

During this same period I saw a pair of Ground Doves fly over the highway between Fullerton and Anaheim, and another individual was accurately described from an orange grove in another part of Anaheim. Residents in the nesting area say they have seen as many as five birds, so it is possible there are other nesting pairs.—J. H. COMBY, *Whittier, California, March 11, 1953.*

Record of the Water-thrush in Oakland, California.—On September 6, 1953, while walking through Dimond Canyon, Oakland, California, I observed a Water-thrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) feeding along the edge of the creek. The bird seemed quite unconcerned until approached to within twenty feet. It then flew to a nearby Bay Tree. Only once, while in the tree, did it utter an alarm note. It returned to the ground almost immediately and continued feeding in the company of a Song Sparrow. After several minutes, it became rather nervous and flew into a thicket. I did not see the bird again, nor was it seen again on a subsequent visit.—KENNETH SCHULZ, *Oakland, California, September 11, 1953.*

A Census of Populations of the Wilson Snipe and Sora Rail in the Yampa River Valley, Colorado.—During the spring and summer of 1953, breeding populations of the Wilson Snipe (*Capella delicata*) and the Sora Rail (*Porzana carolina*) were censused by the writer in conjunction with a waterfowl production study in the Yampa River Valley of Colorado. The Yampa Valley is a long narrow floodplain and canyon extending from headwaters on the White River Plateau to its confluence with the Green River in northwest Colorado. The valley varies from one-fourth mile in width in the canyons to about 10 miles in width shortly after its emergence onto the floodplain proper just southeast of Steamboat Springs. The water table along the entire non-canyon portion of the valley is high, and development of sedge and cattail marsh is extensive. This habitat, plus the oxbow and meandering stream areas, constitutes the waterfowl, snipe, and rail breeding grounds found in the region. The principal snipe and rail breeding grounds are situated at altitudes ranging from 6000 to 8000 feet.

Wilson Snipe were most frequently seen around flooded meadows, bogs, and willow swamps, apparently preferring the boglike areas containing dense growths of sedge (*Carex* sp.). Sora Rails were invariably found in the vicinity of small marshy areas vegetated with cattails (*Typha*) and bulrushes (*Scirpus*).

Table 1
Territorial Snipe and Rails Observed on Study Areas

Area	Approximate elevation	Snipe		Rail breeding territories
		Breeding territories	Winnowing areas	
Stillwaters	9500	....	....	....
Phippsburg	7800	13	8	5
Steamboat Springs	6800	10	6	1
Tow Creek	6600	....	....	....
Carey Ranch	6400	8	4	5
Big Bottoms	6100	....	....	....
Duffey Mountain	5800	....	....	....
Juniper Springs	5700	....	....	1
Maybell	5600	1	2	....
Lily Park	5400	....	....	....
Total		32	20	12

Snipe were first observed in the valley in mid-April, but the greatest influx of birds was recorded in the first week of May. The first rails were seen on May 18, with the peak flight occurring early in June.

Winnowing flights of snipe were observed during May, June and July, the peak of activity being in June. Those winnowing flights during the early mornings were recorded in conjunction with waterfowl brood-counts. Territorial snipe and rails listed in table 1 were flushed as the observer walked through the study areas in search of waterfowl. Snipe or rails seen repeatedly in particular locations were recorded as territorial birds.