

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.—In general, the nesting sea-son throughout the region was successful and compared favorably with previous years. During



May the weather was somewhat cold and stormy and some shorebird nests were flooded; but apparently most of these birds renested. Precipitation during June and July was very light over most of the Region, but water in the streams and ponds held up very well, and in the northern part the stream flow has been above normal again this year.

Grebes and Pelicans.—Five hundred Western Grebes and 1200 White Pelicans were observed on June 12 at Pyramid Lake, Nev., by Fred G. Evenden, Jr. Eared and Western Grebes were common throughout the period at Sheldon Antelope Refuge, near Cedarville, Calif., according to M. C. Aldous. C. W. Lockerbie reported a pair of Western Grebes with 2 young at Farmington Bay Refuge near Salt Lake City, this being the first breeding record for this species on the area. Lockerbie also observed a Pied-billed Grebe with downy young at Farmington Bay on Aug. 12, which is an unusually late date. An estimated 1000 Western Grebes and several pairs of Eared and Pied-billed Grebes nested at Bear River Refuge, Utah. White Pelicans nested successfully on the islands of Great Salt Lake, and on Aug. 16 it was estimated that 8700 were using the BRR as a feeding ground.

Cormorants and Herons.—At the Ruby Lake Refuge, Nev., on Aug. 15, Richard S. Rodgers counted 35 Great Blue Herons, 40 Snowy Egrets, 75 Black-crowned Night Herons, 50 Am. Bitterns, and 25 White-faced Ibis. F. Sheldon Dart reported the Snowy Egret and White-faced Ibis

first seen at Deer Flat Refuge, Nampa, Idaho, on June 1. Approximately 77 pairs of Double-crested Cormorants, 42 pairs of Great Blue Herons, 119 pairs of Snowy Egrets, 66 pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons, and 796 pairs of White-faced Ibis nested at Bear River Refuge; this is a 100% increase for the ibis over last year, and a 50% decrease for the Snowy Egret. The Double-crested Cormorant is increasing at Farmington Bay Refuge, but is not nesting there (CWL).

Waterfowl.—Four Trumpeter Swans were at Ruby Lake Refuge, Nev., Aug. 15 (RSR). No geese nested at the Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho, this year, but on the Snake River Islands, Idaho, there were 24 Canada Goose nests with a total production of 69 goslings (FSD). Canada Geese nested in all suitable areas at the Sheldon Antelope Refuge, Cedarville, Calif. (MCA); they reached a peak of 600 on Aug. 15 at Ruby Lake Refuge, Nev. (RSR). At BRR 347 broods of young Canada Geese were counted on May 24 as compared with a count of 310 broods for last year on the same date. Dr. Oliver K. Scott reported that the breeding season in central Wyoming was comparatively wet and there was an increase over previous years in the number of ducks and geese nesting in this locality. An estimated 575 ducks were produced on the Deer Flat Refuge, 90% being Mallards; on the Snake River Islands there was a 10% increase in duck nesting over 1950; a total of 955 ducks were produced, 95% being Mallards (FSD). At the Sheldon Refuge, Nev., the Mallard and Pintail nested in large numbers, and there was some production of Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, and Redhead (CMA). At the Farmington Bay Refuge near Salt Lake City, 300 young Redheads were counted on one pond, Aug. 12; 2 broods were in down and not over a week old, according to Lookerbie, who reported that Redheads are showing the best increase in the nesting ducks. At Ruby Lake Refuge, Nev., a census on Aug. 15 revealed 1500 Mallards, 1500 Pintail, 1500 Cinnamon Teal, 800 Redheads, 800 Ruddy Ducks, 250 Shovellers, 200 Gadwall, as well as small numbers of Am. Widgeon, Greater and Lesser Scaup, and Ring-necked Ducks (RSR). The duck nesting population and production at BRR compared favorably with previous years; a total of 434 nests were found on 10 sample plots as compared with 462 for last year. Total duck production at BRR this year is estimated at 31,500. The Am. Coot showed a marked increase at BRR this year; it is estimated that 10,500 were produced.

Vultures and Hawks.—On Aug. 15 a census at Ruby Lake Refuge, Nev., included 100 Turkey Vultures, 5 Red-tailed Hawks, 25 Marsh Hawks, and 25 Sparrow Hawks (RSR). The Marsh Hawk is the most common hawk at the Sheldon Refuge, Nev.; also present throughout the period were the Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, and Sparrow Hawk (MCA). Only one Goshawk and one Swainson's Hawk were recorded during

the period at Mesa Verde Nat'l. Park, Colo. (Don Watson). The number of breeding hawks and Golden Eagles in central Wyoming continues to diminish (OKS).

Cranes, Rails and Coots.—Twenty Sandhill Cranes were counted at the Ruby Lake Refuge, Nev., on Aug. 15 (RSR). One Sandhill Crane was at the Sheldon Antelope Refuge, Nev., during the first part of the period (CMA). Am. Coots were reported in their usual numbers throughout the Region, with an increase at BRR where 877 broods were counted.

Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns.—In central Wyoming the shorebird migration has been good. Large numbers of Baird's Sandpipers and Marbled Godwits arrived by Aug. 5; breeding populations of the Wilson's Phalarope and Am. Avocet were about the same as the previous year, but the Long-billed Curlew was not found near Casper this year (OKS). Aldous noted that the Killdeer was very abundant at Sheldon Refuge, Nev., and large numbers of Am. Avocets were at Swan Lake. Six Spotted Sandpipers were reported at Mesa Verde Nat'l. Park, Colo. (DW). California Gulls are on the increase in the Farmington Bay area, where thousands were observed on May 6 (CWL). Several Snowy Plover adults, and Black-necked Stilt and Am. Avocet nests, were observed on June 12 at Stillwater Refuge, near Fallon, Nev.; Spotted Sandpipers were seen on June 11 at Prosser Creek, Nevada Co., Calif., Stampede Valley, Sierra Co., Calif., and Derby Dam, Washoe Co., Nev., and Wilson's Phalarope at Fernley Sinks, Lyon Co., Nev. (FGE). At BRR 530 nesting pairs of Am. Avocets were counted; also 3643 California Gull nests containing 8540 eggs, 311 Forster's Tern nests, and 12 Caspian Tern nests.

Doves.—A few Mourning Doves were noted along the Carson River, Lyon Co., Nev. (FGE). At the Sheldon Refuge, Nev., the Mourning Dove is common to abundant (MCA), and at BRR, Utah, 50 were counted on Aug. 15.

Owls through Nighthawks.—One Horned Owl brood of 4 young was ready to leave nest at Sheldon Refuge, Cedarville, Calif., at beginning of the period, Poor-wills were common in the higher elevations of the Refuge, and Common Nighthawks were present throughout the period (MCA). Approximately 50 Short-eared Owls nested at the BRR. The Poor-will was present in small numbers during the period at Mesa Verde Park, Colo. (DW), and one was noted at Prosser Creek, Nevada Co., Calif., June 11 (FGE).

Passerine Birds.—At the Sheldon Antelope Refuge Horned Larks, Cliff Swallows, Rock Wrens, Am. Robins, Loggerhead Shrikes, Western Meadowlarks, Red-winged Blackbirds, Brewer's Blackbirds, Green-tailed Towhees, and Brewer's Sparrows are common summer residents. The Mountain Bluebird was common on this area until Aug. 1; the Red Crossbill was first observed during the latter part of July (CMA). Summer residents at Mesa Verde Nat'l Park, Colo., include

the Ash-throated Flycatcher, Say's Phoebe, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, House Wren, Solitary Vireo, Virginia's Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Audubon's Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Macgillivray's Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Black-capped Warbler, Bullock's Oriole, Western Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Chipping Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (DW). Evenden reported observations of the Ash-throated Flycatcher, Rock Wren, Western Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird, and Black-capped Warbler, June 13, on Carson River, Lyon Co., Nev.; Say's Phoebe and Mountain Bluebird, June 11, at Stampede Valley, Sierra Co., Calif.; Rock Wren, Western Bluebird and Yellow Warbler, June 11, at Prosser Creek, Nevada Co., Calif.; and Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Western Tanager, and Black-headed Grosbeak, June 11, at Lake Tahoe, El Dorado Co., Calif.—VANEZ T. WILSON and ROSS H. NORR, *Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Brigham, Utah*.