

birds on the bare places in the road where the snow had been blown away. Upon investigating I found the road literally covered with earth worms, which the birds had discovered and were feasting upon.

There were hundreds of Rusty Blackbirds, Cowbirds, White-throated Sparrows, Hermit Thrushes, Robins, Flickers, Brown Thrushes, Bluebirds and Bronzed Grackles. By noon time the birds had had their fill and not a worm was in sight. All that night the blizzard raged, but the next day it moderated and I believe few if any of the birds perished.— HENRY K. COALE, *Highland Park, Ill.*

**The Avocet and Other Shore-birds at Ithaca during the Fall of 1909.**— In Eaton's recent exhaustive work, 'Birds of New York,' he states that "The last authentic specimens [of the Avocet] were obtained about 50 years ago on Long Island." In view of this fact and the general paucity of records for this bird in the east, it seems advisable to present a record made at Ithaca, N. Y., last fall. The bird when first seen was flushed amid a mixed flock of Lesser Yellow-legs, Pectoral Sandpipers, Sanderlings and Semipalmated Plover, Sept. 15, 1909. Later in the day it was seen feeding in its characteristic manner a short distance from this same flock but always keeping with them. The following day, Sept. 16, it was collected and is now in the C. U. collection (Ac. No. 5219). It is an adult male in full winter plumage.

In addition to the occurrence of the Avocet, the migration of other shore-birds during the fall was so unusual for this station that a short review of the records may be worthy of note. Normally the possible feeding grounds for these birds is rather scant as the lake shore is grown up to rank vegetation. This year (1909) however, due to the unusually low level of the lake, extensive mud flats and sand beaches were left exposed. Before the hunting season opened, these were teeming with birds and thereafter flocks were continually dropping in, although almost immediately frightened away by gunners. Morning and evening, three or four times a week, these flats at the head of the lake were visited and it is a summary of the records made that follows:

**Lobipes lobatus.** NORTHERN PHALAROPE.— Two specimens taken Sept. 23 and Sept. 27.

**Recurvirostra americana.** AVOCET.— A single specimen, Sept. 15 and 16.

**Gallinago delicata.** WILSON'S SNIPE.— The first individual was seen July 11. It was not again seen until Oct. 1, after which two or three specimens were seen each week until Oct. 20. It was not as common as usual.

**Pisobia maculata.** PECTORAL SANDPIPER.— First appeared Aug. 2; common until Sept. 16 when they disappeared. Oct. 13 they again became common but departed the same day, only a few remaining until Oct. 20.

**Pisobia fuscicollis.** WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER.— Three individuals were taken Oct. 13, and 5 seen Oct. 16. They were accompanying Pectorals but did not mingle with them.

**Pisobia minutilla.** LEAST SANDPIPER.—This species was recorded but once, on July 21, when several were seen.

**Pelidna alpina sakhalina.** RED-BACKED SANDPIPER.—Appeared Sept. 24 and straggled along until Oct. 27, never more than two or three being seen together.

**Ereunetes pusillus.** SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER.—First seen July 21; was more or less common until Sept. 16; last seen Sept. 23.

**Calidris leucophæa.** SANDERLING.—A flock of five on Aug. 18 was the first appearance of this species. Sept. 15 and 16 it was fairly common, and was last seen Sept. 24.

**Totanus melanoleucus.** GREATER YELLOW-LEGS.—Appeared Oct. 12 and 13 when five were seen. A flock of seven on Oct. 17 is the only other record.

**Totanus flavipes.** YELLOW-LEGS.—A single individual seen Aug. 1; a flock of seven on Sept. 15 and 16; and five on Sept. 23 are the only records.

**Helodromas solitarius.** SOLITARY SANDPIPER.—Ordinarily a fairly common visitant, but only one specimen was recorded, Sept. 16.

**Actitis macularia.** SPOTTED SANDPIPER.—A rather common summer resident; it was last seen Sept. 16.

**Squatarola squatarola.** BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER.—First seen Sept. 3; a few scattering individuals then seen until Sept. 25.

**Charadrius dominicus.** GOLDEN PLOVER.—One individual taken Oct. 27 constitutes the only record for this species.

**Oxyechus vociferus.** KILLDEER.—On July 25, a flock of about 75 appeared. They continued common until Sept. 16 when the majority were frightened away. From the 16th of Sept. to Oct. 20 scattering flocks of from 3 to 50 appeared, so that they were never entirely absent from the beaches. The last record was made Oct. 27.

**Ægialitis semipalmata.** SEMIPALMATED PLOVER.—First appeared July 23; common until the 16th of September; a last straggler Nov. 3. This bird was poor in flesh and had probably been wounded.

**Arenaria interpres.** TURNSTONE.—On Sept. 15, three of this maritime species were seen running along the sand beaches, prying under shells, bark and bits of water plant in their characteristic manner. One was collected the following day in the same place.

Most of these records were not made in time to be included in the recent paper by Reed and Wright on 'The Vertebrates of the Cayuga Lake Basin, N. Y.' and hence we have the occasion of their presentation at this time.

It might be well in this connection to mention also the capture of a Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) at Ithaca, Nov. 3, and an immature King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) at the north end of the Lake (Cayuga), Nov. 26 by Mr. J. T. Lloyd.—ARTHUR A. ALLEN, *Ithaca, N. Y.*

**Top-White on Mammals and Birds.**—This is one of the points in our book (Concealing-Coloration) upon which some naturalists have not yet understood us. They have not read us carefully, and take our pictures