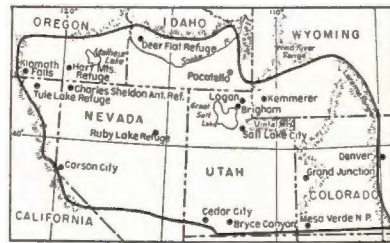


GREAT BASIN—CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.—The weather in the Great Basin was milder than usual during late February and



the fore part of March, and the spring migration of ducks, geese, and swans was well under way by mid-March. The weather during the latter part of March and most of April was cold and windy. The temperature fell to below freezing on ten days during April. As a result of the rather long, cold spring, the migration movement was extended over a greater period of time than usual.

Loons, Grebes and Pelicans.—The Common Loon, a rare migrant at Gray's Lake, Idaho, appeared there May 24 according to Elwood Bizeau and Paul Steel. C. W. Lockerbie reported 2 Common Loons near Salt Lake City, Utah, April 16, and 2 Horned Grebes in same area, April 23. Lockerbie also reported 20 Eared Grebes and 50 Western Grebes observed near Salt Lake City on April 23. Eared Grebes arrived at Malheur Refuge, near Burns, Oreg., April 16 (R. C. Erickson). Julia and Robert Armagast reported that the Pied-billed Grebe was noted only once during the period near Alamosa, Colo., when 5 were observed on April 16. First observation of the Western Grebe at Deer Flat Refuge, Nampa, Idaho, was on April 8, while the Eared and Pied-billed Grebes arrived on May 18 (Sheldon Dart). At the Bear River Refuge, Utah, the Eared Grebe was first seen on April 3 and reached a peak of 1500, May 2. White Pelicans appeared at the BRR and other areas throughout the Region in their usual numbers.

Cormorants, Herons and Ibis.—At the Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho, the Double-crested Cormorant, Black-crowned Night Heron, and the Great Blue

Heron were first noted on April 8, and the White-faced Ibis was first observed, April 20 (SD). Armagast reported that Black-crowned Night Herons were first observed near Alamosa, Colo., April 16; usually one of the most common migrants, this bird appeared in the area in greatly reduced numbers this spring. Snowy Egrets were common when first observed on April 16 at the Malheur Refuge, Oreg., 2 Am. Bitterns were noted, April 20; the only White-faced Ibis observed during the period were 6 on May 23 (RCE). Lockerbie reported that the Double-crested Cormorant and the Snowy Egret were first observed near Salt Lake City, Utah, April 9, and the Am. Bittern and White-faced Ibis were first seen in the area, April 30. Two Am. Egrets first noted near Minden, Nev., May 1 (E. C. D. Marriage).

Waterfowl.—At Malheur Refuge, Oreg., a scattered few Whistling Swans remained throughout the period, and a greater than usual number of non-breeding Canada Geese were observed by Erickson, who also reported the numbers of Snow Geese were slightly below average this year and came very late; 600 still remained on the Refuge, April 4. No Whistling Swans were seen at Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho, this year, and the Canada Geese showed a 60% decrease; White-fronted Geese arrived on April 1 and were last seen on April 20, while Snow Geese arrived, March 31, and departed on April 20 (SD). Canada Geese appeared throughout the Region in their usual wide distribution; they were nesting at BRR in about their usual numbers, a total of 310 broods were counted in one trip over the dikes at BRR, as compared with a maximum brood count of 313 for last year. At Alamosa, Colo., 4 pairs of Green-winged Teal, 1 pair of Blue-winged Teal noted on May 7, and 1 pair of Cinnamon Teal on May 3, were the only observations of these species during the period, according to Armagast. He also reported the arrival date of Shovelers as April 30 and states that, next to Mallards, they were the most common migrant duck. The Blue-winged Teal was first seen at Malheur Refuge, Oreg., April 16 (RCE), and near Salt Lake City, April 30, when 5 were noted (CWL). At Cokeville, Wyo., the Blue-winged Teal arrived on April 4, the Pintail, April 5, and the Shoveller, April 24 (W. O. Deshler). At Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho, the peak concentration of Gadwall occurred March 15, Am. Widgeon, March 1, Pintail, March 16, Green-winged Teal, May 30, Redhead, April 15, according to Dart, who reported that the duck population decreased approximately 75% in peak population and 50% in total usage. An unusual observation in this group for the period is the 26,000 Ruddy Ducks observed at BRR, May 2. At BRR the peak population for most of the ducks occurred between the latter part of March and the early part of April. Duck nesting at BRR is progressing satisfactorily, and the nest count indicates a small increase.

Hawks.—L. D. Pfouts noted 7 species of hawks near Payson, Utah, on April 30. The Turkey Vulture was first seen at Mesa Verde National Park,

Colo., April 8, and is very common in that area (Don Watson). Near Salt Lake City 10 Swainson's Hawks were first observed on April 23, and 2 Turkey Vultures, May 7 (CWL). A peak of 75 Marsh Hawks was noted May 30 at Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho, also 2 Osprey, 3 Pigeon Hawks, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, and a Swainson's Hawk (SD). A Swainson's Hawk observed on April 1 and an Osprey early in May were reported at Malheur Refuge, Oreg. (RCE). A Red-tailed Hawk, and a Sparrow Hawk were observed on April 29 near Carson City, Nev. (EP). At the BRR, 20 Marsh Hawks, 1 Rough-legged Hawk, 1 Prairie Falcon, 2 Peregrine Falcons, and 10 Sparrow Hawks were counted on May 18.

Cranes, Rails and Coots.—Sandhill Cranes were noted at Gray's Lake, Idaho, April 3 (Bizeau and Steel) and at Cokeville, Wyo., on April 5 when 18 were observed (Deshler). At Malheur Refuge, Oreg., the number of Sandhill Cranes passing through the Refuge increased about 25% this spring, and they remained much later than usual; about 200 migrants remained through May 10, and the last group left on May 21 (RCE). Coots continued to be common throughout most of the Region. Soras were noted, May 4, and Virginia Rails, June 4, at Gray's Lake, Idaho (Bizeau and Steel).

Shorebirds, Gulls, and Terns.—Near Salt Lake City, 3 Snowy Plovers and 1000 Black-bellied Plovers were observed on May 7 (CWL). At the Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho, the Killdeer, first seen March 22, was very common; 1 Wilson's Snipe and 225 Marbled Godwits arrived and departed the latter part of April; 9 Avocets were first seen April 30 and were gone by May 15; the Ring-billed Gull, and California Gull are abundant at Deer Flat Refuge (SD). The Forster's Tern found by Elwood Bizeau and Paul Steel to be a common nester at Grays Lake, Idaho, arrived there May 24. Lesser Yellow-legs and Least Sandpipers were seen only once during the period near Alamosa, Colo., on April 30, when a small number of each were observed; 24 Wilson's Phalaropes arrived in this area, April 2, and several hundred were noted, April 30; Am. Avocets arrived, April 30, and were common thereafter (Armagast). First arrival dates at the Malheur Refuge, Oreg., are: Wilson's Snipe, April 11, Long-billed Curlew, April 4, Black-necked Stilt, April 16, Franklin's Gull, April 20, and Black Tern, May 19 (RCE). The shorebirds arrived somewhat later near Minden, Nev.; 8 Willets and 2 Am. Avocets were noted on May 11, and 2 Black-necked Stilts and 1 Wilson's Phalarope were observed, May 3 (ECDM). The Solitary Sandpiper, which is a rare nester at Gray's Lake, Idaho, arrived there April 30 (Bizeau and Steel).

Doves.—One Mourning Dove was observed near Carson City, Nev., April 29 (Eugene Pieretti). One Mourning Dove was observed at Mesa Verde Nat'l Park, April 25 and became common by the end of May (Watson). Five were observed, April 23, near Salt Lake City and became common after May 1 (CWL). Two Mourning Doves arrived at the Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho, April 1 and were fairly com-

mon soon after (SD). At BRR, 2 were first noted on April 27 and 8 counted on May 18.

Owls.—Two Burrowing Owls and two Saw-whet Owls were residents at Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho (SD). A Barn Owl was noted, April 4, near Carson City, Nev. (ECDM), and a Short-eared Owl, April 29, in same area (EP). At BRR, 20 Short-eared Owls were counted on May 18.

Hummingbirds.—Three Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were observed near Salt Lake City, April 30 and became common, May 14. One Black-chinned Hummingbird was noted in same area, May 27 (CWL). Watson reports that the Broad-tailed Hummingbird was common at Mesa Verde Nat'l. Park, Colo., by the end of May, and 1 Black-chinned Hummingbird was observed on April 30. The Black-chinned Hummingbird nests regularly in Carson City, Nev. (ECDM). The Broad-tailed Hummingbird was common at Alamosa, Colo. (Armagast)

Passerine Birds.—Watson reported arrival dates of the following birds at Mesa Verde Nat'l Park, Colo.; Western Kingbird, May 28; Say's Phoebe, May 6; Western Wood Pewee, May 15; Violet-green Swallow, May 20 (became common by end of May); House Wren, May 17; Mountain Bluebird, April 15 (became common end of April); Western Gnatcatcher, April 2 (very common end of April); Ruby-crowned Kinglet, April 1 (common by mid-April); Solitary Vireo, April 23 (common in May); Orange-crowned Warbler, May 11; Virginia's Warbler, April 18; Yellow Warbler, May 13; Audubon's Warbler, May 13 (common end of May); Black-throated Gray Warbler, April 21 (common end of April); Townsend's Warbler, May 19; Macgillivray's Warbler, May 20; Western Meadowlark, May 7; Western Tanager, May 20; Lazuli Bunting, May 20; Green-tailed Towhee, April 17 (very common end of April); Savannah Sparrow, April 22; Lark Sparrow, April 15; Chipping Sparrow, April 10 (very common end of April).

At Malheur Refuge, Oreg., the Tree Swallows and Northern Cliff Swallows were common on April 4; the Violet-green and Rough-winged Swallows were first seen, May 2; the Western Kingbird was first seen on April 21; Sage Thrasher, April 11; Myrtle Warbler, April 20; Am. Goldfinch, May 15; Yellow-headed Blackbirds (males) were common on April 11 (RCE). Armagast reported observing hundreds of male Yellow-headed Blackbirds near Alamosa, Colo., on April 30; very few females had arrived on that date. At Gray's Lake, Idaho, males of this species arrived, April 8, and females, May 10 (Bizeau and Steel). Yellow Warblers were first seen May 9 at Alamosa, and were abundant thereafter; Audubon's Warblers were first seen, May 28, in the San Juan Mountains near Alamosa (Armagast). Lockerbie reported that the Tree Swallow was observed near Salt Lake City on April 9.

At Gray's Lake, Idaho, Bizeau and Steel recorded the Long-billed Marsh Wren, April 20; Red-winged Blackbird, Feb. 15 (male) and April 8 (female)—VANEZ T. WILSON AND ROSS H. NORR, *Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Brigham, Utah.*