

**GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.**—Throughout much of the region there appeared to be little effect from the extra-



ordinary winter. While many of the arrivals were tardy, the nesting season is progressing on schedule. Heavy seasonal rains had some adverse effect upon some of the nesting birds, especially the shorebirds.

Uncommon observations were those on the glaucous gull, Scott's oriole, and red-eyed vireo, reported around Salt Lake City by C. W. Lockerbie, and a red-eyed vireo and hooded oriole reported from near the southeastern limits of the region by Harold Higgins.

**Grebes, pelicans and cormorants.**—Western grebes arrived early, on Mar. 20, at the Bear River Refuge. The latest arrival date was reported from the higher location of Alamosa, Colo., by Robert M. and Julia W. Armagast. An estimated 2800 eared grebes were noted at Bear River on May 3; Malheur Refuge, Oreg., reported a peak of 20,000 on May 20 according to R. C. Erickson, who noted that they were nesting at the end of the period. John E. Schwartz recorded the arrival of 15 white pelicans at the Sheldon Refuge near Cedarville, Calif., on May 18; they were not observed at Ocean Lake, near Casper, Wyo., until May 30, when 30 were reported by Dr. Oliver K. Scott. Cormorants arrived by mid-March at Salt Lake City (C.W.L.), but were scarce at Payson, Utah (Dr. Pfouts).

**Hérons.**—Snowy egrets made their usual appearance at Bear River during mid-April. Usually wintering, the great blue herons were absent from Bear River Refuge until Mar. 11; this species was also noted at Sheldon (J.E.S.), and wintered at Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho (W. A. Rodgers). Birds of this group are now nesting in abundance at BRR.

**Geese.**—Canada geese were reported in their usual wide distribution, with note of their having suffered through the extreme winter. Nesting at the BRR was down considerably from past years; however, the rate of survival appeared satisfactory.

**Ducks.**—Few comparisons were made with previous duck migrations; however, the numbers occurring at the mentioned areas appeared to be comparable with those of former years. Nesting at BRR appeared to be progressing favorably, with an increase noted in the number of gadwall nests.

The unusual and spectacular note of the period in this group was the observation of over 20,000 ruddy ducks at BRR. Baldpates were also up from previous years. Schwartz noted a general increase of waterfowl at Sheldon Refuge, which he attributed to the greater availability of water. Elmo Adams at Hart Mountain Refuge, Nev., reported that species arriving later in the season were rather close to schedule, although the early arriving species were somewhat tardy as compared with former years. Redheads and ruddies were noted near Salt Lake City early in March by Lockerbie. As expected, this arrival coincided with that of the same species at Bear River, where the peak on redheads occurred between Apr. 15 and May 3. This peak showed an increase over that of last year. The peak duck population at Ruby Lake Refuge, Nev., occurred near the first of April according to Baine H. Cater. The time of this peak roughly coincided with that of much of the region. Green-winged teal reached a peak of 175,000 on Apr. 4 at BRR. A dozen wood ducks were reported at Malheur Refuge, Oreg. (R.C.E.). E. C. D. Marriage observed a wood duck nest containing 9 eggs in an old magpie nest near Carson City, Nev., on May 22.

**Hawks.**—Malheur Refuge reported a peak population of 30 turkey vultures on Apr. 25; also a ferruginous rough-leg nest with 2 young, and a golden eagle nest with 2 young (R.C.E.). One osprey was observed at Malheur Refuge, Oreg. (R.C.E.), and 2 near Vernal, Utah, by Clifton Greenhalgh. Oliver K. Scott at Casper, Wyo., reported that hawks have been on the downward trend for several years.

**Cranes, rails and coot.**—Sandhill cranes were fairly plentiful at Hart Mountain Refuge, Nev. (E.A.). R. C. Erickson reported that the sandhill crane population was down 15 to 20 per cent at Malheur Refuge, Oreg., where they reached a peak of 350 on Apr. 30. The Am. coot reached a peak of 200,000 on May 15 at Malheur; also 1 sora rail was seen there Apr. 13 (R.C.E.).

**Shorebirds and gulls.**—Avocets were observed throughout most of the region in large numbers; they reached a peak of 8000 at BRR on Apr. 15; Malheur Refuge, Oreg., reported 800 on Apr. 20 (R.C.E.); 450 were seen at Ogden Bay, Utah (Nolan Nelson); they are reported as one of the most common birds at Alamosa, Colo. (Armagast); Adams noted that they were "around every wet spot" at Hart Mountain Refuge, Nev.; and Lockerbie stated that they were abundant near Salt Lake City. Forster's terns were abundant at Malheur Refuge, where 10,000 were observed on Apr. 30; at BRR 4000 were noted on May 14. Killdeer, curlews, black-necked stilts, and gulls were common throughout most of the region during the period, but Dr. Pfouts reported a scarcity of curlews and avocets at Payson, Utah.

*Owls.*—Two burrowing owls were observed nesting near Carson City, Nev., on May 7 (E.C.D.M.). Many juvenile short-eared owls just learning to fly and a horned owl, with half-grown young, were observed at Malheur Refuge, Oreg., on May 29 (R.C.E.). Fourteen short-eared owls were reported at Ogden Bay, Utah, May 16 (N.N.), and 15 were counted at BRR, May 13.

*Hummingbirds, woodpeckers.*—Lockerbie observed 10 calliope hummingbirds on May 14 and 2 broad-tailed hummingbirds near Salt Lake City on Apr. 20. Two broad-tailed hummingbirds were noted at Alamosa, Colo. (Armagast). Red-shafted flickers were first seen at Hart Mountain Refuge, Nev., Apr. 9 (E.A.). Lewis's woodpecker reached its peak of migration the middle of May at Malheur Refuge, Oreg. (R.C.E.).

*Passerine birds.*—Western kingbirds were first seen near Salt Lake City by Lockerbie on May 28, they arrived at Hart Mountain Refuge, Nev., on May 6 (E.A.), and at Malheur Refuge, Oreg., on May 2. Two eastern kingbirds were seen at the latter refuge on May 16 (R.C.E.). A Cassin's kingbird was reported from near the southeastern limits of the region by Harold Higgins. Say's phoebes were reported at Malheur Refuge, Oreg., where they were nesting (R.C.E.); at Alamosa, Colo., 2 were nesting under a second-story balcony on Mar. 18 (Armagast). Cliff and barn swallows continue to use the Bear River Refuge in large numbers. Oliver K. Scott reported that starlings are becoming increasingly more common in central Wyoming and are now frequently seen at Casper; they were also noted at Ogden Bay, Utah (N.N.). Four red crossbills were observed near Casper, Wyom. (O.K.S.). E. C. D. Marriage observed large flocks of Bullock's orioles near Carson City, Nev., on May 9, and small flocks of willow goldfinches (May 5); also Arkansas goldfinch (May 5), western tanagers (May 19), cedar waxwing (May 30), Bohemian waxwing (May 30), loggerhead shrike (May 12), yellow-throat (May 15), and Bullock's oriole (May 11). At Alamosa, Colo., the yellow warbler arrived on May 7; Audubon's warbler on May 8, green-tailed towhee on May 8, goldfinch on May 13, and song sparrow on Mar. 15 (Armagast). Juncos were observed throughout most of the region during the period.—JOHN B. VAN DEN AKKER and VANEZ T. WILSON, *Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Brigham, Utah.*