Birds of the Upper Colorado River Basin

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BIRDS OF THE UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN

by

C. LYNN HAYWARD

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BIRDS OF THE UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN

by

C. Lynn Hayward*

INTRODUCTION

In 1958 the first of a proposed series of papers on the Zoology of the Upper Colorado River Basin was produced (Hayward, Beck, and Tanner, Brigham Young Univ. Sci. Bull., Biol. Ser. 1(3):1-74) in which the general ecological features of the area were described and a checklist of the known land vertebrates was published. It was proposed in that paper that additional reports would be forthcoming on the several animal groups of the area as information and time would permit.

The present paper is designed to bring up to date information we have been able to gather on the birdlife of the Upper Colorado Basin. During the interim since the last paper, certain important physical and biotic changes have been effected in the basin which seem to have resulted in important changes in the avifauna.

Not the least important of these alterations is the creation of several large and many small reservoirs which have already produced important changes, especially in the aquatic and shorebird populations.

Evidence at hand indicates that the Colorado River and Green River have always served as important migratory routes for waterfowl and shorebirds, as well as smaller passerine birds. Twomey (1942) and his associates, who made their observations some 30 years ago in the Uinta Basin area, reported nearly all of the kinds of these groups now known to occur there either as transients or breeding residents. However, in Twomey's time and prior to the development of numerous reservoirs, particularly in the Uinta Basin, waterfowl depended almost entirely on the river and larger tributaries for resting and feeding while shorebirds worked along the sandy or muddy shores or on the limited floodplains of the streams.

Suitable nesting grounds for ducks were limited to a few small marshes near the mouths of some of the tributaries. With continued development of aquatic habitats in many parts of the basin, the status of the waterfowl and shorebirds throughout the entire area has changed materially over the past several years and should continue to improve as the newly created lakes and reservoirs become better established.

A number of species considered by Twomey to be transients only or casual visitors in the Uinta Basin are now well established as breeding species. These include the Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Forster's Tern, Black Tern, Willet, Avocet, and Black-necked Stilt. Owing to more extensive and favorable nesting areas now available, the population of breeding ducks has expanded considerably in recent years. Twomey found only two breeding colonies of Yellow-headed Blackbirds in the Uinta Basin, with the principal colony being at Ashley Creek marshes. There are now large, additional colonies established at Pelican Lake and Montez Reservoir and at other sites throughout the basin.

The kinds of birds inhabiting the Upper Colorado River Basin have been rather well known for some time, although new records appear as fieldwork continues. For those interested in taxonomy on the subspecies level there may be some problems in clinal distribution through the extent of this large area. The presence of several rather isolated mountain ranges may also present problems of subspecific variation in certain resident species.

No attempt is to be made here to review all of the publication on upper basin birds, although the writer has attempted to prepare a fairly complete bibliography of the area. The earlier works of Twomey (1942) on the birds of the Uinta Basin and of Woodbury and Russell (1945) on the birds of the Navajo country have proved to be very valuable. In addition to these, the papers of Behle (1941, 1948, 1958a, 1958b, 1959, 1960) dealing directly with Upper Colorado Basin birds have been very useful sources. Several earlier writers published lists from portions of the basin in New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming. These include Copeland (1920), Fuller and Bole (1930), Gilman (1907), Knight (1902), Rockwell (1908), Warren (1908, 1909). The recent two-volume work of Bailey and Niedrach (1965) on the birds of Colorado has added considerably to our knowl-

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edge of the birds of western Colorado, although most of their records are for the Rocky Mountains and eastward.

The writer’s own observations on the birdlife of the Upper Colorado River Basin have been mostly in the Utah portion of it with more general observations in other parts of the area. Part of the information on which this paper is based has come from the notes and published papers of my colleagues at Brigham Young University. I am especially indebted to Merlin L. Killpack, who has furnished much valuable information especially on the winter birds of the Uinta Basin and has published some notes on that area (Killpack, 1958; Hayward and Killpack, 1953, 1952, 1951). Herbert H. Frost and Joseph R. Murphy have kept records of birds seen by them on frequent trips to the Colorado River south of Moab. D. Elden Beck has led several expeditions into south-central Utah and has given me full access to his notes. Through the kindness of Robert G. Bee I also have access to an unpublished list of birds recorded by Mildred E. Baker, a member of the Buffalo, New York, Audubon Society, while on a trip down the Green and Colorado Rivers from Green River, Wyoming, to Lake Mead from June 20 to August 23, 1940.

An account of some of the early explorations in the Upper Colorado River Basin, as well as a detailed statement of the work of Brigham Young University personnel in the area, has been published (Hayward, Beck, and Tanner, 1958). Fieldwork on the part of this writer has continued since that time with special emphasis being placed on the waterbirds and shorebirds.

With the completion of large dams on the Colorado River and its tributaries and the formation of extensive lakes, notably Lake Powell and the Flaming Gorge Reservoir, vast new areas have become accessible to the general public. Several national monuments in the basin have steadily grown in popularity and the new Canyonlands National Park has recently been created.

All of these facilities will doubtlessly combine to produce one of the very great recreational areas and tourist attractions in the country within the next few years. The impact that this influx of humanity may have upon the biotic community cannot entirely be foreseen, but it is certain that many visitors will be interested in knowing something about the wildlife that they see about them. Our previous paper (op. cit., 1958) may be of interest in that respect, since there are diagrams showing the community relationships of some of the more common mammals, reptiles, and birds. It is hoped that the present paper, dealing in more detail with birds, may prove to be of some value to the general public as well as to those interested in the more technical aspects of the ornithology of the area.

The plan of the paper is to present first of all a picture of the birdlife of the principal habitats found in the Upper Colorado River Basin for the benefit of those who may visit the streams and reservoirs, the open plains and desert country, or the canyon lands. An account is also given of the seasonal aspects of bird populations in the area. In these parts of the paper the birds will be referred to by the common names as proposed in the Fifth Edition (1957) of the A.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds.

Following the more or less popular account will be an annotated list of the kinds of birds known to the writer from the area. The nomenclature in this list follows the several volumes of Peters’ Birds of the World insofar as that work has been completed to the present time. For those families lacking in that treatise, the A.O.U. Checklist is, for the most part, used as the authority. No attempt is made to cite all the published records, except in cases where I have not observed the birds directly, or where their occurrence is rare. Subspecific names, in the main, are included principally on the basis of the known distribution of the several forms rather than on a critical study of museum specimens since in most cases we lack sufficient series to permit such a study.

The account given pertains to birds living in the basin floor and foothills and does not include those of the montane forests and alpine that rim the basin, except for those montane species that are known to winter at lower elevations or pass through as migrants. In terms of our previous report (1958) on the upper basin the present paper includes the resident and transient birds found in the cottonwood-willow-tamarisk floodplain, northern desert shrub, and piñon-Juniper woodland communities along with the several types of aquatic communities found therein.

The writer has rather little firsthand information on the birds of the upper reaches of the San Juan River in New Mexico, the Dolores, Gunnison, Colorado, White and Yampa Rivers in Colorado, and the Green River in Wyoming. It has been necessary to rely mostly on the literature for information on the birds of those areas.
Fig. 1. Drainage system and geographical provinces of the Upper Colorado River Basin.
BIRD HABITATS OF THE UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN

As stated previously the cottonwood-willow-tamarisk, northern desert shrub, and pinon-juniper woodland in a broad sense constitute the land communities of the Upper Colorado River Basin. In a consideration of the birds of the area the aquatic communities should be added. These include the rivers and their major tributaries, of which many cross the basin, and the reservoirs, several of which have been impounded in comparatively recent years. The latter are no less important to waterfowl and shorebirds than they are to fish; and will, no doubt, under proper management become more important as time goes on. In the following account it is the aim to discuss the more common birds likely to be encountered by interested visitors to the area. With the aid of any of several good field guides to birds, especially A Field Guide to Western Birds (Houghton-Mifflin Company, Boston, 1961), an interested person should be able to easily identify many of the larger birds, at least, that are more likely to be seen in the several habitats; and the habitats themselves are not difficult to recognize.

BIRDS OF THE FLOWING STREAMS AND THEIR BORDERS

An examination of a map of the upper basin (Fig. 1) impresses one with the numerous streams that arise in the bordering mountains and pass through the lower elevations of the basin. The Green River, which receives many of these tributaries, flows southward from its origin in the high mountains rimming the northern part of the Green River Basin Province to its union with the Colorado River in southeastern Utah. These two large streams join together near the upper limits of the newly created Lake Powell.

Throughout much of their courses these two streams and some of their larger tributaries flow at a rather slow rate through fairly level country; but in places, especially where they pass through canyon country, there are rapids of considerable magnitude. In the slower portions of the streams most any of the water birds are likely to be seen in small flocks or as individuals. The Canada Goose is one of the most common species and family groups consisting of a pair, and their young are often seen in summer. Certain species of ducks more likely to inhabit rivers include the Red-breasted and Common Mergansers and the Common Goldeneye.

In certain areas small, quiet estuaries occur near the main stream, forming small ponds that may or may not remain connected with the river. If these ponds are fairly stable, emergent vegetation and other aquatic plants may become established forming a suitable habitat for several kinds of dabbling ducks including the Mallard, Pintail, and Cinnamon Teal. Coots are also frequent inhabitants of these ponds. Around the borders of the ponds as well as along the sandy banks of the streams themselves several kinds of wading birds and shorebirds may occur. The Great Blue Heron is one of the more common of these and the Killdeer and Spotted Sandpiper are also frequently seen. Most any of the transient shorebirds as well as casual visitors may be found in April and May and again in late July, August, and September resting on the banks or feeding in shallow water. These include such species as the Solitary Sandpiper, Least and Western Sandpipers, Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, and California and Ring-billed Gulls. The Dipper is sometimes seen on rocks bordering the stream or in midstream, especially in tributaries where there are rapids.

BIRDS OF THE RESERVOIRS AND MARSHES

Probably all of the reservoirs (some are called lakes) to be found in the basin are of artificial origin designed to produce electric power or for the irrigation of adjacent land. Incidental to this, but of considerable importance, is their use for purposes of recreation. Certain ones of these, for example the Stewart Lake Refuge near Jensen, Utah, have been created solely for the protection and propagation of waterfowl.

The value of these bodies of water in relation to the birdlife of the area is yet to be determined since many of them have only recently been formed. Owing to the fluctuation in water level in these reservoirs from season to season and from year to year, the establishment of stable habitats for the nesting and feeding needs of waterfowl is not likely to be very successful. At the present time two sorts of aquatic communities occur in the upper basin. The larger reservoirs such as Lake Powell and Flaming Gorge are newly formed and their usefulness to waterfowl is limited mainly as places of temporary refuge and rest for transient birds. As time goes on, certain shallow bays of these reservoirs, provided they enjoy some degree of stability in water level, should develop emergent vegetation and increase the availability of food and cover which is now almost entirely lacking.
Fig. 2. Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah. This shallow lake, which is artificially formed, is rich in animal and plant food and is a favored feeding area for spring, summer, and autumn migrating shore-birds and waterfowl. Photo by C. L. Hayward.

Fig. 3. Avocets feeding at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah, May 15, 1966. Photo by C. L. Hayward.
A second type of aquatic habitat is seen in smaller ponds and reservoirs, of which there are many of a variety of sizes and in several stages of development. A good example of this type is seen in a shallow body of water in Uintah County, Utah, known as Pelican Lake. This lake is rapidly developing into an important area for a variety of waterfowl, wading birds, and shorebirds. While there is considerable fluctuation in its shoreline it supports an excellent growth of submerged and floating vegetation, and emergent plants are beginning to come in around its borders. Animal and plant food available to the birds is in abundance. The lake is rather isolated and seems to be little disturbed during the critical breeding season.

A description of the birdlife at Pelican Lake is herein used as an example of what the visitor would be likely to see during the open-water season at a fairly well-established lake or reservoir in the Upper Basin. In the open water of the lake, the Western Grebe and Eared Grebe are common throughout the summer as is the American Coot. Almost all kinds of ducks found in the general area may be seen there at times during the summer. The more common of these include the Mallard, Pintail, Gadwall, Cinnamon, Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal, and Shoveler. Canada Geese also utilize the open water of the lake, especially in later summer and autumn. The California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Franklin’s Gull, Forster’s Tern, and Black Tern rest and feed on the open water; and the last two species nest in the area.

Around the borders of the lake the Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, and White-faced Ibis occur in small numbers. Common summer-resident shorebirds include the American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Willet, and Killdeer. A variety of migrant shorebirds stop in May and late summer to feed on the abundant aquatic life around the shallow borders. These include the Least and Western Sandpipers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson’s and Northern Phalaropes, Sanderlings, and Baird’s Sandpiper. The Black-bellied Plover and Semipalmated Plover are also frequently seen and the Golden Plover appears rarely.

Long-billed Marsh Wrens, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, and Red-winged Blackbirds nest in the emergent vegetation around the borders; and several kinds of swallows, especially Cliff Swallows, feed on the abundant midges over the water and shores. The Common Nighthawk also concentrates its feeding in a similar way. Wintering Water Pipits feed along the shore close to the water or even in the water itself in early spring and late fall. Horned Larks, common in surrounding deserts, feed on insects from the surface of the water.

**BIRDS OF THE COTTONWOOD-WILLOW-TAMERISK**

Bordering most of the streams, both large and small, there is usually a woodland zone of trees and taller shrubs. In places where walls of rock rise abruptly from the stream this border is lacking or very narrow. In other places where there is a small but distinct floodplain small groves of trees or sometimes single trees occur. In side canyons adjacent to the streams, the woodland or a dense growth of shrubs may occur wherever there is a small tributary or a little water seepage. This latter type is particularly characteristic of the canyon country of the Colorado Plateau Province. In the broader valleys or plains, especially in the northern parts of the basin, there may be a fairly wide zone of woodland with groves of cottonwoods predominant. The lower and wetter parts of these are frequently used as pasture lands where the higher alluvial soils are usually under cultivation. Small towns or ranches occur at intervals in these areas. In many places the cultivation of the land and the institution of irrigation have resulted in the expansion of trees and shrubs beyond their natural limits along the streams. This results in additional habitat areas that are no doubt advantageous to many kinds of smaller birds.

From the point of view of the number of birds, these floodplain woodlands support the richest avifauna of any of the habitats of the upper basin. Not only is there an important breeding population of birds, but this community serves as a vital passageway for many migrating species. The availability of some cover and food also makes it an important habitat for wintering species.

The birdlife of the floodplain woodlands may be described by dealing with the several habitat niches occupied by the more common species. While many of these niches overlap, the principal ones are exemplified by (1) birds depending on holes in trees for nesting sites and feeding from the trunks and limbs of trees or larger shrubs; (2) birds using holes as nesting and roosting sites but feeding elsewhere; (3) birds using the branches of trees as nesting sites but feeding elsewhere; (4) species using limbs and branches as nesting sites and feeding from foliage of the trees; (5) transient species feeding from the foliage; (6) species using the
Fig. 4. Cottonwood-willow-tamarisk woodland (riparian) community partially put to agricultural use near Fruita, Wayne County, Utah. Photo by D E. Beck.

Fig. 5. Small agricultural community of Henrieville, Garfield County, Utah, surrounded by desert shrub and cliff habitats. Photo by C. L. Hayward.
trees as roosting or lookout sites but feeding and nesting elsewhere; (7) birds using the shrubby vegetation for cover and nesting, and feeding either from the shrubs themselves or from the ground nearby; (8) transient and wintering species using the shrubs for refuge and sometimes feeding from them; (9) primarily ground-dwelling species using the trees principally for refuge or roosting; (10) birds of open fields and pasturlands often using fence posts, utility posts, or nearby trees and shrubs for perching.

In areas along the streams where the floodplains are rather broad, groves of cottonwoods and other trees, some of which are dead but still standing, afford nesting and roosting sites for several species of birds that feed also from the trunks and branches of the trees. The Red-shafted Flicker is one of the more common of these although this species also frequently feeds on the ground. Several other woodpeckers are also present including Lewis' Woodpecker and occasionally the Red-headed Woodpecker, both of which occur on the floodplains of the Green River. Along the upper reaches of the Green River and its tributaries the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is very common nesting in the stream woodlands. Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers are also present. The Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and House Wren would also be included in this category.

Several kinds of birds utilize holes in the trees for nesting and roosting but do not feed directly from the trees. The Screech Owl and Pygmy Owl would be examples. The recently invading Starling, the Tree Swallow, and the Mountain Bluebird as well as the Sparrow Hawk would also be representative of this group. The Sparrow Hawk is very conspicuous along most of the waterways of the upper basin, but this species also nests commonly in the canyon ledges.

Many species use limbs and smaller branches as nesting sites but obtain most or all of their food elsewhere. These include several species of hawks and owls such as the Red-tailed Hawk, the Goshawk, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned
Hawk, and Long-eared Owl. A number of the flycatchers such as the Western and Cassin's Kingbirds, Eastern Kingbird, and Western Wood Pewee would also come under this category. Several of the other passerine species construct their nests in trees but feed principally elsewhere. Included in this group would be the Common Crow, especially in the Green River Basin Province; the Black-billed Magpie; and the Robin. A few species use the limbs as nesting sites and gain most of their food from the trees themselves. The Yellow Warbler, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Bullock's Oriole, and Black-headed Grosbeak are representative.

Many of the transient small birds follow along the wooded floodplains in spring and autumn and feed from the foliage. Several species of warblers, the most conspicuous being Audubon's Warbler, may be seen at appropriate seasons. Wilson's Warbler is also common, especially in spring and fall as is also the Western Tanager. These last two species also frequently feed in tall, shrubby vegetation. Several thrushes, including Swainson's Thrush and the Hermit Thrush, often appear as transients.

A few species use the floodplain trees as lookout or roosting sites only. An example would be seen in the case of the Common Nighthawk. These birds frequently roost by day on horizontal limbs of the trees where they are very inconspicuous. Sometimes the dead or even living trees are utilized as roosting sites by the Turkey Vulture, which is seen in small flocks or singly roosting by night on such trees. These birds usually nest in caves.

The tall, shrubby vegetation growing in association with the larger trees on the floodplains affords a habitat for many birds. These shrubs include several kinds of willows, and the tamarisk, alder, birch, squawberry, and hawthorn. Most of the birds that nest in this habitat feed in part at least from the ground. The Song Sparrow is perhaps the most common but the Scrub Jay, Traill's Flycatcher, Yellowthroat (near water), Yellow-breasted Chat, Catbird, Rufous-sided Towhee, Green-tailed Towhee, Brewer's Blackbird, and Black-chinned Hum-
mingbird are also present. In the more southern parts of the basin the Blue Grosbeak and Mockingbird are often seen in this habitat. In winter and during migration a number of species utilize the shrubs for refuge or as a source of food. Perhaps the most conspicuous of these would be the flocks of White-crowned Sparrows and Juncos that feed principally on the ground but use the shrubs for cover and refuge.

A few kinds of birds are principally ground dwellers and utilize the trees and shrubs for temporary refuge or roosting. The Mourning Dove is in large part a ground dweller, but it also nests in trees or shrubs and uses the latter for perching. The Ring-necked Pheasant, California Quail, and Gambel's Quail nest on the ground, but may roost or seek refuge in the taller vegetation. A few passerine birds including the Green-tailed and Rufous-sided Towhees often nest on the ground and feed there.

The natural pastures and cultivated fields of the floodplains representing more open habitats are frequently used as feeding grounds and even nesting places for many of the woodland dwelling birds. The Western Meadowlark nests on the ground in the pastures and fields but frequently perches on posts or trees. Robins, Brewer's Blackbird, Starling, Common Crow, and Magpie are birds most commonly seen feeding in the open areas. The Savannah Sparrow is also a common pastureland bird.

**BIRDS OF THE DESERT SHRUB AND CANYON HABITATS**

The desert shrub communities occupy the higher and drier ground where the only natural source of moisture is the precipitation that falls as rain or snow. The greater part of this moisture comes in fall and winter. In the Green River Basin Province the general aspect of the country is less rugged with flat or rolling country and low hills broken only by streams. While some of the land is being used for dry farming most of it is utilized for grazing of livestock and much of it is overgrazed. Sagebrush is the predominant shrub in this area.

The desert shrub communities of the Uinta Mountains Province occupy a relatively small area in the Uinta Basin of Utah and extend eastward into Colorado principally along the drainage of the White River. A considerable amount of the land in the Uinta Basin of Utah has been

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Fig. 8. Devil's Garden area in Arches National Monument, Grand County, Utah, showing monument-like rock formations with desert shrub and scattered pinyon-juniper communities. Photo by D. E. Beck.
developed for agriculture at lower elevations and contains many of the elements of the floodplain woodland avifauna. The foothills on either side of it and the plains to the eastward support several types of desert shrub communities. In some areas there are barren badlands with scarcely any vegetation at all, and in other sections the streams have cut deep canyons resulting in an uneven and broken country where there is much exposed rock.

The Colorado Plateau Province presents a strikingly different picture with respect to the appearance of the desert shrub communities. While there are some rather extensive plains where shadscale, sagebrush, or other shrubs occur in a more or less unbroken expanse, much of the country is extremely rugged with numerous deep canyons, sheer rock walls, tumbled rock masses, and spires of rock standing in open country. The shrubby vegetation occupies narrow ledges and dry valleys in patches of variable size, consisting of a variety of species depending upon the nature of the soil and other factors.

Birds that live in the shrub communities are comparatively few in kinds but may be abundant as individuals. The particular kinds that occur throughout the upper basin seem to be somewhat limited by the gradient in climate from one end of the basin to the other—perhaps more so than the birds of other habitats so far discussed.

In the sagebrush plains country, particularly in Wyoming and northwestern Colorado, the Sage Grouse was formerly the most conspicuous and spectacular bird. Under protection these birds are still fairly common in certain areas. They are naturally strictly birds of open country depending on their protective colors and the shrubby habitat. In April the males appear in breeding plumage in flocks on favored strutting grounds where mating takes place and the females then nest in the near vicinity. Usually these birds tend to concentrate around springs and small streams and their numbers appear to be greater than they actually are, considering the extent of the surrounding country.

Other common birds of the desert shrub include the Vesper Sparrow, Brewer’s Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, Black-throated
Fig. 10. Typical desert wash near Moab, Grand County, Utah; dry except at times of irregular flooding. Sparse desert shrub in adjacent areas. La Sal Mountains in background. Photo by D E. Beck.

Fig. 11. Sagebrush plains near Kanab, Kane County, Utah, typical of much of the flat, open country of the Upper Colorado River Basin. Photo by D E. Beck.
Sparrow, and Green-tailed Towhee. The Vesper Sparrow is particularly characteristic of the sagebrush communities of Wyoming and Colorado while the Black-throated Sparrow is the most conspicuous species in the warmer southern portions of the basin.

The Sage Thrasher is very characteristic over the entire upper basin and the Mockingbird is found rather commonly especially in greasewood and tall sage communities of the southern part. The Common Nighthawk and the Poor-will nest usually on low exposed ridges, but the former species may roost in trees. Burrowing Owls occur especially in prairie dog towns or where there is an abundance of ground squirrels. Say's Phoebe is frequently seen in desert shrub communities where it perches on the taller shrubs, but there are usually old buildings or rocky ledges available to serve as nesting sites. The Loggerhead Shrike is another characteristic species of the desert shrub communities.

Possibly the most widespread and common bird of the desert shrub is the Horned Lark. This species is often seen in large flocks most of the year, especially along roadways and in more open country where the shrubs are lower in growth form and more scattered. In winter Horned Larks appear in immense flocks where food is exposed and such flocks may also contain a few other species including the Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting. Flocks of Juncos and White-crowned Sparrows also appear in the desert shrub during the winter.

The sheer cliffs, rock piles, and spires so characteristic of the canyon lands country of the Colorado Plateau afford nesting and lookout sites for a unique group of birds. Several of the hawks that occur in the area may use the cliffs and spires for such purposes. These include the Golden and Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Prairie Falcon, and Sparrow Hawk. The Raven is another common species that nests in the canyon ledges. Both the White-throated Swift and the Black Swift (the latter apparently more common at higher elevations) use crevices in the high cliffs as nesting and roosting sites. Cliff Swallows frequently occur in nesting colonies and build their mud nests under overhanging ledges. The Rock Wren and Canyon Wren are common inhabitants of rock piles. A few species sometimes use the cliffs as nesting sites, although they may also nest elsewhere. These include the House Finch, Say's Phoebe, and the Broad-tailed Hummingbird.

BIRDS OF THE PINYON-JUNIPER WOODLAND

The Pinyon-Juniper Woodland is particularly well represented in the Uinta Mountains and Colorado River Provinces. It occupies somewhat higher elevations than the desert shrub communities and appears on foothills or on low plateaus. In certain areas it is broken into small segments or patches by canyons or washes, but
on more even terrace it occurs as extensive and continuous forests.

Owing to the desert condition of this community and the uniform vegetation, bird life is comparatively sparse. However, the few species that do occur there are very distinctive. The Pinyon Jay is perhaps the most common and conspicuous species. It appears mostly as loose flocks passing through an area and stopping to feed for brief periods in the trees or on the ground. Sometimes long strings of the jays will fly over, calling as they go. The Scrub Jay is also found in this community, although less commonly than the Pinyon Jay.

Several kinds of small passerine birds are very characteristic of the Pinyon-Juniper. These include the Plain Titmouse, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Bewick’s Wren, Gray Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Gray Vireo, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Hairy Woodpecker.

Fig. 13. Pinyon-juniper-yellow pine habitat near Flaming Gorge, Daggett Co., Utah. Photo by D E. Beck.

SEASONAL ASPECTS OF BIRD POPULATIONS

The large area covered by the Upper Colorado River Basin extends over a north-south distance of about eight degrees of latitude and presents a considerable range of climatic conditions. Most of the Green River Basin Province lies above 6,000 feet in elevation. The Uinta Mountains Province ranges between 5,000 and 6,000 feet. Much of the Colorado Plateau Province is above 5,000 feet, but extends a few hundred feet below that along the rivers in the southern parts of the province.

Winters in the Green River Basin Province are long and severe, often with long periods of sub-zero temperatures and cold winds over the open country. In years of normal precipitation snow accumulates and covers the ground for an extended period, and most of the lakes and streams freeze over. Summers are short and cool, and freezing temperatures are not uncommon even in midsummer.

The Uinta Mountains Province is characterized by extremes of climate. Winters are long
and cold with frequent sub-zero temperatures. Summer’s daytime temperatures are hot with the maximum ranging into the 90’s and above. Nights, however, are usually cool.

Southward in the Colorado Plateau Province the winter climate is somewhat more mild. Snow falls, but usually does not stay for long periods, and in the canyon bottoms where there is protection from the wind and where there is some reflection of the sun’s heat from the canyon walls, winter conditions are rather pleasant. The summers in this province are hot and dry, and while the nights are usually cool, there is rarely any frost at this season.

Precipitation comes to the upper basin mainly in the winter months from November through March. Summer days are usually fair, but in late summer and early fall there may be rather regular but localized thunder showers, especially in the mountain ranges and within the basin. These showers do not always reach the lowlands, but their effects may be seen in flash floods that sweep along the desert washes from the higher elevations.

The winter aspect of bird populations in the upper basin varies considerably from one end of it to the other. In the Green River Basin Province where snow normally lies on the ground for a long period of time, the winter aspect continues roughly from the first of October until the first of May. During this period ducks and geese inhabit the area as long as there is any open water, but largely disappear from it in the dead of winter when most of the water bodies are frozen over. The principal winter inhabitants, therefore, consist of the permanent residents such as owls, some hawks, magpies, woodpeckers, and chickadees, horned larks, and starlings.

In addition to these permanent residents a number of species that breed in surrounding mountains or farther north may be found in winter populations inhabiting the Green River Basin Province. These include Steller’s Jay, Townsend’s Solitaire, Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, several kinds of juncos, Pine Siskin, Tree Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Lapland Longspur, and Snow Bunting. All of these birds are rather well adapted to severe winter conditions and are able to gain a food supply as predators, scavengers, tree feeders, or from the seeds of plants that may be exposed and available above the snow. However, prolonged blizzards, unusually deep snow, and long periods of exposure to sub-zero temperatures often make winter habitation extremely hazardous.

In the Uinta Mountains Province wintering conditions for the birds are similar to those mentioned above although they may be shortened by a few weeks, especially in autumn. There is likely to be somewhat less snowfall, and the ground may be exposed longer for the advantage of the ground-feeding species.

The Colorado Plateau Province is still more advantageous to wintering birds. Not only is food more available during the winter, but the lower elevations along the rivers and the protection afforded by the broken nature of the country provide more favorable conditions for a variety of wintering species. Large flocks of juncos, pine siskins, goldfinches, and western bluebirds occur. Several species inhabiting Pinyon-Juniper are present including the Pinion Jay, Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse, and Common Bushtit.

In the Colorado Plateau Province most of the streams and some of the ponds and estuaries remain open throughout the winter. Some of the ducks, including the Common Goldeneye, Mallard, and Common Merganser, are found there throughout the winter. The Common Snipe, Killdeer, and Water Pipit also remain around small open ponds and estuaries. A few species of birds unable to withstand the winters of the more northern provinces may winter in the southern parts of the Colorado Plateau Province. These include the Turkey Vulture, Sparrow Hawk, Mountain Bluebird, and Mourning Dove.

Throughout most of the Upper Colorado River Basin the winter aspect of bird populations remains intact for the most part until the first of May, and a number of the wintering species linger well into the latter month. The months of April and May are likely to be periods of weather instability with cold and stormy fronts alternating with periods of fair and warming weather. Some of the permanent residents such as the Golden Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Sage Grouse, and Magpie may begin nesting or at least mating activities in April or even late March. As open water becomes available, ducks and geese begin northward migrations also in March and April.

The bulk of the shore and passerine bird migration takes place in late April and May. Judging from the information at hand, the spring shorebird migration passes through the Colorado Plateau and Uinta Mountains Provinces and then crosses the Wasatch Mountains.
westward to join the Great Basin migrants in the valleys of Utah Lake and the Great Salt Lake. There is no evidence available to me that there is any extensive shorebird migration through the Green River Basin. In two visits to this area at the height of spring migration I have failed to see any but the locally nesting species of shorebirds; however, further observations may show otherwise.

Spring migration of the passerine birds takes place in late April and throughout May. The migration of several species of swallows is most conspicuous since they feed in large (often mixed) flocks along the banks of the rivers, ponds, and reservoirs. They appear in the southern part of the basin in the latter half of April and their flights continue through most of May. Species most likely to be seen in these flocks are the Violet-green Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, and Barn Swallow. Most of the wood warbler migration seems to take place in May except that Audubon's Warbler may arrive in late April. The Yellow Warbler likely arrives in the southern part of the basin about May 1, and progresses northward over a period of about three weeks or a month. On a visit to the northern part of the basin on May 14, I failed to find the Yellow Warbler present but by May 27 it was abundant. Some of the wintering birds, especially juncos and White-crowned Sparrows, do not leave the basin until late May or early June. Other migrant species such as the Western Tanager and Wilson's Warbler may still be passing through the basin in early June.

The period from the second week in June until mid-September, marked by hot and dry weather, affords the most favorable conditions for growth of the young of permanent resident birds hatched earlier and for the nesting and rearing of the young of most of the summer resident species. In late July and August birds prone to flock tend to converge on agricultural communities where there is more food. These include the several species of blackbirds and the Mourning Dove. Some species, such as the Green-tailed Towhee and Sparrow Hawk, may ascend to higher elevations where there is also an abundance of food and the weather is cooler. A number of kinds of shorebirds such as the Long-billed Dowitcher, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper and Western Sandpiper that nest in the far north appear in the upper basin in late July. Some of these may be nonbreeding birds that have remained all summer, but there is no doubt some arrival of migrants at this season. The bulk of the shorebird migration, however, occurs in late August and early September. A few individuals may remain into early October.

In September small migrant passerine birds occur in the basin particularly in the woodlands of the stream floodplains. These include Wilson's Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, Solitary Vireo, juncos of several kinds, and White-crowned Sparrows.

ACCOUNTS OF THE SPECIES

**Gavia immer** (Brunnich)

**Common Loon**

Only scattered records are available for the upper basin. Twomey (1942:366) reports seeing them on the Green River near Jensen, May 5 and September 28, 1937. Behle (1958:38 and 1960:20) reports their occurrence at Kane County, April 24, 1931, and near Moab, Grand County, December 22, 1955. Bailey and Niedrach (1965:72) report records for Sweetwater Lake, Garfield County and Tomichi Creek, Gunnison County, Colorado. As far as is known they are entirely transient through the basin. Judging from specimens taken in other parts of the Intermountain West the subspecies *elasson* Bishop is most likely to be found. With the creation of several large reservoirs in recent years it may be expected that there will be an increase in the number of transient loons.

**Podiceps caspicus californicus** Heerman

**Eared Grebe**

This grebe undoubtedly occurs throughout the basin where there are suitable habitats. Records are published for Mesa County, Colorado (Rockwell, 1908:26); Sweetwater County, Wyoming (Knight, 1902:26); the Uinta Basin of Utah (Twomey 1942:367); and Kanab, Kane County, Utah (Behle et al. 1958b:38). All of the published records are for May and June, but the writer has found them to be common on Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah, from mid-
May until late July. Nests have not been found, but mating displays are frequently observed in early June. The Eared Grebe prefers shallow but open water and is likely to increase in abundance around the shallow shores of the newly created reservoirs.

Acchnorhynchus occidentalis (Lawrence)
Western Grebe

The Western Grebe has not been reported often from the basin area. Twomey (1942:367) recorded collecting one south of Jensen, Uintah County, May 4, 1937, and Behle (1960a:21) sighted one at Glen Canyon. The writer has seen them frequently at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, in company with Eared and Pied-billed Grebes. At this locality courtship activity was noted May 18, 1963, and May 15, 1966, but no nests have been located. Other dates of observation at Pelican Lake include May 13, 1961, and June 3, 1964, and September 19, 1956. On the latter date they were abundant. These birds seem to prefer open water of lakes and larger streams for feeding but require shallow shores with emergent vegetation for nesting. It is likely that they will increase as breeding birds on the reservoirs of the basin as vegetation becomes established around their borders.

Podilymbus podiceps (Linnaeus)
Pied-billed Grebe

The only records for this species available to me are from the Utah portion of the upper basin. Twomey (1942:367) collected it near Jensen, Uintah County, May 25, 1935, and Behle (1958b:38) recorded it from several localities in the vicinity of Kanab, Kane County, with dates of May 3, 1931, and July 10, 1940. The writer found them common at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, June 17, 1958, when they were in pairs and again July 22, 1961. Bailey and Niedrach (1965:82) report that this grebe is rare in Colorado west of the continental divide.

Pelecanus erythrorhynchos Gmelin
White Pelican

The White Pelican is likely to be seen as a nonbreeding resident or transient on any of the larger streams or reservoirs of the basin. It has been reported from near Jensen, May 12, 1937, by Twomey (1942:368), at Rock Creek on the Colorado River in Kane County by Woodbury and Russell (1942:27), at Grand Junction on the Colorado River, September 4, 1904, by Rockwell (1908:157), and near Kanab, April 10, 1935, by Behle (1958b:38). While the writer has visited Pelican Lake many times he has seen the White Pelican on only one occasion, May 19, 1963, when a single bird was noted.

Pelecanus occidentalis Linnaeus
Brown Pelican

A single specimen was seen at Pelican Lake, May 19, 1963. An account of this discovery has been previously published (Hayward, 1966:305).

Phalacrocorax auritus auritus (Lesson)
Double-crested Cormorant

The Double-crested Cormorant appears to be an uncommon transient in the basin and there are only scattered reports of its occurrence. Twomey (1942:268) noted seven birds on Green River, Uintah County, May 15, 1935; McCrimmon (1928:368) records it from Montrose, Colorado, and Behle (1958:38) has reported it from Kanab, Utah, April 21, 1931. The writer has found it rather uncommon at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah. Six birds were noted there July 22, 1961, and a small flock was seen May 18, 1963.

Some earlier accounts indicate that the Pacific race albociliatus occurred in Utah at least (AOU Checklist, 1931, p. 23 and Peters, Checklist of Birds of the World, Vol. 1, p. 86, 1931). Behle (1936:76), however, was able to show that the Utah specimens are closer to the eastern race auritus and they have since been so considered.

Ardea herodias tregonzai Court
Great Blue Heron

The Great Blue Heron is a common species throughout the entire Upper Colorado River Basin where it is to be seen along the principal streams and about the borders of lakes and reservoirs. About 50 published and sight records are available to the writer. Frost and Murphy (field notes) recorded this heron along the Colorado River south of Moab every month of the year except January in 1962-64. Most of the records for the basin, however, are from April through July. It is likely that the majority of birds seen singly during the summer are nonbreeders, but Frost and Murphy record a colony of 23 nests near Moab April 23, 1963, and a slightly smaller colony April 10, 1964. Woodbury (1958:182) found a nesting colony along the
Colorado River, 17 miles north of Lee’s Ferry. Additional nesting colonies should be expected along the Green River in Wyoming and some of the larger tributaries in Colorado.

_Butorides virescens_ (Linnaeus)

Green Heron

The only record of this species from the upper basin is that of Behle, _et al._ (1955b:39). This occurrence is based on a sight record by Clifton M. Greenhalgh, who saw one at Kanab, Utah, June 9, 1935.

_Casmerodius albus egretta_ (Gmelin)

Common Egret

Twomey (1942:368) includes a sight record of this egret at Ashley Creek Marshes near Jensen, Uintah County, May 5, 1937. No other records for the upper basin are known to me.

_Leucophoix thula brewsteri_

(Thayer and Bangs)

Snowy Egret

About 20 records, mostly from the Utah portion of the basin, are available. Twomey (1942:369) reported a nesting colony at the mouth of Ashley Creek near the Green River, Uintah County. Snowy Egrets have been recorded by several observers from San Juan County northward to northern Utah. The writer has noted them in small but consistent numbers at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah, from May 12 to July 23 and a few were present there September 19, 1966. They are often seen perching on tule patches in the lake, but there is no direct evidence of nesting in that area. Several records are available for Rio Blanco, Montrose, and Grand Counties, Colorado (Warren 1908, 1909 and Felger 1910).

_Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli_ (Gmelin)

Black-crowned Night Heron

This heron has been reported and observed in small numbers along the Colorado and Green Rivers, especially in the Utah portion, and is likely to be found throughout the upper basin. In the Intermountain West these birds seem to require marshy areas for nesting and construct their nests over several feet of water. Twomey (1942:369) found a nesting colony of ten or twelve pairs at Ashley Creek Marsh near Jensen, in May 1937. The writer located a colony of about twenty pairs at Pelican Lake, June 3, 1964. All nests examined contained eggs in advanced stages of incubation, but no young were hatched. These nests were built of dead plant material and were partially hidden in dense patches of living tules. The water was three to four feet deep and the nests were built up about a foot above the water surface.

_Botaurus lentiginosus_ (Rackett)

American Bittern

Scattered records from Sublette County, Wyoming, to San Juan County, Utah, and Grand Junction, Colorado, indicate that this species is widespread but not common. Twomey (1942:369) reports the bittern as nesting near Jensen, Uintah County, in May 1937.

_Plegadis chihi_ (Vieillot)

White-faced Ibis

The White-faced Ibis is not known to nest in the upper basin although it is recorded as a transient in several localities. To my knowledge the only published records are those of Twomey (1942:370), who found them in spring and summer feeding in fields near Jensen; Behle (1948a:305) who noted them on the Colorado River 122 miles north of Lee’s Ferry, April 14, 1947; and Bailey and Neidrach (1965:117), who have several records for Gunnison County, Colorado. The writer has found them to be rather common feeding around the borders of Pelican Lake in May and July. The likelihood of the ibis breeding in the upper basin should increase as the borders of newly created reservoirs become vegetated with emergent plants.

_Ajaia ajaja_ (Linnaeus)

Roseate Spoonbill

Bailey and Neidrach (1965:121) report a record of seven birds seen by Don Watson on upper Colorado Reservoir, Montezuma County, Colorado, May 24, 1938.

_Olor columbianus_ (Ord)

Whistling Swan

This swan appears to be an uncommon transient in the upper basin. Behle has recorded it from Kanab in the spring of 1945 (1958:39) and from the Colorado River near Moab in February 1952 (1960:22).
Branta canadensis

Canada Goose

About 22 records of the Canada Goose for the months of March through September are available for all parts of the upper basin. The birds nest along the banks of the larger streams, and pairs with young are often seen along the Green and Colorado Rivers in early July. They are also known to nest at Stewarts' Lake Refuge near Jensen. I have observed them at Pelican Lake throughout the summer, but there is no evidence that they nest there. On September 30, 1962, a flock estimated at 50 birds left this lake about one-half hour before sunset presumably to feed on nearby grainfields and returned to the lake at sunrise the following morning.

Anser albidus frontalis

White-fronted Goose

Bailey and Neidrach (1965:44) report a record of this goose for Brown's Park, Moffat County, Colorado, October 8, 1961.

Chen hyperborea

Snow Goose

Records of the Snow Goose in the upper basin are rare. Floyd A. Thompson told me that he saw a flock at Stewart's Lake south of Jensen on October 28, 1957; and Rockwell (1908:158) reports them from Grand Junction in March and October. The writer saw one immature individual feeding along the shore of Fontenelle Reservoir near Names Hill, Lincoln County, Wyoming, May 15, 1965.

Chen caerulescens

Blue Goose

This species is included in the upper basin list on the basis of a sight record from Stewart Lake south of Jensen, Utah, October 28, 1957, reported to me by Floyd A. Thompson of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Anas platyrhynchos

Mallard

About 32 records for the Mallard are available from published accounts and the writer's notes. They have been recorded from all parts of the upper basin. At any season of the year pairs or small flocks are likely to be seen in quiet estuaries near the lower Green and Colorado Rivers and their tributaries. Frost and Murphy (personal notes) observed them every month of the year except January along the Colorado River south of Moab. On May 15, 1965, I found them to be the most common duck near Daniel, Sublette County, Wyoming, at which time most of them were seen in pairs.

Anas strepera

Gadwall

Although less common than the Mallard, the Gadwall is equally well distributed throughout the upper basin. Behle (1960a:22) has reported them from Kane County, Utah; and the writer found them to be fairly common on May 15, 1965, along the Green River in Lincoln County, Wyoming. Nearly all of the records are from early spring through the summer with a few reported as late as October. They are fairly common at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah, September 19, 1966. Wintering records as well as nesting data are lacking in information available to the writer.

Anas acuta

Pintail

The Pintail is another common and widespread duck throughout the upper basin. Most of the 24 records for the basin are from February through October, although Behle (1960a:22) reports them from near Moab in December. Twomey (1942:372) noted broods of young in the Uinta Basin in July. They are abundant on several reservoirs in the Uinta Basin throughout the summer; I found them in abundance on Fontenelle Reservoir, Lincoln County, Wyoming, May 15, 1965.

Anas carolinensis

Green-winged Teal

Available records indicate that this teal occurs regularly throughout the upper basin. Twomey (1942:373) reports young in July at Ashley Creek Marshes near Jensen. Most of the records are for March through July, but Behle (1960a:22) found them at Moab in December 1955. Several records for Moffat and Rio Blanco Counties, Colorado, have been reported by Hendee (1929), Frary (1953), and Bailey and Neidrach (1965).

Anas discors

Blue-winged Teal

Twomey (1942:373) has a record of the Blue-winged Teal nesting in the Uinta Basin,
and it is also known to nest in southwestern Colorado (A.O.U. Checklist, 1957:77). It is also known to nest at Brown's Park and Yampa River Valley, Moffat County, Colorado (Tester, 1953; Boeker, 1953). Most of some 20 records are for spring and summer. At Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah, I have found them to be rather common in May and early June but I have no evidence of nesting.

Anas cyanoptera septentrionalium
Snyder and Lumsden
Cinnamon Teal

All of the records available to the writer are from the more central and southern parts of the upper basin in Utah and Colorado. They are abundant at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah, in May. I did not observe any on a trip through the Wyoming part of the basin May, 1965; nor do Fuller and Bole (1930) record them from there. However, the writer has seen them frequently in the Bear Lake area west of the Green River Basin Province. Dates of occurrence are almost all from April and May although Behle (1958b:11) reports them for August in Kanab. It is doubtful if this species winters within the upper basin.

Mareca americana (Gmelin)
American Widgeon

The American Widgeon seems to be rather uncommon in the upper basin although there are a few records of its occurrence throughout the area. Twomey (1942:372) found them with young in the Uinta Basin in July, 1937. Other records are for March through May. Rockwell (1908:157) found them in spring and fall at Grand Junction. Hendee (1929) found it in Moffat County, Colorado. They were noted as common at Fontenelle Reservoir, Lincoln County, Wyoming, on May 15, 1965 (Hayward field notes). A few were seen by me at Pelican Lake May 19, 1963, in the Uinta Basin, but I have never found them to be common there.

Spatula clypeata (Linnaeus)
Shoveler

Twomey (1942:374) considered the Shoveler to be a migrant in the Uinta Basin. All records available to me are for April, May, and early June and late September. On May 13, 1961, they were the most common duck on Pelican Lake and they were fairly common there June 3, 1964.

It is likely that this species will be found nesting in several favorable areas in the upper basin.

Aix sponsa (Linnaeus)
Wood Duck

The Wood Duck is apparently very rare in the upper basin. The only recent record known to me is of a specimen taken November 4, 1960, at Roosevelt, Duchesne County, Utah, and reported by Behle (1960:396). Morrison (1888) reported seeing one in La Plata County, Colorado, years ago.

Aythya americana (Eyton)
Redhead

Scattered records indicate that this duck is widespread throughout the upper basin although its breeding status in the area is not clear from information at hand. The species is present in small numbers in the Uinta Basin in May; and I found it to be very common May 15, 1965, on Fontenelle Reservoir, Lincoln County, Wyoming.

Aythya collaris (Donovan)
Ring-necked Duck

I have found only two references to this species in the upper basin. Cooke (1909:409) published a record for April 1906 at Coventry, Montrose County, Colorado; Knight (1902:35) mentions cones’ record for Green River, Uinta County, Wyoming.

Aythya valisinera (Wilson)
Canvasback

The Canvasback appears to be an uncommon migrant in the upper basin. Behle has published several records from points along the Colorado River (1948a:305, 1960a:23) and for Kanab (1958a:42). One flock of six birds was noted on Ashley Creek Lake, Uintah County, Utah, May 14 by Twomey (1942:372). Rockwell (1908:155) has a record for February 20, 1904, at Grand Junction, Mesa County, Colorado.

Aythya marila nearctica Stejneger
Greater Scaup

This species is included in the upper basin list on the basis of some old records from San Juan County, Colorado (Drew, 1851), and La Plata County, Colorado (Morrison, 1888). It seems likely that the species occurs as a rare migrant but there seem to be no recent reports.
Aythya affinis (Eyton)
Lesser Scaup

There are a few published records of this duck in the upper basin, mostly from the Utah part of it. Twomey (1942:374) recorded it from near Jensen, Uintah County, in May; and Behle (1948a:305, 1955b:12) mentions its occurrence on the Colorado River 158 miles north of Lee’s Ferry and at Kanab, Kane County, in April and May. The writer has found it consistently at Pelican Lake in May and early June. Warren (1910:79) has published a record for southwest Montrose County, Colorado.

Bucephala clangula americana (Bonaparte)
Common Goldeneye

Records of the Common Goldeneye for the upper basin are scarce. Twomey (1942:374) considered them to be common spring and fall migrants along the Green River, Uintah County; and Behle (1948a:305) found them on the Colorado River at the junction of Kane Creek, April 16, 1947, and also at Kanab in April and May. Frost and Murphy (personal notes) noted two birds on the Colorado River south of Moab, April 12, 1963. Judging from their habits in other areas adjacent to the upper basin, a few goldeneyes may be expected to occur in winter along the open streams.

Bucephala islandica (Gmelin)
Barrow’s Goldeneye

Only a few records of Barrow’s Goldeneye are available to the author. Behle (1955b:42) records the species at Kanab, April 20-27, 1931. The writer saw a single male on a small reservoir near Daniel, Sublette County, Wyoming, May 14, 1965, and at the same place May 28, 1966. Morrison (1888, 1889) reported it from La Plata and Dolores Counties, Colorado.

Bucephala albeola (Linnaeus)
Bufflehead

The Bufflehead seems to be a regular although not common migrant through the upper basin. Published records available are from Jensen, Uintah County (Twomey, 1942:375); Kanab, Kane County (Behle, 1955b:42); and Grand Junction (Copeland, 1920:310). Felger (1909) recorded it from Rio Blanco County, Colorado. The writer has found them at the Adairville townsite, Kane County, April 7, 1961, and at several localities in the Uinta Basin. Most of the records are for April and May, but I found one at Pelican Lake as late as July 22, 1961.

Histrionicus histrionicus (Linnaeus)
Harlequin Duck

There is an old record of this species by Morrison (1888), who indicated that it bred in San Juan and La Plata Counties, Colorado. Bailey and Neidrach (1965:150) state that these records were not verified by specimens, however.

Oxyura jamaicensis (Gmelin)
Ruddy Duck

The few records of this species available to the writer are all from the Utah portion of the upper basin. Twomey (1942:375) records them from the Uinta Basin in May and September, and I have noted them at Stewart’s Lake and Pelican Lake, Uintah County, May 15, 1966; July 22, 1961; June 3, 1964; and September 19, 1966. Behle (1955b:42) has also published a record for Kanab, Kane County, in April and May, 1961.

Lophodytes cucullatus (Linnaeus)
Hooded Merganser

This species is included in the upper basin list on the basis of a report by Knight (1902:31) that a specimen was collected on Green River (no exact locality given) in 1870 by a member of Hayden’s survey.

Mergus merganser americanus Cassin
Common Merganser

This merganser appears to be fairly common along the principal streams of the basin. Fuller and Bole (1930:45) record it from Daniel, Sublette County, Wyoming; and there are other records from Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah (Knight, 1902:30; Warren, 1905:20; Behle, 1955b:42, 1960:23). Frost and Murphy (personal notes) have nine records for the Colorado River south of Moab from January 1 to April 10.

Mergus serrator serrator Linnaeus
Red-breasted Merganser

Judging from available records, the Red-breasted Merganser seems to be less common on the streams of the upper basin than the Common Merganser. Twomey (1942:375) has records for May and September on the Green River near Jensen, and Behle (1955b:2) has recorded it in April and May near Kanab. The writer saw
it on Green River near Ouray, Uintah County, May 18, 1958.

*Accipiter cooperii* (Bonaparte)

Cooper’s Hawk

Some 18 records of Cooper’s Hawk indicate that it occurs rather commonly throughout the upper basin. Like the Sharp-shinned Hawk it occurs in wooded areas along valley streams or near springs. Actual nesting records are few for the upper basin, but records available from the Great Basin would indicate that Cooper’s Hawk nests a little earlier than the Sharp-shinned. One nesting record from the Yampa River floodplain, Moffat County, Colorado (White, et al., 1965: 269), was for July 7, 1962; but the authors do not indicate how far the nesting period had progressed at that date.

*Accipiter gentilis atricapillus* (Wilson)

Goshawk

While the Goshawk is more commonly found in montane forests, there are a few records of its nesting in floodplain woods along the streams at lower elevations. White, et al. (1965:269), found it nesting in the floodplain of the Yampa River, Colorado, July 7, 1962; and the writer noted it nesting along Strawberry River, Duchesne County, Utah, in early June, 1964. In winter this hawk may be expected to occur more commonly in wooded floodplains of lower valleys. Behle, et al. (1958b: 43), has published a record for Kanab, March 21, 1935; and Copeland (1920:310) found it at Clifton, Mesa County, Colorado, in November, 1919.

*Accipiter striatus velox* (Wilson)

Sharp-shinned Hawk

The Sharp-shinned Hawk inhabits wooded habitats along valley streams throughout the upper basin. Nests are constructed in trees usually near water, and nesting activities occur in late May and throughout June. Most of our 15 records of occurrence are for April through September, but the lack of many winter records is undoubtedly owing to inadequate field work during that season. The following Utah records in the Brigham Young University collection have not previously been published: Strawberry River at Timber Canyon, Duchesne County, June 19, 1957; Roosevelt, Duchesne County, February, 1956; Outay, Uintah County, September 23, 1961.
Sublette County, Wyoming, containing partly grown young, July 23, 1927.

*Buteo regalis* (Gray)
Ferruginous Hawk

Most of the few available records of this hawk are for the more southern parts of the upper basin. It seems to be rather less common, at least as a nesting species, in the Colorado basin than it is in the Great Basin west of the Wasatch Mountains. Twomey (1942:380) regards it as a migrant only in the Uinta Basin. The writer found the Ferruginous Hawk nesting at Arches National Monument, May 9, 1950. The nest was located on a crumbling rock pinnacle about 20 feet up and could not be reached. The bird sat very close, being flushed at about 30 feet. She circled close to the nest and returned as soon as we moved away. Additional sight records of the species for the upper basin not previously published are as follows: south of Cannonville, Kane County, Utah, June 16, 1960; Dewey, Grand County, Utah, July 6, 1960; Bluff, San Juan County, Utah, May, 1951 and July 8, 1960.

*Buteo lagopus s. johannis* (Gmelin)
Rough-legged Hawk

The only records of this hawk in the upper basin known to the writer are those of Long (1937:41), who observed one west of Bryce Canyon National Park, November 23, 1935, and Bailey and Niederach (1965:212), who report an observation near Gunnison, Colorado, by Dr. A. S. Hyde for January 10 and November 15, 20, 1953. It is known only as a winter visitant and is probably more common at that season than the few observations would indicate.

*Aquila chrysaetos canadensis* (Linnaeus)
Golden Eagle

The Golden Eagle is a fairly common resident throughout the upper basin, where it is to be found in both lowland and mountainous areas. Nesting often begins in early March. Nesting within the basin has been recorded by Twomey (1942:350-351) for Blue Mountain on the Utah-Colorado border and Dripping Rock Creek, Rio Blanco County, Colorado; by Hardy (1945:581) for Book Cliffs near Sunnyside, Carbon County, Utah; by Rockwell (1908:162) for Mesa County, Colorado; and for Shiprock, San Juan County, New Mexico, by Gilman (1908:147). These birds are most often seen soaring over probable nesting sites or feeding on carrion on the ground, often along roadways where animals have been killed by automobiles. Occasionally they are seen perching on utility poles along highways. Like all of the large predatory birds they have been heavily persecuted and their numbers have no doubt been reduced.

*Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (Linnaeus)
Bald Eagle

Records of this species in the basin are rather few. Rockwell (1908:262) found it years ago in several localities in Mesa County, Colorado. He regarded it as a continuous resident and stated that it was more common than the Golden Eagle in some localities. Knight reported it for the Upper Green River of Wyoming, and Behle (1958:45 and 1959:117) recorded it for two localities in Kane County, Utah. Mr. R. G. Bee, a long-time student of eagles in Utah, reports (personal notes) two nesting sites of the Bald Eagle in Wayne County, Utah. One is located in ledges at Sunglow Park near Bicknell and the other near the town of Torrey in a similar habitat. Mr. Bee saw the nests but did not actually see the birds; however, he was satisfied from the descriptions of local people who had had them under observation for several years that they were Bald Eagles. There is another unconfirmed but rather reliable report that the Bald Eagle nests near the confluence of Red Creek and Strawberry River, Duchesne County, Utah.

*Circus cyaneus hudsonius* (Linnaeus)
Marsh Hawk

This hawk has been frequently reported from throughout the upper basin. It is known to nest in marshy areas in the Uinta Basin (Twomey, 1942:381) and no doubt breeds in similar habitats elsewhere in the basin. The Marsh Hawk is more likely to be found around fields and pastureland or near streams where more diurnal rodents are available for food and less commonly over open deserts. However, it may be seen most anywhere in the basin especially during the non-nesting season. This species, like several other hawks, often perches on utility poles near roadways.

*Pandion haliaetus carolinensis* (Gmelin)
Osprey

Records of the occurrence of the Osprey in the upper basin are rare. The following pub-
lished records have been noted: Ashley Creek Marshes, Uintah County, Utah, May 15, 1935, (Twomey, 1942:382); Grand Junction, Mesa County, Colorado (Rockwell, 1908:163); Fort Bridger, Uinta County, Wyoming (Knight, 1902:78 from Drexel's report); 25 miles south of Hanksville, Wayne County, Utah, September 22, 1958 (Behle, 1960a:25); Rio Blanco County, Colorado (Felger, 1910). The writer observed one at Stuart Lake Reserve, Uintah County, Utah, May 12, 1961. The bird was perched on a post and feeding on a freshly caught fish. A day later a bird was seen in flight near Randlett, Uintah County, a few miles west of Stewart Lake.

*Caracara cheriway* (Jacquin)

Caracara

Matteson (1951:50) reports an injured Caracara captured alive near Glenwood Springs, Garfield County, Colorado, in the spring of 1948. The bird was eventually sent to the Denver Park Zoo.

*Falco peregrinus anatum* Bonaparte

Peregrine Falcon

Scattered records indicate that this falcon inhabits the upper basin rather rarely but consistently as a summer resident. Records available to me extend from May into August. Nesting has been reported by Twomey (1942:382) in cliffs east of the Green River near Jensen, Uintah County, Utah. Bailey and Niedrach (1946:253) have reported a nesting record for Durango, La Plata County, Colorado.

*Falco columbarius* Linnaeus

Pigeon Hawk

The status of the Pigeon Hawk in the upper basin is somewhat uncertain owing to the few records available and the seeming rarity of the species. Twomey (1942:383) regarded them as migrants along the Green River in May and September but obtained no specimens. Behle (1948a:306) published a record from the Colorado River, 136 miles north of Lee's Ferry, April 13, 1947. Rockwell (1902:74) has a winter record (December 23) from Mesa County, Colorado. According to the A.O.U. Checklist (1957:121) the species winters at Green River, Wyoming. This record may have come from Hayden's report mentioned by Knight (1902:74). Gilman (1908:147) collected and observed the bird at Shiprock, San Juan County, New Mexico, but gives no dates. I have seen the Pigeon Hawk at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah, in mid-May on two occasions.

The subspecific status of the Pigeon Hawk in the basin is not clear. It is likely that both *richardsonii* and *bendirei* may appear as migrants.

*Falco sparverius sparverius* Linnaeus

Sparrow Hawk

This little falcon is very common throughout the upper basin and nests throughout its entire range. About 40 available records extend through all months of the year, but most of them are from April into August. Wintering records are from the southern part of the basin in southwestern Utah, southern Colorado, and northwestern New Mexico. The most favored habitat of the Sparrow Hawk is the cottonwood groves along the river floodplains, where it nests in holes, usually in dead trees. Nesting in rock ledges whenever these are available is not uncommon, however. A few birds are seen in pinyon-juniper woodlands or in open desert country perched on utility poles or the tops of dead trees.

*Falco mexicanus* Schlegel

Prairie Falcon

The Prairie Falcon is not a common bird in the upper basin but, judging from the records available, it seems to be well distributed throughout the area. This falcon nests in very inaccessible niches on cliffs. Nesting sites can often be detected by examining the faces of the cliffs for white streaks on the rocks formed by the droppings if flying birds are noted in the vicinity. Nearly all published records as well as the writer's own notes are for sight records. Twomey (1942:382) collected a specimen from a nest containing two eggs five miles south of Jensen, Uintah County, but gives no date. Behle and Ghiselin (1958a:3) collected a specimen 15 miles south of Myton, Duchesne County, May 24, 1938. R. G. Bee (personal notes) reported a nesting Prairie Falcon at Sunglow Park, near Bicknell, Wayne County, April 15, 1959.

*Bonasa umbellus incana*

Aldrich and Friedmann

Ruffed Grouse

This grouse occurs in mountains surrounding the upper basin, particularly the northern part of it. The writer has been able to find only three records for the basin proper. Knight (1902:55), reporting the records of Drexel and McCarthy, recorded it from Fort Bridger,
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Wyoming. Bailey and Niedrach (1965:254) report a specimen in the Denver Museum collected in Duchesne County, Utah, and another observation from the east end of the Uinta Mountains in Colorado. Elevation data are not available for either of these records. From the writer's experience with this species in southeastern Idaho, it would seem likely that these birds formerly lived in willows and cottonwood groves along streams as low as 6,000 feet.

_Pedioecetes phasianellus columbianus_ (Ord)

Sharp-tailed Grouse

There are very few published records of this grouse for the upper basin. Fuller and Bole (1930:50) collected it at Daniel and Pinedale, Sublette County, Wyoming; Cooke (1909:411) indicated that it was found west and southwest Colorado; and Gilman (1907:153) found it nesting in May, 1906, at Fort Lewis, La Plata County, Colorado. Cary (1909) also reported it from Dolores and Montezuma Counties, Colorado, and from the Abajo Mountains of Utah. Bailey and Niedrach (1965:276) have summarized data furnished them by the Colorado Game and Fish Department indicating the presence of this grouse in all the western counties of that state. It is likely that the Sharp-tailed Grouse was formerly rather common on the foothills of mountains surrounding the basin, particularly the northern part of it. As a youth, I became well acquainted with this species in southeastern Idaho, where it lived in habitats identical with many places in southwestern Wyoming. The grouse lived on the sage-covered foothills at elevations of 6,000 to 7,000 feet and at the same elevation as the Sage Grouse. However, the Sharp-tailed grouse usually stayed close to thickets of taller shrubs, where it sought shelter when disturbed and during the winter. Like the Sage Grouse it often fed in grainfields or weed patches in late summer and fall.

_Centrocercus urophasianus_ (Bonaparte)

Sage Grouse

The Sage Grouse formerly occurred throughout the upper basin wherever there were sagebrush and sufficient water. At present it is more abundant in the northern parts of the basin, particularly in Wyoming and northwestern Colorado. Bailey (1925:172-173) reports large numbers wintering around Craig and Sunbeam in the valley of Bear River, Colorado, some years ago. Several breeding grounds are known from areas north of Rock Springs, Wyoming. The writer found several family groups in mid-July around springs in Clay Basin, Daggett County, Utah. Sage Grouse live in semidesert sagebrush country and require no other cover. However, they must live where ample water is available and seem to prefer areas where there are small springs or small streams. Frequently, especially in midsummer and late summer, immense flocks congregate around these water sources, giving the impression that the birds are far more abundant than they actually are, considering the extensive range of sagebrush plains. One set of five eggs in the Brigham Young University collection was taken at La Barge, Lincoln County, Wyoming by Ashby D. Boyle but no date is recorded. Several sets in the same collection from Strawberry Valley, Wasatch County, Utah, were collected in late May and all showed incubation advanced to the development of skeletal elements.

_Callipepla squamata_ (Vigors)

Scaled Quail

Only one record of this quail from the upper basin was reported by Wetherill and Phillips (1949) from Navajo, Apache County, Arizona.

_Lophortyx californicus_ (Shaw)

California Quail

The California Quail has been introduced into the upper basin, but the extent of its range is not known to the writer. Several records are available for the Uinta Basin, Utah (Twomey, 1942:388; Hayward, field notes; Behle and Ghiselin 1958a:4); and for Grand Junction, Colorado (Cooke, 1909:411; Rockwell, 1905:160). The southern-most record available is that of Behle (1960a:26) for Castle Valley, Grand County, Utah, based on a collected specimen.

_Lophortyx gambelii_ Gambel

Gambel's Quail

Gambel's Quail is native to deserts of the southern parts of the basin. It is known to extend as far north as Moab, Grand County, Utah (Behle, 1960a:26 and Brigham Young University collection); and Green River, Emery County, Utah (Behle, et al., 1958a:47). Bailey and Niedrach (1965:287) list numerous records of this quail in the southwestern counties of Colorado. This quail is usually seen in small flocks where the cover is rather heavy and most often where water is available.
The A.O.U. Checklist (1957:143) recognizes two subspecies for the upper basin area: A darker race, *santus* Mearns, is found “in the drainage areas of the Uncompahgre, Gunnison, and upper Rio Grande rivers”; and a lighter form is said to occur in Utah and other more western parts of the basin.

*Phasianus colchicus* Linnaeus  
**Ring-necked Pheasant**

Records of the Ring-necked Pheasant indicate that it has been widely introduced into the Utah and Colorado parts of the upper basin. The extent of its introduction into Wyoming is unknown to the writer. These pheasants nearly all live in the vicinity of farmlands.

*Alectoris graeca* (Meisner)  
**Chukar**

The Chukar has in recent years been introduced into many parts of the upper basin. It occurs in southwestern Colorado (A.O.U. Checklist, 1957:147), and we have records from Colorado River south of Moab, Utah (Frost and Murphy notes); and from Roosevelt, Duchesne County, Utah (Brigham Young University collection). Bailey and Niedrach (1965:290) indicate that the Chukar has been introduced into most of the counties of western Colorado.

*Meleagris gallopavo merriami* Nelson  
**Turkey**

Some early records indicate that the Turkey may have been native to parts of Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico within the bounds of the upper basin although they seem to occupy mountains at elevations slightly above those being considered in this paper. Gilman (1907:153, 1908:147) records them from Apache County, Arizona; Montrose County, Colorado; and the Chusca Mountains of New Mexico. His observations were based on partly plucked specimens brought to him by Indians. Behle (1960a:26) gives an account of their introduction and status in the LaSal and Abajo Mountains of San Juan County, Utah, where they now seem to be rather well established.

*Grus canadensis tabida* (Peters)  
**Sandhill Crane**

Judging from the records available, the Sandhill Crane occurs mainly as an uncommon migrant through the upper basin. Rockwell (1908:159) reported the species as nesting in high mountain parks in Mesa County, Colorado. Warren (1904:39-40) reported finding a nest with two eggs, June 5, 1903, between the slope of Ragged Mountain and Muddy Creek, western Gunnison County, Colorado, at an elevation of 8,000 feet. Twomey (1942:389) found the species migrating along the Green River in Uintah County, Utah, May 5; and Floyd A. Thompson (personal notes) reported seeing 21 birds 15 miles south of Jensen, Uintah County, October 28, 1957. There is an old collection record from Fort Bridger, Uinta County, Wyoming, by Drexel in 1855S reported by Knight (1902:43). Bailey and Niedrach (1965:299) report that these cranes migrate regularly throughout western Colorado.

It is likely that the race *canadensis* occurs among the migrating birds.

*Rallus limicola limicola* Vieillot  
**Virginia Rail**

This widespread species undoubtedly lives throughout the upper basin in suitable marshy habitats but the only records, all of which are based on collections, are from Utah. Twomey (1942:389) reported it from Jensen, Uintah County, August 9, 1934; Woodbury and Russell (1945:45) recorded it from Bluff, San Juan County, based on a specimen collected May 14, 1892, and now in the American Museum of Natural History. Behle, *et al.* (1958b:47) found it at the Cave Lakes area near Kanab, Kane County; and Woodbury (1958:187) reported it from Moab, Grand County. A specimen in the BYU collection was taken at Myton, Duchesne County, December 27, 1959. Specimens have also been collected at Meeker, Rio Blanco County, and in Montrose County, Colorado (Bailey and Niedrach, 1965:303).

*Porzana carolina* (Linnaeus)  
**Sora**

The Sora is so secretive in habits and so limited in habitat that its presence in an area is not usually reported until rather extensive field work has been done. There are no records available to me from the Wyoming portion of the upper basin although it no doubt occurs there. The following published records are herein assembled: Jensen area, Uintah County, Utah, nesting (Twomey, 1942:389); Bluff, San Juan County, Utah, May 11, 1933 (Woodbury and Russell, 1945); Yampa River, Moffat County, Colorado, nesting (Boeker 1954:105); Lay, Moffat County (Warren, 1905:20); Merkle Park near Vernal, Uintah County, Utah, June 21,
1949, young (Behle and Gishelin, 1958a:4); Kanab area, Kane County, Utah, May (Behle et al. 1958b:47); Roosevelt, Duchesne County, Utah, June 1, 1950, Brigham Young University collection.

**Fulica americana americana Gmelin**

American Coot

The coot is undoubtedly present throughout the upper basin although, strangely enough, it is not often mentioned in the earlier literature for Colorado. The species will undoubtedly increase as new reservoirs are stabilized with some emergent shallow water vegetation suitable for nesting cover. The dates of observation of some 19 records range from March 17 to September 29. The writer found the species abundant at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah, June 2, 1964. Many nests were noted in open to dense growths of *Scirpus* at that time. Some of the nests were loosely constructed of a few fresh *Scirpus* stems while others were more elaborate structures lined with dry stems. The nests contained from one to eight eggs and all the eggs seemed to be fresh.

**Charadrius semipalmatus Bonaparte**

Semipalmated Plover

The Semipalmated Plover is a spring and fall migrant in the upper basin where it is likely to be seen along the shores of the larger streams and shallow lakes. Twomey (1942:390) reported it from Uintah County, Utah, at Ouray and several localities along the Green River. The BYU collection contains two specimens taken at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, September 23, 1961, and September 29, 1962. There are also records for Grand and Gunnison Counties, Colorado (Bailey and Niedrach, 1965:311).

**Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus (Cassin)**

Snowy Plover

Records for this plover in the upper basin are rare. Behle et al. (1958:48) reports seeing it near Kanab, Kane County, Utah, March 28, 1931, and the writer saw a small flock at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah, May 18, 1963. There appears to be no record of its nesting within the basin.

**Charadrius vociferus vociferus Linnaeus**

Killdeer

About 30 separate records of this common plover indicate its widespread occurrence in the upper basin. Since it is equally at home at streamside, wet pastureland, or around borders of small ponds as well as larger reservoirs, there is an abundance of suitable habitats. The records indicate its presence from mid-March to late October, but it is likely that some birds remain throughout the winter wherever ponds or small streams may remain open.

**Eupoda montana (Townsend)**

Mountain Plover

The only records of the Mountain Plover in the basin are for 1858, 1859 reported by Knight (1902:53). These reports were based on Drexel's record for Fort Bridger, Uinta County, Wyoming, who stated that they were "not rare" in that area, and on specimens collected by McCarthy on Sweetwater River, Wyoming.

**Pluvialis dominica dominica (Müller)**

American Golden Plover

Published records of this plover for the upper basin include that of Twomey (1942:390) who saw several flocks in early May near Jensen, Uintah County, Utah, and regarded them as rather common spring migrants. Cooke (1909:410) reports a collection record for New Castle, Garfield County, Colorado, but gives no date. Hayward (1966:305) reported a single bird collected at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah, September 23, 1961.

**Squalarola squatarola (Linnaeus)**

Black-bellied Plover

This large plover has rarely been reported for the upper basin although the writer (Hayward, 1966:305) has found it consistently at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah, both in spring and fall. Four specimens from that locality in the Brigham Young University collection were taken on May 13, 1961; May 18, 1963; June 2, 1964; and September 23, 1961. On the May 13 date a flock of about thirty birds was seen around the borders of the lake, but usually they have been noted alone or in pairs often feeding some distance from the edge of the water.

**Bartramia longicauda (Bechstein)**

Upland Plover

The only records I have found for the upper basin are old accounts of Rockwell (1908:160) who saw the Upland Plover in Upper Plateau,
Mesa County, Colorado, and Cary (1909) who collected specimens at Loy and Meeker, Routt County, Colorado, in August 1905. Peters (Checklist, 1934:260) includes northeastern Utah in the range, which record may have come from Ridgway (U.S. Geol. Expl. 40th Par., 4, Pt. 3, 1877:611) who found it common at Xama, Summit County, Utah. However, Kamas is not within the Upper Colorado River Basin. The present status of the Upland Plover is uncertain. There are no reports available for the Wyoming portion of the upper basin.

*Numenius americanus* Beckstein

Long-billed Curlew

There are rather few records of the Long-billed Curlew for the upper basin and nearly all of them available to the writer are sight records. Rockwell (1908:160) collected it at Plateau Valley, Mesa County, Colorado, in spring. Bailey and Niedrach (1965:329-30) refer to records from Gunnison, La Plata, and Rio Blanco Counties of that state. Behle et al. (1958b:48) observed it near Kanab, Kane County, Utah, April 7, 1935. Twomey (1942:391) and Hayward (field notes) have seven records for theUinta Basin. All of these are for May, June, and July. I also have one sight record for Daniel, Sublette County, Wyoming, May 15, 1965. Since the curlew requires mesic fields and pasturelands as a habitat its numbers would be expected to be rather low in country predominantly desert. It might be expected that the largest breeding populations would occur in the northern Green River Province where more of the favorable habitats occur.

*Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus* Latham

Whimbrel

Only a single record (Hayward, 1966:305) is known to the writer from the upper basin. A flock of about 28 Whimbrels was seen resting on a sandbar at Montez Creek Reservoir, Uintah County, Utah, on May 18, 1963. One specimen was collected from the flock.

*Limosa fedoa* (Linnaeus)

Marbled Godwit

The Marbled Godwit is an uncommon migrant in the upper basin. Twomey (1942:394) published both collection and sight records for Uintah County, Utah, May 6, 1937. The writer saw a small flock in flight over Pelican Lake in the same county, June 2, 1964. Behle et al. (1958b:50) reported collecting it at Kanab, Kane County, Utah, April 15, 1947. Rockwell (1908:159) also reported it from Plateau Valley, Mesa County, Colorado.

*Tringa flavipes* (Gmelin)

Lesser Yellowlegs

A few records of migrating Lesser Yellowlegs are available for the upper basin. Twomey (1942:372) noted it at Ashley Creek, Uintah County, Utah, in May and in September. Brigham Young University has specimens collected near the same locality, July 20, 1937; September 23, 1961; and September 19, 1966. Behle et al. (1958b:159) collected specimens near Kanab, Kane County, Utah, April 15, 1947, and Brigham Young University has a specimen collected in the same county at the old site of Adairville, May 20, 1961.

*Tringa melanoleuca* (Gmelin)

Greater Yellowlegs

The Greater Yellowlegs has a similar status in the upper basin to that of *flavipes*. The following published records are known to the writer: Plateau Valley, Mesa County, Colorado (Rockwell, 1908:159); Routt County, Colorado (Felger, 1910); Jensen, Uintah County, Utah (Twomey, 1942:392); Fort Bridger, Wyoming (Knight, 1902:49); Kanab, Kane County, Utah (Behle et al. 1958b:49); and Elk Ridge, San Juan County, Utah (Woodbury, 1958:188). One was seen by me at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah, May 15, 1966.

*Tringa solitaria cinnamomea* (Brewster)

Solitary Sandpiper

This shorebird occurs regularly in the upper basin. Twomey (1942:392) found it all summer in the Uinta Basin and Brigham Young University has a specimen collected near Jensen, Uintah County, July 22, 1937. The species has also been reported by Woodbury and Russell (1945:48) for Monument Valley, San Juan County, Utah, June 22, 1953, and by Hendee (1929:24) from Moffat County, Colorado, April 27, 1924. Other records for Colorado include those of Rockwell (1908) for Mesa County, and Warren (1928) for Gunnison County. Twomey (op. cit.) states that it may nest in the Uinta Basin, but the nesting has not, to my knowledge, been verified.
Actitis macularia (Linnaeus)
Spotted Sandpiper

Over thirty records available to the writer indicate that the Spotted Sandpiper is common along waterways and around ponds and lakes throughout the upper basin. This species occurs from at least the first of May through September. There are nesting records for Lily, Routt County, Colorado (Warren, 1908:20), and for the Uinta Basin (Twomey, 1942:391). Its continuous presence from late spring through the summer indicates that it is a regular breeding species.

Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus
(Brewster)
Willet

The Willet has been considered to be a migrant only throughout the southern part of the basin. Twomey (1942:392) found it in the Uinta Basin in spring and fall, but not during midsummer. My own records are all for May and early June. The writer noted mating demonstrations at Montez Reservoir, Uintah County, Utah, on May 18, 1963, but no actual nests have been discovered. I would rather expect to see it in the Upper Green River Province where there are more damp and grassy meadows suitable for nesting sites. Bailey and Niedrach (1965:342) list records for La Plata and Gunnison Counties, Colorado, published in 1888 and 1899. There seem to be no recent records for western Colorado.

Limnodromus scolopaceus (Say)
Long-billed Dowitcher

All records available to me for this species are from the Utah portion of the upper basin. Twomey (1942:383) collected specimens in May in the Uinta Basin and Behle et al., (1958b:49) found it near Kanab, Kane County, Utah, May 1, 1946. The writer has collections from Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah, May 12-13, 1961; July 22, 1961; and September 23, 1961. The May specimens are all in full breeding plumage. The specimens taken in late July are similar in plumage to the breeding plumage in May except that the white edges of the feathers of the underparts are narrower, giving a more uniform tawny coloration. Spots on the throat and head are more scattered. The back is much darker. The September specimen is in winter plumage.

Capella gallinago delicata (Ord)
Common Snipe

The Common Snipe is distributed along the waterways throughout the upper basin. A number of references (Behle et al., 1958b:48, Rockwell, 1908:159) indicate that it remains throughout the year at least in some parts of the basin. This snipe requires a boggy pastureland for nesting sites which may limit its occurrence particularly in the southern parts of the area. Published nesting records are those of Twomey (1942:391) for the Uinta Basin and Boeker (1954:105) for the Yampa River country of northwestern Colorado. The Upper Green River Province offers more favorable nesting habitats and the birds are in fact rather common there.

Crocethia alba (Pallas)
Sanderling

Little is known about the occurrence of the Sanderling in the upper basin. It is known to be a spring and fall migrant through the Uinta Basin of Utah. Twomey (1942:394) found it near Jensen, Uintah County, May 4, 1937, and May 21, 1935. The Brigham Young University collection contains specimens taken at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, May 13, 1961; May 15, 1966; and September 23, 1961. It was one of the more common shorebirds along the shallow borders of the lake on May 15 where it occurred in pairs or small flocks.

Ereunetes mauri Cabanis
Western Sandpiper

This is a common migrant species through the upper basin where it is often seen in large flocks around the borders of ponds and lakes. It has been recorded for the months of May, July, August, and September. Fall migrants apparently reach the Uinta Basin area about mid-July. The Brigham Young University collection contains specimens collected in the Uinta Basin area as follows: May 18, 1963; May 13, 1966; July 22, 1961; and September 23, 1961.

Erolia minutilla (Vieillot)
Least Sandpiper

This small shorebird is a rather consistent migrant through the upper basin and should be looked for in winter wherever there are unfrozen ponds or lake margins. It has been recorded within the basin for the months of April, May, July, and September. The writer found
several small flocks of Least Sandpipers at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah, July 22, 1961. Some of these may have been early fall migrants. One specimen was collected at this same locality September 19, 1966.

_Erolia bairdii_ (Coues)
Baird’s Sandpiper

Records of this species in the upper basin are scarce. Twomey (1942:393) found them migrating along the Green River in the Uinta Basin in May and September. Rockwell (1908:159) reported them from Grand Junction, Mesa County, Colorado. Specimens were collected in La Plata County by Morrison (1858). Fuller and Boles (1930:53) state that “one bird was found on the McCole Ranch, Daniel, Sublette County, Wyoming, September 17, 1923, in a small area of marshland.” Apparently the specimen was not collected.

_Erolia melanotos_ (Vieillot)
Pectoral Sandpiper

Only a few records are known to me from the upper basin. Rockwell (1908:159) reported it as a migrant at Grand Junction, Mesa County, Colorado. Specimens were collected in La Plata County by Morrison (1858). Fuller and Boles (1930:53) state that “one bird was found on the McCole Ranch, Daniel, Sublette County, Wyoming, September 17, 1923, in a small area of marshland.” Apparently the specimen was not collected.

_Erolia alpina_ (Linnaeus)
Dunlin

The Dunlin is known as a spring migrant in the upper basin. Twomey (1942:393) saw them at Ashley Creek Marshes, Uintah County, Utah, May 1, 1935. The writer saw several small flocks at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah, May 15, 1966.

_Micropalama himantopus_ (Bonaparte)
Stilt Sandpiper

Knight (1902:47) reporting a record by Coues refers to a specimen of Stilt Sandpiper collected at Fort Bridger, Uinta County, Wyoming, but gives no date. Bailey and Niedrach (1965:354) report specimens collected by Carter in 1884 in Grand County, Colorado.

_Recurvirostra americana_ Gmelin
American Avocet

The avocet has been reported frequently, especially from the Utah portion of the upper basin and as far north as Green River City, Wyoming. I have seen these birds throughout May, June, and July at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah, where there is ample area suitable for nesting. I observed some mating performances on June 2, 1964, but there is still no positive evidence of nesting. Birds are occasionally seen in small groups resting or feeding along the Colorado River and its tributaries but these are no doubt transient or nonbreeding birds. Frost and Murphy (field notes) saw them along the Colorado River south of Moab, Utah, May 15, 1964, and July 20, 1962. I have noted a pair on the San Juan River near Bluff, Utah, July 8, 1960.

_Himantopus mexicanus_ (Müller)
Black-necked Stilt

Aside from a record by Rockwell (1908:159) for Grand Junction, Colorado, all of our observations are from the Utah portion of the basin. Most of my records are for Pelican Lake, Uintah County, where it occurs rather commonly during May, June, and July. On July 22, 1961, I found it to be abundant there feeding in the shallow water. There is as yet, however, no positive record of nesting. For the most part, the Black-necked Stilt is a transient through the upper basin.

_Steganopus tricolor_ Vieillot
Wilson’s Phalarope

There are numerous records of this species indicating that it is widespread at least as a migrant throughout the upper basin. I have been unable to find records of nesting, but it would be expected to breed especially in the northern part of the Green River Province where there is more suitable habitat in the form of wet and grassy meadows. I have found Wilson’s Phalarope at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah, in May, June, and July, but it is most abundant there about mid-May. I also noted many flocks around Daniel, Sublette County, and along the Green River at Fontenelle Reservoir, Lincoln County, Wyoming, May 15, 1965.

_Lobipes lobatus_ (Linnaeus)
Northern Phalarope

The Northern Phalarope is found as a migrant both in spring and fall. Like Wilson's Phalarope they prefer shallow ponds or the edges of lakes for feeding and are often seen swimming. I have observed them at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah, where they often
mingle with larger flocks of Wilson’s Phalarope. In the early morning of May 14, 1966, I collected several specimens from large flocks seen flying along the shores of the lake.

Larus californicus Lawrence
California Gull

A few California Gulls have been reported at various points within the upper basin. It can be expected that they will increase as new reservoirs are formed and especially if islands for nesting colonies are established. Frost and Murphy (personal notes) recorded them from the Colorado River south of Moab, Utah, March 3, 1962; April 10, 1964; and October 18, 1963. The writer has noted a few at various reservoirs in the Uinta Basin in May, and Twomey (1942:396) found a few in the same area also in May.

Larus delawarensis Ord
Ring-billed Gull

Except for one record from Grand Junction, Colorado, by Rockwell (1908:157) all of our data on this gull pertain to the Utah portion of the upper basin. It has usually been regarded as a winter visitor to this area but there are records for all of the summer months from May until late September. Twomey (1942:396) gives an account of the nesting of a few pairs along the Green River between Jensen and Green River Gorge. This nesting record was based on observations of ranchers living near the river. The Brigham Young University collection contains two specimens taken at Pelican Lake, September 23, 1962.

Larus pipixcan Wagler
Franklin’s Gull

Franklin’s Gull is a spring and summer visitor to the upper basin. It has been reported from the Uinta Basin, May 10, 1937 (Twomey, 1942:396); Colorado River, 148 miles north of Lee’s Ferry, April 13, 1947 (Behle, 1948:306); and from Kanab, Kane County, Utah, April 15 (Behle et al., 1958b:50). The Brigham Young University collection contains three specimens taken at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah, July 22, 1961, and June 2, 1964, and two at the same locality May 15, 1966. The July specimens are in juvenile plumage. The June specimen has not attained full adult plumage. On May 15, 1966, a large flock from which the above specimens were taken fed on earthworms around the shores of the lake.

Larus philadelphia (Ord)
Bonaparte’s Gull

The only record of this gull in the upper basin known to the writer is that of Behle et al. (1958b:51) for Kanab, Kane County, Utah, April 15, 1947.

Xema sabini sabini (Sabine)
Sabine’s Gull

Bailey and Niedrach (1965:387) have brought together a few records of this small gull for western Colorado. It has been reported from Meeker, Rio Blanco County; Carbondale, Garfield County; and from near Blue Mountain, Moffat County. At present it is known only as a fall migrant.

Sterna forsteri Nuttall
Forster’s Tern

This tern has rarely been reported from the upper basin. Twomey (1942:397) found it along the Green River in Uintah County, Utah, May 10, 1937. He saw only two birds in flight and regarded the species as rare. Behle et al., (1958b:51) reported it from Kanab, Kane County, May 1, 1946. The writer has found this tern rather common at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, where it nests. One specimen was collected there May 14, 1961, and there are sight records for May 13, 1961; May 18, 1963; July 22, 1961; and June 2, 1964. On June 2 a nest was found on a floating mat of Scirpus near a protective growth of the same plant. It contained one fresh egg. Activities of the birds indicated that there were other nests in the same general area.

Hydroprogne caspia (Pallas)
Caspian Tern

Twomey (1942:397) reports seeing a Caspian Tern, two miles south of Jensen, Uintah County, Utah, July 19, 1937. This is the only record for the upper basin known to me.

Chlidonias niger (Linnaeus)
Black Tern

There are scattered reports of this tern from the Utah and Colorado portions of the upper basin. Twomey (1942:397) found it nesting near the Yampa River, Moffat County, Colorado. The writer has found it to be common in spring and summer at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah, throughout May, June, and July. Young of the
year were collected there on July 22, 1961, but no nests have actually been discovered. On May 15, 1966, the Black Tern was abundant at the lake where it was feeding on insects skimmed from the surface of the water.

**Synthliboramphus antiquum** (Gmelin)

Ancient Murrelet

A single record of this species was reported by Killpack and Hayward (1958:23). A female specimen that had fallen to the ground exhausted was picked up near Roosevelt, Duchesne County, Utah, November 12, 1955. The specimen is now in the Brigham Young University collection.

**Columba fasciata** Say

Band-tailed Pigeon

The Band-tailed Pigeon is apparently mostly a mountain-inhabiting species (Behle, 1960:28) in the southern part of the upper basin. Cottam (1941:122) gives several records for the Blue Mountains, San Juan County, Utah, where flocks were seen at elevations near 8,000 feet in yellow pine forests. Behle and Ghiselin (1958:4) report a specimen taken near Hanna, Duchesne County, Utah, in 1930, but they had no information about the habitat. This is the most northerly record available to me. There is an old record by Cooke, reported by Rockwell (1908:161) of the occurrence of this species at Glenwood Springs, Garfield County, Colorado. The writer saw one September 17, 1966, in a pinyon-juniper habitat about 10 miles south of La Sal, San Juan County, Utah.

**Zenaidura macroura marginella**

(Woodhouse)

Mourning Dove

The Mourning Dove is common in summer throughout the entire basin. A few apparently winter especially in the southern part of the area. Gilman (1907:153) reports them at Navajo Springs, La Plata County, Colorado, in January; and Rockwell (1908:161) found them at Grand Junction in February. Gilman (1908:147) noted their occurrence at Shiprock, San Juan County, New Mexico, in winter. Behle et al. (1958b:51) gives a collection record for Kanab, Kane County, Utah, December 29, 1946. Most of some 75 separate records available to the writer are for April through September. In the upper basin Mourning Doves occur most commonly along cottonwood-lined streams where they nest in trees or on the ground from early May through June. They are usually the most common and conspicuous birds in summer among the floodplain trees and shrubs and adjacent to these where they feed mostly on the ground. Where there are farmlands they often visit grainfields in late summer in large flocks.

**Coccyzus americanus occidentalis** Ridgway

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo is likely a sparse summer resident in the floodplain woodlands along the major streams of the basin. Actual records of its occurrence are, however, very few. A specimen in the Brigham Young University collection was obtained at Bluff, San Juan County, Utah, July 2, 1927. Rockwell (1908:164) found it nesting at Grand Junction, Mesa County, Colorado, and Felger (1910) reported it from near Meeker, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Monson (1939:168) records it from Waterflow, New Mexico.

**Geococcyx californianus** (Lesson)

Roadrunner

The AOU Checklist (1957:270) states that the Roadrunner occurs in southern Utah and Colorado. The only specific records known to me are those of Behle et al. (1958b:51) who saw specimens near Kanab, Kane County, Utah, April 2, 1947; May 1, 1946; May 20, 1947; and November 29, 1947. Bailey and Niedrach (1965:407) mention a record for Durango, Colorado, November 10, 1961. This record was taken from the Audubon Field Notes.

**Tyto alba pratincola** (Bonaparte)

Barn Owl

Twomey (1942:398) reports the occurrence of this owl in several parts of Uintah County, Utah. Gilman (1907:154) reports sight records from Mancos, Montezuma County, and Fort Lewis, La Plata County, Colorado. Behle et al. (1958b:52) has collection records for Kanab, Kane County, Utah, June 14, 1939; July 10 and 12, 1940; and May 2, 1946. He also reports (1941a:160) that it nests in caverns in that area.

**Otus asio** (Linnaeus)

Screech Owl

The Screech Owl occupies thickets and cottonwood groves along the major streams of the upper basin. While the writer has no evidence of its occurrence in the Green River Basin Pro-
vience, it will undoubtedly be found there. Collection records are known for the vicinity of Moab, Grand County, Utah (Miller and Miller, 1951:169; Behle, 1941b:182; Brigham Young University collection, June 9, 1927) and from near Jensen, Uintah County, Utah (Twomey, 1942:398, and a sight record by Hayward, May 18, 1955).

The subspecific status of the Screech Owls of the upper basin is somewhat in doubt. Specimens from the vicinity of Moab have been variously identified as *inyoensis* (specimen in BYU collection named by H. C. Oberholser and J. W. Aldrich), *mychopilus* (Behle, 1941:182) and *cineraceus* (Miller and Miller, 1951:169). Miller and Miller (op. cit.) were not able to recognize the race *mychopilus* proposed by Oberholser (1937:255). According to Miller’s map, the race *cineraceus* occurs in the upper basin as far north as central Utah and Colorado while *inyoensis* occupies the northern part of the basin. They did not, however, appear to have examined any specimens from the latter area. Behle (1941:71) doubts that *cineraceus* occurs at all in the Utah population and would place them all in the race *inyoensis* with some intergradation toward *cineraceus* southward.

*Otus flammmeolus flammmeolus* (Kaup)  
Flammulated Owl

This owl usually inhabits forested mountainous areas within its range and it is so rarely encountered that its status within the upper basin is in doubt. Woodbury and Russell (1945:55) collected it at Navajo Mountain, San Juan County, Utah, and recorded it from pinyon-juniper forest in that area. Gilman (1907:154) reported a sight record for Ft. Lewis, La Plata County, Colorado. Bailey and Niedrach (1965:417) refer to specimens in the Denver Museum from Durango, La Plata County.

*Bubo virginianus* (Gmelin)  
Great Horned Owl

The Great Horned Owl is a common resident in all seasons throughout the upper basin. It occurs in wooded areas along the streams as well as in pinyon-juniper forests. They likewise inhabit canyons in more desert areas where there are suitable rocky ledges on which they nest. About 25 sight and collection records from various parts of the basin representing all months of the year except December and January are given to me from published accounts and my field notes.

Two subspecies appear to be resident within the basin. The race *pallescens* is found in the south and *occidentalis* occurs in the north, but the exact limits of their ranges are unknown. The race *lagophonus* is a rare winter visitor in the area (Behle and Ghiselin, 1958:5).

*Nyctea scandiaca* (Linnaeus)  
Snowy Owl

The only record of this owl from the upper basin known to me is that of Felger (1910) who observed it in Rio Blanco County, Colorado.

*Glaucidium gnoma californicum* Scater  
Pygmy Owl

This uncommon owl is usually considered to be a bird of montane coniferous forests, but there is evidence that it occurs rather consistently in deciduous wooded areas along valley streams at lower elevations. Gilman (1907:154) found them nesting at Ft. Lewis, La Plata County, Colorado. The writer collected two specimens including a young bird of the year, and saw another one in Cottonwood Canyon, 22 miles south of Canonville, Kane County, Utah (el. about 5,000 ft.) June 18, 1960. Another specimen in the Brigham Young University collection was taken near Roosevelt, Duchesne County, Utah (el. 5,000 ft.) June 22, 1957. The species should be expected along any of the floodplain deciduous woodlands throughout the basin.

*Spectyto cunicularia hypugaea* (Bonaparte)  
Burrowing Owl

The Burrowing Owl lives in the open plains throughout the upper basin. Individuals are frequently seen in prairie dog colonies where they inhabit some of the abandoned holes of these animals. Specific published records are not available for the Green River Province, but the general range described in the AOU Checklist (1957) would indicate that they occur there. Unpublished records from the Brigham Young University collection are as follows: nesting near Willow Tank Spring, Kane County, Utah, May 2, 1962; collected at Roosevelt, Duchesne County, Utah, September 19, 1953; seen at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah, May 18, 1963.

*Strix nebulosa nebulosa* Forster  
Great Gray Owl

The Great Gray Owl is included in this list on the basis of a single record by Knight (1902:
for Wells, Uinta County, Wyoming. A specimen was collected "near the great bend of the Green River" but no date of collection was indicated.

**Strix occidentalis lucida** (Nelson)
**Spotted Owl**

This owl has been reported from several localities, especially in the southern part of the basin. Woodbury and Russell (1945:58) collected an immature male at the base of Navajo Mountain, San Juan County, Utah, August 3, 1936. Published sight records are as follows: Ft. Lewis, La Plata County, Colorado (Gilman, 1907:154); Escalante Canyon, Garfield County, Utah, August, 1957, and Glen Canyon, Kane County, Utah (Behle, 1960:29). The most northerly record is that of Killpack (personal notes) who watched one for some time on the East Tavaputs Plateau, Uintah County, Utah. This bird apparently inhabits dense pinyon-juniper woodland or other tall shrubby vegetation within its range in the upper basin.

**Asio otus** (Linnaeus)
**Long-eared Owl**

Numerous records indicate that the Long-eared Owl is rather common in suitable habitats everywhere within the upper basin. They inhabit dense growths of woodlands along the streams and are also frequently found in pinyon-juniper and oak thickets where they often occupy the abandoned nests of magpies. My records for the upper basin are all for spring and summer but these owls are known to be permanent residents in other areas.

In earlier works the upper basin population has been referred to the race *wilsonianus* (Behle, 1944:75 and 1958:52) but lately the western form has been called *tuftsi* (AOU Checklist, 1957:257; Behle, 1960b:29).

**Asio flammeus flammeus** (Pontoppidan)
**Short-eared Owl**

Judging from the few reports of this owl from the upper basin, it is an uncommon resident probably owing to the scarcity of suitable habitat. Available records, however, indicate that it is widespread where there are damp pasturelands suitable for its nesting and feeding. The following occurrences are reported in the literature: near Jensen, Uintah County, Utah (Twomey, 1942:401); 12 mi n. Daniel, Sublette County, Wyoming (Fuller and Bole, 1930:54); Sweetwater River, Wyoming (Knight, 1902:81); Plateau Valley, Mesa County, Colorado (Rockwell, 1908:163); La Plata County, Colorado (Morrison 1888); Moffat County, Colorado (Felger, 1910, and Hendee, 1929).

**Aegolius acadicus acadicus** (Gmelin)
**Saw-whet Owl**

The Saw-whet Owl is usually considered to be a bird of montane coniferous forests but individuals are known to descend to thickets and wooded areas along lower valley streams in winter. Woodbury (1939:158) reported a specimen taken in willow thickets near Moab, Grand County, Utah, November 15, 1936. Two specimens in the Brigham Young University collections were taken in similar habitats at Vernal, Uintah County, Utah, December 29, 1957, and at Neola, Duchesne County, February 4, 1959.

**Phalaenoptilus nuttallii nuttallii** (Audubon)
**Poor-will**

The Poor-will is a common summer resident in desert shrub and pinyon-juniper communities throughout the upper basin. The calling of these birds is possibly the most characteristic sound in evening and early morning. About 20 separate records from the literature and the writer's notes range from April 27 to September 19.

**Chordeiles minor** (Forster)
**Common Nighthawk**

Some 35 records of the Common Nighthawk available to me indicate its widespread occurrence everywhere within the upper basin. For nesting sites these birds prefer low and rather barren ridges where the eggs are laid on bare ground and where adults, eggs, and young are completely exposed. Nesting data from records at Brigham Young University are as follows: Ute Mountain, Montezuma County, Colorado, June 23, 1927, nest containing two eggs: Jensen, Uintah County, Utah, July 23, 1937, nest containing two young birds unable to fly; Bridgeport, Daggett County, Utah, July 8, 1954, nest containing two eggs. During the nesting season nighthawks tend to concentrate at dusk and dawn around lakes or over ponds where food is more abundant. The writer witnessed such concentrations at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah (June 2, July 6, July 22), when there was an abundance of midges on which the birds were feeding.
Subspecific identification of the upper basin population of nighthawks presents some difficult problems. For the interested reader, these matters are discussed by Selander (1954) and Hayward (1940). It seems that the races *hesperis*, *houelli* and *henryi* can all be identified, but there are large areas in the Uinta Basin and northwestern Colorado where there is such variation in the population that assignment of every specimen to a subspecies seems quite impractical. In general, however, the western race *hesperis* occurs in the western part of the Uinta Mts. and Green River Basin Provinces; *houelli* is found in the eastern portions of these provinces, and *henryi* belongs principally to the Colorado Plateau Province.

*Cypseloides niger* (Gmelin)

Black Swift

The only records of this swift known to the writer are from southwestern Colorado. Nesting records for areas in Grand County were reported by Bradbury (1918:103), and more recent records by Knorr (1950, 1961) have been published. Indications are that these swifts usually occupy higher elevations than those considered in this report.

*Aëronautes saxatalis saxatalis* (Woodhouse)

White-throated Swift

Numerous records attest to the fact that this swift is a common bird in the Uinta Mts. and Colorado Plateau Provinces of the upper basin. On the basis of its general distribution, it is presumed that it occurs also in the Green River Basin Province. Records of occurrence range from May 1 to September 6. The abundance of deep canyons and cliffs in much of the basin affords ample nesting sites and many records of nesting have been reported. Numerous observations of birds entering and leaving crevices are on record but such sites are usually impossible to reach and care needs to be taken to determine that the birds are actually nesting and not merely exploring.
Twomey (1942:403) regarded the swifts of the Uinta Basin as belonging to the subspecies *sclateri* principally on the basis of their larger size. However, the presence of this race within the basin appears to be somewhat in doubt.

*Archilochus alexandri*
(Bourcier and Mulsant)
Black-chinned Hummingbird

The Black-chinned Hummingbird is one of the more common hummingbirds particularly in the Uinta Mts. and Colorado Plateau Provinces. I have no data on its status in the Green River Basin. It is a bird of desert areas where it is most commonly seen in floodplain woodlands or pinyon-juniper forests. Specimens in the Brigham Young University collection are as follows: Jensen, Uintah County, Utah, July 19, 1937; Calf Creek, Garfield County, Utah, July 4, 1938; Strawberry River at Dark Canyon, Duchesne County, Utah, June 19, 1958; Randlette, Duchesne County, Utah, July 1, 1957; Fruita, Wayne County, Utah, June 8, 1960.

*Selasphorus platycercus platycercus*
(Swainson)
Broad-tailed Hummingbird

This species is the most common hummingbird in the upper basin where it is a summer resident in mountain as well as along the lowland streams. At lower elevations it is more common as a migrant but the writer found it nesting near the junction of White and Green Rivers, Duchesne County, Utah (elevation about 6,500 ft.), June 22, 1954. The nesting site was in a small crevice of a cliff about 15 feet up. The female was seen to feed young. About 20 records available to the writer indicate that the species is widespread throughout the area although it is more commonly encountered near streams or other bodies of water.

*Selasphorus rufus* (Gmelin)
Rufous Hummingbird

As far as the writer knows, the Rufous Hummingbird occurs in the upper basin only as a migrant although it may nest in the northern part of it. It is known to breed in western Montana (A.O.U. Checklist, 1957:303). All of the records available to me are for late summer and early autumn. I found them to be abundant along the roadways in the Uinta Basin, July 22, 1961, at which time they were feeding from the blossoms of roadside plants. The Brigham Young University collection contains 2 specimens taken at Heunerville, Garfield County, Utah, September 9, 1937, and two collected at Randlette, Uintah County, Utah, July 22, 1961. During migration this species may be found at all elevations in the mountains as well as in the lowlands.

*Stellula calliope* (Gould)
Calliope Hummingbird

The only available records of this hummingbird for the upper basin are a sight record in the Glen Canyon area, July 9, 1958, reported by Behle (1960a:31), and records from Mesa Verde Park and Gunnison County, Colorado (Bailey and Niedrach, 1965:475). This species breeds primarily at higher elevations in mountains but might be expected as a transient along streams in the lowlands.

*Megaceryle aleyon* (Linnaeus)
Belted Kingfisher

The Belted Kingfisher is a consistent, although uncommon summer resident along waterways in all parts of the upper basin. Being restricted to the vicinity of streams suitable for fishing, and clay or sandy banks where nesting sites are available, the species is spotty in its distribution. Twomey (1942:406) has published several records from the Uinta Basin of eastern Utah and western Colorado. There are also a number of other records for western Colorado (Warren, 1908:21; Gilman, 1907:154; Rockwell, 1908:164) and for southern Utah (Behle et al., 1958b:54 and 1960a:31). Dates of collections and observations range from April 21 to September 20.

*Colaptes auratus luteus* Bangs
Yellow-shafted Flicker

The yellow-shafted form of the flicker has been reported a few times from the upper basin although it is nowhere as common as the red-shafted form. Gilman (1908:145) reported a specimen from Shiprock, New Mexico, and Wetherill and Phillips (1949:102) collected it at Cameron, Coconino County, Arizona. There is a male specimen in the Brigham Young University collection from near Roosevelt, Duchesne County, Utah, taken January 7, 1959.

Intermediate forms between Yellow-shafted and Red-shafted Flickers have usually been considered to be hybrids between *C. auratus* and *C. cafer* although some authors (Blair et al., 1957:513) consider them as well as the yellow-
shafted and red-shafted forms to belong to a single species *auratus*. Whatever may be the correct interpretation, intergrading characters are often seen in the flicker population of the upper basin. Behle and Selander (1952:28) noted this in specimens from the Uinta Basin. Several specimens from that area in the Brigham Young University collection show indications of the red nuchal collar but otherwise appear to be typical *cafer*.

**Colaptes cafer collaris** Vigors

**Red-shafted Flicker**

The Red-shafted Flicker is a common resident in the upper basin throughout the year. It is the most common woodpecker encountered in wooded areas along streams where it nests most frequently in holes in cottonwood trees. About 70 collections and sight records are available to the writer including records for every month of the year and every section of the upper basin where suitable habitat is available.

**Dryocopus pileatus picinus** (Bangs)

**Pileated Woodpecker**

This species is known to occur rarely in the upper basin as far north as the Uinta Basin. Behle and Ghiselin (1958:6) report 3 specimens seen in yellow pine 30 miles north of Roosevelt, Duchesne County, Utah, August 10, 1943. The writer saw one at Cottonwood Wash west of Blanding, San Juan County, Utah, September 6, 1956.

**Melanerpes erythrocephalus caurinus** Brodkorb

**Red-headed Woodpecker**

This predominantly midwestern form of the Red-headed Woodpecker occurs sparingly in at least some parts of the upper basin. Warren (1908:21) reported seeing specimens near Steamboat Springs, Routt County, Colorado. Twomey (1942:407) found one dead near Ouray, Unita County, Utah, July 28, and Killpack and Hayward (1958:23) have published collection and sight records from about the same locality, July 27, 1937, and May 29, 1955. Indications are that these birds inhabit floodplain cottonwood groves and probably nest there.

**Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis** Baird

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

While the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is usually considered to be primarily a mountain-dwelling bird in the Intermountain West, it is actually rather common as a breeding species along the lowland river floodplains. About twenty records are available from as far south as Bluff, San Juan County, Utah (Woodbury and Russell, 1945:67), to Pinedale, Wyoming (author’s field notes). While there is likely some migration of more northerly populations the species is known to winter at least as far north as Duchesne County, Utah.

**Sphyrapicus thyroideus nataliae** (Malherbe)

**Williamson’s Sapsucker**

It seems likely that this species occurs only rarely as an altitudinal migrant at lower elevations in the basin. Woodbury and Russell (1945:67) note a specimen collected at Riverview, San Juan County, Utah, April 27, 1927. Rockwell (1908:164) records it from Grand Junction, Mesa County, Colorado. Other records available are from higher elevations beyond the scope of this paper.

**Asyndesmus lewis** (Gray)

**Lewis’ Woodpecker**

There are sufficient records to indicate that this species is rather widespread throughout the upper basin where it breeds in wooded areas along the streams. Its occurrence, however, seems to be somewhat spotty and unpredictable. On the wide Green River floodplain near Ouray, Uintah County, Utah, I found it to be the most common woodpecker. Numerous pairs were nesting May 17, 1958, in large cottonwoods dead but still standing. Especially in late summer or early autumn Lewis’ Woodpecker is often seen in loose flocks perched on utility poles along roadways or in dead trees in agricultural areas.

**Dendrocopos villosus** (Linnaeus)

**Hairy Woodpecker**

The Hairy Woodpecker is another species that is usually considered to be primarily a mountain dweller, but numerous references indicate that it is not uncommon at lower elevations along the river floodplains as well as in more dry situations. The writer found a pair nesting in a dead pinyon pine 20 miles south of Moab, San Juan County, Utah, June 12, 1964, and there are many other records of occurrence at lower elevations during the nesting season. Migrants from higher elevations seemingly in-
crease the population along the floodplain woodlands in winter.

Two subspecies of *D. villosus* occur in the upper basin. The smaller *D. v. leucothorectis* (Oberholser) occupies the southern portion of the basin, probably within the Colorado Plateau Province and the isolated mountains therein. Wing measurements of two males from San Juan County, Utah, were 121 and 124 mm, and of two females from San Juan County and Wayne County, Utah, were 124 and 119 mm. Wing measurements of two males from the Uinta Basin were 137 and 139 mm, and of two females from the same area were 130 and 137 mm. These latter specimens clearly belong to the larger race *D. v. monticola* (Anthony) which presumably occupies the Uinta Mountains and Green River Provinces and their surrounding mountains.

*Dendrocopos pubescens leucurus* (Hartlaub)

Downy Woodpecker

The Downy Woodpecker has been recorded somewhat less frequently than the Hairy Woodpecker from the lower elevations of the basin, presumably because it is more often a winter resident in wooded areas along the lowland streams and less of a summer resident there. However, there is evidence from information available that the Downy Woodpecker does nest in cottonwood groves. The writer saw signs of nesting activities on the Green River floodplain near Ouray, Uinta County, Utah, May 17, 1958, and specimens were collected there June 17, 1958. Gilman (1908:147) found them nesting at Shiprock, New Mexico. Most of the lowland records, however, are for winter, early spring, and late summer and fall. Twomey (1942:100) indicates that they leave the lowlands of the Uinta Basin in summer to nest in higher mountains.

*Tyrannus tyrannus* (Linnaeus)

Eastern Kingbird

Most of the available records of the Eastern Kingbird are for the Uinta Mountains Province and northward although Behle et al. (1956b: 56) collected specimens in breeding condition near Kanab, Kane County, Utah, June 18, 1947. In our field work in the Colorado Plateau Province we have never encountered them, although Woodbury et al. (1949:20) indicates that they have been reported from Wayne County, Utah. There is also a record by Gilman (1907:154) who found them at Navajo Springs, La Plata County, Colorado, in June. Warren (1908) noted them in Routt and Moffat Counties, Colorado.

*Tyrannus verticalis* Say

Western Kingbird

This common and conspicuous kingbird is found in suitable habitats throughout the Colorado Plateau and Uinta Mountains Provinces. We have only one record of it for the Green River Basin Province at Fort Bridger, Wyoming. It prefers woodlands along the streams, especially where there are large cottonwoods for nesting and perching. However, it also frequents farming country where there are large trees or utility poles. The species seems to prefer high perches but may also be seen on fence posts or tall shrubs.

*Tyrannus vociferans vociferans* Swainson

Cassin's Kingbird

All of our records for Cassin's Kingbird are from the Colorado Plateau Province although its occurrence in Montana and Wyoming (A.O.U. Checklist, 1947:334) indicates that it may yet be found in the northern provinces of the basin. This species lives under similar habitat conditions as does the Western Kingbird, being partial to cottonwood groves along the lowland streams. The two species are often found near human dwellings.

*Myiarchus cinerascens cinerascens* (Lawrence)

Ash-throated Flycatcher

This comparatively large flycatcher is one of the more common summer residents among the flycatchers of the upper basin. Our records are all from the Uinta Mountains and Colorado Plateau Provinces, but it is also known to occur in southwestern Wyoming (A.O.U. Checklist, 1957:339). The species lives in a wide variety of habitats. It is frequently seen in deciduous woodlands along the lowland streams but seems to be equally at home in pinyon-juniper woodlands some distance from water. Gilman (1908: 145) reported that at Shiprock, New Mexico, this flycatcher was found nesting in woodpecker holes.

*Sayornis nigricans semitrea* (Vigors)

Black Phoebe

The only published records of the Black Phoebe in the upper basin known to me are those summarized by Cottam (1927:77) and
Behle et al. (1958b:57) who mentioned sight records in the vicinity of Kanab, Kane County, Utah. The writer saw one at Bluff, San Juan County, Utah, September 13, 1966.

*Sayornis saya saya* (Bonaparte)

Say’s Phoebe

Say’s Phoebe is a common summer and occasional winter resident in all parts of the basin. It is a bird of more open desert situations, characterized by shrubby vegetation rather than either deciduous or evergreen woodlands although it occurs also in the latter habitats as well. Nests are most frequently built on low ledges of rock or near the entrance to caves or else in outbuildings or old, abandoned houses. These flycatchers often live around ranches and agricultural communities.

*Empidonax traillii* (Audubon)

Traill’s Flycatcher

This small flycatcher seems to be rather uncommon in the upper basin, but appears to be well distributed throughout the entire area. All of our records are for the Colorado Plateau and Uinta Mountains Provinces but there is no reason why it should not occur northward. Traill’s Flycatcher is an inhabitant of willow thickets and other medium shrubs and is, therefore, rather limited to such habitats. In habits it is somewhat more secretive than most flycatchers, a fact which may account in part for its seeming scarcity. Furthermore, there is comparatively little of the preferred habitat present in the upper basin.

Owing to a considerable amount of variation within the species, the separation of the group into subspecies, in spite of the efforts of several ornithologists, seems to be somewhat confused especially with respect to the upper basin population. The A.O.U. Checklist (1957:43-344) recognizes only two subspecies (*brevusteri* Oberholser and *traillii* (Audubon)) in North America but other names have been proposed and used in reference to the upper basin. The name *brevusteri* Oberholser was applied to the forms from the Monument Valley area by Voodbury and Russell (1945:74). Twomey (1942:413) referred to the Uinta Basin birds as *dustus* Oberholser, and Behle (1955b:7, 1958b:8, 1960b:33) used the same name for specimens from Duchesne, Duchesne County, Utah; Kanab, Kane County, Utah; and for several laces along the Green and Colorado Rivers. The name *extimus* Phillips has also been applied to some specimens from southern Utah. The present state of knowledge on the migration and residence of this species in the upper basin makes it impossible to arrive at any clear understanding of the status of the several races within the basin at this time.

*Empidonax hammondii* (Xanthus)

Hammond’s Flycatcher

This flycatcher breeds at higher elevations, preferably in coniferous forests and may be expected in the upper basin only as a migrant. However, Gilman (1907:155) reported it as nesting at Ft. Lewis, La Plata County, Colorado. This, however, was only a sight record. Collection records of the species in the basin are not common. Brigham Young University has specimens collected at Arches National Monument, Grand County, Utah, May 11, 1949; and from near Colton, Utah County, June 6, 1957. The latter would be at a nesting elevation. Twomey (1942:412) collected it near Jensen, Uintah County, Utah, August 9, 1937, and Behle et al. (1958b:58) obtained specimens near Kanab, Kane County, Utah, May, 1946-47. There is also an old record from Fort Bridger, Uinta County, Wyoming (Knight, 1902:103) but no date of occurrence is given.

*Empidonax oberholseri* Phillips

Dusky Flycatcher

The Dusky Flycatcher, which has often been confused with *wrightii* Baird and has also been called *griseus* Brewster, is of uncertain status in the upper basin. Behle et al. (1958b:53 and 1960a:33) have published the only records from the Utah portion of the basin. They collected it near Kanab, Kane County, Emery and Green River, Emery County, and Dewey, Grand County, all in Utah. All of their collections were made in May and August, and they considered the species to be a migrant only. Bailey and Niedraeh (1965:528) cite a number of records from western Colorado counties.

*Empidonax wrightii* Baird

Gray Flycatcher

The Gray Flycatcher is by far the most common summer resident of any of the small flycatchers. It lives mostly in pinyon-juniper forests but may also be seen in deciduous woodlands along the streams. All of the numerous records are for the Colorado Plateau and Uinta Mountain Provinces, but it also likely occurs in the

_Empidonax difficilis hellmayri_ Brodkorb
Western Flycatcher

From the evidence at hand it appears that this uncommon flycatcher is a rare migrant in the upper basin. It does breed, however, at lower elevations in the montane forest but seems to require situations close to water. There are no records for midsummer but Behle _et al._ (1953b:53, 1960a:58) have records for May and August for southern Utah and northern Arizona. Twomey (1942:414) reported them from the Uinta Basin in late May.

There is a likelihood that the race _difficilis_ Baird may occur in the northern part of the basin (Behle, 1948b:72).

_Conopus sordidulus_ Selater
Western Wood Pewee

The Western Wood Pewee is the most common of the small flycatchers inhabiting floodplain deciduous woodlands where it breeds. It has been collected and reported frequently from favorable habitats throughout the basin. Most of the dates of occurrence are for June and July, with one record as late as September 8, and one for late May.

_Nuttallornis borealis_ (Swainson)
Olive-sided Flycatcher

This species, which breeds in mountains bordering and within the upper basin, migrates along waterways at lower elevations. Twomey (1942:414) considered it to be a rather common migrant along the basin streams of the Uinta Basin in late May and early June. Gilman (1908:148) reported it as a migrant at Shiprock, New Mexico, at about the same time of year. The writer collected one from a dead cottonwood at the old townsite of Pari, Kane County, Utah, May 20, 1961.

_Pyroccephalus rubinus flammeus_
van Rossem
Vermilion Flycatcher

The only records known to me of this species in the upper basin are those of Hyde (1953:216) for Gunnison County, Colorado, November 18, 1952, and Behle _et al._ (1958b:59) for Kanab, Kane County, Utah, June 18, 1947. Both are collection records.

_Eremophila alpestris_ (Limnaeus)
Horned Lark

The Horned Lark is an abundant species in suitable habitat throughout the upper basin. They are usually seen in flocks in open desert country especially in areas of sparse shrub vegetation where the soil is rather rocky or in old fields or along roadways where the native vegetation has been disturbed. In winter they congregate in large flocks on low ridges where the snow has been blown off to expose food. There are ample records to indicate that this species occurs in the area throughout the year. Nesting begins in early April. The writer has found young of the year able to fly by May 19. While Horned Larks live under extreme desert conditions, the availability of water within a reasonable distance seems to be an important factor in their distribution. The creation of reservoirs, both large and small, within the basin will no doubt influence the distribution and population of the species. At Pelican Lake I have seen them in flocks hovering over shallow water and apparently feeding on insects from the surface. In early evening during the summer the birds tend to concentrate around the margin of these water sources in large flocks. At such times they seem practically fearless of man in their anxiety to obtain the necessary water.

Three subspecies of Horned Larks may be found in the population of the upper basin. The race _leucolaema_ Coues occurs in the Green River Basin Province and also in the Uinta Mountains Province (Peters: Checklist, Vol. 9, 1960:76). The subspecies _occidentalis_ (McCall) occurs in the lowlands of the Colorado Plateau Province but Behle (1960b:34) states that the specimens examined by him intergrade toward _leucolaema_ as well as toward _utahensis_. The latter subspecies is typical of the eastern Great Basin but seemingly appears in the Colorado basin west of the Green and Colorado Rivers at least as a winter visitor.

_Tachycineta bicolor_ (Vieillot)
Tree Swallow

The Tree Swallow appears rather frequently in spring and early summer, often in flocks with other species, along streams and over reservoirs where there is an abundance of flying insects. The writer's experience is that they are never as abundant as the Violet-green Swallow. The
species is known to nest in the mountains and has rarely been found nesting in trees along the lowland streams. All of the records available to me are for May and early June. Nothing has been recorded relative to their fall migration.

_Tachycineta thalassina lepida_ Mearns

_Violet-green Swallow_

This species is probably the most common swallow seen feeding in sizeable flocks over streams and reservoirs. They frequent places where there is border vegetation with an accompanying and large supply of midges and other insects. The earliest date of occurrence available to me is for April 20, 1962, when Frost and Murphy (field notes) found them feeding along the Colorado River near Moab, Grand County, Utah. They are common through May, June, and July and until mid-August. Although they are commonly seen in the lowlands throughout the summer, the Violet-green Swallow is principally a mountain-nesting species. Twomey (1942:415) believes that the birds seen feeding in the lowlands in summer have come there from their nesting places in the mountains. This writer would not be surprised, however, if they are eventually found nesting in trees along lowland floodplains or in crevices in rocky ledges. Some evidence of this was indicated when the writer saw them entering and leaving holes in cottonwood trees along the Colorado River at Dewey, Grand County, Utah, July 7, 1960. Near Rainbow, Uintah County, Utah, many miles from any large amount of water, Violet-green Swallows were commonly feeding over pinyon-juniper woodland and low desert shrubs. They were seen entering and leaving crevices in sandstone ledges in early June, 1954, if preparing to nest. I have also noted this same type of activity at Daniel, Sublette County, Wyoming, May 28, 1966.

_Progne subis subis_ (Linnaeus)

_Purple Martin_

In the Intermountain West, the Purple Martin is principally a bird of the mountains where it nests in small numbers. In the lowlands it appears usually as a migrant with flocks of swallows. Twomey (1942:417) reported it as nesting in boxes at the town of Vernal, Uintah County, Utah. He also noted it in other localities in the Uinta Basin during the nesting season. Rockwell (1908:174) reported it at Grand Junction, Mesa County, Colorado, but regarded the occurrence as accidental. Morrison (1886:153) found them nesting at Ft. Lewis, La Plata County, Colorado.

_Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis_ (Audubon)

_Rough-winged Swallow_

The Rough-winged Swallow occurs apparently throughout the upper basin. Records available to the writer indicate that it is present from early May to late August. It is sometimes found with flocks of bank swallows but may be encountered in flocks of its own species. The writer found the species in large flocks feeding over small ponds near Duchesne, Duchesne County, Utah, May 12, 1961; and at Adairville, Kane County, Utah, May 20, 1961. Specimens were collected from these flocks. There seems to be no published records of nesting in the upper basin although nesting would surely be expected.

Twomey (1942:416) refers birds from the Uinta Basin to the race _aphractus_ Oberholser, but this subspecies is not now recognized, and _serripennis_ (Audubon) is considered to be the widespread subspecies in North America (Peters: Checklist, 1960:92).

_Riparia riparia riparia_ (Linnaeus)

_Bank Swallow_

The Bank Swallow is most conspicuous in the upper basin as a migrant in late August where it is frequently seen perched in large flocks on utility wires along the roadides. There are, however, scattered references to nesting in the basin. Twomey (1942:416) found nesting colonies in the Uinta Basin area in mid-June, 1937, and also as late as August 5, 1937. The writer found a small colony nesting along the Strawberry River, Duchesne County, Utah, June 2, 1964.

_Hirundo rustica erythrlogaster_ Boddaert

_Barn Swallow_

This species is frequently seen in large feeding flocks throughout the upper basin, especially in May. Nesting takes place in June when the birds tend to pair off and nest as single pairs or small flocks in barns and other outbuildings near settlements. There seem to be no recent reports of the Barn Swallow nesting in natural situations within the basin, but Ernest Ingersoll described large colonies nesting in niches in rocks near Hot Sulphur Springs, Grand County, Colorado, in 1874 (Bent, 1942:442). Records of occurr-
References available to the writer range from April 22 to August 31.

Petrochelidon pyrrhonota pyrrhonota
(Vieillot)
Cliff Swallow

The abundance of suitable habitat for the Cliff Swallow in the upper basin accounts for the numerous records for all parts of the upper basin. Records of occurrence range from May 1 through August. They frequently nest under bridges or under the eaves of barns or other buildings, but large colonies also build nests on the face of the abundant cliffs that occur along the Colorado River and its tributaries.

Owing to the fact that this species shows considerable variability in size and coloration there has been considerable confusion in the subspecies names applied to the upper basin population. This matter was discussed by Behle (1948b:73). It would now appear, however, that the upper basin contains but the single race *pyrrhonota* (Vieillot) unless it be that the subspecies *tachina* Oberholser may be found in Arizona and New Mexico (Peters' Checklist, 1960:120-121).

Gymnorhinus cyanoccephala Wied
Pinyon Jay

This is the most common species of Corvidae particularly in the Uinta Mountain and Colorado Plateau Provinces. It is abundant throughout the pinyon-juniper forests of the area and in the woodlands along the streams. The extent of its occurrence in the Green River Basin Province is not known although it is common along the northern slopes of the Uinta Mountains. Numerous records indicate that the Pinyon Jay is a permanent resident throughout its range. Nesting occurs in April and May, and families remain together during the summer. The species is nearly always seen in flocks, which tend to wander from place to place to continuously.

Cyanocitta stelleri macrolopha Baird
Steller's Jay

Steller's Jay is primarily a bird of montane coniferous forests and mountain bushland but it occasionally extends downward into the mouths of canyons along wood-bordered mountain streams even in summer. In winter the species sometimes lives at lower elevations where there are streams bordered by cottonwoods. It seems likely that this wintering habit is more prevalent in the northern portion of the basin. Gilman (1907:155) found them to be numerous in winter at Fort Lewis, La Plata County, Colorado. A specimen in the Brigham Young University collection was taken at Whiterocks, Uintah County, Utah, February 2, 1954.

Aphelocoma coerulescens (Bose)
Scrub Jay

This jay is rather common at all seasons of the year in the Uinta Mountains and Colorado Plateau Provinces. It is found also in the southern part of the Green River Basin Province along the upper base of the Uinta Mountains but apparently does not extend much farther northward. The species is found in habitats where there is pinyon-juniper or else tall deciduous shrubs. It is often seen in wooded areas along the streams. It does not form large flocks like the Pinyon Jay but is more often seen singly or in pairs. Sometimes, however, it is found with flocks of Pinyon Jays.

Pitelka (1951:282) states that within the upper basin area there is considerable intergradation between the Rocky Mountains race *woodhouseii* (Baird) and the Great Basin race *nevadac* Pitelka. However, he considers the population to be more closely related to *woodhouseii* in the main. Behle (1948b:74) regarded specimens from Kanab, Kane County, Utah, as being closer to *nevadac*.

Pica pica hudsonia (Sabine)
Black-billed Magpie

This species occurs throughout the upper basin. In the Green River Basin Province it is particularly abundant where it builds its conspicuous nests in willow thickets and cottonwoods along the streams. It often lives in the vicinity of ranches and small settlements. Southward the magpie becomes progressively less common in the upper basin. It has sometimes been said to occur only as far south as central Utah (Peters' Checklist, 1962:254) but there is ample evidence that it ranges to the southern part of that state. Woodbury and Russell (1948:85) reported it from Bluff, San Juan County, Utah, and there is a specimen in the Brigham Young University collection from the same area. Gilman (1905:148) found it common at Shiprock, New Mexico, and also (1907:155) at Ft. Lewis, La Plata County, Colorado. I found it to be very common in the Four Corners area on a trip there in early September, 1966.
Nucifraga columbiana (Wilson)

Clark’s Nutcracker

Clark’s Nutcracker is a bird of montane coniferous forests where it is most common from timberline down to the yellow pine zone. It occasionally visits lower altitudes and may even nest in pinyon-juniper. Records of its occurrence within the limits of this report are rare. Gilman (1907:155) found it at Ft. Lewis, La Plata County, Colorado, March 11, 1906, and saw it with its young in May indicating that it may have nested there. Rockwell (1908:165) reported it from Plateau Valley, Mesa County, Colorado, and considered it to be a resident there. The writer noted several families in yellow pine at La Sal, San Juan County, Utah, July 8, 1960; and also saw a few individuals in pinyon-juniper some miles south of La Sal in early September, 1966.

Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis Ridgway

Common Crow

The Common Crow occurs in all parts of the basin, particularly along streams or around ranches and farms. In the southern provinces it is rare in summer, but may become fairly common in winter. Twomey (1942:120) found it nesting near Jensen, Uintah County, Utah, and it is likely that a few may nest all along the Colorado River and its tributaries. Bergtold (1942:158) reported it from Durango, Colorado, but considered this to be an unusual southern record. In the Green River Basin Province, the Common Crow occurs regularly at least in summer where it nests in trees and willow thickets along the streams of that area.

Corvus simnatus Wagler

Raven

This species is a common resident in the upper basin throughout the year. Many records are available from all parts of the basin but the Raven appears to be especially common in the canyons of the Colorado Plateau Province. In that area it is frequently seen or heard calling from cliffs bordering the streams. It undoubtedly nests in these areas.

Parus atricapillus garrinus Behle

Black-capped Chickadee

The Black-capped Chickadee is a fairly common and permanent resident in cottonwood groves and willow thickets along streams throughout the upper basin. They build their nests under loose bark or in holes in the trees. These birds are usually seen as scattered pairs at all seasons or in family groups following the nesting.

Parus gambeli Ridgway

Mountain Chickadee

The Mountain Chickadee occurs more commonly in mountains at elevations beyond this report but is, nevertheless, sometimes seen in floodplain woodlands at lower elevations. Gilman (1907:195) found it nesting at Ft. Lewis, La Plata County, Colorado, but it seems to occur usually as a winter or early spring visitor. The writer found it to be rather common in cottonwood groves along White River near Bonanza, Uintah County, Utah, in late September, 1966.

According to Behle (1956) two races of Mountain Chickadees may be expected in the upper basin. The subspecies gambeli Ridgway occurs in the eastern part of the area while a race called wasatchensis Behle (1950) is said to occupy the western part of it.

Parus inornatus ridgwayi Richmond

Plain Titmouse

This species is a common resident throughout much of the upper basin. It is particularly abundant in pinyon-juniper forests but is by no means confined to this habitat. The Plain Titmouse is most abundant in the southern provinces of the basin, but it occurs also in the Green River Basin at least as far north as Greenriver, Wyoming (A.O.U. Checklist, 1957:393).

Psaltriparus minimus plumbeus (Baird)

Common Bushtit

The range of this species in the upper basin is similar to that of the Plain Titmouse. It is more likely, however, to be encountered in low brush and in small flocks. Its northward range in the basin is uncertain but it probably extends as far as Greenriver, Wyoming (A.O.U. Checklist, 1957:396).

Sitta carolinensis nelsoni Meams

White-breasted Nuthatch

Most of the records of this species are from elevations in the mountains higher than those considered in this report. However, there are ample records to indicate its presence in pinyon-juniper and in deciduous woods along the streams within the basin. The Brigham Young
University collection contains specimens from Blanding, San Juan County, Utah, June 25, 1927; Green River floodplain at Ouray, Uintah County, Utah, May 17, 1958; and Whiteriver south of Bonanza, September 19, 1966. At the latter places they were common in cottonwood groves and in May there were indications that they were preparing to nest. I have also seen this species in pinyon-juniper south of La Sal, Utah, in early September. Gilman (1907:195) found them nesting at Ft. Lewis, La Plata County, Colorado and there are numerous other published records from the Colorado Plateau and Uinta Mountains Provinces. Their status in the Green River Basin Province is unknown to me.

*Sitta canadensis* Linnaeus

Red-breasted Nuthatch

The Red-breasted Nuthatch is principally an inhabitant of montane coniferous forests where it may be found the year around. There are a few records of occurrence, however, along the river floodplains at lower elevations. The writer found them present but uncommon in cottonwoods near Ouray, Uintah County, Utah, May 17, 1958. Twomey (1942:424) noted one near this same place, September 30. Gilman (1908:141) reported seeing one near the river at Shiprock, New Mexico. These records could be indications of some altitudinal migration in the species. Bailey and Niedrach (1965:581) state that in Colorado there is some irregular migration of this nuthatch down to the prairie stream-sides in fall and winter.

*Sitta pygmaea melanotis* van Rossem

Pigmy Nuthatch

The Pigmy Nuthatch is primarily a bird of yellow pine forests within the upper basin. In such forests it is very common especially in the Colorado Plateau Province. There are a few records from lower elevations, however. Gilman (1908:151) found them numerous in pinyon-juniper near Shiprock, New Mexico, and reported (1907:195) that they nested in a similar habitat at Ft. Lewis, La Plata County, Colorado.

*Ceithia familiaris* Linnaeus

Brown Creeper

The Brown Creeper breeds in mountain forests but seems to be a rather regular winter visitor in deciduous woods along lowland streams. Behle (1960a:39) found them at Green River, Utah, May 7, 1933, and at Hite, Garfield County, Utah, October 21, 1958. He also reported them from Kanab, Kane County, Utah, December 30, 1946. Gilman (1907:195) noted them in January at Ft. Lewis, La Plata County, Colorado.

Most individuals of the upper basin population appear to be of the race *montana* Ridgway, but Behle (1945b:75) referred specimens from Kanab, Utah, to *leucosticta* van Rossem, a race inhabiting southern Nevada.

*Cinclus mexicanus unicolor* Bonaparte

 Dipper

While the Dipper is usually thought of as an inhabitant of cold mountain streams it is sometimes found along rocky streams at lower elevations. The Brigham Young University collection contains specimens from Escalante, Garfield County, Utah, June 9, 1936, at an elevation of 5,300 feet; and near Fruita, Wayne County, Utah, June 8, 1960, at 5,400 feet. It has also been reported by Benson (1935:443) from Rainbow Bridge, San Juan County, Utah, (elevation 3,800 feet).

*Salpinctes obsoletus obsolcus* (Say)

 Rock Wren

Abundant records indicate the common occurrence of the Rock Wren throughout the upper basin. They are to be found wherever there are rocky outcroppings of any extent from remote desert areas to the vicinity of streams. About 43 records available to the writer range from March 7 through September. It is likely that some of them may winter in the southern part of the basin, but no positive wintering records are available.

*Salpinctes mexicanus conspicus* (Ridgway)

Canyon Wren

This wren inhabits the deeper canyons or areas of extensive cliffs wherever such habitats are found within the upper basin. Dates of occurrence available to this writer range from March 3 through October, but it is said to winter also throughout its breeding range (A.O.U. Checklist, 1957:421).

*Cistothorus palustris* (Wilson)

 Long-billed Marsh Wren

There are few records available for this species in the upper basin owing perhaps to the
lack of extensive areas of suitable marshland habitats. Behle has published several records including Moab, Grand County, Utah (1941b: 183); Kanab, Kane County, Utah (1948b:76, 1958:67); Escalante River, Garfield County, Utah (1960a:40). Twomey (1942:426) found it near Jensen, Uintah County, Utah; and Rockwell (1908:178) reported Cooke's record from Routt County, Colorado. Bailey and Niedrach have summarized records for La Plata, Garfield, Mesa, and Moffat Counties, Colorado. The Brigham Young University collection contains two specimens from near Kanab, taken April 8, 1961.

The race plesius Oberholser seems to occupy most of the upper basin, but Behle (1948:75-76) considered some of the Kanab specimens to be australinus (Swarth). The latter race appears to extend an unknown distance up the Colorado River from its more typical range in southern California and Arizona.

_Thryomanes bewickii eremophilus_ (Oberholser)
Bewick's Wren

Bewick's Wren seems to be generally distributed throughout the upper basin. It inhabits dryer situations where there are pinyon-juniper forests but is also found in taller deciduous shrubbery. It is considered to be a resident throughout its range (Peters: Checklist, 1960: 396).

_Troglodytes troglodytes_ (Linnaeus)
Winter Wren

Inclusion of this species is based on a record from the Fremont River, Capitol Reef Monument, Utah, November 5, 1941, reported by Behle _et al._ (1955b:67). There is also a record for Gunnison County, Colorado (Selater, 1912).

_Troglodytes aedon parkmani_ Audubon
House Wren

In the upper basin the House Wren lives in cottonwood groves along the stream floodplains where it is fairly common. Dates of occurrences range from May 17 through September 7 in the records available to the writer.

_Dumetella carolinensis_ (Linnaeus)
Catbird

The Catbird is a fairly common summer bird in the upper basin. They inhabit thickets along the streams and seem to be entirely restricted to this habitat. Gilman (1908:151) recorded the species at Shiprock, New Mexico, as early as May 7, but the spring arrival is somewhat later in more northern latitudes. Most of the records are for late May and early June. Information on the later summer and autumn activities is lacking.

_Mimus polyglottos leucopterus_ (Vigors)
Mockingbird

The Mockingbird is rather common in the Colorado Plateau and Uinta Mountains Provinces of the upper basin. It has not, to the writer's knowledge, been reported from the Green River Basin, but it may yet be found there. The species becomes progressively less common northward, but it does occur consistently in the Uinta Basin area. Records range from as early as April 26 at Henrieville, Garfield County, Utah, to September 9 at Escalante, Garfield County (author's notes). Frost and Murphy (field notes) found it along the Colorado River south of Moab, Utah, from May 15 through August 14. The Mockingbird lives in rather tall, shrubby growth, or small trees in open desert, or near streams. It is especially common in greasewood communities which often border broad washes or occur in low valleys.

_Oreoscoptes montanus_ (Townsend)
Sage Thrasher

Information at hand indicates that this species is well distributed throughout the upper basin. It inhabits the sagebrush community but is by no means confined to this habitat. It seems to be equally at home in any type of desert shrub as well as in undergrowth along streams. Dates of occurrence range from April 28 to September 9 in the records available to the author.

_Toxostoma rufum longicauda_ (Baird)
Brown Thrasher

There are only a few records of this species in the upper basin. Brigham Young University has a specimen collected at Roosevelt, Duchesne County, Utah, December 29, 1955; and the writer saw one at the junction of the San Rafael and Green Rivers, Emery County, Utah, June 4, 1957. Hyde (1953:216) records a sight record from Sapinaro, Gunnison County, Colorado, and Gilman (1907:195) reported the
species as nesting at Ft. Lewis, La Plata County, Colorado.

Toxostoma bendirei (Coues)

Bendire Thrasher

The Bendire Thrasher occurs only in the southern part of the basin. The Brigham Young University collection contains a specimen from Monument Valley, Utah, July 4, 1927; and the writer has a sight record from Wahweap Creek, Kane County, Utah, May 20, 1956. Behle (1958a:68) reports a specimen collected at Escalante, Garfield County, Utah, May 9, 1937, and a sight record in the Glen Canyon area, July 14, 1958 (Behle, 1960a:4). The species seems to be nowhere common within the basin.

Sialia mexicana (Swainson)

Western Bluebird

The Western Bluebird ranges throughout the upper basin where it is reported to breed in the mountains and winter in the lowlands. The writer found a number of pairs nesting in aspens near Kanab, Kane County, Utah, May 7, 1957, and saw a large flock at a much lower elevation also near Kanab, December 27, 1957. The northernmost record for the basin is that of Fuller and Bole (1930) from Pinedale, Sublette County, Wyoming. The species seems to be scattered rather unevenly over the upper basin and its habitat relationships are not clear.

There are apparently two subspecies of Western Bluebirds represented in the upper basin (Peters: Checklist, 1964:184). The race occidentalis Townsend may be expected in the Green River Basin Province and possibly the Uinta Mountains Province, while bairdi Ridgway occurs in the Colorado Plateau Province.

Sialia currucoides (Bechstein)

Mountain Bluebird

Numerous records indicate the widespread distribution of this species in the upper basin. It is a resident throughout the year particularly in the southern part of the area. It formerly probably nested rather regularly in woods along the stream floodplains and in buildings and bird houses, but its nesting is now confined mostly to the mountains where disturbance from starlings and house sparrows is less in evidence. At the present time Mountain Bluebirds are usually seen along roadways in late summer perched in long rows on utility wires or in flocks in winter. On December 27, 1957, the writer noted a large flock feeding on fruit of the Russian olive that was growing wild along a small stream near the old townsite of Adairville, Kane County, Utah.

Myadestes townsendi (Audubon)

Townsend's Solitaire

Townsend's Solitaire seems to be a rather frequent visitor in late fall, winter, and early spring to lower elevations in the upper basin. In nesting it appears to be confined to surrounding mountains. Rockwell (1908:179) found it in winter in Mesa County, Colorado, and Behle et al. (1960a:42) recorded it from Moab in December. The Brigham Young University collection contains specimens taken at Arches National Monument, Utah, May 9, 1949; Bridgeland, Duchesne County, Utah, March 11, 1956; and 3 miles south of Bonanza, Uintah County, Utah, September 21, 1966.

Catharus ustulatus almac (Oberholser)

Swainson's Thrush

This thrush, also sometimes known as the Olive-backed Thrush, is a breeding bird of the mountains where it resides in the summer. Its occasional occurrence at lower elevations as a transient is indicated by a record of Twomey (1942:531) who collected it near Jensen, Uintah County, Utah, May 29, 1935. Behle (1960a:42) found it near Green River, Emery County, Utah, May 24, 1947. Since the breeding range is often at lower elevations in the montane forest, this thrush should be looked for along the floodplains of the streams especially in the northern part of the basin.

The subspecies swainsoni (Tschundi) has been listed in the past as the race living in the upper basin area. Bond (1963:373-387) has recently shown that almac (Oberholser) is the race occupying the intermountain area while swainsoni occurs farther east. Behle (1948b:76) also arrived at this same conclusion.

Catharus guttatus (Pallas)

Hermit Thrush

The Hermit Thrush is a mountain breeding species that occurs occasionally as a transient at lower elevations in the basin. Twomey (1942:429) states that it migrates regularly along the wooded banks of the Green River, Uinta Basin, in May and September. The writer collected one at Arches National Monument, Utah, May 9, 1949, and another at Whiteriver, 3 miles south of Bonanza, Utah, September 21, 1966.
Several subspecific names have been applied to material from the upper basin, but it now appears that the most likely races are polionotus (Grinnell) or auduboni (Baird), either of which might be expected in the migrating population.

*Catharus fuscescens* (Stephens)
Veery

This species, also sometimes called the Willow Thrush, is included on the basis of a record by Knight (1902:157) for Fort Bridger, Uinta County, Wyoming. This was originally reported by Drexel in 1858. The species should be looked for in streamside thickets especially in the Green River Basin.

*Turdus migratorius propinquus* Ridgway
Robin

The Robin is a common resident of the entire upper basin throughout the year. It winters more commonly in the southern part of the basin. It inhabits floodplain woods along all of the streams and is also common around settlements and farms.

*Polioptila caerulea amoenissima* Grinnell
Blue-gray Gnattcather

This species is a common summer resident in the Uinta Mountains Province and the Colorado Plateau Province. The gnattcather is especially common in pinyon-juniper but may also be found in desert shrubs and streamside hickets. Dates of occurrence range from late April to mid-September, but it is possible that some may winter in the southern part of the basin.

*Regulus calendula cineraceus* Grinnell
Ruby-crowned Kinglet

This small species is most likely to be seen in the upper basin principally as a spring and all migrant. Dates of records at hand range from April 8 to October 25, but there are no records for late June, July, or August. According to Twomey (1942:433) fall migration begins in the Uinta Basin in early September. The writer found them common near Kanab, Kane County, Utah, on April 5, 1961, but these may have been wintering birds since they are said to winter in southern Utah (A.O.U. Checklist, 957:454). When migrating or wintering, Ruby-crowned Kinglets are most often seen in deciduous woods along the streams where they occur in small flocks. Nesting apparently is confined to montane forests at higher elevations.

*Regulus satrapa olivaceus* Baird
Golden-crowned Kinglet

This kinglet is a mountain-dwelling species that has some altitudinal migration. Behle et al. (1955a:71) found it in February in pinyon-juniper forests near Grover, Wayne County, Utah. The species seems to be nowhere common, and the writer could find no other records for the upper basin.

*Anthus spinolaetia* (Linnaeus)
Water Pipit

The Water Pipit is a fairly common wintering species at least in the Uinta Mountains and Colorado Plateau Provinces. They occur in flocks especially near bodies of water that may remain open through part or all of the winter. All of the records available are for September through April. The species nests at high elevations in mountains surrounding the basin or farther north.

It is possible that representatives of three races of pipits may be found in the wintering and transient population. A series of specimens taken in late September and winter in the Uinta Basin are clearly in the subspecies *alticola* Todd which is the nesting species of the Colorado and Utah mountains. Peters’ Checklist (1960a:160) indicates that *rubescens* (Tunstill) migrates to southern Utah, and there is probability that *pacificus* Todd may be found at least in the southern part of the basin (Behle et al., 1958b: 72).

*Lanius ludovicianus gambeli* Ridgway
Loggerhead Shrike

This shrike inhabits open desert shrub areas as well as streamside thickets throughout the upper basin. It is known to winter in southern Utah (Behle et al., 1955b:73; Hayward, field notes) but how far north it remains all winter has not been recorded. The most northern winter record is a specimen collected in Duchesne County, Utah, December 28, 1960. Most observers have considered this species to be uncommon in the upper basin and the writer has found it to be less common there than in the Great Basin to the west.

The upper basin population has been referred to the races *excubitorides* Swainson and
gambeli Ridgway by Twomey (1942:435) and to nevadensis Miller by Behle (1960a:43). The latter race has not been recognized either in the A.O.U. Checklist (1957) or in Peters’ Checklist (1960). According to the last-named checklist, the population of the upper basin would fall within the range of gambeli (1960:353).

*Lanius excubitor invictus* Grinnell
Northern Shrike

The Northern Shrike is an uncommon winter visitor to the upper basin. The following records are available to the writer: Brigham Young University collection; Myton, Duchesne County, Utah, November 18, 1950; Fort Bridger, Wyoming, one specimen collected in 1858 and recorded by Knight (1902:42); Mesa County, Colorado, recorded as “sparse in winter” by Rockwell (1908:175); near Johnson, Coconino County, Arizona, November 27, 1937, reported by Behle et al. (1955b:73).

*Bombycilla garrulus pallidiceps* Reichenow
Bohemian Waxwing

The Bohemian Waxwing has been rarely reported from the upper basin, but this is probably due to lack of reporting rather than scarcity of occurrence. In the Great Basin, this bird is an unpredictable but often common winter visitor especially around settlements where there are ornamental shrubs or fruit trees bearing dried fruit. The writer suspects that it is no less common in the upper basin. Collection or observation has been recorded from Fort Bridger, Wyoming (Knight 1902:141); Grand Junction, Mesa County, Colorado (Rockwell, 1908:175); and Kanab, Kane County, Utah (Behle et al., 1955b:72).

*Bombycilla cedrorum* Vieillot
Cedar Waxwing

Like the Bohemian Waxwing the Cedar Waxwing has been reported only rarely from the upper basin, but it is likely more common, especially in winter, than the records would indicate. It is likely also that it breeds irregularly within the basin. Behle and Selander (1952:29) suspected breeding near Kanab, Kane County, Utah, May 12, 1946, and Beck (field notes) found it at Escalante, Garfield County, Utah, June 7, 1940. Monson (1939:168) made several observations in northeastern Arizona (Keam’s Canyon) from May 8 through June 7, 1937.

*Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris* Linnaeus

Starling

Since 1948, at least, numerous records indicate that the Starling is now well established as a breeding bird throughout the entire upper basin. This species inhabits floodplain woods along the streams where it nests in holes in cottonwoods. It is likewise common in and around settlements. The effect of this invader on native species is unknown, although there is evidence that it can compete effectively against woodpeckers and other hole-nesting species.

*Vireo solitarius plumbeus* Coues
Solitary Vireo

This species is perhaps the most common vireo, at least in the Uinta Mountains and Colorado Plateau Provinces of the upper basin. It inhabits deciduous woodlands along the streams as well as the pinyon-juniper community and extends its breeding range upward to the yellow pine forests. Most of the records available are for May, June, and July, and it is likely that the species winters south of the upper basin area. The writer found a pair with half-grown young at Cottonwood Canyon, Kane County, Utah, June 16, 1960, and found a nest containing well-incubated eggs on a low branch of a yellow pine near La Sal, San Juan County, Utah, July 8, 1960. This may have been a second nesting for the season.

Examples of the race *cassinii* Xantus have been reported occasionally as migrants in the upper basin. Behle et al. (1955b:73) reported a sight record for Kanab, Kane County, Utah, May 12, 1946. The writer collected specimens of this race along the White River, Uintah County, Utah, September 20, 1966. Twomey (1942:437) and Woodbury and Russell (1954:117) have published records for the Uinta Basin and Navajo Mountain areas. The subspecies *plumbeus* Coues is by far the more common of the two, and is the race known to breed in the upper basin.

*Vireo olivaceus* (Linnaeus)
Red-eyed Vireo

The writer knows of only two published records of this species for the upper basin. Twomey (1942:437) collected it near Jensen, Uintah County, Utah, and indicated that it was a rather common migrant in that area in late May and early June and again in early September. Knight (1902:143) reported a collection made by
Drexel at Fort Bridger, Wyoming. According to the A.O.U. Checklist (1957:475) it has also been found at Green River, Wyoming.

_Vireo gilvus_ (Vieillot)

Warbling Vireo

The Warbling Vireo is a common summer resident along the lowland streams of the upper basin where it lives in cottonwoods and other trees and taller shrubs of the floodplains. Dates of the occurrences available to the writer range from May 18 to September 9.

The subspecific status of the upper basin forms appear to be somewhat confused. Behle (1948b:77) considered the breeding birds of mountainous sections of northern Utah to be of the race _leucopogus_ Oberholser and considered _swainsonii_ Baird to be a migrant. Twomey (1942:437) listed the birds of the Uinta Basin, Utah, as _swainsonii_. In a later publication on the birds of southeastern Utah, Behle (1960a:43-44) used the name _swainsonii_ for the birds of that area. A specimen in the Brigham Young University collection taken at Henrieville, Garfield County, Utah, September 7, 1937, has the olive back and pale olive underparts supposed to be characteristic of _swainsonii_.

_Vireo vicinior_ Coues

Gray Vireo

The only records of this species in the upper basin known to me are those of Behle _et al._ (1955b:73) who collected several specimens in May near Kanab, Kane County, Utah, and at the confluence of Calf Creek and Escalante River, Garfield County, Utah. They state that the Gray Vireo is an inhabitant of pinyon-juniper woodland.

_Vermivora celata_ (Say)

Orange-crowned Warbler

Orange-crowned Warblers occur throughout the upper basin as summer residents and migrants. They are found in bushy canyons or on slopes especially where the brush is rather tall, and they also range upward into the montane orests. Records of occurrence range from May 1 to October 20.

The breeding subspecies in the basin appears to be _orestera_ Oberholser, but _celata_ (Say) has been frequently found in fall migration (Twomey, 1942:438; Cottam, 1942:255; Behle and Selander, 1952:30; and Behle _et al._, 1958b:74).

_Vermivora ruficapilla ridgwayi_ van Rossem

Nashville Warbler

The Nashville Warbler is an uncommon transient through the upper basin. According to the A.O.U. Checklist (1957:484), it nests in the Wasatch Mountains of northern Utah, but the writer has no precise record of this. Published records are rare and mostly for the fall. Woodbury and Russell (1945:119) have collection records for August 11 and 17 in the Monument Valley area of northern Arizona. Behle _et al._ (1958b:74) published a sight record for Kanab, Kane County, Utah, April 21 and Daniel _et al._ (1958:199) found it at Mesa Verde, Colorado.

_Vermivora virginiae_ (Baird)

Virginia’s Warbler

This warbler is a fairly common summer resident in the Uinta Mountains and Colorado Plateau Provinces of the upper basin. The species inhabits brushy areas along foothills and in canyons often in rather dry situations. The Brigham Young University collection contains specimens from Natural Bridges, Utah, June 27, 1927; Arches National Monument, Utah, May 9, 1950; and along the Strawberry River, Duchesne County, Utah, June 18, 1957. It has also been recorded for Vernal, Utah (A.O.U. Checklist, 1957), and from numerous other localities.

_Vermivora luciae_ (Cooper)

Lucy’s Warbler

Lucy’s Warbler appears to be confined in distribution to the Colorado Plateau Province of the upper basin in summer where it is not common. The Brigham Young University collection contains a juvenile specimen taken at Calf Creek, Garfield County, Utah, July 4, 1938. Woodbury and Russell (1945:120) found it at several localities along the Colorado River in southern Utah, and Behle _et al._ (1960a:44) recorded it as a nesting bird at various localities in Glen Canyon. Lincoln (1918:327) mentions its nesting in the Four Corners area of Montezuma County, Colorado.

_Parula americana_ (Linnaeus)

Parula Warbler

The occurrence of the Parula Warbler in the upper basin is based on a specimen collected at Gunnison, Gunnison County, Colorado, May 24, 1952 (Hyde, 1953:216). Mr. Hyde states that the specimen was a male in full song when collected.
Dendroica petechia morcomi Coale

Yellow Warbler

The Yellow Warbler is the most common breeding warbler in the upper basin area. It is found in willow thickets and deciduous trees along the streams or around the borders of lakes and ponds. It is also common in ornamental trees and shrubs of the settlements. Numerous records within the basin range from May 12 to September 6.

The upper basin population has been variously referred to the races aestica (Gmelin) (Woodbury and Russell, 1945:121), brewsteri Grinnell (Twomey, 1942:440), and morcomi Coale (Behle, 1949b:77). Behle (op. cit.) however, considers that all breeding birds from Utah, at least, are morcomi and the distributional range given for this race in the A.O.U. Checklist (1957:488) would seem to confirm this. Occasional transients of aestica and also annicola Batchelder should be looked for.

Dendroica caerulea (Gmelin)

Black-throated Blue Warbler

The inclusion of this species in the upper basin list is based on a record of a specimen collected October 9, 1938, at Ft. Wingate, New Mexico, and reported by Monson (1939:168).

Dendroica coronata hooveri McGregor

Myrtle Warbler

This warbler has been reported occasionally in the upper basin. Cottam (1942:254) collected it at Henry's Fork, Daggett County, Utah, in October. The writer saw one with a group of Audubon's Warblers feeding in cottonwood trees at Green River, Wyoming, May 14, 1965. Hendee (1929) collected it in Moffat County, Colorado, May 5, 1924.

Alexander (1945:623) has found evidence of hybridization between D. coronata and D. auduboni, and Phillips et al. (1964) consider the two to be conspecific with Audubon's Warbler being but a race of coronata.

Dendroica auduboni (Townsend)

Audubon's Warbler

These warblers are fairly common throughout the upper basin where they are seen as transients, usually in small flocks, feeding in wooded areas along the streams. It is likely that some of them also winter at least in the southern part of the basin. They nest mainly at higher elevations in montane forests. Gilman (1907:194) found them nesting, however, at Shiprock, New Mexico, and they should be looked for as breeding birds elsewhere in the upper basin. All of the records available to the writer are for April, May, and September.

The specimens from the upper basin often have wing measurements somewhat larger than the coastal race auduboni (Townsend) and have usually been placed in the subspecies memorabilis Oberholser. Owing, however, to considerable variation in size, even in local populations, the subspecific relationships are not entirely clear.

Dendroica nigrescens (Townsend)

Black-throated Gray Warbler

The Black-throated Gray Warbler is one of the most common summer residents among the warblers of the upper basin. Throughout most of its range it has a decided preference for pinyon-juniper forests where it nests. It migrates during May and September at which times it may be found in small flocks in woodlands along the stream floodplains. Dates of occurrence available to the writer range from May 3 to September 20.

Dendroica townsendi (Townsend)

Townsend's Warbler

This warbler is an uncommon migrant through the upper basin especially in August. The following records of occurrence are known to the writer: Navajo Mountain area, San Juan County, Utah, August 10 (Woodbury and Russell, 1945:126); Henry Mountains, Garfield County, Utah (Stanford, 1931:8); Bogg's Crossing, Moffat County, Colorado (Cooke, 1909:420); 17 miles north of Neola, Duchesne County, Utah, August 24, 1957 (Killpack and Hayward, 1958:24); and Bluff, San Juan County, Utah, September 13, 1966 (Brigham Young University collection).

Dendroica graciae Baird

Grace's Warbler

Woodbury and Russell (1945:125) have published a record of this species. They obtained a specimen and made several observations in the Navajo Mountain area, San Juan County, Utah. They noted the bird only in yellow pine woods, but it is not unlikely that it occurs in pinyon-juniper. Their dates of record range from June 15 to July 16. Behle (1960a:45) mentions several other records from southern Utah, but they are for higher elevations than this report includes.
Sciurus nucboracensis notabilis Ridgway
Northern Waterthrush

The Northern Waterthrush appears as an occasional migrant in the upper basin both in spring and early fall. The following published records are known to the writer: Uinta Basin, Utah, May 8 and August 11 (Twomey, 1942:445); Bluff, San Juan County, Utah, May 11-22 (Woodbury and Russell, 1945:125); Linwood, Daggett County, Utah, May 20 (Cottam, 1942:255); Fort Bridger, Uinta County, Wyoming (Knight, 1902:150); Shiprock, New Mexico (Gilman, 1908:150); 18 miles southwest of Natural Bridges Monument, San Juan County, Utah, May 13, 1960 (Behle, 1966:396).

Oporornis tolmiei (Townsend)
MacGillivray’s Warbler

This warbler has been recorded throughout most of the upper basin. It occupies intermediate elevations along foothills and in canyons wherever there is brushy vegetation. Dates of occurrence within the basin range from May 12 to September 16.

The breeding subspecies appears to be monticola Phillips. Behle (1960a:46) states that the race tolmiei (Townsend) appears as a transient in the basin, but all specimens examined by the writer are very uniform in color and size and seem to be monticola.

Geothlypis trichas (Linnaeus)
Yellowthroat

The Yellowthroat is a fairly common breeding warbler wherever there are suitable habitats within the upper basin. It inhabits tule and cattail vegetation around the borders of ponds and also occurs in willow thickets near water. Dates of occurrence extend from May 1 to September 16.

The more northern and larger race occidentalis Brewster is the common breeding subspecies but it is possible that scirpicola Grinnell may be found nesting in the southern part of the basin. Specimens of campicola Behle and Aldrich may also occasionally occur as transients in the upper basin (Behle, 1948b:78).

Icteria virens auricollis (Deppe)
Yellow-breasted Chat

This species is a consistent summer resident in the Green River Basin Province is unknown to the writer. The Yellow-breasted Chat occupies dense shrubby vegetation along the waterways or around the borders of ponds. Records of occurrence extend from May 12 to September 20.

Wilsonia pusilla pilcolata (Pallas)
Wilson’s Warbler

Wilson’s Warbler breeds in the mountains and appears commonly as a migrant at lower elevations in the basin. During migration it is seen in wooded areas along the streams. Behle et al. (1958b:77) found it at Kanab, Kane County, Utah, as early as April 19 and I found small flocks moving through Castle Valley, Grand County, Utah, on June 6. The writer also found them to be very common along the White River, 3 miles south of Bonanza, Utah, September 19-20, 1966. They were feeding in cottonwoods and tall rabbitbrush.

Setophaga ruticilla tricolora (Müller)
American Redstart

The American Redstart is an uncommon breeding bird in the upper basin. It lives along wooded streamsides at lower elevations. Published records of its occurrence are as follows: Uinta Basin, August 20 and September 20 (Twomey, 1942:449); Uinta Basin, June 12 and September 3 and in Daggett County, September 12 (Behle and Selander, 1952:31); Boggs Crossing, Moffat County, Colorado (Cooke, 1909:420); Shiprock, New Mexico, May 27 (Gilman, 1908:151).

Passer domesticus domesticus (Linnaeus)
House Sparrow

The House Sparrow is a common species throughout the upper basin but is confined almost entirely to the vicinity of towns and ranches.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus (Linnaeus)
Bobolink

Since the habitat of the Bobolink is limited rather strictly in the intermountain area to wet pasturcelsand, distribution seems to be somewhat spotty and irregular. Judging from the reference to it in the literature it is not at all common. Woodbury and Russell (1945:129) refer to two specimens collected by the American Museum of Natural History at Bluff, San Juan County, Utah, May 19, 1892, but these may have been transients. Cooke (1909:415) reports speci-
mens collected at Meeker, Rio Blanco County, and Steamboat Springs, Routt County, Colorado. Hyde (1953:216) found it nesting at Gunnison, Gunnison County, Colorado. Hopkins (1906:461) reported it from several localities along the White River, Colorado, where it was seen in late spring and early summer. There is also an old collection record from Fort Bridger, Wyoming, reported by Knight (1902:111).

**Sturnella neglecta neglecta** Audubon
Western Meadowlark

The meadowlark is well distributed over the upper basin wherever there is suitable habitat. It is perhaps most common on irrigated farm-lands where there are open fields and pastures, but it is also found along river floodplains. Most of the numerous records available to the writer are for April through September. Behle et al. (1955b:77) found them in Kanab, Kane County, Utah, in December. A few might be found in winter anywhere in the basin, especially where there are cattle or sheep feed grounds where they can pick up some grain. They are also some-times seen in winter along blacktop highways where the snow has been removed and ground exposed.

**Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus** (Bonaparte)

Yellow-headed Blackbird

The Yellow-headed Blackbird is widespread wherever there are marshy areas in the upper basin. Irrigation and the creation of reservoirs in recent years have produced habitats of emergent vegetation suitable for their nesting and the number of colonies seems to be on the increase. Dates of occurrence range from April 14 to the last of September. At Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah, where there is a large nesting colony, nesting occurs in early June. The nests are attached to Scirpus which grow rather sparsely in about two feet of water. Feeding takes place around the borders of the lake where willow and tamarisk grow and where there is an abundance of midges during this season. The writer saw large blocks of these blackbirds over the San Juan River in the Four Corners area in early September, 1966.

**Agelaius phoenicurus fortis** Ridgway

Redwinged Blackbird

This species is common in the upper basin wherever there are marshlands or open pastures. It seems to prefer marshes with emergent vegetation as nesting sites, but it will also build its nests on the ground in wet, grassy pastures. It remains in many parts of the basin throughout the winter, especially in the more central and southerly parts. At Kanab, Kane County, Utah, the writer found it paired and preparing to nest as early as April 8, but in the Uinta Basin a colony was nesting on June 2.

Behle (1941:183) has referred some of the specimens from southern Utah to the race *utahensis*. However, this name was not recognized in the A.O.U. Checklist and the name *fortis* Ridgway is used in this report.

**Icterus parisorum** Bonaparte

Scott’s Oriole

Scott’s Oriole is an uncommon summer resident in the Colorado Plateau and Uinta Mountains Provinces of the upper basin. The writer has no records of its occurrence in the Green River Basin Province. It is known to nest as far north as the Uinta Basin (Twomey, 1945:131). Behle et al. (1955b:78) found it at Kanab, Kane County, Utah, on May 1 but records are too few to indicate the length of its residence in the basin.

**Icterus bullockii bullockii** (Swainson)

Bullock’s Oriole

Numerous records indicate that this oriole is a common summer resident in wooded areas along the lowland streams and in orchards and ornamental trees in settled communities. It is found throughout the upper basin. The earliest record available to the writer is for May 5 when a specimen was collected at Bluff, San Juan County, Utah. It was found as far north as La Barge Creek, Sublette County, Wyoming, on May 14. Most of the earlier dates are for about the middle of May. Twomey (1942:454) found that they left the Uinta Basin about the middle of September.

**Euphagus cyanocephalus** (Wagler)

Brewer’s Blackbird

Brewer’s Blackbird is one of the more common blackbirds throughout the upper basin. It is frequently seen along roadways and around the borders of fields especially where there are shrubs or trees for nesting sites. It also frequently feeds on lawns in parks and around private dwellings. In more isolated places it also occurs in wooded areas along the valley streams. These blackbirds are more abundant in summer from
late April through September, but some of them also winter in the basin where they may be found with Redwinged Blackbirds feeding around cattle and sheep feed grounds.

**Quiscalus quiscula** (Linnaeus)
Common Grackle

I have been able to find but a single published record of the Grackle for the upper basin. Knight (1902:118) reports a specimen supposedly collected by Drexel at Fort Bridger, Wyoming, in 1858. Dr. Drexel reported that the species was rare. The writer saw a pair at close range at Daniel, Sublette County, Wyoming, May 28, 1966. There were indications from their actions that they were preparing to nest.

**Molothrus ater artemisiae** Grinnell
Brown-headed Cowbird

The cowbird is a rather common summer bird in all parts of the upper basin. The writer found them at Adairville, Kane County, Utah, as early as April 7, but most of the earlier records are for mid-May. Twomey (1942:456) found them in the Uinta Basin in late July, but they must remain in the basin somewhat later than this. They are more common around settlements and on wooded floodplains. However, they are sometimes seen in open desert country where livestock are being pastured or fed.

**Piranga ludovicianus** (Wilson)
Western Tanager

The Western Tanager is seen in the upper basin mainly as a migrant when it passes through the lower country in early summer and fall. It nests in montane forests at higher elevations, but its stay there is brief. Spring migrants, usually in pairs, are frequently seen in wooded areas along the streams in the Uinta Basin as late as June 2, and by July 22 the birds again appear in the lowlands. The possibility that some may nest along the stream floodplains at lower elevations, as well as in the mountains, needs further investigation. The earliest date of appearance at Kanab, Kane County, Utah, is May 4, and the latest is September 20 reported by Behle et al. (1958b:79).

**Piranga olivacea** (Gmelin)
Scarlet Tanager

The inclusion of this species in the upper basin list is on the basis of reports by Rockwell (1908:174) of a specimen taken in Mesa County, presumably near Grand Junction, June 4, 1904. He also mentions two specimens taken by Cooke at Newcastle, 70 miles east of Grand Junction in 1892.

**Pheucticus ludovicianus** (Linnaeus)
Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Behle (1966:37) has reported a specimen from the headquarters area, Arches National Monument, Utah, taken May 26, 1965.

**Pheucticus melanocephalus melanocephalus** (Swainson)
Black-headed Grosbeak

A rather common summer resident in the upper basin, the Black-headed Grosbeak occurs along the floodplain woodlands where it nests usually on the lower limbs of cottonwoods or in tall shrubs. Rockwell (1908:173) found it from April 20 to October 2 at Grand Junction, Colorado, but most of the birds seem to arrive at the breeding grounds about mid-May. The writer found them to be common at Henryville, Garfield County, Utah, on September 7.

**Guiraca caerulea interrufa**
Dwight and Griscom
Blue Grosbeak

This species was formerly thought to be confined to the Colorado Plateau Province in the basin, but it is now known to occur in the Uinta Mountains Province as well (Behle and Selander, 1952:31; and Killpack and Hayward, 1958:24). The Blue Grosbeak inhabits wooded or bushy areas near water. Judging from the dates available to the writer this species arrives at the breeding grounds in late May or early June and remains until about mid-September.

**Passerina amoena** (Say)
Lazuli Bunting

The Lazuli Bunting is a fairly common summer resident throughout the upper basin. It prefers thickets and cottonwood woodlands along the streams or along ditch banks. The writer found it at Duchesne, Duchesne County, Utah, as early as May 12 and at Henryville, Garfield, County, Utah, on September 9.

**Spiza americana** Gmelin
Dickcissel

Only one record of this species for the Upper Basin is known to the writer. McCrimmon,
Brigham Young University Science Bulletin

Hesperiphona vesPERTina brooksi Grimnell
Evening Grosbeak

This grosbeak has been rarely reported for the upper basin presumably because it is principally a winter visitor at lower elevations. Its appearances even in winter are irregular which may also account for the paucity of records. Rockwell (1908:170) found it both in summer and winter in Plateau Valley, Mesa County, Colorado. The Brigham Young University collection contains two specimens taken at Roosevelt, Duchesne County, Utah, December 31, 1955, and February 14, 1956.

Carpodacus cassinii Baird
Cassin’s Finch

Cassin’s Finch is a summer resident of the Montane Forest and appears at lower elevations as a migrant especially in the spring. The writer found a large flock near Kanab, Kane County, April 8, 1960, and there are several other early spring occurrences reported. Nesting occurs in the yellow pine community and at comparable elevations in other forested areas. The species should be looked for in the pinyon-juniper community where a few most likely breed.

Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis (Say)
House Finch

The House Finch is one of the more common birds inhabiting the upper basin. It is common in wooded areas along the streams but is also found in rather dry situations some distance from water. They are seemingly more abundant in the more southerly parts of the basin where they are in continuous residence throughout the year. While it is likely that some birds remain all winter in the northern parts of the basin, there appears to be a general southward shift in late autumn to more sheltered areas in the southern canyons and valleys where snowfall is light and the ground is more exposed for feeding. At the old townsite of Adairville, Kane County, I found large flocks of wintering House Finches in December.

Leucosticte tephrocuts (Swainson)
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch

The Brigham Young University collection contains five specimens of the Gray-crowned Rosy Finch collected from a flock of wintering birds at Myton, Duchesne County, Utah, March 9, 1958. Of these specimens two appear to be of the race tephrocuts (Swainson) and three are littoralis Baird based on the differentiation of the two given by Ridgway (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 50:68, 1901)

Leucosticte atrata Ridgway
Black Rosy Finch

This species, which is the breeding rosy finch in the high mountains of Utah and Wyoming, winters at lower elevations in the upper basin in large, irregular flocks. Frost and Murphy (field notes) found a flock estimated at 200-300 birds near Moab, Grand County, Utah, December 19, 1961, and the writer collected two specimens from a similar flock north of Vernal, Uintah County, Utah, May 13, 1961. Two specimens were also collected near Randlett of the same county, May 6, 1950. On the wintering areas these finches are more often seen flying in rather close flocks restlessly from place to place alighting for short periods to feed on the ground.

Acanthis fLAMMea fLAMMea (Linnaeus)
Common Redpoll

The Common Redpoll has rarely been reported from the upper basin although it should be expected in winter in lower canyons especially in the Green River Basin Province. Cot tam (1942:254) reported a specimen collected at the mouth of Henry’s Fork, Daggott County, Utah, October 10, 1870. Killpack and Hayward (1958:24) reported collections and sight records from near Roosevelt, Duchesne County, Utah, January 1, 1958. Knight (1902:123) records specimens collected by the Hayden Survey at Green River, Wyoming.

Spinus pinus pinus (Wilson)
Pine Siskin

The Pine Siskin is a rather common species throughout the upper basin. It nests primarily in conifer forests of the mountains, but it is also found breeding at lower elevations. It is likely that a few remain all winter even in the more northern parts of the basin, but most of the wintering birds are found in more southerly localities where the ground remains bare of snow most of the time and where there is a plentiful supply of seeds.
Spinus tristis pallidus Means
American Goldfinch

This species is fairly common throughout the upper basin and occurs there as a year-round resident, at least in parts of it. The birds occupy the floodplain woodland in spring and summer or live in woodlots and ornamental trees around settlements. They seem to prefer the vicinity of ample water. In winter they may be found in their more sombre winter plumage feeding in flocks wherever there is bare ground or exposed vegetation bearing seeds. On December 30, 1957, the writer found large flocks of goldfinches feeding with flocks of House Finches at Adairville townsite, Kane County, Utah.

Spinus psaltria hesperophilus (Oberholser)
Lesser Goldfinch

The Lesser Goldfinch occurs as a summer resident in much of the upper basin as far north as Daniel, Sublette County, Wyoming, but it is probably more common toward the south. It is apparently a winter resident also over most of its range but there appears to be some southward shift at that season. The species lives in wooded areas along the lowland streams and also in trees around the settlements. It feeds frequently on the ground as well as in the trees.

Loxia curvirostra Limaeus
Red Crossbill

The Red Crossbill is confined almost entirely to the montane forests where it breeds irregularly. It is frequently found in the isolated ranges of the southern upper basin living in forests of yellow pine, and it is not unlikely that it occurs to some extent in pinyon-juniper. It has been found in yellow pine (Abajo Mountains, San Juan County, Utah, Brigham Young University collection) and in a similar habitat near La Sal, San Juan County (Behle, 1960a:50). Behle and Ghiselin (1958a:18) collected it three miles south of Vernal, Uintah County, Utah, which must have been at a rather low elevation.

The crossbill population of the upper basin has been referred at various times to the races bendifrei Ridgway, benti Griscom, grinnelli Griscom, and stricklandi Ridgway. Owing to the wandering habits of this species and their erratic breeding most any one of these races may be found. Specimens showing intermediate characters of several races have been collected. Some of these problems have been discussed by Selandr (1953:158) and by Behle (1960b:23). It seems likely that the subspecies benti is the most common breeding form in the upper basin.

Chlorura chlorura (Audubon)
Green-tailed Towhee

The Green-tailed Towhee is a summer resident in the upper basin where it breeds in brushy communities along the foothills. As a migrant, especially in late April and early May, it is found along the floodplain woodlands at lower elevations. Following the nesting season these towhees often extend into higher elevations in the mountains where they live into late summer. Fall migration occurs in September (Towney, 1942:466).

Pipilo erythropthalmus montanus Swarth
Rufous-sided Towhee

This towhee is known to occur in the Uinta Mountains and Colorado Plateau Provinces. It occupies brushy areas along the stream floodplains and adjacent areas where it nests. It is usually found at somewhat lower elevations than the Green-tailed Towhee but the ranges of the two may overlap in the foothills. There may be some migration southward in winter but individual birds remain throughout the year even in the northern part of their range. One specimen in the Brigham Young University collection was taken at Myton, Duchesne County, Utah, December 27, 1956.

Calamospiza melanocorys Stejneger
Lark Bunting

The Lark Bunting occurs regularly, although uncommonly, in all of the provinces of the upper basin. Some sixteen records available to the writer range from May 17 to September 9. This species is much more common as a breeding bird east of the continental divide, but there is evidence that it nests also in the upper basin. Gilman (1907:157) found it nesting in June in southwestern Colorado. There are a number of records of occurrence in the basin in late May and June but no positive nesting records have been noted. These records and dates include those of Porter and Egoscue (1954:220) for the Uinta Basin on June 12, 1953; Behle and Ghiselin (1958b:15) for Jensen, Uintah County, Utah, June 10, 1952; Killpack (1951:99) for two localities in the Uinta Basin, May 21 and 26, 1950; and Rockwell (1908:173) for the Mesa County area of Colorado in summer. Killpack (op. cit.) did not believe that the birds he saw in late May
were nesting although he noted that the testes were enlarged. The writer saw Lark Buntings at several points along the roadway between Kemmerer and Daniel, Wyoming, May 28, 1966, but found no positive evidence of nesting. The Lark Bunting is most often seen in flocks in open country where low shrubby vegetation is predominant.

_Passerulus sandwichensis nevadensis_ Grinnell

_Savannah Sparrow_

The Savannah Sparrow is rather common wherever there is suitable habitat within the basin. This species inhabits fields and open meadow country preferably where there are shallow ponds. It is, therefore, rather limited to areas where there are streams bordered by lands that are occasionally flooded. Records of occurrence range from March 17 to July but it is likely that some birds winter, at least in the more southern parts of the basin. The writer found this to be the most common sparrow at Daniel, Sublette County, Wyoming, May 15, 1965.

_Ammodramus savannarum_ Gmelin

_Grasshopper Sparrow_

The inclusion of this sparrow in the upper basin list is based on a specimen collected at Gunnison, Gunnison County, Colorado, October 15, 1953, and reported by Hyde (1958:53).

_Passerherbulus caudacutus_ (Latham)

_Le Conte’s Sparrow_

A specimen reported by Hyde (1958:68) was collected at Gunnison, Gunnison County, Colorado, October 24, 1952. This is the only record for the upper basin known to the writer.

_Pooecetes gramineus_ (Gmelin)

_Vesper Sparrow_

This sparrow occurs as a breeding species throughout the upper basin. Eighteen locality records within the basin range from April 3 to mid-October. Vesper sparrows prefer a habitat of low to medium height desert shrubs sometimes rather far removed from water.

The subspecies _confinis_ Baird is the most common race both as a breeding form and in migration. Behle (1960:51) has reported the occurrence of _affinis_ Miller as a transient in the La Sal and Henry Mountains.

_Chondestes grammacus strigatus_ Swainson

_Lark Sparrow_

The Lark Sparrow is among the more common sparrows occupying the upper basin. About 32 locality records available extend from April 21, 1961, through September (Twomey, 1942: 470). Nesting is more common in sagebrush or other medium height shrubs, but the Lark Sparrow is less of a ground dweller than the Vesper Sparrow and is more often seen in taller shrubs or trees.

_Amphispiza bilineata deserticola_ Ridgway

_Black-throated Sparrow_

This species is truly a desert inhabitant where it is found commonly living in dry communities where shadscale and small rabbitbrush predominate. It is indicated in the A.O.U. Checklist (1957:604) that the Black-throated Sparrow inhabits southwestern Wyoming, but of 27 locality records available to the writer all are for the Colorado Plateau Province. Twomey (1942) did not find it in the Uinta Mountains Province nor have I ever seen it there. Near Wahweap, Kane County, Utah, the writer found this species nesting on May 20, 1956. The nest was located in a small rabbitbrush about a foot from the ground and contained two fresh eggs. It was a deep cup composed of coarse grass and lined compactly with fine grass. Among the records of occurrence available, the earliest is for May 2 and the latest is for mid-August.

_Amphispiza belli nevadensis_ (Ridgway)

_Sage Sparrow_

This sparrow is widely distributed throughout the upper basin in all the provinces but seems to be rather uncommon. It is principally a summer resident primarily in desert shrub communities. A specimen in the Brigham Young University collection was taken at Roosevelt, Duchesne County, Utah, April 1, 1950, but Frost and Murphy (field notes) found it along the Colorado River south of Moab as early as March 8. They also saw it in the same area on October 19. Indications are that some of these birds winter in the southern parts of the basin.

_Junco hyemalis_ (Linnaeus)

_Slate-colored Junco_

Juncos are common wintering birds in the upper basin especially in the more southern parts of the area where winter feeding condi-
tions are more favorable. They arrive in the lowlands usually in September and October and remain well into the spring. The writer found them at Duchesne, Duchesne County, Utah, as late as May 12.

Several forms which have been considered in the past to represent distinct species (A.O.U. Checklist, 1957:607-612) are now thought to be subspecies by some authorities (Brodkorb and Blair et al., 1957:612). By far the more common of these in the upper basin is a variable group that has been given species rank under the name oreganus (Townsend) with several subspecies including montanus Ridgway, mearnsi Ridgway, and shufeldti Coale. All of these forms can be recognized in the upper basin population. Of much less common occurrence are representatives of a group called hyemalis (Linnaeus) and another group known as caniceps (Woodhouse). Both of these forms have been given species rank in the past. The form called caniceps breeds in mountains bordering and within the southern part of the basin while mearnsi nests in the more northern mountains. Representatives of all these forms whether they are actually species or subspecies may be found in flocks wintering within the upper basin. If all of these kinds are actually representatives of a single species, they would, according to priority, be placed under the species name hyemalis.

Spizella arborea ochracea Brewster
Tree Sparrow

The Tree Sparrow has been reported as a winter resident in all of the counties of the upper basin. Twelve locality records available range from October to as late as May 5. The birds usually appear in flocks especially in patches of willows or in floodplain woodlands.

Spizella passerina arizonae Coues
Chipping Sparrow

As a nesting bird the Chipping Sparrow seems to prefer yellow pine forests or higher montane forests. Hardy (1954:536) found them nesting in pinyon-juniper in Carbon County, Utah, and the writer found them in the same type of habitat in Uintah County, Utah. A few may also nest along the floodplain woodlands indicated by Gilman (1907:157). The early spring migrants arrive in the basin about mid-April at which time they are often seen in small flocks. In September migrant flocks are again seen in lower elevations in wooded areas along the streams or in more desert shrub communities.

Spizella breweri breweri Cassin
Brewer's Sparrow

Brewer's Sparrow prefers sagebrush or other low growing desert shrubs in which to nest. It occurs commonly in all such habitats everywhere within the upper basin. In September large flocks of these birds may be seen along roadways where they appear to be feeding on the seeds of weeds that usually grow in such places. Their occurrence in the basin extends from about the middle of April well into September. The earliest date available to me is from Moab, Grand County, April 3 (Behle, 1960a:153). Twomey (1942:473) found them beginning the fall migration in the Uinta Basin in late September (September 21).

Zonotrichia querula (Nuttall)
Harris' Sparrow

The writer has been able to find a few scattered records of Harris' Sparrow wintering in the upper basin. These records are as follows: Fruita, Mesa County, Colorado, November 1, 1925 (Bergtold, 1926:245); Linwood, Daggett County, Utah, November 26, 1916 (Cottam, 1942:355); Price, Carbon County, Utah (Behle, 1960a:54); Myton and Roosevelt, Duchesne County, Utah, December 3, 1955, and January 15, 1957 (Killpack and Hayward, 1958:25); Gunnison, Gunnison County, Colorado, November 5, 1952 (Hyde, 1953:216).

Zonotrichia leucophrys (Forster)
White-crowned Sparrow

This sparrow is common in autumn, winter, and spring throughout the upper basin. It occurs in flocks in brushy habitats along the streams and around the settlements. They winter in greater numbers southward in the basin where the ground is more exposed. Gilman (1908:149) found them at Shiprock, New Mexico, in winter, and Frost and Murphy (field notes) recorded them south of Moab, Grand County, Utah, December 19, 1961. Probably most of the flocks seen in fall and spring are composed of migrants. In spring the greatest numbers are seen in April and May. The latest spring date is for June 4, 1957, at which time they were seen at the junction of the San Rafael and Green Rivers, Emery County, Utah, (author’s field notes). Fall migration occurs
mostly in September. The earliest fall date available is for September 7 when they were found at Henrieville, Garfield County, Utah (author's field notes).

Both the race gambelii (Nuttall) and oriantha Oberholser occur in the upper basin with oriantha being the more common of the two. The latter subspecies is the form breeding in the mountains that border the upper basin.

Zonotrichia albicollis (Gmelin)
White-throated Sparrow
Hyde (1953:216) reports a sight record of this species for Gunnison, Gunnison County, Colorado, November 11, 1952. This is the only record of this species for the upper basin known to the writer.

Passerella iliaca (Merrem)
Fox Sparrow
The Fox Sparrow seems to be an uncommon species within the upper basin, but it probably occurs in small numbers in summer in habitats of dense thickets along all of the waterways. Nearly all of the records available to me are for Colorado. Hyde (1953:216) found it at Gunnison from May to July. Gilman (1907:157) recorded it for Ft. Lewis, La Plata County, in spring. Rockwell (1908:173) reported it from Glenwood springs and Hendee (1929) collected it in late April in Moffat County. Lincoln (1913:114) found it nesting near Grand Junction. There is also one record for Fort Bridger, Uinta County, Wyoming (A.O.U. Checklist, 1957:625). Behle (1960a:53) reported specimens collected in the La Sal Mountains.

It is possible that both the subspecies schistacea Baird and swarthi Behle and Selander occur within the basin. The A.O.U. Checklist (1957:621) records the specimens from Fort Bridger as schistacea while Behle (1960a:53) lists swarthi as the race living in the La Sal Mountains. The specimens from Fort Bridger are considered by Behle and Selander (1951:365) to be of uncertain status.

Melospiza lincolnii (Audubon)
Lincoln's Sparrow
Lincoln's sparrow occurs in the upper basin as a spring and fall migrant. The populations at these seasons is made up of two races but only one of these nests in the surrounding mountains. Most of the migrating individuals are seen in May and late September (Twomey, 1942:475). Gilman (1908:150) reported seeing a few of these sparrows at Shiprock, San Juan County, New Mexico, in February and March.

The races lincolnii (Audubon) and alticola (Miller and McCabe) both occur in the migrating populations (Twomey, 1942:475; Behle, 1941b:184 and 1960a:53). The subspecies alticola is the breeding form in bordering mountain ranges.

Melospiza melodia (Wilson)
Song Sparrow
The Song Sparrow is a fairly common species in thicket habitats along the natural streams as well as irrigation canals near settlements. They are present throughout the year and often begin singing in late February.

The distribution of the subspecies of Song Sparrows within the basin is not well known. Behle (1948b:79) has discussed the occurrence of the races in Utah and concludes that montana Henshaw is the breeding form in that area. The races juddi Bishop (Twomey, 1942:476), fallax (Fuller & Boie, 1930:75), and merrilli Brewster (Behle, 1944:86) have been reported at different times.

Calcarius lapponicus alasceensis Ridgway
Lapland Longspur
The Lapland Longspur has been reported as a wintering species in several parts of the upper basin. The Brigham Young University collection contains six specimens collected in the Uinta Basin in December and January (Killpack, 1953:152). Hyde (1953:216) reports specimens taken at Delta and Gunnison, Colorado, in November and December, 1952, and Gilman (1907:156) records a specimen taken by Warren at Cortez, Montezuma County, Colorado, April 3, 1906.

Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis (Linnæus)
Snow Bunting
The only record of this species known to the writer is one reported by Killpack (1953:152). He reported a specimen collected at Fort Duchesne, Uintah County, Utah, January 14, 1952.
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