

and was in excellent light so that with the aid of 8× binoculars the characters above mentioned stood out prominently.

I find that neither Eaton nor Griscom mention any spring date for this species on Long Island, but the former states that the Marbled Godwit was formerly a "regular spring and fall migrant on the shores of Long Island." Hence this is one of the first definite spring records on the Island.—JOHN F. KUERZI, 978 Woodycrest Ave., New York, N. Y.

**Purple Sandpiper on Long Island in Summer.**—On July 28, 1925, I collected a female Sandpiper at Gardiner's Point, Long Island, which Mr. Griscom of the American Museum of Natural History has identified as an adult of this species, moulting into winter plumage. While the bird could apparently fly well, the primaries were reduced to six on the left wing and two only on the right wing, one of which was obviously deformed and abnormally shaped. There is no previous summer record of this rare winter visitant.—RALPH ELLIS, JR., Jericho, Long Island.

**Diving and Swimming Activities Displayed by the Limicolae.**—In reference to Mr. George Miksch Sutton's and Dr. Witmer Stone's interesting notes on the diving and swimming powers of the Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) in 'The Auk,' October, 1925, I would like to call attention to the fact, that though so many, if not all Sandpipers possess these powers, they are very seldom put into practice. After many years spent in observing and collecting shore-birds, the observer becomes more and more surprised that these birds when wounded, or surprised at close quarters, so very rarely attempt escape by diving, when by doing so, escape would be easy in certain situations such as in pools encumbered by weeds etc. The Redshank (*Totanus calidris*) in my experience resorts to the diving habit when wounded, more often than any of the other Limicolae with which I am acquainted. I once saw a crippled Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) dive when we approached it in a boat.

One day when collecting specimens here, on the Arrow Lakes, I saw a wounded Greater Yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*) run into a pool, swim a short distance, dive, then crawl out of the water and crouch with head and neck laid flat on the ground concealed by a tuft of grass.

On September 8, 1925, I had an experience somewhat similar to Dr. Stone's. Skirting the lake shore in my sneak boat a Spotted Sandpiper was repeatedly disturbed, flew along in front of the boat to settle again and again on the shore. It then made off to cross a small bay, when a Pigeon Hawk dashed out from some trees and made a stoop or two at the dodging Sandpiper, which would certainly soon have been captured in the air if it had not suddenly alighted on the water, this, for a few seconds confused the Hawk, which circled just over its quarry and appeared to try to capture it with its talons. The Sandpiper dove, remaining under three or four seconds. The Hawk on the disappearance of its intended victim, at once made off at a great pace. The Sandpiper came to the

surface from which it rose with the greatest ease and flew in a wide curve to the shore.—J. E. H. KELSO, M.D., *Edgewood, Arrow Lakes, B. C.*

**American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) on the Arrow Lakes, British Columbia.**—On May 5, 1925, on the shore of the Lower Arrow Lake I came upon a flock of from ten to fifteen Avocets, and succeeded in getting two specimens for identification out of the flock. I believe this to be the third record of this species for B. C.—J. E. H. KELSO, M.D., *Edgewood, Arrow Lakes, B. C.*

**Oystercatcher in Cape May Co., N. J.**—On June 22, 1924, Mr. T. E. McMullen and the writer saw three Oystercatchers (*Haematopus palliatus*) on a sand spit at the lower end of Seven Mile Beach in company with a belated Hudsonian Curlew (*Numenius hudsonicus*). Two Oystercatchers were seen at the same spot on July 3, 1921, associated with a couple of Willets (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*). Whether the latter were the eastern or western race could not be determined.—RICHARD F. MILLER, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

**Status of Upland Plover in Lancaster Co., Pa.**—Northern Lancaster County is unquestionably one of the most favorable breeding and feeding ranges of *Bartramia longicauda* in Pennsylvania.

The topographical and agricultural conditions—level to rolling fields of large size—are exactly fitted for the bird's wary habits. The Plover's wild chromatic of May, its mellow triple-tongue of the July moon, and its graceful figure standing on a fence post or driving high above the stubble, were formerly features, as prominent as they were picturesque, in the central and northern townships. It was not uncommon as late as 1900 to find three or four hundred of these birds within a favored square mile. For some years before and a few years after this date the Plover was one of the features of my sporting calendar. My field records show that there was a marked decrease in 1909, and in 1911 the birds were scarce. Fortunately in 1914 they were removed from the list of game birds. In 1921—after the bird had had six years of protection—I made the first of a series of four studies of its numerical status. In company with Frank Thurlow, my former "smooth-bore" companion on many a summer afternoon, and in 1925, with Clifford Marburger, I counted the Plover in early August on four tracts—the best Plover ranges of the region. Tract "A," embodying parts of Warwick, Penn and Manheim townships, is approximately three square miles in area; "B," covering part of the boundary between Warwick and Manheim, is one and a half; "C," in Warwick township is about a square mile; and "D," on the border line between Elizabeth and Clay, is one and a half square miles. On any one of these tracts twenty-five years ago there would have been a hundred or more Plovers in early August. The records of the recent counts are these:—