

THE OCCURRENCE AND STATUS OF CERTAIN ANATIDS IN SOUTHERN NEVADA

GEORGE T. AUSTIN¹

Department of Biological Sciences
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109

In recent years the author has accumulated records which help to clarify the status of the less common anatids in southern Nevada. I thank the Nevada Fish and Game Department for access to their records, donation of specimens (now on deposit in the Biology Museum, University of Nevada, Las Vegas), and the opportunity to examine hunters' bags at the Overton Wildlife Management Area (OWMA) in Moapa Valley, Clark County, during the 1968-69 hunting season. I also thank C. G. Hansen and R. Wauer for access to their personal records, R. C. Banks for identification of the scoter, and D. L. Pribble for assistance in the field. All locations are in Clark County unless specified.

Whistling Swan. *Olor columbianus*. Previous records have been mainly for the northern part of the state where it winters (Alcorn 1946). Cottam (1936) and Zimmerman (1963) gave records for December and January in the south. I have records from 15 October (1968, OWMA) to 1 February (1964, OWMA) on larger bodies of water in Lincoln and Clark counties.

White-fronted Goose. *Anser albifrons*. There are several records for northern Nevada (Alcorn 1946) but only two for southern Nevada (Cottam 1936; Grater 1939). There are additional records of single birds at Corn Creek (field station of the Desert National Wildlife Range) on 8 June 1964, late September 1962, and 28 December 1964 (Hansen pers. comm.), Tule Springs Park (13 mi. NW of Las Vegas) from 16 February to 2 April 1967 and OWMA on 4 October 1964.

Snow Goose. *Chen hyperborea*. Most recent records are from the north (Alcorn 1946). In southern Nevada it is fairly common as a transient and a few winter. I have records from 4 October (1964, OWMA) to 18 April (1966, Tule Springs Park).

Ross' Goose. *Chen rossii*. The previous Nevada records are for Churchill County (Marshall and Alcorn 1952). Two birds were at OWMA on 20 November 1968 when one was shot (B-1100, male, left testis 10 × 5 mm, light fat, 1256 g). The other remained in company with seven Snow Geese until 27 November 1968. This is the first southern Nevada record.

Cinnamon Teal. *Anas cyanoptera*. I have records for every month, but mostly from early March to late May, and mid-August to mid-October. It bred on the OWMA in 1968 (Hutchinson, pers. comm.), supplementing the breeding record of Cottam (1947).

Wood Duck. *Aix sponsa*. The remains of an individual found in October (Gullion 1952) is the only previous southern Nevada record. This species has recently wintered in small numbers from 8 December (1967, Corn Creek) to 28 March (1968, Lorenzi Park, Las Vegas). A male (B-981, left testis 8 × 2 mm, moderate fat) was found dead at Corn Creek in the spring of 1966.

Canvasback. *Aythya valisineria*. This is a fairly common winter resident from early October to early April. Wauer (pers. comm.) found it present at OWMA during the summer of 1966 when a female with eight young was seen on 9 June. This is the first breeding record for southern Nevada, although it breeds in the northern part of the state (Marshall and Alcorn 1952).

Greater Scaup. *Aythya marila*. Gullion (1952) and Austin and Bradley (1966) reported the previous southern Nevada records for March and November. I have additional records for OWMA on 27 October (B-1097, female, wing preserved), 16 November (B-1098, female, ovary 16 × 6 mm, moderate fat, 628 g), and 25 December 1968 (B-1096, unsexed, wing preserved) indicating a small wintering population.

Common Goldeneye. *Bucephala clangula*. This species was present on the larger lakes in small numbers from 11 November (1964, Henderson) to 3 April (1965, Corn Creek).

Surf Scoter. *Melanitta perspicillata*. A female (B-1101, 450 g, wing preserved) was shot at OWMA on 2 November 1968. Another (B-1102, unsexed, wing preserved) was shot during the fall of 1968 at Key Pittman Wildlife Management Area in Pahrangat Valley, Lincoln County. Hayward et al. (1963) gave the previous southern Nevada records of two taken on the Nevada Test Site, Nye County, in October 1961.

Hooded Merganser. *Lophodytes cucullatus*. Gullion et al. (1959) reported a January record for southern Nevada. I have sight records of single birds on 9 November 1966 and 26 November 1967 at Tule Springs Park. Birds were examined at the OWMA on 4 December (adult male, four additional birds present in the area) and 21 December 1968 (B-1099, female, 600 g, wing preserved). A female (B-736, ovary 18 × 5 mm, moderate fat, 490 g) was taken at Key Pittman Wildlife Management area, Lincoln County, on 27 November 1966.

LITERATURE CITED

- ALCORN, J. R. 1946. The birds of Lahontan Valley, Nevada. *Condor* 48:129-138.
- AUSTIN, G. T., AND W. G. BRADLEY. 1966. Additional records for uncommon birds in southern Nevada. *Great Basin Nat.* 26:41-42.
- COTTAM, C. C. 1936. Notes on the birds of Nevada. *Condor* 38:122-123.
- COTTAM, C. C. 1947. Some bird records for southern Nevada. *Condor* 49:244.
- GRATER, R. K. 1939. New bird records for Nevada. *Condor* 41:30.
- GULLION, G. W. 1952. Recent bird records from southern Nevada. *Condor* 54:204.
- GULLION, G. W., W. M. PULICH, AND F. G. EVENDEN. 1959. Notes on the occurrence of birds in southern Nevada. *Condor* 61:278-297.
- HAYWARD, C. L., M. L. KILLPACK, AND G. L. RICHARDS. 1963. Birds of the Nevada Test Site. *Brigham Young Univ. Sci. Bull., Biol. Ser.* 3:1-28.
- MARSHALL, D. B., AND J. R. ALCORN. 1952. Additional Nevada bird records. *Condor* 54:320-321.
- ZIMMERMAN, D. A. 1963. Winter season, southwest region. *Audubon Field Notes* 17:347-349.

¹ Present address: Department of Biological Sciences, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721.