pipits, too, were reported much more widely and in larger numbers than usual, indicating an uncommonly large movement through the Region after the first 10 days of September. Bohemian Waxwings appeared at the Ankeny N.W,R. near Dallas, Oreg., as early as Oct. 2 When 2 were found; 10 were there four days later, and then 5 appeared at the Finley N.W.R. Oct. 18 (*fide* FZ); small flocks were seen several times at Vancouver Oct. 30 and Nov. 2 (WW *et al*.). Cedar Waxwings were well represented throughout the s. portion of the Region through the report period. Northern Shrikes appeared in several places as early as Oct. 2 and within the next two weeks

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were being seen frequently in the Puget Sound trough and in the Willamette Valley. Crested Mynahs are reported to be common in the Vancouver area, Single Hutton's Vireos were sporadically recorded from Vancouver and points south. The 12 Solitary Vireos seen at Vancouver on Aug. 30 (GAP. *fide* MSch) were quite an unusual total. A Red-eyed Vireo was also found there on that date by the same observer\_ Warbling Vireos were again sparsely reported, which raises the question of whether this species has experienced a sharp decline in this Region or is simply not being mentioned by reporters. Two Nashville Warblers were discovered at Leadbetter Pt., an unusual location for this species, Sept. 26 (GH). A late Yellow Warbler was at Samish I., Wash., Oct. 11 (NL, *fide* TW); 4 at Tofino Oct. 2 (WW *et al*.) are also of interest. A Palm Warbler which came close enough to the boat for identification was seen 40 mi. off Westport Oct. 16 (TW *et al*.). Similarly, a Wilson's Warbler was seen 25 mi. off shore from Tofino Sept. 18 (RA *et al*., *fide* WW).

BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES, SPARROWS -- Ten Yellow-headed Blackbirds were still at Westham I. Sept. 11 (BH, *fide* WW) with one still there Sept. 26. Single birds of this species were seen at Whitmarsh, Skagit Co., Wash., Sept. 3 (MP) and at McCleary, Wash., Oct. 2 (GH). A late Bullock's Oriole was observed on the N. Alouette R., B.C., Oct. 9 (RL). A jaeger killed one of four Brown-headed Cowbirds spotted over the ocean off Westport Aug. 29 (TW *et al*.). Two W. Tanagers were still at Vancouver Sept. 25 (BM, *fide* WW) and a late Black-headed Grosbeak was at Finley N.W.R. Oct. 1 (FZ). A female Brambling in winter plumage turned up at Reifel Refuge on Westham L, Nov. 7; first discovered feeding on the ground with Oregon Juncos and House Sparrows (J & EHu), it was seen in the next two days by two other observers (BD; NO); the latter took 15 color photos. The bird is of questionable origin since one is said to have escaped from the Bloedel Conservatory in Vancouver early in November and several people in Vancouver keep Bramblings "although local aviculturists seemed to think an escaped bird would not wander more than a mile or so." (WW). Evening Grosbeaks were common only around Vancouver this fall. Purple Finches were scarce. On Sept. 21, 31 imm. male Pine Grosbeaks were noted at Mt. Rainier, Wash. (JT); a lone bird of this species appeared in W. Vancouver Nov. 14 (RB, *fide* WW) and at Chuckanut, Wash., 3 were seen Nov. 5 and 12 were seen Nov. 28 (*fide* TW). Between 15 and 20 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were carefully observed at Haney, B.C., Oct. 31 (DH, *fide* WW). Three Com. Redpolls were discovered feeding with juncos in birch trees at Vancouver's Stanley Park Nov. 27 (WW). Pine Siskins were comparatively little noted anywhere in the Region during the report period. A count of more than 300 Am. Goldfinches at Sea I. Sept. 14 (KS, *fide* WW) is of interest. About 15 **Lesser Goldfinches** were found in the vicinity of Tillamook Sept. 11 (GK *et al*.); the species has not previously been recorded on the Oregon coast north of Coos Bay to our knowledge. Red Crossbills were noted only from Leadbetter Pt. in mid-September, Tillamook three times in October, and at Orcas I., Wash. in November. Migrating Savannah Sparrows were seen numerously in coastal areas the latter half of September and through October. A late Vesper Sparrow was at the Finley N.W. R. Nov. 7 (FZ). A number of Slate-colored Juncos were observed in the Vancouver -Victoria -Bellingham areas after Oct. 2. Two Tree Sparrows were near Bellingham on the early date of Oct. 4 (DHe, *fide* TW); one was discovered in Vancouver Oct. 27 (RK, *fide* MSch). Two imm. Harris' Sparrows were at Samish I., Oct. 4-10 (NL, *fide* TW), another was in the Skagit Valley n. of Ross L. also Oct. 4 (BM, *fide* WW), still another was at Duncan Oct. 6 (JCo *et al*.), and a fourth record was another imm. at Victoria Nov. 20 (RS, *fide* ARD). An imm. White-throated Sparrow turned up at Samish I. Oct. 6 (NL, *fide* TW); a bird of this species was also seen at Medford Oct. 27 (OS). Lincoln's Sparrows were seen in the Frazer R. delta, at Victoria, at Bellingham, and at Whidbey I., between Aug. 22 and Oct. 10; one was at Salem Nov. 11. Lapland Longspurs were seen regularly at favored localities from Masset, Queen Charlotte Is.,

s. to the Columbia R. mouth, the peak count being *300* at Leadbetter Pt Oct. 19 (RR). Snow Buntings appeared at widely scattered coastal localities throughout the Region for the last week of October except for a very early sighting at Duncan Sept. 25 (JCo *et al.)*.

CORRIGENDA -- The Spotted Redshank sighting reported at 25:791 has already been retracted by a notice at 25:893. The report of Skylarks at the Vancouver International Airport for late July, 1970, AFN 24:711, now appears to have also been erroneously reported to the regional editors and should be deleted.

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*The Winter Season, 1971-72*

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

**/ Thomas H. Rogers**

All but a few areas in the Region experienced a cold, snowy, windy December. For example, Spokane was 4.3°F. below normal, with snowfall totaling 34.2 inches. In western Montana winter began around Thanksgiving at Missoula, Bozeman was 4°F. below normal but had normal precipitation and Red Rock Lakes Refuge had snowfall much heavier than normal. The Okanagan Valley of British Columbia was cold, snowy and windy. a condition which persisted well into February. In the latter area temperatures hit -25° for a few days at the end of December. Only south-central Washington and adjacent Oregon enjoyed mild weather although winds were strong there too.

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January temperatures were closer to normal until the last week, when a cold snap hit generally over the Region, lasting into the first week of February. Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash. recorded -20"; Missoula, -18", and Baker, Ore., -8". Precipitation was deficient but snow cover persisted in all but the milder areas. Strong winds continued. Following this temperatures rose to normal or above. This, coupled with subnormal precipitation and the wind, produced melting conditions, clearing many of the lower areas of snow by the end of the month or before. March over the Region was remarkably warm during the two middle weeks, causing rapid melting with some flooding. Precipitation continued deficient in most localities but Missoula and Walla Walla had a very wet month and Red Rock Lakes had normal moisture. All in all, the Region had a long, windy, snowy winter but with temperatures seldom extremely low and both snow and cold decreasing markedly during the latter half. However, a much greater-than-normal snow pack in the mountains poses the threat of spring flooding but should help water levels to hold up during the summer. Wintry conditions probably had the most adverse effect upon bird life in the Okanagan, where ground Feeders and those depending upon open water were hampered. The Freeze-up at midwinter drove most waterfowl to the milder areas in the southwestern part of the Region. The "northern finches" put in spotty appearances, being scarce or absent in some places, rather abundant in others. Red Crossbills were perhaps the most consistently present of these birds, in the coniferous Forest areas. A number of reports was received of semi-hardy species wintering, even in areas harder hit by snow and cold.

LOONS AND GREBES -- An **Arctic Loon** showed up on Dec. 4 on Blue L, Grant Co., Wash. (WH). The only Com. Loons reported were 5 on the CBC at the "Tri-cities" (Pasco-Richland-Kennewick) area of Washington and 2 at Okanagan Landing, B.C. both observations Dec. 26. Horned Grebes lingered until Dec. 27, when 20 were seen at Penticton, B.C. and 14 on Okanagan L near Vernon, .C. The species was noted on Coeur d' Alene L, Ida. Jan. 16. Records for W. Grebes were few: 3 on Kalamalka L south of Vernon Dec. 26 and one found *in a field* northeast of Spokane *Feb.* 3. The bird was later released on the Spokane R. Pied-billed Grebes were noted wintering at Spokane and presumably at Livingston, Mont., where the species was seen Feb. 6.

HERONS -- Great Blue Herons wintered in small numbers in e. Washington and a few were noted in the Bozeman, Mont., area in midwinter. In the Okanagan L area the birds were absent Dec. 27-Feb. 5. Two Black-crowned Night Herons were noted at Umatilla Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Umatilla Co., Ore. Feb. 18 and again Mar. 26 and one was sighted on the shore of the Columbia R. at Richland Jan. 29, the first sighting there since October, 1968.

SWANS -- The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife winter waterfowl survey revealed 67 Whistling Swans in the panhandle of n. Idaho Jan. 6. A flock of 17 were on Okanagan and Skaha Lakes at Penticton Jan. 1-9 (SRC) and 4 that wintered at Okanagan Landing near Vernon were almost certainly this species. One was seen on the Yakima River, Tri-cities area, Dec. 27 (EM). A late migrant of this species joined the Trumpeter Swans at Red Rock Lakes Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in s.w. Montana, where it was seen Dec. 25 only (RP). The Trumpeters there numbered 104 at the beginning of the report period, built up temporarily, then decreased later in December. On Jan. 8 none were found. None appeared until Jan. 24 when 147 adults and 7 cygnets were counted. Seven were on Okanagan L at Summerland, B.C. Jan. 4 (SRC). At Turnbull N. W.R. 32 Trumpeters, including 7 cygnets wintered in the display pool. In March an ad. female, hatched in 1965 at Red Rock Lakes. was found dead near Waukon, a few miles n.w. of the refuge, presumably from a power line accident. A few wintered at Ennis, Mont. where 16 were seen on Feb. 21.

GEESE AND DUCKS -- Wintering Canada Geese were mostly concentrated in s.c. Washington and adjacent Oregon. Umatilla N.W.R. had a peak of 32,500 during December. Thousands were noted along the Snake R. downstream from Pasco, Wash. in December and January and up to 1000 were seen on that river near Clarkston, Wash. in late December and early January. Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. had a peak of 6000. By contrast 411 were counted on the Jan. 6 survey in the Idaho panhandle and 88 wintered at Okanagan Landing, helped by handouts. About 25 Snow Geese were seen feeding with Canadas in a wheat field in n. Morrow Co., Ore. Dec. 11 (GG) and a few small flocks stopped at Umatilla N.W.R. in December. Columbia N.W.R. reported by far the largest number of waterfowl, with the peak of 145,000 in late December. The Mallard peak was 141,600 there. Umatilla came next with 19,500 Mallards in late December. Except for the Tri-cities area, which had 3800 Mallards on the CBC, other localities had the birds only in the hundreds. On that count numbers for many other duck species were from two to many times higher than usual, apparently due to mild conditions. Am. Widgeon were the second most numerous with the highest count, 2100, obtained at the Tri-cities. The Idaho panhandle count

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Jan. 6 turned up 1700. Most of the ducks on this latter count were divers, with Redhead far outdistancing all others at 10,050 and mergansers totaling over 2600. A male **Red-breasted Merganser** was sighted on the Snake R. near Pullman Jan. 29 (JWW) and one was seen on Okanagan L. near Vernon Dec. 26 (KG). Ruddy Ducks numbered 100 there, seemingly a high number. The Com. Goldeneye peak was 700 at Red Rock Lakes at the year's end. On Jan. 4 100 Barrow's Goldeneye were mixed with the others there. Wintering ducks were scarce in the Okanagan, no doubt due to severe conditions.

HAWKS -- Goshawk numbers in the Okanagan tempted use of the term "invasion" there. In spite of an abundance of varying hares in the surrounding forests, many of the birds spent December through February in the lower valley, preying heavily upon pheasants. Single observations of the species were made at Bozeman and nearby Bridger Canyon, Mont., at Baker, Ore., and Mt. Spokane, Spokane Co., Wash. Wintering *Buteos* appeared to be in about normal numbers, with Rough-legged Hawks abundant in some localities and scarce in others. **Harlan's Hawk** was reported *twice.* A single, dark-phase bird was found Dec. 24 west of Bozeman and several times up through Feb. 26 (HC, ET & RAH; SC; PDS). This is the fourth record in recent years for w. Montana. Another dark-phase bird was present Jan. 23-Feb. 20 at Brown's Mtn. s.e. of Spokane (JA, WH, E & JR). This is the first winter record there, the three previous sightings for the area being during fall migration. Golden Eagles were reported from no less than thirteen localities, well scattered through the Region. Greatest number was 32 on the Ruggs-Hardman CBC, south of Heppner, Ore. Bald Eagles were noted at the same number of localities. Largest numbers were reported around Pend Oreille L.-67-and Coeur d' Alene Lake -17-in n. Idaho (I.F.G.). What appears to be an authentic winter record for the **Osprey** was of one fishing in the river at Whitman Monument near Walla Walla *Jan. 16* (NFM). Prairie Falcons were reported from 8 widely scattered locations. A single Peregrine Falcon was noted at Baker, Ore. Jan. 2. Very few Sparrow Hawks wintered in the Spokane area, no doubt because of the more wintry conditions.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- Sharp-tailed Grouse were sighted only in the Bozeman area and along the Columbia River near Yakima. California Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant and Gray Partridge seemed to be in normal numbers, but very likely had a rough time in the Okanagan because of deep snow. Chukars were reported at Penticton, 43 on Dec. 27; at Ewan, Whitman Co., Wash., 2 on Mar. 19 (SH), and in the Heppner area. The last Turkey at Turnbull N.W.R. has not been seen for over a year and is assumed dead or gone.

CRANES, RAILS, COOT AND SHOREBIRDS -- A Sandhill Crane spent several days in late November in a farm feed lot at Eureka, Mont. This is the only record of the species there in 51 years' observing (WW). The occurrence of a lone Virginia Rail at Richland Dec. 26, the only one reported, was attributed to the warm weather. The Jan. 6 survey in the Idaho panhandle revealed 8300 Coot. Smaller numbers stayed in e. Washington and the Okanagan. A group at Livingston, Mont. on Feb. 6 probably wintered for the fourth consecutive year. A few Killdeer and Com. Snipe wintered as usual in many localities, except that Killdeer apparently were driven out of the Okanagan by closure of the warm springs. Small numbers of Least Sandpipers lingered in the Tri-cities area, being seen on Dec. 31, Jan. 1-2 and Feb.7 (EM).

GULLS -- Herring Gulls were reported only for Spokane. Up to 16 were noted Jan. 29 on the ice and water of the Spokane R. just above the Upriver Dam. Ring-billed Gulls wintered in moderate to occasionally large numbers, mostly in e. Oregon and Washington. Umatilla N.W.R. had them in abundance and many were seen around Heppner in fields flooded by ranchers. Total numbers there were estimated at around 1000. At Kelowna, B.C. 27 were seen Jan. 8 and this species as well as California Gull, was found on the Helena, Mont. CBC.

DOVES, OWLS -- The usual few Mourning Doves wintered in e. Washington and probably in e. Oregon. At Vernon the only record for the species after Dec. 26 was of one on Jan. 22. Near Bozeman, Mont., where winter records for the birds are few, one was seen Dec. 31. Barn Owls were found at three localities. A road killed bird was found Nov. 5 near Baker. Another was seen on the Yakima Indian Reservation and I was seen at Clarkston, Wash. Mar. 20. Two records of the **Flammulated Owl** were received. The first certain record for Montana was furnished by a bird taken alive near Darby in October. It subsequently died –specimen to University of Montana (PLW). The other found with an injured wing at St. John, Wash. Oct. 10, was kept to allow the wing to heal (SH). The only Snowy Owls were 2 near Davenport, Wash. Feb. 19 and 2 again on Mar. 11 (JA & WH). Few Pygmy Owls were reported. One at Walla Walla Jan. 12 was Niel Meadowcroft's first for the locality. Long-eared Owls were reported only at Umatilla N.W.R., Feb. 26; Sprague, Wash., Mar. 26, and St. John, Wash., Jan. 2 and Feb. 2. Each record was for single birds. A **Barred Owl** was photographed at Summerland, B.C. Jan. 17 (SRC). Short-eared Owl numbers appeared low in most localities. However, a notable concentration was observed between SI. John and Cheney, Wash. Dec. 11 when *14* were counted within forty-five minutes, during a heavy snowfall and wind with the temperature 15-20° F (SH).

WOODPECKERS -- Yellow-shafted Flickers were observed at 5 localities. One was at Helena Dec. 29 and on the next day at Spokane a male and 2 hybrid *male* visited a feeding station (WM). A male was seen in the Tri-cities area Dec. 17 (EM) and several hybrids were present there in December and January. At Vernon one appeared on Jan. 28 and one was observed the next day along the Snake R. near Pullman. Beside the usual wintering numbers of Red-shafted Flickers, the *164* on the Tri-cities CBC was noteworthy. Only one Pileated Woodpecker was reported, from just west of Missoula Dee. 26. Lewis' Woodpecker was reported only from near Yakima, at Ft. Simcoe where it was common in an oak area Feb. 19 (REW), and at Penticton where 21 were noted Dec. 27. Late single Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found at Clarkston, Wash. Dec. 27, and

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at the Tri-cities, Jan. 1. A White-headed Woodpecker was found near Colville, Wash. Mar. 11 (WH).

JAYS -- A **Blue Jay** appeared again on the Little Spokane R. but was seen only Dec. 18 & 26 (VN & CS) instead of all winter as last year. Another wintered in the Tower Mtn. area 15 mi. to the southeast (E&JR). Steller's Jay was reported only in the Bozeman, Spokane and Yakima areas and in the Okanagan, where they showed up in unusual numbers -57 at Penticton on Dec. 27, and 20 (a conservative count) at Vernon the previous day. The latter area again had unusual concentrations of Com. Raven, with 88 on the CBC and 53 at Penticton on Dec. 27. Its numbers seemed to be up in the Heppner, Ore. area and at Fortine, Lincoln Co., Mont. Close to Spokane the birds continued to increase, apparently adapting more and more to man's presence. Pińon Jays were reported only from the Bozeman area. Clark's Nutcracker appeared to winter principally in the mountains, showing no repetition of the "invasion" of last year.

CHICKADEES -- From 1 to 6 Boreal Chickadees were sighted in the mountains and foothills east of Calgary, Alta., at Banff, Cochrane and Seebe during February and March. Chestnut-backed Chickadees were found in late February at Mt. Spokane and in the Priest Lake, Ida. area. Five were seen Jan. 29 and 1 on Mar. 9 at Fernan L., Coeur d' Alene, Ida. (SS).

DIPPERS, WRENS -- The Dipper was observed only on the Naches R. northwest of Yakima, along the White R., Pierce Co., Wash. and at Spokane on the CBC Besides their appearance on the Harrison, Ida. Indian Mtn. and Spokane CBCs, Winter Wrens were seen only at Priest Land Fernan L in Idaho. The only long-billed Marsh Wren was seen along the Tieton R. west of Yakima. *Seven* Bewick's Wrens comprised a new high for the Richland, Wash. area, Dec. 26. Canyon Wrens were recorded only along the Crooked R. near Prineville, Ore. and at Clarkston, Wash.

THRUSHES -- Robins wintered in small numbers and appeared scarcest in w. Montana, but were abundant in the juniper country throughout c. Oregon. At Walla Walla, Wash. an "invasion" was apparently related to the cold spell of Jan. 26-Feb. 5. Very few Varied Thrushes wintered, these at Spokane, the Tri-cities and Walla Walla. Of special interest was a Hermit Thrush at Umatilla Refuge *Feb.* 26 (REW). Mountain Bluebirds remained throughout the winter in large numbers in the Prineville area and a few wintered around Heppner. Eleven W. Bluebirds were seen at Penticton Dec. 27.

KINGLETS, WAXWINGS -- Golden-crowned Kinglets appeared in very limited numbers and at only 4 localities, Bozeman, Mont. and Spokane, St. John and the Tri-cities, Wash. Bohemian Waxwing flocks numbering in the thousands were passing through the North Okanagan in late November and December and were abundant at Missoula and Bozeman. Other localities had only small numbers and Baker, Ore., none at all for the first time in many years. Lack of mountain ash berries around Spokane undoubtedly was the principal deterring factor there. A few Cedar Waxwings wintered, mostly in c. Washington and n.e. Oregon. Some wintered in the Bozeman area, an unusual occurrence.

SHRIKES AND STARLINGS -- The usual wintering N. Shrikes were observed. A Loggerhead Shrike was observed at close range at the Tri-cities Jan. 30, and others were seen in February. One bird on Dec. 18 and 2 on the 24th at St. John, Wash. were believed to be the latter species (SH). Few Starlings wintered in w. Montana and in the Okanagan Valley but the birds were superabundant in some places in e. Washington and Oregon. The Tri-cities had 3200 on the CBC.

WARBLERS AND BLACKBIRDS -- Audubon's Warblers were rather common during the winter in the Tri-cities area and apparently wintered in small numbers at Walla Walla and Touchet, for a number of January observations of them were made. W. Meadowlarks wintered in some numbers in the Walla Walla and Yakima areas but were scarce or absent elsewhere. In the usually more severe country of w. Montana 3 wintered at Helena and a few were noted at Bozeman. Likewise, the harsh conditions in the Okanagan discouraged the birds. Besides the 2 on the Vernon CBC Dec. 26. one was seen on Feb. 2 nearby at the Coldstream Ranch feedlots. Some 400 Red-winged Blackbirds were at the Kelowna, B.C garbage dump Jan. 8 and several flocks of 30-100 wintered in the Vernon area, frequenting cattle feedlots. Up to 100 were noted along the Columbia R. at Yakima and n. Morrow Co., Oreg. Thirteen female wintered in a feed yard at Helena, and at Bozeman one sighting of 36 female or juveniles’ was made Jan. 22. Single Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen in the Tri-cities area on two dates, Feb. 21, with Brewer's Blackbirds, and Dec. 8. A total of 3 Bullock's Orioles on Spokane's CBC was the first ever for the count there. Brewer's Blackbirds wintered in fair numbers in the Yakima, Walla Walla and n.e. Oregon vicinities. Less usual were 150 at Coldstream Ranch feedlots Dec. 26 and 88 at Prince George, B.C Jan. 2. The only winter record for w. Montana was for Dec. 20 at Ennis, west of Bozeman. A Com. Grackle was seen regularly through December again on Feb. 11 at Bozeman (LM; RH). On *Jan. 22* 10-15 Brown-headed Cowbirds were found in a cattle feedlot with Brewer's Blackbirds and Starlings near Coulee City, Wash. (WH).

FINCHES -- Most localities had few Evening Grosbeaks or none. At Missoula they reappeared Jan. 24 and increased to an estimated 150 by mid-February, then declined. At Spokane two sightings of about 100 each were made in late January and about 200 were noted in early February. Nearby Turnbull N. W. R. had above normal numbers. In the Okanagan Valley the birds were scarce until mid-March, when they became quite common. A few Cassin's Finches wintered mostly in the western part of the Region. Baker's 31 on the CBC was the largest total reported. A flock of 30 at Missoula Feb. 15 suggested wintering (PW). Only a few birds of the recently established House Finch population at Missoula were in evidence during December and January but an increase in February brought flocks up to 35 birds. The only Pine Grosbeaks noted in the lowlands were 7 or 8 near Creston, Wash. Feb. 19 and 4 at Colville. Wash.

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Mar. 11 (WH). Rather good numbers were seen in the North Okanagan, with 37 on the CBC and others seen regularly at Silver Star ski area at 6000 ft. elevation. Eight were reported at Kananaskis Ranger Station west of Calgary Dec. 27 and the same number was seen at Banff Feb. 20. In the same general area at Seebe 16 were recorded Jan. 2. About 50 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were seen at Coulee City, Wash. Dec. 29 and about 20 were observed near Vantage, Wash. Jan. 22 (NFM). All other records were in w. Montana. About 80 rosy finches were near Missoula Jan. 30; at least 15 were **Black Rosy Finches** (RLH). In the Bozeman area the birds were seen a few times and west at Ennis **Black Rosy Finches** were seen with them on Dec. 20 (LM & DRS). In the mountainous Skalkaho area east of Hamilton a nock of *150* birds believed to be Black Rosy Finches was observed on Jan. 30 (OF). The Com. Redpoll put in few appearances and in small numbers. The most reported at a time were about 300 near Tiger, Pend Oreille Co., Wash, Mar. 11. Pine Siskins were likewise scarce, except for the Bozeman area, where they were unusually abundant and widespread. Flocks were observed at Fortine, Mont. where they seldom winter. The Am. Goldfinch was practically absent during the winter except around Spokane where small numbers were seen; at Clarkston, which had up to 100 and at Baker, Ore. where they were seen a few times until Jan. 2, with the largest number, 73, on Nov. 28. Red Crossbills were common in Glacier Nat'l Park and Red Rock Lakes Refuge, Mont., and in the Missoula, Helena and Fortine, areas of Montana and around Spokane and Turnbull Refuge, but were scarce or absent elsewhere. Not a single sighting was obtained in the Okanagan, where the Douglas fir seed crop was poor. Up to 20 White-winged Crossbills were sighted in the Banff area and 9 were seen at Exshaw to the east in the foothills Nov. 27.

SPARROWS -- The only winter records for Rufous-sided Towhees were at Spokane (CBC and individuals during February and March) and at the Tri-cities after Jan, 28. Oregon Juncos remained through the winter at Weydemeyer's farm at Fortine for the first time in fifty one years. At Missoula the birds were entirely missing from Nov, 21 to Feb, 28 and then were scarce. The species was in about normal occurrence elsewhere. Six to 8 Slate-colored Juncos mingled with the others at Fortine. A few were observed at Missoula, Spokane and the Tri-cities and the species was becoming rather common at Heppner (BT). Tree Sparrows appeared at Bozeman, Missoula and Hamilton, Mont.; at the Tri-cities; one at Saltese Marsh near Spokane; at Umatilla Refuge, and at Vernon. Harris' Sparrows popped up at five localities. An imm. was found near Bozeman Dec. 31 (CVD) and 2 visited a feeder at Missoula (PW). Two were noted daily at Fortine beginning Feb. 5. Previous records there were limited to two years, in October (WW). Prineville had 1 on the CBC, 3 wintered at a feeder near Enderby, B.C (JM) and I used a feeder at Coldstream, B.C until mid-January. Six White-crowned Sparrows wintered at the latter spot (JTF) and an imm. bird visited a feeder at Baker in late December. A few wintered as usual around Spokane and small numbers were seen in the Walla Walla, Clarkston and Prineville areas. Large numbers were in the Tri-cities area (420 on the CBC) and at Umatilla Refuge. The 94 Song Sparrows on the Tri-cities CBC was nearly double the previous high of 57 in 1970 there. A few Lapland Longspurs were noted in the Spokane area. Bozeman recorded the birds only on Dec. 28. Two remained at Fortine during January. Previous records there are few. (WW). A tremendous concentration of **Snow Buntings** was found near Davenport, Wash. Feb. 19, when an estimated *15-20,000* swarmed in a weedy field. The only other localities reporting the species were Prince George (140 on Jan. 2), Vernon (10 on Dec. 26), at Mt. Hood in Oregon (1 on Feb. 20-JGO), and in Alberta east of Calgary, 100 at Cochrane on Nov. 11 and 50 at Seebe on Mar. 11.

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*The Winter Season, 1971-72*

**GREAT BASIN CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION**

**/ Hugh E. Kingery**

The following report sounds more like spring migration than an accounting of winter visitors. Only a few winter wanderers came in, such as Bohemian Waxwings, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Snow Buntings, while numbers of the common winter finches-juncos, towhees, sparrows-seemed much reduced. The early part of the winter brought heavy snow and cold temperatures throughout the Region; Reno had its coldest December since records began in 1888. A warming trend began in February, with everywhere but Wyoming reporting spring-like weather, without moisture, broken only by a cold snap at the end of March. Grand Junction had its driest season since 1898. In Salt Lake City a late-March freeze nipped early-blooming fruit trees and killed 90 per cent of the fruit crop. Winter continued, however, in Wyoming and n.e. Utah, where the whole winter was severe. The cold weather drove out any lingering southern-inclined birds, but failed to bring in the winter birds from the north. Then the spring in February ushered in substantial numbers of migrants, with early arrivals reported from all sectors: hummingbirds, flycatchers, swallows, and sparrows came in to several areas 10-20 days earlier than ever before. Also arriving early were Killdeer, Band-tailed Pigeon, White-throated Swift, and Water Pipit. Horned Larks reached timberline in February. Then by the end of March, nesting cormorants and crossbills had joined the usual nesting owls.

LOONS, GREBES, PELICANS, CORMORANTS -- Com. Loons occurred on scattered dates at scattered spots in the Region: Dec. 2 at Sheridan, Wyo.; Jan. 6 at Carlin, Nev. (AB); 3 on Feb. 1 at Nampa, Ida.; 15 on Feb. 26 at Hutton L. Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Wyo.; 10 on Mar. 15 at Pathfinder N.W.R.., Wyo. Two Eared Grebes stayed at Dubois, Wyo., long enough to be counted on the CBC, and one overwintered at Malheur N.W.R., Ore.; by mid-March migrants began to appear, the first at Ruby L. N.W.R., Nev., Mar. 14. Forty W. Grebes lingered at Klamath N.W.R., Calif., on Dec. 1, and one remained for the Honey L., Calif., CBC Dec. 21. White Pelicans had returned to the Great Salt L. by Mar. 5 (WS) and observers noted them during March at Stillwater W.M.A., Nev. (a peak of 225 birds), Modoc N.W.R., Calif., and Lower Klamath N.W.R., Calif. Double-crested Cormorants have already begun nesting at Malheur, some sitting on up to 5 eggs on Mar. 31.

HERONS, EGRETS -- A siege of Great Blue Herons-at least 100-overwintered at the Klamath Refuges (R.V.A.S., ODS, JHH). At Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo., where normally the only wintering shorebirds are snipe, one Great Blue wintered, along with an Am. Bittern and 4 Killdeer. Cold weather in mid January, however, froze the herons at Stillwater, with 4 found dead. Com. Egrets may have wintered at Klamath. with observations of one Jan. 22 (ODS) and 20 Mar. 12 *(fide* ODS). They appeared 10 days early, on Mar. 20, at Malheur. Of several Black-crowned Night Heron reports, the most surprising was one on the Jordon R., Salt Lake City, Feb. 2 (GLK), and 25 wintering at Stillwater (1890 use days) *(no. ind. x days present-Ed.).* Am. Bitterns, not expected winter birds in our Region cropped up on the Monte Vista (it wintered) and Honey L. CBCs. At Ogden Bay, Great Salt L., the evening of Dec. 4, an inexplicable flock of 30 flew *north* single file (MLK). *[slightly incredible-Ed.]*

SWANS, GEESE -- Whistling Swans peaked at 5320 at Klamath in early December. A few wintered, and the population began building up in February. Malheur's December population of 8000 dropped to 35 on Jan. I. The spring migratory peak of 5000, Mar. 3-11, compared with 11,600 last year; the difference probably occurred because the birds continued to move, encouraged by the warm weather. Only 200 remained by Mar. 31. Migrating swans began arriving in most places during March although 6 in Moffat Co., Colo., Feb. 20 (BA) seem early. The **White-fronted Goose** at Hutton L. N.W.R. Mar. 24 represents a species omitted from the Wyoming list, although they have been observed there in past years (RFK). One stayed at Grand Junction, Colo., for 3 weeks from Feb. 22; at Truckee Meadows, near Reno, Nev., 33 were present Mar. 9; and at Honey L., Christmas counters found 50. While single Snow Geese occurred at 3 locations in Colorado-Monte Vista N.W.R., Grand Junction, and Antero Res.–large flocks occurred on Honey L. CBC (7142 birds) and migrated as usual through the W. part of the Region: 5000 on Mar. 30 at Deer Flat N.W.R., Ida. (HES) and 62,300 as the peak at Malheur–twice last year's numbers. Blue Geese also appeared for the Honey L. CBC and on Feb. 19 (GM); Malheur had 3 observations during the winter. Ten Ross' Goose were at Honey L. Feb. 19 (GM) and by Mar. 31 Malheur had 100.

DUCKS -- Deer Flat N.W.R. had the highest populations of the season on the CBC Dec. 18, with 262,956 Mallards, 18,045 Pintail, and 5308 Canada Geese. Most wildlife refuges reported drastically reduced wintering populations, attributed to the extremely cold weather in December and January. Camas N.W.R., Ida., had only 200 Mallards on Jan. 1, compared with 15,000 on New Year's Day, 1971; Stillwater had 10 swans and 235 ducks (vs. 165 and 1500 a year ago); Malheur had only 2200 ducks; Ruby Lake's population dropped to 325 ducks and 50 coots on Jan. 19. Seedskadee N.W.R., Wyo., had but 300 Mallards (1000-1500 normal) in mid-

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January, although it did have the usual 1600 Com. Goldeneyes; the goldeneyes survived in very poor condition, with a low food supply-some could not even fly. Monte Vista held only 13,000 ducks compared with 48,000 a year ago. Klamath's low occurred Jan. 3-7, with 25,500 ducks, 10,500 geese, 500 coots, and 1427 Whistling Swans. Midwinter found 1000 Mallards and SOO Com. Goldeneyes on an 8-mile stretch of the Colorado R. between Rifle and Silt, Colo. (ED). Populations began building up again in March. Klamath hosted peaks of 145,000 Shovelers and 50,000 Am. Widgeon Mar. 20, and on Mar. 25-26 were 262,800 Pintails, 18,600 Mallards, 6000 Canvasback, 3300 Bufflehead, and 23,000 other ducks. Ruby lake's population built up to 6490 ducks and 13,745 Am. Coots by Mar. 30; Camas N.W.R. had 10,000 Mallards (17,000 last year at the same time); Hutton L. N.W.R. had 11,500 including 2800 lesser Scaup, 1700 Pintail, and 1600 Green-winged Teal. At Malheur, Pintails peaked at 68,000 Mar. 3, compared with 128,000 a year ago; the total usage reflected the fewer Pintails this year, with the peak on Mar. 16 of 116,500 ducks comparing to last year's peak of 155,600 a week later. At Pathfinder N.W.R. refuge manager Rodney Krey discovered a new species for Wyoming-2 male of the spreading **European Widgeon**. A White-winged Scoter at Grand Junction Dec. 4 was at a different lake than the Nov. bird. Hooded Merganser reports came from Honey L. CBC, Salmon Ida., Pocatello, Hutton L. N.W.R., and Nat'l Elk Ref., Wyo.

KITES, VULTURES, BUTEOS -- The **White-tailed Kite** evidenced its recent population expansion by appearing for the Yerington, Nev., CBC, and staying through at least until Jan. 26. Seen by numerous observers for Nevada's first verified record, the bird stayed in an area from which the species was reported 3 times last year. This year other kites were reported from Reno and Pyramid L, Nev. (CSL). Turkey Vultures began arriving in March, except that Malheur's first arrived on Feb. 28, 10 days earlier than ever before. Reporters turned in 53 Goshawk observations, 35 of Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 31 Cooper's Hawk observations. At Pueblo observers saw no Sharp-shinned, contrasting with 1-3 on each trip last year; the difference may have related to the lack of prey; no Robins inhabited the pińon/juniper forest this year. Harlan's Hawk reports came from Honey L. (2 on CBC; 2 on Mar. 31-Apr. 1, RSt) and Curlew Valley, 50 mi. s. of Pocatello, Mar. 19. Two Red-shouldered Hawks, rare on the e. side of the Sierras, were seen in Mono Co., Calif., Dec. 13 *(fide* JMF). Observers reported 67 observations of Ferruginous Hawks.

EAGLES, FALCONS -- Hawks and eagles winter commonly over the vast open stretches of the desert West.. By traveling long distances, observers can easily spot them, but much territory lies inaccessible, particularly in winter. Hence the Wyoming Game & Fish Commission survey of wintering eagles, made using methods developed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, assumes great importance as an estimate of the *total* winter population in Wyoming. Using airplane flyovers on pre-selected transects, the survey estimated Wyoming's wintering eagle population at ***11,068*** Golden Eagles, ***413*** Bald Eagles. and ***481*** unidentified eagles. (Those killed last year amount to about 8 per cent of this total.) In Colorado, the Game, Fish & Parks Division also conducted an eagle survey. In one week employees actually counted 206 Golden, 231 Bald, and 29 unidentified (in the whole state, including the Southern Great Plains Region); the count does not estimate the state's total population. Bald Eagles concentrated along the rivers in w. Colorado, with 61 on the Rio Grande, 26 on the Colorado, and 24 on the White (GC). Throughout the Region, Am. Birds contributors reported a total of 193 Golden and 534 Bald Eagle observations for the season, totals which partially reflect the distribution of observers at places of Bald Eagle concentrations. Numerous Marsh Hawk observations, totaling 374, included 38 on the Nampa CBC; 33 at Eureka, Nev., compared with 26 last year; peaks of 25 at Stillwater and 17 at Monte Vista; and 12 in the Curlew Valley during March. The Gyrfalcon invasion extended to Sheridan, Wyo., Jan. 5 (PH, TK), Pocatello Mar. 4, and Curlew Valley, Ida. Mar. 11 (CRT, LRP). Nineteen Peregrine observations included 8-12 birds.



***Tree full of Bald Eagles. Vernon. Utah, Jan. 30. 1972. Photo/ Lyle E. Colbath, courtesy The Salt Lake Tribune.***

GROUSE, CRANES, RAILS, COOTS -- During the winter at Crater L Nat'l Park, Ore., Blue Grouse frequently fed along the highway at dawn, between vertical walls of snow 12-15 feet high. The White-tailed Ptarmigan flock above timberline on Guanella Pass, presumably typical of the Colorado population. spent a normal winter, although possibly suffering to a minor decrease because of the extremely dry conditions (CEB). The Sage Grouse flourishes in the Great Basin according to visitors to the various booming grounds, with 630 birds reported from 10 strutting grounds. The conversion of sagebrush into farms or grassland may adversely affect these birds in a few localities. Sandhill Cranes lingered late-4 on the Honey L. CBC, and then began

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returning to the Region with February's warm weather. First arrivals came to Monte Vista N.W.R. Feb. 15, where the migration peaked at 4058 on Mar. 10. The migration moved north with birds noted in March at many locations. Am. Coot peaked at Klamath with 40,500 birds on Mar. 26. Virginia Rails stayed late in the Region, with single birds Dec. 5 and 16 in the Zion Nat'l Park region; I Dec. 19 at Grand Junction; and one Jan. 2 at Pocatello.

PLOVERS, SANDPIPERS, GULLS -- Killdeer returned to Camas N.W.R. Mar. 6, 22 days earlier than last year, and to the high country early with 3 at Estes Park, Colo. Mar. 13 (RD). A Black-bellied Plover which struck a fence at Lower Klamath Refuge provided a late Dec. 10 record. Com. Snipe had begun their mating flight by Mar. 16 at the Alturas, Calif. airport. Long-billed Curlew began arriving early: Mono Co., Calif., had its first ones Feb. 7, and they arrived at Nampa Mar. 17, Malheur Mar. 23; and Boardman, Ore. Mar. 26 (ODS). A few Greater Yellowlegs, Long-billed Dowitchers, Am. Avocets, and California Gulls arrived in the Region in March. At Fish Springs N.W.R., Dugway, Utah, an 80-year-old trapper, James P. Harrison, picked up a fresh carcass of a **Black-legged Kittiwake** Mar. 12. This specimen, first for Utah, reposes now at the Univ. of Utah (*fide* MM). At Provo, Utah, 16 Franklin's Gulls were seen Feb. 29 (WWB).

PIGEONS, OWLS -- The flock of 300–500 Band-tailed Pigeons in the Washoe Range near Reno from Mar. 8-31 constituted possibly the largest flock ever reported from Nevada. The birds have now spread into the Virginia City area. In Colorado Band-tailed Pigeons appeared 2 weeks earlier than usual. Numerous Barn Owl reports came in, including 12 known roosts near Rupert, Ida. and Camas N.W.R.'s first record, found dead Mar. 3. Single Snowy Owls appeared at L. Isabel, near Pueblo, Colo., Dec. 24 (DBr); at Sheridan, Wyo. from Dec. 30-Jan. 19; at Reno with several reports, including one on Jan. 27 (CSL). A Great Gray Owl wintered in farmland near Pocatello for a month before "making contact with a car." After recovery he will be released to return to his nesting grounds, possibly at Yellowstone N.P. Short-eared Owls reportedly have declined in the Region, with only a few winter reports, the most being 15 from Stillwater N.W.R., with 58 use days.

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS -- White-throated Swifts arrived a week early-Mar. 11 -at the ‘Garden of the Gods’ near Colorado Springs, and Springdale's first 20 arrived Mar. 25. Hummingbirds came early to the Zion country, with the first Black· chinned seen at Virgin, Utah, Mar. 12; both Black-chinned and Broad-tailed at Springdale Mar. 18 (10 days early), and a male Calliope there Mar. 25. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, usually fairly common in winter at Springdale, were absent. A Williamson's Sapsucker arrived at Crater L. Mar. 7 - an early upward movement. White-headed Woodpeckers were reported from Crater L. Feb. 3 and Mammoth Lakes, Mono Co., Calif., Mar. 15 (JD).

FLYCATCHERS, LARKS, SWALLOWS, JAYS -- A surprising 4 species of flycatchers had arrived in the Region by Mar. 31, most of them early. Western Kingbirds had come to Virgin, Utah by Feb. 24, and to Malheur Mar. 23 a month earlier than the previous first of the season. Mar. I found the first Black Phoebe at Springdale, and Say's Phoebes wintered at Virgin and arrived throughout the Region as usual in March. A W. Wood Pewee at L. Isabel Mar. 29 was likewise very early (DBr). Several groups of Horned Larks arrived above timberline at Guanella Pass, Colo., in February, a month earlier than usual (CEB). Early swallows, especially Tree, appeared everywhere during March, earlier than usual. At Ruby L., Barn Swallows came Mar. 3, Violet-green on Mar. 4. At Malheur 10 Violet-greens appeared Mar. 23 and 2 Rough-winged arrived Mar. 30, both 2 weeks earlier than ever; the first flock of Tree Swallows appeared at Malheur Mar. 5, with 6000 there by Mar. 12-the large flocks arriving one month earlier than 1971. Com. Crows enjoyed a good winter in the Region; 300 wintered at Ruby L. and several small groups stayed at Seedskadee N. W.R., neither a normal winter haunt for the crow. One lingered until Dec. 6 at Alturas, and a rare one visited Virgin Mar. 2. Clark's Nutcrackers seemed scarce in the R.M.N.P. area *(fide* AC), while 2 appeared low down at a foothills feeder on the Denver CBC and they were more numerous at Nat'l Elk Refuge.

NUTHATCHES, WRENS, THRASHERS, THRUSHES -- Pygmy Nuthatches visited feeders at Durango for the first time in several years, but were scarce or absent at feeders in the Denver foothills. Red-breasted Nuthatches made scattered appearances: common at Crater L. and R.M.N.P., with good numbers on n. Colorado CBCs; only a few at Sheridan, Salmon, Durango, and Colo. Spgs.; and none at Pueblo, Salt Lake City, and Rupert. A Brown Thrasher stayed in January at a Golden, Colo. feeder (GS), and Malheur recorded its first winter Sage Thrasher, on Jan. 8. First spring birds arrived there and at Snowville, Utah (LRP) on Mar. 20. After last year's scarcity, Robins returned for high counts on the CBCs and wintered commonly in many locations such as R.M.N.P. (almost to timberline, RD), McCoy, Colo., Sheridan, Salmon, and Malheur (a record CBC total of 15(0). Spring arrivals began in mid-March at places like Jackson, Wyo., Nampa, and Crater L. even with 12 ft. of snow on the ground. Jan. 13·14 an inexplicable **Veery** fed on berries in a Salt Lake City park (GLK). Small numbers of W. Bluebirds wintered at Zion and perhaps at Cortez, Colo. (WWB). Mountain Bluebirds returned in large numbers in March throughout the Region, with scattered reports during the winter coming from southern parts of the Region. Like the Robin, Townsend's Solitaires returned to the Region this winter, with Denver noting a record 144 on the CBC.

KINGLETS, WAXWINGS, SHRIKES, W ARBLERS -- Ruby-crowned Kinglets were observed Dec. 23·Jan. 1 at Alturas, twice in January at Zion, Feb. 15 at Malheur, and frequently there after Mar. 19. Water Pipits included one on Dec. 5 at Eureka, Nev.; one on Dec. 6 at Dubois; 160 at Bear R. N.W.R. Feb. 21 (MRC); 2 at Malheur Feb. 5, the earliest record there (average arrival date Mar. 15). Bohemian Waxwings failed to live up to the fall's promised invasion. They occurred commonly in Sheridan, Rexburg, Ida. (DH), Rupert, and

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Pocatello (MRC), south to Salt Lake City, and a flock of (4 provided Ruby Lake's first record. But in the Wyoming and Colorado mountains observers found few nocks: Nat'l Elk Refuge, Golden (D.F.O.), Evergreen Feb. 20 *(fide* TM), Gunnison, and possibly farther south. Audubon's Warblers were abundant on the Nampa CBC -34 counted-but scarce at Springdale-only 10 on Dec. 31 and one on Feb. 15. One observed Mar. 26 at Evergreen was early (D.F.O.). In R.M.N.P. a Yellow-throat sat exhausted, on Mar. 4 in the middle of a road surrounded by snow banks (IS): the previous early Colorado record was April 18 from the plains.

BLACKBIRDS -- Hundreds of W. Meadowlarks wintered in s. Idaho (WHS), and they may have wintered near Burns, Ore. (SF). The first week in March found the first arrivals at Ruby L. and Dubois. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was out of place Jan. 6 with Red-winged Blackbirds at Grand Junction: first migrant Yellow-headeds arrived at Bear R. Mar. 14 (WWB), Malheur Mar. 19 (R.V.A.S.), Ruby L. Mar. 26, and Modoc N.W.R. Mar. 27, early by 3 weeks. At Camas N.W.R., only 100 Red-wingeds wintered compared with 1000 last year.

FINCHES - Evening Grosbeaks were scarce, with only Estes Park reporting them regularly. Observers saw few Cassin's Finches: only at Crater L. were they present in normal numbers. Rosy finches occurred commonly in mountain towns, largest flocks reported being 2000 at Estes Park Jan. 18 (M P), 1000 at Gunnison Mar. 23 (ASH), and 600 at Westcliffe all winter. Of interest was a flock of about 20 at Tonopah, Nev. Jan. 25-27 (CSL). A few Com. Redpolls penetrated the Region, regular reports coming from Estes Park (AC) and Salmon: a few at Sheridan, Dubois, and Nampa. Pine Siskins, like many other winter finches, were scarce in Salt Lake City (WS, EG) and Colorado Springs, but abundant at Crater L. Red Crossbills flocked commonly in the Colorado Rockies south to Denver foothills and Westcliffe, but not to the Pikes Peak area. Good cone crops, as they often do, induced mid-winter nesting: at Evergreen I. found on CBC Dec. 19 failed, blown down by extremely high winds; another at Estes Park failed, having 3 eggs on Feb. 15 and empty Feb. 27 (WR). but a third successfully fledged 3 young Mar. 25 at Evergreen (DSt). Outside of Colorado the only crossbill reports were of 3 birds at Crater L. and 2 at Nat'l Elk Refuge. Six White-winged Crossbills were courting and singing at Evergreen Feb. 13-19. Observers described wintering Rufous-sided Towhees as scarce at Ogden, Utah (MLK), Malheur, Zion, Denver: yet on Mar. 9 Camas N.W .R. had its first refuge record.

SPARROWS -- Vesper Sparrows came to Malheur, 3 weeks earlier than average, on Mar. 12. R.M.N.P. recorded its second Sage Sparrow at a feeder Mar. 18-21 (AC). Juncos, like towhees, were unusually scarce: one third the usual numbers at Ogden (MLK), reduced in the Denver foothills, Grand Junction (W AD), Sheridan-Zion (record low on CBC). Tree Sparrows were unusually scarce at Rexburg (only one on the CBC-DH), but one appeared at a feeder surrounded by deep snow in Summit Co., Colo. (HEK) Feb. 20-27. Brewer's Sparrows, 15 of them, arrived at Malheur Mar. 23, 3 weeks earlier than the previous early record and way ahead of the average arrival date of May 5. They had arrived at Curlew Valley, Ida. Mar. 26 (LRP). The usual scattered reports of Harris' Sparrows came in. White-crowned Sparrows continued scarce this winter, according to observers at Pueblo, Colorado Springs, Denver, Salt Lake City, Alturas, and Zion. A Golden-crowned Sparrow appeared Mar. 19 at Malheur, a month earlier than the previous early record and almost 50 days earlier than the average arrival date of May 6. Fox Sparrows occurred in March at Colorado Springs, Westcliffe, and Gunnison (ASH). The Honey L. flock of longspurs built up to 300 for the CBC-the largest mixed flock ever recorded in California. Snow Buntings were scarce, but single birds occurred as far south as Moffat Co., Colo. Feb. 19 (BA) and Gunnison in December (ASH).

ADDENDA -- At Lyons, Colo., banders caught a Pine Warbler on Nov. 26 (PW). A Hooded Warbler, first for w. Colorado, visited Great Sand Dunes Nat'l Mon., Oct. 21-22 (RAW).

CORRIGENDUM -- Hummingbirds eat voraciously, but not as greedily as described in *Am. Birds* 26:97. The Springdale birds consumed 5 quarts a day–not 300.

ABBREVIATIONS -- CBC: Christmas Bird Count: R.M.N.P.: Rocky Mtn. Nat'l Park.

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*The Winter Season, 1971-72*

**NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION**

***/* John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls**

The 1971-72 winter was very much wetter than normal in the southern portions of the Region with heavy snow accumulations in the mountains. Temperatures, however, averaged perhaps a bit above normal. In the northern portion, December and January were considerably colder than average with much more than normal quantities of snow; February and March brought just about average temperatures and less-than-normal precipitation.

LOONS, GREBES, STORM PETRELS -- Single Yellow-billed loons were seen at Bellingham, Wash., Jan. 2 (TW); at White Rock, B. C. the next day (RP, *(fide* TW), in Fulford Harbor, Saltspring I., B. C. and at Cowichan Bay, B. D. both Mar. 8 (IR, *fide* WW). An estimated 2000 Arctic loons at Active Pass between Galiano and Mayne Is., in the Gulf Is., Feb. 19 (MGS, *fide* WW) was a large concentration. Single Arctic and Red-Throated loons turned up inland on Portland area Christmas Bird Counts (hereinafter "CBC”·). Fifty Red-necked Grebes at Queen Charlotte City, B. C. Dec. 19 (GS*, fide* WW) was also a noteworthy concentration. The large numbers of Eared Grebes present particularly in the Gulf Is. last November apparently wintered; an astounding 725 Mar. 8-9 at Ganges Harbor, Saltspring I. (JR, *fide* WW) was the highest count of the season. Despite impressive totals W. Grebes were concluded to be present in considerably fewer numbers than usual in the Vancouver-Victoria-Bellingham area this winter. Sixteen Pied-billed Grebes on the Sauvie I., Oreg., CBC was a high winter total. Six Black-footed Albatrosses followed a research vessel between 20-40 mi. w of Newport, Oreg. Mar. 16; a Laysan Albatross also approached the boat at 23 and 50 miles offshore (PR*, fide* FZ). Seven Fulmars were recorded at Victoria, B. C. Jan. 22 (ARD). Last winter's photo record of a single **Scaled Petrel** is followed this season with reports of *three* individuals found dead: 2 of these were on the beach Mar. 18 4½ and 6 miles s. of Newport, Oreg. and are now preserved in the Oregon State U. collection (WH, *fide* MS); the other was found dead Mar. 17 on a merchant ship at 51° 23' N 140°54' W or some 300 mi. s. w. of the Queen Charlotte Is. and is now preserved in the U. of B. C. collection (OM. *fide* WW). A single Leach's Petrel was seen at Yaquina Head n. of Newport Mar. 21 (DG, *fide* FZ).

PELICANS, CORMORANTS, HERONS, SWANS. GEESE -- A White Pelican was seen again this year on Fern Ridge Reservoir w. of Eugene, Oreg. Dec. 27; the carcass of presumably the same bird, believed shot, was found there some six weeks later (LM *et al.).* A Double-crested Cormorant 20 mi. up the Fraser R. Mar. 31 was further inland than this species has previously been recorded in this locality (CS, *fide* WW). An estimated 1000 Brandt's Cormorants were noted at Active Pass Mar. 26 (WW). More than 300 Pelagic Cormorants were on the nesting site at Hudson Rocks near Nanaimo, B. C. Mar. 25 (MGS*, fide* WW). A few Green Herons lingered through December as usual, but none were seen farther n. than Olympia, Wash., this season. Single Com. Egrets were observed at Salem, Oreg., Dec. 12 & Jan. 29 (*fide, GK),* and at Finley Refuge s. of Corvallis, Oreg., Jan. 8 (DG & FZ). Two Black-crowned Night Herons wintered at Medford, Oreg. and 2 wintered at nearby Central Point (OS); 2 adults showed up at Salem Mar. 8 and were still present at the end of the period (RF, TM *et al.).* Am. Bitterns were recorded in the last week of December at Corvallis, Sauvie I., and Westham I. near Vancouver where 4 were present; additional single individuals appeared in the latter half of March at Finley Refuge and at Pitt Meadows e. of Vancouver. Whistling Swans wintered widely through w. Washington and Oregon in groups up to 100 in number. With 70-80 Trumpeter Swans centered in Mount Vernon, Wash. (TW), it can be deduced from other reports that at least 100 of these birds wintered between there and Duncan, B.C., to the north. Black Brant, Canada, White-fronted and Snow Geese all were on the move northward by early March, for the most part in small groups; there was the usual smattering of winter records for the latter two species

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 from Vancouver southward, although no observations were submitted as to the size of the usual wintering flock of Snows on n. Washington's Skagit flats this winter.

DUCKS -- A **Black Duck** was carefully viewed Dec. 26 on the CBC at Sauvie I. (HN) where at least four specimens have turned up in bag checks by Game Commission personnel in the past; the origin and wild status of such birds, of course, is unknown. Com. Teal were reported between Duncan and Sidney on Vancouver l. on 6 occasions Dec. 4-March 31, with 4 of the sightings involving an apparent Com. x Green-winged hybrid which was almost certainly the same bird. Another hybrid was seen Jan. 18 & 21 at Iona I. (WW *et al.).* There were also 10 records of Com. Teal from the Vancouver area, possibly involving no more than the *three* male seen together at Iona I. Jan. 21 (JT, *fide* WW). The estimated 3200 Green-winged Teal at Sauvie I. in late December was not much higher than normal for that period *(fide* HN). Eur. Widgeon were again widely and frequently reported this winter, particularly between Vancouver and Seattle and in Oregon's Willamette Valley; nine male in a flock of 400 Am. Widgeon on the Samish Flats near Bellingham Feb. 15 (NL. *fide* TW) was a particularly noteworthy ratio, however. The 13,600 Shovelers estimated by the Game Commission at Sauvie I. in late December was a remarkable concentration. A bird concluded to be a male Blue-winged Teal x Shoveler hybrid at Huntington; B. C. Feb. 27 (MGS, *fide* WW) is a curiosity. Continued increases in Wood Duck counts on many Regional CBCs were an encouraging development. Sightings of Redhead in at least six different locations from Vancouver to Medford Dec. 26-Feb. 12 are more than usual for the winter season; the 61 birds on Pitt L. near Vancouver Jan. 29 (WC & MGS, *fide* WW) is particularly remarkable. A male Tufted Duck was found and photographed at Ganges. Saltspring I., B.C. Feb. 9 (IR, *fide* WW) and then was found independently a short distance away at Long Harbour four days later (WC, *fide* WW). Approximately 800 Oldsquaw gathered at Saltspring I. Mar. 20 (DH. *fide* WW) was a significant concentration for this Region. A female **King Eider**, reputedly the third record for British Columbia. was discovered at Queen Charlotte City Dec. 15 by George P. Sirk, who carefully identified the bird from observations as close as 25 feet; on Dec. 19 he obtained photographs which are now on deposit in the .Photoduplicate File at U. B. C. and from which the bird is identifiable; it was last seen Jan. 16 (WW).

VULTURES. HAWKS. EAGLES – A Turkey Vulture was still at Duncan. B. c., for the CBC Dec. 18 *(fide* JCo). Goshawk reports for this winter season came from the Vancouver area where there were a number of sightings, from the Gulf Is., and from Portland and Eugene in Oregon. Sharp-shinned Hawks were little noted, and Cooper's Hawks only a bit more so. Another highly credible sighting of a Harlan's Hawk was made this winter, this time Dec. 30-Jan. 22 on the Lummi Flats near Bellingham (JD. *fide* TW). Rough-legged Hawks were repeatedly observed from Vancouver s. to Eugene in small total numbers throughout the report period. A Game Dept. census Jan. 15 in Washington's n.w. counties reportedly turned up 20 Golden Eagles (TW), a surprisingly high total; birds of this species were recorded several times in the vicinity of Vancouver and Victoria; records also came from the Gulf and San Juan Is. and from Salem, Corvallis, and Gold Beach. Oreg. Bald Eagles were present in very good numbers in n.w. Washington where the same Game Dept. census tallied 280 Bald Eagles, about twice the count of last year. Numbers were also good in s. British Columbia where 45 were noted at Harrison R. Jan. 16 (MGS. *BM, fide* WW) and 31 were counted at the mouth of the Big Qualicum R. on Vancouver I., Feb. 20. (AL *fide* WW). Scattered reports of wintering Bald Eagles also came from w. Oregon. Ospreys were reported at 5 different localities from Medford n. to Sidney, B.C. in the last two weeks of March; 3 of the localities have been nest sites in the past. A dark-phase Gyrfalcon was observed at Eugene Dec. 17 *(fide* LM); another bird of this species was seen at Reifel Refuge s. of Vancouver Dec. 31 (BD, *fide* WW); 2 Gyrfalcons which had been in Skagit Co., Wash., for the early part of the winter both were subsequently caught by falconers, with one of the birds later perishing (TW). A Prairie Falcon was seen at Medford Dec. 28 (OS). Peregrines were reported at eight different localities from c. British Columbia southward in numbers up to four at one place. Terry Wahl says "there may have been a half-dozen taken illegally by falconers" in Skagit Co., Wash. this winter. Again this season, Pigeon Hawk reports came mostly from Vancouver-Victoria-Bellingham, although single birds were also recorded at Albany, Corvallis, and in the Santiam Pass e. of Salem in the first six weeks of 1972.

QUAIL, CRANE, RAILS. SHOREBIRDS -- The 27 California Quail at Pt. Roberts for the Ladner CBC and the 6 at Victoria's Beacon Hill Park Mar. 26 probably represent the northernmost outposts of the population of this species at the present time (WW). Sandhill Cranes were on the move through the Willamette Valley with lay-overs at Sauvie I. from March 11 on, a single bird had reached Pitt Meadows e. of Vancouver by Mar. 31 *(fide* SR & WW). Virginia Rails wintered in the Willamette Valley and were noticeably increased in numbers there by late March; quite a few of the Region's CBCs listed this species. Soras were also listed on the Dallas and Medford. Oreg., CBCs; a Sora was found at the south jetty area of the Columbia R. Jan. 15 (MK & HN) and at Finley Refuge Mar. 22 & 25 (FZ *et al.).* The 10 Black Oystercatchers found in the e. San Juan Is. Mar. 21 had increased their numbers considerably six days later, indicating that a movement of birds into their nesting territories had occurred in the preceding week (DHe; TW). The only Semipalmated Plover report was of 3, which were found at Tillamook for the CBC. A Snowy Plover, also discovered on the Tillamook CBC, was out-of-the-ordinary. The first Killdeer nest of the season was found at Finley Refuge containing three eggs Mar. 16 (SH, *fide* FZ); 7 more had been found there by the end of the month (FZ). Two Whimbrels were at Ediz Hook. Clallam Co. Wash. Jan. 15, where one was found again on Feb. 21 (VG). Two Spotted Sandpipers were found for the Vancouver CBC (RK & BM. *fide* WW). with single birds subsequently seen in Vancouver Jan. 23 & 26 (AK, *fide* WW). An amazing sighting was made of a **Willet** at Iona I., near Van-

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couver, Jan. 22 (BM & *JT, fide* WW); the bird was seen both at rest and in night, but could not be found later; the record is one of very few for British Columbia. and there may well be no precedent for the date from this Region. Single Lesser Yellowlegs were identified at Iona I. Dec. 11 (RK, BM & *MT. fide* WW) and at Lulu I., also near Vancouver Jan, 31 *(WC, fide* WW). Rock Sandpipers were reported from six different locales in groups of varying size throughout the winter. Dunlin totals showed up very well on many of the Regions CBCs. Five Long-billed Dowitchers at the Harrison R., 60 mi. e. of Vancouver Jan. 16 (BM & *MGS, fide* WW) were far inland. A Marbled Godwit at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., Jan. 1 (WH, *fide* FZ) was the first winter record for the Region in six years.

GULLS, ALCIDS -- Glaucous Gulls were recorded 13 times in the Vancouver area, where the sightings were though to involve 3 birds from the end of December on (WW); elsewhere, sightings of this species were made at Victoria, the Big Qualicum R. and Nanaimo, B. c., and at Yaquina Bay, Oreg. from the last week in February to the end of the period. A few W. and California Gulls were in the Vancouver and Bellingham areas in late December and early January, but were not reported thereafter. Ring-billed Gulls were noted at Victoria Feb. 19 (ARD) and Mar. 3 (VG). A few Bonaparte's Gulls evidently wintered as usual in the straits and bays of s. British Columbia and n. Washington. The only records of Black-legged Kittiwakes were provided by 3 dead birds one at the s., jetty of the Columbia R. Feb. 12 (RFi & HN), one at Tillamook Mar. 18 (HN), and one at Duncan, B.C. (JCo), for which no date was provided. Seven Com. Murres in the Queen Charlotte Is. Dec. 19 was the maximum count among five observations of this species from that northerly point during the winter season (GS, *fide* WW). Pigeon Guillemots, Marbled and Ancient Murrelets were recorded in small numbers in the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca during the winter; Pigeon Guillemots were also recorded on the Gold Beach, Oreg. CBC and at Yaquina Bay in mid-March (MS), while Marbled Murrelets were also seen at Seattle on Jan. 2 (VC & DJ), A few Rhinoceros Auklets were seen in the San Juan Is. in late March (TW) and a few evidently wintered in the Gulf Islands (WW).

PIGEONS, OWLS, HUMMINGBIRDS -- A flock of 130 Band-tailed Pigeons at Victoria Jan. 29 (ARD) indicated that these birds may have spent the winter there. Unprecedented numbers of Mourning Doves stayed in the Vancouver area this winter; the 345 individuals of this species counted on the Sauvie I. CBC was also highly unusual. A Snowy Owl was at Queen Charlotte City Dec. 7 (GS, *fide* WW). In the Vancouver area, at least 7 were present in December, at least 12 in January, at least 15 in February, and at least 13 in March. The Ladner CBC recorded *11*.Several of these birds were present in the Bellingham area during the report period (TW). Elsewhere Snowy Owls were found at Seattle and Kent Jan. 9 (VC & DJ) and at the Eugene airport Dec. 18-Feb. 6 (LM *et al.)* A Burrowing Owl was found at Iona I. Dec. 6, disappeared after Dec. 8 only to be found again on Jan. 16; thereafter, it was regularly seen and photographed until the end of the period *(fide* WW). Another Burrowing Owl was seen and photographed at Yaquina Bay Jan. 31 (PR, *fide* FZ), while 4 individuals were at Medford during December and January (JH; OS). Only one Long-eared Owl frequented Westham I. this year, Dec, 1-Feb. 12 (BD, f*ide* WW); another was seen at Finley Refuge Dec. 8 (GK). A Spotted Owl was heard on the Tillamook CBC (LM) by an observer who has considerable familiarity with and knowledge of this species. Observers uniformly agreed that Short-eared Owls were very much reduced after last year's good numbers in the Region. A dead Saw-whet Owl was found in Victoria Dec. 3 (ARD); one was listed on the Vancouver and Cottage Grove, Oreg. CBCs, and single birds were also observed at Tsawwassen, B. C. Dec. 1 & Dec. 20 (AS, *fide* WW), and at Tlell, B.C. Dec. 2 (GS*, fide* WW). Anna's Hummingbirds have been appearing in this Region increasingly each winter for the past seven years; this year continued the trend with one at Vancouver Dec. 26 & 29, 2 at White Rock, B.C. Dec. 24 when a torpid male was captured, 3 on the Portland CBC, 2 on the Oakridge CBC, 4 on the Gold Beach CBC, a female which spent the winter at Eugene, up to 3 at a time in Salem from late December to the end of the period, and 3 at North Bend, Oreg., all winter. The first Rufous Hummingbird of the season appeared at North Bend Feb. 9 (HR), with the species very widely reported in the Region as far n. as Victoria (ARD) by Mar. 17. A *male* Allen's Hummingbird was at a Eugene feeder, Mar, 12-14 and again April 3-4 (LM *et al.);* one was also at Cottage Grove Mar. 17 (AC).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS -- A total of eight Yellow-shafted Flickers were seen in the Region at 6 different places up to the end of January. Lewis's Woodpeckers appeared commonly in the Rogue R. valley all winter; the Medford CBC recorded 239 individuals; this species was also common all winter on the Finley Refuge and was present in small numbers from Sauvie I. to Scappoose, Oreg. The one individual found on the Vancouver CBC was the first recorded there in four years (WW). A **Williamson's Sapsucker** appeared for some days at a suet feeder in North Bend, Oreg., in late December (HR); aside from Bent's reference to the Rogue R. valley as part of the breeding range for this bird, (which is not reiterated by the 5th ed. of the A.O.U. Check List) we know only of two other records for this species west of the Cascades. Both were submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Hebert for 2 birds seen at Roseburg, Oreg. Sept. 29, 1967 and for 2 others seen the next day at Azalea in s. Douglas Co. Oreg. The records have not previously appeared in this journal. Lone Say's Phoebes appeared on the Skagit Flats near Bellingham Feb. 20 (JD, DHe & TW), at Pitt Meadows Mar. 17-20 (SR. *fide* WW) and near there Mar. 31 (WW). Some 300 Skylarks were together at Saanich, Vancouver I. Dec. 26 (ARD); one was singing on San Juan I. Nov. 27 (FW*, fide* TW). Four Tree Swallows were recorded on the Sauvie I. CBC (JG *et al.)* A very early Rough-winged Swallow was at Campbell R. Park near Langley, B.C., Mar. 18 (MM*, fide* WW); another was at Duncan Mar. 29 (JCo). The last Barn Swallow of 1971 was seen at Reifel Refuge Dec. 6 (ND, *fide* WW). Cliff Swallows were early at Sauvie I. Mar. 25, (GH & HN) and at Westham I. Mar. 30 (WW). Com. Bushtits were nest-

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building at Salem on the early date of Mar. 14 (TM) and at Vancouver Mar. 27 (JML, *fide* WW).

MIMIDS, THRUSHES, WAXWINGS, SHRIKES -- One of the season's most surprising rarities was a **Brown Thrasher** which appeared about Feb. 23 at a feeder in West Vancouver. On Mar. 10 the bird's identity was confirmed and photographs taken by Wayne Campbell and Wayne Weber: the slides are in the photoduplicate file at U. B.C. The bird was still present at the end of the report period and had been seen by many observers. So far as we know, this is the first record of a Brown Thrasher for the Region and the second for British Columbia. A Mockingbird was present in



***Brown Thrasher, Vancouver. B.C., Mar. 10, 1972. Photo/Wayne C. Weber, courtesy The Vancouver Sun.***

Eugene from late November through the entire ‘winter season’ report period. Varied Thrushes were agreed to be low in numbers by observers in n. Washington and s. British Columbia; farther south, they were present in normal or better than normal numbers and were more common in the Medford area than they have been in many years: this distribution was undoubtedly a consequence of heavy and early snows in the n. portion. A Swainson's Thrush was present for a week beginning Jan. 20 at a spot along the Rogue R. near Medford (JH). W. Bluebirds were seen at Victoria, Mar. 15 (VG) and at five mid-Willamette Valley locations earlier in the winter, the highest count at anyone location being eight. Several were also recorded on the Medford and Gold Beach CBCs. A pair of Mountain Bluebirds at Scappoose, Oreg., Mar. 25 (GH & HN) were very much out of place as were the half dozen or more in the Vancouver area in the latter part of March. A Townsend's Solitaire was recorded at Philomath, Oreg., Jan. 2 (MS, *fide* FZ) and another was seen on the Gold Beach CBC. Bohemian Waxwings invaded the Vancouver, Nanaimo and Bellingham areas at various periods during the winter, but seem not to have moved any further south. Cedar Waxwings were scarce in the locations where Bohemians occurred. N. Shrikes were widely present in the Region throughout the winter season, although the birds were far from common, of course.

VIREO, WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS -- A Hutton's Vireo nest was found at Salem Mar. 23 and was thought to contain eggs by Mar. 29 (TM); this is a very early breeding date for this Region. An Orange-crowned Warbler at Pt. Roberts Jan. 8 (WW) was farther n. than any of the other birds of this species which showed up on CBCs; the Eugene count listed a remarkable 6 individuals, however! A male Yellow Warbler was noticed in a Portland yard on the surprisingly early date of Mar. 20 (CB). A Myrtle Warbler and two Audubon's Warblers were found for the Duncan CBC; wintering numbers of both species further s. were much better than last year's when both species were very much more scarce than usual. A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was seen at Eugene for a week prior to Jan. 2 (LM *et al.);* this is the first winter record for the Region known to us. Townsend's Warblers were little noted again this winter, individuals appearing only in Bellingham Dec. 20 (JD*, fide* TW) and on the Corvallis CBC. A male **Hermit Warbler** was recorded on the Cottage Grove CBC and another was found dead in Portland Jan. 2; the skin is now in the Oregon State U. collection; there are only one or two other winter records for Oregon. A Yellow-throat which sang tentatively several times was discovered at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. Jan. 15 (MK & HN). A very early Wilson's Warbler appeared at Salem Mar. 23 (TM). A female Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Salem for a few days in late March *(fide* GK). Fifty Tricolored Blackbirds were seen at Medford Dec. 28 (OS). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were found on the Saanich Peninsula n. of Victoria Feb. 23; on Mar. 3 three were present in the same area. The birds were carefully studied with a telescope at very close range (VG). A Brown-headed Cowbird was in the same vicinity Jan. 2 (VG).

TANAGERS, FINCHES, SPARROWS -- A *male* **W. Tanager** appeared at Eugene on the amazing date of Mar. 16 (LM *et al.),* a full six weeks ahead of schedule. Wayne Weber writes as follows: "A belated report from last winter is that of a female **Brambling** which appeared Feb. 7, 1971 at a feeder ... 5 miles south of Tlell, Graham I., B.C., and stayed for about 4 weeks. Three excellent colour slides of this bird taken in late February are now on deposit in the U.B.C. Photoduplicate File. The bird showed no signs of having been kept in captivity, and unlike the Vancouver bird of last November, there seems little doubt that it was a wild bird. On Feb. 5, 1972 what may have been the same bird was seen right in Tlell (F & DR & LC); it was observed only for about ten minutes." A Purple Finch was at Masset, B.C. Dec. 26 (AD, *fide* WW); at Vancouver, 30 were present Jan. 30 (MGS & BAM*, fide* WW). Pine Grosbeaks were present in the n. portion of the Region in unprecedented numbers; there were 10 records from the Queen Charlotte Is. with a dozen birds noted twice; 6 records occurred at Vancouver from early December, with the maximum number of individuals being 20 on Feb. 4. The birds were also seen at Duncan and several

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times in the Bellingham area. **Hoary Redpolls** were seen at Masset in company with up to 125 Com. Redpolls on three separate occasions Dec. 16-26, the maximum count being 5 individuals on Dec. 23 & 26 (AD, *fide* WW). Com. Redpolls were present in the area from Vancouver to Bellingham from late November to the end of March, with a total of 9 records aside from CBC. The maximum number of individuals seen was 100 at Pitt Meadows Jan. 23 (*fide* WW). Pine Siskins were up from their extreme lows of the preceding winter, but were still considered relatively scarce by observers mentioning them; Red Crossbills continued about as scarce as they were last year, however. A pair of Brown Towhees wintered at Medford (OS). A male **Lark Bunting** frequented a feeder in Portland from early January until the end of the period (HN *et al.)* The Bellingham CBC recorded an unusual 15 and the Sauvie I. CBC, 27 Savannah Sparrows, which also appeared on several other Willamette Valley CBCs. A Vesper Sparrow was listed on the Corvallis CBC. On Dec. 27 there were 25 Lark Sparrows at Medford and on Jan. 29 an amazing 50 were at Agate L. near Medford (OS). There were quite a few records of Slate-colored Juncos this winter, most of them from the Bellingham area where 12 were listed on the CBC. There were seven records of Tree Sparrows, including CBCs, from the Vancouver-Bellingham area totaling a dozen individuals; elsewhere, 2 showed up on the Portland CBC and one was seen at Baskett Slough w. of Salem Dec. 21 (DG & FZ). Five Oregon CBCs listed Chipping Sparrows, the maximum being 13 individuals at Sauvie I! Two of these birds were seen at Philomath, Oreg. Dec. 23 (MS, *fide* FZ), and another attended a Eugene feeder regularly in January and February (LM *et al.).* Several Harris's Sparrows wintered in the Willamette Valley at feeders: one was also recorded on the Bellingham CBC. An imm. Golden-crowned Sparrow at Queen Charlotte City Dec. 1 (AD, *fide* WW) was well n. of the species' normal winter range. White-throated Sparrows were present in surprising winter numbers at Eugene and Corvallis: several feeders in Eugene sustained 3-4 birds most of the winter; birds were also present at Medford and Salem through the winter and at Bellingham for the CBC. Two Lincoln's Sparrows at Duncan Jan. 1 were "most unusual" (JCo); one was at Victoria the same day (ARD), and another was seen at Chuckanut Mtn., Skagit Co., Wash., Jan. 25 (RP*, fide* TW); still another Lincoln's Sparrow was repeatedly found on Finley Refuge during the winter *(fide* FZ). Up to 50 Lapland Longspurs wintered until at least the end of February on the Lummi Flats (TW); 2 were seen at Ocean Shores, Wash., where 70 Snow Buntings were also seen, Jan. 30 (GH). Snow Buntings were recorded on the Bellingham, Ladner, Salem, and Tillamook CBCs. A Snow Bunting was seen at Masset Dec. 26 (AD*, fide* WW) and another was seen at the 6000 ft. level on the e. side of Mount Hood, Oreg., Feb. 20 (10). The season's most spectacular bird is last! On Oct. 26, 1971 at Queen Charlotte City, Adrian Dorst saw two junco-sized birds which he did not recognize. He wrote very detailed descriptions of the plumage of both and, upon returning to Vancouver several weeks later; found that his description precisely fitted the one specimen of **Rustic Bunting** in the collection of the U.B.C. (*fide* WW). Previous North American records for this species have come only from the Aleutians.

OBSERVERS -- Christy Brindle, Wayne Campbell, Linda Carter, Violet Cannon, John Comer (JCo),Alan Contreras, A. R. Davidson, Brian Davies, Neil Dawe, Adrian Dorst, James Dorst, James Duemmel, Richard Ferrell, Roy Fisk (RFi), Jeff Gilligan, Vic Goodwill, Dale Gray, David Hawes, Dennis Heinemann (DHe), Joseph Hicks, Wayne Hoffman, Glen Hoge, Steve Holland, Doris Jelliffe, Alan Kitson, Richard Knapton, Gordon Knight, Mark Koninendyke, Norman Lavers, AI Luck. J. Michael Luz, Bruce MacDonald, Thomas McCamant, Larry McQueen, D. Mobberly, Mike Morrell, Harry Nehls, James Olson, Richard Payne, Hilda Reiher, Francis and Dorothy Richardson, Ian Robertson, Steve Robinson. Peter Rothlisberg, Areta Saunders, Michael Scott, Chris D. Shepard, Michael G. Shepard (MGS), George Sirk, Otis Swisher, Mary Taitt, John Toochin, Terrence Wahl, Wayne Weber, Francis Wood, Jr., Fred Zeillemaker.

*Spring Migration, 1972*

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

**/ Thomas H. Rogers**

The weather picture for April in most of the region was cold, wet and decidedly windy. Spokane was 5.3°F. below normal but only a little wetter than usual. Southern interior British Columbia was described as having one of the coldest springs on record. At Missoula, lack of sunshine, cold nights and drying winds caused growth of vegetation to lag far behind. The extreme western part of the region, while cold, was also dry. McNary Refuge, Burbank, Wash. had about 25 per cent of normal precipitation and Yakima even less, Extreme n.w. Montana, however, experienced a mild April, continuing the trend of March. Bozeman's weather was characterized as relatively warm and dry for the entire spring, At the beginning of May temperatures generally rose and fluctuated around a normal or above-normal level in the more westerly part of the Region, except for s, British Columbia, which did not warm up until midmonth, A wet period began around the end of the first week, depositing most of the moisture for the month, which totalled about normal for the rain shadow area (Yakima and the "Tri-cities" area of Pasco, Kennewick and Richland, Wash.). However, an abnormally wet belt appeared to run from Heppner, Ore, through Walla Walla, Clarkston and Spokane, Wash, at least as far as Coeur d' Alene, Ida, Southern British Columbia and w. Montana. These areas were generally short of moisture in the valleys. Winds were moderate after a decidedly windy winter and early spring. A very high snow pack in the mountains of the entire Region caused flooding in some areas and promised to keep stream levels high for some time. No decided influence of weather upon the migration seems discernable, with the exception of the Fortine and Bozeman areas of Montana, where many arrivals were early, some, record-breaking. A fairly high number of "rarities" occurred. Possibly windy conditions in March and April were responsible for the earlier ones, but at least as many occurred in May.

LOONS AND GREBES -- At Three Forks, Mont. the Eared Grebe appeared on the record early date of Apr. 9 and 600 of the birds were at Ennis L., Mont. Apr, 23. A surprising *500* or more migrating W. Grebes were seen on Priest L. in n. Idaho May 13. One of this species was still at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash. June 6.

PELICANS, CORMORANTS -- White Pelicans showed up on the early date of Mar. 24 at Canyon Ferry near Helena, Mont. The birds put in unexpected appearances at Turnbull Refuge, where 6 were seen Apr, 29; at Kootenai Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, and Bonners Ferry, Ida., where 4 were observed May 1, and at Cow L, Adams Co., Wash., 2 on May 6. The Kootenai sighting is the first record for the refuge. Double-crested Cormorants were first seen Apr. 23 in both the Helena and Bozeman areas and were at nests in the latter locality. A few were at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. during Apri1.

HERONS, IBISES -- A **Com. Egret** was noted at Umatilla Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Umatilla Co., Ore. (One was seen there Sept. 9, 1971 also.) A **Snowy Egret** was reported at Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo, Mont, during the spring (PLW). About 45 Black-crowned Night Herons were observed on May 10 at Umatilla Refuge, where refuge personnel say the nesting colony is getting smaller each year. The colony near St. Andrews, Douglas Co" Wash. comprised about 25 birds Apr. 8. Kootenai Refuge reported about 10 Am. Bitterns, the most ever there, An imm. **White-faced ibis** was identified Apr. 10 at Central Park, south of Manhattan, Mont. (SC).

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WATERFOWL -- The bulk of the Whistling Swan movement was in March but one was on the Madison River west of Bozeman on the record early date of Feb. 11 and a late bird was seen on a pond near Lewiston, Ida. May 14. The largest concentration reported was of 150 at Ennis L., Mont. on Mar. 12. At Turnbull Refuge 32 Trumpeter Swans, including 7 cygnets wintered in the display pool. Two of the birds were seen at Philleo L. about 12 mi. south of Spokane Apr. 22, and Umatilla Refuge had its first ever visit of the species May 19. At Red Rock Lakes Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Lima, Mont. the summering population of Trumpeters was counted at 156. Canada Geese numbered 3600 at Umatilla Refuge May 5 and reached a peak of 6000 at Conboy L. Refuge in early March. Only a few Snow Geese were reported. Ravalli Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Ravalli Co., Mont. had 13 on Apr. 4 and a few were noted at several localities in e. Washington and Oregon. Notable was a flock of about 24 at Turnbull Refuge on May 6 (FBH). About 15 were observed near Naples, Ida. in March. The species is always uncommon in the Region west of Montana. A Ross' Goose at Ennis, Mont. Apr. 23 was only the sixth record for that locality (DRS & PDS). The duck movement at McNary Refuge peaked at nearly 47,000 in late winter. Conboy Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, south of Yakima, had a new high for ducks, over 13,000, in February. At Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge peak numbers, 62,000 were reached in April, with Pintail reaching 13,000, the highest peak ever recorded there. At Kootenai Refuge Pintails peaked at 6000. Refuge peaks for Mallards were: Kootenai, 5000; Umatilla, 2900, and Turnbull, 1200. A Mallard x Pintail hybrid was observed several times at Kootenai Refuge. Red Rock Lakes Refuge had the highest number of Redhead. 2160 in early May and Turnbull Refuge was next with 1600. Lesser Scaup reached 1300 in April at Turnbull, which also had an immense *8000* Com. Goldeneye in late March and over 2000 Ruddy Ducks in late April. About 20 pairs of Wood Ducks were using Kootenai Refuge and 10 birds were noted at Umatilla Refuge. A **Greater Scaup** was identified at Reardan, Wash. Apr. 1 and 6 were seen on the Spokane R. near Nine Mile Apr. 30 (S.A.S.). Harlequin Ducks were seen in four localities: a male at Hyalite Reservoir, Gallatin Co., Mont. in early May; 2 male at Kalamakla L., Vernon, B.C., May 7; one at the Sun Lakes in the Grand Coulee, Grant Co., Wash., and a *male* on the Tieton R. about 20 mi. west of Naches. Wash. Four Red-breasted Mergansers, rare in e. Washington, were seen on Banks L., Grant Co. Apr. 8 (S.A.S.). Most species of ducks arrived early at Fortine, Lincoln Co., Mont., apparently because of the very mild March weather.

VULTURES, HAWKS -- A Turkey Vulture was reported near Sandpoint, Ida. where the species is unusual. Extremely few Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported, most localities not mentioning the species. Cooper's Hawk appeared to be only a little less scarce. The Buteos appeared to be doing all right except for the always scarce Ferruginous Hawk, perhaps an endangered species. The latter was noted once in the Bozeman area (SC & PDS), once in Grant Co., Wash. (WH), once near Sprague, Wash. (MRC) and once in Morrow County, Ore. where an active nest was found (BT). A few of both Golden and Bald Eagles were seen at many localities in the Region. The uncommon Prairie Falcon was noted only in the Bozeman area, at Banks L., and at Stratford, and Corfu, Grant Co., Wash. Three of the rare Peregrine Falcon were sighted in the Baker, Ore. area (DH) and one was seen near Fortine, Mont. where the species, formerly a permanent resident, is now extremely rare (WW). One or two were seen quite frequently at Red Rock Lakes Refuge from Apr. 22 on (RP). A possible sighting was obtained in the area northeast of Ellensburg, Wash. Sparrow Hawks were, as usual, the most numerous hawk. Turnbull Refuge had a peak of 50 in April.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- Two Sharp-tailed Grouse were found near Creston, Wash. Apr. 8 (S.A.S.) and about 2 dozen were occupied with mating dances near Omak, Wash. Mar. 26 (EBo, B & CL). These were the only sightings. California Quail numbers seemed still to be on the upswing in e. Washington after the low numbers following the severe winter four years ago. Chukars were reported abundant along the Snake and Grande Ronde Rivers south of Pullman, Wash. and one was seen at Oak Creek 20 mi. north of Yakima. Few Gray Partridge were reported but the birds showed in increased numbers in the farm country around St. John, Wash. (SAH), and on upper Wenas Creek northwest of Yakima, where the species is very rare (Y.A.S.). Fifteen Turkeys have been introduced on Dawson Ridge above the Moyie R., Boundary Co., Ida. (DAP).

CRANES, COOT -- Sandhill Cranes were noted migrating in e. Oregon and Washington from Mar. 17 through most of April. A flock of about 200 settled near St. Andrews, Wash. Apr. 8 and a like number circled over McNary Refuge Apr. 20. In western Montana they arrived at Red Rock Lakes Refuge in late March and built up to the usual summer population strength. They appeared at Belgrade and Helena in early April. Am. Coot appeared at Fortine, Mont. on the very early date of Mar. 30. The largest concentration reported was of 10,000 at Turnbull Refuge in April.

SHOREBIRDS -- Long-billed Curlews seemed to be the most plentiful of this group seen during the spring. Several localities in e. Washington and Oregon reported the birds numbering in the twenties, and about 60 were seen at Umatilla Refuge May 10. A **Whimbrel** was seen at Banks L. May 21 & 23 (WH; JA). This is apparently the fourth record for e. Washington. Upland Plover were noted only at the usual nesting site in the valley east of Spokane on the very early date May 1 (WH). Single Willets, rare in e. Washington, were seen on Hanford Atomic Energy Reservation north of Richland, May 15 and at Banks L, May 21 & 23. The second spring record for the **Knot** in e. Washington was listed May 7, one bird in breeding plumage, at Banks L (JA; WH). The most outstanding rarity of the season was a **Curlew Sandpiper**, photographed in color about 15 mi. south of Ephrata, Wash. May 10 (DM & BJ). This is apparently the first record for e. Washington if not for the state. Two or 3 Dunlin were present at Banks L May 6-7 (JA; WH) and about 10 were at Umatilla Refuge May 29. One appeared on the Hanford Atomic

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Energy Reservation on or about May 15 (Y.A.S.). A **Black-necked Stilt**, the sixth reported for Montana, was watched extensively at a pond near Wilsall May 21 (PDS; ETH, RAH & MB).

GULLS, TERNS -A few unusual gull records were reported. The Ring-billed Gull was noted at Fortine, Mont. where it is an irregular visitor. An ad. Franklin's Gull was seen at Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash. May 7 (NL) and I at Kootenai Refuge May 17 was the first record there. An ad. Bonaparte's Gull was seen near Creston, Wash. May 6 (WH) and 4 were observed at Umatilla Refuge May 10. The second local record for the Caspian Tern at Three Forks, Mont. was of one May 17 (BR). A very few of the birds were seen at Columbia Refuge; along the Columbia R. near Carley, Benton Co., Wash., and at Umatilla Refuge. Two were noted at Vernon, B.C. where they are rare, May 28-29 (JH).

OWLS -- A Barn Owl was found at the confluence of the Yakima and Columbia Rivers, where it had been roosting under the bridge, Apr. 22 (CW). The Long-eared Owl was reported near St. Andrews, St. John and Moxee, Wash. and at Umatilla Refuge. A pair of **Barred Owls** was seen or heard regularly at Trinity Valley, 21 mi. northeast of Vernon, B.C. May 10–June 5 (JG). The uncommon Burrowing Owl was reported from eight localities in e. Washington and Oregon.

NIGHTHAWKS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS -- A Poorwill, reported only from Lavington, B.C. was heard on May 25. May 25 was a record early date for the Com. Nighthawk at Bozeman (SC). The first record of the spring at Baker, Ore. was May 19. Ann Ward remarked that the species seems to be arriving earlier and staying later there. Vaux's Swifts were noted at a few localities in e. Washington and Oregon; the earliest date was May 6, when 6 were seen at Liberty Lake east of Spokane. Black-chinned Hummingbirds were observed at Fortine, Mont.; at Kootenai Refuge and Coeur d' Alene, Ida. and Spokane and Yakima, Wash.

WOODPECKERS - Except for Stevensville, Mont. the only localities reporting Lewis' Woodpeckers were in e. Oregon and Washington. A migrating group of about 50 was seen along the Priest R. in n. Idaho May 13 (RMW) and "literally dozens" were seen near Walla Walla May 14 (NFM). An unusual sighting of the species was made at McNary and Ringold Refuges, Burbank, Wash. the first week of April. Two male of the scarce Williamson's Sapsucker were seen at Twin Lakes, Ferry Co., Wash. May 27 (E&JR). Single White-headed Woodpeckers were observed in the Wenas Creek area on two dates in June (Y.A.S.), one was seen along the Metolius R. east of Sisters, Ore. Apr. 16 (JLB), and one was seen in Morrow County, Ore. May 30 (BT). The rarely reported Northern Three-toed Woodpecker was observed in the Bozeman area and 4 were seen along the Naches R. northwest of Yakima May 18 (ER & JR).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS --Two **Scissor-tailed Flycatchers** were identified near the summit of the Christina Lake-Blueberry cutoff, on Highway 3 northwest of Trail, B.C. May 20 (LH). Several Ash-throated Flycatchers were singing near Lyle May 28-29 and one was singing north of Satus Pass May 28, both localities in Klickitat Co., Wash. (MP; DRP). Another rarity was a **Gray Flycatcher** at Bend, Ore. Apr. 16 (JLB). In general the swallow migration reached the Columbia Basin lowlands of e. Oregon, Washington and s. British Columbia first, then appeared to move eastward into n. Idaho and extreme n.w. Montana, with the more mountainous areas of Montana receiving the birds last. The earliest record of all was of 2 Tree Swallows flying in a snowstorm in Vernon, B.C. *Mar. 1.* the earliest date on record there. By contrast, Bozeman had its first arrivals of this species Apr. 21 and Helena, Apr. 22. However, it appeared at Red Rock Lakes Refuge in late March. Cliff Swallows were noteworthy just south of Pasco, Wash. where thousands were building on concrete piers of the Snake R. Bridge May 13 (NFM).

JAYS, CHICKADEES -- The **Blue Jay** that wintered at a feeder at Tower Mtn. near Spokane left May 13. Arrival of the Com. Crow at Fortine Feb. 10 was the earliest in 44 years' observing. At Kootenai Refuge the species was very common, with peaks of 500-600 during April. Its predation on duck eggs was heavy. Flocks of 10-20 Clark's Nutcrackers were present there during late March and April, before moving to higher elevations. Other localities reported few or none. Chestnut-backed Chickadees were noted in Lincoln Co., Mont. Apr. 27 (HC); at Fernan L. near Coeur d' Alene, in late April (SS), and in the Naches R. area northwest of Yakima on May 18 (E & JR).

WRENS, MIMIC THRUSHES, THRUSHES -- The House Wren was reported from nine localities and was described as abundant at Kamiak Butte north of Pullman (JWW). "Many" were noted at Tower Mtn. just southeast of Spokane. However, the birds have been absent from the Fortine area, where they formerly were a common breeder, for several years (WW). A Bewick's Wren, the only one reported, was heard in Sportsmen's State Park at Yakima May 29 (ERC). The **Mockingbird** continues to push into the Region. One was sighted May 25 on the Hanford Atomic Energy Reservation (YAS) and one was sighted in Walla Walla in late May (FE *fide* NFM). Two of the birds present there last year were photographed and the song taped. The Sage Thrasher was reported in the Bozeman area, at two localities in the Columbia Basin of e. Washington and near Baker and Prineville. Mountain Bluebirds were noted at fourteen localities, with numbers ranging from single birds to 40+ Apr. 19 east of Ellensburg, Wash. (BB).

PIPITS, WAXWINGS, VIREOS -- Water Pipits were noted mostly in w. Montana, at Bozeman, Fortine, Helena and Missoula, beginning Apr. 15. The only other area reporting them was e. Washington. Banks L. in the Columbia Basin had a few Apr. 8 and a few were seen in other localities. Except for wintering birds, Cedar Waxwings mostly appeared in late Mayas usual. Large flocks numbering *200-300* were seen near Durkee, Ore. between Apr. 12 & 23 (DH). The earliest Solitary Vireo was noted at Pullman May 2 and the earliest Warbling Vireo at Spokane May 4 (early).

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WARBLERS -- The earliest Orange-crowned Warbler was found at the early date of Apr. 8 at Park L. west of Coulee City, Wash. (JA). At Fortine where the species formerly was a regular breeder, it has not been recorded in recent years (WW). Vernon, B.C. had the first Audubon's Warbler Apr. 4 (JBr). Single **Myrtle Warblers** were sighted at Heppner May 7 (BT) and at Kamiak Butte May 11 (JWW). Hermit warblers were present in good numbers at Suttle L., northwest of Sisters, Ore. by May I (GM). The N. Waterthrush was sighted north of Livingston and Fortine Mont, at L. Chatcolet near St. Maries, Ida. and at Deep L. near Vernon, B.C.

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS -- First sightings of the Bobolink in the mountainous parts of w. Montana were generally a little ahead of those in the western part of the Region at lower altitudes. The former area had arrival dates between May 19 & 21. The only locality to match this farther west was Baker with May 21. One bird showed up at Walla Walla the first sighting in recent years (JW). Brown-headed Cowbirds were reported from ten localities. At Yakima they were described as "far too abundant" but at Fortine they were unexplainably absent. Vernon and Missoula had unusually early records of Apr. 22 and May 2, respectively. Vernon had the peak of migration for the Western Tanager on May 7-10, described as a bit late, yet this compared closely with or preceded arrival dates at all other localities!

FINCHES -- A singing male Rose-breasted Grosbeak visited a feeder in Bozeman May 18-23 (ETH & RAH). This is the third local record there. Evening Grosbeaks, reported wintering only in the Bozeman, Pullman and Spokane areas, were generally appearing in March and April. Hundreds were reported along the Metolius R. east of Sisters, Ore. Apr. 16 (JLB). A few remained at Spokane at the end of June. House Finches appeared at a new locality in w. Montana when 4 female and at least *2 male* arrived at Fortine Apr. 14 and were present for at least a month (WW). The species was noted at Bozeman June 3 and the first singing *male* appeared at Missoula Mar. 10. A single **Black Rosy Finch** was sighted at Red Rock Lakes Refuge Apr. 12 (TWP). Pine Siskins were appearing in coniferous areas from late February on, the earliest appearance at Helena Feb. 25 (GH). They apparently wintered in numbers only in the Fortine area, where the very heavy Douglas fir cone crop enticed them. Red Crossbills were rather common during the spring in the lowland coniferous areas.

SPARROWS -- The Green-tailed Towhee, as usual, was reported only from the Bozeman area, where it was first noted on May 20. Although the Rufous-sided Towhee normally appears in March in the lowlands of the western parts of the Region, March 27 was a very early date for Bozeman, where the next record was not until May 6. One appeared at Baker, Ore. Mar. 2 and Lavington; B.C. had an arrival date of Mar. 11. A single Lark Bunting was sighted at Helena May 21 and the species was noted at White Sulphur Springs, Mont. on the same date. Grasshopper Sparrows were recorded only at Banks L., May 13 and in the valley east of Spokane. Sage Sparrows were noted at Odessa May 7, the earliest date reported; on the Hanford Atomic Energy Reservation, and at Vantage, all in Washington. Several Slate-colored Juncos were noted at Kamiak Butte Mar. 30 (JWW) and at Fortine, where they are even more unusual (WW). A **Gray-headed Junco** was seen at a feeder at Red Rock Lakes Refuge Apr. 14 (TWP). The Bozeman area had record early dates for the Chipping Sparrow, Apr, 30; Clay-colored Sparrow, May 22, and Brewer's Sparrow. May 3, A Chipping Sparrow was observed at Heppner on the amazingly early date of Mar. 17 (BT), Harris' Sparrow, a rare migrant in the Region, was observed in three localities: at Fortine, 2 Feb. 5-Mar. 22 (WW); at Spokane, May 15-16 (S.A.S.), and at the Tri-cities, Wash. area, Apr. 15 (OM). The Golden-crowned Sparrow, a scarce but rather regular migrant in the western part of the Region, was seen at Medical L. and Spokane at April's end. In the Tri-cities area a very few were seen between Apr. 24-May 6 and one was seen at Lavington, B.C. May 6, One to 3 were seen in the Heppner area Apr. 24-May 1. One was also noted at Walla Walla May 1.

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*Spring Migration, 1972*

**GREAT BASIN-CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION**

**/ Hugh E. Kingery**

Warm, dry weather, or drought, heated the Great Basin and Central Rockies this spring. It accelerated the migration and the nesting of many species. We report 4 new state birds-Com. Teal in Nevada, Com. Gallinule in Oregon, Black Phoebe and White-eyed Vireo in Colorado. We also report on spreading species: welcome visitors like Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and not-so-welcome invaders like Com. Grackles. With the summer-like spring, the area saw no precipitation except for brief sieges of light snows or thunderstorms. Snowpack measured low in the Sierras and the Rockies, although at Crater L. Nat'l Park, Ore., 7 feet of snow massed at park headquarters May 31, 2 feet more than usual. Those few storms did affect migrating birds, pushed ahead of schedule by the dry, warm weather. At Zion Nat'l Park 105 days without rain ended with rain on Apr. 11 and snow on Apr. 13, the latter storm driving birds down to the valleys from the high country. The same storm became severe at Alturas, Calif., with the 10 in. of snow catching many migrants there and at Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge 3 days later. Swallows suffered the most; Apr. 12 at Alturas many Tree Swallows flew weakly in the blizzard looking for insects; they appeared to be on the verge of collapse, and dead ones were picked up there (and at Malheur) the next few days. At Alturas, 300 Horned Larks, 200 House Finches, and 10 Mountain Bluebirds congregated at the airport to feed on the cleared runway areas. Although April in n. Utah and s.w. Wyoming was cold and stormy, the dryness reached these areas in May; even Dubois, Wyo., did not enjoy its usual May snowstorm. Spurred by the warmth, birds migrated and began nesting early. Sean Furniss at Malheur studied the arrivals and found that of 103 species, 58 arrived early (6 over a month early, 23 11–30 days early), and only 15 came in later than the average arrival date. The pattern typifies the entire Region.

LOONS, GREBES, PELICANS -- Topping the usual scattered Com. Loon occurrences were 25 on Apr. 7 near Provo, Utah (MW). and 5 Apr. 1 at Camas N.W.R., Ida. Grebes moved through the Region mostly in April, with Eared Grebe peaks occurring at Malheur Apr. 9-13 with 5000; Klamath Basin N.W.R. Apr. 15 with 1550; Stillwater N.W.R., Nev. Apr. 23-29 with 2500; and 350 at Camas Apr. 25. Largest concentrations of W. Grebes occurred with 1175 at Klamath Apr. 15; 200 at Antero Res., Colo., Apr. 23; and 800 birds present for breeding at Bear River N.W.R., Utah, May 30. White Pelicans found more available water in Nevada, especially in the Humboldt Sink, so that the May I peak of 500 represented a decline in Stillwater Refuge use. By May 31 the large carp crop in well· watered Malheur had attracted 1000 pelicans-5 times last year's population-and Bear Lake N.W.R., Ida., had 100; neither group displayed any nesting proclivities. In Mono Co., Calif., the flock of 50 Apr. 7 was a high count of an uncommon migrant. Pelicans have discovered L. DeSmet near Sheridan, Wyo., with 47 present from Apr. IS-May 24, a four-fold increase over the bird's only other spring appearance, last year. Small numbers of pelicans ply a mountain migratory route in Colorado; this year observations came from Grand Junction (2 on May 17) and L. DeWeese near Westcliffe (3 on May 13-P.A.C.).

CORMORANTS, HERONS, IBIS -- Populations of Double-crested Cormorants resembled previous years. A colony at Provo comprised 100 birds on May 27 (MW). Heronries at Malheur are booming this year, with all species increasing; nest counts climbed to 71 Double-crested Cormorants (45 in 1971); 133 Great Blue Herons (95 in 1971); 207 Com. Egret ( 150 in 1971) and more being built; 52 Snowy Egrets (35 in 1971); and 450 Black-crowned Night Herons with more underway. Great Blue Herons may have resumed their former migratory paths along the east side of R.M.N.P., with observations of 3 Apr. 13 and 2 Apr. 17 (RD, WR). Klamath Ref. had 451 Great Blues Apr. 15; at Bear R. the peak was 200 on May 15-10 days later than the peak of 100 at Camas, 170 miles north. Single Green Herons strayed to Hot Creek, Mono Co., Apr. 23, and Dubois May 22-23. Com. Egrets arrived at Stillwater 2 weeks late on Apr. 1. Single, rare birds occurred at Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area, Utah, and at Camas (the first record there). A Cattle Egret also visited Farmington Bay during the spring. Snowy Egret high counts came in late May at or near nesting sites at Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo. (225 birds), Bear River (200 birds), and Camas (30 birds). The Black-crowned Night Herons came mostly in April, with 442 tallied at Klamath, 380 at Bear River, and 400 at Monte Vista on May 2. Two stopped at Hot Creek, Mono Co., May 16, for the second record there. They arrived in numbers at Pocatello by Apr. 30, but there heron killing by fish hatchery people continues. One trout rancher calculated that in 5 years the night heron population in his vicinity dropped from 50 to 10, a measure of population accepted as probably accurate (CHT). White-faced Ibis have become regular although scarce migrants in the mountains: note the third and fourth records in R.M.N.P., 13 on Apr. 12 and 3 on Apr. 18 (AC, WR) and the flocks of 1-2 dozen which visited 5 other marshes in the

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Colorado Rockies. Stillwater reported a peak of 350 in late May after the first ibis arrived Apr. 9, a week late. At Malheur they also arrived Apr. 9, a week earlier than ever before. Populations in the Region generally stayed at last year's levels.

GEESE, DUCKS -- Blue Geese appeared at Klamath Basin Apr. 2 and Jefferson Co., Ida., at Mud L. (KAM). Other geese peaked at Klamath Apr. 2, with 25, 100 White-fronted and 4500 Ross'; the 100 Ross' Geese at Malheur stayed through the first 2 weeks in April. Despite the dry spring all refuges (except Alamosa and Monte Vista) reported excellent water conditions. Klamath had ordinary numbers of migrants, with these totals for index species: 76,400 Pintails, 17,550 Am. Widgeon, 4810 Canvasback, and 2670 Bufflehead on Apr. 2; 124,100 Shovellers Apr. 10; 21,610 Mallards Apr. 15; and 42,980 Am. Coots Apr. 16. At Malheur personnel fear that the high water levels will diminish in future years as more and more consumptive demands are placed on available waters in the supplying watersheds. Malheur's May 31 nesting population of 37,000 compared with 45,000 in 1971. Camas reported its peak of migration on Apr. 1, with 20,000 Mallards, 2000 other ducks, and 1550 coots. At Gray’s Lake and Bear Lake N.W.R.'s, Ida., and Ruby Lake N.W.R., Nev., nesting began 1-2 weeks early. Bear River N.W.R., Utah, reported a significant increase of breeding Cinnamon Teal and Redheads. Farmington Bay W.M.A. had its peak migration Apr. 1-15, with 5500 ducks, including 3000 Ruddy Ducks. Monte Vista peaked during the same time, with 17,000 ducks and geese, only 40 per cent of last year. At nearby Alamosa N.W.R., there were similar reduced numbers. At Hutton Lake N.W.R., Wyo., ducks peaked Apr. 2 at over 4200, of 9 species and 3900 Lesser Scaup used the refuge Apr. 19; Pathfinder N.W.R., Wyo. had its peak of 4100 Apr. 26, including 220 Pintail and 1200 Redhead; Arapaho N.W.R., Colo. achieved its peak use at May's end, with 4 nesting species having a collective total of 1600 (RFK). Outstanding single duck record was the **Com. Teal** found Apr. 4 loafing on Mahala Slough near Fallon, Nev. The bird accompanied a spring of 25 Green-winged Teal. First record for Nevada and for the Region, this species could occur among migrating flocks of teal in other places as well (CTO, LDN). At a pond west of Salt Lake City 12-15 Ring-necked Ducks stopped matching last year's desert stopovers in e. Oregon. A male Barrow's Goldeneye called at Farmington Bay Apr. 9 (WS, EG), and the species reappeared at Malheur for the second spring in a row. Hooded Mergansers were scarce, with the only report one at Blackfoot Res. in e. Idaho (RRH). In Mono Co., 30 Red-breasted Mergansers stopped briefly, an unusual number of an uncommon bird.

HAWKS, EAGLES -- Few observers reported Goshawks, Sharp-shinned, or Cooper's Hawks; population trends are undecipherable from the reports. Swainson's Hawks have declined at Malheur from 6 nesting pairs 15-30 years ago to 3 nests in the 1960's, only 1 nest last year, to only one bird so far this year. In the desert west of Salt Lake City an intensively studied area has but 1 nest, where the species has raised only 2 young in the past 3 years (GLK). Sheridan, however, reported a good migration of Swainson's Hawks. Rough-legged Hawks stayed late at various points, including one very late one at Malheur May 20. Ferruginous Hawks have 7 nests in the study area west of Salt Lake, and Eureka, reported 8 observations. The Black Hawk arrived in Springdale, Utah, Apr. 17, and observers have seen it frequently since then. Golden Eagles seem to hold their own this year; the over 50 observations throughout the Region imply that the population remains stable. This despite continued isolated killings like 2 in Wyoming-one with a message attached to the carcass informing the public that "he died that lambs may grow." Most Bald Eagles had left the Region by spring, except for nesting areas in n.e. California and s. Oregon. Reports of about 24 Ospreys came in, including 4 sightings each at Rupert, Ida., Seedskadee N.W.R., Wyo., and Malheur. Unusual Ospreys on Apr. 18 visited Evergreen, Colo. (SB) and Salmon, Ida. and on May 11 Grand Junction. Of several Prairie Falcon reports, most disquieting are Malheur's lack of observations at one of 1971's successful eyries. We received only 3 Peregrine Falcon reports.

GROUSE, CRANES, RAILS -- Adding to last season's Sage Grouse summary, Rupert had 165 strutting cocks, compared with 187 last year; they have suffered a reduction on the s. side of the Snake R. because of a series of cold wet springs, and now drought. The 11 strutting grounds south of Malheur had 358 cocks. Most Sandhill Cranes had departed Monte Vista by Apr. 14, at Malheur 855 had arrived Apr. 22-23 (HES). At Ruby Lake N.W.R. the first chicks debuted May 16; 15 breeding pairs are on that refuge. Virginia Rails appeared commonly at Alamosa and Monte Vista, with a peak at Monte Vista on May 25 of 200 birds. Am. Coots peaked at the end of the season on May 30 at Bear River with 9800 birds. **Com. Gallinules** made 3 rare appearances: on May 12 and 23 observers found one at Hot Creek, Mono Co.; one found at Ruby L. stayed for 2 weeks. Then on May 20 a Com. Gallinule was spotted on Cole I. Dike at Malheur; after the initial identification, the bird vaulted vertically from 2-foot high vegetation, flew across a patch of open water, and dropped into marsh vegetation. Possibly Oregon's first observation, it was at least the most thoroughly verified, seen by at least 6 observers from Corvallis Audubon Society (DH, EE, CFZ *et al.).*

SHOREBIRDS -- Stillwater noted a peak of 50 Snowy Plovers in mid-May; a rare one scurried along the sands at Antero Res. Apr. 15 (HEK). Small populations are nesting at Bear R. and Malheur. Black-bellied Plover peaked at Stillwater with 200 in mid-April, a week earlier than usual. Malheur's first came Apr. 9, 4½ weeks earlier than last year. Largest flocks of Longbilled Curlews were 216 at Nampa, Ida., May 5 and 100 at Camas N.W.R. on May 1. Four Whimbrels dropped into L. DeSmet near Sheridan May 10, and an Upland Plover appeared there May 4 (PIH). Malheur noted its first Solitary Sandpiper in several years, May 1-3. A stray flock of 25 Willets visited L. Isabel in the mountains west of Pueblo, Apr. 30. At Alturas on Apr. 16, 200 migrating Willets flew low over town during a midnight lightning storm. R.M.N.P. had a rare visit from 4 Greater Yellowlegs Apr. 13-25 (WR). A Knot fed at L.

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DeSmet, with Black-bellied Plovers, on May 10. A super flock of Dunlin–800 strong–stayed Apr. 16-22 at Stillwater, largest flock ever seen there and perhaps in Nevada. Usually they visit in groups of 10-25, although 200 occurred May 1, 1970. Long-billed Dowitchers arrived on time at Stillwater, with a peak of 2000 Apr. 16-22; Bear R. saw a peak of 3000 May 8, and Sheridan hosted several hundred May 10. Highest regional count of Marbled Godwits was 450 at Bear R. Apr. 27. The Hudsonian Godwit at Ocean L. near Riverton gave Wyoming one of its few records (OKS). At Malheur 2050 Am. Avocets concentrated Apr. 9-13, while at Bear R. they peaked at 880 a month later, May 19. They arrived Apr. 17 at Rupert, and there every mud lake has 8-20 nesting pair, a great increase; simultaneously, no Black-necked Stilts were seen there-they occurred commonly 20 years ago. Rare reports of stilts came from Nampa May 2 (4 birds); one at Antero Res. Apr. 23 (HEK); and one May 5 at Monte Vista. The 1600 Wilson's Phalaropes at Monte Vista May 8 hardly matched last year's peak of 4200 birds. Single N. Phalaropes were noted at Grand Junction May 11 and Camas May 25, with Malheur counting a peak of 73 May 19.

GULLS, TERNS -- At Gray's L., 16,500 Franklin's Gulls have begun nesting, and north of there, one of the 2 colonies in Jefferson Co., Ida., has grown much larger than last year (KAM). Malheur has 500 nests, up from 325, 2 years ago. Three Bonaparte's Gulls wandered to Bear R. Apr. 20; 1 visited Big Alkali L., Mono Co., Apr. 23; and 2 came to Grand Junction May 25. Both Forster's and Black Terns arrived 1-2 weeks earlier at Malheur than at more southern but further inland Ruby L.

DOVES, ROADRUNNER, OWLS -- Following the discovery of large flocks of Band-tailed Pigeons in w. Nevada late last spring (*Am. Birds*, 26:636), a flock spent May at Mammoth L., Mono Co. Mourning Doves appeared in unusually large numbers at Zion, the first Apr. 1, followed by flocks of 20 and 30; increased numbers stopped at Eldora, Colo., in early May. Spring counts included 150 May 16 at McCoy, Colo., and 319 May 25 at Grand Junction. Zion observers saw Roadrunners 3 times, an improvement over last year. The only Barn Owl observations came from Nampa Apr. 1 and May 20, and from Monte Vista, 2 birds May 18.

GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS -- Poor-wills came early to the Region, with first ones reported Apr. 23 near Pueblo (DSi) and at Zion; the first ones reached Eureka May 17. Com. Nighthawks came in a bit early too, the first May 18 at Zion, and, during the last week of May, first reports at McCoy, Alturas, Grand Junction, Eureka, and Malheur. Chimney Swifts have expanded west across the Great Plains to Colorado's Piedmont cities; they have now moved up the Arkansas R. valley as far as Florence (DSi). White-throated Swifts must stage spectacular migrations across unpopulated desert regions; a large flight was flying low like swallows over the sagebrush Apr. 27 between Moab and Monticello, Utah (W & SS). Increased numbers of hummingbirds are attending Springdale feeders; partly from the drought, partly because feeders increase in popularity among the townsfolk. By May 1, Black-chinned were enjoying their offerings. Two Black-chinned arrived Apr. 14 at Grand Junction, unusually early for there. The first Broad-tailed came into Beulah, Colo.," Apr, 16 (DSi); into R.M.N.P., Apr. 22, 2 weeks early and to Oak Creek, Colo. (HTh), and Salt Lake City during the first week in May. Around Colorado Springs observers counted 123 on May 13. A large female hummingbird, probably a Rivoli's, has begun frequenting feeders in Springdale. Although seen 25 times by 3 observers, it has not yet been identified positively because of its extreme timidity.

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS -- Malheur had 3 observations of Yellow-shafted Flickers, and usual numbers of Red-shafted. However in the Salt L. Valley flickers have drastically declined, probably owing to unsuccessful competition with Starlings; they remain, however, at higher altitudes *(fide* EG). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker showed itself at Devils Tower Nat'l Monument, Wyo., in May (BS), in an area seldom studied by birdwatchers. Although none had arrived at Colorado Springs by mid-May, E. Kingbirds had arrived at Ruby L. May 17 (first refuge record); Camas May 18; Malheur May 19; and Honey L., Calif., May 29 (TM, RS), W. Kingbirds arrived early at Mono Co. (Apr. 7), Zion, Malheur, and Eureka; on time at Pueblo, Pocatello, and Stillwater; and late at Salt Lake City, by 3 weeks, and Alturas. An out-of-habitat bird visited mountain-ringed Jefferson, Colo., May 28. Say's Phoebes at Zion produced their first young May 9-18 days earlier than last year, and the birds were especially numerous in Zion Canyon. At Rockville, Utah, a Black Phoebe had completed a nest Apr. 22, after smearing mud over 10 feet of wall while searching for a suitable location. Colorado's first recorded **Black Phoebes** took up residence under a bridge over the St. Charles R., 10 miles s.w. of Pueblo. Found May 13, the nesting pair shows signs of undertaking a second nesting in June. (P.A.C.) At Malheur flycatchers arrived an average of a week early; Camas had an *Empidonax* on May 1; and first W. Flycatchers appeared at R.M.N.P. and Colorado Springs May 13 and McCoy on May 14. The Olive-sided Flycatcher at Sheridan May 5 was likewise early.

SWALLOWS, JAYS, CHICKADEES, WRENS -- Swallows constitute the most numerous migrant family of perching birds in this Region. Very likely outnumbering ducks, they spread out so that counts do not mount as high as for waterfowl. Violet-green Swallows flew in early, being already common in early April at McCoy and by Apr. 13 in Estes Park, Colo. (RD); several were seen at Mt. Carmel, Utah, Apr. 8, with 20 at Springdale Apr. 15. Durango tallied 523 on its Spring Count May 13. The introduction tells of troubles of early Tree Swallows. They arrived early not only in the w. part of the Region, but also in the mountain vastness of n. Wyoming at Jackson by Mar. 17. They did not arrive in the Colorado high country nesting sites until May; on May 28 female joined the male at Jefferson, Colo., inaugurating courtship and competition for nest sites. Barn Swallows peaked at 2800 at Bear R. May 15. A Purple Martin May 27 (PIH) completed the roster of all 7 swallows at Sheridan this spring. Scrub Jays, which scattered onto the Colorado plains this winter, apparently wandered

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into the mountains as well: One visited Eldora May 17. Pińon Jays seemed more abundant than usual, with spring count totals, all May 13, of 438 at Durango; 200 at Colorado Springs; 88 at Grand Junction; 100 at McCoy; but only 13 at Pueblo and none reported from Zion. At Malheur, observers saw few Mountain Chickadees this spring, and no high-country birds like White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches, creepers, Dippers, woodpeckers, Townsend's Solitaire, or Golden-crowned Kinglets; perhaps because of the warm weather these birds frequented the high country exclusively. Three Colorado locations reported the only Red-breasted Nuthatches. R.M.N.P. had its first record of Long-billed Marsh Wrens with 3 on Apr. 18 (WR); another occurred at Antero Res. Apr. 9 (BMM).

THRASHERS, THRUSHES -- A Mockingbird wandered up to R.M.N.P., seen Apr. 18 & 25. The 2 found at widely-separated spots in the Pocatello region May 18 & 28 may presage a spread into s. Idaho. Bendire's Thrashers persist in places north of their known range, with 2-3 May 2 and 9 in the semi-desert west of Salt Lake City, and one in Mono Co., Calif. Apr. 15 (DR); in both places Sage Thrashers populated the sagebrush for contrast in identification. The April storm drove hundreds of Robins down to Zion Can., to join an already abundant population: at McCoy 300 thronged on Apr. 26. Breeding Robins arrived in the Crater L. Nat'l Park high country in mid-April. The first Hermit Thrush reached R.M.N.P. Apr. 25, 16 days early (WR), while first Swainson's Thrushes came in Apr. 18, only 4 days early (WR). Two E. Bluebirds strayed up to R.M.N.P. Apr. 10 (WR) and 1 stopped at Sheridan Apr. 19 (PIH). Small numbers of W. Bluebirds dotted the Region with the most reported the 36 which dropped into Zion Canyon with the April snows. Pueblo's spring count produced 72 Mountain Bluebirds May 13; Durango's tallied 47 the same day. At Eldora the nesting Mountain Bluebirds have not returned to their usual location. At Jefferson, Colo., bluebirds lost the competition for a nest site to Tree Swallows May 30.

GNATCATCHERS, KINGLETS, PIPITS, STARLINGS -- Blue-gray Gnatcatchers occur commonly in the pińon/juniper country, as evidenced by the 29 on Durango's spring count, but they are rare in non-pińon areas of e. Colorado. Hence the single birds at R.M.N.P. May 4 (RD), May 13 (MT), and May 18 (AC), coupled with a handful of plains records (in S. Great Plains Region) suggests an unusual influx. Only a few Loggerhead Shrikes were reported, but those observers commenting said they appeared in normal numbers. Starlings continue to expand, nesting everywhere at Salt Lake City (EG), the first ones appearing at Jefferson, Colo., and a rare one at Crater L. Apr. 15. Hope springs eternal though-does the 25 percent drop on the Durango spring count signal a decline from the saturation point?

VIREOS, WARBLERS -- A not-quite-white-eyed **White-eyed Vireo** which stayed at Bear Creek near Boulder, Colo., May 12-14 added itself to the Colorado list (PJ, LJ, TM). For the third consecutive year, Bell's Vireos were found near Colorado Springs May 13 (ACa). First Gray Vireos reached Springdale Apr. 22, and at Canyon City, Colo., a pair was already nesting by May 13 (P.A.C.). Early by 16 days was a Solitary Vireo at R.M.N.P., while Malheur's first Warbling Vireo arrived 18 days late. A noisy Warbling Vireo at Zion Inn, seated on its nest, automatically called whenever any person approached. At Salt Lake City warblers arrived slowly, but came in their usual numbers. In other locations they came in a little early. In Boulder's Bear Creek, less than half a mile from the White-eyed Vireo (supra), Colorado's 9th or 10th Golden-winged Warbler displayed song and resplendent spring plumage to 20 observers May 20-21 (PJ, C.F.O.). Camas added the Orange-crowned Warbler, a common migrant through the Region, to the refuge list. Three Parula Warblers surprised observers at Westcliffe May 13 (P.A.C.), further west than the normal stragglers. Yellow Warblers had not yet arrived at Fish Creek, near Estes Park, by the end of the period, a place where they were common last year by May 15 (RD). The first ones came into Zion Apr. 12, Ruby L. May 4, Camas May 7, McCoy May 9, Salmon May 17, and Dubois May 18. A Magnolia Warbler May 11 provided R.M.N.P.'s second record. Audubon's Warbler, commonest western warbler, began arriving in early April everywhere. Migrants peaked in most places in early or mid-May, except in Mono Co. where they peaked Apr. 23; they had arrived in their nesting habitats by late May. In late May P.A.C. members discovered a colony of Ovenbirds near Rye, Colo., with at least 5 singing male . Two Yellowthroats strayed to R.M.N.P. Apr. 18, and 2 others to Mammoth L., Mono Co., Apr. 23-24.

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES -- W. Meadowlarks wandered up to Eldora during May, a little higher than their usual haunts. Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds did the same Apr. 18 at R.M.N.P. where they are rare, as did a Bullock's Oriole to Jefferson, Colo., May 28. Brewer's Blackbirds prosper at places like Nampa (570 May 7), Malheur (401 Apr. 22-23, HES). Salmon, Zion, R.M.N.P. (438 May 13), and Pueblo (331 May 13), but dropped down at Dubois. A **Boat-tai1ed Grackle** strayed into Durango, for the second Colorado record (OR); perhaps it is spreading north from Farmington, N. Mex., which harbors a small population. The Com. Grackle spreads west: Dubois had one Apr. 23; R.M.N.P. had 15 on the spring count; Sheridan counted them in April and May; Durango had one May 13 (OR). From s. Idaho came that state's first spring records: 2 near Holbrook May 10 with other blackbirds and 3 May 14-20 at Pocatello. Brown-headed Cowbirds also expand with marked increases at Eldora, R.M.N.P. (44 on spring count, 23 at Aliens Park), and Jefferson. Colo. (12 on May 29). More W. Tanagers than ever were seen by our Jackson observer, with 12-15 during late May, feeding on suet bags all day long. A Summer Tanager strayed north to Eureka May 19.

FRINGILLIDS -- Rose-breasted Grosbeaks continue to appear in the Region. This season we had reports in May from Colorado Springs, Evergreen, R.M.N.P., Aspen (CAJ), Pueblo, Pocatello, and Nampa. (The species was first recorded in Idaho last year.) Black-headed Grosbeaks are missing from Eldora for the second year. Blue Grosbeaks may be expanding northward;

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they arrived at their now-regular nesting haunts on the Jordan Narrows near Salt Lake City May 7 (EG, GLK), and Ruby L. had a new refuge record with a pair May 8-9, the J staying on for 2 weeks; one came to Dubois May 21, the first in 6 years. Indigo Buntings occurred along the Colorado and Wyoming foothills and west to Grand Junction May 26 (HTr). Evening Grosbeaks reappeared commonly throughout the Colorado mountains and at Crater L. Malheur's first observation in a year came with a single bird May 13. A Purple Finch patronized an Evergreen feeder Mar. 29-Apr. 8 (SB). An enormous flock of 2-3000 Cassin's Finches flew over Estes Park May 14, "strung out in a loosely organized flock" (WR). Perhaps inclement weather had grounded them, and when released they made this dramatic northward movement. Rosy finches lingered in n. Colorado and Wyoming. April storms brought large numbers of Gray-crowned to Dubois and Jackson feeders, but most left by May l. The Apr. 11 storm brought in 500 Black Rosy Finches, the n.w. Wyoming nesting form, to Jackson, reduced to 75 Apr. 30; all finally quit the feeder largesse by May 10. The flock of 16 Gray-crowned, 2 Black, and 225 Brown-capped was very late on May 13 at Estes Park (MP), and I Brown-capped returned to an Eldora feeder May 31. The last Com. Redpoll at Estes Park was seen Apr. 6. Pine Siskins invaded the Colorado mountains, with abundance at many locations, including 499 on the Durango spring count May 13, plus many at Dubois and Salmon in late May. Red Crossbills continued common in their selected locales-Westcliffe Evergreen, and a single flock at R.M.N.P. May 23 (KD): and 60 at Nampa Apr. 16.

SPARROWS -- Lark Buntings migrate vertically from the plains in the fall, but May 28-29 found 3 female in R.M.N.P. at 8000 feet (KD) and one at Bailey, Colo. (NH). A breeding colony was located near SI. Anthony, Ida. (CHT). Oregon Juncos left Nampa early, the last date being Apr. 7; other last dates were Salt Lake City Apr. IS, Springdale Apr. 17, McCoy Apr. 20, Summit Co. Apr. 23, Evergreen Apr. 24, Dubois May 8, R.M.N.P. May 13 (2 weeks late). At Zion Apr. 14 found 21 juncos-16 Slate-colored and 5 Gray-headed-storm driven down to the canyon: more of each species than were seen all winter. Large numbers of Chipping Sparrows reached the Region the first week of May; Malheur's first ones on May 2 were 18 days later than in 1971. A Clay-colored Sparrow Apr. 18 was R.M.N.P.'s first spring record (WR), and Brewer's Sparrows Apr. 18-19 and May 13 also gave R.M.N.P. its first spring records (WR, RD). Harris' Sparrows scatter widely but sparsely throughout the Region; included in the spring's 6 reports are an ad. male Apr. 29-May 1, Malheur's only spring record, and an ad. at Honey L. W.M.A., a very late date anywhere in the Region (TM, RS). White-crowned Sparrows left Nampa early, the last ones 2 on May 10. Alturas had 200 Apr. 16, and Malheur's peak came Apr. 22. R.M.N.P. hosted the first White-throated Sparrows there, one Apr. 26 (MP) and 2 May 18 (WR). Malheur banded one Apr. 30, which stayed until May 10, and found another May 9-the first spring observations in 6 years. Fox Sparrows came into Summit Co. by Apr. 23 and Durango counted 3 May 13; single birds appeared in Salt Lake Apr. 19 and May 2, and Malheur counted 6 in 1972, after none last year. Lincoln's Sparrows staged a heavy migration at Sheridan in May; came into R.M.N.P. 19 days early, on Apr. 26 (WR); and to Dubois Apr. 23, the earliest ever.

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ABBREVIATION: R.M.N.P.-Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, Colo. -HUGH E. KINGERY.

*Spring Migration, 1972*

**NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION**

**/ John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls**

The spring of 1972, like that of 1971, was both colder and wetter than normal. April rainfall either set new records or approached old ones throughout the Region. A cool, wet spell in mid-May brought some normally pelagic species into Oregon's Willamette Valley. A heavy snow pack accumulated in the mountains of the West for the second consecutive year. As usual, however, the season had its share of ornithological excitement and cause for wonder, as perusal of the following report will demonstrate.

LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS, HERONS -- A Com. Loon lingered at Baskett Slough N.W.R. in the c. Willamette Valley of Oregon May 9-17 (FZ *et al.).* Approximately 1100 Arctic Loons were observed at Active Pass in the Gulf Is. Apr. 29 (MiS & MaS); on May 6 a steady stream of migrating Arctic Loons was moving n. past the Columbia R. mouth (GK *et al.).* A few Eared Grebes were in the vicinities of Vancouver and Victoria, through the first week in May. Single Eared and Grebes at Fern Ridge Reservoir w. of Eugene, Oreg. May 21 (LM) are both unusual records. On Apr. 16, eight Black-footed Albatrosses were seen on a boat trip out of Westport. Wash. and on May 14 an estimated 90 were seen in the vicinity of a Russian fishing fleet 35 mi

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west of Westport (TW). A single dark phase Fulmar showed up in Puget Sound at Seattle Apr. 18 (MP); 3 Fulmars had been seen Apr. 16 out of Westport, where an estimated 30 individuals -two-thirds of them being light phase birds were seen May 14 (TW). Also seen on the May 24 boat trip from Westport were 3 Pink-footed, and 3 **Pale-footed Shearwaters**, along with 29 Fork-tailed Petrels. Single Leach's Petrels were seen at Ocean Shores, Wash. May 15 (JMo) and May 21 *(fide* G & WH). Four Double-crested Cormorants at Agate L., near Medford, Oreg., May 20 (OS), and one at Finley N.W.R. s. of Corvallis, Oreg. Mar. 29-May 28 (FZ) were at out-of-the-ordinary locations. A Com. Egret was near Stanwood, Wash. for three weeks in late April and early May (RB, *fide* TW). A **Snowy Egret** was photographed at Finley N.W.R. May 8 (FZ) for what we believe to be only the second record for w. Oregon. Two Black-crowned Night Herons at the Skagit Game Range near Mount Vernon, Wash. Apr. 8 (MP) and one at L. Whatcom near Bellingham, Wash. May 25 (B & VL, *fide* TW) both were additions to the very sparse number of records for that species in w. Washington. There were five records of Am. Bitterns from the Willamette Valley and the Columbia R., one from Whidbey L, Wash., and a report of several pairs at Pitt Meadows, e. of Vancouver, throughout the report period.

WATERFOWL -- An imm. Whistling Swan still at Finley N.W.R. May 12 (FZ) was late. Canada Geese left their Willamette Valley wintering grounds April 14–19, while a noticeable movement from further south passed through the last three days of April (FZ). An unusually heavy migration of White-fronted Geese was noted in the s. Willamette Valley this spring, the movement occurring primarily between April 10 and May 13 (FZ). A very late Snow Goose was at Baskett Slough N.W.R. May 27 (FZ). The 100 Gadwall at Sea L, near Vancouver May 7, and the 4000 Green-winged Teal there Apr. 22 (WW) were both most unusual migratory concentrations. Status of Blue-winged Teal in the Region has gradually changed from one of rarity up to perhaps twenty years ago to today's situation in which we now have numerous records from Vancouver s. to Medford scattered through all months of the year, but with the bulk falling first in December, and then in May. Although data is sketchy, the various spring dates since 1965 suggest that Blue-winged Teal enter the Region from the east via the Columbia R. and filter south into w. Oregon and north into w. Washington from the Columbia. Two Eur. Widgeon were still at the Samish Flats in n. Washington Apr. 21 (NL, *fide* TW) and two more were at Duncan, B.C. Apr. 23 (JCo). A Redhead at Cottage Grove, Oreg., May 13 (LM) is probably the latest spring record for w. Oregon. Thirteen Barrow's Goldeneyes were counted at Port Angeles, Wash., Apr. 10 (SJ) and several late Oldsquaws were at Dungeness, Wash. May 13 (MP). Several reports were received of Harlequin Ducks on mountain streams in Oregon, Washington, and s. British Columbia during April Thirty Ruddy Ducks were at Iona I. May 7 (WW), and four were still to be found there May 11 (WW & JW).

HAWKS, EAGLES, QUAIL, CRANES, RAILS -- A pair of Golden Eagles was seen repeatedly in the Columbia Gorge during the spring of 1972 (KH, *fide* HN); it was possibly one of these birds which was seen at Portland Airport May 5 (JG). An ad. and an imm. Golden Eagle were seen near Medford May 29 (OS). There were seven reported sightings of Bald Eagles during April and May from Victoria e. to the c. Cascades of Oregon. Judging from the number of reports received in the last few years, the Osprey seems at least to be holding its own if not increasing slightly in the Region, although it is far from common anywhere. Peregrine Falcons were reported at three different places from mid-April up to early May in Oregon, Washington, and s. British Columbia, with only one of the sightings involving a possibly nesting pair. A late Pigeon Hawk was seen along the Rogue R. in s. Oregon Apr. 29 (OS). On May 13 a Bob-white was noted at Cottage Grove, Oreg. (*fide* LM). A small flock of Sandhill Cranes there the same date *(fide* LM) was late, as were the two birds still at Pitt Meadows e. of Vancouver May 10 (WW *et al.).* Both Virginia Rails and Soras were in a marsh at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. Apr. 16 (MK & HN); a Sora was observed at Victoria May 30 (ARD).

SHOREBIRDS -- A **Snowy Plover** was discovered near Tofino, B.C., Apr. 29 (BB & LK, *fide* WW) and was found there again May 13 (JW *et al., fide* WW) where a careful description was taken down by an experienced observer previously familiar with the species; the record may be the first for British Columbia. Oddly enough, a single Snowy Plover was also found at Denman I. just s. of Comox and Courtenay, s.c. May 28 *(RS, fide* TW). Again, a Black-bellied Plover appeared in the Willamette Valley, this one Apr. 17 at Baskett Slough where two had been seen May 1, 1971 (FZ). Ruddy Turnstones were at Whidbey L. Wash. May 7 in numbers up to 30 (TW); they were with 250 Black Turnstones (TW) at what is evidently the peak migration time for both species in this Region. Three Long-

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billed Curlews were at Pitt Meadows Apr. 20 where they remained for the next few days (TC & MiS, *fide* WW). Up to 125 Whimbrel frequented a golf course and nearby mud flats at White Rock, s.c. Apr. 25-May 11 (HRV, *fide* MSch); 40 Whimbrel were at Sea I. May 21 (RK, *fide* WW); they were also frequently recorded at Washington coastal points from mid-April until the end of the report period. Single Solitary Sandpipers turned up at Finley N. W.R. Apr. 23-May 6 (FZ), at Victoria May 6 (SJ & RSa), and at Eugene, Oreg. May 21 (LM); *three* were at Cottage Grove, Oreg. May 13 *(fide* LM). The two dozen Wandering Tattlers at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. May 6 (GK *et al.)* was a very unusual concentration. The only report of a Lesser Yellowlegs was of one at Fern Ridge Res. w. of Eugene Apr. 16 (LM). Knots were virtually unreported this spring, two appearing at Willapa Bay, Wash. Apr. 15 (MP) and one at Ocean Shores, Wash. May 26 (G & WH). Rock Sandpipers, on the other hand, were unusually well reported with concentrations of 35 at Victoria Apr. 7 (SJ), 25 there Apr. 29 (M & *MiS, fide* WW), 11 at Ocean Shores May 2 (JMo) and 7 at Whidbey I. May 13 (TW). Two Pectoral Sandpipers were noted May 16 at Finley N.W.R. (FZ) and five were found at Victoria May 20 (ARD), both unusual spring records. A Baird's Sandpiper was seen at Saanich ton Bay, s. Vancouver I., May 6 (SJ & RSa), for a most unusual spring record for coastal British Columbia. A lone Dunlin at Ocean Shores May 26 (G & WH) was late. A concentration of 16,000 "peeps" at Sea and Iona Is. Apr. 22 (MiS, *fide* WW) were said to be mostly W. Sandpipers. A flock of *20* Marbled Godwits at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. May 6 (GK) was the largest springtime aggregation for this species that we know of for this Region in recent times; single Marbled Godwits were also noted at Willapa Bay Apr. 15 (MP) and May 13 (TW). No Red Phalaropes were recorded on the sea trips out of Westport Apr. 16 or May 14 (TW), but over 300 N. Phalarope were recorded on the latter date; Northerns were, in fact, plentiful along the Washington coast and even at Finley N.W.R. and at Eugene in Oregon's Willamette Valley in mid-May, after passage of a storm front. Wilson's Phalaropes were at Finley N.W.R. May 4-25 (FZ) in number up to seven, and were recorded during May also at Eugene, Victoria, and at Iona I.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS -- Up to 5 Parasitic Jaegers at a time were noted on three dates between May 8-21 at different places on the s.w. Washington coast; 2 were also seen at Iona I. May 21 *(RK, fide* WW). A late Glaucous Gull was at Ocean Shores May 26 (G & WH); 4 second year birds were present at Vancouver Apr. 23 (IM, *fide* WW). There were as many as 25 Herring Gulls at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. Apr. 16 (HN). At Pitt L. e. of Vancouver an apparent migration of Mew Gulls was taking place May 10; groups of 5-200 birds were intermittently seen flying inland at an estimated elevation of 1000 ft.; approximately 3000 were seen in the course of the day (WW). An ad. Franklin's Gull at Bellingham May 20 (TW) is the first record we have for this Region during the spring migration period. Bonaparte's Gulls were widely present in the Region through both April and May, including five at Finley N.W.R. May 16 (FZ), the same date when storm driven N. Phalaropes had appeared there; 1200 Bonaparte's Gulls were estimated both at Active Pass Apr. 29 (MaS & MiS*, fide* WW) and at Iona I. the next day (BM, *fide* WW); 2500-most of them immatures-were at Bellingham Bay at the end of the period (TW). Early Heermann's Gulls were seen singly at Ocean Shores May 5 (JMo), at Cape Flattery, Wash. May 14 and at the n. jetty of the Columbia R. May 21 (DP & MP). A few Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen up to 15 mi. at sea off Depoe Bay, Oreg. Apr. 1, but almost 700 were seen Apr. 16 up to 34 mi. off Westport; dozens of immatures of this species were at the n. jetty of the Columbia R. May 21. Four Sabine's Gulls were seen off Westport May 14, where none had been seen Apr. 16 (TW); two were 40 mi. out of Newport, Oreg. May 23 (PR, *fide* FZ). Six Com. Terns were at Iona I. Apr. 30 (BM & WW) but the main migration apparently went through the Region in the latter two weeks of May with 50 birds at Gray's Harbor, Wash. May 14 (TW) and another 50 at Ocean Shores May 26 (G & WH). Caspian Terns appeared at many favored salt water locations after mid-April. A Black Tern was observed at Fern Ridge Res. May 21 (LM); two were seen at L. Terrell near Ferndale, Wash. May 28 (TW). A few Pigeon Guillemots and Marbled Murrelets were seen in the Straits of Juan de Fuca, n. Puget Sound and the Straits of Georgia during the report period. Five Ancient Murrelets were recorded at sea from Westport Apr. 16 (TW). The same trip found 32 Cassin's Auklets. Neither species was otherwise referred to during the report period. Most boat trips offshore were fairly successful in finding Rhinoceros Auklets in maximum number to 30 in a day.

DOVES, OWLS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS: -- A Mourning Dove on Cape Flattery, May 14, was at an unusual locality (DP, *fide* MP). Fred Zeillemaker reports there is good reason to conclude that the Mourning Dove population in the s. Willamette Valley this spring is up considerably from levels of the past few years. A Snowy Owl was noted at the Samish Flats s. of Bellingham Apr. 6 (NL, *fide* TW). On May 30, a pair of Black Swifts was seen at Eugene (LM). A male Black-chinned Hummingbird was again regular at Merle McGraw's feeders at Shady Cove, Oreg. on the Rogue R. for the latter part of the spring season *(fide* JH). On Apr. 5, a day of extreme and unsettled weather in n.w. Oregon, a bird later identified as a bright male **Costa's** **Hummingbird** appeared at a feeder in the Charles Linehan yard in Astoria, Oreg.; the bird was photographed several times, and then was carefully identified on Apr. 16 while still visiting the feeder about every half hour (MK & HN); it was seen last on April 20. A photograph has been furnished for the Photoduplicate File at Laurel, Md. Anna's Hummingbirds appeared repeatedly at the McGraw feeders in Shady Cove during the spring *(fide* JH). Observers concluded, from differences in the appearances of the birds, that there were two male Anna's Hummingbirds at N. Vancouver, B.C., one seen Apr. the other at a different locality Apr. 20 (JTo; GAP; WW *et al.).* Calliope Hummingbirds were seen at Thurston, Oreg., on the surprisingly early date of Apr. 4 (LM), near Medford May 6 (OS), and repeatedly at

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Shady Cove during May *(fide* JH). A male Broad-tailed Hummingbird was seen e. of Ashland, Oreg. May 30 (OS). On Apr. 13, an Allen's Hummingbird was recorded at Springfield, Oreg., (LM), near Eugene where one had frequented a feeder at times during the preceding month.

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, LARKS, SWALLOWS, WRENS -- Lewis' Woodpecker, which had been common at Finley N.W.R. through the winter, continued so until early May; the last bird was recorded there May 23 (FZ). An E. Kingbird was seen at Finley Refuge May 26 (FZ). Western Kingbirds were found there Apr. 25, May 1 and 5 (FZ), at Corvallis May 12 (JB, *fide* FZ), at Eugene Apr. 29 (LM), at Leadbetter Pt. May 13 (AB, DH & TW), and at Lulu I. near Vancouver May 7 (CW, *fide* WW). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was seen at Eugene May 12 (LM); six were at Medford May 6(OS). Black Phoebes had already nested successfully near Medford by the end of the report period (OS); a bird of this species is said to have been observed at Cottage Grove May 13 (LM). A noticeable migratory movement of W. Flycatchers occurred at Victoria (ARD) and at Bellingham (TW) Apr. 29. A similar movement of W. Wood Pewees took place at Leadbetter Pt. May 20 (MP). Up to 20 Skylarks were on the s. end of San Juan I., Wash. May 21 (TW). An estimated 9000 Violet-green Swallows were seen at Elk L., near Victoria, Apr. 29 (MiS &MaS, *fide* WW): approximately 500 Barn Swallows were there at the same time. Single Barn Swallows had appeared at Otis, Oreg. by Apr. 1 (GK & HN) and at Eugene Apr. 4 (LM); one was at Finley Refuge Apr. 8, where they were common a week later (FZ). Purple Martins were first observed at Cottage Grove Apr. 18 (AC, *fide* LM) and at Victoria Apr. 22 (SJ, JTa *et al.);* they later showed up in May at Corvallis, at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. and at Port Moody, B.C. A pair of Wrentits was seen near Medford May 24 (OS). House Wrens were reported to be plentiful at Duncan, B.C., this spring (JCo); at least one bird was repeatedly found at Victoria May 9-20. An estimated dozen pairs of House Wrens were nesting at Finley Refuge by the end of the period (FZ). A pair of Rock Wrens nested near Medford (OS).

MIMIDS, THRUSHES, PIPITS, WAXWINGS, SHRIKES -- The Brown Thrasher which had been at W. Vancouver since the end of February was last seen Apr. 16 (GAP*, fide* WW). A Mockingbird at Springfield all spring may well have been the bird which wintered at Eugene. A Mockingbird was discovered at Vancouver Apr. 25 (BM) where it remained until at least May 3 to be seen by several observers; the attendant publicity elicited the fact that this bird, too, had been frequenting a nearby feeder since December *(fide* WW). A small migratory movement of Varied and Hermit Thrushes was remarked at Victoria Apr. 26-May 13 (ARD). An early Swainson's Thrush was found at Eugene Apr. 2 (LM). On June I, a Veery was discovered at Medford (JH). Western Bluebirds were reported only from Medford, Duncan and Victoria. Mountain Bluebirds were seen repeatedly e. of Vancouver in April *(fide* WW). There was an unprecedented influx of Townsend's Solitaires to Vancouver in April with up to a score of birds accounted for in the city and environs; nine were still present May 2 (WW *et al.).* A few Townsend's Solitaires were at Victoria Apr. 14 (ARD); two were at Baskett Slough Refuge Apr. 18 (JM, *fide* FZ), and one was seen on the S. Fork of the Alsea R. in the Coast Range, Lincoln Co., Oreg. Apr. 28 (GK). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were again found nest-building at Medford May 29 (OS). Ruby-crowned Kinglets evidently migrate through the Region in the last two weeks of April with stragglers present until mid-May; this year was no exception. A hundred Water Pipits were at Blaine, Wash., Apr. 23 (TW), 30 were at Vancouver May 2 (WW), and 27 were counted at Iona I. May 13 *(fide* WW). A Bohemian Waxwing was seen at Vancouver on the late date of Apr. 14 (WW). Cedar Waxwings returned to normal numbers in May after being absent in large portions of the Region during the late winter and early spring. There were seven records of N. Shrikes in the first half of April, six of them from the Vancouver and Bellingham areas, the other from Finley Refuge Apr. 7. A Loggerhead Shrike appeared at the latter place Apr. 14 (FZ).

VIREOS, WARBLERS -- Hutton's Vireos were well reported from Eugene north to Vancouver throughout the report period. Solitary Vireos appeared at many localities in April, one being at N. Vancouver as early as Apr. 8 (RW & WW). A Red-eyed Vireo was noted at Victoria May 22 (ARD). An early Warbling Vireo appeared s. of Bellingham Apr. 10 (NL, *fide* TW), but a major movement did not materialize until the first week of May. Migrant Orange-crowned Warblers were in the Region by early April, but the principal migration evidently transpired the last week of the month, at least in the central portions of the Region. Nashville Warblers were better reported than at any past season from Medford n. to Victoria, where the species is considered rare, and at Vancouver, where it is considered quite unusual, from early in April throughout the rest of the report period, although peak numbers evidently occurred the the first week of May. Yellow Warblers, on the other hand, were said to be unusually scarce at Victoria (ARD). Audubon's and Myrtle Warblers were often noted in late April and early May at Victoria and at Vancouver; a late Audubon's Warbler was seen at Reedsport on the c. Oregon coast May 30 (FZ). Townsend's Warblers were seen at Seattle May 25 (MP), at Corvallis May 18 (WE, *fide* FZ), and at Salem (TM) and Medford (OS) May 20, all rather unexpected places for this species at those dates, from what we know at present about its migration schedule. At least two MacGillivray's Warblers at Vancouver Apr. 23-25 (MiS & WW) were two weeks earlier than normal. Three Yellowthroats at Pitt Meadows Apr. 5 (RK, *fide* WW) were early arrivals also. The Wilson's Warbler at Corvallis Apr. 7 (RJ, *fide F*Z) was extremely early (although another was previously reported at Salem Mar. 23); the main movement of this species at Vancouver occurred in good numbers during the second week of May (WW).

BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES, SPARROWS -- Yellow-headed Blackbirds continue to appear with increasing frequency in the Region; early arrivals were two at Brownsville, Oreg. Apr. 9 (DM, *fide* FZ) and four 6 (one at Westham I. Apr. 11 (WW); a pair was nest-building

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at Conway, Wash. May 24 (HP & RB*, fide* TW). Norman Lavers had good success in finding Bullock's Orioles in appropriate habitat, particularly in Whatcom and Skagit Cos., Wash. after April; he concludes that the species is not as uncommon there as had previously been thought. We suspect this bird is also to be found with regularity in the Columbia R. bottoms, judging from a very limited survey to date of such territory. Brown-headed Cowbirds were widespread in the Region by the end of April. On Apr. 14, a bird showed up at a feeder in Medford where it was present for eight days; it was carefully identified by Otis Swisher after meticulous and well-documented observations under very favorable conditions (and confirmed by Hicks) as a male **Indigo Bunting** just concluding its first nuptial molt; the record is evidently the second for Oregon and the first w. of the Cascade Range. Evening Grosbeaks appeared abundantly at c. Oregon's Santiam Pass in mid-May (GK & HN) and on the campus of the U. of Washington in Seattle during mid-to late May (MP); elsewhere they were scarce or totally absent. Purple Finch proved to be one of the season's most conspicuous birds at Salem's Jory Park (TM), but it was otherwise little reported. A count of 21 Pine Grosbeaks was made in the Skagit Valley Apr. 16 (AG, WW *et al.),* presumably near the Canadian-U.S. border. Two Com. Redpolls were seen in the same vicinity on the same day (JML & MF, *fide* WW), but two others were found in Vancouver Apr. 29 (WW). Oregon's c. Cascades was the only locality in which Pine Siskins were reported to be abundant. Large numbers of Am. Goldfinches were seen at Medford and at Sauvie I., w. of Portland, both May 6. Red Crossbills were generally considered to be common in w. Washington and in Oregon's Cascades during the spring: a ~ was feeding a fledgling at Fort Canby State Park near the Columbia R. mouth May 2 (MP). A pair of Brown Towhees nested in Medford; 9 individuals were counted at nearby Roxy Ann Butte May 6 (OS). The Lark Bunting which spent much of the winter in Portland was in full song and breeding plumage by mid-April, was last seen May 4 *(fide* HN). The two dozen Savannah Sparrows found at Ladner, B.C. Apr. 8 were presumed to be migrants (MiS *fide* WW). *Two pairs* of **Grasshopper Sparrows** were found nesting on the e. side of Fern Ridge Res. w. of Eugene May 21; photos and tape recordings were made before one of the nests was broken up (LM *et al.);* the record is possibly the first confirmed one for w. Oregon. Two **Lark Sparrows** seen near Ilwaco, Wash. May 7 (RVW, *fide* TW), are an addition to the extremely small number of records for this species from w. Washington; 50 Lark Sparrows were counted near Medford May 20 (OS). There were a number of Slate-colored Junco sightings in April from Vancouver and environs. A Brewer's Sparrow at Fern Ridge Res. May 21 (LM) was out-of-place. The Harris' Sparrow which wintered in the Eugene area was last seen Apr. 28 (LM). Golden-crowned Sparrows put on a much-noted and frequently mentioned migration the last week of April and the first week of May. White-throated Sparrows were seen at Corvallis Apr. 25 *(JP, fide* FZ) and at Vancouver May 12 when four were seen *(fide* WW). A male Lapland Longspur turned up at Ocean Shores May 2 (JMo).

OBSERVERS -- Alex Benedict, Brad Boyle, Reade Brown, John Butler, Teresa Colby, John Comer, Al Contraras, A. R. Davidson, William Elliott, Mike Force, Jeff Gilligan, Al Grass, Dennis Heinemann, Joseph Hicks, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Kirk Horn, Robert Jarvis, Stuart Johnston, Lee Kelsey, Richard Knapton, Gordon Knight, Mark Koninendyke. Bob and Virginia Larson, Norman Lavers, J. Michael Luz, Bruce MacDonald, Don MacDonald, Ian MacGregor, Thomas McCamant, Merle McGraw, Larry McQueen, Jim Micuda, Jim Morris, Harry B. Nehls, Dennis R. Paulson, Harte Penttila, Michael Perrone, Joe Pesek, G. A. Poynter, Peter Rothlisberg, Ron Satterfield, Ron Schaefer, Madelon Schouten, Mark Shepard, Michael Shepard, Otis Swisher, J. B. Tatum, John Toochin, Rex Van Wormer, H. R. Vance, Carson Wade. Terrence R. Wahl, Robin Weber, Wayne C. Weber, J. M. Winterbottom, C. Fred Zeillemaker

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*The Nesting Season, 1972*

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

**/ Thomas H. Rogers**

Weather during the summer in the Region fluctuated rather drastically from area to area and as the season progressed, making any generalizations difficult. June might be characterized as cooler than normal and

mostly abnormally wet, with the exception of a stretch from Missoula east through Helena to Bozeman, which tended to be warm and dry. Spokane and Walla Walla had about normal precipitation. July was dry in most localities but rainfall was fairly well distributed through the month and temperatures were quite moderate. A

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rainy spell just after mid-month brought a temperature dip that tied the all-time record for the lowest July *maximum* at Missoula, 48°. Southern interior British Columbia continued cold and wet until July 20. The first half of August was generally hot over the Region, with temperatures common in the 90s and 100s-Walla Walla had 108° on the 7th and 8th. Heavy, unseasonal rains around mid-month brought relief from the heat and put many localities above normal precipitation for the entire month. The extreme weather fluctuations were of short duration, however, and appeared to have little effect upon bird life. The most likely effect was the cool spring and early summer weather. The persistent snow pack in the mountains probably gave serious problems to some species nesting at higher elevations. The cool June was noted as slowing the nesting of Tree Swallows at Fortine, Mont. Rain and low temperatures were considered as interfering with waterfowl hatching at Turnbull Refuge and may have hampered nesting success of some ground nesters such as pheasants and grouse. All in all, however, the summer appeared to have been very favorable for bird life. Most species appeared in normal or better numbers, with many young noted. An exception to this seemed to be the Fortine area, where a number of species were noted in decreased numbers or not at all. A few displacements were noted, mostly of southern species pushing north or of easterly ones farther west than normal.

LOONS AND GREBES -- A Com. Loon summered on Helena Valley reservoir near Helena, Mont. and individual stragglers were noted at Ennis and Three Forks, Mont. June 25, and at Seebe, Alta. June 18. Ten nesting pairs of Red-necked Grebes were reported on the Twin Lakes, west of Inchelium, Ferry Co., and two pairs on Newman L., Spokane Co., Wash. Two pairs brought off broods at Kootenai Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Bonners Ferry, Ida. At Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash. 115 pairs of Eared Grebes were counted and later nearly 100 young were noted during the counting of brood samples. A few W. Grebes nested on L. Helena, near Helena, Mont. Over 150 young Pied-billed Grebes were noted on the brood sample count at Turnbull Refuge and at Umatilla Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Umatilla Co., Ore. 20 young, four times the figure of last year, were produced.

PELICANS AND CORMORANTS -- Fifty to 100 White Pelicans, non-nesters, were seen regularly on lakes in the Helena Valley during the summer. The species was also seen in the Bozeman, Mont. area and up to 25 were seen at Umatilla Refuge. At the refuge Double-crested Cormorants showed a peak of 45 and produced 15 young.

HERONS -- An estimated 100 young Great Blue Herons were produced at two heronries at Red Rock Lakes Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Lima, Mont. At Umatilla Refuge 25 young were counted and at the Lake Helena heronry 34 occupied nests were noted on May 13. Black-crowned Night Herons produced 25 young at Umatilla Refuge. The species was also reported from Richland, Moses Lake, Yakima Indian Reservation and Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash. Am. Bitterns were reported as more common than ever before at Kootenai Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, where about 20 were estimated to be present.

WATERFOWL -- Of about 60 Trumpeter Swan cygnets hatched at Red Rock Lakes Refuge 20 survived to the end of the summer report period, which is about normal. The wintering population of this species at Turnbull Refuge was reduced from 32 to 30 by the loss of 2 adults. Four pairs of the birds produced 13 young, of which 4 survived to date. The Estimated production of Canada Geese in Boundary Co., Ida., was 400, and at Umatilla Refuge, 300, 65 of which came from artificial nesting platforms. About 80 young were produced at Turnbull Refuge. Nesting sites along the Kootenai R. in Lincoln Co., Mont. were destroyed by the Libby Dam project. The species nested for the first time at Conboy Nat'l Wildlife Refuge south of Yakima. Mallards appeared to be doing at least as well as usual. Kootenai Refuge reported an unusually good nesting year, with about 1000 young produced. Fifty pairs of Gadwall at Turnbull succeeded in raising 150 young, the birds at Red Rock Lakes produced 140 and Umatilla Refuge showed 40 young. Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal continued to show good reproduction, the two species together vying with the Mallard for number of young. In the area around Fortine, Mont. these two species were unusually scarce, however. The uncommon Wood Duck was noted nesting at Kootenai Refuge. near Spokane and at Turnbull Refuge, where 9 pairs produced about 25 young. Red Rock Lakes reported the greatest number of young Redhead, 794. Turnbull had about 1100, which is 50 per cent below last year's figure. The former refuge also reported the largest production of Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, scaup and Ruddy Duck-over 3000 and nearly 1300 respectively, of the latter two species. A brood of 11 young Lesser Scaup on Lost L. in Lincoln Co., Mont. was the first breeding record for the species in that area in fifty-two years' observation (WW). The Com. Goldeneye was a common nester at Kootenai Refuge with 20 broods, and in the Fortine area with 16 broods. The latter area also had 16 broods of Barrow's Goldeneye and Red Rock Lakes reported 50 young produced. Half-grown young were noted at Avalanche L in Glacier National Park, Mont. July 16 and Red Rock Lakes Refuge counted 28 young. Total duck production at the latter locality was down slightly from normal. A pair of Harlequin Ducks was seen beside the golf course at Leavenworth, Wash. May 29. Supposedly the high water in Icicle Creek drove them out. (WD). Lower hatching success of many waterfowl species at Turnbull Refuge was attributed to cool, wet weather. A few Hooded Mergansers brought off broods at Kootenai, Turnbull and Conboy Refuges and near Spokane.

VULTURES AND HAWKS -- The Turkey Vulture was sighted in the Bozeman area; at Kootenai Refuge; near Cusick, Spokane and Sprague, Wash.; in Morrow Co., Ore. and at Conboy L. south of Yakima, where 8 were seen June 11. Two *White-tailed Kites* were reported seen in July, apparently in the vicinity of Bonners Ferry, Ida.-no further details (LP). A pair of Goshawks succeeded in raising 2 young in s. Morrow Co., Ore. The only sightings of the Ferruginous Hawk were west of Browning, Mont. July 7 (PDS & SMS), and near Clarkston, Wash. July 27 (MJP). A nest of the Bald Eagle was found at the n. end of Flathead L. in Montana.

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The Marsh Hawk had great success at Umatilla Refuge, producing 30 young, but to the north, at Walla Walla and Yakima, Wash. the species seemed scarce. Ospreys appeared to be holding their own, with sightings and nests reported from various localities. A nest of the scarce Prairie Falcon was observed near Manhattan, Mont. (SN). The only other sightings were of one at Penland L. about 19 mi. s.e. of Heppner, Ore. in Umatilla National Forest, Aug. 6 (BT), one near Brothers; Deschutes Co. Ore. June 24 (HN), and between Dayville and Mt. Vernon. Ore., June 18 (OS).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- A female White-tailed Ptarmigan with 5 young was noted on Queest Mtn. near Malakwa, west of Revelstoke, B.C. July 23 (AE). The species was also sighted at Logan Pass, Glacier Nat'l Park July 16 (PDS & SMS). Several Bobwhites were heard calling at Walla Walla (CR) and one was heard repeatedly in the Spokane Valley east of Spokane (THR). The State Game Department has not made releases of these birds for many years but sportsmen released some at Medical L., Wash. this spring (KO). A wet hatching season in the Vernon, B.C. area appeared to have heavily reduced the broods of Ring-necked Pheasant there, but production of this species and Gray Partridge at Spokane was believed good. In the Kootenai Valley around Bonners Ferry the Idaho Fish and Game Dept. released 2000 **Green Pheasants**, with success unreported. A brood of 5 young Turkeys near Moyie Springs in n. Idaho resulted from a plant of 15 birds by the Idaho Fish and Game Dept. this spring. Four adult and 10 young Turkeys were seen July 11 south of Heppner, Ore.

CRANES AND RAILS -- Young of the year of the Sandhill Crane were estimated at 15, about normal, at Red Rock Lakes Refuge. A pair with 2 well-grown young was seen at Harrison L. near Harrison, Mont. July 30 (RAH & PDS), but a pair with 2 young June 8 near LaGrande, Ore. later lost their brood (DH). The Virginia Rail was reported only for near Sprague, Wash., one on July 14. A family of **Yellow Rails** was reported seen regularly near Peshastin, Wash. (RO). Forty or 50 breeding pairs of Sora were believed to be on Kootenai Refuge and numerous marshes in c. Oregon seemed to have at least one pair each (HN). Am. Coot were abundant nesters as usual, with Red Rock Lakes reporting the highest reproduction, 1116.

SHOREBIRDS -- A Killdeer nest with eggs on Apr. 20 at Fortine was the second earliest record in fifty years there (WW). An Am. Golden Plover was reported at Banff, B.C. May 6 (BG). Com. Snipe at Umatilla Refuge produced 35 young compared to 8 last year, and the Long-billed Curlew there produced 250 young, compared to 190 in 1971. A pair near Vernon, B.C. had young hatched before June 3. The Upland Plover was reported only in the vicinity of Browning, Mont. in June (CYD). Near the Tri-cities (Pasco-Richland-Kennewick, Wash.) 19 Greater Yellowlegs were observed on the puzzling date of *June 26.*

GULLS AND TERNS -- Eight imm. Bonaparte's Gulls, not common in the western part of the Region, were observed at Soda L., Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge. Othello, Wash. July 15. Forster's Tern produced 60 young at Umatilla Refuge, four times the number last year. The birds were also observed at Kootenai Refuge, and at Potholes Reservoir and westward in Washington. 12 on July 15. The Caspian Tern produced 150 young at Umatilla Refuge and the species was seen at Columbia Refuge , 2 birds, and at Wenas Creek near Yakima, 1 bird. The highest number of Black Terns was reported from Turnbull Refuge, nearly 230.

OWLS -- The rarely reported **Flammulated Owl** was noted at Winthrop, Wash. June 11 (OK). The Great Horned Owl, with ten well-distributed sightings, was the most-reported owl: nesting was noted at several localities. *Six* Pygmy Owls were heard just after dark near Dixie Meadow. s.e. of Ochoco Reservoir near Prineville, Ore. 24 (HN). One was called up by a tape recording of its call, along Cooper Mtn. Road near Chelan, Wash. June 11 (REW). The species was also noted near Missoula July 14 (PDS & SMS) and in the Tower Mt. foothills about 3 mi. s.e. of Spokane. The scarce Great Gray Owl was reported only from three places, all in Montana: s. of Bozeman, July 29 (CYD, RAH & LM), and in the Crazy Mts. east of Wilsall, a pair with young. in mid-July (HC & SMcC). Burrowing Owls were observed at 7 localities in c. Oregon and Washington. Fourteen young were produced at Umatilla Refuge. Long-eared Owls were noted only in Oregon, where a nest with 2 young was observed near Heppner May 27 (BT) and a peak number of 4, with 2 young produced, was noted at Umatilla Refuge. About 4 pairs of Short-eared Owls were believed nesting at Kootenai Refuge and Umatilla Refuge had two young reared and a peak population of 12. From 1 to 3 birds were seen in the Baker, Ore. area during June.

POORWILLS AND NIGHTHAWKS -- A Poorwill with a broken wing was found at Spokane June 4 (THR) and 3 were heard July 24 w. of that city. Two were seen just after dark near Dixie Meadow near Ochoco Reservoir June 24 (HN) and one was heard July 1 to the west of the above locality, 25 mi. w. of Maupin just within the forested area at the base of the Cascade Range (HN). The Com. Nighthawk, the last summer resident to arrive in the Region, was evidently still migrating at Spokane June 25, when a flock of about *100* was seen.

SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS -- Black Swifts were noted in Glacier Nat'l Park in June (HC & AP) and the species was seen more often than usual in the vicinity of Wenatchee, Wash. Vaux's Swifts were observed at a few localities, mostly in the mountains. A flock of *300-400* swifts, appearing too dark for Vaux's and so more like Chimney Swifts, circled a chimney in downtown LaGrande, Ore. at about dark July 26. They remained about a week but on Aug. 16 about 100 appeared over the same chimney (EB). White-throated Swifts were seen in the Bozeman area; at Lenore L., Grant Co. Wash., and a single bird near Bend, Ore. in the Crooked R. Gorge July 10 (JR). The uncommon Black-chinned Hummingbird was noted regularly in small numbers at Fortine, Mont. and on the Little Spokane R. near Spokane. It was seen occasionally at Kootenai Refuge and a *male* and a female were seen at a feeder in the Ahtanum Valley near Yakima July 20. A nest of

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the Rufous Hummingbird was found at Wetmore in n.e. Wheeler Co., Ore. (BT) and a nest of the Calliope was found July 2 at Cherryville, B.C (SD).

WOODPECKERS -- A few Pileated Woodpeckers were reported in mountain areas, with nesting noted in the Tower Mt. area near Spokane and in the Yakima area. Lewis' Woodpeckers, also rather widely reported, were seen in the largest number among the oaks at Ft. Simcoe, Yakima area, 30 birds Aug. 17. At Fortine the birds have not been seen for two years. The uncommon Williamson's Sapsucker was described as abundant about the high meadows above 5000 ft. in the Ochoco Mts. of Oregon, with many young noted July 1 (HN). Two nests were found in s. Morrow Co, Ore. (BT) and 2 birds were feeding young on Huckleberry Mt. w. of Springdale, Wash. June 17. A White-headed Woodpecker was seen there on the same day. Single birds were seen in the Yakima area and they were considered common at Wheeler Point n. of Winlock, Ore. (RF). The scarce Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was found nesting in the Bridger Mts. east of Bozeman (Mr. & Mrs. EH) and in two places in Umatilla Nat'l Forest, s.e. Morrow Co., Ore. (BT). The N. Three-toed Woodpecker was reported only at Banff Township, B.C, where a nest with young was found July 8 (JGP & RSP), and in the Bridger and Gallatin Mts. of Montana.

FLYCATCHERS -- At least 3 Ash-throated Flycatchers were observed at Crab Creek and Upper Goose .L. on Columbia Refuge July 15 and one was seen between Yakima and Goldendale June 11. Many Gray Flycatchers were seen in sage brush and old growth juniper in n.c. Oregon (HN) and one was closely observed at Teal Lakes camp area, Columbia Refuge June 13 (TW).

LARKS AND SWALLOWS -- The breeding bird census between Mabton and Prosser, Wash. revealed *451* Horned Larks, the largest number in five years. Swallows appeared to be doing well, with Bank and Cliff Swallows apparently the most abundant. At least 200 birds and 100 new nests of the latter species were noted in the vicinity of St. John, Wash.

CHICKADEES AND NUTHATCHES – Chestnut-backed Chickadees were noted only along the Bumping R. n.w. of Yakima, July 6, and along Icicle, French and Jack Creeks w. of Leavenworth, Wash., where they were common, Aug. 11-15. A banded White-breasted Nuthatch at Helena fledged 6 young from 6 eggs in a nest box; she fledged 7 young from 7 eggs in the same box the three previous years.

WRENS -- House Wrens, formerly common in the Fortine, Mont. area, have been absent there for several years. They seemed to be doing well at many other localities. In a four-day, 22 mi. circuit from Icicle Creek at least 17 Winter Wrens, some still singing, others being fed, were observed. The uncommon Bewick's Wren was noted only in the vicinity of Yakima: single birds during June and July at Ahtanum, Cowiche and Toppenish Creeks.

MIMIC THRUSHES AND THRUSHES -- The **Mockingbird** keeps pushing into the Region. One was seen on May 25 on Hanford Atomic Energy Reservation about 35 mi. e. of Moxee City, and perhaps the same bird was seen in the same area June 16 (AN). Another sighting was of one at Vernon, B.C. July 8-9 (BAS). Over *250* singing Sage Thrashers were counted in four stops on a breeding bird survey through a sage brush flat near Brothers, Ore. June 15 (HN). Two-3 of the birds were seen on June 27 & 29 in a canyon near Asotin, Wash. The species apparently has not been previously reported from the eastern tier of counties of the state (JWW). A Hermit Thrush nest with 3 eggs was found along Sullivan Creek, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. July 1 (REW & CEW). The W. Bluebird fledged 18 young in 5 nestings near the Boise-Cascade campground on Wenas Creek n.w. of Yakima. On a farm near Spokane the birds occupied 6 nest boxes, bringing off 2 broods in each of 5 of them (EM). The species was reported as nesting at Missoula (PL W) and 2 ads. and 2 imms. were seen near Viola, Ida. where nesting was reported (JWW). Mountain Bluebirds appeared to be doing well in many rural areas.

PIPITS AND STARLINGS -- The Water Pipit was reported only from Glacier Nat'l Park and Sprague's Pipit was noted at a new summer site near Three Forks, Mont. June 25 (RG & PDS). The Starling occurred in flocks in the Yakima area, apparently because of the discontinued control program. The breeding bird survey north of Baker, Ore., showed nearly twice as many as last year. Reporters in other areas generally reported many of the birds, or perhaps ignored them.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS -- Red-eyed Vireos were recorded all along McKay Creek and up to the crest of the *Ochoco Mts.* east of *Prineville.* Ore. and later several pairs were noted along Ochoco Creek to the south, strongly suggesting an extension of breeding range (HN). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen feeding a young cowbird out of the nest near Pyramid L., Jasper Nat'l Park July 13 (JGP & RSP). The Magnolia Warbler was reported only from Banff, 2 on May 23. Townsend's Warbler was very common and presumed nesting in the Ochoco Mts. above 5000 ft. (HN). A **Palm Warbler** was identified June 26 in the Dishman Hills 2 mi. s.e. of Spokane (WH; JA). An **Ovenbird** stunned itself against a window in Richland, Wash. June 5 and was photographed before being released (REW). A *male* Am. Redstart showed up July 21 at *Baker, Ore.* and was last seen on Aug. 14 (A W).

BLACKBIRDS -- A pair of Bobolinks was feeding young in the nest at Fortine, Mont. July 5 and 2 broods of young were awing Aug. 1 there. Six singing male bobolinkswere noted near Lumby, B.C., June 1, and 2 were at Banff May 27. The species was observed in the Bozeman area; at Moravia, s. of Bonners Ferry, Ida. near Cusick, Wash.,4 on June 10 and a *male* on July 2; on Yakima Indian Reservation, several in early July, and in the Bowen valley near Baker, Ore. June 7-8. W. Meadowlarks apparently had good nesting success. The breeding bird census w. of Richland yielded 72, over three times the highest previous number. and the survey at Baker gave a number nearly twice that of 1971. A breeding population of 200 Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Kootenai Refuge was up from about 20 last year, apparently because

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of water development. Brown-headed Cowbirds were mentioned in reports from nine localities, with no evidence that their overall numbers had changed.

FINCHES -- Evening Grosbeaks seem to be nesting at lower elevations in the Spokane area. A young bird seen in the Tower Mt. foothills just to the s.e. indicated nesting in this 3600 ft. elevation area and ads. were seen in Spokane in June and July, and feeding young along the Little Spokane R. in July. A **Purple Finch** was again seen and heard on Mt. Spokane, Spokane Co., Wash., on June 3 (FBH). Besides the usual observations of House Finches in the w. part of the Region, the birds were seen at Bozeman again and in old growth juniper near Brothers, Ore., along with Cassin's Finch (HN). Pine Grosbeaks were noted in the Bozeman area; in Pasayten Wilderness of n.c. Washington, 2 on July 4, and at Lower Klonaqua L. and Meadow Creek in Icicle Creek drainage w. of Leavenworth. Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were observed on two dates in July in Glacier Nat'! Park and May 25 in Jasper Nat'l Park, and the scarce Black Rosy Finch was observed on Granite Peak in the Beartooth Range w. of Red Lodge, Mont. Aug. 12 (DRS). Red Crossbills were not noted in the s. interior of British Columbia, where the cone crop was reported as very poor. However the species was quite prevalent in areas of conifers in United States areas of the Region. Ten White-winged Crossbills were seen at Banff May 21 (JB).

SPARROWS -- The little-observed Grasshopper Sparrow was seen in numbers near Cusick, Wash. June 10 and 3 were seen w. of Potpoles Reservoir near Moses L., Wash. July 15. Many were observed on June 27 & 29 on a mesa bordering a canyon and wheat field about 5 mi. from Asotin, Wash. Sage Sparrows were reported only in the Clarkston, Wash. vicinity and about 35 mi. e. of Moxee City. The latter observation included 4 imm. birds. A Brewer's Sparrow nest with 3 eggs was found near Bozeman June 18 (RAH). The species was found to be much more abundant in mixed juniper and sagebrush than in sagebrush only, in the Brothers area (HN). Two singing male White-crowned Sparrows were noted in mid-July at Logan Pass, Glacier Nat'l Park and one was observed at Hat Pt. at 7000 ft., n. of Enterprise, Ore. July 1. Two singing male (Gambel's) were noted in the Inonoaklin Valley 5 mi. n.w. of Edgewood on Lower Arrow L., B.C. June 24. The species was also observed at Bozeman and at Canmore, Alta., one on June 18.

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*The Nesting Season, 1972*

**GREAT BASIN - CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION**

**/ Hugh E. Kingery**

The spring's hot dry weather continued during the summer, bringing excellent nesting conditions to the wildlife refuges and promoting second broods of songbirds in many locales. In some desert areas, however, the conditions were too dry; at Vernon, Utah, Brewer's and Vesper Sparrows and robins nested 2–3 weeks early and had only 3 eggs instead of the usual 4. Highlights of the season were the first confirmed nestings of the Scott's Oriole in Idaho and the Black-throated Sparrow in Oregon (and suspected Orange-crowned Warblers in Colorado and Mockingbird in Idaho); returning rarities like Utah's Rivoli's Hummingbird and Colorado's Boat-tailed Grackles; 2 Parasitic Jaegers in Utah; and huge populations of Red Cross· bills and Pine Siskins, along with lesser numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Evening Grosbeaks. Last year we reported on the calamitous decline of many nesting

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species at Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area on the Great Salt Lake, where almost every nesting species had dropped to 10-20 per cent of their 10year average populations. This year we can report an improvement: most species improved over last year, but none came to better than 30 per cent of the 10-year average.

PREDATORS -- The nesting season brings opportunities for observation of predator action. This season we learned of nest predation by weasels, pigs, chipmunks, snakes, parasites, and botulism, but mostly man. At Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo., nest failure analysis came up with these figures: 60% destroyed by avian predators, 11% by mammals, 21% abandoned, 4% flooded, and 4% unknown. In the report which follows, man's depredations are detailed under egrets, cormorants, and Cliff Swallows.

LOONS, GREBES, PELICANS, CORMORANTS -- Scattered Com. Loons summered in the Region, one all summer at Camas N.W.R., Idaho; 2 in non-breeding plumage at Curlew Valley, 70 mi. s. of Pocatello on July 15; a pair July 30 at Yellowstone Nat'l Park; and single birds at Hotchkiss, Colo. June 16-17 (FRL) and Gunnison, Colo. July 6-8. Malheur had 800 Eared Grebe nests, down 100 from last year, while the Klamath Refuges produced 7000 young. In Jackson Co., Colo. there were 70 occupied nests July 30 at L. John (HEK). Western Grebes produced 3800 young at Klamath Refuges, Ore. and Calif., and 700 at Stillwater W.M.A., Nev. At Stillwater, the breeding season spanned three months with adults incubating eggs from May 2 through at least Aug. 8. Farmington Bay had a breeding population of 200 pairs. White Pelicans produced 1300 young at Klamath and 2500 at Pyramid L., Nev.-down 16 per cent-(LDN); but Farmington Bay's breeders doubled to 600 pairs. At Malheur pelicans reached a peak population of 1650 on July 24, but they have not bred there for 12 years. Double-crested Cormorants brought off 900 young at Klamath, 675 at Pyramid L., 115 at Bear River N.W.R., Utah, and had 70 nests at Malheur, 60 nests at Mud L. near Roberts, Idaho, and 50 at Farmington Bay. At Pyramid L. Superintendent Larry Napier points out that bird production varies considerably, showing no trends. The major factor in nesting success probably is human' interference; one group landing on an island and walking through can cause substantial losses of pelicans and cormorants from gull depredation.

HERONS, EGRETS, IBIS -- Great Blue Herons produced 400 young at Bear R. and 600 at Klamath. Nests increased to 150 at Malheur, along with 750 of Black-crowned Night Heron. Snowy Egrets enjoyed a good hatch in the Great Basin: at Mud L.; 350 at Bear R.; 100 at Fish Springs N.W.R. near Dugway, Utah; 50 breeding pairs at Farmington, and 80 at Malheur along with 285 Com. Egrets there. However, Snowy Egrets had a disastrous year in the San Luis Valley (near Monte Vista and Saguache), Colo. Where usually hundreds of young are produced, only 5 young fledged this year. The cause of the problem is three-fold: low water, pesticides, and especially man. Operators of nearby private fish hatcheries have been shooting and trapping egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons (RAR). Around Pocatello, where a similar problem has existed for several years, federal enforcement has somewhat ameliorated the situation. The hatchery operators have begun to use methods to frighten the birds away. The White-faced Ibis colony at Carson L., Nev., has become significant because it does not show the drastic decreases in breeding population, as do those in Utah and Texas. In 1972 the estimated 1300 nests amounted to twice the 1970 total (LDN). On the Great Salt Lake, Bear R. produced 700 young this year, and Farmington had a hopeful 700 breeding pairs. In the San Luis Valley only a few fledglings survived-but for unknown reasons; their lack of success is not due to fish hatchery slaughter as ibises have a different diet (RAR).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS -- Trumpeter Swans had an off-year at Yellowstone this year-only one cygnet seen compared with 6 last year. Malheur's 7 nests produced 17 cygnets. Malheur did not match last year's record goose production: only 1630 this year compared with 2400 last year. At Deer Flat N.W.R., Idaho, the goose population reached 700 on July 31 (HES); Klamath had 3000 and Bear R. 1500 young, with Farmington Bay showing 120 breeding pairs. Among the wildlife refuges, Malheur reported decreased production, owing in part to extra habitat available off-refuge. The duck production of 30,800 dropped 25 per cent from last year. Klamath produced 38,000 ducks, an improvement over the past 2 years; notably improved were Redhead on Tule L. Stillwater had the same number of breeding ducks as last year, but dabblers (Mallards, Shovelers, Cinnamon Teal) increased 17 per cent and divers dropped 23 per cent (mostly Ruddies). Bear R. had 11,160 young, including 7000 Gadwalls and 2500 Redheads; neighboring Farmington Bay had 4070 breeding pairs including 1000 Ruddies and 1000 Cinnamon Teal-the total up from 2700 pairs last year. Monte Vista N.W.R. showed improved per-nest success but with only two-thirds as many nests; total duck production was 10,000, the lowest in 10 years. Duck production in Jackson Co., Colo., dropped, but while Arapaho N.W.R. produced 1530 young, a slight increase, its sister refuges, Hutton L. and Pathfinder N.W.R.s, Wyo., showed slight decreases, with 659 young between them (RFK). A Green-winged Teal nest was found in Summit Co. (HEK), and a brood in Gunnison Co., Colo., both possibly first nesting records for their respective counties. Ring-necked Ducks may be spreading their recorded Colorado nesting locations: up to 14 of them inhabited ponds around Hahns Peak during May and June, and they were observed all summer near Durango. Barrow's Goldeneye did well in Yellowstone, with 3 broods observed. A female Harlequin Duck escorted 4 young around Hellroaring R. in Yellowstone on July 24. Surprising was a male Hooded Merganser on Yellowstone R. in the Park on June 25. Also of interest were the several pairs of Com. Mergansers on the Dolores R. near Durango all summer and Red-breasted Mergansers at Bear R. in June and August (WS, MRC).

HAWKS, EAGLES -- Goshawks apparently did well, with 6 nests reported and 6 other locations observing them. We had 5 observations of Sharp-shinned

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Hawks and 8 of Cooper's Hawks. West of Salt Lake City Red-tailed Hawks did well, with 6 of 7 nests successful, producing 13 young: the other nest was too near the road. Two Swainson's Hawk nests failed in the same area, and Malheur had no nesting pair this summer. However in s.e. Idaho they nested successfully, nearby at Snowville, Utah a flock of 20 on June 22 apparently consisted of non-breeders, as nearby nesting hawks already were sitting (CHT). In the area west of Salt Lake City, 9 of 10 Ferruginous Hawks' nests succeeded, fledging 21 young. In s.e. Idaho the Ferruginous Hawks which hatched young did well, but a disturbing number of nest desertions occurred with either no eggs or no hatching-a situation possibly typical of this species. The *male* fledge before the larger female , all had left their nests by June 30. Many reported Golden Eagles this summer, but the only definite news is bad: Malheur's nesting pairs have dropped from 10 in 1969 to 4 this year. A nest with 4 young near Denver lost 2 of them (legally) to falconers *(fide* SB). We received no reports from the n.e. California and s. Oregon nesting centers of the Bald Eagle. Marsh Hawk seemed down at Pocatello, with fewer sky dances this spring and only one nest found. It continued its disastrous decline at Farmington Bay: 10-year average of 50 pairs, 8 pairs last year, 6 pairs this year. Ospreys nested successfully in Grand Co., Colo. (2 nests–JWJ): Durango: Nampa: Ashton, Idaho (several, CHT); and Yellowstone (3). We received no report from Eagle L., Calif., a concentration area for Osprey nesting.

GROUSE, CRANE, COOT -- Many Blue Grouse bred around the Mammoth Lakes, Mono Co., Calif., and around Hahns Peak, Colo., and both Blue and Ruffed Grouse produced young at Crater L. Nat'l Park, Ore. White-tailed Ptarmigan had successful broods on Mt. Audubon and Longs Peak in Colorado's Front Range (HEK). At Clear L., Calif., Sage Grouse had fair production, with an average of 6 chicks. Sandhill Cranes had low nesting success at Malheur; on Aug. I only 1550 birds were present (last year, 458 breeding birds): we have no report from Grays L. N. W.R., Idaho, one of the principal crane nesting locations. At Farmington Bay, 3000 pairs of Am. Coots bred: at Stillwater, 760 pairs; a 67 per cent decline for unknown reasons.

PLOVERS, SANDPIPERS -- Snowy Plovers produced 25 young at Bear R., with similar numbers estimated from the 10 pairs at Farmington Bay. One was seen at Alvord Basin, Ore. June 11. The limited reports of successful Killdeer nesting (Bear R., 350 young; Farmington, 75 pairs; Durango, "thick") belie the abundance of this plover in our Region. Mountain Plover nested again west of Pueblo, Colo. At Nampa 90 Long-billed Curlew were found July 19. The 6 breeding pairs at Farmington compare with 2 pairs last year. Solitary Sandpipers appeared at Sheridan, Wyo., and Nampa in July. Willets produced 200 young at Klamath, 105 young at Bear R., and the 30 pairs at Farmington showed a recovery toward the 10-year norm, from the 7 pairs of last year. Flocks of 62 Willets and 42 Marbled Godwits were unusually early and large for their July 14 date at Sheridan (PIH). Am. Avocets produced 2100 young both at Stillwater (down 10-20 per cent) and at Bear R. There were 800 young at Klamath (best in 3 years): and 300 pairs nested at Farmington. Black-necked Stilts had good success at Bear R., and Farmington's 200 nesting pairs doubled last year's population; but the 1000 young at Stillwater represented a 20-30 per cent drop.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS -- Two **Parasitic Jaegers** at Bear R. seemed far from home at an odd time for wandering; they are accidental in Utah. California Gulls nested at Antero Res., Colo. (150 young-RAR); Bear R. (500 young); Farmington Bay: Klamath (3000 young of California and Ring-billed): and Mono L. (200 breeding pairs). Franklin's Gulls increased from 300 nests last year to 800 this year at Farmington; at Malheur from 185 in 1969 to 500 nests this year. At Mud L. were 500 nests and at Bear R. 250 young fledged. Farmington Bay's nesting pairs of Forster's Terns doubled to 300; at Bear R. they raised 250 young. At Farmington, nesting Caspian Terns increased to 20 pairs, from 4 last year. At Bear R. Black Terns produced 400 young.

PIGEONS, CUCKOOS, OWLS -- Fledgling **Band-tailed Pigeons** at Mammoth L. confirmed the first known nesting for that species on the east side of the Sierras, and probably had a relationship to last year's w. Nevada invasion. Mourning Doves had good success this year with hot, dry weather in many areas, and at Eldora, Colo., and Crater L. they were more common than recently. The only Oregon **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** records in 25 years came from 2 different birds at Malheur on June 6. Black-billed Cuckoos were seen at Sheridan as usual and at Pocatello-unusual (LP). The only Barn Owl reported came from Alvord Basin June 11. Screech Owls, probably like most owls more common than the few reports suggest, had successful nests at Malheur and Salt Lake City (GLK); one appeared in Springdale June 2. Summer Pygmy Owl reports came from Bryce Canyon Nat'l Park (MRC) and Burns, Ore. (CDL). Burrowing Owls met varying success; in s.e. Oregon 14 dens were known to be active, and 7 young debuted at Bear R. No young fledged at Pocatello, but 20 came from 4 dens in Curlew Valley. Three Long-eared Owl nests west of Salt Lake City failed, while one fledged 3 young at Malheur. Few areas reported Short-eared Owls with Bear R. having only 6 young, but Farmington's 6 nesting pairs was an improvement over last year's 2, yet insignificant against the 10-year average of 50. Saw-whet Owls, rarely reported from our Region, produced young in Mono Co., and possibly in R.M.N.P., where an imm. became a road casualty (ACr).

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS -- The Black Swift appeared for the second year on Mt. Evans west of Denver (DSI). At Springdale the dry summer and consequent dearth of flowers brought record numbers of hummingbirds into town, but at Dubois none appeared. Interesting Black-chinned observations came from McCoy, Pikes Peak, and Ogden, Utah (nest with 2 eggs-MLK). Broad-tailed Hummingbirds thrived as usual in Colorado, with late nests found July 15 at R.M.N.P. (CC) and July 25 at Hahns Peak, with 2 young. The first Rufous Hummingbirds to arrive came to far-south Springdale July 5, Bailey, Colo. July 9, and Yellowstone Park July 10. In Mono Co. a Calliope Hummingbird

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nested within sight of a Goshawk nest. For the second year in a row, at the same feeder, Springdale hosted a **Rivoli's Hummingbird**, from May 23 through the end of July.

 

***Adult Blue-throated Hummingbird, Rock Creek Canyon, s. of Colorado Springs, Colo. July 30, 1972. First state record? Photo / Dominic A. Bartol, Jr.***

WOODPECKERS -- A Pileated Woodpecker record came from Crater L. June 25. Lewis' Woodpeckers were numerous over s. Colorado: at LaVeta a pair driven out of a nest hole by Starlings found another spot and successfully fledged young. A White-headed Woodpecker was feeding young at Burns, Ore. June 14. At Mammoth L. a woodpecker appeared at a feeder which was identified as a hybrid White-headed x Hairy (JD).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS -- The E. Kingbirds failed to nest this year at Honey L. Calif., although in May they had returned to last year's nest site. Several were seen at Nampa and McCoy in June and July and one at Dubois June 23. W. Kingbirds had an unusually successful breeding season at Springdale (C & LH). Pueblo's **Black Phoebes**, Colorado's first *(Am. Birds* 26:789), struggled through 3 unsuccessful nesting attempts, the third wiped out by a flash flood; the last observation occurred Aug. 5. Say's Phoebes had successful nesting, with second broods noted at Durango, Springdale. and Malheur. The Least Flycatcher seen several times at Beulah, Colo., was west and south of of its normal summer range (VT). Despite the success of other flycatchers, two observers, at Salt Lake City (GLK) and Evergreen (DSt), reported fewer W. Wood Pewees this summer. Cliff Swallows continue to take advantage of man's structures for nest sites-and sometimes to suffer for their choices. In Colorado they nest on dams under bridges and on mountain condominiums (where they are not always welcome). Some condominium managers attempt to dislodge the pesky birds from their modern-day cliffs with brooms and garden hoses, at Eleven-Mile Res., in Colo., where they tried to nest on ‘old fashioned’ cliffs. Vandals destroyed 300 nests between July, 15-29 (BMM). At Durango use of an historical nesting cliff has decreased over the past few years until this year it was abandoned altogether; hopefully this reflects movement to another nest site rather than the result of spraying in the valley. Near Durango the swallows still occupied other nest sites at Dolores and Falfa. At Bear R. they produced 450 young, and 200 were counted at Nampa June 11.



***Black Phoebe. St. Charles River, Colo. Summer, 1972. First Colorado record.***



***Nesting (unsuccessful) site of Black Phoebe at St. Charles River, near Pueblo, Colo. Photos* / *Michael P. Schultz****.*

JAYS, CHICKADEES. NUTHATCHES -- Blue Jays pushed only to the edge of the mountains this year; they nested at Colorado Springs (BMM) and were seen all summer at Cheyenne (AKG). The Scrub Jay seen at Eldora this spring was an imm. and it attended a feeder there daily from June 28 through the end of the period. Pińon Jays thrived in w. Colorado (RSy, FRL). Chickadees reversed their usual nesting sites at Durango with a pair of Black-capped nesting up in the spruce forest and a pair of Mountains corning down to the pińon/juniper forest to nest. Observers at Crater L. found a Chestnut-backed Chickadee at a new location in the s.e. corner of the park. Red-breasted Nuthatches have appeared throughout the area, but in small numbers and

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apparently not uniformly. Reports came from along the Front Range from Cheyenne south to Pueblo (nests found at Pueblo and Dillon,) with no reports from the rest of w. Colorado or Wyoming; fewer at Salt Lake City (GLK); several arrived in July at Malheur and at Camas, the latter in habitat lacking conifers for miles.

WRENS, THRASHERS, THRUSHES -- Many observers noted groups of House Wrens nesting: 6 nests in 100 yards at Brighton, Utah (GLK).; 6 nests in a garden at LaVeta, Colo. (LAC); second nesting at Evergeen; abundant and successful nesting at Durango, Zion Nat'l Park, Unionville, Nev., and many other locations. On July 26 both a House Wren and 2 Winter Wrens appeared at Crater L., where both are uncommon. Further north than usual, a Bewick's Wren sang continuously and began building a nest in a yard in Colorado Springs from June 18-21; it departed without success, having found no mate. Long-billed Marsh Wrens did well at Farmington Bay and at Bear R. (600 young). **Mockingbirds** carrying food June 27 in juniper/ sage flats near Howe, Idaho provided evidence of nesting, not yet documented in Idaho (CHT). In Curlew Valley another was observed June 21. Malheur's first appeared July 24, and Sheridan had one Aug. 12. In the bird's more normal range, Springdale reported it unusually abundant (C & LH) but Durango and Cortez, Colo. had few. Robins had a successful nesting season, it seems, with special comments coming from Colorado Springs, Evergreen, Zion, Nampa, and Cheyenne ("more nestlings survived the neighborhood cats" AKG). An unusual number of reporters commented on Veeries; observers saw them during June and July at Nampa, Sheridan, Dolores, Colo. (WWB), and on the Yampa, Colo. B.B.S. (LW); and found a nest at Woodland Park, Colo. June 26 with 4 eggs (DL). Although supposedly regular in our Region, observers do not report it frequently. Mountain Bluebirds apparently had a good year in many places: Crater L., Dubois, Idaho Falls (46 in a 3-mile stretch July 12-KAM), and Evergreen; but none were seen from June 18-Aug. 10 at Eldora, and at Yellowstone fewer appeared, although they had good nesting success. Cedar Waxwings-irregular and unusual-were seen at Nampa June 1; Jackson, Wyo. (MH); Steamboat Springs, Colo. June 14 (FRL); and fledglings fed on honeysuckle berries in Durango after leaving the nest.

VIREOS, WARBLERS -- Both Gray and Solitary Vireos occur in w. Colorado, often in the same pińon/juniper habitat.

**------**S.A.**-----**

An eastern observer points out that because the Rocky Mt. form of the Solitary *(V. s. plumbeus)* differs markedly from the eastern subspecies, having a gray head like the Gray Vireo, it may confuse eastern birdwatchers and be misidentified as the Gray Vireo (FRL).

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Two possible nesting sites for Orange-crowned Warblers indicate that its nest will shortly be found in Colorado: they exhibited a pair of "very protective" adults at McCoy and a territorial male at Avon (RLB). A Nashville Warbler, never found nesting in Colorado, was singing at the same place at Yampa, Colo. June 17 and July 15 (LW). Ovenbirds stayed all summer at Rye, Colo. (DAG) and occurred in both June and July at Sheridan. Observers "most surprisingly" saw no Yellow-breasted Chats at Springdale during the summer. Observers at Pueblo speculated as to whether the dry conditions caused a few Wilson's Warblers to remain on the river bottom instead of on their timberline nesting grounds. At Gunnison a pair of Am. Redstarts acted, during June and July, as if they were nesting, and another male was singing.

BLACKBIRDS -- At Malheur researchers color-banded 49 Bobolinks; the population there was estimated at over 300 individuals, including 144 male A Yellow-headed Blackbird strayed to Arches Natl. Monument, Utah, July 3 (SWS)–a new record for that desert beauty spot. Last year we reported the spread of **Scott's Orioles** north to c. Utah; this year we report the first nesting record for Idaho! At Curlew Valley a nest with 4 young was found July 4 in the juniper/sage flats; the nest failed, since at the end of July it held only 2dead young. Bullock's Orioles also nest in the same habitat, but the two species apparently do not interact (LP, CHT). Observers at both Springdale and Durango noted abundance of Bullock's Orioles; at Durango they have caused' comment by drinking from hummingbird feeders. Male Boat-tailed Grackles stayed single all summer in Durango *(Am. Birds* 26:790) and during June in Gunnison, the third successive summer there. Com. Grackles continue their spread westward: they were seen at Sheridan and Dubois all summer; in Deer Creek Canyon near Denver June 9; and 2-3 pair fed fledged young at Gunnison July 25. A small flock of Brown-headed Cowbirds at Arches Nat'l Monument completed the pair of blackbird records there on July 3 (SWS). They were noted as common this summer at Black Canyon Nat'l Monument, Colo. (JCD) and 3 juveniles accepted seeds from White-crowned Sparrows at Dubois.

FRINGILLIDS -- Rose-breasted Grosbeaks become more frequent in the West: male were noted singing and territorial both at Gunnison and McCoy this summer. Indigo Buntings also are moving west: they are now regular at Sheridan and Pueblo; male spent June and July at Dolores and Pagosa Springs, Colo. (RSy). Evening Grosbeaks returned to the Region in force. Nests and young were noted all over Colorado; they began flocking, with 100 seen at LaVeta Aug. 10. At Nampa, observers counted 75 July 20, and they were abundant at Crater L. at lower elevations. One Black Rosy Finch flocked with 6 Brown-capped Rosy Finches in s. Wyoming's Snowy Range July 28 (DSt). Pine Siskin constituted the most abundant bird at Crater L., where flocks of 10-30 swirled about, and counts of 200-300 in a 4-hour period were common; this abundance spilled into conifer habitats all over s.e. Oregon (HN) and s.w. Idaho (150 July 20–HES). Some Colorado observers also noted it as common. Conifer habitats throughout the Region supported thriving numbers of Red Crossbills. Large flocks have spread all over the Front Range south to the Pikes Peak and Pueblo areas; west to Summit Co., and north to Sheridan. They are nesting at Mammoth L., Mono Co., and abundant in s.e Oregon-in the same area as the siskins–Malheur counted 139 June 29.

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Harry Nehls reports a curious observation: on June 13 he found several dead young crossbills and Cassin's Finches showing no cause of death except that one finch was singed, and 11 were found about the remains of campfires. "As this was on Tuesday perhaps the weekend crowd built the fires and the birds came in Sunday night or Monday and got into hot coals. Several birds came into the cold charcoal while we were there." Scattered Lark Buntings inhabited the Curlew Valley in June and July, and one had already appeared at an Estes Park feeder in early July (MP) early with its customary post-breeding vertical migration. In the Alvord Basin B.B.S., Lark Sparrows increased noticeably, particularly in the farming areas. A nest with 3eggs July 11 brought confirmation of the long-suspected breeding of the **Black-throated Sparrow** in Oregon: the nest was near Malheur (TH). It was also seen at Malheur June 26 and Alvord L. June 24, the latter a young bird. At Honey L. sparrows reversed their expected abundance on a B.B.S., with the supposedly scarce Black-throated (18 counted) more numerous than Brewer's (13), Lark (11), and Sage (6). The Sage Sparrow count on the Alvord Basin B.B.S. dropped to 50 per cent of the 1969 numbers: its numbers may have suffered from the hot, dry weather, or it may have accelerated its nesting dates because of the hot dry weather and the early spring migration. Sparrows at Vernon, Utah, did accelerate their nesting dates 2-3 weeks, and consistently had only 3 eggs instead of the normal 4 (MLK). Finally the 11 sightings of Song Sparrows along the Wind River at Dubois was termed disturbingly low.

ABBREVIATIONS-B.B.S.: Breeding Bird Survey: R.M.N.P.: Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park.

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**HUGH E. KINGERY,** (Our intrepid Regional Editor produced the report above under a handicap: "50 feet from the top of Longs Peak, 14,255 elevation, I was hit by a loose rock, which knocked me down about 10 feet. It mangled a couple of fingers on my right hand ...the aides above wrote my notes when my hand was in a cast." -Ed.)

*The Nesting Season, 1972*

**NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION**

**/ John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls**

The month of June brought approximately average temperatures and rainfall for that month. July was warm and dry, particularly after the first week. Early August brought a heat spell which was broken by a large low-pressure area which moved in from the Pacific on the tenth. The higher-than-normal snow-pack In the Cascades during the winter left snow on the ground at moderately high elevations until July, with a consequent abundance of water in mountain lakes and drainages throughout the report period.

LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS -- Com. Loons in both breeding and winter plumage were noted on coastal waters at numerous points throughout the nesting season. A single **Yellow-billed Loon** in breeding dress was found and photographed on the amazing date of July 15 at Charleston. Coos Co., Oreg. by P.A. Buckley: the bird was in company with about 20 Com. Loons, A few Arctic Loons were to be found along the Washington coast and around the s. portion of Vancouver I. in the latter half of July. A very small number of Red-throated Loons was similarly reported. Up to 10 Red-necked Grebes were found repeatedly throughout the season in the area from Victoria to Sidney, B.C. Two Horned Grebes were seen at Victoria July 11 (SJ), where single birds were also observed June 4 (RS) and Aug. 7 (VG). A colony of Eared and W. Grebes was found again this year at Davis L in the Oregon Cascades in June and July (LM). Black-footed Albatrosses were seen 25 and more miles out in numbers to 60 on boat trips from Westport. Wash. July 23 & Aug. 13 (TW). A Laysan Albatross approached closely enough to be photographed 65 miles off Yaquina Head. Lincoln Co., Oreg. June 28 (JB). Over 300 Fulmars were counted well offshore on both the July 23 and Aug. 13 boat trips from Westport (TW). A few Pink-footed Shearwaters were also noted on both trips (TW); more than a half dozen of this species were close ashore at Bandon. Oreg. July 15 (PA B), A **Pale-footed Shearwater** was a welcome bonus at about 30 mi. offshore on the July 23 trip from Westport (TW). "Thousands" of Sooty Shearwaters were at the entrance to Grays Harbor. Wash, June 25 (G & WH); they were present in numbers at sea July 23 and Aug. 13 (TW). Almost 200 fork-tailed Petrels were seen 24-35 mi, at sea from Westport July 23; a total of 56 was seen in small groups well out to sea Aug, 13 (TW), Single Fork-tailed Petrels were found a mile off Newport. Oreg. June 30 (JB) and at Ocean Shores. Wash, Aug, 2 (JM), Three Leach's Petrels were observed 35 mi, out of Westport July 23 (TW).



***Yellow-billed Loon, Coos Bay. Ore,. July* /5. /972, *Photo* / *P.A, Buckley.***

PELICANS. HERONS - An early imm. Brown Pelican appeared at Yaquina Bay. Oreg. July 9 (MS. *fide* HN). All three species of cormorants were reported nesting around the s. end of Vancouver I. in what are assumed to be normal or even good numbers. A nest of the Green Heron containing 4 incubated eggs was found at Ft. Langley, B.C. June 25; a few birds of this species were found in the vicinity of Olympia, Wash., (G & WH), and on the w. side of the Willamette Valley (FZ) during the report period. A Com, Egret is said to have been seen by several observers at Coquitlam, B.C. e. of Vancouver, July 7 *(fide* GAP); both the northerly location and the early date are extraordinary. Am, Bitterns evidently were present in numbers at fern Ridge Reservoir

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w. of Eugene, Oreg. through June (HN). A single bird of this species appeared at Ocean Shores July 9 (G & WH).

WATERFOWL -- An ad. Whistling Swan was found at Bonneville Dam on the Columbia R. July 16 (HN). Canada Geese were present in numbers June 10 at Saanich, B.C., and again July 24 in s.e. Vancouver I. (RS SJ). Black Brant were present in numbers up to 6 at Ocean Shores, June 25 and July 9 (G & WH). and at Siuslaw Bay and at Yaquina Bay, Oreg. July 16 (PAB). One or possibly two Pintail summered at Baskett Slough near Salem. Oreg. (FZ). Migrant Pintail and Green-winged Teal began showing up at points from Victoria southward by the end of July. Four Blue-winged Teal spent the summer at Victoria (SJ). Four Am. Widgeon were at Dungeness, Wash. June 26, where 6 Shovelers were also found the same day (TW). Two Am. Widgeon appeared at Finley N.W.R. s. of Corvallis. Oreg. July 6 where one was still present by the end of the period; a bird of this species was also found on Davis L. in the Oregon Cascades June 23 (LM). Several flocks of 20-40 Ring-necked Ducks were found at Davis L. in June and early July (LM); two birds of this species at Baskett Slough N.W.R. July 24 (FZ) were very out of place. A few scaup of both species were seen at favored spots on the Oregon and Washington coasts during the report period. Seven young Com. Goldeneye with their parents were at Manning Provo Park July 26 (RS*. fide* VG); a pair was at Cowichan Bay. Vancouver I. all summer (JCo); single male birds in breeding plumage were at Finley N.W.R. June 1 (FZ) and at Sidney, B.C. June 10 (RS, *fide* VG). Barrow's Goldeneye were seen repeatedly at Manning Provo Park in number up to one in late June and late July (VG; RS, *fide* VG). A few were also seen in Oregon's C. Cascades June 6 (JBC & WT). A *male* Oldsquaw was at Victoria July 1-30 (VG; SJ). A Harlequin Duck was found on the Hood R. near Dee, Oreg. June 14 (DM); up to 50 of this species were in the vicinity of Victoria during the summer (VG). In addition to the usual coastally summering White-winged and Surf Scoters, four Com. Scoters were at Ocean Shores June 3 where one was seen again July 29 & Aug. 12 (G & WH). There were 44 Com. Mergansers at Cowichan Bay July 3 (VG). A *male* Red-breasted Merganser evidently spent the summer there (JCo); seven individuals of this species were at Ocean Shores on July 9 (G & WH).

HAWKS, EAGLES, GAMEBIRDS, RAILS -- A few Goshawks were seen in the Oregon Cascades and one was seen in the Coast Range W. of Portland during the report period. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were again little noted. A bird seen at Sauvie L w. of Portland May 20 (JGo & HN) has been confirmed from a photograph as a Ferruginous Hawk; so far as we know the find constitutes only the third record for w. Oregon. The nest of a Golden Eagle containing one young bird was found inland at Merrit. B.C. July 12 (GAP); several birds were seen in s.e. Vancouver I. in early June (RS. *fide* VG) and in early July (VG). Marsh Hawks were seen regularly throughout the report period at the three national wildlife refuges in the Willamette Valley, with three nests certain at the Finley Refuge (FZ). Ospreys were relatively well reported with three successful nests



***Ferruginous Hawk. Sauvie I., Ore., May 20, 1972. Photo* / *Jeffrey Gottfried.***

at Duncan, B.C. (JCo) and three other nests in the vicinity of Victoria (ARD; SJ). An Osprey was seen at Green Peter Reservoir June 24 (TL & HN). and another was observed at Diamond L. Oreg. Aug. 13 (B & RL). An ad. and two young Spruce Grouse were found at Manning Provo Park July 27 (RS *fide* VG). A family of Ruffed Grouse was discovered near the foot of Mt. Mclaughlin e. of Medford July 1 (OS). A White-tailed Ptarmigan was seen at Manning Provo Park July 28 (RS*. fide* VG). Two Bobwhite were calling at Corvallis June 13 (SH *et al. fide* FZ) and a few heard at L Oswego. Oregon in early August (UBC) indicate that this introduced species which was nearly extirpated by the severe winter of 1968-69 is staging a welcome comeback. At least 6 broods of California Quail and 4 of Ring-necked Pheasant were found in the vicinity of Victoria this season (SJ). Virginia Rails were found at Manning Provo Park (RS, *fide* VG) and at Victoria (SJ) near the end of July; a number of Virginia Rails and Soras were noted at Fern Ridge Reservoir w. of Eugene, Oreg. on two occasions in June (HN). An Am. Coot spent the summer at Ocean Shores (G & WH) while an imm. of this species was seen at Victoria Aug. 5 & 10 (SJ).

SHOREBIRDS -- Black Oystercatchers were readily found in Washington's San Juan Is. during the period (TW). Late spring migrant status is ascribable to the lone Am. Golden Plover found at Ocean Shores June 3 (G & WH) to the single Black Turnstone still at Victoria June 4 *(RS. fide* VG) and possibly to some of the 15-20 Whimbrels seen at Ocean Shores in early June (G & WH). Breeding records of interest are furnished by Snowy Plover at Ocean Shores June 25 (G & WH) and at Neskowin, Oreg. July 19, when two downy chicks were found (DMa, *fide* FZ); two birds of this species were

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also seen at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. July 22 (HN). Up to 6 Com. Snipe were at Finley N.W.R. throughout the report period; 3-5 pairs of Spotted Sandpipers certainly nested there (FZ). Summer vagrant status could be ascribed to the Long-billed Curlew seen at Ocean Shores at intervals June 25-July 29 to the 15 or more Whimbrel which were found there through June, and to the 3 or more Dunlin (one of which was a completely white albino with pink legs and bill) also found at Ocean Shores from June 25 to the end of July (G & WH). Early July brought returning migrants to many of the places in the Region favored by shorebirds; species which first appeared in early July, gradually increasing in numbers through the end of the month. were Semipalmated Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Whimbrel, Wandering Tattler, Greater and Lesser Yellow legs, and Baird's and Least Sandpipers. Baird's Sandpiper, of course, did not appear in the same numbers as the other species. W. Sandpipers and both species of dowitchers appeared early in July but seemed to reach maximum numbers before mid-month. Species which were not recorded (except for a few earlier arrivals in some cases) until the second half of July or early August, and usually in smaller numbers than the previously listed species, were Am. Golden Plover, Surfbird, Ruddy and Black Turnstones, Knot, Pectoral Sandpiper, Sanderling, and N. Phalarope. Unusual shorebird occurrences deserving of special note follow. A single Solitary Sandpiper appeared at Iona I. near Vancouver. B.C. Aug. 3 (GA. *fide* GAP); two were seen the next day at Victoria (SJ), and another was seen at Saanich on s.e. Vancouver I. Aug. 13 (RS, *fide* VG). A Willet was at Ocean Shores July 29 (G & WH). The Rock Sandpiper there Aug. 12 (G & WH) is more than two weeks earlier than the previous earliest fall record for this species. A Stilt Sandpiper was discovered at Ocean Shores July 9 (G & WH), while two individuals of this species turned up at Iona Aug. 3 (TW; GA, *fide* GAP). On Aug. 1 the first 3 Semipalmated Sandpipers of the year were at Iona I. (TW), where they were also seen Aug. 3 (GA*, fide* GAP)*;* a Semipalmated Sandpiper was photographed at Fern Ridge Reservoir in Oreg. Aug. 17 *(fide* LM). A Marbled Godwit was seen on Long Beach, Vancouver I. July 15 (RS*, fide* VG). On Aug. 13 off Westport, 81 Red Phalaropes were counted (TW). A Wilson's Phalarope was seen at Victoria Aug. 5 *(RS, fide* VG).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS -- On the July 23 boat trip from Westport, 6 Pomarine and one Long-tailed Jaeger were found; on the Aug. 13 trip, 13 Pomarine and 2 Parasitic Jaegers were seen (TW). Parasitic Jaegers were elsewhere recorded at Bellingham June 18 & July 19, at the n. jetty of the Columbia R. Aug. 11 (TW) and July 17 (PAB), at Ocean Shores June 3 & 25 (G & WH), 5 mi. off Cape Meares, Oreg., June 17 (FZ, *et al.),* and at Victoria Aug. 13 (VG). A Long-tailed Jaeger was patrolling the beach at Sekiu, Wash. Aug. 11 (AB, *fide* TW). Single Skuas were seen 65 miles off Yaquina Head June 27 & 30; judging by the amount of white in the wing different birds were thought to be involved (JB); another individual of this species was seen July 23 some 35 mi. off Westport (TW). Glaucous-winged Gull colonies in the Strait of Juan de Fuca were thought to have had relatively poor reproduction this year, attributable possibly to cold, damp weather at the critical stage (TW); 6 active nests on the roofs of old wharf buildings at Victoria (SJ) were an oddity. California Gulls began to appear from the e. in the Willamette Valley and in increasing numbers on the coast after mid-July; large numbers could be found up to 65 mi. from Westport Aug. 13 (TW). A flock of 21 Ring-billed Gulls at Tillamook July 22 (HN) was an unusual concentration for this season. Mew Gulls seemingly were more than usually in evidence along the Washington coast n. of Grays Harbor and in the Straits this summer; 50 at Neah Bay July 19 (PAB) were quite out-of-the-ordinary. A smattering of Franklin's Gulls predictably appeared in the Vancouver-Bellingham-Victoria triangle in late July and early August where possibly as many as a half dozen birds were observed. Sixty Bonaparte's Gulls at Bellingham June 6 all were imms. (TW); by mid-July, hundreds more, many of them ads were present (TW). By August, Bonaparte's Gulls were numerous around s. Vancouver I., 7 were seen at Ocean Shores July 9 (G & WH). Heermann's Gulls had arrived in numbers off the Washington coast by June 25 when 100 were seen at Ocean Shores; the first one appeared at Victoria June 24, (RS, *fide* VG) where three weeks later 80 were counted. Black-legged Kittiwakes inexplicably were around Grays Harbor and on Long Beach, Vancouver L all summer; it was estimated by the Hoges that over 200 were present at Ocean Shores and Ron Satterfield counted 100-200 each day the second week in July at Long Beach. Seven Sabine's Gulls were off Westport July 23 while 24-half of them juveniles-were there Aug. 13 (TW). An imm. was seen at Victoria July 21 *(RS, fide* VG). An estimated 60 Com. Terns were at Grays Harbor also throughout the season (G& W H). Up to 20 were recorded at Bellingham the last week of June and the first week in July (TW); 70 Com. Terns were around Victoria Aug. 7 (VG) and over 40 were at Saanichton Bay, B.C. Aug. 8 (SJ). Thirteen Arctic Terns were found far at sea from Westport Aug. 13; they were seen in flight and close at hand perched on some driftwood; eight of the flock proved to be juveniles (TW). Caspian Terns continued to prosper at Grays Harbor; over *300* chicks are said to have been banded there by the State Game Dep't. in June; 11 Caspian Terns were at Bellingham July 2 and two were at Swinomish Slough July 13 (TW). One was at Long Beach, Vancouver I. July 9, and another was at Tsawwassen July 30 (RS*, fide* VG). A Black Tern was seen at Baskett Slough N.W.R. June 20Mi, *fide* FZ) and 4 imms. were observed at Ankeny N.W.R. near Dallas, Oreg. June 13 (DL*, fide* FZ).

ALCIDS - An estimated 100 Pigeon Guillemots nested along Stuart Channel on the e. side of Vancouver (JCo); 12-15 birds of this species evidently summered at Ocean Shores (G & WH). A score of Marbled Murrelets were found along Stuart Channel June 4 (JCo); only a half dozen or so frequented the waters close to Victoria during the report period (SJ); four Marbled Murrelets were at Sea Lion Caves near Florence, Oreg. July 16 (PAB). A single Ancient Murrelet in breeding plumage at Cape Flattery July 19 (PAB) was surprisingly far s. on that date. The totals of 140 and 153 Cassin's Auklets off Westport July 23 & Aug. 13 (TW) were noteworthy counts. More than 100 Rhinoceros Auklets were at Victoria July 13-21 (SJ), but on July 26 over

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200 were counted in the area (VG): 200 passed the jetty at Ocean Shores within a half-hour period Aug. 12 (G& WH): 3 birds of this species were seen carrying food into Sea Lion Caves July 16 (PAB). A Fish & Wildlife Service census of offshore Oregon islands by air June 26 recorded almost 700 Tufted Puffins scattered the whole length of the coast from Cannon Beach s. to Brookings, although better than 70 per cent were on the northernmost stretch of coastline at Clatsop and Tillamook Cos.

DOVES, OWLS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS -- Mourning Doves were in better numbers in the Willamette Valley than at any year since 1968 (FZ. *et al.).* A Short-eared Owl which spent the summer at Finley N.W.R. (FZ) was quite unusual; the species is rare w. of the Cascades during the breeding season. A Poor-will was calling at the settlement of Mt. Hood on the n.e. side of the mountain of that name June 14 (DM). Black Swifts were very well reported: birds were seen in numbers up to 40 at a time from Ocean Shores, Olympic Nat'l Park. the s. end of Vancouver I. and at Manning Provo Park, in the last week of July and the first two weeks of August; 186 birds seen together in a flock at Duncan, B.C. in the rain July 8 (JCo) was a highly unusual concentration. A male Anna's Hummingbird was seen at Corvallis June 26 *(fide* FZ). A Calliope Hummingbird was observed e. of Sweet Home. Oreg. July 15 (WE, *fide* FZ). Ron Satterfield counted over 40 Rufous Hummingbirds and a few Calliopes on the Skyline Trail in Manning Provo Park July 28 *(fide* VG). A bird identified as a *male* Allen's Hummingbird was observed at feeders at L Quinault July 18 (PAB); it constitutes only the third record known to us for this species from the State of Washington. No reports were received of Lewis' Woodpeckers. Six nests of the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker were found in the vicinity of Davis L and one nest of the N. Three-toed Woodpecker was discovered at Elk L. in the Cascade Mts. of c. Oregon inJune and early July (LM).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, CORVIDS, WRENS -- An E. Kingbird was found on the e. side of Fern Ridge Reservoir June 11 (LM). Nine nests of the W. Kingbird were under observation at Medford in June, which is about average in comparison with recent years (OS). A pair of Ash-throated Flycatchers fledged 4 young from a nest box at Medford (OS). Two Horned Larks were in full song at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. July 22 (HN). Barn Swallows evidently had a very successful nesting season around Victoria as they were abundant there from mid-July to the end of the period (VG SJ). A few Purple Martins were at Olympia, Wash., throughout the report period (G & WH). Two Black-billed Magpies appeared at Oak Grove. Oreg. just s. of Portland in late June and remained there until the end of the report period *(fide* HN). Two Boreal Chickadees were seen at Manning Provo Park June 24 (VG). A White-breasted Nuthatch seen there July 25 (RS, *fide* VG) was quite out of the ordinary. House Wrens evidently raised young at Victoria, 6 juveniles being seen there July 15 (SJ); 4 ads. had been seen June 18 at Saanich (RS*, fide* VG).

MIMIDS, THRUSHES, VIREOS, WARBLERS -- The Mockingbird which had been at Springfield, Oreg. during the spring remained through June, was last seen July 11 & 15 (LM); a Mockingbird was found at Victoria July 2 (SJ & JBT). Two Hermit Thrushes at Corvallis June 13 (W E. *fide* FZ) were out-of-place for that date. Swainson's Thrushes were thought to be present at Duncan, B.C. in considerably greater numbers than in recent past years (JCo). A Veery appeared in Medford June 1 (JH). Sightings of W. Bluebirds were reported only from Victoria where two pairs were located during the season (ARD), from Canyonville, Oreg., June 3, from e. of Ashland. Oreg. June 15, and from Medford where a pair raised two families (OS). Two Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Corvallis June 13 (FZ. *et al.)* were stragglers. On July 29 a dozen Water Pipits were seen at Manning Provo Park (RS. *fide* VG). Cedar Waxwings were widely and generally dispersed throughout at least the S. half of the Region during the period. A minimum of 100 Starlings fed regularly throughout the summer on tide-exposed rocks at Victoria (SJ). Solitary Vireos were recorded regularly in small numbers at the end of June in the Cascade Mountains of s. Oregon (OS). Red-eyed Vireos were recorded several times during the season at a number of locations near Jasper, Oreg. s.e. of Springfield; one was also heard at Oakridge. Oreg. July 7 (LM). Red-eyed Vireos were further noted during the report period at or near Victoria and e. of Scio, Oreg. Warbling Vireos were so little reported as to indicate that a gradual decline in abundance has occurred throughout the s. portion of the Region over the last five or more years. Nashville Warblers at Finley N.W.R. June 4 (JBC, WT) and July 29 (EE. *fide* FZ), and one in the high Cascades e. of Sweet Home June 6 singing strikingly like a Yellow Warbler (J BC) are of interest: a bird of this species was recorded at Vancouver Aug. 6 (GAP). Yellow Warblers were scarce at Victoria this summer (ARD). An Audubon's Warbler at Corvallis June 13 (LG & MSt. *fide* FZ) was unusually late. Two Townsend's Warblers were seen at N. Vancouver, B.C. Aug. 12 (GAP). An imm. Hermit Warbler was seen in the s. Oregon Cascades above Union Creek 20 mi. w. of Crater L. June 28 (OS). A pair of **Am. Redstarts** was seen at Davis L. June 23 when the male was photographed; the male was seen again at a different nearby spot July 8 (LM). A male **Am. Redstart** was also carefully identified at L. Ozette at the n.w. corner of the Olympic Pen. June 11 (EP); we know of no other record for w. Washington.

BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES, SPARROWS -- Several Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen at the Brownsville. Oreg. marsh June 24 (TL & HN). Bullock's Orioles nested at Courtenay *(fide* ARD) and Delta, B.C. (GAP) and probably nested at Ankeny N.W.R. *(fide* FZ): two were seen n.w. of Salem June 7 (DL, *fide* FZ). Brown-headed Cowbirds were particularly prominent at Victoria this summer (ARD; SJ). W. Tanagers were plentiful in Oregon's Cascades and in the Portland area. A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at Victoria June 25-July 2 and. after its initial discovery by Mrs. Mary Clark. was seen by many observers *(fide* ARD; SJ); we know of no other record for this species in the Region. Black-headed Grosbeaks are generally thought to have been well represented throughout at

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least the s. half of the Region this season. A singing male lazuli Bunting was recorded at Victoria July 2, the fourth consecutive year a bird of that species has been found in the same vicinity (SJ & JBT), Evening Grosbeaks could be found, regularly throughout the period in both the Coast Range and the Cascades in Oregon, Purple Finches presumably bred in a few favored but widely scattered localities in the s. half of the Region judging by reports of their presence, House Finches were said to have enjoyed a good nesting season at Medford (OS). A **Pine Grosbeak** at Davis L Oreg., June 3 (BP. *fide* FZ) is extraordinary; the two male at Manning Prov. Park June 25 (VG) and the 4 there July 25 (RS, *fide* VG) are also of interest. Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were flocking at the edges of snow at Crater lake Nat'l Park Aug. 11 (RF, *fide* LM); one was at Mt. Seymour, B,C. July 30 (GAP), A flock of 200 Pine Siskins in the Cascades c, of Sweet Home June 6 (JBC & WT), and the small numbers regularly seen throughout the season at Victoria were the only reports received for this erratically occurring species, Am. Goldfinches had enjoyed good nesting success in the Victoria area even before the end of the report period (SJ, VG). Lesser Goldfinches had a good season in the Medford area (OS). Red Crossbills evidently nested successfully in the vicinity of Victoria, where among other sightings, juveniles were seen July 3 (SJ); small numbers were seen elsewhere at various times during the season in Vancouver, B.C., at Manning Prov. Park. and in Oregon's Cascades e, of Sweet Home. Six Green-tailed Towhees were found on Mt. Ashland near Ashland, Oreg. July 11 (OS). A large influx of Savannah Sparrows inexplicably occurred at Duncan, B.C. July 29 Aug, 5 at which latter date numbers were very high (JCo), The Grasshopper Sparrows nesting at Fern Ridge Reservoir mentioned in the last report were still feeding young in mid-July; this suggests that the pair which lost the one of two nests found destroyed June 7 successfully re-nested. Single Vesper Sparrows were recorded at Littlerock, Wash. June 4 and at Ocean Shores July 9 (G & WH). Two Slate-colored Juncos seen at Manning Prov. Park July 29 were new to the park list (RS. *fide* VG). Chipping Sparrows once an abundant summer resident at Victoria, were represented there this season by only a few individuals (ARD). White-crowned Sparrows had declined there too (ARD). A few Fox Sparrows were noted in July at both Long Beach on Vancouver L, and at Manning Provo Park (RS, *fide* VG), Up to 10 Lincoln's Sparrows were counted at Big L. at the summit of Oregon's Santiam Pass June 24 when most nesting habitat in the area was still flooded (TL & HN). One of this species was at Corvallis June 13 (FR *et al, fide* FZ).

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