

p. 5) as "Oyster Bay, Florida," and is so designated in the 1910 edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-List,' but this name is not used on modern maps of the State.

The collector of the type, Mr. Charles W. Ward, in an article published in 'The Auk' (Vol. I, 1884, pp. 161-163) refers to specimens procured by him in 1881 at Estero Bay, on the southwestern coast of the Peninsula just below the mouth of the Caloosahatchee River, and careful reading of the two papers indicates that these were the same specimens from which Mr. Ridgway drew his description of Ward's Heron. Moreover a search through old atlases discloses the fact that this bay was sometimes designated as Oyster Bay. But as oyster is not the English equivalent of the Spanish *estero*, and as Estero Bay is the name currently applied to the body of water, it would seem advisable to change the designation of the type locality of *Ardea herodias wardi* in the next edition of the 'Check-List' to read Estero Bay in conformity with modern geographical usage.—ERNEST G. HOLT, *Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa.*

**Purple Sandpiper at Cape May, N. J.**—While taking our annual Christmas census at Cape May, N. J. on December 28, 1924, we walked out to the end of the stone jetty located at the mouth of the harbor. We had been sitting on this rocky breakwater, which projects about a mile out into the ocean, for perhaps a half hour, when suddenly the head of a small bird appeared around the end of one of the rocks. A moment later the bird hopped into full view and Mr. Yoder identified it as a Purple Sandpiper (*Arquatella m. maritima*). A 'Bird Guide,' which we had with us was immediately consulted and the bird conformed in all details to the picture and description of the Purple Sandpiper. By this time two other individuals had joined the first. The birds were not more than twenty-five feet distant and, with the aid of our binoculars, the black bill, orange feet, dark back and head, and all other details of the plumage were noted. The Purple Sandpipers continued to clamber and flit about the rocks the entire time we were on the jetty. They were apparently oblivious to our presence, and one of them approached to within eight feet of where we were sitting. The birds seemed to be feeding on some form of marine life which they found in the sea moss and sea weed covering many of the rocks. They were very sure-footed and would run down the rocks as the waves receded, extract some morsel of food from the sea weed, and dash back again before the waves could overtake them.—WM. YODER AND A. HENRY GAEDE,

**Wilson's Phalarope in Bronx Park, New York.**—Since observing the Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) in the Bronx, we find that other observers also satisfactorily identified a bird of this species, in the Bronx, on the same date. At Bronx Park, a single bird was observed by Messrs. Myers, Rosner, Herbert, and Matachieski. At Hunts Point, a few miles further down the river, possibly the same bird was seen, several hours later, by the two last named and also Messrs. Hickey and Cruick-

shank. It seems that this would further attest the correctness of our identification.

Owing to an error our names printed under the two items in the January 'Auk,' entitled the "Black Skimmer and Golden Plover, and the Wilson Phalarope, in Bronx County," were misspelled. They should read: JOHN AND RICHARD KUERZI and PHILIP KESSLER.

**Notes on the Mating Habits of the Sparrow Hawk.**—For several years, Sparrow Hawks (*Falco s. sparverius*) have been more or less constantly in evidence in the vicinity of the State Education Building at Albany, New York. In the spring of 1922, a pair established their hunting headquarters on the tops of some marble columns which are a few feet below and a hundred feet away from my office windows. On these columns and on the edge of the roof some thirty feet above, the activities here recorded were carried on. The notes were jotted down on a calendar pad when the observations were made and are given practically as then written.

April 6. A pair of Sparrow Hawks rested for several minutes on the top of the columns, within two feet of several pigeons.

April 7. Mated once on the edge of the roof.

April 14. On top of the columns and mating. Preliminary to mating, the birds faced one another and slowly bobbed their heads and tails, the female keeping up a continuous low call. Mated five times at intervals of five minutes and in each instance the male dropped his tail to the left of the up-turned tail of the female.

April 15. Mated three times in fifteen minutes, the female calling continuously while the male calls loudly only when approaching the female. The call of the female is a low pee-'ep, pee-'ep, pee-'ep. After mating, the female sometimes continues to call and flutter her wings while the male rests near by with drooping wings and head drawn down on the shoulders.

April 17. Raining. Female called most of the afternoon. After mating, the male sometimes mounts high in the air and performs some remarkable evolutions—spirals, short dashes and a rapid drop ending on the back of the female.

April 18. Raining. Female continues to call. Mated once at 10:34 A. M.

April 19. Female took a young squab from nest in stucco work near top of column and flew to roof. Pigeon attacked the Hawk and followed for a few yards until the Hawk turned and struck out two or three of the pigeon's feathers.

April 21. Mated once at 4:20 P. M.

During the last week in April, the Hawks moved to the opposite end of the Education Building and hunted Sparrows that were nesting behind the wire screen covering the window in a nearby church. The frightened Sparrows flew wildly up and down within the limits of the window frame, followed closely in every movement by the Hawks on the outside.