

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

the state of Veracruz, some Blue Geese have been recorded in marshes at the southern end of Laguna Tamiahua; 37 were observed by me among flocks of Lesser Snow Geese in the Papaloapan sector on January 23, 1947.

During January, 1951, Mr. Wiebe of Cuauhtemoc, Chihuahua, an experienced goose hunter and long-time resident of that locality, reported to Mr. George Engleheart of Chihuahua City the killing of a Blue Goose from a flock of Snow Geese. His description of the Blue Goose was accurate in every detail.

The sector near Cuauhtemoc is a famous goose-wintering ground. On February 16, 1947, I estimated a total of 38,260 Snow Geese present on lakes and flats west and northwest of the city of Chihuahua, which area includes two lakes near Cuauhtemoc. Thus, it is not surprising that an occasional Blue Goose accompanies them to this important wintering ground on the Mexican plateau.

The Mottled Duck has been shot by many hunters in coastal marshes and ponds on the Gulf coast near Brownsville, Texas. It is equally common across the Rio Grande in similar marshes and ponds of Tamaulipas. I first observed it in Tamaulipas in 1937, east and southeast of Matamoros on the Arroyo Pita and Arroyo Gomeno.

On a reconnaissance trip from Matamoros southward along the coast to Tamiahua, Veracruz, on February 2 to 4, 1938, I recorded 245. Most were seen in the fresh-water marshes west of Tampico, Tamaulipas.

Since then I have observed the Mottled Duck regularly in that part of Mexico, both during the winter and in the breeding season. No nests were found, but adults with broods of young were recorded occasionally at coastal ponds east of Matamoros from April through June. On a trip to the Rio San Fernando delta, Tamaulipas, July 24 to 26, 1941, I observed two family groups of adults and month-old juveniles. Three other broods of young were seen at Altamira, near Tampico, on July 30, 1941. Localities in Tamaulipas where I have observed this duck during the breeding season are: Matamoros, San Juan (near Laguna San Juan), Tomates, Mogote Largo, Loma Chica, Arroyo de la Pita, Arroyo Gomeno, Anacahuities, a dozen others east and southeast of Matamoros, the vicinity of Barra Jesus Maria, the delta of the Rio San Fernando, Rio Tordo, and Rio Tigre or Cachimbas, the Laguna de San Andres, and near Tampico.

No large numbers have been observed together. To date, the largest flock recorded was one of 16 observed at a fresh-water pond near Anacahuities, a ranch near the north end of Laguna Madre. During the aerial reconnaissance made each January as a part of the Fish and Wildlife Service waterfowl inventory, several hundred Mottled Ducks were seen in the localities listed.

In the state of Veracruz I have recorded this duck in the winter at marshes near the village of Tamiahua, near Tuxpan, near the city of Veracruz, and in several places in the vast delta of the Rio Papaloapan, south of Alvarado.

There is a specimen (No. 419794) in the Fish and Wildlife Service collection taken by me on December 2, 1949, near Tampico, Tamaulipas.—GEORGE B. SAUNDERS, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia.*

A Record of the Green-winged Teal (*Anas carolinensis*) from Puerto Rico.—The Green-winged Teal is a rare winter migrant to the West Indies. It has been recorded from Cuba, Hispaniola, Jamaica, St. Croix, St. Vincent, the Grenadines, Grenada, Barbados, and the Bahamas.

In 1951, the hunting season for ducks began in Puerto Rico on December 15. The second day of the season a Green-winged Teal was collected in the Anegado Lagoon near the town of Lajas, Puerto Rico. The specimen was brought for identification