

GENERAL NOTES

Grebe-Duck Nesting Parasitism.—During a waterfowl nesting study on Swan Lake in Bannock County, Idaho, an unusual instance of social parasitism in nesting was observed.

On June 15, 1951, when it was first found, a typical grebe nest contained three eggs of a Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) and two eggs of a Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*). The eggs of the Western Grebe were darkly stained, and those of the Pied-billed Grebe exhibited much of the chalky blue color that is characteristic of newly-laid eggs of this species. On the basis of this difference in condition, it was concluded that the Pied-billed Grebe was not the owner of the nest. Contrary to the exposed situation of the eggs in other Western Grebe nests on the study area, all eggs in the parasitized nest were partly covered with vegetation.

Two days later, Dr. Jessop B. Low observed the nest. By this time, an egg of the Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) had been added. The duck egg had been deposited on top of the vegetation which covered the grebe eggs.

On June 22 when the nest was again visited, the Ruddy Duck egg was gone without a trace.

The dry appearance of the nest indicated that it had been abandoned, but it was not until July 13 that the eggs were opened. The Western Grebe eggs had been incubated for several days before being abandoned, but those of the Pied-billed Grebe were either infertile or had not been incubated.—KEN WOLF, *Utah State Wildlife Research Unit, Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, Utah.*

The Tule Goose (*Anser albifrons gambelli*), Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*), and Mottled Duck (*Anas fulvigula maculosa*) Added to the List of the Birds of Mexico.—As the recently published 'Distributional Check-List of the Birds of Mexico' (Friedmann, Griscom, and Moore, 1950) does not include mention of the Tule Goose, Blue Goose, or Mottled Duck, it seems desirable to report the following records from the files of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

During the period December 13, 1950, to February 3, 1951, I was engaged in waterfowl investigations in the vicinity of Ciudad Obregon, Sonora. White-fronted Geese were common. Their numbers ranged from more than 8,000 during late December to about 6,000 in mid-January. Many were shot by visiting hunters from the United States, and in looking at several of the bags of these geese I was impressed by the larger size of some specimens. One specimen of the larger individuals, but not the largest seen, was obtained on January 18, in addition to heads from two others. Dr. Alden H. Miller, in commenting on the specimens sent to him for identification, wrote, "I am willing to call your specimen from Obregon and specimen number two, the head, *gambelli*, although I wish that a more decisive complete specimen, non-intermediate, were available."

The Blue Goose has been recorded in coastal areas of Tamaulipas more or less regularly by me each winter since 1938. Of those seen, most were with Lesser Snow Geese on the deltas of the Rio Grande and the Rio San Fernando. A few were also observed with Lesser Snow Geese on grassy flats west of Tampico.

On the midwinter waterfowl-inventory flights conducted annually by the Fish and Wildlife Service, Robert H. Smith and David L. Spencer recorded totals of 125 and 193 Blue Geese in 1948 and 1949, respectively, among the several thousand Snow Geese present on salt marshes and lagoons of northeastern Tamaulipas. In January, 1951, Walter Crissey and John Ball recorded no Blue Geese in Tamaulipas, but they reported 10 among the Snow Geese observed near Laguna Tamiahua, Veracruz. In