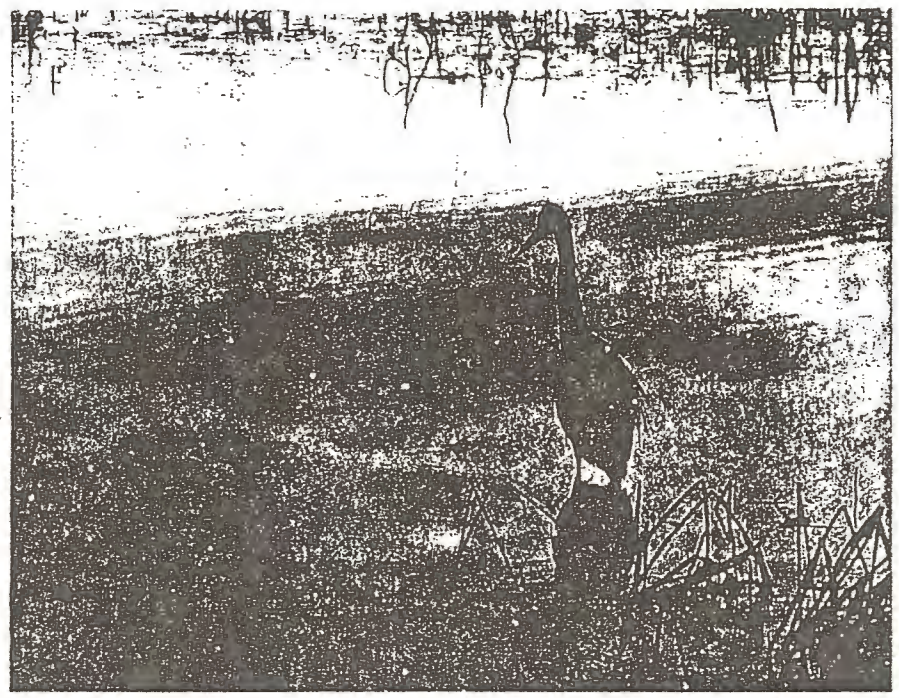


had swelled to 730,000 greenheads. Today, around a half-million mallards winter in the Columbia Basin—the largest number in the Pacific Flyway. A basinful of grain has shifted the migratory and wintering patterns of birds, some of which might have headed for California to winter. The Columbia Basin mallard boom is one example of wildlife benefiting through irrigated agriculture. But the benefit has come with costs. Not only are taxpayers subsidizing the irrigators' water to grow corn, we later prop up its price in a glutted commodities market. And the greatest salmon fishery in the world was ruined with the walling in of the Columbia River at Grand Coulee.



SANDHILL CRANE—DARRELL GUTIN

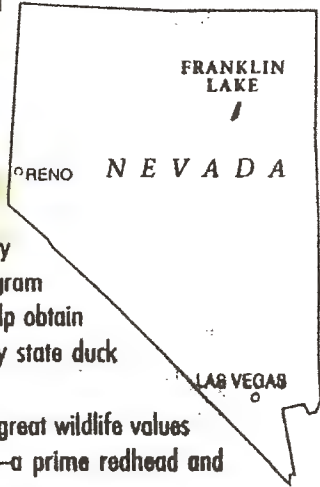
## FOR THE PACIFIC FLYWAY —A WETLAND FOREVER

### The Intermountain Snake

Another 300,000 mallards winter in the Snake River Valley, near Boise. While not part of the Great Basin, this associated intermountain area is similar to the sinks there. Once a region of violent volcanism, the mineral-rich soils on the Snake River Plains provide plenty of grain for mallards—provided irrigation water is applied. The warm waters of the Snake which stay open year round, plus associated hot springs, make this unusually far northern wintering ground ideal for Canada geese as well as mallards.

Franklin Lake is the last major unaltered seasonal wetland in northeastern Nevada. Ducks Unlimited, the Nevada Department of Wildlife and The Nature Conservancy are making sure it stays that way.

This 6,000-acre site is a key migration stopover for Pacific Flyway ducks and geese moving from Great Salt Lake Marshes to the Central Valley of California. Concentrations of 62,000 waterfowl have been recorded during recent migrations. Shorebirds, sandhill cranes and trumpeter swans use the area heavily. Introductions of the endangered peregrine falcon have been made at Franklin Lake, and the birds now depend on this habitat. **The Nature Conservancy purchased the property, which will be resold to the Nevada Department of Wildlife** at a price substantially below appraised value. Ducks Unlimited's MARSH program has committed \$168,500 over a five-year period to help obtain the important tract, and that sum is being matched by state duck stamp funds.



Protection of Franklin Lake will further enhance the great wildlife values of the nearby Ruby Valley National Wildlife Refuge—a prime redhead and canvasback breeding marsh located just south of the project area.