



of the Colorado Bird Club was postponed from May 11 to 18 but the results were very poor even so. The party to visit Echo Lake west of Denver in the Rockies found only snow and ice. However, in the western Great Basin the spring migration and nesting season seemed two weeks earlier than usual. This may depend more on water conditions than on climatic effects. At Stillwater in western Nevada, Dale Sutherland reports the late nesters such as Redhead, Cinnamon Teal and Ruddy had broods by late May.

*Ibises.*—The White-faced Ibis is remarkable because it wanders so little. Occurring in large numbers in the Salt Lake Region (950 at Bear River Marshes in May) the bird wanders eastward in small numbers into suitable Wyoming habitat. Eight birds showed up in Mormon Row in the Jackson Elk Refuge, May 8, a first record for the Refuge (Greenwalt).

*Swans.*—Ernest Greenwalt, the affable manager of the National Elk Refuge, who always has a latchstring out for visiting birders, reports a Trumpeter Swan has elected to nest beside the highway in the refuge in Jackson Hole just north of the town of Jackson, where she started May 20 on the top of a muskrat house. In nearby Yellowstone Park there are now at least a dozen nesting Trumpeters, but the chances of success in rearing cygnets are poor. There is an abundance of otter, bear and other predators and then there is the tendency of the swan to move overland from the small ponds of their nesting to other water before the young can fly (Beal, Park Naturalist). The Trumpeters outside the Park do better.

*Geese and Ducks.*—Canada Goose production at Bear River Marshes at the north end of the Great Salt Lake was 310 broods (Reid). Malheur in eastern Oregon appears to have the largest breeding population of the great refuges of the Basin, with 4000 birds present. The waterfowl migration was sharply tapering off by the start of this season in the Great Basin and only breeding populations remained. From the abundance of water the results ought to be good. Rare ducks include 2 Wood Ducks at Malheur, April 15 (Marshall); and 2 at Klamath where the bird is more common on the Upper Lake (Giles). Thirty Red-breasted Mergansers were reported from Saratoga Lake in southern Wyoming, April 12 (Lamberton). Ring-necked Ducks were reported in small numbers from all over the Region. Charles Bryant at the Monte Vista Refuge in southern Colorado reports that Redhead, Lesser Scaup, and Am. Coot will be new breeders in that refuge, reflecting its steady growth. The Am. Widgeon nested for the first time at Klamath (Giles). Condon, the Yellowstone National Park Naturalist, had 7 pairs of Harlequin Ducks on the Yellowstone River just below the Lake in their customary spot, April 29. The Wyoming Audubon Society found them on June 1. By the third week of June the drakes would be gone. The drake Harlequin is one of the most spectacular sights in the bird world. Birders should plan to make trips West early enough to catch this bird before it leaves.

*Turkeys.*—The first mating period of the Turkeys at Mesa Verde in southwestern Colorado got rained out but it is hoped the second will be more successful (Pinkley).

*Shorebirds.*—A census of breeding Mountain Plover on the Laramie Plains in southern Wyoming showed about 6 nesting sites in mid-May (Laun and Warkley). A pair was also reported north of Rawlins, April 24 (Lamberton). This is about 150 miles west of Laramie. Another was found, May 24, just south of Cheyenne, 60 miles east of Laramie (Mrs. Hanesworth). It is believed the Laramie Plains, Green River Basin, and Big Horn Basin, all in Wyoming, represent the biggest breeding ground of the species in this Region, with occasional birds scattered all over the high plateau area. A Red-backed Sandpiper, a rare bird inland, turned up at Stillwater, April 29 (Sutherland). Black-bellied Plover were observed at Klamath, with a peak of 42, April 24 (Giles). These are ordinarily scarce inland.

*Owls.*—A Great Gray Owl has been reported regularly at Fort Klamath south of Crater Lake (Ken McLeod). There are believed to be about 5 breeding pairs in Yellowstone Park (Condon, Park Naturalist) but no nest is known along the accessible part of the Park at the moment. The California State Game and Fish Commission has been making a survey of Lower Klamath and Tule Lake in the Klamath Basin. They find the average number of eggs of the Short-eared Owl is 5 to 11 with a median of 8.5, whereas the literature reports 4-7 ordinarily. The number of mice in this area is on the upswing and there is a superabundance of food for the owls at the moment. It is interesting to speculate whether this is a natural effort at control. A peak of 70 birds, including young of the year, was observed at Klamath, May 23 (Giles).

*Hummingbirds.*—The hummers have been later than usual. Mrs. Crews at Hotchkiss in the mesa country of western Colorado, where apparently there are more hummers than anywhere else in the West and where great numbers of people feed them, didn't find any until May 2 when the first Black-chinned showed up.

*Warblers.*—Few unusual warblers were reported, probably owing to the season. The only one was an Am. Redstart in central Utah, May 30 (Lockerbie).

*Finches.*—Madge Funk had a Cardinal at Pine-dale, high in remote western Wyoming on April 25—a first record for that part of the state. A Blue Grosbeak, May 19, and an Indigo Bunting, May 30, near Saratoga Springs in central Utah were both great rarities (Lockerbie, Tainter, *et al.*). The bunting is the first record for the northern half of the state. There were 2 redpolls, May 18, in Cheyenne (Hanesworth) and on May 19 at Klamath Falls (McLeod). Both records are unusual for May and the occurrences were 1000 miles apart.

House and others had a Desert Sparrow on the Laramie Plains in southeastern Wyoming, May 19. This is a rare bird in that area.—DR. OLIVER K. SCOTT, 437 East 13th St., Casper, Wyo.