

at the lower end of Seven Mile Beach, below Stone Harbor, Cape May County, N. J. The birds had been dead for a long time as decomposition had begun, and they were unfit for preservation.

There are no recent records of the occurrence of this species on the New Jersey coast, to our knowledge, the last record being in 1898, according to Stone's 'Birds of New Jersey' (p. 68).—RICHARD F. MILLER, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

#### **Downy Young of the Greater Snow Goose. A Correction.**—

During the past winter Dr. Witmer Stone was kind enough to loan me, from the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, one of those historic Greater Snow Goslings taken by Mr. Langdon Gibson in North Greenland on July 11, 1892, and mentioned by him in his interesting paper, 'Bird Notes from North Greenland' in 'The Auk' for July, 1922.

In this article Mr. Gibson writes that: "The birds were on the nest at the time of capture" and they were "about two weeks old."

Upon examination and comparison with some downy young of the Lesser Snow Goose, of known age, in my collection, this gosling appears to be not over a day old, taking into consideration its size, freshness of natal down, etc., and if it had been two weeks old it seems doubtful if the young would still have been found near their nest.

Upon writing to Mr. Gibson and calling his attention to this apparent discrepancy, I received a very prompt and courteous reply in which he writes in part, as follows: ". . . Considering what I know now of the breeding of geese, it is hard to explain to you now why I transcribed into my published notes what must have been an error at the time it was made, i. e., placing the age of the goslings at two weeks. You are unquestionably right in your assumption that the young birds had just hatched, for they were on the nest when taken and the gander was standing by doing sentinel duty, just as you describe.

"Don't you think it would be a good idea for you to write a letter to 'The Auk' calling attention to what should unquestionably appear as a correction."

Mr. Gibson's error was one of those to which we are all liable when specimens are not at hand for purposes of comparison.—FRED H. KENNARD, *Newton Centre, Mass.*

#### **Piping Plover and Black Tern nesting at North Pond, Lake Ontario.**—Mr. Neil Hotchkiss and I found the Piping Plover nesting at North Pond on the shore of Lake Ontario on July 14, 1923. The nest was located on the point of a sandspit which reached for a mile or so from the mainland, so that it was in an extremely isolated spot, and contained four eggs.

The adult birds showed very little fear and tried all of the usual tricks, such as feigning a broken wing, etc., to lure me away from the nest. Frequently they approached within thirty feet of where I was sitting and I

took advantage of this fact to observe them with my glasses set for twelve power magnification. I took this precaution for I wished to be certain of my identification. Later, after I had returned to Syracuse, I checked their characteristics with a birdskin of this species from the collection of the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University.

On July 23, I returned to the locality with the intention of photographing the eggs, but I found that they had hatched in the interim. After a careful search I saw two of the young birds running around the beach with the adults. I again checked up my identification to make doubly sure, and made a futile attempt to round up one of the young birds. They were too lively for me, however, and I gave up the attempt, for my time was limited.

Later in the day, July 23, we found a nesting colony of Black Terns on this same sandspit. We observed six or seven pairs at least; we found two nests each containing the characteristic three eggs, and we located two of the downy young swimming around among the sedgelike plants which grew in the shallow water at that point. We were fiercely assailed by the adults which often swooped within three feet of our heads in their desperate defense of the eggs. When we withdrew, the adults alighted on the nests and screamed after us.

Some of the adults were beginning to show the change to winter plumage, while others showed little if any white on the head and neck.

These birds showed almost no fear of us even when they were hunting some distance from their nests. Often they would wing their way within forty or fifty feet of us as we sat on the beach near the water's edge. The other water birds which we saw along the beach gave us a wide berth, swinging well out over the water to do so.—FRANKLIN H. MAY, 730 Livingston Ave., Syracuse, N. Y.

**Breeding of Piping Plover in Lake Co., Ohio.**—During the summer of 1917, I found a pair of Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) breeding on a stretch of sandy beach at Lake Erie, and four young were successfully reared. This record was published in 'Wilson Bulletin' for September of that year. A search of the place during the five following seasons failed, for no birds spent the summer with us. However, on July 4, 1923, I again found a pair of birds with downy young running about; two of which were successfully raised to adult size.—E. A. DOOLITTLE, Painesville, Ohio.

**Occurrence of Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Lake Co., Ohio.**—A lone Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) was found on the beach on August 19, 1923, in company with a bunch of sixteen Sanderlings and several small "Peeps." Visiting the place again next day I found all had departed but the Buff-breasted. Two opportunities of observation, with the absurd tameness of the bird, enabled me to note all characteristics of plumage and action. The bird would allow an approach to within eight or ten feet and then preferred to run a short distance, feeding the while,