

at once realized that he had never seen a bird like this before. He described it to me in detail, and I have no doubt whatsoever but that the bird was a Man-o-war or Frigate Bird.

I made the attempt to see it myself, going out in a launch on Wednesday, the 27th, but we had had a strong north wind on Tuesday, and there was no sign of the bird.

On the afternoon of June 2, I made a trip to Folly Island rather late in the day, simply for a pleasure ride. Nine days had elapsed since the bird was last seen, and the strong north wind had blown itself out some days previously. I had no sooner set foot on the ocean beach, which is reached by motor car, than I saw a magnificent specimen of *Fregata aquila*, circling and dipping over the surf.

My pleasure at seeing the bird can well be imagined. It seemed in perfect health, and pursued the most leisurely tactics, simply wheeling and soaring over the breakers at no great height. We watched it for some time, until its course took it down the beach, and across the inlet which separates Folly from Kiawah Island. The direction of its course was about E.S.E. and it seemed to be in no hurry. There is no accounting for the evident fact that the bird has taken up its temporary abode with us. There is a large colony of Royal Terns on a bank, to the seaward of Kiawah Is. and it may be that the Frigate Bird is levying toll of the Terns for its meals. It has no end of servants to fish for it, at any rate.

I append the following dates upon which this species has been seen in South Carolina, from A. T. Wayne's, 'Birds of South Carolina.'

"Coast of South Carolina near Charleston, Aug. 26th, 1893, a few hours before the devastating hurricane which swept the coast on the following day.

Sullivan's Island, S. C., Oct. 20th, 1906, seen at 7 a.m. At 5 p.m. the wind was blowing at the rate of 64 miles per hour."

Both of these observations, as will be noted, were made just before, or during, high gales of wind, which swept the birds up from the tropics. Why the present bird came up, is a matter of pure conjecture, as the weather has been clear and fine for over a month, and continued so after the disappearance of the bird.

A keen look-out will be kept for any other wanderer during the summer and coming fall. I am indebted to Mr. Mikell for the privilege of recording this bird.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Charleston Museum*.

The American Scoter in Florida.—On May 17, 1925, while driving along the beach at Atlantic Beach, eighteen miles from Jacksonville, I noticed some species of Duck in the surf close to shore. Approaching on foot I had a close examination of the bird, which only flew when I was within about one hundred feet of it. It proved to be *Oidemia americana*—the American Scoter. As this is a rare bird at any time this far south, I was very much surprised to find it, and more so when, on June 14, in company with friends, we watched the same bird or another of the same

species at almost the same place. As we had high-powered field glasses, and the bird was swimming and diving very close in, in fact too close to stay out of sight under the water very long at a time, I was certain of its identity.—EARLE R. GREENE, 201 Adair Bldg., Jacksonville, Fla.

Hudsonian Curlew near Youngstown, Ohio.—On May 24, 1925, while looking for shore-birds on the flats adjoining Lake Milton, I noticed a flock of large birds standing at the water's-edge as I rounded a curve in the shore-line. With the aid of a 45x field telescope I was able to identify them as Hudsonian Curlew (*Numenius hudsonicus*), having carefully taken note of the long curved bill, head markings, etc. There were eleven of these birds in the flock. Upon consulting Fuertes' plates I was confirmed in my identification. The Curlews were at first observed at a distance of about fifty feet but I was able to get a little closer before they finally took flight.

Mr. Geo. L. Fordyce informs me that this is the first record of the Hudsonian Curlew in Mahoning County. Along Lake Erie, I am told by Dr. Lynds Jones, it is seen occasionally as a spring migrant.—BERTRAM F. AVERBACH, Youngstown, Ohio.

Avocet at Wallop's Island, Va.—On September, 1925, at Wallop's Island, five miles south of Chincoteague, Va., I secured two Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*) from a flock of four. They were young of the year.—B. H. WARREN, Chincoteague, Va.

Swimming and Diving Activity of the Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*).—Upon several occasions within the writer's experience, downy young of the Spotted Sandpiper, when closely pursued, have taken to the water, where they swam lightly although not very rapidly in making an escape. The young birds have been observed swimming thus so many times that the habit is doubtless well known among ornithologists, although but little seems to have been written about it.

It is possibly not so well known, however, that the normal, uninjured adult Sandpiper may not only swim but even dive to some depth in escaping an enemy. During mid-summer of 1916, at Sheldrake Point, Lake Cayuga, New York, an adult Spotted Sandpiper was observed characteristically feeding along the shore at a point where the bottom sloped so steeply that the water was rather deep a few feet out. The bird in its quest for food passed out of view behind a piece of driftwood. Hoping to see it better I slipped quietly up behind the log, and was surprised that, upon looking carefully, I could not locate the bird. In carelessly stepping upon the log I must have frightened the Sandpiper, which (as I subsequently determined) had been probing in the mud under a small projecting root. When the bird first flushed, its wings were fully spread, and it was headed for the open water of the lake. Upon seeing me towering above it, however, it turned its course abruptly downward, and without the slightest hesitation