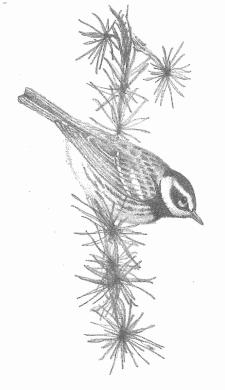


CENTRAL IDAHO

his is Idaho's widest, wildest, and most sparsely settled region. Vast acreages are recognized for their incredible scenic, conservation, and recreational values and are designated as wilderness areas, recreation areas, research natural areas, and state parks. The massive sweep of the Selway-Bitterroot, Gospel-Hump, and Frank Church River of No Return Wildernesses is particularly awe-inspiring. This was the site for the successful reintroduction of Gray Wolves in 1995.

Because of the juxtaposition of the wilderness areas, long detours are required to drive from Central Idaho's western to eastern boundary, making the phrase "you can't get there from here," particularly apt. The remote, unspoiled beauty makes this region the state's favorite playground. Hiking, white-water rafting, kayacking, and downhill skiing are all very popular.

Central Idaho is dominated by the Middle Rocky Mountain Ecoregion. Coniferous forests are drier than those found in the Panhandle. At low elevations the forests are bordered by sagebrush. The gamebird community is particularly diverse, with all of Idaho's 14 species possible. Birds to especially watch for include Blue Grouse, Williamson's Sapsuckers, and Clark's Nutcrackers, as well as Flammulated, Great Gray, and Boreal Owls. Small populations of Gambel's and Mountain Quail and White-headed Woodpeckers add further spice to the avifauna.



Townsend's Warbler Mike Denny