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Lesser Yellow Legs, New Record for Washington County, Utah

Due to the unusually heavy rainfall this spring in Washington County a rather large playa lake developed, four miles south and west of Hurricane, Utah. This lake was visited Tuesday afternoon, May 6, 1941 by Mr. Nelson Snow, Biology instructor in the Hurricane High School, Mr. Jay King, a senior student of the High School interested in zoology, and the writer. We were surprised to find the following large number of shore birds feeding in this lake. With the aid of field glasses we were able to count the numbers of the various species. I was uncertain as to the identity of two species, so we collected specimens with the 410-gauge shotgun. The following is a list of the species on the lake on the above date:

Plegadis guarauna (L.). White-faced Glossy Ibis. A flock of 14 specimens were around the shore. They were quite wild taking to the air as we approached. The other species of this list were too busy feeding to be frightened away.

Capella delicata (Ord.). Wilson Snipe. There were at least 30 individuals of this species feeding in various parts of the lake.

Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus (Brewster). Western Willet. There were 15 specimens of this species.

Totanus flavipes (Gmelin). Lesser Yellow-legs. There was a flock of 20 specimens of this species. Three specimens were collected and are now in the Brigham Young University vertebrate collection. This species is not reported by Mr. Ross Hardy and H. G. Higgins, (An Annotated Check-list of the Birds of Washington County, Utah, Proc. Ut. Ac. Sci. Vol. 17, pp. 95-111, 1940) in their valuable paper on the birds of Washington County. This appears to be a new record for this county of Utah.

Ereunetes maurii Cabanis. Western Sandpiper. There were 30 to 40 sandpipers on the lakes. One specimen was collected and is now in the Brigham Young University vertebrate collection.

Recurvirostra americana Gmelin. Avocet. There were 25 to 30 avocets on the lake.

Himantopus mexicanus (Muller). Black-necked Stilt. Only 5 specimens of this interesting wadder were on the lake.

This is the first time that large flocks of most of these species have been observed in this county. Most of the records are based upon a few migrants observed along the Virgin River.—V. M. T.