

lected. Both birds were in full breeding plumage. On July 18, 1949, several broods of downy young were noted in the same area. Three broods for which accurate counts were obtained averaged 9.0 young. Photographs were obtained of other broods. Search failed to disclose nests in any instance, so no clutch counts were obtained.

The Ring-necked Duck appears to be a more common migrant in Colorado than formerly supposed. In the San Luis Valley proper, individuals were noted on April 14, 15, and 16, 1949, in three separate flocks of Lesser Scaup Ducks (*Aythya affinis*). J. Frank Cassel reports seeing migrant birds in the spring and fall of 1949 in the vicinity of Fort Collins, Larimer County, in the northern part of the state.

In Colorado the Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) was regarded by Sclater (*op. cit.* :4) as a rare migrant. Bailey and Niedrach (Auk, 55, 1938:119) reported an observation of 52 birds as an unusual occurrence. Niedrach and Rockwell (*op. cit.* :25) list this species as an uncommon summer resident, but cite no nesting records. Approximately 50 adult birds were regularly observed by the writer during the nesting season of 1949 on the Russell Lakes, 9 miles south of Saguache, Colorado. These shallow lakes are 7580 feet in elevation and are surrounded by extensive hard-stem bulrush marshes. Nine nests were located in one 320-acre study area, only one-third of which might be considered grebe nesting habitat. The earliest laying noted was on May 6; the earliest young, May 22. One adult male and one downy chick were collected. Pied-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps*) and Eared Grebes (*Colymbus caspicus*) also nested on this study area.

Bergtold (*op. cit.* :80) considered the White-faced Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis mexicana*) to be a rare breeder in Colorado. Sclater (*op. cit.* :77) tells of White-faced Glossy Ibis nests observed in the San Luis Valley by Aiken on July 1, 1875. In 1949, at least 12 pairs were observed nesting in the Russell Lakes study area. The first clutch was noticed on May 22; the first young, June 20. On June 22, Clyde P. Matteson and the writer banded two fledglings and made still and movie photographs of nests, young, and adults. One immature male was collected on July 22.

In recent years, the Snowy Egret (*Leucophoyx thula*) has apparently nested in increasing numbers in Colorado. Bailey and Niedrach (Condor, 40, 1938:44-45) are credited with the first record for the state, a nest found in the Denver area on July 8, 1937. In 1948, two pairs, and in 1949, six pairs, nested at Terry Lake, two miles north of Fort Collins. The writer found this species well distributed throughout the San Luis Valley, with several small colonies located on the bulrush margins of lakes and ponds. The earliest nests located on the Russell Lakes in 1949 were found early in May; the first young were seen on May 30. Twelve fledgling egrets were banded on June 22 and numerous individuals and nests were photographed in the course of the summer. One adult male was collected for a study skin.—RONALD A. RYDER, *Colorado Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Colorado Agricultural and Mechanical College, Fort Collins, Colorado, November 17, 1949.*

Xantus Murrelet Captured in a Dip Net.—In February, 1949, I had the privilege of accompanying Mr. J. W. Sefton, Jr., and several other biologists on a short cruise aboard the "Orca" to San Clemente, Los Coronados, and Todos Santos islands off the coast of southern and Baja California. Late in the afternoon of February 23 we anchored close inshore on the lee side of the southern island of the Coronados group. As soon as darkness set in we began fishing for specimens with a dip net and a shallowly submerged electric light. At about 9:45, Dr. Rolf Bolin, who was handling the dip net from the landing stage at the time, caught a rapidly swimming creature that entered the lighted area about two feet below the surface. When he brought it into the laboratory cabin, it proved to be a mature Xantus Murrelet (*Endomychura hypoleuca*). An hour or so later a second bird was caught in the same manner by another member of the party. Both birds were kept captive until the next forenoon when they were released.

The shrill, plaintive whistle of the murrelets was heard frequently throughout the night, but only the two were attracted to the light. Several others were seen swimming on the surface a few yards from the ship, but at such a distance that the submerged light had no attraction for them.—IRA L. WIGGINS, *Natural History Museum, Stanford University, California, November 26, 1949.*

Slate-colored Junco in Reno, Nevada.—During a period of abnormally cold weather from January 19 to February 13, 1949, a Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) came at frequent intervals

to eat bread crumbs at a feeding shelter at my home in Reno, Nevada. Since the ground was covered with about four inches of crusty snow, which did not melt appreciably during that time, many Oregon Juncos (*Junco oreganus*) and several English Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) fed there also. An excellent comparison could be made when both species of junco were feeding together. The Slate-colored Junco, however, would usually chase all other birds away from the shelter and eat alone while the others waited nearby. When warmer weather arrived and the snow melted, the bird was no longer seen.—NED K. JOHNSON, *Reno, Nevada, November 24, 1949.*

Late Nesting Record for the Abert Towhee.—While driving down a dirt road a few miles north of Westmorland, Imperial County, California, on September 16, 1949, we observed an Abert Towhee (*Pipilo aberti*) fly from a small mesquite tree. On examining the tree we found a towhee's nest containing four fresh eggs. The nest was four feet above the ground on an outer branch within a few feet of the road. The nest and eggs were collected and are now no. 1136 in the Cardiff Collection. Mr. W. C. Hanna of Colton, California, who has had much experience with the nesting of the Abert Towhee on the Colorado Desert, has not found them nesting this late.—EUGENE E. CARDIFF and BRUCE E. CARDIFF, *Bloomington, California, November 8, 1949.*

A Sight Record of the Knot in Colorado.—On September 6, 1941, the undersigned stopped at Barr Reservoir, Adams County, Colorado, for the purpose of observing birds. On a bar that extended into the water from the shore was a group of shore birds, mainly Greater and Lesser yellow-legs and Pectoral Sandpipers, but among them was a Knot, *Calidris canutus*. Realizing that the occurrence of this species so far inland was unusual, we carefully observed it through glasses and in good light. We noted that it retained some reddish coloration of the nuptial plumage and, when flushed, gave the characteristic note of the species. We are well acquainted with the Knot, having often observed it about the Great Lakes and along the Atlantic seaboard.

Recently, while examining the manuscript of the revised ranges of the shore birds, which is to be used in the next edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list, our attention was called to the lack of records of the Knot for Colorado. Belatedly, then, we decided to publish this sight record.—MILTON B. TRAUTMAN and MARY A. TRAUTMAN, *Stone Laboratory, Put-in-Bay, Ohio*, and H. G. DEIGNAN, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., November 15, 1949.*

The Southern Limits of the Willet's Continental Breeding Range.—Ornithologists interested in the bird life of the coast of the Gulf of Mexico probably have suspected for a long time that the Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) bred farther south than the mouth of the Rio Grande, but so far as I have been able to ascertain no breeding specimen has actually been collected on the coast of eastern Mexico until very recently. As long ago as 1863, H. E. Dresser found the species in summer about "a good-sized lagoon or pond, formerly the main bed of the river" near what was then "one end" of the town of Matamoros, Tamaulipas (Ibis, 1865:312). I believe he did not obtain breeding specimens at that particular pond, although he obtained some at Boca Grande in July. Various persons since that time have taken the bird in summer on the Texas side of the Rio Grande in the vicinity of Brownsville.

On May 9, 1949, C. Richard Robins briefly visited the Tamaulipas coast about 25 miles south of the mouth of the Rio Soto la Marina. There, in the vicinity of the village of Tepehuaje (about 80 miles north of the city of Tampico), he encountered a scattered colony of breeding Willets. He collected one specimen, a female with a fully-formed egg ready for laying. The bird was moderately fat and weighed 357 grams (including the egg). The specimen is now in my collection.

I examined this bird with considerable interest, finding it, somewhat to my surprise, to be closer to *inornatus* than to the nominate, eastern race both in size and color. Since, according to the 1931 edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list, *C. s. semipalmatus* is considered the breeding form of the Texas coast, I re-measured the Tepehuaje specimen, and compared the measurements with those of three birds (two males and a female) from Cameron County, Texas, collected in June, 1930, by H. H. Kimball. The following table presents a comparison of my findings with those of Ridgway (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 50, pt. 8, 1919:316-319).