

**GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.**—As a result of the mild winter throughout most of the Region, with an excep-



tionally warm spell or spring thaw in mid-February, the spring migration of waterfowl and some of the other early migrants was from 10 days to 2 weeks earlier than usual. The weather during March was, in general, cold and windy, with the first three weeks in April mild and dry; this was

followed with cold stormy weather during the last week in April and throughout most of May. As a result of these abnormal weather conditions the spring migration was quite erratic.

Our report for the previous period, ending March 31, covered most of the early migrants for the Region; therefore this report will include only the late arrivals and some of the early nesters. The heavy winds and rain during May did considerable damage to some of the ground-nesting birds, such as the Am. Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, Willets, Long-billed Curlews, and Killdeer, at the Bear River Refuge. However, some of these birds re-nested after the storms.

*Grebes and Pelicans.*—The first Eared Grebes at the Malheur Refuge in Oregon this spring were observed by R. C. Erickson on April 25 when 10 were seen. The first Pied-billed Grebe was noted on April 2. The Western and Pied-billed Grebes are nesting in their usual numbers at the Bear River Refuge. Sheldon Dart reported 50 Western Grebes and 50 White Pelicans at Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho, on April 30. A census count made from an airplane on May 16 showed 230 White Pelicans present at Bear River Refuge, Utah.

*Cormorants, Herons, and Ibis.*—Double-crested Cormorants were first observed at Deer Flat Refuge on April 15, and 25 were noted on May 13. The first Black-crowned Night Herons were observed on April 15, and 20 Great Blue Herons were noted on May 30. At the Bear River Refuge, 77 Double-crested Cormorant nests were counted, and about 400 of these birds were present during the latter part of May. Also, 175 Great Blue Herons, 95 Black-crowned Night Herons, 550 White-faced Ibises, and approximately 500 Snowy Egrets were noted at the Bear River Refuge on May 16.

*Waterfowl.*—The spring migration of ducks and geese throughout the Great Basin, while starting somewhat earlier than usual, as reported in our last report, appeared to be about normal. At the time of our April 15 census, 1750 Whistling Swans were still present at the BRR; by May 1 only 3 remained. At Deer Flat Refuge the last 2 Whistling Swans were observed on April 15. F. Sheldon Dart also reported 15 White-fronted Geese on April 26, and 38 Canada Geese present on May 15. He also reported the first brood of young Canada Geese seen on the Snake River on April 13. R. C. Erickson reported the first brood of Canada Geese observed at Malheur Refuge on May 1. He also reported the Canada Goose hatch at Malheur very low this year, probably the lowest in 10 years. The first brood of young Canada Geese was observed at Bear River Refuge on April 25, and 337 broods were counted on May 24. The first Blue-winged Teal were noted at Deer Flat Refuge on April 1, and 200 were estimated on May 30. Cinnamon Teal were observed on April 5, and 250 were present on May 30 (FSD). The first Wood Duck for the season was noted at Malheur Refuge on April 25, and 2 Blue-winged Teal on May 2.

*Shorebirds and Gulls.*—At the Deer Flat Refuge, Nampa, Idaho, the Am. Avocet was first observed on April 24, and the Black-necked Stilt on April 19; the latter species became common by May 30; Ring-billed and California Gulls arrived the first of April and were abundant by the end of the period; Wilson's Snipe (1), which arrived on April 6, is rare in this area (FSD). First arrivals at the Malheur Refuge, Ore., include the Long-billed Curlew (2), April 2, Franklin's Gull (5), April 25, and Forster's Tern (1), April 25; the Long-billed Curlew and Am. Avocet were common by April 7 (RCE). Dart reported that there was very little migration into or from the Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho, during April and May; the bulk of the waterfowl had moved by April 1. At Bear River Refuge the Long-billed Curlew arrived on March 30, and was common by the end of the period; Black-bellied Plover, May 15; Wilson's Snipe, March 11; Lesser Yellow-legs, March 3; Dowitcher, April 23; Marbled Godwit, April 16; Black-necked Stilt, April 1; Wilson's Phalarope, May 2; Franklin's Gull, April 13; Bonaparte's Gull, May 3; Forster's Tern, May 2; and Caspian Tern, April 15. By the end of the period Killdeer, Am. Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, California Gull, Franklin's Gull, and Forster's Tern were abundant at BRR; a nesting survey during the period May 17 to May 22 revealed 3643 California Gull nests, 12 Caspian Tern nests, and 530 Am. Avocet nests.

*Owls.*—A Flammulated Owl was observed on April 8 at Malheur Refuge, Oreg. (RCE). At BRR 50 Short-eared Owls were observed, May 31.

*Passerine Birds.*—Robert and Julia Armagast reported Yellow Warblers were first seen at Alamosa, Colo., on May 7 in usual migration numbers, Am. Goldfinches in usual numbers on May 9; and 2 Common Yellowthroats were noted just west of Alamosa, May 20; also a male Bobolink was observed at Alamosa on May 20, which is very unusual as none of the local residents questioned could recall having seen or heard of a Bobolink in this area in the past (Armagast). At Malheur Refuge, Oreg., the Violet-green Swallow arrived (1) on April 6; Am. Goldfinch (1), May 2; and the Western Tanager (1), May 9 (RCE). First arrival dates at BRR include the Violet-green Swallow (2), April 10; Cliff Swallow (12), April 10; Brewer's Blackbird (3), April 8; Barn Swallow (2), April 15; Pink-sided Junco (1), May 5; Yellow Warbler (1), May 17; Audubon's Warbler (1), May 18; and Bullock's Oriole (1), May 19.—VANEZ T. WILSON and ROSS H. NORR, *Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Brigham, Utah.*