

1971

Autumn Migration, 1970

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/ Thomas H. Rogers



The last half of August continued the hot, dry trend of the first fifteen days, with temperatures perhaps higher and precipitation certainly less, in fact, completely lacking at Spokane, Wenatchee and Yakima, Wash. and measuring only .01 inch at Missoula, Mont. Early September rains brought relief, ushering in a decidedly cool and, in most localities, dry period. Mid-month brought unexpected cold with snow in the mountains and very early frost in the valleys, apparently over the entire Region. October, after a "heat wave" in the 80s, settled down again to the pattern of subnormal temperatures. Spokane and Walla Walla, Wash. received more than normal precipitation, Helena and Missoula, Mont. and s. interior British Columbia moderate amounts, and the Wenatchee-Yakima area very little. November was for three weeks perhaps the most normal part of the fall. Then temperatures dropped into the cellar. Spokane plunged from lows in the thirties to 5°F. on the 22nd. Helena had -6°, and Wenatchee, 9°. Southern interior British Columbia had strong winds, drifting snow and temperatures near zero at Kamloops and down to -30° at Prince George. Precipitation was normal or above in eastern Washington, where Spokane had up to four inches of snow on the ground and Yakima, 3, during the last week. Moisture was less in w. Montana, where Missoula

had practically no snow until the end of the month, then only a few inches. The unseasonable cold in September might well have been expected to affect the migration. However, only Gerald Morsello at Prineville, Ore. suggested any correlation, pointing out that it marked the end of summer for Barn Swallows, nighthawks and Rufous Hummingbirds. For more northerly and easterly parts of the Region the latter two species usually are gone by mid September anyway. At Spokane hummingbirds were considered to have left early, but this was a week before the cold snap. The November freezeup drove about two thirds of the geese and ducks out of Turnbull Refuge at Cheney, Wash, but probably was too late to affect the land bird migration.

80 American Birds, February 1971

In general the fall migration seemed quite normal and unspectacular. What significance, if any, can be attached to the large number of displacements appears obscure. They are about equally distributed between eastward and westward displacements and seem to have no relation to cold spells or wind directions, although detailed and complete data on these factors are not at hand. Perhaps we simply had more competent observers in the field.

LOONS AND GREBES - Fourteen Common Loons were observed on Helena Valley Reservoir, Helena, Mont. on Oct. 15 (SM). The Arctic Loon seems to be assuming the status of a scarce but regular autumn migrant in e. Washington. Two were seen at Silver Lake and one at Granite Lake, both in Spokane Co., between Oct. 17 and 23 (SAS). Four were seen on Blue Lake, Grant Co., Wash, on Nov. 8 (WH) and 2 were seen there on Nov. 14 (SAS). A crippled bird was shot near Nine Mile Falls on the Spokane River below Spokane, Wash. on Nov. 24 (DEB *fide* DD). In British Columbia one was killed by traffic on Highway 97 forty miles south of Prince George, Oct. 10 and on the same day a live one was found in a field near Prince George Airport. The previous night had been foggy. The Eared Grebe was noted in Glacier Nat'l Park, Mont. on Nov. 23 (LM). Over 100 Western Grebes were seen at Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on Sept. 5 (SAS).

PELICANS - About 40 White Pelicans arrived at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. the last

of July. The peak number was about 60 on Oct. 2 and about 10 still lingered there on Dec. 1.

WATERFOWL - The peak number of Whistling Swans at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash, was only 120, compared to 430 for 1969. At the end of November, 30 Trumpeter Swans were present at Turnbull Refuge, compared to 27 for that date last year. Of 12 cygnets surviving until Sept. 1 only 9 were left by mid September and 7 at the end of November. One died in a power line accident and another was shot. An adult was shot at Alkali Lake to the west in Grant County on Nov. 21. Another 5 (3 adults and 2 young) are unaccounted for. This brings to 18 the total that has disappeared, in addition to 7 known adult mortalities, since the swans were liberated in 1968. Two Trumpeters stayed from August into October on a small pond near Enderby, B.C. Canada Geese numbers appeared to be good. The November Columbia Basin waterfowl census revealed 48,300 of the birds (DB). About 30,000, mostly Lesser, were noted at Stratford, Grant Co., Wash. on Oct. 10 and a few Cackling Geese were seen at Park Lake, Grant Co., and at Stratford (JA). Twenty to 40 White-fronted Geese were at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge from mid September to mid October. Two Blue Geese, with a few Snow Geese, at Turnbull Refuge in late October were the first recorded there for the species. A *Ross' Goose* was positively identified at Salmon Arm, B.C., Sept. 23-26 (DBe). This is the third record for southern interior British Columbia. Mallards totalled 415,200, and other ducks 47,600, on the November Columbia River Basin census (DB). A European Widgeon was identified near Yakima, Wash. (EBo & BH). A maximum of 400 Gadwall was present at Turnbull Refuge in late October and early November. At the latter refuge 12 Wood Ducks were seen on Oct. 29, the only ones reported. Turnbull also recorded the highest count of goldeneye, during the week of Nov. 8-14, when about 1100 Com. and 600 Barrow's were recorded there. A female Oldsquaw at Three Forks, Mont. on Nov. 20 was the first there for a number of years (ETH & RAH, PDS) and one was collected at Freezeout Lake n.e. of Great Falls on Nov. 6 (RLE). In e. Washington a male, and 2 female were at Davis Lake, Pend Oreille Co. on Oct. 31 (JA & SAS) and 6 were on the Spokane River above Upriver Dam at Spokane on Nov. 25 (JA). A White-winged Scoter appeared at Freezeout Lake on Nov. 6 (RLE) and 2 were seen at Silver Lake, Spokane Co., Wash. on Oct. 17 (JA). In Montana, where no

more than six records for *Surf Scoters* exist, the birds were found at three localities: 3 at Shawmut on Oct. 7 (PHA); one at Harrison on Oct. 11 (LM & PDS), and one at Freezeout Lake on Nov. 6 (RLE). A single individual was identified on *Upper Priest Lake* in northern Idaho on Oct. 18 (SS) and one was on Blue Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on Nov. 8 (WH).

VULTURES AND HAWKS - Turkey Vultures were noted between about Aug. 24, when 8-10 were seen along the Pend Oreille River 11 miles below Newport, Wash. (CRO), and Sept. 11, which was the latest date in five years at Prineville, Ore. Hawk numbers appeared about normal. A gray phase *Gyr Falcon* was sighted in the Yakima, Wash. area (JL & AT). *Twelve* Ospreys were seen along the Pend Oreille River, at the same place and date as the vultures (CRO). Bald Eagles were reported from several localities in w. Montana and e. Washington, with Glacier National Park, the Region's Bald Eagle "capital", as usual reporting the greatest number, 268 on Nov. 25 (BRM). Four Prairie Falcons were observed within a distance of 1.5 miles, south of Davenport, Wash. on Nov. 28 (JA).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- These appeared to be on the increase in e. Washington after the severe winter two years ago. Single California Quail observed in *Missoula, Mont.* on Sept. 1 (RLH) and Oct. 28 (PLW) were believed to be escaped captives. One Turkey was seen near Kepple Lake in Turnbull Refuge on Oct. 24.

CRANES AND RAILS - Two Sandhill Cranes spent the summer at Lake Helena near Helena, Mont., suggesting possible nesting. Three were there on Aug. 15 (SM). The species was also

Volume 25, Number 1 81

noted during the fall season in the Bozeman, Mont. area, and at Richland (EM), Mansfield (REW) and Othello, Wash. The only Virginia Rails reported were 2 near Prineville, Ore, on Sept. 8.

SHOREBIRDS - At least 1 Am. Golden Plover was at Harrison, Mont. on Oct. 11 (LM & PDS). A few Black-bellied Plovers were seen between Sept. 20 and Nov. 8 in the Bozeman and Helena, Mont. areas and at Reardan, Wash. (JA). A single Upland Plover was observed in alpine country at 6000 ft. elevation in Glacier Nat'l Park, s.e. British Columbia, Aug. 25 (KG).

Record late dates for w. Montana were: Willet, at Harrison, Sept. 21 (SC & PDS), and Lesser Yellowlegs and Least Sandpiper at Belgrade, Oct. 23 (RAH & PDS). A Knot was sighted on Sept. 2 at Potholes Reservoir, Moses Lake, Wash. It was in a movement of 350 shorebirds of 11 species (WH). A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**, positively identified at close range near Vernon, B.C. was believed to be the first for the province's southern interior (SRC). Apparently another first for the same general area was a **Hudsonian Godwit** at Shuswap Lake at Salmon Arm, B.C., Sept. 17 (DB & EB). A Marbled Godwit was sighted at Reardan, Wash., Aug. 23 and 31 (JA). A **Red Phalarope** was studied carefully with a 20x scope at Harrison, Mont. on Oct. 11 (LM & PDS). This is the third record for the area, all at the same spot on Harrison Lake. Only one other record exists for Montana. Two of this species were observed at Coulee City, Wash. on Sept. 19 (JA).

JAEGERS - An immature **Long-tailed Jaeger** was observed at length from a distance of fifteen feet on Sept. 5 at Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. (JA). Another was chasing Ring-billed Gulls at Salmon Arm, B.C. on Sept. 25 (DM). At the latter locality 2 Parasitic Jaegers were identified at close range, Sept. 26 (DR & DM).

GULLS AND TERNS - A record late date, Nov. 20, was listed for Bonaparte's Gull in the Bozeman, Mont. area (EMB, HC, ETH & RAH). A single Common Tern was seen at Banks Lake on Sept. 19 (JA). The only other report for the species was for the Bozeman area, where the birds were last seen on Sept. 10 (ETH & RAH).

OWLS - Two traffic killed Screech Owls were found near Vernon, B.C., Oct. 10; curious because road kills for the species in the past there have averaged about 1 in ten years! Was it more birds, more traffic, or just coincidence? The Barred Owl was heard frequently near Cherryville, B.C., where it nested during the summer (SD). The Pygmy Owl was reported as very common in the Vernon, B.C. area; seen on most trips into the field and frequenting many feeders in Lavington and Coldstream. Five records of the species in and near Bozeman, Mont. and in Yellowstone Park were remarkable for that area and suggested some sort of movement (RLE, ETH & RAH, LM). The birds were also reported from Spokane (SAS), the Pend Oreille River (SAS) and Boise Cascade campground

near Yakima (PH), all in Washington. Short-eared Owls were scarce in the Okanagan Valley around Vernon, B.C., where voles were much less numerous than last year. However, 9 were seen near Commonage, 2 miles south of Vernon in an area of less than a square mile, Nov. 15 (KG). The only other reports of the species were of 2 on Oct. 31 in the Prineville, Ore, area (GM) and one near Yakima, Wash. (JL & AT).

NIGHTHAWKS, SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS - Last dates for the Common Nighthawk were: Cheney, Wash., Sept. 8 (FBH); Spokane, Sept. 10 (SAS); Missoula, Mont., Sept. 12; Vernon, B.C., Sept. 15; Prineville, Ore., Sept. 16; Baker, Ore., Sept. 17; Bozeman, Mont., Sept. 20 (DRS); Richland, Wash., Sept. 21, and Clarkston, Wash., Oct. 7 (MJP). A flock of 150 Vaux's Swifts was seen over Ochoco Reservoir, 6 miles east of Prineville, Ore, on Sept. 13. Movement of the birds, seen there only on Sept. 12-13, seemed to be related to a cold front, with morning temperatures of 21°F. on Sept. 13 & 14. Ten were seen in the valley below Salmo Mtn., Pend Oreille Co., Wash, on Sept. 22 (JA) and 2 were at Baker, Ore, on Sept. 13. At least 10 White-throated Swifts were still at Lenore Lake, Grant Co., Wash, on Sept. 5 (JA). At the few localities which reported hummingbirds, departure seemed to be distinctly early, Missoula, Mont. reported the Rufous as more common than usual but with none after Aug. 27. At Spokane the Rufous had departed the first week of September, except for one late bird. The departure there was about two weeks early (SAS). Sept. 15 was the last date for the Rufous at Prineville. A Calliope was seen at Missoula on Sept. 11.

WOODPECKERS AND FLYCATCHERS - Two female **Yellow-shafted Flickers** were seen at Spokane on Nov. 14 (JA). Black-backed & Three-toed Woodpeckers were present all summer and fall at a burned over forest near Colbert, Spokane Co., Wash. (SAS). A family of four Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers was found in Salmo Mt. area of Pend Oreille Co., Wash, on Aug. 22 (JA). The species was noted as common in Banff Nat'l. Park, Aug. 28-31 (MP). Ten flycatchers (*Empidonax sp.*) at Vermilion Lakes, Banff Nat'l Park, Alta. on Aug. 29 suggested a migrational movement (MP). At Bozeman Sept. 10 was a record late date for the Western Kingbird (ETH & RAH). The Ash-throated Flycatcher was quite common during the fall at Walla Walla, Wash., with up to six seen until near mid October (NFM).

SWALLOWS AND JAYS -- A flock of several hundred swallows, mostly Violet-greens but a few Tree Swallows, was at Kalamalka Lake near Vernon, B.C. on Sept. 20, with the weather "very cold." No flock buildups were noted in the Spokane, Wash, area and departures were early (SAS). A late Barn Swallow was still at Richland, Wash, on Nov. 2 (EM). A Blue Jay

82 *American Birds*, 1971

appeared daily, beginning on Oct. 16, at a feeder at Little Spokane River Sanctuary near Spokane (VN & CS). The Com. Raven continued to be a common sight in Missoula, Mont. Clark's Nutcrackers staged a notable "invasion" in the Spokane area about mid September, which lasted at least until the end of November. Flocks up to 30 were reported. Presumably the Ponderosa Pine cone crop there was better than cone crops higher in the mountains. A similar influx was noted in s. British Columbia area, where a good supply of Western White Pine seeds attracted them.

CHICKADEES - An influx of Black-capped Chickadees at Walla Walla followed a major storm which brought snow to higher elevations in e. Washington, Oct. 25. The Boreal Chickadee was described as common in Banff Nat'l Park, Aug. 28-31 (MP) and 3 were seen in the Salmo Mt. area of n.e. Washington, Aug. 22 (SAS). A week later at least 10 Chestnut-backed Chickadees were observed in the Priest Lake area of northern Idaho (SAS).

WRENS, MIMIDS, THRUSHES - A very late House Wren was observed at close range at Prineville, Ore. on Oct. 25. Single Bewick's Wrens were observed near Richland, Wash. from Aug. 16 through late November (EM). Latest dates for the Rock Wren were Sept. 12 at Spokane (THR) and Oct. 21 at Clarkston, Wash. (MJP). The only other report of the species was from near Walla Walla, Wash., one in the foothills near Mill Creek, Sept. 21 (NFM). Catbirds were common until Sept. 29 at Missoula and one was seen at the very late date of Nov. 15 during stormy weather. Robins gave indication that they might winter in good numbers in eastern Washington but only a few seemed to be lingering elsewhere. Very few of either Western or Mountain Bluebirds were noted. A suggestion of a migrational movement was detected at Turnbull Refuge, Cheney, Wash., when some of the former

species moved through on Oct. 10-11. At Sachem Lake, Fend Oreille Co., Wash., 15-20 Mountain Bluebirds were in a small movement with four species of flycatchers, three of warblers, Western Tanagers and White-crowned Sparrows, Sept. 7 (WH). At Bozeman a Hermit Thrush was seen on the record late date of Oct. 7-8 (SC).

PIPITS AND WAXWINGS - Water Pipits were reported migrating between Sept. 2 (Reardan, Wash.) and Oct. 23 (Bozeman, Mont.) (RAH & PDS). An immature bird was observed in alpine country at Lyman Lake, Glacier Peak Wilderness, Snohomish Co., Wash, on Aug. 20 (THR). Bohemian Waxwings appeared around the first of November in the northern and eastern part of the Region. At Missoula flocks of 500-1000 were present in early December. A flock of 1000 was noted at Polson, Mont. on Nov. 22 and a total of 4-5000 was seen at Kalispell, Mont. on Nov. 26 (LM).

SHRIKES AND VIREOS - Northern Shrikes were appearing in October and November. At the Sun Lakes, Grant Co., Wash, a Loggerhead and a Northern Shrike were seen within a half mile of each other on Nov. 8 (WH). One or two Solitary Vireos were noted in the Vermilion Lakes area of Banff Nat'l Park, Aug. 28-31. The checklist for Banff calls it rare (MP). Red-eyed Vireos were reported only from Missoula, where they were not seen after mid August.

WARBLERS -- The outstanding sighting of the season was of a *Prothonotary Warbler* at Richland, Wash, where it was last seen on Sept. 9 after remaining about a week (REW & others). A Tennessee Warbler was observed very carefully and compared with other warblers at Spokane on Aug. 30 (JA). Four of this species were observed in Banff Nat'l Park on Aug. 29 (MP). An immature or female Myrtle Warbler was identified at Medical Lake, Wash, on Sept. 20 (JA) and four were seen in Banff on Aug. 30 (MP). Six Magnolia Warblers were sighted at Banff on Aug. 29 and a *Black-throated Gray Warbler* was identified at Vermilion Lakes in Banff the next day (MP). Apparently no specimen of the latter has been taken in Alberta and it is not in the checklist for Banff or Jasper Nat'l Parks. At least 100 Audubon's Warblers, plus a few of other species and Warbling Vireos, were seen at Medical Lake on Sept. 20. This was the only conspicuous warbler movement noted in the Spokane

area (JA). Wilson's Warbler was, next to Audubon's the most abundant warbler in that area. A very late Wilson's was seen on Oct. 27 at Missoula.

COWBIRDS, FINCHES - A record late date for the Brown-headed Cowbird was Sept. 10 in Jefferson County, Mont. (ETH & RAH). Evening Grosbeaks had, in general not arrived in any numbers. A flock of 100 was reported in Spokane, however and they were described as common in Missoula. At Missoula House Finches no longer rate italics. During November flocks increased in size there to 50-60 birds. Few Pine Siskins were left at the end of November. For Flathead County, Mont. 25-30 seemed to be a notable number for Nov. 25 (LM). A male and a female *Lesser Goldfinch* were carefully observed a number of times at Prineville, Ore., beginning on Aug. 31. The female was last seen on Oct. 15. On Oct. 12 the female was seen feeding a young bird, strongly indicating that the pair had bred there (JK & GM). Only a few Red Crossbills were observed, these in the s. interior of British Columbia and at Spokane and Cheney, Wash.

SPARROWS - The Clay-colored Sparrow was positively identified at Missoula: one on Sept. 20, 2 on Oct. 3 and one on Oct. 4. Harris' Sparrow has now the status of a rare but regular migrant through the Region. At Missoula two were seen on Oct. 4 and 7, and singles on Oct. 16 and 24. Two were at the Little Spokane River Sanctuary near Spokane Oct. 16-18 (VN & CS) and one immature was seen in the Spokane Valley just e. of Spokane on Oct. 14 (THR). In the Vernon, B.C. area 2 visited Jim Grant's feeder at Lavington

Volume 25, Number 1 83

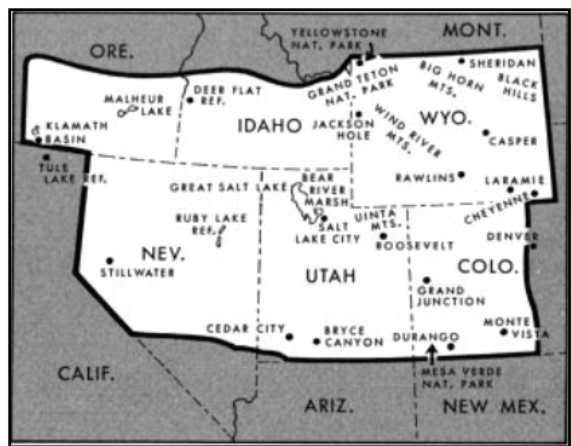
throughout the fall period and one was at a feeder at Coldstream (JTF). The White-crowned Sparrow migration was unspectacular, with no large concentrations reported. The only report of the Golden-crowned Sparrow was of one at Lavington, B.C. on Sept. 19. Single White-throated Sparrows appeared at Spokane on Oct. 14 (Mrs. SOS) and Richland on Nov. 13-14 (EM). Lapland Longspurs were first seen in the Bozeman area on Oct. 31 and at Helena on Nov. 8 (SM). The species was noted at three localities in eastern Washington between Sept. 4 and Nov. 14 (JA, WH). One was seen at Missoula on Oct. 14. A single Snow Bunting was reported at Helena on Nov. 6 (SM).

CORRIGENDUM - The male European Widgeon identified at Ennis Lake was seen on Mar. 29, 1970, not on Dec. 20 (*Audubon Field Notes* 24:522).

CONTRIBUTORS -- (sectional editors, in *italics*, should receive credit for observations in their respective areas unless otherwise stated) - James Acton, *Eugene C. Barney*: McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash., D. E. Bartholomew, (DBe) Derek Beacham, (EB) Elizabeth Beacham, Ella Mae Border, (EBo) Ellis Bowhay, (DB) *Dave Brown*: Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash., Steve R. Cannings, Helen Carlson, Sharon Cotterell, Dennis Dahlke, Sid Draper, *Maxine R. Eller*: Yakima, Wash. area, R. L. Eng, Jack T. Fowle, *James Grant*: British Columbia, Karl Gruener, (PH) Pauline Hager, (PHa) Platt Hall, Warren Hall, Bill Halstead, *Ralph L. Hand*: Missoula, Mont. area, Eve T. Hays, R. A. Hays, Frances B. Huston, John Knox, Jeff Lee, B. Riley McClelland, *Jon M. Malcolm*: Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash., Sid Martin, *Niel F. Meadowcroft*: Walla Walla, Wash. area, Elisabeth Moore, *Gerald Morsello*: Prineville, Ore. area, Louis Moos, Dean Munro, Vee Nealey, C. R. Orcutt, Mike Perrone, Margaret J. Polumsky, Thomas H. Rogers, Donald R. Skaar, *P. D. Skaar*: Bozeman-Harrison area, Mont., Connie Smedley, *Mrs. S.O. Stanley*: for Spokane Audubon Society, e. Washington, Shirley Sturts, Allen Todd, *Ann Ward*: Baker, Ore. area, *Robert E. Woodley*: Kennewick, Pasco, Richland area, Wash., Philip L. Wright.

Autumn Migration, 1970

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



This fall seemed more normal than most. It was relatively warm until the close of the season and the real freezeups came later. The Great Basin had more precipitation than usual; it is often bone dry at that time of year. There were floods in s.w. Colorado in early September but elsewhere precipitation was normal or below normal in the Rockies. This region is so large and diverse that it is hard to identify any broad migratory waves. There was a wave of Audubon's Warblers reported from Reno in w. Nevada on Oct. 28, after the first severe freeze (JMD) but this probably applied only to the e. edge of the Sierras. In contrast to the large numbers of siskins and Red-breasted Nuthatches reported last year in the valleys, there have been few, particularly in the Salt Lake area, this year (WS). At the end of the period almost none of the winter visitors to the Rockies had appeared, as they usually do in November. There were only scattered reports of such birds as Bohemian Waxwings, Rosy Finches and Evening Grosbeaks. This winter is going to be different.

PELICANS, HERONS - The White Pelican reached a peak of 2160 on Aug. 25 at Malheur Lake in e. Oregon. This total was 3440 less than last year (WLA). A Least Bittern was recorded Sept. 1 at Malheur where it is rare (WLA). Another was seen at Upper Klamath Lake, Ore. Aug. 17 (LW). There were 2 Com. Egrets at Farmington Bay on the Great Salt Lake Sept. 10 (GK), where they are unusual. They are more common west of that area.

SWANS - A gathering of 15,000 Whistling Swans at Malheur Nov. 8 - 21 was about as large as it was a year ago (EL, McL). At Bear River Marshes the Whistler

flocks were up to 25,500 on Nov. 9, for the highest concentration in the region, as usual. However, this was far below the 1969 record of 41,000 at Bear River. The colony of Trumpeter Swans at Malheur has now reached 50, with 12 cygnets reared this year (EL, McL). This colony is slowly becoming successful.

GEESE, DUCKS - Stillwater Marsh in w. Nevada had good water conditions and waterfowl utilization of the marsh increased. The duck migration peaked at 194,200 on Oct. 12, a week earlier than 1969 and 20 percent higher. While populations of Green-winged Teal, Shoveler, and Redhead were down 11-17 percent, Gadwall at 26,135 were up 54 percent and widgeon at 34,500

84 *American Birds*, February 1971

were up 90 percent. The Canvasback count reached 27,200, the highest ever recorded at Stillwater (LDN). Malheur Lake had a relatively better water-fowl migration due to the fifth wettest fall since 1937, and the flow of the Donner und Blitzen R. increased. Harney Lake, which had been dry, increased to 5000 acres by the end of the period. In peak numbers the waterfowl were better than last year but not up to 1967, the last good year. Canvasback made a new high of 21,000 on Oct. 11 24, which is the best since 1965. However, widgeon, Gadwall, and Pintail were down considerably from 1967. There were 80 Hooded Mergansers at Krumbo Reservoir in the Malheur Basin Nov. 10, which is the greatest concentration ever recorded there (EL, McL), and perhaps any-where else in the West. The total Malheur population was 200 on that date which must be a record for this relatively rare bird. The migratory waterfowl head southwest when they leave Malheur, heading for the Warner Valley which seems to be their next stop. Deer Flat Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in w. Idaho ran its customary course this year with the largest concentration of Mallards in the Region. Of 600,000 ducks on Lake Lowell at the refuge, 98 percent were Mallards. An aerial census revealed another 150,000 on the nearby Snake River, making this by far the largest concentration of Mallards in the Pacific Flyway (JTA). Canada Goose is the only other species of waterfowl using this area in numbers. Up to 9000 were present from September to the end of the season (JTA). At Bear River Marshes there was an extraordinary concentration of 80,000 Canvasback on Nov. 9. The Canvasback is making a fine comeback in

the Great Basin. The other high counts at Bear River were 94,000 Pintail and 90,000 Am. Widgeon on Nov. 2. Monte Vista Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in Colorado reported that the water remained open during this period for the first time in 17 years. The refuge had its greatest utilization ever by ducks and geese. The local flock of Canada Geese has now risen to 2600 since it was established a few years ago, and some limited hunting is now permitted (CRB).

RARE WATERFOWL -- There was an Oldsquaw on Nov. 11 at Granby Reservoir in Rocky Mountain Nat'l. Park. This was the second record for the area (RG). There was another at Moore's Slough s. of Sheridan in n. Wyoming on Nov. 16 (PH). Still another was collected at Carson Lake Pasture in the Lahontan valley of western Nevada near Stillwater on Dec. 3 (LDN) which is very unusual. In w. Colorado, more reservoirs are being established as elsewhere in the West with resultant increases in shorebirds, Canada Geese, and other waterbirds such as grebes, gulls and terns (LFE).

HAWKS -- A Harlan's Hawk was reported from Monte Vista Refuge in Colorado (CRB), and there were several sightings in n. Wyoming (TK). A Rough legged Hawk was spotted on Nov. 26 about 45 miles s. of Tonopah, Nev., just over the California line in the southern Great Basin, where it is scarce (RW).

TURKEYS, CRANES -- The Fish and Game Departments of many western states are busy restocking Turkeys. As a result they were found in Zion Nat'l. Park, Utah, for the first time this year (RAS). Three were seen w. of Fort Collins, Cob, in the Rockies on Oct. 18 (MT) another relatively new area. There were 2929 Sandhill Cranes at Malheur on Oct. 5. This population had gradually built up from 400 breeding birds at the start of the season. Many of these birds were marked with leg bands and streamers so that their migration routes could be traced. It was believed that most of these birds nested in s.e. Oregon (CDL). About 4000 cranes migrated through the San Luis valley (Monte Vista N.W.R.), in the fall of 1970, showing a steadily increasing use of that area (CRB). The only other big concentration of Sandhills was 500 near Driggs in s. Idaho on Oct. 8 (RF).

SHOREBIRDS -- On Oct. 25 an immature male Ruff was seen and well documented at Lower Klamath Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge. This is a casual bird on the West Coast

and this was possibly the second record for that area (RF *et al.*). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were again seen in e. Wyoming; Sept. 30 near Sheridan (TK) and Sept. 7 at Yant's Puddle, the Standard Oil sump at Casper. There was a Knot Sept. 13, 14 at Lake DeSmet in n. Wyoming (TK, PH) where this bird is considered casual.

GULLS, OWLS -- A *Sabine's Gull* at Yant's Puddle Sept. 26 (JT) provided another record of this species, which is casual inland. A flock of 400 Franklin's Gulls was seen swirling and feeding near Horseshoe Lake in Rocky Mountain Nat'l. Park on Oct. 18. The birds soared as high as 12,000 ft., providing a spectacular sight not uncommon in that region (HK). A Barn Owl was seen in the Cedar Valley of s. Utah Sept. 9 and Oct. 29 (SM), where it is now scarce.

HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS -- A heavy migration of hummingbirds were reported at Durango, Colo. from the last two weeks of August to mid September (OR). Perhaps the rains in that area had something to do with this. A *Blue-throated Hummingbird* on Sept. 7 at Evergreen in the mountains west of Denver (WWB) will be reported in detail elsewhere. This is probably the first report of this species for Colorado. There is a great increase in the number of people feeding hummers in Colorado and Wyoming. An Acorn Woodpecker near Springdale in s. Utah Aug. 25 was very unusual (PS). There was a Northern Three toed Woodpecker north of Lake of the Woods in the Klamath Basin area on Oct. 13 (JH) which is the first report in some time from that area.

Volume 25, Number 1 85

JAYS, BLUEBIRDS - Blue Jays are now resident at Cheyenne, Wyo. (MH) and are seen regularly. One bird crossed the mountains west to Laramie, Wyo. Oct. 22 (ABM) but the jay is not regular there. Flocks of up to 1500 Piñon Jays were seen at Cedar City in s. Utah (SM) where they seemed more common than usual. A W. Bluebird at Eldora, w. of Boulder, Colo., Sept. 15 (LE) is the only report of this species in 20 years in that particular area. There were 3 at Estes Park, not far away, on Sept. 15 (MP). In w. Idaho a remarkable number of juvenile birds were seen still being fed by parents in late August and September, including Mourning Dove Sept. 13, Black-chinned Hummingbird

Sept. 14, Robin, W. Tanager Aug. 24, Am. Goldfinch, Aug. 24 (HES), but we have no explanation.

WARBLERS - A *Tennessee Warbler* was seen on Florida Mesa near Durango on Oct. 12 (OR). This species is rare in the area with only one other record in recent years. There was a good flight of Virginia's and Orange-crowned Warblers in September in Durango but a poor one for Audubon's (OR). A Black-throated Blue at Malheur Oct. 10 was unusual (WLA). There were three Am. Redstarts seen at Malheur this season which seems unusual -- but Malheur has tremendous coverage by local observers.

SPARROWS - Golden-crowned Sparrows were seen on several occasions in Reno. This is the third year that Golden-crowned Sparrows have been seen there, either in fall or winter, and may represent a real expansion of their range, since there have been only occasional sightings in the past (JMD). Three Harris' Sparrows at Durango on Nov. 28 represent the third year in succession that these birds have been seen in that region (OR). They are regular winter visitants in the n. and e. part of this large Region. There were two early Harris' Sparrows at Dubois, Wyo. Nov. 1-17 (MB). A White-throated Sparrow in Laramie in s. Wyo. Oct. 22 (ABM) was an uncommon occurrence, but this bird is regularly seen in migration in the e. half of Wyoming. A *Cassin's Sparrow* at Evergreen Nov. 9 was still present at the end of this period (WWB). This is further north than previously reported. This bird was repeatedly seen by many observers and banded. Three Snow Buntings at Malheur on Nov. 23 following a snowstorm was unusual then; there have been only 2 other records in the last five years (WLA).

CONTRIBUTORS - Walter L. Anderson, John T. Annear, Mary Back, Winston W. Brockner, Charles R. Bryant, Dr. John M. Davis, Lucy F. Ela, Lee Evans, Reed Ferris, Roy Fisk, Robert Gustafson, Platt Hall, May Hanesworth, Gen. Joseph Hicks, Gleb Kashin, Tom Kessinger, Hugh Kingery, Carroll D. Littlefield, Eldon L. McLaury, Arthur B. Mickey, Stewart Murie, Larry D. Napier, M. Patterson, Oppie Reames, Mrs. H. E. Shaw, Phillip Sollins, Richard A. Stewart, Dr. William Stone, M. Travis, Jim Turner, Richard Webster, Lois Wilson.

Autumn Migration, 1970

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION /JOHN B CROWELL JR. AND HARRY B. NEHLS

The fall season of 1970 was cooler than normal over most of the region with less than average rainfall, particularly in the first six weeks of [the] report period. The cooler weather may have contributed to the reporting of fewer than usual stragglers late in the season. The center of observational activity was definitely the Vancouver, B.C. area and it is from there

94 *American Birds*, February 1971

that many of the exciting records derive. A Smew and a Spotted Redshank probably top the list, along with the Wheatear at Victoria, the Manx Shearwater at the Columbia River mouth, and Xantus' Murrelets at sea off Washington and Oregon.



LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS -- Two hundred Arctic Loons off Cape Arago near Bandon, Oreg., on Aug. 20 (OS) was an unusually early concentration; 2 birds of this species at DeArcy, B.C., on Sept. 26 are said to be "very unusual" (WW). Several Red necked Grebes at both Victoria on Aug. 8 (ARD) and at Vancouver, B.C., Aug. 21 (SS *fide* RWC) were early migrants; a concentration of 250 at Point Roberts between Bellingham and Vancouver on Sept. 15 (WW)

is a remarkable total. A number of Eared Grebes were seen singly or in pairs at Vancouver, Victoria, and Sidney, B.C., after Sept. 11. Michael Shepard watched a Laysan Albatross for about ten minutes, from the fisheries research vessel "G.B. Reed" on Aug. 17 off Vancouver I. at 48°26'N, 125°40' W, during which period the bird approached within 100 feet (*fide* WW). Black footed Albatrosses were seen regularly off shore from mid August to mid October; birds were seen off Vancouver I., Washington, and n. Oregon, the 40 individuals off Vancouver I. being the one day maximum. Fulmars, too, were regularly recorded on pelagic trips and from working vessels; Shepard's 500 in a day on LaPerouse Bank, off Vancouver I., Aug. 8 18 were the high counts. Pink footed Shearwaters were better reported than ever; up to 30 per day were seen Aug. 8 18 on LaPerouse Bank (MS *fide* WW), 50 were noted on Sept. 13 and 20 more on Oct. 11 off Westport, Wash. (TRW *et al.*), and an estimated 150 were observed Aug. 29 out of Depoe Bay, Ore. (JBC, GK, WT *et al.*). The number of reports of Pale-footed Shearwaters was also unprecedented: one on Aug. 12, 2 on Aug. 15 and one on Aug. 17 were s.w. of Vancouver I. (MS *fide* WW); one was closely observed with 2 Pink footeds 25 miles out of Tofino, B.C. on Sept. 12 (WW *et al.*); another was seen that day n.w. of Vancouver I. with Sooty Shearwaters (VG); two more Pale-footeds were seen off Westport, Wash., on Oct. 11 (TRW *et al.*). New Zealand Shearwaters were also commoner than ever; at least 10 were positively identified in a flock of 50 light bellied Shearwaters 30 miles west of Tofino, Vancouver Island, on Sept. 12 (WW *et al.*); six birds were seen on Sept. 13, 5 miles southwest of Nootka I. off Vancouver I. (VG); on Sept. 26, one was collected of 25 seen off Tofino, B.C.; specimen to U.B.C.V.M. (WW, RWC *et al.*); 10 more New Zealand Shearwaters were seen off Westport, Wash., on Oct. 11 (TRW). Sooty Shearwaters were common at sea and were regularly seen from coastal points from Aug. 15 to mid October, although not in the huge numbers of other years. A small shearwater, dark above and white below, with white wing linings and the same or more rapid wing beats than accompanying Sooties was seen at the north jetty of the Columbia River on Sept. 12 and was identified correctly as a *Manx Shearwater* (MP); this appears to be a first record for Washington and Oregon, although the species has been collected in British Columbia waters.

PETRELS, PELICANS, HERONS -- An estimated 800 Fork-tailed Petrels were seen in one flock on the LaPerouse Bank during the period Aug. 8-18 (MS *fide* WW). Up to 15 individual Fork-tailed Petrels were seen off Westport on both Sept. 13 and Oct. 11 (TRW *et al.*). Many of the estimated 5000 pairs of, breeding Leach's Petrels at Cleland I. near Tofino, B.C., were still attending young on Aug. 24 (JW *fide* WW); a bird of this species circled a vessel of the Canadian Hydrographic Service in the Strait of Georgia about 25 miles northwest of Nanaimo, B.C., on Oct. 6. Brown Pelicans showed up surprisingly well along the Oregon coast this fall, although not coming so far north as in past years; there were 350 at Ship ashore, Cal. on Aug. 30, with 116 of these being immatures (OS); 12 adults and 20 immatures were at Harris Beach State Park, Lincoln Co. Sept. 9, 10 (RP *fide* GK) and small groups were at Yaquina Bay and at Netarts Bay until mid November (GK *et al.*); a few were seen along the s.w. Oregon coast on Oct. 10 (OS). A White Pelican was seen at Fern Ridge Reservoir west of Eugene, Ore. Nov. 22 and 26 (AL *et al.*); the species rarely occurs in western Oregon. About 20 Green Herons were locally reported, mostly in late August, but also into November, from around Vancouver, Se. Vancouver I., Seattle, Salem, and the northern Oregon coast. A *Com. Egret* reached the vicinity of

Volume 25, Number 1 95

Vancouver in mid September; the bird was first seen at Westham Island on Sept. 9 (SD *fide* RWC), and seen again 25 miles away at the Serpentine River on Sept. 11 (DE *fide* RWC); the record is apparently a first for British Columbia. A few Com. Egrets also appeared this fall at scattered points in Oregon's Willamette Valley and on the Oregon coast. Two Black-crowned Night Herons near Bellingham, Aug. 17, 18 (LH *fide* TRW) were among the very few of this species recorded in w. Washington. From 3 to 5 Am. Bitterns were present in the vicinity of Vancouver from Sept. 13 to the end of the period; one was at Ilwaco, Wash., Oct. 10 (MP *et al.*), and another was at Nehalem, Ore., Nov. 27 (JBC & GK).

WATERFOWL -- A Whistling Swan appeared at Vancouver on Oct. 17 (RWC); by November, flocks were on traditional wintering grounds along the Nooksack River in n. Washington, along the Columbia River and in Oregon's Willamette Valley. A few

Trumpeter Swans reappeared in the Vancouver Bellingham area in late October, and lingered until the end of the period. Six Cinnamon Teal were at Vancouver on Sept. 7 (RWC), one was at Iona I. nearby on Oct. 2 (*fide* WW), another was at Seattle, Sept. 27 (DRP). Twelve male European Widgeons counted at Westham I., Reifel Refuge on Nov. 7 (TRW) were an un-usually good total; there were quite a number of sightings from there to the s. extremity of the Willamette Valley by the end of the period. Fifteen Shovelers at Leadbetter Point, Wash., Aug. 22 (HBN *et al.*) were early, while the 200 at Burnaby Lake, Vancouver, on Nov. 1 (WW) were an unusually high total for this Region. Three Redheads were found at Vancouver on Oct. 15 (EM *fide* RWC), while a single bird had been at nearby Iona Island on Sept. 26 (KS *fide* WW). Twenty Ring necked Ducks on Baskett Slough, Sept. 14 (RK *fide* CFZ) were unusually early; other records later came from Vancouver, where 14 were present Oct. 13 (FM *fide* RWC), Manning Provincial Park, B.C., Oct. 24-25, where 14 also were found (VG), from Salem, Nov. 10 (TM), Victoria, Nov. 23 (ARD) and the Finley Refuge, Nov. 26 (*fide* CFZ). A male Tufted Duck was found in Vancouver's Stanley Park on Oct. 13 (EM) remained until at least Nov. 20; on Nov. 1, a second bird was discovered by Moody, but seen additionally only by RWC & MS (*fide* WW & RWC). A female Barrow's Goldeneye appeared at Point Roberts on Sept. 15, followed by a small group which showed up at Stanley Park in mid October (WW). Oldsquaw appeared in scattered numbers on waters around Vancouver and Victoria in early October; 3 birds in winter plumage at Manning Provincial Park on Oct. 25 (VG) are of interest. Oddly, on the same lagoon of Stanley Park, the alert Ed Moody discovered an immature male *Smeu* on Nov. 14; the bird was seen again on Nov. 18 (WRC & KK) and 23; photography was difficult because the bird frequented the lagoon only at night, in company with Goldeneyes, and its daytime haunts remained a mystery. The record places this species on the Regional and British Columbian lists for the first time (WW & RWC).

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES -- The last Turkey Vultures reported were 11 at Point Roberts on Oct. 4 (WW); migrating vultures were moving steadily over Medford, Oreg., during the last week of September. Two Goshawks were seen at Duncan, B.C., Oct. 4 (JC); an immature was seen at Reifel Refuge on Aug. 10 and 2 birds were there Sept. 21 (BD *fide* WW); a single bird

was seen there also on Oct. 25 and 31 (RWC *fide* WW), while single birds were also noted at Iona I. Sept. 26 (GAP *fide* WW) and at Point Roberts on Nov. 1 (RWC *fide* WW). If the dark phase of *Harlan's Hawk* can ever be told confidently from the western Red tail, then all the observers (HBN, JG & SJ, MSc *et al.*) who studied a bird on Sauvie I. near Portland, Aug. 14 and for a few days subsequently agree that this bird was of that species. Another bird suspected to be a black Harlan's Hawk, was found at Boundary Bay, B.C., near Ladner on Nov. 21 (DRP & EWS). A vagrant Swainson's Hawk was noted Aug. 27 at the Finley Refuge near Corvallis, Oreg. (CFZ). A Rough legged Hawk at Cape Blanco on the southern Oregon coast, Aug. 30 (OS) was early; birds were scattered in favored localities through the Region by November. There were reports of 10 Golden Eagles from mid September on, records coming from Mount Seymour, B.C. (*fide* RWC), Mount Baker, Wash. (tide TRW), the Willamette Valley (*fide* GK, RLU), and Medford (OS). Bald Eagle reports for the full season were limited to British Columbia, with active observers there all seeing birds, Vic Goodwill seeing the most while working in n. British Columbia coastal waters. There were 6 Osprey sightings, 2 from Vancouver in September (*fide* WW), one from near Tofino, Sept. 13 (WW), 2 from the Bellingham area in late October and early November (*fide* TRW) and one from Salem in mid November (*fide* GK). A Gyrfalcon was seen striking an Am. Widgeon at Victoria on Nov. 20 (ARD), while at Reifel Refuge near Vancouver one had been observed in late November (BD *fide* DRP). Single Prairie Falcons were noted on the upper Rogue River on Oct. 15 (MM *fide* JH) and at Medford on Nov. 28 (OS). Peregrines were reported several times this season from the vicinity of Ladner, B.C.; from White Rock, B.C.; from the south jetty of the Columbia River; from Sauvie I. and from near Medford.

SHOREBIRDS -- Sixty two Black Oystercatchers were seen over northern Chatham Sound near Pointer Rocks in n. British Columbia on Aug. 30, 1970 (*fide* VG). Snowy Plovers were at Lead-better Point, Wash., 1--6 between Aug. 15 and

96 *American Birds*, February 1971

Oct. 3; 1 was at the south jetty of the Columbia River on Oct. 24. Killdeer numbers peaked at 800 on Ankeny Wildlife Refuge, near Dallas, Oreg. Nov. 25; over 500

birds were at the Finley Refuge Nov. 28 (CFZ). An estimated 100 Golden Plover were found on Leadbetter Point, Sept. 9 (TRW); 61 were at Sea Island near Vancouver on Sept. 13 (RWC); these numbers far exceed counts in previous seasons. American Golden Plover were found there until mid Oct. up to 7 also were found near Tofino, B.C., Aug. 27, the south jetty of the Columbia River, Sept. 20, and Victoria, Oct. 3. Up to 8 Ruddy Turnstones at a time were reported from nine different localities from Port Simpson, B.C. southward. A Long billed Curlew was at Baskett Slough Aug. 28 30 (RK *fide* CFZ). Up to 25 Whimbrels at a time were reported from near Tofino and repeatedly from Vancouver, Victoria, Leadbetter Point, the south jetty of the Columbia River, and Yaquina Bay, Oregon. An **Upland Plover** was discovered at Iona Island near Vancouver on Aug. 30 (J & EH) was seen later that day and the next (RWC, MS, JT, ES *fide* WW); this record is one of a very few for this Region. On Oct. 17, a **Spotted Redshank** was discovered at Reifel Refuge near Vancouver (MS, W & RW); Dr. R. Drent also saw and identified the bird which remained on mud flats with dowitchers until Nov. 11. It was photographed frequently. This record is evidently the first for w. North America s. of Alaska. By mid November, up to 20 Rock Sandpipers had been seen at wintering spots at Victoria and Tillamook Bay, another was at Point Roberts, Oct. 22 (PM), two were found in Bellingham on Nov. 3, and one was seen at sea off Westport on Oct. 11 (TRW). For the first year since 1965, no Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were discovered at Leadbetter Point; instead, records came from three locations in the Vancouver area, from Sept. 19 to Oct. 25. A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was also observed at Victoria on Sept. 10 (ARD). Pectoral Sandpipers were widely reported from Vancouver southward, a high count being 140 at Sea Island near Vancouver on Sept. 19 (RWC). Baird's Sandpipers were more than usually reported, maxima being 20 at Iona I. near Vancouver on Aug. 22 (SS *fide* WW) with the last being 4 there on Oct. 3 (MP). 450 Long billed Dowitchers at Iona I. on Oct. 14 and 500 at Reifel Refuge on Oct. 24 indicate a late migration peak in the Vancouver area this year. A Stilt Sandpiper was spotted Aug. 1 at Sea Island (SS); two were banded and photographed there on Sept. 7; a bird was found at nearby Iona I. on Sept. 9 (MP), and one of the banded birds was last seen at Sea I. on Sept. 19 (*fide* WW). The first Buff-breasted Sandpiper reported in three years was found at Sea I. on Sept. 7 (RWC). One of the two Hudsonian Godwits which had been found at Iona I. in

early August remained until Sept. 3 (many obs.). Thirty Marbled Godwits were at Ship ashore on Aug. 30 (OS); 6 were seen at Tillamook on Sept. 12 (GK *et al.*). Three Red Phalaropes at sea off Westport on Oct. 11 (TRW *et al.*), two at the south jetty of the Columbia River on Oct. 24 (HBN), and a few on the ocean from Cape Meares near Tillamook on Nov. 28 (GK & NT) were the only reports of this species. A Wilson's Phalarope was at Iona I. Aug. 17 (WR *fide* RWC). N. Phalaropes were seen on the ocean and in the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca from Port Simpson in northern B.C., southward; several birds were seen in the central Willamette Valley the last week of August.

JAEGERs, GULLs, TERNS -- Pomarine Jaegers were seen in numbers from 1 to 15 in a day on seven different dates between Aug. 29 and Oct. 11 from Hecate Strait in northern British Columbia (VG) south to Depoe Bay, Oreg., (GK *et al.*). Parasitic Jaegers were far more abundant, being recorded prominently in the Vancouver Victoria vicinity, with additional reports from around Prince Rupert, B.C., Puget Sound, and off the sw. Washington and n.w. Oregon coasts. Dates were Aug. 25 Oct. 24 with 25 at Pender Bay, Victoria, the maximum. On Sept. 12, at sea 25 miles off Tofino, a Parasitic Jaeger was seen to capture a small land bird; later the same day at 30 miles out a flicker was harassed for a few minutes by two of these marauders. Long-tailed Jaeger reports were: one on LaPerouse Bank w. of Vancouver I. Aug. 9 (MS *fide* WW), two off Depoe Bay, Aug. 29 (JBC, GK, WT *et al.*), one at Victoria, Sept. 7 (ARD), one off Westport (TRW) and one at Kyuquot Sound on the w. side of Vancouver I. (VG), both Sept. 13, another at Victoria, Sept. 27 (VG), one at the Columbia River mouth Oct. 3 (JBC & NT), and one at Hornby I. in the Strait of Georgia on Oct. 7 (VG). Skuas were seen on LaPerouse Bank, Aug. 14, two on Aug. 15, and Aug. 17 (MS *fide* WW), off Westport on Sept. 13 (TRW *et al.*) and off Tofino on Sept. 26 (RWC, MS *fide* WW); one was also seen several times at Skagit Bay, Puget Sound, on Sept. 16 and 18 (GAS). Lone Glaucous Gulls were seen at Sapperton, B.C., Nov. 26 (MS *fide* WW), and at Cape Meares, Oreg. Nov. 28 (GK & WT). Single W. Gulls at Sapperton, Aug. 30 (JW *fide* RWC); at Blaine, Oct. 24 (DRP); and at Victoria, Sept. 14 and Oct. 17 (VG) were out of the ordinary. California Gull is the most common gull along the Oregon and Washington coasts and inland from Aug. 1 to Oct. 15; a very few reach n. British Columbia. Mew Gulls, on the other hand, are

present in good numbers to the north of Vancouver I. The latter half of August, they begin to appear in small numbers at the same time further south, until they are present in large numbers both on the Oregon coast and in the Willamette Valley by November. Franklin's Gulls again appeared in the Vancouver Victoria area from mid August to early November; one was found at Fern Ridge Reservoir west of Eugene, Oreg. on the late date of Nov. 22 (AL *et al.*) for one

Volume 25, Number 1 97

of a very few records from w. Oregon. Bonaparte's Gulls were present in large numbers in the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca and in Puget Sound in September and the forepart of October; 200 were seen at the Chetco River on the sw. Oregon coast on Oct. 10 (OS). Several large concentrations of Heermann's Gulls were recorded in various places north to the Straits of Juan de Fuca; there were several November records, the northernmost from Tsawassen, B.C., and the latest Tillamook, Nov. 28 (GK & WT). Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen in numbers up to 200 per day in northern British Columbian coastal areas until mid September (VG); further south, they were sparsely observed into mid October. One hundred Sabine's Gulls were on LaPerouse Bank, Aug. 18, while 90 were seen off Tofino on Aug. 26 (MS *fide* WW); 250 were found out of Westport on Sept. 13 (TRW). A single Sabine's Gull was at Victoria on Sept. 7 (ARD). "Thousands" of Com. Terns were seen at the north end of Willapa Bay on Oct. 10 (TRW); one was seen at Baskett Slough west of Salem on Sept. 26 (GK, TM *et al.*). There were reports of single Arctic Terns in Chatham Sound, B.C., on Sept. 3 and off the n.w. tip of Vancouver Island on Sept. 12 (VG); a bird was seen well out of Westport, Sept. 13 (TRW), four were off Tofino, B.C. (MS *fide* WW), and one "in almost breeding plumage" was at Victoria on Oct. 10 (DS). A Black Tern was observed at Ladner on Sept. 20 (GR & AG *fide* RWC).

ALCIDS - About 150 Pigeon Guillemots were reported to have nested on Three Arch Rocks N.W.R. near Tillamook this year (CFZ). Two Ancient Murrelets were seen at Dixon Entrance west of Prince Rupert on Aug. 25 and 8 were seen in Hecate Strait southwest of there on Sept. 11 (VG). The same observer found three of these birds off Clover Point, Victoria, on Oct. 10 and two there on Nov. 11. Six small alcids, one of

which was collected to confirm the identification of *Xantus' Murrelets*, were seen more than 100 miles off the Oregon coast the first week in September from an Oregon State University research vessel (MSc *fide* HBN); on Oct. 11, 40-45 miles at sea from Westport and in 58°F water 3 pairs of Xantus' Murrelets were very carefully identified (DRP; TS & TRW *et al.*). Over 200 Cassin's Auklets were seen out of Westport on the Sept. 13 trip (DRP, TRW *et al.*). Goodwill saw 300 Rhinoceros Auklets on Chatham Sound, B.C., Aug. 29.

DOVES, OWLS, SWIFTS - A Mourning Dove was seen at Terrace, B.C., on the late date of Oct. 11 (HRV). A Snowy Owl appeared at Victoria on Sept. 9 (ARD), an amazingly early date. By November, a small invasion in the Vancouver—Bellingham—Victoria area was evident; one bird reached Albany, Oreg. by Nov. 11 (RB *fide* GK). A Burrowing Owl was seen at Baskett Slough on Sept. 15 (RK *fide* CFZ). Eric Forsman, who has made a specialty of finding the Spotted Owl, found 22 individuals in the coast and Cascade ranges of central Oregon this summer, and reports finding 17 nest sites! Twenty-five Short-eared Owls were counted at Sea Island, near Vancouver, on Nov. 28 (DRP). Twenty Black Swifts were at Terrace, Aug. 18 and 19 (HRV); 50 were seen at Duncan, B.C., Sept. 3 (JC); one was seen over Seattle on Sept. 22 (MP); and three were seen at Philomath, Oreg. Sept. 3 (JB & MSc, *fide* HBN).

HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, LARKS - A male Black-chinned Hummingbird was last seen at Merle McGraw's feeders in Shady Cove, Oreg. on Aug. 31 (*fide* JH). At least five Anna's Hummingbirds were present in the Medford area (JH; OS) and a male was at Eugene (AL) during the fall. A Rufous Hummingbird was seen Aug. 18 about 45 miles from land west of the entrance to Juan de Fuca Strait (MS *fide* WW). Three Yellow-shafted Flickers were recorded in the Vancouver area Sept. 20-Oct. 29. A decrease was noted in numbers of Acorn Woodpeckers on the west side of the Willamette Valley this fall, presumably as a consequence of a poor crop of Acorns. Lewis' Woodpeckers, after a year of comparative abundance, were suddenly again very scarce, being occasionally seen only from the southern Willamette Valley. Single Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen on the west side of Mount Baker, Wash., Sept. 15 (JD *fide* TRW), and north of Lake-of-the-Woods, Oreg. Oct. 13 (JH). An E. Kingbird was at Victoria on Aug. 23 (ARD); another

was at Pitt Meadows near Vancouver on Oct. 28 (WR *fide* RWC). A late Traill's Flycatcher (*traillii*) was netted at Bellingham on Sept. 20 (TRW); 3 were found at Seattle, Sept. 21-23 (MP). Several late lingering W. Flycatchers included two at Vancouver on Sept. 7 (RBU *fide* RWC), one at Redmond, Wash., Sept. 20 (DRP), and one banded at Medford the same day (OS). The last W. Wood Pewees were in the Willamette Valley on Sept. 16 (TM; CFZ). An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Vancouver on Sept. 9 (RBU *fide* RWC), one at Redmond on Sept. 8 (DRP), and one at Salem on Sept. 16 (TM) were also late. A Horned Lark was seen 40 miles at sea from Westport on Sept. 13 (TRW).

SWALLOWS, JAYS, CHICKADEES, WRENS, MIMIDS -- Forty Violet-green Swallows at Medford on Oct. 25 (OS) were late. Bank Swallows were seen repeatedly in the vicinity of Vancouver Sept. 1-18 (RWC); a large flock of swallows at Portland's Delta Park on Sept. 19 surprisingly consisted mainly of Bank Swallows (MK *fide* HBN). A few Purple Martins were seen in w. Oregon the latter half of August and in the first week of September. A Blue Jay at Victoria on Nov. 28 is said to be the third record there in seven years (ARD). Another Black-billed Magpie appeared at Terrace, B.C., after last winter's record, on Oct. 25 (HRV); one was also seen in Manning Provincial Park, Oct. 25-26 (VG). Four Boreal Chickadees were seen in Manning Provincial Park on Aug. 15

98 *American Birds*, February 1971

(WW). A House Wren was at Sea I. on Sept. 8 (KS tide RWC). A **Rock Wren** was at the Finley W.R. from Sept. 1-27 (CFZ), one of w. Oregon's few records. A Catbird was at Pitt Meadows on Aug. 29 (RL *fide* RWC), the same locality where several pairs nested three years ago.

THRUSHES, WAXWINGS, SHRIKES, STARLINGS - W. Bluebirds were reported only from the Salem and Lebanon areas, none after mid October. A **Wheatear**, believed to be the first for British Columbia and the Region, was discovered at the Victoria airport on Oct. 10 by Keith Taylor and Ron Satterfield, and was photographed by many observers in the next few days (OS; WW); photographs to U.B.C.V.M. A Townsend's Solitaire was at Bellingham on Nov. 26 (TRW). Three Bohemian Waxwings were in a flock of Cedar Waxwings at Victoria on Nov. 28

(ARD). N. Shrikes were as common this year as in the banner year of 1969. A Loggerhead Shrike was at Baskett Slough on Sept. 26 (GK & TM) and another was at Sauvie I. Oct. 17 (HBN *et al.*). A careful count of Starlings in roosts at Vancouver led to a conclusion that this fall's population was about one third of last year's (WW *et al.*); but observers at Victoria thought Starlings were more plentiful than ever (ARD).

VIREOS, WARBLERS - Single Red-eyed Vireos were observed at Redmond, Sept. 20 (DRP) and Vancouver, Sept. 25 (MS *fide* RWC). A Warbling Vireo was found at Redmond on Sept. 27 (DRP). A single Tennessee Warbler was seen at Terrace, Aug. 25, where 2 others were also seen four days later (HRV). A small bird, thought to be an Orange-crowned Warbler, was captured by a jaeger 25 miles out of Tofino on Sept. 12 (WW *et al.*). A **Nashville Warbler**, first found at Vancouver on Aug. 12 by Virginia Whitelaw, was subsequently collected (RWC); two other individuals were earlier found on Aug. 3 (GAP *fide* RWC). A Nashville Warbler was also seen at Point Roberts on Sept. 20 (AG & GR *fide* RWC). A Townsend's Warbler at Duncan, B.C., Nov. 11 (JC) was quite late and the Hermit Warbler at Medford on Oct. 17 (OS) was unprecedentedly late. A Palm Warbler appeared at Vancouver, Oct. 6-12 (WA, EM, RW *fide* RWC). Two very late Wilson's Warblers were recorded this fall; one was at Point Roberts on Nov. 7 (MS & RW *fide* RWC), while the other was at Redmond on Nov. 17 (DRP).

BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES, SPARROWS - Yellow-headed Blackbirds were recorded at Westham I. Aug. 18 and Sept. 19, while another was at Sea I. Sept. 7 (*fide* RWC); one was at Victoria on Aug. 25 (ARD), and a female was near Bellingham on Nov. 29 among an estimated 1000 Red-winged Blackbirds (TRW). The observation of 5 **Rusty Blackbirds** at Pitt Meadows, Nov. 22 (N & KD) was confirmed through a photograph taken at the time (*fide* RWC). Sixty Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen at Sea I. on Sept. 1 (RWC *et al.*); one alighted aboard a vessel some 50 miles w. of Juan de Fuca Strait on Aug. 10 (MS *fide* WW). A late W. Tanager was at Vancouver on Sept. 30 (RBU *fide* RWC). Am. Goldfinches were more reported than usual; of particular interest are 70 at Duncan, B.C., Nov. 22 (JC) and 200 on Sauvie I. on Sept. 13 (HBN). A total of 112 Lesser Goldfinches was banded at Medford from July 22 to Oct. 18, but only 2 after that date (OS). A Green-tailed Towhee was at Medford on the late date of Nov.

26 (DT *fide* OS). Single Slate-colored Juncos were recorded from Sauvie Island on Oct. 3 (JG *fide* HBN), Vancouver on Oct. 29 (GAP *fide* RWC), Seattle on Nov. 5 (VEG), and Corvallis on Nov. 25 (CFZ). A Tree Sparrow appeared at Duncan, Nov. 7 (JC), and one was seen at Lana I. on Nov. 22 (RP *fide* RWC). Harris' Sparrow turned up in November at Vancouver, Salem and Medford and in early December at Portland. A Golden-crowned Sparrow at Victoria on Aug. 18 (ARD) was very early, as was the one at Salem on Sept. 4 (RLu *fide* GK). White-throated Sparrows were reported only from Victoria, on Sept. 13 and on Nov. 17 (ARD). Lapland Longspurs appeared in the week after Sept. 6 at Sea I., Victoria and Leadbetter Point; 200 were at the latter place Oct. 3 (JBC, WT *et al.*), but only 50 were present there a week later (MP); birds were also seen at Iona I., Seattle, and near Bellingham. It is strange that most of the Region's fall records come consistently in September and early October, with records after that being very scattered and involving small numbers of individuals; points in this Region evidently are only a stopover for most of the Lapland Longspurs recorded, which must winter far to the southeast. Up to 10 Snow Buntings at one time were reported from Vancouver, Bellingham and Victoria repeatedly after mid October; other occurrences were at Olympia, Wash., Nov. 10 and 11 (VEC) and Tillamook, Nov. 13 (GK, HBN & WT).

CONTRIBUTORS - W. Anderson, R. Buchanon (RB), R. Butler (RBu), R. Wayne Campbell, Violet E. Cannon, John Comer (JC), John B. Crowell, Jr. (JBC), A. R. Davidson, Neil & Karen Dawe, Brian Davies, S. Devereaux, J. Duemmel, D. Eastman, J. Gilligan, Vic Goodwill, A. Grass, Lee Halleck, Jack & Eileen Husted, Joseph Hicks, S. James, Ken Kennedy, Gordon Knight, M. Koninendyke, R. Krieger, Allen Larrabee, R. Lucas (RLu), R. Luscher (RL), T. McCamant, M. McGraw, Ed Moody, F. Moody, Harry B. Nehls, Dennis R. Paulson, R. Payne, Michael Perrone, R. Phillips, G. A. Poynter, W. Rae, G. Ryder, Gerald A. Sanger, Michael Scott (MSc), Michael Shepard (MS), Ed Sing, Susan Smith, E. W. Stiles, T. Stiles, David Stirling, K. Summers, Otis Swisher, William Thackaberry, D. Tompkins, John Toochin, H. R. Vance, Terrence R. Wahl, John Ward, Wayne & Robin Weber, Fred Zeilemaker, The University of British Columbia Vertebrate Museum.

Volume 25, Number 1 99

The Winter Season, 1970-71

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN INTERMOUNTAIN REGION / Thomas R Rogers

Most of the Region's wintry weather came in December, s. interior British Columbia excepted. Temperatures for that month were subnormal but not severe at many localities. Indications



were that in the United States portion of the Region more snow fell in December than in any succeeding month. January, w. of the Continental Divide at least, was remarkably warm, almost springlike. At Spokane, Wash. temperatures averaged 6.5° F. above normal and nearby Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge at Cheney posted a record high of +58°. Precipitation was somewhat deficient in many areas, contributing to lack of snow cover in the valleys. British Columbia had more snow and freezing rain than usual. February continued warmer than normal but at Spokane, at least, gave the impression of coldness after so mild a January. Precipitation was even more deficient except for British Columbia, where snowfall exceeded the normal. March turned abnormally cold, being only slightly warmer than February and decidedly wetter, with precipitation well above normal. Ponds in the vicinity of Ninepipe Natl. Wildlife Refuge, Charlo, Mont. froze again. In summary, the winter, in the valleys at least, was generally mild and open, except in British Columbia. Ponds in central Washington were unfrozen most of the winter. Several reports noted the winter as decidedly windy. Spokane had the highest wind velocity ever recorded there, up to 65 m.p.h. on Mar. 26. Birds wintered in good numbers and variety. Food supplies appeared adequate and in some instances encouraged spectacular invasions. Some northern species were scarce, perhaps detained in Canada or at higher elevations by good food supplies. The cold, wet March

slowed vegetation but the extra moisture it brought promised good growing conditions after a dry winter.

LOONS AND GREBES -- Small numbers of Com. Loon were present on the Columbia R. in the Tri-cities (Pasco-Richland-Kennewick) area of Washington from late December at least through the first week of March. Two Red-throated Loons were seen at Okanagan Landing, B.C. on Dec. 26 (KG). Horned Grebes wintered on Okanagan and Kalamalka Lakes, B.C. Eared and W. Grebes remained during the winter in the Tri-cities area and a few of the latter wintered in the Okanagan Valley. The usual small numbers of Pied-billed Grebes were noted in the w. part of the Region. One seen at Livingston, Mont. on Jan. 16 probably wintered.

PELICANS AND HERONS -- A group of 20 White Pelicans was observed on Dec. 5 on the Yakima R. near the Tri-cities (EM). A flock of 20 was seen near Cataldo Mission, w. of Kellogg, Ida. On Mar. 26 (JHR) and a flock was noted at Canyon Ferry e. of Helena, Mont. on Mar. 31 (LM). Great Blue Herons were not noted as wintering in s. interior British Columbia or in the Helena area but appeared in normal numbers in many other localities. An estimated 60 wintered in and around Ninepipe Refuge (RLB). Black-crowned Night Herons were noted in small numbers in the Tri-cities area.

WATERFOWL -- Two Whistling Swans at Okanagan Landing, Jan. 14 and 6 at Kelowna, B.C., Dec. 20, quite possibly wintered. More evidence of the birds wintering in n.e. Washington has

Volume 25, Number 3 603

come in. Eight were flying upriver at Spokane, Jan. 10 (KL). Two were seen at Coeur d' Alene L., Ida. on Jan. 30 (WH). Residents at Priest L. near Coolin, Ida., reported that a flock of about 20 wintered there (MC). On the Pend Oreille R. eleven miles n. of Newport, Wash., 7 swans, presumably 'Whistling', were observed on Dec. 12 and 47 were there on Jan. 16 (CRO). Two Trumpeters were on Osoyoos L., B.C. on Jan. 24 (SRC) and a few wintered at Ennis, Mont. as usual. The largest concentration of Canada Geese was 13,600 in mid-December at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. Two **Black Brant** at Penticton, B.C. on Dec. 5 and 12 were apparently the first recorded for the Okanagan Valley (SRC). From 1 to 10 Snow Geese were with them from late November through March. This species was noted at Big Timber, Mont. the first

week of January (HC). Waterfowl numbers at Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash. decreased from 106,400 the first week of January to about 700 by the last week. At McNary Refuge Mallards peaked at 30,000, with 71,580 counted at nearby Ringold, in early December. Maximum numbers there for other species at the beginning of winter were: Pintail, 2300; Green-winged Teal, 2100; Am. Widgeon, 1900, and Canvasback, 2100. Other species that normally winter appeared to be about as usual, with a few "rarities". Two Blue-winged Teal on the Tri-cities Christmas Count were a surprise. Single **Eur. Widgeons**, presumably migrating, were seen in e. Washington in March. On Mar. 21, 2 were seen on separate ponds s. of Spokane (JA & WH; Mr. & Mrs. SOS). A male was observed about 2 miles s.w. of Reardan on Mar. 27 (WH). At Okanagan Falls, B.C. a male was photographed, Feb. 6 (SRC). From 2 to 6 Oldsquaw were seen on the Spokane R. at Spokane from November to late March (WH; S.A.S.). The Hooded Merganser, not previously recorded in midwinter in the Livingston, Mont. area, was noted there on Jan. 16. a male (PDS), and on 3 occasions Feb. 7-21 (HC; ETH & RAH, LM) and probably wintered.

HAWKS AND EAGLES -- Goshawk numbers may well have been up, for the birds were reported from six localities: Bozeman and Helena, Mont.; Spokane, the Tri-cities, and Ahtanum (Yakima), Wash., and in the Okanagan Valley, B.C. At the latter locality they were described as unusually abundant. At Helena an adult was sighted on two dates and an immature on one, all in February. About 20 Red-tailed Hawks were present during the winter at Turnbull Refuge and some 15 Rough-legged Hawks were believed present at the Nat'l Bison Range. Moiese, Mont. From 1 to 3 Golden Eagles were reported from scattered localities. The Bald Eagle was reported from seven localities. Six at L. Helena, Mont. made up the largest concentration there in recent years. Up to 8 were noted at Ninepipe Refuge (RLB). In n. Idaho and e. Washington influx to the larger lakes (Coeur d' Alene, Pend Oreille, Priest and L. Spokane) occurred in December, fish spawning time (S.A.S.). The scarce Gyrfalcon was noted twice in British Columbia, 1 at Duck L. near Winfield on Mar. 4 (FP), and 1 at Okanagan Landing, photographed, Mar. 13 (DH). The Peregrine Falcon was sighted on three dates in the Helena area, on Feb. 21 w. of Bozeman (LM), and twice in the Pasco-Eltopia area, Wash., singles on Dec. 12 and the Christmas Bird Count (infra "CBC").

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- Thirteen Sage Grouse were counted on the Yakima Firing Range n.e. of Yakima, Wash. (HD & PH). Populations of California Quail and Ring-necked Pheasant were probably near normal at most localities. Up to 20 Chukars were seen in March in the Clarkston, Wash. vicinity (MJP). At the Nat'l Bison Range the species was described as a common resident. Gray Partridge numbers in the Spokane area had probably not yet been restored to normal since the severe winter of 1968-69 (WH). A flock of Turkeys was seen on March 16 between Bozeman and Livingston, where the birds were introduced in the fall of 1969 (HC). At Turnbull Refuge signs were noted of the lone Turkey still remaining.

CRANES -- Fifty Sandhill Cranes were observed near Sprague, Wash. on Mar. 27 and another flock was reported near St. Andrews, Wash. in late March (S.A.S.). Sixteen feeding in a cornfield at Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash. on Apr. 2 were the first recorded there. Two were seen near the freeway at Union Gap, just south of Yakima, Wash. (HD).

SHOREBIRDS -- A Greater Yellowlegs was still at Ringold, Wash., n. of McNary Refuge on Dec. 8 and a Lesser was seen on Dec. 31 along the Yakima River in the Tri-cities area (EM). Two Dunlin were noted on the beach at Kelowna on Dec. 20. Two Long-billed Dowitchers were still in the Tri-cities vicinity in early January (EM).

GULLS -- A **Glaucous Gull** in first-year plumage was at Spokane Dec. 20-Jan. 16 (JA). Two were seen at Penticton, B.C. on Dec. 26 (SRC). Herring Gulls were described as fairly common in the Tri-cities area and at least 100 were seen along with small numbers of California Gulls at Coeur d' Alene L., Ida. on Dec. 20 (JA). The latter species was also considered fairly common at the Tri-cities during the winter. One hundred to 200 Ring-billed Gulls were seen regularly at Walla Walla and the species was very common at the Tri-cities. At Kelowna, 51 were present on Dec. 20. A lone bird in immature plumage rested briefly in a field at Missoula, Mont. on Mar. 31.

OWLS -- One or 2 Snowy Owls were seen on several dates from Dec. 26 to Mar. 27 in n.e. Washington (Davenport, Reardan and Spokane) (JA; WH; S.A.S.). The Pygmy Owl showed a marked upsurge in numbers at Bozeman and in the Okanagan of British Columbia. Numerous

sightings were made in the former area, many within the city limits, from Nov. 4 to the end of the report period. The Vernon, B.C. CBC had 9, the highest ever. One was noted at Missoula, in a tree with 25 Evening Grosbeaks and a Song Sparrow. The little owls were seen frequently in the Rattlesnake section of Missoula in December (PW, *fide* RLH). Their numbers were about normal elsewhere. A pair of Burrowing Owls, the first in a number of years, appeared at Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash. A sick or injured Great Gray Owl was captured south of Bozeman, Feb. 15 (Mr. & Mrs. JB) and about Mar. 1 a pair was seen for several days near that city (Mr. & Mrs. JM). Short-eared Owls were rather scarce except in three spots: Pullman, Wash.-Moscow, Ida. airport, **25 30** (LMJ); Davenport, Wash., at least **15** on Jan. 23 (WH), and Spokane International Airport, **19** on the CBC. A Boreal Owl was identified at Penticton, B.C. on Jan. 1 (DS).

JAYS -- The Blue Jay that appeared in the fall at a feeding station on the Little Spokane R. n. of Spokane stayed there all winter (VN & CS). The Com. Raven appeared in unprecedented numbers in n. Okanagan Valley, B.C. About 90 were seen on the Vernon CBC. The species' numbers were perhaps up in the Spokane area but seemed normal elsewhere. The influx of Clark's Nutcrackers in the vicinity of Spokane was spectacular, in fact the greatest on record. From September through March flocks up to **100** appeared, with numbers dwindling at the end. The CBC revealed **276**.

WRENS AND THRUSHES -- The Cañon Wren was again seen in December in the Bozeman area, near LaHood, suggesting wintering (Mrs. WMcK). At Spokane the species was noted on the CBC and 2 were seen on the Little Spokane R. on Jan. 29 (S.A.S.). Two at Vaseux L. in extreme s. British Columbia on Mar. 21 were the first seen there since the severe cold spell of December, 1968. A late-lingering Rock Wren was found on the Spokane CBC Jan. 3. Robins wintered at nearly every reporting locality but were generally uncommon or scarce in w. Montana and s. British Columbia; with perhaps the exception at Helena where from 16 to 47 were counted between Dec. 13 and Jan. 2. Spokane had a "robin winter" with flocks up to 50 or 100. Some 500 or more seen on Feb. 9 were perhaps migrants (JR). A few Varied Thrushes wintered in the Okanagan, Tri-cities and Spokane areas. A few Mountain Bluebirds were in the Bitterroot Valley near Hamilton, Mont. as early as Feb. 11 (OF). A single Hermit Thrush lingered at Walla Walla until Nov. 28 (JRW).

KINGLETS AND WAXWINGS -- Ruby-crowned Kinglets were present all winter in the Tri-cities, Wash. area where they were last seen on Mar. 21. Bohemian

Waxwing numbers were impressive from Missoula to extreme e. Washington and Volume 25, Number 3 s. British Columbia. Counts up to 2000 were made at Missoula during late December and early January, dwindling to less than 200 to the end of March. Several thousand wintered along Mission Creek at the Nat'l Bison Range. At Spokane the flocks built up to thousands in January and February, with 4000 recorded in a flock on Jan. 1. As usual the buildup depended upon an excellent crop of mountain ash berries. The birds were abundant in the Okanagan Valley where early departure of Starlings left many berries. A few birds penetrated as far south as Walla Walla, Yakima and the Tri-cities. Cedar Waxwings remained in distinctly greater numbers than usual, particularly at Spokane where flocks of 50-100 were seen from December to early March, and in the Okanagan, where small flocks of 10-30 remained through the winter in Vernon. A few wintered at Bozeman which is unusual, and 3 were seen at Helena on Dec. 12-13. A few remained at Missoula and they showed moderate numbers at the Tri-cities with 100 seen in Richland on Feb. 13.

WARBLERS -- Audubon's Warbler wintered commonly at the Tri-cities. One pair was noted feeding on grapes remaining on the vines; a few were noted during the winter at Walla Walla (JRW).

HOUSE SPARROW -- This species, generally abundant and ignored, was decimated during the winter at Missoula. Sick and dead birds were frequently reported and some sent to the U. S. Public Health Service Laboratory at Hamilton, Mont. were found to contain *Salmonella* bacteria, but no official report had yet been issued.

FINCHES -- Evening Grosbeaks staged what might be termed an invasion in Spokane, building up from a few in January to flocks of 40-50 in February and March. In one back yard 75 were banded (THR). In Moscow over 50 were banded (LMJ). "Good numbers" were reported for Bozeman. At Missoula, the birds were irregularly common. In one part of the city the Evening Grosbeak numbers increased as House Sparrows declined, particularly at feeders. In the Okanagan Valley the species was much scarcer than usual, in spite of abundant maple seeds. The birds were absent from the CBC there for the first time in twenty years. Several Cassin's Finches wintered at Bozeman, frequenting feeders. Winter records there are usually sparse. At Spokane a male came to a feeder on Feb. 1 (WH). Birds appearing in late February were probably migrants. A female **Purple Finch** appeared at Bozeman, about October and later a male appeared (HC). They were again seen on Feb. 5, as close as six feet, and compared

with accompanying Cassin's Finches (EH, RAH, LM & PDS). A singing male was observed on Feb. 28 there (PDS) and three more records were obtained in late March and early April. Flocks of House Finches, now established at Missoula, ranged up

Volume 25, Number 3 605

to 60 and even to 90 on Dec. 9, then tapered off to about 15 in late December, with small, irregular numbers thereafter. Pine Grosbeaks made very few appearances in the valleys. Numbers were subnormal at Bozeman. About 20 were seen at Riverside Cemetery in Spokane on Dec. 5, and 2 were noted at Priest L., Ida. on the 13th (S.A.S.). They were scarce or absent in the Okanagan Valley but skiers reported them at 5500-6000 ft. No rosy finches were observed and the Com. Redpoll and Pine Siskin were scarce or absent at most localities. The Com. Redpoll was sighted at Helena on Dec. 20, a small flock; at Ennis, on Dec. 23 (JHR), at Clarkston, Wash., 6 on Dec. 16 (MJP), and in the n. Okanagan, small flocks on a few occasions. Pine Siskins were scarce, being sighted only at Priest L., Ida., small flocks from mid-February into March (S.A.S.); at Helena, 1 on Jan. 11: at Ennis on Dec. 23 (SC, DR & PDS), and in the n. Okanagan. Am. Goldfinches were scarce or absent except for the Tri-cities and Clarkston, Wash. areas. Southern British Columbia had a near-monopoly on Red Crossbills, where they were common in Douglas fir forest following a very good cone crop. Small numbers were noted in the Spokane area, the only other locality reporting them.

SPARROWS -- Rufous-sided Towhees were reported wintering only in the Tri-cities area of Washington. Slate-colored Luncos were reported on a few occasions in the Bozeman-Ennis area during December and January, and a few were seen at Spokane and the Tri-cities. Oregon Junco numbers were low in a number of localities. At Missoula none were seen between late November and the beginning of March although weather conditions favored the ground feeders there. Tree Sparrow numbers there were also low. These birds were seen at Bozeman and Helena. One seen on Jan. 29 at McNary Refuge and about 10 observed near Reardan, Wash. on Jan. 2 may have wintered. At Vernon several appeared in early December but apparently did not winter there. One or 2 immature Harris' Sparrows visited a feeder in the Tri-cities nearly all winter (EM) and 2 appeared at a feeder in Vernon in November, 1 remaining at least until Apr. 9. A single White-throated Sparrow wintered in the vicinity of a feeder at Spokane, having been first seen on Dec. 6 (WH; S.A.S.: RW). Lapland Longspurs were reported only from Helena, 40 on Dec. 24 and again later, and at Ennis 100 on Dec. 23 (SC, DR & PDS). Large flocks of Snow Buntings were seen on the CBC at Ennis,

Dec. 23. Small numbers were sighted elsewhere in w. Montana and e. Washington. About 150 were seen at Prince George, B.C. on Dec. 20 (CJ).

CONTRIBUTORS - (sectional editors, in bold face, should receive credit for observations in their respective areas unless otherwise stated).-James Acton, Mr. & Mrs. John Baden, **Robert L. Barber**: Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont., Eugene C. Barney: McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash., **Dave Brown**: Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash., Steve R. Cannings, Helen Carlson, Maxine Clason, Sharon Cotterell, Helen Doornink, **Maxine Eller**: Yakima Valley, Wash., **Opal Foust**: Bitterroot Valley, Ravalli Co., Mont., **James Grant**: s. interior British Columbia, Karl Gruener, Warren Hall, Pauline Hager, Dave Hancock, **Ralph L. Hand**: Missoula, Mont. area, Eve T. Hays, R. A. Hays, Conrad Jarosch, Loring M. Jones, Katherine M. Laupp, Mrs. Wilbur McKinney, **Sid Martin**: Helena, Mont. area, Mr. & Mrs. John Montaigne, Elizabeth Moore, Louis Moos, Vee Nealey, Carrol R. Orcutt, Frank Paul, Margaret I. Polumsky, J an Reynolds, Dan Rogers, Thomas H. Rogers, J. H. Rumely, Daryl Sherman, **P. D. Skaar**: Bozeman-Ennis, Mont. area, Connie Smedley, Spokane Audubon Society, **Mrs. S. O. Stanley**: e. Washington and n. Idaho, Robert Wilson, John Robert Winchell, Paul J. Wolf, **Robert E. Woodley**: Pasco-Kennewick-Richland ("Tri-cities") area, Wash., Maurice B. Wright: Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash.

The Winter Season, 1970-71

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

Where did our birds go this past winter? Normally there are good populations of winter residents and visitors such as Bohemian Waxwings, Evening Grosbeaks, rosy finches and many other species, but not this season. The early part of the winter—December and January—were wet and cold in the north and very dry in the south. The s. portion borders on the Southwest, where severe drought conditions exist. The Bohemian Waxwings didn't make an appearance in the Region until the end of March. Where they wintered is not known. Gray-crowned Rosy Finches have wintered in good numbers in central Wyoming for at least 23 years, but this

606 *American birds*, June 1971

year they were not seen at all. Black Rosy Finches were absent from Salt Lake City, where they normally, winter. Evening Grosbeaks appeared in s.w. Colorado in great numbers but were scarce elsewhere, and the paucity of most land birds remains unexplained. Perhaps the sharp contrasts in weather were factors. For example, Grand Junction in w. Colorado had the driest winter on record (LFE), while a short distance e. the snowfall was almost double normal depths.

SWANS -- Although 40 Trumpeter Swans wintered at Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Harney Co., Oreg., some of the population here is now believed to be wintering in California. [Evidence?-Ed.] The colony of Trumpeters at Malheur Refuge is not only growing (7 young joined the dock last year) but it is also beginning to move about (EL McL). The spring migration of Whistling Swans at Malheur Refuge came a week later than in 1970, and in numbers double those of last year. The high count, Mar. 21-27, was 11,600. The migration of the great majority of Whistling Swans in this Region has been fairly stereotyped. It is refreshing therefore to find a large flock of 1500 straying into the Snake R. division of Deer Flat Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in w. Idaho, on Mar. 31. The normal number for this refuge is only 40-80. Five Whistlers turned up in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, Colo., at Estes L., Mar. 17 & 18, for a first record for the park e. of the Continental Divide. At lower altitudes such an occurrence would not be unusual.

GEESE AND DUCKS -- With good snows of a severe winter and good spring rains L. Malheur, Oreg. increased to 45,000 acres, the greatest area it has had since 1965. Nearby L. Harney, which varies from nothing to a very sizable lake is now 10000 acres in extent, and Malheur L. is expected to overflow into it, to make it even bigger. Therefore, the outlook for waterfowl production in this area is excellent. The wintering waterfowl population at the Malheur Refuge was extremely low this past winter, presumably owing to the severe weather. While Snow Goose concentrations at Malheur Refuge were 8000 less than the peak total of 1970, and one week later, (from Mar. 21 to Mar. 17), there were still 42,000 Snows in the area at the close of the period. The peak of the spring migration of ducks was the same fourth week of March, with 155,600 ducks counted, some 66 percent greater than 1970 (and two weeks later than last year). The predominant species was Pintail, with 128,000 (ELMcL). The waterfowl migration was normal at Stillwater Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in w. Nevada and peaked at 63,000 in mid-March here, with good water conditions prevalent (LDN). The great snow pack in the mountains of Idaho resulted in high water in the Snake R., with resultant difficulties for nesting Canada Geese at Snake R. Division of Deer Flat Refuge (JTA). With

the cold hard winter, Bear River Refuge, Utah, was frozen until March, and the spring migration of ducks peaked at only 50,000, on Mar. 26, which is low for this Refuge. Monte Vista Nat'l Wild · life Refuge counted a peak population of 48,940, mostly Mallards. This Refuge in s. Colorado continues to grow more attractive to waterfowl (CRB). The only rare duck reported during the period was a Black Duck at Greenrock, Wyo. Jan. 3 (OKS).

EAGLES AND HAWKS - Stillwater Refuge reported 5 Bald Eagles wintering, slightly above normal (LDN). Monte Vista Refuge reported 16 (CRB). All the refuges report Bald Eagles wintering; they winter along all the major streams in the Region. Up to 13 were reported at Vernon, Utah, on the desert s.w. of Salt Lake City, on Feb. 13 (WS). This was a good year for the species, perhaps owing to the severe weather to the north. Two Harlan's Hawks were observed at Monte Vista Refuge during the period, as well as 45 Rough-legged Hawks and 33 Marsh Hawks (CRB). The refuges remain good places for hawk-watching.

CRANES -- The spring migration of Sandhill Cranes began at Monte Vista Refuge on January 24 and reached its peak Mar. 7-13 with 6021 birds present. A student working on the Sandhill Cranes of the Rio Grande R. drainage system estimates that 12-14,000 cranes now use the system during migration (CRB).

OWLS -- A pair of Screech Owls was found at a small mine in the Steens Mountains of e. Oregon on Mar. 31. This pair have been present for three years, and represent only the third record for that area (WLA). Five Barn Owls were known to be at Malheur Refuge headquarters early in the winter. Four were found dead during the winter, but 2 survived the winter with another alive not far away, which is either bad arithmetic or more owls to start with than anyone suspected. The species is rare and local in the Great Basin, but 2 were present this season at Salt Lake City where they roosted in a hole in a clay bank (GK). The cemetery at Salt Lake City remains the best owl-finding spot in the Region. Both Saw-whet and Screech Owls were reported there this past winter on numerous occasions and nearby, at City Creek, both Long-eared and Pygmy Owls were observed. Short-eared Owls occur at all the Refuges and extensive grassy areas. Both Sheridan, Wyo. (TK) and Cedar City, Utah (SM) reported an increase in the species this year.

WAXWINGS TO GROSBEAKS -- Salt Lake City had no Bohemian Waxwings this year, but Cedar Waxwings appeared instead (GK) in a pattern not unusual. Red-breasted Nuthatches were absent over much of the Region, in contrast to last year's invasion. None whatsoever were reported from Salt Lake City (WS). A

Pygmy Nuthatch in n. Wyoming Mar. 27, at the base of the Big Horn Mts. near Buffalo was a first record for that area (TK, PH).

Volume 25, Number 3 607

An **Ovenbird** visited a feeding station at Estes Park Nov. 22-Dec. 28 (AC). There has been only one previous record for this area and for adjoining Rocky Mt. Nat'l Park and that in summer. While central Wyoming had few reports of Evening Grosbeaks, there were concentrations at Grand Junction and Durango, Colo. At Durango the birds appeared in much greater numbers after the great storm of early January (OR).

SPARROWS TO BUNTINGS -- Both Harris' and White-throated Sparrows wintered high on the Wind R. at Dubois in w. Wyoming (MB). For the White-throat this was the third consecutive winter in the same location, suggesting involvement of a single individual. Another Harris' Sparrow at Estes Park on for several weeks until December 23 was unusual for such an altitude in Colorado; there are only two previous records for the area. Two others were at feeders along the Animas R. at Durango all winter (OR). This is another repeat visit in an area where the species had been unknown. The **Cassin's Sparrow** reported last season (*Am. Birds* 25:86) remained all winter at the feeder in Evergreen in the mountains w. of Denver (WB). A Lapland Longspur was seen at Cedar City Jan. 20 (SM). A sizable flock of Snow Buntings, 175 or more, was seen near Harney L. at Malheur Refuge on Dec. 18; they have been only casual winter visitors here (WLA). On Jan. 21 many flocks were found on a high altitude plain near Bates Creek Reservoir in central Wyoming. This is a remote high-grass and low-sage plateau, elev. 7600 ft., which is the n. terminus of the Laramie Plains, almost never traversed by man in winter owing to deep snows and inaccessibility. One wonders whether this observation is of an unusual invasion or of a regular phenomenon never before observed.

CONTRIBUTORS: -- John T. Annear, W.L. Anderson, C.R. Bryant, M. Back, A. Collister, L. F. Ela, P. Hall, G. Kashin, T. Kessinger, S. Murie, E. L. McLaury, L.D. Napier, M. Patterson, O. Reames, W. Reeser, Dr. O.K. Scott, Dr. W. Stone.

The Winter Season, 1970-71

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

The winter of 1970-71 in the Northern Pacific Coast Region was both colder and wetter, with more

precipitation in the form of snow, than normal. Mid-January brought severe cold and considerable snow; 39 inches of snow fell in five days at Vancouver, B. C., where the previously recorded heaviest fall for the entire month of January had been 37 inches. Subsequent rains melted the snow by the end of January, but brought the month's total precipitation well above normal. Temperatures and rainfall were about normal until the last days of February, when more cold and snow carried over into the first week of March. Signs of spring thus were few and late in the Region by the end of the report period.

LOONS, GREBES, ALBATROSSES, SHEARWATERS, STORM PETREL -- A Yellow-billed Loon was seen from Dec. 31 to Feb. 22 at Bellingham (JD, ES, TW *et al.*); another at Westport, Wash., Jan. 17 was compared at close range with a Com. Loon (G & WH), a third bird of this species appeared at Ediz Hook, Clallam Co., Wash., Mar. 26 (M & DP;

614 *American Birds*, June 1971

MPe). A concentration of up to 1000 Arctic Loons was at Active Pass in the San Juan Is., Mar. 20-22 (MS; WW); 2500 were recorded on the Bellingham Christmas Bird Count (infra "CBC"). Eared Grebes were found repeatedly on the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca and on Puget Sound this winter; one was at Tillamook, Oreg. for the CBC. A **Laysan Albatross** was seen and photographed on Feb. 23 approximately 175 miles w. of the Olympic Peninsula; either the same or another bird was seen the next day at a point approximately 100 miles to the n. and just 25 miles off Estevan Point, midway up Vancouver I.



Laysan Albatross, off the n.w. coast of Washington at 48° 00' N, 127 01' W, Feb. 23, 1971. Photo / R. Wayne Campbell

(WC); copies of two photographs have been supplied for the National Photoduplicate File. A total of 4 Black-footed Albatrosses was seen in the three day period Feb. 22-24 in the same area of the Pacific Ocean; 54 Fulmars were also recorded on the same days there and in Queen Charlotte Sound (WC). A **Scaled Petrel**, apparently constituting the first record for this Region, found Feb. 23, 175 miles w. of the Olympic Peninsula was seen as close as 30 feet; the next day one was captured aboard ship approximately 30 miles s.w. of Estevan Point, with several photographs taken to record the singular event (WC); a photograph has been furnished for the National Photoduplicate File. Three Fork-tailed Petrels were

seen in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and in the ocean to the W., Feb. 22-23; a Leach's Petrel was noted 175 miles w. of the Olympic Peninsula on Feb. 23 (WC).



Scaled Petrel. Held by crewman of C.N.A.V. "Endeavor" at 49° 14' N, 127° 01' W, s.w. of Estevan Pt., Vancouver I. Feb. 24, 1971. Photo / R. Wayne Campbell

PELICANS, CORMORANTS, HERONS, SWANS, GEESE -- A **White Pelican** was seen flying over the Skagit Flats, Wash., Dec. 9 (AB *fide* TW), and 1 was recorded on the Eugene CBC. 55 Brandt's Cormorants were seen in Nootka Sound, Feb. 24, while 365 more were on Discovery Passage n. of Campbell R., B.C., Feb. 26 (WC); up to several thousand birds of this species were noted at Active Pass in the San Juans, Feb. 18, Mar. 22 & Mar. 25 (MS, OS). A few Green Herons were seen through January in s. British Columbia and at Olympia, Wash.; one was near Medford, Oreg., Feb. 12 (*fide* OS). Com. Egrets were widely reported from w. Oregon through mid-January; one is belatedly reported to have been seen last winter 8 miles n. of Vancouver, Wash., Jan. 5, 1970

Volume 25, Number 3 615

(DPe *fide* PM). Three Black-crowned Night Herons were found at Agate L. near Medford on Feb. 6 (OS): a single bird was recorded on the Gold Beach, Oreg. CBC. A **Cattle Egret** was carefully observed and photographed 10 miles n. of Coos Bay, Oreg. Dec. 12 where it had been seen on each of the two preceding days (RM); a photograph has been made available to the National Photoduplicate File. Am. Bitterns were found on the Tillamook, Vancouver (infra B.C. unless noted), and Ladner, B.C., CBCs, with five individuals noted at the latter place; most of these individuals

evidently spent the entire winter there (WW); single birds of this species showed up at Fern Ridge Reservoir w. of Eugene on Jan. 30 (GK & HN), at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. mouth on Mar. 13 (HN), and near Nehalem, Oreg., Mar. 20 (JBC). Whistling Swans wintered as usual in the Willamette Valley, along the lower Columbia R., and on the Puget Sound flats between Everett and Bellingham; there were scattered records from other localities. The wintering of a few Trumpeter Swans in company with Whistling Swans on the traditional wintering grounds of the latter is increasingly suspected by observers, but conclusive proof is lacking. A few Trumpeters do winter regularly in Skagit County, Wash., north at least to Duncan, B.C. A **Brant** was recorded near Anacortes, Wash., Mar. 6 (MS *fide* WW). Black Brant were passing through the Region in good numbers in March. An Emperor Goose appeared for the fourth consecutive year at White Rock, B.C. on Dec. 26 and was last seen on Feb. 5 (MS, WC *et al.*). A few White-fronted Geese were seen on the Seattle, Sauvie I., and Corvallis, Oreg. CBCs; 1 or 2 birds were seen at various times during the winter at Duncan, B.C., Reifel Refuge and Burnaby L. near Vancouver, and at Victoria. Some 27,000 Snow Geese spent most of the winter on the Skagit Flats, with scattered groups and individuals seen from western Oregon north to Vancouver.

DUCKS -- The flock of Fulvous Tree Ducks seen near Coos Bay, Oreg. in February, 1970 and reported in the last winter season report are now thought probably to have been escapees from the Portland Zoo, 200 miles to the north. Four Com. Teal were reported this winter-1 at Iona I. most of the season, 1 at Lummi Flats, Whatcom Co., Wash., in March, 1 at Victoria in February and March, and 1 at Duncan on Mar. 19 (*fide* WW); an apparent hybrid Common x Green-winged "possessing both a white stripe on the scapulars and a white vertical bar on the sides" was seen Mar. 30 at Iona I. (WA & BM *fide* WW). Seven Blue-winged Teal were found for the Ladner CBC. Eur. Widgeon were regularly found by most observers who took the trouble to inspect large flocks of wintering Am. Widgeon through the s. half of the Region. The Vancouver CBC recorded a surprising total of 76 Wood Ducks; a male was on the Harrison R., 70 miles e. of Vancouver on Feb. 6 (WW). A dozen Redheads were at Coos Bay Dec. 31 (HR) where 4 were found also on Mar. 8 (JO); 12 of these birds were at Bellingham and 4 were at Seattle for the CBCs. Single Tufted Ducks were noted from Victoria through February and March (ARD), Vancouver's Stanley Park on Dec. 31 (EM & BR *fide* WC), Iona I. on Feb. 8 (BM

& EM *fide* WC), Seattle on CBC day, and Harrison Lake, B.C. on Mar. 21 (INC *fide* WW). A concentration of 600 Com. Goldeneyes at Point Roberts, Jan. 2 (MS & WW) was unusual. The Vancouver CBC recorded 3388 Barrow's Goldeneyes! An estimated 2200 Oldsquaw, a remarkable number for anywhere in this Region, flew by Point Roberts in the course of an hour on Mar. 14 (RD *fide* WC).

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES -- A very few Turkey Vultures evidently wintered in the Willamette Valley, with individuals noted at Lebanon through December (WT), at Salem, Dec. 28 (JL *fide* GK), at Eugene, Jan. 19, and at Fern Ridge Reservoir, Feb. 24 (DG *fide* AL); individuals had reached s. Vancouver I. early in March (JC; ARD). There were 9 Goshawks sightings from the Vancouver-Bellingham area this winter by numerous observers; birds were also seen at Duncan, B.C., Feb. 10 (JC) and at Troutdale, Oreg. Mar. 16 (JG). Cooper's Hawks were unusually prevalent at Medford throughout the winter (JH, OS). Red-tailed Hawks were well recorded on the Willamette Valley CBCs with 109 at Eugene, and 82 at Sauvie I. the maxima. Again, a bird thought by its observers to be a black Harlan's Hawk has been seen in the Region; this bird was found at Pitt Meadows, near Vancouver, on Feb. 13, 17 and 19 (JB, ND & RJ *fide* WW); one of the observers submitted a detailed and convincing statement, but verification of the occurrence of this species in the Region apparently still awaits a specimen. Rough-legged Hawks were seen from Duncan s. to Medford throughout the winter with the largest number apparently centered on Vancouver. Golden Eagles were unusually well reported, with single birds seen at Finley NWR s. of Corvallis, Oreg., Dec. 10 & 22 (CFZ) and near Victoria on Jan. 3 (VG), and with up to 7 birds being seen repeatedly in the Vancouver-Bellingham area through the winter. The prevalence of Bald Eagles increases markedly the further n. one goes in this Region; a few were seen in Oregon this winter, including one carrying nesting material near Ashland, Mar. 26 (OS); more were noted in Washington, but not until one gets to British Columbia are numbers like the 38 on the Harrison R. Feb. 6 (WW), 44 at Duncan, Jan. 20 to Feb. 15 (JC), and 26 opposite Comox, Feb. 26 (INC *fide* WW) encountered. Marsh Hawks were considered by many observers to have been more abundant than usual, particularly in s. British Columbia, n. Washington, and in Oregon's Willamette Valley. An Osprey at Tillamook for the CBC was extraordinary, as was the bird at Pitt Meadows

616 *American Birds*, June 1971

near Vancouver on Feb. 21 (GA *fide* WW); early arrivals of this species were noted at Duncan, Mar. 5 (JC) and at Medford, Mar. 25 (JH). Gyrfalcons were reported

singly from Sauvie I. on the CBC, from the vicinity of Vancouver on Dec. 13 (JB & CT *fide* WC), and on Feb. 13 (MS *et al.* *fide* WW), and from Lummi Flats, Whatcom Co., Wash., from Feb. 21 (when 2 birds were seen) until Mar. 13 (R & EP, D&MP, TW *et al.*). A Prairie Falcon wintered on the upper Rogue R. at least until early February (MM *fide* OS). Peregrines in number up to six at anyone location were reported from twelve different areas, giving a total unmatched in at least six years. Pigeon Hawks were well reported only from the vicinity of Vancouver, Bellingham and Seattle. Sparrow Hawk numbers on CBCs conducted in the Willamette Valley were impressive.

GAMEBIRDS, RAILS, CRANES -- A group of 24 Ruffed Grouse at Eugene which flew from a field into shrubbery at dusk on Dec. 12 (DG & LD) was unusual. Nine Gray Partridge were counted at the Victoria airport on Feb. 6 (ARD). Five Bobwhite on the Sauvie I. CBC were the first indication that a remnant of the introduced population of this species in n.w. Oregon survived the severe winter of two years ago. A few California Quail continue to be seen as far n. as Vancouver. A total of 210 migrating Sandhill Cranes passed over Ankeny N W R w. of Salem, Oreg. Mar. 18 (*fide* CFZ). The Ladner and Vancouver CBCs turned up Virginia Rails; 1 was still at the latter place Feb. 7 (*fide* WW); another was at Duncan, Dec. 27 (JC). The Medford CBC listed 22 Virginia Rails and 1 Sora.

SHOREBIRDS -- Lone Semipalmated Plovers were seen on the Tillamook CBC and at the south jetty of the Columbia R. on Jan. 18 (HN). Killdeer were abundantly recorded on the s. Willamette Valley CBCs; an early nest for this species was again reported from the Finley Refuge on Mar. 20 (*fide* CFZ). A Ruddy Turnstone was at N. Vancouver, B.C., Dec. 5 (IR & WW *fide* WC) and Mar. 6 (WW); another was seen at Victoria on Feb. 18 (ARD). A total of 218 Com. Snipe was recorded on the Corvallis CBC. A Whimbrel was at Ediz Hook, Clallam Co., Wash., Mar. 26 (D & MP, MPE). Up to 25 Greater Yellowlegs at Westport on Jan. 17 (G & WH) constituted an unusual winter-time concentration. A Lesser Yellowlegs was seen at Iona I., near Vancouver, Dec. 5 (MS, WA *fide* WC). Rock Sandpipers at Victoria on Mar. 20 (MS & WW) numbered 35. Long-billed Dowitchers were surprisingly widespread at CBC time, being recorded at many places; numbers and frequency evidently decreased drastically after mid-January. W. Sandpipers showed up only on the Bellingham, Seattle, Sauvie I., and Gold Beach, Oreg. CBCs. The 15 birds at the latter

place were the high count. Several observers thought from CBC data that Sanderlings were down from their usual numbers. A single N. Phalarope was at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. on Mar. 27 (RF, RK & HN).

GULLS, ALCIDS -- It would serve no purpose to list all reports of Glaucous Gull sightings which were more numerous than ever before; suffice it to say that none of the records were from s. of the Columbia R. and that they covered the whole winter report period. Glaucous-winged Gulls followed the "Endeavour" on its oceanographic cruise in late February up to 200 miles offshore; Western and Herring Gulls did likewise (WC *fide* WW). A Franklin's Gull was again seen in the Region this winter, one turning up at Duncan Dec. 16-27 (JC). A few Bonaparte's Gulls wintered in the protected waters of Washington and s. British Columbia. An imm. Heermann's Gull at Sandy Point near Bellingham on Mar. 4 (AB *fide* TW) was most unusual. Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen in numbers offshore in the Pacific and in Queen Charlotte Sound Feb. 24 & 25 (WC *fide* WW); a few were seen at Oregon and Washington coastal points on five different dates in December, February, and March. Twenty Ancient Murrelets were seen at Victoria, Jan. 9 (VG). Apparently the first records of the **Parakeet Auklet** for British Columbia are the two individuals seen from "Endeavour" Feb. 24, 20 miles off Estevan Point, Vancouver I. The first bird was on deck but was not captured, while the second bird was closely studied from as little as 35 feet away (WC *fide* WW); attempts at photographs failed.

PIGEONS, OWLS, HUMMINGBIRDS -- Up to 100 Band-tailed Pigeons wintered at Victoria (ARD). Mourning Doves were seen repeatedly through the winter in the Vancouver and Bellingham areas, which is unusually far north. Snowy Owls appeared in good numbers in the Bellingham-Vancouver vicinity in time for the CBCs, and were still being seen in late March; one somehow fell into a chimney at McMinnville, Oreg. from whence it was rescued, cleaned, and later released, according to a story in the local newspaper (*fide* GK). Two Snowy Owls were found in the dunes on the Oregon side of the Columbia R. mouth, Jan. 18 (HN). A Burrowing Owl was at Agate L. near Medford from Jan. 2 until mid-February (OS *et al.*); another was carefully studied at the Finley Refuge, Mar. 19 (*fide* CFZ). A Spotted Owl was heard Feb. 19 in the Skagit Valley (KS *fide* WW). Five Long-eared Owls are

reported to have spent the winter at Westham I. near Vancouver (BD *fide* WC); 1 was on the Lummi Flats, Dec. 30, flying over the fields in company with Short-eared Owls (TW); still another was reported to have been found at Victoria on Mar. 19, the first there in decades; it subsequently died and is now in the Provincial Museum (DS). A Long-eared Owl was found dead on a road near Medford in mid-March (OS). Short-eared Owls were well reported this winter, particularly from Bellingham and Vancouver where 87 on the CBC

Volume 25, Number 3 617

at the latter place topped last year's remarkable total of 70. **Anna's Hummingbirds** were seen repeatedly at Vancouver, B. C., all winter; from 1 to 3 were also seen at Seattle in February and early March, at Olympia in December, at Eugene on Jan. 30, and on the Portland, Gold Beach and Medford CBCs, 5 being noted at the latter place. Single Rufous Hummingbirds turned up for the Portland and Gold Beach CBCs, which is very extraordinary.

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, JAYS -- Single Yellow-shafted Flickers were recorded on the Vancouver and Bellingham CBCs, and at N. Vancouver on Dec. 30 and Jan. 31 (*fide* WW); 1 was collected at Medford, Feb. 23 (*fide* OS). Lewis' Woodpeckers were inexplicably rare again this winter, with only 35 at Medford for the CBC; single birds were recorded on the Sauvie I., Salem, and Corvallis CBCs while 1 was observed at Bellingham on Jan. 14 & 15 (*fide* TW). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker of the *nuchalis* race is said to have been photographed near Lake Ozette on the Olympic Peninsula, Mar. 25 (*fide* TW). A White-headed Woodpecker was found at Medford for the CBC, an unusual record for this Region. A Black Phoebe turned up on the same count, while another was recorded on the Gold Beach count. A Say's Phoebe was at Lummi Flats on Jan. 2 (JD *fide* TW), another was at McMinnville, Feb. 10 (JG), and still another was at the Finley Refuge on Feb. 13 (CFZ); 5 were counted in the Medford area the last few days of February (OS) where one had also been present for the CBC. An *Empidonax* flycatcher, thought to be a Western by the extensive yellow coloration on the underparts, was also found on the Medford count. A Tree Swallow was found at Vancouver for the CBC there! A Rough-winged Swallow appeared at Finley Refuge on Mar. 28 (CFZ). A Barn Swallow was seen at Boundary Bay on the early date of Mar. 30 (BH *fide* WC); another was seen at Finley Refuge the next day (CFZ). An early Cliff Swallow was at Reifel Refuge, Mar. 22 (BM & MS *fide* WW). A **Blue Jay** came to a

Seattle feeder daily during January and February (RA *fide* DP).

CHICKADEES, WRENS, MIMIDS, THRUSHES, KINGLETS -- Mountain Chickadees appeared on the Willamette Valley and Tillamook CBCs in unprecedented numbers, but were also found regularly at higher elevations during the winter. Com. Bushtits were more than usually common this winter in the Fraser R. delta (WW). Brown Creepers seemed to be more abundantly reported on CBCs than usual. Winter Wrens, too, were well recorded after being remarked last winter as being drastically down in numbers following the severe weather of 1968-69. A Rock Wren was found for the Medford CBC. A Mockingbird appeared regularly at a feeder in Brookings, Oreg. from Feb. 20 to the end of the period (RG); 2 Mockingbirds were at Gold Beach for the CBC. A **Swainson's Thrush** observed repeatedly and very close at hand in N. Vancouver Dec. 18-23, alleviates the usual skepticism accorded winter records of this species (WW, RW & IR). Another credible record for this species seems to have been made at Medford for the CBC. W. Bluebirds were well reported only on the Medford count with 346, although the 22 at Gold Beach is a good total for that location; 4 at Nehalem, Oreg. Mar. 13 (HN & WT) are of interest, too. A Mountain Bluebird was at Bellingham on Jan. 4 (WW); another was seen at Laidlaw, B.C. on Mar. 13 (AP *fide* WW). Townsend's Solitaires turned up singly at Victoria on Jan. 1 and Feb. 3 (ARD), at Vancouver on Jan. 7 (IR) and Feb. 29 (WA), at L. Oswego, Oreg., Jan. 3 (JBC), and at Medford, Jan. 26 (IH); 1 or 2 were also seen on the Vancouver and Bellingham CBCs with a few subsequently seen at Bellingham the rest of the winter (TW). Golden-crowned Kinglets seemed to be up in numbers on CBCs. Water Pipits were recorded on only four CBCs in the Region, with a few at Finley Refuge in early December and again on Jan. 13 (CFZ).

WAXWINGS, SHRIKES, VIREOS, WARBLERS -- Bohemian Waxwings were reported sparsely only from Vancouver and from Bellingham with no reports of sightings after Feb. 3. It was another good year for N. Shrikes as a perusal of the CBC reports will bear out; numbers seemed reduced after mid-January in some places, with an increase noted again in March. Single birds were observed at Victoria on Dec. 5, Jan. 10 and Jan. 31, and at Duncan on Jan. 2 (VG). Two Loggerhead Shrikes were seen on the Dallas, Oreg. CBC, one in direct comparison with a Northern; a Loggerhead was also observed on the Portland CBC. Hutton's Vireos were recorded on many of the Region's CBCs; additionally, they were seen a number of times between Point Roberts and Point Gray, B.C. during the winter (WW) and at Victoria, Jan. 24 (MS & WW) and Mar. 14 (ARD); individuals also were seen at

Elk Lake, B.C., Feb. 19 and Mar. 21 (MS). Orange-crowned Warblers appeared only on the Sauvie I. and Medford CBCs; first spring migrants were at Medford by Mar. 21 (OS). Myrtle and Audubon's Warblers were comparatively little reported this winter; the usual March influx was hardly noticeable. Townsend's Warblers, too, were little noted, showing up on only a few of the CBCs in the s. portion of the Region.

BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES, SPARROWS -- W. Meadowlarks are still very scarce on Vancouver I., less so on mainland s. British Columbia and n. Washington. Of interest are 400 Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Agate L., near Medford, Mar. 28 (OS). A **Rusty Blackbird** was at Lulu I. for the Vancouver CBC (JP *fide* WW), while 2 other male were seen in the Vancouver area at Pitt Meadows on Jan. 23 (NO *fide* WC). Brown-headed Cowbirds were well recorded in the vicinity of Vancouver and Bellingham until early February; they were scarce or absent in the rest of the Region. Evening Grosbeaks' were sporadically recorded in the Puget Sound-Willamette Valley trough particularly early in the winter and then again in late March. Eight Pine Grosbeaks were at Sooke, Vancouver I., Dec. 27 (ARD); 1 was found on the Bellingham CBC (ZS *et al.*); a few were found in the Skagit Valley during the winter (KS *fide* WW). There was virtual unanimity among active field observers concerning the extreme scarcity of Pine Siskins this winter except at Terrace (FF) and in the Skagit Valley; CBC numbers were invariably described as low. Am. Goldfinches, on the other hand, were present in some numbers all winter at Vancouver and on s. Vancouver I. Red Crossbills were also scarce except at Duncan where they were said to be plentiful (JC). Savannah Sparrows were recorded in numbers on CBCs in the Willamette Valley and at Gold Beach; 2 were also found on the Bellingham count; early migrants were observed Mar. 27 at LaPush (DP), Mar. 31 at Anacortes, Wash. (WW), and at Sea I., near Vancouver Mar. 28 (MS) where 1 had also been seen Dec. 5 (MS). Slate-colored Juncos were seen at Vancouver, Ladner, Bellingham, and Salem on the CBCs at Olympia on Feb. 18 (GH), and repeatedly in number up to 3 at the Finley Refuge through the winter (CFZ). From 1 to 3 Tree Sparrows were seen in various locales in and around Vancouver through the winter; 1 was seen at Victoria on Jan. 1 and 3 (VG *et al.*) and another was at Duncan from November until Feb. 21 (JC *et al.*); a Tree Sparrow was seen several times at Fern Ridge Reservoir w. of Eugene in late December and at the end of January (LM; GK & HN); a Tree Sparrow was also recorded on the Bellingham CBC. A number of Harris' Sparrows evidently spent the winter in the vicinity of Sauvie I. and Portland; 2 were found for the Vancouver CBC. Golden-crowned Sparrows seemed to winter in fewer than normal numbers. White-throated Sparrows were observed on the Seattle,

Eugene, Tillamook and Gold Beach CBCs; additional single birds were seen at Samish I., Wash., Jan. 13 (*fide* TW) and in Vancouver's Stanley Park, Dec. 30 (BH & MS *fide* WC). Lincoln's Sparrows were recorded in numbers up to 8 on the Bellingham, Sauvie I., Salem, Tillamook, Eugene, and Medford CBCs; other sightings were 5 at Victoria, Jan. 23 (ARD) and 4 there Jan. 24 (VG); one at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. on Feb. 13 (HN) and one at the Finley Refuge Jan. 13, Feb. 6, March 6 and 31 (CFZ). Fifty Lapland Longspurs on Lummi Flats near Bellingham in early De-cember had decreased to 8 early in January (TW); 3 were at Victoria on Jan. 10 (ARD) and 6 were at Westport, Wash., Mar. 20 (1G). Forty-five Snow Buntings were at Sandy Point, near Bellingham, Jan. 26 (DPe *fide* TW); 2 were at Victoria, Jan. 23 (VG) and 1 was there Feb. 1 (ARD), one was at Tsawwassen, B.C. Mar. 13 (WW), and 3 were at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. Mar. 27 (RK, HN *et al.*); additionally, 19 Snow Buntings were recorded on the Bellingham CBC, one was noted for the Vancouver count, and one was seen visiting a feeder by a competent observer Jan. 26 at Salem, Oreg.

OBSERVERS -- Richard Amundsen; William Anderson; Genevieve Arnold; Alex Benedict; Jim Biggar; Wayne Campbell; Violet E. Cannon; John Comer; John B. Crowell (JBC); A. R. Davidson; Brian Davies; Neil Dawe; R. Drent; James Duemmel; Lauren Dunn; Roy Fisk; F. Frank; Robert Gettis; Jeff Gilligan; Daniel Gleason; Vic Goodwill; Barry Harman; Joseph Hicks; Glenn and Wanda Hoge; Rick Jerama; Ron Klein; Gordon Knight; Jack Lavalley; Allan Larrabee; Phil Mattocks; Bruce MacDonald; Tom McCamant; Merle McGraw; Larry McQueen; Ed Moody; Robert Mullen; Harry Nehls; James Olson; MaryLynn and Dennis Paulson; Richard and Ethelyn Payne; (DPe) David Pearson; (MPe) Michael Perrone; John Polson; Allen Poynter; Bill Rae; Hilda Reiner; Ian Robertson; Gerald Sanger; Zella Schultz; Mike Shepard; Edmund Stiles; David Stirling; Ken Summers; Otis Swisher; William Thackaberry; Colin Trefry; Terrence Wahl; Robin Weber; Wayne Weber; C. F. Zeille-maker; Mellie Zeillemaker.

Spring Migration, 1971

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

Much of the Region west of the Continental Divide experienced a cool, wet, windy spring. Spokane had about twice normal precipitation in April, but had temperatures of about 2° above

Volume 25, Number 4 771

normal. At McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. the month was dry, with 0.22 in. of moisture, compared to the normal 0.48 in. The Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. was also dry, with 0.74 in., 0.34 in. below normal. Baker, Ore. appeared dry except for a rainy spell the third week, followed by cooler temperatures. Southern interior British Columbia was cool and wet. Missoula started out cool and dry but the last half of April brought moderating temperatures and much moisture. East of the Divide, Helena reported normal spring weather and Bozeman, relatively mild conditions. May appeared near normal in temperature in most areas west of the Divide but s. British Columbia and e. Washington as far southwest as far southwest as Walla Walla received unexpected amounts of precipitation and strong winds. Yakima, in the rain shadow of Mt. Rainier, was, as usual, mild and dry. Baker started out warm and dry but became rainy toward the end, with a destructive windstorm the third week. The entire spring at Prineville, Ore. was described as very cold and windy. Weather at Richland was described by Woodley thus: "In the 17 years that I have lived in e. Washington, I have not seen so much wind, cold, clouds, and rain as we have had this Spring, i.e., April and May." Helena and Bozeman continued the trend set in April. Indications were that the cool, wet weather delayed the migration at Spokane and Walla Walla. In the Bozeman area, while many early arrival dates for individual birds were recorded, the mild conditions appear not to have speeded up the main mass of migrants. While the weather delayed vegetation, it apparently resulted in quite ample moisture supplies, which are expected to produce excellent growth before the normally dry summer sets in.

LOONS AND GREBES - First sighting of the Com. Loon was at Ennis, Madison Co., Mont., Apr. 4 (early). The species was first noted in e. Washington Apr. 17, when about 20 were seen on Banks L., Grant Co. (S.A.S.). Three species of grebes appeared in the Bozeman area on early dates: Eared, Apr. 18 at Three Forks; Western and Pied-billed, Apr. 25 at Harrison L. (RAH, WM & PDS). An unusually large concentration of 208 W. Grebes was on Helena Valley Reservoir near Helena on May 19.

PELICANS, CORMORANTS AND HERONS -- At McNary Refuge 14 White Pelicans were sighted on Apr. 9 and 7 on May 19. At Ennis, Mont. the species' arrival was early, Apr. 10 (PDS & RAH). The 20 Double-crested Cormorants present at McNary Refuge in March dwindled to 7 in April; none were seen in May. The birds were first noted at Three Forks Apr. 12 (ETH & RAH). A **Snowy Egret** was reported present for several days in mid-May in the Gallatin Canyon near Bozeman (*vide* CVD) and another was noted at Stevensville, Mont. May 5 (CLB). Four Black-crowned Night Herons at L. Helena on Apr. 28 were the first seen there in four years. Some 20 17 had arrived at the usual nesting site at St. Andrews, Douglas Co., Wash. by Apr. 10 (WH) and about the same number made up the colony at McNary Refuge. About Apr. 22 a White-faced Ibis was reported near Ennis, Mont. (*vide* CVD).

WATERFOWL - Whistling Swans appeared in most impressive numbers in the Baker area, where at least **500** were seen north of town and smaller flocks were reported in nearby localities. One bird was on Coeur d' Alene L. in n. Idaho on Jan. 30 but the first arrivals in the Spokane-Cheney area, Wash. appeared in February (WH). A movement of Trumpeter Swans was noted on Mar. 14 in the Bozeman area, where the species winters. A single White-fronted Goose was observed with Canadas at Sprague L., Sprague, Wash. on Apr. 8 (WH) and 1 was seen in the lower Yakima Valley (AR). One or 2 Snow Geese remained at the marsh just north of Reardan, Wash. to the end of May (S.A.S.). Single Ross' Geese were noted at Central Park near Bozeman on Apr. 17 (ETH, RAH & PDS) and at Walla Walla from Apr. 25 to May 9 (NFM & JRW). A female **Black Duck**, paired with a Mallard, was identified at Central Park in the Bozeman area and was the first record for the species there (PDS). An apparent hybrid male with body markings of the Am. Widgeon but the green head of a Mallard was seen on Apr. 3 and 7 at Ravalli Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Stevensville, Mont. (PLW). The peak duck number at McNary Refuge was 6000, over half of which were Mallards. That species peaked at 13,540 and Am. Widgeon at 650 at nearby Ringold Refuge. A record number of 5 Eur. Widgeon was reported for e. Washington, between Mar. 21 and Apr. 17 (WH; S.A.S.). Two Oldsquaws, presumably those seen on the Christmas Bird Count, were still on the Spokane R. east of Spokane as late as Mar. 24 (WH).

VULTURES, HAWKS AND EAGLES--Turkey Vultures arrived on Apr. 14 (early) in the Bozeman area (JM). The earliest appearance in e. Washington was on Apr. 4 near Spokane (S.A.S.). Fair numbers of Ospreys were observed in n. Idaho. At least 10 were at Chatcolet L. May 8, and 7 or 8 occupied nests were observed along Priest R. (S.A.S.). A male Pigeon Hawk was seen flying around Tower Mt. just s.e. of Spokane on May 2 (S.A.S.). Four active Golden Eagle nests were being observed in the vicinity of Heppner, Ore. (KH).

An unusual concentration of about **17** Bald Eagles of various ages was reported in the Richland-Eagle Creek area east of Baker on Feb. 24 (LR& RH).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS - **Five** Sharp-tailed Grouse s.w. of Creston, Lincoln Co., Wash. on Apr. 10 were the most reported for several years (WH). Twenty-five or 30 Sage Grouse were observed on the strutting grounds south of Creston Apr. 10 &

772 American Birds, August 1971

17 (WH, S.A.S.). Turkeys continued to be seen between Bozeman and Livingston where the species was introduced in 1968.

CRANES AND RAILS -- Sandhill Cranes were first noted on Mar. 27 near Sprague, Wash. and displayed peak numbers, **2000-2500**, April 10 & 17 at St. Andrews, Wash. (WH; S.A.S.). **Six** Virginia Rails were seen during spring waterfowl pair counts at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash.

SHOREBIRDS -- The migration of these birds in e. Washington was considered by Hall to be brief, and the species and individuals not numerous. Presumably high water levels were a contributing factor. The Long-billed Curlew, reported from many localities, appeared in the greatest number at Umatilla Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, s. of Richland, Wash. Some 50 were observed, apparently nesting in the sagebrush and grass, May 6 (NFM). A Willet was observed at the Nat'l Bison Range Apr. 15 (OK) and another was seen at Reardan, Wash. May 8 (FBH). Four species of shorebirds posted record early dates for the Bozeman area: Solitary Sandpiper, Apr. 28 (HC); Lesser Yellowlegs, Apr. 12 (HC); Baird's Sandpiper, Apr. 4; and Least Sandpiper, Apr. 17 (HC). Eight other species arrived on earlier-than-average dates there, and a Semipalmated Sandpiper May 9 at Three Forks was the first spring record ever for that area. At least 10 Long-billed Dowitchers stayed until

the late date of May 28 at Reardan (S.A.S.). A lone bird strongly suspected of being a Short-billed Dowitcher was observed closely at Missoula May 18.

LARIDS -- A Bonaparte's Gull at Huston L. near Prineville, Ore. May 23 was John Knox' first record for Crook Co. Two were seen at Sprague L. on the same date (JA). Forster's Tern arrived on the record early date of May 2 at Ennis, Mont. (PDS, RAH, JM & WM).

OWLS, SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS -- A Pygmy Owl heard on Apr. 26 at Leancoil, Yoho Nat'l Park, B.C. apparently was only the second recorded for the park (WCW). A Long-eared Owl was noted on May 17 near Clarkston, Wash. (MJP). A few Short-eared Owls were reported from e. Washington only. A **Chimney Swift** was observed carefully north of Manhattan, Mont. on June 2. This is the first local record (RLE). A migrating flock of 20 Vaux's Swifts was observed over Latah Creek near Spokane on May 15 (WH). Arrival dates for hummingbirds in the Spokane area were from one to two weeks later than normal, but the May 15 appearance of the Calliope was early for the Bozeman area.

WOODPECKERS -- A Yellow-shafted Flicker was reported at the Bison Range May 2 (OK). Six White-headed Woodpeckers were counted at Boise Cascade Park in the Wenas Valley n.e. of Yakima (AR). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were reported in winter and early spring at Bridger Bowl ski area east of Bozeman, where few records for the species exist (JP).

FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS -- The first E. Kingbird at Vernon, B.C. was seen on May 9, about five days earlier than average, and the first W. there was seen on the unusually early date of Apr. 17 (JB). First sighting for the latter in e. Washington, May 14, was very late. A Least Flycatcher was identified at Missoula on May 25. Arrivals of Traill's and Dusky Flycatchers and the W. Wood Pewee were also distinctly late in e. Washington. The Barn Swallow established a record early arrival date of Apr. 17 at Three Forks, Mont. Cliff Swallows were particularly abundant in the Clarkston, Wash. vicinity during May, when 500 were estimated on three dates (MJP). Perhaps these contributed to the buildup at Medical L., Spokane Co., Wash. where "thousands" were reported on May 30 (S.A.S.). At Missoula, all swallows seemed particularly scarce.

JAYS AND CHICKADEES -- The Blue Jay that wintered at a feeder at Spokane was not seen after Apr. 10 (VN & CS). The spectacular concentration of Clark's Nutcrackers in the Spokane-Cheney area had nearly vanished by the end of May-2 were noted on the 30th. About 10 Chestnut-backed Chickadees, the only ones reported, were seen at Heyburn State Park west of St. Maries, Ida. May 8 (S.A.S.). The Boreal Chickadee was noted only in Yoho Nat'l Park, where it is the most common species of chickadee (WCW). About 12 Common Bushtits were observed in Sumpter Valley near Baker, Feb. 23.

NUTHATCHES AND WRENS -- A few White-breasted Nuthatches were noted in e. Washington only, at Ahtanum Ranger Station west of Yakima and a few other localities. Inexplicably, no Winter Wrens at all were observed in s. interior British Columbia. The only report for the species was of one singing in Heyburn State Park May 8 (S.A.S.). Bewick's Wren was reported from Cold Springs Nat'l Wildlife Refuge near Hermiston, Ore. on Apr. 24 and at Yakima (AR).

THRUSHES AND WAXWINGS -- Seven reports mentioned sightings of W. Bluebirds, and nine of Mountain Bluebirds. The former species was not noted east of Missoula. A Sage Thrasher arrival on Apr. 12 matched the previous early record for Bozeman (RAH, LM & JM). Most Bohemian Waxwings had left before April. Flocks were moving north through the Okanagan Valley of s. British Columbia during late March and the first week of April. Cedar Waxwings, which wintered in more than usual numbers in some areas, had their numbers augmented in late May by the arrival of migrants.

WARBLERS -- The warbler migration, with few exceptions, appeared about on time. May 12 for the Yellow Warbler at Bozeman was early (JM). At Dry Falls, Grant Co., Wash. on May 8 **Myrtle Warblers** were almost as numerous as Audubon's (FBH). The former is generally considered a

Volume 25, Number 4 773

scarce migrant in the Region. A **Hermit Warbler**, seen May 29 at Boise Cascade Campground on Wenas Creek n.w. of Yakima, added a species new to that area (REW). A **Black-and-White Warbler**, a rarity in Washington, was closely observed along Crab Creek, Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, about 8 miles n.w. of

Othello (PM). A Yellowthroat at Heppner, Ore. on May 7 was distinctly earlier than the usual arrival dates for other parts of the Region (KH).

FINCHES -- The Lazuli Bunting posted a record early date of May 12 at Bozeman (HC). Evening Grosbeaks, common to abundant in many localities during late winter, remained to the end of May in some places. Numbers dwindled sharply in the Spokane area but at Missoula they built up to a peak about May 20 and about 300 were counted in a limited residential area the last week of the month. In Washington the species apparently did not reach as far south as Pasco or Clarkston but a few were seen at Walla Walla. In Oregon they were present in late February at Heppner (KH) and remained at Baker to the end of May. A wave of migrants passed through the North Okanagan Valley on Apr. 24. The birds were very scarce in that area during the winter. Sizeable concentrations of Cassin's Finch were noted in several localities: west of Oliver, B.C., "about 40 seen at Sawmill L. and several other localities" (WCW); along Ahtanum Ranger Station Road west of Yakima more than 100 on Apr. 21 (AR), and at Spokane flocks up to 75 at feeders in April. Four **Purple Finches** were seen west of Three Forks, Mont. on Apr. 4 and an imm. male in full song was carefully identified on Mt. Spokane north of Spokane, May 29 (FBH). House Finches at Missoula appeared scarce in early May, perhaps because of nesting, but became more evident toward the end of the month. Mated pairs were noted in many parts of the city. Red Crossbills were practically unreported, with a few noted in the Spokane area only.

SPARROWS -- The Green-tailed Towhee, reported only from the Bozeman area, was first seen on May 25 (RAH). Savannah Sparrows began arriving on Apr. 5 at Prineville, Ore. and seemed unusually abundant, being found nesting in areas not occupied in the past few years. Their numbers appeared to be down in the Spokane area. The uncommon Grasshopper Sparrow was reported at Vernon, B.C., Spokane and Clarkston, Wash. (MJP). Tree Sparrows, mentioned only for Missoula, were last seen there on Mar. 29. A **Harris' Sparrow** changing to breeding plumage was noted at Lavington, B.C. on Mar. 23. Presumably the same bird had attained full breeding attire by Apr. 18. The White-crowned Sparrow migration was, from an observer viewpoint at least, disappointing at most localities, with no large concentrations. At Spokane generally fair weather during the movement quite possibly sped their passage through. A Golden-crowned Sparrow was reported at Medical L., Wash. on May 5 (JA) and at Walla Walla 1 was seen Apr. 22, and 4 on the 23rd (NFM). Near Ellensburg, Wash., 2 of this species were netted on Apr. 29, and 3 the following day (PM). A White-throated Sparrow that wintered at a Spokane

feeder left on Apr. 15 (RMW). McCown's Longspur, reported only from Three Forks, was first seen on Apr. 20 (early). Two or 3 Lapland Longspurs were seen south of Creston, Wash. on Apr. 17 (S.A.S.). A single Snow Bunting was seen near Missoula on Mar. 19 and 1 that had been dead for perhaps a week was found in a small field near a busy shopping center there, Apr. 20.

CONTRIBUTORS (sectional editors, in bold face, should receive credit for observations in their respective areas unless otherwise stated)--James Acton, **Eugene C. Barney**: McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash., J. Baumbrough, Carol L. Boyd, Joanne Brown, Helen Carlson, C. V. Davis, **Maxine Eller**: Yakima Valley, Wash., R. L. Eng, **James Grant**, s. interior British Columbia, (RH) **R. L. Hand**: Missoula, Mont. area, Warren Hall, Eve T. Hayes, R. A. Hayes, K. Horn, F. B. Huston, D. Kitchen, J. Knox, J. Marchwick, **Sid Martin**: Helena, Mont. area, Phil Mattocks, Niel F. Meadowcroft, Louis Moos, **Gerald Morsello**: Prineville, Ore. area, William Morefield, Vee Nealey, Jean Perkins, **Margaret J. Polumsky**: Asotin and Garfield Cos., Wash., Art Renspie, Larry Roumpf, **P. D. Skaar**: Bozeman-Ennis-Three Forks, Mont. area, Connie Smedley, Spokane Audubon Society, **Mrs. S. O. Stanley**: e. Washington and n. Idaho, **Ronald W. Stroh** Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont., **Ann Ward**: Baker, Ore. area, Wayne C. Weber, R. M. Wilson, John R. Winchell, **Robert E. Woodley**: Pasco-Kennewick-Richland, Wash. area, **Maurice B. Wright**: Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash., Philip L. Wright.

Spring Migration, 1971

**GREAT BASIN-CENTRAL ROCKY
MOUNTAIN REGION**
/ **Hugh E. Kingery**

With trepidation and anticipation I approach the reporting job on this diverse region of 425,000 square miles--15 per cent of the land area of the coterminous United States (more if you flattened out the mountains)--a vast area in which the distance between the two farthest points exceeds the distance between New York and Miami, and which stretches from farther east than El Paso to farther west than Los Angeles. This expanse is little known ornithologically, largely because it contains only 1 per cent of the population of the United States. It contains two principal topographical features--the s. Rocky

Mountains in Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, and Idaho, and the Great Basin of Utah, Oregon, and Nevada. Drainage either drops into the sinks of Nevada and

774 *American Birds*, August 1971

Utah, or feeds every major river system in the w. United States. Major rivers which rise within the Region are the Snake, Yellowstone, Missouri, North Platte, South Platte, Arkansas, Rio Grande, and Colorado. Bird variety in the section is diverse, like the habitats; probably 60 per cent of the AOU species have been recorded here. Many are regarded as rare, but then bird observers in the area are also rare. Weather in the West this spring was cold and wet. Rains and snows swept through the Region throughout April and May, and the season culminated on Memorial Day weekend with a storm which brought snow from one end to the other beginning in California on May 25 and ending in Colorado and Wyoming on May 31. After the dry winter, the spring snows brought some mountain snow packs, such as the Sierra Nevadas, Calif., and Wolf Creek Pass, Colo., up to normal, and most others, like the Front Range, Colo., and the Wind River Range, Wyo., to above normal. Exceptions to the wet weather, the San Luis Valley and San Juan Basin in s. and w. Colorado, seem to be suffering from the same drought conditions now afflicting Texas and New Mexico. The cold, wet weather affected the migration in the Region, delaying it, reducing numbers, or causing the birds to pass right on by. In many areas, high waters caused the shorebirds to move through without stopping, while at the same time creating excellent water conditions in many wildlife refuges, and raising hopes for a fine crop of geese and ducks. Most important bird news of the Region erupted into national headlines from dead eagles found in Wyoming and then Colorado. Hopefully the ruckus will result in better protection of wildlife, nationally. Over 100 eagles, both Golden and Bald, died in the two states: 22 from poison, perhaps put out for four-legged predators; the rest from electrocution by ungrounded rural power lines. In Casper, the district attorney has charged 5 prominent men with crimes related to the poison deaths. The accused include a prominent stockman and a federal predator control agent. According to these charges, the men injected severe dosages of thallium sulfate into antelope carcasses, and then set them out on the range. Because of an inability to prove intent to kill eagles, the charges accuse the men of violating various game laws

respecting, not the eagles, but rather the antelope. Stronger laws are needed, on a federal level, to protect against the unlimited and uncontrolled slaughter of eagles by stockmen operating on old-fashioned and unproven prejudices. The electrocuted birds, found near Worland, Wyo., Craig, Colo., and Greeley, Colo., had died over the past 3 years. After a similar instance in Utah some years ago, power lines were grounded. Audubon officials hope to solve the latest problem in a similar manner. A worse slaughter apparently strikes every spring at the Great Blue Herons and other fish eating birds along the Snake R. in e. Idaho. The herons suffer from a bad image with commercial, state and federal trout farms. Professor Charles H. Trost reports, "In the past and, I feel, still, there are an unbelievable number of herons, egrets, kingfishers, etc., slaughtered each year. I have a reputable report of 300 Great Blues killed at one hatchery near Buhl last year. The hatchery operators are very resistant to change. The commercial people do not have a license to kill (even though they still do it), but the federal and state people can legally do it they are 'protecting' public property. The herons may be more important to the public than the fish, however."

LOONS, GREBES, HERONS, IBIS -- Com. Loons, not too often seen in the mountain area, appeared at Dubois, Wyo., Apr. 18 & 28, at Delta, Colo. Apr. 27, and at Antero Reservoir, near Hartsel, Colo., May 23 & 26 (C.F.O., MPS). Only 3 Red-necked Grebes were found during the spring at Rocky Point, Ore.; perhaps pressure from recreation boats and fishermen forced them to move on (JH). Eared Grebes peaked at 3000 and Western Grebes at 1200, in late April, at Stillwater Wildlife Management Area, Nev. Peak at Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Ore., at the same time, was 5200 Eared Grebes; W. Grebes, however, were 2 weeks later than usual (SF). White Pelicans numbered 200 at Lower Klamath Refuge Apr. 25. To the east of their Utah nesting grounds, pelican reports included 2 at Antero Res. May 11 (HEK) and 13 for a week beginning Apr. 23 at L. DeSmet, near Sheridan, Wyo.-the species had never been seen there before in spring, and never more than one bird seen in the fall season. A Green Heron wandered into Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo., the second week of May. Utah's most notable record of the season came from Logan: a **Cattle Egret** observed 3 miles w. of town on May 6 (Mike Dalton and Janet Young, *vide* KLD). Is this the first for Utah? This spreading species

will probably soon venture into the n.w. states. The White-faced Ibis staged a noticeable migration,

Volume 25, Number 4 775

and appeared at some unusual places. Reports included 2 at Sheridan May 3; 50 at Centerville, Utah, May 3 (WWB); 1 at Estes Park, Colo., May 5 (RD); 35 at Durango May 15; 25 at Blue Mesa Res., Gunnison Co., Colo., May 16 (ASH); 30 at Antero Res. Apr. 11 (BMM) and 24 there on May 23 (C.E.O.).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS -- After peaking at Malheur in March, most Whistling Swans left shortly after Apr. 1, and all had departed for their breeding grounds by May 7. In the east, where they are unusual, 2-3 birds stayed at Antero Apr. 11-18. Malheur's isolated breeding population of Trumpeter Swans, which apparently winters in California, maintained a steady population of 40-45 during the spring. Two Trumpeters stopped at Dubois May 18-25. Migrating White-fronted Geese reached their maximum numbers during the first week in April, with 200 at Modoc N.W.R., Calif., and 250 at Malheur. Snow Geese, which peaked at Malheur in late March, had dropped to 25,000 there by Apr. 1; all had left by May 7. While abundant in the w. part of the Region, this species is not frequent in the Rockies. Hence of interest are single birds reported from Sweitzer L. near Delta May 3-8: from Sheridan May 10; 1 which stayed for more than a month, Mar. 27-May 15 at Monte Vista N.W.R.; and the flock of 14 at Antero Res. May 11 (HEK) of which 1 remained May 26 (MPS). The Blue Goose, an infrequent visitor to Malheur, was observed twice, Apr. 8 and 16. Ross' Goose peaked at 100 Apr. 1 at Malheur, and like the Snow Goose, all had left by May 7. The wildlife refuges attract most of the waterbirds in this dry country, with Malheur the star attraction. There the Canada Geese population stabilized at 2900 at the beginning of the period; it included 1030 nesting pairs while the balance, of non-breeders, moved about the refuge. Ducks peaked during March and by Apr. 1, 107,000 remained, including 75,000 Pintail. By May 1 most of the Pintails had moved northward and the duck population dropped to 63,700. By the end of May the numbers had dropped to 45,000, primarily nesting birds. Blue-winged Teal arrived May 3, three weeks late, but other species varied little from the norm. At Modoc N.W.R., Calif., geese peaked at 1775 in the second week of April; many moved on, and they

peaked again the last week of April. The Cackling Geese migrated through, leaving a summer population of 1300 Canada Geese. Ducks built up to almost 9000 the last week in April, with 3000 Shovelers, 1700 Cinnamon Teal, 1000 Pintails, and 700 each Buffleheads and Gadwalls. Total waterfowl present that week was 10,785 plus 3800 Am. Coots. Stillwater estimated its breeding population at 5 per cent of last year's level, and although water is good, nesting began late. The first Mallard brood appeared on May 18, two weeks later than last year's harbinger. Deer Flat N.W.R., Idaho, concentrates on nesting Canada Geese, and had counted 1209 goslings by the end of May. Heavy snowfall at higher elevations caused a sizable runoff during the nesting season, lessening available habitats. However it was not disastrous, as in 1969, because the high water occurred steadily throughout the season instead of suddenly in mid-nesting. "The number of nests over the past 20 years has remained about the same, but the number of young birds produced has increased by about 20 per cent. This would seem to indicate that the birds are not really trying harder, they are just getting more efficient." (EMB) Ducks stopped briefly, and only in small groups, around Cedar City, Utah. In Colorado, Monte Vista N.W.R. had 42,000 ducks and 1500 Canada Geese as its peak, the first week in April; 25,000 Mallards, 9000 Pintails, and 3500 Gadwalls comprised most of the total. Alamosa N.W.R., Colo., noted duck populations slightly below normal, with nesting slow to start (RLD). An estimated 20,000 Lesser Scaups and 1000 Redheads filled Antero Res. Apr. 11. The brand new Arapaho N.W.R., in North Park, Jackson Co., Colo., attracted more Pintails than anything else-390 on May 21. Its other high counts occurred May 28 with 350 Lesser Scaup, 325 Gadwalls, and 250 Am. Widgeons (RK). Outstanding duck records included Colorado's second record of the **European Widgeon**, carefully studied and identified by an experienced observer at Sweitzer L. near Delta on May 4. The bird was feeding with Canvasbacks, but did not stay (DAG). The Wood Duck, rare on the east slope of the Sierras, was seen near Mammoth, Calif., in May (JMF). The Greater Scaup, rare anywhere inland, was found at Sheridan during April. Barrow's Goldeneye made unusual spring appearances at Malheur-Apr. 13, 14, and 23--each time in different areas. The same species, commonest wintering duck at Dubois, left in mid May for its nesting areas.

HAWKS, EAGLES, GROUSE -- Scattered reports of Goshawk, Sharp-shinned, and Cooper's Hawks revealed little about population trends, although the Goshawk has apparently disappeared as a nesting bird around Evergreen, Colo. A Red-tailed Hawk engaged in a dramatic courtship flight at Dubois Apr. 17, and a nesting pair was feeding young on the San Juan R. below Bluff, Utah, May 3 (RLB). Scattered reports of eagles throughout the Region lift some of the gloom from the appalling slaughter which occurred in Wyoming and Colorado. Golden Eagle nests were found at Stillwater and in the White Mountains, Calif. (JMF). Observations included several birds at Malheur, Sheridan, and Monte Vista; one at Canyonlands Nat'l Park Apr. 8 (GJH); 6 at Antero Apr. 11; 2 at Lower Klamath N.W.R. Apr. 25 (OS); 1 along the San Juan R., Utah, May 2 (RLB); 5 at McCoy, Colo. May 26; and 2 near Cisco, Utah May 28 (RLB). Bald Eagle reports, much fewer in number, came from

776 *American Birds*, August 1971

Dead Horse Point State Park, Utah, Apr. 7 (GJH) and 2 immatures were seen at Malheur Apr. 14; however they were missing from their usual patrol on the Wind River near Dubois. A few Osprey reports came in, although the population at Yellowstone Park is apparently declining (WWD). Reports included 4 sightings in April in the Lahontan Valley near Stillwater, where the bird is rare; 11 observations at Malheur, compared with 4 last year and 2 in 1969 (SF); 2 at L. DeSmet, Sheridan, hopefully searching for a nest site. Six sightings of the Peregrine Falcon came in: Apr. 11 at Cedar City; one each on Apr. 16 and May 16 at Malheur; one Apr. 2530 at Monte Vista; 1, or probably 2, at Lower Klamath Apr. 25, observed diving at a pelican, which emerged from the encounter undamaged; and 1 May 11 at Antero (HEK). The first Pigeon Hawk in 2 years was seen at Malheur Apr. 7 and 11 (SF). Blue Grouse are becoming scarce along the Front Range of the Rockies, at least around Eldora, Colo. However White-tailed Ptarmigan breeding densities are showing varied success, according to Colo. Game Fish & Parks Dept. studies relating to hunting and its effects on ptarmigan populations (CEB). Sage Grouse dancing grounds at Malheur emptied by mid May, but near Walden, Colo., the birds may suffer from an unusual setback: too many birdwatchers. A wildlife conservation officer worried publicly that the steady

stream of dance-onlookers was frightening the birds from their intended achievements.

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS, GULLS, TERNS -- Monte Vista N.W.R. attracted its highest number of Sandhill Cranes yet, 6121 on Mar. 7-13 (late report). Most of the Monte Vista birds go to Gray's Lake N.W.R., Idaho, where the birds appeared in usual numbers. At Malheur nesting began Apr. 7 and was largely completed by the end of May. Snowy Plovers, rare in the Colorado mountains, scurried along the shores of Antero Res. at least from May 11-31 (HEK, BMM, SG). This species arrived 3 weeks late at Malheur (SF). Three Semipalmated Plovers, first in several years, stopped at Parowan, Utah, Apr. 20 (SM); 3 turned up at Antero May 23 (SG, BMM). Black-bellied Plovers staged a relative eruption; uncommon anywhere in the Rockies, 18 were at Antero May 11 (HEK), and one remained there until May 23 (C.F.O.); 4 dropped down at L. DeSmet near Sheridan May 20. Malheur's spring count had 29, and at Stillwater, where the normal complement runs 10-15, a flock of 200 stayed for the last 3 weeks of April. In Utah shorebirds appeared only briefly, and apparently found the flooded river courses inhospitable, so that only small numbers were observed (SM, KLD). Around Pocatello, the Long-billed Curlew is declining, due to increasing agricultural use (CHT); however many were found at Warner Valley and Lakeview, Ore., as well as 50 at Klamath Falls, Ore., Apr. 6 (JH). Whimbrels appeared in the desert valley of Dubois: 2 on Apr. 11, 10 Apr. 18. During May, 4 Upland Plovers appeared at L. DeSmet 4 times as many as ever before. Spotted Sandpipers made their earliest appearance at Dubois in 8 years on Apr. 18, were late elsewhere, but numerous throughout the Colo. Rockies, e.g., 70-80 at Estes Park in the aftermath of a May 25 snowstorm (RD). A flock of 14 Willets at Evergreen May 2 was a new locality record, and there were never so many nesting in swampy areas of the Warner Valley and Lakeview (JH). At the north edge of South Park near Como, Colo., 4 Greater Yellow legs put in an Easter appearance Apr. 11; but they had been at Monte Vista since Mar. 27. The 2 Knots at Stinking L., Malheur, on May 18 were the second record for e. Oregon (CL). Two Pectoral Sandpipers Apr. 26 at Sweitzer L. represent the first spring record for w. Colo., but 12 had already appeared at Dubois Apr. 12. An unusually high number of Long-billed Dowitchers - 20 - stopped at Parowan, Utah, Apr. 29 (SM). One Silt Sandpiper at L. DeSmet on May 24 was noteworthy.

Near Delta, 15 Marbled Godwits on Apr. 20 & 25 represented unusually high numbers, as did Antero flocks of 25 Apr. 25 and 49 May 9. Wave-chasing Sanderlings seemed out of place at Blue Mesa Res., Gunnison Co., Colo., Apr. 25 (DAG), at Antero May 23 (BMM, SG), and during May at L. DeSmet. Am. Avocets had begun nesting by the end of May at Stillwater N.W.R., Lakeview, and Monte Vista. Two put in a rare appearance at Estes Park, Colo. on May 8 (RD). Black-necked Stilts appeared at their usual time at the nesting grounds at Stillwater, the first arriving on Apr. 5; they arrived 3 weeks early at Malheur (SF); and some were nesting at Lakeview in late April (JH); however the 7 at Monte Vista Apr. 24-30 and the 3 at Antero May 22-23 (C.F.O.) had strayed east of their usual migratory paths. Wilson's Phalaropes were scarce around Logan, Utah (KLD), and arrived late at Pocatello (CHT), but Monte Vista had its first on Apr. 24 and reported 4200 by Apr. 25. On May 11, 2 stray Northern Phalaropes mixed with several Wilson's at Monte Vista (HEK) and the same day a flock of 30 visited Sweitzer L. At Malheur 19 were counted on the spring count May 18. A California Gull colony was found at Antero (C.F.O.), probably the first between the Great Salt Lake and the eastern Colo. prairie. A check on May 26 found 100 nests (MPS). The Pocatello populations of this bird and the Ring-billed Gull are doing quite well, numbering in the 10,000's. Both are increasing: "With their opportunistic ways, they do well in a changing environment." (CHT). As at Pocatello, California Gulls in the Owens Valley, Calif., are multiplying. They are being nurtured by the lakes and dumps. Drilling for geothermal steam for power will begin in

Volume 25, Number 4 777

Mono L. this year; hopefully it won't interfere with the gull colonies on islands in the lake. Four Franklin's Gulls and 2 Bonaparte's appeared at Sweitzer L. Apr. 21. Several Caspian Terns visited Lower Klamath, with 25 on Apr. 17 and 5 on Apr. 25 (OS). A Black Tern May 14 at Gull L. was, surprisingly, the first in the Owens Valley.

DOVES, OWLS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS -- Band-tailed Pigeon migration into Colorado came late, because of the cool, wet weather, but numbers remain about the same except in s.w. Colo. where diminished numbers apparently stem

from the drought in the southwest (CEB). Mourning Dove populations remain equivalent to 1970 levels, but nesting was also delayed by weather (CEB). However they were slow to appear and slow to build up to their usual numbers at Alamosa (RLD). Doves first appeared in Evergreen May 1, and were unusually numerous at Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park during May (AC) and around Nederland, Colo., where they formerly were rare (GMS). The Barn Owl, scarce in Utah, returned to Salt Lake City during April (GK) and one appeared May 27 near Cedar City. The Burrowing Owl, suffering from increased agriculture around Pocatello, could muster only one pair each at two different colonies. At Logan, Utah, Short-eared Owls were "exceptionally abundant, possibly prospering on rodents that, after the high waters, were concentrated on the remaining high ground" (KLD). Mono Co., Calif., picked up its first record of a Vaux's Swift, a bird found frozen at Mammoth May 28 just after May's final snowstorm. Others, the first in 5 years, were seen in the Owens Valley at the same time. Thousands of White-throated Swifts massed in Cedar Valley, Utah, May 12-20: "driving across the valley, no matter where, they were overhead." (SM) Black Swifts, which often appear in fairly large numbers, were scarce in the same area, with only 3 seen, all on May 25. Observers with feeders notice the arrival of Broad-tailed Hummingbirds; they reported them variously early (Dubois, May 25, "climbing invisible ladders beside long stems of gooseberries"); normal but in half the usual numbers (Deer Creek Canyon, west of Denver, GB); and 2 weeks late (Eldora). A Red-shafted X Yellow-shafted Flicker hybrid appeared five times in April at Dubois and a Red-headed Woodpecker there was the third in 8 years. Williamson's Sapsucker arrived early at Evergreen on Apr. 3.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, NUTHATCHES, WRENS, THRUSHES -- On Apr. 29 a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on the Siloam Road west of Pueblo, Colo., had wandered a little north and west of its usual range (DS). Most flycatchers were later than usual: at Malheur E. Kingbirds, Traill's Flycatcher, and W. Wood Pewee arrived late; at Eldora only one Traill's and one Western had appeared by the end of May; the other scattered reports of other flycatchers came only during the last week of May, in low numbers at that. However the Gray Flycatcher is again abundant at Calun L. and along Route 131, Ore. (i.e., 12 in 7 miles JH). The exceptional record, however, is a **Vermilion Flycatcher** in South Park, near Jefferson, Colo., from May 15-23, verified by photographs (CH). It is the fourth record for w. Colorado. In contrast to flycatchers, swallows seemed unusually early and numerous throughout Colorado (except Evergreen) and Wyoming. Violet-green Swallows were numerous around Delta in late April, Durango, Colo., May 15,

McCoy, Colo. May 26, and they came early to Dubois on Apr. 16; yet they were late at Evergreen, with the first record on May 16. Tree Swallows flocked even more commonly, starting with one winging over the snowy top of the Vail, Colo., ski area Apr. 9 (HEK), to include the third earliest date at Dubois Apr. 10, flocks of 200 or more on Apr. 11 along the Colorado R. at Radium and State Bridge, Colo.; large numbers at Delta during late April and early May, including 485 May 8; continuing flocks during May moving north along the Blue R., Summit Co., Colo., and flocks of 360 May 11 and 200 May 23 at Antero. Malheur counted a peak of 2600 Tree Swallows Apr. 19. Two female **Purple Martins** observed for 15 minutes at Malheur were the first there in 53 years (WA). Clark's Nutcrackers frequented the Piñon Pines of Natural Bridges Nat'l Mon. during May (GK). Black-capped Chickadees may be spreading to the high country, with an attempted but unconsummated nesting at 9400 ft. in Summit Co., Colo., begun May 22. Red-breasted Nuthatches presented a spotty picture, appearing daily at Evergreen during April, becoming common in the lodgepole pines in Summit Co., in late May, while seen only twice, during May, at Dubois, once at Cheyenne May 17 (MH), and not at all at Sheridan. The Pygmy Nuthatch showed up at Buffalo, Wyo., an unusual location for this rather sedentary species (TK). Brown Creepers were more evident in Summit Co., singing more than usual during May. While the Long-billed Marsh Wren nests at Monte Vista and Alamosa, its appearance near Delta Apr. 28 and May 8 was unusual for w. Colo. A Canon Wren May 1 at Gunnison, Colo., was the only one for the county in 20 years (ASH). Malheur saw its first Mockingbird in 2 years on May 8 (SF). Flocks of 158 and 134 Robins massed during snowstorms at Dubois Apr. 18 & 25. The Hermit Thrush came back to Malheur 16 days earlier than ever before, on Apr. 7, but Swainson's Thrushes arrived a week later than average (SF). Observers saw no W. Bluebirds at Evergreen, while at Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park record numbers appeared during May, including 216 counted on May 15 (RD, AC). A dozen Golden-crowned Kinglets frequented the forests of Summit Co. May 30-31; spring and summer status

778 *American Birds*, August 1971

in the Colo. mountains is uncertain. By Apr. 18 some Ruby-crowned Kinglets were establishing territories at their nesting grounds in Summit Co., even as dozens of others migrated through the Blue R. Valley below and on the plains at Denver and east, for another month.

PIPITS, WAXWINGS, VIREOS, WARBLERS -- Water Pipits presented a mixed bag: they were missed at Eldora; 8 appeared Apr. 19 at Dubois; and the

several flocks during May in Summit Co. were later than last year. One at Monte Vista May 1 constituted a new record for the refuge (NH). The only Colorado report of Bohemian Waxwings came from Summit Co. Apr. 10-11, and the birds had left Sheridan by April. Cedar Waxwings remained at Sheridan all through the season, and turned up May 26 at both McCoy and Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park (RD). Vireos were late with none reported during the period except at Malheur, where the Solitary was 2 weeks early and the Warbling was one week late (SF). The warbler migration in this part of the West is never spectacular, but warblers arrived early at Durango and late at Pocatello (CHT). Both a Black-and-white and a Tennessee Warbler wandered into Bear Creek Canyon west of Colorado Springs on May 22 and May 1 respectively (SG). The same two species were much more notable at Malheur, where 2 **Black-and-white Warblers** May 18 made the third record for the refuge and probably the third for Oregon (SF). The **Tennessee Warbler** there was banded on May 31, for Oregon's sixth record (CL, WA, ELM, SF). A Tennessee Warbler also appeared at Dubois May 31. Most abundant migrant warbler in the West is the Audubon's Warbler, which was early at Durango Apr. 10 and at Dubois Apr. 23, but late at Estes Park May 8 (RD). In the Cedar Valley, where it usually is abundant, it passed through only in modest flocks. At Cheyenne 15 migrants lingered on May 27 (MH). Two Black-throated Gray Warblers at Logan May 22 were notable (Richard Paul, *vide* KLD), as were 2 **Blackpoll Warblers** at Durango May 8, the first in La Plata County.

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS, FINCHES, SPARROWS -- A Bobolink ventured to Manitou L north of Woodland Park, Colo., May 22 (SG). The **Orchard Oriole**, rare anywhere in Wyoming, was found in Cheyenne May 27, for that city's first record (MH, OKS). A **Rusty Blackbird**, unusual at any time in the West, visited Pocatello on May 1, for Idaho's second record of the species (CHT). Com. Grackles were counted 20 times during the period and 2 were found in Estes Park May 27, where they have been limited in numbers (AC). This species shows signs of spreading westward, with the potential of repeating its Denver feat, where it has evicted the Brewer's Blackbird from its conifer nesting sites and banished it from that plains city. Cowbirds seem exceptionally numerous in Logan (KLD) and McCoy, and appeared early at Delta on Apr. 23. A second record for the

Estes Park area was a Scarlet Tanager May 25-30 (WR). The late May storm trapped unprecedented numbers of W. Tanagers in lower Mono Co., California. A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at Pocatello May 28 was apparently a new bird for Idaho. That bird staged a mini-invasion of Colorado, with reports of 2 at Beulah May 11-18 (DAG) and single birds at Grand L May 22-23 (GB), and Gunnison May 30 (one or two appear there every spring-ASH). An Indigo Bunting strayed west to Dubois May 23-28. Observers throughout the mountains commented on the Evening Grosbeak. At Durango, where spring counters totaled 2041 May 18, the grosbeaks made so much noise it was hard to hear other birds. While they left Monte Vista May 20 (SOS), they continued through the end of the period at Durango, Logan (RMB), Evergreen, Sheridan, and Dubois. Migrating Cassin's Finches swarmed through Durango all through the spring. They were daily at Evergreen through May 17, peaking at 84 on Apr. 10. Rosy Finches lingered low in Colorado and Wyoming. The Gray-crowned stayed through May 15, and one Black still remained on May 18 at Estes Park (AC, WR), while 5 Blacks remained at Dubois until May 23. Five hundred Brown-capped visited an Estes Park feeder on the late date of May 15, and some remained in that yard through May 25 (AC); they returned from the high country to Eldora three times in May, the last time on May 17. Observers noted no Red Crossbills at Evergreen or Estes Park, although a few birds were noted in Summit Co. and Sheridan. A 1970-banded Green-tailed Towhee returned to Evergreen May 14, and the species appeared at Malheur the earliest ever, on May 2 (SF). The Rufous-sided Towhee, rare as high as Estes Park, appeared there on the early date of Apr. 5 (Lois Matthews, *fide* AC). Savannah Sparrows came early to Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, with 2 at Beaver Meadows Apr. 12 and 25 at L Estes May 20 (RD). Surprising numbers were also counted at Antero, with a peak of 250 on May 23. Evergreen's Cassin's Sparrow finally left on May 13 (Miriam Marshall, *fide* WWB). A Black-throated Sparrow on May 1 was new to the Monte Vista N.W.R. list (NH), and the bird's appearance at Durango was the first record there in recent years (Tom Frizell, *fide* OR). Juncos staged a heavy migration during April in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, with the Oregons gone by Apr. 24 (AC), but further south, 9 lingered through May 15 at Durango. A Tree Sparrow near Estes Park on May 15 represents a very late date, one of the latest for Colorado (WR). Feeders held 2 stray Harris' Sparrows through May 17

at Durango (Elva Fox, *fide* OR), and into May at Dubois. Fox Sparrows are more widespread in the Colorado mountains than formerly. They returned Apr. 18 to Eldora, where they breed along Middle Boulder Creek, and 6

Volume 25, Number 4 779

singing males held forth along the Blue R., Summit Co., during late April and May. The Chestnut-collared Longspur, a Great Plains species, straggles into the mountains, and an exhausted bird near Green Mountain Res., Summit Co., was a first county record. The bird is reported as a regular though uncommon migrant at Gunnison, Colo., where half a dozen birds stopped on Apr. 24 (ASH).

AREA CONTRIBUTORS -- Antero Res., Colo.: Blaine M. Marshman; Cedar City and Cedar Valley, Utah: Stewart Murie; Delta, Colo.: David A. Griffiths; Dubois, Wyo.: Mary Back; Durango, Colo.: Oppie Reames; Eldora, Colo.: Gail M. Shickley; Evergreen, Colo.: Winston W. Brockner; Gunnison, Colo.: A. S. Hyde; Malheur N.W.R., Ore.: Eldon L. McLaury; McCoy, Colo.: Margaret Ewing; Mono County and Owens Valley, Calif.: John M. Finkbeiner; Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo.: Charles W. Bryant; Pocatello, Ida.: Charles H. Trost; Sheridan and L. DeSmet, Wyo.: Tom Kessinger; Stillwater Wildlife Management Area, Nev.: Larry D. Napier; Summit Co., Colo.: Hugh E. Kingery.

OBSERVERS -- Walt Anderson, Gay Bishop, Richard L. Bortorf, Clait E. Braun, Earl M. Brooks, Richard M. Burr, Allegra Collister, Robert L. Darnell, Ruth Deffenbaugh, Keith L. Dixon, William W. Dunmire, Sean Furniss, Sam Gadd, Carol Hack, May Hanesworth, Joe Hicks, Gloria Holt, Nancy Hurley, Gleb Kashin, Rodney Krey, Carroll Littlefield, Ronald A. Ryder, Warner Reeser, Michael P. Schultz, Oliver K. Scott, Dave Silverman, Mrs. S. O. Swartz, Otis Swisher, Colorado Field Ornithologists.-HUGH E. KINGERY, 10 Emerson # 503, Denver, Colo. 80218

Spring Migration, 1971

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

The spring of 1971 was both colder and wetter than average. An extensive snow pack in the Cascades thus was subject to a gradual melt without creating flood conditions. Plenty of snow remained at the end of the report period. Unusual records for the Region were the four species of shearwaters recorded off the S.w. Washington coast in early May, a Ross' Goose at Leadbetter Point, Wash. May 8, the Spotted Redshank seen again at Reifel Refuge, B.C., a Black-necked Stilt at Sea. 1. near Vancouver, and the Allen's Hummingbird which appeared at Victoria.

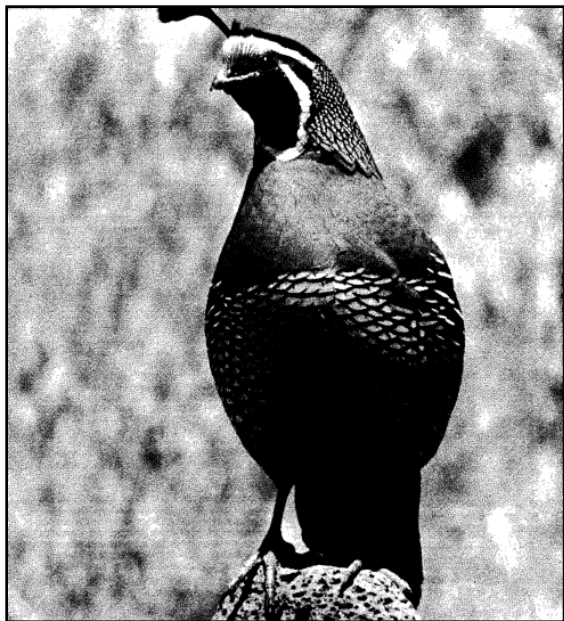
LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS, HERONS - A late and heavy migration of Com. Loons passed Ocean Shores, Wash. May 28 (GH). A few Arctic Loons were seen moving north of Newport, Oreg. the same day (HN & MS). A Red-throated Loon was at Pitt L. and 2 more were in the Pitt R. east of Vancouver, B.C. Apr. 12 (WW). Three Red-necked Grebes were still on Yaquina Bay at Newport Apr. 16 (MS & CFZ). Two Black-footed Albatrosses were seen out of Westport, Wash. May 9 (HN *et al.*). Four Fulmars were seen on a boat trip from there a week earlier (TW). Five Pink-footed Shearwaters were seen May 2, and up to 20 May 9 from Westport (TW; MPE, HN *et al.*). A **Pale-footed Shearwater** in company with Pink-footeds was seen close aboard, 38 miles at sea May 9 (RF, HN *et al.*). Many more Sooty Shearwaters were seen on the May 9 trip than had been found on the preceding week. Up to a dozen **Slender-billed Shearwaters** in company with Sooties were attracted to the boat by chumming 42 miles out of Westport May 9 (HN, MW *et al.*). Six Fork-tailed Petrels were seen off Westport May 2 (TW). A Green Heron was noted at Victoria, where the species rarely occurs, May 29 (ARD). A Com. Egret was found on a coastal island near Bandon, Oreg. May 23 (CFZ). Single Am. Bitterns were found at Vancouver Apr. 18 (WW) and at Leadbetter Pt. Wash. May 8 (RF, GK & HN).

WATERFOWL - A Whistling Swan at Baskett Slough N.W.R. near Salem, Oreg. May 1, 6 others at Wm. L. Finley N.W.R. near Corvallis May 18, and 3 at the Nooksack R. delta, Wash. May 31 (CFZ; TW) all were late records. Canada Geese and Black Brant migrated through the Region in good numbers this spring; 90 of the latter were still at Newport, Oreg. May 29 (HN, MS). 36 White-fronted Geese were late at Finley N.W.R. May 10 (CFZ), while a single bird and the 2 Snow Geese found at Newport May 29 (HN) were very

late. A **Ross' Goose** was carefully identified at Leadbetter Pt. on the surprisingly late date of May 8, in company with birds of the cackling race of Canada Geese (RF, GK & HN); this record seems to be a first for this Region, although evidently Malheur N.W.R. in s.e. Oregon is a regular stopover on the spring migration route of this species. Single Com. Teals were noted at Tsawassen, B.C. Apr. 11 (WC, *fide* MSc) and at Victoria Apr. 18 (ARD). A pair of Cinnamon Teals was at Victoria May 15 (ARD) and 1 was at Kent, Wash. May 16 (VC & DJ). A Eur. Widgeon was seen at Victoria Apr. 25 (ARD). Two Redheads were found at Ocean Shores May 28 (GH). A lone male Canvasback at L. Sammamish, King Co., Wash. May 7 (DP & MP) was late. Seventeen Bufflehead at Duncan, B.C. May 24 (JC) are of interest. Two Oldsquaw were still at Hoquiam, Wash. on the late date of May 28 (GH). Eight Com. Scoters at Cape Flattery, Wash. May 23 (OP), and 2 at Newport, Oreg. May 29 (HN *et al.*) were late; the 30 or more birds at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. Apr. 18 (HN) was an unusual concentration. The 8 Ruddy Ducks at Duncan, B.C. May 31 (JC) also are of interest.

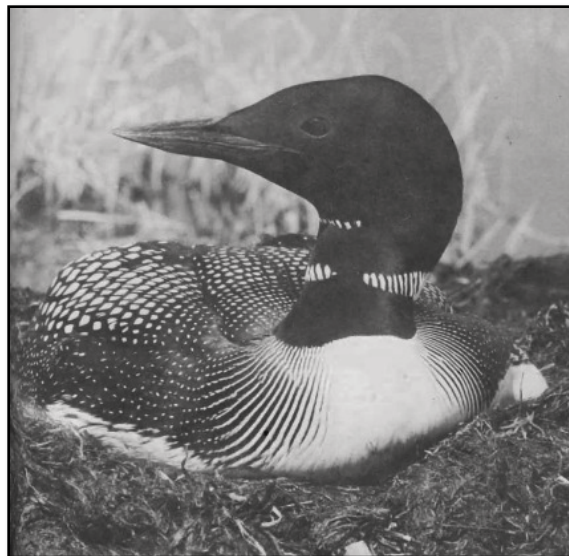
HAWKS, EAGLES -- A Goshawk was recorded near Aberdeen, Wash. May 1 (DPe & PM). A Swainson's Hawk was carefully observed at White City near Medford, Oreg. May 12 (MM, *fide* JH). A Golden Eagle was noted at Victoria Apr. 19 (ARD). Bald Eagles were seen at Vancouver Apr. 17 & 18 (WW); a subadult was at Fern Ridge Reservoir w. of Eugene, Oreg. May 23 (*fide* LM). Osprey was more reported this spring than in at least ten years, records coming from n. Washington and s. Vancouver I. south through the Willamette Valley; it remains an uncommon bird in this Region. Peregrine Falcons were noted at Reifel Refuge near Vancouver Apr. 18 (WW), at Destruction I., Wash. May 7 (PM), and at Mukkaw Bay, Wash. May 23 (DP). Single Pigeon

Volume 25, Number 4 787



JOSEPH VAN WORMER proves that fine nature photographers are scattered for and wide across the continent. Joe Van Wormer's home is Salem, Oregon, and his work keeps him behind the viewfinder in the Pacific Northwest and other western states east to Missouri. A photographer of birds since the age of 25, he has been a professional for the last 23 years. His specialty is mammals, but he has captured more than 100 species of birds on film. Six books of his have been published, entitled, in series, "The World of the Bobcat," ... "of the Coyote," ... "of the Canada Goose," ... "of the Black Bear," ... "of the American Elk," and, ... "of the Pronghorn." Joe's arsenal includes a Nikon F with motor drive, blinds occasionally, and gunstock frequently, with lenses from wide angle to 640 mm. The 300 mm is "most used," Joe uses Kodachrome for color, Tri-X and Panatomic-X for black and white, and processes the latter only. The California Quail was photographed near Bend, Ore., with Nikon F, 640 mm Novo flex, at 1/1000 second at f:16. The camera was on a tripod, remote controlled from a blind.

788 *American Birds*, August 1971



LEONARD LEE RUE, III is truly a professional in the realm of nature photography. He specializes in mammals, but birds and "anything outdoors" is of interest to him. In the past 20 years he has written and illustrated 12 books such as "The World of the White-tailed Deer," ... "of the Beaver," ... "of the Raccoon," and "A Pictorial Guide to the Birds of North America," He has traveled all over the world, photographing, lecturing, and writing about wildlife, and has seen his photographs in thousands of magazines in 18 countries. He has taken over 110,000 photographs. Rue uses Alpa, Hasselblad and Rollei cameras, with lenses from 24 mm to 600 mm. His equipment includes strobes and tripods of various sizes, motor drive, radio control, and blinds. He uses Ektachrome X, Plus-X, and Tri-X Pro film. He processes his black-and-white film in Accufine. The "Loon on Nest" was taken at Wonder Lake, McKinley Park, Alaska, in 1966, with a Hasselblad camera. Exposure was 1/250 second at f: 16, in available light. A 250 mm lens was used.

Volume 25, Number 4 789



THOMAS W. MARTIN enjoys a growing reputation in the Northeast as a nature photographer, but it is time his fine work was more widely recognized. Although a diemaker by trade, and "not really a professional" his photographs have appeared in numerous textbooks, and he is a popular lecturer on natural history. As for equipment "I have used them all, from glass plates and view cameras to the 35 mms. of today." His favorites now are Nikon and Leicas, with Nikon and Kilfitt lenses. A good surveyor's tripod and a sizable mirror to open up shadows are essential. Tommy uses his diemaker's skills to create his own special equipment, micro-focusing beds, gun stocks, lens mounts, mounting cradles, vibration dampers, and such. He often sits covered with a piece of army surplus parachute cloth for a blind. The Harris' Sparrow was shot at Monhegan I., Me., using the Nikon with 400 mm Kilfitt lens. Exposure 1/250 second at f:11 on high speed Ektachrome. Tip: "I work from 5:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. when the sun is at a low angle. Then again from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. if sunlight permits."

790 American Birds, August 1971

Hawks were seen at Seattle Apr. 9 (DP & MP) and at Leadbetter Pt. May 1 (DPe & PM).

QUAIL, CRANES, RAILS -- A California Quail was at Pt. Roberts, Wash. Apr. 12 (WW). A flock of 70 Sandhill Cranes at Ankeny N.W.R. near Salem, Oreg., May 3 was late arriving (*vide* CFZ). A Sora was found at Victoria May 2 (*vide* ARD); another was at Ft. Stevens State Park w. of Astoria, Oreg. May 22 (HN).

SHOREBIRDS -- The 80 Semipalmated Plovers at Leadbetter Pt. May 8 (RF, GK & HN) comprised a

good count and seem also to have coincided with the migration peak for this species. Eight Snowy Plover were at the same location May 1 (TW). A single Am. Golden Plover was found at Boundary Bay, B.C. Apr. 24 (WC, *vide* MSc). A concentration of 55 Ruddy Turnstones at Oysterville, Wash. with 20 more at Leadbetter Pt. May 8 (RF, GK & HN) was an unprecedentedly high count. A Long-billed Curlew was found Apr. 25 at Sea I., near Vancouver (*vide* MSc); another bird of this species was seen Apr. 28 at Samish I., Wash. (*vide* TW). Whimbrel were seen in flocks up to 60 along the coast and on s. Vancouver I and in n. Washington from the last week of April until the end of the period, making for a notable migration. Two Solitary Sandpipers were observed at the Finley N.W.R. Apr. 18 & 29, where a single bird was also present Apr. 30 (CFZ). Wandering Tattlers were recorded at favored localities on the coast and on the Straits of Juan de Fuca in numbers up to 10 throughout May. A Willet was at Yaquina Bay near Newport. Oreg., May 29 (HN). There was only one report of a Lesser Yellowlegs, that being of a single bird at Toke Pt. Willapa Bay, May 8 (RF, GK & HN). The **Spotted Redshank** found and seen by many last fall at Reifel Refuge seems to have returned there for the first week of May in company with dowitchers' it was seen by a number of observers (*vide* MS). Knot seem to have concentrated in unusual numbers at the n. shore of Willapa Bay and at Gray's Harbor the last of April and the first week in May when several hundred birds were counted on three occasions by different observers. Three Rock Sandpipers were still at the Tillamook Bay, Oreg. jetty Apr. 24 (RF & HN); 5 were at Ocean Shores May 1 (GH), and 2 were at the Westport, Wash. jetty May 9 (HN, MW *et al.*). A Pectoral Sandpiper at Sea I., B.C. Apr. 27 (MSh, *vide* MSc) constitutes a rare spring record for the Region. Dunlin still at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. totaled 300 on May 22 (HN) and 2 birds at Baskett Slough w. of Salem May 31 (CFZ) were late. Three Marbled Godwits were discovered at Toke Pt. May 8 (RF, GK & HN); another was found at Newport May 29 (HN). A **Black-necked Stilt** was found and photographed at Sea I., B.C. May 13 (WC *et al.* *vide* MSc). Up to 4 Red Phalaropes were seen on the ocean off Westport May 2 & 9 with several thousand N. Phalaropes; 2 Red Phalaropes were seen at Destruction I., Wash. May 8 (PM) where an estimated 3000 N. Phalaropes were also present. The flight of N. Phalaropes along the Oregon and Washington coasts in late April and through May was very heavy with thousands of individuals streaming northward at Barview, Tillamook Co., Oreg. Apr. 24 and at the Columbia R. mouth and Westport May 8 & 9. Four Wilson's Phalaropes were at the Finley N.W.R. May 27 (CFZ).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS -- Up to 4 Pomarine and 4 Parasitic Jaegers were seen out of Westport on the May 2 and May 9 boat trips. Two Parasitics were in Bellingham Bay May 19 (TW). A Glaucous Gull was found at Yaquina Bay, Oreg. Apr. 16 (CFZ & MS; DPe); another was seen at Ocean Shores, Wash. May 1, where 2 birds also were discovered on the late date of May 28 (GH). As many as 600 subadult California Gulls were at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. May 22; up to 200 were also noted in the Newport area a week later, suggesting that the non-breeding population drifts northward along the coast in spring while adults make their way to the inland breeding sites. Bonaparte's Gulls were present by the thousands in the waters of n. Washington and around s. Vancouver I. in early May. Several hundred in a day were seen on numerous occasions during May along the n. Oregon and s.w. Washington coasts, the 400 at Yaquina Bay May 29 (HN & MS) and the 800 or more at Hoquiam, Wash. May 28 (GH) being particularly noteworthy. Migrant Black-legged Kittiwakes also were well reported from the same areas during the season, with particular concentrations being at the n. jetty of the Columbia R. May 8 where up to 500 birds were counted (RF, GK & HN) and at Ocean Shores May 28 where 100+ birds were noted (GH). Six Sabine's Gulls were seen out of Westport May 2 (TW), with 1 seen on the boat trip from there the following week (MPe); 1 was seen at Victoria May 26 (Rfr, *fide* ARD) and another was found at Blaine, Wash. May 31 (AB, *fide* TW). Com. Terns were regularly seen off the s.w. Washington coast in numbers up to 100 in a day during the first three weeks in May; 40 were at Iona I., B.C. near Vancouver May 1 (AP, *fide* MSc). Eight Caspian Terns were at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. Apr. 18 (HN); a single bird was on the Willamette R. near Corvallis Apr. 23 (*fide* CFZ). Two Black Terns were at Baskett Slough w. of Salem May 27 (*fide* CFZ); another was at Hoquiam May 28 (GH). An estimated **150** Tufted Puffins were present at Destruction I., Wash. May 7-9 (PM).

OWLS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS -- A Snowy Owl was still at Iona I. Apr. 10 (WA & RB, *fide* MSc). A Spotted Owl was flushed from high up in a stand of dense lowland Douglas fir at a spot 7 miles n.e. of Roy, Pierce Co., Wash. Apr. 10 (DP). Eight Black Swifts appeared at Victoria May 15, where 1 was seen also May 23 (ARD);

Volume 25, Number 4 791

12 were at N. Vancouver May 25 (AP, *fide* MSc), and 2 were at Fern Ridge Reservoir w. of Eugene May 30 (LM). Eight Vaux's Swifts at Corvallis Apr. 15 (RK) were very early, while the 4 at Deception Pass, Wash. Apr. 24 (MPe) also were early; 20 were seen migrating

over the dunes at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. May 22 (HN). For the fourth consecutive year pair of Black-chinned Hummingbirds were at Shady Cove, Oreg. on the Rogue R., arriving this year Apr. 30 (MM, *fide* JH). An Anna's Hummingbird is said to have come to a Eugene feeder Mar. 15-Apr. 22 (LM); another bird was seen at Medford Apr. 27 and May 1 (OS). Calliope Hummingbirds repeatedly visited the McGraw feeders in Shady Cove during May (JH); a single bird showed up near Lebanon, Oreg. during the first week in May (WT). Broad-tailed Hummingbirds also showed up at the McGraw feeders for the fourth year in a row, appearing Apr. 26 (MM, *fide* JH). A **male Allen's Hummingbird** was color photographed at a feeder in Victoria from May 22 to the end of the period (JBT & KT, *fide* ARD).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, WRENS -- A single Lewis' Woodpecker was seen at L. Sammamish May 6 (MP). W. Kingbirds were seen at Victoria May 1-17, at Finley N.W.R. May 1, 2, 18 & 21 (CFZ), at Sauvie I. near Portland May 9 (JO *et al.*), at Cape Blanco, near Port Orford, Oreg. May 23 (CFZ) and repeatedly in the Eugene area after May 15 (LM); in aggregate these sightings constitute an unprecedented series of occurrences in this Region. Black Phoebe again nested at Applegate on the Rogue R. this May (OS). The identification of a **Least Flycatcher** at White Rock, B.C. June 1 was verified by taping the bird's call and comparing it with the Peterson recording (MSc); this record is the only one for the species from this Region known to us. A Bank Swallow was recorded at Victoria May 9 (KT, *fide* ARD). A Rough-winged Swallow there Apr. 3 and a Barn Swallow Apr. 12 (KT, *fide* ARD) were both early arrivals. A flock of Cliff Swallows at Fern Ridge Reservoir Mar. 20 (LM) was unusually early. Purple Martins were noted at Seattle, Lincoln City, Oreg. at Victoria, and at Fern Ridge Reservoir this spring. A Dipper was seen in Victoria May 8, where a House Wren was recorded Apr. 18 (KT, *fide* ARD); House Wrens were also found at Ft. Lewis, Wash. May 9 (VC & DJ), at Finley N.W.R. Apr. 19 (CFZ), and at Medford, May 1 (OS). Over 100 nests of the Long-billed Marsh Wren were estimated in the Duncan, B.C., area this spring (JC).

THRUSHES, GNATCATCHERS, WAXWINGS, SHRIKES -- A light movement of Hermit Thrushes through the central part of the Region evidently occurred in the last few days of April and the first two weeks in May. A pair of W. Bluebirds was nesting at

Victoria by Apr. 17 (KT, *fide* ARD); the only other records of this species were 1 at Darrington, Wash., Apr. 11 (*fide* DP), and 1 at Snoqualmie Pass summit May 21 (VC & DJ). Four Mountain Bluebirds were seen at Pitt Meadows e. of Vancouver Apr. 3 (MSh, *fide* MSc); 1 was at Victoria Apr. 10 (JBT *fide* ARD), and 3 were found together in the Oxbow Bum area s.w. of Eugene May 31 (DO, *fide* LM). Single Townsend's Solitaires appeared at N. Vancouver Apr. 21-22 (RW & WW), at Darrington, Wash. Apr. 11 and at North Bend, Wash. Apr. 12 (GO, *fide* DP); 2 solitaires were near Eugene on the surprisingly late date of May 23 (LM). The first Blue-gray Gnatcatchers returned to Medford Apr. 3; at least 7 pairs were later ascertained to be breeding (OS). Sixty Water Pipits were found at Sea I. near Vancouver Apr. 18 (WW); 30 were at Iona I. nearby on May 1 (AP, *fide* MSc). Cedar Waxwings were considerably less abundant than usual this spring. A N. Shrike was noted at Ankeny N.W.R. Apr. 7 (*fide* CFZ). A Loggerhead Shrike was banded at Eugene, Apr. 15 (*fide* LM).

VIREOS, WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS -- Hutton's Vireos were recorded at Vancouver and at Finley N.W.R. after mid-April, and at several localities in Victoria this spring. Solitary Vireos, which also occur only very locally in this Region, were much better reported than usual, records coming from Vancouver, Victoria, Seattle, Portland, Salem, Corvallis, and Eugene from April 12 to the end of the period. An early Red-eyed Vireo was at Victoria Apr. 25 (ARD). A female Black-and-white Warbler was found at the Columbia N.W.R., Wash., May 29 (DPe, *fide* ES); a male was discovered June 1 at Clearview, Snohomish Co., Wash. (ES). Orange-crowned Warblers appeared through most of the Region the first week in April. Nashville Warblers were observed at Eugene Apr. 18 (LM), and at Salem Apr. 23 (*fide* GK). Single Black-throated Gray Warblers at Finley N.W.R. Apr. 4 (DG, *fide* CFZ), at Salem Apr. 5 (TM), and at Eugene Apr. 15 (LM) all were early arrivals. Hermit Warblers at Salem (*fide* GK) and at Finley N.W.R. both Apr. 22, and a Yellowthroat at Seattle Apr. 3 (VC & DJ) were also early, as was the Wilson's Warbler at Vancouver, Apr. 21 (MSh, *fide* MSc). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were recorded a few times at Victoria and in the vicinities of Vancouver and Bellingham after mid-April. Bullock's Orioles are very local in the Region, and were repeatedly noted this spring only from Medford.

Brown-headed Cowbirds have become common from Eugene n. to Vancouver.

FINCHES, SPARROWS -- A male Lazuli Bunting at Victoria May 22 was only the third record there in the last 12 years (ARD). Pine Siskins were virtually unremarked this spring in surprising contrast to their abundance in other years. Red Crossbills were present in small numbers at Victoria throughout the report period; elsewhere they were unobserved except for 4 birds at a Eugene bird bath May 21 (*fide* LM). Vesper Sparrows appeared at Eugene and at Finley N.W.R. Apr. 3;

792 *American Birds*, August 1971

they were abundant in the latter place by the end of the month (CFZ). A Vesper Sparrow was also found at Ft. Lewis Apr. 9 (VC & DJ); numbers were singing at McChord A.F.B. nearby Apr. 17-18 (MPe). A Lark Sparrow was collected at Lebanon, Oreg. Apr. 16 (WT), while another was seen n. of Medford on Apr. 26 (JH). A late Slate-colored Junco was carefully watched near Eugene May 23 (DG, *fide* LM); another was at Bellingham Apr. 12 (TW). A Tree Sparrow was found with a mixed flock of White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows at Cape Lookout State Park, S.W. of Tillamook, Apr. 24 (RF & HN). Chipping Sparrows had reached Victoria by Apr. 3 (ARD) and N. Vancouver by Apr. 12 (WW); 1 was seen in Medford, Apr. 1 (OS). A Black-chinned Sparrow was again seen at Medford, this one appearing May 15 (OS *et al.*). A Harris' Sparrow was at a feeder in Medford May 1 (*fide* OS); a singing *male* was found at L. Sammamish, near Seattle, June 7 (D & MP; MPe). A hybrid White-crowned X Golden-crowned Sparrow was collected near Lebanon Apr. 29 (WT). Large numbers of Golden-crowned Sparrows were migrating on the Long Beach, Wash. peninsula May 1 (TW). Single White-throated Sparrows were recorded at Eugene (LM) and at Victoria (ARD), both on Apr. 23. Lapland Longspurs turned up at Iona I. May 1 (AP, *fide* MSc). at Victoria May 21 (ARD), at Westport (MP) and at Mukkaw Bay (DP & MPe) both on May 22.

OBSERVERS -- William Anderson, Robert Baker, Alex Benedict, Wayne Campbell, Violet Cannon, David Cole, John Comer, A. R. Davidson, Roy Fisk, Ralph Fryer (RFR), Dan Gleason, Joseph Hicks, Glen Hoge, Doris Jelliffe, Ron Klein, Gordon Knight, Phil Mattocks, Tom McCamant, Merle McGraw, Larry

McQueen, Harry Nehls, James Olson, Gordon Orians, Dennis & Mary Paulson, David Pearson (DPe), Michael Perrone (MPe), Allen Poynter, Michael Shepard (MSh), Madelon Schouten (MSc), Michael Scott, Edmund Stiles, Otis Swisher, J.B. Tatum, Keith Taylor, William Thackaberry, Terry Wahl, Robin Weber, Wayne Weber, Michael Wotton, C. Fred Zeilemaker

The Nesting Season, 1971

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/ Thomas H. Rogers

For the great portion of the Region west of the Continental Divide temperatures for the summer reporting period followed a remarkably similar pattern. June was cold. Maximum temperatures at Spokane rose to or above normal on only six days and Baker, Ore. average temperatures for the month were six degrees below normal. June precipitation for much of this w. portion was decidedly above normal, from s. interior British Columbia s. through the more easterly part of Washington to e. Oregon. Farther e. (Missoula) and w. (Yakima and Wenatchee) rainfall was somewhat deficient. July w. of the Divide continued the June trend, cool and wet except for the area in the immediate rain shadow of the Cascade Mts., which was very dry. At mid-month, after a brief but widespread rain on the 10th, the pattern changed drastically. Maximum temperatures leaped into the 90s and, in central Washington, frequently above 100°F. Walla Walla recorded 111 on the 31st. Little or no rain fell; these drought conditions continued through mid-August, the end of the reporting period. East of the Divide during June, Bozeman es-caped the extremes experienced elsewhere. Pre-cipitation and temperatures were close to normal. However, July was moisture-deficient and August was both hot and dry. A few reporters commented upon the effect of the season upon bird numbers. Warren Hall had the impression that the Spokane area probably had many nesting failures among most species of passerines but noted that waterfowl and marsh birds apparently had a good nesting season. Upland game species there had poor success, accord-ing to newspaper reports. Some reporters remarked upon the excellent, although somewhat delayed growth of vegetation, which presumably produced abundant food and cover for both birds and insects. Margaret Polumsky at Clarkston, Wash. and Niel Meadowcroft at Walla Walla opined that the heat and drought drove birds out or concentrated them in the more favorable spots. Lacking definite opinions from other reporters, your Regional Editor got the impression from the

abundance of records, including many nests and young, that bird life fared well, with a few exceptions. Maybe it was primarily the observers who fared well. We could surely use more of the type of counts made by our refuge personnel, and summer breeding bird censuses such as those of Bob and Norman Woodley, and Ann Ward with Joanne Brown and Larry Roumpf. Only these will give us any quantitative data for re-liable conclusions

LOONS, GREBES -- The Com. Loon was observed only in Glacier Nat'l Park, Mont. July 19 (PDS). The Red-necked Grebe was noted at Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Lake Co., Mont. on the same day (PDS). The species was seen in Flathead and Lake Cos., Mont. June 5 & 6 (ETH & RAH). An estimated 100 Eared Grebes and 300 Pied-billed Grebes summered at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash. An adult with 4 young, about two-thirds grown, was seen at Spokane Aug. 6 (WAH).

PELICANS, CORMORANTS -- White Pelicans were seen in the Bozeman area and up to 5 were noted at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. Double-crested Cormorants were reported only from the rookery at Trident, Mont.

HERONS -- Twenty-eight nests of the Great Blue Heron near Belgrade, Mont. contained a total of 64 young birds, June 25 (LM). A heronry in the Sumpter Valley near Baker, Ore. did not fare so well. A check there near the end of June found no adults and 11 dead or dying young. The suspicion was that the parent birds had been shot. Black-crowned Night Herons were noted only along the Yakima R. near Richland and at Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash. (JA).

WATERFOWL -- An aerial survey of Turnbull and lakes close by on June 23 and additional ground observation revealed 3 broods, totaling 9 cygnets, of Trumpeter Swans. A swan, presumably a Whistling, was seen on a lake in Idaho, between Coeur d' Alene and Sandpoint June 12 (ADA & THR). Swans, probably Whistling, appeared at McNary Refuge on Aug. 16. Brood production of Canada Geese, estimated at 100 young at Turnbull Refuge, appeared to be down somewhat there but at and near McNary Refuge a production of BO was about double last year's. At Turnbull and Columbia Refuges, nesting success appeared to be about normal. Mallard, as usual the most abundant nester, was up in production at

Columbia Refuge from 325 last year to 570. Cinnamon Teal was the next most numerous breeding species at both refuges, and nearly equaled the effort of Mallards at Columbia Refuge, with 540 young. At McNary Refuge, Mallard success was similar to that of 1970 but other species were down about 50 percent. Several broods of Bufflehead were noted at Turnbull Refuge and a male and 2 female at Medical L., a. to the north, June 19, were very unusual (WAH). Only the third record of the Harlequin Duck in the Bozeman area was of a pair photographed on Squaw Creek in late May (MB). Another pair was reported on Hyalite Reservoir, Gallatin Co., Mont. in early July (PG).

HAWKS, EAGLES -- In most localities these birds appeared to be in about normal numbers. Over 40 nests of the Red-tailed Hawk were studied near Bozeman by Sarah Johnson. Young were banded and color-marked. Swainson's and Ferruginous Hawks were observed nesting in the Heppner, Ore. area (BT). Seven nest sites occupied last year by Golden Eagles in the Baker area were checked on June B. Only one was occupied; the outcome of this nesting was not known (LR). An individual of this species was observed on the nest May 8 in Sweetgrass., Mont. (ETH & RAH). A nest of the Bald Eagle with 3 nearly fledged young was found at the s. end of Flathead L., Lake Co., Mont. July 5 (LM). Reports were received on 15 Osprey nests in w. Montana, n. Idaho and n.e. Washington. An occupied nest at Ennis, Mont. was the first reported for that locality. A Prairie Falcon nest with 1 young and 1 egg was found in the Three Forks, Mont. area in May (SR & FV). A Peregrine Falcon was observed near Salmon, Ida. June 12 (MC). All hawk species were scarce in the Walla Walla area.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- Ruffed Grouse, after very low numbers at Turnbull Refuge, appeared to be making a comeback, with 3 or 4 broods sighted there. At least 30 Sage Grouse were seen on Apr. 17 in their mating dance at the usual area s. of Creston, Wash. Eighteen males were performing in early March on the Yakima Firing Range near Yakima, Wash. Reports suggested that California Quail did well in chick production despite the cool, wet weather but Ring-necked Pheasants suffered serious losses. Three Turkeys were observed in the vicinity of Heppner, Ore. July 10 (GG). The only other Turkey report was of 1 three miles s.w. of Brooks Memorial State Park in the Satus Pass area of Klickitat Co., Wash.

(NEW).

CRANE, SHOREBIRDS -- An ad. Sandhill Crane was present at Mara Meadows near Grindrod, just n. of Enderby, B.C. from July 1 to mid-August. The species is not known to breed in that area. A Semipalmated Plover was observed June 4 at Yakima, where it is rarely seen (ERC & AR). Several Mountain Plovers, including young of the year, were found in Jefferson Co., Mont. s. of Elkhorn (CVD). This is a new site and the

Volume 25, Number 5 879

westernmost known at this latitude. The Longbilled Curlew was described as scarce at Heppner, and Walla Walla, possibly because of the extreme heat. A pair of Upland Plovers were seen on the customary site just e. of Spokane on June 17 (DRP & MP) and a pair was seen at a hitherto unreported location about 12 miles e. of Browning, Mont. July 17 (PDS). A small influx of migrating shorebirds was noted as usual at Reardan, Wash. in mid-July (WAH).

GULLS, TERNS -- Ring-billed Gull was, as usual, by far the most abundant gull in the w. portion of the Region. Up to 11 Bonaparte's Gulls, mostly juveniles, were noted at Soda Lake, Grant Co., Wash. July 17 & 19 (JA, WAH). The species is believed to breed on Columbia Refuge at Othello. Three adults and 1 young **Common Tern** were noted near Potholes Reservoir, Grant Co., Wash. July 17 (CJA). A Caspian Tern, rarely seen in Spokane Co., was found at Turnbull Refuge Aug. 12 (WH).

DOVES, OWLS -- A fairly certain record for the Band-tailed Pigeon, heard only, for St. Mary's L., Glacier Nat'l Park, was obtained July 18. This would be the sixth record for n.w. Montana, all in recent years (PDS). At least normal numbers of owls appeared to be present, with young observed in a number of instances. The Barn Owl appears to be becoming less rare in e. Washington. In the Richland area 1 was observed June 24-July 8 (EM) and an ad. and 2 fully grown young were lured by recordings of their calls near Richland, Aug. 3-4. A **Flammulated Owl** was identified at Heppner, June 30 (BT). Pygmy Owls were present and suspected of nesting on Tower Mt. just e. of Spokane. This appears to be a low elevation, not over 3600 ft., for summer habitat for the species at this latitude.

GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS -- The cool June and early July appeared not to have affected the Com. Nighthawk adversely but spring arrival was a little late at Spokane and Yakima. Three observations of Black Swifts were received: several July 8-9 at Ninepipe Refuge (RLE); 2 at Avalanche L. in Glacier Nat'l Park, June 15 (Me), and noted between Lyman L. and Holden, Glacier Peak Wilderness, Chelan Co., Wash. near the end of August (DRS). A few Vaux's Swifts were seen in the vicinity of Yakima (ERC; AR) and along Satus Creek w. of Richland, Wash. Hummingbirds may have been affected by the cool, wet weather. Observers reported their numbers down at Chelan, Clarkston and Spokane.

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS -- Lewis' Woodpeckers were observed at scattered localities, mostly in e. Oregon and Washington. On June 20 about 50, many nesting, were seen in oak trees at Ft. Simcoe, Yakima Indian Reservation. Williamson's Sapsucker was found in the Bridger Mts. e. of Bozeman (ETH & RAH); near the e. boundary of Mt. Rainier Nat'l Park (ERC); at Huckleberry Mt. w. of Springdale, Wash. (JA; WAH), and near Heppner (GG; BD). The scarce White-headed Woodpecker was noted in the Huckleberry Mts. (WAH); in the foothills w. of Yakima (PH; AR); in the Heppner area, a nesting pair (BT), and at Vaseux Lake, B.C., a pair with young in the nest hole (MP). The Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was found n. of Diamond L., Pend Oreille Co., Wash., June 12-13 (JA; TW). An ad. male N. Three-toed Woodpecker was seen gathering food at Trinity Valley in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia May 29-June 10. W. Kingbirds were found nesting on power poles at two localities: in the Wenas Valley n.w. of Yakima and at Lavington, B.C., where presumably the same pair brought off 2 broods from the same nest. Single Ash-throated Flycatchers, one of the rarer summer residents of the Region, were seen during the first half of August at Walla Walla and along Crab Creek on Columbia Refuge (JA). The E. Kingbird and the other small flycatchers of the Region Say's Phoebe, Traill's, Dusky, Hammond's and W. Flycatchers, W. Wood Pewee and Olive-sided Flycatcher appeared to be at least as common as usual, with nesting activity and young reported for many of them.

LARKS, SWALLOWS, JAYS -- Horned Larks were reported as very common in the Horse Heaven Hills

s.e. of Mabton, Yakima Co., Wash. On a 25-mile breeding bird survey July 3, 234 were counted (NEW & REW). Swallows appeared to be common to abundant, with little evidence that the cool, wet weather had hindered them. A possible exception was at Prineville, Ore., where their numbers, except for the abundant Barn Swallows, seemed to be down. At Spokane a pair of Tree Swallows suffered two successive failures, apparently because of lack of food during the rainy days of late June. Of 23 nests of this species examined in detail just e. of Bozeman, most of the young had fledged by July 29 (LM). The jay-crow group appeared to be in good numbers. Clark's Nutcracker, so abundant in the lowlands last winter, was about in normal numbers in the mountains. However, they were more common than usual in the Okanagan Valley of s. British Columbia and were believed to have nested in white pine forest e. of Vernon, not a normal situation, but an unusually heavy cone crop was still on the pines. Eleven birds seen at Tower Mt. close to Spokane were suspected of having remained from the winter influx, and bred there (WAH).

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES -- Boreal Chickadees were noted in the usual area of extreme n.e. Washington, at Leola Peak, 15 miles n.e. of Metaline Falls (DRP & MP). The White-breasted Nuthatch, seldom found in the Bozeman area, was seen July 17 in the Bridger Mts. (ETH & RAH).

DIPPER, WRENS -- A Dipper was observed carrying food to its nest by the falls in Granite Creek in the Cabinet Mts. s. of Libby, Mont. June 12 (ADA & THR). House Wren occurrences were spotty but 7 or 8 pairs were reported nesting

880 *American Birds*, October 1971

around a house near Tower Mt. (JR). Nine nests were followed e. of Bozeman. Six had no eggs or young by June 2 but 4 of 6 examined on the 25th had either eggs or young (LM). Bewick's Wren, scarce in the Region, was noted at several localities in the Yakima area.

THRUSHES -- Robin nesting success appeared good. Varied, Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes and the Veery were all noted. On a farm near Spokane W. Bluebirds occupied 5 nest boxes. The species was also reported from the Peola area w. of Clarkston, the Chelan area and w. of Yakima, all in Washington, and in the

mountains w. of Heppner and at Baker. A pair was located near Vaseux L. in the s. Okanagan Valley, B.C. (DRP & MP). A **Veery** call note was heard at Wildcat Campground 18 miles n.e. of Prineville June 20. A member of Portland Audubon Society was reported as having seen 1 near Ochoco Ranger Station, 23 miles e. of Prineville at about the same time (HN).

PIPITS, WAXWINGS -- Three nestling Water n Pipits were found at Goose L., n. of Cook City, Mont. Aug. 8 (LM). The species was noted in July at Logan Pass, Glacier Nat'l Park (PDS); on e several high mountains near Bozeman in July and n August (DRS), and at Lyman L., Glacier Peak a Wilderness, Wash. Aug. 24-25 (THR). Several re Bohemian Waxwings were seen at Mara Meadows near Grindrod, B.C. July 1.

STARLINGS, WARBLERS -- The Starling trapping and reduction program in Yakima Co. apparently is showing results. According to Emily Cragg, there are no hordes of the birds now and no fruit loss problem, after twelve years of the project. In the Vernon, B.C. area a brood of Starlings was successfully reared in a hole in a "witch's broom" in a spruce tree, 16 in. below the nest platform occupied by a young Great Horned Owl and its male parent. The owls seemed to pay no attention to the Starlings. The Nashville Warbler was noted near Diamond L., Pend Oreille Co., June 12 (WAH) and in Ferry Co., Wash. June 26 (JA). An **Ovenbird** was heard repeatedly s. of Bozeman July 5 (ETH & RAH). This is the third record for the area. A N. Waterthrush was seen carrying food near Bozeman June vas 27 (SC). The song of this species was heard frequently along the Westkettle R. e. of Penticton, B.C. June 12. All other reports of this species were from n.e. Washington. One was singing at Gillette L. between Colville and Tiger, Stevens Co. June 19 (DRP & MP) and the species was noted at the usual spot at a bog on Calispell Peak, Pend Oreille Co. June 18 & July 4 (JA; DRP & MP). One was enticed into the open by playing back its recorded song, near Sullivan L., Pend Oreille Co., June 14 (TW). A female Am. Redstart was carefully observed June 18 at Prineville, Ore. This is probably the first record for Crooks Co.

BLACKBIRDS -- A Bobolink was seen s. of Baker, in early June (LR). The species was observed in the Bozeman area and at the usual site near Volume 25, Number 5 Cusick, Wash. The species was locally common in the North Okanagan Valley, with a pair

believed to have nested at Lavington. Six male and 4 female were sighted on the Yakima Indian Reservation July 16. A pair of Bullock's Orioles with 3 or 4 fully grown young was seen near O'Sullivan Dam, Grant Co., Wash. July 19 (WAH). A case of a Vesper Sparrow raising a Brown-headed Cowbird was reported from the Yakima area. At Spokane, where the species was common, there was evidence of parasitism of Audubon's Warbler; Oregon Junco, 3 instances; Chipping Sparrow, and Song Sparrow, 2 instances.

FINCHES -- Evening Grosbeaks were mostly at mountain areas but a pair remained at Indian Canyon at Spokane, elevation about 2000 ft. and probably nested, as did a pair in 1965 and 1966. Nesting was noted in the Bumping R. area just e. of Mt. Rainier Nat'l Park Aug. 12; a young bird unable to fly was harassed by a Steller's Jay until rescued by its parent. A singing male and a few female Purple Finches were observed at Nile Creek, w. of Yakima. This is on the e. edge of their range here. House Finches continued to increase at Missoula. Scattered flocks of 40-50 birds were noted almost daily since Aug. 12 and young out of the nest were still being fed by their parents Aug. 18. One pair of Pine Grosbeaks, with 2 fully grown chicks were seen at Salmo Pass, extreme n.e. Pend Oreille Co., July 3 (WAH). A rosy finch without gray on the head, seen on the Beartooth Plateau just s. of the Montana Wyoming border in late June may have been a Brown-capped Rosy Finch female, or possibly was a Gray-crowned with an introgression of genes from the Brown-capped (DRS). Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were noted at Logan Pass, Glacier Nat'l Park July 18 (PDS). Pine Siskins were generally scarce in the valleys and in the Okanagan the same was true for the mountains. Good numbers of Red Crossbills appeared in Bozeman during the summer and small groups of up to 8 birds were noted frequently in Missoula between June 30 and Aug. 15, their first appearance there since 1959. Elsewhere the birds were scarce or absent in the valleys. Young out of the nest were being fed by the parents Mar. 30 at Lavington. The seldom-observed White-winged Crossbill was noted on both sides of the Continental Divide in Glacier Nat'l Park July 18-19 (PDS).

SPARROWS -- Single Green-tailed Towhees observed June 14 & Aug. 9 in Morrow Co., Ore. may represent a northeasterly extension of the species' range (GG; BT). The Grasshopper Sparrow appeared to be holding its

own or possibly increasing slightly in the Spokane area. Several were seen, some singing, in a nearly undisturbed bunchgrass area 5 miles north of Moses L., Wash. June 19 (DRP & MP). The Sage Sparrow was noted with Grasshopper Sparrows w. of Potholes Reservoir, Grant Co., Wash. July 17 (JA). The former species was observed in the Clarkston-Peola area of s.e. Washington, 1 on June 5 and 2 on July 24. The

Volume 25, Number 5 881

birds were also noted in May e. of Yakima along Highway 24; A Clay-colored Sparrow was singing at Lavington, July 8. White-crowned Sparrows, presumably race *oriantha*, were observed in the Bozeman area. The usual small numbers of Fox Sparrows were observed in the mountains in various parts of the Region. Lincoln's Sparrow was reported in the mountains w. of Yakima, in the Okanogan Valley near Grindrod and at McIntyre L. 25 miles e. of Lumby. McCown's Longspur was noted in the Bozeman area and the Chestnut-collared at Three Forks, Mont. June 27 (LM).

CONTRIBUTORS (sectional editors, in boldface, should receive credit for observations in their respective areas unless otherwise stated)--James Acton, A. D. Angove, **Eugene C. Barney**: McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash., Mike Bartlett, **Thomas J. Charmley**: Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash., Mark R. Collie, Sharon Cotterell, **Emily R. Cragg**: Yakima, Wash. area, Mr. & Mrs. C. V. Davis, Robert L. Eng, Paul Garrett, **James Grant**: s. interior British Columbia, **Greg Green**: Heppner, Ore. area, Ed Grossman, Pauline Hager, Warren A. Hall, **Ralph L. Hand**: Missoula, Mont. area, Eve T. Hays, R. A. Hays, Sarah Johnson, **Niel F. Meadowcroft**: Walla Walla, Wash. area, Elizabeth Moore, Louis Moos, **Gerald Morsello**: Prineville, Ore. area, Harry B. Nehls, Dennis R. Paulson, Mike Perrone, **Margaret J. Polumsky**, Asotin and Garfield Cos., Wash., Jan Reynolds, Arthur Renspie, Sam Rogers, Thomas H. Rogers, Larry Roumpf, Donald R. Skaar, **P. D. Skaar**: Bozeman-Ennis-Three Forks, Mont. area, **Mrs. S. O. Stanley**: northeastern Washington & n. Idaho, Butch Taylor, Fred Veland, Terry Wahl, **Ann Ward**: Baker, Ore. area, Norman E. Woodley, **Robert E. Woodley**: Pasco-Kennewick-Richland, Wash. area, and **Maurice B. Wright**: Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash.

The Nesting Season, 1971

GREAT BASIN-CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION / Hugh E. Kingery

Bird news from our Region is topped by new birds added to four state lists: Cattle Egret in Idaho, Rivoli's Hummingbird in Utah, Tricolored Blackbird in Wyoming, and Clay-colored Sparrow in Oregon. Utah had two other birds new to the state, so weird that their inclusion on the state list is hypothetical: an Am. Flamingo and an Egyptian Goose appeared at the wildlife refuges on the Great Salt Lake. All 6 are sight records, but each was backed up with a battery of observers and details, and photographs substantiate the Utah records. Of equal importance is the hot and dry weather which, after the wet spring, produced ideal nesting conditions and assured better than usual breeding success throughout the Region. After the snows and rain finally ended, in early June (Dillon, Colo., woke up June 9 to a light blanket of snow on the ground), precipitation practically ceased throughout the Region. At Zion Nat'l Park the temperature rarely dropped below 100°F. during the day; Grand Junction, Colo., had 105° July 13, and the pattern echoed through the mountains and Great Basin. An apparent exception occurred in the mountains e. of Salt Lake City, where colder than-usual weather apparently drove some mountain species 3000 ft. below their usual haunts (GLK). Also, June in Oregon produced more rain in the Klamath Falls and Lakeview areas than ever before. Thus the hot, dry weather following the wet spring produced better than normal nesting success at the Great Basin wildlife refuges, and mixed conditions elsewhere; but many species were late in nesting.

PREDATORS -- The newspapers documented the slaughter of perhaps 500-800 Golden Eagles in s. Wyoming by gunners in helicopters. Audubon Societies in Wyoming and Colorado are working with National Audubon and with government officials to prevent further depredations. The Wyoming story typifies the attitude of the western stockman to sheep losses--all losses are caused by eagles or coyotes. The uneven hand of justice has begun its attack, however. A La Junta, Colo., man was jailed for 90 days for shooting an eagle from a county road. Meanwhile, a Casper, Wyo.,

rancher (son-in-law of the rancher involved in the Wyoming helicopter killings) pleaded guilty to having put out the antelope carcasses which killed 22 eagles near Casper (*Am. Birds* 25:775), and received the insignificant fine of \$674. At Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area on the Great Salt L., Reuben Dietz reported a drop in breeding populations, despite favorable weather for nesting, of fish-eating herons, insect and aquatic animal-eating ibis, curlews, Willets, avocets, and stilts, and predator Marsh Hawks and Short-eared Owls. All plummeted to 25 per cent or less of the average for the past 10 years. Cause of the decline is under study. At Klamath Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in Oregon and California, fowl cholera hit migrating coots, ducks, geese,

882 *American Birds*, October 1971

and Whistling Swans; 7100 birds succumbed during spring migration.

GREBES -- Grebes had a good nesting year at the wildlife refuges: Klamath N.W.R., Malheur N.W.R., Ore., and Farmington Bay W.M.A., Utah all had better production than in 1970; Eared Grebes at Malheur increased dramatically, from 400 nests in 1970 to 900 nests this year. Also at Malheur, a pair of Homed Grebes produced 3 young; none hatched last year. At Eagle L., Calif., Western and Pied-billed Grebes increased substantially over 1970, and Eared dropped a little; 2558 grebe nests were found. One curious feature was the late nesting by W. Grebes (only); in 1970 young birds hatched the last week in June; in 1971 hatching did not occur until Aug. 14-21.

PELICANS, CORMORANTS, HERONS -- White Pelicans had a mixed year, with increases or normal nesting reported from the Klamath Refuges and Minidoka N.W.R., Ida. (WHS), while Farmington Bay's breeding pairs dropped to 300, and Eagle Lake's non-breeding Population was halved, to 116 on June 2, 4 passed through Ruby Lake N.W.R., Nev., a place where pelicans are only occasional transients despite nesting sites to the north, east, and west. Nesting Double-crested Cormorants increased at Malheur from 45 pairs in 1969 to 70 pairs this year. Small colonies near the gull colonies around Pocatello also did well. However Cormorants did not attempt breeding at Eagle L. after a none-too-successful try last year when only 2 young survived from 22 eggs laid. An imm. appeared near Eckert, Colo. (LLF); the bird rarely is seen on the Colorado Western Slope. Klamath Refuges' colonies of cormorants, herons, and egrets had populations as in 1970. Despite high water, Com. Egrets at Clear L.,

Calif., showed a 75 per cent increase in nesting. Malheur recorded different figures-the 69 nesting Com. Egret pairs represented a decline to a third of the 1969 level -and nesting Snowy Egrets (35 pairs), was about half of 1969's level. On the other hand, Great Blue Herons and Black-crowned Night Herons increased (to 116 and 650 pairs respectively). Small Great Blue heronries did well at Ruby Lake near Debeque, Colo. (SD), and at 2 locations near Pocatello'. However at Eagle L., owing to disturbance, the birds abandoned a colony which last year produced 53 young. Visitors found Malheur's first **Green Heron**, later confirmed by refuge personnel (WA). The **Cattle Egret** made its expected debut in Idaho' with a bird at Minidoka July 1. With Snowy Egrets, it stayed in the refuge vicinity for part of the month, with no evidence of breeding (JDH, WHS, CHT). The Snowy Egret had a good year in the San Luis Valley, Colo. despite the drought, but not as good as 1970 (CRB, RAR). Snowy Egrets abandoned a roost used by 40-80 birds near Grand Junction, Colo., owing to gravel mining and interstate highway construction. The 18 young Am. Bitterns produced at Monte Vista marked good success for that species. A Least Bittern flushed consistently from the same section of marsh at Honey L., Calif., causing suspicions of nesting (JR, *fide* TM). The White-faced Ibis is declining at Farmington Bay-250 pairs bred this year compared with 1000 2 years ago. A few nested at Ruby L., Malheur, and Honey L., at the latter a decline from recent years (JR, *fide* TM).

EXOTICS -- The incredible happened at the Great Salt L.: An Am. Flamingo appeared at Bear River N.W.R. in June and Aug., and at Farmington Bay. on June 1, an Egyptian Goose visited Bear R. This species has occurred in the past at the Klamath Refuges. Photographs verified both identifications origin of the 2 exotics (for this Region) is unknown; the only clue is that neither bird escaped from the Salt Lake City Zoo (ML). [But surely from somewhere-Ed?]

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS -- Trumpeter Swans have increased as breeding birds in the Region; nesting occurred at Malheur (9 nests), Ruby L. (2 nests, 6 Young); Grays Lake N.W.R., Ida., (1 nest), Nat'l Elk Refuge, Jackson, Wyo. (1 nest, unsuccessful), and Yellowstone L., Wyo. (MB). Canada Geese enjoyed unusual nesting success throughout the Region. Confirming a possible record year were 2400 young at Malheur-up 70 per cent from last year's 1400. Malheur's superb nesting conditions (the lakes larger by 40 per cent and half again as much *sago pondweed* as last year) brought a 30 per cent increase of breeding pairs of ducks-to 20,700. Farmington Bay had 2700 breeding

pairs, principally Cinnamon Teal and Ruddy Duck; Monte Vista N.W.R. had 13,950 young, 60 per cent of them Mallards. Mallard was also the commonest species at Arapaho N.W.R., Colo., Hutton L. and Pathfinder N.W.R., Wyo. (RK), which together produced 1895 young of 11 species. Only Ruby Lake N.W.R. reported a poor year, with breeding population down 35 per cent from 1970 and all species except Ruddy Duck down. Cinnamon Teal suffered the greatest decline—63 per cent. Ducks visited a few surprising places away from the refuges. A Pintail, rare in summer, was observed on the E. Fork of the Virgin R., at Zion Nat'l Park, Utah (WPF). A report of a possible hybrid Green-winged X Cinnamon Teal came from Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park (R.M.N.P.-BS). Ring-necked Ducks appeared at Alvord L. in s.e. Ore. June 14, with no trees for miles (HBN), and near Hahns Peak, Colo. June 16-18. A pair of Com. Goldeneye, not known as a Colorado nester, spent most of the summer in on the Colorado R. near Debeque, Colo. (SD, LG). The first reported nesting of the **Hooded Merganser** in Colo. came with the observation of a female with young on the Encampment R. 30 miles n.w. of Walden (AP, *fide* HH).

HAWKS, EAGLES -- Goshawks must have done well, judging by the number of reports. Nesting success was reported from Steens Mt. at Malheur; from Summit Co. and Boulder, Colo. (LJ). Judging by the late fledging date—late July—the Boulder

Volume 25, Number 5 883

record may have represented a second nesting attempt after an unsuccessful first try. The Red-tailed Hawk met with success in Oregon: usually scarce, they were more numerous than usual in the Alvord Basin (HBN) and 6 pairs nested successfully at Malheur. An imm. Rough-legged Hawk seen June 5 near Lakeview Ore. was late in returning north (JHH), and one at Nampa, Ida. July 23 is inexplicable. The Black Hawk nested again at Springdale, Utah; originally found in 1962, this is its only known breeding location in the Region (JG). Scattered reports came in of Golden Eagle nests! Nat'l Elk Refuge; Owyhee R., Ore. (JHH); R.M.N.P., with frequent sightings of imms. (KD); Evergreen, Colo.; McCoy, Colo. (2 nests); Grand Junction, Colo. (SD); Sheridan, Wyo.; and usual numbers along the Snake R. in c. Idaho (WHS). Zion however had only one report of an eagle during the summer, on July 15. One Bald

Eagle pair nested at Eagle L. fledged 2 young July 1-4. Ospreys seem to have expanded their nesting locations to a number of the large reservoirs. Responding to special attention at Eagle L., 47 breeding pairs produced 48 fledglings, showing a stable trend there. Others nested at Flaming Gorge, where 3 pairs built nests on rock pinnacles 150-350 ft. above the reservoir for the second year (JRG); Grand L., Colo. (2 pair-JWJ); Electra L. near Durango, Colo.; and possibly Chambers L., Colo., n. of R.M.N.P. (DBo). Other Ospreys were seen at Sheridan in June and at a small pond west of Boulder, Colo. June 13-14 (PJ). Monte Vista had 15 Marsh Hawks nesting, but the 8 pairs at Farmington Bay compared disastrously with the 10-year average of 50 pairs. At Flaming Gorge, the decline of the Prairie Falcon offsets the new Osprey records. A 1959 pre-impoundment study of the area showed this falcon "the most common raptor along the river." It was seen but once in 1971, in courtship flight (JRG). The change from river canyon to reservoir must have had great impact on this dry-country hawk. A pair of Peregrine Falcons returned to an historic site in Idaho where they have nested for over 30 years (WHS). A pair of Pigeon Hawks in Ore. was feeding young July 4 (MM, *fide* JHH).

GROUSE -- Blue Grouse did well in n. Colo. (CEB). Many were noted around Hahns Peak and in Zion's high country. However they met less success in s. Colo., owing to the low winter snowfall (low survival of adults) and the low moisture conditions in spring (reduced vegetation growth) (CEB). White-tailed Ptarmigan had their best nest success in 5 years in alpine Colorado, because of warm dry weather during the setting season. Fall densities are projected at 35-60 birds per sq. mi. (CBB). Sage Grouse populations did well at Klamath and Rupert, but declined to 64 per cent of normal in Mono Co., Calif., where fall will usher in heavy hunting pressure again (*fide* JMF).

CRANES, RAILS -- Sandhill Cranes met high nesting success at the important nesting area at Grays Lake N.W.R., Ida. due to an abundance of shallowly flooded meadows caused by above-average spring runoff (AMW). At Malheur 229 nesting pairs (about the same number as last year) were counted. Near Hahns Peak, 1 pair hatched 2 young; more cranes nested in this vicinity until a reservoir, Steamboat L., flooded the historic nesting grounds. A pair of cranes stopped on the N. Fork of the Tongue R. near Sheridan for 2

weeks in late July-August. Monte Vista noted 300 nesting pairs of Soras, with good success, and a tape recorder attracted 5 pair near Grand Junction (LG, LFE). Am. Coots met 90 per cent nesting success, with 1000 young, at Monte Vista. At both Eagle L. and Farmington Bay, about 2500 pairs nested.

SHOREBIRDS -- The Klamath Refuges reported good nesting of shorebirds, as did Monte Vista. Farmington Bay had 5 nesting pairs of Snowy Plovers, and several were present at Antero Res., Colo. on two trips during the summer (HEK). Mountain Plovers were discovered at a new location 15 miles w. of Pueblo, Colo. with a colony of 40 birds (JC, *fide* DAG). Com. Snipe enjoyed good success at Monte Vista, with 325 pairs nesting there. The Long-billed Curlew has drastically declined from its 10-year average of 35 pairs at Farmington Bay; only 2 pairs were found this year. A colony near Parowan, Utah, did not return, but another was reported from a location 30 miles w. of Cedar City (SBM). The colony near Nampa, Ida., had 200 birds through the season. Monte Vista had 408 nesting Spotted Sandpipers, with 300 young. Again this year, a Solitary Sandpiper was seen in mid-summer, July 14, on the Encampment R. in n. Colorado (TS). The Willet, like the curlew, has drastically declined over the 10-year average of 60 pairs at Farmington Bay; only 7 pairs were found in 1971. However many were noted in the Warner Valley, Ore., in early June. (JHH). R.M.N.P.'s second record came when a flock of a dozen stayed at Granby Res. July 11-13 (RH). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** (typically a late, and not numerous, plains migrant) at Antero Res., Colo. constituted the first record for mountain Colorado (HEK). A Least Sandpiper at Alvord L., Ore. was tardy on June 14 (HBN). At L. Merriam, a 9000-ft. lake s.e. of Challis, Ida. on July 28, a flock of 30 Am. Avocets flew around the mountain lake several times, alighted, and began feeding (*fide* CHT). Black-necked Stilts nested at Monte Vista; probably 9 pairs with 14 young. Farmington Bay's breeding population declined to 100 pairs. The stilt made a rare visit to Ruby Lake N.W.R. Monte Vista's substantial population of shorebirds included 2000 young produced by 1500 pairs of Wilson's Phalaropes. At Mono L., Calif., on July 9 Northern predominated over Wilson's in a flock of several thousand phalaropes; on July 29, similar numbers prevailed, but with the species' proportions reversed. Neither species breeds in the area.

884 *American Birds*, October 1971

GULLS, TERNS -- California Gulls continue to increase throughout the Region. The colonies are scattered, so that the flock of 8 at Granby Res., Colo. July 13 was one of only a handful of records so far in n. Colorado (RH). Ring-billed Gulls also met with normal success at their nesting grounds at Klamath. At one colony near Idaho Falls, an unknown predator destroyed the nests; the Ring-billeds re-nested at another colony on the periphery of California Gull nests, and did well even though 2 weeks behind their neighbors (CHT). Two very large colonies of Franklin's Gulls at Grays Lake N.W.R. carried populations comparable to last year's, when the combined high count reached 45,000 birds, including 13,000 young (AMW). Farmington Bay had 300 breeding pairs of this gull, and some bred at Nat'l Elk Refuge. At Lower Klamath L., 15 Bonaparte's Gulls seemed out of place June 6 (HBN). While Farmington Bay had 150 nesting pair' of Forster's Terns, the small flock of strays found near Zion June 27 was noteworthy (DG, *fide* RAS). The Eagle L. population of Forster's and Black Terns dropped to 450 from last year's 700. Farmington Bay's Caspian Tern population was only 4 nesting pairs, down as were many other birds there. Klamath reported normal numbers of Forster's, Caspian, and Black Terns.

PIGEONS, CUCKOOS -- A Band-tailed Pigeon appeared at Ruby L. July 14, where the bird is accidental. In Colorado, the birds met with mixed success in nesting: they had a poor year in Colorado, while in c. and Eastern Slope Colorado populations were comparable to 1969-70 (CEB). Colorado's cool spring delayed the nesting of Mourning Doves, but they had excellent success; trap samples showed 70-90 percent imm. (CEB). The species also had a good year at Klamath, Pyramid L., Nev. (B.B.S.), and Dragerton, Utah (B.B.S.). At Curlew Valley, of Pocatello, they continued to lay eggs on the ground among the sagebrush well into July, although with poor success (CHT). However, doves suffered a slight decline on B.B.S. in and e. Nevada. Malheur had its second record of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo June 24 (SF); several were found along the Arkansas R. w. of Pueblo. The Roadrunner was conspicuous by its absence at Zion, with only one report.

OWLS -- Barn Owls nested near Marsing, Ida., (BS), and apparently again at Salt Lake City (GLK). Now rare, reports came from Cedar City, Utah, June 3, and from Malheur. Great Horned Owls had successful nesting throughout the area, and Malheur had 14 nesting pairs-11 successful. The Long-eared Owl decreases on the Snake R., c. Idaho (WHS); only one pair nested at Malheur. Monte Vista had 6 nesting Short-eared Owls, but Farmington Bay had only 2 pairs, a drastic reduction compared with its 10-year average of 50. Pygmy Owls were reported twice in Utah during June-at Cedar City June 20 and Zion June 23 (JG). Three Flammulated Owl nests n. of Woodland Park, Colo., established that species as more common than realized in c. Colorado. Nesting in flicker holes in a ponderosa pine/aspen habitat, 2 pairs had fledged young by July 27, while a bear killed the third pair.

NIGHTHAWKS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS -- A Lesser Nighthawk was found n. of its usual range at Vernon, Utah, w. of Provo in June (GLK, WS). The Black Swift, nesting commonly in s.w. Colo., appeared at new locations on the Eastern Slope of Colo., including 6 on the n.w. slope of Pikes Peak July 28, at 13,000 ft. (RFB); 3 on Mt. Evans July 10 (WWB); 1 unusually low at Estes Park June 21 (SW, GN); yet the birds were rare this year at L. Isabel s.w. of Pueblo, where last year they appeared regularly. Hummingbirds thrived at feeders throughout Colorado, except at L. Isabel where the drought probably affected them. Black-chinned Hummingbirds stayed all summer at La Veta, Colo., Oak Creek, Colo. (JCT), and Durango, Colo. Zion had several records of 2 or more nestings, all done by mid-June, with many young fledged from both the first and second nestings. Zion, however, had no reports of the normally common Broad-tailed, and 300 miles e. at Durango, fewer came than last year. Broad-tailed did well, though, in the remainder of Colorado. Rufous first came to the Region at Jefferson, Colo., July 2, Zion July 7, and Dubois July 12; it arrived at other locations in mid-and late July. Hundreds massed near Cedar City July 28, the largest concentration ever seen there. Rufous is an aggressive bird, and drives other hummingbirds away from feeders; 2 hummingbirds found dead under a La Veta feeder were suspected of being victims of a Rufous (LAC). Scattered reports of Calliope Hummingbirds came in late July from the Colo. foothills. A female **Rivoli's Hummingbird** came daily to a feeder in

Springdale, Utah, July 7-Aug. 9. Photographs confirm this record, probably Utah's first.

WOODPECKERS -- Farther south than normal, Pileated Woodpeckers were found near Boise, Ida. (BS), and four times May 21-July 11 near Sun Valley, Ida.; possibly they nested there on the n. slope of Baldy Mt. (WHS).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS - The E. Kingbird nested at Honey L., Calif. with 3 almost full grown young in the nest Aug. 14; the only other California nesting occurred last year at Lava Beds Nat'l Monument (TM, RS). A pair of E. Kingbirds spent the summer at Grand Junction, Colo. (LG) and they were found at Dubois June 16 & July 30. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, the second in 2 years, appeared in n.w. Colorado at Hahns Peak July 18. Scattered reports came in of E. Phoebe: a pair, possibly nesting judging by alarm calls, etc., was found near Flaming Gorge Dam July 15 (GLK). Normally the bird is an occasional migrant through the Region, with reports such as the individual birds

Volume 25, Number 5 885

at Sheridan July 7 (PeH) and Rupert May 24. A Black Phoebe was noted at Cedar City, n. of its usual range, while only one sighting came from Zion, where the bird is normal. A territorial Least Flycatcher was noted for the second consecutive year near Pennock Pass, w. of Fort Collins, Colo. June 19 & 26 (PeH); this bird is regarded as a rare migrant in extreme e. Colorado. Reports of the same species came from R.M.N.P. July 1 (CC) and Sheridan during June and July. Gray Flycatchers are reported as numerous in s. Oregon (JHH), s. Idaho in ravines or near water (CHT), and near Canon City, Colo. (DAG, CAG, OS). In R.M.N.P. a pair of W. Flycatchers nested on a Park Service cabin, undisturbed by the passing parade (AC). At Zion, Violet-green Swallows were scarce, and Rough-winged Swallows, usually common, were absent. In Colorado the Rough-winged is a plains bird, but one was banded at Estes Park June 30 (AC). Nesting Barn Swallows at Unionville, Nev. (40 miles s.w. of Winnemucca), fledged July 23, but returned for 5 evenings to roost in the nest. Tucking the 5 grown young into a cramped nest prompted a "hilarious struggle" (REW).

JAYS, CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES -- A Blue Jay remained in Cheyenne, Wyo., during the nesting season (MEH). Com. Ravens were more abundant than in other years in the Humboldt Range of Nevada (REW), but were down at Zion, with uncertain nesting success. A flock of 60 White-necked Ravens south of Canon

City on June 6 was further west than usual on an unusual date (HEK). Black-capped Chickadees, as well as Plain Titmice and Com. Bushtits, were down at Zion. The bushtit seen near Cañon City, July 28, displaying all field marks of a Black-eared Bushtit (not on the Colorado list), was presumably an imm. Com. Bushtit (DAG, CAG). Red-breasted Nuthatches were found at scattered places in Colorado and Wyoming, but were rare in s. Idaho (WHS). Nesting Brown Creepers increased noticeably in Summit Co., Colo.

DIPPERS, WRENS -- Drought pushed the Dipper higher into the mountains w. of Pueblo; and a successful nesting occurred near McCoy, Colo., even though a cat killed the female. A male House Wren supervised 2 nests at Franklin Basin, Utah, while pairs at Dubois and McCoy raised 2 broods in the same nests. No Bewick's or Rock Wrens were noted at Zion, where they usually nest commonly; Canon Wrens were also down there. The Long-billed Marsh Wren had a good hatch by 90 nesting pairs at Monte Vista, and Farmington Bay had normal numbers.

THRASHERS, THRUSHES, KINGLETS, PIPITS, WAXWINGS -- Mockingbirds are increasing at Durango "markedly" and have moved into the Cortez, Colo., area (OR, RSy). Malheur had 2 observations of Catbirds during the season. A Brown Thrasher found dead near Bayfield, Colo., was an unusual w. Colorado record (RSy). Bendire's Thrasher, normal in s. Utah, was seen twice in c. Utah, near Vernon (GLK, WS). The Sage Thrasher increased in n.e. Utah, but dropped in numbers in Nevada (B.B.S.). Robins increased by 50 per cent in Franklin Basin. They arrived in Eldora in Feb., but did not begin nesting until May, and achieved only about 50 per cent nesting success due to unhatched eggs, storms, and predators (ravens). They declined in the dry country of w. Colorado (B.B.S.). Malheur had its first summer record of the Hermit Thrush. At Eldora, Swainson's Thrushes have declined from common status 20 years ago to rarity now; none at all appeared this year. A pair of Mountain Bluebirds was carrying food into a hole in the bank of a small gully at Estes Park, an unusual nesting location (AC, SW, GN). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were common throughout Zion, with young fledgling June 25; a few were found around Cañon City, Colo., including a pair feeding a huge young cowbird in a diminutive nest Aug. 7 (HEK). Water Pipits delayed moving to their tundra breeding areas, perhaps due to the inclement late spring. In early June they were seen far below timberline at Sheridan, Togwotee Pass, Wyo. (MB), Lower Klamath Refuge (HBN), and in Summit Co. At the same time, however, some were their nesting

grounds in Summit Co., and several nests with eggs were found near Tennessee Pass, Colo. June 25 & July 4 (NH). Cedar Waxwings were regular at Malheur until June 30; present in s. Idaho after an absence of several years; found at Sheridan all summer; and in Colorado at McCoy, Palisade (SO) and Steamboat Springs (C.F.O.). A Phainopepla was found above Springdale, towards Zion (RIK). Loggerhead Shrike numbers declined on B.B.S. in Nevada. The Starling may be diminishing around Dubois, and throughout Nevada (B.B.S.). It nests commonly in the aspen forests around Flaming Gorge, from 6200-7200 ft., "competing successfully" with the Tree Swallow and Mountain Bluebird for nest holes (JRG).

VIREOS, WARBLERS -- Red-eyed Vireos nested at L. Isabel, having 2 young in mid-July. They occurred at Sheridan during June and July, and s.e. Oregon had 2 records (HBN). Warbling Vireos were common at Unionville, Nev. (REW), but scarce in the Colorado foothills (GMS, HH). Banders at Malheur caught their second 1971 Tennessee Warbler June 12, their seventh record, Oregon's ninth. A pair of late stray Chestnut-sided Warblers (the male singing) near Sedalia, Colo., July 3 were unusual (JC), as was an earlier one near Jefferson, Colo. May 26 (RG). The habitat at Sedalia resembles that near Colorado Springs, where the species nested in 1968, but the Sedalia bird could not be found again. The Ovenbird nested near Story, Wyo. (PIH) and was further w. than usual at Rupert, Ida. May 29.

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS - Although absent from s. Idaho around Rupert, 2-3 Bobolinks stayed at

886 *American Birds*, October 1971

Nat'l Elk Refuge for a week in early June. Orchard Orioles raised young w. of Pueblo. The range of the Scott's Oriole apparently extends to w.c. Utah: reports came from its regular haunts 50 miles n. of Delta, on Topaz Mt. (GLK), and of an ad. with young from the Confusion Range, in Utah 50 miles n.n.e. of Baker, Nev. (*vide* REW). Yellow-headed and Red-winged Blackbirds thrived at Nat'l Elk, Farmington Bay, and the Klamath Refuges. Wyoming picked up a new bird for its state list with a **Tricolored Blackbird** found by visitors to Yellowstone Nat'l Park July 27. The bird, a single, brilliant male, "sang incessantly. and successfully drove a Red-wing from the territory, and made life miserable for the female members of the local Red-wing breeding colony." The bird stayed for a week and

a half (RFF). Although doing well at Klamath and Nat'l Elk, the Brewer's Blackbird was down at Farmington Bay. It seemed on the increase in the Colorado mountains, to the point of becoming a nuisance at La Veta (LAC). Com. Grackles spread slowly to the west; now regular at Dubois, other records this year include 2 near Steamboat Springs June 20 (C.F.O.) and 3 at Estes Park June 12 (D.F.O.). The spring male Scarlet Tanager at Estes Park stayed there until June 23, singing during the entire period; however observers found no evidence of nesting (AC). In similar Ponderosa Pine habitat, another male in full song was found near Glendo, Wyo., June 14; nearby were other tanagers, presumably all Western (RES).

FINCHES, GROSBEAKS, BUNTINGS -- The Rose-breasted Grosbeak, apparently new in Idaho with a record at Pocatello in May, appeared at Rupert June 12 (WHS). Black-headed Grosbeaks were missing from Eldora for the first time this year. Blue Grosbeaks continue to increase around Durango; they were noted feeding young on a B.B.S. route between Dolores and Cortez, Colo. (OR). A similar increase in Blue Grosbeaks occurred at Cedar City, where unusual numbers appeared in July after nesting. The Indigo Bunting made its regular but rare appearance in the Sheridan area June 20. Colorado had a number of reports, including a male singing during June at Red Rocks Park w. of Denver (JC, HEK), and 3 reports from the Pueblo area (DAG, DS, NE). Durango's heavy concentration of Evening Grosbeaks started leaving town June 4, and for 3 days large numbers flew n. at dusk; numbers had diminished greatly by June 7. The last one was seen at Rupert June 21, but in Colorado nesting reports persisted from Durango, Estes Park (MP), and Eldora, but not in Summit Co. Cassin's Finches nested in aspen, instead of conifers, in Franklin Basin, and fed from hummingbird feeders at Jefferson, Colo. Pine Grosbeaks seemed more numerous than usual in the Colorado Rockies (NH), and appeared at L. Isabel for the first time since 1969. Brown-capped Rosy Finches thrived in the high Colorado Rockies; near Silverton, Colo., a pair was feeding nestlings July 15 on Storm King Mt., at the high elevation of 13,200 ft. (HEK). Although Idaho and s. Colorado no Red Crossbills, the n. Colorado and Wyoming Rockies had scattered flocks and individuals during the summer; at least one nest was found at Estes Park (KD). Seven White-winged Crossbills perched on a rail fence at the Stub Creek Ranger Station in Larimer

Co., Colo. (JL W, *vide* RAR). The Lark Bunting, erratic in Idaho, was found nesting in the Elba and Albion Valley s. of Rupert, and one appeared at Minidoka N.W.R. July 3 (JDH). Scattered individuals and small flocks appeared at R.M.N.P. in June and July, and a male was at Hahns Peak July 13.

SPARROWS, JUNCOS -- Vesper Sparrows were reported as scarce at Sheridan, both in the lowlands and in the mountains. Lark Sparrows seemed more abundant than ever in the Humboldt Range near Winnemucca, Nev.; the spring weather favored their habitat (REW). Wandering Lark Sparrows appeared in R.M.N.P. in Moraine Park and above timberline at Fall River Pass July 30 (LLF), a typical, post-breeding dispersal. Several pairs of Cassin's Sparrows were found w. of Pueblo (DS, DAG). On June 30 Zion recorded its first mid-summer record of the Rufous-crowned Sparrow. The Black-throated Sparrow, usually a common nesting bird at Zion, was not seen there at all; it also dropped in numbers in Nevada (B.B.S.). It is maintaining its usual numbers in s.e. Oregon, however, where it breeds in a restricted area (HBN). One was seen on the Idaho State campus at Pocatello May 31, adding to the very few Idaho records (MRC). Sage Sparrows seem more numerous than usual in the Klamath Basin (JMH), and nesting in s.e. Oregon was completed by June 14. The species was also noted at Dubois June 11 & July 20. In Franklin Basin an Oregon Junco picked a strange nest site: an aspen cavity. Gray-headed Juncos had highly successful nestings at Evergreen. Young were out of the nest at .M.N.P. by July 8, but fledged very late, in Aug., in Summit Co. and at Bailey, Colo. (NH). The dry conditions did not affect the Chipping Sparrows around Pueblo; they hatched good numbers. Seen to 10,000 ft. there, they began scattering to the plains in late July, and to 12,000 ft. in the Indian Peaks Wilderness near Granby, Colo. (HEK). Numbers of Brewer's Sparrows declined on 3 B.B.S. in Idaho and e. Utah. In Durango they were carrying food to the nest in mid-June, while they were still migrating w. of Pueblo at the same time. In s.e. Oregon nesting apparently was much delayed; June 13-17, when they should be hatching eggs and feeding young, male's were in full song, very, very late (HBN). On June 14 came Oregon's first record of the **Clay-colored Sparrow**. Found in the Alvord desert, observers attracted it with an Audubon bird call; it sang its distinctive, buzzy song, so different from the common Brewer's, and showed off all its

Volume 25, Number 5 887

field marks (HBN). Fox Sparrows were noted at 3 locations on the Colorado Eastern Slope (D.F.O., RFB, GMS) and 2 or more were singing on the Elk R. near Steamboat Springs; this is the fifth location they have been recorded in w. Colorado.

CORRIGENDA -- *Am. Birds* 25: 86: the Tennessee Warbler was seen Sept. 12, not Oct. 12. *Am. Birds* 25:703 & 775: The Utah Cattle Egret was not the first for Utah; 1 or 2 have been reported at Bear R. N.W.R. each year since 1968.

I omitted from the last report my acknowledgment of Dr. Oliver K. Scott's 17 years of service to Audubon Field Notes and American Birds. He has reported well and accurately on the bird life of this Region for almost 2 decades. Dr. Scott's knowledge of the Region's birdlife is unsurpassed, and he is a leading authority on the birds of Wyoming as well as keeper of the Wyoming state list. Now incoming President of the Murie Audubon Society in Casper, he continues his fine contributions to the Audubon Society. Currently he and the Murie group are diligently working to counter the threats to the eagle populations in Wyoming, which in winter harbors more eagles than any other of the lower 48 states.

AREA CONTRIBUTORS -- Cedar City, Utah: **Stewart B. Murie**; Dubois, Wyo.: **Mary Back**; Durango, Colo.: **Oppie Reames**; Eagle L., Calif.: **Gordon I. Gould, Jr.**; Eldora, Colo.: **Gail M. Shickley**; Evergreen, Colo.: **Winston W. Brockner**; Farmington Waterfowl Management Area, Utah: **Reuben H. Dietz**; Franklin Basin, Logan, Utah: Ian Young; Grand Junction, Colo.: **Lucy F. Ela**; Hahns Peak, Colo.: **Thelma Stevenson**; Jefferson, Colo.: **Carol Hack & Kathy Hawkins**; Klamath Basin Refuges, Ore. & Calif.: **Edward J. O'Neill**; La Veta, Colo.: **Mrs. Lewis A. Cummings**; Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge: **Eldon McLauri** and staff; McCoy, Colo.: **Margaret Ewing**; Monte Vista Nat'l Wildlife Refuge: **Charles R. Bryant**; Mono Co., Calif.: **John M. Finkbeiner**; Nampa, Ida.: **Belle Shaw**; Nat'l Elk Refuge, Wyo.: **Don E. Redfearn**; Pocatello, Ida.: **Charles H. Trost**; Pueblo, Canon City, L. Isabel, Colo.: **David A. Griffiths**; Ruby Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge: **Lowell L. Napier**; Rupert, Ida.: **W. H.**

Shillington; Sheridan, Wyo.: **Tom Kessinger & Platt Hall** (Pl H); Summit Co., Colo.: **Hugh E. Kingery**; Zion Nat'l Park, Utah: **Richard A. Stuart**.

OBSERVERS - Walter Anderson, David Bolton (D Bo); Clait E. Braun, Donna Breganser, Robert F. Buttery, Jarvis Campbell, Colorado Field Ornithologists; Mark R. Collie, Allegra Collister, John Cooper, Camille Cummins, Kent Dannen, Denver Field Ornithologists, Sue Dismant, George Downing, William W. Dunmire, Nadine Elich, Lloyd L. Falk, William P. Fisher, Richard F. Follett, Gerald Fultz, Sean Furniss, Jerome Gifford, Donen Gleick, John R. Glenn, Claire A. Griffiths, Lorna Gustafson, Robert Gustafson, Robert Haines, Peter Hall (PeH), May E. Hanesworth, Joseph H. Hicks, John D. Hill, Harold Holt, Nancy Hurley, J. W. Janssen, Lesley Julian, Paul Julian, Gleb L. Kashin, Reed Kelley, Robert I. Kerr, Rodney Krey, Michael Long, Tim Manolis, Blaine M. Marshman, Merle McGraw, Mike Morgan, Sadie Morrison, Robert Moss, Harry B. Nehls, Ruth Nelson, Grace Nixon, Marian Patterson, Anthony Petrum, Richard E. Pillmore, Nancy Poulk, Warner K. Reeser, John Revill, Ronald A. Ryder, Michael P. Schultz, David Silverman, (BS) Ben Slater, Rich Stallcup, Robert E. Stewart, William Stone, Richard Stransky (RSy), Mrs. S. O. Swartz, Mrs. John C. Thomas, John L. Wagner, Robert E. Wallace, Shirley Wells, Arthur M. Wemmerus.

OTHER ABBREVIATIONS-B.B.S.: Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Surveys; R.M.N.P.: Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park.

The Nesting Season, 1971

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

June was colder and wetter than normal with much cloudiness throughout the Region. The first days of July were similar, but a sudden improvement in the weather took place thereafter, bringing about normal temperatures and less rain than usual for the remainder of July. The first half of August was warmer than usual. Snow remained

Volume 25, Number 5 895

on the ground in the mountains until the very end of July, thereby hampering observations at higher altitudes. The cool, wet spring kept water levels in

valley streams, lakes and ponds high for longer than usual, but also contributed to very lush plant growth. Conifers seem to be developing a bumper cone crop.

LOON, GREBES, ALBATROSS, SHEARWATER, PETRELS -- Arctic Loons were still migrating n. off the Columbia R. entrance on June 12 (RK & HN); a pair of this species was seen at Duncan, B.C., during June and again in early August (JCo). Three Red-necked Grebes in breeding plumage were noted at Victoria, B.C., June 19 (VG) while the 20 individuals seen there July 19 (ARD) were an extraordinary early concentration. A Horned Grebe at Baskett Slough w. of Salem, Oreg., June 1 (JM, *fide* FZ) is of interest. Offshore trips from Westport, Wash., at Gray's Harbor July 20 and from the Columbia R. July 24 turned up 12-50 Black-footed Albatrosses, 25-200 Fulmars, most of which were dark-phase birds, up to 15 Pink-footed Shearwaters, 50 Fork-tailed Petrels, and, well out from Westport, 30 Leach's Petrels. Thousands of Sooty Shearwaters were offshore by the end of July.

PELICAN, HERONS - A White Pelican was at Lummi Bay w. of Bellingham, Wash., from June 4 to the end of the report period (PM; TW). A pair of Green Herons raised 2 young at Duncan, B.C., this summer (JCo), constituting the first breeding record for this species on Vancouver I., and perhaps for British Columbia, as far as we know. Single **Green Herons** were also seen at Iona I., s. of Vancouver, B.C. July 11 (D & MH, *fide* WC), and at Bellevue, Wash. July 31 (PM); these latter sightings were possibly post-breeding northward wanderers from the s. half of the Region, where the species is uncommon. A Com. Egret near Astoria, Oreg., June 11 (JG) is noteworthy as the northernmost sighting for this species in this Region to date. A Black-crowned Night-Heron at Brownsville, Oreg. July 6 (HT, *fide* FZ) is of interest since the species is only occasional anywhere in this Region. A pair of Am. Bitterns was seen repeatedly at Sauvie I. w. of Portland this season (JG), while single birds were observed at Young's Bay w. of Astoria June 11 (JG) and at the Wm. L. Finley N.W.R.s. of Corvallis Aug. 10 (FZ).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS -- Six Whistling Swans which had been at the Finley Refuge through May remained until June 5 when 4 birds left; the other 2 birds, both imms., departed June 14 (FZ). Three Whistling Swans turned up on the Nooksack R. delta n. of Bellingham June 19 (TW). Two Black Brant were at

Ocean Shores, Wash., July 10 (GH, *et al.*), and one was a Leadbetter Pt., Wash., Aug. 14 (HN). A male Pintail, a pair of Shovelers, and 14 Greater Scaup were lingering still at Leadbetter Pt. June 12 (RK & HN). Three Green-winged Teal were still at Baskett Slough June 14 where one was also seen Aug. 9 (JM, *fide* FZ); a single Green-winged Teal was still at Portland's Delta Park June 21 (JG). Two broods of Blue-winged Teal and one of Cinnamon Teal were observed at Ocean Shores July 31 (GH, *et al.*). A lone Am. Widgeon was at Lummi Bay on the early date of Aug. 10 (PM & TW). A female Shoveler with 20 young was seen at Duncan Aug. 14 (JCo); a bird of this species had reached the Finley Refuge as early as Aug. 8 (FZ). Ring-necked Ducks were found again during the breeding season on Mount Hood, 8 being sighted at Trillium L., June 20 (DF & JG). On Aug. 10, there were 25 Greater Scaup at Lummi I., Wash. (PM & TW). A Com. Goldeneye at Three Arch Rocks near Tillamook, Oreg., Aug. 3 (HN) was an out-of-season observation, as was the Com. Scoter which spent the summer at Newport, Oreg. (MS, *fide* HN) and the one observed at Tillamook Bay, Aug. 9 (DF & JG). A pair of Ruddy Ducks accompanied by 7 young was seen in Delta Park, Portland, July 11 (JG). Two female Com. Mergansers with 28 young were found at Sooke, B.C., w. of Victoria July 1 (VG); 12 birds of this species were seen at Newport Aug. 5 (JG, *et al.*).

HAWKS, EAGLES, RAILS -- Several imm. Goshawks were observed in the vicinity of Bellingham in July (NL, *fide* TW). Two Golden Eagles were noted at Pitt Meadows near Vancouver June 17 (RJ & JB, *fide* WC); an imm. of this species was seen in Oregon's Coast Range w. of Roseburg June 27 (DG, *fide* AL). Close to 20 Bald Eagles, predominantly imm. birds were observed regularly at Campbell R., B.C., feeding on salmon offal (DS). An ad. of this species was noted near McMinnville, Oreg., Aug. 1 (JG). Reports of Osprey came principally from s. Vancouver I. (ARD; VG) with one bird seen also at Manning Provincial Park, B.C. June 15 (VG). An imm. Peregrine was found at Samish I., Wash. July 21

896 *American Birds*, October 1971

(NL, *fide* TW); an ad. was at Lummi Bay, Aug. 8-10 (TW, *et al.*). A Pigeon Hawk was chasing 'peeps' at Tillamook Bay Aug. 8 (JG, *et al.*). An Am. Coot was

found at Baskett Slough Aug. 4 and again on Aug. 14 (JM, *fide* FZ).

SHOREBIRDS -- Late, presumably northward migrating shorebirds of the following species and numbers were recorded at Leadbetter Pt. June 12: 2 Am. Golden Plover, 30 Black-bellied Plover, 1 Dunlin, 12 dowitchers, and one N. Phalarope (RK & HN); a day earlier 7 Dunlin had been noted at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. (JG), and on June 5 a Greater Yellowlegs had been still at Finley Refuge (FZ). Snowy Plovers with a juvenile too young to fly were found at Ocean Shores July 10 (GH, *et al.*); other Snowys were noted at the s. jetty area July 17 & 24 (HN) and at Tillamook Aug. 8 (JG, *et al.*). Com. Snipe nested at Duncan, B.C. (JCo), at Fort Lewis, Wash. (VC & DJ), and were suspected of nesting also at Finley Refuge (FZ). Six Wilson's Phalaropes were seen at Iona I. June 19 (JW, *fide* WC). The vanguard of returning fall migrants was evidently the 10 W. Sandpipers which reached Baskett Slough as early as June 30, where representatives of this species were present for the remainder of the report period. Semipalmated Plovers were at Victoria as early as July 7 (ARD), and were well noted in favored coastal localities further south in the next three weeks, as were also to a lesser extent Whimbrels, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpipers, Long-billed Dowitchers, W. Sandpipers and Sanderlings. Later migrants not appearing as widely until the last few days of July or early August were Black-bellied Plovers, Surfbirds, Wandering Tattlers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Baird's Sandpipers, and N. Phalaropes. Worthy of special note were three Am. Golden Plovers at Ocean Shores still in breeding plumage July 31 (GH), a Solitary Sandpiper at Iona I. also July 31 (AP *et al.*, *fide* WC), and 15 Knot at Ocean Shores July 6, plus the 27 there July 10 (GH). Also of special interest are the two Pectoral Sandpipers which were early at Duncan July 31 (JCo), the Stilt Sandpiper at Iona I. July 4 (JH, EH, & WR, *fide* WC), the Semipalmated Sandpiper at Westham I. July 17 (AP & TF) and another at Iona I. Aug. 15 (TW), the 6 Marbled Godwits at Ocean Shores July 10 (GH), and the 15 Red Phalaropes seen in small groups from 20 to 30 miles off the Columbia R. July 24 (TL).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS -- A few Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were seen out of Westport and from the mouth of the Columbia R. after July 17. A Long-tailed Jaeger was noted at Three Arch Rocks July 13 (ML). On July 20, a Skua was found at sea 30 miles off

Westport (TW). Glaucous-winged Gulls evidently experienced good nesting success in Puget Sound; individuals were present along the Washington and Oregon coasts all summer to at least Waldport (HN). A nest of this species containing 2 nearly fledged young found Aug. 10 at L. Whatcom near Bellingham was unique, being on fresh water (JD, *fide* TW). California Gulls were noted moving n. along the Oregon coast through much of July. An ad. Franklin's Gull appeared at Stanley Park, Vancouver June 13 (AP, *fide* WC); imms. in numbers up to 20 were present in the Duncan-Vancouver-Bellingham triangle in late July and early August. Bonaparte's Gulls were present by the hundreds in the Blaine-Bellingham area throughout the report period; 500 were at Ocean Shores July 31 (GH) and almost 1200 were at Iona I. Aug. 6 (EM, *fide* WC). Five Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at Baskett Slough, June 3 OM, *fide* FZ) and one was at Sand L. s. of Tillamook, July 10 (JG). Heermann's Gulls appeared in the coastal areas of the Region the first week in July and were common after the third week in July. Black-legged Kittiwakes were present in small numbers at the mouth of the Columbia R. and offshore from there throughout the period. Two of this species were found at Victoria June 19, and one was there July 17 & 23 (VG). On July 20 three Sabine's Gulls were seen at sea well out of Westport (TW); on July 24, 2 individuals were seen separately 20 and 30 miles respectively w. of the Columbia R. (TL). Com. Terns were present in the Blaine-Bellingham vicinity after July 4 when 50 individuals were observed; 10 were seen far off Westport July 20 (TW), while 35 were on the beach at Ocean Shores, July 31 (GH, *et al.*). Three Arctic Terns were found 20 miles to seaward of the Columbia R. mouth July 24 (TL). Caspian Terns were more widely reported than ever before, from Tillamook n. to Vancouver, with an unprecedented concentration of over 200 at Ocean Shores July 31 (GH, *et al.*); one at the inland location of Halsey, Oreg., June 12 (HT, *fide* FZ) is particularly noteworthy. Only 3 individual Black Terns were sighted: at Baskett Slough, June 14 (FZ), and at Iona I., June 19 (JW, *fide* WC) and July 11 (BMA, *fide* WC)

ALCIDS -- An apparent albino Pigeon Guillemot was paired with a normal bird at Colville I., Wash. July 11 (TW). Marbled Murrelets were observed in some numbers at Boundary Bay, s. of Vancouver in June (AB, *fide* TW), at Bellingham Bay through the report period (TW), at the Columbia R. mouth in July (TL),

and along the n. Oregon coast in June and, in August (JG; HN; MS, *et al.*). Three Cassin's 'Auklets were at sea 30 miles w. of the Columbia R. July 24 (TL), and in some numbers at Victoria Aug. 11 (KT, *fide* ARD). Up to 250 Rhinoceros Auklets were recorded around Victoria in late July and early August (DS) where smaller numbers had been seen earlier in the report period (ARD); this species was said to be abundant around the San Juan Is. and in the Strait of Juan de Fuca this summer (TW); 6 individuals were seen at Yaquina Head, Newport, June 26 (TL, HN & MS). Tufted Puffins were sparsely reported, 6 or 7 being found

Volume 25, Number 5 897

up to 30 miles at sea off the Columbia R. July 24 (TL), and up to a dozen at three separate localities on the Oregon coast in early August.

GOATSUCKERS, HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS -- A concentration of 500 Com. Nighthawks between Ladysmith and Courtenay, B.C. Vancouver I., Aug. 4 (DS) is of interest. Mingled with them at Ladysmith were 50 Black Swifts (DS); 14 of these birds had been seen at Duncan nearby in early June (JCo); one was also seen on Hurricane Ridge in Olympic Nat'l Park, July 29 (VG). A pair of Black-chinned Hummingbirds was at Shady Cove, Oreg., on the Rogue R., July 3, and on July 6-7 a pair of Anna's Hummingbirds was observed there (MM, *fide* JHi). Rufous Hummingbirds are reported to have been very numerous at Eugene, Oreg. this summer (AL). An Allen's Hummingbird was at a Thurston, Oreg. feeder June 3 (LM). Acorn Woodpecker nestings at Finley Refuge were down 50 per cent from last year's (FZ) but 4 pairs spent the summer at McMinnville, Oreg. Lewis' Woodpeckers were unreported. Two N. Three-toed Woodpeckers were discovered at White Pass s.e. of Mt. Rainier Aug. 11 (BM & PM).

FLYCATCHERS, LARKS, SWALLOWS, WRENS -- E. Kingbirds were found at Pitt Meadows, June 2 and July 4; at the Alouette R. June 6 (both places being e. of Vancouver); and at Marietta, Wash. June 19. One was at Baskett Slough, June 29 (JM, *fide* FZ), and another was at Miracle Beach, Vancouver I. Aug. 6 (DS). W. Kingbirds were recorded at Westham I. near Vancouver June 5 (RJ, *fide* WC); at Baskett Slough where two were discovered June 14; and at Elk City, in

Oregon's coast range June 16 (FZ). An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was found at Molalla, Oreg. Aug. 2 (RK) for the first record of this bird in n.w. Oregon. A few Horned Larks nested at Finley Refuge this summer (FZ). Violet-green and Tree Swallows are reported to have suffered mortality in the Duncan area because of June's wet and cold (JCo); in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, they evidently enjoyed good nesting success (FZ). A Bank Swallow at Duncan June 23 (JCo, *et al.*), and a Rough-winged Swallow at Tillamook Aug. 8, (JG *et al.*) are both of interest. The only reports of Purple Martins were of a few which nested at L. Whatcom (TW) and one pair which nested at Sauvie I. (JG). House Wrens had good nesting success at Finley Refuge where a dozen pairs brought off young (FZ); a pair was noted in L. Oswego, Oreg. June 11 & 19 (JBC), and a family group was discovered in Salem July 16 (TM).

MIMIDS, THRUSHES, VIREOS AND WARBLERS

-- A Catbird was found again at Pitt Meadows June 6 (JW, *fide* WC), while 8 more were found the same day along the nearby Alouette R. (J & EH, *fide* WC). A Townsend's Solitaire was singing on Larch Mountain e. of Portland June 3 (HN) and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen at Finley Refuge, June 20 (FZ), both of which are out-of-the-ordinary records. Starlings nested widely throughout the Region. Solitary Vireos were regularly found at Victoria through the 1971 breeding season (ARD); additional individuals were seen at Scappoose, Oreg., July 10 (JG) and at McMinnville, July 20 (DF & JG). Red-eyed Vireos were also repeatedly observed at Victoria (ARD; KT); 3 were found at Bellevue, Wash., July 31 and Aug. 8, while 2 more were at Snoqualmie Falls, Aug. 12 (BM & PM). Warbling Vireos were considered scarce everywhere in the Region this season. Three Nashville Warblers were recorded singing at Newhalem, Wash., on a breeding bird survey conducted June 6 (TW); an ad. with 2 young was observed at McMinnville Aug. 1 (JG, *et al.*). A single bird was also found at Victoria Aug. 2 (KT). Thirteen Hermit Warblers were counted on Larch Mt. e. of Portland June 7 (JG & RW). Half-a-dozen or more Yellow-breasted Chats were at the Finley Refuge from June through mid-July, the last record being one July 22 (FZ).

BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES -- Six Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found regularly throughout the season at Portland's Delta Park (IG). Bullock's Oriole may be

declining in abundance in this Region, as reports are singularly few for the present season, and for recent past breeding seasons as well. Brown-headed Cowbirds were abundant at Victoria this year (ARD), but in w. Oregon the impression was that they were not as prevalent as in the several years just past. Evening Grosbeaks were regularly recorded in Oregon's Cascades this summer; in fact, some remained in the Portland area until July (HN) and one was at Finley Refuge July 12 and Aug. 1 (FZ). A male Lazuli Bunting was recorded at Mt. Fromm, N. Vancouver, B.C. June 9 (AP, *fide* WC); several were found along the Skagit R. near Marblemount, Wash., June 6 (TW); they were "very common" in Yamhill Co., Oreg., this summer (JG). A dozen Cassin's Finches were observed in Manning Provo Park, B.C., June 14-15 (VG). House Finches were common at Victoria for the season (ARD). A pair of Pine Grosbeaks was seen at Manning Park, also June 14-15 (YG). Pine Siskins were thinly scattered in the n. two thirds of the Region this year. Up to eight Lesser Goldfinches were regular at feeders just s. of Finley Refuge in June and July (FZ). Four Red Crossbills appeared at Cape Meares, Oreg. July 3 (RF, TL & HN); 10 were at nearby Netarts Aug. 8, and 7 were at Tillamook, Aug. 9 (DF & JG); elsewhere, 3 female were seen at Victoria, July 11 and 8 were at Leadbetter Point, July 14 (RF, HN, *et al.*).

SPARROWS -- A Vesper Sparrow was well seen on a roadside wire near Mill Bay, 18 miles n.w. of Victoria June 26 (MPi, *fide* VG); 2 were at Ocean Shores, July 31 (GH). A Lincoln's Sparrow was seen on the Finley Refuge, June 4 & 23 (*fide* FZ); another was at Marietta, Aug. 8 (TW).

898 *American Birds*, October 1971

OBSERVERS -- Alex Benedict, Jim Bigger, Wayne Campbell, Violet Cannon, (JCo) John Comer, (OBC) John B. Crowell, Jr., A. R. Davidson, Jim Duemmel, Ted Farley, Dan Field, Roy Fisk, Jeff Gilligan, Dan Gleason, Vic Goodwill, Dave and Myrnl Hawes, (JHi) Joseph Hicks, Glen Hoge, Jack and Eileen Hustead, Doris Jelliffe, Rick Jerema, Ron Klein, Allen Larrabee, Norman Lavers, Millard R. Lindauer, Tom Love, (BMa) Bruce MacDonald, Ben Mattocks, Phil Mattocks, Merle McGraw, Larry McQueen, Jim Micuda, Ed Moody, Harry B. Nehls, M. E. Pickford, Allen Poynter, William Rae, Michael Scott, David Stirling, Howard Taylor, Keith Taylor, Jack Williams, Terrence Wahl, Randy Wright, C. Fred Zeilemaker.

End 1971

1972

*Autumn Migration, 1971***NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN --
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

/ Thomas H. Rogers



The latter half of August continued the trend of hot, dry weather that started in mid-July. The pattern broke rather sharply the first week of September, when substantial rains were general over the Region. In this cooler-than-normal month. Walla Walla had the fifth coldest September since 1886. Yakima established record lows on the 15th and 29th and s. interior British Columbia posted record lows during the first week. Except for the Spokane and Missoula areas, which were decidedly dry, the Region in general was wet, with up to twice or more normal precipitation. After a pleasant spell just after the beginning of October the weather again turned cool. After the 13th maximum temperatures reached normal at Spokane only once, on the 22nd. Yet the general picture was one of drought, with some areas receiving only about one-third normal moisture, although a few approached normal. At the end of the month winter struck an early blow, with snow in the valleys even at Yakima and the Tri-cities (Pasco-Kennewick-Richland) in Washington. Yakima reached +11°F. and Missoula, 0°. Standing water froze but thawed in November, when temperatures, normal at last, removed the premature snow cover from the lowlands. However, the trend of moisture shortage continued, the only exception being Walla Walla, distinctly wet. In a few instances weather appeared to affect migration by producing concentrations of birds - notably the October snowstorm -but in general there seemed to be no indication that the cool autumn had hurried departures. In fact, in the Bozeman and

Missoula areas a large number of late and record late dates were reported. These probably had little or no significance, since they seemed to represent only late stragglers, not the main body of migrants. At Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash., the waterfowl migration actually appeared to be somewhat delayed. Bohemian Waxwings arrived early at several localities with, or shortly after, the snow and cold at October's end. Weather might have caused this, but it has been my impression that food supply rather than weather is the chief factor affecting winter movements of these birds. Except for Red Crossbills the "northern finches" were not much in evidence.

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

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

88 American Birds, February 1972

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

WATERFOWL -- Whistling Swans were observed at Central Park, south of Manhattan, Mont. between Oct. 17, a record early date, and Nov. 21 (ETH, RAH, PDS). Two at McNary Refuge "at start of period" were apparently very early. The number there climbed to 55, compared to 100 in December. 1970. The peak number at Turnbull N.W.R. was 80. At the end of November 33 Trumpeter Swans, including 7 cygnets were present on Turnbull Refuge. Nine were seen on Skaha L.

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

VULTURES AND HAWKS -- Three Turkey Vultures were seen Sept. 6 near the north end of Okanagan L., where they are quite uncommon (MS). The outlook appeared good for Goshawks in interior British Columbia, where snowshoe hares seemed to be reaching peak numbers. A **Harlan's Hawk** was identified for the third autumn just west of Spokane Oct. 10-11 (JA). In the Bozeman area Golden Eagles were observed less frequently than normally, possibly as a result of the slaughter of these birds in Wyoming recently. More encouraging was the report from the Heppner, Ore. area where the birds seemed to have increased. The species was also reported in the Yakima area; on Turnbull Refuge, at Columbia Nan Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash., and at a few widely separated

localities in interior British Columbia. The Bald Eagle concentration which occurs each autumn at West Glacier, Glacier National Park, had its peak of 267 birds Nov. 10 and had dropped to 73 on Nov. 24 (LM). Some very far north Prairie Falcon sightings were belatedly reported: 1 on Aug. 24 (MS) and 1 on Aug. 25, 1970 (OS) both in Mt. Robson Provincial Park, B.C. and 1 in Jasper Nat'l Park on Sept. 1, 1970 (OS). A Peregrine Falcon was seen east of Ochoco Reservoir near Prineville, Oct. 30 (JK). In general, hawk numbers appeared about normal, with the exception of the Walla Walla, Wash. vicinity, where most species seemed to be in low numbers.

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

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

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

Volume 26, Number 1 89

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

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

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

OWLS -- Very few Pygmy Owls had appeared by the end of November. One was found near Wenas L., just n.w. of Yakima Oct. 25 (RA, PH) and one was seen in the Salmo area of Pend Oreille Co., Wash. Aug. 28. A pair during the summer at Tower Mt. just s.e. of Spokane suggested breeding there. Two Snowy Owls appeared during the fall period: one near Kalispell, Mont. (CM) and 1 at Banks L., Grant Co., Wash. Nov. 28 (JA). The uncommon Long-eared Owl was noted at

several localities: One at Missoula Sept. 25; one at Clarkston, Wash. Sept. 2; one at Heppner, Nov. 20; and the feathers of one, eaten by a larger raptor, near Doreen L., s.e. of Vernon, B. C., Sept. 11. Overlooked in the summer report was a record of one of this species with 2 young near Lamont in n.w. Whitman Co., Wash. June 16 (SH). Five Burrowing Owls were at and near their burrows near Lowden, west of Walla Walla on the surprisingly late date of Dec. 3. Short-eared Owls were scarce, reported only in the Bozeman area and 1 north of St. John, Wash. Oct. 30 (SH). One of the scarce Saw-whet Owls was seen along the Wenas Grade road near Yakima Oct. 25 (RA, PH).

NIGHTHAWKS, SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS

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

KINGFISHERS AND WOODPECKERS -- Three observers in the Yakima area observed 12 Belted Kingfishers in six different areas during twelve days. The species was scarce in the Walla Walla area because of low stream flow and diversion for irrigation. A flicker with yellow wings (Yellow-shafted or hybrid?) was seen at Bozeman about Nov. 5 (SB) and single birds with red napes were seen in two different localities in the Yakima area Nov. 3 & 6 (PH). A Yellow-shafted was identified at the Tri-cities Oct. 28. (EM). Several hybrids were also noted there. Red-shafted Flickers were migrating into the Tri-cities and Walla Walla areas during September. At the south end of Vaseux Lake 42 Lewis' Woodpeckers, believed to be migrating, were observed Sept. 7 (MS). Fifteen were sighted in the Ahtanum Valley near Yakima Sept. 18. The only other sighting was of 1 bird at Spokane Aug. 24. A Yellow bellied Sapsucker at Bozeman Sept. 29 furnished a record late date (HC, LM). One was seen at the Tri cities from Sept. 17 through Oct. 8 (EM). A Downy Woodpecker, the second record for Yoho Nat'l Park, Canada, was seen at Leachcoil Aug. 27 (WCW). Four of the scarce White-headed Woodpeckers were found at Cascade Park, Upper Wenas Valley near Yakima Oct. 18 (PH). Two each of the Black-backed

and Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers were found in the Salmo area of n.e. Washington Aug. 28.

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

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

90 *American Birds*, February 1972

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

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

CHICKADEES AND NUTHATCHES -- Several Boreal Chickadees were seen Aug. 27 around Emerald L. in Yoho Nan Park (WCW) and at least 6 were found in the Salmon-Shedroof area of n.e. Washington Aug. 28 (JA). The uncommon White-breasted Nuthatch was reported only from Cascade Park, n.w. of Yakima, (up to 4 birds,) and from Spokane.

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

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

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

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

WEAVERS AND BLACKBIRDS -- The House Sparrow still made news at Missoula, where it is still scarce after being greatly reduced in numbers by an epidemic, suspected of being caused by *Salmonella*, nearly a year ago. The last Bobolinks in the Bozeman area, large flocks Sept. 13, were late (SC, PDS). A Bobolink at Turnbull N.W.R. Aug. 20 may be the first record there (WH). Some late records came in for the Brown-headed Cowbird. The species was last seen at Norris, Mont. Aug. 29 and at Missoula an ad. male was present Sept. 1. The adults usually leave before the end of July there. Eight were found on the Yakima Indian Reservation Oct. 21.

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

Volume 26, Number 1 91

SPARROWS -- Migration of these birds seemed mostly ordinary, but with a liberal sprinkling of 'rarities'! Late last dates were obtained at Bozeman for the Savannah Sparrow, Oct. 10, and Chipping Sparrow, Oct. 11. Savannah Sparrows remained well into October in the milder western extreme of the Region. Several were seen in a wet meadow near Richland, Wash. on the 9th and one was seen on Yakima Indian Reservation on the 28th. Oregon Juncos were beginning to show up in the valleys. At Walla Walla they appeared with colder

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

CONTRIBUTORS -- (sectional editors, or societies, in bold face type, should receive credit for observations in their respective areas unless otherwise stated) James Acton, Ruth Anderson, **Eugene C. Barney**: McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash., Steve Billeb, **Dave Brown**: Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash., Mr. & Mrs. Merrill Burlingame, Bea Buzzetti, Steve R. Cannings, Helen Carlson, Don Childress, Sharon Cotterell, Walter Cowan, **Emily R. Cragg**: Yakima, Wash. area, Albert Dueck, **James Grant**: interior British Columbia. Pauline Hager, Warren Hall. **Ralph L. Hand**: Missoula, Mont. area, Eve Hays, R. A. Hays, Mrs. Kathryn Hicks, Stan Hughes Jr., John Knox, David Laidman, Larry Larrochelle, Jim Mack, Barney Marshall, Cliff Martinka, **Niel F. Meadowcroft**: Walla Walla, Wash. area, Elisabeth Moore, Louis Moos, Opal Moos, **Gerald Morsello**: Prineville, Ore. area, Jo Nashem, Michael Perrone, **Margaret J. Polumsky**: Lewiston, Ida. -Clarkston. Wash. area, Arthur Renspie, Michael G. Shepard,

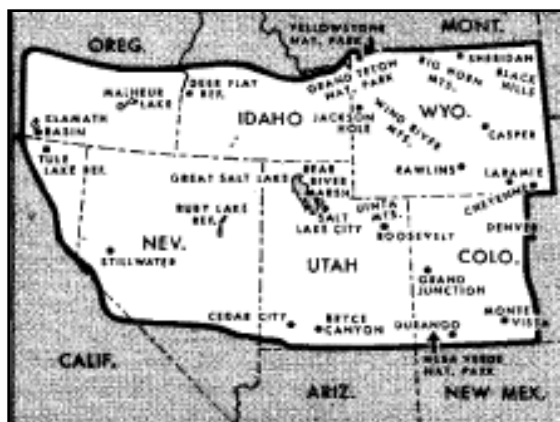
Donald R. Skaar, **P. D. Skaar**: Bozeman -Ennis, Mont. area, **Mrs. S. O. Stanley**, reporting for Spokane Audubon Society: e. Washington and n. Idaho, David Stirling, **Butch Taylor**: Morrow Co., Ore., Wayne C. Weber, Robert M. Wilson, **Robert E. Woodley**: "Tricities" Wash. area, and **Maurice B. Wright**: Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash.

Autumn Migration, 1971

GREAT BASIN CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

/ **Hugh E. Kingery**

Snowstorms and freezing weather spent the fall driving migrants in and out of our Region. Snowstorms struck the Colorado Rockies Sept. 3-4 and Sept. 16-18, with snow depths of 6-12 inches along the Eastern Slope but skipping far western Colorado. Despite these



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

92 *American Birds*, February 1972

feeders in Jackson, Wyo.; Salt Lake City birders found concentrations of migrating songbirds. Then at the end of October a Region-wide snowstorm with freezing temperatures drove migrating ducks south from, and ushered northern ducks and swans to, the wildlife refuges. After this storm had dumped 27 inches of snow on Flaming Gorge Nat'l Recreation Area, Utah, the usual high winds did not materialize and so failed to blow the ridges bare of snow; as a result Horned Larks and Starlings perished by the hundreds (GLM). Regardless of the weather, southern birds penetrated

north and west-with records of Louisiana Heron, Cattle Egret, and Rivoli's Hummingbird, observations of seabirds like a jaeger, Emperor Goose, Black Brant. and many scoters pushed inland; and eastern birds moved west, with Blue Jays, Brown Thrashers, warblers, and grackles appearing in the mountains. Observers at Sheridan, Wyo., speculate about a migration flyway which may bring vagrant eastern birds across northeastern Wyoming while traveling to or from central or southern parts of the U.S. and nesting grounds in western Canada and Alaska. This might account for species reported there but not to the south at Casper, Cheyenne, and Denver. This season they noted, and described in detail four species not on Wyoming's state list; all are accepted from Montana and all but the hummingbird for Colorado: Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Philadelphia Vireo, Purple Finch, and Le Conte's Sparrow. One wishes photographs supported the detailed descriptions. Reporters from several widely-scattered, locations in the Region commented on a scarcity of land birds; the comments concerned Zion Nat'l Park, Utah, Dubois, Wyo., Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Ore., and the Denver foothills. However the danger of an offhand conclusion on population trends was noted at Nat'l Elk Refuge, Wyo., where this year's paucity of observations of Sparrow Hawks was attributed not to a population decline but rather to the removal of a small power line across Poverty Flats, which the birds had used for a look-out.

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

PELICANS, CORMORANTS, HERONS -- White Pelican peak migration numbers included 3064 in mid-August at Bear R. and 1800 at Malheur, in September 1590 at the Klamath refuges and 255 at Camas N.W.R. Other observations included 100 at Pathfinder N.W.R., Aug. 25 and 50 at Cedar City, Utah Oct. 27-Nov. 2. Double-crested Cormorants stayed late, with 3 at the

Klamath refuges Oct. 24-25 (S.A.S.) 15 at Ruby Valley N.W.R., Nev. Oct. 2, one at Collbran, Colo., Oct. 8 (L.G), 12 at Nampa Nov.1, and the last leaving Malheur Nov. 23, late by a month. The Cattle Egret at Minidoka N.W.R., Ida., remained there until at least Aug. 21 (GH), and I visited Bear R. Sept. 23.



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

A **Louisiana Heron** evidenced its widespread 1971 dispersal by visiting Honey L., Calif., Aug. 24-Sept. 3. Found and photographed by John Revill, the bird will be detailed in *California Birds* (TM, G M, RSt). Least Bitterns surprised Malheur observers twice-Aug. 11 and

Sept. 8. At Bear R., the White-faced Ibis has developed the soft-shell problem found in many raptors; DDT is reportedly used extensively in the Box Elder Co. mosquito abatement efforts. The Great Salt Lake's Am. Flamingo stayed through the summer, with an observation Sept. 29 at Farmington Bay (WWB).

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

Volume 26, Number 1 93

TABLE 1
Waterfowl Counts at Western Refuges, Autumn, 1971

Location	Peak of Migration Date	Number	Peak Species				Comments
			Geese		Ducks		
Klamath N.W.R. (EJO)	Oct. 24-30	2,408,903	Canada & Cackling	199,000	Pintail	1,300,000	Am Coot 120,000
			White-fronted	300,000	Am. Widgeon	300,000	
			Lesser Snow	200,000	Mallard	250,000	
			Ross'	11,000	Shoveler	60,000	
Malheur N.W.R. (WLA)	Aug. 1-5	182,800			Pintail	127,100	Am. Coot 83,600 All peaks 75-95% higher than last year; Canvasbacks 2½ times 1967 population due to enlarged sago pond- weed stands. 10% increase
	Oct. 3-9	157,900			Am. Widgeon	42,400	
	Oct. 17-23	158,800			Gadwall	27,200	
					Canvasback	30,500	
Deer Flat N.W.R. Ida. (JTA)	Nov.		Canada	11,000			
	Nov. 26	500,000	Canada	7,500	Mallard Pintail	475,000 15,000	

Minidoka N.W.R. Ida. (JH)	Nov. 13	145,210		Mallard Pintail	110,170 14,817	Last year's peak, 89,600
Camas N.W.R. Ida. (CLH)	Sept. 4			Gadwall Pintail Am. Widgeon Mallard	13,800 6,000 6,300 25,000	Am. Coot 13,600
	Oct. 8					
Stillwater W.M.A. Nev. (LDN)	Sept. 5-11 Oct. 10-16 Nov. 30		Snow 3,300	Pintail Canvasback	43,000 19,700	Pintails peaked early, others peaked late.
Bear River N.W.R. Utah (WBZ)	Aug. 27	90,000		Pintail	74,000	Am. Coot peak Aug. 20 29,000
	Oct. 13	144,570		Gadwall Am. Widgeon Pintail Green-w. Teal Canvasback	27,500 18,250 33,400 16,000 26,700	Only 40,000 ducks stayed after Oct. 30 storm
	Nov. 3		Whistling Swan 28,800			

94 *American Birds*, February 1972

TABLE 1 (Continued)
Waterfowl Counts at Western Refuges, Autumn, 1971

Location	Peak of Migration Date	Number	Geese	Peak Species	Ducks	Comments
Nat'l Elk Ref. Wyo. (DER)	Sept. 27	1,592				
Seedskae N.W.R. Wyo. (MOB)	Nov. 30	6,000		Mallard Com. Goldeneye	3,000 2,500	Diving ducks left with Oct. 30 storm
Pathfinder N.W.R. Wyo. (RKR)	Sept. 30	2,620		Mallard Pintail	675 550	Am. Coot 900
Hutton Lake N.W.R. Wyo. (RKR)	Sept. 28	3,000		Lesser Scaup Redhead	1,000 825	Am. Coot 1,300
Arapaho N.W.R. & Jackson Co., Colo. (RKR)	Sept. 13	29,670		Mallard Pintail Green-w. Teal Am. Widgeon	4,700 3,650 4,500 11,900	Sept. 30 snowstorm drove out most ducks
Antero Res., Colo. (BMM)	Sept. 26	1,200		Mallard Am. Widgeon	696 450	Am. Coot 13,000
Grand Junction, Colo. (LG)	Nov. 30	14,000		Mallard	12,500	
Monte Vista N.W.R. Colo. (CRB)	Aug. 1-5	37,500				Oct. 30 storm dropped duck population from 29,000 to 20,000

95 *American Birds*, February 1972

movements. Although the first 5 arrived at Bear R. Oct. 5, the count escalated to 28,800 on Nov. 3. The same storm brought 60 to Seedskae N.W.R., Wyo., 112 to Camas N.W.R., 336 to Minidoka N.W.R.; by Nov. 30 Malheur had 11,200 and Klamath had 5320. In Colorado the whistler is a rare migrant despite its numbers to the west. This fall reports included 12-21 Oct. 1-Nov. 3 in Jackson Co., Colo. (RKR, RSA), and 10 Nov. 4 on the Laramie R., Larimer Co. (PC). See Table 1 for Canada Geese movements. At Tule Lake N.W. R., Calif., an Emperor Goose made an infrequent appearance Oct. 10; at the same location hunters killed 2 Black Brant (EJO). At Eureka, Nev., 17 White-

fronted Geese appeared Oct. 31. Malheur had its usual numbers of White-fronted Geese, but only half the 1969-70 counts of Snow Geese. The latter had by Nov. 30 built to only 60-80 per cent of their usual peak at Stillwater W.M.A., Nev., after arriving 2 weeks late.

DUCKS -- See Table I for statistics of the migration. Specific records include from Camas N.W.R., a new bird for Idaho, a **Black Duck** Oct. 24 plus a **Eur. Widgeon** Oct. 22 & 29 by 2 different observers. At Am. Falls, Ida., thousands of Shovelers were moving along the Snake R. Oct. 28-30 (CHT). Wood Ducks appeared in 2 places; 3 at Grand Junction Oct. 3, and 1

ad. at Springdale, Utah Nov. 14-28 (JG, RCF, RKe). A family of 4 Com. Goldeneye Aug. 19 near Bend, Ore. raised speculations of nesting (ODS). The first Barrow's Goldeneye, early by a month, arrived in Dubois Oct. 29 with the storm; numerous reports of scoters came from all over the Region. Single **White-winged Scoters** were found in California: Lower Klamath L. Oct. 24 (S.A.S.), near Honey L. Oct. 30 (RL), Lee Vining Nov. 11 (*fide* JMF), and Tule Lake N.W.R. the first week of Nov. (*fide* EJO); also at Sheridan Oct. 19 and 4 at Grand Junction, Colo., Nov. 3 (C & SS). One of a pair of **Surf Scoters** was shot at Honey L. Nov. 3 (JR); and a **Com. Scoter** visited Sheridan Oct. 11, a first for this part of Wyoming.

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

GROUSE -- Blue Grouse populations in Colorado (CEB) and Blue and Ruffed Grouse in n. Utah (JK) appeared normal. Blue Grouse began their vertical

migrations to the high country in Colorado in mid-September and at Crater Lake by Nov. 16. Sharp-tailed Grouse population of n. Utah is quite low (JK). Sage Grouse are holding their own around Rupert, but in n. Utah are down from last year though above the IO-year average (JK). Chukars, Ring-necked Pheasant, and Gray Partridge have all increased in n. Utah this year (JK).

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

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

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

96 *American Birds*, February 1972

at Pathfinder N.W.R. Sept. 30, 34 at Modoc N.W.R. Oct. 20, 18-27 at Lower Klamath L. Oct. 24-30 (S.A.S., ODS), over 200 Nov. 6 at Bear R. even though a large

part of the marsh had frozen (WS), one Nov. 19 at L. John, Jackson Co., Colo. (RKr), and one at Stillwater W.M.A. Nov. 21. A Wilson's Phalarope visited Antero Res. Oct. 10, a late date. At Klamath, refuge personnel counted 5500 Wilson's and 7000 N. Phalaropes in September; the 5000-5500 N. Phalaropes at Lakeview, Ore., Aug. 24 compared favorably with last year (ODS).

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

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

OWLS, GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS -- Malheur's first definite Screech Owl was found Nov. 2; then another was found near Bums, Ore. Nov. 21. Salt Lake City had 1 Nov. 16 (EG). A Great Gray Owl was found in Yellowstone Nat'l Park, on Elk Creek, June 21. Flammulated Owls visited Canon City, Colo. Sept. 1 (DSi), and Durango Sept. 24. Monte Vista's population of 20 Great Horned Owls left the area the first week in October. Summer records of the Pygmy Owl included one at Evergreen Aug. 6 and Sept. 4 (NP, WWB); and one at Cedar City Sept. 10. The first sighting of Burrowing Owls in 3 years at Ruby Valley N.W. R. came Aug. 20, with 5 birds. Com. Nighthawks left Evergreen, Zion, and Dubois in August. Eureka, Alturas, and Nampa in Sept., with the last ones recorded at Malheur Oct. 3 and Salt Lake City Oct. 11 (PJ). A Lesser Nighthawk strayed north to Bear R. Sept. 23 (RR). Poor-wills were common in the Zion high country Sept. 13-28, and a dead one was found Oct. 5. Evergreen's Oct. 16 bird constituted an odd late

record (DSt. WWB). At Peaceful Valley, Colo.: 7 Black Swifts were seen Aug. 28 (JF). At Ft. Rock and Steens Mtns., Ore. on Aug. 20-23 came records of White-throated Swifts, rare in Oregon (ODS, WA). The swift migration was noticed especially in Zion, with 400 drifting s.w. in small flocks Aug. 26; 450 at 8000 ft. just north of Zion on Sept. 15. and 9 at Rockville, Utah Oct. 31 (RKe). Other late records include Oct. 3 at Grand Junction and Oct. 30 at Durango.

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



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

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

WOODPECKERS - Woodpeckers seem scarce in Yellowstone Natl. Park, with only small numbers of the usual species. The cause could be the natural evolutionary changes in the plant communities, as suggested by some research; it could be from strict fire control over the past 100 years, or might be from pest

and disease control over the same period. Yellow-shafted Flickers appeared at Malheur Oct. 3 and Salt Lake City Oct. 3-13 (EG); a hybrid was found there Nov. 2 (EG).

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

Volume 26, Number 1 97

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



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

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

down to Colorado Springs early, and in greater numbers; A.A.S. observers found 50 there in November.

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

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

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

reported were at Nampa Sept. 19, Eureka Oct. 17, and Dubois, with the tail of a junco in its bill, Oct. 30. A few were seen throughout the Region during November.

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

98 *American Birds*, February 1972

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

FRINGILLIDS -- Adding to this spring's records of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks is a male at Jackson May 20-June 1, for the second year in a row (EW). A Black-headed Grosbeak was banded at Malheur Sept. 5, the only recent fall record. Late birds were seen near Evergreen (DSt) Oct. 17 and Boulder Oct. 25 (PJ). Evening Grosbeaks were absent from Malheur and scarce at Durango (where they were abundant this spring), but common in n. Colorado, Rupert, and

Crater L. The usual thousands of rosy finches arrived at Victor, Colo., Oct. 29, although a few had come in earlier (NS). The Pine Siskin was the most frequently observed bird at all elevations of Crater L. Nat'l Park, with 1 flock of 500 Oct. 14; yet the one observation at Malheur compared with 25 banded last year. Numbers of Red Cross bills have irrupted, with many observations from Yellowstone, Denver, Rupert, Nampa, Mono Co., and a nest Aug. 26 at Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park (GF). Ten White-winged Crossbills occurred Aug. 15 at Nampa. After the nesting birds left, wintering Rufous-sided Towhees seemed scarce west of Denver and Colorado Springs. A Brown Towhee was observed near Keno, Ore. Oct. 25, east of the Cascades, probably a first record for e. Oregon (ODS).

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

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

AREA CONTRIBUTORS -- Antero Res., Colo. **Blaine M. Marshman**; Alturas and Modoc N.W.R., Calif.: **R. E. Moore**; Bear River N.W.R., Utah: **William B. Zimmerman**; Camas N.W.R., Ida.:

Clifford L. Himmel; Cedar City, Utah: **Stewart B. Murie**; Colorado Springs, Colo.: **Mahlon Speers**; Durango, Colo.: **Oppie Reames**; Eureka, Nev.: **Arthur Biale**; Evergreen, Colo.: **W. W. Brockner**; Grand Junction, Colo.: **Lorna Gustafson**; Hutton Lake and Pathfinder N.W.R., Wyo., and Jackson Co., Colo.: **Rodney Krey** (RKr); Klamath Basin and Tule Lake N.W.R., Calif.: **Edward J. O'Neill**; Malheur N.W.R., Ore.: **Walter Anderson**; Mono Co., Calif.: **John M. Finkbeiner**; Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo.: **Charles W. Bryant**; Nampa, Ida.: **Mrs. H. E. Shaw**; Nat'l Elk Refuge, Wyo.: **Don E. Redfearn**; Ruby Valley N.W.R., Nev.: **Lowell L. Napier**; Rupert, Ida.: **William H. Shillington**; Seedskaadee N.W.R., Wyo.: **Merle O. Bennett**; Sheridan, Wyo.: **Tom Kessinger**; Springdale, Utah: **Jerome L. Gifford**; Stillwater Wildlife Management Area, Nev.: **Larry D. Napier**; Yellowstone Nat'l Park, Wyo.: **Richard F. Follett**; Zion Nat'l Park, Utah: **Richard A. Stuart** and **Reed Kelley** (RKe).

OBSERVERS -- Aiken Audubon Society, Denver Field Ornithologists, Salem Audubon Society; Becci Anderson, John T. Annear, Ida Blankenbeker, Helen Booth, Clait E. Braun, John Butler, Robert F. Buttery, Pete Chidsey, Theo Colburn, Allegra Collister, John Colvin, Ford Craig, William E. Davis, Ruth Deffenbaugh, David De Sante, Sue Dismant, John Flavin, Robert C. Foster, Elva Fox, Gerald Fultz, Sean Furniss, Sam Gadd, Elsie Geoghegan, Carol Hack, Platt Hall, May Hanesworth, Kathy Hawkins, Joseph H. Hicks, John Hill, Glen Hoge, Merrill Jensen, Paul Julian, John Kimball, Gleb L. Kashin, Nyla Kladder, Ron LeValley, Gary Lind, Carrol D. Littlefield, Georgianne Manolis, Tim Manolis, Eldon McLaury, Baron A. McLean, Malcolm Miller, Greg L. Munther, Marian Patterson, Tyson W. Plantz, Nancy Poulk, John Revill, Hadley Roberts, Richard Ryan, Ronald A. Ryder, R. Saban, Cliff & Shirley Sawtelle, Lois & Michael P. Schultz, W. C. Schuster, George Shier, Dave Silverman (DSi), Mildred O. Snyder, Rich Stallcup (RSt), Nona Stodart, William Stone, Doug Stotz (DSt), Richard Stransky (RSy), Otis D. Swisher, Charles H. Trost, Elizabeth Walker, J. M. Welch.

Autumn Migration, 1971

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

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

almost twice the usual amounts of rainfall while temperatures were about average for the month.

LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS -- The 53 Red-throated Loons at Tswassen, B.C., Sept. 24 (WC *et al.*, *fide* MSch) were an early and unusual concentration; so were the 88 Red-necked Grebes off Tofino, B.C. Sept. 25 (MSH). Eared Grebes appeared in the Region this fall in unprecedented numbers, scattered from Vancouver and the San Juan Is. to coastal Washington and n.w. Oregon, including the Willamette Valley; the estimated 400 at Ganges on Saltspring I., B.C. Nov. 2-3 OR, *fide* WW) is an extraordinary count. Black-footed Albatrosses were found on most of the offshore trips from Aug. 17-Nov. 9 with a spectacular count of 141 individuals around a fishing boat 46 mi. out of Westport, Wash., Sept. 12 (TW *et al.*). A Laysan Albatross was photographed 46 miles out of Westport, Sept. 12 (TW *et al.*). Gerald Sanger observed 16 individuals of that species off coastal Washington and British Columbia between Oct. 16 and Nov. 4. Wayne Campbell, on another vessel, saw a Laysan Albatross 10 mi. off n. Vancouver I. Oct. 26; 3 more followed the ship southward off Vancouver I. the next day and were photographed at about 50°15' N, 130° 11' W. Another observation was made of a single bird at 45° 30' N, 128° 40' W off n. Oregon Oct. 28 (WC, *fide* WW). Fulmars, too, were found on most of the pelagic trips this fall, commencing with 30 off Westport Aug. 29; peak counts were an estimated 400 Sept. 12 and 325 Oct. 16, both off Westport, in which dark birds predominated (TW *et al.*). A half dozen Fulmars were observed Oct. 28 at 44° 30' N, 128° 40' W (WC, *fide* WW). Pink-footed Shearwaters were seen at sea Aug. 17-Oct. 16 with maximum numbers the estimated 300 individuals seen Sept. 12 out of Westport (TW *et al.*). The same observers had the great good fortune of finding two Pale-footed Shearwaters that day also. Single Pale-footed Shearwaters were seen just off Tofino Sept. 18 (SC, *fide* WW) and Sept. 25 (RA, MSH, ASi, *fide* WW). New Zealand Shearwaters were recorded in unprecedented numbers and to surprisingly late dates. There were 7 off Depoe Bay, Ore. Aug. 17 (FZ *et al.*); four trips from Westport on Aug. 29, Sept. 1 J, Sept. 12 and Oct. 16 encountered the species in number from 3 to over 150, the high count being made on the last trip (TRW *et al.*); four birds were seen 15 mi. out of Tofino Sept. 25 (MSH *et al.*, *fide* WW), and a total of 70 individuals were observed Oct. 26-Nov. 2, 30 of them being in one flock off the Washington coast Oct. 20 and 1 being off Dixon Entrance n. of Graham I., B. C., Nov. 2 (GS). Sooty Shearwaters were seen regularly offshore; many were still in the vicinity of Gray's Harbor, Wash., Nov. 25 (GH). Two Manx Shearwaters were seen off s. Vancouver I. at 49° 00' N, 129° 40' W on Oct. 27; the birds were as close as 50 ft. (WC, *fide* WW). Fork-tailed Petrels were recorded in maximum

number up to 30 on each of the four boat trips from Westport (TW *et al.*) and on the two from Tofino, Sept. 18 & 25 (*fide* WW). Seven of these birds were seen Oct. 26 off the n. end of Vancouver I. (WC, *fide* WW), and 2 were well inside Johnstone Strait between Vancouver I. and the mainland Nov. 4 (GS). A Leach's Petrel was seen in the same area on the same day (GS). An estimated 50 Leach's Petrels were found well out of Westport Aug. 29 (TW *et al.*); a bird of this species was killed Sept. 16 at Brookings, Oreg. when it collided with a power pole (RG).

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

appeared at Duncan, B.C., Sept. 11 (JCo); other observations were of two birds from Lulu I. near Vancouver Sept. 18 (LB), 4 from Reifel Refuge, also near Vancouver, Nov. 11 (BM), and single birds from Leadbetter Pt., Wash., Sept. 12 (JBC *et al.*), Tillamook, Sept. 11 (GK *et al.*, and Finley N.W.R. Aug. 29 (*fide* FZ).

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

Volume 26, Number 1 107

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

Mergansers on Elk L., Vancouver I., Nov. 27 (ARD) was an extraordinary concentration, as was the total of 200 or more Red-breasted Mergansers at Sea I. Nov. 17 (WC, *fide* MSch).

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

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

accompanying at least 4 downy young were discovered Sept. 12 near

108 *American Birds*, February 1972

Sidney (VG). Sandhill Cranes were widely reported from favored localities after the first of October; a flock of 300 over Terrace, B.C., well to the north, in the first week of November (FF) is of considerable interest. A count of 64 Black Oystercatchers at Victoria Oct. 23 (ARD) is a large one for this species; 4 of these birds Nov. 14 at Deception Pass in the San Juans (AB, *fide* TW) were at an unusual locality. Semipalmated Plovers were noted at many places in the Region this fall, as is usual. The individual at Lummi Bay near Bellingham Nov. 25 (JD, *fide* TW) was late and one at Ross L., Wash., Sept. 30 and Oct. 2 (BM) was at an unlikely place. Am. Golden Plover were reported from thirteen different places in the Region, with multiple occurrences at about half those places, from an early date of Aug. 1, when three birds were seen at Whidbey I., Wash. (MP), to Nov. 12 when one was found at Samish I., Wash. (TW); high count was the 25-30 birds at Ocean Shores, Wash. Sept. 20 (GH). An amazing total of 4000 Black-bellied Plovers was seen at Boundary Bay Sept. 6 (MSch). Surfbirds moved into the Region Aug. 28 with a vanguard of 66 birds at Victoria (ARD). There were four reports from scattered localities of Ruddy Turnstones. Counts of 180 Com. Snipe at Iona I. Oct. 23 (GAP, *fide* MSch) and of 100 at Sea I., nearby Sept. 29 (RP) are remarkable concentrations; one at Duncan performing its nuptial flight Sept. 25 (JCo *et al.*) was a curiosity. Long-billed Curlew in groups of two to five birds were seen at Ship-ashore, Aug. 29 (RG), at Whidbey I., Sept. 20 (MP), at Ocean Shores Sept. 20 & 25 (GH), and at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., Oct. 24 (PZ). Whimbrel were seen at many coastal localities and at Vancouver and Victoria; one still at Victoria Nov. 13 (ARD) was late. Three Solitary Sandpipers were at Iona I. Sept. 2 (BM, *fide* WW) and one was there the next day (WR *et al.*, *fide* WW); another was seen Sept. 19 near Metchosin, B.C. (VG). A Willet was seen at Leadbetter Pt. Sept. 7 (RV, *fide* TW). Wandering Tattlers and both species of yellow legs were found regularly at favored places; a Lesser Yellowlegs at Whidbey I. Nov. 26 (NL, *fide* TW) was abnormally late. Knots were seen at Leadbetter Pt., Whidbey I., and Iona I. only in the first half of September and only singly, or in one instance, a pair. Rock Sandpipers appeared considerably earlier than normal, one being found at Westport, Aug. 28 (MP) and another at Ocean Shores Sept. 13 (RE). Four Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were observed at Leadbetter Pt. Sept. 6 (JH & MM), one was at Victoria Sept. 7 (RS, *fide* ARD), and birds were seen regularly from Sept. 11 through Oct. 30 at Iona I., with 6 there Oct. 10 (WC *et al.*, *fide* WW) being a high count. Pectoral Sandpipers

were well reported for September; a count of 200 at Sea I. Sept. 15 (KS, *fide* MSch) is extraordinary, while one still there Nov. 13 (WR et al., *fide* TW) was very late for British Columbia. Baird's Sandpipers were seen at five localities during the latter part of August with the 7 at Vancouver Sept. 18 (KS, *fide* WW) being both the peak number and the last date. Lingering Long-billed Dowitchers were found at Burnaby, B.C., Nov. 6 (BM, *fide* WW), at Finley N.W.R. Nov. 8 (FZ) and at Victoria, Nov. 16 (ARD). The last Short-billed Dowitcher of the season was one at Iona I. Oct. 19 (BM, *fide* WW). The rare Stilt Sandpiper was found at Iona I. Sept. 9 (KS, *fide* MSch); another was discovered at Whidbey I. Oct. 10 (MP). A Semipalmated Sandpiper at Iona I. Sept. 3 (LB; & MP) may have been joined by 2 others, as 3 were banded there Sept. 12 (MSch, *fide* MSch). There were seven records of Marbled Godwits involving up to 12 individual birds in September and the first few days of October from Tofino and Vancouver, B.C., southward. Four good photographs of a **Ruff** taken at Reifel Refuge Aug. 7 (JW) have been deposited with the U.B.C.; it may have been the same imm. male bird which was at Whidbey I. Sept. 4-19 (LB; MP, TW *et al.*). An Am. Avocet appeared at Baskett Slough, w. of Salem, Oreg. Sept. 20-23 (JM, *fide* FZ). Red Phalaropes were seen at sea off Westport Aug. 29, Sept. 11-12, but not on Oct. 16 (TW *et al.*); none were seen out of Tofino Sept. 11, 18 & 25, but one was seen off the n. end of Vancouver I. Oct. 26 and 14 were 200 mi. off the Oregon coast Oct. 28 (WC, *fide* WW). Northern Phalaropes were seen on most of the same trips, and were scattered through the Strait of Georgia and in most coastal areas after mid-August until the end of September, with peak numbers evident the first half of the latter month; 1000 birds were estimated at Ucluelet, B.C. Sept. 4 (JB, *fide* WW); there were also a number of sightings at Finley N.W. R. and one at Baskett Slough at the end of August and Sept. 2 (FZ).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS -- Pomarine Jaegers were seen on each of the four boat trips from Westport, the maximum being 12 Aug. 29; individuals were also seen off Vancouver I., Sept. 25 and Oct. 27, and 2 out of Prince Rupert, B.C., Sept. 25 (AD, *fide* WW); others were seen at Victoria, Sept. 8 (RS, *fide* ARD), at Grayland, Wash., Sept. 11 (GH), and off Depoe Bay, Oreg., Aug. 17 (FZ et al.). Parasitic Jaegers were much more common, being seen on all boat trips except the Oct. 16 trip from Westport, 10 on Sept. 12 being the peak number, and on numerous occasions in the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca from late August until mid-November. Long-tailed Jaegers were seen off Westport 4 Aug. 29, 2 Sept. 11, 4 Sept. 12 and at Ocean Shores where one was noted Sept. 25 (GH). A **Skua** was seen out of Westport Sept. 11, from where 3 were seen on both the Sept. 12 and Oct. 16 boat trips (TW *et al.*); 2 individuals were also seen far at sea off

Washington and Vancouver I. on a cruise Oct. 16-Nov. 4 (GS). Glaucous Gulls were in the Vancouver-Bellingham area by November; one was seen 30 miles up Washington's Skagit R. Nov. 28 (DHe, *fide* TW) and up to 5 individuals, 2 of which were adults, followed the vessel off Vancouver I., Oct. 27 (WC, *fide* WW). An estimated 50,000 Glaucous-winged Gulls were roosting at Vancouver Nov. 9 (JW, *fide* WW); 6 of these birds were 200 miles off the Oregon coast, Oct. 28 (WC, *fide* WW), while Nov. 7 one was noticed inland at Corvallis, Oreg. (JBu, *fide* FZ). An adult W. Gull was at the Vancouver dump Nov. 22 (JW, *fide* MSch). Single Franklin's Gulls were seen at Duncan and at Victoria the last two weeks of August; up to 15 were in the Vancouver -Victoria Bellingham area from early September to mid-November. Bonaparte's Gulls were present in large numbers in the same vicinity, particularly in September and

Volume 26, Number 1 109

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

ALCIDS -- Marbled Murrelets with young were prominent in the Gulf Is. of the Canadian San Juans the fourth week of August (JBC). A **Xantus' Murrelet** was collected 57 mi. at sea s.e. of Moresby I., B.C. in Queen Charlotte Sound after it flew on board the vessel at 0430 Oct. 25 (GS); it establishes a new northernmost record of occurrence for this species, considerably exceeding the remarkable reports of just one year ago. An Ancient Murrelet was seen captured by a Peregrine from a scattering of 70 individuals off n. Vancouver Oct. 26 (WC, *fide* WW); 2 of these birds were found at Victoria Nov. 6 (VG). Cassin's Auklets were found by most of the off-shore boat trips during the report period, with the maximum being 150 from Westport Aug. 29. Rhinoceros Auklets were seen

regularly on waters around Vancouver I. and in Puget Sound, the maximum being 450 birds Aug. 22 at Deception Pass in the San Juans (RR, GAP, *fide* WW); very few were sighted along the Oregon or Washington coasts. Tufted Puffins were found on three of the four boat trips from Westport and on two occasions off Vancouver I., 10 being the peak number for one day.

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

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

sightings involving 16 individuals being brought to our attention this fall.

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

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

110 *American Birds*, February 1972

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

Palm Warbler which came close enough to the boat for identification was seen 40 mi. off Westport Oct. 16 (TW *et al.*). Similarly, a Wilson's Warbler was seen 25 mi. off shore from Tofino Sept. 18 (RA *et al.*, *fide* WW).

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

another was in the Skagit Valley n. of Ross L. also Oct. 4 (BM, *fide* WW), still another was at Duncan Oct. 6 (JCo *et al.*), and a fourth record was another imm. at Victoria Nov. 20 (RS, *fide* ARD). An imm. White-throated Sparrow turned up at Samish I. Oct. 6 (NL, *fide* TW); a bird of this species was also seen at Medford Oct. 27 (OS). Lincoln's Sparrows were seen in the Frazer R. delta, at Victoria, at Bellingham, and at Whidbey I., between Aug. 22 and Oct. 10; one was at Salem Nov. 11. Lapland Longspurs were seen regularly at favored localities from Masset, Queen Charlotte Is., s. to the Columbia R. mouth, the peak count being 300 at Leadbetter Pt Oct. 19 (RR). Snow Buntings appeared at widely scattered coastal localities throughout the Region for the last week of October except for a very early sighting at Duncan Sept. 25 (JCo *et al.*).

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

OBSERVERS -- Becci Anderson, Genevieve Arnold, Richard Asher, Les Bartlett, Ward Beecher, Alex Benedict, Jim Biggar, Laurence Binford (LBi), Dr. Ken C. Boyce, John Butler (JBu), Rob Butler, Wayne Campbell, Sydney Cannings, Brande Coiling, John Comer (JCo), John B. Crowell, Jr. (JBC), A. R. Davidson, Brian Davies, Neil Dawe, Adrian Dorst, James Duemmel, Robert M. Evans, Roy Fisk, F. Frank, Robert Gettis, Vic Goodwill, Dale Gray, Barry C. Harman, Robert Harris, Dave Hatler (DHr), Dave & Myrnel Hawes, Dennis Heinemann (DHe), Joseph Hicks, Jack & Eileen Hustead (JHu), Glen L. Hoge, Richard Knapton, Gordon Knight, Mark Koninendyke, Sid Lambert, Norman Lavers, Robert E. Luscher, Bruce A. MacDonald, Tom McCamant, Merle McGraw, Jim Micuda, Ed Moody, Harry B. Nehls, Michael Perrone, Roy Phillips, G. A. Poynter, William S. Rae, Ian Robertson, Robert Russell, Gerald A. Sanger, Ron Satterfield, Madelon A. Schouten (MSch), Michael G. Shepard (MSh), Ann Siddall (ASi), Andrew Stepniewski, Ken R. Summers, Otis Swisher, Jerry Tangren, Howard Taylor, Rex Van Wormer, Terrence R. Wahl, Glen Walthall, Wayne C. Weber, Jean Whitelaw, Jack E. Williams (JWi), C. Fred Zeillmaker, Paul Zucker.

The Winter Season, 1971-72

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

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

Volume 26, Number 3 629

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

LOONS AND GREBES -- An **Arctic Loon** showed up on Dec. 4 on Blue L, Grant Co., Wash. (WH). The only Com. Loons reported were 5 on the CBC at the "Tri-cities" (Pasco-Richland-Kennewick) area of Washington and 2 at Okanagan Landing, B.C. both

observations Dec. 26. Horned Grebes lingered until Dec. 27, when 20 were seen at Penticton, B.C. and 14 on Okanagan L. near Vernon, B.C. The species was noted on Coeur d'Alene L, Ida. Jan. 16. Records for W. Grebes were few: 3 on Kalamalka L. south of Vernon Dec. 26 and one found *in a field* northeast of Spokane Feb. 3. The bird was later released on the Spokane R. Pied-billed Grebes were noted wintering at Spokane and presumably at Livingston, Mont., where the species was seen Feb. 6.

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

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

GEESE AND DUCKS -- Wintering Canada Geese were mostly concentrated in s.c. Washington and adjacent Oregon. Umatilla N.W.R. had a peak of 32,500 during December. Thousands were noted along the Snake R. downstream from Pasco, Wash. in December and January and up to 1000 were seen on that river near Clarkston, Wash. in late December and early January. Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. had a peak of 6000. By contrast 411 were counted on the Jan. 6 survey in the Idaho panhandle and 88 wintered at Okanagan Landing, helped by handouts. About 25 Snow Geese were seen feeding with Canadas in a wheat field in n. Morrow Co., Ore. Dec. 11 (GG) and a few

small flocks stopped at Umatilla N.W.R. in December. Columbia N.W.R. reported by far the largest number of waterfowl, with the peak of 145,000 in late December. The Mallard peak was 141,600 there. Umatilla came next with 19,500 Mallards in late December. Except for the Tri-cities area, which had 3800 Mallards on the CBC, other localities had the birds only in the hundreds. On that count numbers for many other duck species were from two to many times higher than usual, apparently due to mild conditions. Am. Widgeon were the second most numerous with the highest count, 2100, obtained at the Tri-cities. The Idaho panhandle count

630 *American Birds*, June 1972

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

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

Falcons were reported from 8 widely scattered locations. A single Peregrine Falcon was noted at Baker, Ore. Jan. 2. Very few Sparrow Hawks wintered in the Spokane area, no doubt because of the more wintry conditions.

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

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

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

DOVES, OWLS -- The usual few Mourning Doves wintered in e. Washington and probably in e. Oregon. At Vernon the only record for the species after Dec. 26 was of one on Jan. 22. Near Bozeman, Mont., where winter records for the birds are few, one was seen Dec. 31. Barn Owls were found at three localities. A road killed bird was found Nov. 5 near Baker. Another was seen on the Yakima Indian Reservation and I was seen at Clarkston, Wash. Mar. 20. Two records of the **Flammulated Owl** were received. The first certain

record for Montana was furnished by a bird taken alive near Darby in October. It subsequently died—specimen to University of Montana (PLW). The other found with an injured wing at St. John, Wash. Oct. 10, was kept to allow the wing to heal (SH). The only Snowy Owls were 2 near Davenport, Wash. Feb. 19 and 2 again on Mar. 11 (JA & WH). Few Pygmy Owls were reported. One at Walla Walla Jan. 12 was Niel Meadowcroft's first for the locality. Long-eared Owls were reported only at Umatilla N.W.R., Feb. 26; Sprague, Wash., Mar. 26, and St. John, Wash., Jan. 2 and Feb. 2. Each record was for single birds. A **Barred Owl** was photographed at Summerland, B.C. Jan. 17 (SRC). Short-eared Owl numbers appeared low in most localities. However, a notable concentration was observed between St. John and Cheney, Wash. Dec. 11 when 14 were counted within forty-five minutes, during a heavy snowfall and wind with the temperature 15-20° F (SH).

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

Volume 26, Number 3 631

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

JAYS -- A **Blue Jay** appeared again on the Little Spokane R. but was seen only Dec. 18 & 26 (VN & CS) instead of all winter as last year. Another wintered in the Tower Mtn. area 15 mi. to the southeast (E&JR). Steller's Jay was reported only in the Bozeman, Spokane and Yakima areas and in the Okanogan, where they showed up in unusual numbers -57 at Penticton on Dec. 27, and 20 (a conservative count) at Vernon the previous day. The latter area again had unusual concentrations of Com. Raven, with 88 on the CBC and 53 at Penticton on Dec. 27. Its numbers seemed to be up in the Heppner, Ore. area and at Fortine, Lincoln Co., Mont. Close to Spokane the birds continued to increase, apparently adapting more and more to man's presence. P $\square$ on Jays were reported only from the

Bozeman area. Clark's Nutcracker appeared to winter principally in the mountains, showing no repetition of the "invasion" of last year.

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

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

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

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

SHRIKES AND STARLINGS -- The usual wintering N. Shrikes were observed. A Loggerhead Shrike was observed at close range at the Tri-cities Jan. 30, and others were seen in February. One bird on Dec. 18 and 2 on the 24th at St. John, Wash. were believed to be the latter species (SH). Few Starlings wintered in w.

Montana and in the Okanagan Valley but the birds were superabundant in some places in e. Washington and Oregon. The Tri-cities had 3200 on the CBC.

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

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

632 *American Birds*, June 1972

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

SPARROWS -- The only winter records for Rufous-sided Towhees were at Spokane (CBC and individuals during February and March) and at the Tri-cities after Jan. 28. Oregon Juncos remained through the winter at Weydemeyer's farm at Fortine for the first time in fifty one years. At Missoula the birds were entirely missing from Nov. 21 to Feb. 28 and then were scarce. The species was in about normal occurrence elsewhere. Six to 8 Slate-colored Juncos mingled with the others at Fortine. A few were observed at Missoula, Spokane and the Tri-cities and the species was becoming rather common at Heppner (BT). Tree Sparrows appeared at Bozeman, Missoula and Hamilton, Mont.; at the Tri-cities; one at Saltese Marsh near Spokane; at Umatilla Refuge, and at Vernon. Harris' Sparrows popped up at five localities. An imm. was found near Bozeman Dec.

31 (CVD) and 2 visited a feeder at Missoula (PW). Two were noted daily at Fortine beginning Feb. 5. Previous records there were limited to two years, in October (WW). Prineville had 1 on the CBC, 3 wintered at a feeder near Enderby, B.C (JM) and I used a feeder at Coldstream, B.C until mid-January. Six White-crowned Sparrows wintered at the latter spot (JTF) and an imm. bird visited a feeder at Baker in late December. A few wintered as usual around Spokane and small numbers were seen in the Walla Walla, Clarkston and Prineville areas. Large numbers were in the Tri-cities area (420 on the CBC) and at Umatilla Refuge. The 94 Song Sparrows on the Tri-cities CBC was nearly double the previous high of 57 in 1970 there. A few Lapland Longspurs were noted in the Spokane area. Bozeman recorded the birds only on Dec. 28. Two remained at Fortine during January. Previous records there are few. (WW). A tremendous concentration of **Snow Buntings** was found near Davenport, Wash. Feb. 19, when an estimated 15-20,000 swarmed in a weedy field. The only other localities reporting the species were Prince George (140 on Jan. 2), Vernon (10 on Dec. 26), at Mt. Hood in Oregon (1 on Feb. 20-JGO), and in Alberta east of Calgary, 100 at Cochrane on Nov. 11 and 50 at Seebe on Mar. 11.

CONTRIBUTORS (area editors in boldface) James Acton, G. Ansell, John Baumbrough, Art Beaumont, W. Beirnes, Jo Blanich, Ellis Bowhay, Betty Brodie, **Dave Brown** Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge; Jim Burbidge, J. Cammaert, Steve R. Cannings, Helen Carlson, Ted Carr, Marlene Caskey, Mark R. Collie, Sharon Cotterell, John Crowell, Walt Cowan, C V. Davis, Bill Elliott, Harriette Erickson, Opal Foust, Jack T. Fowle, **James Grant** interior British Columbia, Greg Green, Karl Gruener, Pauline Hager, Warren A. Hall, **Ralph L. Hand** -Missoula, Mont. area, Eve T. & R. A. Hays, George D. Holton, Stanley A. Hughes, Jr., Idaho Fish & Game Dept., C Jarosch, Frances and P. Jonker, **John Kurtz** -Umatilla Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, **Betty Lagergren** Yakima, Wash. area, Carolyn Lagergren, B. & Virginia Lang, Don MacDonald, Jim Mack, Jon M. Malcolm, Judy Marchwick, Barney Marshall, Eddie L. Martin, **Sid Martin** Helena, Mont. area, **Riley McClelland** Glacier Nat'l Park, Mont., Jeff McKnight, **Niel F. Meadowcroft** -Walla Walla, Wash. area, Elisabeth Moore, Wilburn G. Moore, Louis Moos, Tobe Morton, **Gerald Morsello** Prineville, Ore., area, Vee Nealey, James G. Olson, June Osborne, Marge B. & R. A. Owens, R. Palindat, Ron Papike, Frank Paul, **Tyson W. Planz** Red Rock Lakes Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, **Margaret J. Polumsky** -Clarkston, Wash. area, John Quirk, Ed & Jan Reynolds, Ray M. Rogers - north Idaho winter waterfowl survey, J. H. Rumely, Donald R. Skaar, **P. D. Skaar** -Bozeman-Ennis area, Mont., Connie Smedley, Mr. and **Mrs. S. O. Stanley**, for Spokane Audubon Society, eastern Washington,

Gene Stroops, **Shirley Sturts** -Coeur d' Alene, Ida. area, Ben A. Sugden, **Butch Taylor** north-central Oregon, Bill Thackaberry, H. VanderPol, C Wallis, **Ann Ward** Baker, Ore. area, John W. Weber, **Winton Weydemeyer** Fortine, Mont. area, Bertha White, John Winchell, Paul Wolf, Margaret Wood, **Robert E. Woodley** for Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society, Pasco-Richland -Kennewick ("Tri-cities") area, Wash., **Maurice B. Wright** -Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Philip L. Wright, Vincent D. Yannone.

Volume 26, Number 3 633

The Winter Season, 1971-72

GREAT BASIN CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION / Hugh E. Kingery

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

LOONS, GREBES, PELICANS, CORMORANTS -- Com. Loons occurred on scattered dates at scattered spots in the Region: Dec. 2 at Sheridan, Wyo.; Jan. 6 at Carlin, Nev. (AB); 3 on Feb. 1 at Nampa, Ida.; 15 on Feb. 26 at Hutton L. Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Wyo.; 10 on Mar. 15 at Pathfinder N.W.R., Wyo. Two Eared Grebes stayed at Dubois, Wyo., long enough to be

counted on the CBC, and one overwintered at Malheur N.W.R., Ore.; by mid-March migrants began to appear, the first at Ruby L. N.W.R., Nev., Mar. 14. Forty W. Grebes lingered at Klamath N.W.R., Calif., on Dec. 1, and one remained for the Honey L., Calif., CBC Dec. 21. White Pelicans had returned to the Great Salt L. by Mar. 5 (WS) and observers noted them during March at Stillwater W.M.A., Nev. (a peak of 225 birds), Modoc N.W.R., Calif., and Lower Klamath N.W.R., Calif. Double-crested Cormorants have already begun nesting at Malheur, some sitting on up to 5 eggs on Mar. 31.

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

SWANS, GEESE -- Whistling Swans peaked at 5320 at Klamath in early December. A few wintered, and the population began building up in February. Malheur's December population of 8000 dropped to 35 on Jan. 1. The spring migratory peak of 5000, Mar. 3-11, compared with 11,600 last year; the difference probably occurred because the birds continued to move, encouraged by the warm weather. Only 200 remained by Mar. 31. Migrating swans began arriving in most places during March although 6 in Moffat Co., Colo., Feb. 20 (BA) seem early. The **White-fronted Goose** at Hutton L. N.W.R. Mar. 24 represents a species omitted from the Wyoming list, although they have been observed there in past years (RFK). One stayed at Grand Junction, Colo., for 3 weeks from Feb. 22; at Truckee Meadows, near Reno, Nev., 33 were present Mar. 9; and at Honey L., Christmas counters found 50. While single Snow Geese occurred at 3 locations in Colorado-Monte Vista N.W.R., Grand Junction, and Antero Res.--large flocks occurred on Honey L. CBC (7142 birds) and migrated as usual through the W. part of the Region: 5000 on Mar. 30 at Deer Flat N.W.R., Ida. (HES) and 62,300 as the peak at Malheur--twice last year's numbers. Blue Geese also appeared for the Honey L. CBC and on Feb. 19 (GM); Malheur had 3

observations during the winter. Ten Ross' Goose were at Honey L. Feb. 19 (GM) and by Mar. 31 Malheur had 100.

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

634 *American Birds*, June 1972

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

KITES, VULTURES, BUTEOS -- The **White-tailed Kite** evidenced its recent population expansion by appearing for the Yerington, Nev., CBC, and staying through at least until Jan. 26. Seen by numerous observers for Nevada's first verified record, the bird stayed in an area from which the species was reported 3

times last year. This year other kites were reported from Reno and Pyramid L., Nev. (CSL). Turkey Vultures began arriving in March, except that Malheur's first arrived on Feb. 28, 10 days earlier than ever before. Reporters turned in 53 Goshawk observations, 35 of Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 31 Cooper's Hawk observations. At Pueblo observers saw no Sharp-shinned, contrasting with 1-3 on each trip last year; the difference may have related to the lack of prey; no Robins inhabited the piñon/juniper forest this year. Harlan's Hawk reports came from Honey L. (2 on CBC; 2 on Mar. 31-Apr. 1, RSt) and Curlew Valley, 50 mi. s. of Pocatello, Mar. 19. Two Red-shouldered Hawks, rare on the e. side of the Sierras, were seen in Mono Co., Calif., Dec. 13 (*vide* JMF). Observers reported 67 observations of Ferruginous Hawks.

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



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

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

Volume 26, Number 3 635

returning to the Region with February's warm weather. First arrivals came to Monte Vista N.W.R. Feb. 15, where the migration peaked at 4058 on Mar. 10. The migration moved north with birds noted in March at many locations. Am. Coot peaked at Klamath with 40,500 birds on Mar. 26. Virginia Rails stayed late in the Region, with single birds Dec. 5 and 16 in the Zion Nat'l Park region; 1 Dec. 19 at Grand Junction; and one Jan. 2 at Pocatello.

PLOVERS, SANDPIPERS, GULLS -- Killdeer returned to Camas N.W.R. Mar. 6, 22 days earlier than last year, and to the high country early with 3 at Estes Park, Colo. Mar. 13 (RD). A Black-bellied Plover which

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

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

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

FLYCATCHERS, LARKS, SWALLOWS, JAYS -- A surprising 4 species of flycatchers had arrived in the Region by Mar. 31, most of them early. Western Kingbirds had come to Virgin, Utah by Feb. 24, and to Malheur Mar. 23 a month earlier than the previous first of the season. Mar. I found the first Black Phoebe at Springdale, and Say's Phoebes wintered at Virgin and

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

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

KINGLETS, WAXWINGS, SHRIKES, WARBLERS -- Ruby-crowned Kinglets were observed Dec. 23 Jan. 1 at Alturas, twice in January at Zion, Feb. 15 at Malheur, and frequently there after Mar. 19. Water Pipits included one on Dec. 5 at Eureka, Nev.; one on Dec. 6 at Dubois; 160 at Bear R. N.W.R. Feb. 21

(MRC); 2 at Malheur Feb. 5, the earliest record there (average arrival date Mar. 15). Bohemian Waxwings failed to live up to the fall's promised invasion. They occurred commonly in Sheridan, Rexburg, Ida. (DH), Rupert, and

636 *American Birds*, June 1972

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

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

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

courting and singing at Evergreen Feb. 13-19. Observers described wintering Rufous-sided Towhees as scarce at Ogden, Utah (MLK), Malheur, Zion, Denver: yet on Mar. 9 Camas N.W. R. had its first refuge record.

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

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

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

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

AREA CONTRIBUTORS -- Alturas and Modoc N.W.R., Calif.: **R. E. Moore**; Antero Res., Colo.: **Blaine M. Marshman**; Arapaho K.W.R., Colo., and Hutton L. and Pathfinder N.W.R., Wyo.: **Rodney F. Krey**; Camas N.W.R., Ida.: **Clifford R. Himmel**; Colorado Springs, Colo.: **Mahlon Speers**; Crater L. Nat'l Park: **Elnar L. Johnson**; Dubois, Wyo.: **Mary Back**; Durango, Colo.: **Richard Stransky** (RSy); Eureka, Nev.: **Arthur Biale**; Evergreen, Colo.: **W.W. Brockner**; Farmington Bay Waterfowl Mgt. Area,

Utah: **Reuben H. Dietz**; Grand Junction, Colo.: **Lorna Gustafson**; Klamath Basin N.W.R., Calif. and Ore.: **Edward J. O'Neill**; Malheur N.W.R., Ore.: **Eldon McLaury** and Sean Furniss; Mono Co., Calif.: **John M. Finkbeiner**; Monte Vista N.W.R.: **Charles R. Bryant**; Nampa, Ida.: **Mrs. H. E. Shaw**; Nat'l Elk Ref.: **Don E. Redfearn**; Nevada, s. and w.: **C. S. Lawson**; Pocatello, Ida.: **Charles H. Trost**; Pueblo and Westcliffe, Colo.: **David A. Griffiths**; Ruby L. N.W.R.: **Lowell L. Napier**; Rupert, Ida.: **W. H. Shillington**; Salmon (Lemhi and Custer Cos.). Ida.: **Hadley B. Roberts**; Seedskaadee N.W.R., Wyo.: **Merle O. Bennett**; Sheridan, Wyo.: **Tom Kessinger** and **Platt Hall**; Stillwater Wildlife Mgt. Area, Nev.: **Larry Napier**; Zion Nat'l Park area, including Springdale and Virgin. Utah: **Jerome L. Gifford**.

OBSERVERS -- Aiken Audubon Society, Denver Field Ornithologists, Ft. Collins Bird Club, Pueblo Audubon Club, Rogue Valley Audubon Society. Dave Anderson. Bobbie Ausfahl, David Binns, Fred Blackburn, Richard L. Bottorff. Natasha Boyd, Clait E. Braun. Donna Breganser (DBr). Mark R. Collie, Allegra Collister. Gerald Craig, Mrs. Lewis A. Cummings, William A. Davis, E. Decker, Ruth Deffenbaugh, John Derby. Lucy Ela, Margaret Ewing, Elsie Geoghagen, Joseph H. Hicks. Donnell Hunter, A. S. Hyde, Gleb L. Kashin, Merlin L. Killpack, Kenneth A. Mackenzie, Thompson Marsh, Guy McCaskie. Malcolm McDonald,

Volume 26, Number 3 637

Doris McLaughlin, Baron A. Mclean, Marian Patterson, Leon R. Powers, William M. Pursell. Oppie Reames, Warner Reeser, Ira Sanders, Michael P. & Lois Schultz, George Shier, Dave Silverman, Rich Stallcup (RSt), William Stone, Doug Stotz (DSt), Mrs. S. O. Swartz, Otis D. Swisher, Elizabeth Walker, Peg Whitney, Richard A. Wilt, Vim Wright.

The Winter Season, 1971-72

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

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

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

PELICANS, CORMORANTS, HERONS, SWANS. GEESE -- A White Pelican was seen again this year on Fern Ridge Reservoir w. of Eugene, Oreg. Dec. 27; the carcass of presumably the same bird, believed shot, was found there some six weeks later (LM *et al.*). A Double-crested Cormorant 20 mi. up the Fraser R. Mar. 31 was further inland than this species has previously been recorded in this locality (CS, *fide* WW). An estimated 1000 Brandt's Cormorants were noted at Active Pass Mar. 26 (WW). More than 300 Pelagic Cormorants were on the nesting site at Hudson Rocks near Nanaimo, B. C. Mar. 25 (MGS, *fide* WW). A few Green Herons lingered through December as usual, but none were seen farther n. than Olympia, Wash., this season. Single Com. Egrets were observed at Salem, Oreg., Dec. 12 & Jan. 29 (*fide*, GK), and at Finley Refuge s. of Corvallis, Oreg., Jan. 8 (DG & FZ). Two Black-crowned Night Herons wintered at Medford, Oreg. and 2 wintered at nearby Central Point (OS); 2 adults

showed up at Salem Mar. 8 and were still present at the end of the period (RF, TM *et al.*). Am. Bitterns were recorded in the last week of December at Corvallis, Sauvie I., and Westham I. near Vancouver where 4 were present; additional single individuals appeared in the latter half of March at Finley Refuge and at Pitt Meadows e. of Vancouver. Whistling Swans wintered widely through w. Washington and Oregon in groups up to 100 in number. With 70-80 Trumpeter Swans centered in Mount Vernon, Wash. (TW), it can be deduced from other reports that at least 100 of these birds wintered between there and Duncan, B.C., to the north. Black Brant, Canada, White-fronted and Snow Geese all were on the move northward by early March, for the most part in small groups; there was the usual smattering of winter records for the latter two species

644 *American Birds*, June 1972

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

DUCKS -- A **Black Duck** was carefully viewed Dec. 26 on the CBC at Sauvie I. (HN) where at least four specimens have turned up in bag checks by Game Commission personnel in the past; the origin and wild status of such birds, of course, is unknown. Com. Teal were reported between Duncan and Sidney on Vancouver I. on 6 occasions Dec. 4-March 31, with 4 of the sightings involving an apparent Com. x Green-winged hybrid which was almost certainly the same bird. Another hybrid was seen Jan. 18 & 21 at Iona I. (WW *et al.*). There were also 10 records of Com. Teal from the Vancouver area, possibly involving no more than the *three* male seen together at Iona I. Jan. 21 (JT, *fide* WW). The estimated 3200 Green-winged Teal at Sauvie I. in late December was not much higher than normal for that period (*fide* HN). Eur. Widgeon were again widely and frequently reported this winter, particularly between Vancouver and Seattle and in Oregon's Willamette Valley; nine male in a flock of 400 Am. Widgeon on the Samish Flats near Bellingham Feb. 15 (NL, *fide* TW) was a particularly noteworthy ratio, however. The 13,600 Shovelers estimated by the Game Commission at Sauvie I. in late December was a remarkable concentration. A bird concluded to be a male Blue-winged Teal x Shoveler hybrid at Huntington; B. C. Feb. 27 (MGS, *fide* WW) is a curiosity. Continued increases in Wood Duck counts on many Regional CBCs were an encouraging development. Sightings of Redhead in at least six different locations from Vancouver to Medford Dec. 26-Feb. 12 are more than usual for the winter season; the 61 birds on Pitt L. near Vancouver Jan. 29 (WC & MGS, *fide* WW) is particularly remarkable. A male

Tufted Duck was found and photographed at Ganges. Saltspring I., B.C. Feb. 9 (IR, *fide* WW) and then was found independently a short distance away at Long Harbour four days later (WC, *fide* WW). Approximately 800 Oldsquaw gathered at Saltspring I. Mar. 20 (DH, *fide* WW) was a significant concentration for this Region. A female **King Eider**, reputedly the third record for British Columbia, was discovered at Queen Charlotte City Dec. 15 by George P. Sirk, who carefully identified the bird from observations as close as 25 feet; on Dec. 19 he obtained photographs which are now on deposit in the Photoduplicate File at U. B. C. and from which the bird is identifiable; it was last seen Jan. 16 (WW).

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

Again this season, Pigeon Hawk reports came mostly from Vancouver-Victoria-Bellingham, although single birds were also recorded at Albany, Corvallis, and in the Santiam Pass e. of Salem in the first six weeks of 1972.

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

Volume 26, Number 3 645

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

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

PIGEONS, OWLS, HUMMINGBIRDS -- A flock of 130 Band-tailed Pigeons at Victoria Jan. 29 (ARD) indicated that these birds may have spent the winter there. Unprecedented numbers of Mourning Doves stayed in the Vancouver area this winter; the 345 individuals of this species counted on the Sauvie I. CBC was also highly unusual. A Snowy Owl was at Queen Charlotte City Dec. 7 (GS, *fide* WW). In the Vancouver area, at least 7 were present in December, at least 12 in January, at least 15 in February, and at least 13 in March. The Ladner CBC recorded 11. Several of these birds were present in the Bellingham area during the report period (TW). Elsewhere Snowy Owls were found at Seattle and Kent Jan. 9 (VC & DJ) and at the Eugene airport Dec. 18-Feb. 6 (LM *et al.*) A Burrowing Owl was found at Iona I. Dec. 6, disappeared after Dec. 8 only to be found again on Jan. 16; thereafter, it was regularly seen and photographed until the end of the period (*fide* WW). Another Burrowing Owl was seen and photographed at Yaquina Bay Jan. 31 (PR, *fide* FZ), while 4 individuals were at Medford during December and January (JH; OS). Only one Long-eared Owl frequented Westham I. this year, Dec. 1-Feb. 12 (BD, *fide* WW); another was seen at Finley Refuge Dec. 8 (GK). A Spotted Owl was heard on the Tillamook

CBC (LM) by an observer who has considerable familiarity with and knowledge of this species. Observers uniformly agreed that Short-eared Owls were very much reduced after last year's good numbers in the Region. A dead Saw-whet Owl was found in Victoria Dec. 3 (ARD); one was listed on the Vancouver and Cottage Grove, Oreg. CBCs, and single birds were also observed at Tsawwassen, B. C. Dec. 1 & Dec. 20 (AS, *fide* WW), and at Tlell, B.C. Dec. 2 (GS, *fide* WW). Anna's Hummingbirds have been appearing in this Region increasingly each winter for the past seven years; this year continued the trend with one at Vancouver Dec. 26 & 29, 2 at White Rock, B.C. Dec. 24 when a torpid male was captured, 3 on the Portland CBC, 2 on the Oakridge CBC, 4 on the Gold Beach CBC, a female which spent the winter at Eugene, up to 3 at a time in Salem from late December to the end of the period, and 3 at North Bend, Oreg., all winter. The first Rufous Hummingbird of the season appeared at North Bend Feb. 9 (HR), with the species very widely reported in the Region as far n. as Victoria (ARD) by Mar. 17. A *male* Allen's Hummingbird was at a Eugene feeder, Mar. 12-14 and again April 3-4 (LM *et al.*); one was also at Cottage Grove Mar. 17 (AC).

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

Mar. 25, (GH & HN) and at Westham I. Mar. 30 (WW). Com. Bushtits were nest-

646 *American Birds*, June 1972

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

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



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

Eugene from late November through the entire 'winter season' report period. Varied Thrushes were agreed to be low in numbers by observers in n. Washington and s. British Columbia; farther south, they were present in normal or better than normal numbers and were more common in the Medford area than they have been in many years: this distribution was undoubtedly a consequence of heavy and early snows in the n. portion. A Swainson's Thrush was present for a week beginning Jan. 20 at a spot along the Rogue R. near Medford (JH). W. Bluebirds were seen at Victoria, Mar. 15 (VG) and at five mid-Willamette Valley locations earlier in the winter, the highest count at anyone

location being eight. Several were also recorded on the Medford and Gold Beach CBCs. A pair of Mountain Bluebirds at Scappoose, Oreg., Mar. 25 (GH & HN) were very much out of place as were the half dozen or more in the Vancouver area in the latter part of March. A Townsend's Solitaire was recorded at Philomath, Oreg., Jan. 2 (MS, *vide* FZ) and another was seen on the Gold Beach CBC. Bohemian Waxwings invaded the Vancouver, Nanaimo and Bellingham areas at various periods during the winter, but seem not to have moved any further south. Cedar Waxwings were scarce in the locations where Bohemians occurred. N. Shrikes were widely present in the Region throughout the winter season, although the birds were far from common, of course.

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

TANAGERS, FINCHES, SPARROWS -- A *male* **W. Tanager** appeared at Eugene on the amazing date of Mar. 16 (LM *et al.*), a full six weeks ahead of schedule. Wayne Weber writes as follows: "A belated report from

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

Volume 26, Number 3 647

times in the Bellingham area. **Hoary Redpolls** were seen at Masset in company with up to 125 Com. Redpolls on three separate occasions Dec. 16-26, the maximum count being 5 individuals on Dec. 23 & 26 (AD, *vide* WW). Com. Redpolls were present in the area from Vancouver to Bellingham from late November to the end of March, with a total of 9 records aside from CBC. The maximum number of individuals seen was 100 at Pitt Meadows Jan. 23 (*vide* WW). Pine Siskins were up from their extreme lows of the preceding winter, but were still considered relatively scarce by observers mentioning them; Red Crossbills continued about as scarce as they were last year, however. A pair of Brown Towhees wintered at Medford (OS). A male **Lark Bunting** frequented a feeder in Portland from early January until the end of the period (HN *et al.*) The Bellingham CBC recorded an unusual 15 and the Sauvie I. CBC, 27 Savannah Sparrows, which also appeared on several other Willamette Valley CBCs. A Vesper Sparrow was listed on the Corvallis CBC. On Dec. 27 there were 25 Lark Sparrows at Medford and on Jan. 29 an amazing 50 were at Agate L. near Medford (OS). There were quite a few records of Slate-colored Juncos this winter, most of them from the Bellingham area where 12 were listed on the CBC. There were seven records of Tree Sparrows, including CBCs, from the Vancouver-Bellingham area totaling a dozen individuals; elsewhere, 2 showed up on the Portland CBC and one was seen at Baskett Slough w. of Salem Dec. 21 (DG & FZ). Five Oregon CBCs listed Chipping Sparrows, the maximum being 13 individuals at Sauvie I! Two of these birds were seen at Philomath, Oreg. Dec. 23 (MS, *vide* FZ), and another attended a Eugene feeder regularly in January and

February (LM *et al.*). Several Harris's Sparrows wintered in the Willamette Valley at feeders: one was also recorded on the Bellingham CBC. An imm. Golden-crowned Sparrow at Queen Charlotte City Dec. 1 (AD, *fide* WW) was well n. of the species' normal winter range. White-throated Sparrows were present in surprising winter numbers at Eugene and Corvallis: several feeders in Eugene sustained 3-4 birds most of the winter; birds were also present at Medford and Salem through the winter and at Bellingham for the CBC. Two Lincoln's Sparrows at Duncan Jan. 1 were "most unusual" (JCo); one was at Victoria the same day (ARD), and another was seen at Chuckanut Mtn., Skagit Co., Wash., Jan. 25 (RP, *fide* TW); still another Lincoln's Sparrow was repeatedly found on Finley Refuge during the winter (*fide* FZ). Up to 50 Lapland Longspurs wintered until at least the end of February on the Lummi Flats (TW); 2 were seen at Ocean Shores, Wash., where 70 Snow Buntings were also seen, Jan. 30 (GH). Snow Buntings were recorded on the Bellingham, Ladner, Salem, and Tillamook CBCs. A Snow Bunting was seen at Masset Dec. 26 (AD, *fide* WW) and another was seen at the 6000 ft. level on the e. side of Mount Hood, Oreg., Feb. 20 (10). The season's most spectacular bird is last! On Oct. 26, 1971 at Queen Charlotte City, Adrian Dorst saw two junco-sized birds which he did not recognize. He wrote very detailed descriptions of the plumage of both and, upon returning to Vancouver several weeks later, found that his description precisely fitted the one specimen of **Rustic Bunting** in the collection of the U.B.C. (*fide* WW). Previous North American records for this species have come only from the Aleutians.

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

Spring Migration, 1972

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/ Thomas H. Rogers

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

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

PELICANS, CORMORANTS -- White Pelicans showed up on the early date of Mar. 24 at Canyon Ferry near Helena, Mont. The birds put in unexpected appearances at Turnbull Refuge, where 6 were seen

Apr. 29; at Kootenai Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, and Bonners Ferry, Ida., where 4 were observed May 1, and at Cow L., Adams Co., Wash., 2 on May 6. The Kootenai sighting is the first record for the refuge. Double-crested Cormorants were first seen Apr. 23 in both the Helena and Bozeman areas and were at nests in the latter locality. A few were at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. during April.

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

Volume 26, Number 4 783

WATERFOWL -- The bulk of the Whistling Swan movement was in March but one was on the Madison River west of Bozeman on the record early date of Feb. 11 and a late bird was seen on a pond near Lewiston, Ida. May 14. The largest concentration reported was of 150 at Ennis L., Mont. on Mar. 12. At Turnbull Refuge 32 Trumpeter Swans, including 7 cygnets wintered in the display pool. Two of the birds were seen at Philleo L. about 12 mi. south of Spokane Apr. 22, and Umatilla Refuge had its first ever visit of the species May 19. At Red Rock Lakes Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Lima, Mont. the summering population of Trumpeters was counted at 156. Canada Geese numbered 3600 at Umatilla Refuge May 5 and reached a peak of 6000 at Conboy L. Refuge in early March. Only a few Snow Geese were reported. Ravalli Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Ravalli Co., Mont. had 13 on Apr. 4 and a few were noted at several localities in e. Washington and Oregon. Notable was a flock of about 24 at Turnbull Refuge on May 6 (FBH). About 15 were observed near Naples, Ida. in March. The species is always uncommon in the Region west of Montana. A Ross' Goose at Ennis, Mont. Apr. 23 was only the sixth record for that locality (DRS & PDS). The duck movement at McNary Refuge peaked at nearly 47,000 in late winter. Conboy Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, south of Yakima, had a new high for ducks, over 13,000, in February. At Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge peak numbers, 62,000 were reached in April, with Pintail reaching 13,000, the highest peak ever recorded there. At Kootenai Refuge Pintails peaked at 6000. Refuge peaks for Mallards were: Kootenai, 5000; Umatilla, 2900, and Turnbull, 1200. A Mallard x Pintail hybrid

was observed several times at Kootenai Refuge. Red Rock Lakes Refuge had the highest number of Redhead. 2160 in early May and Turnbull Refuge was next with 1600. Lesser Scaup reached 1300 in April at Turnbull, which also had an immense 8000 Com. Goldeneye in late March and over 2000 Ruddy Ducks in late April. About 20 pairs of Wood Ducks were using Kootenai Refuge and 10 birds were noted at Umatilla Refuge. A **Greater Scaup** was identified at Reardan, Wash. Apr. 1 and 6 were seen on the Spokane R. near Nine Mile Apr. 30 (S.A.S.). Harlequin Ducks were seen in four localities: a male at Hyalite Reservoir, Gallatin Co., Mont. in early May; 2 male at Kalamakla L., Vernon, B.C., May 7; one at the Sun Lakes in the Grand Coulee, Grant Co., Wash., and a *male* on the Tieton R. about 20 mi. west of Naches. Wash. Four Red-breasted Mergansers, rare in e. Washington, were seen on Banks L., Grant Co. Apr. 8 (S.A.S.). Most species of ducks arrived early at Fortine, Lincoln Co., Mont., apparently because of the very mild March weather.

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

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- Two Sharp-tailed Grouse were found near Creston, Wash. Apr. 8 (S.A.S.) and about 2 dozen were occupied with mating dances near Omak, Wash. Mar. 26 (EBo, B & CL). These were the only sightings. California Quail numbers seemed still to be on the upswing in e. Washington after the low numbers following the severe winter four years ago. Chukars were reported abundant along the Snake and Grande Ronde Rivers south of Pullman, Wash. and one was seen at Oak Creek 20 mi. north of Yakima.

Few Gray Partridge were reported but the birds showed in increased numbers in the farm country around St. John, Wash. (SAH), and on upper Wenas Creek northwest of Yakima, where the species is very rare (Y.A.S.). Fifteen Turkeys have been introduced on Dawson Ridge above the Moyie R., Boundary Co., Ida. (DAP).

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

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

784 *American Birds*, September 1972

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

GULLS, TERNS -A few unusual gull records were reported. The Ring-billed Gull was noted at Fortine, Mont. where it is an irregular visitor. An ad. Franklin's Gull was seen at Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash. May 7 (NL) and I at Kootenai Refuge May 17 was the first record there. An ad. Bonaparte's

Gull was seen near Creston, Wash. May 6 (WH) and 4 were observed at Umatilla Refuge May 10. The second local record for the Caspian Tern at Three Forks, Mont. was of one May 17 (BR). A very few of the birds were seen at Columbia Refuge; along the Columbia R. near Carley, Benton Co., Wash., and at Umatilla Refuge. Two were noted at Vernon, B.C. where they are rare, May 28-29 (JH).

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

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

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

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS --Two **Scissor-tailed Flycatchers** were identified near the summit of the Christina Lake-Blueberry cutoff, on Highway 3 northwest of Trail, B.C. May 20 (LH). Several Ash-throated Flycatchers were singing near Lyle May 28-29 and one was singing north of Satus Pass May 28, both

localities in Klickitat Co., Wash. (MP; DRP). Another rarity was a **Gray Flycatcher** at Bend, Ore. Apr. 16 (JLB). In general the swallow migration reached the Columbia Basin lowlands of e. Oregon, Washington and s. British Columbia first, then appeared to move eastward into n. Idaho and extreme n.w. Montana, with the more mountainous areas of Montana receiving the birds last. The earliest record of all was of 2 Tree Swallows flying in a snowstorm in Vernon, B.C. Mar. 1. the earliest date on record there. By contrast, Bozeman had its first arrivals of this species Apr. 21 and Helena, Apr. 22. However, it appeared at Red Rock Lakes Refuge in late March. Cliff Swallows were noteworthy just south of Pasco, Wash. where thousands were building on concrete piers of the Snake R. Bridge May 13 (NFM).

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

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

PIPITS, WAXWINGS, VIREOS -- Water Pipits were noted mostly in w. Montana, at Bozeman, Fortine, Helena and Missoula, beginning Apr. 15. The only other area reporting them was e. Washington. Banks L. in the Columbia Basin had a few Apr. 8 and a few were

seen in other localities. Except for wintering birds, Cedar Waxwings mostly appeared in late May as usual. Large flocks numbering 200-300 were seen near Durkee, Ore. between Apr. 12 & 23 (DH). The earliest Solitary Vireo was noted at Pullman May 2 and the earliest Warbling Vireo at Spokane May 4 (early).

Volume 26, Number 4 785

WARBLERS -- The earliest Orange-crowned Warbler was found at the early date of Apr. 8 at Park L. west of Coulee City, Wash. (JA). At Fortine where the species formerly was a regular breeder, it has not been recorded in recent years (WW). Vernon, B.C. had the first Audubon's Warbler Apr. 4 (JBr). Single **Myrtle Warblers** were sighted at Heppner May 7 (BT) and at Kamiak Butte May 11 (JWW). Hermit warblers were present in good numbers at Suttle L., northwest of Sisters, Ore. by May 1 (GM). The N. Waterthrush was sighted north of Livingston and Fortine Mont, at L. Chatcolet near St. Maries, Ida. and at Deep L. near Vernon, B.C.

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

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

Fortine area, where the very heavy Douglas fir cone crop enticed them. Red Crossbills were rather common during the spring in the lowland coniferous areas.

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

CONTRIBUTORS and OBSERVERS (area editors in boldface) -- James Acton, **Eugene C. Barney** for McNary and Ringold Nat'l, Wildlife Refuges, John Baumbrough, Elsie Bingley, **Dave Brown** for Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Ellis Bowhay, Joanne Brown, AI W, Bruner, Mr. & Mrs. Merrill Burlingame, John L. Butler, Zee Butler, Bea Buzzetti, Helen Carlson, Audrey Casperson, Mark R. Collie, Sharon Cotterell, **Emily R. Cragg** for Yakima Audubon Society, Gertrude Dixon, R. L. Eng, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Etling, **Opal Foust** for Bitterroot Valley, Mont., Jack Fowle, **James Grant** for southern interior British Columbia, Karl Gruener, Warren Hall, **R. L. Hand** for Missoula, Mont. area, E.T. & R.A. Hays, Joan Heriot, George Holton, Lorna Horwood. Stanley A. Hughes Jr., Dick Humphreys, Frances B. Huston, Bert Jahn, Sara Johnson, Betty & Carol Lagergren, **Larry Larochelle** for Toppenish & Conboy Lake Nat'l.

Wildlife Refuges, Norman Lavers, Ron McDow, George McLaughlin, Jon M. Malcolm, Judy Marchwick, Eddie Martin, **Sid Martin** for the Helena, Mont. area, Mr. & Mrs. **Niel F. Meadowcroft** for the Walla Walla, Wash. area, Homer Metcalf, Darlene Meyer, Bob Moate, Elisabeth Moore, Louis Moos, **Gerald Morsello** for the Prineville, Ore. area, Joanna Nashem, Arthur Newman, Ron Papike, Dennis R. Paulson, Michael Perrone, **Delano A. Pierce** for Kootenai Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge, **Tyson W. Planz** for Red Rock Lakes Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge, **Margaret J. Polumsky** for the Clarkston, Wash.-Lewiston, Ida. area, Audrey, Bob & Lawrence Polumsky, Bill Rainey, Carrie Reynolds, Ed & Jan Reynolds, Larry Roumpf, John H. Rumely, Laurali Saxby, George Schindell, Donald R. Skaar, **P. D. Skarr** for the Bozeman-Ennis-Three Forks area, Mr. & **Mrs. S. O. Stanley** for n.e. Washington and Spokane Audubon Society, Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Stein, Esther Steward, Gene Sir oops, **Shirley G. Sturts** for the Coeur d' Alene, Ida. area, **Butch Taylor** for the Heppner, Ore. area and Umatilla Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge. Mr. & Mrs., Maurice Vial, Harold Vredenburgh, **Ann Ward** for the Baker, Ore. area. John W. Weber, Winton Weydemeyer, Robert M. Wilson, Mr. & Mrs. John Winchell, Charles Woodley, **Robert E.**

786 *American Birds*, September 1972

Woodley for the Tri-cities area, **Maurice B. Wright** for Turnbull Nat'l, Wildlife Refuge, Philip Wright, and Vince Yanonne.

Spring Migration, 1972

**GREAT BASIN-CENTRAL ROCKY
MOUNTAIN REGION
/ Hugh E. Kingery**

Warm, dry weather, or drought, heated the Great Basin and Central Rockies this spring. It accelerated the migration and the nesting of many species. We report 4 new state birds-Com. Teal in Nevada, Com. Gallinule in Oregon, Black Phoebe and White-eyed Vireo in Colorado. We also report on spreading species: welcome visitors like Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and not-so-welcome invaders like Com. Grackles. With the summer-like spring, the area saw no precipitation except for brief sieges of light snows or thunderstorms. Snowpack measured low in the Sierras and the Rockies, although at Crater L. Nat'l Park, Ore., 7 feet of snow massed at park headquarters May 31, 2 feet more than usual. Those few storms did affect migrating birds, pushed ahead of schedule by the dry, warm weather. At Zion Nat'l Park 105 days without rain ended with rain on Apr. 11 and snow on Apr. 13, the latter storm driving birds down to the valleys from the high

country. The same storm became severe at Alturas, Calif., with the 10 in. of snow catching many migrants there and at Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge 3 days later. Swallows suffered the most; Apr. 12 at Alturas many Tree Swallows flew weakly in the blizzard looking for insects; they appeared to be on the verge of collapse, and dead ones were picked up there (and at Malheur) the next few days. At Alturas, 300 Horned Larks, 200 House Finches, and 10 Mountain Bluebirds congregated at the airport to feed on the cleared runway areas. Although April in n. Utah and s.w. Wyoming was cold and stormy, the dryness reached these areas in May; even Dubois, Wyo., did not enjoy its usual May snowstorm. Spurred by the warmth, birds migrated and began nesting early. Sean Furniss at Malheur studied the arrivals and found that of 103 species, 58 arrived early (6 over a month early, 23 11-30 days early), and only 15 came in later than the average arrival date. The pattern typifies the entire Region.

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

CORMORANTS, HERONS, IBIS -- Populations of Double-crested Cormorants resembled previous years. A colony at Provo comprised 100 birds on May 27 (MW). Heronries at Malheur are booming this year, with all species increasing; nest counts climbed to 71 Double-crested Cormorants (45 in 1971); 133 Great Blue Herons (95 in 1971); 207 Com. Egret (150 in 1971) and more being built; 52 Snowy Egrets (35 in

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

Volume 26, Number 4 787

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

GEESE, DUCKS -- Blue Geese appeared at Klamath Basin Apr. 2 and Jefferson Co., Ida., at Mud L. (KAM). Other geese peaked at Klamath Apr. 2, with 25, 100 White-fronted and 4500 Ross'; the 100 Ross' Geese at Malheur stayed through the first 2 weeks in April. Despite the dry spring all refuges (except Alamosa and Monte Vista) reported excellent water conditions. Klamath had ordinary numbers of migrants, with these totals for index species: 76,400 Pintails, 17,550 Am. Widgeon, 4810 Canvasback, and 2670 Bufflehead on Apr. 2; 124,100 Shovellers Apr. 10; 21,610 Mallards Apr. 15; and 42,980 Am. Coots Apr. 16. At Malheur personnel fear that the high water levels will diminish in future years as more and more consumptive demands are placed on available waters in the supplying watersheds. Malheur's May 31 nesting population of 37,000 compared with 45,000 in 1971. Camas reported its peak of migration on Apr. 1, with 20,000 Mallards,

2000 other ducks, and 1550 coots. At Gray's Lake and Bear Lake N.W.R.'s, Ida., and Ruby Lake N.W.R., Nev., nesting began 1-2 weeks early. Bear River N.W.R., Utah, reported a significant increase of breeding Cinnamon Teal and Redheads. Farmington Bay W.M.A. had its peak migration Apr. 1-15, with 5500 ducks, including 3000 Ruddy Ducks. Monte Vista peaked during the same time, with 17,000 ducks and geese, only 40 per cent of last year. At nearby Alamosa N.W.R., there were similar reduced numbers. At Hutton Lake N.W.R., Wyo., ducks peaked Apr. 2 at over 4200, of 9 species and 3900 Lesser Scaup used the refuge Apr. 19; Pathfinder N.W.R., Wyo. had its peak of 4100 Apr. 26, including 220 Pintail and 1200 Redhead; Arapaho N.W.R., Colo. achieved its peak use at May's end, with 4 nesting species having a collective total of 1600 (RFK). Outstanding single duck record was the **Com. Teal** found Apr. 4 loafing on Mahala Slough near Fallon, Nev. The bird accompanied a spring of 25 Green-winged Teal. First record for Nevada and for the Region, this species could occur among migrating flocks of teal in other places as well (CTO, LDN). At a pond west of Salt Lake City 12-15 Ring-necked Ducks stopped matching last year's desert stopovers in e. Oregon. A male Barrow's Goldeneye called at Farmington Bay Apr. 9 (WS, EG), and the species reappeared at Malheur for the second spring in a row. Hooded Mergansers were scarce, with the only report one at Blackfoot Res. in e. Idaho (RRH). In Mono Co., 30 Red-breasted Mergansers stopped briefly, an unusual number of an uncommon bird.

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

Seedskaadee N.W.R., Wyo., and Malheur. Unusual Ospreys on Apr. 18 visited Evergreen, Colo. (SB) and Salmon, Ida. and on May 11 Grand Junction. Of several Prairie Falcon reports, most disquieting are Malheur's lack of observations at one of 1971's successful eyries. We received only 3 Peregrine Falcon reports.

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

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

788 *American Birds*, September 1972

DeSmet, with Black-bellied Plovers, on May 10. A super flock of Dunlin-800 strong-stayed Apr. 16-22 at Stillwater, largest flock ever seen there and perhaps in

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

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

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

GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS -- Poor-wills came early to the Region, with first ones reported Apr. 23 near Pueblo (DSi) and at Zion; the first ones reached Eureka May 17. Com. Nighthawks came in a bit early too, the first May 18 at Zion, and, during the last week of May, first reports at McCoy, Alturas, Grand Junction, Eureka, and Malheur. Chimney Swifts have expanded west across the Great Plains to Colorado's Piedmont cities; they have now moved up the Arkansas R. valley as far as Florence

(DSi). White-throated Swifts must stage spectacular migrations across unpopulated desert regions; a large flight was flying low like swallows over the sagebrush Apr. 27 between Moab and Monticello, Utah (W & SS). Increased numbers of hummingbirds are attending Springdale feeders; partly from the drought, partly because feeders increase in popularity among the townsfolk. By May 1, Black-chinned were enjoying their offerings. Two Black-chinned arrived Apr. 14 at Grand Junction, unusually early for there. The first Broad-tailed came into Beulah, Colo., Apr. 16 (DSi); into R.M.N.P., Apr. 22, 2 weeks early and to Oak Creek, Colo. (HTh), and Salt Lake City during the first week in May. Around Colorado Springs observers counted 123 on May 13. A large female hummingbird, probably a Rivoli's, has begun frequenting feeders in Springdale. Although seen 25 times by 3 observers, it has not yet been identified positively because of its extreme timidity.

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

SWALLOWS, JAYS, CHICKADEES, WRENS -- Swallows constitute the most numerous migrant family of perching birds in this Region. Very likely outnumbering ducks, they spread out so that counts do

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

Volume 26, Number 4 789

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

THRASHERS, THRUSHES -- A Mockingbird wandered up to R.M.N.P., seen Apr. 18 & 25. The 2 found at widely-separated spots in the Pocatello region May 18 & 28 may presage a spread into s. Idaho. Bendire's Thrashers persist in places north of their known range, with 2-3 May 2 and 9 in the semi-desert west of Salt Lake City, and one in Mono Co., Calif. Apr. 15 (DR); in both places Sage Thrashers populated the sagebrush for contrast in identification. The April storm drove hundreds of Robins down to Zion Can., to join an already abundant population: at McCoy 300 thronged on Apr. 26. Breeding Robins arrived in the Crater L. Nat'l Park high country in mid-April. The first Hermit Thrush reached R.M.N.P. Apr. 25, 16 days early (WR), while first Swainson's Thrushes came in Apr. 18, only 4 days early (WR). Two E. Bluebirds strayed up to R.M.N.P. Apr. 10 (WR) and 1 stopped at Sheridan Apr. 19 (PIH). Small numbers of W. Bluebirds dotted the Region with the most reported the 36 which dropped into Zion Canyon with the April snows. Pueblo's spring count produced 72 Mountain

Bluebirds May 13; Durango's tallied 47 the same day. At Eldora the nesting Mountain Bluebirds have not returned to their usual location. At Jefferson, Colo., bluebirds lost the competition for a nest site to Tree Swallows May 30.

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

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

Ovenbirds near Rye, Colo., with at least 5 singing male. Two Yellowthroats strayed to R.M.N.P. Apr. 18, and 2 others to Mammoth L., Mono Co., Apr. 23-24.

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

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

790 *American Birds*, September 1972

they arrived at their now-regular nesting haunts on the Jordan Narrows near Salt Lake City May 7 (EG, GLK), and Ruby L. had a new refuge record with a pair May 8-9, the J staying on for 2 weeks; one came to Dubois May 21, the first in 6 years. Indigo Buntings occurred along the Colorado and Wyoming foothills and west to Grand Junction May 26 (HTr). Evening Grosbeaks reappeared commonly throughout the Colorado mountains and at Crater L. Malheur's first observation in a year came with a single bird May 13. A Purple Finch patronized an Evergreen feeder Mar. 29-Apr. 8 (SB). An enormous flock of 2-3000 Cassin's Finches flew over Estes Park May 14, "strung out in a loosely organized flock" (WR). Perhaps inclement weather had grounded them, and when released they made this dramatic northward movement. Rosy finches lingered in n. Colorado and Wyoming. April storms brought

large numbers of Gray-crowned to Dubois and Jackson feeders, but most left by May 1. The Apr. 11 storm brought in 500 Black Rosy Finches, the n.w. Wyoming nesting form, to Jackson, reduced to 75 Apr. 30; all finally quit the feeder largesse by May 10. The flock of 16 Gray-crowned, 2 Black, and 225 Brown-capped was very late on May 13 at Estes Park (MP), and I Brown-capped returned to an Eldora feeder May 31. The last Com. Redpoll at Estes Park was seen Apr. 6. Pine Siskins invaded the Colorado mountains, with abundance at many locations, including 499 on the Durango spring count May 13, plus many at Dubois and Salmon in late May. Red Crossbills continued common in their selected locales-Westcliffe Evergreen, and a single flock at R.M.N.P. May 23 (KD): and 60 at Nampa Apr. 16.

SPARROWS -- Lark Buntings migrate vertically from the plains in the fall, but May 28-29 found 3 female in R.M.N.P. at 8000 feet (KD) and one at Bailey, Colo. (NH). A breeding colony was located near SI. Anthony, Ida. (CHT). Oregon Juncos left Nampa early, the last date being Apr. 7; other last dates were Salt Lake City Apr. 15, Springdale Apr. 17, McCoy Apr. 20, Summit Co. Apr. 23, Evergreen Apr. 24, Dubois May 8, R.M.N.P. May 13 (2 weeks late). At Zion Apr. 14 found 21 juncos-16 Slate-colored and 5 Gray-headed-storm driven down to the canyon: more of each species than were seen all winter. Large numbers of Chipping Sparrows reached the Region the first week of May; Malheur's first ones on May 2 were 18 days later than in 1971. A Clay-colored Sparrow Apr. 18 was R.M.N.P.'s first spring record (WR), and Brewer's Sparrows Apr. 18-19 and May 13 also gave R.M.N.P. its first spring records (WR, RD). Harris' Sparrows scatter widely but sparsely throughout the Region; included in the spring's 6 reports are an ad. male Apr. 29-May 1, Malheur's only spring record, and an ad. at Honey L. W.M.A., a very late date anywhere in the Region (TM, RS). White-crowned Sparrows left Nampa early, the last ones 2 on May 10. Alturas had 200 Apr. 16, and Malheur's peak came Apr. 22. R.M.N.P. hosted the first White-throated Sparrows there, one Apr. 26 (MP) and 2 May 18 (WR). Malheur banded one Apr. 30, which stayed until May 10, and found another May 9-the first spring observations in 6 years. Fox Sparrows came into Summit Co. by Apr. 23 and Durango counted 3 May 13; single birds appeared in Salt Lake Apr. 19 and May 2, and Malheur counted 6 in 1972, after none last year. Lincoln's Sparrows staged a heavy migration at Sheridan in May; came into R.M.N.P. 19 days early, on Apr. 26 (WR); and to Dubois Apr. 23, the earliest ever.

CONTRIBUTORS -- (alphabetically by area) -Alamosa N.W.R.: **Robert L. Darnell**; Alturas, Calif. **R. E. Moore**; Bear L. and Grays L. N.W.R., Ida.: **Russell R. Hoffman**; Bear R. N.W.R., Utah: **William B.**

Zimmerman: Camas N.W.R., Ida.: **Clifford L. Himmel;** Colorado Springs, Colo.: **Mahlon Speers;** Crater L. Nat'l Park, Ore.: **James Holcomb;** Dubois, Wyo.: **Mary Back;** Durango, Colo.: **Richard Stransky;** Eldora, Colo.: **Gail Shickley;** Eureka, Nev.: **Arthur Biale;** Evergreen, Colo.: **W. W. Brockner;** Farmington Bay W.M.A.: **Reuben H. Dietz;** Grand Junction, Colo.: **Lorna Gustafson;** Jackson, Wyo.: **Elizabeth Walker;** Jefferson, Colo.: **Carol Hack & Kathy Hawkins;** Klamath Basin N.W.R.'s, Ore. & Calif.: **Edward J. O'Neill;** Malheur N.W.R.: **Eldon McLaury & Sean Furniss;** McCoy, Colo.: **Margaret Ewing;** Mono Co., Calif.: **John M. Finkbeiner;** Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo.: **C. R. Bryant;** Nampa, Ida.: Idaho State Fed. of Garden Clubs, **Belle Shaw;** Pocatello, Ida.: **Charles H. Trost;** Pueblo & Westcliffe, Colo.: **David A. Griffiths;** Ruby L. N.W.R., Nev.: **Lowell L. Napier;** Rupert, Ida.: **W. H. Shillington;** Salmon (Custer & Lemhi Cos.), Ida.: **Hadley B. Roberts;** Seedskaadee N.W.R., Wyo.: **Merle O. Bennett;** Sheridan, Wyo.: **Tom Kessinger;** Stillwater W.M.A., Nev.: **Larry D. Napier;** Summit Co., Colo.: **Hugh E. Kingery;** Zion Nat'l Park & Springdale, Utah: **Glen & Louise Arnold & Jerome Gifford.**

OBSERVERS: Aiken Audubon Society; Colorado Field Ornithologists, Pueblo Audubon Club; Richard L. Bottorff, Natasha Boyd, Sylvia Brockner, Alene Catlett (ACa), Allegra Collister, Kent Dannen, Ruth Deffenbaugh, John Douglass, Elsie Eltzroth, Elsie Geoghagen, Dan Heyerly, Carol Ann Jacobson, Lesley Julian, Paul Julian, Gleb L. Kashin, Rodney R. Krey, C. S. Lawson, Kenneth A. Mackenzie, Tim Manolis, Thompson Marsh, Blain M. Marshman, Cathy T. Osugi, Marian Patterson, Oppie Reames, Warner Reeser, Don Roberson, Brad Schram, Oliver K. Scott, Dave Silverman, Walter & Sally Spofford, Rich Stallcup, William Stone, Merle Thielen, Helen Thomas (HTh), Helen Traylor (HTr), Merrill Webb, C. Fred Zeilemaker.

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

Spring Migration, 1972

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

The spring of 1972, like that of 1971, was both colder and wetter than normal. April rainfall either set new records or approached old ones throughout the Region. A cool, wet spell in mid-May brought some normally pelagic species into Oregon's Willamette Valley. A heavy snow pack accumulated in the mountains of the

West for the second consecutive year. As usual, however, the season had its share of ornithological excitement and cause for wonder, as perusal of the following report will demonstrate.

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

Volume 26, Number 4 797

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

WATERFOWL -- An imm. Whistling Swan still at Finley N.W.R. May 12 (FZ) was late. Canada Geese left their Willamette Valley wintering grounds April 14-19, while a noticeable movement from further south passed through the last three days of April (FZ). An unusually heavy migration of White-fronted Geese was

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

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

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

798 *American Birds*, September 1972

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

Phalarope were recorded on the latter date; Northern were, in fact, plentiful along the Washington coast and even at Finley N.W.R. and at Eugene in Oregon's Willamette Valley in mid-May, after passage of a storm front. Wilson's Phalaropes were at Finley N.W.R. May 4-25 (FZ) in number up to seven, and were recorded during May also at Eugene, Victoria, and at Iona I.

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

offshore were fairly successful in finding Rhinoceros Auklets in maximum number to 30 in a day.

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

Volume 26, Number 4 799

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

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, LARKS, SWALLOWS, WRENS -- Lewis' Woodpecker, which had been common at Finley N.W.R. through the winter, continued so until early May; the last bird was recorded there May 23 (FZ). An E. Kingbird was seen at Finley Refuge May 26 (FZ). Western Kingbirds were found there Apr. 25, May 1 and 5 (FZ), at Corvallis May 12 (JB, *fide* FZ), at Eugene Apr. 29 (LM), at Leadbetter Pt. May 13 (AB, DH & TW), and at Lulu I. near Vancouver May 7 (CW, *fide* WW). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was seen at Eugene May 12 (LM); six were at Medford May 6(OS). Black Phoebe had already nested successfully near Medford by the end of the report period (OS); a bird of this species is said to

have been observed at Cottage Grove May 13 (LM). A noticeable migratory movement of W. Flycatchers occurred at Victoria (ARD) and at Bellingham (TW) Apr. 29. A similar movement of W. Wood Pewees took place at Leadbetter Pt. May 20 (MP). Up to 20 Skylarks were on the s. end of San Juan I., Wash. May 21 (TW). An estimated 9000 Violet-green Swallows were seen at Elk L., near Victoria, Apr. 29 (MiS & MaS, *fide* WW); approximately 500 Barn Swallows were there at the same time. Single Barn Swallows had appeared at Otis, Oreg. by Apr. 1 (GK & HN) and at Eugene Apr. 4 (LM); one was at Finley Refuge Apr. 8, where they were common a week later (FZ). Purple Martins were first observed at Cottage Grove Apr. 18 (AC, *fide* LM) and at Victoria Apr. 22 (SJ, JTa *et al.*); they later showed up in May at Corvallis, at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. and at Port Moody, B.C. A pair of Wrentits was seen near Medford May 24 (OS). House Wrens were reported to be plentiful at Duncan, B.C., this spring (JCo); at least one bird was repeatedly found at Victoria May 9-20. An estimated dozen pairs of House Wrens were nesting at Finley Refuge by the end of the period (FZ). A pair of Rock Wrens nested near Medford (OS).

MIMIDS, THRUSHES, PIPITS, WAXWINGS, SHRIKES -- The Brown Thrasher which had been at W. Vancouver since the end of February was last seen Apr. 16 (GAP, *fide* WW). A Mockingbird at Springfield all spring may well have been the bird which wintered at Eugene. A Mockingbird was discovered at Vancouver Apr. 25 (BM) where it remained until at least May 3 to be seen by several observers; the attendant publicity elicited the fact that this bird, too, had been frequenting a nearby feeder since December (*fide* WW). A small migratory movement of Varied and Hermit Thrushes was remarked at Victoria Apr. 26-May 13 (ARD). An early Swainson's Thrush was found at Eugene Apr. 2 (LM). On June 1, a Veery was discovered at Medford (JH). Western Bluebirds were reported only from Medford, Duncan and Victoria. Mountain Bluebirds were seen repeatedly e. of Vancouver in April (*fide* WW). There was an unprecedented influx of Townsend's Solitaires to Vancouver in April with up to a score of birds accounted for in the city and environs; nine were still present May 2 (WW *et al.*). A few Townsend's Solitaires were at Victoria Apr. 14 (ARD); two were at Baskett Slough Refuge Apr. 18 (JM, *fide* FZ), and one was seen on the S. Fork of the Alsea R. in the Coast Range, Lincoln Co., Oreg. Apr. 28 (GK). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were again found nest-building at Medford May 29 (OS). Ruby-crowned Kinglets evidently migrate through the Region in the last two weeks of April with stragglers present until mid-May; this year was no exception. A hundred Water Pipits were at Blaine, Wash., Apr. 23 (TW), 30 were at Vancouver May 2 (WW), and 27 were counted at Iona

I. May 13 (*fide* WW). A Bohemian Waxwing was seen at Vancouver on the late date of Apr. 14 (WW). Cedar Waxwings returned to normal numbers in May after being absent in large portions of the Region during the late winter and early spring. There were seven records of N. Shrikes in the first half of April, six of them from the Vancouver and Bellingham areas, the other from Finley Refuge Apr. 7. A Loggerhead Shrike appeared at the latter place Apr. 14 (FZ).

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

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

800 *American Birds*, September 1972

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

crowned Sparrows put on a much-noted and frequently mentioned migration the last week of April and the first week of May. White-throated Sparrows were seen at Corvallis Apr. 25 (JP, *fide* FZ) and at Vancouver May 12 when four were seen (*fide* WW). A male Lapland Longspur turned up at Ocean Shores May 2 (JMo).

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

Volume 26, Number 4 801

The Nesting Season, 1972

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION / Thomas H. Rogers

Weather during the summer in the Region fluctuated rather drastically from area to area and as the season progressed, making any generalizations difficult. June might be characterized as cooler than normal and mostly abnormally wet, with the exception of a stretch from Missoula east through Helena to Bozeman, which tended to be warm and dry. Spokane and Walla Walla had about normal precipitation. July was dry in most localities but rainfall was fairly well distributed through the month and temperatures were quite moderate. A

878 *American Birds*, October 1972

rainy spell just after mid-month brought a temperature dip that tied the all-time record for the lowest July *maximum* at Missoula, 48°. Southern interior British Columbia continued cold and wet until July 20. The first half of August was generally hot over the Region, with temperatures common in the 90s and 100s-Walla Walla had 108° on the 7th and 8th. Heavy, unseasonal rains around mid-month brought relief from the heat and put many localities above normal precipitation for

the entire month. The extreme weather fluctuations were of short duration, however, and appeared to have little effect upon bird life. The most likely effect was the cool spring and early summer weather. The persistent snow pack in the mountains probably gave serious problems to some species nesting at higher elevations. The cool June was noted as slowing the nesting of Tree Swallows at Fortine, Mont. Rain and low temperatures were considered as interfering with waterfowl hatching at Turnbull Refuge and may have hampered nesting success of some ground nesters such as pheasants and grouse. All in all, however, the summer appeared to have been very favorable for bird life. Most species appeared in normal or better numbers, with many young noted. An exception to this seemed to be the Fortine area, where a number of species were noted in decreased numbers or not at all. A few displacements were noted, mostly of southern species pushing north or of easterly ones farther west than normal.

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

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

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

before at Kootenai Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, where about 20 were estimated to be present.

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

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

Volume 26, Number 5 879

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

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

CRANES AND RAILS -- Young of the year of the Sandhill Crane were estimated at 15, about normal, at Red Rock Lakes Refuge. A pair with 2 well-grown young was seen at Harrison L. near Harrison, Mont. July 30 (RAH & PDS), but a pair with 2 young June 8 near LaGrande, Ore. later lost their brood (DH). The Virginia Rail was reported only for near Sprague,

Wash., one on July 14. A family of **Yellow Rails** was reported seen regularly near Peshastin, Wash. (RO). Forty or 50 breeding pairs of Sora were believed to be on Kootenai Refuge and numerous marshes in c. Oregon seemed to have at least one pair each (HN). Am. Coot were abundant nesters as usual, with Red Rock Lakes reporting the highest reproduction, 1116.

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

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

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

Kootenai Refuge and Umatilla Refuge had two young reared and a peak population of 12. From 1 to 3 birds were seen in the Baker, Ore. area during June.

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

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

880 *American Birds*, October 1972

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

WOODPECKERS -- A few Pileated Woodpeckers were reported in mountain areas, with nesting noted in the Tower Mt. area near Spokane and in the Yakima area. Lewis' Woodpeckers, also rather widely reported, were seen in the largest number among the oaks at Ft. Simcoe, Yakima area, 30 birds Aug. 17. At Fortine the birds have not been seen for two years. The uncommon Williamson's Sapsucker was described as abundant about the high meadows above 5000 ft. in the Ochoco Mts. of Oregon, with many young noted July 1 (HN). Two nests were found in s. Morrow Co, Ore. (BT) and 2 birds were feeding young on Huckleberry Mt. w. of Springdale, Wash. June 17. A White-headed Woodpecker was seen there on the same day. Single birds were seen in the Yakima area and they

were considered common at Wheeler Point n. of Winlock, Ore. (RF). The scarce Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was found nesting in the Bridger Mts. east of Bozeman (Mr. & Mrs. EH) and in two places in Umatilla Nat'l Forest, s.e. Morrow Co., Ore. (BT). The N. Three-toed Woodpecker was reported only at Banff Township, B.C. where a nest with young was found July 8 (JGP & RSP), and in the Bridger and Gallatin Mts. of Montana.

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

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

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

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

MIMIC THRUSHES AND THRUSHES -- The **Mockingbird** keeps pushing into the Region. One was seen on May 25 on Hanford Atomic Energy Reservation about 35 mi. e. of Moxee City, and perhaps the same bird was seen in the same area June 16 (AN). Another sighting was of one at Vernon, B.C. July 8-9 (BAS). Over 250 singing Sage Thrashers were counted in four stops on a breeding bird survey through a sage brush flat near Brothers, Ore. June 15 (HN). Two-3 of the birds were seen on June 27 & 29 in a canyon near Asotin, Wash. The species apparently has not been

previously reported from the eastern tier of counties of the state (JWW). A Hermit Thrush nest with 3 eggs was found along Sullivan Creek, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. July 1 (REW & CEW). The W. Bluebird fledged 18 young in 5 nestings near the Boise-Cascade campground on Wenas Creek n.w. of Yakima. On a farm near Spokane the birds occupied 6 nest boxes, bringing off 2 broods in each of 5 of them (EM). The species was reported as nesting at Missoula (PL W) and 2 ads. and 2 imms. were seen near Viola, Ida. where nesting was reported (JWW). Mountain Bluebirds appeared to be doing well in many rural areas.

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

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

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

Volume 26, Number 5 881

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

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

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

CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS -- (area editors in boldface) -James Acton, Ralph Anglen, G.

Ansell, Donald Appleford, Kay Bartholomew, Wendy Beirnes, Earl Bowen, Ted Boydston, Jean Brignall, Joanne Brown, Helen Carlson, Phil Cheney, Sharon Cotterell, **Emily R. Cragg** for Yakima Audubon Society; C. V. Davis, **Wayne E. Doane** for north-central Washington; Sid Draper, R. L. Eng, Arthur Enkensburger, Randy Ferrin, B. Gordon, **James Grant**, southern interior British Columbia; Russ Greenberg, Warren Hall, **Ralph L. Hand**, Missoula, Mont. area; M. r. & Mrs. Ed Harper, Eve T. & R. A. Hays, C. J. Henry, J. Holroyd, George D. Holton, Connie Hughes, **Stanley Hughes**, St. John, Wash. area; Dick Humphreys, Frances B. Huston, Calvin Kaya, Jane King, Carolyn Lagergren, Virginia Lang, Sidney McClintock, Bill Maas, **Niel F. Meadowcroft**, Walla Walla, Wash. area; **Jon M. Malcolm**, Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash.; **Sid Martin**, Helena, Mont. area; John Mon · taigne, Eric Moore, Louis Moos, Harry Nehls, Art Newman, Sam Newville, Martha Oliver, Keith O'Neil, Ruth Ortiz-Torres, Lois Parker, **Delano A. Pierce**, Kootenai Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Bonners Ferry, Ida.; Andy Philips, Jeffrey G. Pittell, Robert S. Pittell, **Tyson W. Planz**, Red Rock Lakes Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Lima, Mont.; **Margaret J. Polumsky**, Clarkston, Wash. area; Robert Polumsky, Carrie Reynolds, Thomas H. Rogers, J. Rumely, Jeff Safford, Donald R. Skaar, **P. D. Skaar**, Bozeman-Ennis-Three Forks, Mont. area; S. M. Skaar, **Mrs. S. O. Stanley**, Spokane Audubon Society and northeastern Washington; Ben A. Sugden, Otis Swisher, **Butch Taylor** for north-central Oregon; Mr. & Mrs. William Thoren, Maurice Vial, Terry Wahl, **Ann Ward**, Baker, Ore. area; **John W. Weber**, Pullman, Wash. area; **Winton Weydemeyer**, Fortine, Mont. area; John Winchell, Charles E. & Norman E. Woodley, **Robert E. Woodley**, "Tri-cities", Wash. area; Philip L. Wright.

The Nesting Season, 1972

GREAT BASIN - CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION
/ **Hugh E. Kingery**

The spring's hot dry weather continued during the summer, bringing excellent nesting conditions to the wildlife refuges and promoting second broods of songbirds in many locales. In some desert areas, however, the conditions were too dry; at Vernon, Utah, Brewer's and Vesper Sparrows and robins nested 2-3 weeks early and had only 3 eggs instead of the usual 4. Highlights of the season were the first confirmed nestings of the Scott's Oriole in Idaho and the Black-throated Sparrow in Oregon (and suspected Orange-crowned Warblers in Colorado and Mockingbird in Idaho); returning rarities like Utah's Rivoli's Hummingbird and Colorado's Boat-tailed Grackles; 2

Parasitic Jaegers in Utah; and huge populations of Red Cross · bills and Pine Siskins, along with lesser numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Evening Grosbeaks. Last year we reported on the calamitous decline of many nesting

862 *American Birds*, October 1972

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

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

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

walking through can cause substantial losses of pelicans and cormorants from gull depredation.

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

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS -- Trumpeter Swans had an off-year at Yellowstone this year-only one cygnet seen compared with 6 last year. Malheur's 7 nests produced 17 cygnets. Malheur did not match last year's record goose production: only 1630 this year compared with 2400 last year. At Deer Flat N.W.R., Idaho, the goose population reached 700 on July 31 (HES); Klamath had 3000 and Bear R. 1500 young, with Farmington Bay showing 120 breeding pairs. Among the wildlife refuges, Malheur reported decreased production, owing in part to extra habitat available off-refuge. The duck production of 30,800 dropped 25 per cent from last year. Klamath produced 38,000 ducks, an improvement over the past 2 years; notably improved were Redhead on Tule L. Stillwater had the same number of breeding ducks as last year, but dabblers (Mallards, Shovelers, Cinnamon Teal) increased 17 per cent and divers dropped 23 per cent (mostly Ruddies). Bear R. had 11,160 young, including 7000 Gadwalls and 2500 Redheads; neighboring Farmington Bay had 4070 breeding pairs including 1000 Ruddies and 1000 Cinnamon Teal-the total up from 2700 pairs last year. Monte Vista N.W.R. showed improved per-nest

success but with only two-thirds as many nests; total duck production was 10,000, the lowest in 10 years. Duck production in Jackson Co., Colo., dropped, but while Arapaho N.W.R. produced 1530 young, a slight increase, its sister refuges, Hutton L. and Pathfinder N.W.R.s, Wyo., showed slight decreases, with 659 young between them (RFK). A Green-winged Teal nest was found in Summit Co. (HEK), and a brood in Gunnison Co., Colo., both possibly first nesting records for their respective counties. Ring-necked Ducks may be spreading their recorded Colorado nesting locations: up to 14 of them inhabited ponds around Hahns Peak during May and June, and they were observed all summer near Durango. Barrow's Goldeneye did well in Yellowstone, with 3 broods observed. A female Harlequin Duck escorted 4 young around Hellroaring R. in Yellowstone on July 24. Surprising was a male Hooded Merganser on Yellowstone R. in the Park on June 25. Also of interest were the several pairs of Com. Mergansers on the Dolores R. near Durango all summer and Red-breasted Mergansers at Bear R. in June and August (WS, MRC).

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

Volume 26, Number 5 883

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

(several, CHT); and Yellowstone (3). We received no report from Eagle L., Calif., a concentration area for Osprey nesting.

GROUSE, CRANE, COOT -- Many Blue Grouse bred around the Mammoth Lakes, Mono Co., Calif., and around Hahns Peak, Colo., and both Blue and Ruffed Grouse produced young at Crater L. Nat'l Park, Ore. White-tailed Ptarmigan had successful broods on Mt. Audubon and Longs Peak in Colorado's Front Range (HEK). At Clear L., Calif., Sage Grouse had fair production, with an average of 6 chicks. Sandhill Cranes had low nesting success at Malheur; on Aug. 1 only 1550 birds were present (last year, 458 breeding birds): we have no report from Grays L. N. W.R., Idaho, one of the principal crane nesting locations. At Farmington Bay, 3000 pairs of Am. Coots bred: at Stillwater, 760 pairs; a 67 per cent decline for unknown reasons.

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

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

Caspian Terns increased to 20 pairs, from 4 last year. At Bear R. Black Terns produced 400 young.

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

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

884 *American Birds*, October 1972

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



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

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

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS -- The E. Kingbirds failed to nest this year at Honey L. Calif., although in May they had returned to last year's nest site. Several were seen at Nampa and McCoy in June and July and one at Dubois June 23. W. Kingbirds had an unusually successful breeding season at Springdale (C & LH). Pueblo's **Black Phoebes**, Colorado's first (*Am. Birds* 26:789), struggled through 3 unsuccessful nesting attempts, the third wiped out by a flash flood; the last observation occurred Aug. 5. Say's Phoebes had successful nesting, with second broods noted at Durango, Springdale. and Malheur. The Least Flycatcher seen several times at Beulah, Colo., was west and south of its normal summer range (VT). Despite the success of other flycatchers, two observers, at Salt Lake City (GLK) and Evergreen (DSt), reported fewer W. Wood Pewees this summer. Cliff Swallows continue to take advantage of man's structures for nest sites-and sometimes to suffer for their choices. In Colorado they nest on dams under bridges and on mountain condominiums (where they are not always welcome). Some condominium managers attempt to dislodge the

pesky birds from their modern-day cliffs with brooms and garden hoses, at Eleven-Mile Res., in Colo., where they tried to nest on 'old fashioned' cliffs. Vandals destroyed 300 nests between July, 15-29 (BMM). At Durango use of an historical nesting cliff has decreased over the past few years until this year it was abandoned altogether; hopefully this reflects movement to another nest site rather than the result of spraying in the valley. Near Durango the swallows still occupied other nest sites at Dolores and Falfa. At Bear R. they produced 450 young, and 200 were counted at Nampa June 11.



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



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

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

Nuthatches have appeared throughout the area, but in small numbers and

Volume 26, Number 5 885

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FRINGILLIDS -- Rose-breasted Grosbeaks become more frequent in the West: male were noted singing and territorial both at Gunnison and McCoy this

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

886 *American Birds*, October 1972

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

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

AREA CONTRIBUTORS - Alvord Basin, Ore.: **Harry Nehls** and **Mark Koninendyke**; Bear River N.W.R., Utah: **William B. Zimmerman**; Camas N.W.R., Idaho: **Clifford L. Himmel**; Colorado Springs, Colo.: **Mahlon Speers**; Crater L. Nat'l Park, Ore.: **Jim Holcomb**; Dubois, Wyo.: **Mary Back**; Durango, Colo.: **Richard Stransky**; Eldora, Colo.: **Gail M. Shickley**; Evergreen, Colo.: **W. W. Brockner**; Farmington Bay W.M.A.: **Reuben Dietz**; Gunnison, Colo.: **A. Sidney Hyde**; Hahns Peak, Colo.: **Thelma Stevenson**; Honey L., Calif.: **Tim Manolis**; Klamath Basin N.W.R.: **Edward J. O'Neill**; Malheur N.W.R.: **Joseph P. Mazzoni**; McCoy, Colo.: **Margaret Ewing**; Mono Co., Calif.: **John M. Finkbeiner**; Monte Vista N.W.R. Colo.: **Charles R. Bryant**; Nampa, Idaho: **Mrs. H. E. Shaw**; Pocatello, Idaho: **Charles H. Trost**; Pueblo, Colo.: **David A. Griffiths**; R.M.N.P.: **Allegra Collister**; Sheridan, Wyo.: **Tom Kessinger**; Springdale and Zion Nat'l Park, Utah: **Jerome L. Gifford**; Stillwater W.M.A. .. Nev.: **Larry D. Napier**; Yellowstone Nat'l Park, Wyo.: **Richard Follett**.

OBSERVERS - Louise Arnold, Richard L. Bottorff, Sylvia Brockner, P. A. Buckley, Graham Chisholm, Mark R. Collie, Allen Crockett, Mrs. L. A. Cummings, Camille Cummins, John Derby, John C. Dolson, Gerald Fultz, Sean Furniss, Anne K. Grier, Tom Haislip, Platt Hall, May Hanesworth, Clyde & Lois Harden, Nancy Hurley, J. W. Janssen, Gleb L. Kashin, Merlin L. Killpack, Rodney F. Krey, David Laliberte, Floyd R. Lawson, Carrol D. Littlefield, Kenneth A. Mackenzie, Blaine M. Marshman, Carl Marti, Marian Patterson, Leon Powers, Steven W. Rissing, Ronald A. Ryder, Sam W. Sinderson, Jr., Mildred O. Snyder, William Stone, John Sullivan, Otis D. Swisher, Doug Stotz, Van Truan, Robert E. Wallace, Lois Webster, Echoe Wildfong.

CLIPPED WING AIDS -- Lori Chappell, Patty Echelmeyer, Sue Merrick.

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

The Nesting Season, 1972

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

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

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



Yellow-billed Loon, Coos Bay. Ore., July 15, 1972,
Photo / P.A. Buckley.

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

Volume 26, Number 5 893

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

WATERFOWL -- An ad. Whistling Swan was found at Bonneville Dam on the Columbia R. July 16 (HN). Canada Geese were present in numbers June 10 at Saanich, B.C., and again July 24 in s.e. Vancouver I. (RS SJ). Black Brant were present in numbers up to 6 at Ocean Shores, June 25 and July 9 (G & WH). and at Siuslaw Bay and at Yaquina Bay, Ore. July 16 (PAB). One or possibly two Pintail summered at Baskett Slough near Salem. Ore. (FZ). Migrant Pintail and Green-winged Teal began showing up at points from Victoria southward by the end of July. Four Blue-winged Teal spent the summer at Victoria (SJ). Four Am. Widgeon were at Dungeness, Wash. June 26, where 6 Shovelers were also found the same day (TW). Two Am. Widgeon appeared at Finley N.W.R. s. of Corvallis. Ore. July 6 where one was still present by the end of the period; a bird of this species was also found on Davis L. in the Oregon Cascades June 23 (LM). Several flocks of 20-40 Ring-necked Ducks were

found at Davis L. in June and early July (LM); two birds of this species at Baskett Slough N.W.R. July 24 (FZ) were very out of place. A few scaup of both species were seen at favored spots on the Oregon and Washington coasts during the report period. Seven young Com. Goldeneye with their parents were at Manning Provo Park July 26 (RS, *fide* VG); a pair was at Cowichan Bay, Vancouver I. all summer (JCo); single male birds in breeding plumage were at Finley N.W.R. June 1 (FZ) and at Sidney, B.C. June 10 (RS, *fide* VG). Barrow's Goldeneye were seen repeatedly at Manning Provo Park in number up to one in late June and late July (VG; RS, *fide* VG). A few were also seen in Oregon's C. Cascades June 6 (JBC & WT). A male Oldsquaw was at Victoria July 1-30 (VG; SJ). A Harlequin Duck was found on the Hood R. near Dee, Oreg. June 14 (DM); up to 50 of this species were in the vicinity of Victoria during the summer (VG). In addition to the usual coastally summering White-winged and Surf Scoters, four Com. Scoters were at Ocean Shores June 3 where one was seen again July 29 & Aug. 12 (G & WH). There were 44 Com. Mergansers at Cowichan Bay July 3 (VG). A male Red-breasted Merganser evidently spent the summer there (JCo); seven individuals of this species were at Ocean Shores on July 9 (G & WH).

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



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

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

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

894 *American Birds*, October 1972

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

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS -- On the July 23 boat trip from Westport, 6 Pomarine and one Long-tailed Jaeger were found; on the Aug. 13 trip, 13 Pomarine and 2 Parasitic Jaegers were seen (TW). Parasitic Jaegers were elsewhere recorded at Bellingham June 18 & July 19, at the n. jetty of the Columbia R. Aug. 11 (TW) and July 17 (PAB), at Ocean Shores June 3 & 25

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

Beach, Vancouver I. July 9, and another was at Tsawwassen July 30 (RS, *fide* VG). A Black Tern was seen at Baskett Slough N.W.R. June 20Mi, *fide* FZ) and 4 imms. were observed at Ankeny N.W.R. near Dallas, Oreg. June 13 (DL, *fide* FZ).

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

Volume 26, Number 5 895

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

DOVES, OWLS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS -- Mourning Doves were in better numbers in the Willamette Valley than at any year since 1968 (FZ. *et al.*). A Short-eared Owl which spent the summer at Finley N.W.R. (FZ) was quite unusual; the species is rare w. of the Cascades during the breeding season. A Poor-will was calling at the settlement of Mt. Hood on the n.e. side of the mountain of that name June 14 (DM). Black Swifts were very well reported: birds were seen in numbers up to 40 at a time from Ocean Shores, Olympic Nat'l Park. the s. end of Vancouver I. and at Manning Provo Park, in the last week of July and the first two weeks of August; 186 birds seen together in a flock at Duncan, B.C. in the rain July 8 (JCo) was a highly unusual concentration. A male Anna's Hummingbird was seen at Corvallis June 26 (*fide* FZ). A Calliope Hummingbird was observed e. of Sweet Home. Oreg. July 15 (WE, *fide* FZ). Ron Satterfield counted over 40 Rufous Hummingbirds and a few Calliopes on the Skyline Trail in Manning Provo Park July 28 (*fide* VG). A bird identified as a *male* Allen's Hummingbird was observed at feeders at L. Quinalt

July 18 (PAB); it constitutes only the third record known to us for this species from the State of Washington. No reports were received of Lewis' Woodpeckers. Six nests of the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker were found in the vicinity of Davis L. and one nest of the N. Three-toed Woodpecker was discovered at Elk L. in the Cascade Mts. of c. Oregon in June and early July (LM).

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

MIMIDS, THRUSHES, VIREOS, WARBLERS -- The Mockingbird which had been at Springfield, Oreg. during the spring remained through June, was last seen July 11 & 15 (LM); a Mockingbird was found at Victoria July 2 (SJ & JBT). Two Hermit Thrushes at Corvallis June 13 (W E. *fide* FZ) were out-of-place for that date. Swainson's Thrushes were thought to be present at Duncan, B.C. in considerably greater numbers than in recent past years (JCo). A Veery appeared in Medford June 1 (JH). Sightings of W. Bluebirds were reported only from Victoria where two pairs were located during the season (ARD), from Canyonville, Oreg., June 3, from e. of Ashland. Oreg. June 15, and from Medford where a pair raised two families (OS). Two Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Corvallis June 13 (FZ. *et al.*) were stragglers. On July 29 a dozen Water Pipits were seen at Manning Provo Park (RS. *fide* VG). Cedar Waxwings were widely and generally dispersed throughout at least the S. half of the Region during the period. A minimum of 100 Starlings fed regularly throughout the summer on tide-exposed rocks at Victoria (SJ). Solitary Vireos were recorded regularly in small numbers at the end of June in the Cascade Mountains of s. Oregon (OS). Red-eyed Vireos were recorded several times during the season at a number

of locations near Jasper, Oreg. s.e. of Springfield; one was also heard at Oakridge. Oreg. July 7 (LM). Red-eyed Vireos were further noted during the report period at or near Victoria and e. of Scio, Oreg. Warbling Vireos were so little reported as to indicate that a gradual decline in abundance has occurred throughout the s. portion of the Region over the last five or more years. Nashville Warblers at Finley N.W.R. June 4 (JBC, WT) and July 29 (EE. *fide* FZ), and one in the high Cascades e. of Sweet Home June 6 singing strikingly like a Yellow Warbler (J BC) are of interest: a bird of this species was recorded at Vancouver Aug. 6 (GAP). Yellow Warblers were scarce at Victoria this summer (ARD). An Audubon's Warbler at Corvallis June 13 (LG & MSt. *fide* FZ) was unusually late. Two Townsend's Warblers were seen at N. Vancouver, B.C. Aug. 12 (GAP). An imm. Hermit Warbler was seen in the s. Oregon Cascades above Union Creek 20 mi. w. of Crater L. June 28 (OS). A pair of **Am. Redstarts** was seen at Davis L. June 23 when the male was photographed; the male was seen again at a different nearby spot July 8 (LM). A male **Am. Redstart** was also carefully identified at L. Ozette at the n.w. corner of the Olympic Pen. June 11 (EP); we know of no other record for w. Washington.

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

896 *American Birds*, October 1972

least the s. half of the Region this season. A singing male lazuli Bunting was recorded at Victoria July 2, the fourth consecutive year a bird of that species has been found in the same vicinity (SJ & JBT), Evening Grosbeaks could be found, regularly throughout the period in both the Coast Range and the Cascades in Oregon, Purple Finches presumably bred in a few favored but widely scattered localities in the s. half of the Region judging by reports of their presence, House Finches were said to have enjoyed a good nesting season at Medford (OS). A **Pine Grosbeak** at Davis L. Oreg., June 3 (BP. *fide* FZ) is extraordinary; the two male at Manning Prov. Park June 25 (VG) and the 4

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

OBSERVERS AND CONTRIBUTORS -- G, Arnold, Alex Benedict, p, A. Buckley, John Butler, John Comer, John B. Crowell, Jr., A. R, Davidson, William Elliott, E. Eltzroth, Randy Floyd, Vic Goodwill, Jeffrey Gottfried, Lorna Grabe, Joseph Hicks, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Steve Holland, Stuart Johnston, Don Lewis, Tom Love, Bob & Ruth Loveless, Don McDonald (DMA), David Marshall, Larry McQueen, Jim Micuda (JMi), Jim Morris, Harry B. Nehls, Bill Percy. Evelyn Peaslee, G. A. Poynter, Fred Ramsey, Ron Satterfield. Michael Scott, Myrtle Stanfield (MSt), Otis Swisher, J. B. Tatum, William Thackaberry. Terry Wahl, C. Fred Zeilemaker.

End 1972

1973

Autumn Migration, 1972

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN – INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/ Thomas H. Rogers



The latter half of August was cool and rainy, but by the 25th hot weather returned briefly, to be replaced by a cooling trend at month's end. Subnormal temperatures were the rule during September. A stormy period

Volume 27, Number 1 85

just after mid-month brought snow to the mountains of British Columbia, and to Fortine in northwestern Montana. October was nearly as warm as September and dry, making a mild, pleasant month, turning cold later in mountain areas with some snow in the valleys. Red Rock Lakes had a wet month, and most waters were frozen at month's end. But November had above normal temperatures and lack of precipitation, stretching autumn into a long mild season in most

areas. The general effect of the mild weather on bird movements was that late departures and stragglers exceeded early arrivals and departures. Fortine was an exception for waterfowl, because of the early freeze-up there. The other feature of the period was the number of species "displaced" from east or west -- perhaps 13 species each from the east, and from the west, with a few others from either direction, suggesting that weather conditions, including wind, were not an important factor. The mild weather detained some species such as Oregon Junco in the mountains, or widely dispersed them, but Brown Creeper, Pine Grosbeak, and possibly Red- and White-breasted Nuthatches were in increased numbers in the lowlands. Of the "northern" finches, Evening Grosbeak and Gray-crowned Rosy Finches appeared in good numbers, but Red Crossbill did not, possibly owing to poor cone crops in the lowlands.

LOONS AND GREBES -- Three Com. Loons were at Seebe, west of Calgary Sept. 4. Movement into the Bozeman area was both early (Sept. 24) and late (Nov. 19) A few loons were recorded at Umatilla Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Ore., on the Columbia R. near Richland, at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge (N.W.R.), Wash., in the Spokane area, near Fortine, and near Helena until Nov. 11. An Arctic Loon was observed on Potholes Reservoir near Moses L., Wash., Oct. 18 (DB). Three Red-throated Loons closely observed at Harrison, Mont., Nov. 18, furnished only the sixth record there (ETH & RAH). Perhaps 6 Red-necked Grebes were at Kootenai N.W.R., Ida. in early October, and one was on the Columbia R. at Richland Oct. 22. Singles were seen on Banks L., Oct. 7, and Park L., Grant Co., Wash. Nov. 19; 2 were seen twice in November on Coeur d' Alene L., Ida.

WATERFOWL -- Peak concentrations of certain species of waterfowl reported during the period are summarized in Table 1. A group of Mute Swans noted at Cottonwood Reservoir near Walsall, Mont. in the summer were still present Sept. 16, when 11 adults were counted (RAH, PDS). The cold spell at October's end triggered a southward movement of Whistling Swans in n. Idaho and Montana west of the Continental Divide. (See Table 1.) Mild weather kept the Trumpeter Swans at Turnbull N.W.R. dispersed,

with a possible 31 wild birds joining the 3 pinioned "decoys" in the display pool. The Centennial Valley population at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. remained at 200. Canada Geese numbers appeared very good, with the peak at McNary N.W.R. double that of 1971. A Cackling Goose was shot at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. where it is unusual, and 20 more were seen with Canadas on Park L., Wash. Oct 29. White-fronted Geese were seen in increased numbers, reaching a peak of 100 in mid-October at McNary N.W.R., with 200 in Morrow Co., Ore. Sept 24, and stragglers at Stratford and Richland. However, Umatilla reported a peak of 125 in October, unusually high for this far west. A single Blue Goose was identified among Canadas at Stratford Oct. 7, and two Ross' Geese were seen at close range near Richland Nov. 7 (NFM). Mallards, as usual, far outnumbered all other species (see Table 1). Other ducks counted on the Columbia Basin censuses of Oct. 17-19 and Nov. 27-28 numbered 24,600 and 36,500, respectively. At Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. the duck population peaked at about 45,000 from late September to mid-October. A peak of 86 Wood

Ducks, largest count reported, was at Cold Springs N.W.R. in September, with 15 still there in November; about 100 were near Naches Fish Hatchery northwest of Yakima to Nov. 16. An imm. male Oldsquaw was observed at Kootenai N.W.R. Nov. 17, a first record for the refuge. One was seen two days later at Lenore L., Wash. Two White-winged Scoters were identified at Fernan L. at Coeur d'Alene Oct. 8 (SS). Three female or imm. Surf Scoters were sighted at Harrison, Mont. Oct. 1-2 (SC, PDS) and one was there Oct. 23 (HC, ETH, RAH, LM, PDS). Two were at Lenore L., Oct. 7 and one at Medical L., Spokane, Oct. 18. The Red-breasted Merganser was reported from the Bozeman area, where it is regular, first on Oct. 23, an early date. A belated report is of the sighting of 2 male and 3 female on Coeur d'Alene L. May 5, 1972 (BM).

86 *American Birds*, February 1973

Table 1. Peak waterfowl populations, dominant species, at major concentration areas. Autumn, 1972

	Kootenai NWR	Red Rocks Lakes NWR	Turnbull NWR	Columbia Basin	Other
Whistling Swan	Oct. 29 15 flocks of 20-50	Oct. 29, 400	late Oct., 90	late Nov., 270	Umatilla NWR Nov., 60, Lower Flathead Valley, Mont. "Spectacular," Oct. 29
Canada Goose	—	—	—	end Nov., 100,000	Stratford L., Wash. Oct. 7, 35,000, McNary NWR, late Nov., 24,000
Mallard	—	Sept. 28, 5,000	—	Oct. 17-19 158,200 Nov. 27-28 427,700	N. Idaho, late Oct., 36,000
Gadwall	—	Oct. 17, 10,000	late Nov., 725	—	—
Am Widgeon	—	Sept. 28, 11,800	—	—	—
Shoveler	—	Oct. 17, 1800	—	—	—
Redhead	—	Sept. 28, 10,600	—	—	—
Canvasback	—	Sept. 28, 4800	—	—	Umatilla NWR, Nov., 920
Lesser Scaup	—	Oct. 17, 11,400	—	—	—
Ring-necked Duck	Fall, 500	—	—	—	—
Com Goldeneye	late Oct., 500	—	late Nov., 3500	—	—
Barrow's Goldeneye	—	—	late Nov., 1600	—	—
Bufflehead	early Nov., 100	Sept. 28, 4400	early Nov., 100	—	—
Ruddy Duck	—	—	—	"vast numbers"	—

VULTURES AND HAWKS -- A few Turkey Vultures were sighted during September near Spokane, at Turnbull N.W.R., on Yakima Indian Reservation, and around Baker, where the highest number, 8, was seen Sept. 8. The latest date was Oct. 4, when 2 were seen on Turnbull N.W.R. Goshawk were more common than usual near Spokane. These, along with reports from Red Rock Lakes, Bozeman, Fortine, Kootenai N.W.R., Baker, and Umatilla Nat'l Forest, Ore. suggest increased numbers, but in the s. Okanagan of British

Columbia no repetition of the 1971-72 "invasion" occurred. Hawk numbers in general appeared to be good except for the Missoula and Fortine areas. The Sharp-shinned was seen only once at Missoula and was not seen all year at Fortine, where the Red-tailed was the only species considered to have maintained a relatively stable population in recent years. However, a Rough-legged Hawk there at the beginning of November was the first in about fifteen years. A dark phased **Harlan's Hawk** was identified near Bozeman,

Oct 21 (ETH, RAH, LM) and a light-phased bird was seen west of Three Forks, Mont. Oct. 23 (HC, ETH, RAH, LM, PDS). The only report of Ferruginous Hawk was of one Aug. 16 at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., where it is rarely seen, and one or 2 on three dates between Aug. 27 and Oct. 13 at Baker. The regular fall concentration of the Bald Eagle at West Glacier in Glacier Nat'l Park, Mont. built up from 10 on Oct 12 to a peak of 287 on Nov. 9 and had decreased to 40 on Nov. 29. About 200 of the birds were estimated to be in the Coeur d'Alene L. area at the end of the period (I.F.G.). Fifteen Ospreys flying over Swan L. near Vernon, B.C. Sept. 10 apparently were migrating, and one was north of Richland Nov. 5 (REW). A few reports of the scarce Prairie Falcon came in from e. Oregon and Washington, from Aug. 17 to Nov. 30. Locations of falcon sightings will no longer be published, but may be obtained from the Regional Editor. The rare Peregrine Falcon was chasing shorebirds at a Montana location and four other sightings were reported from Oct.

Volume 27, Number 1 87

9 to Nov. 24 (CC *et al.*), in Oregon and Washington. A very few Pigeon Hawks had showed up by the end of the period. One was seen Aug. 23 but no more were noted until the more normal date of Oct. 23.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS — Populations of Blue, Spruce and Ruffed Grouse appeared low in the Fortine area and game-checking stations in s. interior British Columbia assessed numbers of the latter two species at about two-thirds normal. However, Ruffed Grouse had apparently increased at Turnbull N.W.R.. At least 20 Sharp-tailed and 15 Sage Grouse were seen south of Creston, Wash. Sept. 17 and about a dozen of the latter were noted in the Harrington, Wash. area Nov. 26. The Japanese Green Pheasants planted near Bonners Ferry, Ida. produced numerous broods. The species has not in the past been able to sustain itself in the area. California Quail and Ring-necked Pheasant numbers appeared generally good in e. Washington but were much lower than last year in the s. Okanagan, the decrease attributed to the heavy snows of last winter and very

wet weather during the last hatching season. Not many Gray Partridge were reported, except in the Clarkston, Wash. area where up to 50 were noted. Poaching, automobiles and predators took a heavy toll of the Turkeys planted last spring about 10 mi. n.e. of Bonners Ferry, making their survival doubtful.

CRANES, RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOT -- Sandhill Cranes were observed between Sept. 15 and Oct. 13. Several large flocks were seen flying over Sun Lakes and Banks L., Grant Co., Sept. 23-24 and large flocks were reported in the Bozeman-Harrison area. Smaller numbers were seen elsewhere in e. Washington and Oregon. Near Helena, 3 birds believed to be subspecies *canadensis* were observed at close range under good conditions with Sandhill Cranes for about two weeks beginning Sept. 22 (SM). Single Virginia Rails were noted at Reardan Aug. 20; Yakima, an imm. Sept. 24, and Toppenish Creek, Yakima Co., Wash. Nov. 1. A Sora was seen at Reardan Aug. 20 and the latest date for the species at Fortine was Sept. 1. The birds were described as common in early September at Kootenai N.W.R.. Am. Coot, always common in the Region, increased to 80,000 at Red Rock Lakes Sept. 28, then tapered off and dropped to zero during the first two weeks of November. Turnbull Refuge had a peak of 5000, and 10,000 were estimated for the lakes of the Grand Coulee area, Grant Co. The first Montana record, belatedly reported, for the **Common Gallinule**, is of one carefully observed at Seeley L., Missoula Co. Apr. 28, 1972 (Mr. & Mrs. CRB, *fide* PDS).

SHOREBIRDS -- No more than one or 2 Semipalmated Plovers at a time were seen on a few dates between Aug. 18 and Sept. 5. Localities reporting them were Bozeman, Missoula, Reardan, and Wenas L. near Yakima. The single **Am. Golden Plover** reported was at Turnbull Refuge Sept. 4. A few Black-bellied Plovers were moving through during September and up to mid- October. The seldom-reported Upland Plover was noted in two unusual localities, Charlo, Mont., Aug. 26, the first there in 14 years' observing by C. J. Henry, and Fortine, Aug. 29, only the second record in Weydemeyer's fifty-two years' observing there. The birds were not noted elsewhere. Long-billed Curlews were noted only in Morrow Co., Ore. and between Haines and N. Powder, north of Baker. In the latter

area perhaps 50 or more were seen. Baird's Sandpiper numbers appeared low in some areas and a record late date of Oct. 23 for the species was obtained at Harrison Lake. The earliest date in 52 years' observing, July 15, was obtained for the Least Sandpiper at Fortine. All dowitchers observed at Fortine, carefully studied, proved to be Short-billed. One was seen Aug. 29, 2 on Sept. 8 and 5 on Sept. 29 (WW). Long-billed Dowitchers appeared at Reardan Oct. 21 in unusually large numbers, 45-50, and "especially large numbers" were noted in wet fields west of Richland Oct. 7. By contrast the species was not noted at Missoula, where it is a usually dependable fall migrant. The only migrating Silt Sandpiper was one still in partial breeding plumage at Reardan July 21 (JA). Western Sandpipers appeared concentrated in a few localities, with 40 on Aug. 18 at Harrison the last date. Up to 35 were present at Wenas L. in September and a peak of 25 occurred near Baker Aug. 11. The Spokane area, the only other one reporting the species, had only a sparse showing of the birds. The Marbled Godwit, noted only in the



The bird above (foreground) was reported as Washington's first Ruff, but panels of experts at N.A.S. believe it to be a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. Photo/James Acton. [The bird is a Ruff – ALC]

Bozeman area, was last seen Aug. 18. What has been tentatively identified as an imm. **Ruff** was observed at length at close range and also photographed in color at a pond at Reardan by two very competent observers. This would be the first Washington sighting (JA &

WH). Sanderlings, always scarce in the Region, were seen in four widely separated localities. One was at Wilsall Reservoir, Park Co., Mont. Sept. 16 (RAH & PDS); one remained at a pond at Missoula Sept. 5-18; one was seen running along a street in Vernon, B.C. Sept. 26, and 4 were seen at Fortine Aug. 29. An unusual concentration of 300 Wilson's Phalarope was noted at Baker Aug. 11 and 200 were still there the next day.

88 *American Birds*, February 1973

JAEGERS, GULLS, AND TERNS -- An ad. **Pomarine Jaeger** was seen well at a range of about 100 feet near the inlet to Canyon Ferry Reservoir, Broadwater Co., Mont. Oct. 1. This is the first record for the state (RLE, *vide* PDS). Herring Gulls were reported only at Apgar, Glacier Nat'l Park, Mont., 3 during early November (LM) and on the river at Spokane, where they appeared Nov. 5. Franklin's Gull was last seen in the Bozeman-Harrison area Aug. 18 but one was noted at the river in downtown Spokane Sept. 24. The species was not reported elsewhere. A few Bonaparte's Gulls were seen in the Columbia Basin of c Washington and the birds appeared at Otter L. in the s. Okanagan of British Columbia Aug. 8. The Com. Tern was last noted in the Bozeman-Harrison area Sept. 24. The only other record was of one at Clear L., west of Yakima Sept. 1.

OWLS -- A Snowy Owl was seen Nov. 19 in the Davenport-Reardan, area. This is the tenth consecutive year for sightings in e. Washington. A Barred Owl was heard in Trinity Valley ecological reserve in the s Okanagan of British Columbia Sept. 23 & 25 and 1 was seen near Lavington, B.C., Oct. 18. Single birds of this species were seen in the Fortine area Oct. 25 and Nov. 12-13. The only previous records there were on two dates in 1969 (WW). A Barn Owl was seen near Baker Nov. 30 (LR); one was at the confluence of the Snake and Columbia Rivers Nov. 24 (CC), and one was seen near Clarkston Aug. 20 (MJP). The only Burrowing Owls reported were at McNary N.W.R., one or 2 until early November, and 2 at Deep Canyon near Clarkston Nov. 16 (LP). Short-eared Owls were reported from

many scattered areas but were not common except perhaps at Turnbull N.W.R., where 8-9 were noted, and near Creston, Wash., where 6 were roosting in brush Nov. 5. The recording of 3 sightings of Saw-whet Owls may have some significance. One was seen in the mountains just south of Helena (GH) and one with an injured wing was captured near Churchill, north of Bozeman Oct. 19 (LM). Another was released on McNary Refuge after it walked into a private apartment in Pasco!

NIGHTHAWKS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS -- The mild autumn weather seemed to be the cause of some late Com. Nighthawk records. In the Bozeman area Oct. 9 was a late date and the species was still at Spokane Sept. 27 & Oct. 4. A lone straggler was seen in Morrow Co., Ore. Sept. 29. An injured Poorwill from a nearby farm was released on McNary Refuge Oct. 12. Black Swifts were noted at Vance Creek Canyon, 20 mi. n.e. of Vernon Sept. 26, the last date seen. The report of the tentative identification of 3 **Anna's Hummingbirds** all fall and as late as Dec. 6 at a feeder in Yakima (ERC & JR) looked incredible until another apparently of this species was picked up dead in Heppner, Ore. Nov. 19. The specimen is being checked further (BT).

WOODPECKERS -- The Pileated Woodpecker appeared to be the only woodpecker in the Fortine area not decreasing in numbers, even though favorable habitat is decreasing there. The species seemed locally scarce in the Vernon area, with only a sighting of 2 at Lavington Sept. 30. Single Black-backed three-toed Woodpeckers were seen near Chattaroy and Camden, Wash. in early October and at Crane Prairie Reservoir near Bend, Ore. Oct. 20.

FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS -- The W Kingbird was noted as becoming uncommon in the lower Flathead Valley around Charlo, Mont. Most of the reports of the species came from s. and c. Washington and n.e. Oregon, although the birds were noted at Bozeman and, during the summer, at Fortine. They were inexplicably absent in the Walla Walla area. An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Missoula Aug. 28 was

Hand's third record for w. Montana. A Say's Phoebe at Fortine Sept. 8 was the first fall bird there since 1944. A late W. Wood Pewee was at Baker Sept 29 and an Olive-sided Flycatcher remained there until Sept. 26. One of the latter tarried at Heppner until the 25th. A concentration of well over 7000 swallows was observed at Medical L. Wash. Sept. 24. It consisted mostly of Barn Swallows, with perhaps 300 Banks and a few Violet-greens, Trees and Rough-wingeds. Young Barn Swallows were stiff in the nest in Kootenay Nat'l Park, B.C. Sept. 3 (WW). A single swallow, unidentified but not a Barn Swallow, was seen along the river at Yakima Dec. 3, a bitterly cold day.

JAYS, CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES AND CREEPERS -- Two Blue Jays were found along the trail to Siyeh Pass, north of St. Mary's L. Glacier Nat'l Park, Sept. 2 (SS). A Steller's Jay was found in very unusual habitat, sparsely wooded lowland at the confluence of the Grande Ronde and Snake Rivers in extreme s.e. Washington, Sept. 28. Three Boreal Chickadees were seen at Bonneau L., 25 mi. east of Vernon Aug. 9 and a few were seen and heard in the Salmo Pass-Shedroof area n.e. Pend Oreille Co., Wash. Aug. 26 (WH) and Oct. 1 (JA). A group of about 12 Com. Bushtits were found along the Middle Fork of Rock Creek west of Hardman, Ore. Oct. 15. A few Red-breasted Nuthatches appeared at Walla Walla for the first time in Niel Meadowcroft's experience and the species was common in Richland, suggesting a minor "invasion" in s.c. Washington. The Brown Creeper may also be staging a small "invasion" in parts of e. Washington. Four were seen on Kamiak Butte Oct. 31, one in Pullman Nov. 3 and one on the Grande Ronde Nov. 11.

WRENS, MIMIC THRUSHES AND THRUSHES -- Two or 3 Bewick's Wrens were seen along Toppenish Creek and the Yakima R. near Yakima. The **Mockingbird** is making a bid to establish itself in the Region, for 6 of the birds were in residence at Milton-Freewater, Ore. until late September and one remained until late October. (DB, *fide* NFM) A very pronounced flight of Varied Thrushes occurred at Prineville, Ore. Oct. 5-Nov. 2, with up to 7-8 seen at a time. The largest concentration of W. Bluebirds reported was a

flock of 20-25 at Memaloose State Park near Hood River Ore., Sept. 14-16. The species has

Volume 27, Number 1 89

been inexplicably absent from the Fortine area for several years. A surprising concentration of at least 200 Mountain Bluebirds was seen at Hilgard Junction State Park northwest of La Grande, Ore. Sept. 2. Another group of 75-100 was seen Sept. 24 just north of Spokane. About 150 were seen at Peola, west of Clarkston, Aug. 21.

KINGLETS, PIPITS AND WAXWINGS -- The most pronounced movement of Ruby-crowned Kinglets occurred in the Yakima area, where they reached a peak of 25-30 daily by Oct. 1 and were last seen Nov. 28. Pipits were observed in good numbers in the Spokane and Tri-cities areas. The former locality reported 200 in one flock Oct. 8 and Bozeman had some good-sized flocks. Spokane had one or 2 flocks of 300 Bohemian Waxwings by the end of the period.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS -- A few Warbling Vireos were seen in the Ahtanum Valley just west of Yakima Sept. 13-Oct. 2 and a very late bird was seen at Spokane Oct. 5 (MV). Orange-crowned Warblers were moving through in September but one was seen at Baker as late as Oct. 12 and one was seen at Prineville Dec. 3, after a 5-inch snowfall a month later than any previous record there (GM). A female **Parula Warbler** was studied painstakingly during its stay at Baker, Oct. 18-Dec. 3 (AW). A very late Yellow Warbler was seen at Walla Walla Oct. 29. Two **Myrtle Warblers** were identified in the La Grande, Ore. area Oct. 8 (EB). At least 2 Townsend's Warblers were seen in Bozeman Sept. 29 and later (SC, DRS & PDS). There are only two prior local records there. A very late record for this species was of one at Baker Dec. 1 & 3. A Northern Waterthrush was seen Sept. 4 at Canmore, just east of Banff, B.C. and was the only one reported. Wilson's Warblers had mostly migrated through by the end of September but a very late male was seen at Heppner Oct. 19. Two male Am. Redstarts were observed Aug.

21 in the Heppner area. The male that appeared at Baker July 21 stayed until Aug. 21. On Sept. 5 a female or imm. appeared there.

HOUSE SPARROW, BLACKBIRDS -- House Sparrow numbers at Missoula were slowly rising after being decimated by an unknown disease during the winter of 1970-71. The only fall Bobolink record was of 10 in autumn plumage near Baker Aug. 19. The birds were gone from the Yakima area by the end of July. Two flocks of W. Meadowlarks, totaling some 400 birds, were observed near Umapine, Ore., southwest of Walla Walla Sept. 5 and 50 or more were seen near Peola, Wash. Oct. 25. Flocks of several hundred Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Kootenai N.W.R. in late September. A few remained into November in the Spokane area and at Charlo and ad. male appeared Nov. 5-Nov. 28. Kootenai had a flock of several thousand Red-winged Blackbirds during late September and early October. Largest numbers of Brewer's Blackbirds were, as usual, in the s.w. part of the region, from Yakima to Baker. Flocks probably totaling thousands were seen in the Walla Walla area. The latest dates for the Brown-headed Cowbird were Sept. 2 at Missoula and Oct. 13, at Yakima Indian Reservation.

FINCHES -- Evening Grosbeaks appeared in good numbers at many localities, in some instances as early as late August, but had mostly moved on before the end of November. Cassin's Finches were migrating mostly in September but a few stayed through October in the Spokane area. Three House Finches Sept 29 were the first ever observed at Fortine in the fall (WW) The species, now well established at Missoula, was seen in flocks of 30-70 there during the fall and has become much more in evidence than Cassin's. Pine Grosbeaks seemed to be moving down out of the mountains into the valleys more than usually. A female even appeared at Richland staying from Oct. 31 until at least Nov. 25. Sizeable flocks of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches appeared in four localities. At Kamiak Butte, north of Pullman, at least 300 were seen Nov. 18. Probably 300, nearly all Hepburn's race, were seen Nov 19 near Blue L. in the Grand Coulee and a flock of about 150, including about 30 Hepburn's, were watched Oct. 13 near Fortine. About 500 were in a flock at Hart's Pass in the North Cascades of Washington Oct. 23. A few

Com. Redpolls had appeared at Fortine, Missoula and Spokane in November and at Vernon Oct. 26. Two birds observed closely at Fortine were almost certainly Hoary Redpolls (WW). Pine Siskins were common in the Vernon area, at Yakima and Baker during September but dwindled thereafter. A female or imm. **Lesser Goldfinch** appeared at Prineville, from about Oct. 19-28 in the area where the species nested two years ago (GM). Red Crossbill sightings were spotty and included no large numbers.

SPARROWS -- A Green-tailed Towhee was observed with several Rufous-sided Towhees Sept 5 at Heppner (BT). A female Lark Bunting closely examined Sept. 28 at Fortine, was the first fall date and only the third occurrence noted there in 52 years' observing (WW). A few Slate-colored Juncos appeared with Oregon Juncos at Spokane and one was seen at Yakima Oct. 7. A few Tree Sparrows arrived in October. One at Richland Oct. 15 was very early and Oct. 22 was an early date for Bozeman. Two were seen at Banks L. Wash. Oct. 29. The only conspicuous congregation of Chipping Sparrows reported was of 50+ at Baker Sept. 22. One remained there until Oct. 7. A Clay-colored Sparrow was seen on Plateau Mtn. west of Nanton in s.w. Alberta Aug. 13. An ad. of this species was seen at Missoula Sept. 2 & 3 and two were noted there Sept. 11 (RLH). Brewer's Sparrows were noted migrating during late August and early September at Missoula, Baker, Clarkston and along the Walla Walla R. Harris' Sparrows appeared in no less than six localities, beginning Oct. 8 near Spokane (VN & CS): one, Fortine Oct. 21-Nov. 15 (WW); 2 imms, Harrison, Mont. Oct. 23 (HC, ETH, RAH, LM & PDS) and up to 5 at Bozeman Oct. 29 (ID; RAH & ETH; NK). Their appearance followed a snowstorm. Only about 8 prior records for the locality exist. Two imms. were at Richland Oct. 20-21 (EM) and one to 3 frequented feeders at Vernon and nearby towns from Nov. 11 to the end of the period (JTF, WC, JG, JM, JS). Of special note was a Golden-crowned Sparrow at Enderby near Vernon, Nov. 27-30 (JM). A **White-throated Sparrow** appeared near

Spokane Oct. 8-9. (VN & CS). A Fox Sparrow in Umatilla, Ore. Nov. 23 was the latest recorded there (CC).

CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS (**area editors in bold face**--James Action, Ruth Anderson, G. Ansell, **Eugene C. Barney**, McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, John Baumbrough, Wendy Beirnes, Steve Billeb, A.D. Bird, C. D. Bird, Donald Bjelke, Mr. & Mrs. C. Robert Border, Earl Bowen (EB), Ellis Bowhay (EBo), Betty Brodie, **Dave Brown**, Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Joann Brown, Helen Carlson (HC), A. Carn, Urana Clarke, Harold Cole (HCo), Craig Corder, Sharon Cotterell, Walter Cowan, Mrs. Irving Dayton, Robert L. Eng, Mrs. Fred Etling, Randy Ferrin, Opal Foust, Jack T. Fowle, Robert Furrer, **James Grant**, southern interior British Columbia, Pauline Hager, Platt Hall, Warren Hall, **Ralph L. Hand**, Missoula, Mont. area, Eric Hanson, Lucille Hardinger, Eve T. Hays, Ray A. Hays, C. J. Henry, L. V. Hills, George Holton, Alice Horschel, Connie Hughes, **Stan Hughes**, Eugene Hunn, Frances B. Huston, Idaho Fish & Game Dept., Gertrude Inman, Ruth Jones, Ted Jordan, **Marvin R. Kaschke**, Nat'l Bison Range, Vivian Kohlruss, N. Kutzman, Carolyn Lagergren, Virginia Lang, William Lang, Katherine Laupp, Nanette McKay, W. G. McKay, **Jon M. Malcolm**, Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, **Sid Martin**, Helena, Mont. area, **Niel F. Meadowcroft**, Walla Walla, Wash. area, Bob Moate, Elisabeth Moore, Louis Moos, **Gerald Morsello**, Prineville, Ore. area, Joanna Nashem, Vee Nealey, Carol Penhale, Dr. Penhale, **Del Pierce**, Kootenai Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, **Tyson W. Planz**, Red Rock Lakes Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, **Bob Polumsky**, Lawrence Polumsky, Margaret J. Polumsky, Clarkston, Wash. area. John Quirk, Jan Reynolds, James Rooney, Larry Roumpf, K. St. Clair, Donald R. Skaar, **P. D. Skaar**, Bozeman- Harrison, Mont. area, Connie Smedley, Joyce Speechly, Mrs. **S. O. Stanley**, northeastern Washington, Esther Stewart, Gene Stroops, Keith Sturts, **Shirley Sturts**, Coeur d' Alene, Ida. area, **Butch Taylor**, Morrow Co. and Umatilla Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Ore., Maurice Vial, Harold Vredenburg, G. Wagner, D. Walz, **Ann Ward**, Baker, Ore. area, John W. Weber, C. Werschler, Winton Weydemeyer, R. M. Wilson, Jack Winchell, Charles E. Woodley, Mr. & Mrs. **Robert E. Woodley**, Pasco-Kennewick-Richland

("Tri-cities"), Wash. area, Bob Worden, David Worden, **Maurice B. Wright**, Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge.

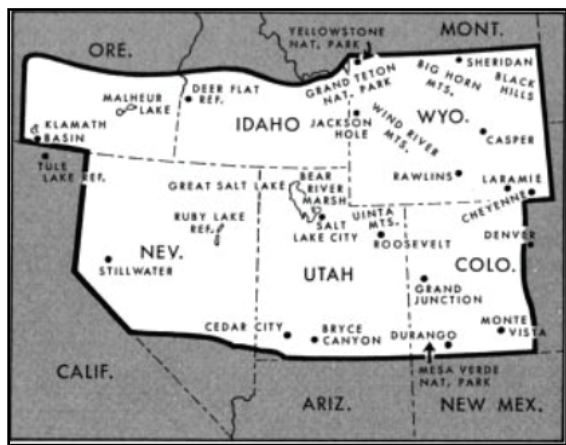
CORRIGENDUM -- The 300-400 swifts seen at LaGrande, Ore. July 26, *Am. Birds*, 26:880,) are now considered to have been Vaux's Swifts.

Autumn Migration, 1972

GREAT BASIN - CENTRAL ROCKY MTN REGION

/Hugh E. Kingery

[Coverage area map revised – ALC]



The most striking feature of the fall migration in our Region came with a massive invasion by jays of the low country: Gray Jays dropped to the valleys; Steller's and Scrub Jays and Clark's Nutcrackers advanced to the foothills, plains, and deserts, and Blue Jays spurted west to Idaho. Besides the jays, several other mountain species were unusually common at lowland elevations--see accounts for Goshawk, Mountain Chickadee, Brown Creeper, Townsend's Solitaire, and Golden-crowned Kinglet. Three wanderers, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Bohemian Waxwing, and Evening Grosbeak, have returned in numbers, although the

nuthatches may be scattering, like the Red Crossbills. Two midwesterns -- White-winged Junco and Harris' Sparrow -- began a winter visitation in unprecedented numbers. Our dry, mild summer weather became severe, in October in Colorado and Utah and November through most of the rest of the Region. Grand Junction had its wettest October ever with 3½ in. of rain, 4 times normal; the same month Durango, Colo., had 11.69 in., 4 times normal and Kanab, Utah, had 3 in. -- with an average annual rainfall of 5 in. November saw much snowfall on the Colorado E. Slope, but less than normal in the Colorado and Oregon high country. Sparse cone crops on conifers presumably resulted from the dry summer and fall. A Colorado Western State College scientist, studying tree rings, pronounced the summer of 1972 on the W. Slope, the driest in 1200 years (*fide* ASH).

BOUNDARY CHANGE -- With this report the California counties formerly in the Great Basin Region have moved to the Middle Pacific Coast Region.

LOONS, GREBES, PELICANS -- **Arctic Loons** straggled into 2 inland locations, with one observed at Blue Mesa Res. near Gunnison, Colo., Sept. 30 & Oct. 1; the observers studied the bird for 25 minutes in quiet water for the first W. Slope record since 1887. The second report concerns one on Nov. 1, a bird in partial summer plumage at Sheridan, Wyo. (PIH). Eared Grebes migrated through the Region until October, with Minidoka N.W.R., Idaho, reporting the highest number -- 2300 on Aug. 8. Western Grebes were still sitting on nests Aug. 28 at Stillwater N.W.R., Nev., but no young appeared that late. Peak migration totals were 3300 at Minidoka Aug. 8, 2500 at Bear River N.W.R. Sept. 7, and 1900 at Malheur N.W.R. in mid-August. At Cheyenne in late October fog

Volume 27, Number 1 91

grounded many W Grebes on city streets, they could not fly off because of their body configuration, and they fiercely resisted human assistance. Some were killed by cars, but others moved to local lakes and

escaped. Normal populations of White Pelicans occurred in mid-September at Stillwater (6000) and Bear R. (3500); but Malheur's peak of 4315 compared with 1800 a year ago. Single birds occurred at unusual locations like Walsenburg and Monte Vista, Colo., and Fish Springs N.W.R., Utah, all in October. A Brown Pelican, on Utah's hypothetical list, was reportedly at L. Powell, 10 mi. from the San Juan R. oil spill, on Oct. 14 (VH, *fide* GLK).

CORMORANTS, HERONS IBIS – Double-crested Cormorants, ordinarily found further south, occurred in unusual numbers in Idaho, with flocks of 100 Sept. 1 (CH) and 150 (DH, RG) at Camas N.W.R.; 126 at Rupert Sept. 26, 8 near Am. Falls Sept. 9, and 9 at Nampa Oct. 29. The wildlife refuges reported good numbers of Great Blue Herons, with peaks of 540 at Malheur, 500 at Bear R. Sept. 7, 300 at Minidoka Aug. 29, 250 at Camas July 30; and 48 at Fish Springs Oct. 27. Four rare Green Herons stayed in Reno Oct. 1-15. The only reported Cattle Egret, an imm. found near Minidoka where Idaho's first record came last year, appeared Aug. 22. Com. Egrets reached 1200 at Malheur and 25 at Stillwater in early August, while single birds stopped at Rexburg, Ida. Aug. 31: the first locally, and near Thatcher, Ida. Sept. 3 (BCM). Most Snowy Egrets left the Region by mid-October; the most reported being 1700 at Bear R. Sept. 7; however one with an injured foot wandered late to Gunnison Nov. 2. Malheur counted 3200 Black-crowned Night-Herons Aug. 15, and Bear R. had 1400 Sept. 7. Fish Springs had an August peak of 70, then a second peak of 42 Nov. 7. White-faced Ibis nested for the first time at Grays Lake N.W.R., Ida. – 20 pairs strong. It reached a peak of 2000 at Bear R. Sept. 7, a decline. Several Great Basin lakes reported migrant flocks up to 150.

SWANS, GEESE – Bear River's Whistling Swan population has built up to only 7800 by the end of the period, compared with 28,000 last year; similarly Minidoka's population at 510 was down 27 per cent, possibly delayed by mild weather to the north. Yet further west they arrived as usual at Stillwater Oct. 20, peaked at 3300 compared with 1300 last year, and included numerous large family groups, evidencing good production. Malheur had a peak of 15,500 (4200 more than 1971), most of which left en masse Dec. 4,

the day before the temperature hit -16°. Canada Geese peaked at over 10,000 at both Malheur and Deer Flat N.W.R., Ida. at 2200 at Bear R. Oct. 16, and 1500 at Minidoka Dec. 5, all normal levels except Minidoka, this showed a 20 per cent increase. Similarly Malheur's 100 White-fronted Geese the last half of September was a normal count, but 4 on Aug. 28 at Eagle, Colo. were unusual (DS). Snow Geese hit a level of 85,000 at Summer Lake W.M.A., Ore., in mid-November, only 3 per cent were juveniles, for the second year in a row. Malheur counted 9000 on Nov. 5-11, half of the 1970 and 1971 totals, and Stillwater counted 9700 on Nov 3. Further east, Monte Vista had 100 on Oct. 31; its highest previous count was 20.

DUCKS – The wildlife refuges attracted somewhat fewer waterfowl than usual, in some cases because of the mild weather. Malheur had a poor sago pondweed crop and a much lower duck population, which peaked not in the fall but on Aug. 6-11 at 145,000 ducks. Most birds at Stillwater reached totals only half of normal, yet across Nevada at Ruby L. the peak reached 55,700, the highest total in 15 years. Minidoka had reduced populations of ducks compared to reports last year, as did Bear R. and Monte Vista. The refuges reported about 225,000 Mallards, with the most Deer Flat's 85,000, Minidoka's 48,200, and Camas' 45,000. Bear R. had the most Gadwall, 17,000, and the most Pintails, 75,000, out of a total of 175,000 Pintails reported from the refuges. Shovelers -- 48,100 in mid-September -- crowded into Malheur, the greatest population since 1957, while the 15,200 Canvasbacks represented a dip to half of last year's total Bear R. had 25,300 Canvasbacks, about the same as last year. On Oct. 24 29,000 Ruddy Ducks visited Minidoka, along with 7000 Canvasbacks and 8600 Lesser Scaups; most duck populations there, except Mallard, were up around 50 per cent. Unusual duck records included another sight record of the Eur. Widgeon in Idaho, an ad. male near Pocatello (*fide* CHT), and at the same place a female Oldsquaw on Nov. 15 At Stillwater hunters collected 4 scoters, 2 very rare Surf Scoters and 2 not quite so rare White-winged.

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES – Goshawks appeared for 49 observations; they descended upon Pocatello where 8 were seen in one day, perhaps

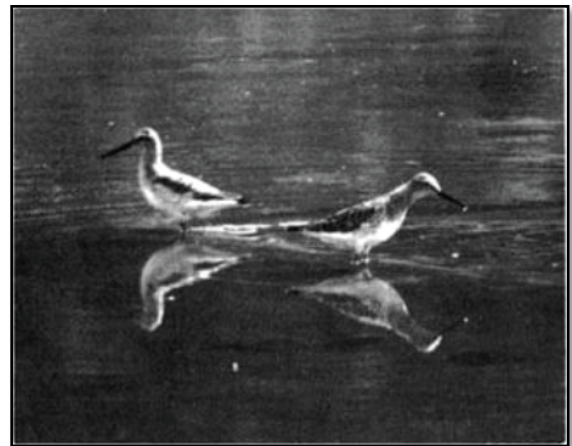
reflecting the descent of mountain passerines all over the Region. Forty-two observations of Sharp-shinned Hawks, including 4 at Pocatello living off sparrows at feeders, and 40 Cooper's Hawks completed numerous Accipiter reports. Rough-legged Hawks began appearing in October, in usual numbers except for possible decreases at Reno and Flaming Gorge Res., Utah, and increases at Bear R. High counts were 18 at Seedskadee and 15-20 at Monte Vista in late November. Imm. Ferruginous Hawks concentrated near Pocatello, with 50 counted there Sept. 10. Only 7 other reports came in. Golden Eagles made the newspapers again: the infamous Wyoming helicopter gunners escaped with light fines and probation in Wyoming and Colorado federal courts; however a Tooele Co., Utah, court sentenced 2 men to 90 days in jail for shooting an eagle for coyote bait. Our observers reported 146 sightings of the magnificent bird, as well as 81 Bald Eagle observations. Marsh Hawks seem to increase at Bear R., with a count of 52 on Nov 28, but decline at Camas (25 on Nov. 30) and Minidoka (25 on Aug. 8). We had 34 observations of Ospreys including Stillwater's first in recent years and 2 gliding south on air currents at Crater L. Nat'l Park Oct 25. We collected 28 observations of Prairie Falcons, 14 Peregrine Falcons, and 16 Pigeon Hawks; the last included the first (several) observations from Zion Nat'l Park area since 1947.

92 *American Birds*, February 1973

GROUSE, CRANE, RAILS -- Three Idaho locations report declining Sage Grouse populations (Camas, Lemhi Co., and Rupert) and the manager of the Flat Top Sheep Co. hasn't seen one since hunting season ended -- he covers 300 sq. mi. of what was formerly the greatest concentration of the bird in Idaho (WHS). On their way to regular wintering grounds large flocks of Sandhill Cranes passed through Grays L. in September, with a peak of 2000; birds were noted in October at Camas, Ruby L., Malheur (947 peak), Grand Junction and Gunnison, Colo., the latter Oct. 30 with 4 in. of snow on the ground and 19° temperature. Monte Vista Refuge held 3400 on Oct. 13 with many more in the valley. Huge numbers of Am. Coots included 60,000 at Bear R. Sept. 7, 52,200 at Malheur, 32,000 at Desert Lake W.M.A., Utah, 55,700 at Ruby L. Oct. 1-7, the

highest peak in 15 years and double 1971, and 19,000 at Minidoka. Even desert ponds around Kanab, Utah, held flocks of 500 on 3 different days.

SHOREBIRDS -- Bear R. had 1400 Killdeer on Aug. 24, and Pocatello counted over 200 on Sept. 10. Mountain Plover straggled over the mountains to Yellowstone Aug. 22 and Grand Junction Oct. 1. Over 250 Com. Snipe were found at Malheur Aug. 29 and at Bear R. Oct. 24; they were more numerous this year at Dubois, seen 8 days during October including 21 on Oct. 17. Lesser Yellowlegs, rare in the Utah desert, built to a peak of 30 at Fish Springs, and about 8 visited a pond near Kanab during September. At the Great Salt L., 5 Knot gathered with 100 Black-bellied Plover on Sept. 20 (WS). Pectoral Sandpipers migrated through c. Colorado, with observations in September at Gunnison and the San Luis Valley. Dowitchers came through the Great Basin in large numbers; Malheur had 19,600 on Sept. 26 and 18,500 on Oct. 20, the most in 6 years; Bear R. had 8000 on Oct. 13. Two Stilt Sandpipers made a rare W. Slope appearance at Gunnison Sept. 10; one stayed 2-3 days.



Stilt Sandpipers at Blue Mesa Reservoir near Gunnison, Colo., Sept. 10, 1972. Photo/Dave Galinat. New reservoirs are attracting migratory shorebirds to areas previously unvisited; last w. Colorado record 1884.

At Bear R. 2500 Marbled Godwit visited Oct. 3, and Malheur had about 150 Aug. 1-Oct. 6 (none last year, 60 the year before). Malheur had only 835 Avocets, compared with 3600 last year, but their abundance at Summer L. may have included birds diverted from Malheur. Bear R. counted 8000 Avocets Aug. 2. Black-necked Stilts occurred in their usual numbers at Malheur and Summer L.; were 3800 strong at Bear R. Aug. 2; and peaked at 174 at Fish Springs Aug. 10 N. Phalarope reports included 4 sightings of 17 individuals near Kanab; 2 sightings of 3 individuals at Gunnison and singles at Westcliffe and Walsenburg, Colo. and Malheur.

PIGEONS, DOVES, ROADRUNNER, OWLS -- W. Nevada's Band-tailed Pigeons remained in the Carson Range in August, and spread to the Pine Nut Range near Wabuska, feeding on piñon nuts. Large flocks appeared east of Zion; their normal migration route lies west of the park. A Mourning Dove nest found at Stillwater on the late date of Aug. 23 had 4 eggs -- double the usual clutch. On Oct. 20 **Ground Doves**, new for Wyoming, were noted at separate locations in Green River, Wyo. -- one in town and one at Seedskadee N.W.R. Feeding on the ground, both upon close approach flew a short distance, showing the distinctive roundish tail and ruddy wings, (MOB EV; **). Roadrunner observations totaled 6 this fall at Springdale, an improvement over the past years.

OWLS, GOATSUCKERS -- Flammulated Owls appeared in w. Colorado, with 3 juveniles Aug. 20 and one ad. Sept. 9 at Durango, and one picked up by a cat near Montrose Oct. 30 (*Western State Col.). We have two second-hand reports of Snowy Owls in October: one near Burns, Ore. (*fide* EM) and one at Rupert Oct. 28 (*fide* WHS). Five Pygmy Owl reports included one which visited a Pueblo feeder to partake of another visitor, a House Sparrow. Encouraging late summer reports of Burrowing Owls came from Minidoka, Reno, and Kanab. Yellowstone seems to be the only location for Great Gray Owls in the Region; observers found one between the park and Ashton, Ida., Nov. 11 (CLH). Several wildlife refuges reported increased numbers of Short-eared Owls: Minidoka, Camas, Bear R., and Malheur. Single observations came from Fish Springs in August, and Ruby L. and Grand Junction in

November. Poor-wills were late at Evergreen again on Oct. 9 (DS) and Eureka Oct. 13. The last Com. Nighthawks noted were at Fish Springs Nov. 19, where the peak had been 160 on Aug. 3.

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS -- The last Regional White-throated Swifts left Kanab in mid-October, but this remarkable statement came from Grand Junction: "We are all wondering why the **White-throated Swifts** are still here . . . It has been below freezing so much of November we can't see what they find to eat. They are flying all over the valley from Grand Junction north to Fruita to Highline L. and where the farmers are digging sugar beets." The birds remained at least through Dec. 3. The hummingbird migration built up to its normal peak in late August; e.g., at Kanab were "hundreds feeding on the purple bee plants where these

Volume 27, Number 1 93

(the bee plants) were very abundant. When the bee plants stopped blooming the hummer numbers dropped greatly." At Zion they fed on clumps of paintbrush (PS). By mid-September most left the Region, and the last dates were Sept. 25 at Durango and Zion and Sept. 27 at R.M.N.P.; then late-arriving Rufous showed up at Springdale Oct. 14, 19, 21, & 22. At Springdale, a possible pair of **Blue-throated Hummingbirds** patronized the same feeder with the Rivoli's female. Lacking notes from the second observer who saw the birds, (which would be new for Utah.) Jerome Gifford hesitated to submit the record; however his 2 pages of notes describe a large hummingbird with white rictal and postocular stripes, white tail feathers, and an aggressive behavior contrasting markedly with the docile Rivoli's (**).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS -- Flickers exhibited yellow wings to observers in 9 different locations, with the furthest west being at Crater L. Nov. 7. Flicker numbers increased in Salt Lake City (EG) and Rexburg, where a pine beetle infestation and a reduction in Forest Service insecticide spraying (or vice versa) attracted them, along with

Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers. A female Hairy Woodpecker began excavating a hole in a cottonwood near Springdale on Nov. 29. Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers, regular in the Region but unobtrusive, were seen in 4 locations during the season. While most flycatchers leave the Region in September, a stray Black Phoebe was spotted at Springdale Nov. 4 (GA). The only other flycatchers seen after September were 2 W. Wood Pewees Oct. 12 at Kanab. Each species of swallow stayed late somewhere; most noticeable were many late Barn Swallows migrating in late October in Summit Co., Pueblo, and Jefferson, Colo., Fish Springs, Utah, and Nov. 9 at Malheur.

JAYS -- The movement of jays affected our whole Region except n. Nevada, Oregon and Wyoming. Gray Jays appeared in Gunnison Aug. 27, and now several are regular at feeders there. They came to an aspen grove near Jefferson, Colo., Aug. 27, to Durango Sept. 20, and to L. Isabel near Pueblo Nov. 25. Scrub Jays also appeared in Gunnison Aug. 27 -- a first record there -- and have been regular since. **Blue Jays** popped up in two locations in Idaho, which had had only one previous (sight) record. At Blackfoot one came to a feeder in October and November (slide, not suitable for reproduction, to Idaho State Univ.). Then from Nov. 2-8 Camas N.W.R. hosted one (**). **Steller's Jays** made the most spectacular moves. In Colorado they appeared in droves on the plains at Colorado Springs and Pueblo (along with Scrub and Pinyon Jays and Clark's Nutcracker), in the w. mountain valleys at McCoy, Durango, Grand Junction, and even out to the desert south of Cortez. They came early to Salt Lake City, and first appeared in Springdale Aug. 7, by November becoming the most common jay, even as far out into the desert as Virgin; at Kanab they outnumbered the Scrub Jays in the low country, vice versa in the high country. The first two ever reported in Pocatello arrived there at the end of November. Even Black-billed Magpies may have participated in the exodus: 4 rare ones came to Fish Springs Oct 18, and they penetrated into the Kanab desert further than usual. Pinyon Jays ordinarily range erratically all over the West, often in large flocks. Typical were reports of numbers at Ruby L. refuge headquarters, where they fed on barley put out for quail; local Pinyon Pines had a very poor nut crop. Other reports included flocks of 150 at Kanab and Durango; hundreds Sept. 23 at the

Great Sand Dunes Nat'l Mon. with Clark's Nutcrackers (DAG), flocks at Springdale, Castledale, and Fish Springs, Utah, and McCoy and Grand L., Colo. Clark's Nutcrackers joined their relatives in spreading to the low country. Most pronounced on the Colorado E. Slope, the nutcrackers popped up everywhere all fall around Evergreen, the Denver foothills, and Estes Park. They came into City Park in Pueblo, and dropped to McCoy and Grand Junction. Zion Canyon had first record Sept. 21, followed by 2 down-canyon observations in Springdale in October. Fish Springs had a first refuge record, and Malheur had observations Sept. 15 and Oct. 11, the fourth and fifth records there.

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS -- Mountain Chickadees joined the jays and other mountain species in unusual lowland appearances. Typical were early arrivals in Salt Lake City and numbers in Pueblo, Durango, Cheyenne, Grand Junction (sleeping in gourd feeders), and e. Idaho. All 6 states reported Red-breasted Nuthatches, most August to October, with normal appearances at many Colorado locations plus unusual places like Dubois, Minidoka, Rupert, and the shrublands near Reno. Brown Creepers joined the montane species' descent, with unusual appearances or unusual abundance in Idaho (at Rupert more numerous than in 40 years; at Camas the first refuge record), Salt Lake City, and Colorado. The invasion spread from Malheur to Evergreen.

WRENS, THRASHERS, THRUSHES -- Southern Utah had few observations of Bewick's Wrens, although more than last year, while s. Colorado had 2 November records, at Pueblo and Durango. Rock Wrens stayed until Aug. 31 -- late for Dubois -- while appearing for the first refuge record at Camas Oct 1. Brown Thrashers strayed to Malheur Sept.6 (second refuge record) and Fish Springs Oct. 27 -- a surprising 4 birds. Few Am. Robins stayed in Colorado and Utah this year. Most had left by mid-November, although one remained at Dubois Nov. 8. In addition to several at Malheur Oct. 2-14 as last year, Varied Thrushes made unusual appearances throughout the Region. Reno Nov. 9, Salt Lake City Nov. 6 (GLK), near Bryce Canyon Oct. 30 (RAS), and near Pikes Peak in late November. Lingering Hermit Thrushes turned up Oct.

23 in Summit Co., Nov. 6-8 at Durango, and Nov. 29-30 at Salt Lake City (EG, GLK), and Salt Lake City had a late Swainson's Thrush Nov 30 (GLK). Kashin identified a bird new for Utah Oct 18 with a **Gray-checked Thrush** in S. Willow Canyon, Stansbury Mtns., noting gray cheeks and slight eye ring; and then found another in Salt Lake City Nov

94 *American Birds*, February 1973

7. Western Bluebirds seemed on the decrease at Kanab, but on the increase at Zion; an ad. male fed an imm. at Zion Inn Aug. 28 -- "unusual since they do not nest in Zion Canyon and must have migrated here together." Mountain Bluebirds flocked in migration, with hundreds seen in August at Zion (PS) and scores w of Colorado Springs, August to October. Mountain dwelling Townsend's Solitaires dropped into the cities - - Salt Lake, Pueblo, and Cheyenne -- and to desert locations like Eureka and Kanab. A peak count was 50 in the Stansbury Mtns. Oct. 1 (WS).

KINGLETs, PIPITs, WAXWINGs - Several observers commented on unusual appearances of Golden-crowned Kinglets: dozens in the Hermosa Creek drainage near Durango; September observations in Colorado Springs and Crane Prairie, one Oct. 15 in the Wasatch Range of Utah (JWJ), one Nov. 6 at Dubois, the third in 10 years, and many in November in Salt Lake City and Kanab. Ruby-crowned Kinglets migrated in unusually high numbers with Summit Co. counting 53 on Sept. 10 and 46 on Oct. 8; hundreds in the Stansbury and Oquirrh Mtns. w. of Salt Lake City Oct. 18. About 2000 Water Pipits flocked around Brigham City, Utah, Oct. 22 (WS). Bohemian Waxwings will visit us this winter; already November reports have come from Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado. At Crater L. came the first park record of the Bohemian Waxwing, of one feeding on Mtn. Ash berries Nov. 30. Park Naturalist Holcomb commented, "Range maps indicate the sighting is not uncommon, depending on movement fluctuations. The record gap only too well relates the incompleteness of bird records in many of the western areas." Our Region's frequent first county, first refuge, and first state records confirm

this; yet even intensively-studied Malheur regularly reports unusual records.

SHRIKE, VIREOS, WARBLERS - Loggerhead Shrike reports came from 4 Utah locations, and one each in Colorado and Idaho; many more should report this bird. Stray Solitary Vireos stayed late, with records from Cheyenne Sept. 26, Durango Oct. 14, and McCoy Oct. 22. Late Warbling Vireos visited Colorado Springs Oct. 1 and Pueblo Oct. 23. Tennessee Warblers appeared in force in Salt Lake's Stansbury Mtns., with 6 on Sept. 26 feeding on rabbit brush flowers (GLK); one each at Durango on Sept. 9, 16, 18, & 24. Mountain city Gunnison reported a "fantastic warbler migration": large numbers of Tennessee Warblers from Aug. 5-Oct. 24, including 12 on Aug. 27 (DG, ASH); total counts for the season of 100 Orange-crowned and 40 Virginia's. Durango also had many warblers, although only 2 Myrtles, "unusually few for a year like this." Many Audubon's passed through Sept. 3-16, with the last Nov. 21, but the most unusual occurrence at Durango was the unprecedented numbers of Townsend's Warblers, from Sept. 11 to Oct. 27. Audubon's Warblers migrated in force elsewhere as well, with large numbers noted in Summit Co. (peak, 69 on Sept. 10), Kanab, Sept. 4. Oct. 29 (peak of 50), 100 at Camas Sept. 29 -- which stopped for one day only, and hundreds Oct. 1 near Grantsville, Utah, all departed by Oct 14 (WS, GLK). Unusual Townsend's Warbler reports came from Camas and Dubois Aug 25, Zion Aug. 30, Cheyenne Sept. 3 and 11; other scattered observations occurred until the last one Nov. 18 at Castledale, the day before a heavy snow. Durango observers found a Chestnut-sided warbler Sept. 25-26, reporting with detailed notes. (** to C.F.O.). Forty mi. from Tonopah, Nevada's sixth Blackpoll Warbler was identified Sept. 17(BB). A tail-bobbing Palm Warbler was identified at Idaho Springs, Colo., Nov 11 (JC). Wilson's Warblers migrate abundantly throughout the West, but one Aug. 18 in Box Elder Co., Utah, was foraging in a green spot consisting of 3 willow trees, surrounded by miles and miles of rocky ridges and desert scrub (RJW). Am. Redstarts occurred twice at Rupert, Aug. 23 & Sept. 26, and once at Zion, Nov 15, the third report there. A **Scarlet Tanager** in fall's green plumage visited Gunnison Sept. 3, the only record for the W. Slope since 1892.

FINCHES -- By the end of November, Evening Grosbeaks populated all 6 states. They penetrated south to Fish Springs Oct. 4-27, first for the refuge, s. Utah, with observations beginning Sept. 13 at Kanab and Oct. 19 at Virgin. At Crater L. the red fir cone crop is negligible, after overwhelming abundance last year; consequently the finch and siskin populations have plummeted. House Finches celebrated the mild fall by bursting into song in mid-October in Salt Lake City (VK). Pine Grosbeaks, regular in the high country, had descended to a few lowland sites with records at Rupert Oct. 30; Lemhi Co. in October; Evergreen all fall (DS); and 6 in City Park at Pueblo Nov 8 (JL, KP). Pine Siskins seem to have disappeared from the Region, leaving in October from Crater L., Bryce Canyon, Nampa, and Evergreen. Although scarce at Kanab, a few appeared at Zion Nov. 26. Red Crossbills remain scattered through the Region, but their numbers have dwindled since last fall and winter. The rare Sage Sparrows occurred at Gunnison Sept. 25 and Ignacio, Colo., Oct. 2 (RSy). White-winged Junco numbers mounted to the highest in several years, with an arrival en masse with a snowstorm at Colorado Springs Oct. 27 (MS). They had arrived by late October all along the Colorado foothills. Other juncos arrived at their wintering grounds on normal dates.

SPARROWS -- Harris' Sparrow, a midwestern species, appeared at 9 regional locations from Dubois to Salt Lake City and Kanab. A few years ago one caused comment anywhere in the Region; this year a Durango feeder had 10 on Nov. 27. Other November observations occurred at Colorado Springs, Summit Co., Gunnison, Estes Park, and Grand Junction. Many of these observations are associated with feeders. The White-crowned Sparrow, usually the second most abundant winter bird (to the Oregon Junco) at Zion, had not arrived by the end of November. At Crater L., however, flocks of up to 50 White-crowns, along with a few Golden-crowned, Fox, and Savannah Sparrows commonly skulked among willows of the high country streams and meadows, until the late October snows. A White-throated Sparrow was identified at Crater L. Oct. 14; the record is a first for the park, although Oregon has a few previous records. Other

Volume 27, Number 1 95

single White-throats occurred at Pocatello Oct. 23 (*fide* CHT); the Stansbury Mtns. Oct. 18 (GLK); and R.M.N.P. Oct. 30. Fish Springs had a rare occurrence of 4 Lapland Longspurs Nov. 7. A few Snow Buntings had arrived in Lemhi Co. by late September, followed by many flocks by the end of November.

CORRIGENDA: Nevada's Com. Teal (*Am. Birds* 26:788) turns out to be our Region's second record; a banding trap caught one at Malheur in March, 1964. One of the Yellow-billed Cuckoos mentioned in *Am. Birds* 26:884 struck a window at Malheur headquarters, becoming an Oregon specimen (* U.S. Nat'l Museum) (SF). The C.F.O. Rare Birds Committee did not accept May's White-eyed Vireo (*Am. Birds* 26:790) because the bird's eye was dark and the observers did not hear it sing.

ABBREVIATIONS -- *: Specimen; ** sight record report on file with Regional Editor; C.F.O.: Colorado Field Ornithologists; R.M.N.P.: Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park.

AREA CONTRIBUTORS -- Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge: **William Zimmerman**; Camas N.W.R., Ida.: **Clifford L. Himmel**; Castledale, Utah: **Ann Wissler**; Colorado Springs: **Mahlon Speers** Crater Lake Nat'l Park, Ore.: **James Holcomb**; Desert Lake W.M.A., Utah: **Timothy Provan**; Dubois, Wyo.: **Mary Back**; Durango, Colo.: **Richard Stransky**; Eureka, Nev.: **Arthur Biale**; Evergreen, Colo.: **W. W. Brockner**; Fish Springs N.W.R., Utah: **Rolf Kroft**; Grand Junction, Colo.: **Lorna Gustafson**; Gunnison, Colo.: **A. Sidney Hyde**; Jefferson, Colo.: **Carol Hack & Kathy Hawkins**; Kanab, Utah: **Richard A. Stuart**; Lemhi & Custer Cos., Ida.: **Hadley B. Roberts**; Malheur N.W.R., Ore.: **Eldon McLaury**; McCoy, Colo.: **Margaret Ewing**; Minidoka N.W.R., Ida.: **John Hill**; Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo.: **Charles Bryant**; Nampa, Ida.: **Mrs. H. E. Shaw**; Pocatello, Ida.:

Charles Trost; Pueblo, Colo.: **David Griffiths**; Reno, Nev.: **Jessie Alves**; Rexburg, Ida.: **Rirei Godfrey & Donnell Hunter**; Ruby Lake N.W.R., Nev.: **Lowell Napier**; Rupert, Ida.: **W. H. Shillington**; Seedskaadee N.W.R., Wyo.: **Merle O. Bennett**; Sheridan, Wyo.: **Tom Kessinger & Platt Hall**; Stillwater N.W.R., Nev.: Summit Co., Colo.: **Hugh Kingery**; **Larry Napier**; Zion Nat'l Park and Springdale, Utah: **Jerome Gifford**.

OBSERVERS -- Glen Arnold, Richard L. Bottorff, Natasha Boyd, Larry Bright, Betty Burrige, Robert Buttery, John Cooper, Mrs. Lewis Cummings, John Douglas, Sean Furniss, Sam Gadd, Elsie Geoghagen, Nicholas Halmi, May Hanesworth, Russell Hoffman, Vern Huser, John W. Jeppson, Gleb L. Kashin, Richard Klauke, Jack & Ella Knoll, Vernon E. Kousky, Rodney Krey, C. S. Lawson, Jerry Ligon, Kenneth Mackenzie, Blaine Marshman, Barbara Clark McKnight, Doris McLaughlin, Bryce Nielson, Ken Price, Don Radovich, Mrs. Joe Rainwater, Bill Reardon, Warner Reeser, Fred Ryser, Michael Schultz, Peter Scott, Mildred Snyder, William Stone, Douglas Stoz, Mrs. S. O. Swartz, Evalina Valencia, Robert J. Wilson.

96 *American Birds*, February 1973

Autumn Migration, 1972

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

August was warmer but slightly drier than usual. September was cool, with above average precipitation. Rainfall in October was approximately half of what is normal for that month, but average temperatures were

nonetheless lower. November also brought less than average rainfall but average temperatures were just at the norm.



LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS -- An imm. Yellow-billed Loon appeared at Blaine, Wash., Nov. 2 and was "seen twice since" (DP, *fide* TW). An Arctic Loon at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. Aug. 5 (WH) was early, as was the single Red-necked Grebe at Pt. Roberts on the U.S. -- Canadian border seen Sept. 6 by several observers (*fide* WW); 40 at March Pt., Wash., Sept. 23 was a highly unusual concentration (WW *et al.*), particularly so early in the season. A single Horned Grebe at Olympia, Wash., Aug. 19 was early as were the 3 at Ocean Shores, Wash. Aug. 27 (all G & WHO). Eared Grebes appeared after the first week in September at several places in Washington and s. British Columbia. Black-footed Albatrosses were seen in number up to 65 in a day on 5 different offshore trips from Washington and Oregon in the first two months of the report period. Single Laysan Albatrosses were recorded out of Newport, Oreg., Sept. 19 (BP & PR, *fide* FZ), and 57 miles w.n.w. of Westport, Wash., Sept. 10 (FA, *fide* TW). Fulmars were regularly recorded on offshore trips, with the 1 17 on Oct. 15 (TW) being a noteworthy total. Numbers of Pink-footed Shearwaters were observed on the offshore trips, the 200 off Depoe Bay, Oreg., Aug. 19 being the maximum

one-day count, although over 100 individuals were seen out of Westport on both Sept. 10 and Oct. 15. On the latter date, two Pale-footed Shearwaters enlivened the proceedings (TW *et al.*). Numbers of New Zealand Shearwaters seen this fall far eclipsed even last year's record numbers! On Aug. 19, 150 individuals were noted out of Depoe Bay Sept. 11-12, 15 were recorded out of Newport, with 50 seen on a three-day cruise from there a week later (*fide* FZ); meanwhile, out of Westport, 18 were seen Sept. 9, 287 were counted the next day, 47 appeared Sept. 24, and then on Oct. 15, a grand total of 509 individuals was counted (TW *et al.*). Sooty Shearwaters, though present on all offshore trips, were not seen in as great numbers as in other years. A Slender-billed Shearwater was found dead on the beach at Nehalem Bay State Park, Oreg., on the unprecedented early date of Aug. 9 (WH), and 3 were seen over the ocean out of Depoe Bay Aug. 19 (FR *et al.*, *fide* FZ). Fork-tailed Petrels were only lightly recorded, the maximum being nine from Westport Sept. 24 (TW); five individuals were noted in the Straits of Juan de Fuca Sept. 16 (JT, *fide* TW).

PELICANS, HERONS -- Brown Pelicans were seen in modest numbers, comparable to numbers for the 12 years along the Oregon coast; both adults and

Volume 27, Number 1 105

immatures were well represented from mid-August to mid-November. One appeared off Gray's Harbor, Wash., early in September (TW). On Nov. 1, 800 Brandt's Cormorants were observed at Active Pass in the Gulf Islands off s.c. Vancouver I., (MS, *fide* WW). Green Herons were noted singly and in pairs in widely scattered locations in the s. portion of the Region until the first week in October, as is usual: the species has always been uncommon enough, however, to draw comment whenever found. Com. Egrets appeared in the Region more widely and in greater numbers than ever previously recorded; most sightings were from the s. and c. Oregon coast with the maximum 38 at Coos Bay Aug. 24 (WH), but birds were also seen in the Willamette Valley, at Tillamook, Oreg. and Sept. 2 at the Washington side of the Columbia River. A single

Com. Egret was at Lummi Bay near Bellingham, Wash., from Oct. 2 until found dead Oct. 29; * to Washington State Museum (TW). Another Com. Egret was at Cowichan Bay, Victoria, B.C., from Sept. 24 until shot by a "hunter" about mid-October (RS & VG). A **Snowy Egret** appeared at Victoria on Aug. 22 and remained for a week, seen and photographed by numerous observers (ARD; VG *et al.*). Another was discovered at the n. jetty of the Columbia R. Sept. 8



Snowy Egret, Esquimalt Lagoon, w. of Victoria, B.C., Aug. 26, 1972. Photo/Stuart Johnson.

(JW, *fide* TW). One-two Black-crowned Night-Herons were repeatedly observed at Finley N.W.R. s. of Corvallis, Oreg. in the last ten days of August and in September (FZ *et al.*); two were found at the Skagit, Wash., flats Oct. 6 (EH). A Cattle Egret was first found at Gold Beach, Oreg. Nov. 22 by Lois Brooks, with identification confirmed Dec. 1 (FB); the bird is Oregon's third. Only four reports of Am. Bitterns seen during the report period were received; two came from Vancouver, (infra all B.C.) Sept. 25 & Oct. 9, and the other two reports were from the s.w. Washington coast, Aug. 26 & Sept. 30. A Least Bittern was found along Bear Creek near Medford, Oreg., Sept. 10 & 15 (MM, *fide* JH).

WATERFOWL -- A Whistling Swan appeared at Ankeny N.W.R. s. of Albany, Oreg., Sept. 19 (early) and remained through October (FZ); small numbers of this species were present in the s. portion of the Willamette Valley after mid-November, and in the tidelands areas between Seattle n. to Vancouver after mid- October. Two Whistling Swans were seen at Ocean Shores Nov. 19 (G & WHO; J M) and one was at Rockaway, Oreg. Nov. 12 (RFi & HN). A Trumpeter Swan showed up at Terrace, B.C., Oct. 11, was joined by an imm. bird Oct. 31-Nov. 21, and was still present alone Nov. 30 (FF). An ad. Trumpeter was at Reifel Refuge near Vancouver Oct. 21 (MS & BM, *fide* WW), while 8 birds appeared at Clear L. near Bellingham Oct. 28 (TW) and one bird showed up at Wiser L. near Lynden, Wash., Nov. 2 (DH, *fide* TW). Black Brant were virtually unremarked except for a few early arrivals in mid- and late September between Vancouver and Bellingham. October migrations of White-fronted Geese this year brought three individuals to the vicinity of Victoria in late October (JT *fide* SJ) and two to Dungeness, Wash. in mid-November (VG). A count of over 31,000 Snow Geese in Skagit Co. Wash., in mid-November was an all-time high according to the Washington State Game Dep't. (*fide* TW); this species was in migration through the s. portion of the Region as early as mid-September judging by widespread reports; a single bird was a bit out of the way at Victoria Oct. 19-21 (VG; SJ). The 102,000 ducks counted in Skagit County Oct. 10 by the Game Dep't. was "27 percent below the comparable 1971 count but above the average of the last 17 years" (*fide* TW). Two Gadwall found at Ocean Shores Oct. 23-Nov. 30 (JM), were out of place. A Com. Teal was found at Sidney, B. C., Nov. 25 (ARD). The 1000 Green-winged Teal at Pt. Roberts Sept. 9 and the 3000 at Sea and Iona Is. just s. of Vancouver Sept. 24 (*fide* WW) are high counts. A male Cinnamon Teal was at Ocean Shores Nov. 5 & Nov. 26 (JM), both late dates. European Widgeon were frequently reported in the s. portion of the Region after mid-October. Hundreds of Shovelers were concentrated on a small sewage pond at Ladner, B.C. all fall (ND, *fide* WW). Redheads were reported from six localities from Ladner s. to Newport after Sept. 11. Canvasback were not present in normal numbers in their usual haunts; the maximum count of 100 from Newport Nov. 26 (JE & SF, *fide* FZ) was only 10 to 15 per cent of a normal maximum one-day count for the most favored places on the Oregon coast. An estimated 1200 Com. Goldeneye were found at Olympia Oct. 25

(G & WHO). There were 500 Barrow's Goldeneye at Stanley Park in Vancouver Oct. 28 (WW). Two Bufflehead ducks who appeared at Iona I. s. of Vancouver, BC, Aug. 20, remained for more than a month, were early (GAP, *fide* WW). An early Oldsquaw was at Iona I., Aug. 20 (GAP, *fide* WW); 90 Oldsquaws were at Pt. Roberts Oct. 15 (BM, *fide* WW). Single Oldsquaws appeared at Newport Nov. 7 (WE, *fide* FZ), at Ocean Shores Nov. 9 (JM), and at Florence, Oreg. Nov. 24 (CAS). There were 60 Harlequins at Victoria Oct. 6 (SJ). An inland occurrence of a White-winged Scoter was recorded Oct. 29 when one was at Pitt R. e. of Vancouver B.C. (WW *et al.*). Surf Scoters were also recorded inland when

106 *American Birds*, February 1973

two immatures were shot Oct. 21, 10 mi sw of Monmouth, Oreg., (JCa *fide* FZ). Four Com. Mergansers at the n. jetty of the Columbia R. Aug. 26 were out-of-the-ordinary (HN *et al.*), as were the three early Red-breasted Mergansers at Tillamook Bay Aug. 10 (WH).

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES -- Approximately 100 Turkey Vultures were seen over the Rogue R Valley in s. Oregon Sept. 20 (OH); funnels of 30, 50 and 80 birds were seen there on Sept. 26 ahead of a storm front (OS). At Corvallis, Turkey Vultures were much in evidence, moving southward all through September, with 100 birds Sept. 1 (FI, *fide* FZ) the highest one-day count. A late Turkey Vulture was seen at Birch Bay, near Blaine, Oct. 17 (AB, *fide* TW). On Nov. 22 and again on Dec. 3, and ad. **White-tailed Kite** was carefully identified at Phoenix, Oreg. near Medford (CR & OS); local residents reported that a pair had been in the vicinity since June; the species has been seen in Oregon several times in the last fifteen years. Goshawks were noted at Pt. Roberts in late September, at Victoria in early October, at Reifel Refuge at the end of October and at Finley N.W.R. in late November. Rough-legged Hawks moved into the Region in late September and in early October becoming widely established thereafter; 12 found in a day in late November from Lebanon w. to Finley

N.W.R. (JBC & WT) was an indication of their abundance in the c Willamette Valley. Golden Eagles were seen several times throughout the report period at Victoria (ARD; RS *fide* VG); two were seen at Mt. Finleyson near Goldstream Prov. Park Oct. 25 (JT, *fide* SJ) while two others were seen at the crest of the Cascades e. of Ashland, Oreg., Sept. 23 (OS). Ospreys were seen repeatedly throughout the s. portion of the Region in numbers and varying locations rivaling last fall's occurrences which were described as being "the highest number of reports for a single season in at least 10 years". A gray-phase Gyrfalcon was observed for hours at Ocean Shores Sept. 24-26 (JM & GHo); another gray-phase bird was at the Samish Flats near Bellingham Nov. 29 & 30 (NL, *fide* TW). A very dark Gyrfalcon was seen at Reifel Refuge Nov. 20 (RK, *fide* WW). A Prairie Falcon appeared at Agate L. near Medford Nov. 18 & 25 (OS). We are in receipt of 11 Peregrine sightings from 8 localities between mid-September and mid-November, a poorer representation than last year. Lone Pigeon Hawks at Pemberton, B.C., Aug. 17 (AL, *fide* WW) and at Merlin, Oreg., just n. of Grants Pass Sept. 3 (EP) were the earliest of very few reports received for the season. The 35 Sparrow Hawks from Pemberton, (about 80 mi. n. of Vancouver) Aug. 17 are of interest, as are the 14 there Sept. 24 (AL, *fide* WW).

GAMEBIRDS, CRANES, SHOREBIRDS -- A Ruffed Grouse in the low dunes at Leadbetter Pt. Aug. 26 (HN *et al.*) was a curiosity. Three White-tailed Ptarmigan seen in the Tantalus Range n. of Squamish, B.C. (TC & AS, *fide* WW) are of interest. Sandhill Crane individual stragglers were seen around Victoria and on the tidal flats between Everett and Bellingham through much of October; Sauvie I., n.w. of Portland, Oreg., was as usual a stopping point in mid- and late October for hundreds of migrating Sandhills. Virginia Rails were found several times n. of Victoria from late August until mid-November (SJ); single birds also were recorded at Reifel Refuge Sept. 11 (AG, *fide* WW) and Oct. 28 (ND, *fide* WW), one was also at Tillamook Bay Sept. 16 (JBC & Rfi). A Sora was found at Iona I. Sept. 2 (GAP, *fide* WW); another was seen at Medford Sept. 10 (OS). Approximately 1000 Coots were said to be present at Pitt Meadows e. of Vancouver Oct. 17 (JWi, *fide* WW). Wayne Hoffman hiked the Oregon beaches from n. to s. in August, during which time, he noted over 600

Semipalmated Plovers and 214 Snowy Plovers. American Golden Plovers were found at coastal points from Ocean Shores to Coos Bay and near Vancouver and Victoria Aug. 23 (Coos Bay)-Nov. 9 (Ocean Shores); highest counts were an astounding 200 at Sea I. near Vancouver Sept. 16 and 100 at Ocean Shores Sept. 30. More than 800 Black-bellied Plovers were counted at Boundary Bay near Blaine, also Sept. 16. On Aug 18, there were 19 Ruddy Turnstones at Alsea Bay on the Oregon coast (WH); one was at Bay City on Tillamook Bay in company with Black Turnstones Nov 17 (EP). A Long-billed Curlew was found at the mouth of the Coquille R. near Bandon, Oreg. Aug. 25 (WH). Late Whimbrels were two at Ediz Hook, near Port Angeles, Wash., Nov. 16 (VG) and 3 others at Newport Nov. 7 (WE & FZ); Hoffman found single birds or small groups all along the Oregon coast in August, with the largest concentrations being 22 at Newport on the 17th and 33 at Alsea Bay the next day. Lone Solitary Sandpipers appeared at Iona I. Aug. 20 (GAP *et al.*; TW) and Sept. 12 (BM, *fide* WW), and at Finley N.W.R. Sept. 1-3 (FZ). Wandering Tattlers were scarce, being reported only from Pt. Roberts, Victoria, Ocean Shores, and the Columbia R. mouth Aug. 5-Oct. 13, with 6 maximum. Willets appeared singly at Crescent Beach, B.C., repeatedly at Dungeness, at Westport, Newport and Winchester Bay, Oreg., where two were present, on varying dates between Aug. 19 and Nov 7 for a record number of single season occurrences. The 52 Greater Yellowlegs at Reifel Refuge Aug. 23 (AG, *fide* WW) was a noteworthy total, as was the 97 Lesser Yellowlegs there Sept. 10. 125 Lessers at Iona I. Aug. 20 was even more remarkable (RP *et al.*, *fide* WW). Knots were found at Leadbetter Pt. Sept 9 when 10 were seen (EH), there were 4 at Ocean Shores Sept. 23 & Nov. 9, and 18 on Nov. 19 (JM, GHo), 3 at Dungeness Sept. 23 (EH), and one on the Samish Flats Oct. 8 (EH & TW). For the second consecutive year, a Rock Sandpiper showed up early at Ocean Shores; this one Aug. 12 (G & WHo); otherwise, it was not until the last week in October that others were found there and at Victoria. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were found in numbers up to 7 commencing Sept. 12 and continuing through Oct. 29; the places so favored were Burnaby Lake, B.C., the environs of Victoria, Iona I., Reifel Refuge, Ladner and Ocean Shores. Pectoral Sandpipers were seen in most of those same places and at others too, including one at Siltcoos L. channel s. of Florence, Oreg. Aug. 21 (WH); maximum was 130 at Iona I. Oct.

7. Hoffman found Baird's Sandpipers at 5 locations on the Oregon coast during

Volume 27, Number 1 107

his August trek, the species was also recorded at two other Oregon coastal locations, at Ocean Shores and Whidbey I., Wash., and at Sidney, Saanich, and Iona I, B.C., all Aug. 9-Sept. 30; 8 together at Tillamook Bay Sept. 16 (JBC & RFi) was the maximum count. The 525 Long-billed Dowitchers found on Westham I, near Vancouver Oct. 21 was a very high count (MS&BM, *fide* WW). A Stilt Sandpiper was photographed at Saanichton Inlet during its sojourn there Aug. 21-28 (SJ *et al.*). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper appeared at the Ocean Shores airport Sept. 1 (JM); the same bird or another was there Sept. 16-17 (GHO & JM). Another Buff-breasted Sandpiper was carefully studied s. of Tahkenitch L., Douglas Co., Oreg. on the ocean beach Aug. 21 (WH). A **Bar-tailed Godwit** was discovered at Reifel Refuge Sept. 16, photographed Sept. 30, to Photoduplicate File, U.B.C. (JS *et al.*, *fide* WW). The record is evidently the second for the province. Hoffman found from one-20 Marbled Godwits at 5 localities between Newport and Gardiner, Oreg. Aug. 17-22; single godwits were found twice at Leadbetter Pt., once at Ocean Shores, and once at Saanichton Inlet [*see corrected identification of Saanichton bird as Bar-tailed Godwit at Am. Birds 28 p. 95 - ALC*] Sept. 1-16. A **Ruff** was found for the second consecutive September on Whidbey I., Wash., this year on Sept. 23 (RL & LI). Single Red Phalaropes were seen on 4 Oregon beaches Aug. 13-28 (WH); up to 16 were seen at sea on boat trips from Westport and Depoe Bay up to mid-October; one was also noted at Pt. Roberts Oct. 14 (BM, *fide* WW). Two Wilson's Phalaropes were recorded at Sauvie I. Sept. 3 (HN) and two others were at Pt. Roberts Sept. 6 (WR *et al.*, *fide* WW). Northern Phalaropes were found frequently from Vancouver and Victoria, on the ocean, and at Washington and Oregon coastal points, as well as in the Willamette Valley from mid-August until the first week in October; maximum numbers were the 1000 at Victoria Aug. 17, 1800 there the next day, and the 300 at the mouth of the Siuslaw R. n. of Florence, Oreg., Aug. 20.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS -- Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were found on most offshore trips during the period; the 21 Pomarines out of Westport Sept. 9 (TW *et al.*) was a high count. The 15 Parasitic Jaegers at Pt. Roberts Oct. 21 (MS *et al.*, *fide* WW) is a surprising concentration. A Long-tailed Jaeger was off Newport Sept. 11 (WE, *fide* FZ), another was seen 10 mi. w. of Grays Harbor Sept. 22 (*fide* TW), and an immature was seen out of Westport Sept. 24 (DH *fide* TW). Single Skuas were also observed 3 times this season; two were seen off Westport Sept. 10 & 24 (TW *et al.*), while the other was recorded at Victoria Oct. 28 (RS, *fide* VG). An estimated 11,000 California Gulls were around a six-vessel Russian fishing fleet 35 mi. from Westport Oct. 15 (TW *et al.*). Franklin's Gulls appeared in numbers, as is usual, in the Vancouver-Victoria-Bellingham area from August through October; the adult found at Tillamook Oct. 15 (HN), however, may well be the first record for the Oregon coast. Bonaparte's Gulls were abundant in the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca and in n Puget Sound until the end of October; 1500 birds of this species were noted at Ocean Shores Oct. 30 (G & WHO). One and possibly two **Little Gulls** made the first appearance known to us for the species in this Region. The first individual was an adult discovered at Victoria, Oct. 24 by Stuart Johnston who watched the bird for over an hour and took very meticulous notes and made careful accompanying drawings; after a lapse of several days the bird was seen by other competent observers (RF, VG & RS). The bird is said to have remained at Victoria until Nov. 19 (ARD). The second Little Gull was also an adult -- was separately found Nov. 5 at Pt. Roberts and independently identified by two observers (RA; RP, both *fide* WW); thus, the State of Washington was assured its first record for the species, too. A late Heermann's Gull was at Blaine Nov. 25 (DP, *fide* TW), the same day two were noted at Tillamook (HN *et al.*). A spectacular 1000 Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen at Ocean Shores Sept. 16 (G & WHO) twelve days after 100 had been seen at Kingston, Kitsap Co., Wash., on Puget Sound. Sabine's Gulls in number up to 75 were seen on most offshore trips from mid-August to mid-October; single individuals were also seen at Victoria the third week in September and at Pt. Roberts Oct. 15 (BM & RK, *fide* WW). Com. Terns were somewhat more numerous than usual in September in the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca, with between 70 and 100 individuals reported for several different days and localities; top count, however, was the 300 birds at

Ocean Shores Sept. 16 (G & WHo); the 40 at Florence, Oreg., Aug. 20 (WH) are also of interest. Up to 40 Arctic Terns were seen on four September offshore trips from Newport and Westport; one was at Pt. Roberts Aug. 20 (TW) and about 30 were at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. Sept. 28 (HN). Caspian Terns were observed at numerous points along the Oregon coast in August (WH); 8 were still at the Columbia R. mouth Sept. 28 (HN). Two Black Terns were seen at L. Whatcom near Bellingham on Aug. 19 (JD *fide* TW).

ALCIDS -- A count of 565 Cassin's Auklets at sea off Westport Sept. 24 (TW *et al.*) was a high total. Of special interest is a report that a F. & W.S. census flight (presumably using photographic means) June 26, 1972, found almost 700 Tufted Puffins on Oregon's offshore rocks from Cannon Beach to Brookings; largest colonies were at Cannon Beach, Oceanside, and Cape Kiwanda.

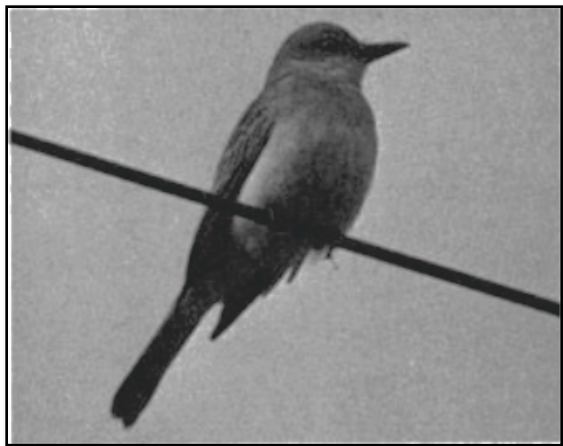
OWLS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS -- Two Barn Owls were found at Ocean Shores Oct. 12 (JM) A Burrowing Owl remained at Baskett Slough N.W.R., n. of Dallas, Oreg., Oct. 1-25; on Oct. 4, two birds were present there (JMi, *fide* FZ). A Long-eared Owl roost harboring 12 or more was discovered in a thick stand of bottom-land second growth deciduous trees at Finley N.W.R. in early November and was still being utilized by Nov. 30 (FZ *et al.*); three other individuals of this species were seen at Ashland, Oreg., at Reifel Refuge, and at Brunaby Mtn. near Vancouver, all during the last week of October. Another Barred Owl was found in the Region during the report period; this one at Vancouver's w. end Nov. 13; photo to U.B.C. photoduplicate file (*fide* WW). A Great Gray Owl was reported seen at Crane Prairie Reservoir on the e.

Poorwill was seen n. of Sisters, Oreg. on the e. side of the Cascades Sept. 30 (WH). A Com. Nighthawk was at Victoria Oct. 7 (VG). On Sept. 22, there were 250 Black Swifts at Surrey, B.C. (*fide* WW); Black Swifts in numbers up to 30 were also noted at Victoria four times between Aug. 18 (VG) and Sept. 24 (SJ), at Iona I. Sept. 24 (GAP *fide* WW), at Ocean Shores Sept. 8 (G & WHo), and at Gleneden Beach, Oreg., Aug. 15 (WH). The one or two Vaux's Swifts seen at Victoria Oct. 6 (SJ) were late migrants. The increasing number of fall Anna's Hummingbird reports each year is a marvel! This year we have received mention of birds at Langley, B.C., through November; at Saanich, where one bird has been present since Oct. 8 and another since Nov. 14; at Clear L., Wash., from mid-October, at Portland where numerous reports originated; at Oakridge, Oreg., where a pair has been present since sometime early in 1972; at Gold Beach, where several have been present since Sept. 9; and finally from Medford where at least 16 individuals are being supported by feeders.

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, AND JAYS -- Lewis' Woodpeckers evidently were again back to being quite scarce in the Region during this report period. A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was seen in the Oregon Cascades 4 miles n. of the Santiam highway e. of Detroit Sept. 16 (*fide* FZ). Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen at Manning Provincial Park, Sept. 10 & 27 (VG). Eleven E. Kingbirds were counted at Pemberton on Aug. 17 (AL, *fide* WW). A bird at Victoria Oct. 16-22 proved, after careful study and photography, to be a **Tropical Kingbird** (RF, VG, SJ); excellent detailed notes were furnished independently by the latter two

108 *American Birds*, February 1973

side of Oregon's Cascade Mts. Oct. 14 (*fide* FS). Road-killed Saw-whet Owls were picked up at Mount Vernon, Wash., Nov. 11 (EH) and w. of Hoquiam, Wash., Nov. 19 (G & WHo); a live bird was discovered at Malahat, n. of Victoria Sept. 24 (JT, *fide* SJ). A



*Tropical Kingbird, Victoria, B.C., Oct. 22, 1972.
Photo/Stuart Johnson. Record has not yet been
formally accepted by local committee.*

observers, along with two black and white prints; the bird constitutes the second record for British Columbia, the first also having come from s. Vancouver I. in 1923. An Ash-throated Flycatcher was found dead on the beach at Cannon Beach, Oreg. Aug. 8 (WH); an imm. was seen at Baskett Slough N.W.R. Aug. 19 (*fide* FZ). A pair of E. Phoebes was reported near Ashland Sept. 20 (*fide* JH). A Violet-green Swallow was still lingering at Sooke, B.C., Nov. 27 (SJ *et al.*). On Sept. 2, there were 18 Bank Swallows at Iona I. (GAP, *fide* WW); on Sept. 21, a single bird was at Reifel Refuge (TW). Two late Barn Swallows were noted at Westham I. again, this time on Nov. 25 (WC, *fide* WW). One or two family groups of Purple Martins were reported the latter half of August or the first week in September from 4 localities in the s. portion of the Region. Movements of Steller's Jays into Finley N.W.R. in October and into the Rogue R. valley in late September were very early. Two Black-billed Magpies were in Portland from Oct. 1 to the end of the period; one was at Glacier, Wash., Sept. 20 and another was on the Lummi Flats, Oct. 28 (JD, *fide* TW). Clark's Nutcrackers appeared, usually singly or in pairs, at several points near Vancouver and between Seattle and Bellingham, and then again in the vicinity of Corvallis after Oct. 10 and up to mid-November. Between Charleston and Bandon on the s. Oregon coast, however, flocks of up to 200 nutcrackers appeared in early October (HR)!

CHICKADEES, WRENS, MIMIDS AND THRUSHES -- Several Mountain Chickadees were observed at Vancouver, at Bellingham and at points between after mid-October or in November. Three Boreal Chickadees were found n. of Haney, B.C. Oct. 18 (DHa, *fide* WW). An out-of-place Pygmy Nuthatch was found in W. Vancouver Oct. 17 (1R, *fide* WW). Thirteen Bewick's Wrens at Elk L., Vancouver I., Nov. 19 (MS) are of interest. A Rock Wren was found in Manning Provincial Park Sept. 27 (VG). Catbirds were again noted at Pitt Meadows, e. of Vancouver when two were seen Sept. 10 (BM & WW). Western Bluebirds were recorded in varying numbers at Finley N.W.R. and at Medford from the last week of September until Nov. 30; they were reported elsewhere only from Wolf Creek, Josephine Co., Oreg., where two were present in early September (EP).

PIPITS, WAXWINGS, SHRIKES, VIREOS, WARBLERS -- Migrant Water Pipits appeared the last few days of August, and then were seen increasingly throughout most of the Region, declining somewhat in numbers after mid-October. A Bohemian Waxwing was noted at M. Finleyson, 12 mi. n.w. of Victoria Nov. 11 (RS, *fide* VG); another was seen 6 days later at Dungeness, Wash. (VG). Cedar Waxwings were very much in evidence all fall in Oregon's Willamette Valley. Northern Shrikes staged the biggest influx ever into the Region, starting the last week of September at Pemberton; by mid-November, several had reached Medford while in the interval birds had been recorded all through the Puget Sound trough and the Willamette Valley, with numbers also reaching the coast both in Washington and Oregon. A Loggerhead Shrike was found at Finley N.W.R. Oct. 7 (FZ). Single Red-eyed Vireos were seen at N. Vancouver Aug. 26 (GAP, *fide* WW), at Enumclaw, Wash., Sept. 3 and at Seattle Sept. 6 (EH). Orange-crowned Warblers evidently were migrating through the Vancouver-Victoria area the first week in September, with 55 at Vancouver

Volume 27, Number 1 109

and 15 at Victoria Sept. 6 and 32 at Pitt Meadows Sept. 10 (SJ; BM, *fide* WW). A Nashville Warbler was observed at Vancouver Sept. 9 (BM, *fide* WW). Yellow Warblers at Victoria (MS, *fide* WW) and at Reifel Refuge both on Sept. 25 (RP, *fide* WW) were late stragglers, as was the one banded at Medford Oct. 8 (OS). Three Black-throated Gray Warblers at Vancouver Oct. 3 (ML) were late also. Palm Warblers turned up at Newport Oct. 16 (GB & RO, *fide* FZ), at Pt. Roberts Oct. 21 (MS & BM, *fide* WW), at Westham I. Oct. 31 (RK, *fide* WW) and at Saanich Nov. 19 (MS, *fide* WW). Two MacGillivray's Warblers and a Wilson's Warbler at Vancouver Sept. 30 (WW) were late. A **Redstart** was found at Westham I. on the surprising date of Nov. 2 (RK & ND, *fide* WW).

BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES, SPARROWS -- A dead bird picked up at North Bend, Oreg. in early October was identified as a **Bobolink** (HR). Three 66 Rusty Blackbirds were n. of Victoria Oct. 28 (RS, *fide* VG); another Rusty Blackbird was discovered at Westham I. Nov. 25 (WC, *fide* WW). A W. Tanager was still at N. Vancouver Sept. 25 (WW). Small groups of Evening Grosbeaks appeared at scattered points in the Region from Vancouver s. to Corvallis through the fall. Twenty-three presumably migrating Purple Finches were recorded at Finley N.W.R. Aug. 31 (FZ). A Pair of Cassin's Finches were seen at Manning Prov. Park Sept. 27 (VG). Two Pine Grosbeaks had been seen there the day before (VG); one more was found in the Park Nov. 11 (MS & BM, *fide* WW). Flocks of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were at Crater L., Oreg., Oct. 8 (CG, *fide* FZ) and 10004 were seen at the 6000 ft. level on the w. side of Mt. Baker Oct. 19 (RSa, *fide* TW). Pine Siskins were noted sporadically at a few places in the s. portion of the Region from September into November. Am. Goldfinches were noted as being uncommonly abundant from Vancouver s. to the Willamette Valley; and estimated 1500 were at Sauvie I. Sept. 20 (HN *et al.*). Red Crossbills, Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins were recorded sparingly and at random locations through much of the s. portion of the Region. Two Vesper Sparrows were recorded in Manning Prov. Park Sept. 27 (VG). Slate-colored Juncos were frequently noted in s. British Columbia, n. Washington, and to the Washington coast this fall. Harris' Sparrow, too, showed up surprisingly often, records coming repeatedly from Vancouver, Bellingham, Seattle and

points between after mid- October; birds also were noted at Victoria and, in late November, at Medford. White-throated Sparrows showed up at Victoria, Sauvie I., Finley N.W.R., Eugene, Oreg. and Medford at various dates in October and November. Lincoln's Sparrows were found repeatedly at Pitt Meadows and in the vicinity of Victoria throughout September, at Pt. Roberts Oct. 28, at L. Sammamish e. of Seattle Nov. 5, and at Newport Nov. 4. Lapland Longspurs were seen at many of the Region's stopping points for this species, the high count being the 100 at Ocean Shores Oct. 13 (G & WHO); two sightings of particular interest were of 6 e. of Mt. Baker at 6000 ft. Sept. 13 (JD, *fide* TW) and of two at Manning Prov. Park Sept. 27 (VG). Snow Buntings were much more abundant than usual, with 40-65 at Ocean Shores the latter half of November; 25 were at Tsawwassen, B.C. Nov. 24 (DH & EH), and up to 8 were seen from Seattle to Victoria and up to Ladner Oct. 14-31. A single Snow Bunting was also found at Lake Creek, Oreg., Nov. 14 (*fide* OS).

OBSERVERS -- Frank Anderson, Richard Asher, Alex Benedict, Fred Bowen, Gene Bureson, Wayne Campbell, John Casteel, (JCa), Teresa Colby, John B. Crowell, Jr., A. R. Davidson, Brian Davis, James Duemmel, Neil Dawe, William Elliott, John Engbirng, Roy Fisk (RFi), F. Frank, Ralph Fryer, Sean Furniss, Vic Goodwill, Charles Grant, Al Grass, Dave Hawes (DHa), D. Heinemann, Joseph Hicks, Wayne Hoffman, Glen & Wanda Hoge (G & WHO), Stewart Holohan, Eugene Hunn, Laura Ingham, Francis Ives, Stuart Johnston, Richard Knapton, Norman Lavers, Richard Lindstrom, Al Luck, Michael Luz, Bruce Macdonald, Merle McGraw, Jim Micuda (JMi), Jim Morris, Harry Nehls, Michael & Carol Newton, Robert Olson, Dennis Paulson, Bill Percy, Roy Phillips, G. A. Poynter, Eleanor Pugh, William Rae, Fred Ramsay, Hilda Reiner, Craig Roberts, Ian Robertson, Peter Rothlisberg, C. A. Saffell, Richard Sandberg (RSa), Ron Satterfield, Michael Shepard, G. G. Spragg, John Steeves, Andrew Stepniewski, Otis Swisher, J. Tatum, William Thackaberry, University of British Columbia (U.B.C.), Terry Wahl, Wayne Weber, Joe Welch, Jack Williams (JWi), Fred Zeilemaker, *--Specimen.

110 *American Birds*, February 1973

The Winter Season, 1972-73

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/ Thomas H. Rogers

The first half of December in the Region produced the most severe weather of the winter, lasting an unprecedented two weeks, the mercury dropping below zero at practically every reporting locality.



Volume 27, Number 3 639

Helena, Mont reached -35°F and even Lewiston, Ida. dropped to -10°. Snowfall was generally light. The second half of the month turned abnormally mild with most precipitation in the form of rain, in about normal quantities in eastern Washington, northern Idaho and Montana west of the Continental Divide but markedly deficient elsewhere. Temperatures dipped to zero or a

few degrees below in early January for a few days, then rose to daytime marks usually above freezing, and as high as +56° at Helena! Lewiston and Walla Walla each reached +57°. The remainder of the month was near normal in temperature but very dry, with scant snowfall. February was abnormally warm in spite of a moderate dip during the second week, and was decidedly moisture-deficient. Spokane received only .48 in., 1.38 in. below normal, and only 3.5 in. of snow. Only the Walla Walla-Clarkston area had normal precipitation. During March most areas received only one-half to one-third normal moisture and Yakima received only .01 in., the least since 1909. Only the Bozeman area reported relatively wet conditions. Temperatures continued unusually mild nearly everywhere, Yakima reporting the third warmest March since 1932. Consequently ponds dried up or were low and the snow pack in the mountains was about half of normal, presaging a hot, dry summer. In general, abundant bird life was reported, with Fortine, Mont. a marked exception. The December cold snap froze water early and drove some species out, a few returning with milder late-month conditions. The general lack of snow cover favored the raptors and many ground feeders of other groups. However, some of the ground-feeding passerines were little in evidence, perhaps because easily available food kept them from congregating at feeding stations. The "northern finches" presented a mixed picture, with some abundant and others scarce.

LOONS AND GREBES -- A few Com. Loons lingered into December in the Region. One was seen on the ice at Canyon Ferry Reservoir east of Helena Dec. 10. Small numbers of Horned Grebes wintered on Okanagan L. in s. British Columbia and one Eared Grebe at Okanagan Landing Dec. 26 (BAS) was very unusual. Surprisingly, 19 W. Grebes were still at Penticton, B.C. Dec. 26, after the very severe cold of early December (SRC).

CORMORANTS AND WATERFOWL -- Ten Double-crested Cormorants on the Tri-cities (Pasco-Richland-Kennewick) CBC were the first in six years. The first of the year for McNary N.W.R. appeared on Feb. 20. The extremely cold December weather brought many Trumpeter Swans to Red Rock Lakes

Refuge where feeding operations are carried on. The peak number was 270 on Jan. 29. Thirty-one Trumpeters, including four cygnets, wintered in the display pool at Turnbull Refuge. Canada Geese, although wintering in many localities, were concentrated mostly at McNary and Columbia Refuges. They peaked at nearly 24,000 on Dec. 1 at the former refuge and at 5500 at the latter. A White-fronted Goose stayed at Okanagan Landing Dec. 10-22 (AC) and was probably the one that turned up at Penticton Dec 24 (SRC) Over 130,000 Mallards plus 4000 other ducks represented the peak at Columbia Refuge and McNary Refuge had nearly 20,000 ducks, mostly Mallards, all winter. However, the Canvasback high of 300 was far below the 3000 recorded last winter, as was the peak Com. Merganser number of 600, compared to 3000 in January, 1972. Turnbull Refuge had 5000 Com. Goldeneye at the first of March. A few unusual occurrences popped up. A male Eur. Wigeon was seen on Philleo L. east of Turnbull Refuge in mid-March and possibly the same bird appeared south of Spokane and a male at Reardan Mar. 31 (JA & WH). A male was sighted 20 mi. north of Coulee City, Wash. Mar. 20 (EH). Twelve Oldsquaw ducks were at Okanagan Landing Dec. 26 (FP) and an imm. 3 Harlequin Duck at Spokane Feb. 3 was the first fall or winter record there in about twenty years (JA & WH) A White-winged Scoter was at Penticton Dec 26 (SRC) and one or two Red-breasted Mergansers were seen on the Spokane R. near Millwood Dec. 17-Feb 3, furnishing the second local winter record (JA; WH).

HAWKS -- Hawks in general were common, a reasonable explanation being that the sparse snow cover made rodents easily available. One or two Goshawks were noted at eight localities. The Baker, Ore. CBC produced a surprising 20 Red-tailed, 68 Rough-legged and 61 Marsh Hawks. **Harlan's Hawk** was seen Jan. 10 in Sweetgrass Co., Mont. (ETH & RAH) and 2 were identified Mar. 22 at Kamiak Butte north of Pullman, Wash. (JWW). Both the Golden and Bald Eagle were reported in some numbers from many localities. The rarely noted Gyrfalcon was noted at three localities, singles each time. One was on Turnbull Refuge Jan. 23 (DK & DV); another was sighted on Ahtanum Ridge southwest of Yakima Dec. 28 (EB), and a third chased Mallards at the north arm of Okanagan L., Dec. 17 (JG). The scarce Peregrine

Falcon was sighted near Quincy, Wash., (PC) Baker, Ore, and near Charlo, Mont. (CJH). Exceptions to the general abundance of hawks were Missoula, Fortine and Helena, Mont. At the former locality the scarcity of Sharp-shinned Hawks and Merlins was remarkable in view of the abundance of Bohemian Waxwings.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- Ruffed Grouse numbers appeared to be low. Six Sage Grouse were seen strutting on Mar. 11 at Yakima Artillery Range northeast of Yakima. A single **Bobwhite** was reported with California Quail at Whitman Monument, Walla Walla Jan. 13 (JW). The latter species was common to abundant in e. Oregon and Washington and 270 were seen on the Penticton, B.C. Christmas Bird Count Small flocks of Japanese Green Pheasants, planted at Kootenai Refuge near Bonners Ferry, Ida. in 1972, were found scattered throughout the valley there, where the open winter favored them and also the Ring-necked. A hen Turkey was seen on Umtanum Ridge north of Yakima. Several plantings have been made in Yakima County. Twenty-one of the birds were noted north of St. Maries, Ida. on the Indiana Mtn. CBC.

640 *American Birds*, June 1973

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS AND GULLS -- The Virginia Rail was reported at Columbia Refuge and one was identified on the south side of Prineville, Ore. Feb 8 (JE). Killdeer apparently wintered only along the Snake R. south of Pullman, Wash. No more than about ten Herring Gulls appeared at Coeur d' Alene L in n. Idaho during January (JA; WH). A few Ring-billed Gulls wintered at Spokane and Wenatchee and one at Okanagan Landing Dec. 26 was unusual. A Forster's Tern on the Tri-cities CBC was very unusual.

OWLS -- The Barn Owl appears to be pushing eastward. One was shot near a sheep ranch at Baker, Ore, in late January and another was found there a few days later. One bird was seen at Clarkston, Wash., Dec 7. The species was seen occasionally in January at McNary Refuge, where it has been more common in the past. Single Snowy Owls were observed at Prince

George, B.C. Dec. 29 (AB) and near Heppner, Ore., Dec 13. Two sightings were made east of Walla Walla, near Dixie, during the December cold snap (FJ; DH). One or two were seen on four dates Jan. 1-16, near Davenport, Wash. and one was found south of Sprague, Wash., on the rather late date of Mar. 25 (JA, WH; S.A.S.). One of the scarce Hawk Owls was found in the mountains east of Penticton Dec. 26 (SRC) Two Burrowing Owls were still at McNary Refuge Jan. 3 but no more were seen until Mar. 19. It was a good winter for Short-eared Owls, with many reports from e. Oregon and Washington. They were observed in the Bozeman area and at Kootenai Refuge, where up to 8 were seen at a time. A Saw-whet Owl was heard from Mar. 13 on along the Little Spokane R north of Spokane (VN & CS).

HUMMINGBIRDS -- Three hummingbirds, a male and 2 female, identified as Anna's, frequented a feeder at Wenatchee. The female disappeared in early December but the male stayed until Dec. 27.

WOODPECKERS -- A female Yellow-shafted race of the Com. Flicker was noted near the confluence of the Grande Ronde R. with the Snake R. in extreme s.e. Washington (JWW) and another was seen on Kootenai Refuge Jan. 27, the first ever there. The subspecies was also noted at Bozeman Feb. 14 & 17 (SC, PDS). Four or five White-headed Woodpeckers were found at Indian Ford, west of Sisters, Ore. A male was seen near Wellpinit, Wash. Feb. 25 (WH) and one was noted south of Springdale, Wash. Mar. 17 (SAS). Up to six of the uncommon Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were observed in the old burn at Tum Tum n.w. of Spokane and single birds were seen near Clarkia, Ida and in the Blue Mts. of s.e. Washington (JWW).

JAYS -- About 100 Gray Jays were counted along a one-mile stretch of road at Kootenai Refuge Mar. 16. Many localities reported unusually high numbers of Com. Ravens. As many as 50 at a time fed in a field at Fortine, Mont. and the species was considered to be on the increase in the vicinity of Charlo, Mont. Up to 50 at a time were seen at Kootenai Refuge and more than usual were noted around Helena. The Kamloops, B.C.

Christmas Bird Count came up with 89. Three Clark's Nutcrackers at Prince George Dec 30 were most unusual (AB) The species was rather scarce at most localities, at least in the valleys.

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES AND CREEPERS

-- Chestnut-backed Chickadees were reported at Fernan Lake, Coeur d' Alene, Ida (SGS), at Pend Oreille L., Ida., (KB) and at Goose Prairie near Yakima, WA. Pygmy Nuthatches were recorded at Missoula (PLW; PW). The Brown Creeper was unusually plentiful at Kamiak Butte north of Pullman and on the Grande Ronde R. The seven found on the Indian Mt. CBC was a surprising number. Besides appearing in the usual localities, two of the species appeared at Walla Walla in mid-January.

WRENS, MIMIC THRUSHES AND THRUSHES --

Bewick's Wren was reported along the Naches and Yakima Rivers and Ahtanum and Toppenish Creeks in the Yakima area. The largest number, six, was seen Mar. 2. The Tri-cities CBC turned up seven, and a few were seen near Umatilla, Ore. A Sage Thrasher was seen near Asotin Creek south of Clarkston Mar. 19 (BP). American Robins were not noted wintering in w. Montana or n. Idaho and stayed only in moderate to small numbers in most of the remainder of the Region. Exceptions were the Pullman area, where they were fairly common, and the Prineville, Ore. area, where they were described as very abundant, feeding on earthworms when the ground was not frozen and presumably on juniper berries during colder periods. A Hermit Thrush was seen near Umatilla Jan. 28 (CC).

KINGLETS AND WAXWINGS —

Golden-crowned Kinglets appeared in rather low numbers. One or two Ruby-crowned Kinglets were noted wintering at Baker and Heppner, Ore., Walla Walla, Yakima, Spokane, Clarkston and the Grande Ronde R., Washington. Bohemian Waxwings were quite abundant in the part of the Region west of the Rockies and apparently rather scarce in the e. part. However, Missoula did have a peak of perhaps 1100 in early December. The highest concentration was some 3800 at Penticton Dec. 26. Spokane had numbers up to 2000 in mid-February.

Thousands were recorded in Ellensburg, Wash. and the birds penetrated south through Walla Walla, where some 300-400 were seen Dec 1, to Baker, Prineville and Heppner, Ore. A flock of 45 was observed at the latter locality Feb. 19-20. Prineville had the first major appearance of the species in seven years, with up to 150 seen at a time and Bend, Ore. had a flock of 500 Feb. 24. Small numbers of wintering Cedar Waxwings were reported for e Oregon and Washington. The largest number seen at once was 52 in the Spokane Valley Jan. 14.

SHRIKES, STARLINGS AND WARBLERS -- The Northern Shrike was described as unusually scarce at Missoula and Fortine in w. Montana but seemed to be in about normal abundance elsewhere Starlings apparently were discouraged by the very cold weather in early December in the n. Okanagan but some 1000 were counted at Penticton Dec. 26, and

Volume 27, Number 3 641

51 were noted at Prince George Dec 30. Elsewhere the birds wintered in about normal numbers. None wintered at Fortine, Mont. but they were noted at Kalispell. A **Myrtle type** Yellow-rumped Warbler was identified at Yakima Mar. 19 (ERC). A few Audubon's race of this warbler wintered in e. Washington. One or two were seen on two dates at Walla Walla and they may have wintered at Yakima, where they were seen Mar. 17 & 23. The Tri-cities CBC had 65, but only a few stayed. Three were seen along the Snake R near Clarkston Jan. 21 in an area subsequently razed by the Army Corps of Engineers.

WEAVERS, BLACKBIRDS -- House Sparrow numbers at Vernon were much lower than normal with no apparent explanation, but numbers at Baker, were up An ad. male Yellow-headed Blackbird with an injured foot was seen on a ranch near Vernon Dec. 17. This is apparently the first winter record for interior British Columbia. The most notable concentration of Red-winged Blackbirds was a flock of 2000 along the Columbia R. near Pasco Feb. 22. Forty at Baker, Ore.

Dec. 16 was a high CBC number there and 457 Brewer's Blackbirds on the Count there was the third highest ever obtained. Three were found on the Prince George CBC Dec. 30. A male **Rusty Blackbird** in winter plumage was closely studied Jan. 20 about 10 mi. west of Othello, Wash. (EH & DRP) and a single bird appeared on the Ennis, Mont., CBC. (SC, DRS & PDS). Three Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen among Brewer's Blackbirds on the Yakima Indian Reservation Mar. 4.

FINCHES -- Most localities in the Region reported Evening Grosbeaks rather common to abundant. A few Cassin's Finches were noted wintering at Vernon, Yakima and Spokane. Helena had a CBC count of 14. The House Finch, recently established at Missoula, was noted regularly through the winter, with a high count of about 65 in late December. Numbers for the species seemed not to have fully recovered from the severe winter of 1968-69 in the Okanagan but the birds were thought to be on the increase at Walla Walla. A few Pine Grosbeaks dropped into the valleys in several localities. Baker did better, with 50 on the CBC Count, the highest ever, and Prince George recorded 195 on Dec. 30. Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were seen mostly in the more westerly parts of the Region. Flocks of around 100 or more were seen at Kamloops, B.C.; Vantage, Wash., and Baker and Heppner, Ore. and a flock was noted in the Yakima R canyon. A flock of 300 near Bozeman included an albino. A single **Black Rosy Finch** was found on the Ennis, Mont. CBC (DR). Common Redpolls were generally scarce or absent except for Helena, where 200 were seen on Dec. 9, and interior British Columbia. Thousands were reported in one flock at Vernon Jan. 14 and 167 were counted at Prince George Dec. 30. Groups up to 20 were present at Missoula. It was a good year to see Hoary Redpolls in British Columbia. Thirty-four were seen at Prince George Dec. 30 (AB) and small numbers appeared at Vernon and Lavington throughout the winter (JG). Pine Siskins likewise were absent or scarce at most localities. However, up to 60 were noted at Missoula, where they had not been common in winter since 1964. Yakima had up to 40 at a time. American Goldfinches were noted as common at Pullman and Yakima. Baker had 148 on its CBC. A flock of 300 was seen near Ellensburg Mar. 15 and a flock of 250 was seen near Spangle, Wash. Feb. 18. The only record for

the e. part of the Region was obtained on the Ennis, Mont CBC. The Region nearly drew a blank on Red Crossbills. A few were seen at Vernon, Kamloops, Baker and Spokane and they were seen at Bozeman.

SPARROWS -- An unprecedented event was the wintering of a Rufous-sided Towhee at a feeder at Bozeman. Many localities, especially in Montana, n Idaho and the Okanagan, reported the Oregon race of the Dark-eyed Junco scarce or absent but the birds seemed up to usual numbers farther west, at Pullman, Clarkston, Yakima and Walla Walla, Wash. and at Baker, Ore. A few Slate-colored type Dark-eyed Juncos appeared at a number of localities in the Okanagan, e. Washington and n.e. Oregon. Tree Sparrows were noted as scarce at Missoula and in the Okanagan. Two were found in a flock of Oregon juncos near Asotin, Wash. on Mar. 8, Weber's first record for that area in five years. Singles were seen near Coulee City, along Crab Creek west of Othello and on Yakima Indian Reservation, Wash., and one was noted at Charlo, Mont. The w. part of the Region had almost a deluge of Harris' Sparrow records, unlike anything previously recorded. Up to six were seen in several places in the Okanagan and one or more at a time were reported at Wenatchee, Quincy and the Tri-cities in Washington. The species was noted at Umatilla, Heppner and Baker in n.e. Oregon and at least three immatures apparently wintered at Bozeman. One or two were seen almost daily at Missoula all during March. White-crowned Sparrows wintered in numbers along the Snake R. and around Yakima and were reported also in the s. Okanagan, at McNary Refuge and at Spokane. A Golden-crowned Sparrow visited a feeder at Enderby, B.C. Dec 6 remaining until Jan. 3 (JM) and another came to a feeder in Vernon Feb. 15 (KG). An ad. White-throated Sparrow wintered at a feeder in Lavington, B.C and was last seen Mar. 16 (JG). Six Fox Sparrows were seen along the Snake R. at Wawawai Jan. 7 and one was there on the 21st (JWW). The species was seen in three localities close to Yakima during the winter (ERC). One or 2 Lapland Longspurs were seen with Horned Larks in Ahtanum Valley just west of Yakima in January and February. One came to a feeder at Yakima and a 5 in winter plumage was seen Feb 8 (ERC). A few were noted in the Helena area Only a few Snow Buntings were observed, in the Bozeman and Helena areas, around Davenport and

Wilbur, Wash. and at Prince George, where 37 were seen Dec 29.

CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS (**area editors in boldface**) – James Acton, **Eugene C. Barney**, McNary National Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash., Art Beaumont, Becky Benton, Hans Blattner, Ellis Bowhay, Kathryn Breslauer, **Dave Brown**, Columbia.

642 *American Birds*, June 1973

Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash, Bob Buchanan, Bea Buzzetti, Steve R. Cannings, Edward Cardiff, Helen Carlson, Audrey Casperson, Phil Cheney, Urana Clarke, Charles Clough, Harold E. Cole, Jr., (CC), Craig Corder, Sharon Cotterell, **Emily R. Cragg**, Yakima, Wash. area, C. V. Davis, **Wayne E. Doane**, Wenatchee, Wash. area, Sid Draper, Judy Elkins, Win. Elliott, Nonie Embleton, Opal Foust, Jack T. Fowle, **James Grant**, southern interior British Columbia, Tony Greager, Ed Grossman, Karl Gruener, Pauline Hager, Warren Hall, **Ralph L. Hand**, Missoula, Mont. area, Lucille Hardinger, Eve T. and R. A. Hays, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Henry, Dal Hooper, Start Hughes. Eugene Hunn, Margaret Hunter, Burr and Sylvia Jahn, Frances Jones, Dan Kelley, Kay Kershaw, Vivian Kohlruess, Betty and Carolyn Lagergren, Katherine Laupp, Audrey Lehman, Sister Louise Lyng, Isabelle Lynn, Don MacDonald, Carolyn McGhee, Jim Mack, Jon M. Malcolm, Sid Martin, Alice Matson, **Niel F. Meadowcroft**, Walla Walla, Wash. area, Elisabeth Moore, Robert Moran, **Gerald Morsello**, Prineville, Ore. area, Jo Nashem, V. Nealey, Art Newman, Martha Oliver, Frank Paul, Dennis R. Paulson, Del Pierce, Kootenai Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge, Bonners Ferry, Ida., **Tyson W. Planz**, Red Rock Lakes Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge, Lima, Mont., Bob and **Margaret J. Polumsky**, Lewiston, Ida., - Clarkston, Wash. area, Jan Reynolds, Wesley Ringerling, Dan Rogers, Thomas H. Rogers, John Rumely, Jeff Safford, Connie Sherer, Don R. Skaar, **P. D. Skaar**, Bozeman-Ennis, Mont. area, (CS), Connie Smedley, Joyce Speechley, Helen Stamer, **Mrs. S. O. Stanley** for Spokane Audubon Society and northeastern Washington, Marian Stevens, Esther Stewart, Gene Stroops, **Shirley G. Sturts**, Coeur d'

Alene, Ida. area, Ben A. Sugden, Otis D. Swisher, Glen Tamasi, **Butch Taylor**, Heppner, Ore. area, Win. Thackaberry, Dennis Van Horn, Maurice Vial, Harold Vredenburg, **Ann M. Ward**, Baker, Ore. area, Emily Weber, **John W. Weber**, Pullman, Wash. area, **Winton Weydemeyer**, Fortine, Mont. area, Dorothy White, Jack Winchell, **Robert E. Woodley**, Tri-cities, Wash. area, Paul J. Wolf, Dave Worley, Philip L. Wright, **Maurice B. Wright**, Turnbull Nat'l., Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash.

The Winter Season, 1972-73

GREAT BASIN - CENTRAL ROCKY MTN REGION

/ **Hugh E. Kingery**

Bitter cold the first two-three weeks in December and subsequent severe weather drove migratory birds and marginal wintering species from the Region; and, helped by a poor conifer cone crop, also drove montane birds down into the valleys. A chronicle of the cold and snow: Salt Lake City and Grand Junction had snow cover into March, and the Rio Grande River froze solid at Alamosa, Colo. -- as many Bald Eagles as Mallards wintered at Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge. Southeast Oregon enjoyed mild weather after the early cold, but not enough to melt any water; only 2000 waterfowl braved the winter at Malheur. At Zion observers found three new and six accidental records; of these five were water-related birds, suggesting that freezes up north caused erratic movements, even into desert areas like Zion. The continuing snowfall hampered early migration, and very few migrants filtered into the Region during March, in marked contrast to 1972.

CORMORANTS, HERONS -- For the first time in the Rocky Mountain National Park (below R.M.N.P.) area in any season, a Double-crested Cormorant came calling, on Jan. 1 (TG, ** to AC). The Pocatello CBC

produced a new bird for Idaho: a Green Heron. The bird survived the winter, at least until April.

SWANS, GEESE -- The frozen marshes of c. Utah and e. Oregon dispatched most Whistling Swans, but normal numbers wintered at Summer L., Ore. They began returning in February and had completed the peak of their migration by the end of the season. Malheur counted 14,000 Mar. 7, but most departed seemingly overnight. Ruby Lake's wintering Trumpeter Swans numbered 27 (41 last year). Malheur counted 45, including 16 cygnets. A mystery: the Malheur population has remained steady, even though 86 cygnets have been raised since 1966, at Deer Flat N.W.R., Ida. 7600 Canada Geese wintered--about half the population of a few years ago. During the January wildlife count, w. Colorado had 3901 Canada Geese; the highest in 12 years of counting. Scattered Snow Goose reports included 4 at Zion, Feb. 15, the third record there (LA, AE); poor weather forced 500 to make an unusual stop near Pocatello. At Malheur Snow Geese built to 75,000 on Mar. 6.

DUCKS -- When the Bear R. marsh froze solid Dec. 10, it left for the winter only 200 Red-breasted and Com. Mergansers and 132 Canada Geese. Then to the south, Dec. 16-20, desert-located Zion experienced an unusual influx of ducks on the Virgin R., with the usual Mallards outnumbered by Am. Wigeons and

Volume 27, Number 3 643

N Shovelers (high count, 407 ducks on the CBC) At Minidoka N.W.R., Ida., the bitter cold did not move the birds off as long as open water remained; the population gradually declined to 4500 in mid- January, mostly Mallards and Pintails. Seedskadee N.W.R., Wyo., had an average winter population of 600 Mallards and 1500 Com. Goldeneyes. While the frozen marshes and rivers left a grand total of 12 Mallards at Alamosa N.W.R., Colo., nearby Monte Vista N.W.R., with artesian wells and pumps keeping water open, recorded a wintering population of 20,000 Mallards, up from 15,000 last year. Desert Lake W.M.A., Utah, saw

its winter birds plummet to zero in January; then on Mar. 12 some 10,000 Pintails moved in--the largest influx of waterfowl ever seen there. Ruby L. migrants began trickling in to swell the winter low of 340 ducks to 2825 by Mar. 31, including 1120 Pintails. But Stillwater Ref. attracted a mere 38,400 migrants in mid-March, compared with last year's 82,500; large flocks enjoyed the abundant waterholes elsewhere in the valley. Likewise, Malheur's spring peak came to 73,200, lowest spring use in 4 years; Am. Wigeons contributed the most noticeable reduction, from 34,700 a year ago to 6800 this spring. Biologist McLaury credits the reduction to fewer flooded acres on the refuge plus last year's poor sago pondweed crop. Barrow's Goldeneyes wintered as usual at Dubois but also appeared at Ruby L. Feb. 28 (very unusual) and Klamath Falls several times. An Oldsquaw stayed with a pair of Redheads at Klamath L., Mar. 17-29 (LGo). Four Hooded Mergansers strayed to Fish Springs N.W.R., Utah, Feb. 16, and 6 wintered on the Snake R. below Minidoka (WHS).

HAWKS, EAGLES -- Reno observers found a White-tailed Kite Mar. 16. Regional CBCs reported 20 Goshawks, probably a normal count. During the winter we had about 2 dozen other observations, fewer than last year. CBCs counted 34 Sharp-shinned and 29 Cooper's Hawks, with occasional observations through the winter, comparable to last year. Initial fears of fewer hawks in w. Nevada dissipated with such discoveries as a troop of 61 Red-tailed Hawks near Reno Jan. 28. A congregation of 200 Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks gathered together near Klamath Falls at the peak of the winter concentration.

—S.A.—

The Wyoming Game & Fish Dept. counted 9077 Golden Eagles (4549 ad., 1834 imm. 2694 not aged) and 687 Bald Eagles in January--a decline of 2000 Golden from last year's count. Department officials attributed the decline to mild weather further north, although other experts identify the cause as a crash in jackrabbits. Similar declines occurred at Camas N.W.R., Ida. (Refuge jackrabbits plummeted from 5000 to 200)

and Summer L. ("freeze, combined with a very low jackrabbit population put severe stress on eagles ... a lower proportion of imm. birds may be the result of the December freeze on younger, less-experienced birds.") Malheur had a normal wintering population, but Deer Flat boasted 42 wintering eagles--3 times normal. In Nevada, man continued his toll of eagles, this year's weapon steel traps set out by amateur trappers for suddenly-valuable bobcat and coyote pelts. A federal study showed 2000-3000 caught in 4 e. Nevada counties, half of which died (JE). An unknown number of hawks likewise succumbed to the traps. At Seedskadee N.W.R. guns killed 4 eagles and 5 Rough-legged Hawks in 2 weeks.

In addition to the Wyoming survey, our contributors cited 349 Golden and 669 Bald Eagle observations, each up over last year by about 100. A wintering population of 40-50 Balds was discovered in Nevada's Jarbridge Mts. Ospreys visited Reno Jan. 28 and, in late March, Alamosa (rare), Zion (new), Nampa, and Sheridan. Three Gyrfalcons appeared, in Idaho (CHT) and Wyoming (GR), amply substantiated by details. We had 21 Peregrine Falcon reports from 8 different locations.

GROUSE, QUAIL -- The severe winter took a toll on some introduced game birds, while the natives survived relatively well. While scarce at Reno, Turkeys were seen at Evergreen, Colo., and a number of sites near Durango. Blue Grouse and Sage Grouse maintained normal levels, with the latter beginning to dance at Hart Mt. Nat'l Antelope Range, Ore., Malheur, and Rupert, Ida. in mid-March. On the Laramie Plains, south of Casper, the record depths of snow covered not only all the sagebrush but even all fence posts; Scott wonders about the fate of the 3000 Sage Grouse if the strutting grounds remain snow-covered during the mating season. White-tailed Ptarmigan thrived in Colorado, with over 100 seen in February at Guanella Pass near Georgetown (m. ob.) and a covey of 8 feeding in willows Feb. 20 amid speeding skiers at Vail. However California Quail suffered a decline at Klamath Falls, Chukars dropped in Lemhi Co., Ida., and Malheur, and Gray Partridges were seen but twice all winter at

Sheridan, Wyo. The Camas N.W.R. pheasant population dropped from 1000 last year to 200 this year, and "the severe winter cut quite deeply" into the Bear R. pheasants.

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS, GULLS -- At Ft Collins, Colo., during the first warm weather Dec 19-21 after the intense cold passed, so did several flocks of Sandhill Cranes, flying south after midnight They returned to Monte Vista Feb. 5, and built up to 4186 there with 6000 more in the rest of the San Luis Valley Color markings show these birds breed in s.e. Idaho. The rough winter drove even Killdeer further south than usual, with none at most places during mid-winter. They pushed north early though not always with sure instinct. At Crater L., "the mild February brought wandering strangers to high places. With a dense fog shrouding everything at 6500 feet, a Killdeer was observed standing motionless in the 8-foot snowpack at 7 a.m. Feb. 9. Two hours later, and after a few warming-up wing extensions, the bird lifted into the air, directing his course down slope to more favorable conditions." At Hart Mt. they first appeared Feb 12, a month earlier than last year, and they arrived in late February at Ruby L. and Lemhi Co. Fewer than usual

644 *American Birds*, June 1973

early sandpipers arrived in March, the total roster includes Greater Yellowlegs at Grand Junction Mar 12 and Klamath Falls Mar. 28; Lesser Yellowlegs at Desert L. Mar. 29; Least Sandpiper at Grand Junction Mar 12; the first peeps at Hart Mt. Mar. 26; and Long-billed Dowitchers at Malheur Mar. 25. Herring Gulls made rare appearances at Klamath Falls Dec. 16, R.M.N.P. Dec. 25, and Zion Mar. 22. Details of Nevada's first records of **Sabine's Gulls**, seen last fall at Reno, will be published elsewhere.

OWLS -- Several Barn Owls appeared on Seedskadee Mar. 14, and singles wintered at Malheur and Bear R.; however, with the December cold, three perished at Bear R., as did two at Pocatello, locations where they are not normally seen. Several observers found Screech

Owls, at Ruby L. for the first refuge record, and Zion, Ft. Collins, and Durango. Snowy Owls penetrated south to Nampa Feb. 18 and Seedskadee Mar. 1. A parliament of 20 Long-eared Owls which normally roosts near Lazear, Colo., from December to February, failed to assemble this year (TC). The first Saw-whet Owls in several years were seen at Reno Jan. 31-Feb. 1, Casper, Wyo. Feb. 15, and Boulder, Colo. Dec. 16 (CBC). The first Say's Phoebe arrived at Reno Feb. 11, Unionville, Nev. Feb 21, and Durango Feb. 28, all quite early. First swallows of spring came with Violet-greens in mid- March at Springdale and Lemhi Co., and early Trees at Malheur Feb. 27, Pueblo (JL) and Klamath Falls Mar 3, Provo, Utah, Mar. 7 (WS), and Reno Mar. 12 Malheur's Trees peaked at 1800, much reduced.

JAYS -- Gray Jays wintered normally, except for the groups in Durango and Gunnison. The Camas Blue Jay (*Am. Birds* 27:94) was seen occasionally until Feb. 28. Idaho had *two* other records--remarkable for a state with but one or two periods prior to this fall: 6 on Jan. 11-20 in Gooding Co. (m.ob. *fide* CHT); and 6 on Feb. 25, with 10 Steller's Jays, in the Idaho Primitive Area (MC). Fewer Steller's Jays wintered in the high country near Boulder and Crater L., but seemed normal in Summit Co., Colo. and Bryce Canyon N. P. Their low-country incursions tapered off, but they did occur commonly at odd locations like Pocatello, Salt Lake City, Castledale, and Springdale, Utah, and Grand Junction, Hotchkiss, Saguache, and New Castle, Colo. Pinyon Jays wandered as usual; large flocks occurred in the Front Range foothills, Castledale, Utah, and n. Nevada. This winter marked the first time they had visited feeders in Durango; "People 'blessed' with their numbers say they are worse than Starlings." Clark's Nutcrackers continued their fall wanderings, with more reports from most places mentioned in the fall report, plus wintering birds at Monte Vista, Durango, New Castle, Cheyenne, and Pocatello, and February and March records at Buena Vista, Colo., Salt Lake City, Dubois, and Klamath Falls. In late March w. Nevada, which has not participated in the jay influx, did have nutcrackers at Stillwater and Reno.

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES -- Unusual numbers of Black-capped Chickadees appeared at Zion (74 on the CBC, average 6), Grand Junction (these and

Mountain Chickadees present in triple the usual numbers), and Dubois. Mountain Chickadees seemed commoner than usual at Salt Lake City, Castledale, and Reno. Camas N.W.R. had a population of 50--none last year--and a few passed through Minidoka N.W.R. in early February. Two sightings of Chestnut-backed Chickadees at Crater L. implied an increase there. Plain Titmice deserted the pinyon/juniper forest to join the chickadees in Grand Junction, and Com. Bushtits trooped through Pueblo, Colorado Springs, and Denver foothills. Red-breasted Nuthatches visited throughout the Region but in only modest numbers. Brown Creepers frequented a number of unusual locations. All but one CBC with over 10 party-hours found them, and they stayed all winter in places like Salt Lake City, Rupert, Klamath Falls, Durango, and Cheyenne.

THRASHERS, THRUSHES -- A Mockingbird wintered at Unionville, Nev., and a Brown Thrasher wintered at Nederland, Colo. (SC). Pikes Peak, Malheur, and Pocatello found Varied Thrushes for CBCs; the Pikes Peak bird stayed at least until Apr 10. Reno recorded two observations in January, and Malheur and Rupert noted March visits of the northwestern thrush.

WAXWINGS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS -- We had Bohemian Waxwings everywhere, from Cheyenne (where they hand-fed on raisins) and Casper to La Veta, Colo., from the Colorado Front Range to Reno. Numbers ranged from one lone bird at Durango all winter to flocks of 1700 on the Denver CBC and 950 at Malheur Mar. 20. At Sheridan, where they winter even when not found further south, numbers were down. A few Cedar Waxwings mixed with the Bohemians. Observers in Zion, Rupert, and Klamath Falls commented on reduced observations of Loggerhead Shrikes. House Sparrow population at Camas increased from 30 to 100. At Dubois, 10 came daily to a feeder, but up to 30 on cold days. "This implies that more than half of the current House Sparrow population prefers foraging to welfare, and comes for a handout only when self-employment is most hazardous." Western Meadowlarks, which sometimes winter, cleared out, returning everywhere in March.

FINCHES -- Finches descended to the towns and cities, leaving the high country bare. Crater L. had no finches all season, save one Oregon type Dark-eyed Junco Feb. 23. Poor cone crops at Crater L. and w Colorado, and probably elsewhere, contributed to the dispersal of finches (and jays?) to the low country. Evening Grosbeaks appeared everywhere. Practically all reports mentioned them, with unusual numbers reported from Salt Lake City, Reno, Casper, Cheyenne, Sheridan, and Lemhi Co. This winter Utah's first reports of **Purple Finches** came from both ends of the state, although details are on hand only for those found around Kanab and Zion, which were present Oct. 1-Dec. 31. Observer Stuart is probably

Volume 27, Number 3 645

the first to look for Purple Finches among the Cassin's. Cassin's Finches appeared in many places in the low country, although only Reno and Colorado Springs reported large numbers. A Few Pine Grosbeaks came out of the mountains--Cheyenne, Sheridan, Rupert, and Salt Lake City had them.

—S.A.—

Most striking feature of the winter reports involved **rosy finches**. Perhaps the heavy snow cover in the high country brought them, perhaps the shortage of food in open country. Customarily they travel in huge winter flocks, descending like falling leaves upon feeding tables, road banks, and fields free of snow cover. Every mountain town in Colorado reported hundreds --3000- 5000 at Gunnison; in Wyoming, Jackson, Dubois, Laramie, and Cheyenne had flocks up to 500; Ruby L, Zion, Hotchkiss had first records. Pocatello had 300 in an historic roost in a mine shaft, but early December flocks in Lemhi Co. disappeared; did the mild weather there send them to winter in the high country, or did they move south and east? Most of the birds in these widespread flocks were Gray-crowned, although flocks in Colorado boasted varying numbers of Brown-capped. Flocks in w. Wyoming and

w. Colorado had a few Blacks, and one banded at Pocatello Jan. 9 was Idaho's first winter record.

Com. Redpolls occurred in Durango Dec. 13, Casper Jan. 12, and R.M.N.P. all winter. Pine Siskins did not winter, except for a few at Cheyenne. Red Crossbills joined the finch descent into some towns, with birds coming to feeders from Laramie and Cheyenne south to Pueblo. Small flocks occurred in the mountains of Colorado, in e. Idaho, Salt Lake City, and L. Tahoe, Nev. Two errant Lark Buntings appeared briefly Mar. 7 at a Durango feeder, during a wet, heavy spring snowstorm.

JUNCOS, SPARROWS -- White-winged Juncos spread down the Eastern Slope of the Rockies to Pueblo, Rye, and La Veta; and west to Summit Co. (Dec. 23-Feb. 3), Grand Junction, and Durango. Tree Sparrows came Mar. 13-15 to Reno and Mar. 27 to Zion for its first record. As reported last season, Harris's Sparrows dispersed throughout the Region, with reports from all states except Oregon, and including 4 wintering at Reno. White-crowned Sparrows usually constitute the second-most abundant winter bird at Zion, but they never arrived this year. They also were absent from Durango, Colorado Springs, and Klamath Falls. R.M.N.P. never had seen a White-throated Sparrow until April 26, 1972; this season it had 4 reports! No Snow Buntings were seen in Sheridan, but several scattered flocks of 50 populated the n. Laramie Plains south of Casper, where possibly they winter regularly, and some were found in Lemhi Co. all winter. One strayed to Red Feather Lakes, Colo., for photographs (DB).

ABBREVIATIONS--** sight record on file with Regional Editor.

AREA CONTRIBUTORS -- (Editors collecting observations from their communities in boldface, with number of contributors listed) Bear River N.W.R., Utah: William Zimmerman; Boulder, Colo. (13) **Louise**

Hering; Casper, Wyo.: Oliver Scott; Castledale, Utah: Ann Wissler; Cheyenne, Wyo. (3): **Anne Grier**; Crater Lake Nat'l Park: James Holcomb; Colorado Springs (3): **Mahlon Speers**; Desert Lake W.M.A Timothy Provan; Dubois, Wyo. (3): Mary Back; Durango, Colo. (5): **Richard Stransky**; Evergreen, Colo. (4): **W. W. Brockner**; Fish Springs N.W.R., Utah; Rolf Kroft; Deer Flat N.W.R., Ida.: John Annear; Grand Junction, Colo. (15): **Lorna Gustafson**; Hotchkiss, Colo.: Theo Colburn; Klamath Falls, Ore Larry Goodhew; Lemhi & Custer Cos., Ida.: Hadley Roberts; Malheur N.W.R., Ore. (6): **Eldon McLaury**; McCoy, Colo.: Margaret Ewing; Minidoka N.W R John Hill; Nampa, Ida. (25): **Belle Shaw**; Pocatello, Ida. (4) C.H. Trost; Reno, Nev. (11): **Jessie Alves**; Rexburg, Ida: Ririe Godfrey; R.M.N.P. (8): **Allegra Collister**; Ruby Lake N.W.R.: Lowell Napier; Rupert, Ida: W. H. Shillington; Seedskaadee N.W.R., Wyo.: Merle Bennett; Sheridan, Wyo.: (5): **Platt Hall**; Stillwater W. M.A., Nev.: Larry Napier; Summer Lake, Ore Larry Bright; Zion Nat'l Park, Utah (14): **Jerome Gifford**.

OBSERVERS -- Louise Arnold, David Bolton, Natasha Boyd, Mark Collie, Sherry Conner, Mrs. Lewis Cummings, Robert Darnell, Dave DeSante, Kenneth Diem, John Douglass, Austin Excell, Janet Eyre, Sam Gadd, David Galinat, James Good, Bruce Hamilton, May Hanesworth, A. S. Hyde, Gleb Kashin, R. F. Kemp, Vernon Kousky. R. F. Krey, Steve Larson, Jerry Ligon, Carl Marti, Doris McLaughlin, Sadie Morrison, Greg Munther, Warner Reeser, Gary Robinson, W. C. Royall, Jr., Fred Ryser, William Stone, Richard Stuart, Mrs. S O Swartz, Van Truan, Jack Welch.

The Winter Season, 1972-73

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

The first two weeks of December brought unusually cold weather to the Region, with the most severe temperatures occurring in the southern portion. The central Willamette Valley experienced the coldest temperatures since 1919. After this initial onslaught, however, temperatures moderated to normal or slightly above for the rest of the season. December brought more precipitation than normal, January was about average in this respect, but February and March had considerably less rain and snow fall than is customary.

LOONS, PELICANS, CORMORANTS, HERONS -- Seven records of Yellow-billed Loons in the Vancouver-Victoria-Bellingham triangle Dec. 17- Mar. 29 were reported. A good count of an estimated 700 Arctic Loons was made at Active Pass in the Gulf Is. Mar. 9 (BM & MS, *fide* WW). There were 150 Red-throated Loons at Deception Pass in the San Juan Is. Jan. 27 (WW *et al.*); a single bird of this species on Fern Ridge Res. w. of Eugene, Oreg. Feb. 10 (JG & DM) was highly unusual so far from saltwater. A White Pelican was found at Yaquina Bay, Oreg. Feb. 25 (RB, *fide* FZ); on Mar. 20, the same or another individual was seen near tidewater on the Alsea R. (J & MC, *fide* FZ). Concentrations of 450 Double-crested Cormorants at Bellingham, Wash., Mar. 10 (NL, *fide* TW) and of 600 Brandt's Cormorants at Active Pass Mar. 9 (BM & MS, *fide* WW) are of interest. Two Com. Egrets were noted at Waldport, Oreg. Dec. 22 (RB, *fide* FZ) where one was still present Jan. 13 (WH *fide* FZ); another turned up for the Sauvie I. CBC Dec. 30. A **Cattle Egret** appeared at Oceanside, Oreg., Dec. 16 for the Tillamook CBC (FZ *et al.*); possibly the same bird was seen further s. at North Bend, Oreg., between Christmas and New Year's Day (HR, *fide* HN). Five Am. Bitterns were

652 *American Birds*, June 1973

found on the Ladner, B.C., CBC, individual birds or pairs were also noted during the winter season at Ocean Shores, Wash. (G & WHO) in December, at Sauvie I. (JG & HN) and at Finley N.W.R.s. of Corvallis, Oreg., (FZ) in January, and at Brownsville, Oreg. (HT, *fide* FZ) and at Pitt Meadows e. of

Vancouver in March where two appeared to be constructing a nest as early as Mar. 21 (WR *et al.*, *fide* WW).

WATERFOWL -- Approximately 960 Whistling Swans wintered in the Willamette Valley, excluding those which occurred near the Columbia R. (U.S.F. & WS., *fide* FZ). The Ladner, Duncan and Bellingham CBCs all encountered this species; there were 70 Whistling Swans at the Skagit Flats in w. Washington Feb 25 (TW). A Trumpeter Swan carrying a neck band, which appeared with six other swans at Ocean Shores, Wash., Dec. 8-27 (JM) is reported by the U.S.F. & W.S. to have been captured for banding during molt on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula last summer. Trumpeter Swans were recorded from Duncan, B.C., where three were present in December (JCo), from localities near Vancouver and from Clear L. near Bellingham where a maximum of 69 were counted on Feb. 25 (TW). The 15,000 Dusky Canada Geese wintering in w. Oregon and Washington this past winter are said to be the lowest total in fourteen years (U.S.F. & W S, *fide* FZ). Four Brant were picked out of a flock of 250 Black Brant at March Pt., Skagit Co., Wash., Feb 24 (EH). Vagrant individual White-fronted Geese were at Duncan Dec. 2 (JCo), at the Nooksack Delta Dec 31 (AB *et al.*, *fide* TW), two were in the vicinity of Victoria Jan. 22 Mar. 31 (VG *et al.*), and two others were at Finley N.W.R. all winter (FZ). Thousands of Snow Geese wintered in the vicinity of Ladner, B C (WW); up to a score were seen at intervals in the c. Willamette Valley after the first of the year (FZ *et al.*). A **Black Duck** was carefully observed at Bellevue, Wash., for the Seattle CBC Dec. 31; the bird was carefully studied the next day (EH), and was still present Jan. 12 (PM). The count of 158 Gadwall made on the Vancouver, B.C., CBC was characterized as "unprecedented" (WW). A late arriving flight of imm. Pintails suffered heavy mortality at Sauvie I. with the bitter cold snap which occurred in the middle of December (MN, *fide* HN). Two male (Eurasian) Green-winged Teal were found at Sea I. on the Vancouver CBC Dec. 17; two male were seen there again Feb 23 (M M, *fide* WW); single male were seen at Duncan Feb 23 and at Swartz Bay n. of Victoria Mar. 22 (VG). Individuals thought to be hybrid *crecca* X *carolinensis* teal were seen at the latter place Feb. 18 (SJ, *fide* VG), and twice on the Samish Co., Wash., flats in February (NL, *fide* TW: EH). Two

Blue-winged Teal were recorded on the Sauvie I. CBC, Dec. 30 and a pair of this species was discovered at Fern Ridge Res. w. of Eugene Mar. 1 (JG & DM). A pair of Cinnamon Teal were at Seattle Dec. 8-Jan. 11 (PM *et al.*); three early arriving male were found at Tillamook Feb 24 (JBC, RF & HN). European Wigeon were well reported for the season in the approximate central one-third of the Region. An all-white Am. Wigeon with bill and feet of normal color was in company with others at the Samish Flats Mar. 3 (NL, *fide* TW). The 56 Wood Ducks recorded on the Ladner CBC was a very high count, a female was at Grays Harbor, Wash., Dec. 17 (EH); another evidently overwintered at Saanich, B.C. (AD; SJ; RS, all, *fide* VG). Redheads appeared on a number of CBCs and were additionally seen after Jan. 1 at Duncan, Vancouver, Tillamook, and Fern Ridge Res. where 22 individuals were present Feb. 10-Mar. 15 (JG & DM). A male Tufted Duck was photographed Jan. 17 at the Burrard Inlet seawall in Stanley Park, Vancouver (TC, *fide* WW); another sighting was made at Clover Pt., Victoria Mar. 20 (WC, *fide* VG). Three Com. Goldeneye found at the inland location of Brownsville, Oreg. Feb. 12 & 22 (HT, *fide* FZ) were out of the ordinary. Over 2900 Barrow's Goldeneyes were recorded on the Vancouver C B C; the 40 birds of this species at Cowichan Bay n. of Victoria Dec. 30 was said to be a remarkable concentration for that locality (RS & VG). Oldsquaw were well represented from Vancouver s. to Victoria during the season; a few were seen throughout the period in bays on the c. Oregon coast, where the species is normally uncommon to rare. An unusual concentration of 80 Black Scoters was at Iona I., s. of Vancouver Jan 27 (GP, *fide* WW). There were 50 Hooded Mergansers at Elk L. near Victoria Feb. 6 (MS, WW *et al.*).

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES -- The fourth week of February brought four sightings of early-arriving Turkey Vultures to w. Oregon, from Medford all the way to Sauvie I. where one was seen Feb 21. A White-tailed Kite was found on three occasions Dec 3-20 at Talent, Oreg. (OS). Single Goshawks were recorded on a number of CBCs, and several times during the rest of the season in the vicinity of Victoria, one was at Tillamook on Mar. 20 (JG). The comparative infrequency of sightings for both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks is cause for concern over the well-

being of these two species; Red-tailed Hawks, on the other hand, were very well reported, particularly from CBCs in the Georgia Straits-Puget Sound- Willamette Valley trough. For the fourth consecutive winter we are in receipt of careful descriptions of sightings identified as Harlan's Hawks; this year on Dec 30 an adult and an immature were found at Burlington, Wash. (LB & EH); an adult was seen Dec. 21, Feb 24, Mar. 10 & 28 on the Lummi Flats n.w. of Bellingham (NL, *fide* TW). A bird identified as an imm. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen on Jan 2 at Sauvie I. and was subsequently convincingly described by the observers (JG & HN); the record is of particular interest since Gabrielson & Jewett in *Birds of Oregon*, in doubt about the few records assigned to this species in the 1880's and 90's, relegated it to Oregon's hypothetical list. A **Ferruginous Hawk** was in the vicinity of Eugene much of the winter, turning up first Dec. 31-Jan 3 (LM *et al.*, *fide* FZ) and then being seen several times from Feb. 15 to the end of the period (JS, *fide* RL). An imm. Golden Eagle tarried at Baskett Slough N.W.R. n. of Dallas, Oreg. Dec. 26-Feb. 1 (JMi & FZ); another was seen at Pitt Meadows, e. of Vancouver, Jan. 13 and again on Feb. 10 (GP & WW), two were there on Mar. 10 (GAP, *fide* WW). A Golden Eagle also spent most of January in the Saanich area n. of Victoria (VG; RS *et al.*). Bald Eagles were

Volume 27, Number 3 653

reported from points n. of Dallas, Oreg., with good numbers in the Gulf Is., particularly in the latter part of the winter. Many of the Region's CBCs encouragingly reported good numbers of Marsh Hawks. A few Ospreys had drifted into the s. portion of the Region in the latter half of March; one was even seen on a nest at Saanich as early as Mar. 29 (RS, *fide* VG). Gyrfalcons were seen repeatedly in the area between Vancouver and Bellingham all winter by many observers; a gray-phase bird was noted at Ocean Shores, Wash., on three occasions in December and again three times in early February (JM; GHo; EH; DP). An imm. female Prairie Falcon was found dead s. of Finley N.W.R. on Jan. 19 (DR, *fide* FZ); the bird was made into a specimen for the Oregon State U. collection. A most encouraging number of Peregrine sightings was reported from nearly a score of different localities widely dispersed through the s. portion of the Region; maximum number on any one day at one locality was two individuals and in one instance, possibly three birds.

Merlins were less well reported, except that up to 10 individuals were estimated to have wintered on the Samish Co., Wash., flats (NL, *fide* TW) and seven mid-Willamette Valley sightings were made Jan. 17- Feb. 17 (*fide* FZ). American Kestrels were said by several observers to be in less-than-normal numbers n. of the Columbia R.

CRANE, RAILS, SHOREBIRDS -- A few Sandhill Cranes wintered at Sauvie I. near Portland, quite an abnormal occurrence. At least one and probably more Virginia Rails spent the winter in the Saanich Pen. n. of Victoria; this species was also recorded on the Vancouver and Ladner CBCs. A dying Sora was found at Vancouver Dec. 17 (RK, *fide* WW); single birds were found at Westport, Wash., and on Westham I., s. of Vancouver, during the CBC period. Almost all reporters agreed that Killdeer had become relatively scarce after mid-December following a week of very cold weather and snow; indications are that the population may have moved southward, particularly to the coast, as Killdeer were thought to be above normal numbers along the s.w. Oregon coast during the remainder of the period (FZ). Perhaps a comparison of Killdeer totals on CBCs in California with counts for earlier years will tell something about what became of this Region's normal wintering complement of Killdeers which never did return in any numbers for the remainder of the 1972-73 winter period. An **Am. Golden Plover** in company with 15 Black-bellied Plovers at Westham I. Jan. 25 (RK, *fide* WW) was an astounding find, and is the only mid-winter record for the Region known to us. The remarkable total of over 200 Black-bellied Plovers at Tillamook for the CBC Dec. 16 had probably been forced southward by the bitter weather conditions of the ten preceding days. Com. Snipe numbers, too, were reduced below normal after mid-December, undoubtedly for the same cause as affected Killdeer; snipe were also said to be present in more than usual numbers along the s.w. Oregon coast in January and February (FZ). Seven Whimbrels at Yaquina Bay Jan. 28 (WH, *fide* FZ), one there Mar. 4 (M & EE, *fide* FZ) and six there Mar. 26 (SF, *fide* FZ) all were noteworthy. The 38 Greater Yellowlegs recorded on the Victoria CBC is a surprisingly high total for anywhere within this Region in the wintertime. The fact that up to 40 Rock Sandpipers wintered in the Victoria area is also impressive (VG *et al.*); 15 were seen at Vancouver Jan. 21 (GP, *fide* WW). Least Sandpipers normally winter very sparsely in the southern portion

of the Region, but observations of that species this winter were fewer than usual, again possibly reflecting effects of the early December cold snap. Dunlin, on the other hand, seemed to be present in normal or even greater-than-normal wintering numbers. Long-billed Dowitchers were reported on a number of CBCs and at a number of other localities in December; more seem to have been found after the end of that month, however. Lone W. Sandpipers were noted at March Pt, near Bellingham, Mar. 10 (NL, *fide* TW); and at Victoria Mar. 22 (AD, *fide* VG), both more unusual dates than Jan. 2 when 60 were counted at Sauvie I. (JG & HN). A Red Phalarope was seen at the Westport, Wash., jetty Dec. 16 (EH & NL, *fide* TW); another was found the same day for the Tillamook CBC.

GULLS, ALCIDS -- Glaucous Gulls were noted on the Vancouver and Ladner CBCs; later in the season single birds were seen in the Vancouver- Bellingham-Victoria triangle, at Tillamook, and 20 miles at sea from Newport, Oreg. Three Bonaparte's Gulls seen at Saanich Jan. 19 (VG *et al.*) were the last reports received for the season. A **Little Gull** was seen in a flock of gulls off Pt. Grey, Vancouver, on the CBC there, Dec. 17; the bird was said to be noticeably smaller than the Bonaparte's Gulls which accompanied it, and the dark wing-linings were clearly seen (WC *fide* WW). The only report of Black-legged Kittiwake for the season was one found at Yaquina Bay, Oreg. Jan. 28 (Wig, *fide* FZ). Pigeon Guillemots were seen in number up to 65 in the San Juan and Gulf Islands by several observers at different times during the season; 20 were at Newport, Oreg., Mar 24 (LG). The 274 Marbled Murrelets on the Vancouver CBC and the 95 on the Bellingham CBC were both high totals. Counts of 450 Ancient Murrelets Dec 26 (AD, *et al.*, *fide* VG) and of 300 on Jan. 19 (VG & RS) at Saanich are remarkable. A few Rhinoceros Auklets were seen in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and in the San Juans, the maximum count in one day being fifteen at the latter locality Mar. 30 (KK).

PIGEONS, OWLS, HUMMINGBIRDS -- Vancouver, Victoria and Seattle all recorded unusually high numbers of Band-tailed Pigeons on their CBCs, migrant pigeons had worked their way northward again as far as Vancouver by the last week in February. Mourning Doves were not reported from anywhere in

the Region after December. Snowy Owls appeared only in the area from Ladner s. to Samish Bay; except for a total of 6 on the Ladner CBC, the maximum one-day number was three at Ladner in mid-February (EH). Burrowing Owls were surprisingly well reported, one spent the winter at Iona I. (RP, *fide* WW), another was found at Tillamook Dec. 16 (DH, *fide* FZ), still another appeared at Finley N.W.R. Mar. 17 (FZ), and one wintered at Agate L. near Medford until mid-

654 *American Birds*, June 1973

February when its burrow was flooded (OS) Short-eared Owls were very well represented on many of the Region's CBCs; there were 25 on the Lummi Flats near Bellingham Jan 21 (TW), and 43 at White City, Oreg., near Medford Dec. 30 (OS *et al.*). Four early Vaux's Swifts were noted at Eugene Mar. 24 (ND, *fide* FZ). Besides the Vancouver, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland and Medford CBCs on which a total of 16 Anna's Hummingbirds appeared, individuals also turned up at one time or another during the report period at Duncan where one spent the entire winter (JCo), near Bellingham, near Victoria, and at Finley N.W.R.

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS -- Common Flickers were seen at seven different locations from Vancouver s. to Corvallis at various times during the winter. A Lewis' Woodpecker at Pt Roberts on Dec. 31 (BM & RK, *fide* WW) and four on the Sauvie I. CBC were the only ones mentioned by reporters. A Black Phoebe was again found on the Gold Beach, Oreg. CBC. A Say's Phoebe was spotted 7 miles n. of Kelso, Wash., Mar. 20 (RSt *et al.*) Skylarks are declining at Victoria; the maximum number seen together at the Univ. of Victoria campus was only eight (JT, *fide* VG); 17 were found at the s. end of San Juan I. Mar. 17 (RSt *et al.*). Tree Swallows preceded Violet-green Swallows into the Region in early February by about a week, with the first of the former reaching Vancouver by the 21st of the month. Barn Swallows finally left Reifel Refuge near Vancouver after Dec. 2 on which date eight individuals were seen (GA, DA & RP, *fide* WW). A Cliff Swallow appeared there as early as Mar. 25 (GP, *fide* WW), the same day that a flock of

200 was at Fern Ridge Reservoir w. of Eugene, Oreg. (JG & DM).

JAYS THROUGH THRUSHES -- Five Gray Jays were at Duncan Feb. 24 where the species rarely occurs (JCo). A Blue Jay was at Duncan during the latter part of January (JCo), while two were seen and photographed repeatedly at Saanich from Oct. 13, 1972 through to the end of the current report period (VG *et al.*). Black-billed Magpies appeared at various times during the winter at Medford, Portland, Sauvie I., Vancouver, and at Deming, Wash. Clark's Nutcrackers were found at Bellingham and at Seattle for the CBCs; three were seen near Ilwaco, Wash., in late January (RV, *fide* TW). Single Mountain Chickadees were noted at Bellingham Dec. 11 (TW), at Vancouver Dec. 17 (WR *et al.*, *fide* WW) and at Pitt Meadows e. of Vancouver Jan. 13 (WW & GP). A White-breasted Nuthatch was discovered at Vancouver's Stanley Park Dec 3 (MS & BM, *fide* WW); one was also seen at Bellingham Dec. 31 (CL, *fide* TW). Two Pygmy Nuthatches turned up for the Cottage Grove, Oreg. CBC. A Wrenit was recorded on the Portland CBC. Twenty Long-billed Marsh Wrens were counted at Westham I. near Vancouver on March 4 (MS & WW). A Mockingbird was at Duncan, B.C., from Dec. 9 through the end of the month (JCo); another was seen at Saanich Dec. 12 (WC, *fide* VG); still another was at Baskett Slough N.W.R. w. of Salem, Oreg. during mid-March (RL *et al.*) and two were recorded at Medford for the CBC. Up to three Hermit Thrushes evidently wintered in the vicinity of Victoria (VG *et al.*). Western Bluebirds were seen repeatedly in the c. and s. Willamette Valley in small numbers after the first week of January; 29 on the Salem CBC was an encouraging total. At the s. edge of the Region, Medford's CBC recorded 203 W. Bluebirds! A pair of this species at Victoria Mar. 9 (*fide* VG) is also of interest. Townsend's Solitaires were recorded on four of the Region's CBCs.

PIPITS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS -- A **White Wagtail** adult in winter plumage of the *ocularis* race was discovered Mar. 2 at the mouth of the Coquiltam R., about 15 miles e. of Vancouver (GA & RJ); it was subsequently seen until Mar. 21 by many observers. Good written descriptions were made, one of which was submitted to the regional editors in full (WW), but

no photographs could be obtained. The record is said to be the first for British Columbia. The only Bohemian Waxwing recorded away from the Vancouver-Bellingham area where five flocks of up to 80 were seen in December and January was found at Salem, Oreg. Jan. 8 (RL). Cedar Waxwings were little reported, while N. Shrikes seem to have been quite well represented in the Region this winter, judging from CBC reports in particular. Fifteen Hutton's Vireos on the Eugene CBC was a remarkable total. Reports of single Townsend's Warblers came from Vancouver, Jan. 27-31; from Saanich, Jan. 3-Feb. 27, Ocean Shores, Wash., Feb. 17; the Humptulips R. on the Olympic Peninsula Mar. 6; Salem, Jan. 4 & 17, and from Corvallis three times in December and in January. **Yellow-breasted Chats** were reported from Dexter, Oreg. Feb. 15 (JS, *fide* FZ) and from Finley N.W.R. where an individual was singing on several mornings in the second week of February (RG, *fide* FZ); we know of no previous winter record for the Region. Single Yellow-headed Blackbirds were noted at Duncan Jan. 26 (JCo), at Reifel Refuge s. of Vancouver Mar. 21 (Ct, *fide* WW) and at the Skagit Flats Mar. 26 (RFu). Two Rusty Blackbirds were at Lummi Flats near Bellingham Dec. 10-19 (JD, DHe; TW *et al.*); another individual of this species was seen at Saanich three times in the latter three weeks of December (VG; RS). Up to six Brown-headed Cowbirds wintered at Saanich (VG *et al.*) another was a Vancouver in February and March (WR *fide* WW).

FINCHES, SPARROWS -- A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** appeared regularly at a feeder in L. Oswego Dec 25-30; a good photograph was obtained (I & CC); the record is the first for Oregon and the first winter record for the Region of which we are aware. A Black-headed Grosbeak was seen in Portland Dec. 9 (CB, *fide* HN). Evening Grosbeaks seem to have been locally plentiful at scattered localities in the central portion of the Region this winter. Purple Finches were unusually numerous at Victoria (VG). Three Cassin's Finches were captured and banded at Medford Mar. 9 (OS). Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were frequently seen in the vicinity of Vancouver most of the winter (*fide* WW). Small numbers of Com. Redpolls appeared at Vancouver, Bellingham, and in the San Juan Is., mostly in late December and early January. Pine Siskins were

absent or scarce for the most part, although a flock of 200 was seen at Warrenton, Oreg., Jan. 13 (RF & HN) and "many" were said to be on Lopez I. in the San Juans Mar. 16 (RSt *et al.*). Lesser Goldfinches were seen a few times during the winter on the w. side of the Willamette Valley from Albany southward after late January. Red Crossbills were virtually absent from the Region this winter, judging by the dearth of reports for this species. The first Vancouver I. record for **Lark Sparrow** was supplied by one found at Saanich Feb. 7, 9 & Mar. 31 (WC, VG *et al.*); up to ten were observed at Medford during the extremely cold second week of December (OS). Dark-eyed Juncos were well reported from Vancouver s. to Medford throughout the entire report period. Several reports of Tree Sparrows, in number up to six at a locality, were received from Vancouver, Bellingham, and Victoria. A Chipping Sparrow was noted at Albany, Oreg. Jan. 22 (CG, *fide* FZ). Harris' Sparrows were present in unprecedented winter numbers, particularly in the Vancouver-Ladner-Bellingham area, although there were ten sightings from places as much to the southward as Eugene. White-throated Sparrows were seen repeatedly on the s.e. side of Vancouver I. and in the Willamette Valley throughout the winter. Lincoln's Sparrows in number up to seven in a day were recorded in six localities from Eugene n. to Vancouver at various dates scattered through the entire report period. An imm. **Swamp Sparrow** was photographed at L. Sammamish State Park, King Co., Wash., Apr. 8 (EH, DP, PM *et al.*) after having been first discovered Feb. 25 (EH). Lapland Longspurs were recorded Dec. 12 & Jan 6. in number up to 20 on the Lummi Flats (*fide* TW); they were last seen at Ocean Shores where they had been seen repeatedly during the fall, in early Jan. (JM). Over 100 Snow Buntings were seen from late December until mid-February at the latter place (JM); a few were seen at various times in December and January between Bellingham and Vancouver (*fide* TW & WW).

OBSERVERS:- Genevieve Arnold, Dick Asher, Range Bayer, Alex Benedict, Laurence Binford, Christie Brindle, Wayne Campbell, John & Martha Casteel, Thomas Collins, John Comer (JCo), John B. Crowell, Jr., Irving & Clary Curran, A. Davidson, Narca Dewoskin, Jim Duemmel, Merlin & Elsie Eltzroth, Roy

Fisk, Sean Furness, Robert Furrer (RFu), Jeff Gilligan, Larry Goodhew, Vic Goodwill, Charles Grant, Rolland Gray, Dennis Heinemann (DHe), Dan Heyerly, Wayne Hoffman, Glen & Wanda Hoge (G & WHO), Eugene Hunn, Rick Jerema, Stuart Johnston, Kenn Kaufman, Richard Knapton, Cheryl Lavers, Norm Lavers, Robert Lucas, Bruce MacDonald, Phil Mattocks, Larry McQueen, James Micuda (JMi), David Mills, Norman Minnick, Michael Morrell, James Morris, Harry Nehls, Dennis Paulson, Roy Phillips, G. A. Poynter, William Rae, Hilda Reiher, Dick Reynolds, Ran Satterfield, Michael Shepard, Jerry Smith, Richard Stallcup (RSt), Otis Swisher, J. Tatum, Howard Taylor, Colin Trefry, Rex Van Wormer, Terrence Wahl, Wayne Weber, Fred Zeilemaker.

Spring Migration, 1973

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN -
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

/ **Thomas H. Rogers**

After a mild March in the Region April temperatures generally became about normal, except that Missoula, Red Rock Lakes Nat'l Wildlife Refuge at Lima, and Charlo, Mont. reported cool conditions. However, Fortine, Mont., to the north, experienced a mild month. Apparently without exception, precipitation continued highly deficient. Spokane fared perhaps the best, with 46 per cent of normal moisture, but Yakima at the other extreme had only .01 inch, compared to the normal .61 inch. May did a little better but most areas still added to their water deficiency, only Spokane reporting slightly above average rainfall. It all added up to very low water levels and a snow pack in the mountains at perhaps half normal or less. Temperatures were around normal except for an unseasonable hot spell in mid-month which reached the 80s and even 90s. The generally mild, dry spring resulted in many early arrivals and low water attracted more shorebirds than normally. However, at Yakima they evidently passed over dried-up ponds and were

missed. Also, many species of birds were late there. Southern interior British Columbia did not follow the pattern either, for what started out as an early spring became changeable and disagreeable, with arrival dates about normal. Some species appeared in unusually large numbers and a fairly large number of "displaced species" was recorded, about half from the east. A few species of montane or northern breeders seemed to show more late stragglers than in other years.

LOONS AND GREBES The Com. Loon reached a peak of 60 at Ennis, Mont. Apr. 22 and Potholes Res. south of Moses L., Wash. had 27 in mid-May (DB). The species' arrival date of Apr. 8 at Fortine was two weeks ahead of normal there and was the earliest for the Region. Two Arctic Loons were present on Botanie L. in the Cascades at 4000 ft., 15 miles north of Lytton, on June 2-3. April 20, arrival date for the Red-necked Grebe there, was also two weeks early. Up to 20 of these birds, a much higher-than-normal number, were seen at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida. and 11 were seen on Hauser L., Ida. Apr. 29 (SGS). *Forty-five* Horned Grebes at Fortine Apr. 20 represented the largest number there since 1930. The arrival on Apr. 7 of the Eared Grebe at Three Forks, Mont. was an early record; the peak there was 1000 Apr. 22. On the same date 25 W. Grebes appeared at Sprague L. near Sprague, Wash.

PELICANS AND CORMORANTS -- Four White Pelicans stopped at McNary N .W.R., Burbank, Wash. Apr. 10 and stayed about two weeks. The species appeared elsewhere only at Ennis, arrival date Apr. 15. At the latter locality Double-crested Cormorants came up with an early date of Apr. 3, and up to 15 were seen intermittently at McNary Refuge during the period.

HERONS AND IBISES -- From one to 16 Black-crowned Night Herons were observed at a few localities from c. Washington south to Heppner, Ore. *Eighty* Great Blue Herons were seen at the heronry at Benewah L. near St. Maries, Ida. A **White-faced Ibis** was identified at Manhattan, Mont. May 15 (RAH, ETH, LM & PDS) and on the same day 6 were seen at Canyon Ferry east of Helena (DC).

WATERFOWL -- Mute Swans again appeared at Wilsall, Mont. Apr. 29, when 9 were present. A new locality, Three Forks, had 8-10 between Apr. 24 & May 19. The birds are suspected to have come from the Dey Puy pond at Livingston. Canada Geese numbers looked good in the Columbia Basin of c. Washington. Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. had a peak of 5000. At Toppenish N.W.R. they peaked at 8500. About 2000 were seen in mid-April in the vicinity of St. Andrews, Douglas Co., Wash. At McNary Refuge the February-March population of Canadas was double what it was last year. Single White-fronted Geese appeared on two dates at Baker, Ore. Only a few Snow Geese were reported. Toppenish Refuge had a tremendous peak of 250,000 waterfowl, 85 per cent of which were Mallards. Columbia Refuge had a peak of 65,000, of which over 35,000 were Mallards and 18,000 were Pintails. The duck migration seemed to largely bypass McNary Refuge, which had a peak of about 14,000 in February, compared to nearly 38,000 last year. A duck believed to be a hybrid Cinnamon X Blue-winged Teal was observed at length on a pond near Charlo, Mont. (CJH). A **European Wigeon** was observed carefully under good conditions at Helena, Mont. for three days starting May 3 (SM, LB & GH). A record early date of Mar. 18 for the Redhead at Fortine was the second March date there in twenty-five years' observing. Bozeman had a record early date of Mar. 3 for the Ring-necked Duck. Two Greater Scaup were seen on the Spokane R. above Nine Mile May 6. Common Goldeneye numbers reached 5700

796 *American Birds*, August 1973

at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash in mid-March. Common and Barrow's Goldeneye, arriving at Fortine around mid-March, were about three weeks earlier than average and 16 Ruddy Ducks were there about two weeks early. A pair of Harlequin Ducks was found Apr 22 on the West Gallatin R. above Squaw Creek, southwest of Bozeman. Up to 3 were seen on later dates and the birds were still present May 31. A male was seen May 14 on the Okanagan R. at Okanagan Falls, B.C. A few Red-breasted Mergansers were at Banks L., Grant Co., Wash. Apr. 3; 5 were engaged in

courtship display. Eight were seen there May 5. The birds arrived in the Bozeman area Apr. 7 and peaked at 200 on Apr. 15. One was seen May 29 near Charlo, Mont.

HAWKS AND EAGLES -- A few sightings were made of the scarce Ferruginous Hawk, at Baker and Heppner, Ore.; along the Clearwater R. of n. Idaho, and west of Bozeman. A Bald Eagle nest in the L. Wenatchee area north of Leavenworth, Wash. was the first known for that locality. A peak of 25 of the birds occurred at Ennis, Mont. Apr. 15. Eight Osprey nests were counted in the L. Wenatchee area and 20 of the birds were recorded at Chatcolet L. near St. Maries, Ida. A very few Prairie Falcons were reported at five localities and single Peregrine Falcons, at three. The rare Gyrfalcon was noted once.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- About 15 Sharp-tailed Grouse were observed on the strutting ground south of Creston, Wash. Apr. 8-21 and around 30 Sage Grouse were displaying in the same area in mid-April. West of Mansfield, Wash. 56 were strutting Apr. 21 but only 2 male were seen. Bobwhite were heard in mid-April at Yakima, where the species was introduced some years ago but supposedly had died out. Chukar numbers appeared good along the Snake and Grande Ronde Rivers of s.e. Washington and were seen in the Wenatchee and Yakima areas. Only small numbers of Gray Partridge were reported.

CRANES AND RAILS -- The first Sandhill Cranes of the spring were seen Mar. 11, 2 near La Grande, Ore. April 1 was an early date for them at Belgrade, Mont. Between 500 and 700 were estimated to be in a field east of Mansfield, Wash. Apr. 21 and at least 3000 were at St. Andrews, Wash. Apr. 13-14. A Virginia Rail was seen at Charlo Apr. 7-8 (CJH) and one was closely observed near Prineville, Ore. Feb. 8 (JE). The species was first heard on May 12 in Turtle Valley near Salmon Arm, B.C. A Sora was found dead along a street in a residential area in a suburb east of Spokane May 3. One or 2 were seen later in the month at Cougar Bay on Coeur d' Alene L. in Idaho, and at Reardan and Yakima Indian Reservation, Wash.

SHOREBIRDS -- The Semipalmated Plover, rarely seen in spring in the Region, was seen at Three Forks May 15, at Reardan May 10 and 25 and at Umatilla N.W.R., n.c. Oregon Apr. 26. A **Piping Plover** at Canyon Ferry, Broadwater Co., Mont. May 29 furnished the first Montana record away from the n.e. Corner of the state (RLE). Two Black-bellied Plovers were found at Banks L., Grant Co., Wash. May 5. Upland Sandpipers were reported only in the valley east of Spokane, where up to 9 were seen at the usual spot at Hauser L. junction, May 10-20. The Solitary Sandpiper, rare in spring in the Region, was seen at Fortine May 12 & June 2, and beside Skaha L. in Penticton, B.C. May 10. The Dunlin, never common in the Region, was seen at the mouth of the Yakima R. Apr. 8--6 birds; at Three Forks May 10, and at Reardan May 8-22, 2 to 3 birds. Also seen at the latter place was a **Stilt Sandpiper**, May 24 (JA). A Semipalmated Sandpiper, also rare in spring, seen at Potholes Reservoir Apr. 22 was the only one reported. The W. Sandpiper arrived at Three Forks May 4, a record early date; few spring records exist there for the species. The Am. Avocet arrived early at Ennis Apr 8 and was impressive with 50+ birds near St. Andrews, Wash. on Apr. 13-14.

GULLS AND TERNS -- A **Glaucous-winged Gull** was identified at close range on the Umatilla R. at Umatilla, Ore., and date not given (CC). The Herring Gull was noted Apr. 8 at Ennis and one was seen Apr 16 & 20 at Coeur d'Alene, Ida. Six to 8 of the birds were observed May 29 on mud flats of L. Wallula, Wash. A few Bonaparte's Gulls appeared at Four Lakes, Sprague L. and Reardan in e. Washington in May. Caspian Terns were first seen at McNary Refuge May 16. One was sighted at Boardman, Ore. May 15. Two were seen on Morgan L. near Othello, Wash. May 6 (MV) and 2 were identified at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash. June 3 (FBH). May 7 was a record early date for the Black Tern by the West Gallatin R. at Central Park, northwest of Belgrade, Mont.

DOVES AND OWLS -- Two Band-tailed Pigeons were sighted near Plain, Wash. on the east slope of the Cascades May 26 (EH). A Barn Owl was seen near Clarkston, Wash. Apr. 21, and a pair was nesting in a

Wood Duck nest box at Toppenish Refuge. A Pygmy Owl was sighted 10 mi. south of Coeur d'Alene along Highway 95 May 31 and the birds were believed to be nesting in Spring Creek Canyon north of Reardan. Both localities are around 2500 ft. in elevation. Few Burrowing Owls were found. Single birds were seen near Brewster and Sprague L. in Washington and at Baker, and the species returned to McNary Refuge Mar. 19. A Saw-whet Owl was found in willows, an unusual habitat, north of Coulee City, Wash. May 5.

POOR-WILLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS -- The Poor-will was reported only from the Yakima area, one bird May 27, and Heppner, arrival date, May 19. Common Nighthawks apparently were late over most of the Region, having not yet appeared by the end of May. However, 2 were reported at Clarkston May 5 (MJP) and Heppner had them May 15. They appeared May 26 in the Tri-cities (Pasco- Richland-Kennewick), Wash. area and were noted at Umatilla and Baker, Ore. on the 29th. Vaux's Swifts were reported only at St. Maries and Winchester, Ida , Baker; Yakima, and near Keremeos, B.C. A male Broad-tailed Hummingbird [*corrected to Black-chinned, see Vol. 28 p. 82 - ALC*] was noted at intervals from May 14 to at least June 3 and was photographed in color at Missoula (PLW).

Volume 27, Number 4 797

WOODPECKERS -- The Red-naped form of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was found to be the common and only form at Wenas Creek northeast of Yakima during April and May. It was also the form seen at Leech L., just east of the Cascade Crest near White Pass (EH). A pair of Williamson's Sapsuckers was at its nest near Red Top Mt. Lookout; about 20 mi. northeast of Cle Elum, Wash. May 26 and the species was seen in the mountains in the Heppner area. Two pairs were found on Anarchist Mt. 14 mi. by Highway 3 east of Osoyoos, B.C. May 14. The White-headed Woodpecker was seen at three localities west of Yakima and in the mountains near Heppner.

FLYCATCHERS -- Two Ash-throated Flycatchers were sighted at the Crab Creek-Potholes Res. area of Columbia Refuge May 27. The Gray Flycatcher, seen for the fourth consecutive year along the upper end of Wenas Creek northwest of Yakima, was found nesting. The nest was photographed and 5 other pairs were seen to the north on Manastash Ridge May 26-28 (EL).

LARKS AND SWALLOWS -- The only sizeable concentration of Horned Larks was some 200 in Virtue Flat near Baker Mar. 21. Six very early, unidentified swallows were seen along the North Powder R. near Baker Feb. 3. The first Violet-green Swallows appeared at Spokane on the early date of Mar. 3, and a large movement at nearby Medical L. consisted of at least 1000 birds and about as many Tree Swallows. A Feb. 28 arrival for the latter species at Spokane was early. The first sighting at Prineville on Mar. 10 equaled the previous early record. Some observers at Spokane and Coeur d'Alene thought that swallow numbers were definitely down this spring. A **Purple Martin** was observed at 20 ft. as it rested on a fence wire in the Rattlesnake Creek area near Missoula, May 21 (Mrs. PW *vide* PW).

CORVIDS -- The Com. Raven seemed to be holding its own or increasing. This was believed true at Charlo, and the birds were seen more often than usual at Fortine. A flock of 50 circled over a pond on Yakima Indian Reservation on May 20 before moving on. Clark's Nutcrackers were almost unobserved. They were noted at Bozeman, one was seen at Penticton, B C. and they were described as unusually scarce at Fortine.

CHICKADEES THROUGH WRENS -- Chestnut-backed Chickadees were noted only at Goose Prairie in the foothills west of Yakima in the foothills of Tower Mt., about 2 mi. southeast of Spokane, 2 on Apr. 3 (JR), and at Chatcolet at the s. end of Coeur d'Alene L., May 31 (JA). The Pygmy Nuthatch was reported visiting feeders in the Rattlesnake Cr. valley at Missoula (PW). A few late Brown Creeper reports were received. Two were still at Kamiak Butte north of Pullman, Wash., May 12 and one was seen at Baker's Pond near

Clarkston, Wash., May 27. Bewick's Wren was reported along streams in the Yakima area; 8 were seen Apr. 30. Two were noted in the Tri-cities area Apr. 6.

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRUSHES -- A **Mockingbird** responded to a tape recording and came within about 15 ft. of observers at the Hanford Atomic Energy Commission reservation north of Richland, Wash. It was first noted about Apr. 15 and stayed at least until the 28th (REW). Numbers of both Western and Mountain Bluebirds appeared about normal. However, at Fortine, none of the former had been seen for several years. Unusual was a Western at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont. Apr. 13. No bluebirds had been seen in the Charlo area.

PIPITS AND WAXWINGS -- Water Pipits were observed mostly in the Grand Coulee region of c. Washington, where 300 were seen Apr. 13 at St Andrews and 100 were at Banks L., May 5. A flock of about 200 Bohemian Waxwings was seen just south of Redmond, Ore. Mar. 22 and record late dates were obtained for the species at Bozeman, May 12, and at Missoula, May 5. They were last seen at Prineville Apr. 8.

WARBLERS -- May 6 was a record early date for the Orange-crowned Warbler at Bozeman. The Nashville Warbler was found to be rather common at Missoula May 2-29, for the first time since about 1958, and one was still there June 4 (RLH). The species was not noted elsewhere. A **Black-and-white Warbler** was identified in Rock Creek Canyon southeast of Mabton, Wash., Apr. 29 (ERC) and 2 were seen along Pataha Creek near Clarkston May 27 (MJP). Single Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers were seen at Missoula, the Tri-cities and Yakima Indian Reservation. Two unusual sightings of N. Waterthrush were made. One was seen at Cougar Bay of Coeur d'Alene L May 29 and again on June 5 (SGS) and one was identified in mid-May at Tollgate at 5600 ft. elevation in the Blue Mts. of extreme n.e. Oregon. A very early Wilson's Warbler sighting was made at Heppner Apr 17 (DW). Single male Am. Redstarts were found May 27 and June 2 along Wenas

Creek northwest of Yakima. This is on the western edge of their range.

BLACKBIRDS -- A road-killed male Bobolink was picked up May 29 in the Bowen Valley near Baker, Ore. and a live one was seen there two days later (JB). Around 1000 Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Kootenai Refuge in May were by far the largest number ever recorded there, probably because more marsh is being developed there. Brown-headed Cowbirds seemed to remain rather common, particularly at Charlo and Pullman and on upper Wenas Creek a flock of 36 was seen May 31. Western Tanagers were unusually plentiful at Missoula, where they reached a peak June 4, when a walk of about twenty blocks revealed 16, plus others singing at a distance.

FINCHES, SPARROWS -- Evening Grosbeaks were common to abundant at many localities. At Missoula they built up to peak numbers the last week of May, with 350 estimated one day in a rather limited area. Flocks of hundreds were in the Prineville area

798 *American Birds*, August 1973

Apr. 15-May 15 and the birds were reported as giving the cherry growers fits in the Wenatchee area. House Finches appeared May 15 at Three Forks, Mont. The species has been sighted more frequently in that locality but is still scarce there. Pine Siskin numbers appeared low in e. Oregon and Washington. At Fortine, Mont. they arrived very late, on June 2, but were then common. Red Crossbills were sparse or absent in the lowlands. A Vesper Sparrow at Fortine Apr. 13 provided the earliest record there in 48 years of observing. A Clay-colored Sparrow singing in the Spokane Valley just east of Spokane May 16 was observed at 20 ft. and photographed (JA). A few Harris' Sparrows during winter and spring are becoming almost routine in the more westerly part of the Region. Two, possibly 3, were seen and singing at Missoula Mar. 1-May 8. A singing male was at Spokane Apr. 21-22 and one was seen May 19-20 at Clarkston. At the Tri-cities, where they were noted all winter, 2

were seen yet on Apr. 28 and 1 sang at Baker from January until its last sighting on May 9. Two males that wintered at Jim Grant's feeder at Vernon, B.C. apparently departed the night of Apr. 29-30. White-crowned Sparrows were migrating between Mar. 28 (Heppner) and May 18 (Missoula). On May 3 a storm grounded many at Baker, where 100 were estimated in Ann Ward's yard. Golden-crowned Sparrows, mostly singles, were seen at Spokane, Medical Lake, Davenport, Yakima, Coulee City, Turnbull Refuge and the Tri-cities in Washington. At the latter place up to 5 were seen (EM). A Fox Sparrow at Baker Mar. 20-21 was two or three weeks earlier than normal. Lincoln's Sparrows were migrating starting Mar. 27, when one was netted near Granger, Wash. (PM). The few Lapland Longspurs that wintered in the Ahtanum Valley west of Yakima had left by the end of February.

CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS (**area editors in boldface**): -- James Acton, **Eugene C. Barney**, McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Earl Bowen, Lynn Brant, **Dave Brown**, Columbia Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge, Joanne Brown, Zee Butler, Bea Buzzetti, Hugh Campbell-Brown, Helen Carlson, Phil Cheney, Donald A. Childress, Urana Clarke, Craig Corder, Mrs. Marion Corder, Sharon Cotterell, **Emily R. Cragg**, Yakima, Wash. area, **Wayne Doane**, central Washington, Helen Doornik, Sid Draper, Judy Elkins, Robert L. Eng, Doris Fisher, Tony Gascon, Vic Goodwill, **James Grant**, southern interior British Columbia, Tony Greager, Ed Grossman, Pauline Hager, Warren A. Hall, Bill Hamilton, **Ralph L. Hand**, Missoula, Mont. area, Lucille Hardinger, Eve T. Hays, R. A. Hays, C. J. Henry, George Holton, Alice Horschell, Eugene Hunn, Frances B. Huston, Gertrude Inman, Vivian Kohlruss, Carolyn Lagergren, Ann Laidman, Earl Larrison, Larry Larrochelle, Leo Lesmeister, Donald L. MacDonald, Jim Mack, **Sid Martin**, Helena, Mont. area, Phil Mattocks, **Niel F. Meadowcroft**, Walla Walla, Wash. area, Sally Meadowcroft, Bobby Moate, Elisabeth Moore, Louis Moos, Robert Morgan, **Gerald Morsello**, Prineville, Ore. area, Vee Nealey, Kay Osatenko, **Del Pierce**, Kootenai Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, **Tyson W. Planz**, Red Rock Lakes Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Audrey Polumsky, Lawrence Polumsky, **Margaret J. Polumsky**, Clarkston, Wash. area, Jan Reynolds, Thomas H. Rogers, Barbara Rottacker, Larry Roumpf, Lonnie Sherer, **P. D. Skaar**, Bozeman, Mont.

area, Connie Smedley, Larry Smith, **Mrs. S. O. Stanley**, for Spokane Audubon Society and northeastern Washington, Helen Stein, Esther Stewart, Frank Stewart, **Shirley G. Sturts**, Coeur d' Alene, Ida. area, Butch Taylor, Bill Thoren, Maurice Vial, Larry Waldron, **Ann Ward**, Baker, Ore. area, John W. Weber, Winton Weydemeyer, Dorothy White, Jack Winchell, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wolf, Jim Wollcott, **Robert E. Woodley**, Tri-cities, Wash. area, (DW) Dave Worden, north central, Ore., **Maurice B. Wright**, Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Philip L. Wright, Vince Yannone.

CORRIGENDUM--The reporting of a family of Yellow Rails near Peshastin, Wash., at 26:880 should read "Virginia Rails."

Spring Migration, 1973

GREAT BASIN - CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

/ Hugh E. Kingery

A wet, cold spring had little effect on dates of waterfowl migration, but delayed the land birds. For example, in Salt Lake City, normal April land birds came in May and combined with normal May migrants to permit record species counts. At Malheur N.W.R., Ore., the phenology of spring accelerated, beginning two weeks behind on April 1, and winding up seven days ahead on May 31. The eastern portion of the Region suffered a horrendous winter lasting almost to June, while w. Idaho and Oregon had warm, dry, mild weather all spring. Telluride, Colo., topped the horror stories when, on Apr. 19, 55 inches of snow fell in 24 hours. Colorado Western Slope peach trees came into full bloom May 2, the latest date on record by four days and more than two weeks later than average. Everywhere, cottonwoods leafed out two weeks late.

Volume 27, Number 4 799

A feature of this spring's migration was the occurrence of plains migrants in Colorado Front Range foothills. They included Sandhill Crane, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Northern Waterthrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Lark Bunting. A number of e. Idaho records this spring came for birds which nest in northern Idaho, but which are rarely found in southern Idaho--usually midwestern species whose breeding range lists to the northwest (the same phenomenon offered for some unusual records from Sheridan, Wyo.). Examples include Red-eyed Vireo, Northern Waterthrush, and American Redstart. A regular feature of our spring migration is the arrival of many species at Malheur earlier than at more southerly and easterly points. Examples this spring included White Pelican, Swainson's Hawk, Long-billed Curlew, Tree Swallow, Sage Thrasher, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Western Tanager. Can we blame this on people or birds? Does the intensive daily coverage at Malheur turn up birds which similar field work would find earlier elsewhere? Or do the Malheur migrants use routes outside the Region -- e.g. California -- or cross desert areas unpopulated by bird watchers, or simply overfly the desert to drop at the Malheur oasis?

HABITAT DESTRUCTION--Nevada observers fear that if Pyramid Lake receives all the water which competing interests there seek, Stillwater Refuge will dry up. This year, Wildlife Biologist Larry Napier reports the breeding population down 15 per cent from 1972. "This was partially caused by Stillwater's steadily decreasing habitat from insufficient water receipts. If an allocation is not given to the Management Area within several years it may cease to exist as a size large enough to warrant management." Farmington Bay W.M.A., Utah, suffers from the opposite problem; this spring rising waters of the Great Salt L. inundated several hundred acres of alkali bulrush and saltgrass marsh. The shorebirds suffer most from this encroachment.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS -- Common Loons occurred in many locations in May--unusually late for

that northern breeder. They stayed the whole month at Grand Junction, appeared at Durango, Colo., May 16 and Nampa, Ida. May 18-19. Red-necked Grebes occurred in e. Idaho in early May at both Camas N.W.R. and Market L. (MC). These apparently are the first records for s. Idaho. Western Grebes arrived two weeks early at Malheur and two weeks late at Stillwater and Minidoka N.W.R., Idaho, with normal populations at both places. Non-breeding populations of White Pelicans declined at Stillwater and Malheur; as last year, the 600 birds still at Malheur May 31 showed no signs of nesting. Pocatello had another Green Heron record Apr. 12, presumably the same bird that wintered. Colorado registered its thirteenth Cattle Egret record, this one on May 1 along an irrigation ditch at Monte Vista N.W.R., the first in the San Luis Valley (PHRS). Grand Junction Snowy Egrets lost their heronry to a boat ramp 2 years ago; a few still visit, but nesting sites, if any, are unknown. Black-crowned Night-Herons, which used the same site, have completely disappeared. White-faced Ibis arrived two weeks early in the w part of the Region, at Stillwater and Malheur, with nesting already begun at Malheur by May 14. Meanwhile, scattered birds dropped into locations throughout the Colorado mountains, the strangest being one which stayed for 3 days in a yard in the Ponderosa Pine belt west of Boulder.

SWANS, GEESE -- Whistling Swans dropped drastically at Bear R., from 6900 last year to 500 this year, this continued the decreased usage since last fall, probably weather-related. Canada Geese nest in the West during the spring, and both Malheur and Stillwater had hatching peaks in mid-April. Stillwater's production increased slightly, but Malheur's dropped. Refuge biologist McLaury attributes the drop to increased predation on nests and young, perhaps because of unfavorable water conditions. Durango has never before recorded any spring geese, but this year it had both a pair of Canadas and a Snow Goose which stayed May 14-28.

WATERFOWL -- Monte Vista N.W.R. recorded a peak duck migration of over 19,300 birds, with 7730 Mallards and 4350 Pintails. Use at Arapaho N.W. R, Colo., increased, with the peak moving from 1600 last year to 2700 May 11, 1973. In Utah, Pintails made the

best showing with 10,700 at Desert L., 25,500 at Bear R., and 15,000 at Farmington Bay. Developing Desert L. boasted a massive increase in usage, from 7250 ducks and 3000 Am. Coot last year to 27,800 ducks and 6000 coot this year. Despite the high count of Pintails, Bear River's usage of 72,430 ducks dropped from 1972. Wyoming's Hutton Lake N.W.R. and Nat'l Elk Ref. showed more usage, with Lesser Scaup at Hutton L. up 45 per cent to 3900 birds. Early migrants bypassed Camas N.W.R., Idaho, because the refuge remained frozen over until early April. Later migrants appeared in normal numbers, with 10,000 Mallards (down), 4000 Pintails, and 2400 Lesser Scaup. Malheur's total usage also dropped, by 4200 birds to 12,300.

HAWKS, EAGLES -- Broad-winged Hawks strayed west to Boulder Apr. 23 and to Pocatello Apr 30. The latter, Idaho's second, stayed after banding in the same open wood lot for a week. A few Rough-legged Hawks stayed later, with May records at Malheur and Rexburg, plus one May 26 at Durango. A Black Hawk which visited Zion Apr: 13-15 has not been seen since, although it nested there previously. A very late Bald Eagle surprised observers at Durango May 15. Nevada had no monopoly on Bald Eagles caught in traps (*Am. Birds* 27:644); one was found at McCoy, Colo., early this spring. Included in 31 Osprey reports were the first nesting pair at Sheridan and one at Summer L. feeding on a kangaroo rat. A Prairie Falcon appeared in a Cheyenne yard Apr. 15 & 17. Eight Peregrine observations came in; and the Park Service banned rock climbers from a climbing route until the Peregrines complete nesting -- climbers too frequently trod on the nest platform, a rare level spot in the middle of a popular route.

800 *American Birds*, August 1973

GROUSE, CRANES, RAILS -- At Zion, Gambel's Quail appear to be losing out against predators. Striped Skunks have been increasing during the past several years, and wild house cats are the most commonly-seen mammal in Zion. A bevy of quail that numbered 21 birds a year ago has dwindled to 8 this year, and recently-stocked quail in the Watchman housing area

were being brought in by stray house cats. Wild cats pose problems to birds throughout the West, and not merely to quail. Sandhill Cranes moved north in April, with 125 at Grand Junction Apr. 2 and arrivals, late, at Nat'l Elk Ref. Apr. 10, Camas Apr. 15, and Caldwell, Idaho, Apr. 22. Lesser Sandhill Cranes peaked at Malheur the first week of April, and nesting of Greaters began Apr. 1. Lack of water and high nest predation is resulting in very low nesting success. For the third year in a row, a Com. Gallinule was found at Utah L., near Provo.

SHOREBIRDS -- The late thaws in the east and the dryness in the west resulted in fewer shorebirds than usual. Durango had its first records of Semipalmated Plover and Long-billed Curlew. Snowy Plovers arrived in mid-April at Stillwater, as last year, with 50 present May 31. High water probably caused the lack of Killdeer at Zion, and flooding from a break in an irrigation ditch on Desert L. destroyed many Killdeer nests. Black-bellied Plover peaked at Bear R. at 150, then Camas picked up its first record with 5 present May 18-21. Although Com. Snipe failed to overwinter in many places, they seem to maintain their nesting population; a winnowing inventory at Summer L. shows a stable population. Long-billed Curlews were seen in migration in mountain towns more than usual -- with reports from Evergreen, R.M.N.P., Grand Junction, Durango, and even 6 at Sheridan in a raging blizzard. Highest count came with 220 at Nampa, on nesting grounds May 31. At Reno a **Whimbrel** occurred May 1; this probably is the first Nevada record north of Las Vegas. Stillwater boasted 4 rare Red Knots May 14, and enjoyed an invasion of the coastal-migrant, Dunlin -- 400 remained for a few days in early May. One Dunlin strayed into Idaho Apr. 26, when it fed with 2 Least and 2 Western Sandpipers and 2 Willets at Am. Falls Res. Long-billed Dowitchers were counted in diminished numbers, the highest count 1300 at Bear R., compared with 3000 last year.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS -- Rarest inland seabird was a Pomarine Jaeger found at Westcliffe, Colo., May 12-13 (m.ob.). California Gulls began nesting two weeks late at Am. Falls Res. "With the water level down because of rotten cement in the dam, the gull island no longer qualifies as an island; people and dogs have

visited the nesting sites more than usual, and it looks as if mortality is very high, especially among the Ring-billeds, which nest nearest the mainland." On Apr. 5-23 a host of 310 Ring-billed Gulls "made semi-arid Durango look like a Maine fishing port," and an unusual one stopped at the Nat'l Elk Ref. May 9, as well as 2 Franklin's Gulls the next day. Bonaparte's Gulls turned up at Gunnison Apr. 22, Malheur May 6, and Reno May 9.

PIGEONS, OWLS, NIGHTHAWKS -- Band-tailed Pigeons appeared in unusual places--Colorado Springs and Malheur--and in good numbers at the usual places--Pueblo, Monte Vista, Evergreen, Durango (300 on May 22). Burrowing Owls continue to decrease at Malheur, cause unknown; although several have been shot, this probably has not caused the decline. Numbers of Short-eared Owls at the refuges are unimpressive, except for 25 at Camas Apr. 5. Nighthawks arrived the usual last week in May at several locations, except that R.M.N.P. had one May 12.

HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS -- Boulder observers counted twice the number of hummingbirds of previous springs, but in most localities the hummingbirds either appeared in diminished numbers or tapered off as flowers massed their blooms. Abundant natural food from the wet winter probably decreased dependence upon feeders, where most hummingbirds are seen. The first hummingbird to the Region, a Broad-tailed, reached Zion Apr. 3; the first one to Colorado, also a Broad-tailed, appeared at Durango Apr. 28. Red-headed Woodpeckers seem to increase west of Pueblo, and were studied in 2 Boulder locations May 27-June 4. Unusual spring records of Lewis' Woodpecker came from Zion Apr. 30 and Crater L. Apr. 21, where 3 were "rising to insects."

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS -- Most flycatchers were late and few in numbers as May ended. Eastern Kingbirds arrived on normal dates, however, at Grand Junction, Dubois, Nampa, and Malheur. An out-of-range Scissor-tailed Flycatcher had almost reached Utah when found perched on a mullein stalk in

McElmo Canyon near Cortez, Colo. Ash-throated Flycatchers strayed north along the foothills to Pueblo and Colorado Springs May 12 & 30, and one visited Malheur May 31. A pair of Black Phoebe's returned to Pueblo Apr. 21, for Colorado's second record for the second year in the same place, and began gathering nest material by May 11. Swallows arrived in their usual abundance. Grand Junction had a banner day May 25, with 2900, including 1240 Violet-greens and 1190 Cliffs. Bear R. had 2100 Barns at their peak.

JAYS -- The fall/winter Corvid invasion tapered off by May 31. At least one Gray Jay remained in Gunnison Colo., until Apr. 18. Blue Jays strayed to Eldora, Colo. May 25-29, and 2 at Mud L., Idaho, May 19 (DH) added to the multiplicity of strays in that state since its second (sight) record last October. A few Steller's Jays remained in the low country into May, with the last records at Zion May 11 and Cheyenne May 27. Clark's Nutcrackers stayed at feeders along Front Range cities well into May, with the last records at Boulder May 16 and Colorado Springs May 30. At Evergreen their numbers were "fantastic"--more common than during the winter--with a high count of 58 May 23. Further west, they stayed at feeders in Durango, McCoy, and Dubois, and Malheur on Apr. 3 notched its sixth refuge record.

THRASHERS, THRUSHES, WAXWINGS -- Gray Catbirds made rare appearances at Grand Junction and Jefferson, Colo., and had not arrived at

Volume 27, Number 4 801

Dubois by May 31. A Brown Thrasher strayed up to R.M.N.P. May 12. Rupert, Ida. had a Varied Thrush Mar. 25-Apr. 10. Mt. Bluebird counts dropped, and the birds came in late. Dubois saw none in May after 5 April sightings: "this is bad news." Winter's Bohemian Waxwings lingered into the spring in many places; Malheur had 450 Apr. 3, but only 10 per cent remained the next day. In the pinyon pines at Rupert Apr. 13 hundreds hawked insects. Last reports came May 4 from Colorado Springs and Rupert.

WARBLERS -- Rare warblers popped up in numerous places: Black-and-white May 12 at both Cañon City, Colo., and Malheur (fourth refuge record); Worm-eating at Pueblo Apr. 20 & May 11 and Boulder May 29; Tennessee at Malheur May 19; Magnolia at Dubois Apr. 29 & May 3, the eighth sighting in 10 years; Chestnut-sided at Cheyenne May 27; a photographed Bay-breasted at R.M.N.P. May 20, the park's second; the fourth Oregon Ovenbird at Malheur May 19, later banded; and the second R.M.N.P. Hooded May 14. Among more normal warblers, Zion noted Virginia's as especially abundant--84 counted crossing between 2 cottonwood trees May 5. Last year Salt Lake City authorities, after box elder trees had an infestation of worms, sprayed the trees extensively, and Yellow Warblers stopped singing and disappeared. A few are returning this year. (After a similar occurrence in Denver 3-4 years ago, the Yellow Warbler population has returned to normal.) Yellow-rumped Warblers, commonest of the family in the West, began arriving in April, the first report from Malheur Apr. 9. At Crater L. they arrived Apr. 26, when 8 feet of snow covered the ground. Single N. Waterthrushes occurred in late May in Colorado at Wetmore, Jefferson, Evergreen, Durango, and R.M.N.P., and at Stone, Idaho. The species normally migrates in limited numbers on the e. Colorado plains, following up the east side of the Continental Divide to nesting areas in n. Idaho, but rarely anywhere west or south of that route.

BLACKBIRDS -- Bobolinks strayed into several Colorado locations for first or rare records: 4 at Durango May 19 (C.F.O.); one at Colorado Springs May 30 (others observed across the dividing line in the Great Plains Region); and one at Gunnison June 7-8. The usual nesting Bobolinks arrived at Malheur May 13, and became common by the end of May. A fast-moving pair of likely Scott's Orioles paused momentarily in a cottonwood tree in Pinyon country at McCoy. On the basis of the brief observation, at least one probably was this species. Great-tailed Grackles returned for the third year to Gunnison Apr. 18, the pair acted as if it was nesting. Com. Grackles continue to spread; at Evergreen they are supplanting Brewer's Blackbirds, R.M.N.P. counted 26 May 12, they

appeared regularly at Dubois in May, and Pocatello and Rexburg counted singles May 16 & 19.

FINCHES, SPARROWS -- A S. Carolinian found a Cardinal in Colorado Springs May 13, the first A.A.S. record there (CC). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks have become regular though rare migrants through the Region. This spring we had 12 Colorado birds, plus a hybrid, one each at Cheyenne, Pocatello May 23 (last year came Idaho's first record), and Malheur--Oregon's second record (for the first, see N. Pacific Coast Region report below) -- May 19-21 (C.A.S.). Indigo Buntings continue to occur in the West, commonly along the Colorado foothills, occasionally at Durango. Zion's first one flew into a restaurant window. A pair of **Indigo Buntings** near Alma, Idaho May 4, a male there May 6 (CHT) plus a 6 May 28 at Pocatello constitutes Idaho's first records. At Cheyenne observers studied a Lazuli/Indigo hybrid May 11-18. Evening Grosbeaks continued common throughout the region, with Durango counting 300 May 25 and only Crater L. reporting none. A male Purple Finch visited an Evergreen feeder Apr. 28-30, and suffered himself to be banded. Three visited Malheur May 19, and a male, also banded, stayed through May 31 for Malheur's second record. The winter's rosy finch influx spilled over into spring, with observations of 500 at Dubois in April, 200 on Apr. 8 at McCoy, 200 on Apr. 15, 20 on May 17 at Durango, and large flocks May 26 at Gunnison. These flocks probably avoided the high country due to the abundant high country snows. Pine Siskins erupted throughout the Region. Flocks of 100 populated Zion during the first week of April, feeding on cottonwoods, with some seen as late as May 17. Other large counts included 300 at McCoy May 30 and 1000 at Durango May 25; yet Crater L. has had none after October. A few Red Crossbills stayed in the Colorado mountains and even at feeders in Boulder and Grand Junction, Cheyenne had them through the whole period. Lark Buntings which winter in Arizona but migrate and nest rarely in our Region, crossed w. Colorado, c. Utah, and Rupert. The last wintering Dark-eyed Junco records came from Durango May 17 and Malheur May 19. Chipping Sparrows arrived ten days later at Salt Lake City May 2, and very early at Evergreen Apr 3 and Dubois May 8. Harris' Sparrows remained in several Colorado locations through April and Durango could still count 10 on May 16. Dubois

had two on May 17, and Rupert found one on Apr. 9. White-throated Sparrows appeared at Grand Junction, Durango, Zion, and Dubois, all in early May. At Colorado Springs an overnight snowstorm grounded six Swamp Sparrows and one Lapland Longspur, apparently interrupting their migratory flight and forcing them off course. The birds were seen at close range, at length, while feeding. A Chestnut-collared Longspur spent ten minutes feeding in a corral with Horned Larks and Black Rosy Finches--a first record for Dubois and probably for w. Wyoming.

ABBREVIATIONS--A.A.S.: Aiken Audubon Society; C.A.S.: Corvallis Audubon Society; C.F.O. Colorado: Field Ornithologists; R.M.N.P.: Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park.

AREA CONTRIBUTORS -- (**Editors collecting observations from their communities in boldface**, with number of contributors listed) Bear River N.W.R., Utah: W. B. Zimmerman; Boulder, Colo. (15): **Louise Hering**; Camas N.W.R., Idaho: Clifford Himmel; Castledale, Utah: Ann Wissler; Cheyenne, Wyo. (6): **May Hanesworth**; Colorado Springs, Colo. (4): **Mahlon**

802 *American Birds*, August 1973

Speers; Crater Lake Nat'l Park: James Holcomb; Desert Lake W.M.A., Utah: T. H. Provan; Dubois, Wyo.: Mary Back; Durango, Colo. (16): Richard Stransky; Evergreen, Colo. (6): **W. W. Brockner**; Farmington Bay W.M.A., Utah: Reuben Dietz; Grand Junction, Colo. (9): **Lorna Gustafson**; Gunnison, Colo. (6): **Sidney Hyde**; Jefferson, Colo.: Carol Hack & Kathy Hawkins; Malheur N.W.R., Ore. (6): **Eldon McLaury**; McCoy, Colo.: Margaret Ewing; Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo.: C. R. Bryant; Nampa, Idaho (25): **Belle Shaw**; Nat'l Elk Ref., Wyo.: Don Redfearn; Pocatello, Idaho (5): **C. H. Trost**; Pueblo, Colo.: Van Truan; Reno, Nev. (7): **Jessie Alves**; Rexburg, Idaho: Donnell Hunter; R.M.N.P., Colo. (12) **Warner Reeser**; Rupert, Idaho: W. H. Shillington; Seedsadee N.W.R., Wyo.: Merle Bennett; Sheridan, Wyo. (6) **Platt Hall**;

Stillwater W.M.A., Nev.: Larry Napier; Summer L., Ore.: Larry Bright; Zion Nat'l Park, Utah (17): **Jerome Gifford**.

OBSERVERS -- Robert Bratz, Charles Campbell, Mark Collie, Allegra Collister, John Cooper, Janet Eyre, Sam Gadd, Jeffrey Gottfried, O. R. Henderson, Nancy Hurley, Paul Julian, Gleb Kashin, R. F. Kemp, Vern Kousky, Rodney Krey, Thompson Marsh, Blaine Marshman, Carl Marti, Donald McDonald, Leon Powers, Pat Roberts, Douglas Sherman, P. H. R. Stepney, William Stone, Doug Stotz.

Spring Migration, 1973

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

The two months comprising the spring season of 1973 were both cooler and drier than average. Rainfall in April was approximately 75 per cent of average, while rainfall in May was about 50 per cent of average. Thus, for the fourth and fifth consecutive months, the Region has experienced below-average precipitation. Effects, if any, on bird life have not been detected. The report which follows is unfortunately lacking in records from the Vancouver, B.C., area since no reports were received from observers there.

LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS, HERONS -- A nest of the Com. Loon containing two eggs was discovered May 26 at Matheson L., 3 miles s.w. of Metchosin on Vancouver I., B.C., (WC, *fide* VG). Yellow-billed Loons were noted singly just s. of Anacortes, Wash., Apr. 6 (NL, *fide* TW), at Port Townsend, Wash., in breeding dress Apr. 22 (AB, *fide* TW), and at Saanich Inlet on s. Vancouver I. Apr. 17 (V & MG; RF). There were 235 Arctic Loons at Active Pass in the Gulf Islands May 25 (V&MG), and an estimated 200 Red-throated Loons at

Ocean Shores, Wash., Apr. 14 (JM). Four Eared Grebes were still at Victoria May 9 (RS, *fide* VG). A W. Grebe was seen on Fern Ridge Reservoir w. of Eugene, Oreg. May 26 (LN, *fide* FZ). Up to 50 Black-footed Albatrosses were seen on a pelagic trip out of Westport, Wash., on May 6, some as close to the beach as ten miles; six days later, with much more moderate waves allowing the boat to proceed seaward as far as 62 miles, only 13 of these birds were observed (TW *et al.*) A single light-phase N. Fulmar was seen on the May 6 trip (TW *et al.*). Pink-footed Shearwaters were found on both days, in number up to 20 on the 6th and twice that total on the 12th (TW *et al.*). Flesh-footed Shearwaters were seen out of Westport in May for the third consecutive year, this season in unprecedented numbers; a total of 15 were counted on May 6 and 22 were found on May 12 (TW *et al.*). Some 12,000 Sooty Shearwaters were estimated to be off Westport on May 6, with one-third that number found six days later (TW *et al.*). A single Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel on May 6 and an impressive 28 on May 12 (TW *et al.*) were the only representatives of their family noted on the two off-shore trips. Green Herons were reported in the usual very light spring numbers at favored localities from Medford, Oreg. n. to Skagit Co., Wash. Another Snowy Egret record--the fourth for the Region in the past year--was made May 24 at Yaquina Bay,

Volume 27, Number 4 809

Oreg. (PR, *fide* FZ) A Black-crowned Night Heron was discovered at Brownsville, Oreg. May 16 (HT, *fide* FZ). Am. Bitterns were noted at four locations in w. Oregon and s.w. Washington during the report period.

WATERFOWL -- A lone Whistling Swan was at Finley N.W.R. on Apr. 26 (FZ); another swan, presumably of this species, was seen at Ocean Shores, Wash., Apr. 15 in a migrating flock of geese (JM). An ad. Trumpeter Swan was identified at Florence L in the Esquimalt district on s. Vancouver I, May 19 (RS, *fide* VG). Black Brant were prominent in migration in tidal areas of the Region well into May, the last being noted at Newport Oreg., May 26 (WWho), and at Victoria, May 27 (VG). An Emperor Goose was present at Tokeland, Wash.,

on Willapa Bay, May 5-13 (DP, TW, *et al.*; G & WH). Many migrating White-fronted Geese passed over Finley N.W.R. Apr. 22- May 6 (FZ); small flocks were seen several times Apr. 20-May 27 at Ocean Shores (JM; G & WH). Two late Snow Geese were at Baskett Slough N.W.R. w. of Salem, Ore. May 16 (FZ). A "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal was observed at Ocean Shores Apr. 29 accompanying a migrant flock of the newly-designated Am. subspecies (GH & JM). Three late Am. Wigeon were at Saanich, B.C., May 26 (VG & RS). A late N. Shoveler was also there on May 28 (SJ). Two Redheads were found in the Oregon Dunes Recreational Area n. of Coos Bay on the surprisingly late date of May 5 (HR *et al.*). A pair of Tufted Ducks was at Victoria, B.C., Apr. 5 (V & MG), and either the same or another drake was seen by many observers at the same spot Apr. 17 (RF, VG, JT *et al.*) A half-dozen pairs of Barrow's Goldeneye were found on lakes in the c. Oregon Cascades, May 2 (WHO & PJ, *fide* FZ). Three Bufflehead at Victoria May 21 (JT, *fide* VG), were quite late, as was the single Oldsquaw there May 29 (VG & S J). Late Black Scoters were two at Ocean Shores May 25 (G & WH) and three at Victoria May 29 (V & MG; SJ). The total absence of Ruddy Ducks around Victoria where they normally are of regular occurrence in spring was pointed to by Vic Goodwill, the area reporter.

HAWKS, EAGLES, QUAIL -- Another record of a White-tailed Kite for w. Oregon comes from near Finley N.W.R. Apr. 12 where an individual bird was carefully studied by an observer familiar with the species (ND, *fide* FZ). In addition to several individuals recorded from the Cascades during the report period, a Goshawk was seen in Oregon's coast range between Corvallis and Newport Apr. 4 (WHO, *fide* FZ). An imm. Golden Eagle was observed e. of Roseburg, Ore. Apr. 29 (OS); three individual birds were together at Medford May 21 (OS); an adult was at Malahat, B.C. May 29 (V & MG). Bald Eagles were repeatedly seen on the coastal portions of Oregon's Lane and Douglas Counties north of Coos Bay, in Washington's San Juan Is., and on s. Vancouver I. this spring; other reports came from Waldo L., Ore. on May 27, from Tillamook, Ore., May 6, and from between Aberdeen and Westport, Wash., Apr. 28. Up to 6 pairs of Marsh Hawks were estimated to be present in the Oregon Dunes Recreational area this spring (WHO). The numbers of Osprey reports received continue to give

reason for cautious optimism concerning improvement in the heretofore precarious status of this species in the Region; reports were received from sixteen different localities in the southern half of the Region and many were reports of birds which had taken up breeding season residence. There were two Oregon, one Washington, and one British Columbia sightings of Peregrines during the report period. A Merlin was noted at Goldstream R. on Vancouver I., Apr. 22 (RS, *fide* VG); another was observed in Manning Provincial Park, May 9 (V & MG). The only mention of Bobwhite was of two birds heard calling near Stafford, Ore., May 27 (JBC). A California Quail seen on Apr. 8 at Jordan R. was further west than any previous record for Vancouver I. (SJ).

SHOREBIRDS -- A count of 40 Black Oystercatchers seemingly resident on Destruction I., Wash., May 5-11 is of interest (WHO). A total of 75 Semipalmated Plovers at Tillamook Bay, May 6 (JBC, RF, WT) was unusually high for the Oregon coast, particularly in spring. A single Am. Golden Plover was discovered on a Douglas Co., Ore., beach n. of Reedsport on Apr. 29 during the peak of a coastal movement of shorebirds (WHO). A Black-bellied Plover was found at Finley N.W.R., Apr. 15 (FZ). Surfbirds were last reported May 9 when one was seen at Destruction I. (WHO). A count of 50 Ruddy Turnstones at Westport May 6 (G & WH) is unusually high. Five Com. Snipe at Destruction I., May 5-7 (WHO) are of interest. Spring records of Long-billed Curlew in the Region are unusual; this year, however, there were four -- one bird at Siltcoos L. outfall to the Pacific n. of Reedsport, Ore., Apr. 29 (WHO); one bird at Tokeland, Wash., May 5 (DP, *fide* TW), three birds at Ocean Shores, Wash., May 25 (G & WH); and one bird there May 27 (JM). Whimbrels were regularly recorded from mid-April to mid-May on the coastal strips of the s portion of the Region. Lone Solitary Sandpipers were found at Finley N.W.R. Apr. 26 (FZ), at Ankeny N.W.R. Apr. 30 and May 6 (DL, *fide* FZ), and at Saanich, B.C., May 24 (VG, RS) & May 25 (JT, *fide* VG). Wandering Tattlers were seen regularly at favored locations between Apr. 27 and May 13, the count of 30 at Destruction I. May 11 (WHO) is noteworthy as an unprecedented one-day total. The two individual tattlers at Victoria May 20 (RS, *fide* VG) were a bit late. Red Knots were seen at Yaquina Bay, Ore. Apr. 7 & 22, at Florence, Ore.,

and at Westport Apr. 28, and at Ocean Shores Apr. 29, all in groups comprised of less than ten individuals; thus, the count of **200** at Westport on May 6 (G & WH) is surprising. The **48** Rock Sandpipers at Clover P., Victoria on Apr. 30 (VG, RS) is a remarkable count for this uncommon species. A single Pectoral Sandpiper was seen at Finley N.W.R. May 6 (FZ), the only report of this species for the season. Baird's Sandpipers are infrequently recorded in the Region during the spring, thus, records of one on the beach at Tahkenitch Creek, n. of Reedsport, Oreg., Apr. 29 (WWho), of one at Saanich, B.C., May 6 (RS, *fide* VG), and of four at Coos Bay, Oreg., May 20 (WWho) all are worthy of mention. A Semipalmated Sandpiper was carefully

810 *American Birds*, August 1973

studied at Ocean Shores May 27 (JM). Pairs of Marbled Godwits were noted at both Florence, Oreg. (WWho) and at Westport (G & WH) Apr. 28. Many thousands of Sanderlings were on the beaches between Reedsport and Florence in mid-April (WWho). The only report of Red Phalarope for the season was of a female in breeding plumage at Newport Apr. 28 (WWho). Wilson's Phalaropes, on the other hand, were observed at Reifel Refuge s. of Vancouver, B.C., May 5-7 and again May 22 in number up to six (V & MG), the vicinity of Victoria in mid-May (RS, WC, *fide* VG), at Ocean Shores (JM) and at each of the three Willamette Valley national wildlife refuges in the latter half of May (FZ) in numbers up to five at a time. Migrant N. Phalaropes were intermittently present in hundreds if not thousands at favored spots along the Oregon and Washington coasts from the last few days of April all through May.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS: -- Jaegers are markedly uncommon in this Region in the spring; the only record of a Pomarine this season comes from LaPush, Wash., May 11 (WWho, MS, RR), while up to three Parasitic Jaegers were seen from the boat on an offshore trip at Westport, May 12 (TW *et al.*); another Parasitic was noted from the beach at Ocean Shores May 25 (G & WH). Western and Glaucous-winged

Gulls at Destruction I., May 5-11, seemed to be interbreeding (WWho). Large numbers of ad. California Gulls were flying n. over the Oregon Dunes Recreational Area in early April; birds of this species seen there in May were sub-adults (WWho). A **Franklin's Gull** was seen on the beach n. of Reedsport Apr. 11 (WWho), constituting the first spring record for w. Oregon known to us. The last days of April and all of May found a heavier-than-usual migration of Bonaparte's Gulls passing up the Oregon and Washington coasts and evidently into the Straits of Juan de Fuca, as several hundred were present at Victoria during part of that time. Only six Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen off Westport on the pelagic trip, May 6; two were all that were observed on the similar trip six days later (TW *et al.*); a half-dozen Kittiwakes were seen at Ocean Shores May 5, but on May 25 there were 50 birds present (G & WH). Up to three Sabine's Gulls were recorded on both the pelagic trips from Westport (TW *et al.*). Common Terns were seen repeatedly in the Westport-Ocean Shores area in May, maximum number being 350 on May 12 (JM *et al.*). Up to ten were seen, also in May, at Victoria, Bellingham, and Iona I., e. of Vancouver. Five Caspian Terns were seen near Coos Bay on Apr. 12 (WWho); eight had reached the breeding grounds in the vicinity of Ocean Shores by Apr. 14 (JM). A Black Tern was seen at Baskett Slough N.W.R. May 13 (JM; *fide* FZ). A few Pigeon Guillemots seemed to be breeding at Destruction I., May 5-11 (WWho, MS, RR); ten birds of this species were noted in the vicinity of Cape Meares, Oreg., May 6 (JBC, RF, WT). Two score Marbled Murrelets were counted in the n. end of Bellingham Bay on May 29 (TW), a remarkable concentration for that locality. Up to four Cassin's Auklets were found at sea on the pelagic trips from Westport, May 6 & 12 (TW); a few birds of this species were also found about Destruction I., May 5-11, where four were found dead (WWho, MS, RR). An estimated 1000 Rhinoceros Auklets were found breeding on Destruction I.; up to 26 of these birds were also seen out of Westport on both May 6 and May 12. Several hundred Tufted Puffins were breeding on Destruction I.

HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS,
FLYCATCHERS, LARKS -- Rufous Hummingbirds were reported to be common on Destruction I., May 5-11 (WWho). Lewis' Woodpeckers showed up at Finley

N.W.R. Apr. 28 but were gone after May 11 (FZ). W. Kingbirds appeared at a number of places in Oregon's Willamette Valley in the last week of April and in each week of May; four were found at Medford Apr. 28 (OS), and one was at Saanich May 13 (RS, *fide* VG). Ash-throated Flycatchers returned to breeding grounds in the Medford area May 5-6 (OS). A young Black Phoebe was found in a nest at Applegate, Oreg. May 19 (OS). Hammond's Flycatchers had reached s. Vancouver I., where the species is rare, by Apr. 28-29 (JT, RS, *fide* VG; SJ); numbers of Hammond's Flycatchers were found in the Bull Run watershed on the n.w. side of Mt. Hood e. of Portland May 27-28 (HN). W. Flycatchers also were prominent on Mt. Hood along the Hidden L. trail, May 28 (JO). Two Horned Larks were found at Saanich, Apr. 17 (RS, *fide* VG); the species rarely occurs in s. British Columbia; three individuals were also seen at Manning Prov. Park May 9 (V & MG).

SWALLOWS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS -- A Bank Swallow was discovered at Saanich May 23 (SJ); another was seen at L. Terrell, Whatcom Co., Wash., May 18 (JD, *fide* TW), and a third individual was noted at Corvallis, Oreg., May 26 (J & MC, *fide* FZ). Both Barn and Cliff Swallows entered the s. portion of the Region in the first days of April and had reached s. Vancouver I. by mid-month. Purple Martins appeared first in the Region at Florence, Oreg., Apr. 10 (WHO); by the end of the period, other c. Oregon coastal points, Corvallis, Portland, Olympia, the San Juans, and s. Vancouver I. had contributed sightings. The Blue Jay which had wintered at Saanich was last seen Apr. 22 (*fide* VG). Four Wrentits were observed at Medford Apr. 28 (OS). Early House Wrens were at Finley N.W.R., Apr. 14 (WE, DM, *fide* FZ) and at Victoria, Apr. 22 (*fide* VG). Twenty pairs of Winter Wrens were censused on Destruction I., May 5-11 (WHO, MS, RR). A couple of observers commented that they thought numbers of Long-billed Marsh Wrens were less than normal in w. Oregon, possibly because of attrition to the bitter freeze of December, 1972. A Rock Wren was discovered on the w. side of Mt. Hood, near Brightwood, May 28 (HN). Hermit Thrushes are said to have been common on Destruction I., May 5-11 (WHO, MS, RR). A **Veery** was carefully observed at Reifel Refuge, s. of Vancouver, May 22 (V & MG). At least two pairs of W. Bluebirds nested in the Medford

area in late April and in May: W. Bluebirds had left Finley N.W.R. by mid-April (FZ), several individuals were seen repeatedly at Victoria, Sooke, and Malahat on s. Vancouver I., during May, including a nesting pair at Sooke (SJ, RS, JT *et al.*,

Volume 27, Number 4 811

fide VG) Mountain Bluebirds were noted repeatedly at Manning Prov. Park, May 8-21 (V & MG). A Townsend's Solitaire was discovered at Jordan River, B.C., Apr. 24 (SJ) and one was seen at Victoria, May 2 (RS, *fide* VG). A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was back in the Medford area as early as Apr. 7; later, two nests of this species were found, but they are subsequently destroyed by some predator (OS).

VIREOS, WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS -- Hutton's Vireos were reported only from Finley N.W.R., where they were regularly seen and heard throughout the spring season, from nearby Corvallis where three were present May 26 (FZ), from Port Angeles May 17 (SJ), and from Saanich Apr. 30 (V & MG) and May 20 (SJ, *fide* VG). A Solitary Vireo put in an early appearance at Victoria Apr. 7 (RS *fide* VG). Red-eyed Vireos were seen at Philomath, Oreg. May 26 (MS *fide* FZ), and at Duncan, B.C., May 31 (WC, *fide* VG). Warbling Vireos were widely reported through w. Oregon, particularly in the first half of May, and were in evidence in the vicinity of Victoria after the middle of the month. Orange-crowned Warblers were common both in the Willamette Valley and around Victoria all spring. Nashville Warblers were little noted, and there was nothing remarkable concerning migration movements of Yellow, Yellow-rumped, and Black-throated Gray Warblers except for an early arrival of the latter species at Corvallis, Apr. 13 (ME, *fide* FZ). Four Townsend's Warblers along the Hidden L. trail on Mt. Hood as late as May 28 (JO) and one in Portland two days earlier (JO) are of interest, as are the three birds at Ocean Shores May 12 (JM). Hermit Warblers were frequently noted in the Bull Run watershed on Mt. Hood, where MacGillivray's Warblers were found to be particularly abundant in cut-over areas, all on May 27-28 (HN). Large numbers of migrating Wilson's Warblers moved

through Finley N.W.R. Apr. 28 (HN). The small nesting colony of Yellow-headed Blackbirds on Sauvie I., w. of Portland, continues to grow; four male were there by Apr. 12, whereas by May 5 there were 25 present along with many female (HN). Elsewhere, Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen at Brownsville, Oreg., Apr. 7 (HT, *fide* FZ), at Ferndale, Wash., Apr. 29 (TW), in the vicinity of Vancouver, B.C., May 7-8 (V & MG), at Finley N.W.R., May 14 (FZ), and at Duncan, B.C., May 31 (WC, *fide* VG). A count of 30 Northern Orioles on Sauvie I., May 5 (HN *et al.*) evidenced a migratory movement.

GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, SPARROWS — Black-headed Grosbeaks reappeared almost simultaneously throughout the s. half of the Region the first week of May. Records of three individual Lazuli Buntings, including a pair at Little Saanich Mtn., May 20-21, (JT *fide* VG), and of 2 male on Mt. Douglas near Saanich (RS, V & MG) May 31 all are of great interest, since this species is rare on Vancouver I. Evening Grosbeaks were abundantly widespread throughout the s. portion of the Region all spring; a good-sized flock was still in Portland's downtown parks May 28 (JBC). Purple Finches were virtually unreported. At Manning Prov. Park on May 20, up to 20 Cassin's Finches were seen (V & MG). At least 14 Pine Grosbeaks were seen in that park May 9-19 (V & MG). Two Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were discovered on May 2 at Big Lake in Oregon's Santiam Pass (WHo, PJ *fide* FZ). Pine Siskins occurred sporadically in small numbers in lowland areas from Medford n. to Portland during the season; evidently the species was best represented on e. Vancouver I. from Apr. 15 to the end of the report period (*fide* VG). Large numbers of Am. Goldfinches in the Rogue R. Valley during the first six weeks of the report period (OS) apparently signified a northward movement in progress. Savannah Sparrows were found to be abundant on Destruction I., May 5-11 (WHo MS, RR). A Vesper Sparrow at Saanich May 3 (VG, RS) is said to be only the sixth record for Vancouver I.; it or another was seen there also on May 31 (SJ), one at Manning Prov. Park May 8-9 (V & MG) is also noteworthy. A **Lark Sparrow** turned up at Saanich Apr 1-6 and again May 13 (WC, *fide* VG); these observations probably all involved the same bird which apparently spent the last two months of the winter season there. A Brewer's Sparrow appeared on Samish I., Wash. May

26-27 where it sang and foraged among some introduced sage in a garden (NL, *fide* TW). A Harris' Sparrow was noted at Sauvie I., May 5 (HN *et al.*), a banded one which had been at Bellingham left on May 1 (TW). Golden-crowned Sparrows lingered at Medford as late as May 28 (OS). An ad. White-throated Sparrow was observed at Ocean Shores, Apr. 14-15 (EH, JM). Fox Sparrows were thought to be on territory in vegetation back of the beach at Jordan R., where eight singing birds were listed in a two-mile stretch on May 31 (SJ). Between 15 and 20 pairs of Lincoln's Sparrows appeared to be nesting in a meadow above Brightwood on Mt. Hood, May 28 (HN). A Swamp Sparrow was found again at Lake Sammamish State Park, Wash., Apr. 8 when it was successfully photographed (EH *et al.*). Lone Lapland Longspurs were seen at Ocean Shores, May 5 (G & WH), and at Tillamook Bay, Oreg. the next day (JBC, RF, WT), one was also noted at Victoria Apr. 9 (RS, V & MG)

OBSERVERS -- Alex Benedict, Wayne Campbell, John & Martha Casteel, John B. Crowell, Jr., Narca Dewoskin, James Duemmel, William Elliott, Merlin Eltzroth, Roy Fisk (RFi), Ralph Fryer, Vic and Margaret Goodwill, Wayne Hoffman (WHo), Glen & Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, Peter Jennings, Stuart Johnston, Norman Lavers, Donald Lewis, Donald MacDonald, James Micuda (JMi), James Morris, Harry Nehls, Lars Norgren, James G. Olson, David L. Pearson, Hilda Reiher, Robert Roelke, Peter Rothlisberg, Ron Satterfield, Michael Scott, Otis Swisher, Jeremy B. Tatum, Howard Tayler, William Thackaberry, Terrence Wahl, C. Fred Zeilemaker.

Nesting Season, 1973

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/ Thomas H. Rogers

Summer in the Region can be described very simply--it was *extremely* dry and, after June, quite hot, often with drying winds. At Missoula, Mont. for example, 1973 was the driest year on record, with 3.37 inches of precipitation, compared to the normal 8.12, and this after a dry fall and early winter. Most reporting localities in eastern Washington had no measurable rainfall after June 25 and Wenatchee and Yakima had practically none since February. The southern Okanagan of British Columbia, cool in June, had the sparse snowfall persisting late in the mountains, but July and August become hot and dry like the remainder of the Region. Only Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. reported about normal temperatures and precipitation after a cold, late spring. Many areas reported low water levels, with ponds and creeks drying up, lakes and marshes receding and vegetative growth poor. Non-irrigated crops were generally poor and extremely dry conditions in the forests resulted in numerous late summer fires. Such conditions might be expected to have drastic effects upon bird life and in some cases it did, reducing nesting success of waterfowl in some areas and tending to concentrate birds in the vicinity of water in some localities. Duck production at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. was about half of normal, presumably because of cold spring weather. For most species, however, one got the impression that nesting success was good, with many birds about, both adult and young.

LOONS AND GREBES -- The Com. Loon was reported only from Jasper Nat'l Park, Alta.; on Dickey L. and two other lakes in the vicinity of Fortine, Mont, and one on the Spokane R. below Seven Mile, west of Spokane July 1. Two Arctic Loons were seen on Botanic L. near Lytton, B.C. June 2-3. Red-necked Grebes were present in record numbers at Kootenai Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, where an estimated ten pairs hatched about 25 young. About 40 nests of W. Grebes were found on Duck L. near Creston, B.C. July 8.

HERONS AND BITTERNs -- In the Baker, Ore. area Great Blue Herons abandoned their Clover Creek heronry when an eagle moved in, and nested on power poles along the Powder R. in Keating Valley, where four nests produced 12 young. In the same general area the Sumpter Valley heronry, destroyed two years ago, had about nine young. In Montana a new heronry of

this species was flourishing just upstream from Ennis L., near Ennis. A Green Heron was seen at Sun Lakes S.P., Grant Co., Wash. June 16 (GH & WH). A nesting concentration of 18 Black-crowned Night Herons was observed south of Quincy, Wash. and many were seen on the breeding bird survey near Moses Lake, Wash. Two immatures were seen at Pumphouse Pond on Yakima Indian Reservation near Yakima, Wash. Their nesting area is close by. About ten pairs of Am. Bittern were present on Kootenai Refuge, Bonners Ferry, Ida.

WATERFOWL -- Four pairs of Trumpeter Swans at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash. produced 17 young, 12 of which were still present in August. Nesting success for species at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. was 66 percent, bringing off 100+ cygnets, of which 35 survived to the end of the period. Canada Geese broods at Kootenai N.W.R. were smaller than usual, averaging about three per brood. At Turnbull Refuge the figure was higher, for 50 pairs produced an estimated 100 goslings. Seventy nests were located on Cabin I. in the Columbia R. above Priest Rapids Dam. Duck nesting success at Kootenai Refuge appeared about normal in spite of the drought, as water levels were controlled. Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Com. Goldeneye and Hooded Merganser seemed particularly successful. The latter made much use of nest boxes. At Turnbull Refuge pair counts of ducks were higher than last year for many species. The Mallard count went from 421 pairs in 1972 to 672 this year. Blue-winged Teal nearly

Volume 27, Number 5 893

doubled and Cinnamon Teal increased about 50 per cent. However, Ring-necked pairs declined about 50 per cent and Ruddy Ducks were down from 280 to 183. At Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. production estimates for Mallard, Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Redhead and Ruddy Ducks together were down to 985 young from 1220 last year, largely because of extremely low water. Nesting activity in n. Idaho outside of Kootenai Refuge was believed to be lower than normal because of water lack. An apparent hybrid, with head marking of a male Blue-winged Teal and the rufous

body color of the Cinnamon, was seen at Davis L., Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (WH). Wood Ducks occupied 10 of 35 nest boxes put up at Toppenish N.W.R., Toppenish, Wash. a male Harlequin Duck with a brood of five well-grown young was seen on the Shuswap R. at Cherryville in s. British Columbia R. Aug. 12 (SD).

HAWKS -- Six active nests of Swainson's Hawks were located in the Heppner, Ore. area, and five of the scarce Ferruginous Hawk, with the latter species producing 19 young. Seven nests of Golden Eagle were found in that area, with one known failure and two producing one young each. Six nests of this species were observed in n.e. Oregon. One failed but the others produced one or two young each. Osprey nests were found at L. Wenatchee, Chelan Co., Wash.; at Coeur d' Alene and Pend Oreille Lakes in Idaho; on the middle fork of the John Day R. in n.c. Oregon, and at Townsend, Trident, Ennis and Somers, Mont. A Merlin was seen in Gallatin Co., Mont. July 8.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- Two broods of Blue Grouse were observed at Kootenai Refuge and one was seen in the valley near Fortine, Mont. The only report on Spruce Grouse was from the latter locality, where it was described as scarce. A female Ruffed Grouse with young was seen at Fernan L. near Coeur d' Alene, Ida. July 5. The Green Pheasants at Kootenai Refuge produced a number of broods, but most had only two or three young and did not hatch until late July.

RAILS AND COOT -- Sandhill Crane production at Red Rocks Lake N.W.R. was estimated at 24 chicks surviving through July, believed somewhat better than usual. A young Virginia Rail was observed at Willow L. in Spokane Co. July 26 and three young Sora were seen at a marsh about three miles north of Spangle, Wash. July 29 (WH). American Coot numbered 500 pairs at Turnbull in the spring and the species produced a record number of young, about 300, at Kootenai Refuge.

SHOREBIRDS -- An estimated 500 Killdeer were at Turnbull Refuge. Young birds perhaps a week old were found at Baker, Ore. May 15. Two tiny young of the Mountain Plover were found 10 mi. s.e. of Boulder, Mont. (ETH & RAH). Three broods of Long-billed Curlew, with 2-5 young, were found in the Baker, Ore. area June 24-July 4 (AW), and an adult was incubating near White Swan, Wash. May 6. Several Whimbrels were identified at irrigation ponds near Touchet, Wash. about July 1 (SI, *fide* NFM). A single Upland Sandpiper was reported, near Newman L., Wash. June 25 (WH & REW). A Solitary Sandpiper was seen at a small pond in the Monashee Mts. 50 mi. s.e. of Vernon, B.C. July 21 and one was at Reardan, Wash. on the same date. A scattering of Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs occurred in several places in e. Washington during July. The latter species was seen at Reardan June 20 and in the Bozeman area June 23. A few Least Sandpipers were at Reardan July 1 and July 21. A total of over 200 W. Sandpipers was counted in four localities in c. Washington July 15 (A & WH). Young Am. Avocets were seen in the Baker area and at Turnbull N.W.R. and very small young of Wilson's Phalarope were found at the former locality July 3.

GULLS, TERNS -- A breeding colony of at least 800 Ring-billed Gulls were occupying an island in Banks L., Grant Co., Wash. July 15. Some 500 of the birds at Sprague L. near Sprague, Wash. July 19 were about half grown young birds. About 50 pairs nested on an island in the Columbia R. above Priest Rapids Dam and a nesting colony started at a sewage lagoon near Baker. Unusual numbers were seen along the Kootenai R. in Lincoln Co., Mont. below Libby Dam, where the water has receded and some fish kill has occurred. Franklin's Gull was noted at Thompson Falls in Sanders Co., Mont. (PDS) and five adults were seen at Sprague L. June 2 (JA). More than 25 nests of Forster's Tern were found on Cabin I. in the Columbia R. and adults and young were seen in the Potholes area near Moses L., Wash. July 15. Four Com. Terns were at Duck L., Creston, B.C., July 8 (JAG). About 30 pairs of Caspian Terns nested at Potholes Res., Moses L. (CR), and 25 pairs on Cabin I.

DOVES, PIGEONS, CUCKOOS -- Mourning Dove numbers appeared to be down at Kootenai N.W.R. and

perhaps in the Spokane area but were described as plentiful in rural areas around Yakima. A late nest with two eggs was found along the Little Spokane R. n. of Spokane Aug. 5. Single Band-tailed Pigeons again were identified, one about 10 mi. e. of Thompson Falls, Mont. June 15 PDS; a second near St. Mary, Mont. in early July (PLW), and another at Shuswap Falls near Vernon June 30 (JAG). The Black-billed Cuckoo was markedly more numerous in w Montana. It was found on 7 of 50 stops at the Twin Bridges Breeding Bird Survey; formerly the birds were found only 2 or 3 times in 5 years in the area (PDS).

OWLS -- A Barn Owl used a Wood Duck nest box at Toppenish N.W.R. (ERC) and another responded to the playing of its call on Bateman I. near Richland June 28 (REW). A **Flammulated Owl** was heard in the Blue Mts. south of Pomeroy, Wash. June 29 and north of Diamond L., Pend Oreille Co., Wash. June 30 (DP). Nests of the Great Horned Owl were found at three localities. Three were found in the Bozeman area, one near Spokane and six in the Heppner, Ore. area. Single Pygmy Owls were seen on three dates in early June at Cougar Gulch and Mica Bay just west of Coeur d'Alene, Ida. at elevations not much over 2000 ft. and on June 30 at a little higher elevation on Browne (Tower) Mt. just s.e. of Spokane. The species was also reported in more likely territory at Calispell Peak, Pend Oreille

894 *American Birds*, October 1973

Co., Wash. A nest with young of the - **Boreal Owl** was reported at Waterton L. in Glacier N.P., the first nesting for Montana (DS, *vide* PLW). The Burrowing Owl was found at only two localities, between Quincy and Moses L., Wash., a burrow with one adult and three young June 4, and at Brothers, Ore., a pair with three young. The species was inexplicably absent in the Baker, Ore. and Walla Walla, Wash. areas. A very few Short-eared Owls were noted near Spokane and Moses L., and near Prineville and Baker, Ore.

POOR-WILLS AND NIGHTHAWKS -- The Poor-will was reported only near Yakima in Ahtanum and

Wenas Creek valleys, and just north and west of Spokane. Common Nighthawk sightings at Kootenai N.W.R. were very few--reason unknown. Numbers in the Fortine, Mont. area continued to be much reduced from former years and the birds were abnormally few in the Spokane area until late July. A brood in the Dishman Hills near Spokane contained two young July 19 and one nearly fledged July 25.

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS -- Two Black Swifts were seen along the Columbia R. in the vicinity of Keller, Wash. June 30 (JA) and several were sighted at Harts Pass, Okanogan Co., Wash. July 2-3 (REW). At Cle Elum L. n.w. of Cle Elum, Wash., 15 were seen June 3 (EHu). About 50 Vaux's Swifts were seen over Bull L., Lincoln Co., Mont. July 15 and in Glacier N.P. 10-20 were seen in the vicinity of Avalanche Creek in June and July. A single bird was seen n. of Cusick, Wash. June 25 and several were seen in the L. Wenatchee area June 15. They were common at the confluence of Nile Creek and Naches R. n.w. of Yakima June 17. Two White-throated Swifts were observed near Ancient L. near Quincy, Wash. June 4. The species was also reported from the Bozeman area. Black-chinned Hummingbirds were more commonly observed than the Rufous or Calliope at Winton Weydemeyer's ranch near Fortine, Mont. A nest of the Rufous containing young was found there in early July and a nest of the Calliope with two nearly fledged young was found atop a set of chimes over a door entrance at Liberty L., Wash. July 26. An ad. male Rufous still lingered at Spokane July 9.

WOODPECKERS -- A Pileated Woodpecker was seen at its nest hole 2 mi. s.w. of Kalispell, Mont. June 9. Thirty or more Lewis' Woodpeckers, many nesting, were observed at Ft. Simcoe S.P. west of Toppenish, Wash. May 6. A pair of the scarce Williamson's Sapsucker was excavating a cavity at Barnaby L. near Fortine June 12 & 19. The species was also seen June 22 and July 20 in the Bridger Mts. e. of Bozeman and a male was found near Blewett Pass in the Cascade Mts. n. of Ellensburg, Wash. June 30. A male of the scarce Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was noted in a small burn about 4 mi. s.c. of Tumtum, Stevens Co., Wash. June 26 (REW & WH). A very few N. Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen in w. Montana, n. Idaho

and e. Washington. A nest of this species was found near Calispell Peak, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. June 18. The young birds were still in the nest July 14 (JA).

FLYCATCHERS -- A pair of Ash-throated Flycatchers, presumably nesting, was seen along Crab Creek in Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. June 10 & July 1 (REW). The species was also noted on the refuge near Soda L. on July 15 (JA & WH) and one was sighted at the National Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. July 7 (JAG). A **Least Flycatcher** was identified in the Kettle R. valley near Westbridge in extreme s. British Columbia July 4 (JG). A small breeding colony of the Gray Flycatcher was found in Klickitat Co., Wash. between Goldendale and Glenwood June 27. At least six birds were present, including an adult feeding two well-fledged young and three singing.

LARKS, SWALLOWS -- Horned Lark numbers seemed definitely down in the Pasco-Richland-Kennewick ("Tri-cities"), Wash. area, where the breeding bird survey recorded less than half the number found last year. The situation seemed to hold true for Walla Walla also. Rough-winged Swallows occupied 4 nest boxes put up in the Baker, Ore. area (MB).



*Pure albino swallow (?) Salmon, Idaho. Undated.
Photo/Mrs. O. Brenneman.*

RAVENS, CROWS, JAYS, NUTCRACKERS -- The Com. Raven was one of very few species that is becoming more common at Fortine, Mont. The breeding population of Com. Crow in the Okanagan Valley, B.C. continued to increase; crows are nesting in Vernon, where they have become a pest. A flock of about 100 Pinyon Jays at Trident, Mont. June 27 included many young birds. Adult Clark's Nutcrackers were carrying worms to a presumed nest near Norris, Mont. Apr. 8. Three immature birds were seen in Richland, Wash. July 30.

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES, WRENS -- Black-capped Chickadees occupied 4 nest boxes at Baker, and a pair of Mountain Chickadees produced seven young in a nest box on upper Wenas Creek n.w. of Yakima. The Boreal Chickadee was seen in Banff N.P. (TOW) and on the trail to Siyeh Pass in Glacier N.P., Mont. (ShS). High numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported near Peola, Wash., where 30 were counted July 23. House Wrens occupied 46 of over 100 nest boxes put up in the vicinity of Baker

Volume 27, Number 5 895

(MB) Two ad. Bewick's Wrens were feeding three young at Yakima Apr. 30. The Canyon Wren was observed at a new site near Ennis L., Ennis, Mont. as well as at the previously known site June 23 (DRS & PDS).

MIMIC THRUSHES -- A Mockingbird showed up on Yakima Indian Reservation June 12 and one was identified near the Flathead-Lincoln Co. line s.e. of Fortine, Mont. June 12 (PD S & WW). A Sage Thrasher appeared at Williams L., Spokane Co., July 19 (WH) and one was seen feeding well-fledged young at Baker July 4.

THRUSHES -- At Fortine the Hermit Thrush was described as becoming scarce as most of the mountain basins have been logged. A Gray-cheeked Thrush was

reported for Banff N.P. (TW). At Baker W. Bluebirds used ten nest boxes compared to only one used by Mountain Bluebirds. At Yakima the former species reared about 68 young and the Mountain, 8 young. In the vicinity of Peola, Wash. the latter species was abundant, however. Three sightings of imm. Townsend's Solitaire were obtained in the Spokane vicinity in July and early August.

KINGLET'S, VIREOS -- A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was nest-building on Fernan L. near Coeur d' Alene June 8; young birds were present July 12. A female Solitary Vireo on the nest was observed at Battle Mt. S.P. south of Pendleton, Ore. June 28. A Red-eyed Vireo nest with three eggs was found July 8 at Fortine and on the same date a pair was feeding nestlings near Spokane. A Warbling Vireo was incubating near Spokane June 13 & 18 and in that immediate vicinity an adult was feeding a young Brown-headed Cowbird July 5.

WARBLERS -- An ad. **Blackpoll Warbler** was identified at Missoula the second week of June (PDS & PLW). An **Ovenbird** was discovered at the south end of Sullivan L. in Pend Oreille Co., Wash. June 16. Its song and that of a N. Waterthrush were taped (RL & LL). A nest of the latter species with 4 young was found at Silver L. near Peachland, B.C. June 25 (JAG). One bird was seen at Cougar Bay near Coeur d' Alene, Ida. June 5 (ShS). Yellow-breasted Chat numbers on the Breeding Bird Survey at Baker went from 5 in 1971 and 1972 to 14 this year.

BLACKBIRDS -- A few Bobolinks were found near Cusick and a few miles s. of Oroville in Washington; near Prairie City, Ore. in June; near Deep L. s.e. of Northport, Wash. and n. of Baker in July. More pairs than usual were seen in the Fortine area. Baker's Breeding Bird Survey indicated a continuing increase in W Meadowlarks, with this year's figure over twice that of 1971. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were numerous at Kootenai N. W. R., about doubling last year's numbers. A (Bullock's) N. Oriole was observed at Eureka, Mont.

FINCHES -- Nests and young of the Black-headed Grosbeak were reported from the Spokane area. A male **Indigo Bunting** in full song was found at Pend Oreille S P in s. Pend Oreille Co., Wash. July 7 (DoD) and subsequently seen and photographed by several parties from Spokane Audubon Society. Lazuli Buntings were nearby. A male Lazuli Bunting was observed during a snowstorm at 6000 ft. in the Blue Mts of s.e. Washington June 16. Purple Finches were found in the Ochoco Mts. near Prineville, Ore. and on the Breeding Bird Survey for Kittitas Co., Wash. A male of this species was seen feeding an immature at the confluence of Nile Creek with the Naches R, n.w. of Yakima. Cassin's Finch numbers appeared definitely down in the Spokane and Fortine areas. A Lesser Goldfinch was seen July 11 in the same area near Prineville, where it has nested in two previous years (GM).

SPARROWS -- A Green-tailed Towhee was singing at Wenatchee Guard Station at 6000ft in Washington's Blue Mts. June 16. The uncommon Grasshopper Sparrow was reported from the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont.; near Oroville, Sprague and Spokane, Wash. and at Goose L. near Vernon, B.C. Two nearly fully-grown juveniles were seen at Potholes Res., Wash. July 15 (WH). Two Black-throated Sparrows were heard singing in the sagebrush-juniper woodlands 12 mi. n. of Hampton, Deschutes Co., Ore. June 11 (HN). The Breeding Bird Survey in that area found Brewer's Sparrows scarce in the dry sagebrush but concentrated on hillsides above wet meadowlands. A nest of the Clay-colored Sparrow with four eggs was found near Goose L. near Vernon, B.C. July 7 (KB) and a singing male was observed near Spokane June 23 (JA). White-crowned Sparrows were found at a hitherto unknown nesting area on the top of Lookout Mtn. e of Prineville. About ten pairs were believed nesting there (GM). Two unusual lowland observations were made, one of two birds along the Walla Walla R. near Milton-Freewater, Ore. June 15 (NFM) and one bird near Spokane July 1 (Mr. & Mrs. SOS)

CONTRIBUTORS -- and observers (*area editors in italics and boldface*) --- James Acton, Kay Bartholomew, Mike Black, Ellis Bowhay, **Dave Brown**, Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash.; Phillip Cheney,

Harold Cole, Jr., Craig Corder, Charon Cotterell, **Emily R. Cragg**, Yakima, Wash. area; Dennis Dahlke, Doug Danforth, **Wayne E. Doane**, Wenatchee, Wash. area; Sid Draper, Dick Edmondson, **James Grant**, southern interior British Columbia; Tony Greager, Jeff Greenhouse, Ed Grossman, Pauline Hager, Mr. & Mrs. M. C. Haggin, Warren A. Hall, **Ralph L. Hand**, Missoula, Mont. area; Lucille Hardinger, Camille Harper, Ed Harper, Eve T. Hays, Ray A. Hays, C. J. Henry, Glen & Wanda Hoge, George D. Holton, Dick Humphreys, Virginia Humphreys, Eugene Hunn, Frances B. Huston, Sam Inaba, Dan Knierim, Vivian Kohlruss, Betty Lagergren, Katherine Laupp, Norman Lavers, Richard & Laura Lindstrom, **Jon Malcolm**, Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash.; **Sid Martin**, Helena, Mont. area, **Niel F. Meadowcroft**, Walla Walla, Wash. area, Phil Mattocks, Bob Moate, Elisabeth Moore, Eric Moore, Louis Moos, **Gerald Morsello**, Prineville, Ore. area; Vee Nealey, Harry Nehls, Martha

896 *American Birds*, October 1973

Oliver, Dave & Nancy Pearson, **Del Pierce**, Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida.; Lawrence Polumsky, **Margaret J. Polumsky**, Asotin & Garfield Cos., Wash.; Jan Reynolds, Dan Rogers, Thomas H. Rogers, Barbara Rottacker, Larry Roumpf, George Schindler, Dave Shea, Bill Simms, Donald R. Skaar, **P.D. Skaar**, Bozeman-Ennis-Three Forks area, Mont.; Connie Smedley, **Mr. & Mrs. S. O. Stanley**, for Spokane Audubon Society and n.e. Washington; Esther Stewart, Stuart Stokes, **Shirley Sturts**, Coeur d'Alene, Ida. area; Bill Thoren, Maurice Vial, Mike Vivion, Terry Wahl, **Ann Ward**, Baker, Ore. area; Tom Warren, **Winton Weydemeyer**, Fortine, Mont. area; Dorothy White, John Winchell, Norman E. Woodley, Pat Woodley, **Robert E. Woodley**, Pasco-Richland-Kennewick, Wash. area; **Dave Worden**, n.c. Oregon; Philip L. Wright.

Nesting Season, 1973

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

The southern half of the Region—from which virtually all reports emanate—continued to experience the condition of less-than-normal precipitation, which has prevailed since last December. In that period, only two-thirds of the average quantity of rainfall has occurred. Temperatures in June and July averaged a bit above normal. Thus, without any prolonged cold and wet periods, bird life experienced excellent nesting conditions and seem to have enjoyed good reproductive success.

LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS, HERONS -- Common Loons were to be found at scattered points on salt water throughout June and July from Gray's Harbor, Wash., to s. Vancouver I. A few Arctic Loons lingered in the same area until the latter part of June, with very small numbers present through July in the vicinity of Victoria, B.C. Single Red-throated Loons were observed at Ocean Shores, Wash., June 23 and July 8 & 28 (G & WH); others were found at Victoria June 13 (VG) and at Jordan River, B.C., west of Victoria June 14 (SJ). Again this year, up to ten Red-necked Grebes at a time were seen at Victoria and at the s.w. end of Vancouver I. all through the report period (VG *et al.*). A few Horned Grebes also spent the period in the area from Gray's Harbor around to Victoria. A very few individual W. Grebes were to be found along the n. Oregon coast and in the vicinity of Victoria during June and July. A pelagic trip out of Westport, Wash., June 17 turned up 13 Black-footed Albatrosses; on July 22 another trip resulted in a count of 41 individuals (TW *et al.*). A three-day offshore trip from Newport, Oreg. also gave a total of 40 birds (MS *et al.*). Northern Fulmars were present on those offshore trips in surprising numbers: 60 out of Newport July 13-16, 34 out of Westport July 17 and 172 from there July 22. On June 17 there were 17 Pink-footed Shearwaters counted out of Westport, while on July 22 a total of 54 individuals was noted; the July 13-16 trip from Newport found 150 birds, almost all of them 20 miles at sea. A single Flesh-footed Shearwater was discovered on the July 13-16 Newport trip, while three individuals of this species were identified on the July 22 Westport outing. Sooty Shearwaters in hundreds at some places, and in thousands at others,

were observed at sea and from coastal vantage points in Oregon and Washington during the report period. An estimated 41 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were seen at sea from Westport June 17, and 55 were seen July 22 (FW *et al.*); "several" were seen 30 miles at sea from Newport July 13-16 (MS *et al.*). A large nestling of this species was dug out of a burrow on Goat I., off the s. Oregon coast July 2 (FZ, MS *et al.*). On the nights of July 2-3, an estimated half million Leach's Storm-Petrels swarmed over the island where, of a total of 65 burrows checked, 48 contained either an incubating adult, an adult with chick or one or both adults (FZ *et al.*). There were 38 Brown Pelicans at Goat I. July 2, only one being a young bird of the year, while ten others were sub-adults (FZ *et al.*). Approximately 200 nests of the Double-crested Cormorant were counted at Bare Point Cliffs near Duncan, B.C., during the breeding season (JCo). Green Herons were common along the Black R. near Littlerock, Wash., in June and July (G & WH); three were at Gold Ray Dam on the Rogue R., in s. Oregon June 12 (OS), and two were at Duncan, B.C., during July and August; there were other reports of scattered individuals in the s. half of the Region. Great Egrets had moved into w. Oregon by the last week in July; the four individuals at Netarts on the 27th (JH, *fide* HN) were the maximum. A pair of Am. Bitterns was found repeatedly at a favored location on Sauvie I., west of Portland (JG).

WATERFOWL -- A single Black Brant was seen repeatedly at Victoria in mid-June and again in mid-July; two were at Ocean Shores, Wash., July 8 and ten were there July 28 (G & WH). A few Pintail spent the breeding season in the vicinity of Victoria; two female were similarly at Cowichan Bay, near Duncan; on July 14 two individuals appeared at Wm. L. Finley N.W.R. s. of Corvallis, Oreg. where five individuals were present July 17 (FZ). A female Pintail was noted at the mouth of the Columbia R. July 4 (JG). A Green-winged Teal was seen at Baskett Slough N.W.R. near Dallas, Oreg. June 4 (JM, *fide* FZ). At Ocean Shores on June 3 a pair of Blue-winged Teal flushed from a nest (G & WH); at Saanich, B.C., north of Victoria June 20, two male and a single female were present, and in the same place July 16 a flightless youngster was noted when four adults flushed (SJ). A female Blue-winged Teal with seven young was discovered at Duncan, B.C., June 13, while two male were nearby (VG). A few Cinnamon Teal

broods were noted at Finley N.W.R. in July (FZ), and at Ocean Shores in June and July (G & WH); several adult birds were at Saanich, B.C., June 10 (SJ). Two male Am. Wigeon were seen at Sidney I., near Victoria June 29 (WC *et al.*, *fide* VG) and a lone male was at Duncan, B.C., June 30 (JCo). A brood of N. Shovelers was found at Ocean Shores July 7 (G & WH); individuals of this species were seen at Baskett Slough N.W.R. June 4

908 *American Birds*, October 1973

(JM, *fide* FZ), at Duncan, B.C. June 13 (VG), at the mouth of the Columbia R. July 4 (JG), and at Saanich, BC, July 29 (SJ). Up to a score of Greater Scaup spent the early summer at Tillamook, Oreg., (JG & RK), and at Ocean Shores (G & WH). A. Com. Goldeneye at Tillamook July 29 (JG) was most unusual; the three seen at Manning Prov. Park, B.C. July 23 & 24 (RS, *fide* VG) are also of interest. There were three broods of Barrow's Goldeneye with from six to fifteen youngsters in Manning Prov. Park July 27 (RS, *fide* VG). A female Bufflehead was at Jordan River, B.C., June 28 and July 4 (SJ); two female were at Cowichan Bay, near Duncan, during the report period (JCo). As many as three Oldsquaw spent the early summer at Victoria (VG *et al.*) where up to 75 Harlequin Ducks were also present during the same period (SJ). On June 19 there were an estimated 375 White-winged Scoters and 150 Surf Scoters at LaPush, Wash., (MS & WHo). Two Black Scoters were seen at Ocean Shores July 1 & 2 (JM); another was seen at Tierra del Mar, Tillamook Co., Oreg. July 8 (JG). The lone Ruddy Duck seen at Olympia June 8 (G & WH) was the only individual of this species noted in the Region for the report period. An estimated 200 young Com. Mergansers were raised on Cowichan Bay near Duncan (JCo).

HAWKS, EAGLES, GAMEBIRDS, RAILS -- Another record of a White-tailed Kite was made near Medford, Oreg., July 11, two miles n. of the locality where last winter's bird was seen; a local resident reported that one had been there from January through March (JB, *fide* OS). An ad. Goshawk was seen at Manning P.P. July 27, where single Sharp-shinned and

Cooper's Hawks and two Rough-legged Hawks also were noted during the last week of July (RS, *fide* VG). A Golden Eagle nest well up in a Douglas fir and containing one or possibly two young birds was discovered at Malahat north of Victoria June 30 for the first s Vancouver I. nesting record (VG, SJ & RS); it is anticipated that full details will be published elsewhere. Two other adult birds were seen not far away on July 19, suggesting the possible existence of a second eyrie (V & MG). Elsewhere in the Region, Golden Eagles were recorded at Manning P.P. July 25 (RS, *fide* VG), at Saanich, B.C., July 28 (ARD, *fide* VG), on the w. side of Mount Hood in Oregon July 8 (JG & HN), at Salem, Oreg. in late June (*fide* RL), and south of Medford June 4 & 24 (OS). A pair of Bald Eagles brought off one young bird at Duncan this season (JCo), an imm. bird of this species was found at Pt. Grenville north of Gray's Harbor, Wash., June 30 (JM). Three Marsh Hawks at Tillamook July 29 (JG) may indicate the possibility of a successful nesting of the species there this year. Ospreys continue to be well recorded, particularly from the s.e. end of Vancouver I., two pairs were repeatedly observed on the lower Clackamas R. southeast of Portland, and one pair was found successfully nesting on the Bull Run watershed on Mount Hood (JG & HN); a single bird was seen at Copalis, Wash., June 30 (JM). [No reports of Peregrines were received.] Merlins were seen singly at Corvallis June 28 (WE, *fide* FZ), at Goldstream north of Victoria June 3 (RS, *fide* VG) and at Victoria July 8 (VG). Blue Grouse was heard "hooting" on the n.w. side of Mount Hood until as late as July 21 (HN *et al.*). A hen Spruce Grouse with one chick was found at Manning P.P. July 22 (RS, *fide* VG). California Quail had a highly successful nesting season on s. Vancouver I. (VG), as did Ring-necked Pheasant on the Finley N.W.R. (FZ). Three crippled Sandhill Cranes spent the early summer on Sauvie I. (RK, *fide* JG). A number of Virginia Rail broods were found in the vicinity of Victoria; Soras also seemed to have a successful nesting season there (V & MG, RS). At Hoquiam, Wash., two ad. Am. Coots with four downy chicks were found July 11 (JM).

SHOREBIRDS --- Two pairs of **Semipalmated Plover** each successfully fledged one juvenile at Ocean Shores during the report period (JM, EH, G & WH); this evidently constitutes the southernmost breeding record ever noted for the species in w. N. America.

Migrant Semipalmated Plovers had begun to reappear in the Region by the first week in July, but the 35 at Sand Lake on the Oregon coast July 8 (JG) is an abnormally high concentration for such an early date. Six ad. Snowy Plovers were at Ocean Shores where youngsters were discovered last year, but neither nests nor young were found this year (JM); 14 birds at Bay Ocean spit on Tillamook Bay July 29 (JG) may indicate that breeding occurred there successfully this season. A single Black-bellied Plover remained at Ocean Shores throughout the season (G & WH). Representatives of that species, of Surfbirds, and of Ruddy and Black Turnstones all were appearing in the Region again in the latter part of July. A lone Ruddy Turnstone at the mouth of the Columbia R. still in winter dress July 4 (JG) is of interest. A Long-billed Curlew was at Medford for a few days in early June (*fide* OS); another lingered at Ocean Shores where it was seen repeatedly from late May until July 7 (G & WH). Two Whimbrel also remained at Ocean Shores through June; on July 8 there were 18 individuals there (G & WH). The 50 Whimbrel at Tokeland, Wash., July 21 (TW *et al.*) was the maximum count for the period, but migrants were showing up in scattered coastal localities after July 1. Solitary Sandpipers were seen twice--both near Victoria on July 30 & 31 (VG *et al.*). A Wandering Tattler near Victoria June 23 (WC, *fide* VG) was unusual, although later the vanguard of the southbound movement was at scattered points within the Region. On July 23 two Willets were found at Ocean Shores (*fide* G & WH). Three Pectoral Sandpipers at Saanich July 19 (RS, *fide* VG) and one there on both July 23 (SJ) and July 29 (VG *et al.*) all were early arrivals. Saanich and Victoria were the only sites where Baird's Sandpiper was recorded--all in the last four days of July (VG *et al.*). Two Dunlin were discovered at Ocean Shores July 7, where five were noted exactly three weeks later (G & WH). A Semipalmated Sandpiper seen at Fern Ridge Reservoir west of Eugene, Oreg. July 29 (AC, SG, PT) is of particular interest because this decidedly uncommon species is seldom noted very far from salt water in this Region. Western Sandpipers returned to the Victoria area in large numbers the first week in July (SJ, RS *et al.*). On July 7 four Marbled Godwits showed up at Ocean Shores (G & WH). A lone Sanderling was

Volume 27, Number 5 909

at Victoria June 3 where one was observed repeatedly after July 17 (VG *et al.*). There were two Wilson's Phalaropes at Tillamook July 29 (JG). A N. Phalarope was seen at Ocean Shores June 23 (EH); a few were found at sea on each of the July pelagic trips from Westport and Newport, and by the latter half of July a few individuals were to be found at favored spots in the [Willamette Valley?].

[The sentence above ends with the word "the" in the original and no subsequent Corrigendum was found. Regional Editor Harry Nehls comments "I don't think there was any correction and I don't have anything in files. I am sure that refers to the Willamette Valley though. During that period a good number were already passing through Central Oregon to gather at Lake Abert." - ALC]

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS -- The only reports of jaegers were of one Pomarine July 14 off Newport (MS *et al.*), another Pomarine July 17 at Victoria (KT, *fide* VG), and two Parasitics off Westport June 17 (TW *et al.*). Two Skuas were recorded 40 mi. off Newport July 13-16 (MS *et al.*). A survey of Glaucous-winged Gull nests in the Chain Is. near Victoria June 23 turned up 1,550 nests containing 3,714 eggs and 194 nestlings (WC *et al.*, *fide* VG). Western Gulls use the offshore rocky islets comprising the Oregon Island N.W.R. to good advantage; some 13,200 individuals were aerially counted by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife June 29 (FZ); seven pairs of this species nested on the sand spit at Ocean Shores in a locality which was shared with two pairs of nesting Glaucous-winged Gulls (JM). At Manning P.P. July 25, there were 23 California Gulls (RS, *fide* VG); subadults were around s. Vancouver I. in June (SJ). Immature Ring-billed Gulls were appearing there by the last week in July (VG *et al.*). A concentration of 30 subadult Mew Gulls at Metchosin, B.C., Vancouver I. June 27 (SJ) was extraordinary; each year a few individuals appear in the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca in July, but usually not until September is the species recorded further south. A Franklin's Gull was carefully studied at Tierra del Mar, Tillamook Co., Oreg. July 8 (JG), adding to the meager total of observations of this species on the Oregon coast. Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at Victoria

and Metchosin, B.C., where 14 were counted (SJ), at Salem (*fide* RL) in the last week of June, and at Sequim, Wash., where six individuals were noted June 19 (WWho, MS). Eight were at Sand Lake, Oreg. July 8, and 20 were at Tillamook July 29 (JG); several hundred Bonaparte's Gulls were at Metchosin July 30 (SJ). Heermann's Gulls moved north in June; the one at Ocean Shores June 3 (G & WH), and the several at Victoria and vicinity by June 10 being particularly early; the movement was heavy along the Oregon coast the last week in June (WWho, MS). Up to a score of Black-legged Kittiwakes were at Ocean Shores throughout the report period (EH, G & WH). Off Westport three adult Sabine's Gulls were seen June 17 and two were seen July 22 (TW *et al.*). Ten Com. Terns were seen at Bellingham June 1 (TW); by July 31 there were 100 at Victoria as a result of a build-up which commenced in mid-July. An Arctic Tern was seen off Newport July 14 (MS *et al.*), and another was seen at Victoria July 24 (KT, *fide* VG). Caspian Terns were more than usually in evidence in the vicinity of Victoria throughout the report period, six individuals in one day being the maximum. A **Black Tern** at Cordova Spit on the Saanich Peninsula north of Victoria June 16 was well described after careful study, and constitutes the first Vancouver I. record (RS, *fide* VG).

ALCIDS -- Approximately 160,000 Com. Murres were censused by air on the 25 segments of Oregon Islands N.W.R. June 29 (FZ). On July 2, 150 Pigeon Guillemots were counted on Goat I., off Brookings, Oreg. (WWho, MS, FZ); individuals were also found nesting in the Chain Is. near Victoria (WC *et al.*, *fide* VG). There were 65 Marbled Murrelets at Victoria July 8 (VG). An Ancient Murrelet in breeding plumage seen a mile off Yaquina Head near Newport July 13 & 16 (MS *et al.*, *fide* HN) was quite an unusual find. Out of Westport July 22, a good count of 71 Cassin's Auklets was obtained (TW). Rhinoceros Auklets were common at Victoria in June and abundant in July, it being possible to count between 200-400 in a day, by late July, however, numbers fell off sharply (VG), near Sequim June 19, 200 individual birds were seen Rhinoceros Auklets were also observed along both the Washington and Oregon coasts in small numbers during the period. A few were found nesting at Goat I. in late June where two downy chicks were dug out of a burrow (WWho, MS, FZ). On July 2, 80 Tufted Puffins

were counted there; two others were seen 35 mi. at sea from Newport in mid-June (MS *et al.*, *fide* HN); another was at Victoria July 6-July 28 (VG) where the species does not commonly occur. Records of **Horned Puffins** in the Region are rare; it is therefore of great interest that two individuals were seen off Newport, Oreg., July 13---one ten mi. at sea, the other 35 mi. out (MS, WE, WHO, CL, *fide* FZ). On June 21-22, a **Horned Puffin** was at Yaquina Head Rocks (PR, JO, *fide* FZ), still another individual of this species was recorded at Victoria June 27 (MG)!

OWLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS -- Two Barn Owls were found at Saanich, B.C. July 15 (RS, JT, *fide* VG). A Short-eared Owl at Nehalem, Oreg. July 29 (JG) was unusual. More than 300 Black Swifts were inexplicably around Duncan, B.C., June 5-25 (JCo); on June 16 the same number was estimated to be at Reifel Refuge, s. of Vancouver, B.C. and over the city itself, moving southeasterly with a storm front, while on the following day at the same place, up to 40 were seen (DM). Anna's Hummingbirds are said to have reached numbers almost in parity with Rufous Hummingbirds in the Medford area by the end of the report period (JH). Lewis' Woodpeckers were unreported. Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers, however, were found at Lost L. on Oregon's Santiam Highway May 23 (FS, TM), at Mount Rainier Nat'l Park July 22 (JM) and at Manning P.P. July 24-27 (RS, *fide* VG). Two E. Kingbirds were seen at Victoria June 23 (RMG, *fide* VG). A pair of W. Kingbirds nested at Sauvie I., near Portland, and had brought off two young birds by August 1 (JG); up to a dozen individuals of this species were counted between Roseburg and Elkton, Oreg. July 12 (OS). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was discovered at Salem June 9 (RL, *fide* HN).

LARKS THROUGH THRUSHES--Six or eight Skylarks were observed on San Juan 1, Wash., July 17 (TW); five were at Saanich, B.C., July 14 (V & MG, RS). A Horned Lark was carrying food at the latter place July 21 (RS, *fide* VG). Three pairs of Purple Martins were at Olympia all during June and July, and

evidently raised at least five young (G & WH), others were seen in the Bellingham area, at San Juan 1., at Saanich and Victoria, at Seattle, and near Portland, but never in numbers exceeding a half dozen. A Blue Jay was found at Victoria again, on July 23 (*fide* VG). From July 24 to 28 up to 25 Boreal Chickadees were seen at Manning P.P. (RS, *fide* VG). House Wrens were found singing in many places on s. Vancouver I. during the report period (SJ). A pair of Rock Wrens in a clearcut on the w. side of Mt. Hood July 8 were suspected of nesting (HN). A Mockingbird is belatedly mentioned as having been seen at Salem May 10 (TM). Western Bluebirds were reported seen only in Oregon's upper Rogue R. valley, and from there only "irregularly" (OS). A Mountain Bluebird was found low on the w. side of Mt. Hood July 21 (TL, HN).

GNATCATCHERS, VIREOS, WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS -- A Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher was seen at Emigrant L. s. of Ashland, Oreg. July 17 (OS). Almost 40 individual Hutton's Vireos were seen in the vicinity of Victoria during the report period---20 of them on July 13 and 10 more July 14 (KT, *fide* VG). Hutton's Vireos were also reported to have been "most plentiful" during the same period at Duncan, a bit further north on Vancouver I., as were Red-eyed Vireos (JCo), which is even more surprising. Otis Swisher counted 30 Yellow-breasted Chats in the course of a two-mile canoe float behind Gold Ray Dam on Oregon's upper Rogue R. July 11; the birds were paired regularly at about 75-yard intervals in suitable habitat. Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Baskett Slough N.W.R. near Dallas, Oreg. June 11 (JMi, *fide* FZ). Brown-headed Cowbirds were found to have parasitized nests of the following nine species in the Victoria area: Com. Bushtit, Hutton's, Solitary and Warbling Vireos, Orange-crowned and Yellow Warblers, Brewer's Blackbird, Purple Finch and White-crowned Sparrow; a flock of 25 cowbirds, mostly juveniles and female was seen at or near Victoria July 23 (SJ).

GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, SPARROWS -- A second w. Oregon record for the Rose-breasted Grosbeak was made on June 25--precisely six months after the first

one--when a male second-year bird struck a window and was killed at Eugene (HW, *fide* HN). Three male Lazuli Buntings were at Saanich June 2 (V & MG, RS). Evening Grosbeaks were observed in small numbers around Victoria and in the Oregon Cascades. A Pine Grosbeak at Washington's White Pass southeast of Mt. Rainier N.P. June 2 (EH) is of interest, as is the male seen at Manning P.P. July 24 (RS, *fide* VG). Pine Siskins, Am. Goldfinches and Red Crossbills all were reported to have been at Duncan, B.C., in "unprecedented numbers" during the report period (JCo). Red Crossbills elsewhere were intermittently scattered through the s. portion of the Region except, apparently, for s. Oregon. Five Green-tailed Towhees were seen on Mt. Ashland, s. of Medford, in an alpine meadow, of all places, July 3 (OS). Grasshopper Sparrows again appeared in late May at the same locale west of Eugene where they were discovered last year, and were seen thereafter throughout June (AC, SG). A nest of the **Golden-crowned Sparrow** containing three large young was discovered on June 1 in a field near a gravel pit in N. Saanich, Vancouver I., by J. W. McCaramon (*fide* WC); the identification was confirmed two days later when Wayne Campbell saw the adults with the young birds, which were by then out of the nest. The nest was collected for the Provincial Museum. On June 4, two ad. Golden-crowns were found at a different locality at central Saanich, and on June 5 a singing adult was discovered at a third location on the Saanich Pen. (*fide* WC). An adult was also seen at Saanich July 5 (WC, *fide* VG). Fox Sparrows were noted all through June and July at Sooke, B.C., but no nest was found (SJ), the species is not known as a s. Vancouver I. nester, so that the presence of several individuals during the breeding season is cause for speculation.

Tatum, Keith Taylor, Philip Thomas, Terrence Wahl, Herbert Wisner, C. Fred Zeilemaker.

End 1973

OBSERVERS AND CONTRIBUTORS -- John Ballard, Wayne Campbell, John Comer (JCo), Alan Contreras, A. R. Davidson, William Elliott, Dan Field, Jeff Gilligan, Vic & Margaret Goodwill, Sayre Greenfield, Jeffrey Hill, Wayne Hoffman (WHo), Glen & Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, Stuart Johnston, Ron Klein, Carroll Littlefield, Tom Love, Robert Lucas, Donald MacDonald, R. MacKenzie-Grieve, Thomas McCamant, Jim Micuda (JMi), James Morris, Harry Nehls, James Olson, Peter Rothlisberg, Ron Satterfield, Floyd Schrock, Michael Scott, Otis Swisher, J. B.

1974

Autumn 1973

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/ Thomas H. Rogers



During August nearly every part of the Region faced continuation of the severe drought that plagued it all year long. September brought some relief to southern interior British Columbia, eastern Washington and Oregon and Idaho, with higher than normal rainfall and slightly cooler temperatures. Western Montana continued dry, however, with the exception of Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. which had above-normal precipitation all fall. October

78 *American Birds*, February 1974

brought a return to drought conditions except for an area extending along the east base of the Cascade Mountains from Oregon north into British Columbia and curving east to Walla Walla, Wash. The end of the month brought an unseasonable storm which dumped several inches of snow on most of the Region and froze standing waters in several localities. However, conditions soon moderated and the month settled down to become extremely wet, close to the wettest on record in some areas. However, only slightly below-normal temperatures prevailed, so precipitation fell as rain in the lowlands, removing the snow cover and opening most

waters again. Red Rock Lakes was the exception. Snowfall was very heavy in the mountains. Oddly, Helena, Mont. missed out on the heavy precipitation. At most localities birds appeared in large numbers and great variety. The goose migration was excellent. Ducks were an exception, apparently because of mild weather delaying the movement from Canada. Shore birds and gulls appeared in unusual numbers and variety, with many rarities. Low water presumably exposed many mud flats, although some localities were bypassed because of dried-up ponds. A large number of late stragglers, well distributed through the spectrum of bird families, was reported, no doubt the result of mild conditions. A reportedly poor conifer seed crop apparently was the cause of extensive appearances of the "northern finches", most notably the Pine Grosbeak, which staged a widespread and spectacular movement into the lowlands. The indications are strong that weather was the big factor, with the prolonged drought affecting the amount and distribution of food and watering places, causing unusual movements and concentrations of birds, and generally mild conditions delaying migration southward. Altogether it was a highly interesting season, with much to see and many surprises.

LOONS AND GREBES -- An Arctic Loon was seen with Com. Loons on Banks L., Grant Co., Wash., Oct. 21 (JA) and one was found on Upper Klamath L., Ore., Nov. 12 (CR & OS). Two Horned Grebes on Upper Klamath L., Nov. 12 provided what is apparently the first winter record for that area (CR & OS). Five were still in Wolf Lodge Bay on Coeur d' Alene L. on the very late date of Dec 2 (SGS). A peak of 4160 Eared Grebes was reached at Malheur N.W.R., Aug. 30. The greatest number of W. Grebes was 2125 at Malheur N.W.R. Around 200 were estimated in the Kootenai R. valley of n. Idaho in October.

PELICANS AND CORMORANTS -- White Pelicans reached a peak of 8500, nearly twice last year's high, at Malheur N.W.R. and one there Dec. 3 set a new late date. Rather late dates for the species were registered at Canyon Ferry Res. near Helena Oct. 6 and along the Snake R. west of American Falls, Ida. Oct. 28. Double-crested Cormorants produced a big count of 240 at Canyon Ferry Aug. 25 and another at Malheur N.W.R., 300 on Aug. 30.

HERONS, IBISES -- Malheur N.W.R. had a peak of 835 Great Blue Herons Aug. 30. The same refuge had highs of 1050 Common and 550 Snowy Egrets. Three Cattle Egrets were reported for the Burley-Rupert, Ida. area (WHS), but with no details. Black-crowned Night Herons reached a high of 3360 at Malheur and were estimated at 30 in August at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash. Six Am. Bitterns were present in the display pool at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash. most of the fall White-faced Ibis numbers reached 245 at Malheur N.W.R. Aug. 30 and one there Oct. 11 was three weeks later than last year.

WATERFOWL -- The peak number of 2700 Whistling Swans at Malheur Nov. 10 was far below last year's figure of 15,500. The peak at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., the last of October, was 500. At the latter refuge Trumpeter Swan numbers remained around 200 until November, when about half of them left, presumably over the mountains to Idaho, after the freezeup. A huge concentration of 40,000 Canada Geese, including Lesser, some Western and Cackling, was at Stratford, Grant Co., Wash., Oct. 8 (JA). Numbers were down at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., Malheur N.W.R. and McNary N.W.R., apparently because of a lag in the migration. The peak numbers at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., was only 1200, compared to 4000 last fall. Turnbull N.W.R. had a peak of 3900 in mid- October. White-fronted Geese were seen in surprising numbers at Kootenai N.W.R., 100 flying over Nov. 4, and at Cold Springs N.W.R., Umatilla Co., Ore., 80 on Sept 13 and 62 on Sept. 26. Up to 14 were sighted near Richland, Wash. but McNary N.W.R. had only five large flocks of Snow Geese circled over Salmon, Ida. the night of Nov. 1-2, lost in low clouds

following the early snowstorms. At Malheur N.W.R. the peak of 23,500 in mid-November was much higher than in recent years. Duck numbers were generally down from last year, apparently because of delayed flights out of Canada, although dry breeding season conditions in some areas cannot be ruled out. Census figures for the Columbia Basin including Washington and Oregon, with last year's figures in parentheses, were: Oct. 16-18, Mallard, 97,175 (158,200), other ducks, 28,300 (24,600); Nov. 19-21, Mallard, 234,000 (427,700), other ducks, 19,135 (36,500) However Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, Ida. had a tremendous **391,000** Mallards at the end of November and Gadwall at Malheur N.W.R. reached 22,600, highest since 1967. At Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. Am. Wigeon at 14,200 were the most numerous species at the mid-September peak. Two Oldsquaw ducks were seen Sept. 23 in Jasper NP. From one to five White-Winged Scoters were seen at several scattered localities in e. Washington and n Idaho. Up to eight Surf Scoters at a time were observed on three lakes in e. Washington. Ruddy Ducks were estimated at 10,000 in Klamath Co., Ore. on Oct. 20-21 (PAS).

VULTURES AND HAWKS -- Good numbers of Turkey Vultures appeared, the most being 17 at Baker Aug. 29. A **White-tailed Kite** was observed at close range at Sunriver, 15 mi. south of Bend Oct. 25 (JB). Many sightings of single Goshawks were reported but none in w. Montana. In the Pocatello, Ida. area 80-90 Red-tailed Hawks waited out a storm, leaving with better weather Sept. 2. Rough-legged Hawk numbers appeared excellent. Two of the scarce Ferruginous Hawk were seen in

Volume 28, Number 1 79

the Burley-Rupert area (WHS) and concentrations of about 15 each were near Kilgore and Henry's Lake Flat in s.e. Idaho Sept. 2 (CHT). The Bald Eagle gathering at West Glacier, Mont. reached a peak of 157, of which 117 were imm. birds Nov. 21. A Gyrfalcon was observed watching ducks on a pond at Vernon, B.C. Nov. 5 (BAS) and one was reported in s.e. Idaho Nov. 21 (MRC).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- An unusual number of Sharp-tailed Grouse, 200, was reported for the Nampa, Ida. area Aug. 20. Populations of California Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant and Gray Partridge appeared as good as last year or better in e. Washington but Malheur N.W.R. reported a continuing downward trend for the first two species. Chukars continued decreasing there as well as in s. Washington, where drought dried up watering places. A flock of 25 Turkeys was seen in a grain field near Victor, Mont.

CRANES AND RAILS -- Sandhill Cranes were found almost entirely in e. Oregon and s. Idaho. In Blaine, Co., Ida. 292 seen on Sept. 5 remained for two weeks. At least 100 flew over Indian Rock Lookout near Bates, Ore., Sept. 25 and seven were found resting the next day near the lookout! At Malheur N.W.R. the peak was 1500 Sept. 15. What was believed to be a Yellow Rail was flushed from a field near Pocatello Oct. 29 (FR, *fide* CHT).

SHOREBIRDS -- Single Semipalmated Plovers turned up at Fortine, Mont. where they have been sighted only four times in 53 years. It was a good season for seeing Am. Golden Plover at Reardan, Wash. where up to five were seen on several dates in September. They were found elsewhere only at Vernon, B.C.: two on Sept. 14. A few Black-bellied Plover showed up. The largest group was 15 at Canyon Ferry Res., and a Ruddy Turnstone

there on Sept. 2 was the first record for that locality (SM). Long-billed Curlews went almost unnoted, except for 200 near Baker. A very late date for the Spotted Sandpiper was Oct. 20 at Coeur d' Alene L. (SGS). A Willet appeared at Baker Aug. 14 and 20-30 were seen near Wallula, Wash., Sept. 27 (NFM). A **Red Knot** in winter plumage appeared at Reardan Aug. 18 (JA) and a **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** was studied at length near Sunnyside, Wash., Oct. 13 (PM). The Lesser Yellowlegs movement through Reardan was impressive, with up to 100 at a time in late August and the first half of September. Twenty-five Pectoral Sandpipers at First and Second Vermilion Lakes, Banff N.P., Sept. 25 were the first ever there (JEVG). A staggering 600 Baird's Sandpipers were at Salmon Arm. B.C., Aug. 22 (RJC & GPS). Long-billed Dowitchers reached a peak of 17,800 Aug. 31 at Malheur N.W.R. A Short-billed Dowitcher, one of very few records for Montana, was identified at Fortine July 29 (WW). Stilt Sandpipers, always scarce in the Region, made very good showings with five at Ronan, Mont. (WW) and up to five in late August and early September at Reardan (JA). A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at the Helena settling reservoir Aug. 23 was only the third or fourth for Montana (PM McK & LS). Am. Avocets peaked at 4900 at Malheur N.W.R. Aug. 10. A **Red Phalarope** Sept. 7 and 11 at Reardan was one of very few ever recorded in e. Washington (JA).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS -- Single Parasitic Jaegers were sighted at Penticton and Kelowna B.C., Richland, Wash., Malheur N.W.R. and in Montana at Canyon Ferry Res. and Hebgen L. near West Yellowstone, Mont. (TM). At Richland a Long-tailed Jaeger was also seen (REW). Single **Glaucous Gulls** appeared at Banks L., Grant Co., Wash., Nov. 22 (JA) and at Penticton Nov. 11 (RC & SRC). California Gulls, attracted to spawning Kokanee salmon along the Okanagan R. near Penticton, numbered 1445 in mid- October (RC). Single Mew Gulls were sighted at Medical L. Spokane Co., Sept. 15 & Oct. 6 (JA) and at Vaseux L. near Penticton Nov. 10 (RC & SRC). Forster's Tern, estimated at a peak of 3000 Aug. 15 at Malheur N.W.R., remained through September. A Com. Tern got as far east as Reardan Sept. 21 (JA). Caspian Terns were noted only at Malheur and Richland.

PIGEONS AND OWLS -- A Band-tailed Pigeon near Springdale, Wash. Oct. 21 added to the few records east of the Cascade Mts. Barn Owls were becoming common at McNary N.W.R. in late November and one was flushed on Bateman I. near Richland Nov. 10 (CC, MCo & REW). A few Snowy Owls showed up in the Vernon area and in e. Washington. One of the scarce Hawk Owls was seen in the Nampa area Sept. 14 & 17. A **Barred Owl** received a concussion in an encounter with a window near Spokane Oct. 11 and was photographed, banded and later released (DD). Another was reported Sept. 6 along the shore of Priest L. in n. Idaho (KB, TR & DR). Two Great Gray Owls were found in the Mission Range near Mt. McDonald southeast of Flathead L. in Montana Sept. 6 (CJH). One of the seldom-seen Saw-whet Owls was at Helena Nov. 8 (GH).



A Barred Owl, Spokane, Wash., October, 1973.

Photo/ Denis Dablike.

80 *American Birds*. February 1974

NIGHTHAWKS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS --

The Com. Nighthawk had a few very late stragglers. At Missoula one on Oct. 1 tied the late record and Bozeman had one on Oct. 12. A huge flock of Vaux's Swifts, estimated at 1100, was watched Sept. 1 as the birds flew in and out of the chimney of an old factory building near Klickitat, Wash. (BT). White-throated Swifts were still at Lewis and Clark Caverns west of Three Forks, Mont. on the record late date of Sept. 5 (DRS). Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were described as common at a feeder at Salmon, until their departure around mid-August (HBR).

WOODPECKERS -- Two Lewis' Woodpeckers at Crater L. N.P. Sept. 4 made the second sighting in as many years. Williamson's Sapsucker was sighted only at Okanagan Falls, B.C., in the Salmon area and in the Wallowa Mts. of n.e. Oregon. Two White-headed Woodpeckers were seen in Klamath Co., Ore., Oct. 20 or 21 (PAS) and one was noted at Indian Rock Lookout Oct. 15 (RH). The only Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers reported were one north of Bonners Ferry and one at Indian Rock Lookout (RH).

FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS -- Single Ash-throated Flycatchers were seen at Pocatello and Richland Sept. 7 and Oct. 7 respectively. Most species of swallows showed some late stragglers, some very late. At Bozeman Sept. 2 was a late date and Sept. 18 was Weydemeyer's latest date ever at Fortine. Five Rough-winged Swallows were seen on telephone wires in a snowstorm at Kelowna Nov. 5 (JBU & RY). Around 200 Barn

Swallows were at Medical and West Medical Lakes Aug. 30. Some late individuals were at the Yakima R. mouth near Richland Nov. 10 and six at Pocatello Oct. 28 were very late.



An albino swallow, Salmon, Ida., Summer, 1973.

Photo/ Mrs. O. Brenneman. [A slightly different photo of the same bird appeared in Vol. 27 No. 5 – ALC]

JAYS AND NUTCRACKERS -- A **Blue Jay** appeared near Spokane in early September for the third consecutive year (JR). Six Scrub Jays were seen Nov. 3 south of Pocatello where there is a small resident population (MRC). One at Nampa Aug. 11 was the first sighted there in 23 years. A Clark's Nutcracker at Walla Walla, Wash. Nov. 4 was highly unusual (JW).

CHICKADEES AND CREEPERS -- A few Boreal Chickadees were noted in the Salmo Pass area, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. and six were found at Pyramid L., Jasper N.P. About ten were found along the Pasayten R. in the North Cascade Mts. of Okanogan Co., Wash., Sept. 2 (EH). Three Chestnut-backed Chickadees in a park in Spokane Sept. 26 were highly unusual (KL). Brown Creeper numbers still appeared to be way up. Many flocks of 8-10 were seen all through November at Pocatello in the greatest numbers Trost had ever seen.

WRENS, MIMIC THRUSHES, THRUSHES -- Bewick's Wren was noted Nov. 8 at Yakima Indian Res. and several were seen and heard near Richland Nov. 10. A Mockingbird visited a birdbath in Richland Aug. 25- 26 (EM) and one was seen at Malheur N.W.R. Aug. 17. Am. Robins had mostly migrated out in September and early October but flights of presumably northern birds appeared at Spokane in late October and early November but mostly moved on by mid-November. At Baker numbers surged to a group of 75 on Nov. 18 and then dropped to zero. Small flocks remained around Vernon where mountain ash berries were abundant. A Swainson's Thrush appeared Sept. 9 at Nampa where it is rarely seen and a very late bird was at Spokane Oct. 23 (Mrs. SOS). A late brood of W. Bluebirds left the nest Sept. 3 at Spokane. Mountain Bluebirds were generally scarce. However an estimated 100 were seen at Peola, Garfield Co., Wash., Aug. 2.

KINGLET, PIPITS, WAXWINGS; -- A Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Lavington, B.C. from Nov. 10 to 16 was very late. Water Pipits started appearing in late August in the western part of the Region and reached a peak of

at least 1000 Sept. 21 at West Medical L. and Reardan. At Prineville, Ore. the birds appeared with the Nov. 5 snowstorm, seeking bare ground under eaves of buildings. Up to 120 Bohemian Waxwings at a time were seen in Jasper N.P. Sept. 20-24. They were arriving in the Okanagan, n. Idaho and e. Washington as early as October 18 (Spokane), in very large numbers in some localities. Flocks of over 1000 were at Vernon and at least that many were at Missoula by November's end. A flock of several thousand appeared just after the storm of Nov. 1 brought a foot of snow to Helena. Bozeman reported thousands in November.

SHRIKES AND STARLINGS -- Two Loggerhead Shrikes tarried along lower Crab Creek in c. Washington Oct. 12 (MP) at the same time N. Shrikes were appearing in c. and e. Washington. Huge flocks of Starlings, numbering in hundreds and thousands, passed through the Okanagan in August and September, spending most of their time in the grasslands where grasshoppers were in near-epidemic numbers around Vernon and left without depleting the supply of mountain ash berries as they usually do.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS -- Missoula had a record late date of Oct. 2 for the Solitary Vireo and a Red-eyed Vireo was there on the very late date of Sept. 21. A Tennessee Warbler, scarce in s. British Columbia, was sighted at Shuswap L. north of Salmon Arm Aug. 25 (GPS & MGS). A female **N. Parula** at Missoula Sept. 21

Volume 28, Number 1 81

(RLH) was apparently the second sight record for Montana. Three Black-throated Gray Warblers were observed at close range at Baker Sept. 22 (BW). A migrational wave of Connecticut Warblers was noted in Jasper N.P. Aug. 30 (LLG).

BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS -- Bobolink numbers were impressive at the only two localities reporting them. Lavington, B.C. had 112 on Aug. 26 (MC) and a flock of 35 at Malheur N.W.R. Sept. 6 contrasted with no [autumn] observations in 1972 and 1971. Three **Rusty Blackbirds** were examined at length at Turnbull N.W.R. Oct. 13. Possibly the species is regularly passed by as Brewer's (MP). Five Brewer's Blackbirds were seen Sept. 22 in Jasper N.P. where the species is listed as rare (JEVG). An unusual concentration of W. Tanagers occurred from early August to mid-September at Missoula. They were seen daily, often in groups of five or six to a dozen and Sept. 2 at least 60 were counted on a walk of 20 blocks through mostly residential area (RLH).

FINCHES -- Evening Grosbeaks put in good appearances in e. Washington and Oregon and at Coeur d'Alene and Missoula. Pine Grosbeaks staged a widespread incursion over most of the Region, from Bozeman on the east to Yakima and Baker on the west and from the Okanagan to Richland and s. Idaho. They mostly appeared following the snowstorm at the first of November. Hand estimated total numbers at Missoula in the hundreds and flocks up to 50 were seen at Spokane. Even s. Idaho, Richland and Yakima had a few. A flock of about 250 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches, mostly Hepburn's, was seen Nov. 22 west of Hartline, Grant Co., Wash. and about 250 were observed near Coulee City, Wash., Nov. 17. A few Com. Redpolls had appeared. Pine Siskins were widespread but mostly in small numbers. Red Crossbills were arriving in fairly good numbers in the

lowlands adjacent to coniferous areas. The cone crop was reputed poor around the Okanagan and in n.e. Washington. A flock of 25 White-winged Crossbills was sighted at Coolin, Ida. Sept. 6 (KB) and the species was noted at Bozeman Dec. 1 (ETH & RAH).

SPARROWS -- The Green-tailed Towhee at Bozeman had a late last date of Sept. 17. The species was also seen at Indian Rock lookout into September (RH). The first Rufous-sided Towhee in three years at Crater Lake N.P. was seen Oct. 17. The first Harris' Sparrow of the fall appeared at Enderby, B.C. Sept. 14 (JMa). Two visited a feeder regularly at nearby Lavington to Nov. 20 (JG) and up to six were seen in the Nampa vicinity in late November. One was seen twice at Spokane in November (JA) and one or two were at a feeder at Richland Oct. 21 - Nov. 12 (EM). One frequented a feeder at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. for a few days in early November (TWP). White-crowned Sparrows were common at Hart's Pass on the Cascade Mts. crest between Whatcom and Okanogan Cos., Wash. Sept. 2 (EH). The species moved through the Region in about average numbers. At Fortine Oct. 31 was Weydemeyer's latest date ever by 17 days for the birds. The usual sprinkling of Golden-crowned Sparrows occurred in e. Washington and Oregon but an imm. bird at Missoula Oct. 8-9 and another Oct. 21 were more unusual (PW; RLH). A single Lapland Longspur was found at Missoula Nov. 5. The first in e. Washington were seen at Reardan Aug. 30. Four Snow buntings were seen Sept. 16 at Summit L. near Prince George, B.C. and 50 were found on Apex Mt at 7000 ft. elevation near Penticton Oct. 20. A few had appeared in the United States portion of the Region by late October and November.

CORRIGENDUM -- The hummingbird photographed at Missoula in the spring of 1973, as reported in *Am Birds* 27:797, was a Black-chinned, not a Broad-tailed.

CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS -- Kevin Aanerud, (JA) James Acton, Ralph Anglen, John Annear, Eugene C. Barney, McNary N.W.R.; John Baumbrough, Bob and Becky Benton, Blue Mt. Chapter National Audubon Society, (JB) Jay Bowerman, Ellis Bowhay, Kathryn Breslauer, Betty and Dawne Brodie, Joanne Brown, (JBu) Jim Burbidge, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Burkhart, Zee Butler, Richard J. Cannings, Rob Cannings, Steve R. Cannings, Mr. and Mrs. James Clark, Urana Clarke, (MC) Mary Collins, Mark R. Collie, Craig Corder, (MCo) Marian Corder, Sharon Cotterell, Emily R. Cragg, Yakima area; Dennis Dahlke, Cliff Davis, Mrs. Edson Deal, Mrs. P. C. Dixon, Richard Donham, Helen Doomink, Syd Draper, Judy Elkins, Robert L. Eng, Jim England, John Erickson, Mike Ferdinand, Jeffrey W. Fleischer, Malheur N.W.R.; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ford, Steven Ford, Opal Foust, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Frost, J. E. V. Goodwill, Loran L. Goulden, Edmonton Natural History Club; James Grant, s. interior British Columbia; Tony Greager, Karl Gruener, Pauline Hager, Warren A. Hall, Ralph L. Hand, Missoula area, Lucille Hardinger, Pat Hart, Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Harvey, Eve T. and (RAH) Ray A. Hays, Frances B. Huston, Carolyn, James, Janey, Jimmie, John, Naomi and Wesley Heckathorn, C. J. Henry, J. K. Hobbs, James Holcomb, Crater Lake N.P.; Janet Holliday, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Holliday, Mrs. Roy Holliday, George Holton, Alice Horschel, (RH) Robert A. Hudson, Eugene Hunn, Donnell Hunter, Gertrude Inman, Pip Jordan, Dick Kemp, Vivian Kohlruess, Larry LaRochelle, Toppenish and Conboy N.W.R., Toppenish, Wash.; Kathryn Laupp, Don Lindsay, Al Lowder, Pat McKinney, (JMa) Jim Mack, (SM) Sid Martin, Helena area; Lawrence Martinez, Phil Mattocks, Niel F. Meadowcroft, Walla Walla area; Sally Meadowcroft, Elisabeth Moore, Eric Moore, Louis Moos, (JMo) Jerry Morsello, Prineville area; (JM) Jamie Murphy, (SMu) Shirley Muse, Tom Mussehl, Lowell Napier, Columbia N.W.R.; Jo Nashem, Vee Nealey, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Noble, Ron Papike, Michael Perrone, Lillian Pichtel, Del Pierce, Kootenai N.W.R.; Tyson W. Planz, Red Rock Lakes N.W.R.; Audrey Lawrence and Margaret J. Polumsky, Clarkston, Wash. area; Portland Audubon Society, Thelma and Donald Reed, Frank Renn, (JR) Jan Reynolds, Craig Roberts, Hadley B. Roberts, Hazel Mary Roe, Jim Rooney, Edwin L. Rothfuss, Glacier Nat'l Park, Mont.; Larry Roumpf, John

Rumely, (LS) Laurali Saxby, Ann Scribner, Belle Shaw, s.w. Idaho; Mike G. Shepard, Lonnie Sherer, W. FL Shillington, Rolland Shook,

82 *American Birds*, February 1974

George P. Sirk, Donald R. and P. D. Skaar, Bozeman- Forks area; Connie Smedley, Jan Smith, Mrs. S. O. Stanley, n.e. Washington; Esther Stewart, David Stirling, Shirley G. Sturts. Coeur d' Alene area; Ben A. Sugden, Pat Swift, Otis Swisher, Bill Thoren, Charles H. Trost, Pocatello area; Mr. and Mrs. Ted Trueblood, Dan Trueblood, Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Vandermeer, Brad, Janet and Linda Vandermeer, Maurice Vial, Ann Ward, Baker area; Winton Weydemeyer, Bertha White, OW) Jack Winchell, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Wissel, (PW) Paul Wolf, Jim Wollcott, Pat and Robert E. Woodley, Richland area; Dave Worden, Heppner, Ore. area; Maurice B. Wright, Turnbull N.W.R.: Philip L. Wright, Vincent Yannoni, Robin Yellowlees.

Autumn Migration, 1973

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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



August, September and October continued the abnormally dry conditions which had prevailed in the Region since December, 1972. October was, however, very cloudy and thus a bit cooler than normal. November finally

reversed the drought conditions by bringing copious amounts of rain to lower elevations and snow to upper elevations. Precipitation in western Oregon, at least, equaled or exceeded prior records for November rainfall. November also brought invasions of Rough-legged Hawks, Snowy Owls, and northern finches to most of the southern portion of the Region. There were, as usual, a number of startling ornithological finds.

LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS -- A half-dozen Yellow-billed Loons were noted after Oct. 25 from Victoria, B. C., Bellingham, Wash. and along Hood Canal in Washington for the earliest regional concentration ever recorded. Red-necked Grebes appeared unprecedentedly early with three at Victoria Aug. 5 (RS, *fide* VG), and with 20 at nearby Cordova Bay. Aug. 10 (E & ARD *fide* VG). Up to 11 Horned Grebes frequented s. Vancouver I. the latter half of August (VG). Although single Eared Grebes appeared at Olympia, Washington, Aug. 8 (G & WH), and at Netarts, Oreg. Nov. 24 (RFi, HN *et al.*), on s. Vancouver I. numbers increased from five on Aug. 18 to 17 by Nov. 10 (VG, RS *et al.*). "Thousands" of W. Grebes "arrived overnight" at Bellingham Sept. 16 (TW); an estimated 2500 were at Duncan, B.C., Nov. 15 (JCo) and 4000 were at Vancouver, B.C., two days later (WW). Thirteen Pied-billed Grebes at Reifel Refuge Oct. 7 are said to be "the largest number ever reported from one locality in the Vancouver area" (WW). Black-footed Albatrosses appeared in numbers from 29 to 60 for each of the five offshore boat trips from Westport and Ilwaco, Wash., in August, September, and early October (TW, FZ *et al.*). Northern Fulmars also were present for those trips in numbers varying between 82 and 534; a lightphase N. Fulmar struck a downtown Victoria building Nov. 27. (*fide* VG). Each of the offshore boat trips also turned up Pink-footed Shearwaters (50-200), the rare Flesh-footed Shearwater (1-5), New Zealand Shearwaters on four of the five trips (30-870), and the expected thousands of Sooty Shearwaters. From 50 to 150 Sooties were seen off Florence, Oreg. as late as Oct. 27 (AC). A detailed description of a **Manx Shearwater** seen at quite close range from the jetty at Westport, Wash. Sept. 7 (CC, KA) was furnished to the editors. A count of 236 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels out of Westport Sept. 8 is remarkable in view of the dearth of individuals the next day when only three were seen; the boat trip from Ilwaco Sept. 8 recorded only 20. On Oct. 7 a boat trip from Westport encountered 39 Fork-tailed; two individuals, one found dead in the water at Tillamook Bay Nov. 24 (HN *et al.*), the other being picked alive from the surf at Neskowin, Oreg. Nov. 23 (DM), were both very late records.

PELICANS, HERONS -- Two White Pelicans appeared briefly at Bellingham Bay Oct. 14 (TW). Brown Pelicans, after maintaining fairly constant numbers of visitants in late summer and fall in each of the preceding years, finally showed a marked decline this year, judging by the reduction in reports received; two birds at Victoria Aug. 12 (RF, *fide* VG) were surprisingly far north. A Great Blue Heron was noted Aug. 25 at Manning P. P., where the species rarely occurs (WW *et al.*). More than the normal number of reports of Green Herons were received from Vancouver, Victoria, and points south, with most of the records concentrated in the first 30 days of the period. On Oct. 30 a bird which could only have been a Cattle Egret was observed for several hours at the headquarters of the Skagit Wildlife Recreation Area near Mount Vernon, Wash., (Bob Jeffrey, *fide* TW); it is the first confirmed sighting of this species from the state, although the editors have been holding for simultaneous publication the entirely credible report of a **Cattle Egret** seen repeatedly in December, 1969 on Long Beach peninsula, Pacific Co. Wash., by Don Tiller who was then with the U.S.F.&S. at the Willapa Bay N.W.R. (*fide* David B. Marshall). On Nov. 19 a **Cattle Egret** was discovered and carefully studied by the Goodwills at Saseenos in the Sooke District near Victoria for what is believed to be the first record for British Columbia; it is highly possible the same individual bird was involved in both sightings this fall. Great Egrets, normally uncommon to rare in the Region except on the s. Oregon coast in late summer and

fall, staged a massive influx into the Region this year; numerous observations were made in w. Oregon and w. Washington, with at least one record south of Vancouver. The maximum count at any one locality was an astonishing 52 at Coos Bay, Oreg. on an unstated date (HR, *fide* HN). Black-crowned Night-Herons were observed at Finley N.W.R. south of Corvallis Aug. 22 - Sept. 1, at Ocean Shores, Wash., Aug. 27 (EH), and at Fern Ridge Res. west of Eugene, Oreg. Oct. 10 (JG).

WATERFOWL -- Whistling Swans appeared in small numbers at many places in the Region south of Vancouver after mid-October. A few Trumpeter Swans were in Whatcom Co., Wash., after Nov. 1; two ad. and three imm. birds were observed at Sooke, B.C., near Victoria, Nov. 24 (VG, RS). The first White-fronted Geese of the season appeared during the last three days of August in the vicinity of Corvallis and Eugene and for the next two months individuals and small groups were noted at numerous points in the s. half of the Region. Snow Geese showed up first Sept. 20 at Vancouver; on Oct. 2 an estimated 2000 birds were seen at the Skagit Flats (ZS), and on Oct. 28 there were 1500 at Reifel Refuge (MS). The source of Black Ducks seen occasionally in the last two years at Seattle and at Sauvie I. near Portland is in all probability a private duck breeding farm at Marysville, Wash., from whence stock has been released and has evidently bred successfully in the wild. We are indebted to Thomas W. Weir of Bellevue, Wash., for this helpful information. A migratory movement of Am. Green-winged Teal along the ocean at Long Beach, Wash., was evident Sept. 29 (JBC, HN). A Blue-winged Teal was seen in the vicinity of Duncan, B.C., as late as Oct. 9 (VG *et al.*). Two **male** Cinnamon Teal were still present on L. Washington at Seattle at the end of the period (MP). A **female** N. Shoveler accompanied by five young was seen at Duncan, B.C., Aug. 11 (JCo); 25 individuals of this species were at Willapa Bay, Wash., on Aug. 25 (HN *et al.*). A concentration of 150 Shovelers was at Ladner, B.C., Oct. 13 (MS, *fide* WW). Two **female** Redheads were early arrivals at Iona I., near Vancouver Sept. 12 where on Oct. 3 a male was also seen (BM, *fide* WW); others were recorded only at Olympia and at Duncan early in November. An extremely high count of 543 Ring-necked Ducks was made near Olympia Nov. 10 (G & WH); 182 birds of this species were observed at Duncan Nov. 28 (VG); an early record was an individual at Ilwaco, Wash., Aug. 25 (HN, *et al.*). Canvasbacks seem to have been still down in numbers this fall with the only good count coming from Samish I., Wash., where 350 were noted Nov. 18 (NL). A **male** Tufted Duck was at Stanley Park in Vancouver Sept. 27 (WW), and another, distinguishable by plumage differences, was at Kitsilano Beach, Vancouver, Oct. 24 (BK, *fide* WW). There were an estimated 700 Barrow's Goldeneye at Olympia Nov. 3 (G & WH), a remarkable concentration when the bird is so scantily observed elsewhere. An Oldsquaw was found at Tillamook, Oreg. Nov. 17 (WE, WT *et al.*); a few others were seen on the Washington coast, in Puget Sound, and in the Strait of Georgia, the high count being 45 on Oct. 24 off Sea I., south of Vancouver (BM, *fide* WW). A young **male King Eider**, said to be the fourth record for British Columbia, was discovered at Pt. Grey, Vancouver, Nov. 17 and was still present at the end of the period (R & SC *et al.*, *fide* WW). A White-winged Scoter at Eugene, Nov. 1-2, was out of the ordinary (RB, LM, CW), as were two birds shot by hunters on Sauvie I. near Portland Nov. 25 (RK). A strong southward movement of Surf Scoters as early as Aug. 25 was noted at the Columbia R. mouth (HN *et al.*); 2500 were concentrated at Pt Roberts Oct. 7 (WW). The 25 Black Scoters at Olympia on Oct. 28 (G & WH) and the 161 at Vancouver Nov 17 (BM, *fide* WW) are noteworthy as were the 80 Hooded Mergansers at Bellingham Nov. 3 (TW). The Aug 18 count of 35 Com. Mergansers at Willapa Bay (TL, HN) is surprisingly early for so high a number.

HAWKS, EAGLES -- A White-tailed Kite was again repeatedly seen east of Medford in late summer and early fall (*fide* OS). Single Goshawks were seen at eight widely spaced s. localities, with three of the sightings the last week of August. Five Sharp-shinned Hawks seen in the vicinity of Victoria Oct. 13 (RS, *fide* VG) and eight at

Ocean Shores Oct. 27 (EH) suggest migratory movements. Two Swainson's Hawks were seen at Mt. Rainier, Wash., Aug. 22 (EH). Rough-legged Hawks staged an astonishing invasion after mid-October with reports emanating almost entirely from Vancouver south through the Puget Sound trough and the Willamette Valley, although Ocean Shores, the s. side of the Columbia R. mouth, and Tillamook were coastal points touched by the influx also; observers much afield were unanimous that the numbers of individuals present surpassed anything in recent experience. A couple of Golden Eagles were seen in the s. Willamette Valley of Oregon in November, while at least four individuals were recorded on s. Vancouver I. during the fall. Bald Eagles were noted at several localities on the Oregon coast, in the Willamette Valley, on the lower Columbia, and on Puget Sound during the report period. Marsh Hawks were much in evidence at favored spots after Oct. 1, which is encouraging; approximately 35 were seen on Sauvie I, Nov. 10 (HN). Osprey reports were considerably reduced from the numbers of the last two years, coming from only five localities with the latest and southernmost being one at Fern Ridge Res. west of Eugene Oct. 10 (JG). As many as five individual Gyrfalcons appeared at Vancouver, in n. Washington, and at Victoria during November, but no other points in the Region reported them. Single Prairie Falcons were seen at Harts Pass in the N. Cascades, Sept 2 (EH, JM), and at Emigrant L. in the Cascades of s. Oregon Oct. 27 (OS). About a score of Peregrine sightings were made in the s. half of the Region throughout the report period. Merlins were reported to about the same extent, with an observation Oct. 13 of five individuals passing a point on s. Vancouver I. in about ten minutes (VG, RS), being particularly intriguing.

GAMEBIRDS, CRANES, RAILS -- A female Spruce Grouse with four young and another with two young were discovered along the N. Fork Pasayten R. in Washington's N. Cascades Aug. 18 (JM). Six in a family group also were seen at Manning P.P. Sept. 14 (M & VG) Seven White-tailed Ptarmigan were found on Mr. Baker Sept. 10 (DS) and a hen with four young was seen on Mt Rainier Aug. 22. A covey of 50 Mountain Quail at Finley N.W.R. through August and into early September (FZ) is an unusual occurrence. A Sandhill Crane was at Willapa Bay Sept. 9 (RV, *fide* TW), two were seen at Victoria Oct

94 *American Birds*, February 1974

6 (E & ARD, *fide* VG), and three were at Pitt Meadows near Vancouver Sept. 15 (GAP, *fide* WW). Sauvie I. again served as a stopover point for hundreds of migrating cranes in October, with 83 birds still there Dec. 1 (RK). A Virginia Rail with two tiny chicks was found at Saanich, B.C., Aug. 18; at least one Virginia Rail was present there until Nov. 1, while a Sora remained until Oct. 20 at the same spot (VG *et al.*).

SHOREBIRDS -- Snowy Plovers were reported only from Neskowin, Oreg. Nov. 23 (DM) where five were present, and from Ocean Shores, Sept. 6 (JM) where two were observed. American Golden Plovers were well reported from Aug. 15 to the end of October along the s.w. Washington and n. Oregon coasts and in the lowlands e. of Puget Sound and the Straits of Georgia; the high count was 80 birds at Ocean Shores Sept. 4-5. An estimated 800 Black-bellied Plovers at Leadbetter Pt., Aug. 18 (TL, HN) was a high total for this Region; the 152 at Victoria Nov. 10 (VG, RS) was a large count for so late in the season. The only Long-billed Curlew reported was at Willapa Bay Sept. 8 (CC, KA). Whimbrel were well reported from the vicinity of Vancouver, s. Vancouver I., the s.w. Washington and n. Oregon coasts and inland at the Nisqually delta and at Fern Ridge Reservoir, almost all done before the end of September; high count was 35 at Leadbetter Pt., Aug. 18. Solitary Sandpipers were recorded up to three in number from Manning P. P., Iona I. near Vancouver, Bellingham,

Saanich, and Eugene, all Aug. 1-Sept. 18. Wandering Tattlers were scarce, although 35 were reported from Cleland I. off Tofino, B.C., Aug. 12 (KT, *fide* VG). A Willet was at Blacky Spit s. of Vancouver Sept. 23-Oct. 20 (MSc); single birds also occurred at Bay Center, Wash., Aug. 31. (*fide* HN) and at Newport, Oreg. Sept. 24 (GB, PR, *fide* F'Z). A concentration of 191 L. Yellowlegs at Iona I. Aug. 26 (BM, *fide* WW) was the highest Regional count for this species of which we have a record. Red Knots were recorded alone or in groups up to five birds at only seven localities from Vancouver s. to Tillamook, Aug. 21-Nov. 17. Rock Sandpipers were noted only at Pt. Roberts, Victoria, Grays Harbor. and Tillamook, the earliest date being for two at the latter place Sept. 7-8 (KA, CC; DS). Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were identified repeatedly in the vicinity of Vancouver, Sept. 11-Oct. 19, at Ocean Shores, Sept. 22 & Oct. 21, at Whidbey I., Wash., Sept. 29 & Oct. 6, at Nisqually delta, Oct. 15 & 22, at the Samish Flats, Oct. 9 and at Eugene, Aug. 22-23; again this year none were found at Leadbetter Pt., despite repeated search. Pectoral Sandpipers were noted widely, both coastally and inland from Vancouver south to Eugene: 175 at Sea I., near Vancouver, Oct. 1, was the peak count. A count of 18 Baird's Sandpipers at Iona I., Aug. 20 (GAP, *fide* WW) is a remarkable but not unprecedented concentration. Five Stilt Sandpipers seen at Iona I. Aug. 23 (BM, *fide* WW, TW) is the largest number ever recorded in this Region; the four at Saanich Aug. 28 (KT, *fide* VG) is the second-highest count. Single Stilt Sandpipers were seen there Aug. 26-30 (VG *et al.*) and at Beach Grove, B.C., (BM *et al.*, *fide* WW). Lone Semipalmated Sandpipers were recorded at Westport, Leadbetter Pt., Saanich (two Aug. 18), and Iona I. Aug. 12-28. An estimated 1000 W. Sandpipers were noted at Leadbetter Pt., Aug. 18, at Tillamook Aug. 31. and at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Sept. 12 (HN); 10,000 are said to have been at Iona I., Aug. 26 (BM, *fide* WW). Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers were seen at Comox, B.C. Aug. 21 (WC, *fide* VG); another was discovered at Ocean Shores Aug. 26-27 (EH). Three different species of godwits were seen in the Region this fall, where two of them are extremely rare! Marbled Godwits were reported from Ocean Shores, Hoquiam, Westport, Tokeland, Leadbetter Pt., Tillamook and Newport in numbers between one and 17 Aug. 31-Nov. 17. A **Bar-tailed Godwit** was seen at Pt. Brown, s. of Ocean Shores, where it was photographed and carefully studied on Sept. 4, for the first Washington record of this species (NL, TW). Stuart Johnston tells us that the bird at Saanichton Inlet on s. Vancouver I., Sept. 9, 1972, reported to him as a Marbled Godwit by an observer (*Am. Birds* 27:108) was photographed in color by Doug Sparling and "upon subsequent examination by the provincial museum, the bird was determined to be a **Bar-tailed Godwit!**" A **Hudsonian Godwit** was discovered at Victoria on Sept. 4 and remained there until at least Sept. 8, seen and photographed by many observers (VG, SJ *et al.*); the sighting is only the second known record also from s. British Columbia. An Am. Avocet appeared at Baskett



A Hudsonian Godwit, Cadboro Bay, Victoria, B.C., Sept. 6, 1973. Photo/Stuart Johnson.

Slough, near Dallas, Oreg. Sept. 20-30 (JMi; *fide* FZ). An early Red Phalarope was seen off the Columbia R. Sept. 8 (TL, *fide* HN), but it was not until November that a spate of records ensued from the n. Oregon coast, with a few birds even being blown inland to the s. Willamette Valley. Wilson's Phalaropes were seen singly at Iona I., Aug. 22 (BM, *fide* WW), and at Whidbey I., Wash., (EH) and Saanich (KT, *fide* VG) Aug. 25.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS; -- Up to seven Pomarine Jaegers were seen on each of five boat trips from Westport and Ilwaco, Aug. 12 - Oct. 7; one was in the Strait of Juan de Fuca at Victoria Sept. 1 (KT, BH, *fide* VG). Parasitic Jaegers were well reported from the s.w. Washington coast, from Puget Sound, and from the Vancouver-Bellingham-Victoria triangle in numbers up to six in a day Aug. 11-Oct. 27. The only report for Long-tailed Jaeger was of one at Whidbey I., Sept. 29 (EH). The number of Skua reports, however, was at an

Volume 28, Number 1 95

all-time high; one was inside Grays Harbor and four were seen at sea from there Sept. 8, where three more were found on a boat trip from Westport the next day (TW); single birds were seen at both Winchester Bay and Charleston, Oreg. Sept. 15 (AC *et al.*) and another was at Pt Grenville, Wash., Sept. 6 (RV, JW, *fide* TW). Glaucous Gulls were seen at Victoria Oct. 20 and four more times until the end of the period (KT, JT, VG); two first-year birds were identified at the Everett, Wash., city dump Nov. 24 (EH). Up to 15 Franklin's Gulls a day were reported from the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca and from Puget Sound, from Aug. 16 through October; a previously unreported observation for this species is one seen at Tierra del Mar, Tillamook Co., Oreg. July 8 (JG) for the third w. Oregon record in the past year. There were four records involving six individual Heermann's Gulls from n. Washington and s. Vancouver I. after Nov. 14, which makes all of these individuals quite late; another was seen at Newport, Oreg. Nov. 26. Up to 12 Sabine's Gulls were seen on each of the five off-shore trips between Aug. 12 and Oct. 7; single birds were seen at Newport, Sept. 28 (VM, *fide* HN), and at Fern Ridge Res. Sept. 18 (DS) where a few birds had been observed four years earlier. Common Terns were widely reported up to Nov. 7, including a Sept. 25 observation of six at Fern Ridge Reservoir; maximum was an amazing 485 at Blacky Spit and Crescent Beach south of Vancouver Sept. 9, (BM, *fide* WW), while 300 occurred Sept. 6 at Victoria (VG *et al.*). Up to five Arctic Terns were observed at Vancouver, Victoria, Bellingham, Ocean Shores, Westport and off the Columbia R. Aug. 12 - Oct. 8 Two Caspian Terns at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Oct. 26 (HN) were very late. Aside from being found regularly on waters around s. Vancouver I., Ancient Murrelets were otherwise surprisingly recorded at the Nisqually delta -- three near Tacoma Nov. 16, and one at Dash Pt., south of Seattle Oct. 28 (ZS). Rhinoceros Auklets were seen regularly after Sept. 29 on s. Puget Sound; on Aug. 13 there were an estimated 1000 birds in the Grays Harbor channel (TW), while on Sept. 8, 58 birds were found at sea from there. Rhinoceros Auklets were "very common during August" at Victoria, but were "very scarce in October and November" (VG). Three Tufted Puffins were at Cape Meares, Tillamook Co., Oreg. Aug. 31 (HN), two were seen at Victoria Aug. 2, Aug. 23, and one Sept. 12 (VG *et al.*), and a dead bird was on the beach at Newkowin, Tillamook Co., Nov. 23 (DM).

OWLS, FLYCATCHERS -- Ten Screech Owls were noted Oct. 14 at Durrance L., s. Vancouver I., (JT, *fide* VG). A close look was obtained Nov. 4 at Sauvie I., of a **Hawk Owl** (JG *et al.*) for the first Oregon record of this species; diligent search in subsequent days and weeks failed to turn up another sighting. A Burrowing Owl was seen at Eugene, Nov. 1-2 (AC, LM, CW). A pair of Spotted Owls was heard frequently in early September

at Wolf Creek in s. Oregon (EP). A spectacular invasion of Snowy Owls, giving every evidence of being bigger than the incursion of 1966-67, was apparent by the first week in November in s. British Columbia and n. Washington, with one bird going as far south as Newport, Oreg. at that time; by the end of the month, numerous sightings had been made from Vancouver to the s. end of the Willamette Valley, peak counts being 33 at Boundary Bay Nov. 18 (MP *et al.*), 17 at Surrey, B.C., and on the Skagit Flats, both Nov. 25, at least 13 at Victoria on Nov. 18, and 19 at Ocean Shores Nov. 17. Short-eared Owls were particularly well reported from s. Vancouver I., the Nisqually Flats and the s. Willamette Valley by the end of the report period. A Com. Nighthawk was seen at Manning P. P., where it is uncommon, Aug. 25 (WW *et al.*). Black Swifts have only rarely been recorded from Oregon; thus the five at Lebanon Sept. 2 (WT), 30 at Corvallis Sept. 20 (WE), one there the next day (WHo, *fide* FZ), and one at Tillamook, Sept. 22 (JBC), all are of interest. Elsewhere, Black Swifts were seen regularly in the vicinity of Victoria until Sept. 22; 16 were noted at Vancouver Aug. 16 (GAP, *fide* WW). Anna's Hummingbirds, rather peculiarly, were seen at the n. end of the s. half of the Region -- at Cadboro Bay, Victoria, Sept 9, and Oct. 12 after which date the bird was seen regularly (RMG, *fide* VG); at White Rock, B.C., where two were present Nov. 18 (MSc); and at Seattle Aug. 21, two on Sept. 10 (DC, *fide* PM), and at a feeder after October 25 (ZS). A late Rufous Hummingbird was at White Rock Sept. 30 (MSc). A Lewis' Woodpecker was seen at Seattle Sept. 1 (EH) and one was at Fern Ridge Res. Oct 13 (AC); six appeared at Finley N.W.R., Sept. 2 and from then through November up to a score were present there (FZ). Five E. Kingbirds were at Pitt Meadows, east of Vancouver, Aug. 19 (WW); two were there Sept. 2 (BM, *fide* WW). Well-described birds identified as **Tropical Kingbirds** were seen at Devil's Elbow S.P., near Florence, Oreg., Sept. 30 (TLu, IE *et al.*), and at Eugene Nov 3 (ESh, PT); another bird at Taft, Lincoln Co., Oreg. Oct. 13, was undoubtedly this species also (RFe). A W. Kingbird was at Everett, Wash., Aug. 31 (EH). Individual Say's Phoebes were found at Seattle, Sept 24 (JR, *fide* ES), and at Finley N.W.R., Oct. 27 (FZ) and Nov. 3 (TLu, *fide* FZ).

LARKS THROUGH THRUSHES -- At Saanich Nov 18, 60 Skylarks were counted (RS, *fide* VG). Up to 40 Bank Swallows were at Iona I. Aug. 20 - Sept. 23 (BM, *fide* WW). Two late Barn Swallows were seen at the Samish Flats, Nov. 4 (NL, *fide* TW), and another was at Saanich the next day (RMG, *fide* VG). A Cliff Swallow was seen at Pt. Roberts, Nov. 23 (MP, *et al.*), while two others were seen at Bellingham, Nov. 6 (JD, *fide* TW). Up to 100 Purple Martins were seen at Seattle, Aug. 11-Sept. 3 (VG *et al.*); elsewhere the species was recorded in lesser numbers at Ilwaco, Sept. 6 (TW), at Finley, N.W.R., Aug. 5-6 (FZ), and at L. Whatcom near Bellingham Aug. 7 (JD, DH, *fide* TW). Steller's Jays invaded the Willamette Valley lowlands in large numbers this fall (FZ). Lone Black-billed Magpies were noted at L. Whatcom, Oct. 10 (RS, *fide* TW), at Chuckanut Bay, Wash., Nov. 20 (EZ, *fide* TW), and at Manning P.P., Sept. 30 & Oct. 1 (V & MG). Flocks of 25 ravens at Saanich Aug. 26 and of 28 there Sept. 9 (VG, SJ), and of 41 on Samish I., Nov. 10 (NL, *fide* TW) are very unusual aggregations. Single Clark's Nutcrackers at Eugene, Nov. 3 (*fide* AC) and near Estacada, Oreg. Nov. 21 (RF, HN), were out of the ordinary. On Aug. 18 along a 3 mi stretch of trail on the W. Fork Pasayten R. in the N. Cascades, 15 Boreal Chickadees were counted; Mountain Chickadees were also present (JM). Three Boreal Chickadees were also seen at Manning P. P., Aug 26,

96 *American Birds*, February 1974

and six were seen there Oct. 20 (WW *et al.*). A **Pygmy Nuthatch** was found at Ocean Shores Sept. 9, feeding in some lodgepole pines (G & WH) for the third known w. Washington record; another was in W. Vancouver Nov. 4-12 (WW *et al.*). House Wrens were noted at Saanich Aug. 3 - Sept. 3 (SJ, *fide* VG), at Bellevue, Wash., Aug. 29 (EH), at Samish I., Sept. 7 (NL, *fide* TW), and at Eugene, Oct. 29 (CW). A Rock Wren was heard

singing at San Juan I., Wash., Aug. 5 (NL, *fide* TW). Four Gray Catbirds were seen at Pitt Meadows, Aug. 19 (WW), and one was last seen there Sept. 8 (GAP, *fide* WW). Varied Thrushes were reported abundant in the Puget Sound lowlands very early in the fall (ZS); they were also noted as being more prevalent at Wolf Creek, Oreg., than last year (EP). On Nov. 26 at Seattle a Hermit Thrush was observed "foraging on the ground under street-lighting" one-half hour after dark (MP). A Mountain Bluebird was discovered at Victoria Nov. 10 (E & ARD, JT, *fide* VG). Two Townsend's Solitaires were at Victoria Oct. 28 (RS, *fide* VG); one was also noted at Vancouver Sept. 21 (BM, *fide* WW).

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS -- At Talent in s. Oregon, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was observed on the late date of Sept. 1 (JB, *fide* OS). Five Bohemian Waxwings were found near Harts Pass in the N Cascades Aug. 18, suggesting that breeding may occur in the area (JM). Small numbers of Bohemians appeared in November at Vancouver, Saanich, and Bellingham where 85 were seen Nov. 22 (TW). Cedar Waxwings were abundant at both Vancouver and Victoria early in the fall. Northern Shrikes staged an invasion reduced from record levels of last year's, first appearing on s. Vancouver I. (VG) and at Whidbey I., Wash., (MP) on the very early dates of Sept. 23 and Sept. 30, respectively, and thereafter at numerous points from Vancouver south to Eugene; the only individual found at a coastal locality was the bird at Westport Oct. 7 (TW). A Solitary Vireo was seen at Finley N.W.R. on the modestly late date of Sept. 7 (FZ); however, single birds were recorded at Victoria Sept. 9 (JT, *fide* VG) and at Saanich Sept. 18 (SJ, *fide* VG). A Red-eyed Vireo was still at Vancouver, Sept. 14 (GAP, *fide* WW); up to ten could be found at Bellevue, Wash., Aug. 23-29 (EH). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was discovered in Victoria's Stanley Park on the late date of Oct. 28 (BK) and was subsequently seen on Oct. 31, Nov. 12, 14 and 17 (DA, EM); the bird was very tame, could be approached within six or eight feet, and was consequently photographed and well described (*fide* WW). On Sept. 25 a **Tennessee Warbler** was carefully observed for several minutes on the U. W. campus at Seattle in comparison with Orange-crowns under favorable conditions with supporting details fully supplied (MP); it is the first known record for w. Washington. A Nashville Warbler was at Coquitlam, B.C., Sept. 16 (MS, *fide* WW) and two were at Victoria, Sept. 29 (RS, *fide* VG), both late dates. A Palm Warbler was seen at Reifel Refuge Oct. 16 (MS *et al.*, *fide* WW). A **Northern Waterthrush** was found at Manning P. P., Sept. 13 (DSi); with credible supporting details supplied. A Com. Yellowthroat was still at Hoquiam, Wash., Oct. 28 (EH). A **Painted Redstart**, of all things, turned up at W. Vancouver Nov. 4 (BK) and was well seen the same day by nine other observers; it is the first record for British Columbia, but not the first for Canada; see *Auk* 89:898 (1972).

BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES, SPARROWS -- Displaced Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Saanich, Aug. 26 (VG, SJ, RS), at Pitt Meadows, Sept. 2 (BM, *fide* WW), at Reifel Refuge Sept. 11 (V & MG), and at the Skagit Game Range Sept. 22 (MP). Rusty Blackbirds were identified at Duncan Oct. 4 (SB, *fide* JCo), at Saanich Oct. 17 (V&MG) and Oct. 21 (RS, *fide* VG), and at Pitt Meadows Nov. 3 where four were present (WW). "Hundreds" of Brown-headed Cowbirds were on the Skagit Flats Oct. 2 (ZS) and about 40 in one flock were at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Oct. 26 (HN); a flock of 35 was seen at Saanich Aug. 26 (VG, SJ, RS). A W. Tanager was noted at Vancouver Oct. 4 (BM, *fide* WW). Evening Grosbeaks were much in evidence only at Vancouver all fall, in the Puget Sound lowlands until mid-October, and at Corvallis throughout October. On Aug. 18, along the w. fork of the Pasayten R. in the n. Cascades 15 Pine Grosbeaks were noted. A mild incursion of this species occurred after mid-October, with birds appearing at Vancouver, on s. Vancouver I., and widely in the lowlands w. of the Cascades from Bellingham s. to Olympia, maximum was 35 birds Nov. 10 at Vancouver. Gray-crowned Rosy Finches staged a more modest irruption, appearing at points between Vancouver and Seattle, including s. Vancouver I., after mid-October in numbers up to 60. The entire Region from Vancouver s. to Eugene experienced large flocks of Pine Siskins after mid- September. The numbers of Am. Goldfinches, from Duncan southward, were much remarked upon, particularly through September. Red Crossbills, not to be outdone, were prevalent throughout s. British Columbia, w. Washington and w. Oregon s.

to Douglas County, including coastal areas. What is said to be the second state record for the **Lark Bunting** was made upon careful observation of an individual bird at Cape Flattery, Wash, Sept. 2 (KT, BH, *fide* TW). A Lark Sparrow was discovered at Boundary Bay, Sept. 2 (BK, *fide* WW). A late Chipping Sparrow came to a feeder in Portland, Nov. 12- 19 (*fide* HN). The only report of Harris' Sparrow was one at Lummi Flats Nov. 25 (TW). Records of single White-throated Sparrows came from Vancouver Oct. 6, Victoria Nov. 19 and thereafter; and Finley N.W.R., Oct. 27. Lincoln's Sparrows were much noted in British Columbia and in n. Washington, in numbers up to 20 in a day from the end of August into the last week of the report period, but with most records concentrated before mid-October. Lapland Longspurs were seen widely but in small numbers from Tillamook n. to Ocean Shores on the coast and from Seattle n. to Vancouver on the sounds and straits after the first week in September; 25 at Ocean Shores Oct. 11 was the maximum one-day count. Snow Buntings were more abundant, but only from Vancouver s. to Olympia, including Victoria; birds were also seen at Ocean Shores and three were at Newport, Oreg., all in November.

OBSERVERS -- Kevin Aanerud, Dick Asher, John Ballard, Steven Bazett, Robert Bender, Gene Bureson, Wayne Campbell, Richard & Sydney Cannings, John & Martha Casteel, David Chelmer, John Comer (JCo), Alan Contreras, Craig Corder, John B. Crowell, Jr., E. & A. R. Davidson, Jim Duemmel, William Elliott, Ianto Evans, Richard Ferrell (RFe), Roy Fisk (RFi), Ralph Fryer, Jeff Gilligan, Margaret & Vic Goodwill, B. Hay, Dennis

Volume 28, Number 1 97

Heinemann, Wayne Hoffman (WHo), Glen & Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, Stuart Johnston, Brian Kauteski, Ran Klein, Norman Lavers, Tom Love, Tom Lund (TLu), Bruce MacDonald, Don MacDonald, R. Mackenzie-Grieve, Phil Mattocks, Larry McQueen, James Micuda (JMi), Ed Moody, James Morris, Vaughn Morrison, Harry Nehls, Michael Pertone, G. A. Poynter, Eleanor Pugh, Jeanette Rathfelder, Hilda Reiher, Peter Rothlisberg, Ran Satterfield, Madelon Schonten (MSc), Zella Schultz, Michael Shepard, Eva Schultz (ESh), David Simon, Rod Slemmons (RSI), Eleanor Stopps, Otis Swisher, Jeremy B. Tatum, Keith Taylor, William Thackaberry, Phil Thomas, Rex Van Wormer, Terrence Wahl, Clarice Watson, Wayne Weber, Joseph Welch, Fred Zeillemaker, Eleanor Zimmerly.

The Winter Season, 1973-74

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN -INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/ Thomas H. Rogers

Winter weather over the Region was generally mild and extremely wet, continuing the pattern set in November. However at the end of December temperatures plummeted, often well below zero F. and did not rise until mid-January, when Chinook conditions melted the rather sparse snow from the valleys and reduced it in the

mountains. Heavy rains in the lowlands added to the melt and brought floods at Libby and Missoula, Mont. and at Spokane and Yakima. February and March continued mild and wet. A fair number of late stragglers, a few of which stayed to winter, was observed. The January cold snap drove many birds out of some areas. All in all, the winter, generally warm with little snow cover and much open water, appeared an easy one for bird life. Abundant moisture, both rain and snow, brought promise of full lakes and ponds during spring and summer as well as excellent growth of vegetation. Alas, it also presaged further flooding -- what will happen when the 197 inches of snow, 70 inches above normal, melts at Crater Lake National Park. The outstanding bird events were the abundance of owls, particularly Snowy but also a number of species considered rare, and the great incursion of Pine Grosbeaks.

LOONS AND GREBES -- A few wintering Com. Loons were noted at Wenatchee, the Tri-cities (Pasco-Richland-Kennewick), Wash. and at Summer L., Lake Co., Ore. Single Horned Grebes were seen near Walla Walla and Wenatchee and on Coeur d'Alene L., Ida. the latter on Jan. 1. The Eared Grebe was reported only at Wenatchee and Medical L., Wash, Twenty W. Grebes, about twice last year's number, were at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash. the third week of March.

PELICANS THROUGH BITTERNs -- A single White Pelican, the only one reported, was noted in the Nampa, Ida. area and represented a decrease. In the same area 20 Double-crested Cormorants were seen Dec. 27 and 24 were at McNary N.W.R. Feb. 2. An Am. Bittern was seen at Sunnyside Game Refuge near Mabton, Wash. on the remarkable date of Mar. 6 (JW).

SWANS -- The cold spell of January greatly reduced Whistling Swan numbers in Idaho and e. Oregon and Washington, where some winter. Spring migrants were first noted at Malheur N.W.R. Feb. 10, nearly two weeks later than last year and built up to 4700 by Mar. 2, much below last year's peak. The birds were moving through more northerly areas in good numbers during March. Thirteen Trumpeter Swans were reported killed by flying into power wires across the Stuart River at Ft. St. James in c. interior British Columbia, according to newspaper accounts. Local conservationists are urging removal of the wires. One Trumpeter from the resident population at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney Wash. was shot at Chapman L. just south of the refuge in December. At Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. two Trumpeters with yellow neck bands Feb. 12 proved to be birds banded the previous August in Saskatchewan.

GEESE AND DUCKS -- The January freezeup drove many Canada Geese out but numbers were again high by March. White-fronted Geese appeared at Malheur Feb. 27 and peaked at 100 the first week of March. At La Grande, Ore. 160 were counted Mar. 16. A total of seven Snow Geese seen in the Walla Walla-Tri-cities area and at Baker, Ore. in December were very late. February 11 started the northward movement of the species at Malheur N.W.R., but elsewhere the birds were seen in March. The spring movement of ducks through Malheur N.W.R., mostly Pintail, showed a peak of 35,700 at the end of the period, compared to 73,200 and 116,800 in March of 1973 and 1972 respectively. The general decrease was attributed to the abundant flooded meadow habitat throughout the Harney Basin which attracted the Pintails. About ten Gadwall and 250 Ring-necked Ducks at mid-December; winter records are unusual there (WW). A Eur. Wigeon pair near Spangle, Spokane Co. on Feb. 23 was very early for this species, rare in Washington. Fourteen Blue-winged Teal at Vernon and some at Penticton, B.C. Dec. 26 were the first recorded in winter for the North Okanagan (RC). Thirty Wood Ducks found in the Nampa, Ida. area Dec. 27 were unusual. The species was not noted elsewhere in the Region. Flooding of the Spokane R. with consequent muddiness caused a marked decrease in diving ducks

during January in the Spokane area. The highest number of Com. Goldeneye was 1500 at Turnbull N.W.R. in March. A thousand Com. and 200 Red-breasted Mergansers were at Minidoka N.W.R. in s. Idaho Dec. 5.

VULTURES AND HAWKS -- A Turkey Vulture at Nampa Dec. 27 was a winter rarity. A few spring migrants had reached the Sunriver, Ore. area by the third week of March and Malheur N.W.R. by Mar. 15. Goshawk sightings were rather plentiful for that species

Volume 28, Number 3 665

and the birds staged a moderate invasion in the Okanagan area of s. British Columbia. In general, hawk numbers seemed at least up to normal with the exception of the Baker area, where Red-tailed and Rough-legged numbers were way down. A Golden Eagle was incubating by the end of March in the Pocatello area. A single Gyrfalcon and a Peregrine Falcon were noted in n.w. Montana (WW), and one of the latter was seen in n. Idaho (EL).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- Only scattered small remnant groups of Sharp-tailed Grouse were found in the Pocatello area (CHT). The species was reported elsewhere only at Malheur N.W.R., near Yakima and near Bozeman. A few small coveys of Gambel's Quail still persisted from introductions in the Salmon, Ida. area many years ago. They were common only along the Lemhi R. In the same area, where the Turkey was planted three years ago, the population was low but increasing. These birds were again observed on Bozeman Pass east of Bozeman, in numbers larger than last year.

CRANES AND RAILS -- A single Sandhill Crane on the Baker CBC was remarkable. Earliest spring appearance was Feb. 19 at Malheur N.W.R. Elsewhere they were migrating in March. Eight were on territory near Downey, Ida. Mar. 23 (CHT). At least two Virginia Rails wintered at Pocatello and one was seen at Penticton, B.C. Jan. 15 (SRC).

SHOREBIRDS AND GULLS -- No Long-billed Curlews had been observed in the Pocatello area by the end of March. The species appears to have been wiped out by agriculture along the Snake R. in that area, where ten years ago hundreds nested (CHT). A **Glaucous Gull** collected at Flathead L. furnished the first Montana specimen and either the second or fourth state record (*vide*, PDS). An ad. Glaucous-winged Gull appeared at Silver L., Spokane Co. Feb. 18 and stayed for a day or two (JA & WH). *Seventy-five* Herring Gulls were seen at Coeur d' Alene L. Feb. 24. About 20-25 Ring-billed Gulls put in a very unusual appearance at Salmon, Ida. the last week of March (HBR). Any gulls at all are unusual there. Several dozen of the species were observed near Kalispell, Mont., an unlikely locality, Apr. 3 (WW).

OWLS -- Single Barn Owls were seen in the Nampa area in December and at Heppner, Ore. Mar. 24. A highway-killed bird was brought in from Jerome, Ida. Mar 30 (CHT). A Great Horned Owl at *Walla Walla* in late January was very unusual. It was a tremendous winter for sighting Snowy Owls, which were seen in some

numbers in at least 16 localities, a few as far south as s. Idaho and e. Oregon. A Hawk Owl was seen near Salmon Arm, B.C. in early December (BW), one was at Prince George Dec. 30 (EB) and a third was observed at Moscow, Ida. Jan. 30 (EL). Pygmy Owls put in a good appearance, especially in the more westerly part of the Region. Single sightings at Nampa and Walla were particularly noteworthy. The Barred Owl was noted only at Vernon -- one Dec. 26. A Great Gray Owl visited a porch of a house in the foothills near Bozeman, allowing approach as close as eight feet Feb. 3-4. One at Summerland, B.C. Mar. 6-19 was apparently the first ever for the s. Okanagan (SRC). Another was found in a canyon near Cashmere, Wash. (WED) and one was seen at Moscow in early March (*fide* JWW). A Boreal Owl collected at Pullman Jan. 10 furnished the first confirmed record for Washington (REJ). Single Saw-whet Owls were sighted at Vernon, Nampa, Walla Walla, McNary N.W.R. and at Ennis L. near Ennis, Mont. In the Spokane area more owls than hawks were noted during the period.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS -- An unusual sighting of 50 Mourning Doves was made Dec. 30 at McNary N.W.R. where they are seldom seen in winter. An Anna's Hummingbird remained at a feeder near Cashmere, Wash. until about Dec. 10 (WED). A Lewis' Woodpecker wintered in the Bitterroot Valley near Hamilton, Mont. (OF). One of the red-breasted race of the Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers was seen Jan. 13 at Naramata, B.C. This race is always rare there (CR). One or two Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen in February and March in ponderosa pine areas burned last summer near Spokane. The only other record was of a pair near Ukiah, Ore. Feb. 16 & Mar 24.

FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS -- Say's Phoebe was recorded at Warm Springs, Ore. Feb. 11 and later in the month at Malheur N.W.R. and at Wenatchee. Elsewhere they were arriving in March, with Mar. 26 an early record for Missoula. The earliest Tree Swallow observation was at Summer L., Lake Co., Ore. Mar. 10 but Malheur had them two days later, nearly two weeks later than last year. Rough-winged and Barn Swallows had arrived only at Pocatello, Mar 23 & 31 respectively. The only Cliff Swallow sightings were at the Tri-cities Mar. 19 and Pocatello Mar. 23.

JAYS THROUGH NUTHATCHES -- A Blue Jay was seen on three dates in January at Nampa. Twenty-six Com. Crows were still at Prince George Dec. 30, Clark's Nutcracker put in few appearances in the lowlands. Mountain Chickadees appeared in residential areas in Missoula in noteworthy numbers, at times outnumbering the Black-capped two to one. A Chestnut-backed Chickadee appeared in Baker on three dates in February and early March. The only other records were at Coolin, Ida. and in the vicinity of Yakima. The White-breasted Nuthatch, rare in s.e. Washington, was seen at Kamiak Butte north of Pullman (JWW). The Pygmy Nuthatch was observed at Missoula Mar. 23, where they are seldom seen (RAH).

WRENS THROUGH THRUSHES -- Bewick's Wren had an all-time high of 25 on the Tri-cities CBC and was singing there from early December on. Fifteen were sighted in four areas at Yakima and a pair was found nesting in a hanging basket of artificial flowers, with five eggs Mar. 27. A Mockingbird was netted, photographed and released at Sunnyside Game Refuge near Mabton, Yakima Co., Wash. Mar. 5 (JW) and was seen again there Mar. 12-13 (JW & PM). A Sage Thrasher was seen at Cove S.P., Jefferson Co., Oreg.

Jan. 26 (JWo & KZ) and two, one singing, were seen on Yakima Firing Range Mar. 24. At Malheur N.W.R. the species was first observed Mar. 29. American Robins wintered in big numbers only in the Pocatello area, where thousands, more than usual, were reported. At Bozeman flocks remained into late December. The spring movement was apparent first at Spokane where numbers increased in late January and early February. Other areas reported growing numbers from late February on. Wintering Varied Thrush numbers appeared to be up in Idaho, Oregon and Washington in the Region and a pair was seen repeatedly near *Bozeman* at the end of March (CVD). This is the first record there since the 1920s. Mountain Bluebird numbers far outstripped those for the Western. "Huge flocks" were reported for the area around Sunriver in c. Oregon in mid-March and an encouraging sighting of a flock of 35 was made at Lewiston, Ida. Mar. 24.

KINGLET'S THROUGH SHRIKES -- A single Golden-crowned Kinglet on the Helena Christmas count was apparently the first winter observation for that area. A very late Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Bozeman Dec. 29 was far later than the previous record late date of Nov. 18 (DRS & PDS). A remarkably early or possibly wintering Water Pipit was closely examined near Bozeman Mar. 9 (SC, PDS). The winter was good but not record one for Bohemian Waxwings, which penetrated as far south as Baker and Prineville, Ore. Peaks of at least 2000 were reached at Missoula in late December and at Spokane in late January. The usual sprinkling of Cedar Waxwings wintered, mostly in the w. part of the Region. However, in the Nampa-Boise area 300 were reported Jan. 16, many more than normal. Three Loggerhead Shrikes were seen in early December at Malheur N.W.R., whereas the Northern was present there all winter. A few of the former species were reported for the Nampa area and one was carefully identified at Turnbull N.W.R. Mar. 3 (MV).

WARBLERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS -- Single Yellow-rumped warblers were seen in December at the Tri-cities, a "Myrtle" Dec. 16 and an "Audubon's" Dec. 21. A flock of 300 warblers, some of them "Audubon's", was reported at Toppenish N.W.R., Toppenish, Wash. Mar. 25 (GG). A die-off caused House Sparrow numbers to drop drastically at Pocatello, making native species more obvious and perhaps more abundant at feeders. A male Yellow-headed Blackbird near Three Forks, Mont. Mar. 31 provided a record early date (CJ, *fide* HNM). Most of the wintering Red-winged Blackbirds apparently were in the Yakima area where a flock estimated at 2000 was found near Wapato Dec. 15 and a similar number at Toppenish N.W.R. Jan. 30. A N. Oriole at *Naramata* for about a week Dec. 26 - early January was the first ever for winter in interior British Columbia (CR). Spring migrants of this species had reached the Ellensburg- Yakima area by the latter half of March. Two each of Rusty and Brewer's Blackbirds were sighted at Canmore, just east of Banff N.P. Jan. 6 (BL & VL). A **Rusty Blackbird** Feb. 9 west of Bozeman was a rare sighting (HC, ETH & RAH) and a Brewer's at Fortine, Mont. in early February was either very early or wintered (WW).

FINCHES -- Evening Grosbeaks appeared in perhaps average numbers and were seen on the Malheur N.W.R. CBC for the second year in a row. A male Cassin's Finch at the *Tri-cities* Dec. 1-2 was apparently the first record ever there (TG, EM & REW). Pine Grosbeaks rather flooded the Region, having been reported at seventeen localities and generally in numbers above average to very high. Hand analyzed his records for Missoula for the last seventeen years and noted he had seen the birds on twice as many days this winter as in the *sixteen previous winters combined* and the number of birds tallied was more than *five times* as many. The birds showed up even at Richland, Wash. and at Nampa. Numerous sightings and good numbers were reported for Gray-crowned Rosy Finches, mostly in the w. part of the Region. Five at Prince George Dec 30 were far north for the species (EB). Fifty of the seldom-noted Hoary Redpolls were seen at Prince George Dec. 30 and a few

were mixed with flocks of Com. Redpoll at Vernon December - March and one or two were seen at Ennis, Mont. with the Common Dec. 15 (ETH, JS & MS). Up to four were seen on two dates at Helena, where there are apparently no previous records (LS). Common Redpolls were noted as unusually common at Fortine and as occurring in good flocks at Bozeman. In the Okanagan they were abundant. A few showed up as far south as Bend, Ore. and Pocatello. No great incursion of Pine Siskins occurred in most of the Region but they were present in unusual numbers in the Okanagan Valley throughout the winter. The CBC total of 440 there was a 23-year record high. Red Crossbills made few incursions into the lowlands and then generally in small numbers. Surprisingly, White-winged Crossbills appeared in three localities, these widely separated. A flock was seen in the Bozeman cemetery from Dec 1 to sometime in March and one stayed around a yard in Ephrata, Wash. for several weeks in late winter. (BJ). Twelve at Kamiak Butte north of Pullman, Wash. Mar 7 were apparently Whitman County's first record (JWW).

SPARROWS -- A Rufous-sided Towhee wintered in an unusual locality, Coeur d' Alene, visiting a feeder regularly Jan. 7 - Mar. 15. A **Gray-headed Junco**, closely observed, frequented a feeder Jan. 15 and for five days following at Wenatchee (WED). Tree Sparrows were observed in a few localities Dec. 28 - Mar. 25, mostly in small numbers but the Salmon, Ida. CBC had 62. A single Chipping Sparrow appeared in Heppner, Ore Mar. 23. This may be compared with the Mar. 18 date for one at Nampa, the only other locality reporting the species. Only three Harris' Sparrows were noted wintering in the Okanagan. Two records for the species were obtained at Walla Walla, the first Jan. 26 and the second Mar. 24-Apr.2. One appeared at Missoula Mar 27. White-crowned Sparrows appeared to winter in fair numbers in the Wenatchee and Yakima areas and in the Nampa area. They were abundant on Yakima Indian Reservation Mar. 18. The Wenatchee CBC had the highest-ever count, 603. On that count were eight Golden-crowned Sparrows, considered normal and one was sighted at Nampa Jan. 3. The only White-throated Sparrows were an adult at Salmon Arm, B.C. Dec 30

Volume 28, Number 3 667

and two different birds at Bozeman in late December and early January. A dearth of Song Sparrows at Baker was blamed on a possible lack of influx of northern birds. Possibly the highest-ever count of 54 at Christmas at Wenatchee had some bearing on the question. Lapland Longspurs were found only near Davenport, Wash where two were seen Dec. 8 (JA). Snow Buntings were observed at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida. in unusual numbers. Some 400 were there Jan 2 and smaller flocks were present for several weeks. A flock of about 100 near Salmon Arm was an unusual number for the Okanagan. Only a few of the birds got any farther south.

CORRIGENDA & ADDENDA -- In *Am. Birds* 28 80 the Parasitic Jaeger sighting at Canyon Ferry Res. was by Robert L. Eng, who also collected the first state specimen Oct. 27, 1973 at Freezeout L. west of Great Falls.

CONTRIBUTORS -- (**Area editors in boldface**) Kevin Aanerud, (JA) James Acton, Lavaunne Adams, John Annear, Dave Ashley, **Eugene C. Barney**, McNary N.W.R.; (EB) Ed Beaumont, Earl D. Bowen, Jay Bowerman, Kathryn Breslauer, Joanne Brown, Dave Buck, Zelia Butler, Jim Camp, Richard Cannings, Steve R. Cannings, Helen Carlson, Don Childress, Mr. & Mrs. James Clark, Charles Clough, Mark Collie, Audra Cook, Craig Corder, Marion Corder, Sharon Cotterell, Emily R. Cragg, Cliff Davis, **Wayne E. Doane**, n.c.

Washington; **Helen Doornink**, Yakima Valley, Bob Eng, **Jeffrey W. Fleischer**, Malheur N.W.R.; Opal Foust, Larry Frank, Winifred Freeman, Bruce Gordon, Greta Gossett, **James Grant**, s. interior British Columbia; Tony Greager, Bob Green, Milt Griffin, Pauline Hager, Warren Hall, **Ralph L. Hand**, Missoula, Mont. area; Lucille Hardinger, Bambi Hargreaves, Mr. & Mrs. B.L. Harvey, Janet Hassler, Eve T & Ray A. Hays, Mr. & Mrs. James Heckathorn, C.J. Henry, Fred Hill, Ivy & Joe Hilty, **James H. Holcomb**, Crater Lake National Park; Alice & Paul Horschel, Dick Humphries, Margaret Hunter; Bert Jahn, Cecil Johnson, **Julie Johnson**, c. Oregon; Richard E. Johnson, George Jones, Dan Knierim, Vivian Kohlruss, Ann Krakowa, Paul Krapf, Carolyn Lagergren, Bill and Virginia Lang, Earl Larrison, Banff National Park area; Katherine Laupp, Ron McDow, Jim Mack, **Sid Martin**, Helena, Mont. area; (PM) Phil Mattocks, **Niel F. & Sally Meadowcroft**, Walla Walla, Wash. area, Homer N. Metcalf, John Montaigne, Elisabeth Moore, Eric Moore, Louis Moos, Robert Morgan, Gerald Morsello, Harold Mortimer, Deane Munro, Shirley Muse, **Lowell Napier**, Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash, Joanna & Sara Nashem, Vee Nealey, Wayne Nelson, Roger Olson, Olive Phipps, **Del Pierce**, Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida.; **Tyson W. Planz**, Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont.; **Margaret J. & Lawrence Polumsky**, Asotin Co., Wash.; Leon Powers, Cyril Raynet, Jan Reynolds, Hadley B. Roberts, Hazel M. Roe, Larry Roumpf, Foster Rucker, John Rumely, (LS) Lorelei Saxby, W.H. Schillington, Mrs. **H.E. Shaw**, s.w. Idaho; Lonnie Sherer, Don R. Skaar, **P.D. Skaar**, Bozeman, Mont. area; Jean Skillman, Evelyn Slawson, Sid Smith, **Mrs. S.O. Stanley**, n.e. Washington; Marian Stephens, Esther Stewart, Gary Strom, **Shirley Sturts**, Coeur d' Alene, Ida. area; Ben Sugden, Sylvia Talich, Charles H. Trost, Pocatello, Ida. area, Mr. & Mrs. Ted Trueblood & Dan, Mr. & Mrs. B.L. Vandermeer, Maurice Vial, Harold Vredenburg, **Ann M. Ward**, Baker, Ore. area; Harold Watling, **John W. Weber**, s.e. Washington and adjacent Idaho; Winton Weydemeyer, Jack Winchell, (JW) John Wingfield, Jim Wolcott, Paul Wolf, **Robert E. Woodley**, "Tri-cities", Wash. area; (JWo) Jeff Woodruff, Bob Woods, Dave Worden, Dave Worley, **Maurice B. Wright**, Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney Wash.; Katherine Zahl.

The Winter Season, 1973-74

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

The winter of 1973-74 in the Northern Pacific Coast Region was relatively mild, with no prolonged cold spells or periods of sustained snowfalls in the lowlands. Precipitation was another matter; lower elevations experienced an abundance of rain, and higher elevations received much snow through December, January and February; March was somewhat wetter than normal, too. Ornithologically speaking, the season was another good one, as the following pages attest.

LOONS, GREBES, SHEARWATERS, HERONS -- Yellow-billed Loons were seen at seven different localities in Puget Sound and the Strait of Georgia, but not elsewhere, at various times throughout the winter season. An Arctic Loon on the Willamette R. at Eugene, Oreg., Dec. 27 (LM) was an unusual inland record, as were two Red-throated Loons at Fern Ridge Res., w. of Eugene Dec. 5 (AC, HN) and one Red-throated at Corvallis, Oreg. Dec. 23 (FR, *fide* FZ). Red-necked Grebes were very scarce during the season, except that 258 on the Victoria, B.C., CBC was an outstandingly high total. Eared Grebes, as usual, were found occasionally on

Puget Sound and on the waters near Victoria during the winter. Four N. Fulmars were seen during the first two weeks of December in the vicinity of Victoria (V & MG, TW); a single fulmar and a lone Sooty Shearwater were found dead on the beach at Ocean Shores, Wash., Dec. 15 (EH). A dead Short-tailed Shearwater was found on the same long stretch of beach the next day (AW). The counts of 886 Brandt's Cormorants and 724 Pelagic Cormorants on the Victoria CBC Dec. 30 were good totals. The Region enjoyed an unprecedented number of wintering Great Egrets with single birds noted repeatedly in the vicinity of M. Vernon, Wash., at Sauvie I., near Portland, and with up to nine in one place at Salem, Newport, Eugene, Coos Bay, Grants Pass and Medford, Oreg. Am. Bitterns were at Seattle in late February (*fide* PM), at Finley N.W.R., Dec. 9 (*fide* FZ), and on the Ocean Shores and Tillamook, Oreg. CBCs.

WATERFOWL -- Whistling Swans appear to have been present in the s. half of the Region in usual wintering numbers; of particular interest are the 50 or more individuals seen at Florence on the c. Oregon coast Dec. 29 (AC *et al.*). Some 100 Trumpeter Swans, two with neck bands, spent the winter in the vicinity of Mt. Vernon, Wash. (TW). On Feb. 4, three birds of this species were seen near Duncan, B.C.; one bore a blue neck band (VG). A single Trumpeter Swan spent two months at Ocean Shores, commencing in mid- December (G & WH). Approximately 18,000 "Dusky" Canada Geese (about 3000 more than normal) wintered in w. Washington and w. Oregon, according to a U.S.F. & W.S. report (FZ); this report is in happy contrast to last year's report which described the wintering total of 15,000 as the lowest in fourteen years. By hindsight one can conclude that the bitter cold spell in the first half of December 1972 probably forced numbers farther south than customary. A Brant was identified at Bayview S.P., Skagit Co., Wash., Feb. 24 (EH). Thousands of Black Brant were found at Padilla Bay, Samish I., Wash., Jan. 11 (SJ). An ad. Emperor Goose stayed at Finley N.W.R. Dec. 23 - Jan. 9 (FZ). The usual few individual White-fronted and Snow Geese were in the Willamette Valley in December and January. The 11,000 Snow Geese which wintered on Washington's Skagit Flats were half the usual number; comparatively few were said to be young birds (TW). Individuals of the Eurasian subspecies of Green-winged Teal were seen on s.e. Vancouver I., at Whidbey I., Wash., and in Portland from the end of December through the rest of the season. An adult **male Baikal Teal** was shot two miles e. of Finley N.W.R., Jan. 12 by David Horning, who donated the specimen to the Oregon State University collection (*fide* FZ); the record is a first for this Region, although there is the usual question as to the possibility of the bird being an escape from some park or aviary collection. A **male** Blue-winged Teal turned up on the newly-inaugurated Gray's Harbor, Wash., CBC. A Cinnamon Teal at Seattle Jan. 13 and one at Samish I., Feb. 9 (*fide* PM) both are very early records. European Wigeon were well reported in widely scattered singles and pairs in w. Washington and w. Oregon to the s. end of the Willamette Valley and at coastal points. Except during January, Wood Ducks were at favored places in the middle one-third of the Region. Up to a half-dozen Redheads were found at Duncan and Saanich, B.C., plus at Seattle and Ocean Shores throughout the report period. There were good concentrations of Ring-necked Ducks at favored localities in the s. portion of the Region through much of the winter: over 400 were at Duncan, B.C., during December, but by mid-March all had gone (JCo); Finley N.W.R. started with 82 birds in December and had 96 in March (FZ); peak numbers for the Victoria area were 200 on Jan. 12 (VG, RS). Canvasback continue at low numbers with approximately 100 individuals on both the Tillamook and Eugene

Volume 28, Number 3 679

CBCs. Those were the two maximum one-day counts. A **male** Tufted Duck was at Ladner, B.C., from Feb. 28 to the end of the period (WW *et al.*) Up to 16 Barrow's Goldeneyes wintered around Victoria (VG), while almost that number appears to have spent the season in the Seattle area (SJ). The Bellingham, Gray's Harbor,

Seattle and Tillamook CBCs all recorded from 200 to 800 Bufflehead, which together indicated there were good wintering numbers in this Region. Over 50 Oldsquaws were found for the Bellingham CBC; further south no more than six individuals at a time were noted at Seattle, Olympia, Ocean Shores, Tillamook and Florence. Another good sighting was added to the very small number of Washington records for **King Eider**; a pair consisting of a first year **male** and **female** was photographed at Bellingham, Dec. 29-30 and Jan. 19 (TW *et al.*). A peak of 500 Com. Mergansers on Quamichan L., Vancouver I. Dec. 23 is a high count, as was the 200 on nearby Elk L., Jan. 16; by March, the number was down to 20-30 birds in a day (VG, RS). The two Red-breasted Mergansers at Fern Ridge Res. (AC, HN) and one at Finley N.W.R. (WE, *fide* FZ) all in the first week of December were noteworthy inland sightings. A **female Smew** was discovered at Reifel Refuge Feb. 28 and was seen by many observers after that up to the end of the period (WW, TW *et al.*); the record is the second for the Vancouver area in the last four years.

HAWKS -- A White-tailed Kite was again found at Medford, this time for the CBC, Dec. 29. There were reports of eight Goshawk sightings (one involving two birds) in the Region this winter from Duncan s. to Coos Bay, Oreg. Sharp-shinned Hawks showed up encouragingly on many of the Region's CBCs, the maximum being eleven at Victoria; individuals were seen repeatedly and often in the vicinity of Victoria and on the Skagit Flats through the winter. Otherwise, we have reports of twelve sightings from nine locations through the winter. The CBCs did less well with Cooper's Hawk numbers, the maximum count being eight at Seattle; Cooper's Hawks, too, were seen often through the winter in the Victoria area and on the Skagit Flats, but otherwise there were reports of sightings from only three locations outside the CBC period. A **Swainson's Hawk** was noted in the Malahat District of s. Vancouver I on Mar. 19, in the act of worrying a Turkey Vulture; it is the first spring record for Vancouver I. (RF, *fide* VG). Last fall's heavy invasion of Rough-legged Hawks was reflected in the remarkable CBC totals for this species, e.g., Bellingham 28, Ocean Shores 20, Corvallis 26, Eugene 44, Tillamook 29. Three wintered in the Medford area (OS) and four were still to be found at Tillamook as late as March 23 (JBC *et al.*). Golden Eagles were noted at several widely separated locations in w. Oregon in March; one was at Sauvie I. from mid-December to late January, and up to three spent the winter on s. Vancouver I. John Comer reports an intriguing yet mystifying phenomenon involving an all-day movement at Bald Eagles *southeastward* over Duncan B.C. Mar. 16; Duncan is on the s.e. side of Vancouver I. The movement was occurring at an estimated 3,000 foot elevation and consisted primarily of immature birds of which 30 were counted by the participating observers. Bald Eagles were particularly numerous in n. Puget Sound and in the Straits of Georgia at times this winter, with impressive counts of 78 individuals -- 63 of them adults -- on the short ferry ride from Active Pass in the Gulf Is. to Swartz Bay n. of Victoria Feb. 16 (GAP, *fide* VG), 20 between Anacortes, Wash., and Sydney, B.C., Feb. 17 (DP, SJ), 24 Cowichan Bay area of s.e. Vancouver I., Jan. 10 (VG) and 20 on the Victoria CBC. Along the Skagit R between Rockport and Marblemount, Wash., Jan. 19 there were 30 Bald Eagles, of which half were immature birds. Away from these favored areas, there were reports of one or two individuals from Fern Ridge Res, Tillamook, Sauvie I., Newport and Alsea, Oreg. Marsh Hawks showed well on the Sauvie I., (43), Tillamook (54) and Eugene (59) CBCs, all of which are high totals, but were thought to be at average or lower numbers in n. Washington (TW). Ospreys were noted only at Siltcoos L. near Florence, Oreg. Mar. 20 (AC), and at a nest site in N. Saanich, B.C., Mar. 28 (VG). Gyrfalcons were seen in greater numbers than ever before, with repeated observations of single birds in various color phases coming from lowland n. Washington between Bellingham and Mt. Vernon, and from Saanich and Cowichan Bay n. of Victoria. Other sightings occurred at Whidbey I., Wash., Ocean City Park, Gray's Harbor Co., Wash., from Finley N.W.R. and from Eugene, mostly in December, but up until Mar. 2. A Prairie Falcon frequented the Lummi Flats near Bellingham Jan. 1-Mar. 15 (JD, TW *et al.*); another was seen at Finley N.W.R. Mar. 12 (FZ). Three Prairie Falcons were recorded on the Medford CBC. Up to three Peregrines at a time were reported through the winter from about fifteen well-separated localities in the s. portion of the Region n. of Eugene; the status of Merlins could be similarly summarized. American Kestrels

and Red-tailed Hawks continue to be the most plentiful year-round raptors in the Puget Sound-Willamette Valley trough.

S.A.

GAMEBIRDS, CRANES, RAILS –Ring-necked Pheasants, Bobwhite and California Quail have declined markedly in w. Oregon in recent years; although the severe winter of 1968-69 may have been a contributing factor along with possibly diminished favorable habitat, it would seem reasonable to suspect very strongly that a coincident increase in the population of opossums has had something to do with the decline. Possums are an introduced species to the Northwest and, judging by the number of dead individuals to be seen along the lowland roads of the Region, must be foraging everywhere. Ground-nesting species such as the pheasant, Bobwhite and California Quail, as well as the towhee and other songbirds would inevitably suffer severe nest depredations from night-marauding 'possums!

A single Sandhill Crane at Salem Jan. 19 (SW, *fide* FZ) was out of season; a group of 36 Sandhills which had lingered at Sauvie I. through year-end ultimately departed in mid-January (HN). Returning migrants were seen over Eugene Mar. 16 (LM) and were stopping over at Sauvie I. in numbers up to 400 Mar. 22 (CS

680 *American Birds*, June 1974

fide HN). A few Virginia Rails winter regularly in the Region; and this year an influx of migrants was noted by early March.

SHOREBIRDS -- Again this year the only winter season reports of Semipalmated Plover were from the Tillamook CBC, where eight were present. Killdeer were said to be scarce or uncommon at many points in the s. portion of the Region, including the Willamette Valley, particularly in January and February, although the Eugene CBC recorded 3288 individuals, which was comparable to the count there of two years ago before last year's cold-weather-induced crash. Approximately 100 Black-bellied Plover showed up on the Tillamook and Gray's Harbor CBCs; an estimated 150 birds wintered in the vicinity of Vancouver (VG). The 220 Surfbirds on the Tillamook CBC was a high total. Common Snipe were well enough represented on some of this year's

CBCs to allay fears that their scarcity last year as a consequence of the early December 1972 prolonged freeze might have substantially impacted population numbers. A Whimbrel found at Tillamook for the CBC and two individuals at Newport, Jan. 19 (WHo, *fide* FZ) were probably the northernmost wintering sentinels of their species. A Wandering Tattler at Newport on Jan. 19 (WHo, *fide* FZ) and one on Great Chain I., B.C., Feb. 13 and Mar. 2 (WC *et al.*, *fide* VG) are very unusual records of wintering individuals. Three Willets at Newport Dec. 9 & Dec. 19 (Who, RB *fide* FZ), and one Jan. 19 (WHo, *fide* FZ) are also extraordinary! A few Greater Yellowlegs evidently spent the winter in the Region, the ten or so on s. Vancouver I. being the northernmost outpost (VG); by early March migrants were drifting into the Region. As many as 32 Rock Sandpipers wintered at Victoria (VG). A Least Sandpiper at Victoria Mar. 14 is said to be the first March record there (V & MG). Dunlin always winter in large numbers on the Washington coast; 19,000 were found for the Gray's Harbor CBC this year; they are also commonly found in winter in Oregon's Willamette Valley. Long-billed Dowitchers in numbers up to 54 were found on the Eugene, Sauvie I., and Tillamook CBCs. Red Phalaropes were found at Ocean Shores and Tillamook for the CBCs there, the 47 at the latter place being a remarkably high count; Tillamook also listed a single **N. Phalarope**, which is an unprecedented winter season record for anywhere in the Region, as far as we know.

GULLS, ALCIDS -- Glaucous Gulls were noted at Salem, a most unusual location, in early February (TM *fide* RL and Sauvie I., Oreg. at Olympia, Yelm, Anacortes, Bellingham, Wash., and at Victoria, Sooke and Saanich on Vancouver I. at various times during the winter. A **Slaty-backed Gull** was closely and carefully observed at length under good conditions at Victoria's Clover Pt. Mar. 1; careful notes were made and color film taken to substantiate the sighting (V & MG); the record is the first for the Region, to our knowledge. Two W. Gulls at Eugene Nov. 26 (LM) and at Fern Ridge Res., Dec. 5 (AC, HN) were far displaced from the coast which is the almost exclusive haunt of their kind. Although Bonaparte's Gulls were present in good numbers for CBCs at Bellingham and Victoria, numbers dwindled rapidly thereafter until early March brought the first returning individuals to Puget Sound. Single Heermann's Gulls appeared at Ocean Shores and at Tillamook for the CBCs there, both of which were on Dec. 16. Two Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen on both counts also; a bird was at Friday Harbor, Whidbey I., Dec. 15 and Jan. 3 (TW), while three were seen at the Jordan R. on Vancouver I., Dec. 19 (VG), and at Newport, Oreg. (WWho, *fide* FZ), Dec. 9. An extremely detailed account has been received from Phillip D. Ellerbee and James R. Miller of a lengthy observation made by them on the beach at Leadbetter Point, Jan. 27, 1974, of a **Red-legged Kittiwake**; the bird was observed down to a distance of three feet, and at one point sought shelter under the observers' cars. The observers appreciated at the time the rarity of their find, and took commendable pains to check the accuracy of their identification and to obtain a detailed description of it on the spot. The record is the first for Washington and the second for the Region of which we have knowledge.

[Next 2-3 sentences are choppy in the Amer. Birds Field Notes.]

Marbled Murrelets were numerous at Friday Harbor, Feb. 17-18 (SJ). An estimated 6400 Ancient! (??) [*flock of 25 Mourning Doves at Burlington, Wash., attests to the general mildness of the winter.*] The San Juan Is in December and January (TW); oddly all had disappeared from the Region after Feb. 7. A Cassin's Auklet was seen at Westport, Oreg. on the Columbia R., 32 mi from the ocean Feb. 12 (DR, MS *fide* FZ). A few Rhinoceros Auklets were to be found in Puget Sound and around the s. end of Vancouver I. during the winter.

DOVES, OWLS, NIGHTHAWK, HUMMINGBIRDS -- Finley N.W.R. commenced the report period with about 100 Mourning Doves; their number had doubled in January, was up to 300 by February, but in March fell off to 75, presumably as the birds began to move with the advancing season. A flock of 25 Mourning Doves at Burlington, Wash., attests to the general mildness of the winter. The recording of four Barn Owls on

the Gray's Harbor CBC is of some interest as is the count of eight Screech Owls on the same count. The Sauvie I. **Hawk Owl**, reported in *Am. Birds*: 28, 96 was seen again, finally and opportunely for the CBC there, another turned up at Oak Bay, Victoria Dec 10 (RF, *fide* VG), and then on Jan. 9 the same observer had the extraordinary good fortune of seeing the same or another bird at Saanich (*fide* VG). The Burrowing Owl seen in November at Eugene was found again Jan 3 (DD, *fide* LM); one was found again for the fifth consecutive year at Agate L., near Medford (OS). Numbers of Snowy Owls, particularly in n. Washington, surpassed anything in memory of presently active observers and seems to have been comparable to the great invasions in 1916-17 and 1917-18 mentioned in the literature. There were up to 100 of these great owls on the Samish Flats in early January, decreasing to 40 or so by the end of the month, and to 20 or so by the end of the report period (NL, *fide* TW); 107 Snowy Owls were recorded on the Ladner CBC, 32 on the Bellingham CBC, 79 on the Samish Isl. CBC, 25 on the Gray's Harbor CBC. Individuals were seen at many localities s. through the Puget Sound and Willamette Valley trough to Eugene where there were at least four during

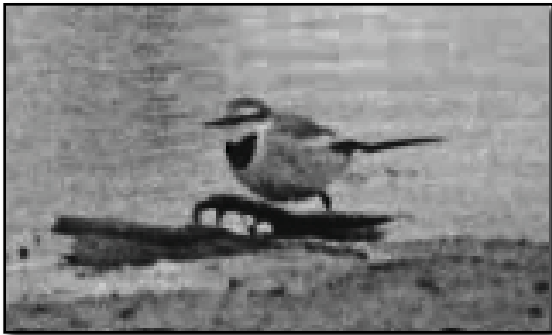
Volume 28, Number 3 681

January. Birds were also seen on the coast at Ocean Shores, Tillamook, Newport, Waldport and Florence, Oreg., through March. A Great Gray Owl spent the winter e. of Sedro Wooley, Wash., until early March (Wash. State Game Dept., TW *et al.*). Long-eared Owls turned up at the w. Oregon locations of Dallas, Finley N.W.R., Cottage Grove and Medford. Short-eared Owls seem to have been well represented, at least until mid-January, on the e. side of Puget Sound and in the Willamette Valley; 68 were listed for the Sauvie 1 CBC. A Saw-whet Owl was at Siltcoos L. near Florence, Dec. 27 (AC *et al.*). A **Com. Nighthawk** was seen at Federal Way, Wash., on the afternoon of Feb. 15; the observer's attention was first drawn to the bird by the familiar call note and it was discovered in flight about 100 ft. away, perhaps 40 ft. in the air over a field area for about a half-minute before it disappeared (BB). During the week of March 23-30, *three* nighthawks were heard but not seen from a boat cruising the San Juan and Gulf Is. (DH, *fide* TW). Is it possible that individual nighthawks occasionally pass the winter in our Region by becoming torpid as other members of their family are known to 'hibernate'? Anna's Hummingbirds seem to have been more prevalent at Victoria than anywhere else during the winter season; 13 were recorded for the CBC there, all at Saanich; five feeders there were regularly visited through most of the winter by one, two or three birds; some of the visitors did not appear until February, while others stopped coming anywhere from early February to mid-March (*fide* M & VG). Other Anna's Hummingbirds were seen at Siltcoos L. near Florence, Oreg. Mar. 17 (AC), at Seattle Feb. 25 (DC *fide* PM); a pair was at Ferndale, Wash., through December, and a male was noted at Bellingham Jan. 21 (TW). A "great migration" of Rufous Hummingbirds was evident at Coos Bay, after Feb. 1 (HR); "hundreds" were at Siltcoos L. Mar. 17 (AC); one was at a Seattle feeder for several days in January (DC, *fide* PM).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, CORVIDS, PARIDAE — A Say's Phoebe was found on Sauvie I., Feb. 27 (HN); other single birds were seen at Junction City, Oreg. Mar. 9 and at nearby Eugene ten days later (*fide* LM); one was also seen at Medford in late February, Mar. 3 and Mar. 23 (OS). Violet-green and Tree Swallows arrived almost simultaneously in the Region in mid-March; two Tree Swallows at Finley N.W.R. Feb. 9 (FZ) were thus very early this spring (FZ). Individual Rough-winged Swallows were seen at Florence, Oreg. (RF, *fide* LM) and at L. Sammamish S.P. in n. Washington (SJ) Mar. 21; another was at Reifel Refuge Mar. 23 (TW). Two pairs of early Barn Swallows were at Medford by Mar. 22 (OS). A Cliff Swallow was watched at close range for some time on the Bellingham waterfront on the surprisingly late date of Dec. 29 (AB *fide* TW); ten were early at Finley N.W.R. Mar. 30 (FZ), while several hundred were at the Fern Ridge Res. dam Apr. 7 (JBC, WE, WT). A Black-billed Magpie was seen at N. Bend, Wash., Jan. 6 (ED'A, *fide* PM). Mountain Chickadees were in

Medford, Eugene and Seattle in small numbers during the winter, and at a few other lowland locations as well; one wintered at Aberdeen, Wash. (GH). Two Bushtits were engaged in nest-building at Bellevue, Wash., Feb. 15 (SJ).

NUTHATCHES THROUGH SHRIKES -- Two Pygmy Nuthatches were discovered in Salem in mid-December and remained there through the end of March (AT, RL *et al.*). Two Wrentits were observed at Finley N.W.R., Dec. 23 (FZ). Numbers of Long-billed Marsh Wrens wintered in the vicinity of Bellingham, Victoria and Seattle. An imm. Mockingbird was found at Tacoma, Wash. for the CBC and was still there in apparently weakened condition Jan. 3 (EH). It seemed to a number of observers that Am. Robins wintered in larger numbers than usual in the Willamette Valley. Varied Thrushes were particularly plentiful at Medford all winter (OS). Hermit Thrushes were very scarce, with the Victoria area affording the only repeated sightings. Western Bluebirds were said to be present in good numbers in the Rogue R. valley (OS) where 290 were seen on the Medford CBC, and in the Salem area (RL) this past winter; several flocks of up to ten birds were seen around Corvallis up to Feb. 10 (FZ); Eugene recorded 57 W. Bluebirds for its CBC and two individuals were discovered at Victoria Mar. 31 (M&VG). Three Mountain Bluebirds appeared at Saanich Mar. 26 (RF, *fide* VG). Single Townsend's Solitaires showed up at several places in the s. Willamette Valley during the winter, at Bellingham for the CBC, at Padilla Bay, Wash., Dec. 23 and at Hobart, Wash., Mar. 31 (SJ). Three were seen on Mt. Finley, Vancouver I., on Feb. 6 (LR, *fide* VG). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher had returned to Roxy Ann Butte near Medford by Mar. 30 (OS). A **White Wagtail** visited the Region for the second consecutive year; the bird was evidently of the *ocularis* race and was discovered near Autzen Stadium at Eugene Feb. 3 by Tom Lund; it was seen by many others subsequently and was successfully photographed. The bird was apparently in the process of changing from juvenal to adult plumage which was quite advanced when the bird was last seen Mar. 26 (*fide* LM). Water Pipits are erratic winter wanderers in



White Wagtail, Eugene, Ore., Feb. 17, 1974. Photo/ Larry McQueen.

682 *American Birds*, June 1974

this Region; nearly 200 were on Sauvie I. for the CBC, but they had departed by early January (HN); an estimated 100 were on the Skagit Flats, Feb. 9 (BT, *fide* PM) and 75 were at Finley N.W.R., Jan. 1 (FZ). Elsewhere, Water Pipits were seen at widely scattered points in small groups of less than ten. Between four and five score Bohemian Waxwings were at Bellingham through December, but they disappeared until Mar. 18

when 20 were seen there again (TW). At Guemes I., Wash., on Dec. 23 there were 25 Bohemian Waxwings (TW), and at Saanich Dec. 8, four were seen (RS, *fide* VG) with a small flock of Cedar Waxwings. The latter species was little noted this winter, although Salem had a flock of 100 after Jan. 28 (RL). Medford found twelve N Shrikes for its CBC, but curiously none were to be found after Jan. 1 (OS); Northern Shrikes were reported throughout the winter, however, from the Willamette Valley and the Puget Sound lowlands n. to Bellingham, and at Victoria.

VIREOS, WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES -- Hutton's Vireo showed up on most of the Region's CBCs, with 11 at Tillamook apparently the maximum. An early Solitary Vireo appeared at Eugene Mar. 22 (RFI, *fide* LM). There were at least four December records of Orange-crowned Warblers in the s. half of the Region. Migrants were at Eugene in mid-March and on s. Vancouver I. by month's end. The Gray's Harbor CBC turned up 185 Yellow-rumped Warblers -- 175 "Myrtles" and 10 "Audubon's", a high winter count in this Region. A few Yellow-rumped Warblers were around the Corvallis area after Jan. 1 (FZ), and were to be found on s. Vancouver I. all winter (VG). A very early Black-throated Gray Warbler was seen at Eugene Mar. 29 (LM). Up to four Townsend's Warblers at a time were found in December or very early January -- mostly on CBCs -- at Victoria, Samish I, Salem, Eugene, Cottage Grove, Oreg. and Medford; the 59 in one loose flock at Tillamook for the CBC repeats a phenomenon which has been observed in March at Tillamook in 1967 and in 1970. Another Regional record for the **Northern Waterthrush** was supplied by the sighting and careful identification of an individual at the Skagit Game Range near Mt. Vernon, Washington, on the surprising date of Jan. 24, 1974, by an observer familiar with the species (AW). A Com. Yellowthroat was seen on the Eugene CBC. From Dec. 1 to Dec. 29 a **male** Yellow-headed Blackbird frequented the Lummi Flats near Bellingham (TW *et al.*); a female or imm. male of this species was seen several times by different observers at Seattle Feb. 27 - Mar. 21 (*fide* PM). On Mar. 3 there were 125 Tricolored Blackbirds at Medford (OS). A **male N. Oriole** was said to be at Bellingham Dec. 26 (*fide* TW) and the same or another bird was at a suet feeder in Ferndale Dec. 28 (GG, *fide* TW); these may be the first winter season records of N. Oriole for the State of Washington. A Rusty Blackbird was carefully observed in good light at Duncan, B.C. Dec. 23 (VG, RS); another was seen there Mar. 20 (VG). Individual Rusty Blackbirds were also seen on the Saanich Pen. in company with Brewer's Blackbirds Jan. 17 (V & MG) and near Victoria Jan. 31 & Mar. 9 (VG). Brown-headed Cowbirds wintered in some numbers, as indicated by counts of 50 or more on the Bellingham and Seattle CBCs and the 147 recorded for the Sauvie I. CBC. A **male Western Tanager**, well described, appeared in Eugene for the Dec. 30 CBC there (LH *et al.*). Evening Grosbeaks were in evidence much of the winter at favored spots in the Washington and Oregon lowlands, and by March were being seen more widely in considerable numbers. Numbers of Purple Finches at Olympia built up to 50 by Jan. 1, held at that point for two months, then began to diminish (G & WH). A few individuals were also seen at Seattle after Jan 10 for the rest of the winter (SJ), at Corvallis all winter (FZ), and at Medford after Feb. 8 (S). A **male** Cassin's Finch was seen regularly at Eugene Nov. 3 -- Jan 19 (LM *et al.*); one frequented a feeder at Shady Cove, Oreg. on the Rogue R. from mid-February to early March (ABr, *fide* OS), and four pairs were at Tzuhalam Dec. 23 for the first Vancouver I. record (VG, RS). Pine Grosbeaks in small numbers were in the Puget Sound lowlands and the San Juans from December until early February. They were also on Vancouver I. Dec. 27 - Mar. 16 (VG *et al.*) where 26 were recorded on the Victoria CBC. An estimated 100 or so Gray-crowned Rosy Finches in one or two flocks were to be found in Whatcom Co., Wash., next to the Canadian border from Dec. 1 until Feb. 22; they frequented beach and gravel areas; up to 40 were seen on Mary's Peak w of Corvallis, Feb. 17 (JW, *fide* FZ) and Mar. 16 (WHo, CL *fide* FZ). Pine Siskins, as is their wont, were seen abundantly in some places and not at all in others during the course of the winter; spots favored were S. Vancouver I., Bellingham, Seattle, Gray's Harbor, Olympia, Portland, and, for a time, Finley N.W.R. Medford listed over 400 Lesser Goldfinches on its CBC. Red Crossbills were much in evidence at places on the Washington coast and in the foothills of the Cascades, but were rather scarce around Puget Sound (EH), except at Olympia in December (GH). They were seen regularly on the n. Oregon coast and on s. Vancouver I. through the season. A **female** White-winged Crossbill was found at Victoria, Dec. 8

(RS, *fide* VG). Larger-than-normal numbers of Savannah Sparrows appear to have wintered in the s. half of the Region, particularly in the Willamette Valley, with reports of up to 35 birds for a given locality. A Vesper Sparrow appeared at Finley N.W.R. Mar. 25 (FZ). A Lark Sparrow was at Saanich Dec. 5 (KM, *fide* VG), another was at Corvallis, Dec 29 (FR, *fide* FZ), and eight were noted on the Medford CBC. Three Tree Sparrows were found at Seattle for the CBC and one or more were seen there until the last week of March (EH *et al.*). A Tree Sparrow was at Sauvie I., Jan. 19 (HN, CS) and another was at Duncan during all of March (JCo). Two Chipping Sparrows wintered in Eugene (LM), where a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was also found on Feb. 2 and was seen until at least Mar. 8 by many observers. The bird was in a large flock of juncos and other sparrows and constitutes the first Oregon record of which we know. Two of the three Harris' Sparrows were to be found off and on during the winter on n. Washington's Lummi and Skagit Flats (EH, NL *et al.*); a bird was also seen at Saanich Jan 29 (V & MG). Reports were received of up to a score of White-throated Sparrows from Victoria s. to Eugene at various times during the winter; five were found for the CBC at the latter place. Fox Sparrows were well rep-

Volume 28, Number 3 683



A Clay-colored Sparrow, Eugene, Ore., Feb. 8, 1974. Photo/Larry McQueen.

resented on most of the Region's CBCs. Lincoln's Sparrows were reported singly or in pairs from Bellingham s. through the Puget Sound and Willamette Valley through to Corvallis and Eugene, where eight and six individuals, respectively, were listed for the CBCs at those two places; single birds were also noted at Saanich, Feb. 9, and at Victoria and Tillamook for the CBCs. A light, bright-colored Song Sparrow thought to be of an eastern subspecies wintered at Eugene until Mar. 8 (LM). Lapland Longspurs were found in numbers up to 40 at the Lummi Flats in December and after that in fewer numbers (JD *fide* TW); three were at the Samish R. mouth, Mar. 8 (NL), three were at Ocean Shores, for the Dec. 16 CBC, and one was at Fern Ridge Res. Dec. 30 for the Eugene CBC. On Dec. 1 there were 225 Snow Buntings on the Lummi Flats where 109 were recorded for the Bellingham CBC; they disappeared shortly afterward. Ocean Shores found 25 Snow Buntings for the CBC and Tillamook listed two for its count. Otherwise, Snow Buntings were seen in no greater

numbers than three at Victoria several times in December, at Seattle in late February, at Samish I., Mar. 1, and on Great Chain I., Feb. 21 & Mar. 2.

OBSERVERS -- Range Bayer; Alex Benedict; Blair Bernson; Ann Briggs (ABr); Wayne Campbell; David Chelimer; John Comer (JCo); Alan Contreras; John B. Crowell; Ellie D'Arms; David Dudley; Jim Duemmel; William Elliot; Randy Floyd (RFI); Ralph Fryer; George Gleason; Vic & Margaret Goodwill; Dennis Heinemann; Wayne Hoffman (WHo); Glen & Wanda Hoge; Larry Holbrook; Eugene Hunn; Stuart Johnston; Norman Lavers; C. Littlefield; Robert Lucas; Phil Mattocks; Ken Mayall; Thomas McCamant; Larry McQueen; Harry Nehls; Dennis Paulson; G. A. Poynter; Fred Ramsey; Hilda Reiher; Dick Reynolds; Leila Roberts; Ron Satterfield; Michael Scott; Chuck Smith; Ernie Spragg; Otis Swisher; William Thackaberry; Augusta Thompson; Bill Twitte; Terry Wahl; Arthur Wang; Wayne Weber; Sally Weick; John White; Fred Zeilemaker.

Spring Migration, 1974

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/ Thomas H. Rogers

The spring period began with good reserves of moisture both in the soil and as very heavy snow pack in the mountains. April precipitation was above normal and temperatures were cool, with a few exceptions. Spokane and Missoula were rather dry with normal temperatures while Helena and Bozeman had mild conditions. A warming trend began late in the month but from about May 10-20 spring had a severe setback over nearly all the Region. Baker, Ore. averaged 12°F. below normal and some southern British Columbia localities had the coldest May on record. Most of the month's moisture fell during this chilly period, as rain in the lower valleys and more snow in the mountains. by the end of the month temperatures had risen to about normal. However, the weather left its mark on the migration in at least some localities. Bozeman reported many early arrivals in April but the May stormy period grounded or displaced many birds. A similar situation was observed at Suttle L. in the mountains west of Sisters, Ore. About half the displacement reports were for the storm period, with the next highest number coming before May, one in May before the storm period and two, after it. Reporters at some other localities considered that the storm had delayed or prolonged the migration. The outlook for summer looked excellent at the end of May, with vegetative growth abundant, water levels high and much snow yet in the mountains, and, barring floods, highly favorable feeding and nesting conditions seemed in store.

LOONS AND GREBES -- Common Loon were migrating through beginning Mar. 30 at Pocatello. Single birds appeared at unusual localities: Salmon, Ida., Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., and Reardan, Wash., all in April. The Red-necked Grebe was noted only at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., and at Newman L. and Reardan, Wash. A Horned Grebe near Baker was Ann Ward's first since 1956 in e. Oregon. A peak of 120 W. Grebes was noted on L. Lowell in the Nampa, Ida. area May 18. The peak at Malheur N.W.R. was 2440, up about 50 per cent over 1973. One at Ennis, Mont., Apr. 20 tied the early record there.

PELICANS THROUGH HERONS -- White Pelicans were noted mostly in s. Idaho and c. Oregon. At Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., the peak of 1500 contrasted with 600 last year. The birds built up to 100 in May on Helena Valley Reservoir, where they do not breed. Double-crested Cormorants were reported at Helena and Three Forks, Mont., Malheur N.W.R. and

828 *American Birds*, August, 1974

at Minidoka N.W.R. in s. Idaho where 150 nests were noted. A **Green Heron** at Pocatello May 5 was the third in two years there (RO). A Snowy Egret was observed at L. Helena May 5 (SM) and two Black-crowned Night Herons were there Apr. 20 (LB & GH). Eleven White-faced Ibis were seen along the Raft R. south of Minidoka, Ida. Apr. 29 and one adult was observed for a week in mid-May near Reardan, Wash. (TF, WH, JA *et al.*) The species was reported breeding at Market L. in the Minidoka area, the first breeding record for the state (CHT). A high breeding population was reported at Malheur N.W.R.

WATERFOWL -- Seven Mute Swans were seen again this year east of Bozeman (PDS). They are suspected of coming from Livingston. A like number was seen on the Snake R. near Baker, Ore. Mar. 10 (AS). Twenty-eight Trumpeter Swans wintered at Turnbull NWR., Cheney, Wash. Three, two of which had been shot, were found dead in the area. The White-fronted Goose was reported only from the LaGrande, Ore. area. A single Ross' Goose was at Turnbull N.W.R. in April Thirty-two Snow Geese stopped briefly near Baker. Mallard numbers were up at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash. but Am. Wigeon were down. The former species peaked at 1400 at Turnbull. A male Eur. Wigeon was seen in the Spangle, Wash. vicinity Apr. 3 (WH). American Wigeon and Ruddy Duck numbers dropped from last year at McNary N.W.R. Probably 1000 of the latter were on Soap L., Grant Co., Wash. Apr. 13 and about the same number was the peak at Turnbull N.W.R. in late April. A single White-winged Scoter was reported at Coolin on Priest L. in n. Idaho May 30 and four were at Turnbull N.W.R. May 24. A pair of Hooded Mergansers was on the Jefferson R., Broadwater Co., Mont. Apr. 20. The species is unusual there. A Red-breasted Merganser at Salmon, Ida., was Roberts' first ever observation there. *Fifteen* were seen on Banks L., Grant Co., Wash., Apr. 13.

VULTURES AND HAWKS -- Turkey Vultures were reported from ten localities, mostly in the western and southern part of the Region. Goshawks were seen at nest sites in May in the Bozeman area and a pair at Sunriver, Ore. was suspected of nesting. Very few Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were reported. A few of the latter were noted in the Spokane area and they were at nest sites in the Bozeman area in May. Two of the scarce Ferruginous Hawk appeared near Mansfield, Wash. Mar. 24 (early). The species was also seen in the Kennewick and Yakima, Wash. areas, near Baker and at Malheur N.W.R. Incubating birds were found in mid-April in the Pocatello area. Of seventeen nests found in that area along Little Lost R. none were active May 28, which has been the situation for the last three years, reason unknown. Some nesting activity by Golden Eagles was observed in c. Oregon but Jim Anderson, an eagle bander for years in the area, found many nests unsuccessful this year for unknown reasons. A Bald Eagle nest site was located at Suttle L. northwest of Sisters, Ore. The principal concentration of Ospreys was in n. Idaho, around Priest L. and the Chatcolet L. - St. Jo R. area. The Prairie Falcon was reported only in s.c. Montana, n.e. Oregon and c. Washington. The only Merlin sightings were in the mountains of n.w. Montana and in s.c. Oregon.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- Sharp-tailed Grouse were reported only in the Nampa, Ida. area and south of Creston, Wash. The Sage Grouse colony at the latter locality remained steady, with 30 males strutting Apr. 13. The species was noted at Salmon and Rupert, Ida. The Turkey was observed on Bozeman Pass east of Bozeman and at Salmon, where the birds were rare but increasing. Recently introduced Ring-necked and Japanese Green Pheasants were decreasing at Kootenai N.W.R. where habitat is marginal.

CRANES -- By early May the breeding population of Sandhill Cranes, subspecies *tabida*, reached 600 at Grays L., Caribou and Bonneville Co., Ida. and over 50 nests were checked May 10. This is the largest known nesting concentration of the subspecies in North America. At Malheur N.W.R. the first chicks were off the nest May 4. Farther west migrants were moving through, with a lower than usual 600 near St. Andrews, Douglas Co., Wash. Apr. 13 and smaller numbers elsewhere.

SHOREBIRDS -- A Snowy Plover was observed at Rupert, Ida. Apr. 11 and another at Malheur N.W.R. May 19. A **Ruddy Turnstone** at Malheur N.W.R. May 19 was the first ever there. Seventy-five Long-billed Curlews were counted Apr. 18 near Baker, Ore. A **Whimbrel** was positively identified at Summer L., Lake Co., Ore. Apr. 9 & 14 (JJ). The tiny colony of Upland Sandpipers at Newman L. junction east of Spokane was still holding on, with two birds seen in mid-May, the only ones reported for the Region. A **Red Knot** at Malheur N.W.R. May 19 was the third ever there. A very few Dunlin were observed in Washington. Singles were seen at Davenport, Reardan and St. Andrews and three were at Mabton. Three **Short-billed Dowitchers** were identified at Market L., Roberts, Ida. May 27 (MRC). Seven Marbled Godwits were sighted near Genesee, Ida. Apr. 28 (JWW). Two Black-necked Stilt appeared at Malheur N.W.R. Apr. 24.

GULLS AND TERNS: -- An ad. Glaucous-winged Gull appeared along the Columbia R. about ten mi. east of The Dalles, Ore. Apr. 5 (MRC). California and Ring-billed Gull hatching was occurring the second week of May, two weeks late, in the Pocatello area. Franklin's Gull appeared to continue its upswing in numbers at Malheur N.W.R., with over 1000 nests predicted. A very few Bonaparte's Gulls were seen in s. Idaho, e. Oregon and Washington and at Central Park east of Bozeman, Mont. The latter sighting was on a record early date, Apr. 20. About 35 pairs of Caspian Terns were nesting on an island in the Columbia R. north of Richland, Wash.

PIGEONS AND OWLS -- Single **Band-tailed Pigeons** appeared at four localities. One was seen May 13 at Wizard Falls Fish Hatchery on the Metolius R. northwest of Sisters, Ore. Workers there said it had been there several days (JM). One was at Malheur N.W.R. May 18; this is only the eighth record there. One was

Volume 28, Number 4 829

seen near Tower Mt. just southeast of Spokane May 21 and apparently furnishes the fourth record for the Spokane area (WH). At Pullman, Wash. one appeared in a city yard Apr. 8 (ROw). A Flammulated Owl was studied at very short range at 6000 ft. in Cassia Co., Ida. May 21 (WS). Barn Owls, reported only at Rupert, Ida.

appeared less common there. A Snowy Owl was still near Harrington, Wash. Apr. 13. One stayed even later at McNary N.W.R., where it had remained since Apr. 19 and was found oil-soaked from unknown causes May 29 and was taken to Pioneer Park, Walla Walla for cleaning and care. Two remained near Vernon, B.C. until May 5. In the Pullman-Moscow area at least nine were present, one remaining until May 19. Burrowing Owls were seen in several localities in e. Oregon and Washington and s. Idaho. At Rupert more nesting than usual was noted. The Great Gray Owl was again reported from the foothills south of Bozeman and single Saw-whet Owls were noted at Sunriver and Malheur N.W.R.

POORWILLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS -- Single Poor-wills were seen in the Nampa area Apr. 28 & May 24, at Malheur N.W.R. May 28 and in Moses Coulee west of Coulee City, Wash. May 10. Twenty Vaux's Swifts over the cliffs along the s. fork of the Snake R. in s.e. Idaho Apr. 21, although not known previously to breed there, make this a strong possibility (CHT). Some 400-500 of the birds entered a chimney at Whitman College, Walla Walla May 19 (SMu & CS). A White-throated Swift at Asotin May 12 was Weber's first sighting in Asotin and Whitman Co., Wash. Black-chinned Hummingbirds showed up at several points in the extreme western part of the Region. They were seen repeatedly at Walla Walla and single birds were sighted at Yakima, "Tri-cities" (Pasco-Richland-Kennewick, Wash.) and Baker. A **male** Rufous Hummingbird was seen near Livingston, Mont. in late May. They are rare there in spring (UC).

WOODPECKERS -- Scant numbers of Lewis' Woodpeckers were reported from many localities, with Salmon, Ida. the only place noting them as common. For the second year one was seen near headquarters at Crater Lake N. P. during the spring. Williamson's Sapsucker was reported only from the Prineville, Ore. area and the White-headed Woodpecker only from that area, nearby Sunriver and in the Wenatchee area. The Black-backed Woodpecker was found in the Sunriver area and in last year's burn on the west edge of Spokane.

FLYCATCHERS -- May 10 was a record early date for the E. Kingbird in Gallatin Co., Mont. The Ash-throated Flycatcher was noted only at Bend and Malheur N.W.R., Ore. A migrating concentration of Hammond's and Dusky Flycatchers was found at Davenport, Wash. May 25. In the open farm country of c. Washington patches of deciduous trees in towns and moist spots seem to act as oases for migrants. Several singing males and nesting pairs of Gray Flycatchers were again seen northwest of Yakima along Wenas Creek and in Hardy Canyon and the birds were found in Klickitat Co. north of Goldendale, Wash. in the same area as last year. An Olive-sided Flycatcher appeared May 24 in the Tri-cities, an unusual locality (EM).

LARKS AND SWALLOWS -- A Horned Lark nest with three eggs was found Apr. 13 near Ringold, Wash. Most species of swallows at Malheur N.W.R. were up to a week early and at Three Forks, Mont. the Rough-winged set a record early date of Apr. 20. Three Barn Swallows were at Prineville, Ore. on the surprising date of Mar. 23, the same arrival as Violet-greens. The former species posted an early arrival date, Apr 22 at Charlo, Mont. and in Gallatin Co., Mont., Apr. 18. Most species were nesting before the end of the spring period.

JAYS THROUGH CREEPERS -- A **Blue Jay** remained for two hours in a deciduous grove about five mi. northwest of Pocatello Apr. 7 before flying off west (CHT). A Steller's Jay nest with young was discovered at Sunriver, Ore. May 31 and young Black-billed Magpies in the nest were found there the last week of May. Young of the latter were just out of the nest at Yakima May 25. A Com. Raven nest atop a tower at Yakima

Firing Range contained six young Apr. 20. A pair of Mountain Chickadees nesting in a birdhouse near Spokane had young several days old May 31. The Common Bushtit was noted at Bend, Ore. Apr. 11. Two White-breasted Nuthatches were still at Kamiak Butte, Whitman Co., Wash. Apr. 13 and single sightings were made Apr. 21 near Swan Valley on the South Fork of the Snake R. and May 29 on Scout Mt. near Pocatello. They are rare in these areas. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was feeding a well-fledged young near Coeur d'Alene Apr. 28. A Brown Creeper was sighted on two dates in May at Malheur N.W.R., where it is listed as rare.

DIPPERS THROUGH THRUSHES -- Dippers went almost unobserved. In the Yakima area the high, muddy Tieton and Naches Rivers were given as the reason for their absence. The Winter Wren was found on Kamiak Butte, Apr. 24, near Sunriver May 2 and sang regularly along a stream on Tower Mt near Spokane during April and May. A **Mockingbird** showed up at Rupert, Ida. May 19 (WS). A Gray Catbird finally appeared at Vernon, BC May 31, about two weeks late and the species had not been observed yet at Baker. One at Salmon, Ida May 30 furnished a rare sighting. The earliest Sage Thrasher observation was at Malheur N.W.R. Mar. 29, about normal. Two Varied Thrushes stayed from about Mar 31 to Apr. 7 near Spring Hill north of Bozeman. This is only the second record of the species for that area (P, *fide* CVD). Hermit Thrushes were migrating Apr 2, when one was seen at Pocatello, until the end of the period. Up to six were found at the cemetery in Davenport May 18. Mountain Bluebird sightings much outnumbered those for the Western and their numbers looked fairly good. A group of at least 11 Townsend's Solitaires was found feeding in juniper on the MSU campus in Bozeman.

PIPITS THROUGH WARBLERS -- Water Pipits were detected moving into the Region in very small numbers in s. Idaho and e. Oregon and Washington.

830 *American Birds*, August, 1974

The earliest sighting was of four near Springfield, Ida. Mar 9. The Starling success story included an account of the birds moving into a colony of old Rough-winged Swallow holes at Pocatello. Fifteen nests there averaged 6-7 young per nest. There was no dearth of warblers, including the Blue-listed Yellow, which seemed to be having no problems. A **Black-and-white Warbler** was heard singing at Helena May 16 (PM). Virginia's Warbler was recorded at Rupert and a **Magnolia Warbler** observed at close range at Helena May 24 was a rare find (PM). A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was sifted out of an outstanding warbler movement in the Davenport, Wash. cemetery May 18 and was examined again next day (WH & JA). Two days earlier cold snowy weather grounded a massive group of warblers at Suttle L. northwest of Sisters, Ore., with 20 Townsend's and 50 **Hermit Warblers** the more interesting ones (JM). A male **Blackpoll Warbler** was carefully identified at close range in Bozeman May 19. This is the first record for anywhere near there (DQ & MQ). Another male was positively identified at Malheur N.W.R. May 27-29 and constitutes the second record for the refuge and the state (JF). The N. Waterthrush was first seen at Bozeman May 27 and was not reported elsewhere.

HOUSE SPARROWS AND BLACKBIRDS -- A large winter die-off of House Sparrows left the population low at Pocatello. *Coccidiosis* was suspected. Bobolinks arrived at Malheur N.W.R. May 13, at Central Park east of Bozeman May 24, at Charlo, Mont., where they seem to be increasing, May 23, and at Rigby, Ida. May 31. They were not noted elsewhere. A concentration of migrating Yellow-headed Blackbirds numbering at least 500 was

seen at ponds in the Four Lakes area, Spokane Co. Apr. 27. March 31 was a record early date for the species when a male appeared at Three Forks, Mont. An **Orchard Oriole** visited a feeder in Walla Walla Apr. 30 and perhaps the same bird was seen along a nearby stream May 24-27 (CM, JM & SMu) A **Common Grackle** appeared Apr. 15 along the Columbia R. at Umatilla, Ore. (MRC).

FINCHES -- Evening Grosbeak numbers built up during April and peaked in May in good numbers. Most localities experienced their decline or disappearance by the end of May but the birds were still in Bozeman then and were common yet at Missoula, Pocatello and in the Nampa area. A flock of about 30 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches frequenting the cliffs high above Park L., Grant Co, Wash. Apr. 13 were extremely late for this elevation (JA). A mixed flock of this species and **Black Rosy Finches** was seen in the Gallatin Valley south of Bozeman May 21 (ETH & RAH). About 50 of the former were seen at the 8000 ft. level at Bannock Pass southeast of Salmon, Ida. May 23. The birds were abundant from 6500 ft. up at Crater Lake N. P. as receding snow left bare ground. Very few Red Crossbill reports were received, these mostly at Pullman, Wash. where they were plentiful and in the Spokane area, where some nested nearby, bringing in their families. Three birds at Lavington, B.C. May 7 completed the picture. Amazingly, White-winged Crossbills featured nearly as many reports. Two were still at Kamiak Butte north of Pullman Apr. 13 and a small group lingered in the cemetery at Bozeman at least to May 9, a late date.

SPARROWS -- Single male Lark Buntings were found north of Bozeman May 17 and south up the Gallatin Canyon about May 18 and the species was reported at Rupert, Ida. May 22 (WS). The scarce Grasshopper Sparrow was reported only near Pocatello and at Turnbull N.W.R. Clay-colored Sparrows were on the breeding grounds east of Manhattan, Mont. on the record early date of May 10. White-crowned Sparrow numbers were large, particularly in the w. part of the Region. At Malheur N.W.R. 300 were recorded Apr. 26 and "huge numbers" were reported for Prineville. At Sunriver 761 were banded, much above last year's number but only 16 Golden-crowned Sparrows, usually running 10 per cent of the White-crowned, were banded (GM). The species was noted at several other localities in e. Oregon and Washington. A White-throated Sparrow, Ann Ward's first ever at Baker, Ore., was present May 23 and a very early Fox Sparrow was there Feb. 28. Two breeding territories of Lincoln's Sparrow were noted at Suttle L. northwest of Sisters, Ore. The only Lapland Longspurs reported were two near Creston, Wash. Apr. 12. Four Snow Buntings were seen Mar. 24 near Mansfield, Wash.

CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS -- (JA) James Acton, Jim Anderson, John Annear, David Ashley, Eugene C. Barney, McNary N.W.R.; Sandra J. Basford, John Baumbrough, Ruth Blatchford, Dave Blumberg, Red Rock Lakes N.W.R.; Earl Bowen, Jay Bowerman, Lynn Brant, Betty Brodie, Zelia Butler, Bea Buzzetti, Jim Camp, Craig Campbell, Steve Cannings, Helen Carlson, Phil Cheney, Mr. & Mrs. James Clark, Urana Clarke, Charles Clough, Mark R. Collie, Mary Collins, Craig Corder, Marion Corder, Sharon Cotterell, Wait Cowan, Dennis Dahlke, Clifford V. Davis, J. W. Delbert, Ronald Doane, Wayne E. Doane, n.c. Washington; Helen Doomink, Yakima, Wash. area; Mr. & Mrs. Lester Downer, Rod Drewien, Doris Fisher, Jeff Fleischer, Malheur N.W.R.; Steven Ford, Eric Forsman, Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Frost, Tom Fulton, Ben Gladding, James Grant, s. interior British Columbia; Tom Greager, Arnold Haack, Pauline Hager, Warren Hall, R. L. Hand, Missoula area; Bambi & Ron Hargreaves, Elise Hargreaves, Mr. & Mrs. B. L. Harvey, Eve T. & Ray A. Hays, Mr. & Mrs. James Heckathorn & family, C. J. Henry, Mr. & Mrs. James Hitch, Joe & Ivy Hilty, James H. Holcomb, Crater Lake National Park; Sophia Hollander, Mrs. Ray Holliday, George Holton, Alice Horschel, Eugene Hunn, Frances B. Huston, Don Hunter, Cecil Johnson, Julie Johnson, w. c. Oregon; Richard E. Johnson, Dan Knierim, Carolyn Lagergren, Richard & Laura Lindstrom, Carroll D. Littlefield, Tom Lund, Patricia McKinney,

James McLain, George McLaughlin, Eldon McLaury, (SM) Sid Martin, Helena area; Niel F. Meadowcroft, Walla Walla area; (GM) George Merrick, Homer Metcalf, Bob Moate, (EM) Elisabeth Moore, Harold Moore, Louis Moos, Robert Morgan, (JM) Jerry Morsello, Corey Muse, (JMu) Jeffery Muse, (SMu) Shirley Muse, Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Nelson, Ken Nielsen, Mrs. Gene Noble, Norma Nowles, Daphne Ogilvie, (RO) R. Olson, Ruth Ortiz-Torres, (ROw) Ruth Ownbey, (P) Mrs. Parker, Don Paton Jr., Del Pierce, Kootenai N.W.R.; Audrey & Lawrence Polumsky, Margaret J. Polumsky, Asotin, Garfield & Columbia

Volume 28, Number 4 831

Cos., Wash. & adjacent Idaho: Don & Mary Quimby, Hadley B. Roberts, Salmon, Ida. area; Hazel M. Roe, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Ryan, Larry Roumpf, Hallie Rugheimer, Belle Shaw, s. w. Idaho; Mr. & Mrs. Bill Shaw, Connie Sherer, (WS) William Shillington, Mrs. G. Shlapac, Don Skaar, P. D. Skaar, Bozeman-Ennis- Three Forks area; Mary Smith, Lyle Stanford, Mrs. S. O. Stanley, n. e Washington and n. Idaho; Ava Steiger, Esther Stewart, Shirley G. Sturts, Coeur d' Alene, Ida. area; William Sullivan, Bill Thoren, Ken Tobinson, C. H. Trost, s. e. Idaho; Mr. & Mrs. Ted Trueblood, Mr. & Mrs. B. L. Vandermeer & family; Terry Wahl, Ann Ward, n. e. Oregon; John W. Weber, Mr. & Mrs. Victor Wetzel, Bertha White, Dorothy White, Leslie Whitnall, Jack Winchell, Jim Wollcott, Robert E. Woodley, "Tri-cities," Wash. area; Jeff Woodruff, Maurice B. Wright, Turnbull N.W.R.; Katherine Zahl.

Spring Migration, 1974

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

April and May brought approximately average temperatures and rainfall to the Region after almost six months of considerably-above-average precipitation. The snowpack in the Cascades and in the mountain ranges to the east which contribute run-off to the Columbia River system were at near record levels as the report period ended.

LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS, HERONS: -- Two Com. Loons were seen at Cottage Grove, Ore., Apr. 28 (AC, SG). Two individuals of this species were seen at Matheson I., Vancouver I., B.C., May 18, one sitting on a nest (VG); Common Loons nested at the same location last year. Hundreds of Arctic Loons were in the waters surrounding s. Vancouver I. through April. with a few individuals still present at the end of May (VG). Red-throated Loons were seen in small numbers in coastal areas of the s. portion of the Region through the third week of May. Two Red-necked Grebes at Yaquina Bay, Ore. May 26 (PR, *fide* FZ) were unusually late, as was the individual at Tillamook, Ore., May 12 (JG) and the Horned Grebe at Ocean Shores, Wash., May 26 (JM). Eared Grebes were to be found about s. Vancouver I., up to May 12 (VG). A. W. Grebe at Fern Ridge Res. near Eugene, Ore., May 19 (LM) was a bit out of the ordinary. but matched last year's similar record. A

boat trip out of Westport, Wash., May 19 turned up 14 Black-footed Albatrosses, one N. Fulmar, 27 Pink-footed Shearwaters, four Flesh-footed Shearwaters, and up to 10,000 Sooty Shearwaters (TW *et al.*). A freshly-dead Short-tailed Shearwater was found on the beach at Westport, May 12; the specimen was forwarded to Point Reyes Bird Observatory (SJ, BT). Single Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were discovered at the mouth of the Columbia R. May 10 (HN), and- this one dead -- at Ocean Shores May 20 (JM); over 200 individuals were seen on the boat trip from Westport, May 19 (TW *et al.*). Green Herons were reported in six different w. Washington localities and at five different spots in w.

840 *American Birds*, August, 1974

Oregon during the report period; which is a better-than-usual representation. A Great Egret was at Eugene, Apr. 6 (AC). Seven ad. Black-crowned Night Herons were found at Salem May 14 (JG), an immature was noted at Finley N.W.R.s. of Corvallis, Ore., May 26 (FZ), and another individual was discovered at Kalaloch, Wash., May 19 (CW, *fide* TW). An Am. Bittern was found repeatedly at Seattle Apr. 25-May 8 (SJ, EH, PM); the first at Finley N.W.R. was seen Apr. 16 (RR, *fide* FZ), where possibly two pairs were present during May (FZ); three individuals were found at Scappoose, Ore., May 18 (JG) and single birds were at Sauvie I., Apr. 20 (HN) and at Cottage Grove May 11 (AC, SG).

WATERFOWL -- A lone Whistling Swan was at Finley N.W.R. Apr. 25 (FZ), one day earlier than last year's similar record. Canada Geese were migrating through the s. half of the Region from the second week of April to mid-May; large numbers passed up the Washington coast (JM); the wintering population of the Dusky subspecies left the Willamette Valley refuges between Apr. 19 and Apr. 23 (FZ). Two Brant were found at the s. jetty area of the Columbia R. mouth May 4 (HN *et al.*); an adult was found and photographed there May 22 (HN). Seven Brant were photographed in a flock of Black Brant at Dungeness, Wash., Apr. 7 (MC). A flock of 2500 Black Brant was seen at Ocean Shores Apr. 13 (EH, GH, JM); 4000 were at Tofino, B.C., May 2 (JCo). A single Black Brant at Finley N.W.R. Apr. 25-May 23 (FZ) was quite unusual.



Brant, Columbia River, south jetty, May 22, 1974. Harry Nehls.

White-fronted Geese were migrating from early April until the third week in May with flocks up to 500 at Finley N.W.R. during that period (FZ) being the largest observed assemblages. Single Snow Geese appeared at

Finley N.W.R., Apr. 13-23 (FZ), at Victoria, B.C., Apr. 14 (MC), at Ocean City, Wash., Apr. 19 (JM) and at Duncan, B.C. May 3 (JCo); three were noted at Seattle Apr. 23 (EH). A **Ross' Goose** was reported at Ankeny N.W.R., in Oregon's Willamette Valley, May 14-15 (DP, *fide* FZ), for the first w. Oregon and second Regional records of which we have knowledge. Four pairs of possibly breeding Gadwall were at Seattle during the spring (EH). Up to a dozen Gadwall frequented the Saanich Pen., Vancouver I., Apr 6-29 (RS; V & MG); one was at Ocean Shores May 11 (EH, JM). Eight Pintail were seen at Cowichan Bay, Vancouver I., May 19 (RS, *fide* VG). Individual males of the Eurasian Green-winged Teal were noted at Baskett Slough N.W.R., Apr. 27 (FZ) and at Tsehum Harbor, B.C. from the beginning of the report period to Apr. 25 (VG, RS). Late Am. Green-winged Teal were three individuals at Fern Ridge Res. May 19 (AC). Up to four Blue-winged Teal were seen at Finley N.W.R., at Ocean Shores, at Tillamook and at Seattle Apr. 25-May 21; 22 males were to be found at Saanich Apr. 27-May 28 (V & MG, RS). Up to three Eur. Wigeon were at Saanich until Apr. 29 (VG), while a single male lingered at Ocean Shores until May 11 (EH, JM), apparently a record late date for the Region. Seven pairs of N. Shovelers were counted at Duncan, B.C., May 30 where three days earlier a female with seven young had been observed (JCo). The 200 individual shovelers at Fern Ridge Res. Apr. 6 (AC) was a large concentration for w. Oregon, and the five individuals at Westport May 12 (SJ) were late. Two Redhead at Fern Ridge Res. Apr. 15 (JG) and one at Ocean Shores May 11 (EH, JM) are both noteworthy records, as is the Ring-necked Duck at Ridgefield N.W.R., Ridgefield, Wash., May 11 (JW, *fide* PM). A Tufted Duck was found at Ladner, B.C., Apr. 27 (TW). A surprisingly late record of a pair of Com. Goldeneye at Fish L. on Oregon's Santiam Highway would be regarded with incredulity except for the fact that two **male** Barrow's Goldeneyes (which species has probably bred there in the past were also present for the four observers (AC, SG, MPa, PT). An imm. **male** Com. Goldeneye was at Seattle on the late date of May 20 and another male was at Cowichan Bay, Vancouver I., May 19 (RS, *fide* VG). Seven Barrow's Goldeneyes were noted at Seattle on the late date of May 3 (SJ). The last Bufflehead records for the season are of four individuals at Oak Bay, Victoria. May 25 (VG, RS) and an unspecified remnant still present May 27 of what had been up to 90 birds present at Seattle from Apr. 3 (SJ). Oldsquaw were present in numbers up to 100 in a day of birding along the s. side of the Straits of Juan de Fuca, Apr. 7-9 (MC); an individual was at Yaquina Bay, Apr. 17 (FZ), and at Seattle Apr. 8 (SJ); Oldsquaw were common during April around s. Vancouver I. (VG). Surf Scoters were migrating in large numbers past the Columbia R. the last week of April and the first week of May, with an estimated 1500 per hour flying past for part of the day on May 4 (HN). A group of 14 Black Scoters were seen there that day (HN); three Black Scoters were still at Tillamook Bay May 18 (JBC, RFi). A **male** Com. Merganser was seen on the Winchuck R. in s.w. Oregon, Apr. 27 (AC). On the same date, an unusual concentration of 137 Red-breasted Mergansers was counted at Victoria (VG, RS), while on May 24 a late pair was seen at the same place (RM-G *fide* VG).

HAWKS, GAMEBIRDS, RAILS -- Goshawks were recorded during the report period at Cottage Grove, May 11 (CWa, SG, *fide* AC), at Ridgefield, Wash., Apr. 12 (G & WH), at Seattle, May 2 (EH), at Redmond and Issaquah, Wash., May 5 (EH, BT), and at Hart L., Wash., May 25 (EH). Only ten sightings of Sharp-shinned Hawks and fewer than that of Cooper's Hawks

Volume 28, Number 4 841

were reported, with one probable nesting record of the latter coming from s. Vancouver I. Reports of Swainson's Hawks seen during the report period came from Saanich, Apr. 12 (VG, RS), from near Warrenton, Ore., on the coast, May 4 (RL), and from Ridgefield N.W.R., May 11 (JW, *fide* PM). There was considerable overflow from the wintering population of Rough-legged Hawks, with a consequent record number of spring-season sightings occurring from Eugene n. to Bellingham; birds at Ocean Shores and L. Tenell near Bellingham

May 12 and at Cathlamet, Wash., May 11 were the last. Three ad. Golden Eagles were seen e. of Ashland, Ore., May 24, and two were seen not far away the next day (OS); an individual at Finley N.W.R. Apr. 8 “eventually soared off with passing vultures” (FZ). Two ad. Golden Eagles were seen regularly in the Malahat Dist. n. of Victoria during the spring (RS, VG); one was noted at Sidney I. off s. Vancouver I. May 5 (RG, *fide* VG). Bald Eagles were observed at three locations in w. Oregon and at five locations in w. Washington at various times during the report period. Ospreys were noted at eleven different locations, a few of which were nest sites, not quite so good a showing as last year, but nevertheless encouraging. No reports of Peregrine sightings were received. Merlins were observed singly at Fern Ridge Res., Finley N.W.R., Corvallis, Ocean Shores, Victoria and Saanich between Apr. 11 and May 9. At least nine Sandhill Cranes were seen at Sauvie I., w. of Portland, Apr. 6 where some were heard but not seen on Apr. 20. (HN, CS); 68 birds of this species were at Cape Flattery, Wash., Apr. 24 (DP, *fide* PM) and a single individual turned up near Saanich Apr. 28 - 29 (RS, *fide* VG). Virginia Rails were noted singly at a few favored spots, but Soras were more widely recorded, with two at Cottage Grove, May 11 (MPa, *fide* AC), one at Banks, Ore., May 12 and five at Scappoose, Ore., May 18 (JG) being of particular interest. The last Am. Coot departed Finley N.W.R. May 22 (FZ).

SHOREBIRDS -- On Apr. 23 there were 500 Semipalmated Plovers at Ocean City (JM); a bird of this species was still at Finley N.W.R. May 26 (FZ). Snowy Plovers in number up to three, were noted at Tillamook, at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., and at Ocean Shores Apr. 24-May 22. On Apr. 7 two Am. Golden Plover were discovered at Dungeness (MC) and on Apr. 28 a bird was observed at Coos Bay (AC, SG). A late Black-bellied Plover was at Finley N.W.R. May 18 and a late Surfbird was at Westport May 12. At Gray's Harbor there were 11 Ruddy Turnstones May 12 (SJ, BT) and at Victoria there were up to that many May 1-16 (VG *et al.*). Three Black Turnstones still at Kalaloch, Wash., May 19 (TW) were late. A Long-billed Curlew was at Samish I., Wash., Apr. 12 (NL, *fide* TW). Whimbrel occurred in possibly record concentrations, the 300 at Tofino May 2 (JCo), 100 at the Samish Flats near Bellingham May 9 (NL, *fide* TW), 70 at Bellingham May 5 (TW), 35 at Blaine, Wash., May 12 (JD, *fide* TW), 31 at Nehalem, Ore., May 18 (JBC, RFi) and 16 at Tillamook May 12 (JG) all being of interest. Whimbrels were seen repeatedly at Ocean Shores after Apr. 10 to the end of the report period, with 25 birds being the maximum (JM). Individual Solitary Sandpipers appeared May 2-11 at Seattle; Burlington, Wash.; Corvallis; Finley N.W.R. and Saanich; a bird was seen again at Saanich May 22. These sightings together represent the largest number and widest geographic dispersion of Solitary Sandpipers ever experienced in the Region during a single report period. Wandering Tattlers were at coastal points in the Region Apr. 27-May 26, the maximum for a single day being 15 at Ocean Shores May 11 (EH, JM). A Willet was found at Tokeland, Wash., May 12 (SJ, BT). The 100 Greater Yellowlegs at Finley N.W.R., in late April (FZ) was an unusually large concentration for this Region, with few reports coming this season from other places; the last sighting for this species was on May 8 at Saanich (V & MG). Lesser Yellowlegs were seen only singly or in pairs at six scattered locations Apr. 13-May 11 Red Knots appeared in the Region this spring in a number of impressive concentrations; there were 250 at Ocean Shores Apr. 23 where 800 were found May 11 (EH, JM), 125 were at Gray's Harbor May 12 (SJ, BT). A total of 82 Rock Sandpipers was counted at Victoria May 6 (RS, *fide* VG); one was at Ocean Shores May 11 (JM) The only Pectoral Sandpiper reported this spring was one at Brownsville, Ore., May 3 (HT, *fide* FZ). Baird's Sandpipers were noted several times; two were at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Apr. 27 and six were there May 3 (BL, HN); single individuals were seen at Ocean Shores May 8 (JM) and May 12 (GH, JM). Least Sandpipers reached a peak number of 400 at Finley N.W.R. in April (FZ); 1500 were seen at Metchosin, B.C., May 2-4 (VG *et al.*). There were approximately 1000 Dunlin at Finley N.W.R. through part of April, with the last bird being seen May 5 (FZ); at the s. jetty of the Columbia, there were 800 Dunlin Apr. 27 (HN). Hundreds of Short-billed Dowitchers were at Ocean Shores in late April and early May, where the first five individuals of the season had appeared on Apr. 13 (JM); the species was also recorded at the s. jetty of the Columbia R, at Westport, at Seattle, and at Victoria in numbers up to 54 between Apr. 2 and May 22. Long-billed Dowitchers first showed up at Ocean Shores May 8 where 100 were present three days later (EH, JM); an estimated 13-15,000 “mostly if not all” Long-billeds were at Tofino, B.C., May 2

(JCo). Long-billed Dowitchers were also noted at Finley N.W.R., at Tillamook, at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., at Gray's Harbor, at Seattle, at Metchosin, B.C., and at Saanich in numbers up to 145 between Apr. 20 and May 31. A Semipalmated Sandpiper, studied in contrast with Westerns, was at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. on May 10 in breeding plumage (HN); another, similarly plumaged, was observed at Seattle, May 24-26 (EH, SJ, PM *et al.*) The astonishing total of 200 Buff-breasted Sandpipers was found at Tofino, B.C. May 2 by John Comer, who had found an individual there last spring; there are only twelve other sightings of this species for the Region in the last nine years, with none of them involving more than three individual birds! On Apr. 30 there were two Marbled Godwits at Victoria (RS, *fide* VG). Hundreds of Sanderling were to be seen at Westport on May 12 (SJ). An Am. Avocet in breeding dress turned up at N. Saanich, B.C., May 14 (RF, *fide* VG). Great numbers of Red Phalaropes were on the ocean close to shore at Crescent City, Calif., and at Brookings, Ore., May 22 (JH); 270 were seen at sea off Westport May 19 (TW), at Newport, Ore., 25 were seen between the Yaquina Bay

842 *American Birds*, August, 1974

Jetties, May 11 (RJ, *fide* FZ); elsewhere up to a dozen individuals were found at the n. jetty of the Columbia R. May 11 (JW, *fide* PM), at Ocean Shores May 11-12, and at Westport, May 12. At various times during May Wilson's Phalaropes were to be seen at several places from Seattle n. to Bellingham, at Saanich, at Dungeness, at Westport, and at Finley N.W.R. Northern Phalaropes were in the hundreds on the sea off Westport May 19 (TW); at Westport May 12 (SJ); and migrating past the Columbia R. mouth May 2-4 (BL, HN) A few individuals were seen at Brookings May 22 (JH), at Finley N.W.R., May 5-24 (FZ), at Fern Ridge Res. Apr. 21 (JG), and at Victoria, May 1-14 (RS, VG); up to 40 were on the Tillamook Co. coast May 18 (JBC, RFi).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS AND ALCIDS -- Four Pomarine and 15 Parasitic Jaegers were seen on the boat trip from Westport May 19 (TW *et al.*); five on the latter species were seen at the entrance to Gray's Harbor the day before (TW) where up to four birds at a time were seen intermittently between Apr. 27 and late May (GH, EH, JM). A dead Parasitic Jaeger was found March 30 on the Yaquina Bay n. jetty (LN, *fide* FZ). An imm. Glaucous Gull was at the n. jetty of the Columbia R. May 11 (JW, *fide* PM); individuals were also seen at Saanich Apr. 12 and at Victoria, Apr. 16 & 22 (VG, RS). Three California Gulls were at Baskett Slough N.W.R. near Dallas, Ore., Apr. 22 (JMi, *fide* FZ), one was at Tillamook May 18 (JBC, RFi), and a few were at Victoria Apr. 9-May 20 (V & MG, RS). On Apr. 27 Bonaparte's Gulls were migrating north past the Columbia R. mouth at the rate of 100 birds per hour; on May 19, about 200 individuals were counted in Gray's Harbor and at sea (TW *et al.*), while the day before some 35 individuals were seen along part of the Tillamook Co. coast (JBC, RFi). At Seattle about 35 birds were seen Apr. 27 and in excess of 50 birds were noted May 5 (SJ). The last Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at Victoria in late May, where the migration had brought much fewer numbers than last year (VG). There were up to 18 Black-legged Kittiwakes at Ocean Shores all through the report period (EH, J M); 29 were seen in Gray's Harbor May 19 (TW *et al.*). Single kittiwakes were seen from the Port Angeles ferry, Apr. 14 (MC), at Brookings, Ore., Apr. 28 (AC, SG), at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., May 4 & 10 (HN), and at Victoria May 24 & 28, where two individuals were also seen May 25 (VG). Three Sabine's Gulls were observed at Tofino, May 2 (JCo), 45 were at sea from Westport, May 19 (TW *et al.*), and one was over the ocean at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., May 22 (HN). A heavy migration of Com. Terns involving 500-700 birds an hour moved past the Columbia R. entrance, May 2-4 (BL, HN); 100 were at Westport May 12 (SJ, BT) At Ocean Shores, Com. Terns were regular from late April to Late May; 60 birds on May 26 being the top count (JM), while 300 were counted, all near shore, on the boat trip from Westport, May 19 (TW). Some 300-400 birds were at Samish I., May 11-14 "ten times" normal numbers (NL, *fide* TW). Six Arctic Terns were

carefully studied on the beach at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. May 10 (HN); one was seen at Bellingham May 11 (TW), 18 were observed at Tillamook May 12 (JG), nine were at Victoria May 16 (RS, *fide* VG), and ten were seen out of Westport May 19 (TW *et al.*). The first Caspian Terns were at Leadbetter Pt. (F & JK, *fide* PM) and at Ocean Shores (EH) Apr. 13; one was at Sooke Harbor, Vancouver I., May 16 (V & MG), two were at Samish I., May 17 (NL, *fide* TW), two others were at Cape Meares, Tillamook Co., Ore., May 18 (JBC, RFi) and a few were noted around Gray's Harbor May 18-19 (TW *et al.*). Fifteen Pigeon Guillemots were seen in Tillamook and Netarts Bays and on the ocean between those points, May 18 (JBC, RFi); one was at Seattle May 5 and six were seen at Westport May 12 (SJ). Three Marbled Murrelets and nine Ancient Murrelets were spotted from the Port Angeles-Victoria ferry Apr. 11 (MC); a dead individual of the latter species was found at Ocean City May 10 (EH, JM). Two Cassin's Auklets--one at Port Angeles, the other off Victoria--were seen Apr. 11 (MC). Fifty Rhinoceros Auklets were seen at Ocean Shores, May 20 (JM); six of these birds were at Yaquina Head and four were at Sea Lion Caves near Florence, Ore., May 26 (PR, *fide* FZ). At Pt. Grenville, Wash., Apr. 26, there were 80 Tufted Puffins standing in pairs at nesting burrows on the s.e. rock (GH, JM); six were at Cape Meares May 18 (JBC, RFi).

DOVES, OWLS, NIGHTHAWKS, SWIFTS -- Fred Zeilemaker reports that Mourning Dove numbers this spring at Finley N.W.R. were the highest in at least five years. Six Pygmy Owls were recorded at Carbon Creek in Mt. Rainier N.P. Apr. 7 (EH). A Spotted Owl was again heard at Wolf Creek, Josephine Co., Ore., the last week of May (EP). A Snowy Owl was still at the Eugene airport on the incredibly late date of May 5, single birds were found lingering still on Apr. 27 at Ladner, B.C. (TW), on Apr. 24 at Ocean City (JM), on Apr. 21 at both Leadbetter Pt. (FK, *fide* PM) and at the Skagit Flats near Mt. Vernon, Wash., (JW, *fide* PM). One or two birds were at the Lummi Flats near Bellingham Apr. 20 and two or three birds were still on the Samish Flats Apr. 19 (TW) where 20 birds had been present Apr. 1 (NL, *fide* TW); a Snowy Owl was at Newport, Ore., still on Apr. 12 (LN, *fide* FZ). These records brought to an end the biggest documented invasion of Snowy Owls to the Pacific Northwest Region which began with the advent of the first few birds seven months earlier. Lone Short-eared Owls at Newport, Wash., Apr. 20 (JB, *fide* PM) and at Seattle Apr. 22 (ES, *fide* PM) were a bit late. A Saw-whet Owl at Finley N.W.R. May 31 (WE, FR, *fide* FZ) is of interest, as is the record of two heard at Ocean City Apr. 26 (EH). A very early Com. Nighthawk was seen at Eugene Apr. 17 (TL, *fide* LM); the first one for Victoria appeared May 20 (RF, *fide* VG). Four Black Swifts were recorded at Seattle May 16 (KB, *fide* PM). Vaux's Swifts were present in particularly good numbers in w. Oregon after May 1.

HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS -- A **male** Black-chinned Hummingbird was at a feeder in Shady Cove in Oregon's Rogue R. valley, repeatedly through much of the spring season (JH). A bright **male** Costa's Hummingbird was seen at Eugene, Apr. 12-16 (DS, LM *et al.*) for what appears to be the second record for w. Oregon -- both in the last two years. A suspected three pairs of Anna's Hummingbirds were in the Saanich area most of

Volume 28, Number 4 843

the spring (VG *et al.*). A **male** Allen's Hummingbird was at the Shady Cove feeder May 25 (TM); three males of this species were found along the Winchuck R., near Brookings, Ore., Apr. 27 (AC, SG). Calliope Hummingbirds were seen repeatedly through much of the spring at the Shady Cove feeder (JH, TM). Lewis' Woodpeckers were seen only at Finley N.W.R. until May 11 (FZ), at Cottage Grove, Ore., where one was

found May 11 (AC), and at Saanich, where one appeared May 2 (RF, *fide* VG). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker of the *nuchalis* race was seen at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., of all places, Apr. 24; the bird was observed to fly over the dunes and out over the estuary, headed northward. On May 12 a long-dead individual of the *ruber* race was picked up on the beach at Westport. A *nuchalis* race bird was observed at Saanich May 16 (RMG, *fide* VG). Western Kingbirds appeared at Saanich, B.C. May 21 (RM-G, *fide* VG), at Burlington, Wash., May 7-8 (NL, KW), at L. Sammamish, Wash., May 10 (JB, *fide* PM) and at seven localities in Oregon: one at Medford Apr. 27 (OS); one at Wolf Creek May 3 (EP); *nine* in the Cottage Grove area May 11 (AC); at Finley N.W.R. where the peak was 12 on May 3, with the last being seen on May 17 (FZ); at Baskett Slough N.W.R. on Apr. 27 (SD, *fide* FZ), one at Yaquina Head May 25 (WE, *fide* FZ), and three at Nehalem May 18 (JBC, RFi). Black Phoebe were found May 25 nesting under three bridges along the Applegate R. and Forest Creek in the Medford area (TM, OS *et al.*). A Say's Phoebe was at Cottage Grove May 10 (MPa, *fide* AC) and the same or another individual was seen at Eugene May 18 (*fide* LM). A Hammond's Flycatcher was identified at Fort Stevens S. P., Clatsop Co., Ore., May 3-4 (BL, HN *et al.*); two singing individuals were at Schaefer S. P., Mason Co., Wash., May 12 (EH), and two were observed at Victoria May 11 (VG, RS). A Dusky Flycatcher was calling at Seattle May 14 (EH). Western Flycatchers arrived the last week of April and were generally thought to be commoner than they had been last year. Olive-sided Flycatchers at Seattle Apr. 13 (DC, *fide* PM), and at Corvallis, Apr. 24-28 (EE, *fide* FZ) were early arrivals. A Bank Swallow was seen at Ocean Shores, May 11 (EH, JM) and three were seen at the n. jetty of the Columbia R. May 12 (JW, *fide* PM). Rough-winged Swallows were recorded in number up to a half-dozen the first week of April at Fern Ridge Res., at Corvallis at Sauvie I. and then on May 18 at Tillamook. Three Barn Swallows and one Cliff Swallow at Seattle Apr. 6 (FK, *fide* PM) were early arrivals; 300 of the latter birds at Fern Ridge Res. Apr. 7 (JBC, WE, WT) was a surprising early concentration. Purple Martins arrived in the Willamette Valley and Puget Sound trough in mid-April, but were in good numbers only at Fern Ridge Res. where they utilized nest boxes for night roosts (TL, *fide* LM); in May a few martins were seen on the Oregon coast and on s. Vancouver I.

JAYS THROUGH SHRIKES -- A Gray Jay in the hills n.e. of Cottage Grove, May 11 (AS, *fide* AC) was out-of-the-ordinary. Two Mountain Chickadees were spotted seven miles e. of Forks, Wash., Apr. 9; three were on Hurricane Ridge Road in Olympic N.P., Apr. 14 (MC). Red-breasted Nuthatches were all but unreported this season. Three Pygmy Nuthatches were found at Mora Ranger Station near LaPush, Wash, Apr. 10 (MC) for another Olympic Peninsula and Washington coastal record of this inland species. A singing Mockingbird was at Salem, Ore., May 15-16 (DD, *fide* TM). A Gray Catbird was recorded Apr. 14 at Port Angeles (MC) for the only w. Washington occurrence known to us. A Sage Thrasher was found at Fern Ridge Res. Apr. 14 (RF1, *fide* LM) and another was discovered at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. May 4 (HN *et al.*); it is extremely rare in w. Oregon. Several pairs of W. Bluebirds utilized nesting boxes about Eugene this spring, where no nesting has been known to occur for some years (LM); nine individuals were seen at Cottage Grove May 11 (AC), a male was seen at L. Samish, Wash., Apr. 15 (*fide* TW) and a female was at Victoria, May 18 (VG, RS). A pair of Mountain Bluebirds was seen on Samish I., Apr. 1-4 (NL, *fide* TW), and a pair was at an apparent nest site in logged-over land e of Bellingham Apr. 21 (*fide* TW). Townsend's Solitaires, in number up to three at one time, were seen at Wolf Creek twice, at Eugene, and Yaquina Head in Oregon, at Hobart, at Camano I., and e. of Issaquah in Washington, and at Saanich on Vancouver I. Apr. 16-May 21 A nest of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was again found on Roxy Ann Butte near Medford June 3 (OS). Up to 60 Water Pipits were to be found at Seattle, Apr. 16-May 27 (SJ) and up to 75 could be found during the same period in the environs of Victoria (VG *et al.*). Cedar Waxwings were very scarce, apparently, appearing at only a few spots in the Region during April and May A few N. Shrikes were still in the s. Willamette Valley the first ten days of April. A Loggerhead Shrike was found at Eugene the last few days of April (LM *et al.*).

VIREOS, WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS -- Hutton's and Solitary Vireos were relatively well reported this spring from Grants Pass, Ore., n. to Victoria. Red-eyed Vireos were recorded only from Eugene Apr. 21 (DG, *fide* LM) and May 2 (JG). An early Warbling Vireo put in an appearance at Corvallis, Apr. 9 (RJ, *fide* FZ), but the species was not well reported this spring, except possibly from Seattle A **Tennessee Warbler** was found at Ruby Beach, n of Kalaloch, Wash., May 20 by four observers, some of whom at least, were familiar with the species (VB, JHe, CJ, RR, *fide* TW); the find marks the second occurrence of this species in w. Washington known to us, the other being last fall. Orange-crowned Warblers appeared widely and abundantly in the s. portion of the Region by the end of the first week in April. Nashville Warblers could be found in favored spots in s w Oregon after mid-April, and were recorded at Corvallis, Finley N.W.R., and Monmouth, Ore., later in the season; individuals were also noted at Seattle and Samish I., Wash., in late April or in May. An early Yellow Warbler was at Sekiu, Wash., Apr. 9 (MC); an apparently still migrant group was observed at Lost L. on the Santiam Highway in the Oregon Cascades May 24 (AC *et al.*). A Black-throated Gray Warbler at Eugene Apr 7 (JG) and another at Corvallis Apr. 9 (EE, *fide* FZ) both were early arrivals for a generally early migration movement which seems to have been widespread within the next two weeks. Townsend's Warblers were on the move by the second week of April in w. Oregon, with an early peak at Eugene the following week (LM),

844 *American Birds*, August, 1974

the movement through Finley N.W.R. was characterized as the best show for this species experienced in the observer's five years there (FZ); at Wolf Creek, May 16-18 a grounded 'wave' of warblers was half comprised of Townsend's Warblers (EP). Hermit Warblers, too, seemed to move earlier than usual this year, also reaching an early peak at Eugene in the third week of April (LM), and being common at Wolf Creek after Apr. 20 (EP). A **Palm Warbler** was found at Leadbetter Pt., Wash., Apr. 13 and again Apr. 20 (FK, *fide* PM) for one of w. Washington's very few records of this species and possibly the first spring record. A MacGillivray's Warbler at Hobart, Wash., Apr. 20 (SJ) was early, as were the single Wilson's Warblers at Eugene, Apr. 5 (DDu, *fide* FZ) and at Alsea, Ore., Apr. 8 (JCa, *fide* FZ). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Fern Ridge Res., Brownsville, Ore., Finley N.W.R., the s. jetty of the Columbia, Nisqually, Wash., Seattle, Samish I., Victoria and Saanich at various times during April and May, usually up to four individuals at a time. Northern Orioles are not common in the Region; only a few were noted from Wolf Creek n. to Seattle after mid-April; one was at Saanich May 24 (RF, *fide* VG). Brown-headed Cowbirds, after becoming quite common in the Region during the sixties, seem not to be increasing their numbers further. A W. Tanager at Eugene, Apr. 14 (DG, *fide* LM) was two and a half weeks ahead of the principal migration. A male Lazuli Bunting was again found at Saanich this year, May 27 & 29 (V & MG); many more of this species were at Wolf Creek during May this year than last (EP). Evening Grosbeaks were conspicuously abundant through interior w. Oregon and w. Washington all during the spring season. Purple Finches seemed to be more noticeable than usual in n.w. Oregon this spring. A **Gray-crowned Rosy Finch** was discovered on a lawn in company with a flock of Pine Siskins at Eugene Apr. 22 and was closely observed (AC *et al.*). Up to 20 were seen on Hurricane Ridge in the Olympics Apr. 8 and at Snoqualmie Pass e. of Seattle Apr. 15 (MC). Three Com. Redpolls were observed at Yellow L. e. of Issaquah, Wash., Apr. 26 (JB, *fide* PM). Pine Siskins were present in large numbers away from the coast in w. Oregon and w. Washington lowlands all during April and until late May: numbers at Eugene were described as "incredible," at Salem as "tremendous" and in Portland as "abundant" Four siskin nests were found at Seattle during May, from which at least six young had fledged by the end of the month (SJ). Red Crossbills were commonly observed through the s. portion of the Region n. of Eugene, including coastal areas, during the report period, with the flock of 1500 at LaPush Apr. 10 (MC) being the largest reported concentration. Two male Lark Buntings in full breeding dress were discovered in a field near Otis, Lincoln Co., Ore., May 26 (R & RH, *fide* HN). Grasshopper Sparrows had returned to their previously used nesting area w. of Eugene by the last week of April five

individuals were seen there in late May (*fide* LM). Vesper Sparrows were seen at Olympia (G & WH), in the Seattle area (EH, SJ *et al.*), and near Victoria (VG) during late April and early May, at all of which places the species is markedly uncommon. Individuals of the Slate-colored variety of the Dark-eyed Junco were noted at Corvallis and at three places in Washington, the latest sighting occurring Apr. 20 at Olympia (G & WH). Individual Tree Sparrows were seen Apr. 3 at Seattle (SJ) and Apr. 13 at Duncan where one wintered (JCo). A Chipping Sparrow was found May 11 at Ocean Shores, where the species is rare (EH, JM); indications are that on Vancouver I. the species has made a good recovery from the low numbers which prevailed a year ago (VG). Single Harris' Sparrows were recorded at the Lummi Flats near Bellingham, Apr. 4 (JD, *fide* TW), at the Skagit Flats (JW, *fide* PM) and near Olympia (G & WH) the last week of April. Lingering Golden-crowned Sparrows were still to be found at Eugene (LM), just n. of Grants Pass (OS), and at Monroe, Ore., (FZ) all on May 19; the species was last noted at Victoria May 25 (ARD, VG, RS). White-throated Sparrows were seen at Esquimalt on Vancouver I. where one wintered until Apr. 24 (*fide* VG), at Corvallis Apr. 20 (LN, *fide* FZ), at Samish I., May 5 (NL, TW), and at Duncan, May 6-8 (JCo). Presumably migrant Lincoln's Sparrows were observed in a number of localities the latter half of April, with one at Duncan May 9 (VG) the latest. A Lapland Longspur was found at Seattle at various times through the third week in April by a number of observers; other lone birds were seen at Ocean Shores, Apr. 20-May 8 (GH, EH, JM) and at Victoria, Apr. 27-May 1 (VG, RS).

OBSERVERS -- John Beaufort, Vida Blauvelt, Ken Brunner, John Casteel (JCa), David Chelimer, Mark Collie, John Comer (JCo), Alan Contreras, John B. Crowell, Jr., A. R. Davidson, Steve Davis, Dick Denton, David Dudley (DDu), James Duemmel, William Elliott, E. Eltzroth, Roy Fisk (RFi), Randy Floyd (RFI), Ralph Fryer, Richard Gibbs, Jeff Gilligan, Dan Gleason, Vic & Margaret Goodwill, Sayre Greenfield, Robert & Ruth Harris, Janet Herrmann (JHe), Joseph Hicks, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, Robert Jarvis, Stuart Johnston, Cliff Jones, Fay & Jan Krause, Norman Lavers, Bob Loehning, Robert Lucas, Tom Lund, R. Mackenzie-Grieve, Phil Mattocks, Tom McCamant, Larry McQueen, James Micuda (JMi), James Morris, Harry Nehls, Lars Norgren, Michael Patterson (MPa), David Pearson, Eleanor Pugh, Fred Ramsey, Robert Randall, John Ratti, Richard Rogers, Peter Rothlisberg, Ron Satterfield, David Simon, Aaron Skirvin, Charles Smith, Ernie Spragg, Otis Swisher, Howard Taylor, William Thackaberry, Phillip Thomas, Bill Tweit, Terry Wahl, Clarice Watson (CWa), Keith Wiggins, John Wingfield, Charles Wood, C. Fred Zeilemaker.

The Nesting Season, 1974

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/ Thomas H. Rogers

With few exceptions June in the Region was abnormally hot and dry with many days reaching 90°F. and above. The situation reversed itself over most of the Region in July, with the first half generally cool and wet, giving some localities precipitation totals well over normal, but by mid-month temperatures returned to normal and dry weather returned. The Helena and Bozeman areas were exceptions, the drought of June continuing through July. Generally speaking, moisture reserves from the heavy winter and spring precipitation carded the Region through the dry periods in very good shape, with water levels high. The rapid runoff of snowmelt in June caused some flooding in the Salmon, Ida. and Baker, Ore., areas and probably did some harm to nesting but

waterfowl and other marsh nesters appeared to have benefitted greatly. Vegetation accomplished excellent growth, promising abundant food and cover. Land birds appeared to have had a good nesting season in most localities. Army Corps of Engineers activities connected with dam building along the Snake River destroyed marsh habitat in Asotin Co., Wash.

LOONS AND GREBES -- Much concern was expressed for the future of the Com. Loon on the small mountain lakes of s. British Columbia, where constant harassment by fishermen and boaters appears to have eliminated them from many of the lakes. An upcoming ban of motors on some of the lakes may improve the situation (JG). The Red-necked Grebe nesting population continued to increase at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida. where about 12 pairs produced about 25 young. A pair with a nest with seven eggs was found on Benewah L. just west of St. Maries, Ida. June 16. One bird at Three Forks, Mont. June 23 was remarkable. Only a few records exist for that area, these only in spring and fall (RR, DRS, PDS). Many Western Grebes, some with young, were seen on Davis L. west of LaPine, Ore. July 18-19.

PELICANS AND CORMORANTS -- Practically all the White Pelicans reported were at L. Helena where 250 were counted in June and in s.w. Idaho, with 153 counted July 15. No nesting was reported. Double-crested Cormorants were seen at the breeding colony near Trident, Mont. and were much commoner at nearby Ennis. High counts of the species at L. Helena were 48 and at Helena Valley Res., 80, both in July.

HERONS AND IBIS -- A Cattle Egret, apparently the third for Idaho, was seen feeding with cattle on Minidoka N.W.R. near Minidoka June 20 (GM & CHT). Single Great Egrets were seen at Market L. Wildlife Management Area, Roberts, Ida. and in s.w. Idaho. The species showed a marked increase at Malheur N.W.R. with 350 present. The refuge had 1000 Black-crowned Night Herons, the highest number in recent years. Up to 11 immature birds were noted frequently July 26-Aug. 2 at the n. end of Osoyoos L. in s. British Columbia, where very few records exist for them (SRC). Malheur had 80 White-faced Ibis, the highest in recent years. Fifty-three young of this species were banded at Market L. in June (CHT).

WATERFOWL -- A Mute Swan was seen July 3 at Three Forks, Mont. away from the point of introduction at Livingston. A brood of four Trumpeter Swans was observed at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash. and a pair with one small cygnet was seen near Harrison, Mont. June 23. Cygnet production at Malheur was up to nine, compared to six last year. A single bird was noted in s.w. Idaho July 17. Canada Geese production at Turnbull N.W.R. was good, with 180 young. Kootenai N.W.R. and vicinity showed very good production at about 225 and the increase at Salmon, Ida. not noted for this species, was good. Duck production in general showed large increases over 1973. Malheur N.W.R. came up with a 60 per cent increase, this largely in the surface-feeders and Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. had nearly a 40 per cent increase owing to larger brood sizes. Kootenai N.W.R. did very well on Mallards but Com. Goldeneye were down, producing less than 100 young. By contrast, Minidoka N.W.R. had a 38 percent drop in breeding pairs. A **European Wigeon**, reported too late for the spring write-up, was on Vaseux L. south of Penticton Apr. 6-24 (SRC). The Harlequin Duck was reported only at Trick Falls in Glacier N. P., Mont, June 13. Three White-winged Scoters seen from the Keller ferry, Ferry Co., June 30 provided the third summer record for e. Washington.

VULTURES AND HAWKS -- A pair of Turkey Vultures apparently nested near Mara L. in the Vernon, B.C. area for the birds were seen frequently and in late July were accompanied by three young. A pair of Goshawks nested on Indian Creek between Prairie City and John Day, Ore., and had fledged two of three young by July 16. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were scantily reported and the latter was described as alarmingly scarce in the North Okanagan of British Columbia. However a pair was reported nesting on Browne Mt. five miles southeast of Spokane. One young Golden Eagle was fledged at Benham Falls in c. Oregon and a nest of the Bald Eagle was seen at Suttle L. northwest of Sisters, Ore. In the Baker, Ore. area five nests of the former species were observed to have fledged at least one bird each. Ospreys were noted nesting at many localities. A study of the birds on upper Holter Res in the Helena area showed 11 pairs compared with ten last year but they had fewer eggs per nest and more infertile eggs, resulting in fewer young fledged (VY). Observations of single Prairie Falcons were made on three dates in s.w. Idaho and once in s. British Columbia.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- The Ring-necked and the recently introduced Japanese Green Pheasant were reported holding on but not thriving at Kootenai N.W.R. A pair of the recently introduced Chinese Bamboo Partridge, *Bambusicola thoracica*, was seen June 16 along S. Naches Road in the Yakima area (ERC). Good hatching success for Chukar was noted at Salmon, Ida. and the Turkey population was increasing rapidly there.

CRANES AND RAILS -- A pair of Sandhill Cranes at Ladd Marsh near LaGrande, Ore., raised one chick and a pair with two small young was seen at Ennis, Mont. June 23. Several pairs nested in upper Lemhi R valley near Leadore, Ida. Nesting success for the species at Malheur N.W.R., based on a sample of 50 nests, was 36 per cent, compared with a success of about 20 per cent last year, based on 45 nests. A Virginia Rail with two chicks was seen at Turnbull N.W.R. July 27.

SHOREBIRDS -- The fall migration of far-north-breeding shorebirds was underway in July as usual but observations in the Spokane area were scanty because of high water levels. Five Long-billed Dowitchers in a flooded field near Cusick July 5 were 11 days earlier than any previous record in e. Washington (PM). Two Long-billed Curlews were seen near Merrit June 18 and one, at White L. west of Okanagan Falls June 20, in the s. Okanagan Valley of British Columbia where the species is scarce (WCW). The species was also scarce in the Walla Walla area with only one sighting, June 2. Small young of these birds were noted June 22, at Three

926 *American Birds*, October, 1974

Forks, Mont. Largest numbers were reported in s.w. Idaho, with 83 June 4. Noteworthy among those species breeding within the Region were three Upland Sandpipers seen in June in the Spokane Valley near Newman L. and Hauser L. junctions. Three Am. Avocets, the first in seven years at Kootenai N.W.R., visited on June 20 only.

GULLS AND TERNS -- A large colony of California and Ring-billed Gulls bred on an island in the Columbia R at Richland, Wash. Large downy young were seen exercising their wings June 27. Malheur N.W.R. reported the Franklin's Gull population as 1000, the same as last year and twice the 1972 number. At least ten

Bonaparte's Gulls July 1 at Nulki L. near Vanderhoof, BC were suspected of nesting. The first Montana record for the **Least Tern** was obtained July 20 near Wilsall when a bird in imm. plumage was carefully observed under good conditions (PDS). Forster's Tern bred on islands in the Columbia R. near Richland and young were awing by July 14. Up to 20 pairs of Black Terns at Kootenai N.W.R. suggested nesting there.

PIGEONS AND OWLS - A Band-tailed Pigeon was seen south of Ashcroft, B.C. (WCW), another was found in Cowiche Canyon west of Yakima June 18 (HD), and a third was seen at Middleport, Stevens Co., Wash. June 9 (EH). Two Flammulated Owls were heard in the Blue Mts. 15 mi. south of Pomeroy, Wash. June 10 (EH). The only Pygmy Owl observations were two at a low elevation--2124 ft.--along Coeur d' Alene L, Ida., one near Cougar Bay and one at Chatcolet Bay, both June 9. The Burrowing Owl was noted only near Baker and Brothers, Ore. and near Quincy, Yakima, Walla Walla and Sprague, Wash. At Yakima it was considered as becoming rare but more sightings were made this year at Walla Walla. The **Barred Owl**, still pushing into the Region, was found near Park Rapids, east of Colville, Stevens Co., Wash. June 23 (DP & TRW) and one or two were seen there up to July 11. This is the first summer record in the area. Two Barred Owls were found roosting west of Troy, Ore., June 18. One was photographed June 19 and one was again seen July 22 (BT) Karl Hulbert. A **Spotted Owl** nest with two downy young found and photographed in Chelan Co., Wash. in late May is apparently the first nest record for the state (JF & KF). A brood of half grown young Short-eared Owls was uncovered by a mower near Bozeman. Two pairs were seen near Lowden, Wash. all summer, one pair producing a brood which apparently was destroyed by predators. Quincy, Wash. and s.w. Idaho were the only other localities reporting them.

SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS -- An unusual sighting was made of about 25 Vaux's Swifts July 28 when about half the group entered a church chimney in Walla Walla. A single White-throated Swift was again reported at Asotin, Wash. June 24 (JWW). Black Swifts were observed in Jasper N. P., Alta., near Smithers and at Nulki L. south of Vanderhoof, B.C., and at Ellensburg and between Cashmere and Wenatchee, Wash. Black-chinned Hummingbirds were reported in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia; at several localities in e. and c. Washington; south of Prairie City, Ore. and in both n. and s.w. Idaho. Anna's Hummingbird was believed to be breeding at Cle Elum, Wash. (PMo).

WOODPECKERS -- A few Lewis' Woodpeckers were observed in Idaho and e. Washington and in the Bitterroot Valley of w. Montana. Nesting was noted at Kootenai N.W.R., near Spokane and at Ft. Simcoe S.P. west of Toppenish, Wash. Williamson's Sapsucker nests were found in three localities: near Prairie City, Ore. (AW), on Huckleberry Mt. west of Springdale, Wash. (S.A.S.), and on Anarchist Mt. east of Osoyoos in extreme s. British Columbia, where three nests were found (SRC, WCW). A nest of the White-headed Woodpecker was observed at Black Butte Ranch near Sisters, Ore. during June and July (JJ). A nest of the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was found July 11 at L. Thomas in e. Stevens Co., Wash (DB & EB). Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers were found nesting at 8500 ft. elevation near Clayton, Ida (HBR); at Calispell Bog, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (PM, KB & JWn), and in two localities near Vernon, B.C. (JG).

FLYCATCHERS -- The song of what was believed to be a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was heard July 9 at Cottonwood Creek in Jasper National Park (WCW). A Least Flycatcher was studied at length and its song recorded June 18 along Umtanum Cr., Yakima Co., Wash. (TRW & JD). The species was noted at three stops on the breeding bird survey in the Brookmere- Aspen Grove area of s. British Columbia (WCW). A number of Gray Flycatchers were noted in mid-June near Wenas Creek northwest of Yakima (PM, TRW) Single W.

Flycatchers were heard in two places well north of their known breeding range: one July 2 in Prince George and the other the same day at Pine Pass between Prince George and Dawson Creek (WCW).

SWALLOWS AND JAYS -- Violet-green and Tree Swallows had a bad nesting season in interior British Columbia, presumably because of cold, wet weather in late May and early June. Three pairs of Violet-green Swallows nested in a colony-type nest box, along with a pair of House Sparrows at Spokane. Three pairs of Tree Swallows nesting at Phillips L., west of Baker, Ore appeared to have some sort of community arrangement, for three or four adults in rapid succession fed young at the same nest hole! At Prairie City, Ore well-fledged young Com. Ravens were seen June 24.

CHICKADEES AND WRENS -- A pair of Chestnut-backed Chickadees with a nest was seen June 11 and several times later near Fish L. about 15 mi north of Leavenworth, Wash. One bird of this species was seen on Browne Mt., five miles southeast of Spokane May 25 (THR). On the same mountain a brood of recently fledged Winter Wrens was seen July 1 and three young Rock Wrens with their parents July 27 and another pair with three young was found July 26 at Steptoe Butte near Steptoe, Wash.

MIMIC THRUSHES AND THRUSHES -- A Mockingbird was seen June 12 on the U.S. Atomic Energy Reservation, Benton Co., Wash. (REW & NW) and a

Volume 28, Number 5 927

singing male was noted June 30 in French Canyon near Tieton, Yakima Co., Wash. (HD). A third bird was seen at Steptoe Butte, Whitman Co., Wash. June 10 (EH). A pair of Gray Catbirds at Lavington, B.C. raised two young plus a Brown-headed Cowbird. The parasitism of the Gray Catbird is highly unusual (JG). Populations of both Western and Mountain Bluebirds apparently continued low. Very few nests were reported and the latter species was described as alarmingly scarce in the Vernon, B.C. area. Of 100 nest boxes put up in the foothills west of North Powder, Ore., two were used by Mountain Bluebirds and 12 by Western (MB). A Townsend's Solitaire nest with five eggs was located July 5 along Aberdeen L. road 12 mi. southeast of Vernon and young in flight were seen south of Bozeman July 23.

PIPITS, WAXWINGS, WARBLERS -- A pair of Water Pipits appeared to be nesting at about 7000 ft. elevation in the Colockum Pass area of n.e. Kittitas Co., Wash. and several birds were seen in the Lemhi Range south of Salmon, Ida. at an elevation of 10,000 ft. July 20. A Bohemian Waxwing was noted at Wabasso Campground July 8, and two at Cottonwood Creek July 9, both localities in Jasper N.P. Four Tennessee Warblers were observed June 9 near L. Helena where the species has been recorded only a few times (SM & NM). A nest of the Nashville Warbler with five eggs was found on Browne Mt., five mi. southeast of Spokane, June 15 but the eggs later disappeared (THR). A Virginia Warbler was reported July 28, and a nesting, Black-throated Gray Warbler July 12, both in Cassia Co., Ida. One or two Blackpoll Warblers were seen at Pine Pass, 130 mi. northeast of Prince George, and at two localities in Jasper N.P., all observations in early July. Seven singing N. Waterthrushes were heard at Calispell Bog, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. June 30 and nine were found on

the Brookmere, B.C., breeding bird survey June 19. An Ovenbird was found dead in Helena June 13 and is apparently only the second ever recorded there (SM).

BLACKBIRDS -- Bobolinks, rare in e. Oregon and Washington, were seen on Yakima Indian Reservation (single birds); at Prairie City, Ore. (three males June 25 and two males with two imm. birds July 27 (AW), and near Cusick, Wash. (30--DP). A pair of Orchard Orioles was sighted near Walla Walla, Wash. June 12 (JW). A few Rusty Blackbirds were recorded in the Prince George area in early July. The Com. Grackle was observed and apparently breeding in Deer Lodge, Mont. This is the farthest west record for the species in that area (PDS). A young Brown-headed Cowbird was seen being fed by a Red-winged Blackbird, an unusual host, near Spokane and one south of Bozeman was fed by both an Audubon's Warbler and a junco! Birds do get confused.

FINCHES -- Evening Grosbeaks were abundant in the forest around L. Wenatchee and Fish L. north of Leavenworth, Wash. Cassin's Finch was unusually scarce in the Bozeman area and was scarce around Fortine, Mont. where it normally is common. In the Spokane area numbers appeared good with several nestings reported. At Missoula the species appears to have become less plentiful since House Finches have become established. Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were observed at high elevations in the Salmon, Ida. area and in Crater Lake N.P. Pine Siskins were common to abundant in many coniferous forest areas of e. Washington and/n Idaho. A young bird just out of the nest was being fed by an adult May 31 at Coeur d' Alene. By contrast Am. Goldfinch numbers were scanty in most areas, with only the Pullman, Spokane and Yakima, Wash. areas reporting good numbers. Red Crossbill numbers were good on breeding bird surveys at Brookmere and Canford and later in the Smithers area of British Columbia. They also made a good showing around Pullman, Spokane and Bozeman. However, in the Vernon area numbers were poor. Phenomenal numbers of White-winged Crossbills were reported apparently breeding in subalpine forest of s. British Columbia, apparently in response to a bumper spruce cone crop. Numbers were also high in Yoho and Jasper National Parks. A male in song was found in the mountains south of Hamilton, Mont. July 14 (RAH, ETH & PDS).

SPARROWS -- The rare Grasshopper Sparrow was believed down in numbers in some e. Washington breeding areas. The species was noted in the valley east of Spokane, in the vicinity of Potholes Res., Grant Co, and near Asotin. No other reports were received for the species. Two **Black-throated Sparrows** were observed near Malheur N.W.R. June 14 (CHW). Sage Sparrows were noted as very common along the Columbia R near the Vernita Bridge in Benton Co. July 24 but elsewhere were scarce in Washington, the only state reporting them. Clay-colored Sparrows were heard singing near Jasper, July 5-6 (RR & REW) and one was singing at Pyramid L. in Jasper N.P. July 8 (WCW). The species was noted in the Bozeman area and appeared to be increasing in the N. Okanagan of British Columbia. The nest of a Brewer's Sparrow was found July 4 at White L. near Oliver, B.C. (SRC) and the species was noted singing during June and July on Browne Mr. southeast of Spokane (DB, EB, DK & THR). Two White-crowned Sparrows were sighted near the top of Stevens Peak near Wallace, Ida. June 30 (SS). About ten stragglers moved through the Coeur d' Alene area at the end of May (RM) and one was seen at Madras, Ore. June 3 (JJ). The birds were seen at higher elevations in the Salmon area. A White-throated Sparrow was singing at L. Kathlyn near Smithers, B.C. July 1 (WCW).

AREA COMPILERS (**in boldface**) and observers --James Acton, John Annear, William Bannon, Mike Black, Allen Bolton, Jay Bowerman, Ken Brunner, Zelia Butler, Dick & Eileen Byers, Steve R. Cannings, Robert E. Cardinal, Phil Cheney, Mr. & Mrs. James Clark, Mark R. Collie, Matt Coe, Sharon Cotterell, Emily R. Cragg,

Jerry Delbert, **Helen Doornink**, Yakima Valley; (JD) J. Duemmel, James Fackler, Kim Feringer, Brad Flatt, Margaret Ford, Slevin Ford, Mary Fraser, Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Frost, Ben Glading, **James Grant**, s. interior British Columbia; Arnold Haack, Audrey Haight, Warren Hall, Ralph L. Hand, Bill Harms, Mr. & Mrs. B. L. Harvey, Eve T. & Ray A Hays, Mr. & Mrs. James Heckathorn, C. J. Henry, John Hill, Joe & Ivy Hilty, **James H. Holcolm**, Crater

928 *American Birds*, October, 1974

Lake N.P.; Mrs. Ray Holliday, **George D. Holton**, Helena area; Dallas & Charlotte Hooper, Alice Horschel, Virginia Humphreys, Dick Humphries, Eugene Hunn, Frances B. Huston, **Julie Johnson**, c. Oregon; Dan Knierim, Carolyn Lagergren, Earl Larrison, Greg McDonald, (RM) Ron McDow, Patricia McKinney, **Eldon L. McLaury**, Malheur N.W.R.; Phyllis Madden, Nell & (SM) Sid Martin, (PM) Phil Mattocks, Sally and **Niel F. Meadowcroft**, Walla Walla area; Dean Medino, Helene Mir, Bobby Moate, (PMo) Peggy Modie, Levi Mohler, Louis Moos, Robert Morgan, **Lowell Napier**, Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash.; Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Nelson, Ron Newville, Dennis L. Paulson, (DP) Dave Pearson, **Del Pierce**, Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida.; **Margaret J. Polumsky**, Nez Perce Co., Ida. - Asotin Co., Wash.; George Ray, Roy Richards, Hadley B. Roberts, Hazel Roe, Thomas H. Rogers, Larry Roumpf, (RR) Robert Rumely, Jack Schultz, **Belle Shaw**, s.w. Idaho; W. H. Shillington, Roland Shook, Donald R., Steve and **P.D. Skaar**, Bozeman, Mont. area; **Mrs. S. O. Stanley**, for Spokane Audubon Society, n.e. Washington; Edgar Stephenson, Esther Stewart, (SS) **Shirley Sturts**, Coeur d' Alene, Ida. area; (BT) Butch Taylor, Bill Thoren, **Charles H. Trost**, Pocatello, Ida. area; Mr. & Mrs. Ted Trueblood, Mr. & Mrs. B. L. Vandermeer, Terry R. Wahl, **Ann Ward**, n.e. Oregon; Clarice H. Watson, John W. Weber, Wayne C. Weber, Tom Weir, Winton Weydemeyer, (JW) Jack Winchell. (JWi) John Wingfield, **Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Woodley**, Pasco- Richland - Kennewick, Wash. area; Norman Woodley, Jeff Woodruff, **Maurice B. Wright**, Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash.; Vince Yannone and Katherine Zahl.

The Nesting Season, 1974

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

The breeding season of 1974 brought with it a cool, rather damp June and July with disappointing numbers of cloudy days, resulting in below-normal temperatures. The excessive snow pack in the mountains of the Region thus was still notably present even at the end of the period; too few observations are made at high elevations to permit any judgments about impact on montane birds, however. The abnormal numbers of shorebirds which were present at coastal points even during much of June is cause for speculation as to breeding success or lack of it for many of these species this year in their northern nesting grounds. An impressive number of rarities was produced by the Region's continually growing and enthusiastic cadre of observers.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS -- Common Loons in small numbers were found at coastal points and on favored inland lakes in s. British Columbia throughout June and July. A **Yellow-billed Loon** in winter plumage was carefully studied by two observers at Neah Bay, Wash., July 14 in good light for about twenty minutes; a detailed account of the observation was supplied to the editors (JW, SW). A few Arctic Loons summered on salt water in the Straits of Juan de Fuca; an unusual concentration of 500 individuals of this species was discovered on the ocean near Florence, Oreg. June 11 (FR). Observers on the British Columbia mainland s. of Vancouver found a few Red-throated Loons through June (*fide* WW). On July 28 there were 20 Red-necked Grebes at Victoria (WW). A Horned Grebe was at Saanich, B.C., throughout July (VG *et al.*). Western Grebes summering on salt water were almost nonexistent this year, with reports of up to four coming only from Victoria (VG) and of "much less than usual" from the Vancouver area (WW). Sixty Black-looted Albatrosses, 100 N. Fulmars, one Flesh-looted Shearwater, and two Short-tailed Shearwaters were counted 25 mi. at sea from Newport, Oreg. July 21; sixty per cent of the Fulmars were dark-phase birds (WE, DM, FR, MS). Six Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels and sixteen Leach's Storm-Petrels were mist-netted on Tatoosh I., Wash., June 12 (DP, *fide* PM), three of the former species were seen in Queen Charlotte Strait, B.C., June 29 (WW), and "many" of the former were seen July 21 at sea 25 mi. from Newport, Oreg.; a few Leach's Storm-Petrels were seen further at sea in the succeeding two days (FR, MS *et al.*). Individual Leach's Storm-Petrels were found dead on the beach at Ocean City, Wash., June 2 & 6 (JM). The vanguard of late summer visitant Brown Pelicans was reported in the Region as far north as Grays Harbor, Wash., by the last week in July. A survey on June 25 at Mandarte I. five miles e. of Sidney, B.C., turned up 482 nests containing 1456 eggs and 30 young of the Double-crested Cormorant and 443 nests with 1167 eggs and one young of the Pelagic Cormorant (B.C. Prov. Museum, *fide* VG); Double-crested Cormorants apparently failed to nest at all on Colville and Castle Is., Wash., this summer, although Pelagic Cormorant nesting there seems to be on the increase (TW). Nesting by Double-crested Cormorants at Fern Ridge Res. near Eugene, Oreg., and Gold Ray Dam near Medford, Oreg., this season was suspected from the continual presence of individuals in both places. A survey of the Chain Islets and Great Chain I. near Victoria on June 11-12 resulted in a tally of 221 nests containing 126 eggs and no young of the Pelagic Cormorant (B.C. Prov. Museum, *fide* VG), suggesting that egg-laying was still in progress. High counts of Great Blue Herons were attained at Tsawwassen, B.C. June 18 with 104 (BH, *fide* VG) and at Crescent Beach, B.C., June 28 with 60 birds present; on Aug. 5 there were 275 individuals at the latter place (BM, *fide* WW). Green Herons were present at a number of localities in w. Washington from Olympia n. to Bellingham during the season; one was seen at Oregon City, Oreg. June 6 (JBC), a pair was found n. of Corvallis, Oreg. July 27 (*fide* FR), and up to five were seen at Gold Ray Dam the latter half of July (OS). Great Egrets invaded Oregon's Willamette Valley in the last days of July; two had been noted at Coquille near the coast in Coos County, June 18 (JO). A Snowy Egret, little recorded in w. Oregon, was found at Salem July 25 (FS, HH). Two ad. Black-crowned Night-Herons were noted repeatedly on Westham I. s. of Vancouver during July (BD, ND, *fide* WW); an adult and an immature of this species were seen at Newport July 31 (CW, *fide* HN). American Bitterns were recorded singly at Reifel Refuge, s. of Vancouver July 6, near Olympia July 31, and at Finley N.W.R., s. of Corvallis June 15.

938 *American Birds*, October, 1974

WATERFOWL -- On June 8, 47 Black Brant still lingered at Leadbetter Pt., Wash. (HN, CS); seven were at Ocean Shores, Wash., June 23 (G & WH), single individuals were seen at four locations in s. British Columbia during June, and one was at Samish I., Wash., July 22 (NL, *fide* TW). An ad. White-fronted Goose was found at Saanich, June 1, in company with some domestic geese (VG). There were small numbers of Pintail and Am. Green-winged Teal in the Vancouver area throughout the report period (WW *et al.*). A brood of twelve Blue-winged Teal was seen at Duncan, B.C., July 10 (JCo); seven were at Yaquina Bay, Oreg. Aug. 4 (FR). Cinnamon Teal, Am. Wigeon, and N. Shovelers nested successfully at Duncan also (JCo). Two male Ring-necked Ducks

were seen at Iona I., s. of Vancouver, June 27 (WW), where six Canvasback ducks also were observed July 20 (BK, *fide* WW); a Canvasback was present at Fern Ridge Res. June 15 (LN). Several hundred Greater Scaup summered in the vicinity of the British Columbia-Washington border, while a few individuals were seen at other localities in Washington and on Vancouver I. A few Lesser Scaup were observed through the period at various spots in s. British Columbia, but a flock of 50 at Tillamook, Oreg. July 20 (RFi *et al.*) is surprising. A **female** and one juv. Com. Goldeneye at Cowichan Bay, Vancouver I., July 4 (JCo), and 2 females at Crescent Beach, B.C., June 27 (WW), are of interest. Adult Barrow's Goldeneye with young were observed repeatedly during the breeding season on Lightning L., in Manning P.P. (V & MG, RS). Two **female** Buffleheads were seen at Sooke Harbour, Vancouver I., June 10 & July 11; a male was seen in the Shawnigan District n. of Victoria, July 15 (VG). Oldsquaw were seen in unprecedented summertime numbers in the Vancouver area this year, the one-day maximum count being 25 on July 29 at Pt. Roberts (WW); up to four individuals were noted at Victoria all summer (VG) and others were seen in the waters and islands between Vancouver and Victoria. A high count of 158 Harlequin at Mitlenatch I., B.C., July 17 (MSh) is impressive; ten days later, 23 individuals of this species were counted at Victoria (BK, WW). White-winged Scoters were found regularly at Ocean Shores, around s. Vancouver I., and on the mainland in the vicinity of Vancouver during the report period. Surf Scoters were more prevalent in the same areas, and were also still present along the Oregon coast in June. A **female** Black Scoter was seen at Cannon Beach, Oreg. June 10 (JB, HN) and four representatives of this species were at Ocean Shores, June 26 (WH). A Ruddy Duck was at Reifel Ref. s. of Vancouver, June 15-27 (WW) and another was at Olympia, June 22-26 (G & WH). A **female** Hooded Merganser with eight young was seen at Saanich, June 20 and a female was seen alone in the Renfrew District, Vancouver I., July 11 (VG); single individuals were also seen at Manning P. P. June 24, at Vancouver July 1, and at Iona I. July 25. On July 23 a **female** Com. Merganser with five young were seen at Sooke Harbour, B.C., where up to eight individual adults had been seen earlier in the month (VG); another female with five young were seen at Pitt L., B.C., June 17, where a **male** Red-breasted Merganser was observed the same day (WW). A **male** Red-breasted Merganser was seen at Pt. Roberts, July 29 (WW).

HAWKS, EAGLES, CRANES -- A White-tailed Kite was seen at Finley N.W.R., June 4-5 (CM *et al.*, *fide* FZ) and again July 13 & 20 (FZ). Five Goshawk nests were found on the Rogue River National Forest this summer (OS). Cooper's Hawks reports were few and Sharp-shinned Hawks seem to have been virtually unobserved. A Swainson's Hawk was recorded at Manning P.P., July 13 (RS, *fide* VG). A Rough-legged Hawk was seen at Bare I., near Sidney, B.C., July 31 (ARD, *fide* VG), a very unusual date. No Golden Eagle nesting activity occurred this year in Vancouver Island's Malahat District at last year's nest, but an adult was observed in the area June 22 & 27 (RS, VG). A young Golden Eagle fledged from a nest on Roxy Ann Butte near Medford (OS). Bald Eagles were to be found regularly in the Gulf Islands between Victoria and Vancouver throughout the report period, being particularly noticeable at Active Pass; a dozen were seen at Prince Rupert June 20, while five had been counted on the preceding day in Queen Charlotte Strait (WW). A Bald Eagle was seen at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., June 18 (MS, OS). The only report of successful Marsh Hawk nesting was from Finley N.W.R. (FZ) where four young were out of the nest the last week of July (FZ). Five active Osprey nests were known on s. Vancouver I. this season (VG *et al.*); three pairs---one of which did not appear to be nesting---frequented Fern Ridge Res throughout the report period (LN); a successful nest was observed at Elma, Wash. (G & WH). A few individual Ospreys were otherwise observed in the s. half of the Region. An ad. Peregrine was seen on s. Vancouver I. in mid-July (VG) and an immature was seen near Vancouver July 9 (ND, *fide* WW). Several Merlins were observed near Saanich in early June and in early July; another was seen at Cadboro Bay, Victoria, July 27 (RM-G, *fide* VG). An adult and a half-grown young Sandhill Crane were observed at Pitt Meadows e. of Vancouver July 23 (WW). Juvenile Virginia Rails were seen at Saanich July 1 & 20 where four Soras had also been seen on June 8 (VG *et al.*).

SHOREBIRDS -- A nest containing four Semipalmated Plover eggs was discovered on the w. jetty of Iona I., s. of Vancouver, June 15; the eggs had not hatched June 27, so nothing is known about the success of the nesting attempt (BK, WW). No nesting of the species occurred this season at Ocean Shores where successful nesting took place last year (GH, JM). Semipalmated Plovers were present at three other places in the Region in June, and southward migration was evident by the first week in July. Snowy Plovers were seen at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. June 18 (MS, OS), at Leadbetter Pt., June 8 (HN, CS), and at Ocean Shores June 23, where two pairs appeared to be defending territory (GH). A lone **Am. Golden Plover** was at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., June 22 (HN), a very surprising date. The 90 Black-bellied Plovers at Leadbetter Pt., June 8 (HN, CS) and the 1000 at Mud Bay near White Rock, B.C., on June 22 (MSc *et al.*) are surprisingly large counts for June; as many as 2000 were present at Mud Bay in July, while on Aug. 11, 5000 were counted there (MSc). Surfbirds were back in the Region by early July, evidenced by up to 38 at Victoria from July 6-27 (VG *et al.*). On July 11 there were 67 Surfbirds

Volume 28, Number 5 939



Bar-tailed Godwit, Leadbetter Point, Willapa Bay, Wash., June 8, 1974. Photo / Harry B. Nehls.

at Mitlenatch I. (MSh). A count of 25 Ruddy Turnstones at Ocean Shores July 27 (G & WH) was a large concentration for this Region. Two Black Turnstones were seen there on the unusual date of June 29 (DP, DPa, *fide* PM). Two young Com. Snipe at Saanich June 29 gave evidence of the first successful breeding of that species in the Victoria region (VG). The number of June records of Whimbrel, which is not known to nest in the Region, is puzzling; on June 8 there were 38 at Leadbetter Pt. (HN, CS); June 15 there were two at Sea I., s. of Vancouver (BK, *fide* WW); June 22 two were at the s. jetty of the Columbia (HN); June 23 there were 16 at Ocean Shores (G & WH), where 8 were found June 29 (DPa, DP, *fide* PM); on that date two birds were at Saanich (VG, RS) and six were at Crescent Beach, B.C. (BK, *fide* WW). By July Whimbrels were widely present at Oregon coastal points. A Solitary Sandpiper was seen at Vancouver July 31 (BK, *fide* WW). The latest Wandering Tattler was one at Cannon Beach, June 10 (JB, HN); a few had returned to the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca by mid-July. For the third consecutive year, a Willet was at Crescent Beach; this bird was seen first June 22 and was still present at the end of the period (MSc *et al.*). A Willet was also recorded at Yaquina Bay, Lincoln Co., Oreg. July 31 (CW, *fide* HN). Greater Yellowlegs, like Whimbrels, were uncommonly present in the s. half of the Region during June, with five at Leadbetter Pt., June 8 (HN, CS), 22 at Crescent Beach, B.C., June 22 (MSc), two at Ocean Shores June 23 (G & WH), one at Victoria (RS, *fide* VG) and three at

Westham I., s. of Vancouver, June 27 (BK, *fide* WW), and single birds at Ocean Shores (DPa, DP, *fide* PM) and at Duncan, B.C. (JCo) on June 29; by July, Greater Yellowlegs were at many of these same locations and were also on the Oregon coast and in the Willamette Valley. An early Lesser Yellowlegs was at Iona I., June 29 (BK, *fide* WW), but it was not until the last week in July that this species was seen in a few other localities. On June 8 there were 18 Red Knots and one Pectoral Sandpiper at Leadbetter Pt. (HN, CS); a Red Knot was at Ocean Shores July 27 (G & WH), and a few Pectoral Sandpipers appeared the last week of July at locations just s. of Vancouver and at Victoria. On July 30 at Iona I., Bruce MacDonald had a careful look from 75-100 feet with binoculars and scope for about two minutes at a subsequently well-described **White-rumped Sandpiper** (*fide* WW); the record is, we believe, the first of this species for the Region. On July 29, five Baird's Sandpipers were found at Iona I., where two days later ten individuals were counted (BM, *fide* WW). Two Least Sandpipers were at the Samish Flats near Bellingham June 20 (NL, *fide* TW) and two were at Ocean Shores June 23 (G & WH); the last few days of June brought a trickle of returning migrants and by the latter half of July, Least Sandpipers were well represented at favored localities through much of the s. portion of the Region. Dunlin were present during June and July at five different places in the Region, eight being the maximum except for a flock of 50 at Leadbetter Pt. June 8 (HN, CS) which probably were northbound still. Short-billed Dowitchers were represented in June by 70 birds at Leadbetter Pt. June 8 (HN, CS), by one at Iona I., June 15 (BK, *fide* WW) and by 200 birds at Ocean Shores June 29 (DPa, DP, *fide* PM); July records for this species were seven at Victoria July 1 (where the species was consistently found thereafter, 18 on July 19 being the maximum), twelve at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., July 20 (HN) and 30 at Iona I., July 25 (WW). Records of Long-billed Dowitchers before mid-July consisted of one at Saanich June 1-2, six at Reifel Refuge June 15, one at Victoria June 29, two at Saanich the next day, and 13 there July 7; thereafter, small groups appeared at five favored localities, all in the Vancouver-Victoria area except for Baskett Slough N.W.R. near Salem, where two birds were present July 29. Semipalmated Sandpipers were recorded four times at Iona I. Single birds being present there June 22 & 30 (BK, *fide* WW), and two birds being found there July 19 & 30 (BM, *fide* WW); elsewhere, individual Semipalmated Sandpipers were noted at Victoria, July 2 (ARD, *fide* VG), at Mitlenatch I., July 18 (MSh, *fide* WW), and at Seattle July 23 (KB, *fide* PM). Western Sandpipers were widely present and in increasingly large numbers after the third week in June. An unprecedentedly early Buff-breasted Sandpiper was noted at Saanich July 22 (RF, *fide* VG). Single Marbled Godwits were at Crescent Beach, B.C., June 28 (W & HHe, *fide* MSc), again July 8 (MSc), and at Ocean Shores July 19 (JM); a number were at Leadbetter Pt., June 8 (HN, CS) in company with six **Bar-tailed Godwits** which were carefully studied and photographed; photographs to Photoduplicate File at Laurel, Md. On July 2, a single Bar-tailed Godwit was seen and photographed at Neah Bay, Wash., by Douglas E. Wood who was accompanied by two other persons; photos to Zoology Dept. at the Univ. of Washington. These records of the Bar-tailed Godwit are the second and third for the State of Washington and are the fourth and fifth for the Region. A rare Hudsonian Godwit was seen at Crescent Beach June 22 (MSc *et al.*) and again June 28 (HA, *fide* TW) and June 29 (B K, *fide* WW). A female Ruff was present at Reifel Ref. June 26-28 (ND, BK, GAP, WW) and was photographed; it is the fourth Regional record of this species in the past three years. An Am. Avocet appeared at Kent, Wash., June 7 (GM, *fide* PM). A Red Phalarope was also seen and photographed at Reifel Ref. June 23 (ND, *fide* WW);

940 *American Birds*, October, 1974

thousands of Red Phalaropes were found at sea off Newport July 21 (MS *et al.*) in company with large numbers of N. Phalaropes. Six individual Wilson's Phalaropes were found June 12-15 at Reifel Ref., Iona I., and Westham I. (V & MG, WW); four of these birds were at Iona I., July 31 (BM, *fide* WW). A N. Phalarope was observed at Finley N.W.R., June 7 (FZ); on July 24 there were 600 of this species at San Juan I., in Puget Sound (LB, *fide* TW).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS -- All three species of jaegers were seen at sea 25 mi. from Newport July 21--four or five Pomarines, "lots" of Parasitics, and three Long-taileds--along with three Skuas (WE, DM, FR, MS). A second year Glaucous Gull was seen and closely approached at Newport on the unusual date of July 21 (WE, FR). The breeding bird surveys of Chain and Mandarte Is. turned up 1794 Glaucous-winged Gull nests containing 4360 eggs and no young at the former locality June 11-12, and 978 nests with 2033 eggs and 476 young on June 25 at the latter place; a nearby islet held 71 more nests with 115 eggs and 40 young (B.C. Prov. Museum, *fide* VG). The Swinomish, Wash., colony was down by half this year, but the Protection I. colony produced normally (TW). A Herring Gull was seen at Lightning L., Manning P.P. June 25 (V & MG). Flocks of imm. California Gulls began to appear in the Region from the east by mid-June, with numbers increasing still at coastal points and in the Puget Sound-Willamette Valley trough by the end of the report period. Ring-billed Gulls seem to follow the same post-breeding route, but in much fewer numbers. Considerable numbers of Mew Gulls are said to have been present at Vancouver and environs in June, with numbers decreasing in July, which is when they became commonly seen at Victoria. First year Franklin's Gulls were seen at Iona I. and at the Ladner, B.C. sewage pond July 27 (TW); possibly the same bird had been seen at Iona I. three days earlier (BM, *fide* WW). A few Bonaparte's Gulls were noted at Fern Ridge Res. in June (LN); 45 were at Boundary Bay June 12 and 35 were at Iona I. the next day (V & MG); alone imm. was seen at Victoria June 1 (RS, *fide* VG). Migrant Bonaparte's Gulls were arriving at Bellingham by mid- July (TW) and 100, mostly adults, were seen at Yaquina Bay July 31 (CW, *fide* HN). As many as 200 Heermann's Gulls had drifted n. to Ocean Shores by June 23, where there were 2000 on July 17 (JM); on July 20 at Saanich, 50 individuals were counted (RS, *fide* VG). Up to ten Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen at the Columbia R. mouth, at Ocean Shores, and at Victoria, mostly in June, except for two sightings in July at the first two places named. A Sabine's Gull was recorded at Mitlenatch I., June 11 (MSh, *fide* WW); "many" were found at sea from Newport, July 21 (FR, MS *et al.*). Common Terns were seen at Ocean Shores June 26 (G & WH), but it was not until the last week of July, that up to 30 of these birds were seen there and at Blaine, Saanich, Victoria and Newport. Caspian Terns seem to have occurred more widely in the Region than ever before; they were repeatedly seen in n. Puget Sound, and in the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca, as well as at coastal points in the s. portion of the Region throughout June and July. Approximately 400 nests of the Pigeon Guillemot were counted on Mandarte I, June 25 (B.C. Prov. Museum, *fide* VG); another interesting nesting observation involving this species was the three nests discovered in cliffs at Stanley Park in downtown Vancouver (WW). On July 13, 58 Marbled Murrelets were observed at Mitlenatch I. (MSh, *fide* WW). An Ancient Murrelet was identified in the ocean just off-shore from Strawberry Pt., n. of Florence, Oreg. July 24 (DG, *fide* LM). Five Cassin's Auklets were mist-netted June 12 at Tatoosh I., Wash. (DPa, DP, *fide* PM); five others were seen at Neah Bay, July 14 (JW, *fide* PM). Rhinoceros Auklets were commonly seen throughout the report period at Ocean Shores where 300 on June 2 (JM) was the maximum; the species was also common around s. Vancouver I. during the period (VG). Between 40 and 50 Tufted Puffins were observed at Pt. Grenville, Wash., June 26 (G & WH).

OWLS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS -- On Aug. 10 the presence of a pair of **Barred Owls**, reported as early as April 24 by Tim Reickert, was confirmed at Bacus Hill, Skagit Co, Wash., when several observer succeeded in calling the birds by use of a tape-recording into view for positive identification (JD, NL, TW); we have published two records for British Columbia in the last five years for this species, and have not published three other reports for the Province because they lacked detail. The present record is, we believe, the first for the State of Washington. A pair of Spotted Owls was confirmed to be along the Nestucca R., Tillamook Co., Oreg., when observed July 28 by a number of capable observers (WE, FR, WT). Five Long-eared Owls were found n.e. of Medford July 4 (PT, *fide* AC). A Short-eared Owl was seen at Sea I., s. of Vancouver June 13 (VG), and two were seen there July 30 (JT, *fide* WW). Single Saw-whet Owls were found

June 2 at Finley N.W.R. (WE, FR, *fide* FZ) and June 30 at Saanich (RWC, *fide* VG). A breeding bird survey at Squamish, B.C., turned up 229 Black Swifts (GAP, *fide* WW); up to 100 of these birds were present throughout the breeding season at Duncan (JCo); 50 were at Seattle June 5 (KB *et al.*, *fide* PM), and lesser numbers were seen in June at several locations s. of Vancouver (WW). Twenty Black Swifts were at Camano I., Wash., on June 12 in heavy overcast (PM, JW). Vaux's Swifts were well reported through most of the s. portion of the Region. A Black-chinned Hummingbird was seen at Strike L., Manning P.P., July 10 (RS, *fide* VG). A **female** Anna's Hummingbird spent the report period at Eugene (LM) and a male spent the entire period at Saanich (V & MG). Two other sightings were made, June 5 & July 18, at other locations in Saanich of male birds (RM-G, ARD, *fide* VG). A male was seen repeatedly and a female occasionally at Vancouver (PW, *fide* WW), suggesting the possibility of a mated pair. A **male** Allen's Hummingbird was regularly seen during June and July at Phoenix, Jackson Co., Oreg., (PT, *fide* AC). Belted Kingfishers are generally regarded as of regular occurrence in Oregon, but in favorable habitat they can be actually abundant, as a survey along Oregon's lower Luckiamute R., a tributary of the Willamette, made

Volume 28, Number 5 941

July 27 demonstrates; 38 pairs were found (JJ, *fide* FR). A report of a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers nesting in a Wood Duck box at Sutton L., near Florence, Oreg. this season is of interest (*fide* AC). A **female** Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was found at Lightning L., Manning P.P., July 11 (RS, *fide* VG), where on June 14 a female N. Three-toed Woodpecker had been seen (V & MG); females of the latter species were seen in Manning P.P. July 7 & 12 also (RS, *fide* VG). A nest of the N. Three-toed Woodpecker was discovered 25 feet above ground in a snag 4 mi. w. of Rainy Pass on the N. Cascades Highway July 1 (WW).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, PARIDAE, WRENS -- Individual E. Kingbirds were seen at Wedderburn, Curry Co., Oreg. June 23 (JO), at Reed I. in the Columbia R. near Troutdale, Oreg. June 15 (MS, OS) and at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., June 14 (TL); one was in Manning P.P. June 13 and three were seen there June 16 (V & MG). Up to six E. Kingbirds summered at Pitt Meadows e. of Vancouver and on June 15 one was seen at Iona I. (WW, BK). Single W. Kingbirds were seen at Finley N.W.R. (FZ) and at Manning P.P. (V & MG) both June 13, at Alberni, B.C. June 20 (RM-G, *fide* VG), and at Saanich on July 10 (V & MG); one was at Mitlenatch I., B.C., May 27-30 (MSh, *fide* WW). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was seen at Eugene in early June (WE, LM, FR). A Black Phoebe was found at Wedderburn, June 23 (JO); a nest of this species was discovered near Rogue River City in the Medford area (*fide* OS). Hammond's Flycatchers -- rare on Vancouver I.--were recorded there June 23 with four at Thetis L. and two at Goldstream Park (WW) near Victoria. Violet-green Swallows were present at Duncan in only 15 per cent of their 1973 breeding season numbers -- down to 42 from 628 (JCo). A pair of Barn Swallows was found nesting at the Mt. Baker, Wash., ski area at over 5000 ft. elevation July 28, with ten feet of snow still on the ground. At Fern Ridge Res., 33 pairs of Purple Martins utilized nest boxes placed there for the purpose while about 20 pairs used natural cavities to fledge 154 young (TL); up to three pairs were induced to use nest boxes at two other locations in w. Oregon (TL). Martins were recorded along the lower Columbia near Goble, Oreg. and at Clatsop Spit, at Corvallis, and at Saanich during the period. A Boreal Chickadee was found at Poland L. Ridge, Manning P.P., July 13 (RS, *fide* VG). Bushtits were noted as having become extremely plentiful at Duncan by the end of July (JCo). Four Wrentits mist-netted at Eugene during the season all had brood patches (DPy, *fide* LM). Out-of-the-ordinary records of House Wrens this season were one near Campbell Big Tree Grove in n. e. Grays Harbor Co., Wash., June 9-10 (JM), one at Portland July 4 (JO), and one at Mitlenatch I. July 17 (MSh, *fide* WW).

MIMIDS THROUGH WARBLERS -- A Mockingbird was discovered along Rt. I-5, 3 mi. n. of Woodburn, Oreg. June 8 (JW, *fide* PM); one was seen in Victoria July 5 & 8 (ARD, V & MG). A Gray Catbird was heard singing near Jericho Beach in Vancouver June 16 (WW). A Hermit Thrush was seen at Tillamook July 20 (RFi, *et al.*). Swainson's Thrushes proved to be the most common bird along the Columbia R. bottoms on the Oregon side in a June survey conducted from 30 mi e of Portland to Astoria (OS, MS). A **Veery** was heard singing along the Skeena R. 40 miles w. of Terrace, B.C., June 30; the locality is 140 miles n.w. of the known breeding range (WW). A singing Townsend's Solitaire at the 3000ft. level of Mary's Peak in the Coast Range w. of Corvallis June 1 was a very unusual find; another on c. Oregon's Mt. Washington at the 7000-ft. level July 28 (JO) was also noteworthy. A nest containing five eggs of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found June 3 at Roxy Ann Butte near Medford, the northernmost western outpost regularly inhabited by this species (HN). Three pairs of Red-eyed Vireos frequented Eugene's Jasper Park in June and July (LM *et al.*). A count of 28 Warbling Vireos on the Squamish, B.C., B.B.S. June 8 (GAP, *fide* WW) was a high one-day count for anywhere in the Region. A good description of two Tennessee Warblers seen in Manning P.P. July 9 was furnished (RS, *fide* VG). Nashville Warblers were found at Newhalem, Wash, June 12 (TW), at Corvallis June 15 (FZ), and at Roxy Ann Butte near Medford at 3200ft. June 28 (OS). A count of 33 Yellow Warblers on the June 8 B.B.S. at Squamish, B.C., (GAP, *fide* WW) is also interestingly high. Townsend's Warblers were found to be widespread in Douglas fir stands in the lake country on the e side of Oregon's c. Cascade Mts.; individuals were also found seven mi. n. of Waldo L. on the w. side of the crest (LM, RFI *et al.*). On June 13 at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Tom Lund discovered a **female Black-throated Green Warbler** in a clump of willows; the next day he observed the same and another differently-patterned female of the same species at the same locality. There can be little doubt about the validity of the sighting since close and prolonged study at distance as little as five feet was possible; the sighting is, we believe, a first of this species for our Region. A Hermit Warbler was observed at Tacoma, June 1 (JW, PM); single individuals were found at Rainier N.P. June 21 & July 12 (RT, *fide* PM); and on Hurricane Ridge in Olympic N.P. July 13 (JW, *fide* PM). A **Palm Warbler** singing at Jasper Park in Eugene, July 25 & 26 (DG, CJ, LM) is the first Regional record in the breeding season report period. A N. Waterthrush was heard singing in a small swamp at Lakelse L. near Terrace, B.C., June 30 (WW). A count of 34 MacGillivray's Warblers on the June 8 Squamish B.B.S. was a large count (GAP, *fide* WW), as were the 40 Com. Yellowthroats noted at Pitt Meadows e of Vancouver June 25 (WW). Yellow-breasted Chats were recorded at L. Sammamish S. P., Whatcom Co., Wash, June 3 & 10 and at Bellevue, Wash., June 25 (JBe, *fide* PM). A **male Hooded Warbler** was discovered July 20 at Washburn S.P. between Junction City and Monroe, Oreg. (AS), and was still present at the end of the report period; this too, is a first for the Region of which we have knowledge. This year two pairs of Am. Redstarts and an additional male were found at Davis L. in Oregon's c. Cascades; a nest with young was found in late June, and another empty but with juveniles nearby was found on July 20 (DG, CJ, LM). An Am. Redstart was also seen at Lakelse L., near Terrace, B.C., June 30 (WW).

942 *American Birds*, October, 1974

BLACKBIRDS AND SPARROWS -- An adult **male Bobolink** was observed at close range on the ocean beach three mi. s. of Cape Alava. Wash. June 8 (EP, *fide* PM); the species is rare in our Region and this record is possibly the first for w. Washington. Two pairs of Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported nesting on the Nisqually delta, near Olympia, presumably in June (*fide* PM); a single male was at Sea I., June 13 (V & MG). Northern Orioles were recorded in good numbers on B.B.S.'s in the Medford area this year, with a total of 53 individuals on one route (OS); individuals were seen at a good number of places in the s. Willamette Valley, and a few were recorded in the environs of both Victoria and Vancouver during the report period. At Lakelse L. 15 Rusty Blackbirds including fledglings were counted on June 30 (WW). On June 2 there were 45 Brown-headed

Cowbirds at Mitlenatch I. (MSh, *fide* WW). Several Lazuli Buntings nested along n. Washington's Skagit R. during the period, with a bird at Minkler L., e. of Sedro Woolley being farther west than any individual previously seen in that part of the state (TW). Lazuli Buntings were to be found perhaps more widely than usual in the s. Willamette Valley this season (LN). A pair of Evening Grosbeaks at a feeder in Olympia July 27 (G & WH) was unusual. Up to six Pine Grosbeaks were seen at Manning P.P. July 7-13 (RS, *fide* VG); two were at Prudhomme L., near Prince Rupert, June 30 (WW). Pine Siskins were relatively little reported during the period, though sightings in the vicinity of Victoria and of Olympia were made repeatedly of up to 60 birds at a time. Am. Goldfinches were said to be "especially numerous" at Eugene during the season; a count of 50 at Tillamook July 20 (RFi *et al.*) is high for that place any time. Five Lesser Goldfinches were seen at Vancouver, Wash., June 15 (EH). Red Crossbills seem to have occurred only in a belt from s.e. Vancouver I. eastward through Bellingham to Mt. Baker during the season; one individual was seen at Eugene, July 23 (LM). Two White-winged Crossbills were discovered in Vancouver's Stanley Park June 9 (BK, *fide* WW); 50 were seen in Manning P.P. in early August (WW). Three Green-tailed Towhees were recorded at Fish L. on the upper Umpqua R., on two occasions during the season (OS). Brewer's Sparrows were found on six dates June 25-July 15 at five different spots west of there in a small burn dating back 40 or more years; the locality is west of the Cascade crest, and although no sagebrush is present, the grass and shrubs are comparable to the bird's more usual habitat (OS). Impressively detailed notes of an observation made of a **male Chestnut-collared Longspur** in full breeding dress at Tokeland, Wash., in the early evening of July 7 have been forwarded to the editors; William Tweit recorded the notes shortly after he and Dave Hayward had completed a 15-minute observation at close hand before consulting any text; there can be no reasonable doubt of the authenticity of the record, which is a first for this Region and possibly also for the State of Washington.

OBSERVERS AND CONTRIBUTORS --- Howard Armstrong, Larry Balch, John Beaufort (JBe), John Biewinner, Ken Brunner, R. Wayne Campbell, John Comer (JCo), Alan Contreras, John B. Crowell, Jr., A.R. Davidson, Brian Davies, Nell Dawe, James Duemmel, William Elliott, Roy Fisk (RFi), Randy Floyd (RFi), Ralph Fryer, Dan Gleason, Vic & Margaret Goodwill, Herb Hamann, Bob Hay, Werner & Hilda Hesse (W & HHe), Glen & Wandy Hoge, Eugene Hunn, Jan Janosik, Chip Jobanek, Brian Kautesk, Norman Lavers, Tom Lund, Bruce MacDonald, R. Mackenzie-Grieve, David Manuwal, Phil Mattocks, Chris Maser, Greg McDonald, Larry McQueen, James Morris, Harry Nehls, Lars Norgren, James Olson, Dennis Paulson (DPa), Donald Payne (DPy), David Pearson, Evelyn Peaslee, G. A. Poynter, Fred Ramsey, Ran Satterfield, Madelon Schouten (MSc), Floyd Schrock, Michael Scott, Michael Shepard (MSh), Aaron Skirvin, Chas. Smith, Otis Swisher, William Thackaberry, Philip Thomas, John Tootchin, Ran Toonen, Terry Wahl, Peter Ward, Clarice Watson, Wayne Weber, Steve Wilson, John Wingfield, Fred Zeilemaker.

End 1974

1975

Autumn Migration, 1974

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN -INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers.

[Regional boundaries changed; current map below-AC].



With few exceptions the fall season was very pleasant, with temperatures normal or above and very little precipitation. A striking deviation from this was August at Helena, the coldest on record and very wet, with 4.23.in. (normal, 0.98 in.) of rain. Southern interior British Columbia leaned toward the wet side with infrequent heavy showers. November departed from the pattern only in parts of e. Washington, with Walla Walla, Spokane and Colville distinctly wetter than usual but still mild. Practically no snow had fallen except in the mountains and water was mostly unfrozen even at the end of the month. By that time most of the migration was over. The general conclusion of many observers was that the pleasant fall had delayed southward departures of many species, producing some all-time late records and kept many northern and mountain species in summer habitat. A fairly good number of displaced species was encountered, particularly among the warblers, with no apparent explanation. The shorebird movement in the Pasco-Richland area was termed "fantastic" but was poor for observers in the Spokane area because of high water levels despite the autumn drought. Several area editors reported an uninteresting season with few concentrations or waves, in fact, few birds around from day to day..

LOONS, GREBES -- Common Loon reached a peak of 20 on Helena Valley Res. Nov. 2 and single birds on the Kootenai R. at Bonners Ferry, Ida., Nov. 25 and Rupert, Ida. Nov. 29 were rather late. An **Arctic Loon** was accidentally shot by a hunter at Crane Prairie, s.w. Deschutes Co., Ore. Nov. 2 (SE) and two were on Blue L., Grant Co., Wash. Nov. 24 (JA & WH). A Red-throated Loon was reported at Warm L., in the Nampa, Ida. area Aug. 6. A Horned Grebe on Phillips Res. west of Baker, Ore. Nov. 20 was considered unusual. Two ad. Pied-billed Grebes found near Baker Aug. 8 were accompanied by five chicks still in the downy stage.

PELICANS, CORMORANTS- White Pelicans stayed as late as Oct. 5 in the Nampa area. Peak numbers at Malheur N.W.R. in October were 900, with 125 on L. Helena Aug. 31 and 98 at Cold Springs N.W.R. Umatilla Co., Ore. Sept. 22. A Brown Pelican was found at Boise enjoying a swimming pool and food thrown to it, became ill and was treated for worms, then shipped off to s. California. Circumstances strongly suggest an escaped bird. The largest concentration of Double-crested Cormorants was reported from Helena Valley Res. Sept. 7, and the latest, four at Rupert Nov. 29, and 50 in the Nampa area Nov. 30.

Volume 29, Number 1 89

EGRETS THROUGH IBIS -- A **Cattle Egret** on the lake shore at Salmon Arm, B.C. Nov. 22 was the first for s. interior British Columbia and one or two were seen on three dates in September near Malheur N.W.R. (LDN). A single Great Egret was noted in the Nampa area Aug. 28. At Malheur N.W.R. it was last seen Nov. 18 about three weeks later than last year. Six Black-crowned Night Herons lingered near Nampa to Nov. 30. The Am. Bittern was seen as late as mid-November at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida. Twenty-eight White-faced Ibis, the only ones reported, were at Rupert Aug. 14.

WATERFOWL -- A single **Mute Swan** appeared on the Canyon Ferry Res. near Helena Aug. 18 (SM). Canada Geese numbers were building up during October and November. The biggest concentration was some 30,000 at Stratford, Grant Co., Wash. Oct. 14. Deer Flat N.W.R. near Nampa had 9000 at the end of November, and Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., had a peak of 6000 during that month. Malheur N.W.R. peaked at 5500, something over half that of last year, around Nov. 1. The only Cackling Goose reported was one at Reardon, Wash. Nov. 14 (JA). A flock of 30 Canada, Snow, and White-fronted Geese circled low over mountain hemlock forest at 6500 ft. elevation in Crater Lake N.P., seemingly lost in fog the morning of Oct. 20, and eight Snow Geese actually landed in a clearing. Turnbull N.W.R. near Cheney, Wash. Had five Ross' Geese Nov. 1 and the species was reported at Upper Klamath N.W.R. Nov. 2 (KZ). A White-fronted Goose was with the Canada's at Stratford Oct. 12 (JA), and the species was reported for Bend, Ore. Oct. 11 (KZ). At Malheur N.W.R. ducks peaked at 58,000 in mid-September, declined to 26,000 in October and spurted to 46,000 in mid-October, thereafter dwindling to 10,000. Gadwall and Pintail at over 15,000 were the most numerous ducks there, followed by Mallard and Am. Wigeon at over 10,000 each. Canvasback showed a slight rise over 1973, with 625 this fall, but far below the 15-30,000 reached in 1970-72. At Columbia N.W.R. waterfowl buildup was nearly identical to last year's, with ducks reaching a high of over 38,000 in November. Owing to the mild weather, the birds were still widely scattered over the Columbia Basin. At Turnbull N.W.R. Mallards and Am. Wigeon were the most abundant, peaking in November at 8000 and over 4000 respectively. Canvasback peaked at 335 there in early December and 950 Com. Goldeneye was there at that time. At Kootenai N.W.R. Mallards reached 28,000 in mid-November and the Nampa-Deer Flat N.W.R. area had a tremendous 428,000. Pintail reached 4200 there at November's end. Peaks for the commoner ducks at Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida., were Mallard, 13,500; Canvasback, 7700; Ruddy Duck, 7400; Lesser

Scaup, 5200; Pintail, 3500; N. Shoveler, 3000; Gadwall, 2000; Com. Merganser, 1600; and Bufflehead, 1400. Twenty-eight pairs of Wood Ducks plus one female were on the Portneuf R. south of Pocatello, Ida. Oct. 19. Four Oldsquaws were reported on the Madison R. in s. c. Montana Nov. 2 (RLE) and a mature male was observed at Kootenai N.W.R. Dec. 2 (DP). One appeared near Trumbo Res. near Malheur N.W.R. Nov. 2 (BH). A White-winged Scoter showed up in a hunter's bag at Minidoka N.W.R. Oct. 26 (JH). Five were at Medical L., Spokane Co., Wash. on the early date of Oct. 4 and two were at Reardon Oct. 8-19. Two Surf Scoters were at Medical L. Oct. 4-12 (JA & WH).

HAWKS -- In the Baker area eight Turkey Vultures were sighted Aug. 18, with 16 on Aug. 23 and 29 on Sept. 16. They were described as abundant in c. Oregon Sept. 2 and a group of eight at Turnbull N.W.R. Aug. 8 was noteworthy. A Goshawk observed in mid-November at Fortine, where the species is now rare, and one at the Yakima Indian Reservation Nov. 30 were the only two sightings. Only five localities reported Cooper's Hawks. At Jefferson City, Mont., in late August two were killed when they hit a picture window (VY). Forty Rough-legged Hawks were counted on the Yakima Indian Reservation Nov. 30 and Malheur N.W.R. estimated the November population at 150 or more. To the east Baker reported 20 in the Haines-Rock Creek area Nov. 29, and Rupert, Ida. had 63 sighted during that month. They were common at Kootenai N.W.R. A few were reported in w. Montana and one at Vernon, B.C. Three rather late Ferruginous Hawks were found in the Pasco-Prosser, Wash. area Sept. 24 (AD & JD) and a light phase bird was seen Aug. 6 over fields near Spokane (JR). Single sightings were made in the Nampa area Sept. 11 and at Wilsall, Mont. Aug. 29 (ETH & RAH). The annual Bald Eagle conclave at the w. end of Glacier N.P. reached at peak of 359 on Nov. 15, of which 250 were adults. Coeur d'Alene L., which is always a gathering place, yielded 16 adults and two immatures Dec. 8. An Osprey was at Kalamalka L., just south of Vernon, on the late date of Nov. 10 (SS). Prairie Falcon numbers appeared quite good and four sightings of Peregrine Falcons and one of Gyrfalcon were reported. A few Merlins appeared, mostly in October and November.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- An adult and five young Spruce Grouse were seen in Eagle Cap Wilderness, e. of Joseph, Wallowa Co., Ore. Aug. 15, and three fully grown birds were found Sept. 29 in Kaniksu Nat'l Forest, about 10 mi. n.e. of Bonners Ferry, Ida. Up to a dozen Sharp-tailed Grouse and 25 Sage Grouse were reported from the Nampa area. Single Bobwhites were found in that area and in Oneida County, Ida. (MRC).

CRANES, RAILS, COOT -- Sandhill Cranes were migrating from Aug. 3 on. About 150 flew over the Pasco, Wash. area Oct. 4 & 13, and three adults and one immature were still in that vicinity on the late date of Nov. 10 (REW). November 23 was a record late date for the two seen with cattle near Manhattan, Mont. (CJ, *fide* HNM). Virginia Rails were found only at Reardon one or two Aug. 17 & 21. American Coot with young still in the red-headed stage were seen at Baker Aug. 8, and a tremendous 20,000 were estimated on Alkali L., Grant Co., Wash. Nov. 24 (JA).

SHOREBIRDS -- One Semipalmated Plover was at Reardon Sept. 15 and the birds were seen at Richland

Aug 30-Sept. 28, maximum 7. One seen Aug. 4 at Fortine made the sixth record in 53 years' observing (WW). American Golden Plover were seen mostly in one area but in surprising numbers. They appeared first at Cold Springs N.W.R., Umatilla Co., Ore. Sept. 22 and built up to ten Oct. 5 (CC, MC & REW). At Richland, Wash. nine were present Sept. 29 and one was still at the Yakima R. delta Nov. 26 (REW). A single bird was at Reardon Sept. 28 (JA). The Richland-Cold Springs area hit the jackpot on Black-bellied Plover also for from one to 13 appeared Sept. 21-Oct. 20 in those areas (REW). Elsewhere the birds were seen only near Potholes Res., Grant Co., Wash, one Sept. 11 (JA) and near Baker, Aug. 8, one, Ann Ward's first for the area. An Upland Sandpiper at Fortine, Mont. Aug. 5 was only the third record there in 53 years' observing (WW). A very late Pectoral Sandpiper was seen at the Yakima R delta Nov. 16; maximum number in that area was 23 on Sept. 25 (REW). Least Sandpipers also lingered late at the Yakima delta, seven being seen Dec. 7, along with eight Dunlin. The latter reached a peak of 46 there Nov 24 (REW). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was identified at Fortine Aug. 18 and flocks of 7 and 23 observed closely near Ronan, Mont. Sept. 14 were believed to be this species (WW). One was identified Sept. 22 at Cold Springs N.W.R. feeding alone but near a flock of Long-billed Dowitchers (CC, MC & REW). A maximum of about 200 of the latter was seen Oct. 19 at the Yakima delta. Richland and Baker had their first local records for the Stilt Sandpiper. At the former locality, 1-3 were seen Sept. 2-25 (CC, MC & REW; EM) and one was at Baker Aug. 24 (AW). Three were at Reardon Aug 18 (JA). The species was seen near Bozeman Aug. 17 and Sept. 2 (PDS). The only Sanderling reported were at the Yakima delta, with five the greatest number. (REW). A **Red Phalarope** nearly in winter plumage was seen at Reardon Aug. 17 (WH).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS -- A **Parasitic Jaeger** was identified near Bozeman Sept. 28 (PDS) and another was seen at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. Oct. 14. (JS) A Herring Gull in first winter plumage was found on the Wenatchee R. near Cashmere Nov. 26 (PC & .WD). Four were on the Snake R. near Asotin, Wash. Aug 19 and two were seen on the Clearwater R. in Idaho Sept. 18 (MJP). One appeared on Am. Falls Res. Nov 2 (MRC). Fourteen fed at the Coeur d'Alene city dump Nov. 24 (SS). A Glaucous Gull appeared at Banks L., Grant Co., Wash. for the second consecutive fall Nov. 24 (JA & WH), and Glaucous-winged Gulls which have become quite regular at Yakima Delta, first appeared there Nov. 9 and ten were at Umatilla Nov. 23. A Sabine's Gull on the Yakima R. near Richland made only the second local record there (EM). A late Forster's Tern was seen near Pateros, Wash. Sept. 15. (KB) and up to six were found in the Nampa area Aug. 7-Sept. 11. A Com. Tern put in an appearance near Baker Aug. 6 (AW) and five young and four adults of the species appeared west of Potholes Res. Sept. 11 (JA). Single Caspian Terns were in the Nampa area in August and Sunriver, Ore. had one Nov. 18 (JB).

OWLS -- Barn Owls again appeared, one at Moxee City, Wash. Sept. 21 (EH & AWa) and two at nearby Yakima three days later. The only Snowy Owl of the season appeared Nov. 24 near Odessa, Wash. (WH). Four Burrowing Owls were recorded in the Nampa area Aug. 4, and two were near Royal L., Columbia N.W.R. Nov. 18 and a group of 11 was seen on Saddle Mt. Ref west of Othello, Wash. Aug. 9. A Barred Owl was observed at about the 2500 ft. level at Kootenai N.W.R. Nov. 26 and a dead one was hung on Jim Grant's doorknob at Vernon, B.C. by persons unknown Nov. 23. A photograph was secured of a Great Gray Owl Nov. 8 at Aspen Grove near Merritt, B.C. (CH) and several were heard calling Oct. 11-13 at Crane Prairie Res. west of La Pine, Ore. (LN). Another was seen south of La Pine, Nov. 26 (PH).

POOR-WILLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS -- A road-killed Poor-will was picked up at Swan L. near Vernon, B.C. Aug. 30 (PP) and was the only one reported. October 11 was a late date for the Com. Nighthawk at Bozeman (LM) but one over Pocatello, Nov. 13 was really surprising (MRC). Black Swifts

appeared only at Mosier, Ore. Sept. 13 (FBH). A thousand or more Vaux's Swifts were watched Aug. 18 as they entered an old ice house chimney at dusk near Klickitat, Wash. Three White-throated Swifts were reported at Warm L. near Nampa Sept. 13 and several were seen over Cashmere, Wash. Sept. 9 (WD). Two hummingbirds (Anna's?) were still visiting a feeder at Yakima Nov. 15 (FB).

WOODPECKERS -- Three Lewis' Woodpeckers at Long L. Dam downriver from Spokane Oct. 27 were distinctly late. Single Williamson's Sapsuckers were found along the Yakima-Naches highway Aug. 1 and at Cold Springs N.W.R. Sept. 7 (CC & NC). The White-headed Woodpecker was seen at three localities in the mountains of the Bend, Ore. area (KZ). The N. Three-toed Woodpecker rewarded observers in no less than five localities: Trinity Valley n.e. of Vernon, B.C., south of Crescent L., extreme n.e. Klamath Co., and in the Indian Rock area near Bates, Ore., and in the Blue Mts. n. of Enterprise, all in Oregon, and in the Salmon R. area of extreme n.e. Pend Oreille Co., Wash.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS -- At Phillips L. west of Baker young birds of both Willow Flycatcher and W. Wood Pewee were still in the nest Aug. 14. Tree Swallows lingered along the Bear R. north of Preston, Ida. until Nov. 26. A massive gathering of about 4500 Bank and 2600 Barn Swallows gave birders of the Nampa area a treat Oct. 7. Three Cliff Swallows were seen at Rupert on the astounding date of Nov. 29 (WHS).

CROWS THROUGH CHICKADEES -- Common Crow numbers burgeoned at some w. localities of the Region. From late August until mid-September flocks totaling 200-300 were seen in the Vernon area heading for roosting sites. Near Baker their numbers reached 800 Sept. 25 but by Oct. 14 only one was seen. Kootenai N.W.R. had up to 300. A few Boreal Chickadees were seen at Salmo Pass, n.e. Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (JA, WH) and in Banff N.P. (SJ).

CREEPERS THROUGH WRENS -- In the Pocatello area in November groups of Brown Creepers were

Volume 29, Number 1 91.

seen repeatedly, appearing to be heading for a social roost. What was believed to be a Wrentit was seen at Baker Sept. 30 (AS). Single Bewick's Wrens were sighted in the Wapato-Parker vicinity, Wash., and one was found Oct. 11 at Sunriver, Ore.

MIMIC THRUSHES, THRUSHES -- A Mockingbird was reported in the Nampa area Nov. 28. Western Bluebirds were noted at five widely scattered localities in Idaho and Washington, with the highest number 37 at Nampa Oct. 11. Mountain Bluebird numbers looked good, being reported from 14 localities well-scattered through the Region. Impressive migrating groups were: Peola, Wash. 150 Oct. 6; Rupert, Ida. 118 Sept. 11, and Gray's Lake N.W.R., s.e. Idaho over 50.

KINGLET'S THROUGH WAXWINGS – Golden-crowned Kinglets were appearing in the lowlands even as far from the mountains as Richland. Bohemian Waxwings had appeared only in small numbers and had not yet reached some wintering areas. Their favorite food, mountain ash berries, was scarce in some localities.

WARBLERS -- A Black-and-white Warbler was positively identified Sept. 2 at Vernon, where it is very rare (KG), and a Tennessee Warbler was observed carefully at Bozeman Aug. 30 (HC, SC, ETH, RAH). An Orange-crowned Warbler at Rupert Nov. 29 was apparently the second latest record for Idaho (WHS) and near Richland two were seen Nov. 9 (CC, MC, EM, REW) and three Nov. 15 (EM). Two Nashville Warblers at Spokane Oct. 12 set a record late date there. A warbler carefully checked at Baker Nov. 13 could have been none other than a Magnolia (AW). Three Black-throated Gray Warblers in the Nampa area Oct. 12 were the only ones reported except for one near Wenatchee Sept. 30, apparently the first record there (PC). Hermit Warblers were seen in the mountains around Odell L. in extreme n.w. Klamath Co., Ore. in August and September (KZ). A Wilson's Warbler in Richland Nov. 17 apparently furnished a record late date (REW).

BLACKBIRDS -- A Bobolink was at Harrison L., Harrison, Mont. on the record late date of Oct. 12 (HC, ETH, RAH, PDS) and another was found Sept. 8 just west of Spokane, where the species is almost never seen in autumn migration (WH). In the Nampa area Nov. 30 Brewer's Blackbirds totaling over 2200 were seen.

FINCHES -- A Lazuli Bunting at Spokane Sept. 15 apparently provided the latest record ever for the locality. (THR). Hand had the impression that Cassin's Finches have become much less common at Missoula since House Finches became established there. The former species was abundant in Crater Lake N.P., showing a significant increase over last year's numbers Pine Grosbeaks had not yet dropped into the lowlands; single birds were sighted near Mt. Rainier and in the Wenas Creek area northwest of Yakima. Gray-crowned Rosy Finches had appeared only at Blue L., Grant Co., Wash.; about 25 on Nov. 24. The only Com. Redpoll report was of a flock of some 300 at Mara L. in the Okanagan of British Columbia Nov. 16. Pine Siskin numbers were distinctly higher than a year ago at Crater Lake N.P. Their numbers were good at Missoula and Wenatchee and appeared normal elsewhere. American Goldfinches appeared to be decidedly scarce in most localities. Red Crossbill numbers were low, with infrequent or no sightings except at Fortine and in the Spokane area. White-winged Crossbills continued the summer trend of abundance in the mountains of the Region and near La Grande, Ore. Along the Pasayten R. below Hart's Pass Sept. 1 they were the commonest bird; about 60 were seen, outnumbering the Red Crossbills two to one (AWa). A few were seen in Banff NP. at Peyton L. Viewpoint (SJ). Numbers up to 100 at a time were found in n.e. Washington and n. Idaho (JA & WH, SS) and many were singing in the Monashee Mts. 50 ml. east of Vernon (JG). The cone crop in the latter two localities was described as good to heavy.

SPARROWS -- A Green-tailed Towhee was reported at a hot spring south of American Falls, Ida. Nov. 24, a late date (CHT), and the species was seen Sept. 27 at Bobby L. 24 mi. west of La Pine, Ore., Sept. 27 (KZ). At Crater Lake N.P. the first sighting of one of these birds above the Ponderosa Pine zone in at least four years occurred Aug. 7. It was in Mountain Hemlock forest at 6500 feet. October 12 was a record early date for Tree Sparrows at Harrison, Mont. Single Clay-colored Sparrows were seen at Missoula Sept 1 (RLH) and along the Yakima R. near Ellensburg Aug. 10. Two Harris' Sparrows visited a feeder at Salmon Arm, B.C. Nov. 15 to the end of the season, and one was seen west of Haines, Ore., Nov. 29 (AW). Hundreds of Golden-crowned Sparrows were mixed in with White-crowned Sparrows Sept. 4 at Tumalo, Ore., and single birds were seen in Spokane Sept. 27 & Oct 27. The first November record of Lincoln's Sparrow in e. Washington was obtained

Nov. 8 when one was netted near Mabton (PM & RD). The second Washington record for the **Swamp Sparrow** was obtained at Sun Lakes Campground, Grant Co., Oct. 20 (DP & LP). Lapland Longspurs showed up only near Spokane and in the Okanagan of British Columbia. A single bird appeared at Vernon Nov. 29 (JG). A few Snow Buntings arrived in November, the earliest Oct. 29 on Mt. Spokane (PB). Vernon and the Reardan-Davenport area reported them and the appearance at Kootenai N.W.R. Nov. 28 was much earlier than normal.

ADDENDUM -- A female and an imm. female **Orchard Oriole** were observed at length at Curlew L. 6 mi. northeast of Republic, Wash. June 18 (HS).

CONTRIBUTORS -- (Area editors in boldface, number of observers in area, observers cited): British Columbia: **James Grant** (7), Karl Gruener, Cliff Hill, Peter Pokorny, (SS) Sue Steinke; Idaho: n. Idaho, Shirley Sturts (6); Pocatello area, **C. H. Trost** (4), Mark R. Collie; Rupert area, **W. H. Shillington** (2), John Hill, s.w. Idaho, **Belle Shaw** (24), Ted Trueblood; Montana Bozeman-Harrison area, **P. D. Skaar** (12), Helen Carlson, Sharon Cotterell, Robert L. Eng, E. T. & R. A. Hays, Cecil Johnson, Homer N. Metcalf, Jon Swenson, Fortine area, **Winton Weydemeyer**; Glacier National Park, **Roberta V. Seibel**; Helena area, **Sid Martin** (5), Vince Yannone; Missoula area, **Ralph L. Hand**.

92 *American Birds*, February, 1975.

Oregon: Baker area, Ann Ward (6), Bob Hudson, Ava Steiger; Crater Lake National Park, **James H. Holcomb**; w. central area, **Julie Johnson** (9), Jay Bowerman, Paul Herten, Katherine Zahl; LaGrande area, **Earl Bowen**; Malheur N.W.R., **Larry D. Napier**; Washington: Asotin Co., **Margaret J. Polumsky**; Columbia N.W.R., **Lowell Napier**; n. central area, **Wayne Doane** (4), Phil Cheney; n.e. area, **Mrs. S. O. Stanley** (4), James Acton, Warren Hall, Jan Reynolds; Pasco-Richland area, **Robert E. Woodley** (5), Craig and Marion Corder, Elisabeth Moore; Turnbull N.W.R., **Maurice B. Wright** (3); and Yakima Valley, **Helen Doornink** (7), Fern Brown.

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS CITED -- Pat Bergey, Ken Brunner, Ada & Jack Davis, Richard Donham, Steve Eldred, Eugene Hunn, Frances B. Huston, Stuart Johnston, Dennis J. Martin, Phil Mattocks, Louis Moos, Lars Norgren, Dennis & Lynn Paulson, Helen Stein, and (AWa) Arthur Wang.

Autumn Migration, 1974

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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



The fall of 1974 was slightly warmer and dryer than normal through October. November brought more than normal rainfall. There is, no doubt, a correlation between the extraordinary number of eastern and southern species occurring in the Region this fall and the cyclonic weather patterns which dominated the first three months of the report period, but such correlation must be attempted by someone other than the harried Regional editors. There is doubtless, too, a correlation between the exciting discoveries made this fall and the.

Volume 29, Number 1 105.

Region's growing number of birders. Details about the following occurrences appear in the account which follows: Little Blue Heron on the British Columbia-Washington border, Cattle Egret on s. Vancouver I., 100 Bald Eagles in migration at Victoria, Black-headed Gull at Victoria and in Washington, Little Gull on Vancouver I. and in Washington, Thick-billed Kingbird, of all things, on Vancouver I., Cape May Warbler in Washington, Chestnut-sided Warblers and Sharp-tailed Sparrow in s. British Columbia, and Chestnut-collared Longspur in w. Oregon.

LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS -- A Yellow-billed Loon was in breeding plumage on Puget Sound near Olympia, Wash., Oct. 5; at the end of the month the bird was in winter plumage (BE *et al.*, *fide* GH). Another was found at Bellingham, Wash., Oct. 12 (TW). Twenty Arctic Loons at ShiShi Beach, Clallam Co., Wash., Aug. 6 (BT) was an unseasonal concentration, as was the group often at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Aug. 30 (HN). Early Red-necked Grebes were around Vancouver and Victoria, B.C., after Aug. 1; a count in excess of 100 was made at Ross Bay and Cordova Spit near Victoria Sept. 4 (VG). An Eared Grebe was recorded at Ocean Shores, Wash., Aug. 24 (G & WH); others were at Vancouver, Oct. 8 (BK, *fide* WW), and w. of Corvallis, Ore., Nov. 11 (LN). Large numbers of W. Grebes arrived in the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca by the end of September (TW, WW). "An incredible concentration" of 50 Pied-billed Grebes was at tiny Judson L. on the B.C.-Washington border Nov. 3 (WW *et al.*). Offshore boat trips, four from Westport, Wash.,

and one from Depoe Bay, Ore., Aug. 24 - Oct. 6, all turned up Black-footed Albatrosses, 12 the maximum day count (TW, DM *et al.*). Light phase N. Fulmars were found off Westport Aug. 25 & Oct. 6, the peak count being 20 on the latter date (TW). Pink-footed Shearwaters (115 maximum), New Zealand Shearwaters (178 maximum), and Sooty Shearwaters (12,000 maximum) were recorded on each offshore trip (TW, DM *et al.*). Lone Flesh-footed Shearwaters were seen out of Westport Sept. 7 & 8 (TW). A New Zealand Shearwater was seen off Port Renfrew, B.C., Sept. 21 (WW *et al.*). Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were recorded off Westport Aug. 25, Sept. 8 & Oct. 6 in numbers to 27 (TW *et al.*); one was seen in the n. end of the Straits of Georgia daily Aug. 28-31 (MS, *fide* WW). Up to ten Leach's Storm-Petrels were seen at sea from Westport Aug. 25 & Sept. 8 (TW *et al.*).

PELICANS, HERONS -- Two or three Brown Pelicans were seen at Westport Sept. 6 (TR, *fide* TW); pelicans are rare n. of the Columbia River. Tillamook Bay supported in excess of 100 Brown Pelicans at times during August and September, with about half of any daily total immature. A concentration of 275 Great Blue Herons at Mud Bay near White Rock, B.C., Aug. 5 (WW, BM) is noteworthy. Great excitement was generated for the local birding fraternity when an imm. **Little Blue Heron** appeared at Judson L. near Abbotsford, B.C. It was seen on both sides of the border and is new to both the B.C. and Washington lists! It was first identified by Eugene Hunn Nov. 2; local farmers indicated that the bird had been present for perhaps two weeks. On Nov. 3 the bird was seen by other competent observers (two of whom have furnished detailed descriptions). Slides are on deposit in the photoduplicate file of the Provincial Museum at Victoria. The bird disappeared after Nov. 10 (EH, WW *et al.*). Green Herons were more widely reported than ever, from Duncan and Vancouver, B.C., s. through the Region in August and the first part of September; birds were frequently seen in the vicinity of Eugene, Ore., in that period. A Cattle Egret was present at Chinook, Wash., on the n. side of the Columbia estuary from about Oct. 10 to Nov. 22 (JW, *fide* TW). A **Cattle Egret** was picked up dead in a pasture at Cowichan, Vancouver I., Nov. 20, where it had first been seen the day before; the specimen, the first for British Columbia and the second confirmed occurrence for the province, is at the Provincial Museum in Victoria (VG). Great Egrets were frequently observed; northernmost records were from Ocean Shores, Wash., Aug. 1 (*fide* GH), from the Elk R., Grays Co., Wash., where two were seen Aug. 27 (DC, *fide* BT) and one was seen Oct. 5 (JS, JW, *fide* PM), and from Leadbetter Pt. Aug. 17 (AW) - Oct. 19 (EH) and where two were seen Sept. 21 (JBC). In Oregon, Great Egrets were seen at coastal points from Tillamook to Bandon where the four on Aug. 23 (CW) was the Regional one-day high; Great Egrets were seen inland on the w. side of the Cascades from Portland to Medford, through the report period. Single Black-crowned Night Herons were observed only at Reifel Refuge, s. of Vancouver in August and September (BD, NT, *fide* WW), and near Grants Pass, Ore., Aug. 21 & Nov. 25 (SS). Am. Bitterns were recorded Aug. 8 - Nov. 24 at 9 localities, two in British Columbia (Reifel Refuge and Sea I.), four in Washington (maximum six at Willapa N.W.R. Sept. 27), and three in Oregon s to Eugene.

WATERFOWL -- Very few Whistling Swans had been seen in the Region by Nov. 30; 50 were at Nisqually N.W.R. near Olympia Nov. 13-14 (BT), 14 were at Tillamook, Ore., Nov. 23 (HN *et al.*), and ten were at Reifel Refuge, Nov. 12 (ND, CT, *fide* WW). Up to ten Trumpeter Swans were seen in the Duncan-Vancouver-Victoria triangle after Oct. 28 (JCo *et al.*). The 17 Black Brant at Ocean Shores Aug. 24 (G & WH) were surprisingly early arrivals; very few of this species were seen in the Region during the report periods. Three **Emperor Geese** were with Black Brant at Willapa Bay Nov. 10 (JW, *fide* TW). A trickle of White-fronted Geese migrated through the Region in September and early October, the largest flock being 125 at Tofino, B.C., Sept. 4 (JCo). Snow Geese first appeared the last ten days in October when 4500 were at Reifel Refuge and at Sea I., s. of Vancouver, and an unstated number, virtually all adults, were on the Skagit Flats near Mt. Vernon, Wash. Counts of 86 Gadwall at Iona I., s. of Vancouver, Oct. 30 and of 8500 Am. Green-winged Teal at Sea I. Oct. 11 (BM, *fide* WW) both were high. Two adults of the latter species were with six chicks at

Cowichan Bay Aug. 10 (JCo). Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal were not reported after the first week of October. European Wigeon showed up increasingly after mid-October, from the Vancouver area s. to Eugene. At Ladner Nov. 16 there was a good total of 300 N. Shovelers; three days later a

106 *American Birds*, February, 1975

high count of 69 Wood Ducks was made there (WW). A **male** Wood Duck at Manning P.P. Aug. 17 is said to have been unusual (VG). Redheads were noted at Dexter Res. e. of Eugene, at Tillamook Bay, at Seattle and at Iona I., in numbers up to four Sept. 25 - Nov. 11. The 260 Canvasbacks at Sea I. Nov. 30 (WW) was the Regional high with other sightings coming only from Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene, from Tillamook Bay, from Everett, Wash., and from Reifel Refuge. A **male** Tufted Duck was found again Oct. 19 & 27 at Vancouver's Stanley Park (BK). For some reason, Olympia, Wash., hosts a large number of Barrow's Goldeneye every November; this year the total was up to 1500 on Nov. 1, dropping to a still remarkable 200 by mid-month (G & WH). A **female** Barrow's Goldeneye was at Ladner for most of August (BK, BM, WW). Oldsquaw appeared in the vicinity of Vancouver surprisingly early in August; one was at Iona I., Aug. 4 (BK) while 67 were at Pt. Roberts, Aug. 10, where 10 were still present Aug. 29 with 17 Harlequin Ducks (WW). On Nov. 9, 22 Harlequins were recorded at Tillamook Bay (JBC, WT *et al.*). Small groups of migrating Surf Scoters, totaling 280, were seen 30 mi. out of Port Renfrew Sept. 21 (WW *et al.*); a female on Dexter Res., e. of Eugene, Oct. 19. (TL), and 7 in **female**-plumage on Lightning L. in Manning P.P., Oct. 1 (VG) were unusual. On the early date of Aug. 1 there were three **female** Black Scoters at Yachats on the c. Oregon coast (CW); Oct. 19 there were 50 Black Scoters at Pt. Roberts (WW), and Nov. 9 there were 167 at Qualicum Beach, Vancouver I. (RS, *fide* VG). An impressive 60 Hooded Mergansers were counted at Willapa N.W.R. Sept. 27 (BT, JG), and on Nov. 10 another good count of 36 of this species was made at L. Selmac, Josephine Co., Ore. (SS). A count of 100 Red-breasted Mergansers at the Nisqually R. mouth, Aug. 23 (G & WH) was an early concentration.

HAWKS, EAGLES -- At Sauvie I. w. of Portland 18 Turkey Vultures were counted Sept. 27 (HN, CS); a late bird was seen at Victoria Nov. 26 (V & MG). Observers on the 8900 ft. top of Mt. Scott e. of Crater Lake N.P., Aug. 24 recorded two Goshawks, two Cooper's Hawks, two Sharp-shinned Hawks, a Red-tailed Hawk, a Golden Eagle, a Prairie Falcon, and an Am. Kestrel all in one afternoon hour (SS, PR). On Sept. 1 Craig Roberts at the 8000 ft. level on Mt. McLoughlin s. of Crater Lake N.P. saw a Cooper's, two Sharp-shinned, a Marsh Hawk, a probable Prairie Falcon, two Red-tailed and a kestrel (*fide* OS), suggesting that the two peaks are on a hawk flyway. Five Goshawk nests were located in the Rogue R. Nat'l. Forest this past summer (OS); this species was noted from four other locations in the Region. The 60 reported sightings of Sharp-shinned Hawks and almost as many of Cooper's Hawks this fall is encouraging, although in each case more than half the records originated on s. Vancouver I. A Swainson's Hawk is said to have been seen near the s.w. entrance of Mt. Rainier N.P. Sept. 24. (DHa, JG, BT). Early Rough-legged Hawks appeared s. of Crater Lake N.P. Aug. 9 (EP), and at Vancouver Aug. 18 (BK), but it was not until the second week of October and thereafter that birds were more generally scattered through the s. portion of the Region; a raptor survey of the Fraser R. delta Nov. 9 turned up 32 individuals -- one more than the number of Red-tailed Hawks counted there the same day (WW *et al.*). An ad. Golden Eagle was seen in the Coast Range w. of Salem, Ore. Sept. 14 & Oct. 19 (ED, E & EE, *fide* FR); another was at Agate L., near Medford, Oct. 6 (OS), an immature was at Reifel Refuge, Nov. 10-16 (WW *et al.*), and a bird was at Manning P.P., Nov. 2 (BH, *fide* WW). The following astonishing account is furnished by Vic Goodwill: "Around 11:00 on Sept. 24 about 80 Bald Eagles were sighted moving gradually southward at about 2000 ft. over the c. Saanich Pen. Many white heads were noted. At noon, a mixed-age flock of 100 ... was counted over Clover Pt. in Victoria. It split into two groups with 62 going westward along the

coast towards Sooke, and 38 out . . . towards Port Angeles. By 12:20 all had disappeared.” (*vide* RWC). Bald Eagles were otherwise reported from two localities in s. British Columbia and from four places in w. Oregon Aug. 17 - Nov. 16. Raptor counts in the Fraser R. delta turned up 31 Marsh Hawks Sept. 14, 45 on Oct. 12, and 53 on Nov. 9 (WW *et al.*); five birds were at Leadbetter Pt., Sept. 21 (JBC), eight birds were at Skagit Refuge in n. Washington Nov. 1-2, and four spent the fall at the Nisqually N.W.R. near Olympia (BT), but all other reports were of one or two individuals. Four Ospreys were seen on the e. side of the Gulf of Georgia and Puget Sound from Pt. Roberts to near Olympia Aug. 8 - Oct. 6. Ospreys were seen on s. Vancouver I. until Oct. 5. A Gyrfalcon was seen on the amazingly early date of Aug. 7 in the vicinity of Vancouver (BK); another was seen on the Washington coast Sept. 8 (WW, RW), and still other individuals were at Tillamook Bay, Oct. 19 (HN) and at Ilwaco, Wash., Nov. 23 (EH, BT). Five other sightings of Gyrfalcons were made from Sept. 18 through November in n. Washington and s. British Columbia. A Prairie Falcon was observed at Mt. Rainier N.P. Sept. 27 (RT, *vide* PM). There were perhaps 20 records of Peregrine sightings this fall from about ten localities in n. and coastal Washington, s. British Columbia and n.w. Oregon. Merlins appeared at about 15 locations from s. Vancouver I. and Vancouver, B.C., southward in the Puget Sound and Willamette Valley troughs to Corvallis.

CRANES, RAILS, SHOREBIRDS -- There were 13 Sandhill Cranes at Campbell R., B.C., Sept. 15 (DB, *vide* WW), 15 were at Burns Bog in the vicinity of Vancouver Oct. 11 (WB, *vide* WW), and one was at Pitt Meadows, e. of Vancouver, Oct. 28 (TM, *vide* WW); an imm. was near Victoria Oct. 5-Dec. 1 (VG *et al.*). Over 300 Sandhill Cranes were seen at Ridgefield, Wash, Oct. 5 (G & WH); 65 over Brownsville, Ore., Nov. 15. (HT, *vide* FR) was a late concentration. A Sora was found at Burnaby L., in the vicinity of Vancouver Oct. 13 (JB, *vide* WW). One thousand Am. Coot on Dexter Res. near Eugene Oct. 19 (TL) indicated a migratory movement. The count of 95 Semipalmated Plovers at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Aug. 30, was a marked concentration for this Region (HN) and may have coincided with the peak of migration for that species. The only report of Snowy Plover was of one at the s. jetty of the Columbia, Aug. 3 (HN). American Golden Plover occurred widely through the Region, Aug. 24 - Oct. 22; the maximum

Volume 29, Number 1 107.

was 35 at Ocean Shores Sept. 28 (G & WH). Counts of 1100 Black-bellied Plovers at Leadbetter Pt., Aug. 17 (AW) and of 900 there two weeks later (HN *et al.*), together with 500 at Mud Bay, n. of White Rock, B.C., Aug. 5 and 1070 there Sept. 8 (BM, *vide* WW), all are noteworthy. The Aug. 1 observation of 200 Surfbirds at Seal Rocks, s. of Newport, Ore. (CW) was an early season high count. Up to nine Ruddy Turnstones per day were from Ocean Shores s. to Newport, and at Victoria and Vancouver, the bird at Vancouver until Nov. 11 the only record after Sept. 12. “Hundreds” of Com. Snipe were observed at Fern Ridge Res. w. of Eugene, Oct. 16 & 20 (LN). Up to 16 Whimbrels were seen coastally from Ocean Shores to Bandon and at Crescent Beach, B.C. and Nisqually, Wash., from early August to late October. Good details were furnished of two Upland Sandpipers found at Sea I., s. of Vancouver, Sept. 3; with one there until Sept. 5 (BM, *vide* WW). Solitary Sandpipers were up unprecedentedly this fall as usual concentrated in the Vancouver-Victoria-Burlington, Wash., triangle; seven individuals were observed at Iona I., Aug. 15 (TB, BM, WW), up to five were on the Saanich Pen. Aug. 15 - Sept. 7 (VG, RS *et al.*) and four were at the Butler Hill sewage pond, Skagit Co., Wash., Aug. 7-Sept. 7 (NL, *vide* TW). Inland records were two at Picture L. on Mt. Baker, Aug. 16 (MS) and one near McKenna, Pierce Co., Wash., Sept. 24 & 27 (DHo, JG, G & WH). A Wandering Tattler was found at Vancouver, where it is rare, Aug. 21 (DMA, *vide* WW); all other records were coastal, the 15 at Westport Sept. 7 (TR, RW, WW) being the largest one-day count. A Willet appeared at Crescent Beach Aug. 3 & 25 & Sept. 8

(TB, BK, BM, *fide* WW), at the Skagit Game Range Nov. 25 (R & KSI, *fide* TW), with four at Yaquina Bay, Ore., Aug. 24 & Oct. 27 (TL), and three at Bandon, Ore., Aug. 22 (CW). Iona I. again hosted a surprising concentration of Lesser Yellowlegs, 150 being there Aug. 15 (TB, BM, WW) and 255 there Aug. 31; one was still present Nov. 29 (BM, *fide* WW). Lesser Yellowlegs were readily found at favored spots on s.e. Vancouver I. through the report period until Nov. 7; 42 at Cowichan Bay, near Duncan, Aug. 17 (RS, *fide* VG) was the highest one-day total. Elsewhere Lesser Yellowlegs seem hardly to have been observed. Red Knot, too, were scarce, being recorded at four Oregon and two Washington coastal localities, in the San Juan Is., and at Victoria Aug. 17 - Nov. 16; top count was 11 at Leadbetter Pt., Sept. 21 (JBC). An extremely early Rock Sandpiper in nearly complete breeding dress was found on the Westport Jetty, Aug. 11 (BT). Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were identified repeatedly at Iona I. Sept. 9-Oct. 30 (BM, WW *et al.*), six on Oct. 8 (TW). Single Sharp-taileds were found twice at Sauvie I., Sept. 27 & 30 (TL, HN, CS), and at ShiShi Beach, Wash., Sept. 20 (MA, *fide* PM); three were at Leadbetter Pt., Sept. 21 (JBC). One found at the Skagit Ref., Nov. 2 (BT) is the first known November Regional occurrence, the latest previous being Oct. 29. Counts of 100 Pectoral Sandpipers at Iona I., Sept. 18 (WW) and of 20 at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Sept. 1 (TL, RL) and at Sauvie I., Sept. 30 (TL, HN) are of interest. Baird's Sandpipers were recorded in unprecedented numbers this fall; most at coastal locations from Ocean Shores s. to Bandon, with the 120 at Nehalem Bay S.P., Tillamook Co., Ore., Sept. 1 and the 88 there next day (TL) being unprecedented. Baird's Sandpipers were also numerous on the Samish Flats of n. Washington Aug. 5-20 (NL, *fide* TW). Yet another high altitude occurrence of this species was recorded Aug. 3 when four individuals alighted on a frozen lake along the Sunrise Trail at Mt. Rainier (RD). An estimated 27,000 Dunlin were at Boundary Bay Nov. 9 (MS, *fide* WW). Almost 500 Long-billed Dowitchers were seen at Reifel Refuge Oct. 12 (ND, CT, *fide* WW) and over 400 were noted at Iona I. two weeks later (BM, *fide* WW). Stilt Sandpipers also were found in unprecedented numbers this fall. A flock of 13 was at Crockett L., Whidbey I., Wash., Aug. 18 (PM, JWd) three were there Sept. 2, nine Sept. 5 (EH) and one Sept. 25 (RA, *fide* PM). On Aug. 29, there were eleven at Reifel Refuge (WW), two were at Duncan, B.C., Aug. 15 - 25 (JCo), one - two birds occurred on the Saanich Pen. Aug. 22-Sept. 18 (RS, SJ, VG), single birds were at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Aug. 30 (TL, HN) and Sept. 1 (RL, TL), one was at Yaquina Bay, Ore., Aug. 24 - Sept. 2 (GB, AC, TL, PRo, CW) and one was at Iona I., Sept. 9 (BM, *fide* WW). There were 13 sightings of Semipalmated Sandpipers with up to four individuals in a day from nine different localities, mostly adjacent to the Straits of Georgia and Puget Sound but also on the Washington coast and at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Aug. 10 - Sept. 21. Western Sandpipers were recorded in numbers as high as 4500 during the migration peak Aug. 15 - Sept. 15. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was at Iona I., Oct. 6-8 (DB, TW, WW *et al.*). More Marbled Godwits were recorded in the Region this fall than ever before, mostly at Washington and Oregon coastal points from the end of August through November; 58 at Tokeland Sept. 27 (JG, BT) was the top count, though numbers in excess of 20 per day were frequent. Away from proximity to the ocean, Marbled Godwits were seen at Samish I., Sept. 3, at Seattle's L. Washington, Oct. 15, and at Dungeness Spit, Nov. 10. Two Hudsonian Godwits were seen at Iona I., Aug. 20 (M & TB), adding to the handful of Regional records -- all from the vicinity of the U.S.-Canadian border. The first documented occurrence of an **Am. Avocet** on Vancouver I. was made with movies of a bird which appeared at Esquimalt Lagoon, Victoria, Aug. 8 (VG). A few Red Phalaropes, all early, were seen off Westport Aug. 25 & Sept. 7 (TW *et al.*) and at Clover Pt., Victoria, Aug. 12, Aug. 30 & Sept. 7 (VG, RS). There were 4000 N. Phalaropes in the Victoria area Aug. 31 (M & VG, RS), and 100+ Aug. 30 in the Straits of Georgia (MS, *fide* WW).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS -- All four offshore trips from Westport Aug. 25 - Oct. 6 turned up Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, maximum for the former being 17 on Oct. 6 and for the latter 20 on Sept. 7. Trips from Port Renfrew Sept. 21 and from Depoe Bay, Aug. 24 found both these jaegers also. The Parasitic was, as usual, recorded from a number of other locations, one on Nov. 2 at Vancouver (BK) being late. A Long-tailed Jaeger at Tsawwassen, B.C., Aug. 17 (JP, *fide* WW) was unusual; it was also unusual that five were recorded on the Aug. 24 trip from Depoe Bay (FR *et al.*). Three Skuas were seen off Westport, Oct. 6,

108 *American Birds*, February, 1975

with one there Sept. 7 (TW *et al.*); another was seen 65.miles w. of Newport Sept. 19 (BP, *fide* FR). A Glaucous Gull was found at Victoria Oct. 26 (VG *et.al.*). Four W. Gulls were seen at Port Renfrew and two were seen at sea from there Sept. 21 (WW *et al.*); two were at Vancouver during November (BK, MS, *fide* WW) and an immature was at Victoria, Nov. 5-7 (RF, *fide* VG). California Gulls at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Aug. 18, were estimated at 10,000 (HN); another concentration at Newport, Oct. 28, was estimated at 11,000 birds (TL). There were 500 Ring-billed Gulls at the mouth of the Nicomekl R. near Vancouver, Aug. 5 (BM, WW), and 400 were south of Ladner, B.C., Sept. 15 (WW); 90 were at Sauvie I., Sept. 30 (HN). Franklin's Gulls were seen repeatedly at the Everett, Wash., sewage ponds Oct. 6 - Nov. 24 (EH, PM *et al.*); two on Nov. 24 (JWd, *fide* PM) were the Region's latest ever. Besides other occurrences in Puget Sound and the Straits of Georgia, 2-3 were on Fern Ridge Res., Sept. 12-Oct. 23 (LM); and at Pitt Meadows e. of Vancouver Nov. 10 (WW). Many thousand Bonaparte's Gulls were estimated to be off Victoria Nov. 8 (V & MG). On Oct. 27 an ad. **Black-headed Gull** in winter plumage was discovered at Clover Pt., Victoria by Chauncey & Sarah Wood. It was seen daily until Nov. 1, photographed by still and motion pictures and seen by many.



Black-headed Gull, winter adult, Clover Pt., Victoria, B.C. Oct. 29, 1974. Photo / Harold Hosford.

The bird reappeared Nov. 6 - Nov. 13 (*fide* VG). The record is the first published of this species from this Region, but a report of an earlier sighting is now appropriate. On Nov. 4, 1972 at Ocean Shores, Wash., James Morris found an imm. Black-headed Gull on a freshwater pond and watched it at close range for 20.minutes. Full details were furnished the Regional editors. The first Regional records of Little Gulls were made that fall of 1972 also; amazingly, this fall brings more **Little Gull** records. A winter-plumaged adult in company with Mew and Bonaparte's Gulls was found and motion pictures were taken at Sooke Inlet n. of Victoria, Oct. 31 (M & VG); the same or another bird was seen Nov. 7 at Clover Pt. (RE, *fide* VG). An ad. In winter plumage was discovered at Penn Cove, Whidbey I., Wash., Sept. 2 (EH). On Oct. 5 the same observer found a similarly-plumaged bird at the Everett sewage ponds; it or another bird was photographed there Nov. 7 (DP, *fide* TW), and then on Nov. 8 two adults were there, one still being present the next day (TW). Heermann's Gulls in the Region this report period were mostly adults, the peak count being an estimated.2500-3000 at Ocean Shores Aug. 24 (G & WH); with one at Victoria Nov. 30 (RF, *fide* VG). Up to 27 Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen on all four boat trips out of Westport Aug. 25-Oct. 6 (TW *et al.*); 400 individuals, most of them adults, were on the Westport jetty Oct. 6. (BT); Kittiwakes were otherwise recorded only at the Columbia R. entrance Aug. 3-Oct.

6 in small numbers.(HN, JBC) and, surprisingly, at Fern Ridge Res. Oct.27 (AC *et al.*). Sabine's Gulls were seen on the first three Westport boat trips and out of Depoe Bay, Aug. 24 - Sept. 8, with 23 on Sept. 7 being the maximum; out of Port Renfrew Sept. 21 there were 60 (MS, WW *et al.*). An imm. Sabine's Gull was noted at Victoria's Clover Pt., Nov. 7 (RF, *fide* VG). On Sept. 9 there were 18 Forster's Terns at Fern Ridge Res. (DG, *fide* LM) and on Sept. 7-8 there was one at Vancouver (BK). High counts for Com. Tern were 70 at Ocean Shores Sept. 8 (WW, RW) and 120 at Victoria Sept. 22 (MS, *fide* WW); single Com. Terns were seen at Fern Ridge Res., Sept. 2 (LN) & Sept. 14 (DG, *fide* LM). Up to a score of Arctic Terns were recorded on trips from Westport Aug. 25, Sept. 7 & 8. (TW *et al.*); two were seen twice at Victoria-- Aug. 18 & Sept. 10 (RS, *fide* VG). Caspian Terns were reported from 7 saltwater localities through the first week in October, the count of 120 at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. Aug. 30 (HN) being by far the largest; four Caspians were at Fern Ridge Res., Sept. 10 (LM). A **Black Tern** was found at Victoria Sept. 12 (RS, *fide* VG): it constitutes the second record for Vancouver I. Four Ancient Murrelets were noted in deep water on the s. end of Puget Sound off Nisqually N.W.R., Nov. 20 (BT). Cassin's Auklets were seen in good numbers on all the offshore trips Aug. 24 - Oct. 6, peak counts being 215 from Port Renfrew Sept. 21, and 355 from Westport Sept. 8. Rhinoceros Auklets were similarly recorded, but in much smaller numbers, 38 out of Port Renfrew being the maximum. Tufted Puffins in numbers up to four were seen on the four boat trips from Westport.

OWLS THROUGH LARKS -- Three Barn Owls were seen at Grants Pass Aug. 21 (SS); three others were seen repeatedly at Medford during the fall (OS); the Barn Owl is decidedly uncommon in this Region. A Burrowing Owl was found at Sandy Pt. Whatcom Co., Wash. Nov. 2 (EH) and again Nov. 4 (DMc, *fide* TW); one was seen at Finley N.W.R. Oct. 24 (RFl, *fide* LM), and another was discovered e. of Medford Oct. 19 (OS). The Skagit Co., Wash., Barred Owls mentioned in the Nesting Season report were last heard Oct. 2 (TRe, *fide* PM); another pair was discovered at Colonial Creek Campground, Whatcom Co., Wash., Sept. 16 (CSm, JGi, *fide* TW), subsequently verified by sight Sept. 27. (DHe, *fide* TW) and thereafter heard by other observers. A Spotted Owl was heard calling at Big Pine Campground in the Siskiyou N.F. Aug. 17 (SS); another was found in the Columbia R. Gorge on a September date (*fide* HN), and still another was photographed near Roaring R. Campground, Mt. Hood N.F. in September (*fide* HN). Snowy Owls appeared in the Vancouver-Victoria-Bellingham triangle the last three weeks of the report period, one at Seattle on Nov. 20, being the southernmost record; numbers were modest, the Samish Flats supporting only five birds by Nov. 30.

Volume 29, Number 1 109.

Five Short-eared Owls were at Leadbetter Pt. Sept. 21 (JBC). A Com. Nighthawk was recorded in Vancouver as late as Oct. 14 (BK). Black Swifts were seen on s. Vancouver I. several times in August and the first week of September (VG); 35 were noted at Vancouver on the late date of Oct. 3 (BM, *fide* WW), two were at Ocean Shores Sept. 28 (G & WH) and five were seen at Cape Blanco near Port Orford on the s. Oregon coast Sept. 14 (TL). A flock of approximately 1000 migrating Vaux's Swifts roosted for several nights in a large chimney at Corvallis early in September (DM); two late individuals were seen at Eugene Oct. 6 (CW). An influx of Anna's Hummingbirds into the Region took place in October, with numbers noted at Eugene (LM), Coos Bay (HR), at Vancouver with at least three individuals, and in or near Victoria, where from 7-10 individuals seem to have been present. One was seen at Toledo, Ore., Oct. 5 (DF, *fide* HN), one was at Olympia, Oct. 26-Nov. 15 (BE, *fide* GH), and a female was at Duncan, B.C. after Oct. 19 for the fourth consecutive late fall and winter at the same feeder (JCo). Rufous Hummingbirds were gone from the Region by mid-September. Six Acorn Woodpeckers were at Wolf Creek, Ore., where they are rare, throughout the fall (EP). Lewis' Woodpeckers were present in low numbers in the s. Willamette Valley after late October. They were numerous in the Rogue

R. valley of Oregon from late September to the end of the period (OS); one was at Victoria Nov. 2 (RF, *fide* VG). A female N. Three-toed Woodpecker was found on Hart Pass Sept. 21 (G & WH) and a male was seen at Rainy Pass six days earlier. (EH), both in Washington's Cascades. Two family groups totaling nine E. Kingbirds were at Pitt Meadows, e. of Vancouver Aug. 21 (WW); one was at Ocean Shores Sept. 13 (*fide* GH).

S.A.

Vic Goodwill provides a fascinating account of the remarkable occurrence of a **Thick-billed Kingbird** at Qualicum Beach, Vancouver I. The bird first appeared about Oct. 20 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J.S. Brandon. Mrs. Brandon notified Ken Kennedy of the Canadian Wildlife Service who first saw it on Oct. 30. Puzzled by its identity, he sought assistance. On Nov. 14 the Goodwills had no trouble finding the bird and quickly identified it. Subsequently, many birders saw it, photographed it, and recorded its call notes. On Nov. 12, Ken Kennedy found the bird dead beneath a window, against which it had evidently flown. The specimen now reposes in the Provincial Museum at Victoria, where R. Wayne Campbell confirmed that the bird was a juvenile male, probably of the Mexican coastal race, but the subspecific identity has not been fixed with certainty. The identification, still to be made, of four lice taken from the corpse may possibly contribute to an inference concerning the bird's origin..

A Black Phoebe was observed at the mouth of the Winchuck R., Curry Co., Ore., Nov. 3 and another was seen on the Applegate R., Nov. 28 (SS). Lone Say's Phoebes were found at Saanich Aug. 19 (RM-G, RS, *fide* VG), at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Aug. 30. (TL, HN), and at Victoria Sept. 10 (ARD: JWi *et al.*, *fide* VG). A count of 32 Willow Flycatchers on Cape Blanco, near Port Orford, Ore., Sept. 14 (TL) indicates that a migratory movement was in progress. Eight W. Flycatchers were found there at the same time (TL); one at Westport Oct. 6 (BT) was late. On Nov. 30, ten Skylarks were found singing on San Juan I., Wash. (EH).



A Thick-billed Kingbird, Qualicum Beach, Vancouver I. B.C., Oct. 30, 1974. Photo / Kenneth Kennedy..

SWALLOWS THROUGH SHRIKES -- Two Violet-green Swallows seen at Ocean Shores Nov. 8 (G & WH) were surprisingly late; there were five reports of this species still in the Region the first ten days of October, with large numbers particularly at Fern Ridge Res. At Vancouver, Bank Swallows were recorded six times; the 13 at Ladner Sept. 8 the high count and one at Iona I., Sept. 30 the latest (MS). A Bank Swallow was also recorded at Cowichan Bay, Vancouver I. (VG). Nine Barn Swallows were in Seattle Nov. 5 (FK, *fide* PM), one was still there Nov. 25 (TM, *fide* PM), one was at Bellingham Nov. 23 (TW), three were at Reifel Refuge Nov. 16 (WW) and one was at Salem, Ore., Nov. 9 (HH, *fide* FS). On Sept. 22, a flock of 20 Purple Martins was seen at Olympia (BT). Gray Jays were seen repeatedly at Coos Bay during the fall (HR). A **Blue Jay** was on the U.B.C. campus Oct. 18 - 23 (BK, WW *et al.*). A Blue Jay was also found at Des Moines, Wash., from Nov. 16 to the end of the report period (KB, EH, PM *et al.*). Black-billed Magpies were discovered at Harrisburg, Ore., Oct. 31 & Nov. 1 (RFI, *fide* LM) and at Rockport, Wash., Nov. 24 (DP, *fide* PM). A Clark's Nutcracker was found dead at Victoria Aug. 13 (*fide* VG). A Boreal Chickadee was seen one mi. n. of Rainy Pass in Washington's Cascades Sept. 15 (EH); another was calling at Manning P.P. Aug. 17 (WW). A White-breasted Nuthatch was recorded at Olympia Sept. 14 where it practically never occurs (G & WH). A Wrentit was at Wolf Creek, Ore., Oct. 7 (EP); several were conspicuous in Eugene much of the season (LM). On Aug. 28 a House Wren was found at Burnaby, B.C. (DMA, *fide* WW); one was at Mitlenatch I. Aug. 15 - Aug. 27 (MS, *fide* WW), and Sept. 7, three House Wrens were at Saanich (VG, JP, RS). A Mockingbird spent the last week of October just n. of Coos Bay (HR)..

110 *American Birds*, February, 1975

On Aug. 21 & Sept. 4 up to three Gray Catbirds were observed at Pitt Meadows. A very late Swainson's Thrush was at Corvallis Nov. 3 - Dec. 3 (DM). There were up to 20 W. Bluebirds at Wolf Creek in November, a better showing than in recent years (EP); in the Rogue R Valley after mid-September, flocks of up to 15 were to be found (OS). A Mountain Bluebird was seen two miles s.e. of Cowichan Bay Nov. 16 (VG, RS). A Townsend's Solitaire appeared at Finley N.W.R. near Corvallis Oct. 29 (*fide* FR), one was on Mt. Seymour near Vancouver Aug. 16 (DMA, *fide* WW), and another. at Saanich, Sept. 10 (RM-G, *fide* VG). Golden-crowned Kinglets appeared in the Rogue R. Valley in greater numbers this fall than at any time previously. (OS).

VIREOS, WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS -- A very late Solitary Vireo was discovered at the Bay Ocean spit, Tillamook Bay, Nov. 13 (GB, RO, PRO, *fide* FR). A Red-eyed Vireo was found along Scatter Creek near Olympia Sept. 14 (G & WH). At Cape Blanco, Sept. 14 there were 30 Warbling Vireos (TL). A **Black-and-white Warbler** was seen at Vancouver Sept. 22 & 24 (BK); one was also seen at Burlington, Wash., Sept. 26 (JWg, *fide* TW), adding to the small number of B.C. and Washington records for this species, which has not yet been found in w. Oregon. **Tennessee Warblers** were recorded three times this fall -- all by observers alone who submitted credible descriptions. The first was an adult male at Manning P.P., Sept. 14 (VG); the second was an immature at Eugene Sept. 26 (CW), and the third was an immature seen twice at Vancouver Oct. 21 & 24 (BK). A good description of an imm. **Magnolia Warbler** seen at Leadbetter Pt., Sept. 17 (IB) has been supplied; it is the first Washington record of which we have knowledge. Another first for Washington and for the Region, so far as we know, is the adult female or imm. **Cape May Warbler** viewed for some time at Bellingham Sept 21 by two experienced observers who have submitted detailed descriptions (DHe, TW). A migrant flock containing 30 Black-throated Gray Warblers near Olympia Sept. 14 (G & WH) is of interest as is the information that migrant flocks of warblers at Wolf Creek, Ore. during the last week of August included up to a score of Townsend's Warblers (EP). An observation of a Hermit Warbler feeding a young bird at Humbug Mt. on the s.w. Oregon Coast Aug. 11 (PT, *fide* AC) is noteworthy, as is the sighting of a bird of this species at Cape Blanco Sept. 14 (TL). Another first for the Region, so far as we know, is the observation of an imm. **Chestnut-sided Warbler** Sept. 29 at Reifel Refuge (S & CWO, MS). A **Blackpoll Warbler** was fully described from Cape Blanco Sept. 15 & 16 (TL); the record is the second for w. Oregon. The season produced a surprising number of records for Palm Warblers: two were seen at Reifel Refuge Sept. 29 (ND, MS, WW) and one Sept. 30 (BM, *fide* WW). At the Bay Ocean spit in Tillamook Bay, three Palm Warblers were present Oct. 18 (SD, *fide* HN), two Oct. 19 (HN), and one Oct. 27 (R & LLu) and Nov. 2 (*fide* RLu); one was at Newport Oct. 24 (PRO, *fide* FR), one was at Charleston, Ore., Oct. 26 (*fide* HR), and one was at Boardman St Park, n. of Brookings, Ore. Oct. 27 & Nov. 3 (SS *et.al.*) A **Northern Waterthrush** was found at the Duncan sewage lagoons Aug. 21 (JCo, VG). Common Yellowthroat counts of 60 at Pitt Meadows Sept. 4 (WW), of 25 at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Aug. 30 (TL, HN), of 100 there Sept. 9 (TL), and of 20 at Cape Blanco Sept. 14 (TL) all indicate migrational concentrations. An imm. or female **Am. Redstart** is said to have been at Svenson, Ore., on the Columbia R. above Astoria from Nov. 11 to the end of the report period (HA, *fide* HN). On Sept. 18, seven Bobolinks, one being a male still in nearly full breeding plumage were observed on wires in c. Saanich, n. of Victoria (RS, *fide* VG). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were recorded several times in late August at Fern Ridge Res. (LM), at the odd locality of timberline in Manning P.P., Aug. 17 (WW) at Seattle Sept. 7 (FK, *fide* PM), at Sea I. Oct. 8 (MS, RW, *fide* WW), and at Reifel Refuge Oct. 6, where 20 were seen (CT, *fide* WW). A bright male N. Oriole, said to be a "Baltimore," was photographed at the Bay Ocean spit, Tillamook Bay, Oct. 26 (R & LLu). Three records of single Rusty Blackbirds in the Vancouver area Sept. 26-Oct. 9 (BK, BM, WW) were submitted, and three records of the species -- one involving two birds -- came from s. Vancouver I., Oct. 23-Nov. 6 (ARD, VG).

TANAGERS, FINCHES AND SPARROWS — Observations of late W. Tanagers were made at Grants Pass Oct. 20 (SS) and at W. Vancouver Nov. 3 (GAP, *fide* WW). Records of Evening Grosbeaks for the fall season were sparse, though up to 20 at a time were to be found in Saanich and Victoria between Aug. 11 & Nov. 8 (VG *et.al.*), and birds were around Eugene after Oct. 1 (LM). Two Cassin's Finches were seen in Manning P.P., Aug. 17 (WW). A Pine Grosbeak was seen in the park Sept. 16 (VG), and two were found in Saanich Oct. 24 (RF, *fide* VG). One Gray-crowned Rosy Finch was seen on the summit of Middle Sister in c. Oregon Aug. 7 (LN), 150 were counted in Mt. Rainier N.P. Oct. 20 (JWd, JS, *fide* PM), and 175 were observed in Manning P.P. Nov. 2 (BH, *fide* WW). Four Com. Redpoll were found at Qualicum Beach Nov. 14 (KK, KT, *fide* VG). A flock of 700 Pine Siskins was seen on s. Vancouver I., Oct. 28 (ARD, *fide* VG). Red Crossbills were found during the

period in the Cascade Mts. and at Vancouver early in the fall (WW), but were otherwise reported only from Cape Arago, Ore., Aug. 26 (AC *et al.*), and from Tillamook Nov. 9 (JBC *et al.*). White-winged Crossbills were found at Manning P.P. from mid-August until early October in numbers up to 20 or more, and were repeatedly found at Hart Pass, Cloudy Pass and Rainy Pass in the n. Cascades of Washington during September. (*fide* PM, G & WH, EH). On Mt. Ashland in s. Oregon, six Green-tailed Towhees were found together Aug. 24 (OS). Hundreds of Savannah Sparrows were at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Sept. 9 (TL) & Sept. 20 (HN). A Savannah Sparrow was found at 6,500ft. on Mt. Rainier Sept. 5 (BT). A **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was found near White Rock, B.C. in *salicornia*, Sept. 6; the observers furnished a convincing description (DB, SM, BW). The record seems to be the first for coastal British Columbia and for the Region. A **Lark Sparrow** appeared in Saanich Nov. 4, where one has come to a feeder in the two previous winters (RWC, *fide* VG); 25 Lark Sparrows were found at Agate L., near Medford Nov. 9 (OS). Lone 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Juncos were recorded at Olympia Oct. 17 (G & WH), and at Corvallis

Volume 29, Number 1 111.

Nov. 5 & 30 (PT, *fide* FR, DM). On Nov. 29, two Tree Sparrows were found at Seattle (*fide* PM). Late single Chipping Sparrows were discovered at Pt. Roberts Oct. 18 (BM, *fide* WW), at Vancouver Oct. 21 (BK, *fide*, WW) and at Eugene Nov. 15 (LM). Individual Harris' Sparrows were observed at Qualicum Beach, Vancouver I., Nov. 10 (JP, *fide* VG), at Seattle the same day (EH), and s. of Junction City, Ore. Nov. 27 (LM). A White-throated Sparrow was seen at Mt. Vernon, Wash., Oct. 14-16 (HAr, *fide* TW), others were at Eugene Nov. 15 (AS, *fide* LM), and Corvallis Nov. 22 (FR). Two male and one **female Chestnut-collared Longspurs** were found in a large flock of Lapland Longspurs at Tillamook Bay Oct. 9 (RFi, HN); it is, we think, the first record of this species for Oregon. Lapland Longspurs first appeared on the tidal lowlands of the British Columbia mainland Sept. 10 and a few days later at Washington localities s. of there; up to 80 were at Leadbetter Pt. and at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. later in the month. On Oct. 9, there were 100 Lapland Longspurs at Tillamook Bay, where two weeks later their number had increased several times. By early November the birds were largely gone, 18 at Tillamook Bay Nov. 9 being the last. Worthy of special mention is the occurrence of a Lapland Longspur at 6500 ft. on Mt. Rainier Sept. 5 (BT), and of three at the mouth of the Pistol R., Curry Co., Ore., Oct. 27 (SS). Longspurs were followed into the Region by Snow Buntings which appeared first in the Victoria area Oct. 19, where they remained until Nov. 23 (VG); one was near Port Townsend, Wash. Oct. 30 (DHa, *fide* WT); up to six Snow Buntings appeared at Blaine, Wash., Pt. Roberts, Reifel Refuge, Iona I., Nisqually N.W.R., and Westport between Oct. 26 and the end of November. A dozen Snow Buntings were at Tillamook Bay, Nov. 13. (GB, RO, PRo, *fide* FR).

OBSERVERS -- Helen Acton, Ruth Anderson, Howard Armstrong (HAr), Mike Avery, Jennifer Barnett, Dan Bastaja, Wayne Biggs, Margaret Brown, Tom Brown, Ken Brunner, Gene Bureson, Irving Burr, R. Wayne Campbell, John Comer (JCo), Alan Contreras, Debby Cornett, John B. Crowell, Jr., A.R. Davidson, Brian Davies, Steve Davis, Neil Dawe, Rubard Dean, Ed Donnally, Elzy and Elsie Eltzroth, Betty Estes, Darrell Faxon, Roy Fisk (RFi), Randy Floyd (RFI), Ralph Fryer, Jeff Gibson (JGi), Dan Gleason, Margaret Goodwill, Vic Goodwill, Joel Greenburg, Herb Harman, Barry Harman, Dave Hayward (DHa), Dennis Heineman (DHe), Glen Hoge, Wanda Hoge, D. Howard (DHo), Eugene Hunn, Stuart Johnston, Brian Kautesk, Ken Kennedy, Faye Krause, Norman Lavers, R. Loehning, Louise Lucas (LLu), Robert Lucas (RLu), Tom Lund, Bruce MacDonald, Donald Mac-Donald, Ian MacDonald, R. Mackenzie-Grieve, David Mark (DMa), Phil Mattocks, Dick McNeely (DMc), Larry McQueen, Tony Mendoza, Steve Mooney, Harry Nehls, Lars Norgren, Robert Olson, Dennis Paulson, Bill Percy, Jean Piuze, G.A. Poynter, Eleanor Pugh, Fred Ramsey, Tim Reichert

(TRe), Hilda Reiber, Tony Roach, Craig Roberts, Sharon Roe, Patricia Rollow, Peter Rothlisberg (PRo), Ron Satterfield, Floyd Schrock, Michael Shepard. Aaron Skirvin, Rod Slemmons (RSI), Kiff Slemmons (KSI), Chas. Smith, Curtiss Smith (CSm), Jan Smith, Steve Summers, Otis Swisher, Howard Taylor, Keith Taylor, William Thackaberry, Phillip Thomas, Ron Toonen, Colin Trefry, Neil Trenholme, Bill Tweit, Terry Wahl, Arthur Wang, Clarice Watson, Brad Watts, Robin Weber, Wayne Weber, Joe Welch, Jan Wiggers (JWg), John Wingfield (JWd), Jack Williams (JWi), Chauncey Wood.(CWo), Sarah Wood (SWo).

The Winter Season, 1974-75

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/ Thomas H. Rogers

Most of the winter in the Region waited until February to appear in earnest. December was generally mild with little snow and January continued warm but in most localities with heavy precipitation, resulting in much snow in higher areas. The real winter set in the first week of February, particularly in that part of the Region from the Rocky Mountain foothills west. Temperatures in some areas were the lowest in many years and snowfall was high. March was one setback after another for Spring's arrival, with snow and cold persisting in force even in most lowland areas to the end of the winter period. The outstanding effect of the mild first part of winter was the lingering of a great many species that normally would have moved farther south or into warmer areas. This occurred mainly in the western part of the Region and produced almost incredible records. On the other hand some species seemed scarce, apparently because the mild conditions allowed them to stay dispersed. Other species appeared in record-breaking abundance through the winter. Apparently a special situation was the roosting area in Yakima with its phenomenal numbers of several species. Early, hardy migrants appeared not to be particularly affected by the persistent winter. All in all, it was a remarkable winter for birds.

LOONS AND GREBES -- Loons and grebes were found in good variety and often unusual numbers in the s. Okanagan of British Columbia in late December. Of the five grebe species of the Region, only the Eared was absent. A few Com. Loon wintered on the Columbia R. from Wenatchee to Pasco. Wash.

CORMORANTS AND HERONS -- A Double-crested Cormorant lingered in the Nampa, Ida. area

716 *American Birds*, June, 1975

until Dec. 27 and ten had returned to Minidoka N.W.R. by Mar. 4 and built up to 200 by the month's end. McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., had 20-30 on Mar. 22. Two Black-crowned Night Herons hung on in the Nampa area as late as Jan. 28.

WATERFOWL -- Mute Swans continued to be sighted at Livingston, Mont. Whistling Swans wintered in a few localities. Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. had a peak of 92 in January, down from last winter. The largest number, 20,900, highest since 1945, was at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., at the end of March. Wintering Trumpeters there averaged 35 birds. A neck-banded Trumpeter at Ennis, Mont. Mar. 8 had a number indicating it had been banded in either Alberta or South Dakota. Canada Geese peaked at 8000 at Columbia N.W.R. Breeding pairs moved into Malheur N.W.R. early in February and peaked at 1720 the first week of March. Summer L., Lake Co., Ore. had 12 White-fronted Geese Mar. 8 (JJ) and a scattered movement was noted at Malheur in early March. Snow Geese began arriving at Malheur Mar. 1 and increased to 30,000 at the month's end. A few of both white and blue color phases were in the Tri-cities (Pasco-Richland-Kennewick), Wash. area during the winter. A huge flock of Snow Geese was at Summer L. Mar. 8. Southwestern Idaho reported nearly half a million Mallards at the end of December. At Columbia N.W.R. they peaked at over 46,000 in December, down from last year. The mild winter did not concentrate ducks in the Columbia Basin as in past years, yet overall numbers there were believed down (LN). Unusual were a few wintering Gadwall at the north end of Okanagan L., B.C. Pintail made up 86% of the peak number of migrating ducks at Malheur N.W.R. Up to 170 Am. Wigeon were in the Walla Walla area in late December. A **male European Wigeon** was seen in the Tri-cities area Dec. 15 to Mar. 1 (REW) and sightings of single birds were made throughout March in the Spokane-Sprague-Cheney area (JA). The Naches R. northwest of Yakima had 16 Wood Ducks Jan. 25. Canvasback showed up 300 strong the last week of March at Minidoka N.W.R. in s. Idaho and the species was described as the commonest duck during the winter on L. Entiat in Chelan Co., Wash. Summer L. Game Management Area in Oregon had 50 - 100 Mar. 24. Four Greater Scaup were picked out among many of the Lesser in the Pocatello, Ida. area Jan. 4 (MRC). An impressive 72 Barrow's Goldeneye were on S. Thompson R. at Kamloops, B.C. Dec. 29 A few Ruddy Ducks wintered on Okanagan L. at Okanagan Landing and at Penticton, B.C. Livingston, Mont. had a **female Oldsquaw** Mar. 3 (HC). Southwestern Idaho reported a concentration of 280 Com. Mergansers near the end of December and Minidoka N.W.R. had 300 at the end of March.

VULTURES AND HAWKS -- The earliest Turkey Vulture was one at Toppenish N.W.R. Mar. 9 but two were reported in the Nampa, Ida. area and at Malheur N.W.R. two days later. Goshawks appeared at no less than nine widely scattered locations. Other Accipiters, particularly the Sharp-shinned, seemed rather scarce in comparison. An early Swainson's Hawk was at Sunnyside Game Refuge near Mabton, Wash. Mar. 6 (JW, JS & DR). Rough-legged Hawks showed in very good numbers in the Region west of the Rocky Mtns. Ferruginous Hawks were returning as early as Feb. 28, when one was at Malheur N.W.R. (LDN). They were along Salmon Fork Creek in s. Idaho Mar. 9 (CHT) and along Wenas Creek near Yakima Mar. 11 (YAS). One was seen between Ellensburg and Vantage, Wash. Mar. 5 (JW, JS & DR). Two were watched through a scope Mar. 14 near Hermiston, Ore. (CC). A pair of the birds in the Heppner, Ore. area had a nest with two eggs Mar. 29 (DW). Golden and Bald Eagle numbers appeared at least up to normal. The latter showed an impressive movement along the Snake R. in Idaho between mid-February and early March with a top count of 19 adults and 23 immature birds below American Falls Dam and another 20 above the dam. A roosting area on Coeur d'Alene L., Ida., had a high count of 57 in January. Single Gyrfalcons were seen in s. British Columbia, c. Washington, s. Idaho and w. Montana for a total of five Prairie Falcon sightings looked encouraging although one area in Oregon reported only three compared with seven last winter. Single Peregrine Falcons were seen seven times in the Region. Merlin sightings appeared to be down.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- Sharp-tailed Grouse were seen in only three areas, Kamloops, B.C.; the Bozeman area, and near Omak, Wash. Yakima Firing Range had 30 Sage Grouse Mar. 16 but the species was

down in numbers in the Wenatchee area. Two were seen east of Summer L., Lake Co., Ore. (LNo) Chukars were recorded near Osoyoos, B.C. and in the vicinities of Touchet, Wenatchee and Yakima, Wash. Turkeys were sighted only in s.w. Idaho east of Arrowrock Dam and at Bozeman Pass, east of Bozeman.

CRANES, RAILS AND COOT -- Highly unusual were four Sandhill Cranes near Lowden, Walla Walla Co., Wash. Feb. 2 and into the second week of March. One of the two immature birds seemed handicapped by an injured leg (LC, FP *et al.*). In other areas the birds were beginning their northward trek in late February and March. Malheur N.W.R. first noted them Feb. 26. and at the end of the spring period there the population totaled 500 with 235 on territory. They were first seen in s.w. Idaho Mar. 2 and near Sprague, Wash. Mar. 23. March 2 was the date of the sightings of a Virginia Rail near Pocatello (MRC), where the species was reported as wintering regularly (CHT). The species was also reported for the Wenatchee area in December and January and at Toppenish N.W.R., Toppenish, Wash. ar. 22. Large numbers of Am. Coot stayed through the winter at the north end of Okanagan L., the farthest north locality reporting wintering.

SHOREBIRDS -- Among the usual wintering Killdeer two were particularly notable. One was at that very far north spot, Prince George, B.C. Jan. 3 and another hardy bird, amid nine-foot snow banks in Crater Lake N. P. took advantage of tracks of a truck. Greater Yellowlegs, frequenting a spring on Malheur N.W.R in January, were suspected of wintering. Twelve of the Lesser were reported Jan. 18 and one Feb. 6 near Lowden, Wash. (NFM). The mild winter induced up to 14. Least Sandpipers to stay at the mouth of the Yakima

Volume 29, Number 3 717

R. Dec. 1, through at least Mar. 16 (REW). At the same spot up to 50 Dunlin remained Dec. 1 through at least Mar. 8. and two Long-billed Dowitchers lingered until Dec. 28. (REW). Two appeared at Malheur N.W.R. Mar. 22, Springfield, Ida. had Long-billed Dowitchers from Dec. 16 on, with eight Jan. 20. On the latter date a Least Sandpiper was there and the day before produced a Western (MRC).

GULLS -- An ad. **Glaucous Gull** appeared at the Tri-cities Dec. 22 after a rather severe storm. Presumably the same bird was seen again Jan. 16 and Feb. 17 (REW). A second-winter **Glaucous** was along the Spokane R. near Coeur d' Alene Feb. 15 and 17 (JA) and perhaps the same bird was seen in the area Mar. 28 (SGS, ES & CM). Single **Glaucous-winged Gulls** appeared in the same area Feb. 16 (WH) and Mar. 8 (SGS). The species has become regular in winter in the Tri-Cities area, where it was present Dec. 7 through at least Feb. 17 and one was on L. *Chelan*, Wash. Jan. 26 (REW). A single Herring Gull was identified on Am. Falls Res. in s. Idaho Mar. 14 (MRC). Two Ring-billed Gulls wintered in the *Helena* area (SM). At American Falls five Bonaparte's Gulls in winter plumage were sighted Mar. 1 (MRC).

OWLS -- Barn Owls seem to be becoming less unusual in the Region. Besides Yakima's single on the CBC, they were described as regular in the Tri-cities area and five were reported n.e. of New Plymouth, Ida. Dec. 9 (SRN). Single Snowy Owls appeared at Prince George and Vernon, B.C. and in s.w. Idaho and put up a rather good display in e. Washington most of the winter, the Davenport-Reardan area having at least six different

observations of one to three immature and adult birds. One was seen by many observers near Belgrade, Mont. on several dates Jan. 17-Mar. 21 (PDS *et al.*). Hawk Owls appeared in s. British Columbia, single birds at Penticton Dec. 26 (SRC), at Kelowna Jan. 3 (SS) and near Vernon Jan. 18 to mid-February (GS). Pygmy Owl sightings were sparse. The only Barred Owl reported was one that Jan. 14 sat beneath awnings and peered into a classroom at Fulton Jr. Secondary School in Vernon (RB)! A Great Gray Owl was seen hunting regularly s. of Bozeman in late March (SC, HC, ETH RAH & PDS). The Long-eared Owl was sighted only at Vernon and at Rupert, Ida. Short-eared Owl numbers were decidedly low nearly everywhere.

NIGHTHAWKS AND HUMMINGBIRDS – The mild weather certainly made possible this paragraph. One Com. Nighthawk was seen over Pocatello Dec. 11 (JD) and again Dec. 16 (MRC). **Anna's Hummingbird** was at a Yakima feeder Jan. 9 & 11 and an imm. Male frequented a feeder at Okanagan Falls, B.C. Nov. 11 -Jan. 13, when it was found dead, apparently from collision, not cold (SRC). This is the first record ever for interior British Columbia (JG). Two more **Anna's** wintered at feeders, one at Wenatchee and one at Cashmere, Wash., both leaving Mar. 8 (WD). One of undetermined species was reported at a Hermiston, Ore. feeder *through the winter* until Mar. 7.

WOODPECKERS AND FLYCATCHERS – The Yellow-shafted race of the Com. Flicker is becoming a “regular rarity” in the vicinity of Spokane. A male there in January was eventually caught by a Great Horned Owl. Besides wintering at Wenatchee, two Lewis' Woodpeckers were along the Spokane R. below Long L. Dam Feb. 15 (FBH). The birds were numerous at Ft. Simcoe, Wash. Mar. 31. A White-headed Woodpecker was found on Moscow Mt. n.e. of Moscow, Ida. Mar. 15 (JWW). A male Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was seen in a recent burn along the Spokane R. below Spokane Jan. 4.

FLYCATCHERS, LARKS AND SWALLOWS -- A very early Say's Phoebe was near Yakima Jan 23, (JW & JS). A tremendous flock estimated at 100,000.birds, mostly Horned Larks and rosy finches, was observed near Helena in mid-winter in -20°F. weather after a storm (SM). The first Tree Swallow sighting was at Malheur N.W.R. Feb. 26, two weeks earlier than last year. A Barn Swallow near Pullman, Wash. Mar 26.furnished the earliest date on record there (REJ) At Kootenai N.W.R. swallows were late, not one having arrived by the end of March.

CROWS, CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES AND CREEPERS -- For the first time in Hand's experience Com. Crows wintered on the outskirts of Missoula. Clark's Nutcrackers were in general very scarce. However, a flock was seen Feb. 17 at Crater Lake N.P. as it moved south from higher elevations. More than 40 were counted in about five minutes. Chickadee and nuthatch sightings were scant in most localities. However, Wenatchee reported Black-capped Chickadees “extremely abundant” and their number on the CBC at the Tri-cities was three times normal. The Plain Titmouse was found along the Snake R. near Rupert and also near Nampa, Ida. Moscow Mt., east of Moscow, Ida., had two White-breasted Nuthatches Mar. 22; they are rare there (JWW). Two Pygmy Nuthatches were observed closely at Canyon Ferry Res. near Helena Mar. 8 (LS). What was believed to be the furthest north record for British Columbia for the Brown Creeper was one at Prince George Dec 29 (AB).

WRENS -- Winter Wrens staged a population explosion. The outburst was noted in the s. Okanagan of British Columbia, at Spokane and nearby Coeur d'Alene L. and in the Tri-cities and Wenatchee areas. One was brought in unharmed by a cat at Walla Walla Oct. 22 (NFM). One in song at Bozeman Fish Hatchery Dec.21-Jan. 1 was the first ever for that area (ETH, RAH, LM, PDS). Up to five Bewick's Wrens were seen all winter along the Yakima R. near Parker. They were present all winter at the Tri-cities and even showed up at Wenatchee. A single Rock Wren was sighted at Vantage, Wash. Feb. 2.

MIMIC THRUSHES AND THRUSHES -- Single Mockingbirds were found near Ennis, Mont. Dec 14.(GH, SM & DWo) and at a feeder in Bozeman Feb 5 -.Mar. 16 (RAH, ETH, PDS *et al.*). A **Brown Thrasher** spent the winter at Malheur N.W.R. (LDN). Richland, Wash. had an early Sage Thrasher Feb. 5 (EM). American Robins wintered in quite high numbers in the more westerly part of the Region. Particularly high numbers were at the Tri-cities Feb. 6. A multi-species roost in

718 *American Birds*, June, 1975

Yakima was estimated to contain over 22,000 Am. Robins Jan. 23 (BL)! Spokane had much higher numbers of Varied Thrushes than any time in the last 20 years and the Yakima roost held an estimated 500 Jan. 23 (BL). At Wenatchee they were the most abundant since 1968 and Pullman sighted them more frequently. They were common in Ellensburg and numbers were above normal in s British Columbia. A Hermit Thrush at Wenatchee in February was the first ever in winter there (PC). A Mountain Bluebird was identified at close range at Salmon Arm, B.C. Dec. 29 as it fed on berries with Townsend's Solitaires, to furnish that area's first winter record (JG). Numbers of the latter species were distinctly up in that area. A few W. Bluebirds wintered in the Spokane area.

KINGLET'S, WAGTAILS, PIPITS AND WAXWINGS -- Golden-crowned Kinglet numbers burgeoned at three localities in c. Washington. Besides Walla Walla's 300 on the CBC, "abundant" was the word for Wenatchee and "invasion" was applied at the Tri-cities at Christmas. The outstanding find of the winter was a bird believed to be an imm. **White Wagtail** studied closely through a scope at Umatilla N.W.R., Umatilla Co., Ore. Feb. 9 (CC & MC). Two or three Water Pipits Feb. 2 near Lowden, Wash. were the only ones reported except one in the Nampa area Dec. 27 Bohemian Waxwing numbers were mostly unimpressive In general they were late, not appearing until December and January. They penetrated as far south as Walla Walla, Pullman and s.w. Idaho. Largest numbers were at Pullman with flocks totaling around 1000 Jan.11, and at Missoula with at least that many in mid-February.

SHRIKES AND STARLINGS -- In addition to the widely-occurring N. Shrike, the Loggerhead was reported in December at Yakima (YAS) and twice in Nampa (BS). One was seen Dec. 9 along the little Spokane R. near Spokane. One at Vantage Feb. 15 supposedly was an early migrant. Starlings at the roosting area in Yakima were estimated at 25,000 (BL) Prince George still had 87 Dec. 29.

WARBLERS -- The mild weather brought some amazing warbler records. Orange-crowned Warblers remained at the Tri-cities until at least Feb. 7 when they apparently were driven out by the snow. One was seen

occasionally in Walla Walla in December and January NFM). Most surprising was the finding of a **Parula Warbler** along the Yakima R. near Richland. Present Jan 10-Feb. 4, it was closely observed for about four hours total (EM, TG, REW *et al.*). A "Myrtle" Warbler was in the same general locality Jan. 11 (REW). Another remarkable record was of a **female** or imm. **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, Montana's first, studied closely in Bozeman Dec. 15 (ETH & RAH). A few Wilson's Warblers hung on in the Tri-cities area, having been seen in December, January and up to Feb. 12 (EM).

BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS -- Greatest numbers of wintering W. Meadowlarks were reported from the Yakima and Walla Walla areas. East of Spokane at Saltese Marsh about 30 on Jan. 19 and 60 on Feb 1 were unusual. A few Yellow-headed Blackbirds lingered at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash. until Dec. 28. Two were seen at Vantage, Wash. Feb. 2 and one was at Toppenish N.W.R. Mar. 22. Fifty-four Brewer's Blackbirds were still at Prince George Dec 29 (AB). Toppenish also had a Brown-headed Cowbird Mar. 22 and one was sighted near Yakima Apr. 5 (YAS). A W. Tanager was reported at Sunriver, Ore. "lost in a snowstorm" Mar. 21 (BH) -- no further details.

FINCHES -- Evening Grosbeak numbers were generally small in the valleys, with indications that more wintered in the foothills, as in the Cascades near Yakima. Numbers increased greatly at Missoula for a brief period in March. A surge took place in ponderosa pine areas in the Spokane Valley just east of Spokane at that time and Pocatello had its first of the winter then Purple Finches were the commonest of the *Carpodacus* finches in the Wenatchee area. One was identified in Bozeman Feb. 17 (HC). House Finches were estimated at 1000 at the roost in Yakima. Cassin's Finch appeared to have wintered in more than normal numbers, mainly in e. Washington but also at Missoula and Bozeman. A few wintered at Vernon and probably at Helena. Pine Grosbeaks were virtually nonexistent in the lowlands, a few appearing at Prince George; east of Omak, Wash., on the Harrison, Ida. CBC and at Fortine, Mont. Gray-crowned Rosy Finch numbers were generally low except for large numbers in the Helena area, particularly after a mid-winter storm -- see comments under Horned Lark. About 25 were found roosting in old Cliff Swallow nests high on cliffs near Little Goose Dam on the Snake R. in e. Washington Dec. 28 (CS). Two **Black Rosy Finches** were seen in a flock of Gray-crowned near Challis, Ida. about Mar. 24 (LRP). Two **Hoary Redpolls** were identified at Prince George Dec. 29 (AB). Common Redpolls scarcely showed up at all. Pine Siskin numbers were high in the n.w. part of the Region. At Fortine, Mont. they were regular and common for the first winter in 54 years' observing (WW). Red Crossbills were common to abundant at Spokane, Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai N.W.R. and Fortine but spotty or absent elsewhere. A female was seen nest-building near Helena when 16 in. of snow were on the ground. The pair was feeding young in the nest in March. White-winged Crossbills were unusually common in heavily forested mountains of s. British Columbia. They sustained numerous casualties when attracted to salted sand on mountain roads. A few appeared in Spokane Co. from the Little Spokane R. north toward Mt. Spokane and the species was seen occasionally at Kootenai N.W.R.

SPARROWS -- Savannah Sparrows may have wintered at Umatilla N.W.R. for six were there Feb. 9 and two Mar. 15 (CC). The species was recorded at Wenatchee in February (PC). Dark-eyed Juncos continued their surge of abundance in many localities. At Baker, Ore. Ann Ward's comment was "the most we've ever had" and at Wenatchee they were "extremely abundant." The Spokane area had them in "vast numbers" and at Coeur d'Alene numbers were the greatest since the winter of 69-70 (SGS). At Fortine they were regular and common for the first time in 54 years (WW) and some were at a feeder all winter at Saltese, Mont. where the snow lay many feet deep. The Vernon area reported a shortage, however.

Volume 29, Number 3 719

Two **Harris' Sparrows** were seen several times during the winter at Walla Walla (RM) and one or two visited a feeder at Missoula Jan. 17-Mar. 1 (PW). Umatilla N.W.R. had six Feb. 9 and two Mar. 15 (CC) and Spokane had a lone bird Feb. 4 & 7. A flock of six, some singing, were at Pocatello Mar. 4 (CHT). Belatedly reported was one found dead at Vernon Nov. 9 (JF). A Golden-crowned Sparrow, a rarity in the Okanogan in winter, was at Penticton Dec. 26 (SRC). The species was noted at Wenatchee in February (WD). At the same locality a **White-throated Sparrow** remained for two weeks in January (PC). Fox Sparrows were noted through the winter at Wenatchee (PC), one was seen at Nampa Dec. 27 and another was found along Asotin Cr., Asotin, Wash. Jan. 18 (JWW). An adult and an. imm. Lincoln's Sparrow were banded and photographed Feb. 11 at Deer Flat N.W.R., Idaho (LRP) and one stayed at a feeder in Tumalo, Ore. all winter (JJ). Three Song Sparrows at Prince George Dec. 29 were unusual that far north (AB). A few Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings were mixed with the huge flock of Horned Larks and rosy finches at Helena in mid-winter (SM). Flocks of 50-100 Lapland Longspurs were regular at La Grande, Ore. through the winter (EB). The only others were five at Omak Mar. 27 (BY & CY). Snow Buntings were scarcely evident in e. Washington until mid-March when flocks of 50-250 were seen moving north in the Reardan-Davenport area. They were reported as fairly common in s. Idaho near Leadore. A few showed up in n. Idaho and at Missoula and La Grande. They were unexpectedly scarce at Fortine. Mont.

CORRIGENDUM -- In AB 29:91 replace the entire sentence referring to Parasitic Jaeger with "A Parasitic Jaeger was seen at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. Sept. 28 (JS)."

CONTRIBUTORS – (Area editors in boldface, number of observers in area, observers cited): British Columbia: **James Grant** (17), Art Beaumont, Roger Benton, Steve R. Cannings, Jack Fowle, Gary Strom, Sue Steinke; Idaho: Kootenai N.W.R., **Delano A. Pierce**; Coeur d' Alene area, **Shirley G. Sturts** (5), Carol Mack, Esther Stewart; Pocatello area, **C. H. Trost** (4), Mark R. Collie, Joyce Donaghy, Leon R. Powers; Rupert area, **W. H. Shillington** (2); Salmon area, **Hadley B. Roberts**; Rigby area, **Donnell Hunter**; s.w. Idaho, **Belle Shaw** (39); Montana: Bozeman area, **P. D. Skaar** (13), Helen Carlson, Sharon Cotterell, Eve T. & Ray A. Hayes, George Holton, Louis Moos, Dave Worley (DWo); Fortine area, **Winton Weydemeyer**; Helena area, **Sid Martin** (7), Lorelei Saxby; Missoula area, **Ralph L. Hand** (2); Ravalli N.W.R. & Bitterroot Valley, **Opal Foust**; Oregon: Baker area, **Ann Ward** (3); Crater Lake N. P., **James H. Holcomb**; w. central area, **Julie Johnson** (8), Bob Helm; Malheur N.W.R., **Larry D. Napier**; Washington: Asotin Co., **Margaret J. Polumsky**; Columbia N.W.R.; (LN) **Lowell Napier**; n.e. area, **Mrs. S. O. Stanley** (4), James Acton; McNary N.W.R., **Owen H. Vivion**; Tri-cities area, **Robert E. Woodley** (7), Craig & Marion Corder, Tony Greager, Elisabeth Moore; Walla Walla area, **Niel F. Meadowcroft** (10), Les Colburn, Robert Morgan, Fred Perry, Connie Sherer; Wenatchee area, **Wayne Doane** (2), Phil Cheney; Yakima area, **Alice Horschel** (13), Betty Lagergren.

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS CITED -- Ron Allmand, Earl Bowen, Frances B. Huston, Kathy Johnson, Richard E. Johnson. David P. Mack, Shirley R. Nelson, (LNo) Lars Norgren, Dick Reynolds, Edwin R. Smith, Jan Smith, John W. Weber, John Wingfield, Paul Wolf, Dave Worden, Yakima Audubon Society, Bob & Carol Yutzy.

The Winter Season, 1974-75

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

The winter of 1974-75 was relatively mild with little snowfall in the lowlands for the second consecutive year. Total precipitation through much of the Region was in excess of normal, however. February and March did have slightly below normal temperatures and March brought unusually strong northwest winds to the Region on quite a number of days. The result was a much delayed spring, although the warm fall and mild winter, particularly early in the season, doubtless accounted for many of the unique winter records which are reported in the following pages. *[In the pages that follow, certain references to Christmas Bird Count records already published in Am. Birds, April, 1975, have been deleted for lack of space. The notation (CBC) will advise the reader to seek the original and noteworthy record therein. -- Ed.].*

LOONS THROUGH HERONS – Individual Yellow-billed Loons were seen on a number of occasions during the winter at the mouth of the Nicomekl R., near White Rock, B.C.; at Pt. Roberts; and at Eld Inlet near Olympia, Wash. On Mar. 14 there were 1200. Arctic Loons at Active Pass in the Gulf Is., (MS, *fide* WW). On Feb. 22 at Deception Pass 150 Red-throated Loons were counted (WW), and on Mar. 20, near Ladner, B.C., 65 individuals were observed (BM, *fide* WW). An estimated 1500 W. Grebes were found at March Pt., Wash., Feb. 22 and at Pt. Roberts Mar. 31 (WW *et al.*) A long-dead imm. Black-footed Albatross was found on the beach at Westport, Wash., Jan. 15 (BT). A decomposed Short-tailed Shearwater was found on the beach at Tokeland, Wash., Dec. 29 (DH, DHa). A Brandt's Cormorant at the s. end of Puget Sound Jan. 22 (DH, BT) was out-of-place; 7000 birds of this species at Active Pass Dec. 23 (MS, *fide* WW) is a noteworthy concentration..

730 *American Birds*, June, 1975

Two Green Herons were at Pitt Meadows, e. of Vancouver, B.C., Dec. 15 (*fide* WW); further south, single birds were seen in at least five locations at various times during the winter. Individual Cattle Egrets were seen at Bellingham, Wash., Dec. 19 and then 10 mi. away at Ferndale Dec. 25-Jan. 8 (TW); other single Cattle Egrets were at Boundary Bay Dec. 21, at White Rock Dec. 22, and at Pitt Meadows from Dec. 16 into early January (WW *et al.*). An imm. Cattle Egret appeared at Sauvie I., w. of Portland, Ore., Mar. 1 (TC, HN). Also see (CBC). The northernmost winter record this year for a Great Egret was a bird at Bainbridge I., Wash., Mar. 21 (RL); there were numerous sightings of Great Egrets in w. Oregon with up to five birds at a time seen at Sauvie I., Tillamook, Salem, Newport, Waldport, Fern Ridge Res., Grants Pass and Medford, a roost containing 12 birds was discovered Feb. 22 between Coquille and Myrtle Pt. in the Coquille R. valley, where the species was characterized as being abundant on that date (WHo). A Black-crowned Night Heron was discovered at Seattle, Dec. 1 (FK, *fide* PM), and another was seen at Newberg, Ore., Mar. 27 (JG *et al.*) Three Am. Bitterns wintered on the Nisqually N.W.R. near Olympia (BT). Also see (CBC).

WATERFOWL -- Whistling Swans wintered from s. of Vancouver through the Puget Sound and Willamette Valley lowlands in total numbers of as many as 1500 this year, judging by reports. Up to five Whistling Swans appeared on s. Vancouver I. (VG) and as many as 40 were seen from time to time at favored places on the Oregon coast. Up to 100 Trumpeter Swans wintered in Skagit Co., Wash. (TW); seven individuals spent the season at Cowichan Bay, Vancouver I., (JCo), while a dozen were at Pitt L. all winter (RR, WR, *fide* WW); one bird was at Ocean Shores, Wash., for ten days in mid-December (G & WH). Black Brant were comparatively little noted until late March when they showed up fairly well at a number of places; Tsawwassen, C., furnished the peak number of 1000 on Mar. 26 (BM, *fide* WW). Except for occasional stragglers earlier in the winter, White-fronted Geese moved into the Region in March, 150 at Ridgefield N.W.R. w. of Vancouver, Wash., being the largest number sighted (BT). The Skagit Flats hosted 12,000 Snow Geese much of the winter, although for the second consecutive year there were few immatures in the flocks (TW). In February, 300 Snow Geese were at Sauvie I., (TC, HN) and in mid-March 8000 were estimated to be present on Sea I., s of Vancouver, B. C. (BM, *fide* WW). Also see (CBC). Numbers of Pintail in the s. Willamette Valley in late December and early January were unusually high, with 30,000 at Finley N.W.R. the first half of January (FR). The Eur. Green-winged Teal was reported eight times during the winter from the Vancouver, B.C. area; two were at Iona I., Mar. 9 (JT, *fide* W); other individuals were seen at Saanich, B.C., in late January and again in late March (VG, RS *et al.*), and at Kent Valley, King Co., Wash., in mid-January (EH). Lone Blue-winged Teals were seen at Nisqually, near Olympia, Mar. 8 (G & WH) and at Bellevue, Wash., Dec. 29 (BB *et al.*, *fide* PM). A male Cinnamon Teal was found at Ocean Shores, Dec. 8 & 18 (G & WH), another was at Nisqually N.W.R. in January (K & KL, *fide* BT), and a group of eight was at McNeil I., Wash., Feb. 16 (*fide* PM). Occasional Eur. Wigeon were, as usual, scattered throughout the Region from Vancouver s. to Eugene and at places on the Oregon coast. A presumed hybrid European X Am. Wigeon was seen by four observers in Vancouver's Stanley Park Dec. 29, and then again in early April (WW). Concentrations of up to 250 N. Shovelers at Ladner in late December and at Iona I., near Vancouver, in mid-February (WW *et al.*) were noteworthy, though not unprecedented. Wood Ducks were present at Grants Pass, Ore., in several groups up to ten through much of the winter (PR, *fide* SS); by the end of March they had moved in numbers into the w. Willamette Valley (JG). Redheads were seen at Pitt Meadows, Duncan, White Rock, Sooke River, B.C., at Mr. Vernon and Ocean Shores, Wash., and near Ashland, Ore., mostly in December, but up until mid-February; the maximum was sixteen individuals. The peak count for Canvasbacks was 1000 off Samish I., Wash., in December (NL, *fide* TW); there were 500 on Alsea Bay on the c. Oregon coast, Dec. 30 (LN), while Yaquina Bay a bit to the north supported up to 600 through most of the winter (FR). More than 400 Canvasbacks were counted near Hillsboro, Ore., away from the coast, in mid-February (TL). An unprecedented number of Tufted Duck sightings occurred this winter, all from the vicinity of Vancouver; an adult male was at the Ladner sewage ponds Dec. 15 (WW), another was at Iona I. Dec. 22-Feb. 16 (KB, BM, *fide* WW), a third was on the Fraser R., n of Lulu I., Jan. 11 (TR, *fide* BK, WW), and one was at N. Vancouver, Mar. 16 (KB, *fide* WW). It is, of course, possible that fewer than four individuals were involved in these sightings. A female Oldsquaw was discovered at Sauvie I., Dec. 31 (JG, HN *et al.*), and four were at Eld Inlet on the s. end of Puget Sound throughout the winter (G & WH). The 75-100 Black Scoters on the ocean n. of Newport, Ore., Jan. 24 (LN) is an unusual concentration for Oregon. Also see (CBC) A male Smew was discovered at Reifel Refuge, Jan. 18 (TW *et al.*) and remained until the end of March; this is the third record for this species in the Vancouver area since late 1970 (WW).

HAWKS -- A Turkey Vulture was present at White Rock, B.C., Dec. 22 (ML, MW, *fide* WW), an astoundingly late date! Early migrant Vultures were one at Corvallis, Ore., Feb. 24 (BP, *fide* FR), and two at Saanich Mar. 22 (VG *et al.*). There were about ten sightings of Goshawks this winter in the Vancouver area (*fide* WW), but Goshawks were reported elsewhere only from Sauvie I., Jan. 17 (TC, HN), and from Victoria Dec. 14 (RF, *fide*

VG) & Jan. 2 (V & MG). Sharp-shinned Hawks were noted repeatedly at Grays Harbor, at Olympia, at Finley N.W.R., and at Grants Pass during the winter. Also see (CBC). Cooper's Hawks were noted in smaller numbers, apparently, from most of the same places through the winter; several Cooper's Hawks seem to have wintered in residential areas of Portland. A better view of the status of these two Blue List species in the Region will have been available with publication of the 1974 CBCs. A Swainson's Hawk is said to have been present at Lopez I., Wash., on the surprising date of Feb. 1; it was seen in direct comparison with several Red-tailed and a good

Volume 29, Number 3 731

in-flight description was furnished (J & A, *fide* NL). Rough-legged Hawks were present in the Vancouver-Ladner area in greater numbers than in the preceding winter (WW), but further south, where record numbers occurred last year, the reverse was true. The Skagit, Samish and Lummi Flats nonetheless experienced good numbers (TW). Also see (CBC). Only four records for Rough-legged came this winter from the Washington and Oregon coasts, from Tillamook northward. Golden Eagles were present in the Region this winter in unprecedented numbers. Several were seen repeatedly in the Medford, Ore., area (OS); one was in the s. Willamette Valley foothills Mar. 21 (LN); one was at Tillamook Dec. 14; and one was at Sauvie I., Dec. 22. In the Vancouver-Victoria-Bellingham triangle there were approximately fifteen sightings of Golden Eagles involving possibly a dozen individual birds. **Ten** individuals -- three adults, seven immatures -- were counted in the San Juan Is., Mar. 28 (B & CY); two were present Dec. 15-Feb. 5 at Duncan, B.C. (JCo). Cooperative counts along the lower Fraser R. for Bald Eagles which gather to feed on spawned out salmon carcasses resulted in totals of 130 (89 ad., 41 imm.) Nov. 30 and of 438 (211 ad., 214 imm. 137) on Feb. 1; the proportion of immatures to adult birds was less in February, 1975, than it was on a similar count a year earlier (WW). Forty Bald Eagles were present between Duncan and Cowichan Bay, Jan. 20, with 35 per cent of them being immature birds. Also see (CBC). Along the Skagit R. in n. Washington from Fir I. to Rockport there were 105 Bald Eagles Jan. 5 (GO, *fide* PM). Bald Eagles were present in more than usual numbers throughout w. Washington; in w. Oregon only the usual few scattered individuals were evident, although Sauvie I. and nearby Ridgefield N.W.R. seem to have supported at least six to eight birds this winter. Early-returning Ospreys had appeared at Medford, Fern Ridge Res. w. of Eugene, and the Victoria area by Mar. 22-31. There were fewer reports of Gyrfalcons from the Vancouver and Bellingham areas than there have been in each of the last four years. One was seen at Victoria, Feb. 12 & Mar. 17 (V & MG, RS). A Prairie Falcon was noted there Feb. 25 (RF, *fide* VG). Single Prairie Falcons also were seen in the Medford area on several occasions. (MM, *fide* JH; OS); one was at Ankeny N.W.R.s. of Salem, Ore., in early January (*fide* FR) and one was seen on the Lummi Flats Jan. 11, where it was found shot in March (TW). About a dozen Peregrines were sighted in the s. half of the Region this winter. Merlins were more common than that, showing up consistently on CBCs in s. British Columbia, and n. Washington, with a few individuals noted later in the winter at points farther south.

CRANES, RAILS, SHOREBIRDS -- An imm. Sandhill Crane spent the winter at Saanich, n. of Victoria (*fide* VG). Cranes moving northward were in the Region again by early March, with 100 n. of Medford, in the middle of the month (MM, *fide* JH) and up to 300 at Sauvie I. after Mar. 3 (TC, HN). Virginia Rails were found repeatedly through December and into early January, then again in March in the Vancouver area (WW *et al.*). At Victoria, up to six spent the winter (VG *et al.*). For Sora records see (CBC).

SHOREBIRDS -- For Semipalmated and Snowy Plover records, see (CBC). Killdeer again seem to have been scarcer than they were in winter before the severe freeze of two years ago, but the conclusion is tentative. A good count of wintering Black-bellied Plover was the 250-300 observed at Victoria, Jan. 13 (ARD, *fide* VG). The 80 Surfbirds seen at Tillamook Dec. 27 (TLo, HN) was also a good total. A Black Turnstone was seen in a field near Eugene Dec. 19 "bathing with Killdeer" (RF, *fide* LM). There were several large concentrations of Com. Snipe at Vancouver in December, including eighty at Burnaby L. Dec. 28 (BK), but the birds largely disappeared in January; by March numbers were being augmented by returning migrants (WW). Four Whimbrel and five Willets were at Yaquina Bay Jan 18 (CW); it is the third consecutive year in which Whimbrel have been found there during the winter season. Twelve Willets were discovered at Willapa Bay Mar. 27, where 15 Greater Yellowlegs were seen the same day (CW); the latter species was seen also during the winter in numbers up to eight at Tokeland, Raymond and Grays Harbor and in the vicinity of Vancouver. A Lesser Yellowlegs spent the period Dec. 22-Mar. 2 at Iona I. (WW *et al.*); six birds of this species were found at Finley N.W.R., Mar. 3 (JG *et al.*). A lone Red Knot was at Crescent Beach, B.C., Feb. 8-Feb. 15 (AG, DB, *et al.*), the first winter record for the Vancouver area (WW). Ten Rock Sandpipers were at the jetty to Tillamook Bay Dec. 27 (TLo, HN); three birds were at Seal Rocks, s. of Newport, Ore., Jan. 18 (CW). For Dunlin, see (CBC). A Short-billed Dowitcher was seen at Burnaby L., Vancouver, Jan. 1-2 (SM, *fide* WW, BK). Long-billed Dowitchers were present at Vancouver in December and January in numbers up to 40 or more (BK), and were present there in smaller numbers the remainder of the winter (*fide* WW). Elsewhere, Long-billed Dowitchers showed up on a number of the Region's CBCs. The unprecedented numbers of Marbled Godwits in the Region last fall led to the same phenomenon this winter; see (CBC); only one bird was found at Ocean Shores, Jan. 4 (G & WH).

JAEGERS, GULLS, ALCIDS -- A dark-phase Pomarine Jaeger was seen at Grays Harbor Dec. 15 (DP, *et al.*); the bird was first observed at rest on a dune and was observed at close range before it flew. Glaucous Gulls were observed at Sauvie I., Dec. 22 & Jan. 29, at Yaquina Bay Feb. 9 & 15; at Bellingham Jan. 4, at Everett, Wash., Jan. 12; at the Thurston Co. (Olympia) dump much of the winter; and at Victoria Dec. 7, and three times in March. An ad. W. Gull was the inland location of Castle Rock, Wash., Mar. 5 (DH, BT), see also (CBC). The only California Gulls reported after December were two at Castle Rock Mar. 5 in company with large numbers of other gulls following a run of smelt (BT); two at Kitsilano Beach, Feb. 28 (BK, *fide* WW), one on Mar. 3, and two on Mar. 25 at s. Vancouver I. (VG). More than 2000 Ring-billed Gulls were at Fern Ridge Res., Feb. 21 (HN). Single imm. Franklin's Gulls are said to have been at Vancouver's Stanley Park, Feb. 13 (BK) and, for w. Oregon's first winter record, at Yaquina Bay, Feb. 15 (RO *et al.*, *fide* FR). The Victoria CBC recorded a new high of over 1800 Bonaparte's Gulls; by mid-January the birds had entirely disappeared (VG). Single, late Heermann's

732 *American Birds*, June, 1975

Gulls were at Speiden Channel in the San Juans Dec. 14 (TW) and at Pt. Roberts Dec. 1 (DP, *fide* PM). On Feb 26 there were 35 ad. Black-legged Kittiwakes on the beach at Grays Harbor (BT); one or two individuals were observed at Cowichan Bay, Vancouver I., Feb. 1 (JCo *et al.*), at Tacoma Mar. 25, and at Port Angeles, Wash., Mar. 26 (CW). There were 240 Marbled Murrelets concentrated at Tsawwassen, B.C., Jan. 27 (MS, *fide* WW). Ancient Murrelets in number up to 18 were seen in waters around the s.e. end of Vancouver I., from the beginning of the report to the first week in March (VG); one or two birds were seen during the winter at the s. end of Puget Sound (G & WH, BT); twelve were at Pt. Roberts Dec. 1 (DP, *fide* PM), and 80 were at Irvine's Landing, 45 mi. n.w. of Vancouver, Jan. 4 (MS, *fide* WW). Rhinoceros Auklets were less reported from the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound than is usual for the winter season; no more than five in a day were

recorded on five different dates in the waters around Victoria this winter (VG); three were seen at Whidbey I., Mar. 24 and at Port Angeles Mar. 26 (CW); good counts of 65 Rhinoceros Auklets were made Jan. 22 & Feb. 23 at Nisqually Beach in s. Puget Sound (BT). Tufted Puffins were recorded at Cape Flattery, Wash., Feb. 14 (R & MB, *fide* PM).

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS – Flocks of Band-tailed Pigeons totaling 70+ birds were on the Saanich Peninsula n. of Victoria in January, but the number dropped to about 25 in February, with the birds being absent in March (VG). Also see (CBC). Up to 40 Mourning Doves spent the winter at Ladner (WW); there were approximately 450 on Sauvie I. at the end of January (HN), which is an extraordinary wintertime concentration for this Region. Two and four Barn Owls spent the winter at, respectively, Medford (OS) and Corvallis (FR). Barn Owls said to be of regular occurrence around Puget Sound in open habitat (EH). Also see (CBC). In the Vancouver area, the Snowy Owl invasion this winter brought forth approximately one-third the numbers of last year's memorable incursion; raptor counts generated 16 Snowy Owls in December, 20 in January, and 15 in February. See also (CBC). Ten of these great owls seem to have been present much of the winter on the Samish Flats (NL, *fide* TW). Further south two Snowy Owls were at Kent valley and at Ocean Shores in mid-December; one spent the winter in the vicinity of Eugene (LM *et al.*). Single birds appeared at one time or another at Victoria, at Dungeness Spit, at Leadbetter Pt., at Seattle and at Olympia. A Hawk Owl was found at N. Saanich Jan. 18 (RF, *fide* VG). A Burrowing Owl spent the winter on the s. side of Yaquina Bay (FR). The two Barred Owls at Bacus Hill, Skagit Co., Wash., were recorded again Mar. 6 (TRe, *fide* PM). A Great Gray Owl was discovered and photographed at Bradner, 40 mi. e. of Vancouver Jan. 26, but could not subsequently be found again (GR, *fide* WW). A pair of Long-eared Owls was on the Samish Flats for much of the winter (TW); one was observed at Medford Jan. 18-Feb. 9 (*fide* OS). Short-eared Owls were down considerably from their usual numbers at Vancouver and Ladner; one wonders whether they are displaced by Snowy Owls. However, 21 were at Iona I., Feb. 8 (WRa, *fide* WW), and 18 more were at Duncan, oddly enough, on the same day (JCo). From other points in the Region to the south up to three Short-eared Owls at a time were reported at various dates through the season from a dozen different localities all the way to Medford. Saw-whet Owls were noted at five different places in Washington and in s. British Columbia at various dates from the end of December to the end of March. Two Black Swifts were seen at Corvallis on the very surprising date of Mar. 31; the sightings were made by four different observers, (GB, WHo, BL, PRo). Anna's Hummingbirds continue to appear in winter in ever larger numbers. Also see (CBC). In Portland Anna's Hummers appeared regularly at a number of feeders; one section of the city supported at least a half dozen individuals within a few square blocks; by March, several females were showing signs of nesting (HN). In Seattle, at least eight birds spent the winter. In Vancouver, there were seven parts of the city where Anna's Hummingbirds were present in numbers between one and three (WW). A male at Bellingham and one or two individuals at Pt. Roberts all wintered (TW). At Saanich, n. of Victoria, there were at least four birds patronizing feeders (VG). Anna's Hummers appeared at feeders near Medford the second week of March (JH), a single bird was seen a few miles s. of Pistol R., Curry Co., Ore., Jan. 2 (WHo). Large numbers of Lewis' Woodpeckers spent the winter in the Rogue R. valley (OS *et al.*); up to 25 of these birds were at Finley N.W.R. much of the winter (FR), but otherwise the species was not reported. A remarkable ten Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers of the red-breasted race were at Egmont, B.C., Mar. 26-28 (MS, *fide* WW); the species is decidedly uncommon in this Region. A White-headed Woodpecker was recorded Mar. 28 2 mi. w. of Hayden Summit between Ashland and Klamath Falls, Ore. (OS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH TITMICE -- A Black Phoebe was discovered at Philomath, Ore., w. of Corvallis, Dec. 26; it was present until the end of the period (LN, FR *et al.*). A Say's Phoebe was at Ridgefield N.W.R. on the Columbia R. from Feb. 8 to at least Mar. 5 (FJ, G & WH, BT *et al.*); another was seen on San Juan I., Mar. 22 (DH, MGo). The alarm created last year by recording only two Skylarks on the Victoria CBC

was alleviated this year when an encouraging count of 39 was taken on Dec. 21 (VG). On San Juan I., 20 Skylarks were singing Mar. 28 (B & CY). The first "mainland" record for the Skylark was made Feb. 11 when a bird was found in the Fraser R. delta (WW). A Tree Swallow was present at Finley N.W.R., Jan. 16 (*fide* FR), one was at Raymond, Wash., Jan. 26 (DH), and nine were at Philomath Feb. 9 (DM *et al.*). Also see (CBC). A Barn Swallow was at Burnaby L., B.C., Dec. 1, two were at Reifel Refuge Dec. 14, one was at Ladner the next day and again Dec. 21 (*fide* WW). Two Barn Swallows were seen at Seattle, Dec. 30, while single birds were noted in the same spot Jan. 21, and at other localities in Seattle Dec. 6 & 11 (*fide* PM). The **Blue Jay** reported at Des Moines, King Co., Wash., last November remained until mid-January (PM); one reappeared the last few days of March on the campus of U.B.C. in Vancouver, where a bird had been seen last October (*fide* WW), it is possible that all these sightings

Volume 29, Number 3 733

were of the same individual. A Black-billed Magpie was found at Seattle Feb. 17 (B & PE, *fide* PM); three were seen at Pinehurst, Ore., e. of Ashland, Feb. 1 (OS). A count of 35 Com. Ravens at N. Vancouver Jan. 20 (JR, *fide* WW) is remarkable. Also see (CBC). Northwestern Crows were said to be in very high numbers at Vancouver, Ladner, Pitt Meadows and Bellingham, as evidenced by the CBCs; all recorded between 2400 and 3500 individuals. A flock of more than 100 Clark's Nutcrackers was at North Bend, Ore., most of the winter (HR), a highly unusual occurrence. On Jan. 12 in W. Vancouver, ten Mountain Chickadees were observed (AG, DB, *fide* WW). Bushtits have been found to be present in increasing numbers on the CBCs for Bellingham, Ladner, Pitt Meadows and Vancouver the last few years; 340 were found on this year's Pitt Meadows count (WW).

MIMIDS THROUGH WARBLERS -- The season produced five records of Mockingbirds for the Region -- one each at Victoria, Harrison Hot Springs, Vancouver, Samish I., Wash., and Junction City, Ore.; each bird spent most of the winter at the named locality except the Harrison Hot Springs bird which is known to have been present only Dec. 31-Jan. 4. Again Hermit Thrushes were very scarce. Although W. Bluebirds are decidedly uncommon in this Region in winter, some interesting concentrations were observed; 21 were at Salem Jan. 19 (FS), 25 were at Olympia Jan. 28 (G & WH) and 12 were at Newport Mar. 4 (*fide* LN). Wintering birds were also present at Wolf Creek, Ore. (EP) and in the Rogue R. Valley (OS). Two male W. Bluebirds were seen on Mar. 29 at Sumas Mt. between Abbotsford and Chilliwack, B.C. (PW, KH, *fide* WW). On Feb. 16 two young male Mountain Bluebirds were noted on Sauvie I. (HN); a male was seen on San Juan I., Mar. 23 (MGo, DH) & Mar. 26 (TW). Townsend's Solitaires were found throughout the winter on the Green Springs Highway, e. of Ashland (OS) and at Wolf Creek (EP); lone solitaires occurred at six localities from Medford n. to Vancouver Jan 26-Mar. 18. A count of up to 200 Water Pipits at Salem Jan. 28 (FS) is an unusual mid-winter concentration for the Region. Bohemian Waxwings occurred sporadically and in small numbers s. of Vancouver to Corvallis in the Puget Sound-Willamette Valley trough after Feb. 1. At Vancouver, they were scarce until mid-February, but then appeared in considerable numbers, remaining until the end of the report period; several flocks of 100-200 birds were seen (WW *et al.*). Cedar Waxwings were, for the most part, quite uncommon. N. Shrikes were reported from nine localities between Victoria and Medford; the only coastal occurrence was a bird at Tillamook Mar. 15 (JBC *et al.*). A Solitary Vireo was seen at Victoria Mar. 23 (MMu, *fide* JW), a very early date. A carefully observed and fully-described **Black-and-white Warbler** was found at Tokeland, Wash., Mar. 21 (HF). At least a dozen Orange-crowned Warblers at ten different localities were in the Region during the report period from Vancouver s. to Eugene. Three **Nashville Warblers** occurred during the report period: one was seen at Vashon I., Nov. 28 and again Dec. 6 (AR); another was found at Seattle Dec.

7 (EH); the third was also at Seattle Jan. 24 (DJ, *fide* PM). A very late Yellow Warbler was discovered at Hoquiam, Wash, Dec 15 (EH *et al.*), it was seen again Dec. 18 (DH, G & WH, BT), and both times the bird was with a flock of juncos right in town. Townsend's Warblers were seen at nine different localities from Burnaby and s. Vancouver I. south to Corvallis. From one to three Palm Warblers were seen repeatedly at Ocean Shores Dec. 15-Jan 11 (KB, G & WH, DP *et al.*). Again a **N. Waterthrush** was found in the Region in winter -- this one at Reifel Sanctuary Dec. 7 & 14, observed from 20 feet (MS, MW, ND, *fide* WW); it is the first British Columbia winter record (WW). A Com. Yellowthroat was at Vancouver from Jan. 3 (BK) until at least Mar. 9, in which period it was seen by a number of other observers, also see (CBC) these records are said to be the first in winter for British Columbia (WW). On Mar. 3 a **Com. Yellowthroat** was seen at Finley N.W.R. (JG *et al.*) A Wilson's Warbler was found at S. Burnaby Dec 29 (AG, ES, *fide* WW); another was seen in the Victoria district Jan. 18 (C & SWo, RS, VG); there are at least two earlier winter records for s. British Columbia (WW).

BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES, SPARROWS: -- An imm. male N. Oriole spent the winter near a feeder at Florence, Ore. (*fide* LM); another bird of this species was recorded at Westport Dec. 15 (DH, DHa, *fide* EH). A Rusty Blackbird was discovered at Bellingham Dec. 28 (LB, EH). A **Com. Grackle** showing an iridescent purple hood and bronze back and described in minute detail, was seen at Olympia on Dec. 4,7,9,10 and Jan.18 (DH, DHa, G & WH, BT). Flocks of Brown-headed Cowbirds numbering up to 75 individuals were apparently coming into the Region in March, being noted particularly at Sauvie I., Bellingham and Lynden, Wash. A female **W. Tanager** was observed Feb. 26, Mar.14, & 20 at Grants Pass (PR, SS) for one of the Region's very few winter records of this species. A female or imm. **Blue Grosbeak** was at a feeder near Corvallis from Jan.4-Jan. 17 in which period it was seen and photographed by many observers (HN, FR *et al.*); it is the only record for Oregon known to us from Dec. 1 to early January an imm. male or a female **Lazuli Bunting** came regularly to a feeder in Leaburg, near Eugene, Ore. (LM *et al.*); it is the only Regional winter record of which we are aware Evening Grosbeaks were much less in evidence in the portion of the Region than is usually the case in winter, a few were to be found in Victoria (VG) and in N. Vancouver (WW), but not until March did any groups appear, and then only at Bellingham (TW), at Medford.(MM, *fide* JH), at Corvallis (LN), and at Olympia.(BT). There were three or four Cassin's Finches to be seen around Corvallis this winter (FR), a most unusual occurrence. Two Pine Grosbeaks were seen in Saanich Jan. 11 (RMG), and another was noted at Vancouver Dec. 27 (BBr, *fide* WW). At White Rock, B.C. Dec 22.six Com. Redpolls were discovered; five of these birds were seen at Pitt Meadows Mar. 15 (TR). Both Red and White-winged Crossbills seem to have occurred during the season only at Vancouver; Red Crossbills were additionally seen only at Bellingham and in very small numbers in the vicinity of Victoria. Single Lark Sparrows appeared at separate feeders in Corvallis, Jan 30.and in March (*fide* FR); a few Lark Sparrows wintered in the Medford area (OS, PR, SS). Wintering Tree Sparrows got as far south as Seattle and Nisqually in

734 *American Birds*, June 1975

number up to three; further north, the maximum was six at Boundary Bay Mar. 8 (MS *et al.*, *fide* WW). A **Chipping Sparrow** seen in Vancouver, Dec. 1 (BK).constituted the first winter record for British Columbia (WW); one was in Corvallis Jan. 7 where two were seen Feb. 4 (LN). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found in Oregon for the second consecutive year; this one turned up at Tillamook Dec. 14 (WT, DM). Harris' Sparrows were present up to three at a time at Eugene, Philomath, Ridgefield N.W.R., Nisqually N.W.R., Iona I., and Boundary Bay at various times through the winter. White-throated Sparrows were more widespread than in any previous winter, with reports from a dozen localities in the southern half of the Region. Lincoln's Sparrows were almost as widely reported, being noted at ten different locales. Individual Swamp Sparrows were noted at

Saanich, Dec. 22-28 (JTa, V & MG, RS), at Anacortes, Wash., Dec. 22 (TW), at Wiser L. in n. Washington, Dec. 28 (LB, EH), and at Lummi Flats, Skagit Co., Wash. (DHe, *fide* TW). Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings were repeatedly recorded in the area between Vancouver and Bellingham, the 130 Longspurs at Ladner Feb. 8 (GAP) and the 26 Snow Buntings at Blacky Spit Jan. 13 (DB, *fide* WW) being the top counts; single Longspurs were found at Ocean Shores Dec. 15 (G & WH), at Glover Pt., Victoria, Jan. 19 (RS, *fide* VG) and in the dunes s. of the Columbia R. mouth, Mar. 28 (CW). Snow Buntings were found additionally at Ocean Shores Dec. 8, when 21 were present (EH), and Feb. 16, when one was present (G & WH).

OBSERVERS -- Jim & Jan Ashleman, Dan Bastaja, Desi Belton (DBe), Kevin Bell, Blair Bernson, Richard & Margaret Bertram, Laurie Binford, Betty Brown (BB), Ken Brunner, Gene Burrison, John Comer (JCo), Tom Crabtree, John B. Crowell, Jr., A.R. Davidson, Nell Dawe, Bob & Pat Evans, Randy Floyd (RF), Harold Fray, Jr., Ralph Fryer, Jeff Gilligan, Margaret Goodin (MGo), Vic Goodwill, Margaret Goodwill, Al Grass, Ken Hall, D. Hames (DHa), David Hayward, Dennis Heinemann (DHe), Joseph Hicks, Wayne Hoffman (WHo), Glen & Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, John Ireland, Frank Jacox, Doris Jelliffe, Brian Kautesk, Fay Krause, Katie & Kirk LaGory, Norman Lavers, Richard Lindstrom, Brad Livesy, Tom Love (TLo), Tom Lund, Michael Luz, Bruce MacDonald, Don MacDonald, R. Mackenzie-Grieve, Phil Mattocks, Merle McGraw, Larry McQueen, Margaret Muirhead (MMu), Steve Mooney, Harry Nehls, Lars Norgren, Robert Olson, Gordon Orians, Dennis Paulson, G.A. Poynter, Bill Peterson, Eleanor Pugh, William Rae (WRa), Fred Ramsey, Tim Reichard (TRe), Hilda Reiher, Alan Richards, Tony Roach, Robin Robinson, Wilma Robinson, John Rodgers, Priscilla Rollow, Peter Rothlisberg (PRo), Glenn Ryder, Ran Satterfield, Floyd Shrock, Michael Shepard, Edward Sing, Steve Summers, Otis Swisher, Jeremy Tatum (JTa), William Thackaberry, John Toochnin, Bill Tweit, Terry Wahl, Peter Ward, Clarice Watson, Wayne Weber, Jack Williams, Martin Wittrin, Chauncey & Sarah Wood (C & SWo), Bob & Carol Yutzy.

Spring Migration, 1975

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN -INTERMOUNTAIN.REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers.

The spring season was one of the coldest and snowiest on record, continuing the late winter trend. Heavy April snows and temperatures much below normal added to the already deep snowpack in the mountains and dumped more snow in the valleys. May temperatures were close to normal, with strong winds in some localities and late snowstorms in others. Many areas had deficient precipitation which, however, had little effect because of the accumulated snow. Flooding occurred in the Helena, Mont. area. Plant growth was delayed from one to four weeks and even more at higher elevations. Those contributors who evaluated the effect of the weather on the migration almost unanimously asserted that many arrivals in perhaps every major bird group were late, that many wintering species lingered long, often far beyond their normal departure date and that nesting of some species was deferred. A few remarkable exceptions are described in the main text. Hand analyzed the situation at Missoula for 35 species, mostly land birds, and found that 16 arrived from 6-26 days later than the median arrival date, six were within one to four days of the median, 13 arrived at or in advance of it and two set new early records. Proportionately more species were late in April than in May and fewer were early. On the other

hand, many late-May-arriving species were behind schedule, a few not having arrived by the end of the month. Many displaced species were found, ten from eastward and fifteen from the West or Southwest. Those from the East were mostly warblers (three) and Fringillids (four) and those from the West, mostly water-associated species (eight) and Fringillids (four). Projected into summer, the effects of the cool, wet spring should be abundant vegetative growth supplying food and cover and well-filled lakes, marshes and streams, promising an excellent nesting season for bird life.

LOONS AND GREBES -- Common Loons were returning in April and May, the earliest Apr. 13 in the Bozeman area. A very late bird still in winter plumage was on the Columbia R. at Richland, Wash. May 24. The earliest Red-necked Grebes were at Coeur d' Alene L., Ida. Apr. 13. About 20 were at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., during the spring. A nest of this species with four eggs about May 14 at Liberty I., Wash. was destroyed by a storm a week later (GV). One bird at Harrison L. near Harrison, Mont. furnished only the second spring record for that area (ETH, RAH & PDS). Large numbers appeared on rivers at Prince George, B.C. in mid-May.

HERONS AND IBISES -- Single Great Egrets visited McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash. and the Nampa, Ida. area and two were seen at Pocatello, Ida. Two Snowy Egrets at Central Park, south of Manhattan, Mont. May 30 were noteworthy (ETH, RAH & PDS) as was one at the mouth of the Yakima R. near Richland May 11-12 (REW & EM) and another at the mouth of the Tucannon R., Columbia Co., Wash., May 4 (JM). The Black-crowned Night Heron nesting colony near St. Andrews, Grant Co., Wash. seemed to be in trouble, with only four birds there May 18. A fair-sized heronry of the species at the Yakima R. mouth had several birds on nests and in the air May 12 and a colony was found at the desert ecology area south of Quincy, Wash. (PWC). A White-faced Ibis appeared at a hatchery near Hamilton, Mont. (WJ) and another, possibly the same bird, was seen at Ravalli N.W.R. near Stevensville, Mont. at about the same time (RT).

882 *American Birds*, August 1975.

In the Pocatello, Ida., area the birds appeared Apr. 7 near the Portneuf R. and on May 24 at least 20 were on Market L. where they nested last year.

WATERFOWL -- Snowstorms in early April in n.w. Montana harassed Whistling Swans. About 100 in Helena Valley found little open water and no food. Several of the birds became too weak to fly. A flock of 50 was seen in the Fortine, Mont. area Apr. 7 flying high toward the southwest, apparently seeking open water. Weydemeyer speculated that the more severe weather east of the Continental Divide drove many swans westward. He reported many in Ravalli Co. even in small ponds where they normally do not appear, in mid-April. He received a report from an unspecified locality east of the Divide of a flock of swans taking cover in a ranch shed and remaining three days while the rancher fed them! Over 10,000 Whistling Swans were at Malheur N.W.R. early in the period. A pair of Trumpeter Swans in the display pool at Turnbull N W R., Cheney, Wash. produced a brood of seven (FBH). Thirty-five Trumpeters at Malheur N.W.R., Bums, Ore., had four nests located or suspected. Canada Goose nesting pairs were down 11% from 1974 at Malheur N.W.R., with 1800 birds present. At Kootenai N.W.R. they were having an exceptionally good nesting, with 50 goslings, a record high number, counted so far. Nesting in the Helena area was apparently delayed by the harsh weather.

Fifty White-fronted Geese remained at Malheur N.W.R. until Apr. 13. A single bird was at Baker, Ore. Apr. 6 (AW) and three remained at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash. For three weeks in mid-May (OHV). Malheur N.W.R. had over 28,000 Snow Geese in early April; numbers were believed up in the valley south of Flathead L., Mont. A Ross' Goose was at Malheur N.W.R. in mid-April (BT). Pair counts indicated an upward trend in duck nesting at Malheur N.W.R., which had about 27,000 birds there. Overall waterfowl trends were impossible to arrive at because of personnel shortages at some refuges, resulting in scant or no reports. Gadwall pairs were seen throughout the period at Kootenai N.W.R., raising hopes they might nest there. A male **European Wigeon** was closely observed on Cougar Bay, Coeur d' Alene L., Apr. 20 (SGS). A brood of eight young Wood Ducks was on the Yakima R near Parker May 29. The species was present at Salmon, Ida. a highly unusual event there, most of the spring season. Canvasbacks were seen in above usual numbers in the Helena area, where 150 were on Hauser Res and a like number on L. Helena. The same number was estimated for them on Pablo Res. near Ronan, Mont. They were described as common at McNary. W.R. Burbank, Wash., At least three Greater Scaup were at Reardan, Wash. Apr. 24. A male Harlequin Duck was on Liberty L., Spokane Co., Wash., May 20 (GV), and one was seen at Lakeview, Pend Oreille L., Ida. May 31 (DC). About 35 Red-breasted Mergansers at Ravalli N.W.R. Apr. 15 were noteworthy, as the species occurs only erratically in w. Montana (WW). At least 50 were on Am. Falls Res. near Pocatello May 19, late for so many. Some 32 were on Banks L., Grant Co, Wash. Apr. 12 and one was on the Yakima R. Apr. 30. More than usual numbers were reported at Salmon, Ida.

HAWKS -- Single Goshawks were sighted in the Beaver Creek area near Baker and at Fortine, where they have become very rare. Two nests of Swainson's Hawks were located in the Columbia Basin of c. Washington (WD). Rough-legged Hawks lingered very late, often well into May, in many localities. Three to five stayed until about the second week of May at Kootenai N.W.R., apparently because of very high mouse populations. Three sightings of the Ferruginous Hawk were made in c. Washington and one in Park Co., Mont. Their density in s. Idaho in the Pocatello area was very low, coinciding with low rabbit numbers. Only one nest was found in 900+ square miles of desert (CHT). In the Pocatello area only one Golden Eagle nest, with two half-grown young May 28, was found, apparently because of the dearth of rabbits. The Snake R. Birds of Prey Natural Area in Ida., had 21 Golden Eagle nests with 33 young. A pair was at a nest in Ellensburg Canyon south of Ellensburg, Wash. A brood of five young Prairie Falcons was banded in w Montana. Three sightings of Peregrine Falcons were made in s. Idaho. The only Merlin sightings were of one in n.w. Montana and a pair in w.c. Oregon.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- Four male Sharp-tailed Grouse, down from 20 two years ago, were seen near Omak, Wash. Apr. 20 (EH). The only other report was of one south of Creston, Wash. where 15-20 dancing Sage Grouse males were also seen Apr. 12 (SAS). In the Rupert, Ida. area their numbers were down, with 17 males and eight females at three booming grounds (WHS). A pair of **Scaled Quail** was seen and photographed near Beverly, Grant Co., Wash. May 4 (JE, LPa). A single **Mountain Quail** was seen at Table Rock Viewpoint, Columbia Co., Wash. (JW) and one was found in the Lemhi Mts. near Howe, Ida. (MRC). A female Turkey was sighted near Naches, Wash. and the species was seen in the Bozeman area.

CRANES --Totaling at least 1500, Sandhill Cranes were moving north in the Bozeman area, s.w. Idaho and c. Oregon and Washington during April. A group of about 60 tried to land on the lawn of a home in Parker Heights, near Yakima. Fourteen eggs taken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from Whooping Crane nests in Canada were placed in Sandhill Crane nests at Grays L. in s.e. Idaho in an attempt to start a flock there (Spokane *Spokesman-Review*, May 31).

SHOREBIRDS -- From a human point of view the shorebird movement was disappointing, with high water levels greatly reducing feeding areas. A few of the uncommon Semipalmated Plover appeared at Ennis, Mont., the first May 25, a record late date; on Am. Falls Res. in the Nampa, Ida. area and at Newman L., Spokane Co., Wash. One at Richland May 31 was two weeks later than any previous late date (REW). A **Snowy Plover** appeared again this spring at Malheur N.W.R. May 8. Single Black-bellied Plovers showed up at Malheur N.W.R. Apr. 27 and at Banks L. and St.

Volume 29, Number 4 883

Andrews, in Grant Co., Wash. (JA, WH). The Upland Sandpiper seemed to be maintaining its precarious footing in the Spokane Valley east of Spokane; three were found May 16 (JA). Ann Ward got her first spring record for the Solitary Sandpiper at Baker, Ore., with two on May 3. Two were seen Apr. 30 and May 7 at Pocatello, where they are always rare (CHT). A Dunlin stopped for a few days the second week of May at Ravalli N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont. (PLW *et al.*). A few appeared at the Yakima R. mouth Apr. 17 and May 11 (REW) and 12 were at Am. Falls Res., Pocatello, May 19 (MRC). The Nampa area had 24 Black-necked Stilts May 18 and six were in the Rupert, Ida. area Apr. 16. Thirteen N. Phalaropes, rare in s. Idaho, were at Springfield May 20 (MRC). Thirty-plus at Reardan, Wash. on the same date were noteworthy.

GULLS AND TERNS -- A Bonaparte's Gull at Fortine May 3 was Weydemeyer's first ever there in the Spring. A remarkable 40 Ring-billed Gulls were at Salmon, Ida., where they are listed as very rare, during the third week of May (HBR). The Charlo, Mont. area had three Franklin's Gulls and two Com. Terns May 7 (CJH). A few Caspian Terns were seen in the Yakima, Richland and Umatilla, Ore. areas and in s. Idaho. Two were shot at a trout farm near Pocatello Apr. 27. Federal authorities were notified.

OWLS -- Single Barn Owls appeared at Yakima and Clarkston, Wash. and in the Nampa, Ida. area. The last of the wintering Snowy Owls were four seen Apr. 3 and three Apr. 12 near Davenport, Wash., and one at Bonners Ferry, Ida. Apr. 25. Burrowing Owl sightings in c. Oregon and Washington and s. Idaho were encouraging and may represent an increase. Two Barred Owls were heard at Trinity Valley Ecological Reserve near Vernon, B.C. May 30 (JG). A Saw-whet Owl was heard south of Vernon at Oyama Apr. 25 (JG).

POORWILLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS -- Single individuals of the scarce Poor-wills were found May 10 at Wenas Creek campground n.w. of Yakima (DR & JS) and May 18 in the Odessa, Wash. area (JA & WH). "Hundreds" of Black Swifts in flocks of 30-50 were fighting their way north against strong wind and heavy rain at Vernon the afternoon of May 17 (JB). About four White-throated Swifts were at a cliff in the South Thompson valley near Spence's Bridge May 28. If breeding they would make a considerable range extension in British Columbia (JG). Sightings of Black-chinned Hummingbirds were more numerous. In the Bitterroot Valley around Stevensville, Mont. the species has become the most common one at feeders (MG). The species was recorded at Malheur N.W.R. where it is rare. A Calliope Hummingbird at Malheur N.W.R. May 18 was the first since 1970.

WOODPECKERS -- Davenport, Wash. had a female "Yellow-shafted" Flicker Apr. 20. A Lewis' Woodpecker was seen entering a nest hole at Liberty L., Wash May 24 and thereafter (GV). A White-headed Woodpecker was watched as it excavated a hole in a dead snag at Wenas Creek campground Apr. 30. A pair of Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers was observed in the Steel Circle residence area in Crater Lake N.P., Ore., from May 24 on. A nest of this species was found at Fish L. near L. Wenatchee, Chelan Co., Wash. (HO). Single individuals of the scarce N. Three-toed Woodpecker were found at Heyburn S.P., Benewah Co., Ida. May 24 (RM) and at 8600 ft. in the Lemhi Mts. near Howe, Ida. May 29 (MRC).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS -- An Ash-throated Flycatcher was found Apr. 30 at Wilson Creek Bridge near the Yakima R. (YAS). March 2 was the earliest ever arrival date for Say's Phoebe at Vernon, where the area was completely snow-covered. (JG). Baker, Ore. had one on Feb. 17, however (AW). A pair that built a nest on the porch of a home near Lowden, west of Walla Walla, had young hatching May 3. One at Missoula Mar. 15 was 11 days earlier than Hand's previous early date there. A total of 12 singing male Gray Flycatchers was obtained at the isolated colony at Wenas Creek campground May 24 (EH). Swallow arrivals seemed about on time except for Tree Swallows, which seemed late. Following a violent storm May 11 thousands of Cliff Swallows swarmed in the canyon of the Yakima R. between Yakima and Ellensburg (NFM). Bozeman had a Purple Martin May 24 (RLE).

JAYS THROUGH CREEPERS -- A pair of **Blue Jays** stayed through April just south of Bigfork, Mont (HE). An occupied Com. Raven nest was located on Yakima Firing Range. The nest of a Brown Creeper was found May 24 in a burn at 3400 ft. on Browne Mt just s.e. of Spokane.

WRENS THROUGH THRUSHES -- Sight records suggest that Bewick's Wren is extending its range in c. Washington. It was reported near Malaga, south of Wenatchee (PWC); at Satus, halfway from Yakima to Richland (YAS), and at Lewis and Clark Trail S.P near Dayton (SM). The Mockingbird that wintered in Bozeman was seen into late May (LM) and a Brown Thrasher that wintered at Malheur N.W.R. stayed at least as late as Apr. 15 (CL, BT). A single Hermit Thrush appeared at 4000ft. in Crater Lake N.P. Apr. 22 when four feet of snow covered almost all the ground. A female Western Bluebird seen May 24 at Wenas Creek campground was mated to a male that appeared to be a hybrid Western X Mountain Bluebird (EH).

WARBLERS -- Some species were late, particularly in the Missoula area. However, others were right on time and the Am. Redstart showed up at Spokane May.17, nine days ahead of the median arrival date. As for unusual records, Malheur N.W.R. had a Black-and-white Warbler May 26, the first since 1973. A "Myrtle" Warbler, Ann Ward's first there, appeared at Baker May 7 and one or two were in the Nampa area May 11-20. The Black-throated Gray was seen at Malheur May 26 and singles were seen near Howe and Aberdeen in s.w. Idaho, where they are more to be expected. An ad. male **Black-throated Green Warbler** May 18 was Malheur's first and Oregon's third record (RS). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, belatedly reported, was sighted in December at Bear L. in extreme s.e. Idaho (JJ). A **Palm Warbler** was noted at Malheur

N.W.R. May 17 (FS) and a N. Waterthrush, listed as rare in fall and winter at that refuge, was reported May 19 (RS). Elsewhere the species was noted only in the Bozeman and Pocatello areas. The Com. Yellowthroat was mentioned as sighted at seven localities, mostly in the w. and s. parts of the Region. In the lower Flathead Valley around Charlo, Mont. it arrived early, May 11.

BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS – Bobolinks were on nesting grounds at Malheur N.W.R. by May.17. A **Rusty Blackbird** was identified at close range along the Snake R. near Blackfoot, Apr. 15 (CHT). Western Tanager numbers were distinctly up in the Wenatchee area and at Prince George, B.C. where the May 17 arrival date was earlier than for many localities much farther south. Their arrival at Vernon, B.C. May 14 was described as very late.

FINCHES -- A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was seen for several days w. of Bozeman and verified May 30 (ETH, RAH & PDS). In s. Idaho two imm. males were banded at Pocatello May 23 (CHT) and single birds were sighted near American Falls May 25 and near Aberdeen May 26 (MRC). A singing **Dickcissel** was found at Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont. May 25 (PLW). Evening Grosbeak and Cassin's Finch numbers remained high in the Coeur d' Alene-Spokane area and at Fortine. Young of the latter were reported from Apr. 14 on. Bozeman had a **Purple Finch** at a feeder Apr. 16 (ETH) and the House Finch was noted there May 25. At least one male and three female **Purple Finches** were at Fortine, Mont. for a few days beginning May 5, perhaps w. Montana's first record (WW). Six House Finches were at Fortine May 3 (WW). The only White-winged Crossbills were two at Bickleton in the mountains of Klickitat Co., Wash. and two at Hayden L., Ida. May 17 (RM). Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were found in the Gallatin R. canyon s. of Bozeman, as were Black Rosy Finches Apr. 18 (ETH & RAH). The former were present throughout the period feeding along roadsides in Crater Lake N.P.

SPARROWS -- Green-tailed Towhees were reported in the Bozeman, Pocatello and Baker areas. Grasshopper Sparrow numbers at Spokane were still down, with three, possibly more, seen May 16 (JA). The only other report was of one found dead in Pocatello Apr. 17 (CHT). Two **Black-throated Sparrow** reports came in. The birds were found nesting near Nampa (LP) and one was photographed near Missoula about May 21 (RLH & PLW). This is the second record for Montana. A Sage Sparrow in a Bozeman yard May 13 was the first there in 50 years (RAH, ETH, PDS *et al.*). From one to four Harris' Sparrows appeared at Prince George, Richland, Walla Walla, Baker, and at Spokane and Davenport, Wash. The White-crowned Sparrow migration seemed sparse in the Spokane area and in interior British Columbia, looked very good at Baker and seemed normal elsewhere. Three **White-throated Sparrows** were seen and heard near American Falls, Ida. May 19 (MRC). The seldom noted Lincoln's Sparrow was seen at Bozeman, Davenport, Richland, Baker and Sunriver, Ore. A Lapland Longspur lingered in e. Washington south of Omak until Apr. 15 (PM) and one, the first since 1967, showed up at the abandoned airport south of Missoula Apr. 17. That locality has largely become urbanized (RLH). The only Snow Bunting reported was of a flock of 50 near Davenport Apr. 3.

CONTRIBUTORS -- (Area editors in boldface, number of observers in area, observers cited): British Columbia: **James Grant** (7), John Baumbrough; Idaho: Coeur d' Alene area, **Shirley G. Sturts** (6), Dean Carrier, Ron McDow; Kootenai N.W.R., **Delano A. Pierce**; Pocatello area, **Charles H. Trost** (4), Mark R. Collie, (JJ) Joe Jeppson, Leon Powers; Rupert area, **W. H. Shillington** (2); Salmon area, **Hadley B. Roberts**;

s.w. area, **Belle Shaw** (31); Montana: upper Flathead Valley (Bigfork), **Wanda Jamieson** (7), Herb Earhart; Bitterroot Valley (Stevensville), **Opal Foust**; Bozeman area, **P.D. Skaar** (6) R. L. Eng, Eve T. and Ray A. Hays, Louis Moos; lower Flathead Valley (Charlo), **C. J. Henry**; n.w. area, (Fortine), **Winton Weydemeyer**; Helena area, **Sid Martin** (4); Oregon c. area, (Bend), **Julie Johnson** (21); Malheur N.W.R., **Richard Sjostrom** (4), Carroll Littlefield, Floyd Schrock, Bill Tweit; n.e. area, (Baker), **Ann Ward**; Crater Lake N.P. **Robert V. Ellis**; Washington: Asotin and Garfield Cos., **Margaret J. Polumsky** (6); McNary N.W.R., Owen H. Vivion; "Tri-cities" area (Richland), **Robert E. Woodley** (6), Elisabeth Moore; n.e. area, **Mrs. S.O. Stanley** (Spokane Audubon Society) (11), James Acton, Warren A. Hall, Frances B. Huston, Glen Volyn; Walla Walla area, **Niel F. Meadowcroft** (1), Jim May, Shirley Muse; n.e. area (Wenatchee), **Wayne Doane** (4), Phil W. Cheney, Howard Oswood; Yakima Valley (Yakima Audubon Society), **Alice Horschel**, (9).

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS CITED -- Jim Erckmann, Marion Gebhart, Eugene Hunn, Ralph L. Hand, (WJ) William Jellison, Phil Mattocks, (LPa) Lynn Paulson, Dick Reynolds, Jan Smith, Robert Twist, John Wingfield and Philip L. Wright.

Spring Migration, 1975

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

April was considerably drier and colder than is normal; May was only slightly drier and colder than normal. Both February and March had followed the same pattern. The impression of many observers that the spring migration was rather retarded and was decidedly unspectacular thus may well be objectively accurate and attributable to the climatological departures from normal. Nonetheless, as birders have come to expect, there were a considerable number of occurrences of ornithological interest and significance.

LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS, HERONS – Concentrations of 60 Com. Loons at Alsea Bay, Ore., Apr. 12 (CW), and of 32 at Whiffen Spit in the Sooke District, n. of Victoria, Apr. 21 (RS, *fide* VG) are of interest, as is the single bird at Butte Falls, near Medford, Ore., Apr. 9 (OS). The Yellow-billed Loon which had spent much of the winter at Eld Inlet in s. Puget Sound was last seen Apr. 12 (G & WH); two Yellow-billed Loons were found at Everett, Wash., Apr. 15 (PC *et al.*, *fide* PM), one was seen at Vancouver, B.C., May 4 (TR, MSe, *fide* BK), and another was discovered May 10 at Tofino, B.C. (SW, *fide* VG). Again this spring large concentrations of Arctic Loons occurred at Active Pass in the Gulf Is. of British Columbia; 1000 were there Apr. 8 and 3500 were counted there May 3 (MS, *fide* VG). From the jetties at Westport, Wash., and at the mouth of the Columbia R. on May 3 large numbers of Red-throated Loons were observed moving north over the ocean (BT). Except for the vicinity of Victoria, B.C., where up to ten in a day were recorded (VG), only five individual Red-necked Grebe sightings for the spring season, all from w. Oregon, were reported. A Horned Grebe at Medford May 14 (SS) was late and unusual at that inland locality; Horned Grebes were recorded up to May 20 at Victoria (VG). Two Eared Grebes at Fern Ridge Res., w. of Eugene, Ore., May 11 (LN), and two still

at Sidney, B.C., May 10, where three individuals had been noted a month earlier (VG & RS). All are noteworthy, as is a single bird at Victoria Apr. 9-22 (VG). On Apr. 22 a concentration of 2000 W. Grebes was observed at Saanich, B.C. (VG); 500 were seen w. of Astoria, Ore., in the Columbia R. estuary, Apr. 5 (JBC & SJ). Boat trips from Westport on May 16 & 18 turned up 24 Black-footed Albatrosses, one N. Fulmar, 50 Pink-looted Shearwaters and 4-5 Flesh-footed Shearwaters (TW *et al.*). A freshly-dead Sooty Shearwater was found Apr. 23 at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. (TC). Single Leach's Storm-Petrels were observed at Westport May 3(K & KL, BT) & 18 (EH). Double-crested Cormorants were seen at Fern Ridge Res. Apr. 17 (TL) & 27 (LN) in numbers up to four; one was at Agate L., near Medford May 14 (SS). Concentrations of Brandt's Cormorants also occurred at Active Pass, where 3000-3500 were present Apr. 8-13; by May 10 all but 100.were gone (MS, *fide* VG). Almost a score of Green Herons were reported at nine different lowland localities from Vancouver to the s. end of the Willamette Valley and at two coastal points, but centered in s.w. Washington along the Black and Chehalis Rivers. Although Great Egrets have been observed increasingly in the Region in the past ten years, few of the sightings have been spring records; the seven individuals from seven localities (as northerly as Saanich, B.C., and Redmond, Wash.) are another indication of a population and range expansion by this species. Adult Black-crowned Night-Herons were recorded at Cottage Grove, Ore., May 10 (LM), and at the mouth of the Samish R., s. of Bellingham, Wash., Apr. 10 (JA, *fide* NL); imm. Black-crowns were noted at Reifel Refuge, s. of Vancouver, May 29 (WW) and at Iona I., also s. of Vancouver, May 31 (BM, *fide* BK). Nesting pairs of Am. Bitterns were at Fern Ridge Res. this spring "in usual numbers" (LM). Six Am. Bitterns were at Oyehut and Ocean Shores, Wash., May 17 (EH), and two were at the Columbia R. mouth Apr. 23 (TC,HN); single birds were recorded at Nisqually N.W.R., near Olympia, repeatedly during the spring (BT), near Gearhart on the Oregon coast Apr. 5 (JBC & SJ), and at Saanich May 24 (*fide* VG).

WATERFOWL -- Seven Whistling Swans were seen at Seattle on the late date of May 13 (*fide* PM). Two Trumpeter Swans were vocalizing at Victoria Apr. 6 (RS, *fide* VG). Large numbers of Canada Geese were migrating up the w. coast of Vancouver I. the last ten days of April (*fide* JCO). Five Black Brant were seen both at Tillamook May 24 (JBC, RFi, HN) and at Yaquina Bay May 25 (FS). White-fronted Geese moved through the Region from late March until the first few days of May, completing their movement a full three weeks ahead of last year's schedule; a single individual at Iona I., May 19 (BK) was late. The only Snow Goose noted during the report period was a single bird at Finley N.W.R., near Corvallis Apr. 13 (LN). A belated report was received of another **Ross' Goose** sighting last spring. On May 4, 1974 Brian Kautesk found 4 Ross' Geese and one Snow Goose together on.

Volume 29, Number 4 897.

the Iona I. jetty. A pair of Gadwall were seen at Fern Ridge Res., May 18 (LM); at Saanich, seven pairs were seen Apr. 23 and one pair was still there May 1 (V & MG). A late **male** Pintail was seen at Saanich May 17 (VG, RS). A late date for Eur. Wigeon was Apr. 29 at w. Vancouver (BK, GAP) and at Victoria (RS), the bird at the latter place being an apparent hybrid. Six Am. Wigeon were still at Tillamook Bay May 24 (JBC, RFi, HN). A N. Shoveler was observed at Fern Ridge Res., May 17-18.(LM), a pair of this species was seen at Victoria May.25 (RS, *fide* VG).On May 24 there were 30 Canvasbacks at Iona I; a week later 15 birds were still present (BK). Also on May 24 there were up to 200 Greater Scaup still at Tillamook Bay (JBC, RFi, HN); two pairs were at Duncan, B.C., May 31 (JCo). A late Lesser Scaup and a **male**.Com. Goldeneye both were noted at Iona I., May 31, where a **male** Tufted Duck was found both on May 19 & 24 (BK). Also on May 31, six Com. Goldeneye were observed at Cowichan, B.C. (JCo). A **male** Barrow's Goldeneye was discovered at Tillamook, Apr. 26 (RFi, HN) and a female was seen at Sooke, B.C., May 3 (VG, RS). Late Buffleheads were a female at

Rockaway, Tillamook Co., Ore., May 24 (JBC, RFi, HN), two males at Oak Bay, Victoria, May 27 (RS, *fide* VG), and a pair at Cowichan Bay May 31 (JCo). On May 4 a female Oldsquaw was seen at Eld Inlet, near Olympia (BE, *fide* G & WH); Oldsquaw were common in the Victoria area during April, the last were a pair seen May 13 (V & MG). Three Harlequin Ducks were seen on Salmon Creek, near Oakridge, Ore., Apr. 22 (DJ, *fide* LM) and 14 were on Washington's Elwha R., May 4 (PC, *fide* PM). Approximately 30 Black Scoters were still on the Lincoln Co., Ore. coast, May 18 (JBC, DM, WT); a pair were at Vancouver's Stanley Park, May 23 (BK), and two were at Tillamook Bay, May 24 (JBC, RFi, HN). Adult Com. Mergansers were seen on Oregon's Alsea R. and Alsea Bay, May 18 (JBC, DM, WT); single females with a dozen or more young were found near Montesano, Wash. May 24 (G & WH) and near Eugene May 28 (CW). A pair of Red-breasted Mergansers was seen at Duncan, B.C., May 31 (JCo) and two females were at Victoria May 29 (RS, *fide* VG).

HAWKS, GAMEBIRDS, RAILS -- A White-tailed Kite was seen at Finley N.W.R., s. of Corvallis, Ore., Apr 21 (JAn, *fide* FR) and near there again the next day (JCa, *fide* FR); one was reported at Baskett Slough N W R., Ore., May 4 (GW, *fide* HN), and another is reported to have been at Pacific City, Ore., May 17. (CT). Goshawk sightings were reported from Vancouver Apr. 6 & 10, From Victoria Apr. 10, from Saanich Apr. 18, and from the summit of White Pass, Wash, May 1. Only six reports of Sharp-shinned were received; more than twice that number were received for Cooper's Hawks, but half of those reports were from s. Vancouver I. Three pairs of Cooper's Hawks were known to be in the vicinity of Eugene this spring (LM). A Swainson's Hawk was noted at Baskett Slough N W R., Apr. 12 (LN), and another was seen at Seattle, Apr. 28 (BB, *fide* PM). An ad. Golden Eagle was seen Apr. 16 in the Malahat District n. of Victoria, carrying nesting material; no eagle was seen there again, however, until May 17 (VG, *et al.*); an imm. Golden Eagle was seen nearby, May 19 (HH, *fide* VG). An ad. and an imm. Bald Eagle frequented Fern Ridge Res., throughout the spring (TL, LM); they, with the two adults seen over Alsea Bay May 19 (JBC, DM, WT) were the only reported Oregon sightings. In Washington, however, Bald Eagles were noted at seven locations (all but one from around Puget Sound) during the period; the exception was at Westport May 3 (BT). Up to 25 individual Bald Eagles were present through the spring around s. Vancouver I., with the center of abundance being the vicinity of Active Pass where the peak count was achieved on May 30 (VG). Only six locations furnished reports of Marsh Hawks. Ospreys were noted from three Willamette Valley and from four Washington locations south of Seattle after mid-April. At Bellingham, Ospreys were said to be above usual numbers after Apr. 19 (TW), and on Vancouver I, six nests were known to be active (VG). Two late Gyrfalcons were observed; one was at Lulu I., s. of Vancouver, Apr. 20 (BK), and the other was at Saanich, Apr. 22 (RS, *fide* VG). A Prairie Falcon was seen Apr. 1 in Victoria (VG); it may possibly have been the same bird seen in Victoria six weeks earlier (*Am. Birds* 29:732). The only report of a Peregrine was an immature at Vancouver May 4 (BK). Merlins were seen at the Skagit Flats, near Mt. Vernon, Wash., Apr. 6 (BT), at Corvallis, Ore., Apr. 7 (RJ, *fide* FR), at Victoria Apr. 12, at Cowichan Bay n. of Victoria Apr. 20, at Victoria May 8 & 24 (VG, RS) and at Port Alberto, B.C., May 10 (CWo, SW, *fide* VG). A Spruce Grouse was observed at close range on the Elwha R. in Wash., May 4 (PC, *fide* PM); a female was seen in Manning P.P., May 22 (VG). Mountain Quail were seen at three points on the w. side of the Willamette Valley or in the nearby foothills in April and May; a pair was seen at Belfair, Wash., May 14 & 17 (RFR, *fide* PM). The Sandhill Crane which wintered at Saanich was last seen there Apr. 26 (*fide* VG), two other individuals were found on S. Vancouver I. in the first half of May (CWo, SW, *fide* VG). During April and early May, up to ten Sandhill Cranes were to be seen on the Samish and Skagit Flats; one was near Ocean Shores Apr. 19 (G & WH). A nest of the Sandhill Crane was found at Davis L. in Oregon's Cascade Mts. in May (AW, *fide* LM). A nest of the Virginia Rail containing six eggs was found near Victoria May 21, three days later it held nine eggs (*fide* VG). A Sora was heard on the Oregon coast, n. of Gearhart Apr 5 (JBC, SJ); two were at Ocean Shores Apr. 19 (G & WH), Soras were otherwise reported from five other locations in the s. half of the Region.

SHOREBIRDS -- Two Snowy Plover were seen at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Apr. 23 (TC, HN), four were at Ocean Shores, May 9 & 31 (G & WH), while eight were there May 17 (EH). On May 3, nine Am. Golden Plover were observed at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. (HN *et al.*). A single Surfbird at the mouth of the Nehalem R., Tillamook Co., Ore., May 24 (JBC, RFi, HN), was late. As many as two dozen Ruddy Turnstones were present at Victoria, May 1-19 (RS, *fide* VG). On Apr. 25, there were 115 Black Turnstones at Vancouver (BK). Two Long-billed Curlews were seen in Skagit Co., Wash., May 10 (TW).

898 *American Birds*, August 1975

Whimbrel were again numerous and widespread in the Region this spring, with peak numbers after mid-May. Thirty Spotted Sandpipers at a park in Eugene along the Willamette R. May 18 (*fide* LM) was an unusual concentration of Solitary Sandpipers were noted at Finley N.W.R. Apr. 22, at Corvallis the next day where two were seen (FR *et al.*), at Toledo, Ore., Apr. 30 (DF, *fide* FR), at McKenna, Wash., May 7 (DH, BT), at Tigard, Ore., May 10 (DFi), and at Burlington, Wash., May 18 (NL). Wandering Tattlers were recorded Apr. 30-May 31 at five different localities, a dozen being the maximum. A Willet was discovered near Grants Pass, Ore., May 7 (SS). Greater Yellowlegs were reported from eight different places between Apr. 2 and May 24, with nine individuals being the peak one-day count. Lesser Yellowlegs showed up at six different places, occurring either singly or in pairs Apr. 13-May 24, repeated sightings occurred only at Eugene, where individuals were noted on five occasions, and at Iona I. An estimated 1000 Red Knots were on the n. shore of Grays Harbor May 9 (G & WH); 20 were in migration at Seal Rocks and at Yaquina Bay, May 18 (JBC, DM, WT); these were the only reported sightings. Up to 34 Rock Sandpipers were counted at Victoria May 8 (VG *et al.*). A Pectoral Sandpiper was discovered at the Montlake Fill in Seattle, May 10 (KB, *fide* PM) four were found at Vancouver May 19, and four were seen again at Iona I., May 24 (BK). Baird's Sandpipers were recorded on the n. Oregon and s.w. Washington coasts, as well as at Victoria Apr. 22- May 31. Maximum numbers of Least Sandpipers were noted in the last ten days of April, although individuals were recorded as late as May 30. After the first week of May, only a scattered remnant remained in the Region of the great numbers of Dunlin which winter here. On May 3, there were an estimated 10,000 Short-billed Dowitchers at South Bend, Wash. (BT); 12 were still at Nehalem Meadows May 24 (JBC, RF, HN), but generally they were scarce. Long-billed Dowitchers were to be found somewhere in the Region during the entire report period, the maximum being 1200 at Tofino, B.C., May 2-5 (JCo), but generally numbers were fewer than ten a day. Two Semipalmated Sandpipers were noted at Whidbey I., May 10 (B & PEV *fide* PM); one was at Seattle, May 15 (EH), and two were at Iona I., May 19 & May 24 (BK). The peak of migration for W. Sandpipers occurred in the last week of April and the first week of May. On May 18, three Marbled Godwits were at Yaquina Bay (JBC, DM, WT), the only report for the season. An Am. Avocet, seen at Bellingham Apr. 17 added one to the very few records for w. Washington (DD, *fide* TW). Five Wilson's Phalaropes were recorded at Fern Ridge Res. up to May 18 (LM), two were at the Montlake Fill in Seattle May 9-29 (DP *et al.*, *fide* PM), and up to six were at Burlington, Wash., from May 13 to the end of the period (NL). Ten Wilson's Phalarope were found at Nisqually N.W.R., May 11 (G & WH, BT), and 25 were seen at Iona I., May 14 (WW). Up to 150 N. Phalaropes were at Eugene, 44 were at Fern Ridge Res., 15 were at Finley N.W.R., one was at the Montlake Fill, and thousands were at Westport, Wash., all on May 3. Two were at Tillamook and one at Nehalem, Ore., May 24 (JBC *et al.*).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS -- Two Parasitic Jaegers appeared in the Fraser R. at Steveston, B.C., about 3 mi. from the mouth, May 27; one was seen there again the next day (BM, *fide* BK). Glaucous Gulls were recorded in ones or twos at four locations, the latest May 10 at Whidbey I. The **Iceland Gull** which was seen repeatedly at Ladner, B.C., during the winter season was found there again May 27 (BM, *fide* BK). Four

sightings of an ad. California Gull were made in the Vancouver area during April; by the end of May, 35 sub-adults were at Iona I. (BK). At Victoria, there were scattered sightings of up to five individual California Gulls in a day during the spring season (VG). On May 26, there were still 200 Mew Gulls at Sea I., most of them immatures (BK). There were only three Oregon sightings of Bonaparte's Gulls this year, of birds alone or in pairs, two coastally and one from the Willamette Valley. An ad. Heermann's Gull was found at Vancouver's Lighthouse Park, May 4 (TR, MSc, *fide* BK); four were at Westport, May 10 (BK), one was seen there May 18 (EH), and one was at Ocean Shores May 31 (G & WH). There have never before been that many spring reports for Heermann's Gull. On Apr. 5, there were nine Black-legged Kittiwakes at the n. jetty of the Columbia R.; on May 9, 250-300 kittiwakes were at Ocean Shores (G & WH) while a few miles to the south at Westport the next day, kittiwakes were "everywhere" (BT). On May 31, there were 800 imm. kittiwakes at Ocean Shores (G & WH) one was at L. Sammamish in n. Wash., May 28 (JM, *fide* PM) and up to seven immatures were to be seen at Victoria the last week of May (VG *et al.*). An ad. Sabine's Gull was in Vancouver harbor, May 29 and a sub-adult was found at Iona I. two days later (BK). Common Terns were virtually unreported, sightings coming only at Ocean Shores with 50 birds May 9 and 20 birds May 31 (G & WH), and from Iona I. where one bird was seen on the early date of Apr. 29 (JI, *fide* WW), and another two were seen May 31 (BK). On May 3, four Arctic Terns were observed at Ocean Shores (KB, *fide* PM) and May 18, three of these birds were noted at Westport (EH). Twenty Caspian Terns were at Ocean Shores as early as Apr. 19 (G & WH), in the first week of May single birds were seen near Medford, Eugene, and at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., four were at Tsawassen, B.C., May 17 (WC, *fide* WW), and nine were at Bellingham, May 20 (JGn, CS, *fide* TW). Black Terns were seen near Medford, at Fern Ridge Res., and at Seattle May 14-30, maximum two. Possibly 30,000 Com. Murres were at Cape Meares and Three Arch Rocks, Tillamook Co., Ore., May 24 (JBC, RFi, HN), while "large numbers" were at Ocean Shores, May 31 (G & WH). Pigeon Guillemots were present in small numbers at Yaquina Bay, Cape Meares, and Tillamook Bay, May 18 & 24 (JBC *et al.*). Small numbers of Com. Murres and of Marbled Murrelets were at Victoria during the spring season (VG). An Ancient Murrelet was reported from Yaquina Bay May 3 (BL, *fide* FR). Rhinoceros Auklets in numbers not exceeding twenty were in the waters around Victoria this spring (VG); on June 1, 27 were seen at Seattle's Discovery Park (LF, *fide* PM). Tufted Puffins were evidently nesting again at Cape Meares by late May (JBC *et al.*).

Volume 29, Number 4 899

OWLS, GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS -- A check by B.C. Provincial Museum personnel of almost 200 barns in the Fraser R. delta this spring resulted in finding 26 active Barn Owl nests (*fide* WW). The last Snowy Owls of the winter were single birds at Iona I., Apr. 5 (DW, SW), at Skagit Co., Wash., Apr. 6 (TW), and at Boundary Bay Apr. 13 (WW). Pygmy Owls were recorded at Eugene (LM), at Alsea, Ore. (DM), and at Sooke, B.C. (MS, *fide* VG) this spring. A Burrowing Owl was discovered at Victoria, pr. 20 (HH, *fide* VG), for one of the very few records from there. A Burrowing Owl was also found on an island in the Columbia R. at Portland Apr. 25 (*fide* HN). A nest of the **Barred Owl** in Skagit Co., with three nearly fledged young, May 15 (TR, *fide* TW) provides the first breeding record for Washington. A Long-eared Owl was at Finley N.W.R., Apr. 19 (JAn, *fide* FR) and another was at Samish I., Wash., Apr. 29 (NL). Up to three Short-eared Owls were seen at a time in five different localities during the report period Saw-whet Owls were recorded from Springdale, Ore. e. of Portland, May 17 (TC, HN), from Bellingham the same date (TW), and from Bellevue May 2. (JN, *fide* PM). A Poor-will was found dead on a road near Hills Creek Dam in e. Lane Co., Ore., Apr. 28 (MK, *fide* HN). On May 24, Black Swifts were seen on San Juan I, Wash. (ARD, *fide* VG). Several hundred Vaux's Swifts were using a chimney at Eugene, May 7 (LM), where an individual had been seen as early as Apr. 18. (DG, *fide* LM); another early arrival was at Camano I., Wash, Apr. 16 (JW, *fide* PM). On May 18, there were 150 Vaux's Swifts drifting north along the e. edge of a line of thunderstorms near Victoria (HH, *fide* VG). Male

Anna's Hummingbirds were seen at Grants Pass, Apr. 16, elsewhere in Josephine Co., May 4 (SS); in Seattle, Apr. 24 & May 31 (EH *et al.*), and at Saanich May 25 (VG); Anna's Hummingbirds were seen repeatedly in Vancouver, from early April to late May. (WW), and in Saanich where there were at least two males present (VG *et al.*). A male Allen's Hummingbird was seen at Brookings, Ore., Apr. 20 (SS) and more than one was seen along the Illinois R. trail on the e. edge of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area in Josephine Co., Apr 26 (EP). A Calliope Hummingbird was seen at Eugene, May 7-8 (LM), at Vancouver, May 1 (VW, *fide* WW) and in N. Vancouver, May 13-14 (TR, WW).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, JAYS -- An Acorn Woodpecker was seen repeatedly at Tigard, Ore., during April and May (DFi, HN). A Lewis' Woodpecker was at W. Vancouver, May 4 (JI, *fide* BK); at Eugene May 10 was the latest date (LM). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker of the *varius* race was found and photographed at Stanley Park in Vancouver, May.4, 8 & 13 (BA, BK, PMr). Three birds of the *nuchalis* race were seen at Manning P.P., May 22 where a female N. Three-toed Woodpecker was seen the same day (VG). An E. Kingbird showed up at Buena Vista, s. of Salem, May 23 (JJ, *fide* FR). Western Kingbirds appeared singly at Ocean Shores May 31 (G & WH), at Saanich May 27 (RMG, *fide* VG), in Skagit Co., May.12 & 18 (K & JW, *fide* TW), on the Samich Flats May.13 (NL), on Camano I., May 8 (JW, *fide* PM), and at Nisqually May 2 (JD, *fide* G & WH). In Oregon, W Kingbirds were seen at six different localities during May from Sauvie I., s. to Wolf Creek and w. nearly to Waldport, with numbers of individuals at Eugene and at Corvallis. Several pairs of Black Phoebees were again found nesting in Jackson Co., Ore. (OS). Two Say's Phoebees were at Victoria's Clover Pt. Apr 15 (MS, RF, KT, *fide* VG); single birds were recorded at Seattle Apr. 13, on Camano I., May 23-24 (*fide* PM), at Eugene May 4 (DG, *fide* LM), and along the Luckiamute R. in Benton Co., Ore., May 17 (JJ, *fide* FR). On May 29 there were 50 Willow Flycatchers on Camano I. where none had been present two days earlier (JW, *fide* PM); this species seems to have arrived unusually late. An extremely early W. Flycatcher was observed and heard at Francis Park near Victoria Apr. 8 (WW). Two Bank Swallows were seen at Saanich May 7 (RF, *fide* VG). Ten Rough-winged Swallows were at Eugene Apr. 2 and two Barn Swallows were there the next day (TL); one of the latter species arrived at Saanich, Apr. 15 (M & VG). Early Cliff Swallows were seen at several points, including Saanich and the Skagit Flats during the first two weeks of April. More than 100 Purple Martins were at Fern Ridge Res., May 11 (TL); a pair had been seen at Hammond, Ore., as early as Mar. 28 (RFe, *fide* TL), while three birds were seen at Peedee, Ore., Apr. 7 (JJ, *fide* TL). Up to ten Purple Martins were found at Corvallis, Olympia, Seattle, Saanich and Duncan Apr. 7 - May 25. The Blue Jay which wintered in Seattle was last seen in late April (*fide* PM); the one which had evidently wintered at Vancouver was last seen in early May (*fide* BK). A Blue Jay was seen and photographed at Green L. about 70 mi. n. of Vancouver May 11 (WC, *fide* WW). A Black-billed Magpie was seen at Seattle Apr.25 (BR, *fide* PM). A Wrenit was noted at Alsea, Ore, Apr. 27 (LN).

WRENS THROUGH SHRIKES -- House Wrens were established at a number of points on s. Vancouver I. by the end of the report period. A Rock Wren was found on the e. edge of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area May 16 (SS). The Mockingbird which spent most of the winter at Vancouver was seen last Apr. 2 (*fide* WW), and the one which had been at Victoria all winter was seen last May 2 (*fide* VG). A Veery was seen at Medford May 23 (JH). Western Bluebirds continue to be very scarce; only reports were of single individuals at Mima Mounds, Thurston Co., Wash., Apr. 6 (BT), in the Malahat District n. of Victoria May 3 (V & MG,RS), and at Newhalem, Wash., May 4 (TW). Mountain Bluebirds, on the other hand, appeared at such unexpected places as the s. jetty of the Columbia R. May 3 (HN), near Grants Pass Apr. 8, and nearby May 10 (SS), at the Samish Flats where 12 were discovered Apr. 9 (NL), and in Saanich and Vancouver where two females were seen Apr. 21 (V & MG) and Apr. 25-28 (BK), respectively. The species was also recorded near Eugene Apr. 19 (AS, AP,

fide LM), at Rainier, Wash., Apr. 27 (G & WH), and at Manning P. P., May 22 (VG). Townsend's Solitaires were more widely reported in w. Oregon and w. Washington than in any.

900 *American Birds*, August 1975.

previous season with several from coastal localities; one was at Ocean Shores May 9 (G & WH), one was at Willapa Bay N.W.R., Apr. 26 (BT), one was at Seaside, Ore., May 11 and two were at Alsea, Ore., not far from the coast, Apr. 12 (DM, *fide* FR). Two pairs of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers -- one tending a nest containing four eggs -- were discovered the last week of May near Eagle Pt., Jackson Co., Ore., farther n.e. than any other regional record (OS). An estimated 80-100 Ruby-crowned Kinglets were observed in a relatively small area at Eugene Apr. 18 (CW); one at Olympia May 27 (G & WH) was lingering late. A Water Pipit at Fern Ridge Res. as late as May 18 (LM) is also of interest. On Apr. 4 there were still 43 Bohemian Waxwings on the U.B.C. campus in Vancouver (WW). Large flocks of Cedar Waxwings were around Corvallis all spring (FR) but not noted prominently anywhere else. Late N. Shrikes were at Pitt L. s. of Vancouver, Apr 4 and at Iona I., Apr. 5 (DW, JEW). A very late N Shrike was one at Tzuhalem, s. Vancouver I., May.14 (RMG, *fide* VG). Single Loggerhead Shrikes were noted at Fern Ridge Res., Apr. 30 (LM) and at Seattle May 25 (DP, *fide* PM).

VIREOS, WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS, GROSBEAKS -- A Solitary Vireo was found at Corvallis on Apr 8 (early) & 15 (FR, *et al.*). A Red-eyed Vireo was noted at Philomath, Ore., and another on Mary's Peak w. of Corvallis, both May 31 (*fide* FR); one was at Victoria May 24 (RS, *fide* VG), but none were to be found in n. Washington by the end of the period (NL). Warbling Vireos were said to be abundant migrants at Eugene after May 8 (LM): on May 16, a surprising concentration of 28 was found in Vancouver's Stanley Park (BK). A heavy movement of Nashville Warblers took place at Eugene, May 7 (CSw, *fide* LM), but elsewhere in the Region records were few for single birds. A migratory movement of Yellow Warblers was evident May 18-25 at Eugene (CW); an early individual was seen at Corvallis, Apr. 15 (RJ, *fide* FR). Large numbers of Townsend's Warblers were said to be at both Ocean Shores, May 9, and at Nisqually N.W.R., May 11 (G & WH); the species was reported to be common at Eugene to May 18 (LM), and at Stanley Park in Vancouver on May 16 there were 20 individuals (BK). A singing **Palm Warbler** was photographed at Sauvie I., w. of Portland, May 10 (RFi, HN) for one of very few spring reports from this Region. Six Com. Yellowthroats were observed together near Medford on the early date of Apr. 5 (OS). A group of a dozen Yellow-breasted Chats was observed near Lebanon, May 31 (WT, *fide* FR). An early Wilson's Warbler was observed at Corvallis, Apr. 15 (FR *et al.*); an amazing concentration of 500 individuals was estimated to be present at Stanley Park, Vancouver, May 16 (BK). A Bobolink was discovered near Lebanon May 28 (WT, *fide* FR); another May 29 at Sea I., s. of Vancouver (JI, *fide* BK). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were noted at a number of s. Willamette Valley locations, at Nisqually, Seattle, Vancouver, Saanich and at Tofino on the s.w. coast of Vancouver I., after mid-April. Ten Tricolored Blackbirds were seen in the Rogue R. Valley near Medford, May 3 (OS). An early N. Oriole was at Finley N.W.R., Apr. 11 (RR, *fide* FR). On May 18, there were 33 W. Tanagers in Stanley Park (BK) A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was discovered at Eugene May.16 (OS, *fide* LM); two days later one was recorded near Dexter, Lane Co., Ore. (MM, *fide* LM), and then on May 24, a lone male appeared at Eugene (DW, *fide* LM).

FINCHES, SPARROWS -- The s. Willamette Valley experienced an influx of Evening Grosbeaks May 14, they had been more numerous than usual at Medford this spring (OS), but were considerably less common in the Portland area than in recent springs. Purple Finches were more common than usual in n.w. Oregon. Six

Cassin's Finches were at Manning P.P. May 22 (VG). Pine Siskins were scattered and in small numbers in n.w. Oregon during May; no one, however, seems to have birded the Cascades that month. On May 9, there were 130 Am. Goldfinches at Sauvie I., w. of Portland (HN). Lesser Goldfinches were encountered in numbers of no more than three a day in the vicinity of Corvallis on six dates during April and May. Red Crossbills were in the Coast Range, Lane Co., Ore., Apr. 11 (CW) and at Camano I., Wash., much of the spring (JW, *fide* PM); a single bird was at Saanich May 7 & 12 (RMG, LR, *fide* VG). Up to eight White-winged Crossbills were at Manning P.P. May 21-29 (VG). A group of 20-25 Grasshopper Sparrows was seen at Buena Vista, s. of Salem Apr. 21-28 (JJ, *fide* FR). Vesper Sparrows were reported from Salem, Apr 16 & 21 (TM), from the dunes at the mouth of the Winchuck R. in extreme s.w. Oregon where three were singing Apr. 20 (SS), from s. of Banks, Ore., in the foothills of the Coast Range where two were noted on May 24 (JBC *et al.*), from Mima Mounds, Thurston Co., Wash. on Apr. 30 (BT), from Ocean Shores where two were found May 9 (G & WH), and from Pitt Meadows, e. of Vancouver May 2 (RR, *fide* BK). Single Lark Sparrows showed up at Lebanon, May 28 (WT, *fide* FR) and in Skagit Co., May 18 (K & JW, *fide* TW). Twelve Black-throated Sparrows were among a flock of White-crowned Sparrows near Fern Ridge Res., Apr. 10 (HT, *fide* LM); a male was singing at Roxy Ann Butte near Medford, May 31 (OS), and one was found in n.e. Portland May 18 (CK). Individual "Slate-colored" Juncos were seen at Seattle May 1 (MP, *fide* PM) and at Nisqually N.W.R., May 8 (BT). An elusive bird on the Skagit Flats, from at least Mar. 30 to Apr. 20 was finally identified to the satisfaction of the local birding fraternity as a **Clay-colored Sparrow** (DP, EH, BT, PM *et al.*); it may well be the first record for Washington; we are not aware of any other. A Harris' Sparrow was at Medford, Apr. 9-20 (SS, OS) A late Golden-crowned Sparrow was still present at Philomath, Ore., May 31 (BP, *fide* FR), and another late individual was at Seattle May 28 (JW, *fide* PM). A White-throated Sparrow was found at the Skagit Game Range, Apr. 6 (EH); one remained at Victoria until late April (VG). Six Lapland Longspurs were seen at Seattle Apr. 22 (EH), one was at Victoria Apr. 29 (ARD, *fide* VG), one was noted on San Juan I., May 3 (G & WH), and another was at Victoria, May 12-15 (VG, RS *et al.*). A very late Snow Bunting was observed at Westport May 3 (JS, *fide* PM).

Volume 29, Number 4 901.

OBSERVERS -- Bob Anderson, John Annear (JAn), Jim Ashleman, Blair Bernson, Ken Brunner, Wayne Campbell, John Casteel (JCa), Paul Cook, Tom Crabtree, John B. Crowell, Jr., A.R. Davidson, Jack Davis, Dave Drummond, Betty Estes, Bob & Pat Evans (B & PEv), Lloyd Farrell, Darrell Faxon, Richard Ferrell (RFe), Roy Fisk (RFi), David Fix (DFi), Rachel Freelin (RFR), Ralph Fryer, Jeff Gibson (JGn), Dan Gleason, Vic & Margaret Goodwill, Dave Hayward, Ollie Heide, Joseph Hicks, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Harold Hosford, Eugene Hunn, John Ireland, Stewart James, Jon Janosik, R. Jarvis, Dave Jones, Brian Kautesk, Chester Kebbe, Mike Kreiling, Kirk & Katy LaGory, Norman Lavers, Brad Livezey, Tom Lund, Bruce MacDonald, Donald MacDonald, R. MacKenzie-Grieve, Peter Marshall (PMr), Marian Mathews, Phil Mattocks, Tom McCamant, John Medley, Larry McQueen, James Nahser, Harry Nehls, Lars Norgren, Dennis Paulson, Michael Pertone, Bill Peterson, G.A. Poynter, Al Prigge, Eleanor Pugh, Fred Ramsey, Tim Reichard (TRe), Tony Roach, Leila G. Roberts, Robin Robinson (RRn), Richard Rogers, Beverly Ross, Ron Satterfield, Madelon Schouten (MSc), Floyd Schrock, Michael Shepard, Aaron Skirvin, Curtiss Smith, Jan Smith, Collen Sweeney (CSw), Otis Swisher, Howard Taylor, Keith Taylor, William Thackaberry, Charles Thomas, Bill Tweit, Glen Walthall, Clarice Watson, Don Watson (DWa), Wayne Weber, Virginia Whitelaw, Keith & Jan Wiggets (K & JW), Dorothy Williams, Jack Williams (JEW), John Wingfield, Al Winter, Chauncey Wood (CWo), Sarah Wood.

The Nesting Season, 1975

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN -INTERMOUNTAIN.REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers.

Weather during the summer was characterized by extremes. June was generally cold, retarding the runoff from the winter's heavy snows. Most of the Region had frequent rains, with the exception of the rain shadow area just east of the Cascades. July started with a brief rainy period, then turned unseasonably hot for a week, climbing into the 90–100° F. range and even above. This was broken at mid-month by unexpected heavy rains and dipping mercury. The remainder of the month was about normal until another rainy period dropped temperatures at the end. The rain shadow strip again missed most of the moisture. In summary, the summer was cool and wet in most localities, producing excellent vegetative growth and very favorable conditions for water birds. Although nesting was delayed for some species, the summer appeared generally good for bird life. Nests were observed in probably the greatest numbers ever for the Region, but this may be owing to more extensive coverage by an army of observers. For a summer season a surprising number of species displacements into the Region, about 35, were detected. Mountain areas from Glacier Nat'l Park in the United States north to Yoho Nat'l Park in Canada had most of their displaced species from the north or northeast, which might be explained by the cold weather. The other United States localities had them about equally divided from east, south and west. Most areas had a few delayed migrants or summering non-breeders of higher elevations or more northerly areas. Most of the displacements appear to have been found in areas quite well covered by observers in the past.

LOONS AND GREBES -- In addition to the usual small numbers of Com. Loon on Rocky Mt. lakes one or two lingered into June in s.w. Idaho, on Liberty L.

1006 *American Birds*, October, 1975

and at Richland, Wash. A nest was found at Swan L., Vernon, B.C. June 1. Red-necked Grebes were nesting from n.e. Washington, n. Idaho and n.w. Montana north into British Columbia and were seen as far north as Yoho Nat'l Park. Swan L. at Vernon had 20 nests, down somewhat. Horned Grebes appeared only in Flathead Co., Mont. and in Yoho N.P. Eared Grebes numbered 1000-1500 on Lower L., Red Rock Lakes N. W. R., Lima, Mont. and Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore counted over 290 nests on Boca L. A June estimate gave the latter refuge 765 W. Grebes in nesting concentrations and the estimate for Pied-billed was 380. At Red Rock Lakes the latter species numbered 1000-1500.

PELICANS THROUGH HERONS -- The Bozeman, Mont area, s. Idaho and Malheur N.W.R. had White Pelicans, the latter noting over 1000. Nesting of Double-crested Cormorants was down slightly at Malheur N.W.R., with 60 nests counted. The birds were noted at the colony at Ennis, Mont. and were nesting for the second year at Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont. and bred for the first time in the Helena, Mont area, with 15, including several young, July 27. at the head of L. Helena. Here they displaced part of a colony of Great Blue

Heron (SM). A new heronry of the Great Blue has formed at the s. end of Swan L. in n. Lake Co., Mont. A newly-found colony at Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, Ida., had at least 20 nesting pairs. A single bird in Yoho N.P. June 5 was unusual. An ad. Green Heron on Crab Creek, Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. July 5, was the second ever seen there (SAS). The nest count for the Great Egret at Malheur N.W.R. was 100 compared with 350 last year. Two stayed near Pocatello into June and one was at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash. in early July. Snowy Egret nest numbers at Malheur were also down -- 55 compared with 140 in 1974. The species was seen at Rupert, Ida. and one was at Ennis L., Ennis, Mont. (U.S.F. & W.S.). Black-crowned Night Heron nests at Malheur tallied 360 (1000 last year) and the nesting colony at Richland, Wash. was practically deserted in early June, too many fishermen the suspected cause. McNary N.W.R. had about 140. Ten of the birds were at the heronry near St. Andrews, Grant Co., Wash. July 19. American Bittern numbers at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., seemed down. Elsewhere the species was reported only from Flathead County, Mont.

IBIS AND SWANS -- Malheur N.W.R. had 40 nests of White-faced Ibis compared to 80 last year. At Market L. near Pocatello, Ida., 33 nestlings were banded, down from last year's 51 (CHT). Four Mute Swans appeared at Ennis, Mont. on several dates. This is their first appearance there (PDS). The pair of Trumpeter Swans at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash. had six of its seven cygnets yet at the end of July. The peak of the hatch at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. was on the July 4. weekend, about three weeks later than normal. A Whistling Swan remained on the St. Joe R. near St. Morns, Ida. all through July (JL) and one was at Minidoka N.W.R. in s. Idaho June 6 (WS).

GEESE AND DUCKS -- Canada Geese found excellent nesting conditions in extreme n. Idaho, with production estimated at 400-500 for Boundary Co. Over 800 were produced at Malheur N.W.R., down from 1974. Avian and mammalian predation was believed an important factor. A small number of Snow Geese was at Malheur near the end of July and one was seen in Powell Co., Mont. June 6 (ETH & RAH). Duck nesting success in e. Washington was excellent (OS). Duck pairs, slightly down from last year at Malheur, were counted at 10,000, mainly Mallard, Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal and Redhead. Total individuals at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. numbered 8000-10,000, somewhat below normal. A male Harlequin Duck appeared twice in the first half of June at Hyalite Res, Gallatin Co., Mont. (GR, CMC). Ring-necked Ducks were noted as gradually increasing in the Fortine, Mont. area, with seven broods seen, and a brood of Lesser Scaup there was Weydemeyer's second in 50 years, the first having been seen last year. Three White-winged Scoters were found on the North Fork of the Flathead R. on the w. border of Glacier N.P. June 16 (MH).

ULTURES AND HAWKS -- A gathering of 19 Turkey Vultures was at Otter L. near Armstrong, B.C. July 22. Accipiters were scarce as usual. The Goshawk was sighted at two localities around Baker, Ore. and in Glacier N.P. and a nest near Missoula produced three young. Another nest was found in the Gravelly Range s.w. of Bozeman U.S.F. & W.S. and an active nest was located along the Wenaha R., Wallowa Co., Ore. (AT). A Cooper's Hawk nest near Missoula contained five young. Three active Swainson's Hawk nests were found in the general area of Baker. Ferruginous Hawk nesting success was very poor in the Pocatello area, where only one successful nest was found in a 950 sq. mi area (CHT). A few of the birds were seen Aug. 2 near Sumpter, Ore. (NFM) and one was sighted near Bowman Creek in n.w. Glacier N.P. (MH). Three sightings of single birds were made in s.w. Idaho. Single Golden Eagle nests were located in the vicinity of Salmon and Pocatello, Ida. near Bozeman, and Baker. Three young fledged from a Bald Eagle nest about 90 mi. from Helena (VY). Successful Osprey nests on the Coeur d' Alene and Pend Oreille river drainages in n. Idaho totalled 99 and produced 206 young. Ten active nests were observed on Holter L. in the vicinity of Helena At Crane Creek

Res., Washington Co., Ida. the species was doing poorly, with only one nest containing one nestling (VH). Seven sightings of Prairie Falcons, including one nest, were obtained in the Region.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- A White-tailed Ptarmigan nest in Yoho N.P. had produced two young by July 18. Sage Grouse were reported only from Wilsall, Mont. and Salmon, Ida., where several broods were seen. An ad. Mountain Quail with four young was found 10 mi. e. of Lyle, Klickitat Co., Wash. (EH). One or two were seen in s.w. Idaho. Chukar populations were up 30% over 1974 in e. Washington but Gray Partridge numbers were down (JS).

Volume 29, Number 5 1007

CRANES AND RAILS -- Six or seven Whooping Cranes hatched from eggs placed in Sandhill Crane nests at Grays Lake N.W.R. in s.e. Idaho and were reported doing well. One seen following its foster parent July 25 was about two-thirds grown (RD). Nesting of the Sandhill Crane in the Helena Valley has finally been confirmed by the sighting of two adult and two young birds the second week of June (SM). Three of this species were seen in Canada's Glacier N.P. on several dates during late July and one was at Mara Meadows Ecological Reserve 25 mi. north of Vernon, B.C. June 21. A single **Yellow Rail** was reported in a marsh on Blake Lane near Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. June 7 (PMcK).

SHOREBIRDS -- The Semipalmated Plover was noted at Ennis L. June 18 (ETH, RAH & MB) and two were at Fortine, Mont. July 31 (WW). Two Snowy Plovers were seen at Malheur N.W.R. July 9 and one July 23 (AT). Remarkable was the finding of a **Whimbrel** along Dodson Road west of Potholes Res., Grant Co., Wash. July 5 (JA). A single Upland Sandpiper was found in the Spokane Valley e. of Spokane June 19 (EH) and the species produced young near Ovando, Powell Co., Mont. (AB). Solitary Sandpipers were found regularly in Yoho N.P. (RRH). Shorebirds from the North were moving in during July. Fifty Least Sandpipers were seen at Ochoco L. e. of Prineville, Ore. July 11. Stinking L. at Malheur N.W.R. had 8000. Western Sandpipers and 1200 Am. Avocets July 9.

PHALAROPES THROUGH TERNS -- Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. had concentrations of Wilson's Phalarope up to 2500 June 24 - July 8 and Malheur had 2000 July 9. A Ring-billed Gull showed up in Yoho N.P. June 22 (RRH). At least 30 Forster's Terns were observed at Wallula, Wash. July 9 (WH). The Com. Tern was noted at Ravalli N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont. June 6 and in the Bozeman area. A single Caspian was seen in s.w. Idaho June 1. The species began to return to the Richland, Wash. area July 17. Some 16 adults and young were found at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., July 25 (JA).

DOVES THROUGH OWLS -- A **Band-tailed Pigeon** was identified June 21 along Asotin Creek about 20 mi. upstream from Asotin, Wash. (JWW). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** appeared in Ann Ward's backyard in Baker, July 1-8 and was joined by a second one on the 7th. The Barn Owl was reported from s.w. Idaho, one June 18, and at Columbia N.W.R. June 21 - July 25, the greatest number, *nine*, on the latter date (BB, JA). Two male Flammulated Owls were calling and one seen 6.5 mi. west of Satus Pass, Klickitat Co., Wash. July 8 (EH).

An active nest of the species was located in Starkey Experimental Forest near Malheur N.W.R. July 1 (AT). A rarely seen **Hawk Owl** was sighted July 20 in Mt. Revelstoke N.P. (JGW & MW). A Pygmy Owl was heard calling the morning of June 12 in the juniper "forest" north of Hampton, Ore. (MK & HN). Reports on Burrowing Owls were encouraging. A surprising 140-150 were estimated for McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash. (OV). The Barred Owl was found to be the most common owl in Yoho N.P., at



1975. Photo/Louis Moos.

Great Gray Owl, nest in Bozeman area, June 28,

least eight having been observed throughout the summer. A pair frequented the Trinity Valley Ecological Reserve near Vernon at least until June 20 (JG). A pair of **Barred Owls** was seen and photographed along the Wenaha R., Wallowa Co., Ore. in mid-June, for the state's first record (AT). Single birds were found in July at Bowman and Quartz L. in Glacier N.P. (MH). A pair of Great Gray Owls produced the first record of a successful nest in Kootenay N.P. They were feeding young in the nest July 3 (IJ). The nest of a pair located June 28 along Hodgeman Creek a few miles s. of Bozeman was only the fourth found in the state (Mr. & Mrs. ID, CVD & LM). A family group of four Saw-whet Owls was seen near Lion Rock n. of Ellensburg, Wash. July 27 (JW).

SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS -- Small numbers of Black Swifts appeared in Glacier N.P.; over the Wenatchee R., Chelan Co., Wash., in Yoho N.P. and at Revelstoke, B.C. A nest in a small canyon near Armstrong, B.C. June 28 held one egg. The nestling was well-grown Aug. 2 (JG). Two birds were at a nest in Banff N.P. Aug. 2 (RRH). A White-throated Swift was found at Metaline Falls, Wash. June 16 (EH). Black-chinned Hummingbird was the commonest species at Fortine, Mont. A few were seen regularly in Walla Walla, Wash. and at Penticton, B.C. and the species produced many young in the Spokane area. The Broad-tailed was noted in s.w. Idaho and at Salmon, Ida.

WOODPECKERS AND FLYCATCHERS -- At least three pairs of Lewis' Woodpeckers were nesting in the

1008 *American Birds*, October, 1975

Walla Walla area, a welcome increase. A pair nested at Liberty L., Wash. and several nests were found near Salmon, Ida. The species was described as very common along Asotin Creek, Wash. (JWW). Williamson's Sapsucker was found nesting in the Bridget Mts. n.e. of Bozeman and in the Tobacco Root-Gravelly Range s.w. of that city. A pair was making frequent trips to a nest hole in the mountains w. of Yakima June 26 & July 10. A pair of White-headed Woodpeckers nested at Naramata, B.C., where two adults and three young birds were seen June 29 (SRC). Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers were observed at ten localities scattered through the mountains of the Region. Ash-throated Flycatchers were reported at Lyle, Ft. Simcoe S.P., Ahtanum and Columbia N.W.R., all in Washington. One at Richland, Wash. June 7-8 was presumably a migrant. One appeared in Rattlesnake Creek valley at Missoula June 1 (PLW). Both Willow and Alder Flycatchers were noted in Yoho N.P. in about equal numbers (RRH). At least two Least Flycatchers were heard and seen in Yoho N.P. in late June and at least ten were found at Golden, B.C. through the summer. The birds were becoming more common in the Vernon area. One was seen and heard in Oak Creek Canyon w. of Naches (DH) and a pair was found nesting throughout July near the Wenas Creek campground w. of Yakima but no young were known to have fledged (EH & BM). This is believed to be the first nesting record for the Least Flycatcher for the state. The only Gray Flycatcher report was of a singing male July 8 in Klickitat Co., Wash. (EH).

SWALLOWS AND NUTCRACKERS -- There was some evidence of nesting failure among Violet-green and Tree Swallows owing to cold weather, but in general swallows seemed to fare well. A pair of Violet-green Swallows at Fortine nested on an old Barn Swallow nest on a porch light. After the young left, Barn Swallows used the nest for a second brood. A concentration of hundreds of Rough-winged Swallows at Lowden, Wash. July 18 suggested a premigration gathering. Young Clark's Nutcrackers out of the nest were observed in the Bozeman area June 15. Otherwise the species was reported only from Glacier N.P.

CHICKADEES THROUGH WRENS -- Chickadees, Black-capped and Mountain, seemed scarce in the Baker area, causing Ann Ward to speculate on a possible connection with the tussock moth spraying. The Boreal Chickadee was recorded regularly in Yoho N.P. and a family group was seen July 22 at King Edward L. south of Vernon. A Chestnut-backed Chickadee nest was found in Glacier N.P. (RMCC). A few Plain Titmice were found near Dairy, Ore. June 21 (WS). Bewick's Wren was seen regularly in the Yakima area. Young Canyon Wrens were out of the nest at Vaseux L. in extreme s. British Columbia June 27 and adults with four young were seen July 5 at Columbia N.W.R.

MIMIDS AND THRUSHES -- A single Mockingbird appeared, this in s.w. Idaho June 21. Sage Thrashers arrived June 5 at White L. near Penticton, B.C. and nested there. The only other reports were for s.w. Idaho and the Bozeman area. Western Bluebirds occupied 25 nest boxes in the Baker area and on a farm near Spokane 15 boxes produced 78 fledglings. Two boxes at the latter locality produced three fledgling Mountain Bluebirds. Small numbers of the latter were reported nesting in a number of localities. Bluebirds and several species of woodpeckers were reported nesting in snags and logs in clearcuts in tussock moth infested forest in

Umatilla Nat'l Forest in n.e. Oregon, where DDT spraying was done. Two Townsend's Solitaires nests were found in the Bozeman area and one near Vernon.

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS – Two **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were observed June 20-22 a few miles n. of Dairy, Klamath Co., Ore. (GC, KK & WS) and a pair was spotted June 5 at Malheur N.W.R., the first for the refuge. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were definitely scarce in the Baker and Spokane areas and were generally unreported elsewhere except for Glacier N.P., where they seemed to be abundant. A single Water Pipit was on the shore of the Dry River Stock Ponds e. of Redmond, Ore. July 10 (TL & HN). The Keller B.B.S. in s. Ferry Co., Wash. counted seven singing Solitary Vireos. Elsewhere few were noted. A Philadelphia Vireo was carefully identified in Yoho N.P. June 10 (CW & LW).

WARBLERS -- A Tennessee Warbler appeared July.2 at Golden, B.C. where it is rare (FK) and the species was reported on South Meadow Creek in Tobacco Root Range southwest of Bozeman (U.S.F. & W.S.), no details supplied. Nashville Warblers (7) were reported at Browne Mt. near Spokane, WA. Elsewhere the species was found only in Spokane's Indian Canyon, at Priest L. in n. Idaho, at Walla Walla, in the Yakima area and at Kamiak Butte, Whitman Co., Wash. Two male and one **female** Black-throated Gray Warblers were sighted June 8 at Stimson Flats campground and a male at Brooks Memorial S.P. the next day (GH & WH). Both localities are in Klickitat Co., Wash. The species was also reported near Metolius, Ore. July 17 (HN). Harry Nehls noted that Townsend's Warbler should be considered a regular summer resident in the Cascade Mts of Oregon. A singing **male Black-throated Green Warbler**, first for Washington, was closely observed at Browne Mt. near Spokane July 2 (DK & THR). The Hermit Warbler was observed in the Metolius area and reportedly was found again on the Ochoco breeding bird survey n.e. of Prineville, Ore. (HN). A singing **male Chestnut-sided Warbler** at L. Wenatchee Chelan Co, Wash. June 19 was the second ever for the state (JK). A singing **male** Bay-breasted Warbler was seen in Yoho NP, July 9-21 and another bird occasionally glimpsed with it may have been a female (RRH, CW & LW). This provides the first record for the park. The first summer records for Blackpoll Warblers were obtained June 21.for Yoho N.P. when three males were heard singing and one was later seen (RRH). At about the same time a male was found at nearby Golden (FK). A singing N. Waterthrush was found near Keller, Ferry Co., Wash. June 25 (WH & THR). This is about 60 mi. farther west than the previous most western seasonal record for the state. One of the species was picked up dead July 14 at 8000 ft. elevation on Peyto Glacier, Banff N.P.(RRH).A singing male was found in Idaho County, Ida June

Volume 29, Number 5 1009

17 (DB). The species was also reported at Calispell Creek and bog, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. and in Glacier N.P. The Com. Yellowthroat was noted at six places in e. Washington and w. Montana.

BLACKBIRDS -- A **male** Bobolink was seen near Golden, B.C. July 15 (FK). About 25 pairs were observed in the Aeneas valley e. of Tonasket, Wash. July 7 (PC & WD). The species was found along the Hunters-Springdale road, Stevens Co. June 15 (SAS) and one was on Yakima Indian Reservation, Wash. June 28. They were found as usual in the Cusick, Wash. Area and at St. Maries, Ida. The breeding colony at Fortine, Mont was

reported as slowly increasing. Singing males were observed near Bigfork, Mont. Yoho N.P. had a **male**. Yellow-headed Blackbird near Field June 30 (RRH).

FINCHES -- A belatedly reported **male** Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen in Chetwynd, B.C., May 24 (FK) and a singing male was seen in Yoho N.P. June 1, for the park's first record (LW). A **male Indigo Bunting** was seen and heard at Elko, B.C. July 19 (CW & LW). A Lazuli Bunting in Yoho N.P. June 1 (LW) and a male July 1 (RRH & CW) were the first ever for the park. Up to eight Pine Grosbeaks, some singing, were observed June 6 - July 20 at Indian Rock Scenic Area, Bates, Ore. (BH). The Black Rosy Finch was found Aug. 1 on Hard Scrabble Peak in the Bridger Range n.e. of Bozeman (DRS). Two or three pairs of **Lesser Goldfinch** were found n. of Lyle, Wash. June 16 (MP) and an adult male was feeding a juvenile bird there July 7. This is apparently the first breeding record for the state. (EH) Two adults and two immature birds were seen along the s. fork of the Blitzen R., Harney Co., Ore. July 22 (AT). A very few White-winged Crossbills appeared in Yoho N.P. and at Golden, B.C.

SPARROWS -- Single Lark Buntings were sighted on two dates in July in s.w. Idaho, the only area reporting them. The Grasshopper Sparrow was found at Goose L. near Vernon June 4 (WWe) and three were near Keystone, n. Adams Co., Wash. June 8 (GH & WH). An upward trend appeared for them w. of Spokane, with six in one area, four in another, and singles in three places at Columbia N.W.R., all June 28 (JA). Sage Sparrows apparently are no longer in the Soap L. and Odessa areas of c. Washington but were found along Dodson Road west of Potholes Res., five pairs with young in July (JA). A group of four immatures was found w. of Redmond, Ore., July 10 some distance from their usual range (HN & TL). In a large desert area near Arco, Ida., the species was found to have a density of one or two per hectare, making it one of the most abundant nesters there (CHT). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** near Indian Canyon, Spokane, June 11-20 was photographed and its song recorded (JA, *et al.*) Single birds were noted at Golden, B.C. July 2 and in Yoho N.P. June 5 & 10 (RRH) and Vernon had one at Goose L. June 4 (WWe). The species was observed in the Bozeman area. A Lincoln's Sparrow lingered and sang in Jim Grant's garden at Vernon May 15-June 20.

CONTRIBUTORS -- British Columbia: s. interior, James Grant (9), Steve R. Cannings, (WWe) Wayne Weber; Banff area, Rudi Butot.(5); Yoho N.P. area, R. Richard Howie (7), Ian Jack, Francis King, Carson & Lynn Wade, John G. & Marcia Woods; Idaho: Coeur d' Alene area, Shirley Sturts (6), Joe Lint; Kootenai N.W.R., Delano A. Pierce, Pocatello area, Charles H. Trost (3), Rod Dreweine, Rupert area, W. H. Shillington; Salmon area, Hadley B. Roberts (2); s.w. area, Belle Shaw (27); Montana, Bigfork area, Lower Flathead Bird Club, Ronald F. Lacy; Bitterroot Valley, Stevensville, Opal Foust, Bozeman area, P.D. Skaar (22), Maurice Brown, C. M. Carlson, C. V. Davis, Mr. & Mrs. Irving Dayton, Eve. T. and Ray A. Hays, Louis Moos, George Roemhild, Donald R. Skaar, Philip L. Wright, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Fortine area, Winton Weydemeyer, Glacier N.P., Mark Huff (2); Helena area, Sid Martin.(4), Vince Yannone; Missoula area, Sidney S. Frissell.(4), Arnold Bolle, Riley McClelland, Philip L. Wright, Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Jim Roscoe (2), Pat McKenna; Oregon: Baker area, Ann Ward (5), Virginia Humphreys; Malheur N.W.R., Richard Sjostrom, Washington: Clarkston area, Margaret J. Polumsky (4), Columbia N.W.R., Eric Sipco; McNary N.W.R., Owen Vivion; n.e. area, Mrs. S. O. Stanley (Spokane Audubon Society) (14), James Acton, Warren Hall, Dan Knierim, Thomas H. Rogers; Richland ("Tri-cities") area, Robert E. Woodley (Lower Columbia Audubon Society) (2); Walla Walla area: Niel F. Meadowcroft.(Blue Mt. Audubon Society) (10); Washington State Dept. of Game, Jim Stout; Wenatchee area, Wayne Doane (Wenatchee Audubon Society) (2), Phil Cheney, Yakima area, Alice Horschel (Yakima Audubon Society). (4); independent contributors (20), Blair Benson, Danny Bystrak, Dave Hayward, Glen &

Wanda Hoge, Bob Hudson, Eugene Hunn, John Keenleyside, Mark Koninendyke, Tom Love, Brian Meilleur, Harry Nehls, Mike Perrone, Wally Sumner, Avery Taylor, John W. Weber, John Wingfield.

The Nesting Season, 1975

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

The 1975 breeding season was much like that of the preceding year, characterized by cooler and wetter weather than normal. Late migration movements, continuing into June, doubtlessly account for most of the extra-limital records which have turned up increasingly during early June in recent years.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS -- A pair and three young Com. Loons were to be seen at Esquimalt Lagoon at Victoria (through the breeding season (LR, *fide* VG). A pair at Deception Pass State Park in n. Washington observed June 29 were thought possibly to be nesting there (WW). A few Com., Arctic, and Red-throated Loons were noted at various coastal points in June and July, with a slight increase in sightings by the end of July. On June 28 two very young Red-necked Grebes were found on a secluded pond near Ocean Shores, Wash. (G & WH). A few non-breeding Red-necked and Horned Grebes were present about s.e.

1020 *American Birds*, October, 1975

Vancouver I., during the months of June and July (JCo, VG *et al.*). A Horned Grebe in breeding plumage was observed at Nisqually N.W.R. at the s. end of Puget Sound on July 15 (BT). Twenty-one W. Grebes were noted at Duncan, B.C., through July (JCo), but there were no reports for the season away from s. Vancouver I. until the last week in July when a few had reached salt water, presumably from inland breeding localities. On July 28-29 an estimated 250 N. Fulmars were seen off Yaquina Head, near Newport, Ore. (FR *et al.*). On July 20 an estimated 20,000 Sooty Shearwaters were over the ocean at Rockaway, Tillamook Co., Ore. (SA, RW, *fide* JG); on June 17 up to 300 were at Tofino, Vancouver I. (RWC,MS, *fide* VG). One dead Short-tailed Shearwater June 15 and three July 13 were found on the beach at Ocean Shores (BT *et al.*). A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel was seen at Rockaway, July 20 (SA, RW, *fide* VG). A report has been received of five ad. White Pelicans at Towdystan L., s.e. of Tweedsmuir P.P., B.C., June 5 (A. & L. Karup, *fide* RWC, *fide* VG). Brown Pelicans were late coming n. into the Region this year: the only report was of 200 -- half immatures. in 10 mi. of Oregon coast just n. of California July.27 (SS). A Great Egret was noted near Grants Pass, Ore., July 21 (SS); 17 had reached Coos Bay Aug. 1 (HR). An ad. Black-crowned Night-Heron was found near Florence, Ore., July 5 (AC, MPa). An Am. Bittern was seen near Ilwaco, Wash., June 17 (MK, HN), three were found at Oyhut, n. of Ocean Shores June 28 (EH) and one was at Sea I., s. of Vancouver, June 30 (WW). A Least Bittern was discovered in a small marsh at Buena Vista on the Willamette R., s. of Salem, Ore., July 19 (JJ, *fide* FR).

WATERFOWL -- At Iona I. s. of Vancouver on July.12, Brian Kautesk observed for about an hour at fairly close range a lone bird which appeared to be a Brant; the bird, however, had, a curious addition to the normal white throat marks which made them appear joined as though by a pendant necklace. A flock of ten Black Brant was at the mouth of the Columbia R., June 17. and another flock of 15 was at Leadbetter Pt. the same day (MK, HN); single birds were seen June 18 at Sidney, B.C. (JW, *fide* VG), and at Ocean Shores June 28.(G & WH). On June 29 there were 650 Gadwall at Iona I. (BK); up to ten of these birds were at Seattle throughout the report period (EH), and one was seen at Eugene, Ore., early in July (DG, *fide* LM). At Iona I., also on June 29, were 50 Pintail (BK); an adult of this species was noted at Grants Pass, July 7 (SS). A male Am. Green-winged Teal was found near Davis L. in the Oregon Cascades June 28 (AW, *fide* LM); a female was at Cowichan Bay, near Duncan, B.C., July 16 (VG,RS), where two broods of Blue-winged Teal were reportedly reared (JCo). On July 22 a female Blue-winged Teal with eight young was found at Swan L., s. Vancouver I. (MS, *fide* VG); two males of this species were at Salem, July 16 (RL); pairs were also noted at Dungeness, Wash., June 8 (EH) and at Iona I., June 23 where three males and one female Cinnamon Teal were also found (JW, DW, *fide* VG). Three young Cinnamon Teal were successfully reared at Somenos L., s. Vancouver I. (JCo). Two Am. Wigeon were at Cowichan Bay, B.C., to June 28 (JCo) and one was seen at Seattle, July 1 (EG, *fide* PM). A dozen male Ring-necked Ducks were found on Oregon's Davis L., June 22 (LM); a male was seen at Iona I. June 7 - July 20 where up to eight Canvasback ducks were also recorded (BK). A pair of Lesser Scaup was observed at Grants Pass July 11 (SS). Two male Tufted Ducks remained at Iona I., until mid-June, one bird was seen there June 29 & July 12 (BK). Several Com. Goldeneye during June and July in the vicinity of Vancouver (BK, WW); five summered at Cowichan Bay (JCo). Eleven female Barrow's Goldeneyes were seen at Crane Prairie Res. on the e. side of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon, June 28; on July 12 one was seen there with downy young (AW, *fide* LM). One or two Barrow's Goldeneyes frequented spots in Vancouver through June, and another was at Cordova Spit in the vicinity of Victoria, July 26 (VG). Numbers of Buffleheads were at Oregon's Davis L. in the Cascades throughout the report period (LM); a few were at Iona I. after the first week in July (BK), while lone females summered at Cowichan Bay (JCo) and Victoria (RS et. al., *fide* VG). There were up to 30 Harlequin Ducks in the vicinity of Victoria during the report period (VG); sixteen of these birds were in the harbor at Vancouver, June 8 (BK). A male Black Scoter was at Victoria June 30 (RS, *fide* VG). Young Hooded Mergansers were observed around Victoria, and at Ocean Shores, at the end of May and in June. Common Mergansers evidently had a good breeding season on Vancouver I. and on the s. British Columbia mainland, with 182, mostly immatures, at Cowichan Bay in July (JCo) and several broods seen in the vicinity of Vancouver.

HAWKS, EAGLES, GAMEBIRDS -- A **White-tailed Kite** was watched under good conditions at the Nisqually N.W.R. July 10 (BT,SM,ER,PS); the sighting is believed to be the first for the State of Washington. A Goshawk nest containing one young bird was discovered 20 mi. w. of Grants Pass (SS),

Volume 29, Number 5 1021

several other nest sites in s. Oregon were also active (OS). An imm. Goshawk appeared at Iona I., July 27 (DB, *fide* BK). Sharp-shinned Hawks were recorded in the vicinity of Grants Pass several times (SS), at Olympia July 5 (BT), and three times on s. Vancouver I. after June 28 (VG, RS), but were not otherwise reported. The only reports of Cooper's Hawks were one e. of Butte Falls, near Medford July 10 (OS), a pair at Saanich seen repeatedly until June 21 (RMG, *fide* VG), and one at N. Saanich, July 26 (JW, *fide* VG). Golden Eagles nested in

the Rogue R. valley this year (OS); one was seen near Keno, ten miles w. of Klamath Falls July 19 (FR, OS). Two adult and one imm. Bald Eagle frequented Nisqually N.W.R. and vicinity during the period (G & WH, EH, BT); two young Bald Eagles were raised in Vancouver's Stanley Park (BK). On July 5 there were 14 Bald Eagles at Active Pass in the Gulf Is., n e of Victoria (RS, *fide* VG). A nest at Esquimalt June 22 contained one young (JW, *fide* VG). An imm. Bald Eagle was observed at Neah Bay on Washington's Olympic Pen., June 7 (EH). Ospreys frequented Nisqually N W.R., where there were at least four active nests, and Siltcoos L., near Florence, Ore., where three pairs were present; there were a few one-time observations of Ospreys from other points in the s. half of the Region A dark-phase Gyrfalcon was observed to fly in from the Gulf of Georgia, over Iona I., and head inland June 15 (BK). An ad. Prairie Falcon was observed 3.mi. s of Merritt, B.C., July 10 (RS, *fide* VG). Three Peregrines were sighted in British Columbia and in Washington after June 28. A Merlin was noted at Saanich July 31 (VG). Two California Quail were observed at Pt. Roberts, on the U.S.-Canadian border, June 26 (WW) allaying fears that the species no longer ranged quite that far north. Five adults and one imm. Sandhill Crane were at Pitt Meadows, e. of Vancouver, June 21 (J & DW, *fide* VG) A nest of the Sandhill Crane containing two eggs was found at Davis L. on the e. side of Oregon's Cascades May 25; a month later an egg and a dead chick were found there (AW, *fide* LM). A full grown imm Am. Coot was found at Cadboro Bay, Victoria, July 18 (VG).

SHOREBIRDS -- Thirty Semipalmated Plovers were at Leadbetter Pt., June 17 (MK, HN); on June 28 a pair was defending territory at Ocean Shores (G & WH), at Iona I., July 12 two chicks were discovered (BK). Three Semipalmated Plovers had reached Sauvie I., w. of Portland, in migration by July 20 (JG, TL); up to 11 birds frequented spots at Victoria July 22-31 (RS, VG *et al.*) On June 17 there were seven Snowy Plovers at Leadbetter Pt. (MK, HN); on June 28 at Ocean Shores four adults and one young were observed; a month later three adults were present (G & WH). In the vicinity of Victoria Killdeer were reported to be more abundant than at any time since 1969 (ARD *et al.*, *fide* VG). An early fall Am. Golden Plover was at Iona I., July 20 (BK) There were still 90 Black-bellied Plover at Leadbetter Pt., June 17 (MK, HN) and five at Ocean Shores June 28 (G & WH); by mid-July the vanguard of the fall movement was apparently in the vicinity of Victoria (VG) High counts of 220 and 670 Surfbirds were made in Barkley Sound, in n. British Columbia July 12 & 17 respectively (MS, *fide* VG); by July 11 eight were at Victoria where 24 were present three days later (VG *et al.*). On July 28, 50 Surfbirds were counted at Ocean Shores (G & WH). As many as nine Ruddy Turnstones were in the Victoria area the last week of July (RS, *fide* VG); on July 26 30 were seen at Ocean Shores (G & WH). Except for two at Sidney, B.C., July 5 (JW, *fide* VG), the first Black Turnstones were not back in the s. half of the Region until the last few days of July when ten were at Ocean Shores and 28 were at Victoria. A Com. Snipe was seen at Saanich, July 5 (M & TS, *fide* VG). Long-billed Curlews appeared in the s. Willamette Valley at the end of May; one was still at Fern Ridge Res. w. of Eugene June 2 (LM). Single Long-billed Curlews were seen at Tokeland, Wash, July 13 (BT *et al.*) and at Ocean Shores July 26 (G & WH). A Solitary Sandpiper was observed on July 31 in Goldstream P.P., B.C. (VG). Wandering Tattlers were at several points in the Region the last week in July, the farthest south being at Boardman S.P., n. of Brookings (SS). Lesser Yellowlegs were recorded in June only at Iona I. on the 7th and the 29th (BK) and at Seattle on the 28th (EG, *fide* PM); several were seen the last few days of July in the vicinity of Victoria (VG *et al.*). A crippled Pectoral Sandpiper was at Iona I., June 23 (JI, *fide* BK); another was seen at Cleland I., B.C., June 18 (RWC, MS, *fide* VG). On July 10 a single Pectoral was found 18 mi. s. of Merritt, B.C. (RS, *fide* VG) and on July 20 an early fall arrival was at Iona I. (BK). Two Baird's Sandpipers were at Iona I. June 29 and one was there on July 28 (BK). A single Baird's Sandpiper was discovered at Ocean Shores, July 26 (G & WH). On June 17 a group of 25 Dunlin, including two crippled birds, were still at Leadbetter Pt. (MK, HN); three Dunlin remained at Iona I all through June and one was still there on July 12 (BK). Aside from two at Iona I., June 23 (J & DW, *fide* VG), Long-billed Dowitchers first appeared in southward migration on s. Vancouver I. July 15; there were 31 birds at Cowichan Bay the next day (VG, RS), with up to six there until the month's end. Semipalmated Sandpipers were recorded repeatedly at Iona I.; from one on June 7 to 13 on July 13 (BK, BM). On July 1 a lone Semipalmated Sandpiper

was at the Montlake Fill in Seattle (PM) where two were present the next day (EH). A few crippled W. Sandpipers were at Iona I. for the summer (BK). On June 28 there were 185 W. Sandpipers at Ocean Shores (G & WH). By early July southward migrants were also noted at Victoria (VG) and in the vicinity of Vancouver: a heavy wave occurred in mid-July (WW). A single Marbled Godwit was at Leadbetter Pt., June 17 (MK, HN) while on June 28 ten occurred at Ocean Shores (G & WH). A Reeve was identified at Reifel Refuge June 29 (RP, *fide* BK); on July 24 a Ruff was seen on the Victoria Golf Course (V & MG, RS) and a week later another Ruff, a distinctly different bird was discovered at c. Saanich and photographed (VG, JW *et al.*). The first Sanderlings returned to Iona I. and Victoria from the breeding grounds in the latter half of July. From July 9-14 at Nisqually N.W.R. two recently fledged young Wilson's Phalaropes were being protected by a male (HU, BT). A female Wilson's Phalarope was at Vancouver June 4 (BK) and another at Seattle June 10 (PM). A N. Phalarope was seen at Leadbetter Pt., June 17 (MK, HN); two were at Long Beach, B.C., July 11 (MS, *fide* VG). On July 20, there were 50 N.

1022 *American Birds*, October, 1975

Phalaropes off Rockaway, Ore., (SA, RW, *fide* VG). and on July 28-29 approximately 100 were observed outside Yaquina Bay (FR *et al.*).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS -- On July.28-29 an estimated 80-100 Pomarine Jaegers -- adults and immatures -- were seen 20 mi. off Newport, Ore.; on the same dates 10 Parasitic Jaegers and a group of 20 Long-tailed Jaegers were observed (FR *et al.*). Parasitic Jaegers were further recorded at Iona I., June 15 (BK), at Cleland I., June 19, at Long Beach June 20 and at Ucluelet, B.C. where two were seen July 11 (MS, *fide* VG) A Skua was seen July 29 20 mi. off Newport (FR *et al.*) California Gulls did not begin to appear from inland until after mid-July; a concentration of 100 was at Pt Roberts July 20 (WW). A sub-adult Ring-billed Gull was at Victoria June 6 (RS, *fide* VG). Bonaparte's Gulls were in evidence along the c. Oregon coast as early as July 12 when 60 were seen at Winchester Bay (AC *et al.*). Northward-moving Heermann's Gulls had reached Victoria as early as June 18, but they were not reported from further south until the second week of July. On July 18 there were 163 Heermann's Gulls at Victoria (RS, *fide* VG) and on July 28-29 there were 60 at the entrance to Yaquina Bay (FR *et al.*). A Black-legged Kittiwake was at Vancouver June 5 & 14 (BK); one was seen at Pt. Roberts, June 7 (TR, JI, *fide* BK), and an imm. summered at Victoria, sometimes in company with a few others (VG). On June 20 there were 970 Black-legged Kittiwakes at Long Beach, Vancouver I., (MS, *fide* VG), on June 27 there were 160 at Campbell R. (AD, *fide* VG), and on June 28 and July.26 there were up to 50 kittiwakes at Ocean Shores (G & WH). Two Sabine's Gulls were in the harbor at Vancouver, June 4 (BK); on July 28-29 off Newport between 30 and 40 were recorded (FR *et al.*). A colony of Forster's Terns at Davis L. was destroyed by storms on June 22 (AW, *fide* LM); from one to three Forster's Terns were seen at Fern Ridge Res. on May 31, June 15 and July 7 (TLu, LM). An Arctic Tern was identified at Oak Bay, Victoria, July 30 (MS, *fide* VG). Up to nine Caspian Terns were seen at nine localities, the three at Nisqually N.W.R. from July 11. on (BT) were farthest from the ocean. A Com. Murre was in Vancouver harbor, June 22 where this species is unusual in summer (BK); occasional single birds were recorded in June and July at Victoria (VG) except that a group of 11 was noted at Oak Bay, June 3 (RS, *fide* VG) A score or two of Pigeon Guillemots were recorded at Victoria all summer (VG) and at Ocean Shores on June 28 and July 26 (G & WH). Up to 50. Marbled Murrelets were recorded frequently around Vancouver and Victoria during the season (WW, VG); on June 20 630 were counted at Long Beach (MS, *fide* VG) A Marbled Murrelet at sea off Newport, July.28-29 (FR *et al.*), and one in winter plumage was at Ocean Shores July 26 (G & WH). Cassin's Auklets were numerous off Yaquina Bay July 28-29; four Rhinoceros Auklets also were seen (FR *et al.*). On July 12, 100 Rhinoceros Auklets were in waters

around the San Juan Is., near two nesting colonies (WW). On June 21 almost 300 Rhinoceros Auklets were counted at Cordova Spit, near Victoria; a week later 100 auklets were there (RS, *fide* VG), while on June 24-25 at, respectively, Esquimalt and Cowichan Head, 150 and 200 birds were seen. On July 26 at Pt. Grenville, Gray's Harbor Co., Wash., 20 Tufted Puffins were noted (G & WH); on July 28-29 off Yaquina Bay ten were observed. On June 20 a Horned Puffin was observed at Wickaninnish Bay, Long Beach Pacific Rim N.P. on Vancouver I. (MS, *fide* VG); on June 27 three were at Solander I., off Cape Cook, B.C. (RWC, HC, *fide* VG), and on July 27 two in summer plumage were at Boardman S.P., n of Brookings, Ore. (SS, PR).

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS -- An adult and two imm. Barred Owls were discovered on Cortes I., B.C., July 7 (AD, *fide* VG). Up to *seven* Short-eared Owls were present throughout the report period at Nisqually N.W.R. (BT); another of these birds was seen at Sea I., s. of Vancouver, June 7 (BK). Single Saw-whet Owls were recorded June 7 at Neah Bay, Wash., (EH), and at Campbell R. Park, B.C., June 15 (JI, *fide* BK). On July 19 two Poorwills were seen and others were heard on the e. side of Roxy Ann Butte, e. of Medford (FR, OS); one was there July 21 (CR, *fide* OS). On June 21 an estimated 200 Black Swifts were noted at Pitt L., e. of Vancouver (D & JW, *fide* VG), on that day six were seen at Malahat summit on Vancouver I. (S & SW, *fide* VG). On June 23 eight were recorded at Iona I. (D & JW, *fide* VG). On June 25, some 500 were over Vancouver (BK), and four were at Saanich (RMG, *fide* VG). Two or three were at Manning P.P. July 2 & 11 (RS, VG). Vaux's Swifts were noted at Metchosen, B.C., at Manning P.P., at L. Oswego and Elkton, Ore., during July. Two **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** repeatedly visited feeders at North Bend, Ore., July 30-Aug. 2; they represented the second record for both Coos Co., and w. Oregon other than Jackson Co. where they have occurred a number of times. Single **male** Anna's Hummingbirds attended a feeder in Salem all through July (RL), and were noted in Saanich July 18 near one feeder (M & VG) and on July 27 at another feeder (RMG, *fide* VG). A Lewis' Woodpecker was seen in s.w. Portland June 23 (JB, *fide* HN) and one was seen n. of Hope, B.C., July 1 (OS). The 'Red-naped' Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was the most common woodpecker in Manning P.P. this summer (VG, RS). Adult **male** Williamson's Sapsuckers were recorded on the s w side of Mt. Hood, e. of Portland, June 22 (DF), and in White Pass in Washington's Cascade Mts., July 12, the latter bird was accompanied by two immatures (G & WH). On June 30 a pair of Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers and one large juvenile were observed at Spirit L. near Mt. St. Helens, Wash. (EH).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH NUTHATCHES -- Eastern Kingbirds were seen singly at Lyons, Ore., June 9 (LM) and 20 mi. e. of Ashland, Ore., June 20 (OS), two were at Randle, Wash., June 21 (G & WH), up to five were at Pitt Meadows, throughout the period (WW *et al.*). Two W. Kingbirds were at Jericho Beach, Vancouver, June 23 (BK); a pair nested on a telephone pole in downtown Packwood, Wash., observed June 20-21 (G & WH, BT *et al.*). Lone W. Kingbirds were also seen in the Umpqua R. valley w. of Roseburg, Ore., July 31 (OS), and on Cortes I. June 8 (AD, *fide* VG); this last sighting is on the n.w. fringe of known casual occurrence. A **Least Flycatcher**, identified by sight and by

Volume 29, Number 5 1023

sound, was reported to have been at Saanich, June 11 (ARD, *fide* VG); this marks the first time we have published a Regional record for this species. However, both the 1970 and 1971 *Annual Bird Report for Southern Vancouver Island*, published by the Victoria Natural History Society, contain details of June records in those years which leave little cause to doubt that the species is of at least casual occurrence on s. Vancouver I. On

July 14, Otis Swisher banded four Dusky Flycatchers in the Rogue Nat'l Forest 12 mi. from Butte Falls, Ore. Two nests of the W. Flycatcher were constructed on buildings of a Boy Scout camp at Siltcoos L., Ore., this year (AC). Twelve Skylarks were found on Washington's San Juan I., July 12 (WW). On the same day and in the same locality, two Purple Martins were noted; three of these birds were seen at Ilwaco, Wash., July 28 (EH). The small and scattered martin colonies along the Oregon coast had almost complete failure in fledging young this year (TLu). At Fern Ridge Res., w. of Eugene, 68 pairs of martins nested; 75 per cent of the young from the first nesting failed to fledge, so that approximately 40 per cent of the pairs re-nested. By August, the success count was 90 young birds on the wing with another 70 still in the nest boxes (TLu). A total of four Boreal Chickadees was observed in Manning P.P. July 6 & 12 (VG, RS). Pygmy Nuthatches were seen repeatedly in pines in the vicinity of Butte Falls, Ore., this summer (OS).

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS -- Six House Wrens were counted on San Juan I., July 12 and three more were found on Orcas I., the next day (WW). A Long-billed Marsh Wren was found on Saltspring I., B.C. July 18 (ARD, *fide* VG). Individual Mockingbirds were recorded at two different points in Vancouver June 3 (DB, *fide* BK) and June 7 (TR, JI, *fide* BK); one was also at the Campbell R., estuary, July 5 (HT *fide*, RWC, *fide* VG). Lone Catbirds were recorded at Squamish, B.C., 30 mi. n. of Vancouver June 22 (JI, *fide* BK) and at Burnaby L. near Vancouver June 22 (WW); and, as usual, a pair at Pitt Meadows July 20 (WW). A pair of Varied Thrushes was still at Eugene June 7 and was suspected of nesting (LM). A Veery was heard and was finally seen at the base of Mt. Seymour near Vancouver; it is the first record for the Vancouver area (WW). A W. Bluebird nest was found near White Pass, June 21 (G & WH); four W. Bluebirds were seen on Parrott Mt., s. of Portland, June 24 (JG), and two females were in s. Vancouver I., June 29 (RS, *fide* VG). Two Townsend's Solitaires were observed at Olallie L., Skamania Co., Wash., July 5 (EH). Two nest of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher were found near Eagle Pt., Ore., this summer (OS); a male was seen at Ashland, Aug. 13 (BKe, *fide*, OS). The female of a pair of Hutton's Vireos observed at Saanich on July 4. was collecting lichens (RMG). Solitary Vireos were found repeatedly on s. Vancouver I., the count of 11 on June 1 at Victoria and of six on July 1 at Thetis L. (MS, *fide* VG) being of particular interest. Up to nine Red-eyed Vireos were recorded in the area near Jasper, Ore., e. of Eugene this summer (TLu, *fide* LM); a bird of this species attended a yard in Olympia from June 22. to the end of the report period, while another was found at Saanich, June 21 (RS, *fide* VG). The only reports of Nashville Warblers were from the Medford and Grants Pass areas where a few birds were noted after mid-July (FR, SS, OS). On June 1 there were 16 Townsend's Warblers in Victoria's Goldstream Park; six were seen at Thetis L., July 1 (T & MS, *fide* VG). A single Townsend's Warbler and ten male Hermit Warblers were present at Olallie L., Wash., July 5-7 (EH). Up to four Hermit Warblers were recorded at Mt. Rainier June 9, from Packwood, Wash., June 20 (BT), from Long Beach Pen. n. of Ilwaco, Wash., June 17. (MK, HN) and from Spirit L., near Mt. St. Helens, June.30 (EH). A N. Waterthrush was discovered at Carrington Lagoon, Cortes I., B.C., June 7 (AD, GS, *fide* VG). On July 20 at Pitt Meadows there were about 40 Com. Yellowthroats (WW); several pairs were present near L. Oswego, Ore., through June and July in a rank hayfield, uncut for several years, and where no surface water was nearby (JBC). There were two singing male Am. Redstarts at Odell Creek, near Davis L., Ore., June 18; on July 12-13 three males and two females were found at the same place (CS, *fide* LM).

BLACKBIRDS, SPARROWS -- On June 8 in Vancouver's Jericho Park, a **Bobolink** was discovered, careful study resulted in a detailed description which corresponds to that of the summer female except that a whitish patch showed on the shoulders and except that the bill was shiny black (BK); these marks suggest that the bird was an imm. male whose molt had not progressed normally. A pair of N. Orioles was seen at Saanich, June 13 (RMG, *fide* VG); orioles were noted in fewer numbers at Roxy Ann Butte, than has recently been normal (OS). A male Rusty Blackbird was found at Manning P.P. July 7 for the first park record (RS, *fide* VG). Two instances of begging juvenile cowbirds following ad White-crowned Sparrows, which are not thought to be

often victimized by cowbirds, were observed; one at Vancouver July 30 (BK) and the other at Deception Pass S.P. in Washington, June 29 (WW). An ad. **male** Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen at Saanich, July 14 (RHC, *fide* RWC, *fide* VG). A **male Indigo Bunting** was photographed at Eugene June 7 (LM, FR, CWa *et al.*); for the Region's second record (For the other, *Am. Birds* 26:801, 1972). A Lazuli Bunting at Cortes I., June 5 (AD, *fide* VG) provides a n.w. extra-limital record of interest. A Gray-crowned Rosy Finch was seen atop Mt. Hood June 12 (JB) and another was seen on Mt. Rainier June 20 (G & WH). Six to eight Lesser Goldfinches were on the campus of Lewis & Clark College in Portland much of the summer (TC, JG, HN). Also there July 1-2 were three Lawrence's Goldfinches; two were males and one singing (TC, JG, JWa); on July 16 a male was seen there again (TC). Red Crossbills appeared in lowland areas only at Victoria (*fide* VG) and at Olympia (BT), during June and July; in the Cascades, Red Crossbills appeared at a few scattered places, from e. of Vancouver s to McKenzie Pass e. of Eugene. Up to three White-winged Crossbills were recorded at Manning P.P. mid-

1024 *American Birds*, October, 1975

June to mid-July. Single Vesper Sparrows were again seen at Ocean Shores June 28 and July 25 (G & WH); two were seen on San Juan I., July 12 (WW), and six were discovered at Victoria July 7, where two were noted on July 16 & 23 (VG *et al.*). A singing Golden-crowned Sparrow had staked out a territory at Newhalem, Wash., where it was observed May 24, June 9, and June 29, but no nest was found (NL). There were five Fox Sparrows in full song at midday June 17 at Pt. No Point on s. Vancouver I. (S & CW, *fide* VG); two days later a single bird of this species was found nearby (M & VG). Two Lincoln's Sparrows were recorded at Iona I., July 5 (BK). A male Chestnut-collared Longspur was present at Pt. Grenville, Grays Harbor Co., Wash., June 24-26 where it was photographed (WWho, *fide* PM); it would be the second record for w. Washington. When we described the first sighting (*Am. Birds* 28:943, 1974) we characterized it as the first for the Region; Wayne Weber subsequently pointed out that **male** a Chestnut-collared Longspur had been photographed at Barkley Sound, Vancouver I., June 18, 1972 and that the record had been published (*Canadian Field Naturalist*, 87:66, 1973). A **Lapland Longspur** was observed at Seattle's Montlake Fill July 1 (PM); there are no previous Regional records of this species in June, July or August.

OBSERVERS AND CONTRIBUTORS – Sterling Anderson, Dan Bastaja, John Biewiener, R. Wayne Campbell, R. H. Carcasson, Harry R. Carter, John Comer (JCo), Alan Contreras, Tom Crabtree, John B. Crowell, Jr., A. R. Davidson, Neil Dawe, Adrian Dorst, David Fix, Eugene Gerzenstein, Jeff Gilligan, Dan Gleason, Vic Goodwill, Margaret Goodwill, Bob Hay, Wayne Hoffman (WWho), Wanda Hoge, Glen Hoge, Eugene Hunn, John Ireland, Jon Janosik, Brian Kautesk, Betty Kendall, Mark Koninendyke, Norman Lavers, Tom Love, Robert Lucas, Tom Lund (TLu), Bruce MacDonald, R. Mackenzie-Grieve, Phil Mattocks, Stephanie Mason, Larry McQueen, Steve Moody (SMo), Harry Nehls, Michael Patterson (MPa), Roy Phillips, Fred Ramsey, Ellen Ratajak, Hilda Reiher, Tony Roach, Leila Roberts, Craig Roberts, Priscilla Rollow, Ron Satterfield, Pam Searles, Michael Shepard, Theresa Shepard, George Sirk, Steve Summers, Colleen Sweeny, Howard Telosky, Bill Tweit, Helen Ulmschneider, Jeff Warwick (JWa), Clarice Watson (CWa), Wayne Weber, Jack Williams, Dorothy Williams, AI Winter, Sarah Wood, Chauncey Wood, Randy Wright.

End 1975