

the first mentioned Gallinule was shot in 1884, the dogs drove out from the reeds another, which was shot; and on the same day, a little farther down the river, and about a mile north of the Connecticut State line, I saw what at first seemed to be a Grebe swimming rapidly out into the river; upon pursuing it with a boat it arose, flying slowly and near the water, and was also killed. This made the fourth time I had been present at the capture of a Florida Gallinule in this vicinity within two years. I also think I have seen birds of this kind on other occasions when they have not been taken, and have very little doubt but that my companion was correct in his statement in 1884, that he had shot one, although there is a possibility he had mistaken a Coot for a Gallinule. They very closely resemble each other in every respect, except the feet. At all other places where these birds were first found, the bottom was very soft and there was a rank growth of wild rice, upon the seeds of which plant the birds were feeding.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) in Rhode Island.—On September 13, 1886, one of these Phalaropes, in immature plumage, was brought to me by J. Glynn, Jr., who had noticed it among some birds shot by one of the local sportsmen, and seeing that it belonged to an uncommon species had obtained it from him. I understand that when shot it was in company with two 'Creakers' (*Tringa maculata*). This is the second record of the bird's occurrence in this State.—WILLIAM C. RIVES, JR., M. D., *Newport, R. I.*

Occurrence of Phalaropus lobatus at Syracuse, N. Y.—September 3, 1886, an adult male Northern Phalarope was shown to me by Mr. Charles Noxon of this city, who procured it September 2 on Onondaga Lake, on the outskirts of Syracuse.

The bird, in company with another (female), which was also secured, was discovered swimming gracefully about in the middle of the lake, and both were so tame as to be shot without trouble. Two days after (September 4) another specimen, a male, was shot in the same locality by Mr. E. M. Hasbrouk; on September 25, following, another was seen, but not procured. Previous to this the Northern Phalarope has been recorded but once in this County.—MORRIS M. GREEN, *Syracuse, N. Y.*

A Fern-eating Woodcock.—One of the most singular departures of birds from their ordinary food-habits that I have ever observed is the following: In examining the digestive organs of more than one hundred Woodcocks, I think I have never found in them anything but the common earth-worm, either entire or in various stages of digestion, excepting in one or two instances, a leech (*Hirudo medicinalis*).

The Woodcock in question was brought to me to be mounted by Mr. W. C. Alvord, of Washington, D. C., who shot it while Woodcock shooting at Martha's Vineyard. This bird was one of several killed on the 17th of October, 1885. When skinning it my attention was called to its very