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New cover design

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NEW COVER DESIGN

The new cover design maps the extent of the Great Basin in the states of California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming. This interior basin, as defined by Captain J. C. Fremont in 1845, comprises approximately 210,000 square miles. The main desert basin is made up of 150 north-south parallel mountain ranges, which contribute run-off from the winter snows to more than 100 intervening smaller basins.

The Utah trout, *Salmo utah* Suckley; the Great Basin rattlesnake, *Crotalus viridis lutosus* Klauber; and the tule billbug, *Calendra ochreus* Lec., are common Great Basin species. One hundred years ago the Utah trout was abundant in Utah Lake and other Bonneville Basin lakes and streams. The pioneer fishermen seined hundreds of tons of this trout from Utah Lake; some specimens weighing twelve to fifteen pounds each. Now this trout is virtually extinct in the warm water lakes where it was abundant.

The Great Basin rattlesnake ranges widely throughout the northern two-thirds of the basin. It is the only rattlesnake within its territory. Since it feeds mainly upon small mammals which reduce many of the forage plants of the desert, it may be considered as a useful species.

Among the interesting insects of this interior region, is the large strikingly marked billbug which breeds on the tule, *Scirpus acutus* Muhl. It is common around Utah and Nevada fresh-water lakes.

Those who have lived in the desert know of its allurements and of the many challenging biological problems.—V.M.T.