

found there by the writer. There was evidently but one pair in the restricted flag area.

In 1923 the writer found another pair in an extensive cat-tail swamp near Arshamomaque, where a nest containing eggs was found in June.—ROY LATHAM, *Orient, L. I.*

Snowy Egret (*Egretta candidissima*) at Newport, R. I.—With the snow storm of April 2, 1924 came a full plumaged Snowy Egret evidently swept up the coast by the storm from some point far to the south. The bird was picked up dead on the piazza of Mr. Charles A. Hall of Newport and presented to the writer who has had it mounted and will place it on exhibition in the Children's Museum of Newport.

The plumes on the head, breast and back are perfect, the toe claws are black, the feet light orange and the legs black or extremely dark green. Measurements: length 24 inches, wings extended 38, wing 9.50, tail 4, tarsus 3.75, middle toe 2.75, bill 3. This is the first authentic instance of the occurrence of the species in Rhode Island so far as I can ascertain.—A. O'D. TAYLOR, 38 Powel Ave., Newport, R. I.

The Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*) in South Carolina.—In view of the fact that the Stilt Sandpiper has not been taken in South Carolina since the days of Dr. Bachman, the following record is worthy of publication.

On August 22, 1912, the writer, in company with Mr. B. R. Chamberlain and Mr. C. P. Webber, the latter of Georgetown, S. C., was shooting Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*) on Pawley's Island, a long, narrow coastal island a few miles from Georgetown. During the shooting Mr. Webber killed a Stilt Sandpiper. This bird, a female in winter plumage, was shot from a flock of Yellow-legs, while flying low over the salt-water myrtles (*Baccharis halimifolia*) near the back beach of the island, and within two hundred yards of the nearest house.

Mr. Arthur T. Wayne, in his 'Birds of South Carolina,' says of this species: "This rare species is included on the authority of Dr. Bachman, who appears to have taken many specimens near Charleston. . . . During the past twenty-five years I have devoted much time and study to the Limicolae, but as yet I have not taken a specimen of this rare bird, although I believe I saw a small flock on August 1, 1901." Since Mr. Wayne wrote in 1910, up to the present time, no specimens of this bird have been seen or taken, with the sole exception of the specimen recorded above. This specimen has been donated to the Charleston Museum (No. 7171) and recorded in the 'Charleston Museum Bulletin', Vol. IX, 52, 1913.—E. B. CHAMBERLAIN, *Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C.*

An Oyster-catcher in Brunswick County, Virginia.—On January 13, 1924 a farmer living four miles north of Lawrenceville, Va., told me of the shooting of a strange bird by a negro laborer employed on his farm.

My friend's description suited the Oyster-catcher exactly, and as he said the negro had saved the head and wings of the bird, I at once went to his place and found that these remnants had actually belonged to *Hamatopus palliatus*.

The bird was shot in an open field on January 3, 1924. The location is on top of the divide between the Notaway and Meherrin rivers, and miles from any stream too large to step across. It is 100 miles west of Norfolk, and about 135 miles from the ocean. The elevation is 380 feet.—JOHN B. LEWIS, *Lawrenceville, Brunswick County, Va.*

Viability of Seeds passing through the Alimentary Canals of Pigeons.—There is considerable literature on the food of birds, which has special reference in most cases to the economic aspects of the food preferences of particular species of birds. The seed-eating birds are known to carry seeds on their feet, feathers and in their beaks. Seeds carried in such ways may fall on places suitable for germination. Proctor (1896) observed that Thrushes and Warblers regurgitated seeds from the fruits they had eaten. The experiments described in the present paper were undertaken in attempting to determine if there is a possibility that certain seeds may pass through the alimentary canal of a bird and still retain their viability. It is understood, of course, that all birds might not give the same results as Pigeons.

Six Pigeons (*Columba livia* L.) were kept for the experiments and when not in use were allowed freedom of movement in a large, out door wire cage (6 feet high, 10 feet long, 4 feet wide). When not under experimentation, the birds were fed a mixture of corn, wheat and millet, and were given plenty of water, grit and salt.

The experimental cages, each of which contained one bird, were made of wire and wood and were 12 inches high, 18 inches long, and 10 inches wide. While in these cages, the birds were fed only cracked corn and the seeds to be tested. J. M. Bartlett (1911)¹ states that corn shows a higher digestibility in birds than any other grain. Since this is the case, digested food was easily distinguished from the test seeds.

The floor of the experimental cage was covered with heavy brown paper to catch the excreta. In all the tests, the birds were not fed the day before the trial, so that their crops were relatively empty when the test seeds were given. The fact that the digested and undigested portions of the food are excreted together makes a serious obstacle in performing experiments with birds and greatly increases the amount of necessary analytical work. This probably, in part, accounts for the small amount of work that has been heretofore undertaken in this line.

The seeds used in the experiments were apple, grape, strawberry, and cherry, as representative of types possessing relatively resistant seed coats. Only one type of seed was used at a time and the seeds were forced into the

¹Ann. Rept. Maine Exper. Station Bull., 26, pp. 317-336.