

Craters of the Moon National Monument
Arco, Idaho 83213

N-1419

December 8, 1968

Dr. Oliver K. Scott
437 East 13th St.
Casper, Wyoming 82601

Dear Dr. Scott:

I did little birding during the fall season but will send the few records of interest that I obtained at Craters of the Moon.

Weather: August was one of the wettest on record with a total of 3.71 inches of precipitation including 1.30 inches on the 20th. A few snow flurries were even noted during the stormy weather on the 17th. In contrast, October was very dry with only .02 inch of precipitation. The ground was only partially snow-covered at the end of the period. Temperatures were much below normal during the period, especially in August. The mean temperature for October was 44° compared to 59° last year.

List of Records: There seemed to be fewer "Waves" of migrants than last year.

Hared Grebe - One was picked up alive at a parking area, August 17 and another was reported seen the same day. This is the first record for the Monument.

Clark's Nutcracker - An invasion year for this species. It was present in flocks of several dozen throughout the period. They fed on the good crop of limber pine seed.

Cedar Waxwing - A flock of 10 was seen at the Visitor Center, September 25.

Bohemian Waxwing - One was seen at the Visitor Center, October 31, and 12 were at the same place, November 15 & 16.

Orange-crowned Warbler - One observed at the Visitor Center, October 18 and 19 was very late.

Nashville Warbler - One in the residence area, October 7 is another late record.

Cassin's Finch - Many were noted early in the period, especially in September with flocks of 50 or more recorded. It seems to be an invasion year for this species too.

Common Redpoll - Three were seen in the residence area, November 22, the first record for Craters of the Moon.

Snow Bunting - Two were seen along the highway, about 6 miles northeast of the Monument, November 21.

Have a happy holiday season and a good new year !

Sincerely,

Dennis L. Carter
Park Naturalist