

arrivals; he found the average of all species was 5 days late. Sidney Hyde, reporting from Gunnison (el. 7750 ft.) in west central Colorado, had a snow storm, May 27; many of the spring migrants had not yet arrived there by June 1. Nowhere in this Region were Olive-sided Flycatchers reported by June 1, which is normal. This points out the futility of covering the entire spring migration in this issue. The altitudinal as well as latitudinal migration complicates matters further with such varied climates so close together.

*Grebes.*—For some reason there was a tremendous concentration of Eared Grebes at Bear River Marshes, according to Vanez Wilson, the refuge manager. By April 28 the count was 10,900, whereas only 226 were recorded last year. The Carson sink adjoining the Stillwater Refuge in western Nevada was flooded by the water of the 1950-51 winter, and the lake formed has been slowly drying up since. Therefore, many water birds like the Western Grebe are decreasing in numbers in that area. This is from the very excellent report from Stillwater Refuge by biologist Leroy Giles and refuge manager Chester Markley.

*Cormorants.*—From Stillwater also comes word of another inept control program by sportsmen. This time it is the Double-crested Cormorant that is being "controlled." One of the favorite feeding areas of the cormorant is the Carson River below Lahontan Dam. The Carson River supplies the Stillwater Refuge. This stretch of river was heavily stocked with hatchery trout in April. The sportsmen spent much time shooting at the cormorants to "control" them. The actual kill of cormorants was low because the birds, after being shot at, became exceedingly wary. Judging from various accounts the kill was somewhere between 70 and 250. The true figure of mortality is relatively immaterial for it is only a fraction of the local population of more than 6000 birds that range out from the nesting islands of Pyramid Lake. The actual effect of the control program was a hazing and dispersal to other feeding areas. The cormorants increased at Stillwater.

*Geese and Ducks.*—Ken McLeod of Klamath Falls in eastern Oregon reported on 5 banding returns from Lower Klamath Lake of Snow Geese and Pintails that were returned by the Russians from eastern Siberia over the past 3 years. This spring at Tule Lake they dyed some 45 Snow Geese red and 15 Ross's Geese yellow to study migration. Incidentally, the dye was in an alcoholic solution and was absorbed, causing the birds to go on a binge; but imagine having 15 Ross's Geese to dye.

The position of the ducks at Stillwater during AFN's spring of April and May is, to say the least, uncooperative, and this pattern applies to the whole of the Great Basin. The spring migration is well past its peak by April 1 and the concentration of ducks goes steadily down until late May when only 4500 were recorded at Stillwater. It then will rise for the nesting season which starts in June, much of the nesting population coming from very late arrivals. So for waterfowl in the Great Basin this is not the spring migration issue even in as late a season as this.

Clifton Greenhalgh reported a concentration of 150

**GREAT BASIN-CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.**—Spring was delayed in starting and was one of the latest on record. In Wyoming it



started to catch up in Mid-May, but elsewhere remained behind. The season was almost a month behind at Bear River Marshes at the north end of Great Salt Lake. Moisture was normal, continuing a reversal of trend which started in the winter. Don Thatcher of Denver, with more facts and figures than the rest of us, can give more exact dates on

Hooded Mergansers at Bear Lake in northeastern Utah, April 20. Charles Bryant at Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge in Southern Colorado reported a very good hatch already for the nesting ducks.

*Cranes and Coot.*—A pair of Sandhill Cranes nested at Leek's pond in Jackson Hole (Jepson). At Stillwater Refuge the peak of the Am. Coot migration was 24,000 on April 12, which dwindled to 4800 by late May. This bird has been decreasing there for 2 years. It is hoped that this decrease will continue as the population is over the food producing capacity of the marsh. Am. Coot numbers have been at such a high level that these birds have been consuming a disproportionate share of sago pond weed and other submerged aquatics. Redheads depend upon the sago to such an extent that their numbers decrease if the sago disappears. Coots do the greatest damage by eating sago in the early growth stage before it can make a crop of seed (Leroy Giles).

*Shorebirds.*—All reports indicate a very good spring migration of shorebirds. Fifty-seven Red-backed Sandpipers were seen at Stillwater on May 4; this is an uncommon bird in the Great Basin. Two Black-necked Stilts were seen at Ocean Lake in central Wyoming during May (Wyo. Aud. Soc.). The bird is common farther west, however. At Stillwater the high count for migrating dowitchers was 5000 on May 4. The Western Sandpiper's high count (30,000) was on the same day. A Sanderling was seen by Lambertsen near Rawlins, Wyo., on May 3, an unusual spring bird in Wyoming. Northern Phalaropes migrated through this whole Region in early May, as many reports indicate. After the middle of May their numbers diminished rapidly.

*Gulls and Terns.*—The Bear River Marshes recorded an increase of nesting California Gulls this year. From 4821 nests in 1954 to 6123 this season. The Caspian Tern failed to arrive at Bear River this spring where it has been a common summer resident. We presume that the season merely slowed it up. Three Black Terns were seen at Gunnison by Hyde for the first record of that region; elsewhere this species is common at lower altitudes.

*Land birds.*—Cogswell had an albino raven in Antelope Valley in central Nevada on April 10 with plumage which looked like that of a first-year Glaucous-winged Gull. The warblers were very late and there were few notable records. Three Myrtle Warblers were in Rawlins, May 9 (JL); 2 at Georgetown west of Denver, April 30 (Thatcher). A (Grinnell's) Northern Water-thrush was at Rawlins, May 26 (JL), another at Ocean Lake, May 22 (OKS); and still another at Gunnison, May 22 (Hyde). Mrs. Shaw found 10 Virginia's Warblers at Nampa in southwestern Idaho on May 29. This was her first record for the species. The Orange-crowned Warbler was characterized by its absence, being missed in central Wyoming (OKS), Durango in southwestern Colorado (Reames), and Denver (Thatcher). Western Tanagers were especially common in Durango (Reames), doubtless due to the continued winter weather to the north, as Hyde at Gunnison had not yet seen this common western bird by June 1.—DR. OLIVER K. SCOTT, 437 East 13th St., Casper, Wyo.