

and two fall records of the Acadian Sparrow. (The Auk, Vol. XXXVII, p. 307.)

Phalaropus fulicarius. RED PHALAROPE.—Oct. 12, 1921, 9.30 A. M. I saw a Red Phalarope with a flock of Pectoral Sandpipers. It was energetic and quick in its movements and soon left the Pectorals behind, taking short runs, wading out in the shallow water and swimming the muskrat runways all the time picking up food. Three hours later it was gone and I did not see it again.

Xema sabini. SABINE'S GULL.—A Sabine's Gull shot on lake Keuka at Branchport, Oct. 29 1921. It was an immature bird and the only one seen. There seems to be only one other record of Sabine's Gull in western New York, that of Dr. E. H. Eaton's specimen which was taken on the Montezuma Marshes about the year 1887 (Birds of New York, Eaton, Vol. I p. 137).—VERDI BURTCH, *Branchport, N. Y.*

A Strange Migration.—This locality is in eastern Iowa and about 65 miles north of the Missouri line. The weather during the early part of January 1922, had been what one might call "fine winter weather." The temperature had been oscillating between zero and 32° above F. From January 12 to 18 there had been no snow at all and the ground was bare. On the 18th at 3:00 P. M. a very fine snow began to fall. By 9:00 P. M. the ground was covered with about two inches. There was not a breath of air moving. The night was perfectly still, the temperature was 18° F. above and the fine snow flakes continued to descend lazily to the earth.

At 9:00 P. M. small voices began to be heard in the distance towards the northwest. Presently they were overhead and in every direction. Judging by the volume and quality of the sound, the travelers must have been a large concourse of small birds. They were moving in a southeasterly direction. For one and one-half hours I heard their voices, many of them. I could hear them as they were approaching, could hear them overhead and for a considerable distance after they were past. The flight of birds was continuous though many more could be heard at some times than at others. Several thousand birds, at least, must have passed this locality during that time. All these birds seemed to belong to one species. Their note is somewhat like that of the Bluebird but higher in pitch and varied occasionally by a little short trill. I have heard these same voices before in this locality but always in the air, at night, and during migration time in spring or fall but never before, in the middle of winter!

At 10:30 the wind began to moan and sigh in the tree tops and the flight of the birds ceased. Gradually the northwest wind became more boisterous and the temperature fell to 5° F. below zero during the night. Next day was fair and cold.

This peculiar and interesting phenomenon at once raises several important questions. What species of birds were these? Where did they

come from? Did they intuitively know or feel the approach of the cold wave or did the storm stir them up and did they gain an hour and a half on the wind by their more rapid flight? If, as would seem, these are migratory birds, how can we account for the fact that they did not move south in December when the temperature went down to 7° F. below zero and the ground was also covered with snow?

These all appear to me to be matters of considerable scientific interest.—E. D. NAUMAN, *Sigourney, Iowa.*

Bird Banding as an Opportunity to Study Character and Disposition.—Birds and animals have as much character and disposition as people, and bird banding offers an excellent chance to study individuality in birds when they are actually in your hands, where you may make a close up examination and note their actions.

At the Waukegan, Ill., Bird Banding Station I have studied the action of the birds handled for the last five years and have noted some very interesting characters in the different birds handled.

The White-throated Sparrows arrived at our station about October 4, and kept coming until October 25, when the last new bird was banded, and from them on only a few repeating birds trapped. These seemed to like our restaurant and became regular boarders. Early in November we noticed that a certain five were always together in some of the traps at night. We handled them so often that it was noticeable that each had a different disposition. There was the 'Fighter,' the 'Squealer,' the 'Quiet One,' the 'Kicker,' and one just ordinary bird, which tried a little of all of the actions of the other four.

A Golden-crowned Kinglet was trapped and seemed so surprised that it laid perfectly quiet while I put the band on its leg and when released it just stood up, straightened out its feathers and then calmly looked me over for a full minute before flying to the nearest limb.

A female Downy Woodpecker trapped last year squealed all the time it was held and when trapped again this year it squealed louder and longer than before; other Downies would fight but were quiet.—WM. I. LYON, *Waukegan, Ill.*

A Correction for Lake County, Minnesota, Birds.—In my 'Additions to the Birds of Lake County, Minnesota' (General Notes, Vol. XXXVIII, 1921, of *The Auk*), *Pelidna alpina sakhalina*, the Red-backed Sandpiper, is erroneously listed; this should have been, instead, *Micro-palama himantopus*, the Stilt Sandpiper.—CHARLES E. JOHNSON, *University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kas.*