

season has been later than the close of the first week in May.¹—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

grounds, but when they returned this year, conditons were altered, the reservoir being filled to the brim. This compelled the birds to hunt for a different feeding ground and in hunting about they found my pond.—
JOHN E. THAYER, *Lancaster, Mass.*

Ocracoke Water Bird Notes.— On Royal Shoal, a small island belonging to the North Carolina Audubon Society, and situated some eight or nine miles northwest of Ocracoke, we found the following birds nesting: Laughing Gull, Common Tern and Oyster-catcher. The Gulls were in the midst of their laying, as were the Common Terns. Three pairs of Oyster-catchers inhabited the island. One nest was found with the eggs about ready to hatch, and one pair had young nearly grown, two being the complement in each case. The Black Skimmers were preparing their nesting hollows, but had not yet begun to lay. The Royal Terns seem to have almost deserted this island — where they were so numerous four or five years ago — for islands farther to the eastward, and the Least Terns are mostly back on the beaches.

The total number of eggs of the Laughing Gull and Common Tern was something over two hundred.

A flock of twenty Cormorants left the 'lump' as we approached.

A small petrel, presumably a Wilson's, was seen flying up the sound on May 23, after a rather stormy night. On the same date we found Black Skimmers very plentiful, though not yet laying, on the island in the middle of Ocracoke Inlet, with a few Common Terns nesting. Common Tern, Least Tern and Oyster-catcher were all, apparently, nesting on the beach, the Common Terns mostly on the south side of the Inlet. Young of the Oyster-catcher were seen, from a quarter grown up to the flying stage, in each case in broods of two.

This island was almost completely swept by the storm tide of the previous night, which may have destroyed a good many Tern eggs. There were many more birds around than the number of nests warranted. The few nests found were all on the small, unswept area, of course.— H. H. BRIMLEY, *Raleigh, N. C.*

Oreortyx in Idaho.— Notes appearing in 'The Auk' of April, 1911 and 1912, refer to the range of *Oreortyx* being extended eastward to near the Idaho-Oregon line,— specifically, Vale, Oregon. My observation is that not only has it been long established in southwest Idaho, but that its range extends at least 125 miles beyond the Oregon line.

Four years ago a covey of eight along Indian Creek several miles northwest of Nampa was wiped out by hunters. Two years ago a number were taken in the Boise bottoms eight miles north of this place. For ten years more they have been common in the Owyhee foothills some forty miles south of Nampa; in fact, so numerous are they that hunters from here regularly visit that section at the opening of the shooting season, two guns on one occasion killing 44 Quail in two hours.