

June 25—Two birds, same locality, calling. I quote from my notes of that date: "Two Greater Yellow-legs were flushed from One Tree Pond on the 25th. One returned repeatedly, was very noisy, and did a spectacular tumble while in flight."

July 2—Two birds, same locality, calling.

July 9—One bird, same locality, calling.

The presumption seems to me reasonable that the straggling birds lingering here up to June 25 and those seen in same locality July 2 were identical in view of: (1) the previous complete absence (according to my records) of the species here June 15 to July 15; (2) the presence of two birds in the same locality whenever that locality was visited by me from June 11 to July 2, 1921; (3) the presence of one bird, in the same locality July 9; (4) the total absence of the species from other normally more favored feeding grounds on the marsh from May 21 to mid-July 1921. Since the birds were heard calling and were well seen there was no chance of confusion in identification.—CHARLES A. URNER, *Elizabeth, N. J.*

A Remarkable Specimen of the Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*).—A superb adult female of this rare bird in full nuptial plumage that I secured in May on Long Island, S. C., has the black band on the chest completely coalesced measuring half an inch in width. This band is as wide as on any female Semipalmated Plover (*C. semipalmatus*) in nuptial plumage, but, of course, is not as solidly black basally, the feathers being basally white and apically black as is usual in this species.

If there are other specimens in collections similar to the bird I describe I should like to hear of them, as this plumage for the female is very rare.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

Summer Shore Birds.—In the April 'Auk' E. L. Poole records an assemblage of northern breeding Limicoline birds at islands of the Virginia coast, which, for the dates when the recorded observations were made, namely June 30 to July 2, 1921, is truly remarkable. The species noted are as follows: Wilson's Snipe, Dowitcher, Knot, Pectoral Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Red-backed Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Sanderling, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover and Turnstone.

Let us for a moment suppose we are modifying the given status of these species in a Virginia list, to fit this observation. The simplest way to dispose of it would be to label them all off hand "non breeders sometimes summer." However, the writer's studies of shore-bird movements (mostly on Long Island, N. Y.) lead him to look at the matter differently. Distances mean so little to a migrating shore-bird that the difference of latitude between New York and Virginia is almost negligible, except as it affects climate. In the present connection, the most important difference probably is that, according to available evidence, these birds are more likely

to summer within their winter ranges, without attempting to migrate north, than to do so in transient localities.

Each of the enumerated species has different dates of passage, and each should be considered separately. There is no reason to suppose the Least Sandpiper was in anything but regular migration. The writer has personally observed it on Long Island, bound south, June 22, June 27, and it regularly arrives about the first of July. Dowitcher was probably an early south bound migrant. Though there is no June arrival recorded for it on Long Island, such is to be expected there, since, as a rule, it arrives as early as the more numerous Lesser Yellow-legs, which he has observed as early as June 27. The Pectoral Sandpiper migration is something like that of the Dowitcher, though but few Pectorals appear in early July compared to those later. The Wilson's Snipe would seem a casual early arrival rather than a summering bird, though the earliest such casual Long Island date the writer has obtained is July 10, 1921.

Turn now to the other end of the list, species, the regular northward migration period of which extends well into June, and which may not be expected south again so soon,—Knot, Red-backed Sandpiper, Black-bellied Plover, and Turnstone. If these were moving, they were moving north. The writer would consider the date for all four species a late north-bound date, with a fair chance that the last three would "summer."

This leaves White-rumped and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Sanderling, and Semipalmated Plover, which linger very late north bound, often in flocks, and yet are recorded in return, stray birds, the first week in July. There still is a summer hiatus for each on Long Island, as follows (dates inclusive): White-rumped Sandpiper, June 21 to July 3; Semipalmated Sandpiper, June 28 to July 3; Sanderling, June 15 to July 3; Semipalmated Plover, July 4, one day only. In these species dates over a period of years, with the migration variously early and late, will probably close the gap. That for the Semipalmated Plover, of one day only, may be considered closed. Yet it is doubtful if individuals actually summer on Long Island, though they may do so in Virginia.

It will be appropriate, in closing, to call attention to summer presence of shore-birds on Long Island in 1918, as reported in 'Bird Lore,' Sept.-Oct. of that year, page 359:

"The most notable bird phenomenon on this vicinity was the abundance and lateness of north bound shore-birds, several species lingering through June, the last of this spring flight being a single Ring-neck Plover at Long Beach on July 3 (E. P. Bicknell). As the Least Sandpiper had returned there from the North on that same date (about its usual time of arrival), north and south-bound birds actually met in this latitude. It is assumed that the Ring-neck of July 3 was a straggler from the northward flight, as that species had been present through the month of June. It would be interesting to know whether this individual continued northward

until it met members of its own species returning, remained in this vicinity until they arrived, or turned southward at this point with Least Sandpipers and other birds with which Ring-necks associate."—J. T. NICHOLS, *New York City*.

Passenger Pigeons Not in Company Front.—I saw one very large flock of Passenger Pigeons in, I think, the early or middle sixties, in Acworth, New Hampshire.

They came from the south-west by south; they were not in company front with spaces between companies as a regiment marches; the line was a very long one and took a very long time to pass over my father's house; I suspect the front line was rather pointed but became wider and very regular in the number of birds passing in a given time; they were well up and, I am very sure, we could not hear their wings; they passed over a distant wood, a small river, then over irregular fields and pasture and disappeared over a sugar orchard to the north-east.

The alinement was entirely different from the picture by Mr. Frank Bond (Auk, January 1921) and as to alinement I agree with the views of Mr. William B. Mershon (Auk, April 1922).

The flight must have been in April.—ASHTON E. HEMPHILL, *Holyoke, Massachusetts*.

An Unusual Flight of Black Vultures in Nelson County, Kentucky.—Though a breeding bird of Nelson County, the Black Vulture (*Coragyps urubu*) cannot be rated as abundant at any season. A most unusual flight of these birds appeared at my former home, Cherry Hill Farm, near Bardstown during the spring of 1921.

On the morning of March 19, of that year, I observed, flying rather high over the farm, a flock of Black Vultures which by count was found to number not less than ninety-two individuals, a number by far exceeding the total number of these birds recorded in any single year during a period of observation since 1911. The flock presented a beautiful appearance as the birds soared in a spiral column, each bird beating, intermittently, a few short wing strokes. At times the whole flock in a long train coursed across country on set wings in an orderly manner suggesting the movement of a flock of water fowl, but not a bird moved a wing until they again maneuvered into a spiral column. There days later, March 22, I counted eighty-five individuals which were circling over carrion in the same locality. It was observed that not a single Turkey Vulture accompanied these birds on either date.

The unprecedented occurrence of the Black Vulture in the region about Bardstown during March is the more remarkable from the fact that it is generally quite scarce during the breeding season.—BEN. J. BLINCOE, *Dayton, Ohio*.