**1965**

*Autumn Migration, 1964*

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

**/ Thomas H. Rogers**

Autumn was generally mild in the Region, with wintry weather setting in late in the valleys. After a pleasant October and early November, a massive storm front blanketed



the Region, beginning November 10 and bringing snow and temperatures down to 8° in the Bozeman, Mont. area. Western Montana escaped most of the snow and cold in the valleys but eastern Washington received several inches of snow—but no severe temperatures. The wintry conditions persisted only in the Bozeman area, the snow disappearing from the valleys in western Montana and eastern Washington by the end of the period. Precipitation in most areas was deficient, with the exception of abnormally heavy amounts in eastern Washington in November. The early fall deficiency in eastern Washington resulted in extremely poor water conditions for waterfowl and shorebirds. The mild temperatures appeared to delay the arrival of winter species, but probably did not produce any more than the usual number of late stragglers among summer residents and migrants. A brief mid-November freeze at Turnbull Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash. drove most of the ducks out but many returned with the subsequent thaw.

**Grebes, Pelicans and Cormorants**—A late Western Grebe remained on the river at Spokane at least until Dec. 5 *(WH; PK & THR).* About 75 White Pelicans were on the Potholes Reservoir, Grant Co., Wash. during October but had disappeared by mid-November *(JA, WH, SAS, JEW).*

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 1 60

Two of the big birds remained at McNary Refuge until the late date of Oct. 22 *(MCA).* The species successfully reared young along Canyon Ferry Reservoir on the Missouri River near Townsend, Mont. *(CLB).* Three Double-crested Cormorants were at McNary Refuge in mid-October. This species is always rare west of the Continental Divide in the Region. Two to 5 of the birds were noted at Three Forks, Mont., an unusual site in this area *(RAH, PDS).*

**Waterfowl**—Trumpeter Swans were still at Ennis Lake, Madison Co., Mont. on Nov. 15. Peak numbers (3590) of Canada Geese were reached at Turnbull Refuge in late September but not until the end of November at McNary Refuge (6100) and Columbia Refuge (1400 plus 3500 Lesser). A few White-fronted Geese showed up in eastern Washington, notably *10* at McNary Refuge, Oct. 30. Snow Geese were observed in decreased numbers, possibly because of the settled weather which presumably encouraged fewer stops. A few were noted in eastern Washington. One bird present at McNary Refuge since Oct. 30 was believed to be the ***Ross' Goose***that has been seen there for the last two years. The peak of early migrant ducks at Turnbull Refuge occurred again this year in the first half of September and totaled about 16,000 birds. The second peak, about 22,000 ducks, came in mid-October, a date similar to that of 1961 and 1962, but 2 or 3 weeks earlier than last year. Most of these were Mallards. A few species peaks are: 135,700 Mallards at Columbia Refuge; 16,050 Am. Widgeon at McNary Refuge; 800 Redheads at Blue Lake, Grant Co., Wash. *(JA & WH);* 1000 Ring-necked Ducks at Columbia Refuge; Hooded Merganser, 30, at Turnbull Refuge, and Common Merganser, 320, at McNary. The almost complete freezing of Ennis Lake in Montana drove nearly all species of ducks out by Nov. 15. A dearth of ducks was noted in the Missoula and Bitterroot Valley areas of western Montana, apparently because of the mild weather. A few rarities showed up. A male ***European Widgeon***was identified on Nov. 29 at Lenore Lake, Grant Co., Wash. *(JA & WH).* Two ***White-winged Scoters***were seen at Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash., in October *(JA & WH).* A ***Surf Scoter***was seen at Park Lake, Grant Co., Wash., Oct. 10-11 *(JA, WH; LLaF)* and a female of this species at Harrison Lake, Madison Co., Mont. on Oct. 25 was the first for the area and only the third record for the state *(RAH, SMS & PDS).* Red-breasted Mergansers, unusual west of the Continental Divide in the Region, were noted in the Bitterroot Valley near Stevensville, Mont.

**Vultures, Hawks and Eagles**—Ten Turkey Vultures were observed in early September in the Bitterroot Valley, western Montana *(OF).* A migratory movement of Red-tailed and Swainson's Hawks, totaling 20 birds, was noted on Sept. 18 and 19 in Okanogan County, Wash. *(LHK, fide WHe).* A concentration of 17 eagles, mostly Goldens, was noted at Ninepipe Reservoir, Lake Co., Mont. on Nov. 13 *(CJH)* and 2 Goldens were seen along the highway between Park Lake and Soap Lake, Grant Co., Wash. in early November *(JA & WH).* A hawk observed in good light with 20X scope near Manhattan, Mont. on Oct. 25 was believed to be a ***Harlan's Hawk****,* not previously recorded for the state. Observers should be on the watch for this species, which may have been overlooked previously *(RAH, PDS & SMS).*

**Gallinaceous Birds**—Nearly every report for the Region indicated that Ring-necked Pheasant populations were down from previous years, probably because of the cold, wet nesting period. Thirteen of the Turkeys planted in an area south of Turnbull Refuge, Cheney, Wash. by the State Game Dept. have made their way to a food plot on the refuge and were noted there during November and early December.

**Cranes and Coot**—The largest number of Sandhill Cranes was 70 at McNary Refuge on Sept. 30. Unusually far east in Washington were 3 at Stubblefield Lake in Turnbull Refuge on Oct. 7. Twenty-seven at Alkali Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on Oct. 11 constituted a late record *(LLaF).* In south-central Montana the latest report for the species was for Aug. 16 at Belgrade. The many thousands of Am. Coots at Ennis Lake in Montana had dwindled by Nov. 15 to 200 birds, which acted a bit dazed as they sat on the frozen lake.

**Shorebirds**—*Eleven* observations were obtained for Semipalmated Plovers in the Bozeman-Ennis-Three Forks triangle of Montana, with a peak of *10* on Sept. 7 *(RAH, PDS).* A flock of 17 Killdeer 30 miles east of Vernon, B. C. on Oct. 4 seemed to indicate a migrational movement. Two sightings were made of the Am. Golden Plover in eastern Washington, where it is always rare, at Cow Lake and Reardan *(AB, WH & LLaF).* The Black-bellied Plover was reported 6 times in the Bozeman triangle *(RAH, PDS).* A surprisingly late date for the Spotted Sandpiper was furnished by an individual bird on a sandbar of the Bitterroot River near Stevensville on *Nov. 15 (GDeV, fide CLB).* A Pectoral Sandpiper, crippled in one leg, appeared at Missoula on Oct. 12, after others of the species had left and remained in the company of a similarly crippled Long-billed Dowitcher until Nov. 1, when it disappeared. The dowitcher left the next day. A single Pectoral Sandpiper at Reardan, Wash. on *July 22* was very early. A peak of *40* was noted there on Sept. 11 *(WH).* The earliest date ever for the area for the Stilt Sandpiper was *July 22* for a bird at Reardan which was still in partial breeding plumage *(WH).* A ***Marbled Godwit***at Stubblefield Lake in Turnbull Refuge on July 16 furnished the fourth record for eastern Washington *(WH & LLaF).*

**Gulls and Terns**—An immature ***Mew Gull***was once more noted at Spokane, in mid-October *(WH, LLaF)* and *11* Franklin's Gulls were seen at the same place and date *(WH).* At *Ninepipe Refuge* 100 of the latter species appeared on Aug. 7 *(PAB).* An adult Bonaparte's Gull was identified at Missoula on Oct. 28 and several sightings were obtained for the Three Forks, Mont. area, where fall records are unusual *(RAH, PDS, SMS).* An adult Common

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 1 61

Tern was noted at *Spokane,* Aug. 28, and *25* of the birds were seen at O'Sullivan Dam on Sept 3 (*WH).*

**Owls**—Burrowing Owls were reported as fairly numerous at McNary Refuge until early fall. Short-eared Owls appeared plentiful in several localities in eastern Washington, a reversal of conditions in preceding years. For example, 31 were seen in a square mile near Spangle *(JA).* A dead ***Boreal Owl***was picked up on the highway near *Bozeman* sometime between Sept. 8 and Oct. 1 by two boys, Kirk Visscher and Gary Russell, who had it mounted and later presented it to the Montana State College collection. The very few state records of the species are for the extreme northwestern part. Several road kills of Saw-whet Owls during October near Vernon and other southern British Columbia localities indicated a sizeable movement there.

**Swifts and Woodpeckers**—James Grant observed and photographed a nest of the Black Swift with 1 nearly fledged young in the mossy gorge of a mountain stream, 18 miles north of Vernon, B. C. On Sept. 10 the young bird was exercising its wings strenuously and on the 12th the nest was empty. This is the first report of nest or young of this species in the Region since this Regional Editor took over 10 years ago. The occurrence of *150* Common Nighthawks, near Newport, Wash. on Sept. 3 was noteworthy *(LLaF).* A female Yellow-shafted Flicker, suspected of being the same one that wintered there last year, appeared at J. T. Fowle's feeding station at Vernon, B. C. at the end of October. The first northeastern Washington record for Williamson's Sapsucker in about 10 years was obtained at Grouse Mt. near Orient, Ferry Co. in late September *(JA; WH & LLaF).* The species also was seen on McKinney Road between Oliver and Rock Creek, B. C. (1 male, 2 females) *(WHe & HH)* and by Ann Ward in her backyard at Baker, Oreg. How lucky can some people be?

**Swallows and Jays**—A movement of Bank Swallows was indicated by the presence of 350 of the birds at Richter Pass between Keremeos and Osoyoos, B. C. on Sept. 5 *(WHe & HH).* Three Violet-green Swallows were noted at Spokane on *Sept. 21.* The general migration there in July was late also *(SAS).* Late records at Missoula were *Sept.* 5 for the Tree Swallow, and *Sept. 11* for the Cliff Swallow. Some 110 Piñon Jays, seldom reported from the Region, were noted in the vicinity of Bend, Oreg., flying over in flocks of 15-20, in a southwesterly direction on Aug. 28 *(LLaF).*

**Bushtits, Wrens, Thrashers, Thrushes**—Eleven Common Bushtits, not often reported in the Region, were seen on Aug. 27 at Tumalo State Park, Bend, Oreg. *(LLaF).* The Rock Wren was observed near Creston, Wash. on the late date of Nov. 29, when 6 inches of snow lay on the ground *(SAS).* Single ***Sage Thrashers***were seen on 4 dates in August and September at Missoula. It appeared unlikely that Robins would winter in any numbers in the Region, although flocks of 50 to 100 were reported in one section of Spokane in late November *(SAS).* A Hermit Thrush was mist-netted and banded at Turnbull Refuge on Nov. 10. Substantial numbers of Western Bluebirds were noted in the Spokane area, with a flock of 50 reported on Sept. 26 *(SAS).* Mountain Bluebirds continued scarce in most areas, but flocks of 30 were noted along the foothills of the Bitterroot Mts. in the Stevensville, Mont. area and *105* were counted along McKinney Road in southern British Columbia on Sept. 7 *(WHe & HH).* Both this species and the Western were noted in the former area into November. At Vernon, B. C., a Mountain Bluebird was observed being chased by a Northern Shrike, with the outcome unknown *(JTF, fide JG).*

**Kinglets and Waxwings**—Ruby-crowned Kinglets were reported as abundant in the Spokane area and *49* were noted along McKinney Road in southern British Columbia on Sept. 7 *(WHe & HH).* One was still at a feeder at Baker, Oreg. on *Nov. 27* and the species was noted on *Nov. 28* in the Stevensville area *(OF, fide CLB).* Bohemian Waxwings were scarce or absent in the western part of the Region and put in a belated appearance in western Montana, where sizable numbers did not appear until around Dec. 1. At Kalispell, Mont. many of the birds were caught in a freezing rain and frozen to powerlines overnight but rising temperatures released them the next day *(Daily Inter Lake,* Kalispell).

**Warblers and Blackbirds**—Audubon's Warbler continued to be by far the most abundant of this family. Noteworthy were the *133* counted between Oliver and Rock Creek, B. C. on Sept. 7, a date on which many other birds were also abundant. The temperature was around 38° with a light overcast, in an area of mostly conifers at altitude 4500 ft. Five Audubon's Warblers were noted at Baker, Oreg. after a 2.5 in. snowfall on Nov. 11. Bobolinks were not noted in the Region after August. In the Bitterroot Valley, Mont., they assembled in the oat fields in large flocks. Rusty Blackbirds, seldom reported in the Region, were noted at 2 localities: 5 birds flying along the Parsnip River valley 70 miles north of Prince George, B. C. and 1 near Belgrade, Mont. on Nov. 22 and 29 in the same area as seen last winter *(RAH, DRS, SMS, PDS).*

**Finches**—Evening Grosbeaks appeared in numbers at Missoula, in the Bitterroot Valley and at Bozeman, but scarcely showed at all in the lowlands farther west. At *Missoula* a female House Finch, carefully identified among a flock of goldfinches, Nov. 1-2, was Hand's first for Montana. Pine Grosbeaks, rosy finches, Common Redpolls and Red Crossbills had not yet appeared to any extent in the valleys. An increased number of observations of White-winged Crossbills was obtained. The species was noted on several dates in August and September in the Salmo Pass area, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. *(JA & WH, AB & LLaF).* Two were singing near Pitney Lake southeast of Prince George, B. C. on Sept. 27. Apparently there were very few in central British Columbia this year *(JG).*

**Sparrows**—At least *4* typical or near-typical Slate-colored Juncos were examined at close range at Missoula at the end of the fall reporting period. Also at Missoula a ***Clay-colored Sparrow***was carefully identified on Aug. 21. Single ***Harris' Sparrows***

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 1 62

were seen at Missoula on Oct. 8-9 and 28 and *2* immatures of this species were examined at close range at Opportunity, 8 miles east of Spokane, on Oct. 23-24 *(PK & THR).* Small numbers of White-crowned Sparrows remained in the Spokane Valley east of Spokane and perhaps will winter *(PK & THR).* A ***White-throated Sparrow***was banded at Turnbull Refuge on Oct. 19 and a Fox Sparrow on *Nov. 10.* Another late Fox Sparrow record was in the Bitterroot Valley of Montana on *Nov. 29.* Two records for the species were obtained in the Okanagan Valley, southern British Columbia, where it is considered a rare migrant *(JG, BAS).* Four reports of single Golden-crowned Sparrows were received for the Spokane area, between Sept. 19 and Oct. 17 *(SAS).* A few Lapland Longspurs were noted in eastern Washington *(SAS)* and observations for the species at Missoula were much sparser than usual, with no more than 3 seen at once. However, 1 remained as late as Dec. 5, Hand's second December record there. Very few Snow Buntings had appeared by the end of the fall period.

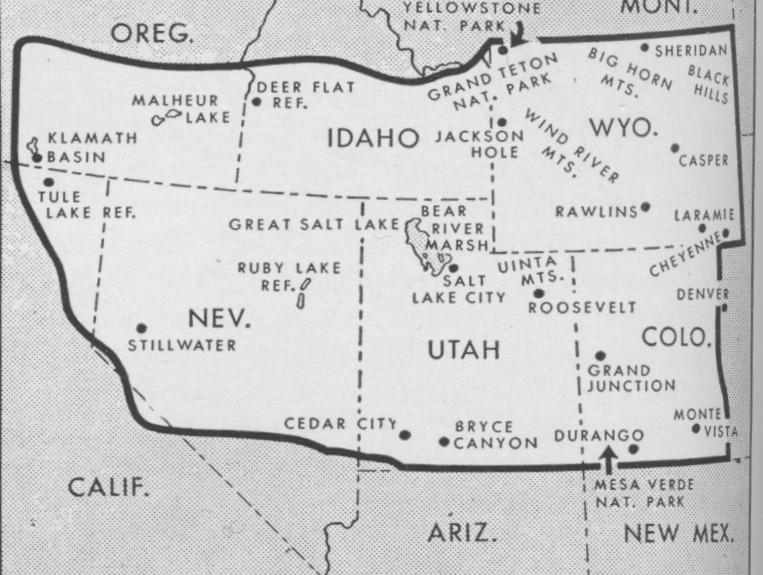
**Contributors** (sectional editors, whose names are in boldface, should receive credit for observations in their respective areas unless otherwise stated).—(JA) James Acton; (MCA) **M. Clair Aldous,** McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash.; (AB) Alan Baldridge; **Eugene C. Barney,** Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash.; (CLB) **Carol L. Boyd,** Bitterroot Valley, Stevensville, Mont.; (PAB) P. A. Buckley; (GDeV) George DeVan; (OF) Opal Foust; (JTF) J. T. Fowle; (JG) **James Grant,** British Columbia; (WH) Warren Hall; **Ralph L. Hand,** Missoula, Mont. area; (RAH) R. A. Hays; (CJH) **C. J*.* Henry**,Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont.; (HH) Hilde Hesse; *(*WHe) Werner Hesse; *(*PK) Patrick Karle; *(*LHK) Mrs. Lucile H. Kline; *(*LLaF) Lynn LaFave; (THR) Thomas H. Rogers; (DRS) Donald R. Skaar; (PDS*)* **P. D. Skaar** Bozeman-Three Forks-Ennis, Mont. area; (SMS*)* Stephen M. Skaar; (SAS) Spokane Audubon Society, Mrs. S. O. Stanley; (BAS) B. A. Sugden; *(*JEW) Jack E. Waddell, Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello**,** Wash., and **Ann Ward**, Baker, Oreg. Area.

*Autumn Migration, 1964*

**GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.**

**/ Dr. Oliver K. Scott**

Fromone and all came reports of a dearth of landbirds this fall; there is no accounting for



it. Most areas were very dry until November. Perhaps the dryness resulted in a short supply of insects. Of 427 birds mist-netted in Rocky Mountain Park, Colo. in 18 days from late August to mid-September only 15 percent were repeats. This seems a small number and indicates that the migrants did not linger but went right through *(AC).* Cheyenne, Wyo. had the driest fall in 90 years of weather statistics. Although Cheyenne had few birds Durango, Colo. did also, in spite of a bumper crop of box elder, maple, ash seeds and other foods *(OR).* Durango was also very dry. A cold front came into the Great Basin, freezing up Malheur, Oreg. on Nov. 10; Stillwater Refuge, Nev. on Nov. 15; and Ruby Lakes, Nev. on Nov. 18.

**Swans**—Trumpeter Swans did not do well this year. Few cygnets were reported. Perhaps this was due to the drought. Trumpeters congregated at Ruby Lakes, Nev. where there were 14 by the end of November, but the build-up in eastern Nevada was slow *(DEL).* Malheur raised 4 cygnets this year *(HFD).* Of 57 Trumpeters on Flat Creek, National Elk Refuge, Jackson Hole, Wyo. there were only 3 cygnets on Nov. 12 *(FSD).* There were 22,000 Whistling Swans, a very high count, at Bear River Marshes, Great Salt Lake, by the end of this period *(RAK).*

**Geese**—There were 12,000 Snow Geese and 5 Blue Geese at the end of November at Stillwater; Blue Geese are most unusual there *(PAS).* In the Klamath Basin, Oregon—California border, the peak of the goose migration was on Oct. 25; 205,000 White-fronted; 129,000 Canadas (Cackling); 72,000 Snow *(EJO'N)—*about the same as last year. A flock of 25 Emperor Geese was seen at. Klamath in October; 2 were shot and placed in the local museum. Three Black Brant also were seen, one of which was shot and put in the museum *(EJO'N).* Both species are rare inland.

**Ducks**—Malheur Refuge had better water conditions this fall—in recent years Malheur had almost dried up—and had better duck migration also. The peak was Oct. 11-17 with 285,000 birds: Pintail, 85,000; Am. Widgeon, 60,000; Mallard, 50,000. Of particular note were 12,000 Canvasbacks—the largest number in 6 years *(HFD).* The great Klamath Basin with its several refuges in southern Oregon and northern California has the greatest concentration of migratory waterfowl in this Region. Good water conditions were reported and a peak waterfowl count of 1,797,550 on Oct. 1—almost the same as last year. The peak for ducks was a little later on Oct. 10. The most common ducks were the Pintail with 850,000; Am. Widgeon with 120,000; Mallard, 37,000; Ruddy Duck, 26,000 *(EJO'N).* The peak of the duck migration at Stillwater, Nev., was on Oct. 20. The most common ducks were Green-winged Teal at 91,700 (down from last year's 155,000); Pintail, 54,000 (down from last year's 79,000); Shoveler, 23,900 (about the same as

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 1 63

last year); and Gadwall, 18,000. There were 20,000 Canvasback the first week in November, the highest count in 5 years. The Redhead peaked at 5000. While Canvasbacks are making a nice come-back, the Redhead is in trouble. Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho had a good fall duck migration which was almost exclusively Mallards (95% ). The migration came in waves on Nov. 7, 15-16, and 21. This last date was the fall peak with 610,600 ducks. Of these, 580,000 were Mallards with the next most common the Pintail at 20,000 (3.2%) (*WCR).* The Wood Duck is very scarce in most parts of the West with the exception of this refuge, where there were 100 for several weeks this fall (*WCR).* At Bear River Marshes the peak of the duck migration was on Oct. 14 with 684,410 against last year's 471,555. Water conditions were much better. The principal ducks and the highest numbers were: Pintail, 209,500; Green-winged Teal, 117,000; Canvasback, 47,000 (a record for recent years); Am. Widgeon, 32,600; Mallard, 28,700 and Gadwall, 22,500 *(RAK).* Monte Vista is principally a Mallard refuge, but Mallards were late this year as there were only 18,000 at the end of this period *(CRB).*

**Eagles**—The concentrations reported were 12 Golden Eagles and 5 Bald Eagles at Malheur in late November *(HFD).* At the same time, there were 6 Bald and 6 Golden Eagles at the Stillwater Refuge *(PAS)—*fewer than usual. The central Wyoming Golden Eagle flyway seemed to have a slow start and was hardly going at the end of this period, presaging the poorest flight yet *(OKS).*

**Cranes**—Monte Vista is attempting to reestablish the Sandhill Crane as a breeding bird in the San Luis valley. Several eggs from Malheur were hatched there and the young are doing fine *(CRB).* Many cranes use the Refuge as a stopping point on migration. There were 1300 there on Oct. 10. The wounded ***Whooping Crane***that was brought in is recovering well.

**Shorebirds**—Two Snowy Plovers, at Grand Junction on Nov. 7 *(LFE)* were the first in several years in that area.

**Jaegers**—A Parasitic Jaeger was seen at Lower Klamath on Sept. 4 *(GB) —*anotherrecord of these pelagic birds inland. At Mono Lake, Nev. a Pomarine Jaeger was reported on Sept. 13 *(TC, Jr.);* there is no previous Nevada observation for the species.

**Gulls**—Another Sabine's Gull was seen at Casper, Wyo. on Oct. 10 *(OKS),* proving that this bird is not as rare inland as previously thought. It has been seen in this region 5 out of the last 11 years.

**Swifts**—There were 3 Vaux's Swifts at Parowan, Utah, Aug. 31 (*SM*)—rare migrants. The last of the numerous Black Swifts in the same area was seen on Aug. 29 *(SM).* This is the only accessible point in this Region where these rare birds can be seen in numbers.

**Mockingbird**—One was seen at Snowville, Utah, where they are rare, on Sept. 19 *(DMF).*

**Bluebirds**—There is a disturbing decline in the Mountain Bluebird over the past several years at Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park as noted by the park naturalist *(MKP).* This was also noted farther west around Steamboat Springs, Colo. *(AC).*

**Vireos, Warblers**—A Philadelphia Vireo at Salt Lake City on Sept. 15 was unusual *(GK).* A Black-throated Green Warbler was mist-netted at Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, Sept. 16 *(AC)—*the first record for the Park. Another first record was an Am. Redstart mist-netted in the Park on Aug. 30 *(AC).* It is a more common warbler migrant at lower elevations. An Ovenbird at Cheyenne, Wyo. on Sept. 11 *(MH)* was the only remarkable record for that area. Several remarkable warblers appeared in the mountains west of Denver. On Sept. 15 at Evergreen there was a ***Golden-winged Warbler***and a ***Black-throated Blue.***Both of these are first records for the mountains *(GS).* At Georgetown, a Palm Warbler, a casual visitor was seen at 8600 ft. on Nov. 17. A Northern Waterthrush was seen at Logan, Utah, where they have been scarce, on Oct. 4.

**Tanager**—A male Hepatic Tanager stayed at a feeder at the headquarters of Bryce Canyon Nat'l Park, Utah, for almost a month from late August—the first record for the Region *(RWR).*

**Rosy Finches**—There were 300 Black Rosy Finches at Arches Nat'l Monument, Utah, Nov. 30 *(DLC).* Dennis Carter, who is an excellent birder, has just become naturalist at Arches, next to the new Canyonlands Nat'l Park and La Sal Mountains —a very wild area.

**Sparrows**—Three White-throated Sparrows were noted at Zion Park, Utah (first record) on Nov. 20 *(RHW).* A late Chipping Sparrow—one of the latest dates on record—was seen at Salt Lake City on Nov. 20 *(GK).*

**Contributors**.—(PB), Pauline Bush; (MRB), M. Ralph Browning; (GB), Greg Bos; (CRB), Charles R. Bryant; (DLC), Dennis L. Carter; (TC), Jr., Theodore Chase, Jr.; (AC), Allegra Collister; (HFD), H. F. Duebbert; (KLD), Keith L. Dixon; (FSD), F. Sheldon Dart; (LFE), Lucy F. Ela; (DMF), Dennis M. Forsythe; (MH), May Hanesworth; (GK), Gleb Kashin; (RAK), Robert A. Karges; (DEL), Donald E. Lewis; (SM), Stuart Murie; (EJO')N, Edward J. O'Neill; (MKP), Merlin K. Potts; (WCR), William C. Reffalt; (OR), Oppie Reames; (RWR), Richard W. Russell; (PAS), Peter A. Schwabenland; (OKS), Oliver K. Scott; (GS), George Shier; Dorothy Tompkins; (LW), Lois Webster; (RHW), Roland H. Wauer.

*Autumn Migration, 1964*

**NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION**

**/ Werner and Hilde Hesse**

Another wet and cool summer in the northern part of the Region started migration of some birds earlier than usual. However, the dry and very mild October caused many species to linger on the way; this resulted in some late arrival dates farther south. There were no major storms or sudden cold spells and the movement of passerines was, with few exceptions, rather uneventful. While some very exciting observations of seabirds were made, *e.g.* the remarkable increase of Brown Pelicans along the Oregon and Washington coast, the highlight of this fall was the migration of shorebirds. Altogether 35 species were reported. The numerous sightings of Am. Golden Plover alone would have been outstanding; however, the influx of so many other rarities, such as Willet, Black-necked Stilt, Sharp-tailed, and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, and Hudsonian Godwit was even more exciting.



**Loons, Grebes, and Pelagic Birds**—About 1000 migrating loons passed Cannon Beach, Oreg., during a 2-hour period, Nov. 1 *(AB)* and off Tillamook, Oreg. they were flying south all day at an estimated rate of 750 to 1000 per hour on Nov. 14 *(WT).* Arctic Loons were first seen at Willapa Bay, Wash., Sept. 19, and 8 reached Tillamook the next day. Red-throated Loons appeared in small numbers by the end of September at Point Roberts, Wash. and 50 were observed, Oct. 10 at the mouth of the Columbia River. Horned Grebes were first noted at Denman Island, British Columbia, Aug. 30; reaching Iona, B. C. and Blaine, Wash., Sept. 12; and Sauvie Island, near Portland, Oreg., Sept. 27. Victoria, B. C. reported fewer Eared Grebes this fall and only single birds were noted at Tillamook, Sept. 20; Yaquina Beach, Oreg., Oct. 18; and Medford, Oreg., Nov. 10. The 16 Pied-billed Grebes seen in Tillamook County, Nov. 14, represented 3 to 4 times the usual number and indicated a migration of this species *(JBC).* Three Fulmars were seen off Cannon Beach, Nov. 2, and 2 appeared off Cape Meares, Oreg., Nov. 8 *(AB).* Baldridge also identified *15* Pink-footed Shearwaters among 8000 Sooties off Cannon Beach, Sept. 20. For over one hour 200 Sooty Shearwaters per minute were estimated passing Long Beach, Wash., Sept. 7 *(J & MG).* The only recorded Fork-tailed Petrels were 2 at the north jetty, mouth of the Columbia River, Aug. 30 *(AB, LLF).*

**Pelicans and Herons**—The 5 White Pelicans at Denman Island, Sept. 12, may have been the same that stayed in Victoria from Sept. 15 to 22, and were seen by most of the Victoria bird-watchers. A further increase of Brown Pelicans was reported; 400 were counted on Oct. 4 along the coast between Newport and Otter Rock, Oreg. *(AB, JS, WT),* and a few individuals even ranged as far north as Willapa and Hoquiam, Wash. Green Herons were found at many locations all through the Region. There were 3 records of Common Egrets; 1 at Fern Ridge Reservoir, near Eugene, Oreg., Sept. 13 *(LMcQ);* 1at Tillamook Bay, Sept. 26 (Mr. & Mrs. R. Harris, *fide JBC);* and one near Medford, Oct. 31 (Don Haller, *fide RB).*

**Swans and Geese**—The number of Whistling Swans at Sauvie Island rose from 40 on Nov. 14, to 135 by Nov. 21, and to see 3 along the coast near Tillamook, Nov. 14, was unusual. Compared with previous years the Canada Goose migration began earlier this fall; 30 had returned to Sauvie Island by Aug. 9 and 200 flew over Drayton Harbor, Wash., Aug. 22. Some very early Black Brant were noted near Ladner, B. C. on Aug. 6, while the larger flocks arrived at their usual time in November. During a field trip of the Oregon Audubon Society to Sauvie Island on Nov. 15, Baldridge found a near adult ***Emperor Goose***among 30 White-fronted and all 23 members of the party had an excellent view. Peak estimates of Snow Geese were 1000 each at Iona, Nov. 15 *(GES)* and at Skagit Flats, Wash., Nov. 26 *(AB).*

**Ducks**—The uncommon Gadwall appeared at Portland, Sept. 5 (early); Fern Ridge Reservoir, Sept. 13; Green Lake in Seattle, Wash., Oct. 5; and on the Game Commission Pond, north of Medford, Nov. 22. On the same pond a very late Cinnamon Teal was seen the same day *(RB, WC, JH).* In mid-November Vancouver, B. C., Victoria, Seattle and Tillamook bird-watchers saw single European Widgeons. The only Redheads were reported from Elk Lake in Victoria on Nov. 21 *(ARD).* Small numbers of Ring-necked Ducks made their irregular appearances at Denman Island, Oct. 4; Fort Stevens,

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 1 68

Oreg., Oct. 10; Rockaway, Oreg., Nov. 14; and Stanley Park, Vancouver, on Nov. 22. The outlook for Canvasbacks seems brighter than in previous years as encouraging reports were received from many locations, with the highest count of 800 at Tillamook, Nov. 1. Barrow's Goldeneyes were again in fair numbers in the Seattle area, 60 were noted on Nov. 26 *(VEC).* Another species returning early was the Ruddy Duck; 6 were at Terrell Lake, south of Blaine, Wash., July 26 *(WHH)* and several on Duwamish River in South Seattle, Aug. 16 *(VEC).* On Nov. 22 at the Game Pond, north of Medford, 2 female Red-breasted Mergansers were identified after a careful study of 20 minutes. This is the first-known record of this species for Jackson County, Oreg. *(RB, WC, JH).*

**Raptors**—The cool and rainy summer was blamed for the scarcity of Turkey Vultures on Vancouver Island. Fewer than 30 were seen migrating as compared with 500 last fall. However, Victoria came up with the only observations of 1 Goshawk, Nov. 19, and 5 Swainson's Hawks, Sept. 16 *(ARD).* On Oct. 17 one immature Golden Eagle was pestered by 7 Marsh Hawks at Point Roberts and the following day another immature flew very low over Chinook, Pacific Co., Wash. *(AB).* Three successive days of east wind may have been responsible for these sightings. An adult Golden Eagle was seen at Johns Peak, west of Medford, Nov. 22 *(RB).* Ospreys had left the northern parts of the Region by Sept. 10, but one was still present on Nov. 10 over Little Butte Creek, west of Eagle Point, Oreg. *(RB).* A striking record was a very early gray-phased Gyrfalcon at the south jetty of the Columbia River on Oct. 10 *(JBC).*

**Quail, Partridges and Cranes**—Forthe first time in two years Bobwhites were noted at Mac-Fadden Swamp, near Corvallis, Oreg., Sept. 7 *(JS).* There are also signs of a come-back of Gray Partridges at Victoria *(ARD).* About 300 Sandhill Cranes reached Sauvie Island by Sept. 27, with 17 still present, Nov. 21; and other records came from Pitt Meadows, Sept. 13; Vancouver Island, Sept. 17; and Denman Island, Sept. 27.

**Shorebirds**—Semipalmated Plovers began returning in July with the main migration taking place during August. Four Snowy Plovers were at Lead-better Point, Willapa Bay, on Sept. 19 *(JS, WT).* An unusual phenomenon occurred at Bellingham, Wash. where Killdeer aggregated in large numbers in September and gradually diminished. From Oct. 11 none was seen in that area *(TW).* Iona, Willapa Bay, Nehalem and Tillamook all had their share of Am. Golden Plovers. Three remained at Iona from Sept. 12 to 27; Willapa Bay had 9 on Aug. 29 and 30 and 6 were still there on Sept. 26; at Nehalem 1 was seen, Nov. 1 and Nov. 8; and Tillamook reported one on Nov. 8. Black-bellied Plovers appeared in mid-July and became numerous during August with 250 at Willapa Bay on Aug. 30. Ruddy Turnstones showed up in small numbers at Dungeness, Wash.; Blaine; Willapa Bay and Cannon Beach. A rare Long-billed Curlew was spotted at Netarts, Oreg., Aug. 29 *(LMcQ, JS, WT).* All along the coast, Whimbrels were reported; Gray's Harbor, Wash. had the greatest gathering of 33 on July 18 and a very late individual was still at Skagit Flats on Nov. 26 *(AB).* Spotted Sandpipers moved slowly south, last sightings were Iona, Aug. 23; Bellingham, Sept. 2; Seattle, Oct. 15; and Netarts, Nov. 8. Rare visitors to northwestern Oregon were Solitary Sandpapers on Sauvie Island, Sept. 13 and 18 *(AB)* and another was in Manning Park, B. C., Sept. 5 *(WHH).* Three observers spotted a Willet at Cape Meares, Aug. 29, a rare occurrence that far north *(LMcQ, JS, WT*). Migration of Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs was good; the first Greater was heard at Bellingham, June 30 *(TW),* and the first two Lessers were feeding on the flats of Iona, July 18. Knots were about average, 16 at Willapa Bay, Aug. 30; **1** at Ocean Shores, Sept. 19; and 12 at Tillamook, Sept. 20. Two records of Rock Sandpipers from the Oregon Coast are noteworthy; 6 at Garibaldi, Oreg., Nov. 8 *(AB, JS, WT),* and 5 at Tillamook, Nov. 14 *(IBC).* Satisfactory photographs were taken of a ***Sharp-tailed Sandpiper***feeding with 70 Pectorals on the salt marsh at Leadbetter Point, Sept. 26 *(AB, JBC).* Poor water conditions inland caused by lack of rain forced Pectoral Sandpipers to shift their migration route to the coast *(JS),* where they were observed in larger numbers than ever before. Dowitchers were widespread and plentiful; Baldridge saw 3000 to 4000 Short-billed at Gray's Harbor on July 18 and 230 Long-billed at Sauvie Island from Sept. 5 to 18. One ***Stilt Sandpiper***was feeding with Lesser Yellowlegs on the salt marsh at Leadbetter Point, Aug. 30 *(AB, LLF).* On the same day and in the same area 2 ***Buff-breasted Sandpipers***were seen under perfect conditions and excellent photographs were obtained *(AB, LLF).* Another Buff-breasted Sandpiper was present in Victoria during the last week of August—the first sight record in recent years *(DS).* Both the Stilt and Buff-breasted Sandpipers are uncommon in this Region. Marbled God-wits were at Willapa Bay on Aug. 30, Sept. 26 and Oct. 18; also at Yaquina Beach, Oreg., Oct. 4. Fred and Evelyn Dobson made the most exciting discovery when they detected a ***Hudsonian Godwit***on Iona, Sept. 13 and studied it carefully at close range. Its identification was corroborated the following evening by (*WHH),* who found the bird extremely tame and could approach it to within 15 feet. Although there are a few records of Hudsonian God-wits from the interior of British Columbia, this sighting may represent the first for this Region. The last rarity in this group was an Am. Avocet at Hoovers Lake, near Medford, on Sept. 18 *(JH).*

**Jaegers, Gulls, Terns and Alcids**—A Pomarine Jaeger at Ocean Shores, Sept. 20 (TW) and one at Point Roberts, Sept. 26 *(WHH)* came close enough to be positively identified. Reports of the Parasitic Jaeger were numerous; a late one was at Point Roberts, Nov. 22. The largest concentrations of California Gulls were noted in early and mid-October at the mouth of the Columbia River and on Lake Washington in Seattle. An astonishingly large number of 10,000 Mew and Bonaparte's Gulls

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 1 69

were observed at Clover Point, Victoria *(RF, DS).* A few Franklin's Gulls appeared, 1 at Sauvie Island, 1 at Ocean View, 1 at Birch Bay, Wash., all in August and September; and 3 at Bellingham on Oct. 11. A Black-legged Kittiwake was closely observed at Westport, Wash., Oct. 18 *(SJ);* 15 were near Cannon Beach, Nov. 1; and 2 near Cape Meares, Nov. 8 *(AB, JS, WT).* A few Forster's Terns were seen near Tokeland, Wash., Oct. 9 (VEC). From July 19 to Nov. 1 Common Terns were moving along the coast. One ventured inland as far as 30 miles east of Portland on Oct. 11 *(AB).* Also on Oct. 11, north of Brookings, Curry Co., Oreg., an Ancient Murrelet was carefully studied and identified (Mrs. T. Conway and Mrs. R. Briggs, *fide RB).*

**Pigeons and Owls**—Afailure of the acorn crop kept Band-tailed Pigeons down to small numbers at Victoria, but more than usual were reported from Portland. During September two active nests of Mourning Doves were under observation at Hubbard, one young left the nest on Sept. 24 or 25 *(TM).* Three downy young Barn Owls were discovered at a shipyard in Vancouver on December 3, with an additional 10 adults in the same area (Robin Best). The late breeding and heavy concentration is attributable to an over-abundance of mice this fall. We had only one report of a Snowy Owl at Boundary Bay, B. C., Nov. 22. A Pygmy Owl had returned to its wintering area in Portland by Oct. 10 *(AB).*

**Nighthawks, Hummingbirds, and Flycatchers—**The last Common Nighthawks were seen at Bellingham, Sept. 23 and Vaux's Swifts were at Ilwaco, Sept. 26. A Rufous Hummingbird lingered in Victoria until Nov. 5 *(ARD).* A Western Kingbird, rare on the coast, was observed feeding on dragonflies at Tokeland on Oct. 9 *(VEC)* and a very late one was seen on Nov. 14 near Talent, Oreg., (Pauline Bush and Dorothy Tompkins, *fide RB).* During early October, 4 or 5 Black Phoebes visited Mrs. Caroline Kelsey's feeder at Trail, Oreg., another sign of the northward expansion of this species. Last dates of flycatchers were: Traill's Flycatcher at Astoria, Oreg., Sept. 24 *(HCA);* Western Flycatcher at Denman Island, Sept. 20 *(WJF);* Western Wood Pewee at Drayton Harbor, Sept. 21 *(LK);* and Olive-sided Flycatcher at Pitt Meadows, Sept. 27 *(GES).*

**Swallows, Wrentits and Wrens**—An unusually high number of Violet-green Swallows, 10,000 to 15,000 in four flocks, was noted south of Corvallis on Sept. 8 *(JS).* At Drayton Harbor a few Violet-green Swallows stayed until Oct. 8 and Cliff Swallows until Oct. 3 *(LK).* Thirty-three Purple Martins at Sauvie Island on Aug. 29; 12 at Victoria on Sept. 5; and 11 at Drayton Harbor, Sept. 9, indicate a remarkable increase. A Wrentit, a rare bird east of the Coast Range, was banded and another seen by Ralph Moldenhauer near Summit, Oreg., Sept. 5. In the Rogue River Valley the Long-billed Marsh Wrens are on the increase *(RB).* A Rock Wren, out of its range, on Denman Island was closely observed by three experienced bird-watchers on Sept. 19 and 20 (*WJF).*

**Catbirds, Thrushes, Pipits and Shrikes**—A Catbird discovered at Eugene, Oct. 12, is believed to be the first recorded west of the Cascades in Oregon *(LMcQ).* Robins were reported in large numbers in late November; a flock of 500 was in downtown Victoria and about 1000 at Seward Park, Seattle; but Varied Thrushes seemed to be rather scarce everywhere. A very late Swainson's Thrush was seen at Tillamook, Oct. 25 *(JBC).* In early August Water Pipits started returning, building up to 200 in Victoria by Sept. 7; and 75 to 100 near Medford on Nov. 14 were the last seen in this Region. An early sighting of a Northern Shrike was made at Iona, Oct. 4 (*GES).*

**Vireos and Warblers**—Two Red-eyed Vireos were still singing at Terrell Lake on Aug. 22 *(LK);* and a Warbling Vireo was late at Astoria, Sept. 30 *(HCA).* Two Nashville Warblers, seldom reported in this area, were seen in Bellingham on Aug. 30 *(TW).* Crowell found an immature ***Magnolia Warbler***on Oct. 25 in an "island" of trees and undergrowth on the spit separating Tillamook Bay from the ocean. This appears to be the first record for the state of Oregon, although Gabrielson and Jewett in "Birds of Oregon" (1940) place this species on the hypothetical list based on an unsubstantiated record from Salem, Oreg. in January 1907. Late Myrtle Warblers were at Hubbard, Oct. 15 and 28 *(TM).* An unusual build-up of about 200 warblers, mostly Audubon's, with Orange-crowned, Black-throated Gray, and MacGillivray's Warblers among them, was noticed in Beacon Hill Park, Victoria, during the second week of October *(DS, et al.).* The migration of Townsend's Warblers began with *9* at Squamish, B. C., Aug. 15, and lasted until Nov. 29, when the last was seen at Hubbard. A very late Yellowthroat was reported from Denman Island, Oct. 17 (*WJF).*

**Orioles, Grosbeaks, Finches and Sparrows**—The second sight record of the ***Hooded Oriole***for Jackson County was made when a pair was watched and carefully studied south of Ruch, Oreg., Oct. 1 (Mrs. Bonney Suttel, *fide* RB). (See *Audubon Field Notes* 17-4). So far this year Evening Grosbeaks have not been reported. The population of Purple Finches continues to decline, especially in the Vancouver, B. C. and Bellingham areas. Pine Siskins are also down in numbers. Onlookers were surprised when two Am. Goldfinches overtook the northbound Port Angeles to Victoria ferry in the middle of the Strait of Juan de Fuca on Oct. 12. The main migration of Savannah Sparrows occurred during September, the first reaching the Rogue Valley in Oregon on Oct. 1 *(JH);* but the northern areas reported them as late as October 18 at Drayton Harbor *(KB).* Unusually late records of Vesper Sparrows come from Stahlbusch Island, east of Corvallis, 2 on Nov. 14 and 1 on Nov. 29 *(JS).* The uncommon Slate-colored Junco was seen 1 at Trail, Oreg., Oct. 15 (B. Suttel, *fide RB);* 1 in Hubbard, Nov. 7 (Dale Shank and *TM);* and 2 at a feeding station in Burnaby since October 31 *(WHH).* White-and Golden-crowned Sparrows arrived at Medford, Sept. 20, a week later than usual *(JH).* There

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 1 70

seemed to have been more Lincoln's Sparrows than in other years, with the highest number at Pitt Meadows, where 14 were counted on Sept. 13 *(KB)* Lapland Longspurs were reported only from three locations, but more than ever were seen at Leadbetter Point in September *(AB, JBC).*

**Contributors** (sectional editors' names in boldface)—(HCA) Helen C. Acton; (AB) Alan Baldridge; (BB) Bob and Elsie Boggs; (KB) Ken Boyce; (RB) **Ralph Browning** (southeast Oregon); (VEC) Violet E. Cannon; (WC) Walter Cavanaugh; ( JBC) John B. Crowell, Jr.; (ARD) A. R. Davidson; (FWD) Fred and Evelyn Dobson; (WJF) W. J. Fitzpatrick; (RF) R. Fryer; (J *&* MG) John and Myrtle Groet; (WHH) Werner and Hilde Hesse; ( JH) Joseph Hicks; (SJ) Mr. and Mrs. Stan Johnson; (LK) Lucile Kline; (LLF) L. D. LaFave; (TM) Thomas McCamant; (LMcQ) Larry McQueen; (DS) **David and Ruth Stirling** (Vancouver Island); (ES) Eleanor Stopps; (GES) Gertrude E. Smith; ( JS) Joseph G. Strauch, Jr.; (WT) William Thackaberry; (TW) Terry Wahl.

*The Winter Season, 1964-65*

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

**/ Thomas H. Rogers**

Most of the Region endured a long, snowy, and at times bitterly cold, winter. South-central Montana, around Bozeman, received the first severe blow of winter, with a strong cold front moving in during mid-November, bringing

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 3 401

an early freeze-up and forcing most waterbirds away. These frigid conditions, with the thermometer as low as -35°, persisted until the first of the year, when temperatures moderated. The cold air masses that plagued northern Montana thereafter did not reach to the Bozeman area and an early break-up of winter there encouraged some early waterfowl returns. Apparently because of the severe early winter conditions, numbers of wintering Mallards, Killdeer and snipe were low, notwithstanding mild weather later. Other areas of the Region, to the north and west, saw mid-December temperatures drop to as low as -30°, lowest of the winter, in several localities. Shortly followed heavy snowfalls, which set all-time records of 31 in. at Missoula, Mont. and 42 in. at Spokane, Wash. Smaller bodies of standing water froze solidly, driving most waterfowl elsewhere. By contrast, January was mild, with no subzero temperatures reported. However, snow fall continued heavy, adding to that already on the ground, and waters remained frozen. February temperatures were average or slightly above, and precipitation was light except in western Montana, where snow fall was normal. The lowest reported temperature was -5°, at the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. March brought another big weather surprise, for both average and minimum temperatures were generally below those the two preceding months. Sunny days and frigid nights were the rule, with precipitation far below normal. In some areas snow cover thinned or vanished, but in others it persisted, and, combined with the low temperatures, worked hardship on some species. Seed-eating northern and montane birds, generally speaking, put in a poor appearance in the valleys, suggesting favorable food conditions nearer their summer ranges. C. J. Henry, who retired in April, has contributed his last report as manager of the Nat'l Bison Range. Happily, however, he plans to remain in the area and continue to report his observations. Leon Littlefield, former manager of Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, has been transferred to Minidoka Wildlife Refuge, Idaho and will certainly be in this Region. However, Frank L. Kenney, transferred from McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, bank, Wash. is continuing the excellent reports Ninepipe.

**Grebes and Herons**—A few grebes of several species were noted wintering in the western part of the Region, in British Columbia and Washington. The Red-necked (1) and Eared (4) were seen at Okanagan Landing, near Vernon, B. C. on Dec. 28. Very few Great Blue Herons were known to have wintered in western Montana, and the Vernon, B. C. area had none. Observers believed this to be a direct result of severe weather conditions. At Ninepipe Refuge 4 were present in early March, but subsequent cold weather forced them out. One bird was found in a starved condition, fed and released. Eastern Washington appeared to have normal or higher numbers, with a peak of around 100 at Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash.

**Waterfowl**—Five Trumpeter Swans stayed at least as late as Dec. 23 at Ennis Lake, Madison Co., Mont. No more were seen until Feb. 7, when 24 were counted. Seventy-five to 100 Whistling Swans remained at Columbia Refuge until the mid-December freeze-up drove them out. Numbers returned with the thaw in early March. Whistling Swans usually winter in hundreds on the South Thompson River between Kamloops and Chase, B. C. and several reports were received that in January some were dying for lack of food after the river froze over. The 300 or so Canada Geese on the reservoir at Ninepipe were forced by the freeze to spend the winter on Flathead Lake and River. Field-feeding waterfowl at Columbia Refuge found conditions poor owing to crusted snow. Numbers there dropped from around 305,000 on Dec. 12 to about 34,000 a week later. By early January only about 15,000 birds were present and the population remained at about this level until the late winter thaw. Mallards, the most abundant ducks at McNary Refuge, Burbank, Wash. declined from their large December and January numbers to about 1000 for the remainder of the period. The severe cold of December drove most waterfowl from the Bozeman and Ennis, Mont areas, but Pintail and Am. Widgeon wintered there in better than average numbers. Mild late winter conditions brought some early returning birds; *e.g.,* 12 Gadwall, apparently paired, at Ennis Lake on Feb. 28. A male Bufflehead there on Feb. 7 probably wintered and a female Hooded Merganser at Three Forks on March 14 *(RAH, DRS & PDS)* was as unusual as the female there last year a week later. Noteworthy was a sighting of 5 Red-breasted Mergansers at McNary Refuge, Feb. 18. At Ninepipe Refuge a wintering population of about 18,000 Mallards apparently survived the long winter well, moving in irrigation canals when the reservoir in the refuge froze. A ***European Widgeon***was observed at Ninepipe the last week of March. Ring-necked Ducks regained their place as number 1 diving duck wintering at Columbia Refuge, with numbers equaling those of the Lesser Scaup.

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 3 402

**Hawks and Eagles**—More Goshawk sightings than usual were reported. In the Vernon, B. C. area the species was even described as moderately common. Two adult and 1 immature Bald Eagles wintering at Okanogan Landing appeared to subsist mainly on coot. The rarely reported Gyrfalcon was noted at Reardon, Wash. on Dec. 6 (1) *(JA)* and near Vernon, B. C. on Feb. 27 (1). A Peregrine Falcon was seen infrequently at Ninepipe Refuge. A scarcity of Rough-legged Hawks in the Bozeman area was believed to be related to a low vole population there.

**Gallinaceous Birds**—Complete lack of reports of Sharp-tailed Grouse in the Bozeman area during the fall and winter was beginning to look significant. A downward trend was noted for Ring-necked Pheasants at Bozeman, Missoula, Ninepipe Refuge, Columbia Refuge and Vernon, B. C., but other localities reported at least normal numbers. A few Chukars were still present at the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. The status of the species was down at Columbia Refuge. California Quail appeared to have had very low survival at Vernon, B. C. and Columbia Refuge. About 15 Turkeys were seen near Cedonia, Stevens Co., Wash. where the species has been planted *(JA & WH).*

**Rails and Gulls**—Three Virginia Rails were seen at Swan Lake, Vernon, B. C. in a spring-fed ditch on Dec. 26 and 1 or 2 were seen for several weeks thereafter. Three gull rarities were reported: a Glaucous Gull at the city dump at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho in February *(Mr. & Mrs. SOS, WH, JA),* anIceland Gull, collected at the same place, Feb. 22 *(LLaF, WH),* and a Glaucous-winged Gull at the same place on Jan. 1 *(JA).* Up to 50 Herring Gulls were noted there *(SAS)* and a few remained on Okanagan Lake in southern British Columbia.

**Doves and Owls**—A few wintering Mourning Doves were reported. A small flock was seen at Columbia Refuge at the beginning of the big storm in mid-December. A few small flocks wintered successfully in the Vernon, B. C. area. The only other records were of single birds, near Spokane at a feeding station and at the Bison Range headquarters, feeding with the deer and geese. Pygmy Owls were unusually scarce in the Vernon, B. C. area and were down in numbers around Spokane, Wash. A Great Gray Owl was noted, March 4, about 7 miles west of Bozeman at a low elevation *(NM).* The scarcity of Short-eared Owls in the latter area was thought to be related to the low vole population.

**Kingfishers and Larks**—Belted Kingfishers wintered in about usual numbers despite the severe winter, except at the Bison Range, where very few were noted. Wintering Horned Larks appeared scarce except at the Bison Range and in the Bozeman area.

**Ravens and Jays**—An unusual aggregation of about 100 Common Ravens was found around a dead elk in Gallatin Canyon near Bozeman. A flock of 40 Piñon Jays at Ennis, Mont. was apparently wintering.

**Chickadees, Nuthatches and Creepers**—Birdsof these three groups made few appearances in the Spokane area, where they usually are common at feeders. Red-breasted Nuthatches continued extremely scarce in the Vernon area and were unreported in the valleys around Bozeman, but were noted in the surrounding mountains *(NM, RAH).* Chickadees and creepers were scarce or absent at Baker, Oreg.

**Thrushes**—Robins wintered in fair numbers at most reporting localities. More than usual stayed at the Bison Range and the species reached impressive numbers around Bozeman, where they fed on berries on dry juniper hillsides. Several hundred were observed and it was considered likely that thousands were in the area. A major movement was noted at some localities in the western part of the Region just after mid-February. The movement was mainly between Feb. 21 and 24 in the Spokane area, with 1000 noted at Spangle and large flocks at Spokane and Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash. Vernon, B. C. experienced a similar influx on Feb. 20-21. In the Bitterroot Valley around Stevensville, Mont. thousands of the birds appeared with the severe storm of March 23. Hundreds died during the ordeal. Varied Thrushes wintered in the Vernon, B. C. area in unprecedented numbers. The 62 counted on the Vernon Christmas count were exceeded by those at Penticton. Extreme cold from mid-December to early January, combined with deep snow took a heavy toll of the birds, although feeding stations helped many to survive. A single individual at the Bison Range during the March cold snap furnished the first record for this species for the Range. A flock of 6 Western Bluebirds at Okanagan Landing near Vernon on Dec. 26 and 27 appeared to be close to starvation after 2 weeks of severe cold and deep snow. Several observations of Mountain Bluebirds in the Bozeman area during the first half of March raised the possibility that the birds may have wintered in the area *(HM, PDS).*

**Waxwings**—"Thiswas surely a Bohemian Waxwing year" in some localities (Hand). In the area of Missoula around his home over 2000 were estimated during much of January. Large flocks were in the Bitterroot Valley south of Missoula, and Bozeman had thousands until late December, after which they scattered, especially to the juniper hillsides to feed with the Robins. Very large flocks, 1 estimated at 2 or 3 thousand, passed through the Vernon, B. C. area during the first half of December, with only a few remaining for the winter. Quite possibly these birds were some of those which arrived on Dec. 17 and later in the Spokane area, where flocks of 1 or 2 thousand swarmed during January. February 22, the last date recorded, found 800 still there. Cedar Waxwings remained at several localities and in more than usual numbers. Exceptional in winter in the Bozeman area, the birds appeared in flocks up to 50 at Norris (with Robins in junipers). Spokane had its share; *e.g.,* 102 on the Christmas count and 32 noted on Feb. 20 *(THR).* The species was present at Baker, Oreg. and up to 45 were observed at Missoula off and on during the winter.

**Starlings and Meadowlarks**—Starlings,mentioned from practically all reporting localities, were noted as either common or increasing at many of them. Vernon, B. C. noted an influx after mid-February, and the Bison Range, in late January and

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 3 403

February. Western Meadowlarks were noted wintering in the Bitterroot Valley in western Montana. Large flocks came in with the storm of March 23 and apparently survived it well. A few of the birds made it through the cold and deep snows at Spokane and Vernon. They were present all winter at McNary Refuge and were more common than usual at Columbia Refuge.

**Blackbirds**—Red-winged Blackbirds wintered successfully in the Bozeman and Bitterroot Valley areas of Montana, and around Spokane. There were 368 on the Christmas count, at Vernon, B. C. Brewer's Blackbirds also remained through the period around Bozeman and Vernon, and, as usual, in the Columbia Basin (McNary and Columbia Refuges).

**Finches**—Except in the Bitterroot Valley in western Montana, where flocks were reported, Evening Grosbeaks were scarce or absent. No certain records were obtained for wintering Cassin's Finches, but the 30 with the Robins at Norris, Mont. on Feb. 28 probably spent the winter there. Pine Grosbeaks were extremely scarce. That the birds probably never descended from the mountains is suggested by the observation of a sizable flock high in Gallatin Canyon near Bozeman on Jan. 24 *(NM).* Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were not seen in any real numbers except in Ennis, Mont. and in eastern Washington, where they appeared late, on Dec. 25. The largest number was 1500 near Hartline, Wash. on the above date. Two days earlier, 250 were noted at Ennis. At least 1 Black Rosy Finch accompanied the latter group. Common Redpolls were scarce or absent except in the Vernon, B. C. area. The most seen elsewhere were 50 on Pablo Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, 9 miles north of Ninepipe Refuge. Pine Siskins wintered in numbers only in the Bozeman area, where they were observed regularly, both in the valley and in the mountains. At Vernon a few small flocks arrived on Feb. 2 and the birds became common by mid-month. Am. Goldfinches likewise wintered commonly in the Bozeman area, particularly west at Ennis, Norris and Three Forks. Normally the birds are not seen in the area until May. Small flocks of Red Crossbills were noted around Vernon and Spokane, but they did not appear in the valleys of western and southern Montana, with the exception of the Bitterroot. In the Bozeman area the birds apparently remained in the surrounding mountains, for they were seen in Gallatin Canyon *(NM)* and in the Bridger Mountains *(DRS & SMS).*

**Sparrows**—The only report of a Rufous-sided Towhee perhaps wintering was of 1 at Okanagan Landing on Dec. 26. Oregon Juncos appeared in usual abundance and in some cases were more plentiful than ordinarily. This was the case in the Bozeman area and at Vernon. At the latter locality it was supposed to be partly a result of deep snow on surrounding hillsides. A few Slate-colored Juncos were noted at Vernon, Spokane and Missoula and a single bird was observed through the period at the Bozeman cemetery. Most localities reported Tree Sparrows. An immature ***Harris' Sparrow***visited a feeding station regularly during most of December and early January at Glenrose Prairie near Spokane. Wintering White-crowned Sparrows were observed at McNary Refuge, Vernon, Spokane and Baker, Oreg. Snow Buntings appeared very sparsely: 2 observations, totaling less than 100 birds, in eastern Washington; small numbers at Missoula; a single at Belgrade, Mont. and 50 near Ennis, Mont.

**Contributors** (sectional editors, whose names are in boldface, should receive credit for observations in their respective areas unless otherwise stated).— (JA) James Acton; **M. Clair Aldous** and **Bob Ellis**, McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash.; Eugene C. Barney, Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash.; **Carol L. Boyd**, Bitterroot Valley, Stevensville, Mont.; **James Grant**, British Columbia; (WH) Warren Hall; **Ralph L Hand,** Missoula, Mont. area; (RAH) R. A Hays; **C. J. Henry**, Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont.; **Frank L. Kenney,** Nine-pipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo, Mont.; (LLaF) Lynn LaFave; (NM) Neil Martin; (HM) Homer Metcalf; (THR) Thomas H. Rogers; (DRS) Donald R. Skaar; (PDS) **P. D. Skaar,** Bozeman—Three Forks—Ennis, Mont. area; (SMS) Stephen M. Skaar; Spokane Audubon Society (credit for Spokane area records unless otherwise noted); (Mrs. SOS) **Mrs. S. O. Stanley**, Spokane, Wash. area; ( JEW) **Jack E. Waddell,** Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash., and **Ann Ward**, Baker, Oreg. area.

*The Winter Season, 1964-65*

**GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.**

**/ Dr. Oliver K. Scott**

The winter was relatively warm. In this Region there has never before been so much moisture. The heavy precipitation reached from the western part of the Region to eastern Wyoming. The prospects for summer water levels for waterfowl breeding have never been better. The Boise River watershed in western Idaho contained 200 percent of its normal supply of snow (the highest on record). Other areas are not far behind. The Klamath Basin grain fields, which the waterfowl use, were flooded and unavailable so the waterfowl were largely forced out. The prospects for the coming breeding season are excellent *(EJO'N).* Malheur Refuge, which had almost dried up, is back to the level of 1958 and

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 3 404

stream flow into the great eastern Oregon sump is predicted to be 150 percent of normal *(HFD).* TheStillwater Refuge in Nevada, which recently had been virtually dry, is now back in business in a big way. This area depends on the snow pack of the Sierra, which this year is tremendous. In southern Utah, in the last four months there has been 7.14 in. of moisture as compared with 1.19 in. for the same period last year *(SM).* The high Wasatch Mountains in northern Utah had 160 in. of snow at Alta, a record for recent years. The heavy moisture spread into southern Colorado, where the high dry San Luis valley has soil moisture 130 percent above normal and the surrounding mountains are loaded with snow in sharp contrast to recent years. The Monte Vista Refuge in this arid plain has benefited greatly *(CRB).* Only in eastern and central Wyoming are there dry areas. The Pacific fronts have lost all their moisture by the time they get this far to the east. This part of the Region is dependent on Arctic fronts from the north, and these have been few and dry. However, several extremely cold fronts did come in late March, but they brought little water and hardly affected the birds; they merely delayed spring migration. What became of the Bohemian Waxwings and Evening Grosbeaks? The waxwing is a normal winter feature over the northern part of this Region, but there were none this year. The very few Evening Grosbeaks seen early in the season promptly disappeared. As a substitute for the Bohemian there were a number of records of wintering Cedar Waxwings: 70 at Salt Lake City, Feb. 6 *(GK);* several flocks at Logan, Utah *(DMF)* and 7 at Casper, Wyo. during February *(AO).*

**Swans**—There were 5000 Whistling Swans at Malheur, March 12-18 *(HFD)* and 7060 in the Klamath Basin, Feb. 28 *(EJO'N).* Stillwater had 7300 at the peak in the second week of January. This is the highest number since 1958 *(PAS).* Bear River Marshes, at the north end of the Great Salt Lake, have more than the rest of the refuges combined. There were 30,000 at Bear River, Dec. 3—a very high count (*VW).*

**Ducks and Geese**—Stillwater, Nev. had the highest number of Pintails on record with 67,000, March 4; and the highest number of Ruddy Ducks on record with 54,000 in the last week of March. The previous high was 16,700 in 1960. The Common Merganser also had the highest on record at 2800 in the last week of January *(PAS).* All these records are probably a result of better water conditions. Wood Ducks are steadily increasing in the northwestern part of this Region. There were 25 at Deer Flat Refuge in western Idaho, Feb. 20 *(GHC);* 10 wintered at Malheur *(HFD).* The spring migration at Bear River has been average *(VW).* The peak in ducks was 486,000 in early December. At Malheur the peak Snow Goose count was 95,000, March 12-18. There has been a steady small decline in these birds over the last several years. The peak in ducks was 185,000, March 12-18—an improvement over last year. As usual, most of these ducks were Pintails-140,000 *(HFD).* At the great refuges in the Klamath Basin on the California–Oregon line the peak in waterfowl was early in December with 404,740. Of these, the Pintail was most common with 314,000, March 14-20; next Shoveler, 116,790, Dec. 6-12; Snow Goose, 85,000, March 21-27; Mallard, 57,760, Dec. 6-12; Ruddy Duck, 57,600, March 14-20. These figures are an improvement over last year. There were 2200 Ross' Geese in the last week of February and one ***Emperor Goose****,* which is very rare *(EJO'N).*

**Eagles**—The reports indicate that eagles, particularly the Golden, are down in numbers; but 20 Bald Eagles were reported wintering in the Parowan, Utah, area *(SM).* The central Wyoming flyway had Golden Eagles moving south well into February, apparently a result of relatively mild weather.

**Cranes**—The injured ***Whooping Crane***at Monte Vista Refuge, Colo., is doing well. There were 2000 Sandhills present at this refuge by the end of March *(CRB),* making it the second largest concentration of Sandhills in the Region. The largest concentration was near Malheur, where there were 5000 in the Harney valley in March *(HFD).*

**Gulls**—Herring Gulls were seen in March at the Farmington Bay Refuge near Salt Lake City. There were 4 on March 14 *(RH,* G. Ketal) and there was also a Glaucous Gull. Both species are rare in this area. Farmington Bay is the best birding place near Salt Lake City. Another Herring Gull was seen at Springdale, Zion Park, Feb. 14 *(RHW)* first record for the Park.

**Owls**—A Pygmy Owl was reported from Capitol Reef National Monument, Utah, Jan. 23 *(DLC).* Another was noted at Parowan on Dec. 4 and Jan. 21 *(DLC).* This little owl is not often reported.

**Flycatchers**—An out-of-range Eastern Phoebe was collected at Springdale, March 27 *(RHW).*

**Bluebirds—**Western Bluebirds wintered at Durango, Colo., beginning Jan. 20. Up to 50 were seen regularly *(OR).* There were also Western Bluebirds in the Grand Junction area, where they are more unusual, March 15 *(LE).*

**Warblers**—Owing to the relatively warm winter there was an Audubon's Warbler in a city park at Salt Lake City, Feb. 14 *(GK).*

**Sparrows**—There were 44 Sage Sparrows in Arches National Monument, in southeastern Utah, Dec. 22, although they were migrants and did not stay; this is the first winter record for the area *(DLC).* With an excellent reporter in this area for the first time the list and the dates of birds in southeastern Utah are being rapidly changed. Only the high lights are reported here. A Swamp Sparrow was collected at Springdale, March 2 *(RHW).* This bird is casual in Utah. Four Golden-crowned Sparrows were seen at Zion Park during the winter and 3 were banded *(RHW).* This bird should be very rare in southern Utah. A Harris' Sparrow found at Christmas time remained all winter in Rocky Mountain National Park (first park record) *(JL).* At lower elevations these birds are not uncommon.

**Contributors**—(CRB), Charles R. Bryant; (DLC), Dennis L. Carter; (GHC), Gene H. Crawford; (HFD), Harold F. Duebbert; (LE), Lucy Ela; (DMF), Dennis M. Forsythe; (RH), R. Hoehning; (GK), Gleb Kashin;

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 3 405

(JL), James Larson; (SM), Steward Murie; (EJO'N), Eugene J. O'Neill; (AO), Allen Ormand; (OR), Oppie Reames; (PAS), Peter A. Schwabenland; (RHW), Roland H. Wauer; (VW), Vanez Wilson.

**Corrigendum**—The Pomarine Jaeger recorded on Sept. 13, 1964 *(AFN* 19 (1): 64) should be Mono Lake, *Calif.,* not Nevada. However, it is believed to be the first inland report for California.

*The Winter Season, 1964-65*

**NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION**

**/ Werner and Hilde Hesse**

Undoubtedly the winter of 1964-65 will be remembered for its weather. Normal weather terminated abruptly on Dec. 14, when a high pressure area brought very cold Arctic air and strong northwest winds to most of British Columbia, Washington and Oregon. Between Dec. 15 and 18 temperatures dropped to around the zero mark and previous low records tumbled at many places. A major storm moved warm moist air from the Pacific onto the entire coast, resulting in unusually heavy snow falls in all areas except the extreme southern part of southwest Oregon. While it continued snowing in British Columbia and northern Washington (Vancouver, B. C. set an all-time high for snowfall with 38.4 inches); precipitation turned into heavy rains in southern Washington and all of Oregon. New high rainfall totals for December were established in almost every part of Oregon, numerous places recording totals from one half to two thirds of the expected *annual* amount. At first the snow blanket retained the rain rather than permitting gradual run-off, but as downpours continued, the snowpack in the mountains finally collapsed within a matter of hours resulting in disastrous floods and slides in southern Washington and Oregon. The second and third week of January were dull, cool and wet until the last week brought again heavy deluges to the entire Region causing more floods in northern Oregon. During February cool and wet weather persisted returning to the normal pattern. The first half of March was sunny, and unusually warm, everywhere; around the middle of the month temperatures again dropped below normal, but dry weather held out until the very last day and many records for rain-free periods were broken. Rain and snow greatly impeded bird watchers in their usual field trips and many observations were made from living room windows onto feeding stations in gardens and yards. In many cases this proved to be highly rewarding as birds were attracted to the readily available food supplies. Not only did they appear in much larger numbers, but the closer proximity revealed some species that might have escaped detection in the field. The effects of the weather on birdlife varied greatly. As could be expected, some species that usually winter in the Region disappeared or were greatly reduced. Others remained, but were forced to move to more favorable locations where they amassed in great numbers. Paradoxically, a few species wintered far north of their normal range. Who would have expected a pair of Anna's Hummingbirds in the Seattle Winter Wonderland?

**Pelagic Birds and Egrets**—Loons and grebes were not greatly influenced by the weather, although Red-necked and Western Grebes dwindled in numbers by the end of December. Some 100 Western Grebes at the mouth of the Columbia River on Jan. 24 were far fewer than usual *(AB).* About 120 Pied-billed Grebes concentrated on Elk Lake, Victoria, B. C., in late December, no doubt the result of frozen ponds and lakes elsewhere *(DS).* At various times 1 to 4 Fulmars were seen off Clover Point, Victoria, in late December. A Black-footed Albatross, seldom found close to shore, followed the Oregon State University Research Vessel "Yaquina" for about one mile to the entrance of Yaquina Bay, Oreg., Jan 20 *(JS, WT).* A single Common Egret was observed at the Game Commission Pond near Medford, Oreg., from mid-February to the end of March *(JH).*

**Swans and Geese**—A wild population of Mute Swans may develop on southern Vancouver Island. Non-pinioned birds are flying around, visiting lakes and ponds in the area *(DS).* No Whistling Swans wintered in British Columbia and only a few were seen in Washington in early March; about the usual numbers remained in Oregon; 700 on Sauvie Island near Portland, Oreg., and 330 at Tongue Point near Astoria, Oreg. Twenty-one swans, believed to be Trumpeters, were north of Terrace in northern British Columbia on Dec. 1; and 8 spent all winter on the only unfrozen water in the district *(HV).* Good concentrations of Canada Geese were noted at Sauvie Island and Corvallis, Oreg. in February and March *(AB, JS, WT);* but Black Brant were not as numerous as in other years, probably the result of two consecutive poor breeding seasons in Alaska *(AB).* Two adult ***Emperor Geese***were discovered by

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 3 409

David Stirling at Clover Point, Victoria, March 3, and many Victoria birders could study these rare visitors to the Pacific Coast before they left the same day. A few White-fronted Geese were at Corvallis in early winter, but none were seen again until the return of milder weather; 23 were at Sauvie Island on Feb. 28 *(AB)*, 1 at Nehalem, Oreg., March 13, and 2 at McFadden Swamp, south of Corvallis, March 20 *(JS).* Snow Geese did not seem to mind the severe cold; 780 were counted on the Ladner, B. C. Christmas count, thousands stayed at LaConner Flats, Skagit Co., Wash. *(VEC),* 200 were seen at Richfield, Wash., Feb. 14 *(AB),* and 3500 were estimated at Tsawwassen, near Ladner, March 7 *(FWD).* A new record for Jackson County, Oreg., was a Ross' Goose at Hoovers Lake on March 3, carefully studied by J. Hicks.

**Ducks**—In early December the usual large wintering populations of surface-feeding ducks were observed; but during and after the cold spell, when shallow waters were frozen and fields covered with snow, Pintails, Green-winged Teals, and Am. Widgeons diminished greatly in numbers and did not build up again until early March. However, less common species, often overlooked among the large masses, could be spotted more easily. Gadwalls were reported from Victoria, Burnaby, Seattle, Richfield, Willapa Bay, Wash. and Tillamook, Oreg. Four Cinnamon Teal at Corvallis, Dec. 29 and Feb. 21 *(AB, JS, WT),* and 5 at the Game Commission Pond, Medford, Feb. 15 *(JH),* were out of the ordinary. The mounting reports of European Widgeons from all parts of the Region may be the result of closer observations rather than an increase of this species. Diving ducks, with some exceptions, seemed to cope much better with the adverse weather conditions. Scaups disappeared from the Oregon Coast after Christmas, but more than usual were seen around Seattle and Vancouver, B. C. The cold weather forced Barrow's Goldeneyes to disperse from their limited localities; they appeared at Iona Island near Vancouver, B. C.; Point Roberts, Wash., and Blaine, Wash., where they have been rarely seen before. Buffleheads remained numerous at all places, merely shifting to open waters when lakes and ponds froze over. More Harlequin Ducks were counted during the Victoria count than ever before. All scoter species thinned out noticeably in late December and early January around Vancouver, B. C. Common Scoters, considered rare on the Oregon coast, have been more frequently reported during the last two winters, with 20 at Yaquina Bay on Feb. 7 *(JS).* Ruddy Ducks were little affected by the cold, moving to open waters where necessary. There were 419 at Victoria on the Christmas count; 300 at Tillamook, Jan. 16 *(AB);* and 250 at Green Lake in Seattle, March 1 *(ES).* Hooded Mergansers were more prevalent this winter, all over, especially at Drayton Harbor near Blaine, Wash., where as many as 24 were seen on Jan. 24 *(LK).* The fall occurrence of Red-breasted Mergansers at the Game Commission Pond, Medford, appeared not to have been an isolated incident as a male and a female stayed there from Feb. 10 to mid-March (*WC).*

**Hawks and Soras**—Bird concentrations at feeding stations attracted Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks and they were therefore noticed more often than usual. The sighting of a dark-phase Rough-legged Hawk near Scio, Linn Co., Oreg., Dec. 29 *(WT)* is noteworthy. Marsh Hawks turned up at Comox, B. C.; Willapa Bay, South Jetty of the Columbia River, and Nehalem this winter. Birders at Pitt Meadows near Vancouver, B. C. had a special treat when they discovered a Gyrfalcon on Feb. 14 *(GES, et al.).* Equally exciting must have *been* the observations of a Prairie Falcon at the Willamette Refuge near Corvallis, Feb. 21 *(AB, JS,* WT); and at Phoenix, Oreg., March 7 *(RB).* A Peregrine Falcon stayed in the vicinity of Victoria most of the winter. It was seen chasing pigeons in the down town area *(DS).* Fortunately it escaped the trapping efforts of local falconers. Two records of Soras in the Medford area, one on the Christmas count, the other on Feb. 18 *(RB, JH),* are of interest.

**Shorebirds**—As expected, many shorebirds left their regular wintering grounds because of unsuitable weather conditions. However, hardy birders were in for some surprises: 3 Semipalmated Plovers at Tillamook, Jan. 16 *(AB);* a Ruddy Turnstone near Ladner, Dec. 26 (photographed by *FWD);* and 3 Whimbrels on the Victoria count, all would be outstanding records even in normal winters. Surf-birds showed up in greater numbers at Victoria, on Whidbey Island, Wash., and at Nehalem. Black Turn-stones decreased in the Vancouver and Bellingham areas. The floods in southern Oregon drove Spotted Sandpipers from their regular habitats in the Rogue River Valley. With fields and ocean beaches covered by ice and snow, Dunlins were forced to vacate the Ladner area for better locations to the south. The Ladner Christmas count showed a decrease of about 20,000 birds this year. But from numerous localities in the Willamette Valley, Sauvie Island, Tillamook, and Astoria higher than usual numbers were reported. Reversing this trend, dowitchers remained 1 north of their normal range; 1 at Drayton Harbor, Jan. 10 *(KB);* 25 near Astoria, Jan. 23; and 20 on Sauvie Island, Jan. 24 *(AB).* In addition, they were on Christmas counts at Victoria, Vancouver, and Corvallis.

**Gulls and Alcids**—Single Glaucous Gulls were seen along the Oregon coast and Sauvie Island from January to March. The decrease of Ring-billed and Mew Gulls around Ladner and Blaine is attributable again to snow-covered fields. Another puzzling occurrence was that of a Heermann's Gull on the Victoria Christmas count. The trip on board the "Yaquina" produced two Black-legged Kittiwakes off Newport, Oreg., Jan. 20 *(JS, WT).* Common Murres were scarcer along the entire coast. An unusually large number of 23 Cassin's Anklets was counted by C. Guiget off Victoria on Dec. 27.

**Owls**—Snowy Owls invaded the Region as far south as Sauvie Island, where this species had not been seen for 15 years. In early January, 9 were seen near Ladner; one was so exhausted that it was picked up and found to be heavily infested with parasites, but it recovered at Stanley Park Zoo. While none

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 3 410

was seen in the northern parts after mid-January, one appeared on Sauvie Island on March 1 (H. Nehls, *fide AB),* again on March 19, and 2 were there on March 21 *(AB).* A rarely seen Spotted Owl was collected by Chris Maser in Mac Donald Forest, north of Corvallis, on Feb. 17. A Long-eared Owl arrived in Medford, Dec. 29, just after a heavy snowfall. This bird and nine Short-eared Owls seen around Medford, Jan. 2, were probably displaced from their more eastern range by heavy snow and flood waters *(RB).*

**Hummingbirds and Woodpeckers**—Itis almost unbelievable that a hummingbird could survive one of the severest winters in Seattle; yet a male ***Anna's Hummingbird***appeared at a feeder there on Nov. 30, and continued to visit it daily. Later on in the season it was joined by a female Anna's Hummingbird and both were regularly seen until Feb. 27. The feeder was located just outside a window permitting close observations and the taking of brilliant color photographs *(ES, et al.).* The normal range of this species does not extend northward beyond California and this hummingbird is not included in "*Birds of Washington State*" by S. G. Jewett, *et al.,* 1953. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported to be common in the Lebanon, Oreg. area and above average in numbers in Seattle and Vancouver, B. C.; Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers were scarcer than usual in the same locations.

**Phoebes, Skylarks, Jays and Nuthatches**—A very early migrant or a rare winter visitor was a Say's Phoebe at Lebanon on Feb. 26 (*WT).* December snows concentrated Skylarks in a few favorable places around Victoria. One day 700 were seen in one field *(DS).* Gray Jays were compelled to move to sea level; 1 to 3 were seen at Tillamook during the height of the bad weather. A rare White-breasted Nuthatch in Spanaway Park, south of Tacoma, Wash., March 14 *(VEC, DJ)* was noteworthy, especially as Red-breasted Nuthatches were conspicuous by their absence, with no records from anywhere in the Region.

**Mockingbirds, Thrushes and Kinglets**—For the second year, a Mockingbird spent the winter at Kirkland, east of Seattle *(VEC);* another was noticed in Seattle from Dec. 28 to Jan. 16 *(ES),* and a third at Ashland, Oreg. from Feb. 1 to 3 (W. W. Wells, *fide RB).* Robins were not detrimentally affected by snow or floods; they were plentiful nearly everywhere and 30,000 continued to roost near Medford although trees and shrubs were surrounded by high water *(RB).* Some consider the past winter "The Year of the Varied Thrush." At Victoria during the cold spell unprecedented numbers took over bird feeders and apple orchards, often outnumbering Robins. Their new Christmas count record of 1210 was followed closely by Tillamook's 1064; while other areas had the usual or less than normal numbers. Golden-crowned Kinglets endured the cold in most areas, whereas Ruby-crowned Kinglets became extremely scarce everywhere and did not reappear until early March.

**Waxwings, Shrikes, Vireos and Warblers**—During late December and early January, 11 Bohemian Waxwings were seen at West Vancouver, B. C. TerryWahl at Bellingham was entertained by a Northern Shrike from Jan. 10 to March 14. It not only sang regularly with much variety, but on one occasion even tried to intimidate a rabbit; it stooped at it, scolded it and attempted to chase it on foot. Hutton's Vireos were heard and seen during late winter on Whidbey Island and Kingston, Wash. *(GAC),* in Victoria *(ARD),* and in Seattle *(VEC).* In spite of the adverse weather, a good number of warblers remained throughout the winter (see Christmas counts). Five Myrtle and 1 Audubon's Warblers frequented a feeder at Seattle where they fed on suet daily from Jan. 8 to Feb. 13 *(ES).* On Dec. 13, just before the onset of the cold weather, a Palm Warbler was discovered among chickadees and Ruby-crowned Kinglets in a thicket at Wiser Lake, southeast of Lynden, Whatcom Co., Wash. It was squeaked to within 6 to 8 feet and all identification marks, including the tail-wagging were noted *(TW).* This species is of accidental occurrence west of the Rocky Mountains. There are only very few previous records.

**House Sparrows and Fringillids**—Three female House Sparrows at Terrace, B. C., Jan. 2, set somewhat of a record as they were the second sightings of this species in 14 years *(HV).* Evening Grosbeaks were again extremely scarce throughout this Region. Most contributors remarked on the scarcity or absence of Pine Siskins. Paradoxically, Am. Goldfinches were more numerous than in other years at Victoria, Vancouver, and especially in Seattle, where large flocks congregated. However, Portland and the Willamette Valley reported fewer than usual. Scattered records of single Slate-colored Juncos came from Medford, Corvallis, Seattle and Burnaby during January and February. A rare Tree Sparrow was identified by Elton Petri and confirmed by Dr. E. Stevenson at an Ashland feeder on Jan. 30 *(RB).* A Harris' Sparrow on Dec. 12 was the first at a Terrace feeder since Feb. 1952 *(HV);* and one was seen at Lebanon, March 12 and 13 *(WT, JS).* Very unusual was the wintering of numerous White-throated Sparrows at widely separated points, from Phoenix, Oreg. in the south to Comox, B. C. in the north. The first was sighted on Nov. 17; the last, March 15. Four were banded by J. G. Strauch, Jr. More and more reports of this species have been received during the last few years. A greater number of Fox Sparrows compared with last year was noted at Portland and Vancouver, B. C. No Snow Buntings were reported.

**Contributors**.— (AB)Alan Baldridge; (BB) Bob andElsie Boggs); (KB) Ken Boyce; (RB) **Ralph Browning (Sectional** Editor—southwest Oregon); (VEC) Violet E. Cannon; (WC) Walter Cavanaugh; (GAC) George A. Clark Jr.; (JBC) John B. Crowell Jr.; (ARD) A. R. Davidson; (FWD) Fred and Evelyn Dobson; (WJF) W. J. Fitzpatrick; (JH) Joseph Hicks; (LK) Lucile Kline; (TM) Thomas McCamant; (DS) **David and Ruth Stirling** (SectionalEditors—Vancouver Island); (ES) Eleanor Stopps; (GES) Gertrude E. Smith; (JS) Joseph G. Strauch, Jr.; (WT) William Thackaberry; (HV) Horace R. Vance; (TW) Terry Wahl.

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 3 411

*Spring Migration, 1965*

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

**/ Thomas H. Rogers**

After a very cold, moisture-deficient March, April temperatures west of the Continental Divide in the Region were about normal, but precipitation was decidedly above normal at many points. At Spokane, Wash. it totaled 2.35 in. (normal, 0.91 in.) and at the Nat'l Bison Range,

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 4 497

Moiese, Mont., 2.07 in. (normal, 1.08 in.). April at Missoula, Mont. was described as very wet; Baker, Oreg. had heavier precipitation than normal. On the other hand, Vernon, B. C. had only 0.77 in. (normal, 0.82 in.). May, by contrast, was generally cooler and drier than normal west of the Divide. At Baker, Oreg., temperatures ranged from 80° to 26° and only 0.14 in. of precipitation produced what Ann Ward considered the driest May in at least 11 years. However, stored water there was plentiful and the soil, saturated. Temperatures averaged 3.8° below normal at Spokane and 3° below normal at Vernon. Precipitation at these localities was only slightly subnormal but at the Nat'l Bison Range only 1 in. was recorded (normal, 1.78 in.). Subnormal temperatures and very deficient rainfall, about one-third of normal, occurred in the Missoula–Stevensville, Mont. area. In eastern Washington the migration appeared to be about on schedule. At Baker, Oreg., birds appeared to make very brief stops rather than lingering as in previous years. At Missoula migrants were somewhat late in arriving, but few if any migrants lingered beyond their usual departure dates. A few spectacular bird concentrations were noted. That of White-crowned Sparrows in southern British Columbia, described later, appeared to be definitely weather-related. The part of the Region east of the Divide, around Bozeman, Three Forks and Ennis, Mont. is usually a world to itself in the Region and this spring was no exception. Spring there was generally mild, particularly during March and April, and a number of early arrivals were recorded for species which normally arrive during these months, and for the non-passerines. However, an intense storm hit the area between May 5 and 7, putting 17 in. of snow in the valley at Bozeman. Strong winds on the 16th and heavy rains on the 23rd curtailed observations, but Skaar's general impression was that the majority of the passerines that arrive in May were about a week behind schedule.

**Loons, Grebes and Pelicans—A** definite migrational movement of the Common Loon was observed at Banks Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on April 9, when about 10 were seen *(WH).* At Frenchtown, 15 miles west of Missoula, Mont., where the species is unusual, a dead individual was found in a flooded gravel pit. A Horned Grebe in breeding plumage on April 29 was Hand's second Missoula record. A peak of 400 Eared Grebes was noted at Ennis, Mont. on May 9, after 26 had arrived at the early date of April 18. A large concentration of Western Grebes was at Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo, Mont. in May. At least 100 were seen in one rather restricted area on May 17 *(RLH, FLK).* Up to 150 White Pelicans were noted at Ennis, Mont. on May 9 and larger than usual numbers remained into June. West of the Continental Divide, where the species is much scarcer, 4 were seen at McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. on May 5 and 6 on May 10. The only other record for the Region was of 5 at Ninepipe for 2 weeks during mid-May.

**Cormorants, and Waterfowl**—Double-crested Cormorants were noted only at McNary Refuge, 2 March 15, and at Ennis, 3 on the late date of 30. Large numbers of Whistling Swans were ported: 200 at Wilson Creek, Wash., March 21*(WH);* 140 near Union, Oreg. about March 1 (reported by a rancher), and a peak of about 800 at Ennis on April 4. At Ninepipe a small flock of the wintering swans remained until May 1. The peak there was 400 on March 31. Twenty-four Trumpeter Swans were noted on Feb. 7 at Ennis, where they may have wintered. About 160 swans, mostly Trumpeters, were there on March 14. The usual handful remained into summer. A major movement involving 5000 Canada Geese was observed at Sprague Lake near Sprague, Wash. on March 28 *(S.A.S.).* At the same place about 300 Lesser Canadas were noted on April 3 along with a single White-fronted Goose *(WH).* One bird of the latter species also appeared at McNary Refuge, May 28. The bulk of the Snow Goose migration occurred from mid-March to mid. April. Large flocks passed over Missoula and stopped to feed and rest in the Bitterroot Valley near Stevensville *(RLH, CLB, GDeV).* Up to 500 at a time were noted near Union, Oreg. (reported by a rancher). A tremendous concentration of about 10,000 migrating Pintails was at Wilson Creek, Wash. on March 21 *(WH).* Thousands were at Ninepipe on March 31 *(RLH).* Am. Widgeon peaked at 6500 during the week of March 21-27 at McNary ' Refuge. *Three* reports were received of single ***European Widgeons****:* at Barnhartvale near Kamloops, B. C., April 23, *(AJE);* at Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash., April 15, and at Ninepipe Refuge, the last week of March. A pair of Harlequin Ducks was seen on Whiteman Creek west of Vernon, B. C., April 18 *(BAS)* and 2 were noted in the southern Okanagan valley in British Columbia on May 21 *(FD & ED).* Common and Red-breasted Mergansers reached maxima of 400 and 10 respectively at Ninepipe. Ten or 15 of the latter species were at Banks Lake in Washington on April 3 *(S.A.S.)* and a peak of 500 was noted at Ennis, Mont. April 11.

**Hawks and Eagles**—One of the rare Ferruginous Hawks was identified near Wilson Creek, Grant Co., Wash. on March 21 and April 3 *(WH, S.A.S.).* Unusual numbers of Bald Eagles were noted on the mud flats at Ennis Lake, with a peak of *40* or more on April 4. One or 2 of the unusual Peregrine Falcon were seen at Ninepipe.

**Gallinaceous Birds and Cranes—At** least 50 Sage Grouse were observed on the strutting ground near Creston, Wash. on April 9 *(WH)* and again on April 30 *(S.A.S.).* An estimated 60 Blue Grouse were on the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese as were about 15 Ruffed Grouse, 100 Ring-necked Pheasant and 40 Chukars. A spectacular *2000* Sandhill Cranes were resting in a marsh near St. Andrews. Wash. on April 3 *(S.A.S.)* and 350 were still present on April 9 (*WH).* Perhaps this accounts for Ann Ward not seeing even a single crane this spring at Baker, Oreg. Single cranes seen in south-central British Columbia in late April were presumed to be the local race, migrants not having arrived yet *(AJE).*

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 4 498

**Shorebirds**—Shorebirds were practically absent in the Bitterroot Valley around Stevensville, Mont. and in the Baker, Oreg. area. In the latter area a slow spring run-off and resulting low water levels apparently contributed to the situation. The opposite situation, high water, prevented much use of the lake at Reardan, Wash. in April, but May found fairly good numbers there. A single Black-bellied Plover was noted there on May 29-30 *(JA, WH).* A Long-billed Curlew, unusual at Missoula, was present for 3 or 4 days in early May. A sighting of 6 Dunlins in mid-May added another species to the Ninepipe Refuge list. About *500* Long-billed Dowitchers were present at Turnbull Refuge, May 12. This coincided with 400 seen the next day at Reardan *(JA).* A small number of Marbled Godwits arrived on May 10 at Ninepipe, where records for the species are few. The most Northern Phalaropes reported were 45 at Reardan on May 22 *(JA, WH).* A single on the early date of May 2 at Three Forks, Mont. was the only report for east of the Continental Divide. The species was common at McNary Refuge May 16.

**Gulls and Terns**—Eighty-two yellow-dyed gulls, all Ring-billed except for 2 California, were released around May 1 near Fort Collins, Colo. by personnel of the Dept. of Forest Recreation and Wildlife Conservation, Colorado State University. Reports are requested on any yellow-dyed gulls seen, with time and place of sighting and an estimate of the number of normal-colored gulls associating with them. Distinctly out of the ordinary was the appearing of a Herring Gull, examined carefully by several observers, at *Ennis Lake (RAH, JR, DRS, PDS & SMS).* A few Franklin's Gulls, uncommon to rare in eastern Washington and Western Montana, were noted at Ninepipe and 2 were seen at Reardan, Wash. on May 27 *(JA).* Common Terns and presumably some Caspians also, were noted at Ninepipe. Three of the former species were seen at Three Forks, Mont. on May 2 (early) and 1 on the 9th. A Caspian Tern was noted at McNary Refuge, Burbank, Wash., on May 17.

**Pigeons, Flycatchers and Swallows**—Five Band-tailed Pigeons were seen in the Manning Provincial Park—Princeton area of southern British Columbia on May 21 *(FD & ED).* The Eastern Kingbird was reported as arriving at Ninepipe Refuge on May 1, a very early date. Elsewhere in the Region the species appeared at mid-May or later. A very early Western Kingbird was noted at Vernon, B. C. on April 17 *(BAS).* A Least Flycatcher, unusual in the Region, was identified at Stevensville, Mont. Traill's and Least Flycatchers were not noted at Bozeman until June 4 (late) and the Western Wood Pewee had not yet appeared there by June 5. Some 600 Violet-green Swallows were at Okanagan Landing, southern British Columbia, by March 13. They appeared to survive well the clear weather with temperatures as low as 8° but with sunny days that brought out insects. However, late March brought heavy overcast and subfreezing maximum temperatures and casualties among swallows were believed to be heavy. Two birds at Okanagan Landing had balls of ice on their tails from dipping over the lake; one died soon after capture and the other seemed almost exhausted. Others sat in trees with ice on their tails. None were seen on March 29 or 30 over the lake, but small flocks were noted over the hillsides at Vernon. By contrast with arrival dates for eastern Washington and southern British Columbia, where Violet-green and Tree Swallows appear in March, these species appeared in April in western Montana. April 11 was an early date for the former species at Bozeman, with the major influx about April 25. McNary Refuge produced by far the earliest record for Rough-winged Swallows, March 18. For the Barn Swallow April 24 was a very early date for Missoula, Mont. First sighting of the species at Bozeman was on the same date *(NM)* but Vernon, B. C. had an April 11 record.

**Wrens, Mimic Thrushes & Thrushes**—A very early House Wren was recorded in the Bitterroot Valley near Stevensville, Mont. on April 27 *(OF).* For the second year the ***Cañon Wren***was missed at the Madison River cliffs in south-central Montana, but a singing male was found at similar cliffs along the Jefferson River, Broadwater Co. on May 4. This is about 25 miles north of the old site, which was the known range limit at this longitude. One of the real highlights of the spring was a ***Mockingbird,***positively identified at Missoula on May 21. This is apparently the first recorded for Montana. Nearly as unusual was a Sage Thrasher at *Stevensville,* on May 12. A sizeable nocturnal flight of Swainson's Thrushes occurred at Bozeman on May 23. Mountain Bluebirds appeared to be up from their relatively low numbers in the Spokane area *(S.A.S.),* the Bozeman area and around Stevensville, Mont. At the latter locality it was thought that perhaps the many nest boxes put up by garden clubs were a factor. Thirty-six were counted in south-central British Columbia between April 22 and May 1 *(AJE).*

**Starlings**—At Turnbull Refuge Starlings, more abundant this year, were removing wood shavings from nest boxes erected for Wood Ducks, but left the sawdust. Large numbers were concentrated near headquarters at the Bison Range, where a Starling was seen destroying the young of a Chipping Sparrow. At Spokane there were a number of reports of Starlings usurping other species' territories *(S.A.S.).*

**Vireos and Warblers**—Two ***Hutton's Vireos***were noted near Oliver in the Okanagan Valley, B. C. on May 23 *(FD & ED).* This appears to represent an eastward extension of the species' range. A male Myrtle Warbler was seen at Vernon, B. C. on May 9. Two small migration waves were noted in a restricted area at Spokane, in Manito Park. The first, April 28, included, besides a few Orange-crowned, Nashville and Audubon's Warblers, Calliope Hummingbirds, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Pine Siskins, Am. Goldfinch and Chipping Sparrows. The second, May 21, contained Yellow, MacGillivray's and Wilson's Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Warbling Vireos, Chipping Sparrows and single birds of a few other species.

**Blackbirds**—On the Swan Lake census near Vernon, B. C. on May 29, *504* adult male Yellow-headed Blackbirds were counted, outnumbering male Red-winged Blackbirds about 2 to 1. A major influx of

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 4 499

Brewer's Blackbirds was noted at Bozeman between May 2 and 4. In the latter area the Common Grackle was reported as more common than ever, having progressed in the last 7 years from a relatively rare and local bird to one of the more common and widespread species.

**Finches**—Evening Grosbeaks were spotty in their appearance. Large flocks remained in the Bitterroot Valley during the spring period. In nearby Missoula the birds were frequent in small flocks. An influx occurred at Bozeman about April 26. Elsewhere the birds were reported as scarce or not mentioned. A singing male House Finch appeared at *Missoula,* May 24, and remained at least until June 3. Recent occurrences of this species in Montana prompted Hand to speculate that the species may be continuing its spread north and east from the Clearwater and Salmon River valleys in northern Idaho, where they have been abundant for many years. Three Black Rosy Finches were observed in a flock of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches north of Ennis, Mont. on May 9 *(RAH, DRS, PDS & SMS).* A major movement of Am. Goldfinch began on May 9 in the Bozeman area. Ten White-winged Crossbills were seen near Disdero Lake, between Banff, Alta. and Kamloops, B. C. on April 23.

**Sparrows**—Green-tailed Towhees were first seen in south-central Montana on May 9 (early) in the junipers near Ennis, along with other migrants *(RAH, DRS, PDS & SMS).* Lark Buntings again appeared west of their usual range, 2 males being seen south of *Three Forks,* Mont., May 30. Grasshopper Sparrows were noted in 2 localities near Spokane: south of Deep Creek, west of the city *(S.A.S.)* and near Felts Field, at the eastern *edge* of the city *(PK & THR).* Sage Sparrows were observed only near Marlin, Grant Co., Wash., April 3 *(S.A.S.).* A single, singing Clay-colored Sparrow was identified at close range *at Missoula* on May 24. The White-crowned Sparrow migration was impressive, to say the least, in some localities. Ann Ward had some 200 in her backyard on April 30 and a like number on May 4, when rain, snow and wind prevailed. The peak around Spokane came at the same time, during the first week of May. Oddly, peak numbers farther north, in southern British Columbia, came a little earlier, in late April. The first large flocks arrived in the central Okanagan Valley about April 22. Erskine reported phenomenal numbers farther north, in the Cariboo region: 700 on April 28 between Williams Lake and Riske Creek, 210 on the 29th between Williams Lake and 105 Mile, and 380 on the 30th from Williams Lake to 150 Mile and north to McLeod Lake. Erskine speculated that the birds had started from the Columbia Basin on the 26th, probably with south or southeast winds, and had been grounded by the snow and rain that blanketed the area the following night. A few small flocks were still passing through the Oliver, B. C. area on the unusually late date of May 12. However, a few were still at Spokane on May 21 *(S.A.S.)* and a single bird was noted at Baker, Oreg. on May 27. At Missoula the species was common from April 22 to May 24. Single Golden-crowned Sparrows were noted at feeders at Spokane, April 30—May 4 *(JA)* and May 18 and 21 *(Mrs. SOS). Four* birds in a flock were seen at Blue Lake and 1 at Soap Lake, both in Grant County, Wash. on May 1 (*WH).*

**Contributors** (sectional editors, whose names are in boldface, should receive credit for observations in their respective areas unless otherwise stated).— (JA) James Acton; **M. Clair Aldous**, McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash.; **Eugene C. Barney**, Turnbull Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cheney, Wash.; (CLB) **Carol L. Boyd**, Bitterroot Valley, Stevens. vine, Mont.; (GDeV) George DeVan; (FD & ED) Fred and Evelyn Dobson; (AJE) Anthony J. Erskine; (OF) Opal Foust; (JG) **James Grant**, British Columbia; (WH) Warren Hall; (RLH) **Ralph L Hand**, Missoula, Mont. area; (RAH) R. A. Hays; (PK) Patrick Karle; (FLK) **Frank L. Kenney,** Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo, Mont.; **Joseph P. Mazzoni**, Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont.; (NM) Neil Martin; (JR) Jack Robinson; (THR) Thomas H. Rogers; (DRS) Donald R. Skaar; (PDS) **P. D. Skaar**, Bozeman—Three Forks—Ennis, • Mont. area; (SMS) Stephen M. Skaar; (S.A.S.) Spokane Audubon Society, eastern Washington, compiled by **Mrs. S. O. Stanley** (Mrs. SOS); (BAS) B. A. Sugden; **Ann Ward,** Baker, Oreg. area.

*Spring Migration, 1965*

**GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.**

**/ Dr. Oliver K. Scott**

In many areas April and May were, for the most part, cold and wet. In many areas the spring extended into the middle of June. Owing to much snow on the higher ground, many species stayed longer in the valleys than usual, such as a Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Durango, Colo. *(OR).* The moisture situation remains amazing. The Great Basin, normally almost a desert, has more water than in many years. At Ruby Lakes, Nev. the level is the highest in 52 years *(CEL).* Waterfowl are having an excellent breeding season—it should be one of the best on record. The migration of passerines was late and poor. Dennis Carter, at Arches National Monument, is quite effectively rewriting the status of the birds of southeastern Utah. Only the high lights will be recorded. He decries that phenomenon

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 4 500

of western migration: the lack of waves of migration. We found out what happens when an 18-inch wet snowstorm interrupts migration as it did in central Wyoming on May 7-9. First, migration was stopped and a wave of migrants was noted. Secondly, the birds survived very well *(OKS).* Sparrows got under bushes and warblers found food, in spite of the snow, among the early leaves and tree blossoms.

**Swans**—Two nests of Trumpeters were found at Malheur, Oreg. *(HFD)* and 4 nests were found at Ruby Lakes, Nev. by the end of the period. One nest hatched 6 cygnets *(CEL).*

**Ducks and Geese**—At Malheur, where water conditions are excellent and back to the level of 1958, the peak of the waterfowl migration was in early April *(HFD).* The numbers were the same as five years ago: 100,000 Snow Geese; 215,000 ducks. Canada Geese were found nesting on May 29 at Bridgeport Reservoir, in the Great Basin near Mono Lake, Calif.—a far south breeding area for this bird *(TC, Jr.).*

**Eagles**—Twelve young Golden Eagles were banded this spring near Bear River Marshes, Utah. Study of these nests shows no sign of young lambs or other domestic animals *(VTW).* It is believed that there are more breeding Golden Eagles in central Wyoming than any other part of the West *(OKS).* More evidence is accumulating that these birds do not prey on young sheep, as has been alleged by some sheep-men and denied by others. As eagles do feed on carrion (there are always some dead sheep on a sheep range, particularly in spring) this problem is a difficult one for the casual observer.

**Cranes**—The ***Whooping Crane***at Monte Vista Research Station, Colo. is doing well *(CRB).* Shorebirds—A Whimbrel was seen near Logan, Utah, May 7 *(DMF, et al.).* This species has been recorded as casual in Utah but it may have been overlooked. It is more common to the east in Wyoming than the published records would indicate. A Mountain Plover was collected near Rockville, Zion Park region, March 29 *(RW).* This bird has been seen only casually in Utah.

**Owls**—Another Flammulated Owl was banded at Springdale near Zion Canyon on April 7 *(RW).* Two were banded in the same area a year ago.

**Swifts**—There were 8 Black Swifts at Parowan Canyon in southern Utah, May 13 *(SM).* This seems to be the only place in this area where these birds are seen regularly and in numbers.

**Hummingbirds**—There are persistent reports of sight records of Rivoli's Hummingbirds from the Grand Junction area, Colo. This report is from Piñon Mesa *(LEE).* The species is considered to be only casual in Colorado.

**Flycatchers**—It is a real problem to identify migrating *Empidonax* flycatchers in the West. *Empidonax* are common in the West, and except for the Western, they look the same. As they usually do not sing on migration, bird-watchers are frustrated! Dennis Carter has found these birds particularly common and impossible to identify. The first Olive-sided Flycatcher at Rockville, Oreg., was on May 26 *(CM)* which is about as usual.

**Warblers**—There were very few unusual warblers recorded for April and May—perhaps because of late arrival. A Myrtle Warbler was seen in Arches Nat'l Monument, Utah, April 28 *(DLC)* and another nearby on May 11. While these are the first records for southeastern Utah the occurrence of this bird may not be unusual. Dennis Carter, now stationed at Arches Nat'l Monument, is a competent observer. Two Magnolia Warblers, rare spring migrants, were seen at Cheyenne, Wyo., May 27 *(MEH).* A Chestnut-sided Warbler was seen for the first time in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park by the assistant naturalist *(PM).*

**Orioles**—A Baltimore Oriole was seen at Ocean Lake, Wyo., May 23 *(LM)—*afirst record for the Region. Orchard Orioles were again found at Beulah in the Black Hills of Wyoming, May 30 *(OKS).* This is the only area in the state where they have been seen.

**Grosbeaks**—A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was killed flying into a window at Arches Nat'l Monument, May 26 *(DLC).* This is the second specimen and 4th record for Utah. The first specimen was collected at Springdale near Zion Park on May 3 *(RW).* Evening Grosbeaks reappeared again. At Durango they were seen on April 26, but the spring flight was not as good as usual *(OR).*

**Buntings**—Lark Buntings were seen on Highway 6 in Utah near the Colorado-Utah border on May 12 *(DLC).* This is the first record for southeastern Utah.

**Sparrows**—A Swamp Sparrow was seen in Winter Canyon, Arches Nat'l Monument, May 19 *(DLC).* This bird is believed to be casual in Utah. A Field Sparrow was seen in Cheyenne, Wyo., April 16 *(MEH).* This sparrow is rarely seen in southeastern Wyoming. A Harris' Sparrow at Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park stayed at a feeder all winter and into late April *(MKP).*

**Contributors**.—(CRB), Charles R. Bryant; (DLC), Dennis L. Carter; (TC), Jr., Theodore Chase, Jr.; (HFD), Harold F. Duebbert; (DMF), Dennis M. Forsythe; (LEE), Lucy E. Ela; (MEH), May E. Hanesworth; (CEL), C. E. Larochelle; (CM), Carol Maclves; (LM), Louis Moos; (PM), Pat Murphy; (SM), Stewart Murie; (MKP), Merlin K. Potts; (OR), Oppie Reames; (OKS), Oliver K. Scott; (RW), Roland Wauer; (VTW), Vanez T. Wilson.

*Spring Migration, 1965*

**NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION**

**/ Werner and Hilde Hesse**

After a dry and warm March, the weather in April and May returned to practically normal for most of the Region. It was cool, cloudy and the expected amount of rain fell. There was a short cold spell with some snow from May 5 to 8 in northern Washington, but in general this spring must be regarded as average. During the period from May 16 to 23, the coast of Oregon and southern Washington experienced unusually strong west and southwest winds which were responsible for onshore and inshore drifts of pelagic birds that generally migrate over the open ocean. Exceptional numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes turned up at the mouth of the Columbia River and in the Victoria, B. C. area. Even more spectacular was the dispersal of Northern Phalaropes. Unprecedented numbers were seen along the shores and many were forced over the Coast Range into the Willamette Valley. A great influx of warblers, Bullock's Orioles and flycatchers, in that order, was noticed in Jackson County, Oreg., at the end of April and the beginning of May. Warblers again were considered more abundant around Lebanon between May 2 and 9. Besides these exceptions, this spring did not produce any really outstanding observations. The northward progress of birds in almost all parts of the Region was normal and as could be anticipated.

**Loons, Grebes, Shearwaters and Petrels**—Arctic Loons became very numerous in the Strait of Georgia, B. C., starting May 1; a gathering of 600 was noted in Active Pass on May 5 *(DS).* At Seal Rock, south of Newport, Oreg., Red-throated Loons migrated north at a rate of 400 per hour on May 8 *(WT).* A good concentration of 200 Red-necked Grebes near Victoria, B. C. was observed on April 25 *(DS).* The peak of the Western Grebe migration occurred during the first week of May, when large numbers were reported from the mouth of the Columbia River; Bellingham and Birch Bay, Wash.; also Iona, near Vancouver, B. C. Sooty Shearwaters returned by May 7; several hundred were seen off the north jetty of the Columbia *(AB).* Strong winds brought single Fork-tailed Petrels close to shore near the mouth of the Columbia on May 15 and 23 *(AB).*

**Waterfowl**—Nearly all of the Whistling Swans wintering in Oregon had left by the end of March; only 3 were seen on Whidbey Island, Wash., April 4 *(GAC);* and 1 juvenile at Iona, April 8 and 10 *(FWD, WHH).* The only Trumpeter Swans were near Terrace, northern British Columbia, March 10 and April 2 *(HV).* Canada Goose migration extended over a prolonged period; the first flock arrived at Terrace on March 4 *(HV);* while 3000 were still at Willapa Bay, Wash., May 7; and 50 at the mouth of the Columbia, May 21 *(AB, JBC, RF).* Black Brant followed the normal pattern, showing signs of departure from late April until the middle of May; however, 200 were still at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., May 25 *(JS).* A large flock of 250 White-fronted Geese flew in a northwesterly direction over Muddy Creek Refuge, near Corvallis, Oreg., April 25 *(JS);* a heavy migration was witnessed along the Oregon coast, May 8 and 9 (AB); and 400 were at

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 4 505

Willapa Bay, May 15; the same day the first 8 arrived at Terrace. The migration of all ducks proceeded normally.

**Raptors**—Turkey Vultures returned early to Oregon; the first arrived at McFadden Swamp, south of Corvallis, Feb. 17 *(RM);* and Rogue River Valley, Jackson Co., Oreg., as well as Lebanon, Linn Co., Oreg., on Feb. 23. They were not noted in British Columbia until April 1 at Denman Island, near Comox, Vancouver Island; and April 11 at Victoria. Two records of Goshawks at Larson Creek, near Medford, Oreg. on April 9 *(RB)* and May 30 *(FS)* are noteworthy. Rough-legged Hawks remained unusually late in the Vancouver area; one was at Point Roberts, April 10 *(KB),* and one at Pitt Meadows, May 2 *(GES).* Several observers feel that Ospreys are becoming scarce; only a few birds were reported this spring. A Prairie Falcon was seen near White City, Oreg., May 30 *(RB),* and a Peregrine Falcon near Newport Bay, May 8 *(WT).*

**Cranes and Coots**—Single Sandhill Cranes appeared by the end of March at Pitt Meadows and Lebanon; the majority migrated in the first half of April; 60 were seen at Sauvie Island, near Portland, Oreg., April 5 *(AB);* and 75 east of Ashland, Oreg., April 14 (Bob Maben, *fide RB).* Betsy Strauch must have had an exciting experience when she watched a flock of 200 flying over her home at Corvallis on April 15. Am. Coots left their wintering areas during the latter part of April and by May 16 only a few remained on Lake Washington in Seattle *(ES).*

**Plovers and Sandpipers**—Large numbers of Semi-palmated Plovers were noted; 150 at Tillamook, Oreg., May 2; 150 at Leadbetter Point, Willapa Bay, Wash., May 7; and 100 were still there, May 15 *(AB, JBC, RF).* Two Am. Golden Plovers were at Yaquina Bay, May 9 *(RM).* Ruddy Turnstones made an appearance along the coast from Yaquina Bay to Victoria between May 9 and 16, with 40 counted at Willapa Bay. The scarcity of Black Turnstones continued into spring; although 60 were seen in North Vancouver, April 4 *(GES),* Bellingham reported only 20 on April 25 *(TW),* and none were at Denman Island, where they have been regular in previous years *(WJF).* The highest number of Whimbrels was 30 at Willapa Bay, May 7 *(AB);* and at Drayton Harbor, near Blaine, Wash., 2 were still present on May 25 *(LK).* A rare Solitary Sandpiper was well observed at Victoria, April 24 to 26 by Ralph Fryer. 3 Willets were discovered at Hoover's Lakes, Jackson Co., Oreg., on April 20 *(JH).* High winds in the middle of May no doubt caused the concentration of 80 Knots at Willapa Bay and Ilwaco, Wash., May 16. Baird's Sandpipers were found at Hoover's Lakes, May 5 *(JH);* and Iona, May 8 *(FWD).* Over 20,000 Dunlins provided a spectacular sight on April 3, when they crowded together in a relatively small area at Canoe Pass, near Ladner, B. C., waiting for the tide to recede. Hundreds of dowitchers migrated north from Willapa Bay on April 25 *(VEC).*

**Phalaropes, Gulls, Jaegers and Terns**—The unusual movement of Northern Phalaropes was first noticed at Seal Rock on May 8, where thousands concentrated 500 yards offshore *(WT);* and 800 appeared at Willapa Bay and the mouth of the Columbia on May 15 *(AB, JBC, RP).* The following day flocks from 25 to 250 could be observed far inland at Fern Ridge Reservoir, near Eugene, Oreg.; McFadden Swamp *(AB, JS,* WT); Lake Oswego, near Portland (K. Batchelder, *fide AB);* and almost anywhere in the sheltered waters of southern Vancouver Island *(DS).* One straggler even reached Ashland and stayed until May 21 *(JH, JR, FS).* On May 23, 300 were still around the mouth of the Columbia *(AB).* Five pale-phased Parasitic Jaegers were also at the north jetty of the Columbia on May 16 *(AB);* and a Glaucous-winged Gull at Fern Ridge Reservoir on that day no doubt was drifted to that unusual inland location by the strong winds. The same disturbance must have been responsible for exceptional numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes; flocks up to 500, mostly immature, appeared close to shore at the Columbia and Long Beach, Wash., from May 7to 21 *(AB, JBC, RF);* during the same period an unusual inshore flight took place around Victoria *(DS).* Arctic and Common Terns, seldom plentiful in spring, were numerous during May at the mouth of the Columbia *(AB)* and at Tsawassen, near Ladner, B. C. *(DS).*

**Owls, Swifts and Hummingbirds**—A surprisingly late date for a Snowy Owl was April 6, when Dr. N. Fletcher saw one near his home at Comox *(WJP).* Black Swifts arrived at Vancouver on May 26 *(FWD).* Literally thousands of Vaux's Swifts seemed to be rising out of the woodlands near Lebanon after the clearing of a storm on April 24 *(WT).* Mrs. J. Campbell watched 10 Black-chinned Hummingbirds, at least 4 males, buzzing in and out of a blooming cherry tree on Saturna Island, Strait of Georgia, on April 18. A scarce male Anna's Hummingbird was studied at Medford on May 10 *(JH).* The first Rufous Hummingbird was reported from Bellingham, March 20 *(TW).* A remarkable number of Calliope Hummingbirds, 20 to 25, arrived at Medford on April 30 *(RB, JH, FS).*

**Flycatchers and Swallows**—March 29 was anearly date for a Black Phoebe to return to Rush, Oreg. (Mrs. N. Suttel, *fide RB).* Traill's Flycatchers reached Medford by April 28; but were not noted in Seattle and farther north until one month later. Western Flycatchers were first seen on May 1 at such widely separated points as Camas Mountain State Park, southwestern Oregon and Point Roberts, northwestern Washington. While the Medford area reported Olive-sided Flycatchers one month late (none until May 30—RB), they arrived right on schedule (mid-May) at Spanaway Park, near Tacoma, Wash. *(ES),* and at Bellingham *(TW).* The unusual warm weather at the beginning of March must account for earlier returns of Violet-green Swallows at Corvallis, Oreg., Ferndale, Wash. and the Vancouver area, which they reached on March 5 and 6. Cliff Swallows were first noted on April 17 at three locations: McFadden Swamp, Drayton Harbor and West Vancouver. All other swallows arrived on or about their expected dates.

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 4 506

**Wrentits, Thrushes, Kinglets and Shrikes**—Two Wrentits found in Fort Stevens State Park, near Astoria, Oreg., May 23, were probably in their most northern locality on the Oregon coast *(AB).* There were few reports of Hermit Thrushes; 12 were seen at Point Roberts, April 25 *(GAP);* 2 were there on May 1 *(KB);* and singles at Seattle *(GAC)* and Drayton Harbor *(WHH)* on May 2. Three Veery records from southwestern Oregon are interesting; Talent, May 6 (Mrs. G. Hartley, *fide RB);* Shady Cove, north of Medford, May 28-29 *(JH);* and Ashland also late May *(JR).* A heavy movement of Ruby-crowned Kinglets occurred near Lebanon on April 18 *(WT).* A late Northern Shrike was at Point Roberts, April 10 *(KB).*

**Vireos and Warblers**—Solitary Vireos were already at Denman Island on April 19 *(WJF)* and Bellingham, April 22 *(TW);* whereas they were not noted in the Ashland area until April 23 *(RB, FS).* An early Red-eyed Vireo sang at Vancouver on May 8 *(FWD).* Browning considers the first Warbling Vireo near Medford on May 9 two weeks late; yet Bellingham and Seattle report this species as of May 8; and they were at Denman Island from May 11 on. Nashville Warblers were late this year at Ashland, but when they arrived on April 20, they came in high numbers *(RB, FS).* Migration of Myrtle Warblers took place from April 11, east of Lake Washington (Seattle) to May 2 at Pitt Meadows. The northward flight of Black-throated Gray Warblers proceeded in orderly fashion, first sightings near Medford, April 28; Seattle, April 29; Drayton Harbor, May 2. The same can be said for Townsend's Warblers; Ashland, April 30; Point Roberts, May 1; and Terrace, May 10. Yellow-breasted Chats returned to Hoover's Lakes on May 5 *(JH).* The first Wilson's Warbler was reported from McFadden Swamp on April 22 *(JS).*

**Blackbirds**—More Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported from more locations than in previous years; they were seen from May 8 to June 6 at Hoover's Lakes; Game Commission Pond, near Medford; Brownsville, Oreg.; Terrell Lake, near Ferndale, Wash.; and around Vancouver. A feeder in Bellingham was invaded by 50 Brown-headed Cowbirds on May 10, the highest number reported.

**Grosbeaks, Siskins and Towhees**—Evening Grosbeaks continue to be very scarce and all observers feel they have diminished considerably, but flocks of from 5 to 20 were in the Ashland area during late April and early May and a good number were seen in a Seattle garden on May 25-26. Pine Siskins, too, did not return in their usual numbers, with one exception, a good migration of this species together with Am. Goldfinches was observed at Lebanon on April 30 *(WT).* Two unusual records came from east of Ashland; a Pine Grosbeak at Green Springs on May 30 (Mr. & Mrs. T. Conway, *fide RB);* and Green-tailed Towhees at Larson Creek, May 3. The latter as far as known is the first record from the foothills of the west slope of the Cascades *(RB).*

**Sparrows**—The migration of Savannah Sparrows appeared to be normal, except their number was greatly reduced this year at Hoover's Lakes. One of the most outstanding observations this spring was aRufous-crowned Sparrow near Tou Velle State Park, north of White City, Oreg., on May 28. The bird was well seen at close range by *JH* and must be considered an accidental as their normal range does not extend north from central California and this species is not listed by Gabrielson and Jewett in "Birds of Oregon" (1940). Chipping Sparrows arrived first at Lebanon on April 2, with subsequent records farther north. One Golden-crowned Sparrow loitered in Seattle until May 25 *(VEC).* A cattle feeding ground at Kleena Kleene, near Tweedsmuir Park, B. C. provided a stop-over place for migrating Lapland Longspurs; 7 arrived on March 17; 35 were there on March 24; the peak of 70 on March 31; 20 on April 3; and they had disappeared by April *7 (AP).* The only other record in the Region was of 4 in dunes at Leadbetter Point, May 7; these included one adult male in breeding plumage *(AB).*

**Contributors**.—(AB) Alan Baldridge; (KB) Ken Boyce; (RB) Ralph Browning (Sectional Editor –southwest Oregon); (VEC) Violet E. Cannon; (GAC) George A. Clark, Jr. (JBC) John B. Crowell, Jr.; (ARD) A. R. Davidson; (FWD) Fred and Evelyn Dobson; (RF) Roy Fisk; (WJF) W. J. Fitzpatrick; (JH) Joseph Hicks; (LK) Lucile Kline; (TM) Thomas McCamant; (RM) Ralph Moldenhauer; (AP) Adrian Paul; (GAP) Allen Paynter; (JR) Jack Reynolds; (GES) Gertrude E. Smith; (DS) David and Ruth Stirling (Sectional Editors–Vancouver Island); (ES) **Eleanor Stopps**; (JS) **Joseph G. Strauch, Jr**.; (FS) **Frank Sturges**; (WT) **William Thackaberry**; (HV) **Horace R. Vance**; (TW) Terry Wahl.

*The Nesting Season, 1965*

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

**/ Thomas H. Rogers**

Diversity of weather among the several sections of this large Region was the situation during the summer period. June brought approximately normal temperatures to the western section, from southern British Columbia to eastern Oregon. Except in the latter section, precipitation was deficient at reporting localities; Spokane, Wash. received only half the usual amount and low rainfall at Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash. brought extremely dry upland conditions through the summer, although marsh conditions were good. July brought somewhat cooler than normal conditions to the Oregon section and, late in the month, fairly heavy rains in that area. At Spokane hot, dry weather interrupted rather regularly by thunderstorms, produced average overall temperatures, but about twice the expected amount of moisture. The Vernon, B. C. area continued dry and somewhat warmer than normal. Western Montana, on the other hand, experienced a cool, wet summer. Henry described June as the coldest on record for the Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge area near Charlo, Mont., where temperatures varied from 34° to 96°, and in July from 35° to 94°. At the nearby Nat'l Bison Range at Moiese rainfall for June and July totaled 3.33 in., about 1 inch more than normal. Missoula, Mont. had about twice normal precipitation in July and the mercury failed to reach 90° for the first time since records have been kept there. In south-central Montana, however, except for heavy May precipitation contributing to later run-off, the weather was characterized as unremarkable. Observed effects of the Region's weather are mentioned later in this report.

**Loons, Grebes**—Afew Common Loons were noted at Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo, Mont. and 1 was seen on McDonald Lake in the Mission Range about 5 miles northeast of St. Ignatius, Mont. *(JPM & VM).* Twenty-four nests of the Red-necked Grebe were counted on Swan Lake near Vernon, B. C. A colony of about 50 nests of Eared Grebes was found at Reardan, Wash. on June 9 *(WH).* TheWestern Grebe was numerous at Ninepipe Refuge, where at least 10 broods were seen.

**Pelicans, Cormorants, Herons**—Anumber of flocks of White Pelicans, 1 with 26 birds, passed through McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash. The species was noted around Canyon Ferry near Townsend, Mont. *(CLB)* and numbers up to 600 were seen at Ennis Lake, Madison Co., Mont. all summer. Lowering of the water level there during repair work on the dam exposed extensive mud flats which attracted large numbers of this and certain other species. Flying young pelicans were seen on July 11 and it was considered possible the species bred there. A few Double-crested Cormorants were seen at McNary and Ninepipe Refuges and at Ennis Lake and Three Forks, Mont. The single bird at Ennis Lake was an immature one, unusual there this time of year (July 4 & 11). Black-crowned Night Herons were common feeders at Columbia Refuge, but no nesting activity was noted.

**Waterfowl**—A pair of Trumpeter Swans near Harrison, Mont. brought off 3 cygnets, tiny on July 4 and one-third grown on Aug. 1. Few young ducks were observed in the Baker, Oreg. area but nesting success for waterfowl was considered high at the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. *(JPM)* and nesting at Ninepipe Refuge was the highest on record. At the latter locality Mallards and Blue-winged Teal led in young produced and some 200 young Ring-necked Ducks were hatched, a record for the refuge. Two broods of Wood Ducks were noted there and the species was noted for the first time as a breeder at the Bison Range *(WA).* The population of this species ran as high as 35 at McNary Refuge during the period. High on the list of rarities for the season was a ***Fulvous Tree Duck****,* observed closely at Haystack Reservoir 12-15 miles south of Madras, Oreg. on May 24 *(TMcC & JH).* Two broods of the Common Goldeneye were noted at Ninepipe Refuge and up to 10 Red-breasted Mergansers were present there. A pair of Buffleheads was present at Lenore Lake, Grant Co., Wash. on June 17 *(WH)* and a female was at Ennis Lake on July 4.

**Hawks & Eagles**—Apair of Rough-legged Hawks was seen near Stevensville, Mont. on *Aug. 1 (GDeV).* The Ferruginous Hawk was reported only near Logan, Mont., July 2. The Golden Eagle was noted *in* the Bozeman, Mont. area, near Sullivan Lake, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. *(WH);* near Stevensville, Mont (4) *(GDeV)* and at the Bison Range, where up to , 5 were seen and an immature bird on the wing was noted on July 19 *(WA).* A Peregrine Falcon was seen over Bozeman on June 27.

**Gallinaceous Birds**—Several broods of Blue Grouse were observed on the wooded ridges at the Bison Range, the earliest on July 20 *(WA & JPM).*

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 5 564

Ruffed Grouse were up in numbers at Vernon, B. C., correlating with the warm, dry season. Reports on Ring-necked Pheasants varied from "abundant" at McNary Refuge through good production at Columbia and Ninepipe Refuges to "poor hatch—due to cold, wet weather" at Stevensville, Mont. The species has been declining at the latter locality for the past 5 years *(GDeV).* The Washington Dept. of Game expects the pheasant population in eastern Washington to be only average, as hard June rains destroyed many broods. The department noted that Chukar numbers in Whitman County were up but Gray Partridge numbers were poor in the eastern portion of the state *(Spokane Chronicle,* Aug. 9, 1965). No Chukars were seen on the Bison Range. Introduced there in 1953 (120 birds), the species reached a peak of about 500 in 1961 and then declined, with 50 birds estimated there in 1964 *(JPM).* By contrast, Gray Partridges there appeared enjoying good success *(JPM,* Kraft & Krantz). At least 30 broods of Turkeys, averaging 7 per brood, were present in the Colville valley and along Lake Roosevelt in northeastern Washington (Washington Dept. of Game, *Spokane Chronicle,* Aug.9, 1965). The species was sighted on the Twin Lakes trail in the Elkhorn Mountains west of Baker, Oreg. Birds were released in that area last year by the Oregon Game Commission.

**Cranes, Rails & Shorebirds**—As many as 9 Sand-hill Cranes fed regularly on the mud flats at Ennis Lake during the period. Several observations were made of adult and young Virginia Rails at Reardan, Wash. *(JA, WH).* A concentration of some 200 Killdeers was noted at the lake at Reardan in late July and early August *(WH).* The first recorded nest for Washington of the Upland Plover was found near Newman Lake, Spokane Co. on June 12. The nest held 4 eggs under incubation *(WH).* In addition to the usual sprinkling of early migrant shorebirds, some species appeared in unusual numbers. Seven or 8 Solitary Sandpipers were at Reardan on the mud flats on Aug. 3 *(WH)* and 6 were seen at Missoula on Aug. 8. By July 25 60 "peep" sandpipers were at Ennis Lake. At O'Sullivan Dam, Grant Co., Wash. some *70* Western Sandpipers were observed on July 10 *(JA).* Unusual was the presence of several Am. Avocets at Ennis Lake all summer. A pair with 4 small young on July 11 was apparently the first proof of the species' breeding in that area. A Northern Phalarope at Reardan, Wash. on July 18 was in breeding plumage, as was 1 of 2 there on July 31 *(S.A.S.).*

**Gulls and Terns**—Franklin's Gull was especially numerous at Ennis Lake, undoubtedly because of the extensive mud flats. Up to *1000* were seen. Young of the year were seen on July 25 and it is believed some may have bred in the area. Two of this species at Ninepipe Refuge were believed to have nested there. Single adult Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at Reardan, Wash. on July 5 and 24 *(JA, WH)* and an immature bird was at Willow Lake, Spokane Co., Wash. on Aug. 4 *(PK & THR).* The Common Tern was regular through the summer period at Ennis Lake in Montana and was seen infrequently at Ninepipe Refuge. Two adults were sighted on June 9 at Reardan, where they are rarely seen in any plumage *(WH).* Forster's Tern was commonly seen at Ninepipe Refuge, where they nested on Tern Island. One was at Ennis Lake on June 27; the species is unusual there in summer. Caspian Terns were common summer residents at Columbia Refuge.

**Doves & Owls**—Mourning Doves appeared to be up to their usual abundance. At Stevensville, Mont. about *300* were noted on a small area *(GDeV).* At the Bison Rangethe peak summer population was estimated at 400-600 *(JPM).* The young in one nest that was kept under surveillance were destroyed by Starlings *(WA).* Two records, of an adult and an immature Screech Owl, were obtained at Bozeman, where the species is seldom reported *(PDS, CVD).* The Great Horned Owl was noted at Bozeman, Stevensville, Missoula, Ninepipe, the Bison Range, Vernon, B. C. and Spokane. A Barred Owl was seen on the evening of June 17 at Greenbush Lake near Vernon. Four or 5 Long-eared Owls near St. Andrews, Douglas Co., Wash. on June 17 probably were the family group from a nest located there *(WH).* Burrowing Owls, seldom reported in the Region, were noted near Moses Lake, Wash. *(S.A.S.),* McNary Refuge and Belgrade, Mont. At least 3 were at the latter spot, living in improved badger holes, July 21. A very few Short-eared Owls were noted at McNary Refuge, the Bison Range and Ninepipe.

**Goatsuckers and Swifts**—Two Poor-wills were seen and another heard on the evening of July 13 at Dartford, a few miles north of Spokane and are thought to nest there *(S.A.S.).* Only small numbers of Common Nighthawks were noted, except for a concentration of "hundreds" feeding low over a toadflax area north of Spokane, July 5 *(S.A.S.).* The Black Swift was again found nesting in the locality near Vernon, B. C. where it nested last year. A notable flock of *20* Vaux's Swifts was observed at the Bison Range on July 19 (*WA).*

**Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers**—Few hummingbirds were reported, except that the Rufous and Calliope became common in early August at Missoula. A male Black-chinned Hummingbird frequented the garden of Mr. and Mrs. N. Beaven at Lavington, 8 miles east of Vernon, B. C. from mid-May until July 17. Lewis' Woodpecker was noted as scarcer than usual in the northern part of its range, in the vicinity of Vernon. The first authentic record for British Columbia of a ***Red-headed Woodpecker***was of a single bird near Lavington, July 11 to 13. The most northerly sighting of a White-headed Woodpecker for many years was obtained near Carr's Landing, Okanagan Lake, July 1 *(Mr. & Mrs. NB).* The Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was seen on Eagle Creek in the Baker, Oreg. area and the Northern was found with young in the nest neat Vernon at 2900 ft. elevation, June 25, and along the Mt. Salmo road, Pend Oreille Co., Wash., June 19 *(S.A.S.).* The species also was noted at 8500 ft. in the Bitterroot Mountains of western Montana *(MG).* Several active nests of the Western Kingbird, 1 with the eggs being destroyed by Starlings, were found at the Bison Range *(WA & JPM).* An ***Ash-throated Flycatcher****,*

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 5 565

rare in the Region, was seen on the Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash. on July 10 *(JA)* and 2 or 3 were seen near possible nest cavities along Crab Creek, Grant Co., Wash. *(LLaF & WH).* A nest of the Western Flycatcher, with 4 young almost fledged, was found in a rock crevice over a small stream near Enderby, B. C. on July 18.

**Larks, Swallows, Jays**—Housing development south of Missoula is gradually reducing the breeding habitat of the Horned Lark there. Where at least 15 or 20 pairs formerly nested, probably only 2 or 3 pairs now breed. Violet-green Swallows apparently no longer breed in the Missoula area although a few individuals were noted during the summer. However, Cliff Swallows there are again nesting under the Higgins Ave. bridge after construction of the new bridge. A gathering of *100-150* Common Ravens was observed in Virtue Flat near Baker, Oreg. on July 9. The Common Crow population at the Bison Range was believed to be increasing *(WA & WB).* Seven or 8 Clark's Nutcrackers, perhaps a family group, were seen at Spring Creek Canyon, at the low elevation of about 2000 ft., a few miles north of Reardan, Wash., July 24 (*WH).*

***Mimic*****Thrushes, Thrushes**—Veryunusual was a Sage Thrasher in a sage brush area near *Stevensville, Mont.* The species was seen feeding young out of the nest at Baker, Oreg. on July 9. Many Veeries were observed during early July along Ochoco Creek, Ochoco Nat'l Forest, about 25 miles east of Prineville, Oreg. In this area, where little is known of the species' distribution, their nesting density was estimated at 30-40 pairs per mile *(JGS, Jr.).* In the Spokane area Western Bluebirds and their broods were seen frequently and Mountain Bluebirds somewhat less commonly. Bird houses put up for the latter species around Stevensville succeeded in attracting many pairs, especially along the foothills. Townsend's Solitaire was much more abundant than last year in the Vernon, B. C. area; Grant recorded 24 nests during the period. The species apparently nested also in greater numbers in the Spokane, Wash. area (*WH).*

**Pipits, Starlings and Warblers**—Atleast 3 singing male Sprague's Pipits were present east of *Manhattan, Mont.* from July 21 to Aug. 11. Starlings, abundant at the Bison Range, are believed by longtime residents of refuge headquarters to be increasing there each year. Along with this, Mountain Bluebirds are believed to have decreased at about the same rate, but the relation between these two events is unknown *(JPM).* Northern Waterthrushes were noted in Hepburn State Park and along the St. Jo River near St. Manes, Idaho, where they have been known to nest for several years *(S.A.S.).* A nest of the ***Yellow-breasted Chat***found at Lavington, B. C. contained 3 chat eggsand 3 cowbird eggs. This is the most northerly breeding record for the chat in British Columbia. An Am. Redstart nest at the same locality also had been parasitized by a cowbird and was deserted.

**Blackbirds**—Bobolinks appeared to be scarcer in the southern British Columbia area around Vernon, in the vicinity of Bozeman and Stevensville, Mont. A new area for Bobolinks, at the west end of Diamond Lake, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. where both sexes were seen, was reported by a landowner *(LLaF).* The Brown-headed Cowbird has been noted during the last few years as increasingly common in some localities of the Region. Jim Grant had some pertinent comments on the situation: "More numerous than usual. Following hosts recorded locally: Townsend's Solitaire, Veery (2 nests), Am. Redstart (2 nests), Traill's Flycatcher (4 nests), Chipping Sparrow (6 nests), chat, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow Warbler. A junco nest with parent incubating on July 2 contained 2 junco eggs and 8 (eight) cowbird eggs.My impression is that cowbird population is near the saturation level in this agricultural area; in an unprecedented number of cases, nests I was watching being built were parasitized and deserted without my ever seeing an egg of the host." An Oregon Junco nest near Liberty Lake, Wash. contained 2 young cowbirds and 3 juncos, all about 2/3 grown; final outcome of the nest was unknown *(PK & THR).* A fledged young cowbird was being fed by an *Empidonax,* perhaps a Dusky, flycatcher near Spokane *(PK & THR).* A Lazuli Bunting was seen feeding a young cowbird at Baker, Oreg.

**Finches**—Three pairs of Evening Grosbeaks frequented a feeding station daily at Spokane and brought young with them on June 8. This is the first evidence of nesting at this low elevation, about 1600 ft. *(S.A.S.).* The species was observed each month in areas of conifers at Stevensville, Mont., where many flocks have been noted for the last 9 months. Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were noted in the Bitterroot Mountains of western Montana at the 8500 ft. level *(MG).* Pine Siskins and Am. Goldfinches seemed scarcer than usual at Missoula, Mont. Red Crossbills were common during the summer in the Spokane area *(WH, PK & THR, S.A.S.)* and in the Stevensville area. The species was noted once in Bozeman (20 on June 27). A flock of about 30 White-winged Crossbills was seen high in the Bridget Mountains northeast of Bozeman, June 6 *(BM).*

**Sparrows**—A few Lark Buntings again appeared in the Region. A single young bird was seen on July 23 at *Missoula* in the same locality where 10 were seen in June, 1964. This raised the suspicion of breeding in the area, although no others were seen. In south-central Montana a male was seen near *Belgrade* on June 9 and 2 males and a female near *Manhattan* on June 13. On Aug. 1 a pair, the male still in spring plumage, was noted near *Three Forks.* This late date suggested local breeding. The Savannah Sparrow appeared to be holding its own south of Missoula despite the encroachment of residential development. Vesper Sparrow numbers at Missoula appeared to have declined, but at least 1 pair of Lark Sparrows was believed to have nested south of town. The latter species was described as more noticeable than usual in the vicinity of Three Forks, Mont. A single ***Le Conte's Sparrow,***Hand's second record for Missoula, was seen, July 11, during a stormy period. The ***Clay-colored Sparrow***was observed from July 18 to Aug. 1 in the same Manhattan–Three Forks, Mont. area as last year. A late Gambel's Sparrow was observed at Meadow Lake, Spokane Co., Wash. on June 6 (Mr. & *Mrs. SOS).*

**Contributors** (sectional editors, whose names are in boldface, should receive credit for observations in their respective areas unless otherwise stated).—(JA) James Acton; (WA) Walter Anderson; (WB) Watson Reed; (Mr. & Mrs. NB) Mr. & Mrs. N. Beaven; **Robert M. Ellis,** McNary Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burbank, Wash.; (CLB) **Carol L. Boyd**, Bitterroot Valley, Stevensville, Mont.; (CVD) C. V. Davis; (GDeV) George DeVan; (MG) Marian Gebhart; **James Grant**, British Columbia; (WH) Warren Hall; **Ralph L. Hand**, Missoula, Mont. area; (JH) Joseph Hicks; (PK) Patrick Katie; **Frank L. Kenney**, Ninepipe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlo, Mont.; (EK) Ernie Kraft; (EKr) Ed Krantz; (LLaF) Lynn LaFave; (TMcC) Thomas McCamant; (VM) Victor May; ( JPM) **Joseph P. Mazzoni**, Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont.; (BM) Bob Moore; (THR) Thomas H. Rogers; (PDS) **P. D. Skaar**, Bozeman–Three Forks–Ennis, Mont. area; (S.A.S.) Spokane Audubon Society; (Mr. & Mrs. SOS) **Mr. *&* Mrs. S. O. Stanley**, Spokane, Wash., area; (JGS, Jr.), Joseph G. Strauch, Jr.; **Jack E. Waddell**, Columbia Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Othello, Wash., and **Ann Ward**, Baker, Oreg., area.

*The Nesting Season, 1965*

**GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.**

**/ Dr. Oliver K. Scott**

**The** summer was like our spring, cool and wet. Most places have more water than for a number of years. Waterfowl had a better breeding season than for many years. As usual, there is little information on landbirds. Owing to the June rains and the residue of the December 1964 floods there was too much water in the Klamath Basin in southern Oregon; this interfered with duck nesting. Even in the Great Basin the country was green all summer. The milder weather brought breeding birds to lower levels than usual in Zion Park, Utah *(RHW).*

**Swans**—Trumpeters were doing well at Ruby Lakes in Nevada. There were 3 broods and 10 cygnets *(DEL).* Malheur produced 4 young *(HFD).*

**Ducks and Geese**—Afine come-back is being made by the Redhead. Both the Redhead and the Ruddy Duck had an exceptionally good season in the Klamath Basin *(EJO'N).* For the second consecutive summer there has been no botulism in the Klamath Basin. This has been a serious problem in the past. Malheur Lake has reached its greatest depth and size since 1958. About 37,000 ducks were produced. This is 15 percent more than last year and 18 percent above the ten-year average. Stillwater Refuge, Nev. has steadily done better in the last 3 years. This year there were 1360 broods of ducks, and 9800 young versus 785 broods and 6849 young last year. In the drought years (1960-62) very few birds nested at Stillwater *(PAS).* The Bear River Marshes, Great Salt Lake, had a good breeding season. On nearby Bear River there were 895 broods of ducks with 6016 young—the second highest count since 1948. There were another 640 broods on the marshes. The predominant nesting species is the Gadwall; 470 out of 640 nests. Between 1948 and 1963 there had been a steady increase in the number of young Gadwalls—since that time there has been a decline. Since 1963 there has been a sharp increase in Redheads *(FG).* These ducks have been also the most common breeder at Stillwater. Monte Vista Refuge, Colo. had the best breeding season ever. Some 18,000 were produced *(CRB) —*the bulk of which were Mallards.

**Hawks**—ARed-shouldered Hawk was seen regularly from Aug. 8 at Cedar City, Utah *(SBM).* This bird is supposed to be casual in Utah, but this observer has seen it before in the area. There is only one report of the Osprey—from the alpine zone of Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park—where the Longmont Bird Club observed one catch a small rodent on Aug. 11. I missed the bird for the first time in the southern part of Yellowstone Park and the Grand Teton Park *(OKS).* Is this species on the decline in the Rockies also?

**Coot**—This bird seems ever more successful. Greater numbers than ever were reported from the big refuges of the Great Basin; 54,000 at Bear River Marshes *(FG);* 38,000 at Stillwater *(PAS);* and 100,000 at Malheur *(FD).*

**Doves**—A White-winged Dove was seen at Bear River Marshes, July 19 *(WCR).* This bird has been accidental in Utah.

**Swifts**—Six Black Swifts were found at Bridal Veil Falls above Telluride, San Juan Mountains, Colo. *(LFE).* It is believed these birds have a number of colonies in this area.

**Hummingbirds**—Anesting ***Rivoli's Hummingbird***was collected at 8500 feet near Nederland in the Rockies just northwest of Denver on July 22 *(AMB)* —the first nest record for Colorado.

**Swallows**—Purple Martins, unusual in Utah, were seen in numbers (19) at Cedar City on Aug. 10, 12 and 17 *(SBM).* Five martins were also seen at Lava Beds Nat'l Monument, Oreg. *(JGO).*

**Vireos**—Dennis L. Carter found Gray Vireos nesting

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 5 567

at Arches Nat'l Monument and in the nearby La Sal Mountains (an island in the sky) in southeastern Utah, in June. This bird has not been previously reported from this area. It is to be found in lower portions of the Piñon-juniper woodland where black brush is present.

**Orioles**—A Scott's Oriole nest with young was found at Arches Nat'l Monument on June 29 *(DLC)* —the first nesting record for this part of Utah.

**Grosbeaks**—A pair of Blue Grosbeaks was found just west of Casper, Wyo. (where this bird has been seen before) on June 24 *(OKS).* This bird has never been known to breed in the state. Nearby on the same date a hybrid Indigo Bunting was nesting and acting like a Lazuli *(HHS).*

**Crossbills**—White-winged Crossbills were observed in Cheyenne, Wyo., where this wanderer has not been seen in recent years, on Aug. 7 & 9 *(MEH).*

**Contributors**—(AMB), Alfred M. Bailey; (CRB), Charles R. Bryant; (DLC), Dennis L. Carter; (AC), Allegra Collister; (HFD), Harold F. Deubbert; (LFE), Lucy F. Ela; (FG), Frank Gunnell; (MEH), May E. Hanesworth; (DEL), Don E. Lewis; (SBM), Stewart B. Murie; (EJO'N), Ed J. O'Neill; (JGO), James G. Olsen; (WCR), William C. Reffalt; (PAS), Peter A. Schwabenland; (HHS), Hustace H. Scott; (OKS), Oliver K. Scott; (RHW), Roland H. Wauer.

*The Nesting Season, 1965*

**NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION**

**/ Alan Baldridge and John B. Crowell Jr.,**

Theweather in the Region during June and July followed the pattern established by an abnormally dry spring. In western Oregon June temperatures were slightly below average while precipitation was much below average. For western Washington June temperatures were somewhat above average with precipitation considerably less than average. In July the western portions of both states experienced continued high temperatures together with a greater than usual lack of precipitation. Only at the end of the period did it cool off and rain. The first half of August, therefore,

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 5 570

showed above-average precipitation and below-average temperatures. Evidence of the effects of this weather pattern on birdlife are conflicting, to say the least. Many species, especially swallows, Cedar Waxwings, House Finches and Am. Goldfinches appear to have had good breeding success, at least in the northern part of this large Region. Some ground-nesting species seem not to have done so well. Pheasants and California Quail are reported down by half in western Oregon. Perhaps this is attributable to a combination of winter kill following abnormal December cold and destruction of cover by severe and widespread flooding in the Willamette Valley and elsewhere in December and January.

**Loons, Grebes and Herons**—Several Com. Loons were reported as again summering in Drayton Harbor and Birch Bay *(LHK);* birds were also observed at Bellingham, Wash. on July 6 (TW) and on the ocean at Sand Lake, Oreg. on July 25; 2 Red-throated Loons also were at the latter place on the same date *(AB, JBC, RF).* A pair of Red-necked Grebes was found with 2 young at Howard Lake some 20 miles east of Ashland, Oreg. on June 23 (Bob Maben, *JH);* the species is a rare breeder so far south. Some 500 Western Grebes were on Bellingham Bay, Wash. June 6 through Aug. 9, where birds of this species have formerly summered in numbers. Recent records of the Black-footed Albatross off the Oregon coast were further supplemented by a sighting of about 50 individuals at sea in the Coos Bay area, Aug. 8 (Jim Anderson). Brandt's Cormorants at Sea Lion Caves, near Florence, Oreg. had both eggs and young, June 16 *(TM).* Great Blue Herons were reported as being unusually numerous during the period at Blaine, Wash.; some 200 birds were counted at Drayton Harbor on July 7 *(LHK).* On July 24 a Com. Egret was found at Fern Ridge Reservoir *(JO)* where the species has occasionally occurred in recent years despite its extreme rarity in the Region. Green Herons were, as usual, sparsely scattered throughout the Region. Two were at Marymoor Park, Redmond, Wash., June 23 *(ES);* one was at Fern Ridge Reservoir west of Eugene, Oreg. on July 17 *(JO)* while a family group of five was on Sauvie Island, west of Portland on August 15. American Bitterns were on Fiddler Creek, an arm of Siltcoos Lake, near Florence, Oreg. on June 12, a place where they were reported to the observer as occurring annually during the breeding season *(JBC).* During June and July birds of this species also were at Sauvie Island where they probably bred (Charles Trainer, *fide AB).* A single bird was noted at Willapa Bay, Wash. Aug. 1 *(AB).*

**Geese and Ducks**—A scattering of Black Brant was reported for the northern Oregon coast during late July and early August with 2 birds at the south jetty of the Columbia River mouth, 3 on Tillamook Bay, and 1 at Yaquina Bay. An adult and immature White-fronted Goose spent most of July at Comox Harbour, B. C. (Tom Roberts, *DS).* Wood Ducks apparently enjoyed good breeding success at widely separated localities. Oregon Game Commission biologist Charles Trainer reported that 75 percent of 300 nest boxes on Sauvie Island were occupied, with many of the unoccupied boxes being otherwise unsuited for use. Duck production on Sauvie Island for other species, however, seemed to be down from 1964 levels with Mallards, Blue-winged Teal and Cinnamon Teal being the principally affected species. Pairs of Blue-winged Teal and Cinnamon Teal both were seen with young in the Ladner, B. C. area at the end of June and early in July *(GES).* A female Barrow's Goldeneye with 4 young was seen on Lost Lake in the Santiam Pass of theOregon Cascades on August 7 (*WT).* Sightings of waterfowl which were out of the ordinary during the period involved 6 Pintails at Sauvie Island, June 8 and 11 *(HN);* 2 Ring-necked Ducks at Ladner, B. C., June 27 and July 1 *(GES);* a female Canvasback at N. Bend, Oreg., June 20 *(JO);* a male at Drayton Harbor, Wash. from June 8 to July 14 when joined by a second male *(LHK);* Greater Scaup in small flocks at Drayton Harbor through the period; 20 birds on Tillamook Bay, July 25 *(AB, JBC, RF);* a pair of Buffleheads at Drayton Harbor, July 9 *(LHK)* and a single bird at Iona near Vancouver, B. C., July 25 *(GES);* 3 Ruddy Ducks at Siltcoos Lake, Oreg. on June 12 *(JBC)* and a male at Blaine, Wash., July 3 and 2 birds at Vancouver, B. C. July 18 *(GES).* White-winged and Surf Scoters could be found regularly on the ocean during the summer along the northern Oregon and the Washington coasts. Eight Common Scoters were at Point Roberts, B. C. on Aug. 15 *(GES).*

**Hawks, Eagles and Game Birds**—Single immature Goshawks were reported from the Rogue River south of Shady Cove, Oreg. on July 18 *(JH),* and from below Bird Creek Meadows on Mount Adams, Aug. 8 *(AB).* A pair of Bald Eagles at

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 5 571

Miracle Beach Park, Vancouver Island, raised one young *(DS).* One or both birds of an adult pair were seen on several occasions in the area west of Banks, Oreg. (Jim O'Donnell, Irving Curran). Single adult birds were noted at Ladner, July 1 *(GES)* and at Willapa Bay, Wash., Aug. 1 *(AB).* There were 3 active Osprey nests near Victoria, B. C. *(ARD)* and a pair was suspected of nesting at Fern Ridge Reservoir *(JO);* a single bird was seen at Pitt Lake, B. C., June 6 *(GES).* Both Ruffed and Blue Grouse were reported to have had poor nesting success in western Oregon, leading to curtailment of hunting this fall. Bobwhite continue well established at scattered points on the west side of the Willamette Valley in Oregon. Two broods of Mountain Quail were noted at Prospects Lake near Victoria, B. C. (Tom Roberts). Ring-necked Pheasant and California Quail also had poor breeding success in the Willamette Valley according to the Oregon State Game Commission.

**Rails and Shorebirds**—Virginia Rails were observed in Oregon at Fern Ridge Reservoir on June 5 *(JO)* and at Siltcoos Lake, June 12 *(JBC).* Two broods were reported seen on Sauvie Island by Charles Trainer. A pair of Black Oystercatchers was at Sea Lion Caves with two small young, June 16 *(TM).* Two Semipalmated Plovers were at the south jetty of the Columbia River on the unusual date of June 20; the same observer found 150 individuals there on July *(HN).* Four were at Sauvie Island, July 23, while 15 were found there on Aug. *7 (AB & HN).* Surfbirds were at Clover Point, Victoria, on July 16 *(ARD);* more than 50 of these birds were at Cannon Beach, Oreg. on July 24 *(RP).* Small groups of Ruddy Turnstones were seen at Clover Point, July 24 *(ARD),* at the south jetty of the Columbia, July 30 *(HN)* and at Willapa Bay, Aug. 1 *(AB).* Black Turnstones were in numbers at Clover Point, July 16 and at Oysterville, Wash. on Aug. 1. A rare occurrence inland of the Whimbrel was of a single bird at Sauvie Island, June 8 *(HN);* 3 were at the south jetty on June 20 and 1 was found there June 24 *(HN).* Wandering Tattlers were found at four coastal points during the last five days of July. A Greater Yellowlegs at Blaine, Wash., on June 24 *(LHK),* and 2 birds at Howard Lake, 20 miles east of Ashland, Oreg., on July 14 (Swisher *& JH)* were the vanguard of early returnees of this species along with the single bird at Ladner, B. C. July 1 and the 5 there on July 7 *(GES).* A Lesser Yellowlegs was also seen on July 14 at Hoover Lake in Jackson County, Oreg. (Swisher & *JH).* Six Baird's Sandpipers were observed at the south jetty of the Columbia River, July 30, and one was at Sauvie Island, July 31. Least Sandpipers were with four other species at Howard Lake, July 14, lending further credence to the assumption that good numbers of shorebirds migrate southward through the mountains in mid and late summer. Some 500 Western Sandpipers showed up near Blaine, Wash. on July 14 *(LHK).* Three Short-billed Dowitchers were noted at the inland location of Sauvie Island, July 23 *(AB & HN).* Four Long-billed Dowitchers were at Howard Lake on July 14 (Swisher & *JH)* and 16 were at Sauvie Island, July 19 *(HN).* Apparently two individual ***Semipalmated Sandpipers***put in an appearance on Sauvie Island. The first was seen July 23 *(AB)* and July 24 *(HN);* the second was found on Aug. 13 *(HN)* and was still present, Aug. 15 *(AB & HN).* Both birds were associating with other 'peep'. Five Western Sandpipers at the south jetty, Columbia River on June 24 *(HN)* were the first southward migrants reported of this species. There were 12 Wilson's Phalaropes on a brackish pool at Blaine, July 14 *(LHK).* Three birds of this species were at Willapa Bay, Wash. on Aug. 1 *(AB);* two additional individuals were at Iona, B.C. on July 25 *(GES).* Three Northern Phalaropes at the south jetty on June 20 and 4 there on June 24 *(HN)* may have been remnants of the notable coastal spring migration; one lone bird at Sauvie Island, July 13 *(HN)* was probably a returnee.

**Gulls and Terns**—One thousand seven hundred Glaucous-winged Gulls were banded on Mitlenatch Island, B. C. By early July numbers of adult and immature California and Ring-billed Gulls had put in an appearance at Sauvie Island and at Fern Ridge Reservoir. An adult Mew Gull at Sauvie Island, July 23 *(AB)* was unusually early as were the 12 birds at Iona, B. C. on July 25 *(GES).* An adult ***Franklin's Gull***in full breeding plumage was found at Sauvie Island, July 5 and 6 *(HN).* Immature Bonaparte's Gulls at Bellingham and at Blaine all summer were unusual; 50 of these birds were at Iona, B. C. July 7, with 1 and 2 birds being noted at Sauvie Island, July 13 to July 23; the first immatures appeared there on Aug. 3 *(HN).* Four Bonaparte's Gulls also were seen at Willapa Bay, Aug. 1 *(AB).* Heermann’s Gulls were first reported for the Region as of June 20 when an individual was at the south jetty; they were reported as being late and scarce from Victoria, where the first birds were noted on July 18 *(ARD).* An estimated *1000* Black-legged Kittiwakes at the vicinity of the south jetty of the Columbia River was repetitious of the spectacular migratory movements there a month earlier. Three Forster's Terns at Hoover Lake in Jackson County, Oreg., June 10 (0. Swisher) and the single Caspian Tern from Sauvie Island on July 6 *(HN),* were both unusual occurrences for these locations. Thirty of the latter species were counted over the beach at Ocean Shores, Wash. the evening of Aug. 4 *(JBC).*

**Alcids, Swifts and Hummingbirds**—Hundreds of Com. Murres, with birds of the year predominating, were just beyond the breakers at Ocean Shores, Aug. 5. The first young Marbled Murrelets were seen near Mitlenatch Island, B. C. on July 6 *(DS).* About 150 Band-tailed Pigeons were flocked along a railroad track between Prince Rupert and Terrace, B. C. on June 6 *(HRV).* Some 25 Black Swifts were counted in the area of the University of British Columbia campus in Vancouver on June 26 *(AB, WHH);* this species was thought to be scarcer than usual at Miracle Beach, Vancouver Island *(DS).* A bird carefully studied, June 20, for half an hour from among 15 hummingbirds feeding in a garden at Shore Acres State Park some 20 miles south of Coos Bay, Oreg. proved to be a male ***Allen's Hummingbird***

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 5 572

*(JO);* it was thus another of the few reported observations of this species in Oregon.

**Woodpeckers, Flycatchers and Larks**—Two adult Acorn Woodpeckers were feeding young at a nest in the vicinity of Fern Ridge Reservoir, July 17; 3 other birds were seen in the same area *(JO).* Lewis' Woodpecker was reduced this season to a remnant of its usual numbers on Sauvie Island where it has normally been quite conspicuous *(AB, HN).* Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were similarly thought to be scarcer on Vancouver Island *(DS).* ***Eastern Kingbirds***were reported from three different locations; a pair was seen at Endall Swamp near Miracle Beach, Vancouver Island *(DS)* without specification of date. Three birds were seen at Pitt Lake, June 5 *(GEC)* and one was at Fern Ridge Reservoir in Oregon on the same day *(JO).* Young Ash-throated Flycatchers left a nest on Roxy Ann Butte near Medford, June 25 *(JH).* Four young Black Phoebes left their nest on the Applegate River at Ruch near Medford, June 18, and 19 *(JH).* Fledgling Horned Larks were in a hay field at Lebanon, Oreg., July 15, a late date *(WT).*

**Swallows, Jays and Titmice**—Barn Swallows were reported to have had an extremely successful breeding season in the Bellingham area *(TW);* the same observation was applicable to their breeding activities in the northern Willamette Valley. Purple Martins were reported at a wide variety of locations from Eugene north to Comox and Iona, B. C., and were thought to have had a good nesting season. A pair of Clark's Nutcrackers on the north side of Mount Ashland in the Siskiyous, July 2, was unusual *(JH).* A Plain Titmouse was feeding young in a nest cavity at Emigrant Lake near Ashland, the extreme northerly edge of its breeding range, on June 23 *(BB).*

**Thrushes, Waxwings and Starlings**—Late nestling Robins on Aug. 9 were reported from Bellingham *(TW).* Two families of Western Bluebirds totaling 9 to 11 birds were on Parrett Mountain near Newberg, Oreg., July 25 *(AB, JBC, RF).* Three Mountain Bluebirds were at Timberline Lodge on Mount Hood, July 5 *(RF).* Four young Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were out of the nest on Roxy Ann Butte near Medford, June 11 *(JH).* Flocks of Cedar Waxwings were much in evidence during the report period in northwestern Oregon and throughout the Willamette Valley. The species was moderately numerous around Seattle. Young Starlings at Terrace, B. C. had left their nest by June 26 *(HRV);* they were almost a month behind a brood at Blaine which was out of the nest about the first of the month *(LHK).*

**Vireos, Warblers**—Hutton's Vireos were feeding young at a nest in a Seattle park on the early date of April 2 *(VEC).* A nest five miles of Medford on July 8 contained 11 eggs-6 from the vireo and 5 from the Brown-headed Cowbird’s! (O. & M. Swisher, *JH).* Red-eyed Vireos appeared in several new locations; birds were noted at several places along the Skykomish River to Stevens Pass in Washington, June 19; at the Stillaguamish River, July 5, and at Birch Point southwest of Blaine, July 14 (TW). A pair was found along Crabtree Creek east of Lacomb, Oreg., July 11 (J. Strauch, *WT, MC).* Yellow Warblers had a better breeding season in the Bellingham area than in recent years *(TW).* MacGillivray's Warbler was thought to be more numerous than usual in northwestern Oregon and had good breeding success.

**Blackbirds**—A small breeding colony of 6 or 7 pairs of Yellow-headed Blackbirds in Delta Park, Portland, the only known breeding location in northwest Oregon, raised few young; a single bird was seen at Sauvie Island, July 23 *(HN).* Three individuals of the same species were at Pitt Lake, B. C., June 6 *(GEC).* Several hundred Tricolored Blackbirds nested on Wagner Creek, six miles west of Talent, Oreg. *(JH).* Bight Brewer's Blackbirds at Terrace, B. C. on June 17 were north of their usual range *(HRV).* A ***Com. Grackle***in a Seattle yard on June 26 and 27 apparently constitutes the second record of that species in Washington; and the first in the western portion of the state; the bird was photographed and was seen by a number of observers *(ES).* It is anticipated that full details of the record will be published elsewhere. Brown-headed Cowbirds were thought to be less in evidence than in the past two years in the Portland area, but were reported as numerous around Seattle and Bellingham. Few young were noted, however, in the latter place.

**Finches and Sparrows—**There were fewer than usual Purple Finches in the Seattle area *(ES).* The House Finch was another species regarded as having had a good breeding season, at least in the northern Oregon and Washington portions of the Region. Three Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were seen at Llao Rock, Crater Lake, Oreg. on July 11 *(JO);* a single female was on Mount Hood at Timberline Lodge, July 5 *(RF).* Pine Siskins were regarded as much less prevalent in the Portland area this year after several years of abundance. Am. Goldfinches were prominent in the Bellingham area and were surmised to be on the way to a good nesting season; fledged young were noted by Aug. 1 *(TW).* An adult Green-tailed Towhee was seen carrying food at Dead Indian Road, Jackson County, Oreg. on June 24 *(BB),* a point to the west of its more normal haunts in the sage brush country of eastern Oregon. A Rufous-sided Towhee nest in Seattle contained 3 large young on the early date of May 2; the birds had fledged three days later *(BB).* Lucile H. Kline at Blaine trapped an adult on July 26 which proved to have been banded by her in 1958 when it was adult. The Lark Sparrow bred on Roxy Ann Butte near Medford where young left the nest on June 26 *(JH).* A lone individual of this species was noted at Seattle, June 23 *(ES).* A Rufous-crowned Sparrow was found again in the Medford area, this one being seen on June 1 at Modoc Orchard near the Rogue River; the bird was carefully studied at 20 yards with binoculars by a competent local observer *(JH).* A number of observers in the Portland area and Willamette Valley commented upon the comparative scarcity of Oregon Juncos during the breeding season.

*American Field Notes,* Volume 19, Number 5 573

**Contributors**—(AB) Alan Baldridge; (BB) Bob and Elsie Boggs; (VEC) Violet E. Cannon; (JBC) John B. Crowell, Jr.; (ARD) A. R. Davidson; (RF) Roy Fisk; (WHH) Werner and Hilda Hesse; (JH) Joseph Hicks; (TM) Thomas McCamant; (HN) Harry Nehls; (JO) James G. Olson; (GES) Gertrude E. Smith; (DS) David and Ruth Stirling; (ES) Eleanor Stopps; (WT) William Thackaberry; (HRV) Horace R. Vance; (TW) Terry R. Wahl.

*End 1965*