

wave of November 1 and 2, 1911, brought the ducks south almost by the millions. The Eider was shot by a Doctor Page of Sioux Falls and is now in the possession and displayed in the place of business of William Sweet of this city.—S. S. VISHNER, *University of South Dakota, Vermillion, S. D.*

**Records from Nippinickett Pond, Bridgewater, Mass.**—The captures of the following ducks on Nippinickett Pond seem worthy of record. European Widgeon, *Mareca penelope*, Nov. 7, 1902. Shot by A. C. Dyke.

Two European Widgeons, *Mareca penelope*, Oct. 22, 1910, from a flock of 4 birds. Shot by Harry P. Sturtevant.

European Widgeon, *Mareca penelope*, Oct. 23, 1910. Shot by A. C. Dyke.

Hutchin's Goose, *Branta canadensis hutchinsi*, Oct. 8, 1910, from a flock of six birds, the other five being Canada Geese. Shot by Messrs. Frank C. Drake and Irving A. Hall.

All the specimens were obligingly identified by Mr. Wm. Brewster of Cambridge.—ARTHUR C. DYKE, *Bridgewater, Mass.*

**Sora Rail (*Porzana carolina*) in New Mexico.**—On the morning of August 27, 1912, at State College, New Mexico, I picked up, dead, an immature Sora Rail that had flown against a telephone wire and broken its neck. On the night of August 23, 1912, about 10 o'clock P. M., a flock of birds flew over me on the mesa, headed northeast—away from the Rio Grande. The size of the birds and their manner of flight, as seen by the moonlight, in conjunction with the finding of the above specimen, lead me to believe these birds were of the same species.

To my knowledge, this is the first specific record of this species in the state, certainly in this locality. There has been an unusual amount of rainfall in this region during the month of August, which may account for their presence here at this time, for our mesa country offers no inducements to them naturally.—D. E. MERRILL, *State College, N. M.*

**Early Occurrence of the White-rumped Sandpiper (*Pisobia fuscollois*) in Maine.**—A male White-rumped Sandpiper in nuptial plumage was secured on April 27, 1912, at Scarborough Maine. The bird was alone.

The only other instances of its occurrence in the state in spring, known to me, are those recorded by Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown, May 30, 1881, and May 29, 1882.<sup>1</sup> Both of these recorded by Mr. Brown are in the collection of the Portland Society of Natural History, and the one here recorded in that of the writer.

The bird according to Mr. W. W. Cooke is rare on the Atlantic coast of the United States, in spring, north of Virginia,<sup>2</sup> and its occurrence at this

<sup>1</sup> Proc. Portland Society of N. H., II, p. 27.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. 35, U. S. Biol. Survey, p. 38.

season has been later than the close of the first week in May.<sup>1</sup>—ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Portland, Me.*

**Uncommon Shore-birds seen in Essex County, Massachusetts.**—Clark's Pond, Ipswich, July 24, 1912, one full plumaged Killdeer Plover (*Oxyechus vociferus*). Eagle Hill, Ipswich, July 31, 1912, before any shooting was allowed we found five Killdeer Plover. Four were feeding together in a marsh hole and one flew over. The birds were so tame we could see all their markings. When startled they flew uttering their 'Kill-dee' note. Eagle Hill, Ipswich, August 7, 1912, one Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*.) in the grassy edges of Mr. A. B. Clark's pond. This was a new bird to me but easily identified by the general brownish yellow color and the specklings on the wings.

Nahant Beach, August 10, 1912, one Willet (probably *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*) so exhausted after a long flight that, as it crouched on some seaweed, I thought the bird was wounded and went up to examine it. When I was within fifteen feet it stood up and stretched its wings over its back showing the beautiful black and white markings, the black axillars and the greenish legs. After a few moments the Willet took a short flight over the water giving its 'Pill-willy' notes, then returned to a clump of seaweed just ahead of me and there I left it.

Clark's Pond Ipswich, August 14, 1912, one Willet seen at close range.

Clark's Pond Ipswich, August 17, 1912, the same Willet, which Mr. Maynard said was a young Western Willet.

Eagle Hill, August 28, 1912, three Killdeer Plover apparently in full plumage.—LIDIAN E. BRIDGE, *West Medford, Mass.*

**Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus*) at Lancaster, Mass.**—I have a small pond of about three acres where I keep a collection of ducks. This year owing to the drought it was very low and the muddy shores afforded good feeding ground for any waders that might come along.

On June 16, I was surprised to hear the note of a Killdeer and going to the pond I discovered four. They seemed very tame and were busily occupied in feeding. This was in the afternoon. They remained for about an hour, then flew off. The next morning they were back again and remained until about 11 o'clock, then disappeared. The same afternoon they came again and remained until 5 o'clock, when they flew away. This continued until June 26, when I shot two, which proved to be adult males in worn plumage. The other two came back the next day. On June 30, two new ones appeared with the other two, making four in all on the pond that day. On July 1, 2, and 3, only three were seen. They remained until July 6, when they disappeared and they have not been seen since.

When they left the pond they always flew in the same direction — towards the big Clinton reservoir. My theory is that these birds bred there last year and as the shores were very low it afforded them excellent feeding