

1966

*Autumn Migration, 1965***NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN —
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

/ Thomas H. Rogers

The latter half of August in the Region was almost uniformly cool and wet after a summer of a similar nature. September continued this trend in western Montana and southwestern Alberta. C. J. Henry at Charlo, Mont. described the month as the coldest in the history of the state and precipitation at the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, was over twice the normal amount. Reports

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from Missoula and Stevensville followed the same pattern. Localities in eastern Washington, northeastern Oregon and southern British Columbia, however, generally experienced cool, *dry* conditions during September. October was rather uniformly warm and very dry over the entire Region. Spokane's average temperature for the month was only about 1° lower than for September and only .05 in. of precipitation fell (normal is 1.57 in.). Missoula received one-sixth the normal amount of moisture. November continued mild. In Montana precipitation approached normal, but farther west conditions were rather dry. A cooling trend near the end of the month brought light snow to extreme eastern Washington and western Montana. However, the snow had melted from the valleys and frozen waters had thawed by the end of the month. Such abnormal weather patterns could be expected to have important effects upon bird movements and apparently they did. In the Okanagan Valley in southern British Columbia the occurrence of several species (White-throated and Harris' Sparrows, Magnolia

and Myrtle Warblers) that normally migrate east of the Rockies might be explained by the very cold, snowy weather during September in the Great Plains, according to Jim Grant. On the other hand, scarcity of winter visitors in the Okanagan was supposedly the result of lack of snow and cold there. Rather contradictory was the fact that some winter visitors from the north arrived early in eastern Washington. East of the Continental Divide Werner and Hilde Hesse commented that the severe snow storm on Sept. 25 and 26 in the Calgary area of southwestern Alberta undoubtedly accelerated the migration. In the Bozeman, Mont. area it was believed that continuing mild weather caused a large number of late departures and Frank Kenney at Ninepipe Refuge, Charlo, Mont. noted that the warm, sunny fall delayed the migration of some species, particularly geese, to an unusually late date. A few notable concentrations of birds deserve special mention, since such happenings are scarce in the Region. In the Bitterroot Valley around Stevensville, Mont., Opal Faust saw flocks of warblers plus nuthatches, Evening Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills, Aug. 28, after over a week of cool, damp weather. In the same general area Carol Boyd saw, on about 1 acre of land, an almost unbelievable concentration of birds, Sept. 6, after about 2 weeks of cool, wet weather. It included Chipping Sparrows ("thousands"), Oregon Juncos, Audubon's and Wilson's Warblers (all in hundreds), flocks of Robins, 24 Downy Woodpeckers, plus smaller numbers of 13 other species, including several other warbler species. On the same day on Salmo Mountain, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. Jim Acton found an impressive number of migrants, mainly Water Pipits, Audubon Warblers, White-crowned Sparrows and Lapland Longspurs. Skies there were clear to slightly cloudy that day. An impressive number of species that normally are rare or uncommon migrants showed up in abnormally high numbers. At Ennis Lake in Montana the huge shorebird numbers apparently were tied to low water levels, as the reservoir had been drained in the summer and did not refill until mid-October. Shorebird migration at Missoula was rich in number of species but normal in volume. Several species of sandpipers repeatedly appeared in residential areas there, around puddles.

Loons, Pelicans—The Common Loon was especially numerous in the Bozeman–Ennis–Three Forks, Montana area, with a peak of 70 on Nov. 17 and 20 still present on Nov. 21, both late dates. A single bird was at Okanagan Landing near Vernon, B. C. on Nov. 30 (HO). The influx of loons at Ennis, Mont. brought *two* new state records, both on the same day, Nov. 17: a **Red-throated Loon** and an **Arctic Loon**. White Pelicans were noted in uncommonly large numbers in eastern Washington. At least 80 were seen on Aug. 31 at the Potholes Reservoir, Moses Lake, Grant Co. (LA)

and a peak of 71 occurred on Oct. 2 at McNary Refuge, Burbank.

Waterfowl—Numbers in this category appeared to be fairly high for the end of November, due to reopening of waters which froze during the Thanksgiving period. Migration peaks at Turnbull Refuge occurred about October 15 and November 15, with geese numbering nearly 3000 and ducks, 30,000. Of these, Mallards were estimated at 14,000 and Pintail and Am. Widgeon, 3000 each. At November's end, goldeneyes numbered around 6000, mostly Common. Up to 17 Trumpeter Swans were seen in extreme southern British Columbia; this maximum occurred at Vaseaux Lake on Nov. 20 (SC). The species was observed as usual at Ennis, Mont. Canada Geese showed the greatest numbers at McNary Refuge, 11,400 at November's end. The Lesser peaked at 6000 on Nov. 13 at Columbia Refuge, Othello, Wash. At least 4 Cackling Geese, rare in the Region, were noted at Park Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on Oct. 17 (JA & WH) and 1 or more on Nov. 13 (S.A.S.). Ten White-fronted Geese were at McNary Refuge the last week of October. Mallards, as usual the most abundant duck, peaked in mid-November as follows: Columbia Refuge, 50,000; McNary Refuge, 49,600, and Ninepipe

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Refuge, Charlo, Mont., 75,000. Am. Widgeon showed a peak of 20,000 at Ninepipe in October. Fifty Wood Ducks were at McNary Refuge until early October. Among the rarities the Oldsquaw deserves emphasis, for it appeared in no less than three localities, McNary Refuge (3), Shuswap Lake near Vernon, B. C. (6) (BAS) and Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. (9, the largest concentration ever noted in Eastern Washington) (WH, Mr. & Mrs. SOS). White-winged Scoters were noted at Banks Lake (S.A.S.) and McNary Refuge and 2 were collected at Lake Helena near Helena, Mont. on Oct. 12 (JJG). Single Surf Scoters were seen at Banks Lake (JA, S.A.S.), Spokane (WH) and at Ennis, Mont. The latter is the second record for the area and 1 of very few for the state.

Hawks—Two winter visitants, the Goshawk and the Peregrine Falcon, were sighted more times than usually. One of the former species at *Columbia Refuge*, Nov. 14, was the first ever recorded there (PAL & RA) and 1 at *Spokane* was noteworthy (JA). One was seen in the mountains west of Bend, Oreg. (AB) and the species was noted at Baker, Oreg., the Bison Range and at Pablo, Lake Co., Mont. (FLK). An adult Red-tailed Hawk at Coldstream throughout November furnished 1 of very few winter records for the Vernon, B. C. area. Two Swainson's Hawks were identified near Stevensville, Mont. on Nov. 29.

Gallinaceous Birds—Most reporting localities indicated that California Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant, Chukar and Gray Partridge were definitely down in numbers. However, the 3 or 4 coveys at the abandoned airport south of Missoula, Mont. appeared still to be holding their own in the face of continued urban development. Thirty-three Turkeys were sighted just south of Turnbull Refuge (JA). Fifteen of the birds were planted there in February, 1964. Only small numbers of Sandhill Crane were observed passing over Columbia Refuge. One juvenile was at Ninepipe Refuge in September. A report of a flock of birds fitting the description of *Whooping Cranes*, passing over Bozeman, Mont., Sept. 17 or 18, though not confirmed by any other observers, is here included on the chance that it might be correlated with other reports of that species (MS).

Shorebirds—An impressive number of Am. Golden Plover sightings was reported. A flock of about 20 stayed several days, Sept. 15 to about Sept. 20, at the village of Nakusp on Upper Arrow Lake, southern British Columbia. Singles were seen at Reardan, Wash. on Sept. 12 and 20 and Oct. 5 (JA, WH) and 3 were seen at Turnbull Refuge, Oct. 9. One was carefully identified near Sinclair Pass, Kootenay Nat'l Park, B. C. at about 4600 ft. altitude, after a heavy snowstorm, Sept. 26 (WH & HH). A single bird was noted at Belgrade, Mont. on Oct. 10 and 16. A Black-bellied Plover at Reardan, Wash. on Aug. 14 was in almost completely adult plumage (S.A.S.). A Long-billed Curlew was noted at Missoula, where it is very rare in fall, on Sept. 6. A *Ruddy Turnstone* was observed at Reardan, Sept. 19 and 20 (WH, JA). A Solitary Sandpiper noted at Baker, Oreg. was Ann Ward's second record for the area. An unusual number of Greater Yellowlegs was present in November and early December at Columbia Refuge, perhaps because of the mild weather. Shorebird migration in the Bozeman—Three Forks—Ennis, Mont. area was impressive in numbers if not in species. Up to 500 Greater and 100 Lesser Yellowlegs were at Ennis Lake on Aug. 22. Baird's Sandpiper numbered 600 on Sept. 19. Two Stilt Sandpipers were noted there on the same date and 15 were at Belgrade on the late date of Oct. 3. One of this species at *Missoula*, Sept. 27 and 28, provided Hand's first record for the area and probably is the third for Montana west of the Divide. At Reardan, Wash. the birds appeared in unusual numbers: 5 on Aug. 24 and 7 on the 27th (JA). A *Knot* was present at Reardan, Wash., Sept. 26 (JA). Two hundred Western Sandpipers were noted at Reardan on Aug. 14 and a Marbled Godwit, a rare migrant in eastern Washington, was seen there on Aug. 27 (JA). Single Sanderlings were at Reardan on Aug. 31 and Sept. 12; the earlier one still had about half its breeding plumage (JA). Two were at

Ennis on Sept. 19. Two late Am. Avocet records were of a bird at Reardan on Sept. 19 (WH) and 1 at Missoula, Sept. 13-15. Some remained through September at Ninepipe Refuge. The last in the Bozeman area were on Sept. 19.

Gulls, Terns—The most unusual gull record was of an immature Mew Gull at Blue Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on Oct. 17 (JA & WH). It is a rare migrant in eastern Washington. The Common Tern was seen in unusual numbers at two locations in eastern Washington: 28 at the Potholes Reservoir near Moses Lake, Aug. 31 (JA) and 21 at Lenore Lake, Grant Co. Sept. 2 (WH). Two adults and an immature were seen at Frembd Lake, Princeton District, southern British Columbia, Aug. 26. An Ancient Murrelet, slightly decomposed, was found, Nov. 11, near Long Lake Dam just west of Spokane, Wash. (DD), the second record for eastern Washington.

Owls—A *Hawk Owl* was seen at close range at 7700 ft. on Mt. Abbott, Glacier Nat'l Park, British Columbia on July 25 (KG). This is the second sighting by this observer in recent years and suggests that the species may breed near timberline in the Selkirk Mountains. The Barred Owl, first reported for the Vernon, B. C. area in Spring, 1963 in this regional report and again in Summer, 1965 (see AFN 17:420; 19 :565)—this second report should have been given more emphasis by your regional editor—again was found in that area. An immature bird was killed by traffic on a logging road 5 miles north of Sugar Lake, Vernon District, Aug. 19 and a male, believed to be immature, was killed by traffic on Highway 6, 2 miles east of Vernon, Nov. 17. Much more surprising, however, was a *Barred Owl* at Blue-slide, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. on Oct. 2. Constituting the first record for the state, it was observed at close range through a multi-power scope and binoculars for a half hour (JA & WH). A Great Gray Owl, traffic-killed, was picked up about 25 miles west of Calgary, Alta., Oct. 25 (RW). Short-eared Owls were scantily reported. A Saw-whet Owl was noted at Spokane on Oct. 19 (JA).

Nighthawks, Swifts—A hundred Common Nighthawks

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were observed at Baker, Oreg. on Sept. 1. Several late dates were reported: Spokane, Sept. 23, Hall's latest ever recorded; Charlo, Mont., Sept. 21 (CJH); Stevensville, Mont., Sept. 21, and the Bozeman area, Oct. 3. Also at Bozeman, Aug. 15 was late for the last White-throated Swift, as were the dates, Sept. 19-21 for a small flight (5-9 birds) at Missoula, for Vaux's Swift. Fifteen of the latter were noted at Salmon Creek, Baker, Oreg. area on Sept. 3.

Woodpeckers—A Yellow-shafted Flicker was seen near Kalamalka Lake near Vernon, B. C., Oct. 23 and 1 was at a feeder in Spokane on Nov. 25 (JA). Two White-headed Woodpeckers were observed near Dishman, Wash. on Dec. 5 (DB, *fide* PK) and another was seen at Naramata, just north of Penticton, B. C. (Mrs. CR). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was seen in Baker, Oreg., Sept. 21 and a Northern Three-toed was found on two occasions on Salmo Mountain, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (S.A.S.; JA & WH).

Flycatchers, Swallows, Jays—Two Western Wood Pewees at Baker on Sept. 20 furnished a late date there. September 17 for the Bozeman area (RAH) and Sept. 21 at Stevensville also appear to be rather late dates for the species. Some 20 Violet-green Swallows at Spokane on Sept. 19 were late stayers (WH) and a Bank Swallow at Reardan on Oct. 3 was very late (JA). September 27 appears to be quite late for the 2 Tree Swallows seen at Swan Lake, near Vernon, B. C. The sighting of Piñon Jays in the Bitterroot Valley near Stevensville, Mont. has been confirmed by the taking of a specimen, apparently the first record for the area (MG). An albinistic Black-billed Magpie, all cream-colored and white, was seen near Vernon, B. C. (JC). A flock of about 30 Common Crows was seen on Nov. 29 near 150 Mile House, Cariboo District, surprisingly far north for this date. No snow was present but there had been sub-zero temperatures. Flocks of 25-30 were still present around Stevensville, Mont. at November's end.

Chickadees, Nuthatches—About 25 Boreal Chickadees were observed at Salmo Pass, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. on Aug. 20 (WH & LLaf) and at least 8, Sept. 6, in the same area (JA). A Chestnut-backed Chickadee visited a feeding station near Vernon, B. C. for about 2 weeks in early November (JTF). White-breasted Nuthatches were abundant from Aug. 28 through Sept. 10 around Stevensville, Mont. and then decreased to normal numbers. Red-breasted Nuthatches were clearly increasing from the low point of 1962, when they almost disappeared, in the Okanagan region of southern British Columbia.

Wrens, Thrushes—The Cañon Wren was noted, Sept. 19 (late) at the old nesting cliffs along the Madison River west of Bozeman. Practically no Robins remained by the end of November. A few were reported for the Stevensville and Bozeman areas. A heavy night migration of Swainson's Thrushes was detected, Sept. 30, in the Bozeman area and the last record was for Oct. 3 (late). A very late Mountain Bluebird was at Creston, Wash. on Nov. 13 (S.A.S.).

Kinglets, Waxwings—A late Ruby-crowned Kinglet was noted at Baker, Oreg. on Nov. 27. Bohemian Waxwings had not appeared in great numbers or even appeared at all in the western part of the Region. However, flocks up to 150 were noted at Missoula where they did not arrive until Nov. 18, and the birds were described as common at Bozeman. At Salmo Mountain, northeastern Washington, flocks of 25-35 were seen as early as Sept. 6, suggesting possible breeding in the area (JA).

Warblers and Blackbirds—Several *Magnolia Warblers* were reported at Naramata, near Penticton, B. C., Sept. 20 (Mrs. CR). Two late Audubon's Warblers were noted at Baker, Oreg. on Nov. 13. Two Myrtle Warblers were seen at Banff, Oct. 2, and 1 on Sept. 26 at Radium Hot Springs, southeastern British Columbia (WH & HH). Three were seen at Vernon, B. C., Oct. 3 (KG). A flock of 200 Yellow-headed Blackbirds was seen at Baker, Oreg. on Aug. 30 and 5000 Red-winged Blackbirds were found in a wooded area near Spangle, Spokane Co., Wash. on Nov. 25 (JA).

Finches—Many localities reported Evening Grosbeaks but in small numbers. Pine Grosbeaks were much more numerous than usual in early winter in the Vernon, B. C. area. The species appeared in the Spokane area, where it occurs only once every few years. The same can be said for the Common Red-poll; flocks up to 150 were seen there. They were earlier than usual at Vernon, and appeared at Missoula, Stevensville and Bozeman, Mont.; Seebe, west of Calgary, Alta.; and at Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. (S.A.S.). Of special interest is the occurrence of the *Hoary Redpoll* at Ennis, Mont., 5 on Oct. 31 and 1 on Nov. 17. About the only place Red Cross-bills appeared was in the Spokane and Cheney areas and around Baker, Oreg. At Vernon, B. C., where the species was absent, the cone crop, except for ponderosa pine, was described as a failure. However, White-winged Crossbills were noted at several places, including Kalamalka Lake near Vernon, where, on Oct. 26, 6 were examining cones on an ornamental spruce (MAC). Eighteen were seen at Sheep River, southwest of Calgary, Alta., Aug. 31 (WH & HH) and up to 100 were seen at Salmo Pass, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. in September and early October and 25 were at Thomas Lake, Stevens Co., Wash. on Oct. 2 (JA & WH).

Sparrows—Slate-colored Juncos were first seen at Bozeman on Oct. 3 (early). At Spokane, where the species is an uncommon winter visitor, the first ones appeared on Sept. 23 (also early) (S.A.S.). Two were identified at Missoula on Oct. 12. A Tree Sparrow at Reardan, Wash. on Sept. 26 and 2 at Spokane the next day furnished early dates (S.A.S.). Three were observed near Philleo Lake, Spokane Co., Wash. on Nov. 26

(WH). Five Harris' Sparrows were observed, in three different areas: 1 in each of two different localities at Baker, Oreg., Nov. 2 and 3; 1 on the Little Spokane River north of Spokane, Oct. 17 (VN & CS); 1 at Opportunity, east of Spokane, Oct. 28 (TR), and 1, Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 at Missoula, Mont. White-crowned Sparrows seemed scarcer than usual during November in the Vernon area, possibly because of lack of snow to concentrate the birds in the valleys. The species apparently was in normal numbers farther south during September and

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October. A few apparently will winter again in the Spokane area. Single Golden-crowned Sparrows, scarce migrants in the western part of the Region, were noted at Vernon, Sept. 21 (KG); Baker, Sept. 29-30 and Oct. 17, and Spokane, Sept. 19 (WH), Sept. 27 and 29 (JA) and Oct. 1 (TR). More unusual was the appearance of single *White-throated Sparrows* at three localities. At Vernon 1 was seen on Sept. 18 (KG) and another visited a feeding tray from Sept. 25 to Oct. 15 (JTF). An adult was noted in Indian Canyon, Spokane, on Sept. 16, 22 and 27 (JA). At Missoula 1 on Oct. 4 was Hand's first since 1954; he obtained 5 previous records there between 1938 and 1954, all in September or October. Lapland Longspurs were observed at Sinclair Pass, Kootenai Nat'l Park, B. C., Sept. 26 (25 birds) and the summit of Salmo Mountain on Sept. 6 (at least 6) (JA). Ten were at Reardan, Wash. on Sept. 26 and 15 at Banks Lake on Oct. 17 (JA). At Missoula the birds were passing through between Sept. 4 and Oct. 25 in groups of 1 to 8, except for flocks from Sept. 20 to 26, when 100 or more birds were seen in a 60-acre area on one occasion. This is as plentiful as Hand had ever seen them there. Occasional singles and twos of Snow Buntings were seen at Missoula between Nov. 7 and 15.

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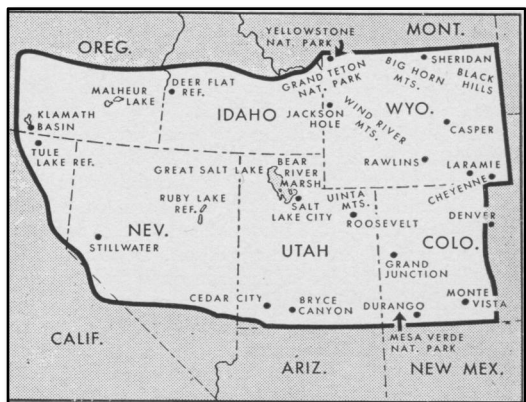
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GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.

/ Dr. Oliver K. Scott

Although it is difficult to generalize in such a large area, 1965 was extraordinarily wet through September; some areas had their coldest, wettest September on record. The Region has since returned to its normal dry state, but water



conditions are the best they have been in years in the Great Basin. Springs were running in the mountains more profusely than they have in many seasons. After September the fall was warm and freeze-up had not come in most areas by the end of this season. Water and weather resulted in a late but better waterfowl migration than for some years. Information on the movement of landbirds is scanty and the paucity of cold fronts contributed to the lack of records. From the middle of September to the end of November there were no cold fronts worth mentioning in the Central Rocky Mountain area. At Casper, Wyo. during this period of ten weeks there was only 0.11 inch of moisture—this is equivalent to a heavy dew elsewhere. A weak, cold front, Sept. 3-5, on the eastern edge of the Rockies brought excellent banding conditions in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park—121 birds were banded in 44 hours (AC).

Grebes—The mortality among Western Grebes and Eared Grebes increased on Lower Klamath Lake in the Klamath Basin, Oreg-Calif.—presumably a result of the washing effect of last winter's floods on surrounding fields that had been treated with pesticides (EJO'N).

Swans—The Trumpeter Swan did not increase in Jackson Hole—Teton Nat'l Park, Wyo., where the bird has reached its limit in suitable habitat. At Ruby Lake, Nev. there were 9 cygnets, making a total of 26—a new high (DEL). Eleven cygnets were produced at Malheur, Oreg. from 4 broods. This is second only to 1963. The total Trumpeter Swan population at Malheur is now up to 40—another new high (HFD). The Whistling Swans had not yet arrived in great numbers at Stillwater Refuge, Nev. at the end of this fall season (PAS). There was a poor showing in the Klamath Basin of only 560 (EJO'N). Malheur had 5500 on Nov. 10-16 (HFD). Bear Lake Marshes, Great Salt Lake, had 24,000—an all-time high (LFG).

Ducks & Geese—At Stillwater the fall waterfowl migration was the best on record. November 17 was the peak of the migration with 246,000 ducks: Pintail was top at 65,000; Green-winged Teal, 56,000 (ordinarily this is the most common duck at Stillwater); Shoveler, 34,000; Ruddy Duck, 35,000; Gadwall,

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21,000; Redhead, 28,000 (highest number on record), Canvasback, 21,000 (highest since 1958) (PAS). The Klamath Basin, where water conditions are now excellent, had the peak waterfowl migration the last week of October: 3,287,710—two weeks later than last year's 3,319,880. The Pintail, as always, was the most numerous with 1,553,400; next, Am. Widgeon at 260,500; (Cackling) Canada Geese, 382,000; White-fronted Goose, 335,800; Snow Goose, 301,000 (EJO'N). Malheur also has excellent water conditions; 40,000 acres of water this fall with 12,000 acres in good sago pondweed production, the principal food at Malheur. Elsewhere the waterfowl feed principally on cereal grains. The peak of the duck population at Malheur was 375,000 on Oct. 6-12; Pintail, 115,000; Am. Widgeon, 112,000; Mallard, 50,000; Green-winged Teal, 25,000. This is the highest number of ducks there since 1957. There were 25,000 Canvasbacks on Nov. 10-16, a very high figure. There were few young Snow Geese; presumably these birds had a poor nesting season in the Arctic (HFD). Summer Lake, northeast of the Klamath Basin, confirms the poor production of Snow Geese. About 200,000 were present at Summer Lake by Nov. 20, but very few were young birds. Some 75 percent of these geese breed on Wrangel Island off the north coast of Siberia (CEK). Bear River Marshes, Utah, enjoyed fine water conditions and had a high of

602,700 ducks on Oct. 14—the highest figure since 1957 (*LFG*). Deer Flat Refuge near Boise, Idaho, is a big Mallard refuge but because of the warm fall there were only 200,000 there—a 70 percent drop from last year (*RVP*). Monte Vista Refuge, Colo. had a peak of 23,200 ducks, Sept. 26–Oct. 2. These were principally Mallards (*CRB*).

Rare Ducks & Geese—Five *Wood Ducks* have been staying at a pond near Salt Lake City (*GK*). They were seen, Sept. 20, and before. These birds are very rare in the Mountain West. A pair of Old-squaws was seen on Standard Lake just north of Casper, Wyo. from Nov. 21 (*OKS, et al.*). The Standard Oil Refinery at Casper used to pollute the North Platte River for miles, but this chemically contaminated water now flows to a sump just north of town and goes through a series of settling ponds and ends up pure and loaded with food in a big protected lake. This is now the best place in Wyoming to see waterfowl, wading birds, grass birds, etc. as well as Antelope. Another Oldsquaw was at Malheur, Oct. 21 (*HFD*). Klamath Basin's rarities were 9 *Emperor Geese*, a *European Widgeon*, 2 *Egyptian Geese* and 2 (Tule) White-fronted Geese (*EJO'N*). A *Ross' Goose* was picked up at Bear River Marshes on the east side of the Great Basin where it is very rare, whereas it is relatively common on the west side of the Rockies (*LFG*). Another *Ross' Goose* was seen at Monte Vista, Colo. (*CRB*). Ten Hooded Mergansers were seen on an estuary off Upper Klamath Lake, Nov. 27 (*VGD, et al.*).

Hawks—A Swainson's Hawk at Richfield, Utah, Nov. 18, was late (*GK*). A Peregrine Falcon was reported at Tule Lake in the Klamath Basin, Nov. 26 (*VGD, et al.*), and at Cedar City, Utah, Aug. 19 and Nov. 20 (*SM*).

Waders—Two *Mountain Plover* were seen at Cedar City, Sept. 24; 4 were seen at the same place, Oct. 4 (*SM*). This bird has been thought to be casual in Utah. There was an *Upland Plover* at the same place, Aug. 28 and 29 (*SM*)—another very rare bird.

Jaegers—A Jaeger, said to be a *Pomarine*, was seen at the Clifton sewage lagoon near Grand Junction, Colo., Oct. 15 (*LFE, et al.*). Jaegers have now been reported in all the mountain states and probably should no longer be regarded as accidental.

Swifts—Three *Vaux's Swifts* were at Springdale, Utah, from Sept. 11 to 15 (*RHW*). This is the first record for southern Utah.

Owls—A dead male *Flammulated Owl* was found in Blacksmith Fork Canyon, Utah, Sept. 21 (*DMF*). Not far away a Saw-whet Owl was seen on Sept. 27. A

Pygmy Owl was seen close by on Nov. 19 (*DMF*). All these owls are rare.

Goatsuckers—There was a late report of a Whip-poor-will calling at Pine Lake, northeast of Bryce Nat'l Park, July 7 and 9 (*RWR*)—a first record from that area, I believe.

Swallows—Some 8 Purple Martins were last seen at Cedar City, Utah, Aug. 17 (*SM*).

Bluebirds—There are persistent reports of decreased numbers of Mountain Bluebirds. They are believed to be only one-quarter as common as fifteen years ago at Durango, Colo. (*OR*).

Vireos and Warblers—A Gray Vireo was still singing in Arches Nat'l Monument, Utah, on Aug. 17 (*DLG*). An *American Redstart* was banded at Malheur, Aug. 24 and a *Tennessee Warbler* on Aug. 31 (*CFZ*). Another Am. Redstart was collected in Logan Canyon, Utah, Aug. 27 (*DMF*).

Starlings and Blackbirds—Since last year Starlings have decreased 50 to 75 percent in the Lahontan valley near Stillwater, Nev. Decreases in Brewer's Blackbirds, particularly, were noted in western Nevada (*PAS*) and central Wyoming (*OKS*). Although we have no figures, big flocks have become little flocks—it is presumed this is a result of insecticides and bird poisonings.

Redpolls—There were four redpolls at 9400 ft. in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, Oct. 30 (*JS*) and 3 on Crow Hill at 8200 ft. near Bailey in the Colorado Rockies, Nov. 14 (*BG*), which indicates a heavy flight of redpolls this year.

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION
/ Alan Baldrige and John B. Crowell, Jr.

The relatively dry weather that had characterized much of the nesting season continued through October in



most parts of the Region. November rainfall was somewhat above average. Mid-November brought several weeks of successive storm systems to the north coast region, winds being primarily from the south and southwest during these storms. This period was characterized by the appearance of numbers of Fulmars just off shore and a large number of "wrecked" alcids washed up on the beaches. Thus, the experience of November 1963 was repeated. There is divergent speculation among observers as to whether these pelagics are cast ashore because continuous rough seas somehow prevent their feeding by driving their usual food to unusual depths or whether the birds may be subject to some form of epidemic. Highlights of the fall migration were furnished largely by the pelagic and shorebird groups although remarkable occurrences were not limited to those groups.

Loons—A few Common Loons were in favored places along the Oregon and Washington coasts by mid-September; 2 on Gardner Reservoir, Jackson County, Ore. on Nov. 15 were highly unusual. A few Arctic Loons were noted off the Washington coast in September, but the bird was not generally reported from the Region until November. One Red-throated Loon was at Cape Meares, Ore. as early as Sept. 11 (JBC; JO).

Grebes—Red-necked Grebes were early at several localities, 2 being at Point Roberts, Wash., Sept. 1 (FWD); 1 at Cape Meares, Sept. 11 (JBC & JO); and 13 at Seattle, Sept. 17 (ES). The twenty birds at Dungeness Spit, Oct. 10 also were noteworthy (LDL). Seven

Horned Grebes at Tillamook Bay, Sept. 11 (JBC & JO) were the first, with additional records for later in the month scattered in the more northerly parts of the Region. Four birds at Sauvie Island on Sept. 26 (AB) were out of the ordinary at any time at this inland locality. One or 2 Eared Grebes were at Tillamook Bay each month from September on. Single birds were at Iona Island, Sept. 24 and Oct. 10, while one was at Green Lake in Seattle, Sept. 10. About 150 Western Grebes at La Push, Wash., Sept. 11 (LDL) were the vanguard of the coastal wintering population; 2 on Sauvie Island, Sept. 26 (AB) and 1 at Olallie Lake (4500 ft. elevation), Oct. 3 (AB & RF), were interesting inland observations of probable migrants. Pied-billed Grebes were above their usual numbers in Tillamook County, Ore. on Nov. 27 (JBC & HN), indicating a migratory movement.

Fulmars—Fulmars (6) were first seen on Aug. 22 at sea off Westport, Wash.; the same observers (AB & MW) saw 26 on Sept. 12. In November, the species was noted at several points on the Oregon coast from Cannon Beach to Cape Arago, Coos Co., varying in numbers from 1 to 500 at Cannon Beach.

Shearwaters—Shearwater movements were a highlight of the fall migration. Six Pink-footed Shearwaters on Aug. 22 and 9, Sept. 12, off Westport, Wash. (AB & MW) interspersed a record of thirty flying singly in company with vast numbers of Sooty Shearwaters past Leadbetter Point, Willapa Bay, Sept. 5 (AB & JBC). A *Pale-footed Shearwater* was seen

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on Sept. 19 in company with other shearwaters at Cape Disappointment, Wash. (HWD; LDL & WT). There were several records of *New Zealand Shearwaters* of which there are few preceding records for either the Oregon or Washington coasts. Eight were at sea off Westport, Sept. 12 (AB & MW); 2 were observed from the north jetty of the Columbia River (Cape Disappointment) on Sept. 18 (LDL) and 2 more on Sept. 19 (HWD; LDL & WT); "several" were at Boiler Bay, Lincoln Co., Ore., Sept. 26 (Fred G. Evenden). An estimated 500,000 Sooty Shearwaters were seen from Leadbetter Point and inside Willapa Bay both Sept. 5 and 19 (AB & JBC). Vast numbers of this species, virtually defying estimate, were seen at the mouth of the Columbia River from Sept. 12 through 21 (HN & LDL).

Petrels—Four or 5 Fork-tailed Petrels were at sea off Westport, Aug. 22 (AB & MW); one was at Oysterville on Willapa Bay, Sept. 5 (AB & JBC) and single birds were seen at Cape Disappointment, Wash. on Sept. 18 and 19 (HWD; LDL & WT). On Sept. 21, LaFave

found 67 dead and dying Leach's Petrels on the streets at La Push where the birds had been killed primarily by automobiles but also by dogs, cats and boys. Fifteen birds were found alive and were in excellent condition. The observer received additional reports intermittently for a month afterward and postulates that the birds were attracted to the street lights during periods of foggy weather when visibility was somewhat restricted.

Pelicans—A *White Pelican* was at Gooseberry Point, Blaine, Wash., Aug. 16 (*TW*). Usual numbers of Brown Pelicans reached the customary northern limits of their post-breeding wanderings along the Oregon coast by September where up to 80 could be seen in a day; the species was still present in numbers at the end of the period, with immature birds predominating.

Hérons—Concentrations of Great Blue Herons at Willapa and Tillamook Bays during September, along with July observations at Drayton Harbor, evidenced good breeding success of this species in the Region. The *Common Egret* demonstrated possible post-breeding territorial expansion by appearing in unprecedented numbers west of the Cascades; one at Goble, Oreg., Sept. 5 (*AB* & *JBC*), was the northernmost on record for the state. One was at Hoover Lakes north of Medford, Oct. 21 and 22 (*JH*), while 25 were on log rafts at the mouth of the Smith River, Gardiner, Oreg., Oct. 24 (*JO*); 10 were still present there, Nov. 26 (*AB*). A single bird was seen at Waldport, Oreg., Nov. 21 (Larry Wheeler & Ralph Moldenhauer). The most spectacular species occurrence in an outstanding season had to be the *Cattle Egret* on Sauvie Island, Oreg. First noted by Mr. Domeyer on his farm, Nov. 29, the bird was identified on Dec. 4 by Harry Nehls and then carefully observed on the following day at as little as 50 feet by *AB*, *JBC*, *RF*, *HN*, *WT*, Frank Jacox and Patrick Crowell. It was last seen on Dec. 6. It is expected that fuller details and photographs will be published elsewhere. Green Herons, which are unusual in this Region, were noted at several locations: an immature at Blaine, Wash. on Aug. 15 (*TW*); 1 at Sauvie Island, Sept. 4; 3 at Goble, Oreg., Sept. 5; and 2 there, Sept. 18 (*AB*; *JBC*); one was at Tillamook, Sept. 24 (*AB*) and another was at Lake Washington, Seattle, Oct. 9 (*ES*). An immature Black-crowned Night Heron at Sauvie Island, Oct. 12 (*JO*), was noteworthy, as the species is now unusual in the Region. American Bitterns, uncommon in the Region, were found at Willapa Bay, Aug. 29 (*AB*); Cape Disappointment, Sept. 5 and 18 (*AB*, *JBC* & *WT*); Lake Washington, Seattle, Sept. 3 (*ES*); and south jetty of the Columbia, Sept. 16 (*HN*); 2 birds were on the Skagit Game Range, Oct. 3 (*TW*).

Swans—Migrating Whistling Swans were over Portland, Oct. 22 (*vide AB*) and Lebanon, Oreg., Oct.

24 (*WT*). Groups of from 6 to 76 were noted during November from Blaine (*LK*; *TW*); Blyn, Sequim Co., Wash. (*LDL*); Vancouver Island (*DS*); and Comox and Terrace, B. C.; one bird was at Pine Lake, Seattle, Nov. 9 (*ES*). Thirty-two Trumpeter Swans were on Mud Lake, Terrace, B. C., Nov. 29 (*HV*) with "more young birds than other years."

Geese—Canada Geese were observed from the northern parts of the Region starting in late September. Some 1000 birds of 3 subspecies were on Sauvie Island, Oct. 22; 2000 were there on Nov. 21 (*AB*). The only Black Brant reported were 8 from the south jetty of the Columbia River, Nov. 1 (*HN*) and 57 on Tillamook Bay, Nov. 17 (*AB*). White-fronted Geese were first heard on Aug. 25 on Sauvie Island (C. E. Trainer); 80 were there on Oct. 8 (*AB*; *HN*). Large flocks passed over Lebanon, Oreg., all day, Oct. 1 (*WT*) while 130 were observed over Portland, Oct. 15 (*AB*). Lone birds were in the meadows at Nehalem, Oreg., Oct. 16 (*JBC*; *RF* & *WT*) and at Blaine, Nov. 25 (*TW*). Snow Geese were first reported for the Region, Oct. 2, with 5 being at Iona Island, B. C.; 250 were there, Oct. 17 (*FWD*). From one to ten birds were seen at Sauvie Island, Oct. 8 and 24, and Nov. 21 (*AB*; *JBC*); Nehalem meadows, Oct. 16 (*JBC*; *RF* & *WT*); Laconnor Flats, Stanwood, Wash., Nov. 17 (*VEC*); and Lake Washington, Oct. 26 through Nov. 17 (*ES*); 3900 birds were on Skagit Flats, Oct. 29 (Wash. State Game Dept.).

Ducks—A very early Gadwall was at Sauvie Island, Aug. 15 (*AB* & *HN*); 2 were at Iona Island, B. C., Sept. 12 (*FWD*); 1 at Green Lake, Seattle, Nov. 15 (*ES*) and 8 at Coos Bay, Oreg., Nov. 26 (*JO*). There were 1000 Pintail at Blaine, Nov. 8 (*LK*) and 3000 on Tofino Flats, Vancouver Island, Nov. 24 (*DS*). Green-winged Teal were first seen this fall at Sauvie Island on Aug. 15 when 12 were present (*AB* & *HN*). About 600 birds were at Iona Island, Sept. 24 (*FWD*). Six Blue-winged Teal were at Skagit Game Range, Sept. 21 (*ES*). The only European Widgeon reported was a bird at Tofino Flats, Vancouver Island, from Oct. 30 onward (Tom Briggs). Of 106,000 ducks estimated at Skagit Flats and another 53,000 on Skagit Bay, Oct. 29 (Wash. State Game Dept.), half were thought to be Am. Widgeon: 3000 of this species were on Tillamook

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Bay by Oct. 16, and another 3000 were on Nehalem Bay in mid-November. A heavy southward migration of widgeon was taking place over the ocean at Seal Rock, Oreg., Sept. 28 (*HWD* & *WT*). Shovelers were first seen, Aug. 15th, with 4 at Sauvie Island on that date (*AB* & *HN*); 21 were on Iona Island, B. C. by Sept. 24 (*FWD*). One hundred Wood Ducks were seen at Ashland, Oreg. on Oct. 19 (Jack Reynolds). Two

Redheads at Crystal Springs, Portland, Oct. 18 (Ron Klein & Jeff Gilligan) and 30 at Coos Bay, Nov. 26 (JO) were the only reports for this species, which is of uncommon occurrence in the Region. Twenty-two Ring-necked Ducks at Green Lake, Seattle, Oct. 5 (ES) were early; 25 were seen at Rockaway, Oreg. on Nov. 27 (JBC & HN). Canvasbacks were little reported; 1 on Tillamook Bay, Sept. 24 (AB & WT) was early; 30 were there, Oct. 16, while 50 were on Coos Bay, Nov. 25. One hundred-twenty Greater Scaup were at Blaine, Oct. 8 (LK) and 20 were at Barview, Oreg., Nov. 27 (JBC & HN). Lesser Scaup were first reported on Sept. 24 with 50 at Tillamook Bay (AB & WT). The species first appeared on Lake Washington, Oct. 30 and built up to 500 by the end of November (ES). Some 650 birds of this species were on Green Lake, Seattle, Nov. 9 (ES). A few Com. Goldeneye appeared in November as is their wont at Tillamook, Blaine, and Seattle. A few wintering Barrow's Golden-eye had appeared on Lake Washington by the 10th of November (VEC; ES); 50 were at Blaine, Oct. 30 and had increased to 100 by Nov. 12 (TW); 37 were on the Duwamish River, Nov. 21 (ES). The only report of Barrow's Goldeneye from Oregon was 4 on the S. Santiam River east of Lebanon on Sept. 1 (WT). Forty Oldsquaw were at Point Roberts, Oct. 14 (FWD); they were thought to be more abundant than usual this fall at Victoria (DS). Harlequin Ducks were reported from Point Roberts, Sept. 1 (FWD); Seattle, Oct. 3; Tillamook Bay entrance, Oct. 16, Nov. 14 and Nov. 27; and Sandy Point Beach, Olympic Nat'l Park on Nov. 20. A female **King Eider** found at Blaine, Oct. 28 (TW), was carefully described. An unusual observation of Surf Scoters was made when 4 were found, Oct. 3, at Olallie Lake and 2 more were on nearby Breitenbush Lake at about 4500 ft. elevation on the west side of Mount Jefferson (AB & RF); a fairly heavy southward passage of this species occurred off Tillamook on Sept. 24 (AB & WT). Six Com. Scoters were at Cape Disappointment, Wash., Sept. 19 (LDL). Returning Ruddy Ducks first appeared in the Region on Sept. 10 when 12 were at Green Lake, Seattle; by Oct. 5 there were 350 present (ES). Hooded Mergansers were observed at Ilwaco, Wash., Sept. 5; Netarts, Oreg., Oct. 17, and Barview, Oreg., Nov. 27 (AB; JBC; HN). A Com. Merganser was on the Columbia River near Chinook, Wash., Sept. 5, and 100 were on Tillamook Bay, Sept. 11 (JBC). Red-breasted Mergansers were first seen in the Region at Blaine, Oct. 10 (TW).

Vultures and Hawks—Stirling reports that a total of 200 Turkey Vultures migrated over Victoria, B. C. during October; no late date was supplied. To the south no one reported this species later than Sept. 27. A Goshawk was seen at McKenzie Pass, Oreg., Oct. 24 (AB & RF). From Lebanon, Oreg., on Sept. 6 an immature Golden Eagle was reported after several days

of easterly winds (WT); the bird is rarely found in this Region, though it is common in eastern Washington and Oregon. Bald Eagles are regularly but sparsely reported. For this fall season an adult was near Florence, Oreg. on Sept. 11 (R. Lucas); another was at Nehalem Bay, Nov. 27 (JBC; RE & HN), while 2 adults and 2 immatures were seen at Lake-of-the-Woods near Medford, Oct. 1 (JH). Marsh Hawks are of regular but scattered occurrence throughout the Region during fall migration. Singles were at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 18 (AB, *et al.*), at Iona Island, Sept. 24 (FWD), and at Nehalem, Nov. 27 (JBC; RF & HN). Two Ospreys were over Puget Sound at Seattle, Aug. 15 (ES) and one was found at Tillamook Bay, Sept. 24 (AB & WT). Reports of lone Peregrine Falcons came from Willapa Bay, Aug. 29 (AB), Cape Flattery, Oct. 20 (LDL), and Cannon Beach, Oreg., Nov. 7 (AB). Pigeon Hawks were more widely reported than usual. One was shot at Forks, Wash., Sept. 21 (LDL), one was seen at Tillamook, Sept. 24 (AB & WT), one was at Skagit Game Range, Oct. 3 (TW), one was at Sauvie Island, Oct. 4 and 22 (HN), and Nov. 21 (AB), and one was at North Bend, Oreg., airport Nov. 17 (Chester Kebbe).

Gallinaceous Birds—A Ruffed Grouse was heard drumming at McKenzie Pass, Oct. 24 (AB & RF). Four half-grown Ring-necked Pheasants were seen at Blaine, Sept. 11 (TW). Turkeys, transplanted several years ago on the east side of Mount Hood by the Oregon State Game Commission, were seen in very different habitat on the west slope of the mountain this fall.

Cranes and Rails—Sandhill Cranes first appeared at Sauvie Island, Sept. 10 when 9 were seen; 500 were there by the end of September and on Oct. 24, 1200 were counted. Seventeen birds were on Skagit Flats, Sept. 25 (ES). Virginia Rails were found at Medford, Sept. 3 (Walter Cavanaugh, *vide* RB), Goble, Sept. 5 (AB & JBC), Forks, Wash., Oct. 11 (LDL), and Nehalem, Nov. 14 (AB). Am. Coots were present in numbers on Green Lake, Seattle by Sept. 10 (ES).

Oystercatchers and Plovers—A flock of 60 Black Oystercatchers at Sidney, Vancouver Island on Oct. 16 was a remarkably large concentration (ARD). Semipalmated Plover were noted in numbers up to 100 from most of the frequently observed locales on the Washington and northern Oregon coast from mid-August until the end of September; there were a few inland records, the most unusual of which was a bird at Fern Ridge Reservoir, Nov. 27 (JO). The only records for Snowy Plover were of two sightings during September at Tillamook Bay, one involving seven birds (JBC & JO). American Golden Plover were more widely reported than ever before. Since previous

records for western Washington and Oregon are few, this season's sightings are worth reporting in detail: 1

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bird at Westport, Wash. on Aug. 21 (*AB* & *MW*); 5 on the 29th at Leadbetter Point where numbers increased to 35 by Sept. 18 (*AB*; *JBC*; *LD*; *WT*). 4 at La Push on Sept. 12 (*LDL*). On the Oregon coast 3 were at Yaquina Bay on Sept. 10 (*WT*), 1 at Tillamook, Sept. 24 (*AB* & *WT*), 1 at Nehalem, Oct. 17 (*AB*), and 2 more there on Nov. 15 (*HN*); a single bird was at the south jetty of the Columbia Oct. 18 (*HN*). From inland locations, 1 was at Lake Washington, Oct. 9 (*ES*); 1 was at Sauvie Island, Sept. 19, 12 were there, Sept. 26, and 21 on Oct. 1 (*AB*); 1 was at Woodburn, Oreg., Oct. 4, and 1 at Albany, Oct. 9 (*WT*). Two Am. Golden Plover were at Point Grey, Vancouver Island on Sept. 22 (*FWD*). Black-bellied Plover were widely reported; favored localities were Iona Island, and various coastal points including Willapa Bay where 300 were present, Aug. 29, south to Coos Bay where there were 40 on Nov. 26 (*AB*). Flocks of fewer than 10 birds were at Sauvie Island in October (*AB*) and as late as Nov. 23 (*HN*); 5 were found southeast of Albany on Oct. 9 (*WT*). Surfbirds were first seen on Oct. 16 at Barview, Oreg., (*JBC*; *RF* & *WT*), where 42 were present on Nov. 14 (*AB* & *WT*). Ruddy Turnstones were seen up to 12 in number at Willapa Bay, Aug. 29 and Sept. 5 (*AB*; *JBC*), while 1 was at Yaquina Bay, Sept. 10. One hundred Black Turnstones were at Blaine, Sept. 25 (*LK*).

Sandpipers—Long-billed Curlew, which are casual in the Region, showed up at Tokeland where LaFave found 12 on Oct. 17 and at Lebanon where Thackaberry observed 2 on Aug. 19 feeding on grasshoppers. Willapa Bay and Westport were the only locations for Whimbrel, with reports of between 5 and 17 birds coming from Aug. 21 to Sept. 19. A **Solitary Sandpiper**, very rare in the Region, was at Blaine, Wash. on Aug. 15 and 18 (*TW*). A Willet on the flats at Tokeland, Oct. 17 (*LDL*) was highly unusual. Knots, up to 11 in number, were observed only at Willapa Bay, Aug. 29 (*AB*), Yaquina Bay, Sept. 1 (*WT*), and Netarts Bay, Oct. 17 (*AB*). A Rock Sandpiper was at Barview as early as Oct. 16 (*JBC*; *RF* & *WT*), while 2 were at Point Chehalis, Wash. Oct. 17 (*LDL*). 16 were at Bar-view on Nov. 14 (*AB* & *WT*) and 14 on Nov. 27 (*JBC*; *HN* & *RF*). Fifteen birds were at the mouth of Nehalem Bay, Nov. 15 (*HN*), and several were at Ruby Beach, Nov. 21 (*TW*). The **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** was found for the third consecutive year at Leadbetter Point with 1 there Sept. 5 (*AB* & *JBC*), 1 (collected), Sept. 18 (*AB*; *JBC*; *LDL* & *WT*), and 2 on Oct. 16 (*LDL*). The first Oregon record for this species came at Tillamook Bay on Oct. 16 when a single bird was studied at close

range (*JBC*; *RF* & *WT*). The bird when found is always in company with Pectoral Sandpipers. The latter species itself occurred this fall in unprecedented numbers: 40 at Willapa Bay on Sept. 18 (*AB*); 63 on Sauvie Island on Sept. 17 and 120 two days later (*AB*); 76 at Iona Island, B. C., Sept. 24 (*FWD*). Elsewhere reports came from Tillamook Bay; Nehalem meadows where 2 were found, Nov. 14; Goble, Oreg.; Lake Terrell; Skagit Game Range; Swinomish; Lake Washington and Victoria. Baird's Sandpiper also was unusually well reported, showing up first at Westport, Aug. 21 (*AB*) and being reported subsequently from Willapa Bay, Iona Island where 12 were found, Sept. 12 (*FWD*), Tillamook, Sauvie Island, La Push, Lost Lake in the Santiam Pass of the Cascades, Yaquina Bay and Swinomish Slough where the last birds were 6-8 on Oct. 3. Some 500 Least Sandpipers were still present, Nov. 27, at Fern Ridge Reservoir (*JO*). Nine Dunlin at Tillamook, Sept. 24 (*AB*), were early. Additional reports of **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, supplementing those for the previous season's report, are of a single bird in non-breeding plumage studied in direct comparison with both Least and Western Sandpipers at Tillamook Bay on Sept. 11 (*JBC* & *JO*), 1, Sept. 24 and 3, Oct. 2 at Iona Island, also carefully studied (*FWD*). Baldrige found a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** on Sauvie Island, Sept. 10. Presumably, the same bird was found at the same location the next day by Nehls and Fisk, and on Sept. 19 about a mile away by Baldrige and Nehls. Meanwhile, Crowell and Olson at Tillamook Bay, also on Sept. 11, found a bird of this species. These finds tend to corroborate a sight-record of Olson's made at the south jetty of the Columbia River early in September, 1960, and not previously submitted since the species had not up to then been recorded in Oregon. There are, however, up to a score of records from western Washington. Marbled Godwits, casual in the Region, were seen as follows: 2 at Willapa Bay on Aug. 29, 11 at Netarts Bay, Oct. 17 (*AB*); 1 at Yaquina Bay, Sept. 1 and 8 there, Sept. 28 (*HWD* & *WT*); one and 2 Sanderlings respectively on Sept. 22 (*HN*) and on Sept. 26 (*AB*) were unusual at this inland location.

Avocets and Phalaropes—An *Am. Avocet* found on Sept. 16 at Sauvie Island by Bob Lucas remained until Sept. 19, and constitutes one of the few records for the Region. Phalaropes were a bit of a disappointment this fall. Red Phalaropes were seen only at Ruby Beach on Sept. 4, at Cape Flattery, Sept. 12 (*LDL*), and at Cape Arago, Nov. 25 (*AB*), in numbers from 1 to 60. Northern Phalaropes were reported as numerous on Puget Sound at Seattle in the middle of August (*ES*). Elsewhere 5 at Sauvie Island, Sept. 4 (*AB*), 8 were at Willapa Bay, Sept. 5 (*AB* & *JBC*) and 15 were at Tillamook Bay, Sept. 11 (*JBC* & *JO*).

Jaegers—Sea trips off Westport on Aug. 22 and Sept. 12 yielded 8 and 7 Pomarine Jaegers respectively (*AB* & *MW*). Parasitic Jaegers were more widely reported; 2 were seen at Westport, Aug. 21 (*AB* & *MW*); 12 at Point Roberts, Sept. 1 (*FWD*); 2 over the mud flats at Leadbetter Point, Sept. 5 (*AB* & *JBC*); 1 at Cape Meares, Sept. 11 (*JBC* & *JO*); 2 at Point Grey, Sept. 15 and Sept. 22 (*FWD*); and 2 at Cape Disappointment on Sept. 18 (*HWD*; *LDL*, *et al.*). Adult **Long-tailed Jaegers** were found at the mouth of the Columbia River from the Oregon side by Nehls on Sept. 16 and 21; another bird, distinctive because of some missing primaries in the right wing, was over the salt marsh at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 18 (*AB*; *JBC*; *LDL* & *WT*).

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Gulls—A Glaucous Gull was at Seal Rock, Oreg. on the early date of Nov. 28 (*WT*). Three Herring Gulls were reported at Westport as early as Aug. 21 (*AB*); other records of from 1 to 4 birds came from three different localities on the Washington coast during September (*LDL*) and from Tillamook Bay in October and November. About 400 Herring Gulls were at Iona Island, B. C., on Oct. 17 (*FWD*). A substantial migration of Mew Gulls was observed over the ocean off Tillamook County, Oreg. in both mid-October and mid-November. A Franklin's Gull at Blaine on Aug. 15 and again on Sept. 19 (*TW*) was a good find, as it is unusual anywhere in the Region. Bonaparte's Gulls, though not common, were widely reported throughout the Region from September on; 5 were just north of Medford on Sept. 24 (*JH*). Heermann's Gulls were last reported on Nov. 14 from Tillamook Bay. Black-legged Kittiwakes were early off Westport on Aug. 21 when 3 were seen; 5 were observed at sea from there, Sept. 12 (*AB*). Thereafter, they were variously reported in numbers up to 40 off the southern Washington and northern Oregon coasts for the rest of the period. A Sabine's Gull was seen off Westport, Aug. 22 and 6 on Sept. 12 (*AB*; *MW*); an immature was off Cape Disappointment on Sept. 18 (*LDL*).

Terns—Common Terns also were reported from coastal areas in unprecedented numbers, as well as from the inland locality of Sauvie Island where a bird was found on Aug. 28 and 5 more were seen on Oct. 8 and 9 (*AB*). Dobson found 80 at Point Roberts, Sept. 1, 75 from Point Grey, Sept. 22 and 10 from Frost Narrows on the late date of Oct. 20. Elsewhere the species was seen in numbers up to 30 at Blaine, Seattle, and Oysterville. Wash., the mouth of the Columbia River, and Yaquina Bay, Oreg., all by competent observers. Fourteen Arctic Terns were at Yaquina Bay, Sept. 23 (*HWD* & *WT*). Caspian Terns were seen in the Gray's Harbor and Willapa Bay areas up to Sept. 18.

Alcids—A pair of Pigeon Guillemots was still feeding young at Cape Flattery, Sept. 12 (*LDL*). Ancient Murrelets, not seen regularly, had a comparatively heavy migratory movement in November; 120 were counted flying southward over the ocean from Barview at the mouth of Tillamook Bay, Nov. 14 (*AB*); 20 were in Elliot Bay, Puget Sound, on Nov. 15 (*ES*), and 25-30 were seen in Admiralty Inlet near Port Townsend, Wash., Nov. 21 (*TW*). Cassin's Auklets were washed up in great numbers on the Oregon beaches from Nehalem south at least to Cape Arago on or just before Nov. 26-28. Twenty-two birds were found dead but in good condition and without oiling in less than a half mile strip at Nedonna Beach on Nov. 27 (*JBC*, *et al.*). A Rhinoceros Auklet was found dead at La Push, Sept. 11 and 5 were seen on the sea at Cape Flattery, Sept. 12 (*LDL*); 2 flew by Leadbetter Point, Sept. 5 (*AB* & *JBC*) and one was captured alive on a beach inside Tillamook Bay on Sept. 11 (*JBC* & *JO*). Six were seen off Cape Arago on Nov. 26 (*AB*).

Pigeons, Owls—Thousands of Band-tailed Pigeons fed on a good acorn crop on Vancouver Island in September (*ARD*). A heavy migration of this species occurred at Lebanon, Oreg., Sept. 12 (*WT*). An individual of the rarely seen Spotted Owl was shot by a hunter, Sept. 21, 9 miles southeast of Forks, Wash. (*vide LDL*).

Nighthawks, Swifts, Hummingbirds—The last nighthawk was reported from Portland, Oct. 9 (*HN*), somewhat later than normal. A flock of Black Swifts at 5000 ft. elevation on Mount Baker was seen on Aug. 18 (*TW*); about 30 were at Cape Flattery, Sept. 12 (*LDL*). Migrating Vaux's Swifts were seen east of Portland at five different locations on the late date of Oct. 5 (*HN*). A male and a female **Anna's Hummingbird** again returned to the Magnolia Bluffs area of Seattle from whence they were reported last fall and winter; the birds were first seen, Nov. 18, and were present at the end of the period. In mid-December, Baldrige and Crowell separately identified a female or young male of this species which had only just been reported as having been coming regularly to a feeder in east Portland since September! A Rufous Hummingbird was still at Blaine on Nov. 12 (*TW*).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers—Lewis' Woodpecker has not been seen for two years at Victoria where it formerly bred. It was virtually absent during the spring and summer at Sauvie Island, but by November was back to usual numbers (*AB*; *HN*); a flock of 11 birds seen in the Medford area, Nov. 6, may have been in migration (*JO*). An **Eastern Kingbird** was at Green Lake in Seattle on Sept. 10 (*ES*, Zella Schultz). Baldrige and Thackaberry found a **Tropical Kingbird** at the Village of Cape Meares, Tillamook Co., Oreg. on

Nov. 14; the find represents an initial record for Oregon, though there are at least two for Washington, also in November. The bird was not found the next day. A Say's Phoebe at Victoria on Oct. 15 (*fide DS*) is unusual.

Swallows, Jays and Nutcrackers—A group of Barn Swallows was still in Seattle on Oct. 17 (*VEC*). Two Purple Martins were seen at Hoquiam, Aug. 21 (*AB & MW*); 9 were at Nehalem on Sept. 11 (*JBC & JO*); the species was last seen at Blaine on Sept. 16 (*TW*). An adult Gray Jay in northwest Portland, seen intermittently from Sept. 9 through Nov. 25, was out of the ordinary (Crenshaw). LaFave found 10 of this species in the Hoh rain forest, Sept. 21 and 8 at Lake Ozette, Nov. 20, on the Olympic Peninsula. Two Clark's Nutcrackers near Victoria on Sept. 16 (*fide DS*) were unusual for Vancouver Island.

Chickadees, Titmice and Wrens—A Mountain Chickadee was at Blaine, Oct. 22-24, and one was found dead nearby on Nov. 25 (*TW*). At Tou Velle State Park north of Medford, 2 Plain Titmice were found, Nov. 6 (*JO*) in the northernmost extremity of the range for this species. A Bewick's Wren at Point Roberts, Sept. 1 (*TW*) was north of its normal range. A Cañon Wren on the southwest slope of Mount Hood at about 2300 ft. elevation in heavily wooded country, Oct. 24, was obviously out of place (R. O. Lee, *fide JBC*).

Mockingbird, Thrushes, Pipits, and Waxwings—A

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Mockingbird was again reported from the Blaine area, Oct. 28 (*LK*). Swainson's Thrush was last reported, Sept. 14, from Seattle (*BB & EB*). Water Pipits were reported as abundant from Blaine, Sauvie Island, and Lebanon at various times in September. A Bohemian Waxwing was found dead at Forks on the remarkably early date of Oct. 8; several flocks were noted in the vicinity from time to time until Nov. 1 (*LDL*). Crowell received an individual of this species killed in Portland on Oct. 25 and got a separate report of a flock the next day, but the then anticipated invasion had not yet materialized by the end of the report period.

Shrikes, Vireos—The first N. Shrike appeared at Skagit Game Range on Oct. 3 (*TW*); other individuals were seen at Nehalem meadows, Oct. 16 (*WT*) and Nov. 27 (*JBC, HN & RF*); at the south jetty of the Columbia on Nov. 1; and at Delta Park, Portland, Nov. 8 (*HN*). Hutton's Vireos were seen this fall more often than usual, but reports were still very limited.

Warblers—A heavy movement was reported from Terrace, B. C., consisting of Audubon's, Myrtle, Wilson's, Yellow, and Townsend's Warblers on Aug. 25 (*HRV*). There was continual evidence of migratory activity at Beacon Hill Park, Victoria from Aug. 25 to Sept. 16 (*DS*) with Orange-crowned Warblers also abundant. Five Orange-crowns were counted at Sauvie Island on Nov. 9 (*HN*), which is a late but not an extraordinary date. The very local *Nashville Warbler* turned up in some unexpected places at unexpected times; one was at Cape Flattery on Sept. 12, farther west than ever previously recorded in Washington (*LDL*); another individual was on Sauvie Island at the very late date of Nov. 9 (*HN*). There were several records during late August and early September for the Black-throated Gray Warbler on Vancouver Island, where the species is rarely found. Another very late date for the finding of this species was Nov. 8 in Delta Park, Portland (*HN*). At Cape Flattery on Sept. 12 were 10 Townsend's Warblers (*LDL*). A *Hermit Warbler* was at Leadbetter Point, Sept. 5 (*JBC*). The top warbler records for the season, however, were the *Palm Warblers*, one of which was found at Nehalem meadows, Oct. 16 (*JBC, RF & WT*) and again about half a mile away on Nov. 27 (*JBC; RF & HN*). Larry Wheeler and Ralph Moldenhauer found 2 individuals of this species at Waldport, Oreg. on Nov. 21. These constitute the first records for western Oregon and along with other warbler finds, both in this Region and in the one to the south in recent years, give promise that more intense field work will develop other very interesting future occurrences.

Blackbirds, Grosbeaks, and Sparrows—A Yellow-headed Blackbird at the south jetty of the Columbia River on Sept. 16 (*HN*) was unprecedented. A Bullock's Oriole at Salishan, Lincoln Co., Oreg. on Sept. 26 (Fred G. Evenden) was unusual, as the species does not normally occur west of the Willamette Valley foothills. Seventeen Brown-headed Cowbirds at Point Roberts on Sept. 1 were farther north or west than usual (*FWD*). Purple Finches in a concentration of over 100 birds at Lebanon, Oct. 2 (*WT*) were highly unusual; the bird is only of sporadic occurrence in small numbers as a rule. The occurrence of 5 immature Pine Grosbeaks at Forks on Nov. 14 (*LDL*) is worthy of note. Red Crossbills were thought to be unusually numerous in the Cascades of southern Washington and the northern half of Oregon at least, and also on the Olympic Peninsula. Two hundred Savannah Sparrows at Iona Island on Sept. 12 was evidence of full scale migration (*FWD*). A *Lark Sparrow* at Tillamook Bay on Sept. 11 was unusual, being the first for the Oregon coast. There were several reports of Slate-colored Juncos in November, coming from Seattle and Portland, and one from Blaine for the end of September. The summer scarcity of Oregon Juncos

continued until the winter populations put in an appearance. A Tree Sparrow showed up at Terrace, B. C., on Nov. 30 (*HV*). There was an immature Harris' Sparrow at a Seattle feeder on Oct. 16, but the bird was seen only that day (*VEC*). Golden-crowned Sparrows arrived early, with 1 at Cape Disappointment on Sept. 18 (*JBC*, *et al.*) and 5 at Tillamook, Sept. 24 (*AB*); thereafter they were thought to be quite abundant at Seattle (*BB* & *EB*). An immature White-throated Sparrow was discovered in Portland on Oct. 11 (*HN*). Fox Sparrows also were early and abundant, first being seen at Seattle, Sept. 11 (*VEC*), at Lebanon, Sept. 25, and at Blaine, Sept. 27. Lincoln's Sparrows, which are rare in the Region, were noted singly at Seattle, Sept. 11, at Blaine, Sept. 24, at Tillamook, Sept. 24, and at Sauvie Island, Oct. 1; 8 were found in Victoria on Sept. 6 (*ARD*). Lapland Longspurs also showed up early and in good numbers for a species up to now considered to be a rare migrant. Three birds were on the salt marsh at Leadbetter Point, Sept. 11 (*AB* & *MW*); 15 birds were there, and one was collected on Sept. 18 (*AB*, *JBC*, *LDL*, & *WT*). Seventy birds were found there on Oct. 2 (*LDL*). At Sauvie Island a single bird was seen on Sept. 19 and on Oct. 1 (*AB*). On Sept. 24, 30 longspurs were found at Tillamook Bay (*AB*, *HWD* & *WT*) and a lone bird was there, Oct. 16 (*RF* & *WT*); 2 individuals were present on Oct. 7-8 at a burned-over rye-grass field near Lebanon (*WT*); another single bird was seen at Ocean Shores, Wash. on Nov. 20 (*TW*). Two Snow Buntings were noted at Victoria, Nov. 18 (*ARD*, *et al.*) and 1 was at the south jetty of the Columbia River on Oct. 18 (*HN*).

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Winter Season, 1965-66

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION / Thomas H. Rogers

Winter in the Region was rather uniformly mild, with low precipitation and a light snow cover in most localities. The lowest temperature reported was only a -12°, at the National Bison Range at Moiese, Mont. The

same station reported highs of 74° and 76° in December and March, respectively; 54° in January and 48° in February. Maximum snow depth there was a mere 4.5 inches. Freeze-up was late in the Bozeman, Mont. area, Ennis Lake remaining open until about Dec. 19. At Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash. virtually all the lakes were frozen by mid-December; the larger lakes opened up about Feb. 25. Sparse snow cover undoubtedly favored ground feeders in the Region. One exception to this condition was in the Okanogan Valley of southern British Columbia, where snow lay deep during January and much of February, working hardship upon quail, pheasants and partridges. Some sectional editors remarked on an apparent dearth of birds. Hand characterized the winter at Missoula as "rather disappointing." Skaar mentioned that both Ennis and Bozeman, Mont. Christmas counters noted a scarcity of landbirds. Mrs. Stanley reported "less constant activity around feeding stations and specific locations" at Spokane and fewer individuals but no decrease in species on the Christmas count. One suspects that birds remained scattered because of greater availability of food. On the other hand, the northern finches put in good to excellent appearances. Mrs. Ward spoke of a "finch year" at Baker, Oreg. Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, redpolls and Red Crossbills were particularly noticeable at many localities. In the Spokane area this correlated with a good cone crop. Fruit-eaters, however, wintered in low numbers, because of the almost complete absence of their usual food supply, particularly Mountain Ash berries.

Loons, Grebes—The Common Loon was reported only at Ennis Lake, Madison Co., Mont., where 3 were still present on the late date of Dec. 12. A single Red-necked Grebe was at Penticton, B. C. on Dec. 27. The species was not noted elsewhere. One Western Grebe was noted there on the same date and another was sighted on the Spokane River near Spokane, Wash. during December (*S.A.S.*).

Hérons, Waterfowl—In addition to a few Great Blue Herons at Spokane (*S.A.S.*), Vernon and Summerland (*SC*), B. C. and Stevensville, Mont., about 20 remained at Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge near Charlo, Mont. "Several hundred" Whistling Swans were reported at their usual wintering place on the South Thompson River east of Kamloops, B. C. Between 10 and 30 were present at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash. nearly through December. The 50 there at the last of February apparently were early migrants. A flock of young males near Cheney, Wash. on Jan. 24 probably were wintering, for the flock had been seen a few days earlier in the area by another observer (*FBH*, *KS*). Twenty late migrants were at Ninepipe Refuge in early December and 15 were at Ennis, Mont. until Dec.

12. At the latter place it is probable that some Trumpeter Swans wintered. Moderate numbers of Canada Geese wintered at several localities. About 20,000 (Lesser) Canada Geese were noted on Dec. 5 at Banks Lake and Stratford, Grant Co., Wash. (JA). A flock of 25 Snow Geese, probably late migrants, flew low over Missoula, Mont. on Dec. 30, in advance of the first mild blizzard. Mallards dropped from a high of 25,000 in early winter at Ninepipe Refuge to zero during the freeze-up. Abundant at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. during December, the species declined to a wintering population of 5000. Gadwall and Pintail wintered at both refuges, as did Am. Widgeon. A male *European Widgeon* appeared at Reardan, Wash., March 25-27 (JA, WH). Greater Scaup, not common in the Region, were noted wintering in small numbers on Okanagan Lake in southern British Columbia. A few were seen on the Spokane River at Spokane, March 31 (WH). Two *Oldsquaw* were identified at Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash., Dec. 30-Jan. 3 (JA) and a female was at Seven Mile on the Spokane River, March 31 (WH & Mrs. SOS). Although a rare migrant in eastern Washington, records now indicate a certain regularity in its appearance (WH). A Red-breasted Merganser, rare in the Okanagan, was seen at Okanagan Landing, Dec. 27. Thirty of these birds were still at Ennis Lake in Montana on Dec. 12.

Hawks, Eagles—Goshawks seemed distinctly more common than usual, appearing at Bozeman and Missoula, Mont.; at Spokane (maximum of 3, Christmas count), and in the Vernon, B. C. area, where the species was described as quite common. Red-tailed Hawks wintered in the usual small numbers around Spokane, were scarce at Bozeman, Mont. but were seen in more than usual numbers in the Vernon area. Swainson's Hawk wintered again in the Bitterroot Valley around Stevensville, Mont. Rough-legged Hawk numbers were perhaps below normal except in

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eastern Washington. Golden Eagles were few. At Ninepipe Refuge only 4 remained, compared to 15 last year. By contrast, in northeastern Oregon 9 were counted on Virtue Flat and in Keating Valley near Baker, Dec. 19, and 18, on the Snake River between Richland and Huntington, Oreg., Jan. 9. The Interior Department has authorized Montanans to kill predatory Golden Eagles in all but 4 north-western counties of the state. The birds may be taken only by livestock owners and their agents, for protection of domestic livestock. Any means except poison or airplanes may be used. The open season is from April 1 through June 30 of 1966 (*Great Falls Tribune*). Four Bald Eagles were noted at the latter locality on the same

date. Wintering numbers at Ennis Lake in Montana had built up to 10 by March 20 as ice began to break up, yielding fish. At Ninepipe, Bald Eagle numbers, as with the Golden, were far below last year's; only 3 were noted, compared to 16 a year ago. The Golden was scarce at Vernon but perhaps a half dozen of the Bald wintered there. A few Bald Eagles were noted in several other localities. Peregrine Falcons appeared only on the Bozeman Christmas count, at Ninepipe Refuge (at least 1) and at nearby Pablo, Mont. (2) (FLK).

Gallinaceous Birds—Blue Grouse were common on the Nat'l Bison Range, where the total population was estimated at 60 birds. The population level for Ring-necked Pheasants remained low for the entire Flathead Valley, but mild weather and abundant food furnished excellent conditions for the birds (MTN). Survival was "fairly good" in the Okanagan Valley and was probably up a bit at Bozeman, Mont. Conditions at Ninepipe Refuge were similar to those at the Bison Range. About 100 of the birds wintered on the refuge; many carried bands, showing they were game farm birds. Chukars were scarce at the Bison Range; total population was estimated at 10-15. In the Coulee Lakes region of Grant County, Wash. flocks totaling up to 65 were noted around the year's end (WH, JA). Gray Partridge were definitely down in numbers in the Spokane area (WH) and in the Vernon, B. C. area, where deep snow prevailed through January to mid-February. Two Turkeys were noted on the northeast corner of Turnbull Refuge, Dec. 22 and 7 were sighted at refuge headquarters, March 28. Nineteen of the big birds were observed feeding in a forested area near Rice, Stevens Co., Wash. on Feb. 22 (WH).

Coot, Shorebirds—Am. Coot wintered in various localities. About 2300 were on Okanagan Lake at Penticton, B. C. on Dec. 27 but only 1 was noted at Ennis Lake, Madison Co., Mont., Dec. 22. The usual sprinkling of Killdeer was present in the Region, but the birds either departed or succumbed at Vernon, B. C. before the winter ended. Both Kill-deer and Common Snipe were scarce in the Bozeman area.

Gulls—A few Herring Gulls wintered on Okanagan Lake as did 40-60 at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. (S.A.S.). Two *Glaucous Gulls* were at the latter locality for a week in January (JA) and 2 were seen at Okanagan Landing, B. C., Dec. 27. Few gulls were present at Coeur d'Alene because of the closing of the dump and their scarcity at Spokane, Wash. may be the result of a cleaner Spokane River after expansion of the sewage treatment plant (WH).

Doves, Owls—In addition to the usual small number of wintering Mourning Doves, 75 in the Vernon, B. C. area on Dec. 27 seem noteworthy and at least 1

wintered at the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. Two were noted west of Bozeman, Jan. 18 (BE). Single Snowy Owls were noted in eastern Washington: near Davenport on Dec. 31 and Jan. 9 (WH) and Jan. 1 (JA), and near Wilbur, Jan. 29 (WH). One bird was captured and confined in a cage at Spokane in January (PK). Pygmy Owls went unreported from western Montana and appeared scarce else-where, with the exception of the Okanagan area of British Columbia, where numbers appeared greater than usual. A *Flammulated Owl* was seen at very close range (4 feet) at Penticton, B. C., Dec. 24 (SC). Short-eared Owls were common in the Vernon area (12 on Dec. 27) until the snow became deep. Eight in Alexander Basin of the Bison Range on Feb. 23 were believed to be migrants. The species appeared quite scarce elsewhere in the Region.

Woodpeckers—A few Lewis' Woodpeckers wintered in the Okanagan, the most northerly records being 1 at Vernon, Dec. 29 (NG) and 1 at Oyama, March 17. The only other records were for the Bison Range, where the species was noted as common during February and March, and Wenatchee, Wash., 4 on the Christmas count. An unusual number of sightings of White-headed Woodpeckers were reported: 1 near Colville, Wash. (JA), 2 near Fruitland, Wash. (WH), 7 on the east side of Vaseux Lake, southern British Columbia (SC) and 1 at Naramata, B. C. The Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was reported at Baker, Oreg., Colville, Wash. (JA) and Stevensville, Mont. The only Northern Three-toed sighting was made at Naramata, Jan. 29 (SC).

Larks, Jays and Crows—Horned Larks appeared to winter in rather small numbers, except for eastern Washington, where they were frequently observed but only in small flocks (SAS). Steller's Jay was unusually common in the southern Okanagan area; 50 were counted on the Christmas count, Dec. 27. Seventy Com. Crows were noted at Ontario, Oreg. on Feb. 20. A flock of Piñon Jays was found near Three Forks, Mont., Jan. 30 (RAH, PDS, SMS) and the species, noted near Stevensville, Mont. during the fall period, lingered on into December there. Clark's Nutcracker appeared in increased numbers at Baker, Oreg., apparently because of the good cone crop. The birds were abundant in Ponderosa Pine areas in southern Stevens Co., Wash. on 2 dates in February (JA, WH).

Chickadees, Nuthatches—Chickadee numbers appeared about normal. A Chestnut-backed Chickadee appeared at a feeder in Spokane in February (Mrs. JOS). Red-breasted Nuthatches showed high numbers in the Spokane area; in fact, they probably out-numbered Pygmy Nuthatches there. The species

was still scarce in the North Okanagan but 47 were noted at Penticton on Dec. 27.

Dippers, Wrens, Thrushes—Highway construction in the vicinity of Greenough Park in Missoula, Mont., apparently had driven wintering Dippers farther up Rattlesnake Creek. A few Winter Wrens were noted near Baker, Oreg. Fewer reports than usual were received for the species in the Okanagan Valley. The only Callon Wrens reported were 2 along the Little Spokane River north of Spokane, Feb. 12 (WH) and 1 along the Snake River east of Baker, Jan. 9. Robins wintered sparingly in the Region, despite the general mildness. At Spokane and Missoula the reason apparently was the extreme scar-city of berries, particularly of the Mountain Ash, the result of a late spring freeze. Very few Varied Thrush were noted, probably also because of lack of food. A Hermit Thrush was found dead at McNary Refuge in December. Three Western Bluebirds were still at Penticton, B. C. on Dec. 27.

Waxwings, Shrikes, Starlings—Bohemian Waxwings were described as abundant at Vernon, B. C. during December, less numerous thereafter. Late in arriving at Missoula, Mont. the birds increased to about 1000 by December's end and likewise dwindled afterwards. "Moderate numbers" were noted at Bozeman. The species was considered abundant at the Bison Range, 100-200 being noted along Mission Creek. Elsewhere the birds appeared in reduced numbers. Missing the Mountain Ash berries, the birds put in a poor showing in the Spokane area. The largest number there was 500 on Feb. 12 and March 23, compared with the usual thousands (S.A.S.). A few Cedar Waxwings were seen at Baker, Oreg., Missoula and Spokane (WH, S.A.S.). Northern Shrikes were in about normal numbers, with the largest number, 8, counted at Vernon, B. C., Dec. 27. Wintering Starlings appeared to be at about the same level as in preceding years.

Warblers, Blackbirds—Five Audubon's Warblers were noted, Feb. 20, along the Malheur River south of Baker, Oreg. One individual, probably a migrant, appeared at McNary Refuge on March 24 and remained at least to the end of the report period. A very few W. Meadowlarks wintered at Vernon, B. C. Eight visited a feeding tray regularly through January to mid-February. A few Red-winged Blackbirds wintered at Bozeman and Stevensville, Mont., in the Spokane area and in the Okanagan Valley. A flock of young males at Cheney, Wash. on Jan. 24 may have wintered (FBH). A few Brewer's Blackbirds wintered at Bozeman. In the Okanagan, the only record was of 3 on Dec. 27, but 100 were near Baker, Oreg., Dec. 21. The species

appeared at McNary Refuge about Feb. 1 and the birds were commonly seen at the Bison Range where winter records are unusual, during February and March.

Finches—Every reporting locality mentioned Evening Grosbeaks. The largest number, 150, was re-ported, Jan. 3, at Geiger Field near Spokane, where they fed upon Russian Olive fruit. The maximum noted at Baker was 80 on March 3. On the Christmas counts in the Okanagan, 133 were counted at Vernon and 96 at Penticton. However, the birds were described as rather uncommon there during the winter. A few Cassin's Finches wintered at Baker and Spokane and a singing male was in Bozeman on Jan. 26. A House Finch was seen daily at Missoula, March 15-18. A few Pine Grosbeaks appeared at Baker and Spokane; larger numbers appeared in the Okanagan (see Christmas count) and "fair numbers" were noted at Bozeman. Most re-orting localities had a "redpoll winter." The Common Redpoll was fairly common at Missoula after several years of scarcity. "Immense flocks" were reported around Stevensville, Mont. It was "the biggest year ever" for the species at Spokane (*S.A.S.*), with a maximum of some 250 there on Jan. 3 (*WH*). The species was fairly common at Bozeman and in the Okanagan and a few were noted at Baker. Three *Hoary Redpolls* were observed in a flock of the Common at Okanagan Landing, Feb. 17 (*KG*). Pine Siskins went generally unreported, except for a few in the Spokane area and notable concentrations in northeastern Oregon, where 200 were seen on the Snake River, Jan. 9, and 400-500 near Huntington, Feb. 20. Wintering Am. Goldfinches were noted at most localities. A few in the Stevensville area during January and February were unusual there. Red Crossbills were common in some areas, namely, around Spokane, Stevensville and Baker; extremely scarce in the Okanagan, correlating with virtual absence of a Douglas Fir cone crop there, and entirely absent at other reporting localities. White-winged Crossbills were noted only in the Bitterroot Valley near Stevensville, Mont., in December (*MG*).

Sparrows□ A very few Rufous-sided Towhees wintered at Spokane; 1 was seen at Okanagan Landing in late December, and 1 was noted at Baker, Jan. 8 (*JB*). Oregon Juncos appeared in smaller numbers than usual in most localities, perhaps because of the relatively open winter. The birds were common in the Okanagan, however. Small numbers of Tree Sparrows were noted at Bozeman, Missoula, Baker, Vernon, Penticton and Lake Louise (*WH* & *HH*). Small numbers of \White-crowned Sparrows wintered in the Spokane area and in the Okanagan. *Harris' Sparrow*, reported only in the Okanagan, was scarce there but much more numerous than usual. It is considered a straggler there. *Five* were seen in the Vernon District, Dec. 27; 2 at Kelowna, Jan. 8; 5 at a feeder at Vernon, late December to mid-March

and at least 1 in the area at the end of March (*Mrs. JS*). A single Lapland Longspur was reported, this at Ennis, Mont. on the Christmas count. Very few Snow Buntings were observed, except at the Bison Range, where they were commonly noted throughout the winter.

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Winter Season, 1965-66

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

After a very wet year our winter was warmer and drier than usual. For instance, the Blitzen watershed snowpack was 75 percent of normal on March 1; the Silvies watershed, 50 percent. These figures together account for almost all the water that will run into the great sump called the Malheur Refuge in eastern Oregon. After the spring rains there may be some modification of these figures, but in general these are the figures for 1966. Owing to last year's moisture, however, Malheur will still have a good year. The water situation will be similar at all the great refuges in the Great Basin: Still-water, western Nevada; Klamath Basin, California-Oregon line; Ruby Lakes, eastern Nevada; Bear River Marshes on the Great Salt Lake. Throughout the West, the water content is carefully measured and run-off closely calculated. Most observers thought our winter relatively dull with fewer unusual birds and smaller numbers. There were no great invasions of boreal species. There were numbers of lingering summer visitors, owing to the mild winter,

such as Audubon's Warbler at Cheyenne, Wyo. at 6000 feet, Jan. 11 (*MH*). A warm March brought back migrants earlier than usual—Tree Swallows at Farmington Bay, Great Salt Lake, March 13 (*GK*).

Swans—Malheur had 15,000 Whistling Swans on March 17, the highest concentration there since 1955. It probably represents 50 percent of the Pacific flyway population (*HFD*). At Stillwater, Nev., there were 8200 at the peak of the winter concentration on Jan. 15, a new high count (*LHW*). The peak of the Whistlers at Tule Lake in the Klamath Basin was 7180 on Feb. 20 (*EJO'N*).

Ducks and Geese—The warm weather interfered with waterfowl movements and the spring peak of ducks at Stillwater was only 97,000 compared with last year's 172,000 (*LHW*). Twice as many ducks (101,450) wintered in the Klamath Basin, because of the warm winter (*EJO'N*). The peak concentrations at Tule Lake were: 197,300 Pintail, Feb. 27; 182,050 Snow Geese on the same date; 181,920 White-fronted Geese; and 83,300 Ruddy Ducks. All but the Pintail show increases over last year. Other ducks, such as Shoveler and Mallard, were less common than last year (*EJO'N*). The spring migration at Malheur was in full swing on March 17, only a few days after the ice went off the lake. There were 200,000 ducks: 125,000, Pintail; 35,000, Am. Widgeon—a very high figure. There were also 75,000 Snow Geese (*HFD*). Bear River Marshes, north end of Great Salt Lake, had a poor waterfowl migration this spring with 55,446 on March 18—considerably lower than last year (*FG*). Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho—the great Mal-lard refuge—had only 378,450 birds at the peak date, Dec. 19-25, which is below recent years. Of this number, 86 percent were Mallards (*RVP*). The Minidoka Refuge, Snake River, Idaho, had a peak of 80,300 ducks in early December. Again the Mallard is the most common wintering duck, followed by Pintail, Canvasback, Common Golden-eye (*LDN*). Monte Vista, Colo. had 14,500 Mallards for the winter. A Ross' Goose spent the winter, along with a White-fronted and a Snow (*CRB*); the first two are very rare in this area.

Rare Ducks—Twenty-five Wood Ducks were present at Deer Flat Refuge at the end of March. This represents a steady increase of this bird (*RVP*). An Oldsquaw was again seen at the Standard Oil Lagoon near Casper, Wyo., March 27. This species has been only casual inland (*OKS*). Three European Widgeon were seen in February at Tule Lake (*EJO'N*). Another 10 birds, of which 2 were banded, were present in eastern Oregon (*HFD*). The European Widgeon seems established in small numbers in that area.

Hawks and Eagles—Twenty-five Bald Eagles wintered at Malheur—an increase over recent years (*HFD*). Other hawks have decreased markedly over several years. For instance, the Rough-legged Hawk has decreased from over 100 to 15 this year at Christmastime (*HFD*). This bird is also much down in numbers at Logan, Utah (*DMF*). Eight Bald Eagles wintered at the Minidoka Refuge, Idaho (*LDN*). One hundred and four Bald Eagles were present last January in the Klamath Basin Wildlife Refuges (*EJO'N*), which is an increase. The 19 Golden Eagles in the same area is the only good concentration reported. Good concentrations of Bald Eagles were reported from the Colorado River (*JMD*) and the North Platte River (*OKS*). It seems

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that the Bald Eagle is at least holding its own or increasing a little in this area. In the meantime, the organized sheep industry is increasing its attacks on the Golden Eagle. This is utterly senseless. It is based on the false premise that eagles take live lambs. There is no reliable evidence that this hap-pens, but quite the contrary. The Golden Eagle eats carrion; there are always many dead lambs on a sheep ranch because of the weather, poor range, etc. The Golden Eagle is in trouble. A Peregrine Falcon was seen at Grand Junction, Colo., Jan. 28 (*LE*). There were 2 (including one immature) at Grantsville, south of Great Salt Lake, Jan. 30 (*GK*). Another was seen at Parowan, Utah, March 1 (*SM*).

Owls—There are several reports of Pygmy Owls. There were two sightings of these in February at Hotchkiss on the western slope of Colorado (*TC*). Another was seen in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, Colo., Dec. 22 (*MM*). A Pygmy Owl came to a feeder and captured a Starling in Durango, Colo., Feb. 11 (*OR*). This owl is no bigger than the Starling; another was seen at the Parowan cemetery, Jan. 1 (*SM*). This owl has been seen in cemeteries so often that it should be called "the cemetery owl." The Salt Lake City cemetery has now had lights installed and this has spoiled the owling (*GK*). A Long-eared Owl was seen at Arches Nat'l Monument, Dec. 28; a first record for this part of Utah (*DLC*)—probably reflecting the lack of good observers.

Flycatchers—An Eastern Phoebe was collected at Springdale, Utah, Dec. 17 (*RHW*)—the second record for the state.

Thrushes—Many dead Robins were found in orchard areas near Hotchkiss, Colo. This was attributed to dormant sprays (*TC*).

Waxwings—Cedar Waxwings were noted mixed with Bohemians in several areas this winter. At Minidoka, Idaho, 5 percent of the flocks were Cedars (*LDN*). A mixed flock of about 100 were seen on the western slope at Hotchkiss, March 2 (*TC*). A flock of straight Cedars was seen at Parowan on Feb. 19-26 (*SM*).

Redpolls—These birds were common this winter as far south as central Colorado. Nine were seen in Park County, March 19 (*RG*).

Sparrows—Two White-throats were seen near Moab, Utah, Dec. 30 (*LD*), and Jan. 26 (*DLC*). This bird has not been previously reported from this part of Utah, owing to lack of observers.

Contributors—(CRB), Charles R. Bryant; (DLC), Dennis L. Carter; (TC), Theo Colborn; (JMD), John M. Davis; (LD), Larry Davis; (HFD), Harold F. Duebbert; (LE), Lucy Ela; (DMF), Dennis M. Forsythe; (FG), Frank Gunnell; (RG), Richard Gustafson; (MH), May Hanesworth; (GK), Gleb Kashin; (MM), Meredith Morris; (SM), Stewart Murie; (LDN), Larry D. Napier; (EJO'N), Eugene J. O'Neill; (RVP), Ronald V. Papike; (OR), Oppie Reames; (OKS), Oliver K. Scott; (RHW), Roland H. Wauer; (LHW), Larry H. Worden.

The Winter Season, 1965-66

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

The Pacific Northwest experienced one of the mildest winters in several years with open water in low areas throughout the season. A series of December and January storms left snow for a time even at low elevations and contributed to a heavier than usual mid-winter snowpack in the mountains through the central and southern parts of the Region. February was more moderate; the latter part of the month was considerably above average in temperature. British Columbia and northern Washington had milder-than-normal winter weather after December.

Loons, Grebes, Pelagics—An Arctic Loon in the Columbia River at Sauvie Island west of Portland, Oreg. on March 26 was unusual for this inland location (*HBN*). A concentration of 60 Red-necked Grebes seen in the area of the Seattle Christmas count on Dec. 26 was noteworthy. Single Horned Grebes were seen inland in the Portland area at separate locations in January (*AB*, *HBN*). Lone Eared Grebes were found at Point Roberts, Jan. 8 and March 26 and at Iona Island, Jan. 29 (*FWD*), and on Tillamook Bay, Jan. 2 and March 6. Western Grebes were at scattered points in the Willamette Valley in late December and early

January. Dead Fulmars were found on the beaches along the Oregon coast southward from the Columbia River to Lincoln County from December until the end of January. The last live one was over the ocean at Barview, Jan. 2 (*WT*).

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Hérons—Two Common Egrets were in the Medford area from Dec. 15th; one was subsequently shot, but the other remained through March (*JH*). A Common Egret was at Devils Lake on the Lincoln County, (Oreg.) coast, Jan. 30 (*AB* & *HBN*); 3 of this species were still at Coos Bay, Dec. 14 (*JO*). The Cattle Egret reported for Sauvie Island in the fall summary eluded would-be viewers until Jan. 17, when it was seen some two miles from the spot of the initial observation. It was in a farmyard and was reported by nearby residents to have been in close vicinity for about three weeks. The bird again promptly disappeared, and has not been found again. The Green Heron appears to winter at times in a very few highly favored locations in western Oregon; birds are found at Crystal Springs in Portland pretty much year after year on the Christmas count; this year a Green Heron wintered also on Sauvie Island (*AB*, *HBN*). An immature Black-crowned Night Heron was at Crystal Springs, Jan. 16 and Jan. 19, being first seen by Dr. Ruth Hopson and confirmed by Harry Nehls. One Black-crowned Night Heron was seen in the Eugene area, Dec. 26, while 9 were recorded for the Medford Christmas count on Jan. 2.

Swans—Thirty-two Trumpeter Swans were seen at Mud Lake, ten miles north of Terrace, B. C. on Dec. 1 (*HRV*); 22 of this species were in the Ladner, B. C. area on Jan. 15 (*FWD*). A wild population in small numbers of Mute Swans was in evidence at places along the Lincoln County, Oreg. coast north of Siletz Bay in January and February. Whistling Swans wintered at widely scattered points throughout the Region; 41 individuals were at three localities on southern Vancouver Island. In Washington, a flock of 14 was at the mouth of the Nooksack River, Bellingham, while another of 33 birds was at Clear Lake, near Mount Vernon; these flocks were comprised of about 50 percent immatures (*TRW*). Up to 64 birds wintered on LaConner flats north of Stanwood, Wash. (*VEC*), and 50 birds are re-reported to have been at the Willapa Bay Nat'l Wild-life Refuge. In Oregon, birds wintered in the lower Columbia, and were reported from the Corvallis-Eugene area in numbers up to 16; 11 were at Nehalem meadows, Jan. 8 (*HN*).

Geese—Canada Geese were found throughout the winter at LaConner flats and in the Seattle area (*VEC*, *ES*); 23 were at Ladner, B. C., Jan. 15 (*FWD*). It was estimated that about 1500 birds, mostly Lessers, spent

the winter on Sauvie Island, though by March numbers had increased to an estimated 7000 (HBN). The Wm. L. Finley Nat'l Wildlife Refuge south of Corvallis also supported wintering Canada Geese, with the Dusky race pre-dominating but with the Lesser, Great Basin, and Cackling varieties also present. Black Brant were re-corded on the Victoria Christmas count, a rare occurrence (DS); farther south they wintered in normal numbers apparently, with the low point in numbers occurring, as usual, in February. Numbers by the end of March had increased at the wintering spots, while flocks of up to 300 birds were seen both at Point Roberts (FWD) and Seattle (ES) at month's end. Ten birds on the Columbia at Sauvie Island, March 26, were highly unusual (HN). White-fronted Geese were seen only on Vancouver Island, where 3 wintered at Portage Inlet on grain hand-outs (DS), and at Sauvie Island, where 7 were seen on Feb. 17 and 2 on March 26 (HBN). Snow Geese wintered in the Stanwood-Mount Vernon, Wash. area "by the thousands" (VEC). The only other reports for this species were from Sauvie Island, where there were 8 on Dec. 12 and 30 on Jan. 16 (HBN), and from the Wm. L. Finley Refuge where up to 7 were seen Feb. 5 and 26 (AB).

Ducks—Pond ducks were reported to be more numerous than usual in northern parts of the Region. Two Gadwall were at Iona Island, Jan. 29 (FWD). Two thousand Green-winged Teal were seen at the same time; 250 were at Leadbetter Point, Willapa Bay, Wash. on March 13 (AB & LLF). Blue-winged Teal showed up on the Portland and Hubbard, Oreg. Christmas counts; one was at Ferndale, Wash., March 19 (TW). Fifteen Cinnamon Teal were seen at Medford on March 12 (JO). European Widgeon were reported for Seattle, Portland and Sauvie Island where the Oregon State Game Comm. reportedly banded a hybrid European-American Widgeon (*fide* HBN). Six Shovelers were at Ladner, B. C. on Jan. 15 (FWD). Wood Ducks were regularly found at favored spots in the Portland area and at Sauvie Island throughout the winter (HBN). The Redhead is irregular in the Region; 20 were on Beaver Lake, Skagit Co., Wash., Jan. 30 (TRW); 1 was on Whidbey Island, Wash., Jan. 23 (ES); 2 were on Tillamook Bay, Jan. 2 (JO & HBN); 1 was at Hoover Lake on Feb. 19 and 6 were at Emigrant Reservoir, both near Medford, on March 12 (JO). Some 500 Canvasback were at Iona Island on Jan. 29; along the southern Washington and northern Oregon coasts this species was thought to be present somewhat more commonly than of recent years. Fifty Barrow's Goldeneyes were on the Duwamish River and 20 on Lake Washington throughout the winter (VEC, ES). Over a dozen of this species were on Hoover Lake from at least Jan. 25 to Feb. 19 (LH, JO); 3 were near Corbett, Oreg., Jan. 23 and 24 (Robert Lucas, HBN). A few Oldsquaws were seen at Point Roberts and Iona

Island in January, but well over 100 were seen in the Point Roberts-Birch Bay area on March 26 (FWD); one was at Whidbey Island on Jan. 23 (VEC & ES). Small flocks of up to 15 Harlequin Ducks were seen throughout the winter at Birch Bay, Wash. (TRW) and at Barview, Oreg. (JBC, *et al.*). Hooded Mergansers were found in numbers up to 18 from the Ladner, B. C. area south to Medford in scattered locales. Seventy-five Red-breasted Mergansers on the Columbia near Longview, March 20, was a surprising concentration so far from the sea (AB & DBM); there were also over 100 Common Mergansers present, along with other fish-eating species. It was presumed the birds were attracted by a run of smelt.

Vultures, Hawks and Eagles—A Turkey Vulture at Grants Pass on March 14 (JO) and another at Gray's River in southwestern Washington on March 20 (AB & DBM) were the first migrant records

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of this species for the spring season. Rough-legged Hawks were sparsely reported this year; single birds were at Barview, Oreg. on the Tillamook Christmas count, Jan. 2; at Marietta, Wash. in mid-February; at Pitt Meadows, Feb. 22 (TRW); and at Netarts Bay, Oreg., March 19 (JBC). Golden Eagles were recorded twice in Jackson County, Oreg. during the period; one was seen for the Medford Christmas count, while the other was an adult seen on the Green Springs highway, Jan. 25 (JO). Bald Eagles were reported as follows: 1 from Medford, Dec. 27 to Feb. 5 (JH); 2 at Point Roberts, Jan. 8 (FWD); 1 or 2 immatures from Tillamook Bay, Jan. 19 and 1 adult the same day at Netarts Bay where 2 adults were seen, Feb. 26 (JBC & HBN), and again on March 6 (AB & WT, *et al.*); an adult east of Cannon Beach on Jan. 22 (Alton Chase); an immature at Devils Lake, Lincoln Co., Oreg., Jan. 30 (AB & HBN); an adult and an immature at Sauvie Island, Feb. 11 (C. Trainer); an adult at Corvallis, Feb. 18 (Larry Wheeler); 6 adults and 2 immatures along the lower Columbia, Feb. 13 (AB & RF), and up to 11 at Deception Pass along the Green River east of Seattle in February (VEC). The only report of a Peregrine was for Tillamook Bay, Jan. 29 (JBC & HBN). Pigeon Hawks were reported from Marietta, Wash., Feb. 13 (TRW); Sauvie Island in early December and again at mid-February; and from Cape Disappointment at the north jetty of the Columbia River, March 13 (AB); birds were also seen on the Portland and Seattle Christmas counts.

Gamebirds and Rails—Thirteen Gray Partridge were seen at Victoria, B. C., Jan. 20 (Ray Beckett, *fide* DS) and are thought to be holding steady in number. Two Virginia Rails were seen on the Seattle Christmas count

and one on the Medford count; a bird or two of this species apparently wintered in the spot where nesting occurred last year near Hubbard, Oreg. (TM). A Sora was first found by the same observer on Feb. 3 and was seen several times after-ward.

Shorebirds—Three Semipalmated Plovers were at Tillamook on Jan. 2 (HBN & JO), and 2 were still there Jan. 29 (JBC & HBN). Killdeer were thought to be present in somewhat higher numbers than usual for the season throughout most of the Region. One hundred Black-bellied Plovers were at Whidbey Island, Jan. 23 (ES); 2 were at Sauvie Island on Dec. 11 and 12 (HBN & AB); by March 13, 200 were at Willapa Bay (AB & LLF). A Ruddy Turnstone was at Tillamook Bay, Jan. 2 (WT) and 2 were seen at Willapa Bay, March 13 (AB & LDL). There were no reports for Common Snipe farther north than Portland. A *Whimbrel* was at Yaquina Bay on the surprising date of Jan. 30 (AB & HBN). Spotted Sandpipers were nowhere in evidence this year as in recent past years except for the Medford area. Greater Yellowlegs were found in unprecedented winter numbers and locations: 1 at Eugene, Dec. 26; 2 at Conway, Wash. on Feb. 27 (TRW); five north of Tillamook on March 19 (JBC, et al.); 15 at Willapa Bay, March 20 (AB & LLF); 1 at Hubbard, Oreg., March 21 (TM); and 1 at Sauvie Island, March 26 (HBN). Sixteen Rock Sandpipers wintered on the newly reconstructed jetty at Barview, the entrance to Tillamook Bay. Baldrige found one at Oysterville, Wash. on March 13. Least Sandpipers were reported only from the Oregon Coast and Sauvie Island. Dunlins were reported in numbers from 2000 to 10,000 in the Bellingham and Ladner area and at Willapa Bay, but in smaller numbers from farther south. A Short-billed Dowitcher was at Willapa Bay on March 20 (AB). Eight Long-billed Dowitchers were on Sauvie Island, Dec. 12 (AB); the same number was at Tillamook, Jan. 2 (HBN & JO), and 12 were at Nehalem meadows, Jan. 8 (HBN). Western Sandpipers were recorded only from Oregon localities and from Willapa Bay in small numbers except for the 200 at Eugene on Dec. 26. Three *Marbled Godwits* were at Yaquina on the amazing date of Jan. 30 (AB & HBN).

Gulls—A Glaucous Gull was seen at Bellingham, Jan. 1 (TRW); 3 were recorded over the ocean on the Tillamook Christmas count, Jan. 2, and an immature was seen March 6 at Bay City, Oreg., (AB & WT, et al.). Glaucous-winged Gulls may have wintered in larger numbers farther to the south this year if Christmas count numbers can be considered significant. There was an adult Western Gull along the Columbia at Portland in January (HBN); the bird is unusual away from the ocean. Herring Gulls were observed at a number of inland Oregon localities—Portland, Hubbard, Salem, and Eugene—in late December and

early January, with a count of 245 on the Portland Christmas count. Bonaparte's Gulls remained in numbers up to 25 at Bellingham until Feb. 19 (TRW), and over 500 were recorded on the Seattle Christmas count. Otherwise, 1 or 2 birds were reported only from the south jetty of the Columbia, Dec. 5 and from Tillamook Bay, Jan. 2. Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen in twos and threes at the mouth of the Columbia River in mid-February and mid-March and from Tillamook on the Christmas count (AB & HBN, et al.).

Alcids—The Victoria Christmas count turned up good numbers of Common Murres, Pigeon Guillemots, Marbled Murrelets and Ancient Murrelets. One of the latter species found at Medford on March 2 died a short time later (JH); the specimen is pre-served at Southern Oregon College in Ashland. Two Tufted Puffins were found on the Victoria Christmas count (DS).

Pigeons and Owls—Band-tailed Pigeons were around Seattle all winter (ES). About 400 Mourning Doves were in a buckwheat field on Sauvie Island, Jan. 23 (AB). Nehls saw a Red-tailed Hawk kill and feed on a Barn Owl at Portland's Delta Park on Jan. 10. A *Snowy Owl* was reported east of Ashland, Oreg., Jan. 2, by Dr. Elmo Stevenson (JH); another was at Marietta, Wash. from Feb. 19 to March 13 (TRW). A Burrowing Owl spent the winter near Lebanon, Oreg. (Larry Wheeler), and another was reported seen on Feb. 6 at Woodburn (TM). Hicks identified a Spotted Owl which had been shot near Diamond Lake in early February and was being preserved by a taxidermist. Mrs. Leroi

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Tomkins reported to Hicks the finding in early February of a Great Gray Owl that had been shot near Butte Falls in the Medford area.

Hummingbirds—The pair of *Anna's Hummingbirds* reported in the fall season summary remained in the Seattle area all winter for the second consecutive year (ES)! The single bird reported for East Portland was last seen on Feb. 22; Baldrige succeeded in obtaining good pictures of the bird at the feeder on Feb. 2. A Rufous Hummingbird was seen in Tillamook on the very early date of Feb. 20 (Alex Walker).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers—Two Yellow-shafted Flickers were around Bellingham all winter (TRW) and 2 more similarly were at Seattle (ES). One was noted at Terrace, B. C. on Dec. 27 in 10° weather (HRV). One hundred forty-five Lewis' Woodpeckers were found at Medford for the Christmas count. A Say's Phoebe wintered at the Wm. L. Finley Refuge south of Corvallis (DBM).

Skylarks, Swallows and Jays—A record number of 969 Skylarks were found concentrated in snow-free areas on the Victoria Christmas count. Violet-green Swallows were back at Sauvie Island by Feb. 19 (Ron Klein) and at Point Grey, Vancouver, B. C. by March 16 (*FWD*). Tree Swallows were in the Medford area on Feb. 20, Corvallis area on Feb. 26, and at Point Roberts on March 26. A few Gray Jays were at coastal elevations at Tillamook Bay from at least the end of January until after the first week in March. Two were at Newport, Oreg. in late March and early April (Mrs. R. F. Pitts). Black-billed Magpies were reported from the Sandy and Clackamas River drainages east of Portland several times during the winter and from within the city limits also. A pair of Clark's Nutcrackers were engaged in nest building at 4000 ft. elevation on Three Finger Jack in the Oregon Cascades, March 27 (Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Staender).

Chickadees, Nuthatches and Wrens—Five Chestnut-backed Chickadees were seen at Terrace, B. C. on Dec. 10 and 12 were seen at the same northern locale on Dec. 18 (*HRV*). Red-breasted Nuthatches were conspicuous by their absence, none being reported anywhere in the Region during the winter season. Long-billed Marsh Wrens were widely reported from as far north as Iona Island, Jan. 29 (*FWD*) and south to Medford, with other reports coming from the Portland and Tillamook areas.

Thrashers and Thrushes—Dr. John Reynolds (*vide JH*) saw a Mockingbird at Ashland, Dec. 22, where the bird has been previously recorded in winter. Twenty-five Robins wintered as far north as Terrace, B. C., withstanding temperatures below zero (*HRV*); they were reported as scarce at Bellingham (*TRW*), and were considered perhaps more abundant than normal from Portland southward. A young Robin reportedly fell out of a nest at Ashland on the almost incredible date of March 5 (Mrs. Lena Snyder, *vide JH*)! Varied Thrushes were re-reported as "abundant" from Victoria, "numerous" from Seattle, "more numerous than usual" in north-western Oregon and as "many" at Medford. Hermit Thrushes were reported to be more common than ordinary at Victoria (*DS*), but elsewhere were regularly but sparsely present, except perhaps for Medford where they were also up somewhat more than usual. Reports of Western Bluebirds came principally in small numbers from the Willamette Valley, but in greater numbers from Medford; three were seen at Cape Meares near Tillamook on Jan. 2 (*HBN & JO*). A Mountain Bluebird was found at Birch Bay on March 26, where it was carefully and closely observed (*FWD*). Townsend's Solitaires were all but unreported this season.

Kinglets, Waxwings and Shrikes—Two Golden-crowned Kinglets braved the winter at Terrace, B. C., at least until Jan. 10, the date on which they were observed (*HRV*). The only winter season reports of Bohemian Waxwings were of one from Portland on the Christmas count and a report from Seattle of birds seen for the count period. Cedar Waxwings were not widely present; Terry Wahl at Bellingham reported seeing none during the winter; a group of 15 was present in Tillamook, March 19, where they do not often occur (*JBC, et al.*). Northern Shrikes were seen all winter at Bellingham; in mid-January at Ladner, B. C., Seattle, and Portland; in February at Sauvie Island, at McMinnville and at the Wm. L. Finley Refuge; and in March at Medford, and at Birch Bay, north of Bellingham. Harry Nehls care-fully observed a Loggerhead Shrike in north Portland on March 16.

Warblers—Orange-crowned Warblers were found in the Bellingham area on Feb. 6 and 27 (*TRW*); one was seen at Seattle, Jan. 22 (*ES*), and another at Hubbard, Oreg., March 25 (*TM*). A **Black-and-white Warbler** was first identified by Doris Jelliffe at Seward Park in Seattle on Dec. 10, but it apparently was not seen again until it was independently identified by Robert Boggs and Philip Mattocks, Jr. after close and full study on March 27. The only other Washington state record readily ascertainable at this writing came from Pullman in 1948. Scattered reports of 1 or 2 Townsend's Warblers came from Seattle, Dec. 5, northwestern Oregon, Jan. 2, 21, and 29, and Medford, Feb. 19. A **Palm Warbler** remained for a week at Esquimalt Lagoon on Vancouver Island during December, and was seen by several competent observers (A. R. Davidson, *vide DS*). A Yellow-throat was at Medford on Feb. 19 (Henry Pringle, *vide JH*).

Blackbirds—Eight Bobolinks in winter plumage were seen at dose range by several experienced ob-servers on March 25 in Medford (*vide JH*). A bird that proved to be an immature male **Hooded Oriole** was first seen at a feeder in Newport, Oreg., by Mrs. R. F. Pitts on Dec. 12; the bird was identified by William Thackaberry, after which Baldrige and Nehls saw and photographed it on Jan. 30; it was reported last seen on April 2. A Bullock's Oriole was seen at Phoenix, Oreg. on Feb. 20 (Ralph Browning). Brewer's Blackbirds at Terrace, B. C. on Jan. 22 and Feb. 10 (*HRV*) were out of the ordinary.

Sparrows—Evening Grosbeaks were generally few throughout the Region at least until March, when they popped up widely in the Portland area. Twelve

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were at Terrace on March 24 (HRV). A. R. Davidson found 7 Pine Grosbeaks at Victoria in mid-January. A lone female redpoll was at Bellingham, Jan. 20 (TRW); 150 were seen at Terrace, B. C., March 20 (HRV). Pine Siskins also were erratically reported, being regarded as more common in the Portland area this winter than in each of the past two years but not at all approaching the numbers which were present four and five winters ago. Lesser Goldfinches were seen sparingly in the Willamette Valley and in the Medford area at various times during the winter. Red Crossbills were regarded as quite scarce this winter. A flock of 30 *White-winged Crossbills*, mostly males, reported from about one mile south of Government Camp on Mount Hood (DBM) is one of the few Oregon records. A *Green-tailed Towhee*, rare at any season anywhere in Washington, was first seen Nov. 28 in Seattle; photos were taken Jan. 24. In the meantime, the bird was seen by several observers besides its discoverers (Doris Jelliffe & VEC). A *Lark Bunting* at Hoover Lake near Medford, Jan. 30 (Mark & Otis Swisher, *vide* JH) is said to be the second record for Jackson County, Oreg. Five Savannah Sparrows were seen at Point Roberts on March 26 (FWD). Slate-colored Juncos were observed at Bellingham in January (TRW), in Seattle throughout the winter (ES), and in Portland and environs in December and January. Other records came from Cape Meares, March 6 (AB & WT) and from Wm. L. Finley Refuge, Feb. 26 (AB & DBM). Reports on Oregon Juncos did not permit any conclusions concerning apparent abundance. Two Tree Sparrows were carefully studied at close range at Ladner, B. C., Jan. 15 (FWD). An immature Harris' Sparrow was at Terrace, B. C., on Dec. 9 (HRV). Single White-throated Sparrows were seen in company with White-crowns and Golden-crowns north of Tillamook, Jan. 29 (JBC & HBN), at Sauvie Island, Feb. 4 (AB & HBN), and on the Medford Christmas count. Fox Sparrows were generally considered to be somewhat more prevalent than usual for the season from Bellingham south to the California border. Three Lapland Longspurs were found at Leadbetter Point, March 20 (AB & DBM, *et al.*).

Contributors—(AB) Alan Baldrige; (VEC) Violet E. Cannon; (JBC) John B. Crowell, Jr.; (FWD) Fred W. & Evelyn Dobson; (RF) Roy Fisk; (JH) Joseph Hicks; (LDL) Lynn D. LaFave; (TM) Thomas McCamant; (DBM) David B. Marshall; (HBN) Harry B. Nehls; (JO) James G. Olson; (DS) David Stirling; (ES) Eleanor Stopps; (WT) William Thackaberry; (HRV) H. R. Vance; (TRW) Terry R. Wahl.

Spring Migration, 1966

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION / Thomas H. Rogers

The best adjective to describe the past spring's weather in the Region is "dry," with a "very" in front of it for many localities. For example, precipitation at Baker, Oreg., was 0.19 in. in April and 0.59 in. in May, mostly at the month's end. Spokane, Wash. received 0.13 in. (normal, 0.91) in April and 0.49 in. (normal, 1.21) in May. Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo, Mont., had 0.76 in. in April and 0.30 in May. At Missoula precipitation for the season was described as light. In many localities extremes of temperature prevailed, as might be expected from sunny days and clear nights. Baker, Oreg. varied from 77° to 21° in April and from 91° to 22° in May. Conditions at Spokane were similar. Southern British Columbia was warm in late March and early April, but had a cold snap starting on April 10 and sub-zero minimums as far south as Williams Lake and 8 inches of snow at Prince George. The cool trend continued there through May with a few short respites. Missoula, Mont. had a cold, cloudy April, which retarded vegetation. May started mild there, turned cool for 2 weeks, then shot up to a 91° maximum. A storm at the end of the month dumped much rain and snow on northwestern Montana. The Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, received 1.2 in. of rain and Glacier Nat'l Park had as much as 2 ft. of wet snow, which extended to surrounding valleys. Missoula, on the edge of the storm, received 0.26 in. of rain at this time. The weather at Bozeman, Mont. was described as generally mild for the season. Views of reporters concerning effects of the weather upon wildlife follow as quotes: Ann Ward, Baker, Oreg.: "The only effect on migration noted was the hurry—of the birds arriving in May. But most arrival dates seemed about as usual." Warren Hall, Spokane: "Migration was generally normal . . ." Mrs. Stanley, Spokane: "Erratic spring weather, alternating few days of extremely warm, then few days of extremely cool weather—little moderate. Possibly resultant food conditions responsible for early arrival of number of species (see warblers and some sparrows) and fast rather than lingering flights of migrants." Frank Kenney, Ninepipe Refuge: "Extremely late spring. Most of the goslings are still number 2's. At this time a year ago they were mostly feathered out. High water in the reservoir has been very beneficial. The nesting

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is 'way up' for the migratory waterfowl . . ." James Grant, British Columbia: "The early migrants must have had a rough time." Ralph Hand, Missoula: ". . . nothing very unusual . . . but it appears that quite a few of the later migrants were a little later than usual, with,

as nearly always, a few exceptions in the opposite direction." Jack Waddell, Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash.: "The spring vegetative growth in the marsh areas has been a little slow but was excellent by the end of the period. Upland dry area vegetative growth was little or none. . . . The dry sagebrush conditions have had an adverse effect on those bird nesters in this type, particularly the Brewer's Blackbird. Spring migration of waterfowl was unspectacular." Joseph Mazzoni, Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont.: "The freakish intensity of the storm (in northwestern Montana) undoubtedly did much damage to vegetation, wildlife nesting, and wildlife generally. Despite unusual dry conditions in the vicinity of the refuge, food and cover conditions were generally good for all species. P. D. Skaar, Bozeman, Mont.: The generally mild weather "generally not reflected in early arrivals." Bird students in the Pacific Northwest were shocked and saddened by the untimely death, by drowning, of Lynn LaFave, a very active field observer, biologist and teacher, who contributed copiously to reports for this Region until he moved to Forks, Wash. in the fall of 1965. A scholarship fund in his honor, to be awarded each year to a student entering the field of science, is being established. Contributions may be sent to Warren Hall, South 3815 Tekoa, Spokane, Wash. 99203.

Loons, Grebes, Herons—The earliest observation of Common Loon was on March 15 at Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Adams and Grant Cos., Wash. At Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo, Mont. the birds arrived in late March. Eared Grebes reached a peak of 8000 at Ennis Lake, Madison Co., Mont. on May 1. Fifty Black-crowned Night Herons were seen at their regular nesting site near St. Andrews, Douglas Co., Wash. on May 7 (JA).

Waterfowl—A dearth of Whistling Swans was noted in some areas of eastern Washington and Western Montana. In the former area Hall noted none at all, for the first time in 20 years' observing. Other Spokane Audubon Society members noted a very few, for example, 5 at Banks Lake, Grant Co. (JA). None were noted in the Bitterroot Valley, Stevensville, Mont. and the species was not mentioned in reports from Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash. nor from British Columbia. C. J. Henry reported fewer than last year in the vicinity of his home near Ninepipe Refuge. On the other hand, 900 were noted on April 3 at Ennis Lake in Montana and up to 50 were seen at Baker, Oreg. The birds were noted at Columbia Refuge; McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash.; and at Ninepipe, where 150 were counted the first of April. A peak of 60 Trumpeter Swans was noted at Ennis Lake on March 13. Some 2500 (*Lesser*) Canada Geese were noted in several large flocks in counties of

the Columbia Basin of central Washington (WH). Single White-fronted Geese were noted on 3 occasions at St. Andrews and Stratford, Wash. during the first week of April (WH, S.A.S.) and 20 were observed at McNary Refuge the week of May 16-20. Very few Snow Geese were reported, except for 250 near LaGrande, Oreg., March 30. At Missoula, Mont., Hand noted none, for the first time in many years. Greater Scaup outnumbered the Lesser on the Spokane River near Spokane, Wash. in April (S.A.S.). A pair of Harlequin Ducks was seen at the reservoir on Rattlesnake Creek, a few miles northeast of Missoula, May 7. The species has been known to nest there in recent years. A good—for the area—migration of Red-breasted Mergansers was noted at Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. where about 10 males and 5 females were seen (WH).

Eagles, Hawks—Very few hawks were noted in the Bitterroot Valley of western Montana, but other reports suggested that this may be a local condition. Sparrow Hawks at Ninepipe were infrequent and possibly declining, but the species appeared to show normal numbers elsewhere. A Red-tailed Hawk that was obviously of subspecies *kriderii* was studied at close range between Arlee and Ravalli, Lake Co., Mont., April 30 (RLH & JS). A Rough-legged Hawk was seen in the Spokane area on the late date of April 16 (S.A.S.). A peak of 45 Bald Eagles was noted at Ennis, Mont. on April 3. Perhaps 4 or 5 Golden Eagles were using the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. during the period.

Gallinaceous Birds—Ruffed Grouse, once a common resident at the Bison Range, are now, for unknown reasons, quite rare there. None have been seen there this year. Attempts are being made at the Range to obtain Sharp-tailed Grouse from British Columbia, to re-introduce the species, which became extinct there in the early 1940's. About 40 Sage Grouse were observed at their usual dance area near Creston, Wash., April 16 (JA). A strong winter carry-over of Ring-necked Pheasants was in evidence at Columbia, McNary and Ninepipe Refuges. California Quail appeared to be on the upswing at McNary Refuge. Chukars were quite rare at the Bison Range, with probably not more than 30 birds there, but Gray Partridges were abundant, with a population level of about 300.

Cranes, Rails, Shorebirds—Except for near St. Andrews, Wash., where 800 Sandhill Cranes were seen on April 3 (JA), this species was noted in scant numbers. At Columbia, where few land, the fly-over appeared late and below usual numbers, and at Baker, Oreg. they were heard once and not seen at all (BP, *vide AW*). The species made its appearance in the Bozeman, Mont. area on April 10 (RAH). A Sora seen in the

Bitterroot Valley of western Montana, May 21, furnished the first record there for the observers (*CLB, OF & MG*). Am. Coot reached peak numbers of 5000 at Ennis, Mont. and 6500 at Ninepipe Refuge, both in April. Migrant shorebirds are generally poor in both numbers and species in spring in the Region but they were particularly scant at Baker, Oreg. Because

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of the drought. A **Willet**, rare in eastern Washington, was present at Reardan on May 22 (*WH*). Six Pectoral Sandpipers, very seldom seen during spring in eastern Washington, were noted at a pond near Hauser Lake, northeast of Spokane (*JA*), and a Dunlin, likewise rare in spring, was at Reardan during the third week of May (*JA, WH*). Two of the latter species were noted at McNary Refuge on April 19. By far the largest number of Am. Avocets reported was 600 at Ennis Lake in Montana, April 24, the first date the species was noted. Northern Phalaropes appeared at Reardan, Wash. in numbers unusual for that locality, up to 50 or more during late May (*JA, WH*).

Gulls, Terns—In addition to the more or less expected sprinkling of Franklin's and Bonaparte's Gulls at Reardan, Wash., single **Common Terns**, perhaps the same bird, were noted there on three dates in May (*JA, WH*). Caspian Terns, reported only from Columbia Refuge, appeared there on May 3. At Ninepipe Refuge nests of Franklin's Gulls were found. The species is now considered as uncommon there.

Owls—A Screech Owl was seen in a Wood Duck nest box along the Little Spokane River near Spokane (*VN & CS*). Long-eared Owls were reported only near St. Andrews, Wash., where they are known to nest (*JA, WH*). Burrowing Owls were noted near Belgrade (*RAH, DRS & PDS*) and Missoula, Mont.; Baker, Oreg., and McNary Refuge and Odessa, Wash. (*JA*). Short-eared Owls were noted as common at lower elevations at the Nat'l Bison Range.

Poor-wills, Swifts, Hummingbirds—The Poor-will was noted only at Little Buck Mountain, near Loup camp ground east of Twisp, Wash., May 29 (*TW*). An early Vaux's Swift was at Spokane on April 20 (*WH*) and 2 appeared at Vernon, B. C. on April 19 after temperatures the night before of 25° at Vernon and 21° at Penticton (*KG*). The White-throated Swift was reported in the Bitterroot Valley of western Montana for the first time in recent years. A Calliope Hummingbird was caught in a late winter snow at Prince George, about May 5 and had its picture in the newspaper.

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers—The Red-breasted subspecies of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was reported as common in the Prince George district of British Columbia. Two pairs were noted at Tabor Lake on May 29. A pair of Williamson's Sapsuckers was found nesting on Huckleberry Mountain, Stevens Co., Wash. on May 29 and was feeding young in early June (*S.A.S.*). Eastern Kingbirds were first noted at Vernon, B. C. on May 21, considered very late, although this date would be about average for many localities in the Region. Likewise, May 2 was one of the latest dates for arrival of the Western Kingbird at Vernon, but this would be considered a normal or early date for most of the Region. Traill's and Hammond's Flycatchers were first seen at Vernon on May 1, which will sound early to most other observers in this Region. A Dusky Flycatcher singing at Spokane on April 28 was ahead of schedule (*JA*). Hand identified a **Least Flycatcher** at Missoula, June 11. This is his first record there since 1959.

Wrens, Mimic Thrushes—The House Wren furnished some early records in eastern Washington: May 1 at Sprague Lake, Lincoln Co. (*WH*), and May 3 at Spokane (*S.A.S.*). Two were noted at Baker, Oreg. on May 3 and the species was noted at Vernon, B. C. on May 1. Two **Mockingbird** records were obtained. One bird was seen on several occasions in Kelowna, B. C. from mid-April to mid-May by several competent observers (*JB*) and another was observed at length near the MSU campus, Bozeman, on May 15-16. Only 4 previous records (sight) exist for Montana. Another rarity was a **Brown Thrasher** at Missoula, June 13, constituting Hand's first record west of the Continental Divide.

Bluebirds—Numerical status of bluebirds appeared variable for the Region. Carol Boyd reported more Mountain Bluebirds in the Bitterroot Valley than for many years. Mrs. Stanley considered them more numerous than the Western this spring in the Spokane area and Hall mentioned "fair numbers" for both species, which mostly moved on—they now rarely breed within the city limits of Spokane. He also noted that bluebirds have diminished greatly in the farming areas south and southwest of Spokane and speculated that Starlings, herbicides and pesticides might be factors. At the Nat'l Bison Range a flock of 50 Mountain Bluebirds was noted, March 18 (*PM & VM*) but only 1 was seen there on May 25 (*VM*); these were the only observations during the spring. Once being a common nesting resident around headquarters, the species has declined, apparently with increasing Starling population. At Missoula Hand had not seen a single bluebird during the spring and C. J. Henry at Charlo, Mont. had seen only 1 Mountain Bluebird. Other reporters did not comment upon numbers.

Warblers—The first Orange-crowned Warbler at Spokane was noted on April 17 (early) (*S.A.S.*). The Nashville likewise furnished early dates there, April 15 (*S.A.S.*) and April 16 (*WH*). The first Audubon's Warblers at Bozeman were seen on May 1 (early). This would be considered a late arrival date for the western part of the Region. For example, 4 were at Baker, Oreg. on April 10 and the birds were seen at McNary Refuge in mid-March. At Vernon, B. C. the species first appeared on April 2 (*JTF*). Of special interest are the reports from Prince George, B. C., an area much farther north than any in the Region for which a report has been received, in the experience of the present regional editor. The Tennessee Warbler was common at Tabor Lake near Prince George, May 29 and the Magnolia Warbler was first seen at Prince George on May 31. Several Myrtle Warblers were noted in May and Blackpoll Warblers were seen at Tabor Lake and at Tudyah Lake, 100 miles to the north. Northern Waterthrushes were first seen at Quesnel, May 19 and were common and singing at Tabor Lake, May 29, on a cold, sleety day.

Blackbirds—Bobolinks were noted at 4 localities. At Bozeman the first date was May 29 and in the Bitterroot Valley they appeared on May 27. Small numbers were seen in the lower valleys of Lake

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County, Mont. (*CJH*) and a single bird was seen at Baker, Oreg. near the end of May. A Western Meadowlark was seen at McLeod Lake, latitude 55°, north of Prince George, B. C. This is 150 miles north of its breeding range west of the Rockies. The first spring record of the Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Charlo, Lake Co., Mont. on March 11 (*CJH*). (This sounds *very* early—*THR*). Two were at Baker on March 24 (early). A pair of Rusty Blackbirds was noted at Kerry Lake, 65 miles north of Prince George, May 11. A flock of 72 Brown-headed Cowbirds was seen at Finlay Forks, 56° latitude, north of Prince George. (How do you get there, Jim? Fly?)

Tanagers—Two male Western Tanagers had reached Prince George by May 14 and during the rest of the month were the most conspicuous bird in the city, picking over garbage in the back alleys along with the House Sparrows!

Finches—A pair of Lazuli Buntings showed up in the Bitterroot Valley on the very early date of April 4 (*OF*); no more were seen there for several weeks. Evening Grosbeaks were present at nearly every reporting locality and generally in large numbers. The hordes of the birds feeding upon the seeds of the elm in the

Vernon, B. C. district led Jim Grant to ask the question, "Have the elms (all exotic in this area) had any effect on the migration pattern of Evening Grosbeaks?" A Purple Finch male was noted singing at Quesnel, B. C. on May 9. At Missoula a House Finch appeared, March 15 and sang daily until the 18th after which it disappeared. Pine Siskins were abundant at Missoula—second only to Evening Grosbeaks—and in nearby Bitterroot Valley. The species was abundant also at Williams Lake and Quesnel, B. C., May 9. Grant remarked, "Siskins seem to reach peak numbers at about dandelion seed-time or a few days before, and this introduced weed seems to be a staple food on the spring migration. What did they do before there were dandelions?" Red Crossbills were reported for Montana only for the Bitterroot Valley. The only British Columbia record was of 2 at Vernon, May 8. Offsetting this at least partly was the abundance of the birds in the Spokane area (*WH*, *S.A.S.*). No White-winged Crossbills were noted in the Prince George district during May, apparently because last year's spruce cone crop was a failure.

Sparrows—The Lark Bunting staged a good invasion in the Bozeman area similar to that of 1963. Many were seen near Belgrade, May 22 (*RAH*, *DRS* & *PDS*) and were still present, May 29 and June 5. The uncommon Sage Sparrow was seen (1) near Odessa, Wash. on April 3 (*JA*). Two early Chipping Sparrow arrivals were noted at Spokane: April 7 (*THR*) and April 10 (*S.A.S.*). An early Brewer's Sparrow record, 2 birds on April 1, was obtained near Odessa, Wash. (*JA*). The White-crowned Sparrow migration appeared to reach its peak in late April west of the Continental Divide, but in the Bozeman area the *first* migrant was seen on May 13. At Spokane the migration was considered early and fast (*S.A.S.*) and not as abundant as in other years (*WH*). Possibly this was due to the generally fair weather prevailing during most of April and early May. Two (Gambel's) White-crowned Sparrows seen at Baker, Oreg., March 24, may have been wintering birds. A (Mountain) White-crown was seen in the nearby mountains on May 7. Both the Gambel's and the Mountain races were seen at Bozeman. The Golden-crowned Sparrow was noted, April 2-3, across the Columbia River from The Dalles, Oreg. near Horsethief Lake State Park, Wash. (*GS* & *VS*). The White-throated Sparrow was fairly common in the Prince George district, the last of May and 1 was at a feeder in *Spokane, Wash.*, where it is a rare visitor (*JA*). At least 3 of the Harris' Sparrows that wintered at Coldstream, near Vernon, B. C., were still there on March 2 (*Mrs. JS*). McCown's Longspur arrived in the Bozeman area on May 8. Single Lapland Long-spurs appeared at Missoula on March 12 and 17 and 2 were noted near St. Andrews, Wash. on April 3 (*JA*).

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Spring Migration, 1966

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

April and May produced an extraordinary mishmash of weather. It was hardly spring. We had summer with a large dose of winter; there was no moderation. Generally, it was very dry—probably the fundamental trouble. April was warm, except April 17-20, when a super cold wave struck the Region. Temperatures were driven down to sub-zero in central Wyoming. The large fruit crop in Utah and western Colorado was destroyed. The cold wave went into southern Colorado, also; it was more moderate in the Great Basin to the west, but still very unseasonal. In the warm weather which followed, the grasses were ahead of schedule, but the tree foliage was much delayed; many leaves were not out at the end of this period. Many exotic

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trees were partially or completely killed although native species, such as the cottonwoods, were not hurt, the conifers were badly damaged. Since the cold preceded the arrival of the insectivores, most of these survived. If there was any migration, it was very poor and the birds went through so fast they were not seen, or the area was by-passed. Residents turned up about on time, until the cold wave; then they were delayed. The extreme dryness and lack of cold fronts caused the

poor migration. For instance, in Cheyenne, Wyo. there was a super-drought with no moisture in April and May, and only 15 percent of normal since the first of the year. Normally, April and May produce much of the year's moisture. Passerine birds are usually caught by a few patches of trees that are artificially grown in an area such as the city of Cheyenne. By mid-May the trees were dying unless irrigated and there were hardly any migrant landbirds (*MH*). Greater numbers than usual of Audubon's Warblers were seen in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, Colo. in May. It is suggested that owing to the drought on the plains the birds kept more to the Colorado mountains (*AC*). In spite of the drought, many interesting birds were seen. The great waterfowl refuges of the Great Basin had good holdover moisture from last year and did reasonably well insofar as breeding birds went.

Grebes—There was an absence of Eared Grebes in the Klamath Basin, May 28 (*WT*). Western Grebes appear to be increasing at Bear River Marshes, Great Salt Lake (*LPG*).

Hérons—A Green Heron, a rare bird in the Rockies, was at Antero Reservoir in Park County, west of Denver, May 15 (*RG*).

Swans—Seven Trumpeter Swan nests were found during this period at Ruby Lakes, Nev. (*DEL*). There were 3 known and 4 suspected nests at the Malheur Refuge, Oreg. (*HFD*). This species is doing well and expanding into selected areas of its former range.

Ducks and Geese—Bear River Marshes reported that the migration of wild fowl passed through rapidly with a peak of 72,631 on April 1, down 33 percent from last year (*LFG*). The Malheur Refuge has 40 percent of the potential of water flooding in the Blitzen valley. This is its principal tributary, but there is enough water from last year in Malheur Lake to compensate. The nesting population at Malheur is 900 pairs of Canada Geese and 12,000 pairs of ducks (*HFD*). At Stillwater, Nev. the water bird migration was over by the start of the period. Duck nesting is in full swing (*LHW*). Water conditions are inferior to last year, owing to less snowpack in the Sierra and early warm weather (*JMD*). Canada Goose production was reported as good over most of this Region. Lake Wolcott on the Minidoka Refuge, Snake River, Idaho was high. The goose nests were inundated but the birds re-nested (*LDN*). Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho reports that the water level has been reduced on Lake Lovell—there is little duck and goose breeding there. The nearby islands in the Snake River unit have almost as many nests as last year—271 versus 292 (*RV/P*). The Monte Vista Refuge continues to expand. Water conditions in this San Luis valley refuge

are excellent with a big crop of ducks expected. The refuge itself expects about 15,552 ducklings (CRB).

Eagles and Hawks—There are fewer nests of the Golden Eagle in Wyoming this year than usual. Some effort is being made to keep track of nests and many have been destroyed this year, mostly by humans (EP). Golden Eagles are not doing very well in southern Utah either (SM). In general, all reports of hawks are down. The only report was of a good flight of Ferruginous Hawks near Cedar City, Utah in May (SM). Six were seen in one morning.

Gallinules—A Common Gallinule was seen at Bear River Marshes (LFG). This bird is casual in Utah.

Shorebirds—The drop in water has laid open large areas of mud flats at Malheur Refuge. There is an increase in the nesting of the Am. Avocet and Black-necked Stilt (HFD).

Hummingbirds—A Black-chinned Hummingbird was seen at Utah State University, Logan, Utah, May 10 (RK). This bird is rare there. The abundance of hummers on the western slope of Colorado was reaffirmed (TC).

Flycatchers—A Hammond's Flycatcher was mist-netted at Malheur on May 16, a first spring record (CFZ). As many birders are not sure of the Hammonds—Dusky differentiation, the mist-net seems to be a more accurate way of identification. An Olive-sided Flycatcher on May 31 was another first spring record also for Malheur (CFZ).

Thrashers—A Bendire's Thrasher at Arches Nat'l Monument in Utah, April 20, was farther north than this bird has been reported previously (DC). On May 9 another was seen in the nearby needles district of the new Canyonlands Nat'l Park (RD). Perhaps this has been another overlooked species. Another Bendire's was seen, May 16, near Lund in the desert of southwestern Utah (SM).

Gnatcatchers—A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, April 16 (RB) — a first record for this bird in the Park, northern Colorado. They are more common both west and north of this.

Warblers—Three Painted Redstarts appeared

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in Zion Park, Utah, April 24, and stayed 5 days. April 26, 1930 was the last recorded appearance of this species in Zion (RW).

Bobolinks—Ten Bobolinks were seen near Logan, Utah, May 23 (DMF). The colony near Malheur is increasing (WT). This bird is local throughout the West.

Tanagers—A Summer Tanager was found at the Horticultural Station, Cheyenne, May 14 (OKS, *et al.*) — the first record for Wyoming.

Buntings—An Indigo Bunting was found in Zion Park, May 31 (RW). Another was near Provo, Utah, May 8 (GK). This has been a casual bird in Utah. No hybrids between Lazuli and Indigo Buntings have been reported this year.

Other Fringillids—A Lark Bunting was seen near Bear River Marshes, May 23 (DMF). They appear to be increasing in numbers at this refuge (LFG). Farther east this bird is much more common. Large flocks of Gray-headed Juncos seen at Durango, Colo. on April 20 were very late (OR). The April weather seemed much like February. A Black-throated Sparrow was seen west of Brothers, Oreg., May 30 (WT, *et al.*), farther west than previously reported. A Le Conte's Sparrow at Moab Slough, Utah, April 19, is another casual record for that state (DC).

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Spring Migration, 1966

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION **/ John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls**

No unusual storms or weather extremes marked the spring migration season in this Region. In the southern portions the season was characterized as dryer and warmer than usual in April, and dry with normal temperatures in May. With generally prevailing westerly or northerly winds, migration on the whole was considered quite unspectacular throughout the Region. This may be partly attributable to the fact that the Region apparently received even sparser coverage than usual during the period.

Loons, Grebes, Petrels and Herons—A heavy migration of loons, consisting primarily of Arctic's passed Yaquina Head, Lincoln Co., Oreg., April 30 (RM). Two Eared Grebes were at Point Roberts, April 2 (FWD). There were still several thousand Western Grebes at Bellingham on May 4 (TW). Thackaberry observed a single *Slender-billed Shearwater* over the ocean at Seal Rock, south of Newport, Oreg., May 14. The same observer found 3 rarely observed Leach's Petrel some three or four hundred yards offshore at the same place on June 4. Eighty-one Great Blue Herons at Blaine, Wash., May 2 (LHK) is a high spring count. An Am. Bittern was seen west of Brownsville, Oreg., May 1 (LW).

Waterfowl—Last reports for Whistling Swans were 25 at Sauvie Island, Oreg., April 3 (HBN). Migrating flocks of Canada Geese were reported from Terrace, B. C. in mid-April (HRV); from Drayton Harbor, Wash., in mid-April and early May (LHK); from Sauvie Island up to May 18 (HBN); and from the south jetty of the Columbia River from April 9 through mid-May (HBN). Three pairs of Canada Geese nesting at Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River above Portland had brought off 16 young by the last week in May (HBN). Migrant Black Brant were widely reported from Puget Sound and along the northern Oregon and southern Washington coasts in good numbers through April and early May. One hundred White-fronted Geese were at Wickaninnish on the west side of Vancouver Island on April 30 (DS), 21 were at Terrace, B. C., May 16 (HRV), and 1 was at Sauvie Island, May 18 (HBN). The only reports of Snow Geese during the period were 9 at Terrace, B. C., April 19 and 1 there May 18 (HRV). Four Pintails and 8 Green-winged Teal at the mouth of the Columbia River on May 21 (RF, HBN) were late. A bird deduced to be a hybrid male Blue-winged X Cinnamon Teal was seen at Medford, May 7. The bird looked like a Cinnamon Teal except for a white facial crescent and a white patch before the black tail (JH, OS). Two Cinnamon Teal at Tillamook, May 14 (RF, WT) were unusual at that coastal location. European Widgeon were found at Delta Park, Portland, April 5 and on Sauvie Island, April 11 (HBN). There were still 3000 Am. Widgeon at the latter place as late as April 24, while 3 pairs remained at Crystal Springs, Portland, May 31 (HBN). One hundred Shovelers were resting on salt water at Victoria, May 1 (DS) and a lone bird of this species was at Sauvie Island the same date (HBN). A single Redhead was at Blaine, Wash. as late as May 22 (LHK). Greater Scaup were reported from several locations northward from the mouth of

(LHK). Two immature male Oldsquaws at Bellingham, April 24 (TW), and 1 at Point Roberts, May 1 (FWD), were the latest records this season. A pair of Red-breasted Mergansers was still present at Blaine at the end of May (LHK), while a pair of Com. Mergansers was at Seattle, May 21 (FWD).

Hawks—A Rough-legged Hawk was seen near Victoria on the late date of May 17 (*vide DS*); a bird that at no time occurs regularly on Vancouver Island. Bald Eagles raised at least one young near Blaine (LHK). Marsh Hawks were probably nesting again at the south jetty of the Columbia, as birds were repeatedly seen there during May preying on small sandpipers (HBN). An Osprey was at Fort Stevens State Park on the Oregon coast, May 7 (HBN). A nest site in the vicinity of Albany, Oreg., has been used for many years and was successfully used again this year (LW). Peregrines were observed, April 9 and May 7, at the south jetty of the Columbia (HBN), and at Willapa Bay, Wash., April 16 (RF, HBN).

Gamebirds, Cranes and Rails—Bobwhites were reported only from Lebanon, Oreg., where 1 was heard calling, May 24 (WT). A single Sandhill Crane was at Howard Lake near Medford, April 8 (JH), and 15 were at Sauvie Island, April 24 (Irving Curran). A Virginia Rail was recorded near Lebanon, May 1 (WT). Six or 8 Soras were at Lake Terrell, near Ferndale, Wash., April 26 (TW).

Shorebirds—A Semipalmated Plover at Hoover Lakes near Medford, May 7 (JH, OS) was the first ever seen in the area. A bird of this species was at Sauvie Island, April 29 (HBN); an out-of-the-ordinary inland location. Snowy Plovers had young at Yaquina Bay, May 19 and June 3 (WT), and at the south jetty of the Columbia, May 28 (RF, HBN). An *American Golden Plover*, very rare in spring, was seen at Willapa Bay, April 16 in full breeding plumage (RF, HBN). The only reports for Ruddy Turnstones, uncommon in the Region, were 1 at Bellingham, April 23-26 (TW) and 6 at Esquimalt Lagoon, Vancouver Island, April 30 (DS). The only reports of Black Turnstones were of 15 to 20 at Bellingham, April 23-26 (TW), and "a flock" at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., April 24 (LW). There were no reports of Surfbirds. "Winnowing" Common Snipe were heard at Blaine, April 27 (LHK), and at Sauvie Island, April 29 (HBN). Whimbrels were recorded at the Columbia River south jetty on April 9 and May 7; at Willapa Bay, April 16 (HBN); and in the Blaine-Vancouver area in numbers up to 15 from May 1-24 (FWD, LHK, TW). *Solitary Sandpipers*, rare in the Region, were seen at the Wm. L. Finley Nat'l Wildlife Refuge south of Corvallis, Oreg., May 2 (RM) and in mid-May at Victoria (ARD). A small flock of Wandering Tattlers was seen at Tillamook Bay, May 14 (RF, WT), and 2

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the Columbia River as late as May 21. A pair of Am. Goldeneye lingered at Blaine, Wash. up to May 24

were at the south jetty of the Columbia, May 7 (HBN). Pectoral Sandpipers were seen at Tacoma, May 8 (VEC) and on Sauvie Island, April 2 (R. Klein, J. Gilligan). Three *Baird's Sandpipers*, of regular occurrence in the fall but extremely rare in spring, were seen at the south jetty of the Columbia, April 2 and 1 was also present there on April 9 (HBN). Thousands of Least and Western Sandpipers and Dunlins were at Willapa Bay, April 16 (RF, HBN). Two Leasts and 5 Dunlins were at Hoover Lakes on April 9 (OS). Dunlins and Western Sandpipers were widely and abundantly reported from the Region through the first week in May. A Sanderling, in winter plumage, was observed at Sauvie Island on May 1 (HBN). One Northern Phalarope appeared at Tillamook (RF, WT), and 15 at Victoria (DS) on May 14; 2 were at the south jetty of the Columbia River, May 15; while many flocks were migrating past there on May 21 (HBN). On the latter date, 15 birds were seen inland at Sauvie Island (R. Klein). A single Red Phalarope was seen in speckled plumage at the south jetty, May 21 (RF, HN). Two Wilson's Phalaropes were also at the south jetty on May 21. Elsewhere the species was seen at McFadden Swamp near Corvallis—7 on May 28 and 2 on June 11; at Tacoma tide flats, May 29 and June 5; at Victoria (*vide DS*), May 18; and at Hoover Lakes, May 7 (JH, OS).

Gulls, Terns and Auks—Thackaberry saw a second year *Glaucous Gull* at Seal Rock on the very late date of May 19. Bonaparte's Gulls were present by the hundreds in the Blaine-Bellingham area from the last week in April to the end of the period. "Thousands" were seen along the Curry County coast of southwestern Oregon on April 23 (JH). On May 18, an immature Bonaparte's was at Sauvie Island, where the species occurs occasionally from May through September (HBN). Three Black-legged Kittiwakes were at the mouth of the Columbia, April 2 (HBN), and 1 was there on April 16 (RE, HBN). "Many" of this species were at Wickaninnish Beach, Vancouver Island, April 30 (DS), while 2 were seen at Tillamook Bay on May 14 (RP, WT). Ten to 15 Sabine's Gulls were seen over the ocean from Seal Rock, Oreg. on May 19 (WT). Common Terns first appeared at Point Grey near Vancouver, B. C. on May 12. Small flocks, mixed about equally with Arctic Terns, were migrating past the south jetty of the Columbia River on May 21 at the rate of 25 to 35 per hour (RE, HBN). The same phenomenon, with 200-300 birds per hour, was noted at Seal Rock, May 19 (WT), with Arctic Terns predominant. The first Caspian Tern ever seen in the Medford area showed up at Hoover Lakes on May 7 (JH, OS). A bird of this species was seen at Newport, Oreg., April 14 (T. McCamant); at Tillamook Bay on May 14 (RF, WT); and at the south jetty, May 21 (RF, HBN). A Black Tern was at the unprecedentedly western location of the south jetty of the Columbia

River on May 21 (RF, HBN); another was at Hoover Lakes near Medford on May 17 (OS). Up to 7 Marbled Murrelets were at Point Roberts, April 2 and May 1 (FWD), and at Seal Rocks on May 19 (WT). Thirty Tufted Puffins were on the rocks at Cannon Beach on May 7 (HBN).

Pigeons, Swifts, Hummingbirds and Woodpeckers—Band-tailed Pigeons were reported as being in good numbers from both Oregon and Washington.

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Mourning Doves were seen regularly during May on Vancouver Island where the species is not ordinarily regular (DS). A *Black Swift* was seen momentarily but at close range by Nehls 3 miles east of the summit of the Coast Range on U. S. Highway 26 in Oregon on May 7. This observation constitutes one of the very few Oregon records for this species which nests both in Washington to the north and in California to the south. Another individual of this species was seen on May 20 at Point Grey (FWD). Vaux's Swift first appeared in the Region, April 16, at Roxy Ann Butte near Medford (OS) and, April 18, at Newberg (LW). By May 4 it was recorded in Tacoma and by May 8 at Bellingham. It was well established by the end of May in the Cascades and around Portland. Hicks recorded a Calliope Hummingbird at Ashland, Oreg. on April 22; a very early date. The first Rufous Hummingbird was seen at Terrace, B. C. on April 28 (HRV). Two Acorn Woodpeckers were seen near Lebanon, Oreg., May 1 (WT). Although the species occurs regularly up the west side of the Willamette Valley in the open oak association typical of its usual habitat, it is rarely seen elsewhere so far north.

Flycatchers and Swallows—Western Kingbirds are most irregular in the Region, but this spring the species was reported on April 24 and May 2 near Lebanon (WT); April 16 at the north jetty of the Columbia River (RF, HBN); April 27 at Newberg (LW); and May 7 at the south jetty (HBN). A pair is suspected to be nesting on Sauvie Island where it has been seen regularly (HBN). On the late afternoon of May 7 at Cape Arago lighthouse, Coos County, Oreg., James Anderson and many of some 50 school teachers who were along on a field trip studied a bird which was reliably identified as a *Scissor-tailed Flycatcher*. This record would be all but unbelievable except for other sightings of this species which have been made far to the north and northeast of its normal range. A *Black Phoebe* was recorded on the Applegate River near Medford, April 24 (*vide JH*); a bird which has turned up more or less regularly in the Medford area in recent years. An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Bellingham, May 5 (TW), and 1 at

Fort Stevens State Park in Oregon, May 7 (*HBN*), were both unusually early. Bank Swallows are of rare occurrence within Oregon, so much so that many active field observers have never seen the species within the Region, thus reports of 3 at Sauvie Island, May 9 (*HBN*), and one at Yaquina Bay, May 19 (*WT*), are of considerable interest. Rough-winged Swallows are fairly regular; they were first seen at Prescott near Rainier, Oreg., April 9 (*HBN*), and at Blaine, April 19 (*LHK*). Barn Swallows were generally thought to be late in arriving and reports indicate that they may be down from their usual numbers. Cliff Swallows did not seem to be as prevalent as usual in parts of the Region by the end of the period. Purple Martins were widely but sparsely reported from Medford to Sauvie Island, Tillamook, Seattle, Bremerton and Victoria.

Jays, Wrens, Thrashers and Thrushes—A Clark's Nutcracker was seen at Bellingham, where it is uncommon, on April 30 (*TW*). House Wrens are of local breeding occurrence in the Region; three pairs were nesting on the Thackaberry farm near Lebanon. The species was reported on April 9 at Fort Stevens State Park (*HBN*), April 18 at Medford (*JH*), and May 28 at Hubbard (McCamant). A *Sage Thrasher* was seen May 26 by Thackaberry on his farm; the bird is a rare straggler to western Oregon. A Mockingbird was again seen in the Medford area, this time on May 10 at Phoenix (*fide JH*). "Thousands of Robins and Varied Thrushes nearly covered the town . . ." of Terrace, B. C., April 10. Vance thought the invasion was attributable to the snow which covered the ground and that the birds were in search of food. A Swainson's Thrush was first recorded at Portland, April 22 (*HBN*); at Seattle, May 13 (*VEC*); and at Blaine, May 21 (*LHK*). A Mountain Bluebird was at Timberline Lodge on Mount Hood, Oreg., May 29, while on the same day many individuals of this species were seen in cut-over areas of the Clackamas River drainage to the south of Mount Hood (*HBN*). Six birds of this species migrated through Terrace, B. C., early in April as is the custom of a few individuals each year (*HRV*). Townsend's Solitaire, commonly found in the Regions to the east, was nonetheless widely reported during the period: two birds were seen at Point Roberts, April 2; at Vancouver, B. C., April 4; near Lebanon, Oreg., April 11; at Nanaimo, B. C., April 14; at Terrace, B. C., May 2; and several at Timothy Lake south of Mount Hood on May 29.

Gnatcatchers, Kinglets, Waxwings and Shrikes—A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was seen at the traditional nesting site near Medford on May 20 and on May 30 the pair was seen with 4 young, indicating a very early nesting (*JH*). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet had reached Terrace, B. C., by April 12 (*HRV*). Cedar Waxwings returned to the Bellingham area after a

winter's absence (*TW*) and were very common around Portland by the end of the period. A Northern Shrike was at Warrenton, west of Astoria, Oreg. on April 9 (*HBN*). More Starlings than ever before seemed to be nesting in the northern Willamette Valley, having brought off many young by mid-May.

Vireos and Warblers—A Solitary Vireo at Victoria, B. C., April 8 (*ARD*), was very early for so far north. The only report of a Red-eyed Vireo was of one heard singing on Crabtree Creek east of Lebanon, Oreg. on May 20 in the same location where a pair was discovered last year (*WT*). Warbling Vireos were first recorded, May 1, at Blaine (*LHK*), Bellingham (*TW*), and Victoria (*DS*); earliest records for locations farther south came later. The earliest Orange-crowned Warbler was one at Seattle, March 30 (*VEC*), but this was not a particularly early date. The only Nashville Warbler, a species rare in the Region on the whole, was one at Ashland, April 20 (*JH*). The earliest Yellow Warbler was again from well north in the Region; one being seen at Blaine on April 25 (*LHK*). The last Myrtle Warbler was reported at Sauvie Island,

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April 24 (*HBN*). Two Audubon's Warblers were at Point Roberts on April 2 (*FWD*); the species first arrived at Terrace, B. C., far to the north, on April 11 (*HRV*). The earliest Black-throated Gray Warbler report was from Seattle, April 22 (*ES*), which means the species was late or overlooked before then. The few comments received concerning Townsend's Warbler affirmatively indicated that it was largely absent or overlooked during the period. Lack of mention of the Hermit Warbler by observers would indicate the same for this species. Hicks commented on the rarity of MacGillivray's Warbler in the Medford area; the few dates reported for other locations indicated arrival a few days later than usual. Yellow-throats seemed to arrive approximately on schedule, although a bird at Victoria on April 8 (*ARD*) would have been a bit early. A Wilson's Warbler at Portland on April 9 (J. Gilligan) was a good three weeks earlier than the normal arrival date.

House Sparrow, Blackbirds and Sparrows—H. R. Vance at Terrace, B. C., May 7, saw the first male House Sparrow he has ever seen there, where, under such a state of affairs it is not surprising that the species is rare. Yellow-headed Blackbirds are irregular in the Region except for a few localities along the Columbia River near Portland. The first birds this year were seen there on the early date of April 7 (*HBN*). Elsewhere the species was seen at Brownsville, Oreg., March 24 and again on April 17 (*LW*); 1 was at Victoria, May 8, and 3 were there, May 12 (*fide DS*); and

1 was at Lake Terrell near Ferndale on May 20 (TW). Bullock's Oriole was hardly mentioned in reports, the earliest record for the Region this season being one at Sauvie Island on May 1 (HBN), which was not an early record. Fifty-four Brown-headed Cowbirds were at Terrace, B. C., May 7 (HRV), where the observer has never seen more than a single bird before. In the northern Willamette Valley the species was less in evidence than for the last few years, with no young about by the end of the period. Western Tanagers seemed to arrive on schedule; five stopped at Terrace, B. C. on May 16 and remained until June 4, the observer commenting that he had not previously seen the species there (HRV). Black-headed Grosbeaks were not reported before May 2. Lazuli Buntings are seemingly not so common in the Region now as the literature would indicate they were 20 years ago. Evening Grosbeaks were widely in evidence around Portland during April and the first half of May and also were more numerous than usual at Bellingham. Ten were at Terrace, B. C., April 2 (HRV). Pine Siskins appeared in good numbers at Bellingham on April 1 (TW), and 20 were at Point Roberts on April 2 (FWD). Am. Goldfinches reached Blaine, April 24 (LHK), and were abundant in the Willamette Valley after the first week in May. Red Crossbills returned to Victoria during the spring after a two-year absence (DS); 20 were at Bellingham, where they are unusual, on May 20 (TW), while 25 were seen at Hubbard, Oreg., May 28. Northward migrating Savannah Sparrows were reported from the Blaine-Bellingham area, April 2-3. The species first arrived at Terrace on April 26, where the migration was at its peak the first week in May. The last bird was gone by the end of the month (HRV). A Slate-colored Junco at Seattle, April 19 (VEC), was the last. Ralph Moldenhauer photographed a *Tree Sparrow* at his feeder in Corvallis, Oreg., March 30-April 3; the bird is rare indeed west of the Cascades. Although the White-crowned Sparrow was first at Point Roberts, April 2 (FWD), the peak of migration at Blaine occurred about May 1 (LHK). The species was numerous at Seattle from April 6 to the end of the month; it first arrived at Terrace on April 20 and was gone from there after May 17. The migration of the Golden-crowned Sparrow pretty much accompanied that of the White-crowned, judging from the reports. A Fox Sparrow was still in Portland on April 28 (HBN). A Lincoln's Sparrow was banded and photographed in Seattle on April 14 and 15 (ES).

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The Nesting Season, 1966

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

Summer for much of the Region was a period of drought. Baker, Oreg., recorded only 2.12 in. of moisture for the 4 months, April-July. Spokane, Wash. received less than half normal precipitation in June, mostly early in the month; and in July, although rainfall was more than double the normal, it fell entirely in two storms during the first half of the month and the area received no measurable precipitation thereafter. Water levels at nearby Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge continued lower than normal and the level at Reardan slough, haven of migrating shorebirds, was decidedly low in late July. These birds appeared early there and in considerable numbers, then dwindled toward the end of the period. In western Montana, June (until the last week of the month) was very wet in the vicinity of Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge at Charlo, the Nat'l Bison Range at Moiese, Missoula and the Bitterroot Valley around Stevensville. July in those areas brought drought conditions and soaring temperatures. Missoula, with no measurable rainfall after July 10, had, thereafter, 16 days with maximum temperatures above 90°, by Aug. 7. Water levels were the lowest Hand had ever seen there. At the Bison Range the range had dried up noticeably by mid-July. East of the Continental Divide at Bozeman, the summer was extremely warm and dry. Grassland habitats were noticeably affected and associated birds seemed to reflect this. No Sprague's Pipits were found in either of the two areas occupied by the species in preceding years and Horned Larks appeared less common. The increase in Lark Buntings (see species accounts) seems paradoxical in view of this. Species dependent upon bodies of water probably were adversely affected, as irrigation demands were high and many marshes were eliminated. The weather, however, seemed to favor gallinaceous birds throughout the Region. The stimulating report from the Prince George area of British Columbia, the most northerly area covered in this report in this Regional Editor's experience, described the summer there as a cool one, with snow flurries until late May. Precipitation was about normal, however, with showers scattered through much of the season. A crying need for the Region is Breeding-bird (and Wintering) Censuses which would help to evaluate the effects of such a summer as this. Personnel of the wildlife refuges give much help, principally on the waterfowl and upland game birds, but our information on population fluctuations in other groups would be greatly enhanced by careful, adequate samplings by the census technique.

Loons, Grebes, Pelicans, Cormorants—Two adult Arctic Loons were identified on a small lake at Mile 550, Alaska Highway, B. C., a few miles south of the Yukon border, July 24. The species is not known to breed in the province (*JG*). Up to 17 Common Loons were noted at Pablo, Mont. during the period (*FLK*). Three late migrants or non-breeders were observed at O'Sullivan Dam, Grant Co., Wash. on June 13 (*WH*) and 2 were on Okanagan Lake near Penticton, B. C., July 14 (*SRC*). Red-necked, Eared, Western and Pied-billed Grebes were reported from many localities; only the Horned Grebe was not observed. Both Red-necked and Western Grebes were present in large numbers at Ninepipe, where they nested. A few White Pelicans summered on the lakes in the Bozeman-Ennis-Three Forks area of south-central Montana and a Double-crested Cormorant was seen in that area, at Ennis, Aug. 7. One or 2 of the latter appeared at Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo, Mont. during the summer.

Waterfowl—The clutch of 5 eggs of a captive Trumpeter Swan at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash. failed to hatch. This is the first nesting attempt there. Two Trumpeters summered near Harrison and 1 at Ennis, in Madison Co., Mont. There was no evidence of successful nesting—the former nesting site was dried up. About 30 pairs of Canada Geese at Ninepipe produced about 150 goslings, far above last year's figure, and some 40 pairs nested on an island in Vaseux Lake, 20 miles south of Penticton, B. C. (*SRC*). Nesting success of the species appeared to be sub-normal at Ennis, Mont. A single (*Cackling*) **Canada Goose** was seen on a pond just north of Prineville, Crook Co., Oreg., June 12 (*HBN*). One lone Snow Goose was at Stubblefield Lake in Turnbull Refuge, the last of July (*ECB*) and apparently the same bird was again sighted there, Aug. 9 (*PK* & *THR*). Production of ducks appeared definitely up at

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Turnbull Refuge, with brood counts showing about a 45 percent increase over 1965. Redheads ranked first in number of broods and Mallards, second. Nesting at Ninepipe was down somewhat, particularly for Mallard and Pintail, although Blue-winged Teal showed an increase, with total population nearly equaling that of Mallards. The summer population of Ring-necked Ducks at Ninepipe was 50. A male lingered near Harrison, Mont. as late as July 10. Young Wood Ducks were noted at Three Forks and Stevensville, Mont.; St. Maries, Idaho (*WH*), and Turnbull Refuge. A pair of Common Goldeneyes at Ennis, Mont. on July 10 was highly unusual (*DRS* & *PDS*). A pair of Harlequin Ducks was noted at the mouth of Trout Creek, Okanagan Lake, in British Columbia, May 8 (*SRC*).

Ruddy Ducks were conspicuously absent in the Bozeman-Ennis-Three Forks area. About 20 were at Ninepipe and 3 were noted in the Bitterroot Valley near Stevensville. No other reports were received of the species. This may merely mean that the species was present elsewhere in usual numbers. A brood of 10 young Hooded Mergansers on Mission Creek furnished the first breeding record for the Nat'l Bison Range at Moiese, Mont. A male Red-breasted Merganser was seen at close range in the Bitterroot on June 22 (*CLB*, *GDeV* & *OF*).

Vultures, Hawks, Eagles—The Turkey Vulture was sighted in the Bozeman area; in Pend Oreille County, Wash. (*S.A.S.*), and at Turnbull, where a peak of 13 was seen, Aug. 1. The birds were not noted in the Bitterroot, where they were seen frequently in previous years. A Goshawk was noted over the slopes of Mt. Spokane, Spokane Co., Wash., June 26 (*FBH*). A nesting pair of Swainson's Hawks was found at Keystone, Adams Co., Wash. on June 13; incubation was under way (*WH*). The Ferruginous Hawk was noted nesting near Brothers, Deschutes Co., Oreg. (*HBN*). A Bald Eagle in the Bridger Mtns., northeastern Gallatin Co., Mont. on June 5 was remarkable (*RAH*). The species was seen frequently in Prince George, B. C. area (*JG*).

Gallinaceous Birds—The generally dry conditions appeared to favor this group of birds. Numerous flocks of young partridge, pheasant and grouse were reported in the Bitterroot Valley. Ring-necked Pheasant numbers were up in the Bozeman-Ennis-Three Forks area. At Ninepipe a good survival from winter and favorable nesting conditions were noted, with many clutches found (*FLK*). C. J. Henry concurred in this view, having noted more broods than in 1965. In the south Okanagan Valley the species was described as fairly common, but less so than 20 years ago (*SRC*). Chukars were reported only at the Bison Range, where 1 or 2 broods were seen. By contrast, Gray Partridge there produced many large broods. At Missoula early broods of 7 to 12 young were later reduced to 1 to 4 per brood. The species was scarce in the southern Okanagan (*SRC*).

Cranes, Rails, Coot—Sandhill Cranes were observed regularly in the Bozeman-Ennis-Three Forks area but in somewhat smaller numbers than usual. A pair apparently nested at Ennis. A fully grown young Virginia Rail was seen at Reardan, Wash. on July 6 (*WH*). Six of this species were noted on mud flats near Prineville, Oreg., July 23 (*HBN*). Nesting success of the Am. Coot was markedly down at Harrison, Mont.

Shorebirds—The Long-billed Curlew was described as becoming scarce in the Okanagan of southern British

Columbia because of loss of habitat. One pair was noted there, at White Lake (SRC). Many species of migrant shorebirds appeared in July, some in surprising numbers. July migrants were: Solitary Sandpiper; Greater Yellowlegs, 25 at Reardan, July 16 (WH); Lesser Yellowlegs; Pectoral Sandpiper; Baird's Sandpiper, 5 at Harrison, Mont., July 10; Least Sandpiper, 10 at Reardan, July 6 (WH); Long-billed Dowitcher, 21 at Reardan, July 16 (WH); Semipalmated Sandpiper; Western Sandpiper, 40-60 at Reardan, 2nd and 3rd weeks of July (WH, S.A.S.); Marbled Godwit, 3 at Ennis, Mont., July 10 and 30, and Northern Phalarope, 9 on July 17 (S.A.S.) In the Prince George area of British Columbia Solitary Sandpipers were believed to be breeding, sparingly as far south as latitude 53°, and Greater Yellowlegs were common, breeding in many of the larger swamps. In the Bozeman-Ennis-Three Forks area Wilson's Phalarope was markedly less numerous, with no evidence of breeding.

Gulls, Terns—Non-breeding Herring Gulls were observed around the lakes in the south Okanagan all summer (SRC). Large numbers of Ring-billed Gulls were present at Ninepipe, where most of the nesting took place on Tern Island since their favorite rookery was flooded out. Many non-breeders were in the south Okanagan (SRC). Four adult Bonaparte's Gulls were seen, June 27, hawking for insects over a small, recent burn 29 miles north of Fort St. James, B. C. (SRC). Up to 16 Bonaparte's Gulls were noted on 3 dates in June and July at Goose Lake, Grant Co., Wash. (JA, WH). Mostly immature birds, they raised the question of possible breeding in the area. Two Common Terns were identified at Haystack Reservoir near Prineville, Oreg., June 12 (HBN) and the *Caspian Tern*, rare in the Okanagan, was seen over Osoyoos Lake, May 25 (SRC).

Doves, Cuckoos, Owls—Mourning Doves were scarce in the Prince George area of British Columbia, except about settlements and farms. The species continued to diminish at Missoula, Mont., apparently because of pressure of urbanization. At the Bison Range the birds were abundant; the total population there was estimated at 400. Black-billed Cuckoos were observed in the Bozeman area until Aug. 6 (late). Screech Owls nested in a Wood Duck nest box on the Little Spokane River near Spokane, Wash. (VN & CS). Great Horned Owls were unusually scarce in the Prince George area, probably reflecting the extreme scarcity of varying hares there (JG). No Burrowing Owls were noted at the last-known nesting site near Vernon, B. C. (SRC). What appeared to be a nesting pair was observed near Cow Lake, Adams Co., Wash. on June 13 (WH).

Goatsuckers—Poor-wills were heard on 3 dates in July just north and west of Spokane (WH, S.A.S.). The species was fairly common in dry pine woods

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and grassland in the south Okanagan Valley. The first Common Nighthawk of the summer was not noted at Missoula until June 13. Oddly, June 5 was the first date for Prince George (JG). Two nests of this species were found in the Dishman Hills, near Spokane. Both contained 2 eggs when found, 1 on June 26, the other, June 29. The latter nest contained small, downy young on July 4 (PK, THR, BAS & RS). The species is, in Warren Hall's opinion, definitely less common in Spokane than in former years.

Swifts, Hummingbirds—Vaux's Swift nested in a chimney on a ranch in the Bitterroot Valley near Stevensville, Mont. (OF). Six of the birds were seen near McBride, B. C. on Aug. 1. The Black Swift was noted in the Okanagan and a nest with 1 young was found in the North Okanagan, Aug. 11 (SRC). Hummingbirds, mostly Rufous and Calliope, were common to abundant at many localities. A male Rufous returned to the Little Spokane River in late June (early) (VN & CS.)

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers—A pair of William-son's Sapsuckers was found on Huckleberry Mtn., Stevens Co., Wash. feeding young in the nest, June 5 and 15 (JA). The Red-breasted race of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was abundant in the Prince George district, north of 53° latitude (JG). The White-headed Woodpecker, scarce but regularly observed in the south Okanagan, was seen, May 24, near Vaseux Lake (SRC). A nest of the Northern Three-toed Woodpecker with young nearly fledged, was found in a living aspen tree on Wansa Creek, Prince George district, June 23 (JG). A Western Kingbird nested in a rain gutter on the headquarters residence at the Bison Range. First nests of this species in the south Okanagan Valley, where it is very common, were found on May 4 (SRC). A single individual was seen on June 7 at *Strathnaver* Prince George district. This is about 120 miles north of the northernmost part of its known breeding range in British Columbia (JG). The Ash-throated Flycatcher was found, feeding young in the nest, at Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash. on July 4 (JA). An *Eastern Phoebe*, observed at close range for over 10 minutes near Brothers, Oreg., June 11, was an outstanding find (HBN). Three nests, with eggs, of the Least Flycatcher, were found in aspen-pine habitat near *Penticton*, B. C. (SRC). A Gray Flycatcher was seen near Huston Lake, west of Prineville, Oreg., July 23 (HBN).

Swallows, Jays—A brood of Tree Swallows fledged at Spokane on the early date of June 29 (*THR*). Flocks of Bank Swallows were gathering in July in eastern Washington. Some 500 were noted near Spokane, July 17 (Mr. & Mrs. *SOS*) and 300500 in Asotin Co. (*JA* & *WH*). At least 4 Clark's Nutcrackers were not in the mountains on July 4 but at Turnbull Refuge instead, elevation about 2350 ft. (*FBH*). The species was fairly common in the Okanagan from the low ponderosa pine woods to tree line at 6500 ft. (*SRC*).

Dippers, Thrushes—Dippers were feeding young in the nest along the Snake River near Baker, Oreg. on May 15. The nest was built in a "back-fill drain" on the wall of the diversion tunnel of Hell's Canyon Dam. A Brown Thrasher noted at Missoula, June 13, had disappeared by the next day. Sage Thrashers were rather common in a sage area south of *Three Forks*, Mont., where the species had not previously been noted. About 15 of the birds were observed in Grant and Adams Cos., Wash., June 13 (*WH*). Robins appeared to enjoy excellent nesting success, despite the drought. A Veery nest with 4 eggs was found near Quesnel, B. C. on June 15. This is close to the northern extremity of the bird's range (*JG*). Mountain Bluebirds were fairly common in the south Okanagan and the species appeared to be up in numbers in the Bitterroot of western Montana. The species, however, continued scarce in the Missoula area.

Waxwings, Vireos, Warblers—Cedar Waxwings were appreciably less common in the Bozeman area and there were indications that Solitary and Warbling Vireo numbers were down in the Spokane area (*S.A.S.*). A *Philadelphia Vireo* very carefully identified at Missoula, Aug. 5, vied with the Eastern Phoebe for top honors in the "misplaced bird" category. The Tennessee Warbler was abundant in spruce and mixed forest in the Prince George area and 3 nests of the Magnolia Warbler, common there, were located (*JG*). Audubon's Warblers were unusually scarce around Prince George; residents of the area had reported heavy mortality of this species during sub-zero weather over the Easter week end (*JG*). Blackpoll Warblers were common and Northern Waterthrushes, abundant in the above-mentioned area (*JG*). A single song, believed to be that of an *Ovenbird*, was heard, June 6, near Hixon in the Prince George area and the song of this species, repeated 12 times, was heard near Stoner, 20 miles to the south. The species is not known to occur west of the Rockies in the area (*JG*).

Blackbirds—The usual colony of Bobolinks was present at St. Maries, Idaho and one bird was seen near Cusick, Wash. on June 18. The birds nested in the Bitterroot of western Montana and were noted at Osoyoos, B. C. on June 10. In the Bozeman area the

species was flocking by Aug. 14. Yellow-headed and Red-winged Blackbirds were down in numbers in the Bozeman–Ennis–Three Forks area but seemed to be in normal numbers elsewhere. The Rusty Blackbird was found nesting sporadically on grassy swamps and muskegs from 53° northward, in the Prince George area (*JG*). The Common Grackle was less numerous in the Bozeman area, reversing the trend of several years. Brown-headed Cowbirds were less conspicuous in reports this year, suggesting a possible decline after the high numbers of 1965. However, Hand described them as more plentiful than usual at Missoula.

Finches—A flock of 40-50 Lazuli Buntings was observed along the Grande Ronde River, Asotin Co., Wash. on July 21 (*JA* & *WH*). Neither observer had ever seen such a concentration of the species before. Evening Grosbeaks again nested in the Spokane area, in Indian Canyon on the western edge of the city (*JA*) and a pair nested in trees along a ditch above Ninepipe Refuge. A few individuals

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were noted almost daily during the summer at Missoula. Four were seen perched in a cottonwood at *Smith River* in British Columbia, about 50 miles south of the Yukon border, July 25. This is about 250 miles north of the previous northernmost observation (*JG*). Purple Finches were fairly common, nesting, throughout the Prince George area (*JG*). Singing male House Finches were seen in both *Quesnel* and *Prince George*, indicating an extension northward of about 150 miles from the previous northernmost locality (*JG*). Three of this species, 1 an adult male, were seen at *Three Forks, Mont.*, very near the 1963 sighting place. This probably indicates breeding; if so, it is the northernmost point at this longitude. Red Crossbills were seen regularly in early summer at Spokane (*WH*, *S.A.S.*) and were common in Bozeman and the nearby mountains after about July 1. The birds were fairly common in the south Okanagan (*SRC*) and around Prince George (*JG*) and were seen on Mt. Hood and in the Ochocos east of Prineville, Oreg. (*HBN*). White-winged Crossbills were extremely common around Prince George, feeding upon the bumper spruce seed crop, from early July on (*JG*).

Sparrows—An immature Green-tailed Towhee was observed at Godman Springs, Asotin Co. in the Blue Mtns. of southeastern Washington, July 22 (*JA* & *WH*). Lark Buntings again appeared in the Bozeman area, a large number remaining throughout the summer near Belgrade. Probably at least 40 pairs occupied territories there, indicating virtual certainty that they bred. The birds were still present on Aug. 14. Savannah Sparrows were appreciably less numerous in the

Bozeman area but Lark Sparrows were perhaps up in numbers there. *Le Conte's Sparrow* again appeared at Missoula. Single adults were seen at close range under very favorable conditions, July 28 and Aug. 3, in the same area as seen in 1959 and 1965. A Black-throated Sparrow was identified near *Brothers, Oreg.* The species is not known to breed in the state (*JC, fide HBN*). No Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from the spot where they bred in the Bozeman area in 1965. A family group of Golden-crowned Sparrows was seen at 6500 ft. on Teare Mtn. near McBride, east of Prince George, Aug. 2. The White-throated Sparrow was a common breeder in the Prince George area, as was the Lincoln's.

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The Nesting Season, 1966

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

In sharp contrast to 1965, which was a very wet year, this summer was remarkably hot and dry. The exception was in extreme southern Utah, where Zion Park reported as much moisture as usual. Some places considered this one of the driest summers on record, but areas such as the Great Basin have little or no rain in the summer anyway. All in all, it was an extremely dry summer. Since the Great Basin refuges had a large holdover of water from last year they did fairly well. Any depending on this year's run-off, such as the Bear River Marshes, upper end of the Great Salt Lake, had poor production of waterfowl. Most observers agreed that other birds seem to have had a good nesting season.

Pelicans—The largest breeding population of White Pelicans reported was from Anaho Island in Pyramid Lake, western Nevada, where 3000 young are produced. This refuge is under the administration of Stillwater Refuge (*LHW*). There were 5000 adults in this area and at Stillwater, itself (*LHW*). Some 5000 more were reported at Malheur, Oreg., where the drying marsh made improved feeding conditions. However, there was no nesting there (*HFD*). Egrets, herons and cormorants doubled their nesting at Malheur (*HFD*).

Ibis—Only 2 nests of the White-faced Ibis were found in the Klamath Basin, where this species is becoming rare (*EJO'N*).

Swans—Trumpeters had large broods at Malheur: 5 broods with 15 cygnets (*HFD*). There were 7 pairs at Ruby Lakes, Nev. with 11 cygnets (*DEL*). There is often great attrition in the raising of Trumpeter broods. A pair with 6 cygnets, June 6, on the Nat'l Elk Refuge, Jackson Hole, Wyo. was down to one cygnet by Aug. 9 (*DER*). Trumpeters are steadily increasing, but shortly they may reach their limit of suitable habitat in the Jackson Hole area.

Ducks & Geese—The Klamath Basin, Oregon-California

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had a 5 percent increase in Canada Goose production. Ducks did better, also, in spite of the poorest precipitation in many years (*EJO'N*). At Stillwater, Nev. relying on last year's water, there was good production of ducks with 4304 young in spite of the short run-off (*LHW*). Malheur produced 37,000 ducks in 1965. This year, owing to the drought, there was little suitable habitat in the Blitzen Valley (40 percent of normal) and even less in the "Double 0" unit. Some 13,000 ducks were produced (*HFD*). Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho, the great Mallard refuge during the fall and winter, had less suitable breeding habitat and produced only 1000 ducks which compared favorably with previous years. There is a fair goose production on the nearby Snake River islands which are part of this refuge. There were 3000 Canada Geese there by the end of this period (*RVP*). At the Monte Vista Refuge, San Luis Valley, Colo. there is continued improvement. Conditions were better than ever and more ducks were produced for a total of 22,888 birds; 16,718 of them were Mallard. This growing refuge ranks now with the great ones.

Hawks—All seemed to agree that these birds are steadily becoming scarcer. It is thought that hawks are being transported out of the western states to falconers in the East in relatively large numbers.

Osprey—Three pairs nested on Jackson Lake, Grand Teton Park, Wyo., June 30 (MMB). Three other pairs were nesting near the falls of the Yellowstone in Yellowstone Park (OKS), but we do not have figures on young. An Osprey nested at Electra Lake, 10 miles north of Durango, Colo. (OR). These birds are uncommon migrants in Colorado and there have been very few nesting records. Three young birds were seen at Palisades Lake on the Snake River, Wyoming-Idaho border (GK).

Shorebirds—Fifteen thousand Am. Avocets at Stillwater (LHW) is the highest concentration reported in this Region. At the same time, there also were 8000 Black-necked Stilts at this refuge.

Owls—Short-eared Owls turn up on the refuges in numbers as conditions are often excellent. This year 5 pairs nested at Monte Vista (CRB). A Great Gray Owl was seen, June 10, in the southern part of Yellowstone Park (JLH). These birds occur regularly in small numbers in both Yellowstone and Grand Teton Parks, but few visitors are fortunate enough to see them.

Woodpeckers—There has been a huge infestation of bark beetles in the lodgepole pines of Grand Teton Park. Whole sections of the forest are dead or dying, in spite of a very extensive and unwise spraying program by the Park Service (*cf.* Adolf Murie's article in the June 1966 issue of *National Parks Magazine*—"Pesticide Program in Grand Teton Park"—Vol. 10, p. 17-19). This is the land of the Northern Three-toed Woodpecker. Several were seen near Two Ocean Lake, July 10 (OKS). On nearby Pilgram Creek a nest was found with feathered young (GK). Apparently, so far, these birds are surviving the poisoning.

Vireos—Gray Vireos were present all summer in two localities at Arches Nat'l Monument, Utah (DLC). They were not known there until last year.

Warblers—A Chestnut-sided Warbler was mist-netted at Malheur on June 21 (CFZ). This is the first record for the state. A Wilson's Warbler was found feeding a young Brown-headed Cowbird, west of Denver on July 23 (RG).

Buntings—An Indigo Bunting was found near Cedar City, southern Utah, July 15 (SM). This bird is casual in Utah. Lark Buntings appear to have shifted west this season to higher elevations in Colorado. They were reported in Rocky Mountain Park (AC).

Rosy Finches—Two Black Rosy Finches were found on the Steens Mountains of eastern Oregon, June 19

(CFZ). These birds have not been recorded in this area before.

Sparrows—Cassin's Sparrows were found in the Great Sand Dunes Nat'l Monument to the west of the Sangre de Cristo range on the east side of the San Luis Valley, Colorado. This is farther west than it had previously occurred. Two singing birds were seen on July 2 (RG); and again on July 25 (WR). A Rufous-crowned Sparrow was found singing and nesting at Zion Park, June 28 (RW). This is the first nesting record for the bird in Utah.

Contributors—(MMB), Mike M. Browne; (CRB), Charles R. Bryant; (DLC), Dennis L. Carter; (AC), Allegro Collister; (HFD), Harold F. Duebbert; (RG), Robert Gustafson; (MH), Milton Haderlie; (JLH), John L. Hamilton; (GK), Gleb Kashin; (DEL), Donald E. Lewis; (SM), Stewart Murie; (EJO'N), Edward J. O'Neill; (RVP), Ronald V. Papika; (OR), Oppie Reames; (DER), Donald R. Redfern; (WR), William Reid; (OKS), Oliver K. Scott; (RW), Roland Wauer; (LHW), Larry H. Worden; (CFZ), C. Fred Zeilemaker.

The Nesting Season, 1966

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION
/ John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

Generally the weather in the Region for the 1966 nesting period can be characterized as drier and warmer than usual. This was particularly the case for western Oregon where the summer is said to have been the driest one in over thirty years. In western Washington and southern British Columbia rainfall and temperatures were about normal during June; the first week of July, however, brought some heavy rains, but thereafter the season was warmer than usual. Northern British Columbia seems to have followed the drier and warmer pattern of the southern portion of the Region during the nesting season.

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Loons, Grebes, Shearwaters and Petrels—Common, Arctic and Red-throated Loons all were present in numbers on the ocean at La Push, Wash., July 29 and 30 (TRW). One adult and several immature Arctic Loons were off the Coos County, Oreg. coast, July 16 and 17 (JGO). Nonbreeding W. Grebes were at Bellingham during the period in only 25 percent or less of their usual summer numbers (TRW). A single bird was seen at Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River, June 4 and again on July 3 (HBN); 2 individuals were on Agate Lake near Medford in mid-June (JGO; JH); an obviously immature bird was noted on a pond at

Ilwaco, Wash., Aug. 10 (HBN, JG & RK). Sooty Shearwaters were observed in thousands close off the northern Oregon coast in July and were similarly at the mouth of the Columbia River, as is their custom, by mid-August. Three Leach's Petrels were seen over the ocean from Seal Rock, June 3 (WT).

Pelicans, Cormorants and Herons—First northward wandering Brown Pelicans were off the Curry County, Ore. coast by mid-July, but were not reported from anywhere farther north by the end of the period. Eggs and young up to two weeks old of both Double-crested and Pelagic Cormorants were found on Hall and Colville Islands in the San Juans, July 16 and 17 (ES). Great Blue Herons appear to have had good nesting success in northwest Oregon judging by the numbers of immature birds about by the end of the period (HBN). Individual Green Herons were reported from scattered points in the southern portion of the Region—Medford, Coos Bay, Lebanon—while one pair was regularly observed in Portland's Delta Park throughout the period (JG, RK). An Am. Bittern was near Wauna, Ore., Aug. 12 (JG).

Waterfowl—A pair of Trumpeter Swans nested on the Gitnadoix River fifty miles southwest of Terrace, B. C., but were flooded out by rising water before any young were brought off (HRV). As usual, nonbreeding Black Brant were present in favored localities—Rogue River mouth (JGO), Willapa Bay (JBC; HBN), and Blaine (LHK). Mallards appear to have had good nesting success in the Willamette Valley. Two broods of Gadwalls were observed at Iona Island, July 23 (FWD). A pair of Blue-winged Teal was at Marietta, Wash., June 25 (TRW). Six Am. Widgeon remained at Crystal Springs, Portland, throughout the nesting season (HBN). The only report of Wood Duck nesting was of good success in eight nests in boxes at Fall City, Wash. (VEC). A female Ring-necked Duck had 8 small young with her on Trillium Lake on Mount Hood, Aug. 17 (HBN); 3 individuals of this species were at Lake Terrell, July 4 (TRW). Two Canvasbacks and 30 Greater Scaup were at Iona Island, July 23, while two Lesser Scaup were there, July 26 (FWD). An adult and 4 young Barrow's Goldeneyes were seen on Lost Lake in the Santiam Pass, July 24 (RF & WT) where young were raised last year. A male Oldsquaw was at Bellingham, July 9 (TRW). The same observer found 15 Harlequin Ducks at Protection Island near Port Townsend, July 10. Summering White-winged and Surf Scoters were much less prevalent in the Region during the period than has been the case in recent years. A lone bird of the former species was found above the 4500 ft. level in Garibaldi Park, July 30 (FWD). Two Ruddy Ducks were at Blaine, June 23 (LHK), and 3 were at Iona Island, July 23 (FWD). Four Red-breasted Mergansers also were seen at Blaine on June 23 (LHK).

Hawks—Turkey Vultures were more numerous than usual in the Comox—Campbell River area this summer (DS). A pair of Goshawks was seen near Lake-of-the-Woods, June 24 (OS) and one bird was in the Santiam Pass, July 24 (RF & WT). An adult Red-tailed Hawk was sitting on a nest at Champoege State Park, Ore. as late as June 12 (TM). A young Bald Eagle was standing fully feathered in its nest near Blaine, Wash., July 13 (LHK). An adult of this species was seen, Aug. 10, near the north end of the new Astoria Bridge at the mouth of the Columbia (HBN). A pair of Marsh Hawks on Thackaberry's farm near Lebanon, Ore., lost their young to raccoons; elsewhere a pair was seen throughout the period on Sauvie Island (JG, RK); a pair was at Iona Island, July 23 (FWD); and a few were seen along the Curry County, Ore. coast in mid-July (JGO). Del Buerge kept careful track of a pair of nesting Ospreys that again utilized a nest near the Willamette River on his family's farm north of Albany, Ore. The pair arrived April 9, had laid 4 eggs by April 29, 3 of which eventually hatched. The young birds left the nest on short flights, July 29; by Aug. 10 all the Ospreys had left the area. A Peregrine Falcon was at Miracle Beach, Vancouver Island, Aug. 2, and a Pigeon Hawk was at the same place, Aug. 12 (DS). Sparrow Hawks had good nesting success in the Lebanon, Ore. area this season (WT).

Game Birds—James O'Donnell carefully observed an individual of the *franklinii* race of the

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Spruce Grouse in the Bull Run Watershed on the west side of Mount Hood on June 8; apparently the species had been occasionally reported from this same area up to 30 years ago, but no record until now had been deemed acceptable. The species occurs regularly in Oregon only in small numbers in a favored place or two in the northeast corner of the state. Blue Grouse, at least in northwest Oregon, are considered to have increased this year from population lows of last year which led to hunting prohibitions. Ruffed Grouse numbers likewise have improved, according to the Oregon State Game Commission. A female Willow Ptarmigan with 5 chicks was found above the 4500 ft. level in Garibaldi Park, B. C., July 30 (FWD). Eight White-tailed Ptarmigan were on the northeast slope of Mount St. Helens at about 5300 ft. elevation on June 26 (JGO). In western Oregon, the State Game Commission's counts indicate a good increase in numbers of California Quail as a result of a successful breeding season, although the population was low at the start of the period. Mountain Quail, however, seem not to have had similar success, and are down still further in numbers. Pheasant numbers in western

Oregon are trending downward where "clean-farming, end of the soil bank program and field burning are having their impact" (Tom McAllister). There were no reports of nesting rails, except for reports of Am. Coots nesting at several places in the Portland area where breeding of this species is uncommon; 2 broods of Am. Coots also were noted at Iona Island, July 23 (*FWD*).

Shorebirds—Semipalmated Plovers were showing up in a few coastal localities from Iona Island south to Coos Bay by the last week in July. Snowy Plovers successfully brought off young at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., (*RF*; *HN*; *WT*). Killdeer seemed to have good breeding success in the Blaine–Bellingham area (*LHK*; *TRW*). One Black-bellied Plover was at Victoria, B. C. (*ARD*), and one was at Yaquina Bay, Oreg. (*RM*), both on July 23; the species was increasingly common in good spots by the end of the period, with more than one hundred at Leadbetter Point, Wash., Aug. 13-14 (*JBC*). Two Surfbirds were seen at the south end of Lopez Island in the San Juans, July 15 (*TRW*); 15 were at Seal Rock, Oreg., July 30 (*JGO*). The first migrating Ruddy Turnstones were 6 at Victoria, July 18 (*ARD*); 1 was at Yaquina Bay on July 23 (*RRM*). Three Black Turnstones at Victoria, July 18 (*ARD*), and a few at Yaquina Bay, July 23 (*RRM*), were the first fall migrants of that species. Two Long-billed Curlews spent from July 27 to Aug. 14 on Thackaberry's farm near Lebanon; the birds fed on grasshoppers. Over 20 Whimbrels were at Yaquina Bay on July 23 (*RRM*) and were still present a week later (*JGO*). A nest of the Spotted Sandpiper containing 4 eggs was found on Sauvie Island, July 26; young of this species were seen at a different spot in the same location on Aug. 1 (*HBN*). The earliest Wandering Tattler was at Victoria, July 26 (*ARD*), while 2 birds had reached Seal Rock, Oreg. by July 30 (*JGO*); 19 were on the south jetty of the Columbia River, Aug. 13 (*JG*). Greater Yellowlegs showed up at scattered locations in the Region after the first 4 appeared, July 14, at Agate Reservoir near Medford (*HBN*). The earliest Lesser Yellowlegs was one at Delta Park in Portland, July 22 (*HBN*). An early Pectoral Sandpiper was at Agate Reservoir, July 14 (*HBN*); another was at Sauvie Island, Aug. 8 (*JG*). Three Baird's Sandpipers were at La Push, Wash., July 30 (*TRW*), and 6 were at Sauvie Island, Aug. 14 (*RK*). Two Least Sandpipers at Blaine, July 4 (*TRW*), were the vanguard of the advance migration which reached Medford in good numbers by July 14; numbers were still building at favored coastal and inland locations by the end of the period. Twelve Short-billed Dowitchers were at Bandon, Oreg. on July 16, and 14 were at North Bend, Oreg., July 30 (*JGO*). The first Long-billed Dowitchers were at Hubbard, Oreg., July 25 (*TM*), and at Portland, July 26 (*HBN*). Two W. Sandpipers at Blaine, July 4 (*TRW*) were the first; numbers peaked in

the Blaine–Bellingham area, July 12, but the species was inexplicably absent there after Aug. 1 (*TRW*); 150 of these birds were at Agate Reservoir near Medford, July 14 (*HBN*). A Sanderling was at Protection Island, July 10 (*ES*), while another reached the inland location of Sauvie Island, Aug. 1 (*HBN*). Two male Wilson's Phalaropes were at McFadden Marsh south of Corvallis, June 25 (*RRM*); 4 of this species were at Iona Island, July 23 (*FWD*). Flocks of N. Phalaropes were in the northern San Juan Islands, Aug. 11 (Ralph Wahl, *vide TRW*); 2 individuals had reached Sauvie Island, Aug. 14 (*RK*).

Jaegers, Gulls—A Parasitic Jaeger was seen at Victoria, B. C. on the early date of July 22 (*GAP*); another was seen, Aug. 10, over mud flats at Willapa Bay (*HBN*, *JG* & *RK*). Three thousand seven hundred young Glaucous-winged Gulls were banded in early and mid-July at Protection and Colville Islands in the San Juans (*ES*). California and Ring-billed Gulls migrated westward into the Region from their breeding grounds starting early in July and continuing through to the end of the period; numbers seemed somewhat less than in the last two or three years. An early Mew Gull was at Bellingham, July 28 (*TRW*). A Franklin's Gull was at Blaine, Aug. 7 and one was at Bellingham, Aug. 14 (*TRW*). Two Bonaparte's Gulls at Bellingham, June 5, were the first of 200-300 which were present by Aug. 6 (*TRW*). One was at Hood Canal, July 1, while 75 were at Seward Park, Seattle, the second week of August (*ES*). The species also was seen near the Oregon–California border, July 14 (*JH*); at Coos Bay and at Bandon, July 16 (*JGO*); at Yaquina Bay (*RRM*) and at Iona Island (*FWD*) on July 23; and at the mouth of the Columbia on Aug. 10 (*HBN*). Northward wandering Heermann's Gulls had reached Hood Canal by July 1 and the San Juan Islands by the middle of the month; 1500 were nesting on the beach at Leadbetter Point, Aug. 13 (*JBC*).

Terns, Alcids—Three Caspian Terns were at Agate Lake near Medford, June 11 (*JH*); 17 were seen at Seaside, Oreg., Aug. 12 (*JG*), and 10 were at Leadbetter Point, Aug. 13 (*JBC*). Five hundred Common Murres had congregated at Miracle Beach, Vancouver Island on July 6 (*DS*); many were seen flying

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north over the ocean past the mouth of the Columbia on Aug. 10 (*JG*, *RK* & *HBN*). Adults and young Marbled Murrelets were on Hall and Colville Islands, July 16 and 17 (*ES*); 4 individuals were at the mouth of the Pistol River, Curry Co., Oreg. on July 17 (*JGO*), and 4 were seen from the south jetty of the Columbia River on Aug. 13 (*JG*). About 200 Rhinoceros Auklets were counted on Hall and Colville Islands on July 16 and 17;

43 of this species were at Victoria, July 19 (*GAP*). Tufted Puffins were reported sparsely from Bandon to Victoria during July.

Owls, Swifts—A *Great Grey Owl* was heard calling close at hand on top of Larch Mountain east of Portland on the evening of June 4 (*HBN*); the observer listened to the bird for almost an hour but was never able to see it. Several observers thought Vaux's Swifts to be more numerous than usual in the Oregon Cascades during the nesting season.

Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers—A first year male *Allen's Hummingbird* was at Sherwood, Oreg., from mid-June to the end of the period; it came the day after hummingbird feeders were put out but was not identified until Aug. 8 by Dr. and Mrs. Fred Crenshaw of Portland. Many observers have seen and photographed the bird since. A male of this species was reported from Talent, Oreg., June 12 (Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Tompkins, *vide JH*). The only reports of the Calliope Hummingbird were from Mount Hood during the first week in August. Rufous Hummingbirds moved from the lowlands to the mountains in June and July, concentrating in meadows and open places, often in numbers, by August. A White-headed Woodpecker was observed west of Ashland, Oreg., in the Siskiyou Mountains at an elevation of 5000 ft. on Aug. 12 (Otis and Mark Swisher); although the species apparently has occurred in the past in Jackson and Josephine Counties, it is not now usually found there.

Flycatchers, Larks—An E. Kingbird was noted at Sauvie Island, July 9 (*RK*); pairs of this species were seen at two different localities on Vancouver Island during July (*DS*). An *Eastern Phoebe* was carefully identified near Shady Cove on the Rogue River, July 17 (*JH*). Western Flycatchers seemed to be very much reduced in numbers this year, at least in western Oregon. Young of the Horned Lark barely able to fly were noted in the Lebanon area as late as Aug. 19; other fledglings were noted in the same area, July 16 (*WT*).

Swallows—Violet-green Swallows had a difficult nesting year apparently. In the Blaine-Bellingham area the heavy rains on July 2-4 had catastrophic results on broods that had been about to leave their nests (*LHK, TRW*); the species has been less numerous than usual in August throughout northwestern Oregon, so it seems inferable that the brood losses to the north were widespread. The above observations also are applicable to Tree Swallows, although the losses here appear to have been less severe, perhaps because many young had fledged by July 1. A Bank Swallow, very rare in the Region at any time, was observed at Ladner, B. C., June 3 (*GAP*). Barn Swallows, unlike the above mentioned

species, seem to have fared quite well and to have brought off broods successfully. Signs are that Cliff Swallows also had poor nesting success in the Region this year. Purple Martin nestings were reported from Agate Lake in the Medford area, from Seaside and Lincoln City along the northern Oregon coast, from Sauvie Island, Seattle, and Bellingham; the increasing summer populations of Starlings (which to-date have not begun to approach winter numbers) are causing increasing competition for some long-used martin nesting sites.

Crows, Nuthatches, Wrens—Crows were reported to have had good nesting results in the Lebanon area (*WT*), and presumably through the rest of the Willamette Valley. Red-breasted Nuthatches were very abundant above timberline on Mount Hood in late July (*TM*) and early August (*RK & HBN*) with many young birds in evidence, possibly presaging good lowland and southerly winter numbers. House Wrens continue to nest only very locally west of the Cascades, although being almost common in the pine country on the eastern slopes of the mountains; breeding records this season come only from Lebanon (*WT*) and Tacoma (*VEC*). Bewick's Wren was found on Vashon Island, June 11 (*VEC*).

Thrashers, Thrushes—On July 29 a *Le Conte's Thrasher* was long and carefully studied at close range by Hicks and Otis and Mark Swisher at the 5000 ft. level on the south slope of the Siskiyou. The bird was reported to be in an isolated habitat type typical of its normal range. The record is apparently the first of this species for the state of Oregon. Robins seem to have been less prolific in much of the Region this year than in recent past years, although they were reported as being "numerous" in the Seattle area; perhaps the uncommonly dry weather accounted for this. Swainson's Thrushes also seem down from the numbers of three and more years ago, although data from which the impression is formed are scanty. Western Bluebirds are scarce enough that breeding occurrences warrant comment; a few raised young in the Lebanon area (*WT*), while 2 young were seen at Issaquah, Wash., the first there in over two years (*ES*). Mountain Bluebirds, though limited in regular occurrence in this Region to parts of the eastern border, seem to have had fairly good breeding success; the species was reported as common at Timberline Lodge on the southeast slope of Mount Hood with many young birds present in late July (*TM*) and early August (*RK & HBN*).

Waxwings, Starlings—Cedar Waxwings were regarded as abundant in the Willamette Valley and in northwestern Oregon during the period; young in the nest were reported there and at Blaine as of mid-July.

Starlings were reported during the season primarily from the northern portions of the Region; at Terrace, B. C., the summer colony is reported to number over 200, with young out of the nest by mid-June (HRV).

Vireos, Warblers—The only report for Red-eyed Vireos was from the Lebanon area where singing birds

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were observed for the first time last year along Crabtree Creek; this year more individuals were present during June and July than last year (VT). Warblers were prominent among the loose flocks of birds in the mountains toward the end of the period. Orange-crowned, Nashville, and Hermit Warblers were the most numerous; Townsend's Warbler was present in small numbers on Mount Hood the first week in August (JG, HBN).

Blackbirds—A few Yellow-headed Blackbirds were in the Portland area along the Columbia River at the usual very locally favored spots in late June and early July, but it is not known whether they bred this year. Fewer than usual numbers of Bullock's Orioles were on Sauvie Island during the breeding season; an immature male was seen on July 27 at Bellingham where the species is uncommon (TRW). The Brown-headed Cowbird seems not to have increased any further in numbers in most of western Oregon and western Washington since the very noticeable increase which occurred from 1960 to 1964. In the Victoria area, however, the species was very abundant this year, parasitizing every vireo and warbler nest which was inspected (R. MacKenzie-Grieve).

Finches—Lazuli Buntings were in good numbers along the Columbia River bottoms near Portland this year (HBN). The only records for Evening Grosbeaks were from the Portland area where at least three pairs nested in the Pittock Bird Sanctuary of the Oregon Audubon Society; young were first seen out of the nest there on June 27. A flock was seen on Mount Hood, July 18 (TM), where a few individuals were also seen early in June and early in August (HBN). Purple Finches were much in evidence on Vancouver Island during the summer (DS). Cassin's Finches were abundant above timberline on Mount Hood late in July (TM) and early in August (RK, HBN) with many juveniles in flocks. Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were seen at middle elevations on Mount St. Helens on June 26 (JGO), on Mount Hood on July 18 (TM), and at high elevations on Mount Hood on August 7 (JGO). Pine Siskins were abundant on Mount Hood near timberline, Aug. 3 (RK & HBN); the Douglas fir cone crop is the best in Oregon in seven years. Goldfinches had good nesting success on Vancouver Island (DS);

fledglings were seen at Bellingham, July 11 (TRW). The fine cone crop on Vancouver Island seems to have been the attractant for large numbers of Red Crossbills in the area by the end of the period (DS); the same phenomenon doubtless accounts for the hundreds of this species on Mount Hood, Aug. 6 (JG). In northern Washington, Red Crossbills were much in evidence in the Cascades throughout the period.

Sparrows—Oregon Juncos, many of them juveniles, were abundant above timberline on Mount Hood by the end of July. Chipping Sparrows were scarce on Vancouver Island (DS) and in much of the rest of the Region this summer. Two Fox Sparrows were seen on the surprising date of June 6 at Corbett, Oreg., some 25 miles east of Portland (HBN). Lincoln's Sparrows were common in appropriate habitat in the Sand= Pass region the last week in July; one was seen near Lebanon, Aug. 15 (WT).

Contributors— (VEC) Violet E. Cannon; (ARD) A. R. Davidson; (FWD) Mr. & Mrs. Fred W. Dobson; (RF) Roy Fisk; (JG) Jeff Gilligan; (JH) Joseph Hicks; (RK) Ron Klein; (LHK) Lucile H. Kline; (TM) Thomas McCamant; (RRM) Ralph R. Moldenhauer; (JGO) James G. Olson; (GAP) G. A. Poynter; (DS) David Stirling; (ES) Eleanor Stopps; (OS) Otis Swisher; (WT) William Thackaberry; (HRV) H. R. Vance; (TRW) Terry R. Wahl.

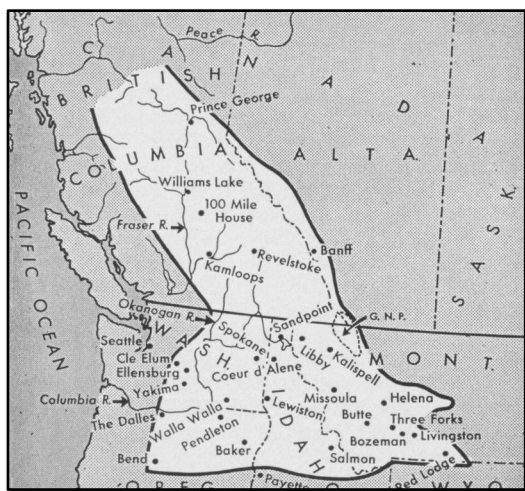
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*Autumn Migration, 1966***NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN —
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

/ Thomas H. Rogers

Autumn in the Region was almost uniformly mild, with no snowfall of



any consequence in the valleys by the end of the period. The heat and drought of the preceding months continued through September in the Okanagan of southern British Columbia and in extreme western Montana (Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo, and Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese) and through October in northern Idaho and eastern Washington. For example, Spokane, Wash. received only .36 in. of precipitation in October as compared to the normal 1.57 in. November brought well above normal precipitation to northern Idaho and eastern Washington, but other areas were apparently near normal. The month continued mild, however. Habitat conditions remained fairly good at the Bison Range despite the drought, but the ponds at Reardan and at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash. were low. The generally mild fall appeared to delay departures for only a few species. Duck movement into the Spokane area was about a week late. In this Region a trickling migration is the usual situation. Therefore, the hearing of many small migrants overhead at midnight of Sept. 7 after a clear, warm day at Baker, Oreg., is of interest. Also at Baker

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what might be called a wave was noted on Aug. 25, when Ann Ward counted 31 species, mostly migrant passerines, in her yard. Another flurry of activity there, Sept. 24-25, during abnormally warm weather, involved many passerines of 13 species. See also Hall's remarks

under "Vireos and Warblers." Snowy Owls furnished the most spectacular news for the fall and the Bohemian Waxwing movement promised to be a big one. By contrast, the virtual absence of northern finches from most localities was noteworthy.

Loons, Grebes—Seven Common Loons, the largest number for any locality, were seen at Wells Gray Provincial Park north of Kamloops, B. C. in early October (*PD* & *ED*). An *Arctic Loon* was seen at Thomas Lake, east of Colville, Stevens Co., Wash. on Nov. 6 (*WH*). The Red-necked Grebe was noted in September at Ravalli Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in the Bitterroot valley near Stevensville, Mont. This is apparently the first record for the valley and followed the restoring and establishing of several potholes and reservoirs on this recently created refuge. Many species of birds have benefited, some having increased as much as ten-fold (*CLB*, *GAD*). A single Red-necked Grebe at Three Forks, Mont. in early October furnished the third record for the locality (*RAH*, *DRS* & *PDS*). An unusual concentration of Pied-billed Grebes was seen at Ninepipe Nail Wildlife Refuge, Sept. 24. At least 20 were in one group and others were scattered over a wide area (*RLH*).

Pelicans, Cormorants—Three White Pelicans stopped briefly at Ninepipe Refuge in September. Hundreds were at Summer Lake, Lake Co., Oreg. on Sept. 3 (*Mr. & Mrs. SOS*). The species peaked at about 183 at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash., but declined after a unit was opened to hunting. About 7 Double-crested Cormorants used the refuge until the hunting season opened, Oct. 15, and the birds were described as commonly seen at Pablo Reservoir, Ninepipe Refuge during the fall.

Hérons, Bitterns—A *Green Heron* was observed near Prineville, Oreg., Aug. 22-23 (*GM*). Black-crowned Night Herons were common at McNary Refuge. The Am. Bittern was noted there and at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash.

Waterfowl—Canada Goose numbers appeared to be good. Some 15,000 were noted near Stratford, Grant Co., Wash., Oct. 9 (*JA*) and the wintering population at McNary Refuge had reached 10,000 by Nov. 1. Fifteen White-fronted Geese were seen at Stratford, Oct. 9 (*JA*), and smaller numbers at McNary Refuge, at Sprague Lake, near Sprague, Wash., at Reardan Wash., at Ninepipe Refuge, and 1 was shot near Ronan, Lake Co., Mont. (*CJH*). An early snow storm brought flights of Snow Geese over the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. on Nov. 7 and for several days thereafter. A spectacular concentration of 2000 was on nearby Ninepipe Refuge the second week of the month. Duck migration through Turnbull Refuge showed no

spectacular build-up but greater sustained use was evident. The peak population of 26,000 was reached a week later than last year, Nov. 20-26. Mallards continued as the most abundant species in the Region. At Ninepipe Refuge they surpassed the 10-year record, with a peak of about 120,000 at Ninepipe and Pablo Reservoirs. The numbers of other species appeared good. McNary Refuge had a peak of 960 Ruddy Ducks on Oct. 1 and Ravalli Refuge, 500, Sept. 11, immediately after the ponds were flooded. Unusual records included 11 White-winged Scoters and 1 Surf Scoter at Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on Oct. 9 (JA). A male White-winged Scoter was at Three Forks, Mont., Nov. 13 (RAH) and a female had joined him the next day (PDS). *Ten Red-breasted Mergansers* were at Ravalli Refuge on Sept. 15.

Vultures, Hawks, Eagles—Thirteen Turkey Vultures were noted at Turnbull Refuge, Aug. 1 but not thereafter. An immature Goshawk was seen on Illecillewaet Icefield, elevation 8300 ft., Glacier Nat'l Park, B.C., Sept. 3 (KG) and an adult appeared at Missoula, Mont. at the end of November. The Rough-legged Hawk was reported as scarce in the Vernon B.C. area, but the species was noted commonly just west of Missoula (at least 5 near Frenchtown, Nov. 26, RLH & JS) and 15-20 of the birds could be seen on a 2-hour drive through the Bison Range. Two Ferruginous Hawks were noted at Pablo Reservoir, Ninepipe Refuge. A peak of 12 Bald Eagles was on Ninepipe and 4 more were noted at Pablo Reservoir. A single bird flew over the campus of the University of Montana at Missoula, Dec. 11 (GL). Four Peregrine Falcons were on the Ninepipe Refuge. One or 2 *Golden Eagles* were noted in the Almira-Hartline-Reardan areas of Grant and Lincoln Counties, Washington (JA).

Gallinaceous Birds—The Ring-necked Pheasant was reported as very common at McNary Refuge, but numbers appeared to be average or less elsewhere. In the Okanagan Valley of southern British Columbia fish and game clubs were pressing for a closed season in 1967. Chukars were up in numbers at the Bison Range. Gray Partridge there were at a maximum level, about 400. The birds were abundant in the neighboring Flathead Valley (CJH). Turkeys planted several years ago at Ravalli Refuge, seem to be increasing.

Shorebirds—Mud flats created by diking at Ravalli Refuge attracted a rich variety of species, some not previously recorded for the Bitterroot Valley. Up to 8 Pectoral Sandpipers were noted and flocks of up to 15 *Sanderlings* were seen. Fourteen Am. Avocets were present in early September. The plover migration appeared extremely poor in eastern Washington. Only 1 Semipalmated, 1 Am. Golden and 3 Black-bellied Plovers were seen (JA, WH). Five of the latter species

were noted at Kicking Horse Reservoir, Ninepipe Refuge, Sept. 24 (RLH & JS). One was still there on Oct. 25 (FLK). A very late Spotted Sandpiper was still at Baker, Oreg. on Oct. 25. Except for plovers, the migration at Reardan, Wash. was a good one. Some highlights were 100 Lesser Yellowlegs (JA), 50 Pectoral and 35 Baird's Sandpipers and 100-200 Long-billed Dowitchers

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(S.A.S.). One or 2 each of Stilt Sandpipers and Sanderling were observed there (JA, WH, S.A.S.). The movement was good for both variety and numbers at Missoula, Ninepipe Refuge and in the Bozeman area.

Gulls, Terns—An adult *Glaucous Gull* was identified at Skaha Lake, Penticton, B. C., Nov. 18. A peak number of 2000 Ring-billed Gulls was attracted to Pablo Reservoir at Ninepipe Refuge by dead fish left by the drawdown of the water level. A *Common Tern* was seen at Park Lake, Grant Co., Wash., Oct. 9 (LA).

Doves—Single Mourning Doves lingered in the Vernon, B. C. area at least to the first of December (JTF, JG). Six Band-tailed Pigeons were noted at Wells Gray Provincial Park, B. C. the first of October (FD & ED).

Owls—The highlight of the fall season for the Region was the massive Snowy Owl invasion. The greatest concentration was reported in the vicinity of Ninepipe Refuge, south of Flathead Lake, Lake Co., Mont. where an estimated 50 appeared about Nov. 25. It is believed that most of them were killed by hunters and amateur taxidermists (FLK). Unfortunately, Montana has no law protecting owls or hawks. Joe Mazzoni, manager of the Bison Range, said "This beautiful bird needs protection!" Smaller numbers appeared in a number of other localities : in the northern Okanagan around Vernon, B.C. (DD, JG, JKH, Mrs. JM, RPN); at Turnbull Refuge, Cheney, Wash.; at Reardan and Almira, Wash. (JA), and at McNary Refuge, Burbank, Wash. The phenomenal numbers in the Ninepipe areas were correlated with an upswing in the numbers of small rodents (GL). Two Barn Owls were found dead on the highway near McNary Refuge. The rare Hawk Owl was noted near Tiger, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. on Oct. 30 (JA) and a Great Gray Owl was identified along the West Fork of the Bitterroot River south of Stevensville, Mont., Aug. 5 (ELF & MLK). A large number of Short-eared Owls was in the Ninepipe Refuge area late in November and many of these were shot by hunters. The species was quite scarce at Missoula and Vernon.

Swifts, Woodpeckers—A nestling Black Swift about two-thirds grown was in a nest near Armstrong, B.C. on Aug. 7. The White-throated Swift was noted near Stevensville, Mont., Sept. 17 and near Priest Lake in northern Idaho, Aug. 28 (MC). A pair of Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers was seen at Elk Lake, just west of Bend, Oreg., Aug. 29 (FBH). A White-headed Woodpecker was seen at Vaseux Lake, in the South Okanagan, Oct. 16. A Northern Three-toed at Vernon, B.C. in the Ponderosa Pines was unusual at that elevation. Three were seen in Wells Gray Park, B.C.

Flycatchers, Swallows—An Ash-throated Flycatcher was observed at Prineville, Oreg., Aug. 20 (GM). Several late dates were obtained for swallows, probably because of the mild conditions. Large numbers of Violet-greens were at Ninepipe Refuge in September. Four were still at Baker, Oreg. on Sept. 24 and 6 were at Westbank, Okanagan Lake, B.C. on Oct. 6. Three Barn Swallows were noted at Wells, east of Quesnel, B.C. at elevation 4000 ft. on Sept. 14, a late date, and the species lingered well into October at Ninepipe Refuge. Three Cliff Swallows in Bozeman on Oct. 2 were distinctly late (CVD).

Jays—Steller's Jays moved into the lowlands in some localities earlier or in larger numbers than usual. The earlier appearance around Stevensville, Mont. was believed to be caused by shortage of wild fruits in the mountains. The birds' arrival in Bozeman, Mont. was described as rather spectacular, starting about Oct. 20. The same date saw their appearance in Baker, Oreg. after an absence of 2 years. Unusual also was the appearance of Clark's Nutcrackers in Bozeman. The species was much more common than usual in the Okanagan-Kamloops area of British Columbia. Around Stevensville the birds were still up in the mountains.

Chickadees, Nuthatches—The rare Boreal Chickadee was observed in the Soldier Creek area of Priest Lake in northern Idaho, Nov. 4 (MC). At Baker, Oreg., late October produced a surge of Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches, plus a White-breasted and some Golden-crowned Kinglets. The White-breasted continued scarce, being mentioned elsewhere only for Bozeman and Stevensville.

Mimic Thrushes, Thrushes—The Catbird was last noted at Bozeman on the late date of Sept. 27. A *Mockingbird* was observed at close range at Prineville, Oreg. on Dec. 1, adding to the few records of the species for the Region (GM). Small flocks of Robins lingered through November at Spokane and probably will remain, feeding upon the abundant Mountain Ash fruit. Mountain Bluebirds were described as abundant

nesters at Prineville where they departed by late October (GM). The species apparently had a good nesting year in the Bitterroot Valley around Stevensville, Mont., for several flocks of 15-27 were seen during September and October. Fairly good numbers were noted at Baker, Oreg., and a 4800-ft. elevation called High-point Lookout, on the Bison Range, was described as becoming a favorite migrational stop for the bird. The species continued scarce in the Spokane area.

Waxwings, Starlings—Bohemian Waxwings arrived in November in many localities, often in flocks numbering hundreds. The outlook at Spokane was for a very good "waxwing winter," with abundant fruit on the Mountain Ash. Migrating flocks of Starlings, more numerous than ever before, were noted at Spokane from August through October. A flock on Aug. 21 contained at least 800 (THR). In the Vernon, B.C. area numbers topped all previous records from mid-September to mid-October. One flock that roosted in the city was estimated at 2-3000.

Vireos, Warblers—Many species of vireos and warblers were observed in flocks in mid-August in the Spokane area, apparently migrating from higher altitudes (WH). Bozeman had a late Yellow Warbler record, Sept. 11 and one was still at Prineville,

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Oreg. on the 18th (GM). The latter locality still had Audubon's Warblers at November's end (GM). New to the Bitterroot Valley was the Yellow-breasted Chat, 1 on Aug. 28 (MG).

Blackbirds—Yellow-headed Blackbirds were mostly gone before October but they stayed well into November at Ninepipe Refuge (FLK) and a very late record of Dec. 2 was obtained just off the refuge (CJH). Red-winged Blackbirds lingered, in some instances abundantly, at many localities. Highly noteworthy was the presence of 2 adult and 3 immature *Rusty Blackbirds*, observed through a scope at Reflection Lake, near Chattaroy, Spokane Co., Wash. (MC). About 1800 Brewer's Blackbirds occupied a roost in a small marsh at Prineville in late November (GM) and a few of this species were still at Baker, Oreg. on Dec. 4.

Finches—Evening Grosbeaks were scarce at the end of November, although they were common at Missoula through October. House Finches appeared to be still pressing into western Montana. Five females were identified at Missoula, Oct. 18, and a flock of 8-10 on the 20th. One was noted at Belgrade, Mont., Oct. 23. The few scattered records there suggest it may be a

permanent resident in the area, but in very small numbers (*PDS*). Common Red-polls had appeared at Priest Lake in northern Idaho by Nov. 3 (*MC*) and by Nov. 22 in the Bitterroot (*OF*). They were also noted on the campus of the University of Idaho, Moscow (*EL*) and at Pablo Reservoir on Ninepipe Refuge. The Red Crossbill was virtually absent, except at Bozeman, where they were especially numerous, and in Wells Gray Park (*FD* & *ED*). Spokane reported small numbers. An adult and 4 immature White-winged Crossbills were sighted on Soldier Creek, Priest Lake, on Sept. 1 (*MC*). The species was common and occasionally singing in the Prince George district of British Columbia up to Sept. 9 (*JG*).

Sparrows—The Lark Bunting, which summered and probably bred in the Bozeman area, was noted after Aug. 14. A noteworthy flock of about 200 Savannah Sparrows was noted on Aug. 28 in the Stevensville, Mont. area (*MG*). A single Clay-colored Sparrow at Missoula, Sept. 4, was the first since the fall of 1964. White-crowned Sparrow numbers appeared to be down in some localities. However, at Baker, Oreg., 200 were seen on Sept. 24-25 and up to 70 birds at a time were noted at Prineville (*GM*). Hundreds were observed near Kennewick, Wash. on Oct. 21 (*WH*) and flocks of 40-60 were noted at Missoula. The only Golden-crowned Sparrow reported was 1 at Baker on Sept. 18. Particularly noteworthy was a *White-throated Sparrow* at a feeder at Spokane on Nov. 28 and afterwards (*VN* & *CS*). An immature *Harris' Sparrow* was observed near the Jocko River between Dixon and Ravalli, Sanders Co., Mont., Dec. 3 (*RLH*, *HR* & *JS*). Lapland Longspurs were noted at Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on Sept. 20 (*JA* & *WH*) and near Wisdom, Beaverhead Co., Mont., where 75 were seen on Nov. 6 (*MR*). The species failed to appear at Missoula for the first time since it was found there in the fall of 1956. This apparently was because of road and building developments. A few Snow Buntings appeared at Ravalli Refuge and at Missoula.

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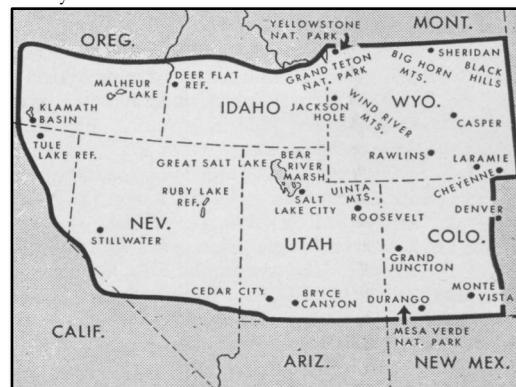
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Autumn Migration, 1966

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.

/ Dr. Oliver K. Scott

The fall season, after an exceptionally dry summer, was virtually normal in



moisture and temperature. A great movement of birds from the mountains to lower elevations occurred and in some areas, such as

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Salt Lake City, it was earlier than usual. In other areas, such as Casper, Wyo. and the front range of the Colorado Rockies, birds, which normally never come to lower elevations, did so. There is no explanation, but the drought of last summer might have deprived the mountain species of their usual food seeds. On the other hand, an unusually heavy crop of pillion nuts on the mesa around Grand Junction, Colo. brought in large flocks of Evening Grosbeaks, Piñon Jays and Clark's Nutcrackers (*LFE*). Another observer, in southern Utah, felt there were fewer, but more unusual birds (*SM*). In Arches Nat'l Monument, Utah, not only was the movement of mountain birds most marked but 4 species not previously recorded were seen: Mountain

Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper and Cassin's Finch. Grazing in the Monument has finally been largely eliminated; grass is returning and the bird and animal life is changing. So much of the semi-arid West is overgrazed, the average tourist does not realize that the vegetation has been vastly changed.

Hérons—There were 70 Snowy Egrets on the Colorado River at Grand Junction, Sept. 1-5; the largest number recorded in that area (*LFE*). A Green Heron in the same area, Nov. 21 (*LFE*) was the first for that region.

Swans—There are now 14 adult Trumpeter Swans and 11 cygnets at Ruby Marsh, Nev. (*OEL*). The adult population does not grow rapidly and the young disappear and are not recorded elsewhere. There was a high fall count of Trumpeter Swans: 45 at Malheur, Oreg. (*DAP*); 99, 13 of which were cygnets, at Jackson Lake dam, Grand Teton Nat'l Park; and 15 more elsewhere on Jackson Lake (*DER*). Malheur had a respectable peak figure of 8000 Whistling Swans during the third week of November (*DAP*) and the Bear River Marshes, at the upper end of Great Salt Lake, had the highest peak number (20,000) in this Region, Nov. 12 (*LFG*).

Geese and Ducks—Stillwater Wildlife Management Area, at the end of the Carson River, again was hampered by low water and the demand for irrigation purposes exceeded the supply. The Stillwater migration peaked at 100,000 on Oct. 1—less than half last year's figure. Gadwall, Am. Widgeon and Green-winged Teal each numbered around 16,000. Later in October the Canvasback was the most numerous duck at 13,500 (*LDN*). Due to the previous dry weather, the Klamath Basin did not reach normal water levels until November. In addition, a cold spell on Nov. 13 drove many of the birds away and last year's peak of 3½ million waterfowl was never reached. The Pintail, at 1,705,200, was the most numerous duck at Klamath, Oct. 9-15—a somewhat higher total than last year. Next in abundance was the White-fronted Goose (493,010), Oct. 23-29; then the Cackling Goose (355,050), Nov. 6-12; followed by the Snow Goose (328,030), Nov. 6-12. These figures show a small improvement over last year. Emperor Geese and Black Brant were taken by hunters at Klamath in October (*EJO'N*). Malheur, Oreg., has shrunk owing to the drought. Last year the lake covered 40,000 acres; this fall only 18,000 acres. Waterfowl peaked at 265,000 the first week of September: Shoveler, 100,000; Pintail, 60,000; Am. Widgeon, 50,000; Mallard, 20,000; and Gadwall, 18,000. The great flocks of geese that usually stop were seen flying over (*DAP*). At Bear River Marshes the peak of the duck migration was early. The top came with a low figure of 222,575 on Sept. 9.

Rarities included a *Blue Goose*, a *Black Duck*, an *Am. Scoter* and a *White-winged Scoter*. The latter was collected (*LFG*). Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho, had 403,500 waterfowl by the end of this period—375,000 Mallards (*RVP*). Three White-fronted Geese were reported from Monte Vista Refuge, Colo., the last half of October (*CRB*) and 2 at Lake DeSmet, Wyoming, Nov. 27 (*TK*). Both reports were far east for this species. Wood Ducks have been rare in the West but the scattered reports each year are increasing: a few were at Reno (*JMD*); 1 on Oct. 1 in Cedar Valley, Utah (*SM*); another on Oct. 27 near Boise, Idaho (*TL*). An *Oldsquaw* was at the Wyoming Hereford Ranch pond near Cheyenne, Nov. 1. (*LM*) and 1 was seen at the Standard Oil refinery sump north of Casper, Nov. 20 (*OKS*). Five *Blue Geese* were seen at Stillwater, Nov. 15 (*LDN*).

Hawks—A Peregrine Falcon was seen in eastern Nevada, Aug. 30 (*RF*). Nests of the Prairie Falcon in this Region are being robbed not only for individual use, but also for commercial purposes. In most western states the birds of prey are not protected. In the mountain states most protection has been by the federal government which owns the greater part of the land. We need a federal law prohibiting the interstate transportation of birds of prey!

Gulls—A Herring Gull was seen at Lake DeSmet, Nov. 20 (*TK*) and 1 spent the fall at the Casper city dump (*FL*). These are almost always first-year birds and are seen regularly in the late fall in eastern Wyoming.

Owls—A Pygmy Owl was banded at Evergreen in the Rockies just west of Denver, Sept. 10 (*WWB*). Another was reported in a bird bath at Bryce Canyon, Utah, Nov. 18 (*DEM*). These owls are being reported more frequently. A *Flammulated Owl* was found alive north of Durango on Aug. 18, but it died shortly afterwards (*OR*). Another was seen by the park naturalist in the front range of the Rockies, Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, in mid-August (*AC*). The only previous record was in 1903.

Jays—A Blue Jay was seen on Cedar Mt., Cedar City, Utah, Oct. 29 (*SM*)—a first record for the state. Another was present in Rocky Mt. Nat'l Park, Oct. 15-17 (*Mrs. RW*) where there have only been two previous records.

Mockingbirds—One was seen near Fort Klamath, Klamath Basin, Oreg., Oct. 18 (*RMtPB*). This bird is rare in this area, but wanders north along its range.

Warblers—Orange-crowned Warblers were seen at Logan, Utah, as late as Nov. 25-26 (*KLD*). A Palm Warbler seen at Casper, Nov. 17 (*LL*), is

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believed to be the second record for the state. A first mountain record for Colorado was a Parula Warbler seen in Rocky Mt. Nat'l Park, Aug. 1 (AW).

Redpoll—A Common Redpoll was seen on a peak near Reno, Nev., Nov. 26 (JK), a little south of its usual range.

Sparrow—A rare White-throated Sparrow was seen near Cedar City, Utah, Oct. 5 (SM).

Longspur—A McCown's Longspur was seen in the Cedar Valley, Nov. 24 (SM).

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Autumn Migration, 1966

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

The drier and warmer-than-usual weather pattern, which was established in the summer of 1966 and has



prevailed generally throughout the Region, was broken in October by reversion to the expected fall weather pattern of alternating periods of rain and fair weather. Temperatures, however, continued mild and probably somewhat above average until the end of November. At the end of the report period there was little snow in the mountains of Oregon and Washington, except on the highest peaks.

Loons—Common Loons had appeared in coastal areas in the northern part of the Region by the first week in September, but wintering numbers were not present until about six weeks later. Arctic Loons did not appear until October when mid-month brought several hundred birds to the Victoria, B. C. area (ARD; GAP). The earliest Red-throated Loons were 3 at Blaine, Wash., Oct. 13; birds were still few in coastal wintering areas even by the end of the period.

Grebes—Red-necked Grebes furnished scattered reports from the northern part of the Region, the first being 4 individuals in the Strait of Georgia, Sept. 3 (FWD); 2 were at Crystal Springs in Portland, Oreg., Nov. 25 (HBN). Four Horned Grebes at La Conner, Wash., Aug. 25, were the earliest (ES); additional birds were seen in the Vancouver, B. C.

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and Seattle areas and along the Washington coast in September, with migrants reaching Oregon coastal areas early in October; wintering numbers seem to have been established by mid-November. Four Eared Grebes were seen in the Vancouver, B. C. area, Sept. 3 (FWD), while single birds were at Seattle, Sept. 7 (ES), and at Portland, Nov. 14 and 16 (HBN). Western Grebes began showing up in wintering locations early in September, with a lone bird at Sauvie Island near Portland on Sept. 1 (JG), a bit unusual. The peak of a southward movement of Pied-billed Grebes through northwestern Oregon seems to have occurred in early November.

Albatrosses, Shearwaters and Storm Petrels—Three Black-footed Albatrosses were seen 25 miles west of Westport, Wash., Sept. 11, by about fifteen observers on a boat trip (JBC, TRW et al.). An estimated 100,000 Sooty Shearwaters were milling about the mouth of the Columbia River on Sept. 10, while another 50,000 were at the entrance to Gray's Harbor early in the morning of Sept. 11; only about 500 were at the mouth of the Columbia on Oct. 15, while a few scattered birds were seen along the Tillamook County, Oreg. coast on Nov. 5. Fifteen Pink-footed Shearwaters were seen on Sept. 11, between 20 and 30 miles at sea off Westport (boat trip). Three Fulmars were seen on the same trip; and 25 were over the ocean off Tillamook Bay, Nov. 19 (JBC,

HBN & *WT*). Three Fork-tailed Petrels were seen in the Strait of Georgia, Sept. 3 (*FWD*). A Leach's Petrel, recently dead, was found at Barview, Oreg., Oct. 26 (*RF*).

Pelicans—Numbers of post-breeding northward wandering Brown Pelicans last year off the Oregon coast were approximately two or three times greater than in any year of the preceding five; immature birds always were in the majority. This year, numbers were somewhat lower than last year, but still topped earlier years, except that adult birds predominated; from 15 to 25 individuals could be found in a day along the Tillamook County coast, September through November this year.

Cormorants—Terry Wahl at Bellingham states it is his impression that numbers of Double-crested Cormorants have declined there in the last two years. Crowell's notes for observations along the northern Oregon coast confirm that numbers of this species this fall seem to have been about half the numbers consistently found over the preceding six years. Nehls found no Double-crests this fall on the inland sites where it usually occurs around Portland. Brandt's Cormorants also seem reduced in numbers along the Oregon coast, although A. R. Davidson reported normal numbers at Victoria this fall. Pelagic Cormorants along the Oregon coast seem not to have declined (*JBC*).

Hérons—Great Blue Heron numbers at Blaine, Wash. declined from an above normal high of 64 on Aug. 16 to 4 by Nov. 30 (*LHK*); at Tillamook Bay, however, numbers remained almost constant throughout the period (*JBC*). In contrast to last fall, Com. Egrets were little reported; one was found regularly on Yaquina Bay from Toledo to Newport, Oreg., Sept. 16 to Nov. 1 (*RRM*; *WT*; *LW*) while another occurred at Medford, Oct. 8 (*JH*). A Green Heron was seen at Victoria, Aug. 31 (*GAP* & J. Tatum); individuals elsewhere were reported from Seattle, Westport, Portland and Newport from mid-September until just past mid-October. One to 3 Am. Bitterns were at Skagit Flats, near Bellingham, Sept. 5 and 18 (*TRW*); single birds were at Sauvie Island, Sept. 9 (*HBN*), and at Leadbetter Point, Oct. 15 (*JBC*).

Swans—Whistling Swans first appeared in small numbers at Sauvie Island on Nov. 6 and built up to a high of 160 by the end of the period (*JG* & *RK*; *HBN*); 8 birds were on the Nooksack River mouth, Nov. 12 (*TRW*). Eighteen Trumpeter Swans were at Mud Lake near Terrace, B. C. by the end of the period (*HRV*).

Geese—First migrant Canada Geese put in an appearance at Sauvie Island late in July, although they

may have come from not far up the Columbia River; 300 birds were present by Sept. 20 and 67000 by the end of the period with birds still coming in. At least 8000 birds were on the Finley Refuge south of Corvallis, Oreg., Nov. 26. These details are representative of a pattern developed out of reports from the north portion of the Region, where migration seems to have been at its peak, as would be expected, from early October into early November. Mid-November, as usual, brought the first influxes of wintering Black Brant; 4000 were at Willapa Bay on Nov. 18 (David Marshall). Forty White-fronted Geese were at Comox, B. C. on the early date of Sept. 7 (*DS*); about 30 birds spent Sept. 20 to 26 at Sauvie Island with one still there on Oct. 22. A single bird was at Lebanon, Oreg., Sept. 18 (*LW*), while 3 were found at the south jetty of the Columbia River, Oct. 2 (*JG*). The Washington Game Commission counted 12,100 Snow Geese at Skagit Flats, Nov. 4, with an estimated 40 percent being young birds (*vide ES*); from 1 to 9 birds were on Sauvie Island, Oct. 22 through Nov. 27 (*JG*; *RK*; *HBN*); and 1 was at Victoria in late October (*DS*, *et al.*).

Ducks—Numbers of ducks coming into the Region during the season confirmed reports from the duck-breeding areas that 1966 had been a good year. The Oregon Game Commission reports that the 90,000 birds on Sauvie Island from late October on was three times the usual number; 94,000 birds—24,000 Pintail, 22,000 each of Mallard and Am. Widgeon—were estimated on the Skagit Flats on Nov. 4 by the Washington Game Commission; and U.S.F. & W. Regional Biologist David Marshall counted 20,000 ducks on Willapa Bay, Nov. 18. Early Pintails were in a few family groups at Sauvie Island and on Willapa Bay the first ten days of August. Fifty Green-winged Teal were on Sauvie Island by the end of August. A lone Green-wing was seen approximately 25 miles at sea off Westport, Sept. 11. European Widgeon were seen in Portland and Seattle in November in places where the species has occurred regularly in the past. Shovelers first appeared at Green Lake, Seattle, Sept. 7 (*ES*). A Redhead was at the mouth of the Duwamish River, Nov. 28

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(*ES*). Fifty Canvasbacks at Brownsville, Oreg., on Nov. 12 (*LW*), were rather unusual; 300 were on Tillamook Bay, Nov. 5 and 400 were there two weeks later (*JBC*, *et al.*). Both Greater and Lesser Scaup seemed much less numerous than usual. An interesting observation of the latter species was of 60 or more birds on Suttle Lake in the central Cascades of Oregon, Nov. 27 (*LW*). A female or immature male Com. Goldeneye at Drayton Harbor, Sept. 21, 3 immature male Barrow's

Goldeneyes there on Sept. 23 and 5 there on Sept. 24 (*LHK*) all were early. A peak of 120 Barrow's Goldeneyes occurred, Nov. 6, at Bellingham (*TRW*). An Oldsquaw was at Fort Flagler, Seattle, Oct. 28 (*VEC*), while another was off Whidbey Island, Nov. 6 (*ES*). Sixty Harlequin Ducks were counted on a boat trip in the Strait of Georgia, Sept. 3 to 6 (*FWD*). Five Ruddy Ducks were on Green Lake, Seattle, as early as Sept. 7 (*ES*). Hooded Mergansers were more readily found than in any year of the last seven, judging by the increased number of reports.

Vultures and Hawks—Twelve Turkey Vultures were seen at Victoria, Oct. 1 (*ARD*); 60 migrated over Medford, Sept. 20 (*JH*), while the last report for the Willamette Valley was of a single bird near Albany, Oct. 2 (*WT*). A Goshawk was seen at Goble, Oreg., along the Columbia below Portland, Sept. 10, (*JBC, RF, HBN & WT*). Red-tailed Hawks were drifting into the Willamette Valley by mid-October; normal numbers for winter populations seemed established by the end of November. A Rough-legged Hawk was at Blaine on the early date of Aug. 28 (*LHK*); a bird was seen at Sauvie Island first on Oct. 9 (*JG*), with 1 or 2 present there from that date until the end of the period. Elsewhere, 2 were seen at Marietta, Wash., Nov. 11 (*TRW*), and one was near Albany, Oreg., Nov. 20 (*WT*). Bald Eagle reports were few; an adult and an immature were seen along the lower Columbia River, Oct. 15 (*HBN, JG & RK*). An immature was seen regularly through November on Sauvie Island and another was at Tillamook Bay, Nov. 19. Two birds were at Whidbey Island, Nov. 6 (*ES*). A Prairie Falcon east of Lebanon, Oreg., on Nov. 26 (*WT, et al.*), is highly unusual; the only other recent record was in the spring of 1965. Peregrines were seen near Bellingham, Aug. 21 (*TRW*); near Megler, Wash., Oct. 15 (*HBN, et al.*); and at Tillamook Bay, Oct. 1 and Nov. 5 (*JBC, et al.*). Single Pigeon Hawks were at Oysterville, Wash., Oct. 15 (*HBN, et al.*); at Seattle, Oct. 16 (*VEC*); in the vicinity of Bellingham, Nov. 19 (*TRW*); and at Nehalem, Oreg., Oct. 1 (*JBC, WT, RF*).

Cranes and Rails—Sandhill Cranes were seen at Victoria in small numbers in September; one bird was still present for the first part of November (*ARD*). At Sauvie Island numbers peaked at 900 the last week in October, as usual. About 120 cranes flew over Thackaberry's farm near Lebanon, Oct. 28. Two Virginia Rails at Skagit Flats, Sept. 18, were the last for that area (*TRW*); 1 or 2 found at Tillamook Bay, Oct. 1 (*JBC, RF & WT*), were probably migrants.

Plovers and Turnstones—Semipalmated Plovers were less abundant than last year, 40 at Willapa Bay on Sept. 10 (*JBC, TRW, et al.*) being the maximum in a day; single birds were at Sauvie Island, Aug. 16 through

Sept. 9 (*HBN*), and at the Finley Refuge south of Corvallis, Oct. 2 (*RRM*). Only reports of Snowy Plovers were 6 from Lead-better Point, Sept. 10, and 6 at Seaside, Oreg., Oct. 1 (*JG*). Observers who commented on Killdeer abundance thought numbers were higher than usual. Am. Golden Plover were less widely reported than last fall; 1 was at Victoria, Sept. 17 (*ARD*); 6 at Leadbetter Point, Aug. 20, 12 there, Sept. 10, and 11 there on Oct. 15 (*JBC: HBN; et al.*); 2 at the south jetty of the Columbia on Sept. 18 (*HBN*); 1 at Nehalem meadows, Oct. 1 (*JBC, RF & WT*); 2 at Sauvie Island, Aug. 28, and 1 there on both Sept. 26 and Oct. 3 (*HBN*). The locality apparently most favored by Black-bellied Plovers within the Region is Willapa Bay where 250 were estimated on Sept. 10; 100 were still there on Oct. 15 (*JBC*); top numbers reported inland at Sauvie Island were the 20 individuals seen on Oct. 22 (*JBC*). A lone bird of this species was at Ship Ashore, Curry Co., Oreg., Sept. 17 (*JH & OS*). Surfbirds were reported only for Barview at the mouth of Tillamook Bay where a group of 75 was present, Oct. 7—Nov. 19. A few Ruddy Turnstones turned up from Lead-better Point south to the California border from the beginning of the period until Nov. 12. Thirty-five Black Turnstones at Barview on Nov. 5 (*JBC, RF & HBN*) was the largest number reported, although the birds apparently were scattered along the Washington and Oregon coasts in suitable habitat from mid-September on.

Sandpipers—Common Snipe seemed scarce this fall. A rare inland record for Whimbrel was 7 birds near Lebanon, Sept. 23 (*LW*); the only other records were of one to a half-dozen birds between Westport and Tillamook Bay, Sept. 10 through Oct. 1. A Solitary Sandpiper, always rare in the Region, turned up at Gold Ray Dam on the Rogue River in southern Oregon on Sept. 11 (*OS*). Wandering Tattlers were recorded only from Westport, where several were still present on Nov. 18 (*ES*), and from points south; 4 was the maximum count. A Willet was found near Lebanon, Aug. 24 (*LW*), and 2 were at Ship Ashore, Sept. 17 (*JH & OS*). Both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs occurred in more than usual numbers, with observations coming from every place where observers are at work. Three Knots were at Victoria on Oct. 23 (*ARD*); elsewhere birds were reported only from Leadbetter Point in August (maximum 11). Four Rock Sandpipers first showed up at Barview, Oct. 26 (*RF*); on Nov. 19, 11 were present. Two Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were at Victoria, Aug. 31 (*GAP*); 1 was at Skagit Flats, Sept. 5 (*TRW*), while 1 or 2 were seen by about 15 observers at Leadbetter Point, Sept. 10. Pectoral Sandpipers were much less widely noted than in the fall of 1965 with maximum numbers only one-third of what they had been then. Baird's Sandpiper also was less common this fall, records coming only from Leadbetter Point, the

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south jetty of the Columbia, Sauvie Island where 16 were present on Aug. 21, and Ship Ashore where the species was last recorded, Sept. 17. Two early Dunlins were at Leadbetter Point, Aug. 13 and 14 (JBC). Large numbers had appeared by the end of October at Bellingham and Blaine (TRW; LHK), 2000 were at Whidbey Island, Nov. 6 (ES), and flocks numbering several hundred were in places along the Oregon coast by mid-November. Dowitchers were in normal numbers during this fall's migration. Wahl at Bellingham on Aug. 19 carefully studied a **Stilt Sandpiper** in direct comparison with 2 lesser Yellowlegs through a 40X scope; he states that he also obtained a recognizable photograph of the bird. A Semipalmated Sandpiper was seen at Sauvie Island on Oct. 31, a late date, in good light and with opportunity for comparison with other 'peep' (T. McCamant & HBN). Western Sandpipers were most abundant in the Region in the southernmost part during a migration which took place in September; thousands were at Ship Ashore, Sept. 17 (JH & OS). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was at Victoria on Aug. 27 (GAP); this species is very rare in the Region. Three Marbled Godwits were at Leadbetter Point, Sept. 10, and 15 were at Ship Ashore, Sept. 17 (JH, OS).

Phalaropes—Northern Phalaropes were found off and on at Sauvie Island from Aug. 28 -through the end of October. Over 100 were seen by the observers on a boat trip out of Westport, Sept. 11. Up to 150 Northerns were found at places like Victoria, B.C., Willapa Bay, the mouth of the Columbia, Barview, and Yaquina Bay during October, particularly after storms. Only one Red Phalarope was seen on the Sept. 11 boat trip from Westport, but the October storms brought this species, too, in smaller numbers than the Northern to Victoria and Yaquina Bay; 2 individuals were on the ocean at Barview, Nov. 19 (JBC, HBN & WT). One Wilson's Phalarope was at Leadbetter Point, Aug. 20 (RF, JH, HBN & OS); 6 were on Agate Reservoir near Medford on Sept. 8 (JH).

Jaegers—Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were seen in September and up to Oct. 15 at the mouth of the Columbia River, both from the Washington and Oregon sides, and at Westport; 3 in a day was the maximum for both species. A Parasitic was seen in Nanoose Bay, B.C., Sept. 3 (FWD). A Long-tailed Jaeger was reported from Victoria, Sept. 12, 1966, without details (Ralph Fryer, *fide DS*); single individuals of this species also were recorded from the mouth of the Columbia River, Sept. 18 (HBN), and Oct. 15 (JBC).

Gulls—A second-year Glaucous Gull was on the ocean at Barview, Nov. 19 (WT, *et al.*), an early record. Herring Gulls, thought to be *thayeri*, were on the lawns at Portland's Delta Park, Nov. 14, during a stormy period (HBN). Franklin's Gulls spent about six weeks in the Blaine-Bellingham area starting on Sept. 4; the most individuals seen in a day were 12 (TRW). A single individual was seen at Seattle during the same period (Zella Schultz, *fide TRW*). Bonaparte's Gulls first appeared in migration in the northern part of the Region in early or mid-August with several hundred on Seattle's Lake Washington, Aug. 19; along the Washington and Oregon coasts from 1 to 40 birds could be found in a day after Sept. 1 until the end of the period. One hundred birds were at Drayton Harbor on Oct. 30 (LHK), 125 birds were on the beach at the north jetty of the Columbia River, Oct. 15, and 35 were at Sauvie Island, Oct. 22 (JBC). Heermann's Gulls were more common than usual around Victoria into October, and the same could probably be accurately said for the Washington and Oregon coasts; a few stragglers were still about by the end of the period. Ten Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen at sea off Westport, Sept. 11; 250 birds were on the beach at the north jetty of the Columbia on Oct. 15 (JBC); scattered records of individuals around Victoria were obtained in October (Fryer, *fide DS*). It was a good year for Sabine's Gull records; 8 were seen 20 to 30 miles seaward from Westport, Sept. 11. One was seen at Westport on Sept. 18 and another was carefully observed on Lake Washington, Seattle, Sept. 25 (ES, *et al.*), a most unusual location. At Victoria the species was recorded several times in mid-October (Fryer, *fide DS*). An immature was on the beach at Barview, Nov. 20 (McCamant).

Terns—Up to 100 Com. Terns were seen in flocks at Vancouver, Blaine, and Bellingham late in August and early in September (FWD; LHK; TRW), with a few still in evidence as late as mid-October. Numbers of Com. Terns at points to the south were not as great, but there were 75 birds at the south jetty of the Columbia, Sept. 18, being harassed by jaegers (HBN). Six or 7 Caspian Terns were at Westport, Sept. 18 (ES), while 25 were at the south jetty of the Columbia River on the same date (HBN). One bird still lingered at Tillamook Bay, Oct. 1 (JBC, RF, WT).

Alcids—In the course of an eight-hour boat trip out of Westport on Sept. 11, 200 Com. Murres, 20 Cassin's Auklets, 30 Rhinoceros Auklets and 10 Tufted Puffins were counted; 25 Cassin's Auklets flew by the jetty at Barview on Oct. 26 in the course of about four hours (RF).

Owls, Swifts and Hummingbirds—What is already the greatest invasion of Snowy Owls to this Region

since the winter of 1917-18 was presaged in late October with the arrival of a bird at Victoria; by the end of November there were 8 birds there, 4 on the west side of Vancouver Island at Tofino, and 17 birds at the Vancouver airport. Further south one or more birds were reported widely after the tenth of November at Blaine, Bellingham, Seattle, Leadbetter Point, the south jetty of the Columbia, the Tillamook burn in Oregon's Coast Range, Sauvie Island, Portland airport and Finley Refuge. In contrast, several Burrowing Owls were found all through October and into November in an area from Albany to south and west of Lebanon (WT; LW). Eight to 10 Long-eared Owls roosted for a few days in an isolated stand of Ponderosa Pine just north of Lebanon around Nov. 20 (WT); reports of this species are rarely received.

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Over 200 Vaux's Swifts were in woods west of Victoria in mid-September (ARD & DS); 50 were seen in migration at Brownsville, Oreg., on Sept. 19 (LW). A female Anna's Hummingbird reappeared in early October at the same Seattle feeder where birds of this species have spent the preceding two winters; it was still present alone at the end of the period (ES). Two adults and 4 young of this species were present regularly at a Medford feeder through October; the adult birds were still present at the end of the report period (JH).

Woodpeckers—A Yellow-shafted Flicker banded last year in Seattle is still seen occasionally in the same area (ES). An exceptionally good acorn crop on the east side of the Willamette Valley this fall attracted a few Acorn Woodpeckers to the Lebanon area from their more usual haunts south of Corvallis. Lewis' Woodpeckers generally were scarce; after being present at Sauvie Island during the summer they were absent there in the fall until the last week in November. Birds showed up at Medford, Oct. 1, but in numbers reduced from last year's (JH). A single bird was at Victoria, Sept. 18, for only the third record since 1961; for the two previous decades about a dozen birds had been regularly present in oak groves around Victoria (*vide DS*).

Flycatchers and Swallows—A W. Kingbird, always unusual west of the Cascades, was at the north jetty of the Columbia, Oct. 15 RK & HBN). An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at Seattle on the rather late date of Sept. 13 (ES). A *Bank Swallow* at Victoria on Sept. 23 is said to be the first occurrence there of that species (ARD & R. Fryer). A few Rough-winged Swallows were still at Edison, Skagit Co., Wash. on the surprising date of Oct. 2, in company with several Barn Swallows (TRW). Three of the latter species were at Portland's Delta Park until the very late date of Nov. 6 (JG, *et al.*).

Wrens and Thrushes—A House Wren was seen in Portland, where the bird is rare, on Aug. 22 (HBN, *et al.*); one was at La Conner, Wash., where it is also rare, three days later (ES). Long-billed Marsh Wrens were apparently on the move the last week in October and first week of November, showing up at Sauvie Island and at Lebanon in locale where they are not resident. Varied Thrushes were generally considered to be scarce from Victoria south throughout the period. A Veery was killed against a house in Tacoma, Wash., during the "first week in October"; it was identified by two observers familiar with the species, which occurs locally in the state to the east of the Cascade Mountains (VEC & Doris Jelliffe). Western Bluebirds were common in the Lebanon area this fall (WT).

Pipits, Waxwings and Shrikes—In contrast to Victoria where the species was characterized as scarce, Water Pipits were unusually abundant after mid-September, particularly in western Oregon. There were 300 Bohemian Waxwings at Terrace, B. C., Nov. 24 (HRV). Cedar Waxwings were erratically but widely reported with few reports from north of Oregon after Oct. 1. Northern Shrikes began to appear by mid-October, and by November they were much more common than usual, particularly in the Willamette Valley.

Warblers—Victoria's Beacon Hill Park seems to attract fall concentrations of warblers unmatched by any other locality in the Region; on Aug. 25, 60 to 80 Orange-crowned and a few Yellow Warblers were there; on Sept. 7, about fifty Orange-crowns were present; on Sept. 12, there were 150 Orange-crowns, 30 Yellow, 20 MacGillivray's, 2 Wilson's, and 2 Nashville Warblers in the park; on Oct. 3, 150 Audubon's, 20 Myrtle and a few Orange-crowned Warblers were counted (ARD). Several Nashville Warblers were seen on Sept. 20 in Medford where the species is rare (JH); one was at Ship Ashore, Sept. 17 (JH, OS). Many Myrtle Warblers were seen in Tillamook County coastal areas on Nov. 12 RK & HBN). A Yellow-breasted Chat was found on Sauvie Island, Oct. 2 (RK).

Blackbirds—A male Yellow-headed Blackbird was found at Westport on Sept. 17, a most unusual occurrence (ES, *et al.*). A male *Tricolored Blackbird* was closely studied at Portland's Delta Park on the Columbia River, Oct. 19 (HBN), several hundred miles northwest of the bird's northernmost breeding territory. Forty Brewer's Blackbirds passed through Terrace, B.C., on Nov. 29 (HRV).

Finches and Sparrows—Evening Grosbeaks were either very scarce or absent altogether this fall. Pine Siskins were also very scarce in contrast to their marked

abundance in the Region in other years, despite a good cone crop. Lesser Goldfinches are never anywhere common in Oregon or Washington; consequently, a flock of 33 in north Portland on Aug. 25 (JG) is of interest. Several Slate-colored Juncos were in the Corvallis area in mid-November where Moldenhauer banded 4; one was seen in Portland, Oct. 22 (JG). Oregon Juncos were wide-spread and numerous from mid-October on, thus reversing the comparative scarcity of the last two fall and winter seasons. A Tree Sparrow always unusual, was found near Lebanon on Oct. 22 (WT). Two White-throated Sparrows appeared in October at a feeder in Victoria and remained in the locality through the end of November. Lapland Longspurs were recorded this fall first at the south jetty of the Columbia, Oct. 2 (JG), and later at Tillamook, at Sandy Point west of Bellingham, and at Victoria. A hundred Snow Buntings were at Sandy Point, Nov. 24 (TRW).

Corrigenda—Through some inexcusable lapse of the senior editor's, reports from Sherwood and Talent, Oregon, of what actually were Anna's Hummingbirds appeared in the 1966 breeding season summary erroneously as Allen's Hummingbirds; also, in the same issue, it was the same editor's intention to describe the 1500 Heermann's Gulls reported as "nesting" on the beach at Leadbetter Point, in fact to have been only "resting."

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Stoppes; (OS) Otis Swisher; (WT) William Thackaberry; (HRV) H. R. Vance; (TRW) Terry R. Wahl; (LW) Larry Wheeler.

The Winter Season, 1966-67

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION / Thomas H. Rogers

Superlatives must be used to describe the weather for the winter just past. They are all on the comfortable side, however, with words like "second warmest winter on record" (Missoula, Mont.), "probably the mildest winter ever recorded" (Okanagan Valley, British Columbia), "quite mild" (National Bison Range, Moiese, Mont.) and "rather mild winter" (Bozeman,

Mont.) freely used. This was on the heels of a mild, dry fall, which, however, turned wet in many localities toward the end and continued so into December. Heavy snows fell during that month in mountainous areas but that which fell in the valleys soon melted. After a December that was warmer than normal, and, in the Missoula area, quite dry, January was in some areas even warmer. At Spokane, Wash. December averaged 33.4° (3.3° above normal) and January, 33.9° (8.6° above normal). At Penticton, B.C. average temperatures were: December 37°; January, 35°, and February, 39°; these were 5°, 8° and 8° above normal, respectively. February was very dry and mild through most if not all of the Region. March *was* perhaps the most nearly normal month of the winter, with late but not severe snow storms and about average temperatures. At Spokane as much snow fell in March as in the very mild January. Little or no snow cover on the valley floors was the situation nearly everywhere for the winter. The mild weather did not appear to produce any phenomenal changes in the pattern of bird populations. Possibly this was because early winter was only a little milder than usual, hardly encouraging late lingering. The exception to this might be for some hardier species, such as meadowlarks and black. birds. Absence of some species in the lowlands may have been caused by mild weather—though, more likely, good food conditions—in the mountains and farther north. Skaar remarked that for the Bozeman area "wintering success has not been notable". The Snowy Owl invasion throughout almost the entire Region was perhaps the most spectacular ever.

Loons and Grebes—A Common Loon lingered until Dec. 28 at Spokane, Wash. (WH) and 2

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to 4 of the birds were seen at Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on Feb. 5 and 12 (S.A.S.). Two Red-necked Grebes were at Banks Lake on Feb. 12 (S.A.S.). A Horned Grebe on the Clark Fork River in Missoula, Mont. on Jan. 13 furnished the second winter record for that locality. A single Western Grebe was at Blue Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on Jan. 29 (WH).

Hérons—About 20 Great Blue Herons wintered at Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo, Mont. The 10 that wintered at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. fed regularly on rodents in the crested wheatgrass planting and a few Black-crowned Night Herons stayed on the area all winter.

Waterfowl—Whistling Swans were noted wintering in the Columbia Basin of eastern Washington. From 20 to 60 remained at McNary Refuge and a lone bird was on the Spokane River near Spokane on Jan. 29 (SOS). A

flock of 29 early migrants appeared at Reardan, Wash., Feb. 25. Excellent numbers were noted at some localities: Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash. had a peak of 125, March 22; this was the highest number since 1960. Between 150 and 200 were reported on the Clark Fork River near Missoula, Mont., March 21 (newspaper report). Six Trumpeter Swans were seen at Penticton, B. C. on Okanagan Lake Feb. 16 (SRC). Canada Geese wintered on lakes throughout the Region. Large numbers, consisting of Western, Lesser and Cackling, stayed at McNary Refuge. Twenty- to 25,000 were noted moving between Stratford and Banks Lake, Feb. 5 (JA). Ducks appeared to winter about as usual. Several Wood Ducks remained on the Little Spokane River at Spokane. At McNary Refuge the Canvasback, numbering between 200 and 600, was the most common diver. A *White-winged Scoter* was observed there in mid-January. Three Greater Scaup were at Okanagan Landing, Dec. 26, and up to 200 were noted at Spokane during the latter half of February and through March (S.A.S.). *Oldsquaws* were found at 2 localities: Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo, Mont., Nov. 11 (RSH), and at Banks Lake in Washington, 1 or 2 from Jan. 29 to Feb. 12 (WH, S.A.S.). About 10 Red-breasted Mergansers were noted at Banks Lake on the early date of Feb. 12 (S.A.S.).

Vultures, Hawks, Eagles—A remarkable record was that of a Turkey Vulture on the Helena, Mont. Christmas count, Jan. 2 (PDS). An adult Red-tailed Hawk near Missoula, Jan. 21, was unusual (JOS). Hawks, except the Rough-legged, appeared scarce in the North Okanagan around Vernon, B. C. This species was noted in unusually large numbers at Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge. At the same locality the peak number of Golden Eagles was 12 and of Bald Eagles, 27 on Dec. 15. Only 3 of the latter were mature. Fewer of the Bald were noted at Spokane than last year (S.A.S.). An albino Swainson's Hawk, at first taken to be a White Gyrfalcon, was shot near St. Ignatius, Mont. about mid-October (RLH). Highly remarkable was the careful identification at close range of an Osprey, Feb. 18, between Prineville and Madras, Oreg. This is the first winter sighting for Oregon (JG, RK & HN). A white-phase Gyrfalcon was reported three times during January in the Prineville area (JK).

Gallinaceous Birds—The mild winter resulted in an excellent survival of Ring-necked Pheasants at Ninepipe Refuge and the species appeared to be recovering from the recent slump at Bozeman. Populations appeared about normal elsewhere. Five Turkeys were noted in the upper part of the Bitterroot Valley, Dec. 25 (MG) and 10 were seen near Harrison, Idaho in March (MH).

Gulls and Terns—Unusually few gulls wintered at Spokane and at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Small numbers of Herring Gulls were noted, 30 at Coeur d'Alene on Jan. 8. A few Ring-billed Gulls also wintered. A few of the former species wintered on Okanagan Lake in British Columbia. Both California and Ring-billed Gulls remained at McNary Refuge during the winter. The last Caspian Tern of the fall was seen on that refuge on Dec. 20.

Doves and Owls—A Mourning Dove on Jan. 22 and 2 on Feb. 4 were Hand's first winter records for Missoula. The birds wintered successfully in the Vernon, B. C. area, where 66 were counted at Swan Lake on Dec. 26 and thereafter. Snowy Owls continued to appear. They were reported quite frequently in the Vernon, B. C. area and 1 or 2 birds were noted on several occasions between Davenport and Coulee City in eastern Washington (WH, S.A.S.). They were not found in the Bozeman, Mont. area, seeming to reach about the 47th parallel across Montana, with sightings at Charlo and Moiese, Lake Co.; Conrad, Pondera Co.; Simms, Cascade Co., and Lewiston, Fergus Co. (PDS). At Charlo Henry's last sighting was on Feb. 21. The birds were quite common at McNary Refuge. One of the rare Hawk Owl was seen at Goose Lake near Vernon (KG) and a Long-eared Owl was seen in early January at the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. Short-eared Owls were unusually frequent at Nine-pipe Refuge, but were quite scarce at Missoula. A Saw-whet Owl was collected after being struck by a car 9.5 miles east of Livingston, Mont., Jan. 2 (RE).

Woodpeckers—A male Yellow-shafted Flicker was observed regularly all winter in the Stanley's yard at Spokane. A Lewis' Woodpecker, rare in winter in the North Okanagan, was seen at Coldstream, Dec. 26, and several wintered in the Penticton-Summerland area as did several White-headed Woodpeckers (SRC). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was found on log decks at MacKenzie, 150 miles north of Prince George, B.C., March 16. At least 10 White-headed Woodpeckers were noted near Fruitland, Stevens Co., Wash. on Feb. 22 (JA & WH).

Corvids—The Com. Raven was seen in unusual numbers in the Bitterroot Valley near Stevensville, Mont. and notable concentrations were seen near Thomas Lake, about 15 miles west of Tiger, 35 birds, Feb. 22 (JA & WH), and at Priest Lake, Idaho, 20 birds, Dec. 30 to Jan. 6 (MC). Piñon Jays were observed more frequently than usual at Bozeman but were completely unreported elsewhere.

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Clark's Nutcrackers seemed to be in short supply or absent at most places, except in the Okanagan, where they were more common than usual during early winter (SRC).

Chickadees, Nuthatches, Creepers—In general, these birds put in a rather sparse appearance in the valleys, except for Pygmy Nuthatches, which were quite common around Spokane and Penticton. Small flocks of Chestnut-backed Chickadees were at Priest Lake from Dec. 30 to Jan. 6 (MC). The implication is that these groups of birds stayed higher in the mountains.

Wrens, Mimic Thrushes, Thrushes—Sighting of the Cañon Wren in the Bozeman area on the early date of April 2 raises the possibility that it may winter there as it does over most of its range. A Rock Wren was seen on three dates in late December at Adventure Bay near Okanagan Landing, B. C. (JG, KG) and perhaps the same bird, March 2 (JS) at nearby Beachcomber Bay. There are no published winter records for the species for interior British Columbia, but one was seen at the same spot, Feb. 25, 1961 (JG & KG). The record of one near Gloyd, Grant Co., Wash. on Feb. 25 suggests wintering (WH). A *Mockingbird* appeared at Spokane on Dec. 24 and again on Jan. 8 (WH). Robins wintered in sizeable flocks at Spokane, Prineville, Oreg. and Vernon, but their numbers were sparse elsewhere. An albino except for the breast was seen at Turnbull Refuge, March 28 and April 2 (EMB, JV). A very few Varied Thrushes were noted wintering in the Okanagan. Fewer than usual stayed at Spokane (WH). A Mountain Bluebird wintering in the Bitterroot near Stevensville, Mont. was highly unusual. A sighting of the species at Spokane on Feb. 7 was decidedly early (S.A.S.) and a Feb. 21 sighting near Spangle, Wash. was also noteworthy (WH).

Waxwings and Starlings—Nearly every reporting locality reported good to excellent numbers of Bohemian Waxwings. A heavy crop of mountain ash berries undoubtedly was the principal factor at Spokane. Cedar Waxwings also were in higher numbers than usual at Spokane, with flocks of 30-40 sighted on several occasions (WH). The latter species was unusually common in the Vernon-Penticton area also (JG, SRC, BAS). Starling numbers were down somewhat in the Vernon area, where the wintering population was perhaps 200. A flock of 18 about 20 miles north of Prince George, B. C. on March 14 may possibly have wintered. Flocks numbering thousands were noted in the Pasco-Kennewick-Richland area of Washington on Feb. 25 (WH). Most other localities reported them as wintering. Flocks of several hundred were reported down river from Missoula, Mont.

House Sparrows and Blackbirds—House Sparrows—almost never mentioned in seasonal reports—were noted at Spokane in distinctly diminished numbers, for reasons unknown (WH, S.A.S.). Western Meadowlarks and Red-winged Blackbirds wintered rather commonly in many localities. Twenty-five Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Coulee City, Wash. on Feb. 25 probably wintered there (WH). A Brewer's Blackbird was seen at Turnbull Refuge on Jan. 31.

Finches—The northern finches were in decidedly short numbers in the western and southern parts of the Region. However, Bozeman and the Okanagan area reported good numbers of Evening Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills and the former locality had many Gray-crowned Rosy Finches during late winter. At least 2 Black Rosy Finches were with the former species in Jack Creek Canyon near Bozeman, March 5 (RAH & PDS). About 300 of the Gray-crowned were seen near Baker, Oreg., Jan. 10. House Finches, apparently on the way to becoming established at Missoula, were noted there in numbers up to 10 during the winter. Pine Siskins were numerous only in the Vernon area, during the latter half of winter, feeding on seeds of Douglas-fir. A few White-winged Crossbills were noted near Vernon and north of Prince George (JG, RN).

Sparrows—A male Rufous-sided Towhee remained through the winter in the Spokane Valley east of Spokane (SF & TR). A Vesper Sparrow appeared at Missoula on March 23. Hand's previous early record, after 30 years' observing there, was April 3. Oregon Juncos appeared in about normal numbers at Spokane and the Bison Range but, probably because of the open winter, were scattered and sparse elsewhere. Tree Sparrows wintered as usual at Bozeman and were noted in small numbers in the Columbia Basin of eastern Washington (WH, S.A.S.). The species was not recorded from Vernon, B. C. this winter and was less common than usual at Missoula. In the Bitterroot Valley south of Missoula, however, the species seemed more plentiful. One bird was seen along the Jocko River in Lake County, Mont. in January (JPM). The adult *Harris' Sparrow* that appeared at Prineville on Christmas count day stayed 1 more day and disappeared. White-crowned Sparrow numbers there declined after Jan. 10 (GM). A very few wintered at Vernon, B. C. and at Penticton (SRC). Two of these birds visited feeders in the Coldstream district at Vernon B. C., Jan. 7 to March 27 (JTF, JQ, JSp). Three Golden-crowned Sparrows were seen at Prineville, Oreg. Feb. 18 (JG, RK & HN). Lapland Longspurs were reported at Bozeman (Christmas count), Missoula (2 on March 29) and in the Columbia Basin (February) (JA). Snow Buntings put in a sparse appearance: on the Bozeman Christmas count, at Missoula in November, 8

at Mabel Lake near Vernon (RN) and single birds in the vicinity of Prince George.

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The Winter Season, 1966-67

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

The winter was remarkably warm and many migrants lingered on into the fall; a number spent the winter in the Region. The Christmas counts showed more late birds than usual. The western edge of this Region had more moisture than customarily. The eastern slope of the Sierra had 30 percent more than average and the mountains of eastern Oregon (Steens) are likewise well watered. Therefore, the refuges of the western Great Basin are in good shape and their outlook is bright. In the Wasatch the snow pack is above normal or average; in the central Rockies of Colorado, it is much below normal. Consequently, Monte Vista Refuge in southern Colorado has to pump artesian water to maintain any refuge at all. The nearby snow pack is only 30 percent of normal. Spring came early in the western Great Basin and many early migrants returned in the first two weeks of February. Many landbirds perished in the

heavy snows of mid-March at such places as Modoc Wildlife Refuge, Calif. (OEL) and Tule Lake (EJO'N).

Swans—The Trumpeter Swan at Malheur, Oreg. has been successful and now numbers 44 (DAP). The peak of Whistling Swans at Malheur was 8600, March 15—an early date and a high one (DAP). With the increase of moisture in the Sierra, Stillwater Refuge, Nev. has taken a new lease on life. There were 3700 Whistling Swans there, Dec. 11-17 (LDN).

Ducks and Geese—Stillwater had no great concentration of ducks but more than usual passed through, staying only a short time; in mid-March there were 25,000 Snow Geese there (LDN). Malheur's water conditions are good and improving. The great refuge in eastern Oregon had a peak of 130,000 Snow Geese in the second week of March (DAP)—a high figure. Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho, reported 8000 wintering Canada Geese; the nesting season started on Feb. 3 on the Snake River (RVP), a very early date. The peak of the duck migration was Dec. 19 at Deer Flat with 514,500 ducks, of which 500,000, an average number, were Mallards (RVP). Another Blue Goose was reported at Tule Lake Refuge, Klamath Basin, Feb. 17 (JG & RS). A Greater Scaup was seen near Reno in early February (JMD). Three pairs of Wood Ducks were seen at Niagara Springs near the Snake River, Feb. 22 (DLC). The Wood Duck is on the increase in the northern Great Basin. A pair of European Widgeon stayed at Malheur this winter (DAP); this is another species that seems to be increasing. An *Emperor Goose* was reported at Minidoka Refuge, Idaho (GK).

Hawks—There were scattering reports of Peregrine Falcons in this Region. This seems to be the wintering pattern of this rare bird. One was seen near Salt Lake City on Jan. 21 (GK); another was seen in the Cedar Valley, Utah, Jan. 3 (SM). A Harlan's Hawk at Honey Lake, northeastern California, was reported, Feb. 13 (RS). This bird is casual in California.

Eagles—There were 13 adult Bald Eagles and 3 immatures along the watercourses of the mountains of southern Utah, west of Bryce Canyon (BBH). A careful census by the Forest Service has not been available to us prior to this time. These birds arrived by Nov. 1 and left by March 15—a pattern which would hold for all Bald Eagles of the Region. Wintering Bald Eagles in the Klamath Basin reached the high figure of 112 (EJO'N). In March, 23 of 73 eagles at the Bear River Marshes, Utah, were Bald (MKH). Only about 12 Bald Eagles wintered at Malheur (DAP). The nine Golden Eagles at Monte Vista Refuge, Colo. Feb. 19-25, is the highest count there to-date. Nesting started on March 31. There were only 6 Bald Eagles at this refuge (CRB). Twelve Bald Eagles were reported at the new Browns

Park Refuge on the Green River between Dinosaur Park and the Colorado-Utah line March 9-25 (RLP). (We should watch the progress of this new refuge with interest). Stillwater, Nev. had a wintering population of 8 Bald Eagles and 10 Golden Eagles (LDN).

Cranes—Sandhill Cranes started moving north on the western slope of Colorado at Hotchkiss about a month earlier than usual; a group of 90 was seen, March 11 (TC). The peak of the Sandhill migration at Monte Vista was 4000 on March 31 (CRB). Incidentally, this relatively new refuge has now increased to 14,555 acres.

Rails—We have two wintering reports of the Virginia Rail far north of its usual range. There

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was one at Pelican Pond near Logan, Utah, March 15 (DMF), and a pair at Casper, Wyo., where they were reported all winter (OKS).

Turkeys—Up to 6 Turkeys were present in January in the foothills of the Big Horn Mountains near Sheridan, Wyo. (TK), a further northern extension of this bird's range.

Owls—A Pygmy Owl near Reno, Nev., Feb. 23, is the second reported from the Sierra (FR). There were several other reports of this owl from Utah and Colorado. A *Snowy Owl* was shot four miles west of Syracuse, Utah, near Ogden, Jan. 26 (GK). This bird is a great rarity in Utah.

Swifts—A flock of 20 White-throated Swifts at Niagara Springs, Idaho on March 23 was very early (DLC). Another remarkable report of 25 of these birds came from near Carson City, Nev., Dec. 28 (JMD). Do they hibernate in that area?

Wrens—A Cañon Wren singing at Ayres Natural Bridge, Wyo., Feb. 26 (OKS, *et al.*), is a very unusual winter record.

Bluebirds—Due to our mild winter a Mountain Bluebird at Tarryall Reservoir was high in the mountains west of Denver (BG).

Waxwings—This was a big flight year for Bohemian Waxwings. Most observers reported more than usual. At Boise, Idaho the number of Cedar Waxwings was down; they were replaced by Bohemians (TL). The latter birds got as far south as Colorado. Flocks of up to 300 were reported from Evergreen and Idaho Springs in the Rockies in February and March (WWB). Two hundred Bohemians were reported on Pikes Peak—southernmost report in the mountains of

Colorado—Dec. 11 (HEK). The most southern report is of a flock of 200 near Bryce Canyon, Utah, Dec. 12 (BAL).

Warblers—A Grace's Warbler was again seen at Zion Park, Utah, in December (BAL). There was a record of this bird in the same area last year.

Finches—More Cassin's Finches than usual were reported this winter at Durango, Colo. (OR); they were also reported from farther north at Grand Junction (LFE) •

Crossbills—Logan, Utah, where there was much more moisture than usual, reported large numbers of Red Crossbills, Jan. 24 and Feb. 5 (KLD). Evergreen, west of Denver, in the Rockies, had a serious drought—there were almost no cones and no cross-bills (WWB).

Towhees—A Brown Towhee was seen at Grand Junction, Colo., March 13. This is the first report of this bird in that area (LFE).

Sparrows—Five Tree Sparrows were seen at Honey Lake, Calif., March 5 (JG). This is a bird which rarely goes so far west. Two reports of immature Harris' Sparrows from northeastern California are unusual. One was at Fort Bidwell, Feb. 12; another at Tule Lake, Feb. 11 (RS). This bird probably occurs regularly in that area, but there have been too few observers. A White-throated Sparrow—a rarity—was seen near Dubois, Wyo., on the upper Wind River, Dec. 13 (MB).

Longspurs—There was a mixed flock of longspurs at Lower Klamath Refuge-120 Lapland, 5 McCown's, 1 Chestnut-collared, Feb. 11 (RS). The last two species are particularly rare in that area.

Buntings—Flocks of 30 or more Snow Buntings were seen in the Arco area, in the dry plains north of the Snake River, Idaho through the month of February (DLC). Probably these birds are frequent visitors to the dry basin in winter, but are infrequently reported.

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The Winter Season, 1966-67

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

The entire Region, particularly at low elevations, experienced a comparatively mild winter; amounts of precipitation were somewhat less than average. The season was a remarkable one ornithologically, the most outstanding event being the invasion of Snowy Owls in the largest numbers in at least fifty years. Rarities included several different records of Common Teal, and the addition of Mountain Plover and Lark Bunting to the Oregon state list on the same day by the Corvallis Christmas counters.

Loons, Grebes—Arctic and Red-throated Loons were present in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and around Victoria in apparently more than normal numbers during the winter. The impression from points farther south is that these species were somewhat less numerous than in other winters. Red-necked Grebes were present in the Bellingham area in more than usual numbers, but elsewhere the birds occurred along the coast in numbers of no more than 4 in a given day afield. An Eared Grebe was on Puget Sound at Seattle, March 19 (*ES*), and one was on Yaquina Bay, Oreg., March 21 (*WT*, *LW*). A few W. Grebes wintered on the Columbia River just northeast of Portland (*HBN*).

Pelagic birds, Cormorants—A Black-footed Albatross followed a ferry from Victoria to Port Angeles on March 20 (*BPB*, *JRS*), a very unusual date for this Region. A small flock of Sooty Shearwaters was observed close offshore at Cape Lookout, Oreg., Dec. 31 (*LW*, *et al.*) and another flock was seen at Otter Rock, Oreg., March 24 (*BPB*, *JRS*); both records are unusual, the March one highly so. Several Fulmars were off Seal Rocks, Lincoln Co., Oreg., on Dec. 14 (*WT*); 2 were at Cape Lookout, Dec. 31 (*LW*, *et al.*). Leach's Petrel is rarely sighted though is assumed to be present at all seasons off the Washington and Oregon coasts; a lone individual of this species was reported seen at Otter Rock, Oreg., March 24 (*BPB*, *JRS*). The comparative scarcity of Double-crested Cormorants mentioned in the fall report for the northern part of the Region continued through the winter. Reports on Brandt's and Pelagic

Cormorants are too few from which safely to show any general conclusions, but there seems to be no similar reduction in numbers of these species.

Hérons—A small group of Com. Egrets apparently wintered at Gardiner, Oreg. this year; one of this species was at Devils Lake, Lincoln Co., Oreg., March 28 (*TM*), while another was found on Hoover Lakes near Medford, March 15 (Mrs. Don McGovern, *fid* *JH*). Single Green Herons showed up on both the Seattle and Portland Christmas counts; the species is a regular on the latter count. An Am. Bittern was seen twice on the Skagit Flats in January (*ES*; *fid* *TRW*).

Swans and Geese—Whistling Swans wintered by the hundreds from Sauvie Island below Portland to the mouth of the Columbia, as is usual (*HBN*, *et al.*). Late February and March found up to 85 birds on a marsh near Brownsville, Oreg. in the Willamette Valley (*LW*). A handful of this species wintered in the Bellingham area (*TRW*), while from 1 to 3 birds were seen on the Skagit Flats in late December and early January (*ES*). No Trumpeter Swans were at Victoria this winter, but 5 birds wintered at Dyke Slough, Comox, B. C. (*DS*). About 1500 Canada Geese spent the winter at Sauvie Island and environs, while the Corvallis, Oreg., area hosted some 5000 birds, largely on the Wm. L. Finley Nat'l Wildlife Refuge; few birds spent the winter any farther to the north. Black Brant wintered from the Strait of Juan de Fuca south along the coast; northward movements were noted early in March at the mouth of the Columbia (*RP*, *HBN*). Two White-fronted Geese flying over Newberg, Oreg., Feb. 20 (*LW*) and one on the Victoria, B. C., Christmas count were the only reported individuals of this species. Twenty thousand Snow Geese were on the Skagit Flats on Jan. 15 (*ES*); 7 were at the Finley Refuge on Jan. 7 while from 130 to 150 individuals were on Sauvie Island, Jan. 30 through March 19 (*HBN*). A single Snow Goose was at the Brownsville, Oreg. marsh, March 17 (*LW*), and another was on Hoover Lakes, March 16 (*OS*).

Ducks—A female Mallard with 2 ducklings estimated to be two weeks old was found by Thackaberry on his farm near Lebanon, Oreg., March 26. Gadwall wintered as usual in small numbers in north Portland (*JG*, *RK*, *HBN*); 42 were at the mouth of the Duwamish River, Jan. 28 (*ES*), while 2 were at Iona Island, March 5 (*TRW*). Pintails were present in the northern Willamette Valley during January in greater than usual numbers after a late arrival at the end of December; most of the birds had departed, however, by the end of the month. **Common Teal**, so far as the regional editors have been able to determine although their research has not been exhaustive, have never before been reported for the Region. It is remarkable, therefore, that this winter season brings reports of one bird at Portland's

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Delta Park from Dec. 31 through at least Feb. 21 which was studied at length from close range on several occasions (*JBC, HBN*); another bird at Iona Island, March 5 (*TRW*); 4 there on March 25 (K. Boyce *fide TRW*); and one at Victoria, B. C. on April 2 (*GAP*) which was seen by many observers two days later (*fide DS*). A Cinnamon Teal at Medford on Feb. 23 (*JH*) was early. European Widgeon were found frequently from the end of December to the end of the period; reports came from the Bellingham area, Seattle, near Ilwaco, Wash., the Portland area, Sauvie Island, and Corvallis. Am. Widgeon did not reach their Oregon wintering areas until the end of December or early January, but were present thereafter in more than the usual numbers. One hundred and fifty Shovelers were on Sauvie Island, Feb. 25 (*HBN*); 10 were seen on the Duwamish River, March 19 (*ES*). A few Wood Ducks wintered in the Willamette Valley north to Portland; a noticeable influx had occurred at Sauvie Island by late March (*HBN*). Up to 4 Redheads were seen at Prescott, Oreg., from March 5 onward (*RP, HBN*); 2 were seen at Florence Lake, Vancouver Island on March 30 (T. Briggs, *fide DS*). Ring-necked Ducks were seen at various places along the Columbia River bottoms during the period; 5 were found on the Comox, B. C., Christmas count on Jan. 2, while 47 were seen on the Pender Islands, B. C. count, Dec. 27; 12 were at Friday Harbor in the San Juan Islands on March 15 (*ES*), and 5 at Scio, Oreg., in the Willamette Valley on Jan. 5 (*WT*). Canvasbacks wintered in the Portland area in small numbers and were not as numerous on the northern Oregon coast this winter as in the past several years. Common Goldeneyes were more easily found than Canvasbacks, but could not be said to be wintering commonly anywhere in the Region unless it was on Puget Sound where several hundred were counted, March 17 at Seattle (*ES*). Eight Barrow's Goldeneyes were on Lake Washington, Seattle, Feb. 6, and 36 were on the Duwamish River, March 19 (*ES*). A few were around Whidbey Island up to mid-March (*VEC*); the species was well represented on British Columbia Christmas counts, however, with Vancouver recording almost 1300. Buffleheads were considered to be present in good winter numbers by all observers who mentioned them and also showed up well on Christmas counts. Observations of Old-squaw in numbers came from Whidbey Island and from north of Bellingham (*VEC*); one young male was seen on Lake Washington, Jan. 6 (*ES*). Harlequin Ducks were numerous reported on the Victoria and Comox Christmas counts, but elsewhere turned up only in relatively small numbers. All three species of scoters were found in expected numbers on each of the coastal Christmas counts. Hooded Mergansers wintered in widely dispersed and consequently small numbers throughout the Region. Red-breasted Mergansers were thought to be below normal in numbers on the

northern Oregon coast, but were said to be numerous in the Seattle area in February and March (*ES*).

Vultures, Hawks—Turkey Vultures were first seen along the southern Oregon coast on Feb. 21 (*RP*); they had reached Vancouver Island by late March (*DS*). The only report of Goshawks was a lone bird northeast of Lebanon, Oreg., on Dec. 31 (*WT*). Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawk numbers at Bellingham are said to have decreased in February (*TRW*), but both species were considered "abundant"

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around Lebanon the whole winter (*WT*). A few Rough-legged Hawks wintered at Sauvie Island, in the Willamette Valley, and were around Bellingham until January; 9 were tallied on the Vancouver, B. C., Christmas count and 1 or 2 birds were at Tillamook for much of the winter. Reports of Bald Eagles are too numerous to list fully; 2 were seen at Gold Beach on the southwest Oregon coast, March 24 (*BPB, JRS*); an adult wintered in the Lebanon area. Several birds, both adult and immature, were present all winter along the Tillamook County, Oreg., coast and up to 6 were regular along the lower Columbia above Astoria. Over 20 birds were at Deception Pass in January and February (*VEC*) and 12 were at Friday Harbor, March 5 (*LHK*). A number were on Vancouver Island; 14 were listed at Comox, B. C., on the Christmas count, when 4 were also found as far north as Terrace, B. C. Marsh Hawks wintered in better than usual numbers on Sauvie Island and in suitable places along the lower Columbia River; a pair was nesting by the end of the period in the Lebanon, Oreg., area (*WT*). Two Ospreys were seen in the San Juan Islands, March 22 (*BPB, JRS*), an uncommonly early date. Peregrine reports were few; 2 from the south jetty of the Columbia, Jan. 14 (*JG, RK, HBN*), 2 at Three Arch Rocks, Oreg., Feb. 5 (*JBC*), 1 at Sauvie Island, Feb. 25 (*HBN*), 1 on the Pender Islands Christmas count and 2 on the Victoria, B. C. count. At Bellingham, however, 3 or 4 birds spent the winter (*TRW*). Two Pigeon Hawks also spent the winter at Bellingham (*TRW*). Elsewhere 3 birds showed up on the Pender Islands and Vancouver Christmas counts; 1 at Sauvie Island, Jan. 21 (*HBN*), 1 at Marietta, Wash., Feb. 10 (*TRW*) and 1 south of Albany, Oreg., Mar. 20 (*WT*).

Cranes and Rails—Thirty-four Sandhill Cranes were at Sauvie Island on March 14th, a somewhat early arrival date (*JG, RK*). A Virginia Rail was heard calling in a marsh near Lebanon on March 27 (*WT*); 2 were found on the Seattle Christmas count which also reported 4 Soras.

Shorebirds—The Victoria Christmas count came up with 55 Black Oystercatchers. Five Snowy Plover were at the south jetty of the Columbia on Jan. 14 (*JG, RK, HBN*). At Corvallis, Oreg., 1837 Killdeer were recorded on the Jan. 2 Christmas count. On the same count, 2 **Mountain Plovers** were discovered in the vicinity of the Corvallis Airport; one was collected the next day and is now in the Oregon State University collection (*RM*); the other bird remained at least until March 10 and was seen by many observers. A Black-bellied Plover was found on Jan. 12 in a plowed field at Hubbard, Oreg., in the Willamette Valley where the bird was in company with Killdeers (*HBN*). Approximately 100 of these birds wintered in the vicinity of Victoria, B. C. (*ARD*). Surfbirds were widely reported from the northern Oregon coast and also were around Victoria and Nanaimo this winter in usual numbers. A Ruddy Turnstone was at Point Roberts, Dec. 11 (*TRW*); 25 were counted at Seaside, Oreg., Jan. 14 (*JG, RK, HBN*), and about 15 birds were seen both in the Tillamook–Barview area on March 18 (*RF, HBN, et al.*) and at Lincoln City, Oreg., March 28 (*TM*). Black Turnstones and Com. Snipe both wintered north as far as southern British Columbia. A few Lesser Yellowlegs spent the winter both at Bellingham and on Whidbey Island (*VEC*). Up to a score of Rock Sandpipers were regularly found on the Tillamook Bay jetty at Barview all winter. Least Sandpipers wintered in small numbers in Oregon, while Dunlin were very numerous on favored tidal flats with as many as 1000 birds occurring inland at Corvallis at the time of the Christmas count. About a dozen dowitchers were on Sauvie Island at the end of February, whereas by the end of March the number there had doubled. Five Western Sandpipers were still at Vancouver, B. C. on Dec. 26 for the Christmas count there.

Gulls—A Glaucous Gull was found at Delta Park in Portland, Jan. 21 (*JBC, HBN*), and another bird was found there on March 28 (*HBN*); 2 individuals were recorded on the Tillamook Christmas count, Dec. 26. A Western Gull was at Portland on March 28 (*HBN*). As many as 1000 Herring Gulls were counted on Sauvie Island during a very rainy period (*HBN*), a most unusually high number. California Gulls were virtually absent from the Region after mid-January, as is usually the case; one appeared on the Comox, B. C. Christmas count, Jan. 2. Mew Gulls wintered in good numbers in all coastal areas and along the Columbia River. Twenty Black-legged Kittiwakes, many of them oil smeared, were at the south jetty of the Columbia River on March 5 (*HBN*).

Alcids—Common Murres were present at Three Arch Rocks, Oreg., in much greater numbers than usual throughout the winter; an estimated 5000 were there Feb. 5 with 20,000 estimated on March 18, about twice

the normal numbers at that time of year (*VEC*). Between 30 and 40 Ancient Murrelets were at Point Roberts, Dec. 12 (*TRW*); over 70 were recorded on the Victoria Christmas Count, Dec. 27. The Pigeon Guillemot was the most common alcid in the San Juan Islands in late March (*BPB, JRS*), 200 being seen in the course of one ferryboat trip. Rhinoceros Auklets were present at Seattle in numbers from late December through March (*VEC*). A Tufted Puffin again turned up on the Victoria Christmas count.

Pigeons—Band-tailed Pigeons wintered at Victoria in unusually large numbers; 162 were reported on the Christmas count, while in late February an estimated 1000 birds were seen in one flock (*C. Morehen, fide, DS*), with another 500 estimated to be in the city. Their presence in such numbers was attributed to a mild winter and to the good acorn crop (*DS*). A few birds wintered elsewhere in the Region, 5 being as far north as Terrace, B. C. on Dec. 26. Over 200 birds, probable migrants, were seen in the Rogue River Valley in southern Oregon on March 23 and 30 (*JH*).

Owls—The Snowy Owl invasion, particularly in the northern part of the Region reached spectacular proportions. Game management officials estimated that 400 birds were present in the Frazier River Valley (*fide DS*), though the apportionment, if any, of this

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number between the Northern Pacific Coast Region and the Northern Rocky Mountain–Intermountain Region is not clear. Terry Wahl estimated that 150 were in northwest Washington and southern British Columbia in mid-December which he regarded as the time of peak numbers, as many were shot during January; Wahl knew of only 12 birds still present in his general area at the end of the period. In western Oregon a few birds were in the Willamette Valley and along the coast wherever there were dunes south at least to Newport into March. A Burrowing Owl was at its usual winter location in the Lebanon, Oreg., area until the last week in March when it disappeared (*LW*). A Great Gray Owl was reported as wintering at Burnaby, B. C. (*W. Campbell, fide TRW*). A spectacular 65 Short-eared Owls were counted on the Vancouver Christmas count, Dec. 26. Half a dozen birds or so wintered on Sauvie Island (*HBN*); 5 were at Donald, Oreg., near Salem on March 11 (*JG*).

Hummingbirds—The male of the pair of Anna's Hummingbirds in Medford at the end of November left in mid-February and the female disappeared on March 2 after the arrival of a male Rufous (*JH*). Rufous Hummingbirds showed up at Tigard, Oreg. near Portland on Feb. 19 (*JG*), and at Bellingham late in

March (*TRW*); one was reported from Victoria on the Christmas count, Dec. 27.

Woodpeckers—Although the range of the Pileated Woodpecker includes all of this Region, the bird is not often seen; it therefore seems worth mentioning that lone individuals were recorded on the Comox and Vancouver, B. C. Christmas counts, that a pair wintered near Lebanon, Oreg., (*WT*), and that 12 were found on the Victoria Christmas count. Lewis' Woodpeckers were reported in good numbers this winter in the Medford area, though not equal to last year's record numbers (*JH*); only a few birds were recorded from the Willamette Valley north to Sauvie Island, while no reports came from any farther north. A Northern Three-toed Woodpecker was reported for the Terrace, B. C., Christmas count, Dec. 26.

Flycatchers, Swallows, Jays—A Say's Phoebe was found at Brownsville, Oreg., on Jan. 21 (*LW*); the species occurs occasionally in winter in that part of the state. Violet-green Swallows arrived first at Sauvie Island on Feb. 25 (*HBN*), generally in the Willamette Valley the first week in March, but still were nowhere numerous in Oregon by the end of the period; the first appearance at Bellingham was on March 18 (*TRW*). Tree Swallows arrived at Medford in a group of 30 on Feb. 5, appeared first in Portland, Feb. 10 (*HBN*) and were in northern Skagit County, Wash., on Feb. 22 (*TRW*); as many as 250 were at Prescott, Oreg., March 11 (*RF*, *HBN*). An early Rough-winged Swallow showed up at Lebanon, Oreg., on March 26 (*WT*). Four remarkably early Barn Swallows were at Tillamook Bay on Feb. 26 (*HBN*). Gray Jays again wintered at sea-level in the Tillamook, Oreg. area.

Nuthatches, Wrens—Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported regularly in the Seattle area this winter (*ES*), and in better than usual numbers in the vicinity of Bellingham (*TRW*). They did not appear regularly in western Oregon's lowlands this winter, but Nehls found many at and above snow line on Larch Mountain east of Portland on March 4. Long-billed Marsh Wrens wintered much more numerous in northwestern Oregon and in the Seattle area than is customary.

Mockingbirds, Thrushes—A Mockingbird was found seven miles southeast of Albany, Oreg., on Dec. 16 (*LW*), while another individual was found on Jan. 2 at the Corvallis airport, where it remained at least until Feb. 26 (*WT*). Robins were said to be in normal numbers at Bellingham (*TRW*), numerous at Seattle (*ES*), and normal at Medford (*JH*). Reports from Victoria and Portland indicated unprecedented wintering numbers in those places with 103,000 recorded on the Portland Christmas count. Varied Thrushes were largely absent from lowland areas

uniformly throughout the Region this winter. Many were on Larch Mountain, March 4, both above and below snow-line (*HBN*). Over 1200 were found on the Victoria Christmas count, Dec. 27. The only report of Hermit Thrushes, aside from Christmas count records, was of 2 birds that wintered near Lebanon, Oreg. (*WT*). Western Bluebirds were reported as abundant in the Lebanon area (*WT*), although they could best be described as wintering sparingly elsewhere in the Willamette Valley; 15 were in three groups around Victoria (*DS*). A Mountain Bluebird was at Marietta, Wash., during January and February (*TRW*); 3 were at Parksville, B. C., on March 31 (C. Morehen, *vide DS*); another was seen on three occasions in March in the Medford area (*JH*).

Waxwings—Bohemian Waxwings occurred sporadically; Bellingham seems to have been the best locale for this species, with up to 2000 there from Christmas until the end of January. A few showed up there again in late March. Fifty-four were seen on the Terrace, B. C. Christmas count and over 250 on the Vancouver count; 170 were found in Tigard, Oreg., on Feb. 19 (*JG*). A few appeared in Seattle in mid-March, with 100 present at month's end. Twenty were found at Victoria, where the species rarely occurs (Christmas count). Cedar Waxwings were reported no more frequently than were Bohemians, but this undoubtedly reflects the less noteworthy occurrences of the former.

Shrikes, Starlings—Northern Shrikes were considered to be present in greater than usual numbers in western Washington and Oregon, particularly in the Lebanon and Corvallis areas. One was at Hoover Lakes in the Medford area on March 12 (*OS*). Two Loggerhead Shrikes were identified south of Albany on Dec. 18 (*LW*). Starlings were reported to be "numerous" at Seattle, "not many" at Lebanon, and "more than usual" at Medford; in Portland, despite the huge numbers in the few winter roosts, the birds were not ubiquitous.

Warblers—Orange-crowned Warblers were reported singly from Fairview, east of Portland, on Jan. 8 (*JG*), in Lake Oswego, Oreg., Jan. 12 at the feeder of Mr. & Mrs. Irving Curren, at Sauvie Island, Feb. 25

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(*HBN*), and east of Seattle during February. Both Myrtle and Audubon's Warblers were hard to find this winter in much of the Region. Townsend's Warbler showed up on the Victoria, Portland, Corvallis and Tillamook Christmas counts; 35 to 40 birds were in a flock seen by some 30 observers on a field trip in the Tillamook area on March 18 (*JBC*, *HBN*, *et al.*).

House Sparrow, Blackbirds and Oriole—A lone female House Sparrow was at Terrace, B. C., on Dec. 9 (HRV). A W. Meadowlark showed up at Terrace, B. C. where such an occurrence is unprecedented, on the last week of December and was carefully observed by two observers (HRV). Red-winged Blackbirds were uncommon north of the Columbia, but seemed to be present in Oregon in above average winter numbers. An adult male Bullock's Oriole was seen in Hubbard, Oreg., on Dec. 5; probably the same bird was seen again on Feb. 18 (TM). Brown-headed Cowbirds wintered in numbers of 50 or more on Sauvie Island (HBN). One was seen in Seattle, March 27 (ES).

Grosbeaks and Siskins—Evening Grosbeaks were practically absent from the Region this winter, judging by the dearth of reports; Bellingham seems to have been the exception, with numbers of birds present from the end of February on. Seven Pine Grosbeaks found in Victoria on the Christmas count were the only ones for this winter. Pine Siskins were generally regarded as scarce and widely scattered during this report period.

Sparrows and Buntings—A *Lark Bunting* found on the Corvallis, Oreg., Christmas count on Jan. 2 (JO, WT, LW) was collected the next day, and is now in the Oregon State University collection. Savannah Sparrows, which wintered sparingly in the Willamette Valley, were perhaps somewhat more in evidence than usual in mid-winter. Single Vesper Sparrows were seen at Hoover Lakes in the Medford area on March 30 (JH), and at Lebanon on March 31 (WT). A brightly plumaged Lark Sparrow was on Sauvie Island in company with Oregon Juncos on Jan. 21 (HBN). Two Slate-colored Juncos were in Bellingham, March 13 (TRW); several appeared at feeding stations in Seattle during the winter (VEC); no reports were received from points farther south, although there were several Oregon records last fall. Oregon Juncos were thought to be more common in the Portland and Seattle areas than in the last three or four winters. At least 4 to 6 Tree Sparrows were found on the Skagit Game Range on Jan. 15, but were not seen subsequently. White-crowned Sparrows wintered in western Washington and Oregon in noticeably fewer numbers than usual, according to several observers; Golden-crowned Sparrows, on the other hand, were thought to be in somewhat more than usual numbers. Lone White-throated Sparrows were reported wintering at feeders in West Linn, Oreg., (Mrs. Winn Walker) and in Victoria, B. C. (DS). Fourteen Lapland Longspurs were discovered by Victoria, B. C., Christmas count participants, who also recorded 23 Snow Buntings. The flock of 100 Snow Buntings first found at Sandy Point west of Bellingham, Nov. 24, frequented that area through January; by mid-February only 11 birds were

there (VEC, TRW); one was at the south jetty of the Columbia on March 11.

Contributors—(BPB) Bedford P. Brown; (VEC) Violet E. Cannon; (ARD) A. R. Davidson; (RE) Roy Fisk; (JG) Jeff Gilligan; (JH) Joseph Hicks; (RK) Ron Klein; (LHK) Lucile H. Kline; (TM) Thomas McCamant; (JRS) Jeffrey R. Sanders; (DS) David Stirling; (ES) Eleanor Stopps; (OS) Otis Swisher; (WT) William Thackaberry; (HRV) H. R. Vance; (TRW) Terry R. Wahl; (LW) Larry Wheeler.

Spring Migration, 1967

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION / Thomas H. Rogers

After an extremely mild winter which ended with a cold, snowy March, spring was cool, wet and snowy. April was particularly cool and wet, with snow in both the mountains and the valleys. May was a little warmer, but temperatures were still below normal; and at Spokane, Wash. nearly a half inch of snow fell on the 11th. The western part of the Region warmed up after mid-May but turned cool and stormy at the end of the month. The snow pack in the mountains was deep and, at higher levels, persistent, and combined with heavy spring rains, should bring moisture up to satisfactory levels. Vegetation was delayed by perhaps two weeks, but excellent growth was indicated. Many observers believed that the retarded spring had affected the migration. Ralph Hand, commenting for the Missoula, Mont. area, said, "The mild winter may have accounted for a few very early dates for the early spring migrants but the cold, delayed spring certainly influenced many of the later ones." For the Spokane area, Mrs. Stanley noted that many perching birds were late and migrants hurried through but the normally later spring arrivals seemed to be on time. In the Bozeman, Mont. area a "curious mixture" of early arrivals in April and late arrivals in May was noted. In the Bitterroot Valley around Stevensville, Mont. geese and ducks tarried as long as snow and cloudy weather continued, with Snow Geese still there on May 6. At Baker, Oreg. birds remained at feeders until mid-May, two weeks later than usual.

Pelicans, Cormorants, Herons—Single White Pelicans were sighted at *Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge*, Lake Co., Mont. on April 22 (FLK) and May 4 (CJH) and at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash., May 29. The species appeared in the Bozeman-Ennis-Three Forks, Mont. area on April 23. Double-crested Cormorants were not noted in the latter area until June 11. This species was seen on the Snake River between

Clarkston and Wawawai, Wash. (MJP). A **Common. Egret** was sighted at Ninepipe Refuge, where it has not previously been recorded. Black-crowned Night Herons arrived at their nesting site near St. Andrews, Wash. on April 16, a late arrival date (S.A.S.).

Ibis and Flamingo—Four records for **White-faced Ibis** were obtained: 1 in the Manhattan, Mont. area, April 30 to May 7 (PDS); 1 at Three Forks, Mont., May 1 (ET); 1 near Creston and the northeast corner of Flathead Lake, Flathead Co., Mont., April 23 (Mr. & Mrs. FSD & Mr. & Mrs. CJH); and the species was also recorded at Ravalli Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Ravalli Co., Mont. One **American. Flamingo** was sighted by many observers at Ninepipe Game Management Area, Lake Co., Mont. during mid-May and remained at least until May 21. Origin of the bird is unknown, but it may have been an escape from a zoo (CJH).

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Waterfowl—Six hundred Whistling Swans were sighted flying over Ninepipe Refuge in early April. A White-fronted Goose was present at Ninepipe Refuge in late April and was seen with a flock of 800 Snow Geese there on May 4 (CJH). Ross' Goose was sighted on 3 occasions in northeastern Oregon: 1 near Baker, with 12-15 Snow Geese, May 9, and again May 11, and 1 on the Ladd Marsh Game Management Area, about May 13, by Mike Kemp, Oregon Game Biologist (newspaper account). Two of this species appeared at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash., May 2. The duck migration appeared to be about on schedule. In the Spokane area, those species usually the most abundant, such as Mallards and Am. Widgeon, seemed to miss the smaller lakes and ponds. On the other hand, Gadwall were among the predominant ducks on the slough at Reardan, Wash., where up to 50 were recorded (WH, S.A.S.). Up to 100 Shovelers were seen there during late April and early May (S.A.S.). At Ninepipe Refuge, numbers of Pintail increased to 10,000 by mid-March, and Com. Mergansers peaked there at 1500. Blue-winged (RAH, ET) and Cinnamon Teal (ET) were first noted in the Bozeman area on April 9 and 8, respectively, both early dates. Cinnamon Teal appeared to be unusually common at Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash., for they represented 18 percent of all nesting ducks. Four Ring-necked Ducks near Baker, Oreg., were Ann Ward's first sighting for the species in that area. A male and a female Harlequin Duck were seen at Reardan, Wash., April 16; this is the first record for the species there (JA, WH). White-winged Scoter was observed in Jasper Nat'l Park, Alberta, May 17-18, and Surf Scoters were noted there on the same dates and in Banff Nat'l Park, May 1415 (JE & GE). Red-breasted Mergansers arrived early at Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash., on Feb. 2 and

stayed late; 1 was seen on May 3. This species showed an unusual peak number of 10 in April (JA).

Vultures and Hawks—Turkey Vultures returned early at 2 localities: April 1 at the Dry Falls, Grant Co., Wash. (S.A.S.) and April 8 in the Bozeman area (ET). "Very few" hawks were reported in the Bitterroot Valley. An almost certain sighting of a **White-tailed Kite** was reported by Harry Nehls, who did not see the bird himself, however. The bird was seen near Dufur, Oreg. on March 15 (SA & MK) and in the same area on April 23 (CT). The only other records for the state are from the Sauvie Island area near Portland (HN).

Gallinaceous Birds—Sage Grouse were observed on a dance ground near Wilsall, Park Co., Mont. as late as May 25 (RAH, LM), and about 50 were on the dance ground near Creston, Wash. on April 1 (S.A.S.).

Cranes—What quite probably was a sighting of 4 Whooping Cranes about 5 miles west of Bozeman was made by Mrs. Kenneth Colburn, apparently in early May (PDS). In east central Washington, Sandhill Cranes were migrating in mid-March, with peak numbers estimated as high as 1000 near St. Andrews, Douglas Co. (WH, S.A.S.).

Shorebirds—Owing to the late spring runoff, few shorebirds were seen at Baker, Oreg. Numbers were lower than usual in the Spokane area. Three Semipalmated Plovers on April 27 were the first of the species for Ravalli Refuge (PW). The **Snowy Plover** was added to the list for eastern Washington when 1 was photographed at Reardan, May 28 (LA, WH). A Marbled Godwit was sighted near Ronan, Lake Co., Mont., April 29 (CJH), and one was noted at Missoula, May 3-5 and May 12. A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was carefully identified on Ravalli Refuge (CLB) and the Dunlin was also added to the Refuge list (PW).

Gulls and Terns—An immature **Iceland Gull**, very rare in the Region, was observed at length at Banks Lake on April 5 (WH). California Gulls were common at Ninepipe Refuge, although outnumbered by Ring-billed Gulls. Both species were common at McNary Refuge. Bonaparte's Gull appeared for the first time at Ravalli Refuge, May 6, and 2 were seen near Ronan, May 27 (CJH). A surprising 12 of this species was sighted at Banks Lake, on May 3 (JA). A Com. Tern appeared in the Bozeman area on the early date of May 1 (ET).

Owls and Swifts—Snowy Owls were seen in the vicinity of Ninepipe Refuge as late as March 10 and near Reardan up to April 22 (S.A.S.). A pair of nesting Long-eared Owls was found at St. Andrews, April 5, and one was sighted in *Spokane* on the 12th (WH). The

seldom-sighted Black Swift was noted in the Bitterroot Valley of western Montana, May 27 (CLB & BT). About 40 were seen at Swan Lake near Vernon, B. C., May 24 (JG), and the species was seen north of Vernon, May 21 (JE & GE).

Hummingbirds and Woodpeckers—Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds were a little late in the Spokane area. The latter species was first noted there on May 3 (WH). For comparison, some other first dates for the species are: Vernon, May 3; Missoula, May 19; Bitterroot Valley, May 20; and Bozeman, May 22. The male *Yellow-shafted Flicker* that wintered at Spokane was last seen on April 2 (Mrs. SOS). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Bozeman on May 1 was early (DRS).

Swallows—In the Spokane area, Violet-green and Tree Swallows remained in low numbers in most breeding areas until nearly mid-May, presumably because of the cool, damp weather. At Medical Lake, Spokane Co., Wash. a mass of swallows estimated at 4000 to 5000 was observed on May 11. Mainly Violet-green and Cliff Swallows, it also contained birds of each of the other 4 species normally present in the Region (WH). At Missoula, Tree Swallows arrived around April 4 but were not common until early May, and Cliff Swallows arrived late, appearing on May 20.

Nuthatches—White-breasted Nuthatches remained low in numbers at Spokane and apparently decreased in the Bitterroot Valley. Red-breasted Nuthatches also were reported as low in numbers at both localities.

Wrens, Mockingbirds, Bluebirds—Cañon Wrens returned early, on April 2, to the nesting site used for

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several years along the Madison River west of Bozeman (RAH & PDS). A *Mockingbird*, probably the bird present during the winter, was seen at a feeding station in Spokane on April 6 (S.A.S.), and 1 was observed at the Upper Fraser garbage dump, 50 miles east of Prince George, B. C. on May 31. Mountain Bluebirds were believed to be showing a slow gain in the Bitterroot Valley, where many nesting boxes have been put out around ranches. Personnel at the Nat'l Bison Range assisted youth groups in putting up 100 bluebird houses there.

Waxwings, Vireos and Warblers—Late Bohemian Waxwings were seen on April 8 at Spokane (S.A.S.) and 14 were at Missoula on April 30. A Hutton's Vireo was reported from extreme southern British Columbia near Oliver (JE & GE). Apparent arrival dates for Warbling Vireos (May 19) and Orange-crowned

Warblers (May 7) at Spokane were late (S.A.S.), and Warren Hall considered the warbler migration in the Spokane area to be late by 10 days to 2 weeks. Arrivals of the Yellow Warbler (May 17) and Audubon's Warbler (May 9) at Missoula were also late, but the latter species was early at Bozeman on April 23 (KF, RAH). A male *Myrtle Warbler* was observed closely at Sun Lakes Park, Grant Co., Wash. on May 13 (FBH). Black-poll Warblers were seen at several localities north of Prince George, B. C., June 1. A large flock of warblers seen at Suttle Lake, northwest of Sisters, Oreg., May 27, was composed mostly of Hermit Warblers with a number of MacGillivray's (JG, RK & HN). On the same day these observers recorded Wilson's and Black-throated Gray Warblers in sagebrush near Prineville.

House Sparrow, Blackbirds—House Sparrows have finally broken into this report, for there appears to have been a distinct drop in numbers in the Spokane area, for reasons unknown (WH, THR, S.A.S.). Brewer's Blackbird was late at Baker, Oreg., still absent in typical habitat on April 5. The Brown-headed Cowbird was about 2 weeks late at Spokane (S.A.S.). On the other hand, the Com. Grackle appeared in the Bozeman area on the early date of April 13 (KF & PDS).

Finches—Evening Grosbeaks showed a varied pattern of occurrence. Common all winter at Penticton, B. C. and Bozeman, most had left the former locality by May 15, about the time the species appeared at Missoula, the Bitterroot Valley, and Prineville. At Missoula they had been absent since late January, and in the Bitterroot Valley and at Baker they were scarce through the winter. Also scarce at Spokane, they began an influx in April but were practically gone by mid-May. They were still abundant at Missoula in the first week of June and were still at Prineville at the end of May. Small numbers also were noted at Pullman, Wash. during the period. Both Purple and Cassin's Finches were found in extreme southern British Columbia near Oliver, May 25 (JE & GE). Cassin's Finch appeared in the Spokane area in good numbers, with flocks of 35-40 in April (WH, S.A.S., THR). Very few were noted in the Bitterroot Valley, however, and the species was very late at Bozeman, not arriving in any numbers until the first week of May. The House Finches reported at Missoula during late winter were not seen after April 7. Gray-crowned Rosy Finches and Black Rosy Finches were last noted in the Bozeman area on April 30. Pine Siskins were abundant in the Vernon, B. C. area, but were scarce or absent at many other localities. They were late and sparse at Spokane and in the Bitterroot Valley and at Bozeman did not arrive in numbers until late May. They appeared at Missoula on May 9. A very few Red Cross-bills were in the Spokane area in May

and at Pullman, Wash. The wintering birds at Bozeman were not noted after April 24 (RAH).

Sparrows—At Baker, Oreg., the storm of March 11, which brought 6 inches of snow, caught a big movement of Rufous-sided Towhees and kept them there until about the 20th. This species was not seen at Vernon until April 6, unusually late. Lark Buntings continued to press westward in the Region. Two males and 2 females were seen at Missoula, June 7, the first there since July, 1965. The species was recorded near the Bison Range and was noted north of Vernon at Yard Creek campsite (JE & GE). Chipping Sparrows arrived late in several localities: Missoula, May 18; Bitterroot Valley, May 17; and Vernon, May 4. The first noted at Baker was on May 17 although Prineville had the species by April 17. A single Harris' Sparrow was noted at Vernon on May 7 (TM). The White-crowned Sparrow movement around Spokane and west into east-central Washington was about 2 weeks late, with the peak coming around May 10. A period of cloudy weather apparently grounded them but they moved on quickly thereafter (WH, THR, S.A.S.). At Prineville, however, the peak came between April 27 and May 3. Single Golden-crowned Sparrows were noted on five occasions in eastern Washington: May 7 and 8 at Reardan (JA, WH); May 8 and 10 at Spokane (WH, VN, CS); and May 11 at Deep Creek, Spokane Co. (WH). A Fox Sparrow was singing at Logan Pass, elevation 6664 ft., in Glacier Nat'l Park, Mont., where the snow lay 6-10 ft. deep, June 12 (THR). Lincoln's Sparrow was seen at Baker on April 28, and 1 was feeding with White-crowned Sparrows on a lawn at Missoula, May 25. The species appeared at Bozeman on May 28 (RAH, ET). A few Lapland Longspurs were noted at Banks Lake, April 1, and one was seen at Reardan the next day (S.A.S.).

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Spring Migration, 1967

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

April and May were endured by local residents as an extension of winter. Frequent wet snows occurred through May in the central Rockies and plateaus. Most stations reported April and May much colder and more moist than average. Typical was a report from Oliver Larochelle at Modoc Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in northeastern California: "This has been the longest, coldest, wettest spring on record for Modoc County. Snow fell nearly every day of both months and it was snowing May 31." A blizzard swept through northeastern Wyoming in the first week of May, leaving drifts up to 20 ft. deep (LM). There was much loss of livestock, and, as always, it was presumed that there was great loss among the birds. This editor doubts that losses are great in such storms, with the possible exception of young birds in the nest, and this particular storm occurred before the bulk of passerines had arrived. In this connection, Winston Brockner observed 3 Broad-tailed Hummingbirds in a heavy snow storm in the mountains west of Denver, Colo. on May 26, and these birds did survive. The greatest loss after a storm is along highways where cars kill huge numbers of birds, mainly Horned Larks, which congregate on the black top after the snow has melted. Both vegetation and bird migration were 1 to 3 weeks late this season, and much of what is normally called spring migration occurred after May. Winter birds lingered much longer than usual, almost to June. Southern Colorado was very dry until late May. At Stillwater Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Churchill Co., Nev., water conditions were excellent for the first time in a number of years, and a good growth of aquatic vegetation can be expected (LDN). Little food grew last year because of the drought. Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, the great sump in eastern Oregon, has wonderful water conditions this year, and Harney Lake,

an overflow area, is expected to get water again (ELMcL).

Waterfowl—At Deer Flat Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Idaho some young Canada Geese hatched about April 15 in the islands of the Snake River and all were hatched by the end of April. The hatch was average and the timing about as usual. The spring migration of waterfowl was over by the start of this reporting period (RV/P). A **Black Brant** was seen at Reno, Nev., May 5 (JMD); this bird is rare so far east. At Bear River Marsh in Utah high water spread the nesting waterfowl over a larger area. This made nests almost impossible to count. There was some nest flooding (MKH). A Wood Duck was reported from the Cache valley of northeastern Utah, May 10 (LR). This species is a regular visitor at Deer Flat Refuge, but does not breed there (RV/P). A drake Harlequin Duck was seen on May 16 on the upper Wind River near Dubois in western Wyoming, where the species has not been reported recently (MB). Two Hooded Mergansers were observed on April 25 in southwestern Utah, where they are rarely seen (SM).

Hawks—Buteos were again reported as down in western Idaho (TL). The situation seems most discouraging, as we never have an increase reported.

Grouse—A Sage Grouse strutting ground was found at the north end of the National Elk Refuge, Teton Co., Wyo., May 15 (DER). The population of these birds in Jackson Hole is growing.

Cranes—3000 Sandhill Cranes were reported near Burns in eastern Oregon on May 1 (CDL). On the basis of footprints they were identified as *Lesser* in contrast to the *Greater* that inhabit the nearby Malheur Refuge.

Rails—A Black Rail seen at Modoc Refuge on April 18 (OEL) established a new record for that area.

Shorebirds—Five Semipalmated Plovers were seen at Utah Lake in central Utah on May 7 (GK). Occurrence of this species in the Salt Lake valley is very unusual. Several more were seen on May 2 in the , Fernley marshes of western Nevada and on May 6 at Stillwater Refuge in the same area (JMD). They are probably more common in this part of the Region but have not been reported recently. A Piping Plover was seen at Lake Desmet just east of the Big Horn Mountains in northern Wyoming on May 13 (TK). Ten Whimbrels were at Fish Springs Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Utah on May 21

(DMcK) and 3 at Cheyenne, Wyo., on May 20 (OKS, *et al.*).

Swifts, Owls, Waxwings—*Probable* Chimney Swifts were seen at Grand Junction in western Colorado on April 23 (LFE). This locality is too far west to be sure they were Chimney Swifts and too far east to believe they were Vaux's Swifts. A Barn Owl reported as nesting in the Salt Lake valley (GK) is the first observation of this species there in several years. Since there are no reports of Barn Owls to the east of Utah until one gets to the Great Plains, this is an isolated population. Bohemian Waxwings lingered very late this year, with birds reported at Logan, Utah, May 16 (DMF), and at Dubois, Wyo., May 10 (MB).

Warblers—Black-and-white Warblers were seen near Reno, May 9 and 10 (JMD). Although this is one of the warblers that does straggle west, Reno is very far west for it. A Parula Warbler was seen in the mountains west of Denver on May 13 (RG). There were two reports of Chestnut-sided Warblers: one in the mountains west of Denver, May 13 (RG), and one at Cheyenne, May 20 (PS). Several Blackpoll Warblers were seen this spring: two were at widely separated spots in southeastern Wyoming, Cheyenne and Springer Lake, May 20 (OKS, *et al.*); one netted at Ruby Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in eastern Nevada was the first recorded for that state (DEL); and another was seen at Sheridan, Wyo., May 18 (TK). A Palm Warbler seen on May 20 at the Wyoming Hereford Ranch near Cheyenne (OKS, *et al.*) is another instance of a bird whose status must be changing. Previously regarded as accidental in the Region, this species also was seen last fall.

Grosbeaks and Buntings—A Rose-breasted Grosbeak and an Indigo Bunting were seen in the mountains west of Denver, at Kittredge, May 17 (HK). Both species rarely get into the mountains. Another Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen at Eldora, Boulder Co., Colo. on May 30 (GS). For the first time, Evening Grosbeaks were reported in numbers in May in the orchards of Delta County on the western slope of Colorado (TC).

Sparrows—A Harris' Sparrow was seen at a feeder near Dubois, Wyo., May 3 (MB), an unusually late date.

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Spring Migration, 1967

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

The spring season was not particularly eventful with regard either to weather or bird occurrences. Precipitation is estimated to have been somewhat less than average while temperatures were a bit higher than average. There were no periods of prolonged cold and rainy weather. Migration seems to have been regular and on the whole unspectacular, although such generalizations risk being inaccurate and misleading because of the size and character of the Region and because it has relatively few observers.

Loons, Grebes—Common, Arctic, and Red-throated Loons were migrating steadily past the mouth of the Columbia River on May 7; six days later Com. Loons were much less in evidence than the other species (HBN). Goodwill on the Canadian hydrographic vessel "Marabell" reported 255 Red-necked Grebes in Cordova Channel, B.C. during passage from Victoria for Nanaimo on April 17; 10 were at Nanaimo Harbor, B.C., April 18, but from then until May 11 daily counts there varied from 1 to 3 individuals. Western Grebes had mostly left the ocean, coastal bays, and estuaries by the end of April, remaining in small numbers only in the straits in the vicinity of Nanaimo by mid-May (JEVG).

Pelagic birds—On May 13, 1 or 2 adult Black-footed Albatrosses were seen from the "Marabell" on Queen Charlotte Sound, B.C. at mid-morning; one believed to be an immature followed the vessel in Milbanke Sound for an hour in mid-afternoon (JEVG). Over 1000 Sooty Shearwaters were encountered by the vessel on the same day. Three Fork-tailed Petrels were seen in the Straits of Juan de Fuca, April 22 (DS), while 86 were counted in Queen Charlotte and Milbanke Sounds on May 13 (JEVG). Ralph Browning (*fide* JH) estimated 100,000 Leach's Petrels on Bird Rocks off the southern Oregon coast in early May.

Hérons—Thackaberry thought Great Blue Herons were in lower numbers in the mid-Willamette Valley of Oregon, possibly as a consequence of shooting at private fish hatcheries. Reports of Green Herons originated only from Portland, where 2 were seen on April 19 (JG & RK), and from Hubbard, Ore., where 1 was seen on May 29 (TM). An Am. Bittern was at the south jetty of the Columbia River on April 23 (HBN).

Swans and Geese—Eleven Whistling Swans were still at Sauvie Island, Ore., April 9 (JG & RK); the last bird left on the late date of April 23 (Norman Minnick). An immature Trumpeter Swan found on May 20 at Jorgensen Harbor in Meyers Passage, B.C., could not fly and moved southward upon a close approach. Seen intermittently in the ensuing 10 days, it returned to Jorgensen Harbor on May 27. It was seen to fly about 300 yards on May 30 (JEVG). The peak in the Canada Goose migration seemed to occur about the first week in May. Aerial surveys by the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service found record numbers of Black Brant (DBM); 3500 were at Willapa Bay, Wash. as late as May 18. White-fronted Geese were found in flocks of up to 150 from the mouth of the Columbia River north to Leadbetter Point, Wash. from at least May 5 to May 18; a flock of about 150 birds flew over Lake Oswego, Ore. in the early evening of May 5. A Gad-wall lingered at Delta Park, Portland, as late as May 1. A few Pintails were in northwestern Oregon through the month of May (HBN). A Cinnamon Teal appeared on Sauvie Island on April 20 (HBN). The last record of a European Widgeon was on April 15 at Portland (JG & RK). Ten Am. Widgeon were seen on Willapa Bay, May 6 (HBN, *et al.*); the last of the wintering birds were gone from Portland at the end of April. Three Shovelers were recorded in Tolmie Channel north of Vancouver Island on May 17 (JEVG), and a pair of Harlequin Ducks was seen in Meyers Passage, north of Vancouver Island, on May 21 (JEVG). Both White-winged and Surf Scoters were migrating steadily past the mouth of the Columbia River on April 23 (HBN). Two Com. Mergansers were seen at the south jetty of the Columbia River, May 13 (HBN, *et al.*), and a pair at Jorgensen Harbor, May 27 (JEVG).

Hawks, Eagles—A Rough-legged Hawk was seen on April 2 at Victoria, B.C., where the bird is rare (Tom Briggs, *fide* DS); another bird was seen a day earlier at Svenson, Ore., above Astoria (RP & HBN). An immature Golden Eagle was seen at Active Pass near Victoria on May 20 (ARD, *fide* DS); a bird of this species was caught in a coyote trap in the Willamette Valley near Scio, Ore., June 2 and was released minus a toe (WT). An adult Bald Eagle was at Agate Reservoir near Medford, Ore. on May 30 (JH), and a few adults were seen around the mouth of the Columbia River in late April and early May. Vance reported an estimated 500 Bald Eagles in 15 miles along the Nass River, B.C., April 3. Eight birds, 6 of them adults, were around and about Nanaimo Harbor, B.C., from April 20 to May 11; en route to the north end of Vancouver Island 26 individuals were counted, 16 of

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them immatures, on May 12; and individuals were observed daily in almost comparable numbers farther north along the British Columbia coast, with 20 in the air at once at Klemtu (*JEVG*). Ospreys were more widely reported than at any time in recent years: 1 at Canby, Oreg., April 19 (Robert Lucas, *fide* HBN), 1 near Halsey, Oreg., along the Willamette River, April 23 (*WT*), 1 near Medford, April 25 (*JH*), 1 off Nanaimo, April 30 (*JEVG*), and 3 at Medford, May 30 (*OS*, *fide* *JH*). There were no reports of Peregrines.

Bobwhite, Cranes, Rails—A few Bobwhite remain around Portland, although numbers are less than 2 and 3 years ago. Small flocks of Sandhill Cranes numbering less than 100 stopped at Sauvie Island up to April 22. A pair of Virginia Rails with chicks was again found at Hubbard in April (*fide* TM).

Shorebirds—An estimated 200 Semipalmated Plovers were on the Long Beach peninsula separating Willapa Bay from the ocean, May 5-7 (*HBN*, *et al.*). An adult Snowy Plover and 2 downy young were seen on May 18 at Leadbetter Point where the species has been suspected of nesting before (*DBM*), and 2 adults were seen on May 13 at the south jetty of the Columbia River where the species nested last year (*HBN*). Up to 30 Black-bellied Plovers were at Leadbetter Point during the first half of May. Over 130 Surfbirds were noted along the southern Oregon coast on April 15 (*JH* & *OS*). Ruddy Turnstones were sparingly reported from Nanaimo, April 24 (*JEVG*); Victoria, May 6 to 10 (*ARD*); Blaine, Wash., May 3 (*TRW*); and Long Beach, May 6 and 7 (*HBN*). A **Long-billed Curlew**, always of interest west of the Cascades, was at Leadbetter Point on May 6 (*HBN*). Whimbrel were seen twice at the south jetty of the Columbia River and once at the north jetty (*HBN*, *et al.*) between April 23 and May 13; 30 individuals, a strikingly high number for that area, were at Blaine on May 17; and 14 were recorded there and at Birch Bay on May 20 (*TRW*). Five Wandering Tattlers were at the north jetty of the Columbia, May 7 (*HBN*), while lone birds at the south jetty on May 13 and at Victoria on May 9 were the only other reports of this species. Greater Yellowlegs were reported only from Medford, April 8 and 18 (*JH*), and over Lebanon, Oreg., May 2 (*WT*). Lesser Yellowlegs were seen only at Hubbard, April 10 (*TM*); at Ship-Ashore, Oreg., April 15 (*JH* & *OS*); and at Medford, April 18 (*JH*). There were estimates of 1000 Dunlins at the south jetty of the Columbia on April 23 and at Leadbetter Point on May 6 (*HBN*, *et al.*). Up to 20 dowitchers were at Leadbetter Point on May 6 and at the south jetty on May 13; more than 100 were at Sauvie Island on April 9 (*HBN*). Over 1700 Western Sandpipers were at the south jetty on April 23, and two-thirds of that number was estimated at Leadbetter Point on May 6 (*HBN*, *et al.*). A single **Marbled Godwit** was seen at Leadbetter Point, May 18

(*DBM*); this species is rare in the Region at any time but particularly so in spring. Sanderlings were seen in flocks of up to 300 in early May on the Oregon and Washington coasts. More than 1200 N. Phalaropes were seen migrating past the mouth of the Columbia River on May 6, and good numbers were seen there again on May 13, with many birds resting and feeding on ponds behind the dunes (*HBN*). Goodwill counted up to 300 of this species in a day near Meyers Passage, May 13-17, and 21 birds were seen on May 29 at the juncture of the Passage with Tolmie Channel.

Gulls and Terns—A few adult Herring Gulls lingered along the Columbia River until mid-May. Five subadult California Gulls were well and carefully observed from the "Marabell" on May 16 in Meyers Passage; they were in company with Glaucous-winged and Mew Gulls (*JEVG*). Reports of a few Bonaparte's Gulls at the mouth of the Columbia, May 7 (*HBN*), and in Meyers Passage, May 16 (*JEVG*), were the only records of this species. Black-legged Kittiwakes were at the mouth of the Columbia during the last week in April and the first 2 weeks in May, with numbers never exceeding 10 on any day (*HBN*); 2 were on Milbanke Sound, May 13 (*JEVG*). An Arctic Tern seen in Meyers Passage on May 16 (*JEVG*) was the only report for the season. Lone Caspian Terns were observed from the north jetty of the Columbia on May 7, from the south jetty on May 13 (*HBN*), and at Marietta, Wash., on May 21 (*TRW*).

Alcids—At Cannon Beach, Oreg., 150 Pigeon Guillemots were counted on May 23; 10 were seen at Fort Canby, Wash., on the Columbia River estuary, May 7 (*HBN*, *et al.*). Up to 11 Marbled Murrelets were around Nanaimo Harbor, April 18 to May 11; 18 individuals were seen on passage from there to Nigel Island on May 12, with 8 more seen the next day en route to Meyers Passage, where numbers of up to 19 in a day and 13 in a flock were seen the rest of the month (*JEVG*). On Bird Rocks, Oreg., 400 Cassin's Auklets were counted in early May (Ralph Browning, *fide* *JH*); 41 were seen on Queen Charlotte Sound, May 13 (*JEVG*). Westward from Alert Bay, B.C., 26 Rhinoceros Auklets were counted on May 12, and the same number on Queen Charlotte Sound the next day (*JEVG*). Sixty Tufted Puffins were observed at Cannon Beach, May 13 (*HBN*).

Pigeons, Owls—The unusual numbers of Band-tailed Pigeons on Vancouver Island at winter's end dispersed by the end of April (*DS*); this species arrived in flocks at Portland about the 1st of April (*JG* & *RK*) and was established in good breeding numbers in northwestern Oregon by the end of the period. Large flocks also were reported in the lowlands around Blaine, Wash. by the end of May (*TRW*). The last record of a Snowy

Owl, marking the end of a notable invasion, was one found at Albany, Oreg., April 15 (Russell and Doug Tucker, *vide* HBN).

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A pair of Long-eared Owls, rarely reported in the Region, was found nesting near Lebanon on May 1 (WT). Four Short-eared Owls were at Leadbetter Point on May 6 (HBN, *et al.*), and a pair frequented Island View Beach on Vancouver Island during the spring (K. R. Beckett, *Me DS*). A Saw-whet Owl nest containing 5 eggs was found in a nesting box at Portland, May 23 (HBN).

Goatsuckers and Swifts—Extremely rare in western Oregon, a Poor-will was found dead east of Hubbard on May 20 (Archie Hostetler and Omar Miller, *vide* TM), and another was flushed several times near Lebanon on May 22 (WT). Common Nighthawks arrived at Medford, May 30 (JH), and at Seattle, June 4 (ES). Vaux's Swift appeared first at Ashland, Oreg. on April 30 (OS); numbers were seen flying into chimneys at Hatley Park on Vancouver Island in late May (T. R. Briggs, *vide* DS).

Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers—A bright male Anna's Hummingbird was seen in Portland on June 1 (DBM), and 2 of this species stayed near Scio, Oreg. for about a week in May (E. W. Albers, *vide* WT). A Yellow-shafted Flicker was seen April 24 on Sauvie Island (Norman Minnick). A pair of Acorn Woodpeckers was nesting in an oak grove near Lebanon by May (WT), but the Lewis' Woodpeckers that wintered in the Medford area were gone after mid-May (JH).

Flycatchers—A pair of W. Kingbirds was seen near Lebanon, May 7–June 2 (WT). A pair of Black Phoebe found again at Applegate, Oreg. along the Rogue River, April 25 (JH), occupy what is probably the most northerly nesting outpost of this southern species. Western Flycatchers arrived at Portland on May 10 (JG & RK) and at Seattle on May 12 (RB), and W. Wood Pewees arrived a few days later.

Larks, Swallows—Three Horned Larks were at Leadbetter Point, May 6 (HBN, *et al.*), and 1 was at the south jetty on May 13 (HBN, *et al.*). Rough-winged Swallows were first seen in the Region at Lebanon on March 26 (WT); some were at Seattle by April 16 (VEC) and one was at Klemtu, Meyers Passage, B. C., May 31 (JGVG). Twenty-seven Cliff Swallows were seen at Sauvie Island on April 9 (JG & RK). Purple Martins were considered to be generally later in arriving and fewer in numbers than usual.

Jays, Ravens, Bushtits—A Gray Jay was in a Medford yard on April 25 (*vide* JH); another was at low elevation in the Cascades east of Scio on May 9 (WT). A pair of Com. Ravens was much in evidence northeast of Lebanon through much of the spring, (WT). Adult Com. Bushtits were feeding young at Hubbard by May 7 (TM); the species was abundant there and at Lebanon this spring.

Nuthatches, Thrushes—Red-breasted Nuthatches were "common" on Mount Hood, Oreg., May 27 (JG, RK & HBN), and were more frequently noticed than usual at Bellingham (TRW). Varied Thrushes were thought to be breeding at lower elevations on Vancouver Island this spring because of a heavier than usual remaining snow pack (DS). Hermit Thrushes lingered in Victoria Gardens until mid-May, "much later than usual" (DS), perhaps for the same reason. A peak of 11 in one day at Portland on May 3 (JG & RK) was unusual. Oddly, Swainson's Thrush was first noted in the Region at Vancouver, B.C. on May 10 (FWD); birds were observed within the next few days in both the Portland and Seattle areas. Two Veeries, a bird very rare in the Region, were along the Rogue River near Medford, April 17–May 11 (JH). The only report of W. Bluebirds was of 2 birds about 8 miles apart at Spanaway, Wash., March 25 (VEC).

Gnatcatchers, Pipits, Waxwings—The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher returned to Roxy Ann Butte near Medford on May 30 (*vide* JH). Fifteen to twenty Water Pipits were at Leadbetter Point on the late date of May 6 (HBN, *et al.*). The last flock of Bohemian Waxwings left Bellingham, where many had wintered this year, on April 1 (TRW). Cedar Waxwings, absent from Bellingham all winter, reappeared in flocks of 15 to 20 birds by the end of May (TRW). Flocks of that size also were seen throughout the spring period at irregular intervals at Lake Oswego (JBC).

Starlings, Vireos—Starlings were more prominent as nesters than ever before through much of northwestern Oregon and were on the increase in the Bellingham area. Two were seen at Klemtu on May 24 and again on May 26, when one was carrying nest material into a hole on a building at the wharf (JGVG). Hutton's Vireo is an uncommon bird in the Region, judging by the consistently few reports. This spring one was seen at Medford, April 17 (JH), and one at Fort Stevens State Park, Oreg., April 1 (RF & HBN). A very early Solitary Vireo was at Victoria, April 7 (ARD, *vide* DS). Warbling Vireos arrived in numbers at Portland on May 1011 and in Seattle a few days later.

Warblers—Nashville Warblers were found in Portland on May 10, 11 and 12 (JG & RK) and were still being encountered at Medford at the end of May (JH). Myrtle

Warblers were last seen on May 13 at both Portland (JG & RK) and Seattle (Zella Schultz). There were reports of 80-100 Audubon's Warblers at Ship-Ashore, April 15 (JH & OS); 20-30 at Portland, May 7 and 10 (JG & RK); and a "heavy flight" through Lebanon, May 3 (WT). Townsend's Warblers were in Medford in unusually large numbers from April 30 on, with some still present at the end of May (JH); 30 were in Seward Park, Seattle on May 13 (Zella Schultz); and the species was said to be early and in good numbers at Bellingham (TRW). A MacGillivray's Warbler was killed when it flew against a Seattle window on the rather early date of April 15 (VEC). A Yellow-throat was also early at Lebanon, April 8 (WT). Yellow-breasted Chats were reported as "abundant" there after May 7 (WT), but there was no mention of this species by other observers.

Blackbirds and Tanagers—Yellow-headed Blackbirds arrived at Sauvie Island on April 15, were first seen at Delta Park in Portland on April 20, and were being regularly found in both places at the end of the report period. One was seen at Victoria on April 22 (R. Fryer, *fide DS*) and 2 on May 20 (ARD, *fide DS*); the bird is of very rare occurrence on Vancouver Island. Five S Tricolored Blackbirds were seen in north Portland on April 29 (JG & RK); the white wing patches were well seen from as close as 15 yards and the peculiar call was well heard. This species is nesting again this season at Medford (JA). Brown-headed Cowbirds had become well established in Portland and in Seattle as early

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as April 8. A female of this species came aboard the "Mara-bell" at anchor in Jorgensen Harbor on May 25, and two days later a male alighted on the vessel (JEVG). Thackaberry had the rare privilege of finding more than 100 male W. Tanagers in the woods of his farm near Lebanon on May 10. Evening Grosbeaks appeared in good numbers in Seattle and Portland in early or mid-April, remaining for about a month; they had all but disappeared from Bellingham by May 17. Small flocks of this species also were seen near Government Camp on Mount Hood on May 27 (JG, RK & HBN).

Fringillids—Lazuli Buntings were reported as "plentiful" in the Lebanon area (WT). Wahl reported Purple Finches present in good numbers at Bellingham, but noted that decreases in recent years' populations of this species coincide with an increase in House Finches in that area. Pine Siskins were uniformly notable by their virtual absence. The Red Crossbill was another species notable principally for its virtual absence; 4 were seen in Portland on April 27 and a small flock above Timberline Lodge on Mount Hood, May 27 (JG,

RK & HBN). The migration of White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows at Victoria was particularly good this year, with great numbers of the latter species present on May 12 (ES). A lone Golden-crown was still in Seattle on May 22 (ES). The White-throated Sparrow that frequented a feeder at West Linn, Oreg., was last seen on April 20 (*fide HBN*). Four Lapland Longspurs were found at the south jetty of the Columbia River, April 16 (JGO), with 1 still there on April 23 (HBN); 12 individuals were counted on Leadbetter Point, May 6 (DBM). A single Snow Bunting was also at the south jetty on the very late date of April 16 (JGO).

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The Nesting Season, 1967

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION / Thomas H. Rogers

Over the Region the general weather pattern in the lowlands was that of a June distinctly wetter than usual but with normal temperatures. Heat and drought set in abruptly late in the month, however, and continued almost without a break until the end of the period. For example, Spokane, Wash. received only .06 in. of precipitation in July (avg. .38 in.) with no

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measurable amount after the 8th, and a maximum temperature of 103° F. was reached. The Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. recorded .05 in. of moisture; Missoula, Mont., .30 in.; and Baker, Oreg., .10 in. Interior British Columbia appeared to have had similar drought conditions, which started earlier in June, although the persistence of a heavy snow pack in the mountains probably mitigated conditions somewhat. The wet spring favored an excellent growth of vegetation, supplying an abundance of food. Midsummer found vegetation drying rapidly but apparently without serious adverse effects upon bird life. At Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash. some shallow potholes were dry by mid-July and many other water areas decreased substantially. Of special interest are Jim Grant's records for central British Columbia, an area seldom heard from.

Loons and Grebes—A Com. Loon nest with 2 eggs was found at Opatcho Lake, Prince George, B. C., June 11. Two birds of this species were noted at O'Sullivan Dam, Grant Co., Wash., June 3 (*S.A.S.*), and an estimated 5 were at Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Lake Co., Mont. during the summer. No nesting was observed. All 5 species of grebes that occur in the Region nested at Ninepipe Refuge; estimated numbers for each species there were: Red-necked Grebe, 100; Horned Grebe, 10; Eared Grebe, 50; Western Grebe, 200; and Pied-billed Grebe, 75. At Reardan, Wash. 35 to 40 nests of the Eared Grebe were noted (*S.A.S.*).

Pelicans, Cormorants, Herons—The White Pelican was noted in the Bozeman, Mont. area, and 4 were at O'Sullivan Dam on June 3 (*S.A.S.*); 66 remained to feed at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. from late June on. The Double-crested Cormorant was noted at Ennis, Madison Co., Mont. on June 11, and a few were seen at McNary Refuge in early July. Two Black-crowned Night Herons were at Ninepipe Refuge, and 10 were seen at Columbia Refuge, June 3 (*S.A.S.*); about 25 spent the summer at McNary Refuge.

Waterfowl—A pair of Trumpeter Swans near Harrison, Madison Co., Mont. had 5 cygnets, June 25. One of the captive Trumpeter Swans at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash. hatched 4 young, June 17. The bird was a 4-year-old transferred from Red Rock Lakes Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Beaverhead Co., Mont. as a cygnet in 1963. A peak of 120 Canada Goose goslings was reported at Ninepipe Refuge. An unusual spring migration report, delayed for further checking, was of up to 150 Ross' Geese at Ravalli Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, near Stevensville, Mont., between April 16 and May 14 (*GDeV, CLB*). A single bird of this species was identified at Frenchtown, near Missoula, Mont., May 14 (*JCY*). At Columbia Refuge the Mallard population, at 600, was about 20 percent under the average for the last 3 breeding seasons. Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal, the other two common breeders there, maintained their levels about as usual-250-300, about equal numbers of each species. The breeding season population of Ring-necked Ducks at Ninepipe Refuge was about 50. An adult male Surf Scoter was seen with 2 female scoters, each with 5 young, on an unnamed lake at Mile 283, Alaska Highway, July 25. Eight broods of Hooded Mergansers were noted on Ravalli Refuge.

Hawks—Few hawk sightings were reported. A Goshawk was seen on Huckleberry Mt., Stevens Co., Wash., July 17 (*JA*). An adult was seen near Germansen Landing, near the 56th parallel north of Prince George, B. C., July 7. Three unused nests, almost certainly of this species, were noted in the Prince George vicinity. The varying hare population in the area crashed 2 years

ago; this probably accounts for the Goshawk scarcity. A pair of Swainson's Hawks had 2 young in the nest on July 13 at Baker, Oreg. The Golden Eagle was seen in the Peola Mts. area, 20 mi. from Clarkston, Wash., June 14 (*HW & GW*). The species was also noted in the Bozeman area and on the Nat'l Bison Range. Marsh Hawks and Sparrow Hawks were reported fairly commonly in the Region. A Peregrine Falcon was observed at McNary Refuge early in July.

Gallinaceous Birds—Ten broods of Spruce Grouse (*franklinii*) were seen along the road from Ft. St. James to Germansen Landing, July 29-30. The Ruffed Grouse was rather scarce in the Prince George area. Ring-necked Pheasant reproduction appeared to be good to excellent, with the possible exception of Spokane, Wash. Three large Chukar broods were noted at the Nat'l Bison Range, and the species was sighted in the Clarkston area (*MJP*). The Gray Partridge was the most abundant game bird at the Bison Range, where many large broods were seen.

Cranes and Rails—Six Sandhill Cranes were seen in flight along Highway 97 near 112-Mile House in the Cariboo district of British Columbia, July 4. A pair with 2 small young was seen at Ennis, Mont., June 11, and another pair with young was sighted near Belgrade, Mont., June 25 (*RAH, DRS & PDS*). The Virginia Rail was reported at Reardan, Wash. (*S.A.S.*), at the Bison Range, at Ninepipe Refuge and near Lolo, south of Missoula, Mont., where a downy young was seen with an adult (*RLH & JOS*).

Shorebirds—A single *Snowy Plover* seen at Reardan on May 28 was eastern Washington's first record for the species (*JA, WH*). Two young Killdeer were almost ready to fly on the early date of May 9 at Coldstream near Vernon, B. C. (*Mrs. JTF*). Fifty Com. Snipe nests were found at Ravalli Refuge. Solitary Sandpipers were sighted at several localities around Prince George, and 2 young, barely able to fly, were seen at a small sphagnum bog in the vicinity of Strathnaver, south of Prince George, July 16. Young Greater Yellowlegs, which looked big enough to fly but ran and hid, were seen 40 mi. north of Ft. St. James, northwest of Prince George, July 7; flying young were noted in that area on July 29. A pair of Lesser Yellowlegs, which showed anxiety, was watched at a marsh 8 mi. south of Vanderhoof, west of Prince George, June 18. The species is not known to breed this far south. A Long-billed Dowitcher noted at Missoula on July 17 was 12 days earlier than

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Hand's previous early fall migration record. A flock of about 24 Marbled Godwits was carefully identified at

Ninepipe Refuge on July 15 (RLH JOS); previous records at Ninepipe Refuge by these observers had been in April and May. A Northern Phalarope was still at Columbia Refuge on June 3 (JA).

Gulls and Terns—About 30 California Gulls, some of which nested, were at Ninepipe Refuge along with about 150 Ring-billed Gulls. An unusually late Bonaparte's Gull was at Ennis, Mont., June 11, and 2 immatures of this species were seen at Columbia Refuge, June 3 (S.A.S.). An adult was found on a small pond 23 mi. north of Ft. St. James, B. C., July 7. An estimated 250 Forster's and 75 Com. Terns were seen at Ninepipe Refuge, and a single Caspian Tern was noted at Columbia Refuge, June 3 (JA). About 20 pairs of Black Terns were observed at a marsh 8 mi. south of Vanderhoof, B. C., June 7.

Pigeons, Doves, Owls—A *Band-tailed Pigeon*, apparently the first for this section of Washington, was observed carefully at Indian Canyon Park in Spokane, June 16 (WH). Mourning Doves were not noted in the Prince George area this summer. A Long-eared Owl was identified along Peola Road near Clarkston, Wash., July 12 (MJP). An estimated 4 Short-eared Owls were at Ninepipe Refuge, and nests were reported at the Nat'l Bison Range. A Saw-whet Owl nest containing 2 young was found on Mission Creek at the Bison Range.

Goatsuckers, Swifts, Hummingbirds—Several Poor-will reports were received from the Dartford area just north of Spokane (S.A.S.), and a bird of this species was hit by a car along the Indian Trail Road a few miles north of that city (EM). Although listed as common at Ninepipe Refuge, Com. Nighthawk was not noted there during the summer. The Black Swift was seen at the Bison Range. Two fledgling Rufous Hummingbirds, just out of the nest, were seen at Prince George, July 9.

Woodpeckers—The Yellow-shafted Flicker was noted breeding north of Ft. St. James and at Mile 241, Alaska Highway, B. C. A pair of flickers at Baker, Oreg., forced from their nest cavity by Starlings, returned about July 5, after the site had been vacated by the intruders, and successfully reared 4 young. The male was a distinctively marked hybrid, making his identity virtually certain. After July 25, the female apparently disappeared, the male completing the rearing. One of a pair of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers nesting at Cinema, 30 mi. north of Quesnel, B. C. appeared to be pure *nuchalis*. The locality is north of the normal range of this race. Williamson's Sapsucker was seen on July 16 near West Yellowstone, Gallatin Co., Mont. (RAH & ET); a pair was noted nesting in the same area as last year on Huckleberry Mt., Wash. (JA); and a nesting pair was found in a Ponderosa Pine area just west of Sisters,

Oreg., June 18 (TMC). The White-headed Woodpecker was noted on 2 occasions in the mountains near Moscow, Idaho and in the Long Lake Dam area west of Spokane (JA). A Northern Three-toed Woodpecker nest found in a living aspen 40 mi. south of Prince George, B. C. contained noisy young on June 15.

Flycatchers—In the Spokane area both E. and W. Kingbirds may have experienced a decline. The former species was noted feeding young at Mile 307, Alaska Highway, near Ft. Nelson, B. C., July 26, and the latter species, although listed as common at Ninepipe Refuge, was rarely seen there. Ash-throated Flycatchers were noted on 2 occasions near Clarkston (MJP) and on June 3 at Columbia Refuge (JA).

Swallows, Jays—Tree Swallows occupied some of the Wood Duck nest boxes put out at Ninepipe Refuge. Tree Swallows were reported as common at Ft. Nelson and Barn and Cliff Swallows as common in the Prince George district. Some of the many Cliff Swallows at the Bison Range took over Barn Swallow nests, rebuilding them for their own use. Hundreds of Bank Swallows nested in sand pits north of the Spokane city limits. The Black-billed Magpie apparently has increased greatly in numbers in the Peace River area since Munro and Cowan described it as "rare" in 1947; 10 of the birds were seen on July 22-23 in the Dawson Creek area between East Pine and Mile 28, Alaska Highway. Clark's Nutcracker was noted in Bozeman until late June, suggesting possible breeding in the valley; the species also was noted in June in the lowlands near Clarkston (MJP).

Chickadees and Wrens—The Boreal Chickadee was reported as fairly common in the Ft. Nelson area. Several groups were seen in forest infected with spruce budworm at Parker Creek, Mile 241, Alaska Highway, July 24-26. The species also was noted at Salmo Pass, Pend Oreille Co., Wash., Aug. 5 (JA). The Winter Wren was observed at the summit of Fourth of July Canyon, Highway 10, east of Coeur d' Alene, Idaho (S.A.S.); at Big Creek (RLH); and in the mountains around the Bitterroot Valley, Ravalli Co., Mont. A recently vacated nest of this species was found near Barkerville, east of Quesnel, B. C. The site was unusual: 6.5 ft. above ground, in the lower branch of a large alpine fir.

Mimic Thrushes and Thrushes—The Sage Thrasher was noted at Clarkston, July 9 (MJP). A Gray-cheeked Thrush was singing along the Manson River, 95 mi. north of Ft. St. James, B. C., July 6. Western Bluebirds were reported only from the Moscow, Idaho, and Spokane and Clarkston, Wash. areas. Mountain Bluebird success appeared to be varied. On one ranch in the foothills in the Bitterroot Valley 15 pairs nested in boxes, but of the numerous boxes distributed over

the vicinity of Ninepipe Refuge, none within 3 or 4 miles was occupied by bluebirds.

Waxwings, Starlings—A pair of Bohemian Waxwings was noted building a nest in a lodgepole pine along the Manson River, 90 mi. north of Ft. St. James, July 6. Four Starlings were seen at Ft. Nelson, July 27.

Warblers—Tennessee Warblers were observed at Prince George, north of Ft. St. James and at Mile 241, Alaska Highway. The Magnolia Warbler was

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one of the most common warblers in mixed woods at Prince George; a singing male was noted at Germansen Landing and flying young being fed by parents at Hixon, south of Prince George. Blackpoll Warblers also were noted in the Prince George district on several occasions; a parent bird was feeding flying young at Strathnaver on July 16. A group of Palm Warblers was observed and 1 young photographed at Parker Creek, Mile 241, Alaska Highway, July 24. Northern Waterthrush was seen in the Prince George district, in the Bozeman area, at St. Maries, Idaho (S.A.S.), and in the Bitterroot Valley, where an adult and a young bird were seen.

Blackbirds and Tanagers—Bobolinks were observed at the usual site near St. Marks, Idaho (WH, S.A.S.) and were abundant in the Bitterroot Valley around Stevensville, Mont. (CLB, WH). The species was seen at Bozeman and 3 were seen on the Bison Range, June 11. Two pairs of Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen at a marsh near Vanderhoof, B. C., June 7. These birds are scarce this far north. Nests and young of the Rusty Blackbird were noted at several localities in the Prince George district. A pair of Com. Grackles, which acted as if they were nesting nearby, were observed at Salmon, Idaho, June 27 (VGDaC). Young Brown-headed Cowbirds were noted being fed by Yellow Warblers at Baker, Ore. and Prince George; by Oregon Juncos, Song Sparrows and Chipping Sparrows at Spokane (S.A.S.); and by a Brewer's Blackbird at Missoula. Large numbers of Western Tanagers were migrating in the Gallatin Valley at Bozeman June 11.

Grosbeaks, Finches—Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were common in the Ft. Nelson, B. C. area; several family groups were noted. Evening Grosbeaks were common in the valley at Bozeman until June 25, but in the Bitterroot Valley their numbers were down from previous summers. The species was noted only at higher elevations in eastern Washington and was fairly common in central British Columbia but no evidence of breeding was obtained. At Missoula, Mont. 1 male and 2 female *House Finches* were identified, June 17

and July 8 (RLH), and an immature specimen, believed to be the first for Montana, was taken (PLW). Pine Grosbeaks were noted at several localities around Prince George; a fledgling was seen near Germansen Landing on July 7, and the species was noted in the Bozeman area. Pine Siskins were late returning and low in numbers in the Spokane area (S.A.S.), appeared to be scarce elsewhere, but were described as common at Mile 241, Alaska Highway on July 24. A pair was feeding young in the nest at Vernon, B. C. on Apr. 10 and young were out of the nest there on Apr. 21. Red Crossbills lingered at Bozeman until June 25. A few noted in the Bitterroot Valley and around Spokane (S.A.S.) were the only reports of the species. White-winged Crossbills were noted only in a mature spruce forest near Nation River, 60 mi. north of Ft. St. James, B. C., July 7. The spruce cone crop was very sparse in this part of British Columbia this year.

Sparrows—Lark Buntings, probably breeding, were seen rather frequently through June near Three Forks and Belgrade, Mont. The Sage Sparrow was noted at Clarkston on June 14 (MJP), and 1 was seen carrying food in sagebrush in the foothills of the Bitterroot Valley. There are no breeding records for the state but the possibility is strongly suggested by these observations. Brewer's Sparrows were seen in the Clarkston area on several dates (MJP). A few White-crowned Sparrows were present in the Prince George area, and the White-throated Sparrow was common south to Quesnel and also at Ft. Nelson. In the same general area, Lincoln's Sparrow was very common at marsh edges and moist depressions in the forest. A Swamp Sparrow was observed singing at a marshy lake 7 miles west of Ft. Nelson, July 26.

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The Nesting Season, 1967

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

The spring migration continued until about the third week of June, a month which was cool and wet. This is an understatement. It was the wettest June on record—another understatement. June was the wettest month yet recorded in central Wyoming or, to put it another way, June and the early part of July were the rainiest period we have ever had. This was true of both Colorado and Wyoming and to a lesser extent of the western part of the Region. The remainder of the period was characteristically hot and dry, without rain, which is normal. Owing to the floods, water birds and shorebirds had a poor nesting season, but upland gallinaceous birds did very well. Passerines

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had their troubles with heavy rains and didn't seem to do very well. The Region still has too few observers, and our knowledge of the distribution of birds is too fragmentary. Consequently, a mist-netting program at Ruby Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in northeastern Nevada is rewriting our knowledge of the birds of that area. A somewhat similar phenomenon is occurring at Craters of the Moon Nat'l Monument in central Idaho, caused merely by the presence of a competent observer. For the past nine years Pyramid Lake in western Nevada, which is fed by the Truckee River, has been drying up. This year there was a huge run-off from the Sierra snowpack, and Pyramid Lake rose to the level of 9 years ago. This was fortunate because Anaho Is., the famous rookery in the lake, would have become part of the mainland had the drying process continued (*JMD*).

Loons—A sighting of an adult Com. Loon and 3 apparent juveniles on Torrey Lake at the Audubon Camp of the West in the Wind River Mountains of western Wyoming (*WAH*) is a probable breeding record farther south and east than previously reported in the Region.

Pelicans—This year Anaho Is. in Pyramid Lake was used by 6500 adult White Pelicans, and 1500 young were produced (*LDN*). The White Pelican population at Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in eastern Oregon, where the species did not breed, was 2300 birds (*ELMcL*). Bear River Marshes at the upper end of Great Salt Lake had 10,000 White Pelicans, which bred elsewhere (*GRZ*).

Geese and Ducks—A straggling Snow Goose found at Mulligan Lake in South Park in the Colorado mountains on June 4 (*RG*) was unusual for that area. A Ross' Goose was seen at Tule Lake in the Klamath Basin in extreme northern California on Aug. 4 (*JG*). Because of early high water, Stillwater Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Nevada experienced a drop in the breeding population of ducks, which resulted in decreased production (*LDN*). In contrast, Malheur Refuge produced 22,800 waterfowl this year compared with 13,000 last year, thanks to much better water conditions; at this refuge Gadwall production was up 117 percent to 8700 (38 percent of the total production), with Redheads second and Blue-winged/Cinnamon Teal third in importance (*ELMcL*). At Bear River Marshes breeding was very scattered because of the high water, with a production of 14,360 ducks (*GRZ*). Monte Vista Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in southern Colorado produced 18,000 ducks compared with 23,000 last year, owing to the cool moist weather, and brood sizes there were smaller (*CRB*). Wood Ducks were found nesting on the Carson River on the eastern slope of the Sierra in western Nevada on June 14, with 3 groups totaling 21 birds being observed (*JMD*).

Heron—A Green Heron found at Fish Springs Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in the desert of western Utah on Aug. 6 (*DMcK*) was most unusual.

Eagles—A Golden Eagle nesting on a haystack at Malheur Refuge (*ELMcL*) also was rather unusual. We have no general statement as to how Golden Eagles fared this year except for one educated estimate for all of Wyoming that they had better than average success in rearing young this year (*EP*).

Grouse, Cranes—A very successful breeding season for Sage Grouse was noted in the vicinity of Craters of the Moon Nat'l Monument (*DLC*). This species also did well in central Wyoming, particularly in an area where sagebrush had been destroyed with 2-4D (*OKS*). Two Sandhill Cranes spent the summer at Monte Vista Refuge; although none have nested there yet, more and more cranes have used this refuge (*CRB*).

Shorebirds—Two Mountain Plover nests were found near Antero Reservoir in South Park, in the mountains

west of Colorado Springs, June 18 and 24 (RG); formerly this bird was much more common in Colorado.

Owls—A gray phase Screech Owl was seen on June 21 in Zion Canyon, southern Utah (BL), and another was found dead on July 10 in Logan Canyon, northeastern Utah (DMF); this bird is not often reported in Utah. A **Pygmy Owl** was seen at Louise Lake near the Audubon Camp of the West for the first record of this bird in the Wind River Mountains (WAH). A Saw-whet Owl was mist-netted at Ruby Lake Refuge for the first record for northeastern Nevada (DEL); another was reported in juniper-Piñon growth at Cedar City in southern Utah on July 27 (SM).

Woodpeckers—Lewis' Woodpeckers were found to be remarkably common at Craters of the Moon Nat'l Monument (DLC). A Northern Three-toed Woodpecker found nesting at Brighton, Utah, in the Wasatch Range near Salt Lake City, was almost three-fourths of a mile from pine trees (GK); usually this bird is closely associated with pines.

Flycatchers, Swallows—On July 10 a Great Crested Flycatcher was found at the Horticultural Station in Cheyenne, southeastern Wyoming (RH), a splendid trap of trees in the middle of a vast treeless prairie. This bird is accidental in Wyoming. An E. Phoebe was seen on June 5 at the Goose Egg in central Wyoming (OKS), where this bird has been casual. Purple Martins were seen at Tony Grove Lake, Logan Canyon, all June and July, but

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nests were not found (DMF). Nine martins were present on Aug. 8 near Cedar City in southwestern Utah (SM). Martins are rare in Utah and even scarcer in the states to the east until one gets to the plains.

Mockingbirds—There was a minor invasion of this species in the Carson City—Truckee area, where they are normally scarce, and an immature bird was seen near Carson City (JMD). Ordinarily the Mockingbird is confined to southern Nevada, and there are no breeding records for central Nevada.

Warblers—The mist-netting program at Ruby Lake Refuge yielded a Myrtle Warbler, the first recorded in northeastern Nevada; a **Blackpoll Warbler**, the first record for the state; and a **Northern Waterthrush**, also a first record for the state (DEL). On June 9 a **Cape May Warbler** was seen in eastern Oregon sagebrush country at Malheur Refuge by the Oregon Natural History Society; this is probably the first record for the state (ELMcL).

Bobolink, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Sparrows—The large Bobolink colony present last year south of Logan, Utah was not present this year (DMF); apparently this species can be variable. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen at Sheridan in northern Wyoming, July 16-31 (TK); this species is often seen as a migrant in Wyoming but rarely in the middle of summer. A pair of Evening Grosbeaks was reported on July 5 near Bergen Park west of Denver (VR); it is suspected that these birds may have nested in the area and, if so, this would be a new station for them in Colorado. An Indigo Bunting was seen on June 21 in Zion Nat'l Park, southern Utah, where it has not been recorded previously (BL). This bird has been considered casual in Utah. Another was seen on June 6 at Goose Egg in central Wyoming, where they are probably only rare and where intergrades with the Lazuli Bunting are not too unusual (LL). Mist-netting at Ruby Lake Refuge yielded a **Harris' Sparrow**, the second record for northeastern Nevada, and a **White-throated Sparrow**, the third record for the state (DEL).

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The Nesting Season, 1967

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

The summer was hotter and drier than usual throughout the entire Region for the second successive year. Western Oregon and Washington had little or no rain and generally experienced warm sunny days almost continuously after mid-June. The weather pattern thus contributed significantly to what seems to have been a successful nesting season for many species. The Columbia River system had uncommonly high waters through most of June because of a good snow pack in much of the basin. Whether the presence of snow in mountain areas usually clear before June had any effect on nesting activities is unknown. The warm dry spell was still holding at the end of the period and may account for the virtual disappearance from lowland areas of some species, particularly swallows, after Aug. 1.

Loons, Grebes—A few adult and immature Com. Loons were observed almost daily throughout June and July on salt water north of Prince Rupert, B. C. (*JEVG*). A late seasonal movement of Arctic and Red-throated Loons past the entrance of Tillamook Bay, Oreg., occurred on June 10 (*RF* & *HBN*). Red-throated Loons were seen almost daily from mid-June to the end of July from the Canadian oceanographic vessel "Marabell" in its working area north of Prince Rupert (*JEVG*). A Red-necked Grebe was seen at Cougar Bay, Princess Royal Is., B. C., June 3 (*JEVG*). Four individuals of this species were found on Lake Terrell near Bellingham, Wash. on the early date of Aug. 7 (*TRW*). Several thousand non-breeding W. Grebes were on Bellingham Bay on June 1; by mid-July, about 60 birds remained (*TRW*). Eight birds of this species on July 12 in Portland Inlet north of Prince Rupert (*JEVG*) were the only ones seen from the "Mara-bell" during the report period.

Albatrosses, Shearwaters and Petrels—Fifteen Black-footed Albatrosses were seen during the morning of July 26 on Queen Charlotte Sound, B. C.; 6 more were noted about noon of Aug. 7 at the mouth of the Strait of Juan de Fuca (*JEVG*). Nineteen Fulmars were on Queen Charlotte Sound, July 26; most were intermediate phase birds; another was seen on Aug. 7 at the mouth of the Strait of Juan de Fuca (*JEVG*). In late July 5000 Sooty Shearwaters were observed off Tofino, B. C. on the ocean side of Vancouver Is. (Wayne Campbell, *fide DS*); up to 3000 birds per hour milled past the north jetty of the Columbia River on Aug. 5 (*RF* & *HBN*). Goodwill saw comparatively limited numbers of this species from the "Marabell" at the end of July while en route from Princess Royal Is. to Victoria. Numbers of Fork-tailed Petrels were on the ocean 2 and 3 miles off Yaquina Bay, near Newport, Oreg. on Aug. 12 (*WT*). Both Fork-tailed and Leach's Petrels were found breeding on Cleland Is. off Tofino (*DS*) during the report period.

Hérons, Waterfowl—Great Blue Herons were said to have had a successful breeding season in northern Washington (*ES*, *TRW*); from 1 to 3 birds a week were seen from coastal waters of northern British Columbia during the period (*JEVG*). Before July 15, Green Herons were found at Portland, Bay City, Salem, Sutherlin, and above Gold Ray Dam on the Rogue River, all in Oregon; the individuals at Anacortes on July 30 (*TRW*), at Issaquah on Aug. 7, and at Long Branch on Aug. 9 (*ES*), all in Washington, were probably post-breeding northward wanderers. A pair of Am. Bitterns nested on Sauvie Is., Oreg. (Norman Minnick, *fide HBN*). Up to 9 Canada Geese were seen repeatedly at Portland Inlet, B. C., in mid-June (*JEVG*); a lone (Cackling) Canada Goose summered at

Bellingham (*TRW*); 20 of the Great Basin race were at Sauvie Is. on July 20 (*HBN*). Six Black Brant were seen at the entrance to Tillamook Bay on June 10 (*RF* & *HBN*). Three White-fronted Geese flew over Chatham Sound, B. C., on July 8 (*JEVG*); an adult was on Sauvie Is. on June 3 in company with an immature Snow Goose (*JG*, *RK* & *HBN*). Ducks nesting along non-diked reaches of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers were flooded out by June's high water; Mallards were the principal victims. Two Gadwall nests were found on Iona Is., B. C. but were later abandoned (Madelon Schouten). Young Gadwalls were seen at Seattle on July 2 (*VEC*); a pair of adults was found in Portland's Delta Park on June 10 (*JG* & *RK*). A Blue-winged Teal was seen on Sauvie Is., June 3; conceivably it was the same bird seen 12 days later at Delta Park (*HBN*). A few Cinnamon Teal spent the breeding season in the Portland area, although no signs of nesting were observed. A Shoveler was still at Sauvie Is., June 3, but was not subsequently seen (*HBN*). Three Wood Duck broods were observed during the 1967 breeding season in the Courtenay, B. C. area (*DS*). Two adult and 7 young Ring-necked Ducks at Trillium Lake on Mount Hood on Aug. 14 (*HBN*) were evidence of successful nesting there again this year. Barrow's Goldeneye again nested successfully at Lost Lake

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on Oregon's Santiam Pass (*WT*). Goodwill found Harlequin Ducks along the northern British Columbia coast almost daily in June and July; by late June family groups were in evidence and after July 1 several groups of between 20 and 40 were seen. Single birds and groups of up to 12 White-winged Scoters were seen along the British Columbia coast during June and July. The same was true of Surf Scoters except that flocks of more than 100 birds were seen on several occasions; the flock of over 200 Surf Scoters at Portland Inlet on July 19 and other good-sized flocks seen on subsequent dates may have been post-breeding flocks of adults, birds of the year, or family groups. On Aug. 4 and 5 migrating flocks of both species were seen moving southward through the Straits of Georgia, B. C. (*DS*). A pair of Ruddy Ducks were convoying 7-week-old young at Delta Park on July 20 (*JG*, *RK* & *HBN*). Five half-grown young Com. Mergansers were in the Cascades east of Seattle on July 12 (*VEC*); more than 10 individuals of this species were seen in late July and early August at 2 widely separated points on Oregon's Santiam River (*WT*; *JG*, *RK* & *HBN*).

Vultures and Hawks—Turkey Vultures were thought to be more abundant than in the past at Courtenay on the east side of Vancouver Is. (*DS*). Red-tailed Hawks nested successfully at several places in the Willamette Valley. Golden Eagles were noted several times in the

Medford, Oreg. area during June (OS); an immature of this species was at Lopez Is. in the San Juans on July 8 (TRW). All known traditional Bald Eagle nesting sites along the Oregon coast were used this year (James Anderson, *vide* HBN). Goodwill's detailed reports of Bald Eagle sightings along the northern British Columbia coast for the period cover 6 pages; although it is impossible to offer a precise count, a conservative summary would estimate about 15 adults and 10 immatures in the Jorgensen Harbour area, about 20 adults and 10 immatures in the vicinity of Portland Inlet north of Prince Rupert and about 10 birds equally divided between adults and immatures in the Prince Rupert to Port Simpson areas; several aeries containing nestling birds were observed. Vance reports seeing 50 Bald Eagles in the Prince Rupert area on June 26. Marsh Hawks summered in the Whatcom and Skagit County areas of northern Washington in more than usual numbers (TRW); a pair fledged 2 young on Thackaberry's farm near Lebanon, Oreg., on their second nesting attempt. Ospreys apparently nested at Lake Whatcom near Bellingham and on Lopez Is. in the San Juans (TRW); birds were seen along the Willamette River and at Diamond Lake in Oregon during the nesting period; Goodwill reported 3 sightings along the coast of British Columbia. A Peregrine Falcon was observed at Victoria, B. C., July 9 (ARD), and a Pigeon Hawk was at Miracle Beach, Vancouver Is., Aug. 10 (DS). Sparrow Hawks seemingly had good nesting success in the Willamette Valley.

Rails, Shorebirds—By broadcasting taped rail calls over 2 marshes in Portland and at Sauvie Is. on Aug. 2, 28 Virginia Rails were counted (JG, RK & HBN); 4 Soras also responded. Two nests of the Black Oystercatcher were found in the vicinity of Portland Inlet, B. C., in mid-June (JGVG). A pair of Semipalmated Plovers nested at Iona Is., B. C. (Madelon Schouten, *vide* TRW); this is south of the species' usual breeding range on the Pacific coast. By the end of July small groups of Semipalmated Plover migrants were at Blaine and Anacortes, Wash.; at Miracle Beach; and at Sauvie Is. Two pairs of Snowy Plovers had 5 young on June 5 at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., (WT), where the species also nested last year. Killdeer numbers on salt water at Bellingham in July (TRW) and in the Willamette Valley indicated a successful season. An Am. Golden Plover was reported from Victoria, B. C., on July 27 (ARD). Surfbirds had returned there by July 6 while a Ruddy Turnstone was found there on July 19 (ARD). The first returning Black Turnstones were at Blaine on July 23 (TRW). The uncommonly dry weather is suspected to have had adverse effects on the nesting success of Com. Snipe (HBN & WT). Four Whimbrels were at Blaine on July 23 (TRW). Several very young Spotted Sandpipers from 2 nests were seen

at Seattle on July 3 (VEC). Wandering Tattlers were at Victoria, July 28 (ARD); at the north jetty of the Columbia River, Aug. 5 (RF & HBN); and at Depoe Bay, Aug. 13 (Irving Curran). A Greater Yellowlegs was seen in Portland on June 14 (JG & RK); 4 birds were at Bellingham, July 2 (TRW), and one was at Agate Lake, near Medford on July 9 (OS). A flock of Knots was flying over the ocean 2 or 3 miles from shore at Newport, Oreg. on Aug. 12 (WT). Least Sandpipers first reappeared in the Region on July 9 at Agate Lake, where 35 were present by July 22 (OS); by the latter date the species was present in small numbers at favored localities in the rest of the Region. Two Long-billed Dowitchers were at Agate Lake as early as July 9; one was seen there on July 22 (OS); 6 appeared on July 23 at Marietta, Wash., where small groups were still being seen at the end of the period (TRW). Several hundred W. Sandpipers were at Blaine on July 2, with numbers building up to thousands by the end of the period (TRW); over 100 individuals were flocked at Agate Lake on July 9 (OS); the species was widespread in the Region by the end of the report period. Four Sanderlings at Leadbetter Point, Wash. on Aug. 5 were the first reports of returning individuals of this species (RF & HBN). Wilson's Phalarope nested on Iona Is., B. C. (Madelon Schouten, *vide* TRW), and at Hoover Lakes, near Medford (OS); 9 birds were at Iona Is. on Aug. 5 (John B. Anderton). One bird was at Sauvie Is., Aug. 12 (HBN). Northern Phalaropes were noted regularly along the coast of northern British Columbia after July 8 in groups of from 8 to 100 (JGVG); individuals were at Victoria by July 15 (ARD) and were widely scattered on northern Washington and southern British Columbia waters by the first week in August.

Jaegers, Gulls, Terns—A well-observed *Long-tailed Jaeger* flew southward over the east end of Portland Inlet, B. C., on June 15 (JGVG); this

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constitutes a rather southerly record for this species on that date. On Protection Is., near Port Townsend, Wash. banded totals of Glaucous-winged Gulls were about normal with some 1200 birds banded, indicating that the breeding colony was relatively undisturbed. On Colville Is., off Lopez Is. in the San Juans, only 600 young—less than half the regular number—were found and banded; disturbance apparently resulted in simple failure of the birds to produce eggs and young. On a rock off Waldron Is. in the northern San Juans where 300 to 400 adults were seen, one live chick and hundreds of dead young indicated an ill-timed and disturbing landing or series of landings made by boaters (TRW, ES). Goodwill saw small numbers of Glaucous-winged Gulls in June and July along the coast of British Columbia. He also saw occasional Herring Gulls, the

maximum being 35 along Broughton Strait in the evening of July 26. California Gulls appeared first at Seattle (*ES*) and at Bellingham (*TRW*) on July 23; a flock of 50 sub-adult California and 50 sub-adult Ring-billed Gulls was on Sauvie Is., June 28 (*HBN*). One of the flight routes used both by California and Ring-billed Gulls to the coast from the interior after the breeding season is down the Columbia River; groups were seen coming through the Columbia Gorge repeatedly during July (*HBN*). A lone sub-adult California Gull was at Port Simpson, B. C., June 20-21 (*JEVG*); 50 individuals were at the mouth of Gold River, west side of Vancouver Is., Aug. 11 (*JEVG*). Mew Gulls appeared at Bellingham on July 23 (*TRW*) and at Seattle on Aug. 8 (*ES*). Goodwill saw many Mew and Bonaparte's Gulls—both adult and immature—along the coast of British Columbia in June and July; 500 of the latter were seen along Discovery Passage on July 27. As early as July 1, 200 Bonaparte's Gulls were at Bellingham (*TRW*), while on Aug. 9, 2000 were at Prince Rupert (*HRV*). A single bird was at Oysterville on Willapa Bay, Wash. Aug. 5 (*RF* & *HBN*). Immature Franklin's Gulls again appeared in the Bellingham area; the first was at Bellingham on Aug. 5 and single birds were at Blaine, Ladner, and Iona Is. on Aug. 13 (*TRW*). Three adult Heermann's Gulls were at the entrance to Tillamook Bay on the early date of June 10 (*RF* & *HBN*); this species first appeared at Victoria on July 9 (*ARD*) and in early August hundreds were roosting on islets off of Tofino, B. C. (Wayne Campbell, *vide DS*). Four Black-legged Kittiwakes were at the mouth of Tillamook Bay on June 10 (*RF* & *HBN*). On June 3 there were 21 Com. Terns at Blaine, on June 21 there were 15, on July 23 there were 25, and on Aug. 13 there were more than 200 (*TRW*). Good numbers of this species were on Puget Sound in early August (*ES*). Single Caspian Terns were seen at Miracle Beach, Vancouver Is., during July (*DS*); the species evidently bred again on the southwest Washington coast.

Alcids—Common Murres were numerous on Puget Sound in early August (*ES*); over 300 flew north past the Columbia River mouth on Aug. 5 (*RF* & *HBN*). Single individuals were encountered off the northern British Columbia coast in June and July; several hundred were on the ocean northwesterly of the Strait of Juan de Fuca on Aug. 7 (*JEVG*). Pigeon Guillemots were encountered on coastal waters of northern British Columbia in numbers up to 5 in a day during June and July; one flying over the water north of Port Simpson on the morning of July 9 was carrying a small fish in its bill (*JEVG*). Marbled Murrelets in breeding dress were encountered daily by the "Marabell" in Portland Inlet and on Chatham Sound during June and July (*JEVG*). More than 400 Cassin's Auklets were counted northwest of the Strait of Juan de Fuca on Aug. 7 in a 13-mile stretch some 3 or 4 miles to sea (*JEVG*); none

had been seen north of the northern tip of Vancouver Is. during June and July. Rhinoceros Auklets reportedly nested on Cleland Is. off Tofino, B. C. along with about 30 pairs of Tufted Puffins (Wayne Campbell and David Stirling). Rhinoceros Auklets were commonly seen on the coastal waters of northern British Columbia during June and July (*JEVG*) and up to 200 were seen in July around Victoria (*ARD*); by early August a few were to be found on Puget Sound (*ES*).

Pigeons, Owls—Band-tailed Pigeons evidently enjoyed good nesting success in northwestern Oregon and in the vicinity of Victoria. Mourning Doves also seem to have had a successful nesting season, at least in the northern Willamette Valley. Burrowing Owls were again in the vicinity where successful nesting has been carried on in the past at Eagle Point, Oreg., (Anne Briggs, *vide OS*). A pair of Long-eared Owls nested by May 1 in an abandoned Cooper's Hawk nest near Lebanon (*WT*).

Nighthawks, Swifts, Hummingbirds—Common Nighthawks evidently nested on building roofs in Seattle, Portland, and Roseburg, Oreg. and in more natural habitat such as gravel bars along the Santiam River this year; between 20 and 30 were feeding over Lost Lake on the Santiam Pass on July 31 (*WT*). Vaux's Swifts were rarely seen in northern Oregon and southern Washington this season; 5 young about a week old were discovered at Kirkland, Wash., July 17 (*ES*); 15 were over Trillium Lake on Mount Hood, Aug. 14 (*RK* & *HBN*). Most 8' Rufous Hummingbirds had seemingly departed the Seattle and Puget Sound areas by late July (*ES*). Two adults and 3 fully grown young *Allen's Hummingbirds* were watched at the summit of Dead Indian Road east of Ashland, Oreg. on July 3 (*JH* & *OS*). A pair of Calliope Hummingbirds nested west of Medford; young were seen in the nest on July 9 and had fledged by July 24 (*OS*).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers—Acorn Woodpeckers extended their breeding range a few miles beyond previous limits when a pair nested successfully about 6 miles northeast of Lebanon, Oreg., (*WT*). About 35 Lewis' Woodpeckers were in a loose flock south of Ashland, Oreg. on July 31 (*JH* & *OS*). Adult Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were observed feeding young on Sauvie Is., June 3 (*JG*, *RK* & *HBN*), and near Tacoma on June 11 (*VEC*). Western Kingbirds were more numerous than usual in southern

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Oregon (*OS*). A remarkable report is that of the finding of an *E. Phoebe* nest on July 31 near the base of Pilot Rock at 5000 ft. elevation in the Siskiyou Mtns. south of Ashland (*JH* & *OS*). The nest was 5 feet off the

ground in a bush, was made of fibers and contained 1 egg and 2 nestlings; the nestlings were being fed by both parents and the observers guessed they should fledge within a few days. Traill's Flycatchers did not appear in the Seattle area until June 11 (*ES*); they were considered to be present in good numbers in the Willamette Valley. Western Flycatchers remained very scarce in northwestern Oregon and perhaps, judging by the absence of reports, elsewhere as well. Western Wood Pewees were likewise thought to be considerably below normal numbers in northwestern Oregon, but Olive-sided Flycatchers seemed more than usually abundant in that area.

Larks, Swallows—A Horned Lark too young to fly on Aug. 5 south of Albany, Oreg., suggests a very late nesting (*WT*). Violet-green Swallows fledged young the first week in July at Seattle (*VEC, ES*); nesting numbers in Oregon seemed reduced for no readily explainable reason; there were virtually none to be found in the lowlands by the end of July. A fully albino bird of this species was reported from west of Portland in early July (*fide HBN*). Tree Swallows had a good nesting season in Oregon and Washington, but by the end of July this species also was scarce. Barn Swallows, however, were very much in evidence throughout the Region during the whole report period, with large numbers particularly at Bellingham (*TRW*) and along the coast. Cliff Swallows had many young in the air by early July in the Seattle area; the species enjoyed good nesting success in western Oregon also; with the advent of August numbers were greatly reduced. Purple Martins were down, not utilizing several known nesting areas or appearing in reduced numbers.

Magpies, Ravens, Titmice, Nuthatches, Wrentit—Nine Black-billed Magpies appeared together in Portland in mid-June (Lucille Higgins, *fide HBN*); one was in Ashland on June 3 (*JH & OS*). A pair of Com. Ravens was suspected of nesting in the Lebanon area this season (*WT*). Black-capped, Mountain and Chestnut-backed Chickadees all experienced good breeding success this year; as did the Com. Bushtit. Red-breasted Nuthatches were abundant in forested mountain regions of western Oregon. A Wrentit at Eugene, Oreg., on July 23 (Gerald Morsello) is noteworthy, as the species is virtually never found away from the coast.

Wrens, Mimids—House Wrens, uncommon anyway in the Willamette Valley, were even less evident this year; elsewhere they were unmentioned. Long-billed Marsh Wrens could be found in expectable locations in northwestern Oregon but seemed strangely reduced or missing in the Seattle area. A *Mockingbird* was discovered at Victoria about June 1; it subsequently built a nest and laid 4 eggs that, after 3 weeks, were

collected by the Provincial Museum. Only the single bird was seen (A. R. Davidson and Ralph Fryer). Six pairs of Catbirds nested in Pitt Meadows, B. C. this summer (Madelon Schouten, *fide TRW*). A *California Thrasher* near Medford may constitute the first record for this species in Oregon; the bird first appeared on July 20 at the feeders of Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Sheered on the western edge of the Rogue River Valley adjacent to chaparral covered foothills. It was still present at the end of the report period (*JH & OS*).

Thrushes, Gnatcatchers, Waxwings, Starlings—Last year what seemed to be reduced numbers of nesting Robins was tentatively attributed to uncommonly dry weather. This year was even drier and yet the general impression is that Robins have been highly prolific. Western Bluebirds are reported as "holding their own" in the Medford area, with at least 7 breeding pairs on Roxy Anne Butte (*OS*). An active nest was found in the Cascades east of Seattle on June 27 (*VEC*); a single bird on June 24 at Victoria (*ARD*) is the only British Columbia report of this species. An estimated 3 pairs of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nested on Roxy Ann Butte; a nest was found on June 10; fledged young being fed by an adult were seen on June 27 (*OS*). Cedar Waxwings were abundant in the Bellingham area (*TRW*) and were common in northwestern Oregon. Starlings continue to increase west of the Cascades during the breeding season but do not approach the numbers present in the winter, particularly in the Portland area; 5000 were estimated at Smithers, B. C. on Aug. 15 (*HRV*).

Vireos, Warblers—An adult Hutton's Vireo accompanied by several young birds was observed on July 2 at Victoria (*ARD*); individuals were present at Miracle Beach Park all summer (*DS*). Red-eyed Vireos were reported nesting "again" this summer on the N. Fork of the Stillaguamish River, east of Arlington, Wash. (*TRW*); a pair apparently defending territory was seen on the northeast side of Mount Hood 6 miles south of Parkdale along Route 35 on July 22 (*HBN*); 2 to 3 pairs were again found along Crabtree Creek east of Lebanon (*WT*); a nesting pair was found along the Rogue River at Foster Creek on June 24 (*OS*). A Nashville Warbler was found at Timberline Lodge on Mount Hood, Aug. 14 (*RK & HBN*). Yellow Warblers were thought to be reduced in numbers at Portland and were "extremely scarce" in the Eugene area (Gerald Morsello). Four Black-throated Gray Warblers at Miracle Beach Park in early August were noteworthy as the species is scarce on Vancouver Is. (*DS*). A pair of Townsend's Warblers were feeding 2 fledglings near Garibaldi, Oreg. on July 12 (Stirling Anderson, *fide HBN*). Twelve Hermit Warblers on Larch Mountain east of Portland, June 11 (*JG*) indicate that this is still one of the best places in the Region to be sure of

finding this species during the breeding season. Yellowthroats seemed reduced in numbers at their usual summertime haunts in the Portland area. Yellow-breasted Chats were very much in evidence in the Lebanon area this summer and were still engaging in night-time singing as late as Aug. 10 (WT).

Blackbirds, Orioles, Finches—A colony of about a dozen Yellow-headed Blackbirds on Sauvie Is. raised a few young (HBN). A single bird of this

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species was seen at Lake Lytle in Rockaway, Oreg., June 10 (RE & HBN); another was at Sutherlin, Oreg. on June 29 (JG). Over 200 Tricolored Blackbirds were seen near Eagle Point, Oreg. on June 6 (Carl Richardson, *fide* OS). Bullock's Orioles had a good nesting season on Sauvie Is. (JG & RK). Young Brown-headed Cowbirds were much in evidence in Seattle by late July (ES); at Bellingham and at Portland there seemed to be fewer young than in the last few years but at Terrace, B. C. the species seems to be increasing (HRV). Black-headed Grosbeaks had young out of the nest at Seattle, July 14 (VEC); the species was regarded as very common in the Lebanon area this summer (WT). Lazuli Buntings were fewer in number than last year along the Columbia River bottoms near Portland (HBN). Evening Grosbeaks again nested in the Pittock Bird Sanctuary at Portland; small flocks containing 6 or 8 birds were seen on every trip into the Cascades east of Portland (HBN). A flock showed up at Miracle Beach, Vancouver Is., where Evening Grosbeaks have been virtually absent for 2 years. Cassin's Finches above Timberline Lodge early in August had few young birds among them, but several adults were seen carrying food, indicating late fledging (HBN). House Finches were regarded as common and increasing on Vancouver Is. (DS); breeding success at Seattle was good also (ES). American Goldfinches were abundant in northwestern Oregon and in the Bellingham area this summer. Lesser Goldfinches seem to have had a good nesting season in the Willamette Valley. A **Lawrence's Goldfinch** was seen near Medford on June 7 (JH); the species has been seen in this vicinity at least one other time in the last 10 years. Although Red Crossbills were scarce on Vancouver Is. (DS), a flock of 38 was netted and banded on Lopez Is., July 8 (Zella Schultz, *fide* TRW) and small flocks were encountered in the central Oregon Cascades after mid-July.

Sparrows—A *male Lark Bunting* in breeding dress was found on June 13 near Marietta, Wash. (James Duemmel, *fide* TRW); it was carefully studied by an observer reported to be both experienced and familiar with the species. The record is a probable first for the State of Washington. Many young Oregon Juncos were

found again this August above timberline on Mount Hood (HBN). An albino Chipping Sparrow was reported from Medford, July 16 (Mrs. L. Crocker, *fide* OS). Six Lincoln's Sparrows in full song were discovered on July 15 in a marsh near Hoodoo Ski Bowl in Oregon's Santiam Pass (JG & HBN).

Contributors— (VEC) Violet E. Cannon; (ARD) A. R. Davidson; (RF) Roy Fisk; (JG) Jeff Gilligan; (JEVG) J. E. V. Goodwill; (JH) Joseph Hicks; (RK) Ron Klein; (DS) David Stirling; (ES) Eleanor Stopps; (OS) Otis Swisher; (WT) William Thackaberry; (HRV) H. R. Vance; (TRW) Terry R. Wahl.

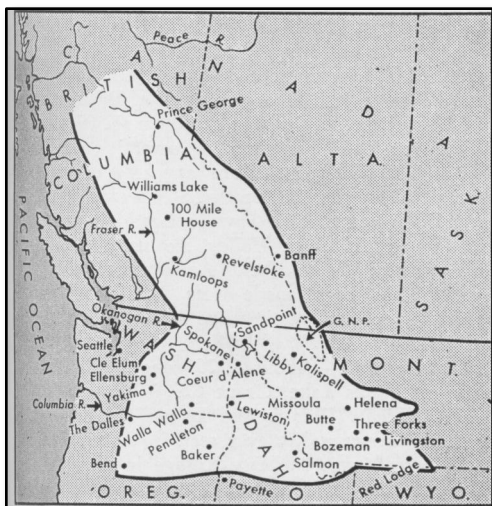
End 1967

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*Autumn Migration, 1967***NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN —
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

/ Thomas H. Rogers

Decidedly hot, dry weather prevailed over practically all of the Region during August and September, continuing the summer



trend without interruption. Average temperatures for August ran as high as 6.5° above normal, and some localities in the western part received only a trace of precipitation or none at all. Moscow, Idaho, Missoula, Mont., and Spokane, Wash. were in this category. Baker, Oreg. recorded only 0.06 inch and Penticton, B. C. only 3 percent of normal. September averaged as much as 6° above normal. Even Prince George, B. C. was unusually mild, with September entirely frost-free, a highly unusual situation. Except at the latter locality, which had 122 percent of normal precipitation, the month was still notably deficient in moisture, which at many localities fell only near the end of the month. Disastrous forest fires in northern Idaho and southern British Columbia raged unchecked until mid-September. October and November were about normal in temperature but still tended to be precipitation-shy, especially November. No snow was reported in the valleys until the last week of November; temperatures dipped sharply (to -8° at Missoula) at that time but became more nearly normal by the month's end. Little or no snow was on the ground in the valleys at the end of the period. One might expect such a mild fall to delay departures. While a number of late stragglers were reported from Bozeman, Mont. and a lesser number from Missoula, Mont., the rest of the Region appeared to have no more than the usual number of delayed migrants. Migration peaks for ducks at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash. were

actually earlier than last year. Freezing minimum temperatures after mid-October were accompanied by migrational activity at the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. A rather large number of "rarities" showed up, divided about equally between eastward and westward displacements. Of the 20 species involved, 11 were water-associated, whereas about two-thirds of the species of the Region are land birds. This fact, coupled with unusual concentrations of several water-associated species, both displaced and normally expected, offers the obvious explanation that water or drought-caused lack of it, was involved. The concentrations would seem to support this explanation much better than the east-west displacements. Land species displaced east-west, unlike some water-associated species, apparently involved small numbers or displayed a scattered pattern, which is the usual situation in the Region. The abundance of Bohemian Waxwings in the Bozeman area and their scarcity elsewhere might be considered an exception to this. Several other species of land birds also showed surprising concentrations or probable increases. Displacements of land bird species seem to invite no simple hypothesis by way of explanation. Apparent increases, and perhaps the concentrations also, may have been simply the result of a better-than-average breeding season.

Loons and Grebes—The seldom-reported *Arctic Loon* was noted at two localities. One was seen drifting down the Fraser River at Prince George, B. C. on Oct. 5 and 4 were sighted on *Alkali Lake, Grant Co., Wash.* on Nov. 4 (JA and Mr. & Mrs. SOS). Eared Grebes peaked at 500 at Ennis, Madison Co., Mont., Sept. 16.

Pelicans, Cormorants, Herons—The White Pelican population at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. peaked at 109 in early September. Three were still present at the end of November. In the Bozeman area the species was last noted on Oct. 1 (RAH). Twenty-five Double-crested Cormorants were at McNary Refuge during September; 4 of them remained until the end of November. Two were seen near Nine Mile Dam on the *Spokane River* below Spokane, Sept. 28 (DD; JA & WH); this is the first record for Spokane County. A Snowy Egret, reported too late for the summer account, was identified on June 3 at Prineville Reservoir, about 9 miles southeast of Prineville, Oreg. (JK & GM).

Waterfowl—Whistling Swans were migrating during

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late October and throughout November. No large concentrations were reported except at Ennis, where 200 were seen on Nov. 5 and 600 on Nov. 12. Thirty-nine Trumpeter Swans are now in the flock that has

been established at Turnbull Refuge. The 4 cygnets that hatched there in June had grown to 15-17 lbs. by Sept. 17, when they were banded. Twenty-nine of the birds there have been released as free-flyers and have been exploring other lakes both on and off the refuge. For the most part, however, they have stayed rly close to Winslow Display Pool near refuge headquarters where the captive flock is kept. Peak numbers of Canada Geese seemed to have occurred during the latter part of October. Turnbull Refuge had a peak of 2500 during the week of Oct. 22, and the Coulee City-Stratford area, Grant Co., Wash. had 15,000-20,000 on Oct. 14 (*JA & WH*). The species peaked at 15,000 at McNary Refuge and in excess of 4000 at Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo, Mont. in late October. A few "Cackling" Canada Geese were noted at Park Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on Nov. 4 (*JA and Mr. & Mrs. SOS*). The White-fronted Goose was reported in strikingly larger numbers than usual: about 20 were seen at Ninepipe Refuge in November; at least 22 were at Stratford, Wash. on Oct. 14 (*JA & WH*); and a peak of .50 was noted at McNary Refuge in the second week of October. Migrating flocks of Snow Geese passed over Missoula early in the morning of Nov. 14. The species was not noted in any numbers elsewhere. Ninepipe Refuge had 30-50 in October, and the usual sprinkling occurred in eastern Washington, with 8 in the largest group, observed at Turnbull Refuge on Sept. 22. A single **Blue Goose** was observed for three days during the second week of October at McNary Refuge. The early peak of the duck migration at Turnbull Refuge was during the week of Sept. 17, a week earlier than in 1966. Numbers were down, 17,000 compared with 22,000 in 1966. Mallards accounted for most of that number, with Am. Widgeon, Gadwall and Pintail following in that order. The late peak there was also about a week earlier than last year, occurring between Nov. 12 and 18. At McNary Refuge fall populations of Mallard, Shoveler, Redhead and Canvasback were estimated at 30 to 80 percent below normal but other species appeared in about normal numbers. Mallards peaked at 21,000 at McNary Refuge in late November and reached a total of 30,000 at Ninepipe Refuge. American Widgeon showed a peak of 10,000 at Ninepipe Refuge. Peaks of 1200 Common and 700 Barrow's Goldeneyes were recorded at Turnbull Refuge on Nov. 14. A **White-winged Scoter** was noted on the Spokane River at Spokane on Oct. 26 (*JA, WH*), and another was seen at West Medical Lake, Spokane Co., Wash. on Oct. 29 (*WH*). Two immature **Surf Scoters** were collected in Beaverhead County, Mont. during the week proceeding Nov. 6 (*BE*); this is a new locality for the state and one of the few records for Montana.

Vultures, Hawks—Turkey Vultures were seen in the Bozeman area, in the Bitterroot Valley, Ravalli Co., Mont., at Turnbull Refuge, and in Sumpter Valley near

Baker, Oreg. Goshawks were sighted almost daily in the Wallowa Mountains of northeastern Oregon, in the vicinity of Minam River, between Oct. 29 and Nov. 20 (*WT*). Many reports of sightings of Ferruginous Hawks around Prineville, Oreg., strongly suggested an increase there (*HBN*). Bald Eagles numbered 150 along McDonald Creek near Apgar, Glacier Nat'l Park. The birds come each year to feed on kokanee salmon dying after spawning. A newspaper report told of a maximum count there this fall of 211, made by Rangers Jack Fewlass and Jerry DeSanto and Chief Naturalist Francis H. Elmore. This number is reported as second only to the 1963 count of 352 made by Ranger W. E. Welch.

Gallinaceous Birds—This may very well be a period of upswing for grouse in the Region. The Blue Grouse population at the Nat'l Bison Range was believed to be up significantly. The sighting of three groups of young in the Bitterroot Valley, Aug. 24, suggested a possible increase there (*CLB*). C. J. Henry of Charlo, Mont. reported seeing none in good habitat, however. Several Blue Grouse were seen daily along the Minam River in the Wallows between Oct. 29 and Nov. 20. Twelve Spruce Grouse were seen in that area at 7000 ft. elevation during that period. A Mountain Quail was also seen in the same area at that time (*WT*). Spruce Grouse were described as abundant and Ruffed Grouse as common in the Prince George district of British Columbia. The latter species was noted on the Nat'l Bison Range for the first time in several years. Ring-necked Pheasant populations appeared to be average across the Region, with two exceptions. The species was described as abundant at McNary Refuge, but in the Bitterroot Valley the summer evidently. resulted in poor numbers. An attempt to establish Turkeys has been made near Harrison, Idaho; a pair was reported nesting but success of the nesting was unknown (*DH*).

Cranes, Coot—About 1000 Sandhill Cranes were noted at Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on Oct. 14 (*JA & WH*). This is the largest fall flock either of these observers has ever seen in the area. Several flocks passed over McNary Refuge in early October. American Coot were recorded in at least their usual abundance: 8000 were noted at Ennis, Mon on Sept. 16, with peaks of 4000 at Turnbull Refuge and 3000 at Ninepipe Refuge during the period.

Shorebirds—A few Semipalmated Plovers were seen at Reardan, Wash. between Aug. 6 and Sept 15 (*JA*). The species was not reported elsewhere. The **Am. Golden Plover**, very rare in the Region, was noted on several occasions in eastern Washington: 3 were at Banks Lake, Sept. 20 (*JA*); 2 were at Reardan, Sept. 24 (*WH*), and 1 was still there, Oct. 29 (*JA & WH*). Single Black-bellied Plovers were observed on three dates in October in eastern Washington (*JA, WH*) and on Sept.

16 at Harrison, Mont. (RAH & PDS). Twenty-seven Long-billed Curlews were seen in a meadow near Baker, Ore, on Aug. 22 (DK). Low water levels at Reardan, resulting from the drought, were reflected in a scarcity of many species of shorebirds there. October 29 was

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a record late date for Greater Yellowlegs near Bozeman and a Dunlin observed there on the same date furnished one of the few records of the species for that area and for all of Montana (RAH & ET). An astounding 400 Baird's Sandpipers were noted at Harrison, Mont. on Sept. 9. In the Prineville area, 31 Least Sandpipers on July 5 were noteworthy (HBN). A single Marbled Godwit was observed at Reardan, Wash. between Aug. 19 and 24 (JA, WH). In the Bozeman area Oct. 1 was a record late date for this species (RAH, DRS, PDS & ET).

Gulls, Tern—At least 4 Herring Gulls mingled with Ring-billed and California Gulls at Banks Lake on Oct. 14 (JA & WH), and the first-named species also was noted along the Snake River at Clarkston, Wash., Sept. 13. An immature *Mew Gull*, rare in the Region, was seen with Ring-billed Gulls near Geiger Field west of Spokane, Oct. 8-9 (JA, WH). Thirty Franklin's Gulls were seen on Stubblefield Lake, Turnbull Refuge on Oct. 25; 1 remained until Nov. 2. A single Caspian Tern was noted at O'Sullivan Dam, Grant Co., Wash. on Sept. 3 (JA). Of particular interest was the finding of 1, possibly 2, *Black-legged Kittiwakes* in the streets of Heppner, Ore., Nov. 12 (SB, KMH & JR).

Pigeons, Owls—Most remarkable were two observations of the Band-tailed Pigeon in the Apgar Mountains near the western entrance of Glacier Nat'l Park in September (CM, *vide* PDS). Two Pygmy Owls were noted in Trinity Valley, 30 miles northeast of Vernon, B. C., Oct. 8; 3 were seen near Colville and Kettle Falls in northeastern Washington, Nov. 25 (JA & WH). Harry Nehls also remarked that it looked as if Pygmy Owls have been increasing in numbers in the Wallawas of northeastern Oregon this fall. The Burrowing Owl was observed near St. Ignatius, Lake Co., Mont. (FLK); at McNary Refuge, where it is common; and at the airport at Madras, Ore., July 5, when an adult and 2 young were seen. Two young Saw-whet Owls were photographed in heavy Rocky Mountain juniper growth at the Nat'l Bison Range on May 28.

Swifts, Hummingbirds—Twelve Black Swifts were seen at Radium Hot Springs, B. C. on Aug. 22 (THR) and about 100 were seen near Wenatchee Lake, Chelan Co., Wash. on Aug. 28 (THR). A tow Vaux's Swifts

were noted at Missoula, Mont.; Spokane, Wash. (JA); Lewiston, Idaho; Baker, Ore.; and McBride, B. C. Black-chinned Hummingbirds were rather common in the Bitterroot Valley as late as Sept. 1. Rufous Hummingbirds were last seen at Baker on Sept. 15, apparently a rather late date.

Woodpeckers—A female Williamson's Sapsucker was observed along the Minam River in the Wallawas between Oct. 29 and Nov. 20 (WT). A pair of White-headed Woodpeckers was seen at Bend, Ore. on Aug. 29 (FBH). Two Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were found at the 4000-ft. level in Mt. Spokane State Park, Wash., on Nov. 23 (JA).

Flycatchers, Swallows—The Eastern Kingbird was last seen at Missoula on Sept. 15 and at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho on Sept. 10 (KS), both rather late dates; at Bozeman the latest record was Sept. 14 (RAH). Bozeman also recorded late dates for the W. Wood Pewee, Sept. 23 (PDS); and Olive-sided Flycatcher, Sept. 14 (RAH). The last W. Wood Pewee at Baker was noted on Sept. 14. A late Violet-green Swallow was seen at West Medical Lake, Spokane Co., Wash. on Oct. 2 (WH). In the Bozeman area, most species of swallows lingered late, *e.g.*, Rough-winged Swallow noted on Oct. 1. Elsewhere, departures appeared to be about normal.

Nutcrackers, Chickadees, Nuthatches, Creeper — Clark's Nutcracker was described as plentiful in the Wallawas (WT). More than usual numbers of this species were seen in the Bitterroot Valley (*e.g.*, 15 on Sept. 29 by Carol Boyd), and "many" were noted by C. J. Henry. The species also was observed in the Bozeman area, at the Nat'l Bison Range, and in eastern Washington (JA). The Boreal Chickadee was seen on Aug. 5 in the Salmo Mountain area, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (JA) and at Waterfowl Lake, Banff Nat'l Park, Canada (THR). Chestnut-backed Chickadees were seen in Mt. Spokane State Park on Nov. 23 (JA) and also in the Salmo Mountain area (JA, WH). The Com. Bushtit was seen in the Wallawas (WT). The White-breasted Nuthatch was reported as rather abundant in the Bitterroot Valley near Florence and the Red-breasted was reported "in great numbers" there (MG). A Brown Creeper was mist-netted at McNary Refuge in mid-November.

Wrens, Thrashers, Thrushes—The Winter Wren was identified in the Wallawas (WT) and in the mountains of Ferry County, Wash. on Nov. 25 (JA & WH). A migrant was noted in sagebrush near Banks Lake on Oct. 14 (JA & WH). In the Spokane area, 4 were found on Oct. 29 along the Little Spokane River (JA) and one was seen on Oct. 22 in the Dishman Hills east of the city (THR). A Cañon Wren was singing among

the Madison River cliffs west of Bozeman, Sept. 9 (RAH & PDS); one was seen in the Wallowas (WH, THR). A Sage Thrasher at Missoula was the first seen since 1964. At the only other localities reporting the species, last seen dates were Sept. 20 at Banks Lake (JA) and Sept. 30 at Baker. Nothing suggested any wintering of Robins in large numbers. An excellent movement of Varied Thrushes, involving some 20 birds, was observed at Park Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on Oct. 14 (WH). Ralph Hand observed no bluebirds around Missoula during the entire year, but the situation was more encouraging in the Bitterroot Valley and in eastern Washington. Seven Western Bluebirds were seen on Ravalli Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in the Bitterroot Valley on Oct. 23. In the same valley at least 40 Mountain Bluebirds were seen on Oct. 3; 50 were noted a week later; and 1 still lingered on the late date of Nov. 10. About 20 Western Bluebirds were migrating at Ford, Wash., Oct. 10, and at least 30 were moving south at Tiger, Wash. on the following day (JA). Both species were noted in the Clarkston, Wash. area; the Western was seen daily in the Wallowas, Oct. 29–Nov. 20 (WT), and the Mountain was a very common nester north of Prineville, Oreg. in July (HBN).

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Waxwings, Starlings—Bohemian Waxwings appeared very tardily in the westernmost part of the Region. None had been seen in the Okanagan of southern British Columbia by the end of November, and only two lonely looking birds had come as far as Spokane by Nov. 4 (THR & WER), the same day that a flock of about 75 was seen near Tiger, Wash. (WH). About 200 were seen on Nov. 25 near Orient, Wash. (JA & WH). The species had not reached Missoula by Dec. 2, the first time since 1948 that this has happened. The only locality enjoying Bohemian Waxwings in real numbers was Bozeman, where the first appearance on Nov. 11 was followed by flocks in the thousands during the next two weeks. Starlings, while not eliciting the same joy from observers, were numerous at several localities. Ninepipe Refuge had "large numbers" in October; "thousands" were seen in the Bitterroot Valley, Oct. 14; a "huge" flock was noted in the Grand Coulee area of eastern Washington, Nov. 4 (JA and Mr. & Mrs. SOS); and "clouds" were present at McNary Refuge.

Vireos, Warblers—A movement of vireos in Indian Canyon at Spokane on Aug. 28 was revealed by the sighting of 2 or 3 Red-eyed and 7-8 Warbling Vireos in about 15 minutes (WH). The only fall records of the Nashville Warbler were of single birds at Ravalli Refuge, Aug. 21 (CLB & OF), and Spokane, Oct. 8 (THR). The Orange-crowned Warbler was seen at

Missoula on Oct. 14, a late date. A Yellow Warbler seen there on Sept. 9 was about 10 days late; the same species also furnished a late date, Sept. 14, at Bozeman (RAH). Bozeman additionally recorded late dates for Audubon's Warbler, Oct. 29 (RAH), and MacGillivray's Warbler, Sept. 14 (RAH). A *Myrtle Warbler* was mist-netted at McNary Refuge in November, and Audubon's Warblers were reported as abundant in a milo field at the refuge during the same month. A Yellowthroat was still present at Baker on Oct. 30. An Am. Redstart, singing occasionally, was noted near Prince George on Sept. 8.

Icterids, Tanagers—Bobolinks were seen at Missoula on Sept. 12, a very late date. Eight Rusty Blackbirds were found at McKenzie, 120 miles north of Prince George on Sept. 20; a single individual in winter plumage noted at Reardan on Oct. 29 (JA, WH) is believed to be the third record for eastern Washington. An immature Brown-headed Cowbird feeding in the parking lot beside the Columbia Ice-field, Jasper Nat'l Park, Canada, was the only bird seen in the locality, Aug. 23 (THR). Young of this species were seen at Missoula, as late as Sept. 3. A rather late final date of Sept. 29 for the Western Tanager was obtained at the same locality, and a single Western Tanager at Spokane on Sept. 23 was also a little late (THR).

Finches—Small numbers of Evening Grosbeaks were present at Missoula from early July to the end of the period. In the nearby Bitterroot Valley flocks were seen all during the fall, and at Bozeman good-sized flocks were present from about Sept. 5 on. Flocks of 10-15 were seen in the Vernon, B. C. area on Oct. 15; a few were noted at Spokane. A definite influx of the species was noted at Prineville in early November, but none were noted after mid-month. Small numbers appeared at Baker at about the same time and were seen sporadically thereafter. The House Finch appears well on the way to establishing itself at Missoula. After an apparent absence of over a month, 3 birds, including an adult male were seen on Sept. 4, and the species was seen in increasing numbers during the fall, with 20, 23 & 24 counted in single flocks. Many Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were sighted, possibly indicating an increase. Henry remarked, "By far the most I've ever seen. Restricted to the high country where I saw them while stalking bighorns with the camera". (This was presumably in the Mission Range east of Charlo, Mont.—(THR). Eight were seen at the head of Trisky Creek on the Nat'l Bison Range, Nov. 2. In southern British Columbia, 30-40 were observed along the roadside between Spence's Bridge and Merritt, Oct. 23. In the Wallowas of northeastern Oregon, flocks of 500 or more were seen daily during early November but were all gone in two weeks. In these flocks the *Black Rosy Finch* made up about 10 percent of the total

(WT). Flocks of Am. Goldfinches totaling at least 100 were seen at Reardon, Sept. 17 and 24 (WH). Red Crossbills, in general, were present in small numbers or were completely absent. Hand had not seen one since July, 1966 and Grant did not see the species in British Columbia. The only Montana sightings were made at Bozeman and in the Bitterroot Valley. However, the birds were described as common in large flocks in the Wallows during the period of Oct. 29–Nov. 20 (WT). The last record for the Green-tailed Towhee at Bozeman was on Sept. 6, a late date (RAH).

Sparrows—The Savannah Sparrow was noted at Clarkston, Wash. as late as Nov. 1, and the Grasshopper Sparrow was seen there on Sept. 27. The first fall record for the Lark Sparrow in the Bitterroot Valley was obtained on Aug. 20 (CLB). Oregon Juncos moved down into the valleys at many localities, although at Missoula their numbers were much below expectations, as were Tree Sparrow numbers. A *Clay-colored Sparrow* was observed closely in Indian Canyon at Spokane on Sept. 10 (JA). The White-crowned Sparrow migration reached peak numbers between Sept. 15 and Oct 15 which is about the normal situation. Two Golden-crowned Sparrows, either immature or in winter plumage, were seen at Banks Lake on Oct 14 (JA & WH). A White-throated Sparrow was singing at Prince George on Sept. 14, and 2 visited a feeding station in *Spokane*, Sept. 22-24 (Mr. & SOS). McCown's Longspur was last sighted at Bozeman on Oct. 1 (RAH). The Lapland Longspur was reported only from eastern Washington, where 3 were noted at Banks Lake on Nov. 4 (JA). The only Snow Buntings to put in an appearance by the close of the period were 5 at Missoula, Nov. 14.

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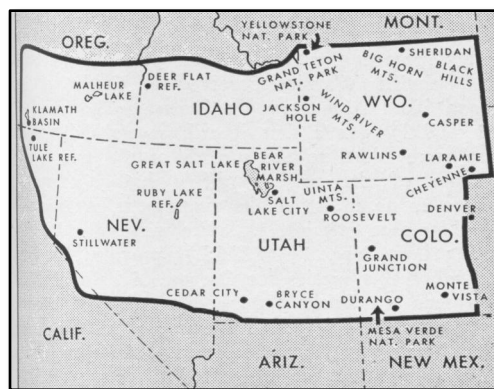
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Autumn Migration, 1967

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

The fall was warm and dry until the last week of November when winter came



in with a vengeance, bringing freezing weather over much of the Region. The weather varies a great deal in an area so large, mountainous, and dry, however, and this general pattern did not apply to some parts of the Region. Several observers complained of the lack of birds, particularly in the mountains west of Denver and in the Salt Lake City area, sections with the only two large population concentrations in the Region. While driving around a curve on a road in eastern Oregon at 25 m.p.h., Tom Love had a Great Blue Heron fly into the back seat of his car. He stopped the car and took out the bird, which was only stunned, and it flew away. Aren't you glad that you were not in that back seat?

Swans—The number of Trumpeter Swans at Ruby Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in eastern Nevada varies between 18 and 25 adults, but only 1 cygnet was produced this year (DEL). More than 43 young have been produced by this colony in recent years, but what happens to them after they have flown is something of a mystery. There is a lot of suitable habitat in eastern Nevada, however. The weather was so mild that Whistling Swans had not arrived in numbers at Stillwater Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Nevada by

the end of the period (*LDN*). There were 13,000 at Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, the great sump in eastern Oregon, by Nov. 25 (*ELMcL*). A total of 26,250 Whistling Swans at the Bear River Marshes at the upper end of the Great Salt Lake on Nov. 15, with many cygnets present, was a new record high (*GRZ*). Although the Region boasts huge concentrations of Whistling Swans, they are confined to the great refuges for the most part, and when one appeared on Nov. 20 at Hotchkiss, on the western slope in Colorado (*TC*), it caused as much stir as it would in regions that lack the big concentrations.

Geese, Ducks—The Klamath Basin in southern Oregon experienced a build-up of geese and ducks to 2,900,000 in early November, a high figure due more to migrants arriving and *staying* in the area than to larger numbers of migrants this fall. The peak in geese in the Klamath Basin was reached on Nov. 10 with 495,000 "Cackling" Canada Geese, 507,000 White-fronted Geese, and 500,000 Snow Geese (*EJO'N*). At Deer Flat Nail Wildlife Refuge, Nampa, Idaho, the Canada Goose peak was 11,500 in the last week of November; last year the peak was 10,000 in mid-October (*RVP*). At Bear River Marshes, Snow Geese reached a peak of 12,400 on Nov. 15, but numbers dropped off rapidly within a few days (*GRZ*). The Pintail is the most common fall duck in the Klamath Basin area, as it is over most of the Great Basin, whereas the most common wintering duck is the Mallard, particularly along the rivers of Idaho and Wyoming. The Pintail peak in the Klamath Basin was 1,600,000 on Oct. 28 (*EJO'N*). On the same date the basin had 80,000 Mallards, 200,000 Am. Widgeon, and 65,000 Ruddy Ducks, but only 5600 Redheads (*EJO'N*). Deer Flat, primarily a Mallard refuge, had fewer birds because of the warm fall; only 150,000 by the end of the period (*RVP*). Bear River Marshes had a fine season owing to the mild weather and plenty of water; on Sept. 27 there were 507,000 ducks on the refuge and an equal number outside, a very high total. Highs of 287,000 Pintails, 138,000 Green-winged Teal, and 48,500 Am. Widgeon were recorded (*GRZ*). Botulism remains a great killer of ducks at Bear River Marshes; 15,000 died of it in the refuge and 22,000 just southwest of the refuge this year (*GRZ*). Stillwater Wildlife Management Area in western Nevada had good water conditions this fall, which is unusual. Ducks peaked at 210,850 during the second week of October; these were mostly Pintails,

survey in August showed that 1 square foot of lake bottom produced 1½ pounds of vegetation; there are 4000 acres of sago at the refuge, in addition to 1100 acres planted to grain. This year there was a double peak in duck numbers at Malheur Refuge, one in mid-September (Sept. 10-16) mostly comprising Pintails (some 80,000 were noted) and a second peak in October (Oct. 15-21), with 19,700 Mallards, 43,000 Gadwall, 17,300 Green-winged Teal, 79,000 Am. Widgeon, and 13,000 Canvasbacks. The Canvasback figure is particularly high. It is believed that the total number of migrants at Malheur Refuge was about the same as last year, although the peak total was down by about 50,000, reflecting the double peak noted this year. A fair-sized Wood Duck population is building up on the lower part of the Carson River in western Nevada, where several groups of 10 were seen this fall (*LDN*); this is a new development for that locality. A Wood Duck was observed at Monte Vista Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in southern Colorado, where the species is very rare, and 2 were brought in by hunters (*CRB*). Three Wood Ducks were taken by hunters on the Little Bear River in northeastern Utah in October (*DMF*). White-winged and Surf Scoters and a Greater Scaup were brought in by hunters at Stillwater Refuge (*LDN*), and another Greater Scaup was taken by a hunter at Logan in northeastern Utah on Nov. 19 (*DMF*). Although there are scattered reports of the White-winged Scoter from all the states of the Region, the Com. Scoter is very rare. Several of the latter species, however, were seen at Pyramid Lake in western Nevada on Nov. 4 and 5 (*JMD*).

Turkey Vulture, Hawks—Sixteen Turkey Vultures were observed at Glendo Reservoir in eastern Wyoming, Sept. 20 (*LM*); some of them were feeding on a freshly dead cow while a nearby very odorous dead cow didn't attract them. A good concentration of Rough-legged Hawks was reported from Malheur Refuge (*ELMcL*), and the species was reported as more numerous than usual in western Nevada (*JMD*). Golden Eagles seemed to be holding their own in western Idaho (*TL*). A Black Hawk again was seen south of Springdale in southern Utah on Sept. 11 (*BAL*). This southern species has been seen in this area in five of the last six years, and it bred once.

Turkey, Sandhill Crane, Shorebirds—Turkeys continued to spread and multiply. One was seen just outside Bryce Canyon Nat'l Park in southern Utah, Aug. 24 (*DEM*). A total of 1500 Sandhill Cranes were on Monte Vista Refuge, Oct. 22—Nov. 4 (*CRB*). The only other big concentration of cranes in the Region was at Malheur Refuge, where 2400 were present on Oct. 30 (*ELMcL*). Several Buff-breasted Sandpipers were seen on Aug. 26 at the Standard Oil sump just north of Casper in central Wyoming, a locality where

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Gadwall, Green-winged Teal and Redheads.□. The peak in Canvasbacks was 21,000, a high count, in the last week of October (*LDN*). Malheur Refuge had more water than last year but not as much as in 1965. There was good production of sago pondweed. A

the species has been observed in three of the last six years (OKS).

Franklin's Gull, Barn Owl, Broad-tailed Hummingbird—Franklin's Gulls were reported hawking by the hundreds at Evergreen in the mountains west of Denver on Sept. 22 (WWB). A Barn Owl was seen again north of Salt Lake City on Sept. 10 (GK). Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were seen at Grand Junction in western Colorado as late Oct. 7 (LE).

Blue Jay, Wood Thrush, Sprague's Pipit—Two Blue Jays were observed at Rawlins in southern Wyoming in late November, a locality which is remarkably far west for this species (JL). A Wood Thrush was reported near Eldora in the front range west of Boulder (GS); the species is casual in Colorado. A Sprague's Pipit seen at Lake DeSmet in northern Wyoming in November (TK) is one of the first reports for this bird in Wyoming in the fall.

Waxwings—Bohemian Waxwings arrived early this year in Colorado and Wyoming, and mixed flocks of Bohemian and Cedar Waxwings were reported. At Red Feather Lakes in the northern front range of Colorado, 54 Bohemian and 131 Cedar Waxwings were noted on Oct. 14 (JRS).

Vireos, Warblers—A Philadelphia Vireo was observed at Durango in southwestern Colorado on Sept. 16 (OR); this is the farthest west the species has been recorded in Colorado, and there are only a few records for the eastern part of the state. A Nashville Warbler observed at Craters of the Moon Nat'l Monument in central Idaho on Sept. 12 (DLC) was a first record; several other birds also were added to the records of the area merely because of the presence of a highly competent birder as naturalist at the monument. A Blackpoll Warbler that flew into an office window at Malheur Refuge on Sept. 7 (ELML) provided the first record of this species for Oregon. A Palm Warbler was seen on Lookout Mountain, west of Denver, on Sept. 30 (VR); this species is being reported more frequently from the Rockies. Another Canada Warbler was seen on the Wind River near Dubois, Wyo., Sept. 23 (MB); this was the state's second record in recent years.

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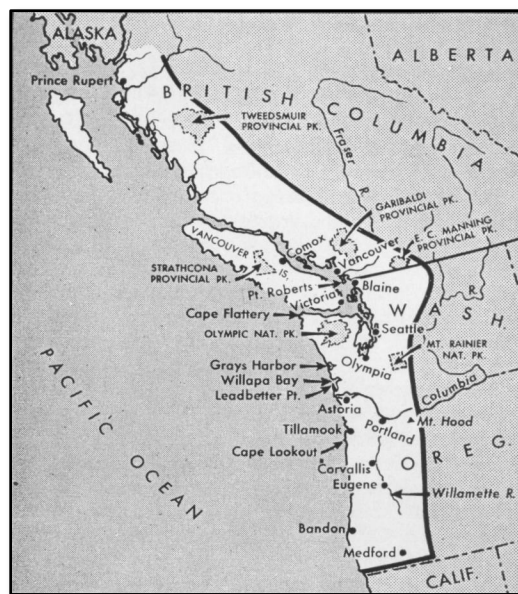
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Autumn Migration, 1967

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

After one of the warmest and driest summers on record, it continued well into September,



October produced about 50 percent more rain than usual. November's rainfall was about average. The fall migration this year seemed somewhat dull in comparison with years immediately past; coastal birding failed to generate much excitement. Several records of Long-tailed Jaegers from Vancouver Is. in conjunction with other records of recent years suggest that this bird can be expected in the fall more regularly than records up to three years ago would indicate. The shorebird migration brought few surprises, although there were additional records for a number of species until recently considered quite rare in the Region, among them Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Semipalmated Sandpiper. There were no notable invasion of northern species; among the passerines the most startling records were a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in the vicinity of Victoria in October and a Brambling at Portland in November.

Loons, Grebes—Five Com. Loons at the south jetty of the Columbia River on Aug. 19 were quite early. Fifty Arctic Loons were at Victoria, B. C. on the early date of Aug. 15 (ARD); a heavy southward migration of this species past Tillamook County, Oreg. beaches

occurred on Oct. 28 (HBN). Single Eared Grebes were recorded on Sept. 23 at Victoria (ARD), Oct. 7 at Tillamook Bay (HBN), and Oct. 24 at Sauvie Is. near Portland (JG). As many as 1600 W. Grebes were concentrated at Esquimalt Lagoon, Vancouver Is. during November (ARD). A "very small chick" Pied-billed Grebe was seen in Portland on Oct. 11, in company with three adults (R. Wright & JG).

Pelagic Birds, Pelicans—Six Black-footed Albatrosses were seen from the Canadian hydrographic vessel "Marabell" off the northwestern end of Vancouver Is. on Aug. 27 (JEVG). Five Fulmars were seen by the same observer at almost the same time. A heavy migration of Fulmars took place on Oct. 28 off Tillamook County, Oreg. (HBN). Eight Pink-footed Shearwaters were observed off northwestern Vancouver Is. in company with fewer than 100 Sooty Shearwaters, also on Aug. 27 (JEVG). An estimated *several hundred thousand* Sooty Shearwaters were feeding on herring in and beyond the surf at Seaside, Oreg. on Aug. 18 (JG). Large numbers of this species also were seen at the mouth of the Columbia River in September and off the Tillamook County coast on Oct. 28 (HBN). Fork-tailed Petrels in numbers from 3 to 76 were seen around the northeastern end of Vancouver Is. between Aug. 27 and Sept. 14; on Sept. 22, one was seen in Johnstone Strait on the east side of Vancouver Is. (JEVG). On Aug. 27, 110 Brown Pelicans, an unusually number, were counted on Tillamook Bay (HBN); 54 of these birds were still at Newport, Oreg., On Nov. 19 (JGO).

Cormorants, Herons—A string of Brandt's Cormorants off Victoria on Sept. 9 was estimated at 2000 individuals (ARD). All three species of cormorants were considered to be in good numbers at Bellingham, Wash. this fall (TRW). Occurrences of single Green Herons were reported from Portland, Sauvie Is. and near Forest Grove, Oreg., and from Ilwaco and Seattle, Wash. Two years ago Com. Egrets appeared in unprecedented numbers west of the Cascades; this year the species again was found in western Oregon: 1 was at Siletz Bay, Aug. 13; 1 was at Sauvie Is., Sept. 3, and 2 were there, Sept. 25; 2 were at Ship Ashore, Curry Co., Sept. 6; and about 15 were at Gardiner, Sept. 8. An immature Black-crowned Night-Heron appeared at Portland's Delta Park on Oct. 2, and an Am. Bittern was found there on the same day (JG, et al.). A lone bird of the latter species was found at Ilwaco, Wash., Nov. 18 (HBN, et al.).

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Swans, Geese—Four Whistling Swans at Sauvie Is. on Oct. 8 (JG & R. Wright) were early arrivals; 110 birds were there by Nov. 26 (HBN). Twenty-six White-

fronted Geese were seen flying south over the north end of Queen Charlotte Strait at the northeast end of Vancouver Is. on Aug. 28 (JEVG); 3500 were on Sauvie Is. on Oct. 8 (JG & S. Anderson), with 80 still there on Nov. 19; and 4 birds, one of them an albino, were at Medford on Oct. 24 (JH). Snow Geese were at Sauvie Is., Sept. 25–Nov. 26 in numbers, varying from 3 to 32. The usual large numbers at the Skagit Game Range were reported by the *Seattle Times* to be down 20 percent, with only 1 to 3 percent of the total number being immatures (*fide* TRW). Two Snow Geese were at Leadbetter Point, Willapa Bay, Wash., Sept. 23 (JBC, et al.).

Ducks—Duck numbers generally seem to have held at the higher than usual numbers of last year, with migration dates generally normal. A total of 300 Blue-winged Teal at Sauvie Is. on Oct. 8 (JG & R. Wright, N. Minnick) was a surprisingly large number. Two Cinnamon Teal observed at Seaside, Oreg. on Aug. 19 (JG) were unusual as the species only infrequently straggles so far west. European Widgeon showed up in October and November in company with Am. Widgeon at the usual places in Seattle, Portland, Sauvie Is. and Corvallis, Oreg.; 3 individuals were present at Victoria during October and November, while 1 bird was found at Tillamook Bay on Nov. 18 (JGO & JBC). Eighteen Shovelers were seen at Allison Harbour, B. C. on Sept. 18 (JEVG). Wood Ducks were scarce during the period for some reason, and no reports of Redheads were received. A male Ring-necked Duck was observed at Lightning lake, Manning Provincial Park, B. C., Oct. 20 (JEVG). Bird counts of 450 Canvasbacks on Tillamook Bay on Nov. 18, and 750 at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., on Nov. 19 (JGO) were unusually high for this species at these locations. Barrow's Goldeneyes first appeared at Bellingham, Wash. on Oct. 1 and subsequently increased to only about half of last year's peak of over 100 (TRW); the species was present on Lake Washington at Seattle by mid-November (VEC, ES); 5 were in the Columbia River at Megler, Wash., Nov. 18 (HBN, et al.). Bufflehead at Tillamook Bay on Sept. 4 (HBN) may be a record early date. Three Oldsquaws at Pm Point near Victoria on Sept. 8 (GAP) also were unusually early; a lone male in winter plumage u Delta Park in Portland, Oct. 13-16 (JG, HBN, et al.) was an extraordinary occurrence. White-winged Scoters were flying south over the ocean in large numbers off Tillamook County on Oct. 28 (HBN). A female White-winged Scoter at the Game Commission ponds in Medford on Nov. 5 was apparently the first record for Jackson County; the bird was later shot by a hunter (OS). A single Surf Scoter at Brownsville, Oreg., on Oct. 14 (LW) 2 females on Lightning Lake in Manning Provincial Park, B. C. (JEVG) were out of the ordinary. Fourteen Com. Mergansers at Seaside, Oreg., on Aug. 18 (JG) were

early at that coastal locality, and 15 Red-breasted Mergansers at Lead-better Point on Sept. 2 were also early arrivals (*JBC, HBN, et al.*).

Vultures and Hawks—A Turkey Vulture was at West Redonda Is., B. C. on Sept. 24 (*JEVG*); 11 were seen roosting on the night of Oct. 6 at Seattle where the species is uncommon at any time (*Zella Schultz, fide ES*). The last vultures of the season were seen at Portland, Oct. 15 (Mark Koninendyke, *fide HBN*). The only Goshawk reported for the Region was one at Keno, Oreg., Nov. 2 (*fide JH*). A steady flight of Red-tailed Hawks over the Lebanon, Oreg., area occurred on Oct. 14, with several in sight at one time for much of the day (*WT*). Three large waves of Red-tails totaling over 250 birds migrated over the Rogue River Valley in southern Oregon, Oct. 4 (Mrs. Nathan Deaver, *fide OS*). Two Rough-legged Hawks appeared on Sept. 10 at Sauvie Is. where the species was represented for the rest of the report period by up to 4 individuals (*JG, HBN, et al.*). Two were at timberline on Mount Baker, Wash., Oct. 15 (J. Duemmel, *fide TRW*); a few other Rough-legs were seen in the Willamette Valley and at Lead-better Point in October and November. An adult Golden Eagle was in Manning Provincial Park, B. C. on Oct. 20 (*JEVG*); another was seen at Victoria on Oct. 21 (*ARD*). Seven individuals were seen, apparently migrating, over the east side of the Rogue River Valley on Nov. 1 (Jack Reynolds, *fide JH*); 3 more were seen at Boxy Ann Butte near Medford, Nov. 3 (*OS*); still another was seen in the area on Nov. 24 (*JH*). Goodwill saw from 1 to 8 Bald Eagles, mainly adults, almost daily from Aug. 26 to Oct. 10 around the northern end of Vancouver Is.; 3 individuals, 2 of them immatures, were sighted along the Columbia River from Portland to the ocean during the period; an adult was at Tillamook Bay on Nov. 18. Twelve Marsh Hawks at Sauvie Is. on Oct. 24 (*JG, HBN, et al.*) indicated a migratory movement. Goodwill sighted Ospreys at Port Hardy, B. C. on Aug. 28 and 30; at Allison Harbour, B. C. on Sept. 12; and at Nanaimo, B. C. on Oct. 11; the only other report of an Osprey was of one bird at Lake of the Woods near Medford, Sept. 17 (*OS*). There were 8 sightings of Peregrines during the report period, occurring at Willapa Bay, Skagit Game Range, Tillamook Bay and in the Portland area. Pigeon Hawk reports were few: one at Stuart Narrows at the north end of Vancouver Is., Aug. 30; one at Melville Is., B. C., Oct. 2 and 4 (*JEVG*); and one at Ferndale, Wash., Oct. 22 (*TRW*).

Cranes, Rails—A few Sandhill Cranes were at the Ridgefield, Wash. refuge opposite Sauvie Is. as early as the last week in August (Mrs. Robert Brindle); numbers apparently peaked at 900 or so on Sauvie Is. in the second week in October; 3 birds were still at Victoria on Nov. 20 (*ARD*). A few Virginia Rails responded to

tape-recorded calls in the Portland area, Oct. 1 and 2. A Sora was at Portland's Delta Park on Oct. 10 (*HBN*). American Coots first appeared in the Seattle area on Sept. 8 (*ES*).

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Plovers, Surf bird, Turnstones—A maximum of 95 Semipalmated Plovers were at Leadbetter Point, Sept. 9 (*HBN, et al.*); up to 20 were recorded from various places along the Oregon coast in late August and September; 3 individuals were in north Portland on Nov. 2 (*HBN*); a single bird was seen at Medford, Sept. 3 (*JH*). The only Snowy Plover reports were of 1 bird at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 2 and 2 there on Sept. 9, 2 at Tillamook Bay on Aug. 27 and 7 there on Oct. 28 (*HBN, et al.*). On the early date of July 27 an Am. Golden Plover was at Victoria; a single bird also was noted there on Aug. 15 (*ARD*). Two were at Sauvie Is. on Sept. 3 and lone birds were found there on Sept. 11 and 25 (*HBN*); 34 were at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 9 (*RF, HBN & WT*); 5 were at the south jetty of the Columbia River on Sept. 30 and one was at Tillamook Bay, Oct. 7 (*HBN*). Black-bellied Plover numbers at Leadbetter Point peaked at 120 in the first two weeks of September; only 3 were found there on Nov. 18; "many" were in the pastures north of Stanwood, Wash. as late as Nov. 23 (*VEC*). Surfbirds were first noted in the Region as early as July 6 when 2 appeared at Victoria (*ARD*); birds appeared generally at favored spots by early September in low numbers which continued to increase until the end of the period; a total of 100 were at Barview, Tillamook Co., Oreg. and at the mouth of Nehalem Bay, Oreg. on Nov. 18 (*JBC & JGO*). A total of 17 Ruddy Turnstones was recorded during the period from Victoria (*GAP*), Blaine, Wash. (*TRW*), Willapa Bay, Oreg., the south jetty of the Columbia River, and Nehalem Bay (*HBN*) between Aug. 26 and Nov. 18, the maximum being 8 at the south jetty of the Columbia on Sept. 30. About 35 Black Turnstones were at Blaine as early as Aug. 26 (*TRW*), and 75 were at Brookings, Oreg. on Sept. 6, both large numbers for so early in the season.

Sandpipers, Avocet, Phalarope—After last fall's apparent scarcity, normal numbers of Com. Snipe seem to have been found this year. The only Long-billed Curlew reported was one seen on Aug. 22 at Lebanon that circled Thackaberry's farm but did not land (*WT*). At Barview, Tillamook Co. 22 Whimbrels on Sept. 4 and 11 on Sept. 16 flew southward over the ocean, past the jetty (*HBN*); 35 Whimbrels were resting at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 9 (*HBN, WT & LW*) and 30 were there on Sept. 23 (*JBC, et al.*); 3 were at Tillamook Bay on Oct. 7 (*HBN*). During each day's birding along the northern Oregon coast in September and October this year 1 to 4 Wandering Tattlers were found. Two

Willetts were seen at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 2 and 9 (JBC, HBN, *et al.*). Peak numbers of both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs occurred in the first half of September, as is usual; a total of 23 Lessers at Sauvie Is. on Sept. 3 (HBN) was a good count; individuals were still around Victoria in mid-October. Knots were found at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 2 and 23 (HBN, *et al.*) and at Victoria on Sept. 30 (ARD), the maximum being 8 birds. Rock Sandpipers appeared at Victoria on Oct. 17 and had built up to 25 in number by Nov. 26 (ARD); elsewhere the species occurred at Bellingham (TRW) and at Barview and Nehalem Bay, Oreg. The only records of **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers** this year were 2 together at Leadbetter Point, Sept. 23; one at the south jetty of the Columbia River, Sept. 24 constituting the second Oregon record (JBC, *et al.*); and one late at Victoria, Oct. 14 (ARD). Pectoral Sandpipers first appeared at Victoria, Aug. 8 (ARD); numbers in usual localities of occurrence were about normal; the maximum count was 75 at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 23. Baird's Sandpipers were widely reported, the first appearing at Sauvie Is. on Aug. 20, with 5 counted there on Sept. 11; others showed up at Victoria, where 4 were on the late date of Sept. 30 (ARD); Esquimalt Lagoon, B. C. (GAP); Bellingham (TRW); Leadbetter Point; the south jetty of the Columbia River; Tillamook; and Brownsville, Oreg. An estimated 3000 Least Sandpipers were observed at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 9 (HBN, WT & LW), a high count. Totals of 350 Dunlins there on the same date and 900 at the south jetty of the Columbia River on Sept. 30 (HBN) were unusually large numbers for this species so early in the season. A flock of 80 Dowitchers, identified as Short-billed, were at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 2 (JBC & HBN); a week later they had been supplanted by over 200 Dowitchers identified as Long-billed (HBN, WT, & LW). More than 400 of the latter species were counted the next day at Sauvie Is. where the observer also picked out one Short-billed (HBN). Over 300 Long-billed Dowitchers were on Sauvie Is., Oct. 25; 30 were still there, Nov. 26 (HBN). At least 4 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were picked out of large flocks of Least and Western Sandpipers at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 2 (JBC & HBN). Peak numbers of Western Sandpipers occurred during late August and early September; 6000 were at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 9; 1000 or more were at Sydney Is., B. C. on Aug. 19 and at Sauvie Is. on Sept. 3. **Three Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 9 (HBN, WT & LW). The number of Marbled Godwits recorded in the Region during the report period is apparently unprecedented for at least the last fifty years: 3 were seen at Tillamook Bay on Aug. 27; 7 were at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 2; 3 were at Ship Ashore near Brookings, Oreg. on Sept. 6; and 7 were seen at the mouth of the Rogue River on the same day (HBN, *et al.*). Then on Sept. 9, 31 were found at Leadbetter Point

(HBN, WT & LW) while several flocks went by Yachats, Oreg. That day and the next (Miss Frances Huston); on Sept. 23, 21 birds were counted at Ship Ashore (JH & OS). Two Am. Avocets were on Sauvie Is. on Sept. 2 (Norman Minnick); one remained there at least through the 11th (HBN). Good numbers of Northern Phalaropes were in the vicinity of Victoria from August into November (ARD); an estimated 1800 were at Oak Bay, Vancouver Is. on Sept. 2 (GAP). During September

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and October up to 16 birds were at Sauvie Is. and north Portland, with one still in Delta Park on Nov. 14 (JG, *et al.*). Goodwill found flocks up to 200 in number around the northern end of Vancouver Is. from Aug. 27 to Sept. 30.

Jaegers—From 1 to 3 Pomarine Jaegers were seen around the north end of Vancouver Is., Aug. 27-Sept. 18 (JVG); lone birds were seen at the north jetty of the Columbia River on Sept. 23 and at Westport, Wash. on Sept. 24 (RF & HBN). Parasitic Jaeger records were more numerous than ever, beginning with 1 at Westport, Wash. on Sept. 10 (TRW, *et al.*) and ending with 10 at Bellingham on Oct. 31 (TRW); records came from the north end of Vancouver Is., Sept. 18-30, with 9 birds at Seymour Inlet on the 18th; from Victoria; from Shoal Bay, Vancouver Is.; from Alki Beach, Wash.; from Blaine and Point Roberts, Wash. where 10 birds were also seen on Oct. 8 (TRW); from Seattle; and from the mouth of the Columbia River. Goodwill identified a Long-tailed Jaeger about 8 miles west of Cape Cook on the northwest side of Vancouver Is. on Aug. 27; he saw 2 more light-phase birds of this species in the Strait of Georgia in the vicinity of Campbell River on Sept. 29 and the same or other birds in the same general area the next day. He recorded yet another bird of this species in the Strait of Georgia north of Nanaimo on Oct. 10. Another Long-tailed Jaeger was seen at Saanich Inlet, Vancouver Is. on Sept. 23 (GAP).

Gulls and Terns—At Bellingham an early Glaucous Gull in second year plumage was observed on Nov. 12 (TRW). Herring Gulls had begun to drift into the Region by early September, when a few were observed at Willapa Bay and in Portland; one showed up at Medford on Nov. 14 after a severe storm for what is thought to be the first record in Jackson County (JH). Over 1000 California Gulls were resting on the northern tip of Leadbetter Point on Sept. 2 (JBC & HBN); a large number were seen in Delta Park, Portland on Nov. 2 (HBN) and 150 were seen at Newport, Oreg., Nov. 19 (JGO), both rather late dates for large concentrations of this species. On the latter

date, Olson also counted about 200 Ring-billed Gulls at Newport; this species was uncommonly scarce, in northwestern Oregon at least, after the end of September. Over 1000 Ring-bills were at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 9 (*HBN, WT & LW*). An immature Franklin's Gull was at Clover Point, Victoria, off and on from Sept. 14 through Oct. 21 and was seen by several observers independently. In Seattle a Franklin's Gull was at Seward Park on Oct. 7; 2 were there with Bonaparte's Gulls on Oct. 9 (*ES*). At Bellingham, Wahl saw between and 4 immature Franklin's Gulls from Sept. 4 to Oct. 29. Bonaparte's Gulls were much in evidence from Victoria and Bellingham south to Tillamook throughout the period; as many as 1500 were in the Victoria area and 500 in the Bellingham area in late September. Fifteen Heermann's Gulls at Boiler Bay on the Oregon coast on Nov. 19 (*JGO*) and "many" on Cranberry Lake near Deception Pass, Wash. on Oct. 29 (*VEC*) were lingering late. A total of 6 Black-legged Kittiwakes in adult plumage were seen in the waters around the north end of Vancouver Is. and in the Straits of Georgia, Aug. 29–Sept. 14 (*JEVG*). A few others were seen at various coastal points from Westport south to Boiler Bay during the report period by different observers. Five Sabine's Gulls were seen at sea off the northwestern portion of Vancouver Is. on Aug. 27; 6 on Sept. 12 and 1 on Sept. 18 were seen in Queen Charlotte Strait (*JEVG*). An immature of this species was found at Clover Point, Victoria, on Oct. 21 (*GAP*). Common Terns migrated south through the Victoria and Bellingham area and along the southwestern Washington coast in larger than usual numbers from the beginning of the period well into October; over 300 were at the south jetty of the Columbia River on Sept. 30 (*HBN*). Arctic Terns were seen off Cape Scott at the extreme northwestern tip of Vancouver Is., straggling southward in ones and twos for a total of 22 individuals on Aug. 27; from 1 to 7 individuals were seen on four different days between Aug. 30 and Sept. 18 in the Allison Harbour–Port Hardy area; a single bird was at Eveleigh Island, B. C. on Oct. 9 (*JEVG*). One Arctic Tern was in company with Com. Terns at Bellingham on Aug. 26 (*TRW*); others were mingled with the same species at Westport on Sept. 9 and at the south jetty of the Columbia River on Sept. 30 (*HBN*). Four Caspian Terns were still at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 23 (*JBC, et al.*).

Alcids—Large numbers of Com. Murres were found inexplicably dead on Oregon beaches throughout September. Up to 400 individuals of this species were to be seen from the "Marabell" in a day's travel around the northern end of Vancouver Is., in Queen Charlotte Strait and in the Strait of Georgia (*JEVG*). Birds of this species were streaming past Barview, Oreg. on Oct. 28 at a rate of about 12 per minute for at least several hours (*HBN*). Goodwill saw occasional Marbled

Murrelets, either alone or in pairs for the most part, totaling 24 individuals between Sept. 7 and Oct. 11 from the Allison Harbour area south to Nanaimo, B. C. An adult with young was noted at Barview, Oreg., Aug. 27 (*JG, RK & HBN*). An Ancient Murrelet spent most of November off Clover Point, Victoria (*ARD*), and a bird of this species was in the water at Quadra Is., B. C., Oct. 7 (*JEVG*). Thirty-six Cassin's Auklets were counted at sea off Cape Scott on Aug. 27; 2 more were seen on Queen Charlotte Strait, Aug. 29 (*JEVG*). Rhinoceros Auklets were very much in evidence around Victoria in September and October (*GAP*); it was not uncommon to be able to count more than 50 birds at a time from favored spots (*ARD*). This species was also encountered frequently off the northern end of Vancouver Is. at the end of August and in Queen Charlotte and Georgia Straits in September; 120 birds on Aug. 29 was the maximum count (*JEVG*). The only Tufted Puffins reported were 4 on Aug. 27 from Brooks Peninsula to Cape Scott (*JEVG*) and 1 at Westport on Sept. 24 (*RF & HBN*).

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Owls—Five young Barn Owls were found in a blown-down silo on Sauvie Is., Sept. 10 (Norman Minnick, *fide JG*). Pygmy Owls were recorded at Larch Mountain east of Portland, in Seattle, in the Cascades east of Lebanon, and at Roxy Ann Butte near Medford; these owls are not often reported, but there are indications that they are fairly widespread through at least the southern portion of the Region. A Burrowing Owl was seen on Nov. 26 near Medford where the species formerly was much more in evidence than at present (*JH*). Two Spotted Owls were said to have been near Keno, Oreg., Sept. 21; one was found in the same place, Nov. 2 (Rob Beal, *fide JH*). A Long-eared Owl was again found on Thackaberry's farm at Lebanon, Sept. 15 (*WT*); another was discovered on Sauvie Is., Nov. 12 (*HBN*).

Nighthawks, Swifts, Hummingbirds—Two Com. Nighthawks were flying south over Melville Is., B. C. on Oct. 2 (*JEVG*), a late date for so far north. Six Black Swifts were observed on Sept. 11 at Victoria, where over 75 Vaux's Swifts were seen on Sept. 10 (*ARD*). On Sept. 24, an Anna's Hummingbird was seen at Victoria (*fide ARD*), while on Sept. 3 in Medford 8 individuals—2 adults and 6 immatures—of this species were present at the same feeders where the birds appeared last winter; 2 individuals were still there at the end of the report period (*JH*).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Swallows—Pileated Woodpeckers were seen this fall around Lebanon, in the Cascades east of Portland, in the Coast Range west of Portland, at Cape Meares, Oreg., and at Leadbetter

Point; this is much more mention than this species generally receives. Upon their return to Medford in September Lewis' Woodpeckers were much reduced in numbers from those of the last few years (*JH*). A W. Kingbird was at Anacortes, Wash. on Sept. 29 (*VEC*); the bird is always a find west of the Cascades. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was first seen on June 2 by Miss Leila Roberts on Salt Spring Is. near Victoria; it was not reported again until Oct. 7 when it was rediscovered at Patricia Bay, 15 miles north of Vancouver, by Mr. & Mrs. E. T. Hotchkiss of Homestead, Fla. The bird was seen by many observers in the succeeding two weeks before it disappeared. This find constitutes the first record for British Columbia and surpasses the heretofore most northwesterly occurrence of this species near Coos Bay, Oreg. in May, 1966. A Black Phoebe was seen in Lithia Park, Ashland, Oreg., Sept. 3 (Miss Frances Huston). A **Bank Swallow** at Victoria on Sept. 3 is said to be the first record of that species for Vancouver Is. (*ARD* & R. Fryer). Barn Swallows were seen in large numbers in western Oregon and Washington in September and early October; the last reports were of 3 at the arboretum in Seattle on Oct. 22 (*VEC*) and 1 at Sauvie Island on Oct. 24 (*JG*). Twenty-five Purple Martins were in downtown Seattle on Aug. 17 (*ES*); 15 were in Victoria on Aug. 22 (*ARD*); 12 were in Bellingham on Sept. 4 (*TRW*).

Corvids, Thrasher, Thrushes—Steller's Jays, normally uncommon at Victoria, staged a major influx there in September and were still present in large numbers at the end of the period (*ARD*); the species was also more common than usual at Bellingham (*TRW*). A Black-billed Magpie appeared on Sauvie Is., Nov. 4 (*HBN*), after several days of easterly winds down the Columbia Gorge, as sometimes happens. A Clark's Nutcracker was seen on Nov. 2 at Bellingham (J. Duemmel, *vide TRW*) where it is uncommon. The **California Thrasher**, seen at Medford on July 20 and present there at the end of the last report period remained until Oct. 20, when it finally disappeared (*JH*). Varied Thrushes were abundant at Victoria after mid-September (*DS*; *GAP*); many noted at Reflection Lake on Mount Rainier, Wash., Sept. 23, were evidently migrants, as none were present there 5 days later (Doris Jelliffe); a wave was noted at Lebanon on Oct. 15 (*WT*). A late Swainson's Thrush was at Saanich, B. C. on Sept. 28 (Mr. & Mrs. R. C. Hebert). A male Mountain Bluebird was at Ten Mile Point, Victoria on Nov. 19 (*ARD*); a migration of this species was also in progress at Mount Rainier on Sept. 23 (Doris Jelliffe).

Pipits, Waxwings, Shrikes—Water Pipits were much in evidence to observers who were afield after mid-September until about mid-October when the majority had passed southward. Cedar Waxwings were much

seen in the forefront of the period but became scarce in most of the Region after Oct. 15. The season's first Northern Shrike was one at Stanwood, Wash., Oct. 29 (*VEC*); birds appeared in November at Victoria, Bellingham, and Sauvie, Is., the paucity of numbers emphasizing again their abundance in the Region last fall.

Warblers, Blackbirds, Tanager—Reports of warblers were surprisingly few and were of little note except that a good migration was said to have occurred at Victoria early in October; this consisted, in order of abundance, of Audubon's, Yellows, Orange-crowned, Myrtle and Townsend's Warble (*GAP*). The uncommon Nashville Warbler was seen at Marietta, Wash. on Aug. 19 (*TRW*). On Aug. 20, 15 to 20 Yellow-headed Blackbirds were present in a salt marsh at Lummi Is., Wash. (*TRW*). A Western Tanager was still at Saanich, B. C. on Sept. 28 (Mr. & Mrs. R. C. Hebert).

Finches, Sparrows, Buntings—A bird ultimately identified as a male **Brambling** appeared at Stirling Anderson's backyard feeder in northeast Portland on Nov. 22 and remained through Nov. 28. It kept in the company of House Sparrows and for the first few days spent almost all of its time about the yard. For the last few days it was absent much of the time, coming in only to feed. Movies which show the bird fairly well were obtained. Whether it was an escaped cage bird, either from someone who kept it locally or from a ship visiting Portland or whether it reached here by riding such a ship by or by its own movement can only be surmised. It was seen by several competent observers (*JG*, *RK*, *HB et al.*). There were much greater than usual numbers of House Finches on Sauvie Is. this fall; small

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flocks also reached the Oregon coast where the species is not common. Pine Siskins showed up sparsely and erratically, Seattle being the only place where they were reported abundantly and then only 1 for a few days in November (*ES*). Lesser Goldfinches were in northeast Portland throughout September, with young birds in the groups seen still begging for food on Sept. 6; 7 individuals were still present Oct. 25 (*JG*). Red Crossbills were on long Beach peninsula in the Willapa Bay area in numbers up to 75 through September, but elsewhere the species was recorded only in a flock of 45 at Portland on Sept. 24 (*JG* & R. Wright) and at Newport, Oreg. where four were seen on Nov. 19 (*JGO*). Single Slate-colored Juncos were observed at a Seattle feeder on Oct. 20 (*VEC*) and in Portland on Nov. 4, 22 and 23 (*JG*). Single White-throated Sparrows were seen at Victoria, Oct. 15 (*GAP*, *et al.*), and Oct. 24 (*vide ARD*), and at a feeder near Lebanon, Oreg., Oct. 16 (*WT*). Lincoln's Sparrows were seen in small

numbers at Victoria from Sept. 6 to Oct. 15 (*ARD*); one was at Medford on Nov. 19, a late date (*OS*). There was an apparent influx of Song Sparrows to Seattle in mid-October (*ES*). Fifteen Lapland Longspurs were seen at Victoria on Oct. 3 (*ARD*); another was seen at Parksville, Vancouver Is. on Oct. 8 (*GAP*); 2 were at Tillamook Bay on Oct. 7 (*HBN*). Three to 5 Snow Buntings were at Lead-better Point on Nov. 18 (*TRW*); 8 to 10 of these birds were at Sandy Point near Bellingham on Nov. 18 (J. Duemmel, *vide TRW*) and 1 was seen at Victoria on Nov. 21 (*ARD*).

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The Winter Season, 1967-68

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION / Thomas H. Rogers

December's weather was about normal until around mid-month, when some of the lowest temperatures of the winter were recorded. At that they were not truly severe: -10°F. at Baker, Oreg.; -4° at Kamloops, B. C.; +5° at Spokane, Wash.; and -3° at the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. Most water at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash. was frozen at this time, and Ennis Lake, west of Bozeman, Mont. froze early. Precipitation was variable, often on the low side, and included little snow, which did not persist long in the lowlands. January temperatures were seldom colder than December's and in some instances were actually milder, with deficient moisture and little snow. February was decidedly mild (nearly 8° above normal at Spokane) and generally dry, with practically all moisture in the valley falling as rain. Ice was gone from Turnbull Refuge before the month's end and from Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo, Mont. by mid-month. March continued the trend. The Bison Range averaged nearly 7° above normal and received less than half normal precipitation. At McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. the winter was "the mildest . . . since 1923." In summary, the winter was warm, dry and almost snowless in the valleys. There were many late stayers, which apparently were not much affected by the burst of winter in December. Bozeman reported "a good list of wintering species," and over the Region several species that normally winter only sparsely stayed on in increased numbers. The false spring in March

encouraged a number of early arrivals, most of which will be described in the spring report. On the other hand, many northern species were scarce or absent, presumably remaining farther north or higher in the mountains because of mild conditions. Several reporters characterized the season as uneventful and disappointing.

Loons, Grebes, Herons—The only Com. Loons reported were 1 near Ringold, Wash. during December and January (*MCA*) and singles on Okanogan Lake in southern British Columbia in December. Most remarkable was a Red-throated Loon seen on the Glacier Nat'l Park Christmas Count, Dec. 29. A few Western Grebes wintered on Okanogan Lake and 1 on the Snake River near Pasco, Wash. (*MCA*); 1 lingered at Spokane, Wash. until Jan. 3 (*WH*). Great Blue Herons wintered in good numbers. Of special interest was 1 that apparently wintered near Belgrade, Mont. (*EH* & *RAH*; *LM*). About 150 Black-crowned Night-Herons were seen at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in late February.

Waterfowl—Forty-five Whistling Swans were still at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge on Dec. 2. Spring migrants of this species appeared rather early. A few appeared at Turnbull Refuge on Feb. 18 and at Spokane in late February. Thirty were near Haines, Oreg. on March 1 (*AW*). Thirty-nine Trumpeter Swans were in the flock being established at Turnbull. A family group of 6 apparently wintered at Ennis, Mont. Canada Geese wintered at many localities. Numbers were down in the Bozeman area. On the Shuswap River near Enderby, B. C., 100-200 wintered. At McNary Refuge a peak of 27,500, was reached in late December, with 1000 still present in mid-March. Up to 4 White-fronted Geese were noted at McNary Refuge; 1 sighted with Canada Geese at Ennis, Mont., March 17 (*LJ*, *DRS*, *PDS*), constituted the second observation for this area. Up to 5 Snow Geese were at McNary Refuge; they were last seen there in early February. In January 2 hybrid *Snow X Canada Geese* were seen there. Mallards appeared to have wintered in at least the usual number. Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo,

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Mont. had an unusually large wintering population, beginning at 20,000 and dropping off to 6000 with the freeze-up. At McNary Refuge the species peaked at 36,000 in early January. A few Pintail wintered in the Bozeman area and at Ninepipe Refuge and 50-100 were present at Ravalli Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Stevensville, Mont. during most of the period. Several Shovelers were caught in a cannon net at Ninepipe Refuge in late January. A count at Ravalli Refuge in March revealed 40 Wood Ducks. A single male at Belgrade, Mont. on Jan.

28 was the first winter record for that area. Up to 50 Greater Scaup were on the river at Spokane during February and early March (*WH*). A Bufflehead seen on Feb. 25 in Park County, Mont. (*RAH*) may have wintered; the next observation in that area was on March 17. An Oldsquaw on the Baker, Oreg., Christmas Count was the first for the area (*MI*). At least 10 Red-breasted Mergansers were noted at Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash., Feb. 24 (*JA*); 1 was killed near Ringold, Wash. in December (*MCA*); and 1 was noted at Okanogan Landing near Vernon, B. C., Dec. 26 (*KG*).

Hawks and Eagles—Swainson's Hawk wintered in small numbers at the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. Several localities reported Golden Eagles in small numbers. Five counted on March 2 at the Bison Range represented about the normal situation there; 5 were sighted near Keating, Oreg., March 6 (*LR*); and 12 were seen on Cold Springs Nat'l Wildlife Refuge near Hermiston, Oreg. in December and January (*MCA*). Bald Eagles were widely reported, in unusually large numbers at some localities. Up to 43 were observed at Coeur d'Alene Lake in northern Idaho during late December and in January (*JA*; *S.A.S.*); 8 were noted at Spokane Lake near Spokane, Feb. 25 (*S.A.S.*); 9 were reported along the Snake River near Baker, Oreg. in March; and 7 were seen at the Ochoco Reservoir near Prineville, Oreg. in February (*HBN*). At Ennis, Mont., Bald Eagle numbers built up to 20 on March 24, and at Canyon Ferry, east of Helena, Mont., 50 were counted on March 31. A high density of both species near Heppner and in parts of the John Day River drainage in Oregon presented the difficult problem of how to convince ranchers that the eagles did not feed upon cattle and sheep (*KMH*). An Osprey was well seen at Prineville on Jan. 6 (*JK*). The only Gyrfalcon record was of 1 at Okanogan Landing on Dec. 23 (*KG*).

Gallinaceous Birds—The year-end estimate for Blue Grouse at the Bison Range was 70. California Quail appeared to be up at Vernon and Penticton, B. C. and at Baker, Oreg. but were scarce at McNary Refuge. Ring-necked Pheasants appeared to be about average except for increases at Ravalli Refuge and probably in the Bozeman area. Chukars were reported only from Penticton, with 26 on Dec. 26, and the Bison Range, with a year-end estimate of 50. Gray Partridge numbers were low except at the Bison Range, where the year-end estimate was 1000. Turkeys were noted in Stevens County, Wash. Where 5 were found two miles south of Rice, Dec. 28 (*WH*), and at Turnbull Refuge, where 1 was heard on March 25.

Cranes, Rails, Coot—March 31 was a record early date for Sandhill Crane, seen north of Belgrade, Mont. (*DRS* & *PDS*); 40 were seen north of Sprague, Wash.

on March 23 (*S.A.S.*). A Virginia Rail was observed at Deep Creek near O'Keefe, B. C. on Dec. 30. A single Am. Coot noted in Park County, Mont. on Feb. 25 may have wintered; if not, it was a record early date. Farther west the birds appeared to winter about as usual.

Shorebirds, Gulls—Killdeer wintered in higher than normal numbers in the Bitterroot Valley of Western Montana: around Stevensville the Christmas Count revealed 20. Likewise, Com. Snipe were somewhat up in the Vernon, B. C. area, where 27 were noted on the Christmas Count. An adult *Iceland Gull* was identified at Coeur d'Alene Lake in Idaho on Dec. 24 (*JA*) and again on Jan. 14 (very careful observation—*JA*, *WH*, *S.A.S.*). At least 80 Herring Gulls were seen at the same lake, Jan. 7 and 14 (*JA*). This species was seen in the Bozeman area on four occasions, the earliest being 1 bird at Ennis on March 17 (*LJ*, *DRS*, *PDS*), and several were seen at Canyon Ferry, Broadwater Co., Mont., March 31 (*DRS*, *PDS*).

Owls—A Screech Owl was heard on March 1 at Coldstream in the Vernon, B. C. area, where the species is rare. There was no influx of Snowy Owls this year. One was seen near Charlo, Mont., Jan. 14 (*FSD*, *fide CJH*); an adult was found near Coulee City, Wash., Feb. 22 (*WH*), and a female or immature was seen near the same town two days later (*JA*). A group of 50 Burrowing Owls was seen in early December at McNary Refuge, where the species wintered. Short-eared Owls seemed to be scarce, but about 6 wintered at McNary Refuge. Two Barred Owls were present at Cherryville, 30 miles east of Vernon, B. C. during late February and early March.

Woodpeckers—A Yellow-shafted Flicker visited a feeder in Bozeman, Feb. 8—March 3 (*EH* & *RAH*); a female came to a feeder at Coldstream, Dec. 2—Jan. 15 (*JTF*); and 1 bird was recorded at Lavington, B. C., Jan. 8. Lewis' Woodpecker wintered in the south end of the Okanogan Valley of British Columbia and 1 was seen at the Bison Range, Feb. 27. Three White-headed Woodpeckers were seen north of Wellpinit, Stevens Co., Wash., March 10 (*JA*).

Ravens, Creepers—There seems to be a tendency of the Com. Raven to become increasingly at home in and near civilization. At Missoula, Mont. the birds flew across the city daily, occasionally alighting on utility poles or trees and on gravel bars in the river where it crosses the business district. At Spokane 2 were seen on Tower Mountain, about 3 miles south of Dishman; this was Hall's first record so close to the city. Six were seen soaring over Stevensville, Mont. on March 30, and they were more common than usual in the open country around Charlo, Mont. One or two even dropped in at a feeding station! (*CJH*). Brown Creepers

seemed to be quite scarce or absent throughout the Region.

Wrens, Thrushes—A Cañon Wren was heard singing in the Madison River canyon west of Bozeman, on March 2 (*HW*), and the species was again heard singing, on March 24, at the nesting

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site of a few years ago along the Madison River (*DRS* & *PDS*). Both dates are earlier than the previous early record of April 2 and suggest wintering (*PDS*). A Rock Wren was noted at Adventure Bay, Okanagan Lake, B. C., Dec. 26, at the same place where it was observed last winter; another was noted 2 miles away at Okanagan Landing, Jan. 13. A partly albino Robin, with white head and wing linings, was reported in Sumpter Valley near Baker, Oreg., March 17. Robins did not winter in large numbers in the western part of the Region, but in western Montana "many" spent the winter in the Bitterroot Valley and they were present in greater numbers at Missoula than in any year since 1954-55. Flocks of 100 or more were noted. At the Bison Range a flock of 500 was seen on Dec. 19, but the wintering population was quite small. About 400 were noted at Moscow, Idaho, Dec. 31, but few thereafter. The Townsend's Solitaire count for Baker, Oreg., was the highest ever, 46, but at Prineville, Oreg., the species was notably scarcer (*GM*).

Kinglets, Waxwings, Shrikes—Ruby-crowned Kinglets were seen occasionally all winter in the general area of McNary Refuge and were frequent at Cold Springs Refuge. About 7 were reported at Liberty Lake, Wash., Dec. 22 (*GL*). Bohemian Waxwing numbers were down from last year in most localities, particularly in the western part of the Region. At Spokane Cedar Waxwings probably outnumbered the Bohemian. A scanty mountain ash berry crop was undoubtedly responsible. Northern Idaho and western Montana did somewhat better. Moscow, Idaho reported 590 on Dec. 31. The big flocks at Missoula arrived late, about Dec. 20 and left early, Jan. 30. "Fair" wintering numbers were reported for Bozeman, as well as a few in February, which is unusual there. Northern Shrikes were described as unusually scarce in the Okanagan Valley, but the species seemed to be about as usual elsewhere.

Warblers, Blackbirds—Audubon's Warbler was common at McNary Refuge in December and occasional thereafter. One was reported at Spokane in the first week of December, and 3 were seen on the Spokane Christmas Count. Western Meadowlarks wintered about as usual in the western part of the Region. In the Okanagan the birds were scarcer than

expected, in view of the mild winter; 34 did show up on the Vernon Christmas Count, however. A few wintered at Ninepipe Refuge and near Charlo (*CJH*) and also in the Bitterroot Valley. A very few probably wintered in the Bozeman area. A *male* Yellow-headed Blackbird was reported at Three Forks, Mont. on Dec. 10, a record late date. Brewer's Blackbird wintered in fair numbers in the Bozeman area but those noted on the Stevensville, Mont. Christmas Count were gone by Jan. 10. Scattered flocks wintered in the Vernon, B. C. area. The species was common as usual at McNary Refuge and probably wintered at Clarkston, Wash. (*MJP*). An observation of the species at Turnbull Refuge on Jan. 24 was reported; this seems a very early date. From 1 to 3 Com. Grackles seen at Bozeman from Dec. 26 (*RAH* & *LM*) to Feb. 18 (*PDS*) probably wintered; this is the first winter record there. Another bird, seen on March 23 north of Logan, Mont. was either a wintering individual or an early record (*PDS*).

Finches—Evening Grosbeaks were common at many localities throughout the Region. At Prineville they staged a "major invasion" at the end of *January* (*GM*), and Ann Ward had 125 in her backyard on Feb. 17. In the Okanagan, however, the species was quite scarce during early winter and extremely so from January on in the Vernon area. A hundred Cassin's Finches were seen near Durkee, Oreg., Jan. 15 (*LR*) and a few were seen in the Okanagan Valley. One bird at Bozeman, Mont., Jan. 24 and March 2-3, probably wintered; this was unusual but not unprecedented (*EH* & *RAH*). House Finches continued to increase their foothold at Missoula, with flocks of up to 35 birds seen there in December (*RAH*). Both sexes were seen repeatedly in January and thereafter (*PLW*). There were several reports of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches: 200-300 on Dixie Creek, 10 miles south of Durkee, Jan. 17 (*LR*); 100 at Penticton, B. C., Dec. 26; and "large numbers" at higher elevations at the Bison Range (*CJH*). Only a very few Pine Grosbeaks appeared in the lowlands, and the Com. Redpoll likewise was extremely scarce or absent. The mild winter may have accounted for the absence of these two species. Pine Siskins wintered in some areas. American Goldfinches were present at several western Mont. localities where the species does not commonly winter: up to 35 at the Bison Range, a few in the Stevensville area and four records in December in Bozeman area (*RAH*; Christmas Counts). Small numbers of Red Crossbills were reported in the Spokane area, at Stevensville, and at Ennis, Mont. Dec. 23 (*HNM*).

Sparrows—Tree Sparrows were totally absent at Missoula for the first time since 1956-57, but a few were seen at Ravalli Nat'l Wildlife Refuge near Stevensville until Jan. 5. The birds wintered as usual at Bozeman. A *Harris' Sparrow* visited a feeder in

Missoula, Feb. 11 (*EH* & *RAH*). A few White-crowned Sparrows wintered at Spokane and in the Vernon area, where they were scarcer than usual. Singles were seen occasionally at Baker, Oreg. from November through January. The species was very common at McNary Refuge, where several observations of Golden-crowned Sparrows were also made. One of the latter at Penticton, Dec. 26, was unusual (*SC*). Also unusual were 6 Fox Sparrows there on the same date (*SC*). The species was described as present in small numbers all winter in the Bitterroot Valley of western Montana (*OF*, *MG*). Is this species wintering farther north than formerly? Three or more Lapland Longspurs were noted at Coulee City, Wash. on March 24 (*JA*); 1 was seen at Clarkston, Wash., Dec. 18 (*MJP*) and 1 observation was obtained on the Ennis, Mont. Christmas Count (*RAH*, *DW*, *BU*). Lapland Longspurs are apparently a thing of the past at Missoula, where territory formerly visited by them has been largely usurped by urban expansion. Snow Buntings appeared sparsely and in small numbers. The largest flock was 30 near Vernon, B. C. in mid-February (*HO*). One

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near Davenport, Dec. 8 (*JA*), was Washington's only record. The species was seen twice at Bozeman, on the Christmas Count held on Dec. 26 and on Jan. 1 (*RAH*), and also was seen on the Ennis Christmas Count.

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The Winter Season, 1967-68

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.

/ Dr. Oliver K. Scott

The Rockies experienced a fierce winter. In a number of areas, such as central Wyoming and southern Utah, it was the wettest winter and the coldest December on record. Stillwater Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Nevada had heavy ice from mid-December to mid-January, rather than the 1-2 weeks of ice in late December or early January that is normal there. Except for the Rockies, where winter was severe throughout, the remainder of the winter was anticlimactic, with more reasonable temperatures. Moisture accumulation was far above average in the central Rockies but diminished as one went west. The Sierra Nevada had less moisture than usual (65 percent) and the situation in eastern Oregon was almost catastrophic. The Steens Mountains, the watershed for Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in eastern Oregon, had only 25 percent of their normal snow cover. Unless there is considerable late rain, which is unlikely, this year will go down as one of the worst droughts on record in the area. Over the years Malheur Refuge and the adjoining Harney Lakes vary between severe drought and relatively abundant moisture when the alkaline lakes are filled. Again, numbers of observers complained that there were fewer birds this winter; we can offer no explanation except the cold, early winter.

Loon—An injured Com. Loon was found on the streets of Delta, Colo. on Jan. 10 (*TC*). This is a very unusual bird for the western slope of the Rockies.

Ibis—A White-faced Ibis at a warm spring near Salt Lake, Jan. 20 (*GK*), was an unusual winter record. Equally unusual were the 11 that wintered in a drainage ditch at Stillwater Refuge (*LDN*).

Swans—The peak of the spring migration of Whistling Swans at Malheur Refuge was about normal with 10,000 on Feb. 18-24 (*ELMCL*). As usual, Bear River Marshes at the upper end of the Great Salt Lake had the most swans, 13,767 on March 21 (*PF*). The only other Whistling Swan concentration reported was 3500 at Stillwater Refuge in early December (*LDN*). What becomes of the Trumpeter Swans produced in the Great Basin? Both the colony at Malheur Refuge (45 birds) and the colony at Ruby Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in northeastern Nevada (22 birds) have not

grown much larger in the last few years, but they are quite successful in rearing young. Are losses after the young are fledged higher than is known? Are new breeding areas going undetected? Are the swans moving back to their original range in Montana and British Columbia?

Geese—The wintering population of Canada Geese at Monte Vista Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in southern Colorado has grown to 750 (CRB). The peak in the spring migration of Snow Geese at Stillwater Refuge occurred early in March with 20,000-25,000 birds (LDN), and the peak at Malheur Refuge was marked by a good flight of 124,000 on March 7 (ELM_L).

Ducks—At Deer Flat Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Idaho, the peak of the fall concentration of ducks occurred on Dec. 29 with 503,700 ducks present, of which 480,700 were Mallards (RVP). Although the numbers were normal, the peak was later than usual, which is quite remarkable since the lake froze on Dec. 14 and remained frozen until early February, much longer than usual. At the Klamath

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Basin in southern Oregon, the number of waterfowl was comparable to that of last year, but owing to the early cold weather there was much less waterfowl use of the area (EJOW). At Monte Vista Refuge there was more snow in December than in at least 15 years, but by continual blading of food crops the refuge staff brought their waterfowl through the winter; in late March there were 31,600 ducks present, close to a new high for the refuge (CRB). Bear River Marshes were frozen in January and February, reflecting the severe winter, but by March there was open water again. Ducks were about as numerous as last year, with a count of 58,529 Pintail on March 21 the highest concentration (PF). At Stillwater Refuge the early spring migration of ducks peaked on March 24-30 with about 75,000, mostly Pintail, Green-winged Teal and Canvasback (LDN). At Malheur Refuge the flight peaked on March 9 with 112,700 ducks present, 85,000 of which were Pintail. The duck migration was up about 20 percent over last year's figures (ELM_L). A Wood Duck was shot on the Little Bear River in northern Utah on Dec. 30 (DMF); this is a rare bird in that section. At the close of the period a pair of Wood Ducks was preparing to nest in a box set out for them at Deer Flat Refuge (RVP).

Hawks, Eagles—As was documented by the Christmas Counts, the northern part of the Region experienced a heavier-than-usual Rough-legged Hawk flight this winter. Eagles frequent the great wildlife refuges where sick and crippled ducks provide a food

supply. In early January, 6 Golden and 83 Bald Eagles were present in the Klamath Basin refuges (EJON); there were 10 Golden and 4 Bald Eagles at Deer Flat Refuge on Jan. 15 (RVP); and 7 Golden and 28 Bald Eagles were noted at Monte Vista Refuge during the period (CRB). Malheur Refuge had 3 active Golden Eagle nests and 12 Bald Eagles on March 31 (ELM_L).

Sage Grouse—A strutting ground used by 15 Sage Grouse was found near Honey Lake in northeastern California on Feb. 22 (JW). This bird is much more common in the eastern part of the Region where strutting grounds in Wyoming often contain up to 300 birds.

Owls—There was an "invasion" of Snowy Owls in Wyoming this winter. One was seen at Sheridan in northern Wyoming on Feb. 28 (TK); another was spotted atop the flagpole of the Lander Post Office; and a third was seen at Big Horn Flat near Dubois on Feb. 24 (MB). The latter two observations were from central Wyoming. This many records of the Snowy Owl is unprecedented for this part of the country but may simply be indicative of more and better observers. The Burrowing Owl, on the other hand, seems to be much less common than heretofore. On March 22 one was seen near Cedar City, Utah (SM), where the species has been scarce recently.

Flicker, Chickadees, Nuthatches—A Yellow-shafted Flicker, a rarity in Utah, was seen in Salt Lake City on Jan. 14 (GK). This one was not a hybrid. Chickadees and nuthatches were way down in numbers everywhere in the Region but particularly so in western Nevada (JMD) and at Logan Canyon in northeastern Utah (DMF).

Thrushes, Waxwings—A Robin wintered at Craters of the Moon Nat'l Monument in central southern Idaho (DLC). This is far north of the normal wintering range, although the species is a common winter resident in juniper forests throughout the Region. Unusually large numbers of Robins wintered in Reno, Nev., with flocks of up to 300 birds noted (JMD). A heavy migration of Robins was observed at Grand Junction in western Colorado in late February (LFE), and an estimated 2500+ seen south of Durango in southwestern Colorado on March 9 were the largest number ever seen in that area by a veteran observer (OR). Townsend's Solitaires were reported to be numerous in Reno and in the Humboldt Range to the northeast of Reno (JMD). More than usual were present this winter in central Wyoming (OKS) where their occurrence could be correlated with the excellent moisture conditions of last summer and the resulting better-than-usual juniper berry crop. This correlation also helps to account for the increased population of

wintering Robins discussed above. One could go on to speculate that there would be great numbers of Bohemian Waxwings, as they also feed on juniper berries, but there were almost no reports of this species during much of the winter. There were only a few early reports, including 70 at Craters of the Moon Nat'l Monument on Dec. 26 (*DLC*). No Bohemian Waxwings were reported at Salt Lake City, although 50 Cedar Waxwings appeared on March 24 (*GK*). Central Wyoming could boast of no waxwings at all until February and March, when mixed flocks appeared; one flock of 75 Bohemian and 15 Cedar Waxwings was observed in Casper on March 18 (*OKS*). As usual, no Bohemian Waxwings were observed in the mountains of Colorado (*WWB*), although large numbers were present, in company with Cedar Waxwings, at Nampa in western Idaho (*HES*).

Fringillids—There was a surprising paucity of Evening Grosbeaks, with no reasonable explanation for their absence. None were observed at Evergreen, west of Denver (*WWB*) or at Durango, Colo. where they are usually abundant (*OR*). An invasion of Rufous-sided Towhees was reported in the vicinity of Zion Nat'l Park in southern Utah (*BAL*); the birds were perhaps concentrated by the cold, snowy December in that area. White-winged Juncos were very scarce west of Denver where they usually winter in numbers (*HK*). Juncos of other species were also scarce elsewhere in the Region, e.g. at Hotchkiss, Colo. on the western slope of the Rockies (*TC*). An unusual record for western Nevada was a Harris' Sparrow present at a feeder in Reno during January and February (*JMD*). Another was seen south of Mendon in northern Utah (*DMF*), and two were observed at Grand Junction on March 17 (*LFE*); none, however, were recorded in central Wyoming where the species has been considered a regular winter visitor (*OKS*).

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The Winter Season, 1967-68

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION
/ John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

The winter of 1967-68 brought more prolonged cold periods with more snow than usual in the lowland areas during January. February and March, however, were warmer and drier than usual, with a considerably diminished snow pack in the mountains and a very advanced spring season; by the end of March bird movements had become noticeable. An invasion of northern finches, anticipated in the fall when several large flocks of Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins were seen, failed to materialize; and there was no "echo" flight of Snowy Owls after last winter's unprecedented invasion. Instead, the season's principal items of interest were supplied by Eurasian species—Yellow-billed Loon, Com. Teal, Tufted Duck and Brambling.

Loons, Grebes, Fulmar—A *Yellow-billed Loon* found at Birch Bay near Blaine, Wash. on Jan. 14 (Zella Schultz, Emil Gralghs, *ES, et al.*) constituted the first certain occurrence of the species in the state of Washington. On the next day the bird was seen by other observers at the same spot; presumably the same bird was observed at Bellingham, Wash., March 9-18 and 30 (*TRW, et al.*). Good photographs were obtained. On March 2, 200 Arctic Loons, a singularly large number, were counted at Esquimalt Lagoon, Vancouver Is. Red-necked Grebes were numerous in Puget Sound and around Victoria and Vancouver all winter, with 134 recorded on the Victoria Christmas Count. Eared Grebes were seen in numbers up to 30 on Christmas counts from Victoria north to Nanaimo, B. C. An estimated 25,000-30,000 Western Grebes wintered in the Bellingham area (*TRW*). A dark-phase Fulmar was seen at Clover Point, Victoria, B. C., Dec. 10 (*GAP*).

Hérons—One Green Heron spent the winter as far north as Mount Vernon, Wash., and several birds wintered in the Columbia River bottoms below Portland and in the Willamette Valley. A Com. Egret was found on the Eugene, Oreg. Christmas Count and one was recorded in north Portland on Feb. 22 and again on March 23. Six Black-crowned Night-Hérons were found on the Medford, Oreg. Christmas Count and one Night-Heron was discovered on the Sauvie Is., Christmas Bird Count, near Portland.

Swans, Geese—Whistling Swans wintered as usual along the Columbia River below Portland; 790 were counted on a marsh at Gaston, Oreg., Jan. 9 (*HBN*); a few also wintered in Oregon's Willamette Valley and in Washington on the Skagit Game Range and at the mouth of the Nooksack River; and an estimated 1000 were observed in flight over Canby, Oreg., Feb. 25. About 20 Trumpeter

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Swans wintered in the Comox, B. C. area, which is usual; 21 were on the Skagit River near Mount Vernon, Wash. during much of the winter, first being identified by a Game Department biologist after one was shot by a hunter in December (*fide TRW*); and 2 were seen 25 miles north of Terrace, B. C. on March 12 (*HRV*). An adult Emperor Goose was at White Rock, B. C., near Vancouver, Jan. 1–Feb. 29 (*TRW, et al.*); another was seen at Dungeness, Wash., Dec. 12 (*fide ES*), while 2 others were reported from Victoria in early March (Chas. Guiget, *fide DS*). Two White-fronted Geese were recorded on the Victoria Christmas Count; 120 were at Sauvie Is. on Feb. 29 (*TM*). Over 300 Snow Geese were counted on the Vancouver, B. C. Christmas a; an estimated 22,000 wintered on the Skagit Flats according to the Washington State Game Department; and a flock of 200 was seen at Sauvie Is. on Jan. 27 (*HBN, TM, et al.*).

Ducks—A lone Mallard was accompanying the 2 Trumpeter Swans north of Terrace, B. C. on March 12 (*HRV*). Mallards, Pintails and Am. Widgeon all were up as much as an estimated 25-30 percent over last year's figures in northwestern Oregon and western Washington. Several reports of **Com. Teal** last winter were the first for the Region; this year 1 was found at Victoria in December (*GAP*) and 2 were spotted there again in March (R. Fryer); at least 2, possibly 3, were in north Portland, Jan. 15–March 7 (*JG, et al.*); another was identified in a flock of 350 Green-winged Teal at Seattle, Jan. 6 and 7 (*ES, et al.*); and a bird deemed to be a hybrid Com. X Green-winged Teal was seen at Wiser Lake, near Bellingham, Dec. 30 (*TRW*). Eight Blue-winged Teal at Portland, 1 at Sauvie Is., and 1 at Vancouver, B. C., during the Christmas Count period are of interest. A Cinnamon Teal was said to have wintered at Clear Lake, Wash. (Howard Channing, *fide TRW*); another in breeding plumage was seen at Hoover Lakes near Medford, Jan. 3 (*JH*); a pair was noted in northeast Portland on Feb. 29 (*JG*); and another pair was recorded near Brownsville, Oreg., March 8 (*LW*). European Widgeon were more numerous than ever before from Portland north; many were reported shot at Sauvie Is. during the hunting season, according to a Game Commission representative; and 7 were counted at Kent Valley, Wash. on March 9 (*ES, et al.*). One or two single Wood Ducks wintered in the Bellingham area (*TRW*); 2 were in the vicinity of Redmond, Wash. in late February and early March (*ES*); 26 were reported on the Vancouver Christmas Count. A few Wood Ducks wintered in the Willamette Valley. A pair of Redheads spent the winter at Mount Vernon, Wash. (*VEC*), while another 2-3 birds wintered on Wiser Lake, Wash. (*TRW*); 2 also were found on the Victoria Christmas Count. Some 58 Ring-necked Ducks on the Tillamook, Oreg., Christmas Count, 60 on the Pender Is., B. C. Christmas

Count, 300 and 365 respectively on the Victoria, B. C. and Salem, Oreg. Christmas Counts, and 75 at Scappoose, Columbia Co., Oreg. on Feb. 25 (*JG & Mark Koninendyke*) all suggest that this species was present in better than usual numbers this winter. Photographs were obtained of 2 **Tufted Ducks** present at Seattle, Dec. 31–Feb. 12 (Zella Schultz, *ES, et al.*), which constituted the third or fourth record of the species from the Region in recent years. Over 2300 Barrow's Goldeneye on the Vancouver Christmas Count were noteworthy. On the Victoria Christmas Count 363 Oldsquaws were recorded, but the species was not reported from farther south this winter. Single White-winged and Com. Scoters were in hunter's bags at Sauvie Is., about 75 miles inland, Dec. 26 (Norman Minnick). The total of 149 Hooded Mergansers on the Victoria Christmas Count was an unusually high number for anywhere in the Region.

Vulture, Hawks, Eagles—An early Turkey Vulture was seen on the southwestern Oregon coast, Feb. 17 (*JH & OS*). Lone Goshawks were reported from Salem, Dec. 5 (*TM*); from Medford, Tillamook and Eugene on the Christmas Counts; from Kelso, Wash., March 13 (*JG, et al.*); and from Bellingham, March 24 (*TRW*). A Sharp-shinned Hawk wintered at Terrace, B. C. (*HRV*); this species was reported as common in the Lebanon, Oreg. area (*WT*) and in good numbers at Victoria (*DS*) during the winter but down at Bellingham (*TRW*). Cooper's Hawk also was reported in good numbers at Victoria but down at Bellingham. Very few Rough-legged Hawks were seen at Bellingham during the winter (*TRW*), but at least 4 individuals seem to have spent the winter at Sauvie Is., a few were in the Willamette Valley, and 1 was seen on the coast at Nehalem, Oreg. on March 22 (Sterling Anderson). There were a surprising number of Golden Eagle reports: 2 birds at Pitt Meadows near Vancouver on Feb. 4 (*MAS*); an immature at Brownsville, Oreg. on March 13 (*LW*); 1 bird at Comox, B. C. on March 10 (*GAP*); and 1 or more reported several times in Whatcom and Skagit Counties by the Washington State Game Commission. A few Bald Eagles were in the Lebanon–Sweet Home, Oreg. area in January (*LW*); birds were present at the traditional wintering spots along the northern Oregon coast and the lower Columbia River; more than usual wintered in Washington's Whatcom and Skagit Counties (*TRW*); and 14 were counted between Victoria and Comox, B. C. on March 12 (*DS*). Marsh Hawks started nuptial flights in mid-February at Lebanon and were incubating eggs by the end of March (*WT*); more than usual seemed to be wintering along the Columbia below Portland (*HBN*). An Osprey was reported as having spent the winter at Clear Lake, Wash. (Howard Channing, *fide TRW*). A Prairie Falcon at Medford on Jan. 27 (*JH & OS*) was said to be the first recorded

there in 10 years. The only Peregrine reports were of single birds on the Sauvie Is. and Victoria Christmas Counts and of 1 bird at Marietta, Wash., March 31 (TRW). Pigeon Hawks were recorded at the Wm. L. Finley Nat'l Wildlife Refuge south of Corvallis, Oreg. on Dec. 31 (LW), at the south side of the mouth of the Columbia River on Jan. 13 and March 9 (HBN), at Seattle in mid-February (ES), and at Bellingham through much of the winter (TRW); 5 individuals were reported on the Vancouver Christmas Count and 2 on the Victoria Christmas Count.

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Cranes, Rails—Eleven Sandhill Cranes at Ridgefield, Wash., across the Columbia River from Sauvie Is., on March 3 (JG & Sterling Anderson) were early. Several Virginia Rails were at Kent Valley, Wash. in February and March (Rathfelder, *vide ES*); other birds were heard in mid-March near Lebanon (WT) and near Salem (TM); 2 were recorded on the Vancouver Christmas Count.

Shorebirds—Two Snowy Plovers were in the vicinity of the south jetty at the mouth of the Columbia River on Jan. 13 (HBN). A few Black-bellied Plovers wintered in the Region; 9 seen at Svensen, Oreg., on the lower Columbia, Jan. 13 (HBN), 1 on the Game Commission ponds at Medford, Oreg. on March 1 (JH), and 1 recorded on the Eugene Christmas Count all were away from the favored coastal spots. A Ruddy Turnstone was seen at Vancouver on a number of occasions (MAS), while 1 was found on the Tillamook Christmas Count. An estimated 250 Com. Snipe wintered in north Portland on the Columbia River bottoms (JG). One or two Spotted Sandpipers wintered on Sauvie Is.; 2 individuals were found on the Nanaimo, B. C. Christmas Count; 4 were noted on the Vancouver Christmas Count; and 1 was recorded on the Victoria Christmas Count. A Willet was reported on the Gold Beach, Oreg. Christmas Count. Twenty-three Greater Yellowlegs on the Victoria Christmas Count were unusual; 6 birds were at Marietta, Wash. on Dec. 18 (TRW); and there were a number of other reports in December from various points in western Oregon. A Lesser Yellowlegs was present at Whidbey Is., Wash. all during March (VEC). Flocks of Rock Sandpipers wintered at favored localities at Nanaimo, Vancouver and Victoria, B. C., at Bellingham, Wash., and at Tillamook and Seal Rock, Oreg. Some 250 Least Sandpipers were recorded on the Eugene Christmas Count; 300 were estimated at Newport, Oreg. on March 17 (JH), while 1200 were estimated around Yaquina Bay, Oreg. on the same day (HBN, WT, LW). A total of 175 Dunlin near Lebanon, Oreg., on Jan. 7 (LW) was an unusually high count for an inland location; many birds of this species seem to have

wintered around Lebanon (WT); 2 were seen at Medford on Jan. 27 (JH & OS). A few Long-billed Dowitchers were reported; 55 at Scappoose, Oreg., Dec. 12-16 (JG & Mark Koninendyke) were the high count, with 50 on the Vancouver Christmas Count also of interest. Three Western Sandpipers were at Bellingham on Jan. 14 (TRW); 50 were reported on the Eugene Christmas Count; lesser numbers appeared on a few other counts.

Gulls, Alcids—Three Glaucous Gulls were recorded on the Tillamook Christmas Count and 1 was found on the Comox, B. C. Christmas Count; in late January, first one and then another showed up in north Portland, with 5 birds (2 first-year, 3 second-year) found in one day, Feb. 29, on Sauvie Is. (HBN). As it happens almost every winter, 1 or 2 Western Gulls appeared in late January in north Portland (HBN, TM, *et al.*). Herring Gulls appeared on Christmas Count reports for the Region in good numbers, greater perhaps than ever before. California Gulls were reported by most counts touching prominent bodies of water, with 103 on the Portland Christmas Count the highest total. Ninety-four Bonaparte's Gulls were reported on the Vancouver Christmas Count; a few wintered at Victoria (DS); elsewhere the only reports were of 2 on the Bellingham Christmas Count and 1 in north Portland on Dec. 6 (JG, *et al.*). Black-legged Kittiwakes were scarce: 4 were at Clover Point in Victoria on Dec. 10 (GAP) and 4 were at the mouth of the Columbia River on March 9 (HBN). Two Sabine's Gulls were also at Clover Point on Dec 10 (GAP). Common Murres, Pigeon Guillemots, Marbled Murrelets and Ancient Murrelets were reported by almost all of the coastal British Columbia Christmas Counts and in Washington on the Bellingham, Samish Is. and Seattle Christmas Counts. Cassin's Auklets were reported only from Seattle. Rhinoceros Auklets were numerous in Puget Sound at Seattle most of the winter (VEC) with 162 reported on the Christmas Count, but the species was seemingly absent elsewhere in the Region.

Pigeons, Doves, Owls—As has been usual the past few years, a few Band-tailed Pigeons spent the winter in Victoria (ARD); 74 were recorded on the Seattle Christmas Count. Eugene reported 662, Portland, 353, and Bellingham an unusual 32 Mourning Doves on their respective Christmas Counts. The only Snowy Owls of the winter were recorded at Comox and Vancouver during the Christmas Count period. Pygmy Owls, scarce on Vancouver Is., were present at Victoria all winter; 1 was recorded also on the Comox Christmas Count and 1 on the Vancouver Christmas Count. Many observers in the northern portion of the Region thought Short-eared Owls were more abundant this winter, and an estimated 20 wintered on the south side of Sauvie Is. (JG, *et al.*). A dead Saw-whet Owl was

found at Terrace, B. C. on March 21 (HRV) and one was reported as having wintered at Eugene (A. Larrabee).

Hummingbirds—It is strange that *Anna's Hummingbird*, a species whose traditional range is to the south of the Region, should have been reported during the past winter with greater frequency than ever before in any one season: "several" birds wintered in the Magnolia Bluff area of Seattle where winter records have occurred in years past; a specimen was taken at Comox, B. C., Jan. 1 and was sent to the Provincial Museum" (*fide DS*); and 4 individuals were recorded by the Christmas Count at Gold Beach on the southwestern coast of Oregon while 2 were found inland on the Medford Christmas Count. A Rufous Hummingbird spent the winter at Victoria (*DS*). First migrant Rufous Hummingbirds were recorded at Tillamook, Feb. 25 (Sterling Anderson & Randy Wright), in Seattle, March 10 (*ES*), and at Bellingham, March 21 (*TRW*).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Larks, Swallows—Nine Acorn Woodpeckers reported on the Salem Christmas Count gave further indication of a gradual northward extension of range in the Willamette

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Valley by this entertaining woodpecker; 92 were recorded on the Eugene Christmas Count. A Lewis' Woodpecker at Victoria on Jan. 27 (*ARD*) was out of the ordinary; there were no reports from northern Oregon and only one bird was seen a few times in the Medford area (*JH*) where in recent years the species has wintered more or less common. Twelve Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers on the Victoria Christmas Count were an unusually high number; the species seems to have been in good numbers there all winter (*DS*). A Say's Phoebe at Medford on Jan. 27 (*JH* & *OS*) and one near Corvallis in early February (A. Larrabee) were the only reports of that species in the Region during the past winter. Horned Larks were present in small numbers at favored localities in western Oregon; 2 were at Kent, Wash. on Feb. 25, while 30 were there on March 9 (Rathfelder, *fide ES*). The vanguard of Violet-green Swallows appeared widely during the first 10 days of March, a week or 10 days after the first Tree Swallows. A Rough-winged swallow was at Bellingham on March 31 (*TRW*), quite an early date.

Corvidae—Two Black-billed Magpies were observed south of Seattle on Dec. 27 (*fide ES*); one was noted at Bellingham in mid-December (*TRW*) and another was found on the Sauvie Is. Christmas Count. There were times when as many as 15 Com. Ravens were together on the Thackaberry farm northeast of Lebanon, Oreg.

this winter (*WT*). Northwestern Crows were present in small numbers in the area on the south side of the mouth of the Columbia River during the season (*HBN*).

Chickadees, Nuthatches, Wrentit, Wrens—Two Black-capped Chickadees were seen at Hazelton in northern British Columbia on Feb. 27 (*HRV*). Red-breasted Nuthatches were very scarce in Oregon but were said to be in normal numbers at Bellingham during the winter period (*TRW*). Six Wrentits were recorded on the Eugene Christmas Count after having been present all during the fall; the species is virtually unrecorded away from the coast, except for the Rogue River Valley in the extreme southern part of the Region. Long-billed Marsh Wrens wintered in noticeably more than their usual sparse numbers in northwestern Oregon, but judging by Christmas Count comparisons for localities both to the north and to the south the phenomenon was not Region-wide.

Thrasher, Thrushes—The *California Thrasher* reported for Medford in the summer and fall of 1967 showed up at the same feeder on the amazing date of Feb. 4 but was not seen on more than the one day (*fide JH*). Twenty-four migrant Robins were far north in British Columbia at Terrace on the early date of March 12 (*HRV*). Observers seemed to agree that Varied Thrushes were more in evidence in the populated valley areas of western Washington and Oregon; the species was considered less abundant this year at Victoria; 1 was seen at Hazelton, B. C., northeast of Terrace, on Feb. 27 (*HRV*). Occasional Hermit Thrushes were present in western Oregon and Washington at least through the Christmas Count period, which is the usual winter status of the species; 16 on the Eugene Christmas Count was an unusually high number. Ninety-one W. Bluebirds on the Salem Christmas Count and 184 on the Eugene Christmas Count were noteworthy records, as were the appearances of 2 Mountain Bluebirds on the Thackaberry farm, March 16, and 1 on Samish Is., Wash., March 9 (J. Duemmel, *fide TRW*). Townsend's Solitaire is an uncommon to rare bird in the Region of late; winter records this year came only from Bellingham (*TRW*) and for the end of March from Victoria (*DS*).

Pipits, Shrikes, Starling—Water Pipits wintered sparsely at Bellingham (*TRW*) and on the Skagit Game Range (*VEC*); 75 were at Agate Lake near Medford on Jan. 27 (*JH* & *OS*); 575 were recorded on the Corvallis Christmas Count. Northern Shrikes appear to have wintered in small numbers south to about Eugene, where a Loggerhead Shrike was found for the Christmas Count. Starlings increased around Victoria and 10 birds were seen far to the north at Hazelton, B. C. on Feb. 27 (*HRV*).

Vireos, Warblers—Hutton's Vireos appear in numbers up to 3 on the Christmas Count reports from Victoria, Seattle, Portland, Corvallis and Eugene; the bird was also found later in the season at Seattle's Seward Park and at Kent Valley, Wash. (ES). There were up to a score of reports of Orange-crowned Warblers wintering north through the Region to Victoria and Bellingham. Either 2 or 3 Townsend's Warblers were listed on the Seattle, Portland, and Corvallis Christmas Counts. A winter report of *MacGillivray's Warbler* would ordinarily be dismissed with extreme skepticism, but the fact that 1 was reported by a party under an experienced leader on the Victoria Christmas Count, Dec. 30, and that 2 were reported for the Eugene Christmas Count on the next day, presumably by one observer, causes an editor to pause for a long time before rejecting what would seem to be incredible sightings.

Blackbirds, Oriole—A Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Hoover Lakes near Medford on Jan. 19 (OS). A Tricolored Blackbird was carefully studied at Sauvie Is. after the bird's voice announced its presence (JG, et al.). A flock of up to 350 Brown-headed Cowbirds was counted several times in north Portland during the winter; a few also wintered at Victoria as has been the case for several consecutive years (DS). A Bullock's Oriole was seen on the Rogue River near Medford on Feb. 15 (JH).

Grosbeaks, Finches—Three Black-headed Grosbeaks were present at Agate Lakes for the Medford Christmas Count, held on Dec. 30, and 1 immature was seen at Medford on Feb. 22 (fide OS). The *Brambling* reported seen for a week in Portland at the end of November in the fall season account spent the winter at a feeder several blocks from where it had first appeared; the bird has eaten sunflower seeds exclusively so far as can be ascertained. The bird has been seen by many persons and numerous photographs of it have been taken; by the end of the report period it was undergoing considerable plumage change and was acting aggressively toward other birds. A Pine Grosbeak was observed on Feb. 27 at Hazelton, B. C. where 80

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Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were noted on the same day (HRV). Pine Siskins were noticeable in the Willamette Valley after March 1, having been around Portland all winter; over 100 individuals were recorded on the Vancouver, Victoria, Tillamook and Gold Beach Christmas Counts, as well. Two Com. Redpolls were at Terrace, B. C., Feb. 17 (HRV), and a tame male permitted the observer to approach within 4 feet at

Bellingham, March 12 (TRW). Red Crossbills were very scarce, with a flock of 45 at Toledo, Oreg., March 21 (HBN, WT, LW) the high count.

Sparrows—Two Savannah Sparrows on the Vancouver Christmas Count were remarkably far north for the season; 1 was found on the Sauvie Is. Christmas Count; more than 50 were found on the Eugene and Corvallis Christmas Counts combined; and 121 were recorded on the Medford Christmas Count. Signs of spring migration in this species were apparent in the last week of March with appearances at various points in Washington and northwestern Oregon. A Vesper Sparrow in north Portland on March 29 (JG) was an early migrant. A total of 50 Lark Sparrows at Agate Lakes near Medford on Jan. 27 was remarkable (JH & OS). Slate-colored Juncos were reported wintering in Seattle, Portland, Salem and Lebanon; individuals of this species also were recorded on the Christmas Counts at Vancouver (with a high of 5), Comox, Victoria, Bellingham and Medford. Oregon Juncos were abundant from southwestern British Columbia south through the rest of the Region during the winter. Seven *Tree Sparrows* were reported on the Bellingham Christmas Count, with 1 still in evidence on Jan. 22 (TRW). Harris' Sparrows were present through the winter at a feeder in West Vancouver, B. C. (MAS), and in north Portland where an adult and an immature were found from Jan. 14 to March 20 (JG, HBN, et al.); an immature was also present at a feeder in Lake Oswego, Oreg. much of the winter (Mr. & Mrs. Irving Curran). More White-crowned Sparrows spent the winter farther north than usual, being particularly remarked upon from Bellingham and northwestern Oregon; 5 appeared on the Comox, B. C. Christmas Count. There were four records of White-throated Sparrows this winter: 1 wintering at a Victoria feeder (fide DS) and individual birds seen at Sumas, Wash., Jan. 7 (fide TRW), at Dallas, Oreg., Feb. 1 (TM), and near Corvallis, Dec. 30 (LW). A number of Christmas Count reports from the Region include Lincoln's Sparrows, but these records constitute such a departure from the established winter range of the species as to require substantial verification before acceptance. A Snow Bunting was at Clover Point, Victoria, Dec. 23 (ARD); 12 were noted on the Bellingham Christmas Count, with 2 last seen there on March 20 (TRW); 1 was found on the Seattle Christmas Count.

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Spring Migration, 1968

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

After a mild, moisture-deficient winter season, particularly in March, spring was unseasonably cool, especially in April, and the extremely dry conditions continued well into May. In April temperatures at Spokane, Wash. averaged 4.3° below normal, with only 0.10 inch of precipitation (normal, 0.81 inch). The Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. had about normal precipitation in April but received only about one-third of the normal amount of moisture in May. Conditions were similar at Missoula, Mont. but the lower temperatures were believed to have compensated somewhat for lack of moisture by reducing evaporation and slowing spring run-off. For the most part data are lacking for higher elevations, where lower temperatures and greater precipitation could be expected, e.g. Loring Jones' estimate that precipitation for May at the 4500-foot level at the University of Idaho's station north of Moscow would reach 4 inches. Some evidence that migration was speeded up during the warm early spring was given in the reports from P. D. Skaar for the Bozeman, Mont. area, Opal Foust for the Bitterroot Valley around Stevensville, Mont., and Mrs. S. O. Stanley for the Spokane area. The "false spring" hurried nesting activities at Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo,

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Mont., where goslings and ducklings were seen earlier than usual.

Grebes, Pelicans—Unusually large numbers of Eared Grebes were observed in the vicinity of Ninepipe Refuge. A group of over 100 was on Pablo Reservoir, 15 miles north of the refuge, in late April. Many more than usual were noted at Ravalli Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Stevensville, Mont., but the species seemed to be in about usual numbers elsewhere. Fifteen White Pelicans stopped at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. for one day, April 11. The only other records for the Region were in the Bozeman, Mont. area, where the first arrivals were noted on May 5 at Ennis.

Cormorants, Herons—Double-crested Cormorants first appeared on May 5 in the Bozeman area; at McNary Refuge 2 arrived on May 8 and remained to the end of the report period. About 60 Great Blue Herons were reported at a heronry at Otter Lake near Vernon, B. C., April 3 (HB). A *Snowy Egret* seen near Helena, Mont. on May 25 (SM) furnished one of only a

few records for the state. Black-crowned Night Herons were reported at McNary Refuge and at the nesting area near St. Andrews, Douglas Co., Wash., where 32 were counted on April 5. The Am. Bittern was observed at Ravalli Refuge in April and at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash. in May.

Waterfowl—Whistling Swans reached a peak of 1000 on the lake at Ennis, Mont. on March 24. Trumpeter Swans, which probably wintered in that area, showed an influx in March. The introduced population of this species at Turnbull Refuge still held at 39 birds. Two cygnets hatched there on June 3. A White-fronted Goose was seen near Sprague, Lincoln Co., Wash., April 20 (WH). At Missoula, Mont. unusually early arrival dates were obtained for Pintail (March 6) and Cinnamon Teal (April 17). The latter species appeared to be on an upsurge in some localities and outnumbered other teal in several cases, with 400 remaining at Ravalli Refuge after a peak of 1000 in late March, numbers estimated to be three or four times the usual density around Ronan, Lake Co., Mont. (CJH), and the species described as more common than previously recognized at nearby Ninepipe Refuge. At Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash. the Cinnamon Teal population was about four times that recorded last year, and at McNary Refuge breeding pairs slightly outnumbered Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal. At the latter refuge breeding pairs of ducks showed a 300 percent increase over last year. Blue-winged Teal were not noted at Reardan, Lincoln Co., Wash. until the very late date of May 15. A male *European Widgeon* noted at Willow Lake, Spokane Co. on April 16 (WH) furnished one of the very few records of the species in eastern Washington. Sixty Wood Ducks, a surprising total, were reported nesting at Ravalli Refuge. A pair of Barrow's Golden-eyes was reported nesting near Lake Como in the upper Bitterroot Valley, Ravalli Co., Mont. Two male Surf Scoters were seen on May 15 at Eaglet Lake, Prince George, B. C. and about 30 were noted on May 19 at Ahbau Lake near Quesnel, B. C. (CS). At least 80 Hooded Mergansers were present at Ravalli Refuge in May. A Red-breasted Merganser was seen at Sun Lakes, Grant Co., Wash., April 5 (WH), and the species was noted in Ravalli County in May (LM).

Hawks, Eagles—There appeared to be a scarcity of hawks in Montana west of the Continental Divide, and possibly the same applied to the areas farther west, although around Spokane conditions appeared to be about normal in this respect. An immature Goshawk was seen in open farmland near Reardan, Wash. on April 28 (JA). April 14 was a record early date for the Ferruginous Hawk at Ennis, Mont. (DRS & PDS). A pair of Golden Eagles was reported nesting at Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. in late April (JA); the species

was unusually scarce in the Vernon, B. C. area during winter and spring. A peak of 50 Bald Eagles was recorded near Townsend, Broadwater Co., Mont. on March 31. A pair was present at Suttle Lake near Sisters, Deschutes Co., Oreg. (GM). Sparrow Hawks were apparently migrating about April 18 and again on May 6 in the Baker, Oreg. area.

Gallinaceous Birds—On April 25 male Blue Grouse were strutting at the Nat'l Bison Range. A Sharp-tailed Grouse was noted near Creston, Lincoln Co., Wash., April 25 (WH). At the Clarkston Flats near Clarkston, Asotin Co., Wash. what were probably 2 different Sage Grouse were seen on April 28 (WH); 40-50 were present at the dancing ground south of Creston in early April. Three breeding pairs of California Quail were found at McNary Refuge, where house cats are thought to be the limiting factor. Three Turkeys were seen five miles west of Stevensville, Mont., April 9 (BT).

Sandhill Crane, Sora—At least 300 Sandhill Cranes were seen on April 6 near Sprague, Lincoln Co., Wash. The species was recorded in the Bozeman area on the early date of March 31 (DRS & PDS), and single birds were seen at two unusual localities: near *Frenchtown*, Missoula Co., Mont. on May 2 (PLW) and at *Missoula* on May 21 (RSH, RLH). It was noted only once in eastern Oregon, 2 birds seen in the upper Sumpter Valley west of Baker on May 6. Previously considered rare at Ravalli Refuge, the Sora was seen there in many places this spring.

Shorebirds—The Semipalmated Plover was added to the Ravalli Refuge list on May 9 by Carol Boyd and also was observed there in early May by Louis Moos; on May 5, 13 were seen at Reardan, Wash., and 4 were seen at Three Forks, Gallatin Co., Mont. (DRS & PDS); another seen on May 8 at McNary Refuge was the first ever recorded there. Unusual numbers of Long-billed Curlews were noted in northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington, with a peak of 50 seen in the Baker, Oreg. area on April 12 and about 150 observed feeding in a field at McNary Refuge on May 30. At Columbia Refuge, where 10 years ago the species was considered rare, the population increased to about 50 breeding pairs. An Upland Plover at Missoula on May 23 was only Ralph Hand's second spring record in many years of observation. April 28 was a record early date for the Willet and Lesser

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Yellowlegs at Three Forks, Mont. (DRS & PDS). A Willet was noted at the unusual locality of *Banks Lake, Wash.* on May 5 (WH). Two Pectoral Sandpipers, rare in spring in eastern Washington, were seen at Reardan on the early date of May 30 (JA and Mr. & Mrs. SOS;

WH). A Baird's Sandpiper observed at Missoula on April 6 was almost a month earlier than the previous early record. The Dunlin was noted at two localities in eastern Washington and in unusual numbers at each: at least 15 on May 3 at Banks Lake and 20 on April 18 at McNary Refuge. A Marbled Godwit was seen near Ronan, Mont., May 1 (CJH). An *Am. Avocet* was noted at Duck Lake, 10 miles north of Kelowna, B. C., May 12-20 (FP); there are only about eight previous records for the province. A Wilson's Phalarope at Three Forks, Mont. on April 28 (DRS & PDS) established an early record.

Gulls and Terns—A single *Glaucous Gull*, apparently passing into its second-year plumage, was carefully identified at Ennis, Mont. on May 19; this is the second state record. Herring Gulls set record early and late dates at Ennis: March 17 and April 14 (DRS & PDS). April 10 was "gull day" at McNary Refuge, with about 500 Herring, 3000 California and 4000 Ring-billed Gulls observed; this followed the treatment of a refuge pond with rotenone April 1. The Ring-billed Gull set an early record, 1 March 17, at Ennis (LJ, DRS & PDS). A Bonaparte's Gull at McNary Refuge on May 8 was the first record for spring. Forster's Tern was described as nesting abundantly on islands at Ninepipe Refuge. The sighting of a Com. Tern at Reardan, Wash., May 18 (JA & S.A.S.) was not a common event there.

Pigeon, Owls—A *Band-tailed Pigeon*, the second for Montana and the third for the Region, was carefully identified just south of Stevensville, Mont. on May 9 and remained there for eight days (LM, *fide* PDS & OF). Two Barred Owls were heard frequently through April at Cherryville, 35 miles east of Vernon, B. C. (SD). The uncommon Burrowing Owl was reported near Huston Lake, four miles west of Prineville, Crook Co., Oreg., 1 bird noted on April 28 (JA). At McNary Refuge the population of this species was estimated at 30 nesting pairs. Reports of Short-eared Owls were scanty, and they were unusually scarce in the Vernon area.

Nighthawks, Swifts, Hummingbirds—Common Nighthawks were noted at Clarkston, Wash. on May 20, the earliest date for the Region (MJP). Several sightings of Vaux's Swifts were made in the Bitterroot Valley, Mont., and several flocks of 60 were seen a few miles east of Prineville, Oreg. on May 26 (GM). Black-chinned Hummingbirds were reported only from Spokane and the Bitterroot Valley (CB).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers—The rare Williamson's Sapsucker was noted at three localities: in the Bitterroot Valley on May 9 (BT); at a nest on Huckleberry Mountain, Stevens Co., Wash. on May 18; and at Baker,

Oreg., April 23, a male with a broken neck found under a power line (LR). A Western Kingbird at Missoula on May 1 (RSH) and another there on May 3 (RLH) were considered a week or so ahead of schedule. In contrast, the first spring record for Vernon, B. C., April 27, was considered late. Other first dates for the species were April 28 at McNary Refuge, Reardan (FBH) and Spokane; May 1 at Clarkston (MJP); May 5 at Turnbull Refuge; May 10 in the Bitterroot Valley; and May 19 at Bozeman.

Swallows—Early records included 6 Violet-green Swallows at Okanagan Landing near Vernon, March 2 (DL); Bank Swallow at Bozeman on April 21 (LJ, DR, DRS & PDS); and Cliff Swallow at Ninepipe Refuge on March 24. A concentration estimated at 20,000 swallows, mostly Cliff, was observed over Swan Lake in the Vernon area on May 5 (KG). Another concentration of "thousands," comprising five species with Violet-green seemingly the most numerous, was seen at Ravalli Refuge, May 15 (CB & OF).

Jays, Nuthatch—Some 18 Steller's Jays were counted in a small area on Blodgett Creek west of Hamilton, Ravalli Co., Mont. A *Pygmy Nuthatch* was sighted at Ravalli Refuge on April 3 (BT); the species is decidedly scarce in western Montana.

Wren, Mockingbird, Thrushes—A Cañon Wren was observed in a dry creek bed near Clarkston, Wash., May 8 (MJP). A Mockingbird was photographed along the Bowron River 40 miles east of Prince George, B. C., May 26 (JG & CS). This is about 10 miles southwest of the site where one was observed on May 31, 1967 (JG). Western Bluebirds were noted in the Baker, Oreg. area and at Turnbull Refuge and appeared to outnumber Mountain Bluebirds in the Spokane area. The latter species was believed to be gaining in numbers in the Bitterroot Valley, but at Missoula Hand saw only one all spring. A number of other localities reported them. Townsend's Solitaire appeared to be more common than usual at three localities: in the lower mountains surrounding the Bitterroot Valley; in residential areas of Missoula between March 20 and April 17; and at Vernon for two to three weeks beginning in mid-April.

Kinglet, Shrikes—A *Golden-crowned Kinglet* was heard in song at the Bozeman cemetery on May 5 (DRS & PDS). An apparent movement of Loggerhead Shrikes was observed in Lincoln County, Wash. on April 6, when at least 10 were noted; single birds were also reported at Missoula on April 21, at Clarkston, Wash. on April 28 (MJP), and at Lapwai, Nez Perce Co., Idaho on May 12 (MJP).

Warblers—Tennessee Warblers were abundant in the Prince George district of British Columbia during the

last week of May. The Magnolia Warbler was first seen at Aleza Lake near Prince George on May 15. Several Myrtle Warblers, a species which ordinarily occurs only very sparingly in the Region, were seen in the Bitterroot Valley (BT, LM). A concentration of Audubon's Warblers at Vernon, B. C. on April 16 apparently resulted from adverse weather. A Blackpoll Warbler was observed at Punchaw Lake, 40 miles south of Prince George, May 29. A *Palm Warbler* was carefully identified at Suttle Lake, northwest of Sisters, Oreg., May 1 (GM). A MacGillivray's Warbler seen at Turnbull Refuge on April 28 (FBH) was early.

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Icterids—Bobolinks were noted in western Montana from May 22 on. A Western Meadowlark, rare in the Prince George area, was heard singing at the experimental farm there on May 11 and was still present on June 2 (JG, CS); a second bird was heard at Prince George, May 23-26. Likewise rare at that locality was a Yellow-headed Blackbird seen with a flock of cowbirds on May 15 (CS). A movement of 600 Red-winged Blackbirds was noted on Feb. 16 in the Wingville area near Baker, Oreg.

Finches—Evening Grosbeaks were present at a majority of reporting localities across the Region. In the Bitterroot Valley it was called an Evening Grosbeak year by Opal Foust; at Missoula they were unusually abundant after early May; Spokane had many flocks of 100-300 birds; and the species was described as abundant at Prineville, Oreg. through most of the spring and at Vernon, B. C., May 20-23. House Finches continued to be seen regularly in the southeast residential section of Missoula. Red Crossbills were observed regularly in the Spokane area, were noted at Bozeman, and showed a definite increase over last year in the Bitterroot Valley. No other localities reported them.

Sparrows—The Lark Bunting was observed in the Bozeman area on June 2 (RAH, DRS & PDS). Grasshopper Sparrows were reported only at the Nat'l Bison Range beginning on May 9 and near Sprague, Wash. where 1 was seen on May 26 (JA). A single Slate-colored Junco accompanied a flock of Oregon Juncos at Lavington, B. C., April 16-17. A *Harris' Sparrow* in full breeding plumage was seen with White-crowned Sparrows on May 9 at Spokane, where the species is rare at any time (Mr. & Mrs. SOS). White-crowned Sparrows were noted moving mostly between mid-April and mid-May. No large flocks were seen in the Spokane area, probably because clear, dry weather favored their uninterrupted migration. At Prineville, Oreg., the species peaked during April 23-27, about a week earlier than last year, and was not seen thereafter.

At Missoula all individuals observed closely after May 20, were definitely not the *gambelii* form. At Vernon the first migrants (*gambelii*), distinguishable from the birds that wintered there, were found on April 20. Migrants were abundant in the Okanogan, April 28—May 6, and were fairly common at Prince George by May 9 and abundant there by May 12-15. All had left Prince George by May 24. A few Golden-crowned Sparrows, rare migrants in the Region, were observed, including single birds at Prineville on April 28 (*GM*), at Baker on May 5 (*AS*), and at Spokane, May 5-13 (*WH*; *S.A.S.*). At least 5 were seen in the Columbia Basin of eastern Washington on May 5. White-throated and Lincoln's Sparrows were singing at Prince George on May 24. The only Snow Bunting seen at Missoula after December was a single bird on April 6; another was photographed at Ten Mile Lake near Quesnel, B. C., April 21 (*CS*).

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Spring Migration, 1968

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

The spring season was one of contrasts in this Region. The Central Rockies experienced cold and wet weather, with late snows. It was the coldest April in 38 years at

Grand Junction, Colo., and a record snowpack was accumulated in central Wyoming. The western Great Basin, however, experienced very little precipitation and became very dry, with a poor snowpack in the Sierra Nevada. Fortunately, some areas such as Klamath Basin in eastern Oregon and Stillwater Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Nevada had sufficient supplies of water left over from last season. Migration was as varied as the weather. In the Central Rockies the main flights were almost two weeks later than normal, with much of the migration occurring after

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June 1. In the Great Basin, however, the migration was regarded as average in most respects. An excellent shorebird flight was recorded in the eastern part of the Region, perhaps because of better water conditions there.

Loon, Grebes—An Arctic Loon collected at Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge constituted the first record for that part of Oregon (*ELMcL*). A count of 10 Horned Grebes at Grand Junction, Colo. on May 27 (*LFE*) was higher than is usually reported for this regular spring migrant in the Rockies.

Egrets—Cattle Egrets were reported in two new localities, namely, Bear River Marshes at the upper end of the Great Salt Lake, where 2 were seen on April 20 (*PJF*) and 1 on April 27 (*GK*), and Florida Mesa near Durango in southwestern Colorado, where 3 were observed on April 16 (*TF*).

Geese, Ducks—The Klamath Basin experienced a delayed spring migration, with 11,000 "Cackling" Canada Geese and 800 Ross' Geese still present at the end of April (*EJO'N*). At Deer Flat Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Idaho, which includes a section of the Snake River, there were 191 Canada Goose broods, down from last year's total (*RVP*). At Bear River Marshes, on the other hand, Canada Goose production was up 50 percent (*PJF*). The very dry conditions in parts of the western Great Basin were reflected in the shrinkage of Malheur Lake from 27,000 acres at the beginning of the reporting period to only 19,000 acres at the end. On June 1 there were only 25,000 ducks present at the refuge, down 10,000 compared with last year's totals. Instead of the usual migration peak of 30,000-35,000 Am. Widgeon at Malheur Refuge during the second week of May, only 15,000 were recorded (*ELMcL*). Ruddy Ducks, however, were somewhat more numerous at Malheur Refuge this year, with a peak of 5800 in the second week of May compared to last year's peak of 3500 (*ELMcL*). Diving ducks were poorly represented at Stillwater Refuge in western Nevada, with the number of Redheads recorded in

migration only slightly above the breeding population (LDN). In contrast to the dryness of some of the refuges in the western portion of the Region, the newly expanded Monte Vista Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in southern Colorado boasted the best water conditions ever, with a count of 20,500 ducks on June 1 representing the breeding population (CRB).

Hawk—A *Broad-winged Hawk* seen at Cheyenne in southwestern Wyoming on May 19 (OKS, *et al.*) was probably a new record for the state.

Shorebirds—The season was characterized by many reports of good shorebird concentrations. The most remarkable concentration occurred on May 19 at the Wyoming Hereford Ranch near Cheyenne. Present were about 300 Black-bellied Plover—normally 4-5 would be considered a good concentration —2 Ruddy Turnstones, 3 Whimbrels and 1 Hudsonian Godwit along with an assortment of about 300 Willets, dowitchers (sp.) and other shorebirds more common in the Region, including Am. Avocet and Wilson's Phalarope (OKS, *et al.*). Another Whimbrel was seen at Cedar City in southwestern Utah on April 22. There were so many reports of Whimbrels this spring, in fact, that the species could be classified as merely uncommon rather than casual as previously reported. Six Hudsonian Godwits were noted at Cedar City on April 28 (SM); heretofore the species has been only casual, at best, at that locality. Semipalmated Plover and Dunlin were numerous and outnumbered Killdeer on the Fernley Marshes of western Nevada on May 1 (JMD); both species have been present in spring regularly for several years at least and should no longer be considered unusual in that area. Piping Plover were again seen at Lake DeSmet in northern Wyoming in May (TK); the species is rarely found this far west. A *Knot* was observed at Utah Lake on May 11 (GK); this is a very rare bird indeed in Utah.

Owl, Jays, Bushtit—A Flammulated Owl mist-netted at Ruby Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in eastern Nevada on May 16 (DEL) was the first record from that part of the state. Again there was a scattering of Blue Jay reports west of the plains, including one at Canyon City, Colo. on April 5 (WWB) and another at Laramie, Wyo. on May 10 (OKS). A Com. Bushtit seen in May at Sheridan in northern Wyoming (TK) was beyond its normal range; the species is occasionally observed in southern and southwestern Wyoming.

Bluebird, Starling—A Western Bluebird was seen on May 4 at Evergreen in the Rockies west of Denver, Colo. (WWB); the species is rare so far east. Reports generally have indicated increasing numbers of Starlings in the western mountains. We now have a report from an observer at Nampa in western Idaho (HES)

suggesting that they may be decreasing, and we hope that it is true.

Warblers—A "wave" of warblers, mostly Audubon's but including more Myrtle Warblers than usual, was noted at Durango, April 28—May 11 (OR). Anything like a wave in this Region is news. A pair of Magnolia Warblers was seen on May 11 at South Park in the mountains west of Denver where the species is at best casual (RG); another was seen on May 30 at Green River, Utah, where it must be accidental (HK). A Townsend's Warbler was seen at Craters of the Moon Nat'l Monument in southern Idaho on May 30 (DLC); the species is not often seen in that area. At Fish Springs Nat'l Wildlife Refuge out in the desert of western Utah, 2 Palm Warblers were observed on May 25 (GK). Recently there have been more and more reports of these birds in the West where they are supposedly only casual. A *Hooded Warbler* found in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park on May 1 (AC) was a first record for the park, and an *Am. Redstart* seen at Craters of the Moon Nat'l Monument on May 28 (DLC) was a first record for the monument.

Fringillids—Found with Lazuli Buntings at Ruby Lake Refuge on May 6 were 3 *Indigo Buntings* (DEL); these were much farther west than they are usually found. Two Indigo Buntings were later banded at Ruby Lake Refuge. In central Wyoming, 600 miles to the east, Indigo X Lazuli Bunting

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hybrids occur; 3 of these were seen at Casper, Wyo. on May 28 (OKS). A White-throated Sparrow seen at South Park on May 11 and 18 (RG) was unusual for this part of the Rockies.

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Spring Migration, 1968

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

Spring was cold and wet throughout the whole Region. Despite this there were virtually no specific

observations of abnormal avian behavior attributable to weather. Starlings and cowbirds were very noticeably more abundant in the Region this spring than in any previous year. Unusual occurrences were the White-faced Ibis at the south jetty of the Columbia, birds both Broad-tailed and Black-chinned Hummingbirds at the same feeder near Medford, Oreg., during the same period, a Palm Warbler in the Oregon Cascades, and a Bullock's Oriole at Victoria, B. C. The sighting of a Wilson's Warbler at sea off Westport, Grays Harbor Co., Wash. leads to speculation on the prevalence of wind drift to seaward during spring migration in the Region.

Loons, Grebes—Several observers remarked on the heavy migration of Arctic Loons along the Oregon coast during the first three weeks of May; the same species was reported in numbers of more than 100 per day from mid-April to May 21 in the Nanaimo-Comox area on the east side of Vancouver Is, B. C. (VG). A few Red-throated Loons were till on salt water 75 miles north of the northern end of Vancouver Is. in the last week of May (VG). Red-necked Grebes were present in the northern part of the Region as late as May 25, when 2 were seen at Bellingham, Whatcom Co., Wash. (TRW), and Goodwill noted up to 11 in a day in the straits on the east side of Vancouver Is. through the third week of May. A Horned Grebe at Baskett Slough near Salem, Oreg. on May 25 (TM & HBN) was in an unusual location and was lingering late. An Eared Grebe at the south jetty of the Columbia River on April 27 (HBN) was of interest. Forty-four Western Grebes behind Bonneville Dam on April 27 (HBN) indicated a migratory movement; at the end of the period several hundred were still present on Bellingham Bay, which for some reason seems to be a point of concentration for non-breeding individuals (TRW).

Shearwaters, Petrels—The Canadian hydrographic vessel "Marabell" encountered about 1000 Sooty Shearwaters and 1 Fork-tailed Petrel on May 25 during a northward passage through Queen Charlotte Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound north of Vancouver Is. (VG). Several Fork-tailed Petrels seen at sea off Westport, Wash., May 19 (TRW) constituted the only other spring report.

Hérons, Ibis—Green Herons were reported only at Medford, May 16; Salem, April 4 through May; Lincoln City, Oreg., May 18, and Victoria, May 5. A Black-crowned Night-Heron was seen circling some buildings in downtown Portland on May 31 (HBN); the species is uncommon in the Region. American Bitterns were reported only from Medford on May 30 and from Sauvie Is. near Portland on May 27. A *White-faced Ibis* seen at the south jetty of the Columbia on May 18 (RF & HBN) was a remarkable record, possibly

constituting the first for western Oregon and for the Region if the inconclusive record given in Gabrielson & Jewett's *Birds of Oregon* is left out of account.

Waterfowl—Thirty-two Whistling Swans were still at Sauvie Is. on April 14 (JG). On the same day, 343 Canada Geese were observed on the Skeena River near Terrace, B. C. (HRV). Some 2500 Black Brant were seen between Victoria and Comox, B. C. on April 12 (ARD); migrating groups were observed on the southern Oregon coast on April 21 (JH); about 300 were present on Willapa Bay, Wash., May 11 (JBC & RF). Migrant White-fronted Geese were widely reported: 2 at Lake Terrell near Ferndale, Whatcom Co., Wash. on April 4 (TRW); 152 at Sauvie Is. on April 14 (JG); 2 at Martindale, Vancouver Is. on April 27 (ARD & GAP); 109 at Nanaimo, B. C. on April 30, with 38 there on May 2 and 7 still there on May 6 (VG); a flock over Eugene, Oreg. on May 3 (HBN); 12 at Leadbetter Point, Wash. on May 11 (JBC), with 1 still there on May 18 (TRW); 600 in flight westward along Johnstone Strait, northern Vancouver Is. on May 21 (V. Dale-Johnson, *vide* VG). A Snow Goose was seen with a flock of Canadas at the Skeena River on April 14 (HRV), and hundreds of Snow Geese flew north over Bellingham Bay on April 29, presumably from wintering grounds on the Skagit Flats to the south (TRW). Six Mallards were on Mud Lake, Terrace, B. C. on April 1 along with 10 Pintail (HRV). A pair of Gadwall was seen on salt water at Nanaimo on May 8 (VG). A pair of Pintails was still at Sauvie Is. on May 30 (HBN). A pair of Com. Teal was noted at Delta Park in north Portland on April 17 (HBN), and a single bird of this species was seen at Sidney, B. C. on April 20 (ARD).

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A few Green-winged Teal were recorded in May from the Portland area and from Martindale, B. C. Blue-winged Teal were unusually plentiful through the period, particularly around Portland and on the southern portions of Vancouver Is. Cinnamon Teal also were more numerous than usual in the same areas. A European Widgeon was still at Portland on May 3, in company with several thousand lingering Am. Widgeon (JG). Six pairs of Shovelers were still near Victoria, B. C. on May 20 (ARD); a pair was seen at the north end of the Strait of Georgia, B. C. on May 21 (VG); and a pair was still at Portland's Delta Park on June 1 (HBN). Two *male* Wood Ducks were seen on April 21 and a pair on April 27 near Victoria; another two pairs were near Nanaimo, B. C. on April 23 and 30 (VG). An Oldsquaw was at Comox, B. C. on May 21; 4 were seen at Port McNeill, B. C. on May 24 (VG); and a female was seen at the south jetty of the Columbia on May 18 (RF & HBN). Harlequin Ducks, in numbers of from 1

to 14, were seen in the latter part of April and all through May at various points from north of Nanaimo to about 75 miles north of northernmost Vancouver Is. (VG). The same observer found about a dozen Com. Scoters in the waters between Nanaimo and Port McNeill, B. C., April 12–May 24. Twelve Ruddy Ducks were noted on the ocean off the south jetty of the Columbia on May 18 (RF & HBN); 8 were at Portland on May 8 (HBN). A Hooded Merganser was found nesting in a duck box containing 9 eggs at the Wm. L. Finley Nat'l Wildlife Refuge south of Corvallis, Oreg., April 27 (TM).

Vultures, Hawks, Eagles—Three Turkey Vultures were seen in the Nanaimo area on May 4 (VG). An adult male Goshawk was observed at Portland on May 17 (HBN). A Rough-legged Hawk with a crippled wing was still at Baskett Slough near Salem on May 18 (TM). A pair of Bald Eagles reportedly nested in the Medford area (JH). On May 21 during a transit by "Marabell" of Discovery Passage and Johnstone Strait northward and westward from Comox to Alert Bay, 43 Bald Eagles—37 adults and 6 immatures—were counted (VG). On May 25 during a transit of Queen Charlotte Strait, the edge of Queen Charlotte Sound, Fitzhugh Sound and Lama Passage from Alert Bay north to Bella Bella, B. C., 35 more-18 adults and 17 immatures—were counted (VG). Four young Marsh Hawks were fledged on the Thackaberry farm near Lebanon, Linn Co., Oreg., during the spring (WT); a pair repeatedly seen at the south jetty of the Columbia (HBN) were probably nesting. Ospreys were seen at Medford, with 4 present on May 30 (JH); single birds were seen at Lebanon, April 24 (WT), at Salem, April 26 (TM), at Bellingham, May 8 and 11 (TRW), at a nest at Sidney, B. C., April 6 (ARD), at Quennell Lake, Vancouver Is., April 30, and at Comox, May 21 (VG). Single Peregrine Falcons were observed at Brookings, Curry Co., Oreg., on April 9 (JH & TM) and at Bellingham on May 10 (TRW). A concentration of 10-12 Sparrow Hawks in one field was noted at Marietta, Whatcom Co., Wash. on April 13 (TRW).

Cranes and Rails—Forty-two Sandhill Cranes at Sauvie Is. on April 14 (HBN) had dwindled to 14 by May 1 (HBN). Virginia Rails were noted in a number of marshes along the Columbia River below Portland; a nest with 4 newly hatched birds was found in Portland's Delta Park on May 5; 6 nests were found in one marsh on Sauvie Is. where the hatching peak seemed to occur the last week in May (HBN). Elsewhere, 2 Virginia Rails were reported from MacFadden marsh south of Corvallis on April 27 (Gordon Knight) and a pair at Victoria, B. C. on May 7 (ARD). A Sora was found there on May 27 (ARD), while in the vicinity of Portland, Soras were prominent in the marshes occupied also by Virginia Rails (HBN).

A few Am. Coot nested in Delta Park, Portland and on Sauvie Is.; downy young were seen on June 1 (HBN).

Shorebirds—Over 40 Semipalmated Plovers at Victoria on May 4 (GAP) was the high count for the period and confirmed that the first two weeks in May is the time of peak passage for this species, at least through the southern half of the Region. Small numbers of Snowy Plovers were recorded at Tillamook Bay, the south jetty of the Columbia, Leadbetter Point and Westport, Wash., April 27–May 18. An Am. Golden Plover was closely studied on May 18 at Leadbetter Point (MW) which seems to be a focal point for the few recent spring records in the Region. The latest reports for Surf-birds were 3 at Blaine, Wash. on May 5 (TRW) and a few in the Victoria region on May 7 (ARD). A count of 43 Ruddy Turnstones in one flock at Oysterville, Wash., on Willapa Bay, May 11 (JBC & RF) was unusually high. On the same morning an estimated 450 Black Turnstones in small flocks passed by the north jetty of the Columbia in several hours (JBC & RF). In the Columbia River bottoms of northeast Portland, 220 Com. Snipe were counted on April 4 (JG). Whimbrel were seen from the southern Oregon coast north to Esquimalt Lagoon in the Victoria area, April 10–May 20; 20 were at Blaine, May 5, while single birds were observed at Shady Cove, Oreg. on the Rogue River, April 30 (JH), and 10 miles at sea off Westport, Wash., May 19 (TRW). Single Solitary Sandpipers were found at Martindale, B. C., April 26 (R. Fryer), at Quick Pond, Victoria, May 4 (GAP), and at Cedar, near Nanaimo, B. C., May 9 (VG). A few Wandering Tattlers appeared in late April on the southern Oregon coast, and a few were seen later at favored spots north to Vancouver Is. until May 25. A Willet was carefully observed on May 4 at Bellingham, Wash. (TRW). Both species of yellowlegs were sparingly reported from coastal areas and the east side of Vancouver Is. Knot were recorded only from Leadbetter Point, May 11 and 18, with 175 birds on the latter date (MW) the peak count there. Six Rock Sandpipers at Victoria on May 9 (ARD) were the last of the season. At Victoria, 1 Pectoral Sandpiper on May 2 and 13 on May 11 (ARD) were noteworthy as the species is rare in the Region in spring.

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Baird's Sandpiper, also rare in spring, was represented this year by a single bird found at Yaquina Bay, Lincoln Co., Oreg., April 17 (TM). Reports of Least Sandpipers indicate that the peak of migration occurred in late April and early May, with 3000 individuals estimated at the south jetty of the Columbia on April 27, and no record after May 20 when 6 were seen at Witty, B. C. (ARD). Dunlin were last reported on May 18, when 15 were still at the south jetty of the Columbia (HBN); a

week earlier 500 were lingering at Leadbetter Point (JBC & RF). A Long-billed Dowitcher at Big Lake on Santiam Pass in the central Oregon Cascades on May 22 (HBN) was of considerable interest both for the location and the date which was somewhat late. A Marbled Godwit was at Yaquina Bay on May 7 (TM), and 6 were seen at Leadbetter Point on May 11 (JBC & RF). Wilson's Phalaropes were more widely reported than usual: 1 at Westport, Wash. on May 5 (MW); 1 at Martindale, B. C. on May 11 (ARD) and 2 there on May 12 (R. McKenzie-Grieve, *vide GAP*); 6 individuals at the south jetty of the Columbia on May 18 (HBN & RF); 6 more at Leadbetter Point, also on May 18 (TRW); 2 at Salem, Oreg. on May 22 (TM). Northern Phalaropes were observed at Newport, Oreg. on May 7, with many seen offshore on May 18 (Gordon Knight & TM); 6-8 were found at Westport, Wash. on May 5 (MW), with many seen on the ocean off Westport on May 19 (TRW). Five individuals were present at Victoria on May 4 (GAP), and a lone bird was near Campbell River, B. C., May 21 (VG).

Jaegers, Gulls, Terns—A Pomarine Jaeger was seen at the north jetty of the Columbia on May 11 (JBC & RF), and another was seen off Westport on May 19 (TRW). Eight to ten Parasitic Jaegers were observed both over the ocean and the bay at Leadbetter Point on May 18 and similarly the next day at Westport (TRW). Two birds of this species were seen at Bellingham on May 24, while another was noted there on May 28 (TRW). A first-year Glaucous Gull was observed at the north jetty of the Columbia on May 11 (JBC & RF), and a first-year bird and an adult were noted at Clover Point, Victoria on the same day (GAP). Another Glaucous Gull was seen by a number of observers at Leadbetter Point on May 18. Migrant Bonaparte's Gulls were observed at Seattle on April 4 (VEC & DJ); 500 were at Lake Terrell near Ferndale, Wash. on April 28 (TRW); and numbers were observed off the Oregon coast from mid-April to mid-May. Goodwill counted 280 in Discovery Passage on May 21 and found 140 at Alert Bay on May 24. Mid-May brought a heavy movement of Black-legged Kittiwakes off the Oregon and Washington coasts; a few found their way into the straits east of Vancouver Is. during May. A Sabine's Gull was seen at Bellingham on May 8, and 15-20 individuals of this species were seen at sea off Westport on May 19 (TRW). A Forster's Tern at Hoover Lakes near Medford, May 30 (JH), was very much out of the ordinary. Common Tern reports were few, the 35 individuals at the north jetty of the Columbia on May 11 (JBC & RF) constituting the largest sighting; birds were also seen at Victoria and Blaine during May. Two Caspian Terns were seen at Leadbetter Point on May 11 (JBC & RF) and another at Bellingham on May 26 (TRW). A Black Tern was reported from Eugene, Oreg. on May 19 (Eric Forsman, *vide AL*).

Alcids—Goodwill noted over 300 Com. Murres in the Strait of Georgia, Discovery Passage and Johnstone Strait on May 21 and over 100 on passage through Queen Charlotte Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound on May 24. Only about 6 Pigeon Guillemots were counted on those transits, although up to 35 were seen in the vicinity of Nanaimo on May 15. On April 24 and again on May 15, the same observer saw about 40 Marbled Murrelets in Departure Bay near Nanaimo, and on May 21, he recorded 46 on "Marabell's" northward transit. On May 25, he saw 9 Ancient Murrelets in Queen Charlotte Strait northeastward of Port Hardy, and earlier in the same day he recorded 3 Cassin's Auklets and 96 Rhinoceros Auklets in Queen Charlotte Strait.

Pigeons, Swifts, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers — Band-tailed Pigeons were much in evidence in the Portland area after the first of April; small numbers were widespread on Vancouver Is. during May (VG); 3 individuals were seen on May 3 at Terrace, B. C. (HRV), which is unusually far north. Vaux's Swifts totaling 190 individuals, a remarkably high count, were observed on the evening of April 30 in the area of Nanaimo (VG); elsewhere birds were reported at Snoqualmie Pass Summit east of Seattle in numbers on May 8 (VEC & DJ) and at Victoria, Portland and Lebanon, all in the last week of April or early in May. A Black Swift was seen in the Victoria area on April 28 (GAP). That sustained feeding of hummingbirds in an attractive setting can have remarkable results is shown in the reports from Gen. Hicks concerning the following occurrences this spring at Merle McGraw's feeders about 4 miles southwest of Shady Cove, Oreg. on the Rogue River. Several *male Broad-tailed Hummingbirds* appeared about the first of May and were present for at least three weeks (JH & OS); on May 18, a male *Black-chinned Hummingbird* appeared (JH). Both occurrences were apparently the first for their species recorded in western Oregon. An Anna's Hummingbird was seen at Brookings, Oreg. on April 9 (JH & TM). Rufous Hummingbirds were regularly seen in the Nanaimo area from mid-April on (VG); the first individual of this species seen this spring at Terrace, B. C. was found on April 30 (HRV). Calliope Hummingbirds were seen at Medford on April 14 (JH) and appeared at the McGraw feeders in May (JH & OS). Two Lewis' Woodpeckers were observed at Medford on May 30 (*vide JH*). Hairy Woodpeckers were noted as unusually abundant in the Big Lake area of Oregon's Santiam Pass in the vicinity of a large patch of timber killed or damaged by fire in 1967 (RF, HBN & WT). A *male* Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was found in the same area on May 22 by the same observers.

Flycatchers, Swallows—A W. Kingbird was seen at

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Medford on April 14 (*JH*); 3 individuals were in the Lebanon area for about a week in the latter part of April (*WT*). An E. Phoebe was seen along the Rogue River on May 30 (Noreen Conway, *fide JH*). Black Phoebes were first seen at Applegate on the Rogue, May 5 and 6, and two nests were found on May 30 (*JH*). A Say's Phoebe was seen in the Medford area, where the species is uncommon, as it is throughout the Region, on April 14 (*JH*). An early Traill's Flycatcher was at Bellingham on April 14 (*TRW*). Thackaberry reported an apparent movement of Dusky Flycatchers through the high Cascades east of Lebanon on May 19. Western Flycatchers first were seen at Salem, April 22 (*TM*); at Spanaway, Pierce Co., Wash., April 28 (*VEC & DJ*); at Victoria, April 20 (*GAP*); and at Portland, April 30 (*JG*). An early W. Wood Peewee was at Seattle on April 15 (*VEC & DJ*). Olive-sided Flycatchers appeared widely in the Region during the first 10 days of May; the first was seen at Salem on April 30. Tree Swallows first arrived at Terrace, B. C. on April 29 (*HRV*). A Bank Swallow was seen at Victoria on May 5 (R. Fryer, *fide GAP*); 3 pairs were observed at Sauvie Is. near Portland on May 13 (*HBN*). Rough-winged Swallows appeared at Victoria on April 12 (*VG*) and at Seattle on April 15 (*VEC & DJ*). Barn Swallows were at Medford on April 1 (*JH*) and at Lebanon, Portland, Seattle and Bellingham by mid-April, but appreciable numbers did not arrive until two weeks after the vanguard. Cliff Swallows followed approximately the same arrival pattern. A Purple Martin was seen at Lebanon on April 16 (*WT*); 1 was seen at Bellingham on May 8 (*TRW*); 5 were seen at Victoria on May 4 (*GAP*); individuals were seen at Medford later in May (*JH & TM*).

Wrens, Thrushes, Gnatcatchers, Pipit—Two pairs of House Wrens seen at Bellingham in mid-April were the first in several years there (*TRW*); elsewhere, House Wrens were noted at Medford, the Finley Refuge south of Corvallis, at Lebanon and at Seattle. A pair of *Cañon Wrens*, most unusual in the Region, were reported at Prospect, Oreg., on the upper Rogue River, May 30 (Ann Briggs, *fide JH*). At Terrace, B. C., 100 Robins were seen on April 21 (*HRV*); this was an uncommonly high number for the locality. An early Swainson's Thrush was noted at Larch Mountain in the Columbia Gorge east of Portland on April 28 (*JG*). Goodwill found two pairs of W. Bluebirds at different localities in the vicinity of Victoria and an additional pair near Nanaimo, all after mid-April. A Mountain Bluebird was seen in the Seattle area, where it is rare, on April 15 (*VEC & DJ*); several were noted near the crest of the Cascades on Oregon's Santiam Pass, May 22 (*RF, HBN & WT*). Townsend's Solitaires were seen

at Medford, Lebanon, Seattle and Victoria in mid-April. Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were found on Roxy Ann Butte near Medford on the early date of April 7 (*JH & OS*); 12-15 individuals were counted there and 2 nests were found on May 30 (*OS*). A Water Pipit at the south jetty of the Columbia on May 18 (*HBN*) was late at that coastal location.

Shrikes, Starlings, Vireos, Warblers—A N. Shrike was still in Portland on the late date of April 4 (*JG*). A Loggerhead Shrike was seen at Medford on April 14 (*JH*); the species is uncommon in the Region. Observers throughout the Region were unanimous in assessing a marked increase in nesting Starlings; until recently most of the Starlings wintering in the Region went elsewhere to breed. The earliest spring records of Solitary Vireos were of birds at Sidney, B. C. on April 6 (*ARD*) and at Victoria on April 7 (*GAP*). Red-eyed Vireos were reported only from the Lebanon area, arriving late May (*WT*). Warbling Vireos were reported first on April 20 from Victoria (*GAP*). On April 27, 7 Nashville Warblers were seen at Medford (*OS*) and 1 in the mid-Willamette Valley (Gordon Knight & *TM*); another was reported from Sauvie Is. on May 20 (Ron Klein & Sterling Anderson); and numbers were found in logged areas of the high central Oregon Cascades on May 19 (*WT*). Both Myrtle and Audubon's Warblers were noted in good numbers from Salem to Victoria, the former during the second half of April, the latter all through April up to the third week in May. Black-throated Gray Warblers appeared from Medford north to Victoria in the last 10 days of April, the earliest report being from Salem on April 19 (*TM*). Townsend's Warblers were reported as widespread in the central Oregon Cascades from late April well into May (*WT*). Hermit Warblers were reported as "very common" after May 1 in the same mountains up to 4000 feet elevation; the earliest record was of 3 at Larch Mountain east of Portland on April 28 (*JG*). Gerald Morsello found a *Palm Warbler* at Suttle Lake on the Santiam Pass highway, May 1; he carefully studied the bird as it moved about along the edge of the lake; this constituted the Region's first spring record for the species and the first away from the coast. MacGillivray's Warbler was first seen on April 30, at Portland (*JG*). A Yellowthroat appeared at Medford on the early date of April 1 (*OS*) and by April 7 had been joined by others (*JH & OS*); 1 was seen in Salem on April 4 (*TM*). An early Wilson's Warbler was at Medford on April 16 (*JH*) and another at Victoria on April 27 (*GAP*); 1 was seen 15 miles at sea off Westport on May 19 (*TRW*).

House Sparrow, Blackbirds, Orioles—A pair of House Sparrows was nesting at Seattle on Feb. 14 (*ES*). A male Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Fairview, Oreg., a few miles east of Portland on April 2; a few

apparently nested at a marsh in Brownsville, Linn Co., Oreg. (*WT*). Bullock's Orioles were said to be prominent after May 1 both in Eugene (*AL*) and at Sauvie Is. (*HBN*); a *male* at Victoria on May 23 (R. McKenzie-Grieve) may have been the first record for Vancouver Is. Brown-headed Cowbirds continued their population explosion and were more than ever in evidence in western Oregon and Washington and on southern Vancouver Is.; a female arrived at Terrace, B. C. on May 11 (*HRV*).

Finches, Sparrows—Observers from Medford to Victoria agreed that Black-headed Grosbeaks were more than usually abundant after May 1. Evening

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Grosbeaks, too, seem to have been widely and abundantly, though perhaps somewhat erratically, distributed all during April and May throughout the entire Region. Lazuli Buntings were sparsely reported, being present in good numbers only at Lebanon, Oreg., where the observer (*WT*) thought them more numerous than in recent years. Purple Finches were reported as "abundant" only from Salem (*TM*). Single Pine Grosbeaks were seen near Sutherlin, Douglas Co., Oreg. on May 17 (L. McQueen, *fide AL*) and at Spectacle and Oliphant Lakes, Vancouver Is. on April 13 (*GAP*); the species is quite uncommon in the Region. Pine Siskins were present in widespread flocks at Bellingham and in Portland in April and up to mid-May. A Savannah Sparrow was seen on April 30 at Terrace, B. C. (*HRV*). Vesper Sparrows were at Lebanon, April 1 (*WT*), at Salem, April 4 (*TM*), at Medford, April 7 (*JH* & *OS*), and at Tacoma, Wash. on April 28 (*VEC* & *DJ*). A Lark Sparrow was found at Corvallis on May 4 (D. McDonald). The 2 Slate-colored Juncos that wintered at a Seattle feeder were last seen on April 17; Oregon Juncos left 6 days later (*VEC*). Two Harris' Sparrows were seen in northeast Portland on April 4 (*JG*). The first White-crowned Sparrow of the season arrived at Terrace, B. C., on April 29, followed on the next day by the first Golden-crowned Sparrow (*HRV*). A late Lapland Longspur was seen at Tillamook Bay, Oreg. on May 5 (D. McDonald & *WT*); another was recorded in the Victoria area on April 29 (*ARD*). A Snow Bunting was seen on Gabriola Is., near Nanaimo, April 14 (*GAP*).

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The Nesting Season, 1968

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION / Thomas H. Rogers

The spring drought continued throughout the nesting season in the western part of the Region, particularly in eastern Washington and Oregon. The Prince George district of British Columbia, however, experienced cooler and somewhat wetter conditions than usual during June, with a few short periods of warm weather in July. In Western Montana, June was nearly normal but July was hot and dry. At the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. it was one of the driest summers on record, with only about 60 percent of normal

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moisture for the year. Although grass growth was retarded, conditions at the Bison Range still appeared adequate for most birds and excellent for upland game species. The rapid drying of lakes and ponds was believed to have decreased waterfowl production at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash., but, conversely, it was flooding that destroyed many nests at Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo, Mont.

Pelicans, Cormorants, Herons—Fifty-five White Pelicans moved into McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. in mid-July and remained to the end of the reporting period; 19 were observed on the Columbia River near Burbank on June 7 (*WH*); and the species was noted in the Bozeman, Mont. area and at Pantage Lake, 40 miles northwest of Quesnel, B. C. Double-crested Cormorants seen repeatedly near the heron rookery near Three Forks, Mont. may have nested there. An estimated 80-100 birds, including nestlings, were present on July 3 at the Great Blue Heron colony on the island in the Flathead River just west of the Nat'l Bison Range. Black-crowned Night-Herons were reported from Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash. (*S.A.S.*) and from McNary Refuge.

Waterfowl—At Ninepipe Refuge, 8 Whistling Swans, all non-breeders, remained well into the early summer. At Turnbull Refuge, 31 Trumpeter Swans were present; 1 of the 2 cygnets hatched this spring was killed by an unknown predator in the display pond at refuge headquarters; and 1 dead swan was found on Philleo Lake near the refuge. The year-round population of Canada Geese at Baker and Keating, Oreg., appears to

have increased; destruction of island nesting areas in the Snake River by dams is thought to be the reason. In the same area, the geese are nesting on haystacks, with a resulting loss of some nests. About 175 goslings of this species were produced at McNary Refuge, although 14 nests under observation on Strawberry Is. were all destroyed; predation by raccoons, coyotes, skunks and crows was heavy. Nesting of some species of ducks, particularly Mallards, Blue-winged Teal and Redheads, was lowered markedly at Nine-pipe Refuge by a rapid rise of water in the reservoir after heavy rains. At least 3 broods of Wood Ducks were noted there, an unusually high number for a duck that was not seen on the refuge a few years ago. Duck production at Ravalli Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Stevensville, Mont. appeared to be excellent, especially for Mallards, Green-winged, Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal, and Wood Ducks, with 30 Wood Duck nests found. At least 8 pairs of Hooded Mergansers also nested on the refuge (GD). Nesting success of ducks at McNary Refuge appeared to be reasonably good, and an adult male *White-winged Scoter* was seen there on July 11.

Hawks, Eagles—Swainson's Hawk was again found nesting in the Bowen Valley near Baker, Oreg.; by July 19 the nest contained 3 nearly full-grown young. Another nest on Ritter Creek had 3 nearly fledged young on July 11. Three Ferruginous Hawks were seen on July 11 near Love's Reservoir in the Baker, Oreg. area (TMC); 1 was observed on June 15 near Enterprise, Oreg.; and several were noted during June and July at Clarkston, Steptoe and Colon in southeastern Washington (MJP). Bald Eagles were noted only at Henry's Lake, Idaho, west of Yellowstone Nat'l Park, on June 6 (PDS). A female Marsh Hawk observed stooping on a pair of Sandhill Cranes at Ennis, Mont. on June 2 (RAH, DRS, PDS) raised the question of whether the bird might have been defending her nest from the cranes. A boat trip on the Flathead River between the Nat'l Bison Range and Perma, Mont. revealed 4 pairs of Ospreys. A Prairie Falcon was seen approaching and leaving a nest high on a cliff in the canyon approach to Imnaha from Joseph, Oreg., June 15. An occupied nest of the Peregrine Falcon—exact site not to be disclosed, in order to protect it—was found about July 1 in Madison County, Mont. (HC). A Pigeon Hawk in the Bridger Mountains east of Bozeman, Mont. on July 4 (RAH) furnished an unusual summer record.

Gallinaceous Birds—Production of Blue Grouse at the Nat'l Bison Range appeared better than usual, with an average of about 5 per brood from the 7 broods observed. A female Sharp-tailed Grouse with a brood of two-thirds grown young was seen on Aug. 2, 70 miles west of Fort Nelson, B. C. on the Alaska Highway. Nesting success for California Quail probably

was normal or better in eastern Washington, judging from the few reports received. Numerous broods were observed at McNary Refuge, and reproduction appeared good at Turnbull Refuge, where 6 broods with about 70 young were seen. A good production of Ring-necked Pheasants was noted at Ninepipe and McNary Refuges, but the birds apparently failed to come up to early season expectations in the Bitterroot Valley of western Montana. Chukars with young were seen at the Nat'l Bison Range, and the species was observed in the Clarkston, Wash. area (MJP). Gray Partridge success looked good at the Bison Range, where 9 broods averaging 7.4 young each were observed. Turkeys were introduced into the Bridger Mountains just

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east of Bozeman, Mont. this spring, with unknown results.

Rails, Coot—A downy chick of the Virginia Rail was seen at the marsh at Reardan, Wash. on June 29 (JA & WH). The Sora, once thought rare at Ravalli Refuge, was seen quite commonly there and in the surrounding valley (GD). At least 1000 Am. Coots were noted at Ravalli Refuge and some 500 at Ninepipe Refuge. Two broods were found on Aug. 3 at Parker Lake, 8 miles west of Fort Nelson, B. C.; the species is uncommon in far northeastern British Columbia.

Shorebirds—A *Mountain Plover* observed closely with a 20X scope at Stubblefield Lake in Turnbull Refuge, May 6 (DRP) established apparently the first record for eastern Washington. Eighty Long-billed Curlews were counted at McNary Refuge on June 19, but few were noted there in July. A single Upland Plover was seen 3 miles north of Silvies, Oreg. on June 26 (TW). A Greater Yellowlegs at Missoula on June 16 was either a delayed spring migrant or a very early returnee; none were noted at Missoula from that date until July 31. One had returned to Reardan, Wash. by July 6 and small numbers of Baird's, Least and Western Sandpipers had arrived in the Spokane, Wash. area by July 10 (S.A.S.). A nest of the Solitary Sandpiper containing 4 eggs was found 8 feet from the ground in an old Cedar Waxwing nest in a lodgepole pine at Moffat Lake, 30 miles south of Quesnel, B. C., June 4; this is believed to be the first nest reported in British Columbia. A *Black-necked Stilt* was observed on July 3 and again on Aug. 2 at McNary Refuge. A Northern Phalarope at Reardan, Wash. on July 20 (S.A.S.) was unusual.

Gulls, Terns—A few California Gulls nested at Ninepipe Refuge along with the more common Ring-billed Gulls. Bonaparte's Gull, a recent addition to the

list at Ravalli Refuge, remained there until June 12 (*GD*); an immature was noted at Reardan, Wash. on July 6 (*S.A.S.*); and 10 immatures were seen at McNary Refuge during the summer. Many Forster's Terns nested at Ninepipe Refuge. On one island where over 100 nested, it was impossible to prevent stepping on the nests. About 9 of this species noted on July 23 near Potholes Reservoir at Moses Lake, Wash. (*JA*) stirred suspicion that the birds had nested there. A few Com. Terns were noted at Ninepipe Refuge. The Caspian Tern was seen along the Columbia River at Boardman, Oreg., (*TMcC*), at McNary Refuge, and at Ringold, Wash. Several Black Terns, scarce in northeastern British Columbia, were seen at Parker Lake on Aug. 3.

Doves, Cuckoos, Owls—Another *Band-tailed Pigeon* record was obtained for the Region when 1 was identified in the Dishman Hills near Spokane, Wash., July 4-5 (*JA* & *WH*; *THR*). A sight record of a Black-billed Cuckoo was obtained at *Baker, Oreg.*, June 17. The Barn Owl was observed regularly at Ringold, Wash. and 4 young orphans were raised at McNary Refuge and released there. The species was heard at Prineville, Oreg. on several nights in mid-August (*GM*). Great Horned Owls continued to be very scarce in the Prince George, B. C. area, perhaps reflecting a scarcity of Varying Hares, the staple food item of this species. Short-eared Owls also were scarce, with no records during the summer at the Nat'l Bison Range or Ravalli Refuge.

Goatsuckers, Swifts—There were a number of reports of the Poor-will just west of Spokane (*S.A.S.*). Common Nighthawks arrived a little later than usual in many parts of the Region; this may have been due to a cool, cloudy, rainy spell during late May and early June. Many observers noted an increase of Vaux's Swifts in the Bitterroot Valley of western Montana, and nests and young were found in the chimney of an old house at Hamilton. A few White-throated Swifts were seen in canyons of the Bitterroot area. On July 29, 6-7 Black Swifts were seen in Ferry County, Wash. (*JA* & *WH*); the species is rare in this part of the state. Two Black Swifts were seen feeding over the Icicle River near Leavenworth, Wash., on July 13 (*THR*).

Woodpeckers—A pair of Red-shafted Flickers at Baker, Oreg., successfully defended a nesting site against Starlings and a squirrel and reared 5 young. Lewis' Woodpecker was very abundant in the Bitterroot Valley, with many active nests noted (*GD*); the species seemed to show increased numbers at the Bison Range and was noted in Flathead County, Mont. (*EH* & *RAH*) and in eastern Washington (*S.A.S.*). An adult Yellow-bellied Sapsucker identified as *S. v. varius* was seen gathering food at Mile 70 of Hart Highway north of Prince George, B. C., July 3; this lies within

the area occupied by *S. v. ruber*. The uncommon Williamson's Sapsucker was noted on Aug. 4 at Elbow Lake, 40 miles northeast of Missoula, Mont.; on June 20 at a nest in a pine stub about 12 miles east of Hunters, Wash. (*WH*); and on June 2 at Loup Loup campground east of Twisp, Wash. where 6-8 pairs (*TW*) were noted! Single White-headed Woodpeckers were seen at Joaquin Miller State Park north of Burns, Oreg. on June 25 (*TW*) and 2 miles east of Lorin, Ferry Co., Wash. on June 29 (*JA* & *WH*). A nest of the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker with fully fledged young was observed 50 miles north of Fort St. James, B. C. on June 25, and a nest of the Northern Three-toed Woodpecker with noisy young was found on Alice Creek near Quesnel, B. C. on June 5.

Flycatchers—An Ash-throated Flycatcher was seen at Clarkston, Wash., July 22 (*MJP*); 2 were observed on Crab Creek near Upper Goose Lake, Grant Co., Wash., July 13 (*WH*). The Least Flycatcher was noted as abundant in the Prince George, B. C. district; this species also was noted along the Osilinka and Omineca Rivers, B. C. on July 16, and a nest with nearly fledged young was found at Ness Lake in the Prince George district on July 14. A single bird believed to be this species was observed at Turnbull Refuge on June 1 (*DRP*). Another individual seen at the same place on May 31 (*DRP* & *SMS*) was strongly suspected of being a *Gray Flycatcher*.

Swallows, Corvids—The brood of 5 young of a pair Audubon Field Notes, Volume 22, Number 5 630

of Tree Swallows at Spokane perished in the nest when about one-third grown in mid-June, apparently because cool, windy weather made it impossible for the parents to find sufficient food (*WH*). A distinct increase of Com. Ravens and Clark's Nutcrackers in Montana's Bitterroot Valley was reported (*LH, BT*).

Nuthatches, Wrens, Mimids—The first recent record of the White-breasted Nuthatch in the Bridger Mountains east of Bozeman, Mont. was obtained on July 4. A pair of Pygmy Nuthatches with 6 young on the wing was seen at Ravalli Refuge on June 12 (*CB*); records for the species are uncommon in Montana. Bewick's Wren was reported at Cold Springs, Oreg. on July 9 and 24 (*WLA* & *JRA*). A *Catbird* was seen on July 11 near Union, Oreg., (*TMcC*), at the same spot where one was noted three years ago. Sage Thrashers were seen in several localities in eastern Washington and also in the Bozeman, Mont. area. The *Mockingbird* continued to rewrite the record books for the Pacific Northwest: 1 appeared in Spring Creek Canyon north of Reardan, Wash. on July 15 (*WH*) and 1 was seen in Prince George, B. C. on July 5.

Bluebirds, Kinglets, Waxwings—Western Bluebirds showed a definite increase in the Bitterroot Valley, with 7 successful nestings in nest boxes noted (CB); some increase also was indicated in the Spokane, Wash. area (S.A.S.). An increase of Mountain Bluebirds was suggested at the Nat'l Bison Range, and the species was abundant from Clarkston west into Garfield County, Wash. (MJP), but numbers were small or records absent elsewhere. A dip in Ruby-crowned Kinglet numbers was indicated: the reports from the Bitterroot Valley and from eastern Washington specifically mentioned such a decrease, and the paucity of reports of this species from other localities implied it. Bohemian Waxwings were reported from many localities around Prince George, B. C., and Jim Grant remarked that never before had he seen so many in summer in central and northern British Columbia. Cedar Waxwings were unusually scarce around Missoula, Mont., but this was apparently a local condition since the species seemed to be in normal numbers elsewhere.

Shrike, Starling—A Northern Shrike was positively identified on July 23 at McNary Refuge. The report from the Bison Range suggests that another native species is able to cope with the invasion of Starlings: Brewer's Blackbirds vigorously defending their territories against Starlings were thought to be a possible factor in the decrease in numbers of the latter species there.

Warblers—An adult *Black-and-white Warbler* was observed at length at Ness Lake in the Prince George district on July 14; the species was not previously known to occur west of the Rockies in British Columbia. Breeding Nashville Warblers were noted along the Columbia River in Ferry County, Wash. (JA). A pair of Yellow Warblers at Baker, Oreg., raised a cowbird along with 2 of their own young. The nest had a lower layer containing 1 cowbird egg and 1 warbler egg. A nest of the Magnolia Warbler was found at Tudyah Lake, 90 miles north of Prince George, June 24. The adult was incubating 5 eggs in a small alpine fir. Myrtle Warblers were seen occasionally in the Bitterroot Valley, and a pair was known to have nested in the valley (BT). A small, rather late migration of Townsend's Warblers, beginning on June 3, was noted at Spokane, with Nashville and Wilson's Warblers seen at the same time (S.A.S.). Blackpoll Warblers were noted as being abundant in spruce forest in central British Columbia and were common at least as far south as Barkerville. The Northern Waterthrush was noted in two localities where the species had not been observed previously: Calispell Mountain in Pend Oreille County, Wash., 2 birds on July 7 (JA), and Turnbull Refuge, 1 bird on May 25 (DRP).

Blackbirds—Several Bobolinks were seen at Ninepipe Refuge, the first time that the species has been recorded there in at least three years. On July 1, a male was noted singing 2 miles south of Salmon Arm, B. C., near the northern limit of the species' range. Bullock's Oriole was more common than usual at Turnbull Refuge, with pairs seen at several places (DRP), but numbers of this species decreased at Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash. (GHO, *fide* DRP). A group of 12 Brewer's Blackbirds scavenging in the streets of Fort Nelson, B. C. on Aug. 3 furnished a new locality record for the area; a decided increase of this species was noted in the Bitterroot Valley; some nested in city yards at Corvallis; 10-12 pairs nested in the yards of refuge personnel at the Nat'l Bison Range and drove other species away from the headquarters area. A family group of the *Com. Grackle* was observed at Parker Lake, 8 miles west of Fort Nelson, B. C., July 29 and Aug. 3. According to residents, grackles had been present all summer and undoubtedly bred. The species was not previously known north of the Peace River area in British Columbia.

Finches—On Aug. 9, a family group of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was seen 19 miles south of Fort Nelson, B. C., near the known northern limit of the species. Evening Grosbeaks had mostly disappeared from the lowlands before June, although 2 were still at the Bison Range headquarters on June 9. The species was sighted at a number of localities in the mountains from south-central Montana to the Cascade Range of Washington and to northeastern British Columbia. A surprising 400 were recorded feeding along the highway and Lochsa River about 15 miles west of Lobo Pass on the Montana-Idaho border (HEK). The Purple Finch was common throughout central and northern British Columbia, and a nest with 5 eggs was found in the Prince George area on June 27. A single bird was seen at Lake Wenatchee, Wash. in the eastern foothills of the Cascades, Aug. 20 (DR & THR). The House Finch appears to be well established at Missoula, Mont. where flocks of 25-30 were noted during the last several weeks of the summer. Two British Columbia records, a male in Prince George on June 1 (CS) and a singing male at Quesnel on June 3, apparently are the northernmost ever obtained in

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the province for this species. The rarely observed Black Rosy Finch was found on Blackmore Peak south of Bozeman, Mont. on July 14 (DRS & RW). Pine Siskins were common to abundant at higher elevations along the Lochsa River west of Lobo Pass (HEK), in the mountains around the Bitterroot Valley, and in northern British Columbia north to the Yukon border. Red Crossbill occurrence was spotty: they bred

commonly at Turnbull Refuge and were regular in the Spokane area; they were observed in the Bozeman area, at Helena, Mont. (*THR*), in Lake County, Mont. (*RAH*), at the Bison Range, south of Prince George, and near Tailgate, Oreg. (*TMcC*) but were not noted elsewhere. The Douglas-fir cone crop was described as excellent in the British Columbia area. An influx of White-winged Crossbills into the Prince George region began about June 15, and by July 15 the birds were exceedingly abundant from south of Quesnel north at least to latitude 56°, apparently attracted by the heaviest spruce cone crop in at least a decade.

Sparrows—Lark Buntings were seen at three localities in south-central Montana: a few summered near Three Forks; a group was seen near Logan on July 7 (*RAH*); and 4 males were seen 16 miles south of Townsend on June 7 (*DR* & *THR*). More surprising were 3 males in a meadow along the lower part of Big Creek in Ravalli County, west of the Continental Divide (*RLH*). The Grasshopper Sparrow was found at several localities in the Spokane area (*S.A.S.*), at Clarkston, Wash. (*MJP*), and at Turnbull Refuge (*DRP*). At the last-named site, several pairs noted and a nest with 4 eggs found on May 31 (*DRP* & *SMS*) seem to indicate that the species is maintaining itself at the edge of its range. A Lark Sparrow was noted on June 12 in the Bitterroot Valley and 5, 4 of which were thought to be just-fledged young, were seen there on Aug. 8 (*CB*); this species is considered very rare in that area. The Sage Sparrow was found at Clarkston on two occasions (*MJP*). A singing male Clay-colored Sparrow was found east of *Manhattan*, Mont. on July 21; 2 males were heard singing in a grassy area of the Tabor Mountain burn 16 miles east of Prince George on June 17; 1 was singing in a dry, grassy meadow 80 miles north of Fort St. James on July 17. A singing male Brewer's Sparrow, a species usually found in the lowlands among sagebrush, was noted at the summit of Mount Spokane, elevation 5808 feet, in eastern Washington, June 25 (*DRP*). A singing male White-crowned Sparrow was noted at Spokane on June 18 (*THR*). Any White-crown at this locality on this date would be most unusual, but the yellow beak of this one indicated a probable *pugetensis* that had strayed far inland. Distinctly unusual was the occurrence of a Black-throated Sparrow in full adult plumage at Missoula, Mont. on June 10; it was carefully observed at close range in good light. Two Lincoln's Sparrows were observed along the Lochsa River west of Lobo Pass on July 27 (*HEK*). Good numbers of McCown's Longspurs were found as far west as Dillon, Mont. in early July (*DRS* & *PDS*), and it is believed that they must have bred there; if so, this establishes a new western breeding record at that latitude.

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The Nesting Season, 1968

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

The contrasts of the Region have never been more pronounced than during this nesting season. The western Great Basin has been experiencing one of its worst droughts, with one of the driest years on record at Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in eastern Oregon, whereas it was the second successive wet year for Wyoming and much of Colorado, Utah and Idaho, with the finest water conditions recorded to date at Monte Vista Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in southern Colorado. Banding data from the Front range of the Rockies west

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of Denver showed that first broods in the wet belt were unsuccessful in many cases, but second broods fared better (*SB*). On the other hand, passerine nesting results were reported as particularly poor in the vicinity of Durango in southwestern Colorado (*OR*). A special note of thanks is due the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service for its Breeding Bird Survey program. This random sampling technique has sent birders into many areas that normally would have been overlooked.

Pelicans, Herons, Ibis—By mid-July 7000 White Pelicans were congregated at Malheur Refuge, probably because of the concentration of carp resulting from the lowering of the water level. There was a great increase in nesting of Com. Egrets, Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons at the refuge, with 400, 150 and 500 nests, respectively (*ELMdl*). An egret colony out in the center of Malheur Lake was occupied in late June, about one month behind schedule. It would almost seem that the birds realized that water levels were going to drop and that their food supply would be excellent and concentrated, which, of course, it was (*ELMdl*). In the Carson Sink of western Nevada, a large rookery containing 400 White-faced Ibis nests was located for the first time (*JMD*).

Swans, Geese, Ducks—Effects of the drought at Malheur Refuge included a reduction of Malheur Lake to only 8000 acres and only a negligible growth of sago pondweed, the principal food of migratory waterfowl at the refuge, a complete drying up of nearby Harney Lake, and a reduction of water levels in Blitzen Valley to only 30 percent of normal (*ELMdl*). All of this had a disastrous effect on waterfowl production at the refuge. Ruby Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in eastern Nevada, on the other hand, had good water conditions and successful waterfowl production, including 9 Trumpeter Swan cygnets (*MJB*). Fewer pairs of geese were present this year on the Snake River Islands section of Deer Flat Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Idaho, which may explain a 23 percent reduction in gosling production from that of last year (*RVP*). The excellent water conditions at Monte Vista Refuge and in adjacent San Luis Valley were the result of a big run-off from a very heavy snowpack and the heaviest summer rains on record; the colony of Canada Geese produced 600 young and there was excellent duck production of 23,000 young (*CRB*). A Pintail banded by Monte Vista Refuge personnel at nearby Hooper, Alamosa Co., Colo. on Sept. 8, 1964, was taken near Anderia, Russia on May 17, 1968 (*CRB*). The Wood Duck colony on the Carson River in western Nevada is doing well and made use of five nesting boxes set out for them this year (*LDN*). Bear River Marshes at the upper end of the Great Salt Lake received so much floodwater this June that waterfowl nesting was virtually wiped out, but renesting resulted in production of 18,000 young, slightly better than last year (*PJF*).

Golden Eagle—This species was reported to be holding its own in western Idaho (*TL*). Elsewhere in the Region it is doing fairly well at getting the 3 young off the nests. At Malheur Refuge, 9 young were raised to the flight stage (*ELMdl*). After this stage no one knows how they are doing.

Owls, Swifts, Hummingbirds—Several Barn Owls used Wood Duck nesting boxes on the Carson River of western Nevada (*LDN*). This species is spotty in occurrence in the Rockies and the Great Basin. Black Swifts were observed at Parowan, Iron Co., Utah on June 12 (*SM*). This is the only easily accessible place in the Region where they are seen regularly. Chimney Swifts were again reported at Cheyenne, Wyo., July 5-10 (*MEH*). Apparently eastern Wyoming is the western limit of their range. A Vaux's Swift was seen on July 19 at Nampa, Canyon Co., Idaho (*HES*) which is somewhat east for the species. One wonders about the nesting status of the Rufous Hummingbird in the Rockies. There are no nesting records of this species in the Region, but they are frequently seen in June and July. Gleb Kashin observed his first bird of the year on July 20 in the Wasatch Mountains of Utah, and many were present in the Front Range of the Rockies from mid-July onward. Six banded at Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, July 22-25 (*AC*) were all females with bare and warm brood spots. It was certainly a great year for hummingbirds in this part of the Rockies, with more than 70 banded in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park in a few hours, July 22-25 (*AC*). The explanation given for the banding of so many, more than in any previous year, is that they came to feeders in greater numbers because the dry July had yielded a poor flower crop, but this must have been a local phenomenon since just south of this area there was tremendous summer moisture. Hummingbirds were reported as scarce farther west in the Durango, Colo. area (*OR*) where they are normally very common.

Flycatcher, Blackbirds, Tanager—An Ash-throated Flycatcher seen near Dubois in central Wyoming on July 17 (*MB*) was farther north than previous records. In contrast to their former abundance, Brewer's Blackbirds continued to be relatively scarce in central Wyoming (*OKS*). This is a great shame since these birds eat grasshoppers, of which we have more than our share. Now we have grasshopper-poisoning programs which kill more birds. There is a suspicion that bird-poisoning programs of grain farmers in Nebraska may have something to do with the smaller numbers of Brewer's Blackbirds now present. A Scarlet Tanager seen at Genoa in western Nevada on June 8 (*FR*) must have been an accidental straggler.

Finches, Sparrows—A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was present for two weeks beginning on June 7 at Evergreen in the Rockies west of Denver (*WWB*) where the species has been considered rare; 2 seen east of Dubois, Wyo. on June 8 and 10 (*MB*) were very far west for this species. An Indigo Bunting was seen at Newcastle, Weston Co., Wyo. on June 25 (*LM*), and 2 others were observed at Sheridan, Wyo. in June (*TK*). This is a regular but uncommon visitor in eastern

Wyoming. Another Indigo Bunting was noted on June 7 in the Cedar Valley of southern Utah (*SM*) where the species is very unusual. Evening Grosbeaks were found

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nesting at Evergreen, Colo. on June 10 (*SB*); this species is an unusual breeder at that locality. Many Grasshopper Sparrows were found nesting in patches of native grass in the Lance Creek area of eastern Wyoming where the species was previously considered uncommon, and four pairs of Black-throated Sparrows were noted on June 7 southeast of the Steens Mountains near Fields in southeastern Oregon (*HBN*) where this species is presumed to be nesting but is rarely reported. Both of the preceding reports resulted from the Breeding Bird Survey program. A White-winged Junco was seen on June 19 near Sheridan, Wyo. (*TK*), 150 miles west of the Black Hills where the species is supposedly confined.

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The Nesting Season, 1968

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

The reporting period began with the cool and wet weather which had prevailed in the two preceding months. By the last week in June weather conditions had moderated and thereafter were about average with respect to temperature and rainfall until the end of the period, when another spell of abnormally cold and wet weather set in. There were few ornithological occurrences worthy of special mention. The unusual number of shore birds—both species and individuals—recorded at Leadbetter Point, Wash. on June 23 raises the question of why so many were present on a date which should be in the brief period between migrations. Discovery of a population of Fox Sparrows on the west side of the Cascade Mountains east of Salem, Oreg., represents an extension of the known breeding range of this species in Oregon; the race involved is as yet undetermined.

Loons, Grebes—A few Com. Loons were in evidence in Troup Passage in the vicinity of Bella Bella, B. C. throughout the breeding season (*VG*). Several Arctic and Red-throated Loons summered at the mouth of the Columbia River. Observing from the Canadian Hydrographic Service vessel "Mara-bell," Vic Goodwill found Arctic Loons in Troup Passage through June and Red-throated Loons there from time to time throughout the reporting period. On June 20 at the north end of Vancouver Is., he saw 6 Red-necked Grebes, which were the last until Aug. 9; thereafter he saw 1-2 birds almost daily in and around Troup Passage. Summering Western Grebes again concentrated in the Bellingham, Wash. area, with numbers estimated at an average of 700 (*TRW*).

Albatrosses, Shearwaters, Petrels—A Black-footed Albatross was seen from "Marabell" in Queen Charlotte Sound on June 20, and 7 others were seen on the same waters southward to Vancouver Is. on July 25 (*VG*). On the latter day, 2 dark-phase Fulmars were also noted (*VG*). Sooty Shearwaters were seen northward from the Columbia River after June 20; 160 were counted on Queen Charlotte Sound, July 25 (*VG*); more than 3000 were at the mouth of the Columbia River on Aug. 11 (*JG* & *HBN*). On June 20, Goodwill counted 148 Fork-tailed Petrels from "Marabell" in a transit of Queen Charlotte Sound; 50 were in one flock and 40 more in another; additional numbers of this species up to 26 in a day were periodically encountered in the same area during the rest of the reporting period. On July 25, 59 Leach's Petrels were seen from the "Marabell" on Queen Charlotte Sound south from the Virgin Rocks to Cape Scott (*VG*).

Cormorants, Herons—Pelagic Cormorants in numbers up to 12 in one day were found in Troup Passage through June and July. Great Blue Herons seem to have enjoyed good breeding success at least in the Portland area (*HBN*) and in the Courtenay-Campbell River area of Vancouver Is. (*DS*). A few Green Herons were scattered through the Region from Medford, Oreg. north to Marysville, Wash., with most of the reports coming from the vicinity of Portland; the status of this species thus continued much as it has been for years. An immature Black-crowned Night-Heron was found at Delta Park in north Portland on July 5 (*JG*). An Am. Bittern was at Ilwaco, Pacific Co., Wash. on Aug. 11 (*JG* & *HBN*). A **Least Bittern** was flushed from the eastern edge of Fern Ridge Reservoir, Lane Co., Oreg. on June 14 by Larry McQueen and Eric Forsman; the bird flushed from between the observers at close range, and, although neither of them was previously familiar with the species, both simultaneously and at once called out the identification. The bird was not seen again, despite assiduous efforts

by several other students to find it. This record constitutes one of very few for Oregon and is probably only the second for west of the Cascades.

Geese, Ducks—Up to 56 young and adult Canada Geese were counted behind Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River by the end of the period; the increase above all previously observed nesting season occurrences there may perhaps be attributable to a breeding population displaced by initial flooding of the upriver pool behind the John Day Dam this spring. A single Black Brant was noted at Lead-better Point, June 23 (RK & HBN). A Mallard accompanied by 5 newly hatched young was seen at Seattle on the late date of Aug. 12 (ES). A family group of Gadwalls, including downy young, was seen at Vancouver, Clark Co., Wash., July 10 (JG & MK). A lone Pintail was observed on Hoover Pond near Medford, Oreg. on June 29 (OS). A male Green-winged Teal at Portland's Delta Park on July 8 (JG) was most unusual for a summer month, as were the Blue-winged Teal, up to 16 in number (JG), which remained there at least until July 8. The 4 Shovelers found in the Columbia River bottoms at Delta Park on June 20 (JG) were also out of the ordinary; 18 were observed flying southeastward along Johnstone Strait on the central British Columbia coast on Aug. 6 (VG). Wood Ducks were unreported during the season. A male Greater Scaup was identified on July 5 at Delta Park (JG). Barrow's Goldeneye bred successfully again this year at Lost Lake on the Santiam Highway in Oregon's central Cascades. Five young Harlequin Ducks were seen near Lake Crescent on the Olympic Peninsula, June 20, and 50, both adult and young, were at Victoria on June 23 (NBB); up to 10 at a time were seen on six different dates from June 1 to July 21 along the coast of northern British Columbia (VG). White-winged Scoters were seen in the same area during the same period in flocks of up to 50 (VG), while farther south 98 were counted at the north jetty of the Columbia River on June 23 (JG, RK & HBN). Surf Scoters were, as usual, the most common summering duck along the ocean beaches, being more common to the northward. A female Com. Scoter was noted at the north jetty of the Columbia River on Aug. 11 (JG & HBN); this species is rarely present in the summer. A pair of Ruddy Ducks was seen at the end of July at Delta Park in Portland for the second successive year; with the pair were 7 young, 3 of which had disappeared by Aug. 15 (JG & HBN). Up to 5 Hooded Mergansers at a time were observed in Troup Passage, B. C., June 11–Aug. 10 (VG). Common Mergansers were seen more frequently in this vicinity during June and July, the maximum being 10 at one time on July 7. Nine birds of this species were found at Dabney State Park on the Sandy River east of Portland on July 18 (JG), and 1 was seen on Yaquina Bay, Oreg., Aug. 3 (JG

& RK). Several young Red-breasted Mergansers were noted east of Seattle on July 14 (VEC).

Vultures, Hawks, Eagles—A Turkey Vulture was seen at Discovery Passage on the east side of central Vancouver Is. on June 21 (VG). Two Swainson's Hawks were seen at Lopez Is. in the San Juans on July 13 (TRW). An adult Golden Eagle was seen in flight six miles north of Princeton, B. C., Aug. 2 (VG). A Young Bald Eagle had fledged from a nest near Blaine, Wash. by June 8 (LHK); 2 fledged young were seen at Lopez Is. on July 14 (TRW); a pair was in attendance at a nest near Butte Falls, Oreg. in the Medford area, during the report period (JH & OS). Adult Bald Eagles were seen regularly in the Courtenay–Campbell River, B. C. area (DS) and abundantly along the central British Columbia coast (VG) this summer. A single adult was noted at Depoe Bay, Oreg., Aug. 3 (JG & RK), and 2 adults were observed over the interstate bridge at Astoria, Oreg. on Aug. 11 (JG & HBN). Marsh Hawks seem to have nested successfully at Leadbetter Point, Wash., this year (HBN). Two young Ospreys were raised in a nest at Shoal Bay, Victoria, B. C. (ARD); an adult was sitting on a nest at Lopez Is. in the San Juans on July 13 (TRW); and 2 birds were observed in flight at Lost Lake on the Santiam Highway on July 24 (HBN & WT).

Quail, Rails—Bobwhite were calling near Clackamas, Oreg., a few miles southeast of Portland, on June 15 (JBC). A newly hatched California Quail was seen at Seattle on Aug. 15 (ES), a late date, though by no means unprecedented. Virginia Rails enjoyed good nesting success in Portland's Delta Park, as did Am. Coots (HBN).

Shorebirds—A pair of Black Oystercatchers was first observed on June 5 on a rocky islet in Troup Passage, B. C.; a nest containing 2 eggs was found on June 13 and photographed on June 15. By

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July 16 it was evident that the nesting attempt had failed, but the birds were engaged in nuptial displays and aerial chases; 1-3 individuals were seen subsequently, but no new nesting was observed, although a bird was still present on the islet on Aug. 7 (VG). A Semipalmated Plover was noted at Leadbetter Point on June 23 (RK & HBN), which is confusing since the first indications of the return flight of this species came in mid-July from Victoria and the mouth of the Columbia River and slightly later in the month from Blaine, Wash. A surprisingly large count of 220 birds of this species was made at Siletz Bay, Oreg. on Aug. 3, with 60 more seen farther south at Yaquina Bay later in the day (JG & RK). A single *Semipalmated*

Plover found on Aug. 3 at Agate Lake near Medford and 3 observed at the same place on Aug. 14 (JH) apparently constituted the first fall records for Jackson County, Oreg. Three Snowy Plover were seen on Tillamook Bay beaches, July 20 (TM), and 2 were there on Aug. 4 (HBN). Over 100 Black-bellied Plover were noted at Leadbetter Point on June 23 (RK & HBN), and over 100 were seen there on Aug. 11 (JG & HBN). Forty-three Surfbirds at Victoria on July 12 (ARD) were the first returning birds; 285, an impressively high number, were counted along the Lincoln County, Oreg. coastal strip on Aug. 3 (JG & RK). The same observers also found 19 Ruddy and 12 Black Turnstones along the same stretch of coast on the same day, and Goodwill found 75 Black Turnstones at rest in Troup Passage on July 21 and again on July 24. Common Snipe were found guarding nests at four sites just east of Snoqualmie Pass, Wash. on May 8 (VEC). Three Whimbrels were noted at Leadbetter Point on June 23 (RK & HBN); another was seen at Blaine, Wash. on July 6, with 5 present there on July 25 (TRW); 14 were seen at Yaquina Bay on Aug. 3 (JG & RK). A lone Solitary Sandpiper was present in Portland at Delta Park, July 30—Aug. 1 (HBN, *et al.*); the species is rare in this Region. On July 30 and 31, 2 individuals of this species were observed at Manning Provincial Park, B. C. (VG). Wandering Tattlers were on the move at the end of July with 1 seen in Troup Passage on the 21st and 2 seen some miles to the south on the 24th; 3 individuals had reached Victoria by July 23 (ARD), and 21 were found along Oregon's Lincoln County coast on Aug. 3 (JG & RK). Greater Yellowlegs were present at both Leadbetter Point and Agate Lake during the last week of June and appeared at Sauvie Is. on July 8, at the south jetty of the Columbia on July 17, and at Delta Park in Portland on July 30 and 31. A Lesser Yellowlegs was seen at Tillamook Bay on Aug. 4; 3 were at Delta Park on Aug. 9 and 1 at Leadbetter Point on Aug. 11 (HBN, *et al.*). Five Knot were seen at Leadbetter Point on June 23 (JG & HBN). Three Rock Sandpipers were seen in company with Black Turnstones at the southwestern end of Troup Passage on July 21; 1 was still there, again in the company of turnstones, on July 24 (VG). An early Pectoral Sandpiper appeared at Tillamook on July 20 (TM & Gordon Knight); 2 others were seen at Bellingham on July 15 and 2 at Swinomish Slough, Island Co., Wash. on Aug. 4 (TRW); 2 were seen at Sauvie Is. on Aug. 10 (JG). On June 29, 22 Least Sandpipers were at Agate Lake, but by July 7 only 7 could be found (OS); by mid-July good numbers were at Victoria and at the south jetty of the Columbia. Twenty Dunlin were noted at Leadbetter Point on June 23 (RK & HBN), but the species was not seen elsewhere in the Region until Aug. 13 when some appeared at Blaine (Jim Duemmel, *vide* TRW). A dozen Short-billed Dowitchers were at the south jetty of the Columbia on July 17 and 1 was at

Tillamook on Aug. 4 (HBN). Long-billed Dowitchers were observed in the Portland area in numbers up to 200 in the latter half of July (JG, HBN); 4 were noted at Agate Lake on July 9 (JH). On July 21, 25 Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen together on Protection Is., Wash., near Port Townsend (Zella Schultz, Howard Wilson, Francis Wood); a single bird of this species was picked out of a mixed flock of "peep" at Tillamook Bay on Aug. 4 (HBN). Two hundred Western Sandpipers were present at Leadbetter Point on June 23 (RK & HBN); large numbers passed through the Region in July, with an estimated 10,000 at Blaine on July 6 (TRW). Two Marbled Godwits were found at Yaquina Bay on Aug. 3 (JG & RK). A few Sanderling had appeared on the Oregon coast by early August; 7 were found at the inland location of Emigrant Lake in the Medford area on Aug. 5 (OS). An *Am. Avocet*, rare in the Region, was found at Agate Lake, Oreg. on July 9 (JH). A female Wilson's Phalarope was seen at Leadbetter Point on June 23 (RK & HBN). Northern Phalaropes were numerous in the San Juan Islands by the end of the report period (ES); 19 were seen in Queen Charlotte Strait as early as July 7 (VG).

Jaegers, Gulls, Terns—Two Pomarine Jaegers were seen at very close range from the north jetty of the Columbia River on Aug. 11 (JG & HBN). A Parasitic Jaeger was noted in Discovery Passage on Aug. 6 (VG). The colonies of Glaucous-winged Gulls on Colville and Protection Islands, Wash. were much larger this year than in recent years, with 2200 young banded there (*vide* TRW). This species was in evidence daily along the coast of British Columbia during June and July, average numbers seen each day being about 30, according to Goodwill's detailed report. Single adult Herring Gulls appeared from time to time during the same period (VG). Fewer than 10 California Gulls frequented Troup Passage during June, but numbers gradually increased through July and more than 50 were counted on Aug. 14 (VG). The same conditions prevailed farther south with numbers of California Gulls, including many young birds, becoming very noticeable by the end of July after a month's build-up. The Ring-billed Gull seems to follow the same pattern of migrating west to the Pacific from inland nesting grounds as does the California Gull, but in much smaller numbers, later in the season, and without going as far north, *e.g.*, Goodwill recorded none of this species during the reporting period although farther south at La Conner,

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Skagit Co., Wash. the species was numerous by Aug. 15 (ES). Up to 30 Mew Gulls could be found in a day during June and July in the vicinity of Troup Passage

and Bella Bella, B. C., but by the second week of August numbers had decreased to fewer than 10 birds per day. A small number of Franklin's Gulls reached the Vancouver-Victoria-Seattle area by early July and were still in evidence at the end of the period; the first were 3 noted in Vancouver harbor, July 4 (*VEC*), with subsequent sightings at the end of July and in early August at Seattle (*ES* & Zella Schultz), Victoria (*ARD*), Lake Terrell and Bellingham (*TRW*). Numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls summered from Vancouver Is. northward; by the end of July totals had climbed at Bellingham and in Puget Sound and a few individuals were being registered on the Washington and Oregon coasts south to Tillamook and inland at Portland. Twenty-three adult Heermann's Gulls put in an appearance at the north jetty of the Columbia River on the early date of June 23 (*RK* & *HBN*); at the same place on Aug. 11 birds of this species were moving northward at the rate of 10-20 per hour. Heermann's Gulls first appeared at Victoria on June 26; many more adults than usual were in the San Juans in July (*TRW*). Three immature Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen at the north jetty of the Columbia on June 23 (*RK* & *HBN*); an adult was noted off Cape Cook, Vancouver Is. on July 25 (*VG*). About 24 Com. Terns were at Blaine, Wash. on July 6 (*TRW*); 10 were seen at Victoria on July 30 and 3 at Miracle Beach near Victoria on Aug. 15 (*DS*). Caspian Terns were reported at Leadbetter Point, Tillamook and Hoover Lakes near Medford; a total of 11, including some young birds, at Leadbetter Point on Aug. 11 was the largest number reported. Single adult Black Terns were at Smith Lake in Portland on June 23 (*JG*) and at Lake Terrell near Bellingham, July 31 (*TRW*).

Alcids—Common Murres were seen frequently from "Marabell" during the period, with 150-250 individuals observed in the course of transits from Vancouver-Victoria north along the east side of Vancouver Is. and across Queen Charlotte Sound; Pigeon Guillemots were considerably less common, the maximum being 15 observed on June 20 from Troup Passage south to the northeastern portion of Vancouver Is.; Marbled Murrelets were encountered regularly, with high counts of 265 on June 21 and 98 on July 6 in Discovery Passage, although only 8 were seen there on Aug. 6 (*VG*). Three Marbled Murrelets were seen on June 20 at Clallam Bay, Wash. and 1 on June 22 at Port Angeles, Clallam Co., Wash. (*NBB*); 3 individuals of this species, all in winter plumage, were seen close to the jetty at Newport, Lincoln Co., Ore. on Aug. 3 and were accompanied by an *Ancient Murrelet*, also in winter plumage (*JG* & *RK*). Eleven Ancient Murrelets in breeding plumage were seen on June 21 in the waters bordering northeastern Vancouver Is.; 13 were seen on July 25 during a transit by "Marabell" across Queen Charlotte Sound (*VG*); 30 were seen on Aug. 4 flying

past the Tillamook Bay jetty singly or in pairs (*HBN*). Rhinoceros Auklets were commonly seen from "Marabell" in Queen Charlotte, Broughton and Johnstone Straits on the east side of Vancouver Is. and on Queen Charlotte Sound in June and July, with 435 on July 7 the highest count; a traverse of the same area in the first week of August produced only about 10 percent of the numbers present there earlier (*VG*). This species also was reported as common at Victoria throughout the period (*NBB*, *ARD*). Tufted Puffins were seen from "Marabell" only on July 25 when 22 were counted off the northeastern portion of Vancouver Is. (*VG*).

Swifts, Hummingbirds—Black Swifts were noted at Neah Bay, Wash. on June 20 (*NBB*) and in Manning Provincial Park, B. C. on July 30 and 31 (*VG*) and were said to be in "good numbers" in the Courtenay-Campbell River, B. C., area during the reporting period (*DS*). Vaux's Swifts were reported from the Hoh River valley and Lake Crescent on the Olympic Peninsula on June 19 (*NBB*); 1-2 birds were seen occasionally in June and early July at Lake Oswego, Ore., where in the past eight years the observer (*IBC*) had seen individuals only in early May. The male *Black-chinned Hummingbird* that had appeared in May at Merle McGraw's feeders near Shady Cove on the Rogue River, Ore., was seen off and on until June 25; at the end of July a bird thought to be a young male of the year visited the feeder (*vide OS*). During the second week of August, male Anna's Hummingbirds appeared at feeders in Portland (Virginia Holmgren, *vide HBN*) and Medford (*vide JH*). The *Broad-tailed Hummingbirds* reported in the spring migration account to have been still at the McGraw feeders at the end of May, all had stopped appearing by June 25. Calliope Hummingbirds that had frequented the same feeders from mid-May were not seen after June 20.

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers—Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers with young birds in attendance were prominent in the Santiam Pass area east of Salem, Ore. on July 24 (*HBN* & *WT*). Two Eastern Kingbirds were reported from Bellingham, June 14 and 21 (*TRW*); 1 was seen at Medford, July 8 (Carl Richardson & *OS*). Western Kingbirds, also unusual in the Region, were seen singly at Portland airport on June 10 (*JG*) and at McMinnville, Yamhill Co., Ore. on Aug. 3 (*JG* & *RK*); 2 adults *with young* were seen at Eugene, Ore., June 30 (Eric Forsman) and July 2 (*AL*). An Ash-throated Flycatcher, a species unreported for this Region in some time though according to the literature supposed to occur in southern Oregon, was seen at Eugene on June 16 by several observers (*vide AL*). A pair of Black Phoebes raised one set of young and began another nest in the same vicinity in the Medford area (*JH*). Dusky Flycatchers were found commonly breeding in

cut-over areas above 3000 feet elevation in the central Oregon Cascades this summer (*WT*).

Larks, Swallows, Corvids—Two adult Horned Larks seen at Portland airport on June 10 evidently fledged young, as 3 young birds were seen there on July 5 (*JG*). Purple Martins were more widely reported than in several years past: numbers and nesting success were good at Bellingham (*TRW*); feeding of young was still in progress at a colony near Cloverdale, Tillamook Co., Oreg. on Aug. 6 (*MK*);

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a nest on a building in downtown Seattle was occupied on June 28 (*VEC*); a pair was seen at Bonneville Dam on the Columbia, June 22 and July 5 (*HBN*); about 24 were seen over Prospect Lake, Victoria, B. C. early in August (*ARD*, *fide DS*); 3 individuals were noted at Emigrant Lake near Medford, Aug. 18 (*OS*). Only from Courtenay, B. C. was there a pessimistic note: no martins were seen and Starlings apparently had appropriated their previously used nest holes in pilings. A pair of Com. Ravens attending 2 young was found at Chinook Pass, Wash. on June 16 (*VEC*); up to a score were seen on June 20 and Aug. 14 at Troup Passage, B. C. (*VG*). Northwestern Crows were also seen commonly there during June and July.

Bushtits, Dipper, Wrens—A Com. Bushtit nest discovered at Seattle on July 17 contained young which had just feathered by this late date (*ES*); other young were out of the nest at Seattle by June 10 (*VEC*). A pair of Dippers nested along the Rogue River at Laurelhurst Bridge (*JH* & *OS*). House Wrens were reported from a number of sites on the west side of Portland and in suburbs to the west, where they are usually absent. At least 3 pairs were discovered in a Bellingham neighborhood where none have been noted for several years, and a family group was seen there on Aug. 6 (*TRW*). Five birds, possibly also a family group, were seen together in one bush at 5000 feet elevation on Mount Ashland, Oreg., Aug. 4 (*OS*).

Mimids, Thrushes, Gnatcatchers, Waxwings, Starling—A pair of Catbirds was again reported from Pitt Meadows, B. C. where it was seen on June 23 (*NBB*). The only report concerning W. Bluebirds came from southwest Oregon where they were considered to be in good numbers at higher altitudes; 20 were seen on Aug. 17 above 5000 feet elevation in the Siskiyou (*OS*). Thackaberry found Townsend's Solitaires in almost every cut-over area in the central Oregon Cascades this summer and concluded that logging operations benefit this species. One of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nests reported found on Roxy Ann Butte near Medford in May brought off three young by June

7 (*OS*). Eight Cedar Waxwings were seen a half-mile northeast of Bella Bella, B. C. on June 1 (*VG*), and the species was common in northwestern Oregon throughout the report period. Twenty Starlings were observed at New Bella Bella Is. on Aug. 14 (*VG*).

Vireos and Warblers—Five Hutton's Vireos, possibly constituting a family group, were seen together in the Rogue River Valley near Medford, July 8 (*OS*). A nest of the Solitary Vireo was discovered near Laurelhurst Bridge on the Rogue River (*OS*), presumably in June. A group of 12 individuals of this species was seen on Larch Mountain, east of Portland, July 22 (*HBN*). Red-eyed Vireos were, surprisingly, an abundant bird in suitable habitat in Whatcom County, Wash. this summer (*TRW*), and at least 10 pairs nested on Crabtree Creek east of Lebanon, Oreg., (*WT*). The Nashville Warbler was found to be the most common warbler above 3000 feet elevation in cut-over areas in Oregon's central Cascades (*HBN* & *WT*). Black-throated Gray Warblers have appeared with increasing frequency in the Victoria area in the past five years, but there is still no proof of breeding; this year a pair was seen regularly at Miracle Beach in June and 1-3 birds were present there in July and early August (*DS*). Hermit Warblers were reported as common on the east side of central Oregon's Cascade Mountains (*WT*), and a large flock, consisting mainly of immatures, was seen on Larch Mountain, July 22 (*HBN*). MacGillivray's Warbler, also, was common in mountain cut-over areas this summer but was most abundant below 4000 feet elevation (*HBN* & *WT*). Yellow-breasted Chats again were seen frequently in the Lebanon, Oreg. area (*WT*).

Blackbirds, Finches, Sparrows—Fifty Yellow-headed Blackbirds in western Skagit County, Wash., Aug. 14 (*TRW*) were unusual. Juvenile Brown-headed Cowbirds twice came aboard "Marabell" in Troup Passage, 1 on July 24 and 1 on Aug. 14 (*VG*). Black-headed Grosbeaks were very much in evidence in the Willamette Valley of Oregon this summer. Young Evening Grosbeaks were being fed green choke cherries east of Snoqualmie Summit in Washington's Cascades on Aug. 18 (*VEC*); in Oregon the species was found only in the high Cascades. Red Crossbills became very common in the Victoria area after July 1, when over 200 were seen at Miracle Beach (*DS*), and were also prominent in Oregon's high Cascades from late July to the end of the reporting period. A Pine Grosbeak was observed in Manning Provincial Park, B. C. on July 30 and a male and a female were seen there on July 31 (*VG*). A Green-tailed Towhee, an uncommon species in the Region, was seen at Pilot Rock, Jackson Co., Oreg. on July 4 (*JH* & *OS*), and 3 were seen at Mount Ashland on Aug. 4 (*OS*). Five Vesper Sparrows also were found at Pilot Rock on July 4 (*JH* & *OS*). Fox Sparrows were found from May

through July in laurel thickets in the vicinity of the junction of Santiam Highway (Oregon Route 22) with U. S. 20 in eastern Marion County, Oreg. (*HBN* & *WT*). This represents an extension of the known breeding range of this species. Collecting will be required to determine the race involved; the birds are quite gray.

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End 1968

1969

*Autumn Migration, 1968***NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN —
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

/ Thomas H. Rogers

Autumn in the Region was rather mild, not marked by extreme low



temperatures, even though the average was often below normal. However, summer in the western part of the Region did a surprising about-face in mid-August, when wet, cool weather set in. The month was the wettest in 83 years at Missoula, Mont.; Spokane, Wash. had 1.35 inches of precipitation, over three times normal; and southern interior British Columbia experienced similar conditions. Farther north, however, at Prince George, conditions were drier than normal. September continued the trend and was cool and wet in most localities, although precipitation was closer to normal. British Columbia was dry at Penticton but wetter than usual farther north. October was generally a bit cool—1.9° below normal at Spokane—and was wet in eastern Washington, but dry in western Montana, with varied moisture conditions in southern British Columbia. November remained wet in eastern Washington, with only slightly subnormal temperatures there, but was dry and warm in western Montana, and the same appeared to be true for southern British Columbia, with temperatures in the Okanagan Valley sinking no lower than about 26° F. in November. At Spokane, temperatures dropped to 16° F. once at mid-month. The Columbia Basin area of east-central Washington and extending south into Oregon was described as having a mild, damp autumn. A rather large number of late records throughout

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the Region appear to be correlated with the moderate temperatures. Heavy rainfall helped to alleviate a moisture deficiency that had been building up for two years. Habitat conditions at the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. were generally good. At Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash., the moisture assured the growth of cheatgrass and other rangeland grasses and returned water levels to normal after their summer lows. At Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash., fall began with the smallest open water acreage in 20 years, but the wet season showed promise of alleviating this. Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge headquarters, Charlo, Mont. was deactivated in October, and the manager, Frank Kenney, was transferred to Turnbull Refuge. C. J. Henry commented: "In spite of the fact that Ninepipe Refuge (acre for acre and dollar for dollar spent) is one of the best waterfowl refuges anywhere, there is no longer anyone living on the refuge!"

Loons—The Com. Loon was observed in unusual numbers at Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash.: at least 10 were seen there on Oct. 13 (*S.A.S.*) and 14 were present on Nov. 3 (*WH*). A late individual was observed on the St. Joe River near St. Maries, Idaho on Dec. 1 (*EJL*). An *Artic Loon* was observed at Turnbull Refuge on Oct. 17 (*JMM*) and on Oct. 1819 when good color slides were obtained (*DRP* & *EOW*). What was probably the same bird was shot at nearby Granite Lake on Oct. 22 and was obtained for a specimen (*HW*); this is the first specimen for eastern Washington.

Pelicans and Cormorants—Fifty White Pelicans were present on Oct. 1 at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. but moved to the Columbia River when the hunting season opened. An immature bird of this species came to Ravalli Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Stevensville, Mont., Aug. 22 (*CLB*). The species lingered at Harrison, Madison Co., Mont. until the rather late date of Oct. 13 (*DRS* & *PDS*); a single bird present on Kalamalka Lake, Vernon, B. C., Nov. 18-20 was noteworthy. Double-crested Cormorants at Canyon Ferry near Helena, Mont. on Oct. 27 (*DRS* & *PDS*) also were rather late; 6 were noted at McNary Refuge in early September and an occasional bird was seen thereafter on the Columbia River.

Hérons, Bittern—A Great Blue Heron was seen flying along the Fraser River at McBride, B. C. on Aug. 14. This species is not known to breed anywhere in that area. A *Snowy Egret* was seen on Sept. 2 (*LM*) in the exact spot at Ennis Lake, Ennis, Mont. where one was seen on the same date 11 years ago by P. D. Skaar; 2 birds of this species were identified near Trident, Gallatin Co., Mont. on Sept. 1 (*FC*). Two records of

single Black-crowned Night-Herons, received too late for the summer report, were unusual for the Bozeman, Mont. area: one seen on July 17 on the Madison River constituted the first Madison County record, another was seen on July 25 at Wilsall (*LM*). The species was very common at McNary Refuge, with about 150 present. An Am. Bittern was seen at Ravalli Refuge, Sept. 20 (*GD*).

Swans—Migrating Whistling Swans appeared to have concentrated on the refuges of eastern Washington. At Columbia Refuge, peak numbers were 70, twice that of last year. At McNary Refuge, 60-80 were present during the fall. At Turnbull Refuge, a total of 52 on Nov. 15 was the highest count. Some 24-27 Trumpeter Swans were recorded at Turnbull Refuge during the fall, with 9 birds of the resident flock unaccounted for. Two were observed at Willow Lake, a few miles north of the refuge, on Aug. 25 (*JA*) and Aug. 30 (*WH*) •

Geese—The buildup of Canada Geese in the vicinity of Columbia Refuge occurred earlier than last year, with some 55,000 arriving from the north during the first week of October in the Stratford Lake area (*CEO*). About 12,000 were present on McNary Refuge, and a peak of 3000 was noted at Turnbull Refuge. Numbers at Ninepipe Refuge, however, probably never exceeded 500 (*FLK*). Six "Cackling" Canada Geese were observed at Park Lake Grant Co., Wash. on Nov. 3 (*WH*). A surprising 4 White-fronted Geese were reported at McNary Refuge in September; 1 was seen at Stratford, Wash. on Oct. 13 (*JA*); and 5 were noted at Turnbull Refuge about Nov. 1. Snow Geese peaked at 250 in early October at McNary Refuge, with very few reported elsewhere. Two adult **Blue Geese** were observed weekly on the Columbia River at McNary Refuge after late October. A single **Ross' Goose** was identified at Ninepipe Refuge, Nov. 25 (*CJH*).

Ducks—Duck numbers appeared to be good. Peak numbers for Mallard, always the most abundant duck of the Region, were as follows: Ninepipe Refuge, 33,000; McNary Refuge, 25,000; Turnbull Refuge, 6000; and Ravalli Refuge, 5000 (*GD*). With the 1 Mallards at Turnbull Refuge was a Black Duck, first seen on Sept. 29 (*JMM, DRP & SMS*). Pintail 'peaked at 20,000 at Ninepipe Refuge in late September (*FLK*); this species built up to rather spectacular numbers and lingered later than usual at Columbia Refuge. Green-winged Teal peaked at 2000 in late September and early October at Ninepipe Refuge (*FLK & JPM*) and 4500 in early October at McNary Refuge. The latter refuge also had unusual large concentrations of Am. Widgeon, with a peak 5000 in mid-October; at Ninepipe Refuge, the peak was 16,000 (*FLK*). A pair of European Widgeon was identified at Turnbull Refuge, Oct. 5 (*PB JMM*). The Shoveler peak at McNary Refuge was very

high, 2500 in early November, and up to 3600 Canvasback were present at the same time. Twelve Wood Ducks noted on a creek at the North Arm of Okanagan Lake in southern British Columbia were noteworthy; 20 were recorded at Ninepipe Refuge on Sept. 22 (*FLK*), which was the last date on which the species was seen there; 15 were seen at Turnbull Refuge on Nov. 1. By late November at Ninepipe Refuge, Lesser Scaup had built up in numbers to 2000 (*JPM*) and the Com. Goldeneye population had reached 700 (*CJH*). Barrow's Goldeneyes in numbers up to 250 were noted at both Turnbull and McNary Refuges. A few rarities were found. An immature **Oldsquaw** was observed on Ninepipe

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Refuge, Nov. 25 (*CJH*). **White-winged Scoters** appeared at several localities, with 2 seen at Canyon Ferry, Mont., Oct. 26 (*BE*); 2 males seen at Ellensburg, Wash., Oct. 18 (*DRP & EOW*); a female killed at McNary Refuge, Oct. 20; 1 immature seen on Oct. 18, 2 males and 1 immature seen on Oct. 31, and 1 male seen on Nov. 10, all at Medical Lake, Spokane Co., Wash. (*WH*); 1 male seen on Nov. 3 at Alkali Lake, Grant Co., Wash. (*WH*). Three immature **Surf Scoters** also were seen at Medical Lake, Oct. 20 (*JA & WH*). Notable concentrations of Ruddy Ducks included 1800+ at Soap Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on Oct. 13 (*JA*) and 1150 at McNary Refuge in early November.

Vultures, Hawks, Eagles—Only 3 Turkey Vultures were seen on the western outskirts of Missoula, Mont. where the species has been very scarce in recent years. The situation seemed better at other localities reporting Turkey Vultures: 16 were sighted at Turnbull Refuge on Sept. 11; more than usual were reported from the Bitterroot Valley around Stevensville, Mont., with single birds noted on two dates and 4 birds noted on Aug. 10; and a record aggregation of 14 was noted at Logan, Mont., Aug. 25 (*EH, RAH, DRS & PDS*). The latest date was Sept. 19 at both Missoula and Bozeman. At the latter locality, 1 circled over the office of the observer (*CVD*) at Montana State University on that date, and it is reported that Davis then went home for the day. Could there be any connection? Single Goshawks were reported from Moscow, Idaho (*EJL*); Turnbull Refuge (*DRP & EOW*); Calispell Peak, Stevens Co., Wash. (*JA & WH*); and near Spokane, Wash. (*VN & CS*). A careful sight record of a **Harlan's Hawk** near Geiger Field just west of Spokane on Sept. 26 (*JA*) was Washington's first; the observer studied the hawk by scope for 30 minutes and submitted a very detailed and convincing sketch drawn two hours after the observation. The sighting of a Swainson's Hawk in Madison County, Mont. on Sept. 22 (*RAH*) established a late record for the species. A

few Golden and Bald Eagles were reported from scattered localities in western Montana, northern Idaho, eastern Washington and British Columbia. The prize report was a count of 234 Bald Eagles on Nov. 21 at Apgar on Lake McDonald in Glacier Nat'l Park, Mont. where the birds come each fall to feed upon salmon dying after spawning (*Hungry Horse News*, Columbia Falls, Mont.). An Osprey was seen at Ennis Lake, Mont. on the record late date of Oct. 13 (DRS & PDS).

Gallinaceous Birds—At the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont., the Blue Goose population was estimated at 75-100, with fall brood survival regarded as good. Ruffed Grouse were reported as common or almost abundant at places in the Prince George district of British Columbia (CS). An adult White-tailed Ptarmigan with 5 nearly grown young was observed at about 7000 feet elevation near High Pass in Glacier Peak Wilderness Area, Chelan Co., Wash., Aug. 29 (DR & THR). It was a very poor season for California Quail in the vicinity of McNary Refuge but a good season for them around Spokane and at Turnbull Refuge. Ring-necked Pheasant numbers were apparently about normal at reporting localities in western Montana, except for the Bitterroot Valley where the hatch was down. Numbers were definitely down in eastern Washington (WH, S.A.S., *Spokane Daily Chronicle*) and in the northern Okanogan Valley, B. C., and John Akin reported a very poor year for this species at McNary Refuge, with the few surviving broods being those that hatched in late July and August. A *Reeve's Pheasant* (*Syrnaticus reevesi*) was sighted on Oct. 29 in Tamarack Canyon north of Reardan, Wash. where the species was introduced this summer. Chukars and Gray Partridge seemed to do at least as well as usual from the lower Flathead Valley, Mont. west into eastern Washington. At Turnbull Refuge, 2-3 Turkeys were observed using a grain-straw feeding station.

Cranes, Rails, Coots—A group of Sandhill Cranes was observed flying over Ravalli Refuge on Oct. 17 (DHJ). The species also was observed flying over McNary Refuge and Cold Springs Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Umatilla Co., Oreg. in late September and early October. It was last seen in the Bozeman area on Sept. 22 (RAH). A single Virginia Rail was observed for two days in October at a feeding station near Charlo, Mont. in the lower Flathead Valley (CJH). American Coots, abundant as usual, peaked at over 5000 at McNary Refuge and over 6000 at Turnbull Refuge during the fall.

Shorebirds—Single Am. Golden Plovers were seen at Harrison Lake, Harrison, Mont., Sept. 19 (RAH); at Reardan, Wash., Sept. 24-26 (WH, S.A.S.); and along the Willow River near Prince George, B. C., Sept. 18

and in a field near Prince George, Sept. 22. Small numbers of Black-bellied Plovers were seen at Reardan, at Turnbull and McNary Refuges, at Missoula and in the lower Flathead Valley; "good flocks" were reported at Canyon Ferry near Helena, Mont. (BE). In general, the shorebird movement appeared quite routine. At least 10 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Reardan, Wash. on Aug. 17 (JA) represented the largest number seen there in years. Rarities included 1 *Sanderling* seen at Turnbull Refuge on Sept. 1 (DRP & SMS); at Reardan, 1-2 were present on Sept. 7-8 (JA) and 2 on Sept. 21 (WH). The rarest shorebird of the season was a *Buff-breasted Sandpiper* seen at Reardan on Sept. 7 (WH, JA).

Gulls and Terns—An immature *Glaucous-winged Gull* was identified on Banks Lake at Coulee City, Wash., Oct. 20 (DRP & EOW). Herring Gulls were reported as common 25 miles north of McNary Refuge at Ringold, Wash. where they were feeding on salmon. Two Herring Gulls were seen at Swan Lake near Vernon, B. C., and the species was present in flocks of up to 20 birds on the Snake River around Lewiston, Idaho and Clarkston, Wash. (MJP). A concentration of some 500 Ring-billed Gulls was noted in the Hayford area just west of Spokane, Sept. 15 (S.A.S.). A flock of Bonaparte's Gulls was observed at Harrison Lake, Mont. on the record late

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date of Nov. 9. A surprising total of 31 Com. Terns was observed feeding at Medical Lake, Wash. on Aug. 29 (WH).

Owls—Barn Owls were heard on several nights in August and once in October at Prineville, Oreg. (GM). A *Barred Owl* was found shot on Mica Peak, Spokane Co., Wash., at the 4000-foot level, Oct. 15 (WH); this constitutes only the third or fourth record for eastern Washington. A Great Gray Owl was observed south of Bozeman at a relatively low elevation but in evergreens, Nov. 5 (RAH). Short-eared Owls were reported sparsely, with reports only from Bozeman; Davenport, Wash. (WH); and three localities in British Columbia (JG, CS). Also observed at a low elevation south of Bozeman was a Saw-whet Owl seen on Oct. 19 (CVD). Two dead Saw-whets were picked up on the highway near Vernon, B. C. during November and early December, suggesting an influx there.

Nighthawks, Swifts, Hummingbirds—Common Nighthawks apparently were mostly gone by the end of August. At Baker, Oreg., 100 were seen on Aug. 29. At Missoula, the last report was on Sept. 4, which is early; at Prineville, Oreg., the last report was on Sept. 5, which is early by two weeks (GM). A lone individual

was still far north at Prince George on *Sept. 17*. A few Vaux's Swifts were still in the Bitterroot Valley at Hamilton, Mont. in late August; about 6 were noted near McBride, B. C., Aug. 13; 1 was seen at Missoula on the rather late date of Sept. 16. A record late date for the White-throated Swift, Aug. 25, was obtained at Trident, Mont. (*EH, RAH, DRS & PDS*). The sighting of a Rufous Hummingbird at Bozeman on Sept. 5 tied the late record there; farther west the species was last reported on Sept. 21 at Spokane (*S.A.S.*) and on Sept. 22 at Prineville (*GM*). A female or immature of this species was present at Kelowna, B. C. on the astonishingly late date of Oct. 31, but this is completely outdone by the positive identification of a *male* Calliope Hummingbird there on Dec. 1 (*EL*). In support of this observation, Jim Grant noted that Ernestine Lamoureux "is a most reliable observer." At Spokane, this species was observed on Sept. 22 (*WH*), a distinctly late date.

Woodpeckers—Red-shafted Flickers were abundant as always. A *male Yellow-shafted Flicker* was seen at Spokane on Oct. 6 and 8 and again on Nov. 5 (*JA, WH*). Lewis' Woodpeckers were noted as abundant as they came down into the Bitterroot Valley at the end of August (*MG*); the last date there was Sept. 15. The only other report of this species was of 1 seen daily at Prineville, Oreg., Sept. 17-25 (*GM*). Good concentrations of both species of three-toed woodpeckers were noted in spruce beetle infestations in the Prince George district; numbers in some localized infestations were estimated at 0.5 Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers per acre and 0.2 Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers per acre.

Flycatchers—A record late date, Sept. 8, was obtained for the W. Kingbird in Gallatin County, Mont. (*RAH*). A Say's Phoebe was seen on Aug. 22 at Tabor Lake in the Prince George district, where the species is not known to breed; another individual slept on Jim Grant's veranda at Lavington, B. C. until about mid-October. A W. Wood Pewee at Willow Lake, Spokane Co., Wash. on Sept. 21 (*WH*) established a late record there. The species was noted at Prineville until Sept. 22 (*GM*).

Swallows, Jays—In eastern Washington, Violet-green Swallows remained nearly to September's end: at least 100 were at Silver Lake, Spokane Co. on Sept. 21 (*WH*) and at least 30 were still at nearby Medical Lake on Sept. 29 (*JA*). About 1000 Barn Swallows were congregated at Medical Lake on Sept. 21 (*S.A.S.*); the latest records were of 1 over Banks Lake at Coulee City, Wash. on Oct. 20 (*DRP & EOW*) and 1 at Prineville on Oct. 22 (*JK*). There were two records of *Blue Jays*: 1 at Ravalli Refuge, Mont. on Nov. 19 (*GD*) and 1 at Turnbull Refuge, Wash. on Sept. 29 (*DRP*,

MLP & SMS). More Piñon Jays were seen in the Bitterroot Valley of western Montana during the fall, with 4 noted on Nov. 10 (*MG*). Clark's Nutcrackers were reported as more abundant than ever in the Bitterroot Valley; 50 were counted in a small area near Darby on Nov. 28.

Chickadees, Nuthatches—A Black-capped Chickadee seen at Prineville, Oreg., on Aug. 19 was Gerald Morsello's first observation in Crook County in two years. The seldom-observed Boreal Chickadee was described as being somewhat more common than usual in central British Columbia; 6 were seen at Barkerville on Oct. 4 and several were at Stony Lake on Oct. 6. The White-breasted Nuthatch was reported as being fairly common in the Bitterroot Valley and was seen in small numbers in the Spokane area (*S.A.S.*). Pygmy Nuthatches, known to have nested on Ravalli Refuge, were last seen there on Aug. 10 (*MG*). Brown Creepers were unusually common in the spruce beetle infestations in the Prince George district.

Wrens, Mimids, Thrushes—The Cañon Wren was observed in the Bozeman area on the record late date of Sept. 22 (*RAH*). A Catbird stayed in the Bitterroot Valley until Sept. 16 (*BT*), which seems to be a rather late date there. A Hermit Thrush was seen 25 miles east of Quesnel, B. C. on the record late date of Oct. 3; a single bird of this species appeared briefly on Nov. 25 and 27 and Dec. 1 at Walla Walla, Wash., each time during cold, rainy weather near or at the freezing level, with snow in the nearby Blue Mountains and their foothills (*NFM*). Three W. Bluebirds were observed near Nine Mile, a few miles downriver from Spokane, on Nov. 27 (*WH*). Mountain Bluebird numbers in the Bitterroot Valley were encouraging: 25 and 40 were counted on two occasions and a straggler was seen on Nov. 5 (*CLB, BT*). A late but not record-breaking individual was seen at Norris, Madison Co., Mont. on Nov. 9 (*EH, RAH, LM & PDS*).

Kinglets, Pipits—A Ruby-crowned Kinglet seen at Bozeman on Oct. 27 (*RAH*) was quite late; "some numbers" seen on Nov. 20 on the Burnt Fork of the Bitterroot (*GD*) were distinctly late. At Prineville, Oreg., this species appeared on Sept. 25 and remained

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to the end of the reporting period (*GM*). Water Pipits were frequent at many localities during September and October; 2 seen at Missoula on Nov. 15 were two weeks later than Hand's previous latest record.

Waxwings—Opal Foust summed up the waxwing situation with the remark that this will be another "Bohemian" year. The first sizable flock, 60 birds, was

seen on Aug. 13 at 4000 feet elevation near McBride, B. C., feeding on *Ribes* fruits. Bohemians began arriving in the lowlands in October, a few appearing as early as the 10th at Spokane where they mingled with Cedar Waxwings. Thousands were reported at Bozeman, Spokane and Vernon, rapidly depleting their favorite food, berries of the mountain ash. At the end of the period numbers were holding up well in the Bitterroot Valley and at Spokane, but the birds were leaving other localities and had not yet reached the more westerly parts of the Region: McNary Refuge in Washington and Baker and Prineville in Oregon. Small numbers of Cedar Waxwings lingered into October and even November at some localities, and a few probably will winter.

Starlings—Starlings were "superabundant" along the South Thompson River from Cache Creek to Kamloops, B. C., Aug. 30. Many small flocks were observed in the Prince George area, and a flock of 40 was seen on the Parsnip River, 60 miles to the northwest of Prince George, Sept. 29. Thirty were at Vanderhoof, west of Prince George, Oct. 28. The birds presumably were migrating down the Rocky Mountain trench. How far north has their range been extended?

Vireo, Warblers—The observation of a Red-eyed Vireo in Madison County, Mont. on Sept. 22 (RAH) tied the late record there. The latest date for the Orange-crowned Warbler was Nov. 3 at Prineville (GM). A *Nashville Warbler* that had been killed by flying into a window was picked up on Sept. 15 in Bozeman, Mont. (CVD), an unusual locality for this species. Single Yellow Warblers on Sept. 14 at Bozeman (DRS) and Spokane (S.A.S.) furnished very late records. A Myrtle Warbler seen at Prince George on Oct. 25 (CS) was late for that latitude. A major movement of Audubon's Warblers in eastern Washington and Oregon in mid-September was suggested by the following records: 30-50 at Medical Lake (S.A.S.), 50 at Spokane (THR), and a large flight at Prineville (GM). The only Townsend's Warbler reported was a single bird seen at Turnbull Refuge, Sept. 29 (DRP). The MacGillivray's Warbler was noted in Gallatin County, Mont. on the record late date of Sept. 24 (RAH); 1 at Missoula on Sept. 26 also was late. A Wilson's Warbler at Bozeman on Oct. 17 (HM) furnished a record late date; 1 at Kelowna, B. C. on Nov. 19 (EL) was very late.

Blackbirds—A *W. Meadowlark* was sighted 5 miles south of Prince George Airport on Sept. 30; species is rare at any time in that area. A late flock of Yellow-headed Blackbirds was noted at Three Forks, Mont. on Nov. 9 (EH, RAH, LM & PDS); 3 birds of this species remained at C. J. Henry's feeding station at Charlo, Mont. to the end of the reporting period. Rusty

Blackbirds were still fairly common along the Crooked River north of Prince George on Sept. 13; 1 was seen at Davie Lake on Sept. 23; 12 were at Lumby, 13 miles east of Vernon, B. C. on Dec. 8. Three immature Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen at Trident, Mont. on the record late date of Aug. 25 (EH, RAH, DRS & PDS). A report of this species at Ravalli Refuge on Sept. 26 appears to be decidedly late.

Finches—Evening Grosbeaks appeared in small numbers or not at all in most localities. The only exceptions appeared to be the Bitterroot Valley where a concentration of 100 or more was noted on Oct. 22, and at Missoula where flocks were common through September and the birds were frequent in October, with a few lingering to the end of the period. A Cassin's Finch seen at Bozeman on Nov. 26 may winter; 1 at a feeder in Lavington, B. C., Dec. 78 was distinctly unusual. The House Finch, which no longer rates italics at Missoula, Mont. was seen commonly there to Oct. 11, the maximum-size flock noted being 40 birds. The species was not noted at Missoula again until Nov. 24, when a flock of about 45 birds appeared, but was seen frequently thereafter. Several small flocks of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were noted along the road about halfway up St. Joe Baldy Mountain near St. Marks, Idaho, Oct. 31 (EJL). There were indications of a Com. Redpoll movement. Hand noted 4 at Missoula on Dec. 4, after having seen none there since March 1966. The species was seen on three dates in November in Spokane County, Wash. (LA, WH); in the northern portion of the Region, birds appeared at Vanderhoof, B. C. on Oct. 28 and at Prince George on Nov. 18 (CS) and were present at Vernon, B. C. from Nov. 15 to the end of the period. A few Pine Siskins lingered late in the Vernon area, until Nov. 26 (BAS). Red Crossbills appeared regularly at Bozeman and in the Spokane area but were very scarce at Missoula and in the Bitterroot Valley; a few flocks were noted in the Prince George district and 6 were seen at Vernon on Dec. 6. White-winged Crossbills were abundant in all spruce forest in central British Columbia, although by Nov. 1 numbers were somewhat reduced; 1 bird was seen at Bozeman on Nov. 30 (DRS).

Sparrows—Another record late date was established by observation of the Lark Bunting in the Bozeman area on Aug. 25 (EH, RAH, DRS & PDS). Tree Sparrows were first noted at Bozeman on Nov. 9, at Missoula on Oct. 23, at Ravalli Refuge on Oct. 28, and in Spokane County, Wash. on Oct. 27 (WH). A *Clay-colored Sparrow* was identified at Spokane on Sept. 11 (Mrs. SOS); it was associating with a flock of White-crowned Sparrows. Brewer's Sparrows were reported as rather common at Missoula, Aug. 23—Sept. 23; the species also was noted at Three Forks, Mont. on Aug. 25 (EH, RAH, DRS & PDS). An unusual number of

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sightings of *Harris' Sparrows* occurred: an immature bird was seen at Spokane on Oct. 12 (*VN* & *CoS*) and another on Nov. 5 (*Mrs. SOS*); an immature visited a feeder at Missoula on Oct. 13; 1 appeared at Lavington, B. C. on Nov. 3; 4 frequented Jim Grant's feeder at Lavington from Nov. 16 to the end of the period. A few individual Golden-crowned Sparrows were sighted in the Spokane area, mostly during the last half of September (*S.A.S.*). Fox Sparrows were still present at Ravalli Refuge on Nov. 30 (*GD*). A single Lapland Longspur was seen just south of Missoula on Oct. 3. Snow Buntings scarcely made an appearance in the Region: an occasional 1-2 were seen at Missoula in November; 2 were noted at the Nat'l Bison Range on Nov. 6 (*VB*); and 1 was seen in the lower Flathead Valley in the vicinity of Charlo, Mont. (*CJH*).

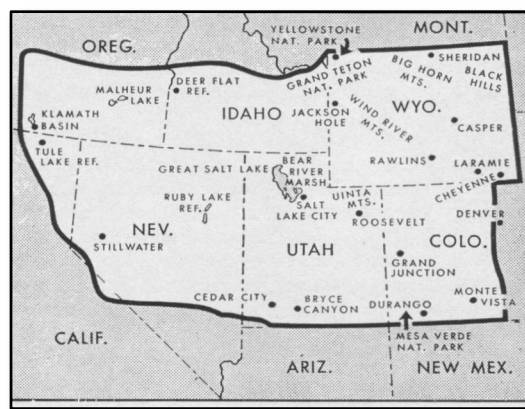
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Autumn Migration, 1968

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.

/ Dr. Oliver K. Scott

The fall was cold and in much of the Region precipitation returned to normal levels after two years of above-average moisture. In contrast, the western part of the Great Basin, which had been undergoing a great drought, experienced heavy rains this fall. For instance, Malheur Lake, the sump at the heart of the great national wildlife refuge in eastern Oregon, comprised only 8500 acres of water at the



beginning of the period, which is far below normal, and it subsequently shrank to only 3500 acres. Following heavy rainfall amounting to 2.77 inches in November, a high figure for this semi-arid area, Malheur Lake grew to 12,000 acres by the end of the reporting period, and nearby Harney Lake, which had been dry for some time, had 10,000 acres of water (*ELML*). It was the coldest August on record at Grand Junction in western Colorado (*LFE*). Throughout most of the Region, freeze-up occurred before the end of the reporting period, even in the Great Basin where this is unusual. Our winter birds generally arrived early and in numbers. Does this reflect the cool fall or does it mean that we are in for a rough winter?

Swans, Geese, Ducks—Bear River Marshes at the upper end of the Great Salt Lake had a large concentration of 27,000 Whistling Swans in November (*PJF*). This species arrived at Stillwater Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Nevada in late September, a month earlier than usual (*LDN*), probably because of the drought farther north at Malheur Refuge. A White-fronted Goose seen at the Bear River Marshes on Nov. 24 (*PJF*) was unusual at this location, although the species usually is present in large numbers on the western side of the Great Basin. The high count of ducks at Bear River Marshes, 473,000 on Sept. 18 (*PJF*), is down from previous years' highs and reflects a poor breeding season at this refuge. In contrast, Ruby Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in eastern Nevada produced 25 percent more ducks this year, with 7030 ducklings raised to the flight stage (*LLN*). The fall migration peak at this refuge, which is not as large as many of the

Region's other refuges, was 11,300 on Oct. 15 (LLN). At Deer Flat Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Idaho, the Region's great Mallard refuge, the bulk of fall migrants had not arrived by the end of the reporting period (RVP). This is often the case at the refuge. The Mallard is at best a late fall migrant and frequently manages to spend much of the winter in the Region despite the rather severe climate. At the newly established Monte Vista Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in southeastern Utah, which is essentially a Mallard refuge, 54,000 were present, Oct. 13-19

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(CRB). The heavy rains came too late to correct the drought conditions of two year's standing at Malheur Refuge, and the fall waterfowl migration there was thus disappointing. Many flocks of ducks were observed to land briefly and then take off again, and the high count of 63,000 at the refuge was the lowest since 1961 (ELM_L). The peak count of 155,000 ducks at Stillwater Refuge occurred in early October (LDN). This early peak apparently was caused by the drought conditions farther north. The refuge itself was short of water, with 30 percent of its marsh area dry. Numbers of ducks at Stillwater Refuge were much the same as last year, however, with a peak of 18,250 Canvasbacks this fall as compared with 21,000 last year (LDN). The only report of rarities among the waterfowl came from Grand Junction, Colo. where 3 *Wood Ducks*, a species not previously known to occur at that locality, were seen on Oct. 24 (LFE).

Hawks—A heavy influx of Red-tailed Hawks was noted in western Nevada north of Reno, with only a sparse population of Rough-legged Hawks reported for the same area (JMD). This reverses the relative status of these two species in the same area last year. One wonders whether there is a reciprocal relationship between the numbers of these two species in the fall. Farther north at Malheur Refuge, a poor flight of Rough-legged Hawks also was reported, with a maximum of 50 present at the end of November as compared with 100 last year (ELM_L). A Harlan's Hawk was reported near Sheridan, Wyo. in November (TK). A Black Hawk again was observed in southern Utah near Springdale on Sept. 11 (BL); this species has become almost regular in that area.

Gallinaceous Birds—A *Gambel's Quail* observed in the vicinity of Durango in southeastern Colorado on Nov. 27 (KS) was the first ever recorded in that area. Turkeys are steadily becoming more widespread in the mountain states where the several fish and game departments are propagating them. Recently they have become plentiful in southern Utah near Cedar City (SM), and a flock of 11 was reported on Sept. 1 west of

Denver, Colo. in Jarre Canyon (HH), a locality where the species previously was considered rare.

Cranes, Shorebirds—Normally there are two areas about 1000 miles apart reporting large concentrations of Sandhill Cranes in the Region, namely Malheur Refuge (ELM_L) and Monte Vista Refuge (CRB). This year the species peaked in early October at both refuges, with similar counts of 1800 birds reported at each of them. A Stilt Sandpiper observed at Farmington Bay on the eastern side of the Great Salt Lake, Sept. 5 (GK) was unusual for Utah, although this species is not uncommon farther to the east in Wyoming.

Owls, Hummingbirds, Swallows—A Barn Owl was seen near Cedar City, Utah on Oct. 30 (SM), and another was observed at Bear River Marshes on Nov. 2 (PJF). Utah has a small population of Barn Owls, although there are only a few records from the surrounding states. Two hummingbird concentrations were noted, one in the Kolob area north of Zion Nat'l Park in southern Utah where several hundred hummers consume 5 gallons of syrup per day (BL), the other in the vicinity of Hotchkiss, Colo. on the western slope of the Rockies (TC). Two Purple Martins were seen near Cedar City on Aug. 16 (SM) and 5 at Farmington Bay on Sept. 5 (GK). This species is more common in Utah than elsewhere in the Region.

Jays—A Gray Jay seen in Cheyenne, Wyo. on Nov. 8 (RSG) was many miles from its normal mountain habitat. A very unusual movement of Steller's Jays into the valleys on the western slope of the Rockies (TC) may have been caused by a very poor Piñon Pine cone crop this fall. Perhaps for the same reason, the species was very common at Salt Lake City during the fall (GK).

Chickadees, Bluebird, Waxwings—The usual altitudinal migration of Mountain Chickadees occurred this fall, with their arrival noted in mid-October at Salt Lake City (GK). A Western Bluebird wandered into central Wyoming and was observed on Oct. 25 near Dubois (MB) where the species is rare. Reports indicated a big flight of Bohemian Waxwings, with many seen in November in the Reno, Nev. area (JMD) where they are unusual that early, and with other early and large concentrations reported at Salt Lake City, Casper, Wyo., and Grand Junction and Durango, Colo. A sighting of 22 Bohemian Waxwings at Evergreen, Colo. in the mountains west of Denver on Nov. 16 (WWB) was an unusual record.

Vireo, Warblers—A Philadelphia Vireo was seen on Sept. 22 in Salt Lake City at the same spot where one was seen two years ago (GK). This species is casual in Utah. A late Nashville Warbler was reported at Craters

of the Moon Nat'l Monument in central Idaho, Oct. 7 (DLC). A Parula Warbler observed at Farmington Bay on Sept. 5 (GK) was a very rare find for Utah.

Finches, Buntings—There were scattered reports of Com. Redpolls from Wyoming and Idaho; the sighting of 3 at Craters of the Moon Nat'l Monument on Nov. 21 (DLC) established a first record for the monument and reflects the fact that a competent observer is stationed at the monument for the first time. Three Snow Buntings seen at Craters of the Moon Nat'l Monument on Nov. 21 (DLC) seem somewhat early; this species is poorly reported in the Region.

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Autumn Migration, 1968

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

Rainfall during the fall was somewhat greater than normal, although average temperatures were very



close to normal. The offshore, southward-moving cold water currents, which when close to shore bring apparent influxes of pelagic species, were this year reportedly more than 40 miles offshore, causing coastal observers to forgo some of the anticipations of fall birding. The season was nonetheless interesting in many respects and brought as many surprises as each

of the last few fall migrations. New Zealand Shearwaters off the Washington coast on Sept. 8, a Gyrfalcon at Victoria in November, a Stilt Sandpiper at Tillamook at the end of August, Long-tailed Jaegers twice in British Columbian waters, several widely spaced reports of flocks of Black Swifts, the dearth of Lewis' Woodpeckers, sightings of numbers of both species of Three-toed Woodpeckers in a limited, burned-over area of the Oregon Cascades, and Tennessee and Black-throated Gray Warblers at Terrace, B. C. were the particular highlights of the 1968 fall migration.

Loons and Grebes—Last winter's exciting observation of a **Yellow-billed Loon** present in the Blaine-Bellingham, Wash. area from January to March was followed, as so often happens, by another sighting on Nov. 11 at Victoria, B. C. where a single individual was seen in comparison with an Arctic Loon (DRP, SMS & EOW). A few Arctic Loons still in breeding plumage and a few Red-throated Loons began to appear in coastal waters of northern British Columbia in the latter half of August (VG); 2 Arctic Loons and 4 Red-throated Loons, all in winter plumage, were seen as far south as Tillamook, Oreg. on Aug. 30 (JBC, SJ, TM & WT); Goodwill recorded up to 238 Arctic Loons in a day around Yeo Is., B. C. in the period, Sept. 27–Oct. 1, the maximum number occurring on the 27th. None of the loons was reported in significant numbers for Washington or Oregon by the end of the period, however. Red-necked Grebes appeared on salt water in the vicinity of Yeo Is. after mid-August and up to 17 individuals were to be found in a day after mid-September (VG); 1 observed at La Conner, Skagit Co., Wash. on Aug. 15 (ES) was early; 2 individuals were seen on Crane Prairie Reservoir in the Oregon Cascades southwest of Bend on Aug. 20 (JBC), both the place and date being unusual. Two adult Horned Grebes in breeding plumage accompanied by 2 juveniles were seen at Yeo Is. on Aug. 22 (VG); 1 at Seattle on Sept. 9 (ES) was the first record of the season farther south. An Eared Grebe was found at Victoria on Oct. 5 (GAP), and another was seen in north Portland near the Columbia River on Nov. 9 (JBC & HBN). An early Western Grebe was seen at Tillamook Bay, Oreg. Aug. 30 (JBC, et al.); 21 individuals were noted in the surf at Oceanside, Oreg., Sept. 2 (HBN). There was again evidence of a mid-November movement of Pied-billed Grebes in western Oregon.

Pelagic Birds—Boat trips out of Westport, Wash. and Newport, Oreg., Sept. 8 and Oct. 5, respectively, found Black-footed Albatrosses to be present in numbers of between 5 and 10 some 45 miles west of Westport and numbers of 2-3 some 22 miles west of Newport. Four Pink-footed Shearwaters were seen on the Westport

trip and 10 were seen out of Newport. *Four* New Zealand Shearwaters were seen together off Westport. Sooty Shearwaters were widely scattered and in small numbers on both offshore trips, but later in the day on Sept. 8 an estimated 1,000,000 were seen at the mouth of Willapa Bay, Wash. (HBN). Thirty-six Sooty Shearwaters were noted on Queen Charlotte Sound, B. C., Oct. 2 (VG). Seven Fork-tailed Petrels were counted out of Westport on the

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Sept. 8 boat trip; 1 was seen in the Strait of Georgia, Aug. 28 (DS); farther north, 7 birds were counted in the course of a transit of Queen Charlotte Strait on Oct. 2, while 6 more were seen during the next two days southward through Johnstone Strait; single birds were seen in Discovery Passage, B. C. on Oct. 6 and 7 (VG).

Pelicans, Cormorants and Herons—Brown Pelicans did not come north this fall in the numbers experienced in the last few years; 12 seen in the Tillamook area on Nov. 17 (JBC, HBN, *et al.*) were the season's latest record. Numbers of Brandt's Cormorants were much below the usual fall counts of 2000 or more on the Chain Islands at Victoria (ARD). Seven Pelagic Cormorants observed in flight low over McMinnville, Oreg. on the west side of the Willamette Valley during a storm on Oct. 17 (JG) were most unusual. All three species of cormorants normally found in the Region were recorded almost daily during the first two months of the period from the Canadian hydrographic vessel "Marabell" as she plied central British Columbia waters (VG). A Great Blue Heron was still at Terrace, B. C. on the late date of Nov. 14 (HRV). Two Green Herons were present at Seattle (DRP, *et al.*) and 3 at Salem, Oreg., (TM) throughout the report period. Individuals were reported from the lower Frazer River on Oct. 13 (*fide* TRW); from Sauvie Is., west of Portland; from Tillamook Bay; and from the Medford, Oreg. area in the latter part of August. Ten individuals were found on Sept. 1 in a two-mile stretch on Oregon's Rogue River at Gold Ray Dam (OS). Common Egrets were reported only from Sauvie Is., Aug. 18 (JG, RK & HBN); from south of Brookings, Oreg., Oct. 19 (JH & OS); and from Coos Bay, Oreg., Nov. 11 (JBC). An immature Black-crowned Night Heron was seen west of Conway, Skagit Co., Wash. on Aug. 25 (DRP & SMS); a single individual also was seen at Bellingham on Sept. 2 (Eleanor Zimmerly, *fide* TRW). *Four* Am. Bitterns were found at Ilwaco, Pacific Co., Wash. on Sept. 8 (ZS).

Swans, Geese and Ducks—Whistling Swans first appeared at Sauvie Is. in early November; 400 were present there by the end of the period. A few birds also appeared in the Bellingham–Mount Vernon, Wash. area

in early November. Eight adults and 4 young Trumpeter Swans were seen at Terrace, B. C. on Nov. 21 (HRV); 11 individuals were recorded at Comox, B. C. in late November (DS). Canada Geese appeared first at Sauvie Is. on Aug. 18, reached a peak of about 3600 individuals in early October when the maximum number of birds passed through, and then leveled off at early winter numbers of about 2000. Some 5000 Canadas were observed in migration through the Strait of Georgia on Oct. 6 (Allan Brooks and Betty Westerborg, *fide* DS). Black Brant did not appear in numbers until November, with about 900 seen at Samish Bay, Wash. on Nov. 1 (ES) and 200 at Tillamook Bay, Oreg. on Nov. 17 (JBC, HBN, *et al.*). Migrant White-fronted Geese were seen unusually early: 35 high over Crane Prairie Reservoir, Oreg. on Aug. 20; 100 in flight over Damascus, Oreg., a few miles southeast of Portland, Aug. 26; and migrating flocks totaling an estimated 500 birds observed coming in from the northwest over the ocean at Tillamook Bay on Aug. 30 (JBC). Two individuals were seen at Baskett Slough west of Salem, Oreg., Sept. 11 (TM), and a few were still lingering at Seattle and Sauvie Is. on Dec. 1. On Nov. 7, the *Seattle Times* carried a report of 18,500 Snow Geese counted on the Skagit Flats, Nov. 1; 2 were seen at Sauvie Is. on Oct. 31 (HBN). Pintail were noticeably on the move throughout the Region by the last week in August and appeared to be plentiful. Some 18,000 Pintail were said to be at the Skagit Flats on Nov. 1, when 22,000 Green-winged Teal also were estimated to be present; about 200 birds of the latter species were counted on the west side of Willapa Bay, Sept. 22 (JBC & JGO). A male Blue-winged Teal took flight in front of "Marabell" at Stokes Is., B. C. on Sept. 27 in company with 40 Surf Scoters (VG)! The date, the location, and the company all are of interest. A dozen Blue-winged Teal were found at Baskett Slough on Sept. 11 (TM), and a pair was seen near Scio, Linn Co., Oreg. on Aug. 24 (WT). Two Cinnamon Teal were at the south jetty of the Columbia River on Sept. 14 (HBN). Two male European Widgeon were seen on the Saanich Peninsula north of Victoria on Nov. 24 (VG); 3 males were first picked out of widgeon flocks at Portland's Delta Park on Nov. 13 and were still present at the time this report was compiled (HBN). Similarly, at least 3 males were discovered at Seattle in late October and remained there through the end of the report period (ES; VEC; DRP, *et al.*); still another bird was seen at Anacortes, Skagit Co., Wash. on Nov. 3 (TRW). Three Am. Widgeon were noted at Terrace, B. C., Aug. 13 (HRV); by the following week individuals were appearing in central and southern British Columbia and western Washington, but numbers of migrants were not on the move until early October. Two Shovelers were seen at Leadbetter Point, Wash. Sept. 7 (ZS) and perhaps the same two birds were seen a week later at the south jetty of the

Columbia (HBN). Some 120 Ring-necked Ducks were noted on Green Lake at Seattle as early as Sept. 21 (ES). Canvasbacks did not appear anywhere in the Region in numbers except at Samish Bay, Wash. where 200 were present, Nov. 3 (TRW); a few individuals were found at Victoria, Portland and Tillamook Bay later in the month. About 75 wintering Barrow's Goldeneyes were at Bellingham by November (TRW). Goodwill saw Oldsquaws on Oct. 4, 6 and 7 in Discovery Passage, B. C., with 10 the largest number seen in a day. A pair was noted at Camano Is. near Everett, Wash., Oct. 26 (DRP, *et al.*), and a single bird was observed at Rockaway, Oreg., north of Tillamook, Nov. 17 (JBC, HBN, *et al.*). Goodwill saw small groups of Harlequin Ducks in central British Columbia waters, Sept. 11–Oct. 10, with 17 seen on the latter date being the largest number. At the north jetty of the Columbia, 500 Surf Scoters on Aug. 24 (HBN) and over 800 seen migrating south on Sept. 21 (HBN, RFi & TRW) were large numbers for so early in the season. Eight Com. Scoters seen at the north jetty on Sept.,

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22 (JBC & JGO) also were early arrivals; 6 were seen in Discovery Passage north of the Strait of Georgia on Oct. 4 and 2 more were seen just north of Nanaimo, B. C. on Oct. 10 (VG). Goodwill saw a total of 9 Hooded Mergansers, Aug. 17–Oct. 3, 1 on the first date and 4 on Oct. 1 in the vicinity of Bella Bella, B. C. and 4 more on Oct. 3 in Johnstone Strait on the east side of Vancouver Is. Singles, pairs and family groups of Com. Mergansers were seen sporadically about Bella Bella to the end of September, when "Marabell" departed the area (VG). Two Red-breasted Mergansers at Tillamook Bay, Aug. 30 (JBC, TM, WT & SJ) were early.

Vultures, Hawks, Eagles—Eighty Turkey Vultures were seen migrating southward on Sept. 10 south of Brookings, Oreg. (JH & OS); the same observers recorded about 60 migrants over Medford in the third week of September; and 62 were noted in migration at Victoria in the first week of October (ARD). A very late individual was seen over Lebanon, Oreg. on Nov. 24 (WT). Rough-legged Hawks appeared sparingly in western Washington and northwestern Oregon in November. Golden Eagles were seen on Sept. 8 at Crater Lake, Oreg., (JH & OS) and on Oct. 19 at Victoria (GAP) where one was seen last October. Aside from Goodwill's sighting of up to 7 birds in a day in the Bella Bella area, Aug. 16–Oct. 1, and 9 individuals during a transit of Johnstone Strait on Oct. 3, the only Bald Eagle sightings were of 1 at Willapa Bay, Sept. 7 (ZS) and 2 at Sauvie Is., Nov. 30 (HBN & OS). An estimated 20 Ospreys were seen on the chain of lakes along the Century Drive southwest of Bend, Aug. 20–25, the majority at Crane Prairie Reservoir (JBC); 2 were

sighted at Gold Ray Dam on the Rogue River, Sept. 1 (OS). A *Gyr Falcon*, rarely reported from this Region, was seen at Victoria on Nov. 19 (ARD & RFr). A Prairie Falcon was found at Crater Lake, Sept. 10 (JH & OS). On Nov. 30, a Peregrine Falcon was seen harassing gulls at Delta Park in north Portland, and on the same day another, carrying a Robin, was observed chivvyng a Red-tailed Hawk at Sauvie Is. (HBN & OS). A Pigeon Hawk flew along the waterfront at Alert Bay, B. C. on Oct. 2 (VG); single birds were seen at Seattle on Oct. 25 and Nov. 17 (SMS); at Sauvie Is. on Nov. 2 (JG & RK), at the north jetty of the Columbia on Nov. 23 (RFi & HBN), and at Bellingham on Nov. 26 (TRW). Ten Sparrow Hawks seen at Terrace, B. C. on Sept. 14 (HRV) were evidently in migration. Very noticeably increased numbers of Sparrow Hawks on the coasts of southwestern Washington and northwestern Oregon and at Sauvie Is. during much of November indicated a desultory migratory movement in progress.

Cranes—Ten Sandhill Cranes at Sauvie Is. on Sept. 11 were the first birds of the fall season; the peak there reached the normal 800-900 in the third week of October; 5 were still present on Nov. 9 (HBN). More than 250 Sandhill Cranes flew over Lebanon on Oct. 26 (WT). Twelve were seen from "Marabell" in the Bella Bella, B. C. area, Sept. 15–25; on Oct. 3, when the vessel was in Johnstone Strait, 3 more were seen flying over a 4400-foot ridge at an altitude of at least 5000 feet (VG). All of the cranes observed from the "Marabell" were flying on a southeasterly course.

Shorebirds—Semipalmated Plovers appeared at coastal points from Leadbetter Point south to Tillamook, Aug. 24–Sept. 21 and were observed in numbers up to 35 in a day; 3 were at the inland location of Agate Reservoir near Medford on Aug. 15 (JH). Snowy Plovers were found at Leadbetter Point, the mouth of the Columbia, and Tillamook after Sept. 7, the maximum being 12 at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 22 (JBC & JGO). American Golden Plovers were found at Leadbetter Point from Aug. 24 when 2 were present until at least Sept. 29 when 16 were on hand (MW); 4 were seen at Conway, Wash. on Aug. 25 (DRP & SMS); 1 appeared at Victoria on Sept. 1 and 13 were present there, Sept. 17–Nov. 10 (ARD), furnishing a surprising but not unprecedented late date for the Region. Black-bellied Plovers were present at Leadbetter Point in varying numbers from before the beginning of the report period, and 200 were seen there on Sept. 22 (JBC & JGO); 12 were at Yaquina Bay, Oreg. on Oct. 23 (TM); 2 were at Agate Lake near Medford on Oct. 8 (JH & OS). Surf birds were seen in numbers up to 100 in a day in the Bella Bella, B. C., area, Aug. 20–Oct. 1 (VG), after which the observer was no longer there. A count of 27 Ruddy Turnstones

at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 2 (*MW*) was unusually high. Goodwill saw flocks of Black Turnstones almost daily in the Bella Bella area until "Marabell" departed southward in the first week of October. Nine Com. Snipe at Bellingham on Sept. 15 (*TRW*) were the earliest reported; a flock of more than 300 at Nehalem, Oreg. on Nov. 16 was a surprisingly large concentration. Two Long-billed Curlews at the south jetty of the Columbia on Sept. 14 (*TM* & *HBN*) were the only sightings of the year in this Region. Up to 7 Whimbrels were seen at Leadbetter Point and at the south jetty of the Columbia on dates between Aug. 24 and Oct. 19. Single Spotted Sandpipers were seen in the vicinity of Bella Bella, B. C. on four dates between Aug. 17 and Sept. 1 (*VG*). A Solitary Sandpiper was found just west of Conway, Wash., Aug. 25 (*DRP* & *SMS*); another stopped at Medford on Sept. 27 (*OS*). Wandering Tattlers passed through the Region in small numbers from the last week of August until Oct. 19. Single Willets were reported on Aug. 16 at Lincoln City, Oreg., Aug. 24 at Leadbetter Point, and Aug. 31, Sept. 21 and Oct. 14 at Newport, Oreg. After a six-week hiatus, Greater Yellowlegs were again recorded in the Region, starting on Aug. 21 with 4 birds at Sauvie Is. and on Aug. 22 with 1 at Baskett Slough; 8 were seen at Victoria on Nov. 10 (*DRP*, *SMS* & *EOW*). Lesser Yellowlegs reappeared early in August and were found sparingly at favored coastal points and inland locations until Oct. 6, the latest date, at Mount Vernon, Wash. (*VEC*). The season's only record of a Rock Sandpiper was 1 seen at Bellingham on Nov. 15 and 18 (*TRW*). The few sightings of Baird's Sandpipers came in the last ten days of August and first two days of September from Sauvie Is. where 6 on Aug. 21 was the high count;

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Seattle; Leadbetter Point; Tillamook; and Cape Blanco, Oreg., also had sightings. Knots were reported only from Willapa Bay, their favorite stopping point in the Region, on Aug. 24 and Sept. 7 and 8 when 20 were seen together at Raymond (*ZS*). Lone Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were recorded at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 19 (*TRW*) and at Victoria on Oct. 20 (*VG*). Fewer Pectoral Sandpipers were reported this fall than in any of the last four years, sightings being made on several late August and September dates from Leadbetter Point, Tillamook Bay, and Agate Lake near Medford, with a record of 7 individuals on Aug. 25 at Conway, Wash. There were four coastal reports of Short-billed Dowitchers from Leadbetter Point south to Brookings, in numbers up to 45 birds; all were concentrated in the first two weeks of September as is usual, although the bird starts to reappear in the Region in the latter part of July. Long-billed Dowitchers were recorded on Aug. 21 after a six-week absence, with records thereafter

scattered through the next three months, the latest being of 2 at Wiser Lake near Bellingham, Nov. 24 (*TRW*). A *Stilt Sandpiper*, at Tillamook Bay on Aug. 30, first thought from a distance to be a dowitcher like the two birds it was with, was correctly identified when the bird's rump and tail pattern were observed, after which the bill, breast markings and leg color all were carefully and closely noted from much closer range to the complete satisfaction of each of the four observers (*JBC*, *SJ*, *TM* & *WT*). The record is, so far as we know, the first for the State of Oregon. Two Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen at Iona Is. on Aug. 18, with another found dead there on the same day (*TRW*). One was carefully studied at the south jetty of the Columbia on Sept. 14 (*TM* & *HBN*), and another was found at the north jetty five days later (*TRW*). A Marbled Godwit was observed at Leadbetter Point on Aug. 24; on Sept. 21, 2 were seen there and 1 at the south jetty of the Columbia (*HBN*), with 2 more seen at Yaquina Bay (*TM*). Two individuals were still present at Yaquina Bay on Oct. 23 (*TM*). A Wilson's Phalarope was seen at Conway, Wash., Aug. 25 (*DRP* & *SMS*); another was at Baskett Slough, west of Salem, Oreg., Aug. 22 (*TM*); 3 were seen together at Scio, Oreg., Sept. 15 (*WT*). Goodwill found only 12 N. Phalaropes along the British Columbia coast in the period, Aug. 20–Oct. 2, in distinct contrast to the considerable number seen last year during the same period. At Victoria, 1000 were present on Aug. 30, with none seen after Sept. 15 (*ARD*). Farther south, N. Phalaropes were more widely reported than usual with records from Puget Sound, from all coastal points regularly visited by observers, from offshore on the Sept. 8 and Oct. 5 boat trips, and from such inland locations as Sauvie Is., Wm. L. Finley Nat'l Wildlife Refuge south of Corvallis, Oreg., and Medford. Late records were of single birds seen from a ferry off Victoria (*DRP*, *SMS* & *EOW*) and at Medford (*JH*), both on Nov. 9.

Jaegers, Gulls and Terns—Parasitic Jaegers were well reported, the earliest being 2 at Willapa Bay and 1 at Westport, Sept. 8; additional sightings were reported from the north jetty of the Columbia, from Puget Sound as far south as the Tacoma Narrows where 6 were noted on Sept. 15 (*ES*), from Discovery Passage east of Vancouver Is., and from Bellingham which provided the latest record on Nov. 16 (*TRW*). *Long-tailed Jaegers* were seen by Goodwill from "Marabell" on Sept. 17—a light-phase bird that passed close to the vessel in the vicinity of Bella Bella, B. C.—and by Stirling near Mitlenatch Is., B. C. on Aug. 28. There were 1000 Herring Gulls at Portland's Delta Park on Nov. 18, 75 percent of which were thought to be the *thayeri* form (*HBN*). Goodwill saw varying numbers, with up to 70 in a day, Sept. 15–Oct. 10, many being close enough to identify as *thayeri*. California Gulls, present at Sauvie Is. in good numbers during October,

were much less in evidence thereafter; this species was the most common gull as much as 45 miles out of Westport on Sept. 8. Numbers of California Gulls up to 75 in a day were seen in the Bella Bella area until Oct. 1 when "Marabell" moved southward; up to 25 Mew Gulls were seen in a day from the ship during the same period (*VG*). Franklin's Gulls again appeared in the Puget Sound area, with 2 at Iona Is. on Aug. 18 and 6 at Bellingham on Sept. 28 (*TRW*), 1 at Victoria on Aug. 18 (*GAP*), immatures at Whidbey Is., Sept. 15 (*DRP* & *MLP*) and at Tacoma Narrows on the same date, and 1 at Lake Washington, Seattle on Oct. 12 (*ES*). Two Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at Agate Lake near Medford on Aug. 30 (*OS*); a few could be found on trips to the Oregon coast during September, October and November; farther north, the species was increasingly common, with large flocks at Bellingham from mid-September to mid-October and many still present at the end of the report period, 3000 observed migrating past Victoria on Nov. 26 (*GAP*), and 500-1000 noted along Discovery Passage, Oct. 4, 6 and 10 (*VG*). Good numbers of Heermann's Gulls were noted along the southwestern coast of Washington and in the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca from late August to early October; individuals were recorded inland at Deception Pass, Wash. on Oct. 6 (*VEC*) and at Active Pass, B. C. on the late date of Nov. 9 (*TRW*). A few Black-legged Kittiwakes were recorded from the mouth of the Columbia northward during September; 1 was at Yaquina Bay, Oreg. on Oct. 15 (*TM* & *WT*); surprisingly, none were seen on the Westport and Newport offshore trips, although by early October up to 14 were seen in Queen Charlotte and Johnstone Straits (*VG*). Sixty Sabine's Gulls were seen 40 miles seaward of Westport on Sept. 8 (*TRW*, *et al.*) in two flocks; 6 birds were seen off the south end of Whidbey Is. on Sept. 20, feeding in tide rips with Bonaparte's Gulls and N. Phalaropes; 2 more were noted at Victoria on Nov. 2 (*RFi*). Common Terns were seen repeatedly at Bellingham, in Puget Sound, at Willapa Bay, and at the mouth of the Columbia during September and the first half of October; 5 were at Yaquina Bay, Oct. 15 (*TM* & *WT*). Arctic Terns were noted with Com. Terns at Westport (*ZS*; *DRP* & *SMS*) and at Willapa Bay (*HBN*) on Sept. 8, at the north jetty of the Columbia on Sept. 22 (*JBC* & *JGO*), at Dungeness, Wash. on Sept. 18 (*TRW*), and at Yaquina Bay

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on Oct. 15 (*TM* & *WT*). Caspian Terns were seen in numbers up to 16 in a day at Blaine, Bellingham, Westport, Willapa Bay, Tillamook and Agate Lake near Medford between Aug. 24 and Sept. 15.

Alcids—In the vicinity of Bella Bella, B. C., 1-3 Pigeon Guillemots were seen from "Marabell" almost daily,

Aug. 16-26; the species was not seen again until the vessel was farther south in Discovery Passage in early October (*VG*); 1 was seen 35 miles out of Westport on Sept. 8 (*TRW*, *et al.*); 2 were noted at Cape Meares, Tillamook Co., Oreg., Aug. 30 (*JBC*, *et al.*). Several Ancient Murrelets were seen off Yaquina Head, Oreg. on Oct. 23 (*TM*). Cassin's Auklets were seen off Westport on Sept. 8, off Newport on Oct. 5, and in Queen Charlotte Strait on Oct. 2, in numbers between 6 and 20. Up to 13 Rhinoceros Auklets in a day were seen in Discovery Passage, Oct. 3-10 (*VG*); 6 were seen 40 miles out of Westport on Sept. 8 (*TRW*, *et al.*); 1 was seen south of Seattle in Puget Sound along with a Marbled Murrelet on Oct. 23 (*VEC*). Single Tufted Puffins were seen on the Westport and Newport offshore trips and from Cape Meares, Aug. 30 (*JBC*, *et al.*).

Doves, Owls, Nighthawks, Swifts—Single Mourning Doves were seen at Terrace, B. C. on Sept. 14 and near Bella Bella, B. C. on Sept. 28. A Spotted Owl, always rare, was found near Carlton, Yamhill Co., Oreg. on Sept. 4 (Gordon Knight, *vide TM*) but was not seen again despite subsequent search. A Long-eared Owl was heard repeatedly and finally seen at Little Lava Lake, Deschutes Co., Oreg., Aug. 19-25 (*JBC*). A Saw-whet Owl was seen at McMinnville, Oct. 2 and 5 (*JG*) and another was noted at Eugene at the end of the period (*AL*). Over 100 Com. Nighthawks were seen between Victoria and Campbell River on Aug. 2 (*DS*) and a similar number at Parksville, B. C. on Aug. 28 (*GAP*). Unprecedented observations of migrating Black Swifts included about 20 seen daily at Terrace, B. C., Aug. 24-Sept. 8; "flocks" at Bellingham, Aug. 26 (*TRW*); 24 at Parksville, B. C., Aug. 28 (*GAP*); "hundreds" near Campbell River, B. C., Sept. 1 (*DS*); "hundreds" seen in an hour and a half in the Brookings area on Sept. 14 and 8-10 seen in the Port Angeles, Wash. area on Sept. 16 (*OS*, *JH*); and individuals seen over Lake Washington, Seattle in the last two weeks of September (*VEC*). On Sept. 17, 300-350 Vaux's Swifts were observed at McMinnville, Oreg. (*JG*); 20 birds of this species were working gradually southeastward on Sept. 19 in the vicinity of Bella Bella, B. C., where 2 were seen three days later (*VG*); 17 were noted at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 21 (*RFi*, *HBN* & *TRW*).

Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers, Flycatcher, Swallows—A male Anna's Hummingbird appeared in Portland on Aug. 9 and was still visiting the same feeder at the end of the report period (Virginia Holmgren); another male appeared at a Medford feeder on Aug. 12 and likewise was still being seen there at the end of the period (*JH*); 2 birds of this species also were reported in Seattle for at least the fourth consecutive year. Two Rufous Hummingbirds were seen in Bellingham at different localities on Nov. 14 (*TRW*); 9

were seen feeding on insects at Medford on Sept. 1 (OS). A Calliope Hummingbird was observed on Aug. 31 at the Thackaberry farm near Lebanon where a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers was seen regularly through the summer and fall (WT); a single bird of the latter species also was seen at Banks, Oreg., Aug. 30 (JBC & SJ). Acorn Woodpeckers were seen from time to time during the fall in the McMinnville, Oreg. area (JG). The only reports of Lewis' Woodpeckers this fall after a complete dearth this summer were of 2 at Salem on Aug. 26 (TM) and 10 at Eugene on Sept. 8 (AL & H. Wisner); the species has inexplicably all but disappeared from the Region in the past year or year and a half. Three different observers on three separate dates during the first ten days of October found both Black-backed Three-toed and Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers in the Big Lake Burn off the Santiam Highway west of the Cascades summit; maximum numbers were 6 of the former and 4 of the latter species on Oct. 8 (WT). A. W. Kingbird was seen at Sooke, 22 miles west of Victoria on Oct. 30 (VG). Over 1000 Violet-green Swallows were near Medford on Oct. 8 (JH), a late date for a gathering of so many; at Seattle, 33 were seen together on Oct. 12 (ES) and 26 on Oct. 26 (LHK), late dates in both instances. Twenty-nine Barn Swallows at Sauvie Is. on Oct. 13 (JG) was the last report for this species; 4 were seen over New Bella Bella Is., B. C. on Sept. 18 (VG). Four Purple Martins were seen at Finley Refuge, Oreg. on Aug. 23 (TM).

Jays, Wrens, Thrushes—An apparent family group of Gray Jays was noted at Larch Mountain Summit east of Portland on Aug. 30 (JBC). A House Wren was recorded at Conway, Wash., Aug. 25 (DRP & SMS). A Winter Wren was discovered in an improbable location, the seaward extremity of the north jetty of the Columbia River, Sept. 7 (DRP & SMS). Several observers noted a paucity of Robins, at least in lowland areas of western Washington and Oregon from the beginning of the report period until late October. Practically no Varied Thrushes had appeared in the lowlands by Dec. 1. Several Swainson's Thrushes still lingered at Seattle on Sept. 14 (ES). Numbers of W. Bluebirds were noted at Snoqualmie Summit east of Seattle on Sept. 22 (VEC); 8 were seen at Victoria in mid-October (ARD) and again on Nov. 20 (Ray Beckett, *fide* DS). Numbers of W. Bluebirds were also reported in logged areas east of Eugene, Oreg. in late September and early October (*fide* JBC). Four Townsend's Solitaires were observed at Crater Lake on Sept. 10 & OS).

Waxwings, Shrikes—Two Bohemian Waxwings were found at Eugene on Dec. 1 (AL). A Northern Shrike appeared on Oct. 15 at Terrace, B. C. where individuals were seen subsequently on Nov. 6, 9 and 30 (HRV); 1

appeared at Marietta, Wash. on Oct. 13, with birds being seen along Puget Sound until the end of the period in greater numbers than last year (TRW). The only Oregon records were of single birds at Sauvie Is. on Nov. 2 (JG) and at Svenson, east of Astoria, Nov. 23 (RFi & HBN).

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Warblers—At Terrace, B. C., H. R. Vance experienced a remarkable fall for warblers. It started on Aug. 15 when he found a *Tennessee Warbler* and a Blackpoll Warbler. On Aug. 18, he found a *Black-throated Gray Warbler* which was considerably north of its normal breeding range; the bird was studied through binoculars from a distance of 50 feet, and the broad black eye stripe or patch was well observed. The same or other birds were seen subsequently *three times* on Aug. 28, Sept. 4 and Sept. 6. September 4th was apparently the peak of the warbler migration at Terrace, and besides the Black-throated Gray seen on that date, Vance observed a Black-and-white Warbler and an Am. Redstart. Two Nashville Warblers were seen repeatedly at Victoria in August and into September (ARD); 1 was noted at McMinnville, Oreg., Sept. 12 (JG); 4 were seen in the Medford area, where the species is rarely found, on Sept. 8 (OS). A Yellow Warbler was seen at Seattle on Sept. 14 (ES) and another at Ilwaco, Wash. on Sept. 22 (JBC & JGO). Three Black-throated Gray Warblers were rather late at McMinnville on Oct. 16 (JG), although the date is not extreme. At Victoria, this species has been increasingly frequent in its fall occurrences during the last five years (ARD, GAP & DS); this year birds were present into the second half of September. A few Townsend's Warblers could be found in the Seattle area at the end of the period (DRP & EOW). Two Hermit Warblers were observed at Little Lava Lake in the Cascades southwest of Bend, Oreg., Aug. 22 (JBC). A Palm Warbler was found at Victoria on Oct. 22 (GAP). Eight Yellow-breasted Chats seen at Carlton, Oreg., Sept. 20 (JG) were about a week later than previous Oregon records.

Blackbirds, Tanagers—A Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen at Carlton, Oreg., Sept. 20 (JG); 2 others were observed near Albany, Oreg., Aug. 31 (HBN). A Western Tanager was seen at Seattle on Sept. 14 (ES); 8 were noted at Medford on Aug. 31 (OS).

Finches and Sparrows—Several thousand House Finches were seen at Agate Lake near Medford on Sept. 8 (JH). Pine Siskins appeared at Terrace, B. C., at Seattle, and at Fort Canby, Wash. on the Columbia River in November; 25 were seen in the hills behind Scappoose, Oreg., also along the Columbia, Sept. 24 (HBN); earlier in the period, flocks were noted in the Oregon Cascades (JBC, TM). On Sept. 22, 300 Am.

Goldfinches were on the *Salicornia* flats at Leadbetter Point (*JBC* & *JGO*). A few Red Crossbills were seen on the Olympic Peninsula, at Willapa Bay, Tillamook and Scappoose, and in the Cascades late in August and early in September. Over 100 Savannah Sparrows were at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 21 and 22; 1 was still present at Terrace, B. C. on Nov. 20 (*HRV*). Two Vesper Sparrows were seen at McMinnville on Sept. 19 (*JG*). A Slate-colored Junco was seen at Conway, Wash., Oct. 26 (*DRP*, *SMS* & *EOW*); another appeared at a Seattle feeding station on Oct. 1 (*VEC*). Migrating Oregon Juncos were very numerous at Lava Lake in the Cascades late in August (*JBC*). Single Tree Sparrows appeared on Oct. 26 at Conway (*DRP*, *SMS* & *EOW*), on Nov. 10 at Victoria (*DRP* & *SMS*), and on Oct. 17 at Terrace where 7 were present on Nov. 30 (*HRV*). Four Harris' Sparrows stayed four days at Terrace after first appearing on Sept. 27; another was seen there on Nov. 3, 4 and 5 (*HRV*). White-crowned Sparrows lingered at Terrace until Nov. 15 (*HRV*). Observers at Terrace, Bellingham, Seattle, and Portland all commented that Golden-crowned Sparrows had been much below normal this fall. A White-throated Sparrow first appeared at a Victoria feeder on Oct. 16 and was seen there regularly until the end of the report period (*vide DS*). Lincoln's Sparrows were recorded in migration at Victoria, Bellingham and Medford during September; 2 were at Salem, Oct. 17 and 18 (*TM*). Seventy-five Lapland Longspurs were at Leadbetter Point, Sept. 22 (*JBC* & *JGO*); 30 were seen there a week later (*MW*). By Oct. 6 a few were present in the Seattle area where they still were being found at the close of the report period (*SMS* & *EOW*); 1 bird also was seen at Terrace, Nov. 30 (*HRV*). A Snow Bunting was noted at Victoria in company with Skylarks on Nov. 10 (*DRP*, *SMS* & *EOW*).

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The Winter Season, 1968-69

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

Descriptions of the winter ranged from a relatively kind "severe" through "coldest since 1950" (in interior British Columbia) to "coldest and snowiest on record" (at the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont.).

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Early December was rather mild, giving no hint of approaching arctic air mass that plunged temperatures far below zero in the last week of the month to -9° F. at Baker, Oreg., -25° at Spokane, Wash., -47° at Kimberly, B.C., -33° at Vernon, B.C., -45° at Moscow, Idaho, -27° at Missoula, Mont. and -39 at the Nat'l Bison Range. January brought extremely heavy snowfalls to much of the Region. At Spokane snow cover reached 42 inches, an all-time record, on Jan. 21. In contrast, Prince George, B.C. had only 10-12 inches. Missoula had 10-16 inches during January and February. Minimum temperatures for January ranged from 1° F. at Baker through -22° at the Nat'l Bison Range to -46 at Prince George, with temperatures averaging 9° below normal at Spokane and 8-23° below normal in interior British Columbia. In February precipitation was distinctly below normal throughout the Region, but almost continuous sub-freezing temperatures prevented much decrease in snow depth. March also was very dry, with precipitation generally less than half of normal; temperatures were only a little below normal at most localities. At Missoula, however, heavy snowfalls continued well into March, delaying the arrival of springlike conditions until near the month's end. In general, ground throughout the Region was snow-covered from mid-December to mid-March or later. Ponds and even large lakes froze over in mid-winter and for the most part remained frozen until the end of March. How bird life met the winter's rigors is the unavoidable theme of this report. Some species, mainly ground feeders and those dependent upon open, shallow water, met with varying degrees of disaster. These included herons, Canada Goose, some puddle ducks, California Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant, "Chukar, Am. Coot, Mourning Dove, Red-shafted Flicker, Starling, Western Meadowlark and Oregon Junco. Many of these species are near the northern limits of their winter ranges, however, so that such a result should not be too surprising. The other group experiencing difficulty, probably because of the heavy snow cover, consisted of the small owls and the Sparrow Hawk.

Loons, Grebes— The only Com. Loons reported for the winter season were 2 seen at Okanagan Landing near Vernon, B.C. on Dec. 26, on the brink of the severe cold wave, and 1 noted on Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on Dec. 1 (*LA*). For the third consecutive year an *Arctic Loon* appeared at Banks Lake, on Dec.

1 (JA & WM. An Eared Grebe seen on Feb. 2 and 2 Pied-billed Grebes seen on Feb. 2 and 8 at DePuy's Ponds, a few miles south of Livingston, Mont., probably wintered. This is the first indication of these species wintering in southwestern Montana. The ponds, overlooked previously, are artificial and appear to be perpetually open. Two Western Grebes endured the frigid conditions at Kalamalka Lake near Vernon until Jan. 3 (JH).

Hérons — Great Blue Herons seemed to winter about as usual in some localities but to have been largely forced out by the severity of winter in others. Only 1 was noted along the Jocko River in southern Lake County, Mont., and the species was absent in the Vernon area after Dec. 27. At McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash., most left during the cold spell, although 10 were seen on Jan. 21. The remains of 5 were found; cold and starvation were thought to be the probable cause of death. Only 5 Black-crowned Night-Herons wintered there; 2 dead birds of this species were discovered.

Swans — A Whistling Swan that stayed on Mission Creek at the Nat'l Bison Range through January (GH) was believed to be a cripple; the species does not normally winter there. Trumpeter Swans probably wintered in the vicinity of Ennis Lake, Madison Co., Mont. but were not seen between Dec. 21 and Feb. 16. A single bird was noted on Dec. 21 at Kelowna, B.C., and 28 wintered at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash.

Geese — Canada Geese wintered in small numbers where open water was available and seemed to do best in the Columbia Basin of eastern Washington, with a peak of 13,600 noted at McNary Refuge in the second week of January; here 25 dead geese found on Strawberry Is. in the Snake River, where the birds had been spending the nights, were thought to have died of starvation. At Turnbull Refuge, 750 geese were present before, 20 after, the freeze-over. At least 3 "*Cackling*" Canada Geese were seen on Dec. 1 at Park Lake, Grant Co., Wash (JH). Fourteen Snow Geese were present at Ravalli Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Stevensville, Mont. in mid-February (GD); 3 birds, accompanied by 2 *Blue Geese*, were observed on the Hanford Islands, McNary Refuge in mid-January.

Ducks — Mallards seemed to winter as usual in some areas but encountered trouble in others. Very few remained at Turnbull Refuge, but at McNary Refuge the species peaked at 33,500 in mid-January; 34 dead birds found there had died from starvation. Before the feeding program was started at McNary Refuge, close to 500 were too weak to fly. In the lower Flathead Valley around Charlo, Mont., some Mallards were in

such distress that they entered towns. At least 600 were fed by C. J. Henry, and about 800

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gathered at the Nat'l Bison Range, with some 3000 present in the vicinity of the range. Although wintering ducks were scarce in southern British Columbia, 3 female Mallards were still on the Fraser River at Prince George on Feb. 2 (CS). At least 10 Gadwall wintered at DePuy's Ponds near Livingston, Mont. Pintail apparently endured the winter well at McNary Refuge; no casualties were found. Five Am. Widgeon observed on Jan. 10 at the Nat'l Bison Range (MRK) were unusual, as was a single male noted in an irrigation ditch near Charlo in mid-winter (CJH). At McNary Refuge, this species peaked at 3400 in mid-January; 12 were known to have starved there. Two wintered at Poison Park in Vernon, B.C., and the species was considered abundant at Walla Walla, Wash. (NFM). A *European Widgeon* was seen at Reardan, Wash. on March 30 (JA); another was identified at Ravalli Refuge, March 29 and 31 (BD & RLH). A Shoveler probably wintered at Bozeman, Mont. (RAH). A few *Wood Ducks* wintered on a warm pond near Stevensville, Mont (MH), and the sighting of a female of this species at Penticton, B.C. on Dec. 26 (SC) furnished the first winter record for interior British Columbia. DePuy's Ponds also produced records of a few *wintering* Redhead, Lesser Scaup and Bufflehead. Ten *Com. Goldeneye* wintered on the Fraser River at Prince George (CS). An *Oldsquaw* was identified at Penticton on Dec. 26; a male of this species was observed at McNary Refuge in early March; and one bird was seen on the Spokane River at Spokane, Wash. on Jan. 25-26 and again on Feb. 9 (JA & WH). Common Mergansers were still present at Prince George on Jan. 26 (CS).

Vultures, Hawks, Eagles — Two Turkey Vultures had returned to a spot near Ellensburg, Wash. by March 30 (DRP). There were numerous sightings of hawks and eagles. Heavy road kills of Ring-necked Pheasants in the lower Flathead Valley attracted Rough-legged Hawks, Marsh Hawks and eagles as well as Black-billed Magpies, Com. Ravens and feral cats. C. J. Henry supplied 4-5 Marsh Hawks near his house with such road kills; the hawks forsook the handouts as soon as the weather made normal hunting possible. At least 6 Gold Eagles frequented the Nat'l Bison Range during the winter. Conversely, numbers of this species were down in the vicinity of McNary Refuge, but Marsh Hawks were abundant at the refuge, with 21 observed hunting there on Jan. 21. A young Golden Eagle came to a feeder at Coldstream near Vernon, B. C. and ate two pounds of suet at a sitting (JTF)! Several Peregrine Falcons were observed around Charlo; one of them accepted road-killed pheasants. A single bird

of this species was observed at Vernon on Dec. 26 and Jan. 8 (*KG*), and 2 were sighted near Prineville, Crook Co., Oreg. on Jan. 22 (*JK*). A sprinkling of Sparrow Hawks wintered in the Region, but at Vernon, B.C. very few survived the cold and 1 was found dead there on March 10 (*PM*).

Gallinaceous Birds — The small population of Ruffed Grouse at Turnbull Refuge was believed to have been further reduced; none were seen there during the winter. Forty male Sage Grouse were observed on the display grounds south of Creston, Lincoln Co., Wash., March 30-31 (*DRP, MLP, EMS & SMS*). California Quail, which occur in the western part of the Region, apparently suffered rather heavy losses: at McNary Refuge, the population was low after a poor breeding season preceding the hard winter; in the Vernon area, mortality was probably heavy, with flocks at feeders being reduced 50 per cent in January and February. Ring-necked Pheasants also suffered in the Vernon area, where several were reported so weak that dogs killed them. In some areas deep snow forced pheasants to frequent roadsides for gravel, and many were struck by cars. C. J. Henry picked up about 50 road-killed pheasants around Charlo, Mont., and a Montana State Game Department employee picked up others. Henry fed about two tons of grain to the birds and found that this quickly reduced road kills in the vicinity. At McNary Refuge, Ring-necked Pheasants apparently survived the winter with little loss. At Walla Walla, Wash., they came into back yards to visit feeders. Reeve's Pheasants, released last spring east of Colfax, Whitman Co., Wash., apparently are becoming established there (*JCA*). Chukars were down in number at the Nat'l Bison Range and were suspected of having taken heavy losses (*ED & VBM*), and C. J. Henry concurred in this opinion for western Montana in general. Mortality also was apparently heavy in the South Thompson Valley of British Columbia where many congregated along the Trans-Canada Highway in mid-January, road traffic taking a heavy toll. Gray Partridges, on the other hand, seemed to have come through the winter in good numbers. Two or three Turkeys were observed using a feeding station at Turnbull Refuge, and two flocks of 7 and 9 birds, respectively, were several times on a ranch west of Victor, Ravalli Co., Mont. A release of Turkeys was made near Colfax, Wash. at the end of February (*JCA*).

Coot, Shorebirds — American Coot suffered severe losses in localities where they attempted to winter in numbers. Counts at Vernon, Kelowna and Penticton, B.C. in late December recorded about 5800 of these birds on Lake Okanagan. Casualties were extremely heavy there, although some may have migrated out of the area. Most of the mortality occurred in January when the shallower parts of the lake froze, forcing the

starving coot to venture from the deeper water, where food was unobtainable, to the shore, where they succumbed to sub-zero cold, dogs, hawks and eagle. At McNary Refuge, the coot population varied between 1000 and 1500. Fifteen were found dead on the refuge, and about 200 were observed dead on ice at the nearby state game range. About 15 wintered at DePuy's Ponds near Livingston, Mont., and about the same number stayed on an open trout pool, fed by artesian water, near St. Ignatius, Lake Co., Mont. The owner put out grain for them and the few Mallards that stayed. Killdeer and Com. Snipe appeared to have wintered without adverse results in the small numbers usually found, except for the Vernon-Kelowna area where none were known to have survived through January. Three Dunlins lingered in the vicinity of Stratford, Grant Co., Wash. until Dec. 1 (*JA*).

Gulls, Doves — Two *Glaucous Gulls* found on a Christmas Count at Okanagan Landing, B. C., Dec. 26 (*FP*) were noteworthy. A few Herring Gulls lingered in

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the Vernon-Kelowna area until late December but were not seen during January or February; about 40 were observed on Coeur d'Alene Lake in northern Idaho on Dec. 22; and a few were noted on the Spokane River at Spokane on Feb. 21. Six Mourning Doves were seen near Victor, Mont. on Dec. 27 (*BT*), but it is not known whether they survived the winter. Possible wintering was suggested by a sighting of 8 near Stevensville, Mont. on March 14. In the Vernon area, the species met catastrophe. Of 427 counted on Dec. 26, perhaps only 5 percent survived the winter. Of some 200 feeding at silage pits on a Coldstream ranch, none were known to have survived, and dozens were picked up dead around the ranch buildings. Of 42 frequenting Jim Grant's feeder at Livingston, B.C., 8 survived. Many wintered at Ringold, Wash., northwest of McNary Refuge, with 600 seen there on Feb. 10. A few were found on the Spokane Christmas Count; 1 was seen near Spangle, Spokane Co., Wash. on Feb. 23 and 2 were noted near Clarkston, Asotin Co., Wash. on Jan. 1 (*MJP*).

Owls — Small owls were winter casualties in some localities, but the larger species apparently survived. A Screech Owl was found frozen at Enderby, B.C. on Jan. 30 (*JM*). Single Snowy Owls were seen near Davenport, Lincoln Co., Wash. on Jan. 4 (*WH*), near Clarkston, Wash. on Jan. 28 (*MJP*), and at Moscow, Idaho (*LJ*). Several Pygmy Owls were found dead in the Vernon area, although one that fed on small birds at Jim Grant's feeder survived the first cold spell. The *Long-eared Owl*, which is very unusual at the Nat'l Bison Range, was observed there during February

(*RLB* & *VBM*); a single bird seen on Feb. 5 at McNary Refuge added this species to the refuge list; another was seen near Clarkston, Wash. on Jan. 29 (*MJP*). Short-eared Owls were much in evidence across the Region, being mentioned by nine reporters, in many cases in larger than normal numbers. In the vicinity of Edwall, Lincoln Co., Wash., 9 or more were observed on Jan. 5 (*JA*). Saw-whet Owls were frequently reported victims of the cold in the Vernon area, where 4 were found dead in one part of the city. One was found dead of exposure near the Turnbull Refuge headquarters on Jan. 23; this constituted the refuge's first record of the species.

Hummingbird, Woodpeckers — Yes, a hummingbird! An adult male *Calliope Hummingbird* was seen through binoculars at close range at Kelowna, B.C. on the unusually late date of Dec. 1 (*EL*). Red-shafted Flickers suffered in some localities. Probably not more than 30 percent of those seen on the Christmas Counts in southern interior British Columbia survived the winter, judging from late February observations. A few were found dead. In the Bitterroot Valley around Stevensville, Mont., the species was less common than usual and was believed to have suffered from the cold weather. None was seen at McNary Refuge, which is unusual, but the species fed regularly at feeders in Walla Walla, Wash. (*NFM*). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker of the *ruber* race lingered at Summerland Experimental Station near Penticton, B.C. for three weeks, from late November to Dec. 15 (*SC*); this is the first winter record of the race for interior British Columbia. Another bird of this race was noted near Cle Elum, Wash. on March 30 (*DRP* & *SMS*).

Corvids — Hundreds of Com. Ravens were congregated at a slaughterhouse near Hamilton, Ravalli Co., Mont. on Jan. 21. The Com. Crow was very abundant in the Vernon area, where the cold weather apparently made the birds very uncomfortable but seemed to cause no casualties. At Prince George, 95 were counted on Dec. 22 (*CS*); these birds survived 24 consecutive days when temperatures did not rise as high as zero, with extremes as low as -46°F. at the garbage dump there. A flock of 20 Piñon Jays was observed west of Victor, Mont. until Jan. 15 (*MH*).

Chickadees, Nuthatches, Creepers — The seldom-reported Boreal Chickadee was noted on the Prince George Christmas Count (*CS*) and was seen in late February at Priest Lake in northern Idaho (*MC*). At least 8 Chestnut-backed Chickadees were noted near Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Dec. 22 (*S.A.S.*). Pygmy Nuthatches were again reported from western Montana: at Ravalli Refuge where a pair was seen on March 25 and was noted preparing to nest a few days later (*GD*) and at the Nat'l Bison Range in December

and January (*VBM*). Some winter casualties were noted for this species in southern British Columbia: 3 were found frozen in a woodpecker hole in a dead aspen at Vernon, Jan. 30. Brown Creepers were reported only from the Spokane area, from the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia, and from Cold Springs, Umatilla Co., Oreg. and were noted as being scarce at the latter two localities.

Wrens, Thrushes — Winter, Long-billed Marsh and Cañon Wrens were not reported after the severe cold spell of late December. The observation of a Cañon Wren at Kelowna, B.C. on Dec. 21 (*SC*) was noteworthy, as was the sighting of 2 Rock Wrens at Okanagan Landing, B.C., Dec. 25 (*TH*). A scattering of Robins wintered throughout the Region. Flocks of up to 100 were noted at Spokane in late January; the birds were feeding on mountain ash berries. A few survived in the Vernon area by frequenting feeders. Varied Thrushes were unusually numerous in the Okanagan Valley in December but apparently suffered close to 100 percent mortality later in the season, with a few surviving at feeders and 1 noted, Feb. 6-25 (*AC*); fair numbers wintered in eastern Washington; 1 observed at Ann Ward's feeder in Baker, Oreg. probably wintered. Four Western Bluebirds lingered at Kalamalka Lake near Vernon until Dec. 21 (*EB*); 5 stayed around the Stanley's yard in Spokane from Dec. 18 through Dec. 29 when the mercury dropped to -19°F. Only 1 Townsend's Solitaire was found on the Baker, Oreg. Christmas Count as compared to 46 on last year's count.

Kinglets, Waxwings, Shrikes, Starling — Two Ruby-crowned Kinglets tarried at Penticton, B.C. long enough to be recorded on the Christmas Count. It was a good-to-excellent winter for Bohemian Waxwings at most localities, with a huge crop of mountain ash berries attracting flocks of up to 2000 birds at Spokane. A few Cedar Waxwings wintered in eastern Washington and at Baker, Oreg., with unusually large

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flocks — up to 50 birds — noted at Spokane. Northern Shrikes apparently were attracted to bird concentrations at feeders and in town areas at Spokane and at Hamilton, Mont. Starlings seemed to endure the winter with little trouble in eastern Washington and at Baker, Oreg. Some casualties were noted in the Vernon area, but at least part of a flock of 75 at the Prince George garbage dump survived the cold weather.

Warbler, House Sparrow, Icterids — A late Audubon's Warbler observed at Bozeman on Dec. 12 put this family in the report. House Sparrows apparently were not greatly bothered by the winter's

severity. Western Meadowlarks were affected adversely by the deep snow cover present in most parts of the Region. A few Red-winged Blackbirds wintered as usual at Bozeman, Mont., in the Spokane area, and, probably, in the vicinity of McNary Refuge. Some stayed at C. J. Henry's feeding station near Charlo, Mont. There were no reports of the species in the Okanagan Valley after Dec. 26. At Spokane small flocks of 10-20 birds came to feeders, with flocks of up to 100 birds sighted on two occasions. Twelve **Brewer's Blackbirds** that frequented the garbage dump at Prince George throughout the winter furnished an astonishing record. An equal number of Rusty Blackbirds were still present in a small marsh near Vernon on Dec. 8, and up to 10 were seen at Bozeman between Dec. 28 and Feb. 1 (RAH, PDS). A Com. Grackle was sighted in Bozeman on Jan. 15 (DRS).

Grosbeaks, Finches — Evening Grosbeaks appeared at most reporting localities. Numbers were usually small, on the order of 5-10 in a flock. However, "large numbers" were reported at Bozeman, and 30-45 were present at Ann Ward's feeder in Baker, Oreg. through most of the winter. The species was unusually scarce in Okanagan Valley. An observation of a male **Purple Finch** at a feeder in Bozeman on March 27-28 was the first carefully documented record of the species for Montana. The Cassin's Finch staged a major invasion at Prineville, Oreg. from early January to mid-March, with flocks of up to 125 birds seen (GM). A few wintered at Bozeman and in Baker, Oreg. In the Okanagan Valley, where this species is usually extremely scarce or absent in winter, at least 4 wintered at a feeder in Coldstream (JTF) and 2 were noted at Lavington, where they spurned Jim Grant's feeder and fed on snowberry seeds. The species began returning to the Spokane area by Feb. 8. At Missoula, Mont., where the House Finch recently has become established, flocks of 20-50 were noted on the city's southern outskirts until Dec. 20; they were scarce thereafter except for a flock of 15 seen at a feeding station in January. Pine Grosbeaks appeared, usually in small numbers, in many localities and were described as common at Prince George. A few occurrences of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were noted in the Bozeman area; the species patronized a feeder in Montana's Bitterroot Valley in December and early January (MH); and flocks of up to 500 birds were seen in the Okanagan Valley from late December to early March. Common Redpolls made a good appearance at many localities across the Region, from Bozeman on the east to Walla Walla on the west, northward to Prince George, B.C. **Ten Hoary Redpolls** were identified at Prince George on Dec. 22 and 1 was observed there on March 9 (CS). A few Pine Siskins wintered at Bozeman and Spokane; larger flocks were reported from Priest Lake in northern Idaho; and the

species wintered in unprecedented numbers in the Okanagan Valley, feeding mostly on Douglas fir seed. American Goldfinches seemed to winter in about normal numbers and were reported as abundant at McNary Refuge in late February and early March. Red Crossbills were noted sparingly or not at all in western Montana, were seen in at least average numbers around Spokane and northward along the Columbia River, and were reported as common during the winter in the Okanagan Valley. White-winged Crossbills were common at Prince George (CS), but a female noted at Bozeman between Nov. 30 and March 14 (EH & RAH, DRS) was the only other report of the species.

Sparrows — A Rufous-sided Towhee survived the worst of the winter weather and was seen into February at a feeder in Vernon, B. C. Oregon Juncos wintered sparingly at Bozeman and Missoula and were common to abundant in the vicinity of the Nat'l Bison Range and farther west. They were unusually abundant in the Okanagan Valley where they suffered some cold weather casualties: perhaps 10 percent of those visiting Jim Grant's feeders died. No casualties were reported elsewhere. A few Tree Sparrows wintered in western Montana, eastern Washington and the Okanagan Valley. Four reports of **Harris' Sparrow** were received: 1 seen at Bozeman on Dec. 28 (CVD); 1 seen at Missoula between Jan. 24 and late February and noted again on April 3 when it was singing (BD); 1 present at a Spokane feeder from December through March (LM); and 4-5 present at Jim Grant's feeders in Lavington, B.C. from November onward. At least 3 of the birds at Lavington survived the winter, although 1 was believed to have perished in the cold spell. One of the birds at Lavington burst into song before sunrise on Dec. 29, with the thermometer standing at —36°F! White-crowned Sparrows were noted wintering in considerable numbers at Walla Walla and McNary Refuge, Wash. At Spokane they were absent during the severe January weather. In the Okanagan Valley numbers were about normal, with no winter casualties reported. A single immature White-crowned Sparrow closely observed at Missoula, Mont. on Jan. 12 and 16 was Hand's first winter record for Montana in something like 25 years' observing. Song Sparrows seemed to survive the winter with no serious trouble; 1 that survived at Prince George visited a feeding tray almost daily (CS). Snow Buntings appeared abundantly in a few localities. Sightings were especially frequent in the Bozeman area. About 1000 were seen in a mixed flock with about 2000 Horned Larks at Ennis, Madison Co., Mont. on Jan. 18 (DRS & PDS). Flocks of up to 400 were seen in the vicinity of Charlo, Mont.; small numbers were noted at the Nat'l Bison Range; about 50 were observed near Edwall, Wash. on Dec. 27 and 2 at Spokane on Jan. 12 (WH); and a few were seen in the

Davenport, Wash. area in December and January and at Priest Lake, Idaho in early February (*S.A.S.*).

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The Winter Season, 1968-69

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

The winter of 1968-69 will go down in the weather annals as the Region's toughest winter to date. Although snow does not remain for long in the intermountain basins and plains, the average snowpack in the mountains from the Sierra Nevada eastward to Denver in the Rockies was 200 percent of normal. In many places, including the Sierra Nevada, such a snowpack has never been recorded previously, and the winter might be compared with the one that trapped the Donner party in 1846-47. These conditions affected virtually the entire Region except for Wyoming where there were only average snows in the mountains. However, it was not a *cold* winter. A great flight of Bohemian Waxwings carried them farther southward

and westward this winter than ever before, and it is noteworthy that much of this movement occurred before the weather worsened. During the winter many birds such as jays, chickadees and finches came down into the valleys and entered towns as never before. Perhaps reflecting the winter's severity, the spring waterfowl migration in the Great Basin, which occurs during the winter season, was one of the latest on record. With heavy snows across the Region, the prospects for water in the arid Great Basin have never been better. Although the goose nesting will undoubtedly be flooded out, nesting of other waterfowl should be excellent during the coming season.

Grebe — A Pied-billed Grebe was found wintering on Silver Lake near Picabo, Blaine Co., Idaho on Jan. 27 (*DLC*).

Swans — Because of the late spring the concentration of Whistling Swans at Bear River Marshes on the Great Salt Lake never reached the large numbers recorded in past years; the swans moved on rapidly and the peak count was 9700 (*LFG*). Three Trumpeter Swans seen on the Sanke River near Rexberg, Madison Co., Idaho on March 18 (*RGo*) were out of the species' normal range.

Geese, Ducks — At Ruby Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in eastern Nevada, the refuge's breeding flock of Canada Geese arrived early in February only to find everything covered with snow; a few died of starvation despite supplemental feeding with grain (*LLN*). Migrant Canada Geese peaked at 1000 between March 16 and 22 at Monte Vista Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in southeastern Colorado and were gone by the end of the month; at the end of the period 1100 Canada Geese of the locally resident population and some 29,000 ducks were present at this refuge (*CRB*). During the spring waterfowl migration at Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in eastern Oregon, fewer birds stopped at the refuge; a combination of deep snow on part of the area and poor waterfowl habitat on the refuge itself was believed responsible (*ELMcL*). Only 70,000 Snow Geese were recorded on the refuge at the peak of their migration in the third week of March, and the duck migration peaked at 85,500 in the last week of March, 100,000 short of last year's high count. However, with the increase in moisture —nearby Harney Lake grew from 3000 to 8000 acres of water during the period — future prospects at Malheur Refuge are excellent. At Deer Flat Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Idaho, the peak of the fall concentration of waterfowl occurred Dec. 8-14, with 412,600 ducks recorded, of which 378,000 were Mallards (*RVP*). This figure is lower than normal; last year 480,700 Mallards were present at the refuge on Dec. 29, 1967. The concentration of Mallards at Deer Flat Refuge dwindled during the rest of the winter, and

only 10,000 were present at the end of March. At Stillwater Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Nevada, the spring duck migration peaked at 40,000 in mid-March,

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47 percent below last year's peak (*LDN*). At Bear River Marshes, where the spring waterfowl migration usually begins in early February, the migration took place mainly in March. However, the peak of 223,000 waterfowl was the highest in years, and a count of 29,000 Canvasbacks was the highest number of this species recorded there in a long time (*LFG*). The only rare duck reported during the season was a female Wood Duck, first seen on Dec. 27, which spent the winter on a pond at Springdale in southern Utah (*BAL*).

Hawks, Eagles — A count of 85 Red-tailed Hawks in the lower part of the Klamath Basin on Feb. 15 (*JHH*) was by far the largest concentration of this species reported in recent years. A concentration of 113 Bald Eagles near Lower Klamath Nat'l Wildlife Refuge on the California-Oregon border, Feb. 11 (*JHH*) was an unusually high count, and a total of 73 noted at Bear River Marshes, March 9-26 (*LFG*) was better than in recent years. The next largest concentration of Bald Eagles reported was of 30 in the Parowan Valley of southern Utah (*SM*). Perhaps the severe winter had something to do with these concentrations of hawks and eagles.

Grouse, Shorebirds — Near Carey, Blaine Co., Idaho, 40 Sage Grouse were apparently using the highway as a strutting ground because of the heavy snow cover (*DLC*); this seems particularly remarkable because they usually will perish rather than change their hereditary mating ground. Four Killdeer spent the winter in a slough near the upper Wind River of western Wyoming (*MB*); with open springs all over Wyoming in any weather, a few such birds manage to overwinter regularly.

Owls, Woodpeckers — A favorite spot to see the Pygmy Owl is in a cemetery, and this winter one was seen in the cemetery at Grand Junction, Colo. on Jan. 16 (*LFE*). Other Pygmy Owls were seen at Evergreen, Colo. in the mountains west of Denver (*WWB*), and many were noted at Durango in southwestern Colorado (*OR*). A Long-eared Owl was observed on Dec. 11 near Cedar City, Utah (*SM*) where the species is rare. A Red-headed Woodpecker also was observed near Cedar City on Feb. 17 (*SM*); this species is considered casual in Utah.

Jays, Bushtits, Nuthatches — A big invasion of Steller's Jays into the lowlands and cities, presumably

because of snow cover in the highlands was reported. They were noted in several areas of the canyon bottoms at Zion Nat'l Park in southern Utah and in the surrounding country (*BAL*) at Salt Lake City (*GK*), and at Durango, Colo., where the species has not been observed in town in a dozen years (*OR*). Piñon Jays also moved down to much lower altitudes, presumably because of snow at higher elevations; they were reported at Zion Nat'l Park in Utah (*BAL*) and on the western slope of the Rockies in Colorado (*TC*). On March 10, Com. Bushtits were found at lower altitudes near Salt Lake City for the first time; a concentration of 2500 birds of this species observed near Cedar City, Utah on Jan. 23 (*SM*) was an unusually large number for the area. A flock of 14 Com. Bushtits was seen at Niagara Springs in central Idaho, Feb. 3 and March 19 (*DLC*); this locality is near the northern limit of the species' range. The Red-breasted Nuthatch was noted as being very scarce in the central Rockies (*VR*), in Utah (*GK*), and in central Wyoming (*OKS*).

Waxwings, Pipits — Although the northern half of the Region regularly has Bohemian Waxwings in winter, this winter's flight brought birds to much of the western and southern portions of the Region for the first time. Great numbers were noted at Reno, Nev. (*JMD*), which is most unusual, and the movement reached as far west as Klamath Falls, Oreg. where birds were noted on March 10 (*RGr*). Flocks of up to 2500, an unprecedented number, were reported from the mountains west of Denver (*VR*); 2000 were noted at Hotchkiss, Colo. on the western slope of the Rockies (*TC*); and large numbers were observed at Durango in southwestern Colorado (*OR*). A Sprague's Pipit seen near Durango on Feb. 28 (*HW*) was far west of this species' normal range along the western side of the Great Plains.

Warblers — A wintering *Orange-crowned Warbler* observed on Feb. 3 at Niagara Springs in central Idaho (*DLC*) constituted the first winter record for the state. Two Audubon's Warblers wintered at feeders in Salt Lake City (*GK*).

Grosbeaks, Finches, Buntings — Pine Grosbeaks were much more numerous than usual in the Rockies west of Denver (*HK*). On Dec. 15, *Purple Finches* were observed at Banner on the eastern edge of the Big Horn Mountains in northern Wyoming, in company with Cassin's Finches and Com. Redpolls (*TK*); the Purple Finch is rare in the Rockies. Cassin's Finches came down into the valleys in western Nevada but were almost absent from the Rockies west of Denver where they usually are very common. Hundreds of Lapland Longspurs were seen at the Honey Lake Waterfowl Management Area, Lassen Co., Calif., Feb. 21-22 (*MP, et al.*). This is a little-known section of the Region, and

these birds may be more common there than has been appreciated. Snow Buntings were frequently reported this winter, with flocks seen regularly near Craters of the Moon Nat'l Monument in central Idaho (*DLC*); 39 seen east of St. Anthony in eastern Idaho on Feb. 15 (*RGo*); 3 seen at Lake De Smet in northern Wyoming on Dec. 1 and the species noted there many times in February (*TK*); and 1 seen on Pike's Peak in Colorado on Dec. 31 (*A.O.S.*). It was a tough winter.

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The Winter Season, 1968-69

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

Commencing in the last week in December and continuing for six weeks thereafter, record amounts of snow fell in western Oregon, Washington and southern coastal British Columbia. Snow covered the ground for at least six weeks in the lowlands and was piled deeply for much longer even in the coastal mountains where normally snow remains only in light quantities and for short times above the 2000-foot level. Temperatures also were much below the average during this period, remaining below freezing for days on end at Portland. Despite the unprecedented severity of the weather, effects on bird life were apparently undramatic with the few exceptions commented on in the report that follows. Certainly the weather was not conducive for birders to be much afield.

Loons, Grebes — Last winter's first record of the **Yellow-billed Loon** (*Audubon Field Notes* 22:468), followed by a November 1968 record at Victoria, B.C. (*Audubon Field Notes* 23:94) was followed in turn by four more records this winter, all occurring, rather oddly, in March. A bird discovered at the south jetty of the Columbia River on March 8 and ultimately observed from as close as 30 feet (*MK* & *HBN*) was Oregon's first record of this species. A week later a bird judged

to be an immature after careful study by 20X telescope in good light from about 75 yards distance was found in the Tillamook River just west of Tillamook, Oreg. (*JBC* & *SJ*, *et al.*). The third record of the season was of a bird photographed on March 28

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at Deception Pass, Wash. by Dick Payne (*fide TRW*) who obtained the photograph of last year's bird that appeared as the cover photo on the June 1968 issue of this journal, and the fourth record was a bird present in the latter part of March at Victoria, B.C. (*GAP*). Single Eared Grebes were found on the Bellingham, Wash., Tillamook Bay, Oreg. and Gold Beach, Oreg. Christmas Counts; a total of 60 was recorded on British Columbia Christmas Counts, 46 of them at Victoria; single birds also appeared on the Columbia River bottoms, Dec. 5 and 6 (*HBN*) and at Waldport, Lincoln Co., Oreg. on March 24 (Jerry Bertrand, *fide WT*). Terry Wahl estimated up to 40,000 Western Grebes were present in Bellingham Bay on Feb. 23. Fifteen Pied-billed Grebes were noted in Portland's Delta Park on Dec. 6 (*HBN*); this was an abnormal concentration for so late a date.

Hérons, Bitterns — A Great Blue Heron at Terrace, B.C. on Dec. 26 (*HRV*) was a noteworthy late season record. There were reports of distressed birds in northwestern Washington during January's abnormally cold weather (*TRW*), but in Oregon the species appeared to bear up well, with 25 active nests found along the South Santiam River near Lebanon in March (*WT*). A Green Heron was seen in Seattle on Dec. 11 (*SMS*); lone birds were recorded on the Vancouver and Ladner, B.C. Christmas Counts and 6 on the Eugene, Oreg. Christmas Count; 1 was seen in Salem, Oreg. on Jan. 6 and again on March 24 (*TM*). Single Com. Egrets were recorded on the Eugene and Gold Beach Christmas Counts. An Am. Bittern was discovered at Fern Ridge Reservoir west of Eugene on Feb. 8 (*EF* & *LM*).

Swans — Some 350-450 Whistling Swans wintered at Sauvie Is. northwest of Portland; a small group of 10 spent the winter at the mouth of the Nooksack River, Whatcom Co., Wash. (*TRW*); over 150 were recorded on both the Bellingham and Eugene Christmas Counts; 13 were seen at Nehalem, Tillamook Co., Oreg., Feb. 15 (*JBC*); 85 were seen along the coast of Curry County, Oreg. in March (*OS*). Up to 40 Trumpeter Swans spent at least part of the winter in the vicinity of Terrace, B. C. (*HRV*); 33 were said to have wintered at Clear Lake in northwestern Washington (Washington Game Department, *fide TRW*); and 21 were seen between Duncan and Campbell River, B. C., Feb. 19 (*DS*).

Geese — A total of 200 Canada Geese was recorded on the Christmas Counts conducted in that part of British Columbia encompassed in the Region. A marked northward migratory movement of this species was detected at Sauvie Is. early in February (Norman Minnick, *fide* HBN), and 35 appeared at Terrace, B. C., March 26 (HRV). At Yaquina Bay, Oreg., on Dec. 28, 5 Emperor Geese were discovered, 1 of which was reported to have been shot; 2 adult birds were still present there on Feb. 23 and remained to the end of the period (R. Buchanan, TM, HBN, WT). Single Emperor Geese were noted at White Rock, B. C. for a few days in January (TRW) and on Feb. 16 (DRP). Up to 2 White-fronted Geese were seen on the Ladner and Comox, B. C. Christmas Counts and 3 on the Sauvie Is. Christmas Count. Two individuals of this species remained in Seattle until Jan. 15 (VEC, EOW, PM). After mid-March, migrant birds appeared at Sauvie Is., with over 100 present by the end of the month (Norman Minnick). Some 250 Snow Geese were recorded on the Ladner Christmas Count. About 12,000-14,000 spent the winter on the Skagit Game Range (Washington Game Department, *fide* TRW); this figure is down by about 8000 from last year's total. Up to 400 Snow Geese were present at Sauvie Is. after mid-January (Norman Minnick). A Blue Goose again was reported on the Vancouver Christmas Count; the question as to the feral status of this bird remains.

Ducks — Mallards were below normal in number in northwestern Oregon even after a mid-December influx. Almost 8000 were recorded, however, on the combined Christmas Counts at Vancouver and Victoria, B.C., which is at least up to normal numbers there. Concentrations of up to 34 Gadwall were reported from various points in the Region, with Vancouver, Seattle, Portland, Salem and Medford all contributing records of birds present for part of the winter. Two Com. Teal were reported on the Vancouver Christmas Count and a male was seen in Portland's Delta Park on Dec. 1 (MK) and March 12 (HBN); these are the same points from which the species has been reported in each of the two preceding winters. Almost 4000 Green-winged Teal were recorded on the Vancouver and Victoria Christmas Counts, which is a good number indeed; 3000 were noted on the Eugene Christmas Count. Two Cinnamon Teal were seen at Medford, Oreg. on Feb. 22 (JH). European Widgeon were again seen at many points from Sidney and Victoria, B.C. south to Corvallis, Oreg. throughout the winter. Almost 100 Shovelers were noted on the Victoria Christmas Count, with small concentrations observed also at Victoria and Ladner, B.C. and Portland and Eugene, Oreg. A total of 38 Wood Ducks on the Vancouver Christmas Count was a good number; elsewhere, this species was very

scarce until the latter part of March when a migratory movement was noted northward to Mount Vernon, Skagit Co., Wash. (Norman Minnick; DRP & SMS). Redheads appeared at many more points in the Region than is usual: 9 birds were seen at Mount Vernon on Jan. 12 (VEC; DRP & SMS); 5 stayed at Salem for several weeks after Jan. 19 (GK & TM); a few appeared at Medford on Jan. 22 (JH & OS) and remained for several weeks also; 18 were noted at Tillamook Bay on Feb. 15, with 4 still there on March 15 (JBC, *et al.*); 25 were seen on Beaver Lake, Skagit Co., Wash., March 9 (TRW). A lone Redhead spent the winter at Seattle (SMS & EOW). A total of 518 Ring-necked Ducks on the Salem Christmas Count was an unusually high number, as was the figure of 400-500 present at Medford from Jan. 22 to early March. On Jan. 15, a male Tufted Duck was again found at Seattle in the same area where 2 birds were seen last year (DRP, SMS & EOW). Some 2114 Barrow's Goldeneyes were found on the Vancouver Christmas Count, but this figure was still about 200 below last year's figure. The Ladner, Vancouver and Victoria Christmas Counts each listed more than 100 Oldsquaws; farther south, the only reports were of single birds at Mount Vernon, Wash. in March (VEC)

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and at Yaquina Bay, Oreg. on March 20 and again on March 30 (R. Buchanan). The Ladner and Victoria Christmas Counts each recorded over 100 Harlequin Ducks. The Vancouver Christmas Count total of 410 Com. Scoters is an unusually high number for any location in the Region.

Vulture, Hawks, Eagles — An unusually late Turkey Vulture was seen several times in early December in Seattle's Seward Park (VEC). A *White-tailed Kite* first discovered by Larry McQueen near Fern Ridge Reservoir on the Eugene Christmas Count, Dec. 29 and subsequently seen there until Jan. 18 (AL, HBN & WT) constituted the first certain record of the species from the Region's section of Oregon in many years. Single Goshawks were recorded on the Vancouver, Victoria and Ladner Christmas Counts, and 1 was seen at Sauvie Is. on Feb. 1 (HBN). A Sharp-shinned Hawk was observed at Terrace, B.C., Dec. 1-26 (HRV); this record is of particular interest because a bird of that species wintered there last year. A total of 69 Red-tailed Hawks on the Sauvie Is., Christmas Count was an unusual concentration. There were scattered reports of Rough-legged Hawks, as has been the case each year recently, with birds seen at Ladner, Vancouver and Victoria, B.C., Bellingham and Marietta, Wash., in the Columbia River bottoms near a Portland, in the Willamette Valley, and at Medford, Oreg. A Golden Eagle was observed several times during the winter in

the vicinity of Victoria (R. Fryer, *GAP, et al.*). Bald Eagles, many of them immature birds, were seen from Vancouver south to northwestern Oregon, with 42 recorded on the Vancouver Christmas Count. The Ladner Christmas Count total of 38 Marsh Hawks was a high number, as was the total of 18 on the Sauvie Is. Christmas Count; at Victoria, where the species is uncommon, a single bird was noted on March 23 (*DS*). Two Ospreys were observed at Medford on March 30 (*JH*), and a Prairie Falcon was seen repeatedly in the Medford area during the winter (*JH, et al.*). Four Peregrine Falcons were seen on the Ladner Christmas Count; 2 were seen on the Sauvie Is. Christmas Count; single birds were reported from Vancouver on Dec. 28 and from Marietta, Wash., Dec. 19 and Feb. 15 (*TRW*). Pigeon Hawks were reported on about half the Christmas Counts in the Region, the highest number being 4 at Ladner, B. C. Birds of this species also were reported in January and early February from the Bellingham area, from Seattle, La Conner and Bellevue in Washington, and from Sauvie Is. and Medford in Oregon. Sparrow Hawks were abundant in the Willamette Valley at least until January, with totals of 79, 86 and 105 on the Salem, Sauvie Is. and Eugene Christmas Counts, respectively; a total of 34 on the Gold Beach Christmas Count is also of interest as the species is not consistently found in numbers along the Oregon coast.

Quail, Cranes, Rails — The cold winter seems not to have disastrously affected California Quail in most of the Region, although a 50 percent reduction in numbers on Vancouver Is. was estimated near winter's end (*DS*). Eighteen Mountain Quail were seen near McMinnville, Yamhill Co., Oreg., Feb. 12 (*JG*); 6 found dead in the water at Saanich Inlet, Vancouver Is. in January had empty crops but otherwise were seemingly in good condition (*DS*). Fourteen Gray Partridge concentrated around the Victoria airport in January (Ray Beckett & *DS*) were thought to be the remnants of an introduced population that once had thrived. Fourteen Sandhill Cranes appeared on Feb. 11 at Sauvie Is., where numbers rose to more than 300 by the end of March (*HBN*); fall concentrations of migrant cranes are common there, but a similar occurrence in spring is quite unusual. A few Virginia Rails wintered at Seattle (*DRP*) and Lebanon (*WT*); 11 were recorded on the Eugene Christmas Count and 2 on the Ladner Christmas Count.

Shorebirds — Six Semipalmated Plover were noted on the Tillamook Bay Christmas Count, and 1 was still there on March 15 (*JBC*). Killdeer evidenced movements in direct response to the cold and snow of January. Good numbers were present in the Willamette Valley at the end of December, with over 1500 found on the Eugene Christmas Count and almost 1000 on

the Salem Christmas Count; farther north, about 200 were recorded on the Victoria and Vancouver counts with nearly 300 on the Ladner count. Observers at Victoria, Bellingham, Seattle and Lebanon all commented on the dramatic reduction in Killdeer numbers with the advent of freezing weather and snow in the first part of January. In contrast, on Feb. 8 over 1000 Killdeer were seen by a party of observers (*OS, et al.*) on the coast of Curry County in southwestern Oregon where fewer than a score had been recorded on the Gold Beach Christmas Count. Black-bellied Plover were recorded on the Ladner, Vancouver and Victoria Christmas Counts, with 82 at Victoria the highest total; 3 were seen at the south jetty of the Columbia River on March 9 (*MK & HBN*) Surfbirds wintered sparingly along the Oregon coast but were scarce farther north until March 1 when 130, together with 3 Ruddy Turnstones, were seen at Kalaloch, Jefferson Co., Wash. (*PM*). A Spotted Sandpiper found on the Comox, B.C. Christmas Count was the northernmost record of the species in the Region this winter. Fourteen Greater Yellowlegs on the Victoria Christmas Count and a few wintering individuals on Whidbey Is., Wash. (*DRP & SMS*) were rather far north for the winter months; 2 also were seen at Sidney, B.C., Feb. 16 (*DRP*). A good total of 39 Rock Sandpipers was recorded on the Victoria Christmas Count; a flock of up to 20 birds apparently wintered at the entrance to Tillamook Bay, as the species has done in recent years. A Knot at Clover Point, Victoria in the last week of December (R. Fryer) was extraordinary. Two Least Sandpipers observed at Bellingham during the Christmas Count period (*TRW*) also were unusual. Ladner recorded over 12,000 and Vancouver almost 3000 Dunlin on their Christmas Counts, and numbers of this species were better than usual in the Bellingham area all winter (*TRW*). Reports of Long-billed Dowitchers included 10 observed on Whidbey Is., Dec. 8 (*DRP, SMS & EOW*); single birds seen at Seattle on Jan. 2 (*DRP*) and in late March (*VEC*); and 1 bird recorded on the Sauvie Is. Christmas Count. Some 300 Long-billed Dowitchers noted on the Eugene Christmas Count were still present on Jan. 18 (*HBN*). One Western

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Sandpiper was seen at Whidbey Is. on Dec. 8 (*DRP, SMS & EOW*); 20 were noted at Tillamook Bay on Feb. 15 and again on March 15 (*JBC & SJ*).

Gulls — A Glaucous Gull was seen at Tsawassen, B.C. on Jan. 2 (*SMS*); others were found in early February at Victoria, B.C., Edison, Skagit Co., Wash., and Portland and Sauvie Is., Oreg.; 2 were seen off Yaquina Bay, Oreg. on March 24 (Jerry Bertrand, *fide WT*). Almost 23,000 Glaucous-winged Gulls were noted on the

Ladner Christmas Count; elsewhere, winter numbers were at least as high as usual. Good numbers of Herring Gulls were present in the Portland area most of the winter, with a high count of 700 at Delta Park on Dec. 5 (*HBN*). California Gulls were sparsely reported on Christmas Counts in the Region, particularly in northern areas, and as the season progressed they became very hard to find farther south in the Region; this is the usual winter pattern for the species. Ring-billed Gulls seem to have been scarce except at Portland and Eugene, with 4600 found on the latter's Christmas Count. Mew Gulls were well represented on the Christmas Counts in southern British Columbia but were not up to their usual winter numbers in northwestern Oregon, even before January's cold weather. Bonaparte's Gulls were recorded in numbers up to 6 on the Victoria, Bellingham, Sauvie Is. and Gold Beach Christmas Counts; 162 were noted on the Vancouver Christmas Count; earlier in the season, 500 were seen at Victoria on Dec. 3 (*DS*). Bellingham and Seattle recorded a few Bonaparte's Gulls in late February, with signs of an influx apparent at Seattle late in March (*DRP* & *SMS*, *TRW*). Heermann's Gulls are rarely found in the Region past mid-November; 2 on the Gold Beach Christmas Count and 1 adult seen at Tsawassen, B.C. on Jan. 2 (*SMS*) were thus extraordinary. The only Black-legged Kittiwakes reported were 100 seen north of La Push, Clallam Co., Wash. on Feb. 9 (*DRP*, *SMS* & *EOW*) and 3 observed at Victoria on Dec. 3 (R. Fryer). Three Sabine's Gulls also were reported at Victoria on the latter date (R. Fryer, *vide DS*).

Pigeons, Doves, Owls — A flock of 200 Band-tailed Pigeons was present at Oak Bay, Victoria in late January (*ARD*), and some 400-500 were noted flying southward over Medford on Feb. 9 (*JH*). Mourning Doves were not as numerous as last year on Willamette Valley Christmas Counts and were generally reported as very scarce after the first of the year, with the onset of the severe weather. Last year's winter season report was in error in stating that there was no echo flight of Snowy Owls after the unprecedented invasion of 1966-67; besides last year's Christmas Count records at Comox and Vancouver, B.C., 1 Snowy Owl was reported at Stanwood, Snohomish Co., Wash., Jan. 21, 1968 (Ruth Anderson, *et al.*, *vide ES*) and the species was noted at other Washington localities: 3 were found in Whatcom County, 5 near Edison, 2 at Seattle, 1 at Auburn and 4 on the Skagit Game Range, with 2 seen at Edison on March 17, 1968 being the last recorded (*TRW*). This winter brought Snowy Owls to the same part of the Region: 2 were found at Edison on Dec. 14 and March 12; 2 were present on the Skagit Game Range in January and 8-9 were reported from the Vancouver area (*TRW*); 1 was present at Renton, King Co., Wash. for much of the winter (*LHK*); and single

birds were recorded on the Ladner and Vancouver Christmas Counts. A **Hawk Owl**, reputedly the first recorded in Victoria since 1894, was found there on Jan. 26 (R. Fryer) but was not seen again. A Pygmy Owl seen at Terrace, B.C. on Dec. 14 was found dead a week later; another was seen there, Jan. 3-6 and Jan. 11 (*HRV*). Two Burrowing Owls were seen at Medford on Feb. 22 (*JH*). Single Long-eared Owls were found on the Vancouver and Sauvie Is. Christmas Counts; 1 was discovered at Bellingham on March 20 (*TRW*). Short-eared Owls were seen sparingly from Vancouver south during the winter. Saw-whet Owls were noted at McMinnville, Oreg. on Dec. 12 (*JG*), on the Eugene Christmas Count, and at Bellingham during December, with 1 banded there on Feb. 5 (*TRW*).

Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers — A Black-chinned Hummingbird appeared on March 26 at Merle McGraw's feeders at Shady Cove near Medford where an individual spent five weeks last spring (*vide JH*). Anna's Hummingbird — two this time — again wintered at Seattle (*vide ES*); a male spent the winter at Medford (*JH* & *OS*); a pair was present in Portland through December (*vide HBN*); 1 was reported several times from a feeder at Lake Oswego, Oreg. during the first three weeks of December (George Ruby, *vide JBC*); and 1 was recorded on the Salem Christmas Count. Yellow-shafted Flickers were reported during the season from Baskett Slough near Salem (*GK*), from Seattle (Gordon Orians, *vide DRP*), and from Whidbey Is. and the Skagit Flats (*EW'S*). Two Acorn Woodpeckers were found on the Sauvie Is., Christmas Count, indicating a continuing gradual range extension. Two Pileated Woodpeckers reportedly wintered at Terrace, B. C. (*HRV*). One Lewis' Woodpecker found on the Vancouver Christmas Count and another present at Medford during most of the winter (*JH*, *at al.*) were the only reports of this species. Two Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen in Medford on Jan. 29 (*JH*).

Flycatchers, Larks, Swallows, Corvids — Individual Say's Phoebe were seen at Medford off and on through much of the winter (*OS*), at Lebanon, Oreg., Feb. 15 (*WT*), and at Baskett Slough, Feb. 16 (*GK*). Five feeding areas for Skylarks were established on the Saanich Peninsula near Victoria during the period when snow was on the ground; a count there after a February thaw found 756 individuals, which is thought to be almost the entire population (*DS* & R. Beckett). Six Horned Larks were observed with the Skylarks; elsewhere, Horned Larks were seen at a few localities in the Willamette Valley in December, January and February, with 75 noted at Medford on Jan. 20 (*JH* & *OS*). Four Purple Martins were present at the colony site in Cloverdale, Tillamook Co., Oreg. on the early date of March 23 (*MK*). Five Steller's Jays were

observed at Terrace, B.C., March 25 (*HRV*). Several Northwestern Crows were observed at Yaquina Bay and another was seen at Seal Rocks, south of there, on March 24; identification was aided by direct comparison with Common Crows, and calls were heard (*WT*).

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Wrentit, Wrens, Thrushes — Eight Wrentits were found on the Eugene Christmas Count, still present in the area where they were discovered more than a year ago. A remarkable total of 23 Long-billed Marsh Wrens was listed for the Ladner Christmas Count; this species was thought to be much reduced in numbers in the Seattle and Bellingham areas after January's extreme weather (*SMS* & *EOW*; *TRW*). Impressions of the effects of the unusually cold and snowy weather on Robins were conflicting, but, despite some reports of mortality, survival for the most part was apparently good. There was no indication from the sparse reports of any particular mid-winter movement of this species. Varied Thrushes, on the other hand, seemed to have suffered severe mortality; birds flocked by the hundreds to the lowlands in western Washington and Oregon where they were conspicuous during their stay; moderation in the weather by early February seems to have caused a majority to return to their forested haunts. In the interim, however, considerably die-off was noted, particularly along the northern Oregon coast. This species winters heavily in southwestern Oregon as a rule, but the hundreds seen there on Feb. 8 (*OS*) perhaps indicated a higher than usual population at that time. On Feb. 9, large numbers of this species also were noted in yards and along the roads of Washington's Olympic Peninsula from Queets to Aberdeen (*DRP*, *SMS* & *EOW*). Hermit Thrushes were present in western Oregon in unusual numbers during the Christmas Count period, particularly on the coast, with 32 recorded on the Tillamook Bay count and 19 on the Gold Beach count. A total of 410 Western Bluebirds on the Medford Christmas Count was extraordinary; the birds largely left the area a few days later when the weather turned severe. Salem and Eugene also had good counts of this species. Six Mountain Bluebirds were "a month early" at Terrace, B.C. on March 31 (*HRV*). There were scattered observations of Townsend's Solitaires from Bellingham south to Medford; these totaled less than a dozen during the report period but were still more than is usual for this Region.

Pipits, Waxwings, Shrikes — Water Pipits were well represented on the Willamette Valley Christmas Counts but were barely mentioned elsewhere. Bohemian Waxwings first appeared in the Region at the very beginning of the report period, with 2 seen at Eugene

on Dec. 1 (*AL*) and 20 seen at Pitt Meadows on Dec. 8 (*TRW*). One hundred Bohemian Waxwings were at Bellingham for almost three weeks starting around Christmas (*TRW*). During January and February and up to mid-March, groups of 25-250 were seen at La Conner, Wash. (*DRP* & *SMS*), Seattle (*VEC*; *DRP* & *SMS*), Chehalis, Wash. (*MW*), Portland (*HBN*), McMinnville, Oreg., (*JG*), Salem (*GK*), and Medford (*JH*). Cedar Waxwings were very scarce during the winter throughout the Region. A total of 13 Northern Shrikes on the Ladner Christmas Count was remarkable. This species also was reported from Bellingham, Seattle, Edison, Sauvie Is. and Medford where 2 were seen on Feb. 17 and 1 on March 1 (*JH* & *OS*).

Vireos, Warblers — Hutton's Vireos are uncommonly seen in the Region but this year were found on at least six Christmas Counts and were reported later in the season from Bellingham, Seattle and Queets, Wash., from east of Lebanon, Oreg. and from Cape Lookout State Park, Oreg. Orange-crowned Warblers winter sparingly in western Washington and Oregon, and this year was no exception, judging by Christmas Count reports; 5 were found on the Eugene count. Both Myrtle and Audubon's Warblers were recorded with few omissions on the western Oregon Christmas Counts, but thereafter until the end of March both species were very scarce if not missing entirely from even the southern part of the Region. Townsend's Warblers were seen on the Sauvie Is., Portland, Tillamook Bay and Eugene Christmas Counts, with 7 noted on the last-named count; 2 were seen at Seattle, Dec. 7 and 15 (*EOW*). James G. Olson found and carefully identified a *Hermit Warbler* on the Tillamook Bay Christmas Count, Dec. 21; this apparently constitutes the Region's first winter record of the species. Edwin O. Willis first saw a bird that he identified as a *Northern Waterthrush* on the University of Washington campus in Seattle on Nov. 17, 1968; on Dec. 15, he found the bird again in the same locality; this obviously constitutes a most unusual record for the Region, to say nothing of the surprisingly late dates.

Blackbirds, Orioles — A female Bullock's Oriole frequented a feeder in Newport on the Oregon coast from Nov. 10, 1968 to at least April 7, 1969 (Mrs. R.F. Pitts, *vide TM* & *HBN*); this is the same feeder, incidentally, which attracted a Hooded Oriole in the winter of 1965-66! Twenty Brewer's Blackbirds were noted at Terrace, B.C. on Dec. 2; 6 remained until Feb. 21 (*HRV*). A few Brown-headed Cowbirds wintered in the Bellingham and Portland areas.

Grosbeaks, Finches, Sparrows — Thirty-five Evening Grosbeaks wintered at Terrace (*HRV*); farther

south, very few were noted at Bellingham, 26 were found for the Sauvie Is. Christmas Count and 14 for the Eugene Christmas Count, 1 was seen at Bellevue, Wash. on Jan. 29 (*PM*), and 2 were seen in Portland on Feb. 9 (*HBN*). About mid-March, Evening Grosbeaks appeared widely throughout much of western Washington and Oregon. Cassin's Finches were numerous on Mount Hood, Oreg. from December until mid-February (David Marshall); about that time Medford experienced an influx of this species, with numbers declining by the end of March (*JH* & *OS*). A lone Pine Grosbeak was recorded on the Vancouver Christmas Count. A flock of 50 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches was discovered at timberline on Mount Hood, Dec. 27 (David Marshall). Common Redpolls appeared at or near Victoria for the first time since 1894, which, it may be remembered, was also the year when the Hawk Owl was said to have been last seen there; the redpolls were seen in three different locations during January and February, with 1 found dead in Beacon Hill Park (R. Fryer, *et al.*, *fide DS*). Reports of the status of Pine Siskins seemed to indicate more present this winter than in the last five years except at Bellingham where numbers were said to be less than those of the past two years. The strikingly high number of 159 Lesser Goldfinches was reported on the Eugene Christmas Count. Red Crossbills were much in evidence in the Cascades of Oregon and Washington, particularly in March, but were seen only

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sporadically in the Coast Range or on the Oregon coast this winter; they were recorded on most of the coastal British Columbia Christmas Counts, however. Five Savannah Sparrows found on the Victoria Christmas Count and 3 on the Ladner Christmas Count were the winter's northernmost reports of the species. A Vesper Sparrow had appeared at Medford by March 31 (*JH* & *TM*). Seven Lark Sparrows appeared there on Jan. 30 (*OS*); by mid-February the number of this species in the Medford area was higher than the observers (*JH* & *OS*) had ever seen before; where they came from can only be guessed at. There were several reports of Tree Sparrows from the more northerly parts of the Region: 2 on the Vancouver Christmas Count, 1 at Lake Terrell, Wash., Dec. 29 (Ken Boyce, *fide TRW*), 1 at La Conner, Wash., Jan. 12 (*DRP*, *SMS* & *EOW*), and up to 7 at Terrace, B.C. throughout the period (*HRV*). Two Chipping Sparrows were seen near Victoria by many observers on Feb. 8 (*DS*); this is remarkably far north for this species on that date. A Harris' Sparrow was observed at Terrace on Dec. 20 (*HRV*); single birds were seen on the Christmas Counts at Comox and Vancouver; another was seen at Lake Sammamish, Wash. in March (*VEC*, *et al.*); still another was found on Sauvie Is., Feb. 3 (*HBN*, *et al.*). A White-crowned

Sparrow was present at Terrace, Dec. 16—Jan. 12 (*HRV*). White-throated Sparrows were seen on the Comox, Vancouver, Victoria and Eugene Christmas Counts; 1 was found repeatedly at Clear Lake, Wash. (Howard Channing, *fide TRW*); individuals also were seen at Terrace on Dec. 19 (*HRV*) and Sauvie Is. on Feb. 3 (*HBN*, *et al.*); 4-5 came to feeders in Medford during January and February (*JH* & *OS*). Single Lincoln's Sparrows were reported from Seattle, Dec. 1 (*SMS*), Lake Terrell, Dec. 22 (Ken Boyce, *fide TRW*), Medford, Jan. 11 (*OS*), and Salem, Jan. 13 (*TM*); 8 were found on the Eugene Christmas Count. A **Swamp Sparrow** was found at Fern Ridge Reservoir on the Eugene Christmas Count and was seen subsequently by a number of competent observers (*AL*, *WT*, *et al.*); we believe this to be the first record of this species for western Oregon if not for the entire state. A Lapland Longspur was noted at Terrace, Dec. 1-10 (*HRV*); 1 was found at Marietta, Wash. for the Bellingham Christmas Count (Jim Duemmel); 41 were found on the Ladner Christmas Count; 7-12 were to be found at Medford, Jan. 26—Feb. 2 (*JH* & *OS*). Fifteen Snow Buntings were recorded on the Ladner Christmas Count; 20 were seen at Marietta on Jan. 11 (*TRW*); 1 was observed at Ashland, Jackson Co., Oreg. on Jan. 2 (Dr. Elmo Stevenson, *fide JH*).

Addendum — The Tricolored Blackbird reported from Sauvie Is. in the last Winter Season account (*Audubon Field Notes* 22:471) was mentioned without reference to the date which should have been stated as March 17, 1968.

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Spring Migration, 1969

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION / Thomas H. Rogers

After the coldest, snowiest winter in many years, the eastern part of the Region, comprised of south-central and western Montana, experienced a mild, dry spring.

For example, temperatures at the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. averaged about two degrees above normal for April and May while precipitation was less than half the expected amount. The western part of the Region, from eastern Oregon through eastern Washington into central interior British Columbia, followed a different pattern in April, which was decidedly wet. At Spokane, Wash., 2.16 inches of precipitation occurred, which was 1.25 inches above normal, while temperatures were slightly subnormal. The Baker, Oreg. area departed somewhat from this pattern, being warmer than normal and not excessively wet. In both the western and eastern portions of the Region, May was rather uniformly warm and dry, with precipitation about half of normal. The result of these conditions was to produce an early migration in south-central Montana, around Bozeman, for those species normally arriving after April 1. In eastern Washington, on the other hand, migration appeared to have been slowed by cool, wet conditions in March and April, but to have returned to normal by the first of May. In central interior British Columbia vegetation was ten days ahead of normal by the end of May.

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Loons, Grebes — Up to 10 Com. Loons were present on Pablo and Ninepipe reservoirs in Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo, Mont., during the period (RLB); 1 was noted on May 24 at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. where the species is rarely seen. April 12 was a record early date for Horned, Eared and Pied-billed Grebes at Ennis Lake, Madison Co., Mont. (RAH, DRS & PDS), and April 20 was an early date for the Western Grebe in Park County, Mont. (RAH, DRS & PDS). Some 20-30 pairs of the last species were noted at Ninepipe Refuge during the migration (RLB).

Pelicans, Cormorants — White Pelicans were observed at McNary Refuge between April 18 and May 10, with a peak of 24. On April 16, 3 were sighted on the mill pond at Potlatch, Latah Co., Idaho, an unusual locality (EJL). In south-central Montana the species was first seen at Ennis Lake on April 12 (RAH & PDS). The first proof of nesting of the **Double-crested Cormorant** in the Bozeman, Mont. area was obtained on April 20 when birds were seen on nests in a rookery near Logan (RAH, DRS & PDS). Four birds of this species were observed at McNary Refuge between April 27 and May 2.

Hérons, Ibis — A Black-crowned Night-Heron was observed at Ninepipe Refuge on May 5. The species also was noted at McNary Refuge; near Moses Lake, Grant Co., Wash. (WH); near St. Andrews, Douglas Co., Wash. (WH, S.A.S.); and at Columbia Nat'l

Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash. (DRP). There were several reports of **White-faced Ibis**: 3 at Ninepipe Refuge, April 19 (RD); 1 at Three Forks, Mont. and 1 at Harrison, Mont., both on May 25 (DRS & PDS); and an observation on the reservoir at Clark Canyon, Beaverhead Co., Mont., May 21 or 22 (LE, *vide* RE).

Swans — Whistling Swans moved through in good numbers, with 800 at Ennis Lake, March 29 (RAH & PDS) the largest concentration reported. Trumpeters were seen at Ennis Lake and Ruby Lake, Madison Co., Mont. (RAH & PDS); 1 was observed in a field near Eaglet Lake, Giscome, B.C., near Prince George, May 19, 20 and 22; 2 seen near Eloika Lake about 10 miles north of Chattaroy, Spokane Co., Wash. (S.A.S.) were probably from the flock at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash. At that refuge 28 Trumpeters remained through the winter; 7 pairs were found in the general area during the report period, including a pair of nesters in the display pool at refuge headquarters.

Geese — A **White-fronted Goose**, rare in the Region, was seen near Eaglet Lake, Giscome, B.C. on May 22 and another was noted at St. Andrews, Wash. on April 10 (WH). Snow Geese were moving through western Montana from late March until about mid-April, with 250 seen at Ninepipe Refuge on April 11 (RLB). In eastern Washington 1-5 were found at St. Andrews (WH), Sprague (JA), Reardan (S.A.S.) and Turnbull Refuge. The single bird noted at the latter refuge remained at least to the end of the report period. Two **Ross' Geese** were identified at Ninepipe Refuge on April 18 (RLB).

Ducks — What was believed to be a male Mallard X Pintail hybrid was observed near Charlo, Mont. on March 26 (CJH). Green-winged Teal were very scarce at Ravalli Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Stevensville, Mont., and no breeding pairs of this species were present at McNary Refuge where 20 pairs were noted last year. Blue-winged Teal appeared to be outnumbered by Cinnamon Teal in some localities, with 7 nesting pairs of Blue-winged Teal and 29 of Cinnamon Teal noted at McNary Refuge and 46 and 122 nesting pairs, respectively, noted at Turnbull Refuge. Nesting populations of dabbling ducks at Turnbull Refuge appeared to be down 50 percent from 1968 totals, but this may have been due to their wider dispersal on excellent habitat. Up to 18 Wood Ducks were counted on a pond near C.J. Henry's house near Charlo, Mont. A **European Widgeon** was photographed at Ravalli Refuge on March 29 (RD) and what was probably the same individual was seen there two days later (RD & RLH); another was noted among Am. Widgeon on Coeur d'Alene Lake in northern Idaho, March 31 (SS). A male of this species also was noted at Sprague Lake, Wash. on April 11 (WH). Ruddy Ducks appeared to be

up in numbers at some localities, particularly at Ravalli Refuge; in the Charlo, Mont. area (CJH); and at Columbia Refuge where the species showed an increase in nesting pairs in contrast to an overall decrease of 47 percent from last year's totals for all species of ducks. Two Com. Mergansers were still lingering at Columbia Refuge in late May (DRP). Red-breasted Mergansers were noted in Gallatin County, Mont. (RAH); at Ninepipe Refuge (RLB); and at Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. (WH, S.A.S.).

Vultures, Hawks — Turkey Vultures were late and few in number in the Bitterroot Valley, Ravalli Co., Mont. All observers in that valley agreed that hawks were definitely down in numbers, and Hand noted the same for nearby Missoula. At Walla Walla, Wash., the same trend appeared true for the Marsh Hawk, but not for other species (NFM). The Ferruginous Hawk, always scarce in the Region, was reportedly only from a spot 10 miles west of Odessa, Wash., April 19 (S.A.S.).

Gallinaceous birds — These suffered heavy winter losses at Turnbull Refuge where Ring-necked Pheasants were seen only occasionally during the spring, only 3 coveys of California Quail were observed, no Gray Partridges were found, and only 1 Ruffed Grouse was recorded. These birds appeared to come through the winter reasonably well at other localities, except that Ring-necked Pheasants seemed quite scarce in parts of the Bitterroot Valley. Chukars may have been wiped out in the Charlo, Mont area (CJH) and were decimated at the Nat'l Bison Range where only a few pairs were seen during the spring. Sharp-tailed Grouse were observed on a strutting ground north of Bozeman, April 10 (RAH). Sage Grouse were noted strutting west of Wilsall, Park Co., Mont., April 18 and 20 (RAH, DRS, PDS) and south of Creston, Lincoln Co., Wash., April 19-20 (WH, S.A.S.). A Turkey was seen on the west side of the Bitterroot Valley, and tracks indicated that 3 were present on Turnbull Refuge.

Cranes, Coot — Sandhill Cranes arrived at Belgrade, Mont. on April 4 (RAH). In Washington, the first migrants appeared during the last week of March near Sprague; some 600 were observed near St. Andrews on April 19 (S.A.S.); and 17 were seen near Almira,

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Lincoln Co. on the next day (WH). At least 60 cranes were seen on May 10 at the head of Okanogan Lake near Vernon, B.C., and 3 were noted Sumpter, Baker Co., Oreg. on May 13 (JB). American Coot appeared to be present in their usual numbers despite some winter losses.

Shorebirds — A Black-bellied Plover, rare in spring in eastern Washington, was observed at Banks Lake, May 24-25 (JA, WH). Shorebird observation was good there because of extensive mud flats resulting from lowering of the water level to allow construction at the dam. Particularly interesting were observations there of a *Whimbrel*, studied through a telescope, on May 25 (S.A.S.) and a Willet, always rare in eastern Washington, on May 24-25 (WH, S.A.S.). Upland Plovers were reported only in the Spokane, Wash. vicinity, 4 birds, perhaps 2 pairs, being seen a few miles east of the city at Newman Lake junction on May 18 (WH). Record early dates for the Least Sandpiper and Lesser Yellowlegs in Gallatin County, Mont. were April 19 (PDS) and April 20 (RAH, DRS & PDS), respectively. An observation of 3 *Pectoral Sandpipers* near Manhattan, Mont. on May 11 (EH, RAH, DRS & PDS) constituted the first spring record there. The only other sighting of the species was at Hauser Lake junction near Spokane, May 11 (JA). A flock of 11 Marbled Godwits was sighted at Ravalli Refuge, April 23 (RLH), and a single bird was seen at Hauser Lake junction, May 18 (JA; WH, ER & JR). The species is scarce west of the Continental Divide and rare in eastern Washington. The seldom-found nest of a Wilson's Phalarope, with 4 eggs, was located at Reardan, Wash., May 18 (WH).

Gulls, Terns — An immature *Glaucous-winged Gull* was noted on April 6-7 at the flooded driving range of Indian Canyon golf course at Spokane, along with 2 Herring, a few California and about 20 Ring-billed Gulls (JA & Mr. & Mrs. SOS). About 700 Ring-billed and 200 California Gulls were observed at McNary Refuge after a fish-killing operation there on April 2. Two to four Franklin's Gulls, rare in eastern Washington, were seen at Banks Lake, May 24-25 (JA, WH); in Park County, Mont. this species was noted on the record early arrival date of April 20 (RAH, DRS & PDS). A Com. Tern was noted at Reardan, Wash., May 3 (S.A.S.), and 2 Caspian Terns were seen at Banks Lake, May 25 (JA).

Doves, Owls — Rock Doves were noted perching on cliffs above Alta Lake near Pateros, Okanogan Co., Wash. (TW) and at Palouse Falls near Washtucna, Adams Co., Wash. (NFM), raising the possibility that they might be nesting. Mourning Doves appeared to be abundant although the population may have been down at McNary Refuge. At Three Forks, Mont., April 12 was an early date for the species. Some early individuals noted in the Bitterroot Valley may have wintered. A Barn Owl roosted on a cliff near Crab Creek at Columbia Refuge, May 24-25 (DRP); 1 appeared in Prineville, Oreg. where it frequented the rafters of buildings at a lumber mill and received protection from the workers (GM). A Great Gray Owl

came forth in response to the playing of a tape recording of the Pygmy Owl's notes in Pattee Canyon just southeast of Missoula, Mont., May 18 (RD). The Burrowing Owl was noted near Baker, Oreg., at Walla Walla, Wash. (NFM), and at McNary Refuge where it was described as common. A pair of Long-eared Owls was noted near St. Andrews, Wash. in the spot where a pair has nested in previous years (S.A.S.).

Goatsuckers, Swifts, Hummingbirds — The Com. Nighthawk presents an interesting problem in the Region. The arrival dates were mostly around May 30-31, although June 3 was considered early for the Bitterroot Valley. Several were noted at Prineville, Oreg. around May 21 (GM), which appears logical, but an arrival date of May 31 for Prince George, B.C. seems remarkable. Several Poor-wills were heard near Alta Lake, Wash., May 30-June 1 (TW). Vaux's Swift passed through Prineville, April 28-May 2 (GM), was seen over Ravalli Refuge on May 17 (MG) and over Hamilton, Mont. on May 19, and was first observed in British Columbia at Nixon, south of Prince George, on May 21. White-throated Swifts were first noted in the Bozeman area on April 27, and were observed at Ravalli Refuge on May 17 (MG). In eastern Washington the species was first seen on April 10 in the Grand Coulee area of Grant County (WH); on April 19, some 350 birds were noted in that area (S.A.S.). Hummingbird records were sparse everywhere, and several reporters commented upon the group's scarcity.

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers — Red-shafted Flickers seemed definitely down in numbers in the Bitterroot Valley and at Walla Walla, Wash. (NFM), but their numbers appeared to be normal elsewhere. In the Bitterroot Valley, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Hairy Woodpeckers and Downy Woodpeckers also appeared to have declined in numbers. The Downy was suspected of having suffered heavy loss at Turnbull Refuge as a result of the severe winter. Arrival of the Eastern Kingbird at Manhattan, Mont. on May 11 (EH, RAH, DRS & PDS) tied the early record for that area. The species also was rather early in the Bitterroot Valley on May 17 (CB). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was seen at Crab Creek, Columbia Refuge, May 25 (DRP & EOW); several were seen 25-40 miles south of Prineville, June 1 (GM). Birds believed to be Hammond's Flycatchers were first seen at Vernon, B.C. on May 11. For sake of comparison, first observations of the W. Wood Pewee were: May 13, Spokane (S.A.S.); May 14, Prineville (GM); May 15, Bitterroot Valley (BT); May 19, Missoula, Mont. and Prince George, B.C.; May 22, Baker, Oreg.; May 25, Three Forks, Mont. (DRS & PDS). First dates for Olive-sided Flycatchers, noted at only two localities, were May 10 near Spokane (JA) and May 19 at Prince George.

Swallows — The first Violet-green and Tree Swallows arrived at Spokane on March 21, about two weeks later than usual. Warren Hall commented that the swallow migration illustrated the general movement of birds there this spring, with early migrants delayed by cold and persistent snow but with movements on schedule by May 1. Nearby Turnbull Refuge, however, reported that Tree Swallows had been present in "extremely large numbers" since March 13. Tree Swallows had reached Williams Lake, B.C. by April 7 (CS). Only 263 Bank Swallows were banded over the

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Memorial Day weekend at Brewster, Wash. where up to 1500 have been banded in previous years' efforts; the colonies have relocated and the birds have dispersed (TW).

Wrens — April 16 was a very early date for the House Wren at Three Forks, Mont. (RAH). For comparison, arrival dates for a few other localities were: Spokane, April 26 (S.A.S.); Prineville, April 27 (GM); Vernon, B.C., April 28; Nat'l Bison Range, May 4; and Bitterroot Valley, May 10 (BT). The Long-billed Marsh Wren apparently was hard-hit by the winter's severity in some localities. Only 2 were noted at Ravalli Refuge (ED); the species was much reduced in numbers at Columbia Refuge (DRP); none were found during April and May at McNary Refuge where the species was a very abundant nester last year. At Turnbull Refuge, however, an estimated 200 birds were present during the period, with first arrival noted on March 31. Cañon Wrens had arrived in Madison County, Mont. by May 11 (EH & RAH). Rock Wrens, expected in the Bitterroot Valley by mid-May, had not yet appeared by the close of the report period.

Thrushes, Kinglets, Waxwings — An almost albino Robin that appeared at Missoula, Mont. on April 1 seemed to be mated to a normally colored bird. The species was first seen at Prince George on March 30 (CS). The first observation date for Swainson's Thrush at Prince George is interesting to compare with those for other localities: Prince George, May 28; Missoula, May 28; Bozeman, May 21; Spokane, May 19 (S.A.S.); Big Creek, Bitterroot Valley, May 17 (MG). A migrant Swainson's Thrush was seen at Vantage in the treeless central portion of Washington on May 25 (DRP). Mountain Bluebirds appeared to have leveled off in the Bitterroot Valley after several years of increase. Hall commented that the breeding populations of both Western and Mountain Bluebirds are far below what they were before the appearance of Starlings about 20 years ago, and Barber commented similarly regarding the Mountain Bluebird at the Nat'l Bison Range. This species had reached Prince George by May 30. Golden-

crowned Kinglets were reported in the Bitterroot Valley and around Spokane but appeared to be rather scarce at both localities. The Ruby-crowned Kinglet was reported at Vernon, B.C. on April 6, which was described as a late date, although it sounds early for the rest of us, farther south. A few other first dates for this species were: Walla Walla, April 9 (*NFM*); Missoula, April 12; Spokane, April 13 (*THR*); Bozeman, April 16 (*RAH* & *PDS*); and Prince George, April 14. Apparently very few Cedar Waxwings wintered, since most areas did not note the species until May. Spokane had a few earlier sightings.

Shrikes, Vireo, Warblers — The first Loggerhead Shrikes were noted on March 14 at Missoula; although the date is very early, the birds were positively identified. April 20 was the first observation date in Douglas County, Wash. (*WH*) and Lincoln County, Wash. (*FBH*), and April 27 was the first date for Ennis, Mont. (*RAH* & *PDS*). The species also was reported from the Bison Range. The observation of a Red-eyed Vireo at Prineville, Oreg., June 1 and 7 (*JK* & *GM*) was unusual. The Tennessee Warbler was first heard singing at Prince George on May 31. The Orange-crowned Warbler was noted at Bozeman on the record early date of May 1 (*PDS*). Nashville Warblers were noted in eastern Washington and Oregon from April 22 on (*FBH*) and the species was described as a common migrant at Prineville, with a peak of at least 10 seen at Medical Lake and Willow Lake, Spokane Co., Wash. between April 27 and May 3 (*WH*, *S.A.S.*); 1 at Prineville on May 15 (*GM*); and 1 at Columbia Refuge, May 21 (*DRP*). Surprisingly, Prince George reported the earliest date for Audubon's Warbler, April 14; Spokane ranked second with an April 15 observation. A male *Hermit Warbler* was observed at close range in Spokane on May 26 (*Mr.* & *Mrs.* *SOS*). The Northern Waterthrush was first heard singing at Prince George on May 18; on the same day 1 was heard singing in a thicket by a pond in the Dishman Hills at Spokane (*THR*); the first date for this species in the Bozeman area was May 25, at Manhattan (*DRS* & *PDS*). A concentration of 10 singing male Yellow-breasted Chats was found on Crab Creek, Columbia Refuge in late May (*DRP*).

Blackbirds — Bobolinks appeared on May 18 at Belgrade, Mont. (*DRS* & *PDS*) and on May 16, a very early date, in the Bitterroot Valley (*BT*). Near Charlo, Mont. where the species has been very rare for the last 10 years, several were observed in late May (*RLB*), with some remaining into the first week of June (*EWK*). The Western Meadowlark was heard singing at the Prince George Experimental Farm, May 27-31; the species is rare at this locality. Yellow-headed Blackbirds gave the impression of equaling or exceeding Red-winged Blackbirds in numbers at some localities, particularly

Reardan, Wash. (*S.A.S.*); an estimated 500 birds in one flock were sighted at Ninepipe Refuge on May 7 (*RLH*). Brewer's Blackbirds successfully wintered at the Prince George garbage dump (*CS*).

Finches — Evening Grosbeaks were rated common to astonishingly abundant at many localities, with the species described as abundant at Vernon, hundreds seen in the Bitterroot Valley, and a flock of some 300 birds observed at Spokane on April 30 (*WH*). At Missoula a peak occurred, May 20-31. On May 29 an estimated 2000-3000 were noted on the University of Montana campus, 1000 in Bonner Park, and an average of 60-100 per block throughout the entire south side residential area of Missoula, with other concentrations reported in the suburbs to the west, north and east of the city. House Finches continued to write history in western Montana. At Missoula they apparently were nesting in several residential areas and were noted also on the city's outskirts. In the Bozeman area, where there have been scattered observations for several years, several pairs were present in the towns in the lower part of the area, particularly Three Forks and Manhattan. The species was found routinely in Manhattan after April 27. April 16 was a record late date for the Com. Redpoll at Bozeman: the species was still common at Prince George on April 6 (*CS*). Pine Siskins were rated common to abundant in the mountainous eastern part of the Region and as far west as Spokane. Red Crossbills appeared to be scarce

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in western Montana and British Columbia but were common in the Spokane area and in the mountains near Prineville, Oreg. (*GM*). A White-winged Crossbill that wintered in Bozeman was last seen on March 14 (*RAH*).

Sparrows — Green-tailed Towhees were first noted in Gallatin County, Mont. on May 22 (*RAH*). A breeding pair was noted on Pine Mountain in the Prineville area, June 1 (*GM*). A singing male Lark Bunting, which appeared to be on territory, was found on the southwestern corner of Ninepipe Refuge near Charlo, Mont., May 23; this is the second record in 11 years here for the observer (*CJH*). A definite movement of Savannah Sparrows was noted in Lincoln County and Grant County, Wash. on April 20 when at least 25 birds were counted (*WH*); an early individual was noted at Missoula on April 6. A single Grasshopper Sparrow was reported, on May 21 near Fairchild Air Force Base west of Spokane (*S.A.S.*). Two Sage Sparrows had arrived near Marlin, Grant Co., Wash. by April 10 (*WH*). Slate-colored Juncos were noted regularly at Bozeman until late April (*DRS*). The Clay-colored Sparrow was reported only from the Bozeman area,

with the first observation on May 25 at Manhattan (*DRS* & *PDS*). A Harris' Sparrow, reported wintering in the vicinity of the University of Montana campus at Missoula, was seen and heard singing between April 3 and 17 (*RD*). One that frequented a feeding station at Spokane all winter started singing in late March but had only partly changed to breeding plumage when it left, May 4 (*LM*). Two males that wintered at Jim Grant's feeder at Lavington, B.C., left on the night of April 30; a third bird, believed to be a female, was last seen on May 5. White-crowned Sparrows were common at some localities but appeared scattered at others. About 100 in the Spokane area, May 1 (*WH*) perhaps represented a peak. At Vernon the species was abundant until April 30 but apparently made a mass exodus that night. Birds of this species were first seen at Prince George on April 29 (*CS*). Golden-crowned Sparrows were noted on several occasions on McNary and Ringold Refuges near Pasco, Wash. and 1 was seen on May 2 at Granite Lake, Wash. (*WH*). A Lincoln's Sparrow was noted at Baker, Oreg. on April 22; 2 were seen at Medical Lake, Wash. on April 27 (*JA*); and 1 was observed at Spokane on May 26 (*Mr. & Mrs. SOS*). McCown's Longspur appeared on April 27 at Three Forks, Mont. The last Lapland Longspur was seen in that general area on March 8.

Corrigenda — In the Nesting Season Report for 1968, the reference to a possible Gray Flycatcher at Turnbull Refuge on May 31 (*Audubon Field Notes* 22:630) should be deleted. In the Fall Migration Report, the reference in the first sentence under Gallinaceous Birds (*Audubon Field Notes* 23:83) should read Blue Grouse, not Blue Geese.

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Spring Migration, 1969

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

A heat wave in Wyoming and Utah during the last half of May advanced the timing of the migration, with the result that movement there was largely over by the first of June. Although the Great Basin was warm and dry throughout much of the reporting period, spring was very wet in the Rockies west of Denver, and the migration was described as poor there. In a half day of mist-netting at Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, Colo., Allegra Collister trapped only two birds, far below average. At Durango, Colo. where early arrivals, late arrivals and some late-lingering winter residents were recorded, Oppie Reames described the migration as odd and without pattern.

Swans, Geese, Ducks — A count of 45 adult Trumpeter Swans at Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in eastern Oregon during the report period was a new high for this colony (*ELMcL*). A total of 800 Canada Geese nesting in the vicinity of Monte Vista Nat'l

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Wildlife Refuge in southern Colorado represented an increase over last year (*CRB*), but at Bear River Marshes in Utah, gosling production dropped to 1092 from last year's total of 1486, a decrease perhaps reflecting better water conditions outside the refuge so that breeding birds were not as concentrated this year (*LG*). In the great Klamath Basin of eastern Oregon, the duck population dropped drastically, from 30,000 Mallards last year to 3500 this year and from 570,000 Pintail last year to 250,000 this year (*RLV*). Otherwise, the waterfowl migration in the Klamath Basin was much the same as last year. At Stillwater Wildlife Management Area in western Nevada, water conditions were excellent, with a 13 percent increase in breeding duck populations (*LDN*). About the same number of nesting ducks as last year was reported from Monte Vista Refuge; there are principally Mallards at this refuge and an early May count yielded a total of 15,500 birds (*CRB*). The observation of a pair of **Fulvous Tree Ducks** near Cedar City in southern Utah on May 10 (*SM*) constituted the first record for that area. A female

Canvasback and 3 young were noted at Bear River Marshes (*LG*); this locality is rather far south for the Canvasback.

Eagles — The only encouraging report of Golden Eagles came from Malheur Refuge where 10 nests were described as doing well (*ELMcL*). The central Wyoming population of this species, which has been perhaps the largest in the nation, experienced the destruction of a number of nests owing to human disturbance, including shooting (*OKS*).

Gallinules, Shorebirds — Near Utah Lake in central Utah, 2 Com. Gallinules were seen on May 18 (*GK*); the species is only casual in Utah. On May 17, 2 Mountain Plover were observed in South Park, a high-grassland in the Rockies west of Denver where the species probably breeds (*RG*). The sighting of a *Whimbrel* at Malheur Refuge on May 3 (*BD*) constituted the refuge's first record of the species; this is surprising as the Whimbrel is common on the coast and is occasionally seen inland elsewhere and since Malheur is one of the most intensively birded areas in the Region. A count of 500 Greater Yellowlegs at Lower Klamath Nat'l Wildlife Refuge on April 11 (*JH*) was the largest concentration reported in recent years. The observation of a Dunlin at Grand Junction on April 10 (*LFE*) was an unusual record for western Colorado; a total of 275 at Malheur Refuge on May 3 (*ELMcL*) seemed high for an inland area.

Swifts, Martin, Dipper, Thrasher — A sizable concentration of 2000 White-throated Swifts seen on April 17 over the Cedar Valley of southern Utah (*SM*) may perhaps be explained by the occurrence of rain in the nearby mountains. A Purple Martin was seen on May 10 at Durango, Colo. (*OR*); the species is rare there. High water resulting from the wet weather wreaked havoc with Dipper nesting in the Rockies west of Denver (*WWB*). A *Brown Thrasher* was seen at Craters of the Moon Nat'l Monument in central Idaho on May 11 (*DLC*); this constituted the second record for Idaho.

Starling, Warblers, Icterids — Starlings are on the increase in the Region. One was observed feeding two juvenile cowbirds at Nampa in western Idaho on May 27 (*HES*). There were almost no unusual warblers reported during the season. The sole exception was a Black-and-white Warbler seen on May 21 at Malheur Refuge where the species is very rare (*ELMcL*). Bobolinks were again found in wet meadows near Utah Lake on May 18 (*GK*); this area had dried up in the past and the Bobolink had disappeared, but with this year's high water the species reappeared. Occurrence of the Bobolink is very local throughout the Region.

Finches, Sparrows — Red Crossbills were absent from the Rockies west of Denver (*VR*) and from central Wyoming (*OKS*). A Harris' Sparrow observation on May 15 and for several days thereafter at Durango (*OR*) was a rare record for that area. A White-throated Sparrow that spent the winter on the upper Wind River near Dubois in central Wyoming finally disappeared on May 5 (*MB*).

Contributors — (*MB*), Mary Back; (*WWB*), Winston W. Brockner; (*CRB*), Charles R. Bryant; (*DLC*), Dennis L. Carter; (*AC*), Allegra Collister; (*BD*), Bruce Deuel; (*LFE*), Lucy F. Ela; (*LG*), Lloyd Gunther; (*RG*), Robert Gustafson; (*JH*), Joseph Hicks; (*GK*), Gleb Kashin; (*ELMcL*), Eldon L. McLaury; (*SM*), Stewart Murie; (*LDN*), Larry D. Napier; (*OR*), Oppie Reames; (*VR*), Van Remsen; (*HES*), Mrs. H. E. Shaw; (*RLV*), Robert L. Van Wormer.

Spring Migration, 1969

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION
/ John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

Temperatures were average to a bit below average during April and May, while precipitation during April and May was less than average. Observers suggested that the very severe winter with record snowfalls and cold weather in the lowlands took a heavy toll of Winter, Bewick's and Long-billed Marsh Wrens and possibly of Western Meadowlarks and Oregon Juncos also, all of which were remarked as being down in numbers in substantial portions of the Region.

Loons, Grebes, Pelagic Birds — Common Loons were seen daily at Comox, B.C. to the end of the report period, peak numbers of 30 in a day being present in the second week of May (*VG*). An estimated 2000 Arctic Loons were noted at Comox on x May 16 (*VG*); the species also was seen migrating in large numbers off the southwestern Washington coast on the same weekend (*DRP*, *ZS*). A Red-necked Grebe was last seen at Comox on May 21 (*VG*), a late date. Between 200 and 300 Sooty Shearwaters were present off the mouth of the Columbia River on April 26 (*HBN*); 400 were seen off Westport, Wash., May 18 (*DRP*). A recently dead Fork-tailed Petrel was found at Leadbetter Point, Wash. on May 18 (*MK* & *HBN*).

Cormorants, Herons — About 800 Brandt's Cormorants were noted at Active Pass, B.C. on April 15 (*VG*); 200 in small flocks were moving south past the north jetty of the Columbia on May 18 (*DRP*). Great Blue Herons were said by personnel of the Lake Terrell, Wash. Game Range to have suffered considerable winter mortality (*vide TRW*), but the

species was seen in normal numbers at many other places in the Region. A Green Heron was observed at Montesano, Grays Harbor Co., Wash., May 16 (DRP); in Oregon, individuals were seen at Portland, Tillamook Bay, Salem, Lebanon, Eugene and Medford where birds were seen frequently. An Am. Bittern was seen at the south jetty of the Columbia again this spring, on April 26 (HBN).

Waterfowl — Canada Geese were still migrating past Comox, B.C. on May 12 when a flock of 50 flew over (VG). More than 1600 Black Brant were noted at Comox on April 23, with 2 individuals on May 16 the last seen there (VG); 20 birds were still present at Willapa Bay, Wash. on May 17 (ZS). Twenty White-fronted Geese also were seen at Willapa Bay on May 17 (ZS); at Comox, 100 were noted on April 21, with 38 still there eight days later (VG). Some 300 Snow Geese were still frequenting the Skagit Flats north of Seattle on April 7 (DRP). Green-winged, Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal were seen from Salem, Oreg. north to Comox, B.C. in scattered locations and numbers until very near the end of the report period. European Widgeon disappeared from the Region early, the last report being of 1 bird at Seattle, April 4 (VEC). A lone Am. Widgeon was observed at Leadbetter Point on May 17 (DRP). Wood Ducks were seen north as far as Comox this spring. Four Ring-necked Ducks were noted at Sauvie Is. northwest of Portland on the late date of April 25 (HBN); others were seen on Keechelus Lake, Kittitas Co., Wash., April 27 (VEC). Six Greater Scaup were still at the south jetty of the Columbia on May 24 (JG, MK & HBN); 4 Lesser Scaup were seen at Salem, Oreg., May 13 (TM). Three Barrow's Goldeneyes in the Cascades east of Salem on May 30 (JBC & WT) presumably were on breeding station. A Bufflehead seen at Willapa Bay, May 17 (ZS) was late; a total of 175 at Victoria on April 9 (ARD) was a good count. Two pairs of Oldsquaws were in breeding dress at Dungeness, Clallam Co., Wash., May 4 (DRP); small numbers were seen at Comox from mid-April to mid-May, with a maximum of 21 on April 17 (VG). Both White-winged and Surf Scoters apparently were migrating through the northern half of the Region in May; Com. Scoters also were seen in greater than usual numbers, with reports of groups of 30 at the south jetty of the Columbia on April 26 (HBN), 50 at Comox on April 28 (VG), and 12 at Ilwaco, Wash. on May 17 (ZS).

Hawks, Eagles — Goshawks were reported from Gaston, Washington Co., Oreg., May 2 (JG) and from near Lava Lake in the Oregon Cascades east of Sweet Home, May 30 (JBC & WT). Several nests of both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were found in the

Corvallis, Oreg. area this spring after assiduous searching by Eric Forsman. A Swainson's Hawk was observed at Lake Terrell near Bellingham, Wash. on April 27 (J. Duemmel, *vide* TRW). According to *The Friday Harbour Journal*, 8 of 13 known Bald Eagle nest sites in the San Juan Islands were in use this spring, 1 less than the 8-year average (*vide* TRW). At least 2 adults and 2 immatures of this species were seen regularly at Comox through the spring (VG). Ospreys were observed in a greater variety of places than usual: 2 at Medford, March 30 (JH); a pair at Victoria, April 9 (ARD); 1 at Fidalgo Is. near Anacortes, Wash., April 19 (DRP); 1 at Comox, May 8-26 (VG); 1 at Bellingham on May 15, 1 at Leadbetter Point on May 17, and 1 at Silver Lake near Bellingham, May 22 (TRW). On April 26, a dark-phase *Gyr Falcon* was seen kiting on the wind and drifting southward over the dunes at the south jetty of the Columbia; a bit later it had returned northward and was seen over the mouth of the river (HBN). On April 5, Vic Goodwill, who is a careful observer, watched a *Prairie Falcon* on the Saanich Peninsula about 8 miles north of Victoria, B.C.; the bird was under observation both at rest and while in flight through 20X and 30X telescope magnification for a period of some 8 minutes; there was no evidence of jesses on the bird's legs. The species has not been seen previously in the Victoria area, so far as we know. A Pigeon Hawk was seen at Courtenay, B.C. on April 29, and a pair was seen there on May 6 (VG); single birds also occurred at the south jetty of the Columbia on May 3, at Leadbetter Point on May 18 (JG), and at Comox, May 16 (VG).

Crane, Shorebirds — A lone Sandhill Crane was seen north of Victoria on May 17 (R. McKenzie-Grieve, *vide* ARD). Semipalmated Plovers and Black-bellied Plovers were observed in the usual good spring migration numbers at the mouth of the Columbia River and at Willapa Bay from the last week of April until after mid-May; up to 10 of both species also were seen during the same period at Comox, Dungeness and Skagit. Snowy Plovers were recorded from the south jetty of the Columbia and from Leadbetter Point in May. Four Surfbirds were still at the north jetty of the Columbia, May 16-17 (DRP, TRW). Ruddy Turnstones were recorded on a number of occasions during the first three weeks of May on the southwestern Washington coast, at Dungeness where a peak of 30 was noted on May 4 (DRP), and at Victoria. A few Black Turnstones still lingered at the north jetty of the Columbia and at Leadbetter Point on May 16-17 (DRP, ZS). Spring records of the Long-billed Curlew in this Region are very scarce; thus, *two* occurrences this spring, one at Jacksonville near Medford, Oreg., April 3 (R. Niedemier, *vide* JH) and one on the Skagit Flats on April 26 (DRP), are of considerable interest. Whimbrels were

again widely reported this spring from Yaquina Bay at Newport, Oreg., April 7 (*TM* & *HBN*) and intermediate points north to Comox, May 20 (*VG*); peak numbers were an estimated 90-100, a most unusual concentration, in a field near Bellingham on May 6 and 7 (*TRW*). Solitary Sandpipers were seen singly near Talent, Jackson Co., Oreg. on April 20 (*vide JH*), in the Columbia River bottoms at Portland on April 24 (*HBN*), and at Courtenay, B.C. on May 6 (*VG*). This spring's records of Wandering Tattlers were concentrated coincidentally on the weekend of May 16 and 17 from the Columbia River to Westport, Wash. and Victoria, B.C., 25 at Ilwaco, Wash. being the maximum. Greater Yellowlegs were scattered throughout western Washington and Oregon through the report period. Lesser Yellowlegs were seen in the last week of April at Skagit (*DRP*), Sauvie Is. (*HBN*), and Kent, Wash. (*VEC*) and on May 17 at Leadbetter Point (*ZS*). A Rock Sandpiper was last seen at Victoria on May 1 (*ARD*). Over 50 Knots were seen in the vicinity of the south jetty of the Columbia on May 3 (*HBN*), while 5 were noted at Leadbetter Point on May 17 (*ZS*). A rare spring record of a Pectoral Sandpiper occurred with the discovery of a lone bird of this species at Ascot, B.C. on May 3 (*ARD*). Least Sandpipers apparently were at maximum numbers around the first of May. An estimated 12,000 Dunlin at the south jetty if the Columbia on May 3 (*HBN, et al.*) was a good count for this species; several hundred were still at Leadbetter Point on May 16 and 17 (*DRP*) and at Westport on May 18 (*ZS*). Small flocks of Short-billed Dowitchers, in numbers up to 42, were reported from Newport, Oreg., the south jetty of the Columbia, Leadbetter Point, Skagit, Dungeness and Whidbey Is., Wash. from April 7 through May 16-17. A group of 16 Long-billed Dowitchers was reported at McMinnville, Oreg., April 13 (*JG*); 5-30 were seen at a pool between Comox and Courtenay, B.C., May 6-20 (*VG*). Western sandpipers were at peak numbers in the southern half of the Region from late April to mid-May. Marbled Godwits appeared singly at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., April 7 (*TM* & *HBN*), at the south jetty of the Columbia, May 3 (*JG*), and at Ilwaco, Wash., May 17 (*ZS*). A Sanderling at Fern Ridge Reservoir west of Eugene, Oreg., on May 18 (*AL, et al.*) was quite out of the ordinary, although this species was still considerably in evidence along the coast on that date. Wilson's Phalaropes were seen in numbers up to 7 at once between May 8 and May 24 at Salem, Sauvie Is., the south jetty of the Columbia, Leadbetter Point, Bellingham and Comox-Courtenay, B.C. Small flocks of Northern Phalaropes were seen on a boat trip out of Westport, May 18 (*TRW, et al.*); 3 were seen at the south jetty of the Columbia on May 24 (*HBN*).

Jaegers, Gulls, Terns — At least 6 Parasitic Jaegers were seen in Grays Harbor, Wash. on May 17 and 18

(*TRW, ZS, DRP, et al.*); 2 were noted at the north jetty of the Columbia on May 17 (*TRW*). A Glaucous Gull was seen on April 7 at Clover Point, Victoria, where the same or another bird was seen on April 26 also (Ralph Fryer, *VG*); a second-year bird of this species was observed at Comox on April 24 (*VG*). Several hundred California Gulls seen at Bellingham on April 9 were thought to be migrating (*TRW*). Mew Gulls had apparently left the Region by mid-April. Bonaparte's Gulls were evidently in migration northward along the southern Oregon coast on May 3 when an estimated 400 birds were seen; very few were to be seen there six days later (*JH & OS*). Several hundred were noted on May 7 at Bellingham where,

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except for that count, Bonaparte's Gulls were reported as below numbers of an average year (*TRW*). A Heermann's Gull was seen at Clover Point, Victoria, May 29 (*vide ARD*); this is an unprecedented early date for this usually post-breeding northward wanderer. Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen from Tillamook, Oreg. north to Anacortes, Wash. and in the Bellingham-Victoria-Comox area from the last week of April to the last week of May, with an estimated 1000 birds, mostly immatures, along the southwestern Washington coast, May 16-18 constituting by far the high count. About a dozen Sabine's Gulls were observed off the entrance to Tillamook Bay on May 11 (*GK*), some coming to within 50 feet of the jetty; a few were seen at Westport and 1 was seen offshore of Westport on May 18 (*TRW*). A Com. Tern was seen at Sand Lake near Cape Lookout, Oreg., April 26 (*JG*), and hundreds of this species were noted at Grays Harbor, Wash., May 17 and 18 (*TRW, ZS & DRP*). A few Arctic Terns were satisfactorily identified at the entrance to Tillamook Bay on May 11 (*GK*) and at the mouth of the Columbia on May 24 (*HBN*). Three Caspian Terns were seen in the vicinity of Gold Beach, Oreg. on April 12 (*OS*); 2 appeared on April 26 at the south jetty of the Columbia where the species was still present at the end of the report period (*HBN*); 3 were noted at Tillamook on May 11 (*GK*).

Alcids — Over 1000 Com. Murres were seen along the southwestern Washington coast, May 16, 17 and 18 (*DRP*). Pigeon Guillemots, in numbers between 3 and 20, were seen at Newport, Oreg. on April 7 (*HBN*) and in Washington at Whidbey Is. on April 19, Dungeness on May 4, and Westport on May 18 (*DRP*). Up to 8 Marbled Murrelets were seen sporadically at Comox from April 15 through May (*VG*); 5 were seen at Dungeness on May 4 and 5 at Westport on May 18 (*DRP*). Four Cassin's Auklets were observed at the Tillamook jetty on May 11 (*GK*). Twelve Rhinoceros Anklets were seen at Whidbey Is. on April 19 and

about 35 were counted along the southwestern Washington coast, May 16-18 (DRP). Tufted Puffins were reported only from Tillamook where 4 were seen in the ocean on May 11 (GK).

Pigeons, Doves, Owls — On April 2, 16 Band-tailed Pigeons reached Terrace, B.C., where a month later the observer (HRV) saw 38 birds; numbers of this species in the Portland area reflected an influx of spring migrants about mid-April. Only a few Mourning Doves were seen in the Victoria area this spring (ARD), and numbers may have been rather below normal in western Washington and northwestern Oregon. A Long-eared Owl nest containing 3 young birds was found north of Corvallis in April (R. Reynolds, *vide* EF). Saw-whet Owls were found to be fairly regular and in good numbers around Corvallis and Eugene this spring by observers (EF & LBM) who made a point of attempting to discover these birds.

Goatsuckers, Swifts, Hummingbirds — A *Poor-will* was discovered on Spencer Butte at Eugene, May 14 and was still there on May 17 (LBM); the bird was well seen and carefully identified. This constitutes the Region's third spring record of this extremely rare species in the last three years. Common Nighthawks appeared suddenly in the Region, as is their habit, in the last three days of May, showing up during that period at Medford, Lava Lake in the Oregon Cascades, Portland and Seattle. Eight Black Swifts were seen at Comox on May 27 and 20 were present there by May 30 (VG); at Terrace, B.C., considerably to the north, 20 had been seen on April 15 (HRV). Vaux's Swifts were more widely reported than usual: on April 20, a flock of 250-300 appeared at Corvallis where approximately the same numbers of the species were present for about two weeks, after which only the breeding population remained (EF); 70 were seen at McMinnville, Oreg., April 23 (JG); 2 reached Courtenay, B.C. by May 6 (VG); the species was widespread in the Oregon Cascades by the end of the period and had been recorded additionally at Medford, Seaside and Portland, Oreg. and at Snoqualmie Summit, McKenna, Leadbetter Point and Westport, Wash. A male **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was seen on May 10 (M. McGraw & JH) and May 30 (JH & HBN) at the McGraw feeders on the Rogue River, four miles southwest of Shady Cove, Oreg., where the first record for the Region was obtained last spring. Three Calliope Hummingbirds also were seen there on May 30 (JH & HBN); 2 individuals of this species were seen at Ashland, Oreg. on April 26 (*vide* OS) and 3 males were displaying in Portland's Forest Park on April 30 (HBN). The McGraw feeders at Shady Cove also attracted **Broad-tailed Hummingbirds** again this spring, with a male and several females seen on May 10 (M. McGraw & JH) and a female seen on May 30 (JH & HBN). At

Terrace, B.C., the first Rufous Hummingbird of the season was not seen until May 10 (HRV). An Allen's Hummingbird was observed north of Brookings, Oreg. on April 12 (OS).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Larks, Swallows — Lewis' Woodpecker continued to be extremely scarce, the only report being of 2 seen at Lebanon, Oreg. on May 7 (WT). A female Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was seen in the burn at Big Lake, at the Santiam summit in the Oregon Cascades, May 30 (JBC & WT). At least 7 *pairs* of Western Kingbirds — an unprecedented concentration for the Region — were noted in the Lebanon area after May 20 (WT); 1 bird was seen at Medford on April 29 (JH) and 2 at the south jetty of the Columbia on May 3 (HBN). An Ash-throated Flycatcher, rare in the Region, was seen at Medford on May 4 (JH). The small enclave of Eastern Phoebes in the Medford area was again present this spring, 3 birds being seen in separate locations on May 2, 2 of them by Gen. Hicks and 1 by Don Nichols. A Black Phoebe nest, later abandoned, was found on the Applegate River near Medford on the rather early date of April 13 (JH). A Traill's Flycatcher at Fogarty Creek State Park north of Newport, Oreg., on April 7 (HBN) was very early. Western Flycatchers seem to have come back from their apparent decline, at least in western Oregon, of the last few years; the species arrived at the end of April and was in evidence since then. Olive-sided Flycatchers appeared during the first week in May in the southern portion of the Region and a week later in the northern portion, apparently in good numbers. A few Skylarks were seen again this spring in the San Juan Islands of Washington, just south of Victoria

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(TRW). Eighty Tree Swallows were noted at Terrace, B.C. on April 4 (HRV). Bank Swallows were reported only from Victoria, where 7 were seen on May 5 (R. Fryer, *vide* GAP) and from Sauvie Is., where 3 pairs were observed carrying nesting material on May 13 (HBN). An early Rough-winged Swallow was seen at Victoria on April 17 (VG). A Barn Swallow seen at Victoria on April 12 (ARD), the same day one was seen at Sauvie Is. (HBN), was also early. The sighting of 40 Cliff Swallows in Portland's Delta Park on April 5 (JG) may well have established the earliest Oregon arrival date for this species. Purple Martins appeared sparsely in the Region north to Comox in the first 10 days of May.

Wrentit, Wrens, Thrashers, Thrushes — A Wrentit was seen in Medford, an unusual location, on April 5 (OS). A House Wren was observed at McMinnville, Oreg., April 13 (JG); 1 was noted at Ashland, Oreg., April 26 (OS); 4 were seen at Victoria, May 3 (ARD); 1

was seen in Tacoma, Wash., May 4 (*VEC*); and 3 were found in a cut-over area north of Lava Lake, Oreg., May 30 (*JBC & WT*). Winter Wrens were very sparse around Victoria this spring (*ARD*) and were far from common in the Oregon Cascades east of Lebanon at the end of May (*JBC & WT*); the population of this species may have suffered drastically from the unusually severe weather and snow conditions this winter. Lack of records of Bewick's Wrens would indicate the same condition for that species. Several reporters thought Long-billed Marsh Wren numbers also were down significantly. A *Sage Thrasher* was seen on the Thackaberry farm near Lebanon, Oreg., May 3 (*WT*); this is the same place where the only other record of the species in the Region in recent years was obtained two years ago. Swainson's Thrushes observed seven miles north of Victoria on April 26 and at Courtenay, B.C. on April 29 (*VG*) were early arrivals; farther south, first arrivals were noted through the first 10 days of May, with one other early record, an individual seen at McMinnville on April 27 (*JG*). Nine Western Bluebirds were seen at Victoria on May 3 (*ARD*); a few were noted near Medford, May 30 (*HBN*, *OS*, *et al.*). A pair of *Mountain Bluebirds* nested at Terrace, B.C., where they were feeding young as early as May 27 (*HRV*); this constitutes the first nesting record in that vicinity which is on the west side of the coast range.

Gnatcatchers, Pipits, Waxwings, Shrike — A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was first seen at Medford on April 19 this year (*OS*); several pairs apparently were in residence on nearby Roxy Ann Butte by the end of May (*HBN*). A Water Pipit at Leadbetter Point on May 17 (*DRP*) and 2 at the south jetty of the Columbia on May 24 (*HBN*) were late. Cedar Waxwings had appeared in small flocks through much of the southern portion of the Region by the end of May; 4 noted at Victoria on May 24 (*ARD*) and 17 at Comox on May 26 (*VG*) were of interest, as these birds are not often seen on Vancouver Is. A Loggerhead Shrike was observed northeast of Lebanon, Oreg. on May 2 (*WT*). Numbers of nesting Starlings continued to increase in western Oregon.

Vireos, Warblers — Two Hutton's Vireos were recorded at Victoria, April 7 (*ARD*). Single Solitary Vireos were seen at Victoria on April 12 (*ARD*), at McMinnville on April 14 (*JG*), at Camano Is., Wash. on April 26 (*DRP*), and at Ashland, Oreg., also on April 26 (*fide OS*); other records of this species came from Lebanon, Salem and Seattle, all during the first week of May. Two Red-eyed Vireos were observed at Medford on May 14 (*JH*). We do not know whether or not to attribute any significance to the sparse mention of Warbling Vireos in observers' reports this spring. Orange-crowned Warblers appeared at Newport, Oreg.

(*HBN*) and at Victoria, B.C. (*ARD*) during the first week of April and were widespread in the Region by May 1. Nashville Warblers were recorded in numbers in the Rogue River Valley, April 26 (*JH*) and were noted at Shelton, Wash., April 28 (Bob and Elsie Boggs, *fide ES*); Lebanon, Oreg., May 1 (*WT*); and Seattle, May 1 (*EOW*). An early Yellow Warbler was seen at Brookings, Oreg. on April 12 (*OS*). A Myrtle Warbler arrived at Terrace, B.C., April 13, and the first Audubon's Warbler was seen there on May 4 (*HRV*). Black-throated Gray Warblers were found at Medford, Lebanon and Portland by April 21 and arrived in the Seattle area in the last week of April. A number of Townsend's Warblers were observed in Victoria, April 13 (*ARD*). MacGillivray's Warbler was first seen in the Region at McMinnville on April 23 (*JG*). A Yellowthroat was noted at Lebanon as early as April 3 (*WT*); 1 was seen in Portland's Delta Park on April 5 (*JG*); 1 was noted in Victoria on April 6 (*ARD*). On April 26, 4 Wilson's Warblers were observed at Sand Lake, Oreg. (*JG*) and 1 at Ecola State Park, Cannon Beach, Oreg., (*HBN*); another was seen in Seattle on the next day (*DRP*). Yellow-breasted Chats were reported in western Oregon during the first week of May.

Meadowlarks, Blackbirds, Orioles — Observers on the south end of Vancouver Is. considered Western Meadowlarks to be extremely scarce there this spring, another possible consequence of the severe winter. Two male Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen at Sauvie Is. on April 12; numbers increased for the next two weeks at the end of which time the first females appeared; by May 10 individuals were conspicuous throughout the immediate area (*HBN*). Elsewhere, 8 were seen at Medford on May 1 (*fide JH*), 2 near Lebanon on May 7 (*WT*), and 3 at Marietta, Wash. on May 8 (*TRW*). *Bullock's Orioles* are not common in this Region; reports this spring came from Medford, Lebanon, Sauvie Is., Seattle, and again from the same area of Victoria where a male was seen last year and where at least 1 pair was present by the end of this report period. A bright, fully adult male *Hooded Oriole* was seen at close range in some low willows in a bog at the south jetty of the Columbia River on April 26 (*HBN*); this constitutes the second record for the Region so far as we know. Brown-headed Cowbirds were more than ever in evidence this spring, with a peak of 34 at Terrace, B.C. on May 19 (*HRV*) demonstrating a continued northward range extension.

Finches, Sparrows — Evening Grosbeaks were nowhere near as numerous in the Region this spring as they were last year but were nonetheless widely scattered even through May. Purple Finches were again numerous at Salem this spring (*TM*). Migrant Savannah

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Sparrows appeared on the Tacoma tide flats on April 6 (*VEC*) and were present in numbers at Basket Slough, west of Salem on April 12 (*TM*). Vesper Sparrows also were seen in the latter place on April 12 (*TM*); several were seen in the San Juan Islands on May 11 (*TRW*). Oregon Juncos were said to be very scarce on the southern portion of Vancouver Is. (*ARD*). Sightings of a Chipping Sparrow at Victoria on April 8 (*ARD*) and 2 at Sauvie Is. on April 12 (*HBN*) were early records. A singing *Brewer's Sparrow* appeared at the Thackaberry farm near Lebanon on May 23 (*WT*); we know of no other record west of the Cascades. Two birds, each thought to be a hybrid White-crowned X Golden-crowned Sparrow were seen this spring, one at the Pittock Bird Sanctuary of the Portland Audubon Society in Portland, April 13-18 (*HBN*), the other at Bellingham on April 22 (*TRW*). A late Golden-crowned Sparrow was seen at Lava Lake in the Oregon Cascades, May 19 (*WT, et al.*). Lincoln's Sparrows were noted migrating through Medford in numbers, April 15 (*JH*); 1 was seen at Skagit, Wash. on April 26 and 1 at Dungeness on May 4 (*DRP*). Fox Sparrows appear to be regular nesting birds in the cut-over areas around and north of Lava Lake, where they were discovered last summer; at least 20 birds were seen on May 31 (*WT*). Another Swamp Sparrow was recorded for the Region when 1 was seen and heard singing along the Rogue River 15 miles north of Medford on April 5 (*JH*).

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The Nesting Season, 1969

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION / Thomas H. Rogers

The warm, dry weather of May continued well into June until broken by heavy downpours beginning around the end of the third week. Western Montana, in particular, bore the brunt of the rains: at the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. precipitation totaled 5.34 inches (3.35 inches above normal), mostly falling

during the last week of June; at Missoula, Mont. it was the third wettest June on record, with 1.49 inches falling in one day. Toward the west precipitation progressively lessened. At Spokane, Wash. the late June rains failed to bring the month's total of 1.14 inches up to the normal 1.49 inches. Walla Walla, Wash. received only 1.0 inch and Wenatchee, a scant 0.12 inch. Although the late June rains were heavy in the Kamloops—Okanagan area of southern British Columbia, precipitation in the Prince George area was only 26 percent of normal for June. Much of western Montana had a cool, showery first week in July, followed by hot, practically rainless weather lasting to the end of the report period. In eastern Washington a trace of rain fell early in July at some localities; except for this, rainless and hot conditions prevailed. Central interior British Columbia, around Prince George, was also warmer and drier than normal, but the southern portion of the province had conditions approaching normal. One received the impression that the severely cold and decidedly wet winter just past and, in the western part of the Region, the wet spring, may have influenced bird life as much as the summer weather. Low populations of some species can best be explained on the basis of heavy winter mortality. On the other hand, abundance of moisture in many localities produced excellent growth of vegetation and higher water levels, which should have been favorable to many species. Except for the cold, wet June in western Montana and extreme eastern Washington, the otherwise hot, dry summer appeared favorable for nesting. It will be interesting to see how rapidly the supposedly winter-decimated species will recover to normal population levels.

Loons, Grebes — The Com. Loon, unusual in the southern part of the Region in summer, was seen at three localities, being noted in Missoula County, Mont., June 6 (*RAH*), with 1 observed at Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. (*WH*) and 1 noted near Clarkston, Asotin Co., Wash., June 11 (*MJP*). Young of all species of grebes frequenting the Region, except for the Horned Grebe, were reported. At Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash., summer populations of 250 Eared Grebes and 500 Pied-billed Grebes were reported.

Pelicans, Cormorants, Herons — The White Pelican was observed in the Bozeman, Mont. area; a few were seen on several occasions and 31 on July 31 at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. and about 30 were noted on July 10 at Pantage Lake in the vicinity of Prince George, B.C. Pelicans frequently visit Pantage Lake but do not nest there. Double-crested Cormorants nested at the rookery at Logan, west of Bozeman, Mont. Two immature Black-crowned Night-

Hérons observed at Harrison Lake, Harrison, Mont. on Aug. 9 (CB, HC, LM, DRS & PDS) constituted the

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third record for that area. Nests of this species were reported near St. Andrews, Douglas Co., Wash. in April (S.A.S.). The population at Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash. was estimated at 10 and the population at McNary Refuge was estimated at 250.

Waterfowl — Of the 28 Trumpeter Swans that wintered at Turnbull Refuge, Wash., 20 dispersed. Reports of 7 pairs on or near the refuge were affirmed. Two pairs of pinioned swans nested at the display pond and produced 2 cygnets. Another pair nesting just off the refuge hatched 1 young. Duck nesting at Turnbull Refuge appeared to have been very successful as a result of high water levels, excellent vegetative cover and a cool spring. Although the breeding population was down, survival of the young was high. The Mallard population at this refuge was estimated at 1000. Redheads, with a breeding population of 800, were the most important summer residents, and 80 broods were counted. In contrast, brood counts at Columbia Refuge, Wash. were down about 40 percent from last year, with Ruddy Duck the only species showing an increase. A brood of Harlequin Ducks was seen on the Ashnola River on June 22 and another was noted on the Similkameen River on June 15, both localities near Manning Provincial Park in extreme southern British Columbia (DL). An adult male *White-winged Scoter* was seen at Medical Lake, Spokane, Wash. on the unusual date of June 5 (WH). A male Surf Scoter was noted on Lodi Lake southeast of Prince George, B.C., June 12.

Vultures, Hawks, Eagles — Turkey Vulture sightings were reported in the Bitterroot Valley around Hamilton, Mont.; in Pend Oreille, Spokane and Stevens Counties, Wash.; and along the eastern slope of the Cascades in Washington. An observation of one over a *heavily forested* (Canadian zone) area east of Chinook Pass, Mount Rainier Nat'l Park, Wash. on July 13 (DRP) was surprising. A Rough-legged Hawk was identified east of Slate Mountain near Hart's Pass, Okanogan Co., Wash. at 7000 feet elevation on June 19 (JD, *fide* TW). The Golden Eagle was described as common at the Nat'l Bison Range, Mont. where a nest was found at High Point (RLB, SPH & VBM). The species was noted in the Bozeman area; along the Columbia River near Gifford, Stevens Co., Wash. (JA) and Wenatchee, Chelan Co., Wash. (DRP & MLP); at Almira, Lincoln Co., Wash. (DRP & MLP); and in the North Cascades at 6000 feet elevation on Sawtooth Ridge north of Lake Chelan (DRP & MLP) and at 7000 feet elevation along the Cascade Crest near Glacier

Peak, Snohomish Co., Wash. (WP, DR & THR). The Bald Eagle was reported only from the Prince George, B.C. area: an occupied nest was found at McLeod Lake north of Prince George on May 17; an immature bird just out of the nest was seen at Pass Lake on July 5; and an adult was noted at Purden Lake, June 24. The Marsh Hawk was reported as extremely low in numbers in the Bitterroot Valley of western Montana and appeared down also in the Walla Walla, Wash. area (NFM). A pair of Ospreys at a nest with 1-2 young was noted on June 22 on the southwestern shore of Flathead Lake, Mont. where the species is becoming very scarce (RLH). Along the Coeur d'Alene River near Harrison, Idaho, however, 30 active nests (DH) indicated a flourishing population.

Gallinaceous Birds — A pair of Blue Grouse with 6 large chicks seen on July 12 on Wenas Creek southwest of Ellensburg, Wash. (DRP & EWS) were in remarkable habitat for the species: sagebrush desert at 2300 feet elevation. There were scattered Ponderosa Pines nearby, however, and a dense growth of aspens and fir was located a mile farther up in the hills. Several broods of this species were noted at the Nat'l Bison Range, and a few adults were observed in the Glacier Peak Wilderness, Snohomish and Chelan Counties, Wash. (AP & THR). A female White-tailed Ptarmigan and 5 young were found in Hunters Range near Enderby, B.C. on July 27, and an adult and 2 nearly grown young were seen on Aug. 18 along High Pass Creek, Glacier Peak Wilderness, in almost the same spot where a brood was found in August 1968 (THR). A *Sharp-tailed Grouse* was seen on July 25 and 30 at the Bison Range (CBa, RLB, JH, SPH & MRK); the species was not on the refuge list as of 1960. California Quail were much scarcer than usual in the southern and central Okanogan Valley, B.C. after an estimated 80 percent winter mortality. The situation appeared comparable at Turnbull Refuge, but other localities in eastern Washington appeared to have about normal populations of this species, with nesting success believed very good at McNary Refuge and nearby Ringold. Reports of Ring-necked Pheasants seemed to parallel those for the previous species, and Chukars likewise showed many broods at McNary Refuge but were scarce in the South Thompson and Okanogan Valleys of British Columbia after the winter's decimation. A *Turkey* seen at the Nat'l Bison Range on July 6 (JH) constituted the refuge's first record. The only other record for this species was of 1 noted at Turnbull Refuge on July 21.

Cranes, Shorebirds -- A group of 5 Sandhill Cranes was seen in a small bog near Moffat Lake in the Quesnel district of British Columbia, June 5. The species also was observed in the Bozeman, Mont. area. A gathering of 16 Long-billed Curlews was seen in a

pasture between Manhattan and Amsterdam, Mont. on the unusual date of July 1 (*CVD*). Four Greater Yellowlegs were present at Columbia Refuge, Wash. on June 16 and thereafter (*RKF*). Eight species of migrant shorebirds were seen in eastern Washington during July. A Solitary Sandpiper appeared at Missoula, Mont. on July 8. The Am. Avocet, normally abundant at McNary Refuge, was inexplicably absent.

Doves, Owls — The Mourning Dove, which suffered from the severe winter in some localities, appeared to be in normal numbers, with a few exceptions. Fewer were noted in the Bitterroot Valley of western Montana and the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia, although the deficiency at the latter was hardly as great as expected. Near or perhaps north of the species' known breeding range limit, a pair was apparently nesting on the Nechaco River at Prince George, B.C. when observed on June 23. Three Great

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Horned Owl nests were followed closely in the Bozeman area; the female was incubating on one nest on March 16; full-grown young were noted in another nest on May 25. The species had good nesting success at Ringold, Wash., but numbers appeared down in the Bitterroot Valley and only one record was obtained in central British Columbia. The rare *Hawk Owl* was seen at Aleza Lake east of Prince George on July 3. Beginning in 1966, 1-2 records of the *Barred Owl* have been obtained per summer in Glacier Nat'l Park, Mont., a most unusual locality for the species; the latest was of a bird heard near park headquarters at West Glacier in June (*DS*, *fide RVS*). Several sightings and one nesting were reported from British Columbia (*JG*, *SD*). Burrowing Owls were noted at six localities in the Columbia Basin of eastern Washington and were described as common at McNary Refuge. Three Great Gray Owls were identified in the mountains just south of Bozeman, Mont. on July 15 (Mr. & Mrs. Utz, *fide PDS*), and another was seen near Wansa Creek in the Prince George district on June 7.

Poor-will, Swifts, Hummingbirds — Poor-wills were reported only in the vicinity of Spokane, Wash., with a few observations during June and July (*WH*, *S.A.S.*). Up to 6 Black Swifts were seen over the Canoe River and Cranberry Lake near Valemount, west of Mount Robson Provincial Park, B.C. on June 25; 18 were counted over the White River, Glacier Peak Wilderness, Wash. on Aug. 12 and others were heard over the Suitttle River, Glacier Peak Wilderness, Aug. 18 (*AP* & *THR*); 4-5 were seen near Kewa, Ferry Co., Wash. for the second consecutive year that the species has been noted in that county (*JA*). Vaux's Swift was observed snapping twigs from elm trees for use in nest building

at Hamilton, Ravalli Co., Mont., June 12. The species also was noted at Chatcolet, Kootenai Co., Idaho and in Pend Oreille County, Wash. (*S.A.S.*). Two were seen on June 15 at Tacheeda Lakes, B.C., about 70 miles north of Prince George; this probably constitutes a northernmost record for the area. Observers in the Bitterroot Valley complained of a scarcity of hummingbirds but the Spokane area had no lack. The significance of reporters in many localities failing to mention hummingbirds is not clear.

Woodpeckers — At Tacheeda Lakes north of Prince George, a female Yellow-bellied Sapsucker of the *varius* race was apparently mated with a male of the *ruber* race; the birds were gathering food within two feet of each other and flew with it in the same direction, although the nest was not found. Young Williamson's Sapsuckers were noted out of the nest on July 5 at Schoonover Mountain in the southern Okanagan Valley, B.C. (*RC* & *SC*). Downy Woodpeckers were extremely scarce in central British Columbia, supposedly because of very heavy winter mortality. The same may be the explanation for decreased numbers in the Bitterroot Valley. The White-headed Woodpecker was reported as not uncommon in some of the Ponderosa Pine forests in the southern Okanagan Valley (*RC* & *SC*); 1 was seen on Huckleberry Mountain west of Springdale, Wash. (*S.A.S.*). Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers outnumbered Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers by a ratio of about 6 to 1 in central British Columbia; increased numbers of both species there apparently were linked with a high spruce beetle population. A single Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was noted drumming on Nine Mile Creek east of Keller, Ferry Co., Wash. (*JA*), and a male of this species was identified at the unusual locality of Hosmer Lake, southwest of Bend, Oreg., July 10 (*REW*). Three nests of the Northern Three-toed Woodpecker were found on the eastern slope of Manning Provincial Park, B.C. where park naturalists report this species to be the common one (*TW*).

Flycatchers — The Ash-throated Flycatcher was noted nesting on Crab Creek, Columbia Refuge, Wash. on June 21 (*S.A.S.*). Least Flycatchers were common around Prince George and Quesnel, B.C. Four of six Train's Flycatcher nests found in the Penticton district of British Columbia were parasitized by cowbirds (*RC* & *SC*). At least 8 Olive-sided Flycatchers were noted along the Columbia River between Keller and Gifford, Wash. on June 28 (*JA*); others were heard along the Napeequa River and Buck Creek, Glacier Peak Wilderness, Wash., Aug. 18 (*AP*, *THR*); 2 nests were found in the vicinity of Penticton in the first week of July (*RC* & *SC*).

Swallows, Corvids — At Spokane a few reports of smaller broods of Violet-green Swallows and of fatalities of young birds of this species were possibly related to the cool, wet weather of late June (*S.A.S.*). A **Black-billed Magpie** nest with 6 young found on May 22 at Eaglet Lake, 25 miles east of Prince George, provided the first breeding record for this part of British Columbia. Two Com. Raven nests were found in Hyalite Canyon near Bozeman, Mont. in late May and early June (*RAH*). Nesting success of the Com. Crow apparently was outstanding at McNary Refuge, with higher numbers than ever before noted there, including flocks of up to 200 birds in the fields.

Chickadees, Creepers, Wrens — Black-capped Chickadee numbers in the Prince George district appeared about normal in spite of the severe winter. Chestnut-backed Chickadees were not seen east of Prince George where they are usually found but were seen in the vicinity of Albreda, just west of Hamber Provincial Park. The latter species also was noted at Chatcolet, Idaho (*S.A.S.*) and in the Glacier Peak Wilderness, Wash. (*AP* & *THR*). Boreal Chickadees were noted carrying food and in a family group in the Prince George district and also were observed in Hunters Range near Enderby, B.C. Park naturalists in Manning Provincial Park reported the Boreal Chickadee to be the second most common species, outnumbered only by the Mountain Chickadee (*TW*). Brown Creepers were noted only in the Calispell Peak area, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (*S.A.S.*). None were found in central or southern British Columbia, possibly because of winter mortality. House Wrens, not previously recorded in the Prince George district, were noted on two occasions in June and July. Winter Wrens were decidedly down in numbers throughout central British Columbia, probably because of the severe winter. The Calispell Peak area furnished the only other record for the species (*S.A.S.*). Nests of the

eggs (*RC* & *SC*). An observation of a **Brown Thrasher** at Missoula, Mont. on June 17 was Hand's second sight record there and the third for Montana west of the Continental Divide. Four occupied nests of the Sage Thrasher were found during June and July at White Lake in the Penticton district (*RC* & *SC*); small numbers of this species also were noted in the Columbia Basin of eastern Washington (*PM*, *S.A.S.*). The almost completely albino Robin previously noted at Missoula was seen carrying food to young, June 14-19, but the nest could not be located. Small numbers of Western Bluebirds were seen in the vicinity of Spokane and Turnbull Refuge. Mountain Bluebirds were seen in eastern Washington, western Montana and British Columbia somewhat more commonly than the Western Bluebird. Of 40 nest boxes erected by the Sacajawea Audubon Society in the Bozeman area, one was occupied successfully by Mountain Bluebirds but three other attempts failed because of the heavy June rains. House Wrens, Tree Swallows and 1 pair of Mountain Chickadees apparently used the boxes successfully.

Kinglets, Pipits, Waxwings — Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported to be much scarcer than usual in central British Columbia, probably because of the severe winter, and Hall did not note *any* in the mountains of eastern Washington after the first of the year. The birds were found on Coeur d'Alene Mountain in Idaho on Aug. 2 and in several places in the Glacier Peak Wilderness, Wash. between Aug. 12 and 19 (*AP* & *THR*). Water Pipits were seen in alpine meadows of the Spanish Peaks, Madison Co., Mont. on Aug. 7 (*DRS*) and in similar habitat in the Glacier Peak Wilderness, Aug. 13-17 (*AP* & *THR*). Two adults observed in Hunters Range near Enderby, B.C. on July 27 acted as if young were nearby. Bohemian Waxwings were not nearly so numerous in central British Columbia as last year; 4 were seen at Tacheeda Lakes, June 15.

Vireos, Warblers — Red-eyed Vireos, usually considered scarce in central British Columbia, were common in most aspen woods this summer. Blackpoll Warblers were abundant in spruce woods and bogs in central British Columbia and were still singing along the McGregor River east of Prince George on July 5. At least 4 Northern Waterthrushes were present in the area from Heyburn State Park to St. Maries, Idaho, June 8; 1 was observed feeding a young bird out of the nest in this area on July 19 (*S.A.S.*). One sang repeatedly at Davis Lake west of Newport, Wash., June 12 (*THR*); this is somewhat farther south than previous breeding season records for northeastern Washington. One bird of this species tarried for an hour at a pool in the yard of the Stanleys at Spokane, Wash., Aug. 3. An adult male Wilson's Warbler was noted carrying food near the top of Mount Spokane, Spokane Co., Wash.

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Long-billed Marsh Wren found throughout the marsh areas of Turnbull Refuge allayed earlier fears that the species had been decimated by the cold winter. On the other hand, birds of this species were rarely observed at McNary Refuge, where they nested abundantly last year. Cañon Wrens were apparently wiped out by the winter at Penticton, Okanagan Falls, Vaseux Lake and Osoyoos in southern British Columbia (*RC*, *SC*, *SRC* & *DL*) and were reported only from the Clarkston, Wash. area (*MJP*).

Mimids, Thrushes — A Catbird nest containing 2 catbird eggs and 1 cowbird egg was found at Penticton, B.C. on June 14; later the nest was found to contain 2 newly hatched catbirds, 2 catbird eggs and *no* cowbird

on June 30 (*WH*). An Am. Redstart was seen near Salmon Meadows northwest of Lake Conconully, Okanogan Co., Wash. at 4500 feet elevation on June 19 (*JD*, *fide TW*); the species apparently is scarce in this area.

Blackbirds — Young Bobolinks were on the wing by July 31 in the Bitterroot Valley (*CLB*). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were common to abundant in many places and at Reardan, Wash. outnumbered the usually more common Red-winged Blackbird (*S.A.S.*); 1 was seen feeding a young cowbird in Park County, Mnt. on Aug. 10; 2 males noted singing in a large tule marsh at Valemount, B.C. on June 25 were apparently north of the species' usual breeding range. Three Red-winged Blackbird nests at Penticton, B.C. contained cowbird eggs (*RC* & *SC*). Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen frequently in the Spokane, Wash. area where a young bird was being fed by a Chipping Sparrow on July 9 (*S.A.S.*) and another was seen following a Chipping Sparrow on July 24 (*THR*). The species was regarded as unusually common in the Prince George district during May and June. Other Brown-headed Cowbird records are scattered through this report under the parasitized species.

Finches — A single Lazuli Bunting was observed north of the species' usual range at Thunder River in the North Thompson River Valley, B.C., June 26. A family group of Purple Finches was noted at Aleza Lake east of Prince George, July 3. The expected House Finch records from Missoula and Bozeman, Mont. did not materialize; the species was common to abundant at Spokane and McNary Refuge but was exceptionally scarce in the Vernon, B.C. area after severe winter casualties. Pine Grosbeak numbers were up in the Cariboo Mountains of central British Columbia, and birds were noted in the mountains in the Bozeman area and near Hungry Horse Dam, Flathead Co., Mont. (*THR*). A group of 8 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches was found foraging on a snowfield at 7000 feet elevation on Hunters Range near Enderby, B.C., July 27, and a flock was seen near Gamma Ridge, Glacier Peak Wilderness, Wash., Aug. 16-17 (*AP* & *THR*). An Am. Goldfinch nest at Lavington, B.C. contained 3 young which flew on July 26, plus one goldfinch egg with a puncture hole and the remains of a cowbird egg. Red Crossbills were reported only from the Spokane area and from Vernon and Prince George, B.C.; young were noted at the latter two localities. White-winged Crossbills were very scarce in central British Columbia, probably as a result of a poor spruce cone crop.

Sparrows — Lark Buntings were seen on June 19 at Belgrade, Mont.; on June 24 near Bozeman (*RAH*); and on several dates north of Three Forks, Mont. (*RAH*).

Young Savannah Sparrows barely able to fly were seen at Missoula on June 8 and as late as mid-July. The uncommon Grasshopper Sparrow was

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observed in the Bozeman area, at the Nat'l Bison Range (*SPH*), and near Spokane, Ritzville and O'Sullivan Dam in eastern Washington (*JA*). Oregon Juncos were observed feeding 3 immature cowbirds at Spokane on June 22 (*VN* & *CS*). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was identified in Lake County, Mont. on June 7 (*RAH*). This species, usually considered scarce or accidental in the Prince George district, apparently bred at many localities: at least 2 pairs were noted at Prince George airport; birds were seen 12 miles east of Prince George and at several points at the south end of John Hart Highway. A White-crowned Sparrow (Gambel's form) sang at Prince George airport during May and June; the species breeds sparingly in that vicinity. Nesting activity of this species was noted in the high Lolo area southwest of Missoula, Mont. in July (*CLB*). The White-throated Sparrow, which has increased greatly in central British Columbia in the last 20 years, was common almost everywhere except in dense coniferous forest. Lincoln's Sparrow was abundant in the Prince George district and was seen on July 8 near Lakeview, Pend Oreille Lake, in northern Idaho (*S.A.S.*). A Swamp Sparrow sang frequently at Sundance Lake near Chetwynd, B.C., northeast of Prince George, July 17. McCown's Longspur was again observed in Broadwater County, Mont. near Dillon, July 5 (*DRS* & *PDS*). A good-sized colony of Chestnut-collared Longspurs was located in Broadwater County, Mont., July 5; this is the westernmost record for the species at this latitude (*DRS* & *PDS*).

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The Nesting Season, 1969

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

The season began with heavy snows over much of the Region. June was very cold and wet, with a particularly bad record late snow involving the lowlands as well as the mountains over the eastern half of the Region, June 13-15. At Gothic, Colo. on the western slope of the Rockies at 9500 feet elevation, a severe snowstorm on June 24-26 raised havoc with breeding birds, and many dead warblers, Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, a Hermit Thrush and a White-crowned Sparrow were found after the storm (MP). Overall nesting success was poor. West of Denver in the Rockies, Violet-green and Tree Swallows as well as Mountain and Western Bluebirds had no nesting success at all, although Mountain Chickadees, Pygmy Nuthatches and juncos did better (WWB). Alpine birds such as the rosy finches could still be found in big flocks at low altitudes in such areas as the Upper Green River in Wyoming as late as June 28 (OKS). It could be said, in fact, that this has been one of the most disturbed nesting seasons this Region has experienced. Those birds that completed their nesting before the period began did much better.

Geese, Ducks — Stillwater Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Nevada had an almost adequate amount of water for the first time in years. Instead of being spread all over the place, the water was concentrated in areas where it would be most useful, with the result that Canada Goose production was 46 percent higher than last year and there were 13 percent more ducks, principally Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal, Redheads and Ruddy Ducks (LDN). At Deer Flat Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Idaho, high run-off from the winter snows played hob with geese nesting on the Snake and Payette Rivers, which are part of the refuge, and nesting success dropped from 83 percent last year to 63 percent this year (JTA). Bear River Marshes at the

upper end of the Great Salt Lake in Utah lacked an airplane to conduct aerial censuses for a while, but the impression was that the ducks did well. The fall migration figures for early August at Bear River Marshes showed great increases in Pintails from 10,400 last year to 79,650 this year and in Redheads from 3300 last year to 9325 this year, with other species increasing by smaller percentages and the three teal species down (LFG). Monte Vista Nat'l Wildlife

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Refuge in southern Colorado had excellent water conditions, and its duck production was at a new high (CRB). A male **Barrow's Goldeneye** was observed at Trappers Lake, 50 miles east of Meeker in western Colorado, June 17 (JC); this species is rare in the Colorado Rockies, although it is common farther north. Two young **Hooded Mergansers** were seen at Nampa, Idaho, June 8 (HES).

Quail, Gulls, Tern, Pigeon — The Bobwhite is doing a little better in western Idaho but numbers are still small (JTA); elsewhere in the Region the Bobwhite has not survived. Ring-billed Gulls had a good breeding season in the Klamath Basin, with over 1000 immatures present on July 15 (JH). The observation of a Caspian Tern at Lake DeSmet in northern Wyoming on July 13 (TK) was unusual; this is probably too late for a nesting bird, however. A **Band-tailed Pigeon** was seen in Waterfalls Canyon, Grand Teton Nat'l Park on Aug. 9 (OKS) for one of the first records of the species for the state of Wyoming.

Hummingbirds — Late nests of the Broad-tailed Hummingbird found on July 13 and 25 in Utah and eastern Nevada (GK) were perhaps related to the delayed season. On Aug. 6 in the Wasatch area of Utah, Kashin found a concentration of 30-40 hummers, including Black-chinned, Broad-tailed, Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds. A female Rufous Hummingbird with a definite brood spot was mist-netted in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park on July 10 (AC); there are no breeding records of the species for Colorado. A big migration of Rufous Hummingbirds was reported from high ground near Durango, Colo. where an abundance of moisture produced more flowers than usual (OR).

Flycatcher, Swallow, Thrushes, Kinglets — An Ash-throated Flycatcher was observed on Aug. 5 at Dubois on the Upper Wind River of Wyoming (MB); the locality seems far north for the species but it has been seen several times in this area before. A Purple Martin was seen near Cedar City in southern Utah on Aug. 11 (SM); this is a very rare bird in southern Utah. A Veery was found at Steamboat Springs, Colo., west

of the Continental Divide, June 14 (D.F.O.), and another was noted at Jackson Lake in Grand Teton Nat'l Park, Wyo., June 26 (OKS). Both localities are far west of the species' normal range in Colorado and eastern Wyoming. Hugh Kingery pointed out that the Golden-crowned Kinglet is more common at high elevations in the Colorado Rockies than has generally been supposed; he found them regularly this summer on eight trips into the high mountains. Perhaps other observers have missed them by not being familiar with their call notes.

Vireo, Warblers — A *Philadelphia Vireo* identified at Durango, Colo. on July 10 (OR) was a great rarity. An Orange-crowned Warbler was observed feeding young on the Aspen, Colo. ski slope on June 29 (HK); the nest of this warbler has not yet been found in Colorado, although it is a relatively common breeding species a little farther north. The sighting of a *Chestnut-sided Warbler* at Carlin in western Nevada on June 3 and 4 (LA) constituted a first record for the state.

Fringillids — An Indigo Bunting observation at Durango on July 12 (OR) was a first record there, but this species does wander far west of its ordinary range at times. This particular individual was a pure Indigo Bunting whereas the hybrids have been more common. The sighting of a *Blue Grosbeak* near Reno at Sparks, Nev. on June 22 (JMD) constituted a first record for that area. A flock of 35 was seen at Cedar City in southern Utah on Aug. 11 (SM); flocks of this species are rarely reported. At a feeder in Casper, Wyo., juvenile Evening Grosbeaks still in downy plumage appeared early in July and were photographed (JY). There have been no breeding records of the species in Wyoming, but more and more have stayed later and later at Casper for several years. Four White-winged Crossbills were noted at Gothic, Colo. on the western slope of the Rockies, Aug. 2 (CA). This species has been a rare straggler in Colorado, but perhaps a big year is coming up.

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The Nesting Season, 1969

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

Good weather with normal or above normal temperatures and less than normal rainfall prevailed throughout most of the Region during the report period, except for the latter part of June which brought greater than usual amounts of rain. Particularly noteworthy were the unusual numbers of Mew Gulls and Black-legged Kittiwakes which remained in the northern portion of the Region through the summer; Forster's Terns near Eugene, Oreg.; Rhinoceros Auklets suspected of breeding on the Lane County, Oreg. coast; a Blackpoll Warbler family near Portland in late July; and 2 Lark Buntings on the Oregon coast near Newport in early August.

Loons, Grebes, Albatrosses, Shearwaters, Petrels — A few Com. and Arctic Loons summered along the northern Washington and British Columbia coasts,

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with occasional Arctic Loons also found off the Oregon coast. Red-throated Loons were seen only at Meyers Passage on the central British Columbia coast after July 3 (VG) and at Mukkaw Bay, Wash., Aug. 3 (DRP & EWS). Single Red-necked Grebes were seen in Discovery Passage, B.C. on July 1, and Grenville Channel, B.C. on July 22, both in breeding plumage (VG). A Horned Grebe was found at Victoria, B.C. on Aug. 7 (GAP), a surprisingly early date. The number of Western Grebes on Bellingham Bay, a traditional summering locality for non-breeding birds of this species, was considerably lower than usual, averaging about 300 through the report period (TRW). Two or three Black-footed Albatrosses were seen about seven miles off the coast at Coos Bay, Oreg. on July 24 (HBN). Seven Fulmars, dark and intermediate phase birds, were in Queen Charlotte Strait, B.C. on July 1; 4 were seen in the Strait on Aug. 7 (VG). A lone Sooty Shearwater was seen in Queen Charlotte Sound, B.C. on July 1 (VG); flocks appeared off the Oregon coast after mid-July. A Leach's Petrel was recorded in Grenville Channel on Aug. 8 (VG). Thirteen Fork-tailed Petrels were seen in Queen Charlotte Strait on July 1, with 5 noted there on July 23 and 7 on Aug. 7; 1 was noted in Discovery Passage, Aug. 6 (VG).

Cormorants, Herons — Brandt's Cormorants enjoyed good nesting success along the Oregon coast (HBN); Pelagic Cormorants were regularly seen in northern British Columbia coastal waters from July 1 to Aug. 15 (VG) and were also consistently seen along the Oregon coast (HBN). Green Herons were well reported from the Columbia River bottoms near Portland and from the Willamette Valley. Black-crowned Night-Herons

reportedly raised 3 young at Medford during the season (*fide OS*).

Swans, Geese, Ducks — Two Trumpeter Swans spent the month of June on a lake northwest of Campbell River, B.C. (*DS*). On June 15, 38 adults and young Canada Geese were counted in the pool above Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River (*HBN*); 18 were seen at Sauvie Is. northwest of Portland on July 25 (*JG & RW*); 30 were seen at Dungeness, Wash., Aug. 2 (*DRP & EWS*); and 1 was seen at Newport, Oreg. on Aug. 6 (*JG & HBN*). One Black Brant was observed at Comox, B.C. on June 19 (*VG*), and another was seen at Dungeness, Aug. 2 (*DRP & EWS*). A White-fronted Goose was seen at Newport, Oreg., Aug. 6 (*JG & HBN*). Two male Pintails were seen over Grenville Channel, B.C. on July 16 (*VG*); 60 early migrants appeared at Dungeness, Aug. 2 and 3 (*DRP & EWS*) and 45 were noted at Sauvie Is., Aug. 13 (*HBN*). A pair of Green-winged Teal was present near Lebanon, Oreg. during June (*WT*); a male was observed between Comox and Courtenay, B.C., June 10 (*VG*). A pair of Shovelers flew over Comox Harbour on June 5 (*VG*). At least 2 pairs of Ring-necked Ducks were found again on Trillium Lake on Mount Hood in Oregon on June 14 (*JG & HBN*). Up to 30 Greater Scaup were present in Comox Harbour during June (*VG*). A male and 5 female Barrow's Goldeneyes were noted at the traditional nesting spot of Lost Lake on Oregon's Santiam Highway on June 6 (*MK & HBN*). A Bufflehead was seen on a number of occasions at Fish Lake in the Santiam Pass area in June (*WT*); a female of this species was observed at the north jetty of the Columbia on June 15 (*JG & HBN*). A female Oldsquaw in winter plumage was noted at Comox on June 24 and 25; 2 pairs of Oldsquaws were present at Comox, June 27-30 (*VG*). Harlequin Ducks were seen in numbers up to 20 during June at Comox, sparingly in central British Columbia waters en route north to Chatham Sound, and then regularly there until the end of the report period, with a maximum of 111 birds seen on July 18, 65 of these around Pointer Rocks (*VG*). Three Harlequin Ducks were noted at Cape Flattery, Wash., Aug. 3 (*DRP & EWS*); 1 was found on the North Santiam River in the high Cascades of Oregon on June 10 (*MK & HBN*). Approximately 500 White-winged Scoters, males for the most part, were present at Comox, June 1-20, with the number dropping to about 100 birds by month's end; non-breeding birds were seen in small numbers along the central and northern British Columbia coast during the rest of the period (*VG*). A large number of male White-winged Scoters were seen at Whidbey Is., Wash. on July 27 (*RKF*), while an estimated 400 were seen on the Olympic Peninsula, Aug. 2 and 3 (*DRP & EWS*). Surf Scoters were seen in small numbers along the coast of British Columbia until mid-July, when numbers began

to increase, with 236 (mostly males) being seen in flight over Grenville Channel on July 16 (*VG*); a few were seen farther south prior to mid-August. On Aug. 2, 10 young Hooded Mergansers and 10 young Com. Mergansers were seen at Dungeness, Wash. (*DRP & EWS*). Young Com. Mergansers also were noted on Lake Easton, Wash., June 22 (*VEC & DJ*) and at Comox in late June (*VG*).

Vulture, Hawks, Eagles — Two Turkey Vultures were recorded at Discovery Passage, B.C. on Aug. 6; 1 was seen at Comox on July 21 (*VG*). A Golden Eagle was seen at Mount Rainier on July 13 (*PWM*). The

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Bald Eagle nest at Blaine, Wash. apparently fledged 1 young bird this year (*LHK*). Bald Eagles were seen almost daily around Comox during June, and good numbers were noted from Comox north to Chatham Sound in July (*VG*). Ospreys were better reported than usual: 2 were seen at Rockaway, Oreg. north of Tillamook on June 14 (*RK, et al.*); a pair was seen through much of the period at Lake Easton, Wash., although no young were observed (*VEC & DJ*); pairs were noted at Comox (*VG*) and Lopez Is. in the San Juans (*TRW*) through most of the period; 2 birds were observed with large young at Lake Crocker on the Kitsap Peninsula, Wash., Aug. 2 and 3 (*DRP & EWS*); and 1 was noted at Charleston, Oreg., west of Coos Bay, July 23 (*HBN*). A dark Peregrine Falcon was seen at Port Simpson, B.C. on Aug. 10 (*VG*).

Gallinaceous Birds, Cranes — A Spruce Grouse with a half-grown juvenile was seen in Manning Provincial Park on July 29 (*VG*). A White-tailed Ptarmigan was found on Mount Rainier, in the Sunrise area at 6500 feet elevation, July 13 (*PWM*). Two Sandhill Cranes were observed at Prairie Lake on July 22 (*fide OS*).

Shorebirds — Up to 10 Black Oystercatchers were seen along the central and northern British Columbia coast in July (*VG*). Semipalmated Plovers were in migration by late July, with small numbers seen at Sauvie Is. on July 25 (*JG & RW*) and at Newport, Oreg. on July 30 (*TM*). Three Snowy Plovers were discovered at Florence, Oreg., June 29 (*EF & LM*); 1 was seen at Newport on July 30 (*TM*). Fifty Black-bellied Plovers were observed at Dungeness on Aug. 2 (*DRP & EWS*). Some 200 Surf birds were found on Green Is., Chatham Sound, B.C. on July 19 and 20 more at Port Simpson, B.C. on July 20 (*VG*); 80 had reached the mid-Oregon coast on July 23 (*HBN*). A single Ruddy Turnstone was seen at Port Simpson on July 20 and 5 were seen at Clover Point, Victoria on July 25 (*VG*); 15 were noted at Whidbey Is. on July 27 (*RKF*), 6 at Dungeness on Aug. 2 (*DRP & EWS*), 1 at Newport,

Oreg. on July 30 (*TM*), and 2 at Seal Rock south of Newport on Aug. 6 (*JG* & *HBN*). Black Turnstones appeared at Chatham Sound on July 19 when 100 were seen (*VG*); 3 appeared at Bellingham on July 23 (*TRW*); others were seen thereafter at many localities farther south. A Long-billed Curlew appeared at Victoria on Aug. 11 (*GAP*). Two Whimbrels were noted at Whidbey Is. on July 27 (*RKF*); more than 40 were counted at Newport, Oreg. on July 30 (*TM*). Wandering Tattlers appeared in the latter part of July, single birds being seen at Chatham Sound on July 19 (*VG*), and at Port Simpson on the next day (V. Dale Johnson, *vide VG*), with several noted along the Oregon coast on July 23; 14 were seen at Newport on Aug. 6 (*HBN* & *JG*). Greater Yellowlegs were seen in Washington and Oregon at widely separated localities after July 17 when 2 were found at Salem, Oreg. (*TM*). Seven Lesser Yellowlegs appeared at Sauvie Is. on July 29 (*JG* & *MK*) and may still have been present on Aug. 13 when the same number was found there again (*HBN*). The only reports of Baird's Sandpipers were of 2 at Siletz Bay north of Newport on July 30 (*TM*), 1 at Newport on Aug. 6 (*JG* & *HBN*), and 2 at Victoria on Aug. 2 (*GAP*). A Pectoral Sandpiper west of Ladner, B.C. on Aug. 1 (*VG*) and another west of Salem, Oreg., on Aug. 15 (*TM*) were early. A Long-billed Dowitcher was found on June 10 between Comox and Courtenay, B.C. (*VG*); another was found near Lebanon, Oreg., on July 20 (*WT*); a third was seen west of Salem on Aug. 15 (*TM*). This is a very sparse reporting of a species which is normally fairly well represented in the Region by the end of July. Lone Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported from near Florence, Oreg. on June 29 (*EF* & *LM*) and from Newport on Aug. 6 (*SA*, *JG* & *HBN*); 2 were carefully observed and compared with Western Sandpipers at Sauvie Is. on July 25 (*JG* & *RW*). Western Sandpipers were migrating into and through the Region in large numbers by the last few days of June and early in July. Two Marbled Godwits were found at Newport on Aug. 6 (*JG* & *HBN*). Early Sanderlings were reported as 2 at Coos Bay, Oreg., on July 23 (*HBN*), 2 at Mukkaw Bay, Wash., on Aug. 3 (*DRP* & *EWS*), and 3 at Newport on Aug. 6 (*JG* & *HBN*). Twenty or more Northern Phalaropes were observed on the ocean off of Coos Bay on July 24 (*HBN*); up to 1000 were seen in a day from July 1 to the end of the period in British Columbia coastal waters (*VG*).

Jaeger, Gulls, Terns — A light-phase Long-tailed Jaeger was seen close at hand for about three minutes in Queen Charlotte Strait on Aug. 6 (*VG*). A second-year Glaucous Gull was observed at Boiler Bay, Lincoln Co., Oreg. on June 4 (*JG*). Nesting success of Glaucous-winged Gulls in the San Juan Islands this year was considered excellent (*TRW*), as was the success of Western Gulls along the Oregon coast

(*HBN*). Goodwill noted small numbers of immature Herring Gulls along the coast of British Columbia in June and July, with a few adults beginning also to appear in the latter part of July. Numbers of California Gulls were observed moving down the Columbia River above Portland as early as June 28 (*HBN*); the few immature birds along the British Columbia coast were being joined by adults by mid-July, the first such adults appearing at Port Simpson on July 16 (*VG*). By the end of July large numbers of California Gulls were present in at least the northern two-thirds of the Region's coastal areas. A few Mew Gulls summered at Bellingham and in the Comox area, which is unusual; up to 60 were seen in a day by Goodwill along the northern British Columbia coast until about July 20 when numbers began to increase, with a peak of about 1300 birds being counted in the harbor at Prince Rupert on Aug. 8. A few Mew Gulls made an early appearance in the Seattle region by the end of July (*DRP*), but farther south the species went unrecorded. A single Franklin's Gull was found at Bellingham on Aug. 9 (*TRW*). Bonaparte's Gulls also were present in above normal summer numbers at Bellingham, a total of 75 in June increasing to 2000 by early August (*TRW*); a high count of 325 was made at Comox on June 10 (*VG*). The species was common in the Seattle area by the end of July (*DRP*); 1 was seen as far south as Gold Beach, Oreg. on Aug. 6 (*TM*). An adult Heermann's Gull was present at Boiler Bay, Lincoln Co., Oreg. as early as June 4 (*JG*); over 700 were seen at sea off

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Coos Bay on July 24 (*HBN*); this species had reached Puget Sound and the Straits of Georgia in good numbers by the end of July. Black-legged Kittiwakes were much more widely reported than is usual for this season of the year: 60 were seen off the north jetty of the Columbia on June 15 (*HBN*); 60 summered in Bellingham Bay where 2 adults were engaged in apparent courtship display on July 5 (*TRW*); 100 were seen at LaPush, Clallam Co., Wash. on July 15 (*TRW*); and small numbers were observed in the Straits of Juan de Fuca, Aug. 2 and 3 (*DRP* & *EWS*), at Coos Bay, July 24 (*HBN*), and along the British Columbia coast from June 20 through the end of the period (*VG*). An immature Sabine's Gull was observed on Aug. 12 in the vicinity of Port Simpson, B.C. (*VG*); 3 adults and 2 immatures were seen the next day in the same locale (V. Dale-Johnson, *vide VG*). Four *Forster's Terns* seen at Fern Ridge Reservoir west of Eugene, Oreg., on June 1 (*LM*) were noteworthy as this species is rarely found west of the Cascades. Three Com. Terns seen at Victoria on July 4 (*GAP*) and 50 seen at Blaine, Wash. on July 5 (*TRW*) were early records; the species was widely present on the Olympic Peninsula on Aug. 2

and 3 (*DRP* & *EWS*); farther south, 4 were seen at Newport, Oreg. on Aug. 6 (*JG* & *HBN*). An Arctic Tern was identified at Bellingham on Aug. 7 (*TRW*). Caspian Terns were noted singly on July 15 at LaPush (*TRW*), on July 28 at Seattle (*DRP*), and on Aug. 2 at Bellingham (*TRW*) and Dungeness (*DRP* & *EWS*); 6 were noted at Sekiu, Clallam Co., Wash., July 16 (*TRW*) while 4 adults were found inland at Ashland, Oreg. on July 26 (*OS*). Five Black Terns, more regular in occurrence than Forster's in the Region but still noteworthy, were also seen at Fern Ridge Reservoir, June 1 (*LM*).

Alcids — A large die-off of Com. Murres along the Lincoln County, Oreg., coast was evidenced by dead birds on the beach. Murres were seen regularly in small numbers off the coast of British Columbia during the period, as were Pigeon Guillemots and Marbled Murrelets (*VG*); 8 of the last-named species were seen on the ocean off Coos Bay, July 24 (*HBN*). **Rhinoceros Auklets** were discovered inside Sea Lion Caves, north of Florence, Oreg. on June 24; five days later at least 20 were seen in and about holes and crevices in the caves and 1 was seen flying into the cave with fish in its bill; all of the birds seen were in breeding plumage (*EF* & *LM*). If these birds were nesting it represents a considerable southward extension of the previously known breeding range for this species. Several also were seen regularly off Yaquina Head north of Newport during the summer (*fide HBN*). Rhinoceros Auklets were abundant off the British Columbia coast, particularly in Chatham Sound where almost 2300 were counted on July 22 (*VG*); this species was also said to be in extremely high summer numbers at Victoria where almost 200 were observed on July 13 (*GAP*).

Nighthawks, Swifts, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers — Some 300 Com. Nighthawks were counted along about a 70-mile stretch of highway between Courtenay and Nanaimo, B.C. on July 18, 150 of these in one flock (*DS*). Six Black Swifts were seen at Victoria on June 25 (*ARD*); 4 were seen at Lake Ann at 4800 feet elevation in the north Cascades of Washington on July 27 (*JGO*); 30 were noted near Princeton, B.C. on July 31 (*VG*); and a few were seen in the Seattle area during the period (*DRP*). Black-chinned Hummingbirds were present throughout the period at Merle McGraw's feeders at Shady Cove on the Rogue River in southern Oregon for the second year (*fide JH*). Three pairs of Acorn Woodpeckers nested at McMinnville, Oreg. (*JG, et al.*). A nesting pair of Lewis' Woodpeckers was discovered at Salem in early June (*GK* & *TM*); 1 bird was seen at Scappoose, Oreg., July 29 (*JG* & *MK*). A nest of the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was found in the Big Lake burn area of Oregon's Santiam Pass on June 15 (*LM*).

Flycatchers, Swallows, Jays, Chickadees — Four pairs of E. Kingbirds were found west of Newhalem, Wash. on June 8 and 1 bird was seen at Marietta, Wash. on June 12 and again on Aug. 9 (*TRW*); single birds also were seen at Redmond, Wash., July 9 (*DRP*) and at Bellevue, Wash., June 12 (*PWM*). Single W. Kingbirds were noted at Salem, Oreg. on June 11 (*TM*) and at Cascade Locks east of Portland on Aug. 13 (*JG*). On June 14, 68 Traill's Flycatchers were counted along a 25-mile Breeding Bird Survey route near Timber, Oreg. on the east foothills of the Coast Range; the same route produced 22 Western Flycatchers (*JGO*). Violet-green, Tree and Barn Swallows all enjoyed good breeding success in the Region. Purple Martins were seen, occasionally with young, in late June and July at scattered favored localities in northwestern Oregon and in Seattle; 2 at Miracle Beach Park, Vancouver Is., B.C. were the only ones seen in that area this summer, Starlings having taken over many former nest sites (*DS*). Steller's Jays were scarce on Vancouver Is., probably because of last winter's extreme weather (*DS*). Ideas as to relative abundance of this species in western Oregon varied from locality to locality, with no definitive statement possible. A Chestnut-backed Chickadee was found in an unexpected location: a bare rock ledge 4000 feet above timberline and at 10,250 feet elevation on Oregon's Mount Jefferson, Aug. 10 (*JGO*). A Boreal Chickadee and 3 Mountain Chickadees were noted in Manning Provincial Park, B.C. on July 10 (*VG*).

Wrens, Thrushes, Waxwings, Starlings — Six House Wrens were observed near Timber, Oreg., June 14 (*JGO*); 4 pairs were found in the vicinity of McMinnville, Oreg. on July 6 (*JG, et al.*); this species also was reported to be in good numbers in the Tualatin Hills above Scappoose, Oreg. this summer (*JG*). A House Wren was found on its nest at Fort Lewis, Wash. on the early date of May 7 (*VEC* & *DJ*). Winter Wrens were said to be very scarce on Vancouver Is. this season (*ARD*); this is perhaps attributable to the severe winter just past. Long-billed Marsh Wrens seemed scarcer in most of the Region, also. Western Bluebirds, uncommon anyway, were thought to be even more scarce than in recent years in the Willamette Valley. A pair of Mountain Bluebirds brought off 4 young in June at Terrace, B.C. (*HRV*); an individual of this species also was seen east of Cascade Locks, Oreg. on Aug. 13 (*JG*). Cedar

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Waxwings were very abundant in the Willamette Valley and on the Oregon coast during the report period. Starlings were more than ever present this season, staying even on the Oregon coast.

Vireos, Warblers — A Hutton's Vireo was found singing at Cape Flattery, Wash. on Aug. 3 (*DRP* & *EWs*). Red-eyed Vireos were more widely reported than ever before, being remarked as regularly occurring in red alder stands in the river valleys of western Washington, the foothills of Oregon's Cascades between Salem and Eugene, and in the northwestern portion of the Willamette Valley. A pair of Nashville Warblers were feeding small young out of the nest on Hayden Is. in the Columbia River at Portland on Aug. 14 (*JG*); single Nashvilles also were noted at Medford on July 20, at Coos Bay on July 23, and at Newport on Aug. 6. On July 24, Jeff Gilligan and Randy Wright found a warbler at Sauvie Is. which several times fed a young cowbird and which, after opportunity for close observation, they concluded to be a **Blackpoll Warbler**. In the early morning of July 26, at the same spot, Gilligan and Crowell found and carefully observed a bird of this species; the bird eventually ascended into the tops of tall firs constituting the overstory, where it was joined by another which they concluded probably also was a Blackpoll. Less than two hours later, the same observers, upon returning to near the same spot, found several young — either two or three — of this species being fed by the parent birds, first in some deciduous trees near the ground and later in the middle and upper portions of tall Douglas firs. Gilligan, Nehls and Klein succeeded in finding the same family of birds on the evening of July 26, but, although the birds were much looked for subsequently, none were seen again. Neither of the adult birds was still in breeding plumage, and the young appeared, except for their behavior, to be fully grown. The remarkable character of this observation need hardly be elaborated upon, the birds being considerably outside of the species' recognized breeding range and in atypical breeding habitat besides.

Oriole, Cowbirds, Grosbeaks, Finches, Sparrows — A male Bullock's Oriole appeared at Bellingham on June 20 (*TRW*). Brown-headed Cowbirds continued to increase in western Washington and in much of western British Columbia. Black-headed Grosbeaks were noted by several observers as abundant in the Willamette Valley. Lazuli Buntings were scarce in the Willamette Valley and were unremarked upon from elsewhere. A few Evening Grosbeaks were noted near Culp Creek, Oreg. on Aug. 6 (*JBC*). A few Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were seen by the few observers who managed to visit the haunts of this species, from Mount Jefferson to Lake Ann in the north Cascades and in the Olympics. Pine Siskins were much in evidence in the Cascades of Oregon and Washington this summer (*JGO*). Red Crossbills were abundant at Victoria at the end of June (*GAP*) and were scattered but seen regularly during the season in northwestern Oregon. Two **Lark Buntings**, a female and an

immature, were seen together at Yaquina Head north of Newport, flying from low pines to offshore rocks and back several times on Aug. 6 (*JG*, *HBN*, *RW*); this find constitutes the third record for this species in western Oregon and the fourth for this Region in the last three years.

Contributors — (*SA*), Stirling Anderson; (*VEC*), Violet E. Cannon; (*JBC*), John B. Crowell, Jr.; (*ARD*), A. R. Davidson; (*EF*), Eric Forsman; (*RKF*), Robert K. Furrer; (*JG*), Jeff Gilligan; (*VG*), Vic Goodwill; (*JH*), Joseph Hicks; (*DJ*), Doris Jelliffe; (*RK*), Ron Klein; (*LHK*), Lucile H. Kline; (*GK*), Gordon Knight; (*MK*), Mark Koninendyke; (*PWM*), Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.; TM, Tom McCamant; (*LM*), Larry McQueen; (*HBN*), Harry B. Nehls; (*JGO*), James G. Olson; (*DRP*), Dennis R. Paulson; (*GAP*), G. A. Poynter; (*EWs*), Edmund W. Stiles; (*DS*), David Stirling; (*OS*), Otis Swisher; (*WT*), William Thackaberry; (*HRV*), H. R. Vance; (*TRW*), Terry R. Wahl; (*RW*), Randy Wright.

End 1969

1970

*Autumn Migration, 1969***NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTER-MOUNTAIN REGION**

/ Thomas H. Rogers

Moisture deficiency, already severe for the year, continued to increase nearly every-



where in the Region. Most localities reported no precipitation or only traces during August, with temperatures average or slightly below normal. The only exception was central and northern British Columbia, which was colder and wetter than normal. The August pattern continued through the first half of September, but around mid-month subnormal temperatures set in, along with rains that did not, however, bring the month's rainfall total anywhere near normal. The exception was again British Columbia, where up to twice normal precipitation occurred in some localities. October was quite uniformly cold and dry over the Region. Spokane, Wash. averaged 5.4 degrees below normal, and Missoula had one of the coldest Octobers on record. At Baker, Oreg. a temperature of 11 F. on the 13th was the lowest in 50 years. Spokane received 0.45 inch of moisture (about 40 percent of normal), but some other localities did better. The Nat'l Bison Range at Moiese, Mont. received 0.98 inch (about 30 percent below normal). Walla Walla, Wash. had 2.63 inches. Bozeman, Mont. had several heavy snowfalls that quickly melted. The latter half of October brought rain and snow to British Columbia. November was moderate, even slightly on the mild side, with precipitation generally much below normal throughout the Region. The latter half of the month brought cool, foggy days in British Columbia, eastern Washington and areas east at least to Missoula, Mont. No appreciable snow cover was present in the valleys or lower mountains and lakes and ponds were

mostly unfrozen to the end of the report period. The weather pattern seemed not to have greatly affected the migration timetable. The usual few late stragglers were noted and, in a few instances, flurries of activity followed storms in the mountains. Bob Woodley remarked that the warmer fall had slowed the waterfowl influx into the Columbia Basin around Richland, Wash. Lack of water in the lower Flathead Valley of western Montana discouraged waterfowl there. Water and food supplies held up well at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash. in spite of the drought and attracted good numbers of waterfowl. Freezing over of the refuge's ponds in late November reduced numbers severely. A rather high number of species showing east-west displacement into the Region was recorded: nine from the east and nine from the west. No generalizations concerning movement of the northern finches seem warranted at this time.

Loons, Grebes — In addition to the usual sprinkling of Com. Loons, with the largest concentration being 10 birds at Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on Oct. 11 (S.A.S.), 1 *Arctic Loon* was observed at Banks Lake on Nov. 23 (S.A.S.) and 3 were seen there on Nov. 28 (WH). At least as noteworthy was a *Red-throated Loon* observed at Three Forks, Mont. on Nov. 11 (ETH, RAH & JS; PDS) and seen by a number of observers until Nov. 15; this is the fourth or fifth record for the state. Some 200 Horned Grebes were concentrated on Soap and Lenore Lakes, Grant Co., Wash. on Nov. 28 (WH). Eared Grebes reached a peak of 400 at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash. early in the autumn. Western Grebes were relatively abundant at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. compared to previous years; 20 were seen there on Oct. 27. Forty Pied-billed Grebes were counted at McNary Refuge on Nov. 19.

Pelicans, Cormorant, Herons — White Pelicans reached peak numbers, 75, at McNary Refuge in September, but all left a few days before the hunting season opened. A single Double-crested Cormorant was reported for the Region: a bird seen at McNary Refuge on Sept. 17. Great Blue Herons were very common on Ninepipe and Pablo Nat'l Wildlife Refuges in Lake County, Mont. where an abundance of food was available following extreme draw-down of the reservoirs because of drought; 30 were noted at Pablo Refuge on Aug. 29 and 40 at Ninepipe Refuge on Nov. 27. Black-crowned Night Herons were abundant at McNary Refuge, where the refuge population is about 150 birds.

Swans — Whistling Swans were much in evidence during October and November: a peak of 430, the highest peak since 1952, was noted at Turnbull Refuge just before the freeze-up in late November; 400 were

seen on Ennis Lake, Madison Co., Mont. on Nov. 11 (*ETH, RAH & JS*) and 230 were still there on Nov. 23 (*RAH & PDS*); the November aerial census at Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash. revealed 175 birds present, although six lakes were not examined. In contrast, relatively few were seen in the Pablo—Ninepipe Refuge area; 11 were noted at Pablo Refuge on Nov. 17. Eighteen Trumpeter Swans flew over Vernon, B.C. on Oct. 26 (*BAS*); one was seen on Horsefly Lake, east of Williams Lake, B.C. on Oct. 13 and another was observed at Prince George, B.C. on Nov. 30 (*CS*); and the species was noted in the Bozeman, Mont. area. At Turnbull Refuge the highest count for the species during the autumn was 24, 4 of

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these being cygnets. Two pairs, each with a cygnet, returned in October; this represents the first successful nesting outside the refuge since the flock was established there.

Geese — Canada Goose numbers appeared good at most localities. The population at McNary Refuge was estimated at 22,500. Between 20,000 and 25,000 were present at Stratford, Grant Co., Wash. on Oct. 11; 4 White-fronted Geese were noted among them (*S.A.S.*). Some 6000 Canadas were present at Columbia Refuge at the end of the fall report period, after an earlier peak of 47,000. Numbers were up slightly in the southern Flathead Valley, Lake Co., Mont., with peaks of 815 at Ninepipe Refuge, 1030 at Pablo Refuge, and 150 at the Bison Range. Seven Snow Geese moving south over Vernon, B.C. on Nov. 24 (*BAS*) furnished a late date for the species. Two adult Blue Geese lingered on the Columbia River near McNary Refuge from late October (*JRA, JE*).

Ducks — The November aerial census found 313,600 Mallards and 46,600 other ducks at Columbia Refuge; about 78,000 ducks remained there at the end of the fall report period. About 40,000 Mallards were present at McNary Refuge at the end of the period, an increase of 15,000 over last year. At Turnbull Refuge the species peaked at 11,500 in late November; the combined peak for Ninepipe and Pablo Refuges and the Bison Range was 18,500, much lower than normal, owing to low water (*SPH*). Gadwall peaked at 1200 at Turnbull Refuge, and two Pintail waves there numbered 1300 and 2000. About 4000 Pintails were present at Ninepipe and Pablo Refuges in late August (*SPH*), and about 1000 remained at McNary Refuge at November's end. American Widgeon numbered 5500 at Turnbull Refuge in mid-October; at McNary Refuge, the peak of 2300 was much below last year's top count of 5000. Thirty Wood Ducks were noted at Turnbull Refuge in early October, and at least 10 were seen on the Pend

Oreille River near Cusick, Wash. on Sept. 27 (*JA*). Canvasbacks peaked at 2800 at McNary Refuge, and a count of 600 at Turnbull Refuge was many times the previous highs of the last several years. One or two **White-winged Scoters** were observed in the Turnbull Refuge—Medical Lake—Silver Lake area of Spokane County, Wash. between Oct. 19 and 26 (*JA, WH, S.A.S.*); 1 found dead at Turnbull Refuge was sent to Washington State University for preservation as a specimen; 1 was seen on Lake Kachess, Kittitas Co., Wash. on Oct. 2 (*PM*). Two **Surf Scoters** were identified at Granite Lake, Spokane Co., Wash. on Oct. 19 (*JA, WH*). A Hooded Merganser observation at Three Forks, Mont. on Nov. 21 (*ETH & RAH*) constituted only the tenth sighting for that area. A notable concentration of 300 Com. Mergansers was found on Okanagan Lake, B.C. on Nov. 22 (*KG*).

Vulture, Hawks, Eagles — A Turkey Vulture sighted near Cusick, Wash. on Sept. 27 (*S.A.S.*) was the only report of the species. Two careful sightings of **Harlan's Hawks** were made, one of them a bird seen 6 miles south of Vernon, B.C. on Sept. 4 and the other a bird seen near Grass Valley, Sherman Co., Oreg. on Nov. 13 (*ER & WR*). Eight Golden Eagles were observed along the Columbia River in the vicinity of McNary Refuge, Nov. 26 (*WHn*). The species was relatively common at the Bison Range; individuals were seen on three occasions in Grant and Lincoln Counties, Wash. (*WH, S.A.S.*); and birds were reported from the Bozeman, Mont. area. The largest count of Bald Eagles ever made in the Glacier Nat'l Park, Mont. area, 373 birds, was obtained on Nov. 20; the eagles come each autumn to feed upon the Kokanee salmon which spawn there (*RMcC, fide LMM*). A few were noted elsewhere; 1 appeared near the fish hatchery close to Spokane, Wash. (*S.A.S.*). A Gyrfalcon, a species seldom reported in the Region, was noted at Okanagan Landing in southern British Columbia, Nov. 22 (*KG*).

Gallinaceous Birds — In the Spokane area, Ring-necked Pheasant numbers seemed not to have recovered completely from serious losses last winter. In contrast, at Vernon, B.C., numbers rebounded from heavy winter mortality, with higher numbers found than for probably 10 years. The species was described as very abundant in the McNary Refuge area and numerous in the vicinity of Ninepipe and Pablo Refuges and the Bison Range in western Montana. California Quail brood survival near McNary Refuge at Ringold, Wash. apparently was poor, judging from hunting success, but the birds appeared to be making a fairly good comeback at Spokane after last winter's hardships. Chukars were recovering well from winter losses on the Bison Range. Gray Partridge numbers apparently did not recover appreciably in the Spokane area, and a total population of only 20 was estimated

for nearby Turnbull Refuge. One or two Turkeys were found on Turnbull Refuge, and 30 were noted near Kalispell, Mont. where the species is reported to have been introduced three years ago (EH).

Cranes — Three Sandhill Cranes were seen at Turnbull Refuge in September; 14 were seen flying at Kalispell Lake, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. on Sept. 28 (WH); about 8 stopped briefly in a harvested corn field at Walla Walla, Wash. about Sept. 1.

Shorebirds — Perhaps 2000 Killdeer were at Turnbull Refuge in early September, but only a very few remained after freeze-up. The species reached a peak of 250 at McNary Refuge in late October, and about 50 were still present in one field near Vernon, B.C. on Nov. 22. Two *Am. Golden Plovers* were observed several times between Sept. 7 and 21 at Reardan, Wash. (JA, WH, S.A.S.). No Black-bellied Plovers were seen there, which is rather unusual. In fact none were reported for the Region. The shorebird movement in the Spokane—Reardan area was not a notable one, with low numbers compared to those for previous years, but it did yield an observation of a *Knot* at Reardan on Sept. 7 (JA, WH). There are less than a half-dozen records for the species in eastern Washington. The reports generally suggest average or less than average shorebird numbers for other localities also. However, both species of yellowlegs and Western Sandpipers were described as numerous at Pablo Refuge, and about 40 Lesser Yellowlegs remained at Turnbull Refuge until Oct. 1. A Spotted Sandpiper at Bozeman on Oct. 26 (LMM) was remarkably late. Baird's Sandpiper numbered 100+ at Ninepipe Refuge on Sept. 13 (EH). Two other unusual appearances at

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Reardan, Wash. were a *Marbled Godwit* on Sept. 16 (JA) and a Sanderling on Sept. 27-28 (JA, WH); another Sanderling was noted at Stratford, Wash. on Oct. 11 (JA).

Jaegers, Gulls, Terns — A *jaeger* sp., apparently a Parasitic Jaeger, was seen at close range at Banks Lake, Wash. on Oct. 11 (JA & KL). A Bonaparte's Gull observation at Three Forks, Mont. on Nov. 11 (ETH, RAH & JS; PDS) furnished a late record. A *Sabine's Gull* seen at Banks Lake on Oct. 11 and 12 (JA & KL; WH) was the first for eastern Washington since 1963. About 15 Com. Terns were reported at Turnbull Refuge on Aug. 30 (FBH); although the species is not on the refuge list, the observer reported a good view and was sure of the identification.

Doves, Owls — Mourning Dove numbers appeared normal except for a scarcity in the Vernon, B.C. area,

perhaps reflecting last winter's losses. At the same locality a pair of *Ringed Turtle Doves* that escaped from an aviary there last winter reared 1 young. The birds were still roosting in the nest tree at the end of November. Great Horned Owls staged something of an invasion in the Okanagan Valley around Vernon where they were seen and heard frequently (DB, JTF, MM, HV). The population of this species at Turnbull Refuge was estimated at 10 birds. More Pygmy Owls were found in the Okanagan Valley than were expected after last winter's casualties. A Barred Owl was found dead on the road 5 miles east of Vernon on Nov. 19. Short-eared Owls appeared to be only a little more common at Vernon in spite of the highest population of *Microtus* mice in 20 years, but they were reported as being numerous in the vicinity of Ninepipe and Pablo Refuges and the Bison Range. This species and the Burrowing Owl were described as frequent at McNary Refuge.

Goatsuckers, Swifts — A very late Poor-will was noted on Sept. 27 in the Dishman Hills at Spokane (JR). A few Com. Nighthawks stayed as late as Sept. 12, which is very late, at Baker, Oreg. (AW); the latest for the season were 8 seen at Prineville, Oreg. on Sept. 21 and an observation of this species in Gallatin County, Mont. on Sept. 22 (ETH & RAH). About 20 Vaux's Swifts were seen at Mount Spokane, north of Spokane, Aug. 31 (JA). The species was last noted at Missoula on Aug. 17. A late White-throated Swift was seen near Soap Lake, Wash. on Oct. 11 (JA).

Woodpeckers, Flycatcher — A male *Yellow-shafted Flicker* was observed at Spokane, Oct. 7-10 (LM). The Pileated Woodpecker was reported as "common" and the Northern Three-toed Woodpecker as "not uncommon" around the Flathead Valley, Mont. (EH). Two individuals of the latter species were seen in the Salmo and Shedroof area of Pend Oreille County, Wash. on Nov. 11 (JA); the species also was noted in Gallatin County, Mont. on Sept. 7 (RAH). The uncommon White-headed Woodpecker was noted in Penticton, B.C. on Oct. 18 (SRC), with 2 observed near Gifford, Stevens Co., Wash. on Oct. 5 (WH). A Say's Phoebe was seen on Sept. 12 at Missoula, Mont. where fall records are few.

Swallows, Corvids — Swallows seemed to slip away during September and early October without forming any large flocks. A Barn Swallow, carefully identified, was noted in Prineville, Oreg. on the remarkably late date of Nov. 26 (JK). All swallows were scarce or absent during summer and fall in the Walla Walla, Wash. area. A *Blue Jay* appeared at Turnbull Refuge in November; another was seen with Steller's Jays on a ranch in Gallatin Canyon near Bozeman, Mont., Oct. 10-12 (MTP, *vide* PDS). A Steller's Jay was noted on

Nov. 28 at the Bison Range where the species is rarely seen (*VBM*). A great influx of these birds occurred in the Okanagan Valley around Vernon, B.C., with 1-5 frequenting many bird feeding stations in the city. One came into Baker, Oreg. on Oct. 31, apparently driven there with several other species by rain and snow (*AW*). The sighting of a Clark's Nutcracker at *Horsefly Lake*, B.C. on Oct. 13 was unusual.

Chickadees, Nuthatches — The Boreal Chickadee seemed to be somewhat more common than usual in central British Columbia, with sightings at Finmoore and McLeod Lake in the Prince George area and at Apex Mountain near Penticton (*SRC*). At least 10 birds also were noted in the Salmo and Shedroo area of northeastern Washington (*JA*). More than the usual number of reports of White-breasted Nuthatches suggested an upswing in numbers for this uncommon species. This was particularly true for Spokane and for Turnbull Refuge where the birds were reported as being seen "frequently." The species also was observed on two dates in Gallatin County, Mont. (*ETH* & *RAH*) and on Moscow Mountain near Moscow, Idaho (*LMJ*).

Wrens, Bluebirds, Kinglets — At Turnbull Refuge much attention has been given to the Long-billed Marsh Wren because of the fear that large numbers had been lost during the severe winter, but the birds were seen frequently early in the fall and some still remained as late as Nov. 20. At Swan Lake near Vernon, B.C., 1 was seen on Nov. 22. In the South Okanagan Valley, no Cañon Wrens were found anywhere in the species' usual haunts (*SRC*), and thus it appears that the birds were wiped out last winter. Mountain Bluebirds were reported in eight widely scattered localities, the largest group was 25+ birds seen east of Reardan, Wash. on Sept. 21 (*S.A.S.*). Of much interest are the results of the Mountain Bluebird nestbox project of the Sacajawea Audubon Society in the Bozeman area. Fifty boxes were erected during the spring of 1969 and were checked periodically. Use of the boxes by bluebirds was limited, with only two boxes being occupied by these birds. Eight were used by House Wrens, eight by Tree Swallows and one by a pair of Mountain Chickadees. The project will be continued for another year (*LMM*). Few Western Bluebirds were reported, these at Turnbull Refuge and in the general vicinity of Spokane. A late Ruby-crowned Kinglet was noted near Ellensburg, Wash. on Nov. 1 (*PM*), and a record late date for this species was obtained at Bozeman Nov. 18.

Waxwings, Shrike, Starling — A decided dearth of Bohemian Waxwings was the rule at most localities, with the species the scarcest in many years in the Okanagan Valley. An extremely poor mountain ash berry crop at Spokane no doubt discouraged this

species and fruit-eaters in general. At Missoula, the species arrived late, with a few noted on Nov. 15, built up to flocks of 200-300 noted daily by the close

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of the period. An adult Loggerhead Shrike was observed on the late date of Oct. 14 at Ellensburg, Wash. (*PM*). The main Starling movement seemed to be in September, with a flock of at least 1000 birds seen near Spokane on the 7th (*S.A.S.*) and flocks of several thousand birds seen in the Vernon area.

Warblers — Four Yellow Warblers were observed near Lowden, Walla Walla Co., Wash. on the very late date of Oct. 4 (*NFM*), and 1 was noted at Clarkston, Wash. on Oct. 1 (*MJP*). The next latest departure date was Sept. 6 at the Bison Range (*SPH*). Myrtle and Audubon's Warblers were common in mixed flocks of warblers and other small birds at Prince George, B.C. on Sept. 14, and Audubon's Warblers frequently were noted well into October at many localities. The *Hermit Warbler* was noted on Aug. 6 at Bend, Oreg. (*FBH*). Individual Yellowthroats were still at Missoula on the late date of Oct. 23 and at Spokane on Oct. 10 (*S.A.S.*). A very late Wilson's Warbler was seen at Vernon on Nov. 11-12 (*KG*).

Blackbirds, Orioles — A Western Meadowlark was observed at Macalister, 40 miles south of Quesnel, B.C., on Sept. 10; the species is rather scarce this far north. Bullock's Oriole, mentioned by only two reporters, was gone from the Spokane (*S.A.S.*) and Missoula areas by August. A *Rusty Blackbird* observed closely at Missoula on Oct. 20 constituted that locality's second record in thirty years. A Brown-headed Cowbird observed in Gallatin County, Mont. on Aug. 26 (*ETH* & *RAH*) was one day later than the previous late record there; 2 seen feeding with Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds at a cattle feed trough near Coulee City, Wash. on Nov. 23 (*S.A.S.*) were most extraordinary.

Finches — Evening Grosbeaks began appearing in the lowlands in August and were few to numerous at many localities during September and October, generally dwindling markedly in November. A flock of 50 was noted at Rockford, Wash. on Nov. 16 (*S.A.S.*). In the Okanagan Valley a scarcity of Norway maple seeds in the towns probably at least partly explained the low numbers there. House Finches were scarce in the Okanagan Valley after last winter's heavy mortality. However, Missoula, Mont., recently invaded by this species, had flocks of up to 40 birds. Pine Grosbeaks showed more movement down into the valleys than usual; the species was sighted on three dates in November at Spokane, where its occurrence is unusual,

and more than usual were noted in the Okanagan Valley (*JTF*, *JG*). Gray-crowned Rosy Finches appeared near Ennis, Mont., with 500 noted on Nov. 2 (*ETH* & *RAH*); near Missoula, with flocks of 80-160 seen daily, Oct. 16-19; at Banks Lake, Wash., where 1 was seen on Nov. 1 (*JA*); and near Baker, Oreg., where 100+ were recorded on Nov. 27 (*AW*). The Com. Redpoll put in a few appearances: small flocks were noted at Missoula from late October on; 250-300 were seen at Sullivan Lake, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. on Nov. 11 (*JA* & *WH*); a few small flocks were present in the Okanagan Valley around Vernon and Lavington; 1 was seen at Clarkston, Wash. on Oct. 1 (*MJP*), and 2 were noted at Spokane on Nov. 2 (*THR*). Pine Siskins had mostly left by mid-October. At Prineville, Oreg., the species lingered through November, which is unusual; at Vernon, a small flock on Nov. 27 was the only one observed. Small flocks of Am. Goldfinches persisted in the Spokane area through November (*S.A.S.*). Red Crossbills were generally scarce, with none noted at Missoula or Vernon. A very poor cone crop on Douglas fir and spruces at Vernon no doubt contributed to this scarcity. White-winged Crossbills were noted only in the Salmo and Shedroof area of northeastern Washington, Nov. 11 (*JA*).

Sparrows — A few Tree Sparrows were seen at Banks Lake, Wash. on Oct. 11 and Nov. 23 (*S.A.S.*). Small numbers appeared at Missoula at intervals between Oct. 15 and Nov. 18, with the birds first seen in Gallatin and Madison Counties, Mont. on Oct. 18 (*ETH* & *RAH*). The species was first seen at Lavington, B.C. on Nov. 8. A *Clay-colored Sparrow* was identified at Missoula, Aug. 29. *Harris' Sparrows* were identified at *five* localities: Missoula, an immature bird present Oct. 9—Nov. 3; Turnbull Refuge, an immature bird seen on Oct. 11 (*FBH*); Lavington, B.C., 1 seen on Oct. 25 and Nov. 2; Enderby, B.C., 1 seen on Oct. 24 (*MM*); Spokane, 1 seen on Oct. 26 (*LM*). Many Golden-crowned Sparrow sightings were reported for eastern Washington. At Spokane, 1 was seen on the Little Spokane River on Sept. 10, 1 in Indian Canyon on Sept. 9, and 3 in Indian Canyon on Sept. 20 (*S.A.S.*). Other records included 1 seen near Cusick on Sept. 27 and 1 at Banks Lake on Oct. 11 (*S.A.S.*) and 2 seen at Lake Kachess, Kittitas Co. on Oct. 2 (*PM*). Particularly interesting are data obtained by mist-netting near Ellensburg by Robert A. Lewis and assisting personnel of the Laboratory of Avian Physiology, University of Washington. Golden-crowned Sparrows were captured as follows: 2 on Sept. 30, 12 on Oct. 4, 20 on Oct. 8, and 3 on Oct. 14. During the period only one sight record of this species in that vicinity was obtained by the same personnel, on Nov. 1 (*PM*). A single *White-throated Sparrow* was netted near Ellensburg on Oct. 4 (*PM*). An adult of this species in winter plumage was seen at Turnbull Refuge on Sept. 27 (*FBH*) and what

was probably the same bird was seen there on the next day by refuge personnel; another adult was observed near Usk, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. on Sept. 27 and 28 (*WH*, *S.A.S.*). McCown's Longspur was last seen on Sept. 14 in Madison County, Mont., the only locality reporting the species. One or two Lapland Longspurs were seen occasionally at Missoula, Oct. 9—Nov. 2; 1 was seen on Oct. 12 and 20 on Oct. 19 in the vicinity of Geiger Field and Fairchild Air Force Base just west of Spokane (*JA*); small numbers also were noted on trips into the Columbia Basin farther west (*JA*). A few Snow Buntings appeared at three localities and at very early dates: Oct. 13 and thereafter at Missoula, groups of no more than 5 birds; Oct. 31 at the Bison Range, "several" (*VBM*); and Oct. 25 at Spokane, 8-10 birds (*ERYnds*).

Corrigendum — Credit for identification of the male Purple Finch present at a feeder in Bozeman, Mont., March 27-28, 1969 (*Audubon Field Notes* 23:502) should go to Eve T. Hays and Ray A. Hays.

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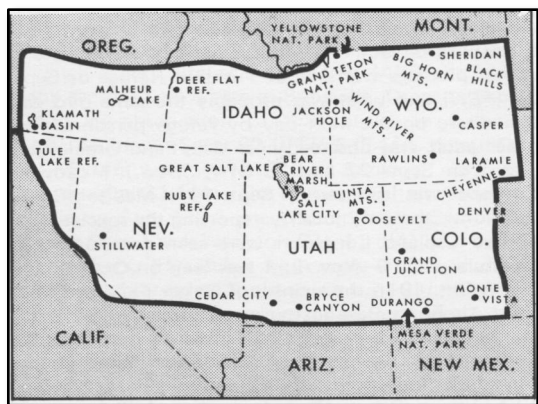
Refuge, Burbank, Wash. and vicinity; (*RLB*), **Robert L. Barber**, Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. and Ninepipe and Pablo Nat'l Wildlife Refuges, Charlo, Mont.; (*DB*), Dennis Beddows; (*SRC*), Steve R. Cannings; (*HC*), Helen Carlson; (*EJC*), **E. J. Collins**, Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash.; (*JE*), James England; (*JTF*), Jack T. Fowle; (*JG*), **James Grant**, southern interior British Columbia; (*KG*), Karl Gruener; (*WH*), Warren Hall; (*RLH*), **Ralph L. Hand**, Missoula, Mont. area; (*WHn*), Wayne Hansen; (*ETH*), Eve T. Hays; (*RAH*), Ray A. Hays; (*SPH*), Steven P. Hedges; (*EH*), Eugene Huna; (*FBH*), Frances B. Huston; (*LMJ*), Loring M. Jones; (*JK*), John Knox; (*KL*), Katherine Laupp; (*RMcC*), Riley McClelland; (*MM*), Mary Mack; (*JMM*), **Jon M. Malcolm**, Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash.; (*PM*), Phil Mattocks; (*VBM*), Victor B. May; (*NFM*), **Niel F. Meadowcroft**, Walla Walla, Wash. area; (*LM*), Lorena Miller; (*LMM*), Louis M. Moos; (*GM*), **Gerald Morsello**, Prineville, Oreg. area; (*MTP*), Mr. & Mrs. M. T. Patten; (*MJP*), Margaret J. Polumsky; (*ER*), Emmy Reese; (*WR*), William Reese; (*ERYnds*), Edward Reynolds; (*JR*), Jan Reynolds; (*THR*), Thomas H. Rogers; (*DRS*), Donald R. Skaar; (*PDS*), **P. D. Skaar**, Bozeman — Three Forks — Ennis, Mont. area; (*CS*), Cyril Smith; (*S.A.S.*), Spokane Audubon Society; **Mrs. S. O. Stanley**, reporting for Spokane Audubon Society, northeastern Washington; (*BAS*), Ben A. Sugden; (*JS*),

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Autumn Migration, 1969

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

The past season was not fall in some parts of the Region; it was summer and then winter. In the



Rockies warm weather was terminated by violent snowstorms in mid-October, with the temperature at Evergreen west of Denver falling to -8 F. on Oct. 13, the lowest temperature on record for the time of the year. The result of the lack of a true fall was a poor migration. Perhaps the birds rushed through and so were not seen, but at any rate most observers thought the season much poorer than usual. The invasion of the lowlands by mountain species that occurred last year was not repeated this fall, but almost all observers reported numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches at lower elevations.

Loon — An observation of an *Arctic Loon* at Lake DeSmet in northern Wyoming on Oct. 7 (TK) established a first record for the state.

Swans — The number of Whistling Swans at Bear River Marshes on the Great Salt Lake rose to a new peak of 41,200 in spite of an early onset of cold weather that drove out most waterfowl in mid-September (LFG). At Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in eastern Oregon, 14,000 were present, Nov. 9-15 (ELMcL); this is a good count for that area.

Geese, Ducks — A *Black Brant* was taken by hunters near Stillwater Wildlife Management Area in western Nevada (fide LDN). Five *Emperor Geese* were

noted at Tule Lake in the Klamath Basin on Oct. 11 (MW); this species is very unusual inland but has occurred in the Klamath Basin almost regularly. At Bear River Marshes, ducks peaked in early September with a total of 565,000 present; ordinarily the peak would have occurred two weeks later with at least 200,000 more ducks present (LFG). Only 230,000 ducks were present at Deer Flat Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Idaho by the end of the reporting period; as usual 90 percent of these were Mallards (JTA). With an improvement in run-off, Malheur Lake grew somewhat during the period, and there was good growth of aquatic plants such as sago pondweed that provide food for ducks. Ducks peaked at 98,500, an increase of 45 percent over last year's peak at Malheur but still 51 percent under the peak for 1967, a comparable year; Canvasbacks peaked at 14,600, a good concentration compared with 1400 in 1968 and 12,800 in 1967 (ELMcL). Although western Nevada has been very dry, previous run-off from the Sierras produced good water conditions at Stillwater Wildlife Management Area. The profile of the duck migration there was long and low, with a low peak of 161,045 occurring Oct. 19-25, several weeks later than usual. This was a great improvement over last year's figures but not much better than the totals for the last good year, 1967. Canvasbacks diminished in numbers from the totals for previous years, although Stillwater is a big Canvasback refuge (LDN). Observations of rarer ducks during the fall included 2 Wood Ducks on Klamath Lake, Nov. 28 (LP) and 3 Oldsquaws at Lake DeSmet in northern Wyoming, Oct. 7 (TK). A White winged Scoter was seen several times during the fall at Monte Vista Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in southern Colorado where the species has not been recorded previously (CRB). Farther north in Wyoming this scoter is seen regularly in the fall.

Hawks, Eagles — A good flight of Red-tailed Hawks was noted in Western Nevada in late October and November (JMD). A good flight of hawks anywhere in the Region is news! In eastern Wyoming, 15 Swainson's Hawks were sighted at Hawk Springs in Goshen Hole, Oct. 20 (RS); this is the largest concentration reported in some time. Goshen Hole is an excellent place for finding birds but has been covered poorly in recent years. A concentration of

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50 Bald Eagles was reported at Klamath Lake during the fall (RG), this is about usual for the area. A large concentration of Ospreys also was reported at a refuge established for this species by the U.S. Forest Service and Oregon Game Commission at Crane Prairie Reservoir, 25 miles southwest of Bend, Oreg.; 48 pairs fledged 35 young there this year (AB).

Grouse, Cranes, Shorebirds — There were 850 Sage Grouse in the Pahsimeroi River valley of Idaho after the hunting season in September (*WSb*), this is the largest number of these birds reported in a long time. On Oct. 31, 5000 Sandhill Cranes were noted at Hawk Springs, Wyo. (*RS*), the only large number reported this season. A Semipalmated Sandpiper was observed at Honey Lake in eastern California, at the western edge of the Great Basin, on Nov. 29 (*DFDeS*, *et al.*); this is unusual for the area. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was seen at Grand Junction in western Colorado on Sept. 18 (*LFE*); this shorebird may be more common in this area than has been acknowledged previously. Several thousand Northern Phalaropes were seen at Abert Lake, Oreg. on Aug. 26 (*OS*, *fide JH*).

Woodpecker, Flycatcher, Swallows — The sighting of a Pileated Woodpecker on the middle fork of the Salmon River in Idaho, Nov. 14 (*WSb*) is an unusual record for these columns. An Eastern Phoebe was seen near the Jordan River at Salt Lake City, Utah, Sept. 11 (*GK*); this is a casual record. Purple Martins were reported at two localities this fall: at Cedar City in southern Utah, where 17 were observed on Sept. 11 (*SM*), and at Sheridan, Wyo. (*TK*). Martins are rare anywhere in this mountain country.

Thrasher, Thrush, Waxwings - Another Brown Thrasher lingered in the mountains west of Denver in spite of the harsh fall weather there, being seen near Idaho Springs on Nov. 30 (*WWB*). A Veery was banded in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park on Aug. 26 (*AC*); there are only two previous records for the park. A large flight of Bohemian Waxwings noted at Salt Lake City on Nov. 19 (*WSf*) was the only large concentration reported so far.

Warblers — A Black-and-white Warbler sighting at Evergreen, Colo. on Aug. 31 (*JC*) was unusual. A Tennessee Warbler observation east of Lake Tahoe in Nevada on Aug. 29 (*RPR*) is probably a casual record for the Region; another, late, Tennessee Warbler was seen at Lake DeSmet, Wyo. on Oct. 17 (*TK*). A Nashville Warbler was banded in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park on Aug. 26 (*AC*); the species is rare in the park. Two Magnolia Warblers observed in the foothills west of Denver on Oct. 8 (*D.F.O.*) also were unusual. The warbler migration was said to have been particularly poor at Salt Lake City (*EG*).

Grosbeaks, Crossbills — A pair of Blue Grosbeaks observed at Glens Ferry, Elmore Co., Idaho on Aug. 30 (*LP*) were farther north than usual, but the species has bred in this area. In the northern part of the Region there was an invasion of Pine Grosbeaks into the lowlands, with 20 noted at Craters of the Moon Nat'l Monument near Arco, Idaho on Nov. 6 (*DLC*), 20 seen

at Casper, Wyo. on Nov. 13 (*OKS*), and many present at Sheridan, Wyo. during October and November (*TK*). A flight of White winged Crossbills this fall was the first in a number of years: 2 were seen at Nampa, Idaho on Sept. 20 (*HES*), 50 were noted at Jenny Lake in Grand Teton Nat'l Park, Wyo. on Oct. 14 (*DLC*), with a smaller group seen nearby on Avalanche Trail on Sept. 6 (*OKS*); and another small group was reported at Sheridan, Wyo., Nov. 23-26 (*TK*).

Sparrows — Harris' Sparrows were reported in numbers this year: 2 were seen at Cheyenne, Wyo. on Oct. 13 (*RH*), 2 at Dubois in western Wyoming on Oct. 19 and subsequent dates (*MB*), 4 at Grand Junction, Colo. on Nov. 6 (*LG*), and 1 at Durango, Colo., Nov. 19-29 (*OR*). This species seems to be more frequently reported in this area. There were scattered reports of the White-throated Sparrow outside of Wyoming, where the species is a regular fall visitor. One was seen at Eagleville, Modoc Co., Calif. (*RS*), and another was observed at Arrowhead Mine in southern Utah where the species is rare (*SM*).

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Autumn Migration, 1969

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

The fall of 1969 brought generally drier and warmer than usual weather to the Region until November after which



time normal or slightly above normal amounts of rain came with the first fall storms off the ocean. More offshore observations than ever before resulted in records of pelagic species and numbers unprecedented for this Region. Ducks appeared to be generally up in numbers and were early in arriving for the most part, although the bulk of the migratory movement came at the usual time or even a bit later than usual. The shorebird migration was generally satisfactory both as to species and numbers. Disturbing and probably attributable to last winter's extreme weather was a marked decline in California Quail, Ring-necked Pheasants, Varied Thrushes and bluebirds. Lewis' Woodpeckers, mysteriously in short supply for the last few years, reappeared with equal mystery in suddenly good numbers at favored points in the Region. Particularly notable sightings were Pale-footed and New Zealand Shearwaters off Vancouver Is. in September; a Gyrfalcon (or possibly two) at Vancouver, B. C. and another at Mount Vernon, Wash. in November; Long-tailed Jaegers and Skuas northwest of Cape Flattery in early August; a dead Horned Puffin on an Oregon beach in early August; a Barred Owl at Victoria; and White-winged Crossbills on the Oregon coast in November.

Loons, Grebes — Common and Arctic Loons and Red-necked Grebes had appeared in salt water off northern British Columbia in the last ten days of August and were seen there regularly and in good numbers during September and early October; a few Red-throated Loons and Horned and Western Grebes were present in the same waters in much lower numbers during the same period (VG). An estimated 15 Red-throated Loons at Barview, Oreg., at the mouth of Tillamook Bay on Aug. 30 (GK) were early, as was

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a Red-necked Grebe at Baskett Slough west of Salem, Oreg. on Oct. 4 (GK). As early as Aug. 23, 300 Horned Grebes were in the Victoria area (ARD). Two Eared Grebes were present at Tillamook Bay from Oct. 26 to the end of the period (JBC, *et al.*).

Pelagic Birds — On Aug. 8, 336 Black-footed Albatrosses were seen northwest of Cape Flattery, Wash. by an observer on a U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries vessel (GAS), 45-50 were seen out of Westport, Wash. on Sept. 7 (TRW, *et al.*); 1 was seen in that area on Sept. 21 (MW, *et al.*); 125 were seen off Tofino, B.C. on Sept. 13 (DS, *et al.*). Over 1000 Fulmars were counted in eight hours during the course of a 128-mile passage southward off Vancouver Is. to Cape Flattery, Aug. 8 (GAS); scattered dead birds of this species were found on the Oregon coast from Reedsport north during October and November; about 30 passed Barview in an hour on the afternoon of Nov. 15 (JBC & HBN). Fifty Pink-footed Shearwaters were seen about 15 miles out of Westport on Sept. 7 (TRW, *et al.*) and a few more were seen there on Sept. 21 (MW, *et al.*); 1 was seen from the north jetty of the Columbia River on Sept. 6 (JBC). Two *Pale-footed Shearwaters* and 3 *New Zealand Shearwaters* were seen 5-16 miles off Tofino, B. C. on Sept. 13 (WC, DS, *et al.*); the Pale-footed, particularly, is very rare in North American waters. Hundreds of thousands of Sooty Shearwaters were seen on Sept. 6 and 20 at Leadbetter Point, Wash.; smaller numbers were seen at other points in the Region, but in northern British Columbia waters 28 seen on Oct. 1 in Queen Charlotte Sound were the only birds recorded (VG).

Petrels, Pelicans, Cormorants — Fork-tailed Petrels were seen from mid-August to Oct. 1 from Port Simpson, B. C., (VG) to seaward of Westport, Wash. (TRW, *et al.*) in numbers up to 30 in a day on seven different observations. On Aug. 8, 133 Leach's Petrels were logged northwestward of Cape Flattery and to the west of Vancouver Is. (GAS). Up to 20 Brown Pelicans were recorded on Sept. 13 at Tillamook Bay, (GK, WT, *et al.*) where the last 2 were seen on Nov. 15 (JBC & HBN); numbers were about half or less of the average numbers recorded during fall in the last decade. Double-crested Cormorants were back in numbers to what would have been considered normal before the decline which had lasted for three years along the northern Oregon coast; numbers of this species seen in a day in northern British Columbia, however, never exceeded 10 (VG). Pelagic Cormorants were considerably and Brandt's Cormorants slightly more numerous in the same waters during the same period (VG).

Hérons — A Green Heron at Victoria on Aug. 25 (*CM, fide ARD*) was noteworthy as was 1 at Reifel Refuge near Ladner, B. C. on Sept. 7 (*fide MS*); 2 were seen at Tillamook, Sept. 28 (*MK & HBN*); 1 was noted at Yaquina Bay, Nov. 11 (*GK & WT*). A Com. Egret appeared at Tillamook Bay, Aug. 20 (*GK*) and was still there at the end of the period; up to 8 were seen in a day at various points along the Oregon coast by several observers in October and November; 1 was present at Medford for 12 days in mid-November (*JH*). Two Black-crowned Night Herons were observed in the latter place on Oct. 27 and again on Nov. 23 (*OS*). An Am. Bittern was found at Youngs Bay at the south side of the Columbia River, Aug. 22 (*JG & SJ*) and again nearby on Sept. 28 (*JBC*).

Swans, Geese and Ducks — A Whistling Swan appeared alone at Sauvie Is. near Portland on the early late of Oct. 18 (*GK, TM & HBN*); 14 were present there on Nov. 16 (*HBN*); 11 were found at Reifel Refuge on Oct. 25 and 5 more were seen in the same area on the same date (*fide MS*). Three Trumpeter Swans were discovered at Alger, Skagit Co., Wash., Nov. 30 (*JD, fide TRW*). Two Canada Geese and 18 White-fronted Geese at Nehalem, Oreg., Aug. 23 (*JG & SJ*), 22 Canadas and 80 White-fronts in north Portland on Aug. 17 (*JG*), and 36 Canadas and 12 or more white-fronts near Salem in late September (*fide GK*) were precursors of the major fall migration of both species. Flocks of migrating Canada Geese were seen in lumbers up to 350 birds in the Port Simpson—Prince Rupert, B. C. area, Sept. 1-30 (*VG*). Single White-fronted Geese lingered at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 20 (*HBN*) and at Tillamook Bay, Sept. 28—Oct. 11 (*MK HBN*); 2 were seen at Victoria on Nov. 8 (*ARD*) and 1 at Reifel Refuge on Nov. 28 (*DRP*). Two Snow Geese were among a flock of Canadas that rose off the water south of Prince Rupert on Sept. 30 (*VG*). Four Snow Geese were noted at Victoria on Oct. 18 (*ARD*); 5 were found at Sauvie Is. on the same day (*GK, TM & HBN*); 2 were still present at Sauvie Is. on Nov. 16 (*HBN*). Ducks were said by the Washington State Game Commission to be present in almost double the ten-year average at the Skagit Game Range. An estimated 10,000 Mallards were on Sauvie Is., Oct. 28 (*JGO*). Twenty-four Gadwalls at Leadbetter Point on Aug. 24 (*MW*) were both early and a good number for this location; 300 Pintails at Tillamook on Aug. 23 (*JG & SJ*) were high numbers for so early a date and presaged higher than normal numbers in southwestern Washington and northwestern Oregon. Some 200 Green-winged Teal, apparently migrating, were present only for the day of Sept. 2 near Port Simpson, B. C. (*VG*); 400 at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 20 (*GK & HBN*) was a high number for that location, as were the 120 birds seen at Tillamook on Sept. 28 (*MK & HBN*). Two Blue-winged Teal were seen in the latter place on

Aug. 23 (*JG & SJ*). European Widgeons were widely reported, the first being 1 at Dungeness, Wash. on Sept. 28 (*DRP & MLP*), with later reports of birds up to 6 in number coming from Victoria and vicinity, Iona Is., Vancouver, B. C., Tillamook, Salem and Corvallis, Oreg. As early as Aug. 23, 150 Am. Widgeon were at Tillamook (*JG & SJ*), with good number5 reported later in the period from most of the Region. A single Shoveler was observed at Tillamook Bay on Aug. 30 and 15 were present there on Sept. 13 (*GK, et al.*), remaining until the end of the month (*MK & HBN*); 10 flew south over Port Simpson on Aug. 19 (*VG*). About 50 Wood Ducks were seen in two locations on Vancouver Is. north of Victoria, Sept. 16 and 17 (*CM, RF*); up to 80 were at Salem, Oreg., from Oct. 28 to the end of the period (*TM*). Four Wood Ducks were still at Reifel Refuge on Nov. 28 (*DRP & EWS*).

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A lone Redhead in the Tillamook area on Nov. 15 (*HBN*) had been joined by 4 others two weeks later (*JBC, WT, et al.*). Two Canvasbacks at Tillamook on Aug. 23 (*JG & SJ*) and 4 there on Aug. 30 (*GK*) were very early as were 5 Greater Scaup found there on Aug. 23 (*JG & SJ*); 50 birds of the latter species were noted in Comox Harbor, B. C., Oct. 8 and 9 (*VG*). A male Com. Goldeneye at Salem, Oreg., on Nov. 29 (*TM*) was unusual at that inland location. Oldsquaw appeared at Victoria, Oct. 25 (*ARD*); as this species is little seen south of Puget Sound, a bird at Newport, Oreg. on Nov. 11 (*JB & WT*) and Nov. 22 (*EF*) is of interest. The Canadian Hydrographic Service vessel "Marabell" regularly encountered Harlequin Ducks from Aug. 17 in waters around Prince Rupert south to Comox on Oct. 9; the maximum number in a day was 60 on Sept. 28 in the vicinity of Port Simpson (*VG*); the species also was reported to be in good numbers in northern Washington (*TRW*). White-winged and Surf Scoters were much in evidence along the coast of the entire Region in September and October, with numbers being about equal in British Columbia but with Surfs outnumbering White-wings 3-4 to 1 in migration off the Oregon coast. Three Com. Scoters were seen in Chatham Sound on Sept. 28, and 2 were seen in Comox Harbor on Oct. 9 (*VG*). A female Com. Scoter was seen at Tillamook on the very early date of Aug. 23 (*JG & SJ*), with up to 4 seen in that vicinity for the rest of the period; a concentration of 60 at Westport, Wash., Oct. 5 (*DRP & EWS*) was most unusual. Two Ruddy Ducks in Manning Provincial Park, B. C. on Oct. 26 were also out of the ordinary; 3 at Prescott, Oreg. on Aug. 22 and 5 at Tillamook on Aug. 23 (*JG & SJ*) were early arrivals. Up to 11 Hooded Mergansers were seen at Manning Provincial Park, Oct. 24-27 (*VG*). Up to 12 Com. Mergansers in a day were seen from time to time in the vicinity of Prince Rupert

during September (*VG*); 8 were noted at Seaside, Oreg. on the early date of Aug. 23 (*JG* & *SJ*). A Red-breasted Merganser was seen at Tillamook on the same day by the same observers.

Vultures, Hawks, Eagles — Turkey Vultures migrated over Victoria in early October, with 141 birds noted on the 7th (*ARD, et al.*). Goshawks were very well reported this fall with seven sightings scattered from Reifel Refuge near Ladner, B.C., along Puget Sound, on the Oregon coast and in Oregon's high Cascades. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks also seemed to be up in numbers through much the same territory. A Swainson's Hawk was seen at close range at Victoria on Oct. 30 (*RF* & *DS*). A few Rough-legged Hawks appeared at favored spots in the Region by early October, the first date being Sept. 28 when 2 were seen at McMinnville, Oreg. (*JG*). A Golden Eagle was recorded south of Bellingham, Oct. 31 (Dick Payne, *fide TRW*); 3 were seen in the Medford, Oreg. area during the fall (*JH*), 1 of which may have been an immature seen in mountainous terrain just east of Powers in southern Coos County, Oreg. on Oct. 2 (*JBC*) and reported to have been present there for several weeks. Goodwill saw adult and immature Bald Eagles almost daily in the vicinity of Prince Rupert, B. C. from Aug. 15 to the end of September in numbers up to 12 in one day; birds were seen daily in passage south to Comox during the first week in October. An adult Bald Eagle was seen at Megler, Wash. near the mouth of the Columbia on Sept. 6 (*HBN* & *SJ*); an immature was noted at Tillamook on Oct. 26 (*JBC*); an adult and immature were seen together near Oakridge, Oreg. on Nov. 26 (Rollo Morris); and an adult was seen southwest of Willamina, Oreg. on Nov. 24 (*fide GK*). Marsh Hawks were seen regularly at favored locations during the fall; a record at Manning Provincial Park on Oct. 25 (*VG*) is of special interest. Ospreys got young off at two nests on southern Vancouver Is. by late summer (*ARD*); 1 was seen at the Nooksack River delta on Aug. 30 (*TRW*); another flew over Port Simpson, B. C. on Sept. 26 (*VG*); still another was moving with Turkey Vultures over Lebanon, Oreg. on Oct. 2 (*WT*). A *Gyr Falcon* was reported seen at Reifel Refuge on Nov. 14 (*WC, fide TRW*), with what was possibly the same bird recorded from Mount Vernon, Wash. on Nov. 20, when it killed a falconer's bait pigeon (*fide TRW*). Three Prairie Falcons were noted on the southeast side of Middle Sister in the Oregon Cascades, at 7000 feet elevation, on Aug. 29 (*JGO*); 1 was seen in the Medford area on Oct. 7 (Merle McGraw, *fide JH*). Single Peregrines were seen on Sept. 7 at Reifel Refuge by a number of observers (*fide MS*) and on Oct. 11 near Greenwater, Wash. (*DRP*). A Pigeon Hawk was seen at Port Simpson, B. C., on Aug. 21 (*VG*); 1 appeared at Sauvie Is. near Portland on Aug. 30 (*HBN*); six records of this species were logged

at Victoria after Sept. 16 (*ARD*); additional single birds were seen at three northern Washington locations in October and early November (*VEC, TRW*) and in Portland on Nov. 27 (*HEN*). Six Sparrow Hawks were migrating at Terrace, B. C. on Aug. 24 (*HRV*).

Gallinaceous Birds, Cranes — Three different Spruce Grouse were found in Manning Provincial Park, Oct. 24-26 (*VG*). California Quail were down drastically in numbers in the Willamette Valley, after all, following last year's severe winter: only 9 were present this fall on the Thackaberry farm near Lebanon which normally supports 100 birds. Ring-necked Pheasants are in the same predicament. Seven Sandhill Cranes were observed at Saanich, Vancouver Is. on Sept. 12 (*ARD*); more than 1000 were noted flying south over the Willamette Valley on Nov. 8 and 9 by observers at three different locations.

Shorebirds — Seven Black Oystercatchers at Deception Pass at the north end of Whidbey Is. on Nov. 23 (*DRP* & *MLP*) were in an unusual locality. Semipalmated Plovers migrated through coastal Washington and Oregon in good numbers from mid-August to Oct. 11; 3 were found at Sauvie Is., Aug. 20 and 30 (*HBN*). Twenty Snowy Plovers at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 20 (*GK* & *HBN*) were an unusual concentration. American Golden Plovers were recorded regularly in numbers up to 50 at Leadbetter Point from Aug. 24 to Sept. 20; single birds were noted at Port Simpson, B. C., Sept. 2 (*VG*) and at Victoria, Point Roberts, Wash., the south jetty of the Columbia River, and Tillamook between Aug. 22 and Sept. 20. A late Am. Golden Plover was seen at Yaquina Bay, Oreg. on Nov. 11 (*JB, GK* & *WT*). Besides the usual coastal locations,

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Black-bellied Plovers appeared at Agate Lake near Medford, Sept. 25; at Salem, Oct. 14; and at Fern Ridge Reservoir west of Eugene, Oreg., Nov. 1. A Ruddy Turnstone was seen in company with Black Turnstones at Port Simpson, B. C., Aug. 22 (*VG*); 2 were at Point Roberts, Aug. 23 (*fide MS*); 5 were at Leadbetter Point, Aug. 24 (*MW*); 3 were at the south jetty of the Columbia River on Aug. 22 (*JG* & *SJ*); and single birds were noted in September at Leadbetter Point and at Tillamook, with another lone bird found at Reedsport, Oreg., Nov. 23 (*EF*). Black Turnstones were widely recorded and in good numbers. A Long-billed Curlew was photographed on Whidbey Is., Aug. 16 (*DRP* & *EW*); another was discovered at Agate Lake near Medford on the same day (*OS*). A Whimbrel was seen at Port Simpson on Aug. 21 (*VG*), with 3 at Nehalem, Oreg., Aug. 23 (*JG* & *SJ*), 1 at Leadbetter Point, Aug. 24 (*MW*), 3 at Victoria, Sept. 1 (*ARD*) and 2 at

Tillamook, Sept. 28 (*HBN*) being the reported extent of the species' fall migration through the Region. Up to 5 Spotted Sandpipers were seen in a day in the vicinity of Port Simpson, Aug. 16—Sept. 7 (*VG*). Wandering Tattlers migrate through the Region early, but birds were present in a few places through September; the last few were seen at Westport (*DRP* & *EW*) on Oct. 5. A Willet at Iona Is., B. C. on Sept. 7 (Bill Rae and V. Newson, *vide MS*) was a good find; 1 at Tillamook on Aug. 23 (*JG* & *SJ*), 5 noted there from Aug. 30 (*GK*) until at least Oct. 11 (*HBN*), with 1 still there on Nov. 8 (*HBN*) and still another at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 6 (*JBC, et al.*) made 1969 a good year for this species. Both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs were well represented in the southern half of the Region throughout the report period, with numbers markedly diminished after Nov. 1; a concentration of 44 Greaters at Portland, Aug. 27 (*JG*) was noteworthy. More Knots were noted in the Region this fall than in any recent year, records coming from Saanich, Victoria, Dungeness, Leadbetter Point, the Columbia River mouth and Tillamook between Aug. 22 and Nov. 8. Observations of 2 at Tillamook on Oct. 26 (*JBC*) and 1 still there on Nov. 8 (*HBN*) constituted record late dates for the species in Oregon. A Rock Sandpiper appeared at Westport on Oct. 5 (*DRP* & *EW*), which is quite an early fall arrival date; 6 were seen at Clover Point, Victoria, Oct. 28 (*ARD*), 3 at Bellingham on Nov. 8 (*TRW*), and up to 30 at Barview, Oreg. on Nov. 22 (*MK* & *HBN*). A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was found at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 6 (*TRW, et al.*), another at Iona Is. on Sept. 14 (W. H. Hesse, *vide MS*), and a third at Fern Ridge Reservoir, Oct. 26 and 29 (*EF, AL* & *GM*); the last bird constituted only the third Oregon record and the first away from the coast. Pectoral Sandpipers were noted in lesser numbers than usual, the maximum being 40 on Oct. 26 at Fern Ridge Reservoir where 1 was still present on Nov. 1 (*EF, AL* & *GM*). Single Baird's Sandpipers were reported from only three locations: Sauvie Is., Aug. 20 (*HBN*), Leadbetter Point, Aug. 24 (*MW*), and Tillamook, Aug. 30 (*GK*). Least Sandpipers, Dunlin and, to a lesser extent, both species of dowitcher were well reported from the southern half of the Region. Two Semipalmated Sandpipers were found at Iona Is., Sept. 15 and were seen by several observers (Bill Wilson, *vide MS*); 9 were found together at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 20 (*GK* & *HBN*). Western Sandpipers came through the Region in large numbers late in August; a few were still in favored spots at the end of the report period. Marbled Godwits appeared sparingly, being found at Victoria, Dungeness, Lead-better Point and Tillamook. An Am. Avocet was discovered at Fern Ridge Reservoir on Oct. 26 (*EF* & *GM*). A few Red Phalaropes were seen at sea off Vancouver Is., Aug. 8 (*GAS*) and from the jetty at Barview, Sept. 28 (*MK* & *HBN*), but in November birds appeared widely in the

southern half of the Region, presumably having been brought ashore and inland by storms during the first half of the month. The greatest numbers appeared in central western Oregon with thousands reported at Yaquina Bay in mid-November. Birds had been noted within the previous week from Victoria to the southern border of the Region and inland as far as Fern Ridge Reservoir where 40 sojourned Nov. 8-28; 2 individuals even reached Scio, near Lebanon, on the east side of the Willamette Valley (*WT*). Northern Phalaropes were widely reported from mid-August to the end of September, with up to 300 at Victoria, Aug. 28—Sept. 6 (*ARD*) and about 400 passing Barview on Sept. 28 (*MK* & *HBN*); 6 were seen at Brookings, Oreg. on Oct. 20 (*JH*) and 1 was found dead on a road at Newport, Oreg. on Nov. 9 (*OS*).

Jaegers — Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were seen in coastal waters on most of the offshore birding boat trips and by observers on working vessels. Both species, the Pomarine sparingly, were seen by shore observers also. Sanger found 11 Long-tailed Jaegers northwest of Cape Flattery on Aug. 8; Goodwill saw 1 at Chatham Sound on Aug. 29; Davidson saw 2 directly overhead at Victoria, Sept. 26. Well-documented records of the rare *Skua* were 12 seen on Aug. 8 northwest of Cape Flattery where great numbers of gulls, shearwaters and albatrosses were congregated around the Russian fishing fleet (*GAS*) and 1 photographed 25 miles off Westport amid great numbers of gulls and shearwaters on Sept. 7 (*TRW*).

Gulls and Terns -- Four Glaucous Gulls were seen in the Region during November at Victoria, Bellingham and Sauvie Is. Sixty Glaucous-winged Gulls were present at Terrace, B. C. on Nov. 7 (*NAV*). Herring Gulls, of which better than 2 of 3 were considered *thayeri*, were regularly seen from "Marabell" until early October when the vessel was back at Victoria (*VG*). California Gulls were again found to be of regular occurrence in modest numbers in northern British Columbia waters from mid-August to at least the end of September (*VG*); several thousand birds of the year were noted as far as 35 miles to seaward of Westport on Sept. 7 (*TRW*). Ring-billed Gull numbers built up at Sauvie Is. until the end of the period when 1500 were estimated to be there (*JGO*). Mew Gulls were commonly seen in northern waters from Aug. 15 until at least early October (*VG*); large numbers seemingly were passing through Tillamook during November. Franklin's Gulls were seen from mid-August to mid-October on five different occasions in

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the Bellingham—Ladner—Victoria triangle where they appear sparingly each year; 3 immatures seen at Fern

Ridge Reservoir, Nov. 1 (*HBN*) were particularly noteworthy, being one of very few records, if not the only record, for western Oregon. Bonaparte's Gulls were well reported at coastal and northwestern Washington localities pretty much throughout the period; 85 at Fern Ridge Reservoir on Nov. 1 were extraordinary. Black-legged Kittiwakes were regularly seen all fall in coastal waters along the whole length of the Region, with 150 at Westport on Oct. 5 (*DRP* & *EWS*) the highest one-day count. Sabine's Gulls were well reported; 68 northwest of Cape Flattery on Aug. 8 (*GAS*) and 800 off Tofino on Sept. 13 (*DS, et al.*) were records of particular interest, as was an immature at Deception Pass on Aug. 16 (*DRP* & *EWS*) and 3-4 birds at Fern Ridge Reservoir, Oct. 5 and 7 (*EF, LM* & *GM*). Several hundred Com. Terns were present in the Blaine—Bellingham—Victoria triangle during the latter part of August and well into September with the last birds seen on Nov. 2; elsewhere the species was recorded only from Westport and on the Columbia River at Sauvie Is., Oct. 5, and from the mouth of the Columbia, Sept. 20. Two Caspian Terns seen at Westport, Oct. 5 (*DRP* & *EWS*) and 2 seen at Tillamook Bay, Oct. 11 (*HBN*) may have been the same birds but were lingering late. Three Black Terns were observed at Bellingham on Aug. 23 (*JD, fide TRW*).

Alcids — Hundreds of Com. Murres found inexplicably dead in Birch Bay north of Bellingham in mid-November were subsequently learned to have drowned when caught in fishing nets; they were thrown overboard when the nets were retrieved (*TRW*). Several flocks of Ancient Murrelets numbering up to 20 individuals were noted at Victoria after Nov. 9 (*VG, ARD*); 1 was seen at Brookings, Oreg., Sept. 22 (*JH* & *OS*), 2 at Galiano Is. in the Strait of Georgia, Oct. 12 (T. Stevens, *fide MS*), 1 at the San Juans on Nov. 27 (*DRP* & *EWS*), and 10 off Newport, Oreg., Nov. 22 (*EF*). Up to 350 Rhinoceros Auklets were seen almost daily during the last two weeks of August at Port Simpson; numbers dropped considerably after Sept. 1 (*VG*). An adult male *Horned Puffin* was picked up dead on the beach at Florence, Oreg., Aug. 5 and is preserved as a study skin in the Oregon State University collection at Corvallis (*EF*).

Doves, Owls, Swifts — A Mourning Dove was seen at Terrace, B.C. on Aug. 22 (*HRV*); 1 was also seen on Whidbey Is., Wash., where the species is rare, on Aug. 16 (*DRP*). Records of Barn Owls from Ladner, B. C., Sept. 21 (*MS*) and from Saanich, Vancouver Is., Sept. 28 (Jeremy Tatum, *fide ARD*) are of interest because this area is the northwestern limit of the known breeding range. A *Barred Owl*, well to the west of any previous record, was found in Victoria on Nov. 26 by Ralph Fryer, was photographed by him, and was well

seen subsequently by several others. Two Great Gray Owls were noted on Aug. 19 near Fort Klamath, Oreg. in an area long known to be inhabited by these birds (*JH*). Two Saw-whet Owls were found at the mouth of the Nehalem River on the Oregon coast, Aug. 22 (*JG* & *SJ*); another was found in Stanley Park, Vancouver, Oct. 17 (*fide MS*). In comparison with last year, Black Swifts were little reported, 18 seen on Aug. 21 and 8 on Aug. 24 at Port Simpson (*VG*), a few seen in the vicinity of the north jetty of the Columbia on Sept. 6 (*TRW*), and a small flock noted at Redmond, Wash. on Sept. 24 (*DRP*) constituting all reports. Sixteen Vaux's Swifts were observed at Terrace, B. C. on Aug. 21 (*HRV*), with "flocks" subsequently reported from Bellingham on Sept. 15 (*TRW*), Redmond on Sept. 23 (*DRP*) and Tillamook on Sept. 13 (*GK* & *WT*).

Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers — Two Anna's Hummingbirds were present at Ashland, Oreg. from early October until the end of the period (*JH*); another was seen in east Portland regularly after Aug. 4 (Virginia Holmgren, *fide HBN*). After an inexplicable absence of over two years, Lewis' Woodpecker suddenly reappeared in the parts of the Region where it had formerly been of fairly regular occurrence: up to 60 were found in the Rogue River Valley early in September and were still there at the end of the period (*JH*); birds were seen near Dallas, Oreg. on Sept. 29 (*TM*), in the Columbia River bottoms west of Portland in early September, at Victoria on Oct. 30 (*fide ARD*), and at Point Roberts on Sept. 6 (Ken Boyce, *fide MS*). A female Northern Three-toed Woodpecker was seen in Manning Provincial Park on Oct. 24 (*VG*). A bright adult *Ash-throated Flycatcher* found at Cannon Beach, Oreg., Aug. 22 (*JG* & *SJ*), may be a first record for Oregon's northern coast; 3 were noted in the Medford area, Aug. 2-28 (*OS*). A Say's Phoebe frequented the Thackaberry farm near Lebanon for four days at the end of September (*WT*). A Traill's Flycatcher was recorded at Redmond, Wash. as late as Sept. 20 (*DRP*).

Larks, Swallows, Corvids — Forty-five Horned Larks were seen on Mount Adams, Sept. 8 (*JGO*). Barn Swallows were numerous in migration in late August and early September, particularly along the northern Oregon coast; 15 were seen on Nov. 28 at Reifel Refuge (*DRP* & *EWS*) where a few were reported by refuge personnel to have wintered in each of the last three years (*DRP*)! Four Purple Martins were seen at Sauvie Is. on Aug. 20 (*JG* & *HBN*) and 9 at Victoria on Aug. 30 (*ARD*). A Gray Jay and a Steller's Jay appeared at Terrace, B. C. on Aug. 31, with both birds remaining through the end of the period, at which time the number of Steller's Jays present aggregated 6 (*HRV*). Six Steller's Jays also were seen at Port Simpson on Sept. 28 (*VG*). Black-billed Magpies turned up at

Vancouver, in Manning Provincial Park, at Lacombe, Oreg. and in Medford in September or early October. A Clark's Nutcracker was found at an unusual location away from the high Cascades, at 1200 feet elevation in the coast range just west of Willamina, Oreg. Oct. 23 (GK).

Nuthatches, Mockingbird, Thrushes — A White-breasted Nuthatch was seen on Sept. 21 at Bellingham where the species is unusual (TRW); 1 was seen in

Seattle on Aug. 11 (VEC). Two Red-breasted Nuthatches were found at Terrace, B. C. on Aug. 26 (HRV); large numbers were noted on the Long Beach peninsula of Washington between the ocean and Willapa Bay on Sept. 7 (SJ & HBN). Six Pygmy

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This Barred Owl was discovered at Victoria, B.C., a locality well to the west of any previous record in the Northern Pacific Coast Region, by Ralph Fryer, who took this photograph at 11:00 a.m., Nov. 26, 1969.

Nuthatches, little seen except at the extreme eastern edge of the Region, were found on Chuckanut Mountain near Bellingham, Aug. 6-8 (Dick Payne, *vide* TRW). A Mockingbird was seen at Vancouver, B.C. on Nov. 12 and again on Nov. 23 (Roy Phillips & WC, *vide* MS); another was seen not far to the south at Clear Lake, Skagit Co., Wash. in mid-November (TRW). A very light movement of Varied Thrushes in late September and early October was noted at Seattle, Portland and Lebanon, but the impression was left that very few birds were observed after that; Christmas Counts should give a better indication of how severely decimated the normal wintering population was by last year's extreme cold and snow. Hermit Thrushes, too, were unremarked after September and may also have suffered from last winter's severe weather. A Western Bluebird at Victoria on Aug. 16 (ARD) was the only report; Thackaberry commented on seeing none this fall in the Lebanon area, which is normally one of the better vicinities for finding this increasingly localized species. Two Mountain Bluebirds were seen 20 miles west of Terrace, B. C. on Oct. 16 (HRV). A Townsend's Solitaire was noted at Victoria on Sept. 1 (ARD).

Pipits, Waxwings, Shrikes — Water Pipits were widely reported in good numbers from the southern half of the Region this fall; two records of particular interest were of 2 at the summit of South Sister in the central Oregon Cascades, Aug. 28 and 3 on Mount Adams, Wash., Sept. 7 (JGO). Six Bohemian Waxwings were seen in Bellingham, Nov. 8-12 (TRW). Northern Shrikes appeared over the entire Region, starting in the second week of October, with considerably more records than in the average fall season.

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Vireos, Warblers — A Hutton's Vireo was found at Tillamook on Aug. 23 (JG & SJ). A Warbling Vireo was seen at Port Simpson, B. C., Sept. 7 (VG). A bird carefully observed at Medford in company with Orange-crowned and Wilson's Warblers and Warbling Vireos was concluded by the observer (JH) to be an immature *Tennessee Warbler*; another *Tennessee Warbler* was seen at Terrace, B. C. on Aug. 14 (HRV). Jeff Gilligan found 3 Nashville Warblers on Hayden Is. in the Columbia River at Portland on Aug. 17, 1 at Sauvie Is. on Aug. 20 (*with* HBN), and 2 at Cannon Beach on Aug. 22 (*with* SJ). Three or four Nashvilles also were seen at Mount Ashland near Medford on Aug. 29, along with over 100 Audubon's Warblers (OS). A Black-throated Gray Warbler at Redmond, Wash. on Oct. 1 (DRP) was a bit late. A Townsend's Warbler was seen in Seattle on Nov. 22 (VEC). A Palm Warbler was seen at Tillamook Bay on Oct. 11 (HBN). Again this year H. R. Vance found a Blackpoll Warbler and an Am. Redstart at Terrace, the former on Aug. 14 and the latter on Aug. 23.

Blackbirds, Finches, Sparrows — Five Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen at Port Simpson on Sept. 14 (VG); another was seen at Westham Is., B. C. on Nov. 28 (DRP). An uncommon number of fall reports of Evening Grosbeaks came from all over the Region, usually of birds seen only once or for a few days. A Purple Finch, a very scarce species at Terrace, was seen there on Oct. 9 (HRV). A Pine Grosbeak was seen at Victoria on Nov. 9 (R. MacKenzie-Grieve), 2-3 were seen at Bellingham on Oct. 17 (TRW), and 1 was seen at Manning Provincial Park on Oct. 26 (VG). Two Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were found at the top of South Sister on Aug. 28 (JGO); over 100 were seen in Manning Provincial Park on Oct. 25 (VG). Flocks of Red Crossbills were seen at Leadbetter Point on Sept. 6, at Netarts near Tillamook on Nov. 29 (JBC, *et al.*), and at Terrace, B. C. on Nov. 14 (HRV); up to 6 were seen at Port Simpson, Sept. 7 and 14 (VG). Found in company with the Red Crossbills at Netarts, Oreg. on Nov. 29 were 6-20 *White-winged Crossbills* (JBC, WT, *et al.*); there is no record for west of the Willamette Valley, so far as we know, and the species has been very little recorded in all of Oregon. Four Green-tailed Towhees were seen on Mount Ashland on Aug. 29 (OS). On Sept. 20, 100 Savannah Sparrows were counted in migration at Victoria (ARD). A few Slate-colored Juncos appeared from before the middle of October through to the end of the report period, with up to 3 seen at Bellingham, Victoria, Redmond, Seattle and Medford. A Tree Sparrow was seen at Terrace on Nov. 9 (HRV). A *Harris' Sparrow* was found at Vancouver on Sept. 26 (Kathleen Smith, *vide* MS), another at Victoria on Oct. 24 (*vide* ARD), 2 at Bellingham during the last half of November (TRW), and 5 at Iona Is. on Nov. 23 (DS, *et al.*). Single White-throated Sparrows appeared at Pitt Meadows, B. C., Sept. 28 (MS), at Seattle, Oct. 2 (VEC), at Salem, Oct. 6 (GK), at Terrace, Oct. 19 and 20 (HRV), and at Victoria, Oct. 25 (R. MacKenzie-Grieve, *vide* ARD). A late Lincoln's Sparrow was seen south of Salem on Nov. 24 (TM). A Song Sparrow seen at Terrace, B. C. on Nov. 29 was "the only one there this year" (HRV), although at Port Simpson, Goodwill found them regularly through September, recording 16 on the 7th and 9 on the 28th. A few Lapland Longspurs were recorded at Leadbetter Point in September and at Victoria from time to time throughout the season. Two Snow Buntings were found at Point Roberts and 5 at Iona Is. on Nov. 11 (William Reese, *vide* TRW), 1 at Clover Point, Victoria on Nov. 22 (ARD), 10-12 at Florence, Oreg. on Nov. 15 (EF), and 2 at Reedsport, Oreg. on Nov. 28 (EF).

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The Winter Season 1969-70

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

Winter in the Region was, in general, mild and open. December was about normal except for the Prince George, B. C. area, where moisture was decidedly deficient. January, the most wintry month, received precipitation much heavier than usual at most localities, but temperatures were normal or above normal. Prince George was again the exception, with temperatures down to -42 F. and continued moisture deficiency. February turned mild over the entire Region. At Missoula, Mont. it was one of the mildest on record — a 16-inch snowfall there on Jan. 17-18 marked the end of winter. At Spokane, Wash. average temperature for the month was 6.3 F. above normal. Precipitation was about normal in most localities; Missoula, Mont., Baker, Oreg. and British Columbia reported distinctly dry conditions. March, following so warm a February, seemed cold, yet temperatures were really about normal. Precipitation continued above normal except for persisting dryness in British Columbia. Ice closed most ponds at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash. from December through February. The winter apparently was a favorable one for bird life. Many species were found north of usual wintering ranges. Hawks and owls were seen in high numbers; three localities reported that large populations of small rodents apparently contributed to this. Most finches were present in good numbers, the Red Crossbill being a conspicuous exception. Some evidence supported the conclusion that a few species apparently hard hit by the previous severe winter had not yet fully covered.

Loons, Grebes, Herons — A few Common Loons apparently wintered in the Richland-Kennewick-Pasco, Wash. area — hereafter referred to as the Tricities area — for single birds were seen December-February (JRA, MCA, JE & REW). One was noted at Ennis Lake near Ennis, Mont. on Feb. 8. This is the first "dead-of-winter" record for that area (Mr. & Mrs. CB & HC). A few Red-necked Grebes wintered on Okanagan Lake near Vernon B. C., where 7 were counted on Dec. 27. At Penticton, B. C. 52 Horned Grebes were noteworthy. A flock of about 30 Western Grebes remained on Kalamalka Lake near Vernon until mid-January. A Great Blue Heron observed on a haystack near Belgrade, Mont. on Feb. 8 added to the very few winter records for the species in that area.

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(RAH & PDS). At McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. 125 Black-crowned Night Herons were sighted.

Waterfowl — Scattered flocks of Whistling Swans, estimated at 80-200, wintered on South Thompson River east of Kamloops, B. C. and a few wintered on Thief Valley Reservoir and elsewhere in Baker County, Oreg. Four or 5 swans, probably Whistling, were seen on the Pend Oreille River, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. in December and January and may have wintered (CRO). Trumpeter Swans wintered in the Bozeman-Ennis-Three Forks area of Montana and the flock recently established at Turnbull Refuge, numbered 27, including 4 immature birds, during the winter. Canada Geese wintered in many localities. The top number was 50,000 in the Hanford, Wash. area, on the only undammed stretch of the Columbia River south of Canada. The *White-faced Goose*, rare in the Region, was reported from two localities: Bitterroot Valley, Ravalli Co., Mont., 1 on the Christmas Count (MG), and 2 at Richland, Wash. in early December (JE). Seven Snow Geese, 3 adult and 4 immature, spent *December* and *January* in the Richland area. They were accompanied by 2 *Blue Geese* (JE & REW). Ducks wintered in good numbers in much of the Region. Mallards, as usual, outnumbered all other species. McNary Refuge had a peak of 209,700 (JRA & REW) and about 175,000 wintered nearby on the

Hanford stretch of the Columbia River. The lower Yakima Valley, Yakima Co., Wash. had a peak duck population of 250,000 in early January. Mallards comprised 95 percent of that number with Pintail, Am. Widgeon and Green-winged Teal making up the balance. By contrast, far north at Prince George, 43 Mallards were present on Dec. 21 (CS). A male **European Widgeon** carefully identified at Ennis Lake Dec. 20 was the first for that area and only about the fourth for Montana (RAH, DRS, PDS & FW). At Ravalli Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Ravalli Co. 2 males of this species were seen on March 26 (HL). An unusual concentration of over 1400 Redhead was noted at Penticton on Dec. 26. The birds left a few days later (SRC). A few Greater Scaup were observed: 1 male and 5 females on the Columbia River near Kennewick, Dec. 23 (REW); 4 or 5 on the Spokane River below Spokane, Wash., March 8 (S.A.S.), and 1 at Blue Lake, Grant Co., Wash., March 23 (GHO, DRP, & MLP). Lesser Scaup are the common wintering scaup in the Region. A female Oldsquaw was observed several times on the Spokane River in Spokane during January and 2 were seen on Feb. 3 (WH, S.A.S.). One or 2 White-winged Scoters were on the Spokane River in the Upriver Dam area at the eastern edge of Spokane Jan. 1-Feb. 12 (WH, S.A.S.) and 1 was on Banks Lake near Coulee City, Wash. on Dec. 30 (RKF, DRP & MLP). A Surf Scoter was identified on the Columbia River near Richland, Wash. on Feb. 8 (JE & REW). A few Ruddy Ducks wintered on ponds in Ravalli County. Three Red-breasted Mergansers were seen at Okanagan Landing, B.C. on Dec. 26. A pair was seen on the Ennis, Mont. Christmas Count on Dec. 20, a record late date.

Vultures, Hawks — A Turkey Vulture appeared at Vernon on Feb. 27 (BAS). Hawk numbers appeared to be above normal in much of the Region. In the Baker, Oreg. area Ann Ward described the winter as "the year of birds of prey" — see Christmas Count for details. Cooper's Hawk, generally scarce in winter in the Region, was reported from many localities. Rough-legged Hawks found abundant food from a tremendous population of voles (*Microtus*) in the valley south of Flathead Lake, Lake Co., Mont. (CJH). Probably the open winter and locally high rodent populations contributed to the good hawk numbers. A few unusual hawk records were reported. A **Harlan's Hawk** at Bozeman on Dec. 27 was Montana's second record (Mr. & Mrs. SB, JR & PDS). An **Osprey** was seen on Coeur d' Alene Lake, Idaho on Dec. 28 by a very competent observer (JA). Both Golden and Bald Eagles were reported from many localities, the latter species more commonly. Idaho State Fish and Game Department reported 100 Bald Eagles feeding on spawned-out Kokanee salmon on the shores of Lake Pend Oreille in northern Idaho on Feb. 3 (S.A.S.). In Montana wintering Bald Eagles showed lower numbers in the Bozeman area and in the valley south of Flathead Lake (CJH).

Gallinaceous Birds — A **Sharp-tailed Grouse**, the first seen in several decades at Summerland in the South Okanagan Valley, B. C., was observed during December and January. About 20 male Sage Grouse were in courtship display at the Yakima Firing Range, Yakima Co., Wash., March 14 (REW) and maxima of 56 males and 4 females were seen on the display grounds south of Creston, Wash. in late March (GHO, DRP & MLP). A real decrease in Ring-necked Pheasants was reported for the Bitterroot Valley. The decline was blamed on spraying. The species apparently had not completely recovered from the severe 1968-69 winter in some eastern Washington localities (S.A.S.). At Turnbull Refuge, "extremely small numbers" were reported. The birds apparently did well at McNary Refuge and in the Yakima area. A few Chukars survived the 1968-69 winter in the Flathead Valley south of Flathead Lake, where C. J. Henry feared they had been wiped out. Fifteen Turkeys were seen throughout the winter west of Victor, Ravalli Co. (MH). One was seen at the National Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. on Jan. 11 (JL) and apparently only 1 bird remained of the flock that was on Turnbull Refuge for several years.

Shorebirds, Gulls — Two Killdeer at Prince George on Dec. 21 represent a remarkable record (CS). A Lesser Yellowlegs was seen at Sportsman State Park, Yakima on Feb. 7 (APR). The first winter record for the Spotted Sandpiper in interior British Columbia was of 1 at the Summerland Fish Hatchery, the week of Dec. 20-27 (SRC). Twenty-four Dunlin were noted at the mouth of the Yakima River near Richland, Wash. on Dec. 27 (REW). A **Glaucous Gull** was identified on several occasions Dec. 28-Feb. 1 at Coeur d' Alene Lake (JA, WH). Two were at Okanagan Landing on Dec. 26.

Doves, Owls — In addition to the usual few Mourning Doves wintering in the Region, 7 were seen at Prince George on Dec. 21 and 2 at Williams Lake,

B.C., Dec. 26 (*JM*). Owls were much in evidence during the winter. A **Barn Owl** specimen was obtained between Mabton and Sunnyside Game Range, Yakima Co. Jan. 2 (*PM*). The only Snowy Owl noted was the 1 on the Baker Christmas Count (*LR*). It was a good year for the rare Hawk Owl in central British Columbia. From 1 to 3 were seen on many occasions in the vicinity of Prince George and at Wells Gray Park from December through February (*CS*, *KS*, *HS*). A Barred Owl was seen frequently in Vernon Feb. 8-March 3 and a pair was heard at Cherryville, B.C. through December and January (*SD*). A belated record for this species is of 1 shot on Moscow Mountain near Moscow, Idaho in October 1968 (*DO*). A Burrowing Owl near Reardan, Wash. on Jan. 10 provided a rare winter observation for eastern Washington (*WH*). At Walla Walla, Wash. the species had departed by Dec. 16 and had reappeared as of Feb. 26. Short-eared Owls stole the show for the winter, however. They were reported from *twelve* localities. Only a few sightings can be mentioned: 11 at the Bison Range on Dec. 30; 20 at Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo, Mont., March 2; 12-15 in the Touchet-Gardena area west of Walla Walla; 6 at Heppner, Oreg., Jan 9 and 12 (*SM*); 34 counted from the road in the Othello, Wash. area on Dec. 29 (*RKF*, *DRP* & *MLP*). and 28 on the Christmas count at Vernon on Dec. 26. A population explosion of the Sagebrush Vole in the Othello area may have accounted for the situation there (*DRP*).

Hummingbirds, Kingfishers Woodpeckers — A young male *Anna's Hummingbird* was picked up alive by Harry Reynolds at Missoula on Nov. 16. Attempts to keep it alive by feeding failed, so a study skin was made of it (Dr. McLean *fide* *RLH*). A Belted Kingfisher at Prince George on Dec. 27 was most unusual this far north (*CS*). Two Yellow-shafted Flickers were seen at Vernon on Dec. 26. Red-shafted Flickers appeared to be in normal abundance again after speculation that the 1968-69 winter had reduced their numbers. One exception was in the Bozeman area, where they were described as unusually rare. The rare White-headed Woodpecker was seen on Dooley Mountain south of Baker Feb. 9.

Jays, Bushtits, Nuthatches, — What may have been a roosting flock of 80 Black-billed Magpies flew up from a grove of cottonwoods near Ellensburg, Wash. on Dec. 30 (*RKF*, *DRP* & *MLP*). Clark's Nutcracker was described as abundant in Montana's Bitterroot Valley; common at the Bison Range, present at Bozeman, and scarce in the North Okanagan, with only 1 reported, that from Oyama on Feb. 5. No other localities reported them. Fifteen **Common Bushtits** were carefully identified at Baker on Jan. 29 (*JB* & *LR*). The White-breasted Nuthatch, scarce for many years in the Spokane area, appeared to have made a minor comeback. It was seen frequently at Turnbull Refuge and at Spokane. Many were noted west of Spokane at Wellpinit on Feb. 22 (*S.A.S.*). The only other report of the species was of 3 in the Bitterroot Valley (*OF*, *MH*).

Wrens, Thrushes — Single Bewick's Wrens were seen at Sportsman State Park, Yakima Jan. 14, and in knee Valley north of Yakima, Feb. 27. The species was noted, March 22 at Cold Springs Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Umatilla Co., Oreg. (*REW*). Apparently very few Winter and Long-billed Marsh Wrens wintered. Four Canon Wrens observed on Dec. 16 in Jefferson County, Mont. between Cardwell and Lewis and Clark Caverns provided the first confirmed winter record for that region (*Mrs. WMcK*). Robins wintered in small numbers or not at all in most localities, becoming common only when the spring movement began in February. Perhaps Baker, Oreg. had all the rest! On the Christmas Count there 1400 were counted and on Jan. 21 an estimated 7000 were found in Bowen Valley south of Baker (*JB* & *AW*). Very few Varied Thrushes appeared to winter, these mostly in the western part of the Region. No bluebirds were reported until the spring movement in February, except for 1 Western and 7 Mountain Bluebirds on the Baker Christmas Count. Very few Townsend's Solitaires were reported from anywhere in the Region.

Kinglets, Waxwings, Shrikes — A few Ruby-crowned Kinglets were seen occasionally in south-central Washington and adjacent Oregon: along the Yakima River (*EM*); at Sportsman State Park, Yakima (*APR*); at Walla Walla, and at Cold Springs Refuge (*REW*). Two were seen at Cheney, Wash. on Jan. 9 (*FBH*). The winter was unexciting as far as Bohemian Waxwings went, with perhaps average numbers only in parts of western Montana. Their numbers reached a peak at Missoula in late December and early January, dwindled and again built up in mid-February. Maximum flock size was around 800. Farther east, at Bozeman, the birds were reported as rather rare and in southern British Columbia they were noted as much scarcer than usual. In the Spokane area a poor Mountain Ash crop was believed to be responsible for low numbers. Cedar Waxwings were noted in several localities in eastern Washington and Oregon but in western Montana they were seen only at Pablo, Lake Co., 30 on Dec. 5 (*RLB*), and at Missoula, where a very few wintered. In addition to the usual wintering Northern Shrikes, Loggerhead Shrikes were identified at McNary Refuge, at nearby Yakima River

(EM), and at Smyrna, southern Grant Co., Wash., Dec. 29. A Northern Shrike was seen about 100 yards away from the latter bird (RKF, DRP & MLP).

Warblers, Blackbirds — Audubon's Warbler was "reasonably common" during the entire winter in the Tricities area of Washington, increasing in March. It arrived at Yakima, March 10 (APR) and appeared at nearby Toppenish in large numbers, March 19 (RRP). One bird was seen at Bozeman on Jan. 2, a record late date there. Noteworthy was a flock of Western Meadowlarks near Hamilton, Mont. on Jan. 28. It apparently was a group of early migrants. Brewer's Blackbird wintered at Bozeman and Walla Walla and an estimated 800 were seen at Crab Creek and Othello in Central Washington on Dec. 29 (RKF, DRP & MLP). Two unusual winter records were of 25 at Prince George on Dec. 21 (CS) and 1 at Spokane on Jan. 1 (WH). A flock of Rusty Blackbirds was still at Bozeman on March 18 (LM). About 80 Brown-headed Cowbirds, all males, were seen with other blackbirds and Starlings in a feedlot near Smyrna on Dec. 29 (RKF, DRP & MLP).

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Finches — At least average numbers of most species of finches appeared in many localities. Most localities reported Evening Grosbeaks. "Large numbers" wintered at Bozeman. About 55 was the maximum flock size both at a feeder at Baker and at another at Spokane (JA). None were reported from British Columbia. Very few Cassin's Finches apparently wintered at Spokane (JA, S.A.S.), 4 were at Oyama, near Vernon, B. C. on Feb. 5. House Finches continued to increase at Missoula. They were present throughout the winter, with maximum flock sizes of 50-65. It was a good winter to see Pine Grosbeaks, which appeared at no less than eleven localities from Bozeman on the east to Baker in the southwest and the Okanogan Valley of British Columbia in the north. At least 60 were seen in Hamilton on Feb. 28. The Black Rosy Finch was seen with the Gray-crowned near Three Forks, Mont. on Feb. 21. A flock of 25 **Hoary Redpolls** was reported at Penticton, B. C., Dec. 26 (SRC). Common Redpolls were noted in moderate numbers at eight scattered localities. A few Pine Siskins apparently wintered, mostly in the western part of the Region. A "large flock" was reported in Richland, Wash. on Dec. 22 after a very windy night (REW). Am. Goldfinches wintered in eastern Washington, northeastern Oregon and in the Okanogan Valley. Red Crossbills were present in small numbers or not at all. The White-winged Crossbill was sighted four times Dec. 20-March 3 in the Bozeman—Ennis area (ETH, RAH, JMcD, JSa, LS, PDS) but nowhere else.

Sparrows — One or 2 Rufous-sided Towhees were seen regularly along the Yakima River in the Tricities area during the entire winter (EM) and single birds tarried at Vernon and Penticton. Oregon Juncos may not have completely recovered from the effects of the 1968-69 winter. They were described as "not common" at Missoula, "very few in field and smaller numbers at feeders" at Spokane (S.A.S.) and "scarcest in 20 years on Christmas bird census" at Vernon. However, other localities, particularly in central Washington, reported them as very common. Tree Sparrows were reported from many scattered localities. A flock of 16 was seen near Hamilton on Jan. 28 and 100 were noted in cornfields at Smyrna on Dec. 29 (RKF, DRP & MLP). A few wintered in the Okanogan Valley. Three **Harris' Sparrows** frequented a feeder from January through March at Coldstream, near Vernon (JS) and 1 remained through the winter at a feeder at Lavington, B. C. An immature bird staved for several days around a feeder in early December in the Tricities area (EM) and 1 was seen at Missoula, March 4. White-crowned Sparrows wintered mostly in south-central Washington. Many were noted at Walla Walla and the Tricities area. Near Crab Creek 500 were noted in two localities on Dec. 29 (RKF, DRP & MLP). A flock of 30-35 **Golden-crowned Sparrows** was seen during the winter in College Place, Tricities area (DJC). A single **White-throated Sparrow** was seen for about two weeks in December at Bozeman (Mrs. ID). A Lincoln's Sparrow was netted at Sunnyside Game Refuge, Yakima Co. on Jan. 24 (PM). Snow Buntings were reported in small numbers in western Montana and eastern Washington.

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The Winter Season, 1969-70

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

During this season the weather was unusual as to present a somewhat confusing picture. It

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started with an earlier-than-normal arrival of winter in December, followed by a springlike moderating of temperatures over much of the Region during January and February, and ending with a return to wintry conditions again in March. The result of the "early winter" was the termination of the fall migration earlier than usual in December, with few late-lingering migrants. The midwinter thaw seemed to result in a commencement of breeding activities for some species at dates earlier than usual, even in February. The return of winter with accompanying deep snows probably caused the earlier attempts at breeding to fail. Whereas northern Colorado and southern Wyoming mountain areas had measured all-time record snow depths by the end of March, the western Great Basin, with little winter precipitation, was preparing for drought. This season will be remembered ornithologically as the "year of the White-winged Crossbill," reflecting an invasion that began last season.

Pelicans, Swans — The White Pelican seemed to be diminishing rather rapidly. Deer Flat Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, on the Oregon-Idaho border, where formerly there were many, recorded only one sighting, and that was on March 19 when 24 birds were seen (*JTA*). Only 2 were seen at Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Harney Co., Oreg., during this period (*BD*). There were 50 Trumpeter Swans wintering at Malheur Refuge, a new high count. The colony there produced 13 young last year, to add to last year's population of 40 (*ELMcL*). At Malheur Refuge too there were 5500 Whistling Swans at the height of the spring migration, Feb. 8-14, a week earlier than last year but about average in numbers (*ELMcL*). As usual the Bear River Marshes in Utah harbored more swans than any other refuge in this Region. The spring migration peaked at 17,600 during the second week of March, a noteworthy count.

Geese, Ducks — At Deer Flat Refuge the fall migration of waterfowl reached a peak the third week in December, about a week later than usual, when there were 624,000 ducks present, most of them Mallard. Severe weather immediately following reduced the numbers by one half. At Monte Vista Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in southern Colorado, a refuge with smaller but growing transient populations, there were 29,000 Mallard in December (*CRB*). An *Oldsquaw* was observed at Lake De Smet in northern Wyoming, Dec. 26 (*TM*). At Stillwater Wildlife Management Area in western Nevada, the Canada Geese started nesting in the last week of March, earlier than usual (*LDN*). At Malheur Refuge the peak count for Snow Geese was 10,000, March 15-21, 30,000 less than last year, and a decline for which we have no immediate explanation (*ELMcL*). The proof that we had spring in January and February was the nesting, by Feb. 1, of Canada Geese in Deer Flat Refuge (*JTA*). At Stillwater WMA the duck population increased 24.7 percent over last year's, but there were still only 49,870 birds present at the peak in mid-March, mostly Pintail and Green-winged Teal. Malheur Lake, the great eastern Oregon sump, had poor prospects this year, but an unprecedented 3.35 inches of rain in January improved conditions immeasurably. At Malheur, the height of the migration occurred during the first week in March, when 93,700 waterfowl were recorded, 78,000 (or 83 percent) of which were Pintail. This was a month earlier than last year (*ELMcL*). The spring migration was about normal at Bear River Marshes, with the highest

concentration of waterfowl during the second week of March: 124,000, of which 98,200 (or 79 percent) were Pintail. One week later 8300 Canvasback and 7500 Green-winged Teal were recorded, with other species in much smaller numbers. There were 10 Oldsquaw recorded at Idaho Sand Dunes Lake in western Idaho. March 25 (*HES*).

Hawks, Woodpeckers, Mimids — Two Harlan's Hawks were seen during January at Monte Vista Refuge and one remained throughout the period. The species had not been previously recorded from this area (*CRB*). A Broad-winged Hawk on March 30 north of Sheridan, Wyo. represents a bird of prey believed to be only casual in Wyoming (*TK*). A Yellow-shafted Flicker was recorded at Cedar City, Utah, Dec. 30 (*SM*). Another was seen at Salt Lake City, Feb. 4 (*GK*). This is a rare bird at both locations. Still another was observed at Nampa in western Idaho several times during the winter (*HES*). At Deer Flat Refuge 6 of 8 wintering near headquarters were Red-shafted—Yellow-shafted intergrades (*JTA*). With unduly warm weather early, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were moving northward at Springdale in southern Utah in February (*CH*). A Brown Thrasher wintered in Chicago Creek Canyon near Idaho Springs in the Rockies west of Denver (*WWB*). Another was noted at Big Horn, Wyo., Jan. 10 (*FS*).

Waxwings, Kinglets, Warblers — It was a poor winter for Bohemian Waxwings, with none reported from Reno, Nev. (*JMD*), or Salt Lake City, only 1 from Denver, and an average flight at Casper, Wyo. Cedar Waxwings wintered as usual at Reno (*JMD*), and were seen in Salt Lake City sporadically during the winter (*WS*). There were 30 at Casper, March 15 (*OKS*), and 50 or more at Glenwood Springs, Colo. on March 24; all are highly unusual occurrences. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were seen on numerous occasions at Hotchkiss, Colo. on the western slope of the Rockies, probably due to the warm winter (*TC*). The same conditions probably accounted for the report of Myrtle and Audubon's Warblers (1 each) visiting a feeding station at Durango, southern Colo., during the winter (*OR*).

Blackbirds, Sparrow, Bunting — A large roost at Mahala Slough near Stillwater Refuge, Nev. was estimated at 100,000 birds, of which about 35 percent were Starlings, 1 percent were Yellow-headed Blackbirds, 60 percent were Red-winged Blackbirds, and 5 percent were Brewer's Blackbirds (*LDN*). This is a large roost for dry country. A White-throated Sparrow wintered at Dubois, high on the Wind River in western Wyoming, thanks to feeder largess (*MB*), for the second year in succession, and raising the possibility that these out-of-range visitors were the same individual. Finally a flock of 70 Snow Buntings spent most of the winter near Arco near Craters of the Moon Nat'l Monument, central Idaho, where they are probably regular but not often reported (*DLC*).

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The Winter Season, 1969-70

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION **/ John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls**

December and January brought considerably more than normal precipitation to the Region, with above normal temperatures prevailing. February and March were somewhat drier than normal, but temperatures were considerably above average, particularly in February. Thus the very mild winter was in marked contrast to the record cold and snow of last year. Observations this winter demonstrated or confirmed that Varied Thrushes particularly, and Myrtle and Audubon's Warblers too, were much reduced in numbers almost throughout the Region. Western Bluebirds were reduced considerably in their wintering areas in the southern third of the Region; Winter Wrens, Robins, and Western Meadowlarks were down drastically in the northern portions, most markedly on Vancouver Island and in southern British Columbia.

Loons, Grebes, Herons, Swans and Geese — Yellow-billed Loons appeared in the Region for the third winter in a row; one was seen at Hood Canal, Wash., Dec. 6 (Evans Rathfelder and Dick Lindstrom *vide TRW*), while another was seen for two days at Victoria, B. C. Feb. 22-23 (*DS*, Keith Taylor *et al.*). Three Red-throated Loons recorded on the Eugene, Oreg. Christmas Count Dec. 28 were unusual. A Green Heron was seen at Vancouver, B.C. on Dec. 14 (Colin Clarke *vide MS*), Dec. 21 on the Christmas Count and on Jan. 16 (R. Footitt *vide MS*); the species also was found on the Tillamook, Salem and Eugene, Oreg., Christmas Counts. Single Common Egrets were seen at Tillamook, Dec. 20; Salem, Dec. 22; and at Pacific City, Oreg. the last week in January; 3 were found on the Eugene Count. American Bitterns were found during the Ladner and Vancouver, B. C. and the Eugene Counts. Last winter season's report of 150 Whistling Swans on the Bellingham Christmas Count was in error; 10 was the correct number. Up to 40 Whistling Swans were seen at a few favored localities in western Washington and southern Vancouver Island, January-March. Three dozen Trumpeter Swans wintered at Clear Lake, Skagit Co. Wash. (*vide TRW*); 12 were at Courtenay and 6 were at Duncan, B. C. on Jan. 27 (*DS*); 25 were recorded on the Comox, B. C. Christ. mas Count on Dec. 27. A **Brant** was shot by a knowledgeable hunter on Willapa Bay on Dec. 2 and a photograph showing a clear comparison with Black Brant was subsequently submitted by him to the regional biologist of the Fish & Wildlife Service in Portland (Marshall Escola courtesy of David B. Marshall); another Brant was carefully observed at Bellingham, Wash. for the Christmas Count there on Dec. 21 (*DRP*). Two Black Brant were at the Wm. L. Finley Refuge south of Corvallis, Oreg. on March 16 (Alan Wentz *vide CFZ*). An Emperor Goose showed up at the White Rock, B. C. jetty on Feb. 1 and remained to the end of the report period; a

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bird of this species has appeared there each of the last three winters. Thirty-three White-fronted Geese flying south along the Willamette River, Oreg., on Dec. 27, and recorded on the Portland Christmas Count were highly unusual; from 1 to 5 birds of this species were seen at the Finley Refuge, Jan. 28-Feb. 19 where Snow Geese also were seen in numbers from 1 to 16, Dec. 14-Feb. 11 (*CFZ*). Up to 15,000 Snows were at the Reifel Refuge near Vancouver, B. C. during January (*vide MS*); two individuals at Victoria for the winter were most unusual (*ARD*).

Ducks -- Between 9 and 11 **Fulvous Tree Ducks** were found on ponds in sand dunes north of Coos Bay, Curry Co. Oreg. Feb. 14-24; photos were taken and a specimen was collected (Edw. Schwartz, Edw. Troyer, Hilda Reiher *et al.*). This record is the first known to the editors for Oregon but Jewett in *Birds of Washington State* (1953) details 1861 and 1905 records for Washington and mentions an occurrence in British Columbia. Four Gadwall were at Elk Lake, Saanich Peninsula, Vancouver Island, Feb. 7 (*EVG*). Single **Common Teal** were at Baskett Slough west of Salem on Dec. 29 for the Dallas Count, at Victoria from Feb. 28 to the end of the period, and at Tillamook on March 14 (*JBC et al.*). A pair of Cinnamon Teal wintered on ponds at Scio, Oreg. (*WT*); individuals were seen at several other localities in western Oregon after Feb. 16, when 2 appeared at Medford (*JH*). European Widgeon were seen at most of the well-watched locations from Vancouver south during the winter. The 46 Wood Ducks at Vancouver, 61 at Salem, and 114 at Eugene listed on Christmas Counts are noteworthy. Redheads were recorded on two Christmas Counts, 7 at Victoria and 1 at Portland. Estimates of 500 Ring-necked Ducks at Seattle and Salem and 800 at Medford for the Christmas Counts are ten times normal numbers. A male **Tufted Duck** at Seattle from early January until late March was seen repeatedly (*RCS*); possibly the same bird appeared at Victoria for the last week in March (*DS*).

Vulture, Hawks, Rails — Several Turkey Vultures reportedly lingered in January and February in the Campbell River, B.C. area where 1 was last seen on Feb. 22 (*vide ARD*). Two Goshawks were recorded on the Vancouver Christmas Count and 1 was noted at Portland on the Count. Rough-legged Hawks were present sparingly in favored locales south to the head of the Willamette Valley. Single Golden Eagles were observed at the Finley Refuge, Jan. 14-March 7 (*CFZ*) and at White Rock, March 11 (*MS*). An Osprey was seen at Medford as early as Feb. 13 (*JH*); another in the vicinity of Victoria by March 29 (*ARD*). A Gyrfalcon was in the Ladner area from early December until at least the end of the month; a grey phase bird was seen at Boundary Bay, south of Vancouver, on Jan. 17 (*DRP et al.*) and probably the same bird was there again on Jan. 25 (*TRW*). A Prairie Falcon was seen north of Medford on Jan. 22 (M. McGraw *vide JH*). Up to 3 Peregrines in a day were reported variously from eight localities, Dec. 20 to the end of March. Pigeon Hawks were lightly but well distributed through the southern half of the Region this winter. Two Virginia Rails were carefully studied at Ladner and 1 was found at Portland during the Christmas Counts there.

Shorebirds — An early Killdeer nest was discovered at Finley Refuge on March 15 (CFZ); almost 6500 of these birds were listed on the Eugene Count. A Ruddy Turnstone was at Bay City on Tillamook. These **Long-billed Curlews** carefully studied at Tokeland, Wash. on Feb. 22 (RKF, DLP, DRP & MLP) constitute an extraordinary winter record, apparently the first for this species from this Region. Single Spotted Sandpipers turned up on both the Vancouver and Victoria Christmas Counts. Small numbers of Greater Yellowlegs wintered in the Region; 33 at Victoria on Dec. 20 being the season's high count. Seven Lesser Yellowlegs at Vancouver on Dec. 21 for the Christmas Count and 1 at Victoria a day earlier were unusual. Nearly 35,000 Dunlin were noted at Ladner on Dec. 26. About 65 Short-billed Dowitchers wintered at Burnaby Lake near Vancouver (*vide MS*). Up to 36 Long-billed Dowitchers were seen on the Eugene and Tillamook Counts. **Eight Red Phalaropes** were found at the head of the Willamette Valley for the Eugene Count; 4 of these birds also showed up on the Tillamook Count — stragglers from the great numbers which appeared in the Region in November, 1969.

Gulls, Alcids — Two Glaucous Gulls were present at Comox, Dec. 27, and 3 were at Ladner, Dec. 26 for the Christmas Counts there; several individuals were seen along the northern Oregon coast during the winter (WT). A **Franklin's Gull** was recorded on the Vancouver Christmas Count, Dec. 21 and was seen again the next day; the same or another bird was seen at White Rock, B. C. on March 20 (*MS et al.*). The 362 Bonaparte's Gulls at Vancouver on Dec. 21 were an unusually high number. Common Murres, Pigeon Guillemots, and Marbled Murrelets all were recorded on Christmas Counts north of Seattle; Victoria also recorded 2 Rhinoceros Auklets and over 150 Ancient Murrelets; 300 of the latter species were seen at Victoria on Jan. 19 (DS).

Owls, Swifts and Hummingbirds — Three Snowy Owls which spent the winter in the vicinity of Ladner, were seen by many observers. Two Burrowing Owls were seen at Medford on the Dec. 27 Christmas Count. A Long-eared Owl at Iona Island, B. C. for much of the winter was seen by many observers. The total of 70 Short-eared Owls on the Vancouver Count was remarkable. Saw-whet Owls were widely reported, showing up on many of the Region's Christmas Counts. Two Vaux's Swifts at Ashland, Oreg., on March 2 (Elton Petrie *vide OS*) and 1 at Sauvie Island near Portland, March 8 (RF) were extremely early records. Anna's Hummingbirds were seen in number up to 3 at Victoria, Portland, Springfield, Oreg. and Ashland at various times during the winter. A Rufous Hummingbird at Bellingham on Jan. 2 (TRW) was an extraordinary record and may well be the first midwinter record for this bird from the Region.

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Swallows Jays — Two Pileated Woodpeckers again were at Terrace, B.C. (HRV) all winter; birds of this species were noted in the vicinity of Vancouver, Victoria, Portland,

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Lebanon, Oreg., Eugene and Corvallis. Over 300 Lewis' Woodpeckers were listed at Medford during the Christmas Count on Dec. 27 and an estimated 200 of these birds wintered on the Finley Refuge (CFZ), all in marked contrast to the dearth of this species in the Region for several years past. A pair of banded Black Phoebes was engaged in nesting activity as early as March 22 on the Applegate River near Medford (JH & OS); a bird of this species was reported at Gold Beach, Oreg. on the Christmas Count. The arrival at Victoria of 150 Violet-green Swallows on Feb. 28 (ARD) and at Iona Island of 1 bird on the same date (*vide MS*), preceded by 1 at Seattle (*vide DRP*) and by a few at North Bend, Oreg. on Feb. 14 (*vide HBN*) were very early records. A few Tree Swallows were reported from a number of locations in Oregon and Washington the last week in February. A Rough-winged Swallow at Sauvie Island, March 23 (TM) was early. Wintering Barn Swallows were reported this year, with 7 individuals noted at Westham Island in the vicinity of Vancouver on Dec. 6, 1969 (Wayne Weber and M. Shephard *vide MS*) and 1 bird seen the same day at Siletz Bay, Oreg. (Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lucas *vide GK*); 4 Barn Swallows were found on the Ladner Christmas Count. Cliff Swallows arrived early, too, a small flock appearing near Albany, Oreg. March 19 (RK) and 1 at Finley Refuge, March 26, where 8 were seen two days later (CFZ). Nine Steller's Jays spent the winter at Terrace (HRV); 1 was seen in Victoria, where it is uncommon, on March 28 (ARD). Scrub Jays have been moving in increasing numbers northward toward the Columbia River; the 160 birds recorded on the Portland Count was the highest total ever recorded there. A **Black-billed Magpie** first appeared at Terrace on Dec. 19 and stayed for the rest of the winter (HRV); the bird has been previously unrecorded from coastal northern British Columbia.

Nuthatches, Wrens, Mimids, Thrushes — A White-breasted Nuthatch in Vancouver's Stanley Park on March 5 (Wayne Campbell & Michael Shephard *fide MS*) was noteworthy. Winter Wrens were said to be scarce on southern Vancouver Island (*ARD*), probably reflecting high mortality in last winter's severe snow and cold. A Mockingbird showed up at Medford on Feb. 22 and remained through the rest of the report period (*OS et al.*). Robins, and more particularly Varied Thrushes, were greatly reduced in numbers; the wintering population of Varied Thrushes evidently suffered even greater depletion as a result of the unprecedented severity of last winter than was recognized at the time; observers this year unanimously commented on the virtual absence of this species, although by late March the breeding population was again in evidence on the mountain slopes. Western Bluebirds, which normally winter in fair numbers in the Willamette Valley south of Portland, also were mentioned as being largely absent this year. A Mountain Bluebird at Marietta, Wash. Jan. 18 (Jim Duemmel *fide TRW*) was noteworthy.

Gnatcatchers, Waxwings, Shrikes, Warblers - Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers which had returned by March 29 to their breeding area at Medford were early (*OS*). A flock of 55 Bohemian Waxwings stopped at Scio on March 13 (*WT*); small numbers were mixed with flocks of Cedar Waxwings at Corvallis during March (*RK*), up to 6 Bohemians were seen at Bellingham during December (*TRW*), and a few were recorded on the Ladner and Vancouver Counts. Cedar Waxwings wintered sporadically through much of the southern portion of the Region. Northern Shrikes were widely reported in good numbers on the Christmas Counts and were much in evidence through the rest of the winter. Single Loggerhead Shrikes were recorded on the Vancouver, Bellingham and Sauvie Island Christmas Counts, a most unusual winter representation of a species which occurs very sparingly west of the Cascades. Up to 3 Hutton's Vireos showed up on the Vancouver, Bellingham, Victoria and Eugene Counts; 1 was also found at Victoria, on March 7 (*ARD*). A **Black-and-white Warbler** was recorded for the third time in the Region, this bird being found at Point Roberts, south of Vancouver on Dec. 28 (K. Boyce *fide MS*). A few Orange-crowned Warblers appeared on the Region's Christmas Counts; spring arrivals of this species occurred in western Oregon the last week in March. Both Myrtle and Audubon's Warblers were much scarcer than usual during the winter and through March, raising the question of whether these species, too, suffered heavy losses last winter. Townsend's Warblers were more widely reported this winter than ever before, showing up at Portland, Tillamook —where 10 were found on the Christmas Count — Salem and Eugene where 23 were noted on the Count; one was at Markham, Wash. Feb. 22 (*DRP*), and about 25 were at Tillamook in a mixed flock of other birds on March 14 (*JBC et al.*).

Blackbirds, Finches, Sparrows — Western Meadowlarks were reported scarcer than in any winter in memory on southern Vancouver Island (*ARD*), confirming that the population there had suffered severely last winter. A Yellow-headed Blackbird discovered at Salem on Dec. 18 (Mrs. Zimmerman and Mrs. Orville Smith *fide GK*) provided a highly unusual winter record. Twelve Red-winged Blackbirds wintering at Terrace, in company with half a dozen Brewer's Blackbirds, were present until Feb. 21 and were quite unusual there (*HRV*). The 700 Tricolored Blackbirds present at Medford for the Dec. 27 Count were noteworthy. Evening Grosbeaks were scattered sporadically throughout the Region from Terrace southward during the season. It was a flight year for Pine Grosbeaks, at least into the Vancouver-Victoria-Bellingham area, the maximum number seen at one time being 100 birds on Dec. 20 at Bellingham; a few birds were reported over the whole winter period. Three Gray-crowned Rosy Finches on the Bellingham waterfront Jan.3-Feb. 10 (*TRW*) were of considerable interest. Common Redpolls turned up in the Vancouver and Bellingham area and also at Terrace; the birds first appeared in late December and were still being seen well into March. Terry Wahl, who is a competent and careful observer, watched 1 of 3 birds in a large mixed flock at Marietta, Wash. Dec. 28, which he concluded was a **Hoary Redpoll**; the birds departed before he had a chance to check both of the others as closely, but a few minutes later had the

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opportunity to view a dozen or more Common Redpolls which convinced him that all 3 of the birds first observed had been Hoaries. A flock of 10-12 Am. Goldfinches at Marietta from Dec. 28 on, constitutes an unusual winter record (*TRW et al.*). The 32 Lesser Goldfinches at Eugene Dec. 28, and the 8 at Portland on Dec. 27, for the Christmas Counts were of interest, too. Red Crossbills were noted at scattered points from Vancouver southward during the winter. A **White-winged Crossbill** was observed at Point Roberts on Feb. 21 (Al Grass *fide MS*). A total of 45 Lark Sparrows was found on the Medford Count, Dec. 27. Slate-colored Juncos were reported on many Christmas Counts; 1 was at Lake Oswego, Oreg., March 28 (*JBC*). A Tree Sparrow appeared at Seattle on Dec. 7 (*DRP*); 9 were found in two groups on the Bellingham Count, and 2

showed up on the Ladner Count. A single *Tree Sparrow* at Victoria from Feb. 28 to the end of the period was the first record on Vancouver Island in almost 75 years (*ARD, DS et al.*). Several Harris' Sparrows were recorded during the winter at Bellingham, Marietta, Ladner and Victoria; 1 was at Terrace on Jan. 2 (*HRV*). There were *twelve records for White-throated Sparrows* this winter, from Vancouver south to Medford. Lincoln's Sparrows, too, showed up in unprecedented numbers, records coming from the Bellingham, Portland, and Corvallis-Eugene areas from the Christmas Count period to late March. Up to 17 Lapland Longspurs were counted at Medford, Marietta, Ladner and Vancouver in the Christmas Count period; 60 birds were at Marietta on March 8 (Jim Duemmel *vide TRW*). One Snow Bunting was found during the Vancouver Count, 1 was seen at Iona Island in the Vancouver area, March 13 and 3 were in the same place on March 30 (*vide MS*).

Contributors — Violet E. Cannon; (*JBC*) John B. Crowell, Jr.; (*ARD*) A. R. Davidson; (*RF*) Roy Fisk; (*RKF*) Robert K. Furrer; (*VG*) Vic Goodwill; (*JH*) Joseph Hicks; (*RK*) Ron Klein; (*GK*) Gordon Knight; Phil Mattocks; (*TM*) Tom McCamant; (*DLP*) David L. Pearson (*DRP*) Dennis R. Paulson; (*MLP*) Mary Lynn Paulson; Gerald A. Sanger; (*MS*) Madelon Schouten, (*RCS*) Richard C. Smith; (*DS*) David Stirling; (*OS*) Otis Swisher; (*WT*) William Thackaberry; (*HRV*) H. R. Vance; (*TRW*) Terry R. Wahl; (*CFZ*) C. Fred Zeilemaker.

Spring Migration, 1970

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTER-MOUNTAIN REGION

/ Thomas H. Rogers

This April was one of the coldest on record at most localities in this Region. Spokane, Wash. averaged 5.7 degrees below normal and the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont., 9.7 degrees below normal. A comparable situation prevailed south and west to Baker, Oreg. and north and west into southern interior British Columbia. The only exception was apparently in the Bozeman, Mont. area, east of the Continental Divide, where spring was described as "unusually mild since February." Precipitation for the month ranged from above normal in western Montana west of the Divide to about normal in extreme eastern Washington and much below normal at Baker, Oreg., Othello and Yakima, Wash., and the Okanogan Valley of British Columbia. Cool and rather wet conditions continued in Astern Montana during May, but farther west the situation was about normal. This did not mean uniform conditions, however, for eastern Washington experienced a hot spell during the first week of May. A cold, rainy period followed. Temperatures then climbed to normal or above at mid-month and stayed there until another rainy period near the month's end. Drought subnormal temperatures again. Precipitation remained below normal in the extreme western portion of the Region at Yakima and apparently at Othello and Walla Walla. The southern portion of interior British Columbia remained cool and distinctly dry, but the Prince George area had near-record rainfall. Several reporters west of the Continental Divide believed that the late spring retarded migration. Ann Hard remarked for the Baker, Oreg. area: "April was a lousy month for migration. Numbers were minimal, species scarce ... Not until May 11 did anything move." Gerald Morsello at Prineville, Oreg., wrote: "Cool weather through April delayed migration. Early May arrivals late, but most other arrivals later in May were normal." Jim Grant commented for southern interior British Columbia: "Most migrants appeared late according to my own observations but I spent less time in the field than usual." Ralph Hand at Missoula, Mont. reported several species late and none early. Marie Stanley, reporting for Spokane Audubon Society in eastern Washington, noted a few species late and none early except for the Com. Nighthawk, which normally arrives at the very end of May. On the other hand, Opal Foust, reporting for the Bitterroot Valley of western Montana, commented that the cool spring "didn't seem to affect arrival dates of most birds and nesting went on almost on schedule." Dave Skaar, writing from Bozeman, Mont. noted that, despite apparently mild conditions there, "biological events have been retarded. Flowering was at least a week late in early spring (J. Rumely) and bird arrivals were generally late ... Presumably, although there were no prolonged periods of extreme low temperature and no prolonged snowstorms, there must have been a chronic, day-after-day decline in the temperature below some critical point." Water conditions, particularly in the mountains, have much bearing upon summer conditions in the Region. Opal Foust noted that snow depths in the mountains around the Bitterroot Valley were above average in depth and water content but cool weather slowed the run-off. Frank Kenney noted that at Turnbull Refuge "moderately cool weather, coupled with high water levels in all lakes and ponds, and an excellent residual cover indicate a very productive season." At Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash. T. J. Charmley commented that "nesting cover ... is fair ... less moisture in late winter and early spring ... " Niel Meadowcroft wrote that "Snow and rain ... in the Blue Mountains [of southeastern Washington and adjacent Oregon] apparently forced some birds down into the

lower lands." A heavy, wet snow on May 10 in the lower Flathead Valley, Lake Co., Mont. apparently did little damage to bird populations there, according to C. J. Henry.

Loons and Grebes — Common Loons were migrating during April and May, with the largest number, 40, noted in the Bozeman, Mont. area on April 26. At Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. numbers were up: at least 14 were present on April 18 and 10 or more on May 24 (*S.A.S.*). "Rather large numbers" were noted on Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo, Mont., May 1 (*CJH*). A **Red-throated Loon**, still in winter plumage, was sighted at Ennis Lake, Madison Co., Mont. on May 24 (*ETH, RAH & PDS*); this is the fourth record for the area and the fifth for the state. A large flight of Horned Grebes started about April 25 and lasted about a week in the lower Flathead Valley near Charlo, Mont., with as many as 20 seen in a single pothole (*CJH*). Good numbers of Eared Grebes were seen in the Spokane, Wash. area (*S.A.S.*). About 100 were present at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash. by June 1. Western Grebes had increased to about 200 at Ninepipe Refuge by early May (*RLB*).

Pelicans, Herons, Egrets — The first White Pelicans in the Bozeman area were seen on April 17 at Ennis Lake (*LM*); 12 passed through McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash., the only other locality reporting the species, on April 6. A **Green Heron**

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was sighted at Sportsman's State Park, Yakima, Wash. on April 10 (*APR*). A **Snowy Egret**, carefully identified near Manhattan, Gallatin Co., Mont. on May 15 (*LS*), furnished one of very few records for the species in that area.

Waterfowl — Whistling Swans were reported from six localities. A surprising 2000 were noted at Ennis Lake near Ennis, Mont. on March 29, and 11 were still there on May 24, a record late date (*ETH & RAH*). There was good news on the Trumpeter Swan project at Turnbull Refuge. Of the 27 wintering birds, 19 dispersed from the headquarters area to nest elsewhere on or near the refuge, with 15 cygnets counted to date. Canada Geese migrated and largely dispersed early in the period. Twenty had reached Prince George, B.C. by March 22 (*CS*). The 2500 "Lesser" Canada Geese noted at Conboy Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge near Toppenish, Wash. left during the first week of May, and the 12,000 present at Toppenish Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in the lower Yakima Valley of Washington left during the last week of April. The Baker, Oreg. area appears to be getting more and more of a permanent population of Canadas. Most species of surface-feeding ducks appeared to be in about normal numbers. Blue-winged Teal were apparently an exception in some localities: Turnbull Refuge reported a decline and Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash. noted a decrease from 103 breeding pairs last year to only 17 this year. Cinnamon Teal numbers continued to be high for this species. In the Bitterroot Valley, Ravalli Co., Mont., Cinnamons outnumbered the other teal species. Wood Ducks made a good showing, with reports from thirteen localities; the highest number reported was 14 in the vicinity of Charlo, Mont. (*CJH*). A male **European Widgeon** was seen at Ennis, Mont. on March 29 (*RAH, DRS, PDS & FW*), on April 26 (*RAH, LM & PDS*), and on May 2 (*ETH*); another was seen at Ravalli Nat'l Wildlife Refuge near Stevensville, Mont., date not given (*BD*). Redheads were the second most numerous nester at Turnbull Refuge, outnumbered only by Mallards. Four **Greater Scaup** were positively identified in the vicinity of Charlo, Mont. on May 1 (*CJH*). An immature **White-winged Scoter** was identified at Turnbull Refuge on April 11 (*FBH*). Ruddy Ducks seemed to be doing well in some localities. A peak of 900 was noted at Ninepipe and Pablo Refuges, Mont. on April 29 (*RLB*); the number at Turnbull Refuge nearly doubled from last year, to 600, making the species one of the three most important nesters there; Ruddies showed an increase at McNary Refuge but a slight decrease at Columbia Refuge. About 6 Red-breasted Mergansers were seen on Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on April 18 (*S.A.S.*); this species is always noteworthy west of the Continental Divide in this Region.

Vultures, Hawks, Eagles — A Turkey Vulture was reported for Vernon, B.C. on Feb. 27 (*BAS*); this seems to be an early date. Hawk reports seemed rather sparse after the abundance of these birds during the winter. In the Missoula, Mont. vicinity all but Sparrow Hawks were scarce. The Red-tailed Hawk probably was present in normal numbers: 10 were using Turnbull Refuge during the period, and the species was frequent at Walla Walla, Wash. where several Rough-legged Hawks and 2 Ferruginous Hawks were seen during the first week of April by staff of Whitman College. The Ferruginous Hawk also was noted in Gallatin County, Mont., April 26 (*RAH, LM & PDS*). A scattering of reports of Golden and Bald Eagles was received, including a report of 2 Golden Eagles noted around the cliffs by Alkali Lake, Grant Co., Wash. (*S.A.S.*). Records of a Peregrine Falcon at

Ravalli Refuge in April (Dr. McLean, *fide* BD) and an immature bird at Ennis, Mont. on May 24 (ETH, RAH & PDS) were unusual.

Gallinaceous Birds — A few Sharp-tailed Grouse were reported: "only 3" were noted on the dancing ground north of Bozeman, Mont. on April 11 (LM); a lone male was observed displaying along the road west of that city on May 2 (RAH); 1 was seen beside the road near Willowdale, Oreg. on April 28 (Mr. & Mrs. S. O. Stanley). The species was also noted at the Bison Range. Sage Grouse were reported only from Park County, Mont. on April 18 (RAH); south of Creston, Wash., where about 30 birds, average for the area, were found on the usual strutting site (S.A.S.); and at Yakima Firing Center (ME). California Quail numbers were apparently lower than normal, except for a few localities in the southwestern part of the Region: Walla Walla, Wash. (NFM), Toppenish Refuge, Wash. (ME) and Clarkston, Wash. (MJP). Ring-necked Pheasant and Gray Partridge populations appeared not to have fully recovered from losses of the 1968-1969 winter. Chukars were reported from the Bison Range, the lower Flathead Valley (CJH), near Clarkston, Wash. (MJP), near Pendleton, Oreg., (NFM), and, in the Yakima, Wash. area, in the Wenas Valley (ME) and at Rock Creek (EC). Turkeys appear to be establishing themselves in some localities: two flocks were observed in the Bitterroot Valley, Ravalli Co., Mont. and were noted to feed west of Victor on occasion (MH), and a flock of 80 was reported at Conboy Lake Refuge near Yakima, Wash. on April 20 (RRP). However, the lone Turkey previously noted at Turnbull Refuge has not been seen since March.

Cranes — Sandhill Cranes arrived in the vicinity of Sprague, Lincoln Co., Wash. in late March. Near St. Andrews, Wash., 2000 were observed on April 18 (S.A.S.). At Richland, Wash., about 50 were seen on April 29 (EM) and a flock of 105 flew over on the next day (REW); a group of 32 flying north high over Yakima on May 3 (APR) was the largest flock seen in Yakima County for many years. At Ennis, Mont., cranes were first noted on April 17 (LM). A flock of at least 200 was seen at White Lake near Penticton, B.C. on April 27 (LH).

Shorebirds — Common Snipe appeared in more than usual numbers at some localities. In the Bitterroot Valley numbers seemed to be up, with 12 counted on May 30 (MH). To the north at Pablo Refuge, 200 were estimated to be present on May 15 (RLB). They were commonly heard throughout Turnbull Refuge and seemed abundant at Baker, Oreg. The species also was noted in the Bozeman area and at various spots in eastern Washington. Long-billed Curlews may have decreased in some localities: none were seen in the Walla Walla, Wash. area, where they are usually observed (NFM), and only 1 was seen on

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April 15 in an area near Baker, Oreg., where 40-50 are usually seen on this date; 25 were present there by May 11, however. Near Bend, Oreg. a flock of 25 was noted on April 19 (Mr. & Mrs. SOS). A few were noted at several other localities. A Willet at Ennis Lake on April 26 (RAH, LM & PDS) furnished a record early date. As usual the shorebird migration was not spectacular. Around Charlo, Mont., it was distinctly disappointing, apparently because of high water levels (CJH). In the Kennewick—Pasco—Richland ("Tricities") area of Washington a group of 16 Dunlin was seen on April 15 (EM) and others were noted until May 3; 2 were seen on May 7 at Reardan, Wash. where the species is always unusual in spring (JA); 1 sighted at Ennis, Mont. on May 24 (ETH, RAH & PDS) furnished one of the very few records for that locality. The Marbled Godwit, uncommon to rare west of the Continental Divide in this Region, was sighted at four localities: 3 were seen at Missoula on the morning of April 30, following a stormy night, and 2 were sighted at Pablo Refuge, Mont. on May 15 (RLB); 1 sighted near Charlo, Mont. on April 29 remained for 3-4 days (CJH); 1 was seen at a pond near Four Lakes, Spokane Co., Wash., a very unusual place, on May 14 (JA). Both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Long-billed Dowitchers, Am. Avocets and Wilson's Phalaropes were reported from a number of localities.

Pigeons, Owls — A small flock of *Band-tailed Pigeons* was observed at Conboy Lake Refuge, Wash. on May 12. A *Barn Owl* was observed near Walla Walla, Wash. on April 8 (NFM), and another was present at Columbia Refuge, Othello, Wash. during the period. The scarce Hawk Owl continued to be seen, 1 or 2 at a time, in the Prince George, B.C. area, Feb. 22—June 9 (CS). A pair of Burrowing Owls seen near Penticton, B.C. on April 28 (SRC) furnished the first Okanagan Valley record for several years; four or five pairs were observed just east of Brewster, Wash., May 29-31 (TW). Short-eared Owls, though much decreased in numbers from winter levels, were still the most numerous owl in the Region.

Goatsuckers, Swifts, Hummingbirds — At least 1 Poor-will was heard at Alta Lake near Pateros, Wash. on May 28 (*TW*); 1 was noted at Ellensburg, Wash. on May 15 (*NFM*); 2 were found near Touchet, Walla Walla Co., Wash. on May 25 (*NFM*). The Com. Nighthawk was sighted in the Tricities area on the early date of May 21, with 10 seen at Turnbull Refuge on the even earlier date of May 15. The usual arrival date of this species at most localities in the Region is around *June 1*. White-throated Swifts were identified near Hamilton, Mont., a most unusual locality for this species, on May 16 (*CLB*). Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds seemed scarce in the Missoula area, and the former had not been noted in the nearby Bitterroot Valley by the close of the period.

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers — The scarce White-headed Woodpecker, which, however, is regular in the Boise-Cascade campground on Wenas Creek northwest of Yakima, Wash., was seen there this spring, a male and a female being noted on May 30-31 (*REW*). Another was seen on May 31 on Huckleberry Mountain west of Springdale, Wash. (*S.A.S.*). The Ash-throated Flycatcher was reported only at Walla Walla, Wash., 1 being seen on May 12 (*NFM*). Say's Phoebe is rather unusual in western Montana, but this spring 1 was seen repeatedly in the Bitterroot Valley (*CLB*) and 1 or 2 were seen daily at Missoula between April 22 and May 1. A *Least Flycatcher* was seen and heard at Missoula on May 20 and 22.

Swallows, Nutcracker — A decrease in Tree Swallow numbers at Missoula seemed to be a local condition. In Bozeman a pair of *Purple Martins* spent two-three hours on May 14 near a martin house equipped with mirrors on the roof to attract them (*CB, Mrs. CVD*); this is the second record for the area, the first being in 1909. Clark's Nutcracker was reported from a few localities in western Montana. At Hamilton the species was present "in numbers" in town all winter, coming to feeders.

Nuthatches, Wrens — A decided drop in the number of Red-breasted Nuthatches seen in the Bitterroot Valley was apparently a local phenomenon. Bewick's Wren was seen repeatedly at Sportsman's State Park at Yakima, the only locality reporting the species (*APR*).

Thrushes — A Hermit Thrush was observed in the Tricities area on May 11 and 26 (*EM*), and 1 was seen in Richland during the spring period (*Mrs. REW*). The species is very unusual there. A male *Western Bluebird* seen at a feeder in Bozeman on May 23 (*ETH*) furnished only the second record for the species there. Western and Mountain Bluebirds were both common nesting birds at the Boise—Cascade campground near Yakima. The latter species appeared to be holding its own in some localities but was absent from others.

Kinglets, Pipits — Ruby-crowned Kinglets were either late or scarce at several localities. In the former category were those at Missoula, first noted on May 5; those seen at Baker, Oreg. on May 11; and those found at Vernon, B.C. on April 17, "very late." In the Bitterroot Valley these kinglets were reported only three times; the first were seen on May 18, certainly a very late date (*MH*). Water Pipits, noted between April 18 and May 24, were reported in "large numbers" on April 24 in the Moses Lake—Ephrata, Wash. area (*S.A.S.*), but at Missoula the species was scarce.

Warblers — The Orange-crowned Warbler was not seen at Vernon, B.C. until April 30, a very late date. A late-departing Nashville Warbler was noted at Indian Canyon, Spokane, May 31 (*S.A.S.*). The species also was noted at Ennis, Mont., an unusual locality, on May 24 (*ETH*). There was a belated report of a *Myrtle Warbler* seen near Walla Walla, Wash. on Jan 25 (*NFM*).

Blackbirds — Bobolinks were observed at three localities in western Montana: in Madison County (*ETH, RAH & PDS*), in the Bitterroot Valley, Ravalli Co. (*CLB*), and in the lower Flathead Valley, Lake Co. (*CJH*). A few seen five miles west of Springdale, Wash. on May 31 (*S.A.S.*) add another spot to the few in eastern Washington where these birds have been observed. The only other locality reporting Bobolinks was the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia, where they were first seen at Lavington on May 16. A few Brewer's Blackbirds succeeded in wintering at the garbage dump in Prince George, B.C. (*CS*). Brown-headed Cowbirds remained rather numerous at

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some places. They were described as unusually common at Missoula; "large numbers" were reported at several feeding stations in Spokane (*S.A.S.*); and 6 were seen on May 9 at the Boise—Cascade campground northwest of Yakima (*APR*).

Finches — Evening Grosbeaks, in numbers ranging from a few birds to flocks, were reported from many localities. At several places they stayed until the end of May or later. House Finches at Missoula, Mont., no longer surprising there, were singing daily and were presumed to be nesting. Of much interest is the report of this species at *Three Forks, Mont.*, May 31 (*RAH*). Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were observed on April 26 in Gallatin County, Mont. (*RAH*, *LM* & *PDS*) and on May 2 in Madison County, Mont. (*RAH*). The only other sighting of this species was of 700 near Chelan, Wash, on April 11 (*REW* & sons). Pine Siskins observed in the Bozeman area on May 6 were late; the species was very scarce in the Vernon, B.C. area until about mid-May. These birds became very common at Missoula in mid-May and seemed to be more abundant than usual at Spokane and Walla Walla (*KFM*). A very few Red Crossbills were observed. A few frequented feeding stations at Spokane through May (*S.A.S.*), and 6 were seen at Yakima on May 13 (*JN*).

Sparrows — The Grasshopper Sparrow was seen at two localities: west of Geiger Field, Spokane, on May 23 and thereafter (*JA* & *S.A.S.*) and near Little Soap Lake on the Colville Indian Reservation east of Brewster, Wash. where at least 6 were singing (*TW*). Vesper Sparrow numbers appeared to be up in the Spokane area but low around Baker, Oreg. Lark Sparrows appeared at the Bison Range, where the species is uncommon, on June 3. The species also was reported in Gallatin County, Mont. where it arrived on May 10 (*DRS*, *JS* & *PDS*) and near Clarkston, Wash. on May 20 (*MJP*). At least 4 Sage Sparrows were found on April 18 west of Odessa, Lincoln Co., Wash. where this species had not been seen previously (*JA* & *S.A.S.*), and 1 bird was seen at a most unusual place, *Richter Pass* near Osoyoos, B.C. on May 3 (*KG*). The Sage Sparrow is rare in British Columbia. Oregon Juncos had left wintering areas in towns by the first of May. A record late date for departure of the Tree Sparrow was April 26 at Bozeman, where 1 was singing (*RAH*, *LM* & *PDS*); 1-2 stayed at Lavington, B.C. until the very late date of April 27. A Brewer's Sparrow was seen feeding with Chipping Sparrows and Pine Siskins on a lawn in Missoula. The species also was noted at Bozeman, at Prineville, Oreg., (*GM*), north of Reardan, Wash. (*S.A.S.*), and at Richter Pass, B.C. (*KG*). Several reporters mentioned low numbers of White-crowned Sparrows: C. J. Henry for the lower Flathead Valley noted "very few," Opal Foust for the Bitterroot Valley, "not as many," Ann Ward for Baker, Oreg., "2 only, south of town ... none in backyard," and Gerald Morsello for Prineville, Oreg., "lesser numbers than usual." In looking for an explanation in the weather, one is tempted to point out the clearing conditions for the western part of the Region beginning at the end of April and extending through the first week of May, which might have sped the birds through. For the Baker and Prineville areas this sounds good, and Marie Stanley's comment for eastern Washington of "small flocks hurrying through" fits also. Ralph Hand commented that the birds were common as usual at Missoula, where clouds and rain prevailed during the birds' migration period. However, this doesn't square with Foust's observations from a few miles to the south, nor with Henry's to the north. Now it's your turn to guess! Golden-crowned Sparrows appeared at several localities. Fewer than normal were found in the Spokane area, although 2 were seen on the Little Spokane River on May 6 (*VN* & *CSm*), and the species was observed at Malden in northern Whitman County during the period (*VO*). Single birds were seen near the Yakima River on May 11 and 17 (*EM*); 1-4 were noted in the Yakima area on three occasions (*JN*; *CR* & *RR*; *APR*); and 1 was observed on May 10 at Prince George, B.C., where the species is rare (*CS*). The Lapland Longspur was seen and heard at Banks Lake, Wash, on April 18 (*JA*).

Corrigendum — The McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspur observations during summer 1969 (*Audubon Field Notes* 23:679) were made in Madison County, Mont., not Broadwater County.

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Spring Migration, 1970

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

/ **Dr. Oliver K. Scott**

April and May brought almost **110** spring to the Region this year. The winter weather that had returned to us in March hit with all its fury in April and continued until the end of the month, piling up all-time record snow accumulations in the mountains

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of southern Wyoming and northern Colorado and high snowpacks elsewhere. In May the giant snow accumulations in the mountains started to melt, and we had some spring weather, but the migration was merely reaching full stride by June 1, at which time migrants were still arriving two weeks late. By then it was apparent that the grass and flowers would be the most flush in many years. Since by the end of the reporting period the migration was only about two-thirds over, it would be hard to characterize the spring migration as other than late. We hadn't seen enough of it to know more. The weather systems that involve the northern part of the Region do not directly affect southern Colorado, where it was noted, however, that the birds seemed held up at such places as Durango and the western slope of the Rockies by the severe weather to the north. It was also very dry in the south. The Great Basin experienced the same weather as the Central Rockies but perhaps to a lesser degree. Where the migration was observed more closely, as at Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in eastern Oregon, it was found to be an unusual movement, with the recording of 20 species considered rare on the refuge, five accidental species, and four species never recorded previously on the refuge. These were ***Knot*** on May 17 (collected), ***Yellow-billed Cuckoo*** on May 20, ***Black-chinned Hummingbird*** on May 23, and ***Parula Warbler*** on May 19 (*BD*). In conjunction with an extensive netting and banding program, Malheur Refuge has the most carefully maintained records of any locality in the Region with which we are familiar.

Ibis — The colony of White-faced Ibis near Bear River Refuge in Utah used to have about 5200 birds. This year only 900 ibis were present, and, according to the Denver Wildlife Research Center, there has been *almost complete failure of nesting* in the last three years owing to the thin-shelled egg phenomenon that is associated with the accumulation of DDT and DDT-type residues in the birds' body tissues. In this case it is believed that much of the DDT is picked up in Mexico where the ibis winter, and thus conservationists should be concerned not only with the use of DDT in this country but also with what this nation exports. The outlook for this species is grim.

Waterfowl — On May 13 a White-fronted Goose was found south of Salt Lake City at Utah Lake (*GK*); the species is very rare there. At Stillwater Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, one of the desert sumps in western Nevada, water conditions are much improved, and the refuge's breeding population of ducks is up 32.8 percent (*LDN*). Water conditions are also good and expected to stay good at Malheur Refuge, where the water levels can be predicted accurately from the snowpack on the surrounding mountains, and a good breeding season is expected there (*ELMEL*).

Eagles — April 9 marked an unusual event was recorded at Ruby Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in eastern Nevada. Two Golden Eagles were observed to be locked together and to fall to the ground from at least 300 yards in the air. The eagles hit the ground and bounced several feet into the air. One was able to fly away shortly afterward, but the other could not and subsequently died. Upon examination of this bird, an adult, it was found that the body cavity had been broken open by the fall. It was suspected that the two eagles had become locked together while mating in mid-air (*LLN*). A Bald Eagle was noted in the Klamath Basin on May 29 (*JH*); the species is a common winter visitor in the basin but the date is quite late.

Grouse, Cranes, Shorebirds — A count of 9 Blue Grouse in an area west of Denver, Colo. on May 9 (*HK*) indicated that numbers of this grouse were up this spring. The use of the relatively new Monte Vista Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in the San Luis Valley of southern Colorado by Sandhill Cranes is increasing. A high of 2690 cranes was noted on May 4, and many of them remained at the refuge for a week (*CRB*). A *Snowy Plover* was identified at Grand Junction, Colo. on May 7 (*LE*); this species is very rare there. A Com. Snipe nest was found at 8500 feet elevation on the western slope of Ragged Mountain, about 30 miles south of Glenwood Springs, Colo., on May 26 (*TC*); the altitude seems very high for this species. A *Dunlin* noted at Grand Junction on April 10 (*LE*) was very unusual; at Stillwater Refuge, this species was much more numerous, with flocks of 200 seen as compared to only a few individuals in the past (*LDN*).

Gulls, Doves, Owl, Woodpeckers — Increased numbers of Franklin's Gulls were reported from Utah this spring (*WS*). One reason why the Mourning Dove is common in this Region is illustrated by a report of a nest at Stillwater Refuge in which a pair of doves had raised three broods by May 31; two of the broods were successful, the third was not (*LDN*). A *Boreal Owl* found dead in a snowbank 3 1/2 miles south of Estes Park in the Colorado Rockies on April 1 (*AC*) constituted the first record in the area and one of very few records for Colorado. The specimen has been deposited at the Denver Museum. A Williamson's Sapsucker was observed at Craters of the Moon Nat'l Monument near Arco, Idaho on April 11 (*DLC*); this is the first record for the monument but the species is merely uncommon all through the Rockies. At Evergreen, Colo., in the Rockies west of Denver, where this woodpecker is not unusual, 3 were found this spring (*WWB*).

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Warblers — The nearest thing to a migratory wave of warblers and other passerines occurred in Utah on May 13 and 14, during warm weather following a cold snap. Many individuals and some ten different species of warblers — a great number for Utah — were recorded. The prize find was a Grace's Warbler at Provo, Utah on April 13 (*GK*). At the other end of the spectrum, the last wintering Audubon's Warbler at Durango, Colo. was seen on April 2 and the last Myrtle Warbler on April 3 (*OR*).

Finches, Sparrows — An influx of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks occurred this spring. Four males were noted in one yard in Cheyenne, Wyo. on May 19 (*MH*); another was seen on May 14 at Grand Junction, Colo. and there were two records in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park on May 21 (*MP*) and May 23 (*PH*), and another at Evergreen, Colo., also on May 23 (*TM*). A huge flock of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches, estimated to contain 5000 birds, was seen south of Cokeville in the Bear River Valley of Wyoming on April 14 (*LM*), and a similar flock was reported south of Jackson, Wyo. on April 27 (*DLC*). These are the largest flocks reported in some time and perhaps reflect the winter weather we had in April. After the big flight of last fall and winter, 3 White-winged Crossbills were discovered lingering at Evergreen, Colo. on April 12 (*WWB*), and 7 were found in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park on May 17 (*PE*). Following strong southerly winds, a Cassin's Sparrow was observed on Florida Mesa near Durango, Colo. on May 2 (*OR*); this sparrow has not been reported previously from this part of Colorado.

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Spring Migration, 1970

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

April brought colder and wetter than usual weather to the region, after a mild March. May had about normal precipitation and temperatures. One highlight of the spring season was the May boat trips off the southwest Washington coast which produced numbers of Pink-footed Shearwaters for the first spring records of this species in the Region; numerous other pelagic birds and migrant landbirds also were recorded on these trips. A second record of Least Bittern in the Willamette Valley, an Am. Golden Plover at Tokeland, Wash., an Oregon

nesting record for the Spotted Owl, some more Oregon hummingbird records, Eastern Phoebe at Terrace, B.C., nesting Skylarks in the San Juans, and the Region's first Bell's Vireos and Black-chinned Sparrows all served to make the spring of 1970 a memorable one.

Loons, Grebes, Pelagic Birds — A concentration of 700 Arctic Loons in Trico Mali Channel on the west side of the Strait of Georgia, April 15 (*VG*) was unusual; 70 were still present in the vicinity of Comox, B.C., May 28 (*VG*). An Eared Grebe was observed on a pond on Long Beach, Wash., April 12 (*JBC & JGO*). A dozen Black-footed Albatrosses were seen at sea off Westport, Wash., May 3 (*TRW*), while 30 more were seen there on May 20. An estimated 25-50 *Pink-footed Shearwaters* were seen well offshore from Westport on May 3 (*TRW*), and 1 was seen in the same locality on May 20 (*DRP*); these spring records are, we believe, unprecedented for this Region. Some 10,000 Sooty Shearwaters were seen on the May 3 pelagic trip out of Westport (*TRW*), while 3000 were estimated on the May 20 trip (*DRP*); about 40 were seen from Harris Beach State Park in southwestern Oregon, May 24 (Ron Lamb, *vide OS*). A Fulmar was seen out of Westport on May 20 (*DRP*). Six Fork-tailed Petrels came close to the boat off Westport, May 3 (*TRW*).

Herons, Bitterns — A Green Heron was seen at Montesano, Wash., May 1 (*DRP*). On May 2, a Com. Egret was observed at William L. Finley Nat'l Wildlife Refuge south of Corvallis, Oreg. (*CFZ*). Single Am. Bitterns were seen at Leadbetter Point, Willapa Bay, Wash. on May 1 (*DRP*) and at Baskett Slough west of Salem, Oreg. on May 26 (*TM*). Rollie Krieger, manager of Finley Refuge, who is familiar with the *Least Bittern*, is certain he saw one at close range at Baskett Slough on May 20 (*vide CFZ*); this constitutes the second sighting of this species in the Region, the first being reported in the October 1968 issue of this journal.

Waterfowl — Between 200 and 300 Canada Geese were seen over the ocean 40 miles out of Westport on May 3 (*TRW*); on the same weekend an estimated 5000 birds were seen at Leadbetter Point (*DRP & TRW*) and a heavy northward movement was evident along the northern Oregon coast (*HBN*). The first migrant Canadas appeared at Terrace, B.C. on April 8 (*DK*). About 30 Black Brant were still at Willapa Bay, May 19-20 (*DRP*). From 60 to 100 White-fronted Geese and 2 Snow Geese were seen at Leadbetter Point on May 2 (*TRW & DRP*). A few Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal were seen in scattered localities from Salem north to Victoria during May. Two Am. Widgeon and a pair of Shovelers on the ocean 20-30 miles off Westport on May 3 (*TRW*) were of interest. Finley Refuge had a good breeding population of

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Wood Ducks by the end of the period (*CFZ*). A pair of Harlequin Ducks was noted on Mud Lake in the vicinity of Terrace, B.C., May 9 (*DK & HRV*). A count of approximately 100 Com. Scoters along the southwestern Washington coast on May 1, 2 and 3 was remarkably high; 6 were still present on the same ground on May 19 (*DRP*). Approximately 20 pairs of Hooded Mergansers constituted the breeding population of this species on Finley Refuge this spring (*vide CFZ*). A pair of Com. Mergansers seen escorting 14 youngsters on May 30 at Seaside, Clatsop Co., Oreg. (*JG*) was noteworthy.

Hawks, Eagles — The only Goshawk reported this season was seen near Medford, on April 9 (*JH*). Two Golden Eagles were seen repeatedly at Medford in late April and early May (*OS*); a single bird was seen at Snow Peak in the Cascades east of Scio, Oreg. on May 24 (*WT*). An immature Bald Eagle was observed in the Willamette Valley near Harrisburg, Oreg. on May 29 (*HBN*). In the Courtenay—Campbell River area Bald Eagles were commonly observed during April and May (*DS, VG*). A Marsh Hawk was seen near Terrace, B.C., May 6 (*DK*). Three Ospreys were seen there on May 9 and 3 more on May 23 (*DK*). Other reports of Ospreys were from Chuckanut, Wash. and Finley Refuge in the last week of April and from near Lebanon, Oreg. and Raymond, Wash., with several from the Olympic Peninsula, during May. A migrant Peregrine Falcon was seen at Anacortes, Wash. on April 25 (*DRP*). Sparrow Hawks were seen twice at Terrace, 1 on April 8 (*HRV*) and 1 on May 3 (*DK*); 1 seen at Victoria on May 9 and again on May 23 (*ARD*) is also of interest.

Quail, Cranes, Rails — The introduced population of Bobwhites in northwestern Oregon seems to have declined drastically over the last two winters. California Quail, too, are still at low numbers after the severe winter of 1968-69. Almost 200 Sandhill Cranes passed over Ankeny Nat'l Wildlife Refuge near Independence, Oreg. on April 7 (Delano Pierce, *vide CFZ*). Otis Swisher called up 12 Virginia Rails in four different marshes around Medford on May 15-16, using taped call notes. A Sora was found at Lost Lake on Vancouver Is., April 28 (*ARD*); 4 were noted at Portland's Delta Park on April 6 (*HBN*).

Shorebirds — Semipalmated Plovers peaked in migration during the first week of May, with uncommonly good numbers reported, particularly from Willamette Valley locations. Thirty Snowy Plovers at Leadbetter Point on May 1 (*DRP*) were a most unusual concentration. A single *Am. Golden Plover* at Tokeland, Pacific Co., Wash. on May 19 (*DRP*) was an unusual spring find. Ruddy Turnstones appeared in over half a dozen locations from Cannon Beach, Oreg. north to Victoria during May, in numbers up to 8 at a time. Eighteen Whimbrels at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., on April 26 (Bob Buchanan, *fide GK*) and 15 between Raymond and Westport, Wash. on May 19 (*DRP*) were good numbers for this species, which is recorded sporadically in spring migration. Three Wandering Tattlers at Harris Beach on the southwest Oregon coast on May 23 (R. Lamb, *fide OS*) were late; other spring records for the Region this year were concentrated during the first two weeks of May. A Lesser Yellowlegs was observed at Terrace, B.C. on May 3 (*DK*). A dozen Rock Sandpipers were still present at the Westport jetty on May 3 (*TRW*). Since Pectoral Sandpipers are rarely recorded in the Region during the spring, an individual seen at Medford on May 2 (*OS*) was of interest. Baird's Sandpipers also are rarely recorded in spring migration, but this year 4 were seen together at Finley Refuge on April 25 (*CFZ*). *Migrating* Dunlin reached peak numbers during the first week of May in Oregon and Washington. Both dowitcher species were less noted than usual, with 1-4 Long-bills at Finley or Baskett Slough Refuges, April 2-May 29, being the only reported observations of this species. A Marbled Godwit was seen at Tokeland, Wash. on May 29 (*DRP*). Wilson's Phalaropes were found sparsely at Medford, at Finley Refuge, and at Dungeness, Wash., May 3-9, with 5 noted at Finley Refuge on May 29 being the highest number reported. Northern Phalaropes were plentiful along the outer Washington coast during the first three weeks of May; 75 in five flocks passed over Clover Point, Victoria, early in the evening of May 16 (*VG*). A single bird was observed at Baskett Slough on May 21 (*fide CFZ*).

Jaegers, Gulls, Terns — A Pomarine Jaeger was seen off Westport on May 3; 2 were discovered in the same area, along with 7 Parasitic Jaegers, on May 20 (*DRP*). *Eight* Glaucous Gulls were seen together at the end of the north jetty of the Columbia River on April 12; another was seen at Leadbetter Point on the same day (*JBC & JGO*). A few individual Mew Gulls were still present in waterways of coastal Washington during the last week of May. About 50 Bonaparte's Gulls were still present in Bellingham Bay at the end of the reporting period (*TRW*). About 100 Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen out of Westport on May 3 (*TRW*) and up to 800 were seen on the May 20 boat trip (*DRP*); some 40 were seen around the Olympic Peninsula on May 23 (*DRP*); 1 was observed at Clover Point, Victoria on May 29 and 30 (*VG*). These records, together with sightings of previous years, demonstrate a northward migration of this species through the Region that continues into late May. Interestingly, no Sabine's Gulls and very few terns were seen on either of the May offshore trips. Up to 20 Caspian Terns were on their southwestern Washington breeding grounds by May 20 (*DRP*). Two Black Terns appeared at Baskett Slough west of Salem on May 18 (R. Krieger, *fide CFZ*); another was seen at Tokeland, Wash. on the next day (*DRP*).

Alcids — Eight Pigeon Guillemots were found in Tillamook Bay on April 11 (*RF & HBN*). Up to 10 Marbled Murrelets were seen in the ocean off Westport on both May 3 (*TRW*) and May 20 (*DRP*); the species was found regularly in the Strait of Georgia, April 11—May 13, with a maximum of 18 near Nanaimo on May 1 (*VG*). Up to 50 Rhinoceros Auklets were seen in pairs on the Strait of Juan de Fuca on April 15 (*DS*); a few were seen at Victoria on May 2 (*VG*) and a few on the boat trips from Westport on May 3 and May 20. Up to 30 Tufted Puffins were counted on May 23 around the Olympic Peninsula (*DRP*).

Owls, Swifts, Hummingbirds, Kingfishers — Reports of the rare Spotted Owl are always of interest; thus the discovery of two young birds of markedly different size, both barely able to fly, attended by one

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or both parents at Camp Adams near Colton, Clackamas Co., Oreg., April 28—May 2 (Rhoda Landels, Sr., Gemma Piennet and Laban Steeves, *fide HBN*) was noteworthy. Unsuccessful attempts were made to capture and band the two young birds; it was subsequently learned from the caretaker that owls had been active in a stand of red cedar and other conifers during the winter and early spring. Two Saw-whet Owls were calling near Scio, Oreg. on April 24 (*WT*). Ten Black Swifts appeared at Terrace, B.C. on May 8, and 15 were seen subsequently on May 15 and 16 (*HRV & DK*). Vaux's Swifts noted at Lebanon, Oreg. on April 23 (*WT*) were early arrivals. *Two pairs* of Black-chinned Hummingbirds were present at Merle McGraw's feeders in Shady Cove, Oreg., along the Rogue River, from April 25 to the end of the period (*JH*); this marks the third year in a

row in which the species has appeared there. Reports of Anna's Hummingbirds in the Region continue to proliferate: 4 pairs were found in the Rogue River Valley during the period, 3 of them appearing as early as April 1 (OS); 2 males and 1 female were present in east Portland all spring (Virginia Holmgren, *vide* HBN); a bird was seen at Finley Refuge on April 24 (CFZ); and a male was seen at the Thackaberry farm near Lebanon on April 16 (WT). Three females and 1 male Calliope Hummingbird frequented the McGraw feeders at Shady Cove through most of the reporting period, and a pair of Broad-tailed Hummingbirds also was found there for the third year in a row (JH). The first Rufous Hummingbird of the season appeared at Terrace, B.C. on May 6, with many present by the fourth week of the month (DK). A female Allen's Hummingbird appeared at the Thackaberry farm on May 9 and was observed from as close as 6 feet (WT); another was observed at Shady Cove on May 10 (JH). The virtual absence of Belted Kingfishers from lower Vancouver Is. this spring was attributed to the severe 1968-69 winter (ARD).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Larks, Swallows — A pair of Pileated Woodpeckers probably nested at Salem this spring (TM); 1 bird was observed at Finley Refuge on May 17 (CFZ); and 2 were seen in early May near Nanaimo and Victoria, respectively (VG). Western Kingbirds were numerous in the Medford area, April 30—May 2 (OS); 1 was seen at Finley Refuge on May 2 and 2 on May 14 (CFZ); 1 was observed at Bellingham on May 31 (Dick Payne, *vide* TRW). **Eastern Phoebe**s were reported to be "every. where" along the Beaver River 25 miles north of , Terrace, B.C. on May 28 (DK); by way of contrast, none were found this spring in the Medford area where birds had appeared in each of the four preceding years (JH). *Two* pairs of Black Phoebe were found nesting at Applegate, Oreg. this spring (JH, OS). Traill's Flycatchers were ubiquitous in northwestern Oregon this spring, a normal condition for at least the last five years. Terry Wahl reported that he and Howard Wilson found 2 **Skylark** nests on San Juan Island, May 17; one contained 4 young and the other contained 3 eggs; they estimated that 12 pairs were present in the area. A Bank Swallow was reported among the numerous migrant swallows at Leadbetter Point on May 2 (TRW). A Rough-winged Swallow observed at Salem on March 23 (TM) was earlier than any previously recorded arrival date for the Region, so far as we know. The main flight of Barn Swallows was considered to be about a month late, an effect probably of the cold, wet April. A Cliff Swallow observed at Seattle on April 7 (DRP) was early.

Corvids, Wrens, Mimids — A dead adult and 2 young Black-billed Magpies were found at Medford on May 17 (OS); this could represent a minor extension of breeding range for the species. House Wrens were reported to be in good numbers at San Juan Island on May 16 and 17 (TRW); single birds were noted at Victoria on May 16 (ARD) and at Bellingham during the last week of May (TRW). Bewick's Wrens continued to be scarce after their winter 1968-69 losses. A Mockingbird appeared in Medford in late February and was seen through the spring (JH, OS).

Thrushes, Gnatcatchers, Pipits, Shrikes — "Fantastic numbers" of Varied Thrushes were reported arriving at and passing through Terrace, B.C. on April 19 (DK); 2 seen at the Westport jetty on May 3 (TRW) were out of place. Quite a few Hermit Thrushes, evidently migrating, were seen on the jetties and in the dunes along the southwestern Washington coast, May 1 and 2 (DRP). Two Swainson's Thrushes noted at Portland on April 17 (HBN) were early. *Three pairs* of Veeries were noted in the Medford area, May 12-24 (JH). The only report of Western Bluebirds was of 6 from the Medford area on May 30 (HBN & OS). A pair of Mountain Bluebirds was noted at Terrace on May 3 (DK). Two Townsend's Solitaires were found at Terrace on May 14 (HRV); 10 were seen in migration along the Rogue River on May 11, and 2 were found on Mount Ashland on May 30 (JH). At least 4 pairs of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were present near Medford this spring in scrub oak at elevations between 2000 and 3000 feet (OS). Fifteen Water Pipits were seen at Finley Refuge on April 25 (CFZ). A late Northern Shrike was seen at Marietta, Wash. or April 12 (TRW). Starlings, unfortunately, continue to increase in the Region.

Vireos, Warblers — Hutton's Vireos were more remarked upon than usual: numbers were noted in the Medford area in late April and well into May (JH, OS) 1 was observed at Finley Refuge on April 28 (*vide* CFZ); a pair was seen nest building near McMinnville Oreg. on May 4 (GK); and a pair was found in the vicinity of Victoria on May 18 (ARD). The first two records of **Bell's Vireo** in Oregon came within two days of each other: on May 4 Thackaberry studied one in willows on his farm near Lebanon while on May E. Joseph Hicks discovered another north of Medford. A Solitary Vireo was noted at Bellingham on April 11 (Jim Duemmel, *vide* TRW); several were seen at Victoria three days later (ARD); other reports of up to 5 individuals in the first half of May came from Finley Refuge, Lebanon, Seattle, and south of Medford Red-eyed Vireos were again to be found at Crabtree Creek northeast of Lebanon by the end of May (WT). Warbling Vireos were widely

but sparsely reported from the Willamette Valley, Puget Sound Bellingham, Victoria, and Terrace areas, mostly in the first two weeks of May. Audubon's Warblers were apparently down from usual spring migration numbers:

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this year. A Black-throated Gray Warbler at Medford on April 10 (*JH*) was very early. An estimated 100 Townsend's Warblers were noted at Medford on May 5 (*JH*); this is a large count. Two Yellowthroats seen at Finley Refuge on April 14 (*CFZ*) and another observed at Roy, Pierce Co., Wash. on April 11 (*DRP*) were early. Wilson's Warblers seem to have been more than usually plentiful in western Oregon, particularly in the Medford area, after April 28. Six Yellow-breasted Chats were reported at Finley Refuge on May 25 (*CFZ*); this was an unusual aggregation for the Region.

Meadowlarks, Blackbirds, Tanager — Western Meadowlarks remained very scarce on Vancouver Is. (*ARD*). Yellow-headed Blackbirds appeared at Portland on April 20, at Baskett Slough on May 26, and at the Skagit Game Range, where Jim Duemmel found 29 birds, on May 9. A Tricolored Blackbird was present at Salem, May 7-11 (Dorothy Ackerman, *fide GK*); 17 were found at Talent, Jackson Co., Oreg. on May 13 (*OS*). At Terrace, B.C., 12-15 Brewer's Blackbirds were observed on April 12 (*DK*). Brown-headed Cowbirds have become common in the Portland and Bellingham areas, with a further increase in numbers occurring this spring. A Western Tanager had reached Terrace by May 8 (*HRV*).

Finches, Sparrows — Black-headed Grosbeaks were well represented through the southern half of the Region by mid-May. Evening Grosbeaks were widely dispersed through the Region also, with particularly impressive numbers in the Bellingham and Victoria vicinities. Purple Finches were reported to be abundant in the Salem area this spring (*TM*). A dozen Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were found above Timberline Lodge on Mount Hood, May 22 (David B. Marshall). Common Redpolls remained at Terrace until May 15; on April 4 Horace Vance counted 70 birds at his feeder. Pine Siskins were abundantly present in western Oregon until at least mid-May. Red Crossbills were prominent in Bellingham (*TRW*) and Victoria (*ARD*) until May 25. A Savannah Sparrow came aboard the boat 30 miles at sea off Westport on May 3 (*DRP* & *TRW*); a heavy coastal migration was evidently in progress at the time, judging by observations that weekend; by May 5, 50 birds were found at Terrace (*DK*). A Vesper Sparrow was discovered at Spanaway, Wash. on May 31 (*VEC* & *DJ*); single birds also were recorded at Salem on April 21 (*TM*) and at Finley Refuge on April 11 (*CFZ*). Thackaberry collected a **Black-throated Sparrow** on his farm near Lebanon on May 23; Otis Swisher found another on the coast of Curry County in southwestern Oregon on the same day; a third individual was found on Roxy Ann Butte near Medford on May 30 and was ultimately captured and banded on June 6, with still another banded there on June 16 (*JH*, *OS*). Amazingly, Hicks and Swisher found 2 **Black-chinned Sparrows** on Roxy Ann Butte, June 7 and 8, and succeeded in capturing and banding a female; we know of no other record for this species in the Region. The 2 Harris' Sparrows that wintered at Bellingham disappeared on April 22 and May 5, respectively (*TRW*). White-crowned Sparrows came to Victoria (*ARD*) and Terrace (*HRV*) in fewer numbers than usual this spring. A White-throated Sparrow was seen at Finley Refuge, April 17-30 and was photographed (*CFZ*); another was observed at Victoria on April 25 (*ARD*). Three or four Lapland Longspurs were present at Marietta, Wash. on April 12, with 1 heard singing there on April 18 (*TRW*).

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The Nesting Season, 1970

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

During June most localities in the Region experienced hotter and wetter conditions than normal. An important exception was in the rain shadow area east of the Cascade Mountains at Yakima and Wenatchee, Wash. where

practically no rain fell during the month. June temperatures in general were 4-5 degrees F. above normal. At Missoula, Mont. the month was the second hottest on record. The higher temperatures, with increased evaporation therefrom, no doubt partly offset the effect of higher precipitation. July continued the trend but with temperatures not so much above normal. Montana west of the Continental Divide, southeastern and south central Washington, and northeastern Oregon continued to be abnormally wet. At Baker, Oreg., rain fell on 11 days, with 0.81 inch (rain and hail) falling in 10 minutes on the 28th. Precipitation at the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. was 1.54 inches above normal. Following the late July rains, drought set in, which coupled with several dry lightning storms and some careless recreation-seekers, fostered the worst forest fire season in many years, particularly in the Wenatchee area but also in northeastern Washington, northern Idaho and western Montana. Southern interior British Columbia had above normal temperatures and a deficiency of moisture for the summer as a whole. The wet spring appeared to produce good vegetation growth in most of the Region and, with a few exceptions; the summer appeared to be a reasonably good one for bird life. The chief deficiency was in bird observers rather than birds.

Loons and Grebes — Two Com. Loons were observed on each of four lakes visited in the Little Fort lake area 60 miles northwest of Kamloops, B.C., June 6-11. Sam Deane, camp owner at Meadow Lakes, reported that only 1 pair resides on each lake (*NFM*). At Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo, Mont., the nesting population of Red-necked Grebes was estimated at 150-200, about normal, and that of the Western Grebe at 200-300. At Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash., estimated production of the Eared Grebe was 100 and the population of the Pied-billed Grebe was estimated at 500.

Cormorants and Herons — Some 10-15 Double-crested Cormorants were noted at Ninepipe Refuge during the summer. At least 52 active nests of Great Blue Heron also were recorded there; none were seen

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at Ninepipe last year and the colony was suspected of being one displaced from habitat along the Flathead River. From 1 to 4 Black-crowned Night Herons were seen at Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash. during June; 1 was seen at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. on Aug. 2 (*MP*). Three Am. Bitterns in a marsh near Richland, Wash. on June 17 were drawn into the open by playing tape recordings of their calls.

Waterfowl — Of the 27 Trumpeter Swans at Turnbull Refuge at the beginning of summer, 8 pairs were known to have nested, either on or off the refuge. Sixteen cygnets were produced, 12 of which still survived to be counted on the Aug. 11 aerial census. The whereabouts of the other 11 adults was not discovered. A pair of Trumpeters with 4 small young was seen near Harrison, Mont. in late June. Two Trumpeters stayed throughout the summer report period on a farm pond near Enderby, B.C. but apparently did not nest. Nesting success of Canada Geese and of ducks appeared to be good. One exception appeared to be that of the Pintail at Ninepipe Refuge, where many nests were destroyed by flooding. Success for Blue-winged Teal appeared to be down at Turnbull and Columbia Refuges, but Cinnamon Teal production nearly made up the loss at the latter, where increase for all ducks was estimated at 43 percent. An unusually high number of Ruddy Duck broods was noted at Turnbull Refuge.

Vultures and Hawks — An unusual number of Turkey Vulture sightings were made. At Antelope, Wasco Co., Oreg., 8 were seen hovering over a lava outcropping and 1 rose from the highway on July 9 (*NFM*); 8 were seen near Goose Lake, Vernon, B.C. on June 20 (*RPN*); single birds were observed on two occasions in the foothills of the Cascades just west of Yakima (*AR*) and near Cusick, Wash. on June 13 (*S.A.S.*). A Swainson's Hawk nest with at least 2 young just at the point of leaving the nest was located in the Prineville, Oreg. area on June 14 (*GM*). Fewer nests than formerly were noted for the Osprey along the Pend Oreille River near Newport, Wash. Failure was recorded for the nest site at the confluence of the Little Spokane and Spokane Rivers near Spokane, Wash. (*S.A.S.*). However, a nest with young was noted on the San Poil River, Ferry Co., Wash. (*S.A.S.*). A pair was reported to have nested successfully at Crane Prairie Reservoir southwest of Bend, Oreg. (*gf*, an article in the *Bend Bulletin*). A Prairie Falcon nest with 1 egg and 1 young was found in May north of Manhattan, Mont. (*SR* & *FV*).

Gallinaceous Birds — California Quail made a strong recovery at Turnbull Refuge. An estimated single covey increased to 5 coveys, with about 100 birds present. However, the Ring-necked Pheasant population seems to have dropped from sight at Turnbull Refuge. Production for this species appeared to be good at Ninepipe and

Pablo Refuges near Charlo, Mont. and at the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. A five-day wet spell in early June may have accounted for the apparently poor success of the species in the southern Okanagan Valley of British Columbia. Numerous broods of Gray Partridge were observed at the Bison Range. One Turkey, believed to be wild, was observed in Park County, Mont. on June 15 (*ETH & RAH*); none have been seen at Turnbull Refuge since March.

Shorebirds — Two-week-old Long-billed Curlew young were seen near Baker, Oreg. on June 25. Single Greater Yellowlegs migrants were noted on the very early date of *June 26* at Missoula, Mont. and on the early date of *July 5* at Prineville, Oreg. (*GM*); 1 was noted in Madison County, Mont. on *June 21*; and an adult in breeding plumage was observed at Columbia Refuge, June 20-23 (*MP*). Least Sandpipers began appearing in the Spokane, Wash. area on the early date of *July 10* (*S.A.S.*).

Gulls and Terns — Both California and Ring-billed Gulls were noted nesting at Ninepipe and Pablo Refuges. Several thousand of the latter species were seen near O'Sullivan Dam, Moses Lake, Wash. on Aug. 23 (*JA*). In this same general area, 4 adult and 8 young Forster's Terns were seen at a breeding site, July 3 (*JA*). About 600 Black Terns were believed to be using Turnbull Refuge during the summer.

Doves and Owls — A few *Band-tailed Pigeons* again appeared in the Region: 2 were seen at Pend Oreille Lake in northern Idaho in late July (*LM*); 2 more were reported near Cheney, Wash. in early August; and the species was reported at Campbell's Ferry on the Salmon River, Idaho (*vide LM*). This pigeon may be in the process of extending its range eastward. A pair of *Ringed Turtle Doves* nested in a garden at Vernon, B.C. for the second, and possibly third, consecutive year. The birds apparently disappear during the winter. A Flammulated Owl was heard in open lodgepole pine forest at Lost Lake, 9 miles west of Newport, Wash., July 3 (*DLP & MP*) and again in the same general area on July 9 (*JA*). A Hawk Owl was seen repeatedly on Tabor Mountain east of Prince George, B.C. from April to mid-June (*CS*). Burrowing Owls were reported from several localities west of the Continental Divide: three nest sites were observed near Baker, Oreg., with 7 birds seen at one and 5 at each of the others (*AW, LR*); 2 seen at a burrow near Penticton, B.C. on April 28 and thereafter (*SRC*) furnished the first record for interior British Columbia since 1965. A pair of Barred Owls raised a single young in a cavity in a cottonwood tree near Lumby, east of Vernon, B.C. (*SD*). The scarce *Great Gray Owl* was noted in Bear Canyon east of Bozeman, Mont., 1 bird observed on June 27 (*JMcD*) and east of Prince George on Highway 16, 2 birds seen on June 10, 12 and 14.

Nighthawks and Swifts — Common Nighthawks were not noted at Missoula, Mont. until June 12. At Spokane a heavy migrational movement was still under way, June 14-16, when 10-15 at a time were seen for 10-minute periods (*S.A.S.*). About 50 noted at Clarkston, Wash. on June 10 (*MJP*) apparently were migrants. The Black Swift was seen at Wenas Creek, Yakima Co., Wash. on July 11 (*MP*), and 2 were sighted over the Napeequa River, Glacier Peak Wilderness, Wash. on Aug. 17 (*THR*). At least 17 Vaux's Swifts were seen on July 17 in the valley below Salmo Pass, northern Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (*JA*). White-throated Swifts were observed at Chelan Butte near Lake Chelan, Chelan Co., Wash. on July 18 (*REW*).

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and the species also was noted in the Bozeman area.

Woodpeckers — Lewis' Woodpecker was reported to be a very common nester at the Nat'l Bison Range this summer. The uncommon White-headed Woodpecker was sighted several times in the forested foothills near Yakima: a family group in the Rimrock area on the Tieton River (*AR*); a pair on Wenas Creek, July 11 (*MP*); and 1 on Wenas Creek, July 30 (*PM*). Several Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen on Aug. 2 at Mount Spokane, Spokane Co., Wash. in an area burned over last year (*VN & CSM*), and a male was sighted a few miles east of Park Rapids, Stevens Co., Wash., July 5 (*DLP & MP*). A pair of Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers with large young in the nest was found in a dead spruce in a bog on Calispell Mountain, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. on July 4 and a female was seen on Salmo Mountain, same county and day (*DLP & MP*).

Flycatchers and Swallows — Three Ash-throated Flycatchers were identified on Crab Creek, Columbia Refuge, Wash. on July 23 (*JA*); 1 or 2 of this species were noted at Walla Walla, Wash. on six dates between July 6 and Aug. 14. Thirteen Gray Flycatchers were recorded on a Breeding Bird Survey route in Deschutes County, Oreg. on June 29 (*GM*). At Missoula, Mont., a colony of Cliff Swallows attempted to nest under the

eaves of one of the university buildings. The school administration called the fire department and had it knock down the entire colony, eggs, young birds and all. This caused much comment locally, and the local newspaper published a critical editorial.

Chickadees — Mountain Chickadees nested in above average numbers in juniper areas at Prineville, Oreg. (GM). This is a very characteristic species in the juniper throughout the year. Boreal Chickadees were observed on four dates between July 4 and Aug. 1 in the Salmo Pass—Salmo Mountain area of Pend Oreille County, Wash. (JA; BM & PM; MP).

Thrushes — The Western Bluebird was noted on two occasions in the foothills west of Yakima (ME, AR), on Chelan Butte on July 18 (REW), and in the Spokane area (S.A.S.). Mountain Bluebirds were reported from a number of localities throughout the Region but apparently were absent from Missoula, Mont. and were scarce at Prineville, where only four or five nesting areas were known within the entire Christmas Count area (GM). However, at Peola, Garfield Co., Wash. an estimated 50 were seen on Aug. 9 (MJP), and a like number was counted in the foothills of the Blue Mountains, Asotin and Garfield Counties, Wash. on Aug. 2 (MP). The population at Turnbull Refuge was estimated at 20, with a pair nesting in a box near refuge headquarters. A Townsend's Solitaire nest with 4 eggs was found in the Bozeman area on June 16 (JMcD).

Shrikes and Vireos — Loggerhead Shrikes were seen in unusual numbers at two localities in eastern Washington: about 8 between Smyrna and Corfu, Grant Co., June 28 (MP) and 10 at Moxee, Yakima Co., no date given (AR). A Red-eyed Vireo appeared again this summer at Prineville, Oreg., staying all day on June 19 (GM).

Warblers — An Orange-crowned Warbler family group was observed on Manastash Ridge, Yakima Co., Wash. on July 11 (MP). An *Ovenbird* appeared south of Bozeman, Mont. on July 9 (CVD). This is only the second record for the species for that area. The Northern Waterthrush, restricted in Washington to the extreme northeastern part of the state, was seen in a previously unreported site, the Little Pend Oreille Lakes, June 21 (JA) and in Idaho at a new site along the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River, July 6 (LM). A nest with 6 eggs was found 30 miles northwest of Prince George, B.C., June 7.

Blackbirds — A few Bobolinks were noted at Cusick, Wash. in June and July (DLP & MP); 4 pairs were taking part in courtship display there on June 21 (JA). The species was noted in the Bozeman area and a male was seen near Baker, Oreg. on June 25.

Finches — The House Finch is now well established as a resident at Missoula, Mont. Nesting pairs were noted in many parts of the city and young being fed were seen almost daily; at the end of the report period the birds were seen mostly in flocks on the outskirts of the city (RLH). The species is obviously on the move, for it was also observed during the summer at Whitehall, Dillon, Lima, Big Timber, Three Forks, Belgrade and Bozeman, Mont. (PDS). A trip was made into the Eagle Cap Wilderness in the Wallowa—Whitman Nat'l Forest of northeastern Oregon, July 26-29, by a group headed by David B. Marshall, Regional Refuge Biologist, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, to determine the status of the Wallowa race of the Gray-crowned Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis wallowi*). At least 10 birds assumed to belong to this race were seen at Jewett Lake and 1 was seen at Frazier Lake, a previously unreported location for the bird. Mr. Marshall believes that this bird could be put in the "rare" category but probably not in the "endangered" classification. While total suitable habitat apparently consists of a strip about 10 miles long, this area has not been altered by man and the bird has probably had this status for hundreds of years. The scarce Black Rosy Finch was found in three localities in southwestern Montana: 2 birds on top of Spelunk Mountain at 10,876 feet elevation in the Madison Range, Aug. 11 (JMcD); about 25 on top of Black Mountain at 10,941 feet elevation in the Absarokee Range, Aug. 23 (JMcD); and 3 at the base of Gallatin Peak at 9300 feet elevation in the Spanish Peaks, Aug. 22 (DRS). American Goldfinch numbers were down at Missoula, Mont. and Walla Walla, Wash. Possibly these were local phenomena, although no large numbers were reported elsewhere. Red Crossbills were reported as relatively common in the Bozeman area and were regularly seen around Spokane, Wash. but were practically absent from other reporting localities.

Sparrows — One or two Green-tailed Towhees were observed at Umatilla Ranger Station, Asotin Co., Wash. on Aug 2 (DLP & MP); the species was noted also in the Bozeman, Mont. area. The Lark Bunting was rare this summer in the Bozeman area, the only part of the Region where it is to be expected. The only observation was

on June 21 (*LMo*). A few Grasshopper Sparrows were seen in the Spokane area (*THR*, *S.A.S.*), and the species was described as a common nester at the Bison Range. *Twenty* Sage

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Sparrows, including 1 immature bird, were counted at Columbia Refuge, June 20 (*MP*). Chipping Sparrows apparently had a good summer except for the North Okanagan Valley of British Columbia, where several observers remarked on their scarcity. A Brewer's Sparrow nest with 2 naked young was found near Ellensburg, Wash. on June 27; several immature birds also were noted in the vicinity (*MP*). White crowned Sparrows were observed feeding young at *Salmo Pass*, *Pend Oreille Co.*, *Wash.*, thus providing the first breeding record for the *oriantha* race in the state (*DRP*), and a single male was collected there on Aug. 1 (*BM* & *PM*). White-crowned Sparrows seen at Hart's Pass between Whatcom and Okanogan Counties, Wash., Aug. 3-6 (*REW*) suggest a possible breeding locality. A White-throated Sparrow beginning to show adult markings was observed at Spokane on June 8 (*JA*). Lincoln's Sparrow was found nesting at Walton Lake in the Ochoco Mountains of Oregon (*HBN*). A pair of Song Sparrows was reported to have brought off *three* broods in a yard in Spokane; 4 young left the nest in late April, 3 on June 4 and 1 on July 8 (*LM*). Chestnut-collared Longspurs were found on the extreme western edge of their range, north of Whitehall, Mont., July 4, and again in Beaverhead County, Mont.

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The Nesting Season, 1970

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

Throughout the Central Rockies it was a wet season during June and early July, but thereafter it was dry, with hot weather from mid-June to the end of the reporting period. The Great Basin was just plain hot and dry throughout the period, and the southern part of the Region was influenced, as usual, by the summer pattern of daily showers. Most observers thought this an average season, but some noted the general paucity of landbirds such as kinglets, warblers and juncos. The early morning chorus was not up to its usual strength in the wooded areas of Colorado (*HK*) and Wyoming (*OKS*).

Herons, Ibis — Snowy Egrets, Black-crowned Night Herons and White-faced Ibis bred in greater numbers than ever before at Monte Vista Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in southern Colorado where water conditions were excellent (*CRB*). A **Least Bittern** was seen several times in early June at Deer Flat Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in Idaho (*TA*); this constitutes the first record of this species for western Idaho. A colony of 600 White-faced Ibis at Stillwater Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in western Nevada was found to contain many young as well as *thin-shelled eggs*; it was thought that the colony may be somewhat smaller than usual but that production has not yet been affected significantly by the thin-shelled egg syndrome (*LDN*). This is of interest since, as noted in the last report, the colony of White-faced Ibis near the Bear River Refuge in Utah has suffered almost complete nesting failure during the past three years as a result of the thin-shelled egg phenomenon.

Swans, Geese, Ducks — There were seven active Trumpeter Swan nests at Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in eastern Oregon, a new high for Malheur; only four of these nests, however, produced broods (*ELMcL*). In spite of the great effort to protect this species, the Trumpeter Swan seems to have a low reproductive rate throughout its range in this Region, although once the young are airborne, losses are believed to be minimal. Canada Goose production at Deer Flat Refuge was up from last year's level but only to about normal; the number of nests in that area seems to be declining but the number of young raised per nest seems to be increasing (*JTA*). It was found that the period from egg hatching to sustained flight of young at Deer Flat takes 74 days, on the average. Owing to improved water conditions, Stillwater Refuge in Nevada had 32.8 percent more breeding ducks this year, but overall production of young was about the same (*LDN*). Predation by ravens was believed responsible for the loss in young, but one

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wonders if this simple explanation is really correct. Malheur Refuge also reported better water conditions than last year, with duck production up 43 percent to 33,000 young raised, Redhead production was twice last year's production, and brood size up for all major species breeding at the refuge (*ELMcL*). Similarly, Bear River Marshes on the Great Salt Lake appeared to have had a good breeding season, with 7.9 duck eggs noted per nest, an average brood size of 6 ducklings, and an overall loss of 3 during the period from the observation of the eggs in the nest to sustained flight of full-grown young. Monte Vista Refuge in southern Colorado produced 18,000 ducks this year, a better production than ever before (*CRB*). In general, it might be said that goose and duck breeding success was good this year, associated with better than average water conditions.

Golden Eagle — There were eight active nests of the Golden Eagle at Malheur Refuge, compared with ten last year (*ELMcL*). This is the best concentration of this species reported. Secretary Nickel's decision not to allow the killing of Golden Eagles unless there are specific complaints and then only after investigation may be the greatest thing to happen for these birds yet. However, the Federal Predator Control people still report horrendous lamb losses in Wyoming which they ascribe to Golden Eagle predation. In my opinion these reports are pure twaddle (*OKS*).

Shorebird, Cuckoo, Owls — A *Ruddy Turnstone* was observed on July 31 in the marsh at Stillwater Refuge, Nev. (*LDN*). This is the second record for that area, the first being a dead bird found in 1941. A *Yellow-billed Cuckoo* seen near Beryl, Iron Co., Utah on July 13 (*SM*) constituted the first record of the species in southwestern Utah in recent years. Colonies of Burrowing Owls also were found near Beryl, with the observation of 35 owls, including young, in sight at the same time on a two-acre gravel pit, one of two such pits in the area (*SM*). This is the largest Burrowing Owl concentration reported in some time. In early July, two Screech Owl nests were found one-third of a mile apart in Salt Lake City (*GK*) and another was located in Casper, Wyo. (*OKS*); this species is not common in either Utah or Wyoming. A *Great Gray Owl* was discovered near the Whitegrass Ranger Station in Grand Teton Nat'l Park, Wyo. in mid-August (*OKS*), and information received indicated that it has been present in the area for at least a year and may have nested. This species occurs regularly in both Yellowstone and Grand Teton Nat'l Parks but is not common; the owls seem to move after a few years to a new but similar locality. Each year there are several known nests.

Hummingbirds — Whether it was because of heavy early moisture which made mountain plants more luxurious or some other reason is not clear, but this was a great year for hummers. At Durango in southwestern Colorado the greatest concentration of hummers (Black-chinned, Broad-tailed, Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds) in many years was reported, including good numbers of young. An *Anna's Hummingbird* observed in Durango on June 21 (*OR*) furnished the first record for Colorado. There are now many hummingbird feeders in the mountains west of Denver, and among the sightings reported from that area was a Rivoli's Hummingbird present at Pinecliffe between June 28 (*WWB*) and July 14 (*HK*) and seen by many other observers between those dates. This species has been seen regularly west of Denver for several years.

Woodpeckers, Flycatcher, Mockingbird — More Williamson's Sapsuckers were reported this year than previously, with more seen in the Colorado Rockies than usual. It is not clear whether there actually were more birds present or whether more observers had better luck. An Eastern Kingbird was seen on June 4 at Stillwater Refuge, Nev. where the species is very rare (*LDN*). A Mockingbird found on July 30 near Lake DeSmet in

northern Wyoming (*HK*) was north of the species' range in this Region; a Mockingbird nest found on Aug. 12 near Durango, Colo. (*OR*) provided the first nesting record for that area.

Thrush, Finches — A Veery nest was found at 8500 feet elevation near Santa Maria in the mountains southwest of Denver on July 16 (*JRC*); the Veery hitherto has been very rare that far west in the mountains. Again this year juvenile Evening Grosbeaks still being fed by regurgitation were present at feeders in Casper in early July (*JY*); the nest of this species has never been found in Wyoming. An immature Lark Bunting was observed at Malheur Refuge on June 16 (*RG*); the species is a casual visitor to the refuge.

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The Nesting Season, 1970

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

Climate conditions which prevailed during the report period were favorable to nesting success in the Region. There were no periods of prolonged cold or precipitation, and the view generally held by the Region's observers was that breeding success was high. Some highlights of the nesting season follow. A total of *six* species of hummingbirds evidently bred in Oregon's upper Rogue River Valley, where two species would have been normal some years ago. Rock Wrens and Brewer's Sparrows were either nesting or on station in June and out-of-the-ordinary locations which raise the possibility of permanent range extensions in the future. A pair of American Redstarts nested successfully near Medford, considerably southwest of any prior known breeding location. Unusual occurrences noted during the period involved Short-tailed Albatross, Silt Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Skua, Ovenbird and Northern Waterthrush.

Loons, Grebes — Up to 25 non-breeding Com. Loons were noted at Blaine, Wash., June 28 (*TRW*). A Yellow-billed Loon in summer plumage was seen on northern Hecate Strait, B.C., June 3 (*VG*). Up to 6 Arctic Loons in a day were seen from the Canadian Hydrographic Service vessel "Wm. J. Stewart" in northern British Columbia coastal waters in the period June 3—July 9 (*VG*). A Red-throated Loon was observed on June 25 in Hudson Bay Passage, B.C., while 4 individuals were located near Port Simpson, B.C. on Aug. 14 (*VG*). A Red-necked Grebe sighting at Victoria, B.C. on Aug. 8 (*ARD*) was unusual. A Horned Grebe summered at Duncan, B.C. (*JC, ML & DD*). An adult Eared Grebe appeared at William L. Finley Nat'l Wildlife Refuge south of Corvallis, Oreg. on Aug. 11 (*CFZ*). Concentrations of summering Western Grebes were noted at the north end of Bellingham Bay (*TRW*) and at Duncan, B.C. (*JC, et al.*).

Albatrosses, Shearwaters, Petrels — An immature albatross photographed by Terry Wahl among a company of Black-footed Albatrosses 38 miles at sea from Westport, Wash. on May 3 has proved from the photograph, after submission for verification to Dr. George Watson and Dr. Alexander Wetmore of the United States National Museum, to have been a *Short-tailed Albatross*; it is their opinion that the bird was probably a three or four year old individual. Duplicate photographs have been filed at the National Museum and at the National Photoduplicate File, Migratory Bird Populations Station, Laurel, Md. [See pg.709]. Six Black-footed Albatrosses were seen from the "Wm. J. Stewart" on June 2, 2 on Aug. 10 and 20 on Aug. 11, either in the Pacific off Vancouver Island or in Queen Charlotte Sound (*VG*). Five Fulmars were seen in the vessel's passage northward on June 2 and 3; 40 were seen in the Pacific and 36 were seen in Queen Charlotte Sound on the same passage, Aug. 11 (*VG*). Up to 1300 Sooty Shearwaters were counted on the latter passage, while approximately 400 birds had been noted earlier on the June 2 and 3 transits (*VG*). Two Slender-billed Shearwaters were observed in Queen Charlotte Sound on Aug. 11 (*VG*). Fork-tailed Petrels in numbers up to 69 during the course of a day were seen on seven different dates between June 2 and Aug. 11 from the "Wm. J. Stewart" off Vancouver Island and northern British Columbia (*VG*). Nine Leach's Petrels were counted in the transit of Queen Charlotte Sound on Aug. 11 (*VG*).

Cormorants, Herons — Double-crested Cormorants were found nesting on Colville Island, Wash. this summer "for the first time in years" (*TRW*). Two Green Herons were present at Duncan, B.C. from July 1 to the end of the period (*JC, et al.*); individuals appeared at scattered points farther south in the Region, commencing the last week in July. A Com. Egret was found at Siletz Bay on the Oregon coast, Aug. 15 (*JG*); a dozen were noted at Ship-a-Shore just over the California line on Aug. 9 (*JH*). An adult Black-crowned Night Heron appeared at Sauvie Island near Portland on July 16 (*JG*).

Geese, Ducks — A flock of 12 Black Brant was observed close to Chearnley Island at the southwest end of Hudson Bay Passage, B.C., June 20—July 10 (*VG*); 4 were found at Leadbetter Point on Aug. 15 (*HBN*). A few Cinnamon Teal, many Wood Ducks, and some Hooded Merganser broods were successfully raised at the Finley Refuge (*CFZ*). Unseasonal observations of ducks included pairs of Green-winged Teal on June 3 at Finley Refuge and on June 15 and 17 at Baskett Slough where 5 individuals were also seen on Aug. 11 (*CFZ*), 4 Blue-winged Teal on June 3 at Finley Refuge where 1 still was present on June 14 (*CFZ*), and 2 Am. Widgeon on June 15, 10 on July 24, and 4 on Aug. 11 at Baskett Slough (*CFZ*). A female and 2 immature Barrow's Goldeneyes were seen on Frying Pan Lake, Clackamas Co., Oreg., July 18 (*HBN*). Seven young Ruddy Ducks were observed at Kent, Wash., Aug. 9 (*VEC & DJ*). An adult Com. Merganser with 10 young was found at Cannon Beach, Oreg., July 2 (*TM*). Migratory stirrings of ducks in

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small numbers were evident after Aug. 1 in most of the Region, but the 1000 Pintail at Siletz Bay on Aug. 15 (*JG*), the Shoveler at Finley Refuge on Aug. 1 (*CFZ*), the female Canvasback at Baskett Slough on Aug. 11 (*CFZ*), and the 35 Lesser Scaup and 1 female Com. Goldeneye at Tillamook Bay, Oreg. on July 25 (*IJG & HBN*) were all unusual.

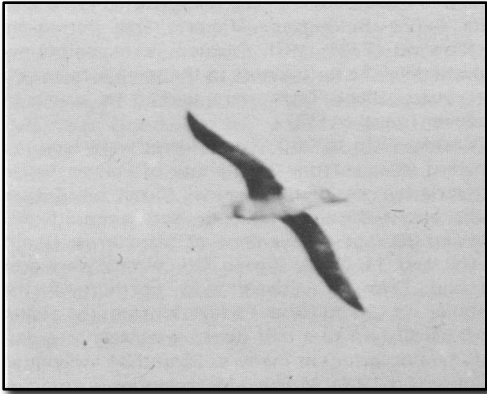
Vultures, Hawks, Eagles — Up to a half dozen Turkey Vultures summered in the vicinity of Duncan, B.C. (*JC, et al.*). An immature Goshawk, evidently sick, was captured near Bellingham, Wash. on Aug. 6 and died two days later (*TRW*). An adult Swainson's Hawk spent the day of July 12 at Finley Refuge (*CFZ*). A Golden Eagle was seen east of Lebanon, Dreg. several times during the report period (*WT*). An adult Bald Eagle was found at Iona Island, B.C., near Vancouver, on Aug. 15 (*MP*). Bald Eagles were recorded almost daily from the "Wm. J. Stewart" along the northern British Columbia coast (*VG*). Four reports of nesting Ospreys came from Duncan, Victoria and Bellingham, while repeated sightings in the Lebanon area (*WT*) caused suspicions of nesting in that vicinity too. A Peregrine Falcon was seen at the south end of Vancouver Island, July 17 (*BM & PM*).

Gallinaceous Birds — A female White-tailed Ptarmigan was seen above Glacier Vista on Mt. Rainier, July 22 (*MP & D. Pearson*). In the southern Willamette Valley, California Quail experienced good nesting success in the valley and Mountain Quail were successful in the foothills (*WT, CFZ*).

Shorebirds — Seven Semipalmated Plover observed at the south jetty of the Columbia River on June 20 (*HBN*) were of interest, as were the 2 birds that appeared at Finley Refuge on July 23 and stayed for two days (*CFZ*). Four Black-bellied Plover at Baskett Slough on July 27 (*TM*) and 1 seen there on Aug. 11 (*CFZ*) were also out-of-the-ordinary occurrences. A sighting of 3 Ruddy Turnstones at Newport, Oreg., (*JG*) Aug. 15. was the only report of this species. Two Long-billed Curlew were observed south of Albany, Oreg., Aug. 2 (*WT*). A Whimbrel at Baskett Slough on June 11 (*CFZ*) was most unusual; 3 also were seen at Blaine, Wash. on June 28 (*TRW*). By the last week in July Whimbrels were again passing through the Region, 13 found at Tillamook on July 25 (*JG & HBN*) being the largest group observed. Single Solitary Sandpipers were noted on July 6 at Portland (*JG*), Aug. 1 at Seaside, Oreg., (*HBN*), and Aug. 15 at Leadbetter Point (*HBN*) and Iona Island, B.C. (*MP*). Two Greater Yellowlegs were noted at Duncan, B.C. on June 25 (*JC, et al.*), and an early return migrant appeared on July 2 at Finley Refuge where a few birds were continually present thereafter until Aug. 11 (*CFZ*), by which time groups were being seen elsewhere in the Region also. Single Lesser Yellowlegs noted at Duncan, B.C. on July 23 and at Finley Refuge on July 31 were the first fall migrants of this species; 25 were seen at Iona Island on Aug. 15 (*MP*). An observation of 4 Knots at Leadbetter Point on Aug. 15 (*HBN*) was the only report of the season. A Pectoral Sandpiper at the south jetty of the Columbia on June 20 (*JG & HBN*) was out of season; 4 birds seen at Neah Bay, Wash., July 28 (*BM & PM*) were the first fall migrants of this species. Two Baird's Sandpipers were recorded at Duncan, B.C. on July 9 and Aug. 13 (*JC, et al.*) and 2 more at Iona Island, Aug. 15 (*MP*). The first returning Least Sandpipers appeared at Finley Refuge on the earlier-than-usual date of June 27 (*CFZ*). Three Dunlin were found at the south jetty of the Columbia on June 20 (*JG & HBN*). On July

18, Jeff Gilligan, Ron Klein and Sterling Anderson discovered a *Stilt Sandpiper* on Sauvie Island in company with dowitchers; the bird was in mixed breeding and fall plumage and constituted only the second record for Oregon, so far as we know. Several Semipalmated Sandpipers were at Iona Island on Aug. 15, the precise number being undetermined (TRW). Some 250 Western Sandpipers noted at Blaine on June 28 (TRW) were noteworthy. A *Hudsonian Godwit* was first discovered at Iona Island about Aug. 4; Terry Wahl and Mike Perrone each independently found 2 birds there on Aug. 15, with photographs made by Wahl. This constitutes possibly the first satisfactory record of this species for the Region. Two Wilson's Phalaropes were observed at Portland's Delta Park on July 6 (JG). Goodwill saw 3 Northern Phalaropes on July 15 off the southern end of Dundas Island, B.C. and estimated 8000 on Queen Charlotte Strait on July 29; 5 were at Baskett Slough in the Willamette Valley on Aug. 11 (CFZ).

Jaegers, Gulls, Terns — On Aug. 11 from the "Wm. J. Stewart," Goodwill saw 2 Pomarine Jaegers, 2 Parasitic Jaegers and a *Skua* a few miles west and northwest of Cape Cook, Vancouver Island, and then in mid-afternoon in Queen Charlotte Sound saw



Short-tailed Albatross, Diomedea albatrus, immature plumage, photographed by Terry Wahl, 35 miles w. of Westport, Washington, May 3, 1970.

another Pomarine Jaeger and another Skua! The same observer recorded other single Parasitic Jaegers on June 3 in Hecate Strait and on June 11 and July 6 in or near Hudson Bay Passage. An apparently adult Glaucous Gull was seen at Bellingham on the surprising date of June 20 (TRW). Glaucous-winged Gull was the most common gull in northern British Columbia coastal waters during June and July; single

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Herring Gulls were seen on five different June and early July dates in these waters; a few California Gulls had appeared there by the very end of July (VG). Two Ring-billed Gulls were observed at Baskett Slough on June 8 and July 24 (Rollie Krieger, *vide* CFZ); 200 were noted in a field at Conway, Wash., Aug. 9 (TRW). Immature and sub-adult Mew Gulls summered in the vicinity of Prince Rupert in number up to 350 (VG); a few appeared at Bellingham on July 28 (TRW). Also appearing at Bellingham was a juvenile Franklin's Gull on Aug. 8; 3 were present there with an adult on Aug. 16, while another juvenile was seen at Iona Island on Aug. 15 (TRW). About 50 Bonaparte's Gulls were present at Bellingham Bay on June 28 with the number up to 400 a week later; by mid-August, 2000 birds were present (TRW). Goodwill counted 538 of this species in a southward passage through Johnstone Strait, Discovery Passage and the Strait of Georgia on July 30; 600 were present at Duncan, B.C. by Aug. 6 (JC, *et al.*); 8 individuals seen at Newport, Oreg. on Aug. 15 (JG) were the only ones reported from farther south in the Region. Heermann's Gulls were very scarce, but on Aug. 15 a good movement consisting mostly of adults was observed drifting past the mouth of the Columbia River (HBN). Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen on 20 different dates in northern British Columbia coastal waters during the report period, the peak count being 200 on July 6 at Hudson Bay Passage (VG). On June 3 there were 39 adult Sabine's Gulls at Hecate Strait; 2 more were seen on June 10 and then no more were recorded until Aug. 11 when an adult was observed on Queen Charlotte Sound (VG). A few Com. Terns were in the Blaine—Bellingham—Victoria area during the report period (TRW, VG). Caspian Terns maintained approximately the same status in the same locales as in recent years. Black Terns were said to be scarce on Vancouver Island (ARD).

Alcids — Up to 200 Com. Murres were seen in a southward passage from the vicinity of Prince Rupert to Victoria by way of the "inside" route, July 29 and 30, and about the same number were counted on a northward passage to the west of Vancouver Island, Aug. 10 and 11 (*VG*). Pigeon Guillemots were seen from the "Wm. J. Stewart" in northern British Columbia on 30 different days during the report period; usually up to a half dozen were seen in a day, but on two occasions as many as 25 and 34 individuals were observed (*VG*). Marbled Murrelets were noted on 22 different days, sightings averaging 15 birds per day with a maximum of 91 on July 30, mostly along Discovery Passage (*VG*). At Duncan, up to 6 Marbled Murrelets were regularly seen in June and most of July (*JC, et al.*); 7 were seen at Boiler Bay north of Newport on Aug. 15 (*JG*); 2 were observed near Neah Bay on July 28 and 1 was seen in the surf at Long Beach, Wash. on July 19 (*BM & PM*). Ancient Murrelets were recorded on June 3 at Hecate Strait, B.C., where 27 were noted, and on June 10, July 10, July 15 and July 23 in the Dundas Islands, with a maximum of 20 sighted (*VG*). Cassin's Auklets, seen from the "Wm. J. Stewart" on only two earlier occasions during the report period, were present in numbers totaling almost 200 on a transit past northern Vancouver Island and over Queen Charlotte Sound on Aug. 11 (*VG*). Rhinoceros Auklets again were seen inside Sea Lion Caves north of Florence, Oreg. and at Yaquina Head near Newport this summer (*vide HBN*) and also were found regularly in the vicinity of Victoria during much of the summer (*ARD*). This species was seen almost daily by Goodwill in northern British Columbia waters, with 300-500 recorded on three trips from Victoria to the area north of Prince Rupert early in June, late in July, and before mid-August; 350 birds were seen at Big Bay, Chatham Sound, July 28 (*VG*). Over 40 Tufted Puffins were watched on Haystack Rock at Cannon Beach, Oreg., Aug. 1 (*HBN*); the species was recorded from the "Wm. J. Stewart" on only four dates, the maximum count being 13 on Aug. 11 off northern Vancouver Island (*VG*).

Pigeons, Doves, Cuckoos, Owls — Up to 80 Band-tailed Pigeons were present at Prince Rupert through June, after which about 20 were present there to the end of the report period (*VG*). An observation of 2 Mourning Doves at 7000 feet elevation just above timberline near Paradise on Mount Rainier, July 22 (*MP*) was interesting. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo, long unreported from the Willamette Valley, was seen and heard by Bill Thackaberry in his front yard near Lebanon on July 29! Single Short-eared Owls were observed four miles north of Finley Refuge, June 10 and 13 (Melly Zeilemaker, *CFZ*). Saw-whet Owls raised young at Canby and Tigard, just south of Portland (*vide HBN*); 1 was seen at Hubbard, Oreg., July 25 (A. Hostetler). A Poor-will was feeding young at Roxy Ann Butte near Medford, Oreg., July 15 (*OS*). Common Nighthawks were scarce in Victoria, Seattle and Portland this summer but were of regular occurrence at Corvallis and west of there in Oregon's coast range. Between 6 and 15 Black Swifts summered at Duncan, B.C. (*JC*); on July 25, 40 birds were seen over Seattle (*MP*) and more than 50 at Victoria (*ARD*); 2 were noted at Manning Provincial Park, B.C. on Aug. 4 (*VG*). Merle McGraw's hummingbird feeders at Shady Cove near Medford, Oreg., continued to attract hummingbirds in a big way, according to reports from Gen. Joseph Hicks. Several pairs of Black-chinned Hummingbirds were there in June, and a young male was present on July 25. Calliope Hummingbirds were there also in June, as were Broad-tailed Hummingbirds; a young bird of the latter species was seen at the feeders also on July 25. A male Allen's Hummingbird came repeatedly to the spot during June. Also found in the Medford area through June and July were at least 4 pairs of Anna's Hummingbirds. Up to 6 Rufous Hummingbirds at a time were seen in the Dundas Islands—Prince Rupert area during July (*VG*).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers — Lewis' Woodpecker apparently nested in the Salem area, 1 juvenile being seen with 5 adults on Aug. 21 (*TM*). A few of these birds were present at Scappoose, Oreg., on the Columbia River below Portland, throughout the summer (*SJ*); 1 was seen near Olympia on June 16 (*MP*). Two young Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers were found in a nest hole, being fed by an adult male, on July 11 in the burn at Big Lake on Oregon's

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Santiam Pass (*RF & HBN*), very near the spot where a 'Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was discovered nesting last year. An Eastern Kingbird was closely observed by Melly Zeilemaker at Finley Refuge on June 12 (*vide CFZ*); 3 were found along the Skagit River on June 7 (*TRW*) and 1 was seen at Marietta, Wash., June 30 (Jim Duemmel, *vide TRW*). Two Western Kingbirds were noted east of Salem, June 3 (*TM*), 2 at Sauvie Island on June 27 (*SJ*), and 1 at Iona Island on Aug. 15 (*MP*).

Larks, Swallows, Ravens, Wrens — Skylarks were present at both the Vancouver and Victoria International Airports at the end of July (*MP*; *BM & PM*). The only reports of Purple Martins were of 3 or 4 pairs which

nested in snags at Victoria (*ARD*) and a dozen birds which appeared at Finley Refuge on Aug. 3 and were still present at the end of the report period (*CFZ*). An estimated 250 Com. Ravens were observed in flight and in trees on an island near Prince Rupert on June 12 (*VG*); 10 were feeding on dead fish at Finley Refuge, Aug. 13 (*CFZ*). At least a half dozen pairs of House Wrens nested on Finley Refuge (*CFZ*). Long-billed Marsh Wrens nested abundantly at Duncan, B.C., with 28 nests found there (*JC, et al.*). Rock Wrens, rarely recorded west of the Cascades, were discovered in three different localities. A pair found at Duncan, B.C. on June 7 subsequently raised 5 young which were photographed (*JC, et al.*). Another pair was found on May 19 on Spencer Butte, near Eugene (*LM*), where the species was once reported to have bred (Gabrielson & Jewett, *Birds of Oregon*, page 461). Finally, a rather widespread colony of Rock Wrens utilizing piled brush and logs in clear-cut areas was discovered on the upper Clackamas River drainage in mid-June by David Marshall and Kirk Horn.

Mimids, Thrushes, Pipits, Starling — A Mocking bird spent the summer at Medford (*JH*). Relatively few Varied Thrushes inhabited the interior of Vancouver Island this summer in comparison with numbers prior to the severe 1968-69 winter (*ARD*). Three pairs of Veeries were at Medford through June and July (*JH*). Only two pairs of Western Bluebirds were reported in the Region, one near Salem (*TM*), the other in the Cascades east of Lebanon (*WT*). A singing Water Pipit was observed on Mount Hood, July 19 (D. Marshall). Starlings continued to multiply, being commented upon from Prince Rupert south through the entire Region.

Vireos, Warblers — Two Solitary Vireos were seen near Salem, June 5 (*TM*). Red-eyed Vireos were readily observed this summer along the rivers draining into northern Puget Sound (*TRW*). An *Ovenbird* came aboard a fishing boat 5 miles off Coos Bay, Oreg. on June 6, stayed about an hour until the fog lifted, and then flew toward shore (Robert E. Mullen). The observer enclosed a striking color photograph which has been forwarded for deposit in the National Photoduplicate File. We believe this to be the first occurrence of the Ovenbird in this Region. A late report has been received of a *Northern Waterthrush* discovered at Westham Island, near Vancouver, April 12; the bird was seen subsequently by many observers (*vide* Madelon Schouten). Another was seen 15 miles north of Medford on Aug. 14; the observer (*JH*) approached to within 12 feet of the bird. A pair of *Am. Redstarts* with 4 young was discovered on July 2 at the same spot; the young were out of the nest and the birds gone by July 5 (*JH, et al.*).

Blackbirds, Orioles — A male Bobolink was found east of Ashland, Oreg., June 20 (Elmo Stevenson, *vide JH*). There were practically no Western Meadowlarks on southern Vancouver Island and comparatively few Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds there, reflecting still the severity of the 1968-69 winter (*ARD*). Several Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen at Iona Island on Aug. 15 (*TRW*). Single Bullock's Orioles were observed at Marblemount and Sedro Woolley, Wash. on June 7 and at the Skagit Game Range on Aug. 9 (*TRW*).

Finches, Sparrows — Several Lazuli Buntings were found along the Skagit River on June 7 (*TRW*), while a pair was found at Sumas, Wash., June 25 (S. Lambert, *vide TRW*). Red Crossbills were plentiful at Duncan, B.C., July 15—Aug. 15 (*JC & ML*). A Vesper Sparrow observation at the south jetty of the Columbia River on June 20 (*JG & HBN*) was extraordinary. Three Black-throated Sparrows and 3 Black-chinned Sparrows were found again on Roxy Ann Butte, July 2 (*OS, WT, et al.*), a month after the first discovery of both species, reported in the spring season account. Brewer's Sparrows were noted in two different open areas in the Oregon Cascades: a singing pair was found in a logged area on the upper Clackamas River drainage in mid-June (D. Marshall & Kirk Horn), and another singing individual was observed in a burned area in the Santiam Pass at the same time (*WT*). These were surprising finds.

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