**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

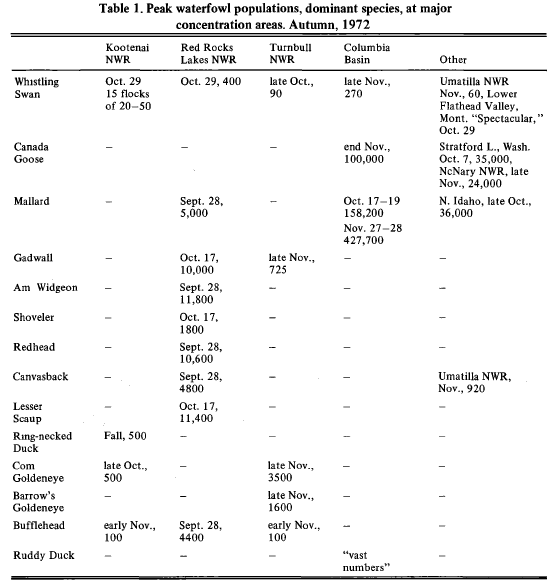
Volume 27, Number 1 85

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

. 

.

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 Stilt 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, *fide* 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

90 *American birds*, February 1973

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 Vredenburgh, 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.

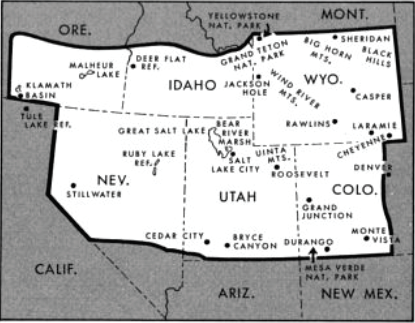
CORRIGENDUM -- The 300-400 swifts seen at LaGrande, Ore. July 26, *Am*. Birds, 26:880,) are now considered to have been Vaux’s Swifts.

*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.

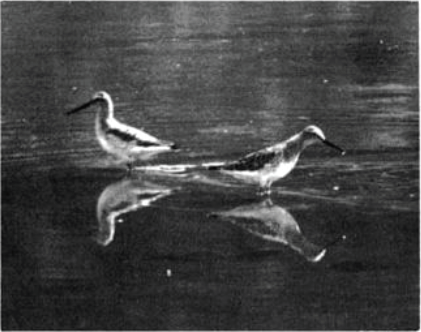
DUCKS – The wildlife refuges attracted somewhat fewer waterfowl than usual, in some cases because of the mild weather. Malheur had a poor sago pondweed crop and a much lower duck population, which peaked not in the fall but on Aug. 6-11 at 145,000 ducks. Most birds at Stillwater reached totals only half 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 pińon 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-cheeked 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-crowneds, 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**; Seedskadee 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 Burridge, 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 whatis normal for that month, but average temperatureswere nonetheless lower. November also brought lessthan average rainfall but average temperatures werejust 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 ArcticLoon 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. Asingle Horned Grebe at Olympia, Wash., Aug. 19 wasearly as were the 3 at Ocean Shores, Wash. Aug. 27(all G & WHo). Eared Grebes appeared after the firstweek in September at several places in Washingtonand s. British Columbia. Black-footed Albatrosseswere seen in number up to 65 in a day on 5 differentoffshore trips from Washington and Oregon in the firsttwo months of the report period. Single Laysan Albatrosseswere 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 regularlyrecorded on offshore trips, with the 1 17 on Oct. 15(TW) being a noteworthy total. Numbers of Pink-footedShearwaters were observed on the offshoretrips, the 200 off Depoe Bay, Oreg., Aug. 19 beingthe maximum one-day count, although over 100individuals were seen out of Westport on both Sept.10 and Oct. 15. On the latter date, two Pale-footedShearwaters enlivened the proceedings (TW *et al*.).Numbers of New Zealand Shearwaters seen this fallfar 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 seenon 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* individualswas counted (TW *et al*.). Sooty Shearwaters, thoughpresent on all offshore trips, were not seen in as greatnumbers as in other years. A Slender-billed Shearwaterwas found dead on the beach at Nehalem Bay StatePark, Oreg., on the unprecedented early date of Aug.9 (WH), and 3 were seen over the ocean out of DepoeBay Aug. 19 (FR  *et al.*, *fide* FZ). Fork-tailed Petrelswere only lightly recorded, the maximum being ninefrom Westport Sept. 24 (TW); five individuals werenoted in the Straits of Juan de Fuca Sept. 16 (JT, *fide* TW).

PELICANS, HERONS -- Brown Pelicans wereseen in modest numbers, comparable to numbers forthe 12 years along the Oregon coast; both adults and

Volume 27, Number 1 105

immatures were well represented from mid-Augustto mid-November. One appeared off Gray’s Harbor,Wash., early in September (TW). On Nov. l, 800Brandt’s Cormorants were observed at Active Pass inthe Gulf Islands off s.c. Vancouver I., (MS, *fide* WW).Green Herons were noted singly and in pairs in widelyscattered locations in the s. portion of the Region untilthe first week in October, as is usual: the species hasalways been uncommon enough, however, to drawcomment whenever found. Com. Egrets appeared inthe Region more widely and in greater numbers thanever previously recorded; most sightings were fromthe s. and c. Oregon coast with the maximum 38 atCoos Bay Aug. 24 (WH), but birds were also seenin the Willamette Valley, at Tillamook, Oreg. andSept. 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 firstfound at Gold Beach, Oreg. Nov. 22 by Lois Brooks,with identification confirmed Dec. 1 (FB); the birdis Oregon’s third. Only four reports of Am. Bitternsseen during the report period were received; two camefrom Vancouver, (infra all B.C.) Sept. 25 & Oct. 9,and the other two reports were from the s.w. Washingtoncoast, Aug. 26 & Sept. 30. A Least Bittern wasfound along Bear Creek near Medford, Oreg., Sept.10 & 15 (MM, *fide* JH).

WATERFOWL -- A Whistling Swan appeared atAnkeny N.W.R. s. of Albany, Oreg., Sept. 19 (early}and remained through October (FZ); small numbersof this species were present in the s. portion of theWillamette Valley after mid-November, and in the tidelandsareas between Seattle n. to Vancouver after mid-October. Two Whistling Swans were seen at OceanShores Nov. 19 (G & WHo; J M) and one was at Rockaway,Oreg. Nov. 12 (RFi & HN). A Trumpeter Swanshowed up at Terrace, B.C., Oct. 11, was joined byan imm. bird Oct. 31-Nov. 21, and was still presentalone Nov. 30 (FF). An ad. Trumpeter was at ReifelRefuge near Vancouver Oct. 21 (MS & BM, *fide* WW),while 8 birds appeared at Clear L. near BellinghamOct. 28 (TW) and one bird showed up at Wiser L.near Lynden, Wash., Nov. 2 (DH, *fide* TW). BlackBrant were virtually unremarked except for a few earlyarrivals in mid- and late September between Vancouverand Bellingham. October migrations of White-frontedGeese this year brought three individuals to the vicinityof Victoria in late October (JT *fide* SJ) and two toDungeness, Wash. in mid-November (VG). A countof over 31,000 Snow Geese in Skagit Co. Wash., inmid-November was an all-time high according to theWashington State Game Dep’t. (*fide* TW); this specieswas in migration through the s. portion of the Regionas early as mid-September judging by widespreadreports; a single bird was a bit out of the way at VictoriaOct. 19-21 (VG; SJ). The 102,000 ducks counted inSkagit County Oct. 10 by the Game Dep’t. was *“*27percent below the comparable 1971 count but abovethe average of the last 17 years*”* (*fide* TW). Two Gadwallfoundat Ocean Shores Oct. 23-Nov. 30 (JM), were outof 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. justs. 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 werefrequently reported in the s. portion of the Region aftermid-October. Hundreds of Shovelers were concentratedon a small sewage pond at Ladner, B.C. allfall (ND, *fide* WW). Redheads were reported from sixlocalities from Ladner s. to Newport after Sept. 11.Canvasback were not present in normal numbers intheir usual haunts; the maximum count of 100 fromNewport Nov. 26 (JE & SF, *fide* FZ) was only 10to 15 per cent of a normal maximum one-day countfor the most favored places on the Oregon coast. Anestimated 1200 Com. Goldeneye were found at OlympiaOct. 25 (G & WHo). There were 500 Barrow’sGoldeneye at Stanley Park in Vancouver Oct. 28(WW). Two Bufflehead ducks who appeared at IonaI. s. of Vancouver, BC, Aug. 20, remained for morethan a month, were early (GAP, *fide* WW). An earlyOldsquaw 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), andat Florence, Oreg. Nov. 24 (CAS). There were 60Harlequins at Victoria Oct. 6 (SJ). An inland occurrenceof a White-winged Scoter was recorded Oct. 29when 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. Mergansersat the n. jetty of the Columbia R. Aug. 26 were out-of-the-ordinary (HN *et al*.), as were the three earlyRed-breasted Mergansers at Tillamook Bay Aug. 10(WH).

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES – Approximately100 Turkey Vultures were seen over the RogueR Valley in s. Oregon Sept. 20 (OH); funnels of 30,50 and 80 birds were seen there on Sept. 26 aheadof a storm front (OS). At Corvallis, Turkey Vultureswere much in evidence, moving southward all throughSeptember, with 100 birds Sept. 1 (FI, *fide* FZ) thehighest one-day count. A late Turkey Vulture was seenat Birch Bay, near Blaine, Oct. 17 (AB, *fide* TW).On Nov. 22 and again on Dec. 3, and ad. **White-tailedKite** was carefully identified at Phoenix, Oreg. nearMedford (CR & OS); local residents reported that apair had been in the vicinity since June; the specieshas been seen in Oregon several times in the last fifteenyears. Goshawks were noted at Pt. Roberts in late September,at Victoria in early October, at Reifel Refugeat the end of October and at Finley N.W.R. in lateNovember. Rough-legged Hawks moved into the Regionin late September and in early October becomingwidely established thereafter; 12 found in a day in lateNovember from Lebanon w. to Finley N.W.R. (JBC& WT) was an indication of their abundance in thec Willamette Valley. Golden Eagles were seen severaltimes throughout the report period at Victoria (ARD;RS *fide* VG); two were seen at Mt. Finleyson nearGoldstream Prov. Park Oct. 25 (JT, *fide* SJ) whiletwo others were seen at the crest of the Cascades e.of Ashland, Oreg., Sept. 23 (OS). Ospreys were seenrepeatedly throughout the s. portion of the Region innumbers and varying locations rivaling last fall’s occurrenceswhich were described as being *“*the highestnumber of reports for a single season in at least 10years*”*. A gray-phase Gyrfalcon was observed forhours at Ocean Shores Sept. 24-26 (JM & GHo);another gray-phase bird was at the Samish Flats nearBellingham Nov. 29 & 30 (NL, *fide* TW). A very darkGyrfalcon was seen at Reifel Refuge Nov. 20 (RK, *fide* WW). A Prairie Falcon appeared at Agate L. nearMedford Nov. 18 & 25 (OS). We are in receipt of11 Peregrine sightings from 8 localities between mid-September and mid-November, a poorer representationthan 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 earliestof very few reports received for the season. The 35Sparrow Hawks from Pemberton, (about 80 mi. n. ofVancouver) Aug. 17 are of interest, as are the 14 thereSept. 24 (AL, *fide* WW).

GAMEBIRDS, CRANES, SHOREBIRDS -- ARuffed Grouse in the low dunes at Leadbetter Pt. Aug.26 (HN *et al*.) was a curiosity. Three White-tailed Ptarmiganseen in the Tantalus Range n. of Squamish,B.C. (TC & AS, *fide* WW) are of interest. SandhillCrane individual stragglers were seen around Victoriaand on the tidal flats between Everett and Bellinghamthrough much of October; Sauvie I., n.w. of Portland,Oreg, was as usual a stopping point in mid- and lateOctober for hundreds of migrating Sandhills. VirginiaRails were found several times n. of Victoria fromlate August until mid-November (SJ); single birds alsowere recorded at Reifel Refuge Sept. 11 (AG, *fide* WW) and Oct. 28 (ND, *fide* WW), one was also atTillamook Bay Sept. 16 (JBC & RFi). A Sora wasfound at Iona I. Sept. 2 (GAP, *fide* WW); anotherwas seen at Medford Sept. 10 (OS). Approximately1000 Coots were said to be present at Pitt Meadowse. of Vancouver Oct. 17 (JWi, *fide* WW). Wayne Hoffmanhiked the Oregon beaches from n. to s. in August,during which time, he noted over 600 SemipalmatedPlovers and 214 Snowy Plovers. American GoldenPlovers were found at coastal points from OceanShores to Coos Bay and near Vancouver and VictoriaAug. 23 (Coos Bay)-Nov. 9 (Ocean Shores); highestcounts were an astounding *200* at Sea I. near VancouverSept. 16 and *100* at Ocean Shores Sept. 30More than *800* Black-bellied Plovers were counted atBoundary Bay near Blaine, also Sept. 16. On Aug18, there were 19 Ruddy Turnstones at Alsea Bay onthe Oregon coast (WH); one was at Bay City on TillamookBay in company with Black Turnstones Nov17 (EP). A Long-billed Curlew was found at the mouthof the Coquille R. near Bandon, Oreg. Aug. 25 (WH).Late Whimbrels were two at Ediz Hook, near PortAngeles, Wash., Nov. 16 (VG) and 3 others at NewportNov, 7 (WE & FZ); Hoffman found single birds orsmall groups all along the Oregon coast in August,with the largest concentrations being 22 at Newporton the 17th and 33 at Alsea Bay the next day. LoneSolitary Sandpipers appeared at Iona I. Aug. 20 (GAP *et al.*; TW) and Sept. 12 (BM, *fide* WW), and at FinleyN.W.R. Sept. 1-3 (FZ). Wandering Tattlers were scarce,being reported only from Pt. Roberts, Victoria, OceanShores, and the Columbia R. mouth Aug. 5-Oct. 13,with 6 maximum. Willets appeared singly at CrescentBeach, B.C., repeatedly at Dungeness, at Westport,Newport and Winchester Bay, Oreg., where two werepresent, on varying dates between Aug. 19 and Nov7 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 the97 Lesser Yellowlegs there Sept. 10. 125 Lessers atIona I. Aug. 20 was even more remarkable (RP *et al*., *fide* WW). Knots were found at Leadbetter Pt. Sept9 when 10 were seen (EH), there were 4 at OceanShores Sept. 23 & Nov. 9, and 18 on Nov. 19 (JM,GHo), 3 at Dungeness Sept. 23 (EH), and one onthe Samish Flats Oct. 8 (EH & TW). For the secondconsecutive year, a Rock Sandpiper showed up earlyat Ocean Shores; this one Aug. 12 (G & WHo); otherwise,it was not until the last week in October thatothers were found there and at Victoria. Sharp-tailedSandpipers were found in numbers up to 7 commencingSept. 12 and continuing through Oct. 29; the placesso favored were Burnaby Lake, B.C., the environsof Victoria, Iona I., Reifel Refuge, Ladner and OceanShores. Pectoral Sandpipers were seen in most of thosesame places and at others too, including one at SiltcoosL. channel s. of Florence, Oreg. Aug. 21 (WH); maximumwas 130 at Iona I. Oct. 7. Hoffman found Baird’sSandpipers at 5 locations on the Oregon coast during

Volume 27, Number 1 107

his August trek, the species was also recorded at twoother Oregon coastal locations, at Ocean Shores andWhidbey I., Wash., and at Sidney, Saanich, and IonaI, B.C., all Aug. 9-Sept. 30; 8 together at TillamookBay Sept. 16 (JBC & RFi) was the maximum count.The 525 Long-billed Dowitchers found on WesthamI, near Vancouver Oct. 21 was a very high count(MS&BM, *fide* WW). A Stilt Sandpiper was photographedat Saanichton Inlet during its sojourn thereAug. 21-28 (SJ *et al*.). A Buff-breasted Sandpiperappeared 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 carefullystudied s. of Tahkenitch L., Douglas Co., Oreg. onthe ocean beach Aug. 21 (WH). A **Bar-tailed Godwit**was discovered at Reifel Refuge Sept. 16, photographedSept. 30, to Photoduplicate File, U.B.C. (JS *et al*., *fide* WW). The record is evidently the secondfor the province. Hoffman found from one-20 MarbledGodwits at 5 localities between Newport and Gardiner,Oreg. Aug. 17-22; single godwits were found twiceat Leadbetter Pt., once at Ocean Shores, and once atSaanichton 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 thesecond consecutive September on Whidbey I., Wash.,this year on Sept. 23 (RL & LI). Single Red Phalaropeswere seen on 4 Oregon beaches Aug. 13-28 (WH);up to 16 were seen at sea on boat trips from Westportand Depoe Bay up to mid-October; one was also notedat Pt. Roberts Oct. 14 (BM, *fide* WW). Two Wilson’sPhalaropes 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 frequentlyfrom Vancouver and Victoria, on the ocean,and at Washington and Oregon coastal points, as wellas in the Willamette Valley from mid-August until thefirst week in October; maximum numbers were the1000 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 andParasitic Jaegers were found on most offshore tripsduring the period; the 21 Pomarines out of WestportSept. 9 (TW *et al*.) was a high count. The 15 ParasiticJaegers at Pt. Roberts Oct. 21 (MS *et al*., *fide* WW)is a surprising concentration. A Long-tailed Jaeger wasoff Newport Sept. 11 (WE, *fide* FZ), another was seen10 mi. w. of Grays Harbor Sept. 22 (*fide* TW), andan immature was seen out of Westport Sept. 24 (DH *fide* TW). Single Skuas were also observed 3 timesthis season; two were seen off Westport Sept. 10 &24 (TW *et al*.), while the other was recorded at VictoriaOct. 28 (RS, *fide* VG). An estimated 11,000 CaliforniaGulls were around a six-vessel Russian fishing fleet35 mi. from Westport Oct. 15 (TW *et al*.). Franklin’sGulls appeared in numbers, as is usual, in theVancouver-Victoria-Bellingham area from Augustthrough October; the adult found at Tillamook Oct.15 (HN), however, may well be the first record forthe Oregon coast. Bonaparte’s Gulls were abundantin the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca and inn Puget Sound until the end of October; 1500 birdsof this species were noted at Ocean Shores Oct. 30(G & WHo). One and possibly two **Little Gulls** madethe first appearance known to us for the species inthis Region. The first individual was an adult discoveredat Victoria, Oct. 24 by Stuart Johnston whowatched the bird for over an hour and took verymeticulous notes and made careful accompanyingdrawings; after a lapse of several days the bird wasseen by other competent observers (RF, VG & RS).The bird is said to have remained at Victoria untilNov. 19 (ARD). The second Little Gull w also anadult -- was separately found Nov. 5 at Pt. Robertsand independently identified by two observers (RA;RP, both *fide* WW); thus, the State of Washingtonwas assured its first record for the species, too Alate 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 Kittiwakeswere 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 Gullsin number up to 75 were seen on most offshore tripsfrom mid-August to mid-October; single individualswere also seen at Victoria the third week in Septemberand at Pt. Roberts Oct. 15 (BM & RK, *fide* WW)Com. Terns were somewhat more numerous than usualin September in the Straits of Georgia and Juan deFuca, with between 70 and 100 individuals reportedfor 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. lip to 40 Arctic Terns were seenon four September offshore trips from Newport andWestport; one was at Pt. Roberts Aug. 20 (TW) andabout 30 were at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. Sept28 (HN). Caspian Terns were observed at numerouspoints along the Oregon coast in August (WH); 8 werestill at the Columbia R. mouth Sept. 28 (HN). TwoBlack Terns were seen at L. Whatcom near Bellinghamon Aug. 19 (JD *fide* TW).

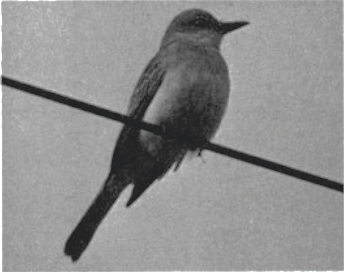
ALCIDS -- A count of 565 Cassin’s Auklets atsea off Westport Sept. 24 (TW *et al*.) was a high total.Of special interest is a report that a F. & W.S. censusflight (presumably using photographic means) June 26,1972, found almost 700 Tufted Puffins on Oregon’soffshore rocks from Cannon Beach to Brookings; largestcolonies were at Cannon Beach, Oceanside, andCape Kiwanda.

OWLS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS -- TwoBarn 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 birdswere present there (JMi, *fide* FZ). A Long-eared Owlroost harboring 12 or more was discovered in a thickstand of bottom-land second growth deciduous treesat Finley N.W.R. in early November and was still beingutilized by Nov. 30 (FZ *et al*.); three other individualsof this species were seen at Ashland, Oreg., at ReifelRefuge, and at Brunaby Mtn. near Vancouver, all duringthe last week of October. Another Barred Owlwas found in the Region during the report period; thisone at Vancouver’s w. end Nov. 13; photo to U.B.Cphotoduplicate file (*fide* WW). A Great Gray Owl wasreported seen at Crane Prairie Reservoir on the e.

108 *American Birds*, February 1973

side of Oregon’s Cascade Mts. Oct. 14 (*fide* FS). Road-killedSaw-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 atMalahat, n. of Victoria Sept. 24 (JT, *fide* SJ). A Poorwillwas seen n. of Sisters, Oreg. on the e. side ofthe Cascades Sept. 30 (WH). A Com. Nighthawk wasat Victoria Oct. 7 (VG). On Sept. 22, there were 250Black Swifts at Surrey, B.C. (*fide* WW); Black Swiftsin numbers up to 30 were also noted at Victoria fourtimes between Aug. 18 (VG) and Sept. 24 (SJ), atIona I. Sept. 24 (GAP *fide* WW), at Ocean ShoresSept. 8 (G & WHo), and at Gleneden Beach, Oreg.,Aug. 15 (WH). The one or two Vaux’s Swifts seenat Victoria Oct. 6 (SJ) were late migrants. The increasingnumber of fall Anna’s Hummingbird reports eachyear is a marvel! This year we have received mentionof birds at Langley, B.C., through November; atSaanich, where one bird has been present since Oct.8 and another since Nov. 14; at Clear L., Wash., frommid-October, at Portland where numerous reportsoriginated; at Oakridge, Oreg., where a pair has beenpresent since sometime early in 1972; at Gold Beach,where several have been present since Sept. 9; andfinally from Medford where at least *16* individuals arebeing supported by feeders.

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS,AND JAYS -- Lewis’ Woodpeckers evidentlywere again back to being quite scarce in theRegion during this report period. A Black-backedThree-toed Woodpecker was seen in the Oregon Cascades4 miles n. of the Santiam highway e. of DetroitSept. 16 (*fide* FZ). Northern Three-toed Woodpeckerswere seen at Manning Provincial Park, Sept. 10 &27 (VG). Eleven E. Kingbirds were counted at Pembertonon Aug. 17 (AL, *fide* WW). A bird at Victoria Oct.16-22 proved, after careful study and photography, tobe a **Tropical Kingbird** (RF, VG, SJ); excellent detailednotes were furnished independently by the latter two



***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; thebird constitutes the second record for British Columbia,the first also having come from s. Vancouver I.in 1923. An Ash-throated Flycatcher was found deadon 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 nearAshland Sept. 20 (*fide* JH). A Violet-green Swallowwas 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 atReifel Refuge (TW). Two late Barn Swallows werenoted at Westham I. again, this time on Nov. 25 (WC, *fide* WW). One or two family groups of Purple Martinswere reported the latter half of August or the firstweek in September from 4 localities in the s. portionof the Region. Movements of Steller’s Jays into FinleyN.W.R. in October and into the Rogue R. valley in lateSeptember were very early. Two Black-billed Magpieswere in Portland from Oct. 1 to the end of the period;one was at Glacier, Wash., Sept. 20 and another wason the Lummi Flats, Oct. 28 (JD, *fide* TW). Clark’sNutcrackers appeared, usually singly or in pairs, atseveral points near Vancouver and between Seattleand Bellingham, and then again in the vicinity of Corvallisafter Oct. 10 and up to mid-November. BetweenCharleston and Bandon on the s. Oregon coast, however,flocks of up to 200 nutcrackers appeared in earlyOctober (HR)!

CHICKADEES, WRENS, MIMIDS ANDTHRUSHES -- Several Mountain Chickadees wereobserved at Vancouver, at Bellingham and at pointsbetween after mid-October or in November. ThreeBoreal Chickadees were found n. of Haney, B.C. Oct.18 (DHa, *fide* WW). An out-of-place Pygmy Nuthatchwas 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 foundin Manning Provincial Park Sept. 27 (VG). Catbirdswere again noted at Pitt Meadows, e. of Vancouverwhen two were seen Sept. 10 (BM & WW). WesternBluebirds were recorded in varying numbers at FinleyN.W.R. and at Medford from the last week of Septemberuntil Nov. 30; they were reported elsewhere only fromWolf Creek, Josephine Co., Oreg., where two werepresent in early September (EP).

PIPITS, WAXWINGS, SHRIKES, VIREOS, WARBLERS -- Migrant Water Pipits appeared thelast few days of August, and then were seen increasinglythroughout most of the Region, declining somewhatin numbers after mid-October. A Bohemian Waxwingwas noted at M. Finleyson, 12 mi. n.w. of VictoriaNov. 11 (RS, *fide* VG); another was seen 6 days laterat Dungeness, Wash. (VG). Cedar Waxwings werevery much in evidence all fall in Oregon’s WillametteValley. Northern Shrikes staged the biggest influx everinto the Region, starting the last week of Septemberat Pemberton; by mid-November, several had reachedMedford while in the interval birds had been recordedall through the Puget Sound trough and the WillametteValley, with numbers also reaching the coast both inWashington and Oregon. A Loggerhead Shrike wasfound at Finley N.W.R. Oct. 7 (FZ). Single Red-eyedVireos were seen at N. Vancouver Aug. 26 (GAP, *fide* WW), at Enumclaw, Wash., Sept. 3 and at SeattleSept. 6 (EH). Orange-crowned Warblers evidentlywere migrating through the Vancouver-Victoria areathe first week in September, with 55 at Vancouver

Volume 27, Number 1 109

and 15 at Victoria Sept. 6 and 32 at Pitt MeadowsSept. 10 (SJ; BM, *fide* WW). A Nashville Warblerwas observed at Vancouver Sept. 9 (BM, *fide* WW).Yellow Warblers at Victoria (MS, *fide* WW) and atReifel Refuge both on Sept. 25 (RP, *fide* WW) werelate stragglers, as was the one banded at Medford Oct.8 (OS). Three Black-throated Gray Warblers at VancouverOct. 3 (ML) were late also. Palm Warblersturned up at Newport Oct. 16 (GB & RO, *fide* FZ),at Pt. Roberts Oct. 21 (MS & BM, *fide* WW), atWestham I. Oct. 31 (RK, *fide* WW) and at SaanichNov. 19(MS, *fide* WW). Two MacGillivray’s Warblersand a Wilson’s Warbler at Vancouver Sept. 30 (WW)were late. A **Redstart** was found at Westham I. onthe surprising date of Nov. 2 (RK & ND, *fide* WW).

BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES, SPARROWS -- Adead bird picked up at North Bend, Oreg. in earlyOctober was identified as a **Bobolink** (HR). Three 66Rusty Blackbirds were were n. of Victoria Oct. 28(RS, *fide* VG); another Rusty Blackbird was discoveredat 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 scatteredpoints in the Region from Vancouver s. to Corvallisthrough the fall. Twenty-three presumably migratingPurple Finches were recorded at Finley N.W.R. Aug.31 (FZ). A Pair of Cassin’s Finches were seen at ManningProv. Park Sept. 27 (VG). Two Pine Grosbeakshad been seen there the day before (VG); one morewas found in the Park Nov. 11 (MS & BM, *fide* WW).Flocks of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were at CraterL., Oreg., Oct. 8 (CG, *fide* FZ) and 10004 were seenat the 6000 ft. level on the w. side of Mt. Baker Oct.19 (RSa, *fide* TW). Pine Siskins were noted sporadicallyat a few places in the s. portion of the Regionfrom September into November. Am. Goldfincheswere noted as being uncommonly abundant from Vancouvers. to the Willamette Valley; and estimated 1500were at Sauvie I. Sept. 20 (HN *et al*.). Red Crossbills,Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins were recordedsparingly and at random locations through much ofthe s. portion of the Region. Two Vesper Sparrowswere recorded in Manning Prov. Park Sept. 27 (VG).Slate-colored Juncos were frequently noted in s. BritishColumbia, n. Washington, and to the Washington coastthis fall. Harris’ Sparrow, too, showed up surprisinglyoften, records coming repeatedly from Vancouver,Bellingham, Seattle and points between after mid-October; birds also were noted at Victoria and, in lateNovember, at Medford. White-throated Sparrowsshowed up at Victoria, Sauvie I., Finley N.W.R.,Eugene, Oreg. and Medford at various dates inOctober and November. Lincoln’s Sparrows werefound repeatedly at Pitt Meadows and in the vicinityof Victoria throughout September, at Pt. Roberts Oct.28, at L. Sammamish e. of Seattle Nov. 5, and at NewportNov. 4. Lapland Longspurs were seen at manyof the Region’s stopping points for this species, thehigh count being the 100 at Ocean Shores Oct. 13 (G& WHo); two sightings of particular interest were of6 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 andup to Ladner Oct. 14-31. A single Snow Bunting wasalso found at Lake Creek, Oreg., Nov. 14 (*fide* OS).

OBSERVERS -- Frank Anderson, Richard Asher,Alex Benedict, Fred Bowen, Gene Burreson, WayneCampbell, John Casteel, (JCa), Teresa Colby, JohnB. Crowell, Jr., A. R. Davidson, Brian Davis, JamesDuemmel, 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), StewartHolohan, Eugene Hunn, Laura Ingham, Francis Ives,Stuart Johnston, Richard Knapton, Norman Lavers,Richard Lindstrom, Al Luck, Michael Luz, BruceMacdonald, Merle McGraw, Jim Micuda (JMi), .JimMorris, Harry Nehls, Michael & Carol Newton,Robert Olson, Dennis Paulson, Bill Pearcy, Roy Phillips,G. A. Poynter, Eleanor Pugh, William Rae, FredRamsay, 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, OtisSwisher, J. Tatum, William Thackaberry, Universityof British Columbia (U.B.C.), Terry Wahl, WayneWeber, Joe Welch, Jack Williams (JWi), Fred Zeillemaker,\*--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 VirginiaRail 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 Kohlruss, 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 Vredenburgh, **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 Goldens 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 Phoebes 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; Seedskadee 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. l0 (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. l0 (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. I (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. l0 (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 l0 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 Wrentit 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 Coquitlam 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

Volume 27, Number 3 655

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 Zeillemaker.

*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 *fide* 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 l, 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 Phoebes 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; Seedskadee 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 l., 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 (WHo), 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, Oreg. 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, Oreg. 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., Oreg. on May 27, from Tillamook, Oreg., 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, Oreg, 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., Oreg., 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 1, 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, Oreg., 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, Oreg. Apr. 7 & 22, at Florence, Oreg., 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 (WHo), of one at Saanich, B.C., May 6 (RS, *fide* VG), and of four at Coos Bay, Oreg., May 20 (WHo) 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. (WHo) and at Westport (G & WH) Apr. 28. Many thousands of Sanderlings were on the beaches between Reedsport and Florence in mid-April (WHo). The only report of Red Phalarope for the season was of a female in breeding plumage at Newport Apr. 28 (WHo). 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 (WHo, 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 (WHo). 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 (WHo). A **Franklin’s Gull** was seen on the beach n. of Reedsport Apr. 11 (WHo), 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 (WHo); 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 (WHo, 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 (WHo, 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 (WHo). 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 l., 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 Zeillemaker.

*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, *fide* 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 l0 & 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.

KINGLETS, 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 Schrindel, 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 (TW *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 l0 (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 (WHo, 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 (WHo, 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. (WHo, 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 (WHo, 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 I (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

910 *American Birds*, October 1973

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-crowneds 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.

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. Tatum, Keith Taylor, Philip Thomas, Terrence Wahl, Herbert Wisner, C. Fred Zeillemaker.

*End 1973*